

## FLAWED LAMAS

In Brief- Everyone thinks they are wise and infallible, but they are actually petty and dangerous.

Some lamas think that their motives are purely compassionate. They don't understand that greed, pride and a hunger for power influences their actions. These lamas have learned to act like wise and compassionate teachers, and have fooled themselves and their students. When someone challenges their authority or power, these lamas see attachments and bad karma at work in their enemies. They use this as an excuse to punish, denigrate or banish their enemies, in the guise of teaching them a valuable lesson or protecting their other students. To someone who is not the target of the lamas, the decisions may seem reasonable. Yet if the PCs are seen as a challenge the lama's power, it will be quite obvious to the PCs that the lamas are vengeful and self-serving.

Just because a lama is flawed, does not mean that he or she hasn't made real advancements. Even a flawed lama can have powerful tantric skills, can have important things to teach students (and even PCs), and can do more good than harm to the communities. The lamas may be much more advanced than the PCs, but they have one attachment that, combined with their power and popular belief in their infallibility, can be very dangerous.



### Typical Flawed Lama

**Attributes-** AGY 7, AWR 16, CHM 13, END 10, INL 17, KMA 25, SPD 4, STH 6, WIL 18, BLD 3, BDY 2, INCY 3.

**Appearance-** An old male in monk's robes, with a white beard and an ornate hat with very long flaps.

**Motivations-** He has proceeded far on the path to enlightenment but has very dangerous attachments which he has not been able to notice. He is power-hungry and vengeful but he believes that he is beyond such petty motivations. He believes that everything he does, no matter how selfish, is a compassionate act.

**Methods-** The lama demands strict obedience from his followers, telling them that any deviation from his orders could result in disaster for their souls. The lama believes that he has a miraculous ability to read minds, but what the lama "reads" is whatever he wants to believe. If the lama doesn't like someone, he may "read" that they are trying to kill him (and have them banished). Any mistake the lama's enemies make is emphasized as proof of their unenlightenedness and any mistake the lama makes is quickly explained away as a compassionate act in disguise. The lama may inflict all manner of cruel punishments on people he doesn't like in the guise of "lessons."

**Special Skills-** Breath Yoga (3), Fire Yoga (1), Invisibility (2), Pure Vision (2), Sorcery Tantra (3), Subtle Self (3), Wind Voices (2), Yidam Tantra (1), Philosophy (4), Logic (3), Oration (3).

**Typical Attack-** Summoning a wrathful dharmapala and sending it to attack the enemy (at INL(18)+8+1d20 vs. 30 or 1d20 vs. 4).

## FALSE LAMAS

In Brief- Con-artists pretend to be learned teachers.

There are also a few lamas that knowingly and deliberately fake wisdom and advancement. They use base magic and sorcery to simulate the magic powers that are the sign of an advanced lama. Their teachings are the most simplistic of Buddhist truths that any Tibetan knows. Their tantric rituals are random mumbling and pointless visualizations with no real effect. These lamas fool their students in to thinking that they have achieved some portion of enlightenment when the students have really achieved nothing. If the fake lama knows some genuine tantric rituals they are even more dangerous. When they let their students practice tantric rituals before they are ready for them, the students are likely to go insane. Of course, a lama can always pass off an insane student as a "mad saint" (see p.183).