

HISTORY OF ARCACIA AND THE SOULBORN

Excerpt from the personal journal of Ravenna, daughter of Luna

To begin in the beginning, ancient manuscripts speak of the creator, a mysterious being or force that brought about all life and would become father to the gods. It also speaks of a nameless being that was for lack of a better word, brother to the creator. Some scholars argue that this nameless being, this “brother” is actually a second aspect of the creator, a metaphysical representation of his darker impulses and desires. It is unclear if there is truth in this as in fact little is known about either aspect, other than it is said that the creator founded Arn and gave it to the first of his creations, his children, to rule. The dark aspect of the creator, also called the dark one, was jealous of the creator’s power and is said to have stolen the power of creation, subsequently being cast into darkness and exile for doing so. The Daemon would be the result of this breach of trust and would forever torment the world of Arn. It is also argued by some scholars that this dark aspect of the creator was necessary in the creation of the world and in the struggle that all men must face to reach a higher plane of understanding, though there is little on the subject. The last reference I have found on the dark one speaks of his power being related to destruction and influence. It is this influence that is perhaps even more dangerous than the Daemon he spawned, recruiting all manner of beings to do his evil bidding for the promise of wealth, power or immortality. He would use the creator’s own children and their subjects as pawns for his amusement or to gain greater power. It is in this temptation that we are all forged into good and evil, light and darkness or more accurately somewhere in between.

The history of the first age contains many conflicting accounts. I will attempt to provide the most accurate representation based on all the evidence available, but one must understand that this is only the opinion of one fledgling scholar. The world of Arn was forged for the children of the creator to rule; specifically this account will refer to the history of one landmass, Arcacia. In this early time there were many gods, many children of the creator, each competing to rule and for control over the land. Each was granted the right to create subjects to rule and through these beings they would begin to forge societies and cultures. Some chose larger and more powerful subjects, though fewer were possible, while others created hordes of small seemingly insignificant creatures. The largest of these hordes of course would become what we now call men. The gods directly ruled the lands through powerful beings called Titans, physical manifestations or Avatars. These titans would eventually grow tired of their own lands and power and would seek to expand their realms and war would consume most of the first age. In the flames of war the world we now know would be forged. The races of men would somehow survive this troubled time against all odds and despite their obvious limitations. I surmise that it is at this point that the creator would begin to favor them, finding wonder that the weakest of all his children’s creations would become the most dominant. This would also explain the creator’s nine favored children, those who were most dominant in the Titan Wars. Finally, it is important to mention that it was in the first age that it was discovered that the power of the gods was directly linked to the strength and devotion of their followers. This would form the basis for religion and establish order that would have powerful consequences throughout all of the known ages.

The second age began as the surviving races forged kingdoms that would largely remain intact in modern times. Being disappointed with his children and subsequently impressed with their creations, he would remove the Titans from the world of men and allow men to control their own destinies. *The Expulsion*, as it would become known later, would set the stage for the growth of mortals and the forging of their own power struggle. He would allow influence through worship though a barrier of sorts that was created to prevent the gods from having any direct access to the worlds of men. I surmise that an unseen consequence of this action by the creator would allow the Dark One to begin to influence the world of men through the same method that the exiled gods now used. His Daemon servants patiently waiting during the first age to see which of the gods and races would emerge victorious. The second age would also see the creation of powerful racial and religious organizations, including the Magi and the beginnings of what would later become the Church of the 9. It would also be marked by the war of the races, each struggling for land and power and tearing the world apart in their fight for domination. *The Great Storm* brought about by the defeated Sylvan race would effectively end the war of the races though the flooding and destruction caused throughout the realms would leave them all struggling to rebuild and repopulate. Finally, the Daemon would first show their presence by taking advantage of a chaotic and war torn land to make their first attempt to seize control of the lands that remained. It is at this point that the first mention of Soulborn appears in ancient texts. Devastated from the war of the races, a group of the most powerful and influential heroes of the age would attempt against all odds to repel the newest invaders, a Daemon army of immense power and magnitude. Facing inevitable defeat these nine heroes would make a pact with their gods to save the realms of man in return for creating the Church of the 9. They would make worship of any other god heresy thereby increasing the nine's power and influence and diminishing all others. In return the gods would aid them against the Daemon. The aid provided would come in three forms; first the nine heroes would each be given weapons and items of power to fight the Daemon, secondly they would be granted power beyond the scope of mortal men and lastly they would be able to return throughout the ages in times of need to protect the world of men. *The Concordant* was forged and *The Soulborn* defeated the Daemon army. This victory would usher in the third age of men, though the dimensional breach used by the Daemon to travel to the world of men could only be sealed and not destroyed.

I have few comments on how the third age has unraveled to date, though I fear we surely are at the end. The fourth age could well be decided between Daemon and men. Little is known about the Soulborn, though I fear that I may unknowingly hold the answers. I can only hope that those around me will discover not only who they are but what they are meant to do.