

VANARA

Vanaras are a race of monkeylike humanoids, possessing brave hearts and inquisitive minds. Vanaras are not found in Rokugan.

Personality: Vanaras are often viewed with amusement or even exasperation by members of other races, who find their personalities childish and irritating. They are curious in the extreme, frequently badgering people with questions (sometimes very personal questions), picking small items up to examine them, opening doors to see where they lead, and generally exploring places where the human sense of propriety and order would demand they not go. They also tend to be bluntly honest, never couching a negative opinion in gentle terms or hiding their true feelings about anything. At the same time, they are incredibly loyal, quite brave when the situation requires it, and genuinely kind.

Physical Description : Vanaras are slightly shorter than humans, standing 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet tall and typically weighing 90 to 140 pounds. Their bodies are covered with light fur, ranging from white through light blue to brown and black. Their faces are distinctly monkeylike, with protruding muzzles, furred cheeks, and wide, lipless mouths. They have long, semiprehensile tails, long fingers and toes, and large ears, but their arms, legs, and torsos are proportioned like those of humans.

Relations : Vanaras are very fond of humans, admiring them and respecting their power while laughing quietly at their conservative stodginess. They get along well with other good-aligned races as well, as long as the other race will tolerate them. They loathe the evil, however, and their opinion of an entire race or kind can be soured by their experience with one wicked individual.

Alignment : Vanaras are strongly chaotic but equally strongly good. They show little or no respect for social mores, rules with no purpose they can understand, or codes of discipline, and hate tyranny and oppression. Their only concession to social order is their acceptance of caste systems. Their religion allows for the possibility that different divine gifts might be given to different people, although it rejects any different valuation of those gifts. Vanaras, therefore, might respect that religion is the province of the priestly caste among humans, but do not necessarily accord that caste the respect and veneration human priests might expect.

Vanara Lands: Vanaras dwell in deep forests and high mountains, building their villages and towns in such a way as to make a minimal impact on their natural surroundings. They gather in loose clans, but do not keep track of kinship at all, so "clan" is a very loose term for their associations. They subsist largely by hunting and gathering, rather than farming the land. They rarely come into contact with other races, and do not seek them out.

Religion : The vanaras revere the greatest of the nature spirits-spirits of the sun, the highest mountains, the oldest forests, and the widest rivers. They revere these spirits with deep personal devotion, offering prayers and songs to these deitylike beings at least daily.

Language : Vanaras speak Vanaran, which is written in the Common script. Humans complain that Vanaran sounds like nothing but screeches and chattering, but it is a complex and subtle language.

Names: A Vanara receives a name within a week after birth, as soon as the parents observe some sign or portent that

suggests an appropriate name for the child. The vanara keeps this name through life, and considers it shameful to use any other name, such as a nickname or honorific.

Male Names: Amanu, Khanu, Mindra, Rava, Thetsu, Vaki, and Vindu.

Female Names : Aki, Kiri, Ghuna, Lakshi, Sitha, Tani, and Vina.

Adventurers : The arrival of a human or a member of another race in a vanara community usually sparks a rash of vanara adventurers, as young vanaras-curious about the foreign society from which the visitor came-venture forth to learn about the wider world. Vanara adventurers often attach themselves to humans, following them with tremendous loyalty and devotion .

VANARA RACIAL TRAITS

+2 Intelligence, +2 Wisdom, -2 Strength . Vanaras are clever and inquisitive and have keen senses . Their small build detracts from their physical strength, however.

Medium-size: As Medium-size creatures, vanaras have no special bonuses or penalties due to their size .

Vanara base speed is 30 feet .

Vanaras have a base climb speed of 20 feet . They gain a +8 racial bonus on all Climb checks, and use either their Strength modifier or their Dexterity modifier, whichever is higher. They can always choose to take 10, even if rushed or threatened when climbing . If a vanara chooses an accelerated climb (see the Climb skill in the Player's Handbook), he moves at a speed of 30 feet and makes a single Climb check each round at a -5 penalty.

Low-light Vision : Vanaras can see twice as far as a human in starlight, moonlight, torchlight, and similar conditions of poor illumination . They retain the ability to distinguish color and detail under these conditions.

+4 racial bonus on Balance and jump checks. Vanaras are agile and athletic, climbing, leaping, and swinging in trees.

+2 racial bonus on Hide and Move Silently checks . Though they enjoy making noise, vanaras can be very stealthy when the situation demands it.

Automatic Languages: Common and Vanara. Bonus Languages : Giant, Goblin, Spirit Tongue, Sylvan .

Favored Class: Shaman. A multiclass vanara's shaman class does not count when determining whether he suffers an XP penalty