

TO: PROSPECTIVE AGENT INITIATES
FROM: BLUEAPPLE, E.S.A.D. HEAD DIRECTOR

Took me long enough to spel this out of the archives; I took the liberty of adding a few comments to the records for your benefit.

- Blueapple

WELCOME, PROSPECTIVE FIELD AGENT TO THE INITIATION PROCESS FOR HER MAJESTY'S ORDER OF AMALTHEA. YOU HAVE EACH BEEN CHOSEN FOR YOUR EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY, LOYALTY, AND INTEGRITY IN THE FACE OF ANOMALOUS ANOMALIES AND TENUOUS PHENOMENA IN EQUESTRIA AND LANDS BEYOND. THIS DOSSIER HAS BEEN PREPARED TO HELP FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE IMPORTANT TERMS AND SUBJECTS THAT WILL BE CRUCIAL IN YOUR COMING MISSIONS ABROAD. I HAVE DRAWN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM OUR ARCHIVES FOR YOUR EDUCATION. GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU!

BEGIN ARCHIVAL TELETYPE RETRIEVAL-----

--THE ORDER OF AMALTHEA--

-CREDO-

PROCUL ESTE TERRA CERTA

"Far From Certain Land" if I remember my Ancient High Equestrian correctly

-MISSION STATEMENT-

TO SECURE EQUESTRIA'S DIMENSIONAL AND CHRONOLINEAR INTEGRITY AGAINST OUTSIDE INFLUENCE, BOTH INCIDENTAL AND MALICIOUS. ADDITIONALLY, TO ENSURE THAT BOTH OUR PRESENCE AND THAT OF OUTSIDE INFLUENCE REMAINS HIDDEN FROM THE AWARENESS OF THE COMMON CITIZENRY.

Mostly this...

-OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE-

THE ORDER IS A SUB-DIVISION OF THE EQUESTRIAN SPECIAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (E.S.A.D.), WHOSE MISSION FOCUSES ON MORE TERRESTRIAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY MATTERS. ALL AMALTHEAN AGENTS ARE CONSIDERED INDEPENDENT OPERATORS, THOUGH THEY WILL FREQUENTLY ARRANGED INTO TEAMS FOR MORE COMPLEX AND DANGEROUS MISSIONS. ALL AGENTS REPORT DIRECTLY TO E.S.A.D HEAD DIRECTOR BLUEAPPLE FOR FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS.

--ADDENDUM 23 ALR: PRINCESS LUNA HAS BEEN GIVEN DISCRETIONARY LEADERSHIP OF THE ORDER IN ADDITION TO THE HEAD DIRECTOR.

Her word is law, so don't question anything she tells you to do, if you know what's good for you

-JURISDICTION AND LEGAL STATUS-

THE ORDER HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL DISCRETIONARY WRIT TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR MISSION REGARDLESS OF PRESENT LEGAL STATUS OR JURISPRUDENCE IN THEIR GIVEN THEATERS OF OPERATION. AGENTS ARE BOUND TO THE ORDERS OF ONLY THEIR SUPERIORS AT THE EXACT TIME OF ASSIGNMENT AND NO OTHER LEGAL ENTITY IN ANY OTHER TIME OR PLACE.

Don't get too excited about testing the bounds of this little rule: we'd rather not have to mount another retrieval to fetch an agent from a crowd of angry ponies with torches and pitchforks...

--ASSETS--

*Seriously, don't leave any of our
bucking equipment behind. Retrieval
expenses will be garnished from your*

-FIELD EQUIPMENT-

ALL TRACES OF THE FIELD EQUIPMENT LISTED BELOW MUST LEAVE THE DESIGNATED THEATER OF OPERATION UPON COMPLETION OF A MISSION; THEY ARE TO BE CONSIDERED A TOP-PRIORITY CONTAMINANT IF LEFT BEHIND.

-FLUX DETECTOR

DEVICE FOR DETECTING AND LOCALIZING NON-AMBIENT MAGICAL ENERGY; TYPICALLY DISGUISED AS AN INCONSPICUOUS OBJECT FROM THE CHOSEN THEATER OF OPERATION SO IT CAN BE USED IN FULL VIEW OF NATIVES WITHOUT SUSPICION.

-'RIPCORDER' MK.I

ONE-USE DISPOSABLE DEVICE THAT IMMEDIATELY RETURNS THE USER AND ANY OTHERS IMMEDIATELY NEARBY BACK TO THE WATERING HOLE (SEE "THE WATERING HOLE" BELOW) IN CASE OF AN EXTREME EMERGENCY. RESEMBLES AN UNADORNED METAL CYLINDER WITH A TWINE PULL-CORD EMERGING FROM ITS END.

