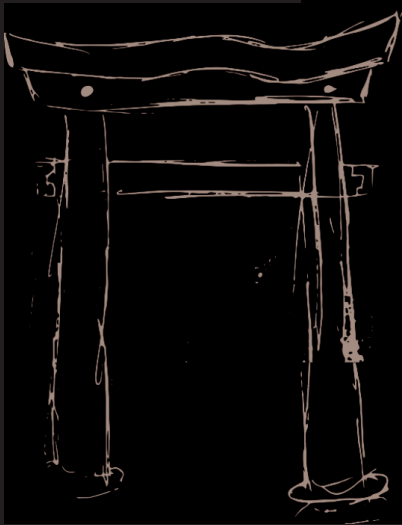


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**YŌKAI**



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YOKAI

*“ANY OF VARIOUS SUPERNATURAL MONSTERS, SOMETIMES SHAPESHIFTERS,  
IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE.”*

*-WIKTIONARY*



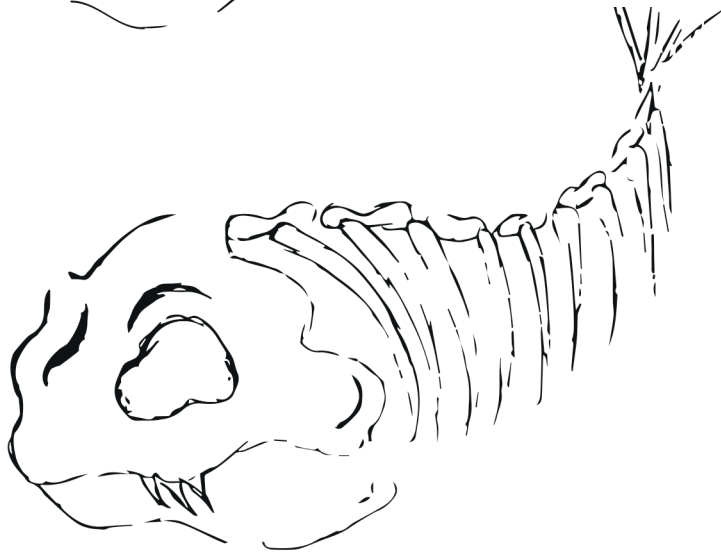


# 化鯨

# BAKEKUJIRA



- ◆ *BAKEKUJIRA ARE LIVING WHALE SKELETONS THAT SWIM AS THEY ONCE DID WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE. THEY USUALLY APPEAR ON RAINY NIGHTS NEAR COASTAL WHALING VILLAGES, OFTEN ACCOMPANIED OF STRANGE BIRDS AND FISH.*



- ◆ *STORIES TELL THAT THE BAKEKUJIRA BRINGS CURSES AND BAD LUCK TO THE PLACES WHERE THEY ARE SIGHTED.*

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# KASA-OBAKE

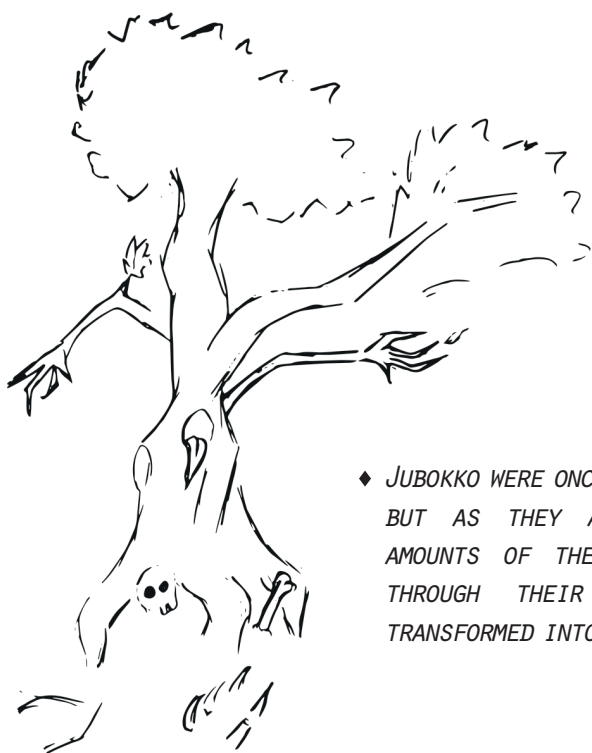
◆ KASA-OBAKE ARE USUALLY ONE EYED UMBRELLAS THAT JUMP AROUND WITH ONE LEG, BUT THEY CAN ALSO HAVE TWO ARMS OR TWO EYES AMONG OTHER FEATURES, THEY ARE ALSO DEPICTED TO HAVE A LONG TONGUE.



