

[1] *Magic* (the art whereby *wizards*, historical and contemporary, hath flagrantly violated the laws that govern the world) is by *science*, as in many other things, so too thereby and therefore, verily in this imitated, that it can make an artificial enchantment, although no contemporary wizards, not even those of the Coast, have heretofore seen fit to do so. And *time*, too, while it stradeleth the line separating imitation (*science*, as I have set forth thus far) from the original (necessarily *magic*, for the notion that *science* might be at once both the imitation and the original being thus imitated is an offense to right reason), doth itself imitate *magic* and is itself imitated by *science*. For how would time move forward relentlessly, and forward only, if not by *magic*? And when physics models time in order to understand it, what is this model but an *imitation*? Just as *science* imitates both *time* and *magic*, so too does my writing imitate that of Mr. *Aaron Horton*, but also that of Mr. *Thomas Hobbes*. It has often been said, among others by the worthy Mr. Hobbes himself, that nature is imitated by the art of man. Just so is *profundity* imitated by *obfuscation*, and so too are the walls of a CITY (in Latin URBS) by the WALL OF TEXT I have constructed around this argument imitated; whereas the one protects against unwanted intrusion, the other resists unwanted comprehension. And it canst but be providential that my argument has led me to the city, for it is only in the city that by a healthy dose of each of art, magic, time, and obfuscation is created that great LEVIATHAN called the HOUSE COUNCIL, a beast truly as terrible as its inexplicably biblical namesake, which hath the power to waste the time of several dozen good men on a Thursday evening and frequently abuseth it.

[2] To describe the nature of this artificial, magical, temporal, and by this point thoroughly obfuscated man, I will consider

First, the *matter* thereof, and the *force* which hath created it, both of which is *confusion*. Secondly, *how* and by what *distractions* it is made; what *limits* doth the Council place on the sovereign's ability to *trample* the *constitution*, if the existence of such limits, of which we are not yet convinced, is in fact rationally demonstrated.

Thirdly, what is the form of the *House Council in Hitchcock*.

Lastly, what is the *kingdom of darkness*.

[3] With the latter question we can dispense right away (and thereby violate the order of argument I have promised (for *my argument* does not imitate *time* in its natural inclination to move relentlessly forward (though it should be noted that *parentheses* imitate *doors* in their natural inclination to close having been opened))) : the *kingdom of darkness* is that place known to some as MAX PALEVSKY, its vile denizens having painted it orange so as to better disguise the *darkness* within. Be not fooled.

Concerning the first two questions we must likewise make no remarks, for it is a LAW OF NATURE that man seeketh to preserve his own life above all else, and if this manuscript be not finished before the morrow, mine own life may be foreit to that same *Leviathan* I have taken it upon myself to describe. Consequently we shall move directly to the nature and form of the HOUSE COUNCIL OF HITCHCOCK.

[4] Nature hath made men so equal in the faculties of body and mind that, were the STATE OF NATURE prolonged indefinitely, life would surely be boring, for nobody would ever *win*. When they saw this, the people of Hitchcock convened and by COVENANT elected a SOVEREIGN, whom they called JORGONAUT, who would thence proceed to rule for TEN THOUSAND YEARS, and decree that the most important words in every sentence should be in SMALL CAPS.

The Jorgonaut's first act as sovereign was to *eat Bryce Lanham*, the only resident of Hitchcock who had dared express opposition to his regime. In this we can see the workings of a LAW OF NATURE, which commandeth that the strong shall devour the weak.

Furthermore, it is made manifest that there can be no breach of the covenant on the part of the sovereign, for although the Covenant drawn up by the people of Hitchcock did explicitly contain the law “*It is unjust to eat Bryce Lanham*,” any one who pretended a breach of this same covenant on the part of the Jorgonaut would then be eaten himself, and by NATURAL LAW, for any man to do anything that would cause himself to be eaten is itself unjust.

[5] Consequently, we see that the Jorgonaut is by NATURAL RIGHT guaranteed the ability to *trample* the same covenant on which his authority is predicated. The Jorgonaut demonstrated this in his second act as sovereign, wherein he *ate Austin Feller* for impeaching him for *having eaten Bryce Lanham*. The other part of the people kept silent during this process, lest they return to the confusion of a disunited multitude, and all the covenant have been for naught.

[6] And whereas Bryce had accomplished NOTHING as *Historian*, Austin had been a much beloved *At Large Representative*. Thus the people grieved much, although they could do naught, and sought to elect a worthy replacement. And since LEVI FOSTER is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and, above all, *short*, they chose a *tall* representative in the person of GRAHAM ALBACHTEN so that Levi’s less attractive qualities would be mitigated.

[7] LIBERTY, or FREEDOM, signifieth (properly) the absence of opposition (by opposition, I mean external impediments of motion), and consequently, the House Council of Hitchcock embodieth *the utmost of liberty*, for there was no *opposition* to the attempts of the TREASURER, SECRETARY, IHC REPRESENTATIVE, PSAC REPRESENTATIVE, HARC REPRESENTATIVE, BARTLETT REPRESENTATIVE, IM SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES, SECTION I REPRESENTATIVE, SECTION III REPRESENTATIVE, or SECTION V REPRESENTATIVE to retain the positions they presently hold. The opposition to the liberty of the CONDOM CZAR to retain her position was quashed.

Therefore no man can but admit the Sovereign’s infinite mercy in permitting his subjects the liberty to preserve the STATUS QUO (in Latin STATUS QUO), for otherwise they would necessarily return to the WAR OF ALL AGAINST ALL, and all would be summarily *eaten by the Jorgonaut*.

[8] The VICE PRESIDENT, SOCIAL CHAIRS, SECTION II REPRESENTATIVE, and SECTION IV REPRESENTATIVE were deemed traitors to the commonwealth, and their names blotted out of the Book of Records. All praised the infinite wisdom of the Jorgonaut.

[9] Whereupon, since neither custom nor testament hath legislated against it, and the monarch’s will being not averse, they constructed a PENIS OF SNOW upon the quadrangles, like as a testament to the rectitude of their commonwealth.