PASSAGE I

POVERTY—
A RAY OF LIGHT
TUMPA! TUMPA!

THE MASTER OF THE STREETS STRIKES AGAIN!

COME BACK HERE, YOU THIEVING STREET SCUM! I'LL THROW YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE!

TROMP TROMP TROMP
HOW 'BOUT I MAKE YOU YELP?

THE MASTER OF THE STREET'S TRIPLE OCTOPUS ATTACK!

THE MASTER OF THE STREET'S MASTY RETREAT FORMATION!

DAD ALWAYS SAID, "DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR." OR WAS THAT SHAKESPEARE? SHOULDA STAYED IN SCHOOL, I GUESS.

TUMPA

TUMPA
WAIT! I'M INTERESTED!

ALL RIGHT THEN. BUT FIRST, YOU MUST AGREE TO MY RULES.

SULES??

YES, WITHOUT RULES, NATURALLY, THERE CAN BE NO ORDER AND NO JUSTICE.

UH-M... I'M NOT SO BIG ON RULES. I'M WHAT YOU CALL THE INDEPENDENT TYPE. THAT'S WHY I LEFT THE FAMILY!

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THERE WERE NO INJUNCTION AGAINST SNUCKING, WHAT WOULD PREVENT THE STRONG FROM PREDATING ON THE WEAK?

SKRTCH SKRTCH

UNDERSTOOD. I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN...

TUP-TUP-TUP
WAIT! OKAY, OKAY! AT LEAST TELL ME ABOUT THESE STUPID RULES OF YOURS...

THERE ARE ONLY TWO.

FIRST, YOU MUST GO WHEREVER I TELL YOU. IT'S UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD. I LIKE TO TRAVEL!

AND AS LONG AS I'M STILL FREE TO DO WHATEVER I WANT, I CAN LIVE WITH THAT!

HOW IMPRESSIVE. ALL RIGHT, THEN... FOLLOW ME.

Wait! Where are we going? And what's rule number two?"

"DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS!"
WHAT DO YOU BRING ME HERE FOR? WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY LEARN ABOUT FIGHTING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

THESE PEOPLE ARE SO THIN A STRONG BREEZE WOULD BLOW 'EM OVER!

HURR?

GREAT, JUST GREAT. GUESS I'VE HIT ON THE WORST WARRIOR THAN I THOUGHT. AND NOW I'VE SLEEPWALKED ALL THE WAY TO NOWHERE!

VIP VIP

MAYBE WE'LL MIGHT AS WELL GET A BITE TO EAT BEFORE I HEAD BACK TO THE CITY.
OHHH!
I'M SORRY SIR. I JUST A polymath THIS MORNING.
YOU MUST HAVE PLENTY MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM.

"THOSE AREN'T BUILDING TOOLS. THEY'RE MY MOTH CONTAINERS. I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NOTHING USEFUL TO PLANT NEXT YEAR."

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"

"BECAUSE IT'S THE SAME. THERE'S NOT ENOUGH FOOD TO SOW OUR GRAIN FOR NEXT YEAR. WE NEED TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET THROUGH THE WINTER."

"I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU."

"THANKS FOR TRYING, ANYWAY."

"OH!"
A young man lives near the market and starts talking to a man.

Man: What a boring story! You merchants are all the same. Always trying to pull one over on a customer! Everyone knows school is free.

Woman: That's the law.

Man: You're not from around here, are you?

Woman: Not since this morning! I'm pregnant! And I'm a country boy—yes, man!

Man: Well, actually I'm married.

Woman: Tell me what you're selling.

Man: I haven't had a mouthful of food since yesterday! Grandmother hasn't eaten in three days so there would be something for the children.

Man: And if I don't sell these sausages for a good price today, I won't be able to buy rice so any of us can eat tonight!
MAGIC YAMS! EAT JUST ONE, AND YOU WON'T BE HUNGRY FOR A WEEK!

GETCHER GOURMET YAMS HERE! THESE BABIES WON FIRST PRICE AT THIS YEAR'S THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL YAM FAIRE!