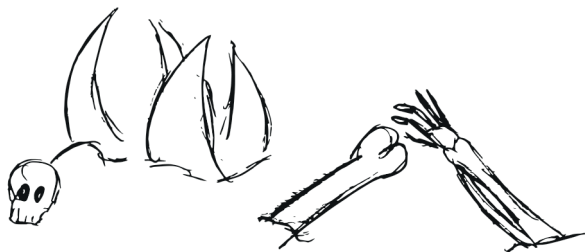
◆ THEY ARE VERY WELL KNOWN YŌKAI IN STORIES AND LEGENDS, ALTHOUGH AS OPPOSED TO THAT THEY DO NOT APPEAR IN ANY EYE-WITNESS STORIES IN FOLKLORE AT ALL, AND IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT TYPE OF YŌKAI THEY ARE.

# 樹 木 子

# JUBOKKO



- ◆ *JUBOKKO WERE ONCE NORMAL TREES BUT AS THEY ABSORBED VAST AMOUNTS OF THE HUMAN BLOOD THROUGH THEIR ROOTS THEY TRANSFORMED INTO A YOKAI.*



- ◆ *THEY SEEM NORMAL TREES AT FIRST SIGHT BUT WHEN SOMEBODY GETS CLOSE ENOUGH, THEY ATTACK, USING THEIR BRANCHES TO PIERCE THE VICTIM SKIN AND SUCKING OUT ALL OF THE BLOOD. USUALLY AFTER THE BODY IS DRAINED THE REST IS CONSUMED BY BIRDS AND OTHER ANIMALS, UNTIL ONLY THE BONES REMAIN.*

# 垢嘗

# AKANAME



- ◆ *AKANAME ARE SMALL YOKAI WHICH APPEAR IN DIRTY HOMES AND PUBLIC BATHS. ALL AKANAME HAVE AN EXTREMELY LONG, STICKY TONGUE WITH WHICH THEY USE TO FEED IN ALL THE FILTH FOUND IN BATH HOUSES AND HOMES.*

- ◆ *LIKE ANY OTHER PESTS, AKANAME HATE CLEAN PLACES, AND WILL ONLY APPEAR WHERE THERE'S LACK OF HYGIENE. THEY ARE SHY AND STAY CLEAR OF HUMANS, SCATTERING LIKE BUGS WHEN SOMEONE APPROACHES THEM.*



# 影 女

# KAGE ONNA

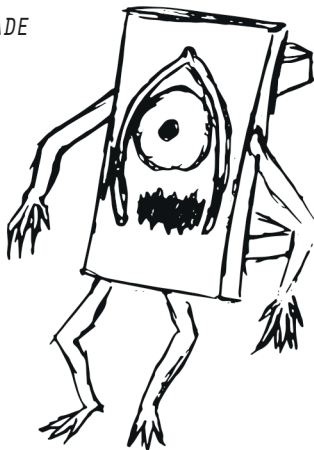
◆ KAGE ONNA ARE SHADOWS THAT APPEAR PROJECTED IN WINDOWS AND DOORS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO ONE TO PROJECT THEM. THEY ARE KNOWN TO APPEAR AT NIGHT AND USUALLY TAKE THE FORM OF A YOUNG LADY, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT KNOWN TO HARM ANYONE THE IDEA OF A PERSON WHERE THERE SHOULD BE NONE IS ENOUGH TO SCARE ANYONE.



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# BAKEZŌRI

◆ BAKEZORI WERE ONCE NORMAL FOOTWEAR THAT HAVE BEEN TREATED BADLY AND FORGOTTEN BY THEIR OWNER WHICH MADE THEM TO TURN INTO YOKAI.



◆ THEY ARE KNOWN TO BE VERY MISCHIEVOUS AND TO RUN AROUND THE HOUSE AT NIGHT, CREATING TROUBLE AND MAKING NOISES WHILE SINGING THEIR FAVORITE CHANT.

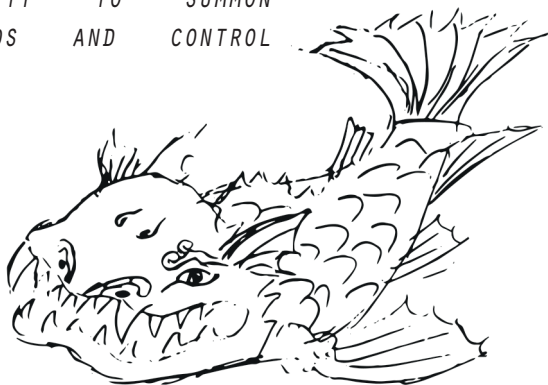


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# SHACHIHOKO



- ◆ SHACHIHOKO ARE FEARSOME SEA MONSTERS. THEY HAVE THE BODY OF A LARGE FISH AND THE HEAD OF A TIGER. THEY ALSO HAVE THE ABILITY TO SUMMON CLOUDS AND CONTROL RAIN.



- ◆ SHACHIHOKO CAN OFTEN BE FOUND ON THE ROOFTOPS OF TEMPLES AND RESIDENCES. THEY ARE KNOWN PROTECTORS AND PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, THEY WOULD PROTECT THE BUILDING BY SUMMONING RAIN CLOUDS.

