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December 7, 2004

Q: "How long does it usually take a question asked via the Internet to make the Ask Wizards page?"

--Stephen
Wheeling, WV

A: From **Scott Johns**, [magicthegathering.com](#) Content Manager:

"Each month I send out a new batch of Ask Wizards to the various groups that typically answer them (R&D, Organized Play, etc). Answers generally take a week or two to get back to me, so that plus the monthly batching means that you're usually looking at around roughly four to six weeks or so.

"However, that's only a loose generalization since there's also the issue of time-sensitivity. I monitor the Ask Wizards box pretty closely, so whenever there's a good question that's time-sensitive I can grab it and get an answer rushed from the appropriate person here at Wizards. The flip side of that is non-time-sensitive questions, as I usually try to keep at least a couple of those handy to fill any holes between batches. In your case, I got this Ask on 10/27. :)"

December 6, 2004

Q: "Is the Kamigawa in '*Champions of Kamigawa*' in any way a reference to the Convention of Kanagawa, where the opening of Japan to the Western world was achieved? I just thought it was interesting as this set is the opening of **Magic** to a Japanese-inspired world."

--Don
Boston, MA

A: From **Brady Dommermuth**, **Magic** Creative Director:

"Sorry, Don, pure coincidence. Kanagawa is the name of the Japanese prefecture that contains the city of Yokohama, where the treaty you mention was signed. The suffix '-gawa' means 'river' in Japanese, but that's where the similarity ends."

December 3, 2004

Q: "Kamigawa shows a pretty remarkable change of pace for **Magic** (save for maybe *Ice Age*); ice-elemental cards are now in Red! Witness **Glacial Ray**, or **Frostweaver**. How much concern was there that this might be confusing to some players?"

-- Michael

A: From **Brady Dommermuth**, **Magic** Creative Director:

"There was a little bit of concern, Michael, but not much. After all, mountains produce red mana, and many mountains are snow-capped. We did some ice- and snow-themed red spells in Kamigawa to reflect the cold mountain environment there, and also because, frankly, we were a little tired of the same ol' fire and lightning spells set after set."

December 2, 2004



Q: "I always wondered, what is the difference between Shamans and Wizards? "
--Andrew
Westfield, New Jersey, USA

A: From **Brady Dommermuth, Magic** Creative Director:

"The difference is primarily for flavor, Andrew. Wizards learn their spells from books, scrolls, and other sources of arcane knowledge, whereas a shaman's spells are based in emotion, ritual, and lore. In general, wizards are white or blue, and shamans are red or green. Black is split between the two, depending on the world and its black-aligned inhabitants."

December 1, 2004



Q: "I just noticed the 'ears' of the [moonfolk](#). They look like rabbit's ears. Would it be possible that Kamigawa's moonfolk are in fact the rabbits that live on the Moon according to the Japanese-Chinese legends?"

--Mike
Bangkok

A: From **Brady Dommermuth, Magic** Creative Director:

"Good catch, Mike. For those of you who aren't familiar with what Mike's talking about: Whereas Westerners see a man's face on the moon, the Japanese see a rabbit -- the tsuki-usagi, or moon-hare. The moonfolk were conceived by Japanese artist Ittoku, who introduced the subtle rabbit-like elements (white hair, long ears, and so on). The idea of the moonfolk came from a famous Japanese folktale about the mythical Lady Kaguya."



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