*Be really careful with
these things, we have no
idea what sort of
insurance nightmares
they may end up being*

--ADDENDUM: THE RIPCORDER'S ONGOING EFFECTS ON TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL STABILITY ARE BEING RESEARCHED IN FULL. UNTIL IT IS DETERMINED THAT THEY ARE SAFE TO USE IN PERPETUITY, AGENTS ARE TO USE THEM ONLY UNDER IMMINENT LOSS OF LIFE OR UNDER RISK OF CRITICAL MISSION FAILURE.

-WEAPONRY

ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AGENTS WILL HAVE CAUSE TO ENTER A THEATER OF OPERATION WITH SPECIALLY-ASSIGNED WEAPONS, EITHER FOR SELF-DEFENSE OR DUE TO SPECIFIC MISSION PARAMETERS.

-ROGUE MIRRORS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: WHILE UNPREDICABLE, MIRROR PORTALS TO OTHER DIMENSIONS AND TIMES ARE OCCASIONALLY LOCATED BY AMALTHEAN AGENTS IN THE FIELD. THESE ARE TO BE RETRIEVED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND DESTROYED IF NOT. AGENTS ARE CLEARED TO USE SUCH PORTALS AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION.)

-CLOCKS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: CURRENTLY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PHENOMENA, BUT ANY SUFFICIENTLY LARGE MECHANICAL TIME-TELLING DEVICE FOUND IN EQUESTRIA MAY BE USED AS A PHYSICAL GATEWAY TO ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE. THE EXACT TRIGGERING MECHANISM FOR A GIVEN CLOCK IS UNIQUE TO THE SPECIFIC CLOCK, BUT AGENTS ARE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SEVERAL KNOWN AND STUDIED CLOCKS TO MOVE ACROSS EQUESTRIA INSTANTLY.)

Use a clock whenever possible: they're quick, free, and mostly reliable.

-LOCATIONS-

-"THE WATERING HOLE"

THE ORDER'S MOST IMPORTANT ASSET: CREATED BY PRINCESS LUNA FROM HER OWN DREAM FIRMAMENT, IT IS A STABLE POCKET DIMENSION SPATIALLY ADJACENT TO ALL POINTS IN EQUESTRIA. THE ORDER OF AMALTHEA USES IT AS A SAFE HAVEN FROM WHICH AGENTS CAN SAFELY TRAVEL TO OTHER DIMENSIONS WITHOUT EXPOSING EQUESTRIA TO OUTSIDE SPYING.

-TEMPORAL SHIFT

It makes a nice break room, and you'll start most of your missions here. It will take a bit to get used to the physics here, just try not to think about it too hard

THE WATERING HOLE DOES NOT OPERATE UNDER NORMAL LAWS OF RELATIVITY, AND AS SUCH IT CAN EXIST WITHIN A NARROW RANGE OF SPACE-TIME RELATIVE TO THE EARTH. UNDER PRINCESS LUNA'S DIRECT SUPERVISION, AGENTS IN THE WATERING HOLE CAN BE SENT BACKWARDS IN TIME A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME (EDITOR'S NOTE: EXPERIMENTAL OBERVATIONS SHOW THE UPPER LIMIT TO BE NO MORE THAN AN HOUR) THOUGH THE PROCESS IS TIME CONSUMING AND DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE; AS SUCH IT IS USED ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

--ADDENDUM: CURRENT RESEARCH IS UNDERWAY AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FORWARDS TIME TRAVEL, BUT RESULTS ARE SO FAR INCONCLUSIVE.

-"EQUESTRIA HIGH"

A PARALLEL 'SHADOW' DIMENSION CAST BY THE EARTH, THIS WORLD IS SUSTAINED BY THE UNCONSCIOUS MINDS OF PONIES ON EARTH. IT HAS NO SET SPATIAL OR TEMPORAL BOUNDARIES; ITS TIMELINE AND TOPOGRAPHY IS DEFINED BY WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS RELEVANT BY ITS INHABITANTS AT ANY GIVEN TIME. AS SUCH, TIME AND SPACE ARE BOTH ENTIRELY RELATIVE WITHIN THE DIMENSION, WHICH APPEARS TO CENTER AROUND A GRADE SCHOOL POPULATED BY BEINGS TERMED 'HUMANS'. AGENTS VISITING THE DIMENSION REPORT TAKING ON HUMAN FORM AND ENCOUNTERING OTHER 'HUMAN' VERSIONS OF PONIES THEY KNEW ON EARTH, WHO APPEAR UNAWARE OF ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF THEIR OWN WORLD. ENTERING THROUGH AN EXTERIOR MIRROR ALLOWS A VISITOR TO OPERATE INDEPENDANTLY OF THE WORLD'S SPACE-TIME NARRATIVE.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: WHETHER OR NOT THESE BEINGS ARE ACTUALLY RELATED TO ANCIENT MEGANIC LEGENDS CONCERNING HUMANS REMAINS SPECULATIVE.)

