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Baku Mikoshi

Magic Arcana
 Thursday, May 5, 2005

The art description for that *Betrayers of Kamigawa* spirit-generating artifact, **Baku Altar**, calls for a "mikoshi" or "palanquin shrine" shaped like a *baku*.

The *baku* are composite creatures from Japanese mythology: sometimes they sport the head of an elephant and the body of a lion. As you know, the [baku in *Betrayers of Kamigawa*](#) (Blademan Baku, Petalmane Baku, Quillmane Baku, Skullmane Baku, Waxmane Baku) are a cycle of spirits that gain abilities as you use Arcane magic.



But what is a "mikoshi," or a "palanquin"?

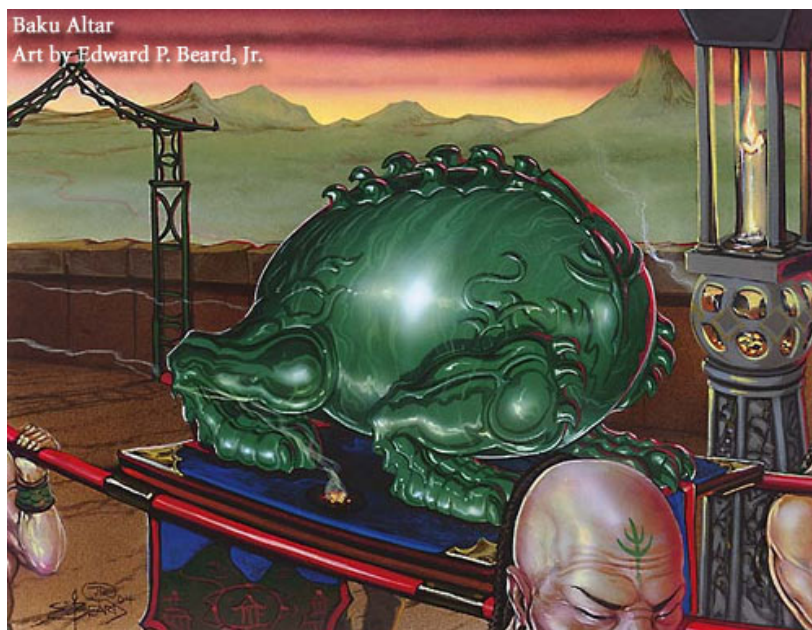
A mikoshi is a portable Shinto shrine that serves as the vehicle of a divine spirit in Japan at the time of a parade of deities. Often, the mikoshi resembles a miniature building, with pillars, walls, a roof, a veranda and a railing. Typical shapes are rectangles, hexagons, and octagons. The body, which stands on two poles (for carrying), is usually lavishly decorated, and the roof might hold a carving of a phoenix.

-- Google

A palanquin is a covered conveyance, usually for one person consisting of a large box with wooden shutters like Venetian blinds, carried by four or six (rarely two) men by means of poles projecting before and behind.

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So instead of having a miniature building or wooden box, **Baku Altar** has a statue of a baku. Now you know.



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