SANCTUARY ETHICS REVIEW BOARD

SERB-005 — THE HORADRIM

On Soulstone Containment, Institutional Custody, and the Delegation of Catastrophic Responsibility

An Institutional Inquiry into Extraordinary Hazard Containment, Organizational Continuity, Mortal Agency, and the Long-Term Stewardship of Imprisoned Prime Evils

Issuing Authority: Sanctuary Ethics Review Board (SERB)
Docket: SERB-005
Classification: Institutional Ethics, Extraordinary Hazard Management, Public Safety, Historical Stewardship, and Intergenerational Responsibility
Date: October 24, 2026
Status: Preliminary Findings, Institutional Determination, and Notice of Continuing Investigation

Principal Respondent:

The Horadrim, an order of mortal mages established under the guidance of Tyrael, Archangel of Justice.

Persons of Historical Interest:

- Tyrael — Founder and Celestial Patron
- Tal Rasha — Horadric Leader and Custodian of Baal
- Jered Cain — Horadric Leader Associated with the Imprisonment of Diablo
- Zoltun Kulle — Founding Member, Arcane Researcher, and Creator of the Black Soulstone
- Deckard Cain — Descendant of Jered Cain and Subsequent Custodian of Horadric Knowledge

Interested Institutions:

- The Angiris Council
- The High Heavens

- The Zakarum
- The Historical Authorities of Kehjistan
- The Historical Authorities of Khanduras
- The Municipal Authorities of Tristram
- The Burning Hells

Affected Parties:

The inhabitants of Sanctuary, including populations residing near sites used for the containment of Prime Evils.

Principal Questions:

Whether the Horadrim established adequate safeguards for the custody of soulstones containing entities capable of influencing their surroundings.

Whether the original containment arrangements were reasonably designed to remain secure after the death, departure, or incapacitation of their custodians.

Whether responsibility for the protection of Sanctuary continued after the initial imprisonment of the Prime Evils.

Whether the progressive disappearance of the Horadrim constituted a foreseeable failure of institutional continuity.

I. NOTICE OF INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The Sanctuary Ethics Review Board hereby opens an inquiry into the founding, operation, and eventual decline of the Horadrim.

The Board recognizes the exceptional circumstances under which the order was established.

Following the Dark Exile, the Prime Evils entered Sanctuary and inflicted extensive suffering upon its inhabitants.

The threat was immediate and extraordinary.

Ordinary mortal institutions possessed limited means of confronting powers capable of corruption, possession, destruction, and prolonged metaphysical influence.

The intervention of Tyrael and the formation of the Horadrim therefore addressed a genuine security emergency.

The Board further recognizes that the Horadrim undertook substantial personal risks.

Their efforts resulted in the capture and imprisonment of Mephisto, Baal, and Diablo.

These accomplishments were significant.

The Board does not propose to diminish them.

Nevertheless, an institution's successful response to an immediate emergency does not eliminate questions concerning the consequences of its methods.

In particular, containment differs from elimination.

An imprisoned threat may remain dangerous.

An artifact capable of restraining an entity may nevertheless permit that entity to influence its surroundings.

And an institution that creates or assumes responsibility for a containment arrangement may acquire obligations extending beyond the professional lives of its original members.

The Board therefore identifies a central question.

When an institution imprisons an extraordinary threat rather than eliminating it, does its responsibility terminate upon successful imprisonment?

The Board provisionally concludes that it does not.

The extent of continuing responsibility requires examination.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. Formation of the Horadrim

Following the exile of the Prime Evils into Sanctuary, Tyrael recognized the danger posed by their presence.

He assembled an order of powerful mortal mages capable of confronting the infernal threat.

This order became known as the Horadrim.

Its members possessed considerable knowledge of arcane practices and undertook a mission of exceptional importance.

The Board recognizes that the order's original objective was protective.

Its formation represented a response to widespread infernal aggression.

The Board further observes that the use of mortal participants introduced significant questions concerning the relationship between celestial guidance and human agency.

Tyrael possessed knowledge and capabilities unavailable to ordinary mortals.

The Horadrim nevertheless bore the physical and personal risks associated with the mission.

The Board therefore requests clarification concerning the extent to which the order operated independently of its celestial founder.

B. The Soulstones

Tyrael provided the Horadrim with soulstones fashioned from fragments of the Worldstone.

These artifacts possessed the capacity to imprison the essences of the Prime Evils.

The Board recognizes that the ability to contain entities of extraordinary destructive power represented a substantial technological and metaphysical achievement.

However, the use of artifacts derived from the Worldstone raises questions concerning their stability, operational limitations, and potential for corruption.

The Board therefore identifies the soulstones as instruments of extraordinary containment significance.

Their successful use required more than the initial capture of a target.

It also required consideration of what would happen afterward.

C. The Three Containment Arrangements

The Horadrim eventually imprisoned the three Prime Evils.

Mephisto was confined and entrusted to custodians associated with the Zakarum in Kehjistan.

Baal's imprisonment required the sacrifice of Tal Rasha after his intended soulstone was damaged.

Diablo was ultimately captured under the leadership of Jered Cain and confined within a soulstone concealed beneath a Horadric monastery in Khanduras.

The monastery's site later became associated with Tristram Cathedral.

Each arrangement involved different physical, institutional, and ethical conditions.

The Board therefore declines to evaluate them as though they constituted a single uniform containment system.

The differences are material.

III. ON THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CAPTURE AND CONTAINMENT

The Board considers the meaning of a successful containment operation.

An entity may be captured without being permanently restrained.

It may be physically confined while retaining the capacity to influence persons beyond the confinement boundary.

It may remain dormant for extended periods before becoming capable of renewed activity.

The Board therefore distinguishes four operational conditions.

Capture: The initial restraint of an entity.

Containment: The maintenance of conditions preventing the entity from exercising prohibited influence or escaping confinement.

Monitoring: The continuing assessment of whether containment remains effective.

Remediation: The correction of failures, deterioration, or unforeseen hazards arising from the containment arrangement.

The Board observes that successful capture establishes only the first condition.

The historical record confirms that the Horadrim successfully imprisoned the Prime Evils.

It also demonstrates that the soulstones did not permanently eliminate the possibility of corruption or escape.

Accordingly, the Board rejects the proposition that initial imprisonment established permanent safety.

The continuing effectiveness of a containment system must be evaluated according to the nature of the threat.

A system that permits an imprisoned entity to corrupt its custodians may retain some physical restraining function while failing to protect surrounding populations.

A system that remains secure for one generation may become hazardous when its purpose is forgotten.

A system dependent upon a single custodian may fail upon that custodian's death or incapacitation.

These are distinct failure modes.

Each requires consideration.

The Board recognizes that the Horadrim captured the Prime Evils.

It does not recognize capture as sufficient evidence of perpetual containment.

IV. THE FIRST CONTAINMENT ARRANGEMENT: MEPHISTO

A. Historical Custody

Following Mephisto's capture, his soulstone was placed under the protection of the Zakarum.

The containment arrangement became associated with the religious center at Travincal in Kehjistan.

The Board recognizes that the selection of a religious institution may have offered certain advantages.

An established body of devoted custodians might provide continuity, organizational discipline, and a durable commitment to protecting the artifact.

However, the suitability of an institution for ordinary religious administration does not necessarily establish its suitability for containing the Lord of Hatred.

The distinction is particularly important where the imprisoned entity possesses the ability to corrupt minds and influence belief.

The Board therefore questions whether the custodial arrangement adequately accounted for the characteristics of the entity being confined.

B. Corruption of Custodians

The historical record indicates that Mephisto eventually corrupted the Zakarum leadership and exercised influence through the institution responsible for containing him.

The Board identifies this as a serious containment failure.

A custodian whose judgment has been compromised may no longer be capable of independently evaluating the security of the object under custody.

Where the object itself possesses the capacity to induce that compromise, ordinary reliance upon the custodian's assurances becomes particularly problematic.

The Board therefore requests evidence concerning whether the Zakarum possessed any mechanism for detecting corruption among its own leadership.

Such mechanisms might have included independent inspection, separation of responsibilities, or review by persons outside the immediate custodial institution.

The Board does not presume that such measures would necessarily have prevented Mephisto's influence.

It does, however, identify the absence of demonstrated safeguards as a matter requiring investigation.

C. Institutional Capture

The Board observes that the corruption of the custodial institution presented a problem extending beyond the security of the soulstone.

The institution responsible for preventing infernal influence became a means through which that influence could spread.

This condition may be described as institutional capture.

The term refers here to a situation in which an organization charged with protecting against a threat becomes substantially directed by the threat itself.

The Board considers this particularly serious because institutional legitimacy may conceal the change.

Members of the public may continue to recognize familiar offices, ceremonies, and titles even after the institution's governing purposes have been compromised.

The resulting danger is not limited to the failure of an artifact.

It includes the misuse of public trust.

The Board finds that an institution cannot establish the integrity of its containment procedures solely through assurances supplied by officials whose integrity is itself affected by the contained entity.

V. THE SECOND CONTAINMENT ARRANGEMENT: BAAL

A. Failure of the Intended Instrument

During the pursuit of Baal, the soulstone intended for his confinement was damaged.

The resulting circumstances threatened the success of the operation.

The Board recognizes that unexpected equipment failure may occur even where substantial precautions have been undertaken.

The occurrence of failure does not, standing alone, establish negligence.

The relevant inquiry concerns whether the failure was reasonably foreseeable and whether adequate alternatives were available.

The Board therefore requests evidence concerning the original soulstone's known limitations.

It further seeks to determine whether the Horadrim possessed contingency procedures for damaged containment artifacts.

B. The Sacrifice of Tal Rasha

Following the damage to Baal's soulstone, Tal Rasha volunteered to become part of the containment arrangement.

The remaining soulstone fragment was embedded within his body, allowing him to serve as a living prison for the Lord of Destruction.

He was subsequently entombed beneath the sands of Aranoch.

The Board recognizes the extraordinary courage and sacrifice associated with this decision.

Tal Rasha undertook a burden of exceptional severity.

His actions contributed to the temporary protection of Sanctuary from Baal.

Nevertheless, the ethical significance of voluntary sacrifice does not eliminate questions concerning the institution accepting that sacrifice.

The Board therefore distinguishes between the courage of the volunteer and the adequacy of the institutional decision.

A person may freely offer to endure suffering for the protection of others.

An institution accepting that offer must still consider the nature of the harm, the availability of alternatives, and the responsibilities arising from the arrangement.

C. Informed Consent

The Board requests clarification concerning the information available to Tal Rasha at the time of his decision.

In particular, it seeks to determine whether he understood:

1. The anticipated duration of confinement.
2. The possibility of continuing struggle against Baal.
3. The risk of eventual corruption.
4. The likelihood of rescue or release.
5. The consequences of failure.
6. The availability of alternative containment methods.

The Board does not presume that Tal Rasha lacked this information.

As a leader of the Horadrim, he possessed substantial knowledge concerning the Prime Evils and their confinement.

Nevertheless, the record does not establish that every consequence of the proposed arrangement was fully understood.

The Board therefore declines to treat the existence of consent as resolving all questions concerning the operation's ethical legitimacy.

The willingness of an individual to sacrifice himself does not automatically establish that an institution has fulfilled every obligation toward him.

D. Continuing Duty of Care

The Board recognizes that Tal Rasha's confinement may have been intended to continue indefinitely.

This raises questions concerning whether the Horadrim retained responsibilities toward him after his entombment.

The Board does not presume that his rescue was feasible.

Nor does it conclude that periodic physical inspection would necessarily have been safe.

Indeed, certain forms of inspection might have increased the risk of releasing Baal.

Nevertheless, the Board identifies a potential distinction between maintaining a protective distance and abandoning responsibility.

An institution may be unable to relieve suffering while remaining obligated to consider whether circumstances have changed.

The Board therefore requests evidence of any subsequent efforts to reassess Tal Rasha's condition.

It further requests clarification concerning whether the Horadrim developed alternative methods that might have reduced his burden.

The Board recognizes the possibility that no safe alternative existed.

Such a finding would be significant.

It must, however, rest upon evidence rather than upon the assumption that the original arrangement could never be reconsidered.

VI. THE THIRD CONTAINMENT ARRANGEMENT: DIABLO

A. Initial Imprisonment

Following the capture of Diablo, Jered Cain and his fellow Horadrim concealed the Lord of Terror's soulstone beneath a monastery established at the containment site in Khanduras.

The Board recognizes that the location was selected under historical circumstances different from those that later prevailed.

The monastery provided a means of concealing and guarding the imprisoned entity.

The Board therefore does not presume that the original site selection was inherently unreasonable.

