

**T**HE CLOSE OF 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY JAPAN IS  
REGARDED AS THE AGE OF CIVIL WARS,  
AS FEUDAL LORDS FOUGHT AMONGST  
THEMSELVES FOR LAND AND POWER.

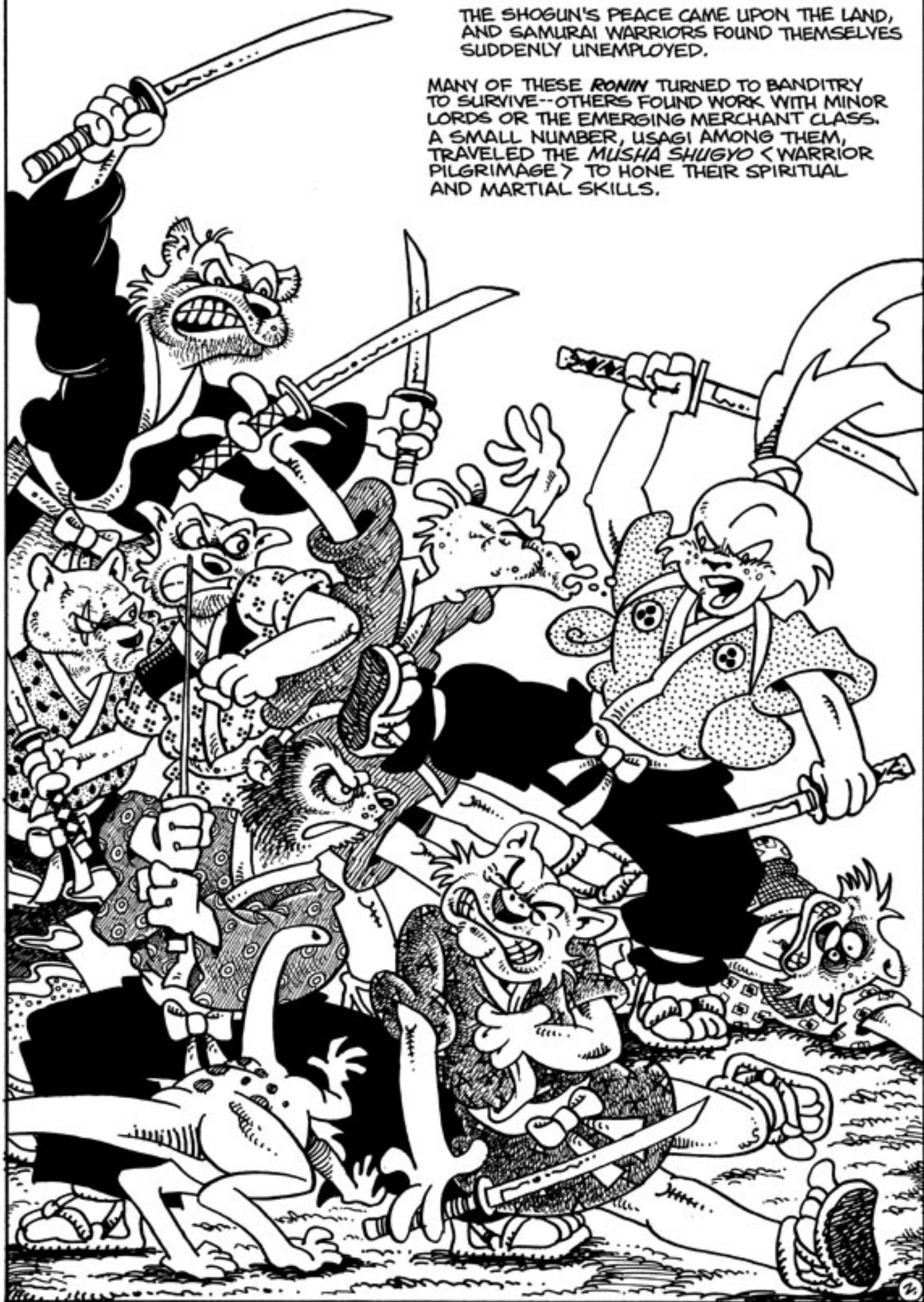
IT WAS DURING THE BATTLE OF  
ADACHISAKARA THAT THE SAMURAI  
MIYAMOTO USAGI LOST HIS LORD  
MIFUNE TO THE ARMIES OF  
LORD HIKINI.



**F**INALLY, ONE LEADER ROSE ABOVE THE OTHERS AND WAS PROCLAIMED **SHOGUN** <MILITARY RULER>.

THE SHOGUN'S PEACE CAME UPON THE LAND, AND SAMURAI WARRIORS FOUND THEMSELVES SUDDENLY UNEMPLOYED.

MANY OF THESE **RONIN** TURNED TO BANDITRY TO SURVIVE--OTHERS FOUND WORK WITH MINOR LORDS OR THE EMERGING MERCHANT CLASS. A SMALL NUMBER, USAGI AMONG THEM, TRAVELED THE **MUSHA SHUGYO** <WARRIOR PILGRIMAGE> TO HONE THEIR SPIRITUAL AND MARTIAL SKILLS.



