

PROJECT FUTURE

NOW, I THINK IT'S TIME WE TOOK A SHORT BREAK FOR A LITTLE DEMONOLOGY.

MOST PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD ARE KNOWN AS 'BEINGS'. THESE ARE THE ORDINARY, MORTAL FOLK. THEY HAVE LIMITED MAGICAL ABILITY AND LARGELY RELY ON TECHNOLOGY OR ENCHANTED ARTIFACTS, THOUGH THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BEING MAGES.

RACES WITH INNATE MAGICAL TALENT ARE KNOWN AS 'CREATURES', AND WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THESE NEXT.



REN GAULEN (C) HIS OWNER

FIRST UP, WE HAVE ANGELS. THEY ARE HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, QUICK-WITTED AND EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD AT LIGHT MAGIC. THEY ALSO HAVE A TYPICAL LIFESPAN OF AROUND 1500 YEARS INTO THE BARGAIN. ANGELS NORMALLY HAVE LIGHT-COLOURED FEATHERY WINGS.

DESPITE THEIR NAME, ANGELS ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOOD - ALTHOUGH THEY MAY OFTEN APPEAR SO IF IT WILL HELP TO FURTHER THEIR PLANS.

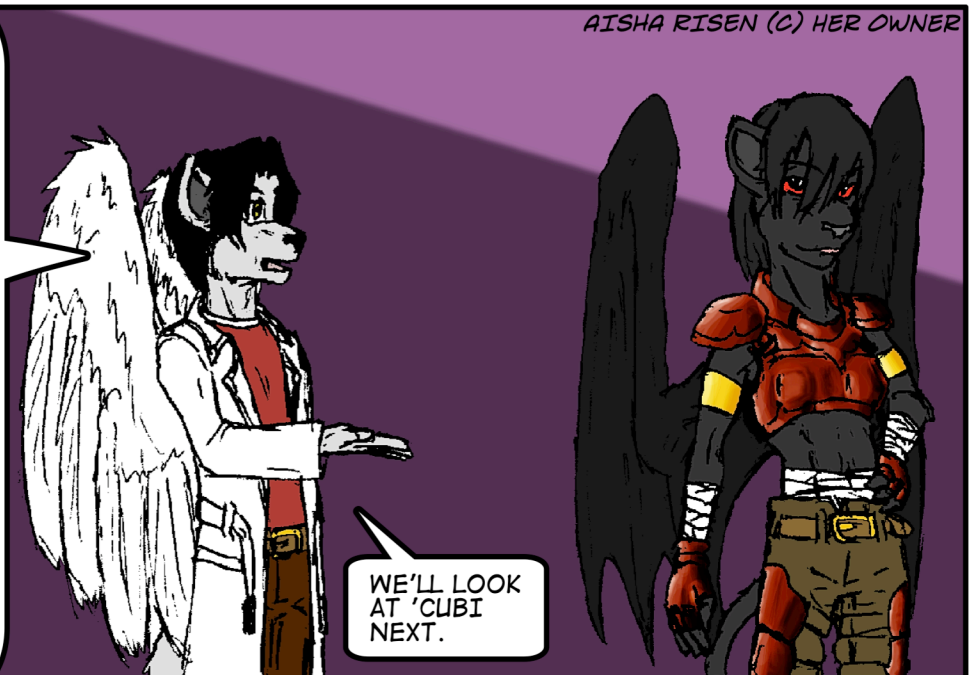


JAMES STARRUNNER
(C) HIS OWNER

WHERE ANGELS USE CUNNING AND INTELLECT, DEMONS GENERALLY USE BRUTE FORCE. THEY HAVE FAST REFLEXES, GREAT STRENGTH, ALMOST UNLIMITED STAMINA AND AN EXTENSIVE COMMAND OF DARK MAGIC.

AS WITH ANGELS, THEY HAVE A LIFESPAN OF AROUND 1500 YEARS, THOUGH THIS CAN BE EXTENDED BY VARIOUS MEANS.

DEMONS OFTEN HAVE DARK, LEATHERY WINGS - THOUGH THIS IS NOT A GIVEN - AND MAY SPORT HORNS AS WELL. DESPITE THEIR REPUTATION AMONGST BEINGS, DEMONS ARE NOT INHERENTLY EVIL, THOUGH THIS ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL.



AISHA RISEN (C) HER OWNER

WE'LL LOOK AT 'CUBI NEXT.

WHILE THERE ARE OTHER RACES, 'CUBI ARE ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING, AND NOTORIOUS.

THEY HAVE EITHER LIGHT OR DARK WINGS, WHICH CAN BE FEATHERED OR LEATHERY. UNIQUELY AMONG CREATURES, THEY SPORT A SMALL PAIR OF WINGS ON THEIR HEADS WHICH APPEAR AT AROUND 25 YEARS OF AGE.

