PROLOGUE

WHAT TERRIBLE WEATHER IN WHICH TO TRAVEL!

I'M SURE GEN ONCE TOLD ME THERE IS A PILGRIMS' TEMPLE ALONG THIS ROAD.

WHAT DOES HE KNOW? I LOST THE ROAD AN HOUR AGO.

"THIS WAY WILL SAVE YOU AT LEAST HALF A DAY'S JOURNEY," HE SAID!

GEN AND HIS STUPID SHORT-CUTS!

HE'S AN IDIOT AND DOESN'T KNOW A THING!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I KEEP LISTENING TO HIM.

I MUST BE A BIGGER IDIOT THAN HE IS!

THERE IT IS! I GUESS I OWE GEN AN APOLOGY!

I HATE IT WHEN HE'S RIGHT!

Panel 1:
I'VE HAD ONLY BAD RUN-INS WITH THE KOMORI, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HER OUT HERE TO PERISH IN THE STORM!

Panel 2:
ULP!
SLASH!

Panel 3:
HER WING BLADE BARELY TOUCHED MY MINO*!
I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL OF THEM.

Panel 4:
UGH! SHE'S HEAVY!
AND MY ARM STILL HAS NOT GOTTEN ITS FULL STRENGTH BACK AFTER IT WAS BROKEN.

Panel 5:
I KNOW I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS.

*STRAW RAIN CAPE

NNNNNGGGGGHHHHHHHNNNGGH--

-UHHHNNNNNNNMMMMM---

HISS!

SLASH!

OH, GOOD. YOU'RE AWAKE.

I MADE SOME BROTH. IT'S JUST MADE WITH ROOTS BUT AT LEAST IT'S HOT!