



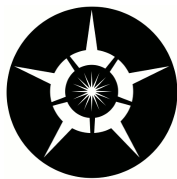
The Way of Jediism



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The Way of Jediism

First Edition



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Table of Contents

Jediism – a 21st Century Paradigm.....	3
Jedi Doctrine as defined by the Temple of the Jedi Order.....	6
Becoming a Jedi.....	8
16 Basic Teachings of the Jedi.....	8
The Jedi Creed.....	10
The Orthodox Jedi Code.....	11
3 Primary Tenets of Jediism.....	11
Jedi Oaths.....	12
The 12 Vows of the Jedi.....	12
Ranks within the Temple of the Jedi Order.....	14
Clerical Structure of the Temple of the Jedi Order.....	15
Special Interest Groups.....	17
Liturgical Calendar.....	18
Study and Qualifications.....	23
Personal Stories.....	24
Selected Sermons.....	27
Knighting Ceremony.....	39
Ordination Ceremony: Deacon/Priest.....	42
Ordination Ceremony: Bishop.....	46
Marriage Ceremony.....	50
Funeral / Memorial Service (version 1).....	52
Funeral / Memorial Service (version 2).....	54
Ceremony for Consecration of Land.....	57
Ceremony for Consecration of Temple/Church.....	58
Selected Prayers.....	62



Jediism – a 21st Century Paradigm

So what is Jediism? Perhaps it's better to begin by saying what Jediism is not. It's not a role-playing opportunity, it's not a joke, and it's not a delusional fantasy for those whose dream is to wield a lightsaber and talk like Alec Guinness. Jediism is an inter-faith initiative and syncretistic religion - meaning that it involves elements from more than one religious practice – that was inspired by the ideals and tenets of the fictional Jedi as portrayed in the Star Wars films, including concepts such as peace-keeping, humility, courage, wisdom and faith.

Delving deeper into the story of Star Wars, we see that George Lucas (writer, producer and sometime director of the Saga) based the central plot and characterisations on archetypal myths and figures that can be found in different forms throughout human history and he was very much influenced by the thoughts and writings of his friend Joseph Campbell, mythologist and comparative theologian. It's no coincidence that upon the release of Star Wars in 1977, many world religions claimed that the story mirrored the legends and parables of their own beliefs.

Shanti Feder, editor of Parabola Magazine (published by the Society for the Study of Myth and Tradition) wrote: *“In classic mythology, the hero reluctantly leaves the homeland (in Luke [Skywalker]'s case, the planet Tatooine) on a quest that takes him over a supernatural threshold into a strange land. A helper/co-hero such as space jockey Han Solo lends a steady hand through a series of ordeals. Comic relief is provided by tricksters such as the Greek muse Thalia or C3PO and R2-D2. Ultimately, the hero must stand on his own, face the darkness and conquer it before returning to reality, stronger and wiser.”*

One of the reasons for Jediism being treated as little more than a joke concerns the fact that it is influenced by the concepts behind a (reasonably recent) film series. Feder continues: *“There is the test-of-time thing to consider. A lot of people would hesitate to put the label of ‘myth’ on something relatively new like Star Wars. But, a myth is a myth, no matter what trappings we put on it. Give them light sabers instead of swords and it doesn't matter.”*

After all, the structure and practices of Wicca are fairly recent when compared to older traditions such as Druidry and Taoism, but that doesn't make them any less relevant or pertinent to those who follow that path. Jediism can be described as a belief system based on older spiritual tenets and the same can arguably be applied to a great deal of different faiths: Scientology, Wicca, even Christianity!

This is one of the core ideals of Jediism – that all spiritualities have a commonality and that these can be embraced instead of the focus being on the differences between us. Initiatives such as the Alliance for a New Humanity or the Universal Life Church echo this sentiment and call for a unifying spirit of brother- and sister-hood amongst the religions and faiths of the world while still allowing each one to maintain their individuality.

Even within the Jedi community there are many different churches and orders, each with their own structures and methods. Some insist on the wearing of hooded robes in public and this has been the source of some negativity in the media towards Jediism. Others focus on the philosophical ideals of world religions. Whatever the flavour, there is a central premise that is guided by the inspiration of the fictional Jedi and this is encapsulated in the following, known as the Orthodox Jedi Code:

***There is no Emotion; There is Peace.
There is no Ignorance; There is Knowledge.
There is no Passion; There is Serenity.
There is no Chaos; There is Harmony.
There is no Death; There is the Force.***

The Force is seen as “*what everything comes from, what everything currently exists within, and what everything returns to. It is the energy behind the existence of everything known or unknown to humanity, a unified field theory*” and can be reconciled with the concepts of Qi, Prana or even some interpretations of the Christian Holy Spirit. As such, Jedi are encouraged to develop their connection to this energy through practices such as meditation, energy healing (Reiki, etc), astral projection and journeying, and martial arts such as Aikido, Tai Chi or Ju-Jitsu.

Many Jedi orders allow the individual to continue to practice their own beliefs within the context of Jediism. I speak from experience of the Temple of the Jedi Order, for example, which received its charter as an International Church of Jediism in 2005 and allows members to train in aspects of Jediism, the opportunity to work towards a qualification in theology, and to undergo clerical training to become ordained ministers. As a Church, the Order is looked after by people in the roles of Ministers, Deacons, Priests and Bishops and its syncretistic nature is expressed through 5 Rites: Abrahamic (Christian, Jewish, etc), Pagan, Buddhist, Humanist and Pure Land (followers of Jediism without additional belief systems). The Order advocates learning from each Rite and it is considered to be enriched by this solidarity of faith. Our communality lies in our celebration of the Force and practice of the doctrine. Other than that we celebrate and live together our differences.

Progression within each order usually follows the pattern set by the fictional Jedi – members are taken on as Apprentices and undergo a period of study and training before being considered for Knighthood. Knights who have taken apprentices who themselves reach Knighthood and then go on to train apprentices are considered to be Masters. Thus members are encouraged to support the growth and learning of the whole community.

As Jedi, we naturally encounter prejudice and scorn and are seen by many as “geeks obsessed with Star Wars”. It's true that many of us appreciate those films and see them as parables for life lessons. Many of us also own lightsaber hilts that serve a ceremonial and representational purpose. But there's so much more to Jediism than that and I hope that this article has begun to shed some light on the topic and possibly dissolve some animosity. After all, many of us pagans know only too well the sting of abuse hurled by those who do not take the time to understand or empathise.

My own path to Jediism began with research into the Census phenomenon and led me to the Temple of the Jedi Order and its teachings. Having been active in my local pagan community but disillusioned with certain aspects, I was searching for a way to express my eclectic pagan path alongside people of all faiths, in a supportive and mutually respectful environment. But don't just take my word for it. Here are a couple of examples from other Jedi about what it means to them:

“How it feels to be a Jedi...spiritually home. I feel more relaxed. I feel more at peace. I'm not so concerned for my future. The really great thing in Jediism is that we all can have our opinion and I can happily live mine (Pure Land), while a Pagan Jedi can live theirs, and a Abrahamic Jedi can have theirs and we all get along!”

“We don’t teach others what to think or believe - what we teach or try to teach is the ability to educate oneself - to develop free thinking, independence from dogma and mind control that has and continues to exist in many forms over many years. We believe however it is perfectly acceptable to question what we’re told without the need to resort to confrontation.”

Everything that I read about the ideals and spirit of Jediism spoke to me on a very personal and spiritual level and this cannot be more accurately defined (at least for myself) than with the 16 Basic Teachings. Putting aside any preconceptions, prejudices or expectations, I wonder if they will resonate with you as well.

Mark Barwell D.D. O.C.P.

Mark is a shamanic practitioner, Reiki Master/Teacher of both Western and Japanese styles, and a student of Oriental philosophy and bodywork. He is also the Cardinal Bishop of the Pagan Rite of the Temple of the Jedi Order – www.templeofthejediorder.org



Jedi Doctrine as defined by the Temple of the Jedi Order

Jediism is an interfaith initiative and a *syncretistic religion* - a faith involving elements from two or more religions including Taoism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Christianity, Mysticism, and many other Religions' universal truths, a combination of martial arts and the Code of Chivalry. These philosophies are the heart of Jediism; not the wonderful Star Wars movies themselves except to serve as parables.

Real Jedi (“Jediists”) are modern versions of the Shao Lin Monk, the European Knight, and the Samurai Warrior. The Jedi religion is an inspiration and a way of life for many people throughout the world who take on the mantle of Jedi. Jediism is merely a new name for ancient faiths.

Masters of Jediism have been here on Earth for over 5,000 years under many names including Buddha, Jesus, Lao Tzu, St. Francis of Assisi, Ghandi, Martin Luther King and so many others

Jedi apply the principles, ideals, philosophies, and teachings of Jediism in a practical manner within their lives. Jedi seek the Living Force Of Creation for guidance. Jedi follow what the Light Side of the Force which is the proper use of the force. Misuse and abuse of The Force is the Dark Side. There is no absolute or universal consensus among the world's scholars as to the definition of religion, but the following is a good one, and is the official definition of the religion of Jediism at The Temple of the Jedi Order:

re·li·gion (n)

A set of beliefs, values, and practices; a cause, principle, or activity pursued with zeal or conscientious devotion; a system of thought, feeling, and action that is shared by a group and that gives the members a code of behavior by which those individuals may judge the personal and social consequences of their actions; also a frame of reference by which individuals may relate to their group, their universe and The Force.

Many Jedi follow a *syncretistic religion* -- a faith involving elements from two or more religions. Jediism itself is a syncretistic religion. One can be strictly a Jedi, a Wiccan Jedi, a Christian Jedi, a Buddhist Jedi, or an Agnostic Jedi, for example, but Jediism is a religion and a way of life in and of itself. Real Jedi do not Worship the Force, or George Lucas, or Star Wars or anything of the sort. Jediism is not based in fiction, but rather explained more clearly by the myths and made applicable to real life.

Jedi believe:

- In the inherent worth of every person. People are worthy of respect, support, and caring simply because they are human.
- In working towards a culture that is relatively free of discrimination on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, national origin, degree of ability, age, etc.
- In the sanctity of the human person. We oppose the use of torture and cruel or unusual punishment including the death penalty. (1)
- In the importance of democracy within religious, political and other structures.
- In the separation of church and state; and the freedoms of speech, association, and expression. (2)
- That the systems of truth in the field of morals, ethics, and religious belief that we have studied are not absolute: they vary by culture, by religion, and over time.
- In the generally positive influence that most religions have had on their followers and on society. (3)
- In the importance of individual believers determining evil influences and policies within their chosen faith group, and advocate for their correction.
- In the importance of education. We believe that people are not truly educated unless they have studied at least the world's major religions and ethical systems. They need to learn of the good and bad impacts they have had on society. (4)

Footnotes, mainly about exceptions:

(1) However, like the rest of North American society, we have not been able to reach a consensus about when human life, in the form of a spermatozoon and an ovum, becomes a human person deserving civil rights.

(2) However we have not been able to reach a consensus about the age at which an individual should fully enjoy these freedoms. We also recognize that some of these freedoms should have limits. For example, we do not feel that, in most cases, parents should be allowed to let their children die if medical treatment will assure a cure. We do

not feel that individuals should be free to advocate genocide or yell "fire" in a crowded theatre.

(3) Exceptions are a handful of destructive cults which have had an overall negative effect.

(4) They need to understand the religious sources that inspired Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, and Mother Teresa to commit their life to the alleviation of human suffering. But they also need to learn the shadow side of religion: how religious beliefs have contributed to hatred, intolerance, oppression, discrimination, as well as mass murders and genocides in such places as Nazi Germany, Bosnia, East Timor, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Sudan and countless other countries.



Becoming a Jedi

- Profess to yourself and proclaim your acknowledgment of being a Jedi. Follow the Jedi ideals and beliefs. You may hold other spiritual convictions along with being a Jedi and loyalty to both is attainable and encouraged, for your focus determines your reality.
- Believe in the Force and its power, a Jedi is devoted to the Force, being committed to the ideals of a Jedi is a pervading tenet. A Jedi does not serve the dark side in any way, in thought or in deed. A Jedi acts in a righteous manner defining the principles of a true Jedi. Knowledge and a relationship will you develop with the Force, it resides within you, surrounds you and flows through you.
- Accept the Jedi teachings that were professed by all Jedi Masters, as their teachings give a spiritual guidance to all Jedi. The melding of the different faiths give the Jedi the direction, knowledge and wisdom that aid in life's journey.
- Learn from other Jedi and unlearn what you have learned. The knowledge and support of other Jedi increases your own knowledge and awareness of the Force. Fellowship is conducive to the learning process of becoming a Jedi, a process that never has an end.
- Profess to be a Jedi if you will, but take heart be not boastful or prideful in your abilities and in your talents as you journey along your path.



16 Basic Teachings of the Jedi

1. As Jedi, we are in touch with the Living Force flowing through and around us, as well as being spiritually aware of the Force. Jedi are trained to become sensitive to the Force's energy, fluctuations, and disturbances.
2. Jedi live and focus on the present; we must neither dwell on the past nor be overly concerned about the future. As the mind wanders, focusing on the present is a task not easily attained, for the mind is not content with the eternal present moment. As Jedi, we must release our stress and ease our minds.
3. Jedi must maintain a clear mind; this is achieved through meditation and contemplation. Our minds can become cluttered and infected by forces and attitudes that we encounter every day, and must be purged of these unnecessary elements on a daily basis.
4. As Jedi, we are mindful of our thoughts... we focus our thoughts on the positive. The positive energy of the force is healthy for the mind, body and spirit.
5. As Jedi, we trust and use our feelings. We are intuitive, more so than others and with this heightened intuition we become more spiritually evolved as our minds become more harmonious with the Force and it's influences.
6. Jedi are patient. Patience is elusive but can be consciously developed over time.
7. Jedi are mindful of the negative emotions which lead to the Dark Side: Anger, Fear, Aggression, and Hate. If we sense these emotions manifesting within ourselves, we must meditate on the Jedi Code and focus on purging these destructive emotions.
8. Jedi understand that physical training is as important as training the mind and the spirit. We understand that all aspects of training are necessary to maintain the Jedi way of life and to perform the duties of a Jedi.
9. Jedi protect the peace. We are warriors of peace, and are not ones to use force to resolve a conflict; it is through peace, understanding and harmony that conflicts resolve.
10. Jedi believe in destiny and trust in the will of the Living Force. We accept the fact that what seems to be random events are not random at all, but the design of the Living Force of Creation. Each living creature has a purpose, understanding that purpose comes with a deep awareness of the Force. Even things that happen which seem negative have a purpose, though that purpose is not easy to see.
11. Jedi must let go of obsessive attachment, both material and personal. The obsession over possessions creates the fear of loosing those possessions, which can lead to the Dark Side.
12. Jedi believe in eternal life. We do not become obsessed in mourning those who pass. Grieve as you will but take heart, for the soul and spirit continue in the netherworld of the Living Force.

13. Jedi use the Force only when it is necessary. We do not apply our abilities or powers to boast or be prideful. We use the Force for knowledge, and exercise wisdom and humility in doing so, for humility is a trait all Jedi must embody.

14. We as Jedi believe that love and compassion are central to our lives. We must love each other as we love ourselves; by doing this, we envelope all life in the positive energy of the Force.

15. Jedi are guardians of peace and justice. We believe in finding peaceful solutions to problems, gifted as we are we remain negotiators of the utmost ability. We never negotiate out of fear, but never fear to negotiate. We embrace justice, protecting and preserving the fundamental rights of all living creatures. Empathy and compassion are vital to us; it allows us to comprehend the wounds caused by injustice.

