



# Yasuki Toru

## NINJŌ

Make the Crane Clan pay for what they did to your family all those centuries ago. Your ancestral estate is currently located in Crane lands, and they refuse to honor the Yasuki's claims to that territory.

## GIRI

As a representative of the Yasuki Trading Council, you are to make a deal with Tsume Takashi and/or Shiba Katsuda to trade vital supplies up and down the nearby river in exchange for access to the newly discovered jade mine in the vicinity of Toshi Ranbo.

## PLAYING THE YASUKI MERCHANT

The Crab Clan are known as guardians and warriors—slayers of monsters and protectors of the realm. The defenders of the Empire have little time or inclination to practice social niceties; they stand guard upon the Kaiu Wall, an enduring symbol of tenacity against the horrors of the Shadowlands. The Yasuki family is the lone exception in this, serving as the diplomatic branch of the clan and its quartermasters. “Merchant” is a dirty word among the samurai of Rokugan, but the only way to provision the Crab Clan's massive armies is to barter, trade, and buy. And you do that—as well as gauge peoples' desires—extremely well. Although you'd rather talk your way out of a fight, you can use your silver tongue to encourage your comrades-in-arms and wear down your enemies' morale.

Your father once did business with Tsume Retsu, the late lord of Kyotei Castle. After all, a warlord who had only the nominal backing of his clan needed to arm and supply his army. It was on your father's behalf that you accepted this invitation to Retsu's son's wedding. Nasu Shizuma, Retsu's former advisor, would certainly recall the business arrangements you had in the past, and is your best bet for leveraging them again.

### NOTES

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OTHER IMPORTANT WEDDING GUESTS

**Tsume no Doji Takashi (Crane):** The bridegroom, and current lord of Kyotei Castle. Rumors say that he is weak compared to his much more forceful father, and can hardly keep the bandits in his lands in check.

If Takashi is unable to control his lands, trade with the Kintani will be quite difficult. Tsume Retsu would never have allowed such disorder!

**Nasu no Shiba Shizuma (Crane):** Nasu Shizuma is Lord Takashi's general and chief advisor. As a man well past retirement age, he also served the late Tsume Retsu in the same role.

Shizuma dealt with your father on behalf of Tsume Retsu, and was extremely knowledgeable of all of Retsu's dealings and affairs.

**Tsume Kotonoha (Crane):** Tsume Kotonoha is Takashi's captain of the guard. While Shizuma oversees the Tsume family forces when they venture beyond the castle, it is Kotonoha who is responsible for security within the castle—and for Lord Takashi himself.

**Tsume Yemon (Crane):** The head priest of the Kyotei Castle shrine is Tsume Yemon, a forty-something man who came to Kyotei Castle after serving as Tsume Retsu's spiritual advisor.

**Doji Kuzunobu (Crane):** As the husband to Crane Clan Champion Doji Hotaru, Kuzunobu is perhaps the highest-ranking guest at Kyotei. His attendance is somewhat perfunctory, however, as his mere presence allows Hotaru to relay her approval of her vassal without diverting her attention from the war at hand.

**Shiba Itsuyo (Phoenix):** The bride-to-be, daughter of the lord of Nikesake, a nearby Phoenix Clan village that was once threatened by Takashi's father. She is a skilled soldier, if largely untested, and has a reputation of quiet strength. Her parents are Shiba Katsuda and Chisei.

The daimyō of the Anshin province arranged at great expense for Itsuyo's robe to be custom-made and delivered. Clearly, this marriage is of great importance to the Phoenix Clan at large.

**Asako Maezawa (Phoenix):** The venerable Asako Maezawa is fledgling Phoenix Clan Champion Shiba Tsukune's newest personal advisor and representative at this wedding.

**Soshi Ozuru (Scorpion):** There are many courtiers of the Scorpion Clan in the Imperial Court—so many that Lady Kachiko can spare them for errands such as the one Ozuru has been assigned. Despite his refined manner, Ozuru is a relative unknown outside of Scorpion lands.

