

Chronological Events (as conveyed in *BO:LoK* and *SR*)

Before recorded history

- The genesis of the Pillars of Nosgoth – the nine Pillars (representing Mind, Dimension, Conflict, Nature, Energy, Time, States, Death, and – at the center of all of them – Balance) which are intrinsically and supernaturally tied to the spiritual and physical health of the land.
- The formation of the Circle of Nine – a body of sorcerers entrusted with the safekeeping of the Pillars, each sorcerer serving a Pillar and representing the principle it embodies.
Just as the origin of the Pillars is lost to history, the genesis of the Circle of Nine is also unknown. As long as the Pillars have existed, there has been a body of sorcerers sworn to protect them. When a member dies, the supernatural force behind the Pillars calls a worthy successor, who is destined from birth to fulfill that role.
- The Soul Reaver is forged
- The era of Janos Audron – reputed to have been the greatest vampire that ever lived.
- The human Vorador is born
- Vorador becomes a vampire

Nosgoth's early history – (centuries before the events of *BO:LoK*)

- The vampire races increase – some clans prey indiscriminately upon humans, attracting the attention of the Circle.
- The human Raziel is born
- The formation of the Sarafan, and the crusade to counter the perceived “vampire menace”.
The Sarafan were a monastic order of warrior-priests, whose singular cause was the eradication of the vampires “plaguing” Nosgoth. The Sarafan order was formed by the Circle of Nine (the oligarchy of sorcerers sworn to protect Nosgoth).
- The Vampire Purges – thousands of vampires are exterminated at the hands of the Sarafan.
The Sarafan hunt down and destroy the various enclaves of vampires, using inquisitorial tactics. They use torture to extract information about other vampires' locations – promising their victims an easy death in return for information.
- The death of Janos Audron – he is murdered, his heart torn “throbbing and bleeding” from his living body.
- Vorador takes his revenge upon the Circle, for their sponsorship of the Sarafan crusade.
Vorador infiltrates the stronghold of the Circle of Nine and murders six of the sorcerers, before humiliating the Sarafan general Malek (the Guardian of Conflict) in combat.
- The necromancer Mortanius (one of the surviving Circle members, and the Guardian of Death) punishes Malek for his failure to protect the Circle, by fusing his soul into a magical suit of armor. Malek, now disembodied and immortal, is thus damned to serve and protect the Circle (and represent the Pillar of Conflict) for eternity.
- The death of the Sarafan commanders – Raziel, Turel, Dumah, Rahab, Zephon, and Melchiah – who are entombed as heroic martyrs.
- The Pillars cull new successors to take the place of the fallen sorcerers.
- Disgusted and disillusioned, Vorador retreats from the world of human affairs, ensconcing himself in his remote mansion.

Pre-Blood Omen History – (in the decades before *BO:LoK*)

- The necromancer Mortanius is possessed by a dark entity known as Hash'ak'gik. Their two wills struggle for dominance of Mortanius' body – at times Mortanius maintains control; at other times Hash'ak'gik manipulates him like a puppeteer.
- Ariel – the Guardian of Balance – is murdered, apparently at Mortanius' hands. It is actually Hash'ak'gik – in the guise of Mortanius – who assassinates Ariel.
- Ariel's murder drives her beloved, Nupraptor (the Guardian of the Mind), insane with grief. In his agony, he unleashes a telepathic assault that ripples across Nosgoth, infecting the other members of the Circle (who are all symbiotically connected) with his madness.
With the infection of Nupraptor's madness, the Circle – who, as the “Protectors of Hope” are sworn to preserve the land – are now poisoning the land with their deranged sorcery.
- The human Kain is born – the son of one of Nosgoth's noble families. He is (unknowingly) marked from birth as Ariel's successor; it is his destiny to take her place as the Guardian of Balance.
- The Pillars reflect their patrons' corruption, growing gray and corroded. For Nosgoth to be preserved, the infection must be eliminated – the entire Circle, now wholly corrupted, must die so that the Pillars may cull new successors, and the land may be healed.
- The nobleman Kain departs from his home city of Coorhagen on a journey across Nosgoth.

