

# Vidyadhara विद्याधरा

**"Come Fairies, take me out of this dull world, for I would ride with you upon the wind and dance upon the mountains like a flame!"** The Land of Heart's Desire -- *William Butler Yeats*

**Quote:** Persian? Moslem? Turk? Countries and Faiths don't matter, only righteous actions...

The Vidyadhara aren't Peri. The Vidyadhara were demi-Gods of conflict that laughed and sang as they danced through the battlefield wielding flowers and swords. They delighted the Vedic Deities of warfare with both their prowess in combat as well as their care-free songs of victory. The Vidyadhara were divine beings, with only the Daitya equal to them in power and grace. But the Vidyadhara of the Perfumed Empire's Peri aren't those semi-Gods.

From Turkey, and Armenia, and scattered across the Middle East came the Peri - Zoroastrian fire-Spirits halfway between heaven and Earth. (The term Peri shares cognates with the term *Fairy*). These Dreaming -Born creatures migrated into India and settled in with their Persian worshippers. Much like the Sidhe in the Celtic Lands, they settled in as if they had always been there. Peri is the catch-all term for the collective of this Janajaati (Kith), and eventually the whole collective of India's Fae Families. It's not their fault that the mortals of India lumped the whole of the Janajaati under the same collective term.

In order to distinguish themselves, *and* at the insistence of the other Janajaati Tribes, the Peri sought out a means to ensure good relations with their natural born Indian cousins. Through research into mythology and history, they discovered blood-ties to an older Tribe that existed prior to this Turn of the Cycle. Those afore-mentioned Vidyadhara were cut from the same cloth as the Peri. Violent and righteous with a flaming battle prowess not seen outside the Celestial Kingdoms of the Vedic Gods. Both were extreme in their Vedic nature (what some amongst the Celts would call Marcra, or Double-Seelie in nature) and both could easily be mistaken by deities in their own right. At the behest of their fellow Janajaati tribes, and with the permission of their Mahoraga allies and Daitya enemies, the once Peri undertook the name Vidyadhara.

**Appearance:** In any Avataar (Mien), the Vidyadhara manifest as attractive and cocky creatures, with features reminiscent of their Persian origins. The Janjeer Avataar (Mortal Mien) is a rakishly handsome beast of a figure with full lips, long arabesque face, and bright eyes that twinkle. Some even insist that their Janjeer Avatar looks like the Peri Avataar of the Eshu Tribes. The Vidyadhara aren't so conceited as to push this but receive the compliment with a grin.



The Peri Avataar (Fae Mien) of the Vidyadhara manifests as a glowing fiery body, upwards of 2 and ½ meters tall. Large golden fiery wings grace broad shoulders. All sexes have broad shoulders but thin waists and long, thin arms and legs. The hair and eyes glow an inner light, and even the skin seems lit from within. No matter how humble the Vidyadhara remains (or feigns to be) there is something patronizing about the Smile.

**Lifestyle:** The life of the Vidyadhara is a struggle for place. The call to battle evil continuously pushes them to seek out injustice and right the wrongs of the Asura (Unseelie) Janajaati. Yet Good and Evil in the cosmogony of the Perfumed Empire isn't quite the dichotomy it is in the Janajaati's ancestral home. They are fully aware of outsider status but are also called on as leaders when the call to battle is sounded. Yet this call to battle is never sounded enough for these seekers of cosmic righteousness. So the Vidyadhara wait, and try to live their mortal lives, engaging when they can, and sitting idly by when they can't.

*Javaan Vidyadhara* can't wait to prove themselves, not just to their elders, but to their own self. They do prove themselves, but still must wait a long time too. It sucks.

*Vany Vidyadhara* at least begin to make a name for themselves. If not in battle then in the passion with which they apply to all avenues of their lives. If they are students, then they are serious students. If they are merchants they are hard-core merchants. If they are lucky enough to get a job where they can bust heads, they do so with gusto...

*Pragi Vidyadhara* have been in the game long enough to understand their place within the Perfumed Empire. They understand the relationships between the Asura and Vedic, and don't push the issue. Many strike long lasting friendships with the Bhuta Vahana Yanta. Some of these friendships may even follow them into other reincarnations.

**Glamour Ways:** Vidyadhara can only gain Amrita in the frenzied din of battle for a righteous cause. The elation of mortals as they see righteousness in action, the fear of the unjust as they see the scales of cosmic balance swing in the

direction of justice, the cheer of the crowd, the lights, the energy,, these are the only ways that the Vidyadhara can refuel their magics. Unfortunately, it doesn't happen enough, and no self-respecting Vidyadhara will simply pick a fight for the sake of battle... They are far too righteous for that.

**Unleashing:** Maya cast by the Vidyadhara are accompanied by an oppressive blast of heat (causing no damage, but still uncomfortable) and the scene being bathed in red and gold light. Spicy incense, reminiscent of cinnamon and cedar wood, wafts through the air. Unseen horns blast a battle cry through the whole area. It really pumps you up...

**Affinity:** Time

**Birthrights:**

**Almost an Angel (*Lagabhag Ek Paree*):** The Peri are exotic strangers from faraway deserts, with the wings of a great fiery bird and the glowing visage of a Celestial entity. At character creation, the Peri gains a +2 to appearance (Even if above 5).

In addition, they gain great wings, glowing red and gold and burnished brass. These wings allow flight at a speed of 20 X dexterity in meters a turn.

**Frailties:**

**Mercurial (*Chanchal*):** Great puns aside, the Peri are flighty. They are easily distracted, eager to please, and quick to leap well before looking. At character Creation, no Peri can begin with a willpower rating above 3. It also cost experience point of current willpower rating x 3 (instead of the usual x 2) to raise.

**Zubin, crafter of fine Persian weapons, looks at his customer-less shop and sighs. It looks as if he's got some free time to talk.**

**Apsara:** Graceful of course, super graceful and beautiful beyond belief. They are also on the Old Gods' speed-dial. Doesn't sound like much fun.

**Gandharvas:** Surprisingly, they get rowdy, and few realize how well they throw down. It's a nice change of pace to spar with someone who can keep up.

**Kalaviñki:** So pretty and graceful. Funny too, and nice. They can do so much better if they wanted to. Still, the heart wants what the heat wants.

**Mahoraga:** Keepers of the law, and protectors of the pathways between worlds. If they need monsters to fight, I'm available

**Daitya:** Aha! My ancient enemy! You were going to steal that sword weren't you? No? Okay, that'll be 7000 rupees. Keep the change? Okay. Thanks. Are you sure you don't want to steal it?

**Kalaviñka:** By Agni's burning biceps... how I hate these narcissistic pricks. I mean, I'm pretty, but that's not the core of my being. These guys rub it in everyone's face.

**Kinnaras:** Slam poetry? T-shirts of obscure bands r? They are one bottle of fruit-flavored micro-brew away from being a hipster.

**Raksha:** Blasphemous liars and dirty rotten thieves. The worst of the lot.

**Yakshas:** Nope. These little blue bastard bone-biters are the worst of the lot. I get that they serve some kind of karmic balance, but it's just so damned creepy.

**Bhuta Vahana Yanta:** If ever I was envious of any Janajaati's station, it would be the clockwork Gods.

**Div:** In Italy they have Pamarindo. In the America they have Slender-Men. There are Bogies and Boggarts and Fir Darrigs and Agni knows how many evil creatures in the world. Div we call them. Guess how many we have here? None. Even the Daitya have a damned code that they follow. It's just so hard to find an arch-villain around here.

