

CRIMINAL MOCK TRIAL

In the High Court of the Galactic Empire

Regina

vs.

**Luke Skywalker
Accused**

Clerk: Order in the court. The Honourable Mister/Madam Justice _____
presiding.

[Everyone stands as the judge enters the room.]

Judge: You may be seated.

[Everyone sits, except the clerk.]

Clerk: The case of *Regina versus Luke Skywalker*, my Lord/Lady

[Clerk sits.]

Judge: Thank you. Are all parties present?

[Crown stands.]

Crown: Yes my Lord/Lady. I am _____ and these are my friends _____ and
_____. We are acting on behalf of the Crown in this matter.

*[Please note: this statement can be adjusted depending on the number of Lawyers
for each side.]*

[Crown sits; defence stands.]

Defence: Yes my Lord/Lady. I am _____ and these are my friends _____ and
_____. We are acting on behalf of the accused, Luke Skywalker.

[Defence sits.]

Judge: Thank You. Luke Skywalker, please rise to hear the charge.

[Clerk, defence counsel, and Luke stand.]

Clerk: Luke, you are charged that on, or about July 25, in the year _____, you did
unlawfully destroy the Death Star in outer space, thereby committing 5,999
counts of murder contrary to section 229 of the Criminal Code. How do you
plead?

Luke: I plead not guilty.

Judge: Thank you Madam/Mister Registrar.

[Everyone sits.]

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the Jury. First, I want to comment on some of the roles in this most important trial. Throughout this trial, you will be asked to be the judges of facts and I'll be the judge of law. Although I may comment on the evidence, as the judges of facts, you are the exclusive judges of evidence. By the same token, when I tell you what is the law is, it is my view of the law that must prevail.

There are two basic ideas you must follow which are essential to your role as jurors. They are that the proof must be beyond a reasonable doubt and the overall presumption of innocence. The requirement for proof beyond a reasonable doubt is that no person accused of an offence can be found guilty without the Crown proving he is guilty on all charges. Also the system says a person is innocent until proven guilty. Luke does not need to prove he's innocent. The law presumes he is innocent until you decide otherwise.

Luke Skywalker of the Rebel Alliance is charged with the destruction of the Death Star. The Crown has to prove each of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- (1) First, the identity of Luke Skywalker as the offender.
- (2) Second, where and when the crime took place.
- (3) Third, that Luke Skywalker actually destroyed the Death Star and thereby murdered 5,999 people.
- (4) Fourth, that Luke Skywalker didn't have the right to destroy the Death Star.
- (5) Fifth, that he destroyed the Death Star wrongfully and without lawful excuse.
- (6) Sixth, that Luke Skywalker intended to destroy the Death Star.

I now call upon the Crown to present their case.

[Crown stands.]

Crown: My Lord/Lady, we intend to prove that Luke Skywalker wrongfully and willfully destroyed the Death Star, which is the rightful property of the Emperor and murdered 5,999 people in the process. To support our case we intend to call the following witnesses: the Emperor, Darth Vader, and Storm Trooper #12. We now wish to call our first witness, the Emperor.

[The Emperor takes the stand and remains standing while taking the oath.]

Clerk: Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Emperor: Yes.

Clerk: State your name and address, please.

Emperor: I'm Emperor _____ and I lived in the Death Star.

Crown: Could you describe what happened to the Death Star for the court?

Emperor: Yes, the Rebel Forces attacked my home and Luke Skywalker blew up the Death Star with a well-placed shot to a pressure valve leading to the core reactor. I barely escaped with my life. The attack was a surprise and unprovoked.

Crown: Can you describe Luke Skywalker?

Emperor: Yes.

Crown: Please point to the person who destroyed the Death Star.

Emperor: *[Emperor points to Luke.]* Luke Skywalker is a pilot for Princess Leia and the Rebel Alliance.

Crown: Did you give Luke Skywalker permission to attack the Death Star?

Emperor: No, he had no right to attack my Death Star.

Crown: Was the Death Star completely destroyed?

Emperor: Every part of the Death Star was destroyed except for Darth Vader's ship. Darth Vader and I managed to escape before the explosion.

Crown: How much was the Death Star worth?

Emperor: My Death Star was worth \$7,000,000 Galactic Dollars.

Crown: Did Luke Skywalker attack the Death Star with any aid from any other Rebels?

Emperor: He was helped by 200 Rebels.

Crown: Thank, you Emperor. No further questions my Lord/Lady.
[Crown sits.]

Judge: Does the defence wish to cross-examine this witness?
[Defence stands.]

Defence: Yes my Lord/Lady. Could your Death Star destroy a planet?

Emperor: Umm, I guess so.

Defence: Did your force attack the Rebel Alliance? Please tell the truth.

Emperor: Yes, my force did some small things like destroying cities but not much.

Defence: No further questions my Lord/Lady.
[Defence sits.]

Judge: Thank you Emperor, you may step down. You may call your next witness.
[Emperor leaves the witness box; Crown stands.]

Crown: My Lord/Lady I now wish to call our next witness Darth Vader.

Judge: Proceed.

[Darth Vader takes the stand and remains standing while taking the oath.]

Clerk: Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Darth V: Yes.

Clerk: State your name and address, please.

Darth V: I am Darth Vader and I lived in the Death Star.

Crown: Where were you at the time of the attack?

Darth V: I was sitting in the command chair at the control room of my marvelous ship, the Death Star on July 25 2021.

Crown: What were you doing at the time of the attack?

Darth V: I was happily creating attack plans in my control room when all of a sudden the intruder alarm goes off. I saw outside my window the whole supply of ships the Rebel Alliance had. I immediately activated the ship's defences. We started blasting our weapons at full force just to protect ourselves. We meant no harm. I was only trying to protect the lives of my crew and myself. I saw no reason why Luke Skywalker and his friends should attack me.

Crown: Did Luke Skywalker have permission to destroy the Death Star?

Darth V: Luke Skywalker had absolutely no permission to destroy it. He is a mad man I tell you. He attacked me for no reason.

Crown: What does Luke Skywalker look like?

Darth V: Luke Skywalker was wearing his usual gown. He had his deadly light saber attached to his belt. He wore a jacket that intersected from all corners in the middle. He also wore tight gray linen pants.

Crown: Do you see Luke Skywalker in court today?

Darth V: Yes, Luke Skywalker has the same outfit on right now in this courtroom.

Crown: How many people died in the attack?

Darth V: 5,999 people died in the Death Star. They were a magnificent crew. They shouldn't have died. They were only innocent people. Why would someone want to kill innocent people?

Crown: Thank you Darth Vader. No further questions.

[Crown sits.]

Judge: Does the Defence wish to cross-examine this witness?
[Defence stands.]

Defence: Yes my Lord/Lady. Did you do anything to provoke Luke Skywalker to attack?

Darth V: Ummm, I did little things like blowing up buildings and cities but not much.

Defence: Did your crew dislike the Rebel Alliance?

Darth V: They did dislike them a bit, but not to the point of war.

Defence: Isn't true that you were planning to destroy the Rebel Alliance?

Darth V: Well, we had a few plans to engage them in conflict.

Defence: And isn't it true that you completely destroyed the peaceful planet of Princess Leia with the Death Star?

Darth V: Uhh...

Defence: Please answer the question.

Darth V: Uhh... Kind of.

Defence: Could you answer with a yes or a no?

Darth V: Yes, we did destroy that planet.

Defence: No further questions, my Lord/Lady.

Judge: Thank you Darth Vader. You may step down. Crown you may call your next witness

Crown: My Lord/Lady we now wish to call our next witness, Storm Trooper #12.

Judge: Proceed.
[Storm Trooper #12 takes the stand and remains standing while taking the oath.]

Clerk: Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

ST #12: Yes.

Crown: Where were you on July 25th?

ST #12: I was making my normal patrol down corridor 403B, when the sergeant ordered my group to emergency turret duty. That was when the Rebel fighters were approaching. My gun was destroyed and I went to the transport where we were ordered to regroup. The remaining survivors joined me after the gunners had been called back. Our transport blasted off one moment before the Death Star blew up.

Crown: Can you describe what you saw?

ST #12: When I was in my turret, I saw about 50 Rebel fighters approaching. I managed to destroy one of them. Then they all split up and it was hard to hit any more. Then 5 X-wings came and destroyed my turret! After that, I couldn't see anything else.

Crown: Did you hear anyone say anything about letting Luke Skywalker destroy the Death Star?

ST #12: No, I was nowhere near the command post at the time and there were no important people around me.

Crown: Can you describe what Luke Skywalker was wearing?

ST #12: I only caught a glimpse of him but he was wearing a one-piece outfit which was coloured red and had a helmet with the Rebel sign on it. I believe this was the standard Rebel fighter pilot uniform.

Crown: Thank you my Lord/Lady, I have no further questions at this time.
[Crown sits.]

Judge: Defence do you wish cross-examine this witness?
[Defence stands.]

Defence: Yes my Lord/Lady. Did you kill or destroy parts of the Rebel Alliance forces?

ST #12: I helped Darth Vader once or twice attack the Rebel Alliance before they attacked the Death Star.

Defence: You didn't actually see Luke Skywalker destroy the Death Star, did you?

ST #12: No, I did not.

Defence: Was Luke Skywalker flying very fast?

ST #12: Yes. He was flying so fast that it was impossible to target him with the turret.

Defence: Then how could you see him? The Rebel sign on a standard uniform is very small. How could you be so sure that he was wearing it? How could you be so sure that he was even Luke Skywalker? Admit it, you couldn't see anything. You just saw the plane. You assumed it was Luke Skywalker, didn't you?

ST #12: No I saw him.

Defence: Are you wearing glasses currently?.

ST #12: Yes.

Defence: Are you nearsighted?

ST #12: Yes.

Defence: Isn't it true that you cannot wear glasses under your helmet?

ST #12: Yes.

Defence: Then how could you see Luke Skywalker when you couldn't be wearing glasses?

ST #12: I was wearing contact lenses.

Defence: No further question my Lord/Lady.

[Defence sits.]

Judge: Thank you, Storm Trooper #12. You may step down. Crown call your next witness.

[Crown stands]

Crown: The Crown rests its case, my Lord/Lady.

Defence: My Lord/Lady, and ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Luke Skywalker will admit that he destroyed the Death Star. However, he had a good reason to do so. The Death Star belonged to an enemy of the good people, the Rebel Alliance. Luke had to destroy the Death Star to save millions of people that would be killed when the Death Star destroyed another planet. It was an act of self-defence.

You will hear testimony today that proves that Luke Skywalker had the right to destroy the Death Star. Shortly before the Death Star was destroyed, Darth Vader tried to destroy Luke Skywalker's home planet.

To ensure that Luke Skywalker will not be punished for this good deed, you will hear Luke Skywalker, Hans Solo, and Princess Leia give evidence as to the evil deeds of the Emperor and Darth Vader and the Empire's forces.

My Lord/Lady, I now prepare to call my first witness.

Judge: Proceed.

Defence: I call Luke Skywalker of the Rebel Alliance to the witness box.

[Sheriff #2 takes Luke to the stand.]

[Luke Skywalker takes the stand and remains standing while taking the oath.]

Clerk: Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Luke: I do.

Clerk: State your name and address, please.

Luke: I'm Luke Skywalker and I live on Nabboo.

Defence: Luke Skywalker, did you destroy the Death Star?

Luke: Yes, I did destroy the Death Star.

Defence: Why did you destroy the Death Star?

Luke: I destroyed the Death Star because the Emperor's Empire was posing a threat to the entire Rebel Alliance and the universe. The Death Star could destroy a planet and if I didn't destroy it, millions of people would have died.

Defence: Did anyone else help you destroy the Death Star?

Luke: The one person that helped the most was Han Solo.

Defence: Did Darth Vader do anything to give you reason to destroy the Death Star?

Luke: Yes. Darth Vader destroyed a planet and was about to destroy my home planet if I had not destroyed the Death Star. Although killing 5999 people is terrible, it was better than letting millions more die.

Defence: What was your plan in your attack to destroy the Death Star?

Luke: My plan was to attack the Death Star in its one weak point with small convoys of single man fighters. The space station had a very high security system that was designed for destroying our bigger spacecraft. However, the only way to destroy single man fighters was to fight back with Tie Fighters. We destroyed all of the Tie Fighters except Darth Vader's.

Defence: I have no further questions my Lord/Lady.

[Defence sits.]

Judge: Crown, do you have any questions for this witness?

[Crown stands.]

Crown: Yes my Lord/Lady. Why did you destroy the Death Star?

Luke: To save my planet.

Crown: What did Darth Vader do to your planet?

Luke: He destroyed one whole city at one time and he was planning to destroy my planet with his Death Star.

Crown: How did you know that Darth Vader had plans to attack your home planet?

Luke: Well, I just guessed he would use the Death Star to fight us again.

Crown: Is it fair to say you were the aggressor in this action?

Luke: Well we did strike in response to the Empire's threat.

Crown: Had Darth Vader done anything with the Death Star to the Rebel Alliance before your attack?

Luke: Yes, he destroyed Princess Leia's home planet.

Crown: No further questions my Lord/Lady.

Judge: Thank you Luke, you may step down from the witness box.

Defence: My Lord/Lady, I now wish to call my next witness, Han Solo.

Judge: Proceed.

[Han Solo takes the stand and remains standing while taking the oath.]

Clerk: Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Han: I do.

Clerk: State your name and address.

Han: Han Solo and I live on the Millennium Falcon.

Defence: How did you help Luke Skywalker in his attack on the Death Star?

Han: I helped Luke when he had three Tie Fighters on his tail. I came in and destroyed the second fighter and sent the third flying off into space.

Defence: Do you believe it was reasonable for Luke Skywalker to destroy the Death Star?

Han: I strongly believe that it was reasonable because all he was doing was protecting his planet.

Defence: How did your spacecraft help Luke destroy the Death Star?

Han: I cleared the Tie Fighters off of his back. If it wasn't for me he wouldn't be alive.

Defence: Do you recall any one else helping you and Luke to destroy the Death Star?

Han: Yes, several other fighter pilots helped, many of which are now dead, I might add.

Defence: Why did you help Luke Skywalker in his plan?

Han: I helped because the Death Star is just another tool of fear that the Empire uses to dominate the galaxy. If I hadn't helped Luke, he would have been killed and the Empire would rule the galaxy through fear.

Defence: Thank you. I have no further questions for this witness my Lord/Lady.
[Defence sits.]

Judge: Crown, do you wish to cross-examine this witness?
[Crown stands.]

Crown: Yes my Lord/Lady. Did you see the Emperor do anything to your planet?

Han: Not really.

Crown: Do you think that Luke had the right to destroy the Death Star?

Han: Yes, he did what his leader requested which was to save her people.

Crown: You are best friends with Luke, aren't you?

Han: Yes.

Crown: You would do anything or say anything to save him, wouldn't you?

Han: No, what I have said is the truth.

Crown: No further questions my Lord/Lady.

Defence: My Lord/Lady, I now wish to call my next witness Princess Leia.

Judge: Proceed.
[Princess Leia takes the stand and remains standing while taking the oath.]

Clerk: Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Princess L: I do.

Clerk: State your name and address.

Princess L: I'm Princess Leia and I live on Nabboo.

Defence: Did you order Luke Skywalker to destroy the Death Star and why?

Princess L: Yes, I did order Luke Skywalker to destroy the Death Star to protect my people.

Defence: What did Darth Vader do to your colony?

Princess L: He held me hostage and forced me to give him the location of the Rebel Base. I refused, but he threatened to terminate my peaceful home planet with his Death Star. I told him where it was, but he still destroyed my planet, killing millions of innocent people. Darth Vader also tried to destroy my colony a number of times. One attack was successful and only a few lived through the attack.

Defence: Was destroying the Death Star your retaliation?

Princess L: Yes, destroying the Death Star was retaliation for his attack on my planet. I wanted to make sure that he could not attack any more peaceful planets.

Defence: Did you declare war on the Emperor?

Princess L: Yes, I did declare war on the Emperor and on the Empire.

Defence: Thank you Princess Leia. I have no further questions.

[Defence sits.]

Judge: Crown do you want to cross-examine?

[Crown stands.]

Crown: Yes my Lord/Lady. Princess Leia, part of your plan was a surprise attack on the Death Star, wasn't it?

Princess L: Well, if we let them know they would have used it to destroy us.

Crown: You did not declare war formally, did you?

Princess L: Well, no but the Empire hasn't either.

Crown: When you attacked without notice you were starting the war, weren't you?

Princess L: NO! We were doing no such thing. The **Empire** started the war!

Crown: Isn't it true you just wanted to destroy the Death Star?

Princess L: We were ensuring that the galaxy was safe. We saved lives. We shouldn't be on trial. That evil duo, Darth Vader and the Emperor should be on trial. They started everything. My home planet was a peaceful place with no weapons or military bases. They killed millions of people and we killed 6000 to stop them from killing millions more. We did nothing wrong. The Emperor is the one who is doing wrong. This trial is an outrage.

Crown: Objection my Lord/Lady. Princess Leia was making comments on the character of two of the Crown's witnesses. We ask that the witness's comment be stricken from the record and you instruct the jury to disregard her comment.

Defence: My Lord/Lady, Princess Leia can make those statements as the Crown has put those two witnesses' characters in question. Furthermore, Princess Leia has made contact with both of them and can make statements about their character.

Judge: Objection overruled as her comments were of a factual nature.

Crown: In that case I have no further questions.

Judge: Thank you Princess Leia, you may step down. *[To the defence.]* Does that conclude your case?

[Defence stands.]

Defence: Yes my Lord/Lady.

[Defence sits.]

Judge: Thank you counsel. Are you prepared to bring closing statements?

[Crown and defence stand.]

Crown: Yes my Lord/Lady.

Defence: We are my Lord/Lady.

[Crown and defence sit.]

Judge: All right then, you may begin counsel.

[Defence stands.]

Defence: Ladies and gentlemen you have heard today why Luke Skywalker had the right to destroy the Death Star. One of his rights was that the Death Star planned to blow up Luke Skywalker's planet and kill good people. Another right is that Darth Vader and his army killed some of Luke's family and friends. A further right was that Darth Vader told us that he previously destroyed cities on Luke's planet.

On all the evidence you have heard today you should come to one conclusion: Luke destroyed the Death Star in protection of his planet. He had all the rights to destroy the Death Star. He acted in self-defence. He should be thanked for what he did, not punished.

Judge: Crown, you may proceed.

Crown: Ladies and gentlemen today you heard that Luke Skywalker destroyed the Death Star when he had no right to destroy the Death Star. One reason why he could not destroy the Death Star is that he did not have permission to touch or destroy the Death Star. This was an unprovoked attack and was not an act of war or self-defence. It was an act of murder for which he should be held responsible.

Judge: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that concludes the evidence to be heard in this matter. It is now time for your deliberations. You must determine whether Luke is guilty or not guilty of murder. As you may recall from the beginning of these proceedings, I outlined each of the elements that the Crown must prove against Luke. I now will take a few moments to discuss each of these elements and evidence relating to the charge against Luke.

You should have little difficulty deciding whether the Crown has met the first three elements. Identity, time, and place all seem clear. Darth Vader identified the accused today. You also heard witnesses testify that the event happened on July 25, in outer space as described in the indictment. The ingredient the Crown must prove is that Luke destroyed the Death Star. You will recall in the evidence of Luke that he admitted that he destroyed the Death Star.

The fourth and fifth ingredients that the Crown must prove are that Luke Skywalker destroyed the Death Star wrongfully and without lawful excuse. The major issue in this case is that the Death Star was going to destroy the planet of the Rebel Alliance. In deciding this issue, you should consider the following evidence:

- Darth Vader at the time of the attack had a plan to attack the Rebel Alliance.
- Luke Skywalker claims he destroyed the Death Star for protection of his planet.
- Han Solo claims that Darth Vader destroyed cities of the Rebel Alliance.

The sixth ingredient is whether Luke had the right to destroy the Death Star. Did he do it for revenge or was it an act of self-defence?

I remind you that the Crown must prove all six of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt. You must return a verdict of not guilty of the offence of murder if the Crown has not proven each of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt. You may retire to the Jury Room for deliberations. When you have reached a unanimous verdict, just inform the sheriff. S/he will tell me that you are ready to return to the courtroom for announcing your verdict.

[Jury leaves the courtroom for deliberations. Defence, Crown, and Luke stand out of respect for the jury. Sheriff #2 directs the jury to Jury Room.]

Judge: Thank you counsel. We will now adjourn until the jury returns with their verdict.

Clerk: Order in the court. This court stands adjourned until the verdict of the Jury.

[All rise while the judge leaves the courtroom]

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Clerk: Order in the court. *[Judge enters courtroom. Everyone stands.]*

Judge: You may be seated. Madam/ Mister Registrar, has the jury reached a verdict?

Clerk: They have my Lord/Lady.

Judge: Sheriff, please bring the jury in.

[Defence, Crown and Luke stand as Sheriff #2 directs jury to their seats. Everyone can be seated after the jury sits.]

Clerk: Mr/Mrs. Foreperson, have you reached a verdict? *[Foreperson stands.]*

Foreperson: Yes, we have.

Clerk: Members of the jury, hearken to verdict as the court does record it. You find the accused not guilty/guilty. This is your verdict, so say you all. Please stand to confirm your verdict. *[All members of the jury stand.]*

Judge: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury we thank you for acting as jurors in this matter. Both society and the law benefit from your contribution. In return, I hope you have found it to be an interesting and rewarding experience.
[If the verdict is not guilty] Luke, you are free and long live the queen.
[If the verdict is guilty] Luke, you have been found guilty of the offence of murder and a sentencing hearing will be held now. Crown, do you have a submission on the appropriate sentence?

Crown: Yes, my Lord/Lady, I do. Although this is Luke's first offence and he admitted to destroying the Death Star, we believe that he should serve a term of life imprisonment without parole for 25 years. Luke killed many people and should be held accountable.

Judge: Defence, do you have anything to say?

Defence: Yes, my Lord/Lady. Luke comes from a good family and he has never committed any other offence. Luke has gone through many things in this trial. We strongly believe that he should receive a shorter parole period of 10 years as he thought he was acting in self-defence.

Judge: Luke, please stand. You have been found guilty of a serious criminal act and you must not take the following lightly. However, you have been straightforward and have never done anything wrong before so I sentence you to life imprisonment with eligibility for parole after 10 years.

Clerk: This court stands adjourned. Order in the court.

[All rise as the judge exits the courtroom.]