



## An Epilogue

or

*If you stab me, do I not explode?*

<b>Mission title:</b>	<i>An Epilogue or If you stab me, do I not explode?</i>
<b>Mission log:</b>	
<b>Mission Johnson:</b>	
<b>Mission reward:</b>	
<b>Participants:</b>	Vince

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## 1-07: Looking for answers in all the wrong places

It was late at night – getting so late that one could argue that it was getting to be early morning. Vince’s pocket secretary went off with a muted bell. It was a message for him – or, more specifically, a text message. It was rather terse and direct, a somewhat strange contrast to his whimsical ‘professor’ persona – but much more in line with the ‘Defender of the Earth’ persona that Vince had witnessed earlier.

“Re: Your earlier email.

I do not pass judgment except on actions that endanger the Primordial Mound. The reasons why people do things are endlessly varied. That people do things, is the bit that concerns me.

I happen to be familiar with the devices that you’re referring to. Though distasteful in the extreme, they represent no contamination in and of themselves. Their method of manufacture is worrisome, however. Yet I present to you the conundrum – if one chops down a tree, is it not better to utilize its materials to some end? Indeed, if one does chop down the last tree, then I have failed in my sacred task as a guardian. But even if billions die, metahumanity will continue, as evinced by VITAS.

Pact magic is old magic. That which has been willingly entered, cannot be undone without cost – and sometimes extreme cost at that. Renouncing a pact will be the same as breaking it. It all depends on the phrasing of the pact – is it limited to some task or objective, perhaps, or is it an eternal thing?

Apep, cursed be the name, is in everything yet in nothing. It does not concern itself with limited views such as ‘living’ or ‘dead’. It is, and in its existence it is power. As long as part of Apep, the Cursed Serpent, exists, then the entirety exists. That which is Apep, black dragon of the Nile, can consume that which is itself in order to strengthen itself. One cannot kill that which does not live.

I now know who you are, and who you were. I have observed your life. I believe you earnest, but ill equipped in this endeavor. Fighting Apep, the evil sun will likely require access to the true nature of things. The physical world is but an aspect of a greater whole.

I am kheri heb. I guard. I watch. I wait.”