**Ide Torao (Unicorn):** Ide Torao is a trader who makes his living opening new roads and maintaining alliances for the Unicorn Clan. Beyond that, he is not especially famous.

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# Kakita Hikaru

## NINJŌ

Find a rival truly worthy of your skills with the blade.

## GIRI

You have been sent to see to it that Takashi gets married, so that he can maintain the Crane Clan's influence over the Golden Valley and dispel the concerns of his weakness that have arisen after his late father's passing.

## PLAYING THE KAKITA DUELIST

The Crane are the masters of court, with the wealth and status to prove it. The samurai of the Crane Clan are both the poets and the poetry of the Empire, at once the swordsmiths and the duelists wielding the smiths' blades. In every aspect of their lives, the Crane strive for mastery in all things, an ideal that the other clans can only hope to emulate. As a member of the Kakita family, you embody that ideal in by perfecting the draw and cut of the sword—*iaijutsu*. Whether you mean only to humiliate your opponent or deal a fatal blow, you do so in a single fluid motion, drawing your blade at lightning speed and resheathing it as your opponent falls. You excel at one-on-one combat, but you are also taught the niceties of court and the arts.

You know the groom from your time together studying at the Kakita Dueling Academy, although if he hadn't been destined to become a *daimyō*, he would have certainly studied at the artisan's academy instead. Despite his paltry skills, Tsume Takashi once challenged you to a duel but was recalled to Kyotei Castle before you were able to settle the matter. Deep down, you know he was afraid to face you and lose. He probably still is.

## NOTES



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You know Takashi from your time together studying at the Kakita Dueling Academy, although if he hadn't been destined to become a daimyō, he would have certainly studied at the artisan's academy instead. His skill with the blade is modest, and he is only a slightly better poet. Despite your differences, you consider him a friend, and you know that he values your opinion.

**Nasu no Shiba Shizuma (Crane):** Nasu Shizuma is Lord Takashi's general and chief advisor. As a man well past retirement age, he also served the late Tsume Retsu in the same role.

Shizuma was the one who suggested the marriage between Itsuyo and Takashi.

**Tsume Kotonoha (Crane):** Tsume Kotonoha is Takashi's captain of the guard. While Shizuma oversees the Tsume family forces when they venture beyond the castle, it is Kotonoha who is responsible for security within the castle—and for Lord Takashi himself.

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Takashi's poetry often made mention of the people who captured his attention, but none of the pieces he sent to you ever seemed to match Itsuyo's description.

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# Kitsuki Sora

## NINJŌ

The execution of the castle guard in the matter of the murder of Tsume Retsu seems like a convenient way to resolve the problem. You are driven to find out the truth surrounding the murder of Retsu and use their knowledge to the advantage of the Dragon Clan.

## GIRI

As a diplomat, ensure that the Dragon Clan is considered an ally of the lord and lady of Kyotei Castle (regardless of their clan allegiance).

## PLAYING THE KITSUKI INVESTIGATOR

For a thousand years, the Dragon Clan has watched over the others, recording the history of Rokugan. Now, it falls to them to ensure that the future of the Empire transpires in an orderly and elegant manner. As befits the odd nature of their clan, even the courtiers of the Dragon are unusual: the samurai of the Kitsuki family are most well-known for their keen perception and their investigative techniques that rely upon physical evidence. No detail escapes their notice, whether they are looking for signs of entry in a room or inspecting a crime victim to confirm the source of their injuries. But when their investigations lead them into harm's way, the Kitsuki benefit from the clan's martial tradition, employing their swordmanship and hand-to-hand martial arts to dispatch criminals.

You served as a Dragon Clan emissary to the Phoenix Clan, and your travels have brought you to the Phoenix city of Nikesake as well as Kyotei Castle in the past. You're familiar with the major players of both: Shiba Katsuda, Chisei, and Itsuyo of Nikesake, as well as Tsume Takashi and Kotonoha, and Nasu Shizuma. What struck you the most, however, was the paranoia and instability of the castle's head priest, Tsume Yemon. You have awaited the chance to revisit the castle and see if Yemon's fear has anything to do with the murder of the former Tsume lord, Retsu.

