

****PLEASE DO NOT USE MY TRANSLATIONS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION****

Direct questions & comments to me sweetremiks@tumblr!

Thanks as always to Jordon (pseudosuicide@tumblr) for her editing job, though I think she did it for Takeru this time.♪

KAMIGAMI NO ASOBI – Takeru Fate Ending (chapters 3, 4 + 2 endings)

TITLE: “Prayers and the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi”

BACKGROUND: BEACH

No matter how I tried to persuade him, I didn’t think Takeru’s feelings would change.

Then if so... I had no choice but to think of some other way.

YUI: ...I understand how you feel.

TAKERU:

A look of pain on his face, Takeru hung his head, refusing to look up.

YUI: I won’t force you. But I’ll be waiting.

TAKERU: Waiting...?

YUI: Yes. Until you really want to come back to school.

TAKERU: ...You’re... being optimistic. You don’t know when that’ll be.

Takeru smiled bitterly, a little astonished.

YUI: You’re right, I don’t know. You could change your mind tomorrow.

TAKERU: Who knows. Well, pray for me, then.

He sounded as if he was joking, but his expression was still dark. I parted with him there and began to walk away. On the way, I thought over Takeru’s words many times.

Pray... That might not be a bad idea. Prayers have been rituals humans used to communicate with the gods since ancient times. Maybe something would change if I prayed. I didn’t know if it would be effective, but it was worth a try. There wasn’t much else I could do now. Luckily, I was from a shrine-owning family, and I knew the proper mannerisms for being a miko.¹

¹ Or, “shrine priestess”. Being a miko carries the connotations of tending to a (specifically Shinto) shrine and performing related rites, such as cleansing rites and sacred dances. Miko can be viewed as shamanistic figures through which ordinary humans may indirectly connect to gods and spirits, though the practice of mikoism has become much more regulated (i.e. Yui’s “proper mannerisms”).

...Let's try it.

BACKGROUND: RIVER

I didn't go back to school. Instead, I headed for the river. I couldn't concentrate my mind unless I was in a peaceful place.

YUI: Okay, this should work...

I changed my pendant back into the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi. This was a ritual to raise prayers to the gods. I held the sword up like an oonusa² and waved it left, right, left.

...I pray that Takeru can come back to school. I pray that we can do club activities again together. I pray that everyone's misunderstanding of him can finally come to light...

As I prayed to the gods, I felt the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi fill with heat. Thump, thump... I could feel a tiny pulse through my hand. It was the same as when I first touched it in the storehouse. Maybe this sword has a special power when a prayer is made on it.

The throbbing gradually became stronger, and the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi grew so hot that I couldn't hold it anymore.

YUI: Ah...!

Surprised at the burning heat, I instantly let go of the handle. The sword fell to the ground and warped as if melting.

YUI: Wh-What...?

Sensing that something was wrong, I backed up. The form of Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi gradually disappeared, and it swelled into a huge shape. Rising above me like a tall tower, the thing that used to be my sword cast a huge, dark shadow over me. I stared in shock at the unbelievable sight in front of me, and I gulped. A giant monster with eight heads and a tail was looking down at me.

This is...

CHOICE

>A dream...?

>Supposed to be Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi...

>The answer to my prayers...?

CHOOSE: A dream...?

² Dictionary entry: OONUSA (common definition) A tool used in Shinto rituals. It consists of a stick made of *sakaki* (tree sacred to Shintoism) and plain wood, on which *shide* (zigzag-shaped paper streamers) are attached. Shinto priests use it when conducting a cleaning ritual. The oonusa represents the clothing of a god, and each time it is used, it is exchanged for a new one.

Am I dreaming?

No... this isn't a dream. This is reality.

CHOOSE: Supposed to be the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi...

I couldn't see anything but the monster, but it had be the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi.

Why did it change into this?

CHOOSE: The answer to my prayers...?

I thought my prayers might have reached the gods, but it was strange that a monster showed up instead.

Something absurdly horrible was happening.

(choices converge here)

A loud roar shook the air. The monster raised its tail and swung it at me in an attack.

YUI: Ahhh!!

A scream escaped from my mouth. I felt like the blood was draining out of my whole body, and it was all I could do to stay standing there.

YUI: What is this? What, what happened?!

Unsure of what to do in this situation far removed from reality, I started to panic. Right, this is a world of gods. ...I realized that all over again. An unexplainable threat... A human was powerless against this overwhelming force.

YUI: I-I need to get out of here...!

I turned and ran with a burst, not caring where I went. Just before I faced my back to it, the monster saw me with one of its heads and charged at me. This is bad. I can't run away...!

YUI: Ahhh!!

The monster's head slammed into me, and I was sent flying. When I hit the ground, pain ran throughout my body from the heavy blow.

YUI: ...Gh!!

I need to get up and run...! Thinking this, I raised my head.

YUI: !!

I saw the monster's gigantic open mouth heading straight for me. It was trying to swallow me up. I'm done for... My legs were frozen in fear, and I shut my eyes and accepted my fate.

Then...

TAKERU: Kusanagi!! Are you okay?! Run, now!!

In his god form, Takeru was grasping Totsuka-no-Tsurugi³ in his hand and slashing at the monster.

YUI: Takeru-san...!

TAKERU: Hurry up! I can't buy that much time!

TAKERU: Tch! This guy's skin is really tough...

It didn't seem like it was taking that much damage, but Takeru's attack appeared to annoy the monster. If I were to run, it had to be now.

TAKERU: Kusanagi, over here! Hold on tight!!

When I took the hand Takeru was holding out to me, he brought his arm around me and held me there. Takeru jumped around lightly while holding on to me, running like the wind while avoiding the monster's attacks.

BACKGROUND: PLAINS

TAKERU: ...We managed to get away somehow. What the hell was that monster?

Takeru set me down on the meadow and changed back.

YUI: I don't know...

My mind was still blank from the confusion. It didn't feel real that the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi had changed into a monster.

TAKERU: What were you doing over there? I'm glad I was passing by...

YUI: I...

While I was deciding whether or not to tell him I was praying... I heard the monster's horrible roar from far away.

TAKERU: This is bad...

The roaring was gradually getting closer.

TAKERU: Is it heading for the school? That thing...

YUI: This is terrible. We need to tell everyone...

³ Dictionary entry: TOTSUKA-NO-TSURUGI (in mythological tradition) Its name means "sword of ten fists". This name comes from the fact that the blade is about as long as ten fists put together (~90cm). Totsuka-no-Tsurugi is one of Susanoo's possessions, and it is also known as Ame-no-Ohabari or Itsu-no-Ohabari. Its original owner was Susanoo's father, Izanagi.

TAKERU: Yeah. Let's go!

We exchanged looks and nodded.

