

## JADE REGENT SESSION SUMMARY 04/14/2013

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

*Bruce* amazes everyone by showing up in person again, bearing a new and improved webcam plus an alien-designed tripod to house it. He sets it up. *Chris* is able to hear it faintly whisper, “Breeep... Bow down before your new alien Overlord! Zeet! Voop!” *Chris* suspects that it has confused the miniatures with actual humans.

*Ernest*, *Paul* and *Matt* appear in quick succession, each bearing their own bizarre story of incomprehensible take-out food behavior. *Paul* wins the day with his story of the Arby’s clerk who didn’t think his sandwich order was appropriate. Perhaps because people like him shouldn’t be eating roast beef? Or because he should be eating additional roast beef?

*Chris* and *Bruce* march straight into an experiment in advanced webcam technology. They are pleased to note that the new webcam is able to provide a very nice image of the battlemat. Huzzah!

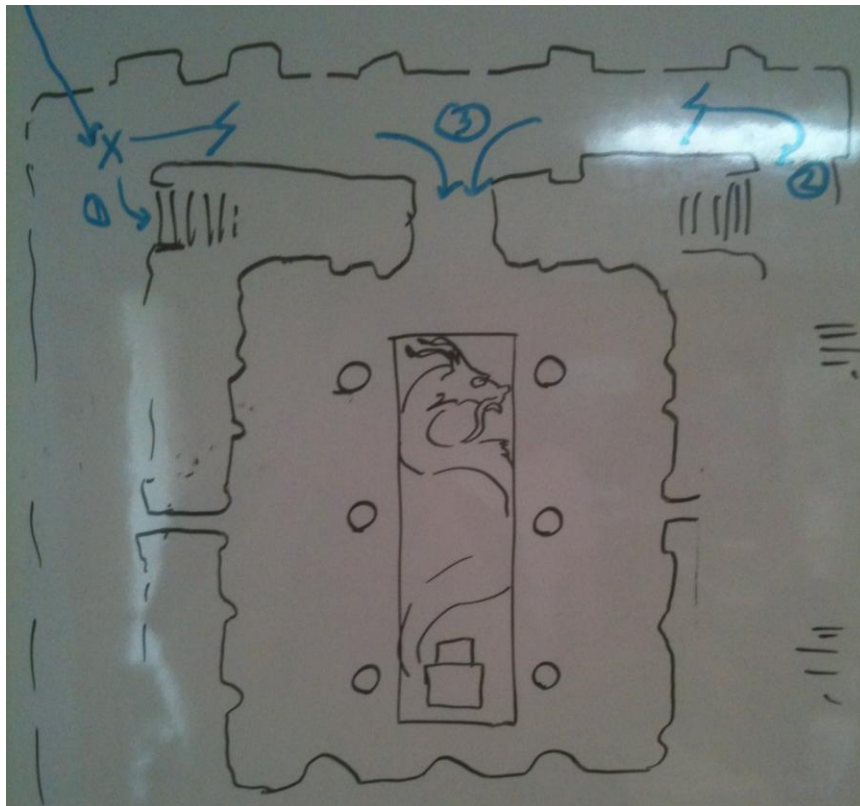
<i>Character</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Level</i>
Harwynian Fallingleaf	Bruce	Elegant Elven Transmuter	13
Yoshihiro Kaijitsu	Ernest	Tien Samurai	13
Jacob Frostfang	Matt	Cold-Loving Kellid Party Sorcerer	13
V’lk	Chris	Mute Feral Elf Stabber (and Oracle)	2/11
Gobo Samarillian	Patrick	Blind Gnomish Fortuneteller	13
Bjorn the Unlucky	Tim	Ulfen Woodsman	13

### PLOTTING THE PALACE ASSAULT!

The characters plot an assault upon the Palace to directly confront the Jade Regent. They are confident that the death of the *Raven Prince* and their arrangement with the Regent’s concubine *Renshii Maeda* will weaken the Regent and his ally *Annamuramon* enough that they can be defeated. The characters remember clearly that *Annamuramon* is a wind-oriented oni and thus will be immune to lightning bolts (and

resistant to just about everything else), for all that he publicly behaves like a middle-aged Imperial Magistrate.

