



ISSUE  
# 5

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

**RāMāyaN** 3392 AD **RELOADED™**



DASGUPTA/KANG  
MARZ/SEARS

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

# Rāmāyan RELOADED™

3392 AD

Created by

**Deepak Chopra &  
Shekhar Kapur**

Script

**Shamik Dasgupta**

Art

**Jeevan Kang**

Colors

**N.S. Sathish Kumar**

Cover

**Jeevan Kang**

Variant Cover

**Bart Sears**

Letters

**B.S. Ravi Kiran**

Project Manager

**S.Venkatesh Kumar**

Editor

**Ron Marz**

## VIRGIN COMICS

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**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 Puthukarai,  
Mallika Chopra &  
Jonathan Peachey**

## PREVIOUSLY...

Thousands of years in the future, an epic unfolds. From his stronghold on the continent of Nark, the evil **Ravan** means to crush the world under his heel. But the free-willed races of the lands of Aryavarta, led by the humans of the city of Armagarh, resist the dark lord. However, treachery resulted in the exile of **Rama**, who is Armagarh's greatest warrior. Along with his younger brother **Lakshman**, and beautiful **Seeta**, daughter of earth, Rama travels the land in a quest to restore the earth to its former glory.

Prisoners in the dungeons of the city of Panchvati, Rama and Lakshman were forced to fight in the gladiatorial battles of Dwand-Yuddh. Meanwhile, Seeta escaped from the clutches of **Dushan** and was reunited with her friend **Vishwamitra**, who urged her to unleash her earth magic and destroy Panchvati, and thus escape the wretched city. Rama and Lakshman defeated their initial opponents in the arena, but prepared to confront their final opponent, **Viv-Shan**. The general-turned-gladiator has a score to settle with Rama, and the greatest battle in the history of Dwand-Yuddh is about to begin.

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**RAMA**



**SEETA**



**LAKSHMAN**



**RAVAN**



MY ARM IS  
BROKEN,  
MY SHOULDER  
DISLOCATED.

I AM  
UNABLE TO  
LIFT A  
WEAPON.

I CAN  
ONLY WATCH  
HELPLESSLY...



...AS MY BROTHER  
RAMA FACES THE  
ASURA GENERAL  
WHO DEFEATED US IN  
JANASTHAN THREE  
YEARS AGO.

THIS TIME,  
THE BATTLE IS A  
DEATH MATCH.



KHARA, THIS IS NOT  
A FAIR FIGHT. ONE OF MY  
COMBATANTS IS INCAPACITATED,  
AND THE OTHER JUST SURVIVED  
A BATTLE WITH THE  
KABANDHA!

YOU CANNOT  
JUST PIT HIM AGAINST  
THE GENERAL!

DON'T TELL  
ME...



... TELL THE  
AUDIENCE.

LISTEN TO  
THEM, DEAR  
SISTER. THEY  
LOVE IT

BASTARD!



I REMEMBER A GENERAL OF A VAST ARMY, A NOBLE MAN WHO KNEW THE VALUE OF WORDS GIVEN.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN TO YOU, VIV-SHAN?



YES, I VALUED MY WORDS. AND I PAID THE PRICE FOR THAT.

WHEN RAVAN FOUND THAT I LET YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE LIVE, HE STRIPPED ME OF MY RANK AND THREW ME IN THE PITS OF RAURAV. FOR A YEAR I ENDURED THE NIGHTMARE OF THE PITS, WORKING AS A SLAVE.

BUT I ESCAPED FROM NARK.



I WANDERED ALL ACROSS ARYAVARTA LOOKING FOR SHELTER. BUT BEING AN ASURA, I WAS NOT WELCOME IN ANY COUNTRY.

FINALLY I REACHED PANCHVATI. KHARA TOOK ME IN.



AS A SLAVE. FROM THE SLAVE OF RAVAN TO THE SLAVE OF KHARA. NOT EXACTLY A PROMOTION.



