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Hegemony  
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343-34/6444890-1

# Hegemony Diplomatic Corps

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## **Species Report: Kresz (343-34/6444890-1)**

**Eyes only: Troels Volmar, Comptroller Hegemony Diplomatic Corps**

### Report on Interrogation of Kresz Subjects – Document #88(0)-1

Following the covert capture of the Kresz deeprange vessel *Might of Gnow*, a full interrogation of survivors was undertaken.

The species physiology is highly compartmentalised, able to survive significant amputation and damage short of major trauma to the head or torso. As a result physical torture was limited in efficacy with better results afforded through full-spectrum psychotropic drugs augmented by cephalic probes.

None of the subjects survived. The following report covers a number of aspects of the Kresz civilisation.

1. creation myth and associated beliefs
2. social structure and politics
3. physiology and sexual reproduction
4. Language
5. numbering, time, and seasons
6. technological index
7. military potential
8. contacts with other species

#### **1. creation myth and associated beliefs**

The Kresz believe that their Homeworld was drawn from their primary sun by *Sakat*, which trink tech translated as 'god of death' with a 88% accuracy rating. Sakat moulded the sun-stuff into a ball and placed it in orbit. The sun-stuff cooled and solidified, but its atmosphere was poisonous, so that nothing could grow or live on it. It was locked in this form, unchanging until Sakat moved across the face of the world and sucked all the poisons from it. Where Sakat passed, life sprang up and Sakat was pleased, because without life there can be no death.

This legendary act by Sakat, seems to have had a significant effect on the Kresz psyche, setting up a powerful relationship between cleansing, life and death. The Kresz believe that the first life was very simple, and as it grew and prospered, it changed and gave rise to more complex forms. Sometimes these simple forms were flawed and did not thrive. Sakat cut down these flawed forms, fulfilling the role of a vigilant gardener who protected the vigour and strength of life as it developed on the planet, so that the

complex forms which were pure shared the strength and vigour of their forebears. In this way it seems the Kresz stumbled upon a faith-based theory of evolution.

After many thousands of years passed, the first Kresz sprang up on the planet. As these proto-Kresz grew and differentiated, Sakat cut down those that were deformed or otherwise weakened so that the Kresz would become stronger and stronger. It was the prophet Tiluk who divined Sakat's purpose over 5,000 standard years ago. Tiluk believed that as each new form of life was born more complex than the previous, Sakat had set the world on a path to develop perfect living organisms which would be free from disease, all wise and all powerful. It followed as the only sentient species existing that the Kresz were to be the fulfilment of that goal, so to ensure they continued to develop as a strong race, they took on the work of Sakat. They killed any Kresz born deformed or seriously injured in the hunt, because this was an indication that those individuals were unfit. Likewise the sick were left to either recover or die 'at the will of Sakat'. As a result the Kresz never developed any form of medicine or healers. The fact that they seem amazingly resistant to a range of disease pathogens released on test subjects points to a genetic advantage gained as a result of thousands of years of careful selection. Euthanasia is practiced as a matter of course in modern Kresz society. The advent of the Communion (see section 4. *language*) is seen by the majority as further proof of the divine evolution of the Kresz species.

As a side note this also explains their insular nature. Kresz do not seek out alien contact because they see alien life as 'not on the path of Sakat' and therefore unable to become perfect beings.

This striving for perfection also finds its way into the reproductive habits of Kresz. For a full report on this aspect see section 2. *social structure and politics* and 3. *physiology and sexual reproduction*. Once a Kresz foetus has been initiated, the Hierarch of the House visits the female and introduces a string of his own DNA into the partially fertilised egg. The child then has donor DNA from the father, the mother and the hierarch. This is believed to give the child a genetic advantage because the Hierarch, as leader, is seen as the most perfect Kresz of that generation. The Hierarch insemination is also necessary as a determinant of the caste, or body type, that the child will inherit. It is said that the Hierarch has a degree of control over this although the exact mechanism is not known as no Hierarch was present amongst the test subjects.

This belief in evolutionary perfection and euthanasia could provide valuable leverage for Diplomatic Corps operations. Further analysis is recommended.

## **2. social structure and politics**

Kresz society is a strictly ordered hierarchy where social standing depends on a mixture of function and lineage.

There are six Houses to which all Kresz belong by virtue of birth. These six Houses own the entire landmass of the Homeworld, with the exception of the capital city of Aktiuk and its surroundings which was deemed neutral territory during the first of the House wars 3,500 standard years ago. As well as the six Houses, there are also six Lodges representing the main streams of employment in Kresz society. This means that the

normal citizen will be represented by their House Hierarchy, on the grounds of their familial connection, and by their Lodge Dean by virtue of their profession.

