

*Sage Samurai of the Dragon Clan, I contemplate a riddle:*

*If something is small, can it also be large?*

*The answer is as unique to each of us as the path we follow through each life we live. My answer today is yes—distant things, seen from a high place, are small. The troubles of an Empire may seem small from our distant perch, but they are anything but. As one descends into the valleys of the south, these troubles are revealed in their actual scale. The esteemed Mirumoto Hitomi leads an army of our brethren to Otosan Uchi. She will confront the things soon to happen there as the truly momentous events they will prove to be. The worldly and wise Togashi Mitsu accompanies her, doing those things necessary to support such a long and arduous march. He secures the right of passage through the lands of other clans, such as the Lion, who are much closer to these great and fateful things, and so unable to see them with the clarity and perspective we do.*

*It may be that you read this and say, but what of those things close to me? Those distant troubles might be large in truth, but they do not loom over me the way these things—imposing and close at hand—do. You may ask, what of our children, who are so few? Are they not of greater importance? And what of those who openly profess the equality of all on the path you speak of, samurai and commoner both? Such individualism is at the core of who we are...but it could also be a false path, leading us in circles and away from our true destiny. Should we not address these things, solve these conundrums, before we engage those that are so far off?*

*In answer, I say, we are the Dragon. In our devotion to the truth of the world, we see all things as they are and shall deal with them all accordingly. Our children are few, so the life of every samurai of our clan is precious and must not be squandered. We cannot blindly indulge those who profess that all have a path to follow in one breath, and in the next, promise it inevitably leads to Enlightenment. We must be ready to confront those things, but not to the exclusion of facing these other, great things that are coming.*



*Something momentous is coming to the Empire. Even now, it rises from the sea of turmoil lapping at the walls of Ootosan Uchi. Very soon, it will descend—suddenly and without warning—bringing threat and opportunity and unprecedented change. Hitomi and Mitsu and the rest of our brethren will be there when this happens, but they must not stand alone. You are destined to join them. You must now follow your path and learn to see all things as they really are, no matter how near or far. It is a road that only we, the Dragon, can tread.*

*May the Heavens watch over us all.*

*Togashi Yokuni,  
The Enlightened, Master of the High House of Light,  
Champion of the Dragon Clan*

