



Kaneyama Clan

- *Honest words, Honest wares.*

Premise:

The Kaneyama clan is a noble clan in charge of a region of mountains and the surrounding forests at its foot, and has been keeping their duties as wardens and protectors of these lands. Originating from a small, hidden village high atop said mountains, they favor nurturing the region, and in turn their allies, through trade routes spanning from the Steppe of Azim to the markets in Kugane. Crafters in their own right, each member of the family often takes on secondary duties to that of a trader - at times entirely abandoning the trading and serving as samurai or warriors, if not devoting themselves to a life as a swordsmith, weaver and so on.

Humble and quietly proud, they embody the spirit of dōmō upbringing - carrying themselves humbly, opting to entirely neglect speaking of their noble heritage unless required, in the cases of diplomatic talks or if it applies to the situation. Across their routes and beyond do they seek to forge, shape and retain bonds of trade.

Despite each member of the clan learning the blade enough to use it, the Kaneyama clan lacks the military power of more war-centered clans, relying on sworn swords or that of allies, to help ensure their lands in times of war. With their clan nestled against a mountain range and behind the blades of surrounding clans, it has permitted it to prosper. Of course, they do not lack for men and women themselves, although they are used more to safeguard surrounding villages or escorts of caravans, than being sent to wars.

Belief and Customs

Members of the clan are raised with a belief in the Dawn Father, weighing themselves as being protectors of his blessing and his children. The village they, and a few other families live in, was established near the top of the mountain where Aether flows richly - primarily through golden blooms which stay fresh even when cut. Due to their coloring and properties, their sacred village was established many generations ago. This religion does not mark their mindsets as zealots, believing themselves over other Raen - though it does feed into a willing isolation of their small, remote village from outside influence.

Prayers:

Each dawn and dusk, it's the custom to spend at least a few minutes praying, greeting the Father and bidding him goodbye near the end of the day. It originated in that tradition at least, but some members view it more as a means of staying connected, with the knowledge that no matter where one is, you are with your clan in those brief moments. There is no mantra to recite, but if available, the Clan's sake (or any liquid meant to be shared, although the Sake is preferable), is poured into two cups. One for the Father, and one for the one praying to partake of with him.

Accessory

Not a requirement, most members of the Clan wear a flower from their home village, typically pinned into hair or clothes. In addition, a simple amulet is granted to each Kaneyama upon their birth - marking them as a member of the clan.

Amulet:

Crafted of wood from their home village, settled into a frame of brilliant white stone. It is as sturdy as it is of beauty. A sole flower of glittering beauty resides in the center, preserved in clear resin - as if gold itself had taken on the shape of a bloomed flower. Primarily worn as a necklace or on a belt.

Life and Death

One shall be born in Father's blessing, and return to him when their time comes - such is the reasoning for their requirement for any Kaneyama to be born within the village. Should they happen to be born outside, the child will be moved to the village as soon as possible. There they are raised safely by their parents or the elders who reside there. Discipline, duty and basic skills such as writing and language are taught, alongside a base knowledge of self-defense and use of weaponry (although the latter heavily varies from child to child). Unspoken importance, amongst the mentioned, is placed on bonds of family and that to the flowers to be formed. At the age of 10 they are finally permitted to leave the mountain.

Custom is it for those nearing the end of their lives to return to the mountain upon which they were born, living out their last days in peace and safety, helping to nurture the next generation or simply bask in the last verse of their life. If a Kaneyama were to die off the mountain, their bodies are moved there to be buried there - thus returning them to Father's embrace.

Celebrations:

A list of celebrations held over the course of the year.

- **Light Festival** - Typically held during the first snow of the new year, lights are lit and sent down the many small creeks near their village, for an evening bathing the mountain top in lights. Before this, the village share a large meal together with empty seats for the departed souls to 'join' them. After, celebration is held before they bid goodbye with the lights.
- **First Blooms** - Two days are spent clearing the heavy snows off the closed up flowers. On the dawn of the third day, the girls of the village are sent running

through the fields wearing crowns of the flowers, while alcohol and food is partaken on the side. After a few hours, the flowers will have opened.

- **Father's Blessings** - Held within the village they govern over, the Kaneyama's hold a day of celebration for villagers and visitors alike. Food, drink and gifts are shared with free services for healing, smithing and much else is offered. Three times a day will a feast be held, with the one at dusk often attracting even clans from far away to partake. After dusk, lanterns are lit and music plays until dawn of the next day. It is customary for traditional performance to take place during this, amongst it a large ceremony of offering to the Dawn Father, conducted by the daughters of the then head of the clan. If they are not of age, older relatives will fill the role. **Most important celebration.**
- **Dawn's Might** - Twice a year, in spring and fall, the warriors of the Kaneyama clan, and the samurai sworn to them, will arrange a series of competitions. This is typically in the village they govern over, however it has been held in other areas to make it available for others to join. Involving anything from Archery to horseback riding, its meant to show the strength of the clan, all the while ensuring those dedicated to defending are kept honed and sharpened. Unspoken, it is also something to look forward to between the long hours of harvesting in the seasons.

