



# CLAN UL'UAN

## THE ACCURSED TRIBE

### OVERVIEW

The tribalistic Yautja of Clan Ul'uan represent the perpetuation of the primitive way of life that was once enjoyed by all members of their race prior to the destruction of the home world centuries ago. Nomadic, and accustomed to the deserts in which they live, the Clan avows itself to a pursuit of spiritual devotion and hesitates to embrace the technology that the larger Clans have developed over the centuries and lending themselves to material practices, relying on only the necessities to participate in the broader Yautja customs.



The wounds inflicted by the desolation of their world run deep in Clan Ul'uan far into the future, where the bulk of Yautja society adorns their best with honor and glory, the focus of the Ul'uan is one of survival, prostration, and shame, begging their Gods for forgiveness, and praying that they may find strength. The belief that is most central to the Ul'uan is that they are an accursed tribe, and that their cruel circumstances are a direct result of the actions of their forebears, resulting in the punishment enacted on them by Cetanu, the idol of death, and the most important figure in the Ul'uan pantheon.

## BELIEFS

The Clan abides by a similar honor code to the rest of Yautja society, however, looks down upon the use of superior technology in some cases. The Ul'uan have a strong sense of caution and modesty and look shamefully upon those within their tribe that demonstrate hubris or arrogance.



The Ul'uan occupy a region of Yautja Prime that is mostly comprised of arid badlands and festering swamps, which is, while habitable to a degree, extremely unforgiving and difficult to occupy. The Clan members believe that this exile to desolate lands is a punishment set upon them by the Gods and take no thrill or leisure in the act of hunting prey. The prey they do hunt is done for the

sake of survival and is viewed as sacred by the Clan members. The Ul'uan rarely take trophies of dangerous creatures indigenous to their lands as a display of courage and pride, but often take smaller tokens to affix to their weapons and armor, or to make charms and talismans to pay homage to the Gods for the gift of prey. The Ul'uan consume all prey they hunt, and to not utilize or waste the carcass of a creature is considered a great insult to the Gods, or the Hunter.

The Ul'uan have a unique reverence for the god Cetanu, however not one of admiration, but of fear and respect. The Clan members believe Cetanu to be a vengeful God, and that it is the duty of the Ul'uan to provide appeasement, lest another cataclysm occur. This duty is carried out through various religious practices and rituals, as well as the core cultural aspects of the Ul'uan, and their modest way of life. The Ul'uan believe that a reliance on technology developed by larger Clans during the Reformation period is an advantage gained, but not earned, and that overuse will cast them out of favor with the Gods and void their sacred exile.

## PRACTICES

The Clan largely sustains its population of roughly a hundred members at any given time by moving

periodically throughout their lands in accordance with the seasons so as to not upset the ecological balance of their consumption and the stock of wildlife. The aforementioned indigenous creatures in the swamps and desert are particularly dangerous, and hostile to the Yautja. Saar-Qa; six-legged reptilian beasts with caustic venom proliferate in the acrid swamps, while the arid regions are dense with the Ful'n; aggressive scorpion-like creatures, armored with thick carapaces and equipped with deadly stingers. While a threat to the Ul'uan, the Clan depends on these creatures for sustenance and survival and send groups of several adult males of their clan to participate in hunts of these creatures to feed their tribe.



When a hunting party returns to the tribe empty-handed, or the Clan members are bested by their prey, it is considered an extremely grave omen by the Ul'uan, and an indication that the Clan's performance is displeasing to the Gods. To appease their idols, the sacred ritual referred to as Ul'azaar, or Exodus.

## Rituals

The most crucial ritualistic practice for the Ul'uan is Ul'azaar, or Exodus. Considered to be a form of sacred pilgrimage, the Exodus party is composed of a group of Clan members, typically spanning several generations of

Ul'uan, ranging from a younger unproven Yautja, to an experienced hunter, to a ranking Seer. The practice of Exodus is required when a failed hunt in their homelands occurs, and it is suggested that the Gods, specifically Cetanu, have become unamused by their exploits. To rectify this, the act of Exodus requires an expedition outside of their homelands to find, consume, and sacrifice an unfamiliar creature. The prey in question is often decided by rule of mysticism, and a profound vision the tribe's Seer will typically have followed a failed hunt.

