

others from fulfilling their Svadharma (life-purpose). The Nagaraja are seen by many as dark-reflections of the Salubri and the confusion of the two often adds to the Salubri's outcast status. Still, even the prayer-eaters cannot see the currents of fate as the prophetic Nagaraja, and understanding what's to come is far too valuable to turn away from forever. Finally, the Kueijin believe that, like the Rakshasa, the Brahmaparusha are Kindred servants of the hellish Yama Kings, and even these banished dregs are weary of such dark beings. Still, the Brahmaparusha are the Nagaraja that council the Courts of the east, appearing alone or with a small group of their seer's order. The Nagaraja tend to keep their own company and often make sojourns to their Underworld temple in the Sea-of-Shiva of the Shadowlands. Finally, they tend to move in secret, associating most with their own conspiratorial sect and its network of Ancient disciples of other Bloodlines, pulling the strings of Kindred society from afar.

### Disciplines

#### **Kamayoga**

The Nagaraja have been to the brink of Oblivion and have returned changed. Their insight into fate, their ability to consume the souls of the dead and their aura of decay are all derivatives of Disciplining the eternal hunger of the Great Unmaking.

#### **Anjayoga [Auspex]**

Possessed of mystic awareness and psychic vision, the Nagaraja can read the charkas and sense the auras of the living and the dead.

#### **Domination**

Able to open their victims inner strength to the hollowing force of the Unmaking, the Nagaraja are able to impose their own mind's strength, tempered in blackness, on the faltering will of those who look into the Nagaraja's eyes.



### **Brahmaparusha's Curse**

Utterly disturbing, the Brahmaparusha radiate a disquieting presence. Eerie and unsettling, even other Kindred often fear the Brahmaparusha's coolheaded knowing composure and aloof numbness. At the beginning of each new Scene, a Brahmaparusha's first few social rolls are made at a +2 difficulty. This mistrust and fear may fade over the course of even one conversation, but it will return upon the next.

## **KATHAKANAS**

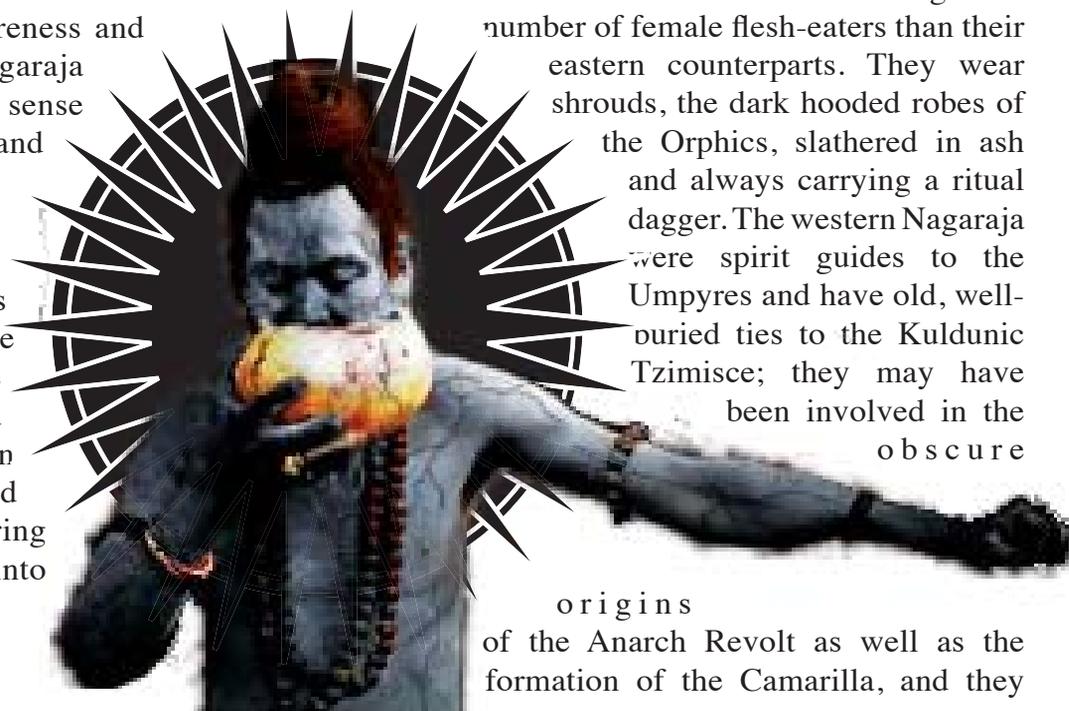
The Nagaraja traveled west with the Alexandrian Empire, and there they found more priests of the Wheel, a Greek cult of ascetic transcendental



