

W. The
Whispering
Vault



THE VAULT
AND TIME

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WELCOME

The *Vault* is timeless. As has been mentioned in previous *Whispering Vault* products, Hunts can take place in the past, present, or future.

This supplement assists gamemaster in the running of Hunts set in our past. In addition to suggestions and a timeline, five sample eras are provided.



THE VAULT IS ETERNAL

I remember the days when I used to fear time. I saw it ravage my mother, tearing at her skin with sharp talons and wearing away her mind like tides taking the cliffs by the sea. But I now see time for what time is – a shattered mirror whose individual fragments reflect all that has gone before and all that is yet to be. I no longer fear these shards of memories and prophecy for I have found the paths between them.

Due to the Stalkers' status as defenders of the Dream, they are granted access to all of time and space. The Unbidden can transgress the Realm of the Flesh at any point and so a Hunt could legitimately take place anywhere and at any time. While this provides a great deal of flexibility for gamemasters designing an adventure, it can also be somewhat intimidating. Running a game set in an historical period requires that gamemasters have at least a passing familiarity with the time in question so that they can convey some of the flavor the setting has to offer. Gamemasters cannot be expected to have immediate knowledge of every period they might wish to set a game in and research can be time consuming. This chapter is intended to provide gamemasters with some ideas as to how they might go about running a Whispering Vault scenario set in the past.

KEEPING THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE

An historical period is nothing more than a backdrop against which the Hunt takes place. Very much like the scenery of a play, the setting of an adventure provides a colorful surrounding and a set of props to play with. Intricate and detailed settings add depth and texture to an adventure, but they can never stand alone. It is a mistake

to think that just providing the characters with a playground will be enough to satisfy them. Players must have action and direction as well as time and location. Thus, it is appropriate to stage a Hunt in the midst of the French Revolution, but inappropriate to just have the Stalkers mill about in the midst of the French Revolution to see what happens.

Similarly, why go to the trouble of constructing a well crafted set if you never intend to use it? Sometimes gamemasters will claim that they are using a setting when they really are not. Stating that a Hunt takes place in Ancient Egypt means little if the characters never encounter anything unique to the time period. Players need some landmarks to remind them what set they are on. Thus, in the course of the Hunt, the characters could take a trip on the Nile, watch the construction of a pyramid, and trade riddles with the Unbidden at the foot of the Sphinx.

STYLE BEFORE SUBSTANCE

One of the greatest worries gamemasters have when running historical scenarios is that they might not get all of the details right. What was the monetary unit in ancient Greece? Who was president of the United States in 1929? What year was the telephone invented?





Gamemasters live in fear of these types of questions. They are afraid that if they can not answer them, their adventure will somehow lose its appeal or seem less “real.” The problem becomes worse if one of the players happens to know something about the period in question. What happens if the players know more about history than the gamemaster?

One thing to remember is that *Whispering Vault* is a game which focuses on the larger scope of things. Stalkers are regularly fighting to hold the very fabric of reality together. In comparison to that battle, what year the telephone was invented will likely seem trivial. It is, therefore, more appropriate to focus on the unique flavor of a given historical period rather than get bogged down in all of the details. For example, what one of Ghengis Khan’s Mongols has for dinner is probably not going to be as interesting to the characters as the barbaric way in which he eats it.

Furthermore, Stalkers (by their nature) are not very likely to be interested in most of the specific details relevant to a given historical period. Their single-mindedness in finding the Unbidden and casting them back into the Vault prevents the Stalkers from seeking out famous personalities or indulging in politics unless it is necessary for the Hunt. Also, when a Hunt does require interaction with key individuals, they must tread lightly. Any action taken by a Stalker outside the Temporal Isolation of an Enigma may affect the Chronosphere. This becomes twice as likely when the Stalkers are interacting with important figures in history. Of course, the Forbiddance will prevent Stalkers from taking actions seriously injurious to the Chronosphere, but the Forbiddance is not a loving tutor and a misstep could end a Stalker’s career. Also, due to their preternatural abilities, Stalkers have little use for technology and many mortal tools are useless to them.

Therefore, they will have little need to concern themselves with when particular objects were invented. Similarly, money is not something most Stalkers will ever have to deal with since they never really need to buy anything. Thus, many of the questions which could trouble a gamemaster are not likely to come up.



All of this is not to say, however, that historical details should be deliberately eliminated from the game. Some interesting tidbits can add substance and make the adventure more interesting. Gamemasters who have such knowledge available should feel free to use it as long as it does not become the focus of the game. (Having an NPC from the American Civil War comment on President Lincoln’s foreign policy is interesting, but having the Stalkers follow Lincoln around and watch his career progress in biographic fashion is not.)

Despite the game’s focus, there will inevitably be times when a gamemaster fails to be historically accurate about something. Perhaps an NPC phoned for the police when telephones haven’t been invented yet. One easy way of getting around this problem without losing face is to invoke the power of the Corruption. As the rule book states, Enigmas Corrupting

the Dream create a Realm which is of neither Flesh nor Essence and which is Temporally Isolated. Anomalies can exist in these pseudo realities. Thus, an NPC could use a phone ten years before they were invented.

For some gamemasters, this solution lacks elegance. Provided that it will not interrupt the flow of game play, gamemasters should feel free to admit they made a mistake. Usually these mistakes will not drastically affect the course of the Hunt and taking care of them early will prevent historic minded players from being upset for the rest of the game.

Finally, if the players know more about the period than the gamemaster, the gamemaster should feel free to milk them for information before play begins. Perhaps the gamemaster could request the player to write down some brief notes on historical customs or important people they would like to see come up in play. This is one way in which the gamemaster can make use of the player’s area of expertise without giving away any details of the Hunt. This will save the gamemaster from doing unnecessary research and it will make the players feel included. Roleplaying is, after all, a group oriented activity.

THE UNSEEN IN HISTORY

Sometimes, a gamemaster will be tempted to make an important historical figure one of the Unseen. Though the temptation to make Ivan the Terrible a slaving Unbidden is great, it should be avoided. This is not only because “Unbidden Ivan” cheapens human history by making every important event the “fault” of the Unbidden or the Stalkers, but also because “Unbidden Ivan” is nearly impossible cosmologically. (For





the purposes of argument, we will say the only historical figure still remembered by mortals who was, in fact, an Unbidden was Caligula. See *Shadow Over Rome*, below, for a detailed explanation of how an Unbidden could possibly be an important figure in history.) The Unbidden are not part of the Dream and are, therefore, alterations in history. Any effort by an Unbidden to seriously alter the Chronosphere outside of Temporal Isolation will invoke the Forbiddance, just as it would for a Stalker (see *Manifest Destiny*, p.76 of *The Whispering Vault*). Also, powerful Unbidden surround themselves with Temporal Isolation by living within the Enigma. The Dream rejects Temporally Isolated areas. Therefore, an Unbidden operating within the Enigma cannot possibly be a historical figure because its actions are outside of the Dream.

As History is what mortal man knows it to have been, and as any historical figure taken over by the Unseen will almost certainly be pulled from the Chronosphere and removed from the memory of mortal society, any historical figure ever taken over by the Unseen no longer exists in our history. Therefore, it is impossible for Ivan the Terrible to have been an Unbidden or cruel Shadow, because we remember Ivan the Terrible. If the gamemaster has a great story that requires the Unbidden be in the Vessel of a King, make a King up and then have the Forbiddance remove all trace of the King's existence from the Chronosphere.

CHOOSING A SETTING

With all of time and space to choose from, deciding on an appropriate setting for a given Hunt can be difficult. In the beginning, gamemasters will probably wish to stick with time periods they know

well. This will provide the gamemaster with the opportunity to get a feel for how the game works. As the game master becomes more comfortable with the rules of the game and the pattern of the Hunt, however, he or she will most likely wish to start using other historical settings.

The first thing to do when considering an historical setting is to find a period which is sufficiently interesting. While there are thousands of years of history to choose from, certain periods always seem to stand out – Ancient Rome, Medieval Europe, Napoleonic France, etc. These periods are distinctive because each had a unique and individual flavor. For example, the delicate balance of science and religion as well as the marriage of political ruthlessness with elegant social graces gave the prosperity of the Renaissance a character all its own.

Colorful historical figures like Napoleon, bloody wars such as the crusades, and interesting socio-political developments like the evolution of democracy provide landmarks which denote progress and add excitement. While the Temporal Isolation caused by the Corruption of the Enigma will prevent the characters from taking part in these historic moments, having a Hunt take place near a crucial moment in history makes the players feel as if they are in the thick of things.

Another important consideration in the selection of the setting is the plot of the Hunt. Certain antagonists can only be used in specific settings. A gamemaster wishing to use the Black Harvest, for example, would need to set the adventure during the American Civil War, the Depression or the modern day. Other antagonists work better in some time periods than others. For instance, a gamemaster might find it ironic to have an Unbidden Aesthetic with a passion for

gluttony appear in the midst of the Irish Potato Famine. Finally, certain events in the plot might require a certain level of technology or a specific type of society. (If a gamemaster wished to have the Stalkers appear in a region where they will be worshipped as gods, a primitive polytheistic society might be called for.)

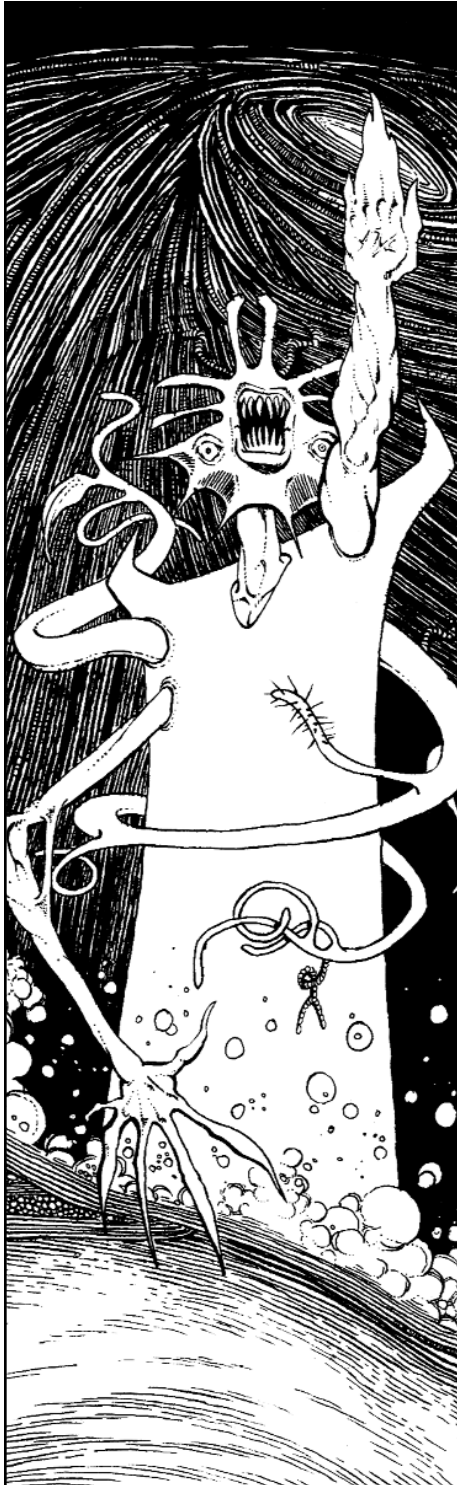
One last issue gamemasters should think about when choosing a time period in which to run a game is accessibility of information. As noted earlier, using an historical setting requires some research on the part of the gamemaster. He or she needs to be familiar with some facts about the period in order to impart the setting's flavor. Some settings are easier to acquire information about than others are and this may limit a gamemaster's choices.

The rest of this book is broken into two sections. The first is a general time line which is meant to provide gamemasters with a sense of history. The second is a series of five articles focusing on various time periods of particular historical significance to gamemasters of *The Whispering Vault*. Each of the focus articles provides a brief taste of the history and flavor of the period and one example of what a *Vault* Hunt set in that period might be like. This information is not meant to be complete. Rather, it is intended to be inspirational. The time line is intentionally quite slim in the Modern Era. There is little need to recap the myriad of current events, and only key (or potentially *Vault*-related) events are mentioned. Also included is a fictional time line with events regarding the *Vault*. (Note: All of the events in the Master Timeline are documented, historical occurrences – although some are more hypothesis than fact. The events on the Vault Timeline are purely fiction and bear no relation to fact.)





MASTER TIMELINE



- 3 Million B.C.:** The first recognizable ancestors of humankind appear in the late Pliocene period. They are distinguished by their opposable thumb which allows them fine manipulation of objects.
- 1.75 Million B.C.:** Humankind begins using tools.
- 1 Million B.C.:** Humankind becomes erect and omnivorous as it begins to compete with other scavengers for food.
- 400,000 B.C. - 300,000 B.C.:** Humankind develops the ability to use fire.
- 75,000 B.C.:** Humankind develops the ability to speak.
- 50,000 B.C.:** Humankind reaches what will later be North America.
- 42,000 B.C.:** The world's first seafaring people travel to, and populate, the Australian land mass.
- 38,000 B.C.:** Humankind begins to develop into separate racial stocks.
- 33,000 B.C.:** Humankind becomes the dominant species on Earth.
- 32,000 B.C.:** The Japanese islands are populated.
- 13,600 B.C.:** Arctic warming leads to a 130 foot rise in sea level and worldwide flooding.
- 12,000 B.C.:** The first domesticated animal, the dog, is used to hunt game.
- 8000 B.C.:** Humans first develop agriculture by using pointed sticks to dig holes in which wild grass seed could be planted.
- 7000 B.C.:** Humans begin to settle in the fertile crescent of the Middle East.
- 6500 B.C.:** The wheel is invented by Sumerians in the Tigres-Euphrates river valley.
- 6000 B.C.:** Humans develop the first true pottery.
- 5500 B.C.:** Metal working begins in Persia.
- 5000 B.C.:** Villages in the fertile crescent go to war over scarce water reserves. First settlers in Egypt begin to irrigate.
- 3600 B.C.:** Bronze, the first metal hard enough to hold an edge, is smelted in Persia.
- 3700 B.C.:** Human civilization begins with the Sumerian Empire in the Tigres-Euphrates river valley.
- 3500 B.C.:** The first written language is developed by the Sumerians.
- 3400 B.C.:** Ancient Egypt forms her first Dynasty.
- 3000 B.C.:** The first known written legend, Gilgamesh, is completed in Sumeria.
- 2980 B.C.:** Imhotep makes the first efforts to find medical cures for sickness. The first pyramid is erected.
- 2900 B.C.:** The great pyramid at Giza is constructed.
- 2850 B.C.:** The great sphinx is carved in ancient Egypt.
- 2800 B.C.:** Chinese emperor Fu Hsi originates the yin and yang theory of harmony and equilibrium.
- 2750 B.C.:** Phoenicians found Tyre on the East banks of the Mediterranean.
- 2700 B.C.:** Herbal medicine and acupuncture pioneered by Shen Nung in China.
- 2640 B.C.:** Silk manufacturing begins in China.





- 2500 B.C.:** Middle Eastern metal workers learn to smelt iron and Egypt masters the secrets of Bronze but Europe is still, effectively, in the Stone Age. Summerians perfect the first alphabet.
- 2475 B.C.:** Humankind begins cultivation of such staple crops as maize and potatoes.
- 2350 B.C.:** The Akkadian Empire is founded by Sargon the first and begins its dominance over Mesopotamia.
- 2205 B.C.:** Xia dynasty takes power in China.
- 2000 B.C.:** The Phoenicians invent sails for their ships. Babylonia surpasses Summeria in power. The first decimal notation is invented.
- 1970 B.C.:** Amenemhet the First's efforts to expand Egypt's borders are continued by his heirs. Over the course of the next hundred years, Egypt will acquire Nubia and increase trade with Punt and other outlying lands.
- 1887 B.C.:** Sesostris III expands Egypt's influence until it stretches for 1000 miles up and down the Nile river valley. He invades Palestine in order to maintain important trade routes.
- 1800 B.C.:** Taboos against eating pork originate among Middle Eastern farmers.
- 1760 B.C.:** Hammurabi, king of Byblos, conquers all of Mesopotamia and instills a strict law code using "an eye for an eye" as the measure of justice.
- 1700 B.C.:** There is a small pox epidemic in China. Judaism is founded by Abraham.
- 1680 B.C.:** Hyskos tribes invade Egypt from the East. Using horses, they are able to fight off Egyptian troops.
- 1650 B.C.:** Jacob's twelve sons form the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 1568 B.C.:** King Amasis reunites the upper and lower Nile river valley and drives the Hyskos from Egypt. The New Kingdom begins.
- 1525 B.C.:** Thutmose I completes an elaborate series of public works designed to repair the damage done by the Hyskos invaders.
- 1503 B.C.:** Hatsheput is named the first Queen of Egypt after her husband, Thutmose II, dies young.
- 1500 B.C.:** Aryan Nomads from Europe arrive on the Indian subcontinent.
- 1483 B.C.:** Thutmose III comes to power in Egypt as the New Kingdom reaches the height of its power. The title of Pharaoh is introduced.
- 1470 B.C.:** A volcanic eruption destroys the Minoan civilization.
- 1400 B.C.:** Practical means are found for smelting Iron in Asia Minor.
- 1380 B.C.:** Amenhotep III has a canal cut between the Nile and the Red Sea.
- 1374 B.C.:** Amenhotep IV introduces monotheism to Egypt and calls for worship of the Sun.
- 1358 B.C.:** Tutankhamen takes power in Egypt. He returns the capital to Thebes and reintroduces the ancient Egyptian religion.
- 1275 B.C.:** Following centuries of oppression at the hands of the Egyptians, Moses leads Israeli tribesmen on a 40 year expedition to Canaan.
- 1272 B.C.:** Ramses II marries the daughter of the Hittite king, initiating a peace pact that puts an end to centuries of Egyptian-Hittite conflict. Ramses II devotes his life to peaceful endeavors, such as the completion of unfinished temples.
- 1221 B.C.:** Libyans attempt to invade Egypt and fail.
- 1193 B.C.:** Troy falls to Greek forces following a ten year siege led by King Agamemnon.
- 1150 B.C.:** Egyptian practitioners of medicine divide into two schools of thought. The first believes sickness to be caused by magical forces such as demons and the second believes that medicine should be treated in a scientific manner.
- 1146 B.C.:** Nebuchadnezzar I begins a 23-year reign as king of Babylon.
- 1141 B.C.:** Philistines steal the Ark of the Covenant after defeating the Israelites in battle. The Ark is quickly returned after a plague breaks out among the Philistines. Reportedly, those who peer inside the Ark release a plague which kills them and spreads throughout Israel.
- 1122 B.C.:** Zhou dynasty founded in China after the old emperor is defeated in battle and commits suicide.
- 1116 B.C.:** The Assyrian empire reaches its height in the Middle East. They will defeat the Hittites, assuring their power in the region.
- 1025 B.C.:** Saul begins his reign as king of the Jews.
- 1012 B.C.:** Saul is killed in battle with the Philistines and succeeded by David.
- 1005 B.C.:** David and his forces take Jerusalem.
- 1000 B.C.:** The secrets of working metal pass on to Europe. Iron weapons abound.
- 990 B.C.:** David's son Absalom murders his half brother, Amon, for raping his own sister, Tamar. David banishes Absalom. He later returns and leads a rebellion against his father but the revolt fails and Absalom is killed.



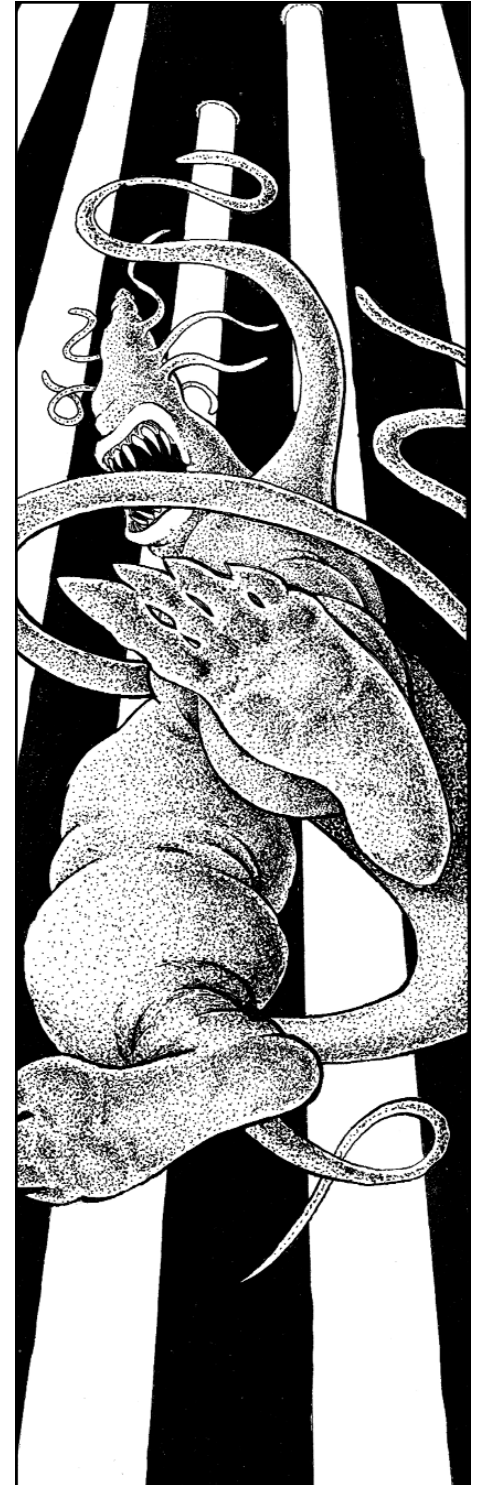


- 961 B.C.:** Solomon succeeds his father David and begins making alliances with the surrounding empires. The great temple of Jerusalem is founded.
- 945 B.C.:** Egypt's throne is usurped by the Libyans.
- 933 B.C.:** Ten of the Israelite tribes secede from Judea following Solomon's death and form Israel.
- 900 B.C.:** The Etruscans found the first towns in the Italian peninsula.
- 884 B.C.:** Assyria defeats Babylon, regaining some of her former glory.
- 850 B.C.:** Homer composes the Iliad and the Odyssey.
- 814 B.C.:** Carthage is founded in Northern Africa.
- 801 B.C.:** Egypt and Greece begin forming trade relations.
- 776 B.C.:** The first recorded Greek Olympic Games are held.
- 771 B.C.:** The capital of the Zhou empire in China is destroyed by Barbarians.
- 753 B.C.:** Rome is founded by the twins Romulus and Remus.
- 745 B.C.:** Assyria reconquers Babylon, Syria and many other Middle Eastern states.
- 722 B.C.:** Sargon II, ruler of Assyria, defeats the Israelites. The ten tribes are taken captive and banished. They disappear, becoming the ten lost tribes of Israel.
- 710 B.C.:** Ethiopian invaders conquer Egypt.
- 700 B.C.:** Emperor Kuan Chung of China has his ministers dedicate their time to teaching peasants agricultural techniques. Greek colonization of the Mediterranean begins.
- 693 B.C.:** The Assyrian king Sennacherib has Babylon razed.
- 658 B.C.:** Greek colonists found Byzantium.
- 626 B.C.:** The Assyrian empire begins its final decline. The Greeks develop metal coinage.
- 624 B.C.:** Periander, ruler of Corinth, in an attempt to finance his reign, invites the wealthy to a party only to rob them of their gold. Athens introduces a law code which makes nearly all crimes punishable by death. It is called Draconian after its author, Draco.
- 600 B.C.:** Zoroaster, the famous Persian theologian, begins his work. Babylon invades Jerusalem on the orders of Nebuchadnezzar II, destroying the great temple. Babylon continues its conquests, eventually invading Phoenicia and Egypt.
- 565 B.C.:** Taoism is founded by Lao Zi in China.
- 556 B.C.:** Peisistratus reigns as ruler of Athens. He is overthrown once, invited back, and then expelled once more. He eventually returns and uses the cult of Dionysus to destroy the power of Athens' priests. Babylon begins her final decline.
- 528 B.C.:** Prince Siddhartha Gauthama founds Buddhism in India. Egypt is saved from an invasion by Persia when a sandstorm decimates the Persian army.
- 516 B.C.:** Jerusalem's great temple is rebuilt.
- 509 B.C.:** Rome becomes a republic.
- 495 B.C.:** Confucius travels throughout China, delivering discourse wisdom and morality.
- 490 B.C.:** Athens defeats Persia in the battle of Marathon.
- 480 B.C.:** Persians win the battle of Thermopylae, devastating the Greek forces. Athenians will later drive the Persians back in a naval battle.
- 475 B.C.:** Iron comes into use in China.
- 457 B.C.:** Pericles presides over a 28 year golden period of peace & prosperity in Athens.
- 450 B.C.:** Celts overrun the British isles.
- 448 B.C.:** The Acropolis is rebuilt in Athens.
- 440 B.C.:** Heracleitus at Ephesus in Asia Minor teaches a philosophy of constant change: everything is in a state of flux, worlds are alternately being created and destroyed. Antigone is scripted by Sophocles. The Parthenon is completed.
- 432 B.C.:** The Peloponnesian wars begin in Greece, pitting Sparta against Athens. Greek physicians propose that the body is made up of four humors (blood, yellow bile, black bile and phlegm).
- 430 B.C.:** An epidemic descends on Rome and Greece.
- 411 B.C.:** Athens enters into a period of political upheaval as Oligarchs attempt to take control of the city, and enters into an alliance with Sparta. The Oligarchs are defeated.
- 404 B.C.:** Sparta starves Athens into submission, tears down her walls, decimates her empire and puts an end to the first Peloponnesian war.
- 399 B.C.:** Socrates, great philosopher of Athens, is condemned for spreading revolutionary ideas among the youth of Athens and forced to drink poison while his disciples look on. Rome begins its conquest of Etruscan civilization in Italy.
- 347 B.C.:** Plato founds an academy for thought and study in Athens.





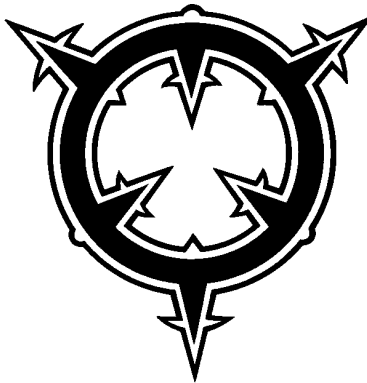
- 342 B.C.:** Aristotle begins teaching in Macedon.
- 338 B.C.:** Philip of Macedon defeats the Greeks. He is later assassinated and succeeded by his son, Alexander the Great.
- 335 B.C.:** Aristotle opens a museum and zoological gardens in Greece. He begins work on a system of scientific, deductive reasoning.
- 333 B.C.:** Alexander the Great defeats the Persians. He goes on to conquer Egypt.
- 330 B.C.:** Atomic theory developed by Democritus.
- 327 B.C.:** Alexander the Great invades Northern India.
- 323 B.C.:** Alexander the Great dies and the wars of succession begin.
- 312 B.C.:** Roman engineers build the first aqueduct into the city.
- 305 B.C.:** Ptolomy declares himself king of Egypt.
- 301 B.C.:** Nomad tribes begin to occupy Northern China.
- 300 B.C.:** Carthage becomes a major economic power in the Mediterranean. Euclid lays out the principles of Geometry.
- 295 B.C.:** Roman legions conquer the Etruscans.
- 280 B.C.:** The Colossus of Rhodes is completed.
- 275 B.C.:** The museum of Alexandria uses Egyptian mummification techniques to expand the boundaries of medical knowledge.
- 268 B.C.:** Romans gain metal coinage.
- 265 B.C.:** Archimedes postulates the law of specific gravity. Rome goes to war with Carthage and eventually wins. Gladiatorial combat becomes popular in Rome.
- 260 B.C.:** Buddhism is adopted as the state religion in India.
- 246 B.C.:** Beginning of the modern age in China.
- 221 B.C.:** China's emperor, Shihuang, unites the country once more.
- 218 B.C.:** Hannibal of Carthage begins a second war against Rome. Despite initial successes, he eventually loses.
- 214 B.C.:** Construction begins on the Great Wall of China as a means of keeping out the Mongols.
- 212 B.C.:** Emperor Shihuang begins a reign of terror in China in which he orders all academic work without immediate practical use burned.
- 202 B.C.:** Han Dynasty comes to power in China.
- 201 B.C.:** Romans siege and take Carthage.
- 197 B.C.:** The Romans take Greece.
- 172 B.C.:** Rome goes to war with Macedonia. Rome eventually wins. The first paved streets are built in Rome.
- 168 B.C.:** Syria lays waste to the great temple at Jerusalem and attempts to convert the Jews. The Syrians are later defeated by Judah Maccabee.
- 146 B.C.:** Carthage defies Rome and is sieged once more. When the Romans defeat Carthage they raze the city and sough the soil with salt.
- 140 B.C.:** Trade begins between Rome and China.
- 101 B.C.:** Chinese ships, aided by the first magnetic compasses, reach the Eastern shores of India.
- 88 B.C.:** Civil war in Rome.
- 73 B.C.:** Sparticus, a former Gladiator, attempts to rebel. His forces are defeated by Roman legions.





- 64 B.C.: Rome takes Jerusalem.
- 60 B.C.: Rome's first triumvirate is formed by Pompey, Cassius and Julius.
- 58 B.C.: Roman legions, commanded by Caesar, take Gaul.
- 54 B.C.: Caesar opens the British isles to Roman trade and influence.
- 48 B.C.: The first triumvirate disintegrates when Caesar defeats Pompey in battle.
- 44 B.C.: Caesar is made dictator for life and promptly assassinated.
- 43 B.C.: Rome's second triumvirate is formed.
- 42 B.C.: The second triumvirate defeats Caesar's assassins in battle.
- 41 B.C.: Cleopatra seduces Mark Antony.
- 31 B.C.: Mark Antony is defeated in battle by Octavian.
- 30 B.C.: Sundial is invented in China.
- 27 B.C.: Roman Empire is founded on the bones of the Roman Republic, by Octavian who takes the title Caesar Augustus.
- 21 B.C.: Regensburg founded on the Danube.
- 20 B.C.: Jerusalem's great temple is rebuilt once more by King Herod.
- 7 B.C.: Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
- 6 A.D.: China requires political candidates to take civil service exams.
- 9 A.D.: China nationalizes all land.
- 17 A.D.: Economic planning begins in China.
- 33 A.D.: Jesus is betrayed and executed.
- 37 A.D.: Caligula takes control of Rome.
- 41 A.D.: Caligula is murdered by a tribune of Roman guards.
- 43 A.D.: London is founded by the Romans.
- 49 A.D.: Emperor Claudius expels Jewish and Christian citizens from Rome.

- 54 A.D.: Nero named emperor of Rome.
- 64 A.D.: A fire ravages Rome.
- 68 A.D.: Nero is sentenced to death and commits suicide.
- 79 A.D.: Pompeii is buried in Lava when Mt. Vesuvius erupts.
- 80 A.D.: Anthrax sweeps through the Roman Empire.
- 105 A.D.: The art of paper making is refined in China.
- 122 A.D.: Hadrian's wall erected in Northern England.



- 125 A.D.: A plague of locusts descends upon Northern Africa.
- 167 A.D.: Barbarian attacks on Rome destroy the aqueducts, but the invaders are repelled.
- 177 A.D.: Marcus Aurelius introduces systematic persecution of Christians in Rome.
- 193 A.D.: Rome is thrown into chaos as the emperor is murdered and the empire is auctioned off. Jealous generals muster their forces and expel the wealthy merchant who purchased the empire, taking control for themselves.
- 200 A.D.: A Japanese fleet arrives in Korea and the Koreans are forced to surrender.

- 222 A.D.: Gunpowder invented by Chinese alchemists of the Wu dynasty in China.
- 238 A.D.: Rome's subjects in Northern Africa revolt.
- 250 A.D.: Decius attempts to execute all Christians in the Roman Empire in an effort to bring back the glory of ancient Rome.
- 253 A.D.: Plague strikes the Roman Empire.
- 260 A.D.: The Roman Emperor is murdered by the Persians and the empire comes under attack from all sides by Barbarian tribes. Inflation makes Roman currency useless and trade drops off.
- 275 A.D.: Roman legions retreat from what will become Germany, and fortifications are made around Rome.
- 305 A.D.: Corruption goes to new heights in the Roman Empire as rich land owners take control of the senate.
- 312 A.D.: Roman emperor Constantine has a vision of the cross emblazoned with the phrase "by this sign thou shalt conquer." Constantine converts to Christianity.
- 320 A.D.: India is unified under the Gupta dynasty.
- 324 A.D.: Rome is reunited by Constantine.
- 330 A.D.: Capital of the Roman Empire moved to Constantinople.
- 337 A.D.: Rome enters into war with Persia.
- 341 A.D.: Christianity introduced in Ethiopia.
- 350 A.D.: The Huns invade Europe.
- 360 A.D.: Picts and Scots attack Roman forces in Britain.





364 A.D.: Rome loses to Persia and cedes most of her holdings in the Region.

372 A.D.: The Huns conquer European barbarians. Buddhism spreads to Korea.

383 A.D.: Various revolts shake the Roman Empire.

391 A.D.: The great library in Alexandria is burned when the new Emperor declares all non-Christian works to be destroyed.

395 A.D.: The Roman Empire is split into Eastern and Western halves.

401 A.D.: Visigoths penetrate the defenses of the Western Roman Empire.

407 A.D.: Roman legions retreat from Britain.

410 A.D.: The Huns ravage the Roman Empire.

425 A.D.: Constantinople is saved from the Huns by a plague which sweeps through the attackers' ranks.

429 A.D.: The Vandals invade Northern Africa.

433 A.D.: Attila becomes leader of the Huns.

446 A.D.: Buddhists are persecuted by the Wei dynasty in China because their monasteries are taking up too much money and manpower.

449 A.D.: Britain invaded and conquered by the Angles and Saxons.

450 A.D.: Hawaiian Islands are discovered by Polynesian chief Hawaii-Loa.

452 A.D.: The Japanese royal family is shaken as crown prince Karu is killed by his brother Anku.

453 A.D.: Attila the Hun dies and his people are driven from Europe.

455 A.D.: Chichén Itzá is founded by Mayans.

476 A.D.: The Western Roman Empire falls.

501 A.D.: The medical text Susruta compiled in India.

508 A.D.: Paris established as the Frankish capital.

525 A.D.: Ethiopian forces conquer the Yemen.

529 A.D.: Benedictine order of Monks is established.

536 A.D.: The Mediterranean is blanketed in a "dry" fog which heralds a horrific winter. No one is certain of the cause. King Arthur of the Britons is killed in battle.

538 A.D.: Buddhism introduced to the Japanese court.

543 A.D.: Earthquakes are felt around the world.

550 A.D.: Toltecs overrun the Yucatan peninsula. Wales converted to Christianity.

580 A.D.: Sui Dynasty founded in China.

585 A.D.: A Buddhist icon is sent to Japan and it is enshrined in the Soga temple. Plague ensues afterwards and the temple is destroyed.

587 A.D.: After a conflict between Shinto supporters and Buddhists, the first Japanese Buddhist monastery is founded.

598 A.D.: Canterbury becomes the site of the first English school.

604 A.D.: Prince Shotoku of Japan issues the Shotoku Taishi code of Buddhist laws.

606 A.D.: An empire is founded in Northern India by Harsha of Thanesar.

607 A.D.: Empress Suiko of Japan sends an envoy to China to learn their culture.

610 A.D.: Mohammed founds Islam.

618 A.D.: Beginning of Tang dynasty in China.

628 A.D.: Mecca falls to the forces of Mohammed following an 18 year skirmish. Mohammed completes the Quran.

634 A.D.: The first Caliph passes away and is succeeded by Omar, who declares a holy war which will eventually lead to Islam's dominance in Egypt, Syria and Persia.



644 A.D.: Famine strikes Japan. The famine eventually leads to a rebellion. A new religion springs up in which devotees worship a giant worm.

646 A.D.: Political reform in Japan produces a bureaucracy modeled on that of the Chinese.

685 A.D.: The last vestiges of Pagan resistance to Christianity are crushed in Britain.

695 A.D.: First Arab coinage.

699 A.D.: The epic tale of Beowulf is completed.





- 710 A.D.:** Nara becomes the capital of Japan. Its old name is Heijo.
- 711 A.D.:** Moors from Africa invade Spain.
- 717 A.D.:** Constantinople besieged by Arabs.
- 731 A.D.:** Height of the Mayan empire.
- 732 A.D.:** Moors driven back from France at the Battle of Tours.
- 752 A.D.:** 55 foot statue of Buddha is completed at Nara.
- 771 A.D.:** Charlemagne becomes king of the Franks.
- 781 A.D.:** Christian monasteries built in China.
- 793 A.D.:** Vikings raid the coast of Northumbria.
- 794 A.D.:** Japan's capital is moved to Heian (modern day Kyoto).
- 800 A.D.:** Charlemagne is crowned Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas day.
- 814 A.D.:** Charlemagne dies and the Holy Roman Empire begins to slowly deteriorate under the rule of his descendants.
- 850 A.D.:** Arabian scientists invent the astrolabe. Coffee is discovered.
- 861 A.D.:** The Norse sack the coastal settlements of Europe.
- 863 A.D.:** Cyrillic alphabet is invented.
- 895 A.D.:** Magyars expelled from Southern Russia.
- 896 A.D.:** Alfred the Great clears the Danes from England.
- 900 A.D.:** Czechs take control of the Bohemian tribes. Greenland is discovered.
- 922 A.D.:** Persian mystic Al-Hallaj is sentenced to death for heresy.
- 929 A.D.:** King Wenceslas of the Czechs is murdered in Prague.
- 939 A.D.:** Vietnam gains independence from China.
- 959 A.D.:** Edgar is coronated as the first King of England.
- 960 A.D.:** Northern Song Dynasty founded in China.
- 969 A.D.:** Mad Japanese emperor Reizei is forced to abdicate by the Fujiwara family.
- 975 A.D.:** Arabs introduce modern arithmetical notation.
- 976 A.D.:** Modern Austria is founded.
- 980 A.D.:** Vikings take Kiev in battle.
- 982 A.D.:** First colonies established in Greenland by Eric the Red.
- 990 A.D.:** Ghana forces take Berber towns in West Africa.
- 1000 A.D.:** Lief Erikson discovers the Americas.
- 1013 A.D.:** The Danes conquer England.
- 1015 A.D.:** The Tale of Genji becomes the first modern novel.
- 1027 A.D.:** Decline of the Mayan empire begins.
- 1036 A.D.:** Modern musical notation is created.
- 1040 A.D.:** Lady Godiva rides naked through the streets of Coventry.
- 1054 A.D.:** Macbeth of Scotland is defeated by Malcolm Cannmore after his failed attempt to become King of Scotland.
- 1060 A.D.:** Western Africa is conquered by the kingdom of Ghana.
- 1066 A.D.:** Normans conquer Britain in the Battle of Hastings. First known sighting of Halley's comet.
- 1069 A.D.:** Wang An-Shih begins radical reforms of the Chinese political and agricultural systems.





- 1071 A.D.:** The Cathedral of San Marco is completed in Venice, Italy.
- 1076 A.D.:** The Synod, a major gathering of church officials, is held in Worms, Germany.
- 1095 A.D.:** Ladislav I of Hungary conquers Croatia and introduces Catholicism to the Croats.
- 1097 A.D.:** French knights leave to fight the first Crusade against the Muslims in Spain and Jerusalem.
- 1099 A.D.:** Jerusalem falls to the crusaders.
- 1101 A.D.:** Gothic style of architecture becomes popular.
- 1111 A.D.:** Henry V, becomes embroiled in the investiture controversy when he outlaws investiture, the practice of monarchs giving church officials temporal power.
- 1121 A.D.:** The Concordat, a meeting of the Church to discuss secular matters, is held in Worms.
- 1123 A.D.:** Former emperor Shirakawa of Japan condemns the killing of any living thing.
- 1139 A.D.:** English civil war. Portugal is liberated from the Moors.
- 1141 A.D.:** Saladin is born. He will later lead the Arabs and unite the Middle East.
- 1147 A.D.:** French knights lead the second crusade.
- 1150 A.D.:** University of Paris founded.
- 1151 A.D.:** Beijing freed from the Tatars by the Chinese.
- 1156 A.D.:** Gempei war for succession of Japanese throne.
- 1160 A.D.:** Normans expelled from Africa by the Arabs.
- 1162 A.D.:** Henry II of England has Thomas Becket placed in the church as a method for controlling it, but Becket becomes a fervent supporter of the Church and is executed.
- 1167 A.D.:** Oxford University is founded in England.
- 1170 A.D.:** First recorded instance of Seppuku – ceremonial suicide – in Japan.
- 1174 A.D.:** Leaning Tower of Pisa is constructed.
- 1176 A.D.:** India is invaded by Persia. The University of Modena is founded.
- 1180 A.D.:** Revolt in Japan against the ruling Taira family.
- 1185 A.D.:** The Minamoto Shogunate, the first Shoguns, assume power in Japan. Accordingly, power in Japan shifts from courtiers to warriors. Bulgaria gains independence.
- 1189 A.D.:** The third crusade begins.
- 1191 A.D.:** Zen Buddhism introduced to Japan.
- 1193 A.D.:** Aztecs conquer the Chichimecs in South America. First known merchant guild is founded in London.
- 1202 A.D.:** The fourth crusade begins.
- 1203 A.D.:** Mohammed of Ghor unites upper India but is assassinated shortly thereafter.
- 1208 A.D.:** Ghengis Khan leads the Mongols to victory in Turkestan.
- 1209 A.D.:** Cambridge University is founded in England.
- 1211 A.D.:** Ghengis Khan invades China.
- 1212 A.D.:** The Children's Crusade begins and ends with over one thousand children sold into slavery.
- 1213 A.D.:** English parliament is founded.
- 1215 A.D.:** Magna Carta is signed in England.
- 1218 A.D.:** The Mongols invade Persia. The fifth crusade begins.
- 1222 A.D.:** Ghengis Khan leads Mongols to victory in Russia.
- 1227 A.D.:** Ghengis Khan dies.
- 1228 A.D.:** The sixth crusade begins.
- 1230 A.D.:** Berlin is founded. Leprosy returns to England with the crusaders.
- 1236 A.D.:** The first anesthesia is invented by monks in Bologna. Mongol forces using gunpowder conquer much of Eastern Europe.
- 1245 A.D.:** The seventh crusade begins.
- 1249 A.D.:** Roger Bacon fights to have science included in the curriculum at Oxford.
- 1250 A.D.:** Arabic numerals and decimals introduced to Europe via the crusaders.
- 1252 A.D.:** The Church's Inquisition begins using instruments of torture. Price controls introduced in Japan to halt inflation.
- 1259 A.D.:** The first known firearms are used to repel the Mongol "Golden Horde" from China.
- 1267 A.D.:** Roger Bacon explores many scientific principles and predicts a whole host of scientific advancements including radiology.
- 1274 A.D.:** Kublai Khan sends a fleet to attack the Japanese and is repelled by a great storm. Marco Polo travels to China.
- 1278 A.D.:** Hapsburg dynasty comes to power in Austria.
- 1284 A.D.:** The tale of the Pied Piper of Hamelin is told for the first time.
- 1290 A.D.:** The Ottoman Empire is founded.
- 1307 A.D.:** The Divine Comedy is written by Dante.





- 1309 A.D.:** Babylonian captivity of the Popes produces a schism in the Church.
- 1311 A.D.:** Notre Dame Cathedral in Reims is completed after 99 years of work.
- 1325 A.D.:** Tenochtitlan founded by the Aztecs.
- 1333 A.D.:** The Black Death descends upon China.
- 1337 A.D.:** Beginning of the 100 years war between England and France.
- 1340 A.D.:** The Black Death reaches Europe.
- 1368 A.D.:** The Ming Dynasty is founded in China.
- 1378 A.D.:** The Schism of the Church begins; the faithful are divided between two popes.
- 1383 A.D.:** Noh Drama is pioneered in Japan.
- 1392 A.D.:** Playing cards invented.
- 1400 A.D.:** Canterbury Tales written by Chaucer.
- 1409 A.D.:** David is sculpted.
- 1429 A.D.:** Joan of Arc liberates Orleans.
- 1429 A.D.:** The Medici family takes control of banking in Florence.
- 1438 A.D.:** The Incas come to power in Peru.
- 1448 A.D.:** Prince Dracula of Walliachia flees to Transylvania where he will take control.
- 1453 A.D.:** Constantinople falls to the Ottoman Turks and is renamed Istanbul. The 100 years war comes to a conclusion with the English expelled from France.
- 1455 A.D.:** The houses of York and Lancaster begin the War of the Roses in England.
- 1456 A.D.:** The Gutenberg Bible is published with the first European printing press.
- 1467 A.D.:** Civil war begins in Japan.
- 1470 A.D.:** Portuguese explorers reach Africa's Gold Coast.
- 1478 A.D.:** Isabella of Spain begins the Spanish Inquisition.
- 1485 A.D.:** Le Morte d' Arthur published in England.
- 1492 A.D.:** Columbus discovers the Americas while in search of a passage to India.
- 1493 A.D.:** A papal decree divides the world into two halves, granting the Spanish colonization rights for one half and the other half is given to the Portuguese.
- 1497 A.D.:** Leonardo da Vinci completes The Last Supper.
- 1498 A.D.:** Portuguese explorer Vasco De Gama successfully reaches India by sea.
- 1502 A.D.:** The Moors are driven from Spain.
- 1507 A.D.:** Leonardo da Vinci completes Mona Lisa.
- 1513 A.D.:** Machiavelli's The Prince is published.
- 1515 A.D.:** Utopia by Thomas More is published.
- 1517 A.D.:** Martin Luther begins the Reformation of the Church.
- 1519 A.D.:** Cortez conquers the Aztecs.
- 1522 A.D.:** Magellan completes the first circumnavigation of the world.
- 1527 A.D.:** England's Henry VIII requests permission to divorce Catherine of Aragon. The pope's refusal leads Henry to form his own Anglican church.
- 1532 A.D.:** Pizarro conquers the Incas.
- 1541 A.D.:** John Calvin comes to power in Geneva.
- 1543 A.D.:** Two Portuguese adventurers become the first Europeans to visit Japan. They give the Japanese firearms.
- 1549 A.D.:** First Russian National Assembly.
- 1550 A.D.:** It is declared a capital offense to be a Christian in Japan.
- 1552 A.D.:** Queen Mary comes to power in England and tries to reinstate the Catholic Church. She fails.
- 1559 A.D.:** Ice cream is first made in Italy.
- 1563 A.D.:** Rioting in Japan occurs as the Tokugawa Shogunate attempts to requisition rice crops.
- 1568 A.D.:** Reunification of Japan begins as the powers of Buddhism and fief lords are challenged.
- 1570 A.D.:** The Iroquois tribe is formed in North America. Large scale traffic of black slaves begins. Ivan the terrible has his family and friends publicly executed in Russia.
- 1572 A.D.:** Astronomer Tycho Brahae disproves the Aristotelian concept that the celestial bodies are unchanging.
- 1582 A.D.:** Having united Japan, Oda Nobunaga is killed. His murder is avenged by Hideyoshi, who proceeds to take control of the country.
- 1584 A.D.:** Roanoke Island is settled by the English, but the colony will later vanish without a trace.
- 1588 A.D.:** The English defeat the seemingly unstoppable Spanish Armada.
- 1591 A.D.:** The Comedy of Errors is written by Shakespeare.
- 1597 A.D.:** Gallileo is hard at work on principles of mathematics and astronomy.





