



TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THE SALT MYSTIC DECLARED HER VISION OF THE FORCES OF HISTORY, AND HOW TO HARNESS THEM TO SHAPE HUMAN EVENTS. NARAIA WAS THE NAME THEY GAVE TO THE WONDROUS, SPRAWLING REPUBLIC THAT AROSE FROM HER TEACHINGS, ENCOMPASSING COUNTLESS THRIVING CIVILIZATIONS ON LAND, FLOATING ON THE SEAS OR TETHERED TO THE SEA FLOOR, AND TUCKED INTO POCKETS OF ARTIFICIAL SPACE. IT WAS TO BE SO WONDROUS AND SO MIGHTY, IT BECAME KNOWN AS THE INFINITE REPUBLIC.

That much, any school child could say. What they never connected for you was just how those early wonder workers built such an enormous civilization “from her teachings”. What does that mean? And it has everything to do with what were called ‘the three-fold pillars of the republic’:

The Recorders, with their tattooed foreheads and creepy demeanors, were chemically and genetically modified to remember every sight, sound, and scent they encountered. The trojan horse purpose given was to capture every moment possible in crystalline precision for wisdom to be consulted by leaders, and that was so. A more fundamental purpose of governing societal behavior is preserved in the common greetings still in use today, wherein the response to being told to “be brave” or “do well” is to say simply “They will remember.”

The Malthus, garbed in red armor and hoods, were the enigmatic errand runners and assassins, able to weaponize the Salt Mystic’s calculus to shape human events. It was said a single Malthus could not just destroy a city, but make its own people do it for them. They did the dirty work needed to clear the way for the building.

And finally, **the Rauchka**, laughing and prancing jesters ever humbling those in high places, who were declared strictly untouchable from any retribution. You couldn’t even say a harsh word to them, for fear of quite literally the whole of society rising against you, and they rejoiced in tweaking the noses of the most prideful and arrogant among the elites.

Opinions vary perhaps about which was the more important function of these, though most people would smile at such a question and imagine which person in their own life could use a good nose tweaking.