

*(Will unlock after clearing the First Level with Yuriko)*

"Yōkai" - is a term used to refer to supernatural creatures in Japanese mythology, as well as to similar beings from the other cultures, and the same concept is used in both worlds. By and large, any creature whose basis of life lies in mystical powers can be called youkai, and things of the kind: "kijimūna, nekomata, kitsune, ōni" and the like, these are already more specific varieties, of which there are a great many.

Technically, the deities of the world of Yumehana can also be called youkai, but they would not like this appeal very much, since it does not carry the proper respect, so you must call them "kami". In general, the term "youkai" can be understood as synonym for a supernatural being, and "kami" - as synonym for a deity.

What are the differences that demarcate the majority of mystical creatures and the deities? Certainly, the scale of powers of the latter and the corresponding level of responsibility, as well as the fact that deities necessarily control aspects that significantly affect the phenomena of the surrounding world, be it only material, spiritual, or both types at once.

The vast majority of youkai, both in the past and presently, are the product of human faith, emotions, thoughts, feelings, even historical events, and the other aspects of a rather abstract, spiritual plane, both having directional form and spontaneous. To maintain their existence, most of the youkai and deities only need to have a connection with certain objects or phenomena, as they can rely on purely own personal spiritual energy, even so becoming weaker.

Representatives of the supernatural, having sufficient power, are able to create their kind directly, by putting in them a part of their Spirit, where the result varies from the creatures with a minimum of individuality and to those, who are absolutely full-fledged persons. Yet, the cases of appearance of deities in such a way, during the period of existence of Yumehana, are unknown, as well as it would have been considered blasphemy.

The deities and the other mystical creatures of the land of Yumehana fall into two, equal in status, main categories:

- 1) Nature, associated with the phenomena of the world around;
- 2) Human, related to the phenomena inherent to humanity.

*In addition, if youkai is created directly by another being, then it is also called "artificial", for example: "artificial nature youkai".*

Belonging to a certain main category does not oblige a supernatural being to follow certain rules in behavior and appearance - the latter is determined by its more specific variety, if any.

Both nature and human deities and youkai can also belong to another, special category: the so-called "dark youkai" or "yami", which are the embodiment of the most grim traits of the spiritual world. Aside those of them that are evil in their original essence and most often do not have complex personality, "ordinary" mystical creatures can also become yami, both as a matter of personal choice and against their own will. Once, dark youkai possessed incomparable power

and influence, sufficient to openly oppose any resistance - nevertheless, they were defeated during the decisive historic battle many centuries ago, by the forces of the most noble mystical creatures and humans, and since then they have ceased to pose a significant threat.

After the creation of the world of Yumehana, the question of "birth" of the new kami and youkai is controlled by already existing ones, just as dark youkai almost no more appear. However, the events taking place in the Human World periodically disturb this idyll...