1598 A.D.: The Edict of Nantes, giving religious freedom to the Huguenots, is issued. Its proclamation puts to an end 30 years of religious warfare in France.

1599 A.D.: William Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is opened in England.

1600 A.D.: Will Adams is the first Englishman to reach Japan. He will become an advisor to the new leader, Leyasu. Japan's capital is moved from Kyoto to Edo. William Gilbert publishes his theories on electricity in England.

1603 A.D.: Queen Elizabeth, last of the Tudors, passes away. She leaves England a very prosperous nation. Aloma perishes after having united West Africa into a large and powerful Islamic Empire. In America, Champlain discovers the great lakes and makes a treaty between the French and the Algonquin tribe. Japan moves from an agricultural society to an industrial society.

1605 A.D.: Moghul Akbar dies having founded the dynasty which will rule India for the next three centuries. Guy Fawkes attempts to bomb the houses of Parliament in England and fails. The world's first newspaper is published at Antwerp.

1607 A.D.: Jamestown colony is founded in Virginia.

1609 A.D.: The French provoke hostilities with the Iroquois.

1612 A.D.: Persecution of Christians is resumed in Japan. Tobacco production begins in earnest in Virginia.

1613 A.D.: The Romanov Dynasty comes to power in Russia. Elizabeth Bathory, Princess of Hungary, is imprisoned after she is reported to have murdered 600 maidens and bathed in their blood.

1616 A.D.: China is invaded by forces from Manchu. Galileo is arrested by the Catholic church and condemned for heresy for proclaiming that the Earth is not the center of the universe.

1617 A.D.: The royal Mosque is completed in Persia.

1618 A.D.: Defenestration of Prague, in which angry Czechs hurl two representatives of the German Hapsburgs out a window, leads to the Thirty Years War. The first African slaves brought to North America.

1619 A.D.: Descartes establishes the basics of modern mathematics.

1620 A.D.: The Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.

1624 A.D.: The Louvre is completed in Paris.

1626 A.D.: The purchase of Manhattan Island is completed. Cardinal Richelieu rises to power in France.

1631 A.D.: Cardinal Richelieu takes France to war with the Hapsburgs.

1635 A.D.: The first free medical clinic is founded in France.

1636 A.D.: Harvard College is founded.

1638 A.D.: Christian uprising in Japan.





1640 A.D.: Japan enters into isolation, murdering all foreigners and eliminating all foreign influences.

1642 A.D.: Rembrandt's *The Nightwatch* is completed.

1644 A.D.: Ming Dynasty falls in China.

1648 A.D.: End of the thirty year war in Europe. Oliver Cromwell takes control of England at the conclusion of England's second civil war. Taj Mahal completed in India.

1652 A.D.: The Dutch found Capetown, South Africa.

1657 A.D.: Fire destroys Edo in Japan.

1660 A.D.: Charles I reinstates the monarchy in England. Rise of the Bambara kingdoms in Africa.

1662 A.D.: Boyle's law of chemistry is enunciated.

1666 A.D.: Calculus invented by Isaac Newton. The great fire ravages London.

1678 A.D.: John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress" is completed.

1682 A.D.: Seat of French government is moved to Versailles.

1688 A.D.: Lloyds of London is founded.

1692 A.D.: Beginning of the Salem Witch Trials.

1697 A.D.: Peter the Great travels abroad and becomes determined to Westernize Russia.

1701 A.D.: Crowning of the first Prussian King, Frederick I. The war of Spanish Succession begins. Yale University is founded.

1707 A.D.: The United Kingdom unites England and Scotland.

1708 A.D.: Bach becomes court organist at Weimar.

1709 A.D.: Beginning of the Industrial Revolution in England.

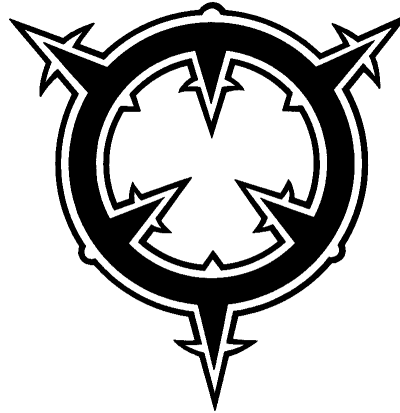
1714 A.D.: The Hanovers come to power in England.

1721 A.D.: Afghanistan becomes a battle ground as it is invaded from all directions.

1722 A.D.: Easter Island is discovered.

1724 A.D.: The Russians and Ottomans sign treaty dividing Persia.

1729 A.D.: Jonathan Swift writes a *Modest Proposal*.



1733 A.D.: Beginning of the War of Polish Succession.

1739 A.D.: Potato famine in Ireland.

1740 A.D.: Beginning of the War of Austrian Succession.

1746 A.D.: Following up his successes in publishing and politics, Benjamin Franklin begins scientific work with electricity.

1752 A.D.: The Liberty Bell is cast in Philadelphia.

1753 A.D.: The British Museum is founded.

1761 A.D.: The British take control of India.

1762 A.D.: Rousseau's *The Social Contract* is published.

1764 A.D.: Frederick the Great focuses on public works to improve Prussia.

1765 A.D.: The steam engine is invented by Watt.

1766 A.D.: The young musical genius, Mozart, completes his first European tour.

1769 A.D.: Arkwright invents the spinning frame.

1770 A.D.: The Boston Massacre, an armed struggle between British forces and American colonists, occurs.

1773 A.D.: The Boston Tea Party, a protest against King George's unfair taxes, takes place.

1774 A.D.: First rumblings of the American Revolution.

1776 A.D.: Declaration of Independence signed in America.

1778 A.D.: France's Franz Mesmer states he can cure physical illness with his hypnotic powers.

1781 A.D.: The American Revolution comes to a close with the defeat of the British.

1784 A.D.: Americans first reach China.

1789 A.D.: The French Revolution begins.

1795 A.D.: Napoleon comes to power in France.

1800 A.D.: American capital moves to Washington D.C. The Industrial Revolution begun in England reaches mainland Europe. First performances of Beethoven's symphonies.

1805 A.D.: Napoleon crowns himself Emperor, but the other powers of Europe rise against him. The battle of Trafalgar occurs.

1815 A.D.: Napoleon loses the battle of Waterloo. The Zulus rise to power in Africa.





1820 A.D.: The Spanish Revolution begins.

1825 A.D.: Beginning of the Decembrist revolution in Russia.

1835 A.D.: Death of the last Holy Roman Emperor.

1840 A.D.: The British take control of New Zealand from the native Maori. Britain declares war on China.

1842 A.D.: Darwin begins writing about his theories of evolution.

1850 A.D.: Pinkerton detective agency opens in Chicago.

1860 A.D.: Elizabeth Cady Stanton urges women's suffrage in America. President Abraham Lincoln is elected.

1861 A.D.: American Civil War begins.

1865 A.D.: The United States are reunited. Abraham Lincoln is assassinated. Mengele first states his ideas on genetics.

1870 A.D.: DNA is discovered. Discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin is prohibited in the United States by the Constitution.

1875 A.D.: The Suez Canal is completed.

1880 A.D.: The Brothers Karamazov written by Dostoevski. Mark Twain publishes the first distinctively American fiction. The Boers gain independence from the English in Southern Africa.

1823 A.D.: The Munroe Doctrine is issued, declaring the Western Hemisphere the interest of the United States.

1885 A.D.: First system of fingerprint identification is developed.

1886 A.D.: Marx finishes Das Kapital.

1888 A.D.: Jack the Ripper stalks the East End of London. The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn is founded in England.

1890 A.D.: The Battle of Wounded Knee marks the end of all Native American Resistance to White settlement. Japan holds her first political elections. Kaiser Wilhelm takes control of Germany.

1900 A.D.: Beginning of the Boxer Rebellion in China.

1905 A.D.: Japanese Admiral Togo subdues Korea and defeats the Russian navy. Einstein develops the special theory of relativity.

1914 A.D.: Mohandis Ghandi returns to India and leads a passive resistance campaign to weaken British power in his homeland. World War I begins in Europe.

1918 A.D.: World War I ends. The Romanov Dynasty is ended when the last rulers are executed by revolutionaries in Russia. Eventually, the communists will come to power in Russia.

1922 A.D.: Mussolini takes power in Italy. Hitler begins a slow rise to power in Germany.

1925 A.D.: The Ku Klux Klan is founded in America.

1935 A.D.: Stalin begins introducing harsh punitive laws in Russia. The Nazi party deprives Jewish Germans of citizenship.

1936 A.D.: The military takes power in Japan. The Axis is formed in Europe.

1937 A.D.: Japan invades China.

1939 A.D.: Beginning of the Holocaust. Beginning of World War II.

1941 A.D.: Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. Germany attacks Russia. France falls to the Nazis.

1944 A.D.: The D-Day invasion occurs. Hitler survives an assassination attempt, only to eventually take his own life.

1945 A.D.: End of World War II. Use of the first nuclear weapons ends war between Japan and the Allies. The Cold War begins with disputes over Berlin.

1950 A.D.: Senator Joseph McCarthy rises to power and begins persecuting known or suspected communists in the United States. North Korea invades South Korea and UN forces are sent to respond. Television becomes more and more popular, slowly replacing the radio.

1960 A.D.: John F. Kennedy is elected President. He will later be assassinated.

1962 A.D.: The Cuban Missile Crisis occurs.

1963 A.D.: Martin Luther King Jr. makes his "I have a Dream" speech.

1965 A.D.: Malcolm X, militant black leader, is shot and killed. The Watts riots tear through Los Angeles. The United States enters into the Vietnam war.

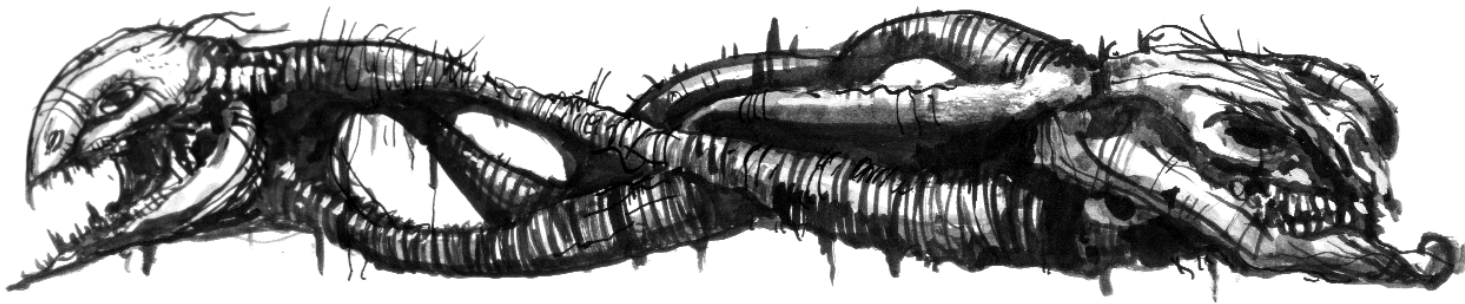
1968 A.D.: Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.

1970 A.D.: National Guard forces fire weapons at students protesting the war at Kent State University. At the height of the peace movement, one million students and other protestors march on Washington.

1980 A.D.: Failed attempt to rescue U.S. Hostages in Iran.

1985 A.D.: Gorbachev comes to power in Soviet Russia. He will later be responsible for dissolving the Soviet Union and freeing the numerous soviet satellite states.





ANCIENT ROME

If only we had known. There had been no signs, no flaws in the pattern. We could only assume that the Call had been a mistake. It wasn't until we found ourselves before the emperor, Caligula, that the rend in reality became apparent. He drank of misery and of paradox. He fed on the tainted Dream.

Rome was perhaps the greatest empire the Earth has ever known. Between 61 B.C. and 37 A.D. the phrase “all roads lead to Rome” was a truism. The empire reached from Syria to Britain, Italy to Gaul, and encompassed millions of people. All of it was governed from Rome – the center of foreign trade, culture and art. The city often bustled with Syrian traders, Egyptian diplomats and Greek priests. Every ethnic group within the empire could be found dwelling within the capital – Greeks, Egyptians, Syrians, and various members of the Northern Germanic tribes.

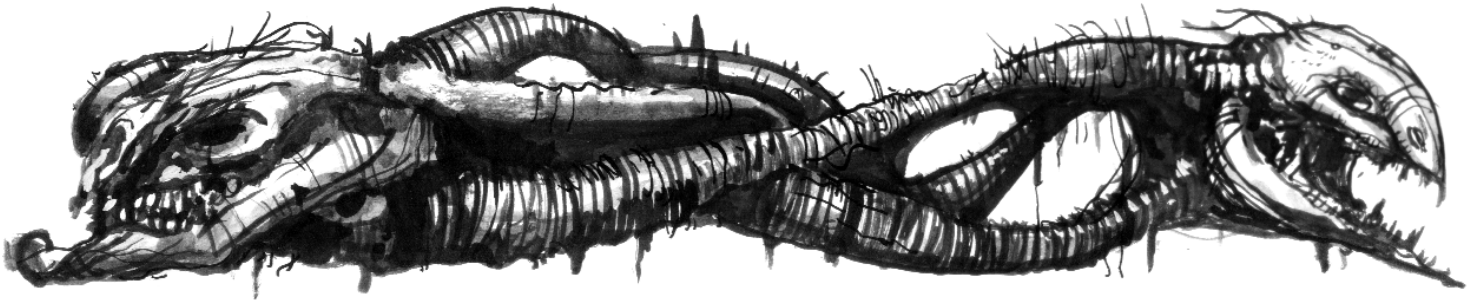
The city of Rome was a beautiful place. Located on the Tiber River, the city always seemed to maintain a majestic quality. Caesar Augustus is famous for having “found Rome a city of brick and left her a city of marble.” During his reign, he had numerous glistening marble temples and state buildings constructed (most in the image of the ancient Greeks). The stately Forum continually roared with bargaining and music. The monolithic Coliseum echoed with reverberations from the crowds cheering as one sports hero or another performed some amazing athletic feat. Small markets lined the streets, filling the air with scents of fine wines, fresh fruits and exotic spices. Numerous items, knick knacks and hand-crafted goods could be had for sale, including slaves taken from battles at the furthest

reaches of the empire. While payment could be made in trades, Rome was a civilized land with a well established coinage system. The traditional unit of trade was the Sesterce.

Roman society was well organized and hierarchical. With the plebeians in their white tunics and the land owners in their long togas, even one's manner of dress reflected one's station in life. The great festivals in which the year's best plays were performed were generally open to all, but literacy was not uniform. The written epics of Virgil and his fellows were limited to the well educated and the wealthy. The greatest common denominator in Rome was religion. The Romans worshipped a pantheon which was, for the most part, borrowed from the Greeks. Prominent gods were Jupiter (god of the sky), Mars (god of war), Venus (goddess of love), and Neptune (god of the sea). While not every Roman believed firmly in the existence of these deities, most took the time to make small sacrifices of food or money just to insure that no ill luck befell them.

Politically, Rome was a melange of egos, grand standing, back stabbing, and power plays. During the time before Julius Caesar, the nation was evolving from a republic into an empire. When Julius took control, he systematically dismantled the Senate by dramatically increasing the number of senators, thus increasing the discord and rendering the





body unproductive. This allowed Julius to use his influence among the wealthy Senators, bribe others, and dominate the Republic. While at least two attempts were made to transform the Empire into an oligarchy by electing triumvirates, these arrangements always broke down as one or more members of the elected body made a bid for power.

Rome's history was a turbulent one, filled with much strife. Following Julius' rise to power and consolidation of the Empire, he was murdered by his good friend Marcus Junius Brutus. Brutus was part of a conspiracy which feared that Julius had become too powerful and self-serving. On top of this, his liaisons with Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, had become brazen. In the end, he was slain "for the good of Rome." Revenge was swiftly carried out by Mark Antony, Lepidus and Octavian (Julius' son) who slew the conspirators at the battle of Philippi. Unfortunately, Mark Antony eventually fell in with Cleopatra and this led to civil war as Octavian moved to oppose him. Mark Antony was eventually defeated, leaving Octavian alone as ruler of Rome.

While he was officially only Consul to the republic, in practice Octavian was virtually an emperor. After serving for a

number of terms, Octavian eventually changed his name to Augustus and took control of the empire more openly. Under Augustus, Rome thrived and the "Pax Romana" – Peace of Rome – was formed. There were no internal disputes or major wars during his reign. To reduce internal strife, Augustus did away with many social barriers, allowing the poor to acquire wealth and free slaves to gain status through marriage. He provided Rome with security, prosperity, pride, and identity.

Following Augustus' death, Rome began a downward spiral from which it would not recover. Augustus' step son, Tiberius, was more of a soldier than a statesman. He lacked both the interest and skill to govern Rome. Although he managed to hold off those who would take his power, he made no real advances and during his reign, Rome was idle. Following his death, Tiberius was succeeded by Caligula and Rome's descent began in earnest.

Rome's previous tolerance for foreign peoples and ideas was replaced by gnawing bigotry. The respectful games at the coliseum degenerated into bloodsport. Violence, hatred, bigotry and oppression reigned. Rome's golden age had come to an end.

THE SHADOW OVER ROME

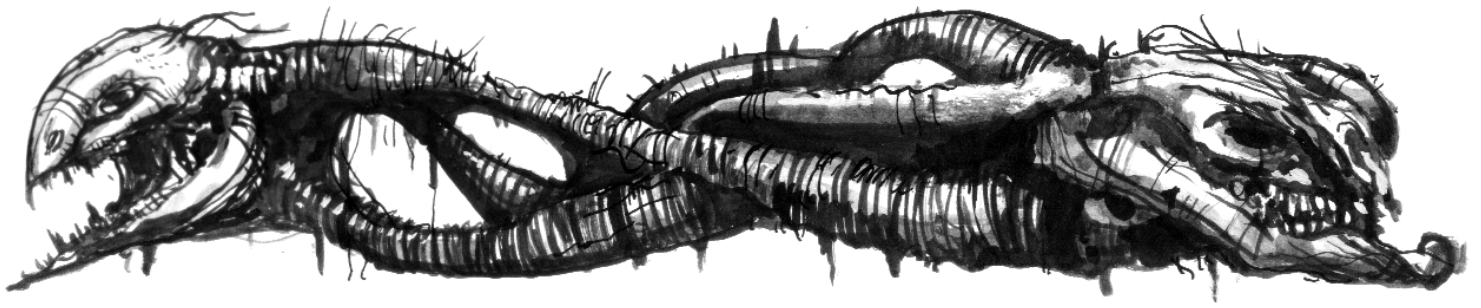
Hurling itself through the barriers, the creature known to some as the Devourer entered the Realm of the Flesh in the northern reaches of the Empire. In the barbaric Germanic states, the Devourer's bestial need for flesh and blood went mostly unnoticed; its atrocities were attributed to tribal uprisings. Once its hunger was sated, the Devourer regained some measure of its faculties and traveled south. It knew that Rome was the center of the Old World, for, unlike most Unbidden, it had prepared for its crossing by watching the Chronosphere and learning. It knew everything about the time in which it stood, and it had wonderful plans.

Once in Rome, the Devourer began an elaborate series of transferences to put him into contact with the heir to the Empire. Eventually assuming the form of Caligula's lover, the Devourer obtained the opportunity it needed. It took control of Caligula's shell and sent one of its Shadows to murder Tiberius in his sleep. Caligula was soon declared emperor and, with all the resources of Rome in its hands, the Devourer began to feast.

The Devourer's particular passions are simple in nature. Its hunger is insatiable and so it lives to feed on new delicacies and taste of new delights whether they are physical, spiritual or emotional. At first, the Devourer was sated by the wonderfully novel food and wines of the Romans. In time, however, these dishes lost their appeal and the Devourer began to seek something with more flavor.

During the height of Caligula's reign, the imperial Palaces in Rome are a circus of debauchery. An obscenely obese Caligula sits atop a throne crafted of living human boys. From his lofty perch, he watches his minions, a handful of Pain Mothers and Gluttons, force food and





wine down the throats of his subjects. He fattens them up, all the while drinking of their ecstasy and pain. When they have no emotional energy left to give him, he sends them to the kitchens where they are baked, boiled, or roasted in juices of semen, spittle, blood, and fear.

All the while, the Devourer drowns itself in the Corruption of the Dream. It is capable of feeding on anything, even the tainted portions of the Dream, rendering the Enigma “invisible.” Thus, there are no warning signs to alert the Stalkers and no Veil to conceal their actions. The Devourer could prove to be a particularly dangerous foe for the Stalkers, as they will have to be both clever and subtle in how they choose to cast it into the Whispering Vault. His position makes any overt action against him folly, for the Forbiddance would destroy the Stalkers outright.

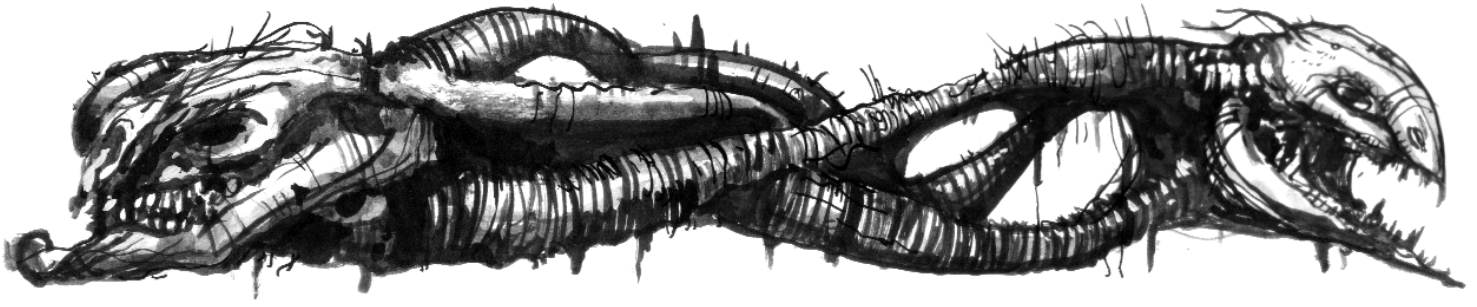
As stated earlier, this is a rare example of an adventure in which the Unbidden is an important historical figure. The Devourer is not destroyed by the Forbiddance only because it carefully mimics the actions of the Caligula the Powers intended. Of course, the Devourer’s actions are more horrific, bizarre, and alien than the intended mortal Caligula, but it kills no one Caligula would not, attacks no nation Caligula would not. The Devourer carefully lives within the shadow of the intended Vision, and thus does not bring the Forbiddance down upon itself.

The Devourer is only able to maintain prominence by consuming the corruption of the Enigma and holding Temporal Isolation at bay. Of course, the Devourer knows that when the time comes for the intended Caligula to die, it will have to abandon its Vessel. If the Devourer lives as Caligula after the intended Caligula would have died, the forbiddance will destroy it.

TIMELINE

- 60 B.C.:** Julius Caesar is elected consul to the Roman Republic. He, along with his fellow general Pompey, and the wealthy statesman Cassius, form the first Triumvirate.
- 58-51 B.C.:** Julius’ and Pompey’s conquests continue in the name of the Roman Empire. Most notable acquisitions are Gaul and Britain.
- 49-47 B.C.:** Cassius passes away and Pompey attempts to rest control of Rome from Julius. Julius’ armies are victorious and Pompey retreats to Egypt in an attempt to save himself from Julius’ wrath. Cleopatra betrays Pompey and delivers his head to Julius. Julius becomes the Emperor of Rome.
- 46-44 B.C.:** Julius’ indiscretions with Cleopatra worry the Senators. They feel that he has consolidated too much power and is using the resources of Rome for his own purposes. A conspiracy is formed and they succeed in assassinating Julius on the steps of the Theater of Pompey.
- 43-42 B.C.:** A second triumvirate encompassing Mark Antony, Lepidus and Octavian is formed to take control of the power vacuum left by Caesar. Their first matter of business is to hunt down the conspiracy which killed Caesar. The triumvirate’s forces meet those of the conspirators at the battle of Phillipi. The conspirators are soundly defeated and their leaders commit suicide.
- 41-34 B.C.:** Mark Antony becomes enthralled with Cleopatra, and the two begin plotting to take control of Rome. Octavian begins to rally troops and a civil war is declared. Antony and Cleopatra’s forces are defeated and the two commit suicide rather than face a victorious Octavian. Octavian is elected as a consul.
- 34 B.C. - 14 A.D.:** Octavian assumes the title of Augustus and becomes emperor. He declares a “Pax Romana” and rules Rome in relative peace and tranquillity. Augustus passes away and is succeeded by Tiberius.
- 35 A.D. - 37 A.D.:** The Devourer enters the Realm of the Flesh. Its initial attacks are discounted as being nothing more than border raids. It eventually regains sentience and begins traveling toward the South. It reaches Rome and begins a continuous cycle of transference until it reaches the Vessel of Caligula. Shadows are dispatched to murder Tiberius in his sleep.
- 37 A.D.:** Tiberius dies, Caligula is named emperor and the feast begins . . .





MEDIEVAL JAPAN

I knew the landscape very well. The way the bamboo made its vain efforts to climb to the heavens, the stark hill which rose swiftly to my left and the barren cherry tree, its branches free of blossoms. I knew every detail of this path, for I had been here countless times before. I felt, suddenly, as if I were in one of the Escher paintings I had seen as a child – one million staircases collapsing upon themselves and leading nowhere.



Arguably the most famous period in Japanese history, the middle ages began in the Sixth Century A.D. During this period, the Japanese had a cultural infusion from China. Early agricultural techniques and the secrets of metal working had allowed the Japanese to switch from a hunting and gathering culture to an early agricultural society capable of making use of the numerous Chinese influences which were to follow. The relatively primitive Japanese tribes, known as Uji, were controlled loosely by a small group located on the Yamato plains. While each individual tribe maintained its own hierarchy, most paid some homage to the Yamato court and this provided a central point from which foreign ideas could easily be disseminated.

Over the course of the next two centuries, the Chinese institutions and traditions flooded into Japan with increasing speed. It began in the late 7th century when Prince Shotoku, a champion of the imported Buddhist religion, sent couriers to study and report back about the Chinese bureaucracy and culture. The reports these emissaries brought back laid the foundation for what would later become the Japanese court. The end result was a unique melding of religious and political influence which came to rival the ancient Chinese celestial court.

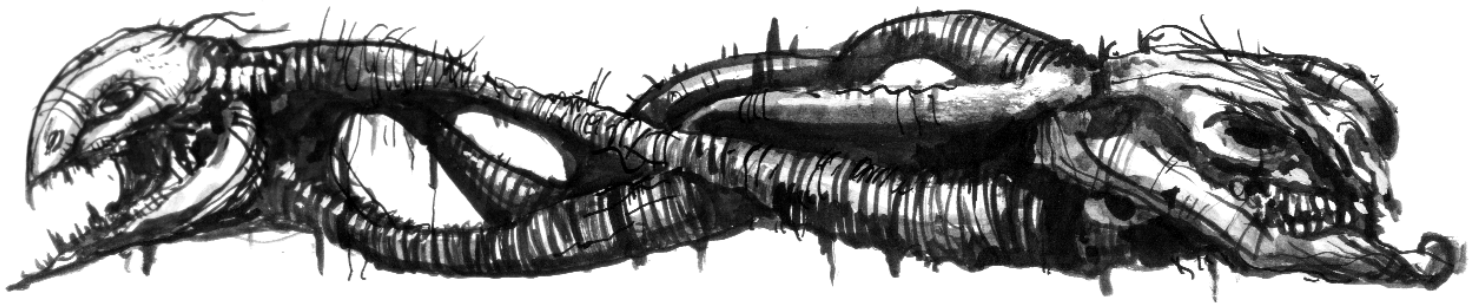
The single most important figure in Japanese politics was the Emperor.

Throughout most of the middle ages, the majority of emperors were descendants of the Fujiwara family. Supposedly descended from the sun goddess, Amaterasu, the Emperor had long been considered an important religious leader in Japan. To this traditional duty, the Japanese added the role of monarch. In theory, the Emperor held absolute power. In practice, however, the Emperor's role was far more symbolic.

Below the Emperor, there existed a bewildering array of political bodies and bureaucratic titles. They were responsible for the actual legislation as well as the institution and enforcement of law codes (which were almost the same, word for word, as the Chinese legal statutes). These politicians were also responsible for administering the complex land grant and tax system. This system decreed that all land was owned by the central government and was parceled out evenly to peasants in order to spread the labor and tax burdens. The system was very orderly but nearly impossible to put into practice.

