

to col droid named C-3PX into a formidable guard droid to serve as a personal sentry.

Maul was Sidious's "Hand," used to perform secret missions of assassination and intimidation. On the orders of his Master he journeyed to the lommite-mining planet Dorvalla, where he secretly pitted two rival mining companies against each other. The ensuing chaos left Dorvalla ripe for takeover by the Trade Federation. It also allowed Maul to use his new double-bladed lightsaber against living opponents instead of training droids, an experience he relished.

After Dorvalla, Darth Maul received from his Master the gift of a cloak-capable Sith Infiltrator starship. Armed with this new weapon, Maul crippled the Black Sun crime syndicate by journeying to its headquarters on Ralltiir and murdering every last member of the ruling board. Later, Maul destroyed a Bar-

tokk fortress on the same planet, simply because the insectoids had gotten in his way.

When a Neimoidian, Hath Monchar, fled the Trade Federation, carrying information on Darth Sidious's long-term invasion plans, Sidious dispatched Maul to eliminate the traitor. The job proved more difficult than expected. Darth Maul killed Monchar with ease, but as more people exposed themselves to the Neimoidian's information, Maul had to add more bodies to the pile. Before long he was hunting a Jedi Padawan named Darsha Assant, and Lorn Pavan, an information broker. Maul chased them across Coruscant's cityscape, but in the end he fulfilled his Master's wishes by tying up all of the "loose ends."

While Darth Maul enjoyed his field missions, his true goal was to exterminate the Jedi and burn their Temple to the ground. Maul had no

ambitions to overthrow his Master, but he knew that under the Sith "rule of two," Sidious would have to die before Maul could take on his own apprentice. Such thoughts had a way of entering his mind during quiet moments of meditation.

Maul's heart burned with anticipation when his Master instructed him to hunt down two Jedi, Qui-Gon Jinn and Obi-Wan Kenobi, on Tatooine and Naboo. Had he not run into Togorian pirates and Sand People along the way, perhaps he would have been at full strength for the final conflict inside the Theed power generator. Instead, after killing Qui-Gon, Darth Maul fatally underestimated the Jedi's Padawan, Obi-Wan Kenobi. Qui-Gon's apprentice cut Maul in half and cast his body into the melting pit. Thus ended his ambitions, and the way was cleared for a new Dark Lord of the Sith.