

SEAL OF THE WHEEL

The Ascended Sourcebook



TONYM



Blewer, Brooks, Mangold and Searcy



Table of Contents

1. History from the Outside

An Introduction to 1850 and 1996 4

2. History From the Inside

The Evolution of the Lodge 10

3. Spokes of the Wheel

The Families and the Pledged 19

4. Movers and Shakers

Who's Who 55

5. Wheel Sites

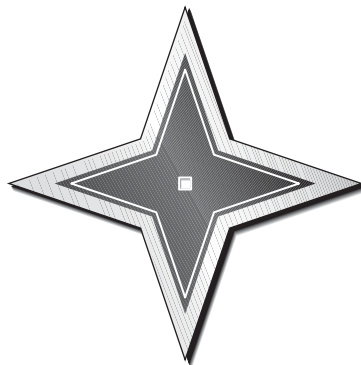
Where it All Goes Down 70

6. Campaign Resources

Fighting Like Cats and Dogs 78

7. Adventure!

Double Stunts as Stunt Doubles 110



Spring, the Ninth Year of Emperor Ming Ti's Reign

Bei Tairong stretched, experimenting with her new shape's limits. Years spent meditating on the human form had brought her the ascension she'd so dearly sought. Reveling in her new body as she carefully selected clothing that would stand the journey before her, she didn't expect to be disturbed. The rough hands that grabbed her by the arm and the gruff voice that shouted "Thief!" disabused her of that expectation. Tairong reacted with reflexes honed from years of hunting; she spun around and snapped her foot into the man's midsection. He let go and choked for air. The man's clothing identified him as a provincial guard.

Tairong scooped the clothes into her arms and dove through the window, not wanting to face the guards.

All this for a change of clothes. Humans are so complicated.

She hid between two buildings long enough to catch her breath and change out of the filthy garments she'd taken from the bandits on the road to Yichang. The new clothes were more comfortable and didn't stink of the road and unwashed peasants. Before she finished, more guards prowled Yichang's streets, presumably seeking the thief who'd just robbed the governor's daughter. Two stopped at the far end of the house serving as her shelter and approached.

"This is practically under her window, the thief is probably nearby."

The other sounded more dubious. "Not a smart thief. He'd —"

Tairong leapt from the shadows, punching the second guard in the throat and grabbing the first before he could react.

Tairong whispered softly into the guard's ear. "Guide me out of here. If you betray me, I'll rip your throat out." The guard swallowed. Twice.

"The governor will —"

Tairong snarled in response. "I will kill you first!" Something in her tone, or the way her eyes reflected the light, changed his mind and he swiftly guided her out of the city, avoiding other guards. Once outside Yichang, a growl sent the guard away. Fast. Not that she expected it to help

much. The guard would probably be back soon with a dozen more just like him, all intent on slowly skinning her. Tairong started into the forest at top speed and looked for a place to hide, rest, and recover her strength. Only a few miles into the hilly woods, she found a cave under an ancient tree. Thick, ropy roots nearly concealed the entrance.

Inside, Tairong found the cave a bit more spacious than she had expected, with a dimly lit passage leading further down. Tairong hesitated momentarily before she followed the passage.

There should be no light here.

The passage twisted and turned against itself, often defying logic and common sense, sometimes shrinking so that she had to squeeze through, and sometimes broad enough for a team of horses.

Tairong spent some time searching for the source of the unearthly light. But since she was already exhausted from her escape and the oppressive warmth and humidity in the caves, she finally gave up, found a comfortable niche, and slept.

Tairong's slumber was not long or restful. Half-formed shadows and bizarre creatures haunted her dreams. She awakened to the sensation of a large lump of muscle, scales, slime, and fangs lifting her bodily from the ground. A blast of hot, fetid air accompanied a half-intelligible growl from the beast.

"Your soul, I eat."

