

Project: **The Jedemi Chronicles - Mythology for the next Millenium**

Overview: The Jedemi Chronicles are stories that connect the past to the present to better prepare us for the journey ahead. Specifically, these stories are about spirits from the past who hang out at Jedemi Cafe, telling stories and offering advice. This unique cafe ends up becoming an oasis in a vast wasteland where nothing connects to anything (aka our world as it exists today).

Brief Description of Jedemi Cafe

The beginning: About eight years ago, I came up with an idea for a cafe. I wanted to create a place that had the look, feel and influence of Paris' Left Bank in the 1920s -- an enabling environment. I had envisioned a cafe where coffee was not the main draw. I saw it as a creative incubator of sorts where one had access to books and videos, art supplies --everything from paints to pottery-- and a place to work on projects and a theater/studio for dance/movement classes and other productions. Most of all, it would be a comfortable environment for the exchange of ideas.

My aim was to have a place that rekindled and nurtured creativity with the thought that the happiness one derives from having a creative outlet would spill over into other areas of life: work, family and friends.

The idea refined: After struggling to find an ideal location for the cafe, not to mention that Starbucks and like competitors were popping up everywhere, I decided to step back and think of a clever way to pull it off. Two things came to mind:

- 1) Though the cafe itself was unique, it needed a story of its own.
- 2) That story had to reach the target audience via an accessible medium.

A Story is Born: The idea came to me, borrowing from the Greeks and a multitude of other things I had read. What if spirits from the past hung out in this cafe? To narrow it down, what if these spirits were of people who happened to have lived in the same time period? What if they even knew of each other or actually influenced each other (either directly or indirectly)? I fanned this flame and came up with my characters. Their stories and how they interact with the people at the cafe is what the Jedemi Chronicles are all about.

Technology Catches Up: During the last four years, while doing research on my characters, interest in the Internet has grown and people have become very comfortable with utilizing browsers (i.e. Netscape) to find their way around. It seemed ideal to me to create a virtual cafe where the Jedemi Chronicles are accessible worldwide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The goal would be to have the story appear in installments to encourage the viewer to check back frequently to see "what happened."

Creating Interest: One of the toughest parts about hanging your shingle on the web is drawing people to your site. The idea came to me to launch the Jedemi Chronicles with a pilot (like they do in television). I've named it "The Taming of the Suit." I decided that it would be a live performance that also utilizes a video wall to tell the story (that script is in development). Another way to generate interest, is via a grass roots operation where short, one-page teasers are left at local cafes with the website URL.

Jedemi Chronicles - Characters at a Glance:

