

The Chronicles of Alkemia

Book of the Percival

Part I

Cast of characters

Aeddan Mc Ivy Captain of the Percival

Licia of Riannon Princess of Guerliand, daughter of Gwendal the Great

Orian Diguern Captain of the Deus Essae, nephew of Morgana DiGuern

Bellias Of Guerliand King of Guerliand's shire, first son of Gwendal the Great

Charles II of Caspe King of the Caspe's shire, second son of Gwendal the Great

Arkam Nabis Captain of The Mandragor

Gwendal the Great Son of Charles of Riannon, second King of Alkemia

Charles Of Riannon First king of Alkemia, father of Gwendal the Great

Lerdiana First wife of Gwendal the Great



In ages past, in a time shrouded in the mists of legendry, the world was covered by raging seas where no man dwelt. Then, with a thunderous roar, a land emerged from the endless sea. Forever onwards, the seas were divided, the broad expanses gaining in time the names of Sea of Guilds, Sea of Caspe, Devil's Sea, and Sea of Emptiness.

In time, life appeared on the newly formed island, amongst which were found the titans, dragons, elves and men. No one knows whence they came from, whether they were given birth on the land or came from some other remote region of existence. The elves dwelt in the southern regions, the barbaric tribes of men in the north alongside the mighty dragons while the Titans roamed the central part of the great island.

But one day, out of nowhere, appeared a new and powerful civilisation: the Magi and their servants, the men of the Guild of Riannon. No living soul knows where they came from, the most varied and extravagant rumours depicting their arrival, but their coming marked the beginning of what is now known as the First Age. This point marked also the beginning of the calendar of men, all years thereafter being noted as coming After Riannon (or AR).

The Cutt of Riannon

The mythology of the world holds many gods, but foremost amongst them is Riannon, goddess of all creation and embodiment of the spirit of the elements. She stands as the mother of the gods and all living creatures.

Thru' this melopee, we adore you Riannon, invisible beauty of earth

Thru' this melopee, we adore you Cause you're the chalice to rebirth

Here to shine, there for the darkness Riannon, lady of the sun and the rain

Here to shine, there for the darkness Transfigure happiness and pain

(Extract of Gradual of Riannon, first mantra)



The is also the basis of the Magi spirituality, philosophy and religion. This spirituality was transmitted by the Magi to their servants, collectively known as the Guild of Riannon. This spirituality also coloured the concepts of magic as it is practised by the Magi.

With the appearance and gradual predominance of the Guild on the island, the land soon gained the name of Riannon's Island.



For centuries after the coming of the Guild, all living things lived in relative peace and harmony. But in 139 AR, the barbaric hordes of the north, leaded by the terrible Bartakan, struck south against the lands of the Guild. This one wavered and faltered in the face of the ferocity of the barbarians and during 4 years, they made numerous raids in the shires of Brions and Guerliande to defeat the Guild and the Elves. The After years of conflict, a mighty alliance of men and elves managed to bring back peace to the land: Aldan of Riannon, the master of Riannon, and Eeldrin, King of the Guern's Elves, decided to cross the Brions with a powerful army to annihilate the Horde of Bartakan. This one was brought to bay on the spurs of the mountains of Fire.



Bartakans knew the scepter of Aragnos legend and ventured to open the Gates of Tariak: it was his last chance against Aldan's spells. He succeeded to reach the Altar where the infernal scepter was lying and might invoke Aragnos,



In this hellish circle, an altar is the throne of a scepter
In the bowels of this mountain, a jewel for a black redeemer.

Absolute power of fire condemned in this delicate masterpiece,

Wake up and burn for me, always cold, cruel, and fierce

Aragnos....silent and beautiful

(Extract of the Black book of Mangate, vol. 2, chapt. II)

fldan and Eeldrin stopped Bartakan before he liberates the terrible Aragnos plague on the Guild's troops. If Aldan died during this struggle, Eeldrin succeeded to close the doors of Tariak with the holy blood of the magus: the sceptre was lost in the caverns of the Fire's Mountains after the collapse created by the closing of the doors.

Thus, in 1153, was sealed a pact between the elves, barbarians and Guild which finally ended the conflict. This treaty, the Roll of Antenaria, established the rules for a peaceful coexistence of all the inhabitant of Riannon's Island.

"To cross Brion's Mountains is a crime. Such an act shall forever onwards be considered an act of war. Thus, only the seas may be used to travel from north to south and south to north."

