

DARTH MAUL

Darth Maul was a weapon forged for one purpose only—the destruction of the Jedi. And Maul's Master, Darth Sidious, held no sentimental illusions about his apprentice. To Sidious, Maul was neither a friend nor a surrogate son—he was simply an implement. When Maul was struck down on Naboo, Sidious cast him aside like a broken blade and quickly obtained a replacement.

Maul was a Zabrak from Iridonia, but details of his early life are nonexistent. He was taken from his home planet as an infant by Darth Sidious, who wanted to claim the Force-sensitive child as his own before Maul could be discovered by the Jedi. Sidious was a cruel teacher. Maul had no true childhood; he spent every moment pushing himself to become stronger, harder, smarter, and faster. The physical training was exhausting, and the psychological indoctrination terrifying. On one occasion, as punishment for flinching at a dinko's bite, Sidious filled young Maul's quarters with scores of dinkos and locked him in the room until he had killed every last one.

In Sidious's hidden Coruscant lair and on deserted training planets across the galaxy, Maul practiced martial arts, marksmanship, and the handling of melee weapons. He mastered the lightsaber and the Sith lanvarok, and learned the art of dueling with two blades—one in each hand—in the Jar'Kai style. He was ever mindful of the here-and-now, and was thus acutely attuned to the living Force—albeit the Force's dark side.

Several years before the Battle of Naboo, Darth Maul reached the final step in his training. His Master sent

PRONUNCIATION	Darth Mäl
SPECIES	Iridonian Zabrak
SEX	Male
HAIR COLOR	None
EYE COLOR	Yellow
HEIGHT	1.75 meters
HOMEWORLD	Iridonia

him to an Outer Rim planet covered with deserts, swamps, and mountains and ordered him to survive for a month against a legion of assassin droids.

Maul persevered, but his final test was to battle his Master in a lightsaber duel. Sidious goaded Maul into opening himself to the vast power of the dark side, and in that moment Darth Maul became a Dark Lord of the Sith.

Maul was ever respectful of his Master and the ancient traditions of

the Sith. The dark side was all he knew; without it he possessed nothing. While many former Sith—from Naga Sadow to Exar Kun—had borne Sith tattoos on their foreheads, Maul covered his entire body with jagged patterns of red and black. In his Master's Sith Holocron, Maul found patterns for Sith speeders, probe droids, and a double-bladed lightsaber, and reproduced them with faithful precision. Using the Force mechanical skill *mechu-deru*, Maul customized a pro-

