



嵐の荒野 凄惨な姿

HIDETORA

These are their tears! Their weeping voices!

121

EXTERIOR • VALLEY • DUSK

Autumn has come early to the mountains, and in this valley the autumn flowers mowed down by the storm are scattered about. There is something tragic about the scene, as if a resplendent dress had been discarded.

Tango and Kyoami go along the narrow road through the plain, with Hidetora on the horse.

At the end of the narrow road stands a miserable straw hut, looking as if it were embraced by the mountain. Smoke from the hearth is quietly rising.

Hidetora lies on the horse's back, his face, eyes staring vacantly, helplessly swaying.

Tango stops the horse in front of the straw hut and calls inside the house.

TANGO

Anybody home?

From inside the house, a delicate voice is heard.

VOICE

Who is it?

TANGO

Travelers who have met hardship in today's storm. Please let us stay a night.

VOICE

My house is too poor to put anyone up. . . .

TANGO

We are not asking for anything special.

VOICE

Because of personal reasons, I do not want to come in contact with anyone.

TANGO

Why? Is it a disease?

VOICE

No.

TANGO

Then please let us in.

VOICE

I am sorry, I cannot. . . .

TANGO

(Irritated)

Listen, the Great Lord of the House of Ichimonji is here!

There is no answer, and the house becomes completely quiet.

TANGO

We are coming in.

Then, together with Kyoami, he carries Hidetora off the horse, opens the door, and goes into the straw hut.

122

INTERIOR • STRAW HUT • DUSK

A small earthen floor; in a corner of it, a simple washstand. On the other side of the earthen floor, a small room with a mat laid out. It looks as if it might serve as both sitting room and sleeping room. It is already dark inside the hut. In the center of the wooden floor, sitting by the little hearth, a figure with long hair in the style of temple acolytes can be seen in the dim light of the fire.

TANGO

Excuse us for coming in with our shoes on, but our lord was suddenly taken ill. . . .

He steps up on the wooden floor and, together with Kyoami, carries Hidetora over to the hearth and, laying his there, addresses the occupant of the house, seemingly woman.

TANGO

(Looks at the occupant)

He is wet. Do you have something to cover him with?

The occupant stays seated and does not move.

TANGO

Answer me, woman!

OCCUPANT

Are you talking to me?

TANGO

Yes.

The occupant of the house silently rises and goes to a corner of the room. Tango and Kyoami watch the person suspiciously. The occupant, seen from behind in the dim light, appears to be looking for something.

The occupant rises and comes over, silently handling something over. Tango receives it—it is folded clothing. He opens it, puts it on Hidetora, and stares in surprise. It is a beautiful robe with a colorful design, out of keeping with the humble hut. Tango and Kyoami are amazed and curious as they look at it.

TANGO

Speak up. . . woman!

OCCUPANT

I am not a woman.

TANGO

What? It is so dark, I. . . . Bring me a lamp.

Tango reaches for a stick of lighted firewood in order to take a good look at him, and notices a cane leaning by the side of the hearth.

TANGO

I am sorry. Is your eyesight poor?

He holds up the stick of firewood. The occupant of the house is illuminated in the light from the burning stick. It is the face of a blind but handsome youth. Kyoami pulls back with a start and looks at Tango.

TANGO

(Shocked, gazes at the youth)

Are you Lady Sue's younger brother Master Tsurumaru?

TSURUMARU

Yes.

Hidetora sits up, turns his eyes, and stares at the youth. Then, his voice trembling, he mutters with a frightened voice.

HIDETORA

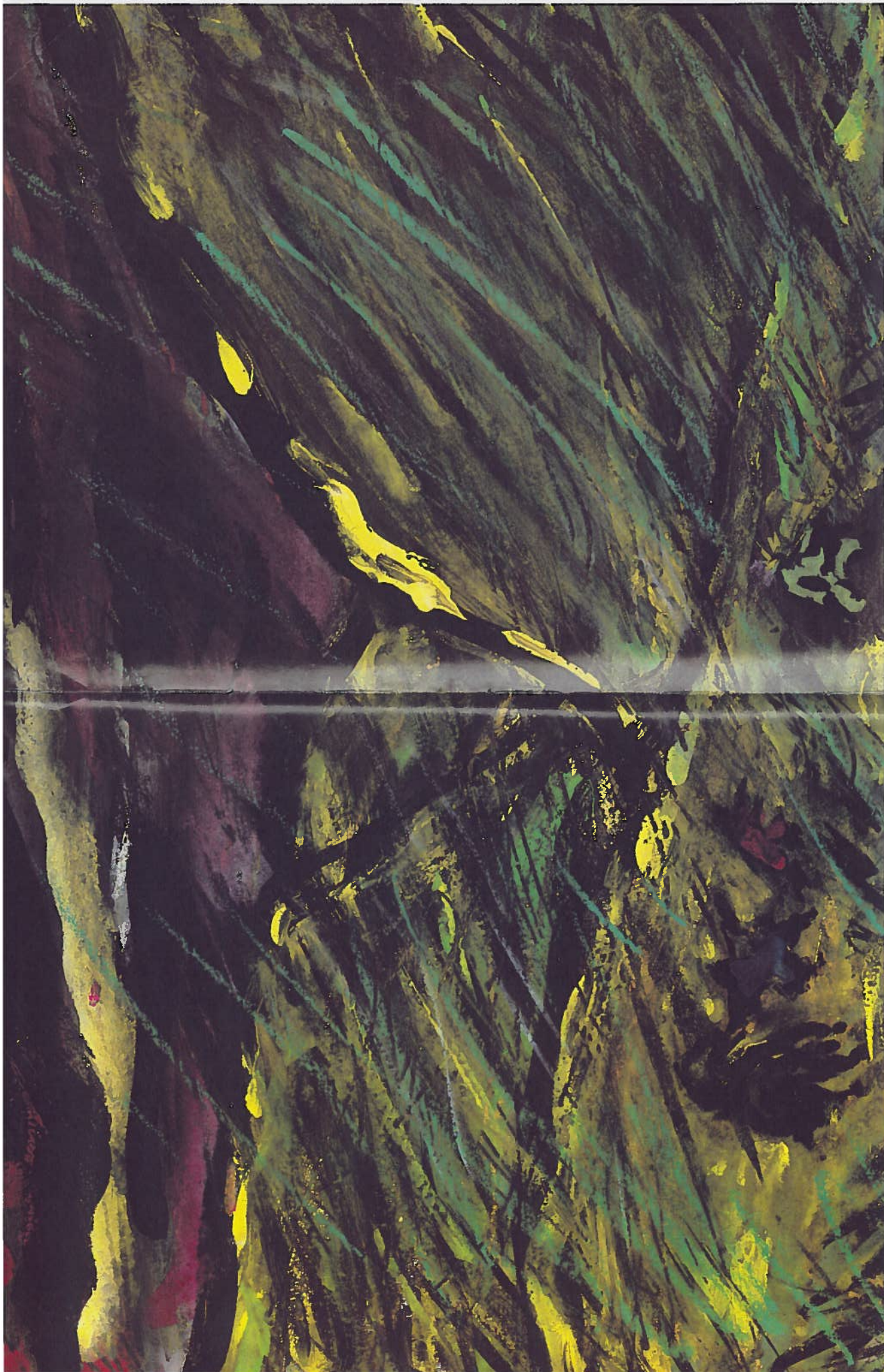
Tsu. . . Tsurumaru?

TSURUMARU

It has been a long time. . . Lord Hidetora.

HIDETORA

Do you remember me?



TSURUMARU

How could I forget you? I was just a child, but how could I forget the one who gouged out my eyes in exchange for sparing my life... the day you burned down my father's castle?

Hidetora is trembling.

TSURUMARU

I tried hard to follow my sister's teachings, to pray to the Buddha and rid myself of hatred. But not one day have I failed to remember, and not one night have I been able to forget and to sleep peacefully.

Hidetora, naturally, and Tango and Kyoami also stare at the blind boy, speechless.

TSURUMARU

Well, then, I am terribly sorry that I cannot give you a decent welcome, Great Lord. However... fortunately I have a flute that my sister sent to me. I learned to play it when I was a child. I will play it for you and give you, if nothing else, some hospitality of the heart.

The boy takes a flute from the brocade bag beside him.

TSURUMARU

Now it is my only pleasure. Please listen, and laugh, if you will, at my clumsy art.

Seated before Hidetora, Tango, and Kyoami, Tsurumaru plays. The clear sound of the flute expresses Tsurumaru's deep sorrow and lament. It moves Hidetora. The old lord staggers to his feet. He clutches at his chest like a man shot with an arrow. His face twitching, staring at Tsurumaru with starting eyes, he steps back. With trembling lips he tries to say something, but his voice fails him. He opens his mouth wide and lets out a scream that is not a voice, then staggers down to the earthen floor, quickly pushes at the door, and tumbles outside.

TANGO

My lord!

He runs after Hidetora. Kyoami follows.

123

EXTERIOR • STRAW HUT • NIGHT

Hidetora staggers over the field scattered with autumn flowers in the moonlight, as if running from something fearful.

124

EXTERIOR • SKY • NIGHT

The crescent moon.

125

EXTERIOR • SKY • DAY

Impressive thunderheadlike clouds.

126

INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON

TOP FLOOR • DAY

A topknot on a piece of white paper placed on the polished wooden floor.

JIRO

My dear sister-in-law, this was the hair of my

Lady Kaede is in the seat of honor, with Jiro in front of her. Lined up behind her are the chief retainers in armor.

JIRO

It was my accursed turn of fortune to have to be the one to inform you of the death in battle of my elder brother.

Kaede stares piercingly at Jiro.

KAEDE

(To Ogura beside Jiro)

Ogura... where are the remains of my lord?

Ogura looks at Jiro as if asking for help.

