

*My Lord Regent,*

*While the evening skies above Shiro Yogo have continued to remain clear and calm, a shadow approaches from the forest. The spirits of the mountains and the forest rumble with growing urgency, warning of a curse of violence that has befallen the countryside to the north. They continue to keep us safe from harm, yet the arrival of your servants has troubled them.*

*I am sending as many of my most learned shugenja as possible to assist you in the capital. Since her arrival several days ago, Captain Masayo has revealed to me the depths of the other clans' disloyalty, and it fills my heart with ire. That you must stave off the dogged conspiracies of treason upon your leadership at such a portentous time only heightens the need for solidarity. The army of the Dragon has proven its loyalty in keeping you safe from physical assault, and soon your spirit's defenses shall be bolstered as well. I only hope that it is enough, and that the diviners find no further affliction plaguing the Throne.*

*While you maintain your vigil over Rokugan, I shall carry out the duty that you have entrusted to me. My meditations have failed to provide me þe blæde with which to cut through the fearsome miasma that surrounds my task. It carries within it the whispers of jealousy and despair: of a crime so heinous it echoes to the very heart of Jigoku itself.*

*We must remain vigilant against the temptations of the Fallen One, whose war against Togashi rages without end. His way is insidious and seductive, and I fear it has already reached through the borders of the Empire. The portents I have seen imply an act against Heaven that threatens to sunder not only the legacy of þe Hantei but that of the entire Empire. But do not let such dire warnings dissuade you from your duty to the Throne, for I shall not abandon my duty unless my very soul is sundered. There is nowhere safer in all of Rokugan for it to remain than the Castle of Learning.*

*You act with the cunning of Bayushi-no-Kami and the favor of Hantei-no-Kami, whose legacy guides us all. Let your rule remain strong until the Children of Heaven are returned in purity.*

*Ever your loyal servant,*

*Yogo Junzo*

*Daimyō of the Yogo*

