

YOGL

[*Scientific name, to be decided*]



▶ Description: A hairless species. Long-bodied with four stout limbs. Bipedal movement is preferred, however quadrupedal also occurs. Lower body is wider than upper body to allow for easier bipedal locomotion. Short limbs allow the yogl to 'concave' its torso to bound on all four limbs. Yogl under threat bound to escape predators instead of sprinting. Ears have a rich network of blood vessels to allow for cooling. Develops darker patches of skin in areas resistant to exposure.

▶ Length / height: 6in – 1ft 6in during adolescence, 3-4ft in maturity

▶ Type: Mammal

▶ Differences between sexes:

♂ Faster and better-endurance runners, more sensitive hearing for distant sounds, more physically flexible.

♀ Shorter, wider hips, breasts, more sensitive hearing for closer sounds, better-adapted for climbing.

▶ Gestation period: 18 weeks (a little over 4 months)

▶ Life expectancy: Roughly 80 to 112 years depending on physical care

▶ Native Planet: Machii (Mah-Chee)

The yogl are a highly intelligent species evolved from a prey animal, and form only one of the many species cast for *Infinity Quest*. They are natives of the planet Machii, and are a Super-Luminal Capable space-faring people. Their nervous yet communal nature makes them eager and cooperative problem-solvers and this has helped them to survive throughout the millennia.



Infanthood

Yogl are born with their eyes open and with a small set of eight pseudo-teeth (which are a precursor to the primary teeth commonly recognised in humans as 'milk' teeth). Their

initial diet is milk. They breastfeed for 4 to 8 months and during this time are slowly weaned onto regular foods.

Despite their meek and timid nature, yogl are intrinsically gifted with self-sufficiency, to the point that if breastfeeding does not occur, a yogl youngling will develop its teeth more quickly and will start to seek solid food for itself, usually by eating dirt or foliage. However, neglecting an infant in this way is seen as parentally and socially irresponsible, and may well be labelled by other yogl as selfish.

Usually, yogl will only have one youngling per pregnancy, with twins being very rare and usually resulting in one being smaller than the other. Their suffixes are usually chosen very soon after birth; yogl infants tend to exhibit certain predispositions in their behaviour that are observable in later life, even from this age. For example, younglings who were not breastfed and weaned themselves onto solid food at an earlier age than average are usually more stubborn.

Toddlerhood

Within 12 weeks baby yogl begin to learn how to walk, and shed their pseudo teeth and grow in their milk teeth. These are usually fully grown-in by the time the baby is 8 months old.

Early Childhood

Yogl younglings are considered young children from the age of 9 months, and they move onto older childhood at 6 years. They begin schooling at the age of 4, and are considered to have suitably imprinted on, and learned enough from, their parents by this stage.

Young yogl will usually form a very strong bond with others during the first 3 years of their lives, and the loss of these relationships invariably have long-lasting emotional effects, even years later. During early childhood, the youngling's curiosity and tendency towards self-discovery are at their most intense, and their intrinsic tendencies towards this, plus the extent to which they are encouraged or discouraged, will usually dictate the individual's level of assertiveness for the remainder of their lives.

Yogl of this age tend to imitate others around them as an early form of socialisation. Play is also heavily encouraged during this time to help cement their developing social skills and to give them a chance to exercise.

Older Childhood and Adolescence

By this point, most yogl have a strong sense of self and a well-formed sense of identity. They are fully mentally developed and naturally inclined to learn new information. This is when they will enter what is commonly referred to as the Academia Stage.

This is a stage in which younglings are inclined to assimilate new information the most effectively, and the stage lasts from the ages of around 6-7 years up to 20. During this time they attend schooling, as well as making early forays into the workforce or after-school activities.

In addition to their academic learning, yogl younglings are also particularly keen to develop their social skills, and youngsters of this age are known for seeking out a lot of social interaction. Most of an individual's longest-lasting relationships are acquired during this stage. However it is not uncommon for deep bonds to form later, given the yogls' social nature.

Adulthood

Yogl reach physical maturity during their 20s, with their body's final development towards adulthood only occurring after their mental development has reached its peak. This is when the individual is at its strongest and fastest, and usually when most yogl will begin in earnest to focus their efforts on entering their desired career or field of expertise.

They reach full sexual maturity at this point, although the desire to find a partner can develop as early as 16 years. Their desire to mate forms long after the yogl has developed its social bonds, and the result of this is that yogl will almost invariably only pick one partner for life, and they imprint heavily on that partner. The sudden loss of a partner can have drastic negative effects on the individual's psyche and hormone profile, and in extreme cases this can significantly affect the yogl's health and drives.

Prime adulthood lasts from age 20 all the way up into the early 60s and is referred to colloquially as 'maturity', 'The Career Stage', 'The Passion Years', or 'The Years of Principle'. Yogl of this stage are the most likely to stand and fight when danger is inescapable, particularly when a threat occurs to their closely-knit social bonds.

Middle Age and Old Age

When a yogl passes approximately 60 years of age their mental elasticity begins to diminish. Yogl culturally consider this life stage to be marked with wisdom and benevolence.

It is not uncommon for yogl of this age to seek out jobs as teachers, mentors, advisors, or guides to their younger successors, or to find slower-paced work where they can make best use of their skills before they retire.

Overall, yogl like tropical temperatures of 80 - 90°F with large fields to admire and good land to farm. In addition to this, a level of tactical defensibility is ideal for them due to their nervous nature.

Geographical Distribution

The yogl's native planet of Machii was already several billion years older than Earth at the time the yogl evolved to the degree of sentience. Nutrients in the soil were much more scarce than they had once been, which resulted in patches of dead or sparse vegetation and large areas of desert.

Oases exist on and around Machii's equator in which the ground is more fertile than the global average. Although their sizes vary, they are usually the size of a small city (although they can be patchy). The yogl evolved within one of these oases. However, as they grew in number it became clear to them that they would need to either remain in the oasis and effectively passively cull their numbers by dying as the remaining resources failed to adequately provide for the whole population, or explore beyond their oasis in search of other, habitable areas.

The yogl began to disagree between themselves about the best way to manage this situation and eventually sent a large band of settlers, comprised of the portion of the population who felt that exploring beyond the oasis was the best thing to do, to find a viable place to live beyond. The settlers found a piece of desert ground to the north-west. The space was not ideal, however over time the settlers succeeded in establishing a stable, flourishing city.

By the time the desert city had been settled it had become apparent to the yogl that lush green areas were at a premium, and they considered such areas exceptionally beautiful. They sought more. As their history progressed and they developed the capability for space travel, they continued to keep an eager eye out for lush areas of land on which to live within the System of Nog.

Areas Avoided

Crags, Caves and Dens

Areas that provide abundant living or hiding places for predatory animals are usually avoided, however an individual yogl may still choose to live in such a space given other, more favourable features of the location.

Coastal Areas

Coastal yogl cities are not particularly uncommon, but the prevailing yogl philosophy is to remain close together and instead use coastal areas solely as the locations of water conversion plants.

