

# THE DELIVERY

a Red Box Hack adventure

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v1.1

*You have responded to a call for mercenaries, and through asking the right people the right questions, you have found yourself at the port of Fujan on the mighty Jade River. Following your most recent information, you head to the docks and a particular unmarked building.*

The door is opened by a burly tattooed man. Many tough looking individuals mingle in the hot and smoky main room. In the centre of this room is a hexagonal table at which two figures sit, arm-wrestling. One is a fox with blackish grey fur, while the other is a tall, wiry man with a shock of bright red hair. The fox wins, and invites one of the pcs to the table. A Size contest results, in which Awesome Tokens are allowed:    If the pc loses, there will be some jeering from the crowd and the fox seems a tad disappointed, but if the pc wins, he will have the fox's respect. The fox introduces himself as Lu Hei. Soon he will begin the briefing, but there is a little time to get some food and drink. Never plan on an empty stomach!

## The Plan

In two days, a carriage from the Glorious Capital will be heading along the Eastern Road south of Fujan. The mercenaries are to capture the carriage and seize the contents. What they do with the contents is their business, but the carriage cannot reach its destination, the Seven Guardians. The mercenaries will split into two groups. Group A will attack the convoy; standard Imperial tactics dictate that the majority of the guards will engage the attackers, while the carriage and a small group of guards will retreat. Group B will lie in wait for the retreating carriage and engage; once the contents are secured, they will be taken to a safe place. Lu Hei claims to have no idea what is in the carriage.

*Info:* The Seven Guardians is thought to be a place where the boundary between this world and the underworld of the demons is thin, allowing transfer between the two on auspicious days.

## The Ambush

The valley is a rocky area covered in shingle and large boulders, making for treacherous footing, but plenty of cover and concealment (Arena: *Hazardous*). The road goes along the valley floor, where the footing is solid, but there is less room for manoeuvring (Arena:

*Neutral*). Group B will hide at the entrance of the valley, while Group A will attack from the other end. The carriage does not retreat as expected. Instead the driver urges the massive dray goats to charge Group A and break through the ambush, crushing both mercenaries and guards. If they haven't already done so, Lu Hei orders Group B (and the pcs) to pursue.

## The Chase

The pcs will catch the carriage, but there is a danger of injury as they attempt to catch it. Have fun with this. The chase, the leap to the carriage, the fight with the driver (Arena: *Hazardous*, obviously), the slowing of the carriage, and so on.

## The Package

The carriage turns out to be a passenger vehicle, containing a girl in her mid-to-late teens clad in simple but clearly fine clothing. Not at all afraid, she demands to know who the players are and what they plan to do with her. She is Yang Ling, one of the younger daughters of the Emperor himself! She is being taken to the Seven Guardians where she is to meet her husband-to-be, a prince of a rival dynasty (pcs may be confused about this as there are no rival dynasties, and only barbarians live beyond the borders of the Empire). The marriage is vitally important for political reasons, and the Princess is empowered to offer the pcs a reward to convey her safely to her destination. She must arrive before the Wolf Star rises above the horizon, which will be at midnight the following night; if they leave now, they should arrive before sunset. The husband-to-be is Prince Kintaro, the sixth son of the King of Hell. This is an age-old custom, part of the treaty between the two worlds, and she is completely accepting of her duty in this matter. She may be violated, she may die; none of her dynasty has ever returned, but then nor have the armies of the underworld been unleashed as they were in the days before the treaty.

What do the pcs do?

## The Seven Guardians

The area is a shallow bowl set among gentle hills, with a cliff running along one side, dropping down to the Eastern Ocean. The Seven Guardians themselves are stone pillars

about four metres in diameter and thirty high, with flat, slightly rounded, tops; each is carved to resemble one of the seven legendary guardians of the paths to the underworld. The pillars face outward and are placed equidistantly around a central circular stone platform. (Arena: *Open*, with the pillar tops as *Hazardous*)

### The Siege

Lu Hei and his surviving mercenaries will arrive as the sun begins to set. The fox will attempt to convince the pcs to hand the Princess over ("With me, she will live; the demons cannot promise that"). If this fails, he will retreat to his men, then order an attack with the goal of separating the Princess from her guard and spiriting her away. If they cannot achieve this, they will attempt to kill her. Lu Hei will duel with one or more of the pcs (likely the one he wrestled previously). The first pc to hit on a Face Die will give the fox a deep scar across one side of his face, blinding him in one eye.

### Here Comes The Groom

*As the blue Wolf Star rises above the horizon, the air becomes thick and your skin tingles uncomfortably. There is a sharp upward woosh of air, almost enough to lift you off your feet, and your ears pop. It is then that you notice the shapes all around.*

The groom's party has arrived. A number of pale yellow dog-like bipeds, led by a vast muscular blue-skinned creature with twelve eyes (three columns of four), and carrying a palanquin upon which rests a handsome human figure with pale white skin and blackish blue hair. The demons are not pleased about the battle, and the blue creature demands to know what is going on. If the pcs do not speak, the Princess will speak for them, and the demons will enter the fray on the pcs' side. If the Princess is not present, or has been killed, and the pcs cannot explain, the demons will attack everyone present.

### Aftermath

Lu Hei's body is nowhere to be found. The Princess will thank the pcs for their assistance and will give them a scroll, written by herself, requesting a reward on their behalf (10xp treasure). Kintaro will also speak to the pcs, but his voice sounds like a cacophony of breaking glass and crashing rocks, so it is impossible to tell if he is thanking them. They climb aboard the palanquin together, the strange atmospheric disturbance occurs once more, and the pcs will be left alone. The sun comes up.

If the princess is not present for whatever reason, the demons eventually retreat. Kintaro speaks to the pcs, and while they cannot make out his words, it is clear that he is making some kind of weighty threat. Then the demon party leaves as they arrived. The sun comes up.

### **Lu Hei/Black Fox**

Al+2, Da+2, *Two Things...*, *Night Eyes*, light armour, light weapons (two kukri knives act as one weapon); Clint Eastwood

### **"Carrot Top"**

Al+2, Da+1, medium armour, reach weapon (nodachi); cocky and athletic

### **Burly Doorman**

Sz+2, St+1, no armour, heavy weapon (rusty cleaver)

**Some mercenaries;** mooks

### **The Princess**

El+2, St+1; strong-willed and responsible

### **Shen Fong, the Princess' Servant**

St+3, light armour, light weapon (dagger); dedicated and stuffy

**Some Imperial Guards;** mooks

### **Prince Kintaro**

El+3; charismatic and wicked

### **Ong Gan of the Dozen Eyes**

Da+2, Sz+4, St+2, *Many-Eyed* x2, *Thick Skin, Throw*, light armour, heavy weapon (iron staff); ruthless and energetic

**Some demonic guards;** mooks