

He RBS

Now that most of the world was controlled by plants, the Humans, what was left of them, had to survive somehow. It was back to basics now, back to bare necessities, back to primal survival. Humans have been here before. When they were not on top of the food chain. Now they were hunted by the infected people, hunted like animals on a forbidden land.

The first place they hid in was the underground galleries where all the outlaws lived. Now overcrowded and with no means of procuring food, the human condition lowered itself once more. The years of cannibalism and power-to-the-powerful ruled the underground societies. If they could be called societies...

Many had dignity and took their chances to leave and venture into the Savaged World, where the infected were looking for them. None survived due to the virus spread in the breathable air. Many brave men managed to survive for a little longer using gas masks, but these were inefficient after a while. If they survived the air, they had to fight the packs of infected. If they killed the infected, the minute they died they would release a gas in the air that would alert more packs of infected. The battle was lost before it started.

Doctors were the ones that spread the first glimmer of hope among humans. Some of them decided to take back their humanity and stop living with everybody else. They went on a forced hunger strike and lived in small groups, dedicating all their existence and knowledge to improvement of life. The only way they could get everybody out of this barbarous state was to find a way to get out of the underground. And be able to live outside again.

First, they tried to improve the gas masks. That failed with loss of lives. Then they looked at the human breathing system and decided to compromise. They invented the aero filters.

The aero filters were inserted into the human larynx and had the sole purpose of filtering the air that the person was breathing. The filter's chip identified all substances needed for the body to function and what was not needed it stopped. The filter's life was about 6 months and it vibrated when it was due to expire.

The filter managed to get the people out of the sewers and caves and live outside again. Because the filter was in the larynx, which is located in the throat, all the body parts above the throat were damaged in time. People that lived a long time outside had no sense of smell or taste because the infected air outside destroyed most of these cells. Also areas that have been bombed had a high level of radioactivity which people did not know of in the beginning.

Living outside was dangerous at all times. People settled in places where plants were not growing that much, usually toxic areas or near the factories. They began building fortified settlements out of rocks first and later out of metal. They learned the powers and habits of the infected and how to survive them. They started producing their necessary needs, but it was now all artificial. Food was no longer natural and





had no taste. Water was filtered and had basic substances that made it healthy.

In time they developed true fortresses where factories used to be, and managed to develop weapons. People started talking about the old life and how they will conquer everything back from the plants. It was a long shot, but the start of manufacturing weapons gave them hope. They built high metal walls around their main production areas and populated areas, walls impossible to enter by the plants.

Life was getting better and better, but was still basic. People started to build communal spaces like churches and theaters and the birth rate started to move up again. Hope was in the air. Confidence was growing.

And with this confidence, plans for expansion were being developed. The plan was to connect one secure establishment to another by walls. Huge construction machines were built that could carry and deploy metal-wall sections while moving. It would take massive planning and defense to find a way of cutting through the plants savaged territory.

The first time this was achieved was outside the city of Mogilev, Belarus. What used to be a factory zone was now a fully functional human city with weaponry production. The leaders of this settlement managed to get in contact via radio with another human settlement 12 miles up north. They discussed all the details and plans for a potential connection and decided to try it.

It took almost a year and several lives lost for the machines to reach the small settlement and when they did, they assessed the development and community and realized it was not 100 % secure. The infected could easily attack the small settlement and it was just a matter of luck that they survived this long. The decision to close the connection was taken due to security problems.

After this, the Humans realized that they need to send someone in advance to find potential settlements to connect to and also potential routes. Such a job would mean to venture into the Savaged World individually or in small teams to assess the land and identify connection opportunities.

Nobody would volunteer to do such a thing. It was said the job had a 20% survival rate.

The leaders then looked to places and people that had no hope, or were outlawed by society even before the invasion.

Back when it all happened, in those moments of panic when humanity had no idea what will come of them, doctors tried different ways of fighting off the infected. They knew that the plants were stronger than the normal humans so they tried improving human's qualities through science. New medicine was developed in haste with no care for side effects, medicine that was supposed to make people stronger or give them an advantage over plants. Some worked, some didn't.

These experiments were not completely legal and had many fans and haters. So they had to locate them in undergrounds, in no conditions to properly operate or experiment. They were called "translabs", from "transformation labs". Here, doctors were experimenting freely on voluntaries that wanted to fight against plants. It was a total fiasco and soon people gave up on killing themselves in the name of science. After a while, the only volunteers were outlaws, suiciders or convicts.

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That's where The New World Leaders looked to find volunteers for the job.

That's where they found the right members to form the exploration unit. The name was decided by it's own members:

HeRBS – Hectic REMOVAL of BRANCHES and SCUM

