

KIMBASI

"We designate the spirit of the well as 'she' because in most of her personifications she takes a female form, though not invariably. She appears in many guises - ghost, witch, saint, mermaid, fairy, and sometimes in animal form, often as a sacred fish - and her presence permeates well lore, and indeed water lore generally."

— Colin Bord

Quotes: I do not like your offerings. That water is not fresh, the bowl is dirty and cracked. If you do not bring me a better offering before sundown, then before sunrise you will have incurred my wrath.

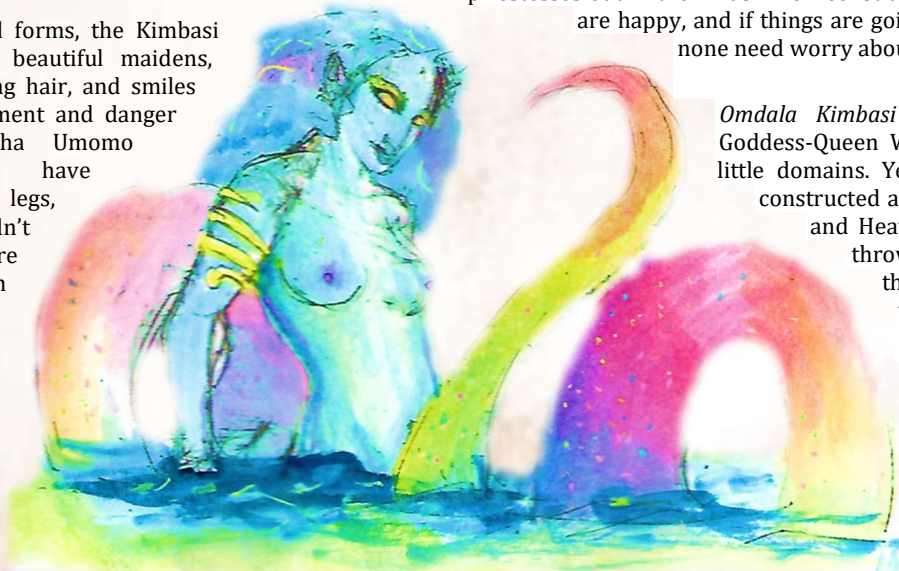
The Kimbasi, not to be confused with the *Bimbasi (Inanimae)* Spirits of the wilds, are a misunderstood family. To the uninitiated, they are mermaids, beautiful and serene. The rest of the Emere in the Kingdom of Ancient Mysteries know better, the Kimbasi are dark Goddesses of primordial water, beautiful and terrifying in their power. Their appearance may be mermaid-esque, but their purpose is so much more. Many might know each of them by their colloquial title, Mami-Wata (Literally, the Mother of Waters) a testament to their ancient lineage as Goddesses.

Since time immemorial, the all-female Kimbasi were stewards of those mortals destined for greatness. Their domains were always along freshwater shores, rivers and lakes and the like. and served as meeting houses for great sorcerers. Witch Doctors and magicians would come to them for aid and would bring sacrifices and offerings. The Kimbasi would choose which of the hopeful magic users showed the most promise and indoctrinate them into the secrets of the waters.

Even in the modern age, those in the know still venerate and respect these watery Goddesses. Though now they may seek a different kind of clientele instead of the Sorcerers of ages past. Up and coming starlets, young venture capitalist, a bright-eyed youth with a stout heart and a big dream. And yes, the occasional modern sorcerer. Though there are still protocols for those who would truck with the Big-Lady in Charge.

Real or imagined slights incur their wrath. Only the bravest or most foolish would willy-nilly deal with the Kimbasi. Lack of offerings to show worth, barging into meet with them unannounced, talking down to them.... Their fury, even if not fatal, is life-altering and dangerous. Worse yet, the Kimbasi lovingly nurse grudges, and slights against them may never be forgiven.

Appearance: In all forms, the Kimbasi are breathtakingly beautiful maidens, with dark eyes, long hair, and smiles that hint at excitement and danger both. Their Bopha Umomo (*Mortal Mien*) have surprisingly long legs, even if one didn't know that they were mermaids, and skin that perpetually looks just this side of misted if not wet. In their Bilongo Umomo (*Fae Mien*) is their Goddess form



revealed. They grow even more attractive if such a thing is possible, and their skin drips with cool water. They sport the tails of river creatures, usually snakes or fish, and all the colors of nature and beyond are revealed in their scales. There is also their animal form, again that of a great fish or snake, with its own Umomo.

The Bopha Umoma in animal form is that of a mundane animal, though brighter scaled and larger. The Animal Bilongo Umomo is much larger than anything found in nature, with supernaturally colored bright scales...

They also have another form if the offerings made by mortals aren't quite enough. But it is best not to talk about that.

Lifestyles: The Kimbasi, regardless of their mortal stations, serve as matrons for spiritually growing mortals. If successful in the worlds of men, they serve as business execs, and hire those humans with promising magical futures. If the Kimbasi prefers to stay in the rural areas away from the hustle and bustle of it all, they act as village elders, ensuring proper training for those bright children capable of great mystical lives ahead of them. For the Kimbasi's lives among the Emere, little changes. Though it should be stressed that they pay little heed to Akuko (Changeling) politics. The mortals are more important to the Kimbasi's nebulous plans.

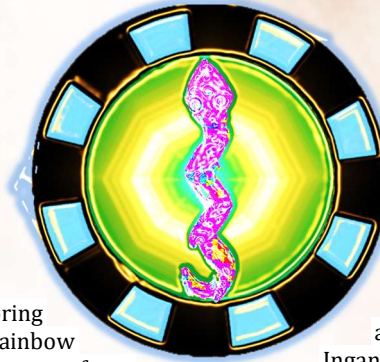
Ingane Kimbasi are gracious and reverent little princesses, if not sometimes a tad mercurial. They are fully aware that they are Goddesses, and others should be aware too.

