

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS india  authentic™

INDRA



MOHAPATRA | TAYADE

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

INDRA

india authentic™

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INDRA

A thunderbolt in consciousness

Amongst the expansive Hindu pantheon of Gods, Lord Indra is not the most powerful, nor the most formidable, nor the most fearsome, and yet to all of the aforementioned, he is their King. Impulsive, defiant, and brash, Indra is not unlike many of our modern leaders whose instinctive response to every act of aggression is to respond bigger and badder in order to prove their rank. Such is the origin story of Indra that you will read in the following pages.

And yet, despite all his faults, Indra has a charm that also distinguishes him from the other Gods. In fact, it's not his divinity. It's quite the opposite. He is not flawless. It's his humanity that defines him. It's his allegiance to such values as honor, duty, code, integrity, and his respect for the responsibility that comes with leadership.

In the ancient Indian scripture the Rig Veda, it is written of Indra: "Indra, you lifted up the outcast who was oppressed, you glorified the blind and the lame."

Often when I look at ancient Indian myths, it is these qualities that I find most admirable and wish that our modern leaders would aspire to them. Power is a dangerous thing. It intoxicates those who wield it, distracts them from the oaths they have taken and emboldens them with an authority they translate as divine appointment.

Indra is to the Vedic culture of India what Zeus was to the Greeks. He represents the impulsive, reactive, arrogant, primal, instinctual, predatory, survival traits that are part of our reptilian and limbic brains. While pretending to be beings of rationality we are creatures that bristle with rawness and emotion. By understanding Indra, we can get in touch with that part of ourselves that rules our everyday behavior. We can transform ourselves from being demigods to Gods.

DEEPAK CHOPRA

VAJRI
MEGHAVAHAN
SAKRA
PURANDARA
SVARGAPATI



"ONCE, THERE
WAS A TIME
BEFORE TIME...

"WHEN THERE
WAS NOTHING
BUT THE SKY AND
THE EARTH...

"...AND THE
ELEMENTALS.

"*DYAUS*, THE SKY
FATHER LONGED
TO CONSORT WITH
AVNI, THE EARTH
MOTHER...

"...BUT NEVER DID
THE TWAIN MEET.

"SUCH WAS THEIR
TORMENT...

"...TILL *RUDRA*, THE STORM ELEMENTAL
TOOK PITY ON THE LOVERS AND RAISED
A TEMPEST SO MIGHTY THAT FOR THE
BRIEFEST OF INSTANCES THE SEED
OF THE SKY RODE THE FLICKERING
TONGUE OF A LIGHTNING BOLT AND
IMPREGNATED THE EARTH.

"THUS, I WAS BORN. THE
SCION OF THE SKY AND THE
SPAWN OF THE EARTH, THE
MASTER OF THUNDER.