Over time, the complicated Chinese system broke down and was modified by the Japanese to fit their needs. The complex network of bureaucracy dissolved into a much smaller number of political organs. Titles remained as indicators of status but responsibility now rested on the shoulders of a select few. Further





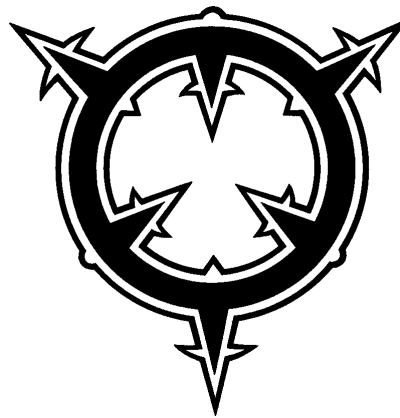
modifications to the land grant system allowed some land to be privately owned. These two changes, taken together, meant that a large number of former politicians now had a great deal of money, free time, and status. So it was that the lifestyle of the Japanese court began to evolve.

The Japanese political system was centered in the magnificent city of Heian (known today as Kyoto). As nobles gained more and more free time, they sought new ways to keep themselves busy. The Heian court became a tangled web of social intricacies and status. A great deal of time at court was spent improving one's mind and, in the process, demonstrating why one deserved the status one held.

The arts became one method of demonstrating prowess and so it was during this period that many of the traditional Japanese art forms flourished. A borrowed and modified set of Chinese characters made Japan a literate nation. The highly stylized and dramatic Kabuki theater enthralled crowds. Many nobles would spend entire days composing and reading their elegant haikus. The world's first epic novel, *The Tale of Genji*, was written during this period. *Chado*, the art-form of serving tea, was a popular pastime among men as were *Sumi-E* (black ink painting), *Ichibana* (flower arrangement) and *origami* (paper folding). The life of court was an aesthetic one.

Although the nobles lived well in their storybook world, not everyone had life so easy. The Japanese caste system was a rigid one, dividing people into nobles, warriors (Samurai), craftsmen, and peasants. Samurai lived well off the wealth of their chosen noble, to whom they had sworn absolute loyalty. The craftsmen did not have much, but their unique skills were highly valued by

those who had wealth and power. The peasants, on the other hand, held little or no status in the Japanese hierarchy and were considered less than human by some of the more arrogant nobles. Peasants could hold no land and were not allowed to carry weapons. They lived in poverty and toiled endlessly for what little they had. There are tales that some of the Samurai would test the blades of their new swords by running through the first peasant they came across. This poor treatment led the peasants to develop methods of fighting with their hands or ordinary farm tools. The arts they developed would later be called Karate.



While religion was an omnipresent force in medieval Japan, it was not as overwhelming as it proved to be in Western Europe. Nearly everyone paid respect to the various divine forces in some small way, but there were few who devoted their lives to such worship. Shinto, the native Japanese religion, was one based around purity and the divinity of nature. It had no actual deities, focusing instead on a number of different spirits, each of which was embodied in some great work of nature (the most famous being Mount Fuji itself). Buddhism was

imported from the continent and centered around the principles of dignity, respect, purity and harmony. The chief tenet was that the key to relief from suffering was to give up desire.

As the Heian period drew to a close, various members of the imperial family retreated from life at court to seek their fortunes in the country. Taking their Samurai with them, they set up separate provinces independent of the Heian court. This fragmentation of the Imperial family heralded in a darker age for the Japanese, and produced much infighting.

THE WITHERING PETAL

Heian being the capital of Japan, there were a number of different paths one could take to reach the city. Most of the roads were safe, protected by the numerous Samurai of the nobles who made the city their home. Occasionally the elusive bandit group might cause some problems, but they were rare. Japanese folklore, however, tells of a danger much worse than any bandit.

There was one particularly lonely road which wound throughout the lowlands. Few people traveled the road, for it had gained a poor reputation. Many who walked its length disappeared, never to be seen again. The few who did complete their journey told tales of a horrible creature which greeted the unwary. Their stories varied widely, but on one point they all agreed – the creature talked in a terrible, mockingly sweet voice with a meter and tempo which matched that of the beloved Haiku.

This creature, known to some of the ancients as *Myskovarncy* (the traveler), was once an Aesthetic and a weaver of passages. It was among the Aesthetics





responsible for dreaming the strands which connect the many independent points of the Chronosphere, thus forging the paths the Fleshlings would later follow and name their own. Enraged at the arrogance of the Flesh, it made a path to the Dream. There it preyed on lonely travelers until their Essence gave it the strength of mind it needed to overcome its bestial nature.

Once it regained its composure, Myskovarny decided it would exact a toll from weary travelers in return for the paths it had dreamed for them. Those who would pay the tolls could pass unmolested. Those who could not, or would not, pay would find themselves devoured, transformed, and used to forge a portion of the road they once sought to travel.

The renegade Aesthetic built a bridge over a small stretch of water and there it waited. As time went by it encountered a number of travelers. Many were frightened of the strange creature they encountered, and willingly paid the tolls. Others were offended that they were asked to pay for passage and refused. They all would learn to regret their decisions. For each traveler who paid, Myskovarny grew stronger. For each who refused, a new Thrall was taken.

Travelers who come across the bridge know immediately that their path is fraught with peril. The small dirt road rounds a small bend and before it stands a seemingly new wooden bridge. As the travelers approach, the road beneath them seems to ripple with life and heat. Those who look closely can see screaming human faces in the well worn dirt tracks and mud puddles. The bamboo trees which overshadow the crossing, upon closer inspection, appear to be made of human flesh and bones stretched thin. The brook below babbles

TIMELINE

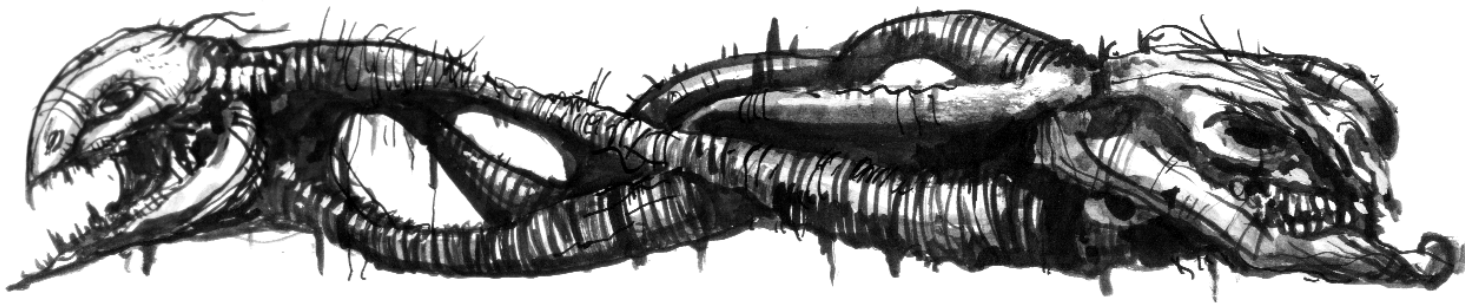
- 500 A.D.:** Japan is populated by a number of small independent tribes, the Uji. Consolidation of power begins in the Yamato plain and the various Uji chieftains recognize the court's power. Knowledge of agricultural and metal working techniques from mainland China spread rapidly throughout the islands.
- 565 A.D. - 622 A.D.:** Buddhism is introduced to Japan. The Yamato court debates whether it should be permitted in the country. Nobles of high power, such as Prince Shotoku champion its cause and Buddhism becomes a powerful force in Japan.
- 645 A.D.:** The Taiki reform makes provisions for changes in the Japanese political system. The new system, based heavily on that of the Chinese, is a web of bureaucratic titles and political bodies. Chinese arts, literature and writing become mainstays of Japanese Culture.
- 710 A.D.:** Heijo is named the capital of Japan.
- 712 A.D.:** The first written history of Japan, Kojiki is completed.
- 784 A.D.:** Capital of Japan is moved to Heian.
- 784 A.D. - 1000 A.D.:** The Heian Period. A time of relative peace and tranquility filled with many artistic accomplishments. The Tale of Genji, the first epic novel, is written.

with the whispers of curses lingering maddeningly in the realm of the barely inaudible.

As the travelers approach the bridge, a towering monolith of warty flesh, bulging eyes and shocks of dark greasy hair emerges from beneath the foaming waters of the brook. Dragging itself onto the bridge, the creature expands like a bullfrog until it fills the bridge. In return for passage, it will demand something from the traveler which represents some kind of important passage in their life. Examples might include a complete set of baby teeth or a wedding band. If the traveler can provide the necessary payment, he or she can pass. Otherwise, Myskovarny will become enraged, grab the offender, squeeze their Essence into the brook, and mold the remains of the flesh into some portion of the nearby landscape.

Currently, Myskovancy is trapped on the bridge it created as it is still a Stranger with no energy to travel and the bridge is the Focus of the Enigma. Eventually, however, the Unbidden will gain enough strength and knowledge of the Flesh that it will be able to depart from the small bridge near Heian. Before then, it expects to encounter some trouble. For this reason, it has exercised its knowledge of paths and passages to redirect potential enemies away from the bridge. Those who approach the bridge uninvited find themselves somewhere other than they intended. Stalkers may well have problems finding their prey. This is the renegade's manipulation of the Corruption surrounding the bridge, to which Myskovancy is Life Linked.





COLONIAL AMERICA

I don't know what I expected when we heard the sickly Call from across the Void. It was a faint whisper and even Anna, with her keen intuition, did not suspect what we found when the Navigator departed and our senses cleared. Standing waist deep in the swamp before us was a strange figure, black and twisted as a branch stripped by flame. His distinctive glow of power was but a flicker and while he wore the keys about his neck, I counted only four . . .

It was the dreams of golden cities filled with exotic spices, mountains of jewels and riches beyond imagination that drew the explorers westward. Their hopes of finding these temples of endless wealth were in vain, for no new world could have lived up to such expectations. Still, the seemingly limitless tracts of land provided other opportunities for those who had grown tired and disillusioned with the crowded and dirty streets of the European continent. The Americas, as they had been named, became a refuge for all of the outcasts and the adventurous of Europe.

America was originally discovered in 1492 by Columbus as he searched for a westward route to India. While it quickly became apparent that his newfound land was not the passage to India that he hoped for, his Spanish sponsors did see some potential. Using the discovery to their advantage, Spain acquired sole colonization rights from Pope Alexander VI, who signed a bill granting the Spanish the Western world and the Portuguese the Eastern world. Spain made good use of the treaty and, over the course of the next hundred years, proceeded to colonize and explore the new world of the Americas.

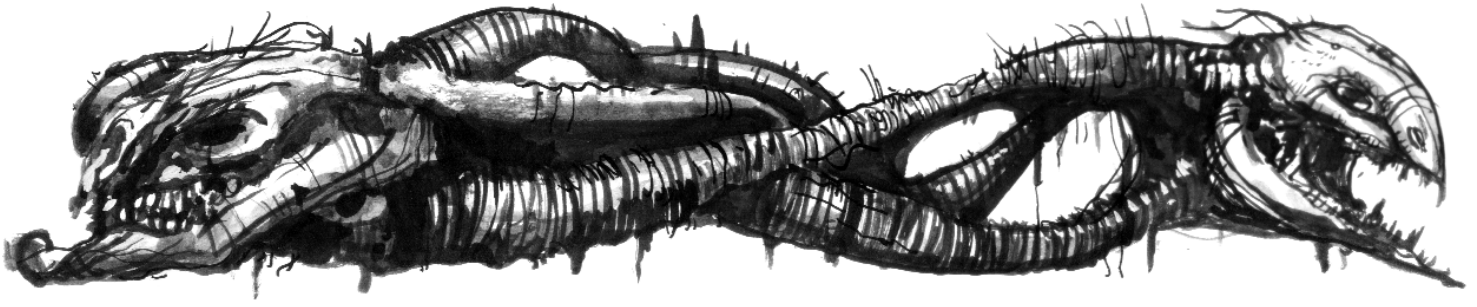
It was during this time that Spain colonized the West Indian mainlands, Cortez conquered the Aztecs in Mexico, and Pizarro took control of the Incan lands in South America. Eventually, Spain domi-

nated almost every port and colony in the Americas with the exception of some French and Dutch holdings. This was all brought to an end, however, when the English decimated the Spanish Armada, effectively shattering Spain's rule of the seas.

England's victory heralded in a new age of colonization. It was in the early 1600s that ventures such as the East India trading company were formed. These organizations sponsored a number of voyages to the new world in return for a percentage of the riches the expeditions managed to obtain. While the majority of these ventures went bankrupt, they were responsible for the founding of a number of early colonies, such as Jamestown. In addition, a number of refugees seeking to escape religious or political persecution fled to the new world. These groups were responsible for colonies such as Plymouth Rock.

The early colonies varied widely in outlook and layout. The French colonies in Canada were designed primarily to promote and protect the valuable fur trade in the area. Their outposts were based around well reinforced forts, and tended to be centered in forest regions. Spanish colonies, on the other hand, were typically based around the exploitation of natural resources and native labor. The Spanish were more interested in exploration and





the collections of valuables such as gold, silver and jewels. Their colonies were much closer to actual villages, and most were located near some kind of port or native community. Finally, the English colonies were oriented around the needs of day to day living. Located mostly along the Northeast coast, these small villages tended to be filled with small wooden huts, a communal well of some sort, and near to some sort of farmable land.

Life in the early colonies was difficult, to say the least. The work often began at sunrise and didn't end until late in the evening. The land had to be tilled, crops planted and harvested, wood found for the fires, etc. Men would often spend all day hunting and farming while the women would stay home to cook and insure that the life-preserving fire stayed burning. There were few opportunities to trade or purchase goods, so people had to make do with what they had. Clothes were hand sewn, toys carved from tree trunks, and soap brewed from animal fat. Survival was a constant concern, so idle time was rare and typically devoted to personal matters such as religion.

For some colonists, religion was the single most important factor in their lives. The Puritans, who had been expelled from Europe for their extreme religious beliefs, lived their lives around a carefully monitored moral and spiritual code. Made easier by the unified nature of their communities, the Puritans enforced a very strict code preventing premarital affairs, use of alcohol or Tobacco, and similar transgressions against the sanctity of God, the mind, body, spirit, and home. Further south, many Catholic missionaries followed the Spanish explorers into Central and South America. They considered it their God given mission to transform the "heathen savages" into true believers. Their methods were sometimes extremely brutal, relying on whips and hot coals

when impassioned speeches would not work. These methods were inspired by the same self righteousness, insular morality and obsession with purity which produced the Salem witch trials in New England.

The American landscape was extremely hard on the colonists. The mountains and forests of Canada grew extremely cold in the winter and the heavy snow falls would cut some outposts off for months. Further south, the English colonies faced the difficulties often associated with the marshlands of the American East coast. The swamp lands were extremely acidic and growing crops was difficult. During the summers, the swamps became breeding grounds for all manner of insects and vermin. Plagues carried by these creatures quickly spread through the tightly bundled colonies. The Spanish faced similar problems, but the jungles of South and Central America proved to be even more difficult. The ferocious jungle wildlife was deadly to the unwary. The European constitution was unprepared for many of the tropical diseases which awaited them.

