# SANCTUARY ETHICS REVIEW BOARD

## SERB-007 — ZOLTUN KULLE

### On Arcane Research Ethics, Institutional Dissent, Unauthorized Experimentation, and the Presumption That Discovery Justifies Its Methods

*An Institutional Inquiry into Extraordinary Scientific Authority, the Black Soulstone, Experimental Subjects, Research Misconduct, Institutional Retaliation, and the Responsibilities Arising from Knowledge Capable of Altering the Balance of Creation*

**Issuing Authority:** Sanctuary Ethics Review Board (SERB)
**Docket:** SERB-007
**Classification:** Research Ethics, Extraordinary Hazard Management, Institutional Accountability, Experimental Autonomy, and Scientific Governance
**Date:** October 24, 2026
**Status:** Preliminary Findings, Evidentiary Review, and Notice of Continuing Investigation

**Principal Respondent:**

Zoltun Kulle, Founding Member of the Horadrim, Arcane Researcher, and Creator of the Black Soulstone.

**Institutional Respondents:**

- The Original Horadrim
- The Subsequent Horadric Authorities Responsible for Kulle's Confinement
- Tyrael, Founder and Celestial Patron of the Horadrim

**Persons of Evidentiary Interest:**

- Jered Cain
- Deckard Cain
- Ayuzhan of Caldeum
- Adria
- Leah
- Surviving Horadric Witnesses

- Persons Alleged to Have Been Subjected to Unauthorized Experimentation

**Interested Institutions:**

- The Angiris Council
- The High Heavens
- The Burning Hells
- The Historical Arcane Orders of Sanctuary
- The Custodians of the Black Soulstone
- The Inhabitants of Sanctuary

**Principal Questions:**

Whether Zoltun Kulle's research into soulstones, nephalem capabilities, and extraordinary metaphysical transformation was conducted within ethically permissible limits.

Whether the potential benefits of that research justified the risks imposed upon experimental subjects and the wider population.

Whether the Horadrim adequately distinguished legitimate scientific dissent from dangerous misconduct.

Whether the measures undertaken to suppress Kulle's research and confine his person were necessary, proportionate, and subject to meaningful review.

Whether subsequent reliance upon his discoveries demonstrates unresolved deficiencies in the original institutional response.

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# I. NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

The Sanctuary Ethics Review Board hereby opens a formal inquiry into the research and institutional history of Zoltun Kulle.

The Board recognizes the respondent as an individual of exceptional intellectual and magical capability.

His contributions to the understanding of soulstones, transmutation, and extraordinary arcane systems were substantial.

The Board further recognizes that Kulle's discoveries challenged assumptions maintained by the Horadrim concerning the limitations of the artifacts entrusted to their custody.

These discoveries possessed potential consequences extending far beyond the researcher's immediate objectives.

The Black Soulstone, in particular, represented a profound departure from the original soulstone containment system.

Its capacity to contain multiple powerful essences, including beings beyond the original infernal targets, raised fundamental questions concerning the relationship between knowledge, power, and institutional control.

The Board acknowledges that extraordinary discoveries may initially appear dangerous, implausible, or contrary to established doctrine.

The existence of institutional opposition does not establish that a discovery is invalid.

Nor does the unpopularity of a researcher establish misconduct.

However, the Board distinguishes the validity of a scientific finding from the ethical legitimacy of the methods employed to obtain it.

A researcher may be correct about the capabilities of an artifact while acting improperly toward persons affected by the research.

An experiment may produce useful knowledge while imposing unjustifiable danger.

A discovery may be beneficial in one application and catastrophic in another.

Accordingly, the Board rejects two competing presumptions.

**First, that extraordinary intellectual achievement excuses misconduct.**

**Second, that misconduct by a researcher renders every discovery produced by that researcher invalid.**

The inquiry shall evaluate both the research and the institutional response.

Neither shall receive automatic deference.

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# II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## A. Membership in the Horadrim

Zoltun Kulle was among the original members of the Horadrim.

He participated in an institution established to protect Sanctuary from the Prime Evils.

His expertise included alchemy, transmutation, and the manipulation of magical artifacts.

The Board recognizes that the Horadrim required exceptional technical knowledge to accomplish their mission.

Their work involved hazards beyond the understanding of most mortal institutions.

Kulle's contributions therefore occurred within a legitimate and extraordinary protective enterprise.

The Board does not presume that the respondent entered the Horadrim with improper intentions.

Nor does it assume that his subsequent conduct was inevitable.

The evaluation of his later research must distinguish between his initial contributions and the circumstances under which he departed from his colleagues.

## B. Study of the Soulstones

The Horadrim received soulstones associated with Tyrael's effort to contain the Prime Evils.

Kulle developed an unusually sophisticated understanding of these artifacts.

His research appears to have led him to question whether their properties had been fully disclosed or understood.

The Board considers this concern institutionally significant.

The Horadrim had accepted responsibility for instruments capable of imprisoning extraordinary beings.

Incomplete knowledge of those instruments could compromise their ability to maintain containment.

Accordingly, investigation into their limitations was not inherently improper.

Indeed, responsible custodianship may have required such investigation.

The Board therefore recognizes that the respondent's initial technical inquiries may have served a legitimate institutional purpose.

## C. Departure and Independent Research

Kulle eventually separated from the Horadrim and pursued independent research.

He established extensive archives, laboratories, and magical defenses within the deserts of Kehjistan.

His investigations included the creation of extraordinary constructs and the development of the Black Soulstone.

The Board recognizes that independent research is not inherently unethical.

An institution's disagreement with a researcher does not automatically establish authority to prohibit that research.

However, independence from institutional supervision may create heightened responsibilities where experiments present substantial risks to others.

The Board therefore seeks to determine whether Kulle established adequate safeguards after departing the Horadrim.

## D. Conflict with the Horadrim

The Horadrim eventually determined that Kulle's activities presented unacceptable dangers.

They confronted him.

The resulting conflict caused substantial harm.

The Horadrim ultimately defeated Kulle but were unable to ensure his permanent destruction.

His remains were separated and secured within extraordinary confinement arrangements.

The Board recognizes that these measures may have been undertaken to prevent renewed catastrophic danger.

Nevertheless, their necessity and proportionality require independent examination.

## E. Subsequent Restoration

Centuries later, Kulle's knowledge became necessary to locate and employ the Black Soulstone.

His remains were recovered, his spirit contacted, and his body restored.

The restored Kulle initially cooperated with those seeking the artifact.

The cooperation ended in renewed conflict.

The Board regards these events as particularly significant.

An institution that condemns a researcher's methods but later depends upon that research must distinguish between the legitimate use of knowledge and the legitimacy of the person who produced it.

