

# Shades of Meaning

## The Tarasin Skintone Language

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One of the most baffling of "languages" in the [Cularin system](#) is the skintone language utilized by the Tarasin. Much of the skintone language actually expresses emotion, rather than complex series of thoughts, although the changing colors of the skin can be used to give basic directions without speech while the Tarasin are hunting or attempting to evade the massive kilassin that roam the jungles of their [homeworld](#).

This more complex form of communication is most often accomplished through a combination of skintone changes in a single raised hand, with more detailed information provided based on which finger or fingers are raised and which fingers shift color. While the colors themselves are meaningful to all Tarasin (and to others familiar with the language), the specific hand-signals and their meanings vary greatly from one hunting party to the next.



What we list below are what Jedi linguists and other experts from throughout the galaxy have deduced about the Tarasin language. While we may have missed nuances, our descriptions represent the basics of the language. We welcome input from any knowledgeable sources to supplement our findings.

### Light Green

The base color for Tarasin, while at rest, is a light green. This green is, perhaps not coincidentally, the same shade as the horonna leaves so common in the lower levels of Cularin's jungles. This provides the Tarasin with excellent camouflage while they sleep. A skintone change to light green typically indicates that the Tarasin is at ease with his or her surroundings.

### Light Brown

A shade off from the restful horonna green is the light brown that closely matches the color of shadowed tree bark. When a Tarasin hunter needs to actively blend in with the surroundings, he or she often shifts to this color. A change to light brown on the part of a Tarasin indicates that he or she is wary, uncertain of the possibility of danger, or actively attempting to avoid notice.

### Other Greens and Browns

These are defaults or general utility colors. They contain many subtle shades that express different restful emotions and attempts at camouflage. The combination of color and facial expression will reveal much about the Tarasin's mood, though so many individual differences exist that it is impossible to catalogue all of them adequately.

### White

A change to white on the part of a Tarasin is typically an expression of joy. This is usually accomplished with a shift through several progressively brighter colors, many of which leave traces behind so that the white is rarely pure. The more residual color that is left behind - in other words, the more evidence of a shift to joy - the more excited and happy the Tarasin typically are. Adult Tarasin are usually relatively reserved, and it is uncommon to see adults in highly excited states. However, children often turn white, with many other colors visible, while they are at play.

### Black

Just as a change to white indicates heightened positive emotion, a change to black indicates that

the Tarasin is attempting to distance him- or herself emotionally from a situation. A wall is being erected, and the Tarasin is functionally done communicating.

### **Orange**

A critical part of the local flora of Cularin is the gargrell flower, a bright orange five-lobed bloom that even the kilassin avoid. The slightest contact with a gargrell results in severe skin irritation and can trigger even more drastic allergic reactions among non-natives. A change to the specific orange color that corresponds to the gargrell indicates that the Tarasin is highly irritated with whomever he or she is speaking and is bordering on angry. Shades of orange indicate increasing levels of irritation or anger, but only the gargrell-orange truly says, "You are ticking me off; get out of my face."

### **Purple**

Because it is highly non-adaptive to be purple in the jungle, the Tarasin do not typically shift to this color when they are out and about. However, while they are in their homes, a color shift to purple tends to indicate amusement, as when they are being entertained in some fashion. In some ways, purple is the silent Tarasin equivalent of laughter. There are rumors of a purple plant - some say flower, some say shrub, and some say weed - that releases laughter-inducing spores. If such a plant exists, the Tarasin have been careful to prevent its exportation.

### **Yellow**

Arrgrar vines are yellow strands that grow, seemingly overnight, from decaying plant material. Their spores are carried by a variety of underbrush-dwelling rodents, and where the arrgrar begin to grow, everything else begins to die. The vines twine around any other living plant and insert tendrils that suck water and nutrients from their hosts. The hosts quickly die, going through a series of shades of yellow (almost a universal color for illness and decay in the jungle), and without a host, the arrgrar die as well - until their spores are picked up by a rodent and carried to another section of the jungle. The yellow of the arrgrar, when adopted by a Tarasin, indicates illness or feelings similar to illness. That aching dread in the pit of your stomach when something is beyond your control, when you feel like you just might throw up? That's arrgrar yellow.

### **Blue**

Shades of blue tend to indicate levels of respect or, at least, deference. Just as the sky above the jungles of Cularin deserves to be venerated for the life-giving rain, so do certain members of Tarasin community - and even, on occasion, outsiders - deserve respect. A genuine show of respect from a Tarasin corresponds to a dark sky-blue skintone, but there are many variations on the tone to indicate the precise degree of respect. At those times when a Tarasin resorts to groveling, the deferential blue is tinged with wary brown.

### **Pink**

Shades of pink, up to and including deep red, indicate agitation. Very rarely are reds or pinks seen alone; more often, they are combined with another common color that indicates the source of the agitation. Blue mixed with pink, for example, would indicate that a Tarasin is very nervous about his own behavior while interacting with someone he knows he should respect.

### **Other Colors**

Colors other than those mentioned here can be adopted by the Tarasin. Certain metallic colors, grays, and shades of the colors mentioned above can be utilized when Tarasin are attempting to camouflage themselves in man-made environments.

### **In Summation**

What we know of the Tarasin language, then, is incomplete only in the sense that there is so much individual variation. But the general patterns, the trends, are there, and utilizing this knowledge, we can understand our jungle friends on Cularin all the better.

-- Jorus Trass, Chief Linguist, Almas Jedi Academy

*You can learn much more about the Tarasin and their homeworld in the  
[Living Force Campaign Guide!](#)*

*If you want to find out more about the **Living Force** campaign and how you can take part in the  
adventure, [this introduction](#) will get you started.*