Cold Areas

Yogl are adapted to self-cool so usually avoid areas prone to severe cold. Their pragmatic and cautious nature leads them to only develop settlements where they expect to remain in the long term, so they do not settle in areas where they expect there to be periods of sustained cold.



Position in Ecosystem



The yogl are a prey species so as such have a naturally low place in the hierarchy of their native ecosystem. However they are also intelligent and given to cooperation, whether that is with other yogl or with other species. As a result, they are effective in mitigating hazards.

Dominant Species

Yahmii (Ya-Mee)

Machii is home to two dominant sentient species: the yogl and the yahmii. The yahmii are a close relative of the yogl, with the two having branched off from one another during the proto-yogl stage of evolution. The yahmii evolved to be more carnivorous, as opposed to the yogl themselves, who remained herbivorous. As a result the yahmii are much more curious and daring than the yogl.

The yahmii differ physically from their evolutionary cousins: they possess fur, more triangular heads, smaller eyes, favour subterranean dwellings, and are considerably less intellectual and nervous than the yogl.

Predators

As the proto-yogl were one of the larger prey animals in the ecosystem, they were sought-after prey to most of the predators on Machii. However, due to the low biodiversity during this stage of Machii's history most animal species either interbred to converge into fewer species or went extinct, leaving a small number of consistent threats in the yogl's early history:

Ya-Tzwehii (Ya Tsah-Weh Ee)

A canine-like creature partially covered with scales, which typically stands at around the same height as a terrestrial hyena. The Ya-Tzwehii have been the most consistent predators of the yogl due to their rugged biology that allows them to survive both in and out of the equatorial oases.

Their name derives of the yogl suffixes “Ya” meaning “strong” and “without worry or fear” and “ii” meaning “of Machii”. “Weh” is the yogl vocalisation of terror, and the base word “Tz” is their catch-all term for a canine-type creature. By contrast, the yogl term for domesticated breeds of smaller canine would be Et-Tz: “Et” the suffix for “small/cute” and “Tz” canine.

li-Gung-ya (Ee GoonG Ya)

The li-Gung-ya are similar to a hybrid of a large boar and rhinoceros, and highly territorial. Larger and more powerful than the Ya-Tzwehii, the li-Gung-ya are considerably less of a threat to the yogl due to their different survival needs. As a result the yogl only consider them a threat when they encounter them at random while passing through li-Gung-ya territory.

Q’Eqchii Nok Nok (Keh-ek chee noke noke)

The Q’Eqchii Nok Nok is the only flying predator on Machii. It stands at 9ft tall and is not dissimilar to the pterodactyls of Earth. Q’Eqchii Nok Nok have thin, hollow bones. Despite their capability as predators they also primarily eat plant matter and scavenge. They are mostly common within the inland areas of the major continent of Machii.

Q’Eqchii Nok Nok prefer to move in flocks, and when yogl travelled alone or in small groups in the past, they tended to harass or attack the yogl. In modern times the threat of the Q’Eqchii Nok Nok has been significantly diminished as advances in technology allow the yogl to defend themselves.

Weh’Molzdai Yg-Ene (Weh Mol zche die Yi gee nay)

By far the yogl’s most feared predator, its name translates to “Fear! They take/drag away”. The Weh’Molzdai Yg-Ene are 9 – 13ft long serpents that favour a stealth and ambush hunting style and kill by constriction.

Weh’Molzdai Yg-Ene were extremely abundant in the desert lands the yogl ventured into when they first left the oases, and presented a formidable early hazard to those early travellers. In modern times the yogl have culled them effectively enough to considerably reduce their numbers, and their expansion as a species has caused the remaining Weh’Molzdai Yg-Ene population to retreat further east.

Prey

The yogl's diet is almost entirely plant-based. The only meat that yogl will consume are molluscs, with gastropods being taken the most often. They will also eat crustaceans similar to krill or small fish in limited amounts.

Ideally the krill-like species of Machii are treated and prepared in a thick broth over the course of several days to bloat and soften them. This is to dilute the irons, vitamins, and dense quantities of protein in the meat.

Plants

Despite Machii's advanced age and the poor nutritional content of its soil, it maintains an encouraging level of biodiversity.

All of the current biodiversity there is native. The yogl have considered bio-replicating some plants but ultimately decided against it to avoid over-burdening Machii. The abundance of distinct species of flora is greatest in the sustainable regions along the equator, where most of its flowering species, tall grasses, fruiting mushrooms (ranging from 2 – 3.5ft), and tall thin trees (referred to as 'fasting trees', given their spindly quality and sparse leaves, which lessens their nutritional requirements), mosses, and ferns occur.

Beyond the equator, most of the grasses routinely wilt to straw and are evolved to lay along the ground to maximise the amount of soil they can draw nutrition from. Flowers are rare outside of the oases, however mushrooms are more abundant there, where the ground is considerably moister than the majority of the rest of the planet. There are also mushrooms that thrive in arid or semi-arid areas, including but not limited to the Desert Shaggy Mane Mushroom. Trees are capable of surviving but are rare, and it is very rare to see one that produces fruit.

Ocean Life

The oceans of Machii have a very harsh, high salt content as a result of the ageing of the planet. As such, there is considerably less biodiversity in the oceans of Machii than

on Earth. Fossil records show that the opposite was true during Machii's earlier history. Most of the current ocean life falls into only five Phyla: Mollusc, Crustacean, Chordata, Ochrophyta, and Echinodermata.

The shores are populated by a very oily and soft species of small fish called pihhb'uae nang by the yogl, as well as many types of small molluscs. (Pib (breathe a soft H at the end almost like you're saying Pib huh instead of pib) Oo-Ay Nahng (emphasis at the Oo-Ay)). Larger species occur in the deeper waters in low-density pockets of salt water or in freshwater lakes and rivers inland.

The largest oceanic species prefer the Arctic regions and are generally slow-moving and docile creatures that conserve their energy by filter-feeding smaller prey.

Urchins

Among the more abundant species on Machii is a species of sea urchins, fossils of which can be traced back to pre-yogl times. Urchin fossils can be found on some Machii beaches and boast a variety of different shapes, with some being more ornate than others.

The yogl often keep these fossils as heirlooms or to decorate their homes, and some enjoy combing the beaches for older and more ornate ones when they get the opportunity. Decorating one's home in this way is so common that almost every home, flat, or other living space has little back-lit nodules specifically for the placement of these treasures. To many yogl, a home is incomplete without the family's heirlooms in place.

Major Viruses, Bacteria, and Other Pathogens

The early challenges that yogl as a species faced forced them to make major leaps in their medical fields, thereby eradicating most pathogens. Furthermore, their partnership with the United Cultural Acceptance Species Commonwealth (UCASC) allows them even better access to medical technology. At present the only major ailments to yogl are influenza, heat-related illnesses, and the occasional instance of an allergic reaction on the rare occasion that such is not detected by screening.

