

YEAR 1202

SPRING 1202

With the snow in recession, Kanpeki's beeline for Toshi Ranbo is clear. Lion forces scramble to intercept his armies and keep them divided. The cleverness of Daigotsu Ookami keeps the Lion off balance, however. He uses his prior season's control of the land to his full advantage, staging raids and harrying Lion troops. The forces of Akodo Dairuko, far behind Kanpeki's lines counter with raids of their own, but both Champions avoid direct engagement without a clear advantage.

SUMMER 1202

INEVITABLE PYRRHIC VICTORY

The Lion Clan buy enough time for Crab and Phoenix forces to reinforce the Capital. However, the superior survivability of the tainted troops combined with the clever tactics of Daigotsu Ookami stalls the now tired and starving Lion Armies. Akodo Dairuko orders a desperate dash for Toshi Ranbo's gates. Kanpeki's army attacks the beleaguered Lion as the Crab defenders watch from the city walls. The Lion plea for reinforcements, and they are granted. The Crab forces, led by Hida Toranosuke, assault the Spider and drive them back. Akodo Dairuko is spared and retreats to the walls of the city, but at the cost of Toranosuke's own life and his forces. Spider forces have the city surrounded by Autumn. The Emperor and his wife are trapped.

OTOSAN UCHI RESTORED

The Blood of the Preserver, a gift granted to Iweco Shibatsu by Kanpeki years ago is utilized in a bid to assert the legitimacy of his young clan. After years of study and experimentation, he orders the blood be used to purify and rejuvenate the grounds of the ruined Otosan Uchi. A ritual is cast, and the city is resanctified. Rebuilding of the old Capital begins. In celebration, Shibatsu orders the news spread to all the Empire, including Daigotsu Kanpeki, who is less than thrilled.

FALL 1202

A DOOMED COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

Phoenix, Dragon and Imperial Legion forces rally to the banner of the Emerald Champion to break the Siege of Toshi Ranbo. They attempt to coordinate a pincer attack, but Dragon forces are blocked by the troops of Daigotsu Ookami that have taken position on a strategic hill by the Drowned Merchant River. They attempt to skirt around and cross the river elsewhere, but, are harried by Spider archers at every go. Soon, they have no choice but to engage Spider forces, retreat, or freeze. The Dragon fall back to their mountains and the failed counter-offensive weakens the strength of Iweco II's forces.

DRIVING THE DARKNESS BEFORE THEM

In the wake of the devastation of Lion Clan lands, the lords of the Crab Clan gear towards mounting their resources into total war. The forces of Hida Kisada preserve their supplies by foraging from the territory and villages of the Clans whose lands they pass through, burning and salting what they cannot take to deny the resources to the enemy. The Crab Clan take

no chances with the Taint and would rather see their world rendered unto ash than let the Son of Daigotsu have his way.

WINTER 1202

DEATH OF A GENERAL?

With the Dragon Clan at bay and the Capital tightly surrounded, Daigotsu Kanpeki orders General Ookami to destroy Shibatsu's Spider Clan. Ookami leads his undead forces down the River of the Sun, frozen over for the season. They follow it south, spotting Shibatsu's Legion prepared for battle on the far side, and a contingent of Lion forces moving in from the south. Ookami has the strength to overrun either force, but only one at a time. As the armies converge on him, Ookami gives orders to engage Shibatsu's forces and falls into his trap. The Legion sets an oil fire on the iced river and makes their stand. The Lion catch up to cover the Legion's flank but within minutes, Spider forces on both sides fall into the bone-chilling water as fire shatters ice. The frozen corpses of the undead are later picked off with ease, but the body of Daigotsu Ookami is never recovered.