

I'm tired of everyone hearing "Sith" and thinking "evil" or "Dark Side". The Sith Code says nothing about being cruel to others or trying to impose your will on them. The paramount value of the Sith Code is *freedom*. Freedom from oppression—like the kind that the Jedi Order imposed on their members.

And you know what? Every Jedi who was worth anything followed the Sith Code.

Yoda. Mace Windu. Qui-Gon Jinn. Obi-Wan Kenobi. Anakin Skywalker. Luke Skywalker. You know what they all had in common? They cared about other people. They cared intensely—*passionately*, you might say. They weren't content to sit peacefully by and watch injustice happen. Their desire to save the galaxy from oppression made peace into a lie and sparked into the fires of passion. Their passion gave them the strength to persevere. Their perseverance allowed them to develop power, not all of which was martial power; Luke Skywalker in particular defeated Darth Vader with love, not a lightsaber (which sounds like an anti-Force-Sensitive NGO called Love Not Lightsabers). Their power granted them victory over the Dark Side, bringing freedom to the galaxy.

Yeah, that's right. Don't tell me those Jedi Masters (minus Anakin, of course) didn't uphold the Sith Code with their actions. They just don't like admitting it because it messes with their tidy philosophy of "Jedi good, Sith bad".

"But Erin," you say, "the Sith *are* bad! Palpatine was a Sith!" Yeah, *Palpatine* was evil. So what? Are you implying that every Sith is evil just because Palpatine was? And the Jedi accuse *us* of dealing in absolutes!

The problem with Palpatine wasn't that he was a Sith, it was that he was a narcissist and a hypocrite. The only freedom he cared about was his own, and he didn't even *get* it in the end. All he did was make his chains long enough to drag Darth Vader, the Empire, and the First Order along with him when his overconfidence finally caught up to him.

On the other end of the spectrum, you have... well, me. I won't pretend I'm a "good person" by most people's standards, but I'm at least a consistent person. I support individual freedoms that don't impinge on other people's freedoms. I don't go out of my way to impose my will on others, or to be cruel and make them suffer for my own enjoyment. I don't know, maybe that's just because I'm a Zeltron and hate being burdened with someone else's misery, but does it really matter if it means I'm not torturing people for kicks?

And really, when you get down to it, that's the point: Freedom. Being a Sith is about maximum freedom. It's about ignoring what the establishment tells you if you think the establishment is stupid, including that "all Sith are evil" just because Palpatine was. Palpatine would never have donated credits to a Harakoan polecat shelter, but I do, because I think there's a place in the galaxy for cute and fluffy things.

Being a Sith is *not* about being a yellow-eyed, droopy-faced man-child who's so afraid of death that he'd rather imprison himself in his own life. Or rather, it's not about insisting that there's only one way to Sith. Leave that kind of preaching to the Jedi.