**The Warriors of Ameros**

***ARCHIVES***

*VOLUME I*

The History of Ameros

*Overview*

The continent and world that Ameros exists in a world very similar to ours in many ways. It’s official designation is **Universe #2625** (our world is designated as **Universe #0009** for the purposes of this material), and the planet that Ameros exists on is originally called Earth, but in modern times (relative to the game, as will be understood soon), it is simply known as Gaia. Ameros is not a fully explored continent; beyond the Great Swamp, Skydom, and the Great Land of the Old Dragons, nothing has been explored or recorded, for many distinct reasons.

In the north, the Great Land of the Old Dragons is a dangerous land of old ruins and home to the hive-minded serpens species. As such, no one with a conscious ventures out that way and returns alive very often. In the west, the more tribal human population of the One Clan of Pyromancers guards the Great Swamp and lands beyond because of their use in the selection of their masters and local representatives through secretive trials. More on those later. In the east, the Skydom is inhabited only the reclusive valkyrja, who allow no one outside their race to pass into the lands beyond. Their records are kept secret, only sharing what they want with the outside world. More on that later as well. The southern boarder, within the Kingdom of Hampshire, the second major human settlement, is bordered by waters known as the Seas of the Damned. For reasons that shouldn’t need a complete explanation, no one returns from venturing out that way, so no one thinks to sail out there. Those who do never return, assumed dead.

As such, the explored regions are well documented within those limitations, and not much isn’t known about the terrain within. There are occasionally new archaeological discovers underneath old and thoroughly plucked ruins from ages lost to time, but they are few and far between. For those living in Ameros, what they know is what everyone knows. “Outside” knowledge is not a concept, and “foreign relations” really mean the relationships of those between the relatively geographical close major settlements of Hampshire, the One Clan, and the Skydom. The Serpens don’t negotiate and kill any other species they come into contact with. The reasoning behind that is featured in *“Volume II: Races and Species (Native and Invasive).*” The populations of each species truly only number in tens of thousands, at best; wars and conflicts (and accidents) cause dramatic fluctuations in that figure. Those events are better detailed in the following section.

*Origins: Beginning of Time – 2090 A.D.*

The history of Ameros, before the advent of all the magic and species that currently inhabit it is exactly like our own. Every single last year of it. In actuality, Ameros is not Ameros; it’s what used to be Southern California within the United States. Let that sink in for a minute. Ameros is really North America by comparison. So what exactly happened?

The year is 2090 A.D., and corporations have expanded their reach through the globe. In the United States, monopoly policies are the strictest, but other global conglomerates have taken control of state and federal legislatures, for better or worse, though smarter lobbying activities and tactics. In the US it’s a hit or miss situation, as it were. Some industries rule, others are left in the dust. Take your pick which make it and which don’t. Only one corporation matters at this time: GigaTech Solutions Inc. It’s board of directors head each of their ten divisions:

* Advanced Business Analytic Solutions (Regis)
* Health and Next Generation Bio-Technology (Hellena)
* Computing and Processing (Gwyn)
* National Cultural Exploration and Experimentation (Kaley)
* Agriculture and Environmentalism (Isabella)
* Energy Synthesis (Hector)
* Advanced Weapons Development and Application (Archon)
* Athletics and Sports Medicine (Gardner)
* Cultural Outreach and Technical Advancement (Griffin)
* Advanced Human Kinesiology and Cybernetics (Allyson)

If you are interested in knowing more about the specific heads of each department on the BOD, please review “*Volume III: The Religions and Cultures of Ameros.*”

Ignoring what many of these divisions actually do, the important thing to understand is this: in each field/sphere of influence, they are absolute in their authority and control. While (because of US law) they are not a monopoly in any one sector, they are monopolistic in their abilities to influence and create the narrative in each, and almost every, sector in the major economic chain of command worldwide.

One of the major fields that GT Solutions controls is cybernetic enhancements and artificial intelligence; specifically transferring human consciousness into cybernetics for the purposes of human longevity, as well as nanotechnology to manipulate DNA and RNA within living and non-living hosts coupled with the ability to self replicate and manufacture itself. Both projects were near completion by the year 2089 A.D., and the BOD of GT has the mind to test each on themselves; to elevate themselves to godhood and to immortality.

Some did oppose this move. Namely, Griffin and Isabella. However, they too were forced to comply and sign themselves up for their minds to be “downloaded” into artificial housings, mostly as a compromise to watch-dog for eons over their more selfish compatriots. Another force was yet to appear on the scene: a man named Johnnie. A immigrant to the United States from the Dominican Republic, working in one of the many GT warehouses, that happened to be near the main headquarters. A resourceful man by trade, he knew how to enter and exit a restricted location without so much as a finger-print being left behind. Catching wind of those two experiments being near completion, and wanting a better life for him and his family, he decided to try and copy some of the schematics and technical documents from the GT labs so that he could sell them off, or start his own business rivaling that of GT, whichever would suit him at the time.

What happened next changed all of modern human history, and not for the better. Upon entering the facility, Johnnie unwittingly activated the newest nanotechnology with it’s testing defaults – and subsequently allowed those materials to exit the facility though a series of mistakes on his part. He then accidentally entered – and activated – the other project being housed in the same area: the new cybernetics and longevity project. He was forcefully downloaded into a mechanical shell, and locked away per default testing protocols. His mind would live on, despite his body, and would watch what happened next.

What ensued next was equivalent to our modern concept of a nuclear holocaust, or better yet, a global pandemic (that is much more devastating). Some living creatures infected with the new nanotechnology instantly disintegrated due to the manipulation process, while others transformed over, and over again into hideous beasts. The nanotechnology wasn’t just transferred from contact, but it actively swarmed (like bees and wasps) to remote and desolate locations, hunting down any living specimen it could control and transform, as per it’s default testing protocols.

“Magic” came about due to serious mutations within the nominal human genome, allowing them to “tap into” the nano-infections each of them had to manipulate the world around them at the molecular level. Thus, due to these newfound abilities in the general population, civil unrest ensued, and more chaos and violence erupted in the mist of a global catastrophe.

In a move of desperation, the BOD of GT decided to try and transfer themselves through the cybernetics project immediately. All but one (because of Johnnie inhabiting one of the shells) succeeded: the head of the BOD (Regis) never survived because of his paranoia: he was the last to try the experimental procedure, and thus left himself without a viable shell to house his downloaded mind.

Ameros is an envisioning of what our world would be like under this altered timeline, and with some imaginary physics. Their universe was like ours, expect for a few minor rules being changed to allow for magic and other wonders to happen as technology advanced. A clever manipulation of the facts, but an important distinction from our reality.

*The First Awakening: 2091 A.D. - 3521 A.D.*

Nearly 1000 years passed. Chaos ensued all over the world. Widespread death decimated new, alternate human “species” as soon as they were “born,” along with the randomized death caused by some nano-infections. Civilization and order as we know it ceased to exist, for a time. Eventually, due to the protocols and limited power to the main coordinating headquarters for those autonomous nanotechnology systems, those nano-infections became less lethal and less aggressive, eventually tapering off because of a lack of human interference with the technology controlling the process.

Meanwhile, the newly virtualized BOD from GT Solutions looked on in horror, and slowly lost their individual humanities to take on god-like personalities. After all, the human mind, even in the body of a machine, can only contain itself and it’s trauma so well before becoming something new altogether over an extended period of time. Each of us were never meant to last for eternity, at least as ourselves. They eventually created bodies for their new minds and personalities, and ventured off into the vast wastes of human civilizations to try and establish their own means of peace, and to divide the world up for themselves. They had waited long enough.

What happened next was unprecedented. The humans that were alive, whose own histories were lost on them, looked upon those beings – the BOD – as gods themselves. They revered them, and gave them praise, relying on their more primal instincts. For a time, some sort of civilization. That was, until Johnnie awoke.

Still based near the nanotechnology computer that started the entire collapse of modern civilization, Johnnie ventured out, and also viewing himself in a god-like image like the BOD, amassed a following (now newly, stable, mutated humans) from the local area. However, after about 500 years of being worshiped as a god, Johnnie (now going by the moniker “Iohannes”), was attacked by a follower close to his order of. In response - and more due to his newly attained “godhood” – decided to punish the world. He entered back into the GT Solutions headquarters, and reactivated the old nanotechnology protocols through signal repeaters he had his followers create far and wide ages ago. Originally he was going to spread his image and likeness to control more territory across the world; now those tools of construction were going to be used for worldwide destruction.

The same holocaust as the last ensued. Only the humans who had abilities akin to “magic” survived as an independent species from the various human populations.

