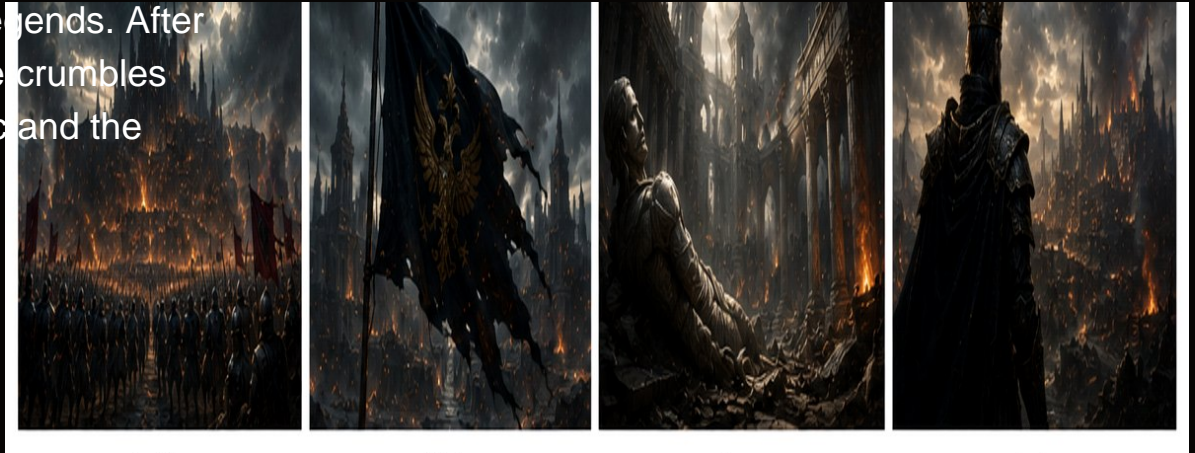

COLLECTION IV

The Fall of the First Empire

The greatest empire in history collapsed from within.

Document 033 continues the Age of Legends. After dragons enter the war, the First Empire crumbles beneath betrayal, fear, forbidden magic and the weight of its own ambition.



Prologue

For centuries, the First Empire of Aurelion believed itself eternal. Its banners stood above the central lands, its laws shaped kingdoms, and its throne claimed divine authority. But the First Great War revealed a truth the empire had hidden from itself: power without trust becomes a prison. The Dragon Lords had entered the conflict, ancient alliances were broken, and the people began to fear their own rulers. As smoke rose across the capital, the empire did not fall from one enemy's sword. It collapsed under betrayal, exhaustion, forbidden magic, and the terrible cost of trying to control Valekor's destiny.



The Fall Begins

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

Historical Event: Armies reach the imperial heartlands as the First Empire burns across the horizon.

Location: Aurelion Outer Fields

Main Characters: Imperial defenders, rebel legions, dragon scouts

Major Consequence: The empire realizes the war has reached its walls.

Legacy: The fall is no longer prophecy; it has begun.



The Fallen Banner

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

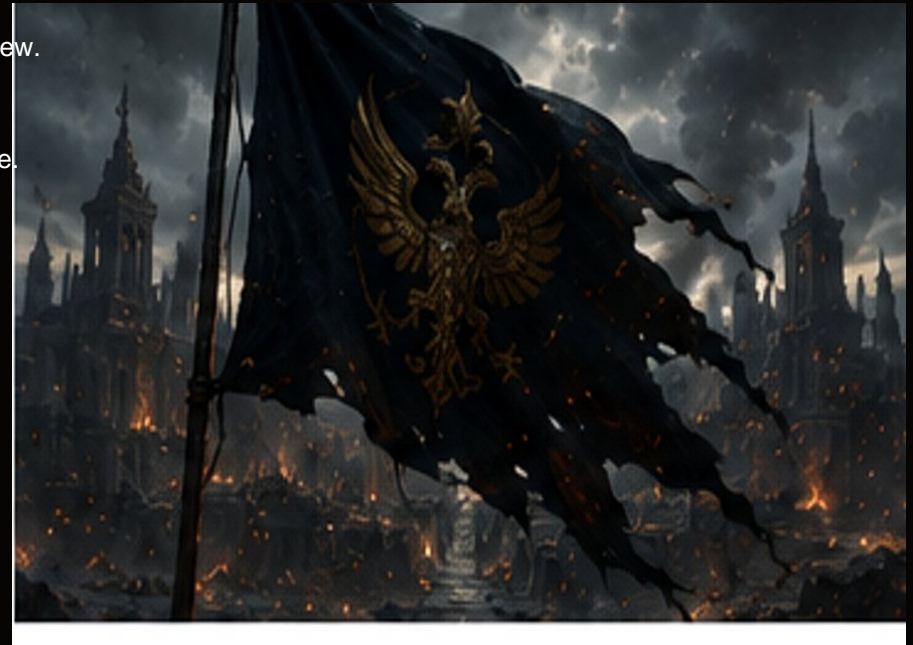
Historical Event: The imperial standard collapses over the battlefield as morale breaks across the front.

Location: Eastern War Road

Main Characters: Standard bearers, exhausted commanders, surviving soldiers

Major Consequence: The symbol of imperial unity is broken in public view.

Legacy: Aurelion's enemies see weakness for the first time.



The Dead General

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

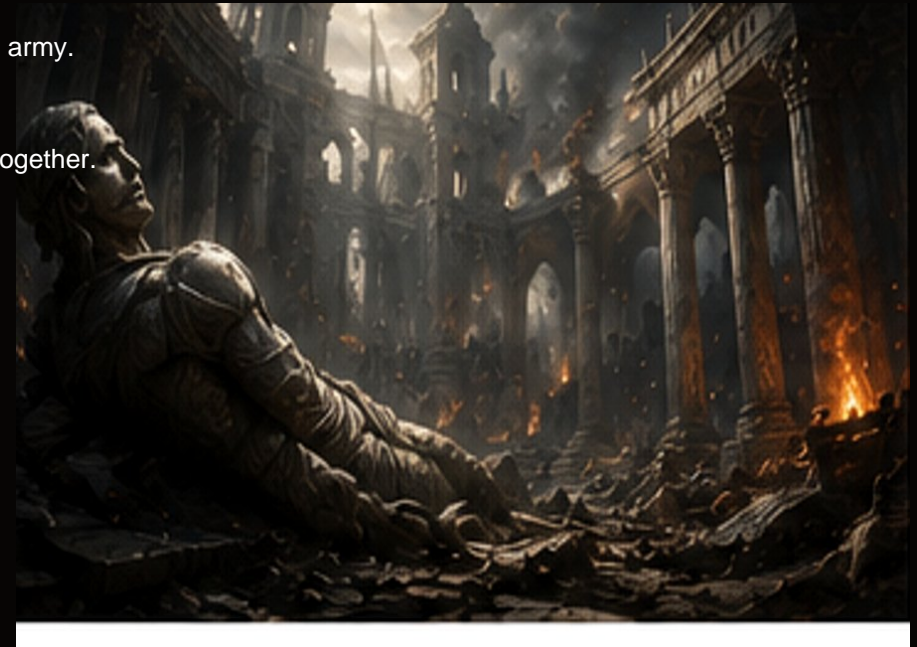
Historical Event: One of the empire's greatest commanders is found among the ruins of the old capital quarter.

Location: Broken Senate District

Main Characters: The High General, royal guards, grieving messengers

Major Consequence: Leadership fractures as fear spreads through the army.

Legacy: The empire loses the mind that held its defense together.



The Last King Watches

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

Historical Event: The last king of the First Empire looks over the burning city he failed to save.

Location: Imperial Watchtower

Main Characters: The Last King, royal advisors, city defenders

Major Consequence: The throne understands that survival may no longer be possible.

Legacy: The king becomes a tragic witness to the end of his own age.



The Shattered Army

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

Historical Event: The imperial army retreats through fire, smoke and broken roads.

Location: Ashen March

Main Characters: Imperial soldiers, wounded knights, enemy scouts

Major Consequence: The army that once conquered kingdoms becomes a line of survivors.

Legacy: The myth of invincible Aurelion dies.



033_05_shattered_army.jpg

The Rift of Destruction

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

Historical Event: Forbidden magic tears open the land beneath the empire's final defenses.

Location: Crown Rift

Main Characters: Arcane survivors, fleeing civilians, broken earth priests

Major Consequence: The land itself becomes a wound that cannot heal.

Legacy: The war has damaged Valekor's natural balance.



033_06_rift_of_destruction.jpg

The Sacred Throne Falls

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

Historical Event: The empty throne lies buried beneath dust, banners and shattered pillars.

Location: Hall of Eternal Rule

Main Characters: The royal line, palace guardians, unseen assassins

Major Consequence: The sacred seat of power is abandoned forever.

Legacy: The First Empire loses its divine image.



033_07_sacred_throne_fallen.jpg

Smoke Over Valekor

Scene of the Empire's Collapse

Historical Event: Smoke covers the continent as refugees look toward a future without empire.

Location: Aurelion Ruins

Main Characters: Refugees, scouts, wandering priests

Major Consequence: The collapse becomes visible far beyond the capital.

Legacy: Every kingdom understands a new age is coming.



033_08_smoke_over_valekor.jpg

Next Chapter

034 - The War of Light and Shadow

When the empire fell, the old balance broke. The next document reveals how light and darkness turned the ruins of Valekor into a battlefield of gods, shadows and forbidden power.