

KLESHA MARA ཉམ་མངས་ཀྱི་བདུད་

“Letting go gives us freedom, and freedom is the only condition for happiness.

If, in our heart, we still cling to anything - anger, anxiety, or possessions - we cannot be free.”

The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy, and Liberation— *Thich Nhat Hanh*,

Quote: God, why are there so many buttheads in the world? It's them what's holding you back, eh?

“Your own worst Emotions can hold you back.” The Mara who is disturbing emotions and attitudes.

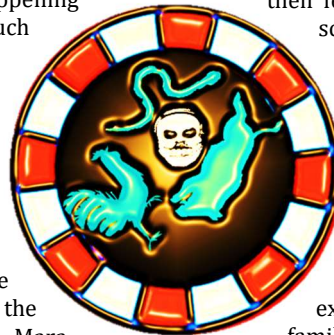
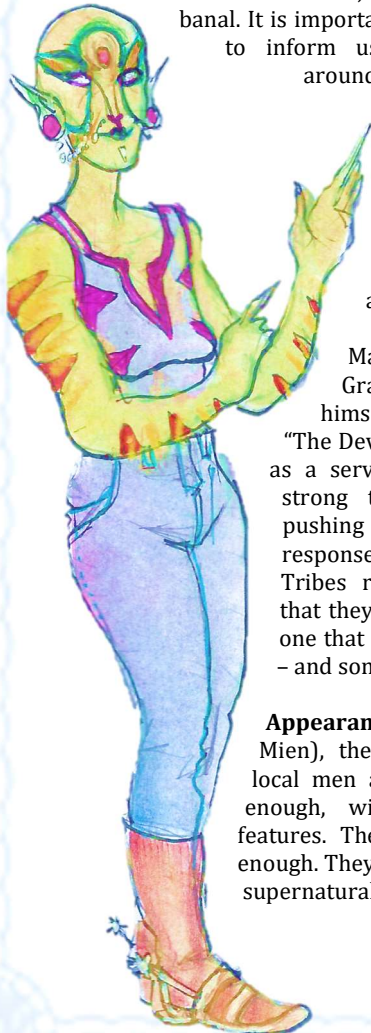
When the Buddha Siddhartha sat under the tree, himself not yet quite the Buddha, Mara the Distractor -Godfather of Demons, offered temptations and distractions to shake him from the path. Though the Buddha saw through them all, they still exist in and of themselves. Four Tribes arose - the Mara Zo-dor, named for the Grandfather God. Each of the four Tribes oversees, and IS, a principle distraction that prevents ascension in mortals, Fae, or other.

The Klesha Mara are the children of the Vexations, Defilement, Unskillful Feelings, the illusion of lower emotional barriers. They are the lords of Anger, Disgust, Shame, Fear, the worst aspects of humanities passions, and the distractions such causes. In Layman's Terms, *it's hard to let go when you have so much baggage*. The Klesha Mara are the embodiment of this concept, and they embody it well. While this is the very definition of Dukha, or Dis-Ease, the Klesha aren't banal. It is important to realize that emotions exist

to inform us of what's happening around us, and such information should be treasured - so the Klesha Mara will remind you time and time again.

None of the Mara are evil, and the Grandfather God Mara himself should never be mistaken for “The Devil.” The Klesha see what they do as a service to the World, pushing the strong to make them stronger, and pushing buttons to trigger important responses. For all the bad publicity their Tribes receive, the Klesha understand that they are an integral part of reality - one that is all too easy to feel ashamed of - and sometimes shame is healthy.

Appearance: In Nirmana Kya (Mortal Mien), the Klesha Mara are unassuming local men and women. They are pleasant enough, with roughhewn, but pleasing features. Their voices are rough, but kind enough. They are attractive, but nothing quite supernatural. In Dharma Kya (Fae Mien)



their features take on the seething attractiveness of a scowling and brooding bad boy or girl, the one you had a crush on - you know the one. Their ears grow longer both up and down, and their eyes blaze with an inner fire that is hard to forget.

