



A Scenario for *Altered Carbon: The Role Playing Game*
Inspired by the Netflix Original series
based upon the novel by Richard K. Morgan

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For Julie and Wade, the Hivemind, and the Akilytes, my biggest cheerleaders.

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CONTENT WARNING

The following content contains mentions of suicide and detailed descriptions of natural disasters. Your mental and emotional health are paramount to the enjoyment of this material, so feel free to pick and choose whatever elements of the lore suit the needs of you and your group, and remember that communication is tantamount to a good game.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Japanese is a phonetic language, and each syllable is spoken without stress. As opposed to the English vowel sounds “a (ey)” “e (ee)” “i (eye)” “o (oh)” “u (you),” Japanese vowel sounds are “a (ah)” “e (ey)” “i (ee)” “o (oh)” “u (oo).” Thus, Kaiyoutei would be pronounced “ka-ee-yo-tay” with no stressed syllables. The western pronunciation of Yakuza is “ya-KOO-za” with an exaggerated and elongated “ku” sound, but properly pronounced it is simply “ya-koo-za,” three short syllables.

CULTURE GUIDE

Full Disclosure: This supplement was written by someone who is not Japanese, but spent half of their life living in the country both as a child and as an adult. Japanese culture, like all cultures, is rich and expansive. Like all cultures, it is an amalgamation of good and bad. What is covered in this supplement barely scratches the surface of the many facets of Japan. You are encouraged to do your own research in order to avoid Orientalism, generalizations, and stereotypes in your portrayal of the characters who will inhabit this space.



TIMELINE

- **2030, the Pending Flood:** Waters begin to rise, record high temperatures result in millions of deaths globally.
- **2040-2050, The Great Migration:** First mass dying-off of the older generation leaves Japan with an astounding population crisis and facing global financial ruin.
- **2055, Asia Cooperation Initiative:** Asia Cooperation Initiative (ACI) enacted to cultivate peaceful cooperation in SE Asia.
- **2085, SEA Unity Act:** ACI deemed successful. Leads to peace talks and treaties for China, Korea, Japan, and several other SE Asian countries.
- **2085-2185, *Isseiki no Heiwa*:** Successful peace negotiations result in a hundred year era of peace and cooperation in Asia. Cortical Stacks are introduced.
- **2175, Adulthood Backup Edict (ABE):** Edict issued to standardize usage of Cortical Stack tech.
- **2185, *Oojishin*, Heritage Preservation Act (HPA):** The “Big One” finally hits Japan, devastating loss of life and significant damage done to coastlines.
- **2186, Suicide Prevention Act (SPA):** Decimated population prevented from furthering the crisis. Violators face harsh punishment.
- **2187, Osaka becomes globally recognized power:** With its contributions to technological advancements and innovations, Osaka takes its place among other major cities in the world.
- **2187-2200, *Makegirai* JAPAN:** Efforts to rebuild Japan are expansive and extensive. Many Japanese, temporarily displaced to other countries, make their return.
- **2200-2250, Osaka Rising:** Osaka is an epicenter of Japanese commerce, politics, and culture.
- **2250-2385, The Hardship:** Civil unrest becomes more common as historical sites are collected by the rich and economic disparity widens.
- **2380, SPA Ends:** The Suicide Prevention Act is struck down by the Protectorate.
- **2385 (present day), Osaka by Night:** The upper class rule the city, Dotonbori is a refuge for small time crime lords, a dilapidated and abandoned theme park at the outskirts of the city houses a secret.

WELCOME TO OSAKA

To understand what will be, you must first understand what has gone before. Japan is and was a country rich in tradition and heritage, both of which they have fought tirelessly to preserve. Much of what you may know about Japan as a culture is still relevant, but has, as things are wont to do, evolved. This is the future, after all, and in one of the most technologically advanced societies on the planet, even the worst has not managed to subdue them.

