

STAR WARS™

MACE WINDU

JEDI OF THE REPUBLIC

MARVEL 002



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MACE WINDU

Book I, Part IV

It is a time of uncertainty for the Jedi Order. With the advent of the Clone Wars, the sworn peacekeepers of the Republic find themselves thrust into battle as generals in the struggle against the Separatists.

Jedi Master Mace Windu has assembled a small covert team – comprised of Jedi Knights Kit Fisto, Proset Dibs, and Rissa Mano – to investigate Separatist activity on the remote planet Hissrich. Having anticipated the Jedi's interference, the Separatist General Grievous has recruited AD-W4, a mercenary droid with a thirst for murdering Jedi, to protect their interests on Hissrich.

But when Proset Dibs discovers that the Jedi Council knew about the valuable energy source held on Hissrich all along, he pulls out his lightsaber to challenge Master Windu himself....

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Mathas.
Before...

SUFFERING
BLANKETS THIS
PLANET LIKE A *MIASMA*,
CHOKING ITS
INHABITANTS.

LONG HAVE
THE PEOPLE OF
MATHAS BEEN VICTIM
TO THE *NIFFIN PLAGUE*--
A MALICIOUS DISEASE THAT
ATTACKS THE RESPIRATORY
SYSTEM OVER A LONG
PERIOD OF TIME, ONLY
AFFLICTING THOSE
BORN ON WORLD.

MY HEART
HANGS HEAVY
TO WITNESS
SUCH PAIN,
MASTER.

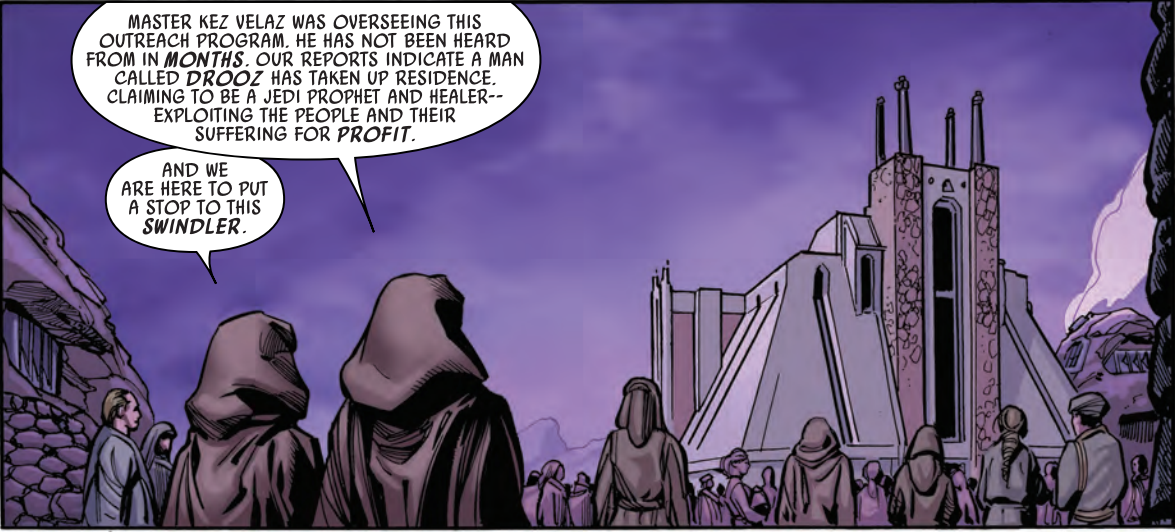
AS DOES
MINE, YOUNG
ONE. AS DOES
MINE.

AND WHAT
ARE WE DOING
IN THE WAY OF
AID FOR THESE
PEOPLE?

THERE IS NO
DEFINITIVE CAUSE
FOR THE DISEASE.
NO ONE KNOWS IF OR
WHEN ONE WILL BECOME
INFECTED. MEDICAL AID
IS UNFORTUNATELY
NOT WITHIN OUR
PURVIEW.

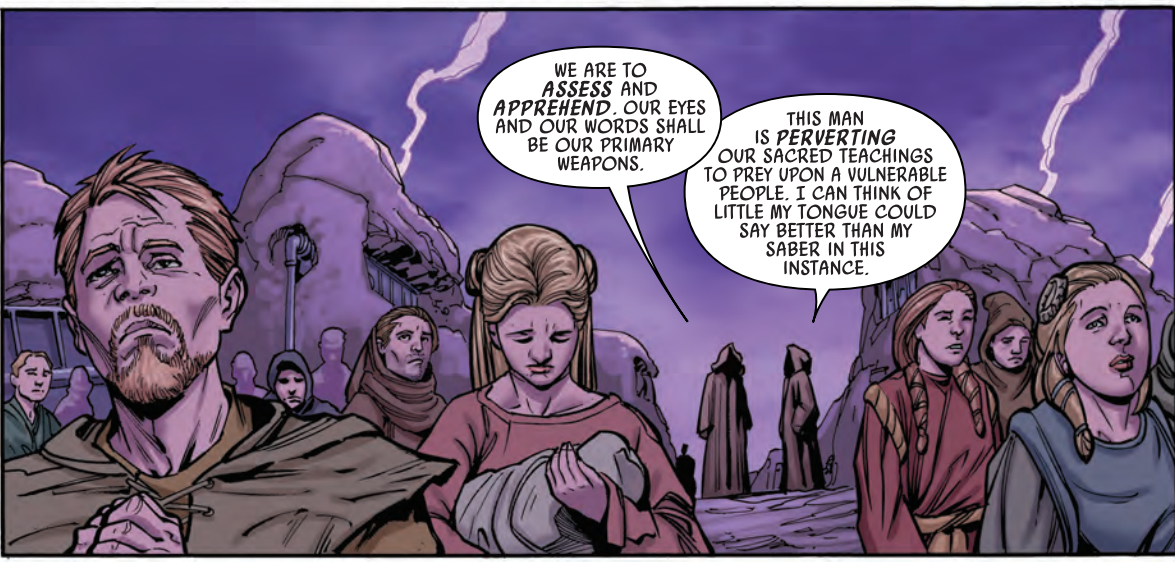
AN OUTREACH
TEMPLE HAS BEEN
SET UP ON THE PLANET
TO GIVE EMOTIONAL AND
SPIRITUAL AID TO THOSE
WHO SEEK IT. IT IS ALL WE
CAN DO FOR THESE
PEOPLE--WHICH BRINGS
US TO WHY WE
ARE HERE.

