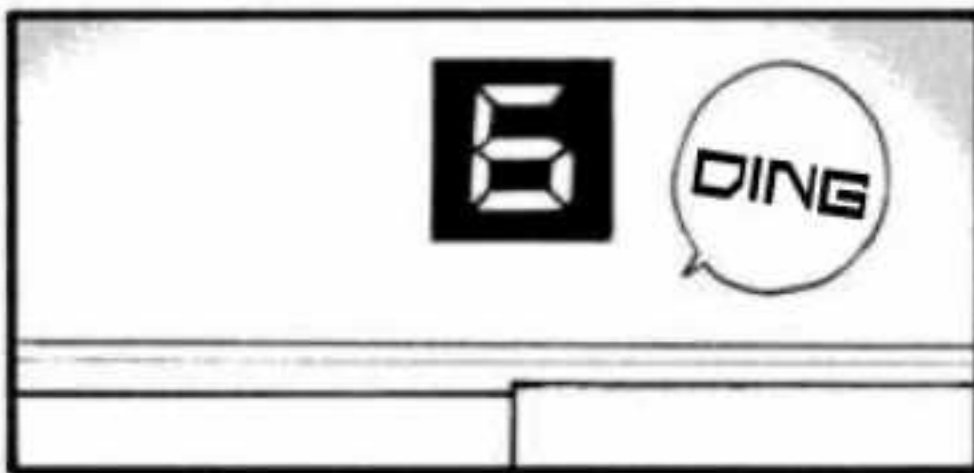


FILE.4

夕陽と階段

STAIRS IN THE SETTING SUN









THE SUN'S  
LAST  
STRUGGLE  
AGAINST  
DEATH  
...

THE  
WORLD  
BEGINS  
TO DYE  
RED  
...



WHO KNOWS  
IF I'LL SEE  
YOU AGAIN  
...

FADING  
SUNLIGHT  
...



IT  
WAS  
ME!

AH,  
NO  
...

IT  
COULDN'T  
BE YOU...

WHO'S  
SOLVED  
THIS  
CASE!?

SO WHAT'S  
ALL THIS  
ABOUT?







FOLLOWING THIS RULE, THE EMPEROR WOULD SIT ON THE LEFT, WHILE THE EMPRESS ON THE RIGHT!

HAVEN'T YOU WONDERED WHY THE OLDER OF THE TWO ADVISORS IS ALWAYS ON THE LEFT WHILE THE YOUNGER IS ON THE RIGHT?

ANCIENT TRADITION STATES THAT THE POSITION ON THE LEFT IS HIGHER THAN THE ONE ON THE RIGHT, SO SOMEONE WHO IS OF A HIGHER RANK WOULD USUALLY BE ON THE LEFT!



YES, ALL TOKYO DEPARTMENT STORES SET THEM OUT THE OTHER WAY!

BUT NO ONE ARRANGES THEM LIKE THIS ANYMORE, EVEN THE STORES DO IT THE OTHER WAY ...



YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE DOLLS, THEN THE EMPEROR WILL BE ON THE LEFT!

CONAN... YOU'RE WRONG! THE EMPEROR'S ON THE RIGHT, NOT THE LEFT!



AND SO ALL THE DEPARTMENT STORES CHANGED THE ARRANGEMENT OF THEIR DOLLS TO FOLLOW THIS!

WHEN EUROPEAN CULTURE ENTERED JAPAN, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHT OVER THE LEFT ALSO CAME WITH IT...



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING ...

HUH?

H-HEY ... CONAN ?



UN! I OFTEN CHECK UP ANCIENT HISTORY BOOKS AT HOME!!

HO... YOU KNOW SO MUCH FOR A LITTLE BOY ...



YEAH, IT GETS REALLY ANNOYING ...

IS- IS THAT SO?

YOU MAKE YOURSELF SOUND LIKE YOU'RE REALLY STUPID...

HOW COME EVERY TIME YOU TALK TO ADULTS YOU SOUND REALLY STRANGE?



HA HA HA ...

THERE ARE SO MANY CUTE EXAMPLES ♡



EH... BUT I THINK IT'S REALLY CUTE...

I GET IT! I'LL SPEAK NORMALLY, RIGHT? NORMALLY!!



THE CRIMINAL IS SOMEONE WHO SETS THE DOLLS ACCORDING TO TRADITION...

AH, EH ...

SO? WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE CRIMINAL!?



FURTHER MORE, HER HOMETOWN IS KYOTO WHERE EVEN TODAY THERE ARE FAMILIES WHO ARRANGE THE DOLLS ACCORDING TO TRADITION!

WHEN GRANDMA KANNO WAS STILL A LITTLE GIRL, PEOPLE STILL SET THE DOLLS OUT THE OLD WAY.

