Byakuya Togami - Kudan feat

This document will aim to explain one of Byakuya Togami's notable feats from the *Danganronpa* series for scaling purposes, in hopes of elevating his placement within the community.
Thus, if you have any interest in using him, please feel free to utilise this feat.

The feat, known as the Kudan feat (by my personal naming for now), serves to represent one of Byakuya's best achievements in emotional intelligence, which has been quite overlooked by other scalers (at least from my perspective).

Although this may be fairly obvious, it is highly recommended to read the Danganronpa: Togami novel series. If you haven't yet read them, here you go:
DANGANRONPA TOGAMI Vol 1.pdf (Volume 1 full novel)
Danganronpa Togami Volume 2 Summary.pdf (Volume 2 extensive summary)
Danganronpa Togami Volume 3 Summaries.pdf (Volume 3 extensive summary)
These are the best versions of the novels we got online, which sadly may result in some imprecisions of interpretation regarding this feat and the narrative as a whole. As such, until we get full translations for both volumes 2 and 3, the feat may not be completely valid based on the original material.

If you haven't read the novels and still want to continue with the document, please do keep in mind that it will impact your future (in the event that you will read it) *Danganronpa: Togami* experience negatively, as it will contain spoilers on one of the major plot twists.
If you don't care about spoilers, then of course read this if you want. Albeit, some context may be needed to completely grasp the feat as a whole. Hence, I will try to nonetheless delineate the background, for both those who forgot some parts of the novels and for those who haven't read them.



Context - contains some spoilers

The Danganronpa: Togami recounts the story of the World Domination Proclamation, a global event in which Byakuya Togami, the Ultimate Affluent Progeny, and his older sister, Shinobu Togami, otherwise known as Blue Ink, face the Ultimate Despair before the eventual Tragedy.
Shinobu, the Ultimate Secretary and student of one of the 77th class batches, serves as the "Blue Ink" who writes "Journey Under the Midnight Sun", a biography of Byakuya Togami, and is the protagonist of the series.
The World Domination Proclamation kicks off with a speech made by the Ultimate Imposter acting as Byakuya in which he announces that he will take over the world if neither one of these two conditions are met: either kill Byakuya or find the "pitiful cattle" hidden in the world. This "pitiful cattle", known as the Kudan, is the secret to the Togami family's prosperity. Thanks to its high analytical prowess which allows it to predict future events with certainty akin to what seemed to be prophesying, it was considered as a major obstacle in bringing forth the Ultimate Despair's plans.
Being the big secret the Togami family held, many organisations and conglomerates tried to locate it through Byakuya, who knew its location, as only the top of the family knew about it, Byakuya being the new heir.
Thus, one of the main objectives of the World Domination Proclamation included getting rid of the Kudan.

As the event carried on, Shinobu, with a fake eye serving as a "library" of information directly affecting her field of vision with augmented reality named Borges, started to notice discrepancies between what she was seeing and her memories, which led her to learn the truth that Borges had been feeding her false information overlaying with reality itself, causing her to live in between both fiction and reality.
We get to learn that Borges is in fact carrying the K2K system, another name for the Bible Plan or the Story AI, one of the two experiments performed by Hope's Peak to propagate hope in the world (the other being the Sage Plan, otherwise known as the Izuru Kamukura Project). The K2K system is a sort of artificial intelligence

whose role is to write stories to make the reader feel hope just by consuming said stories.
However, after several complications notably involving inducing one of the researchers to go wild and commit murders, K, a Hope's Peak alumnus and participant of the research project, took the Story AI and ultimately hid it within the Togami Corporation, collaborating with them to keep it in secrecy.
Hence, it was inserted into an artificial eye, later known to be the Borges in Shinobu.

During the finale of the event, in which Byakuya and the Imposter directly meet and confront each other, the latter, representing the Ultimate Despair under Junko Enoshima's planning, drops the truth that the Kudan was Shinobu all along, that she was the secret to the Togami family's prosperity. This in turn causes her to learn of all the hidden revelations: that her entire life was a lie, that all of her memories of being Shinobu Togami were just fabrications by the K2K system. These memories include the falsified rendition of the Legacy Crowned Championship, her memories of her brothers Kazuya and Suzuhiko, and so on. Essentially, everything she ever remembered, such as her meeting with Byakuya Togami and her deep affection towards him were nothing but machinations and lies of the K2K system, feeding her piles of unreality into her brain. This caused her to feel immense despair, to have both an existential and identity crisis, which is quite logical after learning that she in fact never existed.
But at the brink of despair, one voice managed to keep her going on. Byakuya Togami told her to confront this truth and to create her own meaning, to follow him, and to trust him as he will guide her.
Subsequently, Blue Ink started to regain focus of herself, and even after the near perfect gaslighting of the Imposter, she continued to stand up against these circumstances to finally achieve authenticity, to create her own identity.

