

The Hundred Corpse Families

A Guide to the Sects of the Kuei-jin

This Packet is not meant to be an extensive retelling of Material written up in various sources(if you want an in depth reading on Sects you should pick up the various KotE books on the subject, this is merely meant to clarify the current situation for the various major factions moving forward as multiple books give conflicting timelines. More significantly OWBN history has been quite divergent from the Source material since the very beginning. This is an attempt to weave together the plotlines detailed in the various KOTE products with the History of our Organization into a coherent narrative

Note: Asia is an extremely large place if a particular local does not have a sect to call its own this does not mean the Kuei-jin of the area have fallen into anarchy it means it was never covered in any of the Books the presumption this packet will make is that any such location has no structure outside a local level, status is given on a local court by local court basis(each almost a sect in its own right). These local courts while much weaker than the great sects have significantly greater freedom and are more likely to accept heretical and unorthodox methodology. These localized courts are also quite unlikely to have any major interaction outside their immediate scope and are more likely to be used for back story.

Note the Second: this document may seem heavily biased towards Kuei-jin interaction with Kindred. This is generally in keeping with the Kuei-jin books, more time and effort is spent on the interactions between the two types of vampire than their interactions with other types of supernatural. This is generally because Kuei-jin make localized treaties with other shen and while there is often tension, it generally lasts. Kuei-jin have no reason not to be "good" when interacting with Changing Breeds, or Mages. Western Demons and Changelings would be a completely different matter as they are completely outside their perviews.

The Quincux-(Page 4 Kote companion, Page 35 Sunset Empires)

Background-

Legend says five immortal emperors were named by Xue himself to oversee all of Kuei-jin kind. Legend says these five emperors each formed an August Directional Court, Each with its own mandate. These Courts were the Black Tortoise in the North, the Yellow Emperor in the Center, the Azure Dragon in the East, the White Tiger in the West and the Scarlet Phoenix in the South. History tells us these Chinese courts imposed on foreign lands fell into corruption and internal strife and finally collapsed during the time of the Mongols.

In 1304 the Ancestors of the White Tiger, Yellow Emperor and Black Tortoise met(Along with many lesser dignitaries of the other courts) They reformed themselves into a much smaller body the August body of the Quincux. Supposedly witnessed by a Minister of the August personage of Jade, the Quincux claims to represent all of Kuei-jin kind(A claim that would be vastly debated by the other sects) and more uniquely part of their self proclaimed mission was the removal of all the children of Kain(sic) from the Middle Kingdom.

This mandate (along with a large populace of Kuei-jin who rose during the era of Imperialism) ultimately cumulated into the Great Leap Outward. A series of attacks ultimately meant to claim the Americas for Kuei-jin Kind (and more Directly for the Quincux) this situation was a mixed success to say the least.

Land was claimed, many promising young Kuei-jin were lost, and the Yama Kings laughed the whole time. Ultimately a treaty was signed in San Fransico between the Brujah Justicar at the time and an Ambassador for the 5 August courts(at the time only three had August ancestors). Being the Quincux of course they claimed total and utter dominion over all Kuei-jin kind, and at the time this was merely seen to be a temporary measure while the Quincux prepared to strike again.

Then the situation changed, one of the most ancient of Kuei-jin not to claim the status of Bodhisattva spoke out about the fundamental waste of the Great Leap Outward. He said that the strategy was flawed. Even his great age and political power might not have been enough, had the man's name not been synonymous with intelligence and strategy in China for over seventeen Centuries.

Zhuge Liang, the greatest genius of the Three Kingdoms Era of Chinese history, laid out his plans for dealing with the Kin-jin, more he single handedly forced the naming of a Flame and Flesh Ancestor. With the support of these two recently named August Ancestors he was capable of forcing the resignation of the Bestowed Ancestor Chiang and his claiming of the position.

This had been traditionally a figurehead position with little political power. Zhuge Liang would change this when taking the position. He would name a strategy for laying out preparations for the upcoming Sixth age, and would claim to deny himself the clouds until the seventh age dawned. His strategy

multifold in function made key use of Kindred. He would intend to create a series of visas giving official dispensation for some Kin-jin to work in the Middle Kingdom, if these could be accepted by the Great Courts of the Kin-jin(sic) they would ultimately police their own. His strategy would be to turn them against Akuma, turn them against the Yama Kings, let them expend their unending number against Thousand Hells was his plan.

Unique Stations-

Being the "Standard" of Kuei-jin society its odd that the Quincux has a number of unique positions, but its size and complexity has developed a few.

The Bestowed Ancestor of the Celestial Realms-Supposedly the intermediary between Kuei-jin and the Celestial Realms this position has in the past been largely a figurehead position. It bestows the general Status traits of a sitting Ancestor. The position is obtained by election from the 5 August Ancestors of the Quincux.

Bestowed Advisor/Bestowed Wu-This position holds no particular status but is rather an outgrowth of the existence of a Bestowed Ancestor. This is a term for those who work directly or advise the Bestowed Ancestor. They may be lent standing from the Bestowed Ancestor when working on particular duties. It is considered quite an honor to be named either an advisor or have your Wu working for the Bestowed Ancestor.

