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Master Under God?

- The Master risks increasing criminal liability even though their responsibilities remain essentially unchanged in generations of maritime law.
- They remain Master Under God, but without God's authority over the management of the ship's affairs.

SOLAS Chapter V Reg 34 – 1

- *The owner, the charterer, the company operating the ship.... or any other person shall not prevent or restrict the master of the ship from taking or executing any decision which, in the master's professional judgement, is necessary for safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment.*

THE CRIMINALISATION OF THE SHIP'S MASTER

But the Master will still be accountable

- The Master's accountability hinges upon their Absolute Discretion.
- How they discharge the burden of their accountability will be determined by their awareness, or conscious assumption, of the risk that will follow.
- And nobody can mess with the sovereign jurisdiction of a coastal state that criminalises the consequence of that risk.

What can possibly go wrong?

