



ISSUE 4

Deepak Chopra's
Buddha[™]
A Story of Enlightenment



SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

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The story so far...

After accidentally killing a man during a staged battle his father put together to show off his son's power, Siddhartha loses control and finally confronts his bullying cousin Devadatta. But in the midst of beating him nearly to death, he has a vision of the demon Mara overshadowing him. The demon tortures him with visions of loved ones, mistakes, and conflicts. So Siddhartha channels his rage into compassion and pushes himself towards the Void instead. When he awakens he realizes he must discover the things that his father has been hiding from him. So he journeys to the city of lost souls, where he learns the true nature of his father's manipulations...



11 YEARS AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF THE FORGOTTEN CITY...

I SAID YOU WOULD LEAVE! I SAID IT ON OUR WEDDING NIGHT. AND YOU LIED TO ME, SIDDHARTHA.

WIFE.

I DIDN'T LIE, YASHODHARA. HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN--

YOU ARE ABANDONING YOUR FAMILY! YOU ARE ABANDONING US! ISN'T MY LOVE GOOD ENOUGH?!

YES...FOR THIS LIFE...

BUT YOU'RE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT? IS THAT IT?!

THIS LIFE IS ONLY A PART OF WHO I AM. I NEED TO KNOW MORE. EVERYTHING. DO I HAVE A SOUL? ARE THE GODS REAL? I CAN'T KNOW IF I STAY HERE.

KNOWING IS IMPOSSIBLE.



YOU WISH TO BE A *SANNYASI*, TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD? YOUR WIFE? YOUR CHILD?



THAT IS THE REFUGE OF FARMERS WITH BARREN RICE FIELDS.

I WON'T BE GONE FOREVER, I PROMISE.



"STOP LYING TO ME, SIDDHARTHA."

YOU CANNOT GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON FOR LEAVING!!

DID I NOT LET THE INHABITANTS OF THE FORGOTTEN CITY RETURN TO DIE HERE IN PEACE!?



I HAVE FOUGHT IT FOR YEARS, FATHER. I'VE TRIED TO BE WHAT YOU EXPECTED OF M--

HAVE YOU NOT WALKED THE COUNTRYSIDE, GIVING ALL YOU HAVE TO PEASANTS?



YOU DO MORE AS A PRINCE THAN YOU EVER COULD AS A BEGGING MONK!!

"I SAW YOU WITH THAT MAID ON HER DEATHBED LAST MONTH!"

TELL ME... DOES IT HURT... TO DIE?



YOU ARE A COWARD, OBSESSED WITH YOUR OWN MORTALITY!!



IT IS THE GREAT SORROW OF MY LIFE THAT YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE NATURE OF MY HEART.



GET OUT!! LEAVE!!



COME BACK NO MORE!



SON.

GOODBY,
RAHULA.

I PRAY
YOU COME TO
UNDERSTAND MY
ACTIONS.



WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THESE ROYAL CLOTHES?



WHAT YOU WILL, CHANA. THEY BELONG TO SOMEONE WHO ISN'T ME ANYMORE.

SIDDHARTHA, WHY ALL THIS MADNESS?

IN A FEW YEARS, FATHER WILL GIVE ME THE THRONE. IN TAKING IT, I WILL BETRAY MY VERY SELF.

I MUST NOT DO THAT. PLEASE, HELP ME WITH THIS ONE LAST THING.

I'LL TAKE THE OLD CLAN NAME, COMMON PEOPLE CARRY IT AROUND THESE PARTS.

I WILL CALL MYSELF GAUTAMA.



GOODBYE,
CHANA.