mystics- Orphics. The Nagaraja corrupted these priests and spawned the Greek Nagaraja, Kathakanas. Children of the primordial Titans, cannibal old-gods that seek to imprison the soul of the world within its form, the Kathakanas are ritual flesh-eaters and death-witches of great power and knowledge. Hiding

among the Vrykolaka, the Kathakanas Liches held high positions among the Cappadocians, and most assuredly foresaw the great purge, yet said nothing. Now the elder Ancestors of the SanGiovanni avoid the Kathakanas at all costs, refusing to even talk of their existence, though on occasion they've been tempted into contact by their need of Underworld secrets. The Kathakanas have a much greater

number of female flesh-eaters than their eastern counterparts. They wear shrouds, the dark hooded robes of the Orphics, slathered in ash and always carrying a ritual dagger. The western Nagaraja were spirit guides to the Umpyres and have old, well-ouried ties to the Kuldunic Tzimisce; they may have been involved in the  
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#### **o r i g i n s**

of the Anarch Revolt as well as the formation of the Camarilla, and they



are deeply involved in the clandestine cult of the Magnus Nigrum.

### **Disciplines**

#### **Consumption [Kamayoga]**

The Nagaraja have been to the brink of Oblivion and have returned changed. Their insight into fate, their ability to consume the souls of the dead and their aura of decay are all derivatives of Disciplining the eternal hunger of the Great Unmaking.

#### **Auspex**

Possessed of mystic awareness and psychic vision, the Nagaraja can read the charkas and sense the auras of the

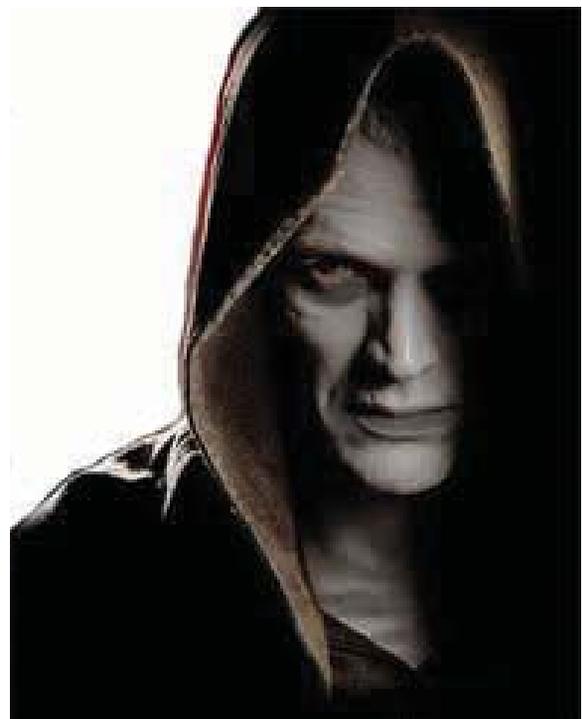
living and the dead.

#### **Domination**

Able to open their victims inner strength to the hollowing force of the Unmaking, the Nagaraja are able to impose their own mind's strength, tempered in Oblivion, on the faltering will of those who look into the Nagaraja's eyes.

#### **Kathakanas' Curse**

Like all Nagaraja, Kathakanas must consume living flesh or they're flesh will shrivel. Unlike their eastern cousins, the Kathakanas rot and putrify without a nightly expenditure of a Flesh-Point, falling to an Appearance of zero and having all social roll difficulties raised by 2, in addition to the gradual degradation of their other social attributes, like other Nagaraja.



# WAN-KUEI

[Wu-Kuei (Corpse Family), Kuei-Jin (Demon Person), Gaki (Japanese Kuei-jin)]



Though they may consider themselves to be the most refined Kindred in the world, the Wan-Kuei (the Ten-Thousand Demons), by western standards, are not so much a Bloodline as they are a bunch of Thin-Blooded rabble, unable to make Blood Bonds and, most shockingly, unable to Embrace. All Wan-Kuei Kindred rise from the grave as Chih-mei, mindless flesh-eating corpses, ravaged by their P'o (the Beast). All Chih-mei are Revenants, rising from the grave as Kindred without ever having been Embraced. Indeed, the Wan-Kuei intimately know of the Ten-Thousand Hells of

folk-lore, each ruled by a great devil, corrupt gods called the Yama Kings; they believe that each Kuei-jin was a damned soul who escaped hell to crawl back into their body and rise again. Wan-Kuei tradition says that each Kuei-jin is spiritually Embraced by the Yama Kings, having been reborn in hell. Their time in Yomi (any of the Ten Thousand Hells) stripped them of their Humanity, and without the refinement of Dharma, they would remain ravaged raging zombie monsters, possessing no Blood Inherency and no sense of Identity.

The Wu-Kuei are not resigned to this pathetic horror, instead learning to refine and elevate themselves through their practice of the Kuei-jin Discipline of Dharma, transforming themselves into the great vampires of the Eastern Courts.

A Kuei-Jin's existence is a quest for a demon's enlightenment. In their search for karmic resolution, different Kuei-Jin follow different paths to ease their karmic discomfort. The five orthodox Dharmas each emphasize a particular aspect of Kuei-jin existence and cultivate different elements of the soul.

The Howl of the Devil Tiger's Dharma embraces the P'o and seeks to cultivate and master the demon within into a

great force for personal elevation and distinction.

The Way of the Resplendent Crane's Dharma embraces the Hun and developse it's rational faculties to uphold justice and order.

The Song of the Shadow's (Bone-Flower's) Dharma embracing Yin and refine sorrow and solice, tending the dead and forgotten.

The Path of a Thousand Whispers' Dharma embraces balance, touching on all the corners of the soul, but becoming entangled with non.

The Dance of the





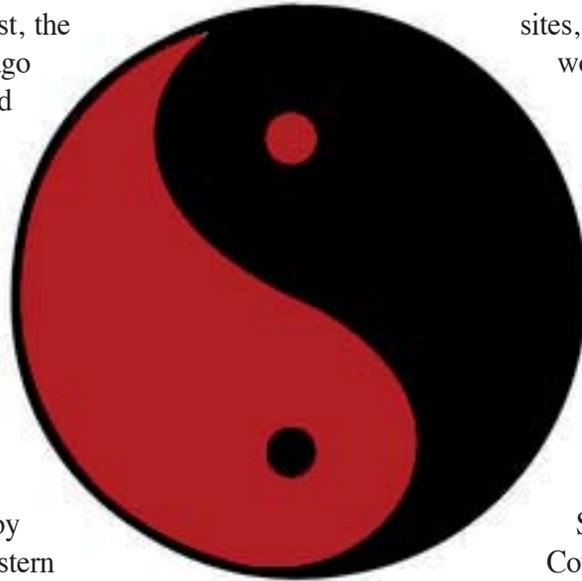
Thrashing Dragon's Dharma embraces Yang and indulges all the passions of life.

The Courts gather their raving savage Chih-mei pupa, keeping them like animals in cages for decades as the bestial creatures learn to refine and elevate themselves into something more, into a Kuei-Jin (demon-person). Having died and reincarnated in hell, the Kuei-jin returns to earth to complete the unfinished business of their life, fulfill their duties to loved ones and fully realize the

purpose that they had failed to resolve. Most of all, the Wan-Kuei fight the advances of the Yama Kings who's reach casts its shadow even on earth. The Yama Kings seek to corrupt the Middle Kingdom (earth) and drag their escaped children back to hell.