I AM OF THE PRIMUS RAKSHAGA CLAN OF LANKA, AN ASURA WARBORN!

I VALUE MY COMMITMENT, BE IT TO RAVAN OR TO KHARA, OR EVEN TO YOU!



WE NEED NOT DO THIS, VIV-SHAN. WE CAN TAKE DOWN KHARA TOGETHER.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?



**KRANING**

THE RULES SAY 'TO THE DEATH'!





WE SHALL SING OF THIS DAY TO OUR HATCHLINGS!

RAMA!

WE ARE HERE TO WATCH THE SPECTACLE OF RAMA'S DEATH. EVEN IF HE WINS, AND THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANCE OF THAT, HE WILL STILL BE KILLED.

BY MOTHER DHARTI!

DO YOU SEE THE WRETCHES SURROUNDING US, SEETA? THEY CRAVE BLOOD.

DID YOU THINK THEY HAD MADE RAMA THEIR HERO? THEY ARE EAGER TO SEE HIM FALL.

THIS IS A WRETCHED CITY WHERE MEN FIGHT FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THE MOB, A CITY INFESTED WITH CORRUPTION AND DECADENCE, RULED BY THE MONSTROUS KHARA, DUSHAN AND SURP'NAKA.

THIS CITY IS DOOMED, JUST LIKE YOUR FRIENDS ARE, SEETA.

BRING AN END TO ITS MISERY.

CLEANSE THIS CITY.

WHAT DO YOU ASK OF ME, VISHWAMITRA? WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? I...CAN'T...



THIS IS POINTLESS. WE CAN DO THIS ALL DAY, VIV-SHAN.

UNTIL ONE OF US FINALLY GIVES UP.



GHNN!

SHRIK

OR GETS KILLED!



HUKK!

WHUDD

IT SEEMS I OVERESTIMATED YOU.



A PITY YOU SHALL DIE BY YOUR OWN WEAPON.

KLANGG

REMEMBER MY SWORD, RAMA? THIS WAS YOUR PARTING GIFT.



NO!



SIGN UP NOW @

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KHARA,  
WE NEED  
TO TALK.

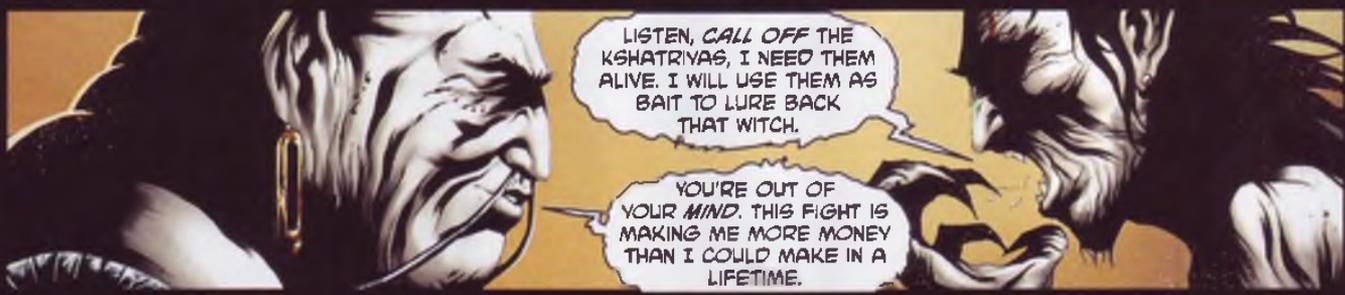
LATER.  
WHERE WERE YOU  
YESTERDAY, DUSHAN?  
YOUR WAR-GHOULS LOST  
MISERABLY AGAINST  
THE KSHATRIYAS.



AH, IT SEEMS  
YOUR NEW CATCH DIDN'T  
TREAT YOU TOO WELL,  
BROTHER.

HEH HEH.

SHUT UP! I'LL  
SPLIT THAT WENCH  
OPEN WHEN I GET  
MY HANDS ON HER  
AGAIN!