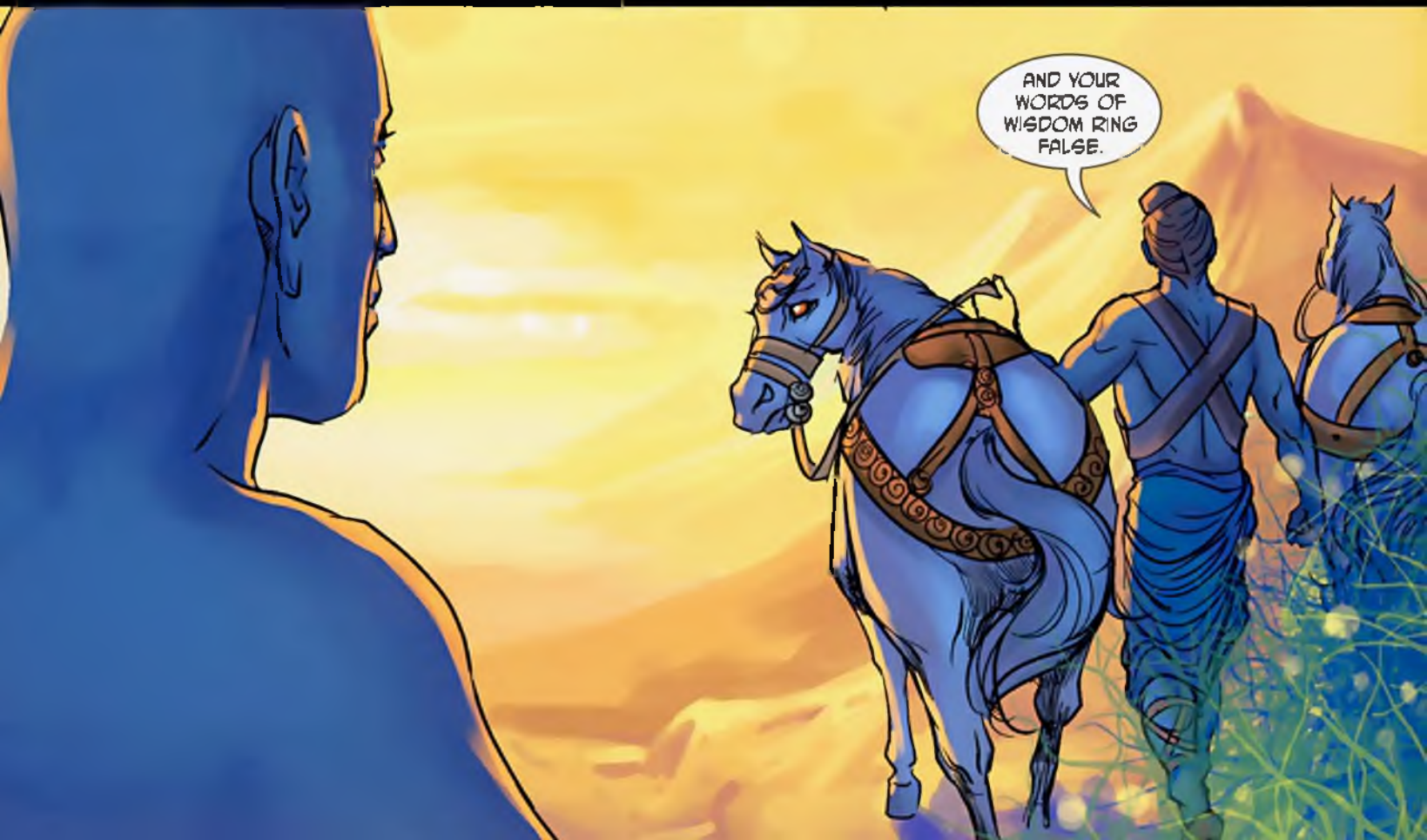
GOODBYE,
KANTHAKA



DO NOT
BE AFRAID OF
LETTING GO.



I'LL NOT
SAY GOODBYE.
I GIVE NO KIND OF
APPROVAL FOR
THIS ACTION.



AND YOUR
WORDS OF
WISDOM RING
FALSE.



NAMASTE,
MY FRIEND!

I GREET
WHAT IS HOLY IN
YOU. I AM CALLED
GANAKA. MAY I
DRINK WITH
YOU?





BEEN
TWELVE YEARS
SINCE I'VE BEEN AWAY.
LOCALS KNOW ME NOW.
I'M TREATED
WELL.

