

robert jordan eye of the world

robert jordan eye of the world is the first novel in the epic fantasy series "The Wheel of Time," penned by Robert Jordan. This influential work has captivated readers worldwide with its intricate world-building, complex characters, and a richly woven narrative that sets the stage for an expansive saga. As an introduction to the series, Eye of the World introduces the reader to a vast universe filled with magic, prophecy, and an ongoing battle between forces of light and darkness. This article explores the novel's background, plot, characters, themes, and its significance in the fantasy genre. Additionally, an examination of Robert Jordan's writing style and the book's reception provides a comprehensive understanding of why Eye of the World remains a cornerstone of modern fantasy literature.

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Background and Author

Robert Jordan, the pen name of James Oliver Rigney Jr., created one of the most ambitious fantasy series with Eye of the World, first published in 1990. Inspired by classic mythology, folklore, and historical events, Jordan crafted a complex narrative that appeals to fans of epic storytelling. The novel is the opening book of "The Wheel of Time" series, which eventually spans fourteen volumes plus a prequel. Jordan's background in history and his passion for fantasy literature contributed to the depth and realism found in the story and the world he created.

Development of the Series

The idea for the series began in the 1980s, with Robert Jordan intending to write a story that combined elements of traditional fantasy with a fresh, detailed approach. Eye of the World was the culmination of years of planning, outlining, and writing, marking the start of a saga that would influence countless authors and readers. Jordan's methodical world-building and

character development set a new standard for fantasy epic narratives.

Influences and Inspirations

Jordan drew on a variety of sources, including European and Asian myths, the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, and historical events such as the rise and fall of empires. This amalgamation of influences is evident in the intricate political systems, the magical elements, and the overarching theme of cyclical time that permeates the narrative. His academic background helped him integrate complex themes seamlessly into the story.

Plot Overview

Eye of the World follows a group of young protagonists from the small village of Emond's Field as they are thrust into a world of danger and adventure. Their journey begins when their village is attacked by malevolent creatures known as Trollocs, forcing them to flee with the help of a mysterious and powerful figure called Moiraine.

Beginning of the Journey

The novel opens with the introduction of Rand al'Thor, Mat Cauthon, Perrin Aybara, Egwene al'Vere, and others. The attack on Emond's Field acts as a catalyst, pushing the group into a larger conflict involving the Dark One, an evil force seeking to destroy the world. As they travel, they uncover secrets about themselves and the nature of the world they inhabit.

Key Events and Conflicts

The narrative is marked by a series of pivotal events, including battles with Darkfriends, encounters with the enigmatic Aes Sedai, and visits to exotic locations such as the city of Shadar Logoth. The group's dynamics evolve as they face external threats and internal challenges, highlighting themes of friendship, destiny, and sacrifice.

Climactic Resolution

The book culminates in a confrontation at the Eye of the World, a mystical location that holds significant power. Here, the protagonists confront the forces of darkness, setting the stage for the ongoing struggle that will be explored throughout the series. This resolution provides both closure and anticipation for future installments.

Main Characters

Robert Jordan's *Eye of the World* is notable for its diverse and well-developed cast of characters, each contributing uniquely to the story's progression and thematic depth.

Rand al'Thor

The central figure of the novel, Rand is a young farmer who discovers he has a pivotal role in the fate of the world. His journey from innocence to responsibility is a core element of the narrative.

Mat Cauthon and Perrin Aybara

Rand's close friends, Mat is known for his luck and roguish charm, while Perrin embodies strength and a connection to nature. Both characters undergo significant growth and face their own personal trials.

Egwene al'Vere

Egwene is a determined and intelligent young woman who aspires to become an Aes Sedai, a powerful group of women who can channel the One Power. Her character introduces themes of empowerment and ambition.

Moiraine Damodred and Lan Mandragoran

Moiraine, an Aes Sedai, and her Warder Lan act as protectors and guides for the group. Their knowledge of the larger conflict and mysterious abilities add depth to the storyline.

- Rand al'Thor – The prophesied hero
- Mat Cauthon – The luck-driven trickster
- Perrin Aybara – The strong and thoughtful blacksmith
- Egwene al'Vere – The aspiring Aes Sedai
- Moiraine Damodred – The powerful Aes Sedai
- Lan Mandragoran – The stoic warrior

Themes and Motifs

Several recurring themes and motifs define Robert Jordan's *Eye of the World*, enriching the narrative and inviting readers to contemplate broader ideas.

Good versus Evil

The central conflict revolves around the battle between the forces of light and darkness, embodied by the protagonists and the Dark One. This classic theme is explored with nuance, examining moral ambiguity and the cost of heroism.

Destiny and Prophecy

Characters grapple with fate and free will, as prophecies guide much of the storyline. The tension between predetermined destiny and individual choice is a recurring motif throughout the novel.

Cycle of Time

The Wheel of Time itself symbolizes the cyclical nature of history and existence. This concept influences the plot and character arcs, emphasizing the repetition of events and the importance of legacy.

Power and Responsibility

The use of magic, particularly the One Power, raises questions about the ethical use of power and the responsibilities that come with it. The novel explores how different characters handle these challenges.

Writing Style and World-Building

Robert Jordan's writing in *Eye of the World* is characterized by detailed descriptions, immersive settings, and a multi-layered narrative structure. His approach to world-building is meticulous, creating a believable and expansive fantasy universe.

Detailed Setting

The world of the series is richly imagined, with diverse cultures, languages, and histories. Jordan's attention to detail extends to geography, politics, and social structures, enhancing the reader's engagement.