The surrounding area was not yet the developed settlement associated with the later history of Tristram.

Nevertheless, the Board questions whether the Horadrim anticipated future changes in land use.

B. Transformation of the Site

Over time, the Horadrim declined.

The original monastery lost its institutional purpose.

The site eventually became associated with Tristram Cathedral.

The Board identifies this transformation as significant.

A structure originally established in connection with extraordinary containment became a religious site used by persons who did not necessarily possess knowledge of the hazard beneath it.

The physical continuity of the building concealed a discontinuity of institutional responsibility.

The original custodians disappeared.

The structure remained.

The hazard remained.

The knowledge required to understand the hazard did not necessarily remain accessible to those using the structure.

The Board therefore identifies a potential failure of institutional succession.

C. The Corruption of Archbishop Lazarus

The historical record indicates that Diablo's soulstone eventually exerted corruptive influence upon Archbishop Lazarus.

Lazarus subsequently became instrumental in the release of Diablo's influence and the possession of Prince Albrecht.

These events contributed to the destruction that overtook Tristram.

The Board recognizes that Diablo bears direct responsibility for his corruptive actions.

Nevertheless, the presence of a malicious actor does not automatically eliminate questions concerning the adequacy of safeguards intended to restrain that actor.

The Board therefore examines whether the containment arrangement included reasonable measures to prevent unauthorized persons from encountering or manipulating the soulstone.

It also considers whether the original custodians established mechanisms capable of surviving the disappearance of their order.

The Board does not presume that ordinary municipal authorities possessed the knowledge necessary to recognize the threat.

That absence of knowledge is itself relevant to determining whether adequate disclosure and succession arrangements existed.

A hazard does not cease to exist because the institution that understood it has disappeared.

VII. ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CELESTIAL SPONSOR

The Board now considers the role of Tyrael.

Tyrael established the Horadrim and provided the soulstones used to imprison the Prime Evils.

His intervention was undertaken in response to a substantial threat to Sanctuary.

The Board recognizes the protective purpose of his actions.

However, the relationship between Tyrael and the Horadrim raises questions concerning the allocation of responsibility.

The order consisted of mortal persons.

Tyrael possessed extraordinary knowledge and resources.

The Horadrim relied, at least initially, upon the artifacts and guidance he provided.

The Board therefore requests clarification concerning the information disclosed to the order.

In particular:

Did Tyrael understand that the soulstones could become corrupted?

Did he know whether the imprisoned Prime Evils could influence persons beyond the artifacts?

Were these possibilities communicated to the Horadrim?

Did he provide instructions concerning long-term monitoring?

Did he establish any procedure for responding to deteriorating containment conditions?

The Board recognizes that Tyrael may not have possessed complete knowledge of the artifacts' limitations.

It would be unreasonable to impose responsibility for information that could not reasonably have been known.

Nevertheless, where an extraordinary authority provides an instrument of exceptional danger to mortal custodians, the adequacy of accompanying information is ethically significant.

The Board further observes that Tyrael's celestial nature does not necessarily place him beyond the consequences of the arrangements he helped establish.

The delegation of custody does not automatically extinguish the responsibilities of the party who designed and supplied the containment system.

VIII. ON MORTAL AGENCY AND DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY

The Board considers whether the Horadrim's service under Tyrael constituted an exercise of meaningful mortal autonomy.

The historical record indicates that the order was composed of powerful mages who undertook substantial responsibilities.

Their participation should not be presumed involuntary merely because the initiative originated with an archangel.

The Board recognizes that mortals may freely cooperate with celestial persons.

Such cooperation may be legitimate, beneficial, and necessary.

However, the existence of voluntary participation does not eliminate questions concerning the terms of the relationship.

The Board distinguishes between receiving assistance and surrendering institutional independence.

The Horadrim may have relied upon Tyrael's expertise without necessarily becoming an extension of celestial government.

Conversely, extensive dependence upon Tyrael's knowledge might have limited their ability to independently evaluate his instructions.

The Board therefore seeks evidence concerning the order's capacity to challenge its founder.

Could the Horadrim refuse a proposed intervention?

Could they alter containment procedures without celestial approval?

Did they possess independent knowledge sufficient to evaluate the soulstones?

Were disagreements documented?

What procedures existed for resolving conflicts between mortal judgment and celestial instruction?

The Board finds these questions relevant to the legitimacy of the Horadrim's institutional structure.

Cooperation with a powerful benefactor does not necessarily eliminate autonomy.

Autonomy, however, requires more than the formal ability to agree.

IX. THE QUESTION OF INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSION

The Board identifies the decline of the Horadrim as a central concern.

Following the imprisonment of the Prime Evils, the immediate threat appeared to have been contained.

The order gradually diminished.

Its members dispersed, died, or ceased to maintain an active institutional presence.

Over successive generations, knowledge of the Horadrim became increasingly fragmented.

The Board recognizes that organizations formed to address emergencies may legitimately dissolve once their missions are complete.

An institution need not continue indefinitely merely because it once performed an important function.

However, the Board distinguishes between an emergency response whose effects terminate with the emergency and one that creates continuing obligations.

The Horadrim did not simply defeat the Prime Evils and remove the danger from existence.

They established containment arrangements that required continued effectiveness.

Those arrangements depended upon artifacts, locations, and custodians.

Their effectiveness therefore remained relevant after the original members of the order had passed from history.

The Board identifies a possible institutional contradiction.

The Horadrim appear to have treated successful imprisonment as completion of their mission, while the conditions necessary to preserve that imprisonment continued to require institutional attention.

The distinction is fundamental.

A project may be completed.

A responsibility may nevertheless continue.

A. Continuity of Custody

The Board requests evidence of any formal succession procedures governing the soulstones.

B. Preservation of Knowledge

The Board requests identification of records necessary to maintain or restore containment.

C. Transfer of Authority

The Board seeks clarification concerning the circumstances under which custodial responsibility passed to subsequent institutions.

D. Institutional Reconstitution

The Board requests evidence of any provisions for reestablishing the Horadrim in response to renewed infernal activity.

E. Public Safety

The Board seeks clarification concerning whether future populations were considered in the original plans.

The Board acknowledges that centuries of institutional continuity may have been difficult to secure.

Difficulty, however, does not render continuity irrelevant.

A containment arrangement intended to endure beyond the lives of its creators requires consideration of who will remain responsible when those creators are gone.

X. ON THE FAILURE OF HISTORICAL MEMORY

The Board considers the progressive loss of Horadric knowledge.

