Introduction

Not so long ago, in a parallel universe, there was a war on a world much like our own, called Aerth. The nations of Aerth had become adept in the use of magic and the construction of technology. Although many of the nations had differing ideologies and religions, they lived in harmony with each other. Each nation had an ‘element’ that they revered and worshiped, such as ice, or plant life. Some nations adopted animals as their elements. Others were more abstract with their elements, such as the Republic of Micro-bacterial Life-forms.

Because of the many religions that existed, conflicts would arise between nations, but would generally be resolved in a peaceful Council of Nations, which governed world affairs through a mutual alliance of the world’s strongest powers. Although the Council of Nations was generally seen as a fair and benevolent overseer of affairs that kept the peace, some individuals began to suspect corruption and manipulation was afoot with in the Council’s ranks. Among these individuals was the High Priest, Vorgon, of Aesia, the metal nation. Vorgon preached that the metal nation was being treated unfairly by the Council of Nations, and that Aesia would be doomed if they did not act accordingly to defend themselves. Vorgon cited scriptures from an ancient religion’s books that read: “*In the days to come, there will be but one element, and all forces asunder will gravitate to this unbendable truth*.” Also, it was written: “*Without the defense of venomous barbs, all the fish of the sea would be subject to the stomach of the shark*”. Vorgon believed that all elements were one in the same, and that the division between them was merely an illusion. He also believed that the first passage was being used as an excuse by the Council of Nations to wipe out the metal nation, and he cited the parable of the shark and venomous fish, declaring that the metal nation *must* defend itself from the Council of Nations.

Although Aesia was a republic, Vorgon used his influence to become more and more powerful within the metal nation. His charismatic rhetorical frightened and angered the people of the metal nation, and brought them to support him and his vision for Aesia. Thus, Vorgon was able to replace the republic’s government with a puppet government. The Consul and Senate seats were filled by Vorgon’s most loyal disciples, and Vorgon ordered his Senate to elect him as Supreme Judicator of Aesia. Within a few years, Vorgon had transformed Aesia into a dictatorship, much to the alarm of the Council of Nations. The Council, however, respected each nation’s sovereignty and integrity, and would not meddle with the internal affairs of a nation’s politics. However, when Vorgon’s agents began planting deadly viruses in major cities around the world, the Council was forced to react. Vorgon believed that if he started a pandemic in the strongest nations of the world, they would become too weak to keep international order, and give Aesia the impetus to become the pre-eminent power on Aerth. This plan backfired when the king of Avia, the bird nation, captured one of Vorgon’s agents and learned of the plan.

The Bird-King revealed Vorgon’s plans to the Council of Nations, and alarmed, they authorized the Bird-King to invade the metal nation and remove Vorgon from power. The bird nation was much larger and much more militarily prepared for a war than Aesia, and easily won a decisive victory. Vorgon went into hiding and a new senate was installed. It is believed, however, that the Consul of the Aesian Republic is still in contact with Vorgon, and is actively working to manipulate the senate and bring Vorgon back to power.

You have been commissioned by the Council of Nations to arrest the Consul on charges of corruption, and conspiracy to violate international law. You will be sent into the Consul’s compound, along with mercenaries, one of each from the major powers of the world, to assist you in the Consul’s arrest.