

## WEEK 46 CHARITY

*“Don’t confuse refusing help with not needing it.” - Leia Organa Solo*

Service is a fundamental part of being Jedi. The Jedi Order was formed to serve the Republic. Jedi would render aid and provide support where needed. The Jedi were also very mindful that the best way to help others was to help them to help themselves.

Ultraism is a human virtue. Without ultraism society could not function long as people would be divided into the haves and have nots and eventually all resources would flow in one direction. The sheer inequality would eventually lead to upheaval and chaos. Not everyone is born equal or with the same opportunities. This will never change in the real world, but it is the responsibility of society to ensure that everyone’s basic needs are met.

To render aid is to provide people with the resources to help meet their needs during a time of crisis. Support is providing the means by which others can help themselves. This is done through service and charity by giving time, goods (food, medical supplies, building material etc.) and money without expectation of payment in return.

Non-Governmental Organizations and charities exist for a vast array of causes. These are dedicated to ensuring that resources are allocated where they are needed in the most efficient and effective manner. You can donate money to many organizations or volunteer your time and skills.

The Jedi Order was not a charity. Jedi did not travel the Galaxy looking to alleviate poverty or intervene militarily to stamp out injustices such as slavery where it existed. They did provide aid and support to oppressed populations and individuals where they were able. During the Clone Wars the Jedi coordinated military and humanitarian support to many worlds that were under

embargo or military assault from Separatist forces. The aid was not charity, however. There was a political and military advantage in the assistance. By helping beleaguered populations help themselves the Jedi were able to garner support for the Republic and build resistance against the Separatist Confederation.

Charity can be both a blessing and a curse. Many countries in Africa and Asia have excessive levels of debt. Vast amounts of money have been borrowed to impoverished nations to help alleviate poverty without having much effect other than burdening them with crippling debt repayments. Desperate to remain solvent countries sell off their natural resources to the highest bidders with devastating environmental and social costs.

Force for Change is a charitable organization that was founded and is run by Lucas Films to collect donations for solutions to global problems. Actors such as Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford make public appearances to help support the charity. Corporations routinely sponsor charities and undertake philanthropy. Anakin also believed he was making a difference.

The old adage “*give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime*” should always be the preference. Handouts create a culture of dependency that erode accountability and self-sufficiency. The adage “*beggars remain as beggars, but a shoeshine boy can become President*” also rings true.

Being Jedi is about being mindful in intent and action. When choosing to act charitably always do so asking if you are helping or perpetuating a problem. Is giving money to a homeless person on the street going to solve his problem or allow him to buy another drink or hit? Would it be better to buy that person a meal and put them in touch with an outreach program? Is it better to treat the symptom rather than the cause? Does charity perpetuate injustice or help to solve it? Is charity even wanted? Rarely is it clear cut and this is where ethics and principles applies. Apply your conscience and the Jedi Method when helping others.

**DAY 316**

*“Mysterious are the ways of the Force.” - Yoda*

Today I am Grateful for:


Morning Contemplation


Evening Reflection


**DAY 317**

*“Passion yet serenity”* – Jedi Code

Today I am Grateful for:


Morning Contemplation


Evening Reflection


**DAY 318**

*“General Kenobi. Years ago you served my father in the Clone Wars. Now he begs you to help him in his struggle against the Empire..” – Princess Leia*

Today I am Grateful for:


Morning Contemplation


Evening Reflection


**DAY 319**

*“Help me Obi-wan Kenobi. You’re my only hope”* – Princess  
Leia

**Today I am Grateful for:**


**Morning Contemplation**


**Evening Reflection**


**DAY 320**

*“Sometimes, accepting help is harder than offering it.” –  
Clone Wars “Legacy of Terror”*

Today I am Grateful for:


Morning Contemplation


Evening Reflection


**DAY 321**

*“Don’t confuse refusing help with not needing it.” - Leia  
Organa Solo*

Today I am Grateful for:


Morning Contemplation


Evening Reflection




**DAY 322**

*“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:
