

# Apsara अप्सरा

**"We dance to seduce ourselves. To fall in love with ourselves. When we dance with another, we manifest the very thing we love about ourselves so that they may see it and love us too." – Kamand Kojouri**

**Quote:** Hey honey? Can you pick up the Kids today? Some Prince requires my services tonight, it's Taco Tuesday, and they like salsa with their burritos... I should be home no later than 9ish...

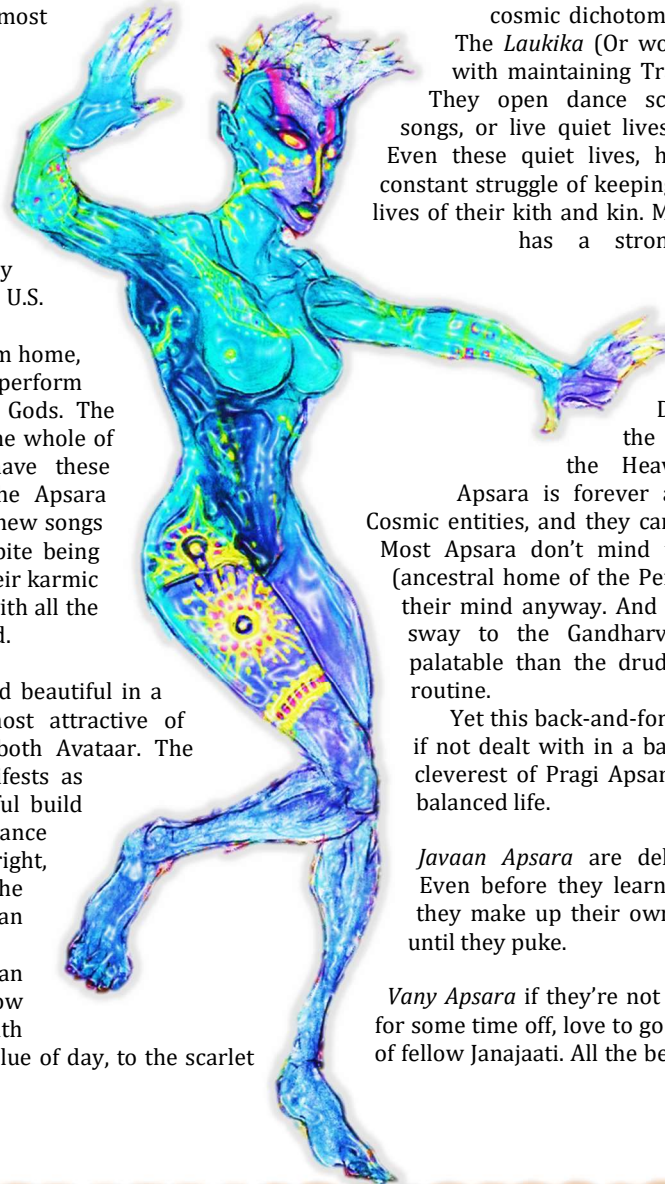
From time immemorial, the All-female Janajaati (Kith) of and violet of sunset, even the star-studded twinkling against a Apsara has delighted the Vedic Gods with their Celestial dances velvet inky blackness of midnight. The skin glows blue as well, and cosmic beauty. The Apsara fall somewhere between the Angels (Brought to India with Zoroastrianism) and the Nymphae (Of the Olympian Kingdom, much to the Apsara's chagrin). And they have plagued the note-taking of serious Fae scholars for generations. More than simple Celestial dancing Fae, but less than the ancient Vedic Gods of Dance so often conflated with the Janajaati, the true origins of the Apsara may be found in the sheer volume of Kingdoms they may be found in.

The Cloud-Babes (as they are colloquially called) are perhaps the most widespread of any Peri (Fae) Tribes. The Bulk of them can be found throughout the whole of the Perfumed Empire Kingdoms, but also well into the Kingdom of the Firebird, and as far as East as the Land of 10 Million Dreams, They boast numbers well-through Asia, the Middle East, Russia, and now many are found in Hindu communities in the U.S. and Europe.

Yet no matter how far they are from home, at any time they may be called back to perform their heavenly dances for the Vedic Gods. The Gods of old haven't changed though the whole of this wheel's Cycles, and forever have these Celestial Dancers on Speed-dial. The Apsara continue to dance and sing and learn new songs and dances from the new lands, despite being tired or busy with mortal lives. It is their karmic duty to perform, and they will do so with all the Heavenly Grace they have been granted.

**Appearance:** Statuesque, graceful, and beautiful in a way that overshadows even the most attractive of Janajaati, the Apsara are lovely in both Avataar. The Janjeer Avataar (Mortal Mien) manifests as tall and lithe figures, with the graceful build that only a lifetime of arduous dance routines can provide. Their eyes are bright, skin radiant (if not a little paler than the norm) and fingers always tapping to an unknown beat.

In Peri Avataar (Fae Mien), an already attractive face appears to grow even more heavenly. The Eyes glow with all the colors of the sky, from bright blue of day, to the scarlet



**Lifestyle:** The Apsara, more-so than any other Janajaati, are subject to the cosmic dichotomy of a Peri's dual nature. The *Laukika* (Or worldly life) is one fraught with maintaining Traditional roles as artists. They open dance schools, teach traditional songs, or live quiet lives as mothers and wives. Even these quiet lives, however, come with the constant struggle of keeping music and dance in the lives of their kith and kin. Many an unassuming *Badi* has a strong grasp of ancestral knowledge due to his familial ties to the *Laukika* Apsara in his life.

