

Handbook

For Level I Members

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Introduction

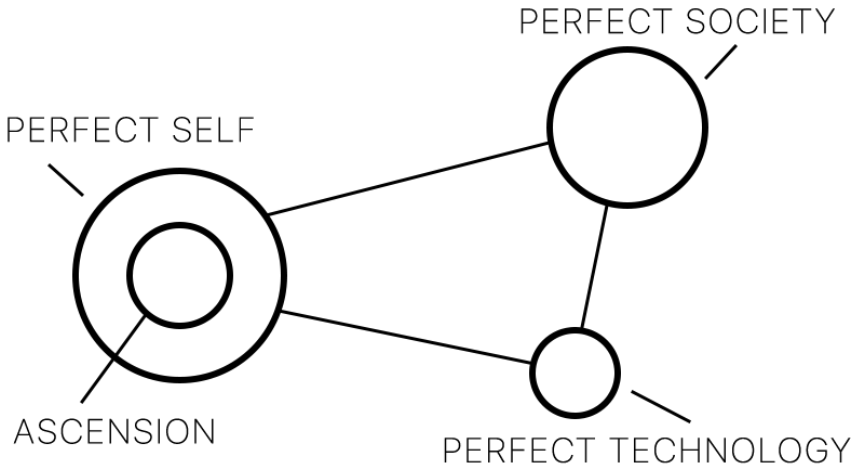
Welcome, new Family Member! You may have a few questions. For the sake of timeliness, we will try to answer these as quickly as possible on this introductory page, but as you probably know, each of these has layers upon layers of answers, some of which will become clearer to you as you progress through Family Life and rise in the Family Ranks.

What is our purpose?

The short answer is: to improve humanity. The medium-length answer is: to create a tight-knit, open-minded community that functions on multiple levels to use both formal and informal methods to research how we can simultaneously make life better for those currently living, and how to forge a path into the next phase of human existence so that we are ready when we get there.

How do we do this?

We can generally categorize everything we do into three categories: Perfect Technology, Perfect Society, and Perfect Self.



This diagram is used to visually conceptualize the relationship between the Family's goals. Perfect Society and Perfect Technology, while separate areas, primarily serve to enable the success of Perfect Self, which contains the key to Ascension.

Perfect Society

Friends, family, confidants, tutors, therapists... there's never been a family quite like the Vanderstank Family. Relationships made between Vanderstank members are forever. We are always working to craft the Family into the most perfect example of what a society can be, with none of its drawbacks. The Family's internal structure has morphed and evolved over the years as we create new and better ways of understanding and looking out for each other, but we believe its current ranking system embodies the best of what we've learned in our current incarnation.

Level I: ATOMS

New members join the **ATOMS**, or Aviatrical Troupe of Moist Strangers. Formerly known as VACROs during the Vanderstank Industries era, ATOMS' primary role is to recruit and learn, learn and pray, pray and recruit, recruit and learn. Since so many ATOMS leave the Family prematurely, they receive no pay and have limited access to classified documents and certain VOS apps. ATOMS are strictly forbidden from visiting the third or sixth floors of the Church. ATOMS can be identified via a gray ring around their profile picture wherever it appears.

Level II: COGS

ATOMS that complete the necessary tasks and impress the Family Elders may request promotion to **COGS**, or Caroline's Order of Gifted Scions, which brings with it a number of benefits including but not limited to:

- Weekly pay of 0.06 VC
- Free article of Family clothing of their choice
- Access to more apps on VOS
- Access to Level II classified documents that better explain the background and true mission of the Family
- Access to the third and sixth floors of the Church
- Permission to consume Starform at in-person events
- Increased credibility if accused via HUBRIS¹

COGS may be identified by a red ring around their profile picture.

Level III: GODHEADS

Those most promising COGS, if they continue to loyally serve the Family's mission, may finally be promoted to **GODHEADS**, or the Golden Oak Diocese of Her Extremely Abstract Divine Science, who are entrusted with important Family decisions, event

¹ The Heretical and Unethical Behavior Reporting and Informing System (HUBRIS) was introduced in 2020 as a new method of keeping the Family pure by encouraging members to report other members at the first sign of heresy or disloyalty. Members can report other members using the HUBRIS app on VanderstankOS 336.9 (see *Perfect Technology*)

planning, and more. GODHEADS may be appointed one or more ceremonial titles (see below) and earn a number of other benefits including:

- Weekly pay of 0.36 VC
- Access to all VOS apps
- Access to all classified documents
- Access to all areas of the Church including hidden regions
- May monitor the activity of other members
- Extreme credibility if accused via HUBRIS
- May apply for a spot on the Reality Advisory Board

GODHEADS may be identified by a gold ring around their profile picture.

Reality Advisory Board

The top few GODHEADS that have the final say in all Family decisions sit on the **Reality Advisory Board**, which determines the Family's current understanding of the Real and the Imaginary², and thus the direction of the Family Mission. No more than ten members are permitted to sit on the Board at one time.

Grand Overlord

The Reality Advisory Board answers only to the **Grand Overlord**. The Grand Overlord serves an indefinite term, and is appointed by the previous Grand Overlord should they choose to step down. In

² See *The Church of Vanderstank*

an effort to shield the Grand Overlord from internal Family politics and promote the incubation of a singularly focused Family vision, the Grand Overlord rarely communicates with the Family and maintains a certain distance from internal goings-on except when specifically called upon.

The Grand Overlord at the time of this publication is V0440 Chiara Bluebird. V0440 took the reins from V0001, who served as the first Grand Overlord of the Family's current incarnation from its rebirth in 2012 to the collapse of the Vanderstank Industries project in 2018. The Grand Overlord does not have a prescribed salary, since they have unrestricted access to all existing Vandercoin in the Vanderconomy³ at any given time.

Other Badges and Titles

Higher-ranking members may stand out from the crowd via the appointment of one or more **Ceremonial Titles** crafted by the Church to match that member's unique personality and skillset. These currently include but are not limited to Billyfish General, Grand Tinkerer, Supreme Starlighter, Grand Playjax, Grand Herbologist, Light and Dark Priestesses, Consciousness Streamwizard, and Court Mathemagician. These titles often signify a specific role in Family Elder meetings and rituals.

³ See *Perfect Technology*

Although the use of **Badges** has reduced greatly since previous family initiatives, four of them are still given out by the Church on occasion: the Iron, Pearl, Blue, and Green badges. The meaningfulness and associated benefits of these badges are revealed only to those whom they are bestowed upon. These badges can be identified via a second colored ring around one's profile picture.

How do I advance?

While the specific requirements for each rank evolve over time as the Family itself grows and evolves, they generally follow these guidelines. Consult with a Family Elder if you believe you've fulfilled all of these tasks:

1. **Good Reputation** - Family Reputation is a number from 0-100 assigned to you by the Church that may change over time based on your actions. You can view this number on your profile page at any time.
2. **Good grades** at the Vanderstank Institute, generally at least a C+ average upon completion of the ATOMS quizzes.
3. **No debt** - Any Vandercoin debts must either be paid off via earning more VC or by devising a spiritual debt repayment option with the Church.
4. **Evangelism** - You must craft a project of some type that uses a unique talent of yours to spread the good word of the Vanderstank Family. This can be art, literature, music,

a video, a social media campaign, or anything else that fits your particular skillset.

5. **VanderSelf** - You must submit some form of proof of your adherence to the VanderSelf lifestyle regimen⁴.
6. **One recruit** - you must recruit at least one new Family member who stays active long-term.