The Hierarchy of each House and the Dean of each Lodge holds a seat on the council, which is the ruling body for the Kresz people. Leadership of the council rotates regularly between the Houses and Lodges. Each House and Lodge also has its own internal council which advises the Hierarchy or Lodge Dean on matters and assists in the administration of House/ Lodge affairs.

The Kresz hierarchy is organised along the following lines:

1. House Hierarchs, Lodge Deans and their functionaries
2. Scholars
3. Adepts: professional disciplines such as scientists, lawyers, administrators
4. Cultivators: agents of agriculture and fishing
5. Merchants: agents of manufacturing and commerce
6. Priests
7. Defenders

The six Lodges are consequently – the Educators, to which the scholars belong, the Adepts, Cultivators, and Merchants, the Lodge of Sakat, which comprises the priesthood, and the Defenders (official name of the warrior lodge).

The six Houses and their Hierarchs are:

Kergis – House colour: green | House lands: the equatorial belt of tropical rainforests, the Kergis Hierarchy holds the title of Protector and commands the combined Kresz armies and fleets in war.

Ukat – House colour: blue | House lands: the Inland Sea and the southern shores, the Ukat hierarchy oversees cultivation and harvest of the Inland Sea.

Akczek – House colour: white | House lands: the Northern Reaches of the planet, the Akczek Hierarchy controls lands with an abundance of gem stones and precious metals, consequently they have much to do with the Merchant Lodge and strong ties with the military.

Czerag – House colour: brown | House lands: the escarpment and the Deep Desert. The Czerag people are traditionally nomadic, producing much of what they need in hidden areas of the desert. Their main trade item is tekla, an ore which they mine and refine. It has good properties for spaceship hulls particularly for Voss Space craft.

Haketiug – House colour: yellow | House lands: plainlands to the east of the Inland Sea. The Haketiug are traditionally agriculturists.

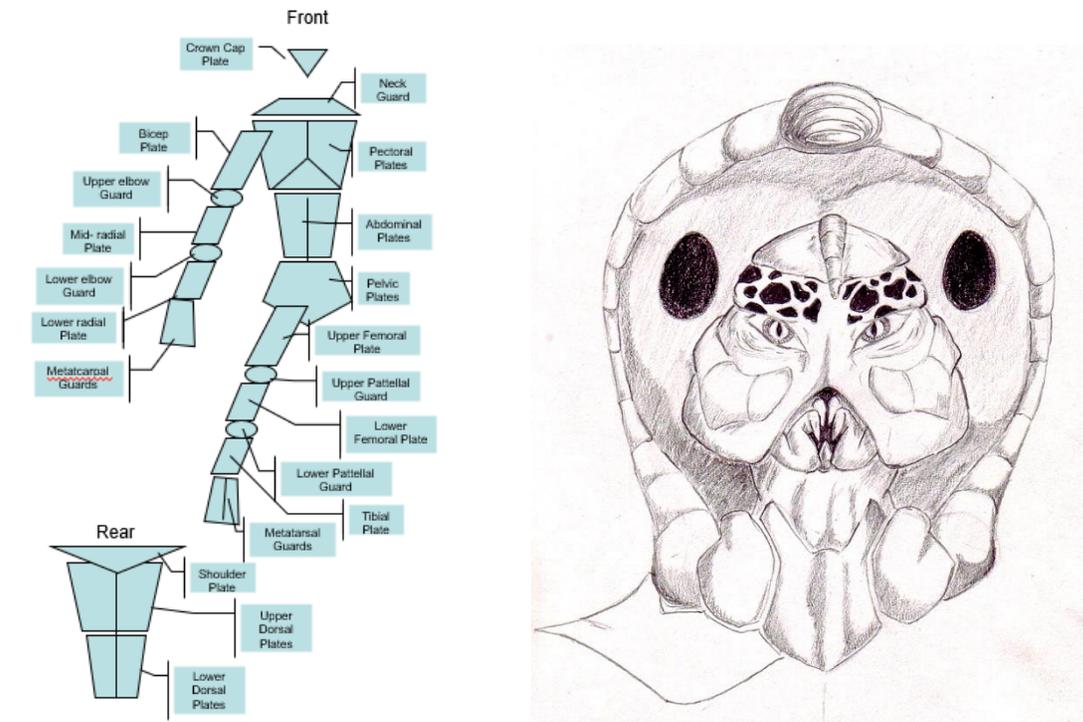
Dageru – House colour: red House lands: the Southern Reaches. The Dageru lands occupy the southern pole and extend around a major proportion of the far southern landmass. Dageru lands produce textiles, and electronics.

There is a small underclass of criminals, who after repeat offences have their mantle surgically removed (see 3. *physiology and sexual reproduction* for further information) and are banished from Kresz society into the desert wildernesses to die.

Kresz body types differentiate according to function, which is determined by the hierarchy on secondary insemination. (see 3. *physiology and sexual reproduction*)

### 3. physiology and sexual reproduction

Kresz males stand on average 2.8m tall. The females are generally larger averaging 3m. The exception to this is Kresz who differentiate as Defenders. Both Defender males and females average 3.5m. The Merchant class are shorter. Cultivators have longer arms that extend to the ground, the upper body and arms being more ridged and less smooth than other castes. Further information will be supplied when more test subjects are available.



*Typical armour arrangement (non-Defender)      Kresz appearance (with mantle engorged)*

The Kresz homeworld has a gravity equivalent to 1.4 terrestrial standard gravities. Consequently the Kresz have both an endo and exoskeleton. The endoskeleton is composed predominantly of calcium, while the exoskeleton is chitinous in nature, and continues to thicken and change colour throughout the life of the Kresz. The chitin forms a series of interlocking and overlapping plates over a tough scaly hide which is completely covered by the chitin, in effect forming a living armour for the Kresz. Tests demonstrated the chitin of a fully grown Kresz is effective at diffusing energy weapons up to and including a level seven blast.

The Kresz foot is akin to a terrestrial dromedary possessing two toes which spread flat as pressure is applied. Much of their homeworld is desert, and it is thought that this

affected Kresz evolution significantly. As further proof, the eye is complex but possesses two eyelids, one fleshy, the other of clear cartilage which not only provides protection from sandstorms but is shaped to provide an additional lens enhancing visual contrast and distance vision when it is in place.

The Kresz leg has two opposing knee joints, the upper much like a human knee and the lower canted towards the rear as in terrestrial birds. Musculature running under the chitin is well-developed and subjects demonstrated an ability to jump up to 4 metres vertically and 10 metres horizontally under extreme circumstances. Bipedal in nature, the pelvis and vertebrae are similar to human forms, however the arms, much like the legs have a double elbow in the same arrangement. Consequently both the arms and legs are significantly longer in proportion to the rest of the body than in humans. Kresz hands possess two clawed fingers arranged opposite an opposable thumb. This is believed to be the reason for their base six numbering system (see section 5).

The Kresz mouth most closely resembles that of a terrestrial crab with a number of overlapping jointed feelers. The various mouth parts have a number of different functions including feeding, olfactory and taste sensors, and verbal communication.

#### Internal organs

Internally Kresz share much with insect-type creatures. Kresz breathe a mixture of gases within terrestrial tolerances but they breathe through spiracles: tiny tube-like structures in the secondary hide.

The Kresz lung fed by air intake through the spiracles have more in common with the book-lung structure of terrestrial locusts. And oxygenated fluid is pumped through the lungs to the extremities by a number of independent 'hearts', six in all: two in the chest, two in each upper arm and two in each thigh. These can independently shut down to restrict fluid loss following major trauma e.g. the loss of a limb.

Similarly their excretory systems bear out this resemblance to insects and their early evolution in a desert environment. Various resorptive functions, such as volume reduction, regulation of individual electrolytes, adjustment of osmotic concentration and pH regulation, which are associated with distinct renal segments in the mammalian kidney, all occur simultaneously in the rectum of the Kresz.

#### The Kresz mantle

The mantle is a unique organ never before encountered by HDC. It is a fleshy cape-like organ which hangs from the shoulders and covers the upper back of the Kresz. When engorged it inflates behind the head of the Kresz and resembles a terrestrial cobra-hood. It's an extra-sensory organ, allowing the Kresz to 'pick up' on the empathic state of other Kresz nearby. The Kresz worldmind and 'communion' that has resulted was described by subjects as a gestalt experience however the Kresz do not appear to share a hive-mind mentality. The mantle has an older function that pre-dates what the Kresz call 'the emergence'. Over short distances it can concentrate and loose electromagnetic energy which appears to have offensive potential. Further investigation of this function is required as a priority when additional test subjects are supplied. A risk advisory has been despatched to Fleet Command.

### Sexual reproduction

Despite the insect-like features of their physiology, reproduction is similar to mammalian reproduction with insemination of an ovum in the female by the introduction of male sperm following penetrative sexual intercourse. Prior to intercourse the female produces a chemical which acts as a pheromone to the male and also softens the chitinous covering to her sexual organs. The pheromone provokes a cascade of chemical changes in the male also, again softening the chitin that protects his sexual organs and enabling penetrative intercourse to ensue.

As mentioned above, fertilisation of the egg is a two-fold process. Initial fertilisation is by the chosen male, but the differentiation of the ovum will not progress past a certain point until the introduction of a second set of sperm by the House Hierarchy. This sperm contains the information to enable the fertilised ovum to differentiate into a particular caste or body shape. Subjects indicated that the Hierarchy can consciously control the type of sperm he produces in order to choose the caste of the ensuing child.