## NOTES



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Takashi was quick to accept the dubious accusation upon the guard who he executed for his father's assassination. Did he have a poor relationship with his father?

**Nasu no Shiba Shizuma (Crane):** Nasu Shizuma is Lord Takashi's general and chief advisor. As a man well past retirement age, he also served the late Tsume Retsu in the same role.

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The rumors that Doji Kuzunobu is a trickster fox spirit are wholly unsubstantiated.

**Shiba Itsuyo (Phoenix):** The bride-to-be, daughter of the lord of Nikesake, a nearby Phoenix Clan village that was once threatened by Takashi's father. She is a skilled soldier, if largely untested, and has a reputation of quiet strength. Her parents are Shiba Katsuda and Chisei.

The Shiba school teaches peace maintained by dedication and force of arms. If she was as good a student as they say, Itsuyo will likely rule the valley in practice even if her husband is the daimyō in name.

**Asako Maezawa (Phoenix):** The venerable Asako Maezawa is fledgling Phoenix Clan Champion Shiba Tsukune's newest personal advisor and representative at this wedding.

After a rocky rough start, Maezawa is sworn to Tsukune's service and loyal to her over all others.

**Soshi Ozuru (Scorpion):** There are many courtiers of the Scorpion Clan in the Imperial Court—so many that Lady Kachiko can spare them for errands such as the one Ozuru has been assigned. Despite his refined manner, Ozuru is a relative unknown outside of Scorpion lands.

**Ide Torao (Unicorn):** Ide Torao is a trader who makes his living opening new roads and maintaining alliances for the Unicorn Clan. Beyond that, he is not especially famous.

The Ide family are known as gregarious and their travels range far and wide, and you have never heard Torao's name. Perhaps he was outside of the empire until recently.

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# Kitsu Kohaku

## NINJŌ

Your uncle, Goseki Yobuhito, was a servant of Damasu Kojima, the slain Lion lord of Kyotei Castle. Find out what became of him so that the proper respects can be paid—his body wasn't among those delivered to the Lion after the massacre of the Damasu by the Tsume family.

## GIRI

The Golden Valley has been in spiritual disarray since the Crane violently seized it from the Lion Clan two decades ago. However, merely perpetuating the cycle of violence serves neither the people of the valley nor the sorrowful spirits of the dead—instead, you must find a way to end the cycle of hate.

## PLAYING THE KITSU MEDIUM

To be a samurai is to live and breathe Bushidō, but to be a Lion is to exemplify it to all others. For centuries, the Lion have dominated the military tactics and strategy of the Empire, pioneering new techniques and battle methods that other clans take years to adopt. Now, you seek to apply the wisdom of your ancestors to the trials of the modern era. The shugenja of the Kitsu family are unique in their ability to commune with the ancestors themselves, tapping into their experience and strength to guide the shugenja to victory. You are blessed with this technique as well as the ability to “hear” and speak to the spirits of the elements and the land. With the proper offerings, these spirits can turn the tide in battle or lend a hand in court. When matters are too trifling to rely on the spirits, you can instead make use of your extensive scholarship of history and military matters.

Ikoma Ujiaki, chief diplomat for the Lion Clan, expected an invitation to the wedding. After all, he had been invited to the castle in years past in failed attempts to make amends for the Crane Clan's slaughter of the Damasu. He has sent you in his stead due to your affinity with the ancestors in the hopes that you'll be able to glean something from any Damasu spirits lingering there. And if the chance presents itself, you are to help them move on to Yomi, the Realm of Sacred Ancestors.

## NOTES

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OTHER IMPORTANT WEDDING GUESTS

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Takashi's father, Tsume no Doji Retsu, was a bloodthirsty warlord, who slaughtered the former inhabitants without the Doji family's orders. They covered his disobedience up, but the ghosts of the past still cast their judgement upon him.

**Nasu no Shiba Shizuma (Crane):** Nasu Shizuma is Lord Takashi's general and chief advisor. As a man well past retirement age, he also served the late Tsume Retsu in the same role.

Despite their claims that they desire peace, Shizuma and the Phoenix Clan abetted Tsume Retsu's slaughter of the Damasu family.

**Tsume Kotonoha (Crane):** Tsume Kotonoha is Takashi's captain of the guard. While Shizuma oversees the Tsume family forces when they venture beyond the castle, it is Kotonoha who is responsible for security within the castle—and for Lord Takashi himself.

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**Asako Maezawa (Phoenix):** The venerable Asako Maezawa is fledgling Phoenix Clan Champion Shiba Tsukune's newest personal advisor and representative at this wedding.

While the Elemental Masters are looking into possible sources of the elemental imbalance, Maezawa has been sent to ensure that the Phoenix are strong in their military defenses lest any of the other clans learn of their difficulties communing with the elemental kami.

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Visitors to your shrine have told you that Takashi's used to frequent a geisha house called the Pine House, but he stopped doing so some months ago—shortly after his father's death.

**Nasu no Shiba Shizuma (Crane):** Nasu Shizuma is Lord Takashi's general and chief advisor. As a man well past retirement age, he also served the late Tsume Retsu in the same role.

Nasu no Shiba Shizuma is an extremely honorable man, but he has served the Crane Clan so long that some among the Phoenix fear he no longer represents their interests.

**Tsume Kotonoha (Crane):** Tsume Kotonoha is Takashi's captain of the guard. While Shizuma oversees the Tsume family forces when they venture beyond the castle, it is Kotonoha who is responsible for security within the castle—and for Lord Takashi himself.

Visitors to your shrine have told you that Tsume Kotonoha is a bit of a folk hero, and is far more active in dispatching the bandits disrupting the area than her lord Takashi.

**Tsume Yemon (Crane):** The head priest of the Kyotei Castle shrine is Tsume Yemon, a forty-something man who came to Kyotei Castle after serving as Tsume Retsu's spiritual advisor.

Tsume Yemon has sought to have the castle exorcised several times in the last two decades—but the spirits of the dead have never responded to his entreaties, or even those of mediators from the Isawa family.

**Doji Kuzunobu (Crane):** As the husband to Crane Clan Champion Doji Hotaru, Kuzunobu is perhaps the highest-ranking guest at Kyotei. His attendance is somewhat perfunctory, however, as his mere presence allows Hotaru to relay her approval of her vassal without diverting her attention from the war at hand.

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You've lived most of your life in Nikesake and have gotten to know Itsuyo and her family other the years. As a devout member of the Phoenix Clan, Itsuyo visited the shrine you worked out often and struck up a friendship with you, and you wish her only happiness in her new role.

**Asako Maezawa (Phoenix):** The venerable Asako Maezawa is fledgling Phoenix Clan Champion Shiba Tsukune's newest personal advisor and representative at this wedding.

Maezawa is highly respected within the Phoenix Clan, and his opinions carry great weight with the daimyō. Impressing him could help the Kaito family tremendously!

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# Bayushi Hibiki

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## NINJŌ

To feel in control, always. It doesn't matter the outcome, so long as you know that you've masterminded the series of events and have outwitted your rivals.

## GIRI

One of your lord's rivals within the Scorpion Clan has sent agents to this wedding. You are to find out what these agents are doing and why and report back. You are only to act against them if you believe their plan endangers the interest of the Scorpion Clan.

