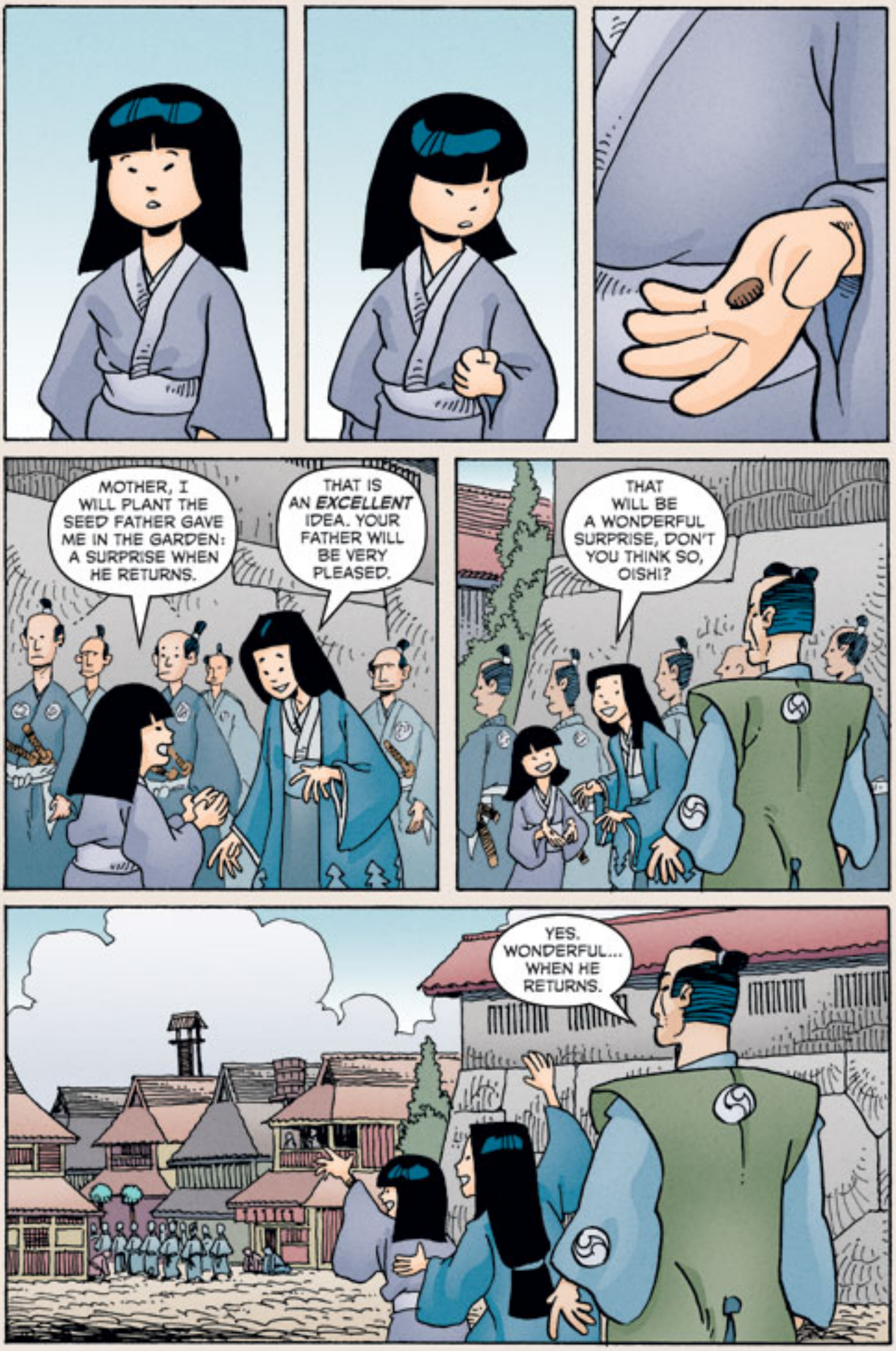
THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
TAKE CARE, MY HUSBAND.
GOODBYE, FATHER. BRING ME A PRESENT.