It must also examine whether the circumstances requiring renewed cooperation arose partly from deficiencies in the earlier suppression of that knowledge.

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# III. ON THE LEGITIMACY OF SCIENTIFIC DISSENT

The Board considers Kulle's objections to established assumptions concerning the High Heavens.

The historical record indicates that the respondent questioned whether humanity could safely depend upon celestial restraint.

This concern was not without a factual basis.

As established in SERB-003, the Angiris Council had previously contemplated humanity's destruction.

Humanity survived following a vote in which its interests were not represented through any established mortal delegation.

The Board therefore recognizes that concern regarding the future conduct of celestial authorities could constitute a legitimate subject of inquiry.

Such concern does not establish the legitimacy of every proposal made in response.

Nevertheless, the Board rejects the proposition that questioning the intentions of the High Heavens was itself evidence of dangerous extremism or scientific misconduct.

Institutional loyalty does not require the abandonment of independent judgment.

Nor does cooperation with a powerful benefactor eliminate the need to examine that benefactor's interests.

Kulle's objections may have challenged the assumptions upon which the Horadrim's relationship with Tyrael depended.

That challenge warranted reasoned consideration.

**An institution's dependence upon a benefactor does not establish that the benefactor's conduct is beyond legitimate inquiry.**

The Board therefore requests evidence concerning the response of the Horadrim to Kulle's original concerns.

Were those concerns investigated?

Were technical objections distinguished from personal accusations?

Was the respondent permitted to present evidence?

Did his colleagues evaluate the possibility that he had identified genuine limitations in their understanding?

The Board makes no finding that every objection raised by Kulle was correct.

It does find that disagreement with established authority is not sufficient evidence of misconduct.

# IV. THE BLACK SOULSTONE

The Board identifies the Black Soulstone as the central technological subject of the present inquiry.

Unlike the original soulstones employed by the Horadrim, the Black Soulstone possessed capabilities extending beyond the confinement of individual Prime Evils.

Its design permitted the containment of extraordinary essences on a scale capable of altering the balance between celestial, infernal, and mortal powers.

The Board recognizes the potential protective applications of such an artifact.

A device capable of imprisoning multiple destructive entities might offer Sanctuary unprecedented security.

It might reduce the necessity of repeated individual containment operations.

It might provide alternatives to the use of mortal bodies as prisons.

It might allow humanity to defend itself against powers previously considered beyond mortal resistance.

These potential benefits are substantial.

However, the same capabilities could permit catastrophic misuse.

An artifact capable of containing extraordinarily powerful beings may also enable their concentration, manipulation, or release.

It could become an instrument of domination.

Its failure could produce consequences far exceeding those associated with ordinary containment technology.

The Board therefore distinguishes between the legitimacy of researching an artifact and the legitimacy of constructing or operating it without adequate safeguards.

The existence of a potentially beneficial application does not eliminate the obligation to consider foreseeable harmful applications.

**The Board recognizes that the Black Soulstone could serve as an instrument of protection.**

**It also recognizes that the capacity to imprison extraordinary beings could be used for purposes other than protection.**

The dual character of the artifact is central to this proceeding.

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# V. ON THE CLAIM THAT DISCOVERY JUSTIFIES ITS METHODS

The Board considers an argument frequently advanced in defense of extraordinary experimentation.

Under this argument, the potential value of a discovery may be so great that ordinary ethical limitations must yield.

The Board recognizes that the evaluation of risk may legitimately differ where research seeks to prevent catastrophic harm.

An experiment undertaken to develop a defense against the Prime Evils may possess stronger justification than one undertaken solely for personal enrichment.

However, the existence of a valuable objective does not establish unlimited permission concerning the methods used.

The Board therefore distinguishes:

**Scientific value:** Whether the research may produce useful knowledge.

**Ethical permissibility:** Whether the methods used to obtain that knowledge are justified.

**Operational safety:** Whether the resulting technology can be deployed without unacceptable danger.

**Institutional legitimacy:** Whether the researcher possesses appropriate authority to impose the relevant risks upon others.

These considerations are related but distinct.

A project may satisfy one while failing another.

The Board therefore rejects the proposition that successful discovery retroactively validates every method employed during development.

An experiment may produce accurate results while violating the autonomy of its subjects.

A device may function as intended while creating unacceptable risks for surrounding populations.

A researcher may correctly identify an institutional deficiency while proposing a remedy that imposes even greater harm.

**The fact that a method works does not establish that the method was permissible.**

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# VI. ALLEGATIONS OF UNAUTHORIZED EXPERIMENTATION

The Board turns to allegations that Kulle subjected mortal mages to dangerous or involuntary experimentation.

Certain historical accounts characterize the respondent as a torturer and murderer.

Allegations include the use of unwilling subjects in attempts to investigate or extract nephalem power.

The Board regards such allegations as exceptionally serious.

If established, they would represent grave violations of personal autonomy and bodily integrity.

However, seriousness does not eliminate the need for evidentiary scrutiny.

The Board observes that some surviving accusations were communicated through Adria.

Adria subsequently proved to have concealed substantial information concerning her allegiance to Diablo and her intentions regarding the Black Soulstone.

Her participation therefore presents significant questions concerning credibility and motive.

The Board does not conclude that every statement made by Adria was false.

Nor does the existence of a deceptive witness establish the innocence of the person accused.

Nevertheless, the Board declines to treat her allegations as independently conclusive.

The Board therefore requests corroborating evidence concerning:

1. The identities of alleged experimental subjects.
2. The nature of procedures allegedly performed.
3. The existence and scope of consent.
4. The injuries allegedly sustained.
5. The survival or death of affected persons.
6. The purposes of the experiments.
7. The involvement of assistants or other researchers.
8. The preservation of experimental records.
9. The existence of independent witnesses.
10. The provenance of later accounts describing the alleged conduct.

The Board further requests that the Horadrim distinguish firsthand observations from conclusions based upon reputation or secondary reports.

**The Board will not dismiss allegations of torture merely because the accused possessed extraordinary scientific ability.**

**It will not establish those allegations as fact merely because the accusation was repeated.**

The evidentiary record must support the conclusion.

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# VII. THE RIGHTS OF EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS

The Board considers the ethical principles applicable if involuntary experimentation occurred.

Research involving sentient persons creates obligations independent of the importance of the proposed discovery.

These may include respect for bodily integrity, meaningful consent, accurate disclosure of risks, and protection against unnecessary suffering.

The Board recognizes that Sanctuary's magical systems differ from ordinary mortal sciences.

Certain experiments may involve consequences that cannot be adequately described through conventional physical or biological terminology.

Nevertheless, the underlying interests remain recognizable.

A person subjected to an experiment possesses an interest in understanding what is being done.

