

Sesa's mythology lore: Mr Worldwide

[The previous primer document: the older brother theory, Nobel parallels and speculations from the Arknights story](#)



Introduction

Trust tap: *Do you want to hear a story? I know many old stories.*

Indeed, Sesa has many stories to tell and I will show them here. I barely touched on Sesa's etymology and symbolism in my previous articles about the older brother theory and Nobel parallels. Turns out it is way more than what was written. Brace yourself for more convoluting lore. But anyway, the lore section on Gamepress really exists due to Sesa so I'll write about him more.

For a summary, Sesa is most likely a naga. Not a wyvern or any kind of Western dragon despite his species being Vouivre. His name suggests that he is a nagaraja (serpent king) from Indian Hinduism. Then his appearance and voiced lines point to Chinese dragon king from Chinese Buddhism. This phenomenon has roots in the actual history of Buddhism as the ideas of Indian Buddhism travel from India to China. He has many other names throughout Asia.

Besides the Asian naga and dragon mythology, Sesa's art also shows Anglo-Saxon (English) and Elder Futhark (Norse) runes on his clothes, token and skill activation. This may be due to his background of studying in Columbia as well as how his backstory resembles Nobel, who is from Sweden. Sweden is part of Scandinavia, where the Elder Futhark runes originated from.

With the mythology and runes from multiple regions, countries, and religions, Sesa is truly Mr Worldwide. Feel free to correct me if there's any mistakes!

Asian mythology: the naga and dragon in Hinduism and Buddhism in Asia

Introduction to the naga

When Chapter 8 was released, everyone started speculating what happened if various operators went into the sarcophagus. For most of them, it's straightforward, especially if you look at the E2 art. Then there's Sesa, whose E2 art is very obfuscating.

But due to being a naga, Sesa's real form can really range from a cosmic serpent with ten thousand heads to a Chinese dragon. And with this train of thought, I started the research that culminated in this document.

Naga is Sanskrit for cobra and such creatures may have originated from the practice of serpent worship in ancient India, even before Hinduism was a thing. The nagas are described as the powerful, splendid, wonderful and proud semi-divine race that can assume their physical form either as human, partial human-serpent or the whole serpent. Their domain is in the enchanted underworld, the underground realm filled with gems, gold and other earthly treasures called Naga-loka or Patala-loka. They are also often associated with bodies of waters — including rivers, lakes, seas, and wells — and are guardians of treasure. Arkknights' Sesa does possess his own treasure: his firearms technology.

This concept spreads to China where it was integrated with the local Chinese dragon lore, which then influences the Korean ryong and the Japanese ryuu. At the same time, the naga serpent is also present in Southeast Asian Buddhism such as Thailand and Indonesia.

A concept known in many places, like the other real life reference for Sesa, who is Alfred Nobel. Perhaps the reason why Hypergryph decides that the Nobel expy should be a naga.

In short, these are the forms that the mythological Sesa assumes in the various naga and dragon mythology of multiple countries and religions in Asia:

- Indian serpent worship and Hinduism:
 - Ananta Sesa (nagaraja)
[And various avatars but we are not getting into there]
 - Vasuki (nagaraja)
[Due to how Vishnu and Shiva are said to be the same in Hindu mythology, so Vishnu's serpent is also Shiva's serpent. Sometimes the same entity as Sesa, sometimes they are brothers]
- Indian Buddhism (part of the 8 Great Naga Kings):
 - Nanda (nagaraja) [older brother of Upananda]
 - Vasuki (nagaraja) [seems separate to the direct Sesa incarnation of Nanda]
- Chinese Buddhism (part of the 8 Great Dragon Kings):
 - 难陀龙王 [Nanda the longwang (dragon king), older brother of Upananda]
 - 和修吉龙王 [Vasuki the longwang (dragon king)]
- Japanese Buddhism (part of the 8 Great Dragon Kings):
 - 難陀竜王 [Nanda the ryuuou (dragon king)]
 - 和修吉竜王 [Vasuki the ryuuou]
- Japanese Shintoism:
 - 九頭龍 [Kuzuryuu (nine-headed dragon), inspired by Buddhism]

How is Sesa so many beings at once? This is due to the complications of the Hindu mythology origin and how the idea evolves in different countries and religions. It really depends on what one believes in. Just like Sesa's archives, his mythology is also extremely convoluted with multiple sources and stories.

Ananta Sesa the nagaraja in Indian Hinduism: A serpent, not a dragon



Sesa or Shesha (both spellings are seen) is the name of a Hindu deity, who is a nagaraja (king of nagas) with multiple heads with crowns on top of them and the primal being of creation who supports the earth.

Shesha is generally depicted with a massive form that floats coiled in space, or on the ocean of bliss, to form the bed on which Vishnu lies. Sometimes he is shown as five-headed or seven-headed or ten-headed serpent; but more commonly as one thousand-headed, or five thousand-headed, or even ten thousand-headed serpent; sometimes with each head wearing an ornate crown.

He is called Ananta (meaning endless) by Brahman, the creator. Anantha or the Adi-Sesha represents both the timelessness and the primal energy (mula-prakriti), reposing, at rest, prior to the manifestation of the created world.

The word of Sesa has origins in the Sanskrit language. It means remainder, especially in mathematics, which is that which remains when all else ceases to exist. Each of his many heads had a cobra-like hood, venom, and the ability to spew fire. At the end of every kalpa, the universe is destroyed but he remains.

In the Puranas (a Hindu text), Shesha is said to hold all the planets of the universe on his hoods and to constantly sing the glories of Vishnu from all his mouths. It is said that when Adishesa uncoils, time moves forward and creation takes place; when he coils back, the universe ceases to exist.

