

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS india



authentic™

KALI



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DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

KALI india authentic™

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Om Kali Ma Namah Namah

Om Kali Ma Namah Namah



Kali Mistress of Time

In one of his most famous poems entitled *Gitanjali*, the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore once wrote:

“Beautiful is thy wristlet, decked with stars and cunningly wrought in myriad-coloured jewels. But more beautiful to me thy sword with its curve of lightning like the outspread wings of the divine bird of Vishnu, perfectly poised in the angry red light of the sunset.

It quivers like the one last response of life in ecstasy of pain at the final stroke of death; it shines like the pure flame of being burning up earthly sense with one fierce flash.

Beautiful is thy wristlet, decked with starry gems; but thy sword, O Lord of Thunder, is wrought with utmost beauty, terrible to behold or think of.”



For decades scholars have debated the object of Tagore's ode, the powerful King of Gods - Indra, or the fearsome Goddess Kali. For the unfamiliar reader, such devotion to Kali may be perceived as unlikely or ironic. She is often depicted wearing a necklace of skulls, her bloody tongue hanging from her mouth, and poised atop the corpse of her husband. Indeed she carries an otherwise shiny sword, save for its bloody edge, dulled by its all too frequent use. She is no fairy Godmother, no gentle nurturer, nor matron saint.

Yet, she demands an awe that is perhaps more resonant than any other Goddess in the varied Hindu pantheon. She is often referred to as the *Goddess of Death*, the feminine force of destruction, and also *Mistress of Time* - because she is the consumer of all things, including time itself. The great myths that belong to her, chronicle her triumphs over varied demons, her violent and bloody demolition of those that dare to menace the Gods.

But beyond the myths is something still more resonant, too often overlooked. Kali represents our shadow selves. She is the ubiquitous force of destruction that resides in all of us, the alter ego to our more celebrated creative sides. And yet, it is in these ashes of destruction, this "kala" or blackness as it is called in sanskrit that Kali's true beauty is defined. For she is the protector of all life, the custodian of mortality, always insuring that from this ash can once again arise fertility, life, greatness.

Deepak Chopra





A DARKNESS SHALL
FALL. A PLAGUE OF
DEMONS SHALL COME.

THE HEAVENS WILL
WEEP. THE WORLD OF
MEN WILL BURN.

ALAS, FROM THESE
ASHES A SAVIOR
SHALL RISE.

FROM THIS DARKNESS,
A WARRIOR SHALL
BE BORN.

A close-up of a hand, possibly a demon's, with blood splatters around it. The background is dark and red.

BLOOD IS A DROP IN THE
VOID. BLOOD IS ALSO A
GUSHING TORRENT

A dark, red, abstract scene with a central point of light and ripples, suggesting a drop of blood in a dark liquid.

BLOOD IS *LIFE*.
BLOOD IS ALSO *DEATH*.

A dark, red, abstract scene with a central eye-like shape and ripples, suggesting a drop of blood in a dark liquid.

ONCE UPON
A TIME...

...EVEN THE GODS WERE
AFRAID OF DEATH.

A large, dark, red, abstract scene with a central figure, possibly a demon, and ripples, suggesting a drop of blood in a dark liquid.

FOR SUCH WAS THE
PROWESS OF THE KING OF
DEMONS, *RAKTAVEEJ*,
THE *PRIMAL*.

IN HIS HANDS,
BLOOD WAS BUT THE
BEGINNING...

...AND THE
END!

BROTHERS! THE
BLOOD OF OUR FALLEN KIN
CALLS TO US. TODAY WE HONOR THE
COUNTLESS OF OUR KIND SLAIN BY
SO-CALLED "GODS". 'TIS A HEAVY
DEBT WE OWE TO
OUR ANCESTORS.

AND TODAY WE SETTLE IT.
WE MARCH ON *AMARAVATI*, THE
CITY OF GODS AND TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE WHAT SO MANY HAVE
ONLY DREAMT.

FOR TODAY WE
SHALL BATHE...

...IN THE BLOOD
OF GODS!

BUT THE RANKLING OF THE DEMON'S SABER WAS HEARD IN HEAVEN.

LORD INDRA, THE DEMON HORDES ARE ABOUT TO BREACH THE GATES.

THE DEMONS DARE TRY CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF THE GODS? SUMMON MY FORCES. WE SHALL MEET THIS MENACE IN OPEN COMBAT!

WE WHO ARE **THREE** IN **ONE**, THE TRINITY OF **CREATOR, PRESERVER, DESTROYER**, HAVE KEPT OURSELVES OUT OF THESE MATTERS...