A person whose body or spirit may be altered possesses an interest in the consequences.

And a person who refuses participation cannot ordinarily be treated as available material merely because the researcher's objectives are important.

The Board further recognizes that extreme emergencies may create circumstances in which ordinary consent procedures cannot be completed.

However, emergency justification requires an identifiable emergency, a legitimate protective purpose, and consideration of reasonable alternatives.

The generalized claim that a discovery might someday save humanity is not equivalent to evidence that a particular nonconsensual experiment was immediately necessary.

**The Board does not recognize potential future scientific value as a general authorization to disregard the autonomy of present persons.**

This principle shall apply regardless of the researcher's celestial, infernal, or mortal identity.

# VIII. THE QUESTION OF SELF-EXPERIMENTATION

The Board recognizes that Kulle undertook extraordinary modifications affecting his own physical and metaphysical condition.

These modifications may have contributed to his unusual durability and his survival beyond ordinary mortal limitations.

The Board considers self-experimentation ethically distinguishable from experimentation upon unwilling third parties.

An individual may possess substantial autonomy concerning risks assumed by that individual.

However, self-experimentation does not eliminate every ethical concern.

A procedure undertaken upon oneself may endanger others.

It may produce artifacts capable of independent action.

It may create hazards that persist after the researcher's death.

It may require resources or conditions that impose risks upon surrounding populations.

The Board therefore distinguishes personal risk from externalized risk.

Where the consequences of an experiment remain confined to the consenting researcher, the justification for institutional restriction may be limited.

Where those consequences extend to others, additional safeguards may be required.

The Board requests evidence concerning the foreseeable effects of Kulle's self-modification.

The mere unusualness of the resulting condition does not establish misconduct.

**An individual's decision to alter their own body does not automatically establish authority to alter the bodies of others.**

# IX. THE CONSTRUCTS AND THE CREATION OF ARTIFICIAL SERVITORS

The Board next considers Kulle's creation and use of animated constructs.

His research included beings or mechanisms capable of carrying out complex tasks.

Some constructs possessed capabilities suggesting degrees of independent judgment or responsive behavior.

The Board recognizes that the precise nature of their consciousness, if any, requires further evidence.

It therefore declines to classify every construct as a sentient person.

Equally, it declines to presume that every construct was an ordinary object.

The distinction may be ethically significant.

A mechanism that merely executes predetermined instructions presents different questions from an entity capable of independent experience, suffering, preference, or judgment.

The Board therefore requests that the respondent identify:

- The method by which constructs were animated.
- Whether their behavior was wholly predetermined.
- Whether they possessed independent learning capabilities.
- Whether they could refuse commands.
- Whether they experienced harm or distress.
- Whether they possessed continuing interests independent of the researcher.
- Whether they could be terminated, altered, or dismantled without ethical consequence.

The Board makes no final determination concerning the moral status of the constructs.

It does, however, reject the proposition that creating an entity necessarily establishes unlimited ownership over that entity.

This principle is consistent with SERB-001.

**The creation of a potentially sentient being does not automatically confer unrestricted authority to exploit it.**

The respondent is invited to provide evidence establishing the nature of the constructs' capacities.

A statement that they were created for service will not independently resolve the inquiry.

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# X. THE LOOM AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGY

The Board recognizes that Kulle's research was not limited to the Black Soulstone.

His work with Ayuzhan of Caldeum contributed to the development of the Loom, an extraordinary system associated with constructs, transmutation, and extensive magical infrastructure.

The later exploitation of the Loom by Malphas demonstrates the potential for powerful research systems to be redirected toward hostile purposes.

The Board recognizes that the existence of malicious misuse does not automatically establish negligence by the original designers.

A technology may be developed for legitimate purposes and later compromised by an extraordinary adversary.

The relevant question is whether the original designers reasonably considered the potential for such compromise.

The Board therefore requests evidence concerning the Loom's intended functions, security arrangements, and foreseeable vulnerabilities.

In particular:

Did the system possess mechanisms for detecting hostile influence?

Could its operation be suspended safely?

Were constructs capable of distinguishing legitimate commands from corrupted instructions?

What procedures existed for recovering control following a breach?

What risks would arise if the system were left unattended?

The Board recognizes that no security system can guarantee absolute protection.

Nevertheless, the scale of a technology's capabilities may affect the severity of the consequences associated with its misuse.

**The Board does not hold inventors automatically responsible for every subsequent abuse of their inventions.**

**It does hold that foreseeable catastrophic misuse is a legitimate subject of research ethics and design review.**

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# XI. THE HORADRIM'S RESPONSE TO KULLE

The Board now examines the measures undertaken by the Horadrim against their former colleague.

The historical record indicates that Kulle's research eventually produced a violent confrontation.

The Horadrim defeated him and separated his remains to prevent his restoration.

His head and body were secured in distinct magical confinement arrangements.

The Board recognizes that these measures may have been necessary to prevent an individual possessing extraordinary capabilities from causing further harm.

However, the severity of the intervention warrants examination.

The Board therefore distinguishes between:

**Protective restraint**, intended to prevent immediate danger.

**Punishment**, intended to impose consequences for established wrongdoing.

**Preventive confinement**, intended to address a continuing threat.

**Permanent incapacitation**, intended to eliminate the person's capacity to act.

These measures involve different justifications.

The Board requests clarification concerning the purpose of Kulle's dismemberment and confinement.

Was the measure intended to punish him for past conduct?

Was it necessary because ordinary restraint had failed?

Was it intended to prevent completion of the Black Soulstone?

Did the Horadrim consider alternatives?

Could the respondent's research have been secured without permanently incapacitating the researcher?

The Board recognizes that the respondent's extraordinary durability may have rendered ordinary confinement ineffective.

It does not presume that a safe alternative existed.

Nevertheless, the absence of an easy alternative does not establish that no alternative required consideration.

**The Board recognizes that Kulle may have presented an extraordinary danger.**

**It does not recognize extraordinary danger as an automatic exemption from proportionality.**

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# XII. THE QUESTION OF PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS

The Board considers whether Kulle received meaningful notice of the allegations against him.

The historical record demonstrates that his former colleagues regarded him as dangerous.

It does not conclusively establish the existence of formal proceedings before his incapacitation.

The Board does not require the Horadrim to have maintained a judicial structure identical to those developed by later mortal civilizations.

Nor does it presume that emergency intervention could safely have awaited prolonged adjudication.

Nevertheless, procedural fairness is relevant where an institution undertakes irreversible or indefinite measures against a person.

The Board therefore requests evidence of any deliberation preceding the intervention.

Were allegations documented?

Was the respondent afforded an opportunity to answer them?

Did any member dissent?

Was the necessity of permanent confinement independently evaluated?