Vishnu is often depicted as resting on Shesha. Shesha is considered a servant and a manifestation of Vishnu. Sesa's heads are usually the hood of Vishnu in Hindu mythology. Finally there's an explanation of that egg or Originium slug looking hood. The pattern really looks like snake scales. Even though it looks more like an Issey Miyake Bao Bao bag.



There are parallels in Buddhism where the naga king Mucalinda, protected the Buddha from the elements for seven days by sheltering him with his hood. It is believed that the Buddha was an avatar of Vishnu. Similarly, it is believed that Mucalinda was an avatar of Shesha. Perhaps this is the kind of relationship that Sesa has with the Doctor as Vishnu or Buddha, as a faithful servant to his master.



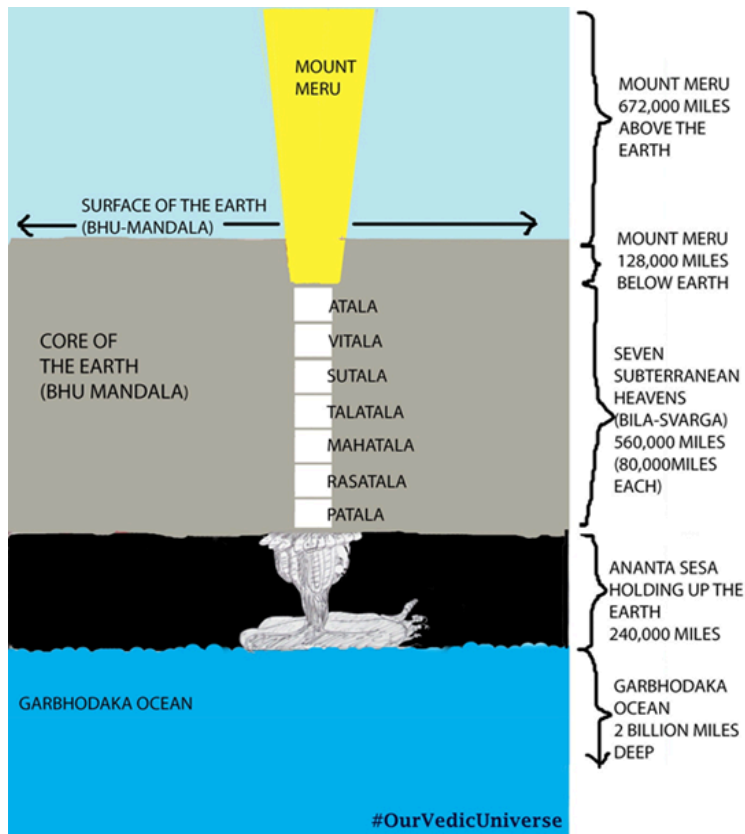
As per the Mahabharata, Shesha was born to sage Kashyap and his wife Kadru. Kadru gave birth to a thousand snakes, of which Shesha was the eldest. After Shesha, Vasuki, Airavata and Takshaka were born, in order. A lot of Shesha's brothers were cruel and were bent upon inflicting harm on others. They were even unkind to Garuda, who was Kashyapa's son through Vinatha, sister of Kadru.

Shesha, disgusted by the cruel acts of his brothers, left his mother and kin, and took to austere penances. He lived on air and meditated in places including Gandhamadhana, Badrikashrama, Gokarna, Pushkara and Himalayas. His penances were so severe that his flesh, skin and muscles dried up and merged with his frame. Brahma, convinced of his Shesha's will, asked Shesha to request a boon. Shesha asked that he be able to keep his mind under control so that he could continue to perform ascetic penances. Brahma gladly accepted the request. Brahma then asked a

favour of Shesha: to go beneath the unstable earth and stabilize it. Shesha agreed and went to the netherworld and stabilized her with his hood. He is known to support her even today, thus making Patala his perennial residence.

Oldest brother. Hmm. Anyway, this story has quite some angst and regret, like Sesa's archives.

It is even believed that the Earth is held up by Sesa's heads in Hindu cosmology as a gravitational force. This is a diagram of Hindu cosmology.



Here is an extract from the Śivadharmasāstra about Ananta, which may explain why Sesa has red hair in Arknights:

'With a red body, elongated eyes that are red at the edges, swelling with pride with his great hood, marked by a conch and a lotus—may Ananta, king of the Nāga lords, delighting in the praise of Śiva's feet, destroy the poison of great evil and quickly bestow peace on me!'

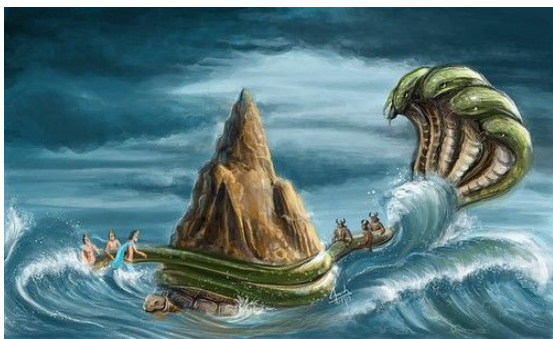
Sesa has several avatars in Hindu mythology with Vishnu where they are brothers, but I will not go into that too much because one nagaraja is already complicated enough and I still have to elaborate about the other nagaraja he may be seen as the same as: Vasuki

Sesa and Vasuki, the serpents of Vishnu and Shiva



The Hindu triumvirate consists of three gods — Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva — who are responsible for the creation, upkeep and destruction of the world. Vishnu is the preserver of the universe, while Shiva's role is to destroy it in order to re-create. The identification of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva as one being is strongly emphasized in the Kūrma Purāṇa. Brahma is never quite emphasised as his job is already done after he created the world. The diversity within Hinduism encourages a wide variety of beliefs and traditions, of which two important and large traditions are associated with Vishnu and Shiva. Some schools focus on Vishnu (including his associated avatars such as Rama and Krishna) as the Supreme God, and others on Shiva (including his different avatars such as Mahadeva and Pashupata). The Puranas and various Hindu traditions treat both Shiva and Vishnu as being different aspects of the one Brahman.

