

Mahoraja महोरग

“Who is Naga?” said he. “I am Naga. The great God Brahm put his mark upon all our people, when the first cobra spread his hood to keep the sun off Brahm as he slept. Look, and be afraid!” Rikki Tikki Tavi – Rudyard Kipling

Quote: Halt! Who goes there? Do you feel yourself worthy to cross over into Mandara? Then prove yourself worthy, by defeating me in battle. Else die trying...

Called Mahoraga (male), Mahoragi (female), - Mahoraga as a whole, this Tribe of Cobra Peri (Vedic Fae) are the keepers of sacred water, and the militant force that protects the whole of the Perfumed Empire. The Janajaati (Kith) are Saanp (Serpent) born-dreams of a time long before this realities turn of the wheel. Much like their Naga cousins (amongst the Arcadian Kithain), Brahma the Creator commanded the Mahoraga armies to guard the worlds from evil men, but while the Naga are remembered as Near-Gods, the Mahoraga are skulking assassins who strike evil from afar.

In this they share stories with their cousins, the tribe of Moon and River Children also known as the Naga. This family of Changing Breeds is a Tribe of Were-Cobras and shares more than a few similarities to the Janajaati Tribe. Many of the two tribes have even intermarried in the hopes of strengthening the blood-lines. Although, the Janajaati do admit that the Were-Cobra Tribe is one of destitute self-inflicted torture. Blood-shed and murder is the whole of their existence. The Mahoraga Peri disagree with this lifestyle, despite the blood loyalties.

There is a strong distinction between those who love war and those who promote peace by being ready for war. The Mahoraga fall into this latter category. No Mahoraga seeks violence for violence's sake, and many would hang up their weapons for promise of peace. Yet the years of Invasion and war, slaughter of innocent Indian lives, and the *Bure Sapane Ka Saptah of 99'* highlight just how prepared the Mahoraga Janajaati have to be.

Appearance: In both Avataar, the Mahoraga are strikingly attractive figures with long limbs and harsh expressions. In Janjeer Avataar, they come from all walks of Desi



life, the dark skins of the Tamil Tribes to the south, as well as lighter skinned and even blonde-haired. No few of them sport red hair and green eyes (a call back to older tribes lost to antiquity). All, however, boast thin closed lips, and large eyes that don't seem to blink often enough for comfort.

The Peri Avataar of the Mahoraga maintain their attractive allure, but now their skin is replaced by scaly hide in a dizzying array of fantastic colors. All the colors of the rainbow, in every pattern dance across their scaled skin. Large amber eyes, still glare at the world, but this glare only seems to make the Mahoraga more exotic. Some keep their hair; some are bald with celestial patterns marking their jewel-encrusted brow. No matter the coloration, they are thick with muscle. Like their Naga Were-Cobra cousins, they can also take the form of a long and graceful Snake. This snake is the same color as their Peri Avataar, and is rarely manifested in front of mortals (who would balk at a 3-meter long red cobra with violet stripes across the hood).

Lifestyle: The Mahoraga still maintain their duties with a diligence that borders on fanaticism. They do not suffer fools, the irreverent, or the blasphemous. They patrol the waters of the perfumed empire and guard passages to the other Raajy (Vedic Dreaming Realms). Even in their mortal lives, they serve as stewards of some kind, if not in military or law enforcement roles, then as counselors that advocate for laws and strictures; Judges (Ironic considering their Naga cousins of the Moon and River), lawyers, even quiet neighborhood watchmen patrolling in the wee hours of the morning... Yet it is also important to keep in mind, that war is not the end-goal, but peace for all peoples. Like a mantra, even the most militant of Mahoraga sings of a time when the wheel turns again to an age of Peace.

Javaan Mahoraga are taciturn and studious. They are slow to respond, sure to answer any questions with deliberate contemplation. Others may erroneously consider the wee one's reticence as

mental deficiency. But the steely gaze of the Javaan Mahoraga quickly allays such suspicions.

Vany Mahoraga have earned a name for themselves quickly. Out of all the Vedic Peri tribes, the Mahoraga are the ones who rise through the ranks with the most alacrity. Many pursue their Moon and River Tribe Were-Cobra cousins for lessons in warfare.

Pragi Mahoraga (also called *Mahoragay*, or *Mahoraga-Ji*) are the oldest and wisest of the Peri. Their guardianship of sacred places is now guardians of sacred knowledge. Few who visit them aren't awed by their stately grace and Celestial wisdom.