We ran in the direction of the school so we could warn the other students. As if the monster was following us, we heard an eerie howling from behind us, echoing through the Garden...

NEW CHAPTER: Takeru Chapter 4 (Fate Ending) – “The Battle with the Monster”

BACKGROUND: SPORTS FIELD

Panting heavily, Takeru and I desperately ran toward the school.

THOTH: Hey, you two. Explain this situation.

It seemed that Thoth had already realized something unusual was happening, and he was waiting for us in the field.

YUI: Lord Thoth, actually I...

As if to drown out my voice, the monster's roar echoed from afar.

NORDIC STUDENT: Hey, what was that noise...? Scary...

JAPANESE STUDENT: There shouldn't be any monsters in the Garden!

GREEK STUDENT: I have a bad feeling about this...

When I looked around, I saw that it wasn't just Thoth, but all the students were also coming out onto the field. Everyone guessed that this was a state of emergency.

TAKERU: There's a monster outside the school. And it's gigantic. I've never seen anything like this.

I couldn't say anything, so Takeru stood in front of Thoth in my place.

THOTH: Monster? Why is that here... where did it come from?

Thoth scowled, rooting us in place with his gaze.

TAKERU: I don't know either. Maybe Zeus called it out?

THOTH: That is impossible.

YUI: Um, the truth is...

I needed to explain the situation to both of them. I told them about how I was using the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi in a ritual, and how it had turned into a monster.

TAKERU: That thing is... your sword?

YUI: Yes...

YUI: I don't even know why it turned into a monster...

THOTH: ...

Takeru was bewildered, and Thoth looked like he was thinking hard, an intense expression on his face.

THOTH: I'm going to the headmaster's office. You two come as well. If we don't deal with it soon, this will be bad.

YUI: Got it...!

BACKGROUND: THRONE ROOM

THOTH: Zeus, this has become a nuisance.

ZEUS: Yes. I know. Do not worry yourselves. I will exterminate it now.

Zeus knew something was amiss before I could even explain. If Zeus could exterminate it, then everything would be fine.

ZEUS: Hah...!!

Zeus summoned a bolt of lightning, and the monster's howl could be heard from far away.

ZEUS: ...

Zeus's eyebrows twitched.

TAKERU: Hey! What's up with this? It's still going?!

Far from the creature's cries growing weaker, they were actually fiercer and angrier than before.

THOTH: Zeus's lightning isn't effective?

Then... in the back of my mind, an image of a different place appeared.

BACKGROUND: YAMATA-NO-OROCHI

The monster was waving its heads tirelessly to and fro and plowing down the trees in its path, destroying things indiscriminately. I felt a power coming from it that was almost incomparably stronger than before. Zeus's attack had agitated it, and it was running rampant. Amidst the wildly flying dust, the monster began to glow with a strange blue-white light. A mysterious fear crawled up my spine.

BACKGROUND: THRONE ROOM

Suddenly, my consciousness returned to the headmaster's office.

TAKERU: Hey, Kusanagi! Wake up. Are you okay?!

YUI: Takeru... san...?

When I came to, Takeru was supporting my body in his arms.

TAKERU: You suddenly collapsed. Don't make me worry like that.

YUI: I-I'm sorry. But even more importantly, this is bad!

I needed to tell everyone what I saw immediately.

YUI: Suddenly, an image of the monster came into the back of my mind, and I saw it glowing bluish white.

YUI: I feel like something terrible is going to happen.

TAKERU: You saw it...? What do you mean? I didn't see anything.

THOTH: That monster was originally Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi. Kusanagi probably knows this precisely because she is its owner.

A quiet air hung in the office. Neither Zeus nor Thoth could have predicted this would happen.

TAKERU: I wonder... what that bluish white light was.

YUI: I don't know. But...

YUI: It looked like it was storing power.

TAKERU: Is it going to attack?!

THOTH: This isn't good...

Thoth and Zeus looked at each other.

ZEUS: I will issue an order for all students to evacuate. This is an emergency. Thoth, relay this to everyone.

ZEUS: I set up a temporary barrier, but I can only hold it off for a while.

THOTH: Understood. Let's hurry. You two should escape from the school immediately.

Thoth instantly turned and left the office.

TAKERU: Kusanagi, let's go.

YUI: Yes...

It wouldn't be long before the monster arrived at the school. We had to escape now.

BACKGROUND: HALLWAY

After news had been sent out of the monster's appearance and our evacuation, the inside of the school was in chaos.

YUI: Everyone, please don't run! Please proceed calmly!

Everyone tried to get out at once. There was a danger that people could get injured as everyone pushed each other. Leading the confused students, I exited the school building.

BACKGROUND: YAMATA-NO-OROCHI

The monster's roars were close. When I looked in the direction of the sound, a gigantic shape loomed in the sky.

TAKERU: It's...! It's already here!

The monster raised one of its heads and opened its mouth, facing the school. Blue energy was gathering inside of it.

The monster spat a beam of light like blue fire. The sound of the impact shook the ground, and screams filled the air. The beam of light bounced off the front of the school and shot back into the forest.

In that instant, several trees fell down, and part of the forest disappeared.

TAKERU: What was that... just one blow...?

Witnessing the overwhelming destructive power, Takeru and the students looked up at the monster in fear.

TSUKITO: Kusanagi Yui, Totsuka Takeru. Are you alright?

TAKERU: Bro! Are you okay?! You're not hurt, right?!

TSUKITO: I am fine. Let's get away from here quickly.

TAKERU: Y-You're right. Kusanagi, let's run!

If the monster attacked again, it would be a disaster. We needed to get as far away as we could before that happened.

LOKI: Daaang! This is kinda crazy, isn't it? Did you see that just now?!

THOR: ...Loki... hurry up and run.

APOLLON: It's big... it's really big... Can we really take it down...?

HADES: What is Zeus even doing...?

Everyone was running out of the school. As if sneering at us, the monster let out an eerie roar that shook the air.

BACKGROUND: PLAINS

We left the school grounds and arrived in the meadow opposite from the monster.

THOTH: Is everyone here? Confirm that there is no one missing.

I heard the creature's howling in the distance, and nervousness coursed through my body. It seemed like it was slowly approaching the school. It was huge, and we could see it from over here, but it seemed that its advance was slow.

LOKI: What, what? This feels too serious? Can't headmaster-sensei just bring it down?

BALDER: The fact that Headmaster Keraunos ordered an evacuation probably means he thinks the situation is beyond his control...

TAKERU: Zeus's attacks don't work. There's nothing we can do.

APOLLON: If we can't bring it down, then what about running? We'll be fine if we can escape from it, right?