JIRO

In this sweltering heat... the corpse was so unsightly that we had to refrain from placing it on view. We had no choice but to cremate it at the Third Castle and hold an informal funeral at a nearby temple.

KAEDE

Ogura... where are the armor and helmet he was wearing?

Ogura seems to shrink.

JIRO

That is sarcasm, I think. This armor and this helmet I am wearing now are the ones he was wearing. You have not forgotten, have you?

KAEDE

I have not forgotten. But I never thought you could wear his armor and helmet so soon after his death. It is too much for me to notice.

JIRO

I am surprised at you. I thought my deceased brother would be happy to know that his younger brother returned to the castle in his armor. No, it was foolish of me. Forgive me.

(Bows to her, rises)

I am taking off this armor. Somebody, help me.

An attendant runs over and starts taking off his armor. Taro's retainers become intently still at this.

JIRO

Sister-in-law... I am about to be naked.

Kaede quietly rises and goes out.

126A

EXTERIOR • SKY • DAY

Impressive clouds soaring.

127

INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON

TOP FLOOR • DAY

Jiro is seated in the master's seat, his back to the alcove. Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma are beside him. Ikoma and Ogura, dressed in casual attire, are seated facing Jiro.

KUROGANE

(To Ikoma and Ogura)

You have worked hard for us on this occasion of the Ichimonji family trouble. We appreciate it.



藁屋の表

*Hidetora staggering
over the field scattered
with autumn flowers
in the moonlight,
as if running
from something fearful.*



天守・最上階

*Her voice is low and thick.
Her expression of rage
is even more dreadful
because of her beauty.
She cuts his skin with
the tip of the sword.
The blood oozes out.*



KUROGANE
As a token of our thanks, we have prepared a humble gift for you.

Two low wooden stands, each with a pile of gold coins, are placed in front of Ikoma and Ogura.

KUROGANE
Please accept it.

Ikoma and Ogura bow deeply to Jiro.

JIRO
(Nods)
(Pause)

It is my farewell gift for you.

Goodbye.

Ikoma and Ogura look at him in amazement.

KUROGANE
Lord Jiro is now the head of the House of Ichimonji. Considering his situation and what you did to your master this time, he thinks it is not very wise to keep you, who committed treason, on his staff. It would be dangerous. His concern is understandable. We have nothing further to say.

Let there be no hard feelings.

Ikoma and Ogura look at each other and start to say something.

KUROGANE
(interrupting)
Do you understand? Good. Thank you.

Ikoma and Ogura are helpless.

VOICE
(From downstairs)
I beg to speak. Lady Kaede is entering.

Kurogane looks at Jiro, his eyes implying "Watch out!" Jiro nods readily.

KUROGANE
(Calling downstairs)
Send her in.
(To Jiro)
Let us withdraw.

Shirane and Naganuma also rise and follow Kurogane, carrying the money-baden stands. Ikoma and Ogura are too shocked to stand.

Lady Kaede is coming up the stairs. Seeing her, Ogura jumps to his feet, hurriedly follows Shirane and Naganuma, as if seeing, and descends the stairs. Ikoma, too, has no other course than to follow them.

Lady Kaede sits in front of Jiro, placing Taro's helmet at her side, and bows with both hands on the floor.

KAEDE
Congratulations on your victory.

JIRO
Sister-in-law . . . you overwhelm me.

KAEDE
I am ashamed of the wretched things I said before.

It does not matter.

KAEDE
I understand your father has gone mad.

JIRO
I suppose you are satisfied.

KAEDE
Now, what might that mean?

JIRO
Sister-in-law, I spoke bluntly, hiding nothing in my mind. Forgive me if I have offended you. But one would expect you to bear an intense hatred for my father, as the enemy of your family. Am I wrong?

KAEDE
(Looking into his eyes)
Then let me talk frankly, too, Lord Jiro. I dare say you are also satisfied.

Jiro's eyes return her stare.

KAEDE
(Looking at him, not to be stared down)
Lord Jiro, you are now head of the House of Ichimonji. This helmet, too, belongs to you.

She slides the helmet at her side toward Jiro. His eyes stray for an instant to the helmet. At this unguarded moment, Lady Kaede suddenly jumps on him and pushes him down. She unsheathes his sword and bends over him, holding it to his throat.

KAEDE
Lord Jiro! You have driven your father insane and murdered your brother, and stolen this realm—splendid world! But I, Kaede, will not forgive you! Foe of my husband, prepare to die!

Her voice is low and thick. Her expression of rage is even more dreadful because of her beauty. Jiro is unable to move, the sword held to the base of his throat.

JIRO
No . . .

KAEDE
To say that in this situation, how cowardly you are!

She cuts his skin with the tip of the sword. The blood oozes out.

JIRO
(Deadly pale)
It . . . was not me . . . who . . . killed my brother!

Then who was it?

Jiro refuses to say.

KAEDE
Tell me! Who was it?
She again jabs the skin at his throat. Blood oozes out.

JIRO
It . . . was not me! Kurogane . . . Kurogane shot him!

KAEDE

Hold your tongue! You mean you ordered your retainer to do it but cannot take the responsibility? What a general!

She suddenly starts laughing and raises herself off him, then grabs the long sword at Jiro's side and leaps back. Jiro, too, jumps up, pressing his hand to his throat. Kaede, holding the dagger in one hand and the long sword in the other, is laughing. Jiro stares at her with his hand to his throat. When she finally stops laughing, she gazes at him with a faint smile.

KAEDE

You give in so easily. You are undependable. Now I must speak my mind straightforwardly. Lord Jiro, I could not care less about my husband's death.

Jiro is puzzled.

KAEDE

But I am worried about what is going to become of me. I do not want to live as a widow, with my hair cut, nor as a nun with my head shaved bald! This was my father's castle, and I do not want to be forced to leave it!

Jiro is overwhelmed by the strength in her voice and expression.

KAEDE

Lord Jiro, please hear my request. I will not tell anything . . . your immoral acts of treason, stealing this castle and this realm . . . nor will my lips ever repeat the cowardly words so unworthy of a master, accusing his vassal in order to save his own life. If I told anyone, this realm would be torn apart. No, I will not . . .

She casts aside the long sword and with the same hand grabs his long dress and draws it toward her. Then she cuts it to shreds with her dagger.

KAEDE

But remember, I could destroy it like this! What do you say, Lord Jiro?

Jiro gazes at her, aghast, trembling. Lady Kaede, throwing her dagger away, jumps on him, embraces him, kisses him. They stagger; his foot is caught in the hem of her long dress. They fall, their mouths together. When she pulls her lips away from his, she presses them against the wound in his throat and sucks his blood.

The midsummer sun clearly illuminates the scene. From under her ruined dress her white legs are seen; a toe kicks at Taro's helmet. The orb design on the plume catches a direct ray of sunlight and gleams.

128

EXTERIOR • OUTSIDE FIRST CASTLE • DAY

Ikoma and Ogura on horseback come side by side, depressed. They stop and look up at the castle regretfully.

129

EXTERIOR • CASTLE GATE • TOWER • DAY

Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma are watching Ikoma and Ogura leave. Kurogane levels his gun and fires.

130

EXTERIOR • OUTSIDE FIRST CASTLE • DAY

Bullets hit the ground under Ikoma's and Ogura's horses.



Cast rises. Ikoma and Ogura, shocked, hastily whip their horses and gallop away.

131

EXTERIOR • CASTLE GATE • DAY

Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma are watching the two flee. They burst into laughter.

132

INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON
TOP FLOOR • DAY

Thrown aside are the dagger, the long sword, and Taro's helmet on the floor. Jiro is adjusting his clothes. He combs his disheveled hair with his fingers, sits down, breathing heavily, and looks out the window, turning away from Kaede. Kaede is lying with her hair still undone, her clothes disordered. Summer sunlight illuminates the two of them.

The clouds massed in a peak, seen in sections through the windows. Noisy voices of cicadas.

KAEDE

(In a soft voice)

My lord . . .

Jiro casts an exploring look at Kaede. She is silent. The back of her disheveled figure still turned to him.

JIRO

What is it, sister-in-law?

KAEDE

How cold you are! Calling me sister-in-law after what we have just done.

Jiro is silent.

KAEDE

Now that we have done this, I should be your wife.



梓城趾

*Kyoami presents
the strangely shaped hat
he has woven to the
dispirited Hidetora.
"Your helmet, my lord."
Hidetora accepts it,
joyfully puts it on.*

In her expression, unseen by Jiro, is a snakelike tenacity that her voice completely belies. Jiro looks at her from behind and sighs.

JIRO

But I already have Sue as my wife.

A tiny moth flutters its wings before her downcast eyes. She quietly stretches out the hand she has placed under her chin and casually crushes it.

KAEDE
Then . . . am I to be . . . your mistress?
(In tears)

No, no . . . You are mine. I will not let anyone else have you.

Jiro edges toward her and places his hand on her shoulder.

JIRO
Do not cry, Kaede. I would never dream of making you just a mistress.

KAEDE
But as long as the Lady Sue is there . . .

JIRO
I can take care of her.

KAEDE
How?

JIRO
I will divorce her.

KAEDE

She springs up and grabs him by the chest.

KAEDE

The way things have turned out, I cannot forgive any woman who has known your touch. I do not want such a woman to live at the same time as I.

Jiro winces. She holds him in her arms and looks directly into his eyes.

133

EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • DAY

The burned and crumbled remains of the castle. All that is left are the soaring ramparts, the ruined ramparts, a mountain of lumber burned black. In the passage, overgrown with summer grass, a single horse stands tied to a burned pillar. Beside it, where the burned lumber lies in piles, there are flagstones and stone steps going down in the ground. Smoke rises from below.

