



## The Mandalan Chronicles - Project Description

The Mandalan Chronicles are a unique retelling of the Arthurian Legends designed to provide a lens to see ourselves as interconnected parts and whole at the same time. History repeats itself and we as a human race have shown ourselves poor learners from the successes and failures of the past. This 5th Century view combines history, legend, and myth in an open story framework staged to better see ourselves in the 21st Century.

The Mandalan Chronicles, when complete, will encompass the general content and structure (stories, plots, characters) of Sir Thomas Malory’s LeMorte d’Arthur in a seven volume set. It is unique however, to Malory’s or any of the hundreds of interpretations of the Arthurian Legends in a number of ways. The table below considers several unique features and benefits.

Feature	Purpose	Premise, Benefits and Application
Legend and myth are presented on a documented or plausible historical backdrop	Provides a lens to see ourselves and our world in the 21st Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History repeats itself and we have failed to learn its lessons</li> <li>• We sit in fragments of the world (parts in wholes) and therefore cannot faithfully see the whole</li> <li>• The Arthurian Legends are the largest set of contiguous stories that exist—they provide thousands of opportunities to see individuals and communities as they function within a large setting</li> </ul>
Legendary and mythical characters and communities mix with documented characters, communities	Connect stories to real life  Provide open ended learning experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legends and myths provide distillations of the most vital aspects of human history and activity</li> <li>• We can safely see ourselves reflected in “other” characters in similar situations allowing us increased opportunity to change</li> <li>• Provokes desire to understand history and therefore learn from it</li> </ul>
Lyric prose and poetry interwoven with art and historical notations	Capture diverse audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stimulus to break existing paradigms and expand imaginative thinking</li> <li>• Lyricism and art open doors to balance left and right brain thinking</li> <li>• Density and imagery allows high content in few words—stories can be read aloud</li> </ul>
Publication—series over time rather than single event	Create opportunities for deep change  Wider and deeper audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event based training/education fails to foster systemic change (we have a long history to prove it—quick fix fails)</li> <li>• Concepts are seen in differing situations over time leading to in-depth learning and increased opportunity to put into practice</li> <li>• Release over time builds momentum for greater overall sales and therefore greater impact</li> </ul>
Part of larger system	Practice what is sown  Systemic positive change over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many good ideas fall on fallow ground—they lack context or systems and tools to put them to right use</li> <li>• Entry point for readers can arise from the Chronicles, Reflections or IC Excel™</li> <li>• Interchange within the system expands the system</li> </ul>

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### Categorization - the Trouble with Fit

The Mandalan Chronicles™ are designed to achieve the above while also being literary, artistic, and enjoyable. Comments on work completed include “serious,” “unique,” “powerful,” “lyric,” “humorous,” and “tragic,” with “beautiful imagery, prose, and presentation.” A frequent expression is, “I have never seen any work quite like it.” This statement is followed by various version of the same question, “What is it: poetry, history, mythology, sociology, science or other form of fiction, religion, spiritual, organizational development, or other grouping?”

The Chronicles defy the normal process of categorization. Where do the Chronicles belong at Barnes and Noble, the library, or Amazon.com? If they did fit into a “ready” category however, it would be counter to principles most dear to their creation. Categorization is a fragmenting process. To cooperate fully with our societies need to categorize all publications, including The Chronicles, would insure their defeat before any book is printed. As a body of work they must always stand in tension to the arbitrary demands to cubbyhole them in some grouping that is likely to define them too narrowly or label them for what they are not.

***“We have limited our results because we have not addressed cultural, systemic and human issues that relate to technology introduction and other change.”***

### Technology - Great Advances with Little Recognized Loss

In the development of civilization, especially since the invention of the printing press, we have advanced greatly in making written and other information transfer available throughout the world. Unfortunately, a little recognized loss that accompanied these gains has had a devastating effect. Before the printing press news and stories were relayed verbally throughout populations; troubadours and storytellers were the conduits of the *word*. Books and other forms of writing were the privilege of the privileged.

***Winning does not tempt that man, this is how he grows: by being defeated, decisively by constantly greater beings.***

—Relke

The basic human connection, before the printing press, was people-to-people, both in one-on-one and in community. Frequently, there was a group of people with a storyteller, who in words or words and music, joined in a complex relationship with the community present. The basic interchange was person-to-person with full advantage given to eye contact, body language, facial expression, vocal tone and trill, tears, laughter, and other amenities of human contact.

Today the basic interchange is person to object; Stanley Smith to the Detroit Free Press, Ann Webb to Ebay, the Preston family to their TV sets showing Lost, Rambo, or other, Nell Ferguson to her new book, and Janet Brock to the Sunday service and sermon. The last example may be challenged, yet when was the last time real conversation took place after even the best sermon. The configuration in all cases is eyes-to-object with opportunities for in-depth human connection bleak.

### The Chronicles and The Mandalan Quest

Whether the systems of The Mandalan Quest can effectively challenge the sibling dragon of categorization or help restore benefits of person-to-person connection is unknown. It is designed to do so but there is no basis to look to for sure direction. “Good luck,” is a frequent response to stated hopes for the Quest. What we know for sure however, is that the world suffers from over dependence on person-to-object connection to the neglect of person-to-person connection. The Mandalan Quest like all quests is an experiment, change has been the root function in its development and change continues to shake its assumptions and know-for-sure’s.

It is impossible to discuss the many why’s and wherefore’s that have resulted in the current state of The Mandalan Chronicles. Here is the Prologue to the Chronicles as they are now pictured as a seven novella/small novel set to be published over a seven to ten year period.

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