While many of its coastal cities have fallen to ruin due to a myriad of natural disasters, one shining jewel still stands. Tucked into a southern bay, Osaka, in some places not erroneously referred to as “New Venice,” stands as a testament to the iron will of the Japanese. It has not been without cost.

THE PENDING FLOOD: 2030

In 2030, the waters, as predicted, began to rise. Earth had had enough, and time was running out. Scientists had been predicting it for decades, only to be largely ignored by politicians and lobbyists. Those in power wanted their pound of flesh, and ecologically bankrupting the planet did not seem to matter to them. They were rich, and certain of their survival.

As coastlines began to disappear, and the temperatures rose to untenable levels, many started to wonder if hubris had finally caught up to the human race. Despite the everyday person doing their best, individual efforts to curb the coming tide were not enough. Riots broke out globally on nearly a daily basis as people flooded their government buildings, demanding help.

The most affected areas were islands. Garbage choked shorelines and the rising heat index was killing the beaches. Tourism in those areas greatly suffered due from the lack of care. Community efforts to clean the beaches often ended in frustration as more garbage floated in. Humanity, in its last ditch effort to survive, enacted desperate measures to rise out of the ashes left in the wake of centuries of destructive living.

THE GREAT MIGRATION: 2040-50

To add insult to injury, a slow die-off was already occurring in Japan, and rising temperatures had only helped to speed a graying population on its way. Projections from decades ago predicted that a catastrophic drop in population was impending, and the little that was done to counteract the crisis had come far too late to stop it.

Gen Xers and Millennials struggled to pick up the slack in an environment that was openly hostile to mothers continuing their careers after having children, allowing fathers to spend more time with their families, and a refusal to provide affordable and more accessible childcare. Birthing rates had dropped considerably, and the older generations were living to such lengths that the national pension was hemorrhaging in its efforts to care for them all. The sudden, but inevitable, plummet in population was sure to devastate Japan.

ASIA COOPERATION INITIATIVE (ACI): 2055

Already at great risk of being swallowed before the population crisis could be resolved, Japan was one of the first to lead the charge towards drastic action. Heavily strict laws immediately went into effect; corporations contributing to climate change and pollution were heavily fined. Whalers and dolphin capturers risked losing their life at the end of a noose if caught. Volunteers showed up in droves to clean up waste and cull the nearby oceans of detritus and filth.

Japan was not alone in its efforts. No one could have foreseen their first allies in the effort being the recently unified New Korean Democratic Republic and China. Having never known true maritime peace, the three nations joined forces and purged their shared waters of the litter that had long choked it. Asia, having done their part, shared in the joy of their accomplishments and contributions.

SEA UNITY ACT: 2085

In spite of their best efforts to save the planet, for a senior citizen heavy population, it was too little, too late. With a depleted workforce, the country was forced to make peace with an idea it had long debated against: allowing for more immigration and international integration to help bolster and stabilize their population and economy. This injection of foreign blood gave birth to a Japan many could only have hoped for, but might never have imagined.

The SEA Unity Act was the initial greenlight for such integration, with many overtures made to ensure reparations for past atrocities contributing to what would hopefully be a lasting peace in South East Asia.

ISSEIKI NO HEIWA: 2085-185

For a century Japan knew not only unprecedented peace with its Asian neighbors, but a surge in technological, economical, and sociological advances. In this time, the Imperial family was phased out of ceremonial power as the global government began to take shape.

The introduction of Cortical Stacks and Sleeve technology were at first viewed in Japan with deep suspicion. While prideful of their own technological contributions throughout the century, the fear of Sleeving becoming the next big “boom” of Japanese culture was strong. For some time the practice occurred in Japan largely without oversight. Young parents attempted to back up their infants, some obsessively backed themselves up daily, still others experimented with the technology in almost inhumane ways.

ADULTHOOD BACKUP EDICT (ABE): 2175

Upon realizing that things had gotten out of hand, the global government began to make moves to bring Japan to heel. Regulations were put into place as quickly as they could be, with tight restrictions on who could be backed up and when being clearly outlined.

