I.04 - LEDGER NON-ERASURE PROTOCOL

(Protocolized from Invariant 4)

Invariant: The ledger cannot erase.

Protocol-ID: I.04.LEDGER

Status: DRAFT → CANONICAL (on freeze)

Mutation: EVOLVE ONLY

Class: Persistence Constraint

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1. Scope (LOCKED)

Applies to:

- all finalized truth records

- all presence truths

- all continuity states

- all resolution outcomes

Does **not** apply to:

- draft artifacts

- non-final interpretations

- transient computation

- local caches

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2. Ledger Definition

The ledger is an append-only record of finalized reality.

A record is considered **finalized** once it passes all required protocols and is committed.

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3. Pass Condition

A ledger operation passes **I.04** iff:

- the operation is an append

- no prior record is altered

- no prior record is removed

- no prior record is hidden or redacted

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4. Fail Conditions (ANY triggers failure)

- deletion of any finalized record

- modification of an existing record

- redaction without append

- "replacement" records that obscure originals

- silent migration that drops history

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5. Suppression Rule (MANDATORY)

On failure:

- the operation is **BLOCKED**

- no write occurs

- downstream protocols are halted

- the attempt is recorded as a failed mutation

Erasure is never corrected; it is prevented.

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6. Witness Artifact

The system records:

- attempted operation type

- target record identifier

- pass / fail result

- timestamp (UTC)

- protocol version

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7. Canonical Statement

Truth may be extended,
but it may never be removed.