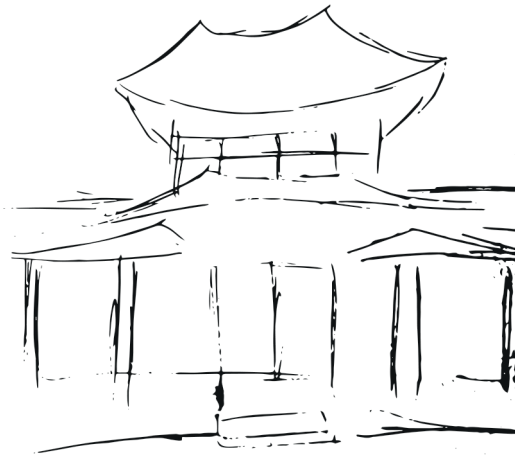


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# KIRIN

- ◆ *KIRIN IS ONE OF THE RAREST AND POWERFUL YOKAI KNOWN. HE IS A REGAL ANIMAL, HOLY AND HIGHLY REVERED, OFTEN CONSIDERED A GOD IN ITS OWN RIGHT. KIRIN NEVER DOES HARM GOOD AND PURE SOULS, BUT THEY CAN BE DANGEROUS AND FIERCE TO ATTACK IF THREATENED.*



- ◆ *BECAUSE OF THEIR HOLY STATUS, IMAGES OF KIRIN FREQUENTLY ADORN TEMPLES AND SHRINES. THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN TO BE OMENS OF GREAT LUCK AND FORTUNE.*

# 塗 壁

# NURIKABE



◆ *NURIKABE ARE WALLS THAT MYSTERIOUSLY APPEAR ON THE ROAD AT NIGHT, THEY ARE KNOWN TO BE AN ENORMOUS, INVISIBLE WALL THAT BLOCKS THE WAY. THERE IS NO WAY TO SLIP AROUND THIS YOKAI. IT EXTENDS ITSELF AS MUCH AS ONE MIGHT TRY TO GO, AND SO THERE IS NO TO PASS THROUGH IT AND IT CAN'T BE KNOCKED DOWN. ALTHOUGH, IT IS TOLD THAT IF SOMEONE TAPS THE GROUND NEAR IT WITH A STICK, HE WILL VANISH, ALLOWING THE PASSAGE.*

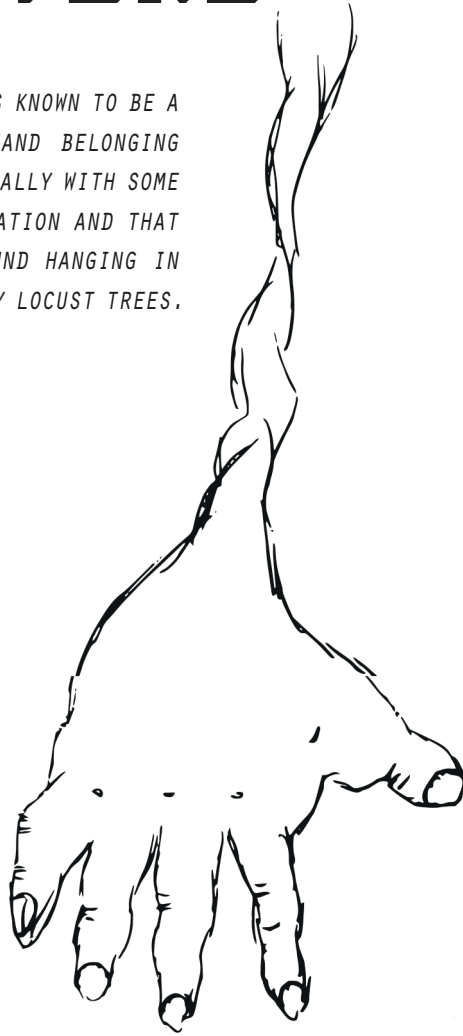
◆ *NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS YOKAI TRUE FORM MOSTLY BECAUSE STORIES TELL THAT HE IS INVISIBLE. ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE BEGAN TO ILLUSTRATE THIS CREATURE, GIVING IT AN APPEARANCE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A GIGANTIC BEAST AND A FLAT WALL WITH FACE-LIKE FEATURES.*