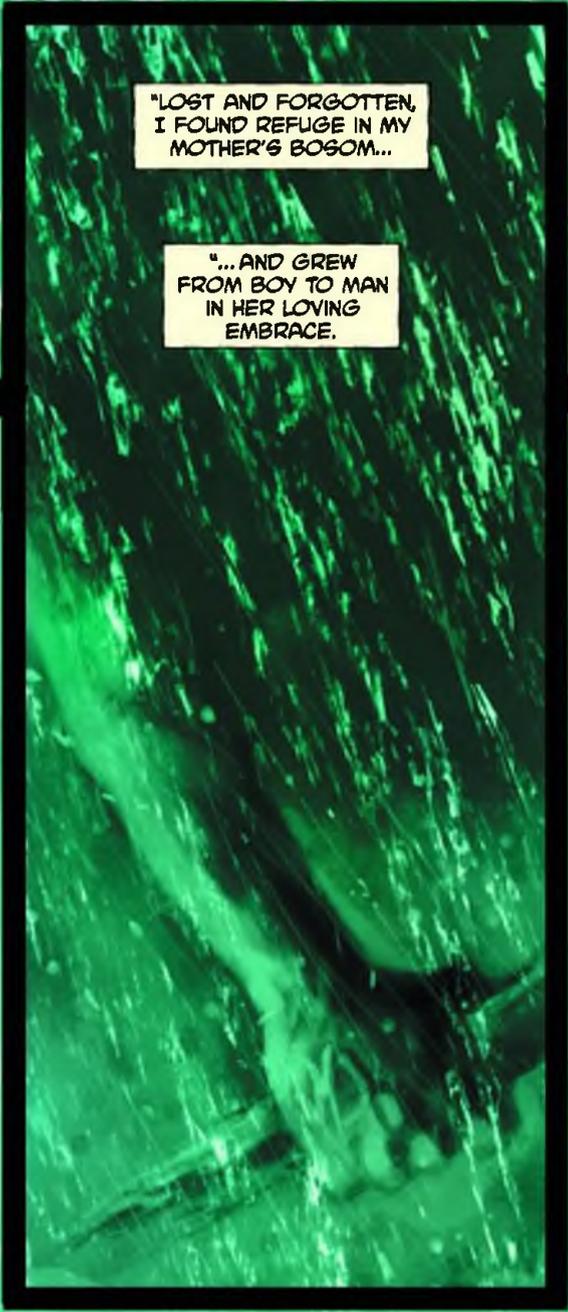
"MY NAME
IS *INDRA*."



"BUT IT WAS NOT
LOVE THAT HAD
BLOSSOMED IN MY
FATHER DYLAUS'S
HEART...

"...BUT A LUST
INFERNAL.

"HIS DESIRES
SATIATED, HE TURNED
HIS BACK ON BOTH
MY MOTHER AND ME.



"LOST AND FORGOTTEN,
I FOUND REFUGE IN MY
MOTHER'S BOSOM...

"...AND GREW
FROM BOY TO MAN
IN HER LOVING
EMBRACE.



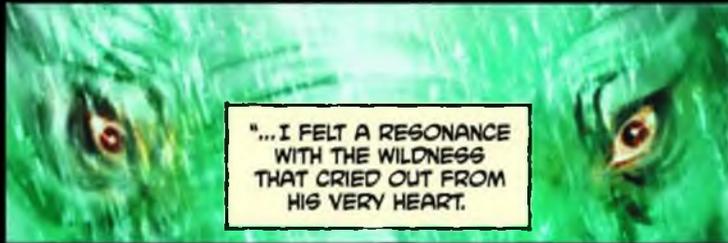
"THUS, I WANDERED
THE EARTH.

"LIKE A WARRIOR
WITHOUT A MISSION.

"A LOST
SOUL."



"WHEN I SPIED THE WILD
BEAST OF LEGEND,
AIRAVAT, THE FOUR
TUSKED WHITE
ELEPHANT OF LORE..."



"...I FELT A RESONANCE
WITH THE WILDNESS
THAT CRIED OUT FROM
HIS VERY HEART.



"SO MUCH LIKE
MY OWN.



"THE TWO OF US
WERE KINDRED
SPIRITS.



"BLOOD
BROTHERS.