All people at the age of twenty, in conjunction with their Coming of Age ceremony, were required to be backed up at a government building and continue to do so every year subsequent to that within a week of their date of birth. No one under the age of twenty was permitted to do so without special dispensation.

THE “BIG ONE”: 2185

The *Oojishin* hit in 2185, ripping through the Japanese Alps like a zipper through felt, rending the nation nearly in half and burying hundreds of kilometers of the country beneath molten rivers of lava and ash. Coastal prefectures were rocked from their foundations and many were dumped into the sea. Tokyo Bay was nearly under water, though centuries of preparation kept it relatively safe; Yokohama, however, was lost to the depths; and all of the coastal islands were wiped from the map. Hokkaido, Shikoku, and Kyushu managed to survive the worst. Osaka, a much farther distance from the eastern mountain range, remained mostly intact, though not unscathed. The bay area now resembled Venice, its many rivers welling up to flood a large portion of the city.

Japanese fortitude and stoicism kicked in with a vengeance. They'd been on the brink before, and they could recover again. Cortical Stacks and domestic needle casting saved a generation nearly lost, but few could be resleeved as they anticipated. There was a strong sense of loss as many of Japan's Sleeving facilities failed. Many backups had to be shunted to neighboring countries, and many more of them were lost or completely corrupted. Real death, for perhaps the first time in Japanese society, became a real threat. Furthermore, those whose backups survived would have to come to terms with waking up far from home.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION ACT: 2185

With so many displaced from Japan, there was a scramble to preserve and protect as many historical sites as could be salvaged. Efforts went into making sure custodians were put in place to maintain those sites. Some of them were returned to the families that had been their owners and caretakers for centuries, and some were given to those with the means to keep them up to very strict guidelines.

These guidelines came to be formally known as the Heritage Preservation Act, and they laid out the standards by which pieces of Japanese heritage were to be maintained. It wasn't only historical landmarks that were to be kept up to snuff. From *kimono* to tea ceremonies, to martial arts, *ikebana*, and calligraphy, only those sanctioned and licensed by the government could be instructors of those disciplines. Such guardians quickly became revered, and their legacies were jealously protected by those in power.



SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT (SPA): 2186

While measures were taken to preserve the culture of Japan, not as much attention was being paid to the quality of life for the people who were left. Survivors faced horrific conditions. Most were homeless, and with the destruction of a lot of the cities, many were jobless, too. Nearly the entire public system, still largely ground based, though updated to meet higher technological standards, had been decimated by the quake and the ensuing aftershocks. A large portion of people were trapped in their homes, or trapped in a circumstance that felt helpless.

A sharp upswing in real death suicides took the local government aback. Facing an already frightful situation, the further loss of life was untenable. In a swift act of desperation, the Suicide Prevention Act was ratified and put into motion. All those whose Cortical Stacks could be recovered were re-Sleeved, put on trial for murder, and given multiple life sentences to be carried out in the form of indentured servitude.

OSAKA GAINS GLOBAL RECOGNITION: 2187

With the loss of Yokohama and the destruction of a large portion of Tokyo's bay area, it soon became apparent that Osaka was likely to evolve into Japan's biggest port of commerce due to its swift actions in establishing trade and curbing major financial loss for the country through solid technological advances.

Though it was hotly contested, Osaka eventually gained recognition as a significant contributor to the

advancement of the human race. Osaka had sustained a fair amount of damage from the quake and also found itself as the epicenter for the highest spate of SPA offenders. Many in the city felt that Osaka was not equipped to handle the strain of a world's expectations, and believed that they did not deserve to shoulder the burden of producing advances at such a high rate.

It did not dissuade those with the power to make such decisions, however, and Osakans celebrated their ascension as only the Japanese could: with poise, dignity, and grit.

