

Translation: Peace Maker Kurogane Volume 4 - Chapter 18

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The translation below is provided by Sanada of Hana-mi.net

PMK 18

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Chapter 18

Dormant

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Souji: Ahhh!!

SFX: *stretch*

Souji: Booring...

Souji: I've been writing for two or three pages now!

Souji: Can't you write your own new year's cards, Hijikata-san?

Hijikata: Shut up! I'm only doing this because Kondou-san asked me to.

Hijikata: Move your hands, not your mouth! These have to be finished by today!

Tetsu: Um... Fukutaicho, if it's okay with you, I can help write too!

SFX: *blunt*

Hijikata: Absolutely not. Your handwriting is terrible.

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Tetsu:

SFX: *whimper*

SFX: *huff*

Souji: Look what you've done! You made Tetsu-kun cry!

Souji handwritten text: [Hijikata-san is a meanie!]

Hijikata: ...He cries over something like that?

Souji: Hey...

SFX: *pull*

Hijikata: The ink is drying up!! Come on, get to work!

SFX: *chirp*

Hijikata: ...The second year of Keiou.

Hijikata: The first day of the new year.

SFX: *swish*

Souji: Quitting already?

Souji: Is that you last one?

Hijikata: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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Souji:

Souji: Finally, no more playing secretary! Now I can write what I want to write...

SFX: *glance*

Souji: [He used to be so small, but he'll be 17 this year.

Souji: [It's not something you can measure every day, but he's really grown up.]

Souji: [Even though his brother worries about him all the time, lately Tetsu-kun has seemed so lonely.]

Souji: ...Ah...

Souji: But will the Ichimura brothers know what I mean?

Souji: *sigh*

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Souji: [Kondou-san and the others are still in Hiroshima.]

Souji: [How far will they go to serve the shogun?]

Souji: [Yamazaki-san will be a doctor when he returns.]

Souji: [It seems I'll be needing him as a doctor more and more...]

Hijikata: Kondou-san isn't even here...

Souji handwritten text: Oh no...

Souji: [Nagakura-san and Harada-san are as much fun as ever.]

Souji: [But lately they've seemed a little more reserved... maybe because they're missing someone.]

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Souji: [With the shogun in Kyoto, we're all acting as bodyguards.]
 Souji: [But the Toudou-san who used to grumble about that kind of work is now so quiet and unresponsive.]
 Souji:
 SFX: *click*
 Souji:
 SFX: *chirp chirp*
 Souji: ...I'm no good at writing.

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Man: That's Sakamoto-dono for you!
 SFX: *open*
 Man: Always one step ahead of the police...
 Man: But with respect, Katsura-sensei, if Sakamoto is ever arrested...
 Man: He might reveal that you and I are hiding out in Kyoto...
 SFX: *punch*
 Man: ...!!

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Katsura: H... how could you do such a thing!?
 SFX: *racing heartbeat*
 Katsura: After all this time...
 Katsura: You would frighten me like that!?
 SFX: *trembling*
 SFX: *panic*
 SFX: *heartbeat*
 SFX: *surprising revelation*
 Text box: Katsura Kogorou
 Ryouma: Awww, Katsura-san, you haven't changed... you're still so nervous and CUUUUTE!!
 Ryouma: Like a little puppy!!
 SFX: *squeeze*
 Katsura: WHAT...
 Katsura: What...!? Don't say such things!! I'm pouring my heart into this country...!!!
 Akesato:
 Ryouma: Aww, don't cry...
 Katsura: This is why I hate people who are bigger than me!! Why do they always say that I'm cute!?

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Katsura: Now act your age and let me go!!
 SFX: *molest*
 Akesato: Ryouma...
 SFX: *hmm?*
 Akesato: Is this actually Katsura Kogorou?
 Akesato: ...He looks like a little kid.
 Akesato: If Saigou sees him, that's it. It's over.
 Katsura:!!
 Katsura handwritten text: [To the secret escape passage...!!!]
 SFX: *grab and drag*
 Ryouma: Katsura-san!! Katsura-san, she's just a friend of mine!! Calm down!!
 Akesato:
 Katsura: !!
 Katsura: Is she an American!?
 SFX: *tremble*
 Katsura: Then... you...
 Ryouma: Not quite, Katsura-san!
 Ryouma: She's a 3rd-generation kid who returned to Japan.