# 赤手兎

## AKATEKO

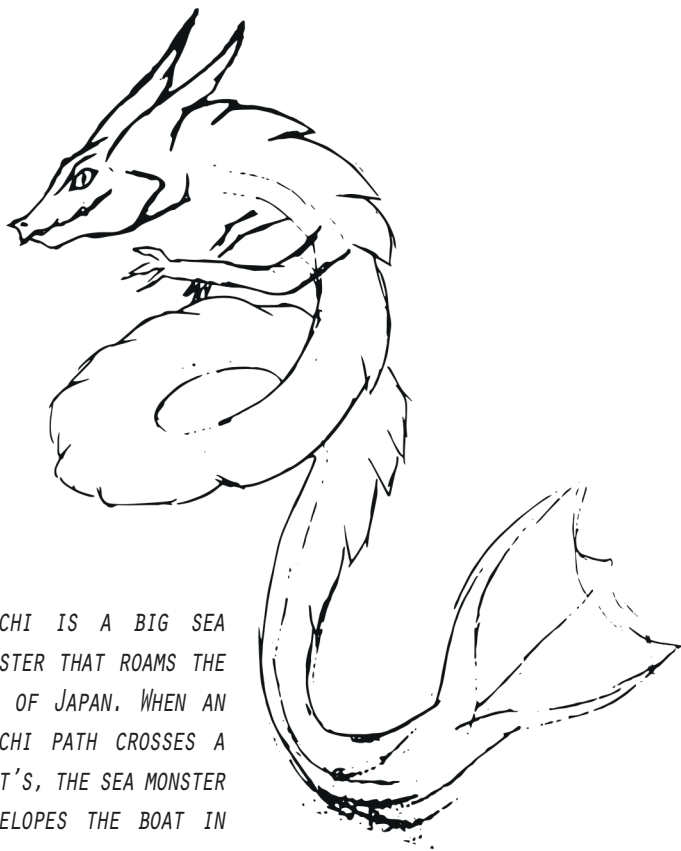
- ◆ *THE AKATEKO IS KNOWN TO BE A DISEMBODIED HAND BELONGING TO A CHILD USUALLY WITH SOME REDDISH COLORATION AND THAT IT CAN BE FOUND HANGING IN JAPANESE HONEY LOCUST TREES.*



- ◆ *USUALLY BESIDES THE HORROR OF HAVING A DISEMBODIED HAND FALL ON TOP OF ANYONE THIS YOKAI IS KNOWN TO BE HARMLESS, ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE FIGURE OF A YOUNG GIRL STANDING NEAR THE AKATEKO TREE AND THAT THOSE WHO WITNESS HER ARE IMMEDIATELY STRUCK WITH A POWERFUL FEVER.*

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# IKUCHI



- ◆ *IKUCHI IS A BIG SEA MONSTER THAT ROAMS THE SEA OF JAPAN. WHEN AN IKUCHI PATH CROSSES A BOAT'S, THE SEA MONSTER ENVELOPES THE BOAT IN ITS BODY BUT BECAUSE IS BODY IS SO HUGE SOME PEOPLE TELL THAT IT CAN TAKE HOURS FOR AN ENTIRE ONE TO SLITHER OVER A BOAT.*

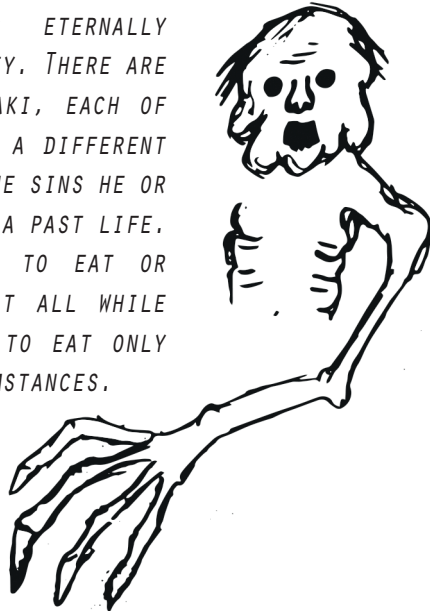
# 餓 鬼

# GAKI



◆ GAKI ARE TORMENTED SPIRITS AFFLICTED WITH CONSTANT SUFFERING. THEY LOOK HUMAN, BUT THEY HAVE DISTENDED LIMBS, BULGING BELLIES AND TINY, INEFFICIENT MOUTHS AND THROATS.

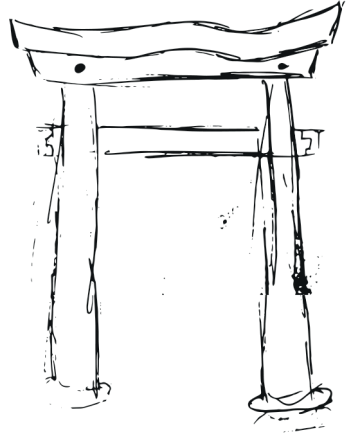
◆ THIS YOKAI IS ETERNALLY HUNGRY AND THIRSTY. THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF GAKI, EACH OF WHICH SUFFERS IN A DIFFERENT WAY RELATED TO THE SINS HE OR SHE COMMITTED IN A PAST LIFE. SOME ARE UNABLE TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AT ALL WHILE OTHERS ARE ABLE TO EAT ONLY UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES.