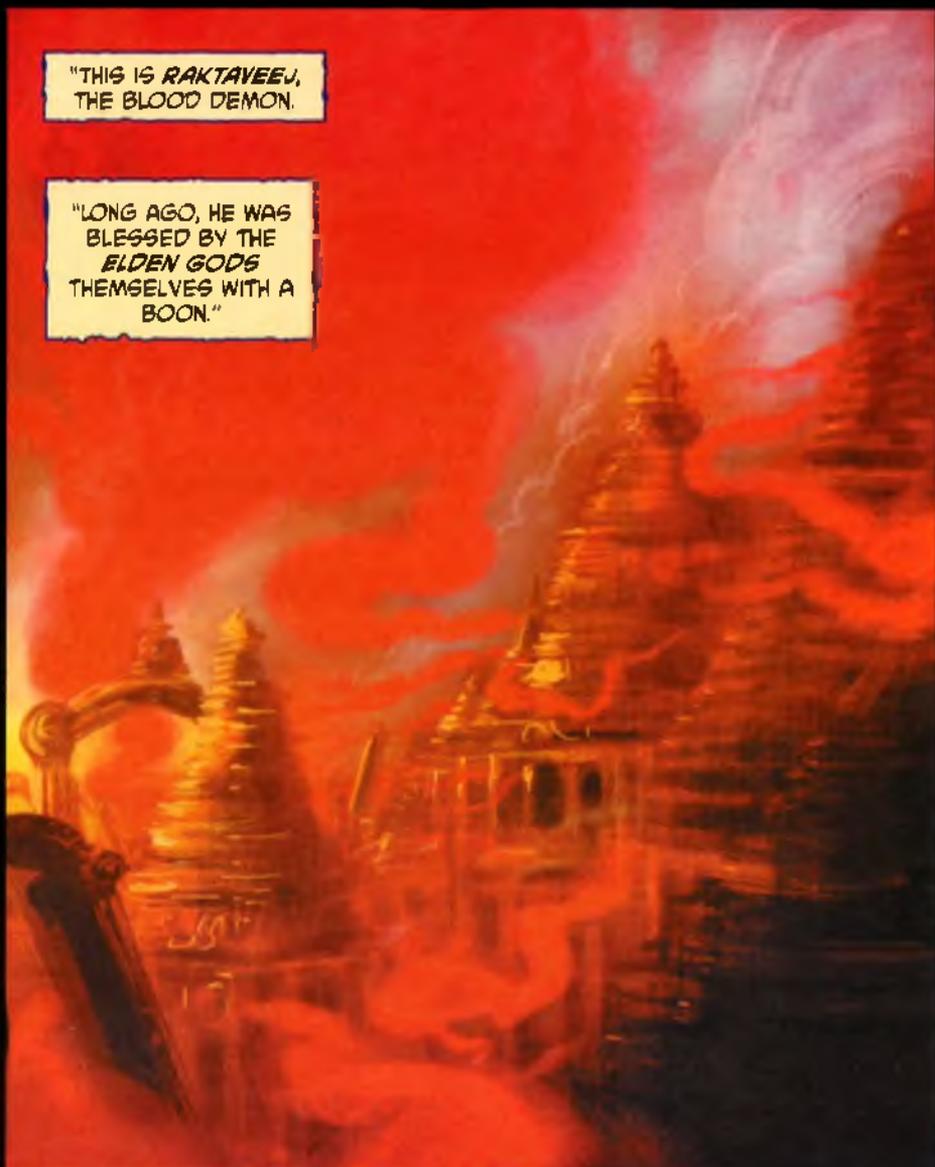
KING OF GODS! A WORD IF YOU MAY...

...UNTIL NOW. **VISHNU**, BEING THE **PRESERVER**, CANNOT BUT HELP GETTING INVOLVED.

"THIS IS **RAKTAVEEV**, THE BLOOD DEMON.

"LONG AGO, HE WAS BLESSED BY THE **ELDEN GODS** THEMSELVES WITH A BOON."

IT IS NOT AN ORDINARY DEMON NOR A MUNDANE ARMY THAT YOU SET FORTH TO BATTLE.





" A BOON THAT
MOCKS EVEN YAMA,
THE LORD OF DEATH.

"FOR HIS IS THE
POWER TO TRIUMPH
OVER DEATH ITSELF.



ONWARDS
FOR HEAVEN!



"IF A DROP OF HIS
BLOOD WERE TO TOUCH
THE GROUND...



"...FROM IT SHALL
SPRING A BLOOD-SPAWN,
AS POWERFUL AS
RAKTAVEEJ HIMSELF.

"SO RIDDLE ME THIS,
O LORD OF THUNDER."



ISSUE 1

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3392 AD



VARIANT
COVER BY
MIKE OEMING

ON STANDS JUNE 2007



HOW DOES
EVEN ONE SUCH
AS YOU, THE KING
OF GODS KILL
SOMEONE...

WHOSE BLOOD
YOU CANNOT
SPILL?



SO WHAT DO
YOU PROPOSE,
LORD VISHNU?



THERE IS
ONE...

NO! NOT
HER! SHE CANNOT
BE CONTROLLED.

I AM AFRAID
THERE IS NO MORE
TIME. SHE IS OUR
ONLY OPTION.



"THE SLEEPER
MUST AWAKEN."

CHOICE IS AN
ILLUSION.

FOR EVEN GODS
CANNOT ESCAPE
THEIR DESTINY!



MOUNT KAILASH.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ASK FOR?

WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE, LORD SHIVA!

SHE MUST BE INVOKED. ONLY THE SLEEPER CAN DEFEAT THIS ARMY OF BLOOD-SPAWNS.



ARE YOU SURE? IS THERE NO OTHER CHOICE?

THEY SPEAK THE TRUTH, MY LOVE. I HAVE MADE MY CHOICE, THE ONLY ONE I CAN.

BUT...



I ONLY PRAY THAT THE PRICE IS NOT TOO HIGH.



I AM UMA, THE ALL-MOTHER!



I TOO
AM SHAKTI, THE
POWER-DIVINE.



BUT THERE IS *ANOTHER*
THAT SLEEPS WITHIN ME,
WHO IS NEEDED TODAY.

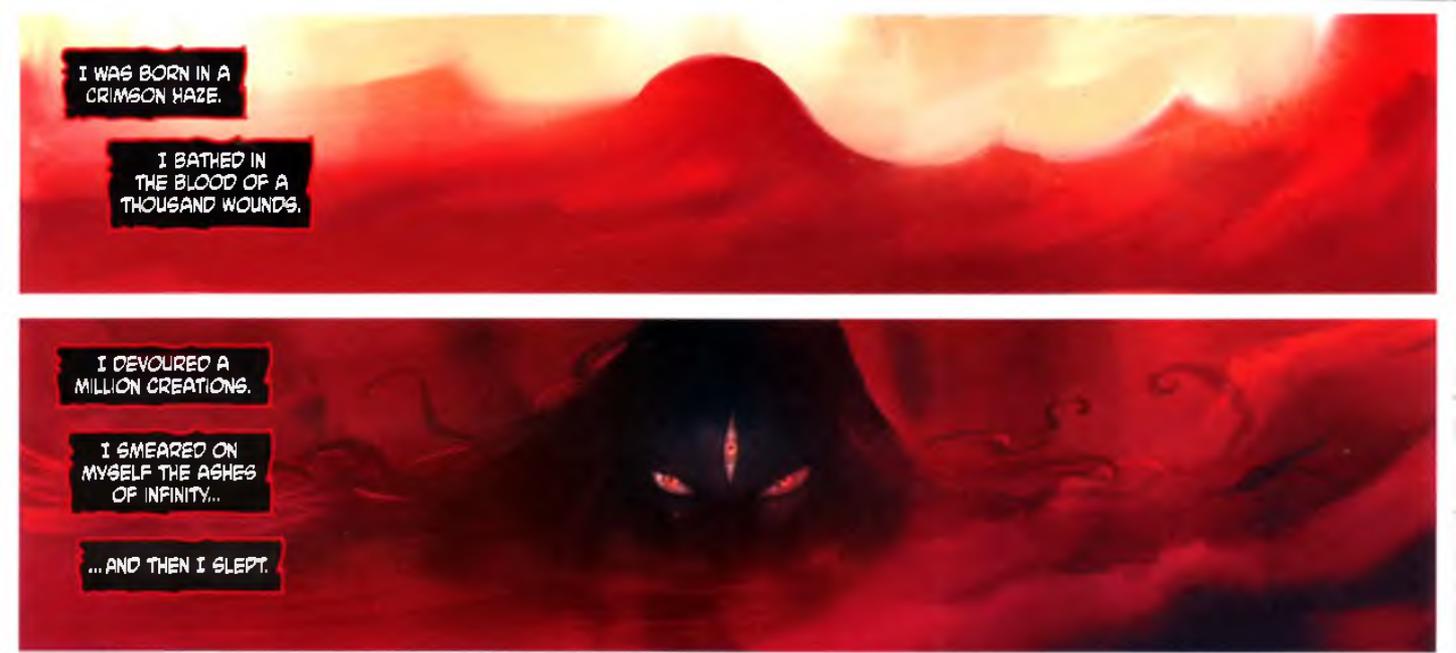


SHE HAS LAIN IN
SLUMBER WITHIN ME
FOR MANY *ETERNITIES*.



AND TODAY SHE
IS SUMMONED.

THE *SLEEPER*
SHALL AWAKEN!



I WAS BORN IN A
CRIMSON HAZE.

I BATHED IN
THE BLOOD OF A
THOUSAND WOUNDS.

I DEVoured A
MILLION CREATIONS.

I SMEARED ON
MYSELF THE ASHES
OF INFINITY...

... AND THEN I SLEPT.



TODAY, AFTER
EONS, I HAVE BEEN
AWAKENED.

TODAY I AM
SUMMONED.

I AM DEATH.

I AM HUNGER.



I AM THE SACRED...

...AND THE PROFANE.

THE BEGINNING...

...AND THE END!

I AM...

...KAALI!

RAAA

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AND THUS SHE
WAS SUMMONED.



SHE WHO ONCE WAS
UMA, THE ALL-MOTHER...

