

SHEKHAR KAPUR'S

DEM



BHAIRAVI

ISSUE 1



KOTIAN / SINGH

SHEKHAR KAPUR'S
DEVI

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IT WAS THE SECOND CENTURY of mankind's arrival on earth when the Gods of Light took up arms against one of their own. Bala, a fallen God, had rejected the old ways of the Pantheon and sought to impose his dominion over man.

Feeding off the forced worship of men, Bala had grown too powerful for the pantheon to take him on alone. So the pure Gods each sacrificed a part of themselves to create a powerful entity.

She is Devi.

STORY SO FAR...

THE DEVI ENTITY HAS BEEN PLACED IN A WARRIOR WOMAN OF THE DURAPASYA-- THE HUMANS WHO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE PURE GODS. SHE HAS TAKEN ON THE NAMESAKE OF THE DIVINE ENTITY AND LED THE ARMIES OF GODS AND MEN ON AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON BALA'S FORTRESS.



LOCATION: BALA'S FORTRESS.
THE SECOND CENTURY OF MAN.





"MYTHS OF THE GREAT
GODDESS TEACH COMPASSION
FOR ALL LIVING THINGS"

-- JOSEPH CAMPBELL, *THE POWER OF MYTH*



GENERAL TYAM
MY MOST TRUSTED
OF ALLIES, TELL ME,
OLD FRIEND--



--WHY DOES
YOUR BLACK
HEART AND MY
FORTRESS TREMBLE
THIS DAY?!

LORD BALA,
THE HUMANS HAVE
ASSEMBLED AN ARMY
THAT MOVES LIKE A
FIELD OF ARMOR
STRETCHING ACROSS
THE HORIZON.

THEY
CALL THEMSELVES
THE DURAPASYA--
WARRIORS OF
LIGHT.

AND WHAT HAND
DO MY BROTHERS
PLAY IN ALL
OF THIS?

THEY TOO HAVE
JOINED IN THE ATTACK, MY
LORD, RAINING DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION FROM
THE SKY.



SO, THE
MONGRELS
HAVE UNITED TO
TAKE ON THE WOLF!

SEND WORD TO TAMA.
HAVE HIM BRING HIS ARMY
FROM THE NORTH AND
FLANK THE HUMAN
POSITION.

WE'LL CRUSH
THESE FOOLS IN A
TWO-SIDED
ATTACK!!



THERE SHALL
BE NO REINFORCEMENTS COMING
IN FROM THE NORTH, MY LORD. I TRIED
SENDING WORD TO TAMA WHEN THE SIEGE
WAS FIRST LAID. THE BLACK WIND MESSENGERS
REPORT THAT THE STRONGHOLD HAS BEEN
DESTROYED--TAMA IS CAPTURED.

THE ATTACK CAME
SO SWIFT AND FIERCE THAT THE
BATTLE TOOK NOT A *QUARTER-HOUR*
TO RAZE HIS BASTION
TO THE GROUND.



EH?!

HOW COULD THE TIDE OF
WAR TURN SO *SUDDENLY*?
THESE *DOGS* HAVE WAGED
BATTLE AGAINST ME BEFORE
AND LOST.

WHAT IS
SO *DIFFERENT* THIS
TIME, *GENERAL*?



"LORD BALA, THE HUMANS
HAVE A NEW CHAMPION
AND NONE CAN WITHSTAND
THE FURY OF HER BLADE.

"THEY CALL HER--
DEVI..."



HAHAHAHAHA!

DEVI?
A WOMAN?!!
THEY SEND A WOMAN
TO DEFEAT ME?!!



SHE IS NO
ORDINARY WOMAN,
MY LORD. THE DIVINE
LIGHT SHINES
STRONGLY IN HER.

OUR ALLIES ARE
EITHER DEAD BY HER
HANDS OR FLEEING AT THE
VERY SIGHT OF HER.
I FEAR--

OUR DEFENSES
ARE FAILING. I... I WOULD
RECOMMEND THAT YOU
ESCAPE THROUGH THE
TUNNELS. THERE MAY
STILL BE--

RUN?!

