

Forgive the blunt nature of this letter, Honorable Samurai.

I will not mince words. Toshi Ranbo is a lost cause. We are prepared to negotiate with Chief Magistrate Bayushi Yojiro for the bounty of its jade wealth, for we have the greatest need of it among all the clans. Do not concern yourself with the political situation there. Let the squabbling of the other clans be their undoing. The Crab have no time for such. Embrace the lessons you've learned and move forward!

I hereby command an end to the rumors winding throughout the servants of the Crab. They are like poison in our veins. The notion that the honored daimyō of the Yasuki could be abducted in the presence of his own guards is unthinkable, and if such a claim had reached my ears, I would have struck the fool who spoke it. Yasuki Oguri has already attested to the safety of his father. Let that be the end of it. We shall concern ourselves not with shadows, but with the demons that cast them.

The wise often say: "Darkness reigns at the foot of the lighthouse." The watchtower at Ishigaki Province has not sent word in some time. The last report I received claimed that a section of the Kaiu Wall was under attack by the forces of our eternal enemy. This morning, I smelled smoke on the west wind. You will go to Ishigaki province and attest to its current state. You will leave today. Enclosed is your authorization for travel. Present it to any who doubt your purpose, and record their names in your report to me. If the Wall in Ishigaki has fallen, you know what must be done.

Fate's river runs two ways. Although Toshi Ranbo's jade may not be ours, Lady Sun still smiles upon us. The honorable daimyō of the Yasuki has persevered against the other clans and secured a wealth of jade and armaments for immediate use. This will sustain us for the immediate future, contributing not only to the continued efforts of the honored Kuni daimyō in his research, but also to those warding against the increased attacks on the wall. To secure further supply lines along the coasts, we shall soon host Yoritomo of the Spice and Silk Islands. He is an honored guest and shall be treated as such.

I have committed my intent to paper. See that it is done.

*Lord Hida Kisada,
Defender of the Wall*