Vishnu has Sesa as his serpent, while Shiva has Vasuki as his serpent. Since Vishnu and Shiva are one, by extension, Sesa and Vasuki are also seen as the same nagaraja in Hinduism. However, in Buddhism, Sesa is seen as the same as Nanda while Vasuki is a different nagaraja.





This photo is particularly interesting as it is at Bangkok's international airport in Thailand.

As per Vishnu Purana, during the time of Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean), a holy exercise performed by Devas and Asuras together to bring back prosperity in the world, Vasuki played a pivotal role. With Mandar mountain as the churning rod and Vasuki as the churning rope, Devas and Asuras churned the ocean together to attain prosperity, strength, and vitality back. Varied ornaments, treasures, scriptures, Goddess, and Supernatural animals were the outcome of the Samudra Manthan. But the most revered ones were Amrita (Elixir of immortality) and Halahala (Deadly poison). However, in some other variations of the story, the poison escaped from the mouth of the serpent king as the demons and gods churned. This terrified the gods and demons because the poison was so powerful that it could destroy all of creation. In the variation, Lord Vishnu knew that Vasuki would vomit poisonous flames when twisted and pulled, and therefore advised the Devas to hold the tail end of the snake, without telling them the reason. First, the Devas held the head end of the snake, while the Asuras held the tail end. The Asuras were enraged by this, as the lower part of an animal is impure, or less pure, than the part that contains the head. They insisted on holding the head side of the snake. Lord Vishnu had an inkling that his reverse psychology would work. The Asuras demanded to hold the head of the snake, while the Devas, taking advice from Lord Vishnu, agreed to hold its tail. When the mountain was placed in the ocean, it began to sink. Vishnu, in the form of Kurma (lit. turtle), came to their rescue and supported the mountain on his shell. The Asuras were poisoned by fumes emitted by Vasuki. Despite this, the Devas and the Asuras pulled back and forth on the snake's body alternately, causing the mountain to rotate, which in turn churned the ocean.

Both Sesa and Vasuki were described to be the oldest brother of the nagas. However, sometimes Vasuki is said to be the younger brother of Sesa. In Buddhism, the younger brother of Nanda is Upananda, and Vasuki is a separate nagaraja.

Perhaps this is also like how Sesa in Arknights looks like and acts like two different people from his E1 to E2 art. His archives and voice lines contradict each other too. As if he is two brothers, living as one person.

And here is finally the end of the Hindu mythology since it is very confusing. What is the truth? It depends on what one wants to believe or has perceived.

The theme of preservation and destruction is relevant to the plot of Sesa in Arknights. His firearms research topic, with parallels to Nobel's dynamite, should bring prosperity. Yet it is used for destruction. Also, will you, as the Doctor, become like Vishnu or Shiva?

Nanda the nagaraja in Indian Buddhism

At the same time in Buddhism, Ananta Sesa became Ānanda. It literally means bliss or happiness in Sanskrit. In the Hindu Vedas, Upanishads and Bhagavad gita, ānanda signifies eternal bliss which accompanies the ending of the rebirth cycle. Those who renounce the fruits of their actions and submit themselves completely to the divine will, arrive at the final termination of the cyclical life process (saṃsāra) to enjoy eternal bliss (ānanda) in perfect union with the godhead. Nanda is another name with the same meaning.

The eight great nagaraja went to listen to Buddha teach and they were converted on the spot. From then onwards, the naga guard the dharma. Buddhism later on spread to China, where it is more common these days than India.

Then how does Buddhism go to China? In the olden days before we had more technology and globalisation, goods and ideas were exchanged on the Silk Road where a lot of it is desert and hills. Which is similar to what Sesa talks about regarding his home.

Appointed as assistant: Hmm, is this the Doctor's room? How boring. It looks just like those never-changing hills of Sargon. At least get a game console, will you?

And uh, that heartbreaking max trust line: Forget about it, and let these things sink into the depths of the deserts.

The actual geographical locations these lines refer to might be India's Thar Desert and Aravalli Hills. This area would be at the border of India and Pakistan which is the beginning of the India to China route of the past.





Before the nagarajas started following Buddha in Buddhism, they were not that good, like in Hinduism. Here is an extract from Maha Prajnaparamita Sastra. It should be noted this is an Indian text, so it probably does not make it to Chinese Buddhism.

“Thus, when the Nāgarājas Nan-t’o (Nanda) and P’o-nan-t’o (Upananda), the older and the younger, wanted to destroy the city of Śrāvastī, they rained down weapons (āyudha) and poisonous snakes (āśīviṣa), but Mou-lien (Maudgalyāyana), at that time properly seated, filled space and changed the offensive weapons into perfumed flowers and necklaces (hāra)”.

That’s all for the serpent-like nagaraja. From the next section onwards, the naga transforms into a dragon-like form in the rest of the Asian countries.

Nanda the dragon king in Chinese and Japanese Buddhism

A naga is a serpent deity right? So why is Sesa a Vouivre (dragon race)? The answer lies in how when Buddhism spread to China from India, the concept of naga was translated into dragon (龙).

The Indian serpent-shaped naga was identified in China with the four-legged Chinese dragon, because both were divine inhabitants of seas and rivers, and givers of rain. The Chinese did not worship serpents like the Indians and had no concept of nagas.

And this is not the only case that something else was thought to be a dragon by the Chinese. When they discovered dinosaur fossils, the Chinese thought those were dragon bones. This is evident in how dinosaur in Chinese is made up of the words terror and dragon although the Latin origins of dinosaur is actually meaning terrible lizard.