OISHI, MY FRIEND, TAKE CARE OF THEM.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.

GOODBYE, FATHER, GOODBYE.


MOTHER, I WILL PLANT THE SEED FATHER GAVE ME IN THE GARDEN: A SURPRISE WHEN HE RETURNS.
THAT IS AN *EXCELLENT* IDEA. YOUR FATHER WILL BE VERY PLEASED.
THAT WILL BE A WONDERFUL SURPRISE, DON'T YOU THINK SO, OISHI?
YES. WONDERFUL... WHEN HE RETURNS.

THE SHOGUN'S PALACE...

THE OFFICE OF COURT OFFICIAL KIRA YOSHINAKA, KŌZUKE NO SUKE.
TAP TAP TAP
COME IN.
I AM LOOKING OVER MY LEDGER OF ACCOUNTS, AND I THINK THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE.
A MISTAKE, SIR?
IT SAYS HERE THAT KAMEI SAMA HAS GIVEN A SUBSTANTIAL GIFT OF COIN AS TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR THE INSTRUCTION I HAVE PROVIDED.
BUT YOU'VE CLEARLY MADE A MISTAKE...
IT SAYS THAT LORD ASANO HAS GIVEN ONLY SEVEN ROLLS OF RICE PAPER.
BUT, SIR, THAT IS TRUE. MY ACCOUNTING IS CORRECT.
TRUE? WHEN I THINK OF THE EFFORT I HAVE PUT FORTH TEACHING HIM COURT ETIQUETTE...
KAMEI IS HERE ONLY TO ASSIST LORD ASANO, AND HE GIVES MORE?
GET OUT AND BRING ASANO TO ME... NOW!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS MAN? WHY DOES HE FAIL TO OFFER THE CUSTOMARY GIFTS?

A SHORT TIME LATER...
AHHH, LORD ASANO, THANK YOU FOR COMING.
IT'S MY PLEASURE, KIRA. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
YOU ARE A FAST LEARNER AND HAVE BEEN A GOOD STUDENT IN YOUR WEEKS HERE. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL MAKE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF YOURSELF WHEN THE EMPEROR'S EMISSARIES ARRIVE...
THANK YOU.
BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN MATTERS OF PRIVATE PROTOCOL THAT TAKE PLACE HERE IN THE SHOGUN'S PALACE, CUSTOMARY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS INTENDED AS A SHOW OF RESPECT.
I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND.
I'M SPEAKING OF A SORT OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN TEACHER AND STUDENT. THE TEACHER PASSES WISDOM TO THE STUDENT, AND IN RETURN, THE STUDENT GIVES SOME TOKEN OF APPRECIATION TO THE TEACHER.
BUT I HAVE GIVEN YOU MY THANKS.
LET ME BE CLEAR: I EXPECT COMPENSATION FOR THE EFFORT I HAVE PUT FORTH TO TRAIN SOMEONE AS UNSCHOOLED AS YOURSELF.
THIS IS HOW BUSINESS IS DONE, AND YOU WILL PROFIT BY OBSERVING SUCH CUSTOMS.

I WON'T CONSIDER SUCH PAYMENT. YOU ARE SIMPLY PERFORMING YOUR DUTIES AS SET FORTH BY THE SHOGUN HIMSELF, AS AM I.
WHY YOU UNGRATEFUL--! I EXPECT COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF A MEANINGFUL GIFT. THIS IS NOT A REQUEST.
NOW LET ME BE CLEAR... UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL I PAY A BRIBE TO YOU OR TO ANY OTHER MAN.
I CAN SEE THAT CONVERSATION IS USELESS. WE WILL DISCUSS THIS LATER, BUT FOR NOW, I AM EXHAUSTED AND MUST RETIRE.
I HAVE SET DAWN AS THE TIME FOR YOUR INSTRUCTION TO CONTINUE. I WILL SEE YOU THEN.
SLAM!