The characters spare no effort to prepare, using a wide variety of expendable magical objects to fortify themselves. Harwynian ensures that everyone has *Mass Bear's Endurance* and *extended Haste*, and in a unique part of his preparations uses *Treasure Stitching* to encapsulate up four 10' x 10' piles of rock and debris into convenient tapestry form. His intent is to use the rubble to block up stairways on either side of the throne room so we don't have too many visitors.



## THE ASSAULT COMMENCES

The characters *Teleport* in to the third floor of the palace, arriving just outside the throne room. *V'lk* sneaks around the corner to peer into the chambers, seeing the Jade Regent bickering with Renshii Maeda about the ascension. Annamuramon is off to the side getting some tea.

Harwynian drops a *Treasure Stitched* block of stone on the stairwell, covered by an arrow with *Silence* cast upon it. *Yoshihiro* fires the arrow to the other stairwell. Annamuramon looks up. “I just saw something small and arrow-shaped flit across the corridor!”

V’lk silently curses the arrow plan. He casts a *Major Image* of the whole group entering from the opposite side of the throne room. Annamuramon drops his teacup. It shatters on the floor as he invokes a cyclone, surrounding himself with winds strong enough to stop ranged attacks.

The Jade Regent draws out his two-bladed sword and strikes at the illusionary V’lk. He is not gulled for long, yelling out, “We are being attacked by illusions! Is this your work, witch?”

Renshii Maeda protests, “Not me!”

The illusion of V’lk offers, “I’m not an illusion!”

At this point, Annamuramon gives up on human form and takes his true form to intimidate and demoralize his foes. He grows to a height of 20 feet with blue skin and huge snaggly fangs and a three-section staff. His three eyes glow with forbidden knowledge and crackle with electricity.

Yoshihiro stands forth and proclaims, “Annamuramon! Your domination of Minkai is at an end!” He challenges and then fires a flight of arrows at the oni. The *Cloak of Winds* buffets the arrows but cannot draw them away from their true target. Yoshihiro’s *Daikyu of Commanding Presence* is an ancestral royal weapon; Annamuramon is vulnerable to it, as he is vulnerable to the justice of the true royal family. The arrows strike deeply.

Renshii Maeda squeaks out, “Oh, we’re being attacked! I shall protect myself!” She casts *Shield of Faith* on herself and hides behind the throne. “I am still helping my allies!”

The Jade Regent grumbles, “Treacherous bitch!”

*Jacob* in his draconic form flies in to engage the Jade Regent. Harwynian tries a *persistent Slow*. Only Renshii Maeda is affected – both the Jade Regent and

Annamuramon shrug the spell off. *Gobo* scurries in to the throne room and casts a *Greater Dispel Magic* at Annamuramon, eliminating his *Fly* effect.

The Jade Regent issues a Demanding Challenge against Jacob. He gains a dramatic damage bonus against the dragon, and also enjoys bonuses to attack and AC against Jacob. His attacks are fierce and true, driving through the *Snow Shroud* to impale Jacob upon his blade. The first strike almost stabs Jacob through his heart; he is saved by his natural resilience as a sorcerer of the North. The second and third strike him on his side and his forearm, shearing away all the temporary hit points he gained from *False Life* and the tea ceremony. Jacob remains standing, blue draconic ichor dripping from between his torn jaws.

Annamuramon unleashes a *Chain Lightning* at Yoshihiro, Harwynian and Gobo. Their *Protection from Energy* absorbs the damage. Then he fires a *Burst Lightning* out of his third eye, targeting Jacob. Jacob laughs a pained laugh, “I have *Protection from Energy* as well!”

Yoshihiro fires another cluster of arrows at Annamuramon. He sends three arrows into Annamuramon’s chest, burying them up to the fletching. Annamuramon looks critically wounded. Renshii Maeda calls out, “Don’t worry, Annamuramon! I will heal you!” Then she casts *Destruction* upon him. Annamuramon is consumed by unholy flames. He collapses in a huge heap upon the floor.

The Jade Regent is horrified, “Maeda! What are you doing?” He doesn’t have much chance to reflect upon her betrayal, as Jacob is upon him with claws, wings and teeth. He tears through the Regent, leaving the man badly wounded. Harwynian moves up quickly and hits him with *Disintegrate*. The Regent avoids the worst of the spell, taking only a moderate wound.

