

= Yu Kanda =

Yu Kanda (Japanese : ????? , Hepburn : Kanda Y?) is a fictional character from the manga and anime series D.Gray @-@ man by Katsura Hoshino . He is an Exorcist from the Black Order group in charge of destroying enemies known as Akuma . For this , he uses an object referred to as " Innocence " . Kanda is devoted to the Black Order and their fight against a group of enemies known as the Noah Family . However , he is cold and antisocial toward his teammates , often choosing to engage in fights with the series ' protagonist , Allen Walker . Later in the series , it is revealed he is the result of an experiment from the Black Order that created his artificial body and merged it with the brain of a late Exorcist . Kanda was voiced by Takahiro Sakurai in the first anime series and by Takuya Sat? in the anime sequel D.Gray @-@ man Hallow in Japanese . He is voiced by Travis Willingham in English .

The character was created with the intention to bring a change to the series ' Western setting , with his design being based on samurais . Kanda has been popular with the series ' readers , often appearing in top ten lists of character polls and taking first place twice . His character development , dynamic with Allen and backstory have earned him praise . Merchandise based on him has also been released . On the other hand , publications for the manga and anime series have had mixed reactions due to his lack of social qualities .

= = Appearances = =

Yu Kanda first appears in D.Gray @-@ man as a quick @-@ tempered and cold Exorcist . He openly objects to the paternal way his master General Froi Tiedoll treats him , [ch . 135] and he and fellow Exorcist Allen Walker often throw insults and offensive statements at one another . [ch . 5] Kanda refuses to die until he finds a " certain person " . His anti @-@ Akuma weapon Mugen (?? , lit . " Six Illusions ") is an Equipment @-@ type Innocence that takes the form of a Japanese sword . [ch . 186] Mugen is capable of unleashing several techniques , dubbed " illusions " . [ch . 10] He uses these powers to fight the Akumas as well as the Noah Family . Once he joins his comrades in Edo , Kanda is trapped inside the Noah 's Ark alongside them . [ch . 86] There , he engages the Noah Skin Bolic to let his allies move to another room . Although Kanda defeats Skin , the room is destroyed after pushing Mugen to its limit . Later Allen manages to restore it by taking control of Ark 's piano , which grants his wish of recovering his allies . [ch . 97] Kanda later returns with them to the Black Order . [ch . 133]

It is later revealed that Kanda is a Second Exorcist : an artificial body possessing the brain of an Exorcist who died thirty years before the storyline . The Black Order had launched the Synthetic Disciple Project nine years before , hoping that Second Exorcists would be able to synchronize with their original Innocence . [ch . 186 , 187] In order for him to survive the synchronization tests , his body was created to heal much more quickly than that of an ordinary human . [ch . 190] This ability is connected to a variation of Om tattooed on the left side of his chest . [ch . 16] [ch . 12 @ , @ 198] Kanda was the second Second Exorcist to awaken . He was a friend of Alma Karma , the first Second Exorcist . [ch . 190] Alma learned the truth about Second Exorcists and killed the research staff . Hoping Kanda would die with him , Alma attacked Kanda but he was instead sliced to pieces by his friend . [ch . 193] Alma is afterward found to be alive as an Akuma , and tries to kill Kanda again in revenge . It is eventually revealed to Allen that Alma is the woman that Kanda had been looking for . [ch . 198] Kanda finds out after overhearing Alma discussing this with Allen . Allen helps him and Alma run away together , hoping the two would find peace . [ch . 199] Alma dies shortly after telling Kanda he loves him . [ch . 200]

Three months later , Kanda returns to the Order . [ch . 207] Kanda 's willingness to return and be an Exorcist causes Mugen to evolve into a Crystal @-@ type weapon . [ch . 208] However , he does not forgive the Order for what they have done to him and Alma ; he refuses to reveal the location of Alma 's body . Shortly afterwards , Kanda and a scientist named Johnny go on a mission to find the disappeared Allen ? who escaped the Order after being treated as a Noah ? in order to thank him for giving him and Alma their happiness , as well as self @-@ redemption for never caring

that Allen was turning into a Noah while going on missions with him . [ch . 210]