Cultivation and Farming

Despite the fact that Machii itself is reaching the end of its capacity to support life and has very little thriving plant life in particular, the yogl still hold their natural world in high regard. They design their major cities (which are located exclusively in the northernmost continent) with internal gardens and roof-based parks lined with either “reclaimed soil” or soil imported from off-world to compensate for the nutritional deficiency of Machii.

Almost the entirety of the yogl population is concentrated in the northern continent and the straight bridging the northern and southern continents, with most of the cities built within a mineral and ore rich zone near their western seaboard. In order to keep from over-burdening their cities, farms are built a distance away from the city areas on areas of land that are bid on by aspiring botanists and cultivators who keep ongoing contact with the Transit-Safety Towers and Civil Services in case of emergencies.

Soil, nutrients, sustainable plant life, and other such agricultural supplies are Machii’s main major imports and accounts for a majority of their off-world spending. Despite the limited amount of viable ground for growing produce, farming is one of the most respected professions on the planet outside of office-type work, with farmers having similar status to B-list celebrities among the general population.

History

Yogl history is mainly characterised by the overcoming of increasingly higher odds in response to circumstances beyond their control. They have almost invariably been dealt a bad hand which has forced them to develop faster and faster to meet the demands of their new circumstances.

Their keen intelligence came as a result of being prey animals that needed to be able to avoid predators, and prompted them to develop their skill towards strategy at the expense of ferocity. The shortage and threat of exhaustion of materials in their environment forced them to spread outside of their ideal habitat. The difficulties they faced in suboptimal environments, along with the constant threat of various dangers, impressed on them the importance of cooperation and social cohesion to the point that it has become their cultural norm.

The pressures on the yogl as a species didn't end there. Their early forays into the sciences and astrology revealed that their home star was becoming dormant, which left them with little choice but to research and implement ways to reverse this process and develop into space.

Despite their timid nature, the yogl continue to endure and build forward together. Their cautious nature and emphasis on overcoming problems with thought prompted them to maintain their written history and knowledge all the way back to their early history, and all traditions are at least common knowledge (even those that are not viewed with the greatest importance).

Major Settlements

Oo-GhOu-oo (Oo-G (click at the front of the mouth)-oo)

The heartland for rural/indigenous yogl and the birthplace of their species, this settlement is located on the single straight of land connecting the north and south continents of Machii, and falls along the equator. It is in fact a collection of many smaller settlements within easy travelling distance of each other, with an unofficially recognised capital named KION dh-ii (Kluh (click at the front of the mouth)-N duh- EE).

Oo-GhOu-oo stands on the largest expanse of fertile ground on Machii and is mostly technologically un-advanced. While Oo-GhOu-oo maintains open communication with the more urban settlements of Machii, its population is generally hesitant to venture beyond their territory, and tend to only reluctantly allow trade of machine goods in fear of upsetting the balance of the land and their harmonious co-existence with it. In spite of this, they welcome their more urban cousins at certain times of the year and trade with them for natural goods.

Maechoi (May-choy)

The first, and largest, city on Machii, founded by the original nomads from Oo-GhOu-oo. Maechoi is the capital of choice for the more industrial and urban-minded yogl. It is built on a dense pocket of natural metals and minerals and was originally chosen as a location based on its building potential rather than on its largely poor ground.

Maechoi is considered to be the birthplace of the sciences, as the abundance of materials allowed for the first industrial boom in the yogl. With the help of trade and exchange with their former home, and the efforts of the yahmii in their group to work the land, Maechoi eventually grew large enough to comfortably support a much larger population. Efforts to re-cultivate the ground have since allowed Maechoi to grow to a population of 32.15 million, and to a size roughly similar to that of the state of Texas.

O'Nong Pamu ((click at the front of the mouth)- Knee-ong Pah moo)

A smaller settlement farther inland than Maechoi which connects to the bulk of the yogl farmlands.

The opening click is meant to denote the more rural focus of the city (which it has, despite being one of their newest cities in the northern continent). The majority of the outer areas of the city are devoted to transit and shipping to and from the private farmlands, lacking the large number of colleges and office spaces that dominate Maechoi.

li-Gkoua (Eh Goo-kuwa)

Meaning "Ground of the Harbour", li-Gkoua is the most developed area along the west coast of the northern continent.

li-Gkoua oversees much of the fishing, soil and water reclamation, and industry of the peoples of Machii. It also supports the largest centres of manufacturing, canning, and power production of all the yogl cities, and maintains many of the solar boilers scattered along the rest of the continent. The head office for the Office of Agricultural Viability is also located here.



Yogl culture is mostly homogenous with the biggest differences occurring between the lifestyles of the rural and urban communities. While differing income levels can occur, the yogl base so much of their culture on community and maintaining the stability of their various supply chains that subcultures are generally unlikely to develop.

Food

The yogl, with their history of facing famine and scarcity, demonstrate a strong preference for non-perishable foods. Traditional and modern food preparation techniques offer a variety of different solutions on this front, with dried foods such as pemmican, dried fruit mixes, nuts and seeds, and dried and salted fish being popular staples. Canned foods are also popular among the more urban yogl populations.

For more information about this see Canned vs. Fresh Foods under Economy.

However, although yogl will eat meat, they have natural aversion to animal products. They consider eggs to be repulsive due to them being discharged as unwanted from the egg-layer's body, and they feel similarly unappetised by milk, so were never likely to develop a process for making cheese. This latter aversion is also due to a severe lactose intolerance in yogl who are old enough to have been weaned.

In addition, the yogl consider the consumption of such products very odd, to the point of it appearing to them to be some kind of bestial fetish, given that eggs and milk are related to the reproductive cycles of animals. This means that beyond them not liking to consume these things themselves, they usually become very uncomfortable to see them being eaten by others. This mindset is not limited just to the yogl: many species within the UCASC think along these lines. These species generally feel uncomfortable eating with humans for this reason.

Nutrition

The yogl draw most of their energy from high-mineral content foods as opposed to crude proteins, and as a result, traditional rural dishes are exceptionally dense in minerals. It is not at all uncommon for enriched soil to be used as an ingredient.

Supplements

Yogl also eat plant-based oils to help boost the nutrient content of their diet, however they are well-attuned to their natural habitat so are surprisingly well nourished on the relatively unprocessed foods they routinely consume. Yogl who spend a lot of time off-world are more likely to take supplements, and tend to prefer these over indulging in the food offerings of the greater pan-galactic community.

Common Foods

By far the most favourite food of the yogl is a canned black bread made from a strong but sweet nectar from their Nimii trees (a tree with a large root base). This is considered both a treat, and is a staple in every household.

In addition to this, root soups, mushroom loaves, and wet grain meals similar to porridge are common bases for meals. Fruits and vegetables are added as appropriate to the particular dish. As much as the yogl like a sweet treat, they also enjoy very intense bitter and earthy flavours.

