

THE YŌKAI CARDS

The creatures and apparitions of Kwaidan, named by what folklore calls them rather than by the title Hearn gave them. Cut along the lines.

HEIKÉ GHOSTS The drowned Taira dead of Dan-no-ura (1185), who summon a living reciter to perform their defeat for them. The Story of Mimi-Nashi-Hōichi	OSHIDORI SPIRIT The mandarin duck's widow, who appears in a dream as a woman and reproaches her husband's killer. Oshidori
REBIRTH (TENSHŌ) Not a creature: the return of a dead person's memory and promise in a living stranger. The Story of O-Tei; Riki-Baka	TREE-SPIRIT (UBAZAKURA) A cherry that blooms in a dead woman's stead on the day she died, having taken her life in exchange for a child's. Ubazakura
ONRYŌ (THREATENED) The vengeful ghost a condemned man promises to become — and, uniquely in this book, does not. Diplomacy	CURSED BELL / MUGEN-KANÉ An object rather than a being: a temple bell carrying a woman's shame, which grants a wish to whoever breaks it. Of a Mirror and a Bell
JIKININKI A gaki — hungry ghost — condemned to eat corpses, formerly a priest who performed the rites for payment without belief. Jikininki	NOPPERA-BŌ The faceless apparition. The word does not appear in Hearn's text; his title names the animal traditionally said to be wearing the disguise, which is never seen. Mujina
ROKURO-KUBI Yōkai whose heads detach at night and hunt, the body left behind and vulnerable. Rokuro-Kubi	UNFINISHED DEAD A ghost that returns nightly not to harm but because one task is undone; laid by completing it. A Dead Secret

YUKI-ONNA The Snow Woman. Kills by breath; spares by bargain; departs when the bargain is spoken of. Yuki-Onna	WILLOW-SPIRIT (AOYAGI) A woman who is a willow tree, and who dies at the instant, and at the distance, of its felling. The Story of Aoyagi
TREE-SUBSTITUTION A man dies by his own hand to give his life to a dying cherry, which blooms thereafter in the snow of the sixteenth day. Jiu-Roku-Zakura	ANT-KINGDOM A dreamed lifetime of rule which proves, on waking, to have been an ant colony beneath a tree. The Dream of Akinosuké
HŌRAI Not a creature but a place: the isles of the blessed, described and then declared a mirage. Hōrai	

From Kwaidan: Stories and Studies of Strange Things, Valice Classics 13. Free at valicepress.com/companion/kwaidan