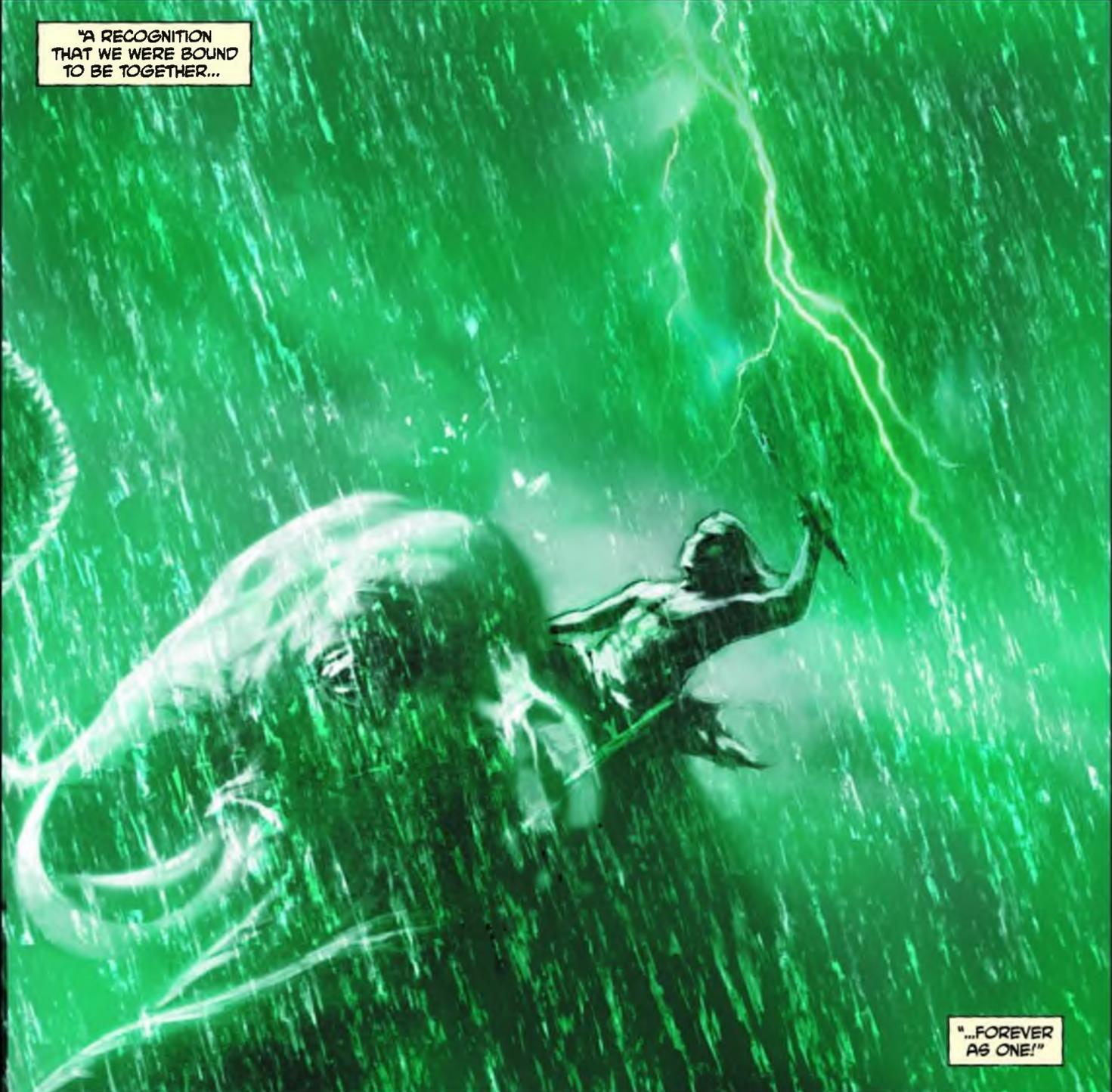
"WE DANCED THIS
DANCE OF KINGSHIP..."



"...TO A SYMPHONY
OF PAIN.



"...A MUTUAL SENSE OF
RESPECT GROWING
EVERY PASSING
MOMENT.



"A RECOGNITION
THAT WE WERE BOUND
TO BE TOGETHER..."

"...FOREVER
AS ONE!"



... AND THAT IS HOW WE CAME TO BE TOGETHER, AIRAVAAAT AND I.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME, TELL ME NOW OF YOUR MISSION.



WHAT BRINGS LORD SHIVA, RUDRA OF THE MIGHTY WINDS, DOWN HERE TO THE REALM OF MORTALS?



