

The Jedi Compass (2022 Revision)

Print

WRITTEN BY JEDI COMMUNITY ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#).
HITS: 5678

(See links below for alternate translations)

The Ineffable

The Force- The Force is a loosely adapted term to explain something which all cultures agree exists, but disagree on exactly what it is. As such, a Jedi dedicates themselves to an understanding of all things within and through the Force. As a rule, no Jedi can set down in law a concrete definition of the Force for all to follow, only for themselves.

Core Ethics

Loyalty to the Jedi Code- This has a few different variants depending on what order a Jedi attends. A Jedi is bound by the code. By maintaining your loyalty to the code, you are able to keep your actions in check through the moral integrity of the Jedi Path outlined in the Jedi Code. It is important that a Jedi checks their own version of the code against the original codes (Yet, No, and Skywalker code) before they adopt it.

Duty to All- A Jedi's mission is to support their community through service. A Jedi is charged with acting, objectively, when they recognize a situation where someone needs help. Jedi put their lives above the lives of others, even when facing danger, knowing that they can help through direct action or indirect action as per the situation.

Respect the Law- A Jedi knows enough of the law to operate within it. Jedi should respect, and do their best to live by the laws of the land they are living in. However, some laws may be flawed and should be amended. When the written law is unjust, or in the absence of legal precedence, a Jedi must act for the best interest of others as they see the situation.

Defense- A Jedi understands that defense is not purely physical, but that there are many ways to defend a person or property. As such, it is important to understand that Jedi are not vigilantes. If, however, they are in a position where they are called to defend themselves or someone else against loss of life, limb or eyesight, they are allowed to apply the appropriate amount of force necessary for defense. When defending, a Jedi does what they can to minimize damage to all parties involved.

Action- A Jedi recognizes that there are times when getting involved with a situation is against the will of the person they are seeking to assist, or that helping them may be more detrimental in the long run. Conversely, they also recognize that there are times where their actions, though needed, will have negative repercussions. As such, a Jedi seeks inner wisdom to determine when to act and when not to act.

Self Awareness

Interior- A Jedi strives to be in touch with their own emotions, drives and inner workings and how they affect those around them. They learn of their flaws and seek to overcome them, as well as learning of their strengths and seeking to amplify those. A Jedi knows that every action has consequences, no matter how tiny or insignificant those actions may seem. Therefore, a Jedi must be aware of how their actions echo off

the actions of others. Jedi are aware that being in harmony with the Force helps them understand the implications of their actions.

Exterior- It is important that a Jedi be aware of the person they present to those around them, and how that will affect the dynamic of the groups they find themselves in. How one's presence is received will determine whether or not the next steps will be met with hostility or acceptance.

Self-Care- Jedi are aware that their present action can affect future outcomes, and that when they have lost their ability to function they cannot aid others. It is because of this, that a Jedi recognizes the need to restore themselves with the same level of dedication and commitment they would need to give to any other part of their path. It is for this reason, that a Jedi works to maintain their mental, physical and spiritual health when and where they can to ensure that they are ready for whatever comes next.

Virtues

Positive-Regard - A Jedi does not need to agree with all people, however, they should approach others with positive-regard. They should not sit in judgement, but rather be accepting of others as fellow human beings. They should respect others choices, even if they think they are unwise, as they would hope their own would be respected. A Jedi only challenges the choices of others when those choices would be an (emotionally, spiritually, financially, and/or physically) abusive threat to themselves or another person.

Responsibility- Responsibility is at the heart of learning to overcome our problems. A Jedi is to be held responsible for

all of their actions. Without it, we cannot grow, we cannot help others and we cannot justify why we are to be taken seriously.

Self-Discipline- In order to walk the Jedi Path, you need to live by your training and by the philosophy. It is your responsibility to continue your growth throughout the rest of your life. Even while you are training with a mentor or taking a course at an order, it is discipline that will get you through to your knighthood and beyond. This ties in with fortitude, as slips in discipline may happen, but the Jedi way is to recognize them, learn from them and move forward with renewed vigor - not to allow a slip to spiral into further undisciplined behavior.

Fortitude- Fortitude is the emotional strength and conviction to press forward in any given situation which poses an internal or external adversity. Developing fortitude allows a Jedi to show that they are not willing to give up until they have drawn their last breath.

Integrity- A Jedi seeks to maintain their integrity to the Jedi Code at all times. A Jedi should hold themselves to a high standard knowing that what they do when no one is looking is just as important, if not more, as what they do when people are looking.

Objectivity- A Jedi trains themselves to gain as much relevant information as possible before drawing their conclusions. Once intelligence has been collected, they approach the problem with as little cultural and emotional bias as possible so that they are able to develop a decision on their next action. If personal or cultural bias does become evident to a Jedi within themselves, it is a moral requirement of that Jedi

to seek counsel and, if necessary, recuse themselves from the situation at hand while avoiding influencing the next individual in favor of one direction or another.

Compassion- A Jedi draws strength and wisdom through their connections made with others. Compassion is the root of connection, and thus is the essential string that connects us all to each other and to the rest of the world. Decisions and actions made by all Jedi should be guided by compassion toward friend and foe alike.

Overcome

Emotions - A Jedi recognizes that while emotions like anger and fear will exist they can not be ruled by them in action. Jedi also recognize that passion, even when honed in a positive way, can become obsession. In this a Jedi seeks peace and serenity to overcome the aggressive and fearful part of the self. This does not mean a Jedi can not be aggressive or assertive when a situation requires, but that all actions must come from a core of inner peace and awareness even when entering into conflict.

Recklessness- A Jedi does not take unnecessary risks, knowing that their life is important to the Jedi's personal pursuits to bettering the world around them. In overcoming recklessness, a Jedi acknowledges and is mindful of how small the impact is perceived to have on themselves or others.

Attachments- Overcoming your attachments is not about getting rid of all your possessions or even denouncing your family, instead this is about forward movement. In overcoming/subjugating your attachments, you are

acknowledging what value these things have to you, and you recognize that there comes a time when you should no longer fight for your attachments, and you must let go. For a Jedi overcoming attachments can extend to bad habits, unhealthy obsessions, and connections to people that make us less who we have chosen to be.

Jedi Arts

Defense Art- A Defense Art is not necessarily physical in nature, it can be through speech, writing, diplomacy, art or a number of other options which lead to an active method of resolving a situation. Like many of the other disciplines, you may find that your Defense Art is the same as another art (Physical, Scholarly, or Spiritual).

Physical Art- A Jedi should seek a physical art within their capabilities which keeps them in shape and focuses on maintaining discipline of their body. Part of the physical art, which can be observed by all Jedi regardless of their mobility, is health. A Jedi should eat right, and maintain their health to the best of their ability.

Scholarly Art- A Jedi should seek out skills that provide benefit to them and the people around them. The search for knowledge is fundamental to Jedi as one never stops learning, seeking knowledge or bettering their skills.

Spiritual Art- A spiritual art helps connect a Jedi to the Force and may be as simple as developing meditation, but can go far beyond this. A Jedi may choose to develop a spiritual art aimed at connecting them with the Force through healing, seeking guidance, or simply developing their own self awareness.

Translations

(Based on the 2013 Version)

Der Jedi Kompass (By Adhara)

De Onvermijdelijke (By Marta Lina)

El Compàs Jedi (By Manuel Suraty)

The Jedi Compass Italian (By Silmerion Skywalker)

КОМПАС ДЖЕДАЯ (By Alex Hudkoff)

Force Community Survey

2019 Analysis

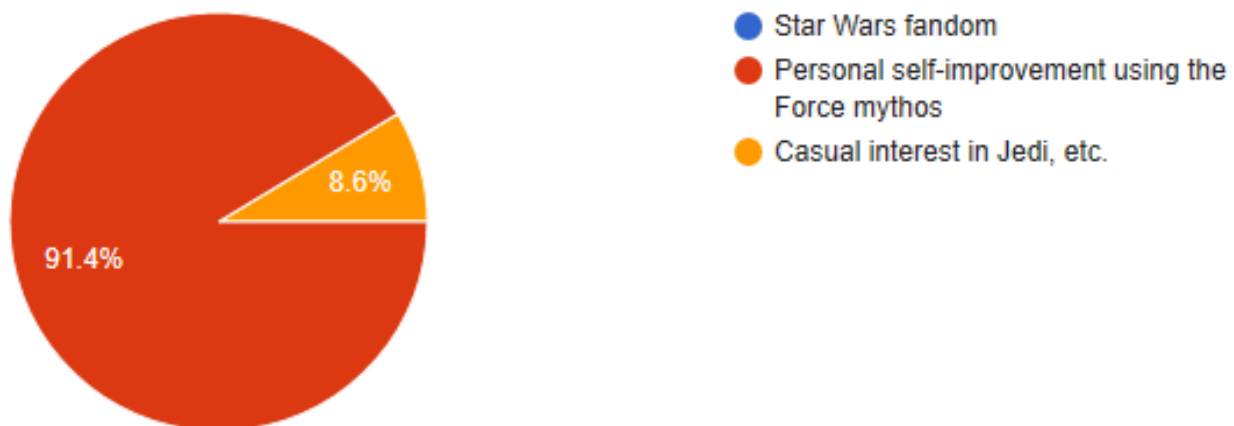
Print

WRITTEN BY SATELLE +. POSTED IN [ASPECTS OF THE FORCE BLOG](#)

(Note: This article was first published on our old site on 6-9-2019 and discusses the 2019 Force Community Survey. The results of the 2020 survey will be published around the same time this year.)

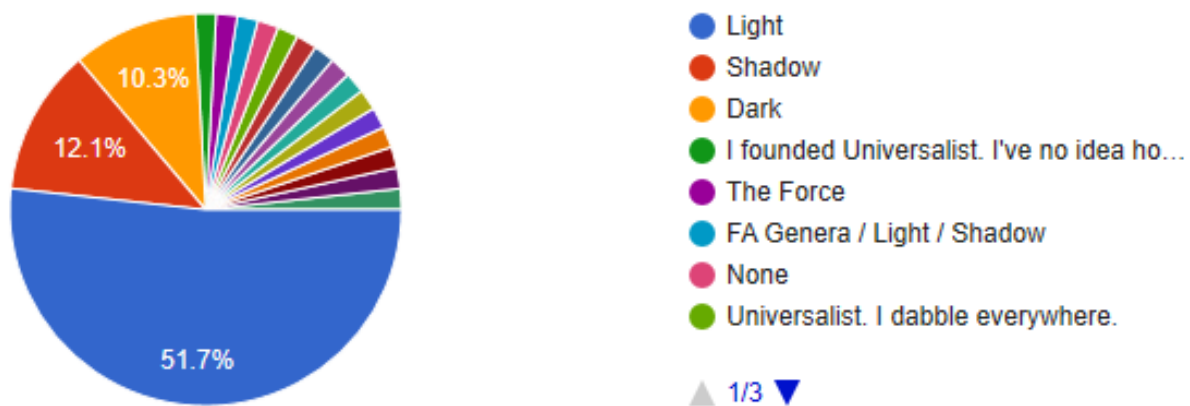
First off, thanks to the 58 people who took the time to respond to the second annual Force Community survey. The responses, which are largely made public, are intended to help improve the community by understanding what the members look for and want. It is worth noting that complaints and criticisms, where inputted, are not shared in an identifying way; I will try to work those into the analysis in a way to preserve the anonymity of the survey.

What Brings People to Force Sites



The response here is not surprising, though in last year's survey there were a few people who said they visited sites for Star Wars fandom; this year no one responded with that motive.

Aspect Affiliation



Asking people what flavor of Force user they affiliate with continued this year to result in a sizable chunk of users who don't identify with the traditional Light/Dark dichotomy. While the Light Jedi (blue) still hold half of the overall responses, with Shadow (red, it automatically assigns colors) and Dark (yellow) being about what they were last year, the other quarter of respondents break out into a variety. Five replied with a specific school, seven said they followed all of them or did not want to specify an aspect, and the rest said they didn't identify with any of them (which could mean they don't affiliate with the options listed and did not supply their own interpretation).

This also tracks with last year, though the responses of the Quarter of Variety were not the same. I think this is a healthy thing; not everyone is into the polarization. I would be

interested in teasing a bit out of the Light Jedi as to what makes them affiliate solidly there, but this particular survey is more about site offerings than why people study the Force. I think it might be useful to sites who support the Light Aspect to have their own surveys as they wish, to understand what brings those members to that affiliation.

As for the Quarter of Variety, it's important for sites to understand that not everyone tosses in with the traditional breakdown. There is room for interpretations and people clearly think that way.

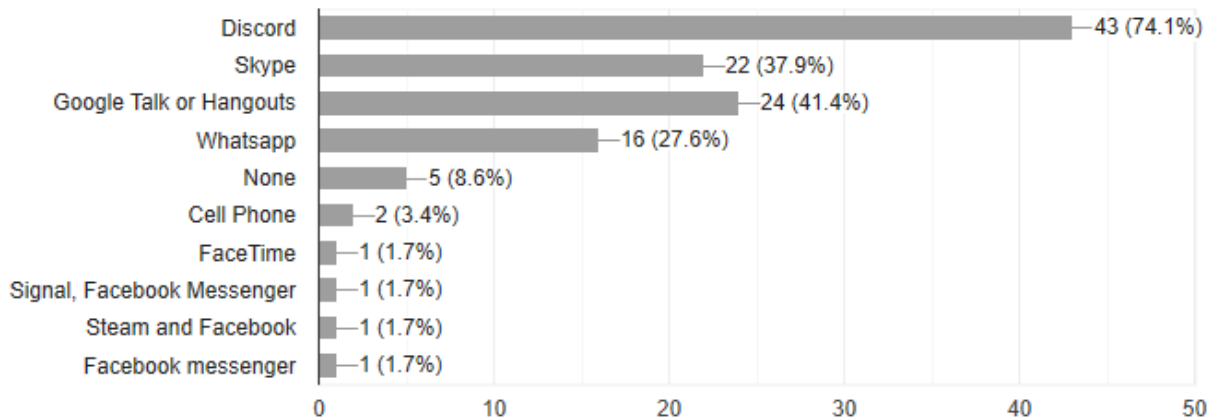
Features and Tools

The breakdown for what people like and use on sites is:

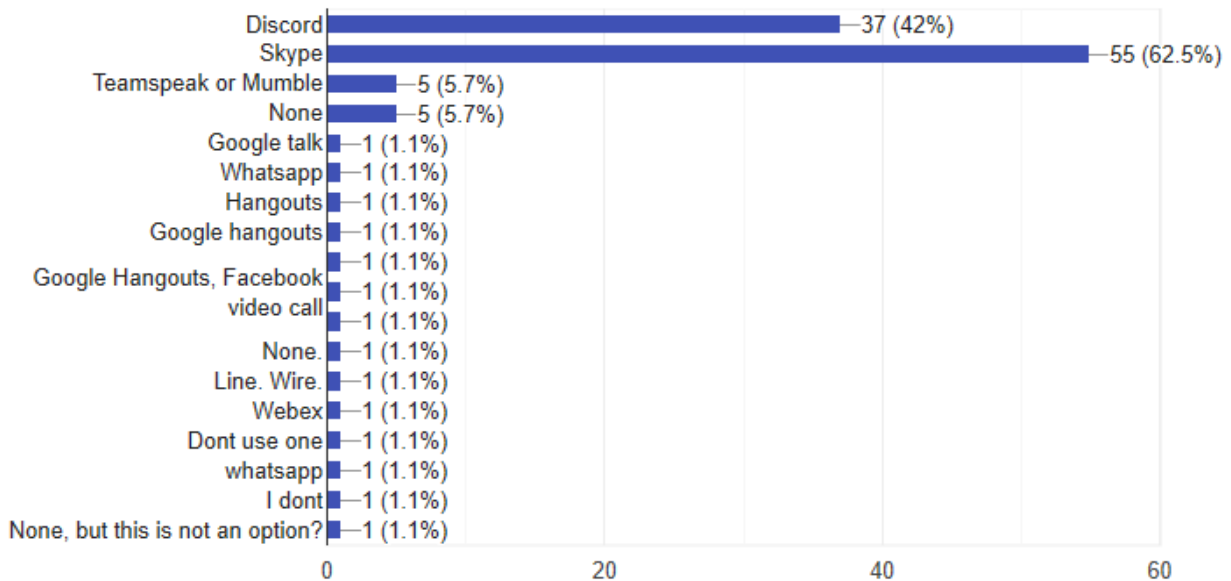
- Reading Content: 70.7% (was 79.5% last year)
- Real-time Chat: 67.2% (was 67% last year)
- Discussion Forums: 63.8% (was 78.4% last year)
- Journaling: 56.9% (was 65.9% last year)
- Guided Real-time Discussion around a Topic: 51.7% (was 39.8% last year)
- Podcasts and Pre-recorded Video: 41.4% (was 45.5% last year)
- Live Voice Chat: 39.7% (was 23.9% last year)
- Traditional teaching environment: 39.7% (was 36.4% last year)

2019 seemed to bring in a lot more of the discussion around a topic and live voice chat. I wonder if that isn't the influence of Discord, so let's pull in some of the related data here.