Were the conditions of confinement subject to review?

The Board recognizes that certain measures may have been justified by immediate danger even in the absence of ordinary process.

However, emergency necessity does not automatically establish the legitimacy of every subsequent measure.

The Board further observes that a person may commit serious wrongdoing while remaining entitled to fair evaluation of disputed allegations.

**The right to question an institution's procedure does not depend upon the innocence of the person subjected to it.**

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# XIII. ON THE SUPPRESSION OF RESEARCH

The Board considers whether the Horadrim attempted to suppress knowledge associated with Kulle.

The historical record indicates that his research became highly restricted and that the Black Soulstone was removed from ordinary institutional use.

The Board recognizes that dangerous knowledge may require controlled access.

Detailed instructions for producing or manipulating artifacts capable of catastrophic harm may present substantial risks if disseminated without restriction.

Accordingly, the Board does not treat every limitation upon research access as improper censorship.

However, the suppression of dangerous procedures must be distinguished from the suppression of inconvenient findings.

The former may serve legitimate protective purposes.

The latter may impair institutional accountability.

The Board therefore requests that the Horadrim identify which materials were restricted and why.

Did restrictions concern operational instructions?

Did they concern the technical properties of soulstones?

Did they concern Kulle's objections to celestial authority?

Were findings preserved for future legitimate review?

Were records destroyed?

The Board finds the distinction particularly important because subsequent generations required knowledge of the Black Soulstone.

If the Horadrim possessed information concerning its capabilities but failed to preserve that information securely, the resulting ignorance may have increased future danger.

**The Board recognizes that dangerous knowledge may require restricted custody.**

**It does not recognize institutional embarrassment as an independent justification for destroying the historical record.**

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# XIV. THE RESURRECTION AGREEMENT

The Board now considers Kulle's restoration during the events surrounding the Black Soulstone.

The parties seeking the artifact required access to knowledge associated with its creator.

Kulle agreed to assist in exchange for restoration of his body.

The agreement was undertaken under circumstances involving substantial urgency.

The Board recognizes that both parties possessed interests in the transaction.

Kulle sought restoration.

The opposing parties sought the artifact.

However, the agreement raises questions concerning disclosure, scope, and subsequent conduct.

Did Kulle intend to surrender the Black Soulstone?

Did the other parties understand that he might refuse?

Were the risks associated with his restoration adequately considered?

What safeguards existed if cooperation failed?

The Board further observes that the parties deliberately restored an individual previously regarded as too dangerous to remain physically intact.

The decision may have been justified by extraordinary necessity.

Nevertheless, the original risk assessment required reconsideration before restoration.

The Board rejects the proposition that the urgent need for expertise automatically eliminates the danger associated with the expert.

It equally rejects the proposition that prior misconduct renders every subsequent agreement with the respondent illegitimate.

**The decision to seek assistance from a dangerous person requires more than confidence that the danger will remain cooperative.**

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# XV. THE WARNING THAT WAS NOT ADEQUATELY EXAMINED

The Board identifies a particularly significant event.

Following his restoration, Kulle came to recognize circumstances suggesting that the Black Soulstone was being used for purposes beyond those disclosed to the Nephalem.

His concerns anticipated the catastrophic consequences of Adria's concealed plan.

The Board recognizes that Kulle's warning did not establish his general reliability.

His motives remained subject to question.

His conduct presented independent reasons for suspicion.

Nevertheless, a warning must be evaluated according to its substance as well as its source.

The existence of an untrustworthy messenger does not establish that the message is false.

The Board therefore distinguishes between:

1. The credibility of the person providing information.
2. The independent evidence supporting the information.
3. The consequences of disregarding the information.

4. The means available for verification.

The Board recognizes that the Nephalem faced a difficult situation.

Kulle possessed dangerous capabilities and sought control over the Black Soulstone.

The immediate confrontation may have left limited opportunity for extended investigation.

Nevertheless, the subsequent events demonstrate the importance of distinguishing a warning's evidentiary value from the character of the person delivering it.

**A dangerous person may identify a genuine danger.**

**The identification of that danger does not excuse the person's misconduct.**

**Nor does the misconduct establish that the danger was imaginary.**

The Board considers this distinction essential to responsible institutional judgment.

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# XVI. THE ROLE OF ADRIA

The Board next examines the involvement of Adria.

Adria possessed substantial knowledge of infernal affairs and the Black Soulstone.

She also maintained concealed allegiance to Diablo.

Her actions ultimately contributed to the use of the artifact in restoring Diablo as the Prime Evil.

The Board therefore identifies a significant conflict of interest.

Adria participated in decisions concerning the recovery of an extraordinarily dangerous artifact while concealing objectives fundamentally opposed to those of her apparent allies.

The Board recognizes that her technical knowledge may have been genuine.

Nevertheless, accurate technical information does not establish trustworthy institutional purpose.

A person may provide useful expertise while manipulating the manner in which that expertise is employed.

The Board therefore considers the failure to identify Adria's conflicting allegiance a substantial problem of institutional verification.

The respondent's concealed objectives affected:

- The interpretation of evidence concerning Kulle.
- The decision to restore Kulle.
- The recovery and handling of the Black Soulstone.
- The understanding of the artifact's intended use.
- The assessment of threats associated with its activation.

The Board makes no finding that every statement by Adria was false.

It does find that her allegiance created a substantial reason to independently verify claims material to the operation.

**The Board recognizes that expertise may be valuable.**

**It does not recognize expertise as a substitute for disclosure of conflicting interests.**

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# XVII. THE BLACK SOULSTONE AND SUBSEQUENT CATASTROPHE

The Board considers the later use of the Black Soulstone.

The artifact became central to the concentration of the essences of the Lords of Hell.

It was subsequently employed in the events leading to Diablo's return as the Prime Evil.

Later, Malthael seized the artifact and incorporated its power into a campaign threatening humanity.

These events demonstrate that the Black Soulstone possessed capabilities extending far beyond the original Horadric containment methods.

The Board recognizes the extraordinary consequences.

However, it distinguishes between the creation of a dangerous instrument and every subsequent act undertaken by persons possessing it.

A researcher may be responsible for foreseeable dangers associated with design.

A custodian may be responsible for inadequate safeguards.

A malicious actor may be responsible for deliberate misuse.

These responsibilities may overlap.

They are not necessarily identical.

The Board therefore rejects a simplistic attribution under which Kulle alone bears responsibility for every later catastrophe involving the Black Soulstone.

It equally rejects the proposition that later misuse was wholly unforeseeable merely because Kulle did not personally perform it.

The artifact's capacity to concentrate extraordinary power made misuse a central concern.

The Board therefore requests evidence concerning whether Kulle anticipated the possibility that the Black Soulstone could be employed as an instrument of domination or mass destruction.