= = Creation and conception = =

The character of Yu Kanda was carried over from one unpublished title created by Katsura Hoshino . Hoshino designed Kanda to introduce a change to D.Gray @-@ man 's Western setting . Kanda 's design " came out very naturally " because she typically drew boys with Japanese swords in her amateur manga and she liked samurai " who are like young lions " such as Okita S?ji of the Shinsengumi special police forces . Kanda wears a long coat , and though Allen Walker wore a similar coat , she felt that the design better suited Kanda 's defensive personality and the long coat became Kanda 's " trademark " design . Additionally , she found Kanda difficult to illustrate due to his beauty . [vol . 2 : 24] Hoshino said that she took more care in drawing the highlights in Kanda 's hair than she did with Lenalee Lee , another character with long hair . She paid most attention to his hair and eyes especially , as she characterized Kanda as one who " speaks with his eyes " . She noted that Kanda 's early design featured large eyes because she had difficulty drawing finer eyes . Hoshino derived Kanda 's surname from mitoshiro (???) , a rice paddy of which its rice is offered to the gods , a meaning shared by kanda (??) . She also referred to Kanda as the " dumbest " protagonist in the series . [vol . 3 : 106]

Once Alma Karma 's story arc finished in the series , Hoshino was able to finish Kanda 's backstory which she had promised to the manga 's readers . It was originally very different and had too many inconsistencies . Kanda was given his feminine look because he was to be the reincarnation of the same woman he was looking for . When the series was moved to a monthly serialization rather than weekly , Hoshino had rewritten Kanda 's backstory . Once new prominent characters were introduced in the series , Hoshino felt it was possible to tell Kanda and Alma 's story .

Across the series , Kanda sees illusions of lotus flowers but Hoshino says this holds no particular meaning for him . The flowers were actually seen during Kanda 's previous life . For Kanda , seeing the lotus sinking in dirt would mean his death . The illusion is also noted the first time Kanda nearly kills Alma , and he began to think it was a curse . For the flashbacks , Kanda 's first meeting with his future comrade , Marie , was shortened . The original idea was for Kanda to see the corpses of all the people taking care of him . However , she thought this scene to be too horrific .

= = Reception and other media = =

Yu Kanda has been highly popular with the D.Gray @-@ man reader base , often ranking in top tens polls and taking first place twice . [vol . 7 : 117] [ch . 121] [ch . 171] Multiple types of merchandise based on Kanda 's character have been released such as cosplay costumes , his sword Mugen and wigs . Outside the main series , Kanda has made appearances in two video games for the Nintendo DS . He also appears in the crossover game Jump Ultimate Stars .

Kanda has received mixed reactions by publications for manga , anime and other media . UK Anime Network 's Kevin Leathers simply referred to him as " the resident emo . " Erkael from Manga News compared the character with several other anti @-@ heroes such as Vegeta from Dragon Ball , Sasuke Uchiha from Naruto based on their personalities . Sandra Scholes from Active Anime found Kanda and Allen to be " not the standard anime variety " , comparing them more with fantasy stories . Sheena McNeil from Sequential Tart said that while she found the character 's personality to be " cold " , she still found his design and his anti @-@ Akuma weapon appealing . Despite finding issues with the anime adaptation of the series , Anime News Network 's Casey Brienza commented " Fan favorites Kamui and Kanda in particular are sketched out strongly , with their dominant traits facing forward " . Animation Insider 's Kimberly Morales enjoyed the contrast between Kanda and Allen due to their different personalities . John Rose from The Fandom Post liked Kanda and Allen 's team up , considering it to be the greatest strength of the manga 's second volume .

Since his appearance in the manga 's second volume , Kanda has made minor appearances in the series . His return in the tenth volume was praised by Erkael , as well as his battle against the Noah Skin Bolic . In a later volume review , the same site 's writer expressed surprise at how dark Kanda

's past was , noting the impact in which it had on the character . Chris Beveridge , a reviewer from the Fandom Post , also enjoyed the flashbacks that detailed Kanda 's past due to the impact it could make on future volumes as well as his dynamic with Allen . Leroy Douresseaux from Comic Book Bin enjoyed the fight between Kanda and Alma , but instead preferred the situation Allen was put into and said that he wanted to see more of that . Similar to Beveridge , Douresseaux expected to see more of Kanda 's dynamic with the characters when the former and Johnny went in search for Allen . Morales criticized Kanda 's English voice actor Travis Willingham as " his portrayal of the cold and mysterious Kanda makes the young man sound more like a bodybuilder than a lithe swordsman " . In the second D.Gray @-@ man anime , D.Gray @-@ man Hallow , Takahiro Sakurai was replaced by Takuya Sat? ' ; Anne Lauenroth had mixed feelings about the change of Kanda 's new voice actor .