

DROVE TENGU

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Tengu (The Celestial Vultures) <teng-gu>

The Tengu (or Tiāngou) are one of the most powerful and numerous of the Drove in existence today. They have warred with the Sharakai, Morrigan and even Arachne tribes for well over a thousand years across Asia and the Indian Subcontinent. Though their practice of Sanation is little in comparison to most Drove, they are still considered a Drove by the Twelve Tribes.

Key Concepts and Practices

The Tengu inspired the original practices of Shugendō and Koshintō which led to the modern practice of Shinto throughout much of Eastern Asia today. Their members form the basis of many spiritual deities known as “kami”, which inhabit our world and live, feel and think as mortals. They inspire forms of animism based on a love and reverence for Nature in all its forms and their followers regular practice divination, spiritual communion and forms of shamanism. Tradition, family and purification (both physical and spiritual) are of primary importance to the Tengu. Only the Yokai Daitengu formally practice Sanation; most other Tengu only pay it lip service.

Current Leader(s)

Okuni Nushi (God of the Underworld) is the Deus and Sojobo (legendary Tengu king) is the Pretor

Primary Stronghold(s)

Nushi rules from the Japanese “Underworld” mantle of Naraka where he keeps the Ru Shou as his personal servants. It has the Eight Cold and Eight Hot layers, forming a purgatory-like environment. Drove Sainha is allowed limited entry into the level through the hot layers which have connections to the actual Underworld realm of Inferno. In Vietnam Sojobo administrates the Tengu from a much larger mythical version of the temple at Angkor Wat and its surrounding areas; the Terat consistently try to claim it from the Tengu.

Areas of Influence & Control

Vietnam and the surrounding areas of Cambodia, Laos and Burma form the core of their influence. They have moderate influence in Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia (especially Borneo). They have strong cultural and spiritual ties in Japan and to a lesser extent China. Most of their influence is over mortals living outside the main urban areas save for Vietnam where they have control over most of its government and have kept the Apocrypha at bay there for decades. Ties within urban areas usually come from organized crime groups such as the Yakuza of Japan and the Triads of China. Within the United States they work through various Tong gangs. In the midst of their territory sits Thailand, over which they have little control and battle the Anopheles to gain a foothold against the Hemari that exert large influence over that country.

Alliances / Enemies

The Tengu maintain age-old alliances with Drove Sainha and Gaki and keep cordial but limited contact with the Russaki and Kodama. They continually war with the Anopheles and Hemari due to their presence in Thailand. They are age-old enemies of the Peri, Sharakai and Terat within their current territories and areas of influence. They keep minor “fair weather” alliances on the mortal front with the Yellow Turban Taoists in the Yakuza, the White Lotus Society in the Triads and strongly back many of the Vietnamese gangsters (similar to the Chinese Tongs in the United States).

Typical Progeny (Daitengu)

Tengu: The “Celestial Vultures” originated in ancient Japan and form the current core of the Drove. They are from the same flock that produced such individuals among the Tribes as Raiden and Hachiman.

Tiāngou: The “Celestial Dogs” originated in what is now Northern China and were originally disciples of Hela and later the Mesopotamian Progeny known as Moloch. Their losses at the hands of the Sharakai eventually prompted them to join with the Tengu.

Yokai: These mixed immortals originated from both Japan and many originally followed Moloch from Mesopotamia into China thousands of years ago. They and their Obake servants represent a broad class of Japanese folklore.

Predators and Thralls

- Ru-Shou: Fallen Ki Rin from the Tribe of Sharakai, transformed into the Eastern equivalent of drakes. These immortals and serve Okuni Nushi directly, operating out of Naraka.
- Kotengu: These predators appear like normal Hawks and Kites but change into monstrous versions.
- Obake: These represent several of the various shapeshifting spirit creatures in Japanese lore such as the turtle-like Kappa, the raccoon-like Tanuki and the Foxlike Kitsuni.
- Wu Sorcerers: A sect of Religarum wielders and their followers fostered by the Tiāngou in China. The Wu's own practice of Shugendō helped shape the Drove and in turn helped shape modern Shinto.
- Yamabushi: A sect of faithful monks practicing Shugendō, they are skilled warriors wielding some supernatural power similar to the Wu Sorcerers.

