

THE STAGNATION CONTRACT

Terms of Residency in Ancrum

1. The Clause of Performative Neighbourliness All residents agree that "friendliness" shall be interpreted solely as the performance of public compliance. Genuine engagement, open inquiry, or the challenging of local norms is strictly prohibited. Failure to smile, wave, or participate in the mandated rhythm of the village shall be documented as "anti-social behaviour."

2. The Protocol of Mandatory Erasure Should any resident express discomfort, question the "Stagnation Contract," or point toward the underlying mechanisms of village control, they shall be systematically transitioned into the status of "The Other." This process includes, but is not limited to: the professionalisation of gossip, the administrative complaint loop, and the intentional social vacuum.

3. The Preservation of the Rural Idyll The Village Idyll is not a living community; it is a static exhibition. Any resident who introduces "unauthorised" ideas, modern analytical critiques, or disruptive transparency (e.g., unauthorised documentation) is in breach of this contract and subject to immediate social quarantine.

4. The Guarantee of Collective Detachment Residents agree to practice "Strategic Ignorance." When the System acts to remove a "disruptive" element, residents shall maintain a collective silence. To acknowledge the torment of the "Other" is to risk one's own standing within the contract.