…

Prologue to the Founding Papers, written in the language of Seishin Kai

437 of the Second Age in Ilia

A new Kingdom, born from the ashes of the old, will light as a phoenix in the dark. This Kingdom will bring unity to the broken land, and it will protect its people above all else.

There shall be a threefold initiative;

First will be the formation of a protective force, a Faithful Company of the few who would sacrifice themselves to be as a bulwark against the enemies of the Kingdom.

The second will be a foundation missioned to advance the technology of the Kingdom and its peoples for the sole purpose of pursuing the maximum welfare of all.

The third will be a system of politics, intent to organize the peoples of the Kingdom. This political body, this State, will stand with an unwavering geas: to build for this Kingdom an organized people, a healthful people, a happy people, and a strong people in family, economy, and spirit.

Under the eyes of the many Gods of this land; the eyes of those Beings of Power which we have freed from their imprisonment; and the eyes of the people themselves;

I, Yorick Alibaster,

I, Halifax,

and,

I, The One Eyed Bard,

hereby bring genesis to this new world….

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An excerpt from the notes and journals of Relimar, one of the Survivors, written in Common:

“...and we Survivors of the Dark Place were led from the Erincaine, where we had escaped to in what has been told to as us the 428th year of the Second Age. The ‘Second Age’ of what, though, is foreign to us. This land is foreign to us, the people and language foreign to us. We are led only by a single figure, who can speak our language through the virtues of magic. This figure calls themselves the One Eyed Bard, and they guide us under the light of their eye, a Star given to this world by the Gods, and they guide us by the Black Blade that has known no good. The One Eyed Bard calls the Star ‘Taregil’ and the blade ‘the Thief Blade of Khas’...”

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An excerpt from the notes and journals of Halifax, written in the language of Seishin Kai, circa 450th year of the Second Age

“...Taregil has granted the Bard foresight, that I know for certain. His actions are guided by the promise of a future that I cannot see—and this frightens me. He has approached me with schematics, plans to create a machine unlike anything that has ever seen this world. A machine both with and without life, a programmed being. I cannot undertake such a project, though I feel that the Bard already knows this. I will leave this night and take refuge in the Outer Planes. The Gith will be my solace for a time before I return to this world...”

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An excerpt from the notes and journals of The One Eyed Bard, written in the language of Seishin Kai, circa 463rd year of the Second Age

“...I must go. I feel it, I see it. Taregil has shown my fate to me. I am damned. My soul is damned for the things I have done, I know this. My creation will turn against me; try to dispose of me. It wants the Blade.

I leave this note in the hopes that it reaches you, Yorick, in safety. After I escape this city, I will hide. Taregil will keep me hidden as long as the Chalice and your Amulet remain away from this monster I have created. Please, Yorick, forgive me.

I fear I have damned this world...”

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An excerpt from the notes and journals of the One Eyed Bard, circa 430rd year of the Second Age

“...When Yorick and Isabella ventured into the Gate, we had no idea what they would find. I had never expected this. They returned with 50,000...people. Retched, poor, souls that were the faint remnant of the macabre breeding regime of Kalma. I have taken into my rule these poor souls. They are those who were the bodies and souls damned to be bred into Kalma’s army. The do not speak our language, and they have not seen sunlight in an eternity. I feel that this revelation is far worse than any of the generals we fought, for it means that each and every vile undead that slew the children, mothers, and soldiers of this world was once a person. Humanity is a monstrous creation, this I now know as a fact…

...I will take these people as my own, though, and I will try to rectify the mistakes of this world. There are unnumbered souls that remain within the Realm of Kalma. Undead. Sleeping. Waiting… Souls that we were too late to save. Souls that maybe, just maybe, I can save. I will try.”