# Profiles in Light - Who is St. Michael?

#### **Print**

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This post is in no way designed to proclaim this Angel higher then others, though my beliefs are my own, and would greatly appreciate some replies on Satayas or Angels from other world faiths. With abiding peace and harmony! Or as Natacuy has said "Until we are One!"

St. Michael the Archangel

#### Part 1

St. Michael is the most powerful protector of the Catholic Faith and of individual Christians. One of the very few angels mentioned in Scripture, he has played a vital role in Old Testament times and in the history of the Church.- plus he will play a great role at the End of the World. With his tremendous power in conflicts with Satan, St. Michael should be known, loved and invoked daily by every Christian.

"...Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me...."

**Daniel 10:13** 

One of the exciting things about the Archangel Michael is the way in which he has been depicted in art –whether painting, statuary, frescoes or in magnificent stained glass windows. Picture this magnificent Angel in your mind's eye. He often depicted smiting Lucifer with a flaming sword or spear

hovering high above on golden wings, taking him down to hell in chains. It is a powerful image that can inspire believers to conquer their inner demons or disperse actual evil forces one is facing in one's life.

Here are some images of St. Michael the Archangel and many more can be found by typing "St. Michael the Archangel" into a Google Image search. (images edited out for the wiki, please search Google)

Many people do not know that the Archangel St. Michael's very name is actually a sentence, in fact his name is a battle cry.

Before the creation of the world......

God created the magnificent angels- as immortal spirits of light and love- which in countless hosts surround His heavenly throne, he bestowed upon them the most eminent gifts of nature and grace. However, before admitting the angels to his unveiled vision of His glory in Heaven, he placed them under probation, just as later He subjected mankind to a trial of obedience in their person's of Adam and Eve. The nature of the trial is not known with certainty. Learned and saintly theologians hold that the Hevenly Father revealed to the Angels the future incarnation of his Divine Son, whom they were to adore in His Sacred Humanity. At the same time He revealed to them the surpassing glory of Mary, whom as the Mother of God, they were to venerate as their Queen.

Lucifer, one of the most glorious and exalted princes of the heavenly court, dazzled by the splendor of his own gifts, rebelled at the thought that human nature should be preferred to his own angelic nature. He would not acknowledge, that a woman, inferior to him in nature, should at some future time be made his Queen, and that the seed of that woman should be preferred to himself for the honor of the hypostatic union. Desiring for himself the prerogatives of the God-man, he raised his battle cry of rebellion: "I will be like the Most High!" (Is. 14:14)

Some have held that, in their pride, a third of angels took up Lucifer's rebellious cry. This is the origin of the old saying "Pride before the fall."

At the same instant another great Archangel, equal in beauty and grace to the proud Lucifer, prostrated himself before the throne of God. With an act of profound adoration, he opposed the cry of rebellious angels with his own battle cry of love and loyalty:"Mi-cha-el" – Who is like unto God?"

The fearless and fidelity of this mighty champion roused the faithful Angels who rallied to his standard, repeating with one accord: "Who is like unto God?" Then followed the tremendous battle between good and evil angels that which St. John describes in the Apocalypse:

"And there was a great battle in heaven, Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon fought with his angels: And they prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in heaven. And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who seduceth the whole world."

End of part 1. Thoughts?

# The Force for "Schooling"

#### **Print**

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"Life is school. The world is neither prison nor penitentiary, nor a palace of ease, nor an amphitheatre for games and spectacles, but a place of instruction, and discipline. Life is given for moral and spiritual training, and the entire course of the great school of life is an education for virtue, happiness and a future existence. The periods of Life are its terms; all human conditions, its forms; all human employments, its lessons. Families are the primary departments of this moral education; the various circles of society, its advanced stages; Kingdoms and Republics, its universities." -Masonic wisdom

A Light Jedi is called to think universally and to extend charity to all life forms. The Force is present within and without and permeates all life experience on the atomic level. As one grows in connection with the Force, one is able to elevate one's consciousness through the release of fear. Fear can be released through the accumulation of wisdom for it is known in the heart of a Jedi that our basic position in life is one of complete abundance. A Jedi must let go of thoughts of want and thoughts of lack.

Armed with knowledge of your immortality and oneness with the Force you will be able to shrug off many traps that foil the spirits of the multitudes. Your mission is right here and right now in the everyday normal life. The ordinary is in fact supernatural, viewing life through the prism of spiritual growth and seeking the lessons present in all things. This is the ability to use what appears to be pedestrian as a call to great spiritual growth. A real life Light Jedi does not need the man on the mountain monastary with the fu man chu beard to gain instruction on righteous living - it can be the annoying customer at work that leads to the great quickening and tempering of a Jedi's connection to the Force!

Work is a holy endeavor for it is in a Jedi's work that he learns the power of remaining cheerful though the delaying of personal grattification. It seems like toil on the surface but it is in the moments of great persecution or when one must lower oneself to do the dirty work that the prideful heart takes exception with that one experiences the most spiritual growth!

So -think - Life is school and the path of the Light Jedi is work!

WORK=
Would
Only
Receive
Knowledge

A Jedi gets the most authentic knowledge through delaying the short term comfort and in the process inculcates the virtue of seeking knowledge for the care of others.

The mind of a Jedi must be serene and glacial- a temple of love and compassion where knowledge is sought for the sake of virtue alone and not become cluttered or dominated by fight and flight states of being, when these feelings come up a Jedi must focus immediately on the Force.

Lucis Pūrgāre Rādīcālis

The technique is simple:

When one starts to experience fear or fear's children, do the following:

Think about the Force. It is that simple. Whatever is bothering you allow the thoughts to gently wash over you and shift your focus to the Force. It makes no difference what type of trouble you are having- whether it be personal, emotional, financial, an accident, a physical or health challenge or relationship trouble. Whatever it is that is burdening you simply shift your internal focus to that of the Force. Do not attempt to visualize an image of the Force- which is ofcourse not within the scope of human ability. Instead engage in repetition on the mental plane of everything that you know about the Force. The Force is present everywhere, has infinite power and binds everything in the universe together - it is the engine of your compassion, love and forgiveness and allows you to rise above that which seeks to cause you harm. Remember for the technique to work you must give yourself wholeheartedly to the Force and not be tempted to return to thoughts of the difficulty, or endeavor to discover how matters germane to the difficulty are progressing. This is nothing less than a complete exorcism or purge of one's consciousness - substituting the difficulty with thoughts of the Force.

Use this technique regularly and I will then instruct you in a future essay with a proven technique on how to completely release your negative emotions permanently, with regularity and with complete success, without having to pay a single cent.

/bows

## Common Sense & the Force

#### **Print**

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Unlearning our common sense is not easy task for anyone. To unlearn all the habitual patterns of thought and reaction that were burned into our minds through years of education seems not only stupid but also impossible. We cannot deny that we have been taught some exceptional lessons on how to succeed in the world, on how to deal with adversity, on how to gain self-discipline, on how to set personal goals, on how to be resourceful, on why it is so important to share with those in need, on the importance of family and health, on the benefits of disciplined study and prayer....

Whatever happened though to "spiritual power", "absolute trust", "living faith", giving the "Absolute" in our lives the benefit, "sacrificial living", "unconditional love", "mercy" toward others, being "nonjudgmental", "spiritually empowered" human relationships...?

Jedi are called to trust in the Force for stability in a world which encourages vulnerability, in a world where we are required to take control and find safety. Ironically, however, our trust in the Force can also provoke a sense of vulnerability and nakedness in a dangerous world. That is when we have to learn to pick up our Jedi Robes so to speak. These "robes" once worn with a sense a deep sense of Love enable us to take on a very dangerous world without fear and without a need for so called "safety rules".

"Common sense" can be deceptive in allowing us to think that everything is and will be fine because we are doing all we can to keep life under control and make it comprehensible. What greater folly can there be that letting go and trusting in an invisible Force? The tendency of "common sense" is an internal and very much human caracteristic which can also be found in Church institutions. Who doesn't want to be in control of their own destinies? Daily trust in the Force can be scary but it empowers us to love, sanctifying our lives (making it a part of the universal plan).