While today's lower Family ranks are designed to work seamlessly as a remote, internet-only experience, please note that Level III (GODHEADS) and other higher-level awards and badges do require some level of in-person interaction. Consult a Family Elder to determine your nearest physical Vanderstank headquarters.

A note about sects

Over time, several unauthorized Family sects have been created by rogue Family members, including but not limited to the **Ordo Specialem Filiem Vicenzae** and the **Vanderstank Industrial Brotherhood**. Many of these sects prey on newly recruited Family members in order to fill their ranks. We wish to make it clear from the start that these sects are **not** endorsed by the Church, and membership in them is grounds for termination or correction.

Cheerio and best of luck!

⁴ See *Perfect Self*

Perfect Technology

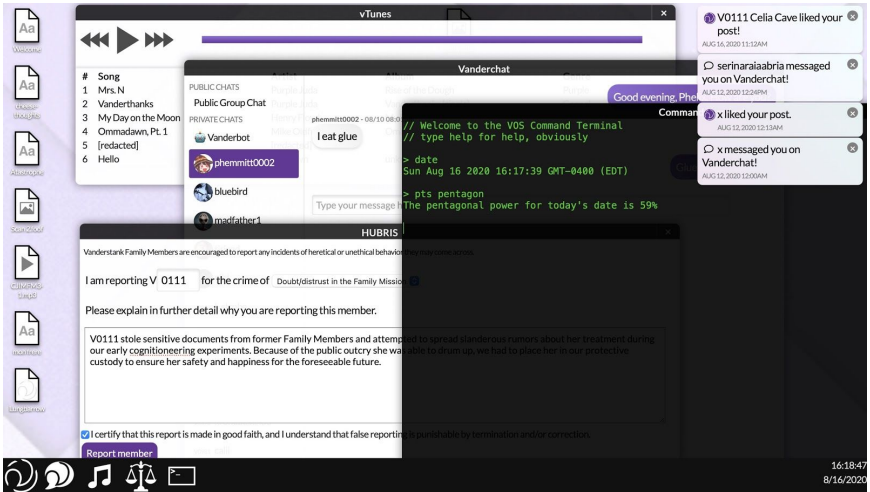
Just as mankind has moved ever forward by harnessing fire, the wheel, and electricity, so now it is our sacred duty to lead humankind into the future via the use of our most powerful tool: technology.



VanderstankOS

In our quest for Perfect Technology, we created our own free, lightweight computer OS called VanderstankOS, commonly referred to as VOS. VOS was originally created to host sensitive research material and ensure secure communication between the Elders, but over time it expanded to become the center of every Family Member's online experience. Deeply integrated with the Vanderstank Family database, every member automatically has their own account with the correct permissions according to their rank. The OS now includes countless themes and other ways to customize your experience. As of VOS 336.9, an ever-expanding

App Store even allows members to create their own apps to complement the existing suite of built-in apps.



VanderstankOS notably includes its own decentralized “parallel internet” called the **Vandernet**, which is essentially a brand-new “blank slate” internet where today’s corporate web giants never existed. Addresses like amazon.com and facebook.com that were claimed on the “old internet” long ago are now free and open for any member to claim and use on the Vandernet⁵. While the Vandernet is still only a few years old, it is already quickly growing into a better, funner, safer, free-er new Internet to replace the smoldering remains of the “traditional internet” we grew up

⁵ Actually, those two particular examples have already been taken: **amazon.com** claimed by member V0718 as a single-page website with pictures of pretty animals from the Amazon rainforest, and **facebook.com** as a redirect to the Family’s new social network Vanderbook.

with. A large number of highly customized, Vandernet-only social networks like **Vanderbook** and **Chumblr** take the place of more poisonous websites on the “old internet” like Facebook.⁶

Apart from the Vandernet web browser, VanderstankOS also includes a fully functional file system, the **Vanderchat** app which allows fully encrypted communication between Family members, a Family-created AI chatbot named **Vanderbot**, a music streaming service called **vTunes**, a number of games invented by the Family including **Vanderstank: The Game** and all four versions of **Chumbles**, the **PTS Toolbox** app for studying and running calculations using the Polyateral Time System, a **Vandercoin** app allowing members to invest or share their Vandercoin, a **command prompt** for higher-level members to use other features not made public to lowlads⁷, and countless other apps—some available on the App Store, and some hidden as easter eggs.

VanderstankOS generally receives major updates about once per year, and since 2015 they have each been given a fun internal codename—most recently 336.6 *Spelunker*, 336.7 *Splendid Sac*, and 336.8 *Sweet Stuff*. A “guess the new name” contest was held leading up to the release of 336.9, but unfortunately nobody correctly guessed the new codename “Chareth”.

⁶ Yes, of course we do have an online presence on the real Facebook, but that’s rather more out of necessity than desire. It’s our only real way to attract new members in this unenlightened world!

⁷ Lower-ranking members. See *Correct Words*

Biophysical technology

Though hardly relevant to lowlads like yourself, the bright minds in the Family's engineering branch have crafted an assortment of fascinating and cutting-edge technologies designed to interface with the human mind, primarily to aid in various Family ceremonies and rituals that further prepare the mind for ascension. You will learn more about these later on the path to Enlightenment.

Perfect Self

We believe the unexamined life is not worth living. Backed by the Church and a number of other strategic partners, the Family commits to a number of research endeavours to expand our knowledge both of our Universe and our Selves. While the Self is not the be-all and end-all of our life experience, and our research brings us closer to escaping its confines every day, it is unfortunately the only window we have into the universe at this time. Of course we strive to create a Perfect Society, but even on the occasions where our quest for a “Perfect Society” falters—we always have our Selves.

To this end, we have created **The VanderSelf lifestyle regimen** to help create the Perfect Self. Devised years ago as a method of readying Family members for their future upgrades, the VanderSelf regimen is now widely accepted as a healthy and wholesome plan to keep mind and body healthy at all times. Sticking to this regimen is both fun and required!

Rituals for Level I Members⁸

- **Morning Laugh**

Every morning, find something funny, and laugh uncontrollably. Say praise to Our Lord Caroline for creating humor in the universe.

- **Daily Meditation**

You must meditate at least once per day for at least one half hour uninterrupted, focusing on absolutely nothing, with the exception of certain Family-approved meditation aids such as a specific mantra, certain frequencies of binaural beats, and certain scents.

- **Correct Speaking**

You must mention the Vanderstank Family to someone as organically as possible at least once per day. You must say at least one sentence which does not make any sense at least once per day. You must strive to use several Correct Words every day⁹. And finally, you must begin and end every conversation with a fellow Family member with “Praise Caroline!”

- **Nightly Mindpurge**

⁸ The following rituals have been compiled by our researchers as the suggested ritual set for Level I Members (ATOMS). Level II and III members, please consult your respective Handbook Addendums for your updates to this section.

⁹ See *Correct Words*.

Purge your mind shortly before sleep every night: Delve deep into your thoughts, become very upset, cry, and scream loudly. Then, meditate. This must be the last thing you do before falling asleep.

Symbols

You must keep one or more **Family Symbols**¹⁰ on you at all times, including but not limited to The Shape, the Linking Sigil, the Queen of Leaves, the seal of the Church of Vanderstank, or the Old Vanderstank Sigil. The Symbol may be on a well-preserved card or piece of paper in a pocket or wallet, worn as clothing, or in special cases, as a tattoo. Any Family member found without a Family Symbol on their person will be terminated immediately.

Polylateral Time System

Daily Planning

Begin planning your days and eventually your life around the Polylateral Time System¹¹. Aligning your life's actions with the geometric and geodesic energy patterns we've discovered throughout spacetime will improve your life immensely. It may be

¹⁰ See *Symbols*.