Voice/Video System Used



voice and video use in 2019



Voice and Video use in 2018

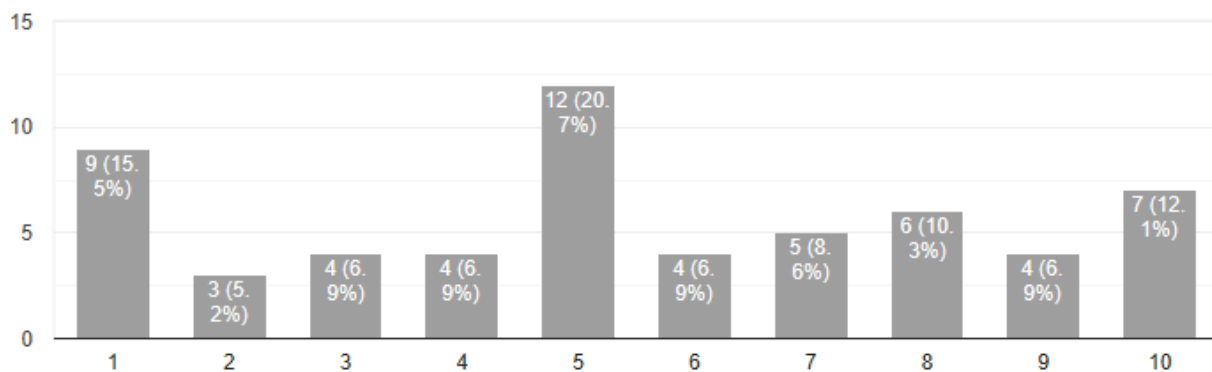
Use of Discord jumped from 42% of 88 responses in 2018 to 74.1% of 58 responses this year. Skype dropped pretty significantly. I would theorize that the flexibility of Discord in having both text and voice (and video) may have knocked Skype out of the running and put two of the most popular means of communicating (real-time chat and voice) all in one app. Interestingly, "real-time chat" didn't budge much, but voice jumped, so I think that while people were using Discord

last year, they're using it for voice more this year and Skype less.

However, there is another data point about this.

How Important Is Live Voice or Video

(I changed scales this year from three choices to a 10 scale and regret it. I'll try to normalize but will probably go to the simpler method next year.)



1 is Not Important and 10 is Very Important

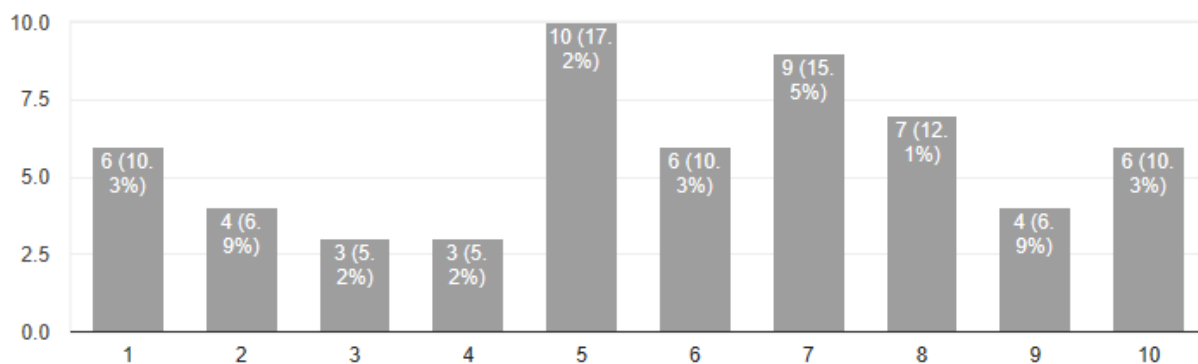
Normalizing this against last year's data by grouping the ten into three groups (1-3 being Not so important, 4-7 being Somewhat important, and 8-10 being Very important), 27.6% felt it was Not So Important (63.6% felt it was Not So Important last year!), 43.1% felt it was Somewhat Important (up from 29.5% last year), and 29.3% felt it was Very Important (up from 6.8% last year).

Members of the sites are definitely using and liking the interactive voice chats. I think it's worth bringing in a question or two about interactive video for next year, as Twitch and YouTube streaming has made that easier in the past few years. For those of us pondering how much time

and expense to throw into these options, it would be useful to know if they're even wanted. However, I think Discord probably made it easier and people liked it once they tried it.

It's worth remembering, with this, that discussions guided around a topic scored very high also. While I don't have another data point around that, I think it's worth considering running such things on your live chat and live voice options and seeing if it works for you. It's a little extra work to organize and keep going, but it looks like people are interested.

I'll add the other multimedia result here, regarding pre-recorded voice and video, which would be your static YouTube and podcast content:

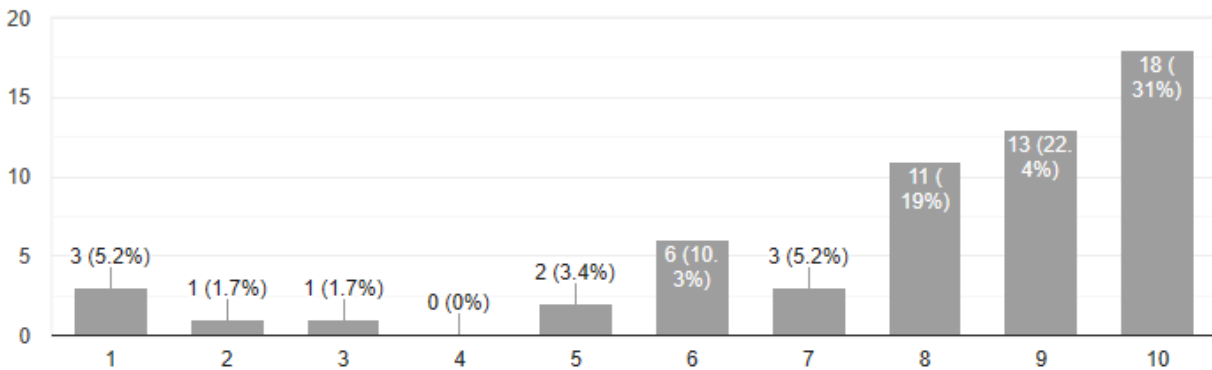


2019 on Podcasts and Static - 1 Not So Important and 10 Very Important

Normalized and compared: 22.4% Not So Important (down from 31.8% last year), 48.2% Somewhat Important (up from 43.2% last year), and 29.3% Very Important (up from 25% last year). Some increased interest in things like podcasts and YouTube videos here, but not huge.

Reading Content

The top use of sites, reading original text content, continues to rank very high at 70% this year, despite a drop from last year.

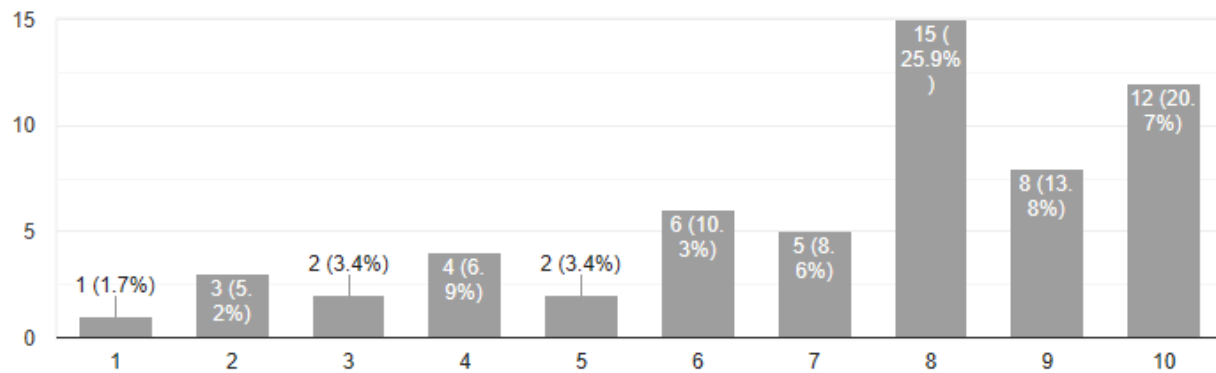


2019 - 1 is Not Important and 10 is Very Important

Normalized against last year, 8.6% said it was Not Important (up from 1.1% last year), 18.9% said Somewhat Important (up from 15.9% last year), and 72.4% said it was Very Important (down from 83% last year). Nothing too major, but it does mean that writing content continues to be very important to members.

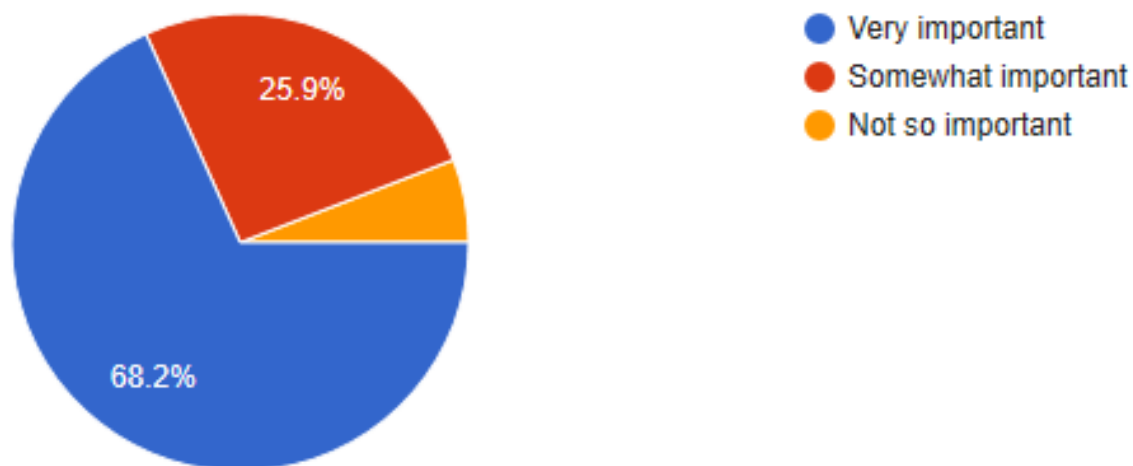
Discussion Forums Still Strong

I was particularly interested in the results of this one, as it seems that live chat is becoming more popular than the traditional forums. So let's see.



Discussion forums - 2019 - 1 Not Important - 10 Very Important

Normalized against last year: 10.3% Not Important (up from 5.9% last year), 29.2% Somewhat Important (up a bit from 25.9% last year), 60.4% Very Important (down a bit from 68.2% last year).

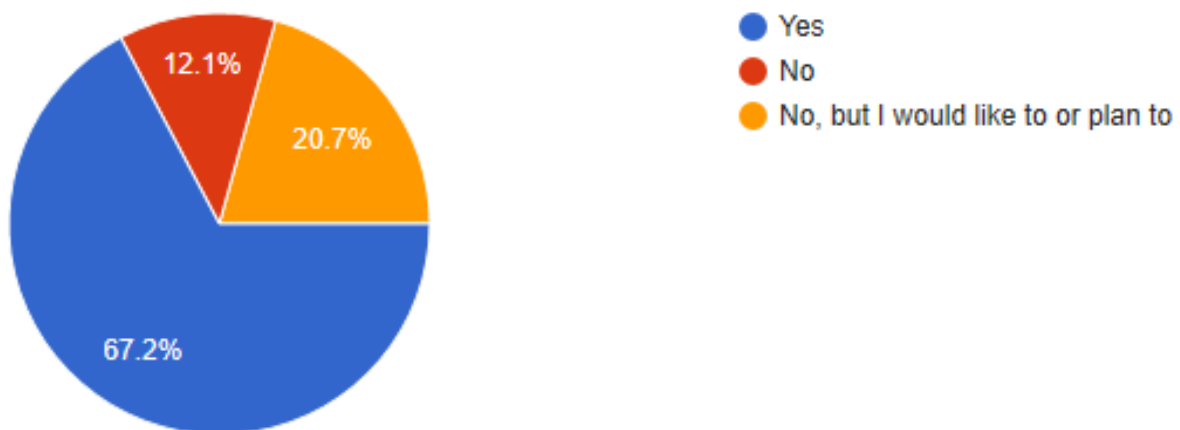


2018 Results on Discussion Forum Popularity

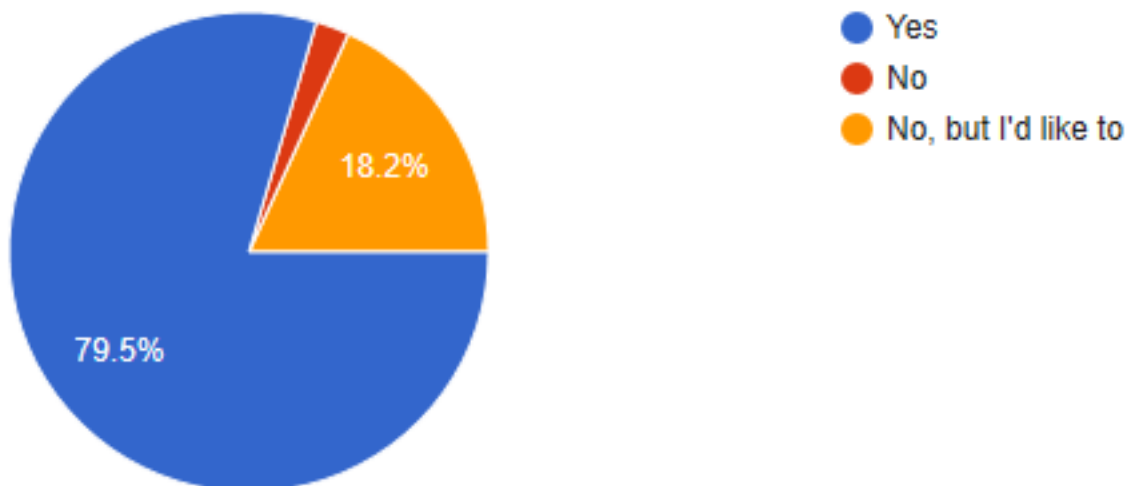
One thing the 10 scale does this year is show a sort of less enthusiastic Very Important in the form of that 8 ranking. I don't really have any other data points to tease out if that's a trend. But for now, forums are still popular.

Journaling and Member Content

Members want content to read and they also seem game for writing their own in the form of journals and other texts. Overall, 56.9% said they liked and used journaling at sites, and I also asked if they wrote their own material:



2019 Question on Writing Own Content



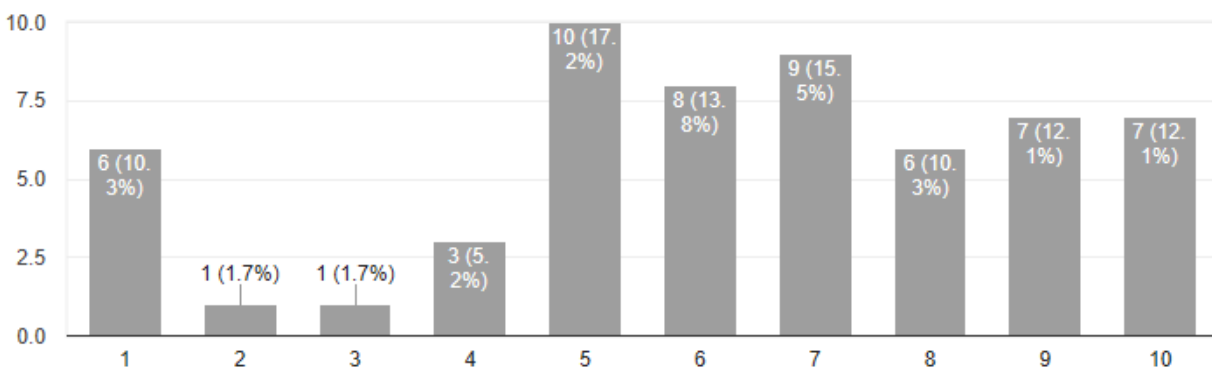
2018 Question on Writing Own Content

Hooray for not having to normalize this one. Sheesh.

Weirdly, more people said they do not write their own material this year over a sliver who responded that way last year. A few threw in the option of doing it, but it's a slight increase in not writing. Still, 67.2% is a good chunk of the community who writes things themselves, so providing the means at sites is a solid option.

Traditional Teaching Environments

This question covers the mentor/teacher/student with lesson plans model.



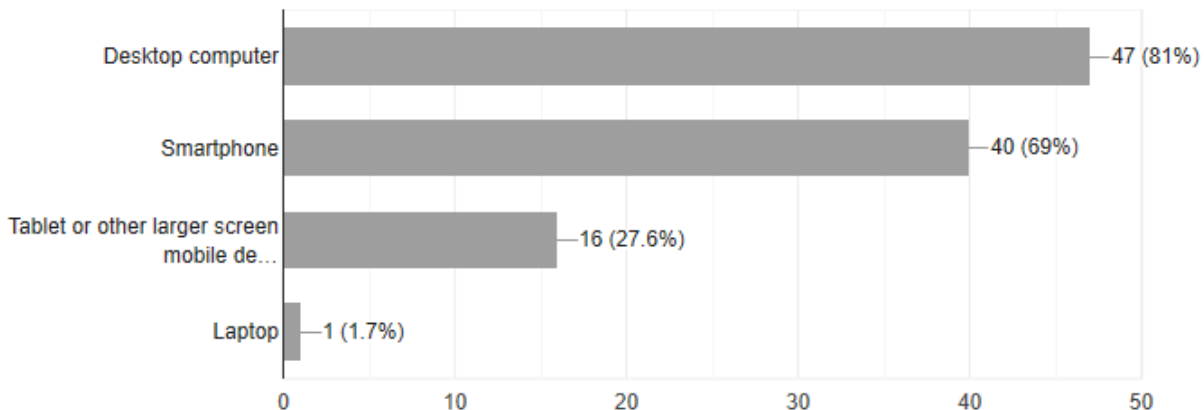
2019 Result - 1 Not Important and 10 Very Important

Normalizing: 13.7% Not Important (down from 26.1% last year), 51.7% Somewhat Important (up from 43.2% last year), 34.5% Very Important (up from 30.7% last year). This seems to be a slight growth in interest. Given the FA's recent launch of the Academy, I'm more curious to see where this stands in next year's survey, as the Academy launched after most of the responses were in this year.

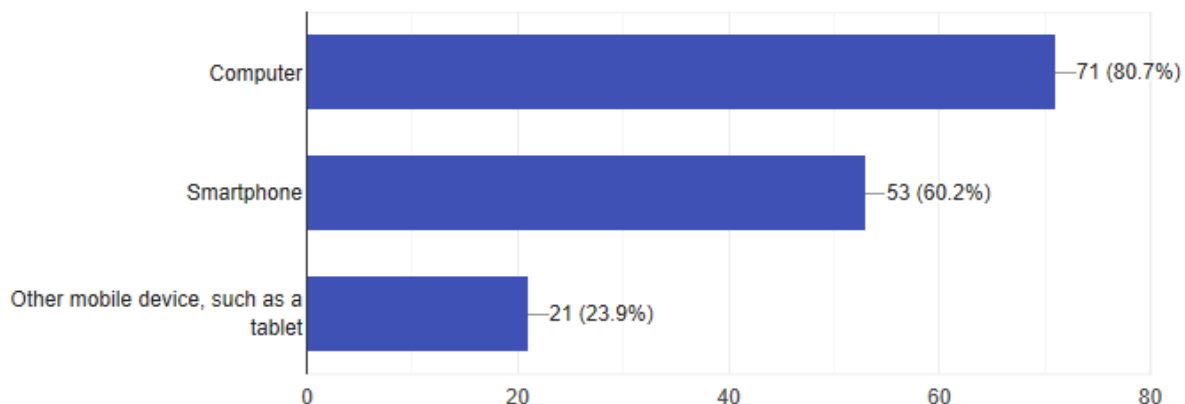
Obviously, this is a heavy lift for the Force community, and only shows a slight increase in interest in the responses. In

my opinion, if it's something a site is thinking about doing, work now may pay off later as interest increases.

How Members Access the Sites



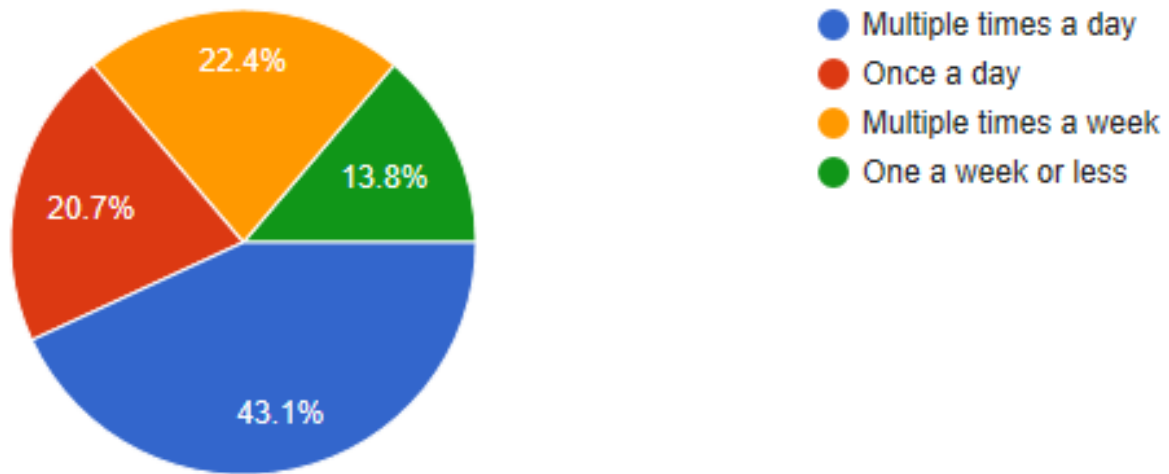
How do people access sites in 2019



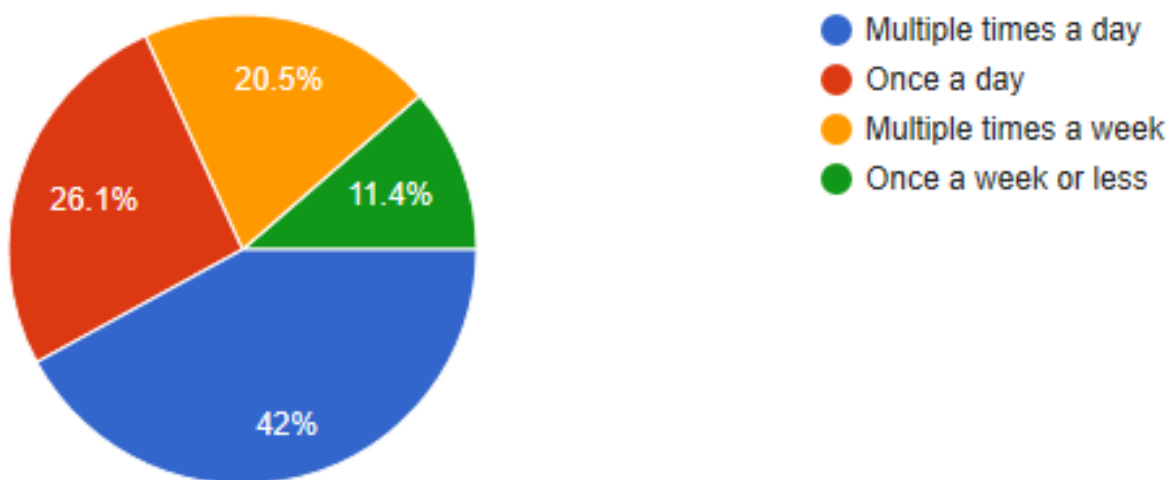
How did they access in 2018

More smartphones this year than last. There were similar comments this year as last about wanting modern websites and features, so if you're looking at redesigning your site soon, make sure it looks good in a smartphone.

How Often People Check Sites



Visitation Habits in 2019



Visitation Habits Last Year

About the same, though more people said they visited once a day over last year.

Conclusion

Again, thanks to everyone who responded to the survey this year. I hope the results help the Force community understand

what its members are looking for and adjust their offerings accordingly. Be sure to look out for the 2020 Force Community Survey!

Zazen a Meditative Practice

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY OLIVIA D ON 07 MAY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1953



For my final paper, I decided to research and practice the meditation practice of Zazen. This ancient practice of meditation has been around since the 13th century and was created by Zen master and founder of the Sōtō sect in Japan named Jōyō Dōgen or Kigen Dōgen. He was born on January 19, 1200, in Kyōto Japan during the Kamakura period, 1192-1333. He introduced Zen to Japan in the form of the Sōtō school. This practice was a combination of meditative practice and Philosophical speculation. He was born into high nobility however, he was orphaned at the age of seven years old. When he was 13 years old he became a monk and studied the scriptures of Buddhism on Mount Hiei which is the center of Tendai Buddhism. Between the years of 1223 and 1227, he studied the practice of Zen Meditation in China. He also gained enlightenment under the Zen Master, Ju-ching. When he came back to Japan, he lived in various temples and worked to spread the practice of Zen Meditation. In his final years, he lived at the Eihei Temple, which he founded on the present-day, Fukui. He also penned a literary work called, Fukan Zazen Gi. This translates to General teachings for the promotion of Zazen in 1227. Zazen

is the practice of sitting cross-legged (lotus) position, which he stressed the identity of practice and Enlightenment. He also believed that Zazen was not only a way to be a method of moving towards enlightenment but to effectively constitute enlightenment itself.

Now that I covered some of the history of the creation of this practice, let's get into how this is practiced. The instructions for this type of meditation are fairly simple, it instructs the disciple to sit in a quiet room, breathing rhythmically and simple with legs in complete or incomplete crossed legs, with the spine and head completely straight, hands completely folded on top of one another and eyes open. It also included all logical or analytic thinking that should be suspended. It also included that all of our desires, attachments, and judgment to leave the mind in a state of relaxed attention. The practice of Zazen varies from school to school but they all agree on the practice of insight into the nature of existence. Zazen meditation or Sōtō is at the heart of Buddhist practice the significance is that the practice is to suspend all of our judgments and let words, ideas, and thoughts pass by without getting them in the way of what we are trying to achieve in the meditation.

There are many different ways to sit when doing Zazen. There is Kekkafuza (Full lotus), Hankafuza (half-lotus), Burmese which is the practice of sitting cross-legged but the ankles are placed together in the front of the sitter. The last type is called Seiza which is a kneeling posture that uses a bench or Seiza (round cushion). The one thing that stands out is that it is uncommon for Zazen practitioners to practice with a chair. They do however often wedge a cushion on the top of it so that one is sitting at an incline or they could place a wedge at

the lower back to help protect the natural curvature of the spine. They are taught to sit comfortably but not too comfortable to avoid falling asleep during meditation.

This practice is also taught in 3 ways; Concentration, Koan introspection, and Shikantaza which is just sitting.

Concentration is the initial stages of the Buddhist Samatha meditation practice, which translates to the "tranquility of the mind", or "mind-calmness". This is where the student starts focusing on the hara/tanden, which translates to the "energy center" which is the focal point for meditative and exercise techniques. This allows the mindfulness of the breath exercises (ānāpānasmṛti), such as counting breaths (sūsokukan) or just watching it (zuisokukan). Mantras can also be used instead of counting breaths. This practice has to be continued in "one-pointedness" of the mind to effectively constitute an initial experience of Samadhi which is the

state meditative consciousness. Once a practitioner achieves this he/she can move on to the other two methods of Zazen.

The second form of Zazen is Koan introspection. This is the focus of his/her consciousness as an object of meditation.

This being said koans are ostensible, not solvable by intellectual reasoning. Therefore Koan introspection was designed to be a shortcut through the Intellectual process that leads to the direct realization of a reality beyond the conscious thought. The last form is Shikantaza, it is where the practitioner does not use any specific object for their practice but they try as best as they can to stay as much as possible to stay within the moment are very aware of what passes through their minds and what is going on around them. Dogen says, in his Shobogenzo, "Sitting fixedly, think of not thinking. How do you think of not thinking?"

Nonthinking. This is the art of zazen." The Buddhists believe that meditation involves both the mind and the body. This being said there is an ancient Buddhist text called the Dhammapada that states, "All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts, it is made up of our thoughts. Dhammapada Chapter 1:1-2 what this text is getting at is that the mental states we experience on a daily basis are the key to everything in our lives.

Traditional Buddhist meditation is an invitation to turn one's awareness away from the chaos of the world and has us look inwards to the inner experiences of our thoughts, feelings, and perceptions. "For Buddhists, the realm of meditation comprises mental states such as calm, concentration, and one-pointedness (which comprises the six forces: hearing, pondering, mindfulness, awareness, effort, and intimacy)."

There is also something called the three training's. In western societies if you wanted to explore a spiritual path meditation is the first thing you encounter. However, in the Buddhist tradition, meditation is the second part of the threefold path. The first is called Shilla which means, the development of ethics. Although Buddhism does

not have laws or commandments, they have 5 ethical precepts. These are guidelines to live without harming others or themselves. The second path is meditation which is called Samadhi. Having good ethics and acting ethically gives a chance to live a simpler life and a clearer conscience, which is the key to the basis of. a clear meditation practice. The last path is to develop wisdom, which is called prajna. The real aim of all Buddhist practice is to understand the true nature of our lives and experiences in past, present and future.

Let's get into my experience with the Zazen practice. I chose this practice because it is in tune with my own definition of meditation. To sit with your legs crossed and back straight. It was also a practice that I would correlate with Jedi meditation. For someone that has a tendency for a mind that races in any sort of calm atmosphere, I found this practice very helpful and I got a lot out of it. It helped me focus on what my weaknesses were and strengthen them. I also noticed a change in my sleep. Ever since I could remember I had trouble sleeping, I was more of a night owl and tended to stay up late. However, when I did finally sleep my mind would race and I would always wake up more tired than I went to bed which was very frustrating. However, doing this meditation before I went to bed or even hours before my mind seemed to be calmer. Another thing I noticed is my energy. During this Covid-19 pandemic, I have still been working at my job at the grocery store that I have been apart of since mid-January. I usually work 7 am and into the afternoon hours. Before I started this meditation I seemed to be more lazy than I wanted to be and it really bugged me to the point where I would get extremely frustrated with myself because I knew I could do better. That being said, the combination of meditation and better sleep has made an impact and has increased my energy to take on the day.

Now that I gave historical and religious information about this wonderful practice let's dive into the scientific significance of Zazen Meditation. There have been many studies on the Zen practice of "thinking about not thinking" and the results are quite fascinating. One study suggested that Zen Meditation could be used to help treat "attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (so-called ADD or ADHD), obsessive-

compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder, major depression, and other disorders marked by distracting thoughts." In the last decade alone there has been a rekindling of scientific research into meditation. This is due to the wide availability and increased sophistication of brain scanning techniques. This being said, scientists have found that months of intense training in the art of meditation can sharpen one's brain enough to identify details that they might have missed if they did not conduct the intense training. "It is important that this type of research be conducted with high scientific standards because it carries a long-standing stigma — perhaps well-deserved? — of being wishy-washy." "Constructive skepticism should always be welcomed as a great sparring partner." said researcher Giuseppe Pagnoni, a neuroscientist at Emory University in Atlanta. The art of Zen Meditation is to stop the withdrawal from the world around us. Scientists in Atlanta did a study where they took 12 people with experience with Zen Meditation and 12 others who did not know anything about the practice. At the conclusion of this study, they found out from the brain scans that the Zen training led to different activity in the set of brain regions better known as the "default network". They found that 12 that did Zen Meditation when distracted lost focus but rebounded quicker than the others who did not practice Zen Meditation. What they found was that there was an increase of activity in the angular gyrus, which is the part of the brain that processes language. "The regular practice of meditation may enhance the capacity to limit the influence of distracting thoughts,"

Pagnoni said. In conclusion I strongly believe that Zazen meditation is very beneficial to all of us and may change our views on the world around us.

Sources

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The Master's Peak

[Print](#)

ON 11 MAY 2020 POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1156

The Master's Peak

Jason Fackler, Knorr Rhaad, Knight-Errant in service to
Kentucky Jedi

Originally Published 7/15/19

Prince Colwyn:

“But the profit’s freedom... and fame!”

Torquil:

“Freedom? But, we have it!

And fame? Nah. It's an empty purse.

Count it, go broke.

Eat it, go hungry.

Seek it and go mad!”

- Ken Marshall as Prince Colwyn and Alun Armstrong as
Torquil, Krull (1983)

I do love my old movies. You can watch the full exchange here (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0085811/videoplayer/vi269728281>) at 2 min 33 seconds. The entire scene is worth a watch if not for the fact that the character, Torquil, realized to whom he was speaking after being shamed, albeit indirectly, by his subordinate, Oswyn for taking on the quest with no expectation of reward except doing the right thing.

Why do we seek 'knighthood'? Do we seek it to boast that we are knights? Do we do it for fame and recognition? Do we seek adoration? Is that even the right reason to do so? There are some who do, and surround themselves with people who adore such things and put more stock in the certificate than the man who holds the position.

William Wallace:

"Now tell me, what does that mean to be noble? Your title gives you claim to the throne of our country, but men don't follow titles, they follow courage. Now our people know you. Noble, and common, they respect you. And if you would just lead them to freedom, they'd follow you. And so would I."

Mel Gibson as William Wallace, Braveheart (1995)

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward."

• Matthew 6: 1-2 (ESV)

Ever hear the phrase, "Integrity is doing the right thing when no one else is watching"? I have noted that many of the leaders (not necessarily Masters) in the community that command (not demand) respect are silent from the forums, and I suspect that they lead from the sidelines, only coming to the front when absolutely necessary. It's quite an

interesting contrast to others who declare from their peak that they are the best and they know best.

The thing is...people with titles but no actual experience who act like they know everything, like the first-year resident entering the hospital ready to command the nursing staff without ever really touching a patient, or the 2nd Lieutenant fresh out of Officer Training School who is ready to look down upon their squad without ever having seen battle...those people are...well...irritating to people who have actually bathed in the blood of their fallen comrades or actually done the grunt work.

Those who portray themselves as the pinnacle of achievement without doing the actual work they've been entrusted to do are lifted up by followers who don't know any better, but disrespected by those who have dirty hands. 'Shiny's' – Clone troopers who have never seen battle, as noted in the first season of Star Wars: The Clone Wars – didn't know what they didn't know, and yet the smart ones knew that. The arrogant ones thought they knew what time it was and were ready, until the cards were on the table and the fear set in.

For those people who have done actual 'knight's work' but do not have the title of Jedi knight, I implore you to not lose heart at those who would deter you from starting on The Path. Many of you are already upon it and never realized it. Simply know that there are those who think themselves ascended to the highest peak and look down upon those beneath them. What they have failed to realize, and indeed may never discover, is perhaps they have reached 'their'

pinnacle, but for others, that peak is simply a plateau for true knights to surpass.

“Luke, we are what they grow beyond. That is the true burden of all masters.”

— Master Yoda, Star Wars: Episode VIII, The Last Jedi

May the Force (in whatever form that takes for you) be with you. May our paths meet where our points of light converge.

[Edit](#)

Comments on The Master's Peak



Satelle + I feel that the "know everything" is a common trait of the beginner mind, until the beginner becomes a Knight and realizes the real way ahead. The Master knows they know nothing. I also feel that being irritated by the beginner mind who assumes the same level is another sort of immaturity; one is aware that they are wrong and there is an urge to correct them in some way. This is possibly the Knight watching the young and being frustrated. But the Master knows that the experience they lack will not come from correction, and merely watches them walk it. This essay touches on a number of similar points (immature people with unearned title, what titles actually mean in practice, new people judging the path based on drawing comparisons between titles and the behavior of people who hold them), though I would like to see some of them broken out into their own works, as conflating them as one issue in this essay gets muddy.

The Force Revisited

Print

WRITTEN BY DARIUS MOOR ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1097

What is the Force?

There are many diverse opinions on what the force is. What started out as a vision of George Lucas has developed into a multi-cultural and in-depth philosophy emphasizing a multitude of aspects and theories based on the portfolio of mankind's spiritual legacy.