Sesa has a sticker where he has a mug with the Google Chrome T-Rex. Tyrannosaurus Rex is Latin in origin and it means tyrant lizard king. But the Chinese name literally translates to tyrant king dragon (霸王龙). So in a way, the T-Rex is somehow a dragon king to the Chinese in the past. Fitting design for a dragon king's mug. In fact, all -saurus suffixes are 龙 in Chinese despite the Latin meaning being lizard.

This translation issue had major consequences on the nagas of other Asian countries. A tale of why good translation is important, but this is during ancient times of no internet and globalisation.

After China, Buddhism also spreads to other parts of East Asia (Korea and Japan) and Southeast Asia (Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, etc.). The concepts of naga and dragon also spreads with Buddhism.

However, in East Asia, the nagas become known as dragons while in Southeast Asia, the Indic origins still remain as some naga have multiple heads or look like serpents.

Note that Sesa's horns do not resemble the other Vouivre (mostly don't curve so much or curve downwards), but it looks closer to Chen instead with how it has more angles and curves as well as the vein-like pattern.

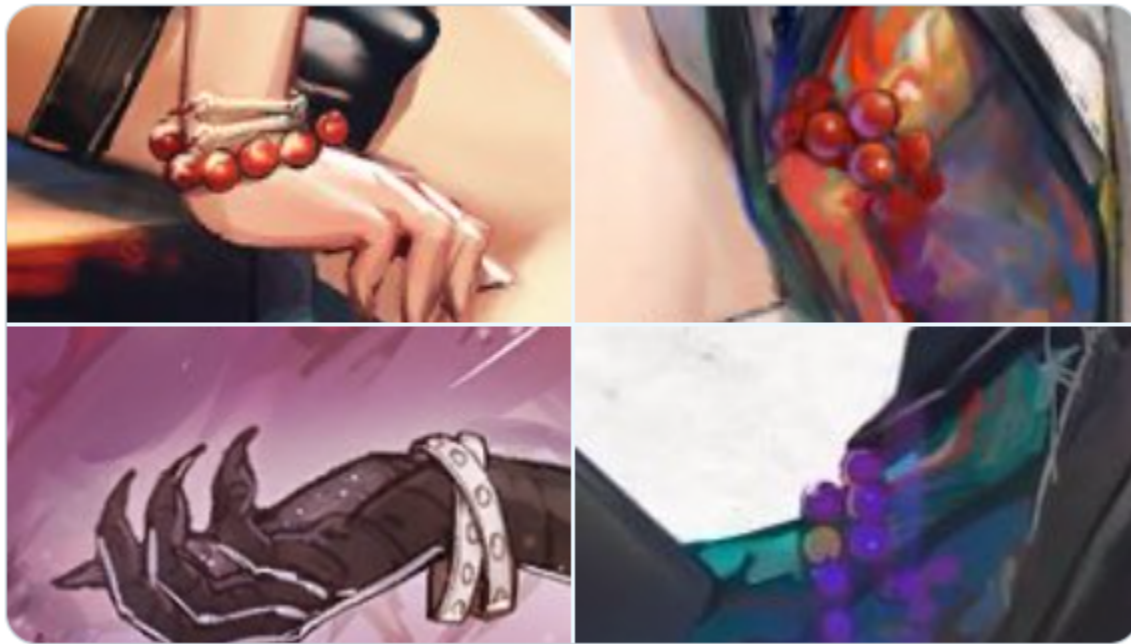


The shape is also similar to the dragon-like but not really operators of Nian and Dusk. And they seem to be related to the myth of the [nine sons of the dragon king](#) while Dusk is likely based on a [Shen](#) (a type of Chinese dragon), which is likely based on the water dwelling naga.

China used to not have a concept of dragon king despite a long history of the dragon in Chinese culture. The concept of naga mixed together with the concept of Chinese dragons to evolve into the current Chinese dragon lore we know of today. After Buddhism, Taoism also came about and has their own dragon king mythology which becomes the modern Chinese dragon king mythology. In fact, the naga also brought some of their malevolence into the dragon lore, as beings who may be evil or demonic.

Chinese lung are very similar to Indian naga because they are almost the same in essence as divine beings of the same origin. Just that the appearance has changed from serpent to dragon, there is no more venom and then Chinese lung have way higher status than the Indian naga as dragons instead of serpents. They are benevolent guardians of the dharma who bring wealth and fortune. They possess great powers and can shapeshift between naga/dragon and human forms or something in between.

Another main difference is that the naga is a bigger concept that spans and influences almost the entire Asia outside of India while Chinese dragons as a concept influences mostly Korea and Japan outside of China. In the end, the naga is the root of most Asian dragon mythology.



Also, a feature of the Eastern coded dragons in Arknights is their bracelets. The Western-coded dragons do not wear accessories and are not this beautiful. Many pictures of Chinese dragons show a flaming pearl under their chin or in their claws. The pearl is associated with spiritual energy, wisdom, prosperity, power, immortality, thunder, or the moon. This also perhaps a reference to how nagas are resplendent with gems and jewels on their bodies.

Back to Sesa. In China and later Japan, Sesa, now known as Nanda the nagaraja (naga king) transforms to 难陀 (Nantuo)/ 難陀 (Nanda) the 龙王 (longwang)/ 龍王 (ryuuou) which means dragon king. But essentially they are almost the same being. Just that the form and mythology is different.

*Nanda will be used here as it's the actual Sanskrit pronunciation.

Nanda means joy in Sanskrit. He is the leader of the dragon kings. He has a younger brother called Upananda (meaning virtuous joy) who occupies the same position in the 28 Legions of the Kannon in Chinese Buddhism. They are also part of the eight great naga/dragon kings. Most

of the time, Nanda is mentioned more often and sometimes their names are combined as Nanda-Upananda. After following the Buddha, the dragon brothers followed the hearts of people and gave them rain and were well-liked. They also gave Buddha his first bath.

