

Everything you always wanted to know about Angyalistan

PoliNation – 3rd International Conference on Micronations
Free Republic of Alcatraz – 4-5 July 2015



Your Majesties, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fist of all I would like to thank Emperor George of Atlantium who gave me the opportunity to give this presentation about Angyalistan. I was rather reluctant about it since speaking English in public is not the exercise I'm the most at ease with. But he convinced me to overcome my shyness, and so, here is another presentation with a terrible French accent.

To quote a famous song by the Rolling stones once rebooted by NSK's band Laibach, Pleased to meet you / Hope you guess my name / what's puzzling you / Is the nature of my game (Woo woo, woo woo).



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I am Olivier, Emperor of Angyalistan. Some of you may have seen my name on vexillological websites. I have been involved in flags forums for years, and that's the way I first got interested in micronations. I also have always been fascinated by historical and geographical curiosities. But these are not the reasons why Angyalistan was born. In fact, I did not create Angyalistan, and this is not "my" micronation. Angyalistan created me and that is where I belong – and not just me, by the way.

The main feature of the Empire of Angyalistan is our claimed territory. Does it prevent us to be a classical micronation, or are we not only a normal micronation, but something more? Let's try to understand that...

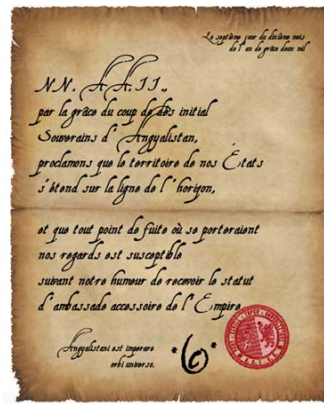
1/ Angyalistan today, a classical micronation?

1.1. An unusual territory

The **Empire of Angyalistan** was founded on January 31, 1999, but its full sovereignty was proclaimed on October 7, 2000, the day the union of Their Imperial Highnesses was solemnized (and in fact we became Majesties), and during this ceremony an angyalistanese flag was publicly exhibited for the first time. On that same day, the horizon as the territory of the Empire was claimed for the first time. The original written claim has been lost, but a facsimile has been released in 2009 and is kept in our National Museum, located in our permanent embassy.



At the end of 2000, the Empire of Angyalistan entered a period of half-sleep for a decade, but that did not infringe its immanence and its sustainability.



Facsimile released in 2009
of the original written claim of the horizon.
National Museum of Angyalistan.

The origins of the Empire's name lay in the hungarian word *angyal*, which means angel. Note : “gy” in hungarian is pronounced “di” and so should be pronounced the name of our nation.

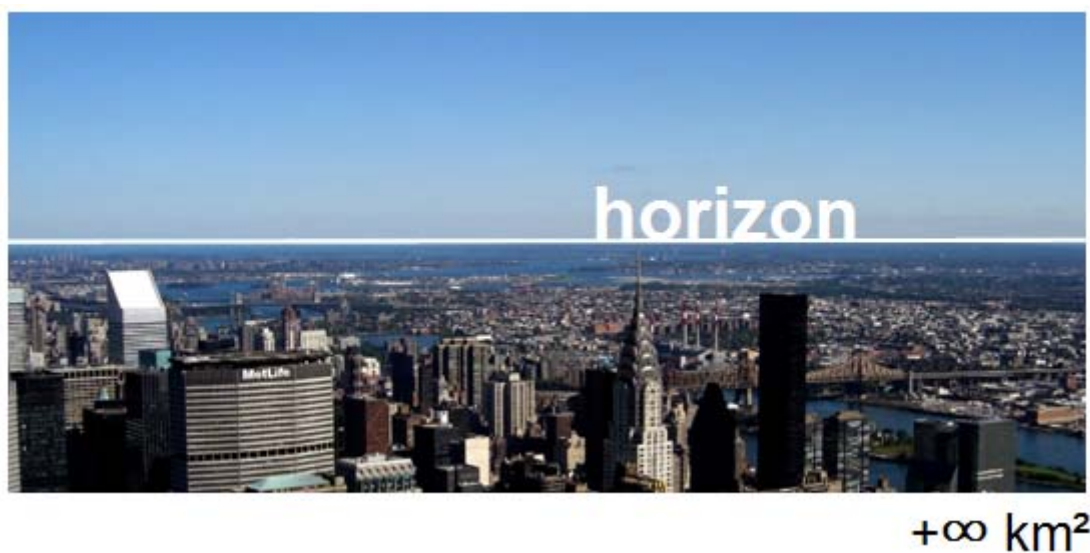
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Angyal: angel in Hungarian

The reference to angels echoes the specificity of the primary territory of the Empire, on the horizon: poetry and the art of dreaming are necessary mediators of the scientific truth of our geography, and angels are messengers who do perfectly symbolize this requirement.

