



ISSUE 5

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra™



astish.07

BASU/PADLEKAR

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra



Leo
The Lion



Nandy
The Bull



Vishnu
Sharma



Bandra
The Monkey



Jack
The Jackal

Story so far...

The stories of our childhood are under attack. Sinister figures, known as TaleCorps, now invade the storyworlds, leaving death and oblivion in their wake. The Panchatantra, a book of ancient Indian fables, teeters on the edge of storybook history. But there is hope! The animal heroes of lore—Lion, Bull, Monkey, and Jackal—search for their savior, the true guardian of the Panchatantra, the heir to the seer Vishnu Sharma's legacy who would risk everything to save the ancient storyworlds.

Thing is... the current guardian has no idea they even exist.

Vishnu Sharma, would-be boy hero, is too busy playing in online tournaments to fight storybook wars. But when the Panchatantra characters show up at his door, he finds it difficult to separate fact from fiction. After being saved from murderous TaleCorps agents, pulled into the Panchatantra storyworlds by its animal heroes, and then yanked back into the real world by the evil Professor Shadow, it's still unclear which side Vishnu's on. Shadow urges him to join the TaleCorps cause: to gain control over the hearts and minds of story lovers the world over by uniting modern and long-forgotten stories alike, and killing anyone that gets in their way—including Vishnu's family if he rejects the offer.

The battle brews near as a conflicted Vishnu rejoins Leo at Council Rock. As mistrust and tensions heighten, Leo calls Vishnu forward, and miraculously the animals are silenced. The headline has not failed! A Guardian still exists! Hope lives on! Moved by their support, Vishnu admits his betrayal, but pledges his loyalty to the Panchatantra characters forevermore!

Or for a few minutes at least, since Professor Shadow just showed up.

And he's got a dragon with him....











THIS IS ALL MY FAULT FOR TRUSTING VISHNU.

LEO, LISTEN!

YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER.

VISHNU'S BETRAYED HIS BLOODLINE, BUT YOU STILL HAVE A DUTY TO YOURS. YOU ARE OUR LEADER



WE'VE LOST A GUARDIAN. NO ONE BUT YOU CAN GUIDE US.

IF YOU DON'T PULL US THROUGH, WE ALL DIE HERE. I HAVE FAITH IN YOU, BROTHER.

BE OUR KING.



YOU'RE RIGHT.

OWLS! FIRE DUTY!



I, UM, MUST CONSULT MY PARLIAMENT...

TAKE DOVES AND CAMELS. FIND WATER UNDERGROUND, IN THE CAVES. GLENCH THE FLAMES. QUICKLY. OR I'LL EAT YOU MYSELF.

Y-YES, SIR.



IN THE MEANTIME, NANDY, YOU'RE THE TOUGHEST HERE. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.



I DO.





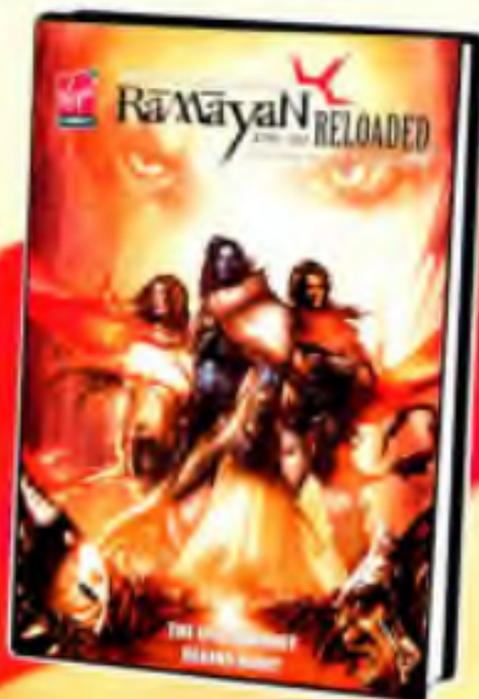
"INDIA'S ANSWER TO LORD OF THE RINGS"

—THE TIMES OF INDIA

A story thousands of years in the making...

A re-imagining of one of the greatest tales ever...

Retold in a post-apocalyptic future...



Cover by
Alex Ross



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YOU ARE NOT UNSKILLED WITH THE BLADE, BUT THE DAY IS MINE!

YOUR VILLAINOUS BANTER REALLY NEEDS WORK.

FOR A START, IT'S EVENING.



YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE, JACKAL!

TALECORPS COULD USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

I'D JOIN UP, BUT THE COSTUMES ARE TERRIBLE.



AFTER I'VE KILLED YOU, I'M GIVING YOU A COMPLETE MAKEOVER.



