

# **1 Introduction to the Realms**

## **1.1 The Forgotten Realms**

Created by Ed Greenwood in 1967, the Forgotten Realms is an entire universe with a diverse range of landscapes, cultures, political structures, and intricate connections to various planes of existence, including the Material, Elemental, Celestial, and Shadow realms.

## **1.2 Toril**

Toril, a planet located in the Material Plane, is the primary world of the Forgotten Realms. It boasts numerous continents and regions, each home to unique ecosystems, ranging from icy tundras to lush rainforests. The world's history is rich with ancient civilizations, magical artifacts, and legendary heroes.

## **1.3 Faerûn**

Situated in the western hemisphere of Toril, Faerûn is a land of contrasts, featuring vast wilderness, bustling cities, enchanted forests, and rugged mountains. Its geography is as varied as its inhabitants, offering a wide array of settings for adventures and exploration, from the mystical High Forest to the perilous Underdark.

## **1.4 The Sword Coast**

Lining the western edge of Faerûn, the Sword Coast is renowned for its temperate climate, rocky shorelines, and fertile plains. The region is dotted with port cities and mysterious dungeons, connected by trade routes that attract merchants, pirates, and adventurers alike. Its diverse environment promises both riches and risks for those daring to explore.

## **1.5 Waterdeep**

Waterdeep, often referred to as the City of Splendors, is situated along the Sword Coast. As a vital port city, it serves as a nexus for trade, politics, and cultural exchange. Waterdeep's unique blend of architectural styles reflects its rich history, and its districts range from opulent noble quarters to labyrinthine alleyways, each teeming with life and intrigue.

## **1.6 The Yawning Portal**

This infamous tavern in Waterdeep is more than a place to enjoy a meal or drink; it's a gateway to adventure. The Yawning Portal's main feature is a vast pit leading to the Undermountain, a treacherous dungeon that has drawn countless explorers. The tavern itself has become a hub for adventurers, a place where tales are told, and expeditions are launched.