Meeting different people pledged to studying the force, we also encounter many different core considerations. Some believe eastern teachings, reflecting the spirituality and lore of philosophies such as Zen, Tao, and Chi, represent the best road map to explain the force. Others take a more western approach, looking at Christianity and Paganism for the right answers.

Within the force again, the practicing majority agree that different aspects exist, defining the moral values any student should follow. Some believe the force should be studied to do good in the world, others believe it is solely a personal path to mainly benefit their own individual goals.

While the communities agree and consolidate all such initiatives under a joint brand, acknowledging equal value for each concept presented, there is little information provided on theories trying to encompass a holistic view, describing the force in its entirety. This lecture is devoted to that goal.

The force represents the universe in its entirety. Including all living beings as well as the energies existing between all

matter, living beings and the universe itself. In its core, the force is a polar trinity of energies. Imagine a diagram of a point in three dimensional space. You have three axes determining its position. One axis represents Good and Evil. The second axis represents Order and Chaos. The third, Creation and Destruction. In the middle, the center point and intersection of all three axes, you find your average human being. For the first step, I would like to outline more around the axis and the forces they represent.

Many people believe that physical beings, e.g. human beings, are not the only form of sentient beings in existence. They believe there are powers, deities and other forms of sentience that are accessible to us, representing certain moral or ethical values and intentions. Regarding terminology, I would like to distinguish between Sentient Entities and Energies. The Sentient Entities being non physical forms of cognitive Creation that exist within the universe. Energies being a form of power that can provide and fuel, but that also represent a direct or indirect part of these Entities: An extension of their will, but one that also connects with other living beings and the universe itself.

If I try and summarize the historic development of the universe, to further outline the above, I would see it as follows. First there was the universe. It was there, but it was empty. And I will leave the question of whom or what put it there aside for now. What did exist within the universe at that time was raw energy without direction or purpose, this perhaps being by definition the origin of Chaos. As the energy further stabilized, it began to separate, distinguishing different forms of energy with their own first patterns and behaviors. This again, potentially marking the birth of Order.

As these first Energies grew in age and diversity, contributing further to their complexity and purpose, first matter came into existence. Gases developed creating stars and matter. Some things came into being and some again became unstable and dissolved. This again potentially marking the birth of Creation and Destruction in terms of life and death. While it is tempting to argue that Destruction is nothing but Chaos, the opposite is true. Creation is also a matter of Chaos. Out of given energies, a change must occur. A pattern needs to emerge and redefine itself to create. It can be argued that a form of Order is developing out of Chaos, but Creation is movement and thus, not Order by definition. Therefore I have considered it separate, valuing Creation and Destruction with its own axis.

So at this point we have Energies with a purpose: A program that they follow, interacting with each other, whereas the dominant manifestation of one source of Energy began to dictate physical occurrence in the universe. With age, the sum of each Energy, expanded in an ever-complex pattern throughout the universe, eventually developing its own sentience. This is a point that can be obviously argued and is certainly a point of controversy. In my personal beliefs and theories, anything that exists for long enough will develop sentience.

Let's say you would throw a piece of toast on your front lawn. It will grow moldy, it will decompose and become a part of the soil. At the same time, the soil will offer by-products: grass will grow out of it; maybe bushes and trees. but also bacteria, which is nothing other than Life (Creation). Bacteria will develop eventually into more sophisticated life forms. Water creatures, later land animals and eventually human

beings. Somewhere along that line sentience developed out of our piece of toast.

If you take a stone, the same thing will happen. Granted we need maybe some more time. Some wind to turn it into sand. Some rain to turn sand into mud. Inevitably you are granted soil again, or at least algae growing on the side of our original piece of rock. I concur that this is not a comprehensive answer, but explains the gist of what I am getting at. Everything eventually becomes alive with its own energies that it encompasses but also adheres to. If this is true for physical matter, which is just a reflection of energy, why should it not be equally true for energy itself?

Coming back to our Energies: our existing Energies at this point, with their own program and intent as well as a growing sentience. Not all energy is always applied in full utilization. There are always remaining energies, a by-product that disperses and is recycled back into the whole. If we allow for existing Energies to have achieved sentience then in the end we must allow for the same potential regarding their by-products.

The Energies continued to diversify and develop into more and more forms. Each form weaker than the parent it came from (principal of dividing energy). At some point there was a mesh of energies indirectly supporting the overall expansion of the universal program and process. From Chaos would come Creation that would continue to expand in its manifestations. A pattern and Order of its own. These new energies, this mesh, focused on the preservation of these activities, and given enough age, developed a sentience of their own. And thus what was considered good and right to

occur in the universe became defined. As each energy must have its opposite in equal measure, a different mesh of by-product focused on the destructive aspect of the universal programming. The more action occurred in terms of productive expansion and Order, the stronger opposing forces would need to develop to support an equilibrium and balance. From this nature of opposing Good Energies, came in simplified terms, the Energy of Evil.

As the universe continued to unfold and Energies continued to produce their own offspring of sorts through a mix of mentioned by-products, first independent sentient beings developed. Made of incorporeal energies, and with a far more diverse pattern in terms of programming and behaviors, beings developed that we would refer to as deities.

And this assumption rings true as well if we revisit our own historic religions. Almost each religion and god or pantheon offers a story of creation, where the gods were born by the parents of Creation, Order, Good and other defined energies.

The deities existed in the same framework of polar trinity. Depending on the underlying energies of their birth, and what they chose to associate themselves with, they can be profiled in our three dimensional diagram. Each deity known in history can be mapped out. Did he or she stand more for Good or Evil? Each one had a closer affiliation with Creation or Destruction as well as Order or Chaos. Were they preservers or destroyers for mankind?

And here I make also a clear distinction that their birth pattern played as important a role as their conscious actions. I align with something I read from JediknightG the other day. The more we do Good and think Good, the more we become

aligned with that power, force or Energy. The same goes for Evil. The same goes for any other alignment within the trinity. The same goes for human beings as it does for deities. Some deities were more distinct in their alignment towards the trinity. The Midgard-Serpent will one day devour the world (Destruction). He has little else to add or which he seeks. Zeus on the other hand was more sophisticated in his alignment. He created man (Creation), but also didn't hesitate to punish his foes (Destruction, Order). The Christian God in the Old Testament seems to be more harsh, apparently focusing more around Order than around Good, which would later become his dominant role in the New Testament.

Again, this part of the theory makes further assumptions: That the deities allied and battled each other, and eventually turned their attention to mankind as an extension of their battleground.

Which is where the ever forming creation of lesser Energies inevitably lead to: the first cognitive sentience that did not have enough energy to sustain itself without a physical shell, i.e. human beings.

Looking at the above assumption that opposed Energies would try and hinder each other, it is logical to assume that deities would do the same based on their alignments.

With that humanity came into the picture. Our own as well as potentially that of other worlds and their version of a corporal sentience. And as perhaps the older Energies did to the deities, so did they try and do to us. Approach us and explain what they stand for and seek that we align our own behaviors and core with the values (pattern of the alignment) they stand for.

But no matter how the deities aligned themselves according to our diagram, they would have one dominant axis of alignment which is usually what they became famous for, and that is the dominant Energy they project.

A valid question here is: why serve? What is the purpose or benefit for a deity to have a human align himself to a specific Energy? I believe this has to do with trying to further and nurture the strength of that Energy. If we simplify again: A Good deity approaches you and wants you to do Good. Your actions, behaviors and thoughts continue to align yourself with the Energies of Good. It strengthens your link to it, over which you receive more and more guidance from your deity and the guiding principle, as well as your energies and by-products flowing, recycling back to the Energy you are aligned to most. This is probably valid in life as much as in any form of afterlife. Although logically, and regarding the big picture, no Energy can supersede the other without potentially putting the universe as we know it at risk, it doesn't mean they wouldn't try. We all know we are going to die one day, but still we try and do something meaningful with our lives, in accordance with our personal values, to support certain things and oppose others. We are fundamentally the same as deities in terms of our basic programming (if on a lesser scale). Which brings me back to our diagram.

What are the aspects of the Force?

Regarding the aspects, we distinguish between the Light, Dark and Shadow side within the force. In our diagram, I would consider the light side an area, including the area from

the center to the end of the poles for Creation, Good and Order. This is based on both the original information provided by the star wars universe, as much as it is based on how we see the Light Side practiced among its followers today.

In the Star Wars universe, we encounter the Jedi as protectors of peace; as warriors, scholars, diplomats and advisors. They follow a belief in a natural Order, accessing the force to seek guidance and insight. The Jedi believe in peace and prosperity, in love and kinship as key values. They strive to protect and support what is Good in the universe, encouraging others to seek the same. They believe in the power and beauty of life as the unique Creation of the force.

The people following this path mutually follow the path as scholars. They study the force and offer advice and teachings to those seeking them out. But then we begin to see the differences in terms of which areas within the Light Side they take the most interest in. Many come from a Christian background. They believe in the prevalence of Good, the importance to distinguish between right and wrong and nurture right in both own behavior as in the advice given unto others. Some come from a more esoteric background, from Pagan belief systems, bringing with them ideas and concepts supporting the importance of Creation and preservation of life.

Again many turn to the east, embracing traditional philosophies around Zen, Tao and Chi. Mind over matter, karma as the pathway to follow. From my own experience with eastern philosophies, I consider them most closely affiliated to Order. There is a destiny, a path that we all follow. Karma is the reflection of how we deal with that path. And

while the path, as a reflection of life will include its highs and lows, importance is given to maintaining inner peace. It is most important to maintain an inner balance, following a higher direction and Order. While events happen and emotions are incurred, it is about preserving balance within the inner self. We grow by the Good we encounter and make a part of ourselves. Change (Chaos) is often an important part of this. But we are also to let go of that which is negative and undesirable. The path is one of change, but the goal is to maintain Order despite the storm around us.

In many regards, with time, these cornerstones have become a weave of fabric which we all graze with our fingers and clothe ourselves in as we travel on our path through life.

The Dark Side accordingly covers the area from the center to the end of the poles for Evil, Destruction and Chaos. Again, we find support of this both in the original Star Wars characters as well as the followers of the path today.

In the movies, we find quite obviously the theme of supporting Evil for its own sake. Anakin Skywalker turns to the dark side as a result of his experienced pain and his inability to process it successfully. He brings terror and fear to others, so that they shall feel as he did. Bringing pain and suffering for its own sake is the very root description of Evil. We find Destruction, in terms of what the Sith bring to their enemies (death) as much as in their own philosophy. They take on every risk and challenge to further develop their own strength (Chaos) and maintain Destruction as a close companion. Any equilibrium they encounter, they try to disrupt. The only balance they achieve is within the Empire,

but that only with two of them left and directing their order and will unto others.

Among the followers of the Dark Side, we find similar concepts. Many, I believe, focus actually on Chaos. They enjoy challenging the status quo, playing the devil's advocate to test boundaries and gain a glimpse and insight of what lies beyond. Some do this for their own benefit, some to disadvantage their victims. You will find more esoteric practitioners in these ranks, many studying power and methods of achieving it. They tend to dissect human kind both physically and emotionally, detached and callous towards those they experiment on. They do this to fuel their own skills and powers, to sharpen the blade with which they bring destruction to any opposition. The relationship they entertain with Destruction and Chaos, as per our definition, is a classical mark of their handwriting, both in terms of their goals and actions.

And then there are those who serve the Dark Side, either in return for benefits acquired or for servitude's sake. And with that, Evil grows within them and among them and is what they bring unto others and mankind.

The majority of current day followers of this path touch upon all three fields, again showing that there are original roots, as well as a joint culture which has developed from them.

The Shadow Side is not an aspect originally supported by the movies and the Star Wars universe. And this is the aspect most difficult to pinpoint and define in terms of their culture. In our diagram, I have concluded that they are themselves in the center, equally exposed to all poles. The difference to our "average human being" that has no (conscious) knowledge or

relationship with the force is the way they experience and practice within their specific area. They create their own perimeter around the center point, equally seeking involvement and distance from each of the energies they are exposed to. They will embrace Chaos, considering change a way of life. They will focus on maintaining Order, despite the storm around them. They will act in accordance with Good and Evil, believing there is justification in neither and both. They will look at life (Creation) as the path they travel on, but welcome Destruction and death as an inevitable step and encounter in their journey. From death comes rebirth and the path continues.

Again the above focuses on what we predominantly expose ourselves to in terms of the Energies around us. These are our main focal points. But the diagram is more, giving us opportunity to also map out our own nature and thus understand our relationship towards others. As with the deities, so do we have our own profile within the diagram.

Any active student of the Light or Dark aspect will have at least one Energy (trait) which stands out in his personal diagram. This dominant Energy will be from his related aspect. The remaining characteristics can be a random weave of the remaining poles, although certain combinations are more likely than others. For example, an active Jedi will demonstrate a dominant trait in the areas of Good, Order or Creation. This is what characterizes him or her as a light Jedi. These three traits usually go hand in hand, but there are exceptions: A freedom fighter may have a dominant trait in Good, relating to his or her cause. But at the same time, he or she may be strong in Chaos and perhaps even Destruction. I refer to Chaos in terms of being focused on

changing an existing framework, social or governmental, without having a clear idea on what the aftermath should look like. If this freedom fighter uses violence to promote his or her goals, he or she may represent the Energies of Destruction more than those of Creation (helping to “create” a new beginning, but needing to “destroy” the “Order” that exists to bring about change).

Similarly, a follower of the Dark aspect will present a dominant Energy in Chaos, Destruction or Evil. Again, the pattern of the remaining weave can be random, although again certain patterns are more likely than others. Most practicing darksiders show a strong presence in Chaos, in terms of their desire to challenge. But again from challenge comes growth, whereas they may score strongly in Creation as well. The wide-spread consensus on moral relativism between darksiders further indicates that many would indeed be neutral on the Good and Evil pole, showing little concern for the question of absolute right and wrong.

How to use the model

The intention of the above presented model is to supply you with a map and compass. By profiling yourself and your Energies in the model, you can understand where you are now. By spending time and reflecting on the nature of the Energies and your preferences, you can determine where it is you want to go. And between the both, plot your course and take action.

Some of what you discover may come as a surprise: Perhaps your personal weave is very different from the Energies / Deities you have been studying. Perhaps they are different from the weave of those within your aspect, or even the

definition of the aspect itself. What you discover will help you better understand your environment and it will help you understand what is right for you, in terms of which areas you may want to develop. It may lead to personal change for you or affirmation of your current path. In both cases it will support your confidence and growth.

Once you have ascertained your desired path, begin studying the Energies related to it. Your major focus should be on aligning your own values, thoughts and actions with that of your dominant trait or Energy. If we take here the example of Good, then spend your time thinking about this. Think about what Good means to you. What are Good thoughts and actions? What does Good in the world mean to you? What does Good in your life mean personally? What can you do to promote Good and how would you go about it?

An important point here is intention over action. We can never truly foresee the outcome of our actions in their entirety. What we can foresee depends on our intelligence and experience. Accordingly, the better way to align yourself with Good is to focus on your intentions when taking action. If your intention is sincere and you've made a decision based on a best estimate of outcome, then that is good enough and entirely what you should be doing. Don't be discouraged if everything doesn't right away go as planned. The target is to align your Energies in a first step. As you progress on this path, you will begin to feel the presence of that Energy within you. It will comfort you and guide you in your decisions and actions. The more time you spend consciously with it, making it a part of you, the more the Energy will become a part of you and the larger your success will become in practice.

Different people will go about certain things differently, even if they have the same intentions. That does not mean anyone is wrong. You are only acting based on your experience and maturity within the related Energy. Accordingly, be careful to judge others in their actions. Spend time on understanding their intentions and motives and you will not only learn, but on occasion be able to give guidance as well. All will lead to a stronger relationship with your Energy. And if it is the right thing for you and aligns with your values, you will discover not only purpose and fulfillment, but happiness as well.

Defining the Force

Print

WRITTEN BY VARIOUS STUDENTS ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN **LIGHT CONTENT**.

HITS: 1160

EZEKIO

The Force, to me, is all that encompasses and makes up reality. The Force is what creates life, and what all matter comes back to. The Force can be seen such phenomes like, The Zero-Point Field or the Electro Magnitic Field. The ideals of The Force, come from a abstract metaphore for "God" or "divinity", In the Form of animism and Pantheism . The Ideals replace termonolgies of "god" in the monotheisic veiwpoint or even polytheitic beliefs that define the greater aspects of nature with "gods", with the encompassing, inclusive, and generic words, "The Force. Perfect examples of classic interpretations of The Force throughout mans history done by Alethea are found here :<http://www.forceacademy.co.uk/forum2/viewtopic.php?f=11&t=131>

As for certain aspects of The Force, points of view, interpretations, and dispelling The Great Mythology of the dogmatic termonolgy people embrace and quarral about... These are my understandings for the time being. "The Dark Side of The Force", is the creation of The Living, The Living Force, can the Dark tendancies we lable reality with, become metaphysical in your enviorment? No, they come soely from the individual. Or are they more maze like encryptions to lose the individual into understanding more primative or metaphysical instincts and perceptions. But, The same can be seen for the contrast, indeed the whole. "The Light Side of The Force"? More metaphores that excite the movie experience between the forces of good and evil.

Compassion, detachment, sacrifices, and submission to something greater than the individual, The Force. Dare say Even The Will of it? As abstract as Pantheism is to god, Is my own interpretation of "The Will of The Force". People run and hide, or yell "blasemphy!" at such things. LOL. Some simply reject the notion. Others may include a mix, or simply be, unable to dispel the power of Myth all together.

NYTESHADO

To me the force is an energy field that is a part of everything, living or otherwise. I dont quite know how the field exists or why or even how it can be measured I do know it exists. I have tried many methods to measure the energy with marginal results at best.

I believe it is a separate entity from the divine yet at the same time is some how connected, in what way I am not yet sure. The devine being God in whatever form the reader believes the entity to exist.