Running... it was just as Apollon said. This miniature garden was originally Zeus's creation. Just like I have a place where I belong, the other gods each had a world they came from. Amid the noisy students, Zeus approached me with a serious look on his face.

ZEUS: Kusanagi Yui... it is as you said. We are trapped in a situation I had not anticipated.

It was the first time I'd seen Zeus look so tense, and my anxiety swelled.

YUI: So... what does this mean?

ZEUS: With the appearance of the creature, the balance of the Garden has begun to collapse.

YUI: So then we should leave right away...

We might still make it in time.

ZEUS: That is impossible. If you were to forcefully leave the Garden, you will be thrown into another dimension.

ZEUS: Even I do not where you would arrive.

YUI: I can't believe it...

Everyone felt silent.

ZEUS: As of now, the school building is being destroyed by the monster.

ZEUS: The building serves a role as the pillar that supports this world.

YUI: In other words...?

ZEUS: If it is destroyed, the Garden will close completely.

Right now, we couldn't leave the Garden, and an atrocious beast that not even Zeus could take down was advancing on us. The situation could be described as desperate.

ZEUS: There is one way to save us. Defeat the monster. There is no other way.

I was still holding onto some hope, but Zeus's statement left me speechless. If Zeus couldn't oppose the monster, then who could?

I...

CHOICE

>Suggest Takeru could bring it down

>Bluff and suggest I can do something

>Give up and admit it's hopeless

CHOOSE: Suggest Takeru could bring it down

That's right. If I remember correctly...

I raised my head in realization and looked over at Takeru.

YUI: Takeru-san might be able to defeat it.

TAKERU: Why do you think that?

He looked over me, surprised.

YUI: When Takeru-san saved me earlier, he managed to hit the monster just a little.

YUI: If his attacks continue to hit, then he might be able to bring it down.

TAKERU: ...I have to try.

Tightening his fist, Takeru set his determination.

CHOOSE: Bluff and suggest I can do something

YUI: I... will try.

TAKERU: Wait. Don't just say things. What can you do? You can't fight.

YUI: But everything will be destroyed...

TAKERU: ...By the way, earlier, I felt like my attacks worked a little on it.

CHOOSE: Give up and admit it's hopeless

It's hopeless... There's no way we could defeat something like that. We have no choice but to give up.

It wasn't just me. Everyone was in despair, dark looks on their faces. But then, Takeru began to speak.

TAKERU: ...When I saved Kusanagi, I managed to leave a scratch on that monster. Doesn't that mean my attack worked?

(choices converge here)

We heard the monster's roar again. While we were talking, it had advanced, and it was gradually closing the distance.

LOKI: So that means... Ta-tan can do something about that thing?

TAKERU: We don't know that for sure. It's just a possibility. I won't know until I try.

APOLLON: I wonder what that monster really is. It's mysterious, very mysterious.

What it really is... I tried thinking calmly about it. It was what the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi changed into.

Then, could it be...?

YUI: Yamata-no-Orochi...?

When I said the name that had come to my head, I suddenly realized. It had eight heads, and if it was related to the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi, then it couldn't be anything else.

YUI: Yamata-no-Orochi is a legendary monster that is said to have been defeated by Takeru-san.

If that was the case, then it made sense that Takeru's attacks could hit it.

THOTH: I believe Kusanagi's guess is correct. That's probably Yamata-no-Orochi.

YUI: But why did Yamata-no-Orochi appear so suddenly?

I knew that Takeru had to defeat it eventually, but this is the miniature garden. I felt like this wasn't the right time for that.

THOTH: Have you read the books of Japanese mythology?

YUI: Only the one volume that you lent me before, Thoth-sensei.

And I didn't read every page, just the ones that had to do with Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi. I wasn't too knowledgeable about Yamata-no-Orochi.

THOTH: Compared to other mythologies, Japanese mythology doesn't have much existing literature. Descriptions of the gods and their deeds are extremely scarce.

THOTH: Not even the birth of humans is recorded in Japanese mythology.

THOTH: In other words, opposed to other gods, the gods of Japanese myth have little interest in humans. They're apathetic.

YUI: No interest in humans...

I felt like I understood that when I looked at Takeru and Tsukito.

TAKERU: What does that have to do with the monster?

THOTH: The gods of Japanese myth have done nothing but neglect humans.

THOTH: They turn a blind eye to human pleas for help. They are only concerned with themselves.

THOTH: Humans continued to pray to the gods. But the prayers did not reach them, and, with no place to go, the countless prayers drifted aimlessly.

THOTH: Eventually, those prayers became a curse⁴, and a monster was born. That monster is Yamata-no-Orochi.

YUI: Oh no...

THOTH: Therefore, Yamata-no-Orochi does not touch humans, only gods. It is a god-eating monster.

YUI: But I was attacked by Yamata-no-Orochi. Even though I'm human...

I was puzzled as to why that happened.

THOTH: The reason it attacked you was probably because it realized you're working together with gods. To that creature, it looks like you're helping us.

TAKERU: The ones who caused that monster to appear... are the Japanese gods...?

Takeru looked shaken, suddenly unable to believe this new information.

THOTH: Yes, that's right. It is punishment for neglect of humans.

TAKERU: But, why... How could a prayer become a curse...?

THOTH: An emotion that is too strong is essentially the same as a curse.

⁴ Dictionary entry: CURSE (common definition) The act of bringing about a disaster using spiritual energy. Most curses are placed intentionally, though there have been cases of curses being placed intentionally as well. It is said that the risk of casting a curse is high, and the saying "Curses come home to roost" symbolizes that risk. This saying also shows the danger that a failed a curse could jump back to the caster. T/N: Original Japanese saying listed in the definition was 人を呪わば穴二つ (hito wo norowaba ana futatsu, lit. cursing someone opens two holes)

An emotion that is too strong... At that time, I prayed very, very hard for Takeru's sake. Luckily or unluckily, my feelings seemed to have gone through. But it turned out like this...

YUI: That time, I needed to pray or at least do something...

Even if I regretted it, there was nothing I could do. Everything was a result of my prayers. Those prayers turned into a curse, and I myself created Yamata-no-Orochi.

Realizing this, I...

CHOICE

>Apologize to everyone

>Just be depressed

>Take responsibility

CHOOSE: Apologize to everyone

YUI: This is my responsibility. I'm sorry...

I couldn't anything other than apologize to everyone.

THOTH: Even if you apologize, the situation won't change. Raise your head.

YUI: Yes...

CHOOSE: Just be depressed

I just felt depressed. Though I regretted it, time wouldn't turn back, and the situation wouldn't change. I brought forth Yamata-no-Orochi. I put everyone in danger...

CHOOSE: Take responsibility

YUI: I'm the one who brought forth Yamata-no-Orochi. I will take responsibility.

TAKERU: It's not your fault! There's no way you could've known it'd turn into a curse!

Takeru stood up for me, and I felt much better.

(choices converge here)

THOTH: It is the gods' fault for ignoring human prayers. You're not responsible for any of this.

YUI: But...

Because I'd caused this situation to happen, I felt a little responsible.

THOTH: Anyway, there is no other choice but to defeat Yamata-no-Orochi. There's no time for regret.

Defeat Yamata-no-Orochi. ...Can we really do it? It destroyed the forest with just one attack. It held tremendous power. There was no way to face that attack head-on.

THOTH: The good-for-nothing and Kusanagi... and the fool will proceed to suppress the beast.

TSUKITO: Me too?

THOTH: Yes. It's just a guess, but the only ones whose attacks will work on Yamata-no-Orochi are probably the Japanese gods, who have a causal relationship with it.

THOTH: Actually, since Zeus has no connection to those prayers, his earlier attacks didn't work on that creature at all.

THOTH: It is your duty to purify that thing and see to the end of this.

Tsukito silently listened to Thoth's explanation, and then nodded without hesitation.

TSUKITO: I understand. If this is my mission, I will offer my assistance.

TAKERU: Bro! Are you serious?!

TSUKITO: This is something only we can do.

TAKERU: But I don't want you to be in danger.

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru, that's exactly why you should not shoulder this responsibility alone.

TSUKITO: You are precious to me. Of course I wouldn't want you to walk into danger alone.

TAKERU: Bro... that makes me happy to hear that from you.

ZEUS: I will remove your limiters. This would probably be impossible as humans.

TSUKITO: Yes.

TAKERU: ...

His original powers had been restored, but Takeru's expression was still dark.

ZEUS: This is not an opponent you can fight recklessly. Prepare yourselves during the time I can give you. It might be very long.

YUI: Understood.

Zeus flew off toward Yamata-no-Orochi.

THOTH: Hey brat, I have work for you too.

LOKI: Huh, me? What do I do?

When Thoth called out to him, Loki flinched in surprise.

THOTH: Quickly create a weapon that Kusanagi can use. Going unarmed would be dangerous.

LOKI: Ohhh so that's it. Roger! I'll have it right away!

THOTH: I will join Zeus and analyze Yamata-no-Orochi's weak points. If I find anything, I will let you know immediately.

Thoth turned to us and spoke, then flew off after Zeus.

LOKI: Yui, what kind of sword do you want?

It seemed that Loki was willing to listen to my requests.

YUI: Um... Like a double-edged...

Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi suddenly popped into my head, so I told him its special properties.

LOKI: Understood! Mmkay, wait just a sec. ☆

Loki returned to his god form, and, forming a ball of light in his hands, he rapidly began to shape it. He looked like he was concentrating hard, so I decided not to bother him.

TSUKITO: Let's prepare ourselves as well. There is no time.

YUI: Right. We need to hurry...

TAKERU: ...

Takeru nodded, but he was still silent.

TSUKITO: I will be using a talisman and a familiar to fight, so I will take a position further away from Yamata-no-Orochi.

TSUKITO: It has been a while since I used them, so I'll check them right now.

The next instant, Tsukito's body overflowed with light, and his form changed.

TSUKITO: There seems to be no problem. I can call my familiar.

After checking, Tsukito immediately returned to his human form.

TSUKITO: Let's try not to waste our power.

TAKERU: ...

Takeru still said nothing. His expression was even more gloomy and painful.

YUI: Takeru-san, are you okay?

I was worried, so I talked to him.

TAKERU: Of course I'm not okay. Those guys are innocent, but they got involved anyway...

TAKERU: And my precious Bro... and even you're fighting it. I can't stand it.

TAKERU: I know someone has to do it... but I can't accept it.

He hung his head and groaned.

TAKERU: If someone has to die, it should be me. Just me, the failure.

Takeru was kinder than anyone else I'd met. It was just easy to misunderstand him.

Seeing him like that, I said...

CHOICE

>I'm sorry, it's my fault

>Let's fight together

>Everything's over if we don't bring it down

CHOOSE: I'm sorry, it's my fault

YUI: ...I'm sorry, Takeru-san. It's my fault.

TAKERU: I said it isn't. It's not your fault!

Takeru desperately denied it for me.

TAKERU: Sorry. I sounded like a brat just now. It probably made you feel worse.

YUI: Takeru-san...

CHOOSE: Let's fight together

YUI: I might not be of any help, but I want to fight together with you!

YUI: Please believe in me. In us.

YUI: We'll definitely defeat it...

TAKERU: It's not that I don't believe in you. I just don't want to lose you!

TAKERU: I don't want to see anyone else hurt because I didn't have enough power.

He understood, but he just couldn't come to a conclusion. I felt his frustration so much, it hurt.

CHOOSE: Everything's over if we don't bring it down

YUI: But, everything will be destroyed if we don't bring it down. We have to do this.

YUI: I would rather fight with you than do nothing.

TAKERU:

Takeru grimaced in pain and went silent again.

(choices converge here)

TSUKITO: Kusanagi Yui, why were you praying?

Takeru straightened up when he heard Tsukito's quiet question, and he looked at me.

TAKERU: What did you wish for? What was it you wanted so badly?

YUI: I...

I looked away, remembering how I felt at that time.

YUI: I wished for Takeru-san to come back to school. I wished we could do club activities together again.

YUI: And I wished for all his misunderstandings to clear up...

YUI: That's what it was.

TAKERU: ...!

I heard him inhale sharply.

YUI: Instead of my wishes going through, Yamata-no-Orochi appeared.

YUI: I never thought it would turn into this huge commotion.

I felt sadder, and I smiled. It was like everything had backfired.

TAKERU: ...Yeah, I can see that.

Takeru stared at me, his expression painful.

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru. Why are you making that face?

TAKERU: ...Huh?

TSUKITO: At a time like this, you must look happy.

TSUKITO: It's a joyous thing that someone would feel for you so strongly.

TAKERU: ...I had no idea you thought of me that way, Kusanagi.

TAKERU: I'm just like those guys who ignored human prayers.

TAKERU: I didn't notice your prayers and only thought of myself.

TAKERU: I'm also responsible for bringing out Yamata-no-Orochi.

Takeru tightened his fists and solidified his resolve.

TAKERU: I've decided. I'll defeat him. Together with everyone!

TAKERU: I might be a failure of a god, but I'll show my worth!

YUI: Takeru-san...!

At Takeru's strong words, we all looked at each other and confirmed our bond. ...And we began our strategy meeting again. We need to face this gigantic monster with just the three of us.

TAKERU: I'll distract it, so you attack it when it's not looking.

TSUKITO: Understood.

