

The World's Wackiest Bandits

The Flight King Yoshie

Hey there! Do you like soup? It might seem like an odd question, but today's story is about Yoshie Shiratori, a Japanese man who had an unexpected love for soup. Now, we're not talking about it being his favourite food, instead, he appreciated it for an entirely different reason – using it as a tool to escape from prisons.

Yoshie was a master escape artist, and he became famous for breaking out of jail not once, not twice, but four times! And, interestingly, in two of those escapes, soup played a big part!

Welcome to "The World's Wackiest Bandits". In this podcast, we dive into some real crazy stuff – robberies, scams, thefts, prison escapes – basically, all the thrilling stuff that's illegal or forbidden.

Today's story takes us back almost 100 years. Even though a lot of things have changed since then, one thing stays the same; if you break the rules, the police will come after you and throw you in jail.

Now, Yoshie's case is particularly strange. He was accused of murder and thrown in jail, despite there being a LOT of evidence to prove that he was innocent. A rather unfair turn of events, wouldn't you agree?

Obviously, being in any prison doesn't seem fun, but 100 years ago, it was especially horrible. It was cold, the food was gross, and the guards were mean – basically, everything about it sucked. So, Yoshie decides he's going to escape.

Yoshie: "I don't want to be here."

This would be tricky since there was a lot of guards in Yoshie's prison. Yet, he noticed that during the changing of shifts, there was a 15-minute window with no guards outside his cell. Despite this, the door to his cell was still locked.

Yoshie had a solution for this. After showering the day before, he came across a bucket with a metal handle. He managed to break the handle off and smuggle it into his cell. He skilfully bent the piece of metal to create a special key that he used to unlock his cell and escape.

Even though Yoshie was great at escaping prisons, he wasn't so good at hiding from the police. He only enjoyed three days of freedom before getting caught again. This time, they put him in a super-secure prison.

Yoshie: "I don't want to be here either."

Yoshie found himself in a cell that seemed impossible to escape. Picture this – super high ceilings, smooth copper walls, and a tiny vent for fresh air. No one knows exactly how, but Yoshie somehow climbed up the slippery walls to the vent on the ceiling. It was tightly screwed shut, but every night, he pulled and tugged at the screws. After weeks of trying, he finally opened the vent and escaped again!