16. We as Jedi make a commitment to, and are loyal to the Jedi cause. The ideals, philosophies, and practices of the Jedi define the belief of Jediism, and we take action on this path for self improvement, and to help others. We are both the witnesses and protectors of the Jedi way by the practice of our Faith.



The Jedi Creed

I Believe in The Living Force Of Creation;
I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
In pardoning that we are pardoned;
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Living Force Of Creation is always with me; I am a Jedi.

Comment by Fr. Jon, Patriarch of the Dark Order

The Jedi Creed is a public confession, or an expression of words giving authority to certain articles of belief, which are regarded by the Jedi as being necessary for peace, or at least for the well-being of both the Jedi Church and creation as a whole. The Jedi Church supports that the personal belief is the essential element, but this must find its outward expression. While the duty of believing rests on each Jedi, there are further obligations resulting from the social organization of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

The Creed covers the whole ground of Jedi Doctrine and practice. It is declarative in form. It is brief and popular, for general use in instruction and at ceremonies; or is used in the more elaborate and theological apologies, by ministers and teachers, as a standard of public doctrine. In the latter case this confession of faith is always the result of dogmatic controversy, and more or less directly or indirectly polemical against opposing error. Each image used bears the imprint of its age, and the historical situation out of which it arose (Franciscan Tradition, the globalised world, modern Jediism).

The articles professed are in no way stagnant but there is a development in the history Jedi are living through. It should be noted that the authoritative declaration of our Creed and its acceptance does not underestimate in any way the rights of reason. With the progress of spiritual, philosophical, social, humanistic knowledge they assume a more definite shape. They are milestones and finger-boards in the history of Jedi Doctrine. They embody the faith of generations, and the most valuable results of religious controversies. They still shape and regulate our spiritual thinking and public teaching of the Temple of the Jedi Order. Admittedly they still inflame religious strifes and antagonisms, but they also reveal an underlying common denominator, and foreshadow the possibility of future harmony.



The Orthodox Jedi Code

There is no Emotion; There is Peace.
There is no Ignorance; There is Knowledge.
There is no Passion; There is Serenity.
There is no Chaos: There is Harmony.
There is no Death; There is the Force.



3 Primary Tenets of Jediism

Focus
Knowledge
Wisdom

When used correctly, these allow us to better ourselves and overcome any obstacle, helping to improve the world around us and fulfil our purpose to Love, Learn and Be Kind.

Real Jedi are the guardians of peace and justice throughout the World. We use our abilities and powers to defend and protect, never to attack others. We respect all life, in all forms. We are humble and live to serve all living things. For the good of others, we seek to improve ourselves through knowledge and wisdom; a never-ending journey.



Jedi Oaths

There are two Oaths within the Order. The Simple Oath is for Initiates and Apprentices and binds you to the Jedi Way until you are ready for Knighthood or decide to leave. The Solemn Oath is taken upon Knighthood and binds you to the Jedi Way for life.

The Simple Oath

"I profess before all my fellow Jedi that I, (state your legal name) born on (date of birth), without reservation choose the Jedi Path until I am ready for Jedi Knighthood or I otherwise decide, with all its duties and responsibilities. During that time I shall do that which is right and profess my allegiance to the Force and its will. During that time I promise to do my utmost to uphold the Jedi teachings and to live a life as is worthy of a Jedi."

The Solemn Oath

"I profess before all my fellow Jedi that I, (state your legal name) born on (date of birth), without reservation, choose the Jedi path, with all its duties and responsibilities. I shall do that which is right and profess my allegiance to the Force and its will. I vow to uphold the Jedi teachings, and to henceforth devote myself to the life of a Jedi."



The 12 Vows of the Jedi

Please note that the Vows are not a part of the official Doctrine of Temple of the Jedi Order but individuals may choose to honour them if they so wish since they provide useful tools for self-development.

The Vow of Respect: A Jedi must possess the deepest respect for all things, living and inanimate. As a servant of life a Jedi must possess the deepest respect for all things, themselves included. Respect enables a Jedi to deal with both life and people in a fair and honest manner, which strengthens the bonds between people and fosters peace and tranquility.

The Vow of Humility: A Jedi is no better or more important than anyone else. A Jedi must always be mindful of their attitudes and self image that they do not become boastful or prideful in either their abilities or beliefs. Humility enables the Jedi to approach others and life in a receptive manner and allows a Jedi to accomplish their goals unobtrusively. The humble person is easier to accept and far less threatening than the braggart.

The Vow of Contemplation: A Jedi must possess a clear mind and approach life and situations from an objective perspective. Emotion, while not bad, can influence the perceptions and judgment of a Jedi and care must be taken to insure that the position of the Jedi is unbiased. To this end meditation is a highly recommended practice that can both clear the mind as well as teaching patience. Meditation is a key in the life of the Jedi and it affords the Jedi the opportunity to commune with the Force and leads them to a greater self-understanding.

The Vow of Moderation: Balance is key to the life of the Jedi and moderation in all things contributes to this balance. Too little of a thing can lead to deprivation and covetousness. And yet too much can lead to greed and waste. A Jedi must strive to attain only what they need and desire within the bounds of reason. Too little or too much of a thing can be equally destructive and both leach at the peace and contentment of the Jedi.

The Vow of Attachment: Attachment is vital to the life of the Jedi. The Jedi must know life and be intrinsically tied to it in order to better serve the will of the Force. Jedi must possess ties to the people around them and are encouraged to love. Love is a strong connection to the basis of humanity and can serve as a strong foundation of strength and encouragement when a Jedi needs them most.

The Vow of Industry: A Jedi must not be idle. Laziness, procrastination, and indecision are all pathways to the dark side. Not through action but rather inaction, which can be equally destructive. A Jedi is endowed with talents and gifts that are intended for the betterment of the Jedi and the world that surrounds them.

The Vow of Restraint: A Jedi must learn restraint and must strenuously practice it in all their dealings with others. As conscious conduits of the Force the Jedi must restrain themselves in their dealings with others. As people Jedi possess passions and opinions and the Jedi must take care not to force these views upon others. A Jedi must realize that their thoughts, feelings, and even intentions leave impressions upon the Force that echo outwards and touch the world and people that surround them. Above all, a Jedi must learn physical restraint. Conflict is a necessary and inevitable aspect of life and yet a Jedi must take care to minimize this conflict. Physical violence

must be regarded as only a final and most desperate alternative when all attempts at reason and negotiation have failed.

The Vow of Defense: A Jedi is sworn to defense: the defense of themselves, of others, and of ideals. A Jedi is not born to suffer or to sit idly by when others are threatened. The mandate of the Jedi is to defend those that can not defend themselves and to protect the sanctity of life even, if necessary, at the expense of their own.

The Vow of Chastity: A Jedi must avoid the temptations and destruction of the flesh, which can cloud the mind and pollute the soul. This refers to the random propagation and unchecked desires of the human animal which, when left to its own designs, can erode the purest of hearts and obliterate the most noble of creatures. The bonds of deep affection between man and wife and even simply between man and woman are not discouraged as they are physical ties that reinforce the connections between the Jedi and their loved ones and between the Jedi and their own mortality.

The Vow of Obedience: A Jedi is to be obedient. Obedient to the laws under which they live, the customs under which they are raised, and to the conscience that directs and steers a Jedi's thoughts and actions. Furthermore, a Jedi is to obey their instincts and intuitions. For these are a Jedi's clearest indicators of the will of the Force.

The Vow of Cleanliness: A Jedi is to be clean in both body and mind. A clean body and the respect for one's appearance is a clear indicator of one's mind and the cleanliness of both allows a Jedi to be more receptive to the Force. A cluttered and contaminated vessel does not allow for the smooth transition and flow of its contents and, as such, it must be cleansed. A Jedi can be viewed in the same light... Through the care and maintenance of themselves the Jedi prepare themselves to be conduits for the Force and enable themselves to be directed by its will.

The Vow of Charity: A Jedi must be giving of themselves. As servants of the Force a Jedi must be willing to give of themselves, their time, and efforts. The Jedi are servants of life and can not contribute to life without effort and dedication. The Jedi are encouraged to help when necessary, to supply when there is need, and hope when there is none.



Ranks within the Temple of the Jedi Order

The Temple of the Jedi Order provides the opportunity for members to learn and grow in experience with the support of those who have already dedicated their lives to Jediism. As such, there is a system of ranking that reflects the development and position of each member within the Order.

Jedi Knight Novice - a member who is currently studying the Initiate's Programme, a comprehensive set of studies that include works on metaphysics, comparative religious studies, personal development and concepts relating to Jediism. For more details, see the section on Study and Qualifications.

Jedi Knight Initiate - a member who has completed the Initiate's Programme, a comprehensive set of studies that include works on metaphysics, comparative religious studies, personal development and concepts relating to Jediism. For more details, see the section on Study and Qualifications.

Jedi Knight Apprentice - a member who has completed the Initiate's Programme and subsequently been accepted by a training Knight or Master to serve an apprenticeship of study. This involves tasks and lessons and is reliant on a good working relationship, dedication and recognition of mutual improvement.

Jedi Knight - a member who has successfully completed their apprenticeship to the satisfaction of their training master and of the Council. They may then go forth and uphold the principles of Jediism as defined by the Solemn Oath and teachings. May also take apprentices of their own.

Jedi Senior Knight - a Knight who has taken on an apprentice and committed to their training.

Jedi Master Knight - a Knight whose apprentice has reached Knighthood and has taken on an apprentice of their own.

Jedi Grand Master Knight - an honorary title bestowed upon Masters for exceptional dedication and service to the Temple of the Jedi Order. As such it is not "higher" than the rank of Master.



Clerical Structure of the Temple of the Jedi Order

The Temple of the Jedi Order (TOTJO) is primarily a Church, providing spiritual guidance and support for its members as well as offering representation in the wider community. The Order is overseen by the Council, composed of the Patriarchs and 5 Cardinal Bishops. The Council is meant to provide a sense of direction without inhibiting the latitude and trust that each Knight and Master deserves.

A) Inhibiting factors to the legality of a person's ministry:

- the application and acceptance of ministry with the full knowledge of being subject to any criminal conviction
- the perpetration of a state defined criminal action posterior to ordination
- the execution of an ordination without confirmation from the Cardinal Bishop
- a medical attest revoking the soundmindedness of the ordinand in question

B) The legality of ministry is very much distinct to and in no way contradicts the quality or validity of that very ministry

Commissioned

A person given a commission for a one-time-only event (such as conducting a marriage ceremony) or for a special mission.

Can be revoked.

Licensed Minister

Has all of the abilities of an Ordained Minister but cannot take confession under the seal recognized by law.

Available to any Temple of the Jedi Order rank of Initiate or higher.

Can be revoked.

Carries the title of Rev. (but not OCP as a suffix to their name).

Deacon

The first "rank" of Ordained Ministers.

Can take confession under the seal recognised by law.

Can conduct liturgical ceremonies.

Is responsible for the moral support of the community.

Available to any Temple of the Jedi Order rank of Knight or higher.

Cannot be revoked.

Carries the title of Rev. as well as OCP as a suffix to their name.

Priest

Generally the same as the Deacon although may share in a greater responsibility for the support of the community.

Can take confession under the seal recognised by law.

Can conduct liturgical ceremonies.

Is responsible for the moral support of the community.

Available to any Temple of the Jedi Order rank of Knight or higher.

Cannot be revoked.

Carries the title of Rev. as well as OCP as a suffix to their name.

Bishop

The fullness of Holy Orders.

Can ordain other ministers.

Can take confession under the seal recognised by law.

Can conduct liturgical ceremonies.

Is responsible for the moral support of the community.

Available to any Temple of the Jedi Order rank of Knight or higher.

Cannot be revoked.

Carries the title of Rev. as well as OCP as a suffix to their name.

Auxiliary

This is a title bestowed upon those who serve in a Jurisdictional capacity over some aspect of the Order.

Auxiliaries assist and in the case of absence represent their respective jurisdictional Arch-Bishop.

Usually a Bishop but can also be bestowed upon an Ordained Minister depending on the circumstances.

As this is a title, it can be revoked (although the Clergy member's Ordination cannot).

Arch-Bishop

This is a title bestowed upon those who serve in a Jurisdictional capacity over some aspect of the Order.

While the holy orders are the same as those of a Bishop, Arch-Bishops may carry the responsibility of jurisdiction over positions such as Chaplain, Defender of the Faith, Clergy and Canon Law or Sergeant at Arms.

As this is a title, it can be revoked (although the Clergy member's Ordination cannot).

Arch-Bishops can be responsible for specific jurisdictional region (such as countries).

Cardinal Bishop

The title of Cardinal Bishop is bestowed upon the Leaders and Senior Pastors of the Order.

They form part of a governing body called the Council of Temple of the Jedi Order.

These persons carry the responsibilities as moral leaders of the community and as servants of the servants of the Force.

Cardinal Bishop is the highest clerical rank in the Order.

As this is a title, it can be revoked (although the Clergy member's Ordination cannot).

Patriarch / Matriarch

Titles reserved for the most senior members of Temple of the Jedi Order who serve as the heads of each Order.



Special Interest Groups

Until January 2011, Temple of the Jedi Order offered additional paths within Jediism in the form of "Rites". This is in some ways a tricky thing to describe. Essentially it is better viewed from ones own perspective and this means how you the individual wish to take Jediism into your own life. One of the most wonderful things of Jediism is that no matter what Religious or Spiritual beliefs one already has and even lives by, Jediism is comfortably integrated with no conflicts. It is simply down to the individual to decide how they will do this.

These Rites are now called "Special Interest Groups". This does not mean that they have any less significance for those wishing to practice them; this change was designed to reflect the greater emphasis on solidarity within Temple of the Jedi Order. The continuing existence of these groups offers a range of perspectives that may be experienced and studied. One of the many virtues of Jediism is the seeking of knowledge and learning; the day we stop learning is the day we stop truly living (Living and existing are not the same). The Special Interest Groups are: Pure Land (Jediism with no other faith), Pagan (encompassing any and all Pagan paths), Abrahamic (faiths relating to Christianity, Islam and Judaism), Buddhist and Humanistic (a secular, non-religious path).



Liturgical Calendar

Jedi United Rite Day - The 3rd Sunday in January.

Celebrating all of the Rites of the Order in the spirit of co-operation, mutual understanding and friendship. Coinciding with World Religion Day, which celebrates the same ideals.

"The National Spiritual Assembly (of the Baha'is of the United States of America) has instituted an annual World Religion Day to be observed publicly by the Baha'i Communities wherever possible throughout the United States. The Third Sunday of January each year has been designated for this celebration."

"Main focus...the "Manifesto for peaceful, active inter-action among the religions...". It had already been signed by 23 religious communities in Stuttgart. In the manifesto, the communities commit themselves to making every effort to ensure that religion will never be misused for political purposes nor to excuse violence by anything they say or do. It emphasizes the communities' active support for the democratic state in which neither extremism nor fundamentalism is to be given an opportunity to take root. The main aim of the manifesto is the meeting and cooperation of religious communities and the promotion of their mutual understanding."

These facts speak for themselves as to why Jedi identify with this Day and why it is included in the list of feast days.

Jedi Knight Master's Day - 6th January.

Honouring the Masters of the Order and all those we consider to be past Masters such as spiritual leaders of the World.. Also in remembrance of Allan Watts, author of The Book (part of the Initiate's Training Programme and a profound influence on the teachings of the Order)

Alan Wilson Watts (January 6, 1915 – November 16, 1973) was a British philosopher, writer, speaker, and student of comparative religion. He held both a master's degree in theology and a doctorate of divinity, is best known as an interpreter of Zen Buddhism in particular, and Indian and Chinese philosophy in general for a Western audience.

