

Hyle Alihandross was more rattled than he cared to admit from his encounter with the mysterious force user on Nar Shadda. He spent some time recounting the incident with some SenNet colleagues over a few drinks, but he realised that he was still a long way from being able to handle himself against even a moderately competent force user. Although he hadn't been forced to use it on Nar Shadda, Hyle was particularly concerned with working on his lightsabre techniques. He'd read extensively on all of the basic forms and principles of lightsabre combat and could use a blade without harming himself, but he needed to be able to harm others if necessary. Although he liked to be prepared for any eventuality, he had come to learn that he could not always rely on the luxury of preparation, and that he needed to be maximise his options in any situation. His Master Junazee, had taught him the basic practicalities of using a lighstabre, and her natural build and talents gave her a tendency to the athleticism and finesse, which, although he admired, was not necessarily suited to his stature or skillset.

Although she had taught him to channel his fear and aggression, he had learned that emotion would never be enough, and that one who could effectively control their emotions, or the situation in general, would always have the advantage. It was this truth that drew him towards Niman, the Sixth Form of Lightsabre combat. Although the moves were mainly based on the four basic forms, there were other unique concepts and principles it incorporated which Hyle Felt would give him the most options in combat. One was the extensive use of of the force itself in strikes and moves, which, admittedly, Hyle was a long way from perfecting. Another was the Soka principle, which stressed the use of the battlefield itself to gain advantages.

"Niman gave the Jedi of old time and flexibility to dedicate to the other pursuits of their order, investigation, diplomacy, scholarship. You wish to be ore than a swordsman."

"I want to be an effective swordsman, who can survive in any situaton."

"You might want to be careful with that kind of ambition." She said half jokingly.

"Besides, Niman has none of the advantages of the more specialised forms. Even I must use two forms for the sake of flexibility, Shien for crowd control, Makashi for dueling."

"Crowd control? That's one way of looking at through fighting your way through an armed mob I suppose."

"But then it's not enough to survive, you have to be able to win."

"So the Sixth form teaches flexibility."

"To what end? Resolving a situation without bloodshed?"

"If possible."

"And if not."

"Flexibility gives you a range of opportunities, possibilities you can exploit to resolve a situation on your terms. Isn't that what Niman stands for?"

"Perhaps. But how would you apply this?"

"Tactics"

"What?"

"Almost any combat situation can be won with superior tactical awareness, not to mention putting the resources you have to the best use."

"Resources?"

"Terrain? Cover? High Ground? Using your surroundings?"

“You speak of the Sokan principle.”

“Surely the flexibility of Niman depends on Sokan? After all, what is the point of broadening your options if not to take advantage of the opportunities? If you can find options to take and opportunities to explore, then you find a way to control the situation”

“Perhaps. We’ll have to put it to the test. You’ll have two sessions in the practice arena per day. One in a setting of your choosing, and one in a setting of mine. Then that way ce can see how you act to circumstances you can’t control as well s just refining your technique.