

**THE CHRONICLES
OF GOTHAM,
BOOK FIRST**

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The Chronicles of Gotham, book first by Richard Grant White

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RICHARD GRANT WHITE

**THE CHRONICLES
OF GOTHAM,
BOOK FIRST**

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME

AND

BY THE SAME AUTHOR,

THE FALL OF MAN;

OR, THE LOVES OF THE GORILLAS,

A SATIRE.

Upon the Darwinian Theory of Development by Sexual Selection.

W. H. G. Grant

THE

CHRONICLES OF GOTHAM.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"THE NEW GOSPEL OF PEACE."

BOOK FIRST.



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THE CHRONICLES OF GOTHAM.



CHAPTER I.

1. *The latter days of Gotham.* 3. *Cornelius.* 10. *Carrieth cucumbers to Gotham.* 12. *Taketh money on the road.* 14. *And in Ouahlstrete.* 16. *The Almighty Dahl Lar.* 18. *The image of Cornelius.* 25. *Daniel the Pharisee boweth not down to it.* 30. *The Query road.*

1. HERE begin the chronicles of Gotham in the latter days, when Ulysses ruled the land of Unculpsalm.

2. For after the days of the New Gospel of Peace which was preached by Phernandiwud, and which prevailed not, and whereof Benjamin the scribe wrote when the war was in the land of Unculpsalm, and after the days of Andrew, whose surname was Jonsing, Ulysses was made chief ruler.

3. In those days there was an image set up in Gotham, of a man whose name was Cornelius.

4. And this Cornelius was chief of a band called the Scent-rule band, which took money on the way as thou goest from the river Hutzoon to the great lakes. Now men who took money from wayfarers on the road were called Durrektabs. And sometimes he and his band took money in Ouahlstrete.

5. And he was a devout man, and prayed many times every day, praying for all things and chiefly for the souls of them that withstood him.

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6. And the manner of his prayer was in this wise, dahmizize and dahmizole; for such were the prayers of the devout men of Gotham.

7. And albeit they were not Pharisees, they prayed thus not only in their houses and in their chambers, but at the corners of the streets and in the market places, and in the temples where they worshipped the god of that city. In all these places dahmizize and dahmizole were heard continually.

8. And they called the name of their god Almighty Dahl Lar. And all men worshipped him, and of women not a few.

9. Now Cornelius had come to be one of the chief priests of this god in the city of Gotham. But in his youth he was a shipman. For he loved the water; so loving it to sail upon it, that he would in no wise diminish the quantity by drinking thereof.

10. And having a little ship, he carried the fruits of the earth, even corn and cucumbers, from the country round about Gotham up to the city; for that city stood upon an island.

11. And as the city grew, and Cornelius grew therewith, he made unto himself larger ships, even ships that were moved by the boiling of water in a caldron, very marvellous and terrible, according to a device of Satan, who was Cornelius's familiar spirit.

12. And Satan helped Cornelius, and he got great gain by the ships that were moved with caldrons; and he made unto himself more of them, and sent them into far countries, and took money from travellers by sea.

13. Now when he saw that he got great gain by taking money from travellers by sea, he said within himself: Are not the travellers by land an hundred-fold more in number than the travellers by sea? Go to, then; shall I not get more

by taking a little daily from these, than by taking much from those? Behold I will be a Durrektah, and take money on the land. (For is it not written that the Durrektahs were robbers?) Wherefore he sold his ships and began to take money on the roads which ran by the river Hutzoon, and from the Hutzoon as thou goest westward to the great lakes. For he was wise in his generation.

14. Likewise he took money in Onahlstrete; and there also he was helped by Satan. For Satan went to and fro in Onahlstrete every day, and up and down therein.

15. And Cornelius was a great man, and a mighty, and a goodly man to look upon. And he had sons and daughters, and sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, and men servants and maid servants, and men which were not of his household to whom he said, Go, and they went, and Come, and they came; so that there was a multitude to do his bidding; for he had a great following.

16. For so it was in Gotham that men gave themselves day and night to gathering unto themselves images of their god, the Almighty Dahl Lar, and he who had gathered many was called worthy of so many images, and he who had gathered most was deemed worthiest and greatest. And him they worshipped, even as he had worshipped the Dahl Lar.

17. Therefore, when the men of Gotham saw that Cornelius had gathered to himself a great number of the images of the Almighty Dahl Lar, even a multitude like to the stars of the firmament and the sands of the sea for number, they said one to another,

18. Lo, Cornelius is worthiest and best among us. Let us therefore set up his image, that we may bow down to it and worship it.

19. And Cornelius shall pay for the image.

20. For it was so in Gotham that when men said, What

shall be done to the man whom the people delight to honor? that they answered: Let us give him vessels of silver or vessels of gold, or let us set up his image, even a brazen image, or an image of stone, or a painted image, and let us grave thereon his name whom the people would honor, and moreover our own names, for so shall we be set up before the people, and seeming to do honor unto him, we shall get honor for ourselves, and seem to be chief men that speak for the people.

21. For this was the manner of men in Gotham; and men when they did this thing of themselves, not being asked to do so by others, called themselves a committee, because nothing had been committed unto them.

22. And the man whom they delighted to honor paid for the image and the vessels of gold and of silver; and when they were given to him, he received them with humility, and made an oration, saying he was not worthy of such honor. And so it was that Cornelius paid for his own image.

23. And the image was set up in the temple of the Hutzoon, that great river that floweth between Gotham in the country of Mannatton and the Jahrzees, even the temple which Cornelius himself had builded to the Almighty Dahl Lar, on the outer walls thereof, on high that it might be seen of all men.

24. And when the image was shown to the people, there was the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music; and the governor of the city made an oration, which he spake unto the people, but verily addressed to Cornelius; even as a priest made a prayer which he spake unto his god, but addressed to the people. And the people worshipped not their god, but bowed down before the image of Cornelius and worshipped it.

25. But one man bowed not down before the image of