

Vaults of Pandias

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*Timeline of the Archaic Epoch**

shl campaign setting

by Joseph Setorius

100,000 BC: The *Mondals*, a race of Forrest Folk, having developed a formalized language, endeavor to write it down. Using twigs from the *Mahamella Tavvi-Blume* (Winter-Blume Witch Hazel); which break clean from the plant, leaving no slivers or sharp edges to be cut upon; the Mondals create a distinctive *Nayattella-Nelajal* (Four Starred) script. They take the name *Mondals*, meaning “stone people”.^[1]

Though in many ways this could be considered the beginning of written history; as most the world is unaware of Mondals, or their language, current histories often forget about this primordial period of (narration/account). Due to the reclusive nature of Mondals, likely many could claim they have done little to shape Mystara’s current history.

90,000 BC: Mondals begin gathering in groups larger than bands. These larger “Mondal” clans, begin following more regular seasonal routes.

80,000 BC: By this time the Mondal groups begin limiting their seasonal migration to certain geographical areas and ecosystems, each Mondal becoming more (climatically specialized/acclimated). Customs unique to individual groups emerge, and less crossbreeding between groups takes place.

60,000 BC: True ethnicities have evolved. Still the entire (species/race) (views/considers) themselves as one people; connected by, albeit different dialects, the same language and religion. All Mondals revere Ordana, and (care/tender/nurture) the environments they (inhabit/live in).

60,000 BC: Lexin first appear. **OR**

50,000 BC: Lexin first appear. If Carnifex do appear at this time, Lexin appear in 60,000 BC.

50,000 BC: Ka creates the ancestors of the Carnifex.

50,000 BC: Elves from the Twilight Realm, a major plane resting above the Astral...as the Plane of Nightmares assuredly rests below, become more curious about the “world” around them, seeking and desiring creations of their own. So as to not taint the harmony of the Twilight Realm, Ordana creates a “magical (portal/vortex)” in the form of a staircase descending to the planet’s surface. Many waves of these “enlightened/sentient” elves descend this “staircase” emerging in the lands that will (become/be named) Evergrun.

50,000 BC: The semi-nomadic Mondals, having now spread throughout the world, discover the vast Northern Lake on the continent of Brun. South of the lake, in a giant (protrusion/outcropping) of granite, a group of Mondals discovers an enormous vein of translucent green crystalized stones. These gemstones radiate incredible magical energy, and the Mondals name them *Giamonds*. “*Gia*” being the Mondal name for “*Djaea*”, and “*Mond*” being their word for “rock” or “stone”. The group of Mondals decides to stay and study the *Giamonds*, calling themselves the *Gi Mondals*. A formal Chieftdom with two or three levels of society emerges. Eventually founding a city upon the site, it becomes known as *Mond(al) Giamond*. True social stratification begins to emerge, but one important aspect of stratified societies is absent; a warrior class. Because their civilization sprang from the shore of the lake, the Mondals name it *All Mellineesta*, “The Cradle”.

40,000 BC: The *Gi Mondals*, learning to harness the energy of the *Giamonds*, have created simple nature based spells. Yet a particular group of Mondals starts to venture in a new direction. Learning that as a group, they are able to design and spawn mystical rituals which unleash powerful effects. This new group evolves into the religious social class, just below the “*Mond’s*” House. Where before there existed just the Chief/*Mond* and his retainers, the rest of the population being commoners, either practicing limited agriculture or engaging in craft production.

The Lexin population reaches its height. Around 100,000 Lexin are scattered across the globe.

32,000 BC: Elves first appear on the planet, having descended the Steps of Sapience from the Twilight Realm. Though able to seek knowledge for themselves, Ordana still nurtures them.

26,000 BC: The Classical Elven Period. Having created their own Bronze Age cultures, and slowly colonized many parts of the world, elves come in contact with Mondals for the first time.

24,000 BC: Mondals & Elves have come to peaceably coexist; exchanging ideas, technologies, beliefs, and tradition. The Mondals begin to teach the elves the secret of magic, and the *Giamonds*.

23,000 BC: Fieonds, creatures of darkness and shadow, come to reside on Mystara in a similar fashion to the elves. However; the Immortal Nyx has more or less “shoved” her creations up the (tunnel/wormhole), and into the half-light.

As Prehistoric Mystara and the Twilight Realm were virtual paradises, the womb of Fieond existence was a much harsher reality. Upon emerging from Mystara’s World-Shield, the Fieonds begin preying on any and every animal. Within a few centuries, Fieonds have reached the surface, but being repelled by the sun, are only able to wander forth at night.

Many species and races drastically decline or slowly perish. To prevent the tide of darkness from tainting the Twilight Realm, Ordana seals the breach.

22,000 BC: [32,000 BC:] As anthropomorphic species and humans began to overtake the planet, Fieonds, creatures of Shadow and Darkness having “ruled” over sentient life for a time, wage crusades to exterminate or severely limit the growth and civilization of these new species. The Elves in defense of life, along with the Gi Mondals residing in Fiaer Giamond, wage war with the Fieonds, eventually defeating them. Yet at the cost of having humans overtake them in population, and eventually technology; thanks to Blackmoor. During the beginning of these wars Ordana allows those not wishing to participate in the wars to ascend the Staircase and return to the Twilight Realm, but in doing so they must accept the doctrine of The Realm. Though their memories remain intact, they will no longer desire for anything save the love and warmth of Ordana’s providence.

20,000 BC: An Elven and Mondal alliance strikes back at the tide of darkness. While Mondals have focused on combating the threat through magic, Elves have invented instruments of war; known as weapons. Elven arrows soaked in sap and pulverized leaves of certain trees inflicts the gravest wounds to the shadow loving ilk.

18,000 BC: The war reaches its penultimate climax. In this desperate hour, the Gi Mondals make a fateful decision, deciding to teach Elves the complex and powerful rituals of the Giamonds. With this new found (resource/means), the Elves slowly turn the tide of war. Under Ordana’s guidance, Elves learn they must descend into the depths, and permanently seal the wormholes to the Shadow Realm.

16,000 BC: Though having gone through periods of waxing and waning invasion, from their now fortified homeland in Evergrun, the Elves (enter/overrun) the underworld, pressing for the Shadow Gates. In the ultimate battle, the Elves in conjunction with the Mondals, seal the widest chasm to the plane below. Having cut off all avenues of retreat, or reinforcement, the Fieonds slowly decline.

13,000 BC: By this year, the (bulk/majority) of the Fieonds have been killed. In another five hundred years, they will have all but have become extinct. However; the strains of their disease (persist/live on).

Though the Shadow War has ended, one quarter of the planet’s species is extinct or critically endangered. Both the Elves and Mondals have lost half their populations, while there are only about twenty-five thousand lexin.

12,000 BC: [16,000 BC:] Though victorious, the Elves have now been corrupted with ideas of war; an art not learned from humans, as posited in Gaz 5, the Elves of Alfheim. The War of Quarters pits Elven groups against one another. These groups, based upon their different roles during the Shadow Era, have come to exemplify different traditions, beliefs, and rituals. Resulting in the (single/one) once great harmonious clan dividing into four great clans. The Alfevien, Galerion, Nadriendel, and Sundalion. A fifth clan eventually emerges, made up of those Elves longing to return to the days or old, when the Elven people were one. This tribe becomes known as the Elylmyria.

The four great clans, living on the shores of Evergrun, conduct wars over the next four thousand years; limiting growth and development of other arts, and population. When they at last come to a close, the four great clans and their subdivisions have each settled a different area of Evergrun. The Alfevien live in the East, while the Galerion inhabit the West. Nadriendel reside in the North, whereas the Sundalion dwell in the South. The Elylmyria occupy the heart of the island continent. Some of the elves invoke Ordana to once again open the stairway. She relents, but with one stipulation. Elves returning to the Twilight Realm will never be able to return to Mystara. Further, they will give up all memories of war and invention. Elves choosing to remain in Evergrun will live mortal yet long lives, and will relinquish any chance of returning to the dusky shores of the Twilight Realm. Afterward, Ordana collapses/topples the stair. Three steps yet remain in Enehallia^[2], capital of the Elylmyria. After the Great Rain of Fire, these three bottom steps and the surrounding shrine are moved to the Southwestern shores of Davania, and there remain to this day.