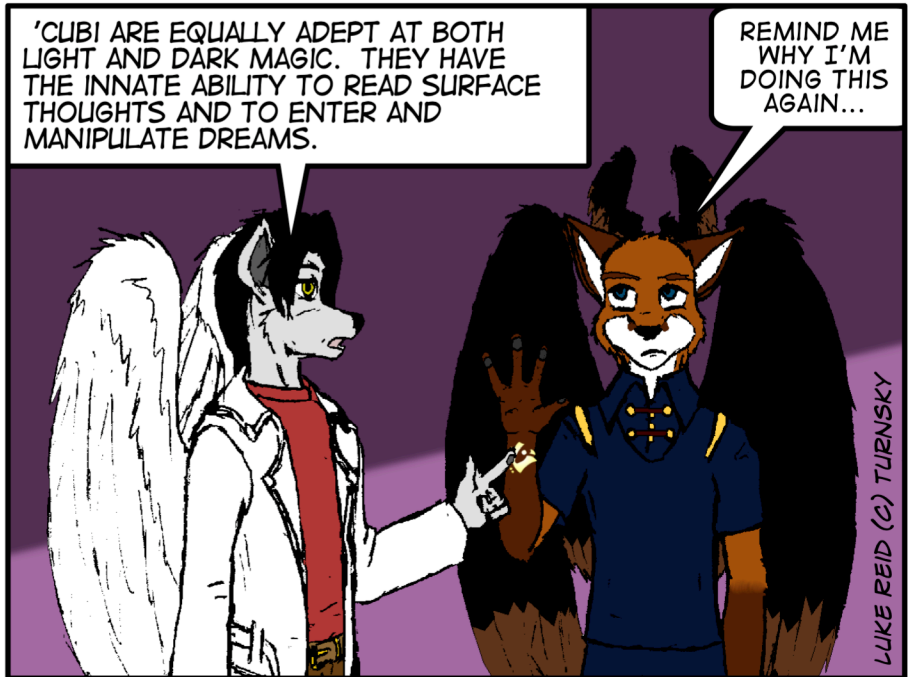
RUMOUR HAS IT THAT GIVEN ENOUGH ENERGY THEY CAN GET A THIRD SET OF WINGS, AN EXTREMELY RARE EVENT WHICH CONFERS ALMOST GODLIKE POWERS UPON THE INCUBUS OR SUCCLIBUS CONCERNED.

'CUBI ARE NATURAL SHAPESHIFTERS AND CAN CREATE TENTACLES WHICH STRETCH OUT OF THEIR WINGS LIKE EXTRA LIMBS. THESE CAN BE MORPHED INTO SHARP EDGES AND USED AS WEAPONS.



'CUBI ARE EQUALLY ADEPT AT BOTH LIGHT AND DARK MAGIC. THEY HAVE THE INNATE ABILITY TO READ SURFACE THOUGHTS AND TO ENTER AND MANIPULATE DREAMS.

REMIND ME WHY I'M DOING THIS AGAIN...



