

Address from the Iron Throne

My Brethren,

I address you this day on behalf of Lord Cotelin who has been called away on pressing business on the far side of the galaxy in the Outer Rim.

I would like my first address to be one of optimism but it is instead one of the deepest caution. Division plagues the Brotherhood. Almost three cycles have passed since the death of Lord Okemi at the hand of Lord Firefox and yet the bonds that were forged during that Great War have begun to weaken. Like a two-headed serpent the Brotherhood has begun to tear in two, each side vying for the glory of the Iron Throne.

This division must end. As heralds of the Final Way our quest can only be achieved with unity. Our anger must be channeled at the Jedi. It is true the Sith way is one of survival, where the weak are slain and only the strong prosper. However we did not get where we are today through needless sacrifice. The Sith way is not one of undisciplined chaos and disorder. We are the masters of the dark side; it is not the master of us.

The recent incidents at Aranna and Selen must not be repeated. Those who flout the code of the Brotherhood will earn the wrath of the Iron Throne, and that is a fate none should desire to see. Use these conflicts, feed off them, let you hate of one another make you powerful, but focus your hate at our true enemy, the light.

Around us the Republic crumbles. The bureaucracy of the past seeks to send the galaxy spiraling into civil war once again. We must not allow that to happen. That is our duty as the subjects of the Dark Lord. There must be order and we must enforce it where the Jedi cannot. We cannot allow the light to destroy that which the great Lord Sidious spent so many years to build.

Order is at the heart of the Final Way.

We must unite, lest we throw away all that Lords Firefox and Cotelin have built.

In Darkness,

Master Xanos Zorrixor, Apprentice to the Dark Lord
Deputy Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Dark Jedi

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In an effort to more adequately cover events as they unfold in the Brotherhood, the Dark Voice is putting out a call for writers. Interested candidates should e-mail dvstaff@darkjedibrotherhood.com

Desire for Expanded Courses Options perceived in the Brotherhood

By: Anshar Kahn Tarentae

At least, that is the feeling of the Headmaster, Anshar Kahn Tarentae. Though already offering a wide variety of courses, members are always presenting new ideas, and there appeared to be interest in the current courses under development at this time.

“New course ideas are always being accepted for review,” said the Headmaster. However, he added, not all course ideas are approved. “In a few cases, someone is already working on the same idea, or the course really does not fit the Brotherhood at this time.” Those wishing to propose new courses should first submit a proposal to the Headmaster and his praetor before any other steps are taken on any potential new course. Once a new course is fully developed and approved, the course writer becomes the eclectic pedagogue for the course.

There is some concern that the Shadow Academy might expand to fast and become too big. The Headmaster shook off these worries, however, and commented that the courses will be available if the membership wants them. No new courses will be added to the curriculum until construction on new buildings and renovations on current structures are finished. The new and expanded Academy will have room for more courses, an expanded library and training facilities (including an expanded hanger for flight practice), and even better eating and temporary, dormitory style residential buildings.

Warnings of War

By: Anonymous

As the flames of battle fade from the eyes of Clans Arcona and Taldryan, Dark Jedi around the Brotherhood are questioning the purpose of petty, internal squabbling. From the heart of Antei to the outermost fringes of our territory, skepticism replaces confidence and those who fight for the Final Way have expressed doubt in the effectiveness of the current administration.

The Brotherhood teeters on the verge of collapse, says one Dark Jedi who wishes to remain anonymous.

“Clans feuding with each other, equipment and soldiers being lost at such a rate... how are we supposed to dominate the galaxy when we can't control our own followers? If the Grand Master doesn't do something soon, the Brotherhood is in for dark days ahead. And not the good kind of dark.”

While other, more powerful Dark Jedi remain optimistic about the subjugation of new territories and the liquidation of their natural and humanoid resources, initiates to the order walk their training grounds with a mix of fear and skepticism about the coming times. “With the shipyards almost a year behind schedule, can we really afford to have pieces of the Brotherhood attack each other without consequence? Warring clans should look to the Final Way and let it weed out the weak and unworthy; we should direct all our might at those who refuse to follow our edicts,” said one Novice.

