

# Ahl-il-Tirub

"I asked him if it were a mirage, and he said yes. I said it was a dream, and he agreed, but said it was the desert's dream not his. And he told me that in a year or so, when he had aged enough for any man, then he would walk into the wind, until he saw the tents. This time, he said, he would go on with them."

Smoke and Mirrors: Short Fiction and Illusions — Neil Gaiman,

**Quote:** Look... there, do you see? All that water, it calls to you, yes? To slake your thirst in the cool wet depths, yes? Go to it, then. Run! It is there and it is waiting and it is real....

The Tuareg tribes of Morocco understood the Ahl -il-Tirub well, these desert daughters of Jinn were capable of untold damage. The Sand-Witches would dry up wells, trip camels, and spring-up in the form of great columns of spinning sand to harm weary travelers. Though wild and angry, they were also staunch followers of Islam, and could show great mercy to those who approached the desert with the respect and awe it deserved. These tales serve as warnings to strangers travelling the Sahara and are truer than most outsiders reckon.

Not quite unlike their elemental cousins the Inanimae, the Ahl-il-Tirub are tied to the natural world in a way that few outsiders understand, even amongst their fellow Earth-conscious Emere. Though they aren't hatched from any natural surrounding (like the Inanimate) the harsh wind, scouring heat and sand, and surreptitious siren's call of the Sahara invites a young Ahl-il-Tirub's chrysalis.

Despite their penchant for destruction, the Ahl-il-Tirub isn't a Thallain Tribe, and certainly isn't Jinn-blooded (though many of them have dalliances with the Djinn). The Ahl-il-Tirub are simply creatures of the desert-beautiful and passionate. Also known as Ahl at-Trab, they are manifestations of a sentient desert world. This world can be vindictive and cruel, but also playful and joyfully chaotic.

**Appearance:** In both Umomo (Mien), the Ahl-il-Tirub is a beautiful creature, with dark-skin, large eyes, and a mischievous smile. In Bopha Umomo (Mortal Mien) they prefer the traditional trappings



of Islam (at least those who prefer to engage in religions as such). Those that don't care for the clothing of such faiths enjoy loose-fitting scraps of clothing that swirl and twist in the hot desert winds. In their Bilongo Umomo (Fae Mien), they grow even lovelier, They are taller, usually over 7 feet or so, and as graceful as dancers. Their skin glows honey-warm and their eyes shine as mischievous as a cat. Though almost exclusively female, there are a few males of the Tribe skulking about hidden)

**Lifestyle:** The life of the Ahl-il-Tirub is one filled with beauty and joy. Despite the harshness of the Sahara, the Akuko relishes its (and their own) wildness. The more domestic of the Tribe serve as guides and mediators between the various peoples (both Emere, Mortals, and others) while those who disdain the politics and hate listening to people whine will throw themselves into the desert, becoming hermits, bandits, or some other fun desert occupation. Both the domestic and wild, however, have a playful attitude, and both will grow defensive and angered if proper respect for the desert isn't upheld by all.

And while they are undoubtedly Emere, they are far enough north that most of them ply their trades with others in the Empire of the Sphinx...

*Ingane Ahl-il-Tirub*, from the moment of their chrysalis, run to the desert as quickly as they





can. The desert speaks to them of their heritage in a voice that no others can here. If the Ingane comes back to her people, she is never the same again. If she comes back...

*Asendle Ahl-il-Tirub* have either decided to stay close to their mortal kin, or to live in the wildest and most dangerous part of the desert. Those that stay close become invaluable guides and even greater diplomats. Those that choose the desert become seers of the greatest order.

*Omdala Ahl-il-Tirub*, regardless of whether or not they chose to remain close to their mortal constituents, hear the voice of desert growing stronger and stronger. Soon they will leave it all behind, venturing deep into the desert where the thin shroud betwixt this world and the others dissipates to nothingness. The desert takes them, and rarely gives them back.

**Glamour Ways:** Ahl-il-Tirub regain Bilongo (Glamour) from the fear and confusion of mortals adrift in the hot sands. As mistresses of the mirage, they have no shortage of victims from which to replenish their magics. This applies equally to the more domestic of the Akuko, who prefer to only glean glamour from those impudent mortals who dismiss the desert's grandeur.

**Unleashing:** Cantrips cast by Ahl-il-Tirub bring with them the perfume of hot dust and sand, and a miasmic cacophony of whirling wind, heat, and sand.

**Affinity:** Actor

**Birthrights:**

**Sand Tornado (*Guguwa Yashi Hadari*):** The Ahl-il-Tirub are born of the desert, and as such can transform their bodies into the greatest part of it. With a point of Bilongo spent, and a successful Cha+ Cosmology roll (difficulty 7) they can spring up from the sand into whirling cyclones of hot dust and sand, scouring everything in the path. The powers and damage of this Sand Tornado is based on mortal seeming.

Seeming	Ingane	Asendle	Omdala
Str:	+1	+2	+3
Dex:	+3	+2	+1
Height:	3 m (10 ft.)	9m (30 ft.)	18.25 m (60 ft.)

In addition to the boosts in str that such a form carries, the injury caused by the swirling hot sand deals Str+2 bashing damage. The amount of successes indicates the amount of turns this form can be maintained before the cyclone fizzles out., with 3 turns for every success.

**Sand Witches (*Yashi Mayu*):** The Ahl-il-Tirub are also masters of illusions and mirages, whose connections to the desert heat allow for truly spectacular illusions. All Cantrips involving delusions, mirages, or misdirection (Such as from Chicanery, Tale Craft, or the like) is always at a -1 difficulty when cast in the heat of the desert sun. In addition, any 10's on these rolls count as 2 successes each.

**Frailties:**

**Subject to the Book (*Umarnin da Littafin*):** Whether an individual Ahl-il-Tirub is a devout practitioner of Islam, a Moslem nominally only, or even deadset against the Faith, she is still subject to the prayers, chants, or readings of the Faith. Whenever someone compels her in the "Name of the Prophet" or "By the writings of the Koran," or other such proclamation she must succeed on a willpower roll, difficulty 8 (Difficulty 10 if the subject has true-Faith in the Religion) or be warded from attacking that person. She can still, insult, harangue, or otherwise piss in his porridge, but is forbidden from laying physical harm to them, or casting Cantrips on them.

**Tiamat Ult Reshaybu laughs and spins in the blinding sun, and jokes of her fellow Akuko...**

**Sha:** What? Shadows? Of who? They don't know? Sucks to be them...

**Shabti:** I don't need a bodyguard, I'm just fine on my own thank you.

**Nasnás:** They are said to be children of Jinn too, I wonder if there are any relations? It is certainly easy enough to spin them like a cyclone, with only their one leg, yes? I feel that they are broken and twisted nightmares with dispositions that match their bodies.

**Mau:** We have nothing in common, and it is best to keep it that way.

**Eshu:** There are many that travel through here, they are humble and respectful and that is good. But I also see the anger in them.

**Seitadd:** Who?