



## Ardneh's World

*Fred Saberhagen*

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**Ardneh's World** Fred Saberhagen

**The third of a great new science-fantasy series, by the author of *Berserker***

The planet was Earth. The time was fifty thousand years from now. Magic and witchcraft worked and the Old Science didn't.

Why this was so nobody knew - it had always been that way during the long tyranny of the Empire of the East. During that same period there had always been little bands of rebels using fragments of white magic against the demonic armies. Rolf was the latest of these rebels - and he had on his side the mysterious power known as Ardneh.

The meaning of Ardneh, the climactic showdown of fifty millennia of cosmic contention, and Rolf's part in it, combine to make a thrilling adventure that continues the struggle between the Old Technology and the New Demonology, begun in **The Broken Lands** and **The Black Mountain**

## Ardneh's World Details

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Author : Fred Saberhagen

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## From Reader Review Ardneh's World for online ebook

### Derek says

I didn't realize until later that it belonged to a series. It's economical and self-contained, and now I'm not sure I want to pursue the other books. The slots where the previous books fit seem better imagined than actually read.

It takes a little work to get past the *Thundarr The Barbarian* aspects: postapocalyptic far future, magic works, there are metaphysical demons, etc., all of which add to the cheese factor, but once I got past it, I saw some interesting ideas. Orcus the master demon lord, born of a transformed atomic explosion, while he hates humanity and possibly his own existence, he greatly fears the larger darker forces dimly sensed in the vastness of space and will not leave Earth.

It had one of the more poignant and satisfying endings of any book I've read lately, especially the cataclysm of Ardneh's victory.

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### John Mundy says

I enjoyed this. A novella holding a mere 176 pages (give or take). I read it without realizing it was the final book in a trilogy, but regardless I feel like it holds its own much like *Man in the Maze* by Silverberg, you feel like you are dropped into a larger story whose beginning you don't know. However, it doesn't matter you'll be able to follow the story with what background is given to you along the way.

I suppose the characters aren't particularly deeply detailed, but very little of the writing is wasted. There's an evil overlord, demons, evil and good wizards, and a youth serving fighting against an evil invading empire. What more background do you need? If you enjoyed Zelazny's *Changeling* ( republished as the first half of *Wizard World*) or Jack Vance's *Dragon World*, you will enjoy this book.

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### James Yoder says

Utterly fantastic, the ending was amazing!

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### Matt Capizzi says

What a wonderful read from an era when Science Fiction and Fantasy were one and the same. It read blazingly quick implied more than it stated and was the kind of read I long for. I will eventually read his other works as this one was such a pleasure.

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### Keith says

Three in One; From "Empire Of The East"; Book 3

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## Mark Hodder says

The third and final volume of the Empire Earth trilogy (though, a few years later, Saberhagen added a fourth, tentatively connected novel). This one brings it all together nicely and maintains the interest established in book two after the too-subdued initial volume. The best thing I can say about this is that it's made me want to read the related "swords" and "lost swords" novels. Not amazing, but pretty good.

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## Richard says

Not really an enjoyable read. I didn't like Saberhagen's writing style. I didn't really care what happened to the characters. The most exciting and/or interesting parts took place in the middle of the story while Ardneh was telling Rolf and Catherine about his conception and the war that followed. Not recommended.

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## Steve Smy says

This was under the title "Changeling Earth" when I bought it, many years ago - back when cover prices were much lower so I was able to buy the whole trilogy. A superbly imagined work from start to finish of the trilogy.

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## Charles says

Stuff I Read - Ardneh's World by Fred Saberhagen Review

This is the third book of the Empire of the East series, which is the first of the book series set in this work. The Sword and Lost Sword series are also set in this world, though considerably farther in the future. But this book finally sets up what happened to change the world that we live in now to the one that shows up in the Empire of the East, and it does follow through with the promises that it made earlier. Mostly, the book is about the East trying to crush the western forces while a small group of Western warriors fights through to try and contact Ardneh, a powerful ally, and defeat the tyranny of the East.

And for that it works quite well. Rolf and Chup are both back, working together now for the west. Charmian also returns, and is once again the most interesting character of the series, because it is she who really saves the day, who really manages to do things and who cannot escape her own fondness for Chup, who in turn both hates and loves her. It's the most complex relationship in the series and the one that gets the most attention. Rolf gets his own romantic interest, but I didn't care for that as much. It seemed more to be that because they couldn't be intimate there was strain, but that seemed a rather tired thing.

Ardneh becomes a character, though, and explains what happened, and it's an interesting premise, that the world was turned all magic-capable as a defense against nuclear annihilation. And that the acts of violence caught in the change Wave became the demons, and that the most powerful was a nuclear bomb caught at the

moment of explosion. Good stuff that made sense and added to the depth of the world. The plot itself was a little weak, though, as the villains made to kill Ardneh even as the former defensive computer used its death to take down the power of the East.

As a conclusion to the larger story it was rather satisfying, tying most things up with a nice bow and giving the characters their ends. It also sets the stage for the Sword books, especially with Ardneh's warning at the end, a warning that goes unheeded in the Sword books and leads to the troubles there. But the book was still good, and I enjoyed it, though again it wasn't as complex as it could have been. It was good, though, and a fitting end to the series, and so I'm giving it a 7/10.

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