

# The Peace of Gatoya

## Context

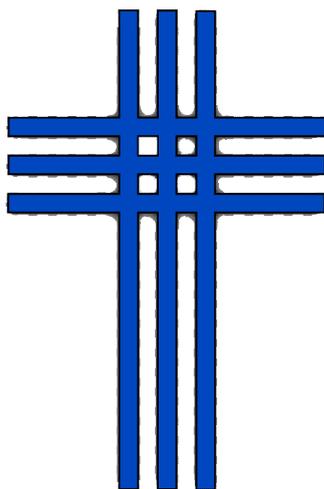
The war was raging, but what a war, not a civil or military war... It was the last great religious war of living beings, it took place while the world saw the birth of new religions and new beliefs.

The Crystal's Fanum, the then majority religion, decided to hunt down many beings with the ranks of the Inquisition for the simple reason that they did not believe in the official pantheon, the one that today, 10,500 years later, we call the Ancient Pantheon or the Ancient religion.

## Coat of arms of the Crystal's Fanum



## In-game representation



At that time, the dominant and terrifying religion was the Crystal's Fanum. In exchange for services, rents and properties, some then earned the right to be revived by the Argousins in the name of their gods and goddesses. No one could escape it because everywhere in the islands of the Dominion, pillars of life were found, it was cultivated there by the millions.

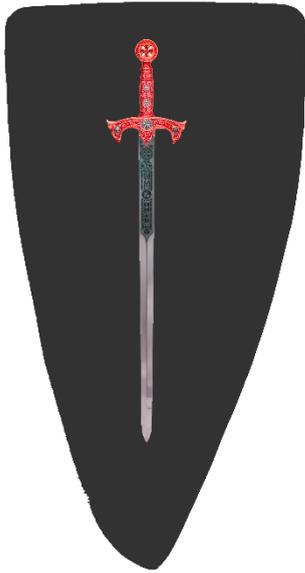
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At that time, war was raging and few people could escape it.

Alcyon, a young elf converted to the Religion of Leviathan, an ancient pagan belief advocating destruction to rebuild society, decided to simply destroy the Pillars and Monoliths of Life in his region with other followers.

Destroying the pillars diminished the influence of the Argousins. The Inquisition with its Templars tried to hunt him down and killed him, but his technique of destroying the pillars was promulgated in a small local newspaper, the Courier of Parlos, which was traded throughout the Dominion for fortunes.

**Coat of arms of the Templars (probably also emblem of their ancient God: Falène )**



**Symbol in-game**



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Thus the detractors, adversaries and enemies of the Crystal's Fanum had their hands free to destroy other pillars.

Faced with the irremediable victory of their enemies against legions that had become mortal in areas without life pillars and monoliths, the Argousins invited the other representatives of the religions and beliefs they were fighting to the rock island of Gatoya in the year 1000 of their calendar.

The Argousins and the Gods-Goddesses of the Ancient Pantheon then offered them eternal peace and tolerance of all religions on the condition that the pillars of life were no longer destroyed.

The Peace of Gatoya was then signed and led to the slow disappearance of the great nations of the Crystal's Fanum, the appearance of new competing religions like the Cult of Ulrik or much later the Stuvards in the High Island Kingdom.

Actually, while pillars of life are maintained or abandoned in some regions, the Crystal's Fanum in the Scattered Isles, the Forgotten Dwarves (Dar Vorgutton), and the Anachronist Agency maintain them for their own reasons, Crystal's Fanum and Dar Vorgutton for religious reasons, and the Anachronist Agency for logistical reasons and the storage of these ancient artifacts.

Quoting the Peace of Gatoya today, 10,500 years later, has unfortunately become a little old-fashioned because other religious wars have taken place, some signatories have later imposed their religion like the Empire of Sankara but the Crystal's Fanum has prevented itself until now from intervening or reforming the Inquisition. Its great strength has been to survive confined to the Scattered Islands, free fiefdoms of the Dominion.

As for the Inquisition, it is supposed to have been lost in time and space following a trap that Milamber, God of Magic, had set for them in order to get rid of them and their ever-present warlike dialectic.

Who knows if his cohorts will return and what will happen.

The author of this text also notes that the importance regarding the pillars of life is that they can be used for various reasons:

- Crushing them and throwing them into Lava, they then explode into splinters and each splinter releases spirits, injures nearby people and releases a 500m shock wave.
- They can be grown in any location of any richness, even dead land, they grow by themselves gaining a few CM per year.
- They can be broken with Crush to replant them elsewhere on a piece of ground by pushing it slightly.
- They can be disrupted with industrial coal, Coke, which prevents the magic of resurrection from working. This causes the Guards to chase away machines and prefer to be more than ten meters away from buildings and structures.
- Under the right conditions, spirits can be brought back to life and prevented from being lost in other planes such as Death or Nothingness.
- In corrupting conditions, the Blame Rock can corrupt the pillar and put it in contact with death and nothingness.

