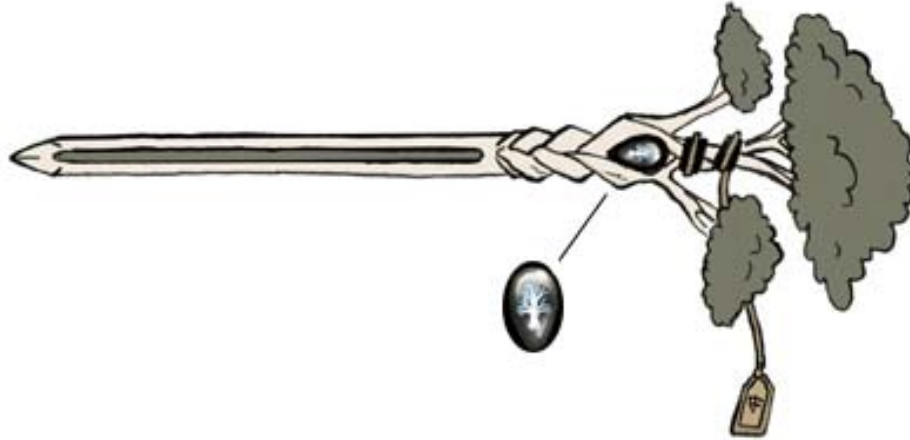


## Shale's Tree Sword Forms

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### 1. Neo Bonsai



Shale's default élan is called *Neo Bonsai*. It is a sword weapon (an élan arm) that has the ability to morph and take on different shapes in order to attack. It also has the ability to produce powerful Kali energy attacks. When Shale steals birthmarks from thieves and merges them with his élan, Neo Bonsai gains the ability to take on multiple forms; each with its own unique ability inherited from the élan it merged with. Shale can seamlessly switch between these forms at will.

- Aside from its special ability, this sword is a carbon copy of his mother's élan—Kosmos (his mom's élan also differs in color; it's all black and has gold tree leaves).
- On the surface it appears that Shale has many different élans, but in truth he is just morphing between the different forms of his one Élan; each representing a special ability of the élan.

### 2. Waxing Bamboo: Kaguya-Hime



The second tree sword form Shale gains is the *Waxing Bamboo*. In this form, Shale can attack rapidly, but his impacts are much weaker than when he strikes with the Neo Bonsai form. However, the Waxing Bamboo has one awesome property. Every once in a while, a single white flower, named *Kaguya-Hime*, will bloom on the Bamboo's stem, and if Shale can attack the opponent with the sword before the flower dies and withers away, it will deliver an incredibly powerful Kali energy attack.

### 3. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Oak



The tree sword's third form is called the *1st Quarter Oak*. It is a very light and very sturdy sword that Shale mainly uses for defense and to set-up attacks for other sword forms. It has the ability to completely absorb impacts and use that energy to empower the bark on its blade. When the Oak has collected enough energy, every piece of bark on the blade loosens and can come off the sword and stick into anything it touches. Whatever the bark digs into will be temporarily immobile for a few seconds, thus Shale uses this blade to stun opponents and then quickly switch to another sword form and make his attack. The attacking power of the oak itself is nearly equal to the Waxing Bamboo, but slightly higher; still well below Neo Bonsai.

### 4. Waning Willow



The fourth sword form is the *Waning Willow*. It's a flexible grappling blade that can solidify to become a very sharp and very long sword. It can also double as a whip when needed, but Shale mainly uses it to grasp things. The main ability of the sword forms is that it can split into two, equally powerful and flexible blades, meaning Shale could have any combination between sword, whip, and grappler when he has this form.

The downside of this form is that it is harder to control than most other sword forms, making it physically weaker than Neo Bonsai (Shale has to increase in focus to be able to use this sword at its best).

