The Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch
draft-camelot-holy-grenade-00

Abstract

   The menagerie of beasts and artefacts depicted in RFC8140 may be
   usefully supplemented by other renowned figures of Internet and more
   general lore. This document extends the menagerie to the seminal
   fable of the "Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch", as depicted in the Monty
   Python film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", as well as "Spamalot",
   the musical inspired by the movie.

Spamalot

   The relevance of the musical "Spamalot" to Internet lore should be
   obvious to the reader; but in case of doubt, see also Section 1
   ("What is Spam*?") of RFC2635.

Status of This Memo

   This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the
   provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

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1. Terminology

   The key words "*MUST*", "*MUST NOT*", "*REQUIRED*", "*SHALL*",
   "*SHALL NOT*", "*SHOULD*", "*SHOULD NOT*", "*RECOMMENDED*", "*NOT
   RECOMMENDED*", "*MAY*", and "*OPTIONAL*" in this document are to be
   interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only
   when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

2. Introduction

   [RFC8140] refers to the intended move of RFC formatting to XML2RFC v3
   [RFC7990], in the following terms:

   Although the RFC Editor has recently dragged the IETF kicking and
   screaming into the twentieth century [RFC7990] [RFC7996], there is a
   yearning among all right-thinking Internet architects to "keep it
   simple" and to return to the olden days when pigs could be given
   thrust without anyone taking undue offence.

   -- A. Farrel

While no pigs, flying or otherwise, are involved in the transition to
RFC XML v3, it is opportune to enhance the [RFC8140] legendarium in
the service of RFC XML v3, by illustrating its functionality through
references to the mythology of Camelot, and particularly the
incidents at the Cave of Caerbannog.

The screaming move into the twenty-*first* century is accompanied by
a move back to the late twentieth century, with ASCII stylings more
wonted in haunts like ftp://ftp.wwa.com/pub/Scarecrow (known to be
accessible in 1996.)

There are two references to rabbits in _Monty Python and the Holy
Grail_ which are expounded on herewith:

Trojan Rabbit
   In their siege of the French-occupied castle which may already
   contain an instance of the Grail, Sir Bedevere the Wise proposes
   to use a Trojan Rabbit to infiltrate the castle, with a raiding
   party to take the French "not only by surprise, but totally
   unarmed."
   The proposal, unsurprisingly, proved abortive. The more so as the
   raiding party forgot to hide within the Trojan Rabbit, before the
   French soldiers took the Trojan Rabbit inside the castle.

Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog
   Guarding the entrance to the Cave of Caerbannog; see Section 4.

3. The French-occupied castle

The participants of that renowned exercise in cross-cultural
communication, to wit the exchange between the _Knights of the Round
Table_ and the taunting French soldiers serving under *Guy de
Lombard* are, properly speaking, outside the scope of this
"menagerie", being more or less human. Notwithstanding, several^ish^
beasts both animate_d_ and wooden played a significant part in this
encounter; most notably:

o The Projectile Cow, see Figure 1

o The Trojan Rabbit, see Figure 2

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Figure 1: The Projectile Cow with an accompanying cannon

