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Yung Huo Jen: The Eternal Fires of the Sword

During the mid-16th century, a man known only as The Vagabond spent his life wandering Asia searching for physical and spiritual perfection. Over the span of his journeys he traveled from the northern islands of Japan to the Ural Mountains. The Vagabond eventually reached the highest of states, that of an Enlightened Immortal. Prior to this, however, his journeys took him through dangerous territory. In order to protect himself he developed a variety of martial arts in a quest to seek perfection. Yung Huo Jen is one of the arts he developed during the middle portion of his wanderings. Even with Yung Huo Jen's power and mystic abilities, The Vagabond was not content. After teaching the art to a few disciples who traveled with him for years, he abandoned the art and moved on to another. His disciples, however, formed a dojo secreted away in a valley of the Himalayas. To this day their descendants spread their knowledge to others who come to their dojo. Currently there are nearly five dozen practitioners of Yung Huo Jen in the valley, studying, perfecting, and seeking physical and spiritual balance. Another two dozen students wander the world in search of enlightenment.

Students who wish to learn Yung Huo Jen must journey to the only dojo in the world, deep in the Himalayan Mountains. Training is balanced between grueling physical instruction and equally taxing mental exercises. The final test involves musha-shugyo, a traditional period of wandering where the student seeks his position in the cosmos. Some students have wandered for decades before finding their place. Some precocious students have only had to wander for a few years while the most dismal students have never found their place and have died before the truth was revealed to them.

Important Note: Because Yung Huo Jen incorporates so many techniques and because training is so intense, Yung Huo Jen counts as two martial art forms (and is of course an Exclusive form), just like Ninjitsu and Thai Kick Boxing.

Entrance Requirements: M.E. of 10, P.P. of 11.

Skill Cost: 14 years. This does not include the period of musha-shugyo. The minimum period of wandering ever known was three years.

Costume: Anything outside of the dojo. Training is conducted in a hakama, a loose jacket, and china flats (the lightweight shoes worn by many kung fu practitioners).

Stance: Weight balanced on the balls of the feet, front foot at a 45 degree angle forward, back foot perpendicular. The forward hand is held out in a knife hand position while the rear hand is either on the sword hilt or holding the drawn sword.

Character Bonuses:

+3 to P.P.

+1 to P.S.

+1 to P.E.

+15 to S.D.C.

Combat Skills:

Attacks Per Melee: 4

Escape Moves: Roll with Impact, Backflip, Maintain Balance.

Attack Moves: Cartwheel, Handstand, Leap, Somersault.

Basic Defensive Moves: Dodge, Parry, Automatic Parry.

Advanced Defenses: Backflip, Combination Parry/Attack, Disarm.

Hand Attacks: Strike, Knife Hand.

Basic Foot Attacks: Kick Attack, Snap Kick, Tripping / Leg Hook, Drop Kick (can be used with a Leg Hook), Wheel Kick, Roundhouse Kick, Axe Kick.

Jumping Foot Attacks: Jump Kick, Flying Jump Kick, Flying Reverse Turning Kick.

Special Attacks: Forearm, Knee, Leap Attack.

Holds/Locks: None

Weapon Katas: W.P. Sword, at 2 levels higher than the character's current level (1st level martial artist would start with W.P. Sword at level 3).

Modifiers to Attacks: Pull Punch, Critical Strike, Critical Strike from behind.

Skills Included in Training

Martial Art Powers: Select three powers from either Martial Art Techniques or Chi Mastery abilities. In addition, the character automatically gets lai-Jutsu. If desired, any number of powers other than lai-Jutsu can be traded, one-for-one, for any basic skill program (excluding physical).

Languages: Chinese

Skills: W.P. Sword, Running, Gymnastics.

Philosophical Training: Taoist

Level Advancement Bonuses

1st +3 to roll with impact and pull strike, +2 to parry.

2nd +1D6 to damage with any type of sword, +2 to strike.

3rd Add one attack per melee, +1 to backflip and cartwheel.

4th +2 to leap, +1 to handstand, +1 to dodge.

5th Select one additional martial art power from Martial Art Techniques or Chi Mastery abilities, +1 to disarm.

6th Critical strike on a natural 18, 19, or 20, +1 to maintain balance.

7th Add one attack per melee, +1 to dodge.

8th +2 to strike, +2 to parry.

9th Death blow on a natural 20, +1 to maintain balance.

10th Add one attack per melee, +1 to leap.

11th Select one additional martial art power from Martial Art Techniques or Chi Mastery abilities, +1 to cartwheel.

12th +1D6 to damage with any type of sword, +2 to disarm.

13th Add one attack per melee, +1 to dodge.

14th +2 to strike and parry, +1 to handstand.

15th Select one additional martial art power from Martial Art Techniques or Chi Mastery abilities, +2 to pull strike.

Why Study Yung Huo Jen?

Yung Huo Jen is one of the ultimate sword martial arts. Combining deadly speed with amazing acrobatic skills, it is capable of taking down most human opponents in a matter of seconds. Its only possible weakness is against multiple attackers.