OR MR. MIE WOULD BE THE CRIMINAL!

SO THAT COULD ONLY MEAN GRANDMA,





BUT AS AN EXPERT IT WOULDN'T BE HARD FOR HIM TO FIGURE THAT OUT ON HIS OWN!

MS. KANNO TOLD HIM THAT FACT,

HOW WOULD HE KNOW THAT?



SO HE COULD HAVE PURPOSELY SET THE DOLLS OUT LIKE THIS BECAUSE HE KNEW THEY WERE KYOTO DOLLS...

MR. MIE HERE, AS WE KNOW, IS AN EXPERT IN ANCIENT THINGS, SO OF COURSE HE WOULD KNOW THIS FACT.



BE PATIENT!

YOU... YOU ALWAYS DO THIS...

WELL THEN? WHO'S THE CRIMINAL AND WHERE IS THE SCROLL NOW?



HUH?

IT'S ALL THANKS TO AYUMI AND THE CLUE SHE GAVE ME ABOUT "STAIRS"!



MS. KANNO WOULDN'T MAKE THIS MISTAKE BECAUSE SHE WAS THE ONE WHO CHECKED AYUMI'S DOLL ARRANGEMENT ...

BUT WAIT... THAT MEANS THAT MS. KANNO ALSO KNOWS OF THE OLD TRADITION...



S-SO THAT'S IT!!

FOR STAIRS ...



DON'T MOVE SO FAST, GENTA!

THE DOLLS WERE MOVED SLIGHTLY OUT OF PLACE AS HE CLIMBED UP !!

SFX: da da...

SFX: gara (rattle)



AND HID THE VALUABLE SCROLL UP THERE!!

THE CRIMINAL THOUGHT THE DOLL STAND LOOKED LIKE STAIRS SO HE CLIMBED THEM,



IN THIS CUPBOARD FULL OF TROUBLE ...

THE SCROLL'S DEFINITELY HERE ...



NOTHING ...

HUH?

SFX: su (door sliding)

SFX: rattle

SFX: rattle



EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A GOOD HIDING PLACE, IT CAN'T GET PAST ME!



WHEN HE MOVED THE STAND ASIDE, SOME OF THE DOLLS FELL OFF ...



THE CRIMINAL DEFINITELY HID THE SCROLL IN THIS CLOSET!

YOU'RE WRONG! THE SCROLL'S IN HERE!



NO...  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT  
ABOUT THIS  
DOLL  
STAND  
...

THERE'S NOTHING  
ABOVE OR BEHIND,  
SO THERE'S  
NOTHING TO THIS  
DOLL STAND...



THERE'S  
NOTHING  
HERE BUT  
DUST...  
AND  
SPIDER-  
WEBS  
...

W-  
WHAT?

sfx: pa (light shining on the interior)



WHERE  
COULD IT  
HAVE  
BEEN  
HIDDEN  
...

THOSE  
STEPS  
...



TO FIND  
A PLACE  
TO HIDE  
THE  
DOLLS  
...

THE CRIMINAL  
HAD LIFTED  
ALL THE DOLLS  
OFF THE STAND  
...



Y-YES  
!

OI, HELP  
ME TAKE  
ALL THESE  
DOLLS OFF!!

sfx: ba (tshwip)



IT IS  
...



ITS  
CURRENT  
LOCATION  
...



THE  
SCROLL'S  
STRANGE  
DISAP-  
PEARANCE  
...

I  
SEE  
...







YES, THAT IS OUR FAMILY PROTECTION GOD. I HID THE SCROLL SO THAT MR. TSUMAGALI WOULD STOP COMING AND TRYING TO GET US TO SELL IT...

PROTECTION GOD ?



THIS SCROLL HAS BEEN THE KANNO FAMILY'S PROTECTION GOD FOR SO LONG ...



PAST MISTAKES. YOU SAY ...

I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT PAST MISTAKES ...



FROM THE DAY I ENTERED THE KANNO FAMILY I NOTICED TWO ANCIENT SCROLLS, ONE OF THE GOD OF THUNDER AND ONE OF THE GOD OF WIND. WHEN HE WAS STILL ALIVE MY HUSBAND OFTEN SAID, "THESE TWO ARE THE PROTECTION GODS OF THE KANNO FAMILY"...

YES... IT HAPPENED QUITE A LONG TIME AGO...



THEY TOLD ME HE HAD COME UPON A HUGE STORM AND THE WAVES CAPSIZED HIS BOAT ...

A FEW DAYS LATER I HEARD THAT MY HUSBAND HAD AN ACCIDENT AT SEA ...



WHEN MY SON MARRIED, OUR FINANCIAL STATUS WAS SO DIRE THAT I HAD TO SELL THE SCROLL WITH THE GOD OF WIND ON IT WHILE MY HUSBAND WAS OUT ... I NEVER TOLD HIM ABOUT IT...

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THESE TWO WERE GUARDIAN DEITIES KANNO, THE GODDESS OF MERCY...



I THANK THE THUNDER GOD THAT HE'S TAKEN THE PLACE OF A KANNO FAMILY IN MEETING WITH SOMETHING BAD ...



EVERY TIME I SEE A NEW STAIN ON THAT SCROLL ...



I BELIEVE THAT ALL OBJECTS HAVE THEIR OWN SPIRITS, JUST LIKE YOU OR I...



SO THAT SCROLL USE TO BELONG TO YOU, AND WENT THROUGH MANY HANDS BEFORE REACHING MINE...



AND PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR IT AGAIN...



SO I WILL NEVER SELL THIS SCROLL, PLEASE UNDERSTAND...



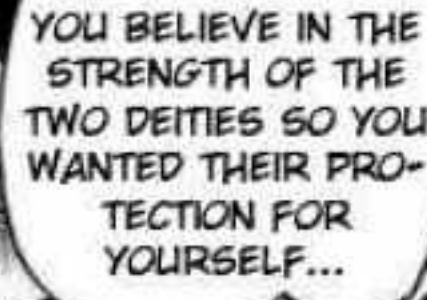
OH, DON'T REGRET IT...



I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE THEN...



AH NO, ONE OF THEM IS ENOUGH FOR ME ...



YOU BELIEVE IN THE STRENGTH OF THE TWO DEITIES SO YOU WANTED THEIR PROTECTION FOR YOURSELF...



OH I SEE... NOW I KNOW WHY YOU SO DESPERATELY WANTED THE THUNDER GOD SCROLL ...



CASE ?



I'LL FOLLOW YOU BACK TO THE STATION SO YOU CAN WRAP THIS CASE UP...



PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT, INSPECTOR ...



TO SHOW YOU HOW TO PROPERLY TAKE CARE OF THE SCROLL ...



HUH ?



I ALSO HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO, BUT I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW...



AH, I'LL LOOK AFTER THEM!

I'M GIVING THESE DOLLS TO YOU... BE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM ...

HUH?



THE OLD CAN THINK STRANGELY. I'M SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE...



WE JUST NEED TO REPORT THE CASE, AND IF WE'RE UNLUCKY WE'LL EVEN GET LAUGHED AT!

IT'S ALRIGHT! YOU DON'T NEED TO COME DOWN TO THE STATION...



I'M GOING TO ASK DAD TO FIX IT! THIS WAY I CAN THANK IT FOR PROTECTING ME!

SEE GUYS, DON'T YOU THINK THAT MY HINA DOLL GOT BROKEN BECAUSE IT HAD AN ACCIDENT IN MY PLACE?



I REALLY WANT A HUMAN HINA DOLL ...

BE-SIDES ...



AH, NO ...

I'M SORRY FOR GETTING ANNOYED OVER THE ARRANGEMENT!



IT'S NEARLY NIGHT-FALL ...

YOU SHOULD HURRY OR YOU'LL MISS YOUR CHANCE ...



HOW-EVER ...

VERY ...

REALLY ...





I AGREE!  
DID AYUMI  
CHOOSE THESE  
STAIRS FOR  
THE PHOTO!?

OH...  
IT'S  
AMAZING  
!!

THE  
SUNSET  
IS  
BEAUTIFUL  
...



WHY ARE  
WE TAKING  
A PHOTO  
IN THIS  
DIRECTION  
?

YES  
YES  
...

HERE'S  
THE  
CAMERA!



MITSUHIKO,  
HAIBARA, AND  
GENTA SITS  
ON THE STEP  
BELOW!

CONAN  
SITS  
HERE!



OK,  
EVERYONE  
SMILE  
...

LATER,  
LATER  
...

THE  
SETTING  
SUN WOULD  
BE MUCH  
NICER  
...

SFX: doki (heartbeat)

17



IT  
SEEMS  
AS IF  
...



THE STAIRS  
ARE LIT  
UP SO  
BRIGHTLY  
...

UNDER  
THE  
FADING  
LIGHT  
...



OH  
...



AH, IT'S NOT ...

WAIT, THAT MEANS THAT YOU'RE THE EMPEROR WHILE I ONLY GET TO BE THE ELDER ADVISOR!?

SO CHILD-ISH ...

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!!



HUH?

YOU ARE ALL HINA DOLLS!



LEAVE CONAN ALONE!!

NO ... !!



HAIBARA, COME UP HERE AND SIT WITH ME!!

HUH?



LOOK AT THE FIVE OF US ...