**The Board does not consider an invention ethically neutral solely because another person ultimately employs it.**

**Nor does it presume that the inventor is the sole author of every consequence.**

Responsibility requires examination of knowledge, control, foreseeability, and conduct.

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# XVIII. ON THE MORAL AUTHORITY OF THE RESEARCHER

The Board now considers the respondent's implied claim that extraordinary knowledge may confer extraordinary authority.

Kulle possessed capabilities beyond those of most mortals.

He understood properties of magical artifacts that even powerful institutions had not fully comprehended.

He challenged established celestial assumptions.

His work demonstrated that humanity might possess powers capable of altering the cosmic balance.

These achievements were substantial.

Nevertheless, superior knowledge does not automatically establish legitimate governing authority.

A scientist may understand a process without possessing the right to impose that process upon others.

A researcher may identify an institutional danger without acquiring unlimited permission to eliminate it.

An inventor may create an artifact without thereby becoming entitled to determine every use of that artifact.

The Board therefore distinguishes epistemic authority from political and ethical authority.

**Epistemic authority** concerns the credibility of knowledge or expertise.

**Political authority** concerns legitimate decision-making power over collective affairs.

**Ethical authority** concerns the justification of actions affecting others.

A person may possess the first without automatically possessing the second or third.

Kulle's expertise may have made him exceptionally qualified to describe the operation of the Black Soulstone.

It did not independently establish that he was entitled to decide humanity's future.

The Board therefore rejects any claim of unrestricted authority arising solely from exceptional intelligence, technical proficiency, or magical capability.

**Knowledge may establish competence.**

**It does not establish ownership of the persons affected by its application.**

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# XIX. ON THE FAILURE OF INSTITUTIONAL TRUST

The Board identifies a recurring failure in the relationship between Kulle and the Horadrim.

The institution initially relied upon his expertise.

His subsequent research challenged its established assumptions.

His colleagues came to regard him as dangerous.

He came to regard their limitations as intolerable.

The resulting conflict became violent.

The Board recognizes that both parties may have possessed legitimate concerns.

Kulle may have identified genuine deficiencies in Horadric knowledge.

The Horadrim may have identified genuine dangers arising from his experiments.

The presence of legitimate concerns on both sides does not establish equivalent responsibility for every subsequent action.

However, the historical outcome suggests an inability to maintain meaningful procedures for resolving high-risk scientific disagreement.

The Board therefore considers whether the institution possessed any process for reviewing dangerous research without relying exclusively upon the judgment of the researcher or the authority of his opponents.

An adequate process might have included independent technical examination, restrictions upon particular experiments, preservation of findings, and safeguards against retaliation.

The Board does not presume that such procedures were available under the historical circumstances.

Nevertheless, their absence warrants consideration.

**An institution cannot safely depend upon extraordinary knowledge while remaining unable to distinguish necessary criticism from impermissible experimentation.**

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# XX. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

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

### Finding 1 — Significant Scientific Contribution

Zoltun Kulle made substantial contributions to the understanding of soulstones and extraordinary arcane systems.

### Finding 2 — Legitimate Basis for Certain Institutional Concerns

Kulle's concern regarding humanity's vulnerability to celestial and infernal intervention possessed a legitimate historical basis.

### Finding 3 — No General Exemption for Discovery

The potential value of scientific research does not automatically justify every method used to conduct it.

### Finding 4 — Serious Allegations Requiring Corroboration

Allegations concerning involuntary experimentation and severe harm to subjects warrant investigation.

The available record does not justify treating every allegation as conclusively established.

## Finding 5 — Evidentiary Concerns Regarding Adria

Adria's concealed allegiance to Diablo materially affects the evaluation of statements she supplied concerning Kulle and the Black Soulstone.

## Finding 6 — Distinction Between Self-Experimentation and Harm to Others

An individual's decision to undertake substantial personal risk does not establish authority to impose equivalent risks upon unwilling third parties.

## Finding 7 — Unresolved Status of Constructs

The ethical status of Kulle's constructs depends upon their capacities for independent experience, judgment, or other morally relevant characteristics.

## Finding 8 — Dual-Use Technological Risk

The Black Soulstone possessed potentially protective applications and extraordinary potential for catastrophic misuse.

## Finding 9 — Unresolved Institutional Response

The Horadrim's decision to incapacitate and confine Kulle requires examination according to necessity, proportionality, and available alternatives.

## Finding 10 — Scientific Dissent Is Not Misconduct by Definition

The respondent's disagreement with established Horadric or celestial doctrine does not independently establish wrongdoing.

## Finding 11 — Importance of Preserving Dangerous Knowledge

Restrictions upon hazardous research may be legitimate.

They should nevertheless be distinguished from the destruction or suppression of findings necessary for future protection.

## Finding 12 — Risks of Restoration

The decision to restore Kulle created foreseeable dangers requiring independent assessment.

### Finding 13 — Evidentiary Value of a Compromised Source

A warning does not become false solely because it is delivered by a person whose conduct or motives are suspect.

### Finding 14 — Distributed Responsibility for Later Harm

The later misuse of the Black Soulstone requires examination of the responsibilities of its creator, custodians, and subsequent users.

### Finding 15 — Absence of Automatic Scientific Sovereignty

Exceptional knowledge does not confer unlimited authority to govern persons affected by its application.

### Finding 16 — Continuing Institutional Obligation

Institutions responsible for extraordinary research must distinguish technical disagreement, ethical misconduct, and security threats through procedures appropriate to the risks presented.

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# XXI. QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO ZOLTUN KULLE

The Board hereby requests that the respondent address the following inquiries.

**Question One:**
What legitimate purpose did the respondent intend the Black Soulstone to serve?

**Question Two:**
Did the respondent anticipate its capacity to contain celestial as well as infernal essences?

**Question Three:**
What safeguards were established against unauthorized use?

**Question Four:**
Were any sentient persons subjected to experiments without meaningful consent?

**Question Five:**
If such experimentation occurred, what necessity was asserted?

**Question Six:**
What records exist concerning the identity and treatment of experimental subjects?

**Question Seven:**
What foreseeable risks did the respondent's self-modifications present to others?

**Question Eight:**
What capacities for independent judgment or experience were possessed by the constructs?

**Question Nine:**
What measures were established to prevent the Black Soulstone from becoming an instrument of domination?

**Question Ten:**
What knowledge did the respondent possess concerning the limitations of the original soulstones?

**Question Eleven:**
Were those findings disclosed to the Horadrim?

**Question Twelve:**
What concerns did the respondent raise regarding the Angiris Council?

**Question Thirteen:**
Were those concerns supported by identifiable evidence?

**Question Fourteen:**
Did the respondent distinguish humanity's protection from the acquisition of personal power?

**Question Fifteen:**
What authority did the respondent claim to determine the manner in which humanity's inherited capabilities should be restored?