Finally, one must not forget the native populations of the Americas. Some groups of Native Americans, such as the Iroquois, were helpful to the newcomers. They were valuable trading partners, helpful guides, and knowledgeable friends. The Plymouth Rock community, for example, would never have survived their first winter had the natives not helped them plant the right crops. Other natives, however, looked upon the Europeans as intruders who had come to take their lands. In South America, the Spaniards fought long and hard to conquer the Aztecs and Incas. It was not unusual for entire colonies to turn up missing, taken by Native American tribes. This was particularly true when the colonies were cut off for extended periods of time, like Roanoke.

BOUND AND GAGGED

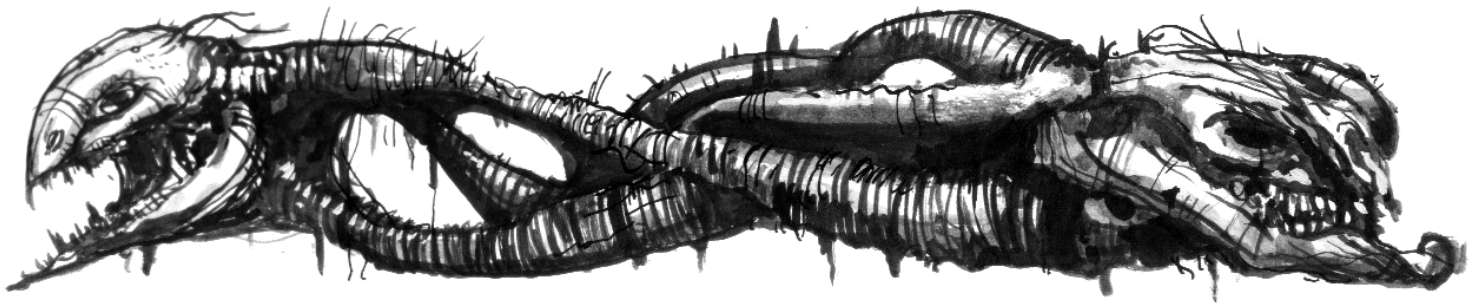
Few will have heard of the small Colony of Marystown. The mortal group known as the Order have some records of its existence, but all other records have been mysteriously erased by the Veil. The colony and its story have all but been wiped from the books of Mortal history.

Marystown was originally founded in 1615 by a small group of Puritans attempting to escape the persecution they faced in England. They had sold what little they owned to buy passage to the new world and the supplies they would need to survive there. The ship ran aground in a storm on the coast of Virginia, stranding the passengers and crew. There weren't enough supplies to go around and the crew members had no qualms about taking what they needed from the settlers in order to survive.

Following a brief skirmish with the settlers, the sailors escaped with the majority of the supplies. The few Puritans who had survived the journey, the ship wreck, and the sailors' attack were left to fend for themselves. The first year was hard. No crops would grow in the acrid swamplands, and the Puritans had little experience with hunting. All their tools had been taken by the sailors, so their shelters were makeshift at best. Many people died during the first winter.

The few who remained prayed to God for guidance. They prayed for mercy. The desperation in their cries sent a Call forth through the Void where it was heard by a Circle of Stalkers. Unable to decipher the faint echo, the Circle decided to investigate, believing it to be an intrusion by the Unbidden. They summoned a Navigator and made their way to the Realm of the Flesh.





Upon arriving in Marystown, the Stalkers soon realized that there was, in fact, no danger to the Dream. While one or two may have felt some pity for the poor mortals who had unwittingly called them, the Circle understood that to meddle in the affairs of mortals was not their place. They prepared to leave and that might have been the end of things, were it not for Jonathon Van Horn.

Jonathon was the de facto leader of the ill fated colonists. The others looked up to him for his strength and resolve. He was strong with faith and, as fate would have it, sensitive. He saw the angels sent by God and he was offended at their callous indifference to the troubles of his people. Jonathon saw in them an opportunity to save his fellow Puritans. He first tried to reason with the Stalkers but his pleas fell on deaf ears. Forced to rely on wiles he had forgotten he possessed, Jonathon began scheming for a way to make the angels help him. Eventually he found it.

How Jonathon managed to obtain the keys is still a mystery. Some say that Jonathon called upon other, more sinister, forces. Others say his impassioned pleas and enticing words were enough. All anyone knows for certain is that he was able to obtain one key from each Stalker in the circle. Using the keys as leverage, Jonathon was able to bind the Stalkers to his service.

At first, Jonathon asked only that the Stalkers save his people. Using their unique abilities, they were able to grow crops in the unyielding soil, build homes without tools, and dig wells with their hands. Once they were through, however, Jonathon always managed to find something else for the Stalkers to do. It began with small, seemingly noble, tasks such as building a church. It soon escalated, however, as Jonathon asked the Stalkers to destroy the sailors who had hurt his people so badly.

TIMELINE

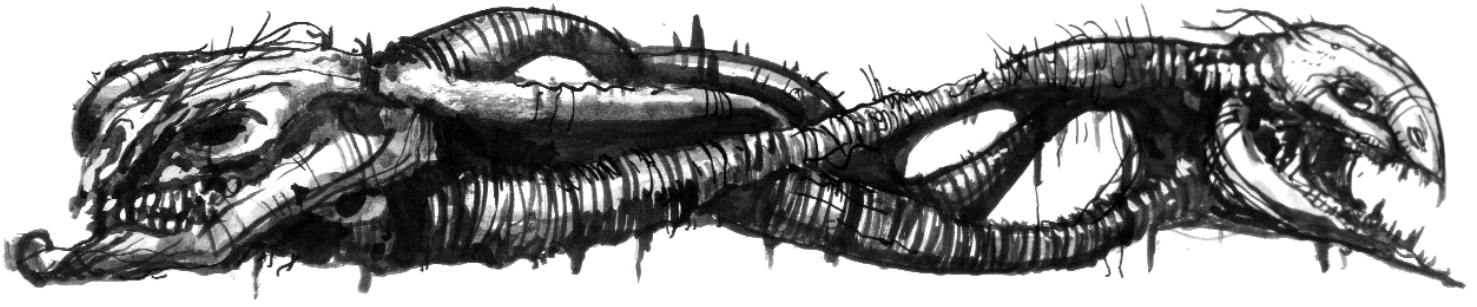
- 1492:** Christopher Columbus discovers the Americas. He makes contacts with the Native Americans and the trinkets he takes back to Spain encourages the monarchy to invest in further exploration.
- 1493:** Pope Alexander VI declares Spain shall have colonial rights to the Western World and Portugal shall have the East.
- 1510:** Spain colonizes the West Indies.
- 1519-1520:** Cortez discovers the Aztecs in Mexico. They mistake him for one of their gods returned to them. Aided by the Spanish conquistadors he subdues the native population and claims their riches for Spain.
- 1531-1533:** Pizarro, inspired by Cortez's success with Aztecs, conquers the Incas in South America.
- 1535:** French Canada is settled and the fur trade begins.
- 1536 - 1579:** The Spanish continue to occupy the New World. Guatemala, New Grenada, Chile, and other territories are claimed in the name of the old empires.
- 1580:** Wars begin anew in Europe. Spain finishes off their old rivals, the Portuguese.
- 1588:** Spain grows presumptuous and England destroys their power by decimating the Spanish Armada.
- 1600-1604:** The numerous East India trade companies are founded in Europe.
- 1607:** The Virginia Company funds Jamestown in Virginia.
- 1615:** A group of Puritans founds the ill fated Marystown colony.
- 1616:** The Puritans desperate prayers summon an unwitting group of Stalkers who are bound by the corrupted Jonathon Van Horn.
- 1619:** Great Britain begins offering convicted criminals the opportunity to start afresh in the New World.
- 1620:** The Mayflower lands at Plymouth Rock.

As time went on, Jonathon grew more and more obsessed with the new-found power. His friends and neighbors became more and more concerned. Talk began that he had sold his soul to the devil. Jonathon began to wonder if his people were plotting against him. He forced the Stalkers to destroy them.

Now Jonathon is the ruler of a dead colony and a Circle of slowly

withering Stalkers. His abuse of the Stalkers' powers has begun to rend the Dream. Corruption is beginning to cloud Marystown and the Forbiddance could be triggered at any time. So it is that the bound Stalkers are forced to use the last of their energy to send forth a new Call to summon a new group of Stalkers who might succeed where they themselves failed.





VICTORIAN ENGLAND

The trail of blood led us through the black and acrid fog. The butcher could be only a few paces ahead of us and we were certain that this time we would have her. Then the Shadows seemed to come alive and fall upon us with leering eyes and ripping claws. Once again, the Shadows had detained us long enough for Abballor to escape.

The late 19th century is considered by most to be the height of the British Empire. At that time, the English holdings stretched all the way around the globe and provided a constant influx of spices, silks, and other valuables. Domestically, English universities and theaters churned out endless innovations of both scientific and artistic significance. A giant of culture and industry with numerous and varied colonial holdings, as well as a seemingly unstoppable navy, Britain was premiere among the world powers.

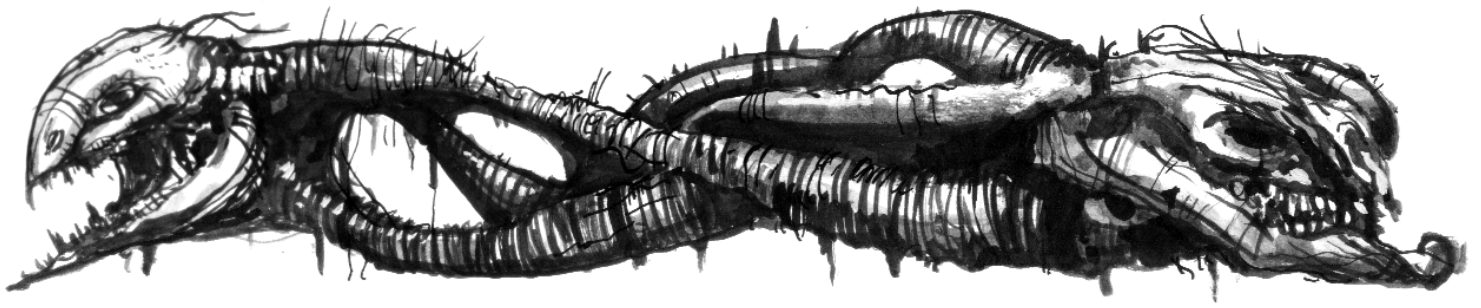
As a constitutional monarchy, Britain's official head of state was Queen Victoria. She was well loved and much respected, but had little actual political power. She was limited to her influence over the political head of state, the prime minister. As prime minister, Disraeli focused on the far reaching colonies of the Empire. Under his rule, Britain acquired the valuable colony of India and made Victoria its regent. Victoria lost some of her influence when Disraeli was succeeded by his political rival, William Gladstone. Considered a commoner by Victoria, Gladstone was a man of the people and preferred to set his sights closer to home. He campaigned for home rule in Ireland and social reform.

At the center of the British Empire was London. The sprawling gray metropolis was a giant of glass and

stone. The thick black smoke churned out by the numerous factories and sweat shops hung like a gloom over the city, often descending into the twisting labyrinth of streets and passages to create the world-famous London fog. Each of the various districts into which the city was divided had a character all its own. The West End, with its numerous regal theaters, exclusive gentleman's clubs, and shops, was the playground of the wealthy. Westminster, denoted clearly by the landmark cathedral, the looming houses of Parliament, and the ever present face of Big Ben, was always bustling with civic minded statesman and politicians. On Fleet street, the clicking and clacking of printing presses was a tell tale sign that the latest editions of the numerous city newspapers were due out soon. Finally, the East End of London, its streets flooded with sewage and its corners haunted by prostitutes, was the home of the poor and downtrodden.

For those with money and status, London was an enchanting place. One could lose hours in the famous Harrods of Knightsbridge, who boasted that they could obtain anything a person could possibly want to buy. The latest works of Gilbert and Sullivan or Oscar Wilde were performed daily. Those with an interest in the eccentric and macabre could take a walk through Madame Tausaud's wax museum. Transportation





around town was made easy by the newest innovation: underground rail trains.

London was not always so pleasant, however. For those who wallowed in the misery of the East End, life was hell. The vast influx of people brought in by the industrial revolution crowded into what little housing was available, making quarters cramped. Sanitation was poor, and waste would often build up in the streets (as high as hip-level, in some places). Work was scarce for many, and what work there was paid little. Factories geared to make profits hired cheap labor (usually of women and children) and often operated unsafe machinery in an attempt to cut costs. Those who couldn't find work, or couldn't be bothered to work, turned to begging or prostitution.

Crime ran rampant in Victorian England, but it was crime unlike any known today. While many criminals chose to operate alone or in pairs, many also operated under the direction of large gangs. In return for a take of the profits,

these gangs provided a network of contacts which allowed criminals to pick up specialists who might be able to help them. In addition, these gangs provided safe houses, shops to fence stolen goods, and schools in which to train. Thieves often had child protégés who they would teach the tricks of their trade. In some respects, criminal gangs were more like families who were loyal to one another. This is one source of the famous saying, "loyalty among thieves."

Those with an interest in the spiritual had many options open to them. The Church of England, headed by Queen Victoria, was the official state sponsored religion. The vast majority of the English were members and attended service regularly. Catholicism was also popular, particularly in Ireland. The strife between Anglicans and Catholics is legendary and skirmishes between the two groups were common. Other, less Christian, religions were practiced as well. Perhaps the most famous was the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn founded by Dr. William Wynn Wescott

in 1888. The order was devoted to the practice of hermetic magic and much of its lore and practice was based on ideas borrowed from ancient Egypt. Its most famous member was undoubtedly Aleister Crowley, although he didn't actually join until 1898.

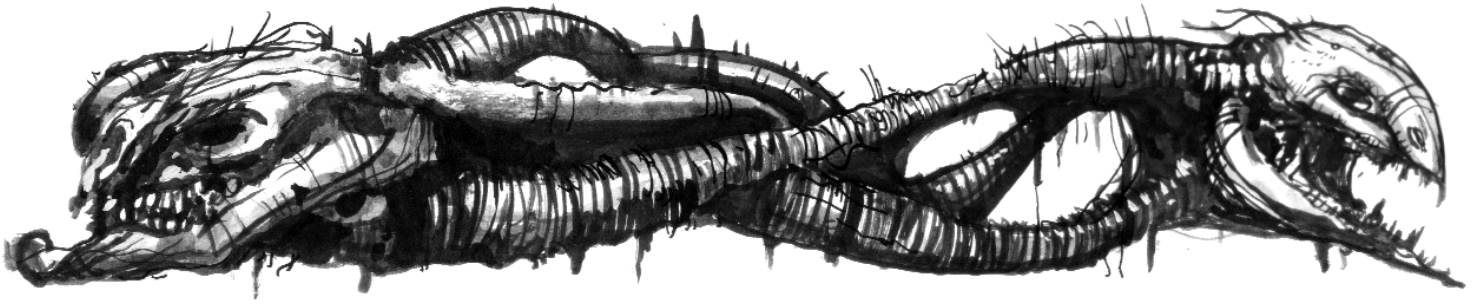
The Victorian era was an age of science as well as religion. During this period, numerous advances were made both by independent inventors and the academic staff of Britain's most famous universities – the stately Oxford and Cambridge. It was during this period that the first practical electrical lights were constructed. Biologists and physicians isolated and identified the bacteria for Tuberculosis. Psychoanalysis was pioneered in Austria by early psychiatrists, especially Sigmund Freud. There was the sense that humankind could conquer any obstacle placed by nature. This sense of "science conquers all" was perhaps best exemplified in the works of authors like Arthur Conan Doyle, whose writings proved that Sherlock Holmes' precise methodology and powers of reason could triumph over even the most devious of schemes.

SHADES OF GRAY

There are certain places in the world which provide a kind of sanctimonious haven for the Shadows wandering the Earth. No one is entirely certain what it is about these places that makes them so attractive to the outsiders. Perhaps it is the intensity with which the mortals live their lives that makes it more possible for the Shadows to Awaken. Whatever the case, these places are homes to the Shadows, and they lurk there in great numbers.

London is one such location. It has long been described as one of the most haunted cities in the world. This is





because sensitive mortals have occasionally been able to catch a glimpse of one Shadow or another and thought them to be ghosts. The hill by the Tower of London, where Henry VIII had a number of his wives executed, is inhabited by a number of Hangmen. The city's many orphanages are home to numerous Bogey Men. Nearly every prostitute in the East End shares a corner with a Pain Mother. Even a Behemoth can be found lurking outside the city limits, brooding beneath the ruins of Stonehenge.

These Shadows have formed a rough society of sorts. Their court is a mockery of the mortal British system of politics. Presided over by an ancient and distinguished Sycophant, the Shadow Parliament is a loud, hectic, maddening debate which seems to follow no known rules. All Shadows in the city respect and abide by the rules of the parliament, just as they expect of any other creature of Essence entering the city. Those who choose not to are dealt with by the Shadowmen who lovingly enforce the will of the court.

In 1881, the delicate political balance of the Shadow parliament was disturbed when Abballor was Awakened. Called by the screams of a newborn babe left to starve on the docks, the Shadow was able to wrap itself in the skin of a doll-like little girl and enter the Realm of the Flesh. Awakened for the first time in decades, Abballor was hungry to taste death again. Entering into a local butcher's shop and disposing of the owner provided the creature with all of the mortal tools it would need. Abballor then began a rampage of terror through London's East End, kidnapping small children and torturing them to death.

Abballor's actions might have gone unnoticed in another city, but not in London. Given the dense population of Shadows, it was only a matter of time

TIMELINE

- 1881:** Britain is forced to recognize the Bower republic after it is defeated in the first Bower War. Benjamin Disraeli dies. Abballor enters the Realm of the Flesh and begins murdering children in London's East End.
- 1882:** Electric illumination of London begins. The British army defeats Egyptian nationalists and take control of the country.
- 1883:** Fire guts London's Harrods store. The terrorist group known as the Dynamiters set off a bomb near the houses of Parliament.
- 1884:** The first deep underground rail stations open in London. The Dynamiters blow up Scotland Yard.
- 1885:** Gilbert and Sullivan's newest production, *The Mikado*, opens in London.
- 1886:** Britain takes control of Burma.
- 1887:** Queen Victoria celebrates her golden jubilee. The first Sherlock Holmes story is printed.
- 1888:** Jack the Ripper begins and ends his bloody career in London's East End. The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn is founded.
- 1889:** Dock workers strike in London. The Prince of Wales is implicated in a scandal involving a homosexual brothel.
- 1890:** London opens the first underground electric railways.
- 1891:** Britain refuses to enter into an alliance with Germany. Scotland Yard reopens. Free education becomes available in England.

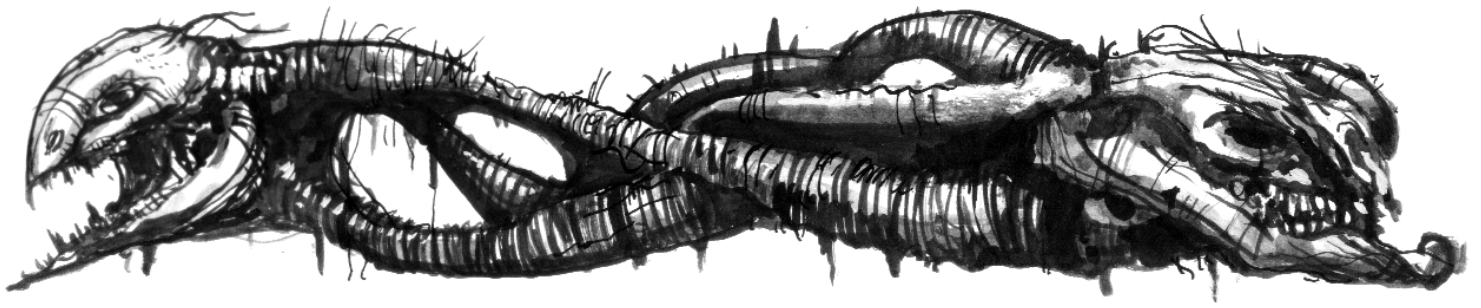
until the Butcher's actions were noticed. One chilly autumn evening, Abballor made the mistake of taking an angelic little girl, with whom a Bazreth had bonded, as a victim. The Bazreth, a lonely old Shadow named ParPar, was awakened instantly. Maddened by the death of the lovely child he had watched over for so long, the Bogey Man sought revenge. He took his case before the Shadow Parliament and they gave him a writ of execution.

The writ awards ParPar not only the power to destroy Abballor, but sole hunting rights. All Shadows within the city respect the court's ruling, so none will touch Abballor. Further, they will not allow anyone else to touch Abballor. The Shadows will provide information

regarding Abballor's whereabouts to ParPar, and only ParPar. Such are the rules of the game.

Thus, any Stalkers who are Called to deal with Abballor have a difficult time tracking the Butcher down. Not only will they find clues hard to come by, they will also be hampered at every turn by the numerous Shadows throughout the city. The Stalkers will be forced to deal with the bureaucracy of the Shadow Parliament and, eventually, with ParPar himself. Those who sneer at the edicts of the court will quickly find themselves facing the Shadowmen. The Stalkers will find themselves quickly caught up in a deadly game of cat, mouse, and politics.





OCCUPIED FRANCE

Unlike any other we had encountered, these mortals seemed to enjoy the darkness brought upon them by the Unbidden. Deeper and deeper into the web of horror and flesh were we brought by the actions of those in the employ of something worse than Human. And, all around us, raged a conflict that was worse than any Enigma we had previously dealt with.



When Hitler stormed across Europe, the first and only of the Allies to fall was France. Occupied by Nazi forces, many thought France was out of the war. What no one had counted on, however, was the spirit of the French people. Refusing to submit to the German propaganda machine, the French resistance fought their captors from within, eventually defeating the Nazis with the help of their allies.

Hitler's great press against France began in the Spring of 1940. Following World War I, France had invested the majority of their defenses in fixed fortifications placed along the French-German border. These defenses, sometimes called the Maginot Line, were easily bypassed by the Nazi forces who chose to attack via Belgium. With their primary line of defense useless, the French seemed too stunned to react. By early summer, the Germans entered Paris. The acting prime minister, Reynaud, was forced to resign, and General DeGaulle fled to safety in England.

The agreement which instated occupied, or Vichy, France was signed in late June. The surrender took place in the same railroad car in which Germany had been forced to sign the Armistice ending the first World War. It was degrading to the French, and only a sign of what was to come. Hitler had Marshal Petain installed as the new head of state and

proceeded to dismantle the country so he could use France's resources for the German war effort. To back up his demands, he had Nazi troops occupy the French territories.

Life in France, and particularly in Paris, was difficult. The German looting meant that there was little, if anything, available for anyone else. Huge lines formed in empty groceries as people fought to feed their families. Food, fuel, and clothing were all rationed. Travel throughout the cities was strictly regulated. Only people with orderly paperwork were allowed to pass. Papers were checked on a regular basis by guards on street corners. Those who did not have the proper travel documents faced arrest, or worse. To maintain order, evening curfews were instituted throughout the country.

Survival was made especially difficult for those with ideals or family histories condemned by the Nazis. Just as in the other occupied territories, the Nazi's made a point of checking family histories and political records of those they had conquered. Those they considered undesirable – the communists, Jews, and gypsies – were collected and shipped to concentration camps in the East. Many people would depart for work in the morning and return home to find their families missing.

It was conditions such as these that helped to produce the French





Resistance. Those angry men and women who could not tolerate life under the Nazis banded together in the French countryside. Gathering under the pretense of hobby groups, the French Resistance worked in every way possible to loosen the strangle hold Germany had on France. Secret printing presses were used to produce anti-Nazi propaganda. Using forged papers, couriers would enter into towns and purchase the necessary supplies the movement needed. Under cover of the night, the resistance fighters bombed bridges, destroyed ammunition depositories, and ambushed lone Nazi troopers. All political differences were put aside as communists and French loyalists all gathered to expel the Nazis from their home country.

Nazi reprisals were quick and fierce. For every one German killed in the attacks, ten Frenchmen were shot. Propaganda was spread throughout France highlighting Nazi victories, Aryan superiority and the futility of resistance. These tactics meant to break the French spirit served only to strengthen it. As the Nazi reprisals became fiercer, more and more people found the heart to take up arms against their oppressors.

Infuriated, the Germans attempted to use spies to flush out their enemies. Using plants, the Nazis were able to infiltrate some cells of the French resistance, obtain the names of key members and execute them. The Resistance, however, was quick to adapt to this ploy. Resistance cells split off until the standard number of operators in any one cell was only three or four. This limited the amount of damage any one security breach could do. Real names were forsaken for code names to prevent the Nazi's from discovering people's identities. Passwords were instituted to prevent spies from gaining access to meet-

ings. Using these tactics, the French Resistance managed to hold out.

The guiding light of the movement was English radio. The speeches of the French leaders in exile provided a boost in morale for the overworked resistance. Coded messages from the British isles allowed different resistance groups to coordinate attacks. The allied forces provided the French with weaponry, ammunition, and supplies which were desperately needed for the war effort. Broadcasts provided the resistance with information about where supply drops would be made. Finally, the radio would often be used to signal the resistance of allied raids, commando team insertions and the like. In short, English radio was the lifeline of the French Resistance to their allied patrons.

As the war progressed, and the Nazi atrocities grew worse and worse, the French Resistance grew in strength and power. At the conclusion of the war, units one-hundred strong were not uncommon. These large forces were responsible for laying the groundwork for the Allied invasion which would finally free France. Their sabotage of the Nazi war machine gave the allied forces the extra time they needed and proved that while France may have been hurt by the Nazis, she certainly was not down for the count.

UNDER THE GUN

Late in 1942, a Nazi occupation force moved into France. While the overt reason for this maneuver was to safeguard the French holdings against a possible allied invasion, the Nazis had other reasons for wanting German troops in France. Since his youth, Hitler had been sensitive. He had glimpsed beyond the veil and what Hitler had seen there had driven him mad. While he feared the

TIMELINE

1940: Germany invades France via Belgium, bypassing France's fixed fortifications. British forces sent to aid the French are trapped at Dunkirk and forced to evacuate. DeGaulle flees to Britain and France falls to the Nazis.

1942: Biederman uncovers knowledge of the Secret Masters' vaults in Paris. A small insertion team is intercepted by the French Resistance. Hitler orders troops to occupy France.

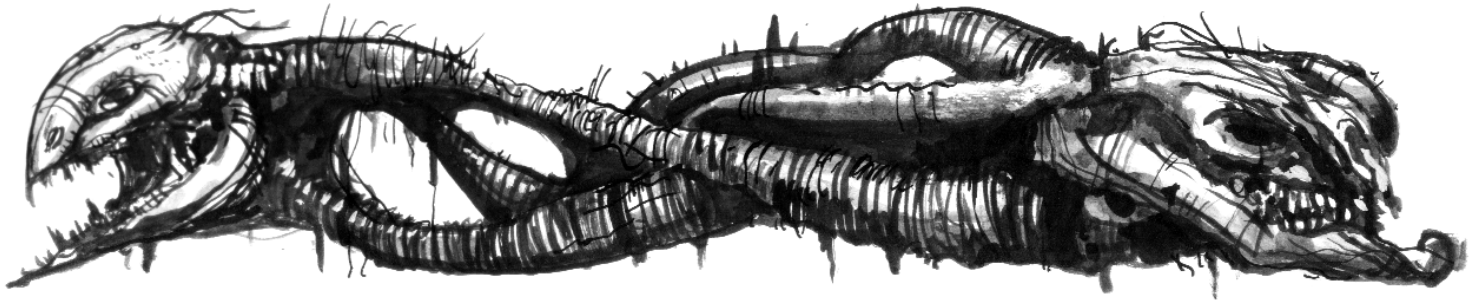
1943: Various attacks by the French Resistance serve to weaken German Forces in France. Harsh Nazi reprisals against the French populace.

1944: The Normandy invasion by the allied forces. Paris is liberated.

horrific nature of the universe, Hitler was not stupid. He understood that there was power to be had there. When Hitler began his conquest of Europe, he formed a small, elite squad of similarly minded enlightened individuals to obtain magical artifacts and rituals which might be put to use for the Third Reich.

One of these men, Heinrich Biederman, was a member of the Secret Masters – an underground organization devoted to unlocking the secrets to immortality. Through his contacts in the organization, Biederman learned the location of a secret vault in Paris where a number of the Secret Masters' treasures were stored. Located in a chamber





beneath the dungeons of the Bastille, this vault was rumored to contain a number of valuable treasures including a copy of the Aegean Codex, jars containing Immortal Eyes and numerous scrolls with valuable rituals and recipes inscribed upon them. More importantly, however, the vault was said to contain the last of the bloody jars ever made when an initiate took it upon herself to murder the retired Napoleon and trap his military genius forever.

Biederman informed his leader of the vault and its location. Intrigued by the possibilities presented by the vault's contents, Hitler sent a small force in to find the treasure trove. Before they could reach the vault, however, they were ambushed and killed by the French Resistance. One member of the assaulting force, Gerard LeMastre, was also a member of the Secret Masters. Rifling through the Nazis' belongings, he found a copy of the map that would lead them to the vault. After contacting some

friends in Paris, LeMastre quickly pieced together Hitler's plan. Realizing what the consequences of unsealing the vault might be, LeMastre became determined to stop Biederman at all costs.

Hitler, enraged that his insertion team had been destroyed, ordered that the country be occupied so there would be no further troubles with the resistance. The Nazi forces marched into France for a second time and took control of the Vichy government. With the country in an iron grip, the Nazis had no difficulty gaining access to the Bastille. Working from old manuscripts provided by Biederman, his elite squad quickly located and began attempting to force the doors to the vault.

Meanwhile, LeMastre had contacted many of his French brethren in the Secret Masters. Together they decided that by divulging his knowledge of the vault to Hitler, Biederman had broken the masters' vows of secrecy and, therefore, must be punished. For reasons both

patriotic and selfish, the French Masters became determined to prevent the Nazis from entering the vault.

At first they tried using more conventional means to stop Biederman. Agents of the French Resistance attempted to infiltrate and murder the German agents. The Nazi security was, however, too tight and all of these attempts were failures. The Secret Masters' own rituals also proved useless against their brethren who knew the appropriate precautions to take. There was only one option left.

Using an ancient ritual contained in a portion of the Aegean Codex, LeMastre and his associates can summon a circle of Stalkers. While the ritual provides the Secret Masters with no control over the Stalkers once they arrive, LeMastre believes he can convince the immortals to do his bidding. The other Masters are dubious, but have little choice since there are no other options available.