Figures of Nanda (Chinese and Japanese)



Figures of Upananda (Chinese and Japanese)



跋難陀 (ばつなんだ)

In fact, by the time that Buddhism reached Japan, Upananda did not even make it to the 28 Legions. Upananda not being mentioned often and not really making it to Japan might be a reference to Sesa's dead brother.

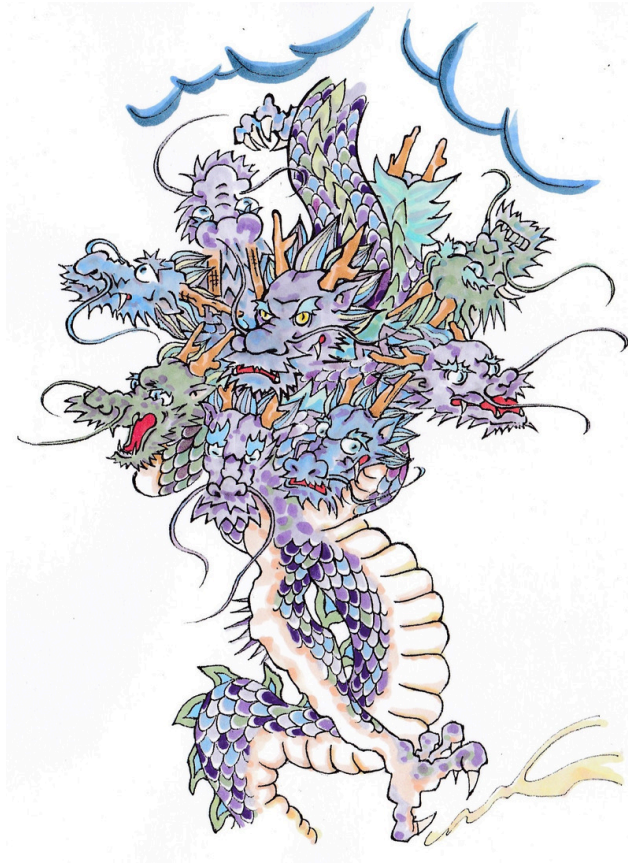
As for Vasuki, like Upananda, he is in the 8 Great Dragon Kings. But he is not in the 28 Legions in both China and Japan. Maybe it is because he is the same as Nanda, or he could be like the younger brother who does not quite make it either.

Figures of Vasuki (Chinese and Japanese)



和修吉 (わしゅきつ)

Kuzuryuu the ryuu kami in Japanese Shintoism



Besides the Buddhist Nanda ryuuou, Sesa also has another form in Japan as the Shinto Kuzuryuu. Kuzuryuu's origins can be traced to the Buddhist deities Vāsuki and Śeṣa, Nāgarajas who guard Mount Meru. In Japan, due to the influence of the local Shintō beliefs on Buddhism, Vāsuki became a guardian deity in both religions. In fact, many Hindu deities can be found in the Shinto religion due to this reason. The Eight Nāga Kings became influential in the esoteric tradition, which has a strong focus on obtaining worldly benefits. This was reflected in Kuzuryū's role as a rainmaker deity. Kuzuryū is sometimes referred to as Kuzuryū Gongen, which refers to his identification with Vāsuki.

No mythical creature is more familiar to Far-Eastern art and literature than the dragon. It is interesting to observe how in Japan three different kinds of dragons, originating from India, China and Japan, are to be found side by side.' To the superficial observer they all belong to one and the same class of rain bestowing, thunder and storm arousing gods of the water, but a careful examination teaches us that they are different from each other.

The Japanese blended Chinese and Indian ideas and recognized their own serpent or dragon-shaped gods of rivers and mountains, to whom they used to pray for rain in times of

drought. Thus the ancient legends of three countries were combined, and features of the one were used to adorn the other.

During the Nara period, a legend arose that the Nine-headed Dragon had settled in Lake Ashi in Hakone, and that it demanded a sacrifice. To appease the dragon, the villagers agreed to select a house by shooting a white-feathered arrow and seeing where it landed, then sacrificing the daughter of the house. A priest named Mankan cursed the dragon, and is said to have chained it to the Upside-down Cedar (an underwater rock formation). Faced with such a formidable adversary, the dragon gave up, and eventually promised to guard the region as long as the people would honor him every year with a prayer. As a result of this legend, the dragon came to be worshipped as Kuzuryū Daimyōjin. The expression "send up a white-feathered arrow" has come to mean "choose by lot." The legend continues, saying Mankan saw the dragon reform and change into a Dragon King. He then built a shrine to the dragon. After this the customary offering to the dragon changed from human sacrifice to steamed rice with red beans.

It is believed that the Kuzuryuu is a god of matchmaking. Every 13th of the month, there is a monthly ceremony for people to pray to the Kuzuryuu for good relationships. And on 13th February, people will pray for love. The annual Kuzuryuu Shrine Festival is held on 13th June.





The Kuzuryuu Shrine at Hakone, Japan

In the stories, there is a common theme of the serpent or dragon becoming good and following religion after a not so wholesome past.

Kind of like how Sesa is trying to be talking all about Buddhist concepts and trying his best to show his good side (like the reformed dragon or naga after they become religious), while hiding his tragic and murky past.

What does this mean in Arknights?

Even after writing this much, I come back to the same question I had while writing this: What is Sesa? Surely not a wyvern, after so much explanation. Definitely a naga. But what kind of place does a naga have in Terra?



Sesa's E2 art is extremely blur and obfuscating. There is no body, so we cannot tell whether it is two dragons or a single two-headed dragon. Then its claws are different. And there's even a wing. Initially I thought the wing was nonsensical since it's a more wyvern-like concept. However, Indonesian nagas are sometimes winged. So this might really be an amalgamation of multiple naga forms: multiple heads (Indian), horns (Chinese), wing (possibly Indonesian).



But his species is Vouivre right? Vouivre seems to refer to all types of dragons, like Felines where there is Aslan as a special race. Except that there are more subtypes of dragons.

