

## **YEAR 1216**

### **SPRING 1216**

#### **THE ILLUSION OF PEACE**

Flowers bloom and crops are sown. The peasantry of Rokugan celebrate a winter undaunted by the horrors of Daigotsu Kanpeki's wrath. All the while, the Samurai look inland with caution. Many lords use the season to reinforce their fortifications and seize the opportunity to send out scouts. They find the enemy stands still at their defensive positions. The lords of the Lion advise their Shogun to reconquer farmlands and ensure the Empire's food source. Akodo Kano however, responds with patience. He refutes the suggestion and concentrates efforts towards further consolidating the Clan's remaining strength.

### **SUMMER 1216**

#### **FORESIGHT**

Amidst the celebrations, one clan is curiously dour. The emissaries of the Dragon emerge from their mountainous home for the first time in many seasons, and they bring with them gold in amounts that have rarely been seen. The coin and raw material acts as a series of expensive gifts in exchange for offerings of basic foodstuffs, salt fish and dry grain, which are swiftly spirited away to their distant hills. The emissaries come and go as swiftly as the wind, and the lowland clans that are still in possession of their lands redouble their rejoicing in their newfound wealth.

### **FALL 1216**

#### **THE EXODUS RETURNS**

From the west rides yet another group of stragglers. The Unicorn expedition to the Sands does not return to the Colonies and their Khan, but rather skirt the edge of Yobanjin territory through mountainous paths and hidden passages known only to Shinjo's children, re-joining the Empire at last. With them ride a force of Gaijin warriors and sahir, emissaries from the Jewel of the Desert and her various factions, here in the Empire both to assist the Unicorn and for secret purposes of their own. Further assistance comes from more secretive allies, as certain members of the returning forces are mask-bearing Rokugani clad in black and red under their riding furs. Taking their secret roads, they manage to avoid entering the so-called Onyx Empire, and send outriders forward to herald their return.

### **WINTER 1216**

#### **THE BEGINNING OF THE END**

The Empire slows their many celebrations, as the joy of a year without loss of life is muddled by the coming of yet another winter of uncertainty. Furthermore, the outer edges of the yet-unoccupied territories speak of a poor harvest the previous season, yet none can spare the food to alleviate it, regardless of the amount of coin offered. The peasants of Rokugan are used to weathering periods of want, however, and steadfastly resign themselves to tightening their belts and burying a few unfortunates that do not survive the winter.

The Samurai caste settles in for the season, undisturbed and unaware.