TAKERU: Kusanagi, you can protect yourself, right? I'll definitely protect you to very end, but, just in case.

Takeru looked at me, worry hiding behind his serious eyes.

YUI: I'll be fine. I trained together with you, Takeru-san.

TAKERU: ...That's right.

Giving me a relieved smile, Takeru nodded.

TAKERU: Anyway, we have no choice. In this battle, I'm prepared to die.

Prepared to die... Seeing him full of fighting spirit, I knew he'd set his mind. That was obvious. Yamata-no-Orochi wasn't just any opponent. We didn't even know if we had a chance at success.

But according to legend, Takeru should be able to defeat it. Except, in this unexpected situation, things might not go that way.

LOKI: Heeere it is. The sword's all done!

Back in human form, Loki hopped over to us.

LOKI: Ta-daaa! How does it look?

He seemed to have confidence in his work. He showed it off to us in high spirits.

YUI: Amazing... it looks just the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi!

Even so, it wasn't the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi, but a close replica. When I tried to turn it into a pendant, it wouldn't change.

YUI: Loki-san, thank you very much!

LOKI: This is only the way I can help. Ookay, good luck!

YUI: Yes!

I looked in the direction where Zeus was holding off Yamata-no-Orochi. Though he was releasing one fierce attack after another, Yamata-no-Orochi remained unharmed.

TSUKITO: It seems that Zeus Keraunos's attacks have no effect.

TAKERU: It'd be nice if we could do something, but I've never faced something that huge before...

We were once again overwhelmed by Yamata-no-Orochi.

Then, Thoth returned and landed next to us.

YUI: Lord Thoth, did you find anything?!

THOTH: I've analyzed it to some extent. After comparing it to the legends in literature, I have identified a method with a high rate of success.

YUI: What should we do?

THOTH: Cut off all eight of its heads.

THOTH: Or, cutting off its tail, which was originally Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi, might have the same effect.

TAKERU: It'd be easier to aim for its tail instead of cutting off all its heads.

It would definitely be a difficult task to cut every one of its eight heads.

TAKERU: We need to concentrate on its tail.

With Takeru's words, everyone nodded.

THOTH: Also, Yamata-no-Orochi can emit a troublesome beam of light.

THOTH: It's the blue light Kusanagi mentioned. If you're on the receiving end of that attack, you would be helpless.

All of us had already witnessed its destructive power.

THOTH: Fortunately, it takes time for the creature to charge its beam. Defeat it swiftly before that can be realized.

TAKERU: Speed is victory...

THOTH: That is all. Search for its weak points as you fight.

YUI: Lord Thoth, thank you very much.

With this, preparations were finished. All that was left was to subdue the beast.

TSUKITO: If final preparations have finished, let's go.

YUI: Yes. I'm done.

TAKERU: Ah... Can I have a minute?

It seemed like it was difficult for him to say. He looked over at me.

TAKERU: Kusanagi, I need to talk to you.

To me...?

TSUKITO: Then, I will be waiting on the other side.

TSUKITO: Once you are finished, please come. We don't have much time.

TAKERU: Sorry about this, Bro. I'll be there soon!

Tsukito departed, and Takeru and I were left alone.

TAKERU: ...

Takeru gazed wearily in the direction of Yamata-no-Orochi.

YUI: Takeru-san... what did you want to say?

I called out to him timidly, and I was met with a miserable gaze.

TAKERU: I don't want to feel sorry, and I don't want any regrets. So...

TAKERU: I have something I want to tell you. ...I might not have another chance to say it.

No other chance... He really was prepared to die. That thought echoed deeply in my chest.

I...

CHOICE

>Tell him that's not the case

>Hang my head in sadness

>Listen to him seriously

CHOOSE: Tell him that's not that case

YUI: Don't say you won't have another chance...

Even though I shook my head in denial, Takeru only smiled sadly.

CHOOSE: Hang my head in sadness

If we didn't defeat Yamata-no-Orochi, that would be the end for us... I couldn't bear the sadness, and I hung my head.

CHOOSE: Listen to him seriously

I listened to him seriously. This might be the last thing he can say to me. I took a deep breath and prepared myself.

(choices converge here)

TAKERU: I'm grateful to you.

As he said that, he pulled me into a hug. A little shaken at suddenly being embraced, I couldn't form words properly. Even so, I answered him, voice shaky with nervousness.

YUI: Grateful...?

I hope he can't tell I'm nervous... Still holding me in his arms, he opened his mouth again.

TAKERU: All in all, club activities were fun, and life at school wasn't bad at all.

TAKERU: Everything is thanks to you.

TAKERU: No matter how cold I was to you, you kept coming at me like a weed that wouldn't go away.

YUI: Weed... It's been a long time since I've heard that.

Feeling a little nostalgic, I felt my nervousness loosen. I would always be angry when he called me that before, but now it was different. It was another way for him to hide his embarrassment...

YUI: I never thought I could be close to such a sulky god.

TAKERU: ...Don't say that.

He smiled bitterly. But he didn't look unhappy, rather like he was enjoying himself.

YUI: When I met you, you were so unsociable... it took me forever just to have a conversation with you.

YUI: It feels like a miracle that we can laugh and smile together like this.

TAKERU: Yeah... it's a miracle.

He honestly accepted my words. If he, a god, said it was a miracle, then the fact that we met was truly wonderful.

TAKERU: In my whole life, the time I spent with you has been the best.

TAKERU: This is the first time I've had so much fun.

YUI: Me too.

I didn't know he thought of it like that... My chest grew warm, overflowing with joy and happiness.

YUI: I'm also... glad I met you, Takeru-san. From the bottom of my heart.

YUI: If we can, then after this...

I want to be together with you. Takeru tightened his arms around me, and I couldn't say those words.

TAKERU: Kusanagi...

Takeru hugged me so tightly, I could barely move. The feeling of his strong arms and his heartbeat came across to me. It was a warmth that made me feel alive.

TAKERU: ...I'll listen to the rest once we defeat that thing.

YUI: Okay...

I nodded, returning his embrace. I needed to fight and win, to protect this warmth.

TAKERU: Let's go. Bro's waiting.

Reluctantly letting go of me, Takeru started walking over to where Tsukito was waiting.

Yamata-no-Orochi was approaching us. We needed to hurry. The two of them changed to their gods forms, and Takeru picked me up in his arms.

TAKERU: We're headed out. Are you ready?

YUI: Yes. Let's go.

THOTH: We're counting on you.

With Thoth seeing us off, Takeru and Tsukito flew toward the monster.

BACKGROUND: YAMATA-NO-OROCHI

TAKERU: Hey! We're here!

TSUKITO: We will take over from here.

ZEUS: So you have come...

Zeus looked at us, relieved, and retreated behind us.

