"Mr. Davis" is a sorcerer, one of a small society of similar once-humans that have found enough arcane power to extent their own lives, at the price of corruption by the Mythos. Davis was a monk in the Tyrolean Alps in the fourteenth century that uncovered a store of forgotten scrolls dating back to the Hellenistic period. He translated enough of them to discover that they contained the secret to the preservation of flesh long beyond a normal life-span. His imperfect understanding resulted in the need to keep his flesh below the freezing point of water, and he retreated high into the mountains.

Over the next centuries, his power greatly increased, and he began to have regular contact and communication with other sorcerers around the world, becoming a respected peer. His constant contact with the Mythos resulted in complete corruption, and whatever humanity he may have had to begin with, was obliterated.

He learned much about the preservation and animation of flesh over the years, including multiple techniques for creating what in certain parts of the world were called zombies. He was still dependent on cold for his own survival, but he learned that he could use incantations calling on the power of Azathoth to remain at a safe temperature.

Moving to Canada during the Napoleonic Wars, Davis began interacting with the Mi-Go, the star-spanning fungoid creatures that often mined for Earthly minerals. Davis acquired Mi-Go brain transference technology, as well as a device for creating replicas of human minds within Mi-Go fungal matter. Davis would sometimes capture a useful human, physically remove their brain, and replace it with fungal matter that had a more or less complete copy of their original memories. The result would be a slave to Davis that could superficially pass as the original person.

Davis also began interacting with the Ghouls more and more, and while he did not join them or subscribe to their philosophies, he did pick up a taste for eating fresh human brains.