

# JING ZI SHENGWU 镜子生物

**"For I do not exist: there exist but the thousands of mirrors that reflect me. With every acquaintance I make, the population of phantoms resembling me increases. Somewhere they live, somewhere they multiply. I alone do not exist."**

— Vladimir Nabokov

**Quote:** Indeed. I see you eating Food, with your mouth, yes? Tell me. Do you eat because you enjoy it? Or because you know it is important to do so, I wonder? Hunger is something you feel, yes?

Somewhere between the razors edge of the fabled Inanimae Empire of Flickers and the borders of the deep dreaming lies the mirror world. Only two kinds of creatures exist in this realm, the *Jing zi Shēngwù* - which translates to living mirror, and some cosmic fish. *This story is true.*

In 2697BC, an army of Inanimae from somewhere near the Empire of Flickers invaded what would one day be China. This Army was a mass of strange skittering goblins, with quicksilver skin and no identity of their own. Called the Fauna of Mirrors, these mercurial forces were thwarted by the Great Yellow Emperor, Huang Di. Through great alchemical sorcery and ingenious traps, he banished them back to their home realm, and devised failsafe methods to keep them bound. Guardian fish made of light were sent by Huang Di to guard the pathways between their world and the worlds beyond. Of course, mirrors served as the doorways to and from these worlds, and there were plenty of fish to patrol the mirrors. But Huang Di knew that someday these fail-safe methods would expire, and the fauna of mirrors would once again march on the world.

There are far more mirrors today than there were then, and that army of light-fish were finite in number. It is easier for the *Jing zi Shēngwù* to enter our world today. According to the legend, the *Jing zi Shēngwù* were trying to conquer our world and make it their own. That didn't work. So, they devised a new plan. They will adapt to this world, comprehend the mortal spectrum, play the part of humanity. They study, learn, feign emotions. When the time is right, they will unite the mirror world and the waking realm, and not a human will notice...

## THE PHYSICS OF THE MIRROR WORLD.

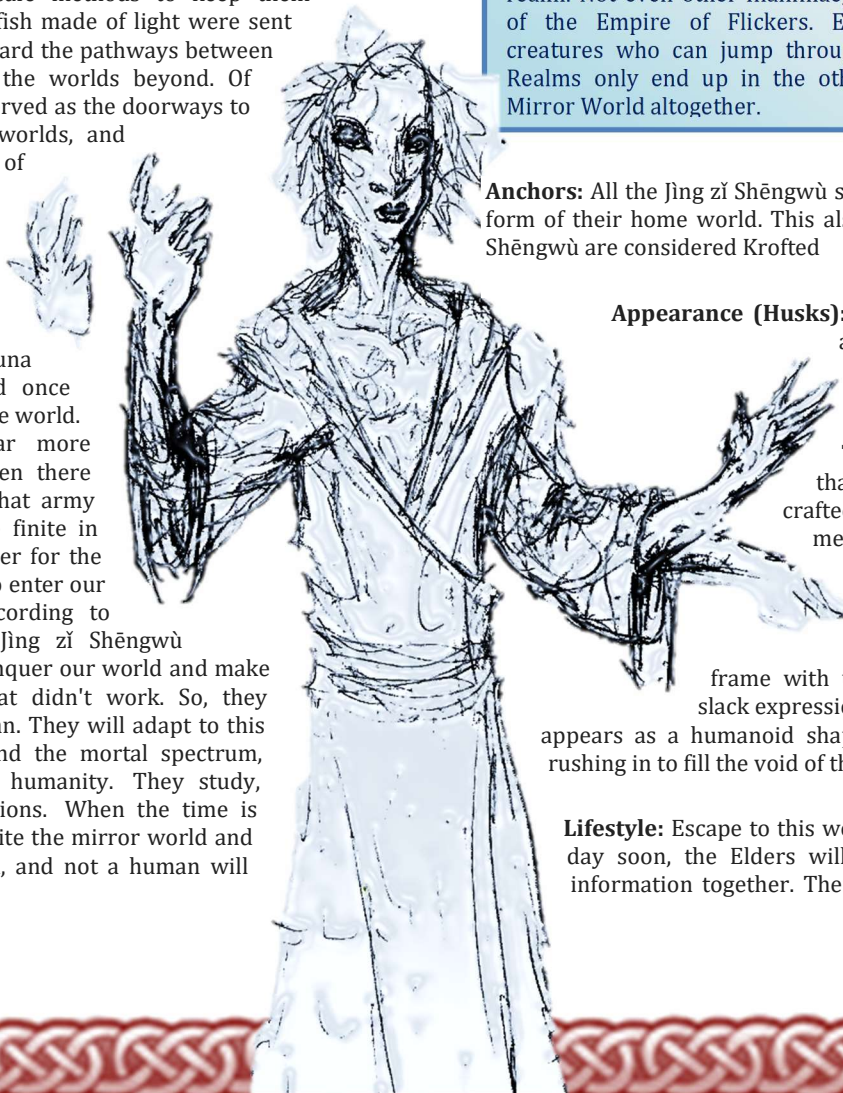
The home realm of the *Jing zi Shēngwù* is a dizzying dimension full of strange physics and Non-Euclidean Geometry. It exists in a thin liminal dimension between the two sides of every reflective surface. Within this realm, any given mirror can open to any point in any world where a reflection exists. Mortals on this side can see it whenever they look in a mirror, but then of course, the *Jing zi Shēngwù* can see out. The *Jing zi Shēngwù* must have seen the other side however (in both worlds) to use that portal/Mirror. No other creature save the Cosmic Light Fish can enter the realm. Not even other Inanimae, or those strange denizens of the Empire of Flickers. Even the Changing Breed creatures who can jump through mirrors to enter other Realms only end up in the other Realms, bypassing the Mirror World altogether.

