The Definition of Loyalty

Before coming to the Clan Odan-Urr, Ji’Kip was never devoted to anyone or anything for that matter. His loyalties have always lay with himself, credits, and the occasional girl. Never one to settle down, even since leaving Nar Shadaa, he would take jobs that kept him off worlds and away from commitments, and authorities. What does he know about loyalty? His whole life was one painful moment after another. Being a smuggler and pirate was about all he could do to get away from any attachments. After all he was on his own ever since his deadbeat drunkard of a father finally decided to leave. His mother then turned to “waitressing” in the sleaziest cantinas on Nar Shadaa leaving the young Ji’Kip on his own. She told him her work was a waitress, but Ji knew better. With the amount of different men that came around and the credits she obtained his mother was more than a waitress. Not that he cared, even at a young age his activities were not any better.

Maybe his first taste of any kind of loyalty was to the gang run by a nefarious Hutt in the underworld of Nar Shadaa. There amongst the gang members, dealers, thieves, spice runners, and the Hutt’s loyal lieutenants Ji’Kip found himself. He learned how to lie, cheat, and steal his way up the chain until one of the Underbosses noticed him. Still a teenager, Ji’Kip had already committed murders of rival gang members and people who couldn’t pay their debts. He was great at debt collecting, and those that didn’t succumb to his bullying were never seen again. Along with this he had a reputation for acquiring certain goods, including weapons, and the best spice in the galaxy, giving him a reputation in the criminal underworld. Ji’kip was destined to go high and even had dreams of becoming a notorious underworld crime boss to rival the Hutts. Those dreams were shattered when he had to escape Nar Shadaa or face a harsh punishment by the Hutt.

It all began with family. Even the name Ji’Kip isn’t his birth name. Yet because of his disgust and desire to remove himself from his father it became his name and identity. Still a young man Ji went to a cantina late one night. He was earning a nice sum of credits from Sabacc when he heard a scuffle between a drunken Zabrak and older female human. It was one of his men. Ji knew this would not end well so he walked over to grab him and exit the cantina when he saw who the woman was. It was his mother and she was trying to fend off the advances of the stronger man. Pulling a blaster, he shot him and killed the Zabrak. He may not have approved of his mother’s life after his father left but she was still his mother. He knew killing a fellow gang member meant harsh punishment and if it didn’t end in death his reputation would be destroyed. So, he ran. If he was truly loyal to the Hutts he would stay and face the consequences or have not killed his acquaintance. Besides, to Ji’Kip loyalty to those who would punish you for protecting family is not worth a credit.

For Ji’Kip, escaping was hard as most criminals, gangsters, and smugglers knew of him and his reputation. He had to find someone to get him off world. Or in his case just find an unsuspecting and naïve freighter captain and take the poor guy hostage, in this case a Rodian. Not a fan of partners he dropped him off on the nearest backwater planet. At least he wasn’t too cruel and left the kid with a good stack of credits. From then on, his life of no loyalties began. Turning to piracy and smuggling, his life became profitable and sometimes very exciting. Ji’Kip hired some crew and had multiple romances. Those girls never stayed long in his life, mainly due to commitment issues and also fear of having a family. What life is this for a kid anyway. Did he want a family? maybe but he wanted to give them the life he didn’t have growing up. For Ji a family would be the ultimate form of loyalty and commitment especially to his own children. Until he had found Clan Odan-Urr, Ji’Kip was an independent. No longer the cruel criminal of his youth, he still is known to intimidate and bully his way to profit. Piracy had caused him to do unsavory things as well. Maybe not murder for hire, those days are past, but continued to profit from the illicit sell of goods, and trafficking in arms and spice.

Apparently, he has no loyalty to a side either. For all he cares the galactic governments whether Republic or First Order can tear themselves apart as long as he makes a profit. If they pay, he will work for them, though he prefers taking his chances with the Republic. For most of his life Ji’Kip has been loyal to profit and that might never change, people come and go but if you have yourself and riches everything else doesn’t matter. Though he thought until he happened upon Clan Odan-Urr.

When he was brought to Clan Odan-Urr he thought it was for a job but now Ji’Kip feels good running missions for the Jedi. He still makes a profit and will occasionally go off to conduct personal business but the Jedi are good to him and he has an actual home. Not once did he even think that he could again be part of an organization. However, the Jedi and members of the Clan are much better than the Hutts or the gangsters or pirates he is used too. Loyalty is so hard to give for Ji’Kip but maybe now he can actually give it without consequence. Joining the Clan wasn’t hard for him though he just doesn’t want to have to do any form of military service. His skills as a fighter are useful but his piloting skills and his ability to acquire things including information are very valuable.

With a home on Kiast and a new sense of purpose his idea of loyalty is changing. It’s changing slowly, but Ji’Kip has found that one could always be loyal to themselves while finding it in them to be loyal to another person or group. He also knows the members of his new family won’t turn on him and stab him in the back, literally stab him, and he has the scar to prove it.

Only time will tell if his new loyalty truly turns him from a scoundrel, thief, and pirate to a legit human doing good for someone else. Maybe he could finally have that family and for him it might be his best bet to doing something meaningful.