The elves slowly retreat to Evergrun, and become insular and myopic. Much of their past glory is forgotten as they embrace a life of mystical contemplation. Much of this thought revolves around the loss of the Twilight Realm, and the “sins” they have come to learn. Contrary to popular belief, humans did not teach the elves the art of war.

12,000 BC: Humans begin leaving their hunter-gatherer ways, developing forms of language from primitive art. Domestication of plants along with animals begins, and small villages began to appear. Humans then begin a rise to the first small kingdoms and empires.

12,000 BC – 7020/6920 BC: The Age of Carnifex or the Age of Tyranny

10,000 BC – 6000 BC: The Age of Carnifex or the Age of Tyranny

8,000 BC: The elves have relearned the art of shipbuilding, sailing & ocean travel and make their way toward the other continents. After the Fieondic Wars, Elves and Fieonds had eradicated one another over most of the planet. [Since this seems somewhat unlikely, I have made some notes saying perhaps “The Elves ‘making a (final) deal’ with the Immortals in an hour of need, sacrificing themselves except for the realm of Evergrun, in order that the Fieonds would be similarly confined.”] As Fieonds were later hunted by humans and other races alike, Fieonds have mostly perished, yet the Elves have survived.

Unfortunately; Fieonds had already infected diseased & plague ridden victims; the Fieondic corruption amalgamating to create lycanthropy in its various forms, in addition to Vampirism and such afflictions. These “purer” strains of humanoid afflictions have mostly vanished, replaced with newer incarnations of the diseases.^[3]

Despite plague & disease, Humans survive; resuming their rise into small kingdoms and empires.

6,000 BC: My timeline (thus/now) coincides with established cannon...and probably most fanon?

6,000 BC: The “**Archaic Epoch Timeline**” now coincides with established cannon...and perhaps most fanon?

^[1] It should be explained; while Mondals consider themselves Forest Folk, abhorring all non-organic materials; their name originally meant stone people, or stone using people. A fact which they have taken to overlooking.

^[2] Enehallia or Enehallia means “Clarion call from the heart/centre”. Even in present times an Enehallia is a call to arms, or call of return; home to ones roots.

^[3] It is surmised that as Elves and Mondals defended the fauna of Mystara, chasing off Fieondic assaults, those creatures who were bitten by the Fieonds, yet survived, became forever (infected/defiled); giving rise to purer forms of Vampirism and Lycanthropy than the strains later brought by the Alphatians. Contaminated animals give rise to the various forms of Lycanthropy after biting humans, demi-humans, anthropomorphic, and humanoid species. Elves and Faerie Folk bitten by these corrupted animals become violently ill and die. All Reptilian species do as well. Lexin are similarly affected. Few magical remedies are known to stem the poison. “Shades”; Shadow Diseases— Disease caused or brought on by coming into contact with creatures infected with Shadow “pathogens”. Vampires and similar creatures “created” in this fashion are not “undead” but “Shadow Beasts”. By the same token, the shadow strain of Lycanthropes are not true shapeshifters. Eventually giving birth to the adage “He looks a (cooler/paler) shade (of shadow).”