Tairong quickly planted both feet against the wall for leverage, crossed her arms against the thing's snout and pushed! The beast stumbled away, released its grip, and let her fall to the floor and roll to her feet. Tairong followed the roll with an impressive leap, slamming into the beast's chest and knocking it to the ground. She was ready to follow up on its throat when its ponderous tail swept her legs from under her.

As Tairong recovered from the fall, the beast pulled itself to its feet, distending its already immense jaw and revealing row after row of razor-sharp teeth. Tairong barely rolled out of the way as the massive fang-lined mouth slammed into the ground, gouging her arm. When it pulled back for another attack, she lunged for its throat, biting deeply into the tough flesh, the bitter ichor



Index

- Academies, Zodiac
 Martial Arts 33, 70-71
- Adams, Lytle 102-103
- Adeleke Ayidaga, Dr. 45
- Adrenal Boost,
 Enhanced 91
- Agenda, The Extinction 30
- Agent type, Pledged 87
- Agent, Typical Named
 Fist Agent 32
- Agent, Typical Named
 Jackal 41-42
- Agent, Typical Named
 Web 25
- Archeologist type, Two-
 Fisted 89
- Area 51 71-72
- Arena, Situation 75
- Ascended, history of the
 12-18, 35-36
- Ascended, The True 30
- attunement, double 104
- Automaton, The
 Bronze 90-91
- Ayidaga, Dr. Adeleke 45
- Bat Bombers, Suicide
 102-104
- Bear, Fist of the 31-34
- Bear, Path of the
 Raging 83
- Benny Chim 117
- Bleys Fontaine 61
- Bombers, Suicide Bat
 102-104
- Boost, Reflex 92
- Brain Trust Scientists 98
- Brain Trust, The 96-99
- Brazilian Army
 Soldiers 98
- Bronze Automaton, The
 90-91
- Burton, Sir Richard 50
- "Butcher, The" 63-64
- campaign, Wheel 106-109
- Camponelli, "Fat Tony"
 see Jaw of the Jackal
 car, submarine 94
- Carter Cross 64
- chambers, mundane 74
- Chameleon package 80
- changing firearms 92-93
- Chapel, Redglare 73-74
- Charlie Yen 112
- children of Draco 36
- Chim, Benny 117
- China, history of 6-9
- ChiNet 101-102
- Clara Duvall 25-26, 59,
 60-61
- combat drugs 91-92
- Country Club Guards,
 Typical Unnamed 75
- Country Club, The 74-77
- Crane package 80-81
- Cross, Carter 64
- culture shock 106
- Demons, Triad Mooks
 Disguised as 121
- Devereaux, Shantalle see
 Unseen Hand
- Devon Sharpe 73, 117
- Dignitaries, Heaven's
 Lesser 53
- double attunement 104
- Dr. Adeleke Ayidaga 45
- Dr. Elias Lobyachou 96-99
- Draco 12-18, 35, 36-37, 77
- Draco's children 36
- Dragon Magistrate,
 Typical Named 35
