

PROLOG

Guest opinion in the Londinium Times by Professor Harvey Ressuls, September 1870

Distinguished and Gentle Males of the civilized races, I would like to take exception to a series of lectures given by the French, self-styled professor of Humanities, Marie Burns, advocating that humanity turn their backs on the technological wonders Terramagica has to offer in favor of mundane technology or worse, with the scraps the Eldarion give us in the magic Artifacts only they can create using Aethyr energy.

So we may all be on an equal footing, I will give a concise rendering of the earth's history as the common man understands it. Far back in the mists of time humans and other races were under the control of the Eldarion and Koncava races, which used men and Orku respectively to help the two races fight their endless wars. But humans, being the most prolific and ingenious of all the races, came to dominate the planet, and both the Eldarion and Koncava alike were relegated to the roles of advisor or court wizard, the two races reduced to influencing kings and emperors into continuing the savagery that had gone on for thousands of years. In time man became more enlightened and brought the other races with him, the Eldarion and Koncava learning to work together for the common good of their king (or queen) and country, the two races at times even forming rare friendships.

But which of the races is best suited as man's partner as we forge our Manifest Destiny? The Fae are long gone, if indeed they ever existed at all, and the Eldarion are withdrawing more and more into the wild places of the world without a care for the half-breed girls they leave behind. The Ogres and the Orku have their uses, but it is the Koncava, alone among the other races, who should take their place at mankind's side. Rome was the first human empire to ally itself solely with the Koncava, and their empire stretched farther than any other empire has ever done, with the exception of the English, of course. Even at the end, when the Eldarion allied hordes swept down from the east, it was the Koncava who kept anything of civilization together. *(Editorial note: it was the conversion of many Eldarions to the Christian faith in the 4th century that kept the remnants of civilization intact in a few places)* When the Roman general known to history as Arthur remained in Londinium with his legions, it was his Koncava engineers and not the Eldarion-Pict Merlin who held our fledgling kingdom together and laid the groundwork for the great empire we know today. *(Editorial note: scholars have debated this point*

fiercely, with evidence suggesting there was an unusual, for the times, alliance between the two races held together by the will of England's first king. While the Londinium Times editorial board heartily endorses the professor's sentiments, we feel that historical facts should not be altered).

I could go on but by now any reasonable man will see the folly of the professor's deluded reasoning. She is, of course, a woman, and thus a hopeless romantic, easily swayed by tales of the ancient past. Terramagica has given us trains that run on goblin gas without coal smoke staining the air, airships letting passengers travel in unprecedented luxury, speed, and safety, clean heat and light for the privileged to enjoy; the list goes on, and on. In her lecture she complained that workers are being exposed to Terramagica energies at levels never seen before, with unknown side effects, but I say what of it? Nothing has been shown to indicate exposure to Terramagica has any abnormal effects, and if it does then the workers will have to decide which is more important: a decent life for their family or starving in the streets.

Terramagica is the green cornucopia from which all the blessings of a civilized society flow, and if the other races cannot abide this then they must step out of the way as the races of humanity and the Koncava boldly march, in lockstep together, towards a Brave New World.