August Ancestor-Ancestor of one of the 5 August Courts They are a step above your "common" Ancestor, of which they oversee as part of the general division of china(So all the cities around Beijing are overseen by the Blood Ancestor even if each city might have its own Ancestor and court). They do not hold any extra standing for this position(though they hold significant personal political standing). An August Ancestor may command fellow Ancestors of their court(though such action can have consequences). An August Ancestor is required to vote on a the status of Bestowed Ancestor(though only a majority is needed)

August Advisor/August Wu-This is essentially the same as a Bestowed Advisor or Wu, but working for an August Ancestor.

First Oni-The General of Hell and traditionally held by a Devil Tiger, this a position of generally Mandarin Rank that functions as a Thunder for an August Court. Theoretically the Bestowed Ancestor can name one as well, Warlord of the Entire Quincux.

The Court of Blood-(KotE 166, Resplendent Cranes 38, KOTE companion p8, Sunset empire p 19)

The North pole of the Quincux and its head this is the seat of the Bestowed Ancestor, and the heart of the Crane Dharma. Situated out of Beijing, this court has long held influence over the Imperial Court, something that has disappeared in recent decades. This has forced a certain amount of adaptation that the traditionalist Court has painfully acquiesced to.

The Blood Court is second in the middle Kingdom only to the Bone Court in its reputation as a font of Learning, Scholars and Sorcerers from throughout the Middle Kingdom flock here to study esoteric tomes and learn from great masters on a variety of subjects.

Along with its scholarly acumen, the Blood Court is a political hot bed and claims dominion over all of the Quincux (and to an extent all of Kuei-jin kind) and thus sends Ambassadors throughout the August Courts (and often beyond) to shore up its claims. It is in this Court the Great Leap Outward was conceived and this Court which takes the credit for its successes and blame for its failures.

Recently of course the area has become somewhat tense, as former Bestowed Ancestor Chiang has been named Blood Ancestor, this is creating a political schism in the Court that can be felt throughout all of China. Ancestor Chiang and his supporters wait on baited breath for every news of failure, while those who support Zhuge Liang wait eagerly for reports of the success they know is to come.

The Court of Flesh(Sunset empires p 22, Kote companion p 9, Kote 169)

The Eastern Pole of the Quincux and often considered its weakest link, the Flesh Court is situated out of the City of Shanghai. It had always been the most moderate and progressive of the Five August Courts. This moderate state (and its traditional Thrashing Dragon bias) have often led to strong ties with Emerald Courts of the Hengeyokai. Its moderate tendencies (Along with the extended period of war) have led to a lax repression of heretical branches of the Dharmas of Xue along with a flourishing of completely heretical Dharma, while they may not hold standing in the August Court (unlike the Situation in Japan) they are not kill on Sight as might be the case in the Blood or Bone Court.

The Flesh Court, along with the Flame Court has long had to deal with extensive attempts at Kin-jin infiltration, this is why this Court was used as a testing ground for Zhuge Liang's Barbarian Plan.

More significantly than Kin-jin or its traditional ties what has most defined the Flesh Court since 1937 was the invasion of Japanese Kuei-jin. Initially this was a strike force composed of all the Uji of Japan (the Former Flesh Court Ancestor being assassinated by one of the Koga ninjas). It would ultimately turn out that the Japanese strike force has been heavily infiltrated by Akuma and the Uji would wipe their hands clean of the matter with the end of WW2.

The Akuma were a plague on the Court that has only been excised in the last few years, because of the instability caused by these Akuma no August Ancestor could be named and the Court was directed by a

group of Kuei-jin known as the Silent Mandarins, with the end of the Akuma threat and the Political backing of Zhuge Liang one of their number has Recently claimed the role of August Ancestor.

A Devil Tiger who calls herself "the Black Devil Cat" she is an odd mix of contrasts, she has strong legalist tendencies so much her detractors have called her the Devil Crane, but she is quite skilled with modern technology(especially for one of her age, rumor has it she may have been an Artificer in life). She has been a strong proponent of combining traditional magical crafting methodology with Modern sciences to create something greater.

The Devil Tiger Ancestor has lead to an increase in tension with the Local Beast Courts, but the strong presence of Thrashing Dragons has mitigated this somewhat, whether this is a sustainable state is unknown.

Along with the Flame Court, the Flesh Court is at the Forefront of Zhuge Liang's new Barbarian Plan, and will likely reap much of the reward and blame in coming years.

The Court of Bone-(Boneflowers 86, Kote Companion p 10, Sunset Empires p 26)

Perhaps the most conservative of the Five August Courts, the Western Pole of the Quincux is ruled out of the city of Chongqing. The general sparseness and rural nature of the majority of this Court's domain have been perhaps the greatest bulkward against Kin-jin interaction.

While the most rural of the Five August Courts it is also oddly enough the most learned, it is home to the famed Bone Library, considered by many to be the greatest gathering of supernatural lore on the planet. This Library is carefully watched over by the August Ancestor, Ku Zu, an ancient Boneflower who has held the position for the last six centuries.