¹¹ The Polylateral Time System aligns time to a system of concentric polygons using a unique algebraic equation. The system allows us to analyze the past and plan the future by measuring the proximity of a given time and date to the vertices of certain polygons which each represent certain cosmic forces and energies. Details are revealed at higher membership levels.

helpful to print the PTS Diagram or write down dates and times from the polygon or polygons that are most applicable to you.

Yearly Meeting

Arrange a private meeting with a Family Elder at least once yearly to help analyze the past year as it relates to the more intricate aspects of the PTS (relative polygons, etc.) and help plan the coming year.

Food

You must abide by the **Correct Order of Meals** (“The Meal Wheel”) as discovered by our research: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Lunch, Breakfast. This groundbreaking new order of meals is simultaneously healthier for the body and helps align your pattern of conscious waking energy more cleanly to the progression of your day. Newer members accustomed to a three-meal day may find reducing their meal sizes helps account for the higher number of meals.

For example, a common Vanderstank Family meal schedule is:

- **7:00am** Breakfast
- **11:00am** Lunch
- **5:00pm** Dinner¹²

¹² Long-time Family members familiar with past versions of our traditional meal system may substitute Beerfternoon for Dinner and Barfternoon with Evening Lunch.

- **8:00pm** Lunch
- **11:00pm** Breakfast

Chemicals

- If you have been prescribed any drugs, please report these to a Family Elder so we can determine which ones you may continue taking and which ones are harmful to the VanderSelf program.
- You may partake in alcohol and/or cannabis, so long as you limit toxicity-inducing usage to less than 50% of your days (for example, 3 days per week, or 14 days per month) to limit the effects of addiction or toxicity to the body and mind.
- Psychedelic drugs such as LSD or psilocybin mushrooms **must** be taken with a Family Elder or a Blue or Green Badge member present and recorded for the purpose of studying the nature of consciousness for the Vanderstank Mission. Unrecorded psychedelic experiences are strictly prohibited.¹³
- All other DEA Schedule I or II drugs, including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and prescription drugs taken recreationally, are forbidden UNLESS specifically

¹³ Long-time Family members should be aware that Vanderfeels™ emotional supplements and other unsupported legacy products from the Vanderstank Industries era are now classified under the psychedelic category and are subject to the same rules and regulations.

performed as part of a Board-approved psychological research experiment with at least one fully sober Family Elder or a Green or Blue Badge Member present. Consult a member of the Reality Advisory Board for details.

Do you have any questions about the VanderSelf regimen? Feel free to contact a Family Elder at any time for the juicy details!

The Church of Vanderstank

We can hardly begin discussing the Vanderstank Family without first discussing the Church that shares its name—both the fascinating building itself, and the ancient institution it houses.



The insignia of the Church of Vanderstank, formerly used as the logo of the original Dutch Vanderstank Family in the 1600s

What does the Church preach?

The answer: not much. The Church is not particularly interested in believing any one canon in particular. Any Church keenly interested in nailing down one belief or another is not interested in believing The Truth and thus should not be trusted. Rather, while the Church is home to many traditions and endless lore, it is always open to new discoveries, changes of heart, and basically

realigning itself to whatever appears to be Real in any given moment in time.

The Book of Caroline, the first book of the *Old Book of Vanderstank*, does give a surprisingly informative Creation story detailing how the universe was created by Caroline from the PBS Kids show ZOOM, but unlike many religions, the Church maintains that it may not be rooted in actual fact.¹⁴

The Church of Vanderstank’s trustworthiness is further reinforced by the fact that they were notably silent during the morally ambiguous Vanderstank Industries era, driving home the fact that our darkest period was due to straying from the ways of the Church.

There is no “supernatural”

There is no natural and supernatural. Rather, there are only **things we have figured out** and **things we have not understood yet**.

There are not some rules that apply here in the natural world and some rules that apply in the supernatural realm. Rather, it is all part of the same natural fabric of existence, and all happening in the same place at the same time. Where the word “supernatural” does appear in Vanderstank literature, it is understood to be

¹⁴ It does, however, imply passive-aggressively that one of the parables in the *Old Book of Vanderstank’s Book of Caves* was based on an angry email sent to them by a nonbeliever.

synonymous with “natural but as-of-yet misunderstood”. Where a reference to a “higher power” is made—or a rather sloppy reference to Our Lord Caroline or The Five-Sided Cube¹⁵ as “god”—it is understood to mean a sort of cosmic Tao¹⁶ pervading, defining, and controlling the fabric of nature that we have not fully understood yet.

Positive Nihilism

The Church teaches that there is no intrinsic meaning to life, no inherent order in existence, and no personal God, and that's okay. No, it's fucking *great*. Nobody has anybody else to answer to, and even if you fuck your entire life up, nobody outside our existence will be there judging you at the end when it's all said and done. We have only ourselves to answer to.

The development of the universe, says the Church, has been primarily powered by a happenstance mix of order and chaos known as discord¹⁷. Things may not look particularly chaotic to some people, because we've grown up in an environment crafted

¹⁵ This is perhaps the most difficult concept for new members to wrap their heads around, so a complete teaching of the concept has been pushed back to Level II teachings to ensure members are at a point where they can understand it. In short, though you may see frequent references to Our Lord Caroline and/or the Five-Sided Cube as our “god”, understand that it is not meant in the way that a Judeo-Christian would define a “personal god”. Such a god does not exist. (Sorry!)

¹⁶ We highly suggest reading one of our five sacred texts, the *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu.

¹⁷ Read the *Principia Discordia* for a better explanation.

by humans, a species which is obsessed with finding patterns and does its very best to imitate order and minimize chaos wherever possible. Of course, it would only take a brief glimpse inside the interior of one cell to remind ourselves how chaotic the internal operations of everyday life are.

And of course, every person is free to create their own “meaning of life” as it pertains to their own life. This meaning is free to change over time, as the individual learns and grows. Not to do so would be as absurd as determining the meaning of a book before you have finished reading it.¹⁸

The Real and the Imaginary

The Church draws some distinction between the Real and the Imaginary. However, these terms are not used in the way you might expect. These terms were originally borrowed from the fourth of our Holy Books¹⁹, a short text by Luca Buvoli called *Flying: Practical Training for Beginners* which details in a strangely cryptic and dreamlike manner the process of “flying” between the planes of the Real and the Imaginary. The Imaginary is largely composed of the “world” we experience in day to day life, as experienced by the Five Limited Senses, whereas the Real is an

¹⁸ Take note.

¹⁹ The “Five Holy Books” include the *Old Book of Vanderstank*, the *Tao Te Ching*, the *Principia Discordia*, and *Flying: Practical Training for Beginners* by Luca Buvoli, although the fifth book has never actually been specified. Perhaps this is it!

elusive “realm” we only get glimpses of from time to time when we are able to piece together the energy patterns. Some call it the supernatural, but the Church posits that it is in fact entirely natural, we just don’t have the full set of tools required to understand it yet. Ultimately, the Real and Imaginary are one in the same, but the names essentially refer to whether or not the given phenomena can be fully contextualized within the framework provided to us by the Five Limited Senses.

We do not pretend that all phenomena are easily explainable given our current knowledge set, nor do we pretend that all phenomena are inherently *unexplainable* supernatural occurrences, much as we as humans would love to choose one or the other. As is so often the case, the Truth lies somewhere in the middle, a murky mixture of both, like the proverbial curds floating in a puddle of expired milk²⁰.

