



Y I N - Y A N G
W I Z A R D R Y I I



162.

DADDY, WHO WERE THOSE PEOPLE?

The yin-yang diviner Kamo no Tadayuki was the equal of the greatest masters of the past, and incomparable in his own time. His advice and services were valued highly both by the court and by private patrons.

Tadayuki was just setting out to do a purification when fatherly affection made him decide to take along his nine-year-old son Yasunori, who sat beside him all through the rite. While they were riding home in Tadayuki's carriage, little Yasunori said, "Daddy?"

"Yes?"

"Daddy, during the purification I saw lots of people. They looked like people but they weren't, and they were very scary. They ate up the food offerings, then they got on the little boats, carriages, and horses you'd laid out and they all went away. What were they, Daddy?"

Tadayuki was amazed. He knew he had an unusual gift for the art, but *he* had never seen supernatural beings when he was a child. He had come to see them only gradually, as his study progressed. "Yasunori must be a genius if he can see them just like that, even now," he thought. "He must have the same gift that people had in the Age of the Gods, when supernatural beings and men mingled quite freely."

Tadayuki was right. Yasunori grew up to be a great master, and his children and grandchildren flourished in the same way.