Home is Where the Heart Was

By Jason Flowers

Challenge

The player characters are approached by a young samurai, recently returned home from war. He tells them that upon returning to his family’s small holding he discovered his village had been razed. The few surviving heimin told of a group of ronin that had recently arrived and warned of nearby bandit activity. The young samurai’s father, a man of advanced years, had immediately, and at great expense, tasked the Wave Men and Women to protect the village from the oncoming criminal threat.

Focus

When the bandits finally raided the village, the ronin, instead of engaging them, joined with the outlaws. The combined group made quick work of the few aging samurai left behind, and ransacked the entire community, killing anyone who stood in their way.  During the pillaging, the young samurai’s entire remaining family was killed. The marauders took everything that could be carried, including numerous heirlooms of the samurai’s family, and fled to the nearby hills.

Strike

These criminals must pay for their crimes. The young samurai is willing to hunt them down alone, but the player character’s influence and intervention may prevent it from being an act of self-destruction. Will they take the Emperor’s Law into their own hands? Or recruit an ally in the nearby Magistrate? Can a Magistrate who allows these criminals to continue to operate in the province even be trusted? Was there more to this seemingly random act of violence than is initially apparent? Perhaps one of the samurai heirlooms has some other significance?