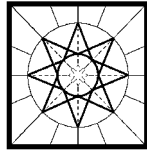


PEACE KNIGHTS  
OF THE  
SOUL



WISDOM IN 'STAR WARS'

Jon Snodgrass, Ph.D.

# INNERCIRCLE PUBLISHING

## Peace Knights of the Soul

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***DEDICATED***



***TO GRACEN***

# CONTENTS

Dedication .....	iii
Foreword by Jonathan Young .....	ix
Introduction.....	xi
Acknowledgements .....	xii

## *ORIENTATION AND BASICS*

<b>1</b>	Principles .....	13
	Training .....	18
	Consciousness .....	21
	Identity .....	23

## *STORY AND HISTORY*

<b>2</b>	Magnitude Star Wars .....	29
	Impact of Star Wars .....	33
	Spirit of Star Wars .....	37
	Spirit of Star Trek .....	39

## *HOLY MOTION PICTURE?*

<b>3</b>	Parable of Faith .....	47
	Cosmic Hero .....	51
	Wisdom Hero .....	57
	Mystical Being .....	62

## *HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY*

<b>4</b>	King Arthur .....	65
	Helen of Troy .....	70
	Holy Sophia .....	72

## *NOVICE AND MENTOR*

<b>5</b>	Mentor Seeking .....	79
	Lesson One: Willingness .....	84
	Beyond Willingness .....	87

## *APPRENTICE AND MENTOR*

<b>6</b>	Mentor Fighting .....	91
	Lesson Two: Patience .....	95
	Mentor Being .....	99

## *DISCIPLE AND MASTER*

<b>7</b>	Lesson Three: Phantom Enemy.....	103
	Retreat from Peace .....	110
	Lesson Four: Mind Power .....	112

*FAITH AND PEACE*

<b>8</b>	Trapped and Defeated.....	119
	Resumption of Training.....	122
	The Evil Empire Ends .....	127

*GENDER AND SEXUALITY*

<b>9</b>	Female Knights .....	135
	Naughty Knights .....	137
	Romantic Tales .....	141

*ORIGIN AND TRANSMISSION*

<b>10</b>	Bunch of Sithies .....	149
	Chosen Child .....	153
	Elder Tribunal .....	156
	Conspiracy .....	160

*TRAINING AND PRACTICE*

<b>11</b>	<i>Phantom Fiend</i> : Mariano E. Meléndez	167
	<i>I SITH Lord</i> : Lucho Calvo-Guerrero	172
	<i>China Doll</i> : Mui Lam .....	175
	<i>Four Strangers</i> Paulo Dionisio .....	178
	<i>Far From Home</i> : Qiao (Jo) Kang .....	182

*DRILL AND REVIEW*

<b>12</b>	Novice: Willingness .....	185
	Apprentice: Patience .....	188
	Disciple: Phantom Enemy .....	190
	Master: Mind Power .....	194

*IDENTITY AND DESTINY*

<b>13</b>	Right of Passage .....	197
	Remembrance .....	200
	One Force .....	206

*APPENDICES*

<i>Wisdom Test</i> .....	209
<i>Canon of Star Wars</i> .....	211
Bibliography .....	213
Filmography .....	218
Index .....	219
Glossary .....	224
Contributors .....	225

## CONSPIRACY

Sage  
or  
Scourage?

In the next episode, *Attack Clones*, enemies are assaulted “justifiably” to conceal the fear of peace. Yoda becomes the commander in chief of a clone army that fights the secessionists and leads a military invasion by Jedi Knights. Viewers are bombarded with special effects and cheer loudest when Yoda discards his cane to wield a weapon. “Gandhi turns Rambo,” quipped *Time Magazine*. *The Matrix Reloaded* also exploits fighting and special effects in the transitional middle segment.

Replacing the obsequious Jar Jar Binks, the beloved multilingual ambassador of universal peace, See-Threepio, becomes the butt of comic relief. Accidentally, the robot’s head is attached to the torso of an enemy battle-droid, suggesting that the fighting now has lost all reason. Both robots are hysterical but harmless. Audiences go wild thinking the plight of the pair is hilarious, but the human species is ridiculous. Wisdom is a casualty missing in action.

Previously slandered by fans and critics alike, Jar Jar’s diction improves and his role as buffoon diminishes in this episode. He serves on the staff of Senator Padmé Amidala and proposes to the ruling assembly that their leader be given absolute power to prosecute the war. The decoyed dictator takes over the empire in the next installment. Set up to betray the republic (and to be killed?) claims by reviewers that Jar Jar was rehabilitated are premature.

Wisdom  
Missing  
in  
Action

Senator Amidala is the only voice for peace and to her peril, opposes the building of a clone army for the defense of the republic. War advocates want fighting to resume no matter who wins or loses. Led by Yoda, the elder tribunal maneuvers Padmé out of the political arena to protect her from plots of assassination that are provoked by their rivalry for power. Jedi Knights are thus implicated in the leadership of the Sith.