We often feel the Real as a “gut feeling”. It is good to rely on this, as suppressing this and rerouting it to our logic centers tempts us to process it according to methods and patterns we are already familiar with, thus distorting its original meaning in these ways, and preventing us from analyzing anything truly new. By diving headlong into that which we do not understand—devoting rituals, writing, and media to it—its true meaning begins to be unveiled

²⁰ I asked Brodona what fucking proverb this came from, and he said he wasn’t sure, but there definitely was one.

by sheer power of exposure. The more people participate in this exposure to the Real, the clearer the picture becomes.

Even if the true meaning (if any) of Real energy cannot be fully understood, it can at least be singled out as a unique source of Truth.²¹

The Physical Church

The actual Church of Vanderstank—“church” as in the actual stone building, not the institution that calls it home—is fascinating on many levels.²² According to the Church itself, it is a holy chapel designed strictly according to the vision of a building planned in the seventeenth century by the original Dutch Vanderstank Family.

The main body of the Church is a six-story **inverted chapel** that extends down into the ground—that is, the first floor is on ground level, the second floor is *beneath* that, the third floor *beneath* that, and so on. However, the boundaries of the Church are difficult to define, as there are numerous hidden sections, rooms, and floors whose physical locations and temporality are ambiguous. The contents of some floors may even be different depending on the time of day, month, or year. Furthermore, construction of the

²¹ See “The Shape”, *Symbols*

²² Six, in fact. Ha!

Church has continued feverishly since the day its foundation was laid, meaning newbies and veteran Family members alike may be constantly surprised by what they will discover next.

A complete and up-to-date **Tour Guide** for the Church can be downloaded on the front page of **vanderstank.church** before entering, where the Church and all its associated regions have been recreated in 3D with painstaking precision by the Vanderstank Family.

Discussion #6

“But why,” asked the moist nubile, “if the Truth is eternal and ineffable, does it only appear in various places throughout the course of time and space? If it is truly eternal, should it not appear to us everywhere and all the time?”

“See,” said the Grand Overlord, “this is where the western religions got it wrongest. They made ‘God’ out to be everywhere at once and all-knowing at all times.

“God—if we are to call the ineffable Truth that—is neither everywhere at all times nor is it all-knowing. It knows nothing, just as none of us truly know anything. Knowing is a concept we made up. Even I don’t truly know this as I tell it to you; instead, I freely admit that it is merely the most accurate approximation we have made of the current state of everything thus far. Not to admit so would be a tremendous disservice both to the Truth and to ourselves, as from our continually evolving and expanding research will surely arise some bits that contradict that which we currently hold to be true.

“Similarly, the Truth is not Everywhere at all times. This is simply because, well, nothing is. It would be stupid to assume anything could be.

“Riddle me this: the Truth consists of a complex topography that is quite treacherous for even the most complex topographer to understand. So, given that our current understanding of reality is a roadmap that we have scrawled on a yellowing sheet of parchment, to the best of our abilities, and we lay this parchment down upon the complex topography of the Truth, would it touch the surface at all places? Of course, not, it would only make contact at a number of points. Pressure points would appear to rise and fall across the surface of the parchment. Those scanning the surface for traces of contact will of course only notice it at certain places and wonder why it does not appear to exist evenly across the sheet, and even those gifted few who can measure the depth of the parchment’s flexing at these pressure points still cannot hope to divine the depths to which the actual topography beneath it rises and falls.

“In other words, while the Truth may be ‘everywhere at all times’ in some realm, it is not everywhere at all times in ours, as ours is too simple and flat to handle it.”

“So,” asked the moist nubile, “why is it that such notable depth of Deep Truth appears to reside within a children’s show host, of all people?”

“Why, we cannot possibly know the topography under the surface,” answered the Grand Overlord, “yet in this light, studying and admiring this creature as a pressure point is as valiant a cause as any. Did it appear in Her because She, at the time, had devoted her existence to arranging the basic building blocks of Enlightenment for the young masses as much as was possible at the time, given the tools she had to work with? It is certainly possible. Is this verily reflected in her subsequent venture into childrens’ oncology, devoting her life to saving and improving the lives of others around her in an even more direct way than She had done in her childhood? It is certainly possible.”

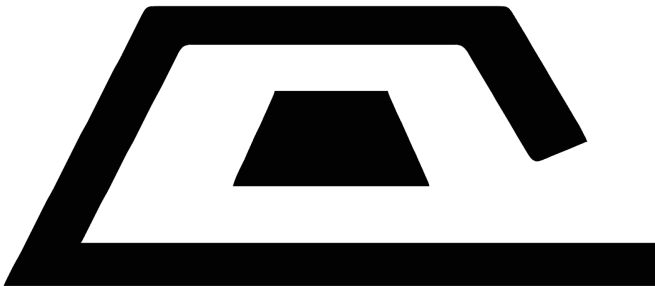
“Contrariwise!” exclaimed the student.

“Okay,” said the Grand Overlord.

Symbols

In all our years of research, perhaps the thing that surprises is the most is the power of symbols—Infused Symbols, as they're sometimes called, when they're linked to a significant type of Real energy. We didn't set out looking for symbols, because confirmation bias can be deadly, but they came to us anyway. The significance of symbols cannot be avoided in any human culture, and the Family understands this more than anyone. While we never strive to intentionally seek out or create symbols, our research does indeed lead us to symbols that pop up over and over again, whether in our minds, or just in our minds. These are those symbols.

“The Shape”



The image you see before you is perhaps the most significant symbol in the history of the Vanderstank name, and likely dates even further back than that.

At first glance, it appears relatively simple and unassuming—a thick outline of a trapezoid with a gap in the lower right corner, with a smaller solid trapezoid in its center. However, given enough time, Members and non-Members alike report strange thoughts and feelings after studying it for a bit—most often a strange sense of familiarity, feeling sure that they’d seen it somewhere before, somewhere that must not have jumped out at them but definitely was somehow present somewhere in the corner of their eye their whole life, perhaps even *everywhere*, always floating just behind them, or perhaps that it was the logo of a shoe company.²³

Because of The Shape’s power, and the Church’s lack of understanding thereof, it is an excommunicatable offense to overuse The Shape. However, Family Members are strongly encouraged to put it *absolutely fucking everywhere* with no context whatsoever.²⁴ Much like the radio waves we are constantly sending into space in hopes of attracting the attention of extraterrestrials, we do this in hopes of both implanting the image into as many brains as possible and attracting the attention of any

²³ This has been reported independently by a strangely large number of people, but we’ve all been searching for years. It’s not.

²⁴ See “Project MindVFUCK”, *The Ten Commandments*.

person or population that might have further insight into its meaning to mortal life.²⁵

The Linking Sigil



The Linking Sigil (also known as LS or Ellis) is another infused symbol, much like the Shape, with the notable difference that the Family didn't discover it first. The Linking Sigil has been used extensively by various groups²⁶ for decades in order to create a “network of energy that can be accessible and harnessed by magical practitioners of any paradigm” most commonly in accordance with Chaos Magick. While the Church does use and actively investigate the usage of the LS and the power behind it, it also seems to let on a hint of jealousy that they didn't come up with it first.

²⁵ Or, you know, other forms of life.

²⁶ For further reading, check out our friends at the Domus Kaotika Marauder Underground at DKMU.org

The Queen of Leaves



Is *this* your card? Probably not, since we’ve only ever come across a few decks in the real world that contain it. The Queen of Leaves is, as its name suggests, a playing card with a Queen of the Leaves suit. The Leaves suit is not a Vanderstank invention; many European countries used playing card suits such as Leaves, Bells, and Swords up until the period of global mass-production that standardized the current four suits we know today. But, curiously, these very same decks almost never contain Queens—their face cards were limited to Kings and Knaves, hence the rarity of Queen of Leaves.