He wrote more than 25 books and numerous articles on subjects such as personal identity, the true nature of reality, higher consciousness, meaning of life, concepts and images of God and the pursuit of happiness. In his books he relates his experience to scientific knowledge and to the teachings of Eastern(Asia) and Western culture religions or philosophies (Zen Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Hinduism, etc.).

Jedi Vocations Day - 21st March.

Celebrating the call to Jediism, a path of empathy, understanding and peace and the spirit of union between all people and a hope for peaceful co-operation throughout the world. Coinciding with International Earth Day, which celebrates the same ideals:

The first Earth Day was inaugurated in San Francisco - The City of St. Francis. I had long been familiar with the Prayer of St. Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love..." In 1969 we obtained backing of the Mayor, city officials, churches, schools, businesses - a really all out event with massive coverage in media. While the event was backed by Franciscans and Catholic churches, participation included synagogues and many other denominations. The Red Cross delivered plants to schools for children to take home.

In succeeding Earth Days at the United Nations, we demonstrated that people of diverse creeds and cultures can leave room for their differences and come together for "peace, justice and the care of Earth."

A factor in the choice of the date was my own history. In 1957 I obtained global attention for an editorial in my weekly North Carolina "Toe Valley View" newspaper. The first Sputnik Satellite had just been launched on October 4th. None of the media seemed to note that this was the "Feast Day of St. Francis." And launched by the then Godless USSR! (The person who chose the date must have been a secret Christian.)

My editorial called for a visible "Star of Hope" satellite. It would be launched as a symbol of hope to further understanding and peace on our planet. It obtained front page attention around the world.

My own study and prayer life led to the conviction that we needed a common purpose that would appeal to people of all creeds and cultures - and a way to get attention for it. We needed something that would end history's terrible record of war and injustice.

These thoughts planted the seeds that led to Earth Day.

Another factor was my efforts in 1963 to get global participation in a daily "Minute for Peace." I was

responsible for the Minute for Peace on radio world-wide, which followed the period of mourning for President Kennedy. "Peace begins in the mind." We asked for a one minute radio spot on all stations that would carry the sound of a bell and a thought or prayer for peace. We invited all listeners to join in this special minute - to deepen their commitment and increase their efforts for world peace.

Minute for Peace became the centerpiece of Earth Day. When we ring the UN Peace Bell we invite people world wide to join in two minutes of heartfelt prayer that we will overcome "doubt with faith" and strive to be a responsible Trustee of Earth.

Pray that every year St. Francis Day and Earth Day will bring a new sense of identity with the whole human family and a commitment to see peace through understanding and love -- the love that Jesus revealed. And may we put feet to our prayers with action to help make it happen."

-John McConnell

Pure Land Recollection Day - 13th April.

Celebrating those who follow Jediism with no other faith. The number 13 is traditionally considered to be unlucky and therefore no other feast days exist on the 13th of any month and that is why this date was chosen for this celebration. The day, the 13th. 13 is considered taboo or unlucky by almost every superstitious person that lives and was by any superstitious person that has become one with the Force.

"Superstition (Latin *superstitio*, literally "standing over"; derived perhaps from standing in awe; used in Latin as a unreasonable or excessive belief in fear or magic, especially foreign or fantastical ideas, and thus came to mean a "cult" in the Roman empire) is a belief or notion, not based on reason or knowledge. The word is often used pejoratively to refer to supposedly irrational beliefs of others, and its precise meaning is therefore subjective. It is commonly applied to beliefs and practices surrounding luck, prophecy and spiritual beings, particularly the irrational belief that future events can be influenced or foretold by specific, unrelated behaviors or occurrences..

To medieval scholars the word was applied to and beliefs outside of or in opposition to Christianity; today it is applied to conceptions without foundation in, or in contravention of, scientific and logical knowledge.

Many extant superstitions are said to have originated during the plagues that swept through Europe. According to legend, during the time of a plague, Saint Gregory I the Great ordered that people say "God bless you" when somebody sneezed, to prevent the spread of the disease."

These superstitions were fueled by primitive religions. Something that Jediism is definitely not. There are no positive holidays on the 13th of any month. We do not follow any other religion, therefore we should not fear their taboos. 13 demonstrates our individuality.

International Jedi Day - 25th May.

Paying tribute to the Star Wars films and the influence that they have had on Jediism . May 25th 1977 was the release date of Episode IV (A New Hope).

Founder's Day - 4th June.

Celebrating the birthday of Br. John, the founder of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

Jedi Remembrance Day - 11th September

A day for remembering the "living heroes" of Jediism serving in dangerous situations as well as those who have died in service to their Jedi ideals.. In honour of all those that risked their lives to help others in the Twin Tower attacks of 2001.

"September 11, 2001--a day that will be remembered always. For out of the very worst man was capable of, the very best has been brought forth--through the heroic efforts by firefighters, police and rescue personnel; through the thousands of caring and compassionate volunteers who stepped forward in this time of crisis."

Jedi Memorial Day - 25th October.

To remember those Jedi who have passed over and become one with the Force while celebrating the joyful memories that we have of them. A time of reflection on the cycle of life and death as manifestations of the eternal Force. As the Jedi Code states: "there is no Death, there is the Force".

"Brothers and Sisters in the Force..."

It is our custom to assemble ourselves each year to honor the lives of those who have shrugged off their physical selves and become one with the Force. As Jedi we do not ask why death has visited us, for we have already been granted the wisdom to understand the answer... death is a natural part of life, a transition from the physical body to the spiritual energy of the Living Force. All life is connected through the Force, and death is merely a transistion from the crude physical matter we inhabit to the a pure luminous form. Just as life is drawn from the Living Force upon birth, so does life return to the Living Force upon the transition of physical death. We are thankful for the loving memories of those dear to us who have become one with the Force, and those of us who live on in their absence can take comfort that their presence is still among us, connecting us all through the Force. Remember them as they were in life, for that connection lives on in each and every one of our hearts. Do not mourn for their loss, for they would want us to celebrate instead for the life they lived while among us. "There is no Death; There is the Force." Death is not the end, but only the termination of the phase which we call mortal life... and the beginning of another. The dust of the physical body returns to the earth, but the energy of life rejoins with the Force. Through this knowledge we may call out our Brothers' and Sisters' names and honor their memory, secure in the knowledge that our voices do not travel endlessly throughout time and space, but is heard and understood by them through the Force."

- Grand Master Fr.Jon

Jedi Youngling Day and Pagan Recollection Day - 31st October.

To celebrate the pleasure of unfettered laughter and the spirit of happy childhood. A recollection of the nature of Samhein (pagan festival that celebrates the start of the Celtic year and the time of reflecting on that which has been lost to us) and the knowledge that even in the apparent midst of death, there is life and the opportunity to embrace it whole-heartedly and with joy.

It is a day for us to honour our future and pass on our legacy and traditions. A simple tradition of

making a child smile, and for one day putting aside all the normal rush and routine and spending time with our future.

Temple of the Jedi Order Anniversary Day - 25th December.

The anniversary of the founding of the Order and a time to celebrate those that make up the community, those that built the Order and Temple, those who have come before us and those that are yet to come.

“Today, we not only celebrate Temple of the Jedi Order anniversary but also the community of people who meet here. Today we are celebrating everyone who visits and are members here no matter what walk of life they may come from nor in what way they may participate. In the Force each individual is unique in his own image where everyone has different talents. And just like the ingredients in a recipe we all bring different elements into the community. In addition to celebrating all the different groups and people who are part of our present community, we also remember the people who came before us. We remember the people who founded this Temple years ago and we remember the people who built this Temple site 4 years ago.

The purpose of this remembering is not to dream nostalgically about the past, but to thank the Living Force for the life, work and witness of those people. We remember how they lived and the love and the concern they showed to us, and we acknowledge all of that before Community and Force. Human relationships are not always easy, and the difficulties we have are part of being human and part of the risk of being a member of a community. Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be human. Some relationships are easy and some are difficult. Some take a lot of effort and some very little effort.

Temple of the Jedi Order has shown that our relationship to the Force can be like that too: sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's difficult. Sometimes, our relationship to the Force flows swimmingly for weeks, months, or years, and other times we struggle: either with faith, with closeness, or with perceiving the presence of the Force.

But to acknowledge the difficulties as well as the goodness in our relationships is a truthful thing, and an authentic thing. And the best relationships are the ones in which we are free to be truthful and authentic. Because, when we acknowledge our differences, our disagreements and even our faults, we can make amends and start to move forward constructively. We can learn to forgive and we can learn to be forgiven.

There is one group of people here not mentioned yet. We've mentioned the people who are part of our community today. And we've mentioned the people who have come before us. But we've not mentioned the people who will come after us. As we think about who we are now and who we want to be in the future, some of us will have different ideas; I'd be surprised if there wasn't some disagreement, but all of that is OK.

Let us be mindful as we move forward into what is for us a new year, that the Living Force will move with us and give us the strength to continue to be a community which is forgiving and forgiven. May the Living Force open our eyes and our ears to it's work in our lives and in the world and help us to respond as we are each called. May The Force Be With Us! “

- Grand Master Fr.Jon

Jedi Day of Reflection - 31st December.

A day to reflect on the lessons and experiences that the year has brought and to live in this ever-changing moment of limitless possibilities.

This is a day on which we honour the secular festivity called New Year's Day. We clarify once again in our mind's eye our place in the world and the context we live in. It is a constant reminder that we are given opportunity on each day of the year. So it does not really matter when the year or for that matter the month or week starts. It is the day, it is the now which matters. We want to honour that which the Force has made possible. We as a part of history are still moving with the times. Ironically history is becoming our future.



Study and Qualifications

The Temple of the Jedi Order offers a range of academic and experiential lessons to its members as well as access to an extensive store of wisdom and knowledge. Formal implementations of these studies include:

The Initiate's Programme

This is a set of lessons on a wide range of subjects relating to the principles and ideals of Jediism, including:

- The Power of Myth - discussions on mythology and comparative religious studies by Joseph Campbell
- The Book - reflections on the nature of our being by Alan Watts
- Meditation - techniques and insights by Alan Watts
- The Field - an exploration into the science behind metaphysics and energy by Lynn McTaggart
- Personal Development Tools - discussions of Didactics, Semantics and Etiquette
- World Religions - exploring Buddhism, Hinduism, Monotheism, Paganism and Atheism
- Temple Doctrine - discussion of the Codes, Creed, Oaths, Teachings, Tenets and Vows
- Set lessons - various exploratory lessons relating to Jediism

The Initiate's Programme is designed to provide members with a comprehensive understanding of the principles of Jediism as well as the ability to demonstrate their dedication to the Jedi Way. Knights and Masters are always on hand to provide support, advice and mentoring during the Programme. Members record their lessons and thoughts in a personal journal which stands as a record of their work as well as offering potential training masters the opportunity to ascertain their connection to the member, since a formal apprenticeship is a responsibility that is not undertaken lightly.

Apprenticeship

Following the completion of the Initiate's Programme, members may be selected by a training master (of Knight or Master rank) to undertake a period of apprenticeship, normally lasting at least 6 months. During this time, lessons and tasks are set to deepen the apprentice's understanding of Jediism as well as to allow them to explore and develop their own character. The training master is on hand to encourage and support the apprenticeship during this time and once they are satisfied that the apprentice has reached an acceptable standard, a recommendation of Knighthood is made to the Council for approval.

Degree Qualification Scheme

As a registered Church and theological institution, the Temple of the Jedi Order may issue qualifications in religious studies and this occurs under the Degree Qualification Scheme, a credit-based system which is composed of 3 parts:

Set Programme - this is currently the Initiate's Programme (see above). Successful completion of that programme therefore awards credits to the student to contribute towards their qualification.

Guided Study - each lesson and task set by a student's training master during their apprenticeship will gain credits towards the qualification.

Independent Study - following the completion of their apprenticeship, students may continue their studies using the extensive catalogue of lessons within the Temple of the Jedi Order site, gaining further credits towards the qualification.

Once the student has gained sufficient credits, a qualification is awarded according to the following system:

Associate of Divinity (A.D. or A.Div.) - the first level of qualification.

Bachelor of Divinity (B.D. or B.Div.) - a further level of qualification recognising the additional dedication to study undertaken by the student.

Master of Divinity (M.D. or M.Div.) - awarded to recipients of the Bachelor of Divinity who have undertaken additional clerical training to become an Ordained Minister.

Doctorate of Divinity (D.D. or D.Div.) - this is reserved for Bishops within the Temple of the Jedi Order as a reflection of the dedication, clerical training and experience that they bring to the Order.



Personal Stories

Jediism is a way that is personal to each one of us so here are a few stories from members as a way of explaining how they feel about being a Jedi.

"How it feels to be a Jedi...spiritually Home.

I was lucky to stumble upon Temple of the Jedi Order. I have had a curiosity about life since I was way to young to question adults comfortably. Although, my father did his best to answer my questions as I grew. The main stream religions seem to stuck on the symbolism. And of what I knew of the pagan rites, I wasn't a tree god, flower god kinda person.

One thought I had had before coming to Temple of the Jedi Order was that God, like all of us, but on a much grander scale, was multitasking. There is God (to some) with his fingers in everything. There are gods, where duties are somewhat assigned. But no definition ever really made me happy, so with the knowledge I had, I went with a combination... Leaning on the multitasking, being seen as many personalities.

After listening to the Joe Campbell lectures and realizing that people were taking the symbolism to be actuality. Which actually explained quite a bit. When people take figurative ideas, and turn them into literal objects, all heck breaks loose.

I feel more relaxed. I feel more at peace. I'm not so concerned for my future. If I send out positive energy, both mentally, and physically, then that will make me happier. Thus, make me more content and satisfied.

It makes sense to me, the interconnection of everyone and everything, that is.

But, that is for me. The really great thing, in Jediism, is that we all can have our opinion. No one is right or wrong. There are just opinions and I can happily live mine (I lean toward Pure Land Rite, I believe in the (Life) Force, not a Omnipotent Being), while a Pagan Jedi can live theirs, and a Abrahamic Jedi can have theirs and we all get along....

- Knight Apprentice Jestor

"So what's it like being a 'Jedi' well, whats it like being a pagan, a christian, a muslim, etc etc? - at the end of the day - we are all free to make our own choices and this is something that still seems to be missed even in this day n age. In many respects, many folk 'practise' their chosen faith out of some sort of social duty/obligation, habit or fear - which really is wrong. Yet Jediism is as old as humanity itself, only recently has it been given a name and thus a firm identity.

Ok so being named after a scifi religion may in hindsight not have been the smartest move - but the real world Jediist and fictional Jedi are not the same. We do make good use of the mythology etc from the movies but in all honesty - where did these ideas really come from? They came from existing stories etc which Lucas simply turned into characters.

Would this be any different than (for example) making a film about the life of Jesus but setting it 2000 years in the future?.

The problem with Jediism is the public perception that were all scifi fanatics who can't or won't separate the real world from fantasy land and we dress in costumes and play with plastic swords. The other problem is that most people are unwilling to learn the truth of the matter so there are many deep seated misconceptions, which i guess is common to most faiths.