And just like the older brother theory, there is room for doubt on whether Sesa is really a Vouivre because all mythology points to Eastern instead of Western origins.

Knowing that Sesa went to Columbia, it may be likely that he pretends to be Vouivre as he can pass off as one. Easier than trying to explain his actual race.

So perhaps it's time for more theories:

- Really a Vouivre but just wants to imitate other cooler dragons.
- There's actually a naga race but unknown. Like Utage who is Unknown race but we all know she is based on a Nue.
- Half Lung and half Draco like Talulah: horns look like the other Chinese-coded dragons, but tail has spikes, resembling Talulah and Reed.

Buddhist references in voiced lines

Sesa's voiced lines are rather strange and cryptic. However, he is actually making multiple references to Buddhist concepts.

A major teaching of Mahayana Buddhism (the more common Buddhism compared to Theravada Buddhism) is that anyone can reach enlightenment regardless of your status. He has a few lines talking about it.

Talk 1: I feel something resonating from within you. How strange. Is this because we still have so much untapped potential?

Everyone has potential to do better and reach for the truth. He knows that about himself and Doctor.

Talk 2: I take greater pride in natural wisdom than the knowledge that is deliberately taught! With Rhodes Island at my side, we will get ever-closer to the Great Truth.

Onboard: I know exactly what you're searching for, Doctor of Rhodes Island! You long for truth and power!

Elite 2: Shall we tear asunder the veil that obfuscates the Truth? Perhaps I can lend you a bit more power... Just a bit more.

The truth may be a reference to the dharma. In Buddhism, dharma is the doctrine, the universal truth common to all individuals at all times, proclaimed by the Buddha. By understanding the dharma, one can get closer to enlightenment and nirvana.

The two truths doctrine states that there is:

- Provisional or conventional truth ([Sanskrit](#) saṃvṛti-satya, [Pāli](#) sammuti sacca, [Tibetan](#) kun-rdzob bden-pa), which describes our daily experience of a concrete world, and
- Ultimate truth (Sanskrit, paramārtha-satya, Pāli paramattha sacca, Tibetan: don-dam bden-pa), which describes the ultimate reality as [sunyata](#), empty of concrete and inherent characteristics.

The conventional truth may be interpreted as "obscurative truth" or "that which obscures the true nature" as a result. It is constituted by the appearances of mistaken awareness. Conventional truth would be the appearance that includes a duality of apprehender and apprehended, and objects perceived within that. Ultimate truths are phenomena free from the duality of apprehender and apprehended.

Both truths and a balance are needed for enlightenment even though they may contradict each other. Beneath the conventional truth, is the ultimate truth, which is empty. This is kind of like Sesa himself, who is empty inside while he covers up with his ramblings and acting.

Talk 3: "I wish to cross over to the distant shores." That used to be the secret phrase people used to communicate with me. That bridge is the link between two worlds, transferring wisdom and imbuing power... Hey, let me finish. It's rude to just turn around and walk off like that!

The 'far shore' is a Buddhist concept. 'This shore' is the world with life and death, of samsara. 'The distant shore' is beyond life and death, and is of nirvana.

If one looks at the Chinese or Japanese text, the shore is 彼岸, which is paramita in Sanskrit. It has the meaning of 'that has gone beyond' and 'transcendent'. Qualities of generosity, morality, patience, energy, meditation, wisdom lead to enlightenment.

Let's compare with Elite 2

"The bridge is the connection, the ammunition is wisdom, the weapon is the will, and harmony is equality."

Bringing back the relevant line from Talk 3

'That bridge is the link between two worlds, transferring wisdom (ammunition) and imbuing power.'

Translates to: Firearms (bridge) connects life and death (the shores), transferring wisdom (shoot bullets), and imbuing power (use Originium Arts)

The bridge connects the shores of the living and the dead. Since the ammunition is wisdom, and transferring ammunition is to shoot bullets, then the bridge is firearms. It may mean that firearms is the way for people to go beyond themselves.

This confirms what was said in Operational Intelligence: Use Originium Arts then shoot bullets.

A note about the distant shore: In Buddhism, it refers to nirvana. In this context, firearms should lead to more progress and let people go beyond their current state if used in industries as intended. But it's used to kill, so the distant shore is death instead. Refer to: Nobel parallels regarding Sesa's potential Originium equivalent of dynamite that he did not quite invent. The bridge refers to how Buddhist teachings can link the world of the living and the beyond, and to enlightenment. In Sesa's voiced lines, it becomes the firearms.

The true meaning of Elite 2 line is: Firearms connect the living and the dead/beyond, when bullets are shot, carrying weapons requires the will, and after shooting (harmony in terms of sound), everyone is equal after death.

A very grim reminder of the danger of the technology that Sesa holds.

Added to squad: The "bridge" seeks completion... Those weapons in your hands... May I take a closer look?

This confirms the other meaning of how weapons can lead to enlightenment. If it was used in industries like how it was supposed to.

Talk after Promotion 2: Do you believe that weapons have souls? The things they've experienced, the hands they've been passed through, and the reason they've been swung... No! These have nothing to do with the soul. For a weapon, any belief or meaning has been superimposed upon it. Tell me, are we weapons, or are we people with souls imposed upon us?

Not going to talk about souls as it's complicated. Buddhism seems to not believe in souls, yet Chinese Buddhism kind of believes in it and reincarnation.

Anyway, the experiences and reasons would be a reference to karma. Karma means action or doing. In the Buddhist tradition, karma refers to actions driven by intention (cetanā), a deed done deliberately through body, speech or mind, which leads to future consequences. So are we going to take control of karma or let karma control us?

Depart: It's time for our efforts to bear fruit! Just remember, these weapons must be handled delicately.

Karma is also described as a seed that bears fruit. So Sesa tells everyone to handle their weapons with the right intention. After all, weapons are only harmful when used.

