



Virgin  
COMICS

ISSUE 4 OF 5

THE

# SAADHU

THE SILENT ONES



MOHAPATRA / MANIKANDAN

# THE SADHU

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## PREVIOUSLY...

**James Jensen** came to 19th-century India as a soldier in Her Majesty's Army. Marked as a traitor by his cruel commanding officer, **Col. Townsend**, for defending the indigenous population, Jensen's family was massacred before his eyes. Hunted as a deserter after escaping imprisonment, James found refuge with the enigmatic **Dadathakur**, who initiated him into the ways of the Sadhu, mystic warriors of legend. Spurred by vengeance, James killed **Townsend** in a climactic battle.

His spiritual quest unfinished, James drifted through life without sense of purpose or ambition. But at the Kumbh Mela, the greatest gathering of mystics known to man, James encountered the evil cult of the Silent Ones, led by their Grand Mistress. She revealed to James that his son Jack was still alive, and was now her prisoner. As the **Grand Mistress** prepared to trap James in her thrall, the Sadhu was whisked away to Limbo, where he was greeted by a mysterious stranger named **Trishanku**. Spurred by James' desire to return to the mortal plane and rescue Jack, Trishanku attempted a Summoning, which initially attracted a deadly trans-dimensional creature. Trishanku and James were saved by the timely arrival of **Xuli**, the Songstress of the Southern Skies, who offered to ferry them to the mortal plane. After an excursion to the Dreamtime, James and Trishanku returned to our plane of existence, only to find themselves surrounded by armed tribal warriors.

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WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

PLEASE, LET ME GO.



PATIENCE, SON OF JENSEN. THE TIME IS NIGH.

I'LL HAVE USE FOR YOU YET. BUT AS OF NOW, YOU ARE MY GUARANTEE THAT YOUR FATHER, JAMES, THE SADHU, ARRIVES IN TIME...



... AT THE HOUR OF THE ECLIPSE.



MY FATHER? HE'S ALIVE?



AND HE IS COMING HERE.

IN FACT, I EXPECT HIM HERE IN A DAY'S TIME...



...IF NOT  
*SOONER.*

HE RIDES ON  
THE WINGS OF ANGELS,  
LITTLE ONE, FOR THE  
TOTAL ECLIPSE IS DUE  
SO VERY SOON.

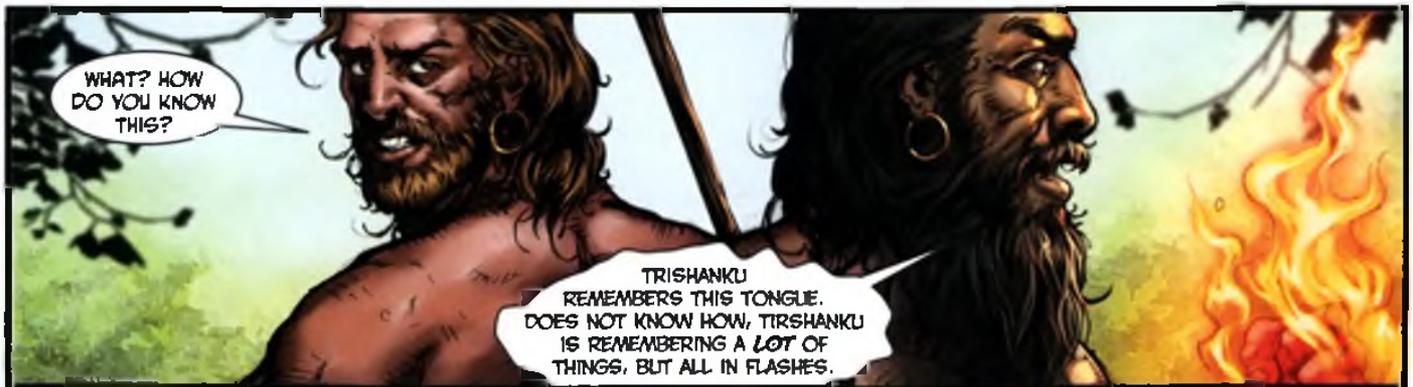


hiraas east: firangi jaduagar warna hurore teer turore shizena cheer denge.



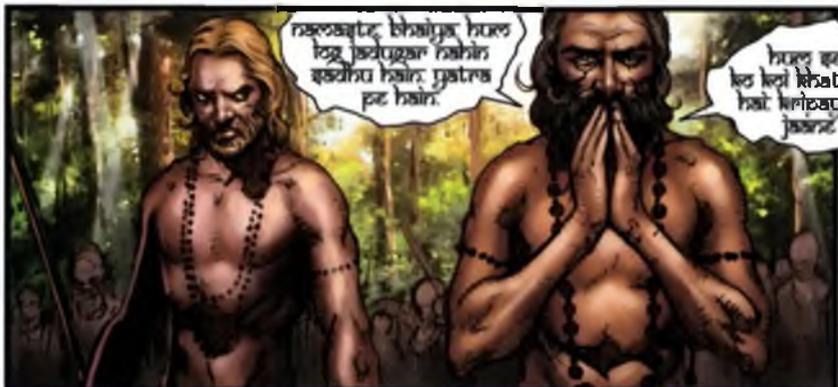
DAMN IT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND A SINGLE WORD THEY'RE SAYING!