For example, Jedi Knights requisition the clone army now commanded by Yoda. The elder tribunal assigns Anakin to protect Padmé at an elegant retreat without supervision. He courts her and the peace initiative disappears from the debate, the way females are gone from the inner council chamber and the clone-production planet vanishes from celestial charts. Jar Jar, the patsy, takes her place and nominates the future tyrant. “Only a Jedi could do this,” is a phrase that punctuates the film.

*Friends  
of the  
Sith?*

The Jedi Council appears to switch sides and befriends the Sith in a takeover of the galaxy. Using separatists as a front, the republic apparently is divided by Yoda and Palpatine for control by Jedi Knights and Sith in a joint conspiracy. The least suspicious figures, Obi-Wan, Captain Typho and See-Threepio, all claim this puzzle is not logical. But it makes sense to suspect that Jedi Knights, *en masse*, have capitulated to the “dark side.”

*A  
Joint  
Con-  
spiracy?*

In the novel, a bounty hunter teaches his clone-son that the art of deception lies in appearing to do one thing while actually doing another. The boy pretends to fish while learning deceit from his father. The father appears to relax with his son while overseeing the assassination of Padmé. Jedi Knight leaders appear to be peacekeepers while instigating war. Just as the assassin is assassinated, conspiracy camouflages conspiracy. Yoda reiterates, “Unseen is much that is here.”

*Con-  
spiracy  
Camou-  
flages  
Con-  
spiracy*

Palpatine suggests to Yoda, who consents, that Jedi Knights body-guard Padmé. Is she “protected” as the senate opposition leader who might discover their collusion? It makes no sense for separatists, or Sith, to assassinate her since she supports their cause by opposing an army that would fight them. When Padmé asks Yoda in the novel, “Who’s behind it,” he does not answer, just as he does not reply when Obi-Wan wants to know if he requisitioned the clone army.

A  
Tactile  
'Body  
Guard'?

The Jedi Council suspends Anakin's supervision by Master Obi-Wan. Replacing Padmé's security captain, Anakin is authorized to do nothing but guard her physically. The Jedi Knights are prohibited by the senate from investigating separatist discontent that might uncover republican corruption and the link to Jedi Knights. Yoda dismisses Obi-Wan in an interview when the "younglings" hypothesize that the clone manufacturing location was erased from the archives by insiders.

The elder tribunal ignores Obi-Wan's reservations about Anakin's reassignment, just as Obi-Wan pays no attention to Anakin's complaints about not being permitted to pursue the assassins (though delighted duty puts him together with Padmé). Anakin is correct — he is not given his master knight trials for fear he will be independently minded like his father, Qui-Gon and discover the conspiracy of Jedi Knights? And, for copulation with Shmi and the conception of Anakin, Qui-Gon is clandestinely executed in *Phantom Menace*?

Ostensibly hunting assassins, Obi-Wan discovers the manufacture of clones for an army ordered by Jedi Knights. Practicing deception, he pretends to inspect the project as part of his research. He finds out that a Jedi Knight who left the order is suspected (Dooku) but one reportedly killed (Dyas) actually signed the contract brokered by a bounty hunter. The broker (Fett) was given clone-template and clone-child as bonuses for agreeing to kill Padmé?

Obi-Wan acts naive about the conspiracy when questioning the hired gunman who then realizes that he is being double-crossed by Jedi Knight leaders. With his clone-child in hand, he tries to flee to separatist territory. Ordered by the elder tribunal to take him into custody, Obi-Wan attacks first, shattering further the code of conduct of Jedi Knights, endangering the child and joining the conspiracy.

Dooku is Yoda's former Padawan, reputed to be one of the greatest Jedi Knights of all time. His bust is still on display in the library. The chief archivist (Nu) and Yoda's lieutenant (Windu) frankly defend Dooku, presumably based on their inside knowledge about the moral corrosion of the leadership of Jedi Knights. Dooku warns Obi-Wan that the republic is under Sith control and openly invites him to join their revolt.

**Spoiler:** Is Count Dooku a double agent appearing to lead separatists while secretly trying to re-establish the moral integrity of the traditional order of Jedi Knights? It is said that he fights with a light saber in a superior style long out of fashion. He will be eliminated (by Anakin according to [supershadow.com](http://supershadow.com)) in *Episode III* in order to understudy Emperor Palpatine. Leading the *Revenge of the Sith* as Darth Vader, Anakin will wipe out the Jedi Council in retaliation for the order to assassinate Padmé.