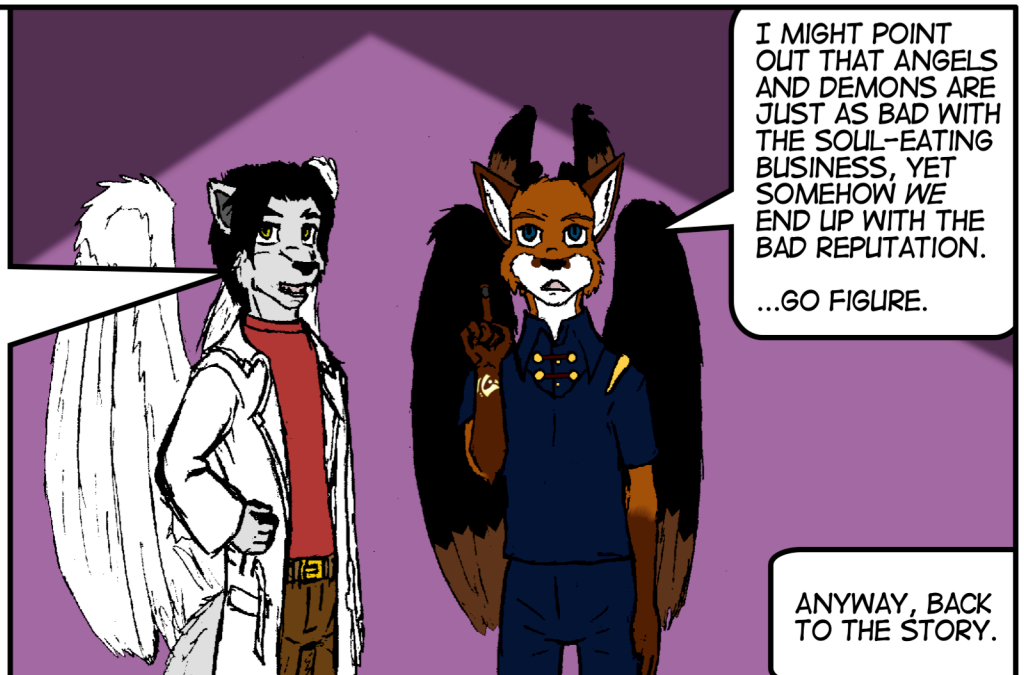
LUKE REID (C) TURNISKY

'CUBI ALSO HAVE A MARK SOMEWHERE ON THEIR BODY, THE SYMBOL OF THE CLAN THEY WERE BORN INTO. THIS IS THE ONE THING THEY CANNOT CONCEAL BY SHAPESHIFTING.

ONE OF THE MORE STRIKING THINGS ABOUT 'CUBI IS THAT THEY DO NOT NEED TO EAT OR SLEEP, BEING ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES ON THE EMOTIONS OF OTHERS. EACH CLAN AND INDIVIDUAL HAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT 'TASTES', SUCH AS ANGER, FEAR, PAIN, JOY AND SO FORTH.

'CUBI ARE INFAMOUS FOR USING THEIR SHAPESHIFTING AND EMPATHIC ABILITIES TO SEDUCE RANDOM BEINGS, SOMETIMES TO DEVOUR THEIR SOULS. SOUL ENERGY WILL GREATLY INCREASE THE 'CUBI'S POWER AND EXTENDS THEIR ALREADY-GENEROUS LIFESPAN OF 3000 YEARS.

NOT ALL 'CUBI ARE WILLING TO DO THIS, OF COURSE.



I MIGHT POINT OUT THAT ANGELS AND DEMONS ARE JUST AS BAD WITH THE SOUL-EATING BUSINESS, YET SOMEHOW WE END UP WITH THE BAD REPUTATION.

...GO FIGURE.

ANYWAY, BACK TO THE STORY.

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WELCOME TO THE REVISED OXFORD ENGLISH DEMONOLOGY.

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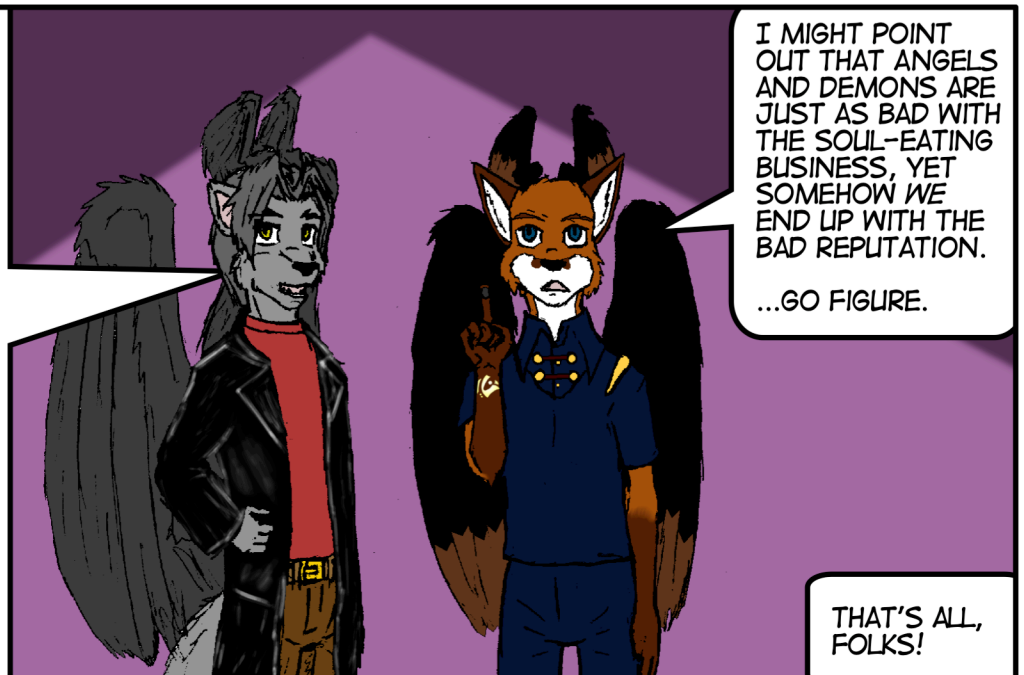


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THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!