

## ***Bishop Florigen***

*Scum politician/hedonistic priest*

Bishop Florigen is the bishop of the Our Lady of the Flowers, the high priest of petals. It is the chief arbiter among the petal designers, leader of the celebrations and enforcer of proper behavior among visitors (with the help of the Our Lady hierodules).

**Actual age:** 86

**Morph:** Spider (see below). An apparently elderly hermaphrodite human body, carried by long spider-like walking and manipulating legs emerging from its back. Its gentle smile is made somewhat disturbing by the shark teeth in its gums.

COG 15, COO 20, INT 20, REF 25, SAV 40, SOM 20, WIL 15  
TT 6, LUC 30, IR 60, WT 8, DUR 40, DR 60  
MOX 2, INIT 90, SPD 2, DB 2

**Ego traits:** Allies (Hierodules), Ambidextrous, First Impression (Level 1), Patron (Our Lady of Flowers), Addiction (Sex, Level 2), Black Mark (Lunar), Enemy (Bender Orghini), Neural Damage (Ideomotor apraxia)

**Morph traits:** Improved Immune System (Level 1), Striking Looks (Level 1), , Uncanny Valley

**Implants:** Basic Biomods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Cyberbrain, Enhanced Smell, Clean Metabolism, Enhanced Pheromones, Grip Pads, Access Jacks, Mnemonic Augmentation, Reflex Booster, Medichines, Oracle, Respirocytes, Bodysculpting, Scent Alteration, (6x) Extra Limbs, Telescoping Limbs:

**Armor:** Energy 4, Kinetic 6

Melee weapon: Unarmed strike (skill 60, 1d10+2), cyberclaws (skill: 50, DV 1d10 + 5, AP -2)

**Skills:** Academics: Psychology 55, Academics: Cognitive science 45, Art: Preaching 50, Blades 50, Climbing (Mountaineering) 60 (70), Deception 70, Fray 65, Freefall 65, Freerunning 70, Interest: Petals 55, Interest: Body art 45, Interest: Lunar politics 55, Intimidation 70, Kinesics 70, Language: Mandarin 90, Language: English 60, Networking: Autonomists 70, Networking: Criminals 60, Networking: Media 50, Persuasion 85, Pilot: Groundcraft 35, Profession: Politics 65, Profession: Priest 65, Profession: Arbitration 45, Protocol 70, Research 60, Unarmed Combat 60

**Motivations:** +Pleasure (It is a devoted hedonist, taking its own pleasure very seriously), +Complexity (It thinks the true purpose of the universe is to maximize complexity, and hence all actions that enable more life, intelligence or structure to form are good), -Nature (It dislikes the natural world – to become worthwhile things have to be refined and improved.)

**Gear:** Smart ceremonial clothing, tactical network (with cathedral security and hierodules)

**Rep:** @-rep: 80, g-rep: 30

**Credits:** significant amounts hidden in Lunar and Extropian banks.

**Muse:** 06.66.69, notable skills: Academics: Botany 40, Interest: Scum Drug Dealers 40, Profession: Squad Tactics 40

**Roleplaying tips:** Florigen always tends to speak and behave like a nice old vicar - as long as people behave. When people misbehave, smile a toothy grin and make an example of them.

**Background:** The person known as Bishop Florigen has a chequered past. Originally born as a male named Wu Jun in China, his first life was spent as a lecturer in psychology at Yinchuan University and later at the Distributed Northern Nationalities University. During the fall he managed to get evacuated to Luna, largely by posing as a far more renowned researcher with the same name. Shedding his old identity he became Arthur Huijun-Walden, self-styled union organiser and politician in Nectar. He was very successful in channelling populist restlessness: his New Luna moment grew into a notable political force within two years. Then some journalists found evidence of how he had been misusing party funds and been bribed to use his political and union connections to benefit certain companies. He found it convenient to skip Luna, leaving the New Luna movement to disintegrate in a multitude of warring factions.

Reappearing on Carnival of the Goat, it was now the hermaphrodite Chris Wuxor. Chris became involved with the local petal design community, using its skills to become a favoured mediator. Not being a petal designer or user but good at politics was a definite advantage in the local social space. When the previous bishop of Our Lady of the Flowers suffered a permanent mental breakdown after a tasping overdose (nobody can agree on which fraction(s) were behind it) Chris became the new Bishop and changed its name to Florigen. Since then it has acted as the representative of Our Lady on the Carnival council and official mediator among the petal designers.