(Introduction of the Roll of Antenaria, 1153AR).

With this pact, Brion's Mountain became the natural boundary between the northern and southern parts of the island.



But despite the best efforts of the Guild, war soon returned to the world. Two centuries after the signing of the Roll of Antenaria, in 1362, chaos erupted on Riannon's Island. The elves and barbarians rebelled against the dominance of the Guild and the mighty dragons of the north took flight, adding fiery destruction to the fray.



Despite a terrible defeat in the Battle of Maeldun's Plain in 1368, where a vast part of the Guild's army was decimated, the Guild managed to bring order to the world after the victory of Charles of Riannon at the Battle of Syrkins in 1379.



The narrator:

In the arms of Riannon, a kingdom is born In one and a same time a Crown and boundaries Here is the power that the elements adorn A light transcending legends and prophecies

Behind the battle's dust, in the blood-slaked sand Winds can read your name and draw your face. Truth is unrevealed, nobody knows the beginning nor the end, But you'll be the sword as Riannon is the grace.

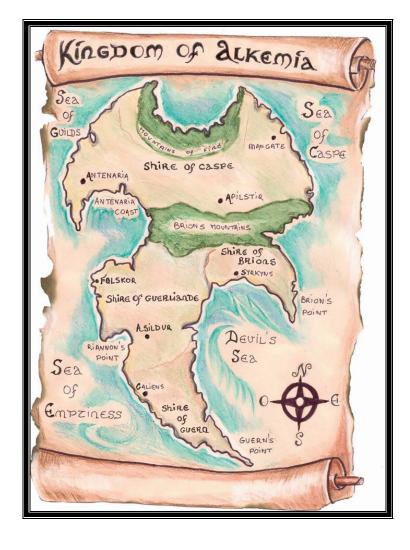
This is the last step of the Magi in Maeldun's plain. Hear the victory through the clash of iron, The rain of arrows. On the Guild's flag appears a stain Of defeat and infamy, the threat of a dark horizon.

But destiny shall be glorious... The second age may begin.

It the end of the war, it was decided to separate religious power from temporal authority. Charles thus became the first king of the island, the new realm being baptised "The Kingdom of Alkemia". The second age could now begin...







Mallowed Be Thy Mand

(Alcouffe / Brizard)

Somewhere beyond the oceans, In a legendary land of creeds A Kingdom is born through the clash of iron

The power of a bloody crown
The power of the loaded legions
In all the ancient guild's creeds

Can you hear in the wind This legend like a breath Break on through the ages of beliefs

Hallowed be thy land Lord, for the pride of your glorious realm Hallowed be thy land Lord, the fellows can forgive, all the defeats and infamy

A blood tainted river Runs from the Maeldum plain While these battles stands in this land's memory

The open scar of Syrkyns Remembrance of a breath Break on through the ages of beliefs

Hallowed be thy land Lord, for the pride of your glorious realm Hallowed be thy land Lord, the fellows can forgive, all the defeats and infamy

Hallowed be thy land Lord, for the pride of your glorious realm Hallowed be thy land Lord, the fellows can forgive, all the defeats and infamy ffter Charles' death in 1409 AR, his son Gwendal became King. His reign was marked by the progressive apparition of divisions in the structure of the Guild. The Guild was progressively split into different clans, each with a number of followers amongst the population. This division only succeeded in bringing strife, poverty and unhappiness to the heart of the kingdom. After many years of dissension, Gwendal finally succeeded in reuniting the Guild and stopping the numerous conflicts threatening to tear apart the kingdom.



In this land, so far away, Comes the sun, after the rain A jewel in a glorious hand

Fortune tellers and clairvoyants
Predicted the end of violence
The Magi write the prayer of silence

Raise up thy hands
Allegiance til' the end
Wake up from thy graves
For the Lord of the braves
In the legion of men
You just have to stand
Raise up thy hands
For the Lord of the braves

Elves, titans and dragons Take refuge in the Brions With the fear of legions

Legions of King Gwendal Fight for one and for all Against all the barbarian's hordes

Raise up thy hands
Allegiance til' the end
Wake up from thy graves
For the Lord of the braves
In the legion of men
You just have to stand
Raise up thy hands
For the Lord of the braves



Gwendal had two sons, Charles and Bellias, with his first wife Lerdiana, and a daughter Licia with his second wife Morgana. When King Gwendal died in 1442 AR, his sons tried to conquer the throne. The realm was divided into two kingdoms and conflict raged again on the four seas.





