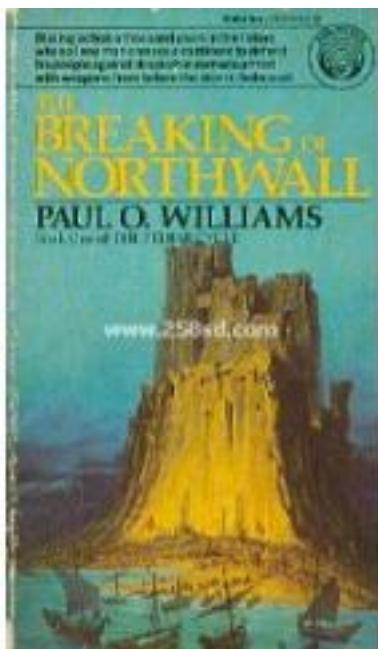


# The Breaking of Northwall



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One thousand years after a devastating and chaotic series of nuclear exchanges, all that is left of the United States of America are scattered, warring tribes and small city-states. One of the latter is Pelbar--proud, civilized, and intolerant of change and new ideas. Rebels and troublemakers are sentenced to a year of exile at the massive midwestern fortress of Northwall, defending Pelbar against the fierce Shumai and Sentani tribes. Restless and brilliant Jestak is a visionary who has seen and learned too much in his distant travels to be content with life in Pelbarigan. During his exile at Northwall, he makes contact with Pelbar's age-old enemies and risks all to rescue his beloved Tia from nomads armed with long-lost weapons from before the atomic holocaust. Jestak's daring quest for love brings profound changes to his world. The Breaking of Northwall is the first in a series of seven classic postapocalyptic novels

about the Pelbar people. Williams's fascinating and uniquely optimistic vision of an America long after a nuclear war has enthralled readers for decades. In addition to the Pelbar series, Paul O. Williams is the author of *The Man from Far Cloud* and *Outside Robins Sing: Selected Haiku* as well as *The Nick of Time: Essays on Haiku Aesthetics*, and several other books. He is a professor emeritus of English at Principia College and lives in Hayward, California.

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