

THE HISTORY
OF THE REVOCANDA

Written by

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FOREWORD

The following is both an account and an explanation of the Revocanda – the great undertaking which restored the moongates to power. In this dissertation I shall do my utmost to convey how and why the Revocanda was enacted, but more importantly, I shall make a rough outline the methods we used to accomplish such a feat, as we have learned all too well that calamity is no stranger to our shores and we know not when our people might again have need of such knowledge.

It is, perhaps, one of the greatest honors of my small span of years that I had the opportunity to stand amongst the council which created this wonder – and I shall do my utmost to bear testament to our labors. We have wrought this work such that Britannia may still flourish despite its woes, and we entrust it to future generations that they might continue to rebuild what we have all lost.

Mica the Blue,
Disciple to Nicodemus

THE ORIGINAL MOONGATES

The blue moongates of old had their courses guided by Trammel and Felucca -the twin moons of our world- and they would open and close of their own power in accordance with the waxing and waning of these celestial bodies. During the high days of the Age of Enlightenment, similar doors of light could also be summoned at will through the use of rare devices known as Orbs of the Moons, and figures such as the Avatar and even our ageless sovereign, himself, would often conjure red-hued gates to allow them to travel where ere they wished. For much of our history, Britannia reaped innumerable blessings by virtue of both varieties of magical portals, and travel throughout the realm was greatly accelerated in comparison to that seen in other worlds.

Whilst their exact origins remain a topic yet shrouded in mystery, it hath been the consensus of scholars that the moongates were already firmly established in the lands of Sosaria during the age of Exodus, putting the earliest verifiable use of them some four centuries prior to their eventual destruction in 362. Their destruction was engineered by the machinations of the Guardian

and his followers, who built a monument of blackrock during the 340s to disrupt the functioning of the moongates. Whilst the Avatar of legend was able to dismantle this device during his last visitation to our world, the damage wrought by this artifact proved too great for the natural forces which maintained the moongates to continue their proper course. Upon the artifact's destruction, the moongates vanished from our plane.

THE YEARS OF THE IMBALANCE

Whilst the dissipation of the moongates was a blow to our kingdom, the calamities which followed their passing soon overshadowed it. The great earthquakes wrought by an event we now properly know to be termed the "Imbalance" did protracted damage to many settlements and left numerous people homeless. These tremors were followed soon after by dark and deadly plagues, which quite nearly destroyed the Gargish people and the gentle race of the forests known colloquially as "emps."

In the meantime, strange magically-birthered storms wracked the land - transposing all manner of objects with their bright prismatic lighting. Many people went missing during such occurrences: spirited away to places far from their homelands or simply disappearing as though into the ether itself. In the midst of one such storm, the Royal Mint of Britain was wrested in its entirety from the earth, and was replaced with a strange lighthouse of foreign design. Following this incident, much of the gold bullion in the kingdom's reserves was lost, leading to widespread economic troubles as

virtually all notes of royal credit became worthless overnight.

In these dark days of upheaval, little attention could be paid to the loss of the moongates by most wizards of the realm - as the need for their attentions elsewhere was most pressing. Although Nystul, royal magician to Lord British, devoted some brief attention to the riddle of the gates during these years, the storms interfered greatly with his attempts to study the matter in great detail. It was only after the closing of this sad chapter in our history that we discovered the loss of what had once been the seat of the moongate's power: the moonstones.

The existence of these stones is something few commoners hath had knowledge of - and even in the days of the Avatar's journeys most of the populace was unaware of them. Despite having havened in the same locations for nearly half a millennium, it turns out that the moongates of old were not tied to the earth beneath them, but rather to eight specific magical stones which laid buried in the soil. It was said that the Avatar -in times of need- would extract such moonstones from the ground and move them about temporarily to suit the

needs of his questing, creating moongates wherever the hero deposited them.

While many of the great magicians of the age knew of this secret, it was not in their power to save all of the moonstones in the wake of the teleportation storms – as these violent disturbances had a frustrating proclivity for striking objects of import regardless of where they might be. As it was not known if the stones could ever be put to use again, their preservation was not a priority – and in the these years it thus came to pass that fully half of these stones were lost to us: replaced with useless articles where once they lay buried.

THE BIRTH OF THE REVOCANDA

Once the worst of the imbalance had passed and Britannia had set her sights on reconstruction, Nystul was at last able to turn his attentions to the functioning of the gates, and with Lord British's approval, he organized an informal council to investigate the possibility of their restoration. His two chief allies in this undertaking wouldst come to be Mariah, the famed companion of the Avatar who for many years number amongst the most prominent scholars of the Lycaeum, and Nicodemus, the great mage of the Yewian forests who founded the Order of the Blue Star.

