The CITY OF GEM began when the prospector, Rankar, discovered gems in a deposit. Through his ingenuity and cuthroat business practices, Gem became the most affluent city in the region with a monopoly on the gem trade.



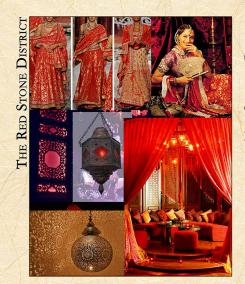
Gem stands in the shadow of a hollow caldera at the edge of the FIRE MOUNTAINS, most of the city existing below the surface in large lava tubes. The most prominent landmark is the DESPOT's palace viewable from above and below the surface.

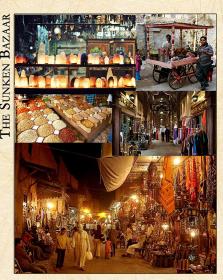
THE LANDSCAPE OF GEM

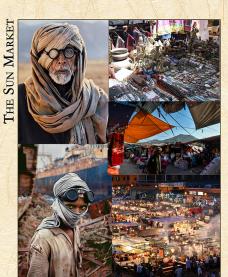


THE DESPOT'S PALACE











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The residents of Gem live mostly beneath the surface in large lava tubes with apartments or above surface in shaded areas. The affluent can afford nice dwellings above and below ground, while the poor cram themselves in smaller lava tubes or makeshift shacks.



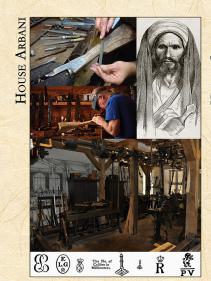
The original Despot kept a monopoly on the gem trade by allying himself with complementary businesses which he elevated to the noble houses of Gem. They are House Arbani, House Sahlak, House Iblan, House Circla, and House Trasti.

Upper Class / Subterannean Quarters

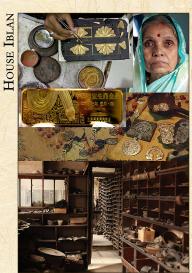


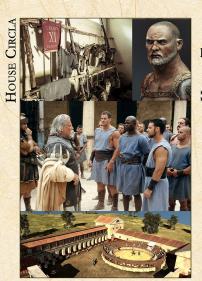
LOWER CLASS / LAVA TUBES AND SURFACE SLUMS

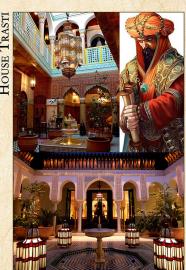












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