

Celestial Monkey Style (Celestial Martial Art)

Across many cultures of Creation and even as far as Heaven itself, the monkey is represented as the epitome of wise knowledge and carefree action. Sculptures of golden-furred monkeys adorn the doors of the Golden Barque of Journeys, while a delicate jade fresco representing the Three Wise Monkeys adorns the front door of the Perfect of Paragon's palace. The story of the simple macaque who became a celestial being is told to children all over Creation.

The Celestial Monkey Style was designed to emulate this wisdom in a search for spiritual enlightenment, which starts by emulating the monkey's freedom from physical constraints before embracing freedom from spiritual constraints. The Celestial Monkey Style was popular among Solars and Lunars of the First Age; in the harsh days of the Age of Sorrows its fundamentally peaceful outlook has caused its popularity to diminish, and it is mainly practiced by Sidereals and gods.

Weapons and Armor: Celestial Monkey may not be practiced wearing armor, but it considers the quarterstaff a form weapon.

Scurrying Macaque Posture

Cost: 4m; **Mins:** Martial Arts 3, Essence 2, **Type:** Reflexive

Keywords: Combo-OK

Duration: One scene

Prerequisite Charms: None

The legend of the Golden Monkey begins with the tale of a simple macaque, who climbed over the walls of the Garden of the Gods to taste its Celestial Peaches. Adopting the Thieving Macaque Posture, the martial artist falls to a crouch, putting both hands to the ground and scurrying across walls and ceilings. As long as he has both hands and feet free, he may run on any surface capable of supporting him without risking falling, as long as he does not stand still.

Thieving Capuchin Grip

Cost: 3m; **Mins:** Martial Arts 3, Essence 2, **Type:** Supplemental

Keywords: Combo-OK

Duration: Instant

Prerequisite Charms: Scurrying Macaque Stance

Leaping from tree to tree and basket to basket, the Golden Monkey rummaged frantically through the Garden, a trail of discarded fruits in his wake even as the gardeners gave him chase.

This Charm supplements a Disarming attempt; if the attack hits, the martial artist automatically succeeds in disarming his opponent, and may fling their weapon up to (Martial Arts x 2) yards away in a direction of their choosing. Used in a flurry of Disarming attacks, each successive use of this Charm lowers the cost of the next use by one mote until the end of the flurry, to a minimum of one. This effect is cumulative.

Grinning Baboon Jab

Cost: 3m; **Mins:** Martial Arts , Essence , **Type:** Supplemental

Keywords: Combo-OK, Touch

Duration: Instant

Prerequisite Charms: Scurrying Macaque Stance

Jumping on top of his pursuers' heads, knocking pile of fruits in front of their feet, slapping and clawing and grimacing, the Golden Monkey proved impossible to catch even when one of the gardeners reached him. Emulating this incapacitating style, the martial artist delivers quick slaps and monkey claw strikes at his opponents' joints, necks and groins.

This Charm supplements an unarmed attack; if it hits, it automatically stuns the opponent. The stunning penalty inflicted by this Charm does not reset at the beginning of the user's next tick, but rather at the end; any successful use of this Charm on an attacker who is already stunned resets the duration and adds a further, cumulative -1 internal penalty to it.

Elusive Monkey Stance

Cost: 2m; **Mins:** Martial Arts 3, Essence 2, **Type:** Reflexive (step 1 for attacker, step 2 or 9 for defender)

Keywords: Combo-OK

Duration: Instant

Prerequisite Charms: Thieving Capuchin Grip, Grinning Baboon Jab

Squatting on the ground too low for his opponents' long limbs to reach, leaping upwards when they crouch, darting between their legs when they try to give chase, the Golden Monkey escaped all pursuit and climbed to the top of the tallest tree in the garden.

This Charm allows the user to reflexively fall prone, rise from prone, or to enhance a jump by adding (Martial Arts) to his jumping distance.

Celestial Monkey Form

Cost: 5m; **Mins:** Martial Arts 4, Essence 2, **Type:** Simple

Keywords: Form-Type

Duration: One scene

Prerequisite Charms: Elusive Monkey Stance

Sitting and grinning at the peak of his tree, the Golden Monkey took a bite of the Celestial Peach, and knew enlightenment. In this moment he became the Celestial Monkey, and the gardeners fell in reverence.

Emulating the erratic moves of the style's paragon, grinning mischievously and adopting a squatting stance, the martial artist enjoys the following benefits:

- he may ignore the -1 external penalty for being prone, and furthermore inflicts a -1 external penalty to all attacks directed towards him while he is prone.