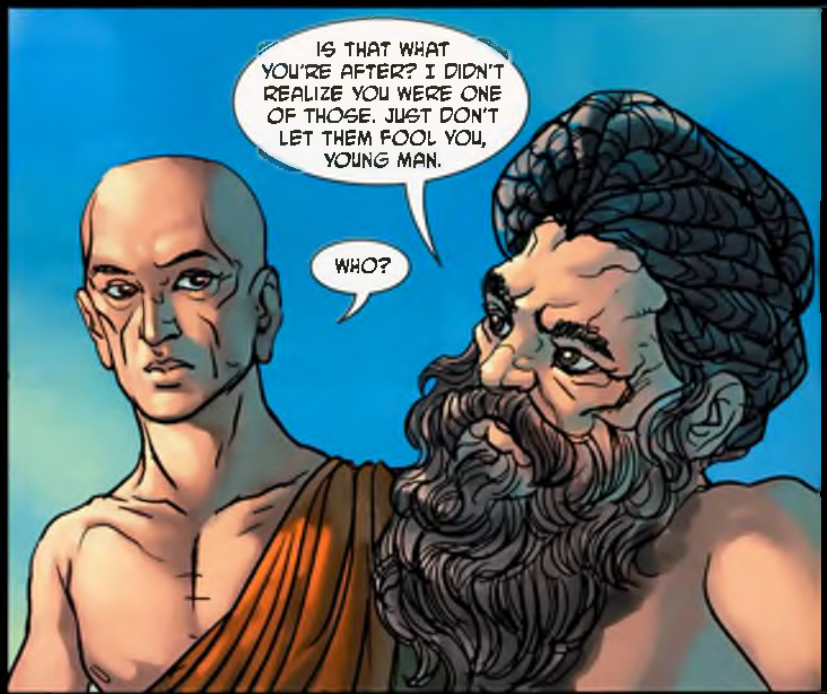
MY FIRST
HOLD UP WAS A
BIT OF A SHOCK
THOUGH. THE *DACOITS*
LIKE YOU TO KNOW
WHO'S BOSS.



DO YOU
BELONG TO AN
ASHRAM?

I'VE
VISITED THEM. YOU
GET TOO HUNGRY
SOMETIMES.

WHAT
DARMA DO YOU
FOLLOW?



IS THAT WHAT
YOU'RE AFTER? I DIDN'T
REALIZE YOU WERE ONE
OF THOSE. JUST DON'T
LET THEM FOOL YOU,
YOUNG MAN.

WHO?



THOSE
WHO PROMISE
ENLIGHTENMENT. I'M
NOT ENLIGHTENED,
AND YOU WON'T
BE EITHER.



THEY'LL
FEED YOU
PHILOSOPHY. THEN
THEY'LL WORK YOU
UNTIL YOU'RE
BROKEN.

ABSOLUTE
HYPOCRISY.



DEEPAK CHOPRA'S

BEYOND

ISSUE 2

MARZ

GEORGE

ON SALE
NOW

"BEYOND piles on the mysteries at a breakneck pace!"

—Comic Book Resources



IDIOT!
YOU'RE GETTING
THE DIRT IN THE
BAGS!



STOP
CRYING!!

SIR?
WAIT!



GET
UP!! UP!!

WHIP

HOAAARR?



PLEASE,
STOP. LET ME
HELP.

HELP! YOU
THINK YOU'RE GOING
TO GET A FREE BAG
OF RICE--

JUST CALM DOWN.
YES? I'M NOT
ASKING FOR
ANYTHING.





THERE! THE LAST BAG.



WHATEVER RICE YOU CAN PICK OFF OF THE ROAD IS YOURS! **NAMASTE!**



THANKS FOR THE HELP. YOU EVER HEARD OF THE VOW OF MONASTIC SERVICE?

THOSE PEOPLE DON'T LOVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID.

I DON'T EXPECT THEM TO.



YOU MADE HIM LOOK LIKE A FOOL IN FRONT OF HIS WIFE. A LOWLY MONK SHOWING HIM HOW TO HANDLE THINGS.

HE'LL JUST BEAT HER HARDER TONIGHT