

## From the Leviathan to Saught

### The Saughtocracy

In 1668 Thomas Hobbes proposed the figure of the Leviathan, an entity that holds all the power and authority. This idea formed from the assumption that the “state of nature” of people is to be inherently evil, just as it is assumed that chickens will always cross the road, making it a necessity to have a social norm given by the Leviathan in order for society to work and the chicken not to die in a car accident.

Virtual communities as any other form of organization follows a form of government, usually being a mix between an autocracy (power of one) and an oligarchy (power of few) because of the structure inside said communities: there is a user (super-user) with absolute power that may or not give said power or part of it to specific members. This user or group of chosen users is the Leviathan.

In Discord power is measurable in the form of permissions and roles. This allows the Leviathan to classify users based on their role, having these a given set of permissions. In this context, the Leviathan is defined as any user with a role that enables permissions to modify actions or permission of other users and granting access to exclusive content.

The Leviathan for r/Maplestory Discord server is the Staff, a group of users chosen by the super-user to administrate, moderate and help with the assignation of roles. How the Leviathan works is regulated through the Rules, a set of norms based on Nexon ToS, Reddit, Discord and others given by the Leviathan.

However, what happens when there is a group of chickens that abandon their state of nature and decide to not cross the road?

Inside of the r/Maplestory Discord Server there is a space named Quality. This subspace inside the server follows a system similar to one of a meritocracy. While Quality users don't have above the average user permissions, these users are chosen based on a screening or indicators that helps define if a user should be considered as Quality. However, the verdict is given by a single user named Saught.

Saught permissions to allow, deny or kick users from Quality and add, apply or modify the Rules inside Quality makes him his own Leviathan, a mix between meritocracy and autocracy, a form of government named saughtocracy.



*Artist Impression of Saught as a Leviathan*