HE WANTS US TO STAND STILL.



WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

TRISHANKU REMEMBERS THIS TONGUE. DOES NOT KNOW HOW, TRISHANKU IS REMEMBERING A LOT OF THINGS, BUT ALL IN FLASHES.



nasabte, bhairav hure loge jaduagar nahin esdru hain, patra pe hain.

hure ke sap ke kee khatra nahin hai, hiraas hure, jasad etc.



hure deokha ree nahne hain? sap ke esdru ke esdru firangi hai, deokha hai wach.



us na, hiraas vishwas kijiye, peh bahut badle esdru hain, kashi deokha purush hain.

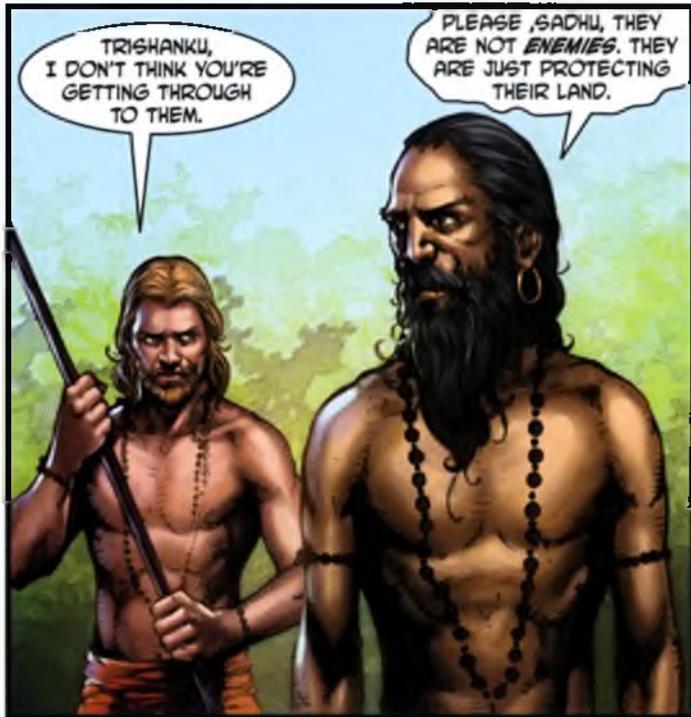
TRISHANKU, WHAT THE HELL IS HE SAYING? AND WHATEVER YOU'RE TELLING HIM DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING.

PATIENCE, JAMES JENSEN. TRISHANKU CAN HANDLE THIS.

THEY THINK YOU ARE AN IMPOSTOR. THEY ARE TRIBALS OF THIS AREA, SO IT IS INDEED A NOVEL SIGHT FOR THEM TO BEHOLD A SADHU WHO IS NOT OF THIS LAND.



सब वरुने  
हथियार नैरेचे  
कार वीज्ये वरु  
हुरसे जाणे वीज्ये.



TRISHANKU,  
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE  
GETTING THROUGH  
TO THEM.

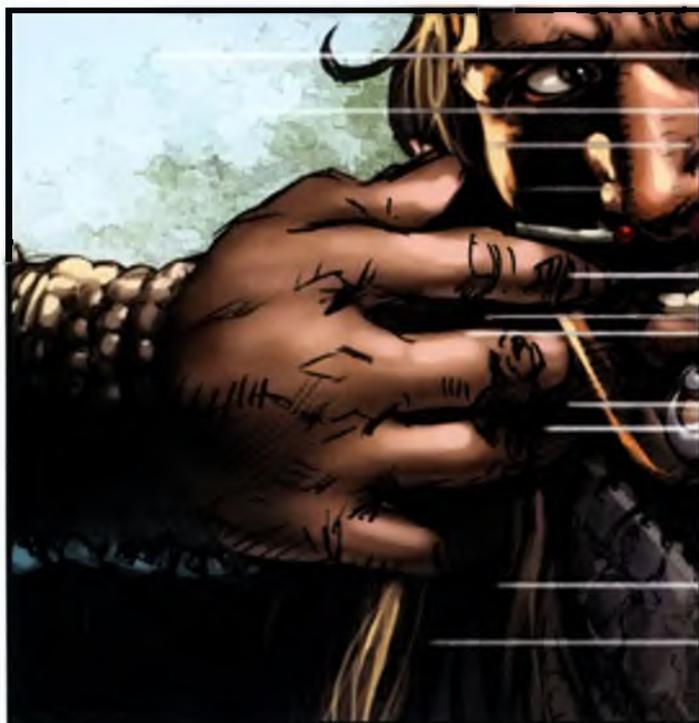
PLEASE ,SADHU, THEY  
ARE NOT *ENEMIES*. THEY  
ARE JUST PROTECTING  
THEIR LAND.



हुरसे  
सपके को खत्रा  
रुनरि हात धरिये.



TRISHANKU JUST  
EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT  
THEY ARE NOT FACING A *THREAT*.  
THEY ARE BEGINNING TO  
UNDERSTAND.



LOOK OUT,  
TRISHANKU!



TRISHANKU, I'M  
RUNNING OUT OF  
OPTIONS. THEY'LL BE  
HURT IF I UNLEASH  
THE FULL EXTENT OF  
MY POWER.

