

# The Apocrypha Files

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The year is 2165.

Our world has been devastated by nuclear war, intense climate change, rampant disease, accidentally manufactured plague and strict regimes. Every Supreme Country has their version of what happened; what happened and between whom. There aren't many alive today who remember the original cause for so much destruction, much less why it went on so long. They've all long since died off.

Not long ago our world was a much different place. A place where advancement was celebrated, where art in any form was worshiped and where the people lived. Really lived. Today our lives are rules by strict men with even stricter rules, who employ cruel men to carry out those rules. Every Supreme Country has a different title for their leader, a different set of rules, however they are, in essence, all the same. Every Supreme Country has a set of rules of what is and is not allowed within their borders.

These are the stories that don't fit into those rules. These are the stories of the people; poor, rich, young, old, we have all been affected by the changes in past years. In that way, we are all the same. The leaders would have us believe otherwise; they would have us believe we are better than our fellow man. But that isn't true.

These are stories the leaders don't want you to know.

These are stories about the people.

These are stories about life.

These are the Apocrypha.

## **The War of the Gods**

Throughout the early 2100's, tensions between Russia and the Middle East, specifically Iran, grew more and more tense. On the morning of January 11, 2120, Russia officially declared war on Iran. Allies and enemies sprang up over the subsequent years, with the USA, Europe, China, Brazil and Australia joining Russia, and most of the Middle East coming to Iran's aid. Politicians at the time named it World War IV, though that name didn't last long. The war went on for 25 years, with no end in sight. Most everyone involved in the war had forgotten why the fighting started in the first place. The war finally ended with the meeting of the Council of Olympus and the Blast. It later became known as the War of the Gods, mocking those who thought they could have played God.

## **Council of Olympus**

On the 15th of August, 2145, the Council of Olympus was a war council formed between the Colonies of America, Russia, England, France, China, Japan, India, Germany, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, and Australia in an attempt to find an end to the war. It was made up of politicians, scientists, war experts and high ranking military personnel. After two weeks of deliberating, the council finally came to a 7-5 vote decision to drop nuclear bombs on Iran and its allies. Each country agreed to donate two nuclear missiles to the cause, targeting 24 major tactical cities, to all hit at a coordinated time. The Council disbanded after the Blast, when their existence had become public knowledge.

## **The Blast**

On September 2, 2145, twelve countries simultaneously dropped several nuclear bombs into 24 major cities in the Middle East, completely decimating them and the surrounding areas. The combined blast sent ripples across the globe. The subsequent flash of light and mushroom cloud could be seen as far away as

Greece, Egypt and India. Nuclear waste filled the air, raising the temperature in the region, and subsequently the globe, to unforeseen heights. Radiation spread for miles from each blast site, often coming into contact with other blast clouds. Soon, radiation and nuclear waste had filled the entire Middle East, killing millions. The land from the Mediterranean to eastern India and from the Indian Ocean to northern Kazakhstan is now known as The Desolate, and is a toxic wasteland that no one dares go near.

### **The Flood**

Within a few days of the Blast, the ever-rising temperatures soon reached dangerous heights. The heat resulting from the Blast soon began to melt the polar ice caps, which melted at an exponential rate, rapidly raising the levels of the oceans. Within ten days, all the snow and ice in the world had melted, raising the ocean levels by 66 meters (216ft), destroying most ocean-side cities and homes, driving populations more and more inland. The result was over-crowding, rampant crime and rapidly-spreading diseases. Temporary shelters were erected in many cities, although their temporary status was soon overrun, becoming closer to homeless shelters than temporary housing. Once the initial shock of the Flood wore off, one of the biggest problems to the population quickly became disease; even the common cold would rip through such close-quartered communities.

### **LHT-117**

In response to the rampant disease problem, Remnistix Pharmaceuticals created LHT-117, commonly called “the 117”, as a “cure-all miracle drug”. The executives at Remnistix, sensing the urgency for such a medication, rushed the testing, hurriedly getting it onto the market. The results were promising. Within hours of taking LHT-117, symptoms went away, curing the individual. In their hurry to produce the medication, they forgot one key test: long term effects. Any individual exposed to multiple doses of the drug began to feel strange, coming down with a new, manufactured disease, Yellow Eye.

### **Yellow Eye**

After multiple doses of LHT-117 (some individuals contracted Yellow Eye even after one dose, if the medicine had been in their system for long enough), individuals begin to feel strange: dizziness, disorientation, and, hence the name, a yellowing of the eyes. The common wealth have named this “Seeing the light”. After several weeks of this, the individual becomes angrier and begins to forget key aspects of their lives: loved one’s names, passwords, etc. Regrettably, most attempt to combat this with additional doses of LHT-117, which only causes the individuals to digress faster. As the disease progresses, the individual loses all holds on reality; the neocortex of their brain begins to dwindle and all but die off, causing the individual to be reduced to his most base functions. In essence, they become more animal than human. This also causes them to forget who they are, who their friends and family are, and, most notably, begin to see anything that moves as either a threat or food.

### **Supreme Countries**

With the Blast, the Flood and the subsequent masses crossing borders and over-crowding, many old world borders became null and void. Because of this, several regimes rose from the ashes of the old world, absorbing or conquering nearby nations to become one Supreme Country. There are eight notable Supreme Countries:

**The Western Alliance** (Western US, Canada and Mexico): The War of the Gods split the United States into two, moral rivals on the need for the war. After the Flood, the countries became even more separated by the flooding of the Mississippi River. The river is the border between the two countries. They later absorbed western Canada (to the Great Lakes) and western-central Mexico.

**Capital:** Denver

**Leader:** President Daryl Herkins

**The Colonies of America** (Eastern US, Canada and Mexico): The other split off from the United States was the Colonies, which consisted of the eastern sea board, Quebec and the Caribbean coast of Mexico, as well as the Caribbean islands.

**Capital:** New Amsterdam (in the mountains in old upstate New York)

**Leader:** Commander in Chief Marissa Gonzalez.

**The Kingdom of China** (China, Japan and all of SE Asia): China grew to such a power, harking back to their former glory with Emperors. They conquered all of SE Asia and Japan.

**Capital:** New Beijing (man-made city over the sunken city of Hong Kong)

**Leader:** Emperor Hao Ming Li.

**Siberia-Baltic Federation** (Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland): Russia was sorely wounded after the war, having taken the brunt of the attacks throughout the war. What remained of Russia allied with Norway, Sweden and Finland to become the Siberia-Baltic Federation.

**Capital:** St. Peterburg

**Leader:** Prime Minister Jos Wigenstad.

**Free State of Greenland** (Greenland): A mere seven years into the 25 year long war, Greenland declared itself neutral in all conflict and retreated from the world, becoming the Free State of Greenland. They don't allow many visitors, but those who have been allowed in return with talks of beauty, prosperity and technology so advanced it shames the rest of the world. After declaring themselves neutral and retreating from the war, Greenland has been able to focus on self-prosperity, technological and medical advances, and peace. Most notably, Greenland was the least affected by the Blast and the Flood, losing only its low-lying coastline.

**Capital:** Nuuk

**Leader:** Prince-Elect Jean-Claude Dupont (one of twelve Prince-Elects who rotate power every two years)

**Territórios Nação do Brasil** (All of S America): Brazil rose to power during the War of the Gods as a strong military ally, proving itself alongside other military greats like the USA, England and France. After the decimation of the Flood destroyed much of the continent, Brazil conquered the remaining countries, drawing them all under the banner of the Commonwealth Territories of Brazil.

**Capital:** Novo Janiero (Riverside along the new Amazon Basin)

**Leader:** Rainha Helen Orellana

**The African Republic** (African continent): Like Brazil, Uganda proved itself as a strong ally in the War of the Gods. It slowly began taking over the surrounding countries, buying off leaders and slyly taking over, and before anyone knew what had happened, they controlled then entire central power, and quickly conquered the rest.

**Capital:** Kinshasa (located in modern day Republic of Congo)

**Leader:** King Ubu Whansa

**Erebasu** (UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Luxemburg, and Austria): The Flood hit Europe more than nearly any other continent, losing much of its Mediterranean and North Sea countries to the Flood and the eastern countries to Russia early in the War. The remaining powers (modern day UK, France, northern Italy, Spain, Germany, Luxemburg and Austria) allied together to preserve their lifestyle, and to become a stronger power against the Siberia-Baltic Federation of the African Republic, should either decide to invade.

**Capital:** Vienna

**Leader:** Grand Prime Minister Antonio Cantore

### **The Desolate and the Annex**

The Desolate is what remains of the Middle East after the Blast. The toxic zone stretches from Israel in West to Mumbai, India in the East, the Indian Ocean to the South and upper Kazakhstan to the North. Without proper protection, an individual would die within the Desolate in a matter of hours to days, judging by how far from one of the initial 24 blast sites he is from.

The Annex is modern day Australia, which became too hot to be inhabitable after the Blast, and lost much of its coastline to the Flood. It is now an end-of-the-line housing location for those who have “seen the light”.

### **Notable Organizations**

#### **Circle of Twelve**

Type: Religion

Leader: High Priestess Lea Canales

Description: The Circle of Twelve has risen to the most worshiped religion in the world. It is made up of twelve gods, each ruler of their own sanctum. The twelve are: Himinn (Lord of the god, god of the Sky), Ezmen (God of the Afterlife, the Great City of Santoyo), Laut (Goddess of the Oceans), Panenopei (Goddess of the sun, light and music), Sivid (Goddess of life), Bivir (God of fire and smiths), Noma (God of agriculture), Serab (God of wisdom, war and wine), Saroi (Goddess of the hunt, the moon, wildlife and childbirth), Valka (Goddess of war), Beleca (Goddess of love, beauty and romance), and Kradec (God of trickery and thieves). Many worship all of them or a subset, depending on their needs and desires.

#### **The Champions**

Type: Merchant Guild

Leader: Patrick Knox

Description: The Champions started during the War of the Gods as an elite group of soldiers. Since the war, the Champions have evolved to include anyone with degrees of talent in a variety of fields.

#### **Blackfeet**

Type: Religious extremist

Leader: Matt O'Reilly

Description: A multi-national religious extremist terrorist group who attempts to drive the world to the strict translation of the Circle of Twelve holy text. Most worshipers of the twelve are fairly lax with their scripture. The Blackfeet are a brotherhood designed to shame those who don't follow the holy book to the letter. They tattoo the bottom of their right foot solid black to identify each other.

## **Brief Historical Timeline**

**2165:** Present

**June 2158:** Countries begin sending their diseased and those with Yellow Eye to Australia, to live out the rest of their lives away from the rest of society

**July 18, 2156:** First documented existence of Yellow Eye, colloquially known as “Seeing the light”

**2155:** Creation and distribution of LHT-117

**June 2155:** Recovering from the residual effects of the war, Russia rises to power, absorbing the Baltic States under their banner, becoming the Siberian-Baltic Federation

**Feb 2154:** Uganda rises to power, conquering the inhabitable parts of the continent, becoming the Republic of Africa

**June 2153:** Brazil used its military power to overthrow nearby countries and became the Territórios Nação do Brasil (Commonwealth Territories of Brazil).

**May 2153:** The Colonies of America and the Western Alliance absorb the eastern and western sides of both Canada and Mexico, respectively

**Mar 2152:** Rise of the Kingdom of China, dominating what remained of SE Asia under it's banner

**2145-2152:** Times of turmoil and chaos

**Sep 7-17, 20145:** The Flood

**Sep 2, 2145:** The Blast and end of the War of the Gods

**Aug 15, 2145:** The Council of Olympus was formed

**July 4, 2133:** Disagreements on the war have pulled the United States apart, forming the Colonies of America and the Western Alliance

**Oct 23, 2127:** Greenland declares neutrality and retreats from the war

**Jan 24, 2126:** Australia, Japan, and remaining European powers join in the war

**June 12, 2125:** USA, China, Brazil, England, Italy, France, Spain and Germany join in the war

**Jan 11, 2120:** Russia declares war on Iran