PASSAGE I

POVERTY—
A RAY OF LIGHT
GLINT

A SHINY NEW DAY! TIME FOR THE MASTER OF THE STREETS TO RUSTLE UP SOME BREAKFAST!

SPROING
TUMPA
TUMPA!

The master of the streets strikes again!

Come back here, you thieving street scum! I'll thrash you within an inch of your life!

TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
Dad always said, "Discretion is the better part of valor." Or was that Shakespeare? Shoulda stayed in school, I guess.
This was my dad's favorite manga... I'm using it to train to be a great warrior!

See? Here's where the hero fights one against three...

Too bad it doesn't cover one against four...

Someday I'll join a fighting gym and have a coach and be master of the world!

How about you, Pup? How're you feeling?

Ouch! That smart!

Not too bad, considering.

Yeah, I've gotten hit worse before. In the head than in the throat.
I think I have more to say.

Thank you for saving me from those ruthless creatures, but you are making a mistake.

Is there a way I can do this for real?

Something like this... Except I don't have that kind of power and even if I did, I'm not ready to take part in these kinds of activities.

I'm always hearing about how I can use my power to save people and help them, but it seems like I might be doing more harm than good...

What if I'm not ready for this? Am I putting too much pressure on you?
WAIT! I'M INTERESTED!

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

RULES?!!

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

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

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THERE WERE NO injuction AGAINST STEALING, WHAT WOULD PREVENT THE STRONG FROM PRESSING 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...

THOSE 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!

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 I possibly learn about fighting in a place like this?

Those people are so thin, a strong breeze would blow them over!

Huh?!

Great. Just great. Guess I got hit on the head harder than I thought and now I've sleepwalked all the way to nowhere!

VIP VIP

Oh well, might as well eat a bite to eat before I head back to the city.
Oh!

SIGH...

I'm sorry Sir, just a temporary issue. It's not as bad as it seems. There will be nothing to plant next year.

There aren't enough seeds. They're my only reserves. I'll be sure to water them.

You may see me next year, then.

Maybe next year...

Because the same heavy rains enough to grow our Cheerful Black Seeds, we need: 100 Each, 1000 seeds. I can't afford to wait, I'm out of business, I want to make some money.

100G 100G
WHAT A ROB! ALL THE MERCHANDISE ARE ALL THE SAME, ALWAYS TRYING TO PULL ONE OVER ON A CUSTOMER? EVEN recycle SCHOOL IS FREE?

THAT'S THE LAW.

A YOUNG MAN LIVES IN THE MAN'S SCHOOL, BUT YOU DON'T SEE MANY.

YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU?

RELUCTANT YOUTH TALKS LIKE YOU COME FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY? IS THAT TRUE?

YOU DON'T EVEN SWEAT, BUT YOU DON'T SEE MANY.

NOT IN THE MALL. IT DOESN'T GET ANY BUSIER ANYMORE.

NOT SINCE THIS MORNING. I'M WORRIED.

AND I'M A GROWING BOY, ES... MAN!

OF COURSE, WHEREVER YOU COME FROM, MEN EAT MORE THAN ONCE A DAY.

JUST LIKE HERE.

I HAVEN'T HAD A MOUTHFUL OF FOOD SINCE YESTERDAY. GRANDMOTHER HAVEN'T EATEN IN THREE DAYS SO THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN.

AND IF I DON'T SELL THESE SAUSAGES FOR A GOOD PRICE TODAY, I WOULDN'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 YAMS WON FIRST PRIZE AT THIS YEAR'S THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL YAM FAIR!

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

THANK YOU, MY NAME IS KYOEGHA.

I'M KI.

I'LL BUY RICE WITH THIS AND MAKE A PORRIDGE. YOU CAN HAVE SOME IF YOU LIKE...
My father was away in a village. When I was twelve, my mother wouldn't let me go shopping.

I was forced to fight. I had no choice. And when I came back...
...take this boy in my place, then, if that's what you want! I'm finished with you.

He hasn't been the same since 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...
WHOOSH

5000

CHOMP

OWWIE! OUCH!

AAAAAAWWWWW!
I'm not answering any questions! Why did you run away?!

FROM YOU! NOT ME!

And why are you crying? Because all I did was make everything worse for Sreega and her family? That's what.

What else could I do?

You could help them. 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!
I'm so hungry! I could eat a growl.

Harsh. Well, I guess he got the message.