Magi chant

Riding on the shadows of thoughtlessness, The commoner of the kingdom lived Without remembrance of the ancient wars Which destroyed their lands before

But one day, the great King died (the end of a great design)
And his two sons were damned (Pride of men)

Then, a demonic night fell on the kingdom And all the pretender's boats left harbours Sailed to the horizon, where battles began, Trying to fight for glory and victory

In troubles, they chose war To know which one would be King

Shadows of the past hide the light of the sun Just feel afraid for your world Goddess of guild, do you think we have learned Learned of past and present times

Another prophet of disaster (an ode for warmongers)
Predicted the return of wars and pain

Another dark year comes On lands and seas Another dark year comes For years and year Another dark year comes On lands and seas Another dark year comes For another century

Could it be the end of our world All things that we have and love Were only dreams and now disappear In the nightmare of a fratricidal war

In the name of the King Always lost at sea Waiting time after time To die for nothing, for nothing

Another dark year comes On lands and seas Another dark year comes For years and year Another dark year comes On lands and seas Another dark year comes For another century

In the north, Charles created his own kingdom in the shire of Caspe in the city of Apilstir. On the other side of the Brion's Mountains, his brother Bellias led the shire of Guerliande from the royal city of Asildur. Princess Licia and Queen Mother Morgana choose to stay with Bellias, now known as Bellias of Guerliande. Meanwhile, his brother took the name of Charles II of Caspe.

Furrowin' the seas, from East to West. Lookin' for glories, Through all victories.

Spending all the time, Sailin' an waitin'. Listen to the wind, breathin' into veils Prayin' gods and stars, for the pride of thy flags Searchin' the reason why

The great sound of guns, when the battles began Will imprint ours names, in history books

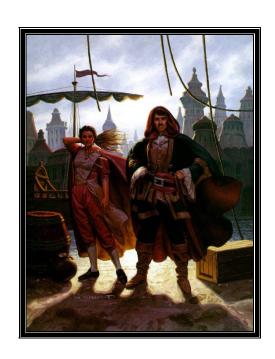
Fighting without pity through the kingdom's seas And gushin' out blood on the oceans and seas, In a fratricidal war, we were the strongest 'til the end of struggles

Another time lost in mist, Kneelin' down under the moon Prayin' and prayin' for nothing Thus always ready to fight For the glory of the King

Fight, fight, fight (Pacify..Glorify..Deify) For the glory of the King Fight, fight, fight (Pacify..Glorify..Deify) For the glory of the King

flmongst the good sailors and leaders who followed Bellias were Aeddan Mc Ivy, captain of the Percival and greatest captain of the fleet, and Orian Diguern, Morgana's nephew and captain of the Deus Essae, flagship of the royal fleet.

Fleddan and Licia were at the time desperately in love with one another. This love was disapproved by the King and Morgana. Orian was also in love and tried to gain her hand and begged the king to unite them in marriage. The lord of Asildur hoped to strengthen his alliance to the shire of Guern through this union.



An The Tyes Of A Princess

(Alcouffe / Brizard)

In the castle of the King Lives the princess of my dreams: She's a Lady, and I nothing.

She's the beauty and I'm a beast. For her I can cross the mist Her Iove is my pride, my glory

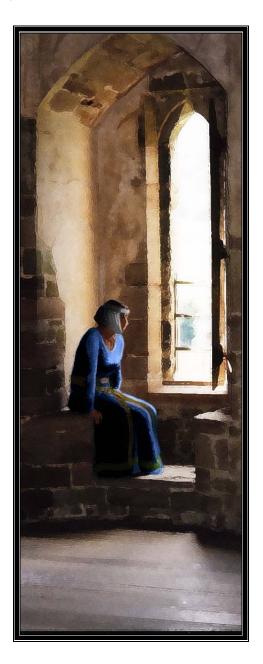
But in her eyes, I can see All reasons to stay in peace And all reasons to live And all reasons to believe

Like an Angel in the night A candle in the dark Her eyes enlighten my mind My princess of the night The heart of my life I can see my face in her eyes In her eyes

Any times I'm going through seas I can fell my heart cryin' Just next her I would live

On this land of wars and pain She's the sun after the rain Her eyes will save the damned

But in her eyes, I can see All reasons to stay in peace And all reasons to live And all reasons to believe



During these dark ages, the seas were dangerous, haunted by cruel pirates, buccaneers and military ships. This was the playground of the most dangerous pirate in the history of the four seas, Arkam Nabis, Captain of the Mandragor. His black flag was said to have seen more ships sink in the bottomless seas than stars in the endless sky.



(Alcouffe / Brizard)

A mysterious mist covering the sea Somewhere under the black moon light And in this night, you just can't see This dark shadow ready to attack

On the sea of darkness

Hidden by the night, as cold as steel Arkam Nabis waits his hour will come Evil hunter come here to kill Still you tremble in all your bones

On the sea of darkness

Judgement day has come around Thus welcome here, to Armageddon Stop sleepin' men, come and see His dark figure moves and twists

On the sea of darkness

As you start to cry, hands held to the sky The last assault ends, and the victorious men Kiss the smell of death, blood and burning flesh And they hold your remains in their bloody hands

On the sea of darkness



Though born a commoner, Aeddan had gained rank and nobility through his courage and ability as captain of the Percival. Bellias had granted him title and lands in recognition of his ability, the Percival having sunk more of Charles' ships than any other in the fleet. But the hearts of men festers with many a disease, not the least of which is jealousy. Thus was the scene planted for bitter treachery...







Book of the Percival
Part II



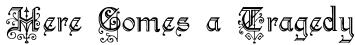
When this story began, Aeddan Mc Ivy, Captain of the Percival, had an idyll with the beautiful Licia, Princess of Guerliande. This love was disapproved by the King Bellias of Guerliande, the Queen Mother Morgana and particularly Orian Diguern: This one hoped secretly to conquer the heart of Licia with a little help from the King. The Asildur's master wished, through this union, to ally the family of the shire of Guern to his benefit in the war between he and his brother for the throne of Alkemia.





The palace became a poisonous place for a plot: Aeddan was of common blood but he reached the Guerliande nobility because of his bravour and courage. He won the title of the best Captain of the Kingdom, because he sunk so many ships in the fleet of Charles II. But jealousy leads people to felony and Orian accused Aeddan to have sign up a pact with the Devil and betrayed the King and the Kingdom of Guerliande.

Heddan was condemned, he and his crew to be burned alive on the public place of the royal city of Asildur.



(Alcouffe / Brizard)

In the castle, after the curfew
The instigators of the plot defame you
Now It's too late to redeem thy faults
Someone will name for whom the bell tolls

Holding by the bloody hands of the guardian of death

King Belias reserved you a cold cell In the filth of the citadel jails The hangman whispers your name to his axe Just like a fiend, again and again

In the hellish circle of the king's felony There's only lie, hate and jealousy

In the bonfire, the time will come We're lost in the eye of the storm Here comes a tragedy Ring the bells, the time will come We're lost in the eye of the storm Here comes a tragedy The sickly sweet smell of oil Announces the dreadful stench of death In the dark bowels of Apilstir This tragedy drives you to the wood-shed

Thus wait chained at the gallows pole The fiendish hand of the king's law So stand up and face your peers Stand up and face your fears

Time stops in its track, and holds its breath Aeddan can you feel it? The end is near

In the bonfire, the time will come We're lost in the eye of the storm Here comes a tragedy Ring the bells, the time will come We're lost in the eye of the storm Here comes a tragedy

Fleddan wasn't capture and escape with his crew. He left Folskor's harbour, leaving his enemies behind. Pursued by all the fleet, the Percival adopted the black and white flag of the buccaneer as the symbol of his vengeance. The captain wouldn't have peace until Orian and Bellias both die by his own hand. He perfectly understood the reasons of this betrayal: Wash his hands in the blood of the felons was the only solution.



Beyond The Gates Of Morizon

(Allaire /Alcouffe / Brizard)

No more anguish, no more fear Lead the Percival away Death is near, thus heave and get under way The laughing jack on the topmost mast Symbol of my vengeance The inheritance of a glorious past

I burn to sail on a sea of wrecks Riannon's lore drives my step It's my quest, without end nor return

Beyond The Gates Of Horizon The Devil sends his wrath Beyond The Gates Of Horizon Hear the answers of all lies Beyond The Gates Of Horizon Learning how to cry Beyond The Gates Of Horizon We will die

The cry of their long agony Recover my honor with their blood On my knees, I swear to God

I burn to sail on a sea of wrecks Riannon's lore drives my step It's my quest, without end nor return

Beyond The Gates Of Horizon The Devil sends his wrath Beyond The Gates Of Horizon Hear the answers of all lies Beyond The Gates Of Horizon Learning how to cry Beyond The Gates Of Horizon We will die



Dunted and pursued by all the fleet of Guerliande, Aeddan and the Percival became a great allied for Charles II. Battles after battles, the Percival seemed to be invincible and the quest of these men, betrayed by their King, seemed to be approved by the crowd of the Kingdom. This unflinching fierce of Aeddan began to imperil the authority of Bellias, despite the accusations and the disgrace. Only the death of the rebel could stop the growing revolt of the lower of Guerliande against the King.

