

# NUNO

"Ang epekto: hirap na hirap tayong unawain kung sino ba talga ang tunay na tayo. Para malaman ang ating tunay na pagka-Pilipino, ang daming kailangang hukayin at tanggalin sa ating isipan at gawi. Para kang nagbabalat ng sibuyas. AT habang nagbabalat, hindi mo maiwasang maiyak dahil maraming masasakit na pagbabago ang kailangang gawin."

"To find out our true Filipino identity, we need to dig up and get rid of our minds and practices. For you to spread the onion. AND while spreading, you will not be able to get rid of it because many painful changes need to be made."

- Rei Lemuel Crizaldo Ronald Molmisa

**Quote:** Hey! Hey you! Did you see where you just stepped? You better come back here and apologize or else...

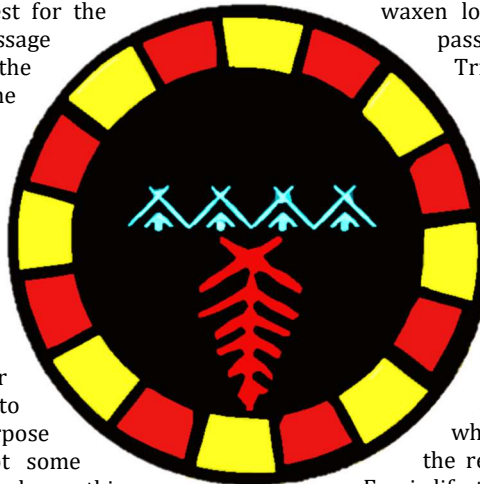
"Tabi-tabi po" goes the cry, a request for the little lords of the Mound to grant safe passage across their little mounds of dirt. In the Philippines, mortals are well aware of the fate what befalls the rude. Chinese and Spanish, Islamic and Americans exploring that world learned the hard way. Many Fae scholars postulate that the Filipino Dreaming felt small with so many other Cultures invading, and that the Nunos are manifestations of the Filipino dreams of feeling small in the face of such adversity....

The Nunos, also called Dayamdám or Kahoyon, disagree. The size has nothing to do with it. They know that their real purpose lies in punishing the disrespectful, not some academic's interpretation of their size. Size has nothing to do with it.

Staunch guardians of tradition, as well as strict enforcers of protocol, the Nunos harbor vehemently unbending observances of mortal and Fae conventions. To some of the more liberal minded fae (Kapre and Santelmo) the Nunos are so many sticks in the mud and/or up the ass. The Nunos, far from such myopic and trivial slants against them, understand that all, outsiders included, must abide by a code. "The world is a harsh one, especially for the small, keep it strong and overcome." Small in this case might mean either the Nunos themselves, or the oppressed people who dream of them. Due to so many outside Religious incursions into Filipino culture, it is small wonder (no pun intended) that the Dreaming mirrors such reverent rigidity in the form of Nunos.

**Appearance:** In Rupa Bassit (Mortal Mien) the Nuno appear as smaller and slighter natives, rarely over 5 feet or so. They have tight limbs, long and well-muscled, dark bronzed skin, unusually sharp faces and long hair reaching down to their backs (even the males of the Kapatiran prepare to keep their hair so long). They also tend to wear traditional dress, archaic clothing when applicable and many favor handmade traditional jewelry. In Rupa Diwata (Fae Mien), they appear even shorter, pushing the lower limits of only 1 meter. Their limbs though, still seem a little long for their frames, arms all but reaching to their knees. Their faces grow sharper and beautiful if not scowling, and long ears spring forth from behind beautiful dark

waxen locks. Some might even remark on a passing resemblance to the Celtic Sidhe-Tribe, but don't tell the Nuno.



**Lifestyles:** Perhaps the harshest of all the Aswang (Filipino supernatural society), the Nunos are the keepers of ancient lore and magics. Magics that many modern Aswang have forgotten. They maintain strong communities in mortal life, representing the most erudite of Filipino scholars of antiquity. Teachers, folklorist, even adventuring archeologist...the Nunos want to be where the traditions are, and they want the rest of the world to see it too. In their Faerie life, they Nuno create elaborate and intricate

underground labyrinths with numerous openings in the surface. Those mortals in the know are aware of the proper protocol for passing these little mounds. "Tabi-tabi po." Even if most only see these as ant-hills.

*Baguhan Nuno* are scowling little things, who don't like to be reminded of their shortness. Despite their negativity, they are cute little things, who are adorable when they take themselves so seriously. However, those that laugh are quickly reminded of why the Nuno are feared among the mortal population.

