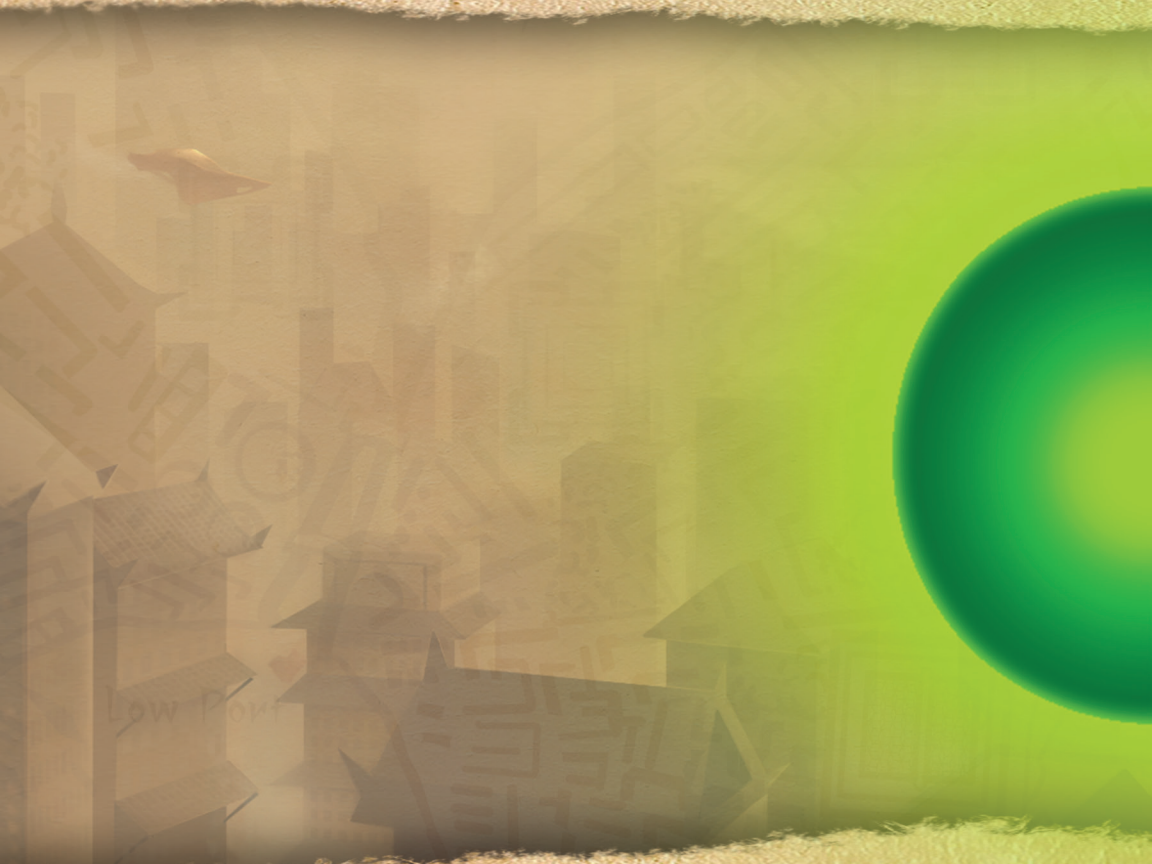


TM

# JADETECH

green jade



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# JADETECH™

green jade

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*Jadetek: Green Jade*

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## Breakout

Shen poured a bit of murky, green fluid into the rusted tin cups. The calloused hands holding each cup were hard, their fingers black with grit beneath thick and jagged nails. Some of them were missing fingers entirely, the penance of a Kaiyu gangster or a bloody offering to the grinding gears of some deep shaft-digging machine. On his left, a scowling Aerum seaman was still nursing the place where the guards had burned out his red jade knuckle tattoos. Shen doubted that the man's fingers would ever be the same again. Not that anyone was ever the same after a stint in the Diyu Mountain Labor Camp.

Shen's own hands were relatively clean next to those of these hard-bitten men. He was skinny and bespectacled, and the warden had immediately dismissed the little Túyangan to latrine duty with a sneer. "I need men with muscle. Nobody has time for reading on my mountain. Too bad you didn't grow up on a farm."