The Force can do amazing things in our lives, we could just try to...

1. Listen to others who have so much to offer. 2. Laugh at ouurselves. 3. Learn, relearn, unlearnon a daily basis. 4. Find ourselves into community. 5. Love the lives we are striving for. 6. Live to give back. 7. Leap even if we are afraid.

Shedding off our robes of mediocrity, doing the impossible and trusting in the Force is no easy task but well worth considering.

# To Be Empowered by The Force

#### **Print**

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Yoda, Obi-Wan, Moses, David, Christ, Buddha...showed what it meant to be powerful or focused. These possessed a great inner strength, a steadfast self-confidence. Even though they were living to their full potential, they were still open to change both as a substantial person and on a spiritual level. As such they no longer reacted to life but were creative in their love, peace, success and happiness.

A part of our inner selves is our conscience, something we can put to sleep. Unfortunately modern day thinking struggles with a worldwide tendency to care only about the self, worry about what is good and useful to us, fulfill ourselves, achieve all we can, and fret not about others. This is the attitude: let us not be concerned about the events of the world, even in our own country, don't let us be troubled about the hungry or those who suffer incurable sicknesses, or the destruction of the environment. Let us stop for a moment. We are all exposed to a danger. Many tricks are being used to put our consciences to sleep, telling us that the wrong is really not wrong, and through the many impulses we receive, trying to make us numb, irresponsible towards our fellow human beings, and the created world.

This universal message of the above mentioned masters is none the less important for Jedi, where many of us still fall victim to circumstances, events or people. We make compromises, are afraid to speak, allow ourselves to be forced into unwanted actions.... Unfortunately, many have not experienced spiritual empowerment or recognized who they are or what their full potential is.

If we accept the empowerment of the Force a whole new world opens, namely yourself. Isn't the thought of being the creator of your destiny just mind blowing. Admittedly you would still move to all universal laws, you would still live a life of respect but you would still make your CHOICES (lovingly, consistently and successfully).

To be empowered by the Force means to be more directly in charge of yourself and of your life instead of your environment; your life energy could be more economically used; your self esteem is more solid; your creative self moves you to a greater sense of love; you are no longer governed by fear; a greater sense of life and wisdom sharpen your decisions. You are now in a stronger and better position to really help others in need without it being emotionally draining (not only to yourselves but also to others).

Certainly life is what you make of it, but life is also what others make of it. If you want to live more of the life you want, you must endeavor to developed into an able Creative Life Force.

# 4 Virtues of a Light Jedi

#### **Print**

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The Four Cardinal Virtues, temperance, prudence, fortitude and justice, have been taught to Jedi for over 10 years, and are considered values to live by. The Jedi Knights are not the original source, as these virtues actually date back to the age of Greek philosophers, in the time of Plato. Throughout the centuries these four cardinal virtues have been integrated into most religions and accepted by most modern Christian theologians:

For the Jewish, in Wisdom 8:7.

The Catholic Church, in the time of Saints Augustine and Ambrose, around 390.

The four cardinal virtues when combined with the 3 theological virtues or graces (1 Corinthians 13) of Faith, Hope and Charity (Love - King James vers.), make the seven heavenly virtues. For hundreds of years, these have been widely accepted as morals to live by.

A Jedi Knights has long had instilled within her the importance of living all aspects of life by the four cardinal virtues, and that most morals are hinged upon these.

#### **Temperance**

Temperance is generally accepted as the first of these virtues. However, the four cardinal virtues are considered

intertwined and inseparable. After all, what is temperance without prudence, fortitude without justice, or justice without prudence?

In the path of the Jedi, temperance is the moderation of all things. Temperance, like all of the virtues, is good for the physical body as well as spirit. A Jedi is to avoid excessive, wasteful living habits, to live a balanced life. To control his temper with his fellow Jedi, family and all others. Not to be controlled by his emotions. No over indulging in food or drink, the latter of which can cause lapse in judgment and loss of secrets entrusted by fellow Jedi.

Observance of temperance allows Jedi of all walks of life, regardless of societal or monetary class to freely share in their commonality in the temples.

Sophrosyne in Greek is defined as "moderation in action, thought, or feeling; restraint." [1]) has been studied by religious thinkers, philosophers, and more recently, psychologists, particularly in the positive psychology movement. It is considered a virtue, a core value that can be seen consistently across time and cultures. It is considered one of the four cardinal virtues, for it is believed that no virtue could be sustained in the face of inability to control oneself, if the virtue was opposed to some desire. It is also one of the six main categories of Character Strengths.

Temperance is generally defined by control over excess, so that it has many such classes, such as abstinence, chastity, modesty, humility, prudence, self-regulation, and forgiveness and mercy; each of these involves restraining some impulse, such as sexual desire, vanity, or anger.

#### Prudence

For the Jedi, prudence is a two-part virtue of acquiring knowledge through both thinking and education. To be prudent is to use good judgment and reasoning. Always seek and live by the truth. By living prudently, a Jedi has a clear conscience, open to knowledge and reasoning. The cardinal virtue of prudence is often called Truth, with virtual same meaning. Prudence is the characteristic of exercising sound judgment in practical affairs. It is classically considered to be a virtue, and in particular one of the four Cardinal virtues (which are, with the three theological virtues, part of the seven virtues).

The word comes from Old French prudence (13th century), from Latin prudentia (foresight, sagacity), a contraction of providentia, foresight. It is often associated with wisdom, insight, and knowledge. In this case, the virtue is the ability to judge between virtuous and vicious actions, not only in a general sense, but with regard to appropriate actions at a given time and place. Although prudence itself does not perform any actions, and is concerned solely with knowledge, all virtues had to be regulated by it. Distinguishing when acts are courageous, as opposed to reckless or cowardly, for instance, is an act of prudence, and for this reason it is classified as a cardinal (pivotal) virtue.

Although prudence would be applied to any such judgment, the more difficult tasks, which distinguish a person as prudent, are those in which various goods have to be weighed against each other, as when a person is determining what would be best to give charitable donations, or how to punish a child so as to prevent repeating an offense.

In modern English, however, the word has become increasingly synonymous with cautiousness. In this sense, prudence names a reluctance to take risks, which remains a virtue with respect to unnecessary risks, but when unreasonably extended (i.e. over-cautiousness), can become the vice of cowardice.

In the Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle gives a lengthy account of the virtue phronesis (Greek: φρονησις), which has traditionally been translated as "prudence", although this has become increasingly problematic as the word has fallen out of common usage. More recently φρονησις has been translated by such terms as "practical wisdom", "practical judgment," or "rational choice."

#### Fortitude

Fortitude gives Light Jedi at the FA a 10+ year worldwide history and the claim of being the longest consistently surviving online organization of Jedi Knights. This is the value of high principles and the ability to stand by your convictions, stay the course regardless of the cost or pain endured. To give up is un-Jedi-like. The virtue of fortitude implores high moral fiber and the courage to live by his convictions. This fortitude and courage has had grandiose impact throughout (world) history.

The virtue of fortitude, or courage, is firmness of spirit, steadiness of will in doing good despite obstacles in the performance of our daily duty. It suppresses inordinate fear and curbs recklessness. Because fortitude also moderates rashness, it is the special virtue of pioneers in any field.

Fortitude is the obverse of temperance. Where temperance limits inordinate desire for major pleasures such as food and drink or the marital act, fortitude limits inordinate rashness and fear in the face of major pain that threatens to unbalance human nature.

#### **Justice**

The cardinal value of justice is one that the Jedi takes one step farther than simple justice. Common allegorical sculptures depicting justice are blindfolded, holding an equaled scale and sword. A Jedi mu st act, with eyes wide open, unselfishly, even self-sacrificing. He must act honorably to his fellow Jedi and all others. "Treat others as he would be treated" (Matthew 7:12) must be a cornerstone in the Jedi Knight's life. Justice is one of the four cardinal virtues in classical European philosophy and Roman Catholicism. It is the moderation between selfishness and selflessness.