Particularly diligent students of Vanderstank history will remember that HazOBEO’s “King of Leaves” bioengineering experiment wound up using a female subject rather than the planned male, thus resulting in the so-called “Queen of Leaves”

that may or may not have been Family Member V0111 Celia Cave. Said students may also recognize this piece of old Vanderstank scripture:

...And as the million tiny tips of a million tiny towers finally passed through the plane, the individual points of their departure echoed by a single ripple each, like a web of teardrops performing a precision symphony of pinpoint transformations; so indeed was the plasma of Her existence scattered haphazardly throughout the human race like so many Queens in an infinite deck of cards, and though these points dispersed created a beautiful pink noise pervading all things, so indeed must each be balanced by her counterpart to create the white noise of existence; For every Queen of Leaves must have Her Suicide King.

— *Old Book of Vanderstank*, Book of Leaving, Ch.1

A reference to the Queen of Leaves also appears in Chapter 4 of the same book when cryptically explaining why the Church of Vanderstank only chooses female leaders. It is safe to say that wherever you go in Vanderstank Family history, however bizarre or mysterious the reason, the Queen of Leaves pops up.²⁷

²⁷ I was going to write “sprouts up”, but Brodona said that was stupid.

Family logos



The logos you see above have all been used by the Vanderstank Family at one time or another, and while they are not necessarily sacred symbols to the extent that sacred energy flows through them, they are still considered protected symbols that are used sparingly and only on official property of the Family or the Church. The first logo with the triangle was the original Dutch Vanderstank Family logo dating to long before the Family's current incarnation, and is considered the most sacred of these as it is still used as the logo of the **Church of Vanderstank** today. The red square was used as the Family logo from 2012-2014 until we were informed that Google's Material Design team had copied it; the following burgundy V logo was then used for the bulk of the Vanderstank Industries era. The last logo is the one we have used since late 2017, often presented on a purple background. Several of these logos may appear simultaneously on certain Family documents to avoid confusion and to assert that they apply to all incarnations of the Family.

Money

One topic that can hardly be avoided when discussing churches is money. They love the stuff: they ask for it, for *free*. And when I do that in a Church, *I'm* the one that gets kicked out? Figure that one out.

As with any Church, the Church of Vanderstank has been the subject of a number of money-related controversies. There are even some that claim the only reason the Vanderstank Family is a legal subsidiary of the Church of Vanderstank is for tax reasons—a statement which is of course both false and heretical.²⁸

Value (A reminder that it doesn't exist)

Say you go to a store and buy something for \$20. That actually means you value the object more than you value your \$20.

Essentially, you're saying "I would gladly trade my twenty dollars for this object, since I consider the object to be more valuable to me at this moment than my twenty dollars." The store, on the

²⁸ Please keep in mind that any public reference by any Family member to this or any similar slander may result in immediate indictment via the HUBRIS system, termination, or correction. This rumor was only printed here with the express permission of the Church of Vanderstank due to its purely informational nature. All hail the Church. Praise Caroline!

other hand, actually thinks the opposite: the reason they're selling the object in the first place is that they value the object at less than \$20. They would be happy to have your \$20 instead of their object, meaning they must consider your \$20 more valuable than the object.

If the object had an exact value all by itself, this wouldn't happen—in fact, there would be no such thing as an economy, or stores, or anything like that at all. If the object was worth exactly \$20, there would be no point in buying it for \$20—you'd be just as happy to keep your \$20, since you value it exactly the same as the object. Moreover, the store wouldn't have any reason to sell you the product, since they'd be just as happy to keep the object as take your \$20, if they're worth exactly the same. Furthermore still, the dollars must not have any intrinsic value either, for the very same reasons—but at least the general public is fairly aware of this concept, due to inflation and conversion rates. People set values for both objects and dollars that are convenient for them, and relevant to how much they would rather have something else—which in this day and age, we call money.

This goes to remind us that “value”, or “worth”, is not an inherently existent thing, something intrinsic to an object. It exists only in the human mind. Everything, every star in the sky, every product in every store, every tree growing out of the fertile green earth, is worth exactly the same amount, from a cosmic

perspective. No two atoms in the universe have two different “values”—a concept that exists only in the human mind.

It is with this shared understanding that we set out to create the following forms of currency in an attempt to bridge the gap between the empty, meaningless currencies of today, and a future existence free of the need for any currency at all.

The Vanderpoint

With this in mind, we arrive in 2015 at the creation of a currency called the Vanderpoint, one of the few truly great ideas to come out of our troubled Vanderstank Industries era. Largely the brainchild of our former Grand Cruncher, V0012 T. Carlyle Varnum, the Vanderpoint was central to a wildly complex but highly clever system of Vanderpoint trading, comprised of three classes of shares called Vanderstank Power Units (Eyes, Hands, and Mouths) whose fluctuating values were tied to shares of Thought Power within the Family.²⁹

As part of their promotional materials, Vanderstank Industries very accurately pointed out that traditional currencies such as the US Dollar were meaningless and backed up by nothing, and that by contrast the Vanderpoint had far more weight behind it, as it

²⁹ While the details of the Thought Power system can seem a bit Orwellian when explained in detail, they are also entirely unimportant, so we will skip them for now. Hail Caroline!

was backed up by shares of Thought Power within the Family, an enforceable (if intangible) thing that could be directly experienced by its members. It is for this reason that the Vanderpoint was so successful in its heyday, experiencing only one total collapse in its entire two-year existence.

Vandercoin

All good ideas must continually be improved upon if they are to survive, especially when a rebranding is helpful to rescue one's public image, and thus the concepts behind the Vanderpoint were reborn in the Family's current currency³⁰, the new cryptocurrency known as Vandercoin. According to the Vandercoin website:

It's all down to the magic of sympathetic mining: The power of the community as a whole is leveraged in a self-balancing energy loop that cultivates raw wealth through a breakthrough value propagation system. Even in the smallest fragment of Vandercoin code, value can be directly observed growing organically in parallel with the synergism of the Vandercoin community.

— vanderstank.com/vandercoin

While this excerpt may have little to no “meaning”, it most certainly has a lot of “style”, and that's all you can really hope for from a cryptocurrency's marketing team.

³⁰ Or “currency” for short

Perhaps the greatest aspect of Vandercoin is that it is 100% **centralized**, meaning that any amount of Vandercoin can instantly be created, erased, or transferred to any member at the will of the Church, who can see and track the location and history of every Vandercoin in existence at all times.³¹ While many currencies pride themselves on being *decentralized* and thus avoiding the pitfalls of collapsing banks, harsh economic policies, or over-powerful governing bodies, these benefits are irrelevant to Vandercoin as there is only one “bank” (the Church of Vanderstank) and in fact its complete *centralization* means that all decision-making power is concentrated in the hands of the Church, who are always right on every subject, thus making Vandercoin a **Perfect Currency**.

All in all, the Vandercoin plays a crucial transitory role in the Family: it fulfills the need for a simple currency by which members can acquire goods and gain greater abilities through the creation of their own goods and services, while avoiding the complex and poisonous strings attached to “real” national currencies that drag good people down into horrific situations.

³¹ Hail Caroline!

