

Breach of Trust 2: The case of the lying violinist

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Subject: Helix Site Sentient Anomaly HS/SA-04, designation "Purple Dragon" a.k.a Arcangelo Corelli or "The lying violinist".

Introduction

Following high levels of exposure at the Helix site and reports of multiple staff being replaced by "doppelgangers", agents from Calman site were tasked to lock down Helix site, ensure containment and screen remaining staff for anomalous influences (see Incident Report CS/2023/372-HS).

During operations several sentient anomalies were discovered freely roaming the facility. Containment was reimposed. This report summarises the known history, anomalous abilities and recommended action regarding sentient anomaly HS/SA-04, "Purple Dragon".

Appearance

Purple Dragon appears as a middle aged Caucasian man with the same appearance and memories as one Arcangelo Corelli - an Italian violinist, composer and concertmaster.

At almost all times Purple Dragon has on its person an anomalous object in the shape of a violin. No being other than Purple Dragon appears able to touch or manipulate the violin in any way. If Purple Dragon sets down the violin it will reappear in its hand as soon as the subject wills it. The subject will not acknowledge that anything unusual has happened to the object and perceives others as interacting with it normally.

The violin will not register if placed on any measuring device (X-ray, MRI scanner etc.) by Purple Dragon, with the results being the same as would be expected if no object was present.

Acquisition by Trust

Mr Corelli suffered a heart attack on 19/01/23 during a performance at the Vienna State Opera House and was pronounced dead at the scene. Roughly one hour afterward the body of Mr Corelli disappeared. Purple

Dragon appeared in Darlington, England at roughly the same time. Purple Dragon, believing itself to be Mr. Corelli (a belief it continues to hold), sought help from local law enforcement. The request for assistance was intercepted by Trust and Agents from Helix Site collected Purple Dragon without incident. Purple Dragon was placed in a standard humanoid containment cell under Level 2 containment.

Initial assessment

Dr M. Kerrigan was assigned as principal Blue Section investigator and Agent P. Calhoun was assigned as Red Section lead.

Subject appeared to display no anomalous abilities during the first week of containment. Medical and psychological evaluations (conducted by Dr H. Stevens and Dr X. Lovely respectively) returned no anomalous results, with the subject displaying a level of distress within the normal range for newly acquired sentiment anomalies.

Initial research focused on the possibility of the violin being anomalous and Purple Dragon being an non-anomalous human under the effect of an anomalous object. This line of inquiry was unproductive. The current working hypothesis is that the violin is a manifestation of Purple Dragon's anomalous abilities, despite it remaining in existence when the subject is unconscious/sedated.

Known Anomalous Abilities

Purple Dragon only appears able to use anomalous abilities on individuals with which it has developed "resonant understanding." Any extended contact with Purple Dragon has the potential to build this understanding. However, discussions focused on the themes of art, music, beauty and related subjects appear to build resonant understanding at an accelerated pace. Purple Dragon will discuss these topics at any given opportunity.

Listening to the subject perform live music (directly or via transmission) leads to resonant understanding being established at an extremely fast pace - the underlying mechanism is unknown as, unlike other methods of building understanding, Purple Dragon does not need to directly interact with or see those listening to its performance.

Purple Dragon appears to attempt to build resonant understanding with others wherever possible, and will use anomalous abilities HS/SA-04/X1 and HS/SA-04/X5 to help it achieve this goal.

The known anomalous abilities are listed below, in order of the level of "resonance" required for activation.

HS/SA-04/X1 "Enthrall". Affected individuals will be unable to end their interaction with Purple Dragon, wanting nothing more than to continue their discussion with the subject or continue listening to its performance. The anomalous effect will continue until the discussion/performance is interrupted by a third party.

The longest recorded incident of HS/SA-04/X1 was 3 days, with Dr Kerrigan suffering acute dehydration and sleep deprivation as a result. Purple Dragon appeared to suffer no negative effects themselves during this time, claiming that "the music" sustained them during this period. Purple Dragon told Calman site investigators that it "simply did not occur" to him that its audience may need to stop listening to the performance to satisfy basic needs.

The largest number of people affected by HS/SA-04/X1 to date is 37 people - nearly the entity of Helix Site staff, including Directors, and several sentient anomalies. This was caused by two Ethics staff allowing Purple Dragon access to the public announcement system with the express intention of him using HS/SA-04/X1. This was done to create a distraction to enable them to gain access to the Directors' offices to find information on the Helix Site's funding arrangements. The incident ended when an unaffected employee activated the fire alarm. See incident file HS/I-87 and employee termination files HS/GS9/T and HS/GS10/T.

HS/SA-04/X2 "Bestow emotion". The affected individual will enter an extreme emotional state chosen by Purple Dragon - such as euphoria, depression, terror or rage. Anomalous mental states removed by HS/SA-04/X4 can also be granted to individuals by this effect. Non-anomalous emotional states can be treated by conventional psychological interventions and tend to dissipate after a week.

HS/SA-04/X3 "Instil idea". Purple dragon implants a new belief in the affected individual's mind that they are convinced is true. Purple Dragon will often "collaborate" with the affected individual to choose the subject for the belief, with the affected individual believing that they are gaining genuine insight into a topic they care deeply about. If questioned as to why they believe in the truth of this proposition they will insist that it comes from an unimpeachable source, incapable of error or deception.

