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Chapter I

Magic of the World





Magic is a very large part of life in not only the colonies, but the known world. Magic is an art tracing its origins to the dawn of time. Magic exists. It is everywhere. It is everything. All groups and cultures have a history with working magic. There have always been those who because of a gift of birth have the ability to use Magic.

The first to work the powers of magic were the ancient Sumerians. From the Sumerians, the Egyptians learned how to harness magic but expanded on the art and took it in directions the Sumerians never dreamt of. While the Egyptians were building upon the Sumerians teachings, the culture that would lead to the creation of the Persian Empire discovered how to harness magic and built its own school of thought around it.

Through trade and conquest, the various teachings of magic spread out into the world. Though many groups carried on with the known teachings, there was one group that treated magic differently. This group not only expanded upon these known teachings, but it changed them and built upon them. What was this group?

The Greeks.

When the Greeks began expanding their empire, they came into contact with magic and began studying it. Though there are many recorded cases of skilled Greek Mages, for the Greeks, magic was not important. For them it was just another topic to study and debate. It was the Romans, and their vast empire, who brought magic into prominence. For them, those with the ability to wield and work magic were seen as instrumental in the protection and growth of the Empire.

As the Roman Empire grew, so too did the wealth of knowledge dealing with magic. Scribes and scholars translated numerous works, and built upon this ancient knowledge adding more to it. It was also during this time that the Magi living and studying in northern Africa began developing their own unique view of magic. It was this view that would later be employed during the wars that would ravage the region in the years to come. As the Roman Empire spread out to encompass not only the Mediterranean but the rest of Europe, it came into contact with other groups and their views on magic.

As time advanced, and Rome saw itself split in two and then eventually fall, magic slowly began seeping into the background. With Rome's fall, the world was plunged into darkness. The reason for this was the work the *Societas Mercurialis* performed. It was the *Societas* — working in secret to keep the creatures of evil and the occult at bay — that protected the Empire. In Gaul, their members banished demons; in Africa they brought to justice evil wizards who sought to destroy the Roman world. The *Societas Mercurialis* was the real power and military of the Empire, and though they were loyal to the Emperor, their real loyalty was to the Empire first.

The reason for Rome's fall can be traced to the abandonment of the Empire by the Roman

