

Taboo Language

Duskaran culture's obsession with conservation has generated a rich vocabulary of taboo words—terms so offensive they're rarely spoken aloud, instead referenced through euphemism or hand gestures. Using these words in public can trigger social ostracism or even council intervention.

Resource Waste Terms:

- *majimaka* /ma.'ji.ma.ka/ — "water-killer," the worst insult in Duskaran society. Implies someone who wastes water deliberately or through negligence. Grounds for immediate expulsion from some settlements.
- *hangaboru* /'ha.ŋa.bo.ru/ — "wind-blocker," used for those who obstruct communal wind resources or damage turbines. Carries implications of selfishness and anti-social behavior.
- *tangazali* /ta.'ŋa.za.li/ — "land-poisoner," reserved for ecological sabotage or contamination of arable soil.

Social Transgressions:

- *kinabara* /ki.'na.ba.ra/ — "hoarder," someone who stockpiles resources beyond their quota. Not quite taboo but deeply shameful.
- *murukasi* /mu.'ru.ka.si/ — "false friend," implies betrayal of communal trust, particularly in resource-sharing agreements.

Psychic Misuse:

- *hangakora* /'ha.ŋa.ko.ra/ — "wind-breaker" (different from *hangaboru*), specifically refers to weatherworkers who abuse their abilities for personal gain or deliberately cause harm.
- *majithiva* /ma.'ji.thi.va/ — "water-liar," a water-finder who falsely claims to have located sources, leading caravans astray.

Euphemistic Alternatives:

Polite Duskarans avoid direct taboo usage through elaborate circumlocution:

- Instead of *majimaka*, one might say "*Å<a sunga maji ma tana*" ("they guard water not-strong")
- Rather than *hangakora*, euphemisms like "*hanga mi Å<ida ma nala*" ("the wind guides them not-honor")

Cultural Context:

These taboos aren't merely linguistic—they reflect existential threats. A water-waster endangers entire settlements. A wind-blocker threatens energy supplies. The severity of these terms underscores how thinly the line between survival and collapse runs on Duskara. Children learn

these words as warnings, told cautionary tales of those who spoke or embodied them, now exiled to wander the Storm Wall.

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