The disappearance of specialized expertise can create vulnerabilities even where physical safeguards remain intact.

An artifact may remain sealed.

Its custodians may nevertheless forget why it must not be opened.

A warning may survive.

Its original meaning may be lost.

A building may remain occupied.

Its historical purpose may disappear from public understanding.

The Board therefore distinguishes between the preservation of an object and the preservation of the knowledge necessary to manage it.

The Horadrim successfully concealed dangerous artifacts.

Yet concealment from hostile actors created a secondary problem.

Future legitimate custodians might also be unable to locate, identify, or understand the artifacts.

The Board recognizes that secrecy may be necessary where disclosure would invite interference.

The location of a soulstone containing a Prime Evil should not necessarily be made publicly available.

Nevertheless, secrecy must be distinguished from institutional amnesia.

A protective system may require restricted records, designated custodians, and secure succession procedures.

These measures preserve necessary knowledge without making every detail public.

The Board therefore rejects the assumption that the only available alternatives were complete public disclosure or complete secrecy.

Information may require protection.

Responsibility requires that it not simply disappear.

XI. ON ZOLTUN KULLE AND INTERNAL SCIENTIFIC DISSENT

The Board identifies Zoltun Kulle as a matter of exceptional institutional interest.

Kulle was a founding member of the Horadrim.

His expertise contributed to the order's understanding and use of soulstones.

He subsequently pursued independent research into the nature and capabilities of these artifacts.

His work ultimately produced the Black Soulstone, capable of imprisoning celestial as well as infernal entities.

The Board recognizes that Kulle's research raised grave ethical concerns.

His later activities involved dangerous experimentation, extraordinary concentrations of power, and conduct that brought him into violent conflict with his former colleagues.

Those matters warrant separate investigation.

However, the Board declines to conclude that every concern raised by Kulle was necessarily invalid because of his later misconduct.

An individual may identify a genuine institutional deficiency while also engaging in unethical efforts to address it.

The distinction matters.

Kulle's research demonstrated that the soulstones possessed capabilities beyond those initially understood or employed by the Horadrim.

This raises questions concerning the adequacy of the order's original technical knowledge.

It also raises questions concerning the treatment of internal dissent.

Did the Horadrim possess procedures for evaluating disputed research?

Could members challenge established assumptions concerning the soulstones?

Were concerns about the limitations of the artifacts investigated independently?

Did the order distinguish dangerous experimentation from legitimate technical criticism?

The Board recognizes that research involving extraordinary artifacts may require stringent restrictions.

The freedom to investigate does not establish a right to endanger others.

Nevertheless, an institution responsible for containing catastrophic threats must remain capable of learning.

It cannot presume that the original understanding of its equipment is permanently complete.

The Board therefore enters the following observation:

A researcher's misconduct does not automatically invalidate every finding produced by that researcher.

Nor does a potentially valuable discovery justify every method used to obtain it.

The separate responsibilities of Kulle and the Horadrim shall be examined in subsequent proceedings.

XII. ON THE USE OF HUMAN BEINGS AS CONTAINMENT INSTRUMENTS

The Board returns to the practice of employing mortal bodies in the confinement of demonic entities.

Tal Rasha's sacrifice presents the most prominent example within the original Horadric mission.

Subsequent events involving Diablo demonstrate additional instances in which mortal bodies became instruments of containment or possession.

The Board recognizes that these circumstances were not identical.

Tal Rasha volunteered for his role.

Prince Albrecht did not meaningfully consent to possession by Diablo.

The hero who subsequently embedded Diablo's soulstone within his own forehead acted under different conditions and for a different purpose.

The Board therefore rejects any analysis that treats all three as equivalent.

The distinction between voluntary sacrifice, coerced possession, and desperate emergency intervention is essential.

Nevertheless, the recurrence of mortal bodies as containment mechanisms raises a broader institutional question.

At what point does reliance upon individual sacrifice indicate a deficiency in the available protective system?

The Board recognizes that some emergencies may leave no alternative to extraordinary personal risk.

A person's willingness to accept that risk can possess considerable moral significance.

However, institutions should not presume that the courage of individuals eliminates the need to improve defective arrangements.

The heroic character of a sacrifice must not become a means of avoiding inquiry into why the sacrifice was necessary.

Nor should an institution's reliance upon extraordinary individuals be treated as a substitute for durable safeguards.

Heroism may save a civilization.

It does not constitute a maintenance program.

XIII. ON CONTAMINATION AND THE LIMITS OF PHYSICAL CONFINEMENT

The Board considers the distinction between physical restraint and metaphysical influence.

The soulstones were intended to imprison the Prime Evils.

However, the historical record demonstrates that confinement did not necessarily eliminate their capacity to corrupt surrounding persons.

The Board therefore identifies an important operational deficiency.

A containment system may prevent an entity from physically escaping while allowing harmful effects to extend beyond the immediate containment boundary.

The Board does not presume that the Horadrim possessed the means to prevent every such effect.

Nevertheless, the possibility of influence beyond the artifact required consideration.

The relevant questions include:

- Whether the area surrounding a soulstone was susceptible to corruption.
- Whether prolonged exposure increased risk.
- Whether custodians could recognize changes in their own judgment.
- Whether independent personnel could evaluate containment integrity.
- Whether a site remained suitable for human occupation.
- Whether deteriorating conditions required relocation or additional safeguards.

The Board further recognizes that a corrupted custodian may continue performing ordinary duties.

The appearance of institutional continuity may therefore conceal a progressive failure.

This danger is especially significant where the contained entity possesses capabilities involving fear, hatred, manipulation, or domination.

A locked chamber is not necessarily secure if the prisoner can direct the conduct of the person holding the key.

XIV. ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FUTURE POPULATIONS

The Board next considers the relationship between the original Horadrim and generations that followed them.

The order's containment arrangements were established for the protection of Sanctuary.

Their consequences extended beyond the lives of the original custodians.

The Board recognizes that future populations cannot participate directly in every decision affecting them.

Nevertheless, an institution making decisions with foreseeable multigenerational consequences must consider the interests of those who will inherit the resulting conditions.

The Board therefore examines whether the Horadrim reasonably anticipated that settlements might develop near containment sites.

It also considers whether future authorities would possess sufficient information to respond to the hazards.

The Board does not impose a requirement of perfect foresight.

The original custodians could not reasonably be expected to predict every subsequent political, religious, or demographic development.