- Dragon Productions,
 Shining 73, 112-122
- Dragon, Soul of the 34-37
- drugs, combat 91-92
- Duvall, Clara 25-26, 59,
 60-61
- Elias Lobyachou, Dr. 96-99
- Emma 65, 73
- Emperor, The Jade 54
- Enhanced Adrenal
 Boost 91
- equipment 90-94
- Eugenics Committee,
 Lodge 46
- Extinction Agenda, The 50
- Fan, Johnny 119
- Fang of the Snake 43-46
- Fang of the Snake,
 Typical Named 45
- Fans, Harrison's 114
- "Fat Tony" Camponelli
 see Jaw of the Jackal
- Financial Operations
 Strand 25
- firearms, changing 92-93
- Fist Agent, Typical
 Named 32
- Fist of the Bear 31-34
- Fontaine, Bleys 61
- Fountain of Youth 77
- Francis Island, St. 74-77
- Free Will Schtick 100
- Fu Paths, new 83
- Genocide Lounge Staff 114
- Geoffrey Pyke 72
- Great Nobles of Heaven
 53-54
- Guards, Typical
 Unnamed Country
 Club 75
- gyrocopter 93
- gyrojet weapons 93-94
- Habbakuk 72
- Hand, Unseen 37, 38-39
- Harrison, Sven
 "Hurricane" 114
- Harrison's Fans 114
- Heaven, Great Nobles
 of 53-54
- Heaven's Lesser
 Dignitaries 53
- history of China 6-9
- history of the Ascended
 12-18, 35-36
- HK Movie World 121
- Horse, Running 66-67
- hovercar, personal 94
- Hunger of the Jackal 39-43
- "Hurricane" Harrison 114
- Inner Shell Tortoise,
 Typical Named 30
- Inner Shell, The 28
- Innernet, The 24, 25
- Internet, The 25, 27
- Island, St. Francis 74-77
- Ivory Spear, The 90
- Jackal Agent, Typical
 Named 41-42
- Jackal package 81-82
- Jackal, Hunger of the
 39-43
- Jackal, Jaw of the 41-42
- Jade Emperor, The
 54
- Jade Wheel Society,
 The 54
- Jameson, Kyle "Mr.
 Clean" 62-63
- Jaw of the Jackal 41-42
- Jericho, Operation 30
- jet pack 94
- John "The Butcher" Liu
 63-64
- Johnny Fan 119
- Killdeer, Operation 31, 34
- Killkid Project 94-96
- Kuanlun 99-101
- Kyle "Mr. Clean"
 Jameson 62-63
- Legacy, Project 57
- Lesser Dignitaries,
 Heaven's 53
- Li Feng "Sonny" Shang
 29, 30
- Ling, Qui 91
- Liu 36
- Liu, John "The Butcher"
 63-64
- Lobyachou, Dr. Elias 96-99
- Lodge Eugenics
 Committee 46
- Lodge organization 21-22
- Lodge Survivor type 86
- Lytle Adams 102-103
- Magistrate, Typical
 Named Dragon 35
- Magpie package 82
- Martial Arts Academies,
 Zodiac 33, 70-71
- Master, The Web 23
- Maureen Wei 116
- Media Operations
 Strand (MOS) 24-25
- Men in Black 41, 42
- Mo, Philip 116
- Mole package 82-83
- Mooks Disguised as
 Demons, Triad 121
- Mooks, Triad 119
- MOS 24-25
- "Mr. Clean" 62-63
- Mr. X 58, 77
- mundane chambers 74
- Name, Unspoken 22, 47-
 48, 57-58, 77

Index

- Named Dragon
Magistrate, Typical 35
- Named Fang of the Snake, Typical 45
- Named Fist Agent, Typical 32
- Named Inner Shell
Tortoise, Typical 30
- Named Jackal Agent, Typical 41-42
- Named Outer Shell
Tortoise, Typical 30
- Named Web Agent, Typical 25
- Natraj Thalnasser 32-34
- Netherworld, The 105-106
- new Free Will Schtick 100
- new Fu Paths 83
- new Transformed Animal packages 80-82
- Nightmares, Ten Thousand Shuddering 65-66
- No 36
- Nobles of Heaven, Great 53-54
- Ocho, Señor 58-60
- OEDU-A 90
- OEDU-M 90
- Operation Jericho 30
- Operation Killdeer 31, 34
- Optical Enhancement and Detection Units (OEDU) 90
- Order of the Wheel, The 48-51
- organization of the Lodge 21-22
- Outer Shell Tortoise, Typical Named 30
- Outer Shell, The 28-30
- packages, new Transformed Animal 80-82
- Pain Scrambler 92
- Panic Suppression 92
- Path of the Raging Bear 83
- personal hovercar 94
- Philip Mo 116
- Pledged Agent type 87
- Pledged, The 49, 51, 54, 62-67, 107-108
- Political Operations
Strand 23-24
- Program, The Sleeper 42-43
- Project Legacy 57
- Project X-Ray 102-104
- Project, Killkid 94-96
- Pyke, Geoffrey 72
- Qui ling 91
- Raging Bear, Path of the 83
- Redglare Chapel 73-74
- Redglare, Reverend 65, 73-74
- Reflex Boost 92
- renegades 108
- resources 107
- Reverend Redglare 65, 73-74
- Richard Burton, Sir 50
- Running Horse 66-67
- Saint Francis Island 74-77
- Schtick, Free Will 100
- Scientists, Brain Trust 98
- Scorpion, Sting of the 37-39
- Scorpion, Typical Sting of the 37
- Scrambler, Pain 92
- Señor Ocho 58-60
- shades 90
- Shang, Li Feng "Sonny" 29, 30
- Shantalle Devereaux see Unseen Hand
- Sharpe, Devon 73, 117
- Sharpened Shells, The 27
- Shell of the Tortoise, The 28-31
- Shell Tortoise, Typical Named Inner 30
- Shell Tortoise, Typical Named Outer 30
- Shell, The Inner 28
- Shell, The Outer 28-30
- Shells, The Sharpened 27
- Shi 36
- shifts, superficial 104-105
- Shining Dragon Productions 73, 112-122
- shock, culture 106
- Sir Richard Burton 50
- Situation Arena 75
- Sleeper Program, The 42-43
- Sleepers 42-43
- Smuggler type 88
- Snake, Fang of the 43-46
- Snake, Typical Named Fang of the 45
- Soldiers, Brazilian Army 98
- "Sonny" Shang 29, 30
- Soul of the Dragon 34-37
- Spear, The Ivory 90
- Spider, Web of the 23-28
- St. Francis Island 74-77
- Staff, Genocide Lounge 114
- Sting of the Scorpion 37-39
- Sting of the Scorpion, Typical 37
- Strand, Financial Operations 25
- Strand, Media Operations 24-25
- Strand, Political Operations 23-24
- submarine car 94
- Suicide Bat Bombers 102-104
- superficial shifts 104-105
- Suppression, Panic 92
- Survivor type, Lodge 86
- Sven "Hurricane" Harrison 114
- Tank, The Think 98-99
- Tatsuya Yanai 48
- Ten Thousand Shuddering Nightmares 65-66
- Thalnasser, Natraj 32-34
- Think Tank, The 98-99
- Toad package 83
- Tortoise, The Shell of the 28-31
- Tortoise, Typical Named Inner Shell 30
- Tortoise, Typical Named Outer Shell 30
- Transformed Animal packages, new 80-82
- Triad Mooks 119
- Triad Mooks Disguised as Demons 121
- True Ascended, The 30
- Two-Fisted Archeologist type 89
- types, new 84-89
- Typical Named Dragon Magistrate 35
- Typical Named Fang of the Snake 45
- Typical Named Fist Agent 32
- Typical Named Inner Shell Tortoise 30
- Typical Named Jackal Agent 41-42
- Typical Named Outer Shell Tortoise 30
- Typical Named Web Agent 25
- Typical Sting of the Scorpion 37
- Typical Unnamed Country Club Guards 75
- Unnamed Country Club Guards, Typical 75
- Unseen Hand 37, 38-39
- Unspoken Name 22, 47-48, 57-58, 77
- Ursula 61-62
- weapons, gyrojet 93-94
- Web Agent, Typical Named 25
- Web Master, The 23
- Web of the Spider 23-28
- Wei, Maureen 116
- Wheel campaign 106-109
- Wheel, Order of the 48-51
- Wheel, The Jade 54
- X, Mr. 58, 77
- X-Ray, Project 102-104
- Yanai, Tatsuya 48
- Yen, Charlie 112
- Youth, Fountain of 77
- Zodiac Martial Arts Academies 33, 70-71