OH...



...TO HELL  
WITH IT!



THERE'S  
NO OTHER  
CHOICE.



I REMEMBER,  
SADHU.



I REMEMBER  
ALL OF IT



I KNOW  
WHAT WE  
MUST DO.

TRISHANKU?  
HOW?

ARE  
YOU DOING  
THIS?



I REMEMBER WHO I AM.



I AM TRISHANKU OF THE ORDER OF YAGNIKS, PUPIL TO THE MAHAYAGNIK SADHU JHANSEN.



रसाग्नी क्वा योयुतः इत्योयु बाबु हनुमन्त गति रसाग्नी क्वा येतः

I REMEMBER WHERE THE STRONGHOLD IS.

BROTHER TRISHANKU? IS THAT YOU?



IT HAS BEEN LONG SINCE I LAST SAW YOU. I HAD GIVEN UP HOPE THAT YOU WERE ALIVE.

DHANVANTARI!

TRISHANKU, YOU KNOW HIM?



INDEED! TOO LONG, BROTHER.

I THANK THE SEERS THAT YOU ARE STILL ALIVE. WHAT HAS IT BEEN, SEVEN CENTURIES?



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, BROTHER?

DARK TIMES HAVE BEFALLEN THIS LAND IN YOUR ABSENCE.



YES, BROTHER DHANVANTARI. BUT FEAR NOT, FOR I BRING WITH ME THE CHOSEN ONE.



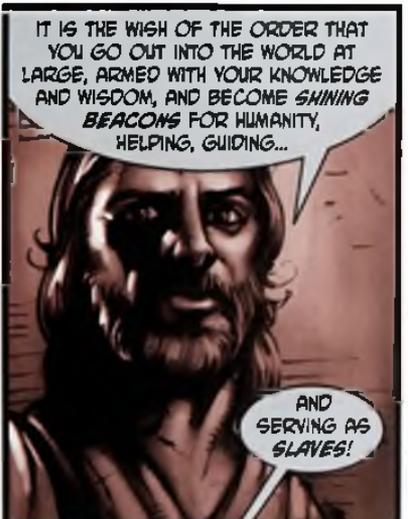
DHANVANTARI, MASTER HEALER, MEET JAMES JENSEN...

"...GURU JNANSEN  
REBORN."

SEVEN CENTURIES AGO.

TODAY IS INDEED A JOYOUS OCCASION, FOR YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR TRAINING.

I, JNANSEN, AS THE MAHAYAGNIK HIGH PRIEST OF THIS ORDER OF SADHUS, TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN INDUCTING YOU INTO THE RANKS OF THE YAGNIKS.





TOO LONG HAVE I BEEN KEPT IN THE DARK, JNANGEN, WHILE YOU FED US CRUMBS FROM A RICH TABLE.



AAAGH!

YOU HAVE KEPT THE KNOWLEDGE OF ATHARVAVEDA, THE ULTIMATE OF VEDAS, FROM US.

DHANVANTARI, TEND TO GURUJI!



I SHALL SEE TO VISAKHA.

KILL THE TWO MINIONS, BUT I NEED JNANGEN ALIVE!



PLEASE HOLD STILL GURUJI. YOU ARE HURT BADLY, BUT I CAN HEAL YOU...I THINK.

SHE WANTS ME ALIVE. THAT CANNOT HAPPEN. GO...HELP TRISHANKU.



BUT GURUJI?

YOU HAVE DONE... WELL ENOUGH. I HAVE... THE STRENGTH... TO STAND. THAT IS... ALL I... NEED.



GO! YOUR GURU COMMANDS YOU.



NO.



YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF IT!



VISAKHA, YOU SHALL NOT HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATHARVAVEDA.





BROTHER TRISHANKU, I THOUGHT YOU HAD *PERISHED* IN THAT EXPLOSION ALONG WITH GURUJI.

VISAKHA LET ME GO, FOR I WAS OF NO USE TO HER. I WANDERED THROUGH THE FORESTS IN GRIEF, BUT STILL SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART WAS THE HOPE THAT GURU JNANSEN WOULD RETURN.



I FOUND REFUGE WITH THESE TRIBALS, AND IN RETURN, I HAVE HELPED THEM IN THEIR AILMENTS AND MALADIES OVER THE CENTURIES, TRYING MY BEST TO FULFIL OUR GURU'S DREAM.

I SURVIVED...



"...BUT I WAS DEPOSITED IN THE VOID OF LIMBO BY THE EXPLOSION."

HELLO! ANYONE THERE?

WHERE AM I?



"I WAS LOST. BUT I ALSO HAD HOPE."

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?



"THE LONELY SOJOURN IN LIMBO COST ME MY SANITY."

DID TRISHANKU CREATE THIS? OR WAS THIS HERE BEFORE?



