

# Worldbuilding

## Genesis

The first city, carved by God out of Mt. Redame as a gift to humanity. The area to the west is heavily wooded, but beyond the forest is the rising sea. To the south are fields, and beyond them the sea again. The north is the rest of the mountain, which largely blocks off travel. To the east is a steep slope downward to moors. Genesis is carved out of limestone, but the wall, which was not originally part of the city, is built of a type of alchemically created clay brick which most buildings not original to the city are made of.

The southern fields used to be farmland, where people grew the bulk of the city's food. Crops, along with flowers from the highlands, were a significant source of income for much of the city. Before God died, the city's primary business was tourism, as many people came on pilgrimages to see God. Many people sold handmade prayer objects like candles and beads, religious music was the genre they were most notable for, and the city was a hub for scholars.

There was a flood of people to Genesis after God died, seeking refuge or wanting to pay their respects. There was an incredible increase in the amount of religious items purchased, which are now in very low demand. Scholars (especially magicians) and metalworkers have become much more important.

When God died, people had different responses. While many went into mourning, some came to resent God for leaving them to die, feeling that as a deity She should have been able to save herself. This sentiment is most common among those who immigrated to Genesis after their homes were destroyed. The church took over governmental duties after Her death—who else would?—but many believe this government is outdated and are fighting for a different system of government. They have had difficulty organizing, however, because there is no consensus on what system should be used, who should lead, etc. On top of that, many devout believe that another governing body would be blasphemous and disrespectful to God. The High Priestess has taken over the job of giving advice (which she was doing anyway) and these sessions often turn into a fight to keep the peace.

The economic system is quite simple. Typically shops create the goods they sell themselves, using materials either harvested themselves or bought. Coins made out of the mountain's stone are their currency, created when God carved the city.

## Magic & Souls

Magic can be found in and around large amounts of energy. In turn, when magic is consolidated, it can become a consciousness or soul. God, for example, was created when a star that held magical energy went supernova; the collapse consolidated the magic in the star into a disembodied consciousness. Null is a similar case in which the magic of a storm was consolidated and placed in a human body.

Any being with a soul can use magic with enough practice because their soul resonates with external magic. Only extremely powerful souls can interfere with embodied souls as their physical form blocks most tampering. In order to use magic, there must be a sufficient amount present, such as in electromagical storms.

When a soul is exposed to a magical force much greater than its own, the soul's magic is gradually drawn into the larger force until nothing of the soul remains. This loss of magic can be slowed down if the soul is inhabiting a physical vessel, though a breakdown can happen over time, as in the case of storm sickness.

Lost souls were not a problem when God was alive, as they were all drawn to Her and were absorbed. Souls are drawn to the storm as well, but are not absorbed immediately because of its size and lesser amount of power, so if they find a vessel in the storm they can still possess it and draw out the time before their soul is absorbed. This draw can be overridden by one thing: souls are attracted to vessels they have stayed in for a long time and will try to seek out that vessel if it still lives, so the pull of their living body trumps the pull of a larger soul. However, depending on strength and proximity to the larger power, a soul may not arrive at its body fully intact.

There is a way to make new souls, which comes into play when babies are born, but only God has ever understood how it works. When a living vessel dies it ejects the soul housed in it—the prevailing theory is that the moment of death creates a burst of anti-magic which repels the soul, but this is unproven. A large enough burst of anti-magic can destroy a soul outright.

A sufficiently powerful soul is referred to as a god. One can become a god by absorbing a huge amount of magical power; absorbing souls is one of the easiest ways to do this.

## Religion & Culture

When God first made humanity, she did it because she was lonely. She took tiny fragments of her own soul and put them in vessels like her own. These first people, having come directly from Her soul, had an innate understanding of their creation from Her perspective, and did not worship her but rather lived with her as peers. With time, she saw that they needed shelter, food, etc. and so she created Genesis and made plants and animals for them to eat, making changes to the ecosystem as she noticed problems.

With time, Her creations' descendants began to worship Her—she was older than any of them, had incredible power, etc.—a trend which only escalated with generations until respect turned into reverence turned into religion. They gave Her gifts and She would try to pay them back, which eventually turned into giving Her offerings as a way to influence their lives (i.e. a better harvest, a healthy child, etc). As the amount of offerings increased, She could no longer keep up with them and their effects became a belief rather than a fact. Tired of having to deal with that many offerings, She told the people to burn them in Her honor (playing off of their knowledge that dead souls went back to Her (and how do you kill an object but burn it?) and the fact that She used to be a star).

People also started turning to Her for advice. Not liking or being very good at giving it, She and Her closest friend at the time, Cerian, came up with the veil and mask system—She would sit behind a veil and whisper things to Her friend, now called the Speaker, and Her friend, wearing a mask, would say smarter things than She could. While the veil and mask are technically inessential to the process, people seemed to trust the Speaker more this way. As God had more and more responsibilities foisted upon Her, this system also became a way for Her to delegate tasks. She spread the belief that mortal eyes were not permitted to see Her radiance, and so She herself slipped from the public eye more often as her Handmaids took over Her tasks.

When She first created Genesis, she took the house highest up the mountain, which was not much bigger or grander than the other houses. However, as Her worship grew, people designated the nearby buildings to Her worship and eventually consolidated them all into the Chapel that now stands.

As the population grew, people began leaving Genesis to found new cities. The most devout protested this, saying that these people were moving further from God's light, but they also didn't approve of modifications to the city because it was tampering with Her creation, so they had to acquiesce. God also explicitly gave Her blessing to the travelers, which put an end to the debate. On the advice of one of Her Handmaids, She required that a religious official go with each party to ensure that Her word would go with them (or more accurately, to make sure She could effectively step in if shit got out of hand). As people spread further from Genesis, belief tended to become less devout, but Her Maids kept it thriving nonetheless. Pilgrimages to Genesis were encouraged so that people could see Her sermons for themselves.

God always encouraged her followers to live as happily as possible and to help others to do the same. Society was somewhat hedonistic because of this, up until God died and it became clear that living would become much more difficult. During God's reign, bartering was common and disputes were solved with a focus on what would make all parties the happiest.

## Mag's Body

It's ball jointed, made of wood and brass which have both been treated with a waterproofing agent. Her soul controls movement by applying electric current to magnets in her core, which pull parts together to enable retraction.