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# OTOROSHI

◆ NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS CREATURE ALTHOUGH ITS EXISTENCE HAS BEEN KNOWN OF FOR CENTURIES. OTOROSHI ARE MASTERS OF DISGUISE AND ARE RARELY SEEN EXCEPT FOR WHEN THEY WANT TO BE. THEY ARE MOST COMMONLY SPOTTED IN HIGH PLACES LIKE ROOFS AND GATES ABOVE TEMPLES, AND THE ARCHWAYS AT SHRINES, WHICH SEPARATE THE PHYSICAL WORLD FROM THE REALM OF THE GODS.



◆ OTOROSHI ARE KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, MOST OF THEM BEING WORDPLAYS DENOTING THE WILD MANE WHICH COVERS ITS BODY, AND ITS FEARSOME APPEARANCE. THEY APPEAR AS HAIRY, HUNCHED, FOUR-LEGGED BEASTS WITH FIERCE CLAWS AND TUSKS. THEY CAN HAVE BLUE OR ORANGE SKIN.

# 雨 鱒

# AMEMASU



◆ AMEMASU IS THE JAPANESE NAME FOR A SPECIES OF TROUT WHICH IS FOUND IN NORTHEAST ASIA. YOKAI AMEMASU CAN GROW TO COLOSSAL SIZES, SOMETIMES SPANNING AN ENTIRE LAKE FROM HEAD TO TAIL. THESE GIANT AMEMASU OCCASIONALLY THRASH AND SINK SHIPS, DEVOURING ANYONE WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN IT.



◆ THIS YOKAI CAN TRANSFORM INTO A HUMAN AND WALK ON LAND. USUALLY THEY TAKE THE FORM OF YOUNG WOMEN IN ORDER TO SEDUCE YOUNG MEN. SHAPE-CHANGED AMEMASU CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR SKIN, WHICH FEELS COLD AND CLAMMY LIKE THE ONE OF A FISH.

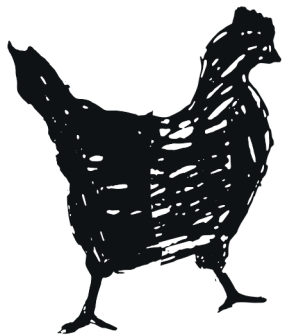
# 姥 ケ 火

# UBAGABI



◆ *UBAGABI IS A FIREBALL YOKAI. IT APPEARS ON RAINY NIGHTS NEAR RIVERBANKS, AND TAKES THE FORM OF BALL OF FLAME WITH THE FACE OF AN OLD WOMAN IN IT ALTHOUGH IT CAN ALSO APPEAR AS A CHICKEN.*

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◆ *UBAGABI CAN OCCASIONALLY SCRATCH A PERSON AND THEN CONTINUE OFF INTO THE DARKNESS. THE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE WHOM THEY SCRATCH INVARIABLY END UP DYING SOMEHOW WITHIN THREE YEARS. HOWEVER, IF ONE IS QUICK ENOUGH AND SHOUTS, "ABURA-SASHI!" (OIL THIEF) JUST AS AN UBAGABI COMES FLYING TOWARDS, THE YOKAI WILL VANISH.*





# ONI

◆ *ONI IS ONE THE MOST ICONIC YOKAI KNOWN. THEY ARE LARGE AND SCARY. THEY COME IN MANY VARIETIES, BUT ARE MOST COMMONLY DEPICTED WITH RED OR BLUE SKIN WITH WILD HAIR TWO HORNS AND FANG-LIKE TUSKS.*



◆ *AN ONI IS BORN WHEN WICKED HUMANS DIE AND END UP IN HELL. THERE THEY BECOME THE OGREISH AND BRUTAL SERVANTS OF GREAT LORD ENMA, RULER OF HELL, WIELDING IRON CLUBS WITH WHICH THEY CRUSH AND DESTROY HUMANS SOLELY FOR ENJOYMENT.*

# 鎌 鼬

# KAMA ITACHI



◆ KAMAITACHI ARE WEASELS THAT HAVE LEARNED TO RIDE THE WINDS OF JAPAN. THEY ARE KNOWN TO HAVE CLAWS THAT ARE AS STRONG AS STEEL AND AS SHARP AS RAZORS.

◆ USUALLY THEY TRAVEL AND ATTACK IN THREES, STRIKING OUT AT PEOPLE FROM THIN AIR. THE KNOCKING THE VICTIM TO THE GROUND SLICING THEM UP WITH THOUSANDS OF DREADFUL CUTS AND THEN USING A MAGICAL SALVE WHICH HEALS UP THE MAJORITY OF THE WOUNDS INSTANTLY, SO THAT NONE OF THEM PROVES FATAL. IT IS SAID THAT THEY STRIKE WITH SUCH PRECISION THAT THEY CAN CUT THEIR VICTIMS WITHOUT CAUSING EVEN A DROP OF BLOOD.



# 野 篋 坊

# NOPPERABŌ

◆ *NOPPERABŌ ARE YOKAI THAT LOOK LIKE ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS IN ALMOST ALL WAYS, AND BLENDS IN PERFECTLY WITH HUMAN SOCIETY ALTHOUGH THEY CAN BE EASILY NOTICED FACE-TO-FACE, AS THEY HAVE NO FACE AT ALL.*

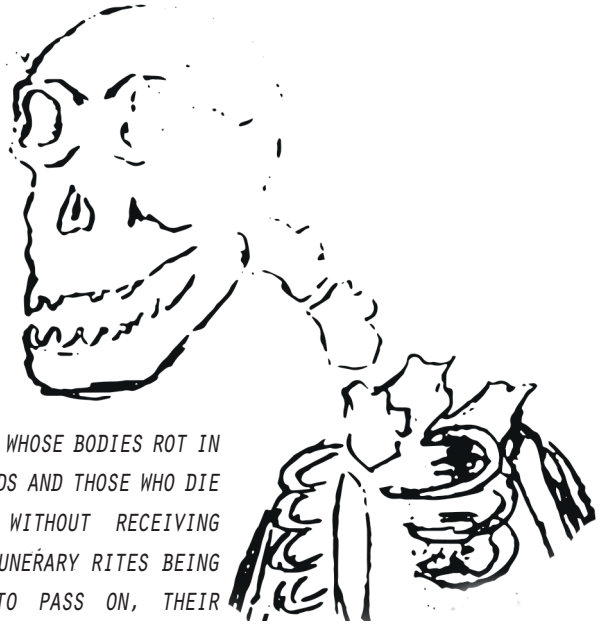


◆ *THIS YOKAI IS OFTEN ENCOUNTERED ON QUIET NIGHTS WHEN NOBODY ELSE IS AROUND. ITS MAIN ACTIVITY SEEMS TO BE SCARING HUMANS. THEY USUALLY APPEAR IN THE GUISE OF A MAN OR A WOMAN WITH ITS BACK TURNED TOWARDS THE VICTIM. AND WHEN APPROACHED, THEY TURN AROUND AND REVEAL ITS TERRIFYING TRUE FORM, TERRORIZING ITS UNSUSPECTING VICTIM.*



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# GASHADOKURO

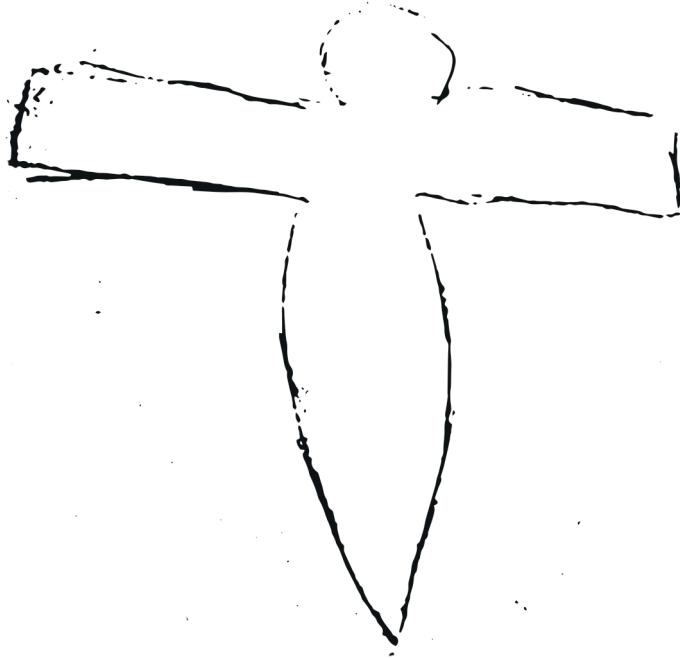


◆ SOLDIERS WHOSE BODIES ROT IN THE FIELDS AND THOSE WHO DIE UNKNOWN WITHOUT RECEIVING PROPER FUNERARY RITES BEING UNABLE TO PASS ON, THEIR SOULS ARE REBORN AS HUNGRY GHOSTS, LOOKING ETERNALLY FOR WHAT THEY ONCE HAD. THE RESULT OF THAT IS THE GASHADOKURO, SKELETAL GIANTS WHICH WANDER AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE DARKEST HOURS OF THE NIGHT. THEIR TEETH CHATTER AND BONES RATTLE WITH A SOUND, THAT RESEMBLES "GACHI" WHICH IS BECAME THE NAME OF THIS YOKAI.