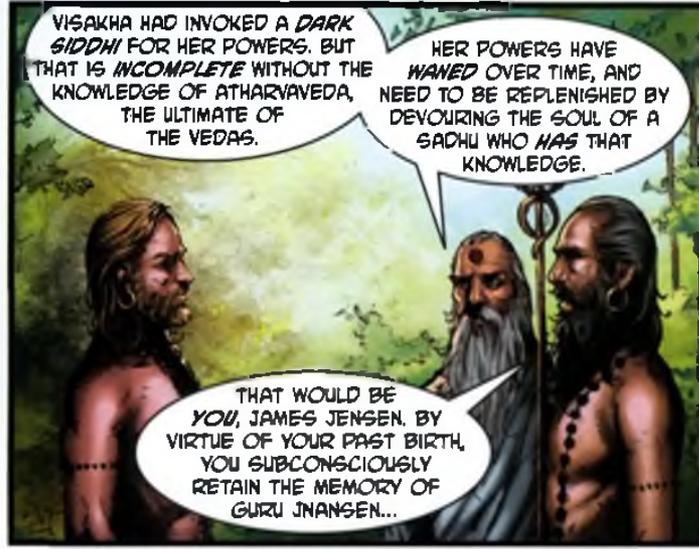
BUT IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT. AFTER SEVEN CENTURIES, I HAVE FOUND HIM...



...I FOUND JAMES JENSEN.

THE MAHA YAGNIK GURU JNANSEN *REBORN*, MASTER OF THE EIGHT SIDDHIS, THE GREATEST OF SADHUS TO EVER GRACE THE EARTH.

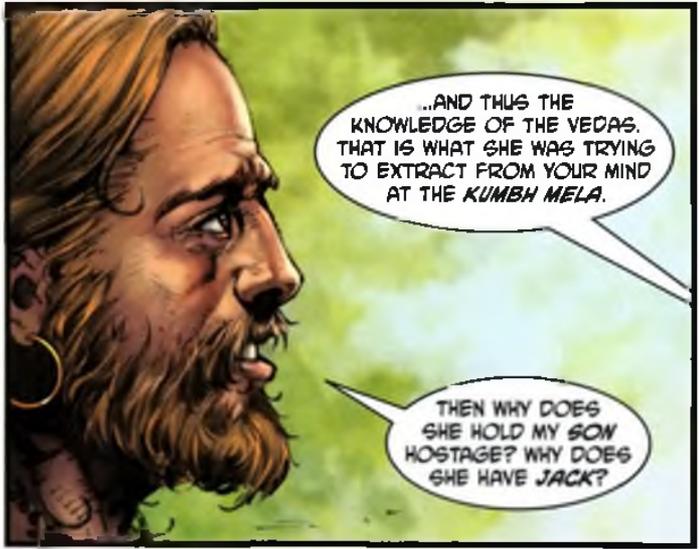
WHAT? ME?



VISAKHA HAD INVOKED A **DARK SIDDHI** FOR HER POWERS. BUT THAT IS **INCOMPLETE** WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF ATHARVAVEDA, THE ULTIMATE OF THE VEDAS.

HER POWERS HAVE **WANED** OVER TIME, AND NEED TO BE REPLENISHED BY DEVOURING THE SOUL OF A **SADHU** WHO HAS THAT KNOWLEDGE.

THAT WOULD BE YOU, JAMES JENSEN. BY VIRTUE OF YOUR PAST BIRTH, YOU SUBCONSCIOUSLY RETAIN THE MEMORY OF GURU JNANSEN...



...AND THUS THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS. THAT IS WHAT SHE WAS TRYING TO EXTRACT FROM YOUR MIND AT THE **KUMBH MELA**.

THEN WHY DOES SHE HOLD MY SON HOSTAGE? WHY DOES SHE HAVE JACK?



BY THE GODS, I HAVE BEEN SO **BLIND!**

OH, NO, SHE WOULD NOT **DARE** DO THAT!

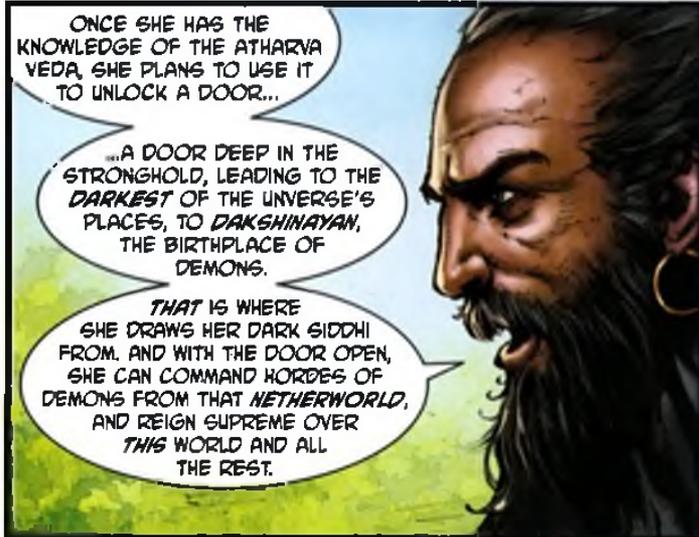
SHE ALREADY HAS. VISAKHA'S LUST FOR POWER HAS TRULY **BLINDED** HER.

TRISHANKU, WHAT IS GOING ON?!



I AM AFRAID THE DEVIOUS WITCH PLANS TO **KILL** YOUR SON.

WHY WOULD SHE **DO** THAT? YOU JUST SAID SHE WANTED **ME**.



ONCE SHE HAS THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATHARVA VEDA, SHE PLANS TO USE IT TO UNLOCK A **DOOR...**

...A **DOOR** DEEP IN THE STRONGHOLD, LEADING TO THE **DARKEST** OF THE UNIVERSE'S PLACES, TO **DAKSHINAYAN**, THE BIRTHPLACE OF DEMONS.

THAT IS WHERE SHE DRAWS HER **DARK SIDDHI** FROM. AND WITH THE **DOOR** OPEN, SHE CAN COMMAND HORDES OF DEMONS FROM THAT **NETHERWORLD**, AND REIGN SUPREME OVER **THIS** WORLD AND ALL THE REST.



TO OPEN THE **DOOR**, SHE NEEDS THE **BLOOD** OF AN **INNOCENT**.

SHE PLANS TO **SACRIFICE** JACK.



TIME IS SHORT. THE **DOOR** TO **DAKSHINAYAN** CAN BE OPENED ONLY DURING THE **SUN'S ECLIPSE**, AND UNFORTUNATELY **TOMORROW** IS SUCH A DAY.

YOU MUST **HURRY**, JAMES JENSEN, FOR THE **STRONGHOLD** IS A **HARD** DAY'S JOURNEY AWAY. I WILL PRAY FOR--



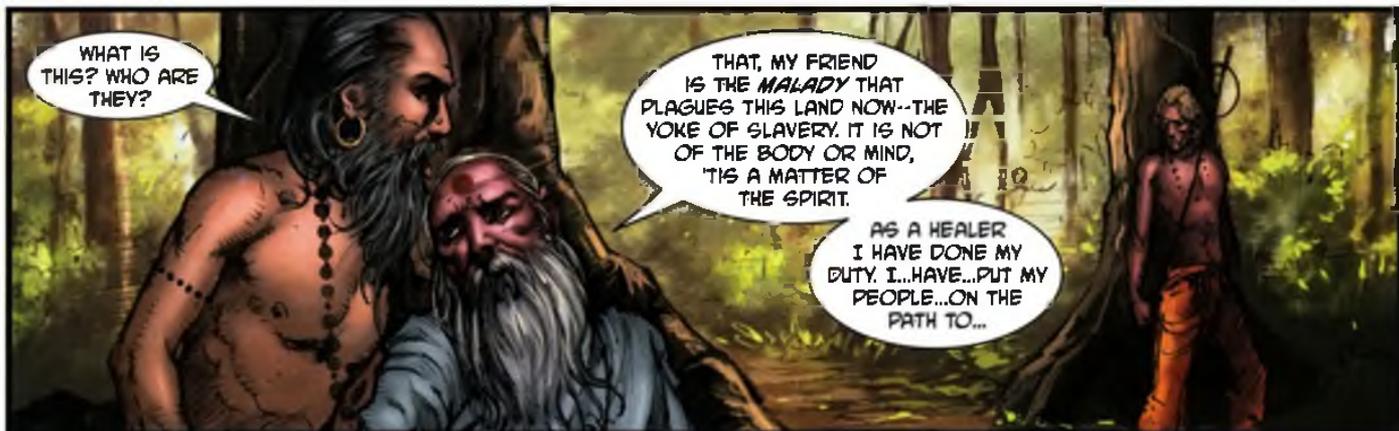
**UFFF!**

**BLAM**



FIRE AT WILL!

KILL THE DAMN REBELS! KILL THEM ALL!



WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE THEY?

THAT, MY FRIEND IS THE MALADY THAT PLAGUES THIS LAND NOW--THE YOKE OF SLAVERY. IT IS NOT OF THE BODY OR MIND, 'TIS A MATTER OF THE SPIRIT.

AS A HEALER I HAVE DONE MY DUTY. I...HAVE...PUT MY PEOPLE...ON THE PATH TO...



...FREEDOM...



I HAVE SEEN...



...ENOUGH.

FASTER, YOU DAMNED FOOLS! RELOAD, BEFORE THEY...

...REGROUP.



ENOUGH!



I CAN END IT RIGHT HERE, OFFICER. IT WOULD BE EASY.

BUT THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH DEATH TODAY.

HOW DARE YOU TAKE THAT TONE WITH...



WAIT...YOU...

...YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? YOU ARE BRITISH?



I WAS ONCE AS YOU ARE, BUT NEVER LIKE WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME. YOU KILL THOSE WHO ARE ONLY ASKING FOR WHAT WAS THEIRS BEFORE YOU STOLE IT.

YOU DISGUST ME.



LET THEM RUN, JAMES JENSEN.

TIME GROWS SHORT...

