

# To his Imperial Highness

Teran the fifth of his name.

In the three thousandth, sixth hundredths and twentieth year since the completion of our exodus.

We, the humble servants of the Red Maiden of Justice, present to thee the following scroll.

Wherein it tells of the beginnings of our world, those who would seek to enslave it, and their downfall.

Many blessing to you and all those who read these holy words.



## Chapter 1

**I**nto the black night of the void Veritas stepped forth. A voice uttered **"Behold!"** and the void parted. As a blue jewel on sable, the Wilderlands was revealed. **"Go forth and care for my children"** the voice commanded.

And before the Lord of Truth appeared a golden chime and a silver rod. Veritas took the chime and struck a single note. Like shimmering glass the void parted. Silvanus the forest lord stepped forth.

Unto him, Veritas spoke **"Behold the Wilderlands. Go forth and order the earth, the flora, and the fauna. For the coming of the children of the One is soon."** Silvanus went forth and labored in the field, the sea, and the forest.

When Silvanus was finished, he returned to Veritas. The Lord of Life spoke, **"It is done."** Veritas turned to the void. And called forth the other Lords to behold what was done.

Once again Veritas took up the chime and the rod. Another single note was struck. It grew as wide as the glittering sea. As foam cast behind by waves, two great multitudes appeared.

Once again a voice spoke.  
**"Behold my children."**  
**"The Elves, who are the glory"**  
**"And Man, who shall inherit."**

## Chapter 2

**F**or 40 days and 40 nights there was celebration. On the 41st day the First City was built. And in the arms of the surrounding hills atriums were built. Each was made ready for instruction.

Each of the Lords choose an atrium. The Children of the One divided themselves. And learned at the feet of the Lords. And on the dawn of the next day choose another.

Then a man died. The first of Man to pass away to beyond. Shocked both the Lords and the Children of the One went to Veritas. "A man has died, what wrong has caused this?" they cried out.

Veritas answered, **"It is the inheritance of Man to know death. It is a gift granted to them by the One. Beyond is a veil which cannot be seen past. A mystery which has not been revealed."**

And there was much wonderment at this. However the answer did not satisfy all. They went to the secret places of the Wilderlands and talked. And named themselves Seekers of the Truth.

Into the void they searched for answers. When none were found they cried out. "Why must there be death?" And only silence was heard in return.

Once again the Seeker of Truth gathered. They spoke among themselves "The One has abandoned us. Veritas has lied. We must reshape the Wilderlands and defeat death." They returned to the First City and resumed their former roles.

## Chapter 3

**F**or a generation, the Seekers of Truth met in hiding. Kept the results of their research secret. Some delved into the void itself. Learning terrifying knowledge of destruction.

This caused discontent among the other Seekers. "We have to finds how to create what we want. Do not waste time on ways of destruction." However those who sought the void did not listen.

They kept their work hidden from the other Seekers. Built hidden strongholds to do their work. Deep underground beyond prying eyes. And named themselves "Demon"

At the dawn of a new generation, they felt ready. To challenge, Veritas and all those who supported him. They marched into the First City. Gathered before the Hall of Creation in the center of the city.

The leader of the host stood forth. Raising his voice, "We have come to reveal the truth." Veritas stood before the Seekers. **"We are pleased that you finally choose to speak freely."**

For many hours the Seekers spoke. Of how death can be defeated. Of how the Wilderlands can be reshaped. Of how Veritas lied.

#### Chapter 4

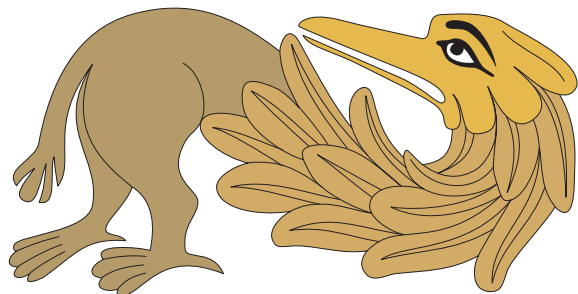
**V**eritas spoke, **"You have lived up to the Creator's expectations. Noble are your words, but what you desire cannot be granted. For your fates are woven into the Wilderlands. To achieve what you set forth would cause all to be undone."**

**"Although the ultimate end cannot be known for Lord, Elf, or Man. Know that in the fulfilling our purposes our rewards will be without measure. So this is the promise of the One."** A great cry of wonder went throughout the host.

Everybody joined in a great celebration. Lord, Elf, and Man alike. And all was revealed, all was shared. Except by those who named themselves "Demon".

For the Demons muttered softly among themselves. "This is not what we worked for!" "We want dominion. Not be eternally beholden to death."

And during the evening, the Demons left. Hidden stores of arms, they took from the deeps. Instructed in their uses. Organized themselves into Legion.



At the rising of the sun, they rose up as one. Unleashed their might upon the First City. For seven days they held sway. The First Slaughter in the Wilderlands.

Lord, Elf, and Man perished. The First City was put to the torch. The evening of the seventh day was lit red. The dead left to the vultures.

#### Chapter 5

**T**he captured Lords were killed. The captured Elves were killed. Man was enslaved. Put to work building monuments to the Demon's Glory.

Many were taken into the deep strongholds. Remade in accordance to the Demon's desired. Stunted the growth of some, increased it for others. Altered the intellect of many into a cruel parody.

Half-animal, half man were some made. Nothing was considered beyond experiment. Horse, bird, goat, serpent, lizard. A multitude of forms and intellect born.

Those that were useful were enslaved. Those that were not, were cast off. Haunting the fields beyond the Demon's wall. Their cries of hunger and sorrow filling the air.

In their victory, the Demons were blind. Not seeing Veritas beyond the hills. Gathering survivors to him. Those of Lord, Elf, and Man who remain free.

Veritas climbed a mountain. Looked upon the celebration amid the ruins. "Once you called yourself Seekers of Truth." "Only truth was that of power and dominion."

**"Demon you named yourselves."**  
**"Forever shall it be your brand."**  
**"Your dreams will turn to ash."**  
**"Your glory forever denied."**

