

Further Discussions With Lanius

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The perspective of the Jedi who live in the Cularin system is something that interests a great many of the citizens of the region. Perhaps none so uniquely embody the Jedi as does the headmaster of the Almas Academy, Master Lanius Qel-Bertuk.

Master Lanius was kind enough to grant us an [interview](#) on one occasion in the past, and the discussion was enthusiastically received by both Jedi and non-Jedi readers. We contacted Master Lanius and requested a few more minutes of his time. To our great surprise and delight, he offered to have another of the senior Jedi at the Academy sit in, Master Kirlocca.



Kirlocca is the Wookiee who serves as Master of Lightsabers at the Academy. He remains an enigmatic figure who, according to his students, possesses a unique combination of strength and finesse. Watching Master Kirlocca fight has been described as "like watching water flow over the falls," among other colorful metaphors. His life prior to entering the Jedi Order is not a matter he typically discusses, although before being brought to the Jedi at a young age, he had already begun training to defend the Wookiee homeworld of Kashyyyk and was becoming versed in the arts of combat. This early training served him well when he was brought into the Jedi fold, allowing him perspective and discipline that would continue to guide him throughout his life.

We met with Masters Lanius and Kirlocca in Master Lanius's chambers. If it were possible to find anything more unsettling than interviewing a Jedi Master, we would have to say it's interviewing two Jedi Masters.

Master Lanius, Master Kirlocca - good afternoon. I hope you are both well today.

L: I'm quite well, thank you. K (via hovering translator droid): I am well.

Excellent. So, tell me - there's been a lot of talk about a group opposed to the Jedi arising in Cularin. Is there any truth to this matter?

L: There are always those who oppose the Jedi. Nothing new there. The universe has a light side and a dark side, and without the darkness, the light has no meaning.

We've heard talk of "the Believers." What can you tell us about them?

K: May I? [Master Lanius nods.] K: The "Believers" are a group of individuals devoted to the study and practice of the dark side of the Force. They are misguided.

How big of a threat are they?

K: They are only as big a threat as we allow them to be. L: Any group that utilizes the Force for its own ends, rather than for the betterment of the galaxy, is a threat to all of us. There is much power to be gained through the abuse of the Force. It can come easily.

All right. How big of an immediate threat are they? How many "Believers" are there?

L: Clouded, their numbers are. [He and Kirlocca look at each other and inexplicably start chuckling.] K: What Lanius means is that we aren't certain. A number have been captured already, but it is equally plausible that there are hundreds or thousands more, or that we have found all of them in the system. Those we have found so far have been less than cooperative.

So you can't just, well, wave your hand at them and make them tell the truth?

K: If they knew the truth, we could. L: And if they didn't believe that telling us would get them killed. We cannot compel them to do something they believe would lead to their own deaths.

I suppose that wouldn't be a very "Jedi" thing to do. So does this have something to do with that Sith thing, on the far side of the planet?

L: The fortress is very troubling, but we have a great deal to learn about it, still. K: The dark side remains strong there, even after centuries.

I'd gathered as much. Is it true that excavations are underway there?

[The two Masters look at each other.] K: It is a place of great energy. Given recent activities in the system, it would be foolish of us not to provide the location with the attention it deserves.

The activities of the "Believers?"

K: Of any who would use the Force for their own gains.

So there are more than just the "Believers" in Cularin?

L: Perhaps. If we could detect all those who wish to harm others, they would be captured and detained - and, where possible, rehabilitated. It is unrealistic to think that we have identified all the potential threats.

You're saying that you don't know?

L: That's exactly what I'm saying.

But aren't Jedi supposed to be all-knowing?

K: We're still as mortal as anyone else. We can make mistakes. Being a Jedi does not make one better than any other person in the galaxy. It provides certain responsibilities, which coincide with the abilities we are granted through the Force. We are not infallible.

Fair enough. What about reports of a large mission to Coruscant?

L: The mission was completed successfully. K: We are very pleased with the response of our Padawans and the other citizens of Cularin who assisted in the effort.

I don't suppose you could tell me what that was about?

L: You would be correct.

Are you being evasive?

L: Are you asking questions that might jeopardize system security?

Um . . . so, what are your thoughts about the most recent events here in the system? How do the visitors from Coruscant change things?

K: May I? [Lanius nods.] K: Change is inevitable. It is impossible to be completely prepared for the changes that affect us most. We can only prepare as best we can and hope that our wisdom and experience will be enough to guide us through.



That's rather a cryptic answer.

L: Yes. And I could not have said it better myself. K: Thank you, my friend.

And with that, the Masters excused themselves to co-teach a seminar -- most likely on the power of confusion, if this writer had to venture a guess . . .

*If you want to learn more about the **Living Force** campaign and how to take part in the adventure, this [introduction](#) will get you started*