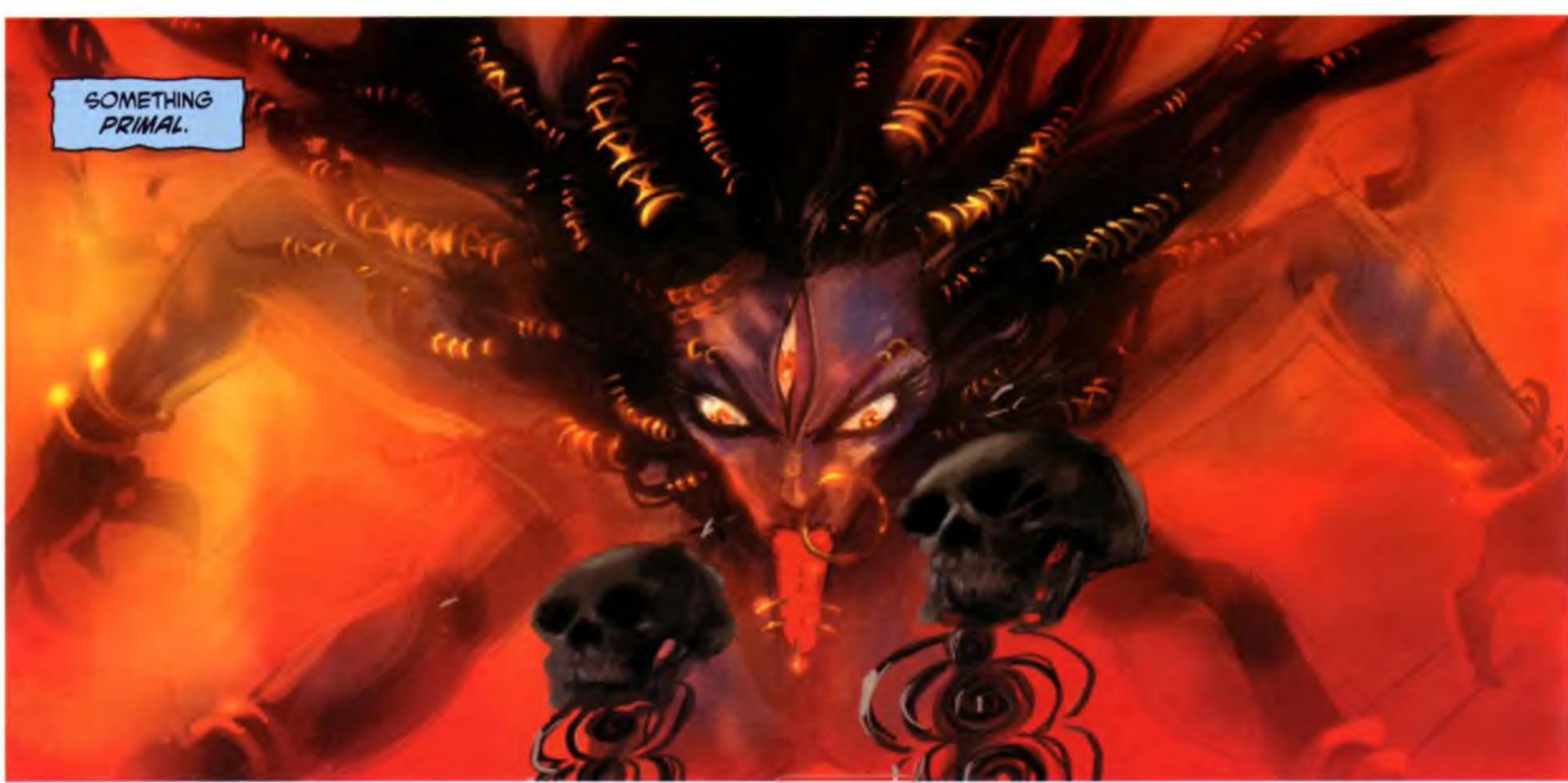
...AND ALSO
MY BRIDE.



BUT NOW SHE WAS
MUCH MORE.



SOMETHING
PRIMAL.



FERAL,
PERHAPS.



RAKTAVEEJ PAUSED AS
HE SAW KALI APPROACHING
LIKE THE MAELWIND FROM
THE WEST.



HE PAID LITTLE HEED TO
THE WEAPON OF VISHNU.
FOR THE MOST IT COULD DO
WAS MAKE HIM BLEED.



AND THAT WOULD ONLY
GIVE HIS ARMY MORE COIN
FOR THE BLOOD-SPAWNS!