ZEUS: I apologize, but the rest is up to you... I will temporarily retreat.

I couldn't tell from far away, but now I saw that Zeus had wounds on his legs.

TAKERU: Bro and Kusanagi, you two hide in his blind spots. I'll distract him!

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru, I will leave that to you.

YUI: I'll watch Yamata-no-Orochi's condition from here!

Takeru placed me down on the ground, and I went over to one of its blind spots and watched it carefully. A little further away, Tsukito called out his familiar.

TSUKITO: Hah!!

His familiar softly appeared and headed toward Yamata-no-Orochi. Takeru was already there, elegantly brandishing Totsuka-no-Tsurugi as he attacked.

TAKERU: Uuooooohhh!!

Takeru wielded his sword, all his original power released. However, each of the eight heads had its own consciousness, and it was able to balance attack and defense as its heads protected each other. It was deftly avoiding Takeru's attacks, and it managed to keep its tail away from him.

YUI: Takeru-san! It looks like Yamata-no-Orochi is defending its tail!

YUI: Its tail has to be its weak point!

I raised my voice up to Takeru, who was floating above me.

TAKERU: That's what it looks like. It looks really desperate.

Yamata-no-Orochi bellowed in rage and slammed into Takeru.

TAKERU: Guah!! ...Gh... Ouch...

YUI: Takeru-san!!

Takeru had taken the attack at full force, and he crashed into the ground. Seeing its opening, Yamata-no-Orochi rushed at Takeru with one of its heads.

TSUKITO: I won't let you.

Tsukito's amulet danced around the creature and threw it into confusion.

TAKERU: Thanks, Bro!

Immediately getting up, Takeru headed back toward Yamata-no-Orochi.

TAKERU: If that's its weak point, I just have to cut that off!

YUI: We should be able to create an opening! At that time, please aim for its tail!

TAKERU: Leave it to me! I'll slice it right off!

Leaping forward, Takeru flew toward its tail.

YUI: That's...

Suddenly, Yamata-no-Orochi stopped its movements and began to charge a bluish-white light. Realizing this was a sign that it was storing power, I looked up at Takeru.

YUI: This is bad! Yamata-no-Orochi is trying to spit out that beam of light again!

TSUKITO: We would be helpless if we took that attack.

TAKERU: Then... we just have to defeat it before then!

Without even flinching, Takeru attacked it furiously. He had decided to bring it down before we would be hit by that light.

But, can he defeat it? Will he make it in time? If he doesn't make it, and it lets out the beam, we'll...

Though it was still charging power, Yamata-no-Orochi's movements were more sluggish than before. But it was still protecting its tail, and Takeru's attacks and Tsukito's familiar couldn't get close to it.

TAKERU: Shhhiiit!!

Takeru's frustrated scream echoed throughout the area. Unable to get in, we all grew more and more impatient.

Should I fight too...? Or should I just watch over them like this? There were two paths ahead of me that could greatly change the outcome of this battle.

The one I should proceed on is...

THREAD OF FATE

>Fight together

>Continue waiting

(Ctrl+f "CHOOSE: [your choice]". Lowest cost choice first.)

CHOOSE: Continue waiting

NEW CHAPTER: Takeru Fate Ending 2 – "A Single Trail of Tears"

I... should wait here and watch them. My role was to watch Yamata-no-Orochi's condition and relay it to them. It could release its beam of light while I'm not looking.

YUI: Takeru-san, Tsukito-san, keep going!!

It was incredibly frustrating to just sit there and watch, but I cheered them on as much as I could.

TAKERU: I'm not even scratching it... How good does its defense have to be?!

Takeru's attacks were working, but he couldn't reach its tail, which was protected by its heads, and he couldn't land fatal wounds on the heads, either.

Yamata-no-Orochi opened one of its mouths wide. Bluish white light rapidly gathered inside of it. When it was done storing power, it would let out its beam of light.

YUI: There's no time!!

I yelled at Takeru and Tsukito in a voice close to a scream.

TAKERU: Shit...! If I could just cut off the tail...

TAKERU: But I can't get close to it!!

Irritation and impatience building up, Takeru blindly swung his sword.

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru.

As if to soothe Takeru, Tsukito spoke in a quiet, dignified tone.

TSUKITO: I will be a decoy and distract Yamata-no-Orochi. Please aim for the tail when that happens.

TSUKITO: While it's firing its beam, its movements should be more sluggish.

YUI: Tsukito-san, what are you...?

TAKERU: Bro, don't do that! It's too dangerous!

Both Takeru and I were horribly shaken when we heard what Tsukito was saying. In other words, Tsukito would become the target for the beam of light. The beam of light that we'd be helpless against.

If it aims for him, could he even avoid it...? ...No, I don't think he could. At this close range, he'd just be prey for the taking. Prepared for all of this, Tsukito said these things to us.

TAKERU: If anyone's becoming a decoy, it's me! Bro, you go for the tail...

TAKERU: I won't let you be a decoy!

TSUKITO: I'm fine. Please calm down.

TAKERU: I can't calm down! Bro, you're... you're...

TAKERU: I don't want that, ever!

As he began to comprehend Tsukito's determination, Takeru's eyes filled with tears.

TAKERU: You're the best brother I could ever have... If you're gone, I...

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru, listen to me.

TAKERU: ...Gh...

Tsukito gently admonished Takeru, who was still in despair. A small smile arose to his face.

TSUKITO: I will become the decoy. That is the best choice.

TSUKITO: If it is necessary to make a sacrifice to protect many people, then, Totsuka Takeru, you should not be that sacrifice.

He spoke very plainly, but I could sense his conviction.

TSUKITO: You have something precious to you.

TAKERU: Precious... to me...?

Takeru's eyes quivered with uneasiness, and tears began to well up in them. As I watched them, I was filled with emotion and desperately brushed away the tears that appeared in my eyes.

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru, there should be someone right next to you who's thinking of you and waiting.

Tsukito looked over at me, and when Takeru followed his gaze, his eyes opened wide in realization.

TSUKITO: I am alone, but you... you're not alone anymore. You shouldn't make her sad.

TAKERU: Bro, you're not alone either! If you're gone, I'd be so sad...

TSUKITO: Be quiet. My little brother isn't that weak.

TAKERU: Bro...

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru, you must continue to protect her. Please, live.

TAKERU: ...

Takeru looked like he wanted to say something, but he stopped and shut his mouth tightly. Beyond his distress, he was trying to accept Tsukito's determination and readiness. Yamata-no-Orochi was about to release its beam of light. There was no time to hesitate.

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru, I know you can do it. Please cut off its tail.

TAKERU: ...Fine.

TAKERU: I promise. I'll definitely defeat that thing.

