

Band of the Canopy

Size: 1 **Magnitude:** 8 **Drill:** Average (+1 Defense) **Might:** 0

Essence: 1 **Willpower:** 4 **Join Battle:** 6 dice

Actions: Senses: 4 dice; Threaten: 4 dice

Appearance 2, Resolve 2, Guile 1

Combat

Attack (Chopping sword): 7 dice (Damage 12, minimum 2)

Attack (Long spear): 5 dice (Damage 14)

Attack (Shield bash): 6 dice (Damage 12)

Combat Movement: 4 dice

Evasion 2, Parry 4

Soak/Hardness: 8/0 (Reinforced buff jacket)

The Band of the Canopy, also known as the Bandits of the Canopy, the Great Bough Bandits, the Shield of the Bough, and whatever other aggrandizing titles their leader No-clan Raizo thinks up on the spot, are a small group of criminals and thieves cobbled together from the villages surrounding a minor tributary feeding the Yanaze on the outskirts of the capital province. They occupy an old hilltop fort from a few wars ago they've renovated and renamed the Canopy for its commanding position atop its perch, a mount locally called Great Bough Hill for the prodigious tree coverage and referencing a particularly large tree the fort is built around on its summit.

They number about a dozen strong; this number sometimes fluctuates depending on battle attrition or this or that member being sent on a long-term hiatus to collect information or distribute loot that Raizo has collected from his raids to the surrounding communities. Hierarchy in the group is loosely defined, largely because such a small group has achieved an organic understanding of each member's specialties and proclivities. Raizo intends to use them as the core of an army that will sweep through Vaneha and restore righteous leadership to the people.

Out of an implicit understanding not to use full names with one another in case someone is captured, the band keep their clans and family relations to themselves. Instead they give each other nommes-de-guerre with colorful, boastful titles that they think might sound good to read out to a crowd at a hanging. Here are just a few:

Sagacious Wen, most often Raizo's right-hand man, is one of the prisoners that Raizo set free and decided to stay with him. In exchange for this display of loyalty, Raizo has tried to give back as much to his men as they've given to him, such as teaching them how to read and other more cerebral things. Wen took to letters with gusto and now spends much of his free time in deep study, leading to the others calling him *Sagacious Wen* in recognition (and as a gentle jab). Wen, of course, wears the title with pride.

Lucky Daigo is not very lucky, and his name probably isn't Daigo. It's a name applied for his habit of getting himself in embarrassing, easily avoidable situations and not being killed somehow, many of these in the pursuit of either alcohol or women. He also loves to play dice, and he's about as terrible at that, too, but he just keeps rolling bones. He is, however, loyal to the death and as fine a shield-bearer as a man could ask, and the Band would be lesser without him.

Big Pikon & Little Pikon are a pair of brothers. Little Pikon is the tall one, Big Pikon is the short one, somehow they're nearly identical twins but they insist they look nothing alike. They have a beard growing competition between them where they refuse to shave until the Band of the Canopy makes it big, whatever that means.

Dry Koboni is another misleading, somewhat mocking, name referencing the fact the only time the man isn't drunk is when he's sleeping, and sometimes even then. He's the finest archer south of the Yanaze when he's drunk, and an irritable cunt when he's sober. He's still an irritable cunt drunk, but he's a little more lovable and useful.

Ranya is the