On The Path Of Revenge

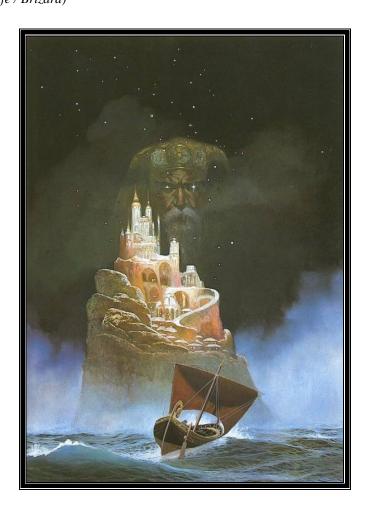
Left our land and our lives behind us Left Folskor's harbour again and forever Hunted, hunted by all the fleet of Guerliande Sorrow is a great strength lies, my friend

Break the waves with no remorse, my friend Lead us now, and save us from this masquerade We will stand and fight this tyrant's reign Fear is a friend, either a squalid sword

In the heart of the devil's hand Sail alone on the path of revenge In the heart of the devil's hand Sail alone on the path of revenge

Battles after battles, only victories Our blood runs forever in our veins Our unflinching fierce began to imperil The authority of Bellias

In the heart of the devil's hand Sail alone on the path of revenge In the heart of the devil's hand Sail alone on the path of revenge



Joung Princess was despair and confuses, and felt betrayed. After losing her first love, she refused the advances of Orian. It was nearly the same for Aeddan. Alone on his boat, he found refuge against his pain in his vengeance. His quest became its only reason to live. So many questions haunted the banished captain. He wanted to return but it was impossible since Bellias stay alive.



Ifter many battles, the Percival remained victorious. Despite their efforts, King Bellias and Orian stood powerless in front of Aeddan and his ship, and boarded the Mandragor near the coast of the Brion's Point. They offered a lot of gold to Arkam Nabis to kill their enemy. The pirate finally accepted the deal and hunted the Percival to honour his commitment, and to fight against a great opponent.



(Alcouffe/Brizard / Levasseur)



The final duel between the Percival and the Mandragor took place near the Guern's point. Two days after Arkam Nabis accepted the deal of Bellias and Orian, the pirate and his crew crossed Aeddan and his boat at the crossing point of the sea of Emptiness and the Devil's sea. During one hour, the battle raged on the sea and.....Here, the legendary ship of Aeddan sunk to nowhere, in the deepest abysses of the Devil's sea, after the bloody victory of Arkam Nabis.



When canon balls fastened to resound on the devil's sea Through the slaughter steam, redol of the powder's taste Percival, out of breath, began to fall into the abyss

One more time. Arkam Nabis still victorious His laugh, through the battle, rose up to the stars Oh demonic voice, foretelling the Apocalypse

Percival slowly disappeared for the eyes of men The raging sea is about to be the last den A nowhere melody emerge exquisitely Oh melancholy song, oh blasphemy Ode to evil one, her name, the abyss requiem

A grave of broken wood, capture by the dark water Arkam Nabis cruelly whistle the notes of disaster

Darkness, coldness, abyss contaminate The fragment of all life Darkness, coldness, abyss contaminate Everything dead, everyone die

The pale moonlight, with her mask of bloody tears Illuminates the suffering ship, the serenade of souls Possessed minds and Evil rules will forever guide you too And now forever my dark friends Let us sing together this Abyss Requiem



The announcement of this victory was good news for Bellias, Orian and Morgana. It stopped the revolt of the kingdom of Guerliande, sealed the alliance with the Guern's familly, and confirmed the power of the King.

Licia, half-hearted, accepted to be married with Orian, who Became the Prince Of Guern before. Bellias, who became stronger with this victory and this new alliance, returned to his war against his Brother.

