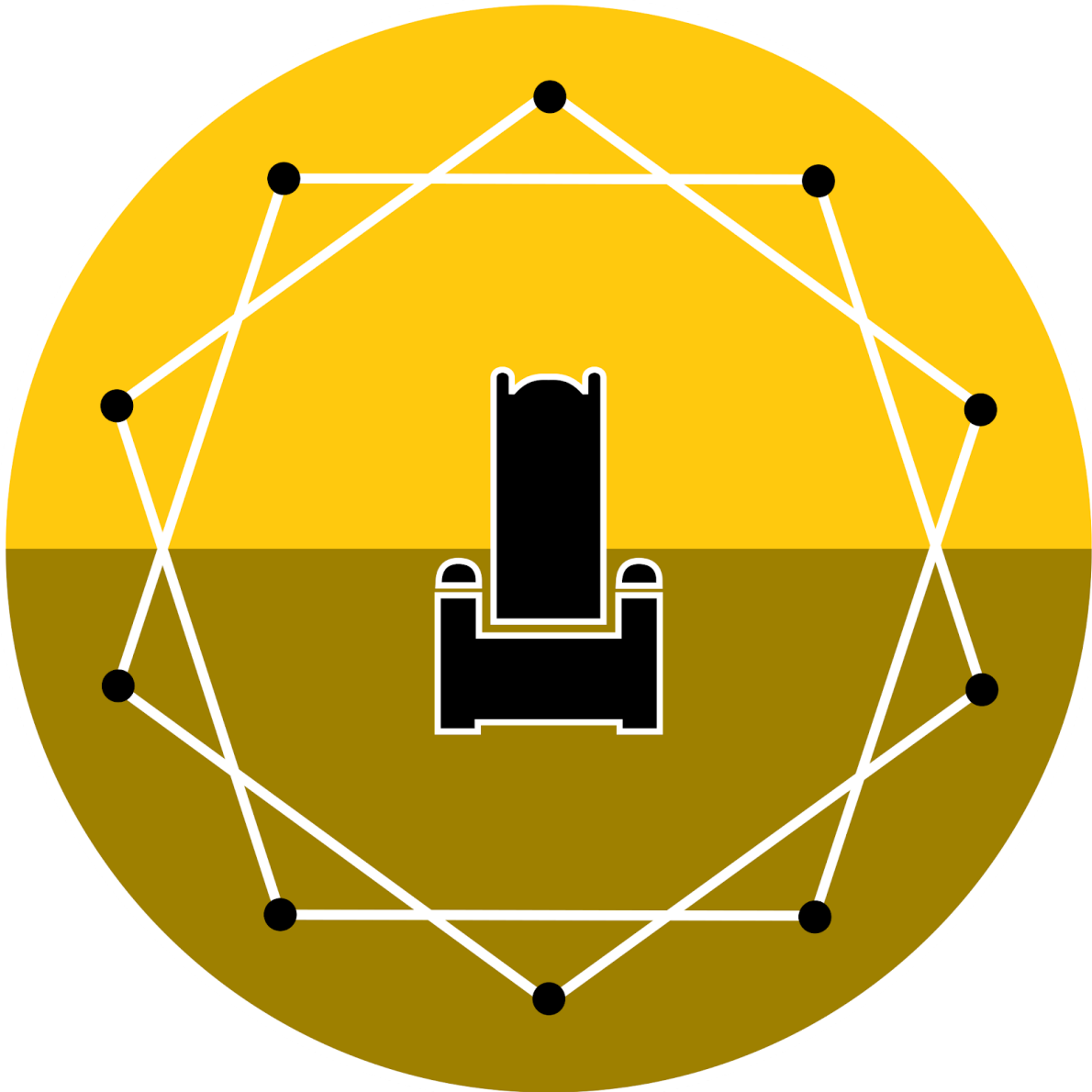


High Church of Messiah-as-Emperor

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Introduction

The High Church of Messiah-as-Emperor believes that the Emperor is a recurring reincarnation or eternal visitation of heaven's will in reality. Having emerged as an amalgamation of the old Earthly religions (now called Primal Religions), the High Church is interwoven with the nobility and embedded deeply as the official faith of the Empire. It controls, manages and facilitates every aspect of Imperial spiritual life. While the ten formal branches of the Church conduct separate functions and express varying interpretations of core doctrine, they are all united under the leadership of the High Exarch and the High Council of Exarchs. The central directive of the Church is to maintain the sanctity of the Imperial throne and assist the Emperor in guiding his subjects on the path of the Ten Holy Virtues. The Church's established positions include anti-alien, anti-synthetic, and pro-nobility principles.

Beyond its the spiritual duties, the High Church will play a critical role in this current time of trouble. If a new Emperor is not chosen by the end of this year, the High Exarch shall become Steward and Regent of the Empire, ruling by the grace of God and their Virtues. While the Church shall strive to ensure a stable succession, they must also ensure that any successor is truly worthy of the throne.

1 Doctrine

1.1 The Ten Holy Virtues

The Church is described as "a mashup of various Earth beliefs." Thus the humble hierophants of the High Order codified a set of Ten Holy Virtues derived from Catholic, Confucian, and Islamic formulations. The Virtues were proclaimed by the Grand Voice as a doctrinal foundation.

The First Virtue is Faith.

Recitation: "Faith above all. We must trust God and their chosen Emperor to guide us."
Faith is exemplified by daily prayer, regular attendance of Church ceremonies, dutiful tithing, and pilgrimage to holy sites.

The Second Virtue is Propriety, which flows from Faith.

Recitation: "We must be obedient to tradition, ceremony, courtesy and station."
Propriety is exemplified by respectful loyalty to righteous authority and cultural norms, along with unfailing intolerance for all heretics and heathens. Custom, dress, and technology all must adhere to Propriety.

