

# Nishitani - a robed monastic

It pains you to see the way people live their lives. Their attachment to transient pleasures only leads them to suffering. And yet they persist, thinking that with but one more car or promotion they will escape their pain.

You know better. As a Buddhist dedicate, you know that the only way to end suffering is to escape the cycle of birth and death altogether. For the unenlightened, their attachment to transient things does not end with their death. It makes death not a freedom for them, but another chain, where they are reborn in this world or another with the same desires and suffering. They may believe that by doing good they will attain a heaven free of suffering after death, but this desire for heaven binds them to pain just as surely as any other desire. No, it is only by freeing oneself of all desire and rejecting the self entirely that one may escape the chains of karma and reach the truth that lies beyond.

You, as an enlightened one, know the way to escape, the Path of Oblivion. But you remained behind in an attempt to show this path to others. This mostly proved futile. Your truth never seemed as compelling to the common people as the more pleasant lies that abound. You attended an "interfaith theology meetup" to try to show the so-called holy ones of other religions the truth, but you never got very far. It was like teaching a mountain to dance the rumba. There was Fantoni, leading many astray with his false promises of paradise in Heaven. And then there was Grandier, of the Church of Satan, whose iconoclasm and big talk about freedom and humanity were really all just an excuse for hedonism and instant gratification.

In fact, you were at one of those meetups just now when you died. You were going to see some sort of play. Something frivolous and cute, wasn't it? You don't know why you bothered... It's just a facade, like so many constructed by the ignorant. You remember looking past the facade, backstage. There was someone in all black and wearing a mask... doing something with fireworks...? Then flames started spreading everywhere as people screamed and ran; you saw a weeping person jump from a burning balcony and fall to their death, a perfect parable on the futility of striving. You knew that escape was impossible, so to spare yourself any pointless suffering, you used an ancient meditation technique to terminate your consciousness and abandon your earthly body.

Now you're here in some sort of cavern, presumably a waypoint on the road to Oblivion. You have no regrets upon leaving the world of suffering and desire; guiding your fellow travellers to Oblivion shall be your final task.

## Goals

- Help people give up their attachments and desires
- Convince as many as possible to walk the Path of Oblivion with you.
- Do anything you can to stop the false preachings of Fantoni and Grandier from leading others astray.

## Items

- Parchment - The Gates of Oblivion

Start in the Cave (Room A)