

# Guineafowl 卍



## Biology:

Species: *Numida meleagris*

Family: Numididae

Habitat: Africa

Diet: Omnivore

## Mythology:

Sacred symbol of protection

## History:

The helmeted guineafowl has its native range in Africa and is a well known member of the wild savannah. It is often seen in urban areas with large family flocks of up to 25 members. They are very alert and cautious birds fending off smaller would-be predators, such as domestic cats, as well as steering clear of larger potential dangers, such as dogs and vehicles. Their calls are distinct and can be heard for miles. They are not shy of letting their voices be heard when disturbed. They are poor fliers, but are exceptional runners and will warn each other when a threat arises.

## Metaphysical Guidance:

## Alert, Vocal & Community

“With a wheelbarrow’s screech, it wails at the dimming light, the guineafowl”, is a loosely translated excerpt from the Afrikaans poem ‘Die Tarentaal’ by Totius (1877-1935). The guineafowl reminds us that the most important gift in the world is that of family and community; this is where your true home lies. It demonstrates that we should remain alert to that which would seek to harm us and our loved ones. When faced with danger we should rely on one another and fiercely protect that which we hold precious. You can always seek respite in the comfort of belonging.