**Question Sixteen:**
What safeguards governed the Loom and its constructs?

**Question Seventeen:**
What measures were contemplated in the event of demonic compromise?

**Question Eighteen:**
Did the respondent recognize any ethical limitation upon research conducted for humanity's supposed benefit?

**Question Nineteen:**
What evidence supports the respondent's objections to the Horadrim's conduct?

**Question Twenty:**
Does the respondent maintain that the correctness of a scientific conclusion is sufficient to justify the means employed to obtain it?

The Board considers the final question central.

**The respondent's intellectual achievements are acknowledged.**

**The ethical legitimacy of his methods remains under examination.**

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# XXII. QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO THE HORADRIM

The Board separately requests responses from the institutional respondents.

**Question One:**
What technical objections did Kulle raise concerning the original soulstones?

**Question Two:**
Were those objections independently examined?

**Question Three:**
What specific evidence established the allegations of unauthorized experimentation?

**Question Four:**
Which allegations were based upon firsthand observation?

**Question Five:**
Were alleged victims identified and their accounts preserved?

**Question Six:**
What procedures governed the decision to confront Kulle?

**Question Seven:**
Were less restrictive alternatives to permanent incapacitation considered?

**Question Eight:**
What purpose did the separation and confinement of his remains serve?

**Question Nine:**
Were the confinement arrangements subject to any subsequent review?

**Question Ten:**
What measures were taken to preserve legitimate findings from Kulle's research?

**Question Eleven:**
Were any records altered, destroyed, or withheld for reasons unrelated to public safety?

**Question Twelve:**
What institutional procedures existed for reviewing controversial research?

**Question Thirteen:**
Did the Horadrim distinguish disagreement with Tyrael from dangerous misconduct?

**Question Fourteen:**
Why did subsequent authorities consider Kulle's restoration necessary?

**Question Fifteen:**
What safeguards accompanied that decision?

**Question Sixteen:**
What evidence was used to evaluate Adria's credibility?

**Question Seventeen:**
Were Kulle's warnings concerning the Black Soulstone independently assessed?

**Question Eighteen:**
What institutional lessons were drawn from the later misuse of his work?

**Question Nineteen:**
Did the Horadrim possess a means of correcting their original conclusions if new evidence emerged?

**Question Twenty:**
By what principle did the institution distinguish protection of Sanctuary from protection of its own authority?

The Board requests that the institutional respondents answer independently of the principal respondent.

The accuracy of Kulle's technical findings and the propriety of his conduct shall be evaluated separately.

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# XXIII. INSTITUTIONAL DETERMINATION

The Board finds that Zoltun Kulle's research presents a substantial case for institutional ethical review.

His scientific achievements were extraordinary.

His discoveries expanded the known capabilities of soulstones and contributed to developments of profound consequence for Sanctuary.

The Board recognizes their significance.

However, the existence of scientific achievement does not establish that the respondent's methods were justified.

Allegations concerning involuntary experimentation require serious examination.

The construction of artifacts capable of catastrophic misuse required consideration of foreseeable risks.

The development of potentially autonomous constructs raises questions concerning the moral status of created beings.

And the respondent's personal pursuit of extraordinary power did not automatically confer authority over others.

The Board therefore declines to recognize scientific accomplishment as a general exemption from ethical obligations.

Nevertheless, the Board also finds substantial grounds for examining the conduct of the Horadrim.

The institution's disagreement with Kulle did not automatically establish the invalidity of his findings.

His subsequent misconduct, where established, would not retrospectively justify every measure undertaken against him.

Nor would the necessity of restricting dangerous research automatically justify suppressing information necessary for future protection.

The Board therefore enters the following determination.

**Zoltun Kulle's technical achievements and his ethical conduct must be evaluated independently.**

**The Horadrim's protective objectives and the legitimacy of their response must likewise be evaluated independently.**

The available record does not establish that all allegations against Kulle were conclusively proven.

It does establish substantial reasons to investigate the dangers associated with his research.

The Board reserves final findings concerning specific experimental misconduct pending corroboration.

The Board further reserves determination concerning the necessity and proportionality of his confinement.

No presumption of innocence or culpability shall be treated as a substitute for examining available evidence.

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# XXIV. CONCLUDING OBSERVATION

There is a particular danger in the history of extraordinary discovery.

The person who first recognizes a truth may become convinced that recognizing it establishes a special entitlement to act upon it.

Knowledge becomes power.

Power becomes confidence.

Confidence becomes authority.

And authority, exercised without sufficient restraint, may eventually cease to recognize the persons upon whom it acts.

Zoltun Kulle possessed extraordinary knowledge.

He understood properties of soulstones that challenged the assumptions of his colleagues.

He questioned the authority of celestial institutions.

He perceived dangers in humanity's dependence upon powers that had once contemplated its destruction.

These concerns were not inherently illegitimate.

Indeed, the history of Sanctuary provides substantial grounds for questioning whether humanity could safely entrust its future to either Heaven or Hell.

But the recognition of danger does not establish unlimited authority to determine the remedy.

A person may correctly identify a threat while proposing a response that imposes unjustifiable burdens upon others.

A researcher may possess knowledge necessary for civilization's protection while remaining obligated to respect the persons affected by its application.

And an institution may need the findings of a dangerous individual without becoming required to accept that individual's conduct.

The Board therefore rejects the assumption that scientific and ethical judgment must always arrive at the same conclusion concerning a person.

Kulle may have been correct about some matters.

He may have been dangerously mistaken about others.

His discoveries may have protected lives.

His experiments may have endangered them.

The historical record requires these possibilities to be examined without collapsing them into a single judgment of character.

For a person is not rendered infallible by genius.

Neither is every discovery rendered worthless by misconduct.

The difficulty lies in preserving the distinction.

The Horadrim confronted a similar problem.

They depended upon extraordinary knowledge.

Yet the pursuit of that knowledge eventually produced conflict within their own institution.

The response was severe.

Kulle was defeated.

His remains were separated.

His research became the subject of fear and restriction.

And centuries later, those who sought to protect Sanctuary discovered that they required the very knowledge associated with the person their predecessors had confined.

The Board recognizes the extraordinary irony.

It does not infer that the original intervention was therefore unjustified.

A dangerous individual may possess knowledge that remains useful.

Preventing that individual from causing harm may be legitimate even where the knowledge must be preserved.

Nevertheless, the history reveals the importance of separating the person from the information.

The Horadrim could oppose Kulle's methods without denying the validity of every finding.