--RUN?--

YOU WOULD DARE
SUGGEST THAT
TO ME?!

BALA DOES
NOT FLEE FROM
A MERE GIRL!!

MY LORD,
I-I--

SILENCE!

I HAVE DEFEATED AN ARMY
OF GODS SINGLE-HANDEDLY.
I HAVE DEFIED BOCHA AND ALL
HIS SCHEMES. I HAVE BENT GODS
AND MEN TO MY WILL!!

I DO NOT
RUN... FROM
ANYONE!!!

BA-DOOM

AHHHHH!



YOU *SHOULD*
HAVE RUN,
BALA!

THE CHASE WOULD
HAVE BEEN GOOD
ENTERTAINMENT.



SUCH BRAVADO FROM
SOMEONE SECONDS AWAY
FROM ANNIHILATION!



HUUARHHH!

YOU SHOULD TALK,
DOG OF BALA!



HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

THE INEVITABILITY OF
DEATH'S COLD EMBRACE
AMUSES YOU, BALA?



MY DEATH?!

YOU WALK INTO *MY* HOME
AND THREATEN *ME*? SUCH
ARROGANCE MUST BE
JUSTLY REWARDED--



--BY A SLOW AND PAINFUL DEMISE.



FOOLISH HUMAN--

--I AM BALA--

--THIS WORLD BELONGS TO ME.



AND YOU ARE TRESPASSING!



COME NOW--

--BE A GOOD GIRL--

--AND DIE.

DIE FOR ME!



COWARD!
YOU HIDE
BEHIND THE BODIES OF
INNOCENT MEN.



FACE ME!!

FIGHT YOUR
OWN BATTLES.



AS YOU WISH.



CRASH!!!



STAY DOWN,
WENCH! THIS POSITION
SUITS YOUR KIND.



HAW! YOUR EGO
BLINDS YOU, "LORD."

TWO MINUTES
FROM NOW I'LL
HAVE YOU KNEELING
BEFORE ME.



GRAHH!

CRASH!!!



PATHETIC!!

JUST LIKE
THE REST OF YOUR
RACE.

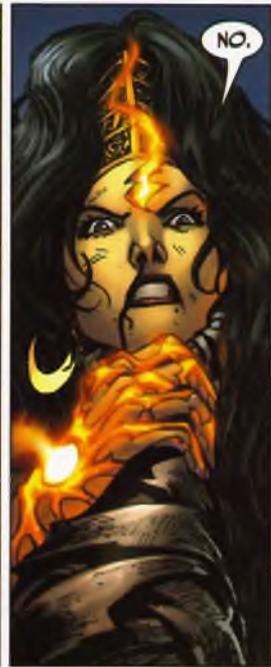
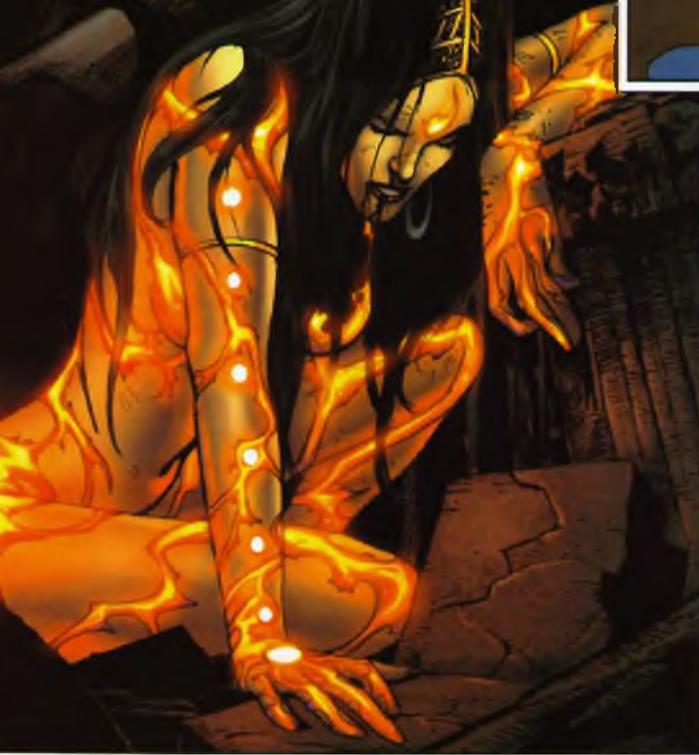
BUT IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT ENTIRELY--
I BLAME THE GODS THAT
MADE YOU!!!



ALL THE POWER
IN THE WORLD BUT
IN THE END--



--YOU'RE
ONLY HUMAN!



NO.

W
H
O
M
P!



WHAT?!...
HOW COULD
YOU...







WHAT HAPPENED?

...SOME
SORT OF...MIND
CONTROL?

LOOK!

DEVI HAS
TRUMPHEDED. BALA'S
POWER ABANDONS
HIM!

KNOW THIS,
BALA. I AM DEVI--I AM
THE POWER OF THE
PANTHEON.



AND IF IT WAS UP
TO ME, I WOULD KILL YOU
A THOUSAND TIMES
OVER!

THRAKKK!



"I TAKE NO PRIDE IN WHAT
HAPPENED TODAY, BALA.

"A FATHER FEELS NO PLEASURE
IN PUNISHING HIS OWN CHILD, NO
MATTER HOW GRAVELY
THAT CHILD HAS ERRED."

LOCATION: JWALA.
THE PRISON OF FIRE AND STONE,
DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH.



HOW COULD A GOD WITH SO MUCH POTENTIAL FOR GOOD BECOME SO EVIL IN SO SHORT A TIME?

DID YOU NOT ONCE PLAY WITH YOUR BROTHERS IN THE FREEDOM OF THE COSMOS? DID YOU NOT SHARE IN THEIR LAUGHTER AND THEIR JOY?

AND TO THINK YOU COULD EVER COMMIT THE ATROCITIES THAT YOU DID...

TODAY MY HEART GRIEVES FOR THE LOSS OF MY SON.





DO NOT *PITY* ME,
BOOHA, SO-CALLED KING OF
GODS! FOR I HAVE DONE
NOTHING WRONG.



YOU LOOK AT HUMANS
AND SEE CHILDREN, *BRIGHT*
AND *BEAUTIFUL*. I LOOK AT
THEM AND SEE THE LABOR OF
FLAWED HANDS WORKED ON BY
LACKLUSTER MINDS, THE
PRODUCT OF RECKLESS
INDIFFERENCE.

ALL I TRIED TO DO
WAS *BETTER* WHAT YOU HAD
ALREADY *ABANDONED!*



THERE IS
NO PRISON THAT
CAN HOLD ME.

I AM *BALA!*

I WILL BE--

--FREE--

IT IS DONE.
THE WAR IS
TRULY OVER.

COME MY CHILDREN. LET US
TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THIS PLACE AND
RETURN TO AAKASHIK*. THERE ARE MANY
CREATIONS AND MANY MORE MATTERS
TO WHICH WE MUST ATTEND.

LORD BODHA...

* HEAVEN.

I AM INDEBTED THAT YOU HAVE
CHOSEN ME TO BECOME THE DEVI.
AND I KNOW THAT YOU ARE WEAKENED
BY THE WAR. WITH YOUR PERMISSION I
SEEK TO GIVE BACK WHAT YOU
HAVE GIVEN TO ME--

CHILD,
I AM HUMBLED
BY YOUR REQUEST AND I
ACCEPT YOUR OFFER. BUT WHY
DO I STILL SENSE DOUBT
GNAWING AT YOUR
HEART?

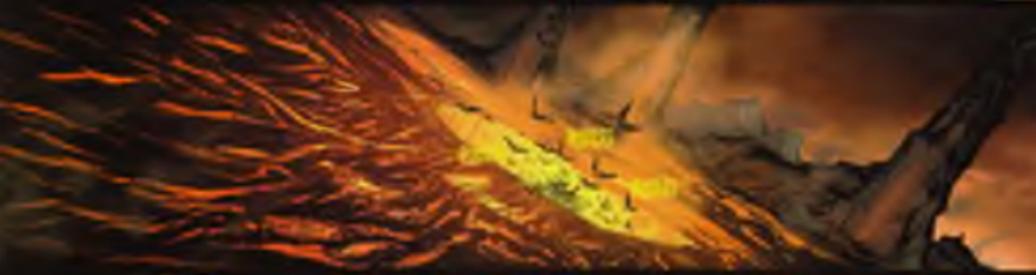
--TO CREATE
A SOURCE THAT WILL HOLD
THE PRAYERS OF HUMANITY AND
CHANNEL THEM TO AAKASHIK.
THUS REPLENISHING
YOUR POWER.

LORD BODHA--YOU SHOULD
NOT HAVE STAYED MY HAND
FROM KILLING BALA. I FEAR THAT
HE WILL MAKE GOOD ON HIS
WORD AND ESCAPE.

...PERHAPS.

ONE DAY I HOPE YOU'LL
FORGIVE THIS SENTIMENTAL FATHER.
BUT TODAY, LET US CELEBRATE THE END
OF THE WAR AND THE BEGINNING
OF A BRIGHTER AGE.

COME,
DEVI--I SENSE
GREATNESS AHEAD
FOR YOU.



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LOCATION: TOKYO, JAPAN
RENTAL CAR

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www.fox.com





NOT THE BEST OF TIMES, ARWA.

HELLO, KRATHA.

WHO'S THIS?



JUST A CURIOUS MAN OF MANY RESOURCES.

YEAH?

WADDAYA WANNA KNOW MR. RESOURCEFUL?

WHY?

I WANT TO KNOW HOW AN APSARA* BECOMES A FREELANCE ASSASSIN FOR HUMANS AND THEIR PETTY QUARRELS?

* HEAVEN'S ASSASSINS.



TO THE POINT, PLEASE.

I'D LIKE TO EMPLOY YOUR SERVICES.



HOLD ON A SEC.

SHUINNGGGGG





SHOULD'VE DONE THAT EARLIER!

EXCUSE ME?

NOT YOU.



SINCE YOU KNOW WHO I AM--*REALLY* KNOW--AND LAST TIME I CHECKED THERE WERE ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO HAD THAT INFORMATION, I'M GUESSING YOU *ALSO* KNOW I HAVE A HIGH PRICE.

YES, AND YOU ACCEPT ONLY THOSE JOBS THAT CHALLENGE YOUR IMPRESSIVE SKILLS.



LIKE THAT YAKUZA WHOM YOU ARE ABOUT TO KILL

NO ONE JUST WALKS INTO A WELL-KNOWN JAPANESE GANGSTER'S HOME ARMED AS YOU ARE AND LIVES TO TELL THE TALE--LET ALONE ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU IMMINENTLY WILL

YEAH WELL, I'M PRETTY GOOD AT WHAT I DO.



NO NEED TO BE MODEST. YOU'VE RAISED MURDER TO AN ART FORM.

FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.

HOW ABOUT A SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENT?

DEPENDS ON YOUR DEFINITION OF SUBSTANTIAL.



HANG ON.



THERE YOU ARE--



HEY, YOSHI. GUESS WHAT?
YOUR WIFE--THE WOMAN YOU'VE BEEN MARRIED
TO FOR SIXTEEN YEARS--SHE REALLY DOESN'T LIKE
YOU VERY MUCH. NOT AFTER YOU DID THE DIRTY ON
HER SISTER BACK IN HONG KONG.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO
HER THAT YOU KNOW
SHE'S BEHIND THIS.



—NEVER
MAKE A WOMAN
FEEL SECOND
BEST!



CONSIDER THIS
A LESSON--



ARE YOU
QUITE DONE?

YEAH,
SO, WHO'S THE
MARK, MR...





*Spiritrise
Scan*



**A NEW AGE OF SCANS
IS BORN HERE.**

LXC