

# raksha राक्ष

**"Just because something isn't a lie does not mean that it isn't deceptive. A liar knows that he is a liar, but one who speaks mere portions of truth in order to deceive is a craftsman of destruction." – Criss Jami**

**Quote:** Let us consider the words of Lord Krishna, when he said "to the work you are entitled, but not to the fruits there-of." Kind of disheartening, no? But who needs Krishna when you have me as a spiritual advisor?

Whether you call them Rakshasa, Rakshesa, Rakshi or Nri-chakshas, the Janjaati (Kith) family of tiger-headed demons is perhaps more notoriously infamous than any other Desi Monster. Masters of illusion, and spinners of great lies, the Raksha claim their origins in the very origins of the cosmos.

When Brahma the great creator God took a nap after the turning of the last cycle, the Raksha created themselves out of Brahma's own breath. Upon realization of their own destiny, they immediately fell upon Brahma and began to gorge themselves on his God-Flesh. Brahma awakening at his own destruction called to Vishnu for help.

"Rakshama!" he cried (literally Help me), and Vishnu rushed in to cast the newly named Demons down to the realms of Men. The Raksha love this story and share it with all who listen. They also have several other origins of themselves, though, and they tell those with just as much pride.

For now, these liar-kings with backwards facing hands (some postulate a parting gift from Vishnu) ply their destructive trade amongst their Peri cousins. They are the voice and face of the Asura (Unseelie) Tribes, and they are doing just fine.

**Appearance:** Understanding the Avataar (Mien) of the Raksha is a course in incisive perception. The Raksha by their very nature are liars, and their forms are nothing less than the culmination of these lies. The Janjeer Avataar (Mortal Mien) is tall and rakish, with large honest eyes, and a full toothy smile. The hands of a Raksha are backwards, and they will always try to cover their them (due to frailty below). However, most mortals won't notice the hands due to the handsome face.

Their clothing is always the heights of haute couture, their accessories always opulent, and their hair-cut is always perfect. Though if one takes the time to look, there is always a discrepancy. The clothing is slightly marred, the accessories slightly tarnished, and the hair slightly marred with blood.

The Peri Avataar (Fae Mien) is a large tiger-headed and handsome noble. At least when the Raksha isn't



impersonating another. The tiger's coloration is always different, and always exotic. Violet tigers with cerulean stripes, snow-White tigers with crimson stripes, and even tawny orangish tigers with dusty black stripes.

The Hands of the Raksha have an even harder time being hid in the Peri Avataar, as not only are they backwards, but they are now hairy, long-clawed, and stained with dirt and blood... Even if washed, there is something disturbingly Raksha-ish about the Raksha's mitts...

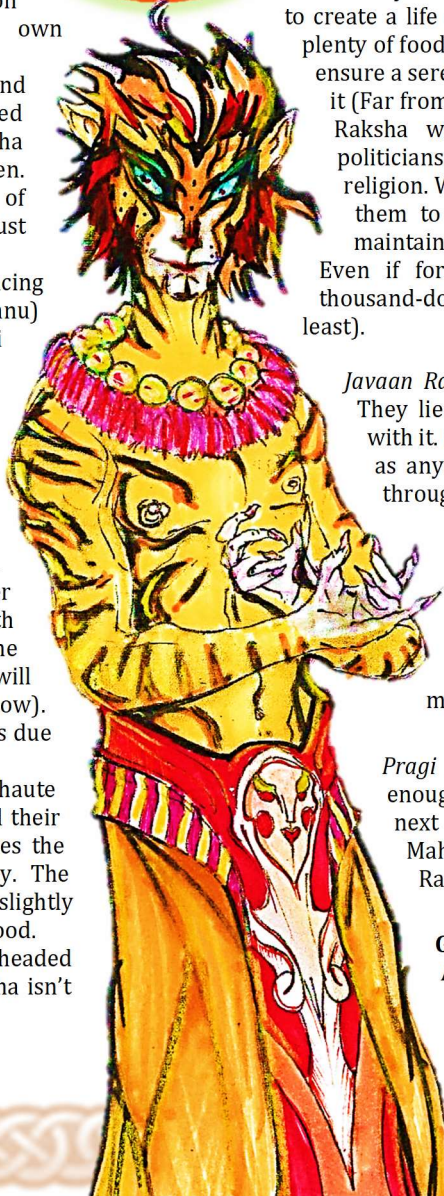
**Lifestyle:** A Raksha does everything in their power to create a life of ease and comfort. Plenty of money, plenty of food, and plenty of victims are necessary to ensure a serene existence. If they can get away with it (Far from their pesky Vedic (Seelie) cousins) the Raksha will set up false lives as well-to-do politicians, diplomats, or holy-persons of any religion. When pressed into services that require them to interact with other Asura, they still maintain a semblance of their creature comforts. Even if forced into battle, they will do so in thousand-dollar Armani suits (or illusory ones at least).