Agent Gleamsong is our resident expert on this place; go to her if you have any human problems along the way or (Celestia forbid) you end up here again...

-THE OLD CRYSTAL EMPIRE MIRROR

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE REMAINING STABLE MIRROR GATE INTO EQUESTRIA HIGH REMAINS IN THE POSSESSION OF PRINCESS MI AMORE CADENZA OF THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE (UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE AMALTHEAN ORDER). AGENTS ASSIGNED TO MONITOR EQUESTRIA HIGH ARE SENT THROUGH THIS ARTIFACT, AND ANY ALTERNATE GATEWAYS ARE TRACKED DOWN AND CLOSED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION.

We've already lost two agents to this place's maddening influence; don't be one of them.

--CODEX--

*Ignore him, if possible. We've had several long talks
with him and he's agreed (for whatever that's worth) not
to get in our way.*

-DISCORD

CODENAME: WILDCARD

THREAT LEVEL: LOW

DISCORD IS A KNOWN ENTITY WITHIN THE ORDER, THOUGH HE HAS ALMOST ENTIRELY CEASED TO INTERFERE IN OUR OPERATIONS AS PART OF HIS NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENT WITH THE ELEMENTS OF HARMONY AFTER THE MOST RECENT INCIDENTS. AGENTS ENCOUNTERING HIM IN THE FIELD ARE ENCOURAGED TO MINIMIZE CONTACT IF POSSIBLE, AS HE IS CONSIDERED TOO UNPREDICABLE TO TRUST FULLY.

-FATE-SPINNERS, THE

CODENAME: PLAYWRIGHT(S)

THREAT LEVEL: MODERATE

AGENTS ON THE EDGES OF THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL FRONTIER HAVE ENCOUNTERED NUMEROUS NAMELESS AND APPARENTLY INTELLIGENT BEINGS OR PRESENCES IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING NEW WORLDS FROM NOTHINGNESS: THE "FATE-SPINNERS" ARE A TOTALLY UNKNOWN QUANTITY, AND THE NEW WORLDS CREATED BY THEM REPRESENT A TREMENDOUS EXISTENTIAL THREAT AND SOURCE OF POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION FOR EQUESTRIA. THESE WORLDS SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND QUARANTINED AT ALL COSTS.

*I've seen and heard some things from these worlds that
would curl your fetlocks red: who or whatever these*

-NYARLAT-HOTEP

CODENAME: ARCHENEMY

THREAT LEVEL: HIGH

A BEING OF FRIGHTENING POWER AND UNQUESTIONABLE MALICE, HIS NAME AND APPELLATION ("THE CRAWLING CHAOS") IS KNOWN ONLY FROM A FRAGMENT FOUND IN THE WORLD OF EQUESTRIA HIGH (EDITOR'S NOTE: AN EXPEDITION TO LOCATE ITS REAL-WORLD COUNTERPART IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY). NYARLAT-HOTEP FAVORS AN AFFECTATION SIMILAR TO OUR OWN ANCIENT WHINNEGYPIAN CULTURE, AND APPEARS TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AMONG THE OTHER PLANES ALMOST AT WILL, AND HAS TAKEN SPECIAL INTEREST IN INFILTRATING EQUESTRIA. HIS ULTIMATE INTENTIONS WITH EQUESTRIA ARE UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME BUT WE HAVE REASON TO ASSUME THE WORST. CURRENTLY, ANY PROBING ATTACK OR INCIDENT INVOLVING THIS BEING IS TO BE CONSIDERED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY THREAT AND SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF ACCORDINGLY. DO NOT TAKE ANYTHING HE SAYS, INFERS, OR IMPLIES AS TRUSTWORTHY!

*He needs no
introduction: stop
him at all costs.*

*Playwrights' are, they have a sick and twisted sense of
dramatic irony and romance...*

-SOMBRA [KING]

CODENAME: SHADOWFAX

THREAT LEVEL: XXXXXXXXXXXX

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS ENTRY HAS BEEN REDACTED BY ORDER OF XXXXXXXXXXXX ON XXXXXXXXXXXX.)

-----END ARCHIVAL TELETYPE RETRIEVAL

*Being the new foals on the block is never easy: come to me with any questions you have.
You'll only have yourselves and your wits out there, so take advantage of whatever you
can. Good luck all of you, again.*