

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

RāMāyaN

3392 AD



Virgin
COMICS

ISSUE 8

The Ascension Part 2

DASGUPTA/ABHISHEK

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT
Rāmāyaṇ
3392 A.D.



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STORY SO FAR

Rama is lost in the outlands, Lakshman has disappeared from Armagarh, Bharat and Shatrughan are reported missing and the maharaj of Armagarh, Dashrath is dead...the house of Suryavansha, the pride of Armagarh, is decimated. Now, a covert group of Asuras led by the imposter Kalnemi are trying to seize power over Armagarh by manipulating the ruling council. Times are dark.

However, a group of rebels led by the ex-councilor Sumantra has uncovered the conspiracy of the Asuras. With Shatrughan, they have located Bharat who was imprisoned in the subterranean mines of Khundgiri.

After freeing Bharat and after a series of bloody battles; the survivors, Bharat, his younger brother Shatrughan, Sumantra and his daughter Mandavi, head for Armagarh. Bharat is livid with rage and he wants some serious payback.





"AMONG ALL THE ASURA RACES, RAKSHASAS ARE THE ONLY SPECIES WHO CAN CHANGE THEIR SHAPE; THEY CAN MORPH INTO ANY CREATURE OF THEIR SIZE AND MOLECULAR DENSITY...

"AFTER YEARS OF RESEARCH, THE BRAHMIN SCIENTISTS OF ARMAGARH DEDUCED THAT RAKSHASAS ARE NOT BORN, BUT CREATED OUT OF ANTHROPOMORPHIC CREATURES. THEIR WHOLE BODY IS LACED WITH YANTRA TECH IN THE SUBCUTANEOUS LAYER, WHICH GIVES THEM THE POWER TO MORPH INTO ANY OTHER CREATURE OF EQUAL MOLECULAR DENSITY.

"THE YANTRA TECH IS ACTUALLY SENTIENT MICROSCOPIC MECHANICAL ORGANISMS WHICH FORMS THE BEING OF RAVAN. IN THE OLDEN AGES IT WAS KNOWN AS NANO-TECHNOLOGY. IT IS SAID THAT RAVAN IS A BEING CREATED WITH BILLIONS OF THESE MICRO-ORGANISMS AND HENCE HE ACTUALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY PROPER FORM TO BEGIN WITH.

"COMING BACK TO THE POINT, THE RAKSHASAS IN ARMAGARH ARE DISGUISED AS HUMAN BEINGS, BUT THE EQUILIBRIUM IN THIS MICRO-MACHINERY IS MAINTAINED BY A DEVICE HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN ARMAGARH. DESTROY THAT DEVICE AND THEY'LL LOSE THEIR MASKS INSTANTLY."

SAVE ME THE SCIENCE AND HISTORY LESSON UNCLE SUMANTRA, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

SIMPLE. EXPOSE THE ASURAS AND TAKE BACK THE CONTROL OF ARMAGARH.

INSIDE SUMANTRA'S AIRSHIP.

AND HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?

KALNEMI IS GOING TO BE APPOINTED THE NEW MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH THREE HOURS FROM NOW.

SO I KILL HIM.

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE SO EASY. HIS FALSE PROPAGANDAS HAVE BORNE HIM FRUIT. THE RICH AND WEALTHY OF ARMAGARH SUPPORT HIM AND PROTECT HIM FROM THOSE WHO DON'T.

THEN I GUESS WE'VE GOT THE 'GREAT' BHARAT BY OUR SIDE. THE APPEARANCE OF A SURYAVANSHI WILL MAKE THE PEOPLE SWOON, JUST AS YOU SAID FATHER.

WE CAN'LL AFFORD AN UPRISING. KALNEMI AND THE OLIGARCHY THAT SUPPORTS HIM WOULD CRUSH IT INSTANTLY. HENCE, WE MUST BE WARY TO TRIGGER EVEN THE SUSPICION OF ANY RESISTANCE...

WE HAVE TO EXPOSE THE ASURAS FOR WHO THEY REALLY ARE AND LET THE PEOPLE SEE IT FOR THEMSELVES. THEN BHARAT WILL HAVE HIS SHOT AT KALNEMI.

YOU'RE A SMART BOY, SON.