I HID YOU HERE IN THE BOSOM OF THE EARTH-MOTHER.

FOR YOU HAVE A DESTINY BEYOND THAT OF A MERE NOMAD.

YOU ARE THE SON OF DYAUS, THE SCION TO THE HEAVENLY THRONE OF SVARGA.



DY AUS IS NOT MY FATHER! HE MAY HAVE S IRED ME, BUT I AM NOT HIS SON. MY MOTHER AVNI ALONE IS MY PARENT.

NOR DO I CRAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR PANTHEON OF GODS, YOUR HEAVENS AND OTHER SUCH ABODES.



IT WAS A DASTARDLY THING THAT DY AUS DID TO YOU, BUT VENT NOT YOUR ANGER AT THE ENTIRE WORLD!

I TOO HAVE BEEN PAINED AT THE DECADENCE THAT HAS SET IN THE RANKS OF THE GODS, SO MUCH SO THAT I HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN THE WILDERNESS OF THE MISTY MOUNTAINS. I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN...

BUT YOU WERE BORN WITH A DESTINY.



THE WORLD NEEDS YOU, AND IT IS THE TUG OF THE SAME DESTINY THAT HAS BROUGHT ME TO YOU.



"HAS YOUR WANDERLUST AND HATRED FOR YOUR FATHER AND HIS KIND BLINDED YOU SUCH..."

"... THAT YOU DO NOT HEAR THE WAILS OF PAIN OF YOUR OWN MOTHER?"



"SOMETHING AILS THE WATERS OF THIS WORLD."

"A FAMINE RAVAGES THE EARTH!"



GO TO THE VALLEY OF THE NINETY NINE WALLS, FOR THERE YOU SHALL FIND THE SCOURGE THAT THREATENS TO KILL THE EARTH AND HER CHILDREN.

WALK TOWARDS THE SETTING SUN AND THEN WALK SOME MORE, INDRA, EARTH-SON...



"...TILL YOU CHANCE ON THE
DOORWAYS OF THE DARK
CASTLE OF THE SERPENT
DEMON VIRITHRA.

"HE HAS LAID CLAIM
ON THE WATERS
OF THE EARTH.

"AND IT IS YOUR TASK
TO RID THE WORLD OF
HIM AND BRING SUCCOR
TO MANKIND AND
GODS ALIKE."



WHO
MAY YOU BE,
WARRIOR?

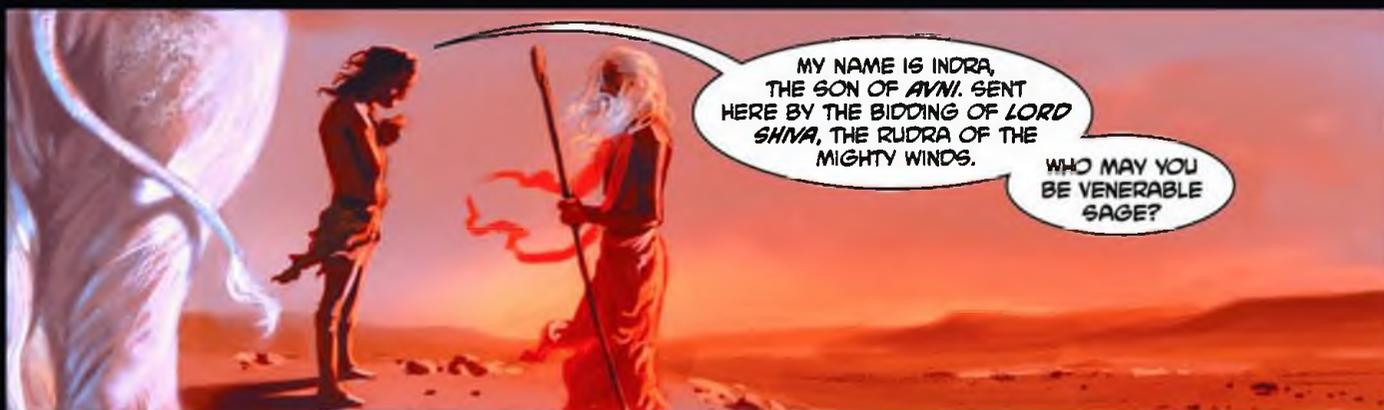
YOU WALK WITH
A CONFIDENCE NOT
SEEN IN THESE
GLOOMY DAYS.



