

MRTYA MARA འཇི་བདག་གི་བདུད་

“Whenever ego suffers from fear of death & your practice turns to seeing impermanence, ego settles down.”

Carefree Dignity: Discourses on Training in the Nature of Mind — *Tsoknyi Rinpoche*,

“THIS IS YOUR LIFE, AND IT’S ENDING ONE MINUTE AT A TIME.” – Fight Club

Quote: Ooh, car-accident, eh? That was a close one. Next time you might not be so lucky... have a nice day!

“All things will die, especially you; - isn’t that scary?” - The Mara who is the Lord of Death

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 Mrtya Mara are the children of the perceived ending of all things, the obstacles of awareness of cessation, The Kings of the Fear of Death, The illusion of Termination, and removal of all aspects integral to the aggregate factors of experience. In Layman’s terms – *you’re all going to die, and you should be intimidating by that concept.* These Mara

are the Lords of the limiting experience that is life, and the distraction this causes – making it hard to think about life knowing that death is just around the corner. This should never be misconstrued as

Banality or Dukha. It is important to realize that everything and everyone and everywhere and everywhen will eventually collapse into a great heat-death of the Universe, and the tiny tiny insignificant life of one rice-paper flesh mortal is part of that. Such knowledge should be treasured– so the Mrtya 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 Mrtya Mara see what they do as a service to the World, ensuring that status quo of oblivion understood by all, and how such knowledge

GODFATHER MARA

Never to be confused with the Judeo-Christian Devil, the four Mara Zo-dor revere their Grandfather like the primal God-Demon that he is. He walks throughout all the Kingdoms, not just the Dreaming World, but all phases of existence. He is usually disguised, however, and few who met him realize his true Nature. Such is for the better.

- ❖ Only a select few individuals from all the Mara Tribes have earned his favor, but most from the Mrtya Tribe (who have a particular brand of cold honesty).
- ❖ Those that wish to have Mara himself as a patron gain 3 additional free dots of Attributes, one to be placed in every Attribute Category.
- ❖ Godfather Mara will visit his chosen every now and then and check in with them. He maybe will require a little favor – nothing too inconvenient surely. The smart grandchild will jump right to it.



strengthens those who think themselves above it. For all of the bad publicity their Tribes receive, the Mrtya understand that they are an integral part of a ceasing reality– one that is all too easy to forget – and forgetting that knowledge can be dangerous.

Appearance: In Nirmana Kya (Mortal Mien), the Mrtya Mara are unassuming local men and women. They are pleasant enough, with soft pleasing features, relatively attractive, but nothing supernatural. Their voices are soft and strangely comforting (if not their words). There is an air of familiarity about them, as if their name is just on the tip of the tongue. In Dharma Kya (Fae Mien) their features take on a strange attractiveness, eerily familiar but coldly distant. Their skin grows pale, their ears grow longer both up and down, and their eyes glow with the cold light of a dying star...

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 Mrtya Mara, fresh from Bodhicitta (Chrysalis) as they are, are too young to have many thoughts of death. That changes quickly.

Chonyil Mrtya Mara are more honest than any other Mara, what they peddle is a very tangible reality for many people, without the illusions so famous among their kind. Some of them may even share a tear with their targets...

Nyinmo Mrtya Mara know what's coming, they have been talking about it for years...

Glamour Ways: Mrtya Mara regain Sog from those poor dears afraid of the next world – the fatally ill, the lonely old, those Atheists who feel that there is nothing waiting. They have a particular love for dooms-day preppers, and eco-philes espousing an omni-present climate catastrophe. Is it real? That's not the point. The point is that they're deathly afraid of it.

Unleashing: Phowa cast by the Mrtya mara feel like a sense of mortal danger, that is inescapable, inevitable, imminent. If they aren't careful, it can leech all hope from a scene....

Affinity: Nature

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, Mrtya Mara gain a +1 to Empathy and Medicine 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 Mrtya Mara, this means one level of lethal damage for every extra 10 on the roll. All Mara present are immune to this...

Tsamchö "Helena" Gyurme, sharpening her stone axe, smiles brightly and shares her honest beliefs.

Btsan: Nope. Not this time around, regardless of what they believe. It will be as horrible and painful as it was last time.

Deva Putra: I like to check in with these siblings, so happily naïve they are. They do it well.

Gyalpos: Get them when they're not busy stomping about. It's their quiet, handsome times, when they're the most susceptible to reason.

Klesha: "Yes, let the hatred flow through you!" Sorry. It's from a movie I saw. It was really funny.

Skhanda: I really don't get it. There's a buttload of British Zodor who embody this very principle. Boggans, Nockers, even the pretty long-ears and their politics. Are they any different?

Yetis: I've met plenty in my day, but they don't seem too affected. But it's not for lack of my trying. It's small blessing that they are so few over the years.