



The Ki-Rin's Path was a long and arduous trek, consisting of weeks of overland travel from the most remote, westernmost regions of the Unicorn Clan's holdings before finally reaching the northern reaches of the Colonies. Despite the difficulty of the trip, Moto Isul adored it completely for many reasons, not the least of which were the raucous celebrations his people held at Journey's End City upon their eventual arrival in the Colonies. More so than many of his clansmen, Isul suffered from wanderlust the likes of which could not be tamed. Remaining in one place for more than one week began to sour his disposition to the point that he was eventually unsuitable for companionship, or so he had been told. Thus the duty of caravan escort had been given to him, and he had never been happier with any detail he had endured.

The stone formation that Isul had come to recognize as the mid-way point of the trip was looming on the northern facing of the path. It was a welcome sight, not only because it indicated that the terrain from here on out would be smoother and less rocky, but the weather would quickly become much warmer. He always enjoyed those portions of the trip more, when the freezing temperatures of the Empire were not nipping at his back.

A dust cloud was rising up to the northwest. That typically meant a sandstorm was coming in from the western wastes, and that put a damper on Isul's mood somewhat. Something about it bothered him, though... something he could not quite put his finger on. He stared at the cloud for several minutes, his frown growing deeper as he did

so. And then it occurred to him: the wind was blowing the wrong way.

"Riders!" he shouted at the top of lungs. "Riders approaching!"

Isul drew his blade. There were far too many of them for it to be anything other than an attack force on the move, and moving fast.

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Daigotsu Kazuko looked over the scouting reports and nodded appreciatively. The level of detail was suitable for the schedule of advancement he had in mind. The damnable decree from the new Imperial Governor had complicated things beyond measure, and attempting to adjust the clan's detailed plan of advancement into the as of yet unexplored regions of the Colonies was proving more difficult than he had imagined. He had a number of fronts that were ready to be pushed into already, and several incursion forces that were standing ready.

Kazuko frowned and placed his finger on one of the symbols on the map. It was the symbol for a temple, but with a character notation that indicated size. It was far too large, as large as the massive temples in the Second City or even in the Imperial City back in the Empire, and yet here it was, located squarely in the densest, most hostile reaches of the Colonial jungles. It made no sense at all there, unless...

"The Ruhmalites," Kazuko said quietly, smiling. "At last."

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Akodo Uehara grimaced as he entered the library. The weather

outside was abominably cold, as was to be expected at this time of year, and his shoulder ached miserably. The wound he had suffered as a young man had healed long ago, but only partially, and it seemed he would go to the next world with it troubling him, assuming it was cold in the realm his soul would eventually reach.

As Uehara replaced the scrolls he had taken for the evening, his eyes wandered as they so often did to the small table that held the library's single copy of *De Bellis Yoditorum*, a treatise on gaijin tactics that was often found in libraries throughout the Lion land. Uehara felt quite confident that it was the only gaijin work found anywhere in the entire province, quite possibly the whole of Lion territory. It was in a format called a book, which the elder samurai found distasteful, yet respected it for its ability to contain a great amount of information in a relatively portable manner. No, he did not take offense from its existence or its physical form, but rather its necessity.

*De Bellis Yoditorum* was a work that detailed the strategies and tactics of a vast Empire of warriors known as the Yodotai, who existed far beyond the boundaries of Rokugan. If the information on them from the book was accurate, then they were a threat the likes of which no one had ever even conceived. The thought that they continued to exist out there somewhere was far from comforting, and privately Uehara hoped that they would never encounter Rokugan or any of its Colonies.

A chill ran through Uehara suddenly. It caused his shoulder to ache terribly.

## — Notes of Specific Cards —

**Asako Kikugoro:** If Kikugoro himself is entering play from a province, the effects of his Reaction happen before the province is refilled.

**Bayushi Kazutoshi:** His trait does not affect Personalities with a dash (—) as their Honor Requirement.

**Indecision:** The "two or more actions" counts the triggering action.

**Perplexing Guests:** The Reaction is useful if you want your Personality to be discarded rather than destroyed.

**Searching for Answers:** This action can be taken without Presence, because it can bring a Personality into play at the battlefield, even though it does not always do so.

**Two Fronts:** The two battlefields take the place of the normal single battlefield, side by side, and are adjacent to each other. Each one is also adjacent to the other battlefield on its side. If the province is destroyed in one battle before the other has resolved, all units at the other return home, bowing if they are attacking or allied.

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