EAT THIS HERE YAM STANDING ON YOUR HEAD UNDER A FULL MOON, AND YOU'LL BE A BIG FAV WIT' THE LADIES!

TH-THANK YOU, MY NAME IS KYOGENGA.

I'M REAL.

I'LL BUY RICE WITH THIS AND MAKE A PORRIDGE. YOU CAN HAVE SOME IF YOU LIKE...
My father gave me away in marriage when I was twelve so my dowry wouldn't be too expensive.

We sold our crops and got no money. We had to sell our plots of land. We had to eat grass, leaves, and roots. We had to eat at all hours of the night. My husband was a good man.

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When I was fifteen I bore my first child. I gave birth to three boys. I have never complained. I am a strong woman. I have a boy.

But then the war came. The men died. They forced him to fight. He had no choice. And when he came back...
"Boy!" "You sold the yams? Then where's the money, Wife?"

"I bought rice with it, so we all could eat..."

"I know how our money is spent...
Am I not the man in this house or is there an old woman?"
KRAK

FWUMP

TAKE THIS BOY IN MY
PLACE, THEN, IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU WANT! I'M
FINISHED WITH YOU.

HE... HE HAVEN'T BEEN THE
SAME SINE HE CAME
BACK FROM THE ARMY...
NO ONE WILL
GIVE HIM WORK
WITHOUT HIM...
WITHOUT...

HE'S ASHAMED,
SO HE GOES
TO TOWN
AND DRINKS...
AND...
You're not answering my question! Why did you run away?

And my question isn't stupid!

What else could I do?

At least repair the damage you did.

Help her! How? She's poor! She doesn't need my help! She needs money, and I don't have any to give her! I'm an orphan!

And I can't change her husband, either!

Why did I run away? Because all I did was make everything worse for Siegah and her family. That's what.

Why do you run away?

FROM YOU! NOT ME!

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I'm so hungry! I could eat a growl!

Hmph, well, I guess he got the message!

Who needs a trainer anyway? I've been fine on my own so far!
MAMA! I WANT EGG! EGG!

AND YOU'LL HAVE PLenty TONIGHT, MY DARLING. BUT THERE ARE TO SELL AT THE MARKET.

SHE LOOKS A LOT BETTER OFF THAN AYESHA... WHY DOESN'T AYESHA JUST GET SOME CHICKENS? IT'S HER OWN FAULT SHE'S SO POOR!

WHY DO YOU THINK AYESHA DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHICKENS?

A TALKING CHICKEN?

YOU WANT TO GO OVER THIS AGAIN??

HMM...
Here! I brought you a chicken! It'll lay eggs and then you'll have a big flock and you can eat them and sell their eggs and...

I'm a rooster, you idiot!

Besides, I can't retain this form forever!

Tomorrow I could be anything—a zebra, a crocodile, a platypus...

Fwap! Fwap!
WHERE'S YOU GET THAT CHICKEN YOU STOPPE IT, DIDN'T YOU!

I DID NOT! THIS CHICKEN BELONGS TO ME! AND I'M GIVING IT TO YOU!

I BELONG TO YOU? YOU'RE MY STUDENT AND I'M YOUR TRAINER!

NEXT TIME I'LL COME BACK AS A LION AND TEACH YOU A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

I SAW THIS WOMAN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE... SHE HAD A whole ΡΛΟΟΙ OF CHICKENS AND EGGS TO SELL. SHE WAS GOING TO THE MARKET TO SELL THEM. I THOUGHT YOU COULD... I THOUGHT...

WHAT GOOD WOULD ONE CHICKEN DO ME ANYWAY OR DOES YOURS LAY GOLDEN EGGS?

BESIDES, ISN'T THAT A BOOSTER?
Monika, I'm sorry I don't have money to start a business... I had to promise if any profit I'll pay the loan. If the loan or interest back, others would pay for it. I just don't think you can do better than me. Monika, I didn't promise others. There's only money to pay for your loan and interest. And if you can spend more than me, you can handle it. The other one is making it with money. Which one better?
I TOLD YOU HE WOULD COME BACK.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MY BELOVED.

