

Näkki

"Neptune, the Åge of the Swedes. Ancient tales and witch-stories tell of this. Here in Finland the Näkki is said to lie atop waters with her [sic] long hair flowing, combing and brushing her blond hair in the sunlight whilst sitting on rapid-rocks. She is sometimes told to be singing (no doubt a siren song or crocodile tears, whereby she lures children to the shore or swimmers into the water, and those she squeezes so tight that they turn cabbage-blue, drinks their blood etc. – Which in fact are cramps.) Old wives and outlived seamen can frighten the gullible with thousands of Näkki and mermaid tales."

- Christfrid Ganander, Mythologia Fennica (1789 CE)

Description: The näkki resembles a moderately handsome, albeit somewhat obese naked middle-aged man, crowned with seaweed. It stands in a body of water (sea, rivers, ponds, wells etc.) up to its waist, so its lower half is never seen. Its back is extremely hairy and deformed. This mostly innocent appearance belies the näkki's wholly malevolent nature.

Its sole purpose is to lure victims into the waters to drown with its unearthly and beautiful singing, or playing on the harp, lute, violin or flute. The näkki never speaks or otherwise communicates with anyone. It prefers children, but will settle for adults and even adventurers.

Those hearing its music must succeed at a DC 14 Will save, or be drawn "to dance on the deep waters" i.e. simply to drown unresistingly once they reach a suitable depth. Those succeeding at the save can try to hold victims back. The drowned cannot be resurrected even by magical means, for their souls have been diluted in the waters.

The näkki is a deathless evil: when reduced to 0 HP, it immediately dissolves in the water and emerges whole in another part of the world.

Statistics: Init -2; AC 13; HD 3D8; MV 1'; Act 1d20; SP Lure once per round; half damage from mundane attacks; SV Fort +3, Ref -2, Will +3; AL C.