Byakuya, given the choice of either conquering the world (which would lead to Blue Ink's death) or not conquering the world (which would lead to both Blue Ink and Byakuya losing specific parts of their memories including them knowing each other and some of Byakuya's talents), chooses the latter option, deciding not to conquer the world, and to let Blue Ink live on.

I will mention this here aside that I obviously skipped over a lot of the narrative and only included the major stuff which would help in understanding the document. If more context is needed, you can consult the [Shinobu Togami wiki page] which contains a more detailed summary (or you could just read the novels lol).



Unable to find the source sorry °_°

Abstract - short summary

Thus what is the Kudan feat?

The Kudan feat is Byakuya's feat to create Shinobu's personality with the K2K system. This includes selecting a specific personality, involving memories, likings, and such, which ultimately would lead to Shinobu's resistance to high levels of gaslighting or emotional pain upon the revelation of the truth. It is also a method of sealing the Kudan, whose abilities, according to Byakuya himself, are very destructive.
It specifically entails emotional understanding and facilitation (interpersonal management), as it required Byakuya to have a deep grasp of the human mind to create a persona able to defy such truths which render the individual's existence into nothing, non-existence and worthlessness, and to be able to himself be able to trigger the individual's motivation to stand up against the harsh reality.
Also supposing the fact that Blue Ink's persona is based on the actual Shinobu's, we can assert that it required the persona to highly resemble that of Shinobu herself, misdirecting those who knew the original one as to not create confusion nor suspicion.
Ultimately, it is implied that Byakuya always planned on preparing for the revelation of the truth to Blue Ink, which is why he shaped her in such a specific way.

Therefore this feat also contains some planning aspects, albeit extremely minor, and some positive individual manipulation.

The Kudan feat - explanation

The feat entails Byakuya creating the Blue Ink persona, which mainly involves her memories and personality, with the help of the K2K system, in order to both seal and "free" the Kudan, someone he knew would serve as a target for the interested, as he believes that its abilities go beyond the physical level, being more dangerous than even nuclear weapons, which might bring great adversity to him or any other.

> admits that the goal of world domination was false in order to stir confusion. Shinobu thinks that it's a waste of time, since she didn't even remember she was the Kudan. She also believes that, for example, nuclear weapons are far more dangerous than predicting the future but Byakuya doesn't agree. Nuclear weapons just make human extinction possible, while predicting the future is far above the physical level. It makes it known ahead of time that the future is impossible to change. It really is like cheating. To have such a talent would only serve to help bring destruction to their world.

There are quite a bit of layers to this.
First of all, he chose to erase her memories of being the Kudan, perhaps requiring some knowledge in neurology. This obviously laid the groundwork for introducing a new persona. This persona is filled with specific memories and personality to fabricate a false history, that of a loving older sister to Byakuya and the Ultimate Secretary at Hope's Peak, writing his biography of "Journey Under the Midnight Sun". This admiration, one of her viewing him as a god, serves as the underlying method and potential contingency that Byakuya will use to keep Blue Ink sane after the revelation, which will be expanded on later on. He also erased the memories so that there was no risk of her leaking her identity as the Kudan. Having her write his biography, Byakuya gives her a reason to stay close to him, so that he can keep tabs on her state. Due to the fact that the Story AI went rogue and caused a researcher to commit murder, it was possible that it could malfunction within Blue Ink, and it would certainly bring havoc.
He equally needed to shape the persona consistently with the original Shinobu who existed, so as to not create suspicion amongst those who knew her.

When Shinobu begins to wonder whether or not her personality is the one of Shinobu or the Kudan, the Imposter remarks that it's most likely the former. It's like how one makes changes to a computer's data file. The changes start out small, but eventually everything will become overwritten to the point even if the file title says 'Kudan', by that point, it is a completely different file in its contents. With all this in mind the Imposter

And on a more existential note, if Shinobu knew she was the Kudan, it could develop major problems, again, as someone who would be the target of interest. This is another reason as to why Byakuya erased the memories.

machination by the K2K system. The Imposter applauds Byakuya for erasing the Kudan's memory in order to protect her.

Knowing that the K2K system would malfunction, the personality he inserted was perfect to fend off the complications that would arise. This is seen with the finale of the World Domination Proclamation where the Ultimate Imposter, following the plans of Junko Enoshima, attempted to gaslight Shinobu by revealing the truth. This caused her to undergo deep psychological distress.

My brain broke. Having said that, this brain is actually not mine. Until today, I have always believed that it was "I". It seems in actuality that it never existed in this world. Then I can't even crash. A ghost, yes, I am a ghost, I don't exist in this world, so I am not qualified to collapse. I also have no way to think about it. However, I am thinking about things as a Togami. This makes me feel unnatural and I have the urge to vomit. I want to find myself back and get back to me as soon as possible. However, if I believe that the Imposter is telling the truth, then I am the 'Kudan'. I am the "Secret of the Togami Family" and the "pitiful cattle". Despair High School and the WHO are looking for the monster that can do predictions in this world. So, am I not a person?

My brain broke. Having said that, this brain is actually not mine. I am not a Togami, and the consciousness of the 'Kudan' has long since disappeared, and there are no signs of surface. So who am I, and how should I live next? Live as a Togami? Maybe this personality can be maintained, but I am just a fake Togami. To find the original personality? In that case, "I" will disappear. Live as an unnamed "I"? The mind is a fake Togami, the body is the Kudan, which is almost collapsing. I feel that self-awareness is gradually fading and in trying to keep this quoted "I", I began to feel that this behavior is

stupid. I want to disappear, I want to disappear, because the existence of "I" is the closest to an imposter in this world…

Do keep in mind that the Imposter is acting according to the script of Junko Enoshima's plans, and with the Imposter's near perfect acting (obviously, he wouldn't be able to replicate Junko's style identically), it's almost as if Junko herself is the one doing it. As such, the method does stem from Junko herself, someone whose manipulation tactics are undoubtedly monstrous.

being the large amount of fat, which the Imposter proudly bulges out. Imposter smiles behind their glasses and says *"Heh, on this stage, I am also one of the actors. Of course I won't leave. Let's start the performance and complete this story."*

(scan to show that the Imposter is merely acting during this intercourse)

Mukuro Ikusaba.

Super High School Level Soldier.

Shinobu asks her what is she doing in the Czech Republic and, after a bit of banter where she reads the wrong script in front of Shinobu (which leads Shinobu to comment on how she's cute, yet rather useless) she answers that she was hired to escort one of

(scan to show that there is indeed a script, as Mukuro is shown to have one)

Here, Byakuya employs his hidden methods and contingency, in which he emotionally motivates his Blue Ink to fight back against this despair.

"Don't lose to the truth."

Speaking this sentence was Byakuya who has been watching the situation.

He pushes up his glasses, putting Shinobu's mindbroken figure into his field of vision. Shinobu can't tell if he is looking at her with encouragement or it is her mind making it up.

"Byakuya-sama... Please answer me, are the things the Impostor is saying really true? Am I really the 'Kudan'?"

"Yes," Byakuya answered without hesitation. "In order to seal up the 'Kudan', I created your personality with the K2K system."

“Why didn’t you tell me?”

"You are the 'Kudan', this is the highest secret, even if you are the Kudan yourself, I couldn’t take the risk of you leaking it"

Byakuya listens to Shinobu’s short outburst about her feelings and then continues.

"No matter what the truth is, you don't have to pay attention to it. Even if everything is false, you have already got the power to make yourself self-established, don’t you? If so, when the truth is in front of you, you should stand up and face it."

"I can’t do it."

"You have to believe."

"Believe in Byakuya-sama?"

"Yes, you must trust me unconditionally, I believe in myself, you must believe me, I will guide you forward."

The Impostor tries to convince her that Byakuya deceived her, lied to her and used her. That her existence is worthless. Byakuya retorts that Shinobu did have worth. After all, she was valuable at one point when she was in the process of writing the ‘Journey Under the Midnight Sun’. The Imposter asks why he’s so cruel, but Byakuya responds that he doesn’t want to say something nice to get someone’s goodwill, and the guilt-tripping is not working on him. He just needs to guide mankind’s advancement and that will be more than enough. The Imposter remarks they’ll keep that in mind when they replace Byakuya. However...