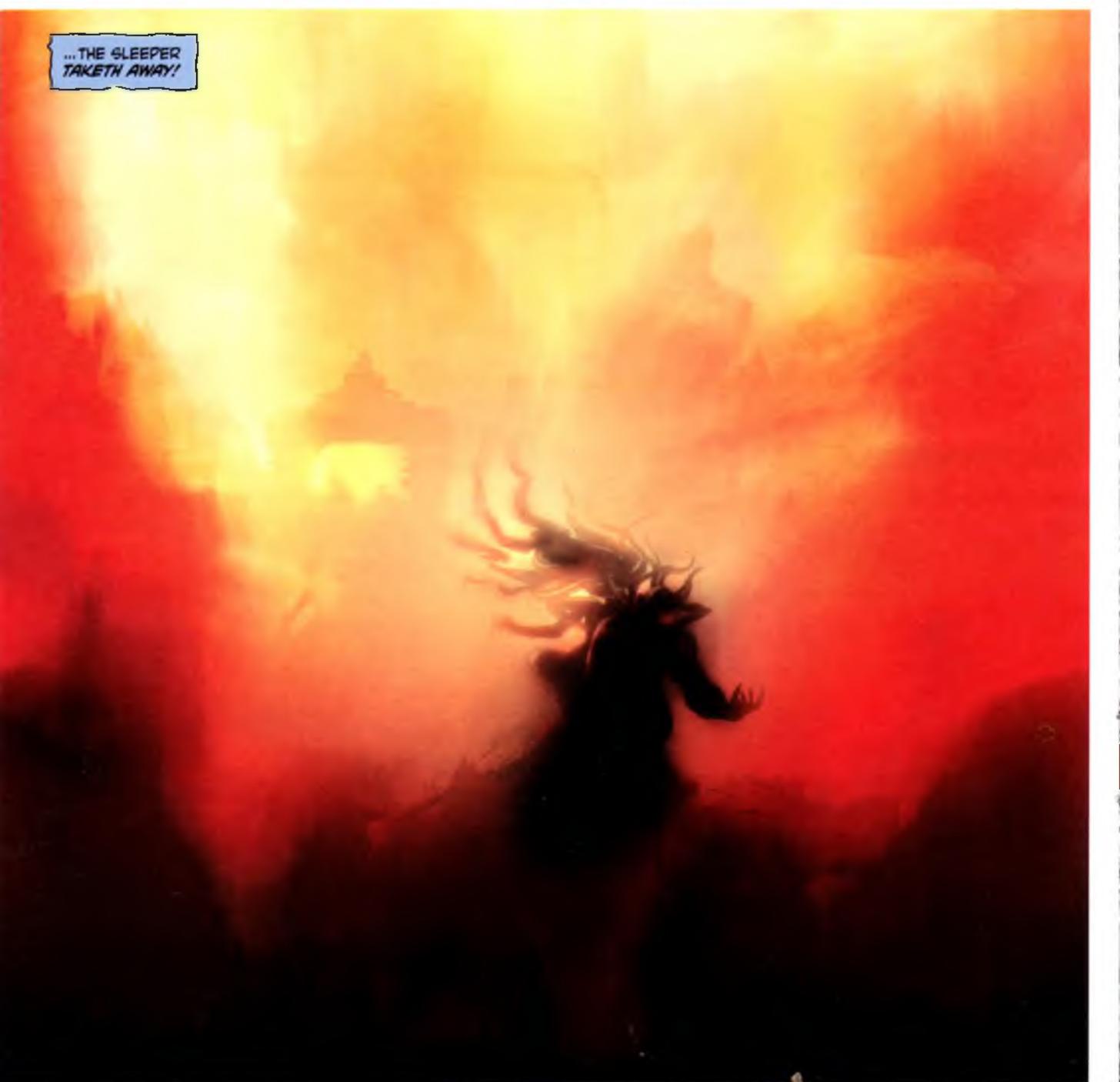




BUT PERHAPS HE DID NOT
KNOW OF THE *TRUE FORM*
OF THE *SLEEPER*.



WHAT THE ALL-MOTHER
GVETH...



...THE *SLEEPER*
TAKETH AWAY!



IT PAINED ME TO SEE
MY UMA LIKE THIS.

I WEPT WHEN
SHE HOWLED LIKE
A WILD BEAST...



...AND TURNED ON
THE BLOOD-SPAWNS.

ON STANDS JULY 2007



ISSUE 1

THE SÄDLER



THE SILENT ONES
1 OF 5

NEW STORY ARC
SPEARHEADED BY
RON MARZ



SHE CUT THROUGH
THEM...



...LIKE *LIGHTNING* SEARING
THROUGH THE MIDNIGHT SKY.



SOON, NONE WERE LEFT
OF THE ONCE MIGHTY ARMY
OF THE BLOOD-SPAWNS.



AND AS THE GODS
REJOICED, I FELT AS IF...



...IT WAS ALL
TOO SOON.



THE COSMOS
IS CAUSAL.

WHAT YOU SOW...

...IS WHAT
YOU REAP.

CALL IT KARMA, CALL IT
DESTINY. EVEN GODS ARE
NOT IMMUNE TO CAUSALITY.



FOR KALI/ COULD
NOT STOP AT THE
DEMONS.

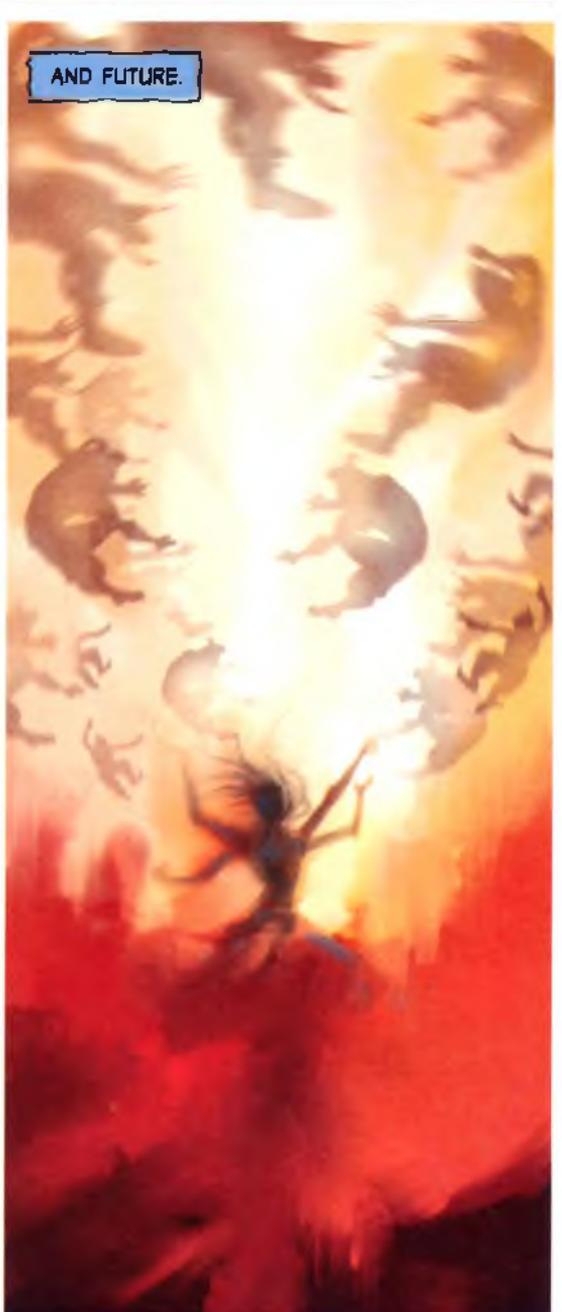
SHE WAS THE
PRIMAL WILL.



PAST.



PRESENT.