My own birth fell close to this project's official beginning in the year 369, and as I had the honor of serving as apprentice to Nicodemus, it has been my privilege to grow up alongside it. Of the earliest years of the Revocanda, of course, I have little personal knowledge - as my primary pursuits at such an age were feeding livestock, chopping wood and occasionally standing in for a missing Knight's Bridge piece - but I have been told that progress was very slow for the first decade and a half of the undertaking.

Initial inquiries into the functioning of the moongates focused on the last remaining Orb of the Moons, which was gifted to Nystul by the Gargish King, Draxinusom. The emissary delivering it, Betxenling, rapidly became a regular contributor to the project, and had -in fact- been sent by Draxinusom in the hopes that his unique outlook on the world could help foster new ideas as to how best to recover the moongates.

When Lord British, a noted master in the use of such orbs, was unable to produce any effect from manipulating it, Nystul delved into the possibility that creating different ethereal environments for it to operate in might yield some results, and devoted numerous years to creating controlled magical spaces in the hopes that he might find some correct configuration of the etheric waves to wring life out of the seemingly dead orb. Such pursuits involved a fair amount of the magically inert mineral blackrock, - which was at the time being extensively mined once more in the remnants of the Dungeon Covetous - its use in teleportative magic having been discovered in the early fourth century. Sadly, these early efforts would end in frustration, and Nystul was able to do naught to restore

the gates through these machinations. (Covetous itself has since suffered an unexpected tragedy and blackrock mining is no longer feasible there, although there are pens better able than mine to write of that sad affair.)

THE RECOVERY OF THE MOONSTONES

Maríah, in the meantime, began a more active inquiry into relocating the moonstones which had been lost to the storms, trying as best she could to discern where the transposed stones might be from the items which had been left behind in their stead.

Her journeys to find these artifacts spanned the course of several years, as some of the stones were to be found in hard to reach locales - buried beneath the great sea or mired in the heart of goblin-held lands. Her adventures in the land during this time hath been recorded well in her own travelogues, which I recommend to any who wish to know of them more intimately - they are a wonderful read! I, however, will simply state all of the moonstones were ultimately recovered by Maríah's hand, as I cannot hope to better relay her tale better than she already has herself.

OUR FIRST SUCCESS

Whilst Mariah trekked after the moonstones, my mentor offered his services to Nystul in assisting his study of the Orb of the Moons - hoping that a fresh pair of eyes would yield some insight into the matter. He learned that Nystul had determined that the etheric waves which govern traditional spellweaving were different in nature and shape than those which had once governed the moongates and those which dictated the mystic workings of the shrines - and that many of the old mage's failed experiments had been attempts to recreate the wave-patterns which had once allowed the gates to function.

Nicodemus, whilst he admired Nystul's cosmological discovery, felt that his fellow wizard had become too attached to restoring the moongates as they were, and proffered the idea that the Orb may be "retrained" to function according to different ethereal rules - similar to those which governed the spells of the higher circles of magic. He proposed that the Orb be subjected to experiments in which it was permeated with dense magical energy, such as that it might be "re-calibrated" to function on a different ethereal wavelength. (In

simpler terms, he wanted to put the artifact in a warded circle and effectively "hit it until it worked right" using higher circle incendiary spells)

Betxenling, however, was adamant that his liege's possession not be destroyed in the process of examining it, leaving my master to seeketh alternative avenues through which to test his theories. To this end, he crafted (and at times had me craft) facsimile orbs made of specially prepared blackrock, in the hopes of finding a correct way to magically charge them which could then be applied to the original Orb.

What results we had with our first year of experiments were... less than impressive, although we did eventually manage to reliably reproduce the results which Rudyom had accidentally wrought with his famed transmutation wand. As blackrock had become something of a rarity by this time, our progress was also frequently hindered by our finances, and I have less than fond memories of having to smash apart a large teleportation pedestal obtained from an abandoned manor that we might have more raw materials. What money we didn't spend on blackrock, we eventually put toward retaining the services of a young man known

as Yavon, who specialized in taming and breeding giant rats. We used such animals for the purposes of testing "risky" warding configurations, and did come to be quite glad at the time that it was these beasts and not us who faced the wrath of miscalibrated spellcraft.

It was in the Spring of 392 that we had our first major breakthrough, and we would be greatly surprised at how great a step was made with our discovery. One morning, I came to the root cellar to re-bottle some tinctures and found my mentor there - laughing uproariously. Before him, in a small circle of runes, stood a white shimmering portal. It was the first moongate I had ever seen.