UH, UNCLE SUMANTRA, I THINK WE HAVE COMPANY...



TRESPASSERS...
IDENTIFY YOURSELF... YOU ARE
IN THE PERIMETER OF THE
SOVEREIGN REPUBLIC OF
ARMAGARH...

REPORT
IMMEDIATELY OR
YOU WILL BE FIRED
UPON



I DON'T HAVE TIME
FOR THIS NOW.

IT'S ONLY A FEW
VOJANS TO ARMAGARH,
WE CAN GET
THROUGH.



FOOM

FULL THROTTLE
AHEAD!

ZOWW

DAMN IT! HOW DID THEY DETECT US THROUGH THE CLOAK?

FATHER, YOUR RATH* IS OUTDATED. THE NEW SCANNERS CAN DETECT A FLY WITHIN A HUNDRED YOJANS** OF ARMAGARH.

*AIRCRAFT

**2.3MILES

LOOK, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME. IN THE DUNGEONS OF KHUNDGIRI, I HAVE UNEARTHED CRUCIAL INFORMATION. THE YANTRA GENERATOR WHICH CONTROLS THE MORPH-TECH IS HIDDEN BENEATH THE SHAKTI KUNDALI*.

ONCE WE DISMANTLE THE DEVICE, THE ASURAS WILL LOSE THEIR DISGUISE.

*THE REACTOR WHICH EMANATES THE SHAKTI BEAM CUTTING THROUGH THE NOXIOUS CLOUDS COVERING THE WORLD.

BUT WE NEED TO STOP THE CROWNING CEREMONY. HENCE, WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP ONCE WE REACH ARMAGARH.

IF WE REACH ARMAGARH.

WE NEED SOMEONE TO GET INSIDE THE SHAKTIKUNDALI, SOMEONE SMALL AND SWIFT, AND SKILLED IN THE ART OF STEALTH.

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS...

WHY'S EVERYONE LOOKING AT ME?



ISSUE 8

THE

sadhu



"THE SADHU IS A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE YARN." —IGN

CHOPRA | MANIKANDAN

ON STANDS MAY 2007

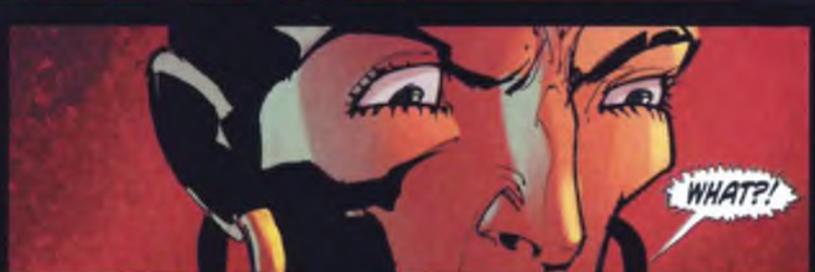
RAJMAHAL,
THE ROYAL ABODE.

FEELS GOOD TO BE
THE MAHARAJ.



MASTER... COUNCILOR
KALNEMI...

HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT,
MANTHAR?



WHAT?!



FATHER, OUR BATTERY CIRCUITS HAVE BEEN FRIED.

WE ARE IN ARMAGARH NOW. SHATRUGHAN, I AM GOING TO EJECT YOU RIGHT ABOVE THE SHAKTIKUNDALI, YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN THEREAFTER.



WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE 'BALI KA BAKRA'?

*SACRIFICIAL LAMB.

BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE ONE, MY BROTHER.



KNOW THIS TUBBY, THERE IS NO ONE ELSE IN WHOSE HANDS I WOULD PLACE THE FATE OF OUR PEOPLE THAN YOU...

BUT I'M SCARED OF HEIGHTS...

A KSHATRIYA IS SCARED OF NOTHING.

SEE YOU AT THE RAJMAHAL BROTHER.

TAKKK...



BINGO!

FWAPP

BEEP

THAT'S IT!







ARMARGARH...
HERE COMES YOUR
SAVIOUR!



WE ARE ALMOST
NEAR THE RAJMAHAL,
BHARAT.



BEGIN THE
CEREMONY.

ABOUT TIME...
HURRY UP
FOOLS.