I'VE SEEN TRICKSTERS LIKE YOU IN OTHER WORLDS, JACK, SO FULL OF THEMSELVES, SO ARROGANT, SO CLEVER.

IN THE END, IT IS THEIR VANITY THAT IS THEIR DOWNFALL.



IT'S NOT VANITY WHEN YOU'RE REALLY THAT GOOD.







THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra



Script

Samit BASU

Art

Ashish PADLEKAR

Color

**Vishwanath MANOKARAN,
K. GOPALAKRISHNAN &
A. THIRUNEELAKANDAN**

Letter

Nilesh P. KUDALE

Cover Art

Ashish PADLEKAR

Project Manager

Reuben THOMAS

Assistant Editor

Sana AMANAT

Editor

MacKenzie CADENHEAD

VIRGIN COMICS

Chief Executive Officer and Publisher

Sharad DEVARAJAN

Chief Creative Officer and Editor in Chief

Gotham CHOPRA

President and Studio Chief

Suresh SEETHARAMAN

Chief Marketing Officer

Larry LIEBERMAN

SRVP Studio

Jeevan KANG

VP Operations

Alagappan KANNAN

Director of Development

MacKenzie CADENHEAD

Director of Marketing

Neil MARKS

Chief Visionaries

Deepak CHOPRA,

Shekhar KAPUR,

Sir Richard BRANSON

Special Thanks to

Frances FARROW,

Dan PORTER,

Christopher LINEN,

Peter FELDMAN,

Raju PUTHUKARAL,

Mallika CHOPRA

& Jonathan PEACHEY

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info@virgincomics.com or (312) 684-4040. www.virgincomics.com







LEAD IT TO THE WORLD'S EDGE AND LOSE IT!

SKREEEEEEEE



NANDY!



SHOUT OUT, BOYS. WE'RE TAKING IT NORTH.

THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.



TELL ME HE'LL LIVE.

HE'LL LIVE.

I HOPE.



ANYTHING.

LEO, A FAVOR.



KILL ME.



DON'T SAY THAT. YOU'LL MAKE IT. WE'VE ALMOST WON HERE.

I CAN'T KILL YOU, NANDY. NOT THIS TIME. NOT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.



IF YOU DON'T DO IT, LEO, I'LL NEVER BE REBORN. I'LL BE LOST FOREVER.

AT LEAST THIS WAY, A PART OF ME LIVES. IF THERE IS EVER ANOTHER STORY CYCLE. IF OUR WORLD SURVIVES THIS.



BANDRA, HELP ME. YOU'VE MEANT SO MUCH TO ME IN THIS LIFE.

MAKE HIM GIVE ME A SHOT AT ANOTHER ONE.



DO IT, LEO. HE'S LOST FOREVER OTHERWISE.

NO!



DO IT!!



TAKE CARE OF THE BOY. THIS IS NOT HIS FAULT. HE WAS CONFUSED AS YOU ONCE WERE.

WE WILL MEET AGAIN. IN THIS LIFE, NOT THE NEXT.



UNTIL TOMORROW, BROTHER.





ISSUE 3

Deepak Chopra's

Buddha™

A Story of Enlightenment



ON SALE JUNE 2008

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GUARDIAN!



GUARDIAN!
SAVE US!

ARE YOU
INSANE? THE BOY'S
THE ENEMY. A TRAITOR
TO US, AND HIS
BLOODLINE.

FLEE
BEFORE HE KILLS
US ALL.



SHUT UP.



YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT
ME. SO DON'T LECTURE ME,
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE
RUNNING AWAY
YOURSELF.

I MADE A
CHOICE. I CHOSE
TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE
CLOSEST TO ME. I'M SORRY
THINGS TURNED OUT THE
WAY THEY DID.



AND NOW I'VE
MADE ANOTHER CHOICE.
TO HELP ALL OF YOU IN EVERY
WAY I CAN. BECAUSE OF WHAT MY
GRANDFATHER MEANT TO YOU, AND
BECAUSE YOUR ENEMIES, WHO
I'VE GROWN UP WATCHING AND
LOVING, ARE IN THE
WRONG.

BUT I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO FIGHT
A DRAGON.





COLLECTED EDITIONS

RAMAYAN 3392 AD



DEVI



JOHN WOO'S
7 BROTHERS



SHEKHAR KAPUR'S
SNAKE WOMAN



DEEPAK CHOPRA'S
INDIA AUTHENTIC



THE SADHU



GUY RITCHIE'S
GAMEKEEPER



WESTON CAGE
& NICOLAS CAGE'S
VOODOO CHILD



DAVE STEWART'S
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GET
SHEKHAR KAPUR'S
SNAKE
IN YOUR

WOMAN
pants



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GAMES



NO MORE, YOU WIN.

SO, VISHNU, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON NOW?

YOUR SIDE. YOUR *WORLD'S* SIDE.

MY SIDE.



WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD, THEN. THIS KILL IS *YOURS*.



STILL NOT READY TO KILL, EH?



VISHNU, IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO DO *WHATEVER IT TAKES--* *WHATEVER IT TAKES--* TO SAVE OUR WORLD, THEN WE HAVE NO NEED OF YOU.

GO HOME AND PLAY WITH THE OTHER LITTLE BOYS.

WHATEVER IT TAKES.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JACK?!

URGH...



WILL THIS WORK, DO YOU THINK?

WE CAN ONLY DO OUR BEST.



I'M NOT PROUD OF WHAT WE DID TODAY

WELL, YOU SHOULD BE, KAVA. WE MIGHT HAVE SAVED OUR WORLD FROM EXTINCTION.



THE STORY'S JUST BEGINNING, KAVA.

THE HERO FINALLY BOTHERED TO SHOW UP.

WITCHBLADE DEM.



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THE EPIC CROSSOVER CONTINUES
JUNE 2008



WE WILL FOLLOW *WHEREVER* YOU LEAD US, KING LEO.

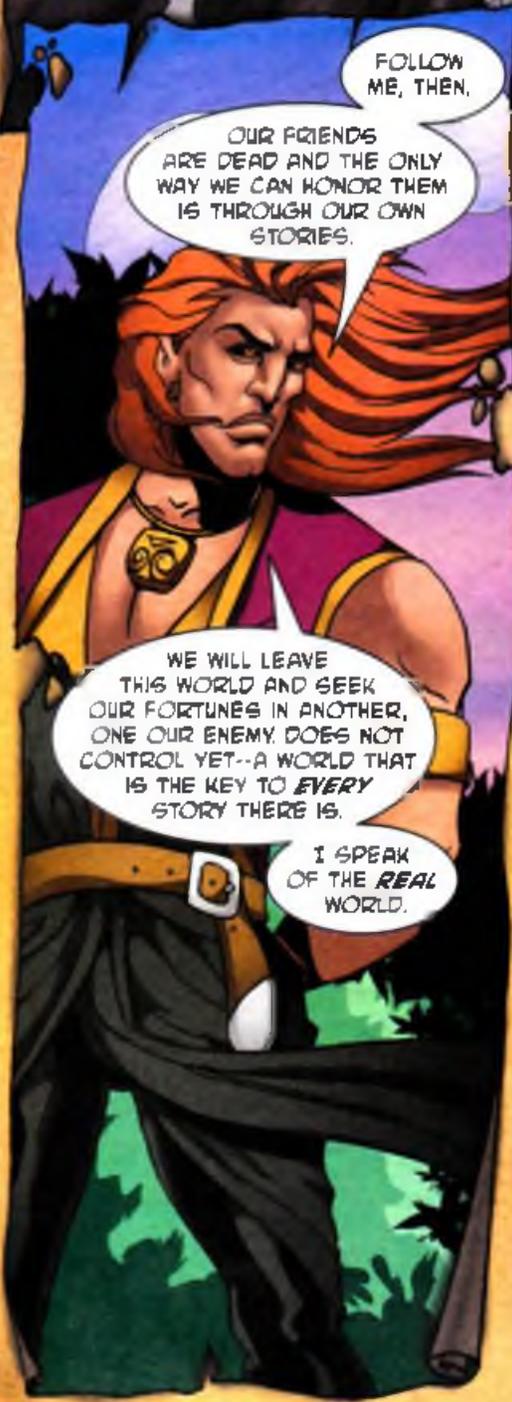
OUR DOUBTS HAVE DIED HERE TODAY. ONLY YOU CAN SAVE US.

FOLLOW ME, THEN.

OUR FRIENDS ARE DEAD AND THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HONOR THEM IS THROUGH OUR OWN STORIES.



SO WE ARE LEAVING OUR HOMES, OUR LIVES, OUR STORIES... FOREVER?



WE WILL LEAVE THIS WORLD AND SEEK OUR FORTUNES IN ANOTHER, ONE OUR ENEMY DOES NOT CONTROL YET--A WORLD THAT IS THE KEY TO *EVERY* STORY THERE IS.

I SPEAK OF THE *REAL* WORLD.