Jubilant at the success, I quickly followed his enthused orders to fetch a rat - moving in a frenzy as I feared the gate might close at any minute. Whilst the animal tragically did not survive its journey through the gateway, a good portion of it was later recovered from a small meadow some twelve ells distant. This demonstrable teleportation not only vindicated Nicodemus' theories, but also gave exciting evidence that artificial Orbs of the Moons could be created. The entire council of the Revocanda was ecstatic upon

hearing word. (although poor Yavon was somewhat embittered by the event, as I had mistakenly grabbed one of his favorite breeding does in my haste to procure a specimen) Our labors had at last borne fruit!

THE STONES OF VIRTUE

The lethal white moongate produced by Nicodemus, however, was still far removed from the results we desired. Whilst my master and I did go on to repeat the experiment with other replica orbs (and less beloved rats), Nystul and Betxenling turned their attentions to studying the properties of the recovered moonstones which Mariah sent them, seeking to find a way to connect the workings of the new orbs to these artifacts.

Eventually, Nystul was able to determine how the lines of power hadst once flowed through the moonstones, although how to revivify them such as they might work with Nicodemus' orbs was a puzzle seemingly without answer.

After pursuing numerous dead ends in an attempt to link the two artifacts, the group didst turn their attentions to yet another set of magical stones – the Stones of Virtue. These eight relics date back to the earliest days of the Enlightenment, and were said to have been retrieved by the Avatar and his company from the great dungeons of the realm. Each one doth represent one of our cherished Britannian virtues, and

were once used in the various rituals needed to penetrate the Abyss itself.

Our interest in these stones was twofold. Firstly, we sought them as magicians of later ages had been able to devise teleportative spells involving them - Kal Por Ylem and Kal Ort Por (better known as "Mark" and "Recall"). Secondly, because of their association with the Eight Virtues, it was theorized that such stones might utilize etheric wavelengths similar to those employed by the shrines, and that this property might enable them to serve as a substitute for the defunct moonstones.

Much to our frustration, however, our initial experiments with the virtue stones yielded no better results than those with the moonstones. Betxenling (perhaps still somewhat ruffled by Nicodemus' early intentions for Draxinusom's orb) suggested that it may be possible to create an amalgam of the two stones and thereby capture each of their desirable properties - although the Britannians of the group were understandably loathe to risk destroying sixteen such artifacts on the basis of a hypothesis. For nearly five long years, our efforts to discover a means of evading such a madcap experiment failed - and it was only

when desperation forced our hand that the Revocanda would again move forward.

THE HORSE PLAGUE AND THE CREATION OF THE FIRST UNITY STONE

When the new plagues brought about by the foul creeper seed first touched the emps of the northern woods, the mages of Britannia prepared for the worst, as many of them well remembered the Sleeping Death brought by the Imbalance. Whilst other cabals worked tirelessly to find a cure, our little group grew increasingly alarmed, listening attentively as heralds brought news of the disease spreading to horses.

Whilst early instances of equine creeper plague were largely confined to wild herds near Bloody Plains, we knew all too well the chaos that wouldst ensue should Britannia's horses be struck down with disease. With increased piracy hampering sea travel, much of the populace had come to rely heavily on equine conveyance for most travel on the mainland, and ostlers and stablemen had been working to breed large enough stocks to keep up with the new demand. Should these beasts of burden fall to plague without any alternative method of transport, it would grimly follow that much of the kingdom's recovering commerce and industry could be hamstrung. Many predicted that famine

would be imminent at the very least - if not full scale technological collapse.

In light of this development, the council agreed to let Betxenling attempt to "join" the moonstone and virtue stone associated with Britain. The capital stood chief amongst the cities of the mainlands and was already accessible via a harbor, and thus it was judged that if its associated artifacts were destroyed, its moongate would be an "acceptable" loss.

Betxenling, a most devout disciple of Benintas (or Precision), spent several months in secluded study of the two artifacts - whilst the rest of us watched with trepidation as the plague spread to domesticated steppe horses. Using tools delicate enough to embroider one's name on a gnat's wing, the great artificer worked over a series of seven nights to bind the stones together - linking each ethereal meridian to its most favorable counterpart until magic flowed between the two as though they were one. I know not all the particulars of how he accomplished this wonder, but I am currently working with him on a text which he hopes will explain the basic principles behind it.

Much to our great relief and joy, Nystul confirmed that the resultant prílap (called a "unity stone" in the human tongue) contained all the properties of both the virtue stone and the moonstone. Several days later, we were exhilarated to learn that Betxenling's theory had been correct, and that Nicodemus' white moongates consistently deposited their travelers to the site of the newly forged unity stone.