Foul smelling as it was, Shen could not have picked a better job for what he had planned. Surprise inspections and hawk-eyed Captain Jora ensured that anything vaguely resembling contraband was fairly distributed among the guards. However, nobody bothered to check the reeking wooden sheds at the edge of the camp where Shen spent his days, pail in hand.

It had taken three months, but the men had finally gotten him a suitable teapot. It was another month before quick-fingered Alistair had been able to sneak out a bottle of the night sergeant's eye-watering Kinardbal whiskey. And then the herbs. These he acquired himself. Goat's foot was plentiful on the mountain, but yellow tea grass only grew near clear water in the spring time. Convincing Corporal Kai that a few properly prepared handfuls would save his marriage solved that problem. After that it was a matter of getting enough of the pale green dust the men sometimes found in shallower diggings. A pinch here, an unexpected handshake there—Shen even found some in a rolled-up leaf beneath his blanket one night.

Sacrificing his only sock to contain the dust, Shen combined the ingredients over a tiny flame. Those months of waiting had given him the time he needed to construct a rudimentary system of chambers and vents beneath the latrines, with which he siphoned off the reeking, flammable gas produced by years of rotting sewage. For seven days he tended the fire, keeping the dust and whiskey and herbs as close to simmering as possible. On the eighth day it was finished.

Shen swirled the liquid in his cup. "Remember, this isn't going to last long. As soon as you feel it starting, go."

The sailor winced as he sniffed the contents of his mug. "This better work."

There was a chorus of wheezing and gagging as they forced it down. Then, in the dark of the sagging bunkhouse, they waited. A minute later the thrumming started. Somewhere at the back of his skull, Shen felt it surging. It was primal and alive, like the smell of his father's rice field in spring. He could feel it creeping down his spine, slow and strong like the ancient oak in the village shrine, its roots pushing up the granite slabs of the courtyard.

Match light flared. Shen turned toward it just in time to see a Naramel trader's black eyes flicker, then change to a livid green. There was a crack as someone smashed a foot through the floor. Next to him the sailor growled. "Oh yeah..."

Moving like a jungle cat, Alistair was the first one out the door. A guardsman with a lantern blinked then died as the sailor put a fist through his chest. Shen bolted around the corner, making a beeline for the warden's office and the camp armory. This would only last so long. Halfway across the field a guard threw up a revolver. There had always been a shoot first policy at Diyu Mountain. Shen took four rounds to the chest, looking down just in time to see them glance off his skin like thrown pebbles from a tree trunk. He sent a bone-crunching chop to the man's neck as he went past. A moment later he kicked down the iron-banded command post door.

The warden was in his nightshirt, but the long, curved commander's saber was already in hand, and it met Shen's forearm with a clang. Shen wrapped both hands around the blade and twisted. The steel gave way with a groan, and a second later the warden was flung across his desk, kicked with the force of an angry qixiniu. The warden groaned. "What is this? What did you do?"

Shen scooped the warden's keyring off of the desk. "Green jade, you ignorant ass. Too bad you didn't grow up on a farm."



## Welcome to the Jadetech Series

Jadetech defines the world of Jadepunk. It shapes everyday life and allows for a level of technology and understanding far beyond what would otherwise be possible. At its core jade defies the laws that are considered the normal laws of nature. Any attempt to codify these exceptions to the natural order in any but the loosest of ways has failed. Many philosophers hold that jade—and by extension, Jadetech—is proof that the universe is unknowable in any way beyond the superficial. Others maintain the hope that some underlying principle or series of principles will emerge and explain the Jade phenomena with some sort of grand unified law.

### What is Green Jade?

As the hardest mineral known to man green jade is a study in contradictions. It is sturdy, unyielding, and strong, while simultaneously growing, connecting, and building. In its natural form, green jade is little more than a pretty green stone, found in areas of dense vegetation, such as the Túyang forests or the floodplains of the Iteur river in Naramel. Refined green jade, however, is often used in weapons, construction materials, and armor. Its naturally durable yet surprisingly light state makes it well suited to such uses. It is also found in non-solid forms as well, being used in concoctions that enhance one's vigor and strengthen the mind, but also increase stubbornness and irritability. Its enhancement of steel and glass has allowed for architecture of an immensity previously impossible, as well as the creation of devices of great intricacy without sacrificing durability. Once thought impossible to work with, recent developments have allowed green jade to become commonplace throughout all aspects of life.