Glamour Ways: Mahoraga regain Amrita whenever they can enjoy the fruit of their labor; Quiet introspection with mortal friends and loved ones, peaceful days of labor working in the sunshine, attending a worship service with the whole village. Uneventful times without the taxing threat of battle and violence overhead allow the Mahoraga a tranquil means of refueling their magics.

Unleashing: Maya cast by the Mahoraga are accompanied by the soft susurrus of silent whisperings somewhere out of sight. Striations of shadow and golden light slide silently across the scene, and the soft perfume of sweet incense lingers somewhere close.

Affinity: Fae

Birthrights:

Serpent (*Saanp*): The Mahoraga are Saanp, serpents, born from Dreams of ethereal waters and other-worldly realms. Like the waters from which they are born, the Mahoraga have the ability to fluidly change their seeming. For one point of Amrita spent, a Mahoraga can transform into a large serpent, usually well over 5 feet long. The Physical traits remain the same, but they gain the ability to breathe underwater.

However, the colors of the Mahoraga in Saanp form are always vivid - Too vivid for the Janjeer (Mundane) world. Those who wish to change in front of mortals should be careful. Few humans forget the 3 meter-long red and purple cobra with the blue eyes staring at him.

Many Role Artist (*Kalaakaar*): The Mahoraga have very defined roles to fill within the Peri courts. They are all warriors born, but are also expected to be knowledgeable in all matters whether spiritual, historical, and diplomatic. At character creation, each Mahoraga begins with a +3 to Dex, a +2 to Appearance, and a +1 to wits. In addition each Mahoraga receives +3 to any talent, skill, or knowledge rating that makes sense. Even if this rises above 5.

Frailties:

Least Favorite Sin (*Paap Se Ghrna*); Every Mahoraga has one vice that he hates more than any other. Gambling, pick-pocketing, ill-treatment of women, murder; Seeing, or even hearing about it drives the Mahoraga into a frenzied rage. If at any time the Mahoraga is presented with their hated vice, they must make a willpower roll difficulty 8 to walk away. Failure means they will launch into battle, slaughtering the offender. A Botch means they frenzy and destroy any one present.

Devotion (*Bhakti*): The Mahoraga are at the beck and call of their Vedic-God masters. At any time they are called on for the martial services, the Mahoraga are forced to answer. Refusal not only means the Gods and Vedic courts are displeased, but it also means a temporary point of Janneer.

Chandni - gatekeeper of the Door to Nagaiioka, allows for some civil discourse on her fellow Peri

Peri: I am sure they are beautiful in their own way. Yet beauty doesn't always mean worth. Allow them to prove themselves before you measure their constancy.

Apsara: We all have Gods to serve. Yet some of us serve by actions, and some of us serve by pursing tight little lips, and shaking a tight little butt.

Gandharvas: It would be nice to spend our hours making music and poetry. Yet some of us have to protect the Kingdom from evil.

Kalaviñki: No one deserves a better fate than the Mayuri. One day they will throw off their shackles and dance into the next turn of the wheel. Until then, show them what freedom from tyranny looks through self-reliance. It is up to them to choose more.

Daitya: Decent enough foes. Though they cling to a misremembered past more than most.

Raksha: Liar kings? No. This is what they call themselves. They are liar thieves worth no more thought than you would give a maggot.

Yakshas: I understand their place in the Asura courts. I also understand why they feel that this is their station. I do not agree with them, however, and I wish they would stand next to me amongst the Vedic Tribes.

Kinnaras: Much like the Gandharvas, save for a plan and the will to enact it. Powerful enemies, and even more powerful lovers if you so choose.

Kalaviñka: Disgusting. We do not count any of our Peri Tribes as Div. Yet they would fit the bill if we did.

Bhuta Vahana Yanta: Spirits? Peri? Ancestors? No, No, and NO! They are Gods -as old as the Wheel, and twice as Inevitable.

Changing Breed Naga: Distant cousins who forsook us for the Moon and Rivers-Ji. There are no hard feelings between us, though few of their number remember our pacts. Learn from them what you can, but also remember that theirs is a doomed lot, and they may not make it to the next cycle. This is of their own choosing.

Arcadian Naga: They stayed behind. The hell with them.