The events of *Blood Omen*

- Mortanius orchestrates Kain's assassination – Mortanius is in control for now; not Hash'ak'gik. In the village of Ziegsturhl, Kain is ambushed by brigands, who murder and cruelly impale him with a sword.
- Kain's body is interred in a crypt west of Ziegsturhl.

- Kain awakens in the underworld, where Mortanius offers to revive him, so that Kain may take revenge upon his assassins. Kain, heedless of the cost, accepts the necromancer's offer. The catch: in order to rejoin the world of the living, Kain is reborn as a vampire.
- Kain awakens in his mausoleum, and begins his "unlife" as a vampire.
- Kain finds his assassins and kills them, getting his revenge – but Mortanius drives him on to the Pillars, saying that the brigands were only the instruments of his murder, not the cause.
- Kain visits the decaying Pillars for the first time, meets the spectre Ariel, and learns the nature of his quest. The Circle – the sorcerers poisoning Nosgoth – must be destroyed for the land to be healed and the Pillars righted. Kain wants only to be cured of his vampirism – Ariel promises him release (and peace) when the Balance is restored.
- Following Ariel's direction, Kain hunts down and kills the Circle members one by one, returning the "tokens" of their service in order to heal each Pillar in turn. The mentalist Nupraptor is Kain's first victim.
- Kain confronts the immortal warrior Malek in his frozen, bleak stronghold, but Malek eludes him.
- Kain meets the Oracle of Nosgoth, a reclusive soothsayer who holds court in the arctic caves of the northern mountains. The Oracle warns Kain of the legions of the Nemesis attacking from the north, of the bereaved King Ottmar of Willendorf, helpless to withstand their attack. He gives Kain some of Malek's history, including his defeat centuries ago at the hands of the vampire Vorador. Kain, intrigued, asks for more information about Vorador – the Oracle directs him to Vorador's mansion.
The Oracle is in fact Moebius the Time Streamer, member of the Circle of Nine (representing the Pillar of Time). He uses the guise of the Oracle to influence pilgrims and orchestrate events. Kain only learns much later how much of his quest was manipulated by Moebius.
- Kain meets Vorador, Nosgoth's oldest and most-evolved vampire. Vorador recounts the stories of the Sarafan vampire purges, and his revenge upon the Circle and Malek. He warns Kain not to meddle in the affairs of men, and offers him a ring by which Kain may summon Vorador if he is ever in need of his assistance.
- Kain travels north to "Dark Eden", a twisted corruption of nature created by a triumvirate of the deranged sorcerers – Bane, DeJoule and Anacrothe, the Guardians of Nature, Energy and States (respectively).
When Kain confronts the sorcerers, Anacrothe summons Malek and makes his own escape. Outnumbered, Kain summons Vorador – Malek's ancient enemy. While they battle, Kain pursues the fleeing Bane and DeJoule – whom he subsequently defeats in combat.
When he returns to the scene of the confrontation between Malek and Vorador, Kain finds that Vorador has been the victor. Vorador is gone, but Malek has been destroyed.
- Kain returns the defeated sorcerers' tokens to the Pillars – now four have been healed. Ariel instructs him to seek Azimuth the Planer (the Pillar of Dimension) in the heart of Avernus Cathedral.
- Kain travels to Avernus – Nosgoth's largest city, ruled as a religious autocracy from the great cathedral that sits at the center of the city. He discovers the city in flames, assaulted by a plague of demons summoned by the deranged Azimuth from other dimensions.
- In his pursuit of Azimuth, Kain must ascend into the heights of the cathedral, and the hellish depths of the catacombs below. Along the way he discovers and claims the Soul Reaver blade, conveniently hidden away in the upper reaches of the Cathedral.
- During his exploration of the great cathedral, Kain also discovers a hidden altar room – like a corruption at the heart of the apparently pristine and wholesome cathedral. This is an altar to the dark entity Hash'ak'gik – a tome open on the altar describes bloody acts of human sacrifice.
- Kain confronts and defeats the planer Azimuth, and reclaims her token. He also discovers a mysterious Time Streaming Device, which Azimuth has apparently stolen from Moebius (the Guardian of Time).
In fact, Moebius has planted the Time Streaming Device here by allowing Azimuth to steal it. He is orchestrating events so that Kain will discover and claim the device.
- Kain returns to the Pillars and rights the Pillar of Dimension. Ariel warns him of the impending assault from the Nemesis armies to the north, and that Willendorf is next in their path. She tells him of the Nemesis, how this tyrant was once William the Just, a kind and benevolent king.
- Kain continues on to Willendorf, to rouse King Ottmar into battle against the Legions of the Nemesis.
Ottmar has become an ineffectual king, lost in grief over his daughter who lies in a comatose state. A minor sorcerer called Elzevir the Dollmaker has stolen her soul. To rouse the King, Kain embarks on a side-quest to recover the princess' soul. With his daughter recovered, Ottmar rallies his army and launches an attack against the approaching Legions.
- Kain joins Ottmar's army at the Battle of the Last Stand – but the battle is hopeless, and Ottmar's army is decimated. Kain escapes the battlefield by activating the mysterious Time Streaming Device he found in Avernus Cathedral.
- Suddenly, Kain finds himself in a peaceful field, the carnage of the battlefield erased – he knows he has traveled to a different time, but doesn't know *when* in time he is. The Time Streaming Device lies in ruins at his feet.
- Traveling on, he encounters and kills a man-at-arms – as he drinks the victim's blood, he receives a telepathic image of recent events in the man's memory. Moebius addresses a crowd, exhorting them against some unnamed evil, and urging them to take him to their king.

- As he continues on, Kain realizes that he has traveled nearly 50 years into Nosgoth's past, to a time before William the Just had become the megalomaniac tyrant known as the Nemesis. He infiltrates William's castle, and overhears a conversation between Moebius and the young King – Moebius has armed William with the Soul Reaver, and warned him of a vampire coming to assassinate him.
- Kain confronts William, each of them armed with the Soul Reaver (incarnations of the same weapon at different periods of time). Kain is victorious, and he triumphantly drinks the blood of the fallen king – this is witnessed by the king's guards, come to aid their martyred ruler.
- Kain conveniently discovers another Time Streaming Device (also planted by Moebius, of course), and escapes back into the future – secure in his belief that he has thwarted Moebius's machinations by removing his pawn William from the game. With William dead, there will be no Nemesis army to lay waste to Nosgoth.
- Upon returning to the future, however, Kain discovers that his actions have dramatically altered the course of Nosgoth's history.

Following the scent of fresh blood, he comes upon the scene of a public execution – Moebius addresses a crowd of bloodthirsty villagers and vampire hunters. Kain arrives just in time to witness the climax of their little gathering – Vorador, the last of Nosgoth's vampires, is guillotined and his head held aloft for the cheering crowd.

Kain now realizes the impact of his actions, and how he has been manipulated by Moebius from the start. By going back in time and influencing William, Moebius perverted the just king into a power-hungry tyrant. Then he sends Kain back nearly 50 years in time, knowing that Kain will try to prevent the Nemesis' future devastations by murdering the king before he can become a tyrant. Moebius knew that the murder of the beloved king at the hands of a vampire would ignite a genocidal hatred of vampires among the citizens of Nosgoth.

So, through all these acts, Moebius orchestrated and engineered the vampire genocide which Kain witnesses upon his return to the present. And Kain, albeit inadvertently, is directly responsible for the extinction of the vampires and the execution of his erstwhile mentor Vorador.
- Kain confronts Moebius and – fitting retribution – lops off his head with his sword. Upon claiming Moebius's token, Kain is instructed by Mortanius's disembodied voice to return the Pillars.
- Kain arrives at the Pillars just in time to witness the confrontation between Mortanius and Anacrothe. Anacrothe accuses Mortanius of betraying the Circle by turning Kain into a vampire and setting him against them. Mortanius replies that the Circle is irredeemably corrupt and must be destroyed. Anacrothe challenges Mortanius, and is killed.