### History of Green Jade

Of all the forms of jade, save for black, green is the most difficult to work with. It is unyielding and inflexible, requiring intense heat and constant monitoring to mold. The technique was discovered more by accident than anything else. The Naramel had been using ground jade for years in their fertilizers. Starting in the town of Demal along the river Iteur, the powder became mixed-in with the raw iron used by the town's smiths. This produced a unique coloration in the Damalian steel. However, it wasn't until the smiths of Naramel began using red jade to superheat the forge fires that the steel in Demal began to develop properties far beyond those of normal steel. For over a century this happy accident remained a unique phenomenon of the Demal smiths.

Twenty-five years before the founding of Kausao City, a group of Túyangan alchemists traveled to Demal and studied the making of this strange alloy, spending over a year learning about and observing the process. Within ten years green jade refinement had become standardized, rapidly becoming ubiquitous throughout the alchemical world powers. In Demal this was viewed as theft and a great betrayal. However, while anyone can now get the benefit of refined green jade, the best green jade-steel alloys still come out of the city of Demal.

Fifteen years ago, a small group in Kausao began to work toward a wholly new use of green jade. Knowing the jade's connection to living things and its use in fertilizers, this group set out to understand this correlation. Using cutting edge instruments they were able to decode the Book of Life that exists inside all living things, which they called Elan Vital.. Using this knowledge they began to practice a new art—a new science that was capable of altering biological systems.. They called it chaemeric, and it changed how the world looked at everything.

## Refinement

Green jade is one of the easiest forms of jade to find. Most veins of green jade are discovered where they intersect the surface of the soil. However, places where plant and animal life are most vigorous are also likely places to discover a vein of green jade. Surface jade can be easily gathered by hand; one simply breaks the material free.

Green jade requires an immense amount of heat and time to refine. The raw material must reach a temperature of 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit(815 °C), and be held at that temperature consistently for at least twenty four hours. Any variation in the temperature or disturbance of the crucible can cause problems in the final refined jade. Brittleness is the most common effect of improperly refined green jade.

## Quality of Life Uses

Green jade has had a monumental impact in the fields of materials science, fertilizer development, preventative medicine, and the new science of chaemeric. On a personal level, it is used in all manner of devices and concoctions for its durability, strength, and growth properties. It is also used in many great pieces of art and various religions and political entities have used green jade to craft purely ornamental devices. Green jade is ideal for sculpting as it resists change over time. There is great difficulty in shaping it, though, and because of this it is seen as the highest mark of artistry.

### Green Jade Enamel

When powdered green jade is combined with certain lacquers or resins, it forms a compound that will enhance the durability and lifespan of the objects that it coats. It is often used to protect high quality woodwork and rustproof quality metal work. The slight green sheen that it leaves is seen as a mark of quality and endurance, and this has led to a large market for forged green jade lacquer-treated products. However, using simple dyes to attempt to replicate the look of quality pieces has become a widespread practice.

The most common form of green jade seen or used in everyday life is that used in construction materials. The jade is used to increase the strength of glass or steel without significantly increasing the weight. The alloying method does cause these materials to have a bit of a green tinge, but without this method, creating massive airships and grand architecture would be impossible.

The city of Kinardbal makes heavy use of green jade in the support structure for its towers and walkways, which are impossibly thin and articulate. The towering spires and grand bridges of the floating capital of Aerum may be held up by white jade, but the green jade gives the city the strength to bond together its breathtaking aesthetics.

The fact that green jade is connected to living things and growth is well known. Ground into a powder and sprinkled across one's field, green jade promotes rapid growth, hardy crops, and resistance to various blights and insects. In recent years, the science of chaemeric has taken these properties to the next level, using green jade to

alter the very building blocks of life. Currently, this is used to create stronger or smarter breeds of domestic animals. There are those who seek to push the boundaries of this nascent science, seeking to do more than just enhance existing animals and plants—they want to create whole new species and types. Already the various firms and guilds are seeking to gain control of this new field.