In the earlier centuries, this would involve a journey to other continents on the Yautja homeworld, but as time would go on, the Ul'uan were often required to journey to far planets in search of their prey, sometimes lasting



several years. Regardless of the technological advancement, strength, cunning, or overall danger imposed by the targeted prey, the Ul'uan in Exodus are required to perform the hunt and sacrifice with nothing but the primitive tools and weapons of their homeland. Only in

the past few hundred years has the practice extended to the hunting of humans, but the rules of the pilgrimage remain the same. The Ul'uan are not a spacefaring tribe and rely on the cooperation of other Clans to allow the Hunters passage on their sacred mission, to which neighboring Yautja look upon with a sense of respect for

their commitment to traditions, but pity for their lack of progress and ultra-conservative means. The Ul'uan are merely tolerated and allowed to participate in coincidental hunts.

The sacrificial act of Ul'azaar requires several things; firstly, once the creature has been slain in accordance with Ul'uan practices, which is an offering to the God of the Hunt, the flesh must be stripped from the bones and burned as an offering to N'ithya, the Goddess of Life. Then, the skull must be removed from the body and cleaned, before being slathered with the creature's blood. An altar must be built for the skull to be placed upon, as an offering to Cetanu, the Lord of Death. Finally, the remaining bones of the creature must be crushed and consumed by the Ul'uan, as an homage to Tharda, God of the Feast. Rarely does a single incident of this superfluous hunt occur during an individual Exodus pilgrimage, and it is believed that more favor will be earned with the Gods with a greater quantity of sacrifices, and difficulty of hunt. In more perilous times for the tribe left behind on the home world, the Exodus party has seen fit to hunt entire populations of species to near extinction in order to appease their Gods. Ul'uan are forbidden from consuming anything but the bones of their prey during the sacred mission, which often leads to Clan members succumbing to starvation in the midst of the journey.

## TRIBAL STRUCTURE & HISTORY



The Ul'uan Clan, as it is in the modern era, splintered off from the main Clans and spent the majority of its history in isolation from the burgeoning society under the care of the Council of Ancients, prior to the majority of the Reformation period and the establishment of the caste system and standardization of the pantheon. As a result, the Ul'uan society and culture developed in vast contrast to that of their more advanced neighbors following the conflagration of the planet.

The *de facto* leader of the Ul'uan is not decided by means of strength, displays of courage or honor, or even age and experience, but by ritual. The Clan's leader, known as the Seer, is chosen by rite of divinity, and is a tradition that has been passed down from the first Seer, Qur Ul'uan, an important spiritual figure and ancient ancestor of the modern Ul'uan, who guided his tribe through the events following the cataclysm. The Seer is chosen from amongst the youngest of the Clan through the Vul-Saathan, or Unseeing-Gaze, a ritual involving long periods of meditative isolation and ingestion of hallucination-inducing herbs and compounds found in the Ul'uan homeland. As a result of the claim to the leadership of the tribe being handed down, and not earned through trials of strength or spirit,



the leader has sometimes been challenged through the tribe's long history, resulting in perilous circumstances for the already dwindling Clan.

Outside of tribal leadership, the upper echelon of power and influence within the Clan is vested within its Shamen, the spiritual leaders aside from the Seer. Those who become Shamen do so by doing great deeds for their Clan, which may include the act of Exodus, the performance of sacramental rites on the behalf of the Clans honored dead, or apprenticeship following the Yual'aar, the Witnessing.

The Witnessing is a ritual following a young Clan member's first successful hunt, which may occur in the homeland, or during Exodus. Regardless of where the young Clan member's first hunt occurs, the Witnessing must happen, and the ceremony is traditionally done to pay reverence to the actions taken by the first Seer, Qur Ul'uan.

