

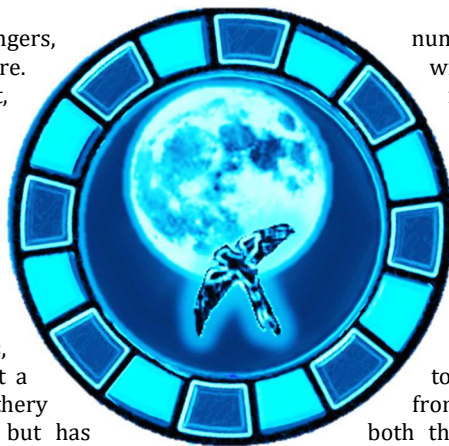
# TENNYO 天女

Daylight licked me into shape  
I must have been asleep for days  
And moving lips to breathe her name  
I opened up my eyes-  
Just Like Heaven- *The Cure*

**Quote:** Greetings Mortal, you've made a prayer and all the kami and Buddhas have heard. Tell me what you wish, and I will make it happen.

The Tennyo are heaven's messengers, ambassadors, couriers, and sometimes more. They are beautiful, gracious, and honest, serving both the Buddhas and the Kami in any number of heavenly roles. Also known as the Moon-Birds, both for their connection to skies and their supernatural grace, there are few Hsien who come closer to the concept of Gods than these elegant celestial beings.

As so many other Inheritors of item-bound Fae heritage, such as the Selkies, Swan mays, and such, the Tennyo inherit a Hagoromo upon their saining. This feathery light robe was once a simple kimono, but has evolved through the years, and now appears as any



number of coats, scarves, sarongs, or other wraps. Each is as unique as the maiden who inherits it, and without it the Tennyo cannot travel back and forth to the heavens (or any other realm).

It is usually the elder of the Tennyo who serve as intermediaries between the heavens and their younger number, who deliver the messages. The messages are often glad tidings of wishes granted to pious mortals, prayers answered and the like. But it is important to remember, that not all the Tennyo are from the Brightside of heaven. The skies carry both the day and the night, and some of the Tennyo are born to serve the darker aspects. Though they are still just as gracious, beautiful, and honest as their brighter sisters, their messages are bleaker, harsher, and far more terrifying. It is the unfortunate mortal that gets a message from these dark sisters of the Moon.

**Appearance:** The Tennyo are elegant, no matter their face. *The Hotei-Mien* is serene, and patient, with large eyes and delicate features. The *Wani-Form* is tall and statuesque, with features so beautiful they seem stupefying. There is always a perpetual breeze about their person, that gently moves their flowing robes this way and that. The Tennyo's *Mask of the Shentai* appears as giant of a woman 3 meters tall glowing with shimmering white robes, large fluffy swan wings, and festooned with all the heavenly light of the moon and stars. Some clueless westerners might confuse this guise with the Angels of Judeo-Christian lore.

**Lifestyle:** The Tennyo represent one of the most active of Hsien, who participate extensively in the Hsien existence. Their roles as Heaven's messengers and blessing-givers keeps them constantly on the run. That leaves little time for a mundane mortal existence.

This is exactly what they enjoy, however. Every Tennyo, even the darker ones, like the downtime between missions where they can explore how the other side does it.

*Hsien-Tsu Tennyo* are graceful and charming little girls, veritable angels. Even those of their number who are



destined for the darker side of heaven have kind smiles and gentle words – for now that is.

*Hsien-jin Tennyo* lose none of their grace but indeed gain more as they grow in years and maturity. They know that soon they must pass their Hagoromo to another of their own, and hope to find that one perfect little girl to receive the gift.

**Glamour Ways:** Tennyo gain Glamour/Yugen from the expressions of gratitude that their clients express from wishes granted and blessings given. For those Tennyo of the darker persuasion, it is the fear felt and disheartening realization of sins from the punished party.

**Unleashing:** Cantrips cast by the Tennyo carry a darkening of the scene, but silver light raining down, and the ringing of a thousand tiny silver bells.

**Affinity:** Nature *-or-* **Kwannon-Jin Fortune:** Void/Heaven/Moon

### Birthrights:

**Heaven's Own (*Tengoku Jishin*):** The Tennyo are understood to be angels by outsiders, and in a way they just might be. They are kind, honest, and graceful in all actions. At Character Creation, all Tennyo begin with extra Social attributes. The brighter ones who serve heaven gain a +3 to Appearance, a +2 to Charisma, and a +1 to Manipulation. Those that serve the darker side of Heaven gain a +3 to Appearance, a +2 to Manipulation, and a +1 to Charisma. They also gain either 2 free dots to either Etiquette or Empathy, and neither side of Heaven can botch any of those rolls.

**Flight (*Ben*):** With Hagoromo wrapped about her graceful frame, the Tennyo floats into the air, and whisks away into the Heavens with the elegance of a swan and all the swiftness of an eagle. The Tennyo must spend a point of Glamour/Yugen to fly thusly, but flies at roughly 50 kmh. She can fly indefinitely and need never come down if she so desires.

### Frailties

**Feather Dress (*Hagoromo*):** Like the Swan-mays, the Magical Phoenix Girls, the Selkies, and numerous other Skin-Changing Dreaming-Born families, it would behoove the Tennyo *"not to lose the thing."* At any time her Hagoromo robes are stolen, lost, or damaged beyond repair, she will lose her Tennyo existence and simply be an attractive female that dreams of flying.

In addition, if the Tennyo ever acts in a way contrary to

Heaven's divine mandates, other Tennyo may be forced to intercede, and if need be relocate the Hagoromo to a more deserving bearer.

### Lady Noriko, sent by the Buddhas, gifts us all with her pleasant words and gracious opinions...

**Bàofēngyǔ:** The Storm gods share the Heavens with me, and I am glad to share with such earnest warriors.

**Daruma:** I am always blessed to spend some time with them, and they are always welcome to go on some adventures with me.

**Dokkaebi:** Do not judge them by appearances, they are far shrewder than you'd think, and twice as fast. It is a blessing that they are with us, and not the Obake.

**Enrena:** The only one of our Gasin families that can keep up with me. These Smoke-Spirits are wonderful friends and powerful allies.

**Hanayomeningyo:** I can say, I will say, nothing.

**Shinigami:** I do not like them, I do not like their role. I do not like that they do not perform seriously. It is not my place, however, and I must say nothing.

**Zashiki-Warashi:** They fulfill a valuable role that none of us could fill. Someone has to guard the mortals, and someone has to bless the home-front, otherwise, why are we here?

**Bakemono:** It is easy to dismiss them as evil. Not so, they are simply fulfilling their dharmic role as well as they can. If they ever fulfill it too well, however, I may be forced to intercede.

**Obake:** So many kinds, so much movement and action. I do not think them evil, but sometimes they can grow too wild, and must be reminded to slow down.

**Yaoguai:** I have many friends amongst their numbers and look forward to some off time to catch up.

**Hirayanu:** The whole lot of them, prattling about with their sins and vices. It is fun to watch for a while, but I have other things to do. Maybe later I can watch the next exciting episode, yes?

**Kamuii:** Some few of them will send messages from the Buddhas or Kamis my way, in hopes that I will deliver it for them. Sometimes the messages are, indeed, from such gods. Other times, however, it is the Kamuii's own pride, and not the heavens that send it. I do not like liars.

**Sunset People:** I have delivered messages to some of them. Some of them received the messages well. Some of them, however, took some convincing.

**Apsaras:** The perfumed Empire has our cousins, far more benevolent, and a thousand times more beautiful than we could ever be. To see them dance is to see heaven anew.