## Natural Jade Infusion

The first chaemeric organisms were not crafted by the minds of men. When an organism ingested enough jade over a long period of time a change would begin to occur within it. The plants and animals that were born of these changed organisms inherited a more profound mutation. Often it was merely superficial, like alterations to pigmentation, but at times the change was more drastic. The plants and animals that absorbed large amounts of green jade have become larger, tougher, and reach maturi-

### Animals, Plants, and Aspects

When creating an animal to face or befriend your players, the standard aspects may seem a bit tricky. Because of this, we have changed them up a bit to reflect the animal's nature. Portrayal and Need remain the same, though for Need you may want to keep it simple and direct. However, we have replaced *Secret* with *Instinct* for the creatures. Instinct will represent an animal's natural tendencies within the scene. Examples: Hates to Get Wet; Protective Mother; Always Warns of Impending Attack; Flight Before Fight.

ty faster. The animals that are altered by the green jade also tend to become more aggressive and territorial.

In the green and wet midlands of Túyang, rahshir trees, also known as “iron trees” grow to be hundreds of feet tall and are far more durable than other trees of the same kind. North of the Storm Sea, there are rumors of The Great Sargasso, an area in the sea where kelp and sea weeds grow from horizon to horizon. Wrecks of ancient dead ships lie in various states of decay within the sargasso. It is named after Sargassum, the breed of kelp that grows there. It somehow became infused with green jade, growing constantly and resisting all attempts to cut, burn, or poison it.

### Sample Challenge Scene—Stuck in The Sargasso

Your ship encounters The Great Sargasso and must escape before becoming a permanent resident. Here are some example difficulties for trying to escape The Great Sargasso as well as some of the dangers that dwell inside:

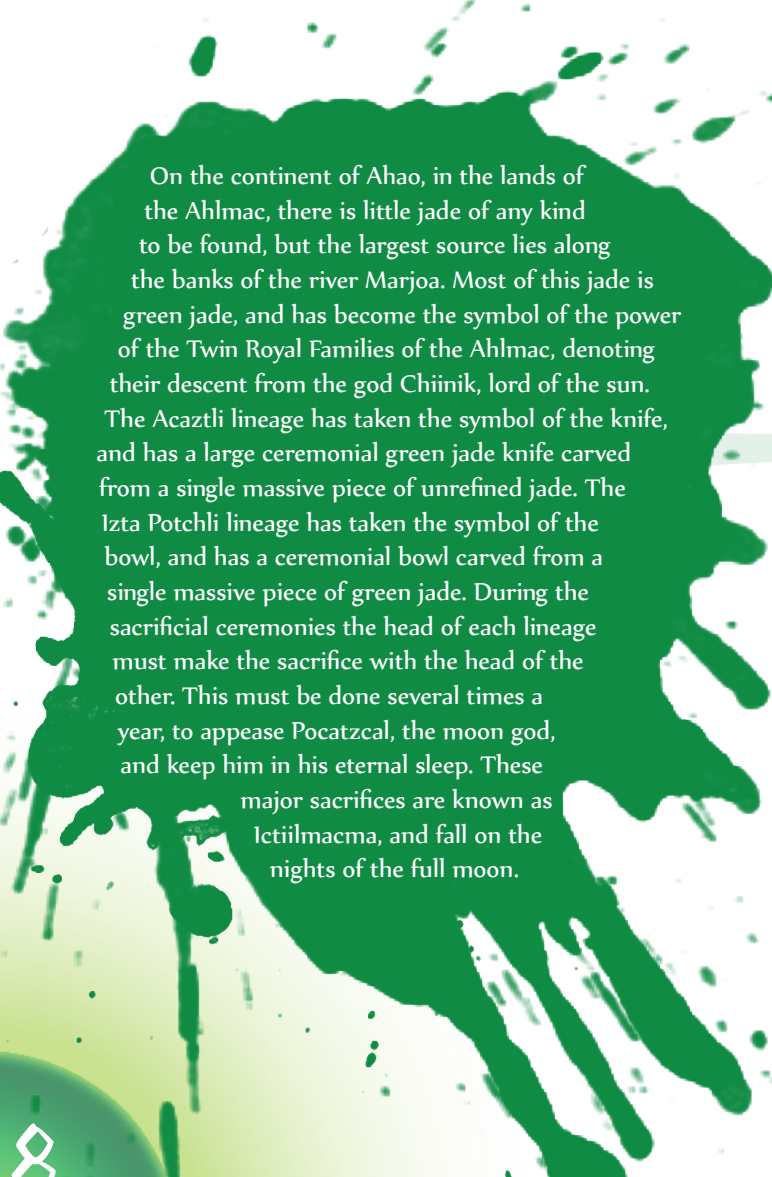
The Sargasso is hard to see on its edges as most of the weeds blend in with the water a bit and are below the surface. The best way to avoid getting trapped is to spot it a long ways off and sail around. This can vary from a +1 difficulty (on a sunny day with plenty of visibility) to as high as a +7 difficulty (new moon or fog). If you are unable to avoid it you must deal with the sargasso itself, by trying to sail free before you become stuck. This can range from a +3 difficulty (for a lighter ship that can skim the waves) to a +9 difficulty (for a heavy scow that turns like a brick). If you get stuck, you need to cut yourself out. This is always a +7 difficulty. The Great Sargasso takes and never gives back. You can take consequences (much like a duel) to avoid the failure of any one of your rolls in this challenge.

