

JEDI VS. SITH

Based on the dialogue in the novel:
Revenge of the Sith by Matthew Stover

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The following script is a presentation of the non stop war raging within unintegrated opposing forces, which is expressed here through the battle between the Jedi and Sith. Its depiction of the Sith pulling strings behind the scenes to destabilize the world and facilitate their take over is an example of how Star Wars presents evil. But does the same kind of evil exist in our world? Conspiracy theorists will always say yes while others may use similar perspectives to justify the bloated stockpiles of nuclear weapons in our arsenal. They argue that if Bin Laden, North Korea or Iran had as many nukes as us, this kind of power would lead them to seek a Taliban / Communist style empire and enslave the world.

Just as Palpatine told Anakin in Revenge of the Sith, "All those who gain power are afraid to lose it. Even the Jedi." Yoda knows this is a weakness which is why he tries to council against it. He instructs Anakin, "Train yourself to let go of everything you fear to lose." Fear of loss is the prime motivator behind the creation of weapons and clone armies. Military force is an example of the means employed to prevent a nation state's loss of power to another.

Palpatine also tells Anakin that, "Good is a point of view." In warfare, everyone would rather see themselves as good or a freedom fighter as opposed to being a terrorist and evil. Just as Americans may see terrorists as evil, the opposing side may see us as the evil terrorists.

Is there something similar to the Jedi and Sith in our world? The destruction and tragedy of 9-11 may immediately come to some people's mind. Any time one side of a duality sees their opposite as evil, it has the potential to create the kind of warfare enacted in film. And as mentioned above about the conspiracy theorists, we don't have to look very far to see them online. Most are convinced that there is something akin to the Sith in our world, plotting their revenge and final take over. When Bush was president, many believed he was something like a Sith Lord. And now that Obama is president, the Anti-Christ has been associated with him.

The only way in which such a fictitious take over could be possible is if our society continues to become more and more polarized just as was the case in Nazi Germany. In this kind of hypothetical, one side must be seen as irredeemably corrupt and thus become the object of hate by those on the opposite or the same side.

As in Star Wars where the Sith come from the Jedi, the myth of God and Satan in the Biblical account plays out the same way. We are told that Lucifer was gifted by God with many divine qualities, but for some reason, chose to use them against who he was once a part of. In Christian prophecy, a scenario of good needing evil unfolds at the end of the world. The Earth approaches catastrophe and the Anti-Christ must take over to push us in the direction of a false global unity before the authentic Christ can return to finish the job with true world unification.

With all the political corruption we see in our world and nation along with looming environmental crisis, some don't think it's a far stretch to imagine a similar scenario as Star Wars where a Sith like leader finds favorable circumstances for rising to power. Visions from both sides of the polar extremes can see persecution of themselves at the hands of their opposite. For the atheists and humanists, it begins with a fear that a theocratic presidential candidate could come into power and literally believe the Rapture is immanent while shaping his foreign policy on this expectation. They would be ten times more extreme in their politics than any of our past presidents, leading to the separation between church and state to be dismantled while sanctioning

the persecution of non believers. Such a leader could push us towards a clash of civilizations and then trigger a nuclear catastrophe.

After such a scenario, the Christian's greatest fear could be realized with conditions favorable for a backlash, paving the way for an anti-religious dictator to come into power and replace the failed two party system. They would then have all the justification and backing needed to bring a populous atheism into the mainstream while using their power to outlaw religion and persecute Christians. Like Hitler, this kind of imagined Sith might not at first appear completely evil. Perhaps they would even have some progressive ideas and a grand vision for Utopia whose ends in their mind are justified by the means.

An exercise in vigilance as a wisdom hero is imagining something better than the scenario outlined above and then moving towards it. We must prevent the left and right from demonizing each other so history will not repeat itself again. With a large percentage of our population following a script in which a great evil must rise before the greatest good can come, there has to be a way to rewrite this so as to prevent us from paving the way for worst case scenarios to unfold. But how do we rewrite a script that is imbedded in the psyche of most humans?

Perhaps the only way to proceed is to integrate our own Jedi and Sith qualities into a polar unity within, while becoming examples of what is capable when the left and right come together into a more perfect union. By doing this, we don't have to worry about literally contributing to this external battle on the outside. We don't need evil before there can be good. Integrating both sides will help us touch peace and assist those trapped in the eternal battle do the same.

If we are ultimately interested in touching peace and ending warfare, we must see the potential of nonviolence. To become nonviolent, we must let go of fear itself. Mace Windu tells Anakin, upon learning that the chancellor is a Sith Lord, "Then our worst fears have been realized." It is his worst fears that lead him to the conclusion that violence is the only way to end its consummation. But it is violence that works against him. Good in his eyes becomes evil to another and Anakin interprets Mace's perceived defense as preemption.