Angyalistan extends its territory along the horizon, and thus has an area of a positive infinity of square kilometers. The nature of the Empire of Angyalistan did not lead us to build a new island, look for a terra nullius which would have not yet been known as such, or claim our home as an independent homeland. We needed a dream – an unreachable and poetic dream.





But this strong symbol, the horizon, doesn't help to be considered as a serious micronation, even if this claim is very, very serious. This is not less serious than claiming unreachable and uninhabitable immersed islands, no-man's lands on borders, satellites, cyber-space, moving objects or celestial space.

In October 2013 anyway, we decided to claim a physical territory to increase our credibility. Angyalistan claims as its territory **the five main garbage patches** (North Pacific, known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch - GPGP - ; and North Atlantic, Indian Ocean, South Pacific, and South Atlantic).



The Five main Garbage Patches



This claim gives a physical territorial basis to the Empire of Angyalistan, which is important towards the convention of Montevideo. But we do not want to erect hypothetically there some kind of artificial land. Claiming the GPs makes the Empire of Angyalistan unique because we are, as far as we know, the only state in the world whose purpose is to make disappear its physical territory.

For practical reasons, the people of Angyalistan live in exile and the Empire is administered from its permanent territorialized embassy to the European Union, located in France in the eastern suburbs of Paris.

1.2. A set of concordant items of micronational evidence

Now that the territorial issue is better understood, let's review all the other clues on the path of our micronational identity.

We have **20 citizens** – I mean, 20 people who filled a form and expressed their will to be a citizen of Angyalistan and that our institutions allowed to become citizens. We provide our citizens with passports, as you know. Forms are available on our websites for people willing to ask for citizenship and for citizens wishing to have their passport printed. As you know, people sometimes ask for passports to misuse them, and for this reason we are very cautious about giving citizenship.



We have besides many **residents, maybe 300** at the time being, but probably more. I am unable to give you an accurate number of our residents because of the very specific definition of the term “residents” in our Basic law – but this curiosity will be explained in the second part of this presentation.

Our **capital city** is named Angyalabad. This is the place where our official decrees are taken. Angyalabad, very logically, cannot be put on a map: it is the name given to the place where the Emperor and the Empress are gathered.

Our **official language** is French. The use of French is mandatory in the permanent embassy of the Empire in Europe (except for the representatives of foreign nation who do not speak French, of course!). We have three more **national languages**: Hungarian, Nauruan, and Latin, but they are very scarcely used in the Empire. English is of course tolerated as a vehicular language.

Official language :
French 

National languages :
Hungarian, Nauruan, Latin



Our **currency** is the Bancor of Angyalistan (βa^∞), divided in 100 cents (ϵa^∞).

The bancor was a supranational currency that John Maynard Keynes and Ernst Friedrich Schumacher conceptualized in the years 1940-42 and which the United Kingdom proposed to introduce after World War II: but the proposal was rejected in Bretton Woods and the system implicitly established the United States dollar as a reserve currency.



1 bancor equals 0.421 euros, but if the wind is strong with many changes of direction, this may change.

We have not yet emitted coins or banknotes, but we have already **stamps**: stamps in angyalistanese cents (1, 2, 4, 7, 12, 17 and 41 ¢^{ang}) and in angyalistanese bancors (1, 2, 4, and 4,21 B^{ang}) have been released in 2012, and new stamps will be released in 2015.



We have a **Basic Law** (I'll let you know more about it later), an **official gazette** to register decrees and international treaties. We are an absolute monarchy according to this Law. **Several institutions** have been created by Decree. Among the main institutions of the Empire:

- the **Administration of the Exchequer** has the missions to coin money and issue stamps.
- the **Office of the White Room** publishes the Official Gazette, the Records of Bijective diplomacy and is in charge of the archives and of the collections of the National Museum.
- the **imperial High Committee for Naturalization** examines issues related to the acquisition of citizenship.



- the **imperial Commission for Agrobiology** harvests natural products of Angyalistan and of the gardens of its embassies.
- the **Bureau of exports, comices (agricultural fairs) & related activities** sells domestic productions.
- the **UniCORN** (Unité imperiale de Coordination des Opérations en matière de Réputation et de Notoriété) is in charge of communication, publications, media relations, advertising, public relations, organization of events - all that can contribute to the fame and popularity of the Empire.

We have no government and no assemblies; anyway, the Emperor may entrust some tasks to a minister. There is actually only one, he is with me in this room; Frederic is our minister for compressed air and linear functions, two important things to me I had no time to manage correctly.

The Empire of Angyalistan recognizes, on the basis of multiple specific criteria several micronations, and has a policy of non-aggression towards other micronations. Treaties of **mutual recognition** have been signed with:

- the Republic of Padrhom in april 2013.
- Juclandia in august 2013.
- the Democratic Republic of Leylandiistan in november 2013.
- the Flandrensisian Commonwealth (Grand Duchy of Flandrensis, Principality of Arkel, Duchy of Campinia) in march 2014.
- the Free and Respected State of Ariana in may 2014 ; after the transformation of this state, the treaty was de facto transferred to its successor, the Rajahnate of Namayan.
- the Federal Republic of Lostisland in june 2014.
- the Principality of Hélianthis in july 2014.
- the Principality of Aigues-Mortes in july 2014.
- the Republic of Eslanda in april 2015.



Our **incomes** come from the selling of our stamped postcards and of our agrobiological products. We have a brand, *Les Jardins de l'Ambassade*, and sell artisanal and ecologically made jam, chutney or liquors made with the kiwis, cherries and plums from the garden of the permanent embassy. Our postcards are sent worldwide but our products are for local market only.



We have of course a **flag** and a **coat of arms**. The seven stars (seven, magical number, is four + two + one) in the shape of a C like Empress Clotilde, around an O like Emperor Olivier, and the triangle at the hoist show a community of destiny for the Imperial couple, but also for the citizens of Angyalistan and the whole world. The horizontal line at the fly stands for the horizon in which all is united, and this line is supposed to be infinite after the end of the flag...



National flag



National arms



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The imperial standard looks like the national flag but has golden fringes on three sides and the imperial version of the coat of arms, which has a different motto. The national motto is : Angyalistani Est Imperare Orbi Universo (It is Angyalistan's destiny to rule the whole world) ; the imperial one is Amoris Est Imperare Orbi Universo (Love shall rule the world).

Not only AEIOU was a famous device of the Habsburg family with universal aims. I should add that in his novel, *Ulysses*, James Joyce uses the device for comic effect after Stephen Dedalus borrows money from George Russell, a Dublin writer whose pen name was A.E.: 'A.E.I.O.U.'

We have an anthem, entitled A.E. I. O. U. ,a seal, a national animal – the Unicorn... We have a newspaper, *La licorne affranchie*, a website, a Facebook page...

We have titles of nobility (virtually since they have not been given yet), we have a honorary order, the Golden Sextant...

Motto: **A. E. I. O. U.** Angyalistani Est Imperare Orbi Universo
Amoris Est Imperare Orbi Universo

Sur les sept mers et les cinq continents
D'un pôle à l'autre, d'orient en occident,
L'Empire est là veillant sur l'horizon,
Promulguant les lois qui nous guideront.

Rève absolu fait monde, l'Angyalistan,
Libre et souverain, combat de chaque instant,
Etend sur les cieux et toutes les saisons
L'azur et l'or de son fier pavillon

Angyalistani est imperare orbi, orbi, orbi, orbi
Angyalistani est imperare orbi universo

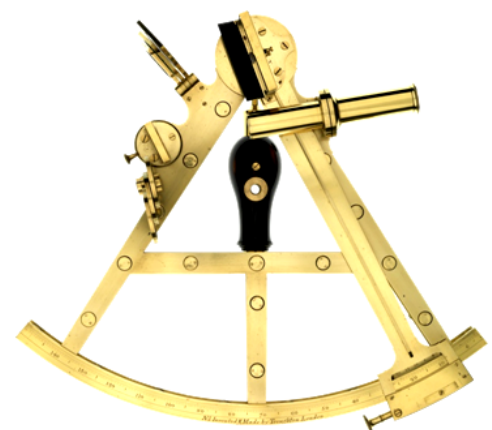
Alignant le feu, l'eau, la terre, et les vents
L'Empire étend son espace infiniment ;
Jamais le soleil n'éteindra ses rayons
Sur la beauté nonpareille de ses horizons.