Deep beneath the streets of Kausao the rats have had generations to feast upon the jade runoff. Many sub breeds of jade-Infused rat have appeared in the sewers and tunnels beneath the city. Those that have absorbed green jade have grown massive and dangerous. In appearance, they are a sickly green color and they can reach the size of a man. These **rodents of exceptional stature** are a threat to any who delve too deep into the sewers of Kausao.

**Stats for the ROESs**  
**Portrayal:** Giant Jade Tainted Hungry Vermin  
**Need:** Territory and Food  
**Instinct:** Everything is Food



The artists who work with green jade have never been many, but they have always been seen as the most skilled and patient. Green jade as a medium is brittle and resistant to change. Go too hard or too fast, and you risk losing it all, thus why it requires this great patience and skill. Among sculptors, working in green jade is seen as something only the masters can do. While many masters sculptors do not work in green jade, those who have not created at least one sculpture in green jade are viewed as less than a true master. Many great and not so great leaders, throughout history have sought to immortalize themselves by having a statue, bust, or petroglyph of themselves carved into green jade, or by having the symbols of their rule crafted from it. This is often to show the endurance of their governance and the durability of the state. Many of the symbolic and holy artifacts of the various religions of the world are also made of jade for the very same reasons.



On the continent of Ahao, in the lands of the Ahlmac, there is little jade of any kind to be found, but the largest source lies along the banks of the river Marjoa. Most of this jade is green jade, and has become the symbol of the power of the Twin Royal Families of the Ahlmac, denoting their descent from the god Chiinik, lord of the sun. The Acaztl lineage has taken the symbol of the knife, and has a large ceremonial green jade knife carved from a single massive piece of unrefined jade. The Izta Potchli lineage has taken the symbol of the bowl, and has a ceremonial bowl carved from a single massive piece of green jade. During the sacrificial ceremonies the head of each lineage must make the sacrifice with the head of the other. This must be done several times a year, to appease Pocatzcal, the moon god, and keep him in his eternal sleep. These major sacrifices are known as Ictilmacma, and fall on the nights of the full moon.

Jade is vital to all aspects of life, including religion. Pathists look to jade as proof that their worldview is correct. Often Pathists carry several minor jade trinkets with them. There is no specific artifact or statement about jade that stands as a religious symbol of the Pathists. Their books all have a focus on jade, especially those written in the last two hundred years.

Among the followers of the Way of Suffering, jade is viewed as another example of the great illusion. If the universe is irrational, if the rules can change based on a simple mineral, then it stands that the universe is an illusion that one must surpass. On occasion, a follower of the Way of Suffering will use green jade concoctions to assist in surpassing the four carnal actions. Those further along the way know that this is a pointless endeavor, a false enlightenment.

The prophets teach that art is pure and good—a representation of the sublime vision of Ehal given form by the meager hands of men. Green jade endures. It holds onto perfection, and thus is the closest earthly creation to his immutable nature. Four hundred years ago the High Father of the Basilica of the First Prophet commissioned artists from across the world to create a great symbol of Ehal, the Plates of Eternity. Forty feet tall, crafted from several smaller pieces of jade, the Plates stand at the entrance to the Basilica of the First Prophet. It is an etching of the first four prophecies of the Book of Ehal. Originally it was to be an inscription of all of the prophecies, but there was a great unrest during the time it was made and this wonder of the world remains unfinished. It was meant as a reminder to the worshipers of Ehal of his enduring nature and the unyielding power of the church.

## Complications

If green jade is not properly alloyed or refined, devices made from it can become brittle or jagged. Green jade holds an edge longer than any other form of Jade, but once dulled, it is incredibly difficult to sharpen.