Complex Magic System

The One Power, a source of magical energy, is intricately developed with specific rules and limitations. This system adds realism to the fantasy elements and affects character development and plot progression.

Narrative Style

The novel employs a third-person limited perspective, shifting focus among different characters. This technique allows insight into various viewpoints and deepens the emotional resonance of the story.

Reception and Legacy

Since its release, Robert Jordan's *Eye of the World* has received critical acclaim and commercial success, establishing a devoted fanbase and influencing the fantasy genre significantly.

Critical Acclaim

Reviewers praised the novel for its originality, depth, and compelling storytelling. The blending of traditional fantasy elements with innovative concepts was highlighted as a major strength.

Impact on Fantasy Literature

Eye of the World helped revitalize epic fantasy in the 1990s, inspiring numerous authors and spawning a dedicated community. Its success paved the way for the continuation of the series and adaptations in other media.

Ongoing Popularity

The book remains a favorite among fantasy readers, often recommended as a starting point for the genre. Its themes, characters, and world-building continue to resonate, ensuring its place as a classic.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Robert Jordan in 'The Eye of the World'?

Robert Jordan is the pen name of James Oliver Rigney Jr., the author of 'The Eye of the World,' which is the first book in his epic fantasy series 'The

Wheel of Time.'

What is 'The Eye of the World' about?

'The Eye of the World' follows a group of young villagers from the Two Rivers who are thrust into a dangerous journey to evade dark forces and discover their destinies in a richly detailed fantasy world.

When was 'The Eye of the World' first published?

'The Eye of the World' was first published in 1990, marking the beginning of Robert Jordan's influential 'Wheel of Time' series.

What makes 'The Eye of the World' significant in fantasy literature?

'The Eye of the World' is significant for its complex world-building, intricate magic system, and its role in revitalizing epic fantasy in the 1990s, influencing many authors who followed.

Who are the main characters introduced in 'The Eye of the World'?

Main characters include Rand al'Thor, Mat Cauthon, Perrin Aybara, Egwene al'Vere, and Nynaeve al'Meara, along with the mysterious Aes Sedai Moiraine Damodred and her Warder Lan Mandragoran.

How does 'The Eye of the World' start the 'Wheel of Time' series?

'The Eye of the World' sets up the central conflict of the series by introducing the main characters and their journey, revealing the looming threat of the Dark One and the prophecy surrounding the Dragon Reborn.

Are there adaptations of 'The Eye of the World'?

Yes, 'The Eye of the World' and the 'Wheel of Time' series have been adapted into a television series by Amazon Prime Video, which brings Robert Jordan's epic story to a broader audience.

Additional Resources

1. The Great Hunt

The second book in Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time* series, *The Great Hunt* continues the epic journey that began in *The Eye of the World*. It follows Rand al'Thor and his companions as they pursue the powerful Horn of Valere, a legendary artifact that can summon heroes from the past. The story

expands the world's mythology and introduces new characters, deepening the intrigue and danger surrounding the battle between Light and Shadow.

2. *The Dragon Reborn*

In this third installment of **The Wheel of Time**, Rand al'Thor begins to accept his destiny as the Dragon Reborn, a prophesied figure destined to save or destroy the world. The narrative focuses on Rand's struggle with his newfound identity and power, while his friends face their own challenges. Jordan's intricate world-building and character development shine, making it a pivotal book in the series.

3. *The Shadow Rising*

Book four of **The Wheel of Time** series delves deeper into the rich cultures and histories of Jordan's world. Rand and his allies confront internal and external threats as the Dark One's influence grows. This volume is known for its expansive scope, intense character arcs, and significant plot twists that propel the series toward its climax.

4. *The Wheel of Time Companion* by Robert Jordan and Harriet McDougal

This comprehensive reference book is a must-have for fans of **The Wheel of Time**. It offers detailed entries on characters, places, terminology, and events throughout the series. The Companion enhances readers' understanding and appreciation of Jordan's complex world and intricate storytelling.

5. *The Sword of Shannara* by Terry Brooks

While not part of **The Wheel of Time**, this fantasy classic shares thematic elements with Jordan's work, such as a young hero's quest and a richly imagined world. Terry Brooks' debut novel follows Shea Ohmsford as he embarks on a perilous journey to find a magical sword to defeat an evil warlock. Fans of epic fantasy will find familiar motifs and a captivating adventure.

6. *Memory of Light* by Robert Jordan and Brandon Sanderson

The final book in **The Wheel of Time** series, completed posthumously by Brandon Sanderson based on Jordan's notes, brings the epic saga to a close. It depicts the Last Battle between the forces of Light and Shadow, resolving long-standing mysteries and character arcs. The novel delivers a satisfying and emotional conclusion to the beloved series.

7. *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss

This modern fantasy novel follows the story of Kvothe, a gifted young man who grows into a legendary figure. Like Jordan's work, it features intricate storytelling, deep character exploration, and a richly detailed world. Readers who appreciate the blend of myth, magic, and personal struggle in **The Eye of the World** will enjoy this compelling narrative.

8. *The Lies of Locke Lamora* by Scott Lynch

Though focusing more on intrigue and con artistry, this book offers a richly crafted fantasy world with complex characters and high stakes. It tells the story of Locke Lamora, a master thief, navigating dangers in the city of Camorr. Fans of intricate plots and immersive world-building in Jordan's work may find this novel equally engaging.

9. *The Black Prism* by Brent Weeks

The first book in *The Lightbringer* series introduces a unique magic system based on light and color. It features political intrigue, epic battles, and complex characters caught in a struggle for power. Readers who enjoyed the multifaceted narrative and world-building of *The Eye of the World* will appreciate Brent Weeks' imaginative storytelling.

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