

J2 - Blades

Jirōji, Sukumo, Spring of 1657

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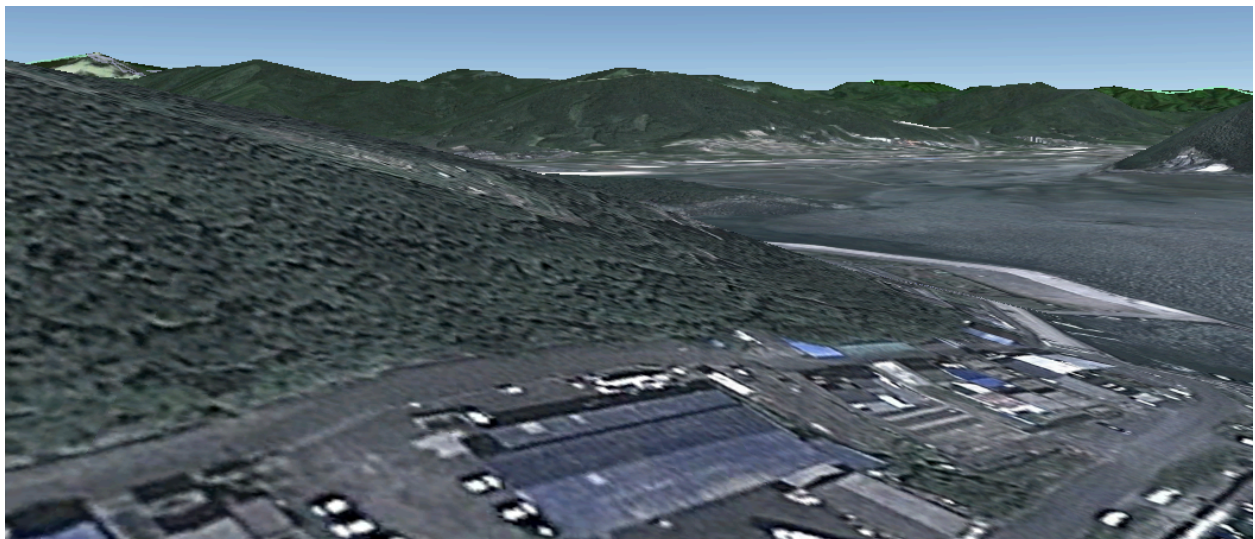
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Meanwhile, in a fishing village

For a reason that is unclear, zugaikotsu frequency is increased to 9 [-4 cps]. You old kami enemy is not activated.

Jirōji returned home by the last light of day with the proceeds from the sale, a finely crafted tantō and a new contact in the city. He meditated on the events and was struck odd as everyone were cowed while the samurai was indulging into rage. His ancestors made him the unfazed, happy man that he is and he felt blessed for the gift.



The fishing community in the foreground with Sukumo deep into the mudflat valley in the background. In the mountains beyond, the rumored location of the Umetō samurai.

Jirōji finds taxing as the presence of Umetō's skull becomes increasingly more felt. Apparent bad luck is more common: lines break and get tangled more often, some fish caught look unhealthy, even one of the neighbor's home burnt to the ground on the night of his return.

I'm giving you the option to do something during this week. If you simply go about your business, let me know and I'll jump ahead to the return trip to Sukumo.

Jirōji will spend the week praying extra sessions in the family temple to appease the Kami. But will for the most part go about his normal schedule as he thinks ahead to the end of the week. He will spend time praying and chanting as he looks for insight into what his best action will be to look for Umetō's heir.

He will prepare his son to come to the market so he will be free to return the Samurai's blade.

The shirō

Meeting with Naruto

Jirōji returns a week later with his son. His son takes care of the business while he heads up to the market. There he meets Naruto. The two men have tea and exchange a few news from Sukumo. Naruto tells Jirōji that a group of samurais went into the mountains to find Umetō, but he didn't know how this ended. The samurai came back at the end of the day and rode into the shirō without stopping.

Naruto entrusts Jirōji with the wakizashi.

"The blade is fatally flawed.", he claims. "It can't be fixed without replacing the blade."

Jirōji looks at the blade and sees no defect. "Oh, it will come back, this nick."

Naruto explains that he would say this to the samurai if he was allowed to meet with him. That, for his sake's, Jirōji should reveal this fact.

Samurai Morisawa

Jirōji has never entered the shirō. The place is for him a mystery. The mere mortal would be scared to enter, particularly considering the errand at hand. Jirōji, however, is impervious to anxiety. He approaches the gate where two ashigarus are blocking the way. They, theatrically and unexpectedly, point their [Naginata](#) at Jirōji.

"State your name and business. By order of the Magistrate, the shirō is off limit."

Jirōji will give all proper respect, and state that he is delivering Samurai Morisawa's wakizashi, as he was requested to do. He will explain that due to his prior military experience, the Samurai requested that he deliver the blade as opposed to the smith.

Reaction: Elder commands respect (+1), 12 vs. Savoir-faire(military)-13 (+1) and the sergeant resist with 10 vs Will-10 against Jirōji's jovial demeanor. Reactions assessed as either good or very good.

The sergeant of the guard is at first reluctant and states orders to keep the castle shut from visitors. Jirōji tried to smooth things with a smile and a good word, but his hand at talking to soldiers does the trick the most. The sergeant listens to his requests and allows him to enter the first courtyard of the Shiro. There, he finds himself in a place designed as a kill zone for archers. He notices that there are much more guards and archers on post as he would have imagined. The atmosphere feels like war, but there are no reasons that Jirōji can think of as to why this would be so.

Reaction with Morisawa: Elder commands respect (+1), 15 vs. Savoir-faire(military)-13 and the sergeant fails to resist with 12 vs Will-11 (+1) against Jirōji's jovial demeanor. Reactions assessed as poor to neutral.

Morisawa is summoned to the courtyard to meet with the fisherman. Jirōji, always completely cool comes across more as out of place amongst the soldiers and is quickly rebuked into business. Morisawa takes the wakizashi and draws it out of the scabbard. The freshly polished blade shines in the sun and flickers in Jirōji's eye. He holds the blade in a veiled, but threatening manner within Jirōji's personal space.

"You spoke of the past as an ashigaru, peasant.", speaks Morisawa. Jirōji nods.

"By order of Magistrate Sukumo, I command you to join my patrol."

Jirōji is aware that such levy isn't quite kosher, but he is unsure as to whether debating with the samurais would be construed as disrespectful. Morisawa's demeanor is difficult to read, but is not friendly. He doesn't understand why the magistrate wouldn't be using his own men for a patrol and he suspects that Morisawa's patrol is a private venture.

He will bow, doing his best to read Morisawa's intent, and say "I am honored by your request, but I am no longer a young man. As an elder among the fishermen, I may be more able to serve you by ensuring the catch remains stable."

<he will hold back any of the Smith's information about the blade until he has a better read on Morisawa>

GM writes in black.

Jason writes in burgundy.

Jeromy writes in purple.

Travis writes in orange.

Technical details are in gray and italicized. One level of indentation