

Celestial Activities in Poughkeepsie

There is more than you'd think, given the metaphysically dead nature of the place. Poughkeepsie is an interesting technical problem to some Superiors, and a worryingly dangerous situation to others. Long experience has taught both Heaven and Hell to keep an idea on phenomena that's mysterious even to *them*.

In general, the Host is interested in both solving the riddle of Poughkeepsie, and in finding better ways to pull ghosts and souls out of the Bubble. The Horde instead uses Poughkeepsie as a convenient supernatural storage area, or dumping ground. They are also indifferent to the long term effects of the Bubble on its inhabitants.

Note that the actual celestial presence in Poughkeepsie is very small. Roughly forty angels operate in the area. It's harder to keep track of the demon population, but no Prince currently assigns more than three Servitors to the place.

The Host

Blandine

The Dreams of Poughkeepsie are drab things, thanks to their lack of connection to the Marches. Blandine therefore assigned a permanent research group to try and crack whatever it is that deadens the area. Said group alternates between stymieing Beleth's similar group, and simply ignoring them.

David

On the one hand, most of the work that David could do there is already done by another Archangel. On the other hand, it is an *ideal* place for extreme sports enthusiasts. On the gripping hand, a Servitor of Stone's definition of 'extreme sport' can be extended to include 'cleaning a neighborhood of its disruptive elements.' The lack of Essence and resonance just adds to the spice.

Dominic

Fugitives from the Inquisition who know about Poughkeepsie will often try to go to ground there - especially the ones with nothing to lose. Triads charged with tracking down and bringing miscreants to Judgment will have to go in without their esoteric abilities. Guns still work, though.

Eli

Before his walkabout, Eli's Servitors discovered that their Archangel has a literal blind spot when it comes to Poughkeepsie. He can't see it, doesn't remember anything about it, won't even recognize the name - it's as if the place wasn't there at all (which is broadly correct, from the Symphony's hypothetical point of view). Eli's Servitors did not react well to this bit of news, and even now are busily trying to figure out what the Hell is going on in that place. They're pretty sure he's not actually inside the Bubble, at least. After all, the world hasn't imploded yet.

Gabriel

In marked contrast to Eli (and to a lesser extent, everyone else), Gabriel has not yet noticed that anything unusual is going on with Poughkeepsie. She routinely assigns angels there to punish particularly Cruel individuals, even though the Symphony is silent there. For that matter, she claims to have recently wandered the streets of the town.

Madness? Madness mated with luck? Does being the Word Made Fire allow her to transcend petty restrictions on her power? There are more than a few entities who would be interested in an answer.

Janus

Servitors of the Wind mostly react to Poughkeepsie in one of two ways: they either avoid it completely, or they hold races to see who can get closest to the edge at the highest speed without actually going over the line.

Jean

It is useful to have a place where prototypes may be tested without also having to screen for accidental and/or subconscious Essence expenditure. As for the anomaly itself: Jean has determined that the effects are not spreading, so the Servitors of Lightning on-site mostly perform routine data-gathering and various assigned experiments.

Jordi

Servitors of Animals are the backbone of the soul recovery teams. They can go places that humans cannot, and Jordi is insistent that animal souls be brought out in an expedient manner. That more human souls are *also* brought out from the Bubble is merely a side-effect; the Archangel of Animals doesn't make an extra effort to retrieve those souls, but he also doesn't *mind*.

Laurence

Many locales in Poughkeepsie are perfect places to discuss a plan without supernatural eavesdropping, store a metaphysically dangerous substance without fear of contamination, and/or secure a mortal without needing esoteric cloaking mechanisms. The Commander of the Host anticipated the Archangel of War's observations along these lines by a good twelve hours -- which pleased both of them, really.

Marc

Like Laurence, Marc finds advantages to having a place where deals may be made and planned without supernatural influence, of various sorts. He can also make the occasional deal with those also in the know -- on both sides of the Bubble.

Michael

Laurence does the strategy, Michael does the tactics. Or more accurately, remedial training for those Servitors deemed likely to treat their celestial abilities as a crutch. A week or two in Poughkeepsie's discreet War-dojō will straighten that nonsense right out. You're taking damage, and human medicine isn't giving you the healing you expect? Well, try not to get hit.

Novalis

Like Blandine, Novalis works to cure the whatever-it-is that is causing the problem. She is also carefully encouraging the creation of a network of mortals to take up the slack. After all, just because the Symphony has forgotten Poughkeepsie, it doesn't follow that *Heaven* should.

