Duskaran Names Guidelines

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Overview

Overview

A Duskaran name says where a person comes from. The *Stellar Horizon* carried some thousands of African settlers in cryogenic stasis, most from East Africa and a minority from West Africa, and a crew of a few hundred from Asia: Chinese officers and engineers, with Filipino ratings. English was the working language between them. Eight hundred years later, the names of all these peoples are still in use, worn down by the Creole and joined by new names made of Creole words.

There are no names in the English style. English gave the Creole a few working words (*kin*, *go*, *dok*), but nobody on the ship carried an English name into the new world.

Name Structure

Overview

Personal name + kin-[Wind-Kin] + line name (full formal)
Personal name + line name (common formal)
Personal name (casual)

- **Full formal**: Amira kin-Hanga Wekesa
- **Common formal**: Amira Wekesa
- **Casual**: Amira

The **line name** (*ukoo*) is the family name. It follows the personal name. A few old crew lines still put it first in ceremonies, as on Earth (*Wu An*); this sounds archaic.

Examples

- **Full Formal**: Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
- **Common Formal**: Aelira Thornvale
- **Casual**: Aelira

Wind-Kin Designations

Overview

The Wind-Kins are five clans that group the lines along the whole arc. Each is named for an element. The trade in brackets is the trade of its founding lines; it is kept as tradition and says nothing about a person's work or gift. Only the Shadow clan is still tied to a place, the caves.

- **kin-Hanga**: of the Wind clan (the weather and the sails)
- **kin-Moto**: of the Fire clan (thermal work, the first ventures toward the day side)
- **kin-Maji**: of the Water clan (the first cisterns, the water judges)
- **kin-Babu**: of the Elder clan (the keepers of the first records)
- **kin-Kivuli**: of the Shadow clan (the lines that went down to the caves; the Deepkin)

Each Wind-Kin has a sign, which marks its houses at the tally, on the doorpost and the cups, on name tablets and seals, and on the body (see the Daybook).

The designation is used in formal introductions, ceremonies, official records and negotiations between settlements. It is omitted in daily speech and in most writing.

Phonetic Foundation

Consonants

- **Common clusters**: zh, kh, sh, th, ry, ly, ny, vy, kr, br, dr, tr, vr, sr
- **Initial consonants**: K, Z, L, Th, V, A, S, R, M, F, Kh, Zh, Sh, N, T, X, Y
- **Hard sounds**: k, t, th, r emphasize resilience
- **Soft sounds**: sh, zh, v, l suggest adaptability

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Vowels

- **Primary**: a, e, i, o
- **Y as vowel**: Common in endings and middle syllables
- **Diphthongs**: ae, ai, ey, ay, or

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- **Length**: 2-4 syllables
- **Patterns**: CV (consonant-vowel), CVC, CVCC
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Sound and Spelling

Overview

Names follow the sounds of Duskaran Creole (see the Language Handbook).

- Five vowels: *a, e, i, o, u*. No *y* as a vowel, no *ae*.
- Simple syllables: consonant plus vowel, with an optional final consonant (*Tan-ko*, *Mei-lin*, *Ka-li-naw*).
- *ŋ* is the sound of "si**ng**". *j* is the sound of "**j**ar". *sh* and *ch* as in English.
- No *th*, *kh*, *zh*, *x*, *q*, and no clusters such as *thr* or *vy*.
- Old Mandarin names are respelled: *zh* becomes *j* (Zhang: *Jaŋ*), *x* becomes *sh* (Xu: *Shu*), final *ng* becomes *ŋ* (Wang: *Waŋ*).
- Two to four syllables for names of the settler stocks; one or two for names of the crew stocks.

Names are not marked for gender. The Creole has no grammatical gender, and any name can belong to anyone. Heritage names keep a loose traditional leaning that a writer may follow or ignore.

First Names

Female Names

Typical endings:

- **-a**: Aelira, Zorathi, Vynara (most common)
- **-ra/-ara**: Zihara, Isarra, Luminara
- **-na**: Shavina, Kalienna
- **-ssa/-sa**: Eryssa, Alyris
- **-elle/-el**: Rhyelle, Saryndel
- **-yne/-yn**: Zorayne, Varilynn
- **-is**: Nerielle, Ellari
- **-e**: Melise, Feynith
- **-i**: Khyanni, Alyri
- **-th/-ith**: Feynith, Sonith, Ceriveth

Construction patterns:

1. Start with strong consonant or cluster (Kh-, Zh-, Sh-, Th-, Z-, V-, L-)
2. Add 1-2 syllables with flowing vowels
3. End with feminine suffix
4. Examples: Kh + ya + nni = Khyanni, Z + ih + ara = Zihara

Male Names

Typical endings:

- **-or/-ar**: Khoran, Lysander, Torik, Althar
- **-ic/-ric**: Dalric, Valric, Tharic, Faedric
- **-el/-en**: Arlan, Enith, Ulren
- **-yn/-in**: Moryn, Sorin, Kyren
- **-os**: Mykos, Kyos, Levos
- **-as**: Tyras
- **-th/-eth**: Kaleth, Korveth, Kaelith

Construction patterns:

1. Begin with hard consonants (K-, Th-, Z-, B-, D-, X-)
2. Use 2-3 syllables with clear, strong sounds
3. End with masculine suffix
4. Examples: Th + al + yon = Thalyon, Ky + ren = Kyren

Gender-Neutral Names

Typical endings:

- **-yn**: Zoryn, Taryn, Myrin
- **-el/-en**: Arlen, Lynel, Toren
- **-th**: Aelith, Thalith, Eryth, Feyth
- **-is**: Lioris, Kaelis, Saeris
- **-ar**: Velthar, Vythar
- **-os**: Kyros, Oris

Construction patterns:

1. Balance hard and soft consonants
2. Use neutral endings that avoid strong gender markers
3. 2-3 syllables preferred
4. Examples: Ae + lith = Aelith, Ky + ros = Kyros

Personal Names

Overview

A personal name comes from one of three stocks.

Settler Names

Names from Swahili and Hausa, the languages of the settlers. They are the most common stock on the surface.

From Swahili: Alia, Amani, Amira, Asha, Bakari, Baraka, Daraja, Eshe, Faraji, Furaha, Hamisi, Imani, Jabari, Jafari, Jelani, Juma, Kesho, Kesi, Kibo, Kibwe, Kito, Kombo, Makame, Makena, Malaika, Mara, Mila, Mosi, Naima, Neema, Nia, Omari, Raia, Rashidi, Rehema, Riziki, Saida, Sanaa, Sefu, Shani, Siti, Subira, Taraji, Tarishi, Tausi, Tumaini, Zawadi, Zuberi, Zuri

From Hausa: Amina, Audu, Bala, Dabo, Dauda, Delu, Dogo, Gambo, Garba, Hadiza, Idi, Jummai, Kande, Ladi, Mairo, Sani, Shehu, Tahiru, Talatu, Tanimu, Tanko, Tijani, Tukur, Turaki, Yaro, Zainabu

Many of these were once names for the day of birth in the old count of days of Earth (Juma, Hamisi, Ladi, Talatu). Duskara has no such count. The names pass down as ancestor names, and few people know what they once meant.

Crew Names

Names from Mandarin and Tagalog, the languages of the crew. They are most frequent in the old technical lines, among Archivists, and in the fortified cities of the north.

From Mandarin: An, Bo, Feŋ, Hua, Jiŋ, Jun, Kai, Lan, Lian, Lin, Mei, Meilin, Min, Piŋ, Ren, Shan, Shu, Tao, Wei, Wen, Yun

From Tagalog: Amihan, Bayani, Dalisay, Diwa, Hiraya, Kalinaw, Lakan, Ligaya, Malaya, Mayumi, Tala

Duskaran Names

Names made of Creole words. They are the newest stock and the one that grows. A Duskaran name records a circumstance of birth or a wish for the child.

Name	Meaning	Given when
Tufani	storm	born in a storm haven
Angataa	aurora	born under a strong aurora
Sori	start of the waking period	born at the first bell
Safari	journey	born on the road or in a caravan
Honga	survive	born after a hard birth or a lost sibling
Mitu	gift	a child long awaited
Salama	safe	born after a danger passed
Tana	strong	a wish
Kara	bright	a wish
Nala	honor	a wish
Shimu	song	a wish; common in families of wind-singers
Zika	together	a wish; common for twins
Sura	flow	born when the water returned
Kasi	speed	a wish; also common for bonded animals
Sora	sun	born on the Dayward Edge
Hangapole	gentle wind	born in a calm
Majitamu	sweet water	born when a new source was found

A longer name is shortened in daily use: *Hangapole* to *Pole*, *Majitamu* to *Tamu*.

Bonded Animals

A bonded animal has one short name, nearly always a Creole word: Kasi, Wimbi, Taa, Shimu.

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Line Names

Overview

A line name passes from parent to child. Either parent's line may be chosen. There are three kinds.

Ship Lines

Family names that came from Earth. They no longer show what a person looks like or where a person lives: after eight hundred years, every Duskaran has ancestors from all the peoples of the ship.

Chinese: Chen, Gao, Hu, Jao, Jaŋ, Li, Lin, Lu, Shen, Shu, Sun, Tan, Waŋ, Wu, Yaŋ

Filipino: Bayani, Dalisay, Dimasupil, Gatdula, Katigbak, Lualhati, Magtaŋol, Sumuloŋ

East African: Hamisi, Kamau, Kiprono, Makame, Mbwana, Mutua, Mwangi, Omondi, Otieno, Wambua, Wanyama, Wekesa

West African: Bello, Danjuma, Danladi, Garba, Gwarzo, Idris, Lawan, Maigari, Makera, Sani, Shehu, Tanimu, Zaŋgo

Craft Lines

Names taken from the work of a founding ancestor. They are Creole words.

Line name	Meaning
Bahariji	fisher
Majitunga	water finder
Motokazi	geothermal engineer
Tulanga	builder
Shandaji	trader
Siriji	keeper of secrets, Archivist
Kinaji	teacher
Tibaji	healer
Nondoji	farmer
Shimuji	singer, maker of songs
Korasha	scout
Bantay	watch, warden
Hangakuta	windbreak (a line of wall builders)
Hanaŋa	stormroot (a line that plants shelter belts)

Some craft lines describe the founder or the home ground, not the work: Majivu (ash), Vumbi (dust), Chuma (iron), Jiko (hearth), Mkono (hand), Mzizi (root), Majisafi (clean water), Mawingu (mist), Tufani (storm), Hangapole (gentle wind), Hangabaridi (nightward wind), Lawa (pool), Tazama (watch), Haraka (quick), Alama (mark).

Place Lines

Names that mark the home of the line. They use *Dan-*, from the Hausa word for "child of". It does not change with gender.

Dan-Bahari, Dan-Birni, Dan-Harmatan, Dan-Liko, Dan-Bukal, Dan-Patag, Dan-Angataa, Dan-Liwanag

Nomads and people of small settlements often have no line name. They use the place itself: *Mosi of Shan-Feŋ*.

Joined Lines

A few families keep the lines of both parents, joined with a hyphen: *Kamau-Chen*. This is most common in the Elder lineage.

Surnames

Structure Types

Compound descriptive (Earth-influenced):

- Environmental: Thornvale, Ashenfall, Emberlyn
- Pattern: [descriptor] + [natural feature]

Duskaran native:

- Consonant-heavy: Kethri, Vyraska, Rynthar, Krythe
- Vowel-rich: Luyareh, Orvalis, Loraketh
- Balanced: Velkara, Zhayran, Daemir

Typical endings

- **-eth/-ith**: Loraketh, Fenorith, Zorathis, Shaerith
- **-ar/-or**: Zyltar, Vorien, Vosir
- **-yn/-yn**: Telynn, Brynthe
- **-is/-os**: Myralis, Xenros, Velathis
- **-vale/-fall**: Thornvale, Ashenfall
- **-orne/-thar**: Kaelthorne, Arlithar

Construction patterns

1. **Compound**: [Environmental/thermal term] + [geographical feature]
   - Ash + fall = Ashenfall, Thorn + vale = Thornvale
2. **Native**: 2-3 syllables, mixed consonant clusters
   - Vy + rask + a = Vyraska, Kae + lir + is = Kaeliris
3. **Hybrid**: Blend Earth and Duskaran elements
   - Fen + or + ith = Fenorith

Cultural Considerations

Regional Variations

Twilight Belt settlements:

- Tend toward wind/storm-related sounds
- Harder consonants, reflecting environmental harshness
- Examples: Thryne Stormridge, Zade Thornvale

Night-side cave dwellers:

- Softer sounds, more vowel-rich
- Names often shorter, more whispered
- Examples: Lyanne Velseris, Feryn Loraketh

Day-side workers (rare):

- Sharp, heat-evocative sounds
- Strong emphasis on harsh consonants
- Examples: Khoran Ashenfall, Zhyrin Ryshar

Psychic Ability Influences

Weatherworkers:

- Names often contain wind-like sibilants (sh, zh, s)
- Examples: Shavina, Zhayrin, Saeris

Thermal Sensors:

- Names with hard stops and thermal associations
- Examples: Kaleth, Tyras, Ferith

Deep Bonders:

- Flowing, connected sounds
- Examples: Luyana, Elorin, Velathis

Naming Ceremonies

Names are typically given in infancy but can be amended or expanded upon demonstrating psychic abilities or achieving significant milestones. Some individuals earn additional names reflecting their roles or accomplishments.

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Name Assembly Process

Step 1: Choose Gender Expression

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Step 2: Select Starting Sound

Pick an initial consonant or cluster that fits the character's nature:

- Hard survivors: K-, Th-, Z-, Kr-, Dr-
- Adaptable types: L-, V-, S-, Sh-, Zh-
- Psychic/spiritual: Ae-, Ny-, Ry-

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Step 3: Build Core Syllables

Add 1-2 middle syllables using:

- Common patterns: ya, ra, el, or, yn, is, ar
- Vowel sequences: ae, ai, ey, or
- Consonant clusters: ry, ly, th, sh

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Choose from gender-appropriate endings listed above

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Prefix	Sound	Usage
Ae-	/eɪ/	Mystical, psychic
Kh-	/x/	Strong, resilient
Zh-	/ʒ/	Adaptable, flowing
Th-	/θ/	Traditional, grounded
Zy-/Zy-	/zi/	Sharp, quick
Ly-	/li/	Graceful, bonding

Common Suffixes

Feminine: -a, -ra, -na, -ssa, -elle, -yne, -is, -e, -i, -th

Masculine: -or, -ic, -el, -yn, -os, -ar, -en, -eth

Neutral: -yn, -el, -th, -is, -en, -ar, -os

Surname Components

First elements: Thorn, Ash, Ember, Storm, Frost, Shadow, Dusk, Wind, Flame

Second elements: -vale, -fall, -ridge, -crest, -thorn, -lyn

Native forms: -eth, -ith, -ar, -or, -yn, -is, -os, -orne, -thar

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Duskaran Naming Examples

Name Structure

Duskaran names follow a three-part structure established over eight centuries:

1. **Personal name** (given at birth)
2. **Wind-Kin designation** (clan affiliation, optional in casual use)
3. **Surname** (family name)

Usage Contexts

Full Formal (All three parts)

Used in official documents, ceremonies, formal introductions, and when clan affiliation matters.

Examples:

- Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
- Korvan kin-Moto Vyraska
- Shavina kin-Maji Loraketh
- Thane kin-Babu Daemir
- Luyana kin-Kivuli Ashenfall
- Kaelen kin-Hanga Rynthar

Common Formal (Personal + Surname)

Used in most written communication, professional contexts, and daily interactions where formality is expected but clan emphasis is unnecessary.

Examples:

- Aelira Thornvale
- Korvan Vyraska
- Shavina Loraketh
- Thane Daemir
- Luyana Ashenfall
- Kaelen Rynthar

Casual (Personal name only)

Used among friends, family, and in informal settings.

Examples:

- Aelira
- Korvan
- Shavina

- Thane
- Luyana
- Kaelen

Wind-Kin Clans

kin-Hanga (Wind Clan)

Surface dwellers, weatherworkers, those who work with wind patterns.

Example characters:

- Zorathi kin-Hanga Stormridge (female weatherworker)
- Darian kin-Hanga Emberlyn (male wind engineer)
- Miren kin-Hanga Velkara (neutral atmospheric monitor)

kin-Moto (Fire/Geothermal Clan)

Thermal specialists, geothermal engineers, day-side workers.

Example characters:

- Zihara kin-Moto Krythe r (female thermal sensor)
- Ravik kin-Moto Ashenfall (male day-side salvager)
- Soren kin-Moto Zhayran (neutral geothermal technician)

kin-Maji (Water Clan)

Water managers, conservationists, hydroponic farmers.

Example characters:

- Manya kin-Maji Loraketh (female water systems manager)
- Orin kin-Maji Thornvale (male hydroponic specialist)
- Lyris kin-Maji Orvalis (neutral moisture harvester)

kin-Babu (Elder Lineage)

Knowledge keepers, historians, traditional families, cultural preservationists.

Example characters:

- Luminara kin-Babu Daemir (female data crystal keeper)
- Thane kin-Babu Rynthar (male oral historian)
- Kaelen kin-Babu Luyareh (neutral memory specialist)

kin-Kivuli (Shadow Clan)

Deepkin, night-side cave dwellers, those who live in permanent darkness.

Example characters:

- Luyana kin-Kivuli Ashenfall (female cave community leader)
- Zayne kin-Kivuli Velkara (male deep bonder)
- Miren kin-Kivuli Kethri (neutral geothermal monitor)

Dialogue Examples

Formal Introduction

"I present Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale, weatherworker of the Northern Reach settlements."

Casual Meeting

"Have you met Aelira? She's the new weatherworker."

Official Document

"Requisition approved by Korvan kin-Moto Vyraska, Chief Thermal Engineer, Dayward Mining Operations."

Letter Salutation

"Dear Shavina Loraketh,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding water allocation..."

Between Friends

"Thane says the storm's going to hit us harder than expected."

Character Sheet Examples

Full Character Sheet Header

Name: Zorathi kin-Hanga Stormridge
Clan: Wind (kin-Hanga)
Role: Senior Weatherworker
Settlement: Northern Reach

Simplified Character Sheet

Name: Zorathi Stormridge
Role: Weatherworker
Settlement: Northern Reach

Quick Reference

Name: Zorathi
Clan: Wind
Role: Weatherworker

Multi-Cultural Examples

Mixed Clan Family

When individuals from different clans marry, children typically take one parent's clan affiliation but may reference both informally:

- Ravik kin-Moto Thornvale (father from kin-Hanga, mother from kin-Moto)
- "Ravik of Thornvale, born to the Wind but walks with Fire"

Clan Transition

Some individuals change clan affiliation due to life circumstances or professional specialization:

- Formerly: Kaelen kin-Hanga Rynthar
- Now: Kaelen kin-Kivuli Rynthar (moved to night-side caves)
- Referred to as: "Kaelen Windborn of the Shadow clan"

No Clan Affiliation

Some individuals, particularly those from isolated settlements or mixed backgrounds, may not claim a clan:

- Personal name + Surname only
- Example: Miren Velkara (no clan designation)
- Referred to with settlement name instead: "Miren of Deephollow"

Generational Examples

Family Lineage

Grandfather: Thoran kin-Hanga Thornvale
Mother: Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
Daughter: Zorathi kin-Hanga Thornvale

Surnames pass through generations, Wind-Kin affiliations typically do as well, but personal names are unique within immediate family.

Compound Family Names

Some prestigious families maintain both parents' surnames:

- Korvan kin-Moto Vyraska-Thornvale
- More common in Elder lineage (kin-Babu)

Regional Variations

Twilight Belt Settlements

Tend toward full formal names in official contexts, common formal in daily use.

- Written: Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
- Spoken: Aelira Thornvale

Night-Side Caves

More casual, clan often implied by location rather than stated.

- Written: Luyana Ashenfall of Deephollow
- Spoken: Luyana (clan assumed to be kin-Kivuli)

Nomadic Groups

Some groups don't use fixed surnames, instead use settlement names:

- Miren of Windcross
- Soren of the Moving Camps

Honorifics and Titles

When combined with names, titles precede the full name:

- Weathermaster Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
- Chief Engineer Korvan kin-Moto Vyraska
- Elder Thane kin-Babu Daemir
- Deepguide Luyana kin-Kivuli Ashenfall

Casual with title:

- Weathermaster Aelira
- Chief Korvan
- Elder Thane
- Guide Luyana

Names in Different Media

On wind-songs (oral tradition)

"Listen to the tale of Aelira of Thornvale, who tamed the great storm..."

On data crystals (formal records)

"Record: Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale, Weatherworker Third Class, certified Cycle 8,429..."

On settlement rosters

"Thornvale, Aelira (kin-Hanga) - Weatherworker"

In casual letters

"Dear Aelira,

Hope this finds you well..."

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ✗ Using clan designation in casual conversation between friends
- ✓ Use personal name only: "Aelira says the storm will pass soon"

- ✗ Omitting clan in official documents
- ✓ Always use full formal: "Approved by Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale"

- ✗ Adding unnecessary complexity
- ✓ Match formality to context

- ✗ Mixing Earth and Duskaran conventions incorrectly
- ✓ Follow established patterns for surnames

Quick Reference Chart

Context	Format	Example
Official ceremony	Full formal	Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
Legal document	Full formal	Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
Professional intro	Common formal	Aelira Thornvale
Written letter	Common formal	Aelira Thornvale
Daily conversation	Common formal	Aelira Thornvale
Among friends	Casual	Aelira
Family	Casual	Aelira
Wind-songs	Varies	Aelira of Thornvale

Duskaran Naming Examples

Name Structure

Duskaran names follow a three-part structure established over eight centuries:

1. **Personal name** (given at birth)
2. **Wind-Kin designation** (clan affiliation, optional in casual use)
3. **Surname** (family name)

Usage Contexts

Full Formal (All three parts)

Used in official documents, ceremonies, formal introductions, and when clan affiliation matters.

Examples:

- Aelira kin-Hanga Thornvale
- Korvan kin-Moto Vyraska
- Shavina kin-Maji Loraketh
- Thane kin-Babu Daemir
- Luyana kin-Kivuli Ashenfall
- Kaelen kin-Hanga Rynthar

Common Formal (Personal + Surname)

Used in most written communication, professional contexts, and daily interactions where formality is expected but clan emphasis is unnecessary.

Examples:

- Aelira Thornvale
- Korvan Vyraska
- Shavina Loraketh
- Thane Daemir
- Luyana Ashenfall
- Kaelen Rynthar

Casual (Personal name only)

Used among friends, family, and in informal settings.

Examples:

- Aelira
- Korvan
- Shavina

- Thane
- Luyana
- Kaelen

Wind-Kin Clans

kin-Hanga (Wind Clan)

Surface dwellers, weatherworkers, those who work with wind patterns.

Example characters:

- Zorathi kin-Hanga Stormridge (female weatherworker)
- Darian kin-Hanga Emberlyn (male wind engineer)
- Miren kin-Hanga Velkara (neutral atmospheric monitor)

kin-Moto (Fire/Geothermal Clan)

Thermal specialists, geothermal engineers, day-side workers.

Example characters:

- Zihara kin-Moto Krythe r (female thermal sensor)
- Ravik kin-Moto Ashenfall (male day-side salvager)
- Soren kin-Moto Zhayran (neutral geothermal technician)

kin-Maji (Water Clan)

Water managers, conservationists, hydroponic farmers.

Example characters:

- Manya kin-Maji Loraketh (female water systems manager)
- Orin kin-Maji Thornvale (male hydroponic specialist)
- Lyris kin-Maji Orvalis (neutral moisture harvester)

kin-Babu (Elder Lineage)

Knowledge keepers, historians, traditional families, cultural preservationists.

Example characters:

- Luminara kin-Babu Daemir (female data crystal keeper)
- Thane kin-Babu Rynthar (male oral historian)
- Kaelen kin-Babu Luyareh (neutral memory specialist)

kin-Kivuli (Shadow Clan)

Deepkin, night-side cave dwellers, those who live in permanent darkness.

Example characters:

- Luyana kin-Kivuli Ashenfall (female cave community leader)
- Zayne kin-Kivuli Velkara (male deep bonder)
- Miren kin-Kivuli Kethri (neutral geothermal monitor)

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