

Suzume 雀



**In a closed society where everybody's guilty, the only crime is getting caught.
In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity.**

Hunter S. Thompson

Quote: Ho there, Business-Man-San, I see that your wallet is fat and full. Let me take that burden off of your hands for you. What's this? Why, I have already stolen it from you before you could even blink. Am I that quick? It is a miracle. Now it is your job to try and catch me.... But I am already gone.... And now I am just talking to myself. *Sigh

The Sparrow Children have a long and torrid history among the Japanese Folk-Tales. Many a school-child can recall verbatim the tale of the poor little split tongue Suzume, and the justice she inflicted on the Greedy Crone who tried to kill her. They can also recall how well rewarded was the gentle and generous old man who cared for the little Suzume. School-Children all over Asia know these things because the stories, like the Sparrows themselves, are everywhere.

Sparrows are one of the most common of birds and can be found all over the world. It is small wonder that there is a family of Kwannon-Jin who hail from this universal Species. And much like the Species, the Kith is a happy one. The Suzume are a bright and happy clan of Hsien. They lead a happy life, laughing and singing, and stealing from the more fortunate. With their unmatched speed and agility, it is hard for anybody to even touch them, let alone stop them.

While it is all divine justice what happened to the above-mentioned Crone, the greed that she had shown still lives on with some of the more dishonest of the Suzume. All of their number, however, have nimble little fingers for snatching up something that catches their eye. While they aren't bad, they are impish and roguish, and. For this reason alone do the Suzume find themselves among the Obahe families of the Hsien.

Appearance: While both male and female exist of the Suzume, the girls outnumber the boys 5 to 1. Both are short in *Hotei-Mien*, with short brownish hair and long fingers. They rarely break five feet, and most are closer to just over 4 feet.

In *Wani Mien*, they are closer to three feet. Their brownish hair turns into a mass of feathers that is shot with gray, brown, black and tan, and their face is festooned with odd markings of the same. No two of these markings is alike, and they are form intricate and hypnotizing designs on the Suzume's dark complexion. Their eyes shine like onyx orbs, and their voices grow melodic and sweet.

The *Beast Form* of the Suzume is a little innocuous sparrow, indistinguishable from any other.

Sparrow

Strength: 0, Dexterity:10, Stamina: -3
Attacks Bite: Str - 2 Lethal (Only out of desperation)
Notes: They can fly at speeds of 25 to 50 mph

In *Mask of the Shentai*, the Suzume appear as plump sparrows the size of small pigs with unsettling gazes that peer into the very soul. All sins and transgressions are laid bare, and every secret is exposed.

Lifestyle: Setting up Half-way houses for the poor, aiding orphans and street-people, or just enjoying another's property, the Suzume are all over the Asian Fairy scene. They do well in the city, or the urban areas, as well. Suzume thrive just about anywhere. Many become thieves or con artists (giving in to somewhat unsavory tendencies) using their charm, their honeyed voices, and their supernatural dexterity to make their lives that much better.

Hsien-Tsu Suzume are kind but notorious kleptomaniacs. They use their seeming innocence to achieve all sorts of disruption. They can be persuaded to direct it for the right price. (For a while, Yu-Gi-Oh cards were the way to ally yourself with Sparrow-Children, none are sure what's in today).

Hsien-Jin Suzume have learned from the past, and now try to curb their more mischievous ways for the good of the Shinma. While they still have an impish streak, they save that for special occasions.

Glamour Ways: Suzume gain Glamour/Yugen by exposing the guilty, and ensuring justice is met for the down-trodden. In many ways, answering the prayers of those seeking justice, or simply a better life. Soup-kitchens for the hungry or bringing down a corrupt multi-billion dollar corporation are both ways in which a Suzume replenishes her magic.

Unleashing: Cantrips cast by the Suzume are accompanied by little whirlwinds of dust and detritus, and the soft susurrus of whispered secrets just out of hearing.

Kwannon-Jin Fortune: Wood *-or-* Affinity: Scene
Yin: 3 Yang: 1

Luck:

Bird shape (*Tori no katachi*): A Suzume gains +2 to dexterity at character creation (even if above five) and with a point of Glamour/Yugen gains a pair of wings (akin to the *Winged Merit*). With those wings and that expenditure, a Suzume can nimbly bounce across rooftops, much akin to the *Wayfare Art* level 1 (Whether she has purchased this Art or no).

Prayer of the Liars (*Usotsuki no inori*): The Suzume are notorious tricksters and con-artists. All subterfuge and Empathy rolls are at -2 difficulty. Any uses of Glamour/Yugen that are used to pull the wool over someone's eyes (whether through cantrips, Wu Tan, or other) are at a -1 difficulty.

Curse:

Delicate Silk Flower (*Sensaina shirukufurawā*): For all their skills at bluffing, tricking, and lying, the Suzume are tender little birds who unfortunately cannot take much of a beating. They have one less health level (just black out one box of health on their sheet) and can never have a Stamina Rating of more than two.

Song of the Thief (*Dorobō no uta*): The Suzume are notorious thieves. While they don't have to grab every gold-watch they see, they still keep an eye out for little things that strike their interest. To resist this compulsion, the Suzume must make a successful Willpower roll, difficulty 8.



Mao, Suzume Thief, and lover of Popcorn, sings a song of her fellow Shinma

Kappa: The Fat little Turtles are the greatest thing to happen to the Shen since the first age. Heaven bless them, and their dimwitted ways.

Daitengu: You're not the boss of me.

Gong-Zu: Half of the time I trust them completely, the other half I expect them to try and sell me life-insurance.

Gumiho: Not to be trusted, under any circumstances.

Hsigo: Flying monkeys? Really? I've never seen them and I don't believe you.

Jurogumo: Of course, you wonderful ladies. But what is this? Oh no! I am too fast to be caught in your trap. Too bad beautiful ladies. Perhaps next time, yes?

Yaoguai: Our mortal enemies, but only because they won't admit that they are Goblins too.

Gisan: If life meant more than cleaning up their house, then their whole existence might mean more than a God-Fart.

The Kamui: Yes your highness, I will wipe your butt for you. Noble is a strong word, one that they use too much.

The Hirayanu: What about us? We're awesome (except for the Nyan). We and the DaiTengu have a bet to see who's cleverer.

The Bakemono: *Bleagh...* The Yama-Ubas and the Yuki-Onnas, and the Onis, they aren't worth the effort to complain about.

The Sunset People: Just like us, there are prat Little Gods, and cool servants and lots of Goblins. The ones called Pukka are best.