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This information is not to be disseminated outside of the Order under pain of excruciation. This parchment is to be in the company of a scholar-knight at all times and novices are to be watched for any sign of heresy. The eyes of darkness are everywhere and we must ensure our Order is inviolate...

Under the warrant of
Maximillian Faustenhamer
Inquisitor of the Order, Breaker of Witches

Know now that the World is not the limit of what is or can be. There is a realm of darkness that sits precariously between the waking World we inhabit and the myriad dreamscapes that we visit in our slumber. It is a null-space; bereft of form or function save that the Darkness wills, and unfortunately it is far from empty.

Legions of shadowy entities dwell there: writhing, gibbering and plotting in the eternal blackness. They furiously rail against the form of the universe, but at the same time desire nothing more than to attain physicality so that they might visit their wrath on the denizens of reality.

Throughout history, they have been known by many names. The Mudali call them the Dhishal-Rai, "Formless Ones". The Steelsworn have named them the "Dark Children". Men know them by a different and simpler name: Demons.

All would agree that these entities are without mercy, compassion, or kindness. All would agree they must be utterly eradicated whenever they cross into the physical world. To leave them in our realm invites an unparalleled danger.

Breaking the barrier to our world is not easy and only two ways to do this are currently known. The first is to enter through a breach created by a Demon of prodigious power. Only those of the inner circle, the Demon Lords that directly serve the Great Wurm of the Dark, have this power. Even then, they may only cross over in highly specific circumstances; on precise days and years and only when the correct rites and blasphemous rituals have been enacted by their mortal worshippers.

The second is far more insidious, and unfortunately far more common. A skilled Diabolist Wizard is able to draw the spirit of a Demon into a vessel that already has physical form – such as that of a mortal. Alarmingly, mankind offer the easiest gateway into our realm for those that wish to destroy it. This horrifying process means that the Demon can use its prodigious energies to shape the 'host' to a form more conducive to its aims and desires. The more powerful the Demon, the more realised and horrific this new form will be.

The greatest of the servants of evil are the demonic overlords: Bethzabah, Gholoshe, Kurikeht, Ornias, and Vigriid. It is said they command many vassals and great legions of demonic soldiers who impatiently await their chance to enter the waking realm and to commit atrocities against the living.

Many are the aspects of the demon, yet some strains of commonality exist in the soldiery of darkness. The common-spawn display a revolting similarity to their progenitor in that they all exhibit traits of monstrous wormhood; the stronger the Demon the closer the resemblance to their master. Beyond this there are many variants of Demon, and few can say with any surety they know them all, even the greatest scholars of our Order.

Many tall tales concern the wilds of Mellorian and further afield. Who is to say that the fantastical beasts that are described by such tales are not lone Demons wandering in search of food? There is a known link between the Darkness and fell creatures such as Drekevach, so there can be little doubt that even more odious threats lurk in the far flung places of this land.

The need for vigilance is great in the face of such otherworldly threats. Mercy and compassion for our fellow man shall be our undoing if we do not steel our hearts, for the Demon and the Diabolist like nothing more than to exploit such weakness.

This is why any suspicion of heresy must be rooted out and excised so that the taint may not spread to others. It takes only one Diabolist of sufficient skill and understanding to loose a monster upon our world capable of unimaginable slaughter.

Remember the circumstance of G'Barr: Ornias himself almost destroyed the city before he was finally banished. Just one heretical deviant could cause another such tragedy, or perhaps much worse. This is why we cannot afford to show the slightest pity as we carry out our duties. This is why I have put entire villages to the torch and will again without a moment's hesitation.

Mark this truth and learn it well: it is better to lose ten thousand men than to permit a Demon to exist in the waking World.

You are the eyes, ears, and ultimately the hand that shall see this does not happen.

M.F.