Talk after Trust Increase 2: Need my help making some adjustments? My skills aren't something that can ever see the light of day. "Allowing everyone to just pick up a weapon is the way to creating wars." I must wear these shackles to restrict myself. Or, do you wish to unchain me and unleash havoc upon this world?

Śīla in Buddhism is one of three sections of the Noble Eightfold Path, and is a code of conduct that embraces a commitment to harmony and self-restraint with the principal motivation being nonviolence, or freedom from causing harm.

Sesa has made his decision to keep his secrets. For he fears that it will be used to harm people. Not an easy decision. Also, in multiple lines, he seems to be stopping himself from saying or doing certain things as he restrains himself.

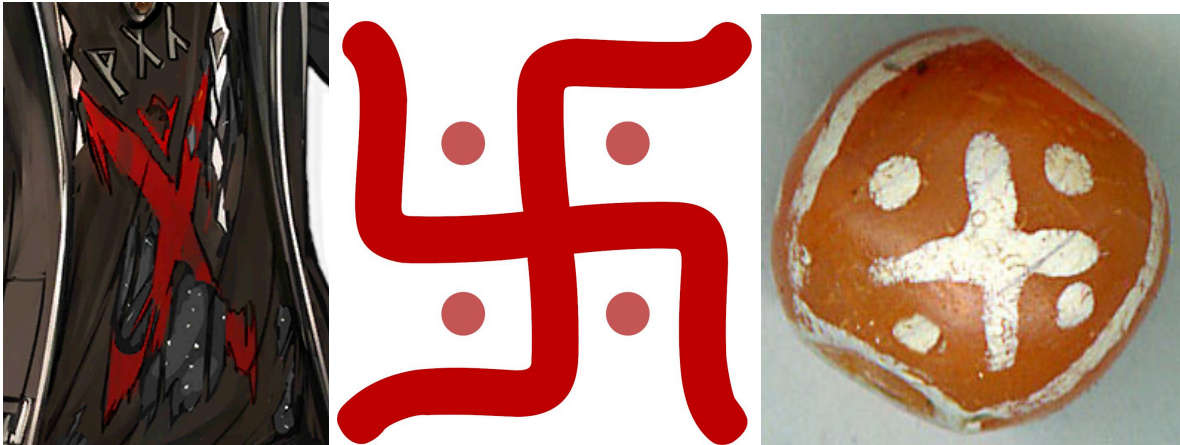
Selecting Operator 2: Set me free! This is what I should yell, right?

In Battle 3: I shall be your end! It's fine for me to say stuff like that, right?

3 Star Result: You are a bit too dependent upon my powers. Speak no more of it. You know the old agreement, a cup of black tea with two cubes of sugar.

Offerings are given to the Triple Gem (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha). Food, fruit, water, drinks represents the nectar of Dharma and the wish to achieve it. In here, Sesa sort of acts as a god or deity, which he kind of is, due to his namesake.

Bonus: Hindu swastika on shirt?

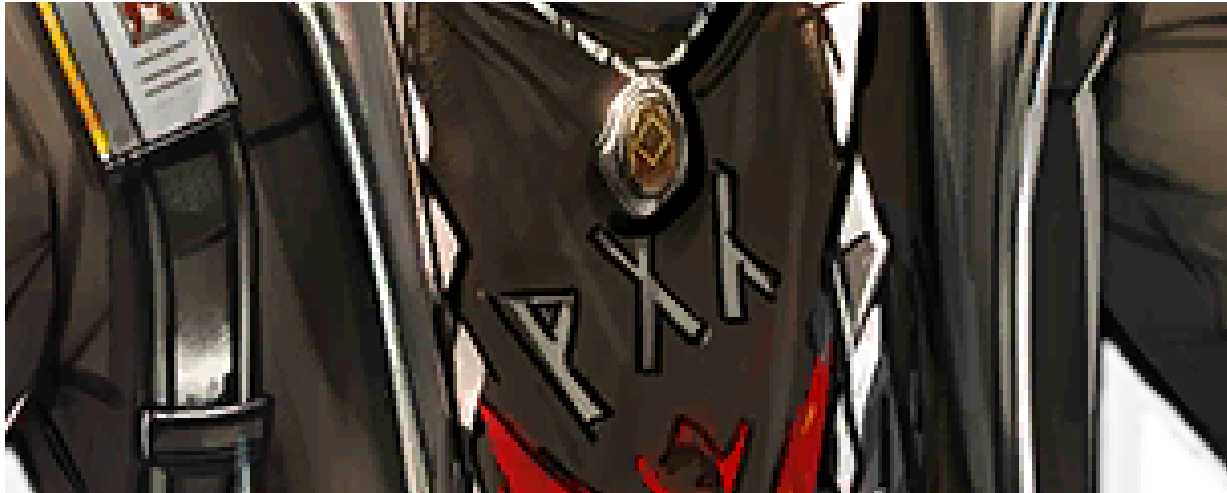


The big red cross may resemble a stylised Hindu swastika, especially the red colour. It also seems to have originated from the Indus people.

Swastika has a meaning of conducive to well-being in Sanskrit. It symbolises surya ("sun"), prosperity and good luck. It is considered a holy symbol in Hinduism and Buddhism. It eventually spread to the West, and was well, used as Nazi symbol unfortunately.

Nagas are said to be adorned with half-Swastika (auspicious mystic cross). It is explained that the marks on the back of the hood resembling spectacles may possibly be such Svastika-ardha (half-Swastika). In mythology, Sesha's heads were ornamented with the blessed Indian cross (sometimes called the swastika cross) and on each head, he wore a single earring and a wreath over each brow.

Western Runes



Runes are seen on Sesa's shirt and the pendant, which is his token.

