

## WEEK 18 JUSTICE

*“I have brought peace, freedom, justice, and security to my new empire”- Anakin*

The Jedi were Guardians of Justice. As representatives of the senate they avoided political affiliations and were dedicated to promoting justice and peace in the galaxy. The Jedi did this by applying a code that was ethical, moral and balanced. In other words, they used the “Jedi Method” for dispensing Justice.

Despite their best intentions the Jedi ultimately failed in their mission and were at times a source of injustice in the galaxy. The Jedi were not loved everywhere they went, far from it. As the Republic began to unravel to its end the Jedi found themselves making difficult choices which conflicted with the Jedi Code. The Jedi were complicit in the erosion of the democratic rights of citizens. Their action betrayed the very principles they stood for hastening their final demise. The foundations of justice on which the Republic was built were compromised. The failure of Justice led to the rise of Palpatine and the final fall of the Republic.

The Jedi lost sense of who they were. Along the way they compromised their principles for power, prestige and influence. The Jedi became political pawns and were eventually eliminated by Palpatine under Order 66. It was an ignominious end to a shining beacon of freedom and justice in a chaotic galaxy.

Justice is a moral virtue that is as hard to define as it is to achieve. Justice is rarely universal or perfect. For every Justice done there is always a grievance left in its shadow. The scales will tip in favour for one party at the expense for another.

In a perfect world, every decision made in the name of Justice would serve everyone equally and no harm would result. We

know this is rarely the case and one person's gain will be another person's loss. As hard as it can be to grapple with the outcomes, we should all strive toward "Justice for all" but be aware that mistakes can and will be made. Spend a day in the criminal or family courts to see this how Justice often plays out.

Humans are born with a sense of justice and become conscious of it at an early age. Children know intrinsically when something is unfair. They recognise compassion and empathy and carry an innate natural wisdom. As children age, they are influenced by parents, peers, teachers and the environment. Personal prejudices and biases creep in as the ego flowers. We never lose our divine sense of Justice; it only becomes shrouded.

No two people will have the same answers because everyone holds a different set of values which they define as stated principles. Each person has a varying outlook and idea on how Justice should be dispensed and appear at any given time for any issue. Every person has their unique set of preferences, bias and prejudices known and unknown. These vary and change over time with knowledge and experience. The exception is those that are told what to think. Without further thought or reasoning they blindly accept dogma and dare not stray from it.

Jedi used their sound judgement and reason. They were flexible enough in their thinking to not fall into traps or follow orders without question. Dogma was avoided. Jedi would at times question the sanity or the morality of decisions made. At the same time the Jedi were sworn to the order and were expected to follow orders. This conflict between personal judgement of what was right versus duty would plague many Jedi.

A real-world Jedi must confront the same questions and grapple with the same inner conflicts. Real-world Jedi are diverse, they are every race, colour, creed, gender, political leaning, sexual orientation and opinion. There is no diecast Jedi with a "typical" appearance, character or set of ideas. People in general are no

different. Regardless of who you vote for, the causes and issues you follow be they social or environmental how you define “Justice” in every instance may differ from that of others.

So be careful when you demand “Justice”. Things may not be as black and white as they appear. Bias and prejudice will only further cloud judgement. Be mindful of hidden agendas, ulterior motives and a natural desire for restitution or revenge. Justice should contain none of these things.

You must ask if your sense of justice correct? You can seek advice but decide you must, what is right. It may help to ask three important questions before you dispense Justice:

*Is it ethical?* The question to ask yourself here is “Would you do something that you would consider wrong or questionable if it were done by someone else?”. If you cannot satisfy this test, then the thing should not be done.

*Is it moral?* Ask yourself before making a decision “Will I be able to sleep soundly tonight? How would I react if I were on the receiving end? Will I be judged harshly in return?”. Remember that each judgement that you pass carries consequences, for others and for yourself. Accept that.

*Is it balanced?* You must determine if something is fair. Does it respect the rights of others? Is it equitable (equity)? Is there also a degree of impartiality? Does it recognise the arguments and grievances of all sides equally (equality)? Is it fair?

So, the question you have to ask are “*what do you value? What are your principles and finally, how do you define Justice? What is your blind side, and do you know your own biases?*?”. Are your decisions around Justice based on fairness, compassion and wisdom?

Finally, does it agree with the Jedi Method?



## DAY 121

*“Don’t you see? We don’t have to run away anymore! I am more powerful than the Chancellor, I... I can overthrow him! And together, you and I can rule the galaxy! Make things the way we want them to be!” – Anakin Skywalker*

Today I am Grateful for:


Morning Contemplation


Evening Reflection


**DAY 122**

*“I have the High Ground.”* – Obi-wan Kenobi

Today I am Grateful for:


Morning Contemplation


Evening Reflection


**DAY 123**

*“To answer power with power, the Jedi way this is not. In this war, a danger there is, of losing who we are.” - Yoda*

**Today I am Grateful for:**


**Morning Contemplation**


**Evening Reflection**


**DAY 124**

*“So this is how liberty dies. With thunderous applause.” –  
Padmé Amidala*

**Today I am Grateful for:**


**Morning Contemplation**


**Evening Reflection**




**DAY 125**

*“Popular rule is not democracy, Annie. It gives the people what they want, not what they need.” – Padmé Amidala*

**Today I am Grateful for:**


**Morning Contemplation**


**Evening Reflection**


**DAY 126**

*“I have brought peace, freedom, justice, and security to my new empire”- Anakin*

**Today I am Grateful for:**


**Morning Contemplation**


**Evening Reflection**


## WEEK REVIEW

Reflect on your daily practices and personal goals for the week.  
How did you do? Where can you refocus your attention?

Meditation:


Physical Exercise:


Diplomacy:


Awareness:


Self-Discipline:
