

## Book III, Chapter 1 – The Great Law

Before Zeniton gave his Word to man, the Holy Order instructed all men on the mysteries of God, for only the Blessed could speak the tongue of mighty Zeniton. The Church alone gave the people truth, unraveling the mysteries of the heavens and the earth. As such, experimentation on creation was sacrilegious, for God and nature were the same. And yet, the charlatans--whisperers of the Sheduin tongue and servants to the darkness--ignored the priest's decree, practicing their profane art of science and giving man their own version of the truth. Given the chance to repent, they shunned the Church's teachings and were punished for their crimes--burned at the stake for their blasphemy.

On the highest of holy days, Zeniton came to the Archpriests disguised as one of the Numinar. In the midst of their prayers, the Seven did not see Him. So He spoke to them through the silence of prayer, and in His words He said, "Open your eyes, my children. I bring you truth." And when they opened their eyes, they wept. For it was the first time they had ever laid eyes upon their Lord.

"There is great unrest among my children," He told them, "and it pains me to see those who would subvert the truth. And so I must enlighten you, my disciples, and in turn, you must discover your own truths."

"Teach us, oh Lord," they begged.

"Let it be known that I am distinct from my own creation. The world and all things upon it are yours. As such, I entrust you to manage it responsibly. But to do so, you must understand the world. But be wary, for through his servants, the Gmorgon seeks to corrupt all things, even knowledge itself. Thus, there is no truth, unless it is spoken by those trained by the Order, those who cannot be taken by the Sheduin."

"Yes, my Lord," replied Astagar, the High Priest. "That is why we have we silenced the charlatans that were spreading the Gmorgon's lies."

"Then let no man study the natural world," declared Zeniton, "except he who has passed the Rites of the Seven-Sided Mind and the Trials of the Dual-Seeing Eye. These priests shall be known as the Acolytes of Truth. Let their studies reveal the world I have given to you. But do not let their revelations lead you astray. Technology is a weapon masterfully used by the Gmorgon's servants. Many worlds and countless lives have been destroyed by the power science brings. Thus, I give you this law. Only the Acolytes may practice science. Only the Acolytes may invent and develop technology. All others must find salvation in the flames."

"We shall see it done, my Lord. We will glorify your name on high."

Zeniton was pleased, knowing that man would not fall prey to the dark allure of science and its twisted progeny, technology.