The force can be 'drawn' in and used by anyone and its only limitation is the imagination of the user.

QUIMARCHI

To me, the force is many things, it is all within us, and within our surroundings. Sometimes we can tell that is there because we become sensitive as to how it resonates around us. Our body's act like storage to the force, we all get a little bit that it shares with us, and that is how we learn to feel the resonation of it, although, like a grain of sand on a beach, no two grains are the same even though they look like they are.

That is how I would describe the more personal side of the 'force' that we have.

To better explain what I mean, I might correct this later. I have poor sentence structure, and I still work on improving it daily.

LUMOS

I feel that the definition set forth by my personal all-time favourite Jedi, Obi-Wan Kenobi, still pretty much nails it: "The Force is what gives a Jedi his power. It's an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together."

Although to elaborate a little, I would personally say the Force is everything, and everything that comes into being is a manifestation of the Force. The Force is all the energy of the Universe and man's separation from it is an illusion. The whole Universe in its entirety would be the so called Unifying aspect of the Force and we and all other living beings as manifestations of the Force are the Living aspect. And the smallest aspect is everyone's Personal Force. So the latter two are maybe best described as "holons" or being parts of a larger system and wholes in themselves as well. Because of this, I personally believe that anything is possible. As long as one truly believes it is possible, the Force will make it happen. But I do mean truly believe in the strongest, fullest form of the word. (In that sense I also agree with those saying that the zero-point field might be a good way to define the Force, but only if talking about it in the sense of it being like an ocean and we being drops in it. Lynne McTaggart's "The Field" is a great read on this subject.)

As for the Will of the Force, I believe the Will is essentially the Will of the Universe which is ultimately moving towards greater balance. But that being said, the Will of the Force is still the most difficult aspect of the Force for me to grasp or to define, because I don't feel it is only a natural movement towards balance, but that the Force truly has a certain Will at times, which might or might not be working only towards achieving balance in the bigger picture. And at the same time, one can still maintain a strong connection to the Force and hear or feel the Will of the Force communicating to him/her, leading one to fulfill one's destiny and achieve one's true potential through working in unison with the ways of the Force. And it is not that important to see where the Force is eventually taking You, because if You really trust it and pay attention, everything will work out for the best and balance itself out. (Though it might take time, so patience is required) I guess it is something one does not have to understand in order to do. As said by one of my favourite tv-characters, Charlie Crews from Life: "You don't have to understand here to be here."

That feels like enough for now.

A Jedi is Not Limited

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY CHRIS RAEN ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1134

However like any philosophy the philosophy of the Jedi has differences from that of others; differences in beliefs, and use of emotions and abilities. We don't neglect our emotions; we don't try to rid ourselves of them. That would be foolish, as we are humans, to attempt to rid one's self of them would be a losing effort. No, instead Jedi promote compassion and peace.

Fear is good, it keeps us alert and ready, but too much fear and unhindered fear can dull the senses and retard reaction. So Jedi allow the fear to pass into them, letting their self know that yes they are afraid, and they let the fear keep them alert, but they do not let it over come them.

It's good to become angry; to be angry is to be human. To be witness to great injustices and inhumanity and not become angry from of it is probably not healthy. Anger can make a person focused; it can get adrenalin pump and boost a person's own abilities, but just like fear, anger when unchecked and unhindered can cause tunnel vision thereby disrupting the thought process.

A Jedi recognizes when he is angry. He sees that anger for what it is—a positive indicator that something does not sit well with them. Like many of our emotions as well as our own logical reasoning, it is like a moral compass. A Jedi becomes angry, that anger gives him focus on what caused it, and he seeks to correct it. A Jedi allows anger to give him focus of direction, but he does not allow it to tunnel his vision or

disrupt his thinking. Once there is focus, a Jedi uses the most useful tool he has - his mind - to figure out what must be done and how. If injustices anger a Jedi then a Jedi works not only to right injustices, but also to not create injustices him or herself.

A Jedi recognizes emotions as emotions, but also recognizes the threats they can become, especially with ones like fear and anger in which the negative aspect of these emotions are more commonly stereotyped rather than the positive aspects of them portrayed. This stems from the fact that not everyone allows them self to feel emotions without letting them overwhelm and control them. Even the most focused and disciplined can sometimes be overwhelmed, and then comes the challenge of raising one's own focus and discipline to deal better with such times, much like an athlete is always working to improve stamina.

Learning Defines a Light Jedi

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY ERIK JOIGMER ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 937

The Jedi is someone who strives to be something more than he already is. The individual seeks to understand what and who he is, and then through actively living his beliefs in the world, he builds further on what he is. A Jedi is exactly this: A person who knows, to one extent or another, who and what he is, and works on improving himself. I think that, from a Force Academy point of view, a Jedi is defined by his genuine desire to learn, to grow, to experience and analyze these experiences according to a chosen template—the path that we have chosen. We are all walking the path of Light, and it has its rules and requirements. When we face situations and hardships in our real life we need to place them against something to make an evaluation of ourselves, how we have handled situations, but also of the situation itself. Each and every event in offline life, as well as online, has its own truth, its own nature, and as a Jedi we are seeking to understanding this. If I were to describe the Jedi with one word, I think I would chose “Learn.” The word learning can imply learning anything, but the Jedi seeks to learn and to understand about the self and the world.

What defines a Light Jedi is learning: a seeking of understanding, wisdom, compassion and infinite love for all life. The Jedi does not seek to protect and guide some people and destroy others. We help and we guide all who need and wish for it. We do not look at the surface of things, but with our feelings - our very beings - we look into the depth and nuances of the world and see things for what they

really are. The world is an amazing color display, and if we look at the surfaces we miss all the small variations, in forms of personality, desires, and needs of people. We are there for other people, but at the same time we do not forget about ourselves. A very wise Jedi Master once told me, that in order for us to truly be able to help others, we must first learn to help ourselves. The Jedi live just like the next person—in the real world with their own problems and needs; however, a Jedi knows how to balance his own well-being with the well-being of others. He knows sacrifice, that caring about his fellow man can be of great reward in sense of knowledge and understanding of himself and others. We are...the Jedi.

Necessity of the Light

Print

WRITTEN BY LADY QADIRA/EMMA ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#).

HITS: 1061

A Light side person will do what is in their power, to ensure that all people have the freedom to speak, to think, to act, as they so choose. Bowing to the pressure of non-Light ways of living, other sets of ethics, giving in, quitting, removes the oasis that exist and leave no shining examples in the gloom. What example do I want to set for those who look to me for guidance? What legacy do I want to leave behind when I die? If someone digs through my personal history, my belongings, my deeds, would I be able to say with sincerity “yes, these are mine, and I am glad of them”?

On the one hand, we do all have a choice in what path we walk, as I well know. And choosing to walk a non-Light path is indeed possible, but if it is at odds with what one is Meant to be doing, it is not pleasant. Why be Light? Because despite human flaws and failings, it’s something mandated by a higher being than I.

If others around me are “getting away with” not following social constructs, sometimes yes it does get to me. At the same time, I realize that they are fighting something they don’t understand, fearing perhaps that to become a symbiotic part of the whole will diminish them as a unique individual. The peace I have knowing that I’ve done what needed done in the proper manner, is worth more than having whatever gains someone else got nefariously.

The ripples we spread as Light Side people may seem faint and take a long time to get far, but they are there and in time they do grow. A few people can make a difference.

And as others have said, those who sow dissonance will eventually face the music for it; and it's my opinion that in subtle or overt ways, they already do. We maybe just don't see it gnawing away at their thoughts, their bodies, their spirit. At some point though, those people at odds with Light may seek to change, and if those of the Light had all given up hope and abandoned the way, who would be there to help them? It's less about "those people getting what they deserve" and more about "those people being healed and finding peace."

This is my call. This is why I am a Light Jedi and this is my duty.

Using a Star Trek quote here "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one!"

Definition of a Light Jedi

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY LUMOS ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1011

For some reason it seems I have chosen the most difficult task to begin this training semester with. I think this is partly because defining a Light Jedi means also partially defining who we are or who we strive to be, which is always a daunting, yet greatly rewarding task. On with it then.

There are many things that constitute a Light Jedi and I shall begin with attempting to find the most crucial ones.

The first two that reveal themselves are: a strong connection to the Force and service to harmony and balance (through serving a greater purpose and service to others). Of these two the latter would seem to be more important, for a Light Jedi uses his connection to the Force to bring balance to the Force and help others, making his connection a means, although it could (and should, I shall expand on this in the next section) be considered an end all on it's own as well.

And also, if a Jedi were to lose his connection to the Force (which I think is actually impossible, but let us allow it for the sake of argument) but would still strive for balance and harmony in the world, he would still be a Light Jedi, at least in my opinion.

The reason why I also said that having a strong connection to the Force should be an end in itself for a Light Jedi, not only a means to achieve balance, is that it paradoxically seems that when someone has a very strong connection to the

Force and when they start listening to the will of the Force, things tend to naturally start moving towards balance and harmony. This might be what a Jedi Master does, he is less about doing and achieving harmony by use of the Force and more about being in harmony and creating balance through succumbing to the Force, truly understanding that everything is connected and letting the Force work through him.

I think those are the main aspects that define a Jedi. But not the only aspects. A Jedi must also have a set of principles, for balance, peace and harmony in the World and eventually Oneness with the Force is not achieved easily and definitely not quickly and it is important to keep on the path and not to stray. Also it is important to remember that ends do not always justify the means, but might instead corrupt them. (I think this has been the reason why many well-intentioned Jedi have fallen to the dark side, but let that be a matter for later). In any case, a Jedi must have principles to guide him, and these principles also help in defining a Light Jedi.

- A Jedi is always looking for peace, balance and harmony.
- A Jedi lives in accordance to and in harmony with (the will of) the Force.
- A Jedi seeks to understand the laws of action and reaction, especially in his own actions, in order to make sure his actions truly bring about the positive change he is striving for.
- A Jedi does not wish to greatly affect the world around him, but merely to do what is necessary for positive change (a shift towards harmony and balance) to occur.

- A Jedi strives for development and growth within himself and around himself. He understands that stagnation and blocked energy tends to bring about negative energy.
- A Jedi is a bringer of Light, he moves to see and show things as they are, in their purest and truest form. This includes telling the truth and seeking to see the world as it is, without clouded judgment. This is critically important, for how can one strive for peace when he does not recognise it?
- A Jedi understands that he must be mindful of himself and aware of everything in his mind to reach true clarity and balance.
- A Jedi does not only look for peace but he is also at peace with himself and the world around him.
- A Jedi is here to help others in their respective journeys.
- A Jedi thinks before he reacts to a situation, (though trained reactions are also very useful in some situations) but he is also in touch with his intuition, which he also actively uses in his thought-processes, for it is an amazingly powerful tool and he also knows when to simply trust his instincts. (Eventually, a Jedi might reach a state when he is so attuned to the Force that his first reaction is always in harmony with the Force.)
- A Jedi cherishes all forms of life, for they are all wonders of the Living Force
- A Jedi realises that everything is a connected whole and does not think of himself as being more or less than anyone (or anything) else.
- A Jedi is in awe of the wonders of the Force and is therefore humble.
- A Jedi keeps his mind in the here and now, for it is the only reality. He does not let the burden of the past nor

the fear of the future take control of his life. They are illusions.

- A Jedi seeks to control his body and mind, for they are the tools given to him to reach his goals here on this Earth.

I think that is all for now. As said previously, this definition will be ever changing, but I think I got down a good bit of what I think on this matter at the current moment.

May the Force be with You.

What Makes a Light Side Jedi?

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY KIR-WAN QUEREN ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#).
HITS: 818

I have been watching the Jedi community now for about six years, and I have seen a wide range of Jedi and those who call themselves Jedi. I have called myself a Jedi. I still do. But what makes a Jedi? What differentiates a common muck human as a Jedi? Is that an elevation? Or it is a choice of servanthood? What makes a Jedi? Is it the way they talk, the way they dress, the way they visit certain online communities, is it just using “Star Wars talk,” or is it taking what you are and becoming something more, something better? What makes a Jedi?

What is my own definition? What makes me a Jedi? What is a Jedi? Well, I will tell you how I came to be on this path and what I have learned since. I first heard the word “Jedi” in 1977 when everyone else did. But I started to see being a Jedi as a viable option after Episode I. It was then that I began to emulate what I had seen on the screen. I began to seek the peace and focus of the Jedi Knight.

None of that made me a Jedi. I learned quickly that I had to be a Jedi offline as well as online, that being a Jedi involved a lot of self-searching and making changes within. I cannot play Jedi online and not be Jedi offline. Since it was the focus

and determination that I wanted I sought how to make them mine.

I stumbled...a lot. I made major mistakes. I pissed off a lot of people. But I learned, and I think I showed my continuing learning curve. I diligently sought out resources like a thirsty soul seeks water. Over the years I have tried many things, but the only thing that really worked was honesty and perseverance. I added those things to me that I liked, and I continue to purge myself of those things I could do without.

But still, what makes a Jedi? This is my own definition, not canon, and is not to be taken as my expectations of anyone else. What makes a Jedi? A Jedi is first and foremost a servant. They serve the Force, the world, the "Temple and the Council," and finally themselves. They serve out of choice, not because they are any less than any of those entities, but being a Jedi is a life of service. A Jedi is a student, not just once, but always. I seek to learn new things all the time. Whether they relate to my job, or my life as a Jedi, or out of interest and compassion for someone else. I seek peace. Not just within but without. If I am wrong, I say so and I apologize and make amends. I do not let today be eaten up by things I did yesterday; I clear the boards before I sleep. I live in today, because I chose not to waste today with resentments from the past or dreams or silliness: yesterday is gone. I do not forget, but there is no point on dwelling in the past. I live today. I try to live each moment to the hilt, and I remain present. I do not trouble about tomorrow because it is not here. I expect no ill, predicted or otherwise, about tomorrow, and I plan for tomorrow without getting caught in the trap of prethought. Tomorrow will come with its own challenges and blessings, but it is not here today. I am mindful and I seek to

increase my mindfulness. I am aware and awake. I allow the Force to flow through me, telling me things it needs to tell me and filling me with life and energy. I do not take that into myself and keep it; I allow it to leave without connection or attachment. Where that came from there is more there. I am flexible. If something happens to complicate my life or inconvenience me, I let it happen. It is there for a reason, and I accept it. "Acceptance is the answer to all my problems today." I am loving. This is something I struggle with but I am learning. I am open-minded. I do not cling to one idea, and this is something I am also working on. Some of my attitudes and thoughts I am very attached to, and I need to grow more here. I am positive, annoyingly so to some who see my eternal search for the silver lining as a need to not live in reality. I see it as not letting life overcome me. I do not cling to anger or resentment. If you hurt me yesterday that was yesterday or two minutes ago. There is too much in the present moment to be bothered holding onto pain. Unless I like holding on to pain, which sometimes I do. I am quiet in my heart. I do not seek out drama. I do not get involved in others' dramas, and I do not surround myself with those who cling to drama. There is enough drama in the world without my adding to it. I listen to music at lower levels because I want my ears to be sensitive when I am eighty-years-old or so. I am gentle with myself today. I give as much time to myself as I do to others, not in a self-seeking way, but in a loving way. I am a listener. If you need an ear, I have two. I love and I am loved.

This is a small part of what being a Jedi is to me. It is a life that I live offline, more than I live on. I admire and love those who have taught and continue to teach me. I appreciate that I

have what so many do not know or cannot find. I am a Jedi, and it has nothing to do with being a hero, or being on a pedestal, or being powerful and great. I am a Jedi because I am a servant, because I want to leave the world a better place than when I found it, because it is my heart's cry and my fervent desire. I am a Jedi in heart, mind. and body. That is what makes a Jedi to me.

Fighting Darkness

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY MATT TOLSTOY ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 964

All right. So fighting Darkness. That's why a lot of us joined the Light path, right? Want to kick some bad guy ass and stand up proudly for what's Right (yes, with a capital "R"). Well, turns out, (for me) that's fighting fire with fire - and unfortunately the forest still burns down in the end. Light isn't good, and Dark isn't bad. I would think that's obvious to many people here because this web community (at given times) is a great representation of that principle. There are many people in the Dark aspect that exhibit beautiful compassion and warmth. There are Lightsiders who can be just plain volatile and aggressive. So what are these two "opposites?" Many years ago, when I was but a wee Padawan here at the FA, I was known to say, "Love, Light, and Truth are all the same thing," without really knowing what that meant. It's always been true for me, but I just didn't know why or how. Well, how it works is like this: Love (Light/God/etc.) is simply the principle of unification. Two things become One. Love isn't affection, attachment, liking a whole lot, passionate emotion, or anything other than just two or more things becoming One through unification. All of those concepts I listed can come out of Love, but they are not love. It's like smoke and fire. You can't have smoke without fire, but smoke is obviously not fire. It's a byproduct.

If Light/Love is the principle of unification, it can't help but be Truth, because unity, Oneness, no-separation is the ultimate truth. The Force is all there is. The separate, personalized Self isn't real, or at least, isn't ultimately real. It's only relatively real. Then you die. And the story's over. That's kind of scary (and by kind of scary, I mean absolutely terrifying) because there's a part of us that really wants to pump up the personalized Self and hold onto it. There is a HUGE energy in me that wants to make a big deal about the things that happened to me in the past and focus a lot of energy on what I either fear or hope will happen in the future. It doesn't like to spend a lot of energy on the present, but that's another post all together. When you start to see through the eyes of Light (One "Self"), you truly begin to express Love that has no motive, bounds, or desire. When you see through the eyes of the ego, that's when you truly express states of anxiety, fear, and judgment.

Darkness. Beyond the vilification, Darkness is just the principle of separation. Two or more. This and that. Right and wrong. That spirit is incredibly helpful in one regard, because this phenomenal world is based on it. The physical universe is made up of all these fragments. We know hot because of cold and so forth. That's pretty cool! I can just get lost in how many billions of actions go on inside my body to make it work. It's incredibly cool and incredibly awe-inspiring. And who do I have to thank for that? Satan.

Yeah, really. That dude. Again, outside the vilification, Satan is just the spirit of separation. Some aspects of separation are cool to experience. Most aspects of separation cause pain and suffering. And this makes perfect sense, because how else could you suffer if you didn't believe you were a

small, individuated, fragment? You would be crazy NOT to feel anxious if you identified with the "Little Me" with its dramatic story of triumphs and failures. There's only one catch: who moves Satan?

God.

Light moves Darkness. This isn't because the good guys always win. This is because Light is the principle of unification, which causes the end of separation. Separation is a concept that is contained WITHIN unification. Also, unity doesn't need another thing to exist in order to be. Because it's just One. Separation needs other stuff to define its existence, otherwise there would be no separation! There needs to be hot AND cold in order to have separation. But unity just looks at it and goes, "It's all water." End of separation.

So what does this say about fighting Darkness? It says that you can't actually fight Darkness. Because in order to fight something, you need there to be two or more things. I have to be over here, and the wrong thing needs to be over there in order for the two of us to fight. In that situation, you're bringing separation to the principle of separation! Of course you're going to lose. You're playing on its turf. Sometimes, Darkness can be tricky and pretend like it's Light. It can rise up in you through righteousness and trick you into believing you're right. "You're right! And you should do something about all this wrong going on!" However, the only way you can be right is if something else is wrong. More separation. You've given in again.

How do you get Darkness to go when it's no longer working for you? You love it. Unify it. What does that mean? You see

yourself in it. That's all unity really is: to see your Self - not your personality, not your mind, not your sense of humor - your Self in other forms of life.

Reality

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY BRANDON G ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 985

I had the most unusual experience last night in the chat room. It wasn't something someone said or did, or, in fact, it didn't even concern the main chat room. All conversation took place in private chat between Marian Plank and me. Have you ever been in a cheerful, happy mood physically, but feel excruciating pain in your mind, like you're ready to explode? There's no other way to say it in English than to say that my soul just hurt. My mind was ready to blow up with so many unanswered questions about life in general."

I left the chat not understanding why I felt this way, or what it was exactly that was irritating my mind. It was late at night by this time, so everyone was asleep in my house. I thought, perhaps, a little meditation would help soothe the mind whammy. Well, to jump past the boring details of my meditation, I did come to a simple conclusion: I needed to write exactly what was on my mind, even if the English language was insufficient to explain exactly what was going through my mind. The one topic that invaded my mind and has yet to leave has been reality. It's by far one of the most enjoyable, but confusing topics I've ever pondered, and it's rare that when I'm in a pensive mood that isn't the topic on my mind. Anyway, here is what was written word for word in its roughest form, not corrupted by revisions and editing. Enjoy:

Reality is one of the most painful, yet refreshing, topics for me to contemplate. Ask Marian Plank if you're a validation critic; many times have I unloaded it all on her, and I thank

her for her open-mindedness. Seldom do I go to sleep at night where the topic on my mind isn't reality. It's become a plague-like phantom, haunting my life and tormenting my mind, yet filling the ever-slumping 'Answer?' column in the Q/A list of life. I have, for a long time now, been refining my reality. I've shaped, molded, diced and sliced it from all angles until nothing was left. Then, like the immeasurable size of space packed into an anvil of infinite weight, it slammed head-on with my mind and soul. The collision was sparked by a tiny seed planted in my mind from the mind of Richard Bach through his book *Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah*. If you do not own your own copy, I command you to get one. Simply put, this is what that seed developed into:

Physicality, developed through all physical sensory perception, has absolutely no relation to what my reality is besides being the learning ground through which it may advance (please reread this very sentence once you are finished reading this writing). I view physical life as a child views a video game: the real controls and learns from the illusion of the unreal. I believe that true reality exists within a spiritual realm, and that physical life is just a game of illusions- a learning ground. Our spirit (or soul) whatever word you prefer to use) is who we really are. Our body is a vessel we are controlling with our spirit so it may move on and grow.

Then I began to think, if life truly is a 'video game', then there are codes that defy the rules of this game. If a man has the power to bend a spoon, something real amongst the physical, then surely all of us can. But wait, bending a spoon with your mind seems to be breaking the rules. Perhaps this man (I know his name, it just isn't coming to me right now)

has come to the realization that all things that surround him aren't real, and knowing this gives him the advantage he needs to manipulate it in the ways he chooses to. Let me say it another way: gravity seems pretty real to all of us. We trip and fall every now and then and face the humility that follows. Yet, levitation is a documented truth defying the physical rules of life. I'm using these truths merely to validate my theory of life, not to inspire you to start bending your silverware or levitating off your bed. Perhaps you may see something in this, deep down in this, and ignite a spiritual healing talent or a psychic medium ability that will shine light on people within your lives. It was written that Jesus could heal all sicknesses. Perhaps we are able to also if we realize what is real and what isn't. John Edward is an incredible psychic medium, and I've had the privilege to view several episodes of his television show. He reunites people with relatives or friends that have passed and brings ease to the families still living within the physical world.

The Celestine Prophecy, a book by James Redfield, explains how a spiritual wave will sweep over the world in the new millennium, and millions of people will suddenly realize their spiritual truths. Maybe it's just my own truth that I've realized, but it seems so completely probable that it has become my foundation of belief. Physical life, for me, isn't real at all, even now in my everyday life. I have a whole new outlook on the processes that take place daily concerning me. Simply drinking a glass of milk is an entirely new experience than it used to be, because my realization makes it an unreal experience. I find it so much easier to learn in physical life with such an open outlook on it. I also find that fear itself has become non-existent at all, physically or spiritually. Believing

this in my heart and mind is real to me, yet to satisfy criticism from the unreality I'm conforming to within physical life, I have to say that everything within this writing may be wrong.

To finally conclude this post, I just want you to know that writing that down eased that pain I was experiencing. In fact, I now can explain to you without confusion on your part what that pain was since it wasn't physical; but I think you can figure it out from here. Thank you for reading.

Guardian Spirits and the Afterlife

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY CALLISTA GSERAN ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#).
HITS: 1031

For the longest time, I was taught that there was no such thing as the afterlife. When we die, we sleep. This makes no sense to me. How can one truly die? We all have a soul, a spirit, or whatever you call it. I've always felt that there was more. When I began walking the Jedi path almost ten years ago, a lot of my beliefs regarding death underwent a drastic shift. I was taught, as I'm sure most of us were at a young age; that when you die, your body 'sleeps' to await the coming of Christ. That never made sense to me, but I never really started exploring why until I was 15.

I began to really delve deeply into the beliefs of my parent's church. Nothing made sense to me, least of all the church's stance on life after death. The church believes that when one dies, the body 'rests' and ceases to exist..and then somehow the body that no longer exists is recreated upon the Second Coming. Now, I'm not even going to begin to postulate on Creationism, as that is a subject for another time.

I have long felt that there is much more to this than at first meets the eye. When I was younger, and especially in recent years....I have found myself to be guided by spirits. Some of you make think this strange, but it does happen. I have always felt; since I began to walk the Jedi path, that when

one dies their body may disappear, but their spirit and knowledge remain. What then is the purpose of their spirit remaining behind on this plane of existence?

I'm sure that there are several opinions on that, but I'll share mine here for consideration. I have long felt that I am being guided down a certain path in life. We each have a purpose to fulfill in this existence, and on our journeys we will find many teachers. I have had much experience with this over the years. It really started when I began my study and training in the ways of Reiki. I have found that I have many guardians and guides....spirits who for whatever reason have chosen to remain behind instead of becoming one with the Force.

It is my belief that these spirits do so because they wish to guide, teach, and protect those who come after them, those who strive to follow in their footsteps and to bring new knowledge to their lives and to the lives of others. These teachers and helpers may remain with us for our entire lives. Some are aware of them, as I am. But others go through life completely unaware of their existence. Choosing instead to put those subtle nudges down to intuition or other things, when in fact they are the subtle nudgings of the Force.

I pose these questions to you, the reader:

I have shared my opinion on the phenomenon of "Spirits" and other supernatural states of being. What other mythologies in history point out these phenomena? What do these phenomena translate to you in the Jedi/Sith path?

Dreamscape - Accessing the Subconscious Mind

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY JOSIN VEDARIM ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1011

Credit for this technique goes completely to Michael Michalko.

The sub-conscious mind is a surprisingly powerful tool, it contains a wealth of ideas, solutions, and insights that the conscious mind is unaware of. Many creative thinking experts pinpoint the sub-conscious as the best source of creative inspiration, and many say that their ability to tap into it is the key to their creative abilities. I myself have observed many discussions here at Force Academy talking referring to the infinite powers of the mind that are stifled by conventions that are drilled into us from a young age. These limitations that are placed on our conscious mind prevent us from tapping into the unrealized potential of our sub-conscious. Remember also that we use less than 10% of our brain, the conscious mind. Thus, the other 90% falls into the realms of the subconscious and unconscious mind. Just think what we can achieve only using 10%. Imagine the possibilities if we could somehow access the other 90%.

Unfortunately, because of these preconceived notions about the limitations of our mind, it is extremely difficult for us to actually tap into our sub-conscious. But techniques have been devised to give us a starting point: a gateway to our sub-conscious mind. Now I'm not saying that these techniques will in fact harness the power of the entire brain,

but it is a starting point. The technique I will cover is one known as Dreamscape. It is a technique I read about in a book by Michael Michalko called Thinkertoys: A Handbook of Business Creativity for the 90's. While there are many useful techniques in the book, I feel that this one is a good starting point.

One of the best times to tap into the sub-conscious mind is when you are unconscious. Dreams can be surprisingly symbolic. You just have to find the meanings. While dreaming, your subconscious mind takes over: premonitions in dreams may in fact be warnings from the sub-conscious, from the unused potential of the brain.

To start with, you must keep a dream journal, a journal in which you write down every detail from your dreams. This is important when it comes to looking for meaning in dreams, but I will cover that a bit later in this lecture. While lying in bed before falling asleep (not right before but just before you start trying to fall asleep), get a pen and paper and write down a question, or number of carefully formulated questions, you wish for your dream to answer. By "carefully formulated" I don't mean "How can I get rich?" More along the lines of "Should I invest my money in x organization?" Be as specific as possible.

Keep your questions specialized; and although open-ended questions are okay, closed ones tend to work better. After you have finished writing them down (no more than four), repeat the questions out loud then proceed to fall asleep.

When you wake up, quickly talk about your dream(s) to yourself out loud, and then write them down in your dream journal. By saying it out loud first, it lessens the chances of

you forgetting the dream while you get a pen and your journal. Be as detailed as you can be while writing down your dreams, but don't get bogged down in details. As long as you get the key imagery down, it will be all right. After your dream is recorded, ask yourself questions related to your challenge. These can be as broad or specialized as you like.

Now take some of the images from your dreams and start free-associating from them, and you may find that solutions and insights start flowing through your mind. These ideas are those of the sub-conscious being revealed to the conscious.

Remember to always keep your diary current, even if you aren't formulating questions for your dreams. You will be surprised what you find in your dreams once you begin to analyze them. A dream journal takes very little effort (five minutes tops in the morning) and is an extremely helpful tool when it comes to realizing the power of the sub-conscious. There will be further lectures in this series describing other techniques identified as helpful in unlocking the power of the sub-conscious mind.

Thoughts on the Afterlife

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY SENSEI STRANGE ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#).

HITS: 974

I myself, in crafting my personal philosophy take the stance that the afterlife is irrelevant. Our job is to focus on this life. I come from a long line of seance spiritualists dating back to my great grandmother, and likely even beyond. The sensitives in every generation of my family (myself included) tend to be plagued with strange, apparently ghost-like phenomena throughout our lives. For me this just raises the emotions of wonder and mystique. Otherwise, until I can get real information out of it it remains a creepy novelty.

As people begin to form their own ideas of afterlife, I believe it lacks any metaphysical reality....but it is the formation of a personal myth system. It can demonstrate to you the values you have, and it can help express the poetry of your spirituality. I think this is cool. Sure have supernatural forces guide you...or whatever. I deeply feel these are all expression of mind - the mind of the force user and the mind of the Alchemical ALL.

I shy away from the words Jedi and Sith more and more as I grow into a spiritual maturity. While I acknowledge it is our roots here, I would like to see us move ever so slowly into the future. But they continue to be useful models.

Star wars is a good example of a myth system. Some people need the concept of angels and demons to sort out their trip

through the Force. Others might find it useful to meditate on the Sith and Jedi paths. Belief is a tool, a model that brings characters to the players in the MIND.

From a pure science fiction view of the Jedi path, afterlife seems to be of little concern until the breakthroughs of Master Qui Gon Jin. Somehow he successfully broke the veil. Until a phenomena becomes repeatable though - it remains speculation, theory and myth. Once you can train you conciousness to break the veil - one might be able to learn from the spirits. More likely they are still just learning merely from constructs of their own mind though.

My final thought is that I am highly suspicious of anyone who claims to KNOW what the afterlife has in store. I think listening to people like this is dangerous. They already "know" so rational thought and contimplation are no longer important. All thinking is used for is to support their position.

I myself don't have a clue.

The Buddha said of death:

Life is a journey. Death is a return to earth. The universe is like an inn. The passing years are like dust.

Regard this phantom world As a star at dawn, a bubble in a stream, A flash of lightning in a summer cloud, A flickering lamp - a phantom - and a dream.

Walk In Peace,

The Twelve Revelations

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY AND JUSTAN ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1027

I have pondered this for months and months.
It is truly awesome.

May you find truth and wisdom.

This the work of friend and teacher of Justan and I.. Jedi Streen. Personally I have found many truths that I have been able to identify within my own life.. I hope that it can do the same for you..

The Twelve Revelations

Welcome my friends, to my last article contribution to the world before I depart. I have chosen to leave for a time for reasons that I will allow you to imagine, and I thank those of you who supported me in my decision. Before doing so, I would like to offer this last lesson to you. It is a compilation of knowledge that I have come to live by, which was inspired mainly by the Conversations with God book trilogy, written by Neale Donald Walsch. I say that because I would like to prove that I did not "pull these out of the air", and I would suggest you read the books.

These lessons are some of the most important that I have ever come across throughout my career as a spiritual person. You may find them to be unrealistic, absurd, or even blasphemous according to your personal beliefs. You may

believe what you wish about them, and may also use this document to your liking. You may choose to quote it, or place it, in full, on your own web site.

I have chosen to use the name "God" in this document for several reasons, but I urge you to realize that it can be replaced with any other name. I find that "God" is used more often than most other names, but if you decide to use this article, please feel free to alter the name to accommodate to your style or belief. In fact I hope you do. I have also chosen not to call God a He or She.

I do not claim that these truths are excluding all others. In fact, I hope that these bring about more truths, because these are all things I believe many people should know. You can argue against it. You can even be angry with me for writing it. However you react to it, the reality that you are reading this now is important. Nothing happens by accident.

I. The Big Bang. The universe began much like many of us believe it did, with a tremendous explosion. In the beginning, before the universe, God was a singular being which had no reference point beyond Itself, because there was nothing else It could compare Itself to. Like an eye that cannot see itself in a universe where nothing else exists. It sought to know Itself, and therefore exploded with great joy, creating an infinite number of pieces through which It could now experience Itself, and could know Itself. These pieces are what we call souls. Each soul is a part of, and connected to the absolute Unity, which is God.

In order for God, that is, each soul, to experience itself anew, they then needed to forget what they knew. During this event, we then took on these physical bodies so that we could

reinvent ourselves, and create our beings as we saw fit. It can be a very difficult thing for a soul to take on a body. It is a joyful experience though, for they are then allowed to reinvent themselves. It is, however, no more or less joyful when the soul leaves the body in death, for they are then allowed to rejoin the divine Unity. During our souls' time in the universe, we have as many chances as we choose to remember whom and what we are to bring ourselves back to the divine Unity. This is what many call reincarnation. Although we were designed in God's image (that is we were meant to live forever) we here on Earth invented what we now call death. Because one cannot usually recall their true being within a single lifetime, we continue to be reborn into whatever form we choose and to experience whatever we choose.

A common belief is that the body is the temple of the soul. It is actually the opposite of this. The soul is the temple of the body. The soul cannot be contained within anything, because the soul is God, and God is everywhere. One cannot discern where one soul ends, and another begins. However, each "individuated" soul is not the temple of only one body. Many bodies "belong" to a "single" soul. That is why, pertaining to reincarnation, several people may claim to remember to have existed as the same person in the past.

The expansion of the universe will continue until it begins to implode. When it does, the process will begin again. This explosion is not the only time it has occurred, however. This process of imploding and exploding (in and out) will continue for eternity. It is the breath of God.

II. God does not punish Its own creation. Hell does not exist within our current definition. God would not punish that which

is a part of Itself. The belief that God would send us to an eternity of pain and suffering because we did not do as It asked, simply is a fallacy. This is true for one simple reason: God asks of nothing. If God truly wanted us to behave a certain way, then It would not have created us in such a way that we would be able to choose not to act accordingly. A common argument is that God wanted us to have free will. What is free will that is punishable upon an act of violating a divine law? We have free will because, quite literally, we can do whatever we choose. God, however, guides us on our path to creating the vision we have of ourselves. If we hope to eventually create a "utopia" here on Earth, that will be what God will also choose. If we decide that we are to destroy ourselves, God will also choose that. God wants what we want, and God chooses what we choose. God has no preference. Which is why we are very much responsible for our own destiny.

God accepts all things, because God is all things. It has no concept of good and bad. It understands our concepts of good and bad, but does not use them in the realm of the absolute because God is all the good people, and all the bad people. God is all the good actions, and all the bad actions. God cannot deny any person, for every person is God.

