

The Sacred Path

The sacred path is an ethical precept within the Farspeakers. It states that the messages between two parties must not be willfully interrupted, altered, or overheard **so long as they traverse a public network**. The bold is important. Much like the relationship between lawyer and client or confessor and penitent, Farspeakers regard the messages that traverse the body of the noosphere to be inviolate, and are generally opposed to measures that would censor or otherwise hinder these communications.

Note, however, that this rule does not mean that Farspeakers don't care that the network is being used to conduct illegal or harmful activities, just that the policing of said activities should happen at the local level, within the autonomous systems of private organizations, homes, etc. Anchorites who find themselves administering these private networks can and do regulate what traverses their corner of the system.

During the war of Dissolution, the clergy ordered the Farspeakers to black-hole any traffic suspected to relate to the Dissolutionists. This caused an (admittedly tiny) schism within the order, with a small number of Farspeakers who were otherwise sympathetic to the Preservationists to switch sides.

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