Lifestyle: All Mara survive in the in-between places, living hidden amongst the mortals and unseen by the Werma (Seelie) Zo-dor. They rarely interact with others at all excepting other Mara (Unseelie) - of their own families or not. They have their Favorite Mortals, of course, who receive much of their attention. Ultimately, however, there is little to distract them. It is their purview to divert, not to be diverted themselves...

Cetana Klesha Mara are tantrum throwing, sulking, timid, boastful- sometimes all at once. They don't have a full grip on their own emotions just yet, but they have time.

Chonyil Klesha Mara have learned to temper their emotions with the years, and now spend their time immersing themselves in the emotions of others. They are the coolest heads to prevail when it all seems to be going wrong...

Nyinmo Klesha Mara have no regrets (even if she's an Aunt) and look back with fondness.

Glamour Ways: The Klesha Mara prefer to regain Sog from angry, frightened, depressed mortals, who can't overcome those emotions, and can't even imagine ever feeling anything

Daughters of Mara - AUNTIE REGRET

The first temptations sent by Mara to harass the Budding Buddha (not a pun) were his three daughters. There are many interpretations of who these beauties were - but for the sake of simplicity the 4 Mara Zo-dor call their beloved *Aunties Lust, Regret, & Forgetfulness*. Each of the Aunts has a particular Zo-dor that they shower their Favor upon - though anybody that chooses them gains the favor-

- ❖ Aunt Regret favors the Keshu, as it easy to feel remorse for all the horrible things you've done, and so many people hurt because of your actions.
- ❖ Those that choose Aunt Regret gain a free dot in any one Mental Attribute the Mara wishes - all the better to think about all the harm you've done. She costs 2 Background Points at Character Creation and is akin to a Totem.
- ❖ Aunt Regret requires that her favorites keep a journal of all their own misgivings, and slights from others, to ensure that such sins are inscribed forever.

else. But they can also gain the same from those having a particularly bad day.

Unleashing: Phowa cast by the Klesha Mara are accompanied by palpable waves of those lower emotions, with each onlooker experiencing the ones they are most familiar with. Anger, Sadness, Guilt, Resentment, if they aren't careful, this can result in all manner of problems for everyone present...

Affinity: Actor

Birthrights:

Attractive: Each of the Mara have a particular flavor of beauty that endears them to their mortal populace. At Character Creation, each of them gains a +2 to Appearance for Free. In addition, Klesha Mara gain a +1 to both Empathy and Brawl for free and can never botch any such rolls.

Frailties:

Dark Energy: What the Mara Tribes are, they do. Sometimes, however, they do it too well. When casting Phowa, they must be extra careful that the Dark Energy of their Unleashings doesn't overtake those present. Any extra 10's on any Art roll (not including the first one) creates an Aura of misery. All mortals present (and sometimes others as well – be it Fae or otherwise) must roll their willpower difficulty 8. If they fail the roll, then

they are subject to the worst aspects of the Mara – for the Klesha this means those that fail the roll are overcome by the worst of their emotions- berserker rages against their allies, catatonic fits of depression, crawling on the ground in mournful fits of shame... it is best not to focus on those who suffer from Lust – such afflicted cannot refuel the Mara's Sog rating until they heal from it. All Mara are immune to this...

Wangyal "Rhonda" Gyurme, checking off all the groceries she forgot this last trip, sighs and shares her thoughts.

Btsan: It really is a shame; their anger could be directed at some truly evil causes. It's a shame that so many innocents get caught up in their affairs.

Deva Putra: Sounds like a nice heaven. I don't expect I'll get an invite.

Gyalpos: Oh, they do try so hard to peddle their little gospel. They butcher it though. Get it wrong every time. The real harm is done to their followers, who believe their backwards verses legitimate scripture.

Mrtya: We all go at some time or another, all that matters is how many people we've hurt along the way.

Skhandha: Soccer practice? Picking up dry-cleaning? So much to keep her busy. Too bad she doesn't have enough time to do anything worthwhile.

Yetis: I do believe there used to be a lot more out there. Too many hunters I presume. There's a lot more hunters now, than there are Yetis.