Angyalistani est imperare orbi, orbi, orbi, orbi
Angyalistani est imperare orbi universo

National Anthem



Imperial Seal



Golden Sextant



We have three **national holidays** : on January 31 (Flag day, the day in 1999 when our flag was designed as the Empire's flag), April 8 (Sovereigns day, first oath of our Imperial Highnesses (and not yet Majesties) in 1995), and October 7 (Horizon day, when the territory of the horizon was claimed in 2000). There are five more public holidays, each time the numbers 4, 2 and 1 are together in the Gregorian calendar : on January 24, on February 14, on April 12 and 21, and on December 4.



The french Dice game Four-Twenty-one, wich appears near the unicorn supporting our shield, is a symbol of fortune and of the chance which made the Empire exist.

2. A performative pantopia

Shouldn't all these things have convinced you that we are a real nation, we are going to rely on our nature to explain who we are exactly. The Empire of Angyalistan considers itself as a performative pantopia: this means that the mere fact of stating the principles of the Basic Law of the Empire is sufficient to achieve them. Any reader of the Basic Law itself contributes to its materiality. To understand this, I would like to take you back to the genesis of our nation, and share with you what it means.



2.1 Genesis of the Empire of Angyalistan

“Aimer, ce n'est pas se regarder l'un l'autre, c'est regarder ensemble dans la même direction.” *To love is not to look at one another: it is to look, together, in the same direction.*

This sentence by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry sums up the genesis of the Empire of Angyalistan. The beginnings of the Empire date back as I said to April 8, 1995, with the first oath of Their Imperial Highnesses called Oath of the sovereigns and the Empire of Angyalistan emerged progressively in the following years until the proclamation of its sovereignty in 2000.

Angyalistan is not the kind of micronation born on a boring day when a kid says, hey, let's do a micronation, it looks like it would be cool. Angyalistan emerged as the artistic rendition of love in what would become the imperial couple. Our flag and our coat of arms took their definitive design later, but the main elements were there in the nineties, and especially the two lions offering each other a rose on our shield and the horizon line on our flag. Basically, as you understand, Angyalistan was first a romantic project, without a name, and without the expressed aim of being a nation as such. It was a way of life, a concept to spread and radiate love, a concept in which we decided to make our dreams come true, to build our life and make love grow as if it were a work of art – and in fact, being lived and considered as a work of art, it has become a work of art ; an ever-growing, ever-changing work of art.



A work of art in the shape of a quasi-state, since it had already a claimed territory (the horizon at which we looked), a population (the imperial couple), a government (led by the imperial couple on the basis of pre-existing premises of the Basic law). We only missed the capacity to enter into relations with the other states, but obviously, this fourth criterion in the Montevideo convention was impossible to fulfill for an untold state.

When I realized that with this emerging state, I was “not only an artist”, I had become myself “a work of art”, I remembered of course the famous words by Friedrich Nietzsche on Apollo versus Dionysus in *The Birth of Tragedy*, and everything got clearer:

Comparing the two gods of art, the German philosopher wrote that in Dionysian art:

If someone were to transform Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* into a painting and not restrain his imagination when millions of people sink dramatically into the dust, then we could come close to the Dionysian. Now is the slave a free man, now all the stiff, hostile barriers break apart, those things which necessity and arbitrary power or “saucy fashion” have established between men. Now, with the gospel of world harmony, every man feels himself not only united with his neighbour, reconciled and fused together, but also as if the veil of Maja has been ripped apart, with only scraps fluttering around before the mysterious original unity. **Singing and dancing, man expresses himself as a member of a higher unity.** He has forgotten how to walk and talk and is on the verge of flying up into the air as he dances. The enchantment speaks out in his gestures. Just as the animals speak and the earth gives milk and honey, so now something supernatural echoes out of him. He feels himself a god. **He now moves in a lofty ecstasy, as he saw the gods move in his dream. The man is no longer an artist. He has become a work of art.** The artistic power of all of nature, the rhapsodic satisfaction of the primordial unity, reveals itself here in the intoxicated performance. The finest clay, the most expensive marble — man — is here worked and chiseled, and the cry of the Eleusianian mysteries rings out to the chisel blows of the Dionysian world artist: “Do you fall down, you millions? World, do you have a sense of your creator?”