The two of them nodded to each other, and, facing Yamata-no-Orochi, they flew off together.

TSUKITO: When I attack it, go around the back.

TAKERU: Yeah! Leave it to me!

Handling both his amulet and familiar, Tsukito faced Yamata-no-Orochi at full power. In an instant, the monster noticed Tsukito and set its target. Our chance came when it was aiming solely at Tsukito.

YUI: Takeru-san! Now!

TAKERU: Uuuooohhh!!

The next instant, the beam of light was released. Everything was bathed in white light. The light felt like it would sear my eyes, and I couldn't keep them open.

YUI: Kh...!

.....

.....

Finally the light lessened, and I could see my surroundings again.

BACKGROUND: SKY

Yamata-no-Orochi was no longer there. In the place where it should have been lay the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi.

TAKERU: Did we... defeat it...?

Takeru stood in blank amazement for a while, but suddenly, the color in his face changed.

TAKERU: Where's Bro?! Where is he?!

We looked all around us, but Tsukito was nowhere to be seen.

TAKERU: Bro, where are you?! Answer me, Bro!!

YUI: Tsukito-san! Please answer us!!

Takeru and I wandered around, looking for Tsukito. But there was no answer from him, and we couldn't find him anywhere.

TAKERU: Bro...

Takeru stopped and hung his head. His body was trembling all over.

YUI: Takeru-san...

It hurt to see him like that, and I quietly called out to him. Takeru once again looked up and faced straight ahead.

TAKERU: I won't cry. I won't ever cry.

TAKERU: Bro would laugh at me if I cried.

TAKERU: Bro might've been able to run away safely.

YUI: Yeah... maybe...

I wanted to believe he avoided Yamata-no-Orochi's attack and ran away.

TAKERU: ...Let's get your sword and go.

YUI: Alright...

I followed after Takeru toward where the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi had fallen. We could no longer hear the roar of Yamata-no-Orochi, which had echoed across the entire Garden. Perhaps because it had become quiet all of a sudden, the terribly sad air seemed to press down on me. Even though we had victory in our hands.

BACKGROUND: PLAINS

When we returned to the meadow where everyone was waiting, neither Takeru nor I could open our mouths. My feelings felt heavy, and I really didn't feel like exchanging words with everyone.

ZEUS: So you have returned. It appears you have safely eliminated Yamata-no-Orochi.

THOTH: Thanks to you, this dilemma is over. The Garden should return to normal.

ZEUS: Where is Tsukito?

Zeus noticed our dark expressions and frowned.

YUI: Tsukito-san is...

TAKERU: ...

Our silence probably told him everything. With a serious gaze, Zeus nodded.

ZEUS: ...I see. I extend my thanks to you once again. Good work.

ZEUS: Go take your time and rest.

Zeus and Thoth left, and the relieved students also departed in turn. Only Takeru and I were left behind. Of course, Tsukito was nowhere to be seen.

TAKERU:

YUI:

Takeru and I both just stood there silently. We didn't move, didn't say anything, just stood still in a daze. I couldn't feel joy or sadness. It felt like a gaping hole had opened in my heart.

The three of us in training camp. The time we spent together. Even now, those memories floated into my mind. We'd promised we would go see the moon together. But that day might never come. When I looked up at the sky, the moon was shining beautifully.

TAKERU: ...Bro.

Takeru had said he wouldn't cry, but on his cheek, I saw a single trail of tears.

TAKERU FATE ENDING 2: END

CHOOSE: Fight together

NEW CHAPTER: Takeru Fate Ending 1 – "A Hero's Return"

...I'll fight too!! If I assisted them, then our chances of winning might increase.

YUI: I'll help too!

TAKERU: Wh... Are you serious?!

I nodded to Takeru and rushed toward Yamata-no-Orochi from the ground. The sword Loki created for me wasn't just for protection. I can fight too!

I raised the sword with all my might and slashed at Yamata-no-Orochi. I couldn't hurt it, but the monster faltered a little from receiving a new attack. At the same time, the energy from the bluish white light lessened.

TAKERU: Alright! I'll aim at it from above! Kusanagi, be careful!

YUI: I'll be fine! This is my first time in a real battle, but I've been training every day.

TAKERU: Don't get too carried away!

Takeru's expression brightened, and when I saw the smile return to his face, I felt relieved. I was calmer now. The fear from earlier was now gone.

TAKERU: Where're you looking?! I'm over here!

Led around by Takeru's and my attacks, Yamata-no-Orochi's movements grew wild.

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru and Kusanagi Yui, it appears it does not know which one of you to aim for.

TSUKITO: Its defenses should be weak right now.

TAKERU: I'll clean this right up!

Changing his direction, Takeru drew closer to Yamata-no-Orochi. The eight heads were all turned toward me. Its tail was defenseless.

TAKERU: Here we go! Eat this--!!

Takeru's sword wounded the monster's tail. However, he couldn't cut it off.

TAKERU: Shit... It's too thick...

YUI: You should be able to get it next time! Don't be impatient, just find another chance!

TSUKITO: Kusanagi Yui, please be careful!

As soon as Tsukito gave me that warning, Yamata-no-Orochi looked at me and charged.

YUI: Ahhhh!!

Unable to avoid it completely, I was hit by the strong attack and flew into the air. My whole body hit the ground, and I was struck by an intense dizziness.

YUI: Kh...!!

I couldn't stand up right away. Through my fuzzy vision, I could see the eight heads preparing to make another attack.

YUI: ...!!

It's too late. I can't avoid it.

Time stopped. I was trapped in a delusion, and then...

TAKERU: Guah!

Takeru flew right in front of my eyes. Protecting me, he took the attack straight on and crumpled to the ground.

YUI: Takeru-san!!

Protected by Takeru, I...

CHOICE (T/N: No brave value here. Choose away.)

>Run over and help him sit up

>Tell him to run away quickly

>Worry about his wounds

CHOOSE: Run over and help him sit up

YUI: Takeru-san! Are you okay?! Please answer me!

I ran up to Takeru and lifted him up in my arms.

TAKERU: You... stop panicking. This is nothing.

YUI: Good... I thought my heart would stop.

TAKERU: Stop exaggerating. Here, we can afford to be slow.

Takeru took my hand and pulled himself up.

CHOOSE: Tell him to run away quickly

YUI: Takeru-san! Hurry and run away! Its next attack might...

TAKERU: I'm fine! I know! You need to get away from here! It's not safe!

Though he was the one who received the attack, he was worried about me.

CHOOSE: Worry about his wounds

YUI: Takeru-san! Are you hurt?!

TAKERU: It's just a scratch. No need to worry! So don't make that face, okay?

Takeru smiled, trying to calm me down.

