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# Legend of the Five Rings

Beta Preview:  
The Kakita Blade

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# Special Preview

Last week, you voted on which item previews you wanted to see, and this week, we're here to deliver on two of those items!

By far and away the most requested choice was the Kakita blade—the ultimate aspirational item for any duelist. However, omamori, charms created by priests, shrine-keepers, and other mystics to grant protection to their wearers, were also a popular selection, and so we have decided to provide examples of both of these items!

## Kakita Blade

Since the days of old, the Kakita have been the most renowned swordsmiths of the Emerald Empire, and their finest blades are said to be physical manifestations of the ideal upon which other swords are based. At the Steel Crane Forge, after countless exertions and failed efforts, Kakita Ashidaka forged the first sword to be called a Kakita blade, and since, their creation has become the provenance of the vassal family bearing his name.

A Kakita blade is forged in an elaborate, secretive ritual, that results in a katana that is lighter and more resilient than a standard blade—and far deadlier. The steel, always mined in Crab lands and purified at great length in a crucible, takes on a pattern like freeflowing water. Other, more esoteric steps occupy the process, but these are the secrets of the Ashidaka. Each blade is forged in absolute silence, that it not be marred by a single word, and tested on a great stone at Kyūden Doji. Any blade that fails to carve a chunk from the stone is said to be destroyed.

The renowned Crane warrior Doji Kuwanan holds the resplendent blade Omeka, which bears the mark of Ashidaka Sora, who forged it three centuries ago as a gift to one of Kuwanan's forebears. For his part, Doji Kuwanan added renown to the blade's legend when he used it to defeat of the renowned pirate Umitaka during the defense of Cold Wind City, cleaving through his foe's blade to deliver the deathblow during their duel.

### Special Rules

When an opponent Parries a stroke from this blade (see page @@), the parrying blade gains the Destroyed condition and the critical strike cannot be reduced below 10.

Name	Skill	Range	Damage	Deadliness	Grips	Special Qualities	Rarity	Price
Omeka	Martial Arts [Melee]	1	5	8	2-handed: Deadliness +2	Ceremonial, Durable, Razor-Edged, Resplendent	Unique	Inestimable

## Omamori

Omamori are protective charms, sold at many shrines across the Emerald Empire, often in the form of a small envelope or bag containing a written or inscribed prayer to a particular kami (often one of the great Fortunes, but occasionally others). Most examples provide protection against ill fortune of a specific variety such as illness or accidents, or encourage good luck in some sphere, such as farming, travel, or marriage, but are never put to the test in any rigorous manner—the kami move by paths unseen by mortal eyes, after all, and it is hard to determine if a talisman was truly responsible for one's safety.

Shugenja and other powerful servants of the kami are capable of creating especially efficacious protective charms. These frequently contain appeals to the Great Fortunes (such as those listed here), but can also offer other protections by appealing to different powers.

### Special Rules

An Omamori may contain one of the following blessings:

- **Boon of Fukurokujin:** Fukurokujin, Fortune of Wisdom, illuminates the truth even when tricksters seek to obscure it. Once per game session, the wearer may spend 1 Void point to remove a persistent effect caused by a Scheme action.
- **Boon of Bishamon:** Bishamon promises glory at arms to the bold, and draws the eyes of the powerful to those who prove their strength. Once per game session, when the wearer receives a glory award, the wearer may spend 1 Void point to increase that award by 3.
- **Boon of Benten:** Benten watches over artists and lovers, guiding them in their endeavors. Once per game session, the wearer may spend 1 Void point to add a kept Ring die showing ♀ to an Artisan or Social check.

The kami can be a bit jealous in their stewardship, however. While a character can theoretically wear multiple protective charms at once, they cannot use any of their worn omamori if they are wearing more than one.