Its not a matter of embarrassment or 'shame' but I don't 'run about screaming I'm a Jedi' - my faith is my faith and my business and I don't feel I have any right to force (excuse pun) it down anyone else's throat. If someone asks, I'll answer and gladly so, and I'll do my best to dispel misgivings they probably have - the fact is most people are very receptive to the idea once they've busted through the idea of fancy dress and lightsabers. Most, if not all, grounded Jediist will tell you that they wont be shooting lightning from their hands or raising aircraft from swamps with the mind anytime soon - but we all know the true power of the mind and its abilities so we do promote such things as reiki healing. Again, here too is the other slight issue, it's the east/west collision of cultures. Most of our thoughts and teachings (as Jediists) would be very familiar in the east and accepted without too much thought, but in the west, we're still largely reluctant to believe things such as medicine can be anything but modern 'technology' dismissing old/ancient (and proven) methods as 'old fashioned' or worse.

The main great thing about Jediism is that anyone is free to 'think' how they want to. We won't be saying 'read this book and take it as fact or forever be damned' (even though the book in question is thousands of years old and designed for people who couldn't read and probably didn't travel outside their home town any more than 100 miles in their lifetime) - such hard and fast archaic rules just don't work in today's modern society. We (Jediism) don't teach others what to think or believe - what we teach or try to teach is the ability to educate oneself - to develop free thinking, independance from dogma and mind control that has and continues to exist in many forms over many years - ever since societies existed really.

Most 'religions' exist on a basis of power which once came about from brute force - 'join us or die' type mentality - we believe however it is perfectly acceptable to question what were told without the need to resort to confrontation.

The creation story is a good example, there are many who take the biblical version literally - even in this day and age of technology and evidence, that some grey hair guy sat on a cloud and made the earth everything in a few days.

So ok - where did the guy come from - where did his cloud come from, where did he get the parts to make earth and everything? Now these are simplistic questions - and this is why as a teenager I walked away from christianity - the more the teachers spoke about the bible - the more it felt to me like a disney tale. This is largely what took me towards a science based career - I had so many questions which in some ways were answered and yet other small details seemed missing in places. I cant remember when exactly but it occurred to me that what some folk call god, others gaia, and others simply call 'mother nature' was probably the key - and there are things that humans probably won't ever answer (e.g. the big bang etc) but 'something' must be at the root of these things or at least connecting us to everything else.

It was when by chance I wandered into Jediism (it wasn't the temple on Coruscant - it was shut for redecoration) and after a little time, things fell into place (thanks Mr Campbell) - the rest as they say is history."

- Grand Master Knight Kana-Seiko Haruki

"As I do not believe in a god, whether one or many, I'm not sure I can belong to a religion. Which is how I ended up here. I think Jedi, whether as a religion, or a group of folks living a life style, is a good idea. As for a Jedi of this path. I think it is important to follow the same standards as every other Jedi, and to really watch how we word religious statements, and general actions.

As an atheist I have no worry about whether or not I'll end up in hell, or my god will strike me down, the only worry I have is how I feel, and that can lead to a very non-Jedi mind set. "Well, if there aren't any consequences, why should I care if I hurt someone?". I also don't watch how I speak as often as I should. For instance : If someone were to tell me that they believe in (xxx) because of (xxx) and the atheist mind set is incorrect/silly. I wouldn't mind. It's their opinion and I don't have strong ties to any sort of God. So sometimes I find myself telling others the same thing, "You're God is silly, how could (xxx) happen?", but they -do- have strong ties to their God, and find it offensive. So I feel we really need to watch that kind of stuff.

From my father, and his family I received the Mormon teachings, the Christian Bible, and I learned that some people just don't believe in anything special.

I don't know much of my mother's family, a story for a later time, but her step fathers through the years were of so many varied religions, I don't think there's a one she didn't live through.

My mother taught me about Wicca, Buddhism, Taoism, what it means to be a Muslim, how a Hindu family lives, the shamanic ways of meditation and spirit animals, even took me to Spanish Catholic church for a few years, and so on.

and myself : with all of this religion available to me, I chose research. I researched the ancient Egyptian's, Greeks and Romans, the Norse, and anything else I could.

I made connections, formulated my own opinions, and even received rewards for some of the papers I wrote in middle school. I ended up at the end. There is no possible way, that I can see, that any god being exists, unless she, he, it, them, left our earth, thousands of years ago.

So here I am. Either an Atheist, or a Deist, but completely a Jedi."

- Knight Initiate Asasiel



Selected Sermons

Experience is Everything

Despite their destructive power natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires or earthquakes never fail to captivate us. Their destructive power appears out of no where, destroying man or animal or plant alike, only to disappear just as it had popped up. Modern technology such as television, internet, radio or the press has made room for such fascination, by providing the safety of passive long distance viewing. As many here have experienced in recent months to be there is a completely different story. These people have learned to respect that which passive viewers could never understand. The difference between these people is the difference between the plod of everyday life and a life turned upside down. But one lesson from which no one is spared is the reminder of the mortality of our very existence.

There is another power, a creative power of an altogether different dimension and magnitude which fills our lives as Jedi. It is this power which also changes lives. The Force! A Power which fills great and small, men and women alike. It fills our hearts and minds opening them up to a greater universe beyond. Nothing can prepare us for the power of it's world shattering enlightenment, no books, videos, lectures, teachings... To be caught by the fire of the Force means to have to stand in its path. Only this way can your world be turned upside down in a moment. This surge of Creative Force however unifies more powerfully than any of the above mentioned natural powers can tear apart.

To have lain in the wake of the Force means to experience a new world through new eyes. No longer are there separate peoples with different cultures and languages but Jedi who understand and speak the same language. Lives are irrevocably changed others lives and our lives. Hearts are broken open to a new dimension of relationship. There is no limit to the horizon of the Force. As "victims" to the devastating power of the Force Jedi see things differently, know things differently, hear things differently, and are driven into the world to share what they see, and know, and hear.

May the Force be with us all.

- Grand Master Fr. Jon

On Patience and a Positive Attitude

"Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes." It's a sentence we all know. Famous orders given to colonial troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill as the colonial soldiers stood fast, watching a giant sea of red walking toward them, bayonets fixed. I would imagine that the anticipation was nearly sickening. But what was meant by the words, don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes? Do you think that it literally meant to hold your fire until the enemy was that close? Possibly. But I would rather think that the officer in charge of saying this phrase was telling his men to bide their time, and wait for the opportune moment to attack. Don't waste time, and energy (not to mention ammunition) by trying to rush things. Pick your shots, and make sure that they count. Certainly you've heard someone during your life say something along the lines of, "Don't buy the first car that you drive." This follows the same principle. You've gotta wait until you find the one that best suits your needs. One that feels comfortable. One that you can trust to take you from where you are, to where you need to be, safely and reliably. Sound familiar?

One very important factor in our spiritual growth is the attitude that we use to approach it. Attitude can be both a tool, and a hindrance, depending on a person's views when taking on things such as training, study, meditation, waiting to be taken as an apprentice, etc. Someone with a positive outlook on his or her spiritual advancement will have a much easier time of accepting the ever-

important myths of faith and the words of others, as opposed to someone who grows impatient rapidly or views things in a negative light. Nothing worth having comes easily or immediately.

If you believe that you are a Jedi, then you are a Jedi. Plain and simple fact. However, if you wish to study and become a Knight, Senior Knight, or even a Master, then you must walk down a long and difficult path. You must study. You must listen to your fellow Jedi. You must listen to yourself. You must complete assignments. You must contribute to the study of your brethren. In doing all of this, you must be patient. This will take time. You must trust in yourself and your teachers. You have to KNOW that you are going to do this. You must create positive habits that will help you reach your goals. Habits that will help you understand that becoming a Jedi Knight is not what someone teaches you, but what you learn. Even our Masters continue to learn and grow on a daily basis, and some have been Masters for several years.

Becoming an apprentice does not guarantee that you will become a Knight. Once you become an apprentice you will have to believe that all of the assignments that you are doing are worthwhile. And you can't give up when things get tough, either. And trust me, my friend, things will get tough. It all falls back to your attitude and your patience. If you approach an assignment as "Just more homework." Or "Why do I have to do this?" You are already doubting yourself, and your Master. Embrace the assignments that you are given with vigor, and without question. Do the best job that you can. Take the time that you need to complete it efficiently. Use patience in completing your assignments as well as in receiving them. Though you will not see any subterfuge at this Temple, sometimes your Master is looking for an answer that isn't obvious to someone that rushes through it.

Don't approach your Jedi path as a means to an end. Don't look at your studies as the next step closer to being a Knight. It's not the rank or the initials beside your name that define you as a Jedi. It's how you live as a Jedi. What you do with what you learn, and how you apply these teachings. Also, remember that we are not here to change your mind. We are here to open it.

May the Force be with you all.

- Master Nayeldraccon

On the Anniversary of the Founding of Temple of the Jedi Order

Today, we not only celebrate Temple of the Jedi Order anniversary but also the community of people who meet here.

Today we are celebrating everyone who visits and are members here no matter what walk of life they may come from nor in what way they may participate.

In the Force each individual is unique in his own image where everyone has different talents. And just like the ingredients in a recipe we all bring different elements into the community.

In addition to celebrating all the different groups and people who are part of our present community, we also remember the people who came before us. We remember the people who founded this Temple years ago and we remember the people who built this Temple site 4 years ago.

The purpose of this remembering is not to dream nostalgically about the past, but to thank the Living Force for the life, work and witness of those people. We remember how they lived and the love and the concern they showed to us, and we acknowledge all of that before Community and Force.

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part of the risk of being a member of a community.

Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be human. Some relationships are easy and some are difficult. Some take a lot of effort and some very little effort.

Temple of the Jedi Order has shown that our relationship to the Force can be like that too: sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's difficult. Sometimes, our relationship to the Force flows swimmingly for weeks, months, or years, and other times we struggle: either with faith, with closeness, or with perceiving the presence of the Force.

But to acknowledge the difficulties as well as the goodness in our relationships is a truthful thing, and an authentic thing. And the best relationships are the ones in which we are free to be truthful and authentic. Because, when we acknowledge our differences, our disagreements and even our faults, we can make amends and start to move forward constructively.

We can learn to forgive and we can learn to be forgiven.

There is one group of people here not mentioned yet. We've mentioned the people who are part of our community today. And we've mentioned the people who have come before us. But we've not mentioned the people who will come after us.

As we think about who we are now and who we want to be in the future, some of us will have different ideas; I'd be surprised if there wasn't some disagreement, but all of that is OK.

Let us be mindful as we move forward into what is for us a new year, that the Living Force will move with us and give us the strength to continue to be a community which is forgiving and forgiven.

May the Living Force open our eyes and our ears to it's work in our lives and in the world and help us to respond as we are each called.

May The Force Be With Us!

- Grand Master Fr. Jon

Faith, the Individual Truth

In recent times, I have been reminded of the saying "one man's meat is another man's poison" but in the context of rules and regulations so perhaps it would be more appropriate to say "one man's security is another man's prison". Our lives are subject to control in many different ways – from an early age we are told how to behave, to conform, to fit in. This can continue into later life and many people feel unable to break free of this conditioning and assert their own beliefs, or at the very least to find the freedom to explore their own path and to make their own mistakes. Are the Amish communities limiting their experience of life or simply protecting themselves from the less savoury aspects of society?

As a result of the increased violence and terrorist activity in the world, we are subject to an ever-increased amount of laws and regulations designed to limit the possibility of further attacks. Our correspondence is monitored, our streets scanned with a multitude of cameras, our civil liberties are restricted, all in the name of protection. To some this is a comfort, a sign that we are being cared for and losing some of our freedom is a small price to pay for an increased feeling of safety. However, to others this is an unacceptable infringement of the concept of liberty; can you really trust those that are keeping an eye on us? Are their motives benevolent or malevolent? To quote: "who watches the watchmen?"

The same is the case with our systems of faith. A religion that imposes a strict set of rules and code of conduct may to some be providing a guiding light, a comforting sense of direction through life. On the other hand, it may be seen to limit free-thinking and freedom of expression. Certain scholars have argued that the Old Testament, a central component of several major world religions, had been written, or altered, to reflect the wishes of the ruling elite at the time. Take for example, the story of the creation of humans. In some ancient versions, Adam and Lilith were created equal but she refused to lie beneath Adam (i.e. accept his dominance over her) and fled Eden as a result. Variations upon this story have her banished from Eden and turning into a sex-crazed mother of demons. Other (more recent) ones omit her from the story completely, focusing on Adam's subsequent partner, Eve, who was said to be born from him, and therefore demonstrating that females are subservient to males. Is this the word of God or the wish of man?

It all depends on your viewpoint and this is the crucial matter: YOU are the important person in your faith. We are all an essential part of the Force, with an equality that honours the divine within each person. Does your faith serve your purpose? Or does it serve others above you? Does it serve anyone at all? Only you can answer that, just as you are the one to determine your acceptance of the systems that you engage with. There are far too many places in the world where freedom of expression is not allowed, where persecution, prosecution and execution go hand-in-hand if the law of the land (usually claimed as the law of God) is not obeyed.

If you have the ability to choose your path, then honour it with every step you take. All too often, freedom is taken for granted and is only realised when it is taken away. So ask yourself what YOU need. Examine your community: your faith, your place of residence, your circle of friends, even a site such as this. Do the rules of that community serve your purpose or do you feel restricted by them? Do they offer you the chance to develop and learn within a safety net of monitored behaviour? Or do they limit your possibilities? Security or submission – the choice is yours.

May the Force be with you.

- Grand Master Mark Anjuu

Playing the Game

"Boys are often wiser and closer to nature than men are. Each sport has certain rules. Boys do not praise a comrade who breaks the rules, and cheats his way to victory. The fact is, the object of the game is not a prize, or the glory of being proclaimed victor. The true object of the game is the development of strength, skill, hardihood, the joy of endeavor and of comradeship. To break the rules of the game, therefore, is to sacrifice something of that which the boys seek in their sports." - The Coming People, by Charles F. Dole

It's not fair!!

I hear this all the time. Those of you with children still hear this as well, those of you that know, or are around children probably hear it less, those of you seldom around kids have probably heard other adults exclaim this.

And it isn't...Life, is life... It is, what it is. Why do we grow up thinking life is supposed to be fair? It's what we are taught... Moms, sitters, caretakers of the young, look over us and our play companions, making sure everyone plays fair. Then we grow up, and enter the real world. Oh man!! We get in trouble for talking in class... "They talked to me first!!", you shout... "Ah-ha," says the teacher, "But it was you who I caught..." Well, dang. That's not fair...

We begin dating, he/she leaves us for our best friend. Dang, that's not fair either. "If life is not fair, then I'll have to take what I want. Take what I think is deserved by me", you think. "Grab the bull by the horns", "Lookout for number one..", and, "The one to die with the most toys, wins..."

We lose the positivity of game playing, the pure enjoyment of the game, as coaches and our parents push us to win. We see the "winners" breaking the rules and think, "Well, everyone else is doing it..." To succeed, be the winner, be... number one... That must be the point.... Right? Then, the moment we start to think like that, we begin to lose and the more we cheat, in any form, the more it goes against our nature. Angry, we become...

"Why does all this bad stuff keep happening to me?". "What did I do to deserve this?"

Honestly, this was me, at one time. "I'm a good guy," I thought, "What cosmic force did I annoy? What god did I anger?" As I have come to find out, "I" was the cosmic force I had made angry. I am the Force, as much as everything else around me.... And I was unhappy with the decisions I was making and the way with which I had been living my life....

I was not a bad guy, I just was not as good a guy as I could have been. To myself and those around me. I had questions, goals, ambitions, that I needed to face. Not to mention the excessive screw ups for which I needed to amend. The points, which I picked out of my lessons, when coming up through the program, were many faceted. Like anything, the things that jumped out at me, while similar to everyone else's, but applied toward my path, I found more personal.