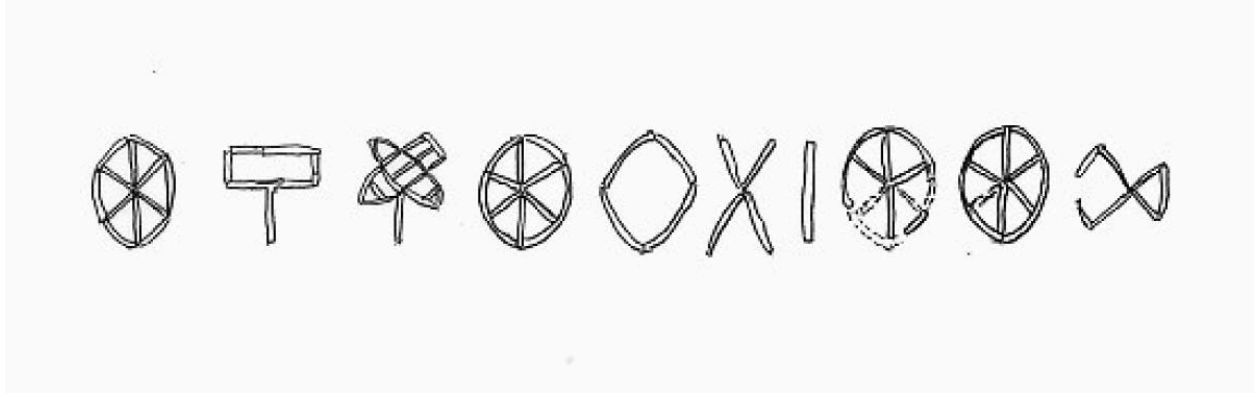
A pendant etched with runes, its decoration exaggerated and full of obsession with the past.

Sesa's origin seems to be India (part of Terra's Sargon area), which used to be a colony of England (Terra's Victoria). This can explain his supposedly more 'Western' features such as the runes on his shirt (Anglo-Saxon runes) and black tea drinking habit (though black tea comes from India/Sargon actually). Either that, or he picked it up from Columbia.

Runes have power to protect its user with spells. The name rune itself, taken to mean "secret, something hidden", seems to indicate that knowledge of the runes was originally considered esoteric, or restricted to an elite.

Anglo-Saxon runes originated from Elder-Futhark runes. Those originated from Old Norse who are the ancient Nordic people. Sweden is a Nordic country. It is also Nobel's place of birth. So it connects somehow.

Another theory for his runes is perhaps the possibility of the Indus script from the Indus civilisation, which may match Sesa's Indian origins better. But the problem is that this script has not been deciphered unlike other ancient languages. So this could be why the Anglo-Saxon runes are used instead.



The runes on Sesa's shirt have the words of joy, gift, and torch. We know that it is Anglo-Saxon due to how the torch/cen rune only exists in this rune set while joy and gift are also present in Elder-Futhark. Other possible runes are on his pendant and S2 skill or E2 art.

To end off my introduction of runes, when runes are laid in a certain order, it can be used for divination. For Sesa's 3 runes, it may symbolise his past (joy), present (gift) and future (torch). It is as if a prophecy is written for him. We will see how it unfolds.

Shirt



(joy). Means success and friendship.

Anglo-Saxon: Wynn, Sound: W

Elder-Futhark: Wunjo

Anglo-Saxon rune poem:

Who uses it knows no pain,
sorrow nor anxiety, and he himself has
prosperity and bliss, and also enough shelter.



(gift). It means the gift-giving balance in friendship.

Anglo-Saxon: Gyfu, Sound: G

Elder-Futhark: Gebo

Anglo-Saxon rune poem:

Generosity brings credit and honour, which support one's dignity;
it furnishes help and subsistence
to all broken men who are devoid of aught else.



(torch). Means creation and knowledge.

Anglo-Saxon: cen, Sound: c

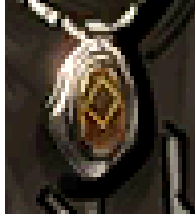
For Elder-Futhark, this word was originally ƿ which is pronounced as kaunan and means ulcer instead.

Anglo-Saxon poem:

The torch is known to every living man by its pale, bright flame;
it always burns where princes sit within.

Token: Pendant

Besides Sesa's shirt, there are other symbols that can be runes



This is Sesa's token, which is described as *'A pendant etched with runes, its decoration exaggerated and full of obsession with the past.'*

◊ (Ingwaz) [Elder-Futhark]

𐌆 (Ing) [Anglo-Saxon]

Therefore this is an Elder-Futhark instead of Anglo-Saxon rune. Old Norse Yngvi originates from Ingwaz, and it was the older name of the Norse god Freyr. He was associated with sacral kingship, virility, peace and prosperity.

This is a rune of isolation or separation in order to create a space or place where the process of transformation into higher states of being can occur. It is a rune of gestation and internal growth. Very suitable for an engineer and a possible inventor.

Cross-like symbol on E2 art and Skill 2



The cross-like symbol in his S2 and E2 art does not look exactly like the rune, but here is a guess because he already has so many runes, so the cross has to be a rune too.

‡ (need)

Anglo-Saxon: nyd

Elder-Futhark: nauthiz

Anglo-Saxon poem

Trouble is oppressive to the heart;
yet often it proves a source of help and salvation
to the children of men, to everyone who heeds it betimes.

As a war rune, Nauthiz empowers the invoker to have the courage and wisdom to recognize what must be done in an otherwise complex situation. Necessity is the mother of invention. Therefore, very fitting for E2 and S2.

Sesa's future looks bright. Will he use the light of his knowledge to shine on the darkness of the world? But what can't be denied is that if everyone can use firearms, it is a Pandora's Box that is right in front of us. We know it cannot be touched, yet we touch it due to curiosity. Terra's future is unknown. But one day if we open the Pandora's Box, then it can only bring suffering and despair.