WHO?



ARE YOU THE ONE OF PROPHECY, WHO HAS COME TO RID THESE LANDS FROM THE CURSE OF THE SERPENT?



MY NAME IS INDRA, THE SON OF AVNI. SENT HERE BY THE BIDDING OF LORD SHIVA, THE RUDRA OF THE MIGHTY WINDS.

WHO MAY YOU BE VENERABLE SAGE?



PRAISED BE THE GOD OF GODS. LORD SHIVA HAS SENT A SAVIOR AS HE HAD PROMISED!



WELCOME LORD INDRA, FOR ANY ENEMY OF THE SERPENT IS A WELCOME GUEST AT MY HUMBLE ABODE.



"I AM *DADHICHI*, THE LAST OF WHAT USED TO BE A GRAND ASHRAM OF ONE HUNDRED SEERS."



WHEN THE SERPENT DEMON CLAIMED THE WATERS OF THE WORLD FOR HIS OWN, THIS PLACE STARTED TO SLOWLY DIE.

I WENT INTO SAMADHI*.

*STATE OF DEEP TRANCE.



WHEN I CAME TO...



...I SAW WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED AND LOST ALL WILL TO LIVE.



BUT THE GOD OF GODS, LORD SHIVA APPEARED BEFORE ME AND TOLD ME TO WAIT. HE PROMISED HE WOULD SEND A WARRIOR TO RID THE LAND OF THE SERPENT.

...AND BRING BACK HOPE.



FOR HOPE IS SOMETHING WE ARE IN DIRE NEED OF!



WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE TORMENTS THESE INNOCENTS SO?

WHY DOES VIRITHRA HOARD THE WATERS OF THE LAND?