While the Bone Court is somewhat unwelcoming to outsiders (even Fellow Quincux members find it difficult to access the Court's lands) the Court's members can be found throughout much of the world. This may seem odd at first but, there is a certain simple logic to it, in order for the Bone Library to be the most comprehensive library of supernatural knowledge its librarians must go out and claim it from those unwilling to part with it.

Ancestor Ku Zu abstained in the vote on for Bestowed Ancestor, and those who support Ancestor Chiang hope to sway her towards them, they have quite an uphill battle, as she saw little wisdom in the Great Leap Outward(and thus gave little support to it except to have her minions out claiming what lore they can get their hands on). She also sees little wisdom in the Barbarian Plan. She would support a more aggressive Strategy towards driving Kin-jin out of the Middle Kingdom, and to hell with what happens in the West.

Currently the Court seems to be busying itself with the search for Mount Meru, claims abound that as the least effected by Kin-jin infiltration, they are the most pure and most likely to find the sacred Site.

More cynical claims are put forth that as the only ones really looking for it they are the only ones to find it.

For such a rural region they have an oddly tense relationship with the Hengeyokai Courts, this dates back to the 19th century during which time a war broke out between the two supernatural types over attacks on Dragonests. Ultimately the Hengeyokai came out on top, claiming more nests from the Court than they ultimately lost. In the end no treaty was signed and the Hostility just faded into the background.

The truly embarrassing secret is that Bone Court lands are home to a Heretical "Court" known as The Survivors of Allah's Fiery Mercy. This is a gathering of Rising Phoenixes hinged around an obvious Muslim theme. This "court" has been a thorn in the side of the orthodoxy since the 19th century and continues to make problems for the Bone Court at large.

The Court of Jade-(Kote Companion p 11, Sunset Empires p 23)

The Jade Court, headed out of the city of Changan, is the spiritual heart of the Quincux (and some might claim the Middle Kingdom) it is ruled over by a Wise Centipede by the name of Go Shan Tang, he has held the position for numerous centuries and because of this one would think this might lead to a level of stability rivaling the Bone Court. This could not be further from the truth.

The Court has fluxuated from being one of the most conservative to being one of the most progressive, in the 19th century even heretics were welcomed to debate their flawed Dharmas, even more scandalous Kin-jin of the Sabbat were welcomed to join the religious debate to show what insight their Dharmas(sic) might reveal. The Taiping Rebellion ended this tolerance, and nearly ended this Court's existence, only the support of the Blood Court was it able to survive.

Since that time it has drifted to a more conservative bent, long past are the days of Heretics speaking openly, and Kin-jin debating with Bodhisattva. Even during those odd times the location was home to a powerful wu of Bodhisattva known as the Sages of the Five Fold Way. This wu has a representative of each of the Dharmas of Xue and on occasion has laid down dictates for all right thinking Kuei-jin throughout the Middle Kingdom(though this has been a particularly rare occurrence) They have been notably silent on the Great Leap Outward, and the New Barbarian Plan.

Go Shan Tang has not. He was an early supporter of the New Barbarian Plan and seems to be hoping to resume limited religious discussion between those of his Court and the debased practices of the West.

The Jade Court is generally quite open to outside Kuei-jin(and may soon be to Kin-jin) the general feel of the domain is an obligation to help fellow travelers along their Dharmas and correct those who have fallen off the path. This on occasion has taken a darker turn as fanatics wrapped up in their own arrogance have taken it upon themselves to see to it that Kuei-jin progressing too slowly at their Dharma increase their speed, and if they do not return them to the Great Cycle so their souls might have a better chance in another life.

The Court of Flame-(Kote Companion p 9, Wod Hong Kong 2e, Sunset Empires page 17, Kote Core 171)

Situated out of Hong Kong, the Flame Court is the Southern Pole of the Quincux. The Flame Court was one of the earliest victims of western Imperialism, going so far as to lose its head to a Ventrue Prince(The So-called Tai-pan Pedder). With the return of Hong Kong to the Chinese, most of the Kin-jin fled. Those who stayed behind ultimately became the deciding point on the future of the Court and perhaps the Quincux itself.

Two major factions vied over domination of Hong Kong and the Court, the Victorious Whirlwind and the Righteous Devils of Kwaloan. Both were lead by cranes, both claimed to be the guardians of tradition. The Whirlwind sought the utter obliteration of all Kin-jin, the Devils sought to subjugate them to a greater cause.

From the perspective of the Kuei-jin the Devils succeeded. While Jiu Yow was capable of becoming Mandarin of Court and came to press to Ancestor status, ultimately it was Anguo Chun, the more ancient of the two who passed the rites of Ancestor. Heaven saw Jiu Yow as unworthy at the time and thus her faction faltered. Support from the Quincux soon waned from her faction and now they have ceased to be.

As support came pouring in from factions at odds with the previous Bestowed Ancestor of the Quincux, Chun was soon named August Ancestor. He has since been an avid supporter of the Barbarian Plan, noting that forcing the Camarilla to clean up the filth in his Domain is a delicious bit of irony.

