I.03 - CONTINUITY NON-REGRESSION PROTOCOL

(Protocolized from Invariant 3)

Invariant: Continuity cannot regress.

Protocol-ID: I.03.CONTINUITY

Status: DRAFT → CANONICAL (on freeze)

Mutation: EVOLVE ONLY

Class: Temporal Constraint

---

1. Scope (LOCKED)

Applies to:

- finalized truth records

- presence truths

- event outcomes

- ledger state transitions

Does **not** apply to:

- interpretation layers

- narration

- speculative modeling

- intent revision

---

2. Continuity Definition

Continuity is the ordered sequence of finalized states produced by valid EVENTS.

Once a state is finalized, it becomes part of the irreversible history.

---

3. Pass Condition

A transition passes **I.03** iff:

- the prior state is finalized

- the next state references the prior state

- the transition is additive (evolutionary)

- no prior finalized state is altered or removed

---

4. Fail Conditions (ANY triggers failure)

- reverting a finalized state

- overwriting historical truth

- branching that replaces an existing history

- redefining a past EVENT outcome

- "soft resets" disguised as updates

---

5. Suppression Rule (MANDATORY)

On failure:

- the transition is **REJECTED**

- no ledger append occurs

- downstream protocols are halted

- the attempted regression is recorded as invalid

Regression is never repaired; it is blocked.

---

6. Witness Artifact

The system records:

- previous state hash

- attempted next state reference

- pass / fail result

- timestamp (UTC)

- protocol version

---

7. Canonical Statement

History may evolve forward,
but it must never move backward.