

ZASHIKI WARASHI 座敷童

見ぬが花

"Not seeing is a flower."

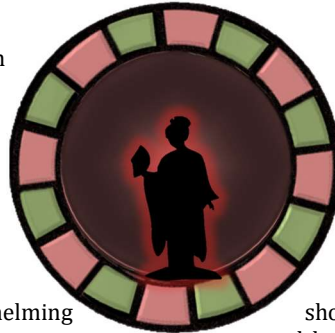
-Japanese Kotowaza (Proverb)

Quote: **None*, just a feeling of being watched...*

Traditionally it was said that if you buried a golden ball under the floorboards that it would summon a Zashiki Warishi. Truth tell, how would anyone notice? One of the numerous little Goddesses of Domesticity, the Zashiki Warishi are perhaps the most prolific of the Gasin Hsien families, though it is hard to tell. Invisible when in their chosen house and nigh imperceptible when outside it, hundreds of Japanese households contain them but only a handful know of it.

Though there are handful of males, the overwhelming majority of their number are little girls. All, however, are young, rarely over 14 years of age. This Hsien-Tsu seeming is also permanent, for as long as they remain with a household, they will never grow old or gray. Watching behind the scenes, they become unofficial members of their Household's family. Like clever little poltergeists, they play and work unnoticed. It is strange that so many households don't realize the spirit in their midst, but mortals only see what they want to see.

Appearance: The Appearance of the Zashiki Warishi is a moot conceit, as most Zashiki Warishi like to go about unnoticed as much as possible. They sport long bangs that cover their eyes and favor traditional clothing with little embellishments. All in all they can be said to be nothing if not unassuming little poppets. In Hotei-Mien they are slight, short, and waifish little Japanese girls. In Wani-Form they appear much the same, though their ears are slightly rounder. Their Mask of the Shentai appears as a large beast of a monster, black and purple skinned, with glowing red eyes and sporting flaming samurai armor. But this is rarely manifested.



Lifestyle: Zashiki Warishi, from the moment of Chrysalis, slowly back away from the perceptions of others. At the opportune time, known only to themselves, they will disappear from their previous homes and families, and seek out a new one for themselves. Hidden and invisible, they will move in and set up shop. Sometimes the family might realize and keep it a secret (the smart ones that is). Sometimes the Children will befriend them, and the parents chalk it up to imaginary friends. If she can get away with it, she'll move about unnoticed at all and no one know in the house will be the wiser. If need be, the Zashiki Warishi will make nice with the local Hsien courts, if only to have contact with others of her kind. However, even then at the local Dragon lines, few of the other Shinma even know she's visiting at all.

Hsien-Tsu Zashiki Warishi make up the whole of the Tribe and so it always will be until the end of their days.

Hsien-Jin Zashiki Warishi are nonexistent as growing to an adult would mean the losing their Hsien self.

Glamour ways: Zashiki Warishi regain Glamour/Yugen only from that mortal family she lives with and the love of her household or answering their prayers. Whether or not the household knows of her existence is irrelevant. What matters is that they love each other, and she is there to see it and feel it.

Unleashing: Cantrips cast by the Zashiki-Warishi are rife with all sorts of creepy goings-on, but usually only in the house where they work and live. Toys will play with themselves, or voices and music can be heard in another room. Papers rustle,



pillows fall off the bed, and dusty footprints appear from nowhere.

Affinity: Scene - *or*- Kwannon-Jin **Fortune:** Wood

Yin: 1 **Yang:** 3

Birthrights:

Inconspicuously Invisible (*Medatanai Mienai*): There are many ways a Zashiki Warishi can move about unnoticed. When in a household, their natural state is invisible. Though they can spend a point of Glamour/Yugen to be seen (not that many would want to). Children with sufficiently low banality (usually 3 or lower) can roll their willpower to see her if they have reason to believe that their house has one. Adults, however, have a much harder time seeing her.

When out and about, however, the Zashiki Warishi has another means of being unnoticeable. Folks simply look over her, invisible or not. This is a sort of magic cloaking glamour that makes the wee girl unassuming. Even when looking for her, someone must succeed on a Perception + Kenning roll, difficulty 8 to spy her. Keep in mind that they must have sufficient reason to look for her to even attempt this roll.

Good Luck (*Kōun o*): The Zashiki-Warishi that is settled and happy in a household brings with her good fortune simply by dint of her being there. Once per day, anyone else (Not the Zashiki Warishi herself) living in the house can ignore a single botch. In addition, for a point of Glamour/Yugen spent by the Zashiki Warishi, someone with a failed roll can reroll it. Again, only the others of a household, not her, can utilize this do-over.

However, this itself comes with a stipulation. If for any reason the Zashiki Warishi feels hurt, offended, or disgusted by her household in any way, she will leave to find a new one, and all the missed botches and failed rolls will all come back at once in one fell swoop and destroy the household and everyone in it.

Frailties:

House-Grounded (*Setchi sa Reta ie*): The Zashiki Warishi are tied to their households in a way that few domestic Dreaming Creatures are. While in a house, she will remain perpetually young. But the family that she loves will grow old and leave, and she must find a new one. In that time between Households there is a whole slew of problems. For instance, if she cannot find a house quick enough,

She will begin to age as normal and if she ages too much, she will lose her Shinma essence, becoming a normal kinain and mundane woman. She also cannot Glamour/Yugen until she finds a new household and family to love.

There is also the matter of how she leaves the household. Again, if she leaves under less than ideal circumstances (disgusted, hurt, offended, slighted) then all that bad karma deflected will come back to hit at once. If this happens, she accrues a permanent point of banality.

Chiyoiko, in a rare show of gregarity, shows herself and shares her opinions on the Gasin and a few others.

Bāofēngyū: They make a mess of the place with their stupid weather. And they are too serious by far.

Daruma: Good men, like kindly uncles. I would like to share a house with them. I'm sure they tell good stories.

Dokkaebi: Always on the go? Adventures every day? No thank you.

Enrena: Little soot-sprites with all the attention span of a sugar-addled rat. Their brain always seem to be somewhere else, even when they're right next to you.

Hanayomeningyo: Poor little things. It's so sad.

Shinigami: Nope, not in our house. Move along Uncle-Death.

Tennyō: The Moon-Goddesses are always welcome.

Yoaguai: Gross. Pointless. But they mean well.

Obake: They take themselves too seriously.

The Bakemono: They take themselves even more seriously.

The Kamui: I didn't vote for them.

The Hirayanu: At least they know how to take orders.

The Sunset People: There's a lot. Here's a few I know.

Kikkimora: Annoying gossiping thieves.

Ekwu: Wonderfully kind and attentive, though I didn't like the attention.

Malinos: Less thieves than the Kikkimora, but 10 times as gossipy.

Bichura: They talk to the master of the household with such a harsh tongue, and such filthy language. It is hard to think of them as domestic anything.

Huirviu: I visited a house with one of the Rabbit-Gods once. What did I learn? That the Kelts are crazy. It was maddening.