The just man renders to each and all what is due to them, which are their moral and legal rights to do, possess, or exact something. This is equal insofar as each one receives what he is entitled to, but may be unequal insofar as different people may have different rights: two children have different rights from a certain adult if that adult is the parent of one of them and not of the other. It is closely related, in Christianity, to the practice of charity, because it regulates the relationships with others. It is a cardinal virtue, which is to say "pivotal" because it regulates all such relationships, and is sometimes deemed the most important of the cardinal virtues.

Lessons of these virtues are taught from Jedi to Jedi, through tradition and rite. The knowledge learned is to be applied, individually to each Knight's life. The path of the Jedi is said to be the path of peace and justice.

By living with temperance, prudence, fortitude, and justice, Jedi can achieve this.

## A Jedi is Full of Life

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For an individual to successfully apply the mythology of Star Wars and the concept of the Force, at some point one may need to apply an omni-inclusive belief that there is a Force behind all religious systems. Though Jedi may hail from any religious background and follow their beliefs, faithfully accompanied with them must exist an across-the-spectrum respect for the union with the Force that fueled the creative work of all prophets and holy people throughout history. What then separates a Jedi from a person that simply states, "I believe in the Force behind all faith systems?" Are Jedi simply secular humanists, agnostics with a preoccupation with the fantastic?

There is a mystic component inherent in the Jedi Path; I use the word carefully for a Jedi owns and is responsible for all of his behavior. It is a willingness to be aware of the interconnectedness of our lives, the miracle of creation, and to use this awakening as a lens in which the Force (and therefore reality) is focused upon. The heart gains placidity and balance that arises from practicing virtues such as nutrition, exercise, focus, discipline, forbearance, compassion, love (the reflection of universal love), and when the body, mind, and spirit are clear as an un-smudged window - when these elements are working in harmony - the window pane is transformed and becomes a magnifying glass; the light of reality is multiplied and issues fourth. Body, mind, heart, and spirit become a prism sending out a resonance that meets life experience the way a properly

strung piano wire vibrates when in close proximity to a tuning fork with matching vibratory signature.

A Jedi is full of life and hence disappears into life in a perfectly imperfect partnership. A Jedi is a defender of justice because a Jedi's connection with the Force is based on an awe and reverence that is the natural result of opening one's heart to the Everything. When one loves one's life, and when one understands that the life of others is part of one's own life and vice versa, one may pluck the weed from the garden as one may clip one's nails. To create justice, one must employ judgment, one must discriminate. Only a Jedi who has found balance in the Force is able to even fathom using one's communion in a way that shapes the flow of the Force as it flows in the lives of others that are self aware. A Jedi sees disorganization as balance and hence is able to, with an attitude of thankfulness, be able to enjoy the mission of creating harmony. In my humble opinion, all acts of a Jedi are acts of love. It is the love of and for life, and our reflection of it, that makes courage possible. A Jedi is capable of cleaning a latrine with the giddiness of striking a piñata!

Rituals are not sacred; life, my life, yours, the task, the tree, the book, the enjoyment, the sadness—all sacred. Flooded with the Light of awe, one may proceed forth unshackled and beautifully flawed. My grandmother is to me a Jedi of high renown, a magical woman who sees the good in all things, bursting with love. Jedi are naturally people persons, though one may at times feel shy; where else on the planet earth can one feel so inspired as when one is basking in the radiance of clear communication from one's fellows? The Force is inside and around one at all times. It never fails, even when one

may not be aware of it, just as a painting's brilliance can make one overlook the frame.

# **Choosing Life**

#### **Print**

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A Light Jedi is called to constant and never-ending improvement through the acknowledgement, acceptance and confrontation of reality, as guided by one's desire to cultivate balance and harmony in one's thoughts, feelings, decisions and actions and humbly tap into the greater source of love that is available to all who seek and ask.

#### 1. "A Light Jedi is called..."

The path of the Light Jedi is one that is first confirmed in one's heart. It is a beckoning- a feeling to merge with the heavenly powers of truth, light and justice and to be a beacon of that light, a lens in which that light is focused through, an aegis that reflects that light, a chalice that overflows with that light, a sword that protects that light and a living breathing sanctuary of that light to those that are wronged, weary and downtrodden.

#### 2. "..to constant and never-ending improvement.."

The path of the Light Jedi is one of self knowledge and wisdom and allowing one's unique talents to manifest by living in accordance to knightly virtues such as Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. The Light Jedi's attention is constantly focused on the adherence and compliance to universal laws for good and righteous living. This focus is never-ending and integrated into the day to day life of the Jedi.

3. "..through the acknowledgement, acceptance and confrontation of reality.."

A Light Jedi chooses life by acknowledging one's experiences, the good and bad, the successes, setbacks and lessons disguised as failures. Feelings are felt and defined as action signals guiding us along the road of life. Feelings are the directional markers on a Light Jedi's internal compass. Without acknowledging and accepting these feelings -we as Jedi are unable to go forth, and confront the challenges of life. Nothing is glossed over for the Light Jedi, everything is utilized and nothing is wasted.

4. "...as guided by one's desire to cultivate balance and harmony in one's thoughts, feelings, decisions and actions..."

The overarching theme of a Light Jedi's life is one of creating a transparency between the inner and outer self. The inner self can only match the outer self if a person is living in balance. In order to live in balance one has to work the mind, body and spirit and raise all personal attributes to high levels of potential. With balance of mind, body and spirit one is able to live in harmony with one's feelings as illicited by life's challenges and use this harmony to make decisions and engage in actions guided by one's conscience and desire to co-create with the universe.

5. "...and humbly tap into the greater source of love that is available to all who seek and ask."

A Light Jedi abides by the existence of the Force and feels the Force as a current invested in his or her reality. It permeates and binds the universe together and a Jedi is supported by it even as he is a conduit for it. The Force is as the individual Jedi understands it.

Choose Life!!!

/bows

# Morals: Light & Dark

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When a Light Jedi falls to the Dark Side, it occurs because on some level a retardation of ethical objectivism has occurred and the Jedi has decided to do what is right for him or her even at the expense of the health, harmony, and happiness of other sentient beings. This often happens as a result of improper contextual framing in the mind and logic of the offending Jedi and is illustrated in how Count Dooku became a pawn of the evil Sith Lord Palpatine under the pretext that Dooku would help purge the Galactic Republic of evil and corruption. All villains have to do to graduate the college of evil is to absolve themselves of a moral compass and embrace the idea that the end justifies the means and not the other way around.

We can analyze the behavior of the antithesis of a Light Jedi who are above all moral objectivists in their use of the Force, with the Sith who are moral subjectivists in the way they employ the impartial energy field.

Among philosophers there is healthy debate over the nature of morality.

Light Jedi, who are both philosophers and peaceful warriors believe and staunchly walk the path of Ethical Objectivism. For Ethical Objectivists, moral claims are true or false as clear matters like rain falls to the earth, not from the earth to the sky, or when the sun sets the stars come out. Without necessarily claiming to know exactly why or how such pronouncements regarding human morality may be made, nevertheless, Light Jedi work within societies of free thinkers

to ensure that their moral judgments when true, are true for all persons whether they believe or feel otherwise. In other words Light Jedi maintain that the truth or falsity of moral claims is independent of the Jedi making the claim. This is an act of fealty and love for the Force itself which surrounds and sustains all life in the universe. It is a reverence for this Force that allows even the human matter of one's own casing to fall short as the ultimate arbiter of right and wrong—it is rather the Force working in concert with the Jedi's open heart that allows a Light Jedi to initiate concrete (and often controversial) moral claims. On an energy level this is exemplified as the transparent window metaphor when describing Master Obi-Wan's use of the Force; he moves in concert with it, the Light focused through him illuminating his matter and cutting an arc outward around him penetrating the Darkness with total humility and reverence for the life Force and feeling its flow unselfishly and with great compassion. It is the Light passing through the perfect amplifying lens.