**Spoiler:** Advance, unconfirmed, Internet plot summaries claim that Anakin informs Padmé about the traitorous Jedi Knights. She believes and supports him, and he continues to love her. But she shows up, just before the legendary duel and Anakin reportedly becomes enraged thinking she has led Obi-Wan to him. Anakin "chokes" her and she hits her head as she falls. In the ensuing fight, Anakin falls into a volcano and is mutilated. Obi-Wan rescues Padmé, but she becomes gravely ill and dies (or is killed?) on his vessel ([supershadow.com](http://supershadow.com)). In another version, she dies at the scene ([allscifi.com](http://allscifi.com)).

The idea that Jedi Knights have joined the conspiracy of the Sith is heresy to most *Star Wars* fans. You either embrace *Attack Clones* as an enthusiast or critique the film as a reviewer. The Force Net ([forcenet.com](http://forcenet.com)) an unofficial *Star Wars* website, for example, found the author's review of *Attack Clones* to be "incendiary." The two-part essay was published online by Film Threat

(filmthreat.com) a website on the Internet devoted to independent thinking and filmmaking.

*Mirrors  
Split  
Thinking*

The argument that Jedi Knights betray their original mission to bring peace to the galaxy is not designed to antagonize *Star Wars* fans. In fact, it dissolves all the battle lines, including the one between fanatics and critics. The creation of enemies occurs by the projection of self-hate that is unconscious (like the missing location of the clone-producing planet in the movie). The director himself is not aware of the conspiracy within the conspiracy in his own film.

*Sith  
&  
Smith*

**Spoiler:** Lucas apparently still feels maligned by Hollywood and directs blockbuster action films to sustain his independence as filmmaker in conventional industry terms. The spiritual vision of the classic trilogy is lost within all the computer generated special effects and violent combat action in the prequels. The same criticism is made of *The Matrix* trilogy. Epic battle scenes dominate *Revenge of the Sith* that contains “the longest duel committed to film” (according to Hayden Christiansen describing the showdown between Anakin and Obi-Wan).

*War  
=  
Mutual  
Self-  
Hate  
Denied  
&  
Projected*

Good guys are bad, and bad guys are good, as mirrors of the hidden split in human thinking. When guilt is denied inwardly, however, then the division into bad and good shows up outwardly, attributed to outsiders who project it outward also. Clone attacks are always assaults of guilt that look like armies of enemies, Sith and Smith, as long as the division is kept concealed. War is mutually projected self-hate denied.

As another example, in the *Spider-man* series of films (Columbia Pictures 2002, 2004) Peter Parker (Tobey Macguire) is openly divided between an ordinary adolescent (*Spider-man*) an ordinary young adult (*Spider-man 2*) and the super-human figure of Spider-man. The more basic division into the Green Goblin (Willem

Dafoe) and Doctor Octopus (Alfred Molina) as the hidden negative dimension in his personality, is not acknowledged, though the role is flamboyantly acted out.

Without recognition, these despots are outrageous, vindictive and cruel in the films. The “dark side” thrives when guilt lives fully exposed in flagrant action (or hidden in shameful inhibition). You can be as bad as you want to be on the “dark side” and even teach Darth Vader a lesson or two about wickedness. With your big ego and great stubbornness, with no forgiveness, God is wrong and your guilt looks enormously valid to you.

Peter Parker espouses love, but cannot marry Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst) because it puts them in danger of being killed by Spider-man’s enemies. And, human beings cannot stop fighting each other until they begin to accept that the villains are split-off and denied parts of their own personalities. In “*Spidey 2*,” Peter Parker works as a photographer, but his personality remains fragmented. He never gets the big picture because his camera (rational consciousness) stays focused externally to publicize the wrongs of others in the tabloids.

*Peter  
Parker  
Picked  
a Peck of  
Personal  
Fights*

Jedi Knights and Sith merge out of the joint fear of peace — an idea often deemed preposterous. Peace arouses a fear greater than being killed in warfare — the dread of eternal punishment by God for not having loved Him previously. As calm sets in, defense budgets and troops are allocated to provoke yet another war. Peace never lasts long because fighting re-erupts to keep the fear suppressed with anger that is rationally justified as defense against aggressors. Planets from all directions in the galaxy are drawn into brawling for yet another century.

Critics complain that Padmé’s costumes “appropriate her natural beauty” but her advocacy of gorgeous peace in *Episode II* threat-

READY TO ENLIST

Date: thur, 05 aug 1999  
 From: "sin sin" sin2@hotmail.com  
 To: jsnodgr@calstatela.edu  
 Subject: i want to be a jedi!

Hello, are you a Jedi Knight? If you are then will you tell me your Jedi name? Also, can you teach me how to become a Jedi? E-mail me back.

P.S.: I am 12 years old, how old are you?

*Rage  
 Rules  
 the  
 'World'*

ens to stop the fighting among rival factions (of the self) making everyone vulnerable to the love of God. It is the message, not the person, who is feared and purged in reel time and real time. Faith in a higher power can reconcile hostilities between ancient enemies and make deadly force obsolete in all human relations. Without faith, however, rage appears to rule the 'world.'