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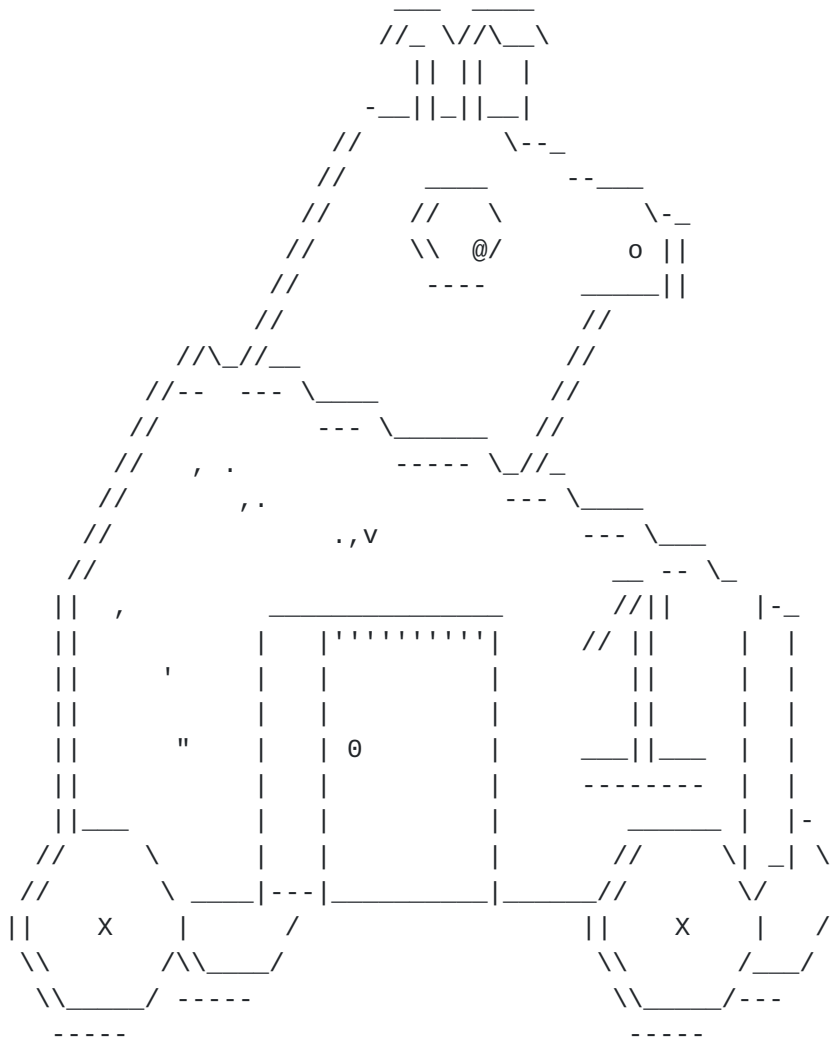
       Figure 2: The Trojan Rabbit with an automatic sliding door

   While the exchange at the French-occupied castle is one of the more
   memorable scenes of _Monty Python and the Holy Grail_, the Trojan
   Rabbit has not reached the same level of cultural resonance as its
   more murderous counterpart. Reasons for this may include:

   o Less overall screen-time dedicated to the Trojan Rabbit.

   o The Trojan Rabbit as projectile has already been anticipated by
      the Cow as projectile.

   [CREF1]

   The exchange of projectile animals was the beginning of a long-
   running fruitful relationship between the British and the French

peoples, which arguably predates the traditional English enmity with
the French.

4. The Mythos of Caerbannog

The _Cave of Caerbannog_ has been well-established in the mythology
of Camelot (as recounted by Monty Python) as the lair of the
Legendary Black Beast of Arrrghhh, more commonly known today as the
Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog Section 4.1. It is the encounter
between the Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog and the Knights of the Round
Table, armed with the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch (see the following
section (Section 4.2)), that we recount here through monospace font
and multiple spaces.

4.1. The Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog

The *Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog*, that most formidable foe of the
Knights and of all that is holy or carrot-like, has been depicted
diversely in lay and in song. We venture to say, _contra_ the claim
made in Section 4.1 of Ze Vompyre [RFC8140], that the Killer Rabbit
of Caerbannog truly is the most afeared of all the creatures. Short
of sanctified ordnance such as Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch, there
are few remedies known against its awful lapine powers.

The following depiction (Figure 3) of the fearsome beast has been
sourced from Rabbit-SCII [1], accompanied (Figure 4) by C code that
was used in this accurate depiction of the Killer Rabbit:

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    \##MWMWMWMMWMWMWMWMWMWMWMW// |    \-^^-/   |MWMWMWMMWMWMWMWMWM
    MWMWMWMMMWMWVERYMDARKWMMW//   |             |MWMCAERBANNOGWMWMW
    MWMWMWMMWMWMWMWMWMWMWMMM{{   /             /MWMWMMWMWMWMWMWMWM
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Figure 3: A Photo Of The Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog Taken In Secret

```
<CODE BEGINS>
/* Locate the Killer Rabbit */
int type;
unsigned char *killerRabbit =
  LocateCreature(&caerbannog, "killer rabbit");
if( killerRabbit == 0 ){
  puts("The Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog is out of town.");
  return LOST_CREATURE;
}

/* Load Cave */
unsigned char *cave = LoadPlace(&caerbannog,
  "The Cave Of Caerbannog");
if( cave == 0 ){
  puts("The Cave of Caerbannog must have moved.");
  return LOST_PLACE;
}

/* Lure the Killer Rabbit back into the Cave */
unsigned char *carrot = allocateObjectInPlace(
  carrot("fresh"), cave);
if( carrot == 0 ){
  puts("No carrot, no rabbit.");
  return LOST_LURE;
}

/* Finally, notify the Killer Rabbit to act */
return notifyCreature(killerRabbit, &carrot);
<CODE ENDS>
```

          Figure 4: C Code To Lure Killer Rabbit Back To Cave

On the beast's encounter with the Knights of the Round Table, the
following personnel engaged with it in combat:

o Killed

   * Sir Bors

   * Sir Gawain

   * Sir Ector

o Soiled Himself

   * Sir Robin

o Panicked

   *   King Arthur

   o Employed Ordnance

      *   The Lector

      *   Brother Maynard

   o Scoffed

      *   Tim the Enchanter

4.2. Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch

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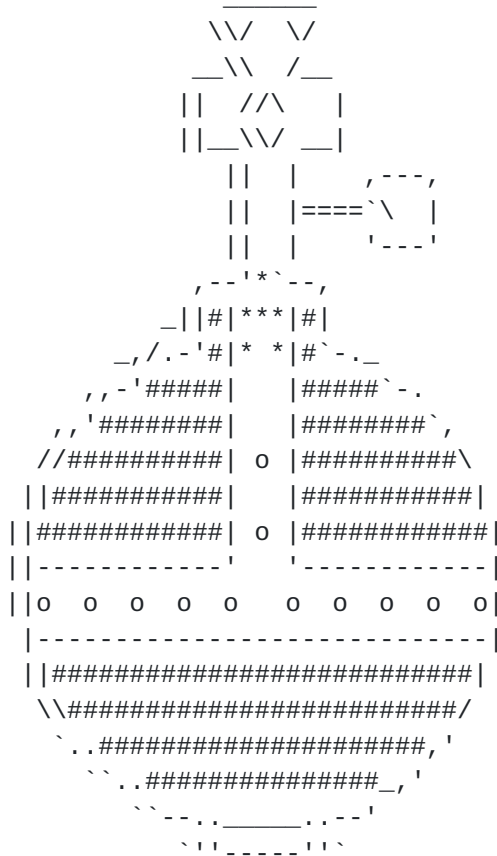
         Figure 5: The Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch (don't pull the pin)

                Figure 6: The Sovereign's Orb made invisible

   The solution to the impasse at the Cave of Caerbannog was provided by
   the successful deployment of the *Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch* (see
   Figure 5) . Any similarity between the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch
   and the mythical _Holy Spear of Antioch_ is purely intentional; any

similarity between the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch and the
Sovereign's Orb of the United Kingdom (see Figure 6) is putatively
fortuitous.

Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch
    Ordnance deployed by Brother Maynard under the incantation of a
    lector, in order to dispense with the Foes of the Virtuous. See
    Figure 5.

Holy Spear of Antioch
    A supposed relic of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, this is one
    of at least four claimed instances of the lance that pierced
    Christ's side. Its historical significance lies in inspiring
    crusaders to continue their siege of Antioch in 1098.

Sovereign's Orb of the United Kingdom
    Part of the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom, the Sovereign's
    Orb is a hollow gold sphere set with jewels and topped with a
    cross. It was made for Charles II in 1661. See Figure 6.