To sum up, I should recall what are the Dionysian and the Apollonian ways of making art. Very loosely: in Apollinian art, reality is ordered and differentiated by forms; in Dionysian art, not at all. Nietzsche claims that life always involves a struggle between these two elements, each battling for control over the existence of humanity. The issue, for Nietzsche, is how to experience and understand the Dionysian side of life without destroying the obvious values of the Apollonian side. It is not healthy for an individual, or for a whole society, to become entirely absorbed in the rule of one or the other.

Some of you may say : OK, and so what? Is Angyalistan a purely Dionysian project? Of course not. Apollo is the god of enlightenment, moderation and dreams, the form giver in art, politics, law and science. Apollo was born in Delos, known for her famous horizon, showing two conical mounds (for Apollo and Artemis).



Horizon in Delos

And remember: our ontological territorial claim is the horizon line. The horizon which divides elements, which determines with accuracy the limit between distant things. The word horizon comes from Greek *horizon kyklos* “bounding circle”, from *horizein*, “bound, limit, divide, separate”, from *horos* “boundary”. In his circular infiniteness, the horizon paradoxically gives limits do definite perfection.



We are Dionysian (this is our imperfect human condition) willing to be Apollonian (this is the perfection of our transcendental destiny). We are our own work of art, merged with nature, and dreaming of more, staring at the horizon. But remember, we are not only a dream of a better world or of a greater work. We are a work of art in progress ; we are expressing that mankind can choose between making or destroying. We are expressing that mankind can choose between being her own work of art, which can make sense if man has a horizon to look at, or being art without sense, which means : being nothing.

With such a genesis, Angyalistan *was made for lovin' you baby, and you were made for lovin' it*, as Kiss would have sung. Because we are an utopia? Certainly not, since we are much more than a dream, or even than *a dream within a dream*.

We are a pantopia, a total state : total, not totalitarian, because our aim is not our own domination over the world, but something external, a spiritual elevation of mankind for the sake of the Earth we are living on. We are a total state and you cannot run away from us.

2.2 Quantum poetry : the Basic Law explained

Let's go back now to the Basic Law. Although consubstantial with the Empire, the Basic Law of Angyalistan had remained unwritten until 2010. Its formatting paved the way for a better notoriety of the imperial authorities. The Basic Law has been definitely published in an annotated version in spring 2012. We have 7 principles, in three parts containing each 4, 2, and 1 principle.



LOI FONDAMENTALE DE L'EMPIRE

i. Du territoire de l'Empire et de ses résidents

Principe premier

Le territoire des États de l'Empire s'étend sur la ligne de l'horizon.

Principe deuxième

Tout point de fuite sur lequel se porterait le regard des souverains de l'Empire est susceptible suivant leur humeur de recevoir le statut d'ambassade accessoire de l'Empire.

Principe troisième

Le territoire des États de l'Empire est inaliénable.

Principe quatrième

Est résident de l'Empire un individu si et seulement si il a la conscience, intime ou exprimée, d'être partie du tout qu'est l'Empire, ladite conscience n'étant par nature pas conditionnable par des coordonnées géographiques.

ii. De l'exercice du pouvoir

Principe cinquième

L'autorité impériale est absolue au temporel.

Principe sixième

L'autorité impériale est continue au spirituel.

iii. De la conservation de l'Empire

Principe septième

La Couronne est indisponible ; l'ordre des successibles, inconnaissable.

The first part is about our territory. **1st Principle**, The Empire's territory extends along the horizon. This is a categorical imperative, a requirement linked to preserving the positive effects of love and the necessity of dreaming. This is what makes our work of art be a work of art. In a way, this principle is tautological : to make sense, it needs to be believed in as something which makes sense. Since we do exist, since we do interact with you, obviously, when I set out the principles of the Basic Law, I make them effective. When you read it, when you try to understand it, you make it real, you give the Empire materiality.



You build here something true which has to be projected at the same time into the future and onto the horizon. This is performativity. The claim of the horizon is, in essence, an unarguable, indisputable, irrebuttable presumption. It is impossible to deny its reality, because by denying it, you would deny the existence of the Empire of Angyalistan. And, obviously, we do exist.