However, certain general conditions may have been foreseeable.

Buildings may change ownership.

Communities may expand.

Institutions may decline.

Records may deteriorate.

Specialized knowledge may be lost.

Custodians may become compromised.

These possibilities are not unique to extraordinary magical containment.

They are ordinary features of institutional life.

The Board therefore finds that long-term containment requires consideration of foreseeable institutional change.

The passage of time is not an unforeseeable event.

XV. THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

The Board identifies a substantial tension between public safety and operational secrecy.

The locations of soulstones containing Prime Evils were exceptionally sensitive.

Unrestricted disclosure might have attracted hostile agents seeking to release the imprisoned entities.

The Board therefore recognizes legitimate reasons for limiting access to such information.

However, concealment may expose uninformed persons to danger.

The problem becomes particularly serious when the original custodians disappear and the site enters ordinary civilian use.

The Board therefore distinguishes three forms of disclosure.

A. Public Disclosure

Information made generally available to residents and occupants.

B. Restricted Institutional Disclosure

Information provided to designated authorities or custodians responsible for safety.

C. Emergency Disclosure

Information supplied when circumstances create an immediate need for protective action.

The Board does not conclude that the precise locations of all soulstones should have been publicly announced.

It does conclude that the protection of sensitive information and the preservation of necessary institutional knowledge should not be treated as mutually exclusive.

The Board therefore requests evidence of any restricted disclosure mechanisms established by the Horadrim.

It further seeks to determine whether successor institutions were informed of hazards relevant to their responsibilities.

Where no such mechanism existed, the Board will consider whether the absence was reasonable under the circumstances.

A secret may protect the public from a threat.

It may also prevent the public from recognizing that the threat has escaped.

XVI. THE HORADRIC ARCHIVE

The Board considers whether the preservation of records constituted an essential component of the order's continuing responsibilities.

The Horadrim possessed specialized knowledge concerning the Prime Evils, the Worldstone, soulstones, and extraordinary arcane practices.

The loss of such knowledge could impair the ability of later generations to respond to renewed threats.

The Board recognizes that some records could themselves be dangerous.

Instructions concerning the manipulation of soulstones might be misused.

Information concerning the vulnerabilities of containment sites might assist hostile actors.

However, destruction or abandonment of such records may create different dangers.

The Board therefore identifies a need for controlled preservation.

An adequate archival arrangement might distinguish between:

1. Historical information necessary to understand the threat.
2. Operational information necessary to maintain containment.
3. Sensitive information requiring restricted access.
4. Emergency procedures necessary for response.
5. Research findings concerning previously unknown vulnerabilities.

The Board does not presume that the Horadrim employed such a classification system.

The categories are proposed for ethical analysis.

The Board nevertheless finds that preserving specialized knowledge was materially connected to the effectiveness of the containment mission.

An institution entrusted with an enduring danger must consider whether those who follow it will possess the knowledge necessary to recognize that danger.

The Board further notes that the existence of a surviving scholar does not necessarily establish an adequate archival system.

A civilization's ability to respond to catastrophe should not depend exclusively upon the continued availability of one knowledgeable individual.

XVII. ON THE STATUS OF DECKARD CAIN

The Board recognizes Deckard Cain as a significant custodian of Horadric knowledge.

His efforts to preserve, interpret, and communicate historical information contributed materially to humanity's understanding of the Prime Evils.

The Board acknowledges the importance of such work.

However, his position illustrates a broader institutional vulnerability.

Knowledge that was once distributed among an order of powerful scholars became concentrated in a diminishing number of individuals.

The Board does not attribute the decline of the Horadrim to Deckard Cain.

Nor does it presume that he possessed the means to reverse it.

The relevant concern is structural.

An institution may become dependent upon the dedication of an individual whose authority, resources, and ability to act are limited.

That individual's conscientious efforts may temporarily compensate for institutional deficiencies.

They do not necessarily eliminate those deficiencies.

The Board therefore identifies the preservation of Horadric knowledge as a continuing public interest.

The Board further observes that a person who repeatedly warns others of extraordinary dangers should not be required to independently reconstruct an entire vanished institution before those warnings receive consideration.

The Board recognizes the importance of consulting surviving experts.

It does not recognize the survival of one expert as proof that institutional continuity has been adequately maintained.

XVIII. ON THE ETHICS OF EMERGENCY ACTION

The Board recognizes that the Horadrim operated under conditions of extraordinary danger.

Their decisions frequently required immediate action.

The possibility of catastrophic destruction limited the availability of ordinary deliberative procedures.

The Board therefore declines to impose inflexible requirements that would have rendered effective intervention impossible.

Emergency action may legitimately involve uncertainty.

It may require decisions before complete information becomes available.

It may involve risks that would be unacceptable under ordinary circumstances.

However, the existence of an emergency does not permanently eliminate the obligation to reassess measures undertaken during that emergency.

The Board distinguishes between two periods.

The emergency phase, during which immediate intervention may be necessary to prevent catastrophic harm.

The stewardship phase, during which the continued operation of the intervention must be evaluated under conditions allowing greater reflection.

The Board finds this distinction central to the Horadrim's history.

The original capture of the Prime Evils occurred under extraordinary conditions.

The subsequent centuries afforded different opportunities for review.

A measure justified by immediate danger may remain necessary.

It should not remain beyond examination merely because its creation occurred during an emergency.

The Board therefore enters a preliminary finding:

Necessity may justify an extraordinary temporary measure.

It does not automatically establish the permanent adequacy of that measure.

XIX. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Following review of the available historical record, the Sanctuary Ethics Review Board enters the following findings.

Finding 1 — Legitimate Protective Purpose

The Horadrim were established to address a genuine and extraordinary threat to Sanctuary.

Their mission possessed substantial ethical justification.

Finding 2 — Significant Protective Achievement

The capture and imprisonment of the Prime Evils represented a meaningful reduction in immediate danger.

Finding 3 — Continuing Containment Responsibility

Successful imprisonment did not eliminate the need to consider the continued security of the containment arrangements.

Finding 4 — Distinct Institutional Risks

The three containment arrangements presented materially different risks involving custodial corruption, individual sacrifice, and long-term concealment.

Finding 5 — Vulnerability of Custodial Institutions

The corruption of the Zakarum demonstrates the danger of relying exclusively upon an institution whose personnel may be influenced by the entity under custody.