The instructions in the _Book of Armaments_ on the proper deployment
of the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch *MAY* be summarized as follows,
although this summary *SHALL NOT* be used as a substitute for a
reading from the Book of Armaments:

1. Preamble: St Attila Benediction

2. Feast of the People on Sundry Foods

       * Lambs

       * Sloths

       * Carp

       * Anchovies

       * Orangutangs

       * Breakfast Cereals

       * Fruit Bats

       * _et hoc genus omne_

3. Take out the Holy Pin

4. The Count

      A. Count is to Three: no more, no less

      B. Not Four

      C. Nor Two, except if the count then proceeds to Three

      D. Five is Right Out

   5. Lob the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch towards the Foe

   6. The Foe, being naughty in the *LORD's* sight, *SHALL* snuff it

This could also be represented in pseudocode as follows:

1. Take out the Holy Pin

2. The Count

```
integer count;
for count := 1 step 1 until 3 do
  say(count)
comment Five is Right Out
```

3. Lob the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch towards the Foe

4. Foe snuffs it

[5](#). Dramatis Personae

The following human (more-or-less) protagonists were involved in the
two incidents recounted as lore of the Knights of the Round Table:

```
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| French Castle          | Cave of Caerbannog                     |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| King Arthur            | Patsy                                  |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| Sir Bedevere the Wise  | Sir Galahad the Pure                   |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| Sir Lancelot the Brave | Sir Robin the Not-quite-so-brave-as-   |
|                        | Sir-Lancelot                           |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| French Guard with      | Tim the Enchanter                      |
| Outrageous Accent      |                                        |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| Other French Guards    | Brother Maynard                        |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
|                        | The Lector                             |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| not yet recruited      | Sir Bors                               |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| Sir Gawain             | Sir Ector                              |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
| Retinue of sundry      | Retinue of sundry more knights than at |
| knights                | the French Castle                      |
+------------------------+----------------------------------------+
```

5.1. Past the Killer Rabbit

   Once the Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog (Figure 3) had been dispatched,
   the Knights of the Round Table uncovered the last words of Joseph of
   Arimathea, inscribed on the Cave of Caerbannog in Aramaic. While the
   precise Aramaic wording has not survived, we trust the following
   Hebrew subtitles will serve as an acceptable substitute:

   .כאן אולי
   ימצאו
   המילים
   האחרונות
   של יוסף
   מארמתיה .מי
   אשר יהיה
   אמיץ ובעל
   נפש טהורה
   יוכל למצוא
   את הגביע
   הקדוש
   בטירת
   אאאאאאאה

   "Here may be found the last words of Joseph of Arimathea. He who is
   valiant and pure of spirit may find the Holy Grail in the castle of
   -- Aaaargh."

6. IANA Considerations

   IANA might consider a registry to track the mythical, especially
   ravaging beasts, such as the Killer Rabbit, who haunt the Internet.

7. Security Considerations

   Do not let the Killer Rabbit out under any circumstance.

   I repeat. Do not let the Killer Rabbit (Figure 3) out.

8. References

8.1. Normative References

   [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate
              Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119,
              DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997,
              <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>.

8.2. Informative References

   [grail_film]
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              and M. Palin, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", 1975.

   [RFC2635] Hambridge, S. and A. Lunde, "DON'T SPEW A Set of
              Guidelines for Mass Unsolicited Mailings and Postings
              (spam*)", FYI 35, RFC 2635, DOI 10.17487/RFC2635, June
              1999, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2635>.

   [RFC7990] Flanagan, H., "RFC Format Framework", RFC 7990,
              DOI 10.17487/RFC7990, December 2016,
              <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7990>.

   [RFC8140] Farrel, A., "The Arte of ASCII: Or, An True and Accurate
              Representation of an Menagerie of Thynges Fabulous and
              Wonderful in Ye Forme of Character", RFC 8140,
              DOI 10.17487/RFC8140, April 2017,
              <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8140>.

   [RFC8174] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC
              2119 Key Words", BCP 14, RFC 8174, DOI 10.17487/RFC8174,
              May 2017, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8174>.

8.3. **URIs**

   [1] http://camelot.gov.example/avatars/rabbit

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Editorial Comments

[CREF1] Author: Image courtesy of https://camelot.gov.example/creatures-
        in-ascii/

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