

Sanity loss to witness the killing will unfold identically to the those described in "Encounter One: The Alley."

THE STATUE

When the investigators arrive at the scene of the desecrated statue, many pieces of the puzzle will fall together. A graffiti covered plaque will give a brief history lesson on the man the statue is dedicated to and perhaps reveal his motivations as an onryō. (See *Hin-no-Maru Papers #3*, this page.)

The fallen statue and its base are currently surrounded by construction zone sawhorses linked together by long strips of tape. On each sawhorse is a circular sign with the image of a hard hat-wearing worker bowing; below it is printed "PLEASE EXCUSE THE INCONVENIENCE" in kanji. The tape reads, "CONSTRUCTION AREA—DANGER—AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY!" However, there are no police or repair workers present when the investigators arrive, and it is easy enough to walk over or under the tape. No repair work has been done yet.

Evidence exists of long term offerings like rice and oranges being left here much like an ancestral grave. The current containers are smashed and damaged, scattered in the park.

The bronze statue is of a man in full samurai armor. The two ton statue has fallen from its perch to lie horizontally on the ground. It's not too badly damaged, but the arm is ripped off. The concrete base seems hollow. A Spot Hidden will yield a heavy lid seam that has been recently moved. If the investigators can bully the lid open, they will find human remains of great age. They are disturbed and possibly desecrated.

(The disturbed remains are those of the onryō. Whoever attacked the grave/statue is up to the keeper. This is the disruption that awoke the wrathful spirit to murder in the streets.)

Putting it to Rest

Encourage the investigators to look into traditional Japanese ways of putting a restless spirit at peace. After some research (1D6 hours of interviews at shrines and temples as well as the public library) it is determined that a Shinto priest can perform a rite of placation and purification of the site and a Buddhist priest can perform a prayer chant to rebury the bones. The statue must also be raised aright and repaired. If the investigators can do this before nightfall, they will stop the murder of the minister of finance. If they still don't clue into this as a solution, the following night it will be the prime minister who dies. Reburying the remains is only a stopgap, however; once an onryō is formed it never dissipates. If the remains are ever disturbed again, the onryō is sure to rise. (Depending upon how many encounters with the onryō there are and how much of the ultranationalist- astral serpent connection the keeper wishes to play up, the adventure can be extended by diverting the investigators from getting to the statue.)

Optional next step: Close to home

A devious keeper might choose to have either a close friend of the investigators or even an investigator become possessed by the onryō for its grandest attack yet. Its next target in the investigator's body: Mr. Sumitomo.

CONCLUSION

If the investigators stop the murder of Keizo Yabuki, don't kill Yukiko, and put the onryō to rest, award them a 1D10+1 Sanity bonus. If they don't stop the next two murders of politicians (Encounter One and Encounter Two) but put the entity at peace, award them 1D6 Sanity points.

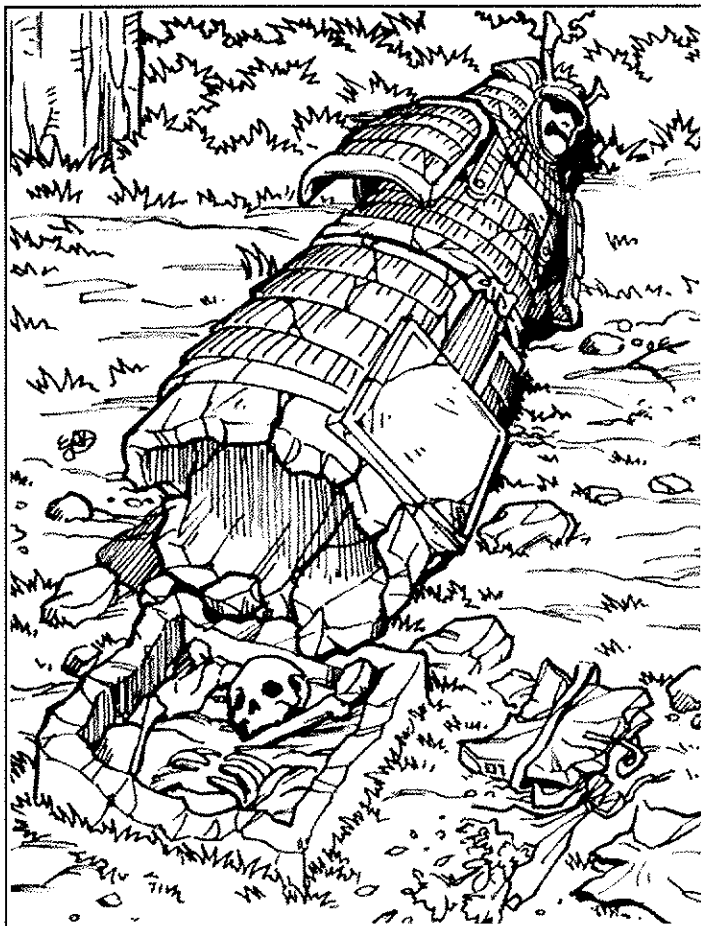
Solving this case will dispose Ryoma and/or the commissioner favorably toward the investigators. They will have, at the very least, a powerful favor to use at a later date. They could also use this gratitude

Hin-no-Maru Papers #3: The Dedication Plaque

TAKAMORI SAIGO (1828-77)

HERO OF THE SATSUMA REBELLION OF 1877

A brave larger-than-life samurai who belonged to the ancient and powerful Satsuma clan in Southern Kyushu, Takamori Saigo was partially responsible for restoring the emperor to power and forming the Meiji Government. Takamori grew restless with the direction of the government and organized a revolt with the Satsuma samurai. Armed with swords, he and his warriors fought valiantly and well but were no match for a peasant army using Western tactics and Western firearms. Badly wounded, Takamori committed suicide in the samurai tradition rather than suffer the ignominy of capture. Despite the Satsuma Rebellion, Takamori's bravery and spirit, his contribution to the early government, and his support for the Meiji Emperor he later opposed, guarantees that he will not be forgotten. Takamori is revered today for his dedication to principle.



Desecrated Statue