The Third Virtue is Justice, which flows from Propriety.

Recitation: "We must reward those who behave rightly and punish those who do not."
Justice is exemplified by its unflinching enforcement, and we must correct our own failings before looking to those of others.

The Fourth Virtue is Fortitude, which reinforces Justice.

Recitation: "We must patiently endure the challenges laid upon us and follow the rightful path despite them."

Fortitude is exemplified by steadfast courage and endurance in the face of adversity, particularly in avoiding all cringing or complaint when upon holy ground or fulfilling holy duties.

The Fifth Virtue is Wisdom, which accompanies Fortitude.

Recitation: "We must strive to see the world in its truth and shape it according to God's will."

Wisdom is exemplified by perceived the flawed world as it is, but never losing sight of what it should be. Daily reflection upon the sacred texts and their application to our lives is essential to Wisdom.

The Sixth Virtue is Temperance, which flows from Wisdom.

Recitation: "We must show prudent moderation and diligent control over our desires."

Temperance is exemplified by self-restraint in all facets, particularly regular fasting and avoidance of intoxicants.

The Seventh Virtue is Diligence, which reinforces Temperance.

Recitation: "We must be ever persistent and expend all effort and attention in keeping ourselves and others to the true path."

Diligence is exemplified by constant, tireless vigilance against temptation and treachery in all aspects of life.

The Eighth Virtue is Charity, which echoes Justice.

Recitation: "We must show compassion to those worthy of God's mercy."

Charity is exemplified by philanthropic acts and outreach to faithful sufferers.

The Ninth Virtue is Integrity, which echoes Propriety.

Recitation: "We must honor our oaths and uphold the truth."

Integrity is exemplified by unfailing honesty and the exposure of deviants, as well as regular confession of our failings.

The Tenth Virtue is Hope, which echoes Faith.

Recitation: "We must never despair, no matter how dark the hour, as God shines their light upon us."

Hope is exemplified by the conquest of despair, symbolized most prominently by the restriction of mourning to a designated period, as well as the teaching of the Virtues to the ignorant.

1.2 Holy Words

Greeting and blessing phrase: *"Ten Blessings"*, representing the Ten Virtues and the Ten Branches.

1.3 Other Faiths

[WIP]

2 Naming Scheme & Titles

The name of a church member is built as follows:

(Title)(Branch)<first name><last name>(potential additional title)

Examples:

Regular member of the Orthodoxy: **Ortdx Sofia Voltaire**

Exarch of the Crusaders: **Exarch Crusader Magnus Wuhan**

2.1 General Titles

- **High Exarch** - *Leader of the church.*
- **Exarch** - *Leader of a church branch.*
- **High Priest** - *Planetary leader of the church.*
- **Abbot** - *Representative of the church in a noble house.*
- **Inquisitor** - *Keepers of order.*
- **Emissary** - *Messengers of the church*

2.2 Special Titles

- **Grand Voice** - *Official Spokesperson of the High Exarch and the Council of Exarchs*
- **Exarch-Emissary** - *Diplomat of the church. Honorary title of Exarch, not an actual leader of a branch.*

3 Hierarchy

The Church is lead by the **High Exarch** who listens to the **High Council of Exarchs** where each of the 10 branches of the church has a seat. The High Council make the day-to-day decisions of the church's politics and advise the High Exarch in all matters.

4 Branches



4.1 High Order

Leader: Exarch Tatiana Laurent the Grand Voice

- Bureaucracy of the Church.
- No planetary presence.
- Directly reports to the High Exarch



4.2 Guardians

Leader: Exarch Guardian Gaius Tacitus

- Protectors of the churches.
- Passive except if the church is in danger.



4.3 Crusaders

Leader: Exarch Crusader Magnus Wuhan

- Military branch.
- Possible ties to House Aquila.



4.4 Orthodoxy

Leader: Exarch Ortdx Bendlin Olegovich

- Believes that when the primal religions coalesced into the Church of The Emperor-as-Messiah it did so perfectly and with Divine intent. The resulting scripture is not subject to change or anything other than literal interpretation.



4.5 Masoodites

Leader: Exarch Masood al-Naguib

- Islam roots.
- Believe High Exarch Masood al-Anwar was a true prophet.



4.6 Conservatives

Leader: Exarch Cons Ygdrus Sempasa

- Follow the old dogma and teachings but with changing interpretations found in primal religious texts.
- The primal texts were written as warning examples for us to follow. When solving problems Conservatives first look to the past
- Bookkeepers and historians.



4.7 Reformists

Leader: Exarch Reformist Gideon Anderida

- Take a more practical view of Doctrine and Ethics.
- Concerned with the Day-To-Day running and organisation of the Church.
- Often seen as somewhat outsiders from the other Branches but are nonetheless loyal.



4.8 Karmists

Leader: Exarch Karmist Loreia Patel

- The Messiah/Emperor is inhabited by the Divine Soul.
- If you live a good life you will become one with the Divine Soul.
- Guides, not leaders.



4.9 Observers

Leader: Exarch Observer Julius Reid

- Non-interference above all.
- Church shall observe and admire God's creation.
- Many hermits and natural scientists.



4.10 Purists

Leader: Exarch Purist Solomon

- Believe in the Purity and Glory of Humanity
- The Emperor is the Pinnacle of Humanity
- Aliens are to be exterminated to make way for Humanity
- Synths have no Souls, and 'emotion' by a synth is a deception

5 List of Members

→ [Spreadsheet](#)

6 Public Relation to other Factions

7 List of canonical Facts

(All facts mentioned by our dear spacemaster adam)

- About God
 - God's pronouns are they / them
- About the Church
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