The enemy of the Light Jedi, the Sith Lords, are textbook Ethical Subjectivists. For Palpatine and his Apprentices, the truth and falsity of moral claims depends not on some (they would say alleged) objective truth of the matter of a Force user's behavior, but rather on the feelings, beliefs, or attitudes of the individual Jedi passing the judgment. Sith deny that there is any absolute truth to moral matters and view morality as radically relative to each individual. We can understand a bit better the way a Sith views the world by observing the nature of physical reality. Looking at a freshly cut lawn one may conclude that green is their favorite color. A Sith would comment that there is no green at all, rather that the electromagnetic radiation reflecting off the blades of grass

are interpreted by our brains, and we define the color of grass as a byproduct of the inner workings of the eye and human brain. This scientific reality applied along the trajectories of the moral battlefield leads the Sith into exotic territory in their rationalizations for the things they do. Unencumbered by both having to account for moral disagreements (I made the color green) it also nullifies the Force user's conscience to accurately condemn certain behaviors. All roads lead to the Rome of one's own self. It is the application that morality is based on opinion and everyone's opinion counts equally. This idea is often used as a false reasoning to justify horrible acts and manipulate those caught under the powerful spiritual and psychological sway of the Sith Lord.

Eventually such power is held to be counter-intuitive as the moral universe of the Sith is eventually revealed to be the sham it is—a world where Pol Pot and Gandhi stand on equal moral ground and that any behavior is justifiable as long as the agent believed it was so at the time. Where Light Jedi court the timelessness of the universal flow of the Force, the Sith are quick to obviate their acts in accordance to whim. It is power for the pure sake of exercising more power. On an energy level, the Sith absorb all the Force in a surrounding arc commensurate with their level of training; like human black holes they absorb all the energy out of their universe and use it without restraint or compassion. The Sith is the opposite of the window or clear space, the Sith is the black hole.

## Yes There is Evil in the World

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Why is it that spiritual masters throughout the ages, and our own chosen mythological inspiration, espouse repeatedly the value of forgiving more than fighting? Perhaps there is something to it. We are a race born to battle—it is in our genetic makeup. There are, I concede, sometimes, valid reasons to go to war; however, when faced with those fellow citizens that have committed evil on our own soil, I feel compassion is ultimately the only thing that creates lasting change.

One must remember that cultivating the spirit can have powerfully benevolent and illogical - some would say unnatural - results. It is natural to strike back even fold, it is natural to succumb to an "eye for an eye," yet why is it repeatedly that the most spiritually devout and advanced throughout human history have championed the "unnatural" path of forgiveness? Only one who can see beyond the circles of this world can understand the test that is our lives, the human test of civilization.

My compassion is not limited to those who have not yet reconciled within themselves the scope of their crimes. As God's compassion toward me is unlimited so shall my compassion to those who transgress and injure me. Why do you think Pope John Paul II visited his would-be assassin in prison? Was it because the assassin expressed great remorse? No it was not. Following in the footsteps of Christ, the Pope did the ultimate act of courage—he forgave unconditionally he who had trespassed him.

### Conscience

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A conscience is an inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one's behavior. For the Jedi the conscience is an essential part of oneself that must be enhanced to a universal level of consciousness.

One way to accomplish this is to meditate on two facets of a Jedi's perogative.

1. The mission to lead one's life as a true guardian of peace and justice.

#### and

2. To gain a trans-moral conscience -a conscience that transcends the ethnic, political, social, class, financial, social, physical, spiritual, religious and emotional differences between all human beings. A Light Jedi is charged with viewing the entire human race as members of one's family.

This may sound unrealistic on a practical level, however, holy men, shamans, monks, Saints and martial artists have been able to incorporate such a seemingly lofty belief structure harmoniously into their day to day living throughout world history.

It is not so hard really to view anyone you meet as a family member.

A Jedi seeks out the highest possible potential in all that he or she encounters, one does not just meet a person, but focuses on the greatest possibility of the person met.

In mythology, the Jedi are guardians of peace and justice, not just in their home planet, but in the entire galaxy and regularly encounter and engage in diplomacy with not just human beings of different beliefs and traditions, but other species of sentient life.

The planet earth is crowded, and getting more crowded all the time. Yet the peace inside- accumulated through meditation and contemplative prayer can create a boundary of peace that surrounds oneself and spreads through one's intentions and actions.

To be effective as a Light Jedi you must be a gardener of just behavior. You must first and foremost cultivate it in yourself, one moment at a time, and then when dealing with others, become a careful, loving and patient observer of human behavior, in effect the decisions made of others. A Light Jedi is not concerned with the shape of things, the masks people wear, the uniforms and artifice that encapsulate the other, rather the way they move and interact within the dance of energy that surrounds all living things.

When meditating focus on an image of the planet earth, your home, take yourself out of the fray of human interactions and relax and breath. Look down at earth and say a little prayer or mantra "this is my family, everyone I meet is worthy of dignity and love, please guide me higher self in being a steward of the Force in myself and others."

Always pray for wisdom.

## Virtues of a Jedi's Labors

#### **Print**

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For the Light Jedi the world of work is not seen as something that one does to make money so that one has the time to practice one's spiritual disciplines, rather the work is, all work is, regardless of it's level of sophistication or simplicity, unto itself an integral part of spiritual training.

Taking out the garbage is a spiritual endeavor.

How does one hold the bag with perfect balance in order to keep it's contents from spilling? How does one lift that bag in a way that is in harmony with one's natural abilities to ensure one does not pull a muscle when placing it in the can? Can one accomplish this task with lightheartedness?

Can one disappear into the act of taking the garbage out so one is in fact practicing "wei-wu-wei" or the high Jedi art of Doing Not Doing?

There are 4 virtues that make a Jedi's work into a noble spiritual endeavor and make labor honorable.

They are sobriety, temperance, punctuality and industry.

Sobriety is a noble principle and the basis of a Jedi's labors in that he needs to be 100 percent present in life in order to reap from it it's bountiful lessons. A Jedi has high duties to perform, a high destiny to follow and that though this reality is but a portal to an even greater one, it is the integral one which we must be concerned- and it is both the classroom where our lessons are taught and the crucible where our truth is distilled. A temple framework of a clear mind, body and spirit is essential and the foundation of a Jedi's endeavors.

Temperance is the quality wherebye a Jedi may resist temptation to place one's comfort ahead of his mission- and involves a sacred act of self denial and restraint in order to accomplish the task at hand. A Jedi is never arrogant about his labors or accomplishments for to do so would sow the seeds of his own misfortune and experiences no growth in wisdom. Modesty and self control are necessary for a humane life.

Punctuality is the characteristic that places an appreciation of time's sacred nature at the center of a Jedi's labors. For the Light Jedi time is in effect life, and a reverence and respect for one's own limited time and the limited time of others is a cornerstone of a Jedi's overarching ethos of being a guardian of peace and justice- what is it that a Light Jedi is guardian of- the life force in all things, which is intermeshed with the passage of time-as all being traverse it's circuitous route.

Industry speaks to the positive and productive activity of the Jedi, in life, in training, in work, in rest- it is the guidepost to ensure excellence in one's endeavor –and an implied cheerfulness –in that it is a joy to be alive, and a joy to have the opportunity for today's lessons and growth and a joy to reap the rewards of our labors and accomplishments.

These four virtues are the basis of a Jedi's commitment to benevolence and charity- for it is through the loving transmission of knowledge and wisdom (the true gold from one's labors) to others that one achieves true immortality of the spirit and becomes one with the Force.

# What Would Yoda Do?

#### **Print**

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I feel that it is a misuse of the limited time we have each day to orchestrate a spiritual path based on the hypothetical positions of fictional characters.