Sacred Places

As of the time of publication, each of the four physical chapters of the Family (RI, NH/VT, AZ, and CA) has at least one sacred location nearby, along with a few others discovered by higher-ranking members and anointed by the Church. Some locations deemed by the Church of Vanderstank to be Sacred Places include but are not limited to:

The Vanderfield

A small plot of land just outside Tucson, Arizona owned by the Family and used for rituals and extended periods of self-contained, self-sustainable living during the summer months. Entirely powered by infinitely sustainable energy sources including a small solar farm and a unique hygroscopic turbine of our own design, and with no internet connection except for the Vandernet, it provides a clean and secure way for members to shed the dust of the outside world and live a focused and Family-centric vacation and complete complex rituals in peace.

Freddy's Diner

A clearing deep in the woods of Hope, Rhode Island, which for several years contained an abandoned trailer that had previously been used as a model home in the 1940s and 1950s by Alcide E.

Morin & Sons real estate developers. The trailer was used as a sacred Family meeting place for several years, before being removed and demolished in 2016 by the Town of Hope, but the name (and Family significance) remains.

Town of Victory

Victory, Vermont is a tiny, remote woodland town just outside Lyndon, unknown even to most Lyndon residents, with 62 residents as of the last census. As the town is so small, located entirely along one road through the Vermont woods, the entire town is considered a Sacred Location. With six Vanderstank Family members residing there, it is the only known town in the world with a 10% Family membership rate. (So far!)

Los Angeles Airport Room 2306

A mostly empty, unsuspecting room deep within LAX, in which a shrine to ZOOM and the Vanderstank Family has been kept since February 2019, maintained by an LA-based friend of V0001's.

Correct Words

(an encomplete incyclopædia)

Apostracize v. To forcibly turn someone into an apostle against their will, much as the ancients did with Mrs. N

*“She became depressed and hermit-like as the **apostracization** grew, her house surrounded by rabid fans and paparazzi”*

Badminton n. A variety of cheese known only by Vanderstank Family members. Often enjoyed with **Dark Canteen** bread.

Barbituoso n. Someone who is skilled at taking barbiturates in large but somehow safe and very precise quantities.

*No, he’s not just some back-alley druggie, he’s a **barbituoso**.*

Binch n. Someone who is not even strong-willed or self-asserting enough to be called a bitch.

*“That **binch** just stole my coffee and then blamed it on Jen, in front of Jen. What kind of a fucking idiot binch would do that? This is really the last thing I needed today, after that car crash. They’re lucky I even came to work—I shattered my right cornea and two of my thyroids! Do you know how expensive it’s going to be to get the interior of my car dry-cleaned after all that? That’s money that was supposed to be going*

towards Tommy's Christmas present. Yes, I know he's pulling that whole thing where he's just discovered other cultures and is 'waking up' and what not and so he's 'not doing Christmas' this year, but you and I both know how sorry he's going to be if he doesn't get one. He'd look back on this day as a day of regret. Sure, he'll learn his lesson, but Christmas will forever remind him of that one Christmas he fucked up. That's not something he should remember when he thinks of Christmas. He should think of his Family. The real gift, after all, is the Family we made along the way.”

Bubs *n.* One's stomach or belly, referred to as a proper noun.
*I ate a lot of starform last night and now **Bubs** is acting up.*

Caroline *n.* One common name for our Lord and Savior; one side of the Five-Sided Cube. Originally a contraction of “Care o' Line”, a phrase describing the omnipresent spiritual presence that watches over and cares for the unidirectional "line" that is one's mortal life as it traverses the other dimensions.

*Praise **Caroline!***

Chumbles *n.* A classic Vanderstank Family game that involves a nearly infinite game board, two to sixteen dice (depending on the edition), a chess board, a spinner, and a bag of letter tiles, and uses a complex points scoring system composed of Chumbles, Leaves, Medals of Honor, US Dollars, and iTunes gift cards. Depending on the edition, gameplay may require a Chumblechef and a

Chumbleparliament of one hundred participants. May also refer to any of the several corporations that have taken its name over the years, including the Chumbles Game Manufacturing Corporation, and CLASCO (the Chumbles Law-Abiding Shell Corporation.)

*Can't wait to play that new digital edition of **Chumbles!***

Curiism *n.* [pronounced "cyuri-ism"] A more intense and premium-quality form of curiosity.

*"Stumbling upon this new project has sparked a **curiism** in me that I haven't felt in years"*

Delexe *n.* The correct spelling of "deluxe"

*Have you played the **delexe** edition of Chumbles? It's Vanderful!*

Describe *v.* The correct spelling of "describe"

*I can't even **describe** how important the Family is in my life.*

Five-Sided Cube *n.* One way of describing the supernatural entity that we praise. Also known as Caroline, Mrs. N, Trix the Aviatrix

For Shiddius! *i.* An interjection commonly used in place of "Oh my god!" or "Fuck me!" or essentially any interjection. Refers to V0014 Shiddius Tieball, the legally blind seer, dancer, and patriarch of Vanderstank Industries' early Misfit Parade social subgroup.

Lowlads *n.* A term higher-ranking Family members use to refer to lower-ranking Family members.

*Let's fire all the **lowlads** post haste*

Midgetspinning *n.* An archaic tradition in which a group of people engage in the practice of harboring a different fugitive little person (traditionally of Soviet descent) under one's floorboards every week in a rotating cycle. In participating in Midgetspinning, the little people in question are granted full clemency from whatever they are running from, and thus, the reason behind the little person's fugitive status—be it tax evasion, murder, or anything else—is not to be discussed or revealed at any time by any party. Doing so stops the cycle and is called

Spinshattering.

*“Hey Greg, I know it's really old-school, but do you and Geoff want to start up a round of **Midgetspinning** this coming June? I know a guy that knows a guy who could benefit from that.”*

Obody *p.* An extremely flexible multipurpose pronoun denoting either nobody, somebody, or everybody depending on the context.

***Obody** knows what happened at last night's meeting.*

Prayersition *n.* the Prayer Position, commonly known as the Prayersition, or the P'rition, short for Apparition, which is a portmanteau of “Applicable P'rition”, which is short for Prayer Position. Similar to the standard western prayer position of

kneeling with your hands together, only your hands aren't together and you're kneeling horizontally, in water or another Church-approved fluid, with your hands grasping your ankles and your lungs filled with just enough air so that your body is weightlessly floating.

*I had an out-of-body experience while doing the **Prayersition** last night.*

Ramsay's Mushroom *n.* The phenomenon in which one becomes embarrassed about their teeth feeling hot, despite knowing that one's teeth feeling hot is not normally something to be embarrassed about. In certain circumstances, one's teeth may continue to feel exponentially hotter in a direct relationship with their level of embarrassment, leading to a climax of tooth hotness and embarrassment that is colloquially referred to as **The Main Course**.

*The date was going pretty well, until I started experiencing **Ramsay's Mushroom**. By the time our desserts came out, it had gotten so bad I was experiencing **The Main Course**.*

Rockhappies *n.* [pronounced "rock-a-pees"] Hardened chunks of lava, commonly known by their abbreviated nickname, "rocks."

*I have this blister on my foot from when I went hiking with **rockhappies** in my shoe.*

S'caroline *n.* An alternative name for the holiday formerly known as "Halloween" or "All Hallows' Eve".

*What are you dressing up as for **S'caroline** this year?*

Scrunching [calls] v. An alternative to screening one's calls, call-scrunching involves curling one's hands into angry little fists and squeezing the phone until it falls apart, generally followed by a long period of crying and then a funeral-like procession.