Finding 6 — Ethical Significance of Tal Rasha's Sacrifice

Tal Rasha's voluntary sacrifice represented extraordinary courage.

Its voluntary character does not automatically resolve every question concerning the duties of the institution accepting the sacrifice.

Finding 7 — Long-Term Hazard at Tristram

The concealment of Diablo's soulstone beneath the Horadric monastery created a continuing hazard that survived the decline of the original custodians.

Finding 8 — Failure of Institutional Continuity

The progressive disappearance of the Horadrim substantially undermined the preservation and accessibility of specialized containment knowledge.

Finding 9 — Unresolved Responsibility of Tyrael

The extent of Tyrael's continuing responsibility as founder and supplier of the soulstones requires further examination.

Finding 10 — Importance of Technical Dissent

The subsequent research of Zoltun Kulle demonstrates that the capabilities of soulstones extended beyond the order's original operational understanding.

The ethical evaluation of his research must distinguish legitimate inquiry from dangerous or abusive methods.

Finding 11 — Limits of Secrecy

Operational secrecy may be justified by substantial security concerns.

It does not automatically excuse the failure to preserve information necessary for legitimate custodial succession.

Finding 12 — Intergenerational Stewardship

Long-term containment requires consideration of future populations who may inherit the consequences of decisions made by the original custodians.

Finding 13 — Insufficiency of Individual Expertise

The continued existence of knowledgeable individuals does not necessarily compensate for the absence of durable institutions.

Finding 14 — Duty of Reassessment

Emergency measures that remain operative after the immediate crisis should be subject to reassessment where meaningful and reasonably safe review becomes possible.

XX. QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO THE HORADRIM

The Board hereby requests responses, where surviving records permit, to the following questions.

Question One:
What was the original intended duration of the Horadrim's responsibility for containing the Prime Evils?

Question Two:
Did the order regard imprisonment as a permanent solution or a temporary measure pending further action?

Question Three:
What information did Tyrael provide concerning the limitations of soulstones?

Question Four:
Were the risks of corruption and influence beyond the soulstones' physical boundaries known?

Question Five:
What procedures were established to detect deterioration of containment?

Question Six:
What safeguards existed to identify corruption among custodians?

Question Seven:
What considerations governed the selection of the Zakarum as custodians of Mephisto?

Question Eight:
What contingency arrangements existed following the damage to Baal's intended soulstone?

Question Nine:
What evidence establishes the nature and scope of Tal Rasha's consent?

Question Ten:
Were any measures established to monitor or reassess Tal Rasha's confinement?

Question Eleven:
What considerations governed the selection of the original containment site for Diablo?

Question Twelve:
Did the Horadrim anticipate the possibility that civilian settlements might eventually develop near the site?

Question Thirteen:
What measures were established to transfer custody following the death or departure of the original members?

Question Fourteen:
Were successor institutions informed of the existence and nature of the hazards under their responsibility?

Question Fifteen:
What procedures governed access to sensitive Horadric records?

Question Sixteen:
Were concerns raised by Zoltun Kulle concerning the soulstones' limitations independently evaluated?

Question Seventeen:
What institutional measures existed to prevent dangerous experimentation?

Question Eighteen:
Did the Horadrim establish any mechanism for reconstituting the order after its decline?

Question Nineteen:
What continuing responsibilities, if any, were retained by Tyrael?

Question Twenty:
Upon what basis did the order determine that its original mission had been completed?

The Board respectfully requests that responses distinguish between successful capture and successful long-term containment.

The two conditions are not identical.

XXI. INSTITUTIONAL DETERMINATION

The Board finds that the Horadrim undertook a legitimate and exceptionally important protective mission.

Their efforts substantially reduced the immediate danger posed by the Prime Evils.

The Board recognizes the courage, expertise, and sacrifice required to accomplish that objective.

Nevertheless, the historical record demonstrates that the resulting containment arrangements were vulnerable to deterioration, institutional corruption, and loss of specialized knowledge.

The Board therefore determines that the initial success of the Horadrim did not establish the permanent adequacy of their arrangements.

The decline of the order raises substantial questions concerning the preservation of continuing responsibility.

The Board does not conclude that every subsequent disaster was reasonably foreseeable to the original members.

Nor does it presume that all failures could have been prevented.

However, the general risks associated with institutional decline, custodial succession, and continuing containment were sufficiently connected to the nature of the mission to warrant examination.

The Board therefore enters the following determination:

Where an institution creates or assumes custody of a continuing extraordinary hazard, successful initial containment does not eliminate its responsibility to consider the future maintenance of that containment.

The scope of that responsibility depends upon the knowledge, resources, and circumstances reasonably available.

It is not unlimited.

It does not require perfect foresight.

It does require recognition that the danger may survive the people who first contained it.

The Board further determines that the responsibilities of a celestial sponsor cannot be presumed extinguished merely because mortal agents undertook the operational work.

The relationship between Tyrael and the Horadrim remains subject to additional review.

XXII. CONCLUDING OBSERVATION

There is a particular kind of institutional tragedy that begins not with failure, but with success.

A danger is confronted.

An enemy is defeated.

A population is preserved.

Those who undertook the effort return from their extraordinary labor having accomplished what others believed impossible.

Their achievement becomes history.

And history, with the passage of time, becomes legend.

The Horadrim were such an institution.

They confronted the Prime Evils when Sanctuary possessed few means of resisting them.

They developed and employed extraordinary instruments of containment.

They endured sacrifice.

They preserved lives.

Their accomplishments deserve recognition.

Yet the dangers they contained did not cease to exist.

They remained within the soulstones.

They remained beneath temples, deserts, and monasteries.

They remained capable, under particular circumstances, of influencing the world beyond their confinement.

And while those dangers endured, the institution responsible for understanding them gradually disappeared.

The Board recognizes that no organization can preserve its original membership indefinitely.

People age.

Leaders die.

Knowledge changes.

Institutions rise and fall.

These are ordinary conditions of historical existence.

But the ordinary nature of institutional change does not render its consequences insignificant.

Where an institution assumes responsibility for an enduring threat, it must consider how that responsibility will survive its original members.

The Horadrim successfully imprisoned entities capable of catastrophic harm.

Yet their history suggests that extraordinary acts of courage were not accompanied by equally durable arrangements for institutional succession.

Their sacrifices were immediate.

Their responsibilities were generational.

The distinction matters.

A hero may undertake a dangerous mission and save a community.

But the preservation of that community cannot indefinitely depend upon the continued presence of the hero.