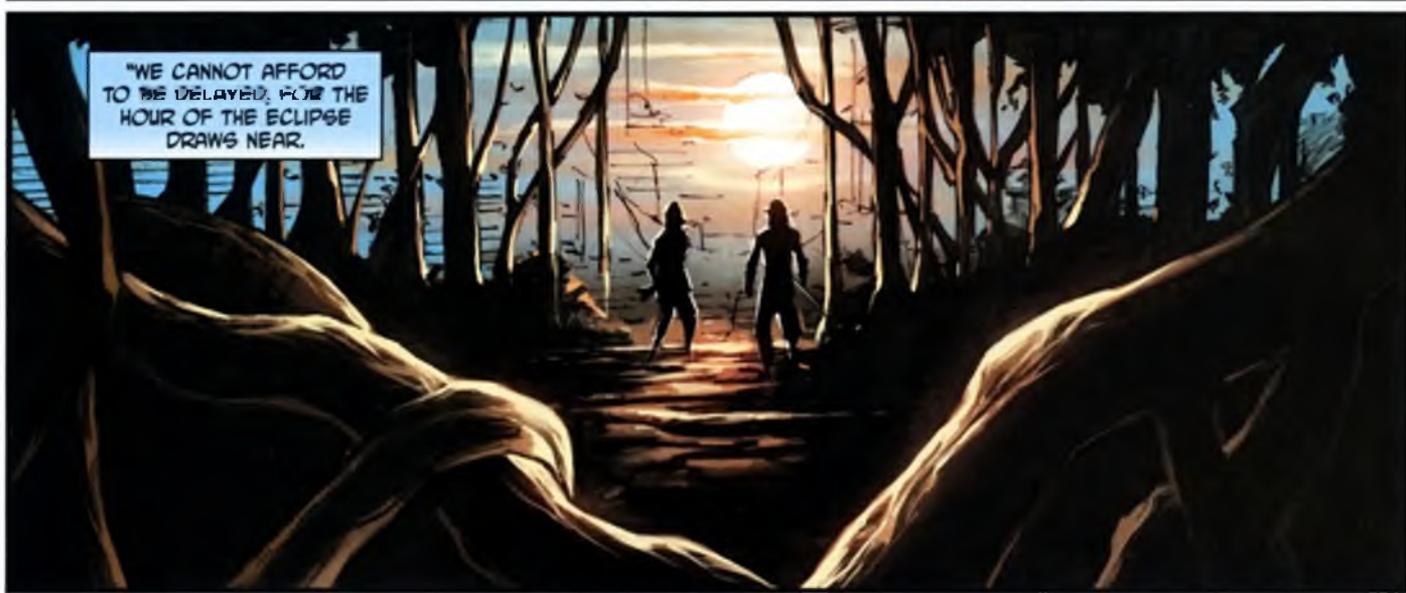
"...AND WE MUST  
MOVE LIKE THE WIND.



"WE MUST MAKE A  
FULL DAY'S JOURNEY  
IN *HALF* THAT TIME.



"WE CANNOT AFFORD  
TO BE DELAYED, FOR THE  
HOUR OF THE ECLIPSE  
DRAWS NEAR.



"WE MUST LET  
*NOTHING* STOP US...



"...UNTIL WE REACH  
THE *STRONGHOLD*."







JAMES  
JENSEN, WE MUST  
*CLIMB* TO THE  
TOP.

BUT  
WHERE ARE *THEY*  
GOING?



THE SILENT  
ONES GATHER FOR  
THE RITUAL OF *PASSING*,  
WHICH MEANS THE ECLIPSE  
COMES SOON.

YOU'RE  
*SURE* ABOUT  
APPROACHING THE  
SUMMIT THIS  
WAY?

THE WINDING  
PATH SHALL TAKE TOO  
LONG. WE HAVE NOT  
THE *TIME*.



THE SUMMIT IS HERE.