## 5. Last Quarter Sequoia

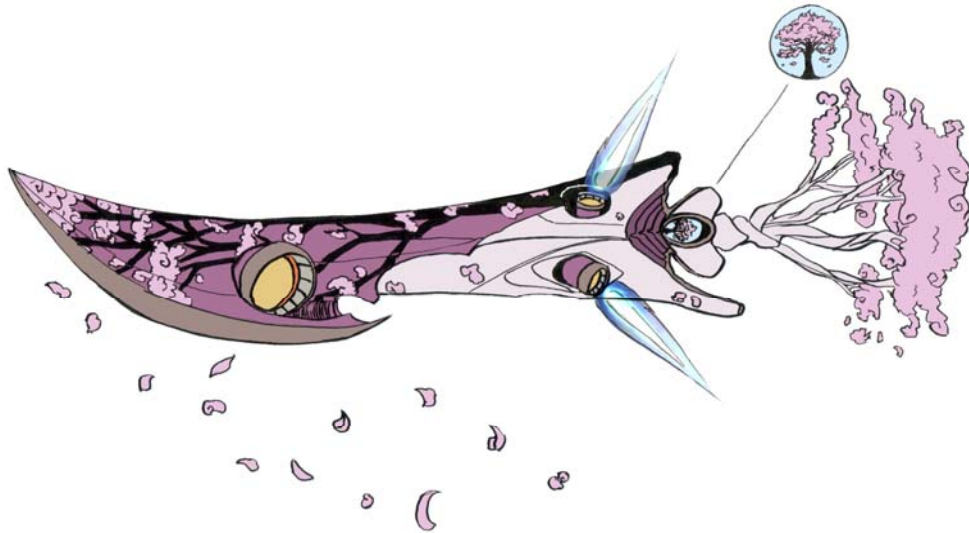


The fifth sword is the largest called the *Last Quarter Sequoia*, it's a very strong sword form, but it's also very slow. The Sequoia has the ability to record and delay the impact of any swing Shale makes and so creates a field of invisible carnage that can be activated when it's convenient.

For instance, Shale could swing the Sequoia around at full power, far away from his opponent. While it looks like he is just swinging the Sequoia around, he is actually setting up a trap. From there, when Shale begins fighting the opponent, he could lure them to the area where he recorded his swings and activate them suddenly. The attacks would come out of thin air as purple, transparent shadows of the Sequoia and would attack in the same sequence Shale pre-recorded. This would baffle and surprise any opponent and by the time they noticed, they would have already succumb to the power of the Sequoia.

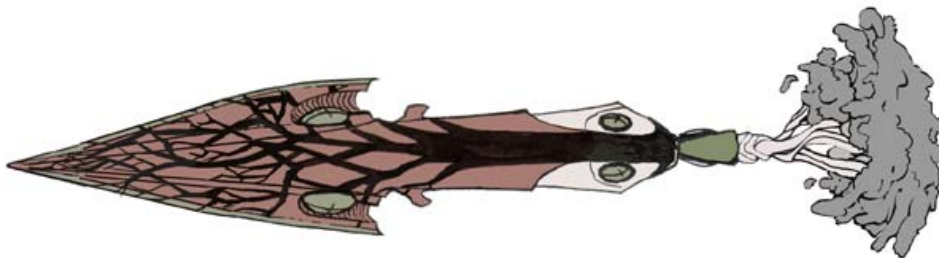
There is one caveat to this move. Anyone with a high amount of Focus can easily sense the energy of the recorded swings and is more likely to be able to avoid them.

## 6. Full Sakura



Shale's final sword form is a rocket blade called *Full Sakura*. It is the most powerful sword form Shale can command featuring 6 rotating rockets located on the blade that can be controlled by Shale, giving him the ability to fly around and attack at high speed with outstanding impacts.

There are major downsides to using the blade as well. Normally, when Shale switches to this sword form it is in its dead state, meaning that its rockets are not activated and its glowing Sakura leaves are not present. In this state the blade is incredibly heavy and hard to use. Also, when Shale uses it in its dead state, it directly drains stamina from him, so he tires quickly when using it.



### *Full Sakura: Dead State*

The sword's rockets only work when the Sakura on the handle has *Bloomed*. This happens periodically and just as in the Waxing Bamboo form, it only lasts for a short while. However, when it is bloomed, it uses all of the energy it collected from Shale to

unleash incredible attacks that can overcome just about any opponent with a single blow. It also does not drain Shale's stamina in this form.

Another challenge to overcome when using the Full Sakura is controlling its movements. When it blooms, its rockets automatically activate and Shale has to use his Focus to direct and guide its attacks, otherwise it will just drag him around. This takes lots of practice and experience with the blade in its bloomed state. Since its bloom happens so rarely, Shale is constantly challenged to get the most out of the sword, every time it blooms, even if it happens at the most inappropriate of moments.

- With increased Focus and Force, Shale can activate the Bloom state without waiting; however, the sword will only remain Bloomed for an amount of time that is proportionate to the energy it collects from Shale.
- In its dead state, it is more powerful than the Last Quarter Sequoia, but is also much heavier.

## 7. Kosmos



Aside from Shale's own Tree Sword Forms, he also wields the destructive power of his mother's élan—*Kosmos*.

Kosmos has the ability to attract matter to it like a magnet and use it to create an enormous energy impact.

As soon as Shale begins to swing with it, objects and natural elements from all around begin to be drawn in by an invisible vortex circling the sword and its blade extends, swirling with a horizontal tornado of landmasses, cruise ships, and anything else within a 20 mile radius...

At the moment the blade has collected enough matter around it, it flashes gold and all the matter around it disappears instantly as it strikes its victim with an impact that shatters every bone in their body to shards of dust, instantly killing them.

The incredible thing about this ability is that the matter it attracts to it and uses does not actually exist. After the strike, the matter it appeared to have attracted remains in the state it was prior to the attack.

For this reason, the ability is though to be an illusion, but in fact, the sword has the ability to produce energy that it seemingly pulls out of nothingness; an impossible ability known as *Overunity*.

Shale dreads the use of this sword and only uses it to collect the élan he needs in order to decode its melody and break his mother free from its grasp.

- There is a red Cosmos flower in the orb at its center. This represents his mother trapped inside.

