

It has been 100 years...

...since the **Gormlaith Incident**. A cataclysmic catastrophe that rendered the empires, magiks, and nearly all ways of life in the Old World utterly useless.

"It is daytime, but it is night outside. The sky is clear, but there are no stars. The birds are chirping, but there is no song."

-Ze'Marr Kanstead, *Groundskeeper, Rharron Estates, 1E 1053*

After the incredible annihilation of millions of lives, the capital of the **Empire of Aliis**, communication from the gods, and access to the magiks that were the bedrock of so much of the Old World, civilization all but ground to a halt.

Fragmentation, political turmoil, decay, and **Unfirm Events** all became normalized, and anyone who could not adapt quickly, perished. This, of course, commonly being viewed as a mercy at the dawn of the **Second Era**.

"We are left a ruined world without our celestial lords, magiks, peace, or the very stars."

-Turgtoll Peyrus I, *West Imperial Academy, 2E 22*

One-hundred Years later, the Second Era has hitherto

been defined by many as a triumph, given the circumstances. Many divine magiks have since been replaced, sometimes by newfound internal magiks, sometimes even by the wonders of mechanization and steam.



-Aarongohl, *Former Aliisian Capital City, 1E 1042*

The Eastern continent of the **Second Empire** largely remains a mystery to most in the **Aliisian Continent**. Civilian travel, communication, and trade to the East has been nearly impossible since the Gormlaith Incident. Countless connections to the Second Empire have been severed for generations.

Not much is known...

...about the Gormlaith Incident even today, but there are those with theories. One such radical group, known as KOTOT, intends to finish what Empress Gormlaith II started over a century ago. With plotting terrorist attacks, sowing descent, and assassinating officials, they are currently the largest thorn in the Empire of Aliis.

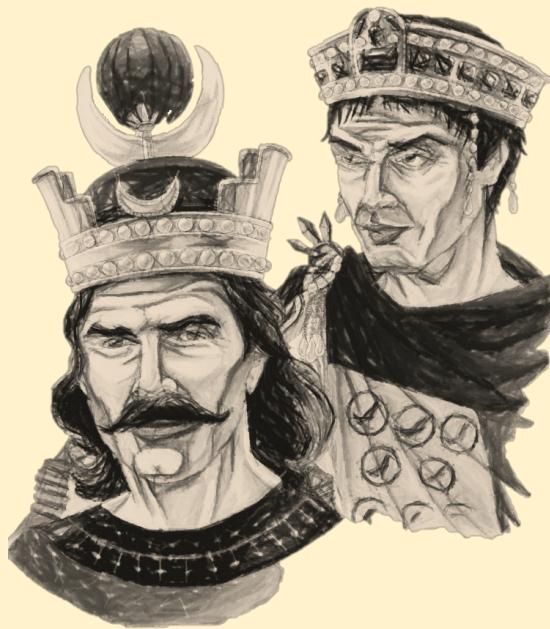
"These wretched fools will be reminded; the reason for the utter dominance of Aliis."

-Emperor Jonjimm Hylinn IV, 2E 78



—"Mechanized Brutes Keep The Empire Strong!" -- News Clipping, Destiny's Flame, 2E 78

Aliis now is little more than a self-absorbed court of blood and ash with a waning grasp of power. The absence of divine authority, little meaningful trade, increased conflict, blatant corruption, and incompetent leadership have resulted in a landscape ripe for change, disloyalty, chaos, and a vacuum in political power.



-Du-Kings of Blivtus, Tippl'd II (Left) & Celeron II (Right), 2E 100

Blivtus, once an Aliisian puppet, is now a rival superpower thanks to recent successful mining operations, breakthroughs in arcane innovation, and decisive policies loosening its burdensome imperial chokehold.

Other territories are starting to hear the death knell of Aliis as well. But one thing is certain: it will not go quietly.

Today...

...is the 3rd of Harpp's Fork, 2E 104. A cool summer's breeze blows through the small Western Aliisian trading city of **Tretska**. Combined with the picturesque rolling green fields of Blivtus to the south, the scene is the first true taste of relief in a long, arduous journey, both through life, as well as the rotting imperial roads.



-Imperial Hoplite, Ground Battalion
MMCXXIV, 2E 104

The bumbling of Tretska is not unlike what one would experience on the East Coast, but it is much calmer. Convoys of Men and Mer from all walks of life have arrived for all

manner of business and pleasure, highlighted by the laughter of children, the enticing smells of the roadside caterers, the melodic smithing of metal, and the astounding feats of Grievers merchants.



-Saleenthian Fountain Memorial,
Imperial City of Tretska, 2E 104

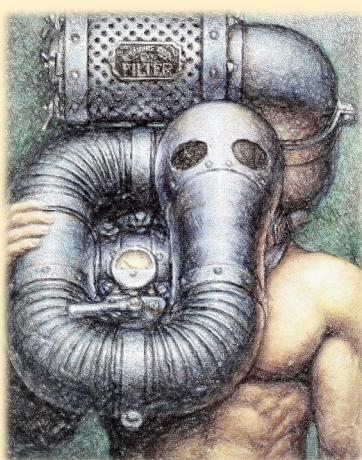
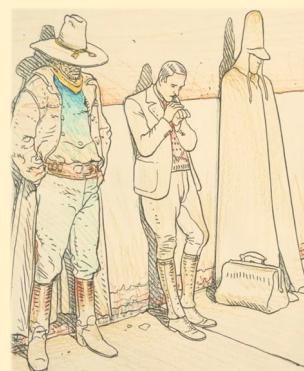


-Central Bartering Area,
Imperial City of Tretska, 2E 104

The kings in their walled castles continue to deliberate, just as the grievers in their quiet studies continue to conjure, just as the baker continues to bake, just as the sun continues to rise.

Nonetheless, a palpable tension is brewing. The sun begins to set, giving way to the all too familiar void above.

Are You Prepared?



Welcome to...



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