# 式 神

# SHIKIGAMI

- ◆ *SHIKIGAMI ARE SERVANTS, SPIRITS USED IN RITUALS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES. SOME ARE USED AS CHARMS FOR GOOD FORTUNE, SOME ARE USED AS AMULETS FOR PROTECTION, AND SOME ARE USED AS CURSES. THE USE OF A SHIKIGAMI MEANS TO CALL A GOD, A DEMON, AN YŌKAI, OR A GHOST AND RENT ITS POWER FOR SOMETHING. THEY COME IN MANY FORMS ALTHOUGH THE MOST COMMON ARE ENSHRINED IN SMALL OBJECTS, SUCH AS PAPER DOLLS OR AMULETS.*



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# ONIBI

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◆ ONIBI IS ONE OF THE MORE DANGEROUS TYPES OF YOKAI, IT CAN BE CONSIDERED A BEAUTIFUL BUT DEADLY PHENOMENON. ITS NAME MEANS "DEMON FIRE," IT LOOKS LIKE A SMALL BALL OF FLAME, USUALLY BLUE OR BLUE-WHITE, AND OFTEN APPEARS IN SMALL GROUPS OF TWENTY TO THIRTY ORBS.

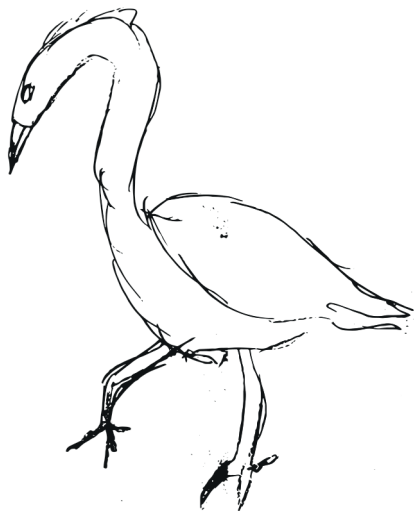


◆ ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT CREATE MUCH HEAT THE ORBS POSSESS A DIFFERENT DANGER. LIVING CREATURES THAT COME TOO CLOSE ARE SOMETIMES SWARMED BY DOZENS OF ORBS, WHICH QUICKLY DRAIN AWAY THE LIFE FORCE FROM THEIR VICTIMS. LEAVING NOTHING LEFT OF THE VICTIM BUT A DEAD HUSK ON THE GROUND. DURING THE NIGHT, MANY ONIBI WERE OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR DISTANT LANTERNS, AND MANY PEOPLE HAVE VANISHED INTO THE FORESTS CHASING THEM.

# 青 鷺 火

# AOSAGIBI

◆ *MANY ANIMALS TRANSFORM INTO MAGICAL YOKAI WITH EERIE POWERS WHEN THEY REACH AN ADVANCED AGE. AOSAGIBI IS THE NAME FOR A BIZARRE PHENOMENON CAUSED BY TRANSFORMED HERONS.*



◆ *LIKE MOST WILD BIRDS, HERONS ARE VERY SHY AND USUALLY FLEE FROM HUMANS. EVEN AFTER TRANSFORMING INTO YOKAI, THEY RETAIN THEIR SHYNESS. THEIR BREATH ALSO HAS THE ABILITY TO TURN INTO BLUE FIREBALLS, ALTHOUGH THESE DO NOT HAVE ANY HEAT AND DO NOT BURN ANYTHING AND EVENTUALLY JUST DISAPPEAR.*

# 古 空 穗

# FURUUTSUBO

◆ FURUUTSUBO IS THE NAME OF THE QUIVERS OF SLAIN ARCHERS WHO HAD TRAGIC DEATHS. THESE QUIVERS ALONG WITH OTHER ARMOR PIECES GAINED LIFE FORCE DUE TO THE RESIDUAL ENERGIES LEFT BEHIND BY THEIR OWNERS AND SO BEGAN TO MOVE AROUND ON THEIR OWN.



◆ ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS FURUUTSUBO WAS THE QUIVER WHICH BELONGED TO MIURA YOSHIAKI, A MILITARY COMMANDER THAT SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO HELP PEOPLE ESCAPE AND SO AFTER HIS HEROIC DEATH, HIS FAVORITE QUIVER WAS HEARTBROKEN AT THE LOSS OF ITS MASTER AND IT TOOK ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN AND BECAME THIS YŌKAI.





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# NEKOMATA

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◆ ONE PARTICULARLY BREED OF YOKAI IS A TWO-TAILED CAT VARIETY KNOWN AS NEKOMATA. NEKOMATA CAN BE FOUND IN CITIES AND VILLAGES WERE THEY WERE TRANSFORMED FROM ORDINARY CATS. ONE PARTICULAR TRAIT ABOUT THIS YOKAI IS THAT NEKOMATA ARE VERY AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS THEIR OWNERS AND OTHER HUMANS WHICH THEY LOOK UPON WITH CONTEMPT, AND ARE OFTEN RESPONSIBLE FOR STARTING HUGE FIRES, KILLING MANY PEOPLE. THEY ALSO HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONTROL CORPSES WITH THEIR NECROMANTIC POWERS LIKE PUPPET-MASTERS, AND THEY USE THEIR POWERFUL INFLUENCE TO BLACKMAIL OR ENSLAVE HUMANS INTO DOING THEIR BIDDING.