IT'S TIME
THE PEOPLE OF
ARMAGARH MEET
THEIR NEW
MAHARAJ.



BUT MASTER, SHOULDN'T
WE INFORM LORD RAVAN
OF BHARAT'S ESCAPE?

HE IS *NOT* TO
BE INVOLVED IN SUCH
INCONSEQUENT MATTERS.
THE BOORISH LAD CAN BE
HANDLED BY US.

WHERE IS
KAIKEYI? IS SHE
HERE AS PER
MY ORDERS?



SHE IS HERE, BUT WE
HAD TO 'MEDICATE' HER
DUE TO HER *///* HEALTH
AND TEMPER.



EXCELLENT! I NEED
HER PRESENCE IN FRONT OF
THE JANATA* TO SHOW THEM
THE ENTIRE COUNCIL IS NOW
ON MY SIDE.



PEOPLE OF ARMAGARH...
A *NEW AGE* FOR THE RACE
OF MAN BEGINS... AS I TAKE
OATH, AND OFFER YOU MY
SERVICES AS...

*POPULATION OF
ARMAGARH

ON STANDS MAY 2007

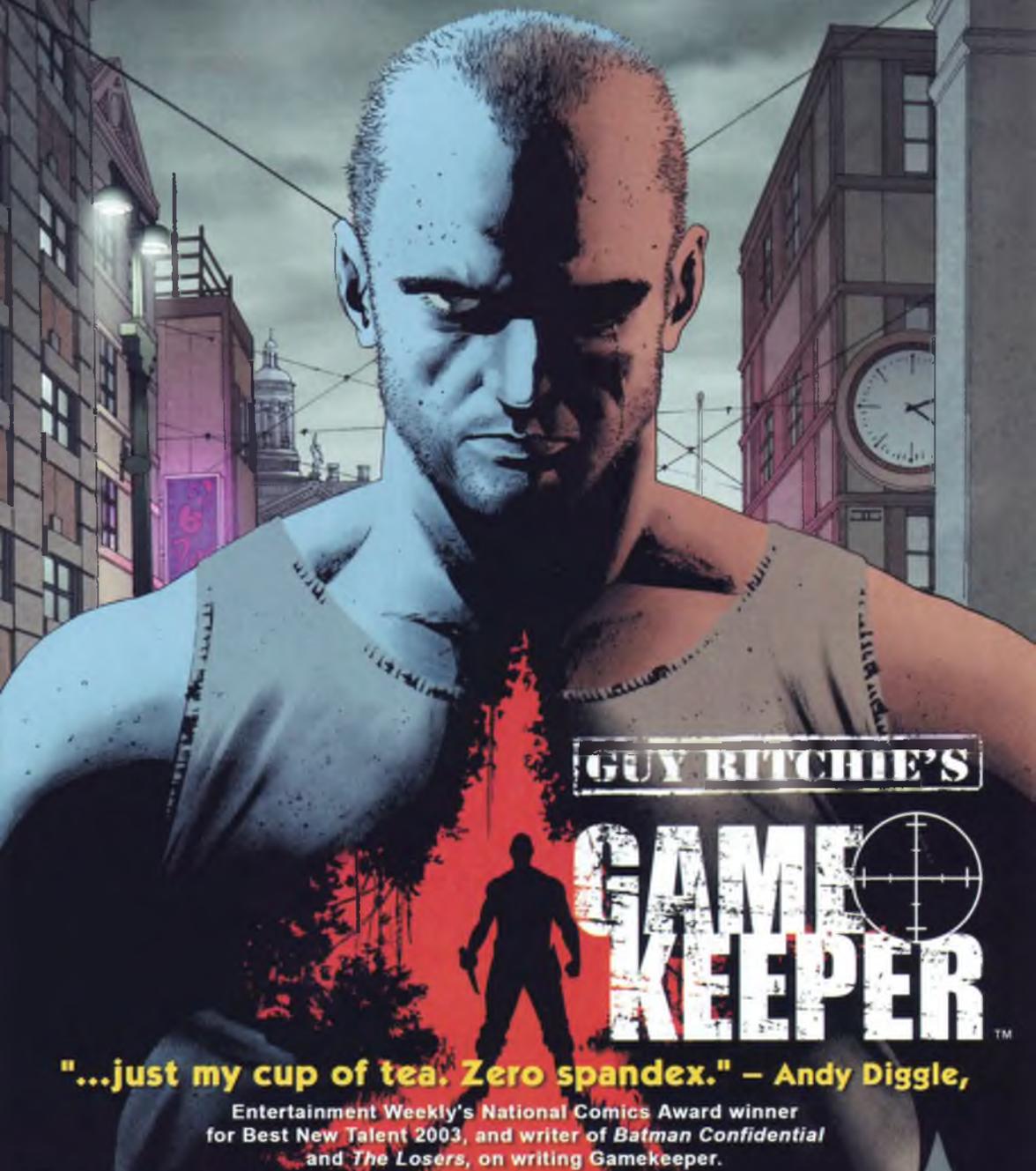
GUY RITCHIE - ANDY DIGGLE - MUKESH SINGH