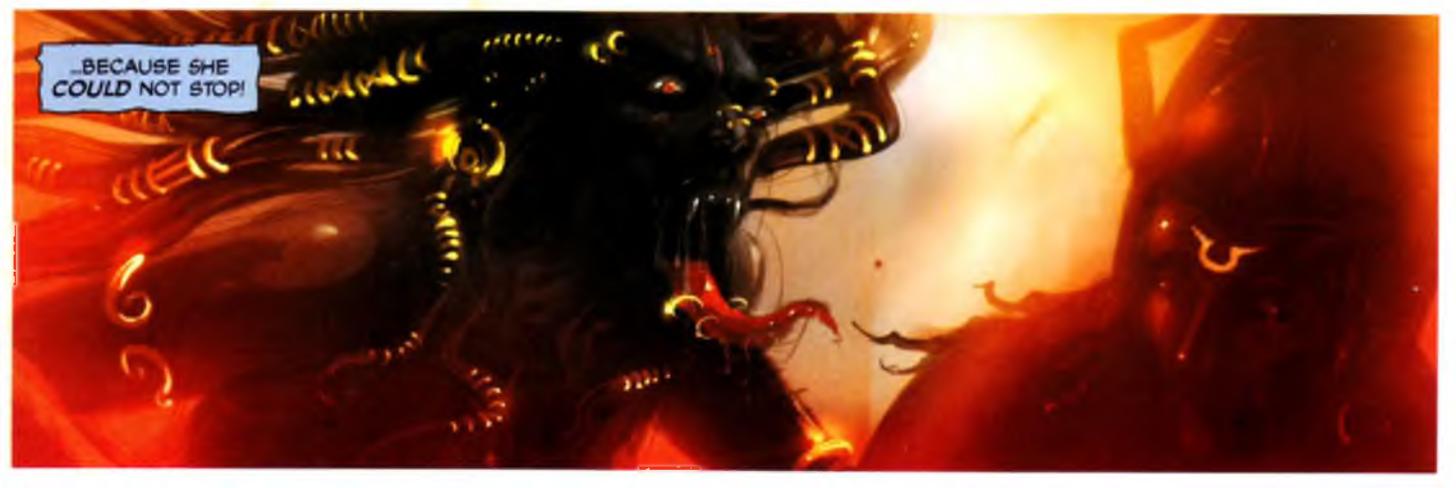
AND FUTURE.



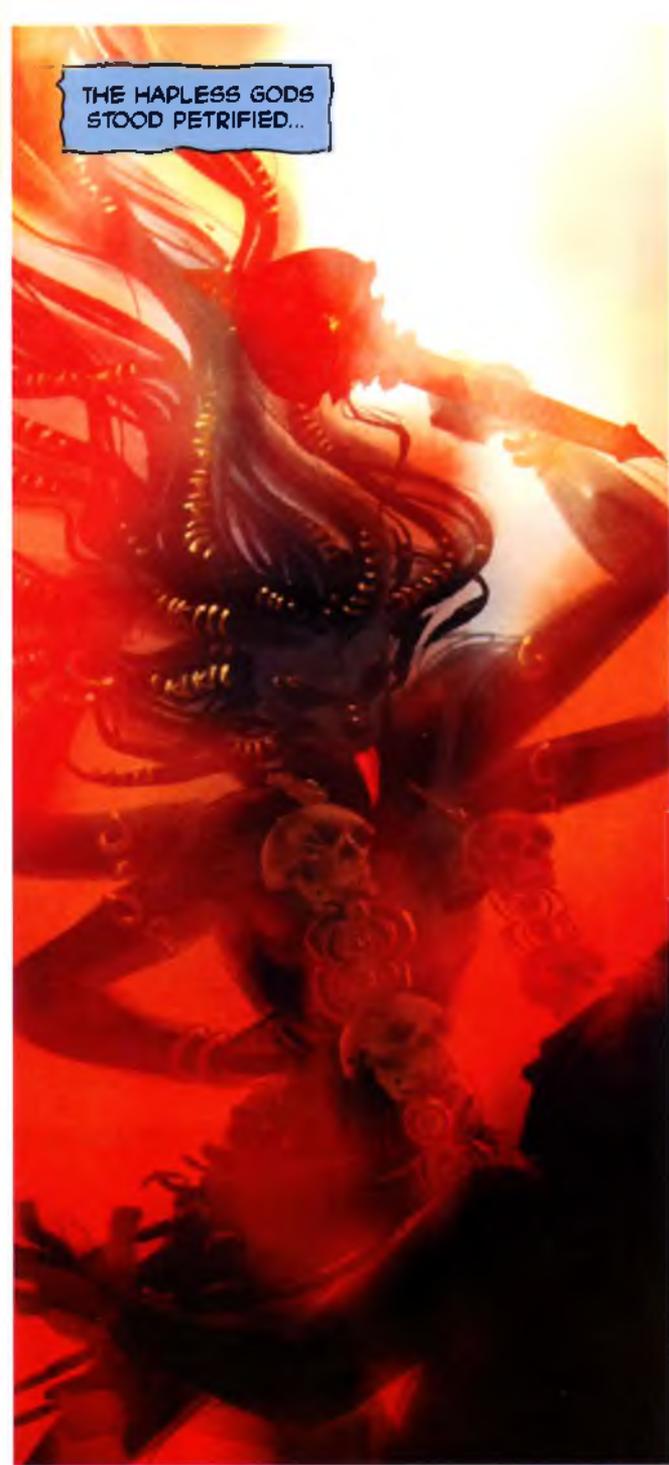
SHE WAS DEATH *MANIFEST*
FOR DEMON AND GOD ALIKE.