I love Yoda and Obi Wan and the entire cast of the SW movies, but walking a spiritual path in life and seeking the Force means one has to be completely present in the here and now - and that does not necessarily preclude using the mind's eye, the imaginative properties of the human mind - to conceptualize a wise and benevolent course of action, but ultimately to feel the Force you need to guiet the mind - let go of the fantasy and embrace the reality- then see the divine in all things around you. When we picture ourselves as Jedi, or when we imagine Jedi in a third person mental narrative we are getting the mind all wound up and excited - this causes a cascade of neurotransmitters that can illicit powerful emotions - not unlike if you were seeing your favorite rock star perform - or watching an inspiring piece of theater..but this is counterproductive to the goal of maintaining the Sabbath mind, or the higher self mind. the Jedi mind for lack of a better term.

So think to yourself, if you are going to stay in the mental imaginative along with the "what" make sure you also ask the "who, how, why and when." However keep in mind that it has nothing to do with reality...in that it is not here and now. I am

not saying fictional characters do not have a powerful impact, they absolutely do! What I am saying is that to encounter the moment it is less useful to be stuck in the mental imaginative -then it is to control the breath and sharpen and focus one's senses. The Force is everywhere..but our consciousness is like a radio that needs to be dialed in - and the knob to do that is first the breath and then the remaining senses, mastery over the human nervous system- the bodies electrical field ect.

As far as paths and politics..stay away from it..it is not controllable -that has to do with the future and such topics are inclined to activate the ego and illicit fractionalism and prideful positions. No be the Jedi, stay right here and now and be present. Take that time you would devote to politics and eat healthy, take a nap, do something selfless, write in a journal or do martial arts and meditate. Such diversions are nothing more than albatrosses to the serious spiritual student. Love your life and populate it with noble life affirming endeavors, not slamming public service - so if you want to be political be political, but do it for real, not at a Jedi site. In the mean time make the measure of your life -not in time -but in the good deeds that you do.

In the end it is a heart deal, not an intellectual choice.. A Jedi is going to do or not do and it is never a matter of should. I mean this beyond the fortune cookie platitude. It has to do with the energy body, the heart chakra.. how still the mind is... the ethos of compassion and the desire to promote the well being of all humankind. The dictate of the Self (self with a capital s) that means the higher self, the self interconnected in the universal brotherhood of all life forms.. life as family, the Self as other.

That is why the question of self actualization/enlightenment is not either/or with volunteerism. One human being who has his energy flowing properly is automatically going to calibrate so high as to raise the vibration in all life forms he comes into contact with. This means by living virtuously and doing all the spiritual and emotional work...you become essentially a beacon of light which has a measurable effect on other human beings and ultimately society. So it is important, I feel not to diminish the importance of self growth and spiritual seeking...it just needs to be done with zeal and discipline...you have to have the willlingness to make spiritual growth the center of your life. Then you will naturally find yourself helping others, in fact if you are not careful, you could become overwhelmed with synchronicities- as the weak cannot help but be drawn to the strong..

Best!

## The Chair of Pain

#### **Print**

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Being trapped in the nebulous gray area between "He who hesitates is lost" and "Look before you leap" can mislead one to begin to question the purpose of life and one can erroneously arrive at the cynical declaration – "whether one is a priest or a pimp – be the very best."

As Jedi who seek to use the Force is a Light way – we must be wary of the negativity that permeates our communities, culture, nation and world. Cynicism can give you wings –in that it allows you to soar above your difficulties on a vapor of discontent –however it ultimately takes away the sky. The Force is what sustains a Jedi – an impartial current of unlimited power and grace- and there is nothing it cannot do, and no hole it can't fill in our lives. Any challenge we have represents a Force sized, Force shaped hole that only the Force can fill.

All Jedi live lives of spiritual warfare. I have come to the conclusion that there is no help or sanctuary to be found in my consciousness- if my consciousness are my thoughts, fantasies, daydreams random thoughts and impressions – I must rely on the Force and in relying on the Force acknowledge that it is my brain that is not so much interested in my serenity as it is in my survival from saber tooth tigers. This cyclical lizard brain is my birthright as a human being – and wants me in a state of conflict. To expect reason from

millions of years of fight or flight evolution is foolhearty –I take refuge in the Force –which is beyond fight and flight. If I can see beyond my pride, by making mini Gods out of stature, vengeance, sex and success and it's present necessity in my life, if I can forsake the illusion of permanence- of wanting to possess instead of allowing to unfold, if I can keep a sense of humor about myself, if I can be thankful that as a Jedi I am never alone and If I have a balanced answer to the question "what would I do if I loved myself" –I can claim some success on my path to becoming one with the Force.

In my room is a chair that I call the chair of pain. It is the chair I sit in when I find out the woman of my dreams has other ideas and has taken up with my close friend. It is the chair I sit in when someone I love decides to hang herself. It is the chair I sit in when I must make a decision that is going to effect someone negatively. It is the chair where I feel the hard emotions. The unforgiving ones. The chair where I grapple with my mortality. On my current path of sobriety – it is my throne where I ascend chapel perilous and take back my power through the crucible of life's pain. I am told by my master that when one takes the pain of life and loss and does so by embracing life on life's terms –that one goes up in vibration – literally transforms the worst that life can throw at you into mana from heaven. I believe this is very true- it is part of the mystery school –that is the path of the spiritual seeker and Jedi. As Light Jedi we are called to feel every emotion with absolute purity as all emotions are action signals from the will of the Force.

When we become worthy of the title Jedi – we are men and women who have assumed complete responsibility for our destinies. We disavow the false powers of fear and anger- we

cultivate the true power of being completely comfortable in our own skin – of being able to acknowledge what it is that truly weakens us. It is that pile of laundry, it is the phone call that I need to make but have not, it is the tire rotation that I keep putting off, it is the incompletion of the minute tasks – that reminds me that even the greatest hero may die of a thousand tiny cuts- and a call to action in that we as Jedi gain the strength of the temptation that we resist! Those with true power never need to exercise it!

The chair of pain teaches me that my purpose is to make my life a game worth playing. It teaches me what is truth –for if there is every something that I lack the energy for – it is not something I should be involved in – for when we do what we love –it energizes us! If I am in a situation where I have to pay the bills – I do the next small right thing – secure in the knowledge that the Force is guiding me – for with a clear and instrument –I can feel the Force more than I could in the past – and with each small task I perform – my power increases for it is no longer being dissipated through the psychological maintenance of self pity, fear, anger, self seeking motives and despair. I forgive everyone for everything without exception! I have total willingness to serve the Force and serve humanity!

### Hatred

#### **Print**

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The problem of hate is that it is analogous to the sun going from burning hydrogen to burning helium. It leads, invariably to self consumption. Acts fueled by hatred inevitably lead to a commensurate response and whether one can respond in return or not is immaterial for at that point one's life is then exclusively about putting out fires.

There is no such thing as a "little hatred" or a "little love." Hatred is the last stop on the train—one needs to monitor one's spiritual health to prevent hatred from slipping in and taking root, and this means acknowledging one's negative emotions such as fear and anger, and dispelling them through acceptance and alchemy. Remember the words of Master Yoda: "Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hatred, hatred leads to suffering." One may use a campfire to stay warm on a cold night, but if one allows it to spread unnoticed through one's negligence it is far more difficult to set the forest right again once it is completely ablaze. As a Light Jedi, I have no place for hatred in my vocabulary, my interior reflections, and in my external life. It was Luke's compassion and self sacrifice that healed the hatred of his father and overthrew the evil Galactic Empire: only through patience, knowledge and compassion can the world's problems be solved...never through hatred which does lead to the Dark Side of the Force.