- as long as he stands higher than his opponents using the surrounding scenery, their attacks and DVs suffer a -1 external penalty.

-whenever he could regain Willpower from stunts, he may chose to recover a Temperance channel instead.

Peaceful Heart Prana

Cost: -; **Mins:** Martial Arts 4, Essence 3, **Type:** Permanent

Keywords: None

Duration: Permanent

Prerequisite Charms: Celestial Monkey Form

Having eaten the divine fruit, the Celestial Monkey reached a state of tranquility above want and passion, from which he drew greater strength. While a character with this Charm has Celestial Monkey Form active, he may channel Temperance without spending Willpower to enhance any action that is not grossly excessive in scope or consequences. Invalid actions include such things as killing a harmless or incapacitated opponent or causing large amounts of collateral damage.

See-no-Evil Clarity Stance

Cost: 3m; **Mins:** Martial Arts 4, Essence 3, **Type:** Reflexive

Keywords: Combo-OK

Duration: One Scene

Prerequisite Charms: Peaceful Heart Prana

An enlightened animal, the Celestial Monkey's heart bears no ill will. The petty provocations of this world fade before his blind gaze, and he knows only truth. Passing one hand before his face and closing his eyes, the martial artist seals his sense of sight. For the rest of the scene, he is blind, suffering the appropriate -4 internal penalty in combat. In counterpart, he is immune to all Illusion effects and ignores all *other* sources of penalty to attack rolls.

If the martial artist is already blind, this Charm's cost is lowered to 0m and its duration increased to Indefinite until he is cured.

Hear-no-Evil Purity Stance

Cost: 3m; **Mins:** Martial Arts 4, Essence 3, **Type:** Reflexive

Keywords: Combo-OK

Duration: One Scene

Prerequisite Charms: Peaceful Heart Prana

A creature without human entendement, the Celestial Monkey hears no praise, no lies, no false word or temptation. Passing one hand over each of his ears, the martial artist seals his sense of earring. For the rest of the scene, he is deaf, suffering any appropriate penalty. In counterpart, he becomes immune to all Emotion effects.

If the martial artist is already deaf, this Charm's cost is lowered to 0m and its duration increased to Indefinite until he is cured.

Speak-no-Evil Tranquility Stance

Cost: 3m; **Mins:** Martial Arts 4, Essence 3, **Type:** Reflexive

Keywords: Combo-OK

Duration: One Scene

Prerequisite Charms: Peaceful Heart Prana

Though enlightened, the Celestial Monkey never spoke, instead answering the world with a grinning face and a sudden disappearance. Passing one hand over his mouth, the martial artist seals his ability to speak. For the rest of the scene, he is entirely silent. While this means he cannot speak, it also means none of his actions may directly cause any noise. Though a vase will shatter loudly if he causes it to fall, it won't let out a sound if he breaks it himself; though an opponent may cry out a warning call, the user's own blows will strike in perfect silence.

If the martial artist is already mute, this Charm's cost is lowered to 0m and its duration increased to Indefinite until he is cured.

Seventh Sense Enlightenment Stance

Cost: 10m, 1wp; **Mins:** Martial Arts 5, Essence 3, **Type:** Simple

Keywords: Combo-OK, Obvious

Duration: One scene

Prerequisite Charms: See-no-Evil Clarity Stance, Hear-no-Evil Purity Stance, Speak-no-Evil Tranquility Stance

Having reached the pinnacle of enlightenment, the Celestial Monkey found the world unfolding before its eyes: he needed no eyes to see the good in one's heart, no ears to listen to the truth, no mouth to express his contentment. To this day he wanders the roofs and streets of Yu Shan, at peace with the world.

Emulating the final principle of the Style, the user activates all three of this Charm's prerequisites and finds that by sealing his own senses he has achieved greater power. A wave of Essence flows outwards from him, and in his anima fly strands of the Celestial Monkey's fur. He enjoys the following benefits:

-though blind, he intuitively perceives the flow of souls around him. He suffers no blindness penalties when interacting with beings who have Virtue scores, and indeed sees through any form of mundane stealth use by such characters.

-though deaf, he may hear the murmur of minds, untampered by the vagaries of language. He intuitively understands the nature of any conversation happening around him, including knowing whether someone is lying, though he misses the nuances of dialogue.

-though mute, he may speak to the very heart of those around him, allowing him to communicate silently with anyone he can perceive, ignoring any issue that may arise from different languages.