Kain reveals himself to Mortanius, stating that if the Circle is to be destroyed, then Mortanius himself must die. Mortanius agrees, saying he will embrace death, and engages Kain in combat. Mid-battle, Mortanius' form begins to change as the dark entity, now fully in possession of Mortanius' body, finally crushes the necromancer's psyche. Before Kain's eyes, Mortanius' body dissolves into the massive, demonic form of the dark entity, Hash'ak'gik.

Hash'ak'gik taunts Kain, saying that Kain has been no more than a pawn, and that all of the preceding events have been orchestrated from the beginning. Kain launches himself at Hash'ak'gik, and using the Soul Reaver, manages to defeat him. It's not clear, however, whether Hash'ak'gik has been destroyed or merely dispelled.
- Kain uses the recovered tokens to heal the remaining Pillars, leaving only the Balance Pillar still corrupted.
- Ariel appears and reveals to Kain that he himself is the Pillar of Balance, and that the only way the Pillars can be healed is for him to sacrifice himself – as the last of the Circle – to the Pillar. She presents him with the final, climactic decision — sacrifice himself to heal the world, or refuse the sacrifice and ensure the world's corruption.
- Kain chooses the latter path, deciding to rule the world in its damnation rather than commit himself to oblivion. This apocalyptic act completes the Pillars' destruction – the Pillars topple as Kain seals their ruinous fate. He concludes with the epiphany that Vorador was right – that vampirism is not a curse but a blessing; that the vampires are dark gods whose duty it is to thin the human herd.

After Blood Omen (*centuries later*)

- Kain, appreciating the irony of his decision, sets the ruined Pillars as the seat of his fledgling empire, with the unrestored Balance Pillar as the base of his throne.
- Kain establishes his empire by recruiting six lieutenants.

Kain, raised by necromancy, cannot "turn" a vampire via the traditional blood gift. By breathing a small portion of his vampire soul into a corpse, he draws the corpse's soul back into the body – the corpse is then revived as a fledgling vampire.

In an act of calculated blasphemy, Kain raids the tomb of the six martyred Sarafan commanders. Their well-entombed corpses – though long dead – have been spared the corruption of the grave. Going from crypt to crypt, he breathes his reviving gift into each of the Sarafan corpses in turn. Thus he raises his six first-born "sons" as the lieutenants of his fledgling empire.

Raziel is raised first, and thus receives the greatest portion of Kain's gift. The six lieutenants have been too long dead to remember much of their human lives; they are ignorant of their Sarafan roots, or of Kain's blasphemous private joke.
- Kain's empire grows. The six lieutenants recruit clans of their own, "turning" the corpses of their human victims.
- Over the centuries, each of the vampires undergoes a series of evolutionary adaptations. These evolutionary "growth spurts" are preceded by a quiescent period of retreat, from which the vampire emerges transformed.
- Raziel emerges from one of these evolutionary hibernations having grown wings. He returns to the Sanctuary of the Clans to present himself to Kain, and reveal his latest gift.

- ♦ Kain, in an apparent act of jealousy, tears the wings from Raziel's back, and orders Raziel to be cast into the Abyss. His motives are unclear, but this is clearly more than just punishment for Raziel's "evolutionary treachery".
- ♦ Raziel's body is destroyed as he falls through the endless maelstrom of the Abyss. As he drifts to the bottom of the whirlpool, he is met by the disembodied voice of a preternaturally ancient god, dwelling in the depths of the Abyss. With this Elder God as his new benefactor, Raziel is transformed into a devourer of souls – and like Kain before him, is released back into the world in order to take his vengeance.
- ♦ *The events of Soul Reaver follow —*
Including the confrontation with Kain at the Pillars, the destruction of the Soul Reaver as it impacts Raziel's body, and the symbiotic/parasitic attachment of the wraith blade as it intertwines with Raziel.