

From The Desk of Deputy Icarian

Rank 4 and Above Eyes Only

To: The Headmaster

Let me be utterly clear: Hershmarsh will not listen to orders “passed on” through me unless I am invested with the authority to present them, nor vice versa. If you wish to command Hershmarsh, either write to them yourself, or place them under my command. ((OOC: Come on my gui you know how the game mechanics work))

The pathways have continued to be opened, as per your request. The most recent Pathway has been opened by the Quotidian Quorum. An “embassy” has been established around the Pathway, located across the Peaks of Misfortune, near the borders of both the Keitan League and the Kingdom of Grovel. Our students and traders who have visited have reported a bustling multi-ethnic metropolis, but emphasize that it feels, and I quote, “off.” There are reports of citizens repeating the exact same tasks everyday, familiar faces that seem to forget the traders names, vanishing trade goods, and more. It is described as being almost like a dream, like a town set up by some omnipotent God who knows *how* towns are supposed to look and act, but who in no way understands the *why*.

We have also set Pathway makers along with the Keitan expedition to the Tauhan Lands, and are preparing for the establishment of a new Gateway in the North. Hopefully this shall prove fruitful: I have reports of violence and some skirmishes.

The Quotidian corpse that you provided me has been the delight of our researchers. The creature, it seems, has a form of inherent magic. Unlike other Genesis creatures, however, the magic produced by the creature does not follow any spell formulas or known patterns of energy transference. Instead, the magic is kept entirely internal, interacting with their biology in a unique fashion. This allows them to shift into (we believe) upwards of 15 or more different species. Each of these individual forms would, we believe, be maintained not through an enchantment, but through an alteration in the ‘morphic field’ of the creature. In other words, anti-magic fields or artifacts and the

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like would have absolutely zero effect on the shapeshifters, and it would be utterly undetectable by any form of magic detection we are aware of. The only drawback is that, due to how morphic fields are inherent to all creatures, a Quotidian placed in close proximity to multiple other individuals may risk their own field destabilizing, returning them to their natural form.

Whatever the Quotidians are, it cannot be natural: Their biology is so perfectly enmeshed with their inherent enchantments that it is impossible that it could have evolved. The specifics of morphic field magic was, previously, thought to be an entirely theoretical branch of magic. To find an example not just of practical use of a morphic field, but one in a true breeding (we presume) population is utterly unprecedented. A vivisection (or failing that, an interview) of a Quotidian could illuminate the field in absolutely astounding ways.

As for soul interrogation, I am afraid that the Quotidians had died long ago that any chance of recovering a stable soul-fragment was lost. Furthermore, there were no known untapped desires or unfinished business, and so without a spirit anchor, we had no way to perform a seance.

Lastly, I'm afraid our research into possible contagious solutions to the Grovel problem has led to some disastrous consequences. One of the labs assigned to the situation was experimenting with a modular disease that could have its vectors and symptoms tweaked to deal with any infestation. The containment wards around the test sample failed during a test trial, leading the sample to escape into the wild. Furthermore, the diseases settings had been set to their most virulent and lethal, despite the researchers insistence that they had not yet begun tests with lethal forms of the disease. The warders responsible suspect foul play: a surge of magical energy from an unknown source targeted the wards right as the trials begun. We are still hunting for the culprit, but, in the meantime, the 'shaking plague' (as it is now known) has been spreading across the land, crippling much of the economies of our trade partners. We are doing

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our best to pull through, and have had some promising research into a cure derived from Rahastan ingredients, but, for now, are racking up record casualties.

In service,

Icarian