**anchors:** All the *Jing zi Shēngwù* share the same Anchor in the form of their home world. This also means that all the *Jing zi Shēngwù* are considered Krofted

**Appearance (Husks):** Deciphering Appearance is a somewhat moot endeavor, as every *Jing zi Shēngwù*, especially in *Hotei-Mien* looks like any other mortal. Their natural appearance is that of a humanoid figure crafted of living highly reflective mercury, but it is rare that they let this show. Their *Wani Form* appears like a combination of the two, a mortal (or Hsien, or other)

frame with unusually shiny skin and a slack expression. Their *Mask of the Shentai* appears as a humanoid shaped hole, with a cold wind rushing in to fill the void of that hole...

**Lifestyle:** Escape to this world, learn to be human. One day soon, the Elders will convene and pool all the information together. Then the call will go out to the



whole of the Mirrored Race- unite the two worlds and replace the mortal population. That should sum up the whole of the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù's life. However, sometimes a Jìng zǐ Shēngwù begins to enjoy their existence on this side of the mirror. They "Go Native" and procure a semblance of "enjoyment" from their mortal interactions. They have much to answer for when (or if) they return to the Other Side.

*Hsien-Tsu Jìng zǐ Shēngwù* isn't particularly applicable, as the whole of this Bakemono Shinma have no set Seemings of their own, only their transformed appearance. This is equally true for the

*Hsien-Jin Jìng zǐ Shēngwù*.

**Glamour Ways:** Jìng zǐ Shēngwù regain Yugen/Glamour whenever they successfully have a meaningful interaction with a mortal, this is purposely vague, as some interactions are more meaningful than other and no Jìng zǐ Shēngwù is sure until afterwards. Bear in mind that the ultimate goal for the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù is world domination and such interactions are only a means to an end (as each good Jìng zǐ Shēngwù reminds themselves)

**Unleashing:** Cantrips cast by the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù are breaches of the mirror world into ours. When cast every person present in the scene loses their face and the whole area turns eerily cold and quiet.