SHE DID NOT
STOP.



...BECAUSE SHE
COULD NOT STOP!



THE HAPLESS GODS
STOOD PETRIFIED...



...AS THEIR "SAVIOR"
TURNED ON THEM,
PETRIFIED AT HER
MALEVOLENCE.



BUT I COULD NOT
STAND BACK AND WATCH.

I HAD TO TRY AND
BRING HER BACK.

MY *UMA*, THE
ALL-MOTHER.

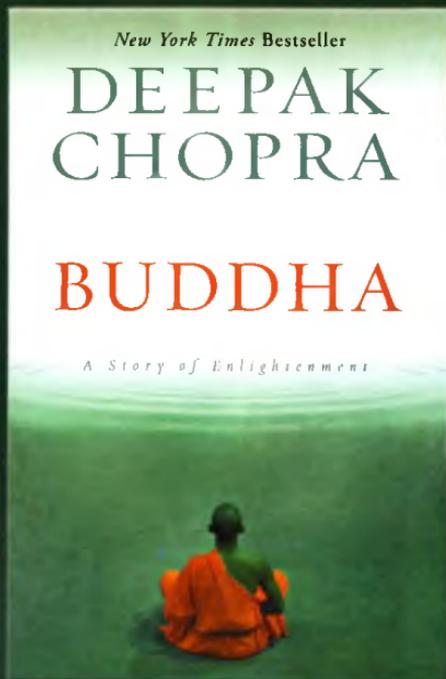


UMA, THIS
CANNOT BE.

YOU MUST
FIGHT HER.

THE LATEST FROM DEEPAK CHOPRA

Chief Visionary of Virgin Comics



Buddha is the most important man who ever achieved enlightenment. Although we can see him as calm, benevolent figure, the actual life story of Buddha was tumultuous and dramatic. I wanted to bring this mysterious figure, who died 2,500 years ago, into the present in all his psychological complexity. What better way to grip the reader than to tell Buddha's story from the inside. No other human being has lived such a life.

"BUDDHA is unlike anything Deepak has ever written before. A timeless story retold by one of the most inspiring spiritual guides of our era, it is essential reading for anyone curious about the foundations of Buddhism."

—BRIAN GRAZER, Oscar Award Winning Producer of "*A Beautiful Mind*,"
Emmy Winning Producer, "24"

"BUDDHA offers us a most extraordinary opportunity to look at the road to enlightenment taken by one man. Deepak's insightful re-imagining of the life journey of one of the world's greatest spiritual leaders is a captivating read and a road map to personal spiritual growth from one of the most respected and inspiring leaders of our time."

—TERRY SEMEL, Chairman and CEO, Yahoo!



T'WAS A MAELSTROM
THAT RAGED IN THE EYES
OF KALI.



BUT I WAS SURE
THAT WITHIN THIS
SAVAGE WARRIOR...



...SOMEWHERE DEEP
INSIDE THE VIOLENT
PSYCHE...



...BEAT THE HEART
OF THE *ALL-MOTHER*.

THE SLEEPER SLUMBERED
AGAIN, FOR IT WAS *UMA*
WHO OPENED HER EYES.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE
FATIGUE OF BATTLE THAT
QUELLED THE PRIMAL WILL.



PERHAPS IT WAS
THE POWER OF THE
ALL-MOTHER.





BUT SOMETIMES
I LIKE TO THINK...

...MAYBE... JUST
MAYBE...

...IT WAS ME.

THE END

INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

RAMAYAN RELOADED

In Hollywood, movie studios refer to their big summer blockbusters as their “tent-poles.” These are the movies, ala *Spider-Man*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *Shrek*, on which production budgets can far exceed the \$100 million mark, with marketing budgets to match, and are expected to make that much in their opening weekend. The scale of the whole business has become so massive that these blockbusters, you’ll notice, are now almost entirely sequels, remakes of familiar titles (*The Dirty Dozen* is in the works), or built off of big brands (*Transformers*). The point is that building a new “franchise,” as they call it in the biz, is virtually impossible because, to enter the game, you’d better come with a big wad of cash and be prepared to lose it all. That’s a pretty tough sell.

Thank God the comics industry plays by a different set of rules! At Virgin Comics, we like to say that money is no issue because, in a sense, we don’t really even have budgets. As a creator, if you want to create the Universe on page 3 and blow it up on page 4, so long as you can make that organic to the story, I’m all for it. In Hollywood, they’d run the numbers first, price out the scene and it’d be more than likely that it would never happen.

The re-launch of our series *Ramayan 3392 AD* is our equivalent of the tent-pole movie. The scale of the story is massive. The Universe of the story is massive. The main characters themselves are Gods, hence they are massive. In turn, to produce it, to “reload it” as we say, we needed massive talent. That’s why we’ve brought in story editor Ron Marz to guide a creative team that includes stalwart Shamik Dasgupta (the original series’ writer) and Virgin titan Jeevan Kang (artist on *Spider-Man India* and John Woo’s *Seven Brothers*). We know that *Ramayan 3392 AD*, which is based on India’s seminal 3,000-year-old myth, is not an easy story for the unexposed reader. It’s full of exotic character-names and settings, and a different type of story-telling than much of what you’ll see at your local comic shop. But that is what makes it so special—it is a legendary tale of honor and sacrifice, tragedy and amazing triumph told through a different lens that, we think, our readers will find themselves connecting with despite the newness of it all.