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## PLAYING THE BAYUSHI MANIPULATOR

From behind their masks and veils, the Scorpion smile grimly at the performance of their duty, for it is their sacrifice to be hated even as they execute it perfectly. It was the Scorpion Kami's contention that enemies need not be external to the Empire, and thus, the Scorpion fight fire with fire. Charming, ruthless, deceitful, and vicious, the Bayushi appear as the villains they claim to be. They are the sinister side of power, using the arts of blackmail, poison, and seduction to control the enemies of the Empire, all while dancing a fine line to avoid falling to true villainy themselves. For the Bayushi, the means are justified by the ends: a stable and prosperous Empire. Their manipulators embody this, and are expertly trained at finding and exploiting the weaknesses of others. You can turn almost any social interaction to your advantage, and you know enough tricks to keep yourself out of harm's way—or put an end to threats quickly.

Despite being only a distant cousin of the bride, Shiba Itsuyo, you have been graced with an invitation to her wedding at Kyotei Castle. You've only met her once, on a visit to the city of Nikesake in Phoenix Lands, but she seemed pure of heart and dedicated to her martial arts. It's people like that who allow themselves to be pushed around, and who suffer as a result. But even as a mere distant relation, family ties demand loyalty—and the loyalty of a Scorpion is absolute.

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## NOTES





OTHER IMPORTANT WEDDING GUESTS

**Tsume no Doji Takashi (Crane):** The bridegroom, and current lord of Kyotei Castle. Rumors say that he is weak compared to his much more forceful father, and can hardly keep the bandits in his lands in check.

Of course, you also know that Scorpion agents have been sent to pose as bandits in his lands, cementing this rumor of weakness.

**Nasu no Shiba Shizuma (Crane):** Nasu Shizuma is Lord Takashi's general and chief advisor. As a man well past retirement age, he also served the late Tsume Retsu in the same role.

Despite his duty to assist in waging war against the Crane Clan's enemies, Shizuma is a devout reader of Shinsei's teachings. He struggles to reconcile his last lord's violent ways with the words of the Little Teacher.

**Tsume Kotonoha (Crane):** Tsume Kotonoha is Takashi's captain of the guard. While Shizuma oversees the Tsume family forces when they venture beyond the castle, it is Kotonoha who is responsible for security within the castle—and for Lord Takashi himself.

**Tsume Yemon (Crane):** The head priest of the Kyotei Castle shrine is Tsume Yemon, a forty-something man who came to Kyotei Castle after serving as Tsume Retsu's spiritual advisor.

Tsume Yemon's sanity is said to be slipping as the weight of the spirits' judgement weighs upon him.

**Doji Kuzunobu (Crane):** As the husband to Crane Clan Champion Doji Hotaru, Kuzunobu is perhaps the highest-ranking guest at Kyotei. His attendance is somewhat perfunctory, however, as his mere presence allows Hotaru to relay her approval of her vassal without diverting her attention from the war at hand.

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It isn't widely known, but while a student, Itsuyo once thwarted an assassination attempt upon her sensei while the pair was meditating in a shrine. Despite being unarmed, she easily dispatched their attackers.

**Asako Maezawa (Phoenix):** The venerable Asako Maezawa is fledgling Phoenix Clan Champion Shiba Tsukune's newest personal advisor and representative at this wedding.

Maezawa has ties with the Asako Inquisitors, and is said to have served in their hunts for illicit sorcery.

**Soshi Ozuru (Scorpion):** There are many courtiers of the Scorpion Clan in the Imperial Court—so many that Lady Kachiko can spare them for errands such as the one Ozuru has been assigned. Despite his refined manner, Ozuru is a relative unknown outside of Scorpion lands.

Ozuru has been sent by a rival of your lord. To what end?

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# Utaku Azami

## NINJŌ

Minimize the suffering of the common people, the defenseless, and the innocent. Don't allow cruelty or injustice to continue to cause suffering.

## GIRI

As a warrior tapped to do makeshift diplomacy, ensure the Unicorn Clan is considered an ally of the Crane, and try to improve the relationship between the Unicorn and Phoenix clans. The Phoenix Clan is suspicious of the meishōdō magic practiced by the Unicorn's shugenja, and even tried to convince the Emperor to outlaw meishōdō.

