

I'm glad that you enjoy the backstory and lore and stuff. I'm also happy the scaling checks out, I was trying to make sure I got all that right for my first post in the sub.

And as to the question on history, the world is very different.

For instance, the Immortal is a Neanderthal, among the first of his kind from Homo Heidelbergensis in the Atapuerca Mountains of Spain... He was cursed with immortality through regeneration (he feels the pain in reverse as his body puts itself back together, and he'll come back from anything, including atomization, existence erasure may put him down for good though) and with visions of his species dying out to the endless horde that is the Sapiens... so he established a prehistoric empire between the Caspian and Black Seas and unified the scattered Neanderthal tribes, over time spreading along the entire southern coast of Europe and into the Northern parts of the Middle East and across the Ural Mountains, forming a barrier that held Homo Sapiens back for millennia longer than in our world.

Not to mention that the source of the Immortal's curse, a Great Spirit, was a precursor to what we would understand as a god. The Immortal traveling the world and closing these gates even throughout prehistory, sealing off an otherwise open connection to the Divine Realm, which prevented the forces within from forming independently, requiring the ideas of the genus Homo to take shape.

Now, as time marched on, Mesopotamia and ancient African territories became extremely organized and connected, locked in a struggle for tens of thousands of years as near contemporaries with Homo Neanderthalensis to simply spread out, as the Immortal, worshipped as an undying godlike leader among his species repelled nearly every attempt of expansion and settlement into Europe and Northwest Asia by the Sapien species. However, due to the limitations of the Neanderthal mind, the Immortal would lose his memory due to simply having seen too much, so he took to recording down and hiding all he knew, teaching what he could to his species, various caches of his knowledge found ages later by the Followers of the Immortal, it being discovered that the Neanderthals has advanced out of the stone age some time in the mid 300,000s BC with cuneiform like writings etched into stone tablets in one of the first caches found followed by some kind of preserved parchment analogue found next, they also found many caches of knowledge that upon examination and reexamination were not just cave paintings, but murals of progress. The Neanderthals learned mathematics and medicine, some primitive but surprisingly advanced physics with the first usage of slings coming about through them as well as larger forms of it. However, as the caches were uncovered the stores of knowledge became more condensed and increasingly erratic, the Immortal's loss of sanity evident after hundreds of thousands of years alive.

Now, all that considered, we'd see a far different ethnic diaspora and thus cultural structure. As the Neanderthals were ultimately pushed out of Europe and into North Asia, with the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and other Sapien civilizations had become so connected and logistically capable due to that that they managed to break through into southern Spain, the Urals, and the Mediterranean, settling many islands and all along the fringes of Neanderthal

society, having adapted to the Immortal's lapses in capability when he recludes himself to create a cache of knowledge. They also brought with them their gods and came with the monsters and mythical beings of their beliefs. And despite the strength of the Immortal's Empire, only known in history as "The First" / "The Great Neander Barrier" the unified power of the Sapiens and their mythical beings broke the empire while the Immortal hid away to regain his mind and record down all his memories of that era, roughly in the last years of the 7000s to 6900s BC.

As an aside, the Divine Gates served as the source of mythical beings, monsters, power, and also as a means to enter the "afterlife" or "other realms" of various religions or belief systems, taking the shape of whatever was believed in the area. There were roughly as many gates as there were cultures, but these were determined to have been somehow man-made and destructible. There are also Great Gates, which come about when near every gate in a region (Southeast Asia, North Asia, Eurabia, Southwestern North America, etc) which causes a cataclysmic event where the Divine Realm floods a region and lays waste to it with entropic energies, often followed by the invasion of exceedingly powerful deific beings and monsters. The last kind of Gates are known as Primeval Gates, ones dating back to the first hominids and maybe even before, requiring keys to open (Holy Grail, Excalibur, the pre Islamic cube thing, etc) and when they are opened they act as stable Einstein-Rosen bridges, allowing one to travel to a higher plane of existence and speak with... something beyond understanding and truly divine.