Common Drinks

The most common drink on Machii is Nimii tea. The yogl have sodas and soft drinks too, however they consider these 'non-formal' drinks and almost invariably serve Nimii tea - a 'formal' drink - with them. Non-formal drinks are only a little less popular than Nimii tea, with water also being a common choice.

The most common non-formal beverage is made by soaking a particular type of dried seedling until it becomes a meal before slowly boiling it into a broth. This creates a finished product similar in flavour to bubble tea.

Mind-Altering Substances as Food (i.e., alcohol and caffeine equivalents)

Being a prey species, yogl are generally disinclined to use mind-altering substances as these would be a hindrance to their survival. With that said, the yogl have a history of

brewing alcohol, however the historical origins and cultural significance of this are largely different from that of humans.

The earliest records of the yogls' consumption of alcohol come from the earliest rural settlements, where it was drunk by their field workers after long sessions of hard work. It was served as a tea intended to rehydrate and re energize the yogl to keep them alert for the night.

The tea was prepared in a variety of different ways to do this, including with spices such as Nimii root or peppers, while others contained high quantities of sugary sap. The tea was usually left unattended for long periods as the yogl worked, in large drums or gourds, and the last people to finish working would get the tea that had sat out for the longest, and begun to ferment. The resulting added kick and bite to the drink was considered to be better at reinvigorating the yogl and became symbolic of a hard day's work.

The drink continued to evolve when the nomads left to settle in the new locations that would become the city areas. They continued to brew the drink, distilling and fermenting other ingredients as they travelled. This included mushrooms, straw grasses, and even Nimii.

In the current day, yogl usually reserve consumption of the drink for occasions when they consider the amount of work they have completed to be of great importance or otherwise worthy of reward. Their most popular alcohol, Bohghi Kē (Baung-hee kooh), takes a similar significance and cultural position to that of coffee. The alcohol itself helps them to relax while certain elements of the tea itself produce natural energies which give them short-term swings of energy.

It should however be noted that if given large amounts of caffeine, yogl feel overwhelmed and quickly develop manic tendencies, becoming hyper before crashing out. It is possible for them to get the same effect from drinking too much Bohghi Kē, but proper steamboat captaincy is uncommon. Drinking too much usually signifies a high level of anxiety or a sense of a lot of work having been done for nothing (or of going out of business).

Bohghi Kē is usually colloquially referred to as the Companion Drink, or the Working Drink due to this and its historical origins.

Incense

Aside from this, yogl like to use incense as it doesn't carry with it the expectation of work beforehand and is generally relaxing to them.

Dining Habits

While the yogl are very dexterous and can easily eat with their long-fingered claws, they find this to be very rude. The implements they routinely use include a small, hard, wooden or plastic, triangular spork and knife.

They also like to use finger baths whenever they can before eating, and only neglect to do this when they eat on the go. Overall, they prefer to avoid eating like this when they can and will sit down to eat whenever possible. Finger baths are used in all types of eating establishments and are symbolic in nature. The symbolism revolves around a gesture of washing off of the impurities from the day's work and of truly appreciating the honour of the food prepared for them, and the person who made it.

Class Divide

There is no discernable class divide in the diets of the yogl.

Art

The yogl has a long tradition and great enthusiasm for the arts, and have been extremely active in its production and appreciation. Their favourite media are creative writing and theatre, with paintings and sculptures being a close second.

Stories and theatrical works often involve a storyline in which teamwork wins the day, or at least is shown to be a happy experience. They also like to tell stories of historical figures or of the discovery of places of great beauty and greenery.

Most yogl artwork shows detailed landscapes featuring lush vegetation and portraits, however they also like to make surrealist works. The yogl appreciate the demonstration of technical skill in paintings, musical performances, and prose. Overall, yogl artists are meticulous, painstaking crafters.

An art renaissance occurred after their initial contact during which the yogl made trade agreements with other civilizations, allowing them to import supplies in order to produce more art and, to a lesser extent, import finished works of art from other civilisation.

Language

The natural sense of community that pervades yogl society means that the entire world population has only one language. This language is called Ygoi (pronounced Yohg Oi) among the yogl.

Its spoken and written form have changed little throughout the ages and this makes it easy for yogl from any settlement, no matter how distant, to communicate with one another. The slow, almost non-existent rate of evolution of the language also makes it easy for yogl and yahmii to read ancient texts.

As a rule, they prefer to keep their language standardised in this way rather than innovate with it. This is to help to keep the language recognisable across Machii, which in turn facilitates easy communication.

Yogl historians have identified common trends that occurred during various stages of the development of their language where certain characters and sounds became more popular. These trends also showed up in their customary name suffixes. Counter to the general trend of stability in their language, some suffixes have fallen out of popularity within the last few generations.

Significant stages in the development of the language include:

Yhm-ii-ts (Yem eetz)

Shortly before or at the time that contact was made with the yahmii. At this stage the yogl made the heaviest use of clicks, and the language lacked syllabic consonants. Most of the words from this period are collections of simple sounds with specific meanings which could be combined together to describe a noun or expand on a simple concept. At the time the vocabulary was not varied enough for differing objects. As a result, each word was more of a general description with very few exceptions to this rule until later in the Yhm-ii-ts era.

Yuqihən (You Qwun)

This time period marked the most drastic stage of development of the yogl language, namely the introduction of silent consonants and a much more generous use of Diphthongs. They also began to use the now derelict name suffixes -le and -Ei. Ygoi also began to develop longer, more complex words to better define concepts. All together, this led to the replacement of the largely short, simple words of the Yhm-ii-ts period.

Ynyaen (In yayn)

Also known as *ur* Yogyāen (Ur Yog Yayn), meaning "Second Normalcy of yogl/Intelligent Speech": The yogl reached something of a crisis point with regards to communication when the nomads settled. A rift began to form between rural and suburban dialects, and the yogl took action to prevent a language barrier from forming to the point that it would become problematic. At the same time, the yahmii had begun to develop their own linguistic variants. However, the yogl did not take the time to make the necessary arrangements to officially recognise this as a language, and the yahmii's attempts at language development died off. The yogl themselves subtly encouraged this.

The result was a renaissance of derivative sounds drawn from the most prominent rural villages, along with the introduction of new words intended by urban Ygoi to be as unambiguous as possible. Their attempts to revamp their language were successful and led to increased trading with their heartland and cities. This increased clarity and inclusion of familiar derivatives allowed for much easier and faster assimilation of this new form of the language.

This is also the period in which the name suffix -Ae began to gain its modern popularity.

See also Suffixes under Social Dynamics; Other Cultural Details below.

Social Dynamics

To say that community is at the core of yogl society would be an understatement, and this can be seen in all facets of their lives, from the domestic, to the ceremonial, to business. Family - particularly the concept of family groupings - is seen as even more

important, and second or third cousins can often be found living closely with one another.

The yogl have great respect towards their elders for their wisdom and are very mindful of how they are perceived by the rest of their social group, or the greater community as a whole. Every yogl wishes to establish a preceding identity within the social and communal sphere. Career minded yogl, or yogl who wish to obtain work in a certain field, will usually exhibit this with careful behaviour in their personal/social lives, and a change of their name suffix in other cases to convey themselves as capable workers. For yogl desiring of leadership roles, much the same happens with more commanding suffixes, and a greater activity or presence in problem solving or community events.