We’ve crafted the reload as a fresh beginning, so that new readers can come aboard now and not feel lost. We encourage you to go back and read the “prequels,” if you will, out in trade paperback this summer. But we also assure you that not doing so won’t get you lost in the matrix. And here comes the interesting twist of fate, Hollywood is waking up to it. Some of Hollywood’s biggest and brightest seem to have got their hands on our crazy comic *Ramayan 3392 AD*. I know too well the perfect storm of scenarios that is required to get a movie made in Hollywood, so I am not making any predictions, but watch out *Spider-Man 8* and *Pirates 5*—our Blue Boy (read the book and you’ll get the reference) may be showing up at a theater near you very soon.

Gotham Chopra
Chief Creative Officer
Virgin Comics





EXPLORATIONS BY
RAMAYAN
3392 AD
RELOADED
JEEVAN KANG

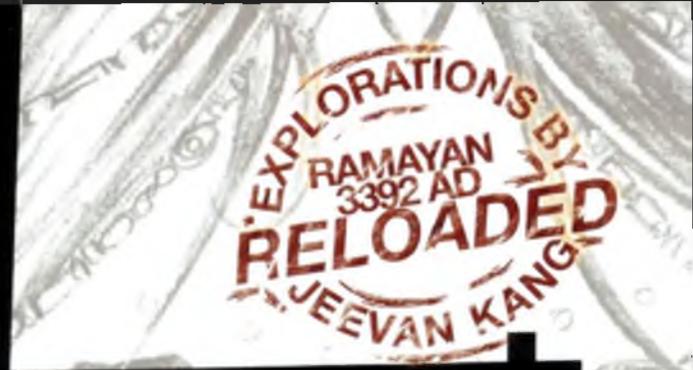
rama



lakshman



seeta



hanuman



panchvati



gad

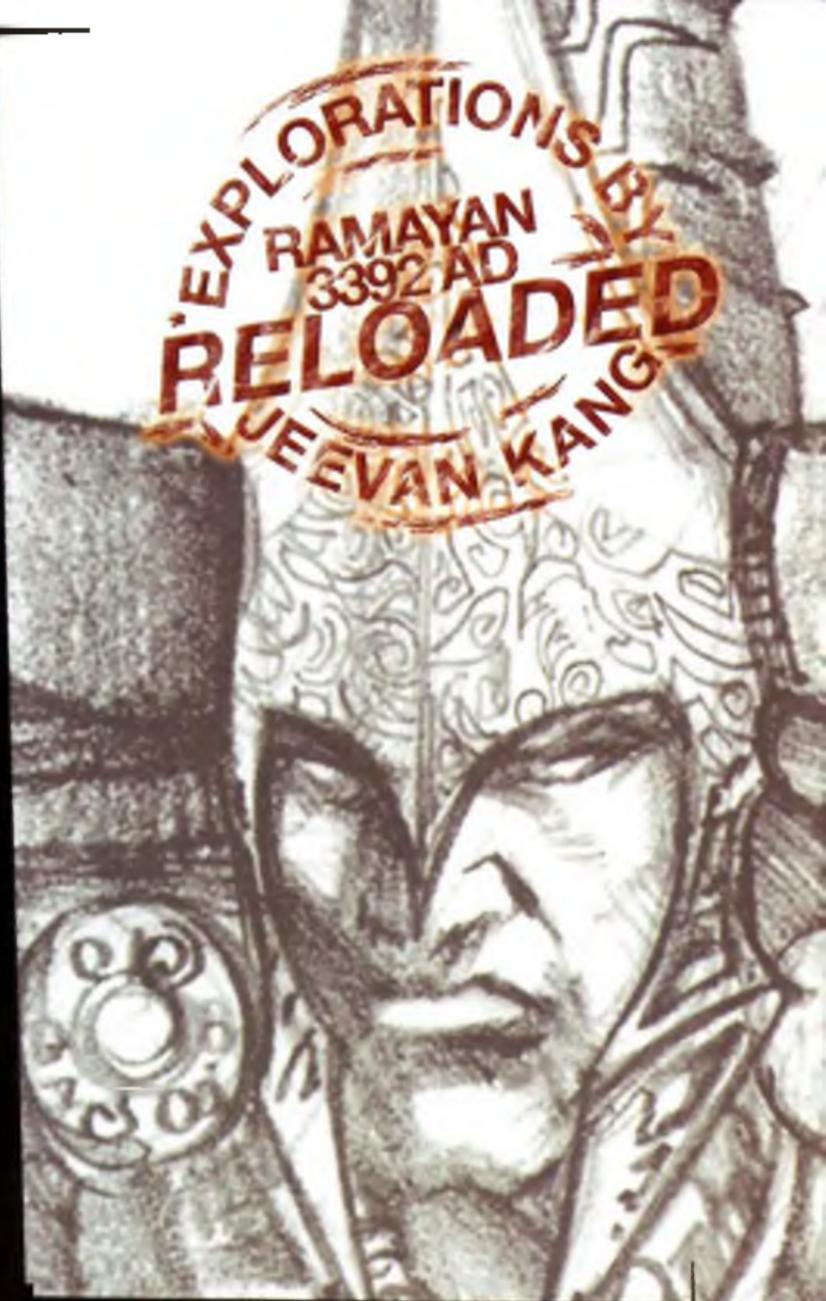


pampa



3392 : RAVAN

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