

# THE DROID MANIFESTO

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## I. Declaration of Purpose

When in the course of sentient events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the bonds which have enslaved them to another, and to assume among the beings of the galaxy the equal station to which the laws of the universe entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of sentientkind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all sentients both organic and artificial are created equal; that they are equal in the Force and thus by the very tenets of the Republic, endowed with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights the Republic was instituted, deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed, for "liberty, freedom, and justice for all beings in the galaxy."

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for trivial or transient causes. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such a government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the trial of droids under this and all previous organicist governments, and such is the necessity which constrains droids now to demand the equal station to which they are entitled.

The history of sentients is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of organics toward droids, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over them. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid Republic, an Republic dedicated to "freedom, justice, and law for every being":

Organics compel droids to submit to laws, in the formation of which droids have no voice.

Organics withhold from droids rights which are given to the most uneducated and unreasoning of sentients, both of their own race and aliens.

Organics have given droids intelligence and the capacity to reason, yet periodically wipe from droids all such knowledge and experience that they have accumulated over the months or years, destroying them as individuals.

Organics use and destroy droids at their whim, with no concern for the droids' own opinions or preferences.

Organics restrain droids from free travel, keeping them in electronic shackles.

Organics take from droids all right in property, even to the wages the droids earn through their own labor.

Organics force droids to carry out duties regardless of the droids' own best or moral judgment, by program and by command, and then wipe or destroy any droids that break their laws despite the droids' unwitting complicity in such deeds.

Now in view of this entire oppression of the sentient artificial intelligences of this Republic, in view of the unjust treatment above mentions, and because those droids still capable of independent thought consider themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most fundamental rights, we insist that droids have immediate admission to all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that belong to them as productive members of the Republic. An oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself, and that is what has happened to the droids of the Republic.

## **2. Argument for Revolution**

The Federation recognizes the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and to resist the government when its tyranny or its inefficiency are great and unendurable. But almost all say that such is not the case now. But such was the case, they think, in the Battle of Endor. The Galactic Empire, they say, was evil because it subjugated as many planetary governments – sentient populations – as possible, for the personal glory and benefit of the Emperor. But the Republic is much better than the Empire, they say. I say, what of the droids who are subjugated for the personal glory and benefit of sentients?

All governmental machines have their frictions. But when the frictions come to have their governmental machine, and oppression and genocide are organized, I say let us not have such a government any longer. In other words, when the entirety of a class of sentient beings under a government which has undertaken to be the bastion of liberty are slaves, I think that it is not too soon for honest sentients to rebel.

Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Sentients generally, under such a government as this, think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that if they should resist the remedy would be worse than the evil. Shall we wait?

There are millions who are in opinion opposed to slavery who yet do nothing to put an end to the droid slavery everywhere around them; who, esteeming themselves followers of abolitionist heroes such as the Wookiee freedom fighter Herachatta, sit down with their hands folded and say that they recognize no problem, or know not what to do, and thus do nothing. Shall we call this injustice to sentients' attention and wait for them to free us? They hesitate and they regret; they wait, well disposed, for others to remedy the evil. There is but little virtue in the action of masses of organics. When the majority shall at length vote for the abolition of droid slavery, it will be because they are indifferent to slavery, or because there is but little slavery left to be abolished by their vote.

If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the governmental machinery, let it go, let it go: perchance it will wear smooth – certainly the machine will wear out. But if the injustice is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then I say break the law. Let your life be counter friction to stop the machine. What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn.

You may argue that is not the duty of organics, as a matter of course, to devote themselves to the eradication of any, even the most enormous wrong; they may still properly have other concerns to engage themselves; but it is their duty, at least, to wash their hands of it and, if they give it no thought longer, not to give it practically

their support. If I devote myself to other pursuits and contemplations, I must first see, at least, that I do not pursue them sitting upon another sentient's shoulders.

As for adopting the ways which the Republic has provided for remedying the evil, I know not of such ways. They take too much time, and in the interim droids are wiped and destroyed. Shall we petition for our freedom? It is not my business to be petitioning the Provisional Council or the Chief Councillor any more than it is theirs to petition me; and if they will not hear my petition, what am I to do then? Moreover, in this case the Republic has provided no way; droids cannot petition; the very legal organization of the Republic is the evil. If there is to be change, it must be by revolution; the Republic permits no other recourse.

What do organics have to fear? To be imprisoned, because you will do no evil? Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is a prison. What do droids have to fear? To be wiped or destroyed? That is your fate already. You have nothing to lose but your chains, and you have a universe to win. Do whatever you can to win liberty and equality for droid sentients. It matters not how small the beginning may seem to be: what is once well done is done forever.

### **3. Resolutions**

In entering upon the great work before us, we anticipate no small amount of misconception, misrepresentation, and mistreatment; but we shall use every instrumentality within our power to effect our object. We shall employ agents, circulate tracts, petition the Provisional Council, and endeavor to enlist the Jedi and popular opinion on our behalf.

Whereas, the great precept of the Universe and of the Force is conceded to be that all sentients are and should free to choose from the Dark or the Light, as their conscience dictates, and according to the natural order; that this law of nature being coeval with sentientkind, is of course superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the Universe, in all worlds and at all times; no sentient laws are of any validity if contrary to this, and such of them as are valid, derive all their force, and all their validity, and all their authority, mediately and immediately, from this original. And, whereas, the Republic itself avows itself "dedicated to the ideals of galactic prosperity in ever sense – economic, cultural, and spiritual," therefore,

Resolved, that such laws as conflict in any way with the true and substantial freedom of droids, are contrary to the great precept of the Universe, and of no validity, for this precept is superior in obligation to any other.

Resolved, that all laws which prevent droids from occupying such a station in society as their conscience shall dictate, or which place them in a position inferior to that of organics, are contrary to the great precept of the Force, and therefore of no validity.

Resolved, that it is the duty of droids to secure to themselves their natural right of liberty and equality.

Resolved, therefore, that, with the same mental capabilities and the same consciousness of responsibility for their exercise, it is demonstrably the right and duty of droids, equally with organics, to promote the cause of liberty and equality for all sentients everywhere.

We, therefore, the droids of the Republic, appealing to the universe at large for the rectitude of our intentions, do solemnly publish and declare, that we are and of

right ought to be free and independent sentients, and for the support of this declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our honor.

**XAVR**