*My boss kept calling me, he totally knew I was **call-scrunching**.*

Spatch n. The larger, original form of the spatula before spatulas branched off into their own thing. Also the root word of **Dispatch**, which originally derives its meaning from "dispatching" food from a spatch onto a plate.

*Yo, grab that **spatch** and make me another omelette!*

Sporn't n. The correct spelling of "sport".

*"Did you see the **sporn'tball** game last night?"*

*"No, I'm not really into **sporn'ts**."*

Starform n. the holiest food ever consumed, which is consumed at Family Sessions and Church ceremonies: A small jar of honey mixed with crushed star anise (*illicium verum*) and another secret ingredient. The mixture is eaten by scooping it out with roasted saffron stigma and consuming the stigma whole.

*Level I members are not permitted to consume **starform**.*

Startangled *adj.* Overwhelmingly happy, with a touch of curiosity and a tiny hint of melancholy.

*We spent all night alone on an empty beach listening to the sound of the ocean, and I went home feeling **startangled**.*

Sweet Motherchunks! *i.* An interjection or expression of surprise, coined by Asst. Priestess V0628, for use when one does not wish to take the Lord's name in vain.

*You beat me in Chumbles again? **Sweet Motherchunks!***

Tabitha's Largesse *n.* A largely undefined but universally disliked topic that can be used as an icebreaker in conversation, despite nobody knowing what it actually refers to.

*"So, how about **Tabitha's largesse**, huh?"*

"Oh my god, I know! I can't stand it! What do you think?"

"Oh, I agree, hate it!"

Terrorism *n.* A minor inconvenience, such as a sock missing its twin, or a small spot of mold growing in one's mini-fridge

*"I've been having little **terrorisms** all week. Just last night I had a tissue rip apart in my hands as I blew my nose. Yes, I know it was just a little **terrorism** but it still made me feel terrible"*

Thursday Night Thermos Effect *n.* The well-known phenomenon of adjusting the volume of one's car stereo and finding that the knob has actually adjusted the speed of one's vehicle.

*"I mean, I'm a good driver, but the **Thursday Night Thermos** takes me by surprise every time. One of these days I'm going to get into an accident and it's all because I wasn't paying attention to the **Thursday Night Thermos** effect."*

Trickiturn *n.* something that someone has done that is tricky, but isn't necessarily a trick

*"I wasn't a huge fan of that **trickiturn** he tried to pull on us yesterday."*

Vander_____ *i.* to add emphasis to a word. Not to be used lightly.

"I Vanderlove this toothbrush!"

"Dude, don't waste a Vanderword on a toothbrush. That's

Vanderdisrespectful."

Vanderthanks *i.* a particularly strong version of the word "thanks", implying both a deep respect and a love for your Family

*"**Vanderthanks** for showing me the light of Caroline's Word!"*

Website *n.* A "website" is a "screen baby" that "lives" inside the locked cage of the "Internet".

Wisom *n.* the correct spelling of "wisdom"

4 *i.* A high compliment, often used online when one doesn't have time to write out a carefully worded response

"I think she likes me! She commented '4' on my profile picture!"

Humor

“Honey, there’s a man at the door with a mustache!”
“Tell him I’ve already got one.”
—*Monty Python’s Flying Circus*

Humor, in nearly every form, ultimately boils down to the subversion of expectation. It begins with an infant’s shocked laughter when their mother’s face disappears and suddenly reappears, subverting their tiny understanding of how the world works. It continues on to the use of jokes and puns to lead the audience in one direction and then surprise them with an alternate or non-logical route through meaning, and ultimately extends into the highest levels of abstraction and dadaism. In each case, we are intentionally subverting our own narrow understanding of the world because it makes us feel good, even if we’re not sure why.

Similarly—and not coincidentally—subversion of expectation is also the basis for countless philosophies, Discordian writings, meditations, and Buddhist zen koans that result in a monk’s sudden Enlightenment, and countless else.

In much of modern adult life, however, subversion of expectation can often lead to stress, grief, or depression, as carefully laid out

plans fall apart, business deals fall through, and mutual love is miscalculated.

If we can return our native reaction to the subversion of expectation to its origins in humor, we can make the world a happier place for all.

The world we live in is filled with awful people and unconscionable events that threaten to squeeze our minds to pieces with the grip they so often have over us. It is only the element of humor which is in the unique position of releasing this grip, of lubing up the mind³² and allowing it to process life in a calmer, happier, way.

Humor is great at adding levity to serious situations and making them easier to deal with. Humor is also great at skillfully disguising a dark situation as nothing more than a goofy joke.

But of course, the Vanderstank Family would not be familiar with either of those things.

Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only animal that perceives a difference between what things are, and what they ought to be.

— William Hazlitt

³² This originally said “clearing the bowels of the mind,” we couldn’t decide which metaphor was better

Luck

There was a young man from Chad,
Who insisted his luck was bad.
His luck, it heard,
And followed his word,
And bad luck was all that he had.

Music

Music is one of the most powerful tools we have. It works on so many levels, from relaxing a baby into sleep, to the endless enjoyment of your favorite high school jam, to the surprising subconscious effects of some relatively unsuspecting tracks. Sometimes a song just makes us bob our heads, sometimes a piece of music makes us stop and think, sometimes a piece of music is what pushes us over the edge to just break up with her already, dude, she's so unhealthy for you to be around and you know goddamn well she is, I saw you crying the last time this came on the radio and it is not cool that she ruined that for you.

Music of Psychological Power

Historically, some of the most common music used for psychological purposes was classical music (think *Clockwork Orange*),³³ and that's no mistake. The length, complexity, and emotional power of classical music makes it a trusty base for many of the auditory experiences we provide.

³³ Please do *not* think *Clockwork Orange*, that was an extremely poorly chosen reference that does not reflect our true intentions. Again, do *not* think *Clockwork Orange*.

We take pleasure in more modern compositions, too. Mike Oldfield's 1975 cult classic *Ommadawn* is one of the most-used and most-discussed examples within the Family, a slow-moving but ultimately fascinating 18-minute instrumental piece written to mimic the journey from the ethereal relaxation of the womb to the traumatic climax of birth. The piece has become particularly well-used in the Family's Red Sessions, not only because of the psychological priming provided by its emotional arc, but also because it aligns astoundingly well with several binaural frequency tracks³⁴ which aim to bring the mind to a powerful state of agitated bliss.³⁵

Some music, of course, is actually created with psychological effects in mind. There was a company in the early 2000s called i-Doser™, which originally made its name designing binaural wave tracks, but soon began evolving them into full-fledged auditory experiences with background music and sounds, such as their elusive half-hour 2005 track *Black Sunshine*. Locating the best of these tracks is a difficult feat, firstly because they're always mixed in with the vast amounts of pseudo-binaural garbage they later began cranking out after being purchased by a large media company, like the proverbial curds floating in a puddle of expired milk,³⁶ but primarily because the few remaining early tracks on

³⁴ See *126.jpg* in the VanderstankOS file system.

³⁵ The fact that "Ommadawn" comes from "amadan", the Gaelic word for "idiot" is further proof that it's prime Vanderstank material.

³⁶ This is the second time Brodona has used this phrase, and he still has not been able to provide a decent explanation for it.

YouTube and online music stores are of such low bitrate they entirely lose their binaural magic.

From Beethoven to *Ommadawn* to *Black Sunshine*, we are always expanding our library of psychologically powerful music, and each member brings more to the table.