“No one disputes the necessity for realistic combat training,” mused a Dark Jedi Knight over tea and concubines, “and the deaths of a few commoners leave me nonplussed. The deaths of Force-users—[people] we can use to project our power into the galaxy—those are the ones who should be saved for actual fighting. Let Taldryan and Arcona negotiate next time, or send some slaves to fight for their entertainment. Leave the powerful to crush the real oppositions out there.”

In a time of change both in the Brotherhood and around the known galaxy, it is hard to tell where the Force is guiding us. Perhaps we are just experiencing the pains of a growing and powerful entity; perhaps we all bear witness to the first steps of our own destruction. In either case, we must put an end to infighting and concentrate on establishing dominance over any who stand in the path of the Final Way.

To the Headmaster's knowledge, no one is opposed to the expansion of course offerings. If anyone is opposed, they are keeping their mouths shut about it, which does little good. The only protests known to the Headmaster are those pertaining to what many consider easy promotions through the early ranks. The Headmaster, himself a former house and clan leader, concurred with the leaders and the easy promotions, while still available, are not publicized. “Each clan is free to develop its own guidelines,” explained the Headmaster, for about the hundredth time. However, the Headmaster also offered a warning, stating that he would reinstate the promotion system if the clans failed to properly recognize work done at the Shadow Academy.

As for the future of the Shadow Academy beyond mere course expansion, the Headmaster answered only that “things will change as they need to.” He denied all rumors that he was attempting to secure an *Imperial* class Star Destroyer for the Shadow Academy.

What is a Fiction Tribune?

By: Seraine "Erinyes" Ténama

As far as it affects the average member, there really is not all that much difference between a Krath High Priest and a Fiction Tribune. Krath High Priest ran Monthly Topics; the Fiction Tribune runs Monthly Topics. The Krath High Priest ran the Murder Mystery competitions; the Fiction Tribune will run Murder Mystery competitions as soon as the GJW is over. The Krath High Priest maintained a Krath Archive of poetry and fiction, the Fiction Tribune will be creating an archive for poetry and fiction in short order. The Krath High Priest ran the Krath RoS... well, there are not *quite* as many similarities.

The difference comes in the background goals of the position. The Krath High Priest was focused on the welfare of the Krath Order first, no matter what the activity. In past times, this was sometimes reflected in a "find something to do that is not gaming" mentality. A Krath High Priestess created the forerunner of the ACC, the Krath Combat Centre, in the pre-Split DB. All of these activities were undertaken for the sake of the Krath as an Order.

The focus of the Fiction Tribune, on the other hand, is simultaneously narrower and broader. Rather than managing an Order full of activities, the chief concerns of the Fiction Tribune are fiction, poetry and run-ons. This is partially reflected by assuming responsibility for the Monthly Topics. It is the Fiction Tribune's responsibility to develop fiction and poetry in a way that is accessible to the entire Brotherhood.

Aside from that main difference, there are a few other details that separate the Fiction Tribune from its predecessor. First, the Krath High Priest was involved with the administration of Krath Houses, a role which the Fiction Tribune won't continue, simply because there are no Krath Houses left. However, this does not mean the Fiction Tribune will not be involved on the House level; input can come from all over the Brotherhood, and frankly, it would be foolish to ignore feedback from the membership. Second, the exact authority of the Fiction Tribune to give awards is not clear; obviously, other Tribunes have the power to give specific medals (namely the DSS for the DV Tribune and the CF for the Gaming Tribune), but it is not certain whether those privileges carry over to the Fiction Tribune in some way. Finally, the Fiction Tribune is not a full Council member, and as such does not have a Praetor or Magistrates.

So, what does this mean for the average member? Frankly, very little. Fiction and poetry competitions and the Monthly Topics will go on as they always have. There will continue to be development in fiction and poetry in much the same vein as the Krath High Priest did. Some members are cursing about the change of name or the lack of a distinct fictional role for the Fiction Tribune (which, as an aside, is the process of being developed). But overall, life will go on in the DB, and the experiences that the membership has with fiction and poetry writing will be the same or better, as they were when the Krath High Priest were in office.

Tuk'Ata

The Sith Hounds

By: Mononoke Macron Keibatsu-Goura

These fearsome beasts with glowing red eyes are the stuff of nightmares. Created by the ancient Sith as tomb guardians, the horrid beasts continue to lurk on Korriban today. Even now, they await those who would plunder the tombs of the Sith Lords.

