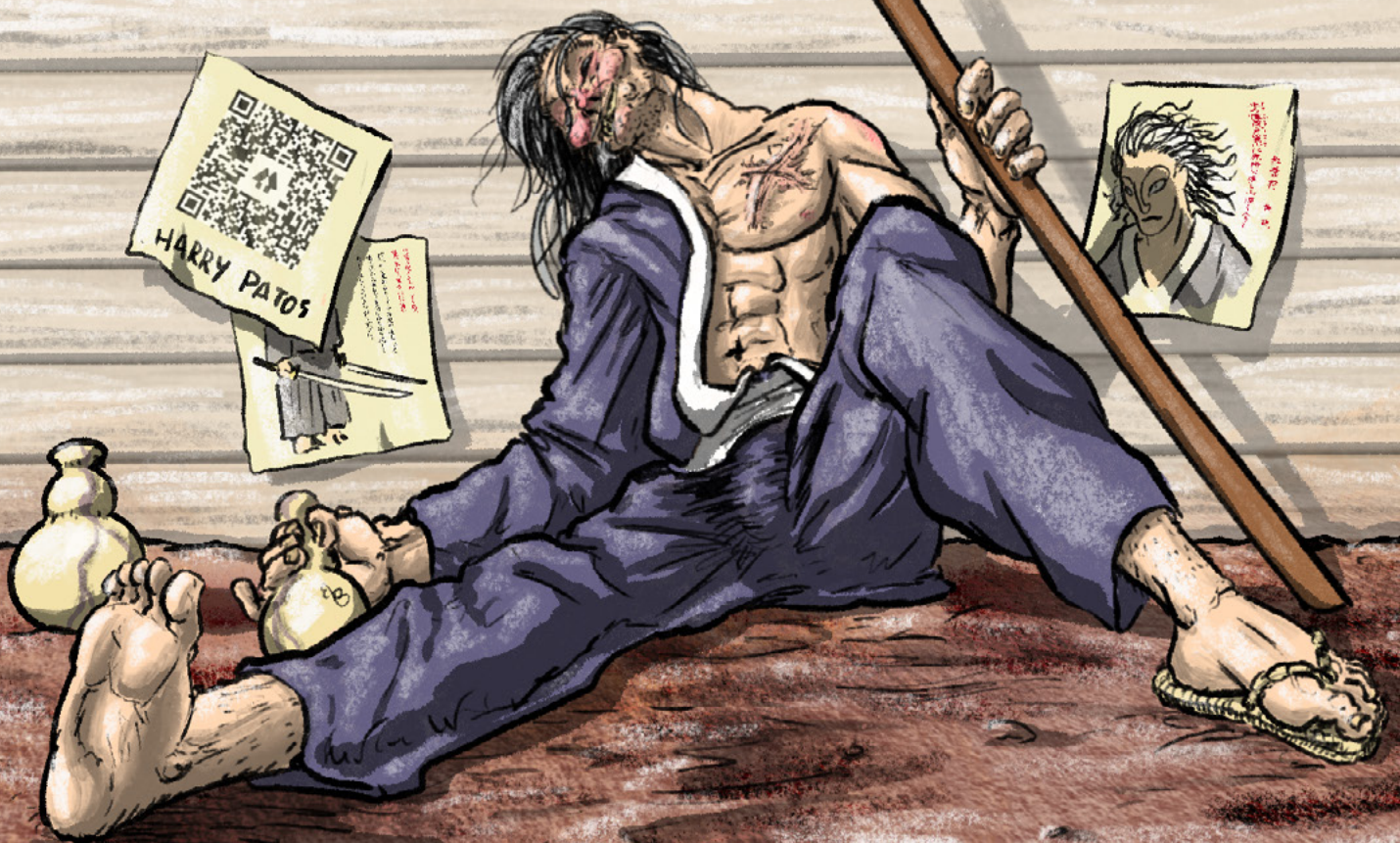


THE BIG DUEL



GANRYUJIMA, 1612.

HE WON'T
COME.

WE'VE BEEN
WAITING ALMOST
TWO HOURS, SIR.

THAT DAMN
MUSASHI...

WHAT A LACK OF
RESPECT. HOW DARE HE
BE LATE FOR A DUEL?

WHAT A
COWARD.

I'M SURE HE'S
AFRAID OF
MASTER SASAKI.

IN FACT, HE WAS
WHO CHALLENGED
KOJIRO.

HEY WAIT...
SOMETHING'S
COMING.

IT'S...
YES, I THINK
IT'S HIM...




I'M SORRY,
GUYS.

YESTERDAY I
OVERDID IT
WITH SAKE, AND
I SLEPT MORE
THAN I SHOULD
HAVE.

DAMN DRUNK.


HOW DARE YOU
DISRESPECT MASTER
SASAKI, THE PEERLESS
ONE UNDER THE HEAVENS.
LIKE THIS?



IT'S A PLEASURE TO
FINALLY MEET THE
FOUNDER OF NITEN ICHI
RYU STYLE, MIYAMOTO
MUSASHI.

FOR ME TOO,
KOJIRO SASAKI.

FOUNDER OF THE
GANRYU.



THAT'S WHY YOU
WANTED TO FIGHT
ME, RIGHT?



TO PROVE IF YOUR
STYLE IS BETTER
THAN MINE.



NO,
ACTUALLY...



IN MY TRAVELS THROUGHOUT JAPAN, KOJIRO SASAKI HAS BEEN A NAME I HAVE HEARD A LOT ABOUT.

HONORABLE, DISCIPLINED, EDUCATED...

EVERYTHING TO BE EXPECTED FROM A TRUE SAMURAI.

AN EPITHET FOR WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BE A WARRIOR.



BUT THAT DOESN'T FILL YOU UP, DOES IT, SASAKI?

IN MY TRAVELS I SAW YOU SEVERAL TIMES.

AT THE OSAKA PARADE, IN KYOTO...

AND I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SMILE.



YOUR PATH OF THE SAMURAI, THE EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW FOR ALL...

IT JUST MADE YOU UNHAPPY, RIGHT?



WHAT'S YOUR POINT, MUSASHI?

THIS IS NOT A DUEL OF STYLES, KOJIRO.

THIS IS A LESSON FOR ALL.



MY ENJOYMENT, OR YOUR SOBRIETY.

MUSASHI, YOU BASTARD!

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THUS!

A LESSON ABOUT WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR A WARRIOR.

MY FREEDOM, OR YOUR RESTRAINT.



BE QUIET!

VERY GOOD MUSASHI. PROVE IT TO ME.

PROVE TO ME THAT YOUR PATH OF THE WARRIOR IS BETTER THAN MINE.

THIS IS NOT YOUR DUEL.



PROVE TO ME THAT YOUR REBELLION IS BETTER THAN MY DISCIPLINE.



I-I-IMPOSIBLE...



WHY THAT FACE, UH?

HE ALREADY KNEW HE WAS GOING TO LOSE.

WHAT?



SINCE WHEN DOES A WARRIOR HOPING TO BE VICTORIOUS THROW HIS SWORD SCABBARD INTO THE SEA?



AT LEAST, NOW HE'S FREE.

AND HAPPY.