MAKEGIRAI JAPAN: 2187-2200

Over the course of the next thirteen years, what was left of a tattered Japan engaged in a Herculean effort to rebuild their country, with a large emphasis placed on the full restoration of Osaka so far as nature allowed. This span of time was referred to as *Makegirai* JAPAN, or, The Japan That Hates To Lose.

It was during this time that *Umikai* and *Tenmon* were developed. In what was considered by many to be a triumphant display of technical and architectural engineering, the city established a series of vast and intricate underwater housing complexes. A large portion of them lived in the bowels of a pre-established, but largely abandoned underground shopping area and the metro system. Some of *Kaiyoutei* was established directly in the foundations of *Dotonbori*, by converting flooded basement levels of the skyscrapers located there and extending them out into the bay area of the city.

Tenmon saw a large portion of Osaka's original skyline made obsolete, as it expanded upon the "floating city" idea and created designs that marked the buildings as irrevocably Japanese. *Tenmon* was strategically placed around one of the few precious sites that had been spared the flooding, *Osaka-jou* (Osaka castle), and seemed to surround the site like an imperious floating wall.

Another mark of triumph saw the return of many of Japan's displaced dead, now re-Sleeved in bodies from all over the globe. Osaka experienced an unpredicted influx in population as those without family or responsibility found themselves drawn to the brave new vision of the city. While some SPA offenders made an effort to escape being returned to the country that did not yet consider their time served, very few succeeded.

OSAKA RISING: 2200-2250

For the next fifty years Osaka worked to reestablish itself as a global force in politics, economy, and technology. Resources were allocated first by the global government and then distributed by the local one.

Despite best efforts, not every aspect of the Heritage Preservation Act could be honored, due to the severe and extensive damage sustained during *Oojshin*, but *Osaka-jou* was held up as a monument of what the Japanese were capable of doing when given the opportunity to show their quality.

Jealously protected from would-be "looters," the *Sennin* considered it their sacred duty to watch over it. A site that was once free for all to visit soon became a pay-for-admission attraction for the very rich. Any temple that fell within the sacred *Tenmon* circle was likewise treated, elevating the families tasked with their preservation to dizzying heights in the social strata of the city.

THE HARDSHIP: 2250-2385

Though lauded for their swift and impeccable work, and global prosperity, it soon became apparent that Osaka was not ready for the sheer volume of people in the city.

There were far from enough jobs. More and more people were turning to organized crime, black market operations, and other illicit forms of doing business. There was an unforeseen lack of space and no apparent efforts were being made to remedy it. Though legitimate businesses still seemed to be the main source of income and jobs, the economic disparity between the haves and the have-nots became more and more visible to the outside world.

The *Sennin* did all they could to downplay the obvious corruption being fomented within the city limits, but were met with marginal success as Dotonbori devolved into a den for this organized crime. In many ways, Osaka returned to a feudalistic structure, with a rich elite calling the shots, willfully ignorant law enforcement, and the poor engaging in whatever activities kept them fed, clothed, and warm.

In this time a rumored gang of revolutionaries was beginning to form, inspired by movements and uprisings elsewhere. Some could even call it a splinter group. Its exact date of birth was largely unknown, and with good reason. The Seppuku Tigers were a strange amalgamation of people from nearly every social tier in the city, though that was not common knowledge. Their demonstrations of resistance started small, but their biggest victory was yet to be had...

SPA STRUCK DOWN: 2380

With the looming prospect of Osaka imploding from the powder keg it was building for itself, the global government made moves to strike down what was now considered by anyone who wasn't directly benefiting from it as archaic, barbaric, and cruel. The Sennin, local politicians, and law enforcement knew better than to grumble about it too loudly as the Suicide Prevention Act was rescinded and its victims freed from their indictments. They would be left to live, or not, as they chose.

PLACES TO KNOW

- **Tenmon:** Also known as "Heaven's Gate," this floating cityscape houses the elite and Sennin.
- **Dotonbori:** The ground level of Osaka, mostly flooded now, and the central hub for crime rings and illicit activities.
- **Kaiyoutei:** Where a large portion of the non-elite population dwells in Osaka. This area consists of underwater complexes attached to the foundations of the city.
- **Yuurei-machi:** An abandoned no-man's land located on a partially submerged peninsula southwest of Dotonbori.

TENMON 天門: HEAVEN'S GATE

This large floating complex is an achievement of architecture and technology. Established after the Oojishin of 2185, during a concentrated effort to restore Osaka, Heaven's Gate became the home for many of the country's Sennin.

Tenmon is located north and northeast of Dotonbori and forms a series of tight concentric circles. The further you live within Tenmon the richer and older you're likely to be. In the center stands the perfectly preserved and pristine Osaka-jou, which now acts as a country club of sorts for Osaka's most wealthy.

OSAKA CASTLE

Osaka-jou is one of the longest standing structures in Osaka. Built in 1583 A.D. by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the castle played a significant part in the unification of Japan as a nation in the sixteenth century.

A sprawling and beautiful estate, Osaka-jou was largely spared the fate of many parts of Osaka during Oojishin, though some parts did collapse and experience some flooding. The restoration of the castle was considered, by many, to be a top priority. The government poured millions of yen into the project, and even launched a search for a descendant of Toyotomi willing to step into the shoes of stewardship for the castle. This task ultimately proved to be futile, since it was largely known that the last of Toyotomi's direct issue died either by ritual suicide or execution, despite rumors and theories of his survival persisting throughout history.

The property therefore fell to the government and is now maintained through a joint effort by the Sennin, who contribute to its upkeep by way of purchasing memberships for access to the building. Without membership, one cannot enter Osaka-jou or the grounds, which are heavily guarded. Security is intense, mostly due to the fact that the Sennin have gone to great lengths to preserve Osaka-jou's historical integrity and have not erected physical structures to keep outsiders from getting in. Instead they employ invisible forcefield like grids to maintain an accurate aesthetic for the building.

OSAKA TENMANGU

Osaka Tenmangu is one of Japan's most treasured shrines and hosts one of Japan's most well-known shopping districts. It is also the home of the famous Tenjin Matsuri, a summer festival that honors the deity of scholarship, Sugawara Michizane.

The shrine is now upkept by a lesser known family of artists, the Matsumura Family. Though they are technically considered to be cultural guardians, they tend to keep to themselves and only emerge to maintain the shrine and arrange for the Sennin to continue to enjoy the Tenjin Matsuri, which is now considered to be a very exclusive, private event.

The shopping street, once a jewel of tourism, is now somewhat different. Though still a destination for shopping and site-seeing, it also hosts a stretch of shops that cater to more... deviant proclivities. By day it is a pristine, high class shopping location, and by night it opens up for more depraved and adventurous activities. Sennin that do not wish to

minge with the riffraff down in Dotonbori turn their attention here instead.

From clubs, drug dens, discrete meeting locations, flesh bars, and everything in between, here the Sennin aren't so different from any other human. The biggest differences are the quality of the establishments and clientele, and they're just a lot less likely to be caught or held accountable inside the safety of their Tenmon bubble.

LADY NAKAYUME'S PURSE

A club located in Tenjinbashi-suji Shopping Street, run by the infamous Lady Nakayume. She is a supremely sophisticated AI that is rumored to be the avatar of an actual living person, though none have been able to prove that that is true. Clever, alluring, and well connected for an AI, she runs a tight ship.

Lady Nakayume's Purse serves as both a bar lounge and high-end boudoir, attracting some of Tenmon's most affluent Sennin. It is likely that she has connections with the Yakuza, as many clubs throughout Japanese history tend to, but there are some that suspect that Lady Nakayume has managed to remain fairly autonomous, which is a pretty spectacular feat.