Once I started "playing fairly", it seemed the universe started playing "fairly" as well. Or was I not fighting the true nature of a man any longer? One of the points I learned was that we are here to help one another. I knew that as a child, but the attachment (uh-oh) that I placed upon me getting my share of fairness, threw my natural balance out of whack. I think the balance is tricky. To not give too much, and not take too much, for neither is healthy. But finding the balance...

But then, the most prominent point is, it's the journey not the destination. Not to win, but to play.....

- Knight Jestor

On the Occasion of Jedi Youngling Day / Pagan Recollection Day

This time of year traditionally focuses on reflecting that which we have lost and naturally evokes feelings of loss, grief, sadness and despair. Much has been said recently on this subject and we have experienced this in all manner of personal ways. But it is easy to forget that in the midst of all this darkness there remains the light, for there cannot be one without the other. As we draw together as a community, we look to the fruits of the summer and the spoils of our work to see us through the harsher times ahead and nowhere is this better reflected than in the children, who absorb all the energies and devotions lavished upon them in order that they will one day stand proud and carry the weight of the tribe.

It is therefore fitting that one of the darkest festivals of the year (Samhein/Halloween) is also marked as Jedi Youngling Day, a time when we honour those who are taking their first steps into the world as Jedi. Although this usually refers to those of a younger age, the same can be applied to all who have recently committed to the Jedi way. There's no such thing as an "instant expert" or a "shortcut Master" and everyone has had to start somewhere. Even those of us who have walked similar paths for many years can still find something new and exciting in every experience, every conversation, every new dawn, and it is with this spirit in mind that we celebrate.

Children are also innocent – as we grow we become cluttered by the experiences around us, the influences of those we meet, the opinions we form about the world, and this can blind us to the simple, joyous nature of the Force. We can spend so much time worrying about how to live our lives that we completely forget to experience it! As Jedi we strive to follow the principles and teachings embodied by the Temple of the Jedi Order Doctrine but we do this so that we may live for the greatest benefit to all, and to fulfil our highest purpose. In a sense we need to untrain

ourselves from the baggage that we have picked up along the way.

As infants we exist in a state of wonder and joy, exploring the new world around us without fear. Consider the following lines from the Jedi Creed:

*Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.*

Can you think of a better example of pure love, pardon, faith, hope, light and joy than an innocent child? Even those who have achieved a state of divine bliss such as Jesus or Buddha have had to undo their lives to reach that point. As such, these great teachers recognise these principles as a source of inspiration:

"And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:2-3)

As we mature, the responsibilities of society, family, work and other commitments may force us to let go of some of that enjoyment and to focus on more serious matters: *"When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things."* (1 Corinthians 13:11)

This weekend is an opportunity to enjoy yourself, to cut loose as if you were a child again, to once more explore that joyous feeling of wholesome abandon. Spread joy, make laughter, turn those frowns upside down. The seeds of the future are sown as the generations to come – they are the returning light that we will celebrate in all good time. So honour them, and yourselves.

May the Force be with you this season and always!

- Grand Master Mark Anjuu

Ethnocentrism

I felt compelled to write this week with a very special day approaching here in the United States. On September 11, we will be remembering the many that were killed in the attacks in New York nine years ago. Many nations grieved with us and we thank those who have offered kind words in remembrance. The towers now gone and a hole left where they once stood we are troubled again with conflict in the area as there is protest about plans to build a mosque near the area as mentioned in another blog recently. Another event that has led me to write this is a dispute between a couple family members about how Jediism is not real because it does not fall into their definition of their religion. As we are all individuals and entitled to our own opinions this is my opinion on matters of discrimination and the lesser evil of ethnocentrism.

Ethnocentrism is a term that until recently I had not heard. It was mentioned in an Anthropology class that I am taking this year and the book definition is "The practice of viewing the customs of other societies in terms of one's own." And "The belief that one's own culture is superior to all others." Where this sounds much like discrimination I see a subtle difference as ethnocentrism is more a mental view that can lead to acts of discrimination. Both however are in dire need of elimination.

As stated on this site one of our Jedi beliefs is stated as: Jedi believe in working towards a culture that is relatively free of discrimination on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, national origin, degree of ability, age, etc. In order for this to happen we first need to find a way to stop seeing our unique cultures as superior to others. Everyone in this world and even the universe is

as different as snowflakes. How then can we say that one is better than another? Are blue eyes better than brown? Is engineering knowledge better than security knowledge? Even though this is an apples to oranges look it also hold true to apples to apples. I may prefer green apples and you, red. The only thing we can really say is that one is better for me.

Focusing on the religious standing, nobody can say that they have all the answers to what is right and what is wrong. We must all look at our own life and figure out what works for us. How do we do that? The best way is started in our initiates program with a study of several religions. We can also branch out into studying as many other religions and beliefs as we can. In this way we are broken free of the known ideas that re are raised to believe and forbidden to question. Only after we have all the facts and once we see all the angles can we decide which view is right for us. The biggest mistake that many make next is that once we see what is right for us we then assume that it is best for everyone else. So, step two is to understand that different does not mean better. We do not have to go out and convert members to believe as we believe because we see our way as the right way. All that we can do is to hold true to our values and beliefs and if others choose to follow then we can guide them to understand what we see as right. The third step then is to accept others rights to believe as they choose.

Here at the Temple we believe in a Syncretistic look at religion in such we may remain members of whatever faith we have and add to it the belief and faith of the temple. This outlook still does not make us better than any other religion just better for us and different than others. Let us be free of the need to feel better than other people. Let us reach out and see that the acts of one person do not define the beliefs of the culture as a whole. Just because the terrorist that attacked the Twin Towers were Muslim does not mean that all Muslims are terrorist. Ethnocentrism in these cases can be stated in one of my favorite quotes saying: "We all judge by our own standards". Let us judge by the standard of tolerance, understanding, and peace. May the Force be with us all.

- Senior Knight Damion Storm

Vocation (on the Occasion of an Ordination)

What would you say if someone was to ask you the following question: who are you? You could reel off a list of personality traits, of interests, even a psychological profile. But what about the question: what do you do for a living? So many people work to pay bills, satisfy commitments, conform to an ideal, but is that all? Are you following the call of the Force, whispering to you and guiding you to where you need to be – if not, then you may find that it ends up shouting or even pushing until the decision is almost forced out of you.

In days gone by, people would find their profession and make it their world. A blacksmith, for example, would always be a blacksmith. They would train, work and live for that very purpose. There was no separation between what they did and who they were. Nowadays it is less common to find such a dedication to a particular field and the pressures of modern life contribute to that feeling of isolation from one's true purpose. Working to live has replaced living to work.

There may be times in your life when you are faced with the possibility of doing things your own way and this need not be something so major as a career choice. Every interest we have plays a part in our enjoyment of life, every thing that lifts our hearts brings us closer to an acceptance of our true selves. You might not be able to quit your job and follow your dream but that doesn't mean that you can't chase it in your spare time. Hobbies, sports, activities: these are all ways of exploring our needs.

Let's look at the concept of "vocation". From the Latin meaning "to call", this term originated in Christianity. According to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: "the word refers to our many callings as God's baptized people - whatever our places and opportunities in life, we are

called to serve others with love “. The same is true of ourselves – if we follow our heart and listen to the ways of the Force, we can open our entire being to a compassionate and rewarding experience of our own divine essence.

Today we have the opportunity to experience an example of this: one of our brothers in Jediism is committing himself to serving the Force and administering to our community. As an Ordained Minister, he will be expected to provide support and supplication where needed. The Force has led him to this place and he has answered that call with diligent study and dedication, embodying the Jedi Tenets of Focus, Knowledge and Wisdom. By taking the Oaths of Ordination and trusting in the will of the Force, he is following the flow wherever he is guided.

Take a moment to examine the signs in your own life – is there something that you always wanted to do but were afraid to attempt? Do you feel that you should be living a life that's different from your own? Realising this is the first step towards the eventual goal of satisfaction, of truly being at one with the Force. In Taoism, an Eastern form of philosophy and life-guidance, the Way (known as the Tao) is likened to a river or stream that knows exactly where it needs to be; like water, the Force will find a way of being exactly what it should at any given time. We have many ways of resisting this current – perhaps we fear the consequences, maybe our logic and reason conclude that it's not in our interest, maybe it just seems too hard to contemplate. As Jedi, we strive to be guided by our emotions but not controlled by them and throwing rocks of self-made restrictions into the river only serves to make a big splash, covering ourselves with the cold spray of confusion.

Through diligent application of techniques such as meditation, self-examination and communing with the Force, we can achieve all that we need to and become the person that we should be, embodying our highest potential at every moment. Whatever we do, whatever we are, there is a place for us in this astounding and amazing Universe. When the the call comes, how will you answer it?

- Grand Master Mark Anjuu

Facing our Hidden Self

Everyone alive has two selves, some admit to it, some don't, and some may have more. My point in this statement is that we all separate the self we allow others to see with the self inside that has worries... fears... wants... A warrior will hide emotions so that they may gain confidence, and not show weakness, A waitress will put on a smile to hide her anger or disgust at a situation, we all do this in varying degrees, allowing others to see what we want them to see, or when tempers flare, they may see some extra leaking out.

This isn't a bad thing, while we are at work and disagree about a policy, or situation, keeping it to ourselves may keep us our job, or allow us to go about our day without extra conflict. The problem is when we do this so long without realizing it, we get disconnected with our own inner self. Part of my own personal journey was coming to terms with both my inner self and the outer self.

Part of this is facing all the inner demons, the secrets that we keep buried, and even the memories that we don't want to face again, sometimes to the point of thinking of them as dreams or nightmares and not memories. We all get to a point and face parts or even all of this, some of us may have already done this, others may be getting to the point where they will need to. Note that I am not saying that these two selves need to merge, but they need to be on speaking terms or we become unbalanced, erratic, or even overly emotional.

There is no one way to go on this journey, it faces each person differently. Sometimes just recognizing it or even recognizing the wants that one may try to deny may begin the healing and communication. I won't try to go into how one may heal or re-connect, as that is a personal journey

that I believe we all go through, but I will say that we should occasionally turn inward and look at ourselves to see how well we are holding the balance within our own mind.

- Master Jasper Ward

Selfishness and Selflessness

"Who is more important, you or others? The conclusion is clear; even if minor suffering happens to all others; its range is infinite, whereas when something happens to me, it is limited to just one person. When we look at others in this way, oneself is not so important." ~ The Dalai Lama

All too often people think only of themselves. As you go about your daily life take notice as people sit by and watch bad things happen to others, or cause bad things to happen to others. Often they comfort themselves by saying: "better them, then me". When something bad happens to someone else it affects not only that person but everyone that depends on that person. A mother, a father, a daughter or a son that's waiting or in need of something, or someone.

When people act selfishly others suffer, but when people act selflessly others prosper.

In your daily life take notice when people help others. Something as simple as changing a tire for a mother on her way to the grocery store alleviates suffering not only for her but her family. This is where the idea of the golden rule comes into play: do unto others as you would have others do unto you. By limiting suffering to only one's self we allow others to grow and prosper, if each person does this then suffering is removed from the world and everyone prospers, ourselves included.

Imagine a world where no one suffers.

As Jedi we must constantly and consciously remember this: By emphasizing the safety and serenity of others we in turn guarantee the safety and serenity of ourselves. For it is in placing importance on the self that the universe comes undone.

How does one accomplish this? Simple, by helping, whether it's carrying a bag or changing a tire, nothing is too small to make a big difference. Lend an ear to someone in need of talking, bring a smile to someone sad, these may seem like trivial things yet to others they can make a mountain of difference.

When you wake up in the morning ask yourself: who is the most important person? Is the answer yourself? Or is it someone else? If you think of someone other than yourself right away then you are well on track to freeing the world of suffering and strife.

- Senior Knight RyuJin

Live and Let Live

I think it is fair to say that everyone has a relative who is either known in the family for it or it is seemingly only you who think it, but we nearly all have a relative who is either a bit annoying, talks too much for too long on the phone, or never stops complaining, or never stops talking about their little boy/girl who is obviously the golden child, or indeed an auntie or uncle who is just simply mad/insane/weird. It could be you older/younger brother/sister who bugs the hell out of you – plays their music too loud (or just has no taste in music) or another relative who is plain selfish sometimes. There is a whole host of annoyances and little habits/traits that drive us insane – yet – as mad as we feel about them – we still love em – and generally we put up with it – or have a

minor squabble with the culprit about it but nothing more. We learn to love them for it – and in fact sometimes miss it.

Of course – I'm talking about relatives here – but here is a thought – according to anthropologists (people who study/research our human ancestry and evolution) we all descend from 1 of 7 females – that is to say in our DNA on a certain female inherited strand – we all share 1 of 7 characteristics.

Simply put (albeit distantly) one person out of every seven is likely to be a distant relative – and that's 1 in 7 of anyone in the world. That's right 1 in 7 are relatives.

We all have gripes and complaints against individuals outside of our family – we may even have gripes/grudges against particular groups or even nationalities yet 1 in 7 of those people (that you've never met or talked too or know anything about) are probably your relatives.

However – lets cast the relations web even farther a field and encompass everyone - everyone on our planet – everyone who has lived or has yet to live is in fact our brother or sister –

Our Brothers and Sisters in the Force.

So when we all have our differences, our gripes, our moan etc be it with family, friends, work colleagues, classmates, or you think your boss/superior officer is some sort of moron or the person driving in front of you is seemingly trying to drive their car as if it were a steam roller – sure have your moan or even your few seconds of fuming – its only natural.

But then drop it – put it behind you – don't let it fester and grow as the only person that actually suffers in the long run is yourself and by having an air of anger around you – you affect those closest to you whether you intend to or not. Not everyone sees the world in the same way – we all have our different ways of doing the same thing or looking at things.

Likewise – if we can – we should try to spread this way around – It isn't necessary to do this verbally, by preaching – but simply by our actions and the way we behave. If everyone treated everyone else like family – it's a safe bet the world would be a happier healthier place for us all to live and work in.

We should all remind ourselves everyday that we are Jedi - we know better than to stew over what are generally small irritants – most of these things are in fact events of the past, the past is history, the present is a gift, and the future is ahead of us.

We all likely have habits that grate on others. Be aware of you interactions with those around you, because they do echo into the future – call it karma if you will, or use the phrase 'what goes around comes around' whatever you call it – it is the way of The Force and remember the most important thing in any of our lives is family.

- Grand Master Kana Seiko Haruki

Personal Responsibility

My nephew recently started attending meetings of the Boys Brigade, which is similar to the Scouts but with more of an emphasis on Christian teachings. Even though a section of our family is Methodist, our immediate family is quite diverse in our beliefs – paganism, Jediism, atheism – and the driving force for this decision was to provide companionship, activities and discipline until he is old enough to join the Beavers, the youth section of the Scouting movement. As can be expected, members of the Boys Brigade spend time each meeting focusing on aspects of the Christian faith. A few days later, casual blasphemy from my sister (as a result of cutting her thumb while cooking) was met with a response from my nephew of "you shouldn't say that because God watches everything you do." When I asked him who he believed God was, the reply was "he's a person who

watches what you do and doesn't like it when you're naughty". This got me thinking....