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This has the effect of perverting the spirits into undead for the former and transforming the planars into voiders for the latter. Undead killed near a healthy pillar become normal beings again after a spirit form. Voiders, beings anarchically destroying everything, are also capable by returning to spirit form of becoming normal again if killed with enchanted damage near a normal pillar.

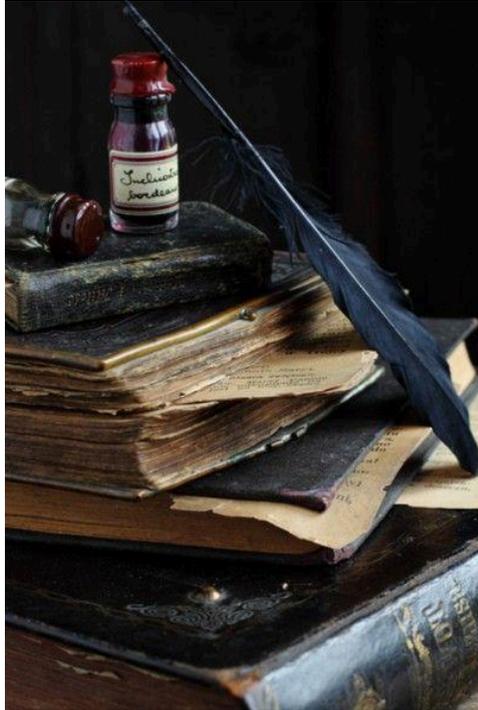
- They can be transported in a pot of earth to other destinations in order to implant them; their transport in a pot of earth blocks the growth during the reimplantation.
- Some ancient texts speak of the possibility of creating Gods and Goddesses with a sufficient number of life pillars close to each other and a large number of sacrificed spirits to give form to a God or Goddess.
- Some believe that the Pillars of Life are intelligent, crystalline beings, the Pillar Protection League exists and does its best in their name to maintain them when they are isolated or corrupted. They are known for their litany: "I do not fear death, death is the little mind-killer, through the pillar, I let it flow and I am reborn blessed by the pillar. In the end, only I will remain!"



# The legal article

## Peace of Gatoya

*Signed in the year 10,400 before the Insular calendar. We are currently in the year 100 of the Insular calendar.*



## Preamble

On this solemn day, the representatives of the great spiritual and religious powers of our lands, gathered on the neutral rock island of Gatoya , decide by common accord to put an end to the religious wars which, for centuries, have brought death, destruction and division among peoples.

Convinced that peace and mutual tolerance are the only ways to guarantee the stability and prosperity of nations, the signatory parties undertake to respect the terms of this agreement and to work together to rebuild society on the basis of respect, freedom of religion, and peaceful cooperation.

## Article 1 – Cessation of hostilities

From this day forward, all hostilities of a religious nature between the signatory parties shall cease immediately. Armed conflicts, destruction of pillars of life, crusades, forced conversions, and any other form of violence in the name of faith or belief are strictly prohibited. The parties undertake to resolve their differences through diplomatic and peaceful means.

## Article 2 – Mutual respect and tolerance

The signatory parties recognize and respect the diversity of beliefs, religions and religious practices present in the territories concerned. Each faith or doctrine has the right to a free existence, without interference or persecution from other religious groups or political factions.

## Article 3 – Desacralization of civil society

Religious and spiritual affairs shall no longer interfere in the management and organization of the civil society of the Empire of the Islands, the independent nations of the Dominion and the Continent of Sankara. Their civil societies are free of its laws, rights and decisions, regardless of the dominant spiritual beliefs. Citizens have the right to choose or reject any form of religion or faith without religious or military pressure or sanction.

*Some powers of consensus will still be relevant and will have the force of law in order to guarantee this Peace, refer to article 6 to know the legal details.*

## Article 4 – Freedom of religion and self-determination

Every individual, city or nation, regardless of their origin or cultural affiliation, has the right to practice the religion of their choice or to practice none. No religious or military power may impose a single doctrine on the whole of society. Each belief has the right to be professed in private or in community, as long as these practices do not disturb public order or infringe on the rights of others.

## Article 5 – Military and religious neutrality

The armed forces of the signatory parties will no longer be used for religious coercion, exclusive protection of one faith, or theocratic domination. Temples, churches, and other places of worship are declared neutral zones in times of civil or military conflict, and access to them will be guaranteed without discrimination to all believers or non-believers.

## Article 6 – Guarantees of peace and peaceful coexistence

The parties agree to monitor and ensure the implementation of the Peace of Gatoya . An Assembly of Beliefs, or Grand Curia, will be established in the City of Parlos , composed of representatives of each signatory religious faction under the aegis of the Argousins. This assembly will have the mission of arbitrating any dispute or conflict of interpretation of the terms of this agreement. The decisions of this Assembly will be sovereign and binding on the signatory parties.

This assembly will also be able to judge the religious regulations of the Crystal's Fanum regarding its dogmas, its imprisoned Gods and its rituals.

## **Article 6b – Concerning the Maelstrom**

All signatories recognize the power of the Old Gods but agree that the religion of the Crystal's Fanum must be limited to existing Entities under penalty of violating the Peace of Gatoya . No God or Goddess imprisoned in the Maelstrom may be freed.

This article may only be revised with a Quorum of qualified majority, namely 50+1 of the voters in the Grand Curia and with the approval of the sovereign nations concerned.

## **Article 7 – Non-dissolution of the Inquisition and redefinition of its missions**

The Inquisition, formerly intended to maintain religious orthodoxy by means of coercion and intimidation, will not be dissolved but sees its missions redefined under this agreement. The Inquisition renounces any use of violence or coercion in the name of faith. Its new mission will be to ensure the protection of believers against internal or external threats, and to guarantee peaceful coexistence between different religions.

In this respect, the Inquisition undertakes to:

- Promote inter-religious dialogue to resolve conflicts;
- Monitor and prevent deviant behavior that could lead to religious wars, without resorting to force;
- Ensure compliance with the terms of the Peace of Gatoya in places of worship.
- Any large-scale action by the Inquisition must now be validated by the Assembly of Beliefs. In the event of a violation of its new powers, the Inquisition may be dissolved by decision of this Assembly.

## **Article 8 – Transfer of religious security missions to private militias**

As part of the desacralization of civil institutions, the physical protection of temples, places of worship and other religious spaces will now be entrusted to private contractors or private militias not affiliated with a particular religion.

Private militias or contract forces will be recruited and supervised by neutral local authorities to ensure their impartiality. These local authorities are called Notaries or Clerks. They will be responsible for ensuring the security of places of worship and large civil gathering places while respecting the rights of believers to practice their faith in peace.

Religions will no longer have the right to raise their own armed forces or to intervene militarily under the pretext of religious defense. Any violation of this principle will result in sanctions decided by the Assembly of Beliefs.

## **Article 9 – Sanctions for breach of the Peace**

Any breach of the terms of this agreement or any resumption of hostility of a religious nature will result in sanctions decided collectively by the Assembly of Beliefs. These sanctions may include excommunication of the offending group, confiscation of its religious property, or any other measure deemed appropriate to restore peace.

## **Article 10 – Prohibition of Necromancy**

Under the Peace of Gatoya and in the interest of maintaining the stability of nations and peace between faiths, the practice of Necromancy, in all its forms, is strictly forbidden. Necromancy, defined as the art of manipulating, reanimating, or controlling the dead, is unanimously recognized as a threat to the natural order of life and death, the cycle of resurrection, and the dignity of the deceased.

As an exception, there may be tolerance for intelligent and pacifist undead such as the Alukah , from a different Plane where Death is life and Wisdom is the mother of prudence and knowledge.

The reasons for this ban are as follows:

- **Respect for Life and Death:** Any manipulation of the souls or bodies of the dead is seen as a sacred violation of natural and spiritual laws. No living being, whether an eagle, mage, or priest, has the right to take possession of the dead or use their remains for personal or military purposes.
- **Protection of Spiritual Balance:** Necromancy, by altering the natural cycles of death, disrupts the balance of souls and spirit worlds, creating undead abominations that disrupt order and peace in the realms of the living and the dead as well as the process of resurrection.
- **Security Threat Prevention:** The use of Necromancy has led to the creation of undead armies in the past, plagues that have caused the destruction of many civilizations and chaos between faiths. Such practices cannot be tolerated in the future.

## **Article 10 bis - concerning sanctions in the event of proven Necromancy**

Any person, group, or faction found practicing or promoting Necromancy will be deemed to have seriously violated the terms of the Peace of Gatoya . Punishment will be decided by the Assembly of Faiths and may include excommunication, destruction of necromantic objects and artifacts, and prosecution and conviction of practitioners, with penalties including exile or death.

Places of worship and religious institutions are required to report any necromantic activity to the Assembly of Beliefs. Private contractors or private militias will also be tasked with ensuring that Necromancy is not practiced clandestinely in signatory territories. Upon orders from the Assembly of Beliefs, private contractors or private militias may hunt down and destroy necromantic armies and their places of worship.