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Akesato:Hm.
 Akesato: It's not exactly my choice, but for now I'm working as his bodyguard.
 Akesato: So I guess that makes me your bodyguard too, while you're in Kyoto.
 Akesato: You can call me "Sarah."
 Akesato: Pleased to meet you.
 SFX: *tremble*
 Katsura: Ah...
 Katsura: Ahh...

SFX: *whimper*
 SFX: *tremble*
 Sarah/Akesato: ...Ugh.
 SFX: *pet*
 Katsura: Hmph.
 Ryouma: Sarah!! Don't act like a child, you're as bad as he is!!

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Ryouma: FOFor the sake of his country, he's come alone into enemy territory...
 Ryouma: To continue his information gathering, he must rely on the kindness of others as he flees from the authorities...
 SFX: *shake*
 SFX: *whimper*
 Sign: "Free to Good Home"
 Ryouma: He's like a poor little stray puppy left under a bridge, hoping for a kind person to take him home!! (traditionally, you leave pets and children that you don't want under a bridge so someone else will pick them up.)
 Katsura: I'm not a puppy! I'm a patriot!!! (There's a pun here - Ryouma says "sute inu", "stray dog", and Katsura says "sute mi", "risking my life", but that doesn't translate into that's English well.)
 Ryouma: [He's so cute that you just want to lure him out with some food, catch him, and take him home to cuddle!]
 SFX: *roll*
 Katsura: [Th... that's not right!! I have a girlfriend, Ikumatsu!!]
 Servant: S... sensei!!
 Servant: It's dangerous to speak so loudly!!
 SFX: *angry noises(
 Katsura: Ah... yes...
 SFX: *shaking head*
 Katsura: Ah... are you sure there aren't any suspicious people nearby?
 SFX: *tremble*
 Katsura: I mean, given the way I look... you really can't blame me for worrying about being seen...
 Ryouma: Then I've got just the thing! I brought you a disguise, Katsura-san!!
 SFX: Yeah!!
 Ryouma: I found the perfect thing...

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Ryouma:*heart*
 SFX: *tadaaa*
 Katsura:
 SFX: *shake*
 SFX: *shake*
 SFX: *dramatic impact*
 Katsura:!!
 Ryouma:!!
 SFX: *Ryouma getting the shit beaten out of him*
 Servant: Sensei...
 Servant handwritten text: Ah... ah...
 Sarah: Quit it, Ryouma.
 Sarah: You can tell he's unsure of himself as it is.
 Sarah: Don't be careless or you'll get caught.
 Servant: Ah!?
 Katsura:?
 Ryouma: Unsure!?

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Ryouma:
 Ryouma: No, that won't do...
 Ryouma: This meeting is going to change this country's future.
 Ryouma: I want to thank Katsura-san again...
 Ryouma: For even associating with a ronin like me.

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Ryouma: You don't know him, so you can't say he's a coward or a deserter.
 Ryouma: If you really knew him, you'd see that Katsura-san is totally devoted to his cause!
 SFX: *tremble*
 Katsura: ...Can we stop this now?
 Ryouma: He gets a lot of disrespect.

Ryouma: But this really isn't the best place to talk. There's not much security, so anybody could sneak in.
 Ryouma: Honestly, it's best to stay underground.
 Ryouma: But I'm not in Kyoto because I'm really aiding the Satsuma resistance.
 Ryouma: Maybe I'm just a decoy.
 Ryouma: I'm not one of the really important people.

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Ryouma: I'm Sakamoto Ryouma, the Peacemaker...
 Ryouma: And I'll risk my life for a Satsuma-Choushuu alliance!!
 SFX: *running*

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Old servant: ...Your boat is ready, sir.
 Servant: Ah, thank you for your help.
 Old servant: ...There's one snag.
 Old servant: We have intruders...
 Katsura: The Shinsengumi...!?
 Katsura: And I thought we were alone...
 SFX: *shaking*
 Sarah: ...They were probably hiding in the boathouse next door...