This deception began at a time when our current sexism did not exist, long ago before we even had record of such a time. In fact, it was just the opposite. Women were very believed to be the "greater" sex, just as it has been for men for many centuries. In an attempt to reverse this and to grant themselves a less sexist reputation, men decided to create a fantasy. A fantasy involving Satan. The God at that time was believed to be female, just as now, many refer to God as He.

Once the myth had been spread that a great demon named Satan, who happened to be male, would create havoc upon their world, people began to panic. The men were clever, for they continued to tell the women rulers that a female God, though kind, graceful and beautiful, was not a strong warrior, and could not defend them from the wrath of Satan. They convinced the women that only a male God could defend them from a male demon. Thus, came the concept of a male God.

III. True Love is unconditional. We find ourselves living in a world, in which Love is limited, because some still believe that God is incapable of unconditional Love. This is a result of the belief of Hell. Because we feel "unloved" at times, we naturally act accordingly to our children, our spouses, our family and friends.

IV. The true Heaven and Hell are not necessarily realms that exist beyond this world. Hell can very much be a real place, but only if you allow it to be. People slip into depressions all too often in this world usually because they have lost faith in themselves. They have stopped trying to create themselves as who they want to be. The only true Hell is a life unlived to the potential you have imagined. It is also true of Heaven. Heaven can be very real, right here on Earth. Heaven is your dreams made manifest in this reality and any reality.

V. Thought is creative. In this physical world, it is not always clearly seen that our very thoughts control how our lives turn out. Thought is very powerful, and can be used negatively, or positively, depending on your pattern of thought. Pessimists continue to be pessimists because their negativity continues to bring them bad experiences. Optimists continue to be

optimists because their positive thought pattern continues to bring them good experiences. One must constantly monitor their thoughts, and consistently change their thought pattern in order to receive what it is you choose to have.

During what we call death, our creative thought creates results immediately, instead of the length of time it sometimes takes in this physical world. The experience you imagine in your mind brings to you exactly that, and without hesitation. In what some call "near-death experiences" this is exactly what occurs. Most begin to see exactly what they expect to see as "their heaven" because that is what they are imagining. This also explains why some near-death experiences tend to be frightening, because that person expects that which does not exist (Hell). However, the moment that person decides in his/her mind that they choose not to experience it, their surroundings will change to their liking.

Dreaming is the exact same experience. Sleep has been defined as a time when the body needs rest. This is accurate, but to be more specific it is a time when the soul needs rest, and lets go of the body in order to return to divine Unity. As was said above, it is a difficult task for a soul to take on a body, therefore it needs time to let go, and be free from it. Dreams are exactly what you make of them, just as in death, and just as in life. Dreams are a return to Heaven.

VI. You do not get what you want; you get what you choose to have. Wanting allows the mind to admit that there is something you do not have. Thought is creative, so you therefore continue to not have it. Choosing is what we must all do more often. There is never a moment in life where we

do not get a choice. If you choose to have something, you will have it, but you must eliminate the desire for it. That is why our current concept of prayer is not the solution. Acceptance over desire. Begin to believe that God has already given you exactly what you choose to have.

VII. Time does not exist. Every atom of existence and every void are a part of God. God is that which is, and that which isn't. Therefore, the universe is entirely God. The universe is a gigantic "solid" ball of God. The only reason we have a concept of time is because we are on the inside of the ball. Just as a rock has many millions of atoms bouncing around inside of it, it still appears to not be moving from the outside. The universe therefore only shifts, and constantly changes in an eternal moment of "NOW". Everything that has happened and ever will happen is happening right NOW and this very moment. Looking around at your surroundings, you therefore are constantly witnessing an event, because nothing is as it ever was at another time. Nothing ever repeats itself. There are cycles in this universe that create the illusion of repetitiveness, but nothing reoccurs, ever. No matter how similar an event may seem, there is a difference somewhere in this giant ball of God.

Change is the only constant in the universe.

Without time, it would seem that reincarnation is impossible. It is possible, however, because of this eternal moment of NOW. Every event in the past, present, and future, is occurring at this very moment. Therefore, all of your reincarnations exist now as part of your soul, including others within this lifetime. Most likely, this means that the people you know are reincarnations of yourself, of your soul. The

soul attracts itself and seeks to be unified. That is why you have come to know those who are closest to you.

VIII. Fear attracts like energy. Fear is thought with more power. As was said above, thought is very powerful, but fear multiplies that power, which is why it can be (in our realm of understanding) dangerous. What you fear constantly, is likely to happen if you continue to fear it. That is why it is important to let go of such things and continue with your life.

IX. Love is all there is. Love is the energy or life force of God. All of our actions, as humans, stem from two general emotions from which all other emotions are created: Fear and Love. However, if we think of Love as heat, then we find that "cold" is simply a concept, and not actually a substance. Therefore, Love is what we are all made of, and Fear is a lack of Love, just as cold is a lack of heat. Love is what holds the universe together. We find a mate for the Love of that person. We continue to pursue hobbies or careers because of our Love for them. We search the skies for signs of life elsewhere in the universe for Love of companionship as living beings, and out of fear (or lack of love) of loneliness.

X. Life does exist elsewhere in the universe. Life actually exists everywhere in the universe, because there is not a place where God is not. To say that we are the only living creatures in a universe so vast that we cannot, with our primitive minds, comprehend, would be quite arrogant. We are not a mistake, or accident of nature. We were created on purpose, as was every other civilization in this universe. That reason, however, is not predetermined. It is entirely up to this world as to what our purpose of existence is in the universe.

God is everywhere in the universe. God is life, and therefore, life is everywhere in the universe.

XI. Nothing matters. Take into consideration the word "matter", as in the physical elements of this world, and combine it with the idea that thought is creative. Nothing truly matters in this universe, except what we allow to matter. The word "matter" could very easily be replaced with "exist". Because our thought is powerful, we have that power to create as matter only what we allow. That is, we have direct control over our environment, and our situation. Once we accept this and cease blaming God for our misfortune, we will realize that we can create our own fortune, and there will no longer be a concept of "luck".

Nothing truly exists, except what we allow to exist.

XII. We are God. God is that which exists within all things. Unite these two concepts: "God is all powerful" and "Nothing matters except what we allow to matter". We, therefore, are one with God. We are God, and God is We. There is no contradiction, nor any difference. We will never be separate. We will never be divided or disconnected. We will always be one. "God" and "I" do not exist. There is only oneness. There is only unity. There is only "One".

May the Force be with you always.

May you learn and grow daily.

Sacrifice

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY KHAOS ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1133

Sacrifice, above all means taking oneself out of one's comfort zone, and in the case of a Light Jedi- caring for others, and using self discipline to forgo short term pleasures.

So..does one watch TV or visit that elderly person who is lonely?

Light Jedi are, of course, allowed to enjoy their giving adventures! -Jedi Master John Camillieri

Hmm, I don't see how one of the Dark aspect would do differently. I've dedicated my life to helping others through nursing, I only forgo short term pleasures if need be.

I could go visit grandpa after my t.v. show is over. No harm in that, its not selfish, simply time conscious. The pleasures I forgo are more to the effect of, not having to much of the wrong food to eat, or not having that social drink at a party.

Light,Dark,Shadow, Jedi are not monks, We took no vows of poverty,charity, or celibacy. I enjoy myself as much as I can, this has no bearing on how disciplined or not I am, simply how I balance my time, I responsibly balance both. I enjoy giving AS MUCH as receiving

SACRIFICE

1: an act of offering to a deity something precious ;
especially : the killing of a victim on an altar 2: something offered in sacrifice 3 a: destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else b: something given up or lost

I have destroyed for the sake of something else, equatable to what I was talking about when I referred to the "Wrong thing for the right reasons"

In middle school we had a class pet in science class. A pet hamster, and every Friday a selected child was allowed to play with the hamster. One Friday, a kid, a good friend of mine dropped it accidentally, a four foot drop that to a hamster might as well be four stories. The thing was screaming and dragging its back half which was facing at a right angle to its head unnaturally.

When I mean screaming, I mean that small hamster made horrible sounds, and some of the girls were screaming, most of us boys, including me, were crying. However everyone, including the teacher was frozen, watching this thing drag itself around screaming, blood coming out of its mouth....you get the idea. So, I stomped it and killed it instantly, it was the only thing I could think to do, I don't know why I did, and I felt very sick afterward, even as I type this it upsets me a little.

The surprise I had was that when I did I became a monster to the teacher, fellow students and friends. A pariah, for the most part and the last of my 8th grade year was.....hard. They thought I was a psychopath, guidance counselor...blah,blah. After I became a nurse, and as I have matured as a person I believe what I did was wrong, but for the right reasons. I killed a defenseless animal that had never wronged me, yet its terror and pain caused me to act. I have no illusions that it could have been saved, it would have died regardless. Yet instead of letting its terror and pain play out, I gave it the

quickest relief I could. I believe I helped that hamster, and as a result of my help I sacrificed friends, family(I was scrutinized a bit and there was questions) teachers, any normality for the rest of middle school life(And of course some of the people who went to my middle school went to my high school) I believe now, that my sacrifice was necessary and right, however I did the wrong thing.

Was it worth it? I don't know, it was a choice, and I lived with it.

You could even say that the hamster directly influenced a big part of my decision to be a nurse and help others. It also put me in touch with my emotions, and why I do not believe they are to be sacrificed, or looked at as hindrances. We are supposed to FEEL the repercussions of our choices. We are not to be objective observers of what we do, to do so it to not take responsibility for what we have done.

Alethea's example on helping a criminal is a good example here. You helped a murderer and a rapist, he would have died without your help, now as a result you are responsible(in part) for whatever crimes he commits in the future. I have helped murderers,rapists as well as drunk drivers and other such...people. I help them because I feel that helping is right. However if I help a help a murderer, and he kills others(even in prison) Or a rapist, and he rapes 5 more women, I have now become partially responsible for those crimes. So I have become partially responsible for wrongs for what I believe are right reasons. In this case the wrongs are consequences of my right actions. In this there is sacrifice....

Sometimes you sacrifice yourself, your morals, your judgement, your very being. They may become just a patient

in need, and yet what you do, even if you are impartial about it at the time, has its consequences.

That, to me is sacrifice...

~Lord Khaos of the Dark Aspect

Acknowledging Your Feelings

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY ADI KLEM ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1022

A common misconception of Light Jedi is that we do not, and cannot, embrace ourselves completely. We can—I know of anger, I know of jealousy, and I know of greed. There is a full range of emotions to experience, and they are part of a human experience. At some point in our lives, we have all felt those things.

As a Light Jedi, I live to know myself as a whole and that some things can be very destructive and work against me. At the same time, everything within my being can be utilized, but I also have to be aware of where those paths can lead in each unique event and situation. The Darkness in a Jedi begins when one turns blind to how they are truly feeling - the inner Light - out of fear of what one may find. I could ignore the “Darker” feelings all I like, but they would still fester within. I would still carry them with me, and they could dominate everything I do. Journey into your dark Dagobah cave and move beyond your Dark Sides, otherwise you will only sink into them. As a Light Jedi, you must shine clarity on your inner self. Light Jedi come to know their Dark Sides very well, and so we are capable of overcoming them because of that.

To reject a part of yourself out of fear is a path into Darkness, itself. Come to know yourself, and live in clarity of who you are.

All action needs to be viewed mindfully; in everything we do and think. Mindfully, I can see how hate can create separation between myself and understanding the Force. It can create ignorance, which can lead to discomfort and blindness to those discomforts, even though it could be a powerful drive for some. I can also see how conflict, especially of the emotional variety which stems from all things, can unite people and cause people to evolve through struggle. If we approach things with the mindful care to understand and grow from it, we are granted knowledge and understanding of ourselves and our surroundings.

To love, this can have the opposite affect of hate, which I suppose is where the idea of love and hate being opposites comes from, but even that isn't really true. It doesn't mean love shouldn't be viewed with any less mindfulness than hate. To be unmindful of love and its affects, the same discomforts, blindness, and separations can be made with hate.

I am not going to command, "you must not feel anger!" because I am very aware that every one of us is very capable of feeling a vast range—whether one admits it or not. However, wherever you choose to focus your choices, be mindful of where it will take you and transform the world you share with others.

Toward Harmonious Living

Print

WRITTEN BY CALEDVOLC ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 895

Harmony, for the purpose of this lecture, may be defined as a sense of balanced energy that leads to feelings of calm, and from which the Jedi can operate without a sense of being rushed or harried. The Jedi who has great internal harmony is very difficult to put off balance, and thus has a greater possibility of being at one with the Force at all times.

Therefore, harmony is a most important aspect of a Jedi's training. Without a certain amount of internal harmony, it is extremely difficult to walk the path of the Light Side.

Harmony does not come about simply by wishing it, however - we Jedi must work at its development as much as we work on training Force abilities. Paradoxically of course, the more we strive for it, the more it evades us.

It should also be noted that the Jedi who walks in harmony is far less likely to encounter and vastly more able to deal with the disharmonic influences spoken of in prior lectures. Simply put, the harmonious person does not light a beacon in the Other World (usually by means of confusion, unsettlement or arrogance) attracting influences of all types, benign or baneful. Rather, he or she is content to join the flow, accepting what is and subtly manipulating events to serve a set purpose.

There are four basic elements of harmonious living. Each must be pursued, and all must be in balance, before harmony can be achieved.

1. It is absolutely essential for any student of the Light Side to develop a daily meditation practice and do some sort of physical training on a regular basis. The practice of meditation is probably one of the most important ways of developing internal harmony because it allows the student time in the "eye of the storm" each day and helps him/her to recognize that place within the self from which harmony generates. As training progresses, physical training can become a time of meditation as well. Martial arts students will already be aware of the concept of "mushin" (no mind) from Zen, a relaxed state of perfect clarity from which an action simply performs itself. This kind of clarity comes as the result of repetitive training that incorporates technique into the body's movement alphabet. At the highest levels of martial arts training (and to a lesser extent, other forms of physical activity) lies a place of harmony from which movement simply flows. In Force terms, this means that we are one with the Force and moving with its flow.

2. Spend as much time in nature as possible. Nothing helps refresh the spirit more than a walk on your favorite hiking trail. If you do not have a favorite trail, then exploring the possibilities in your area would be a good idea. Nature has much to teach us about the Force and its cyclical nature.

Nature proves to us that no energy ever really ceases to exist - it simply transmutes to a different form. It is important to realize this because it aids us in dealing with one of the greatest blockages to internal harmony, i.e. fear of death. If we realize that all energy continues in some form or other, or as in the well-known law of Physics, "Matter is neither created nor destroyed", then we can deal effectively with the fear of death by understanding, on a deep level, that nothing

ceases to exist - it merely changes form. Or, as the Jedi Code teaches us, "There is no death, there is the Force."

Another benefit of the great outdoors is that it is easier to find some peace there, as we are not subjected to the constant pressure of other people's thoughts and emotions, but are free to feel the flow of the Force around and through us, and to feel and know deep inside our place in it.

3. Do not fear silence, but embrace it. We live in a world where we can be, and are, subjected to sound and stimulation during almost all of our waking hours (and in our sleep, for some). We must break away from the noise and stimulation regularly. Exposure to silence leaves us open to what is really going on in our minds. I have recommended to meditation students in the past that they set up a "monastery" weekend for themselves on occasion - a time when they do not speak, spend extensive time in meditation, go about all their tasks mindfully and observe what is going on in their head as a result. Most find that the mind races frantically for the first few hours or (in extreme cases) days of such a retreat, but eventually the mind shuts down and they can go about their day in peace.

Time in nature and silence may be combined by going on a lone retreat in nature. However, if you plan to do this, be certain to take someone with you who can check on your safety.

4. Be aware of the messages that you are sending to your subconscious. I have worked with students who could not understand why they were not experiencing any harmony in their meditations. They would then leave the class, get in their cars, crank the stereo up as loud as it would go, and

listen to lyrics which seemed, to me, to be consumed with hatred of others and/or self-hate. To make things worse, those lyrics were often accompanied by music that was designed to drive the message home. It has been well known for many ages, especially in primitive cultures, that the beat of a drum, for example, serves to relax the mind, open the subconscious and ready it to receive the accompanying message - a mild hypnosis technique, if you will. Any percussional element will have the same effect, whether it be acoustic guitar, drums or whatever.

Your mind, all of it, is listening constantly to what you are feeding it, and the old computer adage applies - "Garbage in, garbage out". The spoken word and music have deep effects on our consciousness. It can raise our consciousness or lower it, and the decision is totally ours. I ask that you simply be mindful of what you are putting into YOUR system. You will get out of it only what you put into it.

May you be ever present in the Living Force.

Understanding and Tolerance

Print

WRITTEN BY CHELSEA RAY ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 844

Understanding: a. friendly or harmonious relationship. b. sympathy c. a mutual agreement not formally entered into but in some degree binding each side.

Tolerance: a. sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing or conflicting with one's own.

After having read these definitions, think about how often you actually see them applied in life. Nowhere near often enough, right? People, especially the younger generations, cry out for understanding. Complaining about the lack of understanding and tolerance in today's society is a good step toward recognizing the problem. The next step is to start looking at ways that each one of US can be part of the solution.

What keeps people from practicing understanding and tolerance in their daily lives? Well, fear is an important factor. A lot of people's lives are ruled by fear. Fear of physical harm, fear of the unknown, fear of what others will think of them, fear of stepping outside their comfortable box of beliefs and habits (their "safety zones") and taking chances, and so on and so forth. Human beings tend to feel comfortable with that which they already understand, and have no desire to seek understanding in the fear-provoking unknown. That is perhaps the greatest obstacle to understanding that we face. And if we can't understand our fellow human beings how are we ever going to be able to form relationships with them?