The *Daivika* (Or Divine life) arises when the Apsara is called before the Heavens to perform. The Apsara is forever at the beck and call of Cosmic entities, and they can come without warning. Most Apsara don't mind too much, as Bhogavati (ancestral home of the Peri) is never that far from their mind anyway. And the chance to dance and sway to the Gandharva's music is far more palatable than the drudgery of a mortal's daily routine.

Yet this back-and-forth lifestyle can take a toll if not dealt with in a balanced manner. Only the cleverest of Pragi Apsara can truly boast such a balanced life.

*Javaan Apsara* are delightful little princesses. Even before they learn any Traditional dances, they make up their own and spin and pirouette until they puke.

*Vany Apsara* if they're not too busy, or can petition for some time off, love to go adventuring with cliques of fellow Janajaati. All the better to see how the other

half lives. Many even get a little bit jealous that the others aren't at the beck and call of Old Gods.

*Pragi Apsara* have been in the game long enough to achieve a sort of balance between their Daivika and Laukika halves. Having a husband helps, and kids to maintain the housework is invaluable. No few have the ears of certain Gods. A little favor here and there can go a long way in earning some time off.

**Glamour Ways:** Apsara regain Amrita from their mortal constituents engaging in frivolity. Traditional dances with the whole village, performance pieces of local artists entertaining family and friends, inspired jam sessions that come out of nowhere but last all night; these are the means by which the Apsara replenish their magics.

**Unleashing:** Maya (Cantrips) cast by the Apsara bring with them waves of misty breezes, the fresh smell of cool rain in the distance, and the jingling of tiny bells. The whole scene is bathed in soft blue light. Those unfamiliar or caught unawares may feel an abrupt euphoria begin to take over, dulling the senses.

**Affinity:** Nature

**Birthrights:**

**The Power of Craft (*Shilp Kee Shakti*):** Apsara are gifted with supra human acts of artfulness and Grace. They are danseurs and performers of Celestial skill. At Character creation, they gain a +2 to Appearance (Even if above 5) and a +3 to performance, (Dancing), again, even if above 5. Many also pursue musical ability, learning to sing and play varied instruments to round out their showbiz wheelhouse.

**Light as Wind (*Halaka se Hava*):** The Apsara are tied to the elements of sky and wind, and their dances are proof of this. For one point of Amrita spent, the Apsara's body becomes lighter, ephemeral. She essentially becomes weightless and can float on air with the grace of a cloud or the speed of a blizzard. In game terms, her Dexterity doubles for the remainder of the scene, and she gains a number of actions per turn based on her Seeming (Javaan gain 1 extra action per turn, Vany gain 2, and Pragi 3). In addition, the Apsara isn't bound by gravity, capable of running and dancing high into the air.

However, while weightless, the Apsara has a stamina rating of 1, and one good solid hit (At least one full box of damage) negates this birthright, sending her plummeting to the hard earth below.

**Frailties:**

**Devotion (*Bhakti*):** The Apsara are at the beck and call of their Devi-God masters. At any time they are called on for the services, the Apsara are forced to answer. Refusal not only means the Gods and Vedic courts are displeased, but it also means a temporary point of Janneer (Banality). This is doubly detrimental to the Apsara, as their whole *raison d'être* is to perform for the Vedic Gods while maintaining a mortal life. It is a precarious edge to dance on.

**Urvasi, bollywood dance instructor and mother of three, puts her phone to the side long enough to remark on her Janajaati Cousin Tribes**

**Daitya:** If anybody has to be the kings of the Asura, it stands to reason that it should be the biggest, meanest, and darned strongest monsters on the block. There's stories that mentioned that we used to dance for their Father-God. Not sure if they are true or no.

**Gandharvas:** So a lot of our numbers takes husbands from the Gandarva Tribe. While I can't say that there isn't a certain charm to them, it would be too much of hassle if we both got called in to work at the same time.

**Kalaviṅka:** Ah man, *these guys*. I mean, you can't go much farther for eye candy, right? But it takes more than a pretty face to warrant me seriously dating you.

**Kalaviṅki:** Poor little grey-boogers. It breaks my heart just to think of it.

**Kinnaras:** There's always that brother-in-law that comes to visit and overstays his welcome. These guys have overstayed their welcome for the entirety of this Wheel's Cycle.

**Mahoraga:** Long-lived and long-limbed. I wish I could get them into the studio. Not only do they have the build for it, but the stories they must have about the otherworlds must be incredible...

**Peri:** New kids came in. New kids take over. Isn't this the same thing that happened with the Celtic Tribes and the Sidhe? How'd that work out for the Celtic Tribes?

**Raksha:** The worst part is that you never know if you're dealing with one. They could be your neighbors for years, and you wonder just where that one spatula you lent out to them disappeared to... and the next thing you know your throat is slit...

**Yakshas:** You do know that they eat Zombies, right? There is something fundamentally and cosmically wrong with that. No wonder they are Asura.

**Bhuta Vahana Yanta:** Quiet. Serious. Creepy. As long as you don't break any cosmic rules or something, you should be good. Right?

**Tennyo:** In the Three Kingdoms of Go, we have Moon-cousins. They are lots of fun and so darn nice. If I ever get some time off, I plan on taking a trip over there and visiting.

**Sidhe:** So pretty, so elegant, and so darned snooty. I mean, I get the whole king of the underground world thing... but they really aren't anything new. I mean, how much older is our Tribe? And we don't get that stuck up...