Regarding the latter, the guards will be able to replant a healthy pillar of life or perform a ritual so that a pillar is no longer corrupted.

This article may only be revised with a Quorum of qualified majority, namely 50+1 of the voters in the Grand Curia and with the approval of the sovereign nations concerned.

## **Article 11 – Quorum, functioning and voting rights of the Grand Curia**

1° The Grand Curia votes on all its laws and regulations by simple majority, it is fully competent for matters concerning religion and operates in total freedom to enforce the Peace of Gatoya .

2° Some articles require a qualified majority, this is a majority of 2/3 except in the case of dissolution. These votes will then be submitted to the Assembly of Nobles and Entrepreneurs of Parlos , at its headquarters on the Grand Place. Their votes are advisory. The representatives of the Nations can however introduce an appeal to the Questure to decide if a religious question could lead to a questioning of the Peace of Gatoya .

3° Despite the presence of all the religious currents of the Dominion, the Grand Curia can appoint the same number of representatives present +1 to guarantee that the Faith of the Crystal's Fanum will not be mistreated as a historical institution.

4° An officer of the Grand Curia is appointed every year; this may be any candidate who presents himself to the Grand Curia during the Call for Candidates.

This is done verbally in the public square in all inhabited places. Candidates must then travel within the month to the Grand Curia and come to introduce themselves and defend their candidacy.

The officer of the Grand Curia is ex officio a layman and shall exercise, by vote and appointment, the executive power of the Grand Curia with the Notaries and other religious authorities on the soil of the Dominion.

5° Any religious or philosophical question addressed to him will be decided by the Grand Curia.

The seat of the Grand Curia is in the Abbey of Parlos .

6° The dissolution of the Grand Curia may be voted on by itself and by the Assembly of Nobles and Entrepreneurs by a qualified majority of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the voters present.

When it is effective, the Assembly of Nobles and Entrepreneurs can reform the system and provide for a new arrangement of the Grand Curia or do without it by creating a new religious assembly.

## **Article 12 – Suspension, half-masting or abolition of the Peace of Gatoya**

1° In the event of civil and religious war within a territory of the Dominion, the Peace is temporarily suspended. Once the belligerents have ceased hostilities and negotiated

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under the aegis of the Grand Curia the Religious Peace, the Peace of Gatoya resumes its rights on the territory where the civil and religious war has taken place.

2° In the event of a simple majority decision of the Grand Curia with the approval of the Assembly of Nobles and Entrepreneurs of Parlos (ancient name of the Parliament of Parlos), the Peace may be put at half-mast to honor the death of a Grand Bishop and allow religious processions of the Crystal's Fanum throughout the Dominion.

3° The abolition of the Peace of Gatoya must be voted on and promulgated by a quorum of absolute majority of the Nations of the Dominion, of the Assembly of Nobles and Entrepreneurs and of the Grand Curia.

4° Proxies are possible for a maximum of 5 votes per representative, including his own for any question, vote, amendment (modification) or repeal (cancellation).

5° In the event of the destruction of all the pillars of life, the special reserve at Parlos may be opened and the pillars replaced and monitored by simple decision of the officer of the Grand Curia.

6° If the Grand Curia were to disappear or go underground, the Peace of Gatoya would be amended or repealed by the Nations and the Assembly of Nobles and Entrepreneurs.

## **Article 13 – Signatory Parties**

On this day of signing, the representatives of the following factions affix their seal and signature at the bottom of this historic agreement, committing their believers and followers to mutual respect and tolerance.

### **The signatories are:**

- The Crystal's Fanum,
- The Empire of the Islands,
- The Absolved of Faith,
- The Spiritist Movement,
- The Blade of the Cardinals,
- The Palm of the Depths,
- The Religion of Leviathan,
- The True Sankarian Faith,
- The Cult of Ulrik ,
- The Dwarven Pantheon of the Ancient Domain,
- Syrian Beliefs ,
- The Elven Congregation,

*Done and signed on the rock island of Gatoya , in the year 1200 of the old Calendar of the Holy Ancient and Real Faith of the Divine and Unique Pantheon of the Empire of the Islands.*

### **Remarks :**

All of these nations and cults have disappeared at present, except:

- The Crystal's Fanum
- The Cult of Ulrik still practiced in the Poremanian Kingdom ,
- The Dwarven Pantheon of the Ancient Domain,
- The Elven Congregation, which changed its name, they now call themselves the Religion of the Cycle.

These religions traditionally have a seat within the Grand Curia and have for this purpose an Argousin answerable for their worship and belief. This is a cultural practice of the Law Dominion, it is not provided for in the Peace of Gatoya .