

SHADES OF LIGHT

By Aura Ta'var

(Conversation between Ka Tarvitz and Aura Ta'var)

35 ABY

"I hope your stay here is going well so far. Solyiat may be cold but Baime is rather nice this time of year," said Tarvitz.

"Indeed. The sushi is rather nice here, it has a decent nightlife, and I like the warmer weather. I'm thinking of renting a home here for the summer. It will be a nice place to wind down between my Jedi lessons," said Aura cheerfully.

"Ah, the Jedi..." said Tarvitz skeptically.

"What about the Jedi?" asked the Zeltron defensively.

"They're interesting but not very open minded."

"What do you mean? The only thing they don't tolerate is the Dark Side of the Force. And aren't you a Jedi yourself? she asked accusingly.

"Me? No. I'm a Jensaarai. We believe in balancing the Jedi and Sith teachings. There is some value to the Dark Side. It can be put to good use," he explained patiently.

"Excuse me...Did you just say it could be put to good use?" said Aura, her voice tense with exasperation.

"Yes. Aggression has its uses and gives you power. Some Sith have used that power for good."

"What about the people who get hurt in the process? The Dark Side comes at a cost, and it usually includes collateral damage," she said in a reflective, sad voice.

"Maybe with the Sith or the Dark Jedi, but we Jensaarai still defend peace and justice. We would never allow that to happen," said Tarvitz defensively.

"You can't promise that. Don't you think others have tried that before? It doesn't work," Aura said with a tint of anger.

"The Jensaarai are trained to prevent such atrocities. We wouldn't let it go so far. Jedi don't have such training," he said with matter-of-factly.

“This isn’t about Jedi or Jensaarai or Sith,” she spat. “This is about the light and the dark. Fire is fire. It burns either way. All it does it hurt people,” she said, her voice clipped for emphasis.

“The Jedi avoid such powers. How can you possibly pass judgment on the Dark Side when you don’t know it,” he said with a healthy amount of annoyance.

“You assume too much. I am not a Jedi. I have never been a Jensaarai, but I can tell you that I am entirely far too familiar with the Dark Side. I have felt the wounds it creates in the Force. I have even caused them! All of this was done in the name of peace and justice. In the end, all it did was hurt those I wanted to save...” Aura admitted angrily.

“I’m truly sorry to hear that. Believe or not, I care very much about upholding the Jedi values of peace and justice. It is a Jedi ideal that we Jensaarai hold dear to our hearts. I have even sworn a similar oath to Odan-Urr. I care a lot. Do you think I’d let that happen?” he asked indignantly.

“Even if we both value the role of guardians of the galaxy, there is a right and wrong way to do it. Everyone makes mistakes, but I hope you take my advice into consideration. The price of ignoring such age-old wisdom is too high,” she said in a serious tone.

“It saddens me to think the Dark Side may have caused that much pain. I believe the Jensaarai teachings can help defend others without harming innocents,” he said in a defensive tone.

“You’ve sworn to protect Odan-Urr and defend others. That is admirable. Just think about the innocents that might be harmed if your aggression turns into something else entirely. Anger is a path to the Dark Side. It may not directly hurt innocents, but one way or another they will eventually be harmed. It is patient and it shows no mercy. Be wary or you will regret it for a very long time,” cautioned Aura, her voice full of sorrow.

“I...Thank you. The Jensaarai teachings were made to help deal with this sort of thing, but I appreciate the warning nonetheless. I’ll be vigilant. May I ask you what happened?” he asked curiously.

“Huh? Sorry, I was lost in thought,” she admitted, her voice laden with glum.

“What happened? How did they get hurt?”

“It’s a long story, one I’m not ready to tell just yet. Ask me another time.”

“Sure. Let's change the subject.”

“Actually, I just want to see my daughter right now. I’m sorry but I have to go. I’ll see you next time. I just hope you walk the knife’s edge better than me...” Aura said, her tone a mix of regret and hope.