LISTEN, *CALL OFF* THE  
KSHATRIYAS, I NEED THEM  
ALIVE. I WILL USE THEM AS  
BAIT TO LURE BACK  
THAT WITCH.

YOU'RE OUT OF  
YOUR *MIND*. THIS FIGHT IS  
MAKING ME MORE MONEY  
THAN I COULD MAKE IN A  
LIFETIME.



YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND, I  
NEED THEM  
*NOW!*

I HAVE NO TIME  
FOR YOUR SILLY GAMES,  
DUSHAN. WATCH THE  
YUDDH OR LEAVE.

*I DEMAND!*



I DECLINE.







IT'S NOT OVER YET.

THUDD



WHUDD



NO.

KRAKT



IT IS OVER.



I... SURRENDER.



RAMA! RAMA! RAMA!

RAMA!

RAMA!

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IS THAT

a **SNAKE**

IN YOUR

pants...



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NO.

I AM A KSHATRIYA, AND MY HONOR TELLS ME OTHERWISE. I SHALL NOT KILL AN UNARMED MAN.



IF YOU DON'T KILL HIM, THEN ALL THE BETS ARE OFF.

WHAT THE HELL, BROTHER? ARE YOU PROVOKING THE MOB?



I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA. WHY DON'T YOU TWO GET YOUR BUTTS DOWN HERE AND PROVE YOUR METTLE?



YESSS, LET THEM FIGHT! THE NERVE, WANTING TO CALL OFF THE BETS!

KHARA AND DUSHAN WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DWAND YUDDH!

DO IT, YOU COWARDS!



IDIOTS, YOU COULD HAVE BEEN MY CHAMPIONS, AND YOU DARE CHALLENGE ME?

YOU AND YOUR HARLOT WILL PAY FOR WHAT SHE'S DONE TO ME.



YES, COME FORTH YOU CHEATING, LYING BASTARDS!

THIS IS NOT DWANO YUDDH, THIS IS MURDER. AND I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO STOP YOU.



YOU NEED NOT DO THIS, SURP'NAKA. YOU'RE PUTTING YOURSELF IN GRAVE DANGER, IT ISN'T WORTH--

SHUT UP.



THIS IS WORTH EVERYTHING.



BRAAP  
BRAAP  
BRAAP





DO YOU WANT THIS TO CONTINUE?

DO YOU WANT YOUR FRIENDS TO BE SLAUGHTERED?



NOTHING CAN SAVE THIS CITY ANYMORE, SEETA. IT'S SUBMERGED IN MADNESS AND CHAOS. YOUR FRIENDS WILL DROWN IN IT AS WELL.



GIVE THIS CITY SALVATION!

YES...









AFTER YOU  
FLED MITHILA, I *KILLED*  
VISHWAMITRA AND CONSUMED  
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS AND  
FORM. HE DOESN'T EVEN  
EXIST ANYMORE.

I NOW CLAIM  
YOU, SEETA, AS  
MY OWN.

TOGETHER  
WE SHALL *RESHAPE*  
THE WORLD TO OUR WILL.  
WE SHALL BECOME  
*GODS!*

AND YOU  
SHALL BECOME  
THE *BRIDE OF*  
RAVAN!







A FEW DAYS LATER

LAKSHMAN, DO YOU SEE ANYTHING IN THE DISTANCE?

JUST A DUST STORM.

OH... THAT'S ANGAD AND HIS TROOPS. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, THOSE MONKEYS MEAN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

LIGHT A SIGNAL. WE SHALL JOIN THE KISHKINDHANGS IN THEIR CIVIL WAR.

SHOULDN'T WE BE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RESCUE SEETA INSTEAD?

NO.

WE SHALL... BUT NOT ALONE.

I WILL TEAR DOWN THE EMPIRE OF RAVAN BRICK BY BRICK...

"... AND FOR THAT I WILL BUILD THE **GREATEST ARMY** THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN."

TO BE CONTINUED!