CRAFTING THE FINAL RITUAL

Despite this breakthrough, the council of the Revocanda was still far from creating a functional system of portals. Whilst we had all the most basic building blocks necessary to restore Britannia's transit system, we were continually frustrated by our inability to weave them together in such a way that was not fatal to Yavon's livestock - and therefore presumably to human and Gargish travelers. We also lacked a consistent means of directing the energies which flowed through our newly made artifacts. Once Betxenling crafted additional unity stones, we found to our consternation that the white gates would continually deposit their cargo at whatever prilap was nearest - despite Lord British's best efforts to coax Nicodemus' orbs into conjuring gates specific to set locations.

It was at this point that I, now no longer an apprentice, finally had my opportunity to contribute to the Revocanda's completion. Having become an assistant librarian at the vaunted Lycaenum, I had embarked on a somewhat ambitious personal project to archive some of the keep's more esoteric texts - although I readily confess that this was something of a pretense that I

might gain access to some otherwise hard to obtain materials.

In one of my many long nights spent copying such ancient writs in the scriptorium, I stumbled upon a fragile and crumbling edition of the Prophecies of Alizarkanon. In transcribing it, I was stunned to find an additional chapter in the grimoire not found in any modern copies of the text. In this lost series of proverbs, the sage speaks in so many flowery words of the flow of "quintessential light" along ley lines, within sacred sites and in the various motions of the celestial bodies.

Recognizing immediately that the prophet was describing Nystul's "newfound" theories of etheric wavelengths, I read on, and to my delight found references within the text indicating that the ancients hadst known not only about the different qualities of the ether, but that they had developed rituals which could "marry" such energies to one another to create new forms of functional magic.

I quite nearly paddled across the Bay of Truth in a skiff that night to get the tome to Britain, although my husband convinced me to reluctantly wait until the

next ship arrived in Moonglow. A month later, just as the first signs of creeper plague hadst shown themselves in Lord Mattia's warhorses, Nystul had the book in his hands. By midwinter of that year a solution to our puzzle had been devised.

The members of our band gathered themselves and the completed unity stones and together we embarked on the final ritual to finish the Revocanda on the 5th day of the 12th month of the year 399. It is not for me to reveal further particulars of the rite, but Nystul holds safe a writ describing it should it ever again be needed, and I am at liberty to mark that Lord British was involved in our conjurations, making use of his unimaginable powers that we might access the Shrine of Spirituality, which lies in the void itself and had been cut off from the mainland for decades.

After nearly eighteen hours of working our magic, the etheric union was correctly channeled through the eight stones. Yavon, for the first time in his transactions with us, had a rat returned to him alive that night.

After numerous other tests confirmed the new gates - which were violet in hue- to be both safe and

controllable, we contracted workers to help us rebury the stones at sites approximating their original positions. My former master thereafter set to placing a variety of potent magical protections on the newly installed prilap, using the services of a strange magician living in the Yewian wilderness whose father had apparently instructed her extensively in the art of warding. We wished to ensure that none disturb the unity stones from their fixed sites, given the delicacy of Betxenling's artifice.

At the dawn of 400, our preparations were complete. Each member of the group, much to their delight, was able to return to their homelands through the powers of a restored moongate, and Lord British's criers soon spread word throughout the land of our success.

SOME NOTES ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NEW MOONGATES

Calling these purple portals "moongates" is possibly something of a misnomer, as they are no longer connected to the celestial forces of the moons. These new moongates are powered both by the energies imbued in Nicodemus' mystically charged blackrock orbs and by the powers connected to the eight mystic shrines of the realm. The unity stones, whilst marvels to behold, are but conduits for these vital forces, channeling them such as that gates may manifest at their location.

It is due to the new moongates' connection to the shrines that it is necessary to intone the appropriate mantra when attempting to travel to a city, as the power of the orb is only sufficient to invoke the energies needed to create a gate - and is insufficient to direct them. When thou callest upon the vitality of an affiliated shrine by its mantra, thou art able to "home in" on the associated components of the appropriate virtue stone, thereby targeting the correct gate.

Whilst these new moongates have since become a standard means of travel in Britannia, especially with

the ongoing nuisance of pirates on the seas, it should be noted that there still lies the possibility that such moongates outside of those established may be summoned by other means - as is exemplified in Lord British's ability to conjure a "traditional" gate through the sorcerous manipulation of the Moons themselves.

ADDENDUM: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

It is with a heavy heart that I pen these last few words, as they bear sad witness to events which have rendered our labors forfeit. It appeareth that with the desecration of the shrines, the new moongates can no longer function as they ought, having been cut off from their secondary source of power. What few of my former master's creations may still be found shatter and break in the hands of those who attempt to use them, and I fear that soon no viable orbs shall remain.