When used in a serum, tattoo, or potion green jade can cause stubbornness, resistance to change, and in rare cases, slowing of reaction speed. Prolonged use can lead to a slowing of all bodily functions and mental faculties.

Green jade devices with moving parts often run into jamming issues, because, at times, green jade's tendency to remain unchanged can overcome a device's inclination to move.

Green jade dependency occurs when someone becomes reliant on short term use green jade serums or potions. Users start out feeling invincible, but the amount needed to gain this feeling increases with each use. As time goes on the user's immune system begins to shut down, relying entirely on green jade to protect the body from illness. In its most advanced state those dependant on green jade need it in order to function, the everyday pains and aches become unbearable without green jade to ease the burden. Green jade dependance is a very difficult habit to break, due to its effects on the mind. Often no one is even aware of the problem until it is too late.

## Green Jade Assets

### Offensive Jadetech Assets

**Damalian Steel Sword:** The finest swords ever crafted. It is said the steel is folded over one thousand times and quenched in the blood of a man, to catch his soul within it. The rippling pattern of green and steel are said to be that soul. Many believe the swords to be unbreakable and able to cut through anything. The truth is less extreme, but still quite impressive. Each sword is a work of art, crafted by a master smith. Only after a decade of training is a smith even allowed to attempt to craft a Demalian steel sword. The crafting takes a week and the smith must work on it continuously during this time to avoid imperfections. As to blood and souls, these swords are quenched as all blades are, and no one dies. Many master swordsmen view the open carrying of a Demalian steel blade as an open challenge. It is seen as a master's blade, and one who is less than a master should not wield it.

*Function Aspect:* **Demalian Steel Sword**  
*Features:* Harmful 2 (three extra stress on a successful hit),  
 Sturdy 2 (2 extra stress)  
*Flaws:* Troubling (**Instantly Recognizable, Always Feared**)  
*Cost:* 2 Refresh



**Anteana Staff:** Petros Argyros, bandit king of the northern territories of Túyang, commissioned the creation of this weapon which is full of unique qualities. The Anteana Staff draws power from the earth granting strength and stability to its wielder. During the time of five emperors, Argyros attempted to secede from the empire. His death was unrecorded and ignominious, though rumors persist of where he died. Treasure hunters still search for his staff and the treasure he supposedly accumulated during his rebellion.

*Function Aspect:* **Green Jade Staff of Stability**  
*Features:* Exceptional (All aspects created involving using the earth and being stable gain a +3 rather than a +2), Sturdy 2 (2 extra stress available)  
*Flaws:* Troubling (**Everyone Wants the Treasure**), Situational (only when using a free invoke of the aspect)  
*Cost:* 2 Refresh

**Green Jade Hammer:** Not primarily designed as a weapon, but rather as a construction tool, this hammer has no fancy name. Its infamy only began after the Deeping's Folly food riots one hundred years ago. The green jade hammer was used to destroy doors and walls that blocked the mob's path. Ever since, it has appeared in numerous rebellious movements and always seems to be right in the thick of things where its power can shake the very pillars of heaven.

*Function Aspect:* **Green Hammer of the People**

*Features:* Exceptional (Opponents cannot use extra stress boxes from their devices or armor when they take stress), Harmful 4

*Flaws:* Troubling (**The Rage of a Starving People**), Situational (extra stress only works against inanimate targets)

*Cost:* 3 refresh

## Defensive Jadetech Assets

**Chenshalue:** During election years, purchases of chenshalue—cloth with green jade threads woven in—increase among the high and the mighty. Chenshalue, when made into a shirt, or any other style of garment, provides a modicum of defense against attacks while still effectively appearing as a normal garment. Among certain parts of high society, wearing the color green has come to be seen as a sign of cowardice. “Green with fear,” is often muttered about some officials behind their backs.

*Function Aspect:* **Green Jade Silk Shirt**

*Features:* Protective 1

*Flaws:* Demanding (it takes an action for a character to put on the shirt)

*Cost:* 1 Refresh

## Jadetech: Green Jade

**Guard Captain Plate:** Defensive armor worn by the captains of the Kausao city guard. Some new captains argue that it is too restrictive, but they change their tune after they encounter their first fight while wearing it.