Created by Filmmaker **GUY RITCHIE** [*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*; *Snatch*]

Written by **ANDY DIGGLE** [*Batman Confidential*; *The Losers*]

with artwork by **MUKESH SINGH** [*Devil*]

Cover by **JOHN CASSADAY** [*Astonishing X-Men*]



GUY RITCHIE'S

**GAME
KEEPER**™

"...just my cup of tea. Zero spandex." – Andy Diggle,

Entertainment Weekly's National Comics Award winner
for Best New Talent 2003, and writer of *Batman Confidential*
and *The Losers*, on writing *Gamekeeper*.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

...THE NEW
MAHARAJ OF
ARMAGARH.

KAMEENA*

WHAT ABOUT
THE WILL OF THE
PEOPLE?

TYRANT...



WHAT IN THE
NAME OF...

*DECEITFUL





MEANWHILE, NEAR THE SHAKTIKUNDALI.



RAMA, NOW WOULD BE A DECENT TIME FOR ONE OF YOUR OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC INTRUSIONS TO SAVE THE DAY...



...AND MY BUTT...HENHH.



NOW TO FIND THE YANTRA REACTOR.

ACCORDING TO UNCLE SUMANTRA'S BLUEPRINTS, IT LIES ROUGHLY NORTH EAST TO THE OORJA* SHAFT CONDUITS...

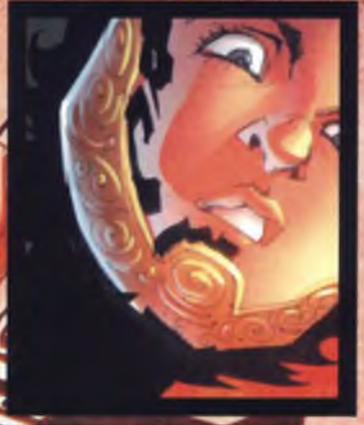
*ENERGY



...AS IF SEVEN MONTHS OF SPELUNKING WEREN'T ENOUGH.

STILL, HERE GOES NOTHING!

YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!





AH! THERE IT IS.