*The Second Awakening: 3522 A.D. - 4999 A.D.*

Another expanse of time elapsed. This time, nearly 500 years, give or take. This time, it wasn’t chaos; it was more directed, as if mother-nature herself had a more visible hand in the process. In reality it was all Iohannes. He slaved, in his metal shell (which he had replaced in the facilities several times), over the machines that housed the code manipulating the nano-infection worldwide. He sought to . In the year 4016 A.D. he created his first “perfect” follower: a valkyrja. Born out of the DNA of recent humans, and also serpents that now had evolved into a mythical threat that had never existed until this recent decade: Dragons.

The other Gods did not appreciate what was occurring, however. They retreated within the arms of Gaia. They sculpted from the ground a new form, one that was more long-lasting than the metal shells they lived within for millennia now. They consisted of gemstones magically enhanced to allow them take on various forms at will, and control the elements. When this process of transference was completed, they rose from the ground to stalk Iohannes and retake their lands.

Rose they did; and they did not approve of the new species that were invasive to the world and their own image of paradise for eternity. They approached the old center of magic in this world, and cast a spell so power it plagued the entirety of mother-earth herself.

A third plague ensued, but this time it was much shorter – only a decade long. The newly created valkyrja race, dragons, serpens, drakons, and magically powered humans survived going into this new phase on Gaia.

*Birth of Ameros: 5000 A.D. - 5995 A.D.*

A few decades a later, the humans gained more consciousness about the world around them. They began to form civilizations independently, after eons of being left to fend for themselves amongst the wars between all the Gods themselves.

*The Pyromancers and the King’s Men*

In the forgotten wastes of the Southwest of Ameros (Southern California), humans formed an independent camp, worshiping the Gods, but having the fortune of never encountering them directly. There humans, pixies, faeries, and all sorts of magical creatures formed alliances and a new order. There where those who lived in harmony in the forests, and those who built new towns and a central city: Hampshire.

They learned from the nearby ruins how to build and construct many new wonders: flying vehicles, the sphere camera, et cetera. Many in the forests feared these new creations, as akin to being blasphemy, and decided to formally break-off into their own civilization: the One Clan. They maintained an alliance, but kept to their traditions and customs, as well as their borders, for fear of garnering the Gods attention.

All records that were kept before the early 1900’s had been preserved, because of work to archive all data and history into uncorruptable and stable media formats, but all other decades were not completed before the originally plague over the world, at least not within the Southwest of Ameros. It is because of this lack of understanding that the humans believed they were truly within that time-frame, instead of thousands of years after the fact.

*The Origins of the Skydom*

Meanwhile, Iohannes fashioned a new metal shell for himself, one in the image of his “children,” the valkyrja. He gathered their forsaken masses, and created a following as their leader. He then led them to prosperity by bringing them to new lands and colonizing throughout Ameros. Iohannes first aligned himself with the Elves that constituted much of the Northwest of Ameros (Northwestern US – Washington and Oregon specifically). When they displeased him decades later, he cast them down, and left to start anew with his people. He then moved to the Northeast (Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire). There, he allied himself with the Dwarves. He grew bored with them. He slaughtered them with his people. They moved onward. Place after place, species after species, they let worship them or formed diplomatic relations with them. Place after place, they terminated them, until only nominal humans survived, in increasingly decimated and displaced droves.

By the year 5554 A.D., Iohannes had decided to take him and the valkyrja to colonize the Southwest of Ameros. He was fascinated with the human populations that had taken a strong foothold there. He decided to settle permanently in this location, and instead worked for eons to reverse the process that cast him in metal: he created a eternal body for himself. He had all the magic he needed for this process because of the locus of all magic in the world being located past the White Mountains where he choose to settle and grow his people.

*The Origins of Rapture and The Great Lands of the Old Dragons*

The Gods had not forgotten about Iohannes. They continued to stalk him at every turn. When each civilization fell, they were there, watching, waiting. They collaborated, and decided they would use the world they had created to reshape it for themselves. They grew to knew their image of paradise would never surface. They took on more disfigured images of themselves, because of their growing hatred for the world they were forced to live in.

When Iohannes decided to settle near the new human kingdom – naming itself Hampshire – they took notice. When Iohannes took over and quartered off the major magic center of the world, they grew enraged. They had built that center. It was there’s to use as they pleased. The coagulated together, and formed a beast in the image of their most hated creature now in the land: a dragon.

This dragon renamed itself Rapture, from its newly formed consciousness. It cleared out the native dragons, and established itself near the old ruins from its past lives. It created from the earth hatcheries and grew serpens from the ground. It rooted out the drakon’s that swarmed and distrated the serpens from their generational duties to serve their new master. The launched war after war on the Skydom, to establish control over a land it willingly left so long ago...