



ONE FAITH

ONE HUMANITY

ONE EMPIRE

On Matters Moral and the Alien Mind.

By Lector Conservative Hiroya Markshall

Endorsed by Exarch Purist Pelax

I write this treatise in the light of the number of people, both noble, freeman and serf, who have joined the philosophical movement of the so-called "Church of Humanity, Repentant", and the movement's endorsement by the seditionist corporate elements that hound our sector.

While any increase of interest in various matters spiritual can be seen as a positive development, this is likely to lead to an increase in the desire to reach out to the Alien elements that still inhabit remote corners of this sector. This is ill-advised at the best of times, and outright dangerous for the stability of our Empire in this time of unprecedented lack of Messianic leadership.

To look to the outside, we must look within, just as we must look to the past to see the future. From the fragments of a philosophical text of unknown pre-Scream provenance, the ability to understand and interact with the unknown mind is explored:

Suppose you came as an explorer to a country with a language quite unknown to you. In what circumstances would you say that the people there gave orders, understood them, obeyed them, rebelled against them, and so on?

Shared human behaviour is the system of reference by means of which we interpret an unknown language.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This document is not to have any out of character (OC) mechanical effect on the game. It is strictly to give the IC perspective of Markshall upon the Alien Question. The High Church of Messiah-as-Emperor does not wish to break apart the current bonds or functions of any of the aforementioned factions, but rather would like to play our part within this wonderful experiment that is Acheron Rho. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact your local High Church representative.

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If the Alien could speak, we could not understand it. Similarly, the shared Human experience of being made images of God, with undying souls, is the system of reference by means of which we interpret the universe. The Emperox is the perfect image of God in Creation, and is the Emperox not of Human form? This is also the basis of our morality, of Virtue and Vice.

What we call 'instructions', for example, or 'orders', 'questions', 'answer', 'describing' etc. is all bound up with very specific human actions and an order is only distinguishable as an order by means of the circumstances accompanying it.

Like the rest of language, all Virtue, and consequently all Vice, are bound to specific human actions – actions that are specifically human. God, through Their creed and the Emperox, has given the Human very specific instructions. Instructions that cannot be understood at the same time by both the Human and the Alien mind. Thus, when the Alien acts, it acts without any consideration of human virtues or accordance with the will of God.

In the annals of an itinerant Masoodite Priest from around the late reign of the Firekeeper, we find an account of a meeting with the Alien that can give us an idea of the Alien view of Humans and our place in the universe. They describe a shimmering aberration that simultaneously mimicked two recognisable members of the crew, some local geology, and their shuttle's exhaust port, complete with an adjustable vent. While attempting to understand the mind of the Alien is a fool's errand, this can give us a glimpse of its perception. The Alien did not see any difference between Human, nature and machine in its mimicry – no distinction between the souled and unsouled, living and dead. To it, the very image of God is no different than any other part of Creation.

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The Alien, like the Synthetic, is thus an entirely nihilistic being, in that it is capable of neither Virtue nor Vice in any form that would be recognisable to the Human. This is what makes it so insidious:

If we were to approach the Alien, we would not be able to communicate with it.

If we were to communicate with the Alien, we would not be able to understand it.

If we were to understand the Alien, we would have nothing to learn from it.

And finally, if we were to learn from the Alien, it could not be the lessons of God.

Ten blessings upon you all.

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