

Lords of Gossamer & Shadow

# Gossamer Worlds: Tetsujin Shogunate



by Matt Banach





Rite Publishing Presents:

# Gossamer Worlds: Tetsujin Shogunate

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**Based on Lords of Gossamer & Shadow by Jason Durall**

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# Tetsujin Shogunate

*“The Door seemed plain, unadorned, painted a simple white and set into the wall of the concrete stairwell without a single mark or sign to portend the nature of the world beyond it. The scene would have been completely uninteresting, I suppose, if not for the blood-flecked katana laid reverently before the threshold, and the large, scaled, brimstone-stinking hand beside it.” - Yaeger's Travelogue*



## Description

The Tetsujin Shogunate used to be a normal-ish version of Earth... before little green men crash-landed in feudal Japan and started building giant robots. That, as you might expect, shook things up a bit.

The backstory goes like this: Somewhere out amongst the stars in that particular gossamer reality, two advanced spacefaring alien races – the monstrous *oni* and the ingenious *kappa* – were at war. During a mission into local space (which the aliens considered a remote backwater of the quadrant) an *oni* battle cruiser intercepted a *kappa* scouting vessel. The ensuing dogfight sent both ships plummeting into Earth's atmosphere in a catastrophic event now referred to as “the Rain of Falling Stars.” Engine sections of the *oni* ship broke apart and impacted Africa, Europe, and

## Kappa

North America with the force of meteors, with smaller inhabited sections touching down slightly-less-cataclysmically in central Asia. Dust clouds, radiation, and alien plagues decimated most of the planet's population in the ensuing years, leaving eastern Asia and the Pacific islands as the only habitable refuges for humanity.

The *kappa* ship and its jettisoned life-pods made landfall up and down the island of Japan. Injured and stranded, the *kappa* were hunted and many killed or captured in witch-hunts led by frightened, superstitious humans. Facing undignified extinction at the hands of hairless apes, the *kappa* eventually rallied and struck a deal with the ruling Tokugawa clan, bartering their technology to the human shogunate in exchange for physical protection and



### *Hachiman*

mutual support against the *oni*. The rampaging *oni* had already begun to conquer Mongolia, China and the Korean peninsula, and the Tokugawa recognized that the demons at their doorstep would require titanic weaponry. So the *kappa* built them titans.

Taller than castles, mightier than armies, the *tetsujin* were to be the ultimate weapon against the marauding *oni*, powered by ingenious *kappa* technology but dependent upon human supply chains for their construction, fuel, and maintenance. While the *kappa* might have otherwise chosen a different form for their war machines, the human shogunate insisted (with hand upon

sword) that the *tetsujin* require a human pilot – a stipulation borne of human distrust for the *kappa*, and perhaps not unwise. What began as extravagant suits of power-armor soon became enormous samurai-shaped robots, crafted in proportion to the largest monster-elders of the *oni*. Tokugawa Akira became the first Iron Shogun, piloting *Hachiman*, the first true *tetsujin*, a four-armed mechanical warrior clad in shining silver armor and equipped with twin star-metal blades capable of felling mountains. Engaging the enemy on a string of islands just barely off the coast of the vulnerable homeland, *Hachiman* single-handedly laid waste to three armies of *oni*-blooded berserkers, drove off a dozen

true *oni*, and lasted ten whole minutes against the Dragon King before its reactor exploded, clearing the battlefield and changing the nature of warfare forever.

## Typical Denizens

Human civilization in the Tetsujin Shogunate clings to life by the barest of threads, defiantly dedicating every fraction of their being towards survival and the war effort. Simple farmers toil in the fields and rice paddies, cultivating food for the nation and looking scanning the horizon for glimpses of their gigantic heroes. Miners, smiths, and craftsmen labor ceaselessly, forging common ores and stranger metals into enormous components to be assembled in *kappa*-supervised factories. Every able-bodied male not already essential to production is a member of the shogunate's vast samurai-led army. Decades of punishing attrition have reduced the adult male population to such a degree that even the most chauvinistic patriarchs concede the necessity of arming the fairer sex, producing a recent generation of women-warriors proud and eager to join the fight.

Humanity does not end past the shores of Japan, however. Elsewhere in the world, sickened and mutated survivors shamble through the wastelands created by the impacts of the *oni* ships and the ensuing radioactive fallout. In eastern Asia, the *oni* have



*Monster-Elder of the Oni*

enslaved and organized the remaining human population, corrupting minds with their will-sapping alien pheromones and creating a caste of mutated berserker warriors. Disgusting experiments in creating human-*oni* hybrids are thus far only rumor, spurred by sightings of the most twisted of the *oni*-blooded, but the fear of a self-reproducing demonic sub-race keeps many daimyos up at night. Those humans living in *oni* territory who are not overtly controlled submit out of fear and despondent pragmatism, resigned to the fact that Hell has come to Earth and their demonic masters now rule the world.

The *oni* number in the hundreds, though their pervasive influence and



### *Dragon King*

staggering destructive power make it seem like they are legion. Some *oni* are snarling beasts prone to bloodlust and mayhem, while the smarter ones rule over armies of corrupted human slaves as warlords and demon-kings. Might makes right amongst the *oni*, as any formal hierarchy they possessed disintegrated with their ship, but they remain united in their racial desire to eradicate the *kappa* and plunder any extant technology which would allow them to leave Earth, or at least dominate it unchallenged. The present alpha-monster of the *oni* is the Dragon King, a radioactive fire-breathing reptile capable of converting calories directly into biomass and increasing its size to gargantuan proportions.

The *kappa* are a dying race on Earth, reduced to less than a dozen living souls. Cloistered away in heavily guarded fortresses atop mountains or deep underground, these cranky little inventors are paranoid and ill-tempered, drawn from their reclusion only by the knowledge that their survival depends on actively equipping humanity to defeat the marauding *oni*. Despite the fact that they are presently engaged in the salvation of the human race, the *kappa*'s aid is reluctant and entirely self-serving. Rumors persist of an intact section of the *kappa* starship sunk off Japan's eastern coast where the never-before-seen elder of their crew secretly makes repairs, intent on abandoning humanity to their fate and leaving this accursed rock behind.

## Threats

- Samurai are the face and heart of this world, with legions of determined fighters forming the prominent upper echelons of the human resistance. The samurai live to serve, steadfastly supporting their daimyos and the Iron Shogun as they battle *oni*-blooded minions in the shadows of clashing titans. Most samurai fight with traditional weapons and armor, though the most elite warriors carry *kappa*-blessed equipment such as star-metal swords, respirator-helmets, and cybernetic power-armor.
- *Tetsujin* are the gigantic champions which represent Earth's last hope for victory and survival. Constructed of materials refined by technology light-years beyond human science, these war machines are incredibly strong and durable, capable of withstanding punishing amounts of physical impact, heat, pressure, and radiation. Limited in their mobility and agility, *tetsujin* tend to be a trifle clunky. Fuel constraints render sustained flight a near-impossibility, though thruster-assisted leaps and charges provide dramatic bursts of speed. Their weapons tend to be of the humongous melee variety – swords, axes, shields, and the like – and some have short-range missiles, but energy-blast weapons remain rare and dangerously unstable. *Tetsujin* pilots are the best of the best, worshipped like demigods and showered with bittersweet praise



### *Oni-Blooded Berserker*

for however long remains of their perilous lives.

- *Kappa* are puny, amphibious tinkerers whose brilliant intellects make up for their diminutive reptilian bodies. They compensate for Earth's oppressively strong gravity with the aid of cybernetic exo-shells, submerging themselves in water the rest of the time. *Kappa* technology demonstrates their intuitive connection to the Eidolon, and their elders' psyches are strong enough for telepathy and psychic combat.