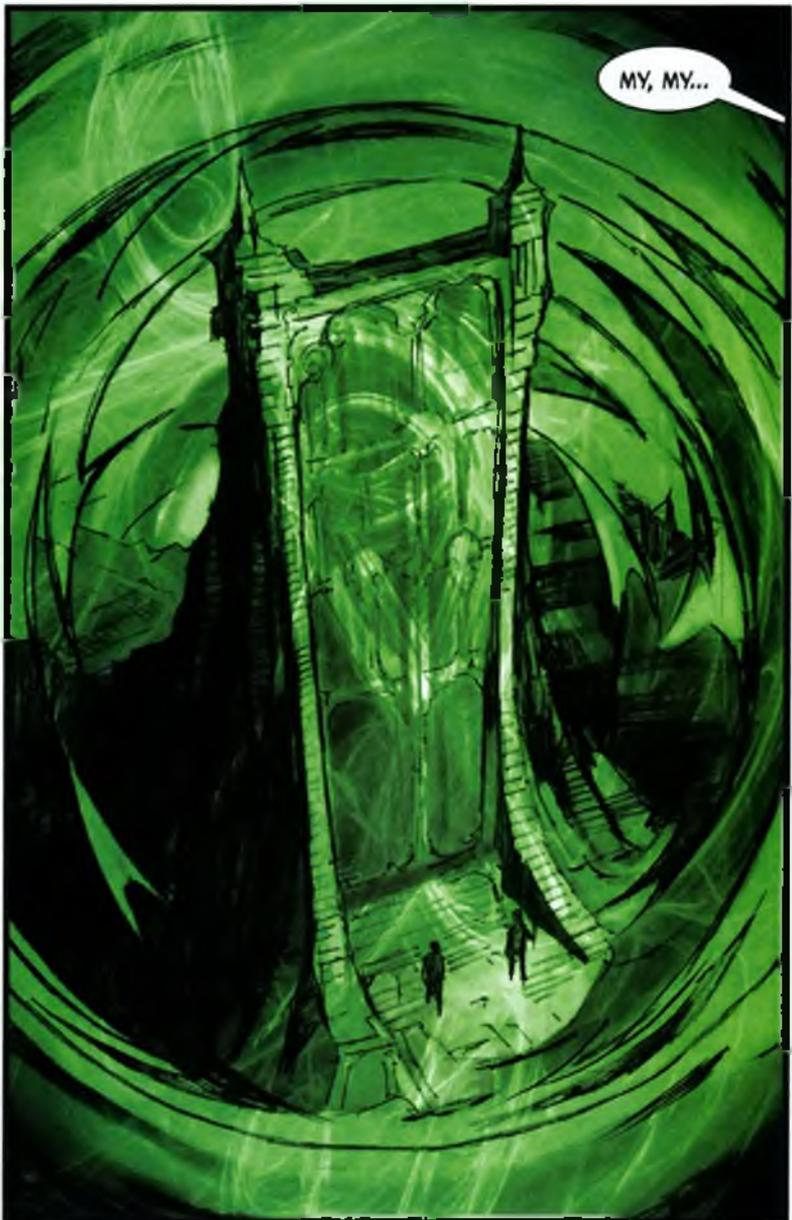


SO NOW WE FIND JACK.

AND QUICKLY, BEFORE THE ECLIPSE BECOMES TOTAL. FIRST, THOUGH...



...WE MUST BREACH THESE DOORS WITHOUT BEING SEEN.



MY, MY...



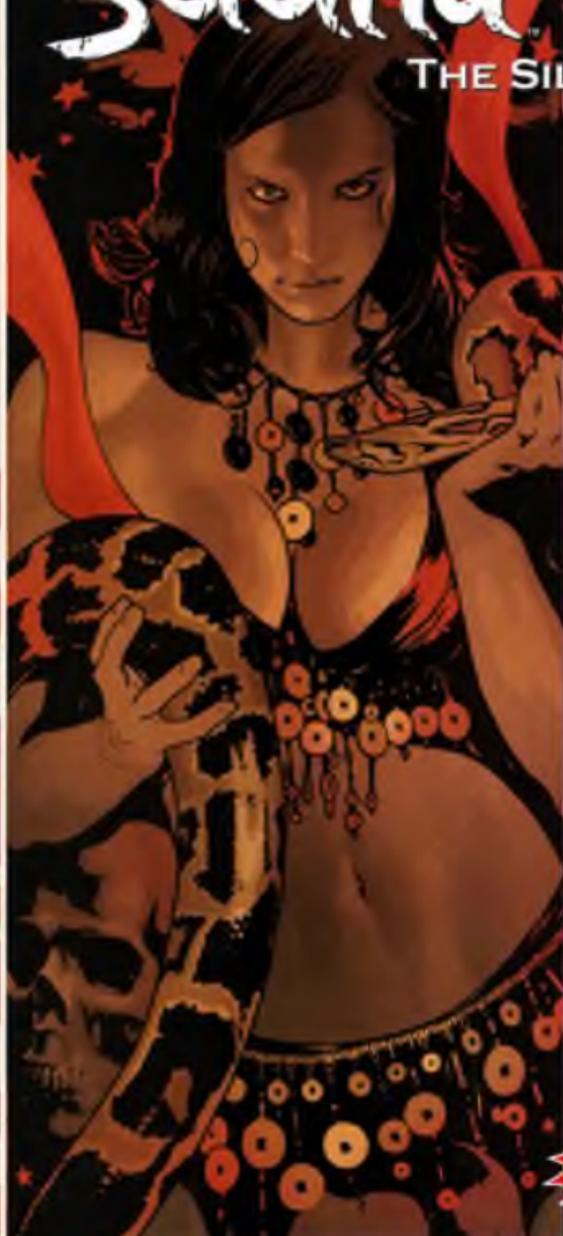
...HOW  
CUNNING YOU HAVE  
BECOME, BROTHER  
TRISHANKU.

TO BE CONCLUDED!

ON STANDS FEBRUARY 2008

THE  
**SADHU**

THE SILENT ONES



Virgin  
COMICS

ISSUE 5

SPEARHEADED BY  
RON MARZ

IN PRODUCTION TO BE FILMED AS A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING  
NICOLAS CAGE AS THE SADHU.

Virgin  
COMICS  
ISSUE 1

THE TALL TALES  
OF VISHNU SHARMA  
Panchatantra.



ON STANDS JANUARY 2008

# INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

## Welcome to The Tall Tales of Vishnu Sharma

Who is Vishnu Sharma and what sorts of tall tales is he telling? That's a good question, and one that provokes many different answers. *The Tall Tales of Vishnu Sharma: Panchatantra* is the latest series from our Shakti imprint, spotlighting the best of India. Created by two of India's most promising comic talents, Samit Basu (*Devi*) and Ashish Padlekar (*Walk In*), *Tall Tales* mines the stories of the *Panchatantra* — India's precursor to *Aesop's Fables*.