134

INTERIOR • REMAINS OF CASTLE • UNDERGROUND
STOREROOM • DAY

It looks as if it used to be an armory; the only trace of that past is in the construction of the walls, and the only thing left is the stone flooring. Three beds of grass have been built alongside the wall. In the center of the stone floor is Tango; he has been placing a pot on the stone stove and lighting a fire, and now he rises and goes outside.

135

EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF CASTLE • DAY

Tango comes out from the underground storeroom and looks around. What used to be the Samurai runway is now a mere ramp with grass. Hidetora and Kyoami are there. Tango approaches the old lord, bows on his knee, tries to say something to him, but stops and is silent.

Hidetora has completely changed: his eyes are sunken; his wrinkles are deepened; his disheveled white hair and beard stand on end. He is sitting in the deep grass, gazing vacantly. Kyoami, who had been leaning against the stone wall, weaving grass, presents the strangely shaped hat he has woven to the dispirited Hidetora.

KYOAMI

Your helmet, my lord.

Hidetora accepts it and joyfully puts it on. Tango looks at it, depressed. Kyoami breaks off two lilies at his side and sticks them in Hidetora's hat.

KYOAMI

This is your plow-shaped plume, my lord. This is even better.

Hidetora smiles joyfully under his helmet of flowers and grass. Tango suddenly rises and goes away. Then he crouches with his back to Kyoami. His shoulders are shaking furiously—he seems to be crying.

KYOAMI

(Voice-over)

Am I in Hell?

Tango turns around to look. Kyoami is gazing intensely in one direction.

KYOAMI
Here comes a devil!

Tango follows Kyoami's gaze. Two horsemen, Ikoma and Ogura, are galloping near the ruined castle. When Tango recognizes them, he runs to his horse, jumps on, and races to the rear of the castle ruins along the ruined passage.

136
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • REAR • DAY
Tango comes racing by on horseback.

137
EXTERIOR • SUMMER FIELD • DAY
Ikoma and Ogura galloping. Suddenly surprised by Tango, who has jumped out and is blocking their way, they pull up their mounts.

TANGO
(Draws his sword)
Traitors! You came at a good time! I will punish you with death for the Great Lord!

IKOMA
(Flinches a moment)
Wait! Wait! Let me explain.

TANGO
No excuses! I know the truth. The Great Lord told me what you did to him.

Ogura looks away, reacts. Ikoma follows his gaze.

137A
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE
STONE WALL • DAY

Hidetora standing on the wall, his white hair bristling in the wind.

137B
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • REAR • DAY
Ikoma, who has been watching Hidetora, suddenly turns his horse and gallops away. Ogura is a moment too late to flee. Tango gallops in, swings his sword at Ogura, and kills him with a single stroke. Then he chases Ikoma.

138
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE
STONE WALL • DAY

At the feet of Hidetora, who is standing on the stone wall, Kyoami has been watching the killing, his hand above his eyes; then he jumps up and dances.

139
EXTERIOR • SUMMER FIELD • DAY
Tango chases Ikoma and slashes at him. Ikoma falls, fatally wounded.

TANGO
Die, traitor! You drove our Great Lord mad!

IKOMA
(Sneering on the verge of death)
His life was spared because he went mad. Jiro murdered his brother. He will kill his father next. If the Great Lord should recover his sanity, he would be killed, too. . . .
(Spits blood, dies)

Tango turns his horse around and goes back.

140
REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • PASSAGE • DAY
Kyoami is running and dancing.

141
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF CASTLE • REAR • DAY

142
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF CASTLE • PASSAGE • DAY
Kyoami greets Tango, who has come back, dancing in joy. Tango shouts at Kyoami, his face flushed and dripping with sweat from his fight.

TANGO
Kyoami, Taro was killed by Jiro. We must take the Great Lord to Master Saburo without delay, or he will be in danger.

KYOAMI
We are still here because we cannot do that. That madman is beyond our control. He strongly resists whenever I tell him to go to Master Saburo. Even if I lie to him in order to take him away, he struggles to stay. No wonder. He thinks he cannot face Master Saburo after what he did to him. He becomes sane when he thinks of Master Saburo.

Wearing a grass helmet with a lily as its frontal ornament, Hidetora is happily picking flowers as if he were a child. Tango crosses to him.

TANGO
My lord, this is not a decent place for you. Let us move somewhere else.

Kyoami brings the horse. Hidetora flinches, frightened, staggers back, then runs into the underground storeroom.

143
UNDERGROUND STOREROOM • DAY
Tango and Kyoami run after Hidetora.

TANGO
What a pity! My lord, what do you think of Master Saburo?

Hidetora is crouching in the dusky corner, eyes gleaming in fear.

TANGO
Kyoami, I must bring Master Saburo here. He may be the only one who can get him out of here. I am going to Master Saburo. I will return immediately with him and his soldiers to take the Great Lord back! Take care of our lord!

KYOAMI
Yes, sir!

Tango withdraws.

144
INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON
TOP FLOOR • DAY

Jiro and Kurogane.

梓城趾・石崖

KUROGANE
My lord! Lady Kaede has made a fool of you!

Jiro is embarrassed.

KUROGANE
If you plan to become man and wife with her, fine. But for Lady Sue to be killed for that! It is right to kill someone when you must. But killing someone unnecessarily! I am afraid I must decline such a preposterous command!

Jiro, with nothing to say, keeps gazing out the window. Lady Kaede, in mourning, rosary in hand, comes up the stairs. Kurogane bows.

KAEDE
Kurogane. There is salt at the Second Castle, is there not?

KUROGANE
Yes, there is. Why?

KAEDE
I mean if you bring her head back without pre-serving it in salt, in this heat, we shall have to refrain from looking at it.

Kurogane is shocked.

KAEDE
That is too merciless a thing to do to such a beautiful lady. Since you are going personally, Kurogane, I know there will be no error: I leave the matter to you. Do as you see fit.

KUROGANE
Yes, my lady

Jiro quietly watches Lady Kaede.

145
INTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE
UNDERGROUND STOREROOM • DAY

Hidetora is asleep. Kyoami, beside him, examines the old man's haggard face.

KYOAMI

Why am I still serving such a crazy old man? If the rock upon which you are seated starts to roll down a slope, you must jump off. Otherwise you will be crushed together with the rock. Only fools remain on a falling rock.

He stands and starts for the exit. Hidetora awakens, sits up, and looks around.

HIDETORA

Where am I?

Kyoami looks back at him and sighs.

KYOAMI

This is Heaven.

(Returns to Hidetora, helps him lie down again)

Be a good boy. Go to sleep.

(Sits beside him)

Amazing! I think it has been my work since I was a child to rock him to sleep!

FADE OUT

FADE IN

146
INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON
TOP FLOOR • DAY

The Ichimonji standard; Taro's armor and his helmet with its orb plume and colored braids displayed on the alcove. Jiro and Lady Kaede are making love, in the daytime, in front of the display. All the more appealing is that she is in mourning clothes.

A voice is heard from below the stairs.

VOICE

General Kurogane is here!

Jiro and Lady Kaede are alarmed. They quickly straighten their clothes.

JIRO

Let him in.

Kurogane comes up the stairs, holding in his hand a package wrapped in white figured silk. He lays it by his knees and prostrates himself before Jiro and Lady Kaede.

KUROGANE

I have returned, my lord.

Jiro cannot take his eyes away from the package wrapped in silk by Kurogane's knees, and is silent. Lady Kaede, merely glancing at it, answers for Jiro.

KAEDE

Thank you for your trouble.

KUROGANE

Not at all, my lady. Now then, the article I have brought according to your precise instructions . . . please have a good look.

He takes the package and presents it to Kaede. Jiro, trembling, looks at it, then turns his eyes to Kurogane with a look of censure. Kurogane, with a look of feigned innocence, is watching Lady Kaede.

KAEDE

(Looking at Jiro from the corner of her eyes)

Well, then, I shall first examine it.

She pulls the package of white silk to her with a casual air that contrasts with Jiro's trembling face. Jiro turns his eyes away.

Kaede unwraps the many layers of the package. As it is unwrapped, salt falls out, then finally a large lump of salt appears. Kaede's long, beautiful fingers brush away the salt. All of a sudden she turns white.

KAEDE

What is this? Kurogane, your joking has gone too far!

KUROGANE

You do not like it? Did I over-look something?

KAEDE

How dare you!

She thrusts the package aside. The lump of salt breaks open and falls away, and a stone fox's head rolls out. Jiro stares at it in mute amazement, then quickly looks at Kurogane.

KUROGANE

What is this? Lady Sué, whom I killed, must have been a fox in disguise. I have been tricked!

KAEDE

You have joked enough! This is from a fox statue from an Inari shrine!