When the Percival sunk, Aeddan and his crew died painfully. A sad end for these brave sailors after so many victories. When Aeddan found death, he begged Riannon and the other gods to answer to a single question: « Why? »

But none of them answered. Only the Devil came in front of him and offered him a deal:

« Sell me your soul and you will find your heart's desire in the death of those that betrayed you; Sell me your soul and I will be your servant in revenge ».

Fleddan hopelessly, accepted the deal.



Ghost as I am, now haunting the depth Abyss torn asunder, defying my shadowing fate

Dead as I am, looking for salvation Abyss sings beneath and cometo mesmerise me

HowI from beyond Roaring like million thunders HowI from beyond And I, and I ...

Female voice

Smothered and blinded, somewhere between My own heaven and hell, you'll never know ...this is my sin

Plague as I am, looking for destruction All the stars erased, the storm choirs pray for me

Female voice

HowI from beyond Roaring like million thunders HowI from beyond And I, and I ...

From here you rebirth
Dress in pain and tears
Roaming and crying
Far away, you let your soul

A magical red light opened the Devil's sea and suddenly, holds by the Demon's hand, the ghost ship of the Percival raised from its watery grave to accomplish its sad lonely mission. The revenge of the damned captain cursed promised to be terrifying.

Like a deadly mist emerging from nowhere, like the hand of an avenging god, the attack of the vessel ghost was faster than fire. The first victim of this weapon of the Devil was the Mandragor of Arkam Nabis. It flowed to the bottom of the sea of the Guild in less times that it is necessary to say it. Within a few weeks, all the ships of Bellias faced one by one the revenge of Aeddan and the Percival. The royal fleet was almost decimated. All of them perished in soar pains.



Condemned to kill to survive We're damned, we're lost Every drips of blood Feeds our dreary hate

I believe in sacrifice Yet I long for redemption The winds of time's blowing But the night remain the same

Wake up, prepare to die The harvest of souls begin Here to take your lives It's the harvest of souls

No one can attend my sores So much deep inside me I wanna spurn the sordid end But I'm chained by my oat

Wake up, prepare to die The harvest of souls begin Here to take your lives It's the harvest of souls

Through the haze, we came to take your souls A punishment for all your faults
No time to cry, by now, I hear the sough of A dozen men dead by my hand
Arkam was the first, so many ones will follow Bellias, spurious, dread my anger
Vengeance is mine, it's my burden

Wake up, prepare to die
The harvest of souls begin
Here to take your lives
It's the harvest of souls
Wake up, prepare to die
The harvest of souls begin
Follow all the dead ones
It's the harvest of souls



This squalid epic found its apogee when the Percival, emerging of waters in a strange and thick mist, faced the Deus Essae of the Prince Orian. This one sank in the depth of the sea of Emptiness, carrying away with him the King Bellias of Guerliande himself. In spite of the achievement of his vengeance, Aeddan remained prisoner of Hell and had to continue to kill under the ascendancy of the Devil.





Flone and unhappy, the Princess Licia, having seen all her shattered hopes, committed suicide from the top of cliffs at the tip of Guern. Quit of Gods, her soul couldn't find rest, and remained prisoner of Hell. In the Kingdom of the lost souls, she recovered her beautiful captain Aeddan, as she convicted for evermore to Hell. Through their death, they offered their hearts forever, that they had not to be able to do during their lives: Love has always been stronger than pain.

This great proof of love freed their souls and a majestic celestial gleam opened the doors of the Kingdom of Riannon, the goddess of all things, the spirit of the elements, the beginning and the end of all life.



Heddan and his crew, finally freed from their diabolical pact by this love, let the Percival sunk again but forever, in the depths of the seas for more to ever reappear to the surface of the waters.

Therefore Charles became the only King of Alkemia. As his father, he was a good king and made the island thrive while re-establishing peace for years too. The Queen Mother Morgana was banished of the Kingdom, and disowned by her family, the family of the shire of Guern, allied to the new King who became Charles II the Good.



The reigned for a long time, and made the lower of Alkemia happy. But a new tragedy wait its hour will come, hidden in the shadow.....And it is another tale!

Original story by ${\mathfrak T}_{mmanuel}$ (Ilcouffe

English translation & adaptation by Emmanuel Alcouffe, Pascal Brizard, Emnanuel Levasseur & Jean-Philippe "Warmaster" Rozsa