The Uji-(Kote Companion p 12, Wod Tokyo, KOTE Core, Sunset Empires p 62)

The Uji of Japan(Also know as Clans or Houses) have in a sense been there since the very beginning. When the Azure Dragon Court imposed itself on Japan, the Chinese Invaders found local gaki as they called themselves gathering in these localized "mega wu" structures. Eventually the Chinese would adapt, becoming House Genji.

They would dominate the Island until the rise of the Mongols and the Collapse of the Five August Courts. Those native Gaki who had been driven from power by the invaders has formed into a new house dedicated to overthrowing the invaders(who had by this time integrated fully). With the Collapse of the Azure Dragon Court, and being cut off from the support from the Mainland the Genji of this time period would ultimately be crushed. The Majority of this Uji would be executed but the Bishimon would show some mercy leaving some alive to be a kernel of resistance to their future rule.

The Bishimon would come to dominate Japan(much like their hated rivals) with the rise of the Kamakura shogunate, and would hold their grip on the island until the Meiji Restoration, at which time the Genji(who had grown back in numbers and power as the face of resistance to the Bishimon). The Genji would rise in power as Japan modernized. They would not however replace the Bishimon as both Houses would vy for control over Japan. The Genji would come closest to their dreams of domination as the armies of Japan sought to conquer Asia. With the dropping of the Atomic bombs and the slow but ending tainting of all of Japan's chi, the Bishimon attempted to take back many of the Cities they lost, they were partially effective, since then neither House has had sufficient political strength to dominate the isle.

Even without the political jockeying Japan has a number of pressing issues. The first is of course the tainting of Japan's chi lines. Numerous attempts have been made to cure the two great burning points and while there has been some success in slowing the complete corruption of the Island there has been little success in reversing what has happened. The Side effect of this has lead to two rather alarming conditions. The first being a number of Dhampyr babies born in Japan are true abominations, and even the ones not intentionally bred for monstrosity seem to have some sort of taint upon them. This has lead to a practice of traveling abroad to bred Dhampyr, it is known that the Bishimon in particular have begun making claims outside the Middle Kingdom for just such purposes.

The second and perhaps more damning effect of the tainted Chi is the rise of the "Antidharma" the Scorpion Eaters. If the Scorpion Eaters have a home it is Japan, in Japan they were first born, in Japan they made their horrible pacts. While the filth has since spread throughout the Middle Kingdom and beyond, it started here and is strongest here.

Somewhat related to the tainted chi is the validity of the Emperor. Many Shen in Japan blame not only the Atomic bombs for the tainting of their chi but also the Emperor's rejection of his divine status. One who is of the blood of the most ancient gods must sit on the throne for the land to be healed is the claim. While many search for a proper scion among the various lineages of Japan, more outlier views do exist, searching the world for other options(Some going so far as to hunt down the "blood of Jesus" to find a proper replacement).

Tainted chi, and the general effects of the Great Leap Outward have pushed the various Uji into a position hungry for new lands, and especially new Dragonnests, Japan while never becoming a possession of a foreign power has long had dealings with the Kin-jin. More so than perhaps the Quincux has the various Uji (especially the Genji) have had little to no problem using them as pawns against each other. The majority of Cainite interference with the Uji has been at the Hands of the Sabbat, so this would be what the Uji are most familiar with, their only real extensive interaction with the Camarilla came through the Tremere (who like in much of Asia merely used their sorcerous might to steal what they could). This does not mean that there would be no interest in interactions with the Camarilla (or independents) pawns are pawns after all, merely that their "base" view of the Kindred condition is built around the Sabbat.

The Political structure of the Uji proper functions much like the clan structures of medieval Japan itself. Each is an extended group of families generally holding to a particular area or ideal (sometimes both) of course being Kuei-jin such families grow only through adoption. Each uji is overseen by a Daimyo (the most senior of ancestors much like the August Ancestors of the Quincux) there has been no head of all uji since the death of the Kanpaku in 1945. To join an Uji a Kuei-jin must swear an oath to the Daimyo of the Uji and must not already hold such an oath to another group (for game purposes Hin or status 0). If the Kuei-jin does already hold status from another Uji (or foreign court) they must first gain permission from the Daimyo or Ancestor of that court to join. This will often lead to a loss in status. The uji are generally willing to allow the movement of hin who haven't found a proper place in society, but are much more loathed to allow a trusted member to leave.

Of secondary note, these are not all of the Uji that exist there are many that might just hold a single city, there are even "lesser uji" uji which are sworn to the Bishimon or Genji that are considered members of the larger uji proper but have a certain amount of specialization or diversity.

House Bishimon-

The Bishimon would like to say they are the guardians of tradition, that they are the true children of Japan. That they are modern Samurai (or Bushi as they prefer). The Genji would call them fossils left in the past antiquated relics.

Neither perspective is entirely accurate. Like many of the uji the Bishimon hold to more ancient traditions, most commonly the traditions that manifested themselves during the Edo period of Japanese history. While they might call themselves by archaic they have increasingly shown their rival House their capacity to adapt to the modern world and its options.. but on their terms. And not all traditions have proven to be a weakness, the tendency towards Boneflower assassins was born in this house, and still thrives after all.