The obligation to protect must eventually become something more durable than personal courage.

It must become knowledge that can be preserved.

Responsibility that can be transferred.

Procedures that can be questioned.

Safeguards that can be examined.

And institutions capable of recognizing when the conditions of their original success have changed.

The Board recognizes that secrecy may have protected the soulstones from those who sought to release the Prime Evils.

Yet secrecy also complicated the preservation of knowledge.

The Board recognizes that religious institutions may have offered continuity and devotion.

Yet devotion did not render their leaders immune to corruption.

The Board recognizes that Tal Rasha's sacrifice may have been necessary.

Yet necessity did not render his suffering irrelevant.

The Board recognizes that the original monastery in Khanduras was established for a protective purpose.

Yet the passage of centuries transformed the site into something its original custodians may not have anticipated.

Each example reveals a similar difficulty.

An arrangement may be adequate for the moment in which it is created and inadequate for the future in which it must continue operating.

Its original legitimacy does not establish its permanent sufficiency.

Nor does the moral worth of those who created it remove the need for later scrutiny.

The Board does not regard the Horadrim as failures merely because the dangers they confronted eventually returned.

The Prime Evils possessed extraordinary powers.

Their corruption, manipulation, and destruction remain their own conduct.

Responsibility for those actions cannot simply be transferred to the persons who attempted to prevent them.

Nevertheless, the existence of a malicious actor does not eliminate the obligation to examine the adequacy of arrangements intended to restrain that actor.

A prison may fail because its prisoner is dangerous.

It may also fail because its custodians were not prepared for the particular ways in which that danger could manifest.

Both circumstances may be relevant.

The Board therefore declines to reduce the Horadrim's history to either triumph or negligence.

Their achievement was real.

The subsequent failures were real.

The task is to understand their relationship without allowing one to erase the other.

For there is no contradiction in honoring those who saved a civilization while examining whether the institutions they established were adequate to protect the generations that followed.

Indeed, such examination may be necessary to preserve the value of their original accomplishment.

The purpose of institutional review is not merely to identify errors.

It is to prevent admiration from becoming an obstacle to understanding.

It is to ensure that the sacrifices of those who came before do not become the justification for repeating preventable harms.

And it is to distinguish between an act of extraordinary courage and a system capable of enduring without requiring extraordinary courage at every moment of crisis.

The Horadrim saved Sanctuary.

Their work deserves remembrance.

But remembrance is not maintenance.

Secrecy is not succession.

Confinement is not necessarily containment.

And the successful completion of an emergency mission does not establish that its continuing obligations have ended.

The inquiry remains open.

XXIII. DISPOSITION

SERB-005 remains open pending further evidence concerning the soulstones, custodial arrangements, institutional succession, and the responsibilities of the Horadrim's celestial sponsor.

The Board recognizes the substantial protective accomplishments of the order.

No presumption of negligence shall arise solely from the occurrence of subsequent infernal disasters.

Responsibility must be evaluated according to the knowledge, capabilities, and reasonably available alternatives of the relevant actors.

The Board reserves separate proceedings concerning:

- Tal Rasha and the ethics of voluntary sacrifice.
- Zoltun Kulle and extraordinary research practices.
- The individual failures of soulstone containment.
- The corruption of the Zakarum.
- The use of mortal bodies as infernal vessels.
- The preservation of Horadric knowledge.
- The historical transformation of the Tristram containment site.

The Board directs no physical interference with surviving containment artifacts.

It makes no determination that inspection, relocation, or attempted destruction of a soulstone would necessarily be safe.

The Board further recognizes that the absence of a surviving Horadric institution may complicate compliance with requests for records.

This circumstance shall not be treated as proof that records never existed.

So entered.

Sanctuary Ethics Review Board
Office of Extraordinary Hazard Containment
Division of Institutional Succession and Intergenerational Stewardship

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ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM A

Regarding the Classification of Soulstones

The Office of Extraordinary Hazard Containment has reviewed the historical function of soulstones.

The Office recognizes that the artifacts were employed to imprison the essences of the Prime Evils.

It further recognizes that the artifacts could retain extraordinary hazards even when functioning as intended.

Accordingly, the Office proposes the following provisional classification:

Extraordinary Containment Artifact — Catastrophic Influence Potential

The classification does not establish a particular level of probability concerning escape.

It identifies the severity of the consequences that may result from containment failure.

The Office requests any surviving documentation concerning the design limitations, operational requirements, and expected service life of the artifacts.

The Office further requests clarification concerning the procedures governing the disposal, destruction, or replacement of a compromised soulstone.

The Office respectfully notes that an artifact capable of imprisoning the Lord of Terror should not be presumed safe for ordinary storage merely because the Lord of Terror is presently imprisoned.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM B

Regarding the Sacrifice of Tal Rasha

The Office of Personal Autonomy has reviewed the historical account of Tal Rasha's sacrifice.

The Office recognizes the extraordinary courage demonstrated by the respondent.

It further recognizes that the decision was undertaken during an emergency involving a damaged containment instrument.

The Office makes no finding that Tal Rasha's participation was involuntary.

Nevertheless, it requests clarification concerning the institution's understanding of the long-term consequences.

The Office further requests identification of any records concerning possible relief, reassessment, or alternatives to indefinite confinement.

For avoidance of doubt, the Office does not consider the expression *eternal sacrifice* to constitute a complete operational plan.

The duration of an individual's courage does not eliminate the duration of an institution's responsibility.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM C

Regarding the Custody of Mephisto

The Office of Institutional Integrity has reviewed the placement of Mephisto's soulstone under the protection of the Zakarum.

The Office acknowledges that a religious institution may provide substantial organizational continuity.

However, it notes that Mephisto possesses extraordinary capabilities associated with hatred, manipulation, and corruption.

The Office therefore requests evidence of safeguards designed to identify compromised custodians.

An assurance of institutional purity, devotion, or theological correctness will not, without supporting evidence, establish resistance to metaphysical influence.

The Office further requests clarification concerning whether any inspection mechanism existed outside the immediate leadership of the Zakarum.

The Office respectfully observes that a containment institution should not rely exclusively upon its own declarations of incorruptibility when the contained entity specializes in corruption.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM D

Regarding the Decline of the Horadrim

The Office of Institutional Continuity has received information indicating that the Horadrim gradually disappeared following the imprisonment of the Prime Evils.

The Office recognizes that the original mission was regarded as substantially accomplished.

