



Greetings Traveler!

I, Anlin Rafferson, a member of the Historic and Esoteric Order of Truth, was charged five winters ago with the compilation of a book detailing the known world. Now, 200 years after my illustrious ancestor, Mic Rafferson discovered the continent known as the New Lands, it is completed. As I am well-traveled, have spoken to both high and lowly, and seen all of the countries of Ganworr first hand, save those that hating knowledge, banned my entry, or detesting the righteousness of my beliefs, would have caused me grievous bodily harm, I was selected by the HEOT to compile this guide, for I was the most suited for this work. The purpose of this book is to add to the body of knowledge so that whoever should read this will be able to act within a context not fraught with ignorance and that the gentle reader may be guided to conduct himself with honor, piety, avoid all that is evil, and do all that is good. In addition to speaking to all sorts of people, from beggars to kings, I have searched through every archive assembling all manners of documents, from great historical texts to the random scribblings of government bureaucracy. My eyes have gone dim through so much reading and writing. So many languages have I learned that my sleep is disturbed with dreams of babbling barbarians. Herein is contained the fruits of my labor. I pray that it will assist you, gentle reader, for the world is truly a dangerous place. People fail to welcome travelers, and even if a wanderer is accepted into a home, he is sent away long before he has finished his research. Thus hospitality is dying, and when it is gone, society will fall. Everywhere brother turns against brother, subject against ruler, and lay person against priest. Not even scholars get the respect their positions deserve. It seems soon that those who follow the Nameless Deity of Humility may be right. Our pride and arrogance may soon lead us to violence and war.

The first book of this work shall detail a short history of the world. It begins with the Great Lesson (May we never forget it!) taught to us by the gods and brings the reader through all the way to this present hour.

The second book of this work shall detail Ganworr. Special attention will be paid to those whose interests lie in the spheres of political or mercantile activity. I have written most of this myself but have also utilized my contacts to the utmost. Their voices are here as well. This section will also detail the New Lands, Thrasn, Sapurnam, Fin-Fer-Noth, and Langlia. Much of this is based on current reports. However, I have gone over the records of many people extensively, including my own illustrious family and have found many useful documents left by my glorious ancestors.

The third book details the languages of the world, both spoken and written with copious notes and references. An unprepared traveller will find himself isolated without the ability to communicate with the various peoples of the world.

The fourth book details the various groups of the world and many colorful characters that are spread out over the lands, so that you may know who to avoid and who to pursue.

The fifth book contains some of the knowledge which I have gained while traveling the world, and which I have passed on to you, so that you will not have to learn by experience, by making the same mistakes I have.

I, Anlin Rafferson, 7th first son of Mic Rafferson, discoverer of the Great Continent, 7th nephew of Mathus Rafferson, discoverer of Fin-fer-noth, 6th First son of Jerad Rafferson, Chronicler of the eastern Lands, Son of Orun Rafferson the Ambassador, brother of Ana Rafferson, explorer of the Sea of Sand, and brother of Garen Rafferson, chronicler of the creatures of the New Lands, swear that all herein is true to the best of my knowledge.