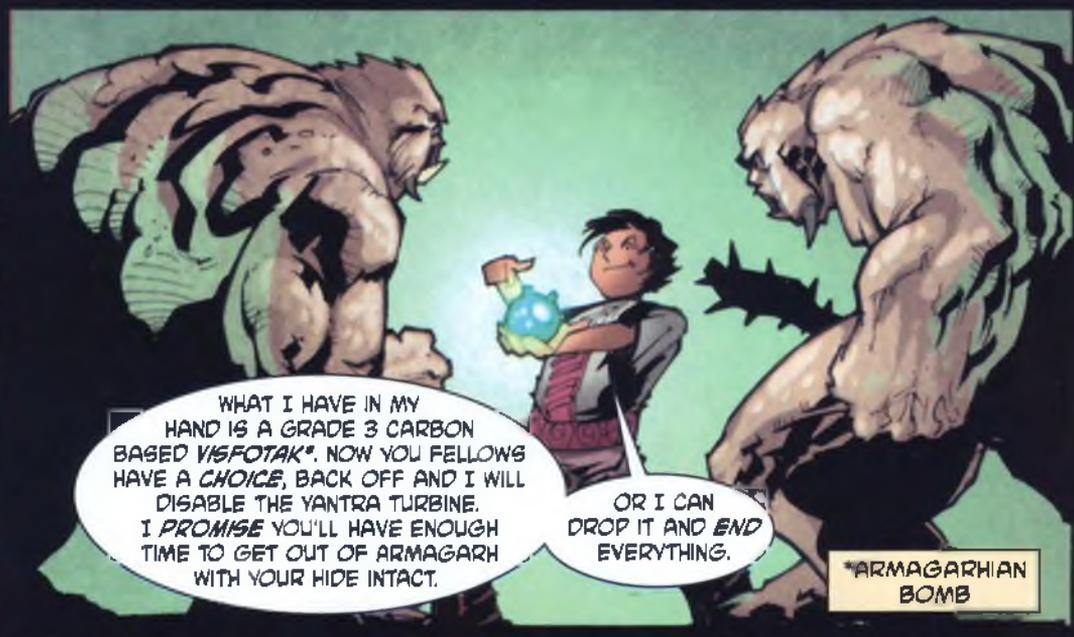


--HOPE THIS WORKS.



HEY... LOOK HERE!

HRGGMMM...?!



WHAT I HAVE IN MY HAND IS A GRADE 3 CARBON BASED VISFOTAK*. NOW YOU FELLOWS HAVE A CHOICE, BACK OFF AND I WILL DISABLE THE YANTRA TURBINE. I PROMISE YOU'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET OUT OF ARMAGARH WITH YOUR HIDE INTACT.

OR I CAN DROP IT AND END EVERYTHING.

*ARMAGARHIAN BOMB



HRGM...?!

HRAGH...!

BACK AT THE RAJMAHAL.

ARREST THAT MAN, SENTRIES. HE IS THREATENING THE MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH!

BU... BUT HE IS BHARAT SURYAVANSHI!

BHARAT DIED IN KHUNDGIRI MONTHS AGO. HE IS AN IMPOSTER! HE IS WITH THE REBELS!

HEH... WHY DONT YOU COME CLOSE AND FIND OUT IF I'M THE REAL DEAL?

--COME ON SHATRU... WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

GET THEM YOU FOOLS.

--UH, WE GOT TO BE SURE IF HE ISN'T REALLY BHARAT.

LOOK, I THINK THAT'S BHARAT! HE'S NOT DEAD. IT WAS A LIE!

YES-- WE JUST SAW THAT.

ONE OF THE THOUSAND LIES KALNEMI SPEAKS EVERY DAY. THE THRONE OF MAHARAJ BELONGS TO BHARAT.

YES, BHARAT IS THE NEW MAHARAJ.

OVERTHROW KALNEMI!

KALNEMI, YOU SUCK!

DOWN WITH KALNEMI!



DAMN IT... THIS SITUATION IS GETTING OUT OF HAND.



SENTRIES, ARREST THIS MAN IMMEDIATELY, THAT'S MY ORDER. WE CAN DETERMINE WHETHER HE IS THE REAL BHARAT OR NOT LATER.



I AM SORRY SIR, WE HAVE TO...

INCORRECT...



I AM SORRY...

DADI!



...I UNDERSTAND BROTHERS, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU.

MEANWHILE...
BENEATH THE
SHAKTI KUNDALI.

DAMMIT.. THESE
BLOKES ARE TOO
DUMB TO BE
BLUFFED!

TIME IS RUNNING
SHORT

BHARAT MUST BE
AT THE RAJMAHAL
BY NOW.

RRRGHHH...

EVERY SECOND
WASTED MEANS
BHARAT BEING
CAPTURED.

COME
HERE... I'VE HAD
IT WITH YOU

GHRAAA...

KRONKK!

KKKRAAANKK!

YES!!!

THE MACHINE
SHORT-CIRCUITED.



YOU BASTARD...

TAKE THIS MAN AND HIS REBELS TO THE DUNGEONS.



GET RID OF SUMANTRA AND HIS REBEL SCUM, BUT KEEP THIS IMPOSTER ALIV... BEE BEE BEE



|||||



BLESS YOUR LITTLE HEART SHATRUGHAN!

WHAT THE...!!