**Situation:** It thoroughly enjoys the perks of its job and is going to do its outmost to keep it (those hierodules are so cuddly, it gets to screw the minds of worshippers every day, it runs the coolest sub-habitat of the Carnival!) If that means it has to play Byzantine political games, suck up to criminals one week and artistic terrorists the next, so be it. The fact that the bishop has managed to stay in this position for almost three years now is a testament to its ruthlessness, flexibility and deviousness... despite its pious claims that any success is because the Burning God of Flowers is watching over its holy work.

Florigen has a close connection to the Carnival morph designer Jorge Raúl de Guzman, who designed its new morph.

Within the Carnival, he has earned the enmity of Bender Orghini. Bender is a leading confidence trickster, preying on gullible high-class victims and coordinating several 'con-consultants'. Florigen has (in the opinion of Bender) poached several promising marks. Florigen regards Bender as a low-class trickster that interferes with the proper running of the habitat. Over time they have begun an escalating war of schemes where they try to trap each other (or more commonly, each other's pawns) into trouble.

While the link between Arthur Huijun-Walden and the Carnival bishop is not generally known, Florigen is unlikely to want to show up anywhere close to Luna: there are more than enough angry people with long memories there.

Due to a minor scorcher accident Florigen has ideomotor apraxia: he cannot use tools consciously or imitate hand gestures.

**The spider morph:** A custom morph by Jorge Raúl de Guzman, technically a pod but looking like a biomorph. It consists of an apparently normal flat/splicer biomorph body with 6 extensible diamondoid limbs emerging from the back (each can reach three meters). It can fold them back and look normal (if slightly hunched), or extend them to walk/climb rapidly. The cyberbrain is housed inside the armoured chest cavity and somewhat overclocked, making the morph able to act and move fast in addition to the long legs.

The overall effect is to produce a person that towers above everyone else, moves with quick-precise movements on the cybernetic limbs yet looks serenely human while suspended on the limbs. Reactions vary: the striking looks and uncanny valley tend to play against each other depending on viewer, situation and mood.

**Implants:** Basic biomods, basic mesh inserts, cortical stack, cyberbrain, access jacks, 6 extra telescoping limbs with cyberclaws, reflex booster, clean metabolism, enhanced smell

**Aptitude max:** 30

**Durability:** 40

**Wound threshold:** 8

**Advantages:** Striking looks (level 1), +5 COO, +5 REF, +5 SAV, +5 to aptitude of choice.

**Disadvantages:** Uncanny valley

**CP cost:** 40

**Credit cost:** Expensive

**Armour:** Energy 4, Kinetic 6

## Security in Our Lady of the Flowers

Our Lady of the Flowers has plenty of visitors, not all in their right minds. One of the key functions of the bishop is to coordinate the protection of the site.

The environment has a tacnet linking the bishop, the hierodules, a coordinating AI and various security devices. There are sensors distributed throughout the cathedral, as well as offensive systems hidden in a few location (gargoyles with microwave agonizers) and modified flowers that can puff drug pollen (hallucinogens, sedatives or even disassemblers – many flowers and incense burners are actually nanobot hives producing the cleaners, gardeners and guardian nanoswarms that fill the cathedral).

The hierodules double as churchwardens, sacred prostitutes and security. They are sleeved in modified sexpods – normal designs, but equipped with some hidden weapons for subdual (or

rough play). This includes eelware, poison glands (with strong hallucinogens, oxytocin A or twitch), cyberclaws or hand lasers.

Participants in the celebrations will also be subject to a neural backdoor inserted into the free sacramental flowers. The backdoor allows downloading scorcher to the celebrants, something the bishop uses with great flair – a single gesture and a troublesome visitor spasms in religious ecstasy (as the Spasm scorcher, p. 332).

Troublemakers are usually disposed of in creative ways. Someone merely annoying worshippers because of vivid hallucinations are given over to the local psychotechs and their hallucinations tuned to be permanent but convenient (instead of their morphs being infested by insects they now believe they are filled with candy and should let others taste). Someone disrupting the worship might be sleeved into the ghostrider module of a hierodule and forced to experience the routine of the cathedral for a time. Someone trying to hurt the bishop or petal designers might be given to the intended victim for involuntary and indefinite petal testing, or turned into a living (and conscious) planter for the decorative orchids in the cathedral.