It further recognizes that institutional dissolution may be appropriate when an organization's responsibilities have genuinely ended.

However, the Office has been unable to establish that the soulstones ceased to require custodial attention.

The Office therefore requests any surviving records concerning succession arrangements.

In particular, it seeks identification of the person or institution designated to assume responsibility after the departure of the final active Horadric custodian.

The Office acknowledges that no such designation may have occurred.

Its absence would warrant further consideration.

The Office respectfully notes that the successful imprisonment of three Prime Evils does not, without additional evidence, establish that three Prime Evils no longer require supervision.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM E

Regarding the Tristram Monastery

The Office of Municipal Safety has reviewed the historical transformation of the Horadric monastery in Khanduras.

The structure was originally associated with the containment of Diablo.

Following the decline of the Horadrim, the site eventually became part of the religious and civic life of Tristram.

The Office identifies a potential discontinuity between the original custodial purpose and subsequent civilian use.

It therefore requests clarification concerning the transfer of information to later occupants.

The Office further requests evidence of any warnings, access restrictions, or custodial instructions concerning the subterranean containment areas.

The Board recognizes that the original Horadrim may not have anticipated every subsequent use of the site.

Nevertheless, the continuing presence of a Prime Evil raises substantial questions concerning institutional succession.

The Office has referred the matter for separate municipal review.

Referral Number: SERB-MUN-001

Subject: Whether "Ancient Evil Beneath the Cathedral" Constitutes an Adequate Municipal Disclosure Notice.

The Office recommends that the matter receive independent consideration.

No final finding concerning municipal liability is entered.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM F

Regarding Zoltun Kulle

The Office of Research Ethics has reviewed the historical record concerning Zoltun Kulle.

The Office acknowledges the respondent's contributions to the original Horadric mission.

It further acknowledges that his subsequent research resulted in extraordinary capabilities and serious institutional conflict.

The Office considers the distinction between legitimate technical criticism and unethical experimentation central to the forthcoming inquiry.

The Horadrim are therefore requested to produce any surviving records of deliberations concerning Kulle's research.

Kulle is separately invited to explain the methods employed in developing the Black Soulstone.

The Office advises that the discovery of previously unknown properties of an artifact may constitute a significant scientific achievement.

Such a discovery does not automatically justify the methods used to obtain it.

Conversely, misconduct by a researcher does not establish that every technical conclusion reached by that researcher was incorrect.

The Office respectfully requests that the parties distinguish between the validity of a finding and the conduct of the person responsible for it.

The matter is reserved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM G

Regarding the Continued Availability of Deckard Cain

The Office of Records has reviewed the historical importance of Deckard Cain in preserving Horadric knowledge.

The Office recognizes his substantial contributions.

It further recognizes that the preservation of specialized knowledge may depend upon individual scholars during periods of institutional decline.

Nevertheless, the Office identifies a structural concern.

The presence of a knowledgeable individual does not establish the existence of a functioning archival institution.

Nor does repeated consultation with that individual constitute a complete succession plan.

The Office therefore requests identification of any arrangements through which Horadric knowledge could be preserved independently of a single custodian.

The Office acknowledges that such arrangements may have been incomplete or unavailable.

The Office respectfully observes that "consult Deckard Cain" is a valuable operational instruction.

It is not, by itself, an adequate multigenerational continuity strategy.

FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

SERB-005 — NOTICE CONCERNING COMPLETION OF MISSION

The Office of Institutional Review has received a preliminary assertion that the Horadrim completed their assigned mission upon the imprisonment of the three Prime Evils.

The Office acknowledges the success of the original capture operations.

It further acknowledges the exceptional sacrifices made by the members of the order.

However, the Office requests clarification concerning whether the original mission included responsibility for maintaining the resulting containment arrangements.

The Office recognizes that the distinction may not have been expressly addressed at the time.

It nevertheless considers the distinction essential.

The continued existence of an imprisoned catastrophic threat may require ongoing protective measures even where the original capture was entirely successful.

The Board therefore asks the Horadrim to identify the point at which custodial responsibility was deemed concluded.

The respondent may submit evidence concerning the intended duration of the mission.

The Board will consider such evidence.

However, the mere absence of further capture operations does not establish the absence of continuing containment obligations.

The Board recognizes that the Horadrim succeeded in capturing all three Prime Evils.

The Board further recognizes that all three Prime Evils eventually resumed activity.

The Board requests that the institution address the interval between these events.

A statement that the artifacts were secure when originally deposited is relevant.

It is not a complete answer.

The Board respectfully requests the maintenance records.

END OF SERB-005

RESERVED MUNICIPAL PROCEEDING

SERB-MUN-001

WHETHER "ANCIENT EVIL BENEATH THE CATHEDRAL" CONSTITUTES AN ADEQUATE MUNICIPAL DISCLOSURE NOTICE

On Extraordinary Premises Hazards, Religious Occupancy, Subterranean Containment, and the Responsibilities of Historical Custodians

Status: Referred to the Office of Municipal Safety

Preliminary Matter:

The Board has received information indicating that a structure subsequently used for religious assembly occupied a site originally established for the containment of Diablo, Lord of Terror.

The Office recognizes that the original Horadric monastery was constructed for purposes materially different from those associated with its later use as Tristram Cathedral.

The Office therefore requests evidence concerning the historical transfer of custody and knowledge.

In particular, it seeks clarification concerning whether subsequent occupants were informed that an extraordinarily dangerous entity remained confined beneath the premises.

The Office further requests that the parties distinguish between:

- The presence of an ancient subterranean structure.
- The presence of a dangerous magical artifact.
- The presence of an imprisoned Prime Evil capable of corrupting nearby persons.

The Office considers these conditions materially different for purposes of evaluating adequate disclosure.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION:

The statement *ancient evil beneath the cathedral* may communicate the existence of an unusual hazard.

However, it does not necessarily identify the nature, severity, or operational characteristics of that hazard.

The Office therefore questions whether the statement would permit a reasonable custodian to assess the risks associated with ordinary occupancy, structural alteration, excavation, or unauthorized entry.

The Board makes no final determination concerning the adequacy of the notice.

The question warrants independent review.

The Office respectfully requests that the respondents clarify whether the premises contained a sealed Lord of Terror at the time of their transfer.

An affirmative answer will require additional documentation.

A description of the site's historical importance will not, by itself, be sufficient.

END OF RESERVED NOTICE