Understanding is a key part of a relationship. You don't necessarily have to agree with something to understand it. I certainly don't agree with the concept of a constantly clean room, but I understand where it comes from and why. You may not agree with rules or reasons, customs or concepts, ways or wants, but it doesn't mean you can't try to understand them. This is a lot easier said than done.

Understanding most likely will not come to you overnight, and all of us find certain things easier to understand than others. There are always exceptions, but for the most part you are going to have to work for that understanding. It is an attainable goal, so don't give up right away.

So fear can block understanding, and a lack of understanding blocks relationships from forming. What is another reason that understanding and tolerance may be in short supply these days? Well, laziness and not caring also plays a big part. Let's look at how people spend time and energy. It takes a lot of time and effort to do anything in our daily lives, and we are all going to spend time and energy on something. Many people spend a lot of time burrowing themselves into their "safety zones". If they spent that time on trying to understand things and people around them, imagine how much more friendly, even compassionate, our world could be. If people actually understood each other there would be no need for bickering and fighting. They would know why other people do things, and what they need. They would make room for those needs because they understood them. Now that's also bordering on the subject of empathy (which is far too rare as well) but I won't dive into that today. Before empathy, before someone can be truly empathic towards others, they must first have understanding.

Another important part of a relationship of any kind, which goes hand in hand with understanding, is tolerance. I mentioned that you don't need to agree with something to understand it, and you don't. But there must be tolerance. You don't always need understanding to have tolerance, but you must have tolerance to practice understanding. The two go together. Understanding is wasted without tolerance. It's as useless as lighting a match in heavy wind. If you understand something but don't show tolerance for it, what is your understanding worth? True knowledge always shows itself in actions. Or, as the saying goes, "The smallest deed always beats the best of intentions". In a way, that can be applied here. Understanding something and showing tolerance for it is a lot better than understanding everything and showing tolerance for nothing. And I don't mean physical tolerance, I mean tolerance to the way a person does things, someone's personality, to events occurring around you. A person who leads a life without tolerance, leads a life of loneliness that will only bring disappointment and frustration with every new day. A person with no tolerance is also intolerable to others.

OK. How does this apply to each of us? Well, let's look at our own families. Tolerance can help a household run smoother. Tolerance can be the factor that holds the peace until an agreement can be reached, or changes can be made. It can be the peace guardian, keeping the flames of conflict at bay until something can be done. And peace, tolerance and understanding starts inside of each of us, to be spread outward to others as we apply these qualities in our daily lives. As Emerson once said, "Nothing can bring you peace but yourself". If tolerance brings peace, we must bring

tolerance. It is everyone's responsibility to bring their own tolerance (and thus peace) to the world. If we want others to be tolerant and respectful of us, we must first show tolerance and respect for others. We must, as Ghandi pointed out, be the change we wish to see in the world.

Jedi & Society

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY STEVE SCOTT ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 810

"The goal of society in general is to succeed in the world, the goal of a Light Jedi studying to become one with the Force, is to transcend beyond it."

This is an interesting question and one to which I generally agree in principle. The concept of the word society is derived from the Latin term 'Societas' which identifies a group of individuals who gather together to share idealised common cultural grounds for the betterment and improvement of their own environmental considerations. In this respect, each society is then entirely independent from all others with regard to the nature and state of its own creation within that particular area of cultural formation with regard to ethics, understanding, science, religion, progress etc.

It is entirely true then that a 'Society' does indeed group together to succeed and promote positive growth within the world in which it inhabits, regardless of the vastly differing aspects of that world. A native rainforest tribe, for example, will have vastly different societal norms and functions in comparison to that found in a modern urban Capital such as London, New York or Paris. Granted that the overall human needs and desires of that culture remain fixedly the same: eat sleep, procreate, the paths and processes by which these are realised become vastly different. Who is right and who is wrong? Perhaps the question should be who has the right to

be, and in that - I feel- lies the overall problem with the goal of society.

Society essentially will exist only to serve itself and its own agendas, preferring to displace those who do not fit in or tie in to the accepted societal norms and ostracise them.

Examples of this exist throughout history in rebellions, uprisings, dictatorships, ethnic cleansing and worse. So while society tries to succeed, it does so with a blinkered and hampered vision with regard to those who do not comply with their own requirement.

As Jedi, we MUST be able to stand back and look upon the issue with a sense of clarity and the full range of vision unhindered by prejudices and preconceptions. Only by stripping away the trapping of societal constraints and returning back to a source of what is truly the pure nature of positive existence can you look at the issue without a mind clouded by external factors. An example of this is the current trend in environmental groups striking back (sometimes with force and a great deal of hostility) at manufacturers for having non-environmentally friendly products. Is this progress; is this group working to better society? No, they are fulfilling their own agenda for self-purpose. Instead of aggressive action, why not target the main demographic that would affect change, the consumer. If the product fails to sell because the public have been educated, then the manufacturer must change or fail to succeed. Yet even this has overall consequences for in that instance, the lives of employees, their families, suppliers etc are all affected. So, in the end was this done for the greater good of society, or for the greater good of that individual group?

We, as Jedi, should and do learn to see the greater perspective of our actions and the impact that they will have in society. In applying this philosophy we may not be able to stop the actions from occurring, but at least can have in place the foresight to deal with any potential fallout. Be it a small personal issue or a country-wide action that occurs, clarity of vision and a greater scale of vision permit you to at least be ready to act.

What Makes Us Human

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY ALDAR PERIHELION ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#).

HITS: 784

What are we not?

We are not our body When we look in the mirror the face we so easily identify as "us" is not who we are. Even our words give us clues to this. When somebody dies we may make reference to "their body." If our body wasn't separate from us, what is really us, and why do we make this distinction? We must conclude that we are not our body.

We are not our desires When we look around at the things we would like to possess or accomplish, we are driven to action. Yet even as we attain our desires, the longing that we felt for it fades, and something else captures our attention. But do these desires and accomplishment change us? I think not. Behind every desire the ultimate end we are always seeking is fulfillment.

We are not our feelings How about our feelings? We know that everyone has them. But we also know that they come and go like waves on a shore, always gaining, always losing. But like the beach and water that remain intact in there content, our spirits remain constant in ebb and flow of life's ups and downs.

We are not our thoughts Perhaps the great thinkers have given us a path to our identity with, "I think therefore I am." But do these thoughts really make up our identity and

existence. Where does a thought come from? And where does it go when I am done thinking it? Still as these thoughts flicker in my mind I can't help but wonder if there is still more to us than daydreams.

What are we then?

We are being Knowing that we observe the world, we must conclude that there is a being that is doing the observing. This "being" is us. As the scenery changes, the Seer remains the same.

We are intelligence While our thoughts are not the building blocks, creating our Self. Understanding and intelligence allows us to grow and expand. Seeking that bit of understanding, that principle behind our actions. is a prize itself.

We are intention While our desires may change, our intentions remain the same. While we are children we seek toys. As we grow we seek friends. Eventually we begin to seek Love. And looking back to the toys and the friends we know that Love was our intention all along.

We are energy While our body may decay, the energy that we consist of remains. for energy cannot be created or destroyed... it can only be changed.

So what?

We are peace Resting in the fact that our true self lives in the world of spirit, we can face every emotion with peace.

We are knowledge Seeking understanding of the truly important things in life drives us forward. For this knowledge is the only thing that is truly ours.

We are serenity Knowing that Love is our ultimate goal. We can see the suffering around us and share that Love with others.

We are the Force For we are all one in spirit and are never truly alone.

For after all is said and done: We are Jedi.

Code of the Light Aspect

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WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 1110

We are Jedi; We are Protectors.

A jedi to me is honest and has courage, wisdom and helps those around them. I think its something to aim for and put into practice within my life. We protect those who need it, sometimes subtly by helping them to improve themselves, guiding but letting them take responsibility for themselves and sometimes by standing up and speaking out or putting ourselves physically in the way and trying to calm situation while protecting. I have to say sometimes protecting means taking on what may be hard and accepting the responsibility yourself for some that cant defend themselves.

We see a luminous world

we don't ignore the reality of life, the hardships but we choose to see the value of lessons life gives us, the beauty around us, to focus on gratefulness and joy even in the darkest times.

We serve by choice and with integrity

We choose to be of service, its not forced but done through love and wanting to help. We take responsibility for our circles, family, friends and community and serve those in turn. We do this with honesty, with respect for all and life and we do it with courage knowing we cant control the outcome but doing it because it needs doing and we can do it.

We stay strong to support others

We first need to be strong, mentally, physically and spiritually ourselves because when we are we bring our best to our goal of supporting others.

We combat adversity through wisdom and peace

Some situations we combat through wisdom, knowing and understanding what to say or not say can defuse a situation. And helping others to understand or bringing understanding to ourselves can bring peace. Not every situation needs action. Violence while useful is a last resort and knowing when to step back and stay ready can also bring peace.

We strive to learn and teach in all acts

Everything can be a lesson even if we don't recognise it in the moment. But looking at it, meditating about our actions can help us learn. If our actions and words match and we act with wisdom and courage in all we do, we can teach through our actions.

We shall lead by example

We show through our words and actions what a Jedi should be. Not judging, just showing in our behaviour. Displaying the attributes of what we believe in.

We are one with the Force

Is this connections? We are always connected to the world and others. We are one, the force isn't some outside concept but a part of us, what we do, connected inside with the world around us and everyone everything within the world. Gives us a empathy that might not be present if separated and apart. Not really sure of this

The Code v. The Force

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WRITTEN BY CONNOR ON 16 FEBRUARY 2020. POSTED IN LIGHT CONTENT. HITS: 1042

NOTE: Taken from a conversation on Jedi Church (the Original) where Connor responded to a conversation between two separate individuals.

(REDACTED)'s point is, succinctly, that the Code is what defines the Jedi because it is the lens by which Jedi view the Force and therefore how they interpret their own morality and therefore how they choose to act. Meditation on the Force, alone, is not enough to justify being anything except a person who meditates on and believes in the Force. Also, because the Force is morally ambivalent (it is, I promise), the Jedi would do well not to simply follow the Will of the Force because that could lead to exactly what happened to Anakin. He gave into the Dark Side (which is equally a part of the Force), and he killed hundreds or perhaps thousands of people during the Empire's rule.

It is naive to believe that Force is not both Dark and Light (and neither and both).

If I am reading your translations correctly, (REDACTED 2), you are saying that the films show that meditation on the Force and self-reflection are, inherently, a guide for the Jedi. Right Action is a direct result of internal meditation and reflection.

In most traditions, you would be right. But, the Jedi do not choose to view it this way. Jedi, in this community, oftentimes recognize that self-reflection and meditation do NOT lead to the Light side. Rather, they lead to becoming a more authentic version of yourself. This could be a Lightsider, a

Darksider, or something else entirely (paging the Grey and the Shadow).

Instead, we believe that the CODE itself is the arbiter of our morality. It helps us to focus and reach a higher plane of behavior and thought.

Even those who do not accept the code oftentimes will come up with a morality all their own to help guide them.

In Buddhism, this is also true. If you'll notice, behaviors and actions are covered in the 8-fold path. They provide GUIDES on how to interact with the world, and this is like their version of a Code.

Roads

[Print](#)

WRITTEN BY VARIOUS ON 01 MARCH 2020. POSTED IN [LIGHT CONTENT](#). HITS: 983

The first part of this assignment is going to be for each and every Shadow student who is serious about this to look onto what they know of the Shadow and find what they believe is the unifying link between us all.

Not just the other Shadow's who have slightly different beliefs, but between the Dark, Light and Non Jedi alike.

We are all human, and therefore all have the same condition at the very bottom.

At what point exactly do we begin to deviate, and what if any link is there at the end of each of our Road's that lets us know that we have been one the entire trip?

Shinobi

Point of deviation: The instant we gain the ability to think and process data, we think different. Physically, we are different from day 1, literally. Spiritually, well, as soon as we believe in something, we differ. Even the lack of believing constitutes differences... The end point, well, I know I've been in a few discussions about this, but I'll say this anyway :) The end point to let us know that we've all been there together, is when we die. There might be points before then, but that's not what was asked, now was it? Yeah, I'm aware that this might be considered by some as rather narrow-minded thinking, but, hey, it's just to get the thing going :) I'm voluntarily limiting my answer at the moment. :)

Xaverri Darkcleod

I think what it comes down to is not a matter of how we think, or perceive things. I mean, when we're born, we have no preconceived ideas about how things are, or should be. We don't spend the first year or two of our lives judging, merely observing. And in that period of time, everyone is essentially the same. Yet this is broader than that. We're not talking about babies and toddlers. We're talking about adults, with set beliefs, who spend most of their time judging and appraising the situations and people around them. We tend to believe this judgment is a necessity. That if we did not judge people, and things, and situations, we would not have the basis for comparison to know whether something was beneficial or detrimental. But do we need to know what is "good" and what is "bad"? Especially when what is "good" to one person may be "bad" to another? Eh, but I digress...I'm getting off the subject. What common thread does bind us? Perhaps the fact that when it comes right down to it, we are more than what we pretend to be. Perhaps it's the fact that no matter what we believe, we are all striving to better ourselves. However, that might be inaccurate, from a certain point of view. There are people who seek neither physical nor spiritual fulfillment in this life. And one might say that at our basest form, if we were to be broken down into the elements that comprise our bodies, that would probably constitute a common link between us all. And just about every carbon based life form in existence, most likely. (Ok, I'm rambling again.) So personally, what I think, is that our common link is our spirituality. The fact that we are spiritual beings, the fact that we recognize this in some form or fashion, and the fact that we are seeking to improve our understanding of this, as well as seeking the betterment of ourselves. Then again, I

could be way off. This might just be the really obvious answer. But that's at least my point of view, and I've shared it, and now I'm going back to work.....

Marian Plank

I have some ideas on this one.

Other than the general things that bind us, such as the ability to think, on whatever level, and things like that that come with being human, there has to be some sort of a binding link that keeps us, in some way, similar. Since people's thoughts go from one extreme to the other, we know that the common bond cannot be how we think and how we see things. Since people all have different physical abilities, it also cannot be how we are physically. Though most people would probably say otherwise, deep down our emotions are all similar, only for different reasons. We all feel anger, pain, joy, love, it just depends what is there to cause each of those things. There is the bonding equation with the variables being those of the things that a person can't necessarily control, the things that are outside, as well as the things they think, the latter sometimes controllable. So, with this, wouldn't it be best if you made someone else feel better emotionally, if you do that, and they see why, then won't they learn that it's good to do the same thing, and it comes back to you? Everything is a circle with emotions, anger and offense bring anger and offense back, love brings love. Nothing else has quite that solid of a bond. The only problem is that not everyone interprets their emotions the same, thus, the reactions are different, so the equation is knocked off balance.

Rogue Ace

Alrighty, I didn't quite read the other responses just to be a good lil' girl, so if some of this repeats, "oops". I just skipped to the bottom of the thread and hit "reply". Also I have to say a little tip to Shin: learn not to give out the "answer" straight away when someone asks a question in a chat. ;)

So, through my thinking this would be complicated, I denied what I thought may be a decent reply to this assignment. Through the first couple posts, Shin almost says right out a simple solution to how we unite differences, to what we all have in common. It's the source that is the same. The "root", as you so kindly put it, Justin. We all come from our mother's stomach (unless there's some other miracle of science I don't know of). We all come from life, and leave in death. Now, this is pretty broad. Because as we all grow as humans, the same race, we do start to "deviate". With beliefs, religion, culture, family, etc. The obvious things, as no one person or being can be alike.

But if we can wipe our slate clean every time in a group we are presented with something, that thing is our link. From that very second onward, we gather what we have acquired through our lives and beliefs, and form opinions, and continue to differ from each other.

So our deviation is where? I'm not sure if anyone is looking for one particular answer, but the way I see it, we deviate and "unite" back together constantly. If our source is the same, and we split from there, then there is another source, and a constant back-and-forth motion is in effect. If some opinions match, there, another link. It's a constant cycle.

So you ask how we know when we are at the end of our cycle of life, how we know we have been on one "entire trip"? Physically speaking, death. But death is only the body expiring. If you are a believer in spirit, reincarnation, heaven, the afterlife, or that everything just ends, death is an end of one stage. It happens to everybody. Another link.

Speaking more "inner human-ly", a 'hint' that we are closer to the end of our road, I think, is when we come more at peace with everything. Granted, harmony, equilibrium, inner balance, and all that good stuff, can come anytime in between. But I am speaking of when you are old and wrinkly and still keep those beliefs alive with you. To, after all those years, see what has gotten you through all this time.

That's it for my ramblings of the night. Hope that made sense, heh.

Saidi Akili Maleah

I think the link that we all share is the link of fallibility. Every person on the planet has been wrong at some point or another. Nobody has all of the answers and no one ever will. We live in a world that is always changing and adapting, and things we are sure of today we will realize are wrong tomorrow.

"1500 years ago everybody knew that the earth was the center of the universe, 500 years ago everybody knew the earth was flat, and 15 minutes ago you knew we were alone on this planet..... Imagine what you'll know tomorrow." K-from men in black

There are people who know almost everything about a particular subject, there are people that are jacks of all trades, however there is no one that can say with any confidence that they know it all. And if they do they are fools.

We don't have the answers that we need so we ask someone who does and therefore learn more about the world and ourselves, but did the person we asked really know the right answer? Only time will tell. Ah, but wait we are fallible there as well, we don't have forever, and so with some things we will never know.

Knowledge is infinite and we would need eternity to unlock all of it's secrets.

--Raven

Well, hey.

Why are we seeking to learn, and what do you want to learn then?

Objective and Subjective, when we define and when we accept.

When we die, subjectively that is the end, objectively consciousness neither begins nor ends with death, nor for that matter has a beginning or an end.

Doesn't matter I suppose.

Shinobi

I would have to go with Objective. I believe, as you put it, that

it death doesn't begins or ends anything. However, we are still fallible creatures. I think acceptance of that is the key.

—Raven