# LAKSHMAN

Story · Ron Marz

Art · Bart Sears

Color · R. Gavaskar

Letters · B.S. Ravi Kiran

Thanks to Shamik Dasgupta



ALL OF WHICH BRINGS US, I GUESS, TO ME.

EVEN NOW, AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, IT IS HARD TO DESCRIBE MY PLACE IN THIS.

I AM NOT MY BROTHER. I AM NOT THE WARRIOR THAT RAMA IS. I AM NOT THE HERO HE IS.

AND I NEVER WILL BE.



MY EARLIEST MEMORIES ARE OF RAMA.

ALWAYS RAMA.



HE WAS OLDER, WISER. WHEN I WAS A BOY, HE WAS MY MODEL FOR ALL THINGS.

WE WERE *KSHATRYAS* OF ARMAGARH. THERE WAS A STANDARD TO WHICH WE ASPIRED.



RAMA WAS MY STANDARD.

BUT I ALWAYS FELT A LITTLE SHORT.



WHERE HE WAS *SERENE*, I COULD BE QUICK TO ANGER.

WHERE HE WAS *JUDICIOUS*, I COULD BE IMPULSIVE.



BUT NOW, AS THEN, I DO MY BEST.



NOW, AS THEN,  
I UNDERSTAND  
MY DUTY.

MY FIRST LOYALTY IS TO  
RAMA, AND I WILL STAY AT  
MY BROTHER'S SIDE, ALWAYS.  
WHERE RAMA IS, THERE SHALL  
LAKSHMAN BE AS WELL.

I WOULD GLADLY LAY  
DOWN MY LIFE FOR  
HIM...THOUGH LET'S HOPE  
IT DOES NOT COME TO  
THAT JUST YET.

BECAUSE OUR  
STORY IS NOT  
YET FINISHED.

END

# SOME SNAKES CAN NEVER BE CHARMED...

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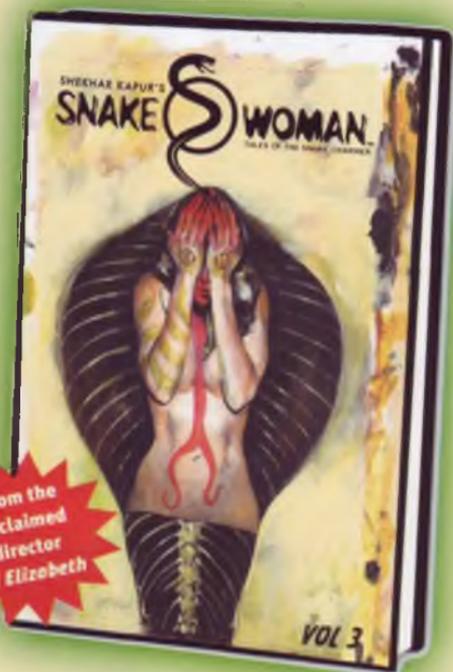
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of *Elizabeth*



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**DIRECTOR'S CUT**

Deepak Chopra's  
**Buddha**  
A Story of Enlightenment

For me, as someone who trained as a medical doctor and practiced medicine for years, I see Buddha as the first physician in history. Why? Because when a physician sees a patient, he goes through four processes.

First, he makes a diagnosis of an illness.

Second, he looks for the cause of the illness (in medical parlance, it's called etiology).

Third, he determines the prognosis.

And finally, he prescribes a treatment.

Buddha's diagnosis was that human existence entailed suffering.

The cause, he deduced, was not knowing who we are, being afraid of impermanence, grasping and clinging to that which is ephemeral, and the fear of death. He reasoned that the prognosis is good if the treatment is enlightenment. For enlightenment gives us the experience of our real identity. The following stories are about the young Prince Gautama before he became the Buddha. Gautama did not look to outside authority nor did he mention God. His transformation was experiential and his story is not only unique, but also full of drama, suspense, and intrigue.

The word Buddha means to be awake. If we are to solve our own existential unhappiness and its consequences, such as violence, war and terrorism, social injustice, extreme economic disparities, and ecological devastation, then our collective humanity has to wake up.