ISSUE 11

SHEKHAR KAPUR'S

DOOM

TM

**NEW STORY
ARC!**

ON STANDS MAY 2007

"The mythology of India is not out of whack with the mythology of the rest of the world! It is just that in the West people have forgotten that we lead mythic lives. In India we go the other way. We have a much greater sense of mythology than of history..."

—**Shekhar Kapur**, Academy Award® nominated Director of *Elizabeth*, *The Four Feathers*, and the critically acclaimed Indian hit films *Bandit Queen*, *Mr. India*, and *Masoom*.

SHEKHAR KAPUR'S
SNAKE & WOMAN™

NEW SPECIAL!
PERFECT FOR
NEW READERS!

ON STANDS MAY 2007

WELLS | GAYDOS

Virgin
COMICS

ISSUE 00

SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

DIRECTOR'S CUT

JUST AS I THOUGHT,
THE COUNCIL IS OVERRUN
WITH YOU VERMIN.

GET HIM...
GET BHARAT.

GAMEOVER
SCUMBAG!

SLORGGJ!

C'MERE YOU
WITCH.

UNHHH...

ONE STEP AND
SHE JOINS YOUR
FATHER, BIG
BOY.

MOTHER!



I DESTROYED
EVERYONE, YOUR BROTHERS,
YOUR FATHER, YOUR MOTHER.
I GOT RID OF ALL.

BUT YOU HAD
TO COME BACK LIKE
A BAD 'SIKKA'

"ARMAGARHIAN
PENNY.

YOU HAVE DONE
AN AWFUL LOT
INDEED!

FAREWELL
"MAHARAJ!" THANK
YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE...

NO... NOO...

...IT'S TIME
TO RETIRE.

NO...

WOOOOO

BOAM!



KEEP THEM ALIVE.
WE NEED *INFORMATION*. THE
SKILLS OF THE INQUISITORS
DO *NEED* SOME USE.

YES SIR.



WE
WERE DUPED
BY ASURAS!

BHARAT HAS
SLAIN KALNEMI,
HAIL BHARAT!

ALL-HAIL!



I AM SORRY MY
SON... I... I MADE
A MISTAKE.

WE WILL TALK
ABOUT THIS LATER,
YOU NEED REST.

BHARAT...
WE NEED TO
REBUILD THE SYSTEM, WE
SHALL APPOINT A *NEW COUNCIL*,
A *NEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNING*
BODY TO RULE. I REQUEST
YOU TO *HEAD* THIS
COUNCIL.

WHAT
COUNCIL?

I *DENOUNCE* ANY
COUNCIL. IT NEVER DID
ANY GOOD TO THE
PEOPLE.

HENCEFORTH, FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY
OF THIS GREAT LAND I
DECLARE MYSELF...

A muscular warrior with long hair, wearing red armor and a large, ornate axe, stands in the center of a crowd. He is holding the axe aloft with his right hand. The crowd around him is cheering and holding up spears. The background is a hazy, golden-green sky with faint outlines of a city or temple.

**...THE
SOVEREIGN KING OF
ARMAGARH!**

HAIL BHARAT!

HAIL THE KING!

JAI BHARAT!

JAI

JAI BHARAT!

A close-up of a woman's face, looking upwards with a determined expression. Her hair is dark and styled in a traditional Indian fashion.

**UNTIL I FIND
AND BRING BACK
MY BROTHER,
RAMA.**

**ARMAGARH
BELONGS
TO HIM.**

The end - for now.

CREATED BY EURYTHMICS CO-FOUNDER DAVE STEWART
WRITTEN BY JEFF PARKER (*X-Men:First Class*; *Interman*)

DAVE STEWART'S

**WALK
MAN**

pluff
HOCOR



ISSUE 6



"SPECIAL
ISSUE WITH
STORY AND ART BY
JEFF PARKER"

ON STANDS MAY 2007

INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

BLUE IS THE NEW BLACK

INDIA AUTHENTIC

They're a motley crew, our Indian Gods. You've seen them, the ones with blue skin, with multiple arms, and the occasional animal head in place of a human one. Together they create a pantheon that ranges broadly (depending on who you ask), from a couple dozen to a few hundred to thirty-three million (according to a certain passage in a certain scripture). On the other hand, if you read the small print, some scholars and sages will proclaim there is actually only one Supreme Being and the other thirty-odd million are just different facets of the one. Go figure.