KUROGANE

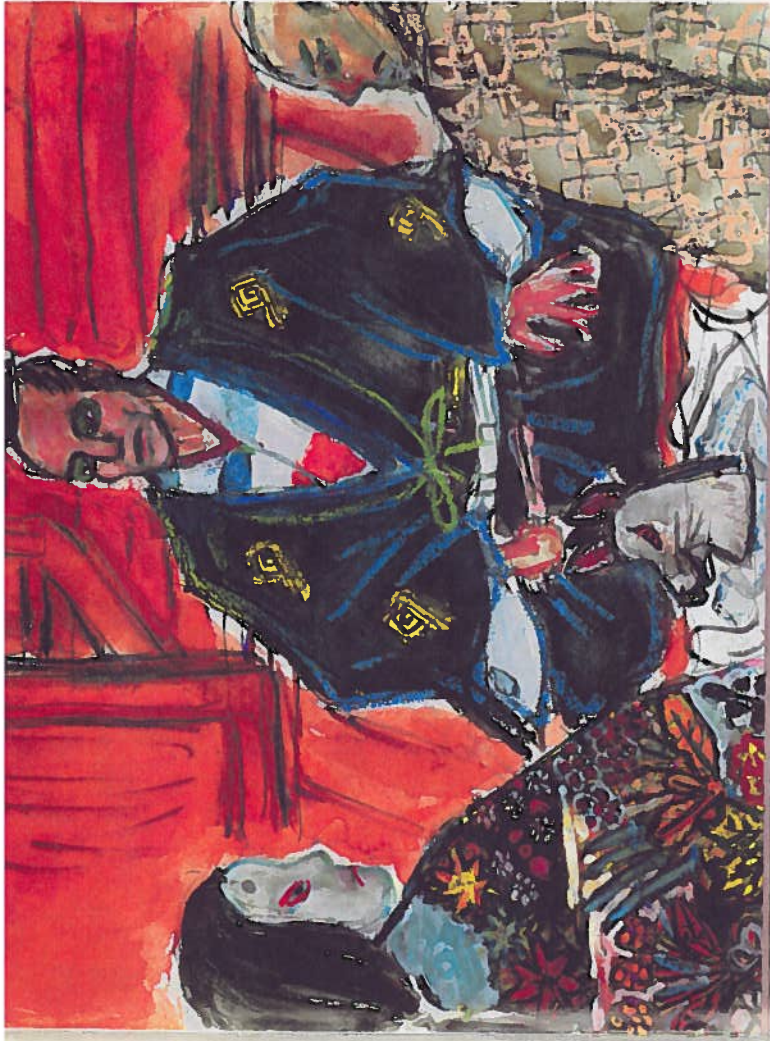
Well, this is a crafty fox. . . . After disguising itself as a human, it then turned to stone!

KAEDE

Kurogane! Do you intend to make a fool of me!

KUROGANE

Not at all! There are a lot of foxes around here, and it is said that they often trick men.



(To Jiro)

You, too, my lord, must be careful. Foxes often take the form of a woman in order to work their evil deeds. . . . Far away, in Central Asia, a fox, which disguised itself as the wife of King Pan Tsu, made the king kill a thousand men, and later in China, during the Chou dynasty, there was one who became the queen consort of King Yu and destroyed his country. Here in Japan, the fox served at court as Princess Tamano and worked even more treachery. It is said that she finally turned into a white fox with nine tails. After that there was no trace of the white fox. It is possible it might have settled down around here. Be careful, my lord, be careful. Excuse me!

Kurogane rattles off his entire swift speech in one breath without stopping, then bows and exits. Kaede and Jiro are left defeated.

KAEDE

(Glances at Jiro)

Lord Jiro! Is this how you respond to my request? How can you conspire with Kurogane to fool me like this?

JIRO

No, Kaede! You are wrong!

KAEDE

I have had enough!

She rises and crosses to the stairs, followed by Jiro.

JIRO

Wait! Kaede. This is Kurogane's . . .

KAEDE

It is always Kurogane! Is he your only retainer? He has already acted the villain, killing Lord Taro. Now he has played hero, saving Lady Sué. He is a monster. And you call him your right arm. What a pity!

Jiro is silent.

KAEDE

I shall not see you again until I see Lady Sué's head!

She descends the stairs. Jiro is immobile at the top of the stairs, straight as a stick.

[147, 148 Out]

149

EXTERIOR • AZUSA FIELD • HILL • DAY

Lady Sué, Tsurumaru, and the old woman are hurrying. The old woman is in the lead guiding the others, carrying bundles. Sué is holding Tsurumaru's hand. The blind boy has a cane.

TSURUMARU

(Suddenly stops)

Sister! My flute!

SUÉ

Forget it. We have no time to spare for a flute. We must hurry.

TSURUMARU

But I have treasured it since I was a child.

SUÉ

What shall we do?

OLD WOMAN

You must hurry because, as Kurogane said, we will have someone after us very soon. I will return and get the flute. Will you wait at the remains of the castle?

SUÉ

But you are old. I will go back for it.

OLD WOMAN

No, my lady. You wanted to see the remains of your family's castle, so we are taking this detour. Hurry there with Master Tsurumaru, and pray for your ruined family. Once in another domain, you will never be able to visit it again.

Sué is silent, filled with emotion.

OLD WOMAN

Well, then . . .

She hands the bundles to Sué and trudges back along the trail. Sué and Tsurumaru are left alone. The sound of the wind whining through the trees. Sué shudders as if frightened.

SUÉ

Tsurumaru, let us hurry.

They hasten on their way, hand in hand, up the hill.

SUÉ

Tsurumaru! I can see our castle! I mean the remains of the castle!

TSURUMARU

Which way, sister?

SUÉ

Over there . . .

She suddenly realizes she should not have said this and gazes at her blind brother in remorse and sorrow, speechless. The remains of Azusa Castle are in the distance.

[150, 151 Out]

152

EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE

PASSAGE • DAY

Hidekora and Kyoami are ambling along. Hidekora is wandering this way and that, Kyoami following as if he were a nurse taking care of a child. When Hidekora nears the stone wall,



Kyôami pulls him back to safety. When Hidetora crouches, Kyôami stops and patiently waits on him. His attitude is kind, but his words are rough, as if he were master and Hidetora his servant.

The passage they are treading is bleak and devastated. The two look as if they were the only survivors of the world's final carnage. And their conversation, too, sounds as if they were in some other world, muttering about human beings and their supplcity.

KYOAMI

Heaven and earth have turned upside down. I was mad and made him laugh before. But now he is mad and makes me laugh. Come, do not be silent. Say something. You speak of nonsense; I speak of truth. Let us see if our conversation can continue smoothly. Now!

(Shouts)

Old man!

Hidetora, who has been gazing absently at a point in space, reacts and regards Kyôami.

HIDETORA

Where am I?

KYOAMI

A snake's egg is white and beautiful. A bird's egg is spotted and dirty.

HIDETORA

This is a castle. There is a stone wall.

KYOAMI

The little bird deserted the dirty egg and sat on the white one.

HIDETORA

(Looks up at the wall)

Strange.

KYOAMI

A snake emerged from the hatched egg.

HIDETORA

There is nothing on the wall.

KYOAMI

The bird raised the snake, only to fall prey to it.

HIDETORA

Where am I? Who am I?

KYOAMI

The bird was stupid.

HIDETORA

Saburo! Saburo!

Kyôami looks hopefully at Hidetora.

HIDETORA

Oh, it hurts. I am going mad!

KYOAMI

If a madman goes mad again, will he become sane?

HIDETORA

I am a worm! Do not crush me!

KYOAMI

You will not be crushed. Miserable worms are not even worth being crushed.

HIDETORA

Who are you?

Kyôami, in despair, pushes Hidetora away, crouches, and starts crying.

HIDETORA

Is someone crying? . . . Who is crying?

Kyôami suddenly springs up and shouts.

KYOAMI

All human beings cry when they are born. They die after they have cried enough.

Horrified, Hidetora runs away. Kyôami, too, runs after him.

[153 Out]

154

EXTERIOR • BOUNDARY • RIVER BANK • DAY

Saburo and Tango, both in armor, ride across the river leading a troop. Jiro's garrison, guarding the boundary, hurriedly retreats.

[155 Out]

156

INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON • DAY

A messenger rushes in and kneels in front of Jiro, Kurogane, Naganuma, and Shirane.

MESSENGER

Lord Saburo and his men crossed the boundary river and have taken a position on Hachiman Field.

KUROGANE

I fail to understand. Lord Saburo brought only his own men. What can they possibly do?

Another messenger comes running.

MESSENGER

A message from Lord Saburo!

JIRO

What? What does it say?

MESSENGER

"Saburo has come to receive his father. . . ."

Jiro looks puzzled.

MESSENGER

" . . . Unless he is interfered with, he will withdraw, taking his father with him in peace." That is his message.

Surprised, not expecting this message, they look at each other.

Yet another messenger rushes in and kneels in front of Jiro and his confidants.

MESSENGER

Fujimaki's army has advanced to the boundary!

JIRO

What!

157

EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • DAY

Saburo's well-trained and disciplined soldiers are waiting

calmly. Their banners and bannerets are azure, waving in the summer breeze.

Saburo, Tango, and Hachikayama are looking up at the mountain ridge behind them. The ridge is lined with waves of Fujimaki's soldiers and their white banners.

SABURO

That embarrasses me. I told him repeatedly that I do not need his support.

TANGO

You do not have to be embarrassed. Thanks to Lord Fujimaki's demonstration of his possible invasion, the enemy on this Hachiman Field cannot make an aggressive move. It also enables us to rescue the Great Lord from Azusa Field.

SABURO

But this aggressive deployment of his army is not a peaceful way. One wrong move might provoke a war. That embarrasses me.

158

EXTERIOR • BOUNDARY RIVER • DAY

Fujimaki, with his army behind him, turns to an old general beside him.

FUJIMAKI

Am I too hasty?

The general returns a questioning look.

FUJIMAKI

I was so worried that I brought my army, but I am afraid my son-in-law will be angry with me.

GENERAL

As long as you stay here within the boundary, he has no reason to be angry with you.

159

INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DAY

Messengers are galloping this way and that.

MESSENGER

Prepare for war!

Suddenly the castle is thrown into a turmoil.

160

INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON • DAY

Jiro, Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma.

KUROGANE

My lord. You should not fight now. Send a message that you will let Lord Saburo have the Great Lord, and avoid this war!

JIRO

How can I let him have my father? If I did, Saburo, in alliance with him, would soon raise his banners against me, using the excuse that he would punish my men for treason.

KUROGANE

But even if we wanted to give up the Great Lord, we do not know where he is.

Jiro is silent.

KUROGANE

At present, the people of this land are in confu-

sion and distress because of this series of changes in rulership. And Fujimaki and Ayabe are seeking a chance to invade by making use of the confusion. Now is the time for defense, not offense.

VOICE

Reporting! A message from the Lady Kaede to the Lord Jiro!

Jiro looks puzzled.