WE CANNOT WAIT HERE IN FEAR, COWERING AS OUR ENEMIES APPROACH. ONE DAY WE *WILL* RETURN. WHEN OUR HOMES ARE *SAFE*. UNTIL THEN, OUR KING WILL KEEP US ALIVE IN A NEW, STRANGE WORLD.

IT WOULDN'T BE *THAT* STRANGE IF WE HAD A *GUIDE*...



...AND A GUARDIAN. WE FOUND HIM ON THE CLIFF-TOP.

MARKS OF A SERIOUS SWORD-FIGHT UP THERE. WE ALSO FOUND THE REMAINS OF THAT SHADOW CHARACTER.



WELCOME BACK, GUARDIAN.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S JACK?

NO SIGN OF THAT RASCAL, BUT YOU--YOU WON A LEGENDARY VICTORY.

I DID?



WHAT IS YOUR COUNSEL, GENERAL?

I DON'T TRUST HIM.

THEN WE KEEP OUR EYES OPEN. BUT WE DO NEED HIM.



THE PAST IS DEAD, VISHNU. OUR TALES ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE FOREVER, AND OUR STORY CYCLES ARE NO LONGER RELEVANT.

YOU STRAYED FROM THE PATH, BUT YOU HAVE RETURNED, AND I BID YOU WELCOME FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.



FOR MY PART, I BEAR YOU NO ILL-WILL. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE A WORTHY HEIR TO YOUR GRANDFATHER. WILL YOU GUIDE US WELL IN THE REAL WORLD?

I WILL.

COME, THEN, AND LET US MOURN THE FALLEN UNTIL MORNING COMES.



TOMORROW
IS ANOTHER
WORLD.

THE END (

SPOTLIGHT ON SHAKTI

Shakti, an ancient Sanskrit word pronounced “shuk-TEE”, has many meanings. Upon my latest Google search, I found over 3.6 million entries. Some say Shakti is the divine embodiment of power. Others claim Shakti is a bolt of electricity bestowed by the Gods to those seeking their benevolence.

To us, the comics that are part of the Shakti imprint showcase a generation of South Asian creators who are using their own imaginations and modern sensibilities to craft stories that feel fresh and original, yet intimately familiar. But Shakti does not merely retell classic tales. Our Shakti stories re-imagine the myths of old, in all their epic and fantastic glory, while boldly proclaiming their relevance in the world today.

In *Ramayana 3392 A.D.*, we re-imagined India's greatest epic... the adventures of Prince Rama, his brother Lakshman and Seeta, the daughter of Mother Earth, as they battle their nemesis Ravan in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic world. *Shekhar Kapur's Devi* tells the story of an omnipotent goddess reincarnated into the body of an inhibited modern woman.

Shakti also draws from the spiritual wisdom of Deepak Chopra (who happens to be my dad) who, in *India Authentic*, explores the lives of Hindu Gods

and Goddesses as archetypal embodiments of our own instincts. In *Deepak Chopra's Buddha*, a comic series adapted from his *New York Times* bestselling novel, we follow the story of a young prince destined to become The Enlightened One. Shakti has even dusted off the pages of the *Panchatantra*, an ancient Indian book of animal fables, with *The Tall Tales*, where the *Panchatantra* and its characters are threatened by modern-day anime sociopaths and evil boy wizards.

Our mission with Shakti is simple: to give readers a taste of the rich storytelling that goes back thousands of years. We also hope that each book feels fresh, provocative, and unlike anything fans have previously experienced. We realize that we're asking a lot for folks to enter into an alien world, one with strange names and exotic settings. It's uncomfortable—at first. But trust me, it gets easier. Remember the first time you held a Japanese Manga in your hands?

These aren't your parents' comics. But then again, that's why we're making them.

Gotham Chopra
Editor-In-Chief



DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT
Ramayana THE **LEGEND**
RELOADED

India's answer to *The Lord of the Rings*, *Ramayan* (pronounced *ruh-MY-an*) follows the epic adventures of the mighty warrior, Prince Rama, who, along with his brother and the daughter of Mother Earth, set out on a perilous journey to end the treacherous reign of Ravan, a monstrous being attempting to wipe out what little is left of humanity in this post-apocalyptic retelling of one of the greatest tales every told.



SHEKHAR KAPUR'S
DEVI

Devi (*day-VEE*) follows the story of Tara Mehta, a young woman whose body was fused with the spirit of a divine warrior and became a living goddess more powerful than any other deity. As mankind's champion, Devi protects the earth and her own city of Sitapur from supernatural scourges and criminal elements alike.

THE TALL TALES
OF VISHNU SHARMA.