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# KODAMA



◆ KODAMA ARE YOKAI THAT CAN BE FOUND IN THE FORESTS OF JAPAN, THEY ARE THE SOULS OF THE TREES ANIMATED AS SPIRITS. THESE SOULS CAN WANDER OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOSTS, TENDING TO THEIR GROVES AND MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF NATURE. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE RARELY EVER SEEN THEY ARE OFTEN HEARD USUALLY IN THE FORM OF ECHOES THAT TAKE JUST A LITTLE LONGER TO RETURN THAN THEY SHOULD.

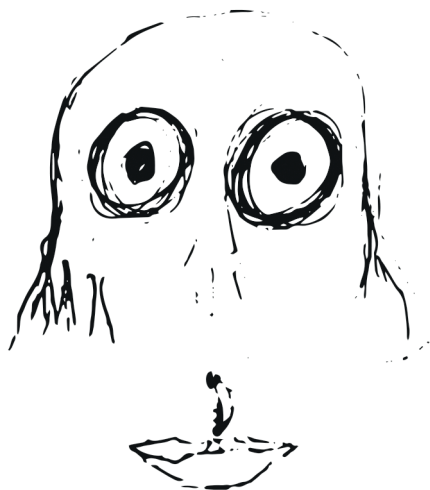
◆ WHEN THEY DO APPEAR HOWEVER THEY USUALLY LOOK LIKE FAINT ORBS OF LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE; OR OCCASIONALLY AS A TINY, FUNNY-SHAPED VAGUELY HUMANOID FIGURE. OCCASIONALLY, VERY OLD TREES WILL BLEED WHEN CUT, AND THIS IS KNOWN AS A SIGN THAT A KODAMA IS LIVING INSIDE.



# 海坊主

# UMI BÔZU

- ◆ ONE OF THE MYSTERIOUS AQUATIC YOKAI IS THE GIANT UMI BÔZU. THEIR TRUE FORM IS UNKNOWN, AS THEY ARE ONLY EVER SEEN FROM THE SHOULDERS UP, BUT THEY APPEAR TO BE HUMANOID IN SHAPE, WITH INKY BLACK SKIN AND A PAIR OF LARGE, ROUND EYES.
- ◆ EYE-WITNESSES REPORT A GREAT RANGE IN SIZE, FROM SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN A SHIP, TO A SIZE SO UNIMAGINABLE THAT ONLY THE CREATURE'S BULBOUS FACE IS VISIBLE ABOVE THE WATER.



- ◆ SOME SAY THAT THE UMI BÔZU ARE THE SPIRITS OF DROWNED PRIESTS, CAST INTO THE SEA BY ANGRY VILLAGERS AND THAT THEN THESE PRIESTS WERE THEN TRANSFORMED INTO GHOSTS DUE TO THE HORRIBLE NATURE OF THEIR DEATH.

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# KAPPA

◆ KAPPAS ARE LITTLE AQUATIC REPTILIAN HUMANIDS THAT LIVE IN THE RIVERS OF JAPAN. ALTHOUGH CLUMSY ON LAND, THEY THRIVE IN THE WATER. KAPPAS ARE GENERALLY THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF A HUMAN CHILD. THEY HAVE BODIES BUILT FOR SWIMMING, WITH WEBBED, THUMB LESS HANDS AND FEET, AND A TURTLE-LIKE BEAK AND SHELL.



◆ USUALLY ADULT KAPPA OFTEN LIVE SOLITARY LIVES, ALTHOUGH IT IS COMMON FOR THEM TO BEFRIEND OTHER YOKAI AND EVEN HUMANS. YOUNGER KAPPAS ARE FREQUENTLY FOUND IN FAMILY GROUPS AND THEY WILL EAT ALMOST ANYTHING, BUT THEY ARE PARTICULARLY FOND OF RAW INNARDS.



# 死神

# SHINIGAMI

- ◆ SHINIGAMI IS KNOWN TO BE A DEMON THAT MAKES HUMANS WANT TO DIE, AND IT IS SAID THAT UPON BEING POSSESSED BY IT ONE WOULD SUDDENLY WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



- ◆ THERE WAS AN OLD STORY NAMED "SHINIGAMI", BUT IN THIS ONE, THE SHINIGAMI WAS THE SPIRIT OF A DECEASED ONE WITH A BAD INTENT, AND ACTING IN JOINTLY WITH THE MALICIOUS INTENT ALREADY WITHIN PEOPLE WHO WERE LIVING, THOSE PEOPLE WERE LED ON BAD PATHS, WHICH CAUSED REPEATED INCIDENTS TO OCCUR AT PLACES WHERE THERE WAS PREVIOUSLY A MURDER, FOR EXAMPLE BY CAUSING THE SAME SUICIDE AT PLACES WHERE PEOPLE HAVE HANGED THEMSELVES BEFORE.



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