*Function Aspect:* **Green Jade Armor**  
*Features:* Sturdy 2 (2 extra stress boxes), Protective 2  
*Flaws:* Troubling (**Stiff Joints**)  
*Cost:* 3 Refresh

**Ganjo Tattoos:** Among the southernmost islands controlled by the Kaiyu, there is the Arash Monastery. There the acolytes endure extremely harsh training, pushing themselves to the breaking point and beyond. Upon completion of their training they are gifted with the Ganjo tattoos of the Arash Monastery, granting them endurance and strength, and indelibly marking them as members of the order. Last year the monastery was mysteriously destroyed by an unknown force. Many of its acolytes now roam the world, seeking to find a place in it.

*Function Aspect:* **Massive Green Jade Tattoos**  
*Features:* Sturdy 2 (2 extra stress boxes), Protective 1, Exceptional (when succeeding with style while defending against a non-Jadetech weapon, break the weapon)  
*Flaws:* Troubling (**Hunted and Hated**), Limited (the weapon breaking ability can only be used once per scene)  
*Cost:* 3 Refresh

## Utility Jadetech Assets

**Green Jade Alchemists Kit:** Some alchemists specialize, dealing only with the most profitable materials and ignoring those that are difficult to get or use in a potion. Green jade is one of the most sought after jades used in potions, as it increases resistance to disease and harm as well as potentially increasing longevity, though that has yet to be demonstrated. The kit itself is just an excuse for you to craft and use potions and does not truly need a mechanical buildup.

*Function aspect:* **Green Jade Alchemists Kit**  
*Features:* Focus 2 (+2 to Engineering rolls)  
*Flaws:* Situational (only gain a bonus when crafting green jade potions)  
*Cost:* 1 Refresh

## Sample Potions

**Uisige Beah:** Often taken by martial artists before a duel, this potion is derived from green jade powder mixed in a base of whiskey with a touch of mercury. The name means, “water of life,” and it has saved many a fighter from a crippling injury.

*Function Aspect: Green Jade Potion of Toughness*  
*Features: Sturdy 2 (2 extra Stress boxes)*  
*Flaws: Based on the creation roll*

**Weih Potion:** Devised not so much as a cure, but as a preventative measure, the Weih Potion is far too costly to be of as much use as it was originally intended. It can temporarily boost one’s immune system and resistance to poisons and toxins.

The problem is that those who can afford it don’t need it, and those who need it can’t afford it.

*Function Aspect: Green Jade Antiviral*  
*Features: Exceptional (ignore disease and poison for a scene)*  
*Flaws: Based on creation roll (needs at least two flaws)*



## Chaemic Companions

So far, the fledgling alchemy of chaemics has produced only a few creations of commercial merit. That said, if you wish to have a creature companion that is not listed here, just put together an ally and build the chaemics into the back story.

**Hounzi de Peng:** A hound designed not so much for its tracking ability but its single-mindedness. When a Hounzi de Peng is after a scent, it does not stop and it ignores all but its trainer. They do require specialized training as they imprint on only one person and never waver in their loyalty to that person.

*Function Aspect:* **Green Jade Enhanced Hound**  
*Features:* Aspect (**Loyal To Its Master**) Professional 2 (+2 Explorer, +1 Fighter), Resilient (1 mild consequence), Sturdy 3 (3 stress boxes)  
*Flaws:* Troubling (**Completely Single Minded**)  
*Cost:* 3 Refresh

**Glothest:** Horses are a rare and expensive animal in Kausao, but elsewhere they are central to travel and trade across the many hills and plains of the world. The Glothest is a horse bred for endurance and strength. However this does make the horse somewhat less responsive and aware of their surroundings.

**Hounzi de Peng & Glothest as non-allies**

**Hounzi de Peng**  
Portrayal: Jade Enhanced Tracker  
Need: Find Its Target  
Instinct: Never Stop, Never Give Up

**Glothest**  
Portrayal: Great Galloping Green Horse  
Need: Be the Fastest  
Instinct: Always Run From Danger

*Function Aspect:* **Green Jade Infused Horse**  
*Features:* Professional (+1 Explorer), Resilient 2 (has two consequences), Sturdy 3 (three stress boxes), Aspect (**Can Run All Day**)  
*Flaws:* Troubling (**Slow Reactions, Dull Senses**)  
*Cost:* 3 Refresh

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# JADETECH

red jade

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