I SHOULD NOT HAVE STRUCK YOU. I AM A BAD HUSBAND TO YOU.

NO, YOU ARE A GOOD HUSBAND...

DID YOU HEAR WHAT WE DISCussed?

I PROMISE I'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU OR THE OTHER MEN IN THE VILLAGE.

THERE'S NOT MUCH SHARED IN A SPANISH RURAL VILLAGE, BUT MORE THAN A WOMAN WHO TELLS HER FAMILY, HER CHILDREN, AND HER FRIENDS ABOUT HER SHAMBLE.
HELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO JOIN THE COOPERATIVE!

THE WOMEN USUALLY GATHER NEAR THE BEND IN THE RIVER AFTER THE MARKET CLOSES... BUT WHAT WILL I SAY TO THEM IF THEY WON'T ACCEPT ME?

DON'T WORRY. I'LL DO WITH YOU. THEY WOULDN'T DARE TURN YOU DOWN.

COME ON...

SLUGS...
SOON I’LL HAVE ENOUGH EARNINGS FROM MY CHICKENS TO BUY A LOOM TO WEAVE CLOTH TO SEND TO FOREIGNERS!

THAT FOREIGN COMPANY PROMISED TO GIVE US FAIR TRADE PAYMENT FOR WEAVING LIKE THE ONES OUR GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHERS MADE!

THEY SEND THEM ALL THE WAY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD TO SELL THEM TO RICH PEOPLE!

IMAGINE THAT! NOW COUNTRIES WHERE EVERYONE CAN READ AND WRITE, BUT NO ONE KNOWS THEIR GRANDMOTHER’S SECRETS OF WEAVING CLOTH!

SOMEONE HAS BEEN SICK FOR SEVERAL DAYS. WE’LL HAVE TO TEND THE GIANTS AND THE GOATS, OR SHE WOULDN’T BE ABLE TO PAY THE RENT.

IF THE GOVERNMENT EVER BUILDS THE ROAD TO THE CITY THEY’LL KEEP PROMISING US, WE’LL BE ABLE TO SELL EVEN MORE THINGS TO MAKE MONEY.
They all look so happy and successful. What if they don’t want me? What do I have to offer them?

Why wouldn’t they want you? You’re strong and responsible and hardworking!

I’ll go with you! Come on!

I’d like to join your co-operative. If you’ll have me, I promise to work very hard and repay every penny I can as soon as possible.

You’re welcome as far as I’m concerned, Arunima. Dear, I know you’re a good mother and wife—that you care for your husband even though he was crippled in the war. But...

We’re a co-operative, so we make all our decisions together.

You’ll have to speak to the others down by the river, as well.
WHY DO I HAVE TO MOVE ON SO SOON? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO HELP ABEEHA!

SHE DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP ANYMORE. SHE AND THE OTHER VILLAGERS ARE HELPING THEMSELVES.

SHE'S PRETTY, ISN'T SHE?

THAT WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

OF COURSE NOT!

MOOSH

SPLASH

TRUE, BUT A SNACK WOULDN'T LEAD YOU TO THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR TRAVELING JOURNEY.

I WAS DOING JUST FINE ON MY OWN BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG!

OF COURSE YOU WERE...

AND EASY TO CARRY—AND CAN TON'T YOU OVER FOR A LONG TIME WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELING.
THIS IS MY NEXT TRAINING GROUND ...!!??
The world is out of balance. Of the six billion people in the world today, one billion live in developed countries and command 80 percent of the world’s wealth. At the same time, one billion of the world’s poorest people must survive on less than a dollar a day, while another 2.7 billion live on less than two dollars a day. Extreme poverty is responsible for some eight million deaths a year.

Poverty is more than a lack of money or an absence of material wealth. Poor people are more vulnerable to economic shocks, natural disasters, disease, violence and crime. Poor people must often forego a decent education and adequate health care for themselves and their children, while the smallest misfortune—an illness, a job loss—threatens their survival.

Development means achieving an acceptable standard of living for all people. This includes giving everyone access to the basics, such as food, housing, jobs, health services, education and security.

