

### ECKHARDT

Eckhardt is one of an alliance of six 13<sup>th</sup> century alchemists seeking immortality. He goes to Turkey in search of the last of the Nephilim, a dying race.

1345

Eckhardt seeks out the Nephilim and makes a pact which excludes the other alchemists. The Nephilim grant him 100 years of life to complete certain tasks for them.

The alchemists are being hounded by the Lux Veritatis.

100 years

The Nephilim protect Eckhardt from the Lux Veritatis.

Eckhardt plans how to cheat on the pact with the Nephilim.

1445

**The Reckoning.** Eckhardt tries to trick the Nephilim when his 100 years are up. He gets confined to the 'living death' in a pit – just to teach him a lesson. The punishment is only intended to be a short one – ten years.

1945

Eckhardt's Lux Veritatis guardians fail and he gets free. The Kriegler family are killed. Eckhardt is now a physical monstrosity with a grotesque kind of immortality. With the help of the Cabal he hunts down all remaining Lux Veritatis members. Begins to seek out the Obscura Paintings and build the bases in Prague (and Turkey).

2001

Preparations are almost complete for reawakening The Sleeper and the reestablishment of the Nephilim race. He will rule over the new beings.

### LUX VERITATIS

An order founded by the Knights Templar after they brought back the 3 Periapt Shards during the Crusades.

1345

The Lux Veritatis are fanatics dedicated to fighting and containing works of evil, particularly that of the Cabal of six alchemists.

100 years

The LV are constantly at war with the Alchemists.

1445

When Eckhardt is confined in the pit the LV use the 3 Periapt Shards to weaken and contain the Black Alchemist.

1445

Castle Kriegler is constructed over the pit. Not even the Nephilim can free Eckhardt even though they still need him to complete the tasks set out in their pact.

1945

Hereditary LV custodians, the Krieglers, guard the pit. They are all killed when Eckhardt escapes. The family servant, Gerhard Heissturm escapes with two of the Shards.

2001

The last of the Lux Veritatis, Konstatin Heissturm, is killed. Only his son Kurtis remains and he has cut all connection with the LV. His father's death is his wake up call.

### THE CABAL

Originally an alliance of six black art alchemists. Reduced to five members when Eckhardt treacherously makes a pact on his own.

1345

The alliance/Cabal fund Eckhardt to seek out the last survivors of the degenerating race, the Nephilim. None of them suspect Eckhardt's true motives.

100 years

1368

Before his final meeting with the Nephilim Eckhardt almost succeeds in killing the other five alchemists. Two of them survive and reform the Cabal to exact revenge on the traitorous Eckhardt.

1445

The five original Cabal members have all died and been replaced by new recruits. They still want Eckhardt's secret of longevity.

1888

Joachim Karel is initiated into the Cabal and becomes a new driving force behind the alliance. His identity as Shapeshifter remains hidden from everyone.

1945

Under Karel's leadership the Cabal successfully breaks the Kriegler guardianship and frees Eckhardt. They then swear allegiance to him in return for the secrets of longevity. They help him build his base in Prague and protect him as The Monstrum in Europe.

2001

Lara is drawn into the plot by the murder of Von Croy. She has several run-ins with the Cabal and their security forces – the Agency.

### NEPHILIM

Last of an ancient and dying race – the hybrid descendents of angels and mortals recorded in the Enochian gospels.

1345

They need to reinvigorate their race or die out. But they can't do it alone. When Eckhardt seeks them out in Turkey they know his ruthless and methodical nature can serve them well. They grant him 100 years of extra life.

100 years

1445

**The Reckoning.** Infuriated at Eckhardt's attempted treachery the Nephilim confine him to the pit. Their plan to let him out eventually is frustrated by the swift action of the Lux Veritatis building impenetrable defences over the pit. Massively patient they plan for other ways to free him. At all costs he must continue the work they set him - without knowing he still labours for the Nephilim.

2001

Shapeshifter/Karel stays close to Eckhardt allowing him to complete all his plans and seize the results of his labours by killing him at the very last minute. The Nephilim can then complete their rejuvenation without interference.