*Ligaw Nuno* have set themselves up in both their own community and mortal community around them. They are well versed in a multitude of languages, understand customs that even elders among the other Kapatiran (Kith) have forgotten, and still have enough energy to craft traditional Filipino weapons.

*Matanda Nuno* are dour and harsh overseers. Like tiny Merlins, they secret themselves deep underground and continue their search for knowledge in their greying years. They loathe interruption and if bothered for anything less than a dire emergency, the punishments meted out are swift and severe. Or not... many Matanda have softened a bit in their old age, and enjoy partying more-so than the younger and stricter Nunos would care to admit.

**Glamour Ways:** Nunos gain Kahali-Halina whenever mortals and allies enjoy local traditional customs: Children learning and practicing the "Tinikling" stick-dance, or elder Filipinas creating traditional cuisine. Even the rare Aghoy (Unseelie) Nuno enjoy such. Yet they find it more fitting if disenfranchised youth offer up blood-sacrifices to Macunduc, the Filipino God of War and Iron.

**Unleashing:** Anting-Anting cast by the Nunos are accompanied by a wave of vertigo, and a sense of misjudged spatial awareness; a disorienting dizziness which affects perception. Many experience size distortion and one can't tell if something is big or small. Modern academic cite this feeling as Alice-in-Wonderland syndrome, a neurological disorder. Nunos call this feeling divine justice.

#### **Birthrights:**

**Curse/Blessings (*Sumpa/Mga Paggpapala*):** The Nuno swear to preserve propriety and regulations by whatever means necessary. One of the chief tools in their arsenal is their ability to curse the impudent or bless the reverent. The Nuno must point his finger at someone (which counts as a sort of bunk), spend a point of Glamour and then roll his willpower. Difficulty 7. For every success, the Target is cursed or blessed for that amount of days. Curses mean that 1's and 2's both count as botches on all rolls. Blessings mean that 9's count as 10's on all rolls. In rare cases, simply pointing a finger at a truly impudent target (and scoring multiple tens on the willpower roll) causes the target's fingers to painfully break of their own accord.

**Change Size (*Baguhin Ang Sukat*):** While Nunos are naturally short, they can grow short enough to traverse their underground labyrinths. A successful willpower roll is needed at a difficulty of 8. And while there is a dramatic change in size (down to the size of a mouse) there is no change to any attributes. They can grow back to normal size with a successful willpower roll at the same difficulty. However, much to the Nuno's chagrin, they cannot grow taller than their usual height. The change shape birthright only makes them shorter.



#### **Frailty:**

**Short (*Maliit*):** The Nuno is short, shorter than most in mortal Mien – Shorter than most everyone in Fae Mien. They will have difficulty reaching high objects, seeing over high objects, driving a car, or other irritating happenstances. Any Kith of any Culture would be wise to keep their mouth shut...

**Protocol (*Mga Tuntunin*):** Perhaps a mortal simply doesn't know to say "Tabi-tabi po" when crossing a mound of earth. Or perhaps a poor young human was unaware that she was being impolite to a village elder. The Nuno doesn't care. If a Nuno feels insulted or feels that someone didn't give proper deference where it was due, then the Nuno will want to curse the offender. The Nuno must roll their willpower at a difficulty of how irreverent the offender was. Not saying "Tabi-tabi po" might be a 7 but kicking over an elder and laughing would warrant a difficulty 10. If the Nuno fails the roll, then he has to curse the offender. If the Nuno botches the roll, then he will actively seek the offender's destruction. A bitter young Nuno can lose a lot of Glamour this way.

#### **Dakila, crafter of big weapons, reminds you of why the other Aswang are wrong.**

**Duende:** They spend too much time sniffing around the house. They need to get back to basics.

**Kapre:** Too much drink, too much smoke, too much babae, they think with their buto. Still, they are honest, and I can appreciate that. There is no one else I'd rather have on my side. Not because they're bigger, but because their hearts are.

**Santelmo:** Pestering little piss-ants with all the attention span of a rabid mongoose. Make up a fake mission, pretend it's a secret, and try to be serious when you ask them to do it. It's the only way to keep them busy and out of your hair.

**Siyokoy:** Magics older than ours, which frightens me.

**Tamawo:** Bright shiny God-Kings on their bright shiny throne. I'm glad of the shininess. It makes for great targets.

**Tikbalang:** Nasty, but not nasty without a purpose. For a long time they kept mortals safe by keeping them away from the darker wilds. The deepest and darkest parts of our lands hold things far scarier than a horse-head.

**Wakwak:** Admirable enemies as long as they abide by the rules. The moment they step out of bounds, or hurt an innocent, they will have the full weight of the Nunos on their pretty heads.