"You’re noisy, shut up, fat pig! Even if my true identity is the 'Kudan', even if my true identity is not Shinobu, It’s still me, I’m still Shinobu. For me, Byakuya-sama is God. I observe him and write a biography for him. This is enough to make me feel happy. This is me, Shinobu Togami, this fact is unchanged. I always believe in Byakuya-sama, and this situation is no different. Your words are not heard by anyone. You are a lonely pig from birth to death."

"Are you kidding me?" the Imposter said, but Shinobu makes her stance clear.

"I will always believe in Byakuya-sama."

Byakuya and I once again turned to the imposter standing in front of the coffin. The Imposter shook and it was difficult to tell whether the expression on his face was angry or annoyed. He couldn't even destroy such a small existence like me. Has he fallen into despair himself?

(scan to show that this wasn't according to plan. If it were going smoothly, why would the Imposter be either annoyed or angry?)

Hence, the reason why this feat demonstrates extensive emotional intelligence is because Byakuya was able to figure out a way for someone, even after sinking in great despair, even after learning that they ultimately don't exist, even after individuals like Junko Enoshima try to bring them down, to still trust hope, to still believe in something greater, to still live on and seize the day of one's own life, against absurd situations where loss is inevitable.

One question may remain in your mind, why would Byakuya ever come up with this initially?
We know that the original Byakuya was quite virtuous deep down. He's someone willing to guide others towards hope even if he is humiliated. He's unwilling to fall into despair. Yet he hides his intentions so that people can also act by themselves, stay true to themselves. He's merely a guide, and wants others to be responsible in creating their own purposes.
This is why he would want to "free" the Kudan. It is his objective to turn someone who people see as a monster into someone who people see as a human being.

Byakuya makes an analogy concerning red tide. As a result of human activity, the nutrients given to plankton is too much thus resulting in abnormal proliferation. Thus, the sea turns red which has a negative impact on humanity. Shinobu wonders why he is going on an environmental lecture, but Byakuya states that it's exactly what Despair High School is. And just like how plankton can be suppressed, so too can they suppress Despair's proliferation by using hope. Even if Byakuya isn't here to do so. Still, he believes that alongside his classmates, he will be able to beat the Mastermind. Course,

when Shinobu brings up the fact the Mastermind is among his classmates, he is confident they'll be able to weed them out, even if he won't be at his full potential thanks to the medicine.

Shinobu doesn't want that. She doesn't want a world where Byakuya will be laughed at because of this. To this, Byakuya responds with:

"If they want to laugh, let them laugh. Even if I really become the four-eyed support character, I can also guide them forward. No matter what I become, I will guide them forward and I will stake the Togami name on it."

"I don't understand, I don't understand anything..."

What the hell is he talking about ? He is not himself. Byakuya is still saying nothing. I can't understand his thoughts. I will disappear and I will end...is he not afraid?

"The most important thing is that if I don't choose to conquer the world, you can live on."

Shinobu doesn't understand and says it doesn't matter. His memories of her will be erased, and her entire memories will be wiped, effectively erasing her existence. The same as death. Byakuya informs her that she can face this. She overcame fiction. She can overcome the truth as well. She begs him not to do this, but he goes forward towards the Imposter, lamenting that he still had more things he wanted to tell her. He tells the Imposter to go ahead, earning his fake's confusion. The world's already near his grasp, why not take advantage of it. Byakuya says he was never hungry for world domination. He was satisfied as long as he was there and true to himself, something that the Imposter could never do.

"Because you are still a child," Byakuya smiled. "However, you can't always be a child. Someday you may need to guide others. At that time, you will understand my true intentions and be moved to tears."

"Because Byakuya-sama is my God, and I...am your sister."

"Hey, that expression is very good, Blue Ink. It seems that you have got what you wanted."

That sentence made me acquire the last truth.

It's a simple story. One young man decided to try to take over the world. After many repeated extraordinary adventures, the young man got what he wanted and was able to return home safe and sound. And he lived happily ever after.

This "young man", this "youth" is Byakuya-sama and is also me.

Now...I have to go back. I have to go home, and know that the world will not be conquered before I go home. Having said that, it's only after I'm reborn will I head back to my destination. What kind of adventure will I go through? Where to go? It feels like I forgot to take the travel brochure before starting a school trip but, surprisingly, this feeling is not as hellishly painful as expected.

And thus ends the document.
Thanks for reading.
- Ranposano

Hopefully you stay around for when the eventual Byakuya Togami document drops!