Physical Traits

Beyond the accessory and clan garbs worn, the members of the Kaneyama clan has a strong tendency to be of good, strong health with illness rarely claiming them. Their Aether runs smoothly with an unnatural flow, as if in their very blood - which may not be far from the truth, as even the blood of the members holds a faint golden tint to it.

Beyond a slight increase in resisting disease and aetherflow control, this small boost in vitality often leaves them to grow slightly older than average ages. Perhaps the most notable of this is the Great grandfather to Kuromi, whom to this day remains alive and of relatively good health. It is however nothing beyond a natural lifespan's reach, it simply favours them to reach it.

Notable Members (Player Characters)

Kuromi

Eldest daughter of Ryunosuke, she has settled into the role as an outreach and face of the clan, placing herself in varying trading deals from silks to Kugane, to managing

the Clan's stalls at the reunion markets. The picture of doman raising, she's none the less a woman of strong will whom at times permits a laughter or frustration to slip past her mask. Those she's familiar with will find an honest, compassionate woman whom at times burdens herself with questionable amounts of work and emotions - the latter a trait from her mother.

Shigeru

One of several nephews to the current Head of the Clan, Shigeru grew up with blade in hand, carrying himself to be more a warrior than one of craft nor trade. Like many samurai of the Clan, he came to serve a Lord for years, though he perished some years ago. Falling into a slump, he traveled west, where in the Clan's budding western branch has viewed him as a man taking on the role of security and bodyguard. The presented image is far from the truth of a man fallen into questionable moral actions, addiction and less savoury jobs being undertaken.

Takahashi Kaneyama-Minami

Takahashi is a son belonging to the branch clan of Minami, who took the life of a reader and student of logistical knowledge to heart. Initially training to be a scribe, interest in mathematical properties and general management saw him take an interest in the bustling life of Kugane and other cities, than such of the trade routes the clan traded on, or that of the samurai teachings. Takahashi these days currently run a few hot springs and attached establishments in and around Kugane and Shirogane. Polite and Studios, he is a man of the city and business with ambitions beyond his current station.

Azaii (Aizen Kaneyama)

Oldest son of the main family, he mainly resides in and around Kugane and Yanxia. Blacksmith of trade, a quite passionate interesting in horses and Yol sees the man being the one to manage some of the trade with the tribes of the Steppe - holding the strength for those questioning a palescale's vigor.

Natural charisma permits him to navigate most social situations, even avoiding having to interact in political situations beyond a neutral stance - an attempt mostly successful, with the grace and discipline carried by the heir. Even so he is not unknown to crack smiles, hold a sense of humor and be dedicated to his family - almost as much as he is his work of smithing and breeding of horse and yols.

Notable Members (NPC)

(The clan numbers much more than those listed here, but for the sake of my sanity and leaving room for potential people to join, only a handful are listed due to their relevant nature).

Ryunosuke

Current Head of the Clan, son of Gyousei, the outwardly caring and courageous warrior has lead his family for three decades, being the one to sanction the forming of the western branch of trade and carried on expanding the Kaneyama's influence. A doting husband and disciplining father, he has sired four sons and two daughters. His protectiveness to the clan, its ways and the people under him is at times carried into the expected acts a Lord must serve. Easy is it to forget the smiling man has resided over executions and maiming of thieves, and at one point even put a member of the clan to the sword.

Izumi

Wife of Ryunosuke and mother of six, she has overseen the matters of domestic affairs and trade over the last 3 decades. A woman soft of heart, sometimes for her own good, she is nonetheless one of the central beating hearts of the Kaneyamas hospitality.

Gyosaikhan

Younger brother of Ryunosuke, he manages the western branch of the Clan's trading efforts. A heart hardened after so many years based in Ul'dah and the hardship of finding grounds in the west, his strictness and high sense of expectations places him as one not all can manage. Those who can find a reliable and honorable man, who's accepted he cannot rise to the heights of Ul'dah as he is a speaker against the corruption taking place. Friends, families and workers will always find an open door or a willing ear if they require help.

Ryuuno

Son of Aizen, he helps run the Kaneyama Clan's shop and small clinic in the Shirogane district. Easily startled, a small shop was selected to help train him at not tucking away at every shadow.

Villages

Mori-no-mura

A village at the foot of the mountain region the Kaneyama's govern over. Members who have left their home village reside here for the main part, as its the seat from which the clan manages their region. Mainly a center of trade, it welcomes travelers and traders alike.

Description:

Near the foot of the mountain range separating Doma and the Steppe of Azim, the village of Mori-no-mura laid within the thick blankets of trees covering this side of the mountain range. Little wind traveled through these quiet, elder guardians of wood, only occasionally managing to breach crowns of green to whistle soothingly. Despite the strangling hold of trees, life was vibrant with well-maintained roads of large for traders to traverse, smaller hidden paths for residents to hunt and gather upon. Several streams small and large flooded down slope and hill, mouthng into occasional lakes, else passing down waterfalls in search of lower lands.

Mainly visited by merchants, traders and residents of the region, it was not uncommon to see the occasional samurai sworn to the Kaneyama Clan, be it a member of the family clad in soft yellows with their signature dried, shimmering golden flower over horn, or that of one sworn to service. Sporadic were these sightings, but the closer one reached to the village the further would appear. The village was quite sizeable and bustling, most houses made in the simplistic doma-styled housing, though most were reinforced by study wood and proper roofs than merely straw. Anyone approaching would have to present themselves for the small group of samurai at the entry to the village, which was surrounded by a tall wall of solid stone works. Archers perched atop, but the samurai carried generally peaceful smiles.

In this village, shrouded from the outside world, did only the life of forest and its residents fill the air warmly.

Chichi no shikīchi (Father's Threshold)

Ancestral home of the Kaneyama Clan, entry, even the name and location of it is a closely guarded secret. Located near the peak of one of the mountains near Shuraudo-no-mura, the village is surrounded by fields of blooming, golden flowers for most of the year, experiencing heavy snow for a month and a half of the year. A few different families reside within the village, but of the Kaneyamas only the old and youngest below 10 years reside there - occasionally joined by other members of the family at births or during their celebrations.

Mountain streams, natural hot springs and the unusual bounty of the land marks it a place of tranquility from the harshness of the outside world. And for all the outreach the Kaneyama clan has made over the generations, they willingly isolate this to ensure it is not disturbed. Unchanged for over a hundred years now, it will likely remain so.

Minami (southern)

A branch family of Clan Kaneyama. Its housed in the southern reaches of the main branch's region. Current head is Aoi Kaneyama, with her husband Gunji Yatsurugi.

Allies

(Ingame allies)

Tachimaru Clan

Contact initially made some months ago, the Tachimaru clan has become a known name to some of the Kaneyamas, Primarily Kuromi and Takahashi. Supporting the teahouse being operated by the clan's current head, Harutsuki, the support mainly relies in supplying it with some of the Kaneyama's clan sake. In return, a young man of the main branch is receiving tutorship under the clan's budding gathering of students dedicating themselves to the blade.

While a newer acquaintance, the stones of a lasting foundation have been laid

The Tachimaru clan has managed to restore itself to its former glory, and retaken its lands lost. They remain an ally to kaneyamas but the potential arranged marriage between it and the Kaneyama clan's members found itself set aside.

The Tachimaru clan has returned to the Kaneyama's attention by chance, and there is now renewed interest for potential trades and cooperation between clans to see the bonds renewed once more. Lord Tachimaru shall reach out once they have need of

something from the Kaneyama Clan, until then visits are permitted between the clans once more.

Daisho Clan

Hailing from the mountains of doma, it retains itself as one of the oldest warrior clans that will stand after the occupation of the empire. A portion of their warriors were ordained priests, assigned to guarding shrines. Such as The Inari Shrine, holding home in the mountain range the Kaneyama's were assigned to guard. Over the last 4 generations, there has been increasing amounts of work between the clans.

Even after the Inari Shrine was raised during the occupation, and the Daisho's turned to antique trading, land protection, and the trade of arms and armor, this bond has continued. With smithing also now part of the Daisho's main trade, one can argue the clan of mountain gold and cobra black may grow even closer.

The Daisho Clan is currently headed by their aging, ruthless Matriarch.

Jizutsu Clan

Although neighbours since the establishment of the Kaneyama family as a samurai clan, the more elusive Jizutsu clan has been their quiet, at times infamous, blades to help ensure doma from the steppe of Azim, raiders and what else would threaten their home.

The Kaneyama Clan remain staunch allies to the Jizutsu clan, Kaneyama Kuromi acting as the official bridge and advisor to Lord Keiho.

Tanji Clan

A passing trading acquaintance of the Kaneyama's, mainly centered in the exchange of silks, and the Kaneyama's fabrics and crafting hands at times being put to use. Currently being lead by a matriarch of 25 summers old.

Main contacts consist of their young Matriarch, Ishi (a servant of the clan and present leader of the Tanji Company), and in part Clan Najiima - the clan of the Tanji matriarch's husband, and its Patriarch Dusk Lotus. .

The Tanji clan has, through their dedication in aiding after an imperial assassination attempt, become trusted allies.

Miura Clan

Known for their wealth and partaking of reconstruction for Yanxia following the Garlean occupation, their ties to the Kaneyama Clan is through their heiress, Saku Kaneyama (Who has taken the name of her husband, Takahashi-Minami).

Following a failure to adapt to proper conduct, abandoning agreements and judgment of the Kaneyama Clan's elders, Takahashi's request for annulment of the marriage has been finalized.

No further ties remain between the Mirau Clan and the Kaneyama Clan - though the general consent does not incite such a great loss, for the heiress did not seem interested in furthering her family.