In purely social roles, personal lives, romantic spheres, or the day to day lives outside of work, there are some who prefer to be perceived and desire softer or more affectionate treatment, these individuals are referred to as Nõi Nõi Mou. Nõi Nõi (Noy Noy) is a verb described as a gesture of harmless affection, in a sense that can range from general to romantic in seldom occasion, and comes from the word Nõi, which itself is a noise meant to be used to convey a particular fondness for someone or something.

Living Arrangements

Yogl often choose to live in close quarters with the rest of their families. This includes extended family. In the city they choose shared living arrangements which suit this purpose very well, and outside of the city where the resident of a property is likely to also be the owner, an entire extended family can live under one roof.

Sleeping arrangements are important to the yogl. Throughout their history they have slept in groups. The sounds of calm breathing, the minor sensations of warmth and movements of others in the group, and the reassurance of numbers is effective in soothing yogl enough for them to go to sleep. This increased the likelihood of hearing a predator before it got close enough to attack, or if a predator did successfully attack, of being able to help each other to escape. The members of these sleeping arrangements are called Poh Poh Mou (Poe-Poe Moo) which translates to "sleeping friend".

Although attack by predators is much less of a risk than it used to be, being all but unheard of in their modern era, the yogl still feel safer sleeping in groups. Their sleeping quarters reflect this: all residential buildings have dedicated sleeping areas, either as an annexed sleeping building or in a shared chamber. Larger living quarters have one per floor.

Weddings

Yogl, like terrestrial humans, have a concept of marriage. However, a wedding is not considered merely the long-term bonding of two individuals, but a unification of their respective families. When a wedding occurs both families retreat to a ceremonial resort venue, where they remain for 36 hours. During this time no family member leaves either the grounds, or the sight, of the rest.

This tradition is symbolic of the two families becoming one, and is designed to establish trust between the two families and to give them the opportunity to demonstrate their dependability and commitment to each other.

Business

Cohesion is similarly important to the yogl in a business setting, and as a result they network well. However, they prefer to network with existing colleagues and clients. The meeting of new contacts generally happens during group relaxation activities, the inevitable need to talk to completely new people from time to time, when a company requires a specific service that requires reaching out for new talent, and during the formation of new carpooling arrangements. On that note, carpooling can sometimes be arranged with an eye on making new business contacts.

Almost all yogl are very mindful of others when acting in a professional setting as they will often use these contacts and connections if and when they decide to start their own business ventures.

Their preference for cooperation and cohesion mean that the yogl are happy to carpool with each other. Their vehicles are designed to travel more slowly than those of terrestrial humans as the yogl value safety over efficiency (or indeed, exhilaration), and as a result they have plenty of time to talk while travelling to and from work. They often use this time to review their work, exchange favours for their respective specialities, and anything else that requires discussion.

Handling of Differences/Bigotry

Differences in culture, sex and gender, ability, thought, and so on are very rare on Machii. This is mainly because yogl society is based heavily around open discussion, which in

turn leads to a homogenisation of ideas. This, plus their small population spread, prompts a live and let live attitude. The only pressure that threatens this is any apparent potential for danger or threat.

When danger or threat does appear to be a possibility, they like to proceed in a safe and planned manner with plenty of discussion, and with the input of several yogl.

With other Yogl

As in most facets of their lives, the yogl prefer to handle irreconcilable or contentious issues in groups. When a given issue cannot easily be resolved, the yogl who are immediately involved make a request for a committee or summit to be arranged to discuss it. This happens for disagreements, discussions that the involved parties feel need to be represented, and when there is a need for more information about a particular subject.

As a result, interpersonal differences can be discussed at length within the group. The communal problem-solving model is scaled up to meet the requirements of resolving the particular issue to be discussed.

With other Species

The yogl are more cautious when it comes to other species, and the larger and more aggressive the other species, the more passive the yogl present. Usually however, the yogl desire to talk an issue out will prevail for as long as they feel that it is safe to do so.

When the other species is less safety-orientated (ie., if they feel that they cannot possibly be at risk against the yogl) and are unable or unwilling to address the yogls' fears and concerns, the yogl respond with something along the lines of timid agreement, concerned but stuttering nagging, passive aggression, or a ceasing of interaction. The most reckless non-yogl are viewed with sympathetic concern or are assumed to be stupid.

As a result of all of this, the yogl tend to keep to their own species or only interact with others whom they perceive to have a similar regard for planned and safe actions.

Other Cultural Details

Spreading News

Given the yogls' aversion to surprises, they have a preference for unambiguous, clear information, communicated in a timely manner. As a result, yogl will call routinely ahead to gatherings including to their place of work, if they will be late, even if it is by only a minute, to avoid triggering concern that they have been injured or preyed upon.

Yogl also spread news via television. This is delivered in a softly spoken manner and expressed as unambiguously as possible. Timely delivery is prioritised, and no news reports are broadcast without a mention of either a solution, or the potential for one.

Suffixes

In the yogls' language, suffixes can be applied to words to describe traits and qualities about them. Removal of a suffix when yogl are communicating is considered a provocative act and an intended insult. The closest human comparison would be intentionally refusing to use a person's title (ie., Doctor, Professor, Lord, etc.) and intentionally calling them Mr. or Ms. instead.

For objects, more than one suffix can be added to convey multiple traits.

For yogl, the suffix chosen usually denotes the sex of the yogl. They do this instead of having male or female 'base names' (e.g., Benjamin, Jennifer, Abdul, etc.) Usually a suffix at the beginning of a name conveys masculinity and robustness, as the trait precedes them. By contrast, a suffix at the end of a name conveys femininity and subtlety. There can however be exceptions to this front-or-end-of-name suffixation.

Yogl routinely have an individual first name and a family surname. Middle names are an unheard-of concept for them, and suffixes tend to cover the concept of a nickname as their defining trait or identifier is generally conveyed in their suffix. It is not unusual for a family to use the same base name for all of their children but give each one a different suffix.

It is not unheard of for a yogl to have two separate suffixes for their full name. This is considered an eccentric naming choice. Having a suffix on their first name means that the trait relates to the individual, and one on the second name relates to the family. Using two separate suffixes like this is usually done to demonstrate a fragmented connection with the family. It might be done if there is a poor relationship between the individual yogl and the family, or if the achievements or reputation of one individual is intended to be kept separate, or to highlight the importance of the family.

Successful yogl will often change their first suffix to "EE" to denote prestige, or "AE" to appear humble. It should be noted that this can be done for a variety of reasons, ranging from wholeheartedly emphasising the yogls' regard for community, to potentially ulterior ones including humble-bragging or, in extreme cases, to gain advantages in political standing or other career advantages. As a result, use of these suffixes is generally noticed and can prompt private commentary by yogl who are more inclined towards gossip.

Suffixes are primarily placed after a double or silent consonant.

Common yogl suffixes include:

AE= Commonality/peaceful or quiet

EE= Extrovert or natural communicator

II= Of Machii/ simple

YO= Cautious/meek

ET= Naturally small/cute

OO= Agreeable/conforming or comfortable

YA= Strong/without worry (sometimes this has a negative context and usually implies a lack of concern or of being less intelligent)

Politics

The yogl have a strong preference for peace, peaceful resolution, and for a safe environment. This is reflected in their approach to war, alliances, religion, law, the structure of their government, and even the development of their infrastructure.

War

The yogl are effective communicators and find it relatively easy to identify, communicate, and understand the thought processes behind others' ideas and their own. This, coupled with their less aggressive nature, their rapid technological and societal development, and the scarcity of resources that make prolonged conflict far too costly to maintain, has resulted in them being disinclined towards violence throughout their history.

However, conflicts have occasionally occurred nonetheless. During their first few contacts with the more daring yahmii, several skirmishes happened between the initial scouting parties and the territory holders, before the two species became close-knit allies. These initial conflicts tended to last around a week and are referred to in historical texts as the li-Ya WehNoi.

Besides this, very small groups of nomads have, on occasion, attempted to take from other settlements during harsh times or at points of developmental conflict, but these have never reached the status of war.

Alliances

The yogl are prevalent members of the United Cultural Acceptance Species Commonwealth, or UCASC, which spans well over 3 galaxies.

Their proclivity towards business and finance earns them almost universal high regard among many other species within the pan-galactic workforce, and they are in demand as office labourers, designers, bankers, and other such roles. Very few species hold the

yogl in poor regard overall, and of those who do, they will instead hold a position of indifference towards them at most.

Quintal

The yogl are aligned with the quintal species, their first alien ally.

They are contracted to act as the yogls' protectors thanks to a long-standing agreement. As part of this, the quintal's star patrol does the bulk of patrols and defence work along the yogls' borders. This inter-species friendship has been going on for so long that it rivals the yogl/yahmii relationship.

Xellyz (Zel-ees)

A neighbouring species within the Commonwealth, who dominate several digital markets.

While the xellyz and yogl are not at war, it is worth noting the poor relationship between the two when it comes to the UCASC markets and community. Both species excel in administrative, digital, and technical markets, however the yogl are generally on the back foot when it comes to competing with the xellyz on account of the shortcomings of their homeworld. The xellyz engage in aggressive trade agreements to keep the yogl economy laboured in order to keep their market share in the UCASC community.

Religion

At least 50% of the yogl are either agnostic or indifferent to religion. However, religious practice is ingrained into their culture which means that even agnostic or atheistic individuals practice religious customs. The most common ways that this is expressed is with the idea of honouring their ancestors and their memories.

Miicha (and variations of this name)

The yogl who subscribe to this religion believe in the metaphysical concept of a scale of debts, and its balance. When the scales are unbalanced their fortunes are poor. The doctrine of the faith states that a yogl can rebalance the scales by resolving to live a well disciplined life. If they achieve this then they will join their ancestors (who went

through similar trials in their time), and help to tip the scales in favour of their descendants.

Variations of this core structure belief exist, using adding extra details such as heroes and villains to add a sense of narrative or to enact parables. Different denominations also have varying levels of belief regarding the extent to which their ancestors intervene in their favour. However, the core belief remains the same.

'Miicha' is the basis of the yogl word for 'Temple', however the word is used to mean 'religion' or 'faith'. If they are describing a temple as a location they will add a click to turn the word into O'Miicha.

Law

Creation of Laws

The creation of a new law can be put forward by any yogl, from the general public all the way up to the Council of Three. Any proposed law or amendment from the Council of Three or the second-tier committee (ie., their Congress and Senate) must be approved by the general yogl population before it can be written into law. As the yogl are highly democratically active and analytical by nature, attention is duly paid to the details of any change to the law.

Any law drafted by the general public thoroughly considered and analysed by the second-tier committee and be ratified before it can pass up to the Council of Three for final approval. If the Council of Three proposes a law, this bypasses the second tier automatically to be considered and voted on by the general population.

Any major shareholder and business owner can propose laws. These are looked over by the second tier to ensure that they are not one-sided or exclusively self-benefiting. If the proposed law is to the second tier's satisfaction, then the general public may vote on it.

Every law is written as unambiguously as possible, and no proposed law can be paired with another. Representatives of the specialism in which the law has been proposed, and members of the Senate are allowed to come forward over a series of scheduled meetings to explain, and advocate for, the proposed laws before an audience of the general population.

However, they are not allowed to vote on the law. Instead, this is done by the yogls' voting districts. If a law only affects a specific district, then it is voted on only by the members of that district.

All members of the council remain in their positions for as long as the public continues to believe that they are qualified for the position and supports them accordingly. The public can, at any time, issue a vote of no confidence and call a member of the council before the second tier to make a case against them. When this happens, the leader has the opportunity to defend themselves before a vote is cast.

Overall, the yogls' system of government is support by the active participation of each member of the society (including those who make up the government), by the intelligent application by the public of their democratic power, and trust in their institutions.

Government Structure

The yogls' governmental system is unique in being a demacro-aristocratic cooperative. A Demacro-aristocratic cooperative is a society with a dedicated constitution ensuring democratic rights to the citizenry of Machii, while also possessing an aristocracy.

This system evolved as a direct result of the yogls' earliest explorations beyond the oasis in search of new lands on which to settle. When a group was sent on one of these missions, a chieftain was elected to lead the group. As the days passed by, the chieftain of one of these groups reached the conclusion that the many dangers they encountered made having a single leader risky. If the leader was injured or killed, their sudden frailty or disappearance would become a liability to the group.

To resolve this, he elected two other members of the group to share leadership with him, thereby forming a committee.

When they established the settlement that would later become their new home, they kept this system and developed it further so that it included a committee of representatives, elected by the community as a whole. Committee members were elected based on their technical abilities in the field they represented. The three yogl at the top of this system was called the Council of Three.

The Council of Three were not permitted to own property. Instead, the yogl citizens were granted the responsibility to provide for them. They sustained them with voluntary

donations of goods, food, land, and anything else that was needed. This system ensured that the citizens had to prosper in order for the Three to prosper too.

In addition to the law against owning property, the Three were also not allowed to form mandatory taxes as this would effectively count as personal wealth. Each member of the Three were also given the authority to watch and investigate the other two members of the council, should they ever appear to be mis-using or abusing the power their position provided.

The Council of Three was overseen by a second-tier committee. As a final measure to limit the power of the yogl in a position of power to a reasonable degree, the power of the central government is limited to issues of safety, agriculture, external affairs, education, and economics.

Political Posturing

Yogl are more interested in problem-solving in order to promote safety in their daily lives than in the acquisition and retention of power. As a result, the many committees that are formed are short-lived and dissolve as soon as the issue is resolved.

A common phrase among yogl politicians is, "No issue without resolution". This means that no concern goes unconsidered or resolved, and no important issue should go without being addressed with the utmost urgency.

Political Transparency

The members of the Council of Three are voted in by the general yogl populous based on:

1. a vetting process that puts forward the 5 most popular candidates, and public support of these
2. how qualified the candidate is for the job (this is not officially required, but is commonly considered by the yogl populous), and
3. the candidate's ability to fund their own campaign.

Private institutions can suggest a specific candidate, fund them, and host them for specific talks, however the yogl have no official political parties, and a candidate who does not have enough public support will be voted out regardless of their funding.

It is mandated that all records of campaign funds are made available to the public and publically announced beforehand, to allow any voter to trace where a candidate's campaign donations came from and help them to decide which candidate to support.

Voting

Most voting is done electronically via a dedicated device, and is hard-limited to the general public only.

Every vote is held "in private confidence", meaning that during an audit, the names and other personal information of which yogl voted for whom, while recorded for auditing purposes, is kept out of the public domain. A vote can also be recalled by the individual who issued it,

As a result of the above, along with the yogls' strong preference for transparency in their political system, book-keeping is considered one of the most vital institutions within the system. Yogl lawyers are notoriously aggressive about the accurate and timely maintenance of records, even by yogl standards, and have the authority to call in audits.

Miscellaneous Political Details

Emergency Services

Professions that have a high rate of incidences of conflict or danger present a challenge to yogl, given their disinclination to such things. Their timid and frightful nature prompted them to automate some of their public services, with law enforcement being among the first candidates.

They manufactured simple-level "Simulated Intelligences" that could be controlled remotely. All police departments had a low (but set) number of yogl and yahmii officers at any given time, and the Simulated Intelligences were deployed to make up for the low numbers of these.

Other emergency services however, are far more densely populated with yogl staff. They still use Simulated Intelligences but rely on them less to meet the demands of the service.

When a yogl trains to enter their armed or law enforcement services or any other physically demanding career, it is customary for them to journey to Machii's equator and

survive there alone for a number of days. Core to this survival mission is to walk into the oasis' centre and return, and the journey can have something of the pilgrimage about it.

The purpose of this exercise is to increase their self-reliance to better serve the group. The yogl philosophy on society is that the only way to improve a society is for the people to improve themselves. While it is true that yogl, as a rule, dislike confrontation, the very fact that most yogl avoid it makes developing confrontation management skills a clear and obvious developmental edge that can be highly beneficial to their society.

Personal vs. Professional Speech

To further ensure accurate book-keeping, and to avoid employers, interest groups, or other powerful entities from coercing a group into voting a particular way, there is a concept of personal speech and professional speech (this safeguard exists despite the general implausibility of yogl engaging in coercive behaviour). In any place of work, yogl record all data, including written and audio, within a place of employment. Any ill conduct such as attempted coercion or unlawful threat of termination of employment, is therefore kept on record, and is likely to be reported to the police or legal firms of Machii. The recorded data is then impounded for review and the company audited.

The yogls' deeply ingrained desire for social cohesion, culture based on benefiting the group and pressure to conform, full government transparency, and personal accountability, all dovetail to support an immensely stable political system. As a result the yogl (and indeed, other species interacting with the yogl) are able to have faith that the best individuals are always at the reins.

The phrase, "taking a leap of faith, but always double-checking" sums up most of the yogls' operating practices.

Economy

The yogl hold a very high value on a stable economy, as a stable economy is a safer economy, both in fiscal terms and in terms of the social security it results in. With this in mind, they have nurtured a safe and stable economy.

Money / Trading System

On an individual level, many yogl like to take an informal approach to currency by bartering for goods, attending swap-meets (which have the additional benefit as a regular social occasion), and by giving without expectation of getting anything back. However, they do have a formal currency in the form of Bah'dwai, which is backed by a yearly average of their precious metal reserves, at a fixed rate of 15 combined grams.

In practice, their monetary system is similar to the gold standard, much like that of the UCASC. However, whereas the UCASC Senic has solved the investment flaws of backed currency, the yogl have operational patches but are wholly unwilling to make reforms to fully adopt those fixes. The reason for this is the risk of a reform throwing their financial system out of balance, which could easily result in a severe recession, especially given the yogls peoples' natural tendency towards caution, which would only be likely to reduce spending.

Their caution also informs their approach to the loaning or investment of money. While the UCASC has policies to incentivise, and in some cases provides grants, loans, investments, and other such investments, the yogl allocate monies differently, as ever, with caution in mind. The yogl government audits and reviews the performance of their institutions before writing any bills for public infrastructure spending, and then dictates a provisional investment fund for the project. A vote is then called for representatives or peers to provide a loan for this fund. Access to the resulting fund cannot be granted without a further public vote so as to avoid embezzlement or misappropriation of funds by any member of their government.

Major Businesses

Despite the yogls' reservation and timidity as individuals, they are explosively active within the UCASC markets and community, particularly with regards to record-keeping and administration in its many forms. It is not uncommon to find yogl financiers, advisors, lawyers, accountants, bankers, and computer specialists in most businesses. Their primary limiting factor in being major players in most administrative, digital, and technical markets is the burden of putting 80% of all their spending into the maintenance of their home world, which diverts much of their resources and constrains their focus.

As stated in the Alliances section, the yogls' proficiency and potential in these areas has earned them a very poor relationship with the xellyz.

Overall, most yogl businesses are too small in scope to have a prominent presence across the Commonwealth. Instead, most individual yogl or private entities act as staffing companies or private contractors, with business trusts or agreements to establish comparative trade advantages being negotiated to make up for the companies' lack of size and scope.

Despite the constrictions the yogl have to deal with, a handful of businesses are notable within context of the Commonwealth. These include:

- YogNet
- Nogscape: Relative Digital Storage
- Maechoi Boiler Service
- Yg Ene Insights
- Pride of O'Nong Pamu Cannery
- Maechoi Consulting Firm
- Yognium Fabrication and Manufacturing
- Yg Ene Financing
- Held-Star Reactors
- Light of Nog Industries
- Pou'bol Laboratories
- Planning Abo Banking

Any business operating outside of yogl speaking space is always heavily translated.

Education

Education is highly important to the yogl, with a core emphasis on character-building, self-reliance, productive discussion, individual responsibility, and the importance of democratic participation, all with a view to improving intelligence, social cohesion, and ensuring group survival.

With this in mind, schooling is made available to all yogl at the earliest possible age and to the widest possible spread of their population. The quality of schooling is also as consistent across that spread as is possible. As a result, the concept of private schooling barely exists.

Further and higher education is a popular concept, and many yogl businesses or departments of their government actively fund and maintain their own "Speciality Schools", in order to expedite job placement and technical qualification in their fields.

It is also not particularly uncommon to find yogl who take night classes to improve their ability to adapt to situations as needed. After-school clubs and guilds are popular for the same reason.

The most significant weakness in the yogls' educational system occurs within the rural communities in the Heartlands. The rural yogl place higher importance on survival and on education by instruction rather than through formal educational institutions. This does not amount to an outright refusal to educate their children, but rather a disagreement in method and priority, paired with a historical resistance to pushing outwards in fear or overburdening Machii.

Medicine

The yogls' prevailing preference for systems that benefit their entire population can once again be seen in the design of their medical system. Medical care is considered a basic right to all yogl citizens, and to facilitate they run a government-support universal care system.

Historically, their focus has always been on devising cure over treatment. The yogl researched, and discovered, cures for all the known diseases of their home world as quickly as possible.

Despite their healthcare being universal and judiciously run, private clinics and charity hospitals still exist. Their small-scale nature provides a level of convenience for local communities that the overall system, however well-managed, cannot. When one is used, any charges are then reimbursed to the yogl - once the appropriate office is contacted, of course.

Anti-Anxiety Medicine

The yogl natural life span is approximately 75-80 years. However, this can be extended. The development and widespread use of anti-anxiety medication to reduce their near-constantly high stress levels significantly improved their overall life expectancy to 90-112 years.

Additional medical treatments can extend this into the 180s in the most successful cases, however most yogl do not desire to live for that long as they consider it selfish to continue to require resources to keep themselves alive at the expense of their descendants. Admittedly, this line of thinking is less common off of Machii.

Construction

Yogl are generally disinclined to dig, as they consider this a disruption of the delicate balance of Machii's ecosystem, and this makes the sourcing of construction materials on Machii a potential challenge. There are only a few designated quarries and new ones are only opened after many years of careful research, surveys, and a public vote.

The yogl have been as resourceful as ever throughout the millennia, not only in sourcing materials but in their research and application of both historical knowledge and modern innovation.

The metals on the planet are also rather poor overall, and finding untapped seams of ore is considered unlikely. All construction projects pull from their projections of their "Theoretical Material Reserves" or are based on the averages of their metal imports from their colonies.

Among their most favoured building materials is Sandcrete, a substance that has similar properties to Roman Concrete in its durability and strength.

One quirk of yogl home design is that they like to build their houses round, instead of square. This is a celebration of their technological prowess: the yogl are very aware of their achievements and capabilities, especially in light of their nervous nature and small stature. It's harder to engineer a round room than a square one, but they are easily capable of it. One of the aesthetic rewards of this is that a round interior perfectly hides any support struts and framing.

Distribution of Goods

The yogl distribute goods in two main ways. The first is by teleportation (sometimes referred to as 'direct conveying'). This is most popular among the single working demographic.

They also continue to host shopping centres, despite having the technology to render them obsolete. The community-orientated nature of shopping centres and markets appeal to the yogl and this accounts for their continued popularity.

Markets for specialised goods and services are widely common in all major yogl cities and towns, complete with in-store showrooms for most products. Most material goods are produced to order, and this allows for a highly personalised service for a very small cost. The machines that make this possible and the showroom model are both widespread throughout the Commonwealth.

Canned vs. Fresh Food

Canneries for producing canned goods are a core part of the yogls' food production infrastructure. A wide range of foods are canned, including fish and bread, and canned goods are exceptionally popular.

Farm-fresh foods are available, however the yogl simply prefer canned goods for the stability they confer to their food supply: fresh foods are expirable, whereas canned foods are not. Given this overall preference for canned food, many farms set up trade deals directly with local canneries. This is primarily to have their own food canned, although farms that accept visitors will also stock cans on their shelves, along with their fresh produce. Having such a deal is usually rewarded financially, and most canneries

have open programmes to allow farms to directly exchange fresh produce with them to assure maximum quality of their goods.

Minimisation of Waste

Local markets are abundant and are the standard in yogl culture; they are less interested in systems that involve bulk grocery malls.

The yogls' food production infrastructure facilitates the provision of goods at stable prices, and this is thanks to their diligence towards their resource-backed economy. As a result, goods maintain a consistent price over generations. Most business models are designed to cater to the lowest common denominators instead of to exclusive pay levels.

All food, goods, and services are therefore evenly available to everyone.

Even in the modern era, yogl are concerned with maintaining a constant and stable supply, and will buy surplus canned goods or even can their own food when they're able.

Another anti-waste strategy the yogl employ is the arrangement of swap-meets. Traditionally, during the sixth day of their weeks and usually at the end of each month cycle, yogl will get together to trade the oldest cans in their pantries to ensure that nothing goes to waste. This has a secondary effect of strengthening their sense of community, and quite an event can be made of these swap-meets. Children are grouped together to play, adults get together to speak, and yogl who do not live within the usual Poh Poh Mou groups catch up with one another about their daily goings-on. As a result, swap-meets are one of the most common methods of socialising among yogl.

Other Details of Economy

Stellar Defence Force

The yogl are a space-faring civilization. However, they maintain a sparse Stellar Defence Force. Their working alternative is the maintenance of an active trade agreement for defence support from their earliest alien ally, the quintal. Stellar vehicles of yogl design usually sport a 60/40 weapons placement favouring the rear of the craft.

Vehicles

Cars on Machii are designed with safety as their first priority, and the yogl place low value on efficiency, much less exhilaration. The legally mandated top speed of any car is 60 miles per hour. While the yogl are very capable of building engines that can travel faster than this (indeed, they have created faster than light vehicles), safety trumps the convenience of a quicker arrival at their destination.

It should also be noted that an average yogl cannot withstand an impact of over 60 miles per hour, and this is a large part of the reason for the speed limit designed into their vehicles.

Harnessing Stars for Energy

The yogls' primary power supply comes from their ability to create and contain micro-stars for sustainable energy (as opposed to making fission reactors). This comes as a result of their early research in the stabilisation of stars: the heart of their sun began to enter the latter stages of dying and they did the necessary research to ensure that they could keep it alive.

They developed the technology to create mini-stars during their early industrial period when they discovered that their sun was entering its expansion phase and was due to die soon. This encouraged them to develop their understanding of the necessary sciences to rectify this.

This in turn led to great strides in their fields of artificial gravity and solar mechanics, and eventually led them to develop Dynamically Modulating Micro-Stellar Environments: a chamber with gravity fields regulating the small generated star, dynamically altering gravity to prevent the star from collapsing into a black hole. If the modulation system of this were to fail, the star would dissipate into nothing rather than explode or melt down. The effect would be rather like trying to hold together a ball of dry sand without water to clump it together.

Therefore, unlike a fission reactor or a system to pull energy out of a black hole, the yogl developed a refined self-limiting system to prevent any overload or explosions.

Once they had created the gravity manipulation technology to achieve this, the yogl used it for other purposes too.

The yogls' nervous nature and unwillingness to let problems loom over them has prompted them to become dedicated problem-solvers. The yogl overall have a common attitude that no matter what the situation, they will figure something out.

Credits

Based on theory by:

Erikson, E., (1951) 'Childhood and Society', W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. chapter 7.

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~Hayley, The Character Consultancy