

BALTHAZAR THE TORMENTED THE CARTOGRAPHER

The daemon known in whispered tomes as Balthazar is unique amongst the denizens of the Crystalline Labyrinth. Created out of spite, the cunning and intellect of a Lord of Change is magnified threefold, the hubris result of an unnamed trio of Exalted Sorcerers and one of Tzeench's most foreboding spells.

The Canticle of Causality is but one of Tzeench's uncountable spells and illusions, yet one even the god himself risks damnation in doing so. Mastery of this power requires mastery of one's own soul and understanding of one's place in the universe. Of which sorcerer was lacking no one knows, what was known however was the shattering of time and space across a colossal region of the heavens.

Billions of souls of all species, human, daemon and xenos were condemned by this err in focus. Some repeat their last day on a continual loop, others find themselves aging in reverse, while the unluckiest ones are simply frozen, fully aware of time passing before them yet unable to act.

The echoes of the Canticle rang sharply throughout the Labyrinth, with Tzeench's ire quickly falling upon the trio. In a blessing-cum-curse, the sorcerers were bound into a single Lord of Change, each head unable to understand the babbling neuroses of the other two, convinced they were not to blame for the cataclysm that followed.



Yet while Tzeench looked upon his new creation with disgust, he felt pride in what he had created. The mental anguish of his new creation was a thin veil over its potential. With this, he presented Balthazar with a single task; to scour the galaxy and discover the means to perfect the Canticle of Causality. Wherever a true test of Balthazar's abilities or a fools errand only Tzeench himself will know.

<225.102.M55(?)_ERR>>>
<EXERPT FROM INQUISITOR ELIAS GOERTTMUND>

<PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM SURFACE INDICATES MASSIVE TEMPORAL UPHEVAL ORIGINATING FROM A SINGLE POINT APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES BELOW GROUND (COORDINATES ENCLOSED). LOCAL CHRONOMETERS UNRELIABLE AT THIS TIME.>

<GLOBAL POPULATION APPEARS TO BE AFFECTED BY WHAT I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS REVERSE AGING. POPULATION CENTRES CLOSER TO THE ANOMALY SHOW ACCELERATED EFFECTS, WITH SEVERAL SPECIMENS REJUVENATING OVER 10 YEARS WITHIN ONE SOLAR WEEK.>

<NO EVIDENCE OF RECENT XENOS OR DAEMONIC ACTIVITY.>

<EVIDENCE POINTS TOWARDS XENOS TECHNOLOGY (NECRON?) ALTHOUGH FURTHER STUDY WILL BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE FULL EXTENT OF ANOMALY.>

<<<TRANSCRIPT ENDS_445.109.M56(?)_ERR>

THE CARTOGRAPHERS' STAFF

Despite his displeasure, Tzeench saw fit to bless Balthazar with the Cartographers' Staff, based in appearance to the Staff of Tomorrow wielded by the faithful Kairos Fateweaver. Where the tome wielded by Kairos contains the past and future however, the staff borne by Balthazar contains, simply put, a map of all known regions of the galaxy. Every sheet of parchment within the impossibly-numerous pages is a gateway to a new corner of existence in a seemingly random order.

It is through these pages that Balthazar navigates the void, eschewing the Warp in search of the missing pieces of the Canticle. In battle Balthazar will not hesitate to create a portal of the battlefield itself and select an unlucky participant. Such an individual will find their very soul scattered across all pages of the staff, and all planes of existence as a result.