V’lk strikes, and then banishes the illusions to simplify the battleground. Yoshihiro charges straight through the area they once occupied to strike the Jade Regent. His strike is flawless... but the Jade Regent spends a resolve point to turn aside the worst of the blow. Yoshihiro complains, “This isn’t fair! Fighting against samurai blows!” The Jade Regent only chuckles... but then falls because the gross damage from *Suishen* is enough to take his head off at the neck. His ornate helmet rolls across the ground.

Meanwhile, Annamuramon continues to regenerate. Harwynian and Jacob use fire powers to burn him down to his bones. The entire castle smells like overdone barbecue, and the area next to the throne is permanently melted into the shape of Annamuramon's corpse.

## **WILL YOU HONOR THE BARGAIN?**

Renshii Maeda comes out from behind the throne and asks if the characters will honor their bargain. They assure her that they will: she will be allowed to go into exile and her child will be fostered into the Amatatsu family (and thus will be in the royal succession, which could cause problems later on). Yoshihiro is silently smitten by the pregnant geisha, which will definitely cause problems later on.

## **THE TRUE EMPRESS TAKES THE THRONE**

*Amatatsu Ameiko* steps up to the Jade Throne and is proclaimed as the new Jade Empress. There are still some oni from the Army of the Five Winds in the country, even some quite powerful oni, but with Annamuramon destroyed they slink quietly away into the shadows.

The characters swear fealty to the new Empress, and then recover the Imperial Seals from the *Sovereign Dragon* who had been protecting them. There remains the question of what to do with them, now that the old royal families (except for the Amatatsu) are dead. The characters resolve to attune several of their allies to the seals, particularly:

- *Asachi Isau*, the old Aristocrat from Kasai who aided the rebellion when the characters entered the city.
- *Daimyo Sikutsu Itsuru*, who brought the armies of the North to the rebellion after the characters defeated his evil brother *Sennaka*.

- *Hirabashi Jiro*, the ronin who first stood against the forces of the Jade Regent in the North.

The characters are not able to decide upon a fourth ally to elevate to the status of head of a royal household. Elevating the geisha *Osayumi* would be a problem, as she is not an aristocrat, does not have lands or great wealth, and would not be taken seriously by the other noble families of the realm.

But first things first – before elevating anyone the characters run up to the ramparts and shoot off their remaining fireworks (they’ve been holding onto some since their first adventure in the Varisian swamps) to announce the death of the Jade Regent! The people celebrate with whatever bits of bread they had been able to bring into the city.

As a side note, the characters have the Sovereign Dragon destroy the ancient Ninja Coin. It puffs out a bit of evil ninja magic when the dragon roasts it.

## **THE SUCCESS OF THE REBELLION**

The people of Minkai celebrate upon the ascension of the new Jade Empress. The nation is devastated by war, but with the disappearance of the remaining oni and the return of the favor of Heaven the nation is assured new prosperity. But there are many additional challenges. There are other neighboring nations ruled by evil oni, devastated provinces to reconstruct, and a great worm underworld dragon that might threaten Minkai in the future.

- Yoshihiro takes on the role of a Minkaian aristocrat and commander of the Armies of Minkai. He travels the nation in the service of the Jade Empress.
- Harwynian establishes the House of Ten Thousand Pages to accumulate magical knowledge and train new transmuters. He travels the land with his magic, searching for promising new students to develop the magical resources of the Empire. He will stay in Minkai.
- Gobo and Jacob travel around all of Minkai with *Koya Mvashti* and *Sandru Vhishki*. Harwynian claims that he accompanies them, but by that he just means

that he will periodically *Teleport* to the caravan from time to time (“That doesn’t count!” “Certainly it does, it is much more elegant than slogging through the mud on the roads.”). Jacob intends to return to Varisia someday, then traveling on beyond to visit the lands of Numeria and the Riverlands.

- V’lk vanishes from the public eye. He travels through Minkai quietly, seeking out hidden oni and those who committed crimes under the old regime. When he finds them, he kills them. As long as he is allowed to collect scalps, he is happy to stay in Minkai.
- Bjorn intends to seek out *Kelda Oygutter* and make up for lost time. Yoshihiro hands him the key to Brinewall Castle – perhaps he will become the Lord of Brinewall. Along the way, he might go back to adventure in the Rift of Niltak (for all that the big worm-things there are CR 20 or so).

## **THE END OF THE SESSION**

Jade Regent ends with the Jade Empress re-established and the nation of Minkai liberated from the Army of the Five Winds.