To learn more about poverty and development, check out the following websites:
- http://www.netaid.org/global_poverty/
- http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/thematic.htm (Click on "Poverty" link.)
- http://www.worldbank.org/develop/ (Stories about people whose lives have been transformed by development programs!)

**MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
The uneven progress of development is worrying. Responding to such concerns, in September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit,
189 countries agreed to a specific agenda for reducing global poverty. The agenda listed eight targets to help people meet basic needs and get out of poverty. Today, these eight Millennium Development Goals (listed below) serve as a framework for measuring progress in development:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

To learn more about the Millennium Development Goals, check out:

GENDER & POVERTY
In many countries, girls and women aren’t given the same rights, opportunities, responsibilities and choices in life that boys and men have. This double standard for girls and women hurts everyone in society and has a negative impact on economic development. Societies allowing women equal rights as men are wealthier than those that do not. These countries prosper more, grow faster and have better governance systems, which are important for growth and development.

To learn more about gender and development, check out:
- http://www.unifem.org/
- http://topics.developmentgateway.org/gender

CONFLICT & POVERTY
Many of the world’s poorest countries are locked in a tragic vicious circle in which poverty causes conflict and conflict causes poverty. Eighty percent of the world’s 20 poorest countries have suffered a major war in the past 15 years. On average, countries coming out of war face a 44 percent chance of returning to war in the first 5 years. Even with rapid progress after peace, it can take a generation or more just to return to prewar living standards.

To learn more about conflict and poverty, check out:
- http://cpr.web.cern.ch/cpr/
MICROFINANCE

Microfinance is the supply of loans and other basic financial services to the poor. In the 1970s, experimental programs in Bangladesh, Brazil and a few other countries gave tiny loans to groups of poor women so they could invest in small businesses. In this type of microfinance lending, each group member guarantees the repayment of all members. Experience has shown that the poor successfully repay these loans. Microfinance has proven to be an effective tool for reducing poverty and helping poor people take control over their income and livelihoods.

To learn more about microfinance, check out:
• http://www.cgap.org/about/microfinance.html

WHAT CAN I DO?

All countries in the world are linked by trade, finance, environment, drugs, crime, migration, diseases/epidemics, etc. Domestic problems in one country inevitably affect the rest of the world. That's why it's in all our interests to promote a good standard of living in all parts of the world.

Here's what you can do:
• Get interested. Learn more about the world and current events—you can start by following the news and browsing some of the websites suggested here. You can also search the Development Web on http://www.worldbank.org/depweb/, where you'll find online books and learning modules brimming with activities, information, case studies, and other tools that will help you explore the often complex yet intriguing social, economic and environmental issues of sustainable development.
• Get involved. Search the UN Volunteer website (http://www.unv.org/) or the Idealist website (http://www.idealist.org/) to find out about volunteer opportunities worldwide to encourage development.
• Lobby your government. Learn how much money your government gives through bilateral and multilateral assistance. You can view official development assistance (ODA) levels by country at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/donchart/. Contact your government representatives and tell them your country should provide more aid.
Rei fights a three-against-one battle this time, has his first drink, his first kiss, and falls for a beautiful, bristy cocktail waitress... But the woman he loves is hiding a terrible family secret!

Which animal would you like to see Rei's trainer turn into next?

Send your suggestions and drawings with an explanation of how this animal would help train Rei to be the greatest martial artist in the world to worldmanga@viz.com or 1 World Manga, P.O. Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107-0913.

We would love to hear from our readers all over the world! E-mail your comments and ideas for new topics and stories to worldmanga@viz.com!
Fighting Poverty!

Fifteen-year-old orphan Rei survives by his wits and guts on the mean streets of the world. His fortunes take a strange turn when he meets a trainer wielding some powerful transformational magic who offers to coach him to achieve his dream of becoming the greatest martial artist in the world! But it seems Rei's trainer is more interested in developing his mind, spirit and--right--heart than his thrashing, rage-filled fighting moves! The stakes get higher when Rei meets a young woman fighting just to survive! Can Rei vanquish the specter of poverty...?