*Javaan Raksha* are manipulative little bastards. They lie to everyone, rarely *not* getting away with it. Few suspect such wondrous little dears as anything less than angels. Those that see through their bullshit are in the minority...

*Vany Raksha* quickly make a name for themselves as gurus in a multitude of arenas; relationship counselors, business advisors, spiritual yogis... wherever there is money and mayhem...

*Pragi Raksha* have been in the game long enough to know how and when to make the next move. Daityas? Easily misled. Mahoraga? Not as scary once they owe you. Ravnos? Not since July of 99'...

**Glamour Ways:** Raksha refuel their Amrita (Glamour) by sowing the seeds



of discord and confusion in mortals. Humans questioning their time-honored faith in religion, or once close families who now distrust one another... as long as there's heartache and misunderstanding, the Raksha will be there to cash in on it...

**Unleashing:** Maya cast by the Raksha are accompanied by waves of spicy-smelling incense and glittering golden lights that dance across the scene. To the keen observer, however, that incense hides a slight smell of rot, and the dancing gold of the light feels, erroneous, fake even...

**Affinity:** Actor

**Birthrights:**

**Many Faced Liars (*Jhootha Kae Chehare*):** The Raksha are lords of Illusion and thrive on mastering multiple forms. With a point of Amrita spent and a successful Manipulation + Subterfuge roll (Difficulty based on how different the new form is from their original) the Raksha can transmogrify his appearance into any human/fae/prodigal form that they wish. The difficulty lies in how familiar the Raksha is with the intended form. Also, at no cost of Amrita, the Raksha can instantly adopt the form of a large tiger. The abilities don't change at all, but still makes a statement. In addition, at Character creation, the Raksha gain two free dots of Manipulation, even if above 5. A Raksha can never botch a Subterfuge roll.

**Frailties**

**Slipped Seeming (*Zaahir Mithya*):** No matter what form the Raksha manifests, there will always be slight tell-tale signs of corruption. Besides the backwards hands, (that are always a hindrance), each illusion cast has a slight pollution about it. Perhaps an illusory Armani suit will have a little soot around the pant cuffs, or the form of a loved one will smell slightly of old-meat... No amount of washing or scrubbing or Amrita spent can ever truly compensate for these little discrepancies. But most don't even really perceive unless they know to look. Usually it takes a Perception + Research/Investigation or such roll to notice.

**Favorite Sin (*Isht Upaadhyaksh*):** Every Raksha, no matter how deprived or altruistic (if a Raksha could be described as such) has one vice that keeps them coming back again and again. Gambling, pick-pocketing, hookers, murder; the Raksha can't seem to shake the habit. If at any time the Raksha is presented with their vice of choice, they must make a willpower roll difficulty 8 to walk away. Some look at the Bhuta family of Ravnos and see some similarities...

**Prem Maya, disguised as a Sadhu Saint, sits in peaceful repose, hides his hands, and gently discusses his fellow Peri...**

**Mahoraga:** I suppose that everyone of us has an equal and opposite, yes? I Suppose they fit the bill for us, more so than the other Vedi would.

**Vidyadhara:** The equal and not quite as opposite of the Daitya are fiery spirited warriors with all the imagination of a rock. To get on their good side? Feign incompetence, adulate their virtues, and then point them at the Daitya.

**Asparas:** At the beck and call of Gods who will always demand another dance, another song, another smoochie-smooch.... They aren't entertainers, they are whores.

**Gandharvas:** I play Bass in Beatles, cover band. What is the difference, then, between them and me? I have style.

**Kalaviñki:** While as a matter of course I despise each and every one of the Vedic Janjeer, there is something inherently heart-breaking about the pea-hens... They are intelligent, strong, kind, and as beautiful as the Asparas, but are cursed to always grovel to their male-halves. I saw this once. The only time I have ever cried tears of sadness.

**Daitya:** Of course they think they are in charge. Most monstrously strong beasts do. Let them. It makes life infinitely easier for us.

**Yakshas:** Little, fat, blue-skinned grave-robbers and accountants? Easily dismissible, yes? That is exactly why they succeed.

**Kinnaras:** One would think that the same thoughts go for the Gandharvas as the Kinnaras. Not so. The Kinnaras are scary in the way that most true artists are. They have a vision that affects their every action, and to hell with anyone who impedes that vision. Try not to make them your enemies... It never goes well.

**Kalaviñka:** So much pride, so much, passion, so little direction...

**Bhuta Vahana Yanta:** Never cheat enough that the Universe itself notices, and you should be fine. With that said, be careful with naming.

**Ravnos:** I sometimes wonder if their great father/god/king was secretly a Raksha in disguise...