

Custodial Framework — 2026

Within LivingMyth, custodianship does not mean ownership in the conventional commercial sense.

It refers instead to a bounded relation of holding: a formal recognition that a specific artifact, edition, inscription, or registry object has entered into custodial relation with a given individual or entity under the terms established by the institution.

This means the artifact may be held, but it is not collapsed into transferable authorship, interpretive entitlement, or derivative control.

Custodianship therefore differs from consumer purchase, speculative holding, and private collecting in their usual forms.

Within LivingMyth, three positions remain distinct.

The public witness may encounter the work without ownership, claim, or institutional relationship.

The custodian may hold a canonical artifact instance under defined terms, while receiving no authorship, no derivative rights, and no interpretive authority.

The patron may support the continuity of the institution, but gains no special access to canon, no authority over release cadence, and no influence over symbolic development. Patronage and custodianship are structurally adjacent, but not equivalent.

Custodians do not co-author, direct, advise, unlock privileges, or shape future works. They do not purchase access to the institution's interior. They do not gain narrative leverage through financial proximity. The artifact remains under LivingMyth custody in authorship, structure, and symbolic jurisdiction at all times.

This framework preserves the work from a common collapse: the assumption that financial relation necessarily creates interpretive or directional entitlement.

Within LivingMyth, it does not.

The custodian holds the artifact under institutional terms. The institution remains the authorial and symbolic authority.

This distinction is not punitive.

It is preservational.

The purpose of custodial structure is to allow serious artifacts to circulate, be held, and remain culturally real without being dissolved into the ordinary assumptions of ownership culture.

A LivingMyth artifact may therefore be:

- publicly encounterable
- privately held
- registrarily recorded
- or canonically indexed

without ever ceasing to belong to the symbolic jurisdiction of the institution itself.

This is especially important because many LivingMyth artifacts are not merely aesthetic works. They are structured literary artifacts situated within a larger symbolic body. Their integrity depends not only on their text or image, but on the conditions under which they are encountered, placed, and preserved.

Custodianship therefore functions as a bounded cultural relation rather than a transfer of sovereign control.

That is the framework.

LivingMyth

A registry of symbolic artifacts held under conditions of permanence.