

# Principle of Stewardship

## Purpose

This document defines the posture by which this corpus is to be maintained, supported, and allowed to continue over time, including after the author is no longer present.

It does not assign authority, create offices, designate successors, or establish an institution of stewardship. It describes **constraints on behavior**, not **roles to inhabit**.

Stewardship, as used here, names an activity that may occur when required. It does not name an identity, a standing obligation, or a collective.

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## 1. Stewardship Is Activity, Not Entity

Stewardship is not a thing that exists on its own.

It is not: - an organization - a title - a lineage - a governing body - a moral position

Individuals may at times perform stewardship actions. No individual or group may *be* stewardship.

Any attempt to organize stewardship as a durable entity, authority, or self-legitimizing collective constitutes a category error.

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## 2. The Default State Is Non-Intervention

The preferred and expected state of stewardship is **inaction**.

If the corpus can persist, circulate, be interpreted, misinterpreted, or ignored without intervention, then no intervention should occur.

Action is warranted only when inaction would directly result in: - loss of canonical documents - mutation of canonical content - silent semantic drift - misrepresentation of scope or intent at a systemic level

Disagreement, criticism, misuse, selective application, or divergent translation do not by themselves justify intervention.

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### **3. Canonical Integrity**

Canonical documents: - have a single, stable identity - may not be revised, abridged, expanded, or silently reordered - may appear unchanged in multiple contexts

Preserving document identity takes precedence over accessibility, pedagogy, popularity, or convenience.

If preservation requires choosing between clarity and integrity, integrity prevails.

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### **4. Translation Is Expected and Renewable**

The framework described by this corpus is governed by compositional generativity.

As new compositions arise, new translation layers may be required. This is not an exception but a structural consequence of correctness.

Translation layers: - are lateral, not upstream - do not modify the framework - do not establish authority - may coexist, diverge, or become obsolete

The emergence of new translation work does not reopen canonical content.

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### **5. Care and Rigor as Constraints, Not Credentials**

Translation and application work should exhibit care and rigor comparable to that used in developing the framework.

This requirement does not grant permission, certification, or status.

Rigor is enforced by exposure to failure, not by approval. Poor translations collapse under use; sound ones persist.

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### **6. The Author Is Not a Dependency**

The corpus is designed to function without its author.

No interpretation, application, or extension requires authorial confirmation to be valid. No future clarification is promised or required.

Authorial statements do not supersede the text. Silence does not imply absence of meaning.

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## **7. Engagement Is Optional and Contextual**

While the author is present, engagement with readers, institutions, or media is elective and selective.

Engagement does not establish obligation, endorsement, representation, or authority.

No future participant is required to engage publicly on behalf of the corpus.

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## **8. Continuity Without Centralization**

Continuity of access, publication, and funding may be administered through legally defined mechanisms.

Administrative continuity does not imply epistemic authority.

Infrastructure may persist without creating centers of interpretation, decision, or meaning.

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## **9. When Stewardship Fails**

If these constraints are ignored, the corpus may fragment, drift, or be misused.

Such outcomes do not invalidate the framework. They reflect failure of practice, not failure of structure.

The corpus does not require rescue.

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## **Closing Note**

Stewardship succeeds when it is quiet.

When these constraints are respected, readers should not be certain that anyone is stewarding the corpus at all.

The work endures not because it is defended, but because it remains coherent.