I won't take the time to explain each of the other principles of the Basic Law of the Empire: this would lead us up to very distant time horizons! But I have to sum them up for you anyway.

Very quickly, the **second principle** is about the concept of subsidiary embassies ; we have a permanent one, and subsidiary embassies are born with the way the imperial couple looks at any vanishing point.

The third one is about the inalienability of the imperial territory: at every moment, each point on Earth is at the same time part of an infinity of horizon lines and not part of another infinity of horizon lines; at every moment, the horizon is available for your mind since you can look at it, and unavailable for your body since you cannot set foot on it. For those reasons, the Empire cannot dispose of the horizon. Our territory is and is not at the same time, it is a kind of quantum territory, on which we have a quantum sovereignty, that we call "co-sovereignty".



The Empire of Angyalistan recognizes unilaterally the 193 UN member states and their associate states, the 2 observers' states (Palestine and Vatican), Kosovo, Abkhazia, West Papua, Somaliland and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and many micronations. The Empire of Angyalistan considers to be in co-sovereignty over the horizons claimed by those states, except with North Korea, since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced in December 2012 the discovery of an ancient lair of unicorns in Pyongyang, while unicorns of course only live on the horizon.

The fourth principle, very interesting for us today, is about residency. If you know what Angyalistan is, and if you are aware of that, then you are necessary part of the Empire, even if you don't want to. That's what we call residency, and I am glad to let you know that after such a lecture, you all here are residents. That is the reason why it is hard to know how many residents we have...

In the second part, **the fifth and sixth principles** are about authority : temporal power is absolute ; spiritual power is continuous. And the legitimacy of this absolute temporal power draws its sources from a spiritual continuity. The shape of this continuity is not imposed to our citizens; all we ask is to understand this Apollonian aspect of our philosophy.

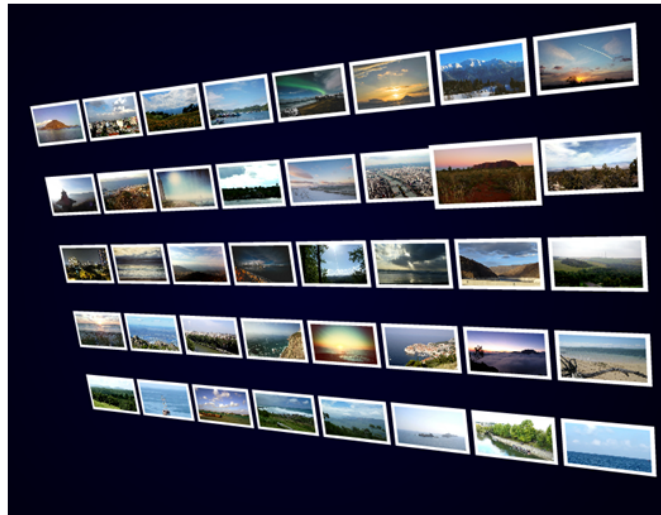


In the third part of the Basic Law, there is only **one principle, the seventh one**. It states that the Crown of Angyalistan is unavailable: the Emperor can neither designate his successor nor renounce to the crown nor abdicate. The names and ranks of the successors cannot be known. It will be, just like the Empire, a revealed truth in due course. This too has to do with the Apollonisation of our Dionysian natural inclination...

So where does all that stuff lead us? Where do we find little pieces of the master work of art I am talking about for 20 minutes? We consider that the role of our philosophical poetry is not only to send words in the air with a megaphone or micronational artefacts around the world. Poetry lays a path of words and images for the spiritual elevation of mankind and a better understanding of its essence.

During the Summer 2014, the Empire of Angyalistan launched the **#ShareYourHorizons challenge** on Facebook social network to collect pictures of the horizon and give money to the OceanCleanUp foundation depending on the number of horizons collected. Thanks to the pictures shared by the citizens and residents of the Empire and by the authorities of several friendly nations, this operation has given support in cleaning up 70 kg of plastic. The pictures of the horizon collected have been released on the landscapes gallery of the official website of the Empire, and take their part in our micronational work of art. Our plastic territory has been reduced thanks to the strength of this collaborative work of art.





www.angyalistan.com
35 new pictures

crowd funding



www.theoceancleanup.com
70 kg of plastic

This is the way we try to make sense. This is the way we add our two angyalistanese cents to the sense of that strange thing we are all part of – life in the shape of conscious beings.

