



DM DOCUMENT – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION

The party is comprised of guyong jun (mercenaries) in the employ of the Baihu Xuexiao (buy-who sheh-shou; 白虎学校), the White Tiger School. This prestigious monastery has a five hundred year tradition of martial arts excellence and religious training. The school, which has three Grand Masters, over one hundred instructors (59% male/41% female; 61% human/19% litoran/5% korobokuru/8% vanara/7% nezumi), and close to six hundred students, produces renowned budoka, dang-ki, muni, and sohei.

Each Grand Master specializes in a different style martial art. Wong Po, a male litorian, the Hard Master, teaches Mashiro Mouko. Wei Chin, a female vanara, the Blind Master, teaches Tongzhu. Chu Yeung, a male human, the Soft Master, teaches Vega Tur.

Baihu Xuexiao maintains vigil over the 3 Bells of Tang Lo, which are said to have the ability to summon forth a celestial gold dragon of tremendous power, when rang by the three Grand Masters in unison. Only once in the school's history has this power been invoked, to protect against the depredations of Heise Emo (黑色惡魔), an oni warlord of immense power, slain 200 years ago.

The Grand Masters realize that, while the school is self-sufficient, it is often beneficial to bring in specialists from outside to compliment their defenses and interests. Because of this, they often hire mercenaries on both short term and long term contracts.

Customs

Baihu Xuexiao is steeped in tradition and order. Everything is done with precision and purpose.

Robe Coloration

Students wear different colored robes to designate their specialties. Budoka wear white robes, dang-ki wear yellow, and muni wear purple. As the school's defenders, sohei forgo robes and instead wear black ashigaru armor.

Belt Coloration

Each student wears a belt with his training robes designating his experience and ability. These belts correspond to character level. All budoka, dang-ki, and muni of the school wear these belts. However, the sohei never wear any belt designating experience. It is generally regarded as a bad idea to advertise the training level of your defensive soldiers.



| Level | Belt Color |
|-------|------------|
| 1 | White |
| 2 | Yellow |
| 3 | Orange |
| 4 | Purple |
| 5 | Green |
| 6 | Blue |
| 7 | Brown |
| 8 | Red |
| 9 | Black |

Weaponry

Students may favor any of the three styles taught at the school, regardless of class. However, each of the three styles here has certain favored weaponry. Practitioners of Mashiro Mouko utilize tonfa and tiger hooks, usually in an aggressive two-weapon fighting style. The Tongzhu practitioners almost always use a single or paired kama. Finally, the Vega Tur practitioners heavily favor chained weaponry such as the nunchaku or manriki-gusari.

Titles

Individuals serve various roles at Baihu Xuexiao, and form of address is very important. The following are common titles.

| Role | Title | Pronunciation |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| Black Belt | Zhuren | (zyou rin) |
| Grand Master | Dashi | (da she) |
| Honored | Rongxing | (wrong shing) |
| Mercenary | Guyong Jun | (goo yong june) |
| Student | Xuesheng | (sheh shung) |

GEOGRAPHY

Baihu Xuexiao is located on the slopes of Mount Ling in the Inian Range near the Rendah River and Teriawa Forest. The nearest city, Penting, is about thirty miles away. On the other side of the great Inian mountains lies a huge expanse of lush jungle stretching to the coast and going on for hundreds of miles all the way into Malatra.

ALLIES OF BAIHU XUEXIAO

Ki'rin

A small group of ki'rin living upon Mount Ling are allied with Baihu Xuexiao and often aid them.



Tiaowu Hou Xuexiao

Tiaowu Hou Xuexiao (tea-ow-oo-woo hoe; 跳舞猴), the Dancing Monkey school, has long been allied with Baihu Xuexiao. The Tiaowu Hou Xuexiao school is a bit smaller than Baihu Xuexiao and about 100 miles to the north.

ENEMIES OF BAIHU XUEXIAO

Heise Emo

This black-skinned giant oni marshaled evil forces of oni and bakemono two centuries ago under his fearsome banner. His marauders razed several human villages before a united army of budo practitioners from the many xuexiao of Petan stood against him. It was the power of Baihu Xuexiao's 3 Bells of Tang Lo that summoned the mighty dragon that finally killed the terrible demon warlord. To this day, descendants of that great army of darkness still plot revenge against Baihu Xuexiao and attempt to kill their students whenever possible.

Tama Da Long

Every 73 years, a massive green dragon with terrible sorcerous power flies forth from the Teriawa Forest to pillage and gorge itself on humanoid flesh for about 10 weeks before returning to hiding in its lair. The dragon has twice attempted to take the 3 Bells of Tang Lo from Baihu Xuexiao, and it is close to time for the dragon to once again rise.

NPCS OF BAIHU XUEXIAO

Dashi Chu Yeung

Regarded as the Soft Master, the light spoken silver-haired master of Vega Tur moves with the grace of the wind. He is always calm and precise, but in battle, he erupts in a violent blinding speed of twirling motion that leaves his opponents dazed and beaten. He is a slender elder human male who wears the white robes of a budoka with a black belt with gold stripes.

Dashi Wei Chin

The Blind Master, this dashi of Tongzhu, is a slender, silver-pelted vanara. Decades ago, the monkey-woman took a vow of blindness to prove the power of Tongzhu. She has worn a thick black blindfold over both eyes ever since. Her other senses are astounding, and she functions as perfectly as any sighted individual. Dashi Chin wears the yellow robes of the dang-ki and a black belt with gold stripes.

Dashi Wong Po

Also known as the Hard Master, the dashi of Mashiro Mouko, is a tall, powerfully built litorian in his fifties. He wears the white robes of a budoka and a black belt with gold stripes. His voice is deep and gravelly, making him sound harsher than he is. Dashi Po has had his experience in battle and is a hardened fighter. He is known for decisive action and a strong belief in honor.



Duizhang Zhou

The captain, or duizhang (dway-zyong), of the Baihu Xuexiao sohei is a muscular woman named Zhou. She is human in her early forties in remarkable physical condition. Her skill with the naginata is legendary. As rumors often happen, it is said that Zhou vowed only to be with a man who has bested her in combat and she has never been beaten.

Wuqi the Smith

This stout male korobokuru has built weapons and armor for Baihu Xuexiao for over a century. He drinks heavily and often appears drunk, but his craftsmanship is impeccable.

Yisheng

A human woman in her mid-fifties, Yisheng is an able shaman and healer. Her magical talents and ability to speak with the spirits provide healing and restoration to the students and teachers of Baihu Xuexiao. Yisheng prefers robes of red with white trim and is never armed with a weapon.