

# YAMA UBA 山姥

"I've gathered strength behind my years, I owned them, I've earned them, I've deserved them, I have a right to have them."  
Sally Field

**Quote:** Oh, thank goodness, I desperately need a big strong man to help me cross this mountain, thank the Gods that you are here to help...

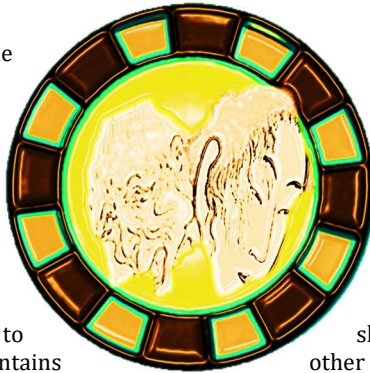
One of the most infamous of the Bakemono, the Yama-Uba Mountain Hags also represent one of the oldest families of Bakemono, if not the oldest family of Hsien. All female, and all old- the Mountain Crones can only count Hsien - Jin amongst their number. Though their powers of shapes-shifting into a breath-takingly gorgeous young woman can disarm any would-be witch-hunters.

And witches they are. Once considered to be stewards and nursemaids to the mountains themselves, time or the new religion of Buddhism relegated them to the status of wild cannibalistic ogres of the wild places. Not that there isn't some truth to the matter. They are cannibals, and many of the more unsavory of their number has had penchant for the taste of tender young flesh- eating the prettiest boys or girls of a village to satiate their bloodlust.

Of course, the actions of a nefarious few shouldn't dictate the whole of their number. Despite their Bakemono nature, many of the old crones serve as powerful allies to those who treat them, and their mountain with respect.

**Appearance:** Appearance is a slippery slope when considering the Mountain Hags. The *Hotei-Mien* is in turn a poor old stooped woman, with kindly ancient eyes and a tired smile. It is also gorgeous dark-haired beauty with shining eyes and a come-hither smile. The *Wani-Mien* is that of a horribly ancient ogress, over 3 meters tall, with iron tusks and teeth, razored claws, and angry yellow eyes. However, it is also a stunningly attractive elfin women, the rival of any *Keltoi-Sidhe* princess, with a sweet demure smile and eyes that hint at something far more carnal. Her *Mask of the Shintai* is a blue-skinned goddess, that oscillates between glowing shining unearthly beauty, or demonic nightmare inducing ugliness.

Though there is one aspect of her features that are evident in both forms. Perhaps a misshaped tooth, or a white streak in her hair, or simply honey-brown specks in her dark eyes.



**Lifestyle:** Yama Uba serve unique roles in both their mortal and Hsien existence. Their mortal existence is made easy by dint of their beautiful illusory mask. A smile and a wink is usually enough to satisfy any of their needs, including gathering up the handsome young men to serve as their foodstuff. Their strong mountain crone default form ensures plenty of respect for their Hsien existence, and no shortage of other Bakemono, including Oni or other unsavory types look to placate the older meaner demon on top of the mountain. Yama Uba win both ways.

*Hsien-Tsu Yama Uba* do not exist as such. Not until their elder years does their Hsien nature become evident, and thus their chrysalis begins at least, but usually well after 30ish odd years of life.

*Hsien-Jin Yama Uba* set up shop up on their mountain-top and wait for their meals to come to them.



**Glamour Ways:** The Yama Uba regain Glamour/Yugen in one of two ways. When in the guise of a young beauty, she can refuel her magicks with the blood and flesh of someone attractive (at least an appearance rating of 3 or higher), praying not to eat him.

When in her default guise of a stooped old crone, she receives the quiet reverence of a mortal, who either respects her age and wisdom, and offers prayers of well-being for her and the natural majesty of her mountain home.

**Unleashing:** Cantrips cast by the Yama Uba are rife with oscillating contradictory sensations. There is the rough rasp of burlap yet only a second later it is the smooth whisper of silk on the skin. There is pungent odor of burning offal one second, but the next it smells of cool midnight jasmine.

**Affinity:** Scene -*Or*- **Kwannon-Jin Fortune:** Metal  
Yin: 1      Yang: 3

### Birthrights

**Two Faces (Ryōmen):** The Yama Uba has two forms, the default old and wizened crone, and the shining star Goddess, which takes a point of Glamour/Yugen to manifest. But there are different blessings with each form. When she is the crone, she gains 4 additional points of strength added. When she is the youthful maiden, 4 additional points of appearance are added.

### Frailties

**Blood Hungry (Chi ni Ueta):** The Yama Uba, regardless of how benevolent some of them are up in their mountain keeps, still need the flesh of a living creature to satiate their Hsien hungers. At least once a month, they must imbibe in the soft warm flesh of someone or something attractive. If maintaining their crone forms, this can be held at bay by them eating cute and fluffy animals- bunnies and sheep and baby goats, the occasional kitten- these are usually enough. But if too much time is spent in their attractive shining maiden forms, then a bunny simply won't cut it. Such times require a successful willpower roll, difficulty 8, or risk pursuing a good-looking mortal (with an appearance rating of at least 3) to satisfy such cravings. The most unsavory of their number don't even need to make the willpower roll, indulging in every base desire to assuage their dark cravings.

**Lady Koharu sometimes, but right now Ms. Koko, eyes you up with a smile, as she pours the tea and muses about her fellow Hsien.**

**Mulgogi Yeoja:** I don't get out to the Sea very often, so I'm sure that I'm quite safe.

**Nopperabo:** Yes, of course they are welcome to try. But I might have a surprise for them.

**Oni:** I have a good five of them stop by on the weekends, just to help out around the house and all. Wonderful dears that they are.

**Rokurokubi:** If one snoops around here too much, sniffing for secrets and all that, she might not be getting her head back.

**Satori:** I enjoy the quiet as much as they do, but I don't like anybody messing around in my head. It just goes to show how nasty the little hairballs truly are.

**Yuki-Onna:** It is so much harder to find a good man when these frozen tartlets are up here snatching them up. Oh well, always more fish in the sea and all that.

**Jing zǐ shēngwù:** I really don't need a mirror up here. I know what I look like, and that's okay.

**Gasin:** They really do try, don't they?

**Yaoguai:** I appreciate all their hard work for the Hsien as a whole, but it really doesn't affect me up here on the mountain. I wish them the best, but their best isn't for me.

**Obake:** I enjoy monthly tea with no few of their number, and it is always a pleasant time. The Daitengu and Hsigo especially, always bring the most exotic snacks.

**Hirayanu:** I guess everyone wants servants, but not everyone should choose to act as servants so readily. Still, if they enjoy working for the Heavens as much as they do, I wish them the best.

**Kamui:** Elemental Princes? I suppose. Though I should like to think that I am far more elemental, and royal, than any of their number, but you don't see me putting on any airs.

**Sunset People:** So loud they are, with no respect for the past. Still, with the right amount of miso on the side, they are worth it.