I digress, when the Immortal reemerged to see his people forcibly driven from their lands, he unified them again and some sympathetic Sapiens, and raged against the powers of bronze age man. Becoming known to them as An/Anu, and many of his FOLLOWERS coming to be known as demigods or gods themselves, with him striking down the "false" and now nameless gods and forcibly closing the Divine Gates across Europe, Africa, and Arabia, and Northern Asia. For each gate shut he grew more powerful, he forged weapons imbued with the Gate's energies, legendary mythical weapons that would gain many names amongst mortal kind. But the damage had been done, his people had been pushed to the Urals, the Neanderthal species mixing with the Sapiens of Northern Asia and as the Immortal understood it at first, disappearing, but he did not give up, instead he took to protecting all of the genus Homo. He became a more secretive figure, a puppet master leading a far smaller and highly trained group of Inquisitors empowered by him and wielding his magical arms, watching for any Gateway opening and swiftly shutting it.

His destruction of the Divine Gates over the centuries correlated with the collapses of civilizations, Egypt began to fall in prominence and power due to their gods being slain at the Battle of the Nile where the Immortal reversed the flow of the Nile River and destroyed much of the agriculture of the region when he spilled the divine blood of the Ennead across the desert alongside their subjects with it still being regarded as a cursed mass grave even into the modern day. Despite being known as An/Anu he served as the catalyst for the end of Sumeria. And in the 2nd century, we saw the first opening of a Great Gate, with many of the Immortal's Inquisitors butchered during the color rebellions of Han Dynasty China, by the time he arrived in the region he witnessed the Gate open and barely managed to contain the devastation to Southeast Asia, with the only relatively safe and habitable territory being the very furthest

reaches of the Korean Peninsula and Northern Nippon (Japan). Here he fought the Beast, the first sign of what was truly afoot on Kytón, a miles tall and long and wide monstrosity fat with divine power that was meant to be worshipped as a false god by mortal kind, he battled it for 6 and a half years straight, the land rending apart, mountains splitting and what can only be compared to supernuclear impacts shook the continent as he expended every bit of power he had to slay the monster, ultimately proving successful, but then he vanished for centuries. Reappearing allegedly at the helm of a millions strong invasion force into Rome in the 470s, having prevented them from forming into their empire many times, as well as others. Then, the Divine Gate in Rome violently erupted and saw the entire province fall into the Sea, and the Immortal was never seen again... For over 1600 years at least...

Elsewhere, North and South America remain mostly untouched, their Gates opened and their mythical monsters, spirits, and gods living amongst them, Great Gate events having laid waste to several regions in ancient wars they fought. The Siberian Khanate has territory on the Eastern Coast of North America, around Vinland and in South America where Brazil would be, allying with the indigenous peoples to keep any burgeoning rival imperial powers from invading the region to gain strength to fight them back. This has afforded the Indigenous tribes untold unity and territorial consolidation seeing many great nations and empires form in the "New World". The Immortal has also never set foot in the Americas, nor are they called the Americas, I just haven't found the words for the continents yet.

I apologize for the word wall, but history is a wee bit different lol. Many imperial powers never took root and ones that did were far different because of the Gate influences and the Immortal's presence, as well as the prominence of Neanderthals into early history.

Judaio-Christian faith still comes about, but is more relegated to the Middle East, not expanding beyond due to the Immortal's Inquisition and the relatively areligious world they found themselves in. With Jesus never being crucified and living his whole life out teaching and preaching in Antioch, with his disciples all throughout the region.

The Followers have basically nudged history in their favor to find the Immortal's caches and "continue his work" but this is a lie, as they seek to ascend in the way he did, to become gods as he did. But they don't know what price he paid to gain that power.

Also here's what the Immortal looked like... As his appearance was very well recorded due to having existed for so long, there were tens of thousands of sources depicting him consistently, with his last portrait being a 3rd century mosaic of Him and his Followers, almost appearing as Odin would, but he was also known to be the greatest warrior who ever lived, the origin of every form of combat across the world except maybe for those of the Americas.