VOICE

She says she is expecting the immediate return of the Lord Jiro for the ceremony of congratulations for going to war.

Jiro steals an embarrassed glance at Kurogane.

161

EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • DAY

Saburo's position with azure banners and bannerets. Beyond are a few mounted scouts with red bannerets that indicate they belong to Jiro. They gallop up and down as they observe Saburo's position.

TANGO

All right. The enemy main force will come soon. When they come, we will go through the forest and rescue the Great Lord.

SABURO

Do not be hasty.

[162, 163 Out]

164

INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON • DAY

Kaede puts the saké server on the floor.

KAEDE

How stupid!

Jiro, at the ceremony of congratulations, is about to drink; he stops and looks at her.

KAEDE

Giving the Great Lord to Lord Saburo means giving him your own head, my lord.

JIRO

I said so, too.

KAEDE

Then why did you alter your opinion? Did Kurogane change your mind again?

JIRO

But . . . it is not a good time for us to fight.

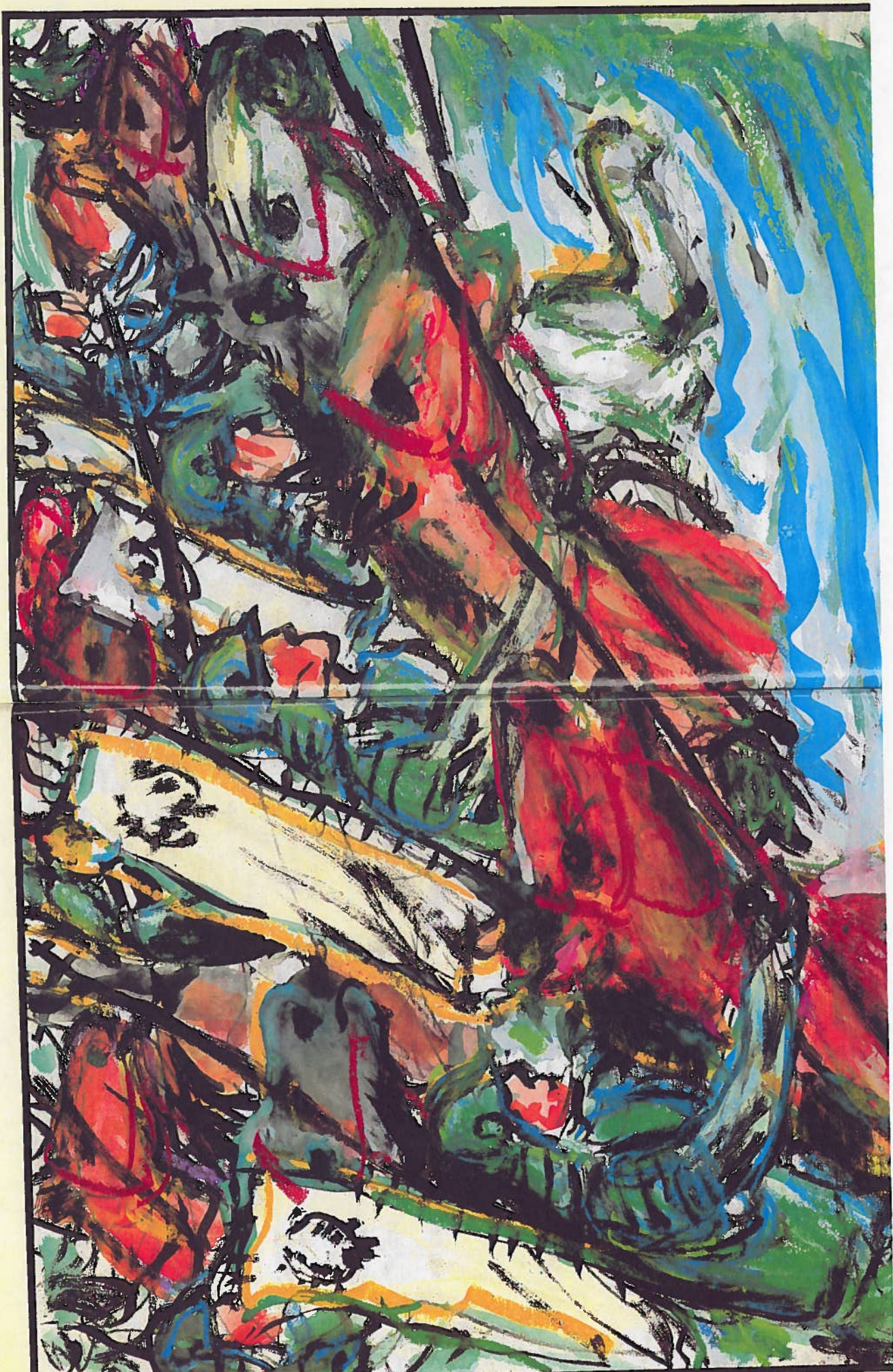
KAEDE

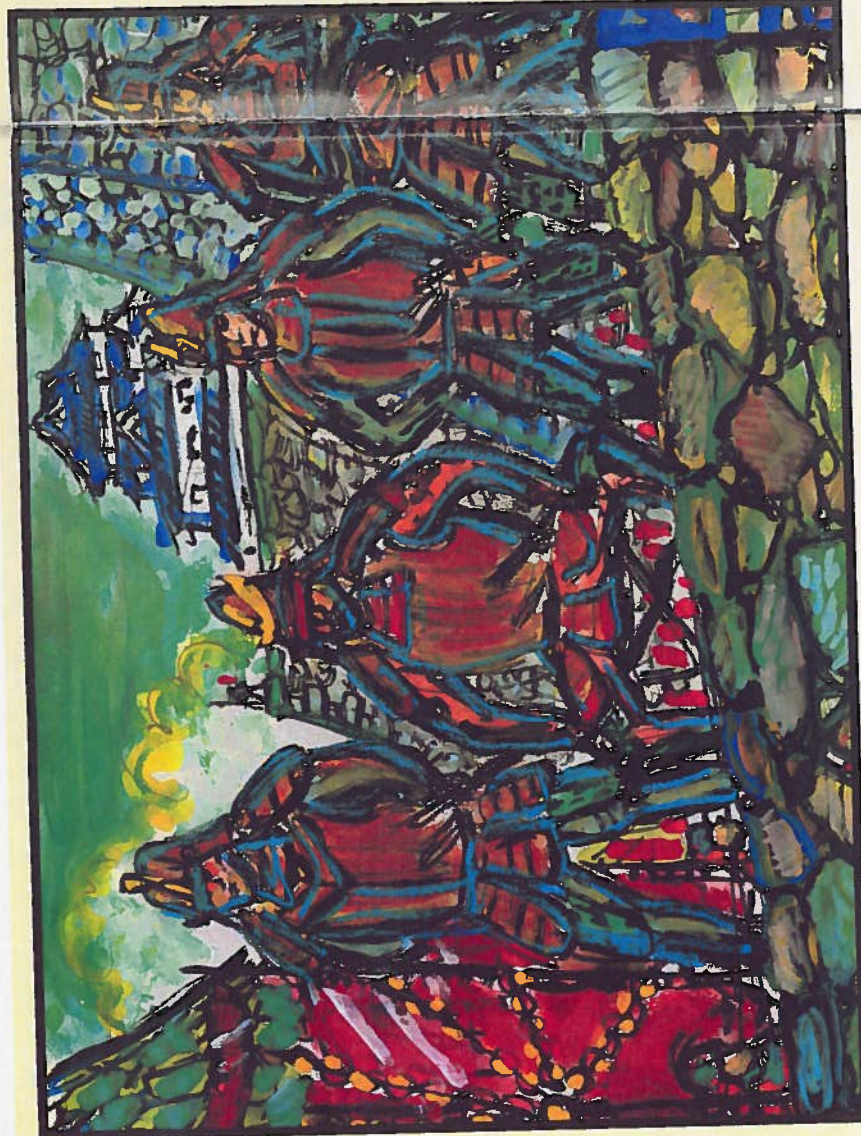
Good leadership decides who wins. Now you lead. Why be afraid of Fujimaki and Ayabe? This is your chance to beat them and make their domains yours. As leader of the House of Ichimori, you should have that ambition.

Jiro is overwhelmed by her eloquence.

KAEDE

In the first place, it was a grievous mistake to have spared the Great Lord even though he had gone mad. Mercy is not necessary for a Samurai.





HIDETORA
Tsurumaru?
TSURUMARU
(Listens)
That voice is... Hidetora's!

As he hears the voice, Tsurumaru swings up his cane. His long hair almost bristling with rage, his young and handsome face seems to intensify his wrath and the tragedy he has suffered. Hidetora stares at the blind boy, then staggers back, shouting, trying to flee.

HIDETORA
Forgive me! Forgive me!
KYOAMI
(Surprised; stops Hidetora)
Great Lord! Do not leave!

With the extraordinary strength of a desperate man, Hidetora pushes him aside and runs away. Kyoami pursues.

168
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE
PASSAGE • DAY

Kyoami misses Hidetora in the labyrinth of passages and runs to the underground storeroom.

169
INTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • STOREROOM

Kyoami rushes in. Hidetora is not in sight. He runs out.

169A
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • FRONT
GATE • STONE WALL • DAY

Kyoami comes running and looks around. Hidetora is seen running in Azusa Field as Kyoami looks down. Kyoami hurriedly runs after the old lord.

169B
EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • DAY

Jiro's army is taking a position against Saburo's troops. The cavalry churns up clouds of dust, foot soldiers hastening to their posts making more dust. Through the haze, we can see various banners and banners on horses and soldiers' backs, in flamboyant colors, as well as the shining tips of spears, moving quickly this way and that.

Out of the crowd and dust emerges a messenger on horseback, moving toward Saburo's position. He dismounts in front of Saburo and kneels, a hand on the ground.