- *Oni* are aggressive, demonic-looking aliens with a strong affinity to the Umbra. Evolved on a hostile home world with a noxious atmosphere and higher gravity, on Earth they can breathe smoke, bask in radiation, and enjoy superhuman strength. Most *oni* have horns, colorful skin, and wild hair, though the greatest among them have truly monstrous forms resembling serpentine dragons or titanic dinosaurs.
- *Oni*-blooded are humans corrupted and controlled by rationed ingestion of *oni* blood, which is both addictive and highly mutagenic. *Oni*-blooded berserkers have enhanced strength, immunity to pain, and use their fangs, claws, and horns as savagely as any animal. Some *oni*-blooded wield more subtle mutations such as acidic spittle, hypnotic pheromones, or regeneration.
- Ninjas. The Tetsujin Shogunate is practically infested with the stealthy, deadly little bastards. While the ninja clans once served the shogunate as dependable mercenaries, since the Rain of Falling Stars the ninja have withdrawn from their former profession and now pursue only their own inscrutable schemes. Ninja are notorious thieves of alien technology, outfitting themselves with stolen *kappa* weapons, pilfering advanced materials from poorly guarded *tetsujin*, and even experimenting on themselves with *oni* mutagens. While the shogunate's official position is



### *Tetsujin Ninja*

that the ninja are selfish traitors to humanity, I suspect there's more to it. Perhaps the ninja are merely playing the long game for even higher stakes. Perhaps, in the end, it will be the ninja who save this world from the alien invaders, *kappa* and *oni* alike.

### Notable Locations

Edo Castle is the capital of the Tetsujin Shogunate – a sprawling fortress located on the central eastern coast of Japan, right where the great city of Tokyo might have one day existed if things had turned out differently. The castle occupies dozens of square miles,



divided into multiple citadels, each with its own walls, keeps, towers, moats, gates, and courtyards. Still primarily medieval in its construction, the castle defenses are augmented at critical junctures by *kappa* force-fields, sensor arrays, and weapons systems. The Iron Shogun and his closest daimyos reside there, guarded by several thousand of the shogunate's most elite samurai and the twin *tetsujin*, *Brother Golden Sun* and *Sister Silver Moon*. Edo Castle is also the home of at least one *kappa*, hidden deep below the foundations in an immense cavern dedicated to *tetsujin* research and development.

The Pit of Demons is a gathering-point of *oni* forces, squatting in a miles-wide crater in the midst of the northern Korean Peninsula. It is the sleeping-place of the Dragon King, whose seismic snoring shakes the region with the force of earthquakes, adding to the constant din of howling *oni* warlords and their slaving *oni*-blooded armies. It is from this hellish pit the *oni* launch most of their attacks, sending their great beasts and marshaled forces down to the shore to cross the Sea of Japan in search of blood.

Hachiman's Gate is a string of small island fortifications just off the western coast of the isle of Japan, forming an essential lookout and first line of defense for the Tetsujin Shogunate. One or more *tetsujin* are always standing at the ready, on guard against the inevitability of the next *oni* invasion. Hachiman's Gate has been the site of dozens of battles, and the

## Big Trouble

Each *tetsujin* possesses its own unique assortment of weapons, armor, and special tricks, but even the most basic *tetsujin* has the following qualities:

Immense Vitality	[4 points]
Double Speed	[2 points]
Paragon Stamina	[2 points]
Combat Reflexes	[2 points]
Double Damage	[2 points]
<u>Resistant to Firearms</u>	[2 points]
Total	[14 points]

Spending points to own a *tetsujin* would seem necessary only if a character wishes to use it outside of the world of the Tetsujin Shogunate – but that would require getting the immense contraption through a Door, and good luck with *that*.

irradiated waters around the islands are full of eerie “reefs” comprised of the gigantic remains of rotting monsters and shattered heroes. The Door to this world opens through the pilot hatch in the side of a severed *tetsujin* head which lays rusting on the beach.

## Final Thoughts

Epic alien monsters battling titanic robots for the fate of humanity – what more could you ask for?

In all seriousness, I hope they survive.

~ Yaeger Zane

## Jetsujin Shogunate Domain Table

<b>Technology Level:</b>	Medieval / Other (advanced alien robotics)
<b>Magic Level:</b>	Unknown
<b>Security:</b>	None
<b>Type:</b>	Personal Domain [1 Point] (presently unclaimed by any Gossamer Lord)
<b>Control:</b>	None
<b>Influence on the Powers:</b>	Eidolon – Average Umbra – Average Wrighting – Average
<b>Special:</b>	N/A

