



UTUCHEKULU

"Fake your death and you will learn who really loves you."

The utuchekulu (oo-too-cheh-KOO-loo) are a unique race that traditionally dwelled underground but were driven to the surface many years ago due to a powerful volcanic eruption. Though still antisocial in many ways, the utuchekulu have attempted to adapt to surface life. The utuchekulu living in the eastern part of Nyambe-tanda have forged an alliance with the Empire of Mabwe, and the western utuchekulu have gained tribute from the volcano-dwelling Hutali.

Personality

Utuchekulu display the same gruff personalities that are often noted in dwarves. However, few have the stereotypical "heart of gold" underneath — they are gruff all the way through.

Physical Description

Utuchekulu appear as ebony-skinned humanoids with blood-red teeth. This tooth color is not natural; the utuchekulu actually dye their teeth with special berries collected from mountain vines. One tooth is especially long and grows into a sharp fang with which an utuchekulu can deliver an effective bite attack.

Both male and female utuchekulu wear white linen skirts that extend to the knees. While the males often go bare-chested, females usually wear a filmy linen blouse for purposes of modesty. Both male and female utuchekulu are capable of growing facial hair. Unlike their dwarven cousins, both genders often keep their head shaved and males keep their beard trimmed short while females shave it entirely. Their hair will grow thick and wild in a very short time if untended.

Headdresses are common, especially those made of white linen and adorned with gold or iron. Female utuchekulu are also fond of iron and gold jewelry. While some utuchekulu go barefoot, most wear heavy leather sandals.

Utuchekulu use fairly traditional weapons, mostly axes and hammers. They dislike shields, preferring to wield two-handed weapons whenever possible.

Relations

Utuchekulu are ancient enemies of the kitunusi. They have neutral relations with most other races and cultures, though no one actually trusts them.

Food

Utuchekulu eat a variety of subterranean mosses and lichens, some of which thrive on the sulfurous fumes of the volcanoes and smell like rotten eggs. Members of the other races find utuchekulu foods nearly indigestible.

Language

Kordo. For some reason no one can adequately explain, the utuchekulu dialect of the Kordo language bears some resemblance to the extinct language of Daka-dia.

Names

Male and female utuchekulu names are indistinguishable. A few common utuchekulu names are: Abes, Ameren, Aris, Ashuhri, Atum, Halike, Heoma, Ibiye, Imhotrematep, Imhottis, Itis, Jaho, Jaha, Kachi, Khnumsera, Kisimba, Kumulogo, Kwasor, Kwate, Mera, Mosis, Mubinna, Mudika, Tument, Turamteti, Ushachonis, Uzoma, Xenkhen, Zema, and Zwarbi.

Adventurers

Many utuchekulu have grown frustrated with attempts to retake their ancestral homes from the undead giants known as the rom. As a result, many have left to find a new place in the world.





UTUCHEKULU RACIAL TRAITS

Ability Modifiers: +2 Constitution, -2 Charisma.

Size: Medium.

Base Speed: 20 feet.

Darkvision (Ex): Utuchekulu can see in the dark up to 60 feet. Darkvision is black and white only, but it is otherwise like normal sight, and utuchekulu can function just fine with no light at all.

Bite Attack (Ex): Utuchekulu can bite with their single fang for 1d4 points of damage. An utuchekulu's bite attack is subject to all the usual rules covering natural weaponry.

Skill Bonus (Ex): +2 racial bonus on all Craft checks related to stone or metal.

Saving Throw Bonus (Ex): +2 racial bonus on all Fortitude saves.

Earth Sense (Ex): Utuchekulu have an innate connection to the earth, allowing them to sense vibrations and movements through the ground. They gain tremorsense with a range of 30 feet, enabling them to detect and pinpoint the location of creatures and objects in contact with the ground. This ability does not function if the utuchekulu is not in contact with the ground.

Volcanic Resilience (Ex): Utuchekulu have adapted to living near volcanic regions and have developed a natural resistance to heat and volcanic hazards. They gain a +2 racial bonus on saving throws against fire-based effects and environmental hazards related to volcanic activity, such as lava and toxic fumes. Additionally, they can move through difficult terrain caused by volcanic rock and ash without penalty.

Automatic Languages: Daka-Alif and Kordo.

Illiterate: Utuchekulu are illiterate by default. They must spend 2 skill points to gain the ability to read and write any language they are able to speak.

Bonus Languages: Daka-Kara, Kordo, Giant, Terran, and Undercommon.

Alignment: Utuchekulu tend to be quite lawful in alignment.