169C
MESSENGER

Lord Jiro's answer is this: "We have no intention of stopping you. Receive the Great Lord and quickly withdraw from our domain."

169D
SABURO

All right.

The messenger bows, mounts, and gallops away.

169E
TANGO

Lord Saburo. Let us go at once to the Great Lord.

169F
KYOAMI
(Clings to Hidetora)
HIDETORA
(Seemingly transfixed)

Great Lord!

Who is that?

Kyoami finds traces of sanity in his face, reacts, and looks back. Lady Sue is standing on the stone wall of what was once the donjon of her father's castle.

169G
HIDETORA

Sue!
(Runs toward the foot of the wall)

Sue!

Shocked, Lady Sue is immobile on the wall at the sight of the ruined lord. Hidetora looks up at her then glances around fearfully.

169H
HIDETORA

* These are the remains of Sue's dead father's castle, which I destroyed. Why am I here?

166
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • DAY

Hidetora and Kyoami come walking along

166A
HIDETORA
(Stops, looks around)

I am lost.

Human beings are always lost. Human beings have walked the same way again and again from the earliest times. If you prefer not to do it, jump from this wall.

166B
KYOAMI

Hidetora suddenly jumps. Taken aback, Kyoami looks down from the top of the stone wall, then runs down the meaning passage as fast as he can.

166C
EXTERIOR • EMPTY MOAT AROUND
STONE WALL • DAY

Hidetora looks around, bewildered, while seated on a thick growth of vines. Kyoami comes running.

166D
JIRO

But how can I kill my father when I do not know where he is?

166E
KAEDE
(Laughs)

Lord Saburo knows where he is. He would not want to take a missing man home if he had not known.

166F
JIRO reacts.

Tell Lord Saburo that he can have his father. Watch carefully how he moves, and if he goes anywhere, tell him. You will find where your father is. Then send assassins to him. And that will end it.

She picks up the saké server and pours Jiro a drink. Jiro holds his cup, agitated.

[165 Out]



趾城梓



秀虎 ひん思ふに石蓮から飛ぶ





SABURO
Not so fast. If we move rashly, they will find out where my father is. It would be dangerous. We had best wait until night.

Hatakeyama looks away and raises his spear to point to the ridge.

HATAKEYAMA
My lord, the Ayabe army is moving in his domain.

SABURO
(Looks at ridge)
Having smelled blood, the vulture is seeking the prey!

169C
EXTERIOR • RIDGE IN AYABE REALM • DAY
Ayabe is looking down at the field, his army behind him.

169D
EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • DAY
Jiro, Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma are looking up at the Ayabe army on the ridge. Jiro's horse is restless, responding to its master's feelings.

KUROGANE
(Regards Jiro)

My lord, be calm. Now is the time to decide the ruler of this land. You must show your invincible strength and give neither Fujimaki nor Ayabe any opportunity for invasion.

JIRO
(Looks over at Saburo's position)

He said he came to receive Father, but he is still quiet. What is he planning?

169E
EXTERIOR • SABURO'S POSITION • DAY
Saburo is gazing at the sun in the western sky.

170
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE • DAY
Lady Sue and Tsurumaru.

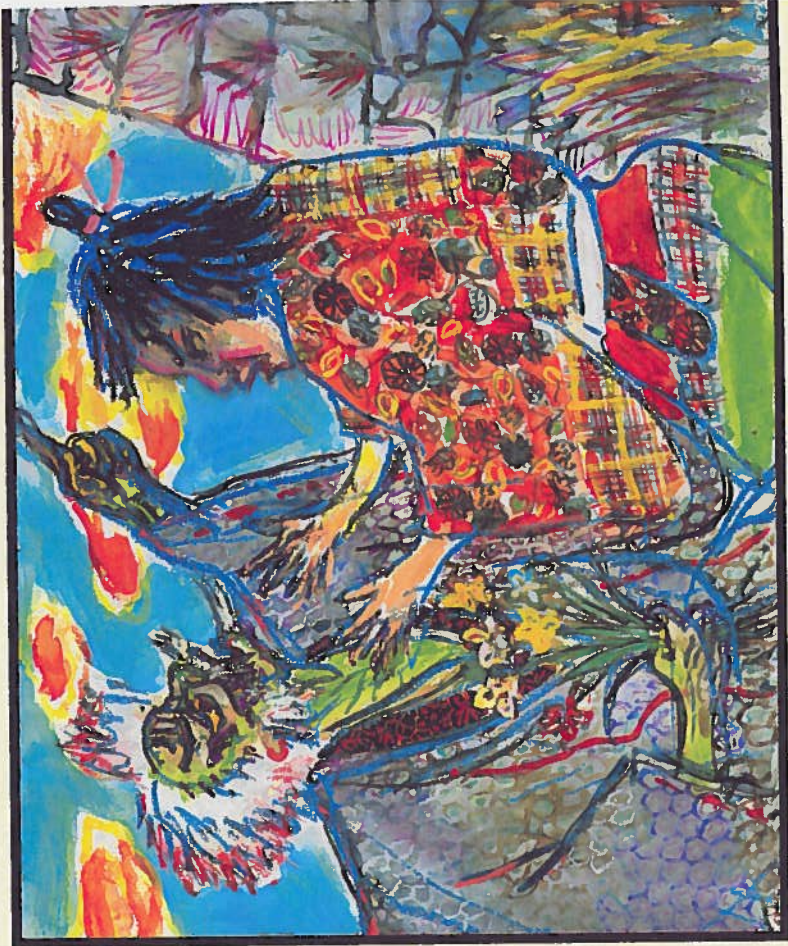
SUE
(Gazing at field)
She is late. Even though she is old and cannot walk fast, she is late. I will go back and see what happened.

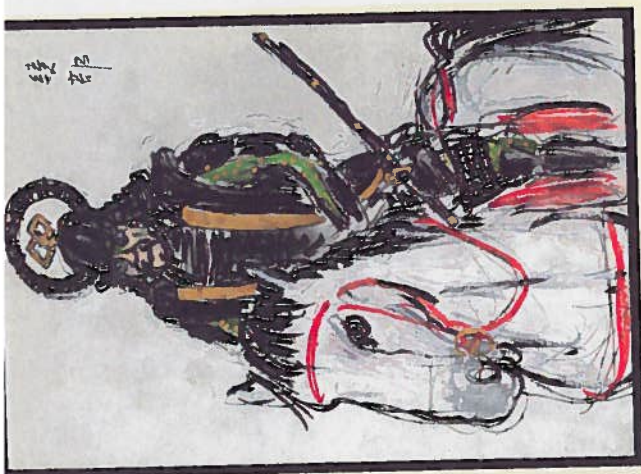
No!
(Grotes for her, takes her hand)
Do not go! I do not want the flute anymore.
SUE
Are you unable to understand? As if you were a little child ...
TSURUMARU
Sister, I do not want to be alone again.
SUE
I will not be long. I will return soon.
TSURUMARU
Sister!

171
EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • DAY
Jiro's position and Saburo's facing each other quietly. Except for the waving banners and banners, there is no movement on either side.

171A
EXTERIOR • SABURO'S POSITION • DAY
A messenger comes galloping up, Kyoami behind him on his horse. He stops in front of Saburo and Tango.

I found this man in Azusa Field. He was calling the Great Lord, so I brought him here.
TANGO
Kyoami! Where is the Great Lord?
KYOAMI
(Almost falls from the horse)
Forgive me! He has gone! I do not know where he is.
Tango sighs, regards Saburo.
SABURO
Kyoami! You lost him in Azusa Field?
KYOAMI
Yes.
SABURO
We have no choice. We cannot wait until night now.
(Calling)
Hatakeyama!
HATAKEYAMA
(Voice-over)
My lord.





COMMANDER
As you command.
(To his men)
Follow me!
The commander hurriedly leads his gunners away, leaving a trail of dust.

171c
EXTERIOR • SABURO'S POSITION • DAY
Hatakeyama watches the opposite position, where a sudden activity has arisen.

HATAKEYAMA
Messenger! Report to Lord Saburo! "Enemy gunners have departed for Azusa Field. Be careful!" Tell him so.

171d
EXTERIOR • JIRO'S POSITION • DAY
Jiro raises his military fan.

Kurogane! As Kaede said, you are a coward in the guise of a villain!

KUROGANE
(Glances at Jiro)
You have again been influenced by Lady Kaede.

JIRO
Silence! If you are loath to fight, do not follow me! If you fear this war, desert!

KUROGANE
(Painfully watches Jiro)
My lord... where do you think I could go if I deserted you?

Shirane and Naganuma, behind Kurogane, watch Jiro in disgust. Guiltily surveying their faces, Jiro has no further words for them. As if to forget his remorse, he turns to the commander of gunners.

JIRO
(Shouting)
Commander! What are you waiting for? Go!

Then so be it!
Kurogane is bewildered.

JIRO
Sooner or later war becomes inevitable. If later, Saburo will have enough reason to attack us. Better to fight today, blaming him for invasion, than to wait for his abuse.

KUROGANE
Idiot! Saburo is not our only enemy!

JIRO
I know. If Fujimaki and Ayabe attempt to cross the border, they will be welcome. We will counterattack and break into their realm. It will be our chance to take their domains.

KUROGANE
What brave words! But battles are not won with words.

JIRO
Why do you fear this war? You always rebuked me for my defensive thoughts. Where is that

Hatakeyama, the garrison leader, comes galloping up.

SABURO
Tango and I will go to Azusa Field with ten men. Take command here. Draw the enemy to your position and never let it go.

171b
EXTERIOR • JIRO'S POSITION • DAY
Jiro notices the sudden move in Saburo's position. A small party is moving out.

JIRO
They have started to move. That party led by Saburo is heading for Azusa Field... Commander of the gunners! Take your men to Azusa Field and lay an ambush. The one who kills Saburo will be given the highest honors!

surprised, Kurogane rides to Jiro.