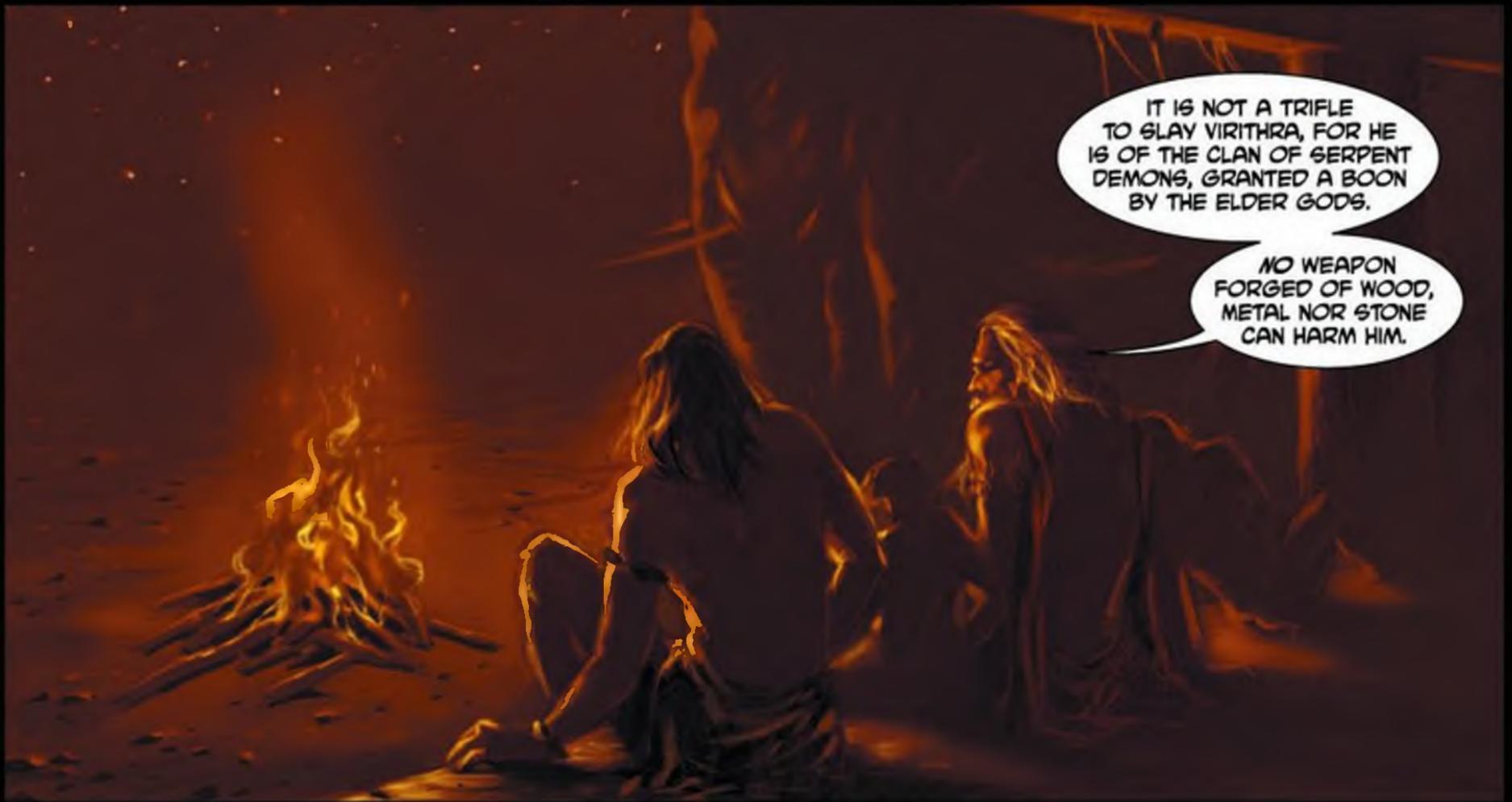


WHY DO THE MIGHTY ALWAYS TORMENT THE WEAK?

PERHAPS IT IS AN INNER VENOM.

PERHAPS IT IS HIS OWN DARK KARMIC CONSEQUENCE.

OR PERHAPS IT IS AN EVEN WORSE MALADY. PERHAPS HE DOES IT BECAUSE HE CAN.



IT IS NOT A TRIFLE TO SLAY VIRITHRA, FOR HE IS OF THE CLAN OF SERPENT DEMONS, GRANTED A BOON BY THE ELDER GODS.

NO WEAPON FORGED OF WOOD, METAL NOR STONE CAN HARM HIM.



THIS LANCE OF MINE IS CRAFTED FROM THE BONE OF A BEAST I ONCE SLEW.

IT IS NOT FORGED OF WOOD, METAL NOR STONE!



NO! LORD INDRA! THAT BONE WAS TAKEN BY YOU AND NOT GIVEN OF FREE WILL AND THUS, IT IS TAINTED.



HOWEVER, YOUR WORDS GIVE ME HOPE THAT SUCH A WEAPON MAY YET BE FORGED.



BUT TO FIGHT VIRITHRA YOU MUST FIRST PENETRATE THE NINETY NINE WALLS OF HIS FORTRESS.



AND THIS IS WHERE YOUR MIGHTY BEAST OF MOUNT MIGHT BE OF USE!

AS FOR THE WEAPON...



I WILL SUPPLY
IT TO YOU.

I AM HAPPY TO
SACRIFICE MYSELF AND
OFFER YOU MY OWN
BONES...