I can agree with the validity of certain kinds of hatred such as in the case when one experiences a natural, passionate aversion to transgressions of the moral law. Hatred is a passionate aversion to a person, idea, aspect of oneself, or external object that is precipitated by having a standard or rule violated to such a degree as to illicit powerful feelings of loathing. One who is moral cannot help but hate a variety of behaviors or ideas that are contrary to physical, spiritual, and emotional health and well being. What word is most appropriate when faced with the catalogue of horror perpetrated throughout human history. One who is of upright principal does not merely "dislike" Fascism. How does one feel about Hurricane Katrina when one has lost one's family, home, city, and financial stability at her hands? This is a healthy type of natural hatred and it is a lesson to Light Jedi such as myself to reconcile these natural forces by tempering them with observation and rational thought.

Where I diverge is that even when I experience hatred, I am quick to unmask it and find out what exists beneath the surface of this inflammatory emotion. As long as one remains honest, humane, and rational—hatred in this initial manifestation need not be an impediment to healthy spiritual growth. It is when hatred is allowed to become a self sustaining, self perpetuating force that it invariably leads to self immolation. One must be mindful.

In my Catholic faith there are two types of hatred and one of them is far worse than the other.

One (odium abominationis, or loathing) is that in which the intense dislike is concentrated primarily on the qualities or attributes of a person, and only secondarily, and as it were derivatively, upon the person himself. This type of hatred allows for the possibility of hope and upward mobility of the spirit as it is the proactive hatred of that which violates the moral law that I spoke of earlier. This is a hatred of a quality

and it is based on a moral standard that is fixed—primarily a standard of mirroring the love of God toward others. This is hatred with the door left open to faith, hope and charity.

The second sort (odium inimicitiae, or hostility) aims directly at the person, indulges a propensity to see what is evil and unlovable in him, feels a fierce satisfaction at anything tending to his discredit, and is keenly desirous that his lot may be an unmixedly hard one, either in general or in this or that specified way. We now arrive at "the real stuff" as it were, this is the tool of the Sith in the Star Wars movies and is the antithesis of Light Training. When I speak of never allowing hatred into my vocabulary, my interior life, and my external relations this is the strain of hatred that I speak of. This is a violation of charity in that it sets oneself up as the prime mover, indulging this form of hatred is indulging one's pride and cut's oneself off from the unconditional Light emanating from the heavens to the human heart.

The problem I see facing those that study the Force is that by over indulging the first, it invariably leads to the birth of the second.

Hatred, in my humble opinion, should not be used as a means to an end because it is a dirty fuel. It may provide initial motivation but it ultimately suffocates the ability to reason and think clearly which brings about suffering and failure. Feelings are never wrong when they arise, even hatred. However it does not make sense to encourage, cultivate, and feel an emotional outlook or mood that ultimately culminates in behavior that is careless, selfish, and hurtful to the self and other. It is the flash in the pan, it is the fireworks, it is the quick solution, it is the fascist line, it is not

caring for others, it is not caring for yourself, it serves nothing and cares only for itself, and - to be fair - it is powerful in the short term. In the end, one is alone to reap its "rewards." It promotes a cycle of violence that self perpetuates. In a universe with so much unconditional love pouring out to those that seek it, it is not necessary and is impractical.

# Looking at the Anger Within

#### **Print**

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I do not believe that anger ever really leaves us but it can be channeled and used in a creative framework to better our own lives and the lives of others. Emotions cannot be constricted, for if one attempts to quash them they return in often insidious forms that are more damaging and harmful than if one just accepted the original impulse to begin with. This is called in the Freudian school of psychology the defense mechanism of sublimation. This is when a potentially harmful negative and/or destructive impulse is channeled into a behavioral framework with a positive life affirming result. Using one's anger to engage in intensive physical training is one such method, the emotion is diffused and one gains a healthy workout. This is a good example of a band-aid, and this type of substitution is a good short term remedy, but to discover the root cause of your anger may require deeper probing and meditation on your part.

You may never discover the source of your anger and that is okay as well, the most important thing is to always use the Force to improve the dominion of love, patience, and compassion in the world. One's anger can be a valuable tool to promote change; it just must be honored with restraint and caring for others beyond the self. Anger taken to extremes leads to unilateral "me first" behavior which can be deeply destructive and even lead to loss of life.

I believe it is beneficial for some to meditate and take martial arts, striving to become one with these ancient arts. Feel the Force, concentrate, find your balance, and tap the source of your energy, and then feel the connection to all things around you. I know you can make it because I, too, had to master my anger, and though it took time and training, I am now in a much more peaceful and content place. I would not have made it without pure emotional honesty and many good friends along the way.

## **Emotional Definition**

#### **Print**

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A Light Jedi is a person that pursues mastery in mind, body and spirit, in hopes of serving as a benevolent will to power.

I will discuss the mind in this post, though the spirit is always present and applicable.

There is a reason that sunrises and sunsets are so potent and beautiful, they are visually pleasing due to gases in the sky, and they are also hints, in so far of there existence, that it is often in the penumbra, the partially shaded outer region of the shadow cast by an opaque region of the human consciousness as receding into meditation or sleep, that a Light Jedi perceives his mission to devote his life to being a loving and kind agent, caring for the needs of the other human beings.

A Jedi is attuned to his environment.

In matters of art. In matters of spiritual growth for the Jedi.

In film making circles, in the one hour before and after the sun sets, it is known as the "Magic Hour" for it is in this time that colors appear most potent, for the purposes of making films.

Most of my acronyms from my youth are relegated to the word "Assume" and when you Assume anything, you make an "Ass" out of "U" and "me."

In Astronomy it is known as Twilight, not so ironically enough, sunrise, though equal in lighting affordability for the purposes

of Film-making, for the making of motion pictures, morning sun awakening is not usually described as the "Magic Hour."

Whether this displays a natural predilection on Hollywood's part on favoring the potency of the cessation of light as opposed to the dawning of light shall be a matter of question for debby downers, and real life seekers like members of the Force Academy who wonder if it is only when the sun sets, things come into focus in truest fashion.

The human body is attuned to a sleep wake cycle that is related to waking up with the appreciation of light and then making us feel drowsy with the cessation of light.

Ergo it takes effort to follow the Light, in the way that it takes effort to resist morpheus steadfast embrace.

One thing about the hours in our lives when the sun is rising or setting is:

Light Jedi live emotionally and spiritually, metaphorically, in these magic sunset and sunrise times, emotionally speaking, for in the appreciation of beauty at it's most powerful potential, we are able to view all that we encounter within the blessed raimnant potentiality - that is every person a Light Jedi may encounter, is first projected viewed as the greatest person they could ever be, the most loving and kind and giving person that the other could ever be, and later they are viewed the same.

Take your greatest love, your greatest accomplishment and give it unto the other. Love the other with all your life and power.

Every person you meet is a member of the human family and is hence harnessing and using the same energy.

It is the time when things are in direct transit, and when things appear not only real, but with a glow of the super-real, the light from the sun plays upon reality in a way that heightens the senses and spirit, and both times last only a half hour each day.

Although there are many interpretations of what encompasses the mind, there is little doubt that a Jedi must achieve mastery of his emotions, while simultaneously not falling into the trap of burying one's emotions while believing that she is achieving emotional mastery through ignoring and layering over the emotions and padding it with a defacto and manufactured "happy" or "remourseful" response to a given situation.

The movies excite us, and we are called to emulate the examples of selflessness as exemplified by the Jedi in mythology, yet, simultaneously, we must also separate fact from fiction as it is pertinent to our own individual emotional health.

Many self help manuals espouse the power of positive thinking, and there is much of value to be gained from such texts, but ultimately, emotional health, resides in the free acceptance and acknowledgement of the emotions we experience as human beings.

Particularly for a Light Jedi, which is the hardest of paths due to the premium placed upon assuming the role of moral judge, as Light Jedi are always on stage.

LIGHT JEDI ARE ALWAYS ON STAGE.

When we lay down to sleep,

The acceptance of emotions includes the dark thoughts, the selfish thoughts, the weird dreamlike images, the images that appear in the twilight between sleep and wakefulness. The thoughts that appear at random, the thoughts that make one feel despair or joy in regard to people, ideas, philosophies and things in one's life.