**Affinity:** Actor

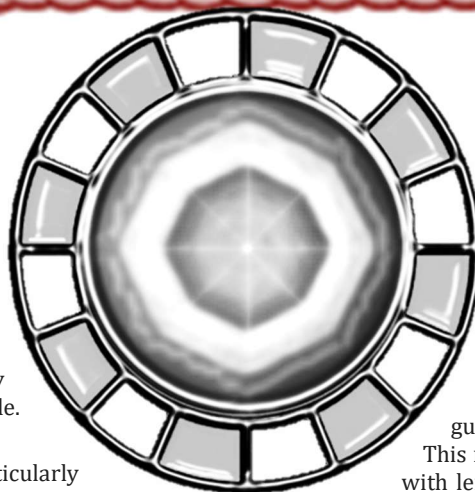
**Kwannon-Jin Fortune:** Metal

**Sliver:** Aquis

**Luck:**

**Mirror World (*Jìng Shijie*):** The mirror realm of the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù lies on the periphery of the empire of flickers and only the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù have any real access to it. Entrance to the realm, of course, is any sufficiently large enough mirror to fit through (or reach through if simply grasping something) and a point of Yugen/Glamour spent. It takes little imagination to conceive the usefulness of travel through that realm, whether escaping a foe, or utilizing the strange geometry of the realm to seemingly teleport...

**Reflections (*Gǎnyán*):** The key capability of the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù is their transformative powers. With a successful Wits + Performance roll, difficulty 7, the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù can assume the appearance of anyone that has looked at them. It takes but a single turn of a target staring at the mirror for the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù to fully cement the transformation. Afterwards, the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù wears that face until they shed in exchange for another one, or they put on their base form of a shiny faceless creature from beyond. Caveat, some confusion may, and will,



occur if the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù spends too much time too close to the target whose face was stolen. *"It is best not to Eat the Defecation of the Place. That is the expression, yes?"*

**Curse:**

**Cold (*Lěng*):** The denizens of the mirror world, except for the Cosmic fish guardians, have no identity of their own.

This makes it that much harder to fit it. Even with lengthy exposure to the mortal spectrum allows the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù the barest modicum of understanding emotion, if not actual empathy. No Jìng zǐ Shēngwù can ever have any dots in the empathy skill, and any performance rolls to feign emotions are always at a +2 difficulty.

**Fish Bait (*Yú'ěr*):** At any time, at any place, the Light Fish Guardians of the mirror world Gateways can come calling. The Jìng zǐ Shēngwù are forever hunted. If caught, they are sent back instantly. If caught 3 times, they are eaten. No real stats will be provided for these guardians, save that they are smarter, and quicker than one would expect. It is up to the storyteller to devise their true prowess, and up to the Player to be forever on the lookout. It is a good thing that the Jìng zǐ Shēngwù can hide their identity, yes?

**Liang, interested in your opinions as well, shares what little he knows of the other Bakemono**

**Mulgogi Yeoja:** Nothing but good things happen when I talk to them. Are you sure that they are Bakemono?

**Nopperabo:** Not fair, really. I mean, the stealing of faces... Should two families do that?

**Oni:** Always stronger than us, even if we wear their face.

**Rokurokubi:** They ask too many questions. It is us that should be asking, no?

**Satori:** They don't ask. But I think it is because they already know. They are dangerous.

**Yama-Uba:** They have two faces, and each is dangerous.

**Yuki-Onna:** We can both break too easily. But when they break, they break everything around them.

**Gasin:** I do not understand. Do they like what they do? The helping? It all seems a bit tedious.

**Obake:** Why animals? Wouldn't monsters be more effective?

**Yaoguai:** At least they are scary animals. Well, perhaps some of them.

**Hirayanu:** Most of these animals are scary.

**Kamuii:** Elements? Do they consider use Elementals? Because we are, in our own way.

**Sunset People:** Their faces are so boring, and all they do in the mirror is preen.