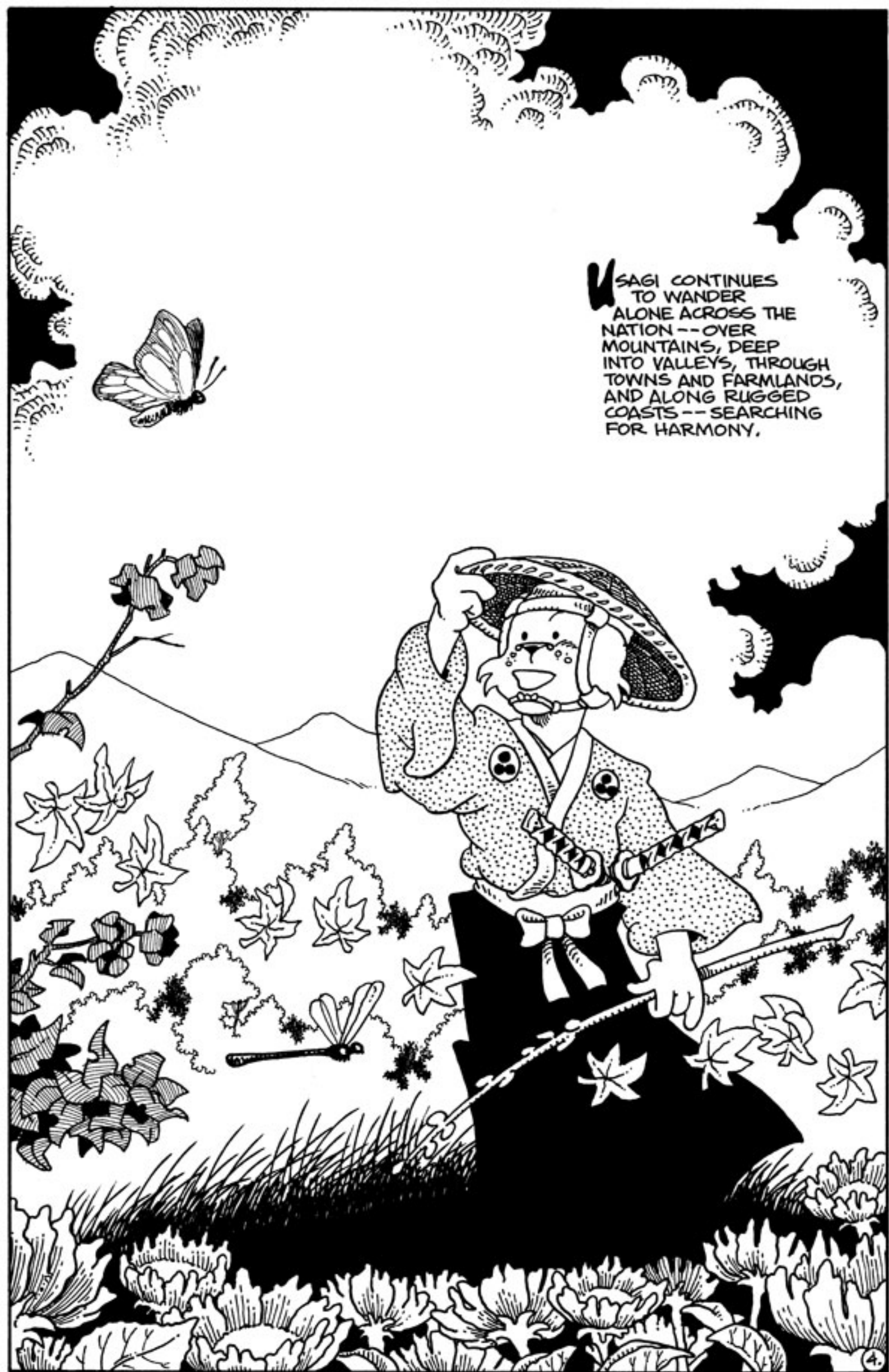


**U**SAGI HAS MADE MANY ALLIES ON HIS ROAD--INCLUDING TOMOE OF THE GEISHU CLAN, GEN THE BOUNTY HUNTER, AND ZATO-INO THE BLIND SWORDSPIG.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN MANY ENEMIES. CHIEF AMONG THEM IS LORD HIKIJI WHO, WITH HIS SECRET ARMY OF NINJA, PLOTS TO OVERTHROW THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND SET **HIMSELF** AS SHOGUN!



USAGI CONTINUES  
TO WANDER  
ALONE ACROSS THE  
NATION -- OVER  
MOUNTAINS, DEEP  
INTO VALLEYS, THROUGH  
TOWNS AND FARMLANDS,  
AND ALONG RUGGED  
COASTS -- SEARCHING  
FOR HARMONY.





# Noodles

SHE  
WENT DOWN  
HERE!

IF  
SHE ESCAPES  
THIS TIME, I'LL  
TAKE IT OUT  
ON YOUR  
HIDES!

YES,  
YORIKI\*!

FWEET!  
FWEET!

\*POLICE ADMINISTRATOR

NOT FAR AWAY...

THIS TOWN  
LOOKS QUIET  
ENOUGH.

NOW IF I  
CAN FIND A  
CHEAP INN TO  
SPEND THE  
NIGHT...