But this ain't your Mother Goose's story. In these tall tales the characters of antiquity are being exterminated by other creations of fiction whose strength lies in their mass-market appeal, and whose bloodlust for the rebel *Panchatantra* characters is as real as the paper this is printed on. The fable-characters' great hope is the titular Vishnu Sharma, descendant of the first *Panchatantra* storyteller, but a total child of his time. He's too busy playing in online tournaments to worry about fighting storybook wars. But when a none-too-fictional talking Lion, Monkey and Bull arrive at his doorstep, Vishnu must choose between following in his ancestors' footsteps by protecting the tales of the *Panchatantra*, or silently standing by as they disappear into storybook history.

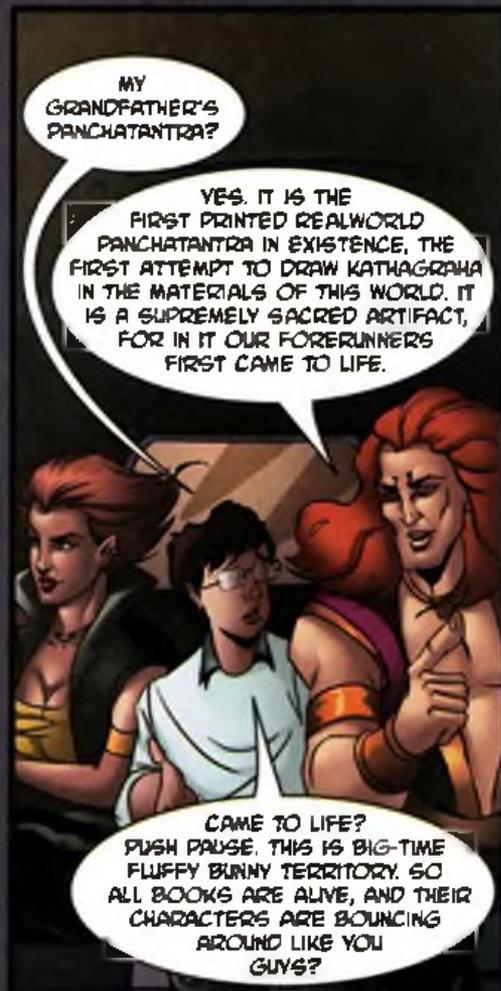
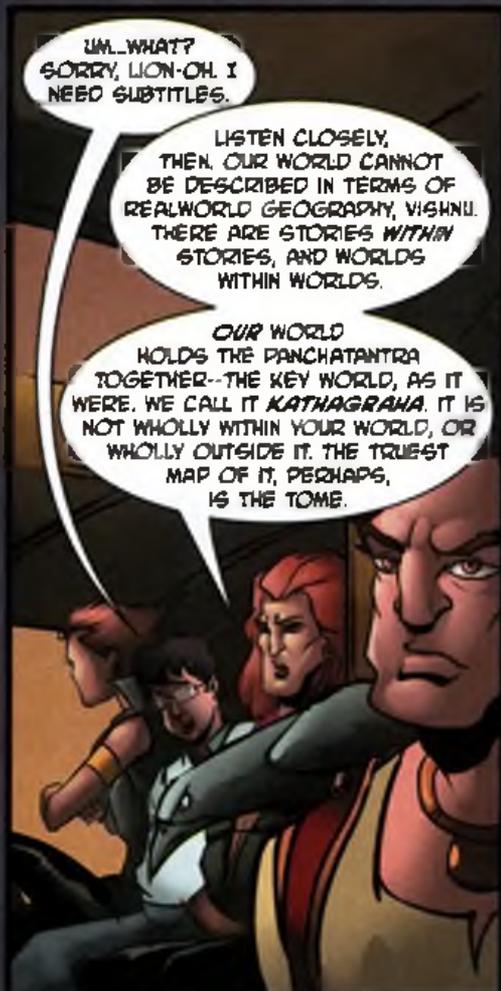
Fantasy? Sure. Fiction? Not entirely. Around the world, the indigenous mythologies of great cultures are being forgotten. In Mexico and Brazil, Ethiopia and Norway, in China and in India, the effort to maintain our cultural identity in an increasingly integrated world has become a great struggle. The stories of our ancestors are dying out as younger generations are seduced by the Pokemons, the Harry Potters and the Samurai Jacks that are, for better or worse, becoming our new planetary myths. *Tall Tales* reclaims these stories by giving them a booming voice. So be it the wit of the Monkey, the might of the Bull or the ROAR of the Lion, *The Tall Tales of Vishnu Sharma: Panchatantra* is bringing the battle to us. And like Vishnu, it'll be up to you to decide what you're willing to fight for.... See you on the inside.

— The Chief & the Virgin Comics  
Editorial Team



# THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

## Panchatantra



#1 SNEAK PEEK  
on sale now

# THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

## Panchatantra



#1 SNEAK PEEK  
On Sale now

# THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

## Panchatantra

YOUR GOODNESS HAS  
DEDICATED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO GETTING  
AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE GREAT  
MOUNTAIN OF GOLD. HE HAD THE  
MOUNTAIN OF GOLD IN HIS HANDS,  
BUT HE WASN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO  
TASTE IT. HE HAD TO KEEP IT  
OUT OF HIS HANDS.

HE MUST  
PROTECT HIMSELF  
IN HIS HANDS AND HE  
MUST LIVE IN HIS  
HANDS.



#1 SNEAK PEEK  
on sale now

Virgin  
COMICS

ISSUE 4 OF 5

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