To their great shame and disgust, the Wan-Kuei discovered long ago that not all Kindred escaped hell; some were sent back as servants of the dark lords and act as their agents on earth. These tortured creatures are allowed only so much "Self" as is needed for them to carry out their task, and this is the payment they are given for their term of service. Called Akuma, corrupt Kuei-jin are hated, hunted and reviled by the refined Ancestors of the Eastern Courts. While the Wan-Kuei know

that all things under heaven have their place, the emperor, the farmer and even the demon, the Yama Kings have forsaken their duty to the order of the cosmos. Twisted and corrupt, they seek to devour the heavens and earth. Akuma feed on the scorching corrupt Chi of perversion, dispare and cancer. In the modern nights, the



number of Akuma skulking in the shadows of the Wan-Kuei Courts swells, and the corrupt Chi of Yomi stains the earth. Akuma take this Chi into themselves, and the taint it burns into their bodies and souls mutates them with dark gifts.

The Wan-Kuei uphold an ancient chinese based social order, the Courts. A Court may have several ritual positions, but fundamentally is a ruling council of Ancestors and a Mandarin chosen to administrate the Ancestor's governance of a region's Kindred. Most Courts are dominated by the followers of one of the Dharma's, and dedicate themselves to the ritual functions of that Dharma's practices; Bone-flower Courts usually tend the dead, appease their Ancestral Ghosts and govern their mortal decendants, while Thrashing Dragon Courts are often heavens of debaucherous sex and consumption, existing for the pleasure of its rulling Ancestors.



Courts are usually established at fallen sacred sites, dragon nests, where the spirit worlds are close and Chi gathers. This puts many Wan-Kuei in conflict with Enlightened mystics and ferocious shape-shifters, who consider the Wan-Kuei to be despoiling the purity of such sacred sites. And, indeed, Kuei-jin Courts are established at such locations so that Wan-Kuei Ancestors can feed from these places.

Some fo the most well established Courts include;

The Green Courts of Korea are utterly obsessed with accumulating Jade and magical talismans, hording their wealth and barganing for more. Though the Green Courts tend to favor the Thousand Whispers Dharma, there are a fair number of Bone-flowers and Resplendant Cranes among there ranks.



The Bone Courts of Shanghi are old and auspicious ceremonial centers, dominated by the yin saturated Bone-flower Dharma and serving the family Ancestral ghosts of its constituents. Cold, detached and orderly, the macabra halls of the Bone Courts are eerie places of death and dieing.

The Golden Courts of South East Asia are fractious chaotic jungle palaces of indulgence, decadence and debauchery. Women hold dominance as brood-mothers, sacred prostitutes and cannibal queens.

The Blood Courts of Beijing are the among the oldest and most ritualistic Courts in China. Favoring the Resplendant Crane Dharma, the Blood Courts tend to be strongly influenced by confusian legalism and constantly seek to inforce the order of hevan on this wayward world.

The Flesh Courts of Shanghai are a hotbed of Kindred conflict and Shanghai is a vampiric battle zone. As such, the yang charged Ancestors



of the Flesh Courts meet in secret clandestien gatherings, and man Kindred have begun to call them the 'sighlent Manderins.'

Japan is an ailing island, dominated by the Devil Tiger Dharma. The Courts of these Gaki are organized into a handful of warrior clans, the most powerful and encompassing being the House Bishimon. Bushi (Bishimon) Gaki are vampiric Sammuri, and maintain feutal rule over organizations like the Yakuza. Having become dedicated to repelling western influence and control, in the past century, the Gaki's homeland has been poisoned and infected with a horrific blight; Nagasaki and Heroshima. Corrupt Chi seeps through the veins of Japan, giving rise to a tramendous number of Akuma, bokkemon, and twisted it's spirits.

Through their Discipline of Dharma, Kuei-jin learn to differentiate Yin Chi and Yang Chi, and develop higher forms of feeding on that Chi. While Chih-mei feed only on living flesh, a Kuei-jin feeds on blood, but eventually develop a taste for tears, bone, ash, and even