THE
HERETIC.



MASTER KEZ VELAZ WAS OVERSEEING THIS OUTREACH PROGRAM. HE HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM IN *MONTHS*. OUR REPORTS INDICATE A MAN CALLED *DROOZ* HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE. CLAIMING TO BE A JEDI PROPHET AND HEALER-- EXPLOITING THE PEOPLE AND THEIR SUFFERING FOR *PROFIT*.

AND WE ARE HERE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS *SWINDLER*.




WE ARE TO *ASSESS AND APPREHEND*. OUR EYES AND OUR WORDS SHALL BE OUR PRIMARY WEAPONS.

THIS MAN IS *PERVERTING* OUR SACRED TEACHINGS TO PREY UPON A VULNERABLE PEOPLE. I CAN THINK OF LITTLE MY TONGUE COULD SAY BETTER THAN MY SABER IN THIS INSTANCE.



DISSOLVE YOUR HOSTILITY, PADAWAN. CHANNEL YOUR FRUSTRATIONS INTO AN *APPROPRIATE* EMOTION. VIOLENCE, AS ALWAYS, IS A LAST RESORT.

OF COURSE. *APOLOGIES*, MASTER.



A FIRE BURNS INSIDE YOU, PADAWAN. THAT, IN ITSELF, IS NOT INHERENTLY WRONG. IT IS MY JOB TO HELP YOU TEMPER IT. THIS IS WHY I CHOSE YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME ON THIS MISSION.

I DO SO ENJOY A CHALLENGE.



Cyslin Myr.
Jedi Master.

THIS MAY
WELL BE YOUR
GREATEST TEST YET.
ARE YOU READY,
MACE?

Mace Windu.
Jedi Apprentice.

I
AM READY,
MASTER.





"THEN MAY
THE FORCE
BE WITH US."

WE ARE
BROTHERS, MASTER
DIBS. CUT FROM THE
SAME CLOTH. CHOSEN TO
WALK DOWN THE SAME
PATH. YOU WOULD
THROW ALL OF THAT
AWAY?

KSSSHHH

Hissrich.
Now...

ALL I
THROW AWAY IS A JEDI
COUNCIL THAT HAS TURNED
ITS BACK ON THE TEACHINGS.
THIS IS NOT OUR
TRUE WAY.

YOU CANNOT
CHANGE THE IDEOLOGY
OF OUR ORDER TO FIT
YOUR WHIMS.

WAR FOR THE
SAKE OF PEACE?
WERE I ONLY SO
GULLIBLE, MASTER
WINDU.

IT IS THE
OPTION THAT IS
LAID OUT BEFORE US.
WE DID NOT WANT THIS.
BUT IF I MUST PICK UP A
WEAPON TO PROTECT
WHAT I KNOW TO BE
RIGHT THEN
SO BE IT.

WE DO
NOT TRAIN WITH
LIGHTSABERS FOR
THEM TO SIMPLY
ADORN OUR
WAISTS.

SUCH IS THE
WILL OF THE
FORCE.

YOU KNOW
NOTHING OF THE
FORCE!



I SENSE GREAT DISTRESS IN YOU, RISSA.

OF COURSE I'M DISTRESSED BY THIS! AREN'T YOU?



WE SHOULD NOT BE FIGHTING OURSELVES! WITH ALL OF THE VERY REAL EVIL GOING ON IN THE GALAXY RIGHT NOW, WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONES TO SAVE IT.

WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LEADERS AND ROLE MODELS, AND EVEN WHEN WE DOUBT OURSELVES WE HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD, BECAUSE IF WE DON'T THINGS ARE GOING TO GET EVEN WORSE FOR EVERYONE!



YOU SPEAK WISELY FOR ONE SO NEW. IT PAINS ME TO SEE A FELLOW JEDI I RESPECT FALL TO SUCH CONFUSION. BUT EVERYTHING IS A LESSON. I FEAR PROSSET MAY BE FAILING HIS.



AND WHAT HAPPENS IF HE DOES?