KUROGANE
What are you saying! If you break your promise to Lord Saburo, war is inevitable.



駆け降りて来る藤巻の軍勢

JIRO
Forward! Straight forward!

Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma are disagreeably watching Jiro. Jiro's army begins to advance.

171E
EXTERIOR • SABURO'S POSITION • DAY

HATAKEYAMA
Damn them! They are breaking the agreement and trying to pick us off with their guns. We will move to the forest over there. Follow me!

Saburo's troops turn right in perfect formation and move to the forest that separates Azusa Field from Hachiman Field.

171F
EXTERIOR • JIRO'S POSITION • DAY

Jiro, on horseback, sees this movement of Saburo's troops.

JIRO
Forward! Pursue the enemy! Turn left, with the left wing as an axis!

KUROGANE

My lord. If the battle begins, they will pull back into that forest. Our numerical superiority means nothing if we fight in the forest. It is easy to defend and difficult to attack.

JIRO

If they run into the forest, we will burn it!

172

EXTERIOR • FUJIMAKI REALM • ON A HILL • DAY

Fujimaki and the old general are watching the Ichimonji realm.

FUJIMAKI

My son-in-law's troops are being pursued. I can no longer merely wait and watch.

OLD GENERAL

Our realm extends to the river. Your son-in-law would not blame you if you advanced to the border line.

The old general raises his whip, signaling his men who are

walking behind, then gallops down the hill with Fujimaki. The Fujimaki army follows, avalanching down the hill.

173

EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • DAY

Saburo's troop is moving to the forest. Jiro's army following leftward. In the rear are Jiro and his staff members—Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma. Kurogane and the others stop as they look away.

KUROGANE

My lord! My lord!

He points with his whip.

174

EXTERIOR • RIDGE • FUJIMAKI REALM • DAY

The Fujimaki army is avalanching down the slope.

175

EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • DAY

Jiro reins in his horse. The horse rears up.

藤巻領・丘の上



JIRO
(Glares)

What is Ayabe doing?

(Looks up at ridge in Ayabe realm)

The Ayabe troop on the ridge is quiet.

JIRO

Good. We will sweep Saburo's troop away before Ayabe makes a move. Naganuma! You take command of the right wing and guard the river. Do not allow the enemy to cross, not even a single soldier! Go ahead!

Naganuma gallops away.

[176 OUT]

177

EXTERIOR • AZUSA FIELD • LATE AFTERNOON

This vast field is quiet. The sun is setting on the ridge of a mountain. The reddish sunlight has already begun to dye the summer grass. Heaven is preparing a magnificent sunset. Saburo and Tango have stopped their horses in the summit grass. They are watching their men gallop this way and the other. They cast, from time to time, a worried glance at Kyoami who is crying and desperately searching for Hidetora.

177A

EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • LATE AFTERNOON

Saburo's soldiers, led by Hatakeyama in front of the forest are bravely fighting the surrounding Jiro's army. The troop though numerically inferior to the enemy force, looks invincible with the superb commander.

Looking at the battle, Jiro is late, his eyes reddened.

JIRO

(Shouts)

What are you doing? They are few in number. Beat them! Crush them!

A messenger comes galloping up.

MESSENGER

My lord! My lord! The main force of Ayabe has crossed the boundary and is swarming to the First Castle!

JIRO

What!

He gazes at the messenger, startled, then turns the gaze to the ridge, where the Ayabe army is still quiet.

KUROGANE

They got us! It was a trick! The troop on the ridge is a decoy!

Jiro, shocked, turns pale.

177B

EXTERIOR • AZUSA FIELD • LATE AFTERNOON

VOICE

Master Saburo! Master Saburo!

Saburo reacts and looks away. Kyoami is hopping and shouting.

KYOAMI

Here is the Great Lord! He is here!





Saburo and Tango gallop up to him. He is holding Hidetora, who has been lying in the grass. Saburo and Tango dismount and help Kyoami. Hidetora looks at the three with vacant eyes.

HIDETORA

How cruel you are! How could you pull me from my grave?

SABURO

Don't you recognize me?

HIDETORA

(Regards Saburo's helmet)

You are a demon. You have horns on your head.

TANGO

He has yet to regain his senses. Let us carry him quietly.

Hidetora looks around as if awakening from a nightmare.

HIDETORA

(Looks up at sky)

Oh, what a beautiful sky! . . . Am I in Heaven?

Saburo exchanges glances with Tango.

SABURO

Father!

HIDETORA

Father? Who do you mean by "Father"? Wait. I remember. I had three sons. And you seem to be one of them.

SABURO

Yes. I am Saburo.

HIDETORA

Saburo?

SABURO

Yes.

It is true! You are Saburo! How can I show my face to you? With what words should I apologize? if you tell me to take poison, I will gladly comply.

SABURO

What are you saying? I do not hate you, Father.



Tango and Kyoami watch the father and son in each other's arms with silent relief and emotion.

177C

EXTERIOR • RIDGE • AYABE REALM

LATE AFTERNOON

The Ayabe army finally begins to move, starting its invasion. As the soldiers look down . . .

178

EXTERIOR • HACHIMAN FIELD • LATE AFTERNOON

Jiro's army is retreating. Soldiers, on horseback and foot, are desperately running for their lives in total confusion, pale and stricken with fear. The red banners on their backs whirl and dash like the gushing stream of a torrent.

Crazily shouting amid the confusion are Jiro, Kurogane Shirane, and Naganuma, their faces unusually ugly and fierce. But their voices are inaudible, drowned in the tumult.

Saburo's troops, led by Hatakeyama, are in hot pursuit of the retreating enemy, triumphant but quiet, in ranks and formation, well trained and disciplined, in contrast to Jiro's army

HIDETORA

Never try to deceive me. I have had my fill of sweet, false words!

Saburo gazes at his old father, tears running down his cheeks.

TANGO

Great Lord, look at his eyes. Does he look like a liar? Some speak of love without the least thought of it, but none sheds tears of sincerity like his without a full heart.

SABURO

Father, let us go. You can forget your bad dream by living with me.

HIDETORA

(Bursts into tears, sobs)

I wish you to forget my cruel attitude toward you. I hope you can forgive me. I was a stupid old fool!

SABURO

Father!

HIDETORA

Saburo!

Hatakeyama in the lead raises his spear and reins up his horse.

HATAKEYAMA
(Shouts)

Halt! This is enough!

[179-182 Out]

183

EXTERIOR • AZUSA FIELD • SUNSET

Saburo's party, in single file, is crossing the field toward the Fujimaki realm. Saburo is in the lead. Hidetora seated behind him on the same horse. Tango following, carrying Kyoami on his horse. They are quietly advancing in the soft light of the setting sun—a picturesque sight.

Suddenly the serenity is broken by gunshots. Several mounted Samurai fall from their horses. Hidetora, holding Saburo from behind, realizes that his son suddenly goes limp, his head drooping.

HIDETORA
(Surprised)

Saburo! What is wrong, Saburo?

Saburo is silent. His body slowly tilts, then finally falls from his horse together with Hidetora, who is clinging to him. Tango and Kyoami, shocked, dismount and run to them. Hidetora, bending over Saburo, suddenly looks up at Tango and Kyoami, seeking rescue; he shouts in grief. His voice is so sad it seems his heart is breaking.

HIDETORA

My son is dead! . . . I can still tell the living from the dead. Saburo is dead! I am alive; you are alive; but Saburo is not! Saburo! You must not die so soon! I have something to tell you. I owe you an apology! Can this be fair? Saburo! Come back to life!

TANGO

Great Lord! Compose yourself!

HIDETORA

Do not approach me! Saburo is dead! Every one



of you is a murderer! Every one deserves death!

TANGO
Great Lord! Great Lord!

HIDETORA
Who are you? It is getting dark. Damn old fool! I can no longer live! I am suffocating! Someone, open my chest!

Kyoami quickly loosens his clothes at the chest.

HIDETORA
(Screams)

Saburo!
(Goes limp)

It is the last of the great warrior who once reigned supreme. Kyoami clings to him.

KYOAMI
Great Lord! Great Lord!

Tango watches everything in deep sorrow.

TANGO

Kyoami. You must not call back his soul. You must not let him wander in this hellish world any longer.

Tango and Kyoami, as well as Saburo's men who are surrounding the corpses, silently behold the horrible sight of death, the old warlord lying atop his lifeless son. Over track, we hear hoofbeats. A messenger comes riding up.

MESSENGER

We have won! The enemy is retreating toward the First Castle!

TANGO

(More sorrowful than pleased)

What is this? Of all things, Master Saburo is no longer with us to hear! The Great Lord is no longer here to see it! Why? Why?

Kyoami suddenly rises and spits toward Heaven.



KYOAMI
(Yelling)

Is there no God or Buddha in this world! Damn nation! God and the Buddha are nothing but mischievous urchins! Are they so bored in Heaven that they enjoy watching men die like worms? Damn God! It is so amusing to see and hear human beings cry and scream!

TANGO

Enough! Do not slander God or the Buddha! They are the ones who are crying! The evil of human beings . . . the stupidity of the sinful creatures, who believe their survival depends on killing others, repeated again and again throughout all time . . . Even God or the Buddha cannot save us from it.

Kyoami bursts out crying loudly.

TANGO

Do not cry! This is nothing unusual in this mortal world. Human beings seek sorrow, not happiness, and prefer suffering to peace. Look at the

First Castle! Those stupid people are fighting for sorrow and suffering, reveling in murder and bloodshed!

184

EXTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • SUNSET

Shouts, screams, destruction, and massacre. Sounds of carnage and turmoil fill the castle—clanking swords and spears, storming footsteps, neighing horses, whistling arrows, reports of guns.

