

Livia Cascade,

I believe I have identified the theologian of our Spire who went onto reincarnate into Hywel Summercrow. I was unable to determine if there were any incarnations between them.

The description of a theologian who "suddenly went mad" is a fair summation of what happened to Ulysses Cascade around 150 YE. Ulysses was a theologian - a Questor to be clear - with a particular interest regarding the Doctrines of the Faith. Records are unclear, but there are implications Ulysses served as Gatekeeper of Wisdom for a couple of years around 140-150 YE. In addition, Ulysses was reported as having received a vision of his own which purportedly related to revising the Doctrine of Human Destiny in response to Recollectionists.

This vision - plus his own work - had apparently encouraged Ulysses to expand upon the Doctrines of the Faith. However, sometime around 150 YE, he succumbed to madness. From what limited accounts remain, Ulysses proceeded to destroy all his notes and works deeming them "unfit for purpose". Ulysses became more withdrawn and began to speak to himself and ignore others. This was felt - at the time - to be an embarrassing loss of poise, and there was a move within the Spire to encourage Ulysses to be sheltered from public life.

In light of the notes received, it does seem that Ulysses' described symptoms were consistent with the curse we know as "All The World In A Grain Of Sand". However, it is possible that this curse had not been added to the Imperial Lore by then and its nature was unknown at the time. Courtesy of the Emperor Nicovar, we do not have an accurate record of when rituals were added to Imperial Lore any more. Either way, the duration of that curse is ostensibly a year - although it is possible that it left lasting mental scars on Ulysses' mind which endured.

I do have one piece of information that may benefit us though. It is noted that Ulysses Cascade was an adept Day Magician and had mastery of "The Celestial Library" ritual. It is possible - even likely - that Ulysses Cascade will have sent magical copies of his notes or other key documents to the Great Library of Phaleron, performing the ritual unassisted.

Regarding the Highborn named Isaac and Esau that were mentioned, I am afraid that those are not rare names amongst the Highborn, and without Chapters or further context, I am afraid they did not shine brightly enough in the Net of Heavens to be distinctly remembered nearly two centuries later.

I hope that this is of some utility to you and Hywel.

Menelaus Cascade