

On Violent Sands, by Dr Henri Meirtmane, 4686 AR

This volume describes an expedition led by the famed scholar Doctor Henri Meirtmane of the Sincemakti School of Sciences in Rezenport. Dr Meirtmane led a group of several veteran scholars and a small number of his most promising students to Katheer, capital of Qadira. There the scholars intended to explore some freshly unearthed ruins outside of Katheer and learn more about the ancient empires of Osirion, Kelesh, and Ninshabur.

During the expedition, Doctor Meirtmane discovered the location of a copy of a fantastically rare tome called The Chain of Nights. However, this attracted the attention of a drug cult sworn to a mysterious entity they called the King in Yellow. This cult kidnapped one of Dr Meirtmane's students, a promising young man called Ulver Zandalus, and subjected him potent hallucinogens and intense psychological torture. The cultists demanded the tome in return for the student.

Dr Meirtmane managed to locate and rescue his unfortunate student after only three days, but the mind of Zandalus was irreparably damaged and he had lost the ability to speak.

The book does not describe what happened to Zandalus, but focuses on the discoveries and knowledge gained by the expedition.