

## THE LURE of the JADE THRONE by [Mark L. Chance](#)

The Infernal Pagoda, ruled by the White Carnation Clan's tengu ninjas, stands deep within the Eight Blossom Forest, a haunted wood that few ever return from. Higher floors are home to increasingly more skilled ninjas. Kouki Asuka, the clan's leader, occupies the topmost floor. Asuka sits alone in deep meditation except when he entertains important guests from infernal realms. Various monsters, spirits, hungry ghosts, and visitors may be encountered within the Infernal Pagoda. Anyone skillful enough to ascend through the four lower stories to reach the highest floor is then free to sit upon the Jade Throne. For the brief time a mortal bears the throne's psychic energies, one commands power enough to grant himself a single wish. At least, that's what stories say, but those stories are lure enough.

### The First Four Floors

1. *Audience Chamber.* VIPs are met and/or entertained in these rooms.

2 & 8. *Guest Chambers.* VIPs are housed in with comfortable furnishings and many oni masks decorating the walls. Asuka can see and hear through the masks when he meditates.

3. *Guest Dining.* Meals for VIPs are served in this stylish chamber. More oni masks decorate the walls.

4. *Ninja Quarters.* Each floor's ninjas live and sleep here. Furnishings grow more luxurious as one moves away from the ground floor.

5. *Ninja Training Room.* Ninjas must train constantly to stay in fighting form. Think

“ninja danger room”.

6. *Kitchen & Food Storage.* Food is stored and prepared here. The kitchen staff sleeps here when not on duty. Beware their knives that can slice both metal and tomatoes!

7. *Ninja Dining.* Ninjas take their meals and relax here.

9. *Climbing Ropes.* Interior ascent and descent between floors is via silk ropes. Non-ninjas use the veranda stairs outside.

### The Top Floor

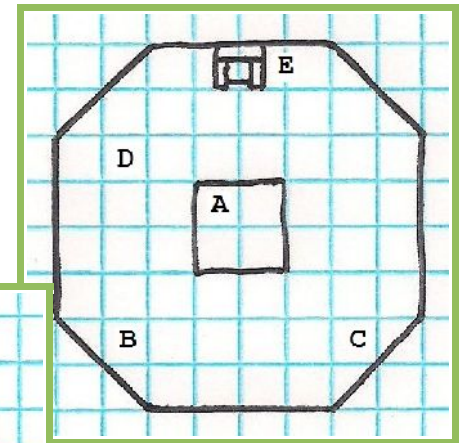
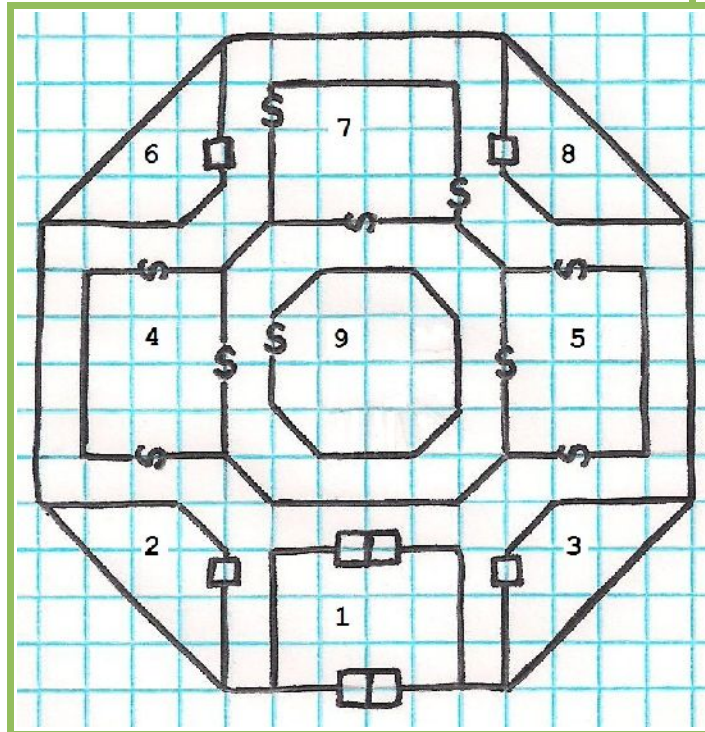
A. *Entry Pit.* Silk ropes lead down to the fourth floor from here.

B. *Meditation Area.* Asuka spends much of his time meditating on ninja mysteries and spying on VIPs via the oni masks.

C. *Altar of the Oni Lords.* An elaborate altar covered with monstrous statues of oni lords dominates this part of the room.

D. *Living Area.* Asuka entertains honored guests in this part of his dwelling.

E. *The Jade Throne.* Can it grant a wish? If so, and Asuka can use it, can anyone truly prevail against the White Carnation Clan?



### RANDOM ENCOUNTERS

1 in 8 if folks are bored

1d12	Result
1	Possessing <a href="#">gaki</a>
2-3	<a href="#">Tsuchigumo</a> mage
4-6	1d6 <a href="#">tengu</a> ninjas
7-9	1d4 VIP visitors
10-11	Hungry <a href="#">oni</a>
12	Infernal vortex

An infernal vortex lasts for 1d6 rounds, and it has a 1-square diameter. Creatures can pass through an infernal vortex to and from the soul-shattering hell it touches.

### GENERAL FEATURES

The Infernal Pagoda is a magical place whose interior dimensions don't match its exterior. The floorplans for the first four floors are identical, but the scale varies (see table below). Ceiling height equals floor number times 7.5 feet (e.g., 15-foot high ceilings on the 2nd floor). Stealth-assisting shifting shadows fill interior spaces. Magical light can't dispel these mysterious shadows.

Floor	1 Square =	Floor	1 Square =	Floor	1 Square =	Floor	1 Square =	Floor	1 Square =
1st	5 feet	2nd	10 feet	3rd	15 feet	4th	20 feet	5th	5 ft.