

## **Sheuv-Kishan**

### **Backstory**

**Species:** dCedican (a bipedal insectoid)

**Sex:** ♀ Intersex

**Age:** Early 30s

**Height:** 7ft 5in / 2.2m

**Weight:** 240lbs

**Siblings:** One of four clutch-mates, and is the 'eldest' due to being the first to hatch



### **Species and Cultural Notes**

These can be read [here](#). Artwork available [here](#).

Sheuv-Kishan is an original character who may or may not be used in roleplay settings. Kishan is a resourceful character who grew up in low-level poverty and pined for a richer life... until their accident, when they learned a valuable lesson about imperfection and its impact on a dcedican's life.

### **Trust & Confidence**

*(newborn)*

Of the eggs laid by Kishan's egg-bearing parent, four hatched, with Kishan being the first to emerge. As is the usual practice for young dcedicans, Kishan and their three siblings, who hatched soon afterwards, were raised collectively by their clan.

Kishan's siblings were named Sheuv-Dassen, Kedak, and Drikk.

The clutch they had hatched from had been planned, so as such Kishan and their siblings were not a surprise to their parents or to the overall clan. Their parents were expecting the brood, so in addition to their material preparedness, they were psychologically prepared for it too.

Finances were a little bit lean for the clan, although not to a degree that caused them any major problems in providing for the new arrivals. Kishan as an infant felt that their parents and clan were safe and under no strain to keep fed and sheltered, so felt relaxed about these things themselves - inasmuch as an infant could account for these things. In truth, Kishan simply felt that 'everything is okay; there is no scarcity so I can grow without taking away what anybody else needs'.

## **Freedom & Self-Determination**

*(toddlerhood)*

As Kishan and their siblings grew a little bit older they began to develop a sense of curiosity about the world around them, and to want to exert power within it. The first bit of power Kishan wanted was to be able to keep things that they found, if they felt like they wanted to. They could be possessive of toys, food, and other goodies. Sometimes this possessiveness was challenged, either by their siblings or the older members of the clan. There weren't always enough interesting things to go around, so if Kishan got their hands on the most fun toy, the tastiest snack, or the warmest blanket, then they would try to keep it, even if it meant gripping it hard enough to make it hard to take away.

In time they learned how to share, and that began a life-long, low-level feeling of boredom and dissatisfaction with life in general. Because of this, Kishan became easily frustrated or stressed.

The first choice Kishan ever got to make was what to eat when snacks were handed out. They were quite taken with this and loved to be able to choose!

Sometimes the dynamics between the four siblings could get testy - usually because of the relative lack of stimulating toys. If one or another of the younglings didn't feel like playing with a particular toy, or if they were generally unhappy about something - as is often the way for toddlers who have not yet mastered much - then they would squabble. Kishan did its own share of shoving their siblings, grabbing things out of the others' hands, slapping or biting. None of this did a great deal of damage, but whoever was supervising the youngsters at the time would invariably step in to deal with the conflict.

Kishan picked up on the general busyness of the older members of the clan, and the general (and increasing) sense of chaos that came with being a member of a quartet of growing siblings. They often felt as if there was too much to keep track of, and Kishan found this so stressful that they gave up trying. Most of the adults had a "getting things 80% right is fine," attitude - ie., they were not perfectionists - and Kishan themselves adopted this outlook. This felt much more comfortable than trying to keep track of everything that went on each day.

Whenever Kishan made something - a picture, a tower of playing blocks, or anything other creation - they were happy to show it off to others. In fact, they soon learned that this was a good way to get a few moments' worth of attention from a grown-up. However, getting this sort of one-to-one attention was easier said than done, and quite often a harried adult would only give Kishan a cursory "That's good, well done," or similar before moving on with whatever they'd been doing beforehand. Kishan noticed that this did not represent true enjoyment of what they had created, nor time generously given, and that left Kishan feeling somewhat frustrated.

The truth behind Kishan's situation was that nobody was trying to suppress them; this was simply a clan with four new babies, twenty to thirty adults each with their own lives, and a mildly inadequate income. However, Kishan was a little too young to really understand this, so they reacted by being wilful. They did learn however, that their emotional wants and needs were more likely to be met than their material wants, so they made a point of learning who in the clan was more likely to be emotionally generous and interacted with them more.

### **Ambition**

*(young childhood)*

The older and more energetic Kishan got, the more eager they became to experience everything the world had to offer. This presented them with a dilemma: on the one hand they wanted even more resources than they'd had access to as a toddler, so felt the frustration of having to go without even more keenly. On the other, they had the opportunity to change as they grew - and as intelligent life-forms, dcedicans were certainly capable of adapting to survive in the circumstances in which they grew up.

In practical terms, this meant that Kishan had a strong incentive to learn how to make their own fun rather than seeking it from an outside source. This was easy enough with four siblings who all had colourful imaginations, although with their sibling dynamics being as notoriously volatile as any other brood, this also created plenty of opportunity for conflict. Kishan didn't always want this conflict so developed a certain tendency to go off by themselves and make their own fun alone

As far as stimulation from toys or other forms of entertainment went, Kishan often noticed that other children in different clans had toys they didn't, and they sometimes heard about places that a clan could go to for fun days out in adverts on broadcasts. Whenever they mentioned these toys or days out to their parents however, the answer was invariably, "we don't have the money".

However, they had grown enough by this point that they were able to go on outings with older members of the clan. This meant that trips into town became more common, and began to feel more casual and less meticulously-planned than they had been on the rare occasion when Kishan had been younger and all four of the siblings had been taken into town together - perhaps for a medical visit. Kishan enjoyed these outings, partly for the opportunity to get out of the house for a while, and partly for the possibility of being given a treat. They particularly liked breaded and deep-fried protein-rich foods - snacks that could be described as the planet's equivalent of fried locusts.

However, sibling warfare, imaginative play, and town visits weren't all that was going on in Kishan's world. The clan's finances - more specifically, Kishan's mum and dad's finances - were strained enough that Kishan could sense that they were unhappy about something. They were far too young to actively be able to help with this, much less

understand the problems that could occur around budgeting and finances, but they wanted to make things better anyway so tried to be sensitive to the situation and keep out of the way. Kishan learned by osmosis that their parents seemed less agitated if Kishan kept themselves occupied and that the same was true about their younger siblings. Once they'd realised this, they put a certain amount of effort into distracting or entertaining their siblings whenever they got particularly vocal about being bored and this seemed to be irritating their parents, although this didn't happen particularly often.

## **Productivity**

*(older childhood)*

Kishan's college work began to get more involved - and involving. Given their feeling that they were already in a restrictive, overly controlled environment, they didn't particularly like the increasingly demanding atmosphere in college, but ultimately they had little choice to submit to it.

With this said, Kishan was nothing if not keen to contribute and to do whatever they could to make their clan's life better, even if all they could do at this time was get good grades. Some tasks at college required teamwork, and Kishan found that some of their classmates were less keen on doing their bit. They found this frustrating, and saw the reluctant contributors as slackers.

Indeed, overall, Kishan found that they preferred the company of their own siblings to that of their college-mates. There were some college-mates who had more toys, and whose family could afford more, and better family outings than their own could and because of this, Kishan could become jealous at times. Kishan made several new friendships at this time, mainly distant clan members of the same age, and other children from different clans who lived nearby. Kishan's ability to have fun with relatively little in the way of resources made them a fun playmate and companion, and the children who had more things to play with and enjoy found that Kishan made the best of those toys, and often enough, their enthusiasm rubbed off on the toy's owner.

Kishan's siblings had developed more distinct personalities by this point. Sheuv-Dassen had always wished that they'd been the first to hatch and somewhat resented Kishan for that. At times, Dassen could be physically overbearing. They had a fairly short temper and tended to play rough, and to throw their weight around. Ultimately this was due to nothing more than insecurity, and Kishan was aware enough of this. Kishan, in turn, thought that Dessen's preoccupation with the order of their hatching was petty. The relationship between these two siblings retained a low-level sense of animosity, but it never escalated to the point that it became a problem.

Kedak was more reserved than Kishan, but had an agreeable personality when they realised that somebody wanted to interact with them, and had made the decision to

engage back. As Kedak got older, they began to realise that finding work, especially work that suited their deeply introverted personality, would be something of a challenge.

Drikk loved attention. They were fun and bright, but preferred to be the one who got noticed and could easily feel annoyed if they believed that others were stealing their spotlight. This made for an interesting dynamic between Kishan and Drikk: sometimes they got along well as they each paid attention to how the other was reacting to them, which made them something of a dynamic duo, but sometimes that need for attention brought them into conflict if either tried getting attention from a third person. Both siblings harboured a secret pleasure at this rivalry, but this was often hidden under a veil of irritation.

Overall, Kishan was quite successful in developing from a small child into an older child. They felt as if they had to adjust to a point, and to tolerate some other dcedicans who seemed to flaunt their extra luxuries, but overall, they adjusted to society well.

As is standard for dcedicans, Kishan and their siblings moved on from school to a combination of community college and employment when they reached the age of 10 to help out at home and to get work experience. Given that there were four of them, this helped out the clan quite a lot, more so for Kishan's immediate family. While they weren't able to earn enough for the family to live in luxury, between them they lessened the financial pressure that they created by being part of the clan.

Of the four siblings, Dassen and Drikk held onto their earnings for a while so that they could enjoy having a disposable income. Kedak had a few false-starts as they tried to find a job that suited their introverted personality, realised that this was unlikely to happen in an entry position, and developed their skills / made their peace with the fact that they would need to become comfortable with customer contact. Between them all, it was Kishan who settled the most smoothly into the world of work.

Sometimes they felt somewhat irritated by the fact that Dassen and Drikk had chosen to keep their incomes out of selfishness. Kishan's insistence on contributing their earnings annoyed Dassen and Drikk, who felt that this was an effort by Kishan to be 'pious', but this didn't become a serious dispute. In fact, at times, Kishan benefited from Dassen and Drikk's spending, and in time Kishan became more comfortable with this dynamic.

### **Child to Adult Transition**

*(adolescence)*

Kishan's approach to the world of work earned them a reputation for being reliable and for paying their own way at home. Their various sibling rivalries also earned them a reputation for being able to deal effectively with bullying, and Kishan became not only a poor choice of target, but also helped occasionally with putting bullies in their place if they caused problems to Kishan's family, friends, or colleagues.

To do that, Kishan relied on their wit and body to keep others safe; they didn't bother reporting bullies to authority figures or otherwise arranging for outside intervention. Kishan preferred to be direct about such things.

The older Kishan got, the clearer an idea they had that they were, in fact, an introvert. Their early start in the workplace, plus their observation of Kedak - who was even more introverted than Kishan - allowed them to make sense of their own desire for regular solitude. Kishan discovered that they preferred to already be familiar with the people they were spending their time with. Family was familiar, as was their class in college and their team at work. Customers were less familiar, and this meant that Kishan found them to be harder work.

Kishan considered all of this, as they felt that there was more to the picture. Their dynamic at home could sometimes leave them dissatisfied, partly because of the usual sibling rivalry, some elements of which had intensified thanks to them entering the world of work and wanting to get to know themselves as a functioning adult, and partly due to the family's low level of poverty. Work didn't fulfill all of Kishan's social needs either as it was a place where Kishan had duties to perform. Overall, Kishan felt that they could have felt more satisfied with the company they kept. At first they tried spending time alone, as was natural for an introvert, but this didn't particularly help.

This was something of a puzzle to Kishan, right up until he discussed the problem with an older dcedican, who suggested that Kishan find some clubs to join. At first Kishan was skeptical as they already felt a need for less social time, not more, but they tried anyway. They opted for a wrestling club, as they were already used to engaging in rough and tumble with their siblings.

Attending a club certainly hit the spot for Kishan in ways that home and work didn't, and they started to feel satisfied with their social life - even if it did mean they had to constantly work on getting enough solitary time! Kishan constantly found themselves filtering through new people as their 'social net' widened, especially at college, for the people they vibed with best. Everybody else, Kishan had to slough off for fear of being socially overwhelmed, and they became noticeably direct, even blunt at times, about this. Wrestling proved to be an excellent choice as the social time was based on activities, not talking, which was a relatively untaxing way for Kishan to be sociable.

One type of dcedican Kishan really didn't get along with was those who were rich and arrogant. Kishan could tolerate the rich and good-mannered, but when another dcedican appeared to think they were better than Kishan, that irritated Kishan a great deal.

Kishan had multiple role models, and was happy with the amount of leadership they got from them. These role models included a couple of good auncles and cousins within the clan, and a few good teachers.

Overall, Kishan's life was so busy, both socially and otherwise, that they didn't have much time for romantic or sexual relationships. While they had a few, Kishan generally put these on the proverbial back burner, and their lack of investment of time or attention to these relationships generally meant that they sputtered out before getting serious.

### **Closeness in Relationships**

*(young adulthood)*

One day, Kishan was involved in an accident at work.

They were working as security staff in a bank at the time. A gang of robbers broke directly into the vault by knocking one of its walls down. Unfortunately the wall was a supporting wall, and when Kishan and the other security workers went to check the source of the strange noise, a portion of the wall and ceiling came down on them. Kishan sustained serious injuries, including to their exoskeleton, which cracked in multiple places.

This put Kishan in hospital for several, painful weeks.

As adult devedicans do not moult, any cracks to an individual's exoskeleton must be fixed using adhesives and fixatives. Kishan had received a generous payout for the accident, which paid for Kishan's medical bills well enough to grant them the opportunity to choose from a range of treatment options.

Early on, Kishan felt angry about what had happened. When their family came to visit, some of them felt sorry for Kishan, which Kishan found annoying. They found the pity hard to forget when the pain and inability to exercise made it hard to sleep. During one of those sleepless nights, Kishan realised that they would have visible scars for the rest of their life, so they wondered if they should choose one of the more aesthetically pleasing exoskeleton fixatives so that, rather than being the subject of pity, they might look interesting.

The cheapest options were dark and dull but did the job, while more expensive options used silver and copper, which have antimicrobial properties so cut down on the chance of infection. These would be dazzling against Kishan's dull brown exoskeleton and would reduce the amount of ongoing care Kishan would need to attend to. Kishan opted for silver.

All of this was a nice luxury, but Kishan also enjoyed its symbolic value. Their life had always felt rather flawed - the low level poverty, the need to make do and mend, the stress - and Kishan had felt that the accident had been a particularly brutal blow to a life that already felt rather lacking. However, Kishan also realised that none of that could be helped and it wasn't worth angsty over it, and that perhaps it was okay to be broken. Their poverty had brought the clan closer together, and if anybody knew how to make a

lot out of a little, it was Kishan. Using a precious metal to make a statement out of this concept held an appeal.

The treatment was painful and slow, but Kishan was delighted with the results!

There were times when Kishan wished they had chosen copper instead, although this was purely for vanity reasons. One day Kishan mentioned that to one of the more artsy members of their clan, who suggested that Kishan paint over the silver. They even offered Kishan some gold paint for the purpose.

If Kishan had been delighted with the silver, they were swept away with the results now that they were gold!

Kishan got all sorts of reactions to their kintsugi. Some were curious about how Kishan had got this design. Some thought it was deliberate body-modification. Some found it an uncomfortable reminder of Kishan's injury or disliked that Kishan was flaunting themselves. The positive reactions were enough for Kishan, and for those who found the sight uncomfortable, they were happy to put on a poncho.

In the current day, Kishan has not yet had any children, nor seriously considered the possibility. Overall, Kishan is not averse to the idea of settling down and having a family of their own. They had assumed that they would meet the right person at some time, and may yet do so.

### **Passing on Responsibilities**

*(older adulthood)*

As Kishan grew into middle age, they perfected the art of living in financial security via the insurance payout and communal living. Kishan became the 'cool uncle' of the family with the cracked, shiny carapace, and the youngsters found them fascinating! Kishan rather enjoyed being the interesting one like this, and found great contentment with being the savvy, 'pretty' member of the family.

### **End of Life**

*(old age)*

The older Kishan got, the more they reflected on the flaws of the world around them. Kishan wished that the world did not punish dcedicans for their shortcomings and imperfections, and certainly would have preferred that nobody punish themselves for their own faults. But the world was a place where such things happened, and Kishan ended their days hoping that they had done some good in passing on the message to the next generation that it's okay to be broken.

## **Credits**

Based on theory by:

Erikson, E., (1951) 'Childhood and Society', W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. chapter 7.

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~Hayley, The Character Consultancy