

Oriental Adventure 3

- Raiders of Fei Jian

Fei Jian is a small village in the lawless lands not controlled by any of the warlords. It is currently terrorised by to competing criminals. One is a wu jen by the unlikely name of Floating Fox, the other is a black giant from the Plane of Shadow.

Both bandits demand tribute from the village and so far they were able to feed both parasites and still harvest enough rice for themselves. Now however new evil looms on the horizon, when wandering bandits try to steal the tribute from the villagers.

Enter the PCs

When the PCs arrive at Fei Jian they witness how 2 men with green bandanas beat up an elderly man with grey beard standing next to huge baskets. They seem to be accomplished martial artists and the rest of the village is looking in terror. These two criminals are members of the green fist gang that has arrived in this area some time ago and they want food and money immediately. Hopefully the PCs will rush in to help the poor villagers fighting against the two, who will flee if seriously wounded, but not leaving anyone behind (they are *bandits of the green fist gang* as described in the NPC book).

The village elder thanks the PCs for their help and tells them the sad story of this village.

The Story so far

Ever since the Empire fell, this province has been lawless and dangerous. Fei Jian however was lucky to be protected by a benevolent river spirit. They were forced to pay tribute to a magic user who took over an abandoned temple 2 years ago,

but this was seemed acceptable, especially after she killed the former elder.

When an evil shadow being captured their protector spirit however, things got worse. This black giant called Jiao Ba also demanded tribute and when they refused to pay, he razed one of their houses. With two parasites to feed, the village was on the verge of starvation. None of them is willing to give up his or her claim and none is able to expel the other.

The summer harvest is over and the tribute has been prepared to be taken by the criminals' henchmen. The shadow giant's men took their share last week and the weaker warriors of the wu jen, will come next week. Now out of nothing, the new bandits came to steal this tribute.

The villagers beg the PCs to help them because they cannot feed three criminal organisations.

What the Villagers Know

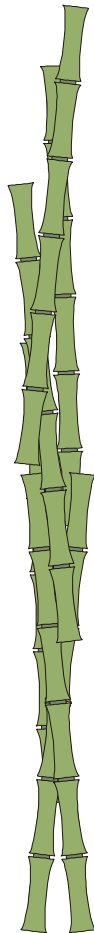
About Both

When the black giant demanded tribute for the first time, the Floating Fox decided to attack his campsite. With magical help however, the giant had erected a real fortress and the wu jen was defeated. There is some intense hatred between those groups but at the moment there is a stalemate, especially since there is enough to be robbed from the village for both (also both control other villages as well, which do not overlap).

The new bandits are unknown here and probably belong to a wandering gang.

Floating Fox

This young wu jen took over an abandoned temple nearby 2 years ago and started demanding tribute, for "protection". Not wanting any trouble,



the villagers agreed after she killed their former elder. Floating Fox has about 8 thugs who fly on giant insects, a really strange guixian ally who attacks lone villagers in the rice fields and a young man, who leads negotiations with the villagers. This seems to be the only decent person in this gang, because he tries to keep the tribute low.

The village butcher has lost his son to the bandits. The lazy rascal decided to join them 5 month ago but the butcher believes he can be reformed yet.

Jiao Ba

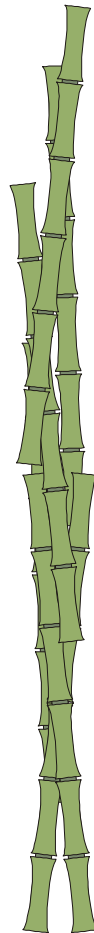
Jiao Ba controls a small fortress nearby and has enslaved a clan of earth spirits to work for him. These otherwise harmless beings are now brutal enforcers of his will. When they come to pick up tribute, they are usually led by a young female archer who seems to be under the influence of drugs, because she seems somewhat drowsy.

Another servant of Jiao is a red horseman who is the most skilled rider the villagers have ever seen. He sometimes patrols the area to look for troublemakers. His nickname (in absence) is 'empty mind', because he lacks wisdom.

While most villagers believe that these are all of his men, the old apothecary claims that he has seen a strange reptile-like shadow lurking through the rice fields at night. He claims that this beast is another servant of Ba. He also saw a man on a winged steed who lands in the village at night. The others dismiss is tales though and claim he has had too much of his own medicine.

The Truth

Please refer to *Jiao Ba's Tower* and *Temple of Air* for details on the two parasites. In addition to info there, the following is relevant for this scenario:



- Floating Fox is currently experimenting on a way to enter the tower of her enemy through the shadow plane. She is unwilling to go for human sacrifice though. She is also carefully preparing for a possible attack by Jiao's forces.
- Jiao is content with the current situation, firmly believing that the wu jen will surrender soon.
- Ugly and Twotounges had a run-in about a month ago and would love to go at each others throats again. Their hatred becomes obvious after even mentioning the opponent.
- The Bandits of the Green Fist stumbled into all this without knowing about the 2 would-be tyrants. They will not be humiliated and would definitely attack anyone who causes them trouble. The PCs are candidates for an attack as well. The gang consists of 10 members who have set up camp about a mile from the village in a small grove of trees near a hill.

Villagers

- Di Bei Soad: The village elder is about 65 years old, has a long grey beard and wears robes with a silk scarf. He is respected by everyone for his wisdom and education. Di Bei is very polite but is desperation clearly shows. He knows of his duty towards the village but is unable to do anything against armed men.
- Liao Seng: A young hothead who would love to attack those who keep plundering the village. Only his respect for the elder keeps him from action but he keeps making suggestions into that direction. If he thinks the PCs are worthy, he will do anything to support them.
- Liao Feng: The old apothecary and healer. He appears half-crazed and

giggles insanely when talking to people.

Ways to Solve this Problem

- The PCs can hide in the huge baskets and be carried into the wu jen's base of operations.
- The PCs can dress up as followers of one side and attack in order to cause open warfare between any two of the groups.
- The PCs can try to work for one side (Fox would be glad to have help against her enemy but will remain suspicious)
- The PCs can try to wear down one side with guerilla warfare.