I understand that deep theological discussions may be too much for a 5-year-old to digest but in this instance, the notion of the Christian God in all its diversity had been reduced to the status of watchful admonisher whose sole role was to enforce "good behaviour" and punish the "bad". So many faiths build such a concept into their ideas of divinity along with rules and regulations deemed to emanate from such spiritual guidance. The Bible is packed full of metaphorical "do"s and "don't"s and even has its own handy reference table in the Ten Commandments; the Koran and Torah have similar notions; Buddhist principles encourage concepts of "right action", "right thought", "right speech", etc. But who enforces these rules?

It is certainly true that a great deal of religions impose on their believers the threat of punishment if transgressions are made. Sinners burning in Hell might be an obvious example of this but just as controlling is the "carrot on a stick" approach of rewarding good behaviour – do what we say and you will have everlasting peace in Heaven. Either way, it's a case of follow the rules and be rewarded, break them and face punishment. Generally in such cases there are entities in place to carry out such decrees, such as Satan and his demons flinging evil-doers into fiery pits while God and his angels fly the devout to a pious eternity.

In other faiths, such responsibility is borne by the individual – you reap the rewards of "good behaviour" and suffer the less palatable consequences of the "bad". In many neo-pagan traditions, this is summarised in the phrase "an' ye harm none, do what ye will". In other words, do what you like as long as it doesn't harm anyone. This simple phrase is complicated in practice – every action taken must be referenced to this and you are also included in the "harming anyone" notion; activities that cause you pain and suffering are also discouraged. But there is a certain ambiguity about this process that relies on the individual's moral compass. It is up to each of us to judge what is beneficial or detrimental to our own being and it is this deep internal reflection that is central to Jediism.

While Temple of the Jedi Order ascribes to a particular Doctrine and Creed, the contents may be seen as a "guide to life", or a set of instructions designed to allow each person to develop their moral sensibilities within a certain viewpoint and to ensure that every action taken is the most beneficial – to themselves, to others, and to the Force itself. How we enforce this guidance is up to us. Only you can know how well you are living up to these standards; while others may offer a perspective gained from a less personally-biased stance, you are the one dealing with your own thoughts and motivations.

There will be times when you have the ability to embody much of the teachings of Jediism but there will also be times when such behaviour is further from your experience. It is certainly useful to maintain personal standards because without such a goal, we lack the motivation to further our development. But when we admonish ourselves, it may be wise to consider the notion of harm again. Are you being too harsh on yourself? Are you not being hard enough? If you have failed to live up to your expectations how do you deal with this; would berating yourself excessively provide motivation to try better next time, or would it just cast you into a greater sense of failure, achieving nothing positive?

While those at the Temple – friends, colleagues, teachers, Masters – are here to help you and support your learning and development, the responsibility for maintaining discipline is ultimately your own. Be kind to your mistakes for they provide a useful lesson and such things are a part of what it means to be human. Strive to excel but try not to harm yourself, or others, in the process. Chasing after a positive standard can be more beneficial than being chased from a negative one. But whatever your motivations, however you feel guided to walk your path and to stay "on the straight and narrow", remember that you are an essential part of the Force and each and every one of us is divine. When we consider such a realisation, it becomes easier to "do the right thing" for ourselves and each other.

- Grand Master Mark Anjuu

The Greatness of You

I would like to teach you all about a little lesson taught to me by some of the greatest Jedi to walk this temple. It's about the greatness within. This sermon isn't going to be fancy or eloquent. Heck, it prolly won't even be well put together....i was never any good at this teaching thing. But please know that this comes from my heart. I believe this with all my soul's power and strength.

It doesn't matter. It really doesn't. How big or small you are. Your rank and job don't matter either. But inside of each and everyone of you is greatness. You look deep inside yourself and you feel hurt. All your heart knows is pain, loss, envy....it doesn't remember the joy. So you sit and read this lesson, but you don't take it to heart. I want you to stop and think. Remember if you would, all the pain and hardship and sorrows in your life. The sting of heart-break....the sting of death....that pang you get everytime someone cuts down your self-worth....

Now stop. Think of one person who loved you unconditionally through thick and thin. There is at least one. Think of your goals, and now think of that person cheering you on. I know you may want to save the world and be the greatest super hero ever, but to that ONE person...you already are.

Inside each of you is greatness. It roars and rears it's mighty head, but you think it gets stifled by those that cut you down. Inside you is a light that wants to be seen. Don't let others block your light! Someone believes in you! So when you don't have the strength to carry your burden...when it just becomes to much....remember that one soul who has unwaivering faith in you. When you see their face in your mind....smiling...cheering you on...the greatness inside of you rears and roars and you feel it.

And you finally realize what it feels like to be loved.

- Master War Beauty



Knighting Ceremony

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Welcome one and all to this, the occasion of bestowing Knighthood upon a worthy member of our Order. Let us begin the ceremony in reflective prayer:

(a prayer)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

May the Force be with you all.

EVERYONE:

And also with you.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Having completed the requirements prescribed by Temple of the Jedi Order and been deemed worthy by her Brothers and Sisters therein, (CANDIDATE) begs leave to come forward to receive the responsibility of Knighthood which she has earned. Are you (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME), known herein as (CANDIDATE)?

CANDIDATE:

Yes, I am

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Are you prepared to accept the accolade of Knighthood this day?

CANDIDATE:

Yes, I am.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will the candidate's training Master please step forward and announce themselves.

TRAINING MASTER:

I am (TRAINING MASTER), (RANK) of Jediism and training master to (CANDIDATE).

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the candidate completed all of the required training as prescribed by Temple of the Jedi Order?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the Candidate duly registered as prescribed by Temple of the Jedi Order?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the candidate under any judicial ban that would prevent the taking of this office at this time?

TRAINING MASTER:

No, s/he is not.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the candidate a member in good standing?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, s/he is.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And are you satisfied that the candidate is ready to accept the mantle of Knighthood?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, I am.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

As a representative of the Council of Temple of the Jedi Order, I give my consent to this Knighting. I would ask any other such senior members here present to state their agreement if this be the case..

(other senior members agree)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

A knight is sworn to valor.
Their heart knows only virtue.
Their blade defends the helpless.
Their word speaks only truth.
Their Shield shelters the forsaken.
Their courage gives hope to the despairing.
Their justice undoes the wicked.
Their image brings peace.
Their code breaks the darkness,
Their legend brings light

The responsibilities of Knighthood are many. As a representative of this Order, you must uphold the teachings, practices and tenets of Temple of the Jedi Order as well as embodying the virtues, lessons and spirit of Jediism. You may also wish to contribute to the future of the Order by dedicating time and energy to the training of future Knights. May wisdom be your guide, may courage strengthen your soul, may compassion steer your heart and may the Force be with you always.

CANDIDATE, do you undertake to follow the Doctrine, teachings and tenets of Jediism as proclaimed by Temple of the Jedi Order?

CANDIDATE:

I do

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

The time has come to administer the Jedi Creed. (CANDIDATE), please repeat after me
(candidate to repeat the following lines, one at a time)

I believe in The Living Force Of Creation:

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

In honour of the commitment and dedication to Temple of the Jedi Order that is required of a Knight, you are also asked to take the Solemn Oath, a record of which will be kept in the archives. (CANDIDATE), will you make this vow in the form of the appropriate forum post?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

We are all Jedi. The Force speaks through us. Through our actions, the Force proclaims itself and what is real. Today we are here to acknowledge what the Force has proclaimed. By the right of the Council, by the will of the Force, I dub thee Jedi Knight of Temple of the Jedi Order. May the Force be with you always!

Should any member wish to add anything, please feel free to do so now.

(time for people to add their own contributions, if any)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I declare this ceremony to be complete. May the Force be with us all.



Ordination Ceremony: Deacon/Priest

BISHOP:

The Peace of the Living Force be with you all.

ALL:

And also with you

BISHOP:

The Force calls its people to witness, and some of these people it calls to minister its truths and mysteries to others. To serve this need, The Force has given particular ministries. Ministers are ordained to lead the Force's people on their respective paths and to guide them to self discovery and understanding. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Jedi always, before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow Ministers, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of doctrine and guidance, that we all may grow into the fullness of the Force and better understand ourselves.

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Bishop (BISHOP) of the Force, I present (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME), known herein as (CANDIDATE), to be ordained to the office of (DEACON/PRIEST) in the Jedi Order; s/he is to serve all others as Minister of the Force.

BISHOP:

Have those whose duty it is to know (CANDIDATE) and examine him/her found him/her to be of Right action as Jedi and of sound learning?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

They have.

BISHOP:

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve The Force in this ministry?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

They do.

BISHOP:

(CANDIDATE), do you believe that The Living Force of Creation is calling you to this ministry?

CANDIDATE:

I do so believe.

BISHOP:

I invite the presenting minister to confirm that (CANDIDATE) has taken the necessary oaths as Jedi.

PRESENTING MINISTER:

He/she has duly taken the oath of the Jedi and to the Doctrine of the Temple. He/she has affirmed and declared their belief in the faith which is revealed in the Force and set forth in the Jedi creed and to which the Masters bear witness.

The bishop introduces a period of silent reflection with the following bidding or other suitable words

BISHOP:

Let us reflect on the Force and its Will:

Living Force of Creation,
you have called us into fellowship to
meditate on your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servant now to be ordained
the needful gifts of Focus, Knowledge, and Wisdom.

Will those gathered here please repeat the Jedi Creed, one line at a time, after me:

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
I am a Jedi.
I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is with me always, for I am a Jedi.

Ministers are called to be servants among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to guide and aid others on their Paths in the Force. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Church; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his/her family, to search for his/her children in the wilderness of this world, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may grow in knowledge and wisdom of the Force. They are to call their hearers to live in the present and to protect the peace. They are to uphold the teachings of Jediism. By their actions we grow. By their teachings we understand. They are to tell the story of love and illuminate the compassion of the Force. They are to unfold the Doctrine in season and out of season, and to declare the teachings of the Masters of this faith and others. They are to preside at the Force's door and lead its people in Learning, offering with them a spiritual guidance of understanding and tolerance. They are to bless the people in The Force. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Living Force of Creation, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all people; that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

(CANDIDATE), we trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the Living Force of Creation, to devote yourself wholly to this service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of the Doctrine and grow in knowledge of the Force, the lives of all with whom you touch may be enlightened and given peace.

And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Doctrine as revealing all things necessary for faith as a Jedi?

CANDIDATE:

I do so accept them.

BISHOP:

Will you be diligent in Meditation, in reading the Doctrine, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the Living Force of Creation?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

BISHOP:

Will you lead the church's people in understanding of the Force, so that they may grow in compassionate realization of its power?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

BISHOP:

Will you faithfully minister the doctrine as the church has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

BISHOP:

Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to The Living Force, strive to be an instrument of peace in the Church and in the world?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

BISHOP:

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of the Jedi, that you may be a pattern and example to Jedi everywhere?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

BISHOP:

Will you work with your fellow servants in the church for the sake of all people?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

BISHOP:

Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

BISHOP:

Will you then, in the strength of the Living Force, continually stir up the gifts that are in you, to make present compassion and tolerance among all whom you serve?

CANDIDATE:

The Force be with me, I will.

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Brothers and sisters of the congregation, you have heard how great is the charge that Robert is ready to undertake, and you have heard their declarations. Is it now your will that he should be ordained?

ALL:

It is.

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Will you continually pray for them?

ALL:

We will.

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

ALL:

We will.

BISHOP:

In Living Force of Creation we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is the understanding, focus, and knowledge, of all people. It is to The Force you will render account for your stewardship of its people. You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of The Force. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Force be enlightened.

As an instrument of the will of the Force and on behalf of the Council of Temple of the Jedi Order, I hereby declare that (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME) is ordained as a (DEACON/PRIEST) and Minister of the Force and shall henceforth be known as Rev. (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME) OCP.

The Force, who has called you is faithful. May the Force, whose mystery is unknown, bless you and send you to teach and counsel those who suffer and are in need of Compassion. May the Living Force of Creation guide you in its infinite wisdom, that you may share its peace with all others. May the comfort of the Force equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. Go and teach that others may understand. May The Force Be With You Always!

ALL:

And also with you.

BISHOP:

Peace be with you all. The ceremony is now complete.



Ordination Ceremony: Bishop

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Blessed be The Force and blessed be its people, now and for ever

Living Force of Creation, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your mystery, that we may perfectly love all people, and worthily understand your ways. The Force is with us!

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

The Force, the clergy and people of the Temple of the Jedi Order, trusting in the guidance of the Force, have chosen (CANDIDATE) to be a Bishop and chief pastor. We therefore ask you to lay your hands upon him/her and in the power of The Force to consecrate him/her a bishop in the Temple of the Jedi Order.

The Presiding Bishop then directs that testimonials of the election be read.

When the reading of the testimonials is ended, the Presiding Bishop requires the following promise from the Bishop elect

CANDIDATE:

In the Living Force of Creation, I, (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME), chosen Bishop of the Church, solemnly declare that I believe in the power of the Living Force of Creation and that I willingly choose to confirm and uphold the Doctrine and discipline of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Brothers and sisters in the Force, you have heard testimony given that (CANDIDATE) has been duly and lawfully elected to be a bishop of the Temple to serve in the Church. You have been assured of his/her suitability and that the Church has approved him/her for this sacred responsibility.

Is it your will that we ordain (CANDIDATE) a bishop?

ALL:

Yes it is.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you uphold (CANDIDATE) as Bishop?

ALL:

We will.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Peace be with you

ALL:

And also with you.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Let us pray:

Living Force of unchangeable power and eternal light: Work favorably in your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your Wisdom, let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by the power of your will.

May the Force be With us.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

My brother/sister, the people have chosen you and have affirmed their trust in you by acclaiming your election. A bishop in the Temple of the Jedi Order is called to be one with the Force and an expert in interpreting the Doctrine, and to testify to The Living Force of Creation's power in the Universe.

You are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and to provide for the administration of the Church; to ordain Ministers and to join in ordaining bishops; and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire Jedi Community and the World.

With your fellow bishops you will share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. Your heritage is the faith of The Masters. Your joy will be to follow The Force, not to be served, but to serve, and to give your life to the celebration of Peace. Are you persuaded that The Force has called you to the Work of a bishop?

CANDIDATE:

I am so persuaded.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you accept this call and fulfill this trust in Humility in the Force?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the study of the Doctrine and other faiths, that you may have the mind of a Jedi?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you boldly proclaim and interpret the Doctrine of the Church and The will of The Force, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

As a chief pastor, will you encourage and support all people in their gifts and ministries, nourish them from the riches of The Force, pray for them without ceasing, and celebrate with them the diversity of our church?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you share with your fellow bishops in the government of the whole Church; will you sustain your fellow ministers and take counsel with them; will you guide and strengthen all others who minister in the Church?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

(CANDIDATE), through these promises you have committed yourself to The Force, to serve this Church in the office of Bishop. We therefore call upon you, chosen to be a guardian of the Church's faith, to lead us in confessing that faith.

CANDIDATE:

Will all present please repeat after me, one line at a time:
(all to repeat each line)

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
I am a Jedi.
I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Living Force of Creation, Master of mercies and source of all comfort, knowing all things before they come to pass: We thank you for gathering and preparing our people to understand the knowledge and wisdom you lay out before us. Therefore we bear witness to (CANDIDATE) becoming a bishop in the temple of the Jedi Order. Pour out upon him the power of your unity, whereby the Church is built up in every place.

To you, the members and Jedi of The Temple, all hearts are open; fill this, your servant, whom you have chosen to be a bishop in the Church, with such love of all the people, that he/she may feed and tend the Force and it's people, and exercise without reproach the high vocation to which you have called him/her, serving before you day and night in the ministry of reconciliation, declaring pardon, offering gifts, and wisely overseeing the life and work of the Church. In all things may he/she present before you the acceptable offering of a pure, and gentle, and Jedi life. The peace of the Force be always with you.