Messiahs

Hela heavily influence the Tiāngou as did Moloch of Mesopotamia, this led to them being active followers of Sanation through their early history. Of the Yokai, many were Moloch's own followers, heavily influenced by the legends of Apep (stories of Jormungard and Alu the Swallow) and regularly performed sacrifices in Apep's name. The Tengu themselves came from the same flock that produced such notable Tribe members as Raiden and Hachiman and had little to no interaction with the first three Drove. When they took over the Drove family it began a decline in the practice of Sanation; the rise of Shugendō by the Wu Sorcerers and then the Yamabushi nearly destroyed it amongst all but the most devote. This does cause some friction within the Drove as the Tiāngou still maintain a large Sanation sect.

There appears to be no connection to any of the Deepwalkers at present, but the Tengu's alliances with other Drove and overall hatred of the Tribes (especially Sharakai) still cause them to be considered a Drove. When Moloch was cast from the Drove and returned to the Middle East, the practice of sacrifice to Apep (Alu) vanished.

Drove Gifts (Tengu always have at least one, often two, rarely all)

- Mimic – turn into the last object they marked
- Blood Mark – can leave a bloodmark that allows them to track down the marked being whenever it is tainted (and therefore weakened)
- Feather Fan – Avian Tengu with this gift can pull feather from their wing, it grows into a fan-like creature that can shoot even more feathers considered to have the Poison nature. These fans die if separated from the Tengu for more than a day and left in the sun.
- Tongues – Even in full himsati the Tengu can speak human languages and be fully understood as such.
- Other abilities as described in the Narrator's Guide when tainted

Drove Curses (Tengu always have at least one, rarely all)

Note: Curse effects are subject to the degree of control the Tengu currently has over his taint

- Eternal hunger – The Tengu is always hungry and/or thirsty, unable to turn down offerings of food or opportunity to eat. It is **not** the same as the curse causing members of Drove Gaki to be obsessed with consuming non-food items such as feces, dirt, living flesh, etc.
- Himsati Markings – Red eyes and a nose to match their himsati are always apparent in human form though they can usually cover up the eyes with contacts or sunglasses.
- The Fallen – a Tengu's arrival into any community is heralded by the sound of a falling tree somewhere in the distance that can be heard but never found.

History

The modern Drove Tengu represents the culmination of three separate and distinct groups of immortals. The earliest recorded knowledge of these groups in mortal mythology is that of the Tiāngou – spirit dogs associated with falling stars – who held influence over Chi You and the Hmongs of Southern China. This group came to blows with the Sharakai Slayer Huang Ti in the Battle of Zhuolu in 2674 BC. In retaliation for their losses at Zhuolu, the Tiāngou began gathering mortal Religarum wielders (later known as the Wu Sorcerers) for well over a thousand years.

In 2000 BC the bird-like Tengu were attempting to claim the island of Honshu in Japan by driving away its native mortal inhabitants. They too failed as Sharakai's people began moving into Japan. During this same period, Sharakai's Tribe entered Palestine after hearing reports of similar creatures to the Tengu of Japan. There they instead encountered the immortal Moloch (known as Ba'al) and interfered with his attempts to claim the area from the Osiri. Moloch and his followers traveled to China seeking revenge; they encountered the Tiāngou and taught

them their ritual sacrifices to Apep as part of Sanation. Eventually Moloch led the Tiāngou in meeting with the Tengu and tentative alliances were formed between the three groups.