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Katsura: ...Then it's hopeless.
 Katsura: I guess all we can do is stay here and hope they go away...
 Ryouma: That won't work.
 Ryouma: They'll probably stay in that boathouse all night, inspecting every corner of this area.
 Sarah: ...It's the 8th unit.
 Sarah: This isn't good...
 Sarah: They'll recognise Ryouma and me.
 Sarah: There's a man who knows our faces.
 SFX: *dramatic noise*

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Shinsengumi member: Captain Toudou, I've finished inspecting the cargo.
 Heisuke: And there's nothing suspicious about the passengers.
 Heisuke: Well, you're cleared to go. Have a safe trip.
 Boatman: Yes, sir.
 Shinsengumi member: Captain! Look...
 Heisuke:?

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Heisuke: Saitani-ya, Satsuma clansmen and government trader.
 Heisuke: Kimotsuki Kotarou and family.
 Heisuke: Saitani is a strange name for a merchant from Sasshuu...
 Servant: Oh... well five generations ago, my family moved from Higo...
 SFX: *nervous laughter*
 Servant: Thank goodness for these disguises...!!
 Shinsengumi member: And whose katana are these?
 Katsura: Those were a present from Daddy!! I was visiting him in Kyoto...
 Above Katsura's head: Fantastic.
 Ryouma: You're perfect, Katsura-san...!
 Akasato:!

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Sarah: [If he sees my face or hears my voice, he'll know...]
 SFX: *pounding heartbeat*
 SFX: *gulp*
 SFX: *pounding heartbeat*
 Sarah: [What should I do...?]
 SFX: *pounding heartbeat*
 SFX: *pounding heartbeat*
 Heisuke:
 SFX: *pounding heartbeat*
 SFX: *pounding heartbeat*
 SFX: *pounding heartbeat*

Sarah:

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Heisuke: !

SFX: *sudden motion*

SFX: *scratch*

Ryouma: Captain Toudou-san...

Ryouma: Can I have a minute alone with you?

Ryouma: There's something I want to say.

Heisuke:

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Heisuke: ...The disguise doesn't make you look any less suspicious.

Heisuke: I recognised you even with the beard.

Ryouma: So I guess you're going to arrest me, huh?

Heisuke: Well, it was kind of embarrassing to admit that I knew you in front of my men...

Ryouma: Sorry, I don't think so.

SFX: *click*

Ryouma: Hey, we're both students of the Hokushin Ittou sword school... kinda makes us brothers, huh?

Ryouma: How about we just pretend this never happened?

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Heisuke:

Heisuke:

Itou: [Are you sure, Heisuke?]

Itou: You know Sakamoto Ryouma's face, don't you?

Itou: If you see him, you must approach him before any of the other soldiers do.

Itou: [...And then...]

Itou: [Don't let anyone else deal with him. Just let him escape.]

Itou: [...Understood?]

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Heisuke: ...Fine. I don't care.

Heisuke: I don't have any particular interest in arresting you.

Ryouma:?

Heisuke: I...

Heisuke: I just don't want...

Heisuke: Anyone else to die.

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SFX: *strong motion*

Shinsengumi member: ...Damn.

Shinsengumi member: However you look at it, something strange happened...

Shinsengumi member: But the captain gave us orders. There's nothing we can do.

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Shinsengumi member: ?

Shinsengumi member: If he said that, maybe the captain is...

Ryouma: Ahhh!!

Ryouma: That was tense!!

Katsura: I can't believe we tricked them!

Ryouma: "Saitani-ya" is the name of my family's business back in Tosa.

Katsura: I thought I would scream and ruin the whole thing!

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Ryouma: Oh no, Katsura-san, you were PERFECT! It was amazing!

Text: [Amazing.]

Katsura: I was, wasn't I!? Wearing a disguise wasn't as scary as I thought!

Sarah: ...But this place is still dangerous.

Sarah: I don't know how we slipped past them...

Sarah: I almost lost it in front of the captain, but you saved me.

Ryouma: ...Naaah...

Ryouma: [The Shinsengumi...]

Ryouma: [The Shinsengumi are falling apart...]

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Ryouma: As soon as this alliance is done...

Ryouma: I want to come back here and set things right as soon as I can...

Text box: On the evening of January 21st, in the second year of Keiou (1866)...

Text box: Satsuma and Choushuu united in a military alliance with six provisions.

Text box: The Satsuma-Choushuu alliance would be the turning point in the war against the shogunate.