ALL:

And also with you.



The following ceremonies are taken from the Pure Land (Jediism) section of Temple of the Jedi Order. As such they do not represent the practices of every member but may serve as useful inspiration. Ministers are encouraged to devise their own ceremonies with the intuitive guidance of the Force and in accordance with the needs of the situation.



Marriage Ceremony

MINISTER:

Friends and relatives, we have come here today at the invitation of _____ and _____ to share in the joy of their wedding. This outward celebration that we shall see and hear is an expression of the inner love and devotion they have in their hearts toward one another. this union is a symbolic representation of our union with the force.

_____ and _____ come today desiring to be united in this sacred relationship of marriage.

Who is giving this woman to be married to this man?

FATHER/MOTHER:

I/we do!

MINISTER:

Marriage is a gift in that we give ourselves totally to one another. marriage is a gift given to comfort the sorrows of life and to magnify life's joys.

Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of two hearts, the union of two lives into one and your marriage must stand, not by the authority of the state, nor by the seal on your wedding certificate, but by the strength and power of the faith and love you have in one another. this love is central to all Jedi and this union the deepest representation of that love.

Now, will you please turn and face one another and join hands to express your vows of love and devotion each to the other.

MINISTER: (to the groom)

Will you please repeat this vow to _____, saying after me:

I, _____, take you _____ to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, or for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to love and cherish you.

MINISTER: (to the bride)

Will you please repeat this vow to _____ saying after me:

I, _____, take you _____ to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to love and cherish you.

MINISTER:

As Jedi, we understand how love is central to our lives. this love is what allows us to serve others selflessly, and brings us closer to the force. with these vows and this union you now choose to serve one another as well.

Having this kind of love in your hearts for one another, you have chosen to exchange rings (*or whatever is chosen*) as the sign and seal of the promises you are making to one another today.

(Minister asks for the rings)

MINISTER:

Rings are very large in their significance. they are made of a precious metal and precious stone and that reminds us that love is not cheap nor common; but indeed love is very costly and dear to us.

These rings are also made in a circle and their design tells us that we must keep love continuous throughout our whole lives even as the circle of the ring is continuous.

As you wear these rings, whether you are together or apart for even just a moment, may these rings be a constant reminder of the promises you are making to one another this day.

MINISTER: (to the groom)

_____ will you please take this ring and place it upon the third finger of _____ 's left hand, and holding her hand in yours, please repeat this promise to _____, saying after me:

with this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving husband, with all present and the Living Force of Creation as my witness.

MINISTER: (to the bride)

_____ will you please take this ring and place it upon the third finger of _____ 's left hand, and holding his hand in yours please repeat this promise to _____, saying after me: with this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving wife, with all present and the Living Force of Creation as my witness.

(candle lighting optional.)

(prayer for bride and groom and personal words by the minister.)

(poems - optional or have your own.)

MINISTER:

True love gives nothing of itself
And takes nothing but from itself
Love does not possess, nor would it be possessed
For love is sufficient unto love.
Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself
To awake at dawn with a winged heart and to give
Thanks for another day of loving.
To rest at noon and meditate upon love's ecstasy,
To return home at evening with gratitude
And then to sleep with a prayer for your beloved
In your heart and a song of praise upon your lips.

_____ and _____, you have come here today before us and have expressed your desire to become husband and wife.

You have shown your love and affection by joining hands, and have made promises of faith and devotion, each to the other, and have sealed these promises by the giving and the receiving of the rings.

Therefore, it is my privilege as a Minister of the Force and by the authority given to me by the (*state jurisdictional location*), I now pronounce that you are husband and wife.

_____ you may kiss your wife.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you for the first time Mr. and Mrs.

_____.



Funeral / Memorial Service (version 1)

MINISTER:

We meet in the name of (deceased), who died and has returned to the glory of The Living Force of Creation. Peace be with you.

ALL:

And also with you.

MINISTER:

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal. Today we come together to remember our brother/sister (deceased) to give thanks for his/her life and to comfort one another in our grief.

Living Force of Creation, we thank you because you gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit. We thank you now for (deceased) and what he/she meant to each of us. As we honour his/her memory, make us more aware that it is only from the Living Force that life flows.

We thank you for the life and grace you gave them and the peace in which they rest. Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with trust and thanksgiving.

MINISTER:

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice:
the desert shall burst into song.
May the Living Force guide our hearts,
and lead us to fulfilment .

ALL:

To the Force return our Brother/Sister,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

MINISTER:

Strengthen the weary hands:
make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious: Be strong, fear not,
For the Force is with us.

ALL:

To the Force return our Brother/Sister,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away

(Memories may be shared, a tribute or tributes may be made. songs and readings may be used.)

(Message is written and delivered by the Minister. One of these sayings may then be used)

MINISTER:

Living Force of Creation,
we give you thanks for your servant (deceased).
We recollect his/her life and cherish his/her memory.
He/she has brought light to our lives; for we have seen
in his/her friendship reflections eternal compassion,
in his/her integrity demonstrations of great goodness,
in his/her faithfulness glimpses of eternal life in the Force.
May each of us, beloved and bereft, follow his/her good example
so that we with him/her may come to know more of the Mystery.

Those who have died in faith have eternal joy in the Force.
For us who remain, be with us in our sadness and turn our spirits to you.
Raise us to new life in the Living Force, give us victory over death and confidence to look forward
on our Paths.

Let us declare our faith in the living Force of Creation and the Eternal Mystery in the form of the
Jedi Creed. Please repeat after me:

(all to repeat, one line at a time)

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
I am a Jedi.
I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MINISTER:

Peace be with you now as you remember our fellow traveller on the Path. Do not let your hearts
be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
Peace in the Living Force be with you always.

ALL:

And also with you.

MINISTER:

Neither death nor life can separate us from the living Force of Creation.

May we have the Patience and Wisdom to trust the Force not for ourselves alone, but also for those whom we love and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death; that, as we travel our Paths we may be lead by its eternal and universal Will.

May the Living Force make you perfect in every good work that you may follow its will and
May The Force Be With You Always.

ALL:

And also with you.



Funeral / Memorial Service (version 2)

We are gathered here today to share in the grief over the physical death of (deceased). We are also here to celebrate their life and to remember the remarkable Jedi that s/he was. Let us be in this moment together to share the beauty that (deceased) life represented. Let us now remember his/her spirit and rejoice that he has made his journey home.

Sample Reading: Immortality (Author Unknown)

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am diamond glints of snow;
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the mornings hush;
I am the swift uplighting rush
Of quiet birds' encircled flight.
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there,
I did not die.*

Candle Lighting Ceremony

The candle I have here represents the spirit of (deceased), which represents the light of his soul, the light of the world.

You have all a candle. Each of these candles represents the light within you. In a moment, I am going to ask you to light your candle and place it on the table next to you. This symbolizes that even though we are physically separate, our spirits are one. Also, while the candles are being lit, please join me to remember the love and beauty of (deceased)'s life.

Living Force of Creation, be with us today and share with us your grace and unconditional love. Be with us during our time of loss and guide us in our time of need. We seek your comfort through the love we share for one another, through the love we share for (deceased). Help us to remember that death is a gateway into the fullness of Life Everlasting and that our connections, made in the name of Love, transcend physical form and persist eternally. We ask that our grief be lessened through the sharing of words, and memories, and by the visitation of Your Loving Grace. May the Force be with us.

Sample Reading: from The Prophet (Kahlil Gibran)

You would know the secret of death. But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life? The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light. If you would behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one. In the depths of our hopes and desire, lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity. Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the King whose hand is to be laid upon him in honor. Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling that he shall wear the mark of the King? Yet, he is not more mindful of his trembling? For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun. And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breathe from its restless tides that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered? Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountaintop, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

Eulogy

(A summary of the life of the deceased)

Please add your condolences, or thoughts...

(This is the place where friends say a few words about the passed loved one.)

Sample Prayer.

Please join me now in a prayer. The response is: "We remember him/her"

In the rising of the sun and when it sets,
(We remember him/her)

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter
(We remember him/her)

In the opening of buds and the rebirth of spring,
(We remember him/her)

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
(We remember him/her)

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn
(We remember him/her)

So long as we live, he too shall live, for he is a part of us,
(We remember him/her)

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
(We remember him/her)

When we are weary and in need of strength
(We remember him/her)

When we are lost and sick at heart
(We remember him/her)

When we have joys we yearn to share
(We remember him/her)

So long as we live, he too shall live, for he is a part of us,
(We remember him/her)

Closing Prayer

Let us Pray:

Living Force of Creation, we send forth the soul of your beloved (deceased) into your gentle arms.
Hold his precious spirit in your beautiful universal embrace, where he is safe and whole.

(The remainder of the Closing Prayer should be written by the Minister as a reflection of the life of the deceased)

Final Blessing

May the Living Force of Creation bless you and keep you all ways.
May its light shine upon your face and be gracious unto you.
May its presence be with you now and for all the days of your lives,
And may It grant you peace and comfort, now and forever.

Let Us All Say loud ...

(ALL)

May the force be with You always Name)!

Go in peace my friends



Ceremony for Consecration of Land

(A processional sign or symbol around which Jedi gather may be used to focus the gathering point.)

MINISTER:

Dear Friends, we have gathered here in gratitude for the gift of the universe, and to accept this special gift of the stewardship of the land on which we now stand.

It is we who are a part of that universe and have received.

All that we are and all that we have are at one with the Force.

We are woven into the great seamless fabric of the universal,
our health and wholeness depend on its health and wholeness.

Therefore, we adopt this land as a special trust from the Force.

Let us pray:

Almighty and never ending Force, be present with us
as we accept from you this gift of stewardship.

Grant to this land the grace of your presence,

so that all who come here will know the peace and comfort of your love.

Bless all people and all creatures who will share and use this property.

May we be good neighbours and worthy stewards of the life that graces this portion of your earth.

(Text reading relevant to stewardship, earth...)

(Hymn/poem relevant to stewardship, earth...)

MINISTER:

We ask the Force to be with this land and to guide and bless us in preparing it for holy worship, prayer, service and fellowship.

We recognize that it is a part of the universal whole, good and pleasing and valuable in its own right.

The responsibility and the privilege rest upon us to be worthy tenants and caretakers.

We bring offerings as tokens of our pledge to care for the health and wholeness of this land and this community.

(Upon the invitation of the minister, all who wish may step forward to scatter a small offering of soil, compost, ash, or other earth material on the ground as they speak the responses below)

MINISTER:

That a church may meet here where children will learn to love the Force and grow in Wonder and grace and goodness, and in unity with the Force and all people,

May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.

That a church may meet here where the weary and heavy-laden will find peace,

May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.

That a church may meet here where multitudes will be refreshed in spirit, relieved from pain and anxiety, released from bondage, and redeemed from guilt,

May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.

That a church may meet here from which, by your power, your people are sent forth into this community and all the world as champions of justice and peace in all the earth,

May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.

That a church may meet here and use and care for this land with such gratitude, diligence, and respect that it will be in perfect harmony with the entire community of creation,

May the Force be with this land today and make it holy

as we seek to fulfill the holy purposes

for which we dedicate ourselves and this land,

in Your name.

May the Force be with us.

(if desired, ceremony may be concluded with a reading of the Jedi Creed and with all responding)



Ceremony for Consecration of Temple/Church

Before the Consecration of the temple/church takes place, the Bishop has to make certain that it is properly furnished and equipped for the celebration of the rites and ceremonies of the Church according to the use of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

This Service should only be used when the land and buildings are free from debt and there is reason to believe that the building will be used for worship in perpetuity. Otherwise it should not be consecrated, but dedicated with the use of some of the prayers in this form, as the Bishop shall direct.

The Bishop, attended by assistants, should be received at the door of the Church by those

gathered.

A Petition, in the form following or to the like effect, signed by responsible ministers, wardens, and others, should be read, and presented to the Bishop.

*“To the Right Reverend Bishop of
We, the responsible, wardens, and inhabitants of, having acquired the land
[describe it], more particularly described in a deed between and [or
by will or otherwise as the case may be], duly registered according to law [where registration is
possible] on the day of in the year of our Lord, on which
there is a Temple/Church, which we certify to be free from any legal incumbrance, do humbly pray
you to separate the same from all profane and common uses, and to consecrate the said
Temple/Church, and set it apart for ever for worship with the Force, according to the rites and
discipline of the Temple of the Jedi Order.”*

The Bishop, accepting the Petition, should answer and consent, saying:

BISHOP:

Brothers and Sisters, if this is your wish, and the wish of the all members of the Temple of the Jedi Order, we will now proceed to the act of Consecration.

May the positive energy of the Force be with us, in all that we do; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You, we may honour Your Name, and that finally our souls and spirits may continue in the netherworld of the Living Force.

(The Bishop and his attendants may walk round the outside of the building, or the Temple/Church-yard. If a Burial-ground is to be consecrated, it may be done at this time)

(Then the Bishop, taking a ceremonial instrument, knocks five times at the door, in honour of the 5 Rites of old. If conditions require, the Petition may be read within the Church, and the Bishop may strike the floor near the door with his ceremonial instrument.)

BISHOP:

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may go into them and lets us be aware of the Force.

(Then the Churchwardens shall open wide the doors. Then the Bishop, standing within the entrance, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Peace be to this House of the Living Force, our spiritual Guide.

(The Bishop with his attendants shall then proceed towards the Chancel while a text is read or sung)

(When the Bishop is seated, he shall have the necessary legal documents presented to him, by the person duly appointed, which he shall place visible to all; and then, standing and turning to the Congregation, he shall say to them as follows:)

BISHOP:

Dearly beloved in the Force, forasmuch as dedicated and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Jedi Doctrine, moved by the secret inspiration of the omnipresent Force, or by their own reason and sense of order and decency, have erected this houses for public service, and have separated it from all profane and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for the Force`s glorious majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service: Let us not doubt that this lies in the Force`s purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner to religious worship; and let us faithfully and devoutly ask the Force`s blessing on this our undertaking, keeping silence for a moment.

Let us gather our thoughts.

O Eternal Force, mighty in power, of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; be present with us, who are now gathered together to consecrate this place, with all humility and readiness of heart, to the honour of your great Name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it entirely to your service, for reading therein your most holy Word, for celebrating Your will, for offering to Your glorious majesty the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing Your people in Your Name, and for all other holy ordinances: Accept this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may most serve Your will, and the liberation of Your people.

(Then the Bishop may with his ceremonial instrument trace the letters of the Jedi blessing: MTFBWY)

BISHOP:

I claim this place for the one Force, who is the First and the Last, and inherent in all. May the Force be with us all.

(Then the people shall stand, and the Bishop with his attendants shall go to the Font, where he shall say:)

BISHOP:

One Force, one Faith, one Oath;

ALL:

One Force, one Faith, one Oath.

BISHOP:

Grant, O Force, that this Temple/Church, which we now consecrate for your service, may be a Temple/Church for all who come; that, being a Temple/Church dedicated to your service they may rise unto righteousness, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful; we ask this through the life giving power of the Force. May the Force be with us.

(As they go to the centre and return to the Chancel, a text or song, may be recited in two parts. And the Bishop, standing at the Chancel steps, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Our help is in the Name of the Force which is the very fabric of the Universe and all that is.

Grant, O Force, that all who in this place shall renew the promises and vows, may be confirmed and strengthened with Your power, and continuing Yours for ever, may daily increase more and more, until they come to the netherworld.

Whatever the Force binds together, let no man separate.