Some books have lives of their own. So it is with the *Panchatantra*, an ancient Indian book wherein fabled animals live in harmony with one another. But now assassins seek to destroy their world and corrupt the minds of story-lovers worldwide. To ensure their survival, three heroes—a lion, a bull, and a monkey—must convince a craven, video-gaming teen named Vishnu Sharma to accept his destiny as protector of the *Panchatantra*.





Deepak Chopra's
Buddha
A Story of Enlightenment

Awaken. Seek truth. Stumble. Begin again. This is the simple yet profound message from the inspiring man who achieved Enlightenment and showed the world a way for peace, understanding, and serenity. Follow young prince Siddhartha as he defies tradition and achieves his destiny as the *Buddha*. No desires, fears, or duties could prevent what was always to be: the coming of the great Awakened One.

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

india
authentic

There exists a world beyond our mortal comprehension that tells the story of life before men came to be. These are stories of the Gods and Goddesses who now reign over humanity and wield the forces of the universe, providing balance for all existence. These are the stories that have laid the foundations of a country a billion strong, that have taught and inspired countless generations.



THE
Sādhu

James Jensen's sole purpose in life was to seek vengeance on the British officer who murdered his family in 18th century India. But his life was not meant for just blood-thirsty revenge. He was destined to be a *Sadhu* (*sah-DOO*), a mystic warrior walking the path to spiritual salvation. But can James' quest for enlightenment overcome his desire for revenge?

EXPLORE THESE UPCOMING SHAKTI RELEASES

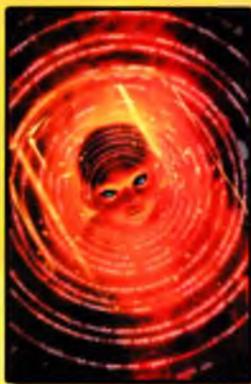


BLADE OF THE WARRIOR: KSHATRIYA

An exiled prince, whose kingdom was stolen by his demonic brother, returns for revenge in this epic sword-and-sorcery tale of bravery, retribution and family war set in a mysterious eastern kingdom. Torn between vengeance and honor, and forced to survive with only his wits and the mystic black blade he wields more fiercely than any man, Kshatriya's (*shut-REE-yuh*) path is paved with blood on his journey to becoming the greatest warrior the world has ever known.

DEEPAK CHOPRA'S BEYOND

Acclaimed writer Ron Marz adapts Deepak Chopra's original science fiction story of an American businessman who is propelled across dimensions and into an adventure like no other when his wife goes mysteriously missing in India. His journey will lead him to trials both physical and metaphysical as he will stop at nothing—and go literally anywhere—to save her.



PROJECT: KALKI

The end of the world is upon us. War, famine, suffering. There's no stopping the havoc created by humans. But in a small lab in India, a geneticist has cloned the remains of what was once thought to be only a mythological figure, creating a "human" being with the power to save the world... or end it.

MUMBAI MACGUFFIN

This one-shot graphic novel is a high-octane adventure through the never-before-seen underbelly of Mumbai, as an ace CIA operative finds himself out of his element and out of his depth when tasked with recovering a downed satellite deep within the biggest slum in Asia. Nothing can prepare him for the wild and dangerous characters he encounters, including a wheelchair-ridden gangster hooked on John Wayne westerns, a brilliant bar dancer, a trigger-happy cop and a religious cult that will do ANYTHING to protect its phallic totem. Seriously.



DEEPAK CHOPRAS

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ISSUE 1
OF 4

BEYOND

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie is falling through a large, glowing golden circular portal. He has a determined and slightly desperate expression. The background behind him shows a golden, ornate structure, possibly a palace or temple. The entire scene is set against a dark, starry space background. The word 'BEYOND' is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline and a blue shadow, positioned at the top of the portal.

A missing woman.

A desperate man.

An adventure that takes them both ^{IR}BEYOND.

ON SALE NOW

"Encoded into the stories of the divine Pantheon of Indio are some of the most primal stories ever told. They chronicle our greatest aspirations, our darkest fears, and our collective experience as a species."

—DEEPAK CHOPRA

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *india authentic™*

**"TRUE MYTHIC WONDER...
5 OUT OF 5 STARS."**

—Comiccritique.com

**"A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO
SUBJECTS RARELY BROACHED
IN COMICS."**

—Comixfan.com

**"STRANGE AND MAGICAL
AND MOVING."**

**—Mike Carey
(AUTHOR OF *X-Men*, *Voodoo Child*)**

**"A BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED
GRAPHIC NOVEL... A MUST READ
AND A COLLECTOR'S ITEM."**

—Desicritics.com



Also Available



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