



SIMON & SIMON

OBSERVERSE INTELLIGENCE &
PATENT PROTECTION

A SUBSIDIARY OF GALACTIC DODECAHEDRON, LLC

TOP SECRET
EYES ONLY

SUBJECT: (U) LCGT: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ISSUED BY: SIMON & SIMON - OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE

CASE: LAST CALL **CONTROL:** TS-LAST_CALL-GT00

TO: THE CLIENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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DISTRIBUTION: The client (Office of the President, Galactic Federation - the Strongarm administration). Commissioned under President Zeal Strongarm; the file passes with the office. Further distribution is prohibited unless approved by the sitting President, provided there are no visible signs of coercion to the client. Blinking twice is the agreed signal.

BLUF. This file defines the markings, the parties, and the terms a reader meets across the Last Call file. It exists so the client never has to guess what Simon & Simon mean by a word.

Simon & Simon mean exactly what they write. This file is the proof of it.

(U) 1. HOW TO READ THIS FILE

(U) PORTION MARKS - Every paragraph and subject line carries one of four: (U), (C), (S), or (TS). The mark does not measure how secret a thing is. It measures how much the Federation would prefer Earth not read it.

(U) UNCLASSIFIED (U) - Routine to the Federation. Note that Earth's removal is filed here, because to the Federation it is ordinary bookkeeping.

(U) CONFIDENTIAL (C) - Low-stakes observation. Life on Earth is filed here.

(U) SECRET (S) - Sensitive lore: how the universe works, who is watching, and how they measure.

Classified By: GD-S&S / Z. STARDUST (FOUNDER)
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(U) TOP SECRET (TS) - The threat, the capital's hidden identity, the method for altering reality, and the bottle.

(U) TOP SECRET // EYES ONLY - The stamp in the upper-right of every page. EYES ONLY is a handling caveat: the named recipient reads the file, and no one else does.

(U) BLUF - Bottom Line Up Front. The conclusion, placed first, for the reader who will not reach the end. Simon & Simon have met that reader.

(U) DOOM-SCROLL SUMMARY - The situation estimate's branded BLUF. The part a world reads if it reads nothing else, which is the part most worlds read.

(U) CONTROL - The file's serial number. It appears in the header and on every page footer, so a loose page can always be returned to its file.

(U) DISTRIBUTION - Who may hold the file. The client only; onward distribution requires the sitting President's approval, provided there are no visible signs of coercion to the client. Blinking twice is the agreed signal.

(U) RECEIVED - The lower-right stamp. It records the Earth date the file entered the client's hands.

(U) CLASSIFIED BY / DERIVED FROM / DECLASSIFY ON - The authority block in the page-one footer. It names who made the file, where the contents came from, and the date the file may be opened to the wider Federation.

(S) 2. THE FIRM, THE CLIENT, AND THE TRUTH

(S) SIMON & SIMON (S&S) - The firm that prepares these files. Two robots. Full name: Simon & Simon, Obverse Intelligence & Patent Protection, a subsidiary of Galactic Dodecahedron, LLC. They do not look, and they do not forecast. They read what is already true.

(S) OBSERVERSE INTELLIGENCE - The firm's primary service: the reading and reporting of what is true. Patent Protection is the secondary service, performed part-time.

(S) GALACTIC DODECAHEDRON, LLC - The parent company that owns Simon &

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Simon. Owned in turn by the Stardust Family Trust.

(S) THE CLIENT - The Office of the President of the Galactic Federation, currently the Strongarm administration. The file is the client's property and passes with the office, not the person.

(S) GALACTIC FEDERATION - The galactic government. It keeps a running inventory of every planet and grades each one by Alpha.

(S) PRESIDENT ZEAL STRONGARM - The sitting President of the Galactic Federation, and the party who commissioned this file.

(S) ZIGMUND STARDUST - Founder and inventor of Simon & Simon; son of the psychic Zora Stardust. His reach into the fabric of reality comes from his invention, not from any gift of his own.

(S) "THE Wiz-kid Extraordinaire" - A title formally conferred on Zigmund Stardust by the galactic press. It is used in these files because it is, regrettably, accurate.

(S) TRUTH (capital T) - A finding both Simons confirm independently, on separate threads of reality. Lowercase "truth" is partial. "Truth" in quotation marks is, for the firm's purposes, a lie.