Asendle Kimbasi quickly assume their roles of leadership. Whether in the cities as powerful businesswomen, or as village priestesses out in the wilds. Their constituents are happy, they are happy, and if things are going according to plan, none need worry about a thing.

Omdala Kimbasi are every bit the Goddess-Queen Witches of their own little domains. Years in the field has constructed a world to their liking, and Heavens help those who throw a wrench into those carefully created worlds.

Glamour Ways:
The Kimbasi
refuel their
Bilongo with the
sacrifices and

offerings left by their mortal constituents. For the more rural and traditional of Kimbasi, it may be burnt offerings left on the riverbank, and small prayers of gratitude. To the new Urban Kimbasi, this might mean 10% off the top, and E-mails of thanks from a new client.



Unleashing: Cantrips cast by the Kimbasi bring with them great swatches of glittering rainbow lights that dance across the scene, and the sweet perfume of clean fresh water. However, if the cantrip is cast when a Kimbasi is angry, there is a heavy pressure on the lungs of onlookers that makes it hard to breathe, not unlike drowning, and a sinking feeling that something malevolent is coiling around their very soul.

Affinity: Nature

Birthrights:

Super Witch (*Elegbe Ti Ko Ni Elegbe*): The reason why so many magic-users, established or aspiring, would go to study in the Kimbasi's realms was due to the Kimbasi's great powers of magic, both Fae and Hedge. At Character Creation, the Kimbasi begin with 5 levels of Arts instead of the usual 3. They may also begin (Storyteller Sanctioned of Course) with 2 free levels of Hedge Path sorcery instead. The caveat to all this is that these levels must stem from at least 3 different arts (or Hedge Paths).

Aquatic Forms (*Ara Omi*): It has been stressed that the Kimbasi aren't mermaids, and they never have been. Yet they do boast the Merfolk's instantly recognizable aquatic forms. When on land they can sport the two long legs of a mortal. When immersed in their freshwater homes (or any body of fresh water) they can adopt their default form of top-half women and bottom half long-tailed fish or snake tail. For a point of Bilongo, they can assume the form of a great fish or snake, with Attribute ratings the same for both.

There is one more form that they can assume, one that is used but rarely (usually when something aggravates them). This is a great blend of snake or fish, a veritable sea-monster dragon behemoth of antiquity, one that drives mortals mad with fright. The Kimbasi must first be in her watery fish or snake form, and then spend an additional point of Bilongo to transform thusly, but the physical attributes grow greatly, dependent on Seeming.

Ingane Kimbasi gain 3 additional points to allocate to physical attributes in this form, the *Asendle* 6, and *Omdala* 9. The form must be created at Character Creation, and again, the Storyteller has final say.

Frailties:

Bloody Temper (*Eje Tutu*): Some foolish soul might underestimate the Kimbasi's tempers, they rarely live to do so again. It is easy to slight a Kimbasi, and their wrath is swift. However, there are a whole slew of circumstances that arise with the Kimbasi's grievances.

First is that the Kimbasi are easily offended, that one is a given and no rules are really needed. Next however, is how they react to the grievance. If sufficiently slighted, such as flippant attitude, lack of respect, or improper offerings, the Kimbasi must roll her willpower or else take immediate vengeance.

However, these willpowers roll are always at a higher difficulty based on Seeming.

Ingane Kimbasi must roll their willpower with a +1 difficulty, *Asendle* a +2 difficulty, and *Omdala* +3.

The base difficulty is set by how grievous the error to begin with but is always at least a difficulty 6.

If she fails the roll, then her court changes. Normally *Ojo (seelie)* Kimbasi become *Iku (Unseelie)*. *Iku* become *Orisha-Awo (Thallain)*. *Orisha-Awo* become the worst of the *Iku-Abeokuta (The worst of the worst in the Shadow Court)*. This change in Court will last until some sense of justice has been restored (or the offending party has paid somehow).

If she fails the roll, then she will frenzy, letting loose the full scope of her power, involuntarily spending the two requisite points of Bilongo and switching to her dragon form where she will eat the offending party, and anybody else too close... She may have a hard time saving face after such weak display of self-control...

Miempie lounges along her riverbank, and eyeing your offering with some disdain, offers you her advice

Abatwa: I did see them coming from far away... nothing escapes my sight.

Aziza: Wonderful little helpers, though their help has been lax of late. Perhaps they have moved on to other ventures?

Ekwu: Great and gentle Goddesses of the Hearth. Someone had to be I suppose.

Gnolls: Beneath our contempt, they fight and squabble over carrion-scraps. Still, I fear the day that they rise above their station.

Negoogungogumbar: That they are Giant simply means that they make easier targets.

Nieterkob: Old? Yes, of course they are. Older than we? Hardly.

Nyar-Viruze: If me and mine chose to be queens, then we would be. We instead choose to be Goddesses and leave the royalty to the blood-drinking lionesses of those damned dry veldts.

Ogo: Disgusting.

Tokoloshe: Worse than disgusting.

Yombi: Perhaps the only ones who can meet our graces with their own.

Merfolk: Regardless of their claims, we are not related. Our own families are far older.

Mokole: Do not think that we are the most dangerous creatures in the water. I have met more than a handful of these beasts "Swimming the small seas..."

Hunters: There is a new breed of sorcerer, one that moves unseen. The Eshu call them the "Glowing Club Children" for obvious reasons. I do not know much about them, and it frightens me.