

Talo the Axarcii Backstory

Name: Talo (no surname)

Species: Axarcii, from the planet Seiolu. Axarcii resemble big cats (ie., apex predator cats such as lions and tigers) and are the dominant species of Seiolu. Axarcii have enormous appetites and can run at high speed. They mostly live among other axarcii, and usually have just a single cub, although twins are not unheard of. Axarcii have a powerful bite. They can retract most of their horns and usually show them when they feel threatened or proud. Their claws can tear through metal, and their sense of smell is incorruptible.

Sex: Male

Age: Unknown

Height: 5ft 3in

Weight: 130lbs

Siblings: None

Special equipment: Exploration gear including a travel pack, goggles and a cloak

Special powers: Electricity generation

Cultural notes: At the time when Talo was born, his native planet was watched over by a range of gods, who in turn were protected by a group of entities known as the Guardians.

Talo is an original character who started life on an alien planet, but who came to Earth later. He is energetic, has a super-power, and enjoys celebrity status on Earth.

Trust & Confidence

(newborn)

Talo was the third baby born to his parents. However, he was the first one to survive his birth. His parents had given up on trying for a baby but Talo had been conceived accidentally. His birth wasn't without difficulty however, and he stopped breathing as soon as he was born. However, emergency medical treatment allowed him to survive.

Because of this, right from the start his mother was protective of him and did her best to keep him out of trouble. In later life, whenever his mother told this story, she called Talo her "miracle child".

Aside from this he had an average-to-good early life, one in which his parents made some small mistakes in caring for him that led him to feel mild to moderate doubt that they were able to care for him. It also seems fair to guess that he personally did some things to rupture the baby-parent bond. Perhaps he nipped his mother (axarcii, after all, have a powerful bite), or cried for attention, often at times when his parents needed space for their own well-being.

However, none of this appears to have had a severe effect.

Over the years Talo had many reasons to feel distrust, and when these occasions arose he usually opted to distrust himself. This suggests that as an infant, he felt that he was more often the one to rupture the symbiosis with his mother, and should therefore be careful in order to not drive the other away. However, he has always bounced back from

these moments of self-doubt, which suggests that ultimately, his infancy was safe enough.

Freedom & Self-Determination

(toddlerhood)

Talo's toddlerhood was uneventful. Like all very small children, he had some initial experiences with the discovery that he had control over his own body, which was inevitably a big discovery given that axarcii are powerful creatures. Aside from this, nothing too drastic happened so he has no particular stories to tell from his own toddlerhood beyond his first taste of being disciplined by his parents for doing things they didn't want him to do, using his new-found autonomy.

As Talo was an only child, his parents had no experience with raising children, so they were not always sure how to handle Talo, who was quite a handful. This gave Talo some cause for confusion as on the one hand he was aware of his ability to bring his own will to bear. Sometimes however, his parents felt the need to over-rule him and stop him enacting his own will, and at times they did this clumsily, leaving Talo feeling doubtful, ashamed or just plain confused. The result of this was that Talo ended his toddlerhood with a conflicting belief that he was autonomous but also that he was powerless, and that others could take away his power.

When Talo felt this self-doubt he would sometimes become destructive. When he grew older and revisited this feeling due to events happening on his home planet, he would often break things and punch surfaces to relieve stress. However, he reserved his destructive tendencies to inanimate objects; he was loath to be cruel to others.

Ambition

(small childhood)

At around the time that Talo moved from toddlerhood to this stage in his life, he started to notice a small but unsettling change in his environment. Some axarcii that he saw in his day to day life had cybernetic enhancements. These enhancements weren't major (they could be very subtle and perhaps he failed to notice some entirely), but the ones he did notice left him feeling disquieted.

However, he also learned of the existence of the gods that watched over the axarcii, and the Guardian that watched over them, and that mostly reassured him. He believed that if he and the other axarcii were watched over like this, then there couldn't be any real danger.

As a child, Talo was highly energetic, although he only let his family see that. He was far more reserved around strangers and even around his friends, and had a reputation for being quiet and shy. This was partly due to his lingering feelings of self-doubt learned in toddlerhood, and also due to his low-key worries about the partly-robotic strangers he sometimes saw. He wasn't sure how to respond to them.

It didn't help that he became the victim of a handful of bullies at around this time. When his mother found out about this, she protected him by shutting him off from having any further contact with the bullies.

As a small child he found it difficult to make decisions, particularly if they were important ones, for fear that he would make the wrong decision and do serious damage to person or property.

After all, an inactive Talo couldn't be an unstoppable Talo.

This difficulty with making decisions became a part of his personality. When put under pressure he would often panic and make a rash decision, which often reinforced his self-belief that he couldn't make good decisions.

This do-or-do-not dilemma was a conundrum that kept bothering Talo, and the deteriorating state of affairs on his home planet meant that the worst often happened despite his decision-making. For a while this left him feeling terrified of making the wrong choice, and furious at the overall situation.

However, he could only feel so powerless for so long, and he adapted. By the time he became an adult, he'd mostly made his peace with his energy and come to trust his decision-making skills. In the current day, Talo has big ambitions to save his native planet from the invading aliens who are still there, and also to protect his new home planet of Earth from any and all dangers.

Productivity

(older childhood)

The state of Talo's world continued to deteriorate. More part-cyborg axarcii appeared. Worse, as time passed the axarcii as an overall population began to suspect that the Guardian, the final remaining protector of their gods, had abandoned them. Until this point it had had a habit of appearing at random times and warning the axarcii of impending dangers, but it had been an unusually long time since they had seen it.

Without the final Guardian around, the gods had begun to noticeably weaken. Talo quietly hoped that the leaders of the axarcii would find some way to resolve this or at least ensure the axarcii population's safety, but there was nothing he personally could do about the situation.

On Talo's native planet of Seiolu, axarcii do not have formal school in the same way as humans on Earth do. Instead, children are taught by the village elders, and this teaching can be relatively relaxed. However, in addition to this Talo's parents made the decision to home-school him to avoid having Talo and his bullies meet again.

His parents remained highly protective, and this spilled over into Talo's mother making decisions about what he would learn, where he could go, and other such decisions. Life beyond their front door seemed too dangerous for her son, so Talo's mother judged.

Talo's father saw all of this, and did what he could to ease things for Talo. He loved his wife and child deeply, and whenever Talo felt sad or stressed he would take him out for walks across the lands. This gave Talo a much-needed chance to be active, and it also helped to encourage Talo's curiosity about the world around him. Overall, Talo's father supervised him heavily too, as he didn't want Talo to be hurt, but Talo enjoyed his time with his dad. Indeed, he loved both of his parents.

At home, Talo learned basic math and languages – and it should be said that he particularly excelled at languages! Other than that, he was a very curious child and learned a lot by investigating things and by asking his parents questions about life, the universe, and everything. Some of this was fuelled by his anxieties about the safety of himself and the axarcii he cared about, but much of it was also a result of his natural love of discovery.

This is the life stage when a child starts using their skills to contribute to their family, and occasionally also to their community. Given that Talo had doubts about his high-energy, bad-decision-making self, he lacked a firm belief that he could contribute anything to make the world a better place.

Child to Adult Transition

(adolescence)

Talo generally felt at something of a loss during this stage of his life. It was during this nagging feeling of inferiority that his world really fell apart.

By the time he turned thirteen, the Guardian, gods and cyborg problems had escalated to the point that Seiolu's infrastructure had become unstable. Pockets of rioting and rebellion had left Talo's world unsafe. Talo became separated from his parents and simply never found them again. He tried to find them but was unsuccessful.

Instead, he tried to provide for himself, but he lacked the skill to do so and gradually got hungrier, until he gave up, sure that he would die of starvation.

It was at this time that a gang of young rebels found him. They took him in and gave him the food, shelter and kindness he needed to restore himself back to full health.

At first Talo was unsure about this group, and painfully powerless. After all, he had always been reserved around people he didn't know, but soon enough he warmed to the group as he learned to overcome his apprehension about being bullied, and about his mother's ever-watchful (and if he was honest with himself, sometimes *over*-watchful) eye.

The leader of the group was Zio. Zio was the oldest and had a hard-bitten character, as if he had already seen too much for his age. Despite his hard exterior it became clear that he cared for the others and felt responsible for them, and Talo came to appreciate his leadership.

Talo became particularly good friends with Riko. Riko had been through many similar experiences to Zio but somehow, had kept a bright, upbeat, even comedic, outlook. Often, Riko was the ray of sunshine the others needed.

The youngest of the group was a timid, quietly-spoken female axarcii named Fai. She was blind, and the daughter of a priestess. Once upon a time, Fai had tried to look directly at a god and that god had blinded her in response. As a result of that, Fai's mother had sent her away, believing that Fai would have a better life in less-close contact with the gods.

Despite the terrible fate of his world, Talo felt almost happy during this time. He discovered the value of being close to other children of his age, and developed his social skills. It also helped that this group of rebels acknowledged the state of their world (even if they didn't

fully understand it), so although Talo didn't exactly feel safe, he at least felt that he and his friends were aware of the dangers.

It didn't last. One day, three years after Talo had joined the group, he went out on his own to explore, and encountered a monster. He ran, but was cornered. It was the eternal optimist, Riko, who rescued him.

They fought the monster and kept an eye open for a chance to flee out of sight, but before that could happen it bit Riko.

Talo and Riko escaped and returned to the group, but Riko had been poisoned by the bite and died quickly.

This shook even Zio. In disgust, the group's leader berated Talo for exploring by himself, calling it sheer carelessness. He told Talo that this could get the whole group killed, and made it very clear that Talo was not to go off by himself again.

The gang had some dark times after this. Talo remained a member of the gang, but he felt responsible for Riko's death and decided to take Zio's advice. He returned to his early childhood habit of keeping to himself and avoiding making decisions whenever he could.

He never forgot this incident, nor the sense of powerlessness and isolation that came after it. When he grew older he used it to remind himself to be careful, and to give him the firm determination to make the world a better place.

He lived for two years under these gloomy circumstances.

By the time Talo had turned eighteen he had begun exploring again, as he was determined to contribute to the gang's upkeep and intel, and had always had a love of exploration.

He came by a wreckage, and explored it. He instantly recognised the signs of the monster that had killed Riko, and there was a dead body in the cockpit, but there were also coordinates. He wrote them down and brought the information back to Zio.

Zio was furious that Talo had explored again, and they argued, The argument escalated into a fight, which Talo lost. He ran away.

Before long he saw a fortress and went inside, hoping that it would be a safe place where he could stay.

It certainly was not safe. Exploring inside, he discovered the source of the roboticized axarcii that he had started noticing all those years ago. This was a factory or laboratory of sorts. Normal axarcii were kept captive and surgically modified to add cybernetic implants of all different types. As Talo explored further he saw that many had more extreme augmentations and changes than anything he had seen on the streets.

He was still reeling from this discovery when his thoughts were interrupted by a group of newcomers. Somebody who Talo immediately took to be the owner of this whole enterprise came in with Zio and Fai in tow, and called for them to be separated.

Talo hid and followed after Zio. Zio was locked up and left, and Talo broke his chains and freed him. The pair went in search of Fai, but when they found her she was almost dead.

The monster, the one who had chased Talo before and killed Riko, came. Talo and Zio tried to fight it but couldn't seem to hurt it. They were still trying when the owner came.

The monster desisted as soon as the owner arrived, and the owner told them what had been happening.

He confirmed that the Guardian had gone. He had captured it and tried to force it to turn control of the gods over to him, but it had committed suicide to avoid this. This hadn't helped the situation, as with the guardian dead, the gods had been weakened and the owner had been able to take control of the gods anyway.

Once he had done that, he had been free to do whatever he wanted with Seiolu, and that started with roboticizing the population.

He told Talo and Zio that the monster they had been facing was the god of death.

Zio took the opportunity to launch himself at the owner – and succeeded in catching him by surprise – but was ultimately overpowered. Talo joined the struggle and pulled his leader free, and they went to Fai in the hope of getting her out of this nightmare.

This was a mistake. Fai had died, and while Talo was distracted with this awful revelation, he was struck unconscious from behind.

He woke up a couple of times to find himself in terrible pain and being operated on, but kept falling unconscious again.

Eventually he woke up to find the worst of the pain and disorientation gone, and lack of bodily control lessened, and managed to stagger out of the fortress. He didn't get far before he collapsed once more.

Closeness in Relationships

(young adulthood)

The next time Talo woke up, he was in a wreckage of his own, and in a very different place to the city where the fortress had been. He was in a jungle.

Talo remained awake for long enough to work out that he was close to the sea – perhaps even on an island – and to find a still, fresh-water pool to check his reflection. He saw that he had been roboticized and could feel the implanted technology under his skin.

He collapsed again then, and didn't wake up for a few years.

Talo finally awoke because he had company. He sat up to find that he was surrounded by creatures of a species he had never seen before. They were wary and in awe of him.

Their initial contact was wary on both sides and not a little awkward, but Talo soon clarified that they were primitive but friendly people, that he was indeed on an island, and that he was a fully-healed cyborg.

He was also shocked to discover that in the years he had been asleep (or rather, powered

down), he had grown into a young adult – in his early twenties, he judged.

He remained with the island people for long enough to get his bearings and to begin to understand his new body. It was a peaceful time of reflection and self-development, but Talo always knew it would never last. He wanted more from the world than a small island, even a benevolent one, could provide.

The islanders had routes on and off the island so when he felt ready, he went to the mainland to see what awaited him there.

There were many more of the strange, almost-hairless creatures on the mainland, and like their island counterparts they were shocked by his presence and afraid of him to start with. With better access to security, the army was called in to subdue him.

Talo ran, and found himself in a power station. During the chase he was cornered. Afraid, he fought back. He also very abruptly discovered his new power. His cybernetic enhancements, whether by design or by virtue of damage sustained in his crash-landing, meant he could lash out with electrical energy. He damaged the power plant, making it explode, and it was only by sheer luck that none of the creatures were hurt.

Perhaps the army would have escalated if Talo hadn't disappeared before their very eyes, sheer shame and fear opening the way to a pocket dimension. As he (involuntarily) de-escalated the fight by disappearing, so did they, and soon enough he re-emerged. They coaxed him out of the plant. However, with the eyes of the media on him and the army's awareness of the potential for the presence of an alien on Earth to have an extreme impact across the world, he was taken into hiding.

One of the many people who had seen the footage of these events was a Japanese businesswoman. This woman had her ways of getting in touch with almost anybody she wanted, and between that and Talo's predilection for escaping and exploring, they met.

The businesswoman saw huge potential in using Talo as a mascot, and believed that Talo would accept this use of his image in return for good publicity that would ease his integration onto Earth. Images of him were used in commercials, made into cartoons and sold as merchandise, and as time passed, the people of Earth became much more comfortable with him and it was eventually deemed safe to release him into the public domain.

It was inevitable that Talo would remain very intensely in the public eye. The businesswoman understood this and continued to prepare him for the life of a celebrity who inevitably raised questions by his sheer existence of complex life beyond Earth, or interstellar travel, and of technologies beyond those of Earth. Talo went to live with the businesswoman and learned to speak English and Japanese fluently. He was also introduced to video games and cartoons, and this was where he developed his passion for using his powers for justice.

Talo remained highly energetic and hated keeping still and being inactive. One of the few things that he didn't mind keeping still for however, was those cartoons and video games. The heroes in these works of fiction kept him company, entertained him, and became his role models.

He realised that, rather than dismissing himself as either useless or destructive, he could

change – and he could influence that change. Talo came to the realisation that there was a third option: that he truly could be beneficial to the world around him and to himself.

This battle between self-doubt and self-confidence, and all of the rights and responsibilities that come with it, was the main experience of Talo's adolescence and early adulthood. Therefore it seems almost out of place to discuss his romantic life. However, here are a few details for the sake of completion: Talo has never dated. After he moved to Earth, he found himself the only member of his own species. Therefore, he hasn't dated on Earth either.

Talo has come to develop good social skills, to work well with others, and to look after his personal vulnerability with regards his fear of hurting or destroying 'the other'. Instead of reflexively doubting himself, he affects a persona of self-confidence and pushes himself through his own self-doubt, convincing others that he is strong and fearless.

His coaching with the businesswoman served him well in this regard.

One area in which he is finding particular confidence is in the sharing of ideas. Sharing ideas with others feels to him like a safe medium where he can put himself forward but also check his thoughts with others before acting on them (or have them perform the action so he doesn't have to). He has learned to present himself as confident when discussing ideas so that he looks like an active and enthusiastic contributor. In a similar vein, he likes to explore, since this is more about information-gathering or discovery than about acting to make changes.

Perhaps it's not surprising that one of Talo's long-standing role models from Earth's TV shows is a man who teaches the viewers about wildlife and plants.

With his confidence back, Talo has also rediscovered the joy of indulging in his boundless energy. Some find his energy too overwhelming to be able to tolerate, but over time he has found, and kept, a group of friends who can.

One way that Talo likes to express himself is with items that he has collected during his travels around Earth. He loves to have something tangible to remind him of where he's been and what he's done, and he has realised that clothing is a particularly practical way to do that. It keeps him covered (as the humans seem to prefer), and also makes for a souvenir he can show off on a regular basis.

He particularly likes cute things, although he feels self-conscious about that and tries not to let this show too much.

On the subject of things he prefers to hide, he doesn't like other people to see him upset. As a particularly notable international celebrity, he is under pressure to put on a strong, positive, approachable, or unthreatening face for the world, and this, along with his bitter experiences with his own shortcomings as a young axarcii, has left him uncomfortable with allowing others to see him when he feels sad, angry or afraid.

On that note, he has had some difficulties with others being angry at, or fearful of, him as he is the only axarcii on Earth – and technically an alien. Given his extraordinary and unique situation he earned instant celebrity status on Earth, and this inevitably led to a negative reaction from some. As an adult he has become quite used to that and in the current day, takes most xenophobic attacks in stride.

As a final note on Talo's relationships with others and his contribution to society, he isn't a big fan of work as he feels it's hard, as it generally requires him to rein in his energy and focus on a task, but he feels it's worth it in the end.

Passing on Responsibilities

(older adulthood)

It is uncertain whether Talo will ever have children to pass on his resources and skills to, as he is the only axarcii on Earth and returning to his home planet may not be possible. However, this may not be too much of an issue for Talo himself as he is energetic enough that he feels he could continue being the one to contribute for a long time yet. Given his crippling self-doubt during much of his early life, he also feels that he has much lost time to catch up on so may well continue being energetic and involved long into his middle-age.

End of Life

(old age)

It is likely that Talo will feel sad at the end of his life that he cannot spend more time with his loved ones. However, now that he is the confident creature he was born to be, he will likely lead a fulfilling life, one that he will feel he can look back on with satisfaction when he is old.

It is important to him that he will not be forgotten by others.

Credits

Talo the Axarcii is © [Talotailkitsy](#)

Axarcii species is © ? [awaiting response to this]

Artwork by [DesDraws](#) and used with their kind permission

Wording by [The Character Consultancy](#)

Based on theory by:

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

Want to organise your updates and talk with me about integrating them into your character? Email me on thecharacterconsultancy@gmail.com and I will be happy to help you!

~Hayley, The Character Consultancy