Ideas implanted by HS/SA-04/X3 are believed to be responsible for the following incidents.

- Dr. Kerrigan's insistence that Ragnarok is real. This in turn appears to have been a contributing factor to the decision to allow HS/SA-03 a.k.a. "Dagnar", a sentiment anomaly resembling a Viking Warrior, to accompany the Helix Operation Team on missions. (Leading, in large part, to the exposure breach that necessitated Calman site intervention.)
- Agent Calhoun's belief that the Helix Site Parapsych department had been compromised by undesirable elements.
- Mr T. Mallow, Head of Personnel and Deputy Head of Green Section, believing that Director Dreckitt had been opening containment cells - which led to Director Dreckitt himself being placed in containment by the Head of Red Section.

All these beliefs appear to be false. Further testing is required to determine whether only false beliefs can be implanted.

HS/SA-04/X4 "Mental trauma manipulation". This ability allows Purple Dragon to bestow or remove a mental trauma - this includes anomalous traumas that have previously resisted treatment by conventional psychological interventions.

Note: Use of this ability to remove an anomalous trauma from Agent Calhoun, combined with provision of apparently helpful information using HS/SA-04/X3, appear to have led to the decision to stop applying Containment procedures to Purple Dragon roughly 9 weeks after the opening of Helix site. It also appears to have led Agent Calhoun to encourage other Helix Site employees to associate with Purple Dragon.

HS/SA-04/X5 "Remote effect". Once a high level of resonance is reached with an individual Purple Dragon can start using anomalous abilities on them without being physically present.

Note: Due to the discontinuation of containment procedures by the time this ability manifested, it is unknown how this ability is affected by containment. This is a potential area for future testing.

HS/SA-04/X6 "Dissolve". Once Purple Dragon has obtained what they describe as a "complete" understanding of an individual they can emit a resonant signal that separates every molecule in the individual body, converting them to a pile of dust. This ability was applied to Dr Kerrigan and Agent Calhoun. At the time, both deaths were attributed to a non-sentient anomaly stored at Helix site.

When questioned about its use of this power by Calman site investigators, Purple Dragon expressed some sadness that it could no longer interact with its "friends" but said that "they made such beautiful symphonies" that it would have been "selfish [...] to deny them their new existence as part of the music of the universe." Purple Dragon also claimed that its previous manipulation of their emotions states and implantation of beliefs had been part of its efforts to "perfect their composition".

It has been theorised by Blue Section that this level of resonant understanding could be used to control an individual. This application does not appear to have occurred to Purple Dragon.

Containment History

The failures of the Helix Site Red Section, and particularly the Containment department, are well documented (see files CS/2023/372-HS- i to ccx).

In the case of Purple Dragon, they were kept at Containment Level 2 for around 7 weeks (records are incomplete) before being reduced to Containment level 1. This was followed by the complete cessation of all formal containment activity in relation to Purple Dragon. However, in practice, containment appears to have stopped being enforced from around week 5.

Several questionable decisions were made by Helix Containment, including the decision to allow Purple Dragon to perform "lunchtime recitals" for staff, despite several other departments raising concerns. Records also indicate that Director Dreckett was unable to access the logistics department for several hours due to Purple Dragon performing for staff as they filed paperwork.

Neutralisation/Future Containment Protocols

Purple Dragon is undoubtedly a dangerous anomaly and it, of course, remains open for Direction to order neutralisation. However it is currently believed that it is possible to safely contain Purple Dragon within an acceptable risk tolerance if suitable procedures are implemented. As a starting point:

- Purple Dragon is to be kept at containment level 3. While containment level 4 might seem sensible, it is judged that

multiple short social interaction is preferable to one or two individuals entering Purple Dragon's cell for extended periods.

- Purple Dragon's cell is to be sound proofed.
- The new principal researcher for Purple Dragon may have no direct contact with Purple Dragon.
- Socialisation and experimentation is conducted by junior Red and Blue section employees on temporary secondment to Helix Site from other Sites for no longer than four months.
- A back up team is assigned to monitor Purple Dragon during socialisation with instructions to interrupt any social interaction that lasts longer than 30 minutes, before immediately withdrawing from Purple Dragon's presence, to mitigate the effect of HS/SA-04/X1.
- Anyone suspected of being affected by HS/SA-04/X5 must be immediately transferred to another site (unless part of an authorised test).

These precautions should be reviewed at least quarterly by the Principal Investigator and the new (hopefully suitably qualified) Head of Containment at Helix Site.

Further Research/Application

There may be merit in exploring the use of HS/SA-04/X3 to manage "fixated" individuals who represent a serious exposure risk to Trust, by implanting in them the firm belief that Trust does not exist.

The continued containment of Purple Dragon keeps open the possibility of Trust using HS/SA-04/X3-4 to treat/manage the spread of anomalous mental states and info hazards (subject to Ethics approval).

In extremis, HS/SA-04/X6 could be used as an alternative method of neutralisation for other sentient anomalies.

Subject to confirmation that recordings of Purple Dragon's performances have no anomalous effects, sales of these recordings could provide a modest income to Helix Site.

While several of these applications would require Purple Dragon's co-operation, records indicate this has previously been obtained through the provision of high quality living accommodation, musical instruments and associated paraphernalia.