They could restrict dangerous procedures without erasing the possibility that he had identified genuine deficiencies.

They could investigate allegations of misconduct without treating disagreement with institutional authority as misconduct itself.

The Board cannot conclusively determine whether these distinctions were adequately maintained.

It can determine that their absence would create substantial dangers.

An institution that suppresses criticism because the critic is dangerous may eventually lose access to truths necessary for its own survival.

An institution that tolerates abuse because the researcher is brilliant may sacrifice the persons it exists to protect.

Neither course is sufficient.

The ethical responsibility of a research institution is not merely to encourage discovery.

It is to establish conditions under which discovery may proceed without placing its value above the moral standing of those affected.

It must be capable of recognizing legitimate innovation.

It must be willing to examine uncomfortable evidence.

It must preserve the capacity to challenge established assumptions.

And it must remain prepared to restrain conduct that imposes unjustifiable harm, even when the person responsible possesses extraordinary gifts.

The Board recognizes that the creation of the Black Soulstone was a remarkable achievement.

Its capabilities challenged the established balance of power.

Yet the subsequent catastrophes associated with the artifact demonstrate that scientific capability cannot be evaluated solely according to whether an experiment succeeds.

A successful device may be unsafe.

A powerful instrument may be vulnerable to capture.

A discovery intended to protect humanity may become an instrument through which humanity is threatened.

The original researcher's intentions matter.

They are not the only thing that matters.

The conduct of later users matters.

The adequacy of custodial safeguards matters.

The ability of institutions to recognize manipulation matters.

And the willingness to reconsider earlier assumptions matters.

The Board therefore returns to the central principle of this inquiry.

**Knowledge does not abolish responsibility.**

It may increase responsibility by revealing dangers that others cannot yet perceive.

It may create obligations concerning disclosure, restraint, and the treatment of those affected.

It may require a researcher to acknowledge that the possession of an extraordinary capability does not establish the right to exercise it.

The same principle applies to institutions.

The Horadrim possessed authority, knowledge, and a legitimate protective mission.

They were not therefore exempt from ethical examination.

Their opposition to Kulle may have been justified.

Their fear of his research may have been reasonable.

Their eventual intervention may have prevented catastrophe.

Nevertheless, the existence of a legitimate protective purpose does not establish that every means employed to achieve it was permissible.

The Board will not presume that Kulle was innocent because he was brilliant.

It will not presume that the Horadrim were correct because they prevailed.

It will not presume that Adria's accusations were false merely because she later betrayed humanity.

Nor will it presume that those accusations were true merely because they were repeated.

The Board recognizes the difficulty of examining a history shaped by extraordinary power, incomplete records, conflicting interests, and deliberate deception.

That difficulty requires greater care.

It does not justify abandoning the inquiry.

For there is perhaps no more dangerous institutional habit than allowing certainty about a person's character to replace examination of the person's claims.

A person regarded as virtuous may be mistaken.

A person regarded as wicked may be correct.

A person regarded as brilliant may be cruel.

A person regarded as dangerous may nevertheless identify a danger that others have failed to recognize.

None of these possibilities eliminates the need to judge conduct according to evidence.

And none permits the rights of affected persons to become secondary to the reputations of those who possess power.

**The Board recognizes the brilliance of Zoltun Kulle.**

**It does not recognize brilliance as immunity.**

**The Board recognizes the protective mission of the Horadrim.**

**It does not recognize protection as immunity.**

**The Board recognizes the danger of the Black Soulstone.**

**It does not recognize danger as a reason to abandon the search for knowledge.**

And the Board recognizes one final distinction.

**A person may understand how to change the world.**

**It does not follow that the person alone is entitled to decide whether the world should be changed.**

The inquiry remains open.

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# XXV. DISPOSITION

**SERB-007 shall remain open pending further evidence concerning experimental subjects, the Black Soulstone, the Horadrim's response, and the subsequent exploitation of Kulle's research.**

The Board enters no final determination concerning the allegations of torture and murder without adequate corroboration.

The Board recognizes the technical significance of the respondent's discoveries.

It further recognizes the substantial dangers associated with those discoveries.

No directive requiring the reconstruction, activation, or recovery of dangerous artifacts is entered.

The Board reserves separate proceedings concerning:

- The development and use of the Black Soulstone.
- The ethical status of artificial constructs.
- The security failures associated with the Loom.
- The conduct of Adria.
- The institutional treatment of scientific dissent.
- The use of experimental discoveries in subsequent catastrophic events.

**So entered.**

*Sanctuary Ethics Review Board*
*Office of Research Ethics and Extraordinary Scientific Authority*
*Division of Experimental Autonomy and Institutional Accountability*

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM A

## Regarding the Respondent's Qualifications

The Office of Research Ethics has received a preliminary objection asserting that the respondent's extraordinary intellectual capabilities place his work beyond the competence of ordinary reviewers.

The Office acknowledges Kulle's substantial expertise.

The Office further acknowledges that his understanding of soulstones exceeded that of many of his contemporaries.

However, the inquiry concerns not merely technical validity but the ethical consequences of research conduct.

Expertise in one field does not automatically establish authority concerning every question arising from its application.

The respondent is therefore invited to submit technical evidence supporting his methods.

**The Office respectfully observes that being the most knowledgeable person in the chamber does not eliminate the rights of the other persons in the chamber.**

The jurisdictional objection is not sustained.

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM B

## Regarding the Title "Mad Wizard"

The Office of Records has reviewed several historical designations applied to the respondent.

These include descriptions characterizing Kulle as a madman, murderer, torturer, and monster.

The Office recognizes that such language may reflect genuine historical concerns.

Nevertheless, descriptive allegations are not substitutes for findings supported by evidence.

The Office therefore requests that future submissions identify specific conduct rather than relying exclusively upon characterizations.

Where an allegation concerns harm to experimental subjects, the relevant persons, procedures, and available records should be identified.

The Board further advises that unusual beliefs, unconventional research, or disagreement with established authority do not independently establish incapacity or misconduct.

**The Office respectfully requests that the phrase "mad wizard" not be entered in the evidentiary field designated for specific acts.**

The terminology may remain in historical quotations where relevant.

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM C

## Regarding the Black Soulstone

The Office of Extraordinary Hazard Management has reviewed the capabilities of the Black Soulstone.

The Office recognizes its potential utility in containing powerful entities.

It further recognizes the substantial risks associated with the concentration of multiple extraordinary essences within a single artifact.

The Office therefore requests documentation concerning:

- Intended operating conditions.
- Limits upon containment capacity.
- Procedures for preventing unauthorized access.
- Methods of detecting corruption.
- Consequences of structural failure.
- Risks of intentional misuse.
- Emergency containment arrangements.

The Office acknowledges that certain details may require restricted handling.