Nonviolence was used effectively in the civil rights movement to counter the racist's charge that African Americans were sub-human or evil. Even in the American dictionary, black was defined as evil and white as good. But when whites were the ones attacking and using the ugliness of violence against blacks who were refusing to fight back or even hate their enemies, a paradigm shift was in order. It was the dark side that was actually good and the light side who were acting evil. This is the power of nonviolence. Without it, violence will escalate with more violence, hate with more hate and polar opposites will continue to fight on for all eternity.

INT. MOVIE THEATER -- DAY

There is an audience seated awaiting a film. On screen we see the movie unfold in cinematic splendor.

EXT. CHAPEL -- MORNING

A SITH LORD stands outside the chapel steps with his SITH apprentice. The Sith kneels before his master in worshipful reverence.

SITH LORD

Go my apprentice, Darth Treacherous. Attack the Jedi in the heart of their temple and make them engage with us in violent combat. It is the only way to disillusion the masses to their pathetic ideals of nonviolent peace and justice.

SITH

Yes my master. The Jedi will fall and our fear will tighten like a noose around this nation, making way for our Empire to rise.

SITH LORD

Count Bin Laden has been commanded to attack once again with the help of his terrorists. The president's efforts to make peace with the enemy will make the Democrats appear weak and naive paving the way for our coup. The new Republican commander and chief will turn this war into a religious battle, leading his administration to be toppled and giving us the justification needed to wipe the filth of Christianity from the face of the West forever. The people will be desperate for something new to rise from the ashes of a failed two party system. Chaos will follow and facilitate my great deception. They will trust me to stand in as emergency chancellor, seize control of the nuclear arsenal and restore order to the Republic.

INT. CHAPEL -- MORNING

A figure exits one of the chapel doors going into the church. It is a JEDI wearing light robes and an expression of determination. He has a light saber at his side. The Jedi nears the stage and then stops.

JEDI

I have a bad feeling about this.

(beat)

I sense something... elusive...

(beat)

The Dark Side draws near.

Another figure exits the opposite chapel door. It is a SITH, wearing dark robes and an expression of hate on his face. The Jedi and Sith converge and face off.

JEDI

You Sith disease. How dare you show your face in the sacred halls of this Jedi temple.

SITH

You Jedi scum. How dare you hide from me here among the deluded.

JEDI

It is you who are deluded. The Dark Side of the Force will never be stronger than the Light.

SITH

If the Light Side is so powerful, why do you fear me?

JEDI

I don't fear evil. I destroy it.

SITH

Did not the Sith find revenge and crush the Jedi a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away?

JEDI

Did not the Jedi return and assist the rebellion in destroying the Empire to restore peace and freedom to the galaxy?

The Jedi turns to the audience.

JEDI

He was a menace to the Galactic Republic then and he is a menace to ours now. If our president is already under the influence of his Sith lord, we may be in the gravest of danger.

A 2ND JEDI rises from his seat to speak.

2ND JEDI

Even if our Republic fell under the sway of the Sith, they would not hold power over us. A Jedi's strength has always come from the moral authority of the living Force.

JEDI

But he seeks power over our government so he can destroy our liberty and disband the Jedi Order.

A 3RD JEDI rises to speak.

3RD JEDI

But even if he disbands us with legal authority, still Jedi we would be. Jedi Knights have served the Force long before this Republic was born and serve it we will long after it has turned to dust.

JEDI

With the Sith threat, that time may be soon.

A 4th JEDI rises from his seat to respond.

4TH JEDI

I have seen life outside the Republic. Sweat shop slavery, torturous poverty, endless war. The Republic is civilization, the only one we have. It isn't perfect but it's our duty to protect it.

JEDI

That's why we must remove the Sith from our government.

SITH

The Sith are the only ones capable of saving the government. Corruption has made it a cancer in the body of the Republic and no one has been able to stamp it out. Not the president, the judicials, not the senate, not even the Jedi. It is the Sith alone who can save the Republic and bring order from this chaos.

JEDI

The Sith are the perpetrators of chaos.

SITH

The Sith are no different from Jedi. We seek power just like you.

JEDI

The Jedi use their power for good.

SITH

Is the Jedi concept of good the only valid one? The Sith believe in justice and security every bit as much as the Jedi.

JEDI

Your idea of justice is revenge.

SITH

Revenge is the foundation of justice. Justice began with revenge and revenge is still the only justice we can ever hope for.

JEDI

The Jedi ideals of justice do not involve revenge or serving evil.

SITH

Evil is your label for those who threaten you. Are you any different than us? You seek absolute power just like the Sith.

JEDI

The Jedi's quest is for greater understanding; for greater knowledge of the Force.

SITH

Which brings greater power, does it not?