Nestled in a fairly innocuous part of the long shopping street, by day Lady Nakayume's Purse almost disappears, thanks to some technological finesse that displays a false storefront, which always has a "closed" sign up. Trying to find it by day can prove to be a challenge to anyone without the technological capabilities to see past such defenses.

THE STRIP

The Strip is a short stretch of shops that service a few very specific needs. Sennin go here to shop their tech upgrades and peruse the latest developments in cloning and Sleeve options. This upper class tech market boasts the very cutting edge of what is available to people with money to burn. This area is also choked with old time restaurants and bars, meticulously preserved and providing a strong sense of historical integrity to a location otherwise known for its wealth of gadgets.

Located at the most northern end of the street, The Strip is abuzz with AIs and synths hawking wares on behalf of wealthy, well-known merchants from around the world. The only humans allowed in the area must be from Tenmon or part of a Sennin escort. Sennin can send staff to The Strip to pick up or purchase items for them, but they must have the correct paperwork on them at all times or risk being ejected from Tenmon.

DOTONBORI 道頓堀: NEW VENICE

Once well renowned as the premiere tourist destinations of Japan, Dotonbori still lights up the night sky in a colorful neon display. Mostly navigated by boats, rafts, and dinghies, New Venice is now mostly a hub for various types of commerce, rather than tourism.

Denizens of Dotonbori live in riverboats and floating barges, and often sell their wares from those very same places, if not from raised platforms located along the shore line. Due to the water's proximity to a large amount of electricity, for a long time it

was deemed unsafe to swim in. Now the water is swimmable only in special suits, which many of the inhabitants of Dotonbori do not have. Navigating the canals of Dotonbori is fraught with danger.

SHOCHIKUZA

Shochikuza is the longest standing theatre in Dotonbori, having survived the second World War. Up until Oojishin, the theatre continued to do classic kabuki showings and stand as a center for culture and pride within the city of Osaka.

After the devastation and flooding of Dotonbori Canal, Shochikuza fell into disrepair. Being outside of the protective ring of Tenmon, assigning a cultural guardian to preserve it was not considered a high priority, though there were many Sennin that protested this and felt that such a cultural jewel should not go so neglected.

The theatre was mysteriously restored and reopened in the years following the earthquake. Though never confirmed, it was a poorly kept secret that a united effort by local black market merchants and the yakuza had a hand in the theatre's restoration. Kabuki is still viewed there now, but there is also the added layer of having a public place to perform private business deals.

The theatre now acts, in large part, as a place to make connections, ask for favors, and secure allies, especially during day time hours, when Canal Row is quieter, all under the cover of taking in a little culture. Shochikuza also happens to be one of the few places outside of Tenmon in which Sennin of a certain ilk are not too bothered to be seen.

CANAL ROW

The infamous canal of Dotonbori, marked by the famous Glico Running Man, is the center of commerce for anyone outside of Tenmon. Loud, bright, dingy, and crowded with boats, barges, and raised platforms, Dotonbori Canal's seething market services nearly every type of need. A vast majority of the buildings, flooded out in their lower floors, have been converted into every manner of shop, restaurant, or purveyor of goods.

Technically, in the eyes of the Protectorate, Canal Row is not a place to conduct legitimate business, but as it services a large portion of Osaka's population and keeps the people fairly sedated, they are happy to turn a blind eye to most of the activities that take place there. Where The Strip is considered the most upstanding location in Osaka to do trade, Canal Row is essentially the lowest.

The only way to safely navigate the passages of Dotonbori is by boat, as most of the area in what was formerly southern downtown Osaka is now underwater. Perhaps the starkest reminder of the environmental devastation that went before, and how much difference mere location made when Oojishin hit, is the large barrier to the north of Dotonbori, where it sits just outside the protective ring of Tenmon.

Canal Row is most obviously the biggest source of black market goods in Osaka, and the Yakuza have control over a large majority of the trade that happens there. Merchants not directly associated with them still have to pay some kind of dues to them in order to maintain a healthy business and livelihood.

