

# TATSUMI

Along the lowland, nutrient-rich lakes and bubbling freshwater streams that branch throughout the Yokai Realms, the twin peoples of the tatsumi make their home. With a meticulously charted history that stretches across aeons, the tatsumi's ancestors are said to be the seed from which all dragons and dragon-folk sprang forth into the world. A hardy, bipedal, industrious folk, they are renowned for their colourful, moon-blessed scales and powerful builds.

## TWIN CHAPTERS

Whereas some races display obvious sexual dimorphism—females being larger, males being more colourful—what separates the two categories of tatsumi is experience. All tatsumi are born as nishikin, aquatic fish-folk with an appearance not dissimilar to the revered koi. After a moment of life-changing significance—for example, a great tragedy, achieving a lifelong goal, or a moment of epiphany—that tatsumi undergoes an overnight transformation. Much as a koi fish becomes a koi dragon when the former leaves

this world, a ryūjin emerges from this metamorphosis. A physically and physiologically different creature stands in the nishikin's place, with the features and magic of their draconic ancestors fully realised.

## HALF-REMEMBERED HISTORY

The difference between the two morphs of tatsumi is most poignant in matters of tradition and record-keeping. Nishikin keep detailed records of their own peoples, including ryūjin who live with them. However, of the ryūjin who leave, little is known.

Curious wanderers, ryūjin have no cities, libraries, palaces, or temples; those who leave tatsumi communities seek to forge their own destinies. A pair of ryūjin may travel together for a time, form a close connection, and raise a family of nishikin children, but they typically part ways once the young are old enough to set out on their own adventure. A servant to their whims and the hands of fate, the story of no two ryūjin is the same.





## TATSUMI TRAITS

As a tatsumi, you have the following traits:

**Ability Score Increase.** Your Dexterity, Constitution, and Wisdom scores each increase by 1.

**Age.** Tatsumi mature rapidly, reaching adulthood by the age of 14. They go on to live for about two centuries.

**Anatomy.** You have two arms, two legs, and a tail.

**Size.** You are Medium. Tatsumi stand between 5 and 7 feet tall.

**Speed.** Your walking speed is **30 feet**, and you have a swimming speed equal to your walking speed.

**Creature Type.** You are a Humanoid.

**Amphibious.** You can breathe in both air and water.

**Koi Dragon Colour.** Each tatsumi is born with its own unique colouration. In tatsumi folktales, one's primary colouration holds special significance. Your primary colouration also impacts your Slumbering Dragon trait as a nishikin, and your Heartening Breath and Innate Magic traits as a ryūjin, based on the table below.

### PRIMARY COLOURATION

Colour	Ability Score	Associated Class
Red	Strength	Sorcerer
Gold	Dexterity	Druid
Black	Constitution	Warlock
Silver	Intelligence	Wizard
White	Wisdom	Cleric
Blue	Charisma	Bard

**Subrace.** The two main morphs of tatsumi found in the Yokai Realms are nishikin and ryūjin. All ryūjin were once nishikin, so they are more like stages of development than true subraces. Choose one of these subraces.

**Languages.** You can speak, read, and write Common and Aquan.

## NISHIKIN

All nishikin possess a roiling heart of warmth and power within. Usually, this inner strength acts invisibly, a well of energy that drives a nishikin onwards with incredible longevity and vitality. In moments of great endeavour, however, the slumbering dragon awakens and briefly manifests as a tangible ally and guide. On rare occasions, nishikin who undergo transformative experiences of great euphoria or tragedy can even metamorphose into an actual dragon: a ryūjin. This transformation is not a certainty; many nishikin never metamorphose, but for those that do, it is accompanied by a change in perspective and mindset—an evolution of outlook as well as form.

**Restless Ambition.** The diligence of the nishikin is legendary, their history overflowing with tales of explorers, hunters, crafters, and teachers who dedicated their lives to their pursuits. Nishikin hurl themselves into new experiences, dangers, and passions with alarming fervour, rarely entertaining more than one pursuit at a time and focusing solely on its mastery before moving on. The life of a nishikin is often an exhausting one, an endless trail of passion and dedication. From birth until death, nishikin struggle to tolerate rest or relaxation for any length of time.





## RYŪJIN 龍人

Ryūjin are closely related to nishikin, having transformed from the aquatic fish-folk into a new, draconic form. Although such a metamorphosis is seen as transcendent and incredible by many outside races, ryūjin are not revered or elevated above their nishikin family in their own society; in instances where they live together, they live harmoniously.

**Body Altered, Mind Transformed.** The life of a ryūjin is often shaped by a search for new meanings, perspectives, and opportunity. For many, this means a path of joyful travel and exploration, but for others, it may mean the start of a family, or adopting a position of counsel among their nishikin kinsfolk. Ryūjin are widely noted as being significantly more relaxed than their nishikin counterparts, willing to pause and watch the world go by, unburdened by the nishikin's ceaseless pursuit of growth and change.





## NISHIKIN TRAITS

All nishikin have the following traits in common:

***Moonblessed.*** While bathed in moonlight, you can use a bonus action to spend a number of your Hit Dice equal to your proficiency bonus. Roll those dice and add your Constitution modifier; you regain hit points equal to the total. If this healing restores your hit points to maximum, any surplus healing is gained as temporary hit points. Once you use this trait, you can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

***Powerful Build.*** You count as one size larger when determining your carrying capacity and the weight you can push, drag, or lift.

***Slippery.*** You have **advantage** on ability checks and saving throws made to avoid or end the grappled condition on yourself.

***Slumbering Dragon.*** You can draw upon the bubbling energy you carry within to empower yourself. When you make an attack roll, ability check, or saving throw using the ability associated with your primary colouration, you can use your reaction to add **1d6** to the roll. You can use this reaction after rolling the d20, but must decide before the outcome is determined. You can use this trait a number of times equal to your proficiency bonus, and you regain all expended uses when you finish a short or long rest.

***Draconic Metamorphosis.*** When you reach 7th level, or when you undergo a significant moment of personal achievement or loss (at the GM's discretion), you can choose to metamorphose into a ryūjin. Your level, class, and other game statistics remain the same, aside from your subrace. You replace your subracial traits from this race with those of the ryūjin, and your ryūjin colour is the same as your nishikin primary colouration. This transformation is one-way and can't be reversed by any means short of a *wish* spell.

## RYŪJIN TRAITS

As a ryūjin, you have the following traits:

***Cloudstep.*** As a bonus action, you can conjure a small cloud under your feet. You gain a flying speed equal to half your walking speed for the next **10 minutes**. Once you use this trait, you can't do so again until you finish a long rest.

***Heartening Breath.*** You can use your action to exhale a warming, spiralling burst of magical energy in a **30-foot cone**. You and a number of creatures of your choice in that area up to your proficiency bonus can add **1d4** to attack rolls, as well as to ability checks and saving throws that use the ability associated with your primary colouration for **1 minute**, or until you lose concentration (as if concentrating on a spell). You can use this trait a number of times equal to your proficiency bonus, and you regain all expended uses when you finish a long rest.

***Innate Magic.*** You learn one cantrip of your choice from the spell list of the class associated with your primary colouration. Your spellcasting ability for this cantrip is the ability associated with your primary colouration.

***Sunblessed.*** While in sunlight, a warm, bubbling vitality thrums through you, giving you **advantage** on saving throws you make to avoid or end the frightened, paralysed, or stunned condition on yourself, or against being put to sleep.