The first Seer prostrated himself before the God of Death in the era of the Cataclysm, as the conflagration of his world occurred around him, and begged for mercy upon him and his people. The world burned, and Qur Ul'uan heard nothing. Alone and forsaken, the Seer bled himself and sat, awaiting the end. As the Seer's green blood slowly drained from his body, his





failing strength and faintness led himself to see visions of a path to a land cast encased in shadow, desolate, and fearsome. Gathering what was left of his meandering vitality, Qur Ul'uan gathered the scattering remains of his Clan and others, and guided them through the darkness, and the annihilation of Yautja Prime. The Ul'uan believe this vision was bestowed upon the first Seer so that the survivors of the destruction might find a path to redemption through their exile, and the tradition of their isolation was passed down through the generations. To pay homage to their honored ancestor, the young Yautja must themselves find a dangerous, desolate landscape, one ravaged by war, famine, or destruction, and they too must prostrate themselves before the Titan Cetanu, and drain their blood to near depletion amidst chaos, and make a series of offerings to the Death God, until a vision is received. This ritual is always overseen by a Shaman, and many perish during this process, but those that survive are considered Proven by the tribe. All Ul'uan are raised as Hunters, and taught to survive in their wasteland, but after Yual'aar, some often transition to different roles in the Clan, including craftsmen, healers, or stablemasters, as the Ul'uan utilize horse-like creatures native to their home world to navigate the hostile terrain of their lands and track prey great



distances. Those that are able to receive a vision and become Proven are unquestioning in their faith and are nearly fanatically driven by their beliefs.

## PHYSIOLOGY, WEAPONRY, AND CULTURE

The Ul'uan, native to the Taruul region of the Vaifurh sub-continent, have gained some significant physical differences to their more civilized brothers and



sisters after centuries in genealogical isolation. The more prominent features include much stronger, and broader facial mandibles formed as a result of persisting off of bones for a large portion of their history, using their powerful jaws to crush the bones and consume the marrow

within. The act of consuming the bones of a creature slain in the Hunt is a significant Ul'uan customary practice. Additionally, Ul'uan Yautja are typically slender in figure, and possess skin of darker pigment, likely adapting to their desert environment, living under the cruel heat of the twin suns.

Traditional Ul'uan weapons are extremely primitive compared to the state of the art, and most hunters typically wield an axe of some for, due to its uses in both combat, and utility, as the butchering of large creatures is not easily done with a knife. Experienced Hunters in the

Clan can be found to carry unique staves adorned with many charms and talisman constructed from the carcasses produced from previous Hunts. These staves are symbolic of a Hunters commitment to their craft, as the staff lacks utility in the process of consumption, as well as an homage to the first Seer, and his role as the shepherd. The shaman of the tribe, as well as the Seer, all typically carry staves. For other equipment commonplace amongst Yautja, the Ul'uan are significantly more limited, and the extent of the technology the Ul'uan possess, and are willing to utilize is near-antique forms for active camouflage systems, proto-wristblades, gauntlet shields. It is Ul'uan tradition to produce their bio-masks from the skulls of their prey, and the Ul'uan craftsman have mastered the art of molding and forming bones to their wills, a process called bone-melding. The Ul'uan absolutely revile plasma weaponry, as they see it as a tool of destruction, not one of careful cultivation and harvest like their more traditional axes and hatchets.



Ul'uan hunting practices have developed over the centuries to compensate for the hostilities of their environment and their lack of advanced technology. Ul'uan Hunters rarely fight alone, and lengthily stalk their prey until they can find it isolated. Hunting parties typically act in groups of four, including three Hunters

and one Shaman, to ensure the proper sacraments are undertaken. The actual process of subduing the beast involves the three Hunters encircling the prey and slowly bleeding it to death over a period of time. This is sometimes done entirely on horseback with larger prey, but typically on foot with smaller prey. The Ul'uan prioritize flexibility in combat and the ability to maintain control of a situation. As previously mentioned, the Ul'uan primarily use axes for their combat, and supplement themselves with herbal remedies and traditional medicines. While the use of mind-altering or recreational compounds is frowned upon in broader Yautja society, the Ul'uan see certain narcotics and decoctions as a means to connect with the spiritual plane and strengthen their faiths, as well as access prophetic visions. While the concoctions created by the healers of the Ul'uan are primarily used for ceremonial purposes, some are even used to heighten senses in the Hunt. The traditional herbs are collected and refined by the Tribe's healers before being traded to the Hunters, as the Ul'uan rely largely on a barter economy, and have no formalized currency. The exchange of medicinal herbs of many varieties, as well as the ceremony of consumption of these herbs is considered a sacred practice and demonstration of the respect Hunters have for each other and their Tribe's ancient traditions. The herbs are often consumed by smoking through pipes fashioned from carved bones.