Technological Periods in Fiaer Culture:

Paleolithic	2.6 Million Years Ago – 24,000 BC	[400,000 – 125,000 Control of Fire]
	Lower Paleolithic (Early Stone Age)	[350,000 – 300,000 BC]
	Middle Paleolithic (Middle Stone Age)	[300,000 – 100,000 BC]
	Upper Paleolithic (Late Stone Age)	[100,000 – 24,000 BC]
		[32,000 BC – Dogs Domesticate themselves]
Mesolithic	24,000 BC – 12,000 BC	[12,000 BC – Cats “Mutual” Domestication]
Neolithic	12,000 BC – 8,000 BC	[10,000 BC – First Domestication of Plants]
		[8,000 BC – First Domestication of Animals]
Chalcolithic	8,000 BC – 6,000 BC	
Bronze Age	6,000 BC – 4,000 BC	[First Golden Age]
Iron Age	4,000 BC – 3,000 BC	[Second Golden Age]
Dark Age	3,000 BC – 2,800 BC	[No metallurgy for 2-300 years]
The Rediscovery	2,800 BC – 1,700 BC	[Technologies & Sciences are Reestablished]
The Reawakening	1,700 BC – 900 BC	[Philosophical Awakening, led by Traebow]
The Fracturing	900 BC – 200 BC	[Druids, Dark Druids, & other Sects splinter]
The “Third” Golden Age	200 BC – 400 AC	[The Last Traebowist dies 432(4) AC]
[The Invasion Period]	400AC – 800 AC	[7 or 800 AC?]
[The Present Period]	800AC – (?)	

Possible Mystaran Human Evolution Timeline:

<i>Earliest Primates</i>	65 Million Years Ago	
<i>Sahelanthropus tchadensis</i>	8.0 Million Years Ago	
<i>Orrorin tugenensis</i>	5.8 Million Years Ago	
<i>Ardipithecus kadabba</i>	5.6 Million Years Ago	
<i>Australopithecines</i>	3.2 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo naledi</i>	3.0 Million Year Ago	[Star or Dawn People*]
<i>Homo habilis</i>	2.8 Million Years Ago	[Earliest Lithic Technology]
<i>Homo erectus</i>	2.6 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo rudolfensis</i>	2.4 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo gautengensi</i>	2.2 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo georgicus</i>	2.0 Million Years Ago	[Complex Lithic Technology]
<i>Homo ergaster</i>	1.8 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo antecessor</i>	1.6 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo cepranensis</i>	1.4 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo heidelbergensis</i>	1.2 Million Years Ago	
<i>Homo neanderthalensis</i>	1.0 Million Years Ago	[Die out around 45,000 BC]
<i>Homo tsaichangensis</i>	0.8 Million Years Ago	[All species hereafter are “Cro-Magnon”]
<i>Homo rhodesiensis</i>	0.4 Million Years Ago	[↓ Persist until C. 32,000 BC]
<i>Homo sapiens</i>	0.2 Million Years Ago	[Denisovans mixes with Neanderthals]
<i>Homo floresiensis</i>	0.1 Million Years Ago	[Likely Ancestor: Gnomes, Dwarves, & Hin]
<i>Homo sapiens idaltu</i>	.05 Million Years Ago	[Possibly similar to Red Deer Cave People*]

*The word *naledi* means "star" in the Sotho language. It was chosen to correspond to the name of the *Dinaledi* chamber ("Chamber of Stars") of the Rising Star cave system where the fossils were found.

*"Idaltu" is from the Saho-Afar word meaning "elder" or "first born".

Remember Gondolin Cave!

http://pandius.com/carn_srv.html Carnifex Servitors

From— **Primeval Mystara**

by [Travis Henry](#)

IMPORTANT DATES:

BC 50,000: Ka creates the ancestors of the Carnifex.

BC 40,000-20,000: Cultural, technological, and magical advancement of the Carnifex.

BC 13,000/12,000: Unification of the Carnifex peoples and beginning of the Age of Carnifex.

BC 11,000: Lhomarrian humans, the fourth branch of humanity, live a hunter-gather type existence. Their cultural level slowly advances during the next 2000 years.

BC 10,000: Height of Carnifex civilization.

The Carnifex of Y'hog arise and remain isolated, sparing them from the future fury of the Immortals.

BC 9000: The Immortals exile the Old Carnifex to the Pits of Banishment.

The Carnifex of Y'hog arrive at the island of Y'hegg-T'uhath.

[Use This Revision Going Forward!!](#)

(09/10/16, 3:16 PM) * The Archaic Epoch denotes the time before the first King of Evergrun in 5000 BC!