(choices converge here)

Sensing we would be hit with another attack, Takeru and I flew off in different directions.

TAKERU: Listen, we have to move separately and confuse him.

YUI: Okay!

If we do that, then it shouldn't have any opportunity to charge up that bluish white light.

TAKERU: While I distract it, aim for the tail, Bro!

TSUKITO: Understood. Please be careful, you two.

Our cooperative play would be the key to our victory. If this goes well, we'll definitely win... We confirmed our connection and split off in three directions.

TAKERU: Your opponent is me! I won't let you touch Kusanagi!

Takeru lifted his eyes to the beast in anger, and slashed at it with an invisible speed.

Yamata-no-Orochi raged at being hit, but it couldn't stop his attacks.

I didn't want it to concentrate on just Takeru's attacks. I needed to back him up. Receiving attacks from both the ground and the air, Yamata-no-Orochi waved its heads around wildly.

TAKERU: Now, Bro!!

TSUKITO: Here I go.

Tsukito controlled his amulet and familiar and aimed for its tail.

TSUKITO: Haaaaah!!

Its tail injured, Yamata-no-Orochi screeched loudly.

TAKERU: Alright! You got it!

However, Yamata-no-Orochi still wasn't going down.

It was faltering from the damage it received to its tail, and it was weaker, but it was still trying to resist.

TSUKITO: My attacks cannot completely cut off its tail. I will count on you for the rest.

TAKERU: Got it, Bro! I'll aim for the heads!

Taking advantage of Yamata-no-Orochi losing its balance, Takeru sliced off the nearest head. The merciless attacks continued, and before long, Takeru had cut off another head. He was gradually chipping away at its power.

YUI: Yamata-no-Orochi is weaker now! You be able to aim for the tail now!

TAKERU: Okay, this is the end! Take this!!

Takeru cut open the sky with Totsuka-no-Tsurugi, and cleanly chopped off Yamata-no-Orochi's tail. Yamata-no-Orochi screeched, and the whole area was filled with white light. The dazzling light emitting from its body sparkled mysteriously.

It was... just like a prayer.

BACKGROUND: SKY

The light that filled my surroundings faded, and the Garden was once again returned to silence.

TAKERU: Did we do it...?

TSUKITO: Yamata-no-Orochi has disappeared.

The three of us stood dumbfounded and looked up at the place where Yamata-no-Orochi was.

YUI: We... defeated Yamata-no-Orochi...

TAKERU: Defeated... We defeated it! We won against that thing!

YUI: Yes!!

TSUKITO: We managed to protect the school...

TAKERU: Yeah! I can get things done when I need to!

Takeru yelled, overflowing with confidence. Seeing him this way, I felt that this past year wasn't a waste. He finally had true strength in his hands. The strength to fight for someone else. To protect someone else...

While we were celebrating, I saw something fall to the ground.

YUI: That's...

In the place where Yamata-no-Orochi had been was the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi.

TSUKITO: It seems to have changed back.

YUI: The empty prayers have probably been purified.

I lifted up the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi, remembering that dazzling white light.

YUI: This sword shouldn't turn into a monster again.

TAKERU: I see...

Takeru was staring at his own hands with a contemplative expression.

YUI: What's wrong?

TAKERU: I don't want to create that monster ever again.

TAKERU: So, we need to change too.

Takeru looked straight ahead, his expression serious.

TSUKITO: Totsuka Takeru, what are you planning to do?

TAKERU: I want to correct the way those guys in Takamagahara think. Otherwise, nothing will change.

TAKERU: I'll bring the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi, and tell them everything as it is.

TAKERU: So, please. Hand that sword over to me.

His eyes clear, Takeru requested this of me.

A while ago, he didn't want to have anything to do with them, but now Takeru was going to confront the gods who rejected him and explain everything. That wasn't an easy thing to do. But even knowing all that, Takeru still said this.

YUI: Understood. I entrust this sword to you, Takeru-san.

The one who should have the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi from the tail of Yamata-no-Orochi was Takeru. That had been decided by fate. Recalling that the literature said Takeru gave this sword to the gods, I presented the Ama-no-Murakumo-no-Tsurugi to him.

YUI: This sword suits you, Takeru-san.

TAKERU: Kusanagi, thank you...! I'll definitely answer the prayers of all you humans.

Takeru took the swords firmly in his hands.

TSUKITO: Let's return. We must report Yamata-no-Orochi's subjugation.

YUI: You're right. Let's go and tell everyone.

BACKGROUND: PLAINS

When we returned to the meadow where everyone was waiting, we were met with all kinds of grateful voices.

APOLLON: Fairy-san, Take-Take, Tsuki-Tsuki, welcome back!! I'm glad you're safe. I'm so glad!!

HADES: This is all thanks to you. Good work.

LOKI: Did you seriously defeat that thing?! Amazing, amazing, too amazing!

BALDER: Ah, you're covered in wounds. It must have been a rough fight.

THOTH: It appears my conclusions were correct.

ZEUS: Good work, all of you. You have delivered us from this crisis.

ZEUS: I cannot thank you enough. And Takeru, your achievements are especially great.

Takeru's eyes widened in surprise when Zeus looked at him.

TAKERU: My...?

ZEUS: Without your great power and strong leadership, we would not have been able to defeat Yamata-no-Orochi.

ZEUS: Takeru, Tsukito, Kusanagi Yui, thank you for coming to this school.

At Zeus's sincere words, Takeru looked flustered and turned away awkwardly.

TAKERU: ...I'm... glad I came here too.

TAKERU: Thanks for bringing me here.

He was mumbling, but he was clearly showing his gratitude to Zeus.

TAKERU: ...Kusanagi, thanks for everything.

YUI: Takeru-san... you don't need to thank me.

TAKERU: Because you were so patient and kept looking out for me, I managed to change.

Just as he said, he had changed. The sulky air he had when I met him had completely vanished, and he was able to look forward. The time I'd spent with him changed him, and when I thought about how much he'd grown, my chest grew warm.

I should have been happy, but I felt a little lonely seeing this new, confident Takeru. He had a magnificent presence, and it was hard for me, a human, to approach him. I felt more distant from him.

ZEUS: Once the school is repaired, we will hold our graduation ceremony. We will make preparations toward graduation.

The students all suddenly cheered at Zeus's words. The graduation ceremony I was supposed to be looking forward to... Soon, it would be time to part ways. The year I spent at this school would become a memory, and a new period in my life would begin.

The last thing I wanted to say... "I want to be together with you."

That wish would never be granted. I tucked it inside my heart for now.

YUI: Okay, let's start!

As if giving myself an extra push, I yelled energetically and began to walk. I walked toward the final preparations, toward my goodbyes with everyone...

TAKERU FATE ENDING 1: END