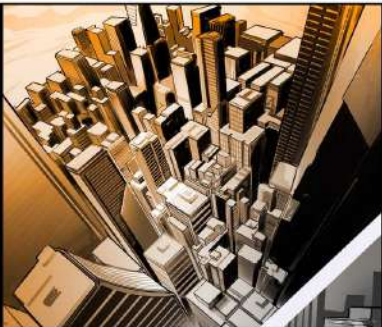


THE SECLUDED METROPOLIS WAS FOUNDED IN 14360 A.D.R. BY THE CHIMERAN/HUMAN COALITION. RESTING NEAR THE EQUATOR OF THE VIRGIN PLANET KELQUSAR WAS QUICKLY COLONIZED AND ITS FAMILIAR AS WELL AS STRANGE RESOURCES WERE QUICKLY UTILIZED FOR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.



ONE RESOURCE IN PARTICULAR KNOWN AS INK HAS BECOME VERY VALUABLE, AS ITS PROPERTIES GIVE STRENGTH TO THOSE WHO WOULD INJECT IT INTO THEIR BODY.





SOME OF THE TRIBES CONNECTED WITH THE EARTHLING COLONIZERS FELT IT WAS MORE HONORABLE AND BENEFICIAL TO TATTOO THE SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN ABUSE IT LIKE A DRUG, WHICH HAS BECOME ITS COMMON USE.

THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THOSE INVOLVED IN HIGH PLACES HAVE ALL BUT MONOPOLIZED THE SMALL POOLS OF INK INVESTING IN NEW TECHNOLOGY AND METHODS TO FIND THE MAIN SOURCE AS ITS SUPERFICIAL POOLS ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE HAVE BEEN RUNNING DRY.



PLEASE TELL ME
YOU HAVE BETTER NEWS
THAN YESTERDAY!

GOVERNER,
WE ARE MOVING
DIRT AS FAST
AS WE CAN.



I TOLD YOU WHEN WE
STARTED THIS, NO EXCUSES!



THE CRUST OF
KELQUSAR
IS LIKE CONCRETE
COMPARED
TO BACK HOME.

BACK HOME!? WE'VE
BEEN HERE FOR ALMOST
200 YEARS!



THIS PLANET'S CRUST
IS LIKE ARMOR
COMPARED TO
OLD EARTH'S CRUST.

WITH A NEW PLANET
COMES NEW
POSSIBILITIES.



WE HAVE TO ADAPT!

THEN YOU NEED TO
GET US NEWER
EQUIPMENT...



ADAPTED EQUIPMENT!

DON'T BE A SMARTASS
WITH ME BILL!!
JUST DO YOUR JOB!

WE NEED MORE
WORKERS!



MORE THAN HALF OF
OUR POPULATION IS
STRUNG OUT OR IN
WITHDRAWALS FROM
THE LACK OF INK, WHICH IS
WHY WE ARE IN THIS DAMNED
PIT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

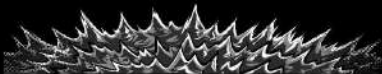


AND WHOSE FAULT
IS THAT, GOVERNER?

EH...HEY BOSS!
WE GOTTA
PROBLEM!



WHAT'S
GOING ON
OVER THERE?



GET THE HELL
OUTTA HERE!!!

THE USE OF THE INK WAS NEVER MEANT
FOR SUCH VANITIES. ITS ORIGIN WAS
THE BLOOD OF THE GODS...



IT WAS MEANT TO BE CONTAINED...
KEPT FROM THE OTHER WORLDS...

BUT SOMEHOW IT HAS LEAKED..
IT HAS BEEN TASTED.



THE ARMY HAS COME TO COLLECT THE INK.



WHAT THE HELL ARE
THOSE THINGS?

GO SEE WHAT
THEY WANT.



GAH!...
UHH...



OH, HELLO..



IT'S OK, GOVERNER.
THEY'VE COME TO
HELP US...

WAIT!? NO!!
STOD!!!



WHAT IN THE
BLOODY HELL!?!



THE PETTY BEINGS OF THIS
WORLD HAVE PROVEN
THEMSELVES IRRESPONSIBLE...
THEY ARE STAINED.



BECAUSE OF THIS..



THEY MUST BE CLEANSED.

WRITTEN BY JUSTIN HOLMAN
ART BY JOEY DODD





HEY B, YOU
GOT A SECOND?
I'M HURTING, MAN.
PLEASE, CAN YOU
TALK TO REGGIE
AGAIN FOR ME?
HE WON'T ANSWER
THE HOLO.



JIMMY? BRO,
I TOLD YOU TO GET
OFF THAT SHIT. YOU
NEED HELP. YOU'RE JUST
GOING TO END UP
DEAD IN THE
GUTTER.

THIS'LL BE THE
LAST TIME, MAN,
I SWEAR. PLEASE,
I'LL GET HELP. I JUST
NEED TO TAKE THE
EDGE OFF SO THIS
PAIN WILL STOP.

I'M SORRY, JIMMY.



YOU KNOW DAMN
WELL THAT WON'T
HAPPEN, JIMMY.
DO YOURSELF A
FAVOR AND GET
YOUR SHIT
TOGETHER.

COME ON, B/
DONT BE LIKE
THAT, MAAAN.

DON'T WAIT,
THE LONGER YOU
DO, THE WORSE
IT GETS, I'M SORRY
BRO.



EXCUSE ME, SIR. DO
YOU HAVE A MOMENT
TO TALK ABOUT THE
RESTORATION?

HEH, THIS'LL
TO BE RICH.



IT'S NO LAUGHING
MATTER, SIR. THE
CITY HAS FALLEN
INTO DEPRAVITY
AND CHAOS. OUR
ORDER SEEKS
TO RETURN HEIBAI
TO ITS FORMER
GLORY.

THE RESTORATION
HAS DONE NOTHING
TO STOP THE CORRUPT
ELITE FROM DRAINING
THIS COLONY OF
ITS RESOURCES. ITS
NO DIFFERENT FROM
EARTH.

YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO VISION. WE MUST ALL DO OUR PART TO BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THIS WORLD.

YEAH? AND WHAT ARE A FEW DREAMERS GOING TO DO TO STOP THESE MONSTERS IN POWER?

THE WAY I SEE IT, IS WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS. YOU CAN EITHER FIGHT THE POWERS THAT BE AND DIE, OR SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND FALL IN LINE WITH THE REST OF THE SLAVE CLASS. YOU SEE, ME? I'M A SURVIVOR. I'VE HAD TO FIGHT FOR EVERYTHING I HAVE. MY RACE WAS CREATED FOR ONE PURPOSE...

I REFUSE TO BE A PAWN IN THEIR SICK FUCKING GAME.

THANKS FOR THE CHAT, FELLAS. GOOD LUCK WITH ALL THAT WISFUL THINKING.



HEY PAL, YOU FINISHED
WITH THAT PAPER?







SURE, THERE'S A
GREAT ARTICLE ON
PAGE 5 I THINK YOU
WILL ENJOY.



BE CAREFUL,
THEY HAVE EYES
EVERYWHERE.



FINALLY, I CAN GET
SOME WORK DONE AND
GET PAID. THE INK
IS GETTING SCARCER
BY THE DAY.





THIS CITY IS FUCKED UP.

BUT I LOVE IT
JUST THE SAME.