Yves

Servitors of Destiny work with Animals to recover souls, and with Dreams and Flowers to determine the cause of the problem. It is rumored that Yves already knows the latter, but not in a manner that would allow him to reverse the effect -- or that he could, but something else stays his hand. Either way, his angels continue to work on.

Saints and Soldiers

Both may operate inside the Bubble, although the former find it harder going than the latter. Mortals assigned to Poughkeepsie prefer influence and infiltration over activism; their main purpose is to provide on-site analysis and observations in a relatively safe manner. They also act as the major mechanism by which people already Destined for Heaven are 'encouraged' not to permanently stay.

The Horde

Andrealphus

The Prince of Lust has no personal interest in the place, and to the best of his awareness there isn't anything notably unusual about how his Word operates there. But it *is* a useful place to have a deniable meeting.

Asmodeus

Poughkeepsie is a favorite place for Renegades trying to shake supernatural trackers. Some elude their pursuers, and some are merely encouraged to think that they have. The Game tries to keep Renegades from going in, but it tries even harder to keep them from coming out undetected -- or at all. After all, give it long enough, and Poughkeepsie will solve the problem for you.

Baal

It's a very good place to put the nastier metaphysical weapons, and Poughkeepsie itself could be a very potent weapon if Vapula ever works out how to duplicate the effect and turn it off at will. In the meanwhile, the impromptu weapons dumps are good enough for now.

Beleth

Beleth *hates* Poughkeepsie; the Nightmares generated there are pallid and useless. Beleth also hates the idea of Blandine succeeding in anything. Whichever hatred is more important at any given time is for Beleth to know, and her Servitors to quake in fear about getting wrong.

Belial

The Bubble isn't fire-retardant -- and that's pretty much all the Prince of Infernal Fire cares about. Still, it's pretty funny to send the occasional idiot in cold, as it were. They either learn better real quick, or they die.

Haagenti

Food from Poughkeepsie doesn't taste any different; this was actually of some interest to the Prince of Gluttony. Haagenti's one of the few Princes genuinely curious about the nature of the place, to the point where he has permanently assigned a Servitor to do research. She is currently researching whether this was a plum assignment, or a trap.

Kobal

A Prank that involves Poughkeepsie's unique nature is almost guaranteed to bring a smirk to Kobal's face -- particularly if the demon made it all happen naturally. Plus,

it's a good place to leave stuff and 'forget' about it.
Especially if it's portable, dangerous, and unmarked!

Kronos

Once it was determined the Bubble did not interfere with Destiny and Fate, Poughkeepsie became no more and no less an irritant to Kronos than any other place on the map.

Lilith

The Princess of Freedom does not like places where Geases do not bite -- and Asmodeus is already giving her grief for the way that Lilim seem immune to the place. She's a willing contributor of resources to Hell's few research programs; indeed, she'd be happy to underwrite the ones done by the Other Side, if anyone was insane enough to involve her. ...Marc doesn't count.

Malphas

The Prince of Factions feels that any competent Servitor of his Word can promote said Word without supernatural assistance. The fact that doing so in Poughkeepsie does not generate Essence is irrelevant; it's the *principle* of the thing. Obviously, there are certain safety concerns, but that's a mere hostile-environment issue.

Nybbas

Servitors of the Media have two minds on Poughkeepsie. One faction points out how the place is ideal for determining what humans actually want to watch; the other, much larger faction doesn't care. Nybbas permits a very little blue-sky research by faction one -- hey, you never know -- and otherwise ignores the place. I mean. *Poughkeepsie*.

Saminga

People still die in Poughkeepsie, so obviously Saminga is still its king. The Prince of Death would like to figure out a way for Undead to survive the place for more than a nanosecond, but that's a side issue.

Valefor

The Prince of Theft considers stealing something from Poughkeepsie to be good practice for his Servitors. Given what some of his colleagues use the place for, there's *always* something there worth stealing.

Vapula

It's a fascinating place, well worth examining. The trick is surviving long enough to get any worthwhile data; for some reason, virtually every other organization in the War makes it a point to shoot Technology's onsite researchers

on, well, sight. This notoriously does not exclude some groups that are theoretically on Vapula's own side.

Hellsworn

Hell hates the idea of letting its human servants go off by themselves without supervision, but it's generally deemed safe enough to have Hellsworn move the heavy stuff in and out. It's rumored that particularly good service done on behalf of exceptionally kind-hearted demons can result in a Soldier of Hell being allowed to die inside the Bubble.

Sorcerers

If you ask any Sorcerer, they'll tell you that Sorcery doesn't work in Poughkeepsie. How could it? If celestial powers can't function, how could theirs? The very idea is absurd. Ha. Ha. Ha.

Undead

They enter, they die.

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