

A PRIMER FOR PLAYERS NEW TO THE LEGEND OF THE FIVE RINGS

In this game, you play as a **SAMURAI** serving one of the seven **GREAT CLANS** of **ROKUGAN**. You are sworn to fight in the name of your **LORD** and **CLAN**, uphold the laws of the **EMERALD EMPIRE**, and comport yourself with honor, as your words and deeds reflect on your family. Your birth determined your role in society, and your ancestors' traditions are now yours to carry on. You endeavor to live in accordance the seven tenets of **BUSHIDŌ**, but you are only human. Your **DUTY** will conflict with your **DESIRES**, and happiness is fleeting. Your death will determine whether you are remembered or forgotten.

At the top of the **CELESTIAL ORDER** is the **EMPEROR** and the **IMPERIAL FAMILIES**. The families of the Great Clans owe fealty to the Emperor, and each family has a hierarchy of lords and vassals. The gods, or **KAMI**, inhabit the world alongside humankind and other supernatural creatures.

Your clan dictates your role in the Empire, your values, and your strengths:

- ⊗ The **CRAB CLAN** defends the Wall that keeps the **SHADOWLANDS** at bay. They value **COURAGE** above all and are known for their pragmatism.
- ⊗ The **CRANE CLAN** creates harmony between people and the arts. They value **COURTESY** above all and strive for perfection in all things.
- ⊗ The **DRAGON CLAN** reflects on the world and seeks out its wisdom. They value **SINCERITY** above all and are the most individualistic.
- ⊗ The **LION CLAN** musters the Empire's armies and guides them to victory. They value **HONOR** above all and are the most traditional.
- ⊗ The **PHOENIX CLAN** serves the spirits of the land and studies the mysteries of the heavens. They value **RIGHTEOUSNESS** above all and are naturally mystical.
- ⊗ The **SCORPION CLAN** uses underhanded tactics so the other clans don't have to. They value **DUTY AND LOYALTY** above all and are highly cunning.
- ⊗ The **UNICORN CLAN** builds bridges between Rokugan and the rest of the world. They value **COMPASSION** above all, and their horsemanship is unsurpassed.

Each clan bids its samurai to study the skills and techniques of a particular **SCHOOL**:

- ⊗ As a **BUSHI**, you've studied the martial arts and battle-field tactics.
- ⊗ As a **COURTIER**, you've studied government, history, and diplomacy.
- ⊗ As a **MONK**, you practice meditation and other forms of self-development to achieve Enlightenment and help others.
- ⊗ As a **SHINOBI**, you've learned the arts of ninjutsu and spycraft.
- ⊗ As a **SHUGENJA**, you've studied the spirit realms and how to invoke the kami.
- ⊗ As an **ARTISAN**, you've learned to create functional and aesthetic works of art.

You'll overcome obstacles by channeling your inner attributes, reflected in the **FIVE RINGS**¹:

- ⊗ The **AIR RING** represents grace, perceptiveness, cunning, and precision.
- ⊗ The **EARTH RING** represents resilience, memory, patience, and discipline.
- ⊗ The **FIRE RING** represents passion, invention, candor, and ferocity.
- ⊗ The **WATER RING** represents adaptability, awareness, gregariousness, and power.
- ⊗ The **VOID RING** represents mysticism, wisdom, intuition, and instinct.

Your birthright, choices, and achievements will affect your social standing:

- ⊗ Your **HONOR** reflects how seriously you take adherence to the tenets of **BUSHIDŌ**.
- ⊗ Your **GLORY** reflects how highly esteemed you are by your lord, and how far your name has traveled.
- ⊗ Your **STATUS** reflects your caste and rank.

¹Source: [The Legend of the Five Rings Roleplaying Game Beta Rules](#), page 13.