Soldiers charging, clouds of dust. Banners and spearheads appearing and disappearing in the haze. Soldiers, friend and foe, swarming toward the front gate, which is about to be closed. They fight to enter the castle before the gate is closed and squeeze themselves through the gap between the doors. Banners and banners of Ichimonji and Ayabe intermingle with each other.

[185 Out]

186

EXTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • SQUARE • SUNSET

The front gate is closed. Two groups of soldiers from both

鶴丸の藁屋・表

The young lady's neck
is covered with a bundle
of wild flowers which were
picked by rough hands,
but her slender white arm
is revealed from under
her torn sleeve.
And the hand clasps
Tsurumaru's flute.

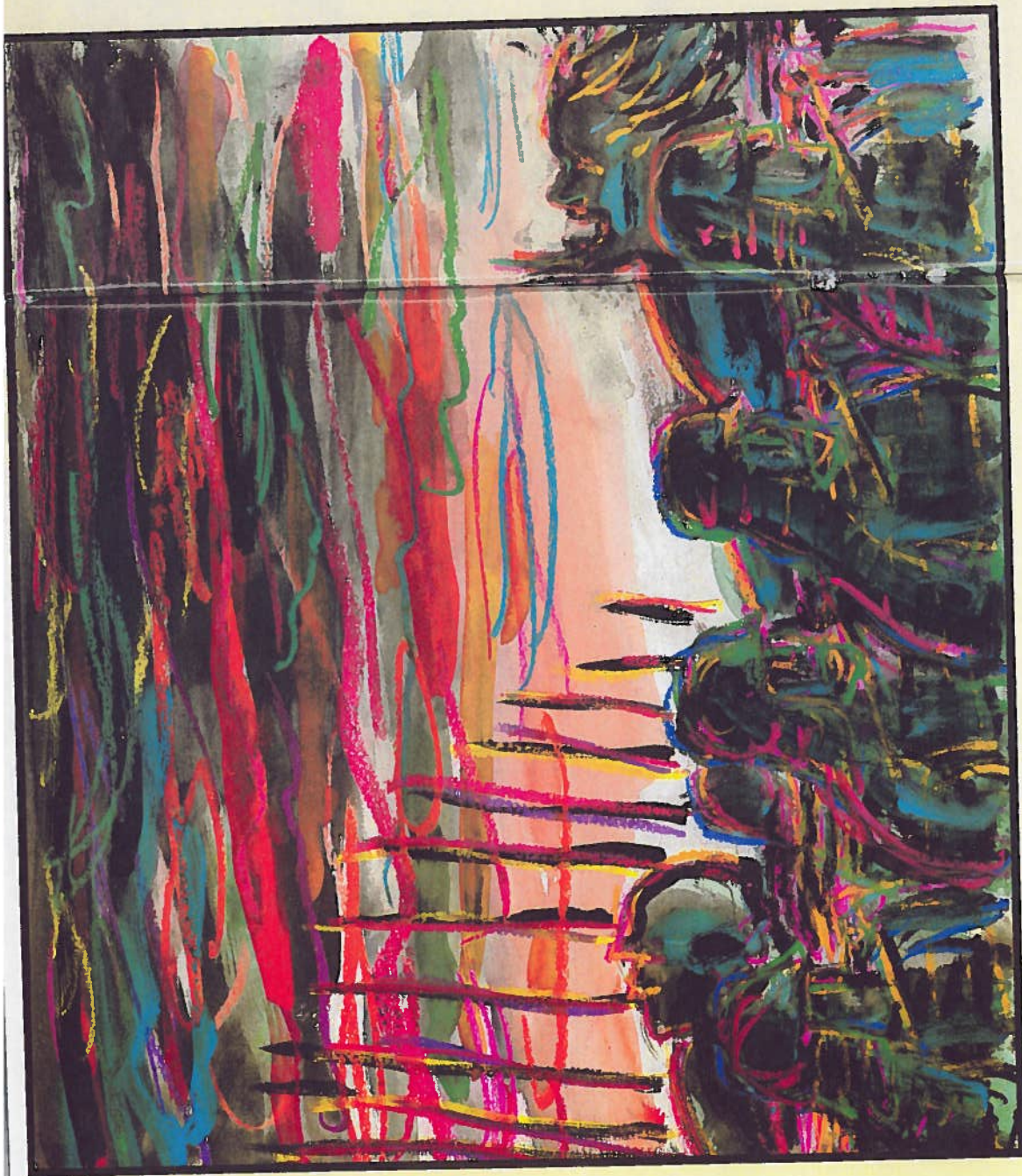


楓の方の部屋

Kurogane draws his sword
and kills her
with a single stroke.
A stream of smoke comes
hovering over
the blood-drenched corpse
of Lady Kaede.



楓の方
の部屋



sides are trapped in the square between the gates. They desperately struggle and fight for their lives, the slaughter going unobserved. From the tower and the firing battlements above the square, bullets shower on the soldiers, killing them at random. Friend and foe alike. Gunfire flashing in the slanting sunbeams in the sunset.

[187 Out]

188

EXTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON
PASSAGE • SUNSET

Jiro, Kurogane, Shirane, and Naganuma are silently watching the confusion, uncomprehendingly. Samurai and soldiers are running in all directions, not knowing what to do. Jiro and the other generals have no way of quelling the confusion. From the crazed mob a spirited Samurai, carrying something wrapped under his arm, runs toward Jiro.

SAMURAI

My lord! My lord!

KUROGANE

(To Samurai)

Is it the Lord Saburo's head? Or the Great Lord's?
Either way it is of no use now.

SAMURAI

No. My lord ordered me to bring Lady Sue's head.

Astonished, Kurogane wrests the wrapping from the Samurai and opens it. The cloth contains a beautiful floral design.

189

EXTERIOR • TSURUMARU'S HUT • SUNSET

Two corpses are resting on the grass and flowers of the field—the old woman and Lady Sue. The young lady's neck is



covered with a bundle of wild flowers which were picked by
ough hands, but her slender white arm is revealed from
nder her torn sleeve. The hand clasps Tsurumaru's flute—a
id and cruel sight.

190
EXTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON
PASSAGE • SUNSET

Kurogane looks up away from the wrapping, glares fiercely
: Jiro.

KUROGANE
Is the master of this castle you or Lady Kaede? I
serve you, my lord, but not Lady Kaede!
(Runs to donjon)
JIRO
Wait!
(Pursues)

190A
EXTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • CASTLE GATE • SUNSET
re arrows flying.

191
INTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • DONJON
LADY KAEDE'S ROOM • SUNSET

Despite the confusion and clamor, Lady Kaede is quietly
ated, ignoring the women who run about seeking refuge.
er lips display a cold smile, as if she were enjoying the
rmoil.

The door bangs open, and Kurogane rushes in.
KUROGANE
Vixen! You fooled the lord! You caused him to
do useless things, and you have now destroyed
the House of Ichimonji! Now you should know
the shallowness and stupidity of a woman's
wisdom!

KAEDE
(Calmly)
It is not shallow or stupid. I wanted to see this
castle burn and the House of Ichimonji ruined by
the long grudge of my family. I wanted to see all
this!

To Hell with you!
He draws his sword and kills her with a single stroke. A
rearn of smoke comes hovering over the blood-drenched
rpsse of Lady Kaede. The smoke creeps to Jiro, too, who is
anding aglissat, watching the body of his treacherous woman.

KUROGANE
(To Jiro)
There is no escape. Prepare to die. I will follow
you later.
192
EXTERIOR • FIRST CASTLE • SUNSET

The castle is belching fire and smoke. The Ayabe soldiers are
eering and dancing crazily as they look up at the castle in
mes.

193
EXTERIOR • AZUSA FIELD • SUNSET
Saburo's party, reduced in number, is crossing the field in the
glow of the evening. Two groups of soldiers are carrying the
corpses of Saburo and Hidetora on crossed spears. Tango
and Kyoami as well as Saburo's guards are silently following.
Saburo's troops, led by Hatakeyama, and the Fujimaki cavalry
are sweeping the summer field like a black tide. They see the
corpses of Saburo and Hidetora, and lower their spears in
mourning.

FUJIMAKI
Alas! Of all things!
(Discouraged, his head drops, then he looks up)
Men! Let us avenge my son-in-law! Follow me!
We will take the First Castle!

TANGO
(Stops him)
That is not necessary. Master Saburo had no
ambition. He wanted to avoid war. You had
better withdraw your army today out of mourn-
ing for Master Saburo, and pray for him.

Fujimaki nods, raises his whip, and bisects the surrounding
cavalry to make way for Saburo's troops. Those with the
bodies of Saburo and Hidetora resume their advance.
Twilight creeps to the field, darkening the figures of these
humans who have seen hell in this world. The glow of the
evening is as red as blood, slowly paling, giving way to dusk.
Azusa Field is beginning to disappear under the cloak of
evening.
Far beyond the field, upon the stone walls of the remains of
Azusa Castle, a small figure is seen.

193A
EXTERIOR • REMAINS OF AZUSA CASTLE
STONE WALL • SUNSET

Tsurumaru wanders alone, cane in hand. His cane knocks at
the stones at the top of the wall, then finds nothing further.
Surprised, he steps back. The scroll falls from his hand, rolls
down the high wall of the donjon, opens, and lands on the
grass in the empty moat.
The picture of the Amitabha, torn in places, shines golden in
the last light from the darkening sky. The face of the
Amitabha looks sad as it gazes at the upper side of the wall.

193B
EXTERIOR • AZUSA FIELD • SUNSET
On top of the steep stone wall, Tsurumaru is at a loss.
The evening glow is now in its final stages. The last light of
day will soon fade, and darkness will reign over the realm.
Against the background of the last glow of evening, the small
figure of Tsurumaru is standing alone on the lofty stone wall
in the remains of the castle.
Wretchedness!





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