I hope you enjoy this story and it inspires you to wake up.

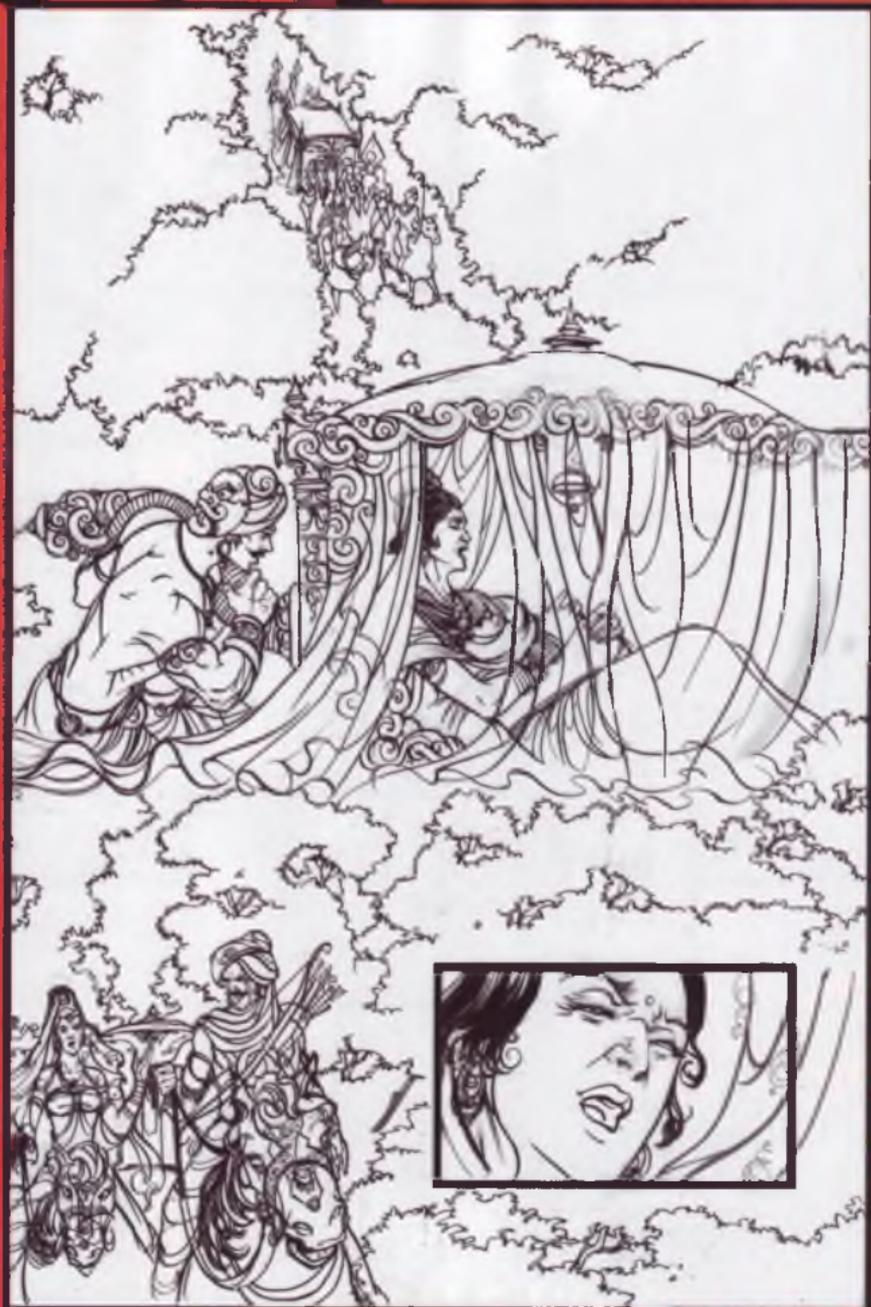
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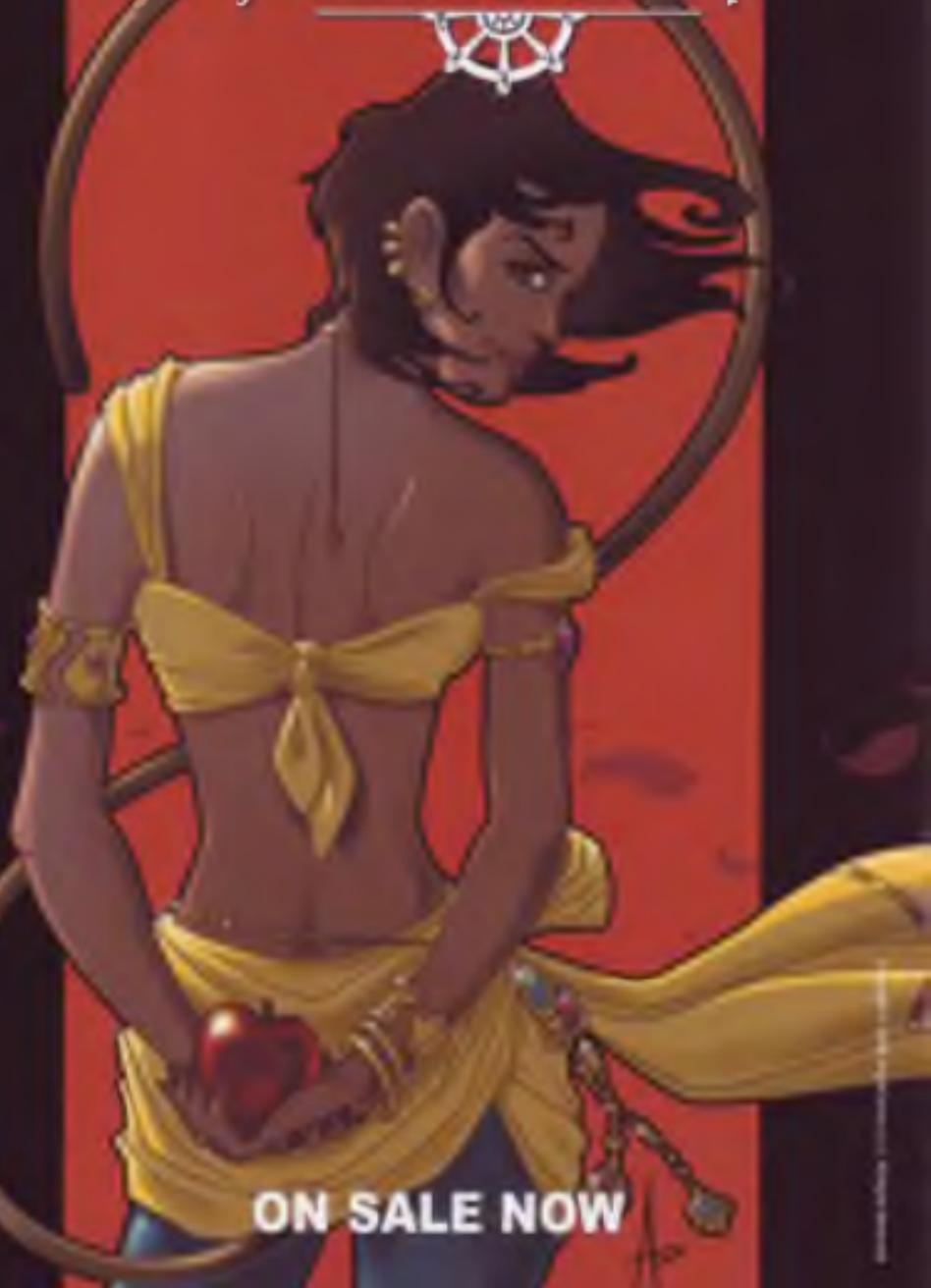
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**—DEEPAK CHOPRA**

**DEEPAK CHOPRA**

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**ON SALE  
NOW**





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