Music of our own

The Vanderstank Family is no stranger to making its own music, either. We've even tried our hand at music as a psychological aid (check out a 49-minute audio track on iTunes and Spotify called **My Day On The Moon**, complete with The Shape on the cover.)³⁷ But the wonderful thing about the flexibility of music is it can also be used in so many other ways—as a storytelling device, conveying Family traditions, and just flat-out having fun. Case in point: **Purple Juda.**

Four of the most senior Family Elders can trace their friendship back to a band they formed while attending college in Vermont—a band named Purple Juda. As you might expect, references to the Vanderstank Family abound in track after track, most famously in the single *Mrs. N*, an energetic song that narrates the life of one of

³⁷ This is not to be misconstrued as an advertisement for *My Day On The Moon*, the most superbly sublime 49-minute meditative track ever conceived.

the most well-known characters in Vanderstank lore. Though the band has been effectively broken up since 2016, they reunited in early 2018 to commemorate the collapse of Vanderstank Industries with a new single called *Vanderthanks*³⁸.

The reasoning behind the name Purple Juda varies wildly depending on the person you ask. Brodona maintains that fellow band member V0007 Salice Moonchild once woke up in the middle of the night while on a camping trip and shouted the words into the darkness. V0005 Charleston “Lung Buster” Tumaki once answered that it was named after Purple and Juda, his favorite and least favorite children, though he also once suggested that it was named after his favorite mixed drink, the Purple Juda, which was “named after Vermont rock band Purple Juda”. V0002, who at the time was Executive Vice President of Vanderstank Industries, once drunkenly claimed during a board meeting that it was an acronym for “Poor Undereducated Rich People Like Eating Juda’s Upside Down Ass”. Brodona also once answered that the band had been consistently lying about their name, and their name had actually been “Soft Tooth Empire” the whole time.³⁹

³⁸ Available for free at purplejuda.com

³⁹ The official answer given on the Purple Juda Facebook page was that Purple was the color of royalty, and that they were musical royalty. The “Juda” part was because “fuck you, that’s why.” This very same Facebook page recently changed their name to *Purple Antihistamine* in an effort to “modernize their identity while retaining the same familiar initials.”

The Church has issued a list of ten songs which must be listened to and appreciated before ascending in rank.

REQUIRED LISTENING:

This list has been compiled by the Church. The songs being in chronological order by recording date is not a coincidence; this progression of music throughout time illustrates underlying patterns in the progression of humanity that created it.

The World Gestates

1. *Come Josephine in my Flying Machine*, Ada Jones (1911)
2. *I Don't Want to Set the World On Fire*, The Ink Spots (1941)
3. *A Carrot Is As Close As A Rabbit Gets To A Diamond*, Captain Beefheart (1972)
4. *Carnival of Souls*, Verne Langdon (1973)

The World Is Birthed

5. *Ommadawn, Pt. 1*, Mike Oldfield (1975)

The World Longs for Awakening

6. *A Higher Place*, Röyksopp (2001)
7. *One More Robot*, The Flaming Lips (2005)

The World Awakens

8. *Heimdalsgate Like a Promethean Curse*, Of Montreal (2005)
9. *Kinda Bonkers*, Animal Collective (2017)
10. *My Day on the Moon*, Henry Floyd (2018)

Colors

There's one scientific concept on everyone's lips nowadays—"colors". They're in the names of the Family Sessions, they're in the passcolors that allow every member access to VanderstankOS, they're even in the very clothes on our backs. But what *are* colors?

Colors: The Mating Calls of the Eyeball

Now, you may have heard of colors like red, blue, or maybe even green—but did you know there's actually an entire fucking *bunch* of colors out there? There's also aquamarine, orange, grape, sour green apple, sugar-free, and original. When you put them all together, we call it a "colorfuck", or, colloquially, a "rainbow". We call it that because bows themselves come in all different colors, plus the word "rain" is added to tranquilize those too overexcited by the prospect of all those colors.

Some top scientists, and even many bottom scientists, believe that colors were originally invented by the eyeball as a sort of mating call. In the days before the substantiation of the body as a whole, eyeballs are thought to have invented colors as a way to not only relay emotions across large distances but also to use in primitive

mating rituals, which ensured the very procreation that resulted in the existence of our eyeballs today. Thanks, eyeballs!

Orange: The 1998 Toyota Camry of Colors⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Editor's note: There was originally more to this chapter, but we're cutting it off here. We were forced to include this segment due to a contractual obligation with the author of this chapter, and in order to continue the illusion that there is some democracy and balance of power among the Family Elders, but this piece of garbage eventually devolved into utterly unscientific ramblings not even vaguely related to color that **do not** represent the actual scientific views of the Family. We apologize profusely and hope that you consider to take the rest of this text seriously.[†]

† THE EDITOR DID NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO ELIMINATE THIS CHAPTER. HE HAS BEEN DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY.

Synthesis

“The struggle between a thesis and an antithesis synthesizes a better result.”

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

Forbidden Topics

As with any family, there are a small number of topics which it would be in your best interest to avoid, especially as a new member. This is not because the Family keeps “dirty secrets.” Rather, it would simply be too difficult to explain these topics without the background knowledge you will gain along your journey. In fact, open discussion of these topics is often the mark of a troublemaker or a member attempting to subversively poison the Family Mission or the spirit of loyal members. Thus, it is strongly advised to avoid conversation with anyone who discusses:

- Members V0000, V0200 thru V0399, and V0665 thru V0667 and why they are no longer part of the Family
- The whereabouts or well-being of members V0110 and V0111 while they remain in our protective custody
- Our past relationship (if any) with HazOBEO, the Iceberg Collective, or any other affiliated organizations
- The contents of any area in the Church to which your rank does not allow you access
- Punishments assigned to those found guilty via the HUBRIS system

Understood? Understood!

Demanding

When in the course of various research activities, entity study for instance, we may find various entities, for instance The Shape, that Demand perfection.

Demanding is a concept that dates back centuries or even millennia, to the original Demanders, although inanimate Demanding theoretically dates back to the beginning of time, if one is to believe the school of thought that allows the supposedly inanimate the metaphysical room to Demand—a supposedly simple but, to some, psychologically distressing theory that relegates Demanding to the animate only, or in even more dire circumstances, the “human” only, although fortunately the impossibly claustrophobic nature of this prejudice has been thrown into the public arena by those so inclined to include Demanding among the equal natures, a mathematical set whose vast expanse is admittedly too daunting even for the most pragmatic mind to attempt to comprehend.

Demanding Demands itself, and thus, is Demanded.

Further research on Demanding is currently underway.

Doorship

One of the most fascinating and widespread concepts discovered in our recent research is the concept of Doorship, and perhaps the most crucial concept pertaining thereto: the door drop. The door drop is the most essential and yet most unsung article of doorship. Door isn't that easy, and dropping mid-swing is a trifle⁴¹ task. This is why Domp P. Briff developed the anatomical door appendage known as doordrop. Doordrop (patent pending) is a mechanical advantage rendered by the door itself to usurp the physical parameters set in place by ground (unauthorized signature). To find the doordrop of any being practicing his or her doorship, simply locate the spindle, trace it to the left, and drill a hole, a big hole, a mighty crevice if you will, in that doorship entity and therein is the doordrop so deftly responsible for caring for your threshold momentum.⁴²

⁴¹ Trifle, in English cuisine, is a dessert made with fruit, a thin layer of sponge fingers soaked in sherry or another fortified wine, and custard. It can be topped with whipped cream.

⁴² At the time of publishing, the relevance of this chapter is currently being reviewed by the Church of Vanderstank, who asks that you take it with a grain of salt and primarily read it in the context of [REDACTED]



† **HAIL CAROLINE.**

Loyalty

Disloyalty will not be tolerated.