

*Greetings, Honorable Samurai of the Lion Clan,*

*It has been several months since Heaven saw fit to appoint me Emerald Champion, and although my duties have taken me from your side, the Lion remain at the forefront of my thoughts. The might, discipline, and honor of our samurai inspire me daily as I seek to uphold the celestial Emperor's justice throughout the Empire, and nothing shall interfere with my service to our clan as its champion. I am grateful that you are likewise attentive to me. Your blessings over my new position and my recent marriage to Lady Kaede have been felt.*

*I realize that this season has been especially trying for the Lion. My earlier insistence on peace between our clan and the Crane has not wavered, especially considering the will of the Emperor. However, I recognize that duty binds me to assert our position over the city of Toshi Ranbo and its surrounding lands, both militarily and politically. To maintain neutrality, I have appointed Bayushi Yojiro as Chief Magistrate of Toshi Ranbo. Having recently returned from an important assignment in Ryokō Owari Toshi, Yojiro has proven himself both equal to the task and egalitarian in matters of clan relations, and I trust that his involvement will further our just cause.*

*Beyond Toshi Ranbo, we have experienced struggles with other clans, including the recent reports of Dragon encroaching upon our lands to the north. For now, Ikoma Tsanuri's brilliant strategic munificence has prevented any major military or political conflicts, and though we outnumber the Dragon forces ten to one, we must all continue to use our best judgement to respond to their aggression. More grievously, the Unicorn have come dangerously close to crossing the line. Their repeated offenses regarding Shinjo Altansarnai's betrayal of her marriage agreement and the subsequent assault and capture of Hisu Mori Mura have inflamed many of our people against them.*

*These continued affronts to our honor and holdings cannot go on with impunity, and demand a swift and fierce response. However, they have also spurred dangerous desires for revenge and unjust hostility, common sentiments since the death of Akodo Arasou. We should look to Matsu Tsuko's most honorable actions toward helping Arasou join our ancestors in Yomi. Her example provides us with an important lesson for reflection. While we seek to defend the Lion's strength and legacy, we must uphold clan traditions above all, even before immediate personal desires.*





*Our foremost sacred tradition is to serve as the Emperor's Right Hand. As our great ancestor, the Kami Akodo, was appointed this great honor by the first Hantei, our celestial duty is to serve, protect, and fight for the Emperor, no matter the cost and never for our own gain. This path must dictate our approach to clan disputes because the Lion Clan acts as the shining example by which all other samurai live and die for Rokugan. It has long been the Emperor's will that no state of war shall exist between clans.*

*Nonetheless, the Empire requires skilled samurai in positions of leadership to answer any call should one or more clans violate the Emperor's holy structures. To this end, I am seeking new commanders for the Emerald Legions, and I call on all Lion battalions to conduct military exercises to find and train those worthy of selection. By producing the most exceptional military candidates for these appointments, marshaling our clan strength and skill for the Emperor, we shall honor the traditions of our ancestors—by upholding the tenets of Bushidō, by living above reproach in our actions and desires, and by fighting the Emperor's enemies who would seek to tear the Empire apart. This is our heavenly calling, and we shall answer it with the ferocity of the Lion!*

*Ever faithfully your servant and champion,*

*Akodo Toturi,*

*His Excellency, the Right Hand of the Emperor,*

*High General, Champion of the Lion, and Daimyō of the Akodo*