Grant, O Force, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of Matrimony may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them, and may remain in perfect love together until their lives' end; May the Force be with us.

(The Bishop, turning towards the Prayer Desk, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Hear our prayer, O Force, and consider our desire.

Grant O Force, that whosoever shall recognise their faults, and offer up their prayers and praises unto thy Divine Majesty in this place, may be acceptable in Your sight, and finally may be

graciously received into Your presence, to praise and glorify You for evermore; May the Force be with us.

(The Bishop, turning towards the Lectern or Pulpit, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Your Word is a lantern unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Grant, O Force, that through Your Movements, which shall be proclaimed in this place, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; May the Force be with us.

(Then the Bishop, standing with his attendants in the midst of the Chancel, shall say:)

BISHOP:

To do good and to distribute should not be forgotten for such sacrifices are good and just.

Grant, O Force, to Your people who sacrifice themselves for this place, that they may give cheerfully for the work of the Temple/Church, and the extension of Your Truth; May the Force be with us.

(Then the Bishop, standing before the holy Table, shall say:)

BISHOP:

The memorial of Your abundant kindness shall be showed and all shall sing of Your righteousness.

Grant, O Force, that this Table may be consecrated for celebration and remembrance of the sanctity of Life; and that our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which is here offered unto Your Divine Majesty may be acceptable, through the merits and mediation of Your faithful, the Jedi. May the Force be with us.

(The Bishop, sitting in his Chair, shall then sign, and cause to be read publicly, the Sentence of Consecration given under his hand and seal according to the form following, or to the like effect, which Sentence shall be recorded in the Registry of the Temple/Diocese.)

SENTENCE OF CONSECRATION:

In the Name of the Force.

WHEREAS a Temple/Church has been erected at within our Diocese and jurisdiction, upon a piece of land [description of the land and title to be here inserted]; and whereas the said building is now completed and furnished with all things requisite for the due performance of public worship, and is free from all legal liability for debt, and is now ready for Consecration; and whereas a Petition has been presented to us by the responsible, the Wardens, and others [to be here described as the case may be], praying that we would be pleased to consecrate the said building:

Now therefore, we,, by Divine permission Bishop of do by virtue of the authority ordinary and episcopal to us committed, consecrate the said building, and do set it apart from all profane and common uses, and do dedicate the same to the Force for the ministration, and for public worship, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Temple of the Jedi Order, by the name of

And we do pronounce, decree, and declare that the said Temple/Church shall remain so consecrated, set apart, and dedicated for ever; In the Name of the Force and the Temple of the Jedi Order.

WITNESS our hand and seal, this day of in the Year of the Lord and of our Consecration the

(The Bishop standing, and turning to the people, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Grant that this whole place which is here dedicated to You by our office and ministry may also be consecrated by the sanctifying power of the Force, who lives and governs all things, world without end.

Now, by virtue of the sacred office committed to us in the Temple/Church, I do declare to be consecrated and set apart from all profane and common uses this Temple under the Name and ___title___ of THE TEMPLE OF [here he shall state the dedication].



Selected Prayers

General Intercession

In the power of the Living Force,
let us turn to that Force.
Creator and preserver of all,
we intercede for people in every kind of need;
make your ways known on earth,
your saving health among all nations

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

We intercede for the good fortune of the Jedi Church;
guide and govern us by your Spirit,
that all who profess and call themselves Jedi
may be led into the way of truth,
and hold steadfast in the unity of spirit,
in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life!

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

We commend to your will
all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed,
in mind, body or estate;
comfort and relieve them in their need,
give them patience in their sufferings,
and bring good out of all their afflictions!

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

We remember those who have gone before us
in Your peace, and we give you praise for all the faithful...

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

General Intercession

In the power of the Living Force,
let us trust in that Force.

Hear our prayers, Architect of Life.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Govern and direct your Church; fill it with love and truth,
and grant it that unity which is your will.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Give us boldness to witness the Jedi Doctrine in all the world.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enlighten all your ministers and indeed all Jedi with knowledge
and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives
they may proclaim your works.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enable your people with the necessary sensitivity to Your energy, fluctuations and disturbances,
and to witness the fruit of that openness.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Bring into the way of truth all who have lost their way.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Strengthen those who give comfort and help to the weak hearted.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enlighten our governments with wisdom and understanding.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Stand by those who administer the law, that they may uphold
justice, honesty and truth.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Give us the will to use the fruits of the earth to get a better understanding of Yourself, and for the
good of all creation.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Heal the sick in body and mind, and provide for the homeless,
the hungry, and the destitute.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Show solidarity with prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enable us to forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace
with the Force, and grant us with them a share in the netherworld.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

We ask this for our sakes who strive for the peace of the Living Force..

A Blessing

Come, Living Force of Creation,
almighty Sanctifier,
Power of love,
who envelopes all life with positive energy,
come and sanctify us.
Replace the tensions within us with righteous peace.
Replace the fears within us with quiet confidence.
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of respect.
Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth.
Replace the night within us with Your consoling light.
Fill our emptiness.
Dull the edge of our pride.
Sharpen the edge of our humility.
Let us see ourselves as You see us,
Let us see others as You see them.
Enlighten our minds,
strengthen our wills,
purify our consciences,
rectify our judgment,
set our hearts on fire,
and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting Your inspirations.
Teach us to see Your design in all of creation.

May the Force be with us always.

For Funerals

Depart, O soul, out of this present world in which in the name of the Living Force that created you, and rejoin the Unifying Force from which you came. May you rest in peace as you have again become one with the Force.

May the Force strengthen and support us all the day long until the fever of life is over and our work is done. May the Force welcome and grant safe lodging and a holy peace at last.

May the Force grant (remaining family member/s) comfort in the knowledge and sure confidence in it's care. Defend him/her from the danger of the enemy and keep him/her/them in spiritual peace and safety. May the Force be with you, always.

For Servicemen and Servicewomen in War

Living Force of Creation,

We humbly will your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from you.

May The Force Be With Them!

For Mothers

Most Mysterious and Awesome Living Force of Creation,

We thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all children.

Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in your care and love for her and for her unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Ways, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.

Assist all "spiritual mothers", those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others -- of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human.

We beseech You to send blessings to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on You and your Will, for strength and Understanding.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood.

May The Force Be With Them!

For Fathers

Most marvelous and unsolved Living Force of Creation,
We thank you for our fathers, those to whom you have entrusted the responsibility to provide loving protection of their families and guidance of their children. We thank you, also, for our Spiritual Fathers, whose spiritual Guidance is so vital to the faith of your people.

May our fathers imitate the courage of all the great historical fathers of the past in providing wise counsel to the children you have given to their care. And may our spiritual fathers be guided by the examples of the Great Masters. Give them valiant faith in the face of confusion and conflict, hope in time of trouble and sorrow, and steadfast love for their families, and for all people throughout the world.

Assist all fathers of families, all spiritual fathers, and all men, that through your understanding they may steadily grow in wisdom and in knowledge and of your Truth. May they generously impart this knowledge to those who rely on them. May their lives be examples to all of heroic faithfulness to your awesome will.

We ask blessing on all those to whom you have entrusted fatherhood. May your guidance constantly inspire them with justice and mercy, wisdom and strength, fidelity and self-giving love. May they receive your wisdom abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal understanding in your presence..

May The Force Be With Them Always!

For Vocation

For as long as space endures
And for as long as living beings remain
Until then may I too abide
To dispel the misery of the world.

For Protection

The light of The Force surrounds us;
The love of The Force enfolds us;
The power of The Force protects us;
The presence of The Force watches over us.
Wherever we are, The Force is.
And all is well.

For All People

Living Force of Creation,
help us to see the beauty
that we are, without and within.

Help us to love ourselves, unconditionally, without judgment.
Your radiance manifests through us and is

present within and around us at all times.
Our bodies are Your conduit and a vehicle for Your Work.
It is therefore deserving of love, respect and honor.

This day and always, help us to honor our bodies,
to love them unconditionally, and to be grateful for their service.

May The Force Be With Us

Luminous Beings We Are

Luminous Beings are we
We Answer our call
The call of the Force
We answer our call
Without hesitation
We answer our call
While others decry us
As Freaks,weirdos or Witches
Yet we persist
For we have heard our call
& we have answered it
The call of the Force
We suffer the temptations of this Crude Matter
We suffer through bouts of Anger
We suffer through bouts of Depression
At times we feel alone
But we are never truly alone
For the Force is always with us
& it is now I say
Luminous Beings are We

May the Force be with you

(Jedi Arion Bane 28 FEB 2005
From the Jedi Sanctuary)

The Serenity Prayer (Jedi version)

Force grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change
Courage to change the things I can
and wisdom to know the difference

Living one day at a time
Enjoying one moment at a time
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace.

Taking, as the force did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it

Trusting that the force will make all things right
if I surrender to it's Will
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy in the force
forever in the next.

For Guidance

Oh mighty Force
That art in every living thing
Its course and movement
Known and the unknown
Seen and the unseen

Here...there...and everywhere in the mystical energy field that surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds the galaxy together
Oh mighty Force, help me to become a better Jedi Knight
And not always to seek adventure and excitement
For the Jedi crave not these things

Instead, help me to learn the ways of the Force, that I may do thy work, to exercise a strong influence over the weak minded, perform many somersaults and handstands in thy name, ye, and with all else but death become a Jedi Knight, to have the deepest commitment, and the most studious mind

Teach me not to try, but to do, or do not, to unlearn what I have learned, and to finish what I begin.

Though that I am reckless, help me to complete my training so that I may become a Guardian of Peace, and Justice, and to forgive those that have become agents of evil...seduced by the Dark Side of the Force, guide my steps with wisdom so that I might not be tempted to join them, for once we start down the Dark Path, forever will it dominate our destiny, ye, teach me to use the force for knowledge and defense, never for attack, for verily thou art my ally, and a powerful ally thou art

Abiding in the great mystery it is ours to comprehend
Forever and ever oh Force, may thou be with me, always...

For Personal Growth

You, Protector of all beings,
Great destroyer of our hosts of demons,
Please, O Living Force, Knower of All,
Come to this place with your company.

For Dedication

Through the virtues I have collected
By practising the stages of the Jedi doctrine,
May all living beings find the opportunity
To practice in the same way.

However many living beings there may be
Experiencing mental and physical suffering,
May their suffering cease through the power of my practice,
And may they find everlasting happiness and joy.

May everyone experience
The happiness of humans and gods,
And quickly attain enlightenment,
So that suffering is finally extinguished.

For the benefits of all living beings as extensive as space,
May I attain great wisdom,
Great compassion,
Great Power.

May there never arise in this world
The miseries of incurable disease, famine or war,
Or the dangers of earthquakes, fires,
Floods, storms, and so forth.

May all beings meet precious teachers,
Who reveal the way to enlightenment,
And through engaging on this path
May they quickly attain the ultimate peace of full enlightenment.

For Hope

Living Force,
I am lost as to where to go.
I cannot see the way ahead.
I cannot know for certain where it will lead.
Who am I?
Just because I think I trust in Your will,
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that my desire to be mindful of You,
does in fact envelope all life with Your positive energy.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me on the right way,
though I may not know anything about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always,
although I may seem to be lost
and walk in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for You are always with me,
and You will never leave me to face darkness alone.

For Freedom

May everyone be happy,
May everyone be free from misery,
May no one ever be separated from their purpose in life,
May every one have presence of mind, free from hatred and attachment.

Of Consolation

Breath into me creative Force,
that my thoughts may all be focused.
Move in me, creative force,
that my work too, may be focused.
Attract my heart, embracing Force,
that I may love only what is in you.
Strengthen me, embracing Force,
that I may defend all that is in you.
Protect me, universal Force,
that I always may be with you.

May the Force be with me.

For Vocations

Loving universal Force,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.
Help us to grow in the Love
and Service of our Temple
as we experience it today.

Give us the necessary energy and courage
to build a future

Grant us faithful leaders
who embrace Your Mission
of love and justice.

Bless Temple of the Jedi Order

by calling dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
and open our hearts
to hear Your call.

May the Force be with us always.

For the Sick

Almighty and Eternal Force,
You are the everlasting health of those who trust in You.
Hear us for Our sick brother/sister (NAME)
for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy,
that being restored to bodily health,
s/he may give thanks to You.

May the Force be with him/her.

For the Poor and Marginalised

Living Force of Creation,
We bring to you the needs of the poor and the marginalized.

We know that these are one with you, whose essence breathes justice, whose nature is ever ready
to feed the hungry. We ask simply, that you be one with us at heart.

Fill us with your compassion, lend us your eyes to see, boldness and selflessness and wisdom, so
that we too might cry out for justice and feed the hungry, so that your light might shine throughout
the earth.

Living Force of Creation,
we especially bring to you the children among us who are poor and marginalized, finding
themselves in circumstances they did not choose and helpless to change. We lift up AIDS orphans,
children of war, children suffering abuse and neglect, children smitten with malnutrition an disease,
lacking education, housing or the most basic of life's necessities. Might they somehow come to
know your love, who knows each hair on their head and collects their tears.

Until that day, let us be tireless in doing what is good and what is right unto the least of these,
knowing your love for them.

May the Force be with them.

Thanksgiving

Living Force of Creation

I thank you for the wonders of this universe
the joy of knowing that I am one with all life
that I am here now through you
and can observe and influence those around me
just as you influence me

Help me to greater appreciate the life I have
and the things others have to offer me
and the things I have to offer to others
Living Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be
to do what I should do

May the Force be with me
and with us all

For Understanding

Guide my hand and mind as I seek the knowledge
To learn and unlearn that which I know.
Guide me in ways to learn that which I don't know
But seek to understand.
For it is from understanding that we come closer
To the Force and what can be done.

Let this knowledge lift up those and me
As we continue our path.

For Healing

Everlasting Force, essence of life.

this being before me, a child of the force, has been harmed,
the sickness may grow,
the body grows weak,
Use me, a servant in a time of need as an avatar of your power,
Send thru me the healing flow of the force,
Restore them to health
Heal the wounds,
strengthen the mind,
Help me care for them as a brother/sister in the Force.

For Soldiers

Force, you flow through all living things,
I ask for strength of body and mind to defend my country with honor and wisdom,
I ask for forgiveness for being away from my family,
for I miss them every day and yearn to be with them,
I ask for the wisdom to know right and wrong even in the midst of battle,
I will endeavor to keep the force in me and with me at all times,
for these I promise to do my best, my duty, to my country and my fellow man.

Personal Prayer to the Force

My friend, my partner, the force,
I pray for strength, for there are days when I must bear the weight of the world,
I pray for wisdom, to guide my actions
I ask you to be within me always, for without the connections you bring I could not serve,
I serve life, because from life springs joy,
Where there is darkness, I will bring light,
Where there is indignity, I will bring honor,
Where there is death, I will bring preservation of life,
I seek these things in life around me,
I therefore ask them for myself as well,
So that I may be an example of duty, honor, valor, friendship to all,
allow me this confidence, I pray, so I may be better than I am today.

To Respond to the Call of a Jedi (oneself or others)

Feel the force within you, connect to its flow and shower yourself or those you bless with it.

This world is a dangerous place,
full of danger to the body, mind and soul
many seek greed, selfishness, criminality and power
they take them from others,
There are those who will fight these powerful forces
They are known as Jedi
armed with a strength of character, an unyielding will,
and most of all The Living Force,
They use the force to help those less fortunate,
To you do rise to this call,
May the Force Be with you always,
Strengthening your will, your faith and your devotion to good,
Accept this blessing and go forth knowing the Living Force goes with you.