The respondent is not requested to provide unrestricted public instructions for constructing the artifact.

**The Office respectfully observes that the capacity to contain seven extraordinarily dangerous entities does not, by itself, establish that concentrating them in one location is an adequate security strategy.**

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM D

## Regarding the Horadric Confinement of Kulle

The Office of Procedural Review has examined the historical separation and confinement of the respondent's remains.

The Office recognizes that Kulle's extraordinary capabilities may have prevented ordinary methods of restraint.

Nevertheless, the severity and anticipated duration of the intervention warrant examination.

The Horadrim are therefore requested to identify the findings upon which the decision was based.

The Office further requests clarification concerning whether any mechanism for reconsideration existed.

The existence of a significant threat may justify exceptional action.

It does not automatically establish that every exceptional action is proportionate.

**The Office respectfully acknowledges the operational difficulty presented by an individual who cannot readily be killed.**

**It nevertheless requests the relevant authorization before accepting dismemberment and multidimensional confinement as an ordinary disciplinary procedure.**

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM E

## Regarding the Reliability of Adria

The Office of Evidentiary Integrity has received historical allegations concerning Kulle from accounts associated with Adria.

The Office recognizes that the allegations may concern grave misconduct.

However, Adria's concealed allegiance to Diablo creates a substantial conflict affecting the evaluation of her testimony.

The Office therefore requests independent corroboration where available.

The respondent's later betrayal does not automatically invalidate every earlier statement.

Nevertheless, material allegations shall not be accepted solely upon the assumption of the witness's good faith.

**The Office respectfully notes that a witness secretly assisting the Lord of Terror may require additional credibility assessment.**

The allegations remain under review.

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM F

## Regarding the Respondent's Warnings

The Office of Institutional Risk has reviewed information indicating that Kulle identified dangers associated with the use of the Black Soulstone.

The Office acknowledges that the respondent possessed motives and interests that could affect his advice.

Nevertheless, the potential consequences of the warning required consideration independent of his character.

The Office therefore requests clarification concerning whether the relevant claims were examined.

The fact that a warning was delivered by a person previously accused of serious misconduct does not establish that the warning was false.

**The Office respectfully observes that an unreliable person may occasionally provide accurate information.**

**The accuracy of the information remains a separate question.**

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM G

## Regarding Artificial Constructs

The Office of Created Persons and Autonomous Systems has reviewed preliminary information concerning Kulle's animated constructs.

The Office recognizes that some constructs may be ordinary mechanisms lacking independent experience.

Others may possess capacities warranting further examination.

The Office therefore requests that the respondent provide information concerning the nature of their animation and operation.

The designation *servitor* does not independently establish that the entity lacks moral standing.

Nor does the designation *construct* conclusively establish that it possesses such standing.

The Board reserves judgment pending evidence.

**The Office respectfully requests that the respondent refrain from treating the question of sentience as resolved merely because the entity was assembled in a laboratory.**

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM H

## Regarding the Subsequent Need for Kulle's Expertise

The Office of Institutional Continuity has reviewed the decision to restore Kulle in order to obtain access to the Black Soulstone.

The Office recognizes that extraordinary circumstances may justify seeking assistance from persons previously regarded as dangerous.

Nevertheless, the decision requires assessment of the risks associated with restoration.

The Office further requests clarification concerning why the relevant knowledge could not be obtained through preserved research records.

The respondent's prior confinement may have been justified.

The later need for his assistance does not automatically establish otherwise.

However, the sequence raises questions concerning whether the Horadrim adequately preserved technical knowledge independent of the individual researcher.

**The Office respectfully observes that permanently incapacitating the only person who understands an artifact may complicate subsequent efforts to operate that artifact.**

The matter is referred for institutional review.

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# ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM I

## Regarding Scientific Authority

The Office of Jurisdictional Review has received a preliminary argument that Kulle's superior understanding of extraordinary magical systems entitled him to determine their use.

The Office acknowledges the respondent's expertise.

It further acknowledges that technical decisions may properly rely upon specialists.

Nevertheless, technical expertise does not automatically confer authority over the lives, bodies, or autonomy of persons affected by the resulting interventions.

The distinction between knowledge and legitimate authority remains controlling.

The respondent may provide evidence that a particular intervention was necessary, proportionate, and undertaken with appropriate consent.

An assertion of intellectual superiority does not independently establish those conditions.

**The Board recognizes that the respondent may understand more than the reviewers.**

**It does not follow that the reviewers are required to surrender their judgment.**

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# FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

## SERB-007 — REGARDING THE RESPONDENT'S REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION OF EXCEPTIONAL GENIUS

The Office of Records has received a request that the respondent's extraordinary intellectual accomplishments be formally acknowledged before any further evaluation of his conduct.

The Board acknowledges the accomplishments.

The Black Soulstone represented a discovery of exceptional consequence.

The respondent's work concerning transmutation and artificial constructs also possessed substantial technical significance.

These facts are entered into the record.

The Board further acknowledges that certain institutional objections raised by the respondent may have warranted serious consideration.

However, the recognition of intellectual achievement does not conclude the ethical inquiry.

The respondent is therefore requested to provide substantive answers concerning the means by which the research was conducted.

The Office respectfully advises that disagreement with the Board's qualifications may be submitted as a procedural objection.

Such an objection should identify the specific deficiency alleged.

The statement that the respondent is the only individual capable of understanding his own brilliance is not, without further explanation, sufficient.

**The Board has recognized the respondent's genius.**

**The Board now requests the experimental protocols.**

**END OF SERB-007**

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## NEXT PROPOSED INQUIRY

# SERB-008 — THE CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT

### On Religious Authority, Concealed Governance, Institutional Coercion, and the Conversion of Protection into Obedience

**Principal Respondent:** Inarius, acting through the Cathedral of Light.

**Proposed Questions:**

Whether the Cathedral's adherents received adequate disclosure concerning the identity and objectives of its founder.

Whether the institution employed religious authority to advance political and personal objectives undisclosed to its members.

Whether participation was meaningfully voluntary.

Whether the institution's professed mission of protecting Sanctuary was consistent with its treatment of dissenters and its claims of authority over humanity.

Whether opposition to infernal influence justified the use of comparable methods of institutional manipulation.

**Preliminary Administrative Observation:**

The Board recognizes that the Cathedral of Light may have provided meaning, community, and protection to sincere adherents.

It does not follow that every action undertaken by its leadership was justified.

The Board further recognizes the possibility that individual members acted in good faith.

Their sincerity does not automatically establish the legitimacy of every claim made by the institution governing them.

**The Board respectfully requests that the Cathedral distinguish between its followers' devotion and its founder's authority.**

The inquiry is reserved.

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