By 1000 BC the Tengu melded into a unified group, but influence from the Wu Sorcerers' faith created a decline in the practice of Sanation; this caused a rift between the Tiāngou and Moloch. This rift allowed the Tribe of Sharakai's mortal followers (the barbarian leader Wu Wang) to negate their influence in Northern China. While attempting to deal with this on the one front, the Sharakai Amaterasu and the Solitaire group the Oni also took up arms against the Tengu, pushing their influence out of the population centers of Japan as the Tengu attempted to assist the Tiāngou and Moloch in China. The rift between Moloch's unique view of Sanation and the Tengu/Tiāngou becomes too great and he is cast out to return to the Middle East. The Tengu, Tiāngou and a portion of Moloch's followers fall sway to the practices of Shugendō and ultimately Shintoism

The newly unified Tengu establish a hold on the city of Taiyuan until 450 BC when combined forces of Anopheles, Arachne and Sharakai drove them out of China. They fled to what is now Vietnam and established their first true citadel, the mythical mantle of Angkor Wat. From here they reached out to influence the rest of the Indian subcontinent and Indonesia. As the Apocrypha began attempting to gain footholds in the area the Tengu were successful in breaking away one of their sects, the Yellow Turban Taoists (forerunners of the modern Yakuza). The Turbans, assisted by the Tengu, were able to capture a number of Ki Rin from the Sharakai. The three Tengu known as the Chang brothers and their disciples among the Wu Sorcerers were able to transform them into darkened versions called the Ru-Shou circa 180 AD.

During the Second Hive War circa 300 AD, the Tengu struck at the Sharakai, knowing they would receive no assistance from their allies among the Arachne. Unfortunately an alliance of the Anopheles and D'Arcade (who had been manipulating the Yellow Turban Taoists prior to the Tengu's intervention) pushed the Tengu out of Thailand and forced them to stop their attacks against the Sharakai. Again the Tengu were unable to reclaim significant influence in their original homelands of China and Japan. However, by 550 AD the Shinto faith and philosophy had developed to a point where the Tengu could find some acceptance in the areas dominated by Sharakai-backed Buddhist teachings.

A movement began in the Tengu to fully embrace the Shinto faith, led by Okuni Nushi, its success led the Tengu to re-gaining lost territory in Japan. As the practice of Sanation was all but wiped out amongst the Drove, Nushi was named Deus of the Drove circa 600 AD, a position he maintains even today. This marked a departure from how the Tengu were seen by most superstitious mortals, they now served humanity almost as much as they "accidentally" abused the mortals in the name of destroying their enemies. Nushi forms an alliance with Drove Sainha and regains footing in the population centers of Japan until the advent of Zen Buddhism and encroachment of the Hive in Japan. Though their influence was forced out of the urban areas and into the wilds and agricultural areas, the Tengu had permanently engrained themselves into not only the Japanese mythology but the growing modern religious practices of a large number of its people.

Shortly after Nushi is named Deus, the Tengu ally with a corrupted Arachne named Wu, causing China to be divided into five kingdoms until 900 AD. The Tengu and Sainha controlled two of the kingdoms, while the Sharakai, Arachne and Hive controlled the other three. By 1000 AD the Tengu and Sainha are driven out of China for the last time and concentrate their efforts on remaining in Japan and keeping their claims in the areas around Vietnam and Indonesia. However by 1600 AD, the Sharakai have tricked the Apocrypha into going after the Tengu's remaining hold on the population centers of Japan, driving them back into the forest and mountain regions ever since. For the last 400 years they have cemented their territories in Vietnam and the surrounding areas, culminating in the Tengu known as Ho Chi Minh becoming the president of Vietnam in 1945 AD.

Their constant exposure to great levels of human Faith has led the Tengu to become allies with humanity as often as enemies. Even in mythology the view of the Tengu changed by 1900 AD from a demon/monster to somewhat of a partially benevolent group.

Additional Notes

Frequently associated with comets and falling stars, they keep vaults in the mountains of Japan where they hoard any conundrum from such celestial bodies. When Tengu seek revenge, retribution or retaliation against mortals they often dress in the robes of the Yamabushi that have been torn, defiled with obscene symbols and stained in blood, as a means of building fear in their intended victims. Though they do not actively practice Sanation as a Drove any longer, they maintain many of the cultural aspects and beliefs that come with Sanation and have retained their ability to use some of the Sanguine gifts over taint and babblers.