## PLAYING THE UTAKU BATTLE MAIDEN

For eight hundred years, the Unicorn Clan set off beyond the Empire's borders to explore possible threats to the nascent Emerald Empire. After they returned, the barbaric ways they adopted in their exile continue to shock and disgust the other clans, yet the Unicorn remain fierce in their duty and unwavering in their honor. Of all the clans, they are best suited to uncovering foreign manipulation and infiltration, for they faced innumerable horrors and traitors in their wandering years. No other Unicorn family has so deeply and spiritually embraced Bushidō as the Utaku, who embody it in their elite Battle Maidens, the Shiotome. There is no finer heavy cavalry in the Empire than the Battle Maidens, and no finer equerries than Utaku men. In battle, your silent charge is as lethal as it is legendary. When mounted upon your sacred Utaku steed, you are nearly unstoppable. You bring to conversation this same determinedness and sincerity, and are a natural commander.

For your own reasons, you had chosen to explore the Empire as a messenger of the Unicorn Clan, exploring the breadth and cultures of the different clans on your own. While delivering one last message to the Imperial Capital, you were charged by Ide Tadaji to accept the invitation to Tsume Takashi's wedding on his behalf. You recognize the surname as also belonging to Tsume Kotonoha, a warrior alongside whom you've fought off bandits in the region. She is an honorable and capable samurai, and already a devoted friend.

### NOTES

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## OTHER IMPORTANT WEDDING GUESTS

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**Nasu no Shiba Shizuma (Crane):** Nasu Shizuma is Lord Takashi's general and chief advisor. As a man well past retirement age, he also served the late Tsume Retsu in the same role.

In his youth, Shizuma was a rather renowned yojimbo, famous for his skill with the spear.

**Tsume Kotonoha (Crane):** Tsume Kotonoha is Takashi's captain of the guard. While Shizuma oversees the Tsume family forces when they venture beyond the castle, it is Kotonoha who is responsible for security within the castle—and for Lord Takashi himself.

You met Tsume Kotonoha when you aided her against a group of bandits marauding the Golden Valley, and the pair of you journeyed for some time dealing with these ill-mannered ruffians. You consider her a close and trustworthy friend.

**Tsume Yemon (Crane):** The head priest of the Kyotei Castle shrine is Tsume Yemon, a forty-something man who came to Kyotei Castle after serving as Tsume Retsu's spiritual advisor.

**Doji Kuzunobu (Crane):** As the husband to Crane Clan Champion Doji Hotaru, Kuzunobu is perhaps the highest-ranking guest at Kyotei. His attendance is somewhat perfunctory, however, as his mere presence allows Hotaru to relay her approval of her vassal without diverting her attention from the war at hand.

**Shiba Itsuyo (Phoenix):** The bride-to-be, daughter of the lord of Nikesake, a nearby Phoenix Clan village that was once threatened by Takashi's father. She is a skilled soldier, if largely untested, and has a reputation of quiet strength. Her parents are Shiba Katsuda and Chisei.

While marrying a member of a vassal family might seem a step down for her, you suspect that Itsuyo's background as a warrior means she knows the true value of peace in the Golden Valley. You can respect the logic of putting the needs of the people above one's own, and in another life, Itsuyo might have made a fine Battle Maiden.

**Asako Maezawa (Phoenix):** The venerable Asako Maezawa is fledgling Phoenix Clan Champion Shiba Tsukune's newest personal advisor and representative at this wedding.

**Soshi Ozuru (Scorpion):** There are many courtiers of the Scorpion Clan in the Imperial Court—so many that Lady Kachiko can spare them for errands such as the one Ozuru has been assigned. Despite his refined manner, Ozuru is a relative unknown outside of Scorpion lands.

**Ide Torao (Unicorn):** Ide Torao is a trader who makes his living opening new roads and maintaining alliances for the Unicorn Clan. Beyond that, he is not especially famous.

You've never met Ide Torao in person, but the Ide family are known for their way with words and ability to find a friend along any road. Torao might be a helpful asset in this court, and perhaps he will regale you with traditional wedding song!

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## NOTES

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