Who needs a trainer anyway? I've done 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 Aveshia... Why doesn't Aveshia just get some chickens? It's her own fault she's so poor.

A talking chicken? You want to go over this again?

Hmmm...
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!

BEFORE I CAN'T RETAIN THIS FORM FOREVER!

TOMORROW I COULD BE ANYTHING— A TERRA, A COCOA OR A PLATYPUS...

Fwap! Fwap!
WHERE'S your pet chicken? You own it, don'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 flock of chickens and eggs to cull. 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 rooster?
I didn’t hear a bank loan them each a little money to start businesses. They had to promise if any of them couldn’t pay her loan or interest back, the others would pay it for her.

That the other men laugh at those men because they can’t take care of their families themselves.

My husband won’t let me join the cooperative.

He says women who earn their own money think they are better than their husbands.

But your husband ran off and left you. You can do whatever you want next for you and your grandmother and your children.

My grandson is a good man. He would never abandon his wife and babies.

He only ran from the evil spirits that possessed men when they are angry and drunk. Too much beer. He drank so the spirits would not make him beat his wife and kids after men will.
I TOLD YOU HE WOULD COME BACK.

BOW

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MY BELOVED.

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

DID YOU HEAR WHAT WE SPOKE ABOUT?

I PROMISE I'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HARM YOU AGAIN. I SPOKE IN THE VILLAGE.

SHEILA'S MOTHER SHARED HER SORROW. SHE SPOKE MORE THAN A WOMAN WHO TOLD SO HER FAMILY, LANDOWNERS AND HER CHILDREN.)

I OWE YOU BEAUTY. I WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR BUSINESS, AS BEST I CAN.

NO, YOU ARE A GOOD HUSBAND...
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? JOIN THE COOPERATIVE!

COME ON...

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

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?
SOON I'LL HAVE ENOUGH EARNINGS FROM MY CHICKENS TO BUY A LOOM TO WEAVE CLOTH TO SELL TO FOREIGNERS! THAT FOREIGN COMPANY PROMISED TO GIVE US FAIR TRADE PAYMENT FOR WEAVINGS 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!

THINK THAT EVERY COUNTRY WHERE EVERYONE CAN READ AND WRITE BUT NO ONE KNOWS THEIR GRANDMOTHER'S SECRETS OF WEAVING CLOTH!

IF THE GOVERNMENT EVEN BUILDS THE ROAD TO THE CITY THEY KEEP PROMISING US, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SELL EVEN MORE THINGS TO MORE PEOPLE.
WHY WOULDN'T THEY WANT YOU? YOU'RE STRONG AND RESPONSIBLE AND HARDWORKING!

I'LL GO WITH YOU! COME ON!

YOU'RE STRONG AND RESPONSIBLE!

WHAT IF THEY DON'T WANT ME?
WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER THEM?

I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE CO-OPERATIVE. IF YOU'LL HAVE ME, I PROMISE TO WORK VERY HARD AND SEND EVERY PENNY I CAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

YOU'RE WELCOME AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, AIBUSHA. 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.
I... Hmmm. You think maybe you better take it from here...

WINK

WAH-HAH...
WAY TO I HAVE TO
MOVE ON SO SOON.
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED
ME TO HELP ABISHA!

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

THAT WAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH IT!

OF COURSE
NOT!

NOOSH!

BRIDES,
SHE'S
MARRIED!

SPLASH!

YOU KNOW,
DRIED FISH IS
LIGHT AND
EASY TO CARRY—AND CAN
TELL YOU OVER FOR A LONG
TIME WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELING...

TUP TUP

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

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

OF COURSE
YOU WERE...
THIS IS MY NEXT TRAINING GROUND ...!!??
POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

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 forgo 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://youthink.worldbank.org/issues/development/
• http://www.netaid.org/global_poverty/
• http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/thematic.htm (Click on "Poverty" link.)
• http://www.worldbank.org/dev360/ (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:
• http://ddp-ext.worldbank.org/ext/MDG/home.do
• http://youthink.worldbank.org/gallery/mdggame/
• http://www.netaid.org/global_poverty/millennium_development_goals/

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://youthink.worldbank.org/issues/gender/
• 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://youthink.worldbank.org/issues/conflict/
• 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/donorcharts/ 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 78010, San Francisco, CA 94107-9913.

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, raging, fighting moves! The stakes get higher when Rei meets a young woman fighting just to survive! Can Rei vanquish the specter of poverty...?