THE BOAT HOUSE

In order to access Dotonbori from Kaiyoutei, one must come up through The Boat House. The Boat House is located just west of the Glico Running Man sign, in an old subway station with access to the street. Much like old time car parks, boats are parked atop each other on large conveyor belts that loop up into the building above. Boats of all types can be rented or bought and stored in The Boat House as well.

A secondary location of The Boat House is located at the barrier between Tenmon and Dotonbori. Though not many Sennin cross into the southern area of Osaka to do business, they will often send servants or escorts there for various reasons. On occasion, a Sennin will cross into Dotonbori to visit Shochikuza.

DIMS

Dims is a series of floating barges located towards the western mouth of Dotonbori and the central location for eateries in the area. The expansive spread of lashed together stretches of wood is a ten-minute walk across from any entry point and houses most of what remains of Osaka's "foodie" culture.

Crammed together in a traditional zigzag alleyway style, tiny izakaya, karaoke bars, noodle shops, dumplings, takoyaki, grilled or fried meat and vegetable skewers, and much more inundate the space in a hot, steaming, rickety bustle that can smelled, and heard, kilometers away. Dims is considered one of the few safe havens of the city, where doing business is considered to be somewhat of a faux pas. That does not mean it does not occur, but getting caught can mean being turned out of most of the tiny restaurants immediately.

Dims is a perfect gathering place for like-minded individuals to group together and talk just about anything but business. Politics, religion, scholarly discourse, food, culture, and just about every other topic of conversation is welcome at Dims, and well lubricated by copious amounts of alcohol. So while Dims is not a good place to do business, it is, instead, an excellent place to gather information and tips.

KAIYOUTEI 海洋底: SEA FLOOR

Once all the water that flooded Osaka had been pumped out of the bowels of the city, the space cleared was converted into living spaces and then expanded into the ocean. Most of the middle class was sent here to take up residence. Though utilitarian and sparse, the complexes constructed were state-of-the-art.

The Osaka Police Department, Osaka Central Medical Ward, Kaiyoutei Civic Hall, the Osaka Times, as well as several other legitimate businesses, are housed in the upper floors of Kaiyoutei. Many who live in Kaiyoutei can go their whole lives without going groundside. They are born, are backed up, and die without having ever seen the sun. In the vast underground of Osaka, all their needs have been met. Only those who find themselves dissatisfied with the status quo make their way topside, into the world above.

OSAKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Osaka Police Department is the Protectorate sanctioned peace keeping force in the city. Though a smaller branch of the department exists in Tenmon as part of the Protectorate's headquarters, its main branch is located in Kaiyoutei for ease of deployment to the bulk of Osaka's citizens.

The department is located in the upper floors of Kaiyoutei, with ground access to Dotonbori. Access to the Tenmon branch is only available via the canals and requires special authorization. Historically, only detectives are given Tenmon access, though the occasional beat cop is granted permission to go to Tenmon if the extenuating circumstances call for it.

In design, the offices are functional. Though technologically superior to most areas of Kaiyoutei, the stark, utilitarian layout of the department is the biggest degree of separation from the Protectorate that runs the OPD. Lacking the usual opulence, the OPD often does not bother itself with flashy displays of power, which, given the level of corruption in the department, is probably for the best.

KAIYOUTEI CIVIC HALL

The largest civic hall in the city, Kaiyoutei Civic Hall is where nearly all Adulthood Backup fulfillments are done. Boasting the most comprehensive DHF storage system and library on the planet, Kaiyoutei services the population of Osaka outside of Tenmon and maintains meticulous records of who is up to date on their backups. Working in conjunction with the OPD, they enforce strict measures to ensure that the population of the city remains safe from Real Death.

Though they have wide reach in their oversight, they have long ignored signs that there are people not adhering to the law, writing off such evidence as speculation and rumor. Despite having what some believe to be nearly limitless resources, their power is moderated by the Protectorate, which generally does not concern itself with errant citizens.

Located essentially across the hall from the OPD, the two facilities make up what is considered by most locals to be Kaiyoutei's municipal block.

OSAKA TIMES

The Osaka Times, also located within Kaiyoutei's municipal block, is the city's longest running Protectorate approved source of news and information. Reporting on local, national, international, and intergalactic news alike, the Times purports itself to be a fair, impartial purveyor of the news. Though required, to a certain degree, to remain pro-Protectorate in its reporting, there is some leeway given to certain high-profile reporters.

With twenty-four hour broadcasts seven days a week, the Osaka Times is never closed, and hosts a staff of synths, AI, and humans. The state of the art, cutting edge office houses several broadcasting suites, as well as a small hub for Needle Casting for investigative journalism purposes. It also employs a private security service.

YUUREI-MACHI 幽霊町: GHOST CITY

A secret lies to the southwest of the city, on a flooded out peninsula housing the tangled, abandoned ruins of a long forgotten theme park. Largely ignored as a relic of the past, unknown activities take place unseen. Rumors circle hot and fast about what is happening in the veritable ghost town, but nothing can be confirmed. A barrier has been put up to keep people out. From the city all that can be seen are the twisted metal skeletons of what used to be there.

Beyond the barrier, however, is a completely different landscape. Buildings are not in the same state of disrepair or neglect as is displayed. Technology is obviously masking the true nature of what is taking place in Yuurei-machi. Is it a seditious plot against the government? A new secret gathering place for the Sennin? Is it an internment camp of some kind? Whatever happens there happens in the shadows, and the only way to truly know what occurs there, is to go there yourself.

THE SHELL (OSAKA AQUARIUM)

The Shell is the hollowed out, flooded remains of the Osaka Aquarium. It is suspected that a few of the large tanks housed in what was once the largest aquarium in the world are still intact, but there is no staff deployed to restore or maintain the facility. The Protectorate abandoned the west side of the city shortly after Oojishin due to the incredible devastation to that area's infrastructure and the enormity of the cost to repair it.

In the present day, The Shell is the main sheltering place of the Seppuku Tigers. The Tigers use the building as their communal living space while also maintaining the two or three tanks that survived the earthquake. Many technological aspects of the aquarium remain as they were when the earthquake hit, though slow upgrades have been put in place to make the building a viable shelter for the group. The barrier put up by the Protectorate projects the aquarium as a twisted chunk of steel beams and concrete rubble to dissuade people from crossing into the area.

THE PROVING GROUNDS

Even further west, beyond The Shell and almost completely submerged beneath the waves of Osaka Bay, are The Proving Grounds. In this area, the Tigers assemble and train. The Proving Grounds also acts as a storage facility for a lot of the Tigers' resources.

Not much has been done to restore what was once an expansive property. Rafts and barges make up the majority of the stable ground in the area. Most of the buildings are in shambles, but a few of the more modern of the facilities were able to withstand the violence of the earthquake and provide food and additional communal spaces for the Tigers and their families, such as a small school, a medical facility, a handful of restaurants, and a gymnasium. These areas are fairly rudimentary and makeshift, but they are sufficient for the needs of the Tigers.

Due to the ruinous nature of Oojishin, The Proving Grounds is an incredibly dangerous area. Shards and hulking masses of twisted steel and concrete jut out from the water in such a way to suggest that this area may have once been meant to provide the city of Osaka a means of fun and entertainment. The Protectorate does not speak much of what used to be west of the main sprawl of the city, and the common conjecture is that the loss of that area to Oojishin was something of a major blow to not just Osaka, but Japan as a whole.

Now it functions mostly as a location for the Tigers to run ops simulations and train their squadron of followers to be combatants and mercenaries. The difficult terrain provides the perfect space to develop the necessary skills to adapt to a multitude of different environments and situations.