JEDI

Well, yes. But the Jedi use their power in accordance with the will of the Living Force.

SITH

There is no will of the Living Force. It is only our will that matters.

The Sith turns to the audience.

SITH

Do you not all see what lies ahead? We are up against the sinister Bin Laden who will stop at nothing to destroy us. This war going on will only intensify and spiral out of control. Anarchy and depression will fall everywhere and threaten everyone. It is only the Sith who can bring order from this chaos. We can ensure that never again will we be divided. Never again will nation turn against nation, red state against blue state, Democrat against Republican, mother against father. To ensure that we stand together, that we speak with a single voice and act with a single hand, the republic must evolve. We have become an empire by fact. Let us become an empire in name.

JEDI

You Sith are an enemy of democracy.

SITH

We love democracy and that's why we seek to save it. The Republic as it is now, is too unfocused to face this coming war. We need a single authority to direct its prosecution and unite the earth. We will cede our emergency powers once world peace has been established. Now you will either be with us or you will be an enemy of peace and the Republic.

JEDI

A Sith always speaks in absolutes.
You're under arrest for treason.

SITH

I don't think so. It's your time
that's over! The Sith will rule.

The Sith pulls out his light saber as the Jedi follows.

JEDI

save your twisted words. It's over!
You've lost.

SITH

You're no match for the power of
the dark side!

The blade on the Sith's light saber ignites in a blaze of red.

JEDI

The flaw of power is arrogance.

SITH

You hesitate, the flaw of
compassion.

JEDI

It's not compassion, it's reverence
for life, even for yours. It's
respect for the human you were,
regret for the Jedi you should have
become.

The blade on the Jedi's light saber ignites in a blaze of blue. A 5th JEDI stands up to speak.

5TH JEDI

Wait! He must stand trial.

JEDI

The trial would be a joke. He
controls most of our government and
knows how to play on the sympathies
of the masses. He is too dangerous
to be kept alive.

A 6th JEDI stands up in a rage.

6TH JEDI

You can't just kill him! It's not
the Jedi way.

JEDI

Yes I can. I have to.

SITH

This isn't an arrest, it's an assassination. It's the Jedi who seek to seize power of the Republic.

JEDI

But only to save it from you.

SITH

You just want a weak minded president in office who can be controlled by your Jedi mind tricks.

JEDI

You Sith always use deception to gain sympathy and mask your evil.

SITH

You Jedi always use a mask of righteousness to hide your dark side and disguise yourself as the light.

(beat)

Am I really a Sith or just another in your long line of fallen Jedi, sick of your hypocrisy and corruption.

JEDI

The Jedi who became Sith were never true Jedi.

(beat)

This is war and I will fight you to the bitter end!

The Jedi and Sith fight furiously. They drive each other back towards the chapel front doors. They both open and the two polar opposites exit in a frenzied blaze mutual hate.

INT. MOVIE THEATER -- DAY

Footage of the film on screen disappears as the lights go on. The audience seated at the theater turn to each other in surprise.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

What happened to the movie?

EXT. CHAPEL COURTYARD -- MORNING

The cinematic sequence has been shattered. Our view shows drab, documentary style footage. Now the Jedi and Sith move outside, their light sabers are no longer lit but are only plastic toys. The filmmaker exits the door after them.

FILMMAKER

What are you guys doing? This isn't in the script.

From the opposite side of the courtyard, police lead a procession of hundreds of people in a candlelight vigil. Their presence have distracted the Jedi and Sith, pulling them away from their duel.

JEDI

No, I can't do this. I can't take this battle into the real world.

PERSON FROM CROWD

Yeah, keep it on the big screen where it belongs.

SITH

Admit what is true. You're all addicted to evil. You would be nothing without me!

2ND PERSON FROM CROWD

We are moving toward the good, without the need for evil.

SITH

Without World War I, the League of Nations would never have been born and without World War II, where would the U.N. be today? Without Hitler, the Jews would have never got their homeland back. Without Jim Crow, how could there have been a civil rights movement? And without Israel's aggression towards Palestine, where would we find the fuel needed to ignite World War III and impetus for the unification of humankind?

JEDI

No, there is another way. If our shadow side is peacefully integrated with our light, we will no longer need you creating havoc on the outside world to move us forward.

PERSON FROM CROWD

Take your eternal battle back to the movie theater and don't ever return!

Some of the people in the crowd hold up Earth flags and signs with world citizen declarations. The Sith and Jedi lower their plastic sabers. Now they turn around and go back into the chapel as the crowds cheer.

INT. MOVIE THEATER -- DAY

The audience are getting impatient, but now the lights dim and the movie resumes... and we return to the cinematic perspective as the Jedi and Sith's light sabers ignite as the battle continues where it left off.