In the aftermath of WW2 House Bishimon found itself ruled by the wise centipede Hakari, ultimately his attempts to hold onto tradition caused him to become more and more static, less in tune with his Dharma and ultimately out of touch with the world itself. In the year 2000 he rectified this situation by stepping down as Daimyo of House Bishimon (though not of Tokyo proper) and appointed his successor a Devil Tiger by the name Yoshida Ozaki.

The New Ancestor has reinvigorated the House, he has been key in strengthening the power of the Bishimon outside Japan. While such inroads had oddly enough begun under Ancestor Hakari, this was more as short term solution to deal with the Dhampyr problem, he had ruled no Kuei-jin of House Bishimon should conceive or bear a Dhampyr in Japan until a solution to the Taint is found. These initial inroads outside Japan have since been used by the new Daimyo to expand and strengthen the power of House Bishimon.

House Genji-(Kote companion p 13, Sunset Empires p 63)

The Genji are the enemies of House Bishimon. This is the one universal truth of the constantly evolving uji. The first group to call themselves House Genji The first group to call themselves house Genji were Chinese invaders from the Court of the Azure Dragon. The majority of this group was obliterated during the rise of House Bishimon proper, though there were survivors.

These survivors became the kernel of resistance as the Bishimon dominated politics of Japan for centuries. Overtime these survivors would die, or find enlightenment passing leadership on. Ultimately the Genji would come to be the House of Merchants, Artisans and others of the burgeoning middle class while the Bishimon would play at being Samurai.

As the Merchant class grew in wealth and power so to did the Genji. The Genji became the only House that looked outside, the only House that cared there was a world beyond Japan. This would ultimately lead to their push to domination.

With the opening of Japan by the Americans, centuries of Japanese society was turned on its head. With that the Genji made their move, when the Imperial forces forced modernization on Japan, the Genji claimed swaths of cities from their hated Rivals.

As Japan rolled across Asia the Genji came to dominate not only their own nation but spread as the armies of Japan spread. Perhaps they moved too fast, took too many risks. The many Wu who made incursions into Shanghai for example universally fell to the Yama Kings.

With the dropping of the Atomic bombs on Japan, the power of the Genji began to wane, and the Bishimon took back the ancestries of many cities. More perversely some of its members would go on to be early adopters of the anti dharma of the Scorpion Eaters.

At their darkest point, the House once more did what it has always done to survive, adapt. They have made deals with heretics and found enlightenment in the technological future of Japan. They are not

Bamboo Princes, they do not reject Kuei-jin society completely, but this House seeks to ride the cutting edge to Enlightenment. It is in this house one will find pacts with Plastic spirits, Virtual reality simulations meant to spur enlightenment and a thousand other oddities that play to the Modern soul of Japan rather than its past.

Genji are fundamentally pragmatic, while some of its devil tigers have been experimenting with making the most horrific of Dhampyr, others members of the House have looked outwards. This House was after all the first supporter of the Great Leap Outward outside Quincux control, and while that has meandered in a different direction, they have enough information to begin their own plans for claiming territory beyond the Japanese Isles.

While The Genji were more than willing to aid with the Great Leap Outward, it was not out of any particular outrage with foreigners. While Bishimon elders might scream in rage at the existence Kindred on their isles, the Genji have been far more pragmatic, making extensive use of the unique powers of Kindred to get ahead materially. More the interaction with Sabbat members and their own "dharma's" have spurred many a Genji to new and different views of enlightenment. They can only hope for similar successes when dealing with the Camarilla.

Unlike the other Houses the Genji lack a single Daimyo and rather are a confederation with each Ancestor holding equal say in the House. This gives them a greater level of versatility and adaptation, and some might say freedom than the other Houses. Bamboo Princes would of course readily disagree. The House did have a Single Daimyo at one time, he was the one who ultimately claimed the title of Kanpaku, of course the failure of that situation returned them to their traditional ways.

Houses Koga and Iga(Kote companion p 14, Sunset empires p 63,)

During the Middle ages of Japan the Iga province and adjacent Koka regions were known for their unorthodox style of war dedicated towards spying and sabotage. That is to say in the Real World there Japanese Clans among actual human beings in this general region by this name that were Ninja. Suffice to say that's exactly what these Kuei-jin Uji are.

They were initially a part of House Bishimon, a pair of specialized mini uji dedicated to the elimination of particular problems done quietly. The Iga were initially dedicated to the assassination of troublesome Demon Hunters(such as the Shih) while the Koga were initially dedicated to the assassination of other troublesome shen(and the occasional Kuei-jin). Over the centuries each uji took on a bit of mission creep and by the time they broke off with their parent house they had become assassins for hire. This is not to say there aren't other Kuei-jin Ninja(or that the various other uji do not have their own separate ninja, for example Kuro-sama the most illustrious of sensei still holds to the Bishimon though his students can be found among any Uji) but if you need someone killed for money this is generally where a Kuei-jin goes.

The Kuei-jin of these houses have adapted over time, taking up not only the use of modern technologies, but also more modern views of what a Ninja is, one will only find the most ancient of its members holding to a view that doesn't incorporate some of the fanciful additions that Edo storytellers added over time. This is not to say though that in some ways they do not hold to the old ways, both have their hidden villages of mortals and Dhampyr for training, and they have begun reaching out looking for new places to place their training camps... and new markets for their skills.

Sotogawa No-(KOTE Companion p 15, Sunset Empires p 63)

Welcome to House Heresy. For hundreds of Years the Japanese isles have been a bastion of the Heretical dharma, the Spirit of the Living Earth. Eventually the heretics grew in number and political acumen to force the acknowledgement of their uji. For centuries they were given grudging acceptance, until the Meiji restoration.

As the conflict between the Genji and Bishimon broke out, the Bishimon became more and more stringent finally moving to once and for all destroy this House of Heresy. The Genji ironically supported such a move in an effort to help modernization. Both Houses worked to purge the heresy from the courts and around the time of the Burnings were considered to have succeeded.

This was not the case, the Heretical House merely went underground, rebuilding its political capitol(making deals with both Genji and Bishimon who could use their expertise on cleansing rites, and dealing with the spirits). As the new Century dawned the Heretical House has once more stepped forward onto the scene of Politics in Japan. They have once more obtained acceptance by their fellow uji and any attempts at purging this House would be problematic.

Of course having just survived such a purging this House readily prepares for future attempts, looking to make deals with spirits of far off lands to grant new insight and to perhaps finally cleanse the taint that is seeping into every drop of chi in Japan.

Nukekubi-(Sunset Empires p 64)

Primarily based around Kyushu, this House is primarily known for its mastery of Flesh Shintai(and perhaps more esoteric shapeshifting arts) Their actions and skills with Flesh Shintai are so well known it has become reflected in folklore thus the longed necked Nukekubi of legend. This House is generally seen as a fairly neutral one, or that is to say it tends to move back and forth with it support of Genji or Bishimon dominance of the isles.

Taira-(Sunset Empires p 64)

This small and dying house is based around the Kyoto region. A House which calls the Bishimon "dangerous Innovators" has clearly lost touch with modern humanity, very few young Kuei-jin seek this house, and fewer still are accepted into it. It is only a matter of time before it fades away its lands claimed by another.

Echizen-(Sunset Empires, p 64)

This House came into being with the Introduction of Buddhism to Japan during the Nara Period. Initially created as a place to study the new faith, it became overtime the premiere House of sorcerous rites, chi manipulation and charm crafting. They were ready supporters of the Genji during the Meiji restoration as they had come to identify with the merchant and artisan classes much like the Genji and relished the downfall of the Shogunate.

During Japan's period of isolation they maintained strong ties with the Quincux, and Green Courts trading in Sorcerous lores and texts. They were initially curious about westerners and their chi shaping arts and were quick to study the effects of the odd rites the Kindred displayed.

Kirishitan(Created for this document)

The Kirishitan are not an uji recognized by any other uji in Japan(Though such might change in the future) this small rogue uji represents a little known aspect of Japanese history, its interaction with Christianity.

While never gaining vast acceptance Christianity was accept and readily preached during the late Sengoku period as Oda Nobunaga made use of the foreign religion to suppress Buddhist power. This would all change when Toyotomi Hideyoshi unified Japan and began an active repression of Christianity in Japan. As there were a large percentage of Christians martyred then and over the centuries that followed such on occasion became Kuei-jin.

Eventually the small group drifted together forming what others might call an uji. Of course as these Christian Kuei-jin were followers of the Heretical Dharma, the Flames of the Rising Phoenix said uji was readily repressed by Bishimon elders.

The Genji on the other hand cared little for such things and abused these would be martyrs during their conquest, they however did not end up recognizing the group, and ultimately during the upswing of Bishimon power in the aftermath of World War Two the repressions began again, at least in Bishimon territory.

The Krishitans have found lands outside Japan to be far more welcoming of their message of salvation, and thus have begun making inroads into western lands.

The Scorpion Eaters(Heresies of the way p 113)

The Scorpion Eaters are not an uji, they are not a sect. They claim to be a Dharma but even that is a lie. They are the antithesis of all that is Kuei-jin society. They are the rejection of Enlightenment, they are the rejection of Heavenly order.

They are discussed under the uji for a simple reason, they are most common in Japan. Japan is where this anti Dharma was born and unfortunately for the Kuei-jin of Japan it is where it is most common. While other sects might have to deal with gangs of these debased monsters on occasion, in Japan they

are capable of holding territory even in the fact of assaults by Genji and Bishimon. In Japan they are unfortunately a power to be reckoned with, which pleases the Yama Kings greatly.

The Green Courts(Dharma book: Song of Shadows p 33, Kote Companion p 16)

The Courts of Korea are collectively known as the Green Courts, they like the uji of Japan were once a part of the Azure Dragon Court. With the shattering of this Court the local Kuei-jin came to rule their own lands and maintain control against the manipulations of both the Quincux and the uji by holding up a strict sense of neutrality.

The Green Courts, are named for their prevalence of Jade, one of the largest sources in the middle Kingdom, this has given them quite a large amount of capital in the shen world. They have also extended their strict reputation for neutrality into a business venture known as the Parallel Path. Simply put if you can pay their price(Cash, Jade, information etc.) They can make you disappear safely. This option is open to Kindred as well and Kuei-jin though the price for Kindred is significantly higher.

Finally the Green Courts tend to be dominated extensively by the Bone Flower Dharma(boasting the dubious honor of possessing largest number of Ching Shih in the middle kingdom), and even those outside the Dharma are versed at least partially in the Necromantic arts.

Suffice to say they have gotten along quite well with the other Neutral, financially Sound, Necromantic Vampires i.e the Giovanni. The Giovanni have aided the Green Courts in keeping out any form of Sabbat or Camarillia influence in Korea, the Giovanni would tip off the Green Courts about any such push then reap the rewards necromantic lore exchanges and financial monopolies.

This informal alliance has become somewhat strained in the last decade or so. The Green Courts welcomed the Nagaraja bloodline wholeheartedly into their midst. They protect the vast majority of what remains of these Kindred and have reaped quite the benefit having discovered key similarities between Kindred Necromantic rituals and Kuei-jin rites.

The Fame the Green Courts have for vast reservoirs of Jade has been perhaps their ultimate undoing, their excessive mining schemes have begun to deplete the dragon's nests of the land leading to tension with their Hengeyokai neighbors.

The Green Courts seek little outside Korea in the form of holdings. Instead they are interested in new bits of necromantic lore, or new markets to sell the Parallel Path and perhaps new sources of Jade. They are currently wary about how other factions might use the seemingly inevitable fall of North Korea to make inroads whether it is the Chinese Quincux or Western powers.

The Golden Courts(Sunset empires p 83, Kote companion p 18)

Welcome to the lands of the cannibal queens. Southeast Asia, the eastern Jungles of India and even Polynesian islands bordering on Hawaii bow before these monsters. While there is little unity between the matriarchs of the various Golden Courts, they are beings of great power and savagery. While some of these Courts lands were claimed by Kin-jin for a time during the 19th century they since been utterly obliterated, even the pawns of old have been shattered nothing exists in these lands but the horror of these monsters.

Well, that's not entirely true. The Matriarchal setup that exists here completely and utterly keeps males out of any level of political power. This has lead to two fronts, the first would be the Golden Lion Court where males can dominate politics and create a land of order in contrast to the chaos of the Golden Courts. The raw brutal tyranny of Golden court politics also leads to a very serious problem, for males and some females the only way to really get ahead has become selling their souls to the Yama Kings. Suffice to Say the Golden Courts have one of the largest akuma problems in the Middle Kingdom.

The internal conflict with the Akuma has lead to the succession of the Golden Lion Court, and while many a matriarch dreams of utterly destroying those cursed males, the Akuma problem has grown far too severe to ignore.

Of course the Golden Courts have reacted as they always do, becoming more savage and greater monsters than the Akuma they fight, the Howl of the Devil Tiger is the most prominent dharma here with the Thrashing dragons a close second.

There is no unified plan by the Ancestors of this Court to reach out beyond their jungle homes, but each ancestor is a power in and of her own right, doing what she wants when she wants, if members of these Courts are found halfway across the world is at the beck and call of some jungle queen's whim.

Unique Stations:

The Golden Courts generally follow the pattern of the Quincux, with the exception of the fact that no male Kuei-jin might rise above the status of Minister. A Female Kuei-jin may petition for Jina must have at least three levels of Flesh shintai, and 3 levels of either Storm Shintai, Jade Shintai or yang Prana. She is then put through a rite to determine if she is an akuma(said rite mostly being 100 ways to ask "are you an akuma" while using various truth detecting powers). If successful she is named a lesser Pennangallan. A second rite is perform if she would later wish to gain the equivalency of Ancestordom, this requires dharma six, succeeding on this right bestows the status of True Pennangallan(or simply pennangallan).

The Golden Lion Court. (Kote P 20)

The court of Singapore has recently gained full and utter independence from the Golden courts that surround it. Long a dumping ground of exiled male Kuei-jin and other undesirables in the Golden Courts, this court has become a static and stringent thing.

Ruled generally by the Cranes, this Court cares about only two things, control and staying out from under the thumb of the Golden Courts. They will do whatever they need to maintain their independence from the Queens of the Jungle, going so far as to make deals with Kin-jin and send their running monkeys to search for new avenues of strength.

In order to maintain control an atmosphere of paranoia has grown, each Wu strongly dedicated to its "leader" and searching for those who might betray the Court, whether to the Monster outside, the Yama Kings or others that might weaken the hold of the Ancestors here.

The Court of Infinite Thunders(Kote Companion p 21, Heresies of the way p 15)

This Court is based out of Sri Lanka reaching across Bangladesh and even onto the eastern Coast of India. It is the birthplace and heartland of the Rising Phoenix Dharma and because of its placement has grudgingly accepted the Face of the God Dharma into its ranks.