Scary times in the night!

At least, I am often scared at night, thinking about my life and clock running out on it. A natural and beloved fear, for it reminds us that our lives and character are defined by how we use the time we are given, Gandalf's reminder of blessed mortality.

Do you not feel the awareness of death?

Do you as a hopeful Light Jedi realize that love for the other and you ability as a Light Jedi to be a guardian of peace and justice is irretrievably linked to what you feel late at night alone in your room, in the dark, with only your heart to guide you?

HENCE,

**Emotional Definition.** 

An integral part of a Light Jedi's training is to become comfortable and loving of oneself in our deepest private moments, in our moments of silence when the CYCLES AND CHARYBDIS\*, of the day recedes and along with the last lips of the sun's defiant rays, as night descents and blackness arrives and the Jedi is alone and in the dark, when the nature

of feeling starts to bubble to the surface, the Jedi of the Light is called to an important act of self forgiveness.

Being ok in the dark. Being, "just fine."

When the Jedi is falling asleep, cycling through the thoughts of the day, the day and the month and the life, there is the temptation of interagency, that is, confusing the feelings one, as a Light Jedi, is experiencing as evidence of declaration or observance of any set of beliefs whether Light, Shadow or Dark.

No, no, there is a feeling of fear and wonder....

There was a Jedi Master named Mr. Miyagi, you might have observed his exploits in a movie called "The Karate Kid."

The Jedi was, in real life, portrayed by the wonderful actor Pat Morita, "TAXI" references not withstanding.

He said to his student, Daniel, "If it come from inside you, it is always ok."

This could, on the surface become easily embroiled in the classic debate on the origins of evil, the nature of free will and, of course, the importance of personal responsibility.

That is not the point of this specific overture on my part as germane to the emotional health of the Jedi Knight.

As we have seen in the mythology, it was Anakin Skywalker's inability to reconcile his emotions for Padme, particularly in the area relevant to embracing the transitory nature of life that bears particular attention.

Though the Jedi Order's amazing lack of basic human emotional insight contributed to his lack of proper

stewardship given that he was but a sexually potent man in love with a woman and not brought us as tabula rasa, like most aspirants, but rather a human being with mother issues.

He was but a wonderful man in love.

His love for his woman twisted and used for he wanted his beloved to triumph natural death.

Anakin thought only of the sunset, and disregarded the sunrise, he championed temporal quantity, over quality.

Get to know Anakin Skywalker. For the character is you and I, me and you.

And let's get down to emotional definitions.

Since I have already mentioned the romance of the negative we shall start there.

Discomfort

Fear

Hurt

Anger

Frustration

Disappointment

Guilt

Inadequacy

Overload/Overwhelm

Loneliness.

In response, for the Light Jedi are:

Love and Warmth

Appreciation and Grattitude

Curiosity

**Excitement and Passion** 

Determination

Flexibility

Confidence

Cheerfulness

Vitality

Contribution.

Please think of these words, and what they mean to you in the course of your spiritual development.

May Mary Keep You, and may you remember that if you miss 9 meals, you will still have to be a Light Jedi.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charybdis

Taoist afterward:

Chapter 13 Tao Te Ching

Success is dangerous as failure. Hope is as hollow as fear.

What does it mean that success is dangerous as failure? Whether you go up the latter or down it, your position is

shaky. When you stand with your two feet on the ground, You will always keep your balance.

What does it mean that hope is as hollow as fear? Hope and fear are both phantoms that arise from thinking of the self. When we don't see the self as self what do we have to fear?

See the world as yourself. Have faith in the way things are. Love the world as yourself; then you can care for all things.

#### Catholic Afterward:

There are two sides to fatalism: pessimism, which expects the worst, and optimism, which presumes the best. "Whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall" (1Cor. 10:12). In contrast to both, is the virtue of hope, which trusts that God will not fail us if we do not fail Him. The crucifixion of the world's one innocent man was the worst crime in history, but it was not a meaningless tragedy, because it brought good out of evil. Those who are "crucified with Christ" through daily trials are not tragic heroes, but saints. St. Basil says: "Here is man's greatness, here is man's glory and majesty: to know in truth what is great, to hold fast to it, and to seek glory from the Lord of glory."

## **Transform Emotions**

#### **Print**

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I feel, in all humility, that it is enough to learn emotional control without making it into an exaggeration or a false homage to the Jedi archetypes in the movies. Light Jedi in the world are human beings that feel emotions and have learned and trained to accept and deal with them in meaningful, life affirming and charitible ways. Just doing that alone with regularity is a very significant thing. There is no glossing over or drinking of kool aid. The ethic is based on the belief that we are energetic beings and have the capacity, through self discipline to use our talents for the betterment of humankind. The self discipline need not require stuffing down ones feeling or denying them.

That is unhealthy and stupid to do because emotions are energy and cannot be destroyed but only transformed. It does not have to be complicated unless you want it to be. A Light Jedi must not fall pray to a scrupulous self monitoring and intellectualization of his or her moment to moment emotional state, for that is anathema to preserving the connection to the Force, which exists in the here and now.

At the same time it is not a bad thing to think about what one's emotions mean or where they may come from. However, Light Jedi can easily be turned to evil if they are emboldened to categorize, mark and define every little flitter of emotional response- for it courts a pervasive narcisism that places the self at the center at the expense of the other. This then sets up a consciousness mindset that betrays the

Light Jedi's commitment to others and the community as a whole.

Why else temper and control one's emotions? Is it really just for one's self edification? One's own hurtles and goals jumped over and pursued to purchase self esteem from a self constructed external board of phantasms that wish to say "that's just good and right!" It is for others! We serve others! Hell is a beauracracy, devoid of well meaning error...things just click away in Newtonian clockwork regularity. It is not the Jedi way!! We are human beings for human beings!

# Fidelity to The Force

#### **Print**

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Inflexible as Fate and Exacting as Necessity Rising with us in

Inflexible as Fate and Exacting as Necessity Rising with us in the morning and Watching at our Pillows at night. Duty is with us always, imperative as Destiny.

A Light Jedi's first duty is to the Force. Before he can serve wisely, compassionately and effectively he must be at one with the Force. He must be clear and listen carefully to the will of the Force. The Force's germination of good character is through the acquisition of knowledge..the spiritual food of the Jedi. The will of the Force is felt in one's heart. The power and grace present in the bond between Master and Padawan is eternal and is blessed by that which is above.

YODA Confer on you, the level of Jedi Knight the Coucil does. But agree on you taking this boy as your Padawan learner, I do not.

OBI-WAN Qui-Gon believed in him. I believe in Qui-Gon.

YODA The Chosen One the boy may be; nevertheless, grave danger I fear in his training.

OBI-WAN Master Yoda, I gave Qui-Gon my word. I will train Anakin. Without the approval of the Council if I must.

YODA Qui-Gon's defiance I sense in you. Need that, you do not. Agree, the council does. Your apprentice, young Skywalker will be.

Obi Wan displays an essentially Jedi trait, his willingness to follow the dictates of his duty to his fallen Master over the rules and regulations of the Jedi Council are reminders to us all as Jedi to stay close to the source of all things- which is the love present in the Light application of the Force. The tenderness that Qui Gon displays toward Obi Wan in the closing moments of his life are indicative of the powerful bond between Master and Padawan.

It is important to note that Obi Wan is not just following Qui Gon's orders, he is acting upon his internal impressions as well as his sense of duty. A Jedi knows that obedience to the law does not mean subservience to tyranny. Spiritual tyranny is the enemy of the Jedi. A Jedi must weigh carefully what he promises and pledges- for he who is false to his promises will be false to his family, friends, nation and conception of the Force.

As in the case of the Samurai, Bushido, Knights Templar and other historic orders of chivalry- the word of a Jedi, once given must be sacred.

/bows

# Measure Time in Good Deeds

#### **Print**

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In mystic time our Jedi rise-not burdened by the measure. Through alchemy of old - turning lead to gold his or his heart unto a feather. As generous passages commute the illusion of life's dreary toil The fear of death, washed away - interred in reciprocal, fertile soil.

The certainty of death and the acceptance of mortality are at the forefront of a Light Jedi's mind. It is through the acknowledgement of mortality that lends an air of eternity to the decisions and actions a Jedi makes in his life.

Light Jedi meditate on death and receive death's blessing, that of a full life -lived in observance of the reality of time's fleeting and limited nature.

Carpe Diem, an often redundant phrase in the public consciousness, is nevertheless of utmost importance to the Light Jedi.

There is work to do. There is the internal work of learning to use the Force. There is the pursuit of knowledge of the self and of the world at large.

There is the mystery of never knowing when love is coming your way. There is the excitement of competition and the pursuit of dreams.

There is the acknowledgment that we are not this "crude matter" but beings of light in a human experience and the world is but a classroom.

The Light Jedi lives life in accordance to chivalrous virtues and universal values that were as relevant to the Roman centurion or Delphic Oracle or Masai tribesman or Knight Hospitaller or Kung Fu Master.

All the heroes of old were heros because they knew a secret.

A secret they practiced without fail, all the days of their life.

They practiced virtue, for virtues sake!

They could do this because of awareness of the sweetness of the richness of limited life.

A Jedi fears not the passage of time, only the tapestry unweaved, and the gift not given.

/bows

## Let Justice Guide

#### **Print**

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\*MACE WINDU turns the viewing screen off and nods toward YODA.\*

YODA Good, good, young one. How feel you?

ANAKIN Cold, sir.

YODA Afraid are you?

ANAKIN No, sir.

MACE WINDU Afraid to give up your life?

ANAKIN I don't think so. \*ANAKIN hesitates for a moment.\*

YODA See through you, we can.

MACE WINDU Be mindful of your feelings...

KI-ADI Your thoughts dwell on your mother.

ANAKIN I miss her.

YODA Afraid to lose her...I think.

ANAKIN (a little angry) What's that got to do with anything?

YODA Eveything. Fear is the path to the dark side... fear leads to anger... anger leads to hate.. hate leads to suffering.

ANAKIN (angrily) I am not afraid!

YODA A Jedi must have the deepest commitment, the most serious mind. I sense much fear in you.

ANAKIN (quietly) I am not afraid.

YODA Then continue, we will.

A Light Jedi is a judge. A light Jedi is also not judgmental. With the Force as her ally she is able to practice discernment rather than judgmentalism.

A Jedi must herself be impartial, cautious, merciful and of pure morals. In practicing discernment the motive must be to distill the truth, through kindness liberate the essence that may be trapped in the icy clasp of fear, anger or despair. Always aware of the grave responsibility, always conscience that the errors she may discern in others she may herself possess.

In addition, while also practicing a balanced self preservation, a Jedi invested with the power to discern must not sequester this ability - but rather use it uprightly, dispassionately and with impartiality -without any personal attachment to the power of the mighty, the bribery of the Hutts or the needs of the lost.

A Jedi practices empathy, always placing oneself in the shoes of the other. If one was in a strange and foreign land, without shelter, food, water or money - would she be tempted to take an apple from the marketplace? What if it was not her own mouth to feed, but that of a little one she is charged with the care of?

Are we not all 9 missed meals away from entering into behavior that could be considered unjust?

A Light Jedi in the practice of discernment lives by these words:

"Judge not, lest ye yourselves be judged: for whatsoever judgement ye measure unto others, the same shall in turn be measured unto you." [Matt 7:1-2]

## Principles Over Sentiment

#### **Print**

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A Light Jedi has devoted his life to a set of moral principles and his duty is to inculcate these values into his heart, mind and soul and be willing and able to transmit this knowledge to those in need.

In his endeavor to enlighten souls and minds he must also remain vigilant to the interests and honor of the Jedi Orderthat of promoting and protecting peace and justice throughout the Order's respective sphere of influence.

In the mythology this usually means the entire galaxy- in the real world - this may refer to one's intimate circle of friends and professional relationships, one's homelife or town or neighborhood.

Ignorance is the principal enemy of the Jedi, for it gives birth to fear, which in turn strangles the vital flow of the Force as it takes one out of the present moment. A Jedi in his natural hunger for and pursuit of knowledge in all it's forms can easily be swayed by the siren call of ambition- which may create tyranny and despotism or fanaticism which gives birth to intolerance and persecution.

A reminder that even when pursuing the primary goal of accumulating knowledge- one may be led astray.

Light Jedi, ere to the side of simplicity, patience and compassion in all things.

Is your training making you more loving and kind?

A Jedi would also be wise to incorporate impartiality, courtesy, devotedness, firmness, frankness, generosity, self control as in the delaying short term grattification, heroism and loyalty. These classic knightly virtues are not the principal duties of the Jedi however, enlightening the people as to liberate them from superstition, deceit, fraud and fear and thereby promote the preservation of peace and justice are.

In this pursuit a Jedi must weigh carefully what is coming from sentiment and what is arising from principal. The majority of humanity is ruled by the whim of sentiment and all men have them. A Jedi must be ruled by principal, without abandoning one's humanity.

Think of Yoda telling Anakin not to mourn the loss of loved ones (mother) in episode three. Think of Mace's cold summons and indifference to Anakin's basic psychological conflcit over Padme's mortality. One can follow and embody principals without being a jerk.

Sentiments are general, temporary and involuntary sensations that do not rise to the character of virtue. They are like summer storms, flashing suddenly in the heart and are then gone as quickly as they arose.

Principals are permanent and control impressions of goodness and virtue- rules of action that shape and control our conduct- and hence our destinies!

Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

bows\*

## Life of Service

#### **Print**

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When I moved to Sedona three years ago I brought with me a resume that upon examination would have conveyed to the reader - "Here is a guy who spent the last half decade working for a noble charity- helping wounded veterans and their families."

Now a great deal of that is true, however, there was also a lot of fooling around and getting loaded.

I was soon to learn that I had built up a mythological exoskeleton, character armor that I used to justify a selfish, and sensual existence of acquiring short term pleasures.

When I got sober almost two years ago the program of AA is based on working the 12 Steps. The Twelfth being transmitting the message to and helping another suffering alcoholic. Since then I have gotten very active in speaking, running meetings and sponsoring alcoholics- and sometimes I make a difference and they get sober, and sometimes the disease gets them.

I do know one thing for certain, I am at my happiest and best when I am helping others.

I have many spiritual activities that I am involved in, some of them service oriented and others for myself. For me, it is paramount that I continue to grow spiritually.

Meditation groups Freemasonry Catholic Choir Weightlifiting

So much of living a successful life is suiting up and showing up. That is adopting an attitude of positive intent and then

becoming present for the task at hand and giving oneself fully to that which needs to be done.

The thing about the program of AA is that it is a practical, spiritual program of action, it is not simply about the cessation of an addictive behavior, rather it is a design for living in that it is about learning to live a happy life sober one day at a time. I never thought something like that would be possible.

What makes it possible for me is the application of the 12th Step -which is service work.

My happiness and well being is based on service.

No service, no John.

So it is essentially true what all the spiritual masters throughout history have been saying - to help yourself, help others.

Whether one is attempting to change a destructive behavior or not - we all have areas in our life that could use improvement- one of the oldest and best ways to improve yourself is to get out of your own way.

One of the best ways to get out of your own way is to shift your focus from your own problems and challenges to that of helping others.

When something is bothering me, when I experience feelings of self pity or resentment, when I am engaging in dishonest or self seeking thinking I can either experience the results of my own constructed causes and conditions - which is suffering - or I can practice the antidote- which is altruism.

One of the best things you can do to serve humanity is to honor the gift of your life and be the best person you can be. Take your precious human rebirth and run with it. Let your freak flag fly and follow your heart and be kind and loving to all and forgive everyone for everything without exception.