The Sith Hounds are jet-black, have four strong legs with ripping claws, a set of bug-like grasping arms growing from their shoulders, and four claw-like tendrils embedded in their foreheads. The arm-like appendages had stingers with a numbing poison that can be fatal. The murderous monsters also possess many rows of sharp teeth that continually grow, much like a shark's.

Spawned of alchemy and dark magic, this horned and twisted mockery of a hound can grow to huge sizes. They have enormous strength and speed, and a keen intellect surpassing that of a common animal. Tuk'Ata are sentient to some degree, and can speak limited versions of the old Sith tongue. They are known to have extremely long life spans, and were sealed in tombs as guardians to await intruders.

One of Count Dooku's Jedi named Tol Skorr encountered a nearly 10 meter tall specimen while looting on Korriban and was injured by it. Later he fought it again with Quinlan Vos. According to rumor, Vos lured Skorr into facing the beast in order to recover a holocron for Darth Tyranus. Exar Kun fought several Sith Hounds in a ritual test while exploring Korriban as well, much earlier in history.

In actuality, little is truly known of these monstrosities. In terms of the Brotherhood, rumor has it that some people have encountered them as well. This author has encountered one with the Herald on Korriban while working for the Grand Master's Guard, but cannot divulge any information from that classified foray. More research on these interesting creatures is needed.

Cheating Death - Sith Body Preservation Techniques

By: Mononoke Macron Keibatsu-Goura

Ancient Lords of the Sith were known to practice some unusual and fascinating disciplines. Recently, research has uncovered information on three in particular. These three practiced alchemical means of modifying their own bodies. As we have all seen how Darth Vader was modified, it is not surprising to know that this was practiced thousands of years before Lord Vader's time.

One of the first known Sith Lords to perform the art of corporal modification was Dathka Graush. Over seven thousand years before the Battle of Yavin, Graush won a civil war on Korriban. He was a pureblooded Sith Lord of the old stock, and created alchemical zombies among other things. These zombies could spread through chemicals secreted by their bites, and they were always eager for twitching flesh.

Dathka Graush was most famous for other reasons. He removed his throbbing heart and replaced it with a Force-imbued crystal called "The Heart of Graush". The crystal was rumored to make him invincible. It also absorbed the spirits of countless Darksideers during the bloody fifty-year reign of the Lord. It was similar in nature to the crystal that Exar Kun found containing Jedi spirits, except this one contained countless Sith. A later tomb looter in the valley of Golg found the Heart and was possessed by the spirit of Graush millennia later, illustrating its power.

Darth Simus is another example of body alteration and preservation techniques. Simus lost a battle to Marka Ragnos, and was dying. Instead, he managed to preserve his own living head inside a crystalline casing. He existed for another hundred years like this, and instructed the mighty Naga Sadow in the ways of the Dark Side. As Sadow was one of the best alchemists before or since, Simus was an excellent teacher. He was undoubtedly a mighty alchemist.

And finally, another Darksider who practiced bodily preservation was Lord Sion. Sion was an exceptional lightsaber combatant, and may have practiced the arts of Makashi, Dun Moch, and Shien. Somehow his body had become mangled severely, presumably in combat. It is possible that this occurred during his training at the Trayus Academy under Darth Traya.

He had found the ability to channel his anger and hatred, literally keeping himself alive with the Dark Side. He was nearly immortal, and his mangled body fed on his pain to make it stable. It is almost certain that he practiced some form of Sith alchemy in order to ensure his continued survival. It is a known fact that he had developed a life-draining attack of great power, and perhaps this supplemented his body somehow.

In conclusion, the art of body modification had been practiced for ages by the Sith. Situations that should have killed normal people were proven to be non-fatal for the alchemists in question. This illustrates the tenacity and power of the Sith alchemist.

Continued research in this area can enhance the power of the Brotherhood.

From the Editor

This edition was a delightful challenge to myself. The staff saw a dramatic decrease in numbers most likely due to the fall out of the last Editor. The number of articles was low for this edition due to the feuds and exams taking place. Overall things did seem rather grim. However, I am pleased to offer this small but no less important issue of the Dark Voice.

There are several opinions and facts within some of these articles, which may invoke some head scratching or flat out anger. These items are more than welcome within this publication. If you, the reader, wish to make responses to these opinions or facts please send to dvstaff@darkjedibrotherhood.com. Your response may grant you a place in the next edition.