(S) **3. HOW A WORLD IS MEASURED**

(S) ALPHA - A planet's awareness rating: how much of reality it can take in, across space and time. It is not a measure of cleverness, kindness, or cuisine. Earth ranks dead last.

(S) GALACTIC CENSUS - The Federation's inventory of every planet. Each Galactic year, every planet on the Census is graded with an Alpha.

(S) OFF SQUARE - A world's perspective, measured as the angle it stands away from square. A world that stands square takes in nearly all of reality. Earth stands 5.54 degrees off square.

(S) THE DRAIN LINE - The angle, 4.2 degrees off square, past which a world is considered to be circling the drain. Earth is past it.

(S) THE TELESCOPES - Instruments on Planet X that read a world's Alpha as numbers. Precise and tireless. They detect; they do not forecast.

(S) THE TWELVE - Twelve psychics on Planet X who feel a world's Alpha as sound and color, and feel where it is going. They are never wrong, only certain or uncertain.

(S) GALACTIC EMPATHY - What a psychic actually feels: not a world's Alpha, but the distance between that world's Alpha and the psychic's own. No conscious entity can stand in another's exact place unless they are them.

(S) THE WEATHER - The Twelve's term for disagreement among their readings. They do not call a split reading wrong. They call it the weather.

(S) THE INTERVALS - Eleven of the Twelve, who measure from the twelfth. The twelfth is the note they lean toward, and the place a chord goes when it lands.

(S) ZORA STARDUST - The twelfth psychic, and the reference every other reading leans on. She stands the most square, and the galaxy measures itself by how far it sits from her. Mother of Zigmund Stardust.

(S) THE "WOW!" - A Xeonian unity-moment: the heart's emission at roughly 1420 MHz when a single photograph gives up everything it holds. Earth's instruments have caught it. "Wow!" is Xeon's favorite word.

(TS) 4. THE THREAT AND THE CASE

(TS) THE TUG - The pull a failing world exerts on the galaxy. Picked up by telescopes and psychics alike. Earth's tug is small, but real.

(TS) THE 42 - The forty-two failing worlds whose combined tug, at full count, becomes an unstoppable slide into collapse. The number does not scale with the size of the galaxy; the threshold is always forty-two. Earth, being faintest, is the first domino.

(TS) THE BUTHOLE (one T) - The end state of a world or galaxy whose Alpha falls to near zero: barely alive, busy, and going in circles to nowhere. It is not a black hole. The Federation removed one T so the worst outcome could not borrow the warmth of a beloved word.

(TS) DARK MATTER - Erased worlds, seen from outside. It reads on instruments as a faint pink smudge beside an outline of what was, as

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though a planet were erased with a pencil. Earth has found it, and named it, but not understood the amount of it.

(TS) XEON / PLANET X - The capital of the galaxy, next door to Earth and sharing Earth's star. Rated phi, 1.618 degrees off square. Earth's astronomers have detected it and named it Planet X without realizing it is the capital, the watcher, and the neighbor.

(TS) BROWN DWARF - The dead star at the cold back of Xeon's system. It warms Xeon's life and bends local spacetime into the calm, wide condition the highest minds prefer.

(TS) THE PRIME DIRECTIVE - The Federation's policy of non-interference with Earth. It is policy, not physics, which is why the rogue factions break it, and why removal remains an option.

(TS) TIME TRAVEL / VARIANCE - Altering a world's timeline is possible only where the picture has not yet developed, and only with sufficient care. Variance is the margin between a correction that holds and one that ends the galaxy on the spot. The term was chosen because no one likes the word variance.

(TS) HAIL MARY - Earth's name for an act of God thrown in desperation. The plan, to the extent there is one, requires at least one, probably two, and ideally three in a row.

(TS) CIRCLING THE DRAIN - The shared verdict of telescopes, psychics, and robots on Earth's current condition.

(TS) THE PURPLE BOTTLE - The object at the center of the unresolved vision. Present, but mute. It does not appear to have been manufactured. The Twelve are unanimous that it exists, and that it is purple.

(TS) THE GREEN BOTTLE - A second bottle at the edge of the vision. Where the purple is silent, the green carries something: a voice, manly and politely arrogant, that the Twelve can almost hear and decline to transcribe. It resonates with Zora Stardust most deeply.

- END LCGT -