...SO THAT YOU
MAY CRAFT A WEAPON
FROM THEM TO SLAY
THE DEMON.



DON'T SAY
SUCH THINGS. IT'S
INHUMANE AND I
WON'T ALLOW IT.

INHUMANE
IS AN UNWILLINGNESS
TO SACRIFICE. **INHUMANE**
IS TO ALLOW YOUR KIN
TO DECAY BEFORE
YOU.



ALL MY LIFE
HAS BEEN LIVED FOR
THIS MOMENT.

JUST AS
YOUR KARMA HAS
DELIVERED YOU
HERE.

SO HAS
MINE.



"THIS IS THE
CONSPIRACY OF
KARMA, THE MATRIX
OF TIME. WE SHALL
NOT ELUDE IT."



YOUR SAGE
DADHICHI WAS A
NOBLE MAN...
OF TRUTH
AND INTEGRITY.



HE HAS
DELIVERED TO
US...



"...OUR SURVIVAL."



ONWARDS AIRA VAAT!
LET NOT ANYTHING STAND
IN OUR WAY!

"LET THE THUNDER OF
YOUR GREAT FEET BE
THE HERALD OF DOOM
FOR THE SERPENT
VIRITHRA."





REST A WHILE HERE,
MY FRIEND, FOR YOU HAVE
PERFORMED YOUR TASK
ADMIRABLY.



"NOW IT IS UPON
ME TO DO MY
PART."



WHHHOOOO DARESSSS...
ENTER THE LAIR OF THE DARK
SSSERPENT!



ANOTHEERRRRRRR
GODDDDD COME TO
BEG FOR MERCCCY?



....OR IS IT A
MAN THING...COME
TO SSSSATE OUR
HUNGRY
SSSSTOMACH!





HAW! A CAVEMAN ARMED WITH A BONE HASSESS COME TO VANQUISSESSSS ME!



AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!



KLINGSSSS

HA HA HA!



YOU TROUBLE ME NO MORE THAN AN INSSSECT!



AN INSSSECT THAT I CAN SSSSWAT ASSSIDE WITHOUT TASSSSKING MYSSSELF MUCH!

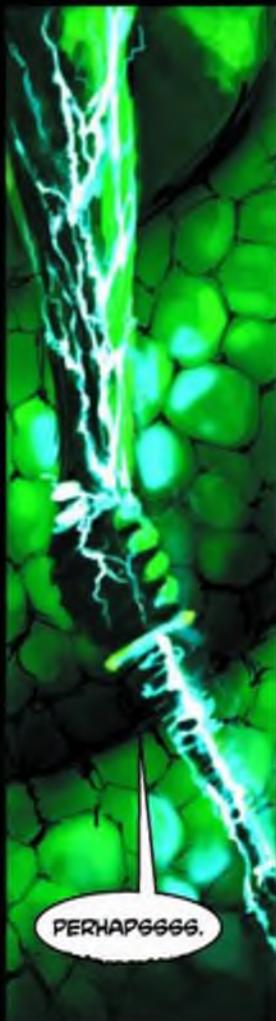


AND THUS...
THE STORY
SHALL
END...

...THE STORY OF
THE WARRIOR WHO CAME
TO SLAY THE
SERPENT...



... AND
WAS
SLAIN
HIMSELF!

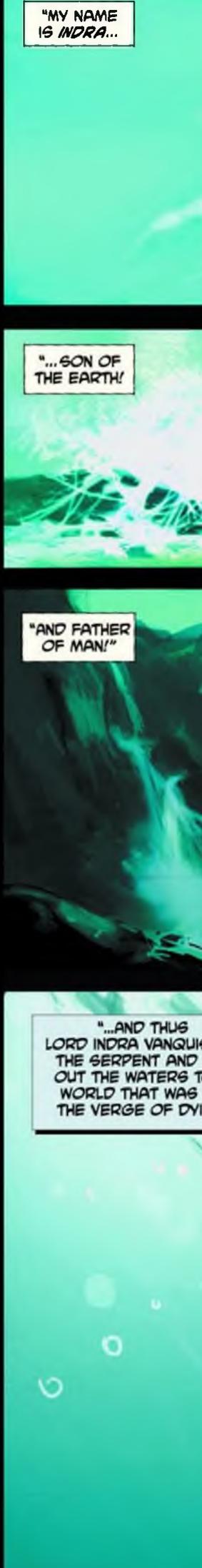


PERHAPS...



I SHALL INDULGE
YOU WITH A DIFFERENT
FINISH!





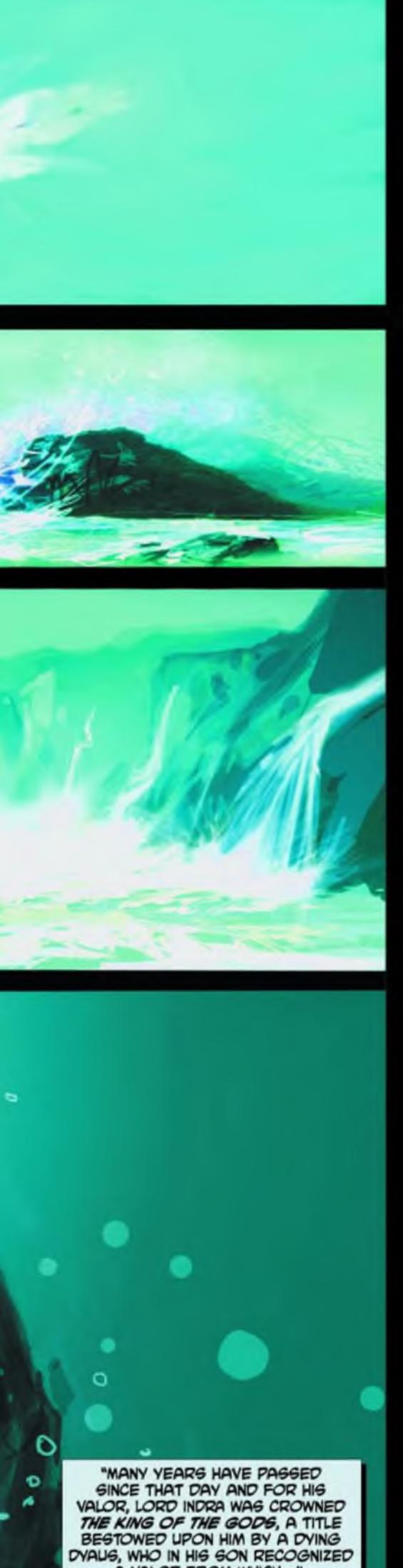
"MY NAME
IS *INDRA*..."



"...SON OF
THE EARTH!"



"AND FATHER
OF MAN!"



"...AND THUS
LORD *INDRA* VANQUISHED
THE SERPENT AND LET
OUT THE WATERS TO A
WORLD THAT WAS ON
THE VERGE OF DYING.

"MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED
SINCE THAT DAY AND FOR HIS
VALOR, LORD *INDRA* WAS CROWNED
THE KING OF THE GODS, A TITLE
BESTOWED UPON HIM BY A DYING
DYAUS, WHO IN HIS SON RECOGNIZED
A VALOR FROM WHICH..."



...ALL THE GODS MIGHT LEARN.



MY LORD!

IS THAT HIM?

LORD INDRA?



"IT IS TRUE THAT I HAVE BECOME THE KING OF THE GODS."

"ALL HAIL ME AS THE SLAYER OF THE SERPENT, THE MOST MIGHTY AMONGST THE PANTHEON."

"STILL, I KNOW WHO I SERVE. I WOULD TRADE ALL MY DIVINITY..."



"...BUT FOR A MERE WISP OF HIS HUMANITY!"

THE END