Suffice to say this Creates quite a bit of tension between this Court and the Quincux and were it not for more pressing problems, it is likely the August Courts would name the entirety of this domain akuma. Ironically of course this location is the least prone to akuma of all the Kuei-jin Courts. This was not always the case as During the early Fourth Age Sri Lanka was the main base of operations of the Yama King Ravana. The first of the Phoenixes brought righteousness back to the Kuei-jin, united the other Shen and thanks to that group they were able to drive the Yama King from the Island.

Since then the Court has been a bastion of the Phoenix Dharma, along with the Cranes and unfortunately as it worked its way into India the Divine Tribe. Recent Years have forced the acceptance of the latter into the political arena, of course a Dharma dedicated to the belief that even Heaven won't keep its word is less prone to accepting Hell's bargains, so the ranks of Akuma have not swelled.

The court is known for its strong personal teaching of the Dharmas available to them, which also tends to cut down on the akuma numbers.

The Court has no particular push to expand outside its borders, though the Heretical Dharmas it contains may feel differently.

The Court of Nepal(p 37 resplendent Cranes)

The Court of Nepal is ruled by an Ancestor of the Cranes by the name of Ranjan Bhattari, while it is independent of the Quincux proper it takes much of its cues from the Quincux making it somewhat of a subordinate court.

The Indian Courts(Heresies of the way p 61, Sunset Empires p 48

Note: India is perhaps the most heavily contradicted location in the World of Darkness, every book has a completely different story on who rules where and how.

Both the Golden Courts, and Infinite Thunders Claim parts of India, and with the Death of the Ravnos founder So have the Quincux. Still India is a subcontinent so there are vast swaths of it unclaimed by others that share certain general traits. First and foremost and something that even the Golden Courts and Infinite Thunders Court must deal with is the simple fact that 60 percent of all Kuei-jin on the Indian Subcontinent are followers of the Face of the Gods Heresy.

While they are grudgingly acknowledges in the Infinite Thunders, and hunted as Heretics in the Golden, elsewhere in India they are the power. This leads to a view quite at odds with the Quincux and the majority of Kuei-jin society. Those of these Courts have their own rules and status structure that is not recognized outside their ranks, while there are members of the Standard Dharmas, even they are heretical in their views, they serve heaven out of devotion to a god rather than principle, and even Akuma are not seen as wicked so much as “the other side” as they are servants of the Assura, a valid path in its own right. Suffice to say between the Face of the Gods and the apostasy of the Traditional Dharmas the Quincux has worked hard to make inroads and destroy these domains.

What has always slowed down any real conflict between the Kuei-jin has always been the vast numbers of Kin-jin in the area. The Ravnos have dwelled in the area since prehistoric times, Ventrue and Settites since the Time of Alexander the Great, when Muslim traders came they brought their Cainites, and when finally the British came they did so at the Behest of the Camarilla. The Indian Kuei-jin know the Cainites well, and have gotten along quite well with those who adopted aspects of Hinduism(except the Ravnos.. who have inexplicably always thought they had a holy war against the Kuei-jin)

The Local Fera have also been pretty good at killing foreign(and not so foreign) Kuei-jin who step out of line

As there is no united face or front of the Indian Courts, their actions are scattered and varied, it is likely any action reaching out of Kuei-jin India will be at the behest of the Face of the Gods Dharma.

The Bamboo Princes

The Bamboo Princes are not a sect. They are not recognized by the great Courts, their prestige holds no status. What they are is simply a movement by younger Kuei-jin to drag the great Courts into the 21st century. They are a symptom of the generation gap in Kuei-jin society. While the minds of Kuei-jin elders are sharp, and are much more capable of learning new things than older humans, the gap is more created by the fact that past is a different country where people do things very differently. Then add to that elders have spent centuries working their minds into alien thought processes. Suffice to say when you give an Elder Devil Tiger an iphone, it's not that he won't understand its uses just that his thoughts on such will be radically different from anyone who took their second breath in the last quarter century.

Add to this the fact that the Great Courts are an organization that exists in the World of Darkness and thus has its own problems with corruption, and you have the general basis for movement. A loose gathering of young Kuei-jin who feel that modern resources are being poorly used, and that the Great courts are corrupt.

How these Young Kuei-jin see the solution generally varies. Some see themselves as Bamboo Princes and Bamboo princes alone. Some join Courts and see themselves as infiltrators, and some see themselves as loyal members of their courts who just happen to bitch about how crazy their ancestor is in a Chatroom. There are no requirements to be a Bamboo Prince, there are no vouchers, no ranks, merely what respect they can get from each other.

What the Bamboo Princes are not. Scorpion Eaters, first and foremost while both are a reaction to similar circumstances Bamboo Princes respect the Traditional Dharmas (some may accept heretics.. but the Scorpion eaters are that step too damn far). The Bamboo Princes are not pawns of House Genji to rule the middle Kingdom(some are but that's to be expected) While they share much of the same structures and use of modernity the Genji still hold to more authoritarian cultural views, while there are many Genji who are Bamboo Princes(or vice versa) generally speaking the Bamboo Princes push for a more democratic or communal view of ruling rather than replacing one Autocratic Ancestor for another who knows how to check his email. These are of course pure generalities, exceptions do occur.