The point is, even if you're an expert on Indian Gods, you'll never know it all. But to begin chipping away at this pantheon is well worth the effort. This May, Virgin Comics will launch a series of comic books entitled **India Authentic**. It is not meant to be the definitive anthology of Indian mythology, but rather an exploration of the many gods, kings and legends that we think are the most compelling stories of our culture. As it is with all the Virgin titles, our goal with this series is to do something fresh, offering readers a glimpse of a world that they don't often see. We're calling it "authentic" because it is our intention to present the tales as faithfully as we can so that our readers can experience the characters and stories in all their glory.

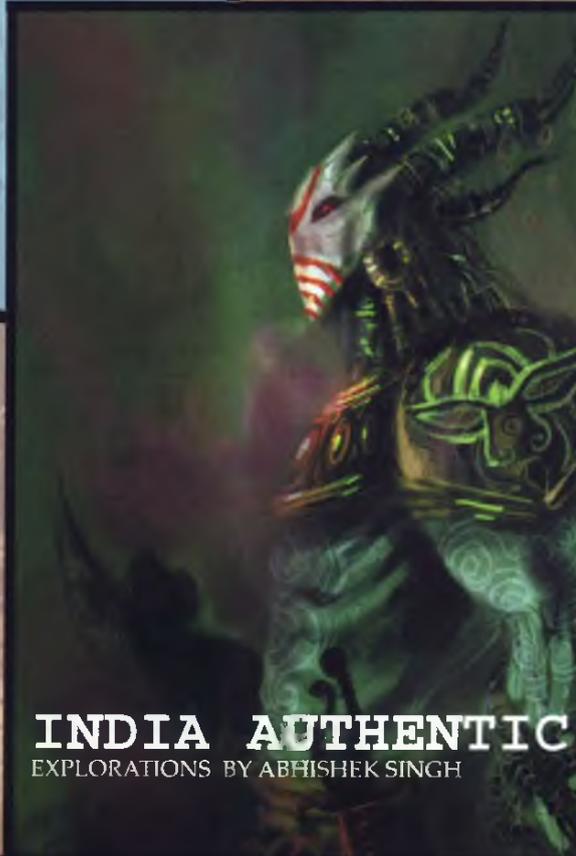
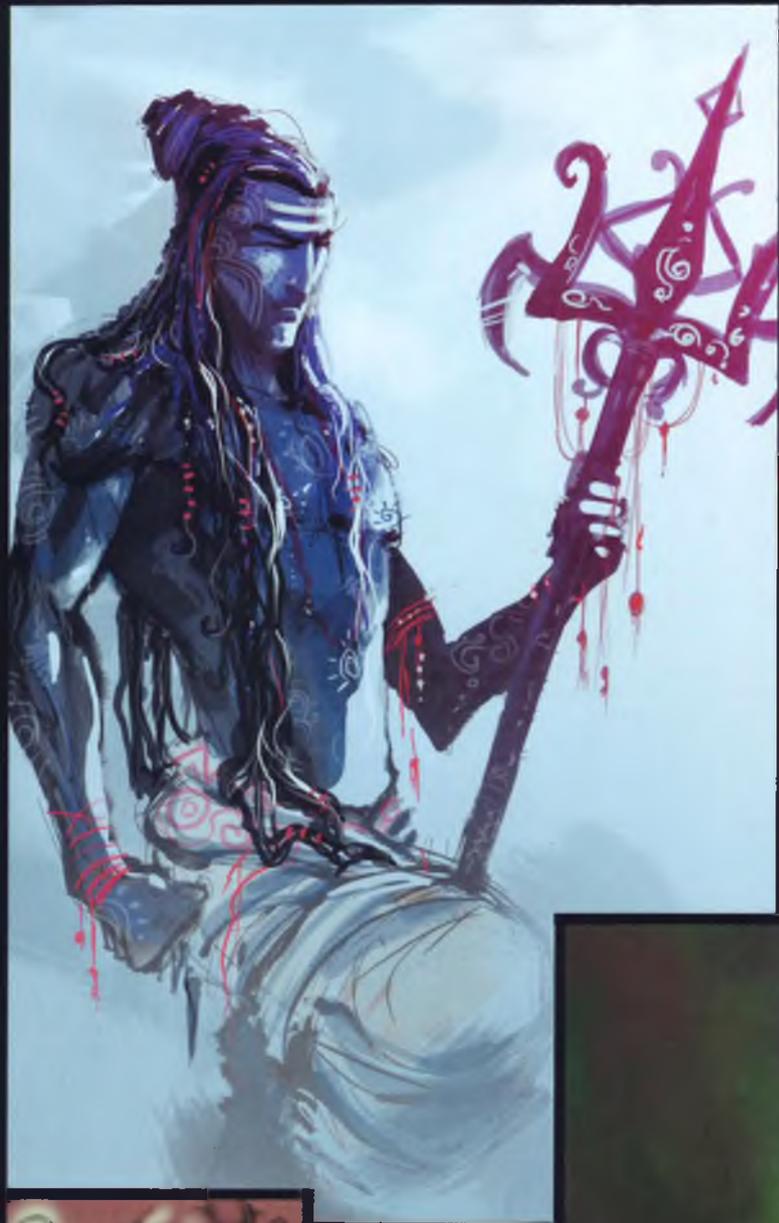
So check out this new series, coming to your local comic shop and Virgin Megastore this May. We hope you enjoy it!

GOTHAM CHOPRA
Editor-in-Chief

SHARAD DEVARAJAN
Publisher

SURESH SEETHARAMAN
President





INDIA AUTHENTIC
EXPLORATIONS BY ABHISHEK SINGH



INDIA AUTHENTIC
EXPLORATIONS BY ABHISHEK SINGH



INDIA AUTHENTIC
EXPLORATIONS BY ABHISHEK SINGH

STOP THE PRESSES!



SCI FI CHANNEL AND VIRGIN COMICS EMBARK ON GROUNDBREAKING JOINT VENTURE

**Global Multimedia Enterprise to Create Original Properties
Under the SCI FI /Virgin Comics Banner**

NEW YORK COMIC CON, JACOB JAVITS CENTER
February 24, 2007—SCI FI Channel, the television network dedicated to fueling the imagination, is teaming up with Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Comics to create a forward-thinking, co-branded multimedia partnership called SCI FI/Virgin Comics. The announcement was made today by Dave Howe, Executive Vice President and General Manager for SCI FI, and Sharad Devarajan, CEO and Publisher for Virgin Comics, at New York Comic Con, the season's biggest pop culture and comic book event.

With five new comic book titles serving as a jumping-off point, SCI FI/Virgin Comics will develop fresh properties that integrate the unique spirit and vitality of both brands. Delivering innovative, multi-platform projects, original concepts will be considered across all mediums from publishing, film and television to digital and gaming.

"SCI FI/Virgin Comics marks an important step in our strategy to extend the SCI FI brand into new cross-media platforms. We're thrilled to be partnering with Virgin Comics to create exciting new titles, characters and stories that can live beyond the pages of the comic book," added SCI FI's Howe. *"Virgin is the perfect brand to help us connect with the youth audience around the world."*

"Virgin Comics and I are delighted to collaborate with SCI FI and the rest of the NBC Universal family," said Sir Richard Branson, *"to create stories that will inspire a new generation of thinkers and dreamers throughout the world."*

"Virgin is one of the world's most dynamic, forward-looking brands," said Bonnie Hammer, President, USA Network and SCI FI Channel. *"It's a natural fit for SCI FI, where we've built our business on innovation and imagination."*

"With SCI FI we are changing the face of the comic book industry—seamlessly developing characters and stories for books, television, online and other media," said Virgin Comics' Devarajan. *"Together we are creating stories as innovative as the ways consumers will get to experience them."*

Utilizing the global creative and synergistic resources that exist both at SCI FI Channel, part of NBC Universal, and Virgin Comics, the partnership will aim to attract some of the biggest names and talent from the worlds of comic books, television and movies. SCI FI and Virgin Comics will bring together a multimedia, creative editorial board with members representing comic books, television, movies, digital, gaming, licensing and merchandising. The first SCI FI/Virgin titles, to be distributed by Diamond Comics, can be expected to hit shelves later this year.



EXPERIENCE THE UNKNOWN



www.virgincomics.com



METAL DAVE

DCP