

## YEAR 1217

### SPRING 1217

#### DEATH AND TAXES

A famished Winter gives way to the toil of Spring. Across the Empire, the peasantry opens their stores of dried fish. What they find is a spoiled ruin. The stored food from the prior year's fishing harvest reeks of the Taint and the rot of Kanpeki's plan bearing fruition. In addition, the Tainted food has spoiled the mixed stores from years prior. The fishers of the Empire begin to panic over how they will pay their tithes. Discontent echoes through the remains of Rokugan as tax assessors are met with hostility, and the hands of the magistrates clench into fists to keep order. Despair twists into anger and mistrust towards their Samurai masters, sworn to protect them. Meanwhile, the Last Legion, composed mostly of combat-hardened ashigaru, seize Kyuden Seppun and claim its farmland in the name of the People of Rokugan. News of their prosperity spreads, and more and more heimin trickle out of their lords' lands to take up arms with the Legion.

### SUMMER 1217

#### FOOLS RUSH IN

Several of the more brash commanders of the Lion Clan, displeased with Akodo Kano's refusal to start a campaign against the Onyx Empire, plot on how they would go about staging such an offensive themselves. They cooperate with like-minded members of the Crab army who are trapped in their lands, who inform them of exactly what such a campaign would require. Interestingly, their quartermasters discover that some unknown party has surreptitiously doubled their jade stores, allowing them access to enough of the sacred material to attack.

In the middle of summer, the force sets out without their Daimyos' permission to attempt to seize back portions of occupied Lion territory. With the jade to reinforce their troops, they smash into Kanpeki's frontline, but shortly find themselves routed after their initial success. No amount of jade can account for the sheer numbers advantage that the Spider possess, and the force retreats with heavy losses.

Kanpeki sends emissaries to the court of Akodo Kano, bearing glad tiding that the Onyx Emperor has magnanimously chosen to forgive the Lion their slight against him, and will be taking no retributive action. Naturally, this only infuriates the Lion further.

### FALL 1217

#### CALL OF THE NINE DRAGONS

Togashi Noboru, Lord of the Togashi, leaves from a meeting with the Emperor. In his hands are a collection of scrolls that he promptly hands over to members of the ise zumi order who spread the new across Rokugan. After a delay of many months, the Emperor has announced his next Winter Court will be held in the halls of Shiro Mirumoto.

Strangely enough, some of those invitations reach Toshi Ranbo and the court of Daigotsu Kanpeki himself.

### WINTER 1217

#### THE LAST COURT?

The Winter Court of 1217 promises to be one of the most interesting events of the century. As delegates come from across Rokugan, none are quite sure who they can trust. Hands are pressed

firmly to the hilts of swords, at least those that do not clutch grumbling bellies. Suspicion is the watchword of those who make the climb to Shiro Mirumoto, and as they eye their fellow travelers, many wonder just what it is the Dragon have planned...