## 4. Language

The Kresz language is standard in structure and syntax. But by Hegemony standards fairly blunt and basic with a limited set of phonemes:

a	b	c	d	e
Ad   ag   ah   ak   al   ar   as   at   az	bv	cz (ch)	Da   De   di   dj (ji)	E/eh   el   ek   er   es
g	h	i	k	l
Ga   ge   gi   gu	Ha   he   hi   hu	Id   ig   ik   il   ir   is	K   ka   ke   ki   kl   kr   ku	La   le   lok/luk
r	s	t	u	z
Ra   re / reee   ri   ru	Sa   se   sg   si   sk   st   su   sz (sh)	Te   ti   Tz (ts)   tu	Ud   ug   uk   ul   ur   ut	Z   za   ze   zi   zr   zu

And yet the Kresz social structure and civilisation appears to be as complex as many others we have encountered.

The reason for this variance is believed to be due to the existence of the Kresz empathic sense. Consequently nuances which in Terrans would be expressed in language are communicated through empathic means in Kresz.

## 5. Numbering and Time Systems

The Kresz use a senary (base six) numbering system. Terrestrial equivalents include ancient Sumerian. Their language expresses numbers as compound phrases, so where

0 = ri

- 1 = noc
- 2 = pha
- 3 = alac
- 4 = rux
- 5 = dva

a number such as  $154_6$  is expressed as noc'dva'rux.

The Kresz time system varies markedly from Hegemony Standard, relying as it does on the Kresz numbering system and the diurnal and annual motion of their homeworld.

Kresz Time Periods	Heg Time Equivalent	base 10 explanation	base 6 explanation
1 'second'	= 0.6 seconds		
1 'minute'	= 0.36 minutes	36 'seconds' in a 'minute'	100 'seconds' in a 'minute'
1 'hour'	= 1.296 hours	216 'minutes' in an 'hour'	1000 'minutes' in an 'hour'
1 'day'	= 1.944 days	36 'hours' in a 'day'	100 'hours' in a 'day'
1 'week'	= 1.666 weeks	6 'days' in a 'week'	10 'days' in a 'week'
1 'month'	= 2.499 months	6 'weeks' in a 'month'	10 'weeks' in a 'month'
1 'year'	= 1.2497 years	6 'months' in a 'year'	10 'months' in a 'year'
1 'decade'	= 0.7498 decades	6 'years' in a 'decade'	10 cycles in a 'decade'
1 'century'	= 0.4499 centuries	6 'decades' in a 'century'	10 'decades' in a 'century'
1 'millenium'	= 0.2699 millennia	6 'centuries' in a 'millennia'	10 'centuries' in a 'millennia'

The Kresz 'year' or cycle, which is the closest translation available for this time period, is based on one rotation of the homeworld around their trio of sun. The year contains six distinct seasons which correspond roughly to the six month divisions.

Luk'ah – the season of fish. Named after the indigenous luk'ah fish which is the primary food source from the Inland Sea. Luk'ah is the period when these fish are harvested. The savannahs are carpeted with flowering plants and the crops near harvest. The cooler weather is coming to an end. Temperatures are rising, as the rain ceases to fall.

Rinjaa – the season of drought. Harvest occurs during the first few weeks before the heat and the lack of rain begin to take their toll. The season is named for the Rinjaa fern which grows wild and withers at this time. Its fleshy heart is considered a delicacy.

O'lokna – the season of the o'lok. O'lok are reptile-like flying creatures. During this season they swarm and mate in the desert reaches. The weather continues dry and hot.

Luk'ri – the season of Luk'ri spawn. Named for the larval stage of the Luk'ah fish which develops along the shores of the Inland Sea at this time. The weather is hot but changeable and thunderstorms predominate.

Kareee – the season of rains. The drought breaks and, particularly on the Inland Sea coastal regions, there is heavy rainfall. Temperatures begin to fall. Planting begins for the growing season.

Sakat – the season of rebirth. Named for Sakat, the Kresz god of death (see section 1.) Crops benefit from cool days and mild nights and regular rainfall.

## **6. technological index**

The Kresz species is space-faring and possesses a form of Voss Space drive – though the term they use is Tenspace. Their world is serviced by a beanpole-type space elevator. While their technology is equivalent to late 21<sup>st</sup> Century terrestrial, they have access to more advanced technology through local trading partners (see section 8), including limited access to gravitic generators.

## **7. military potential**

Although proud of their war-like past, the lack of easy access to technology equivalent to that of the Hegemony means the Kresz are not considered a military threat. The empathic bond they share could be exploited in a combat scenario and is the reason why wars and violent crime have all but died out on their planet.

## **8. contact with other species**

While the Kresz are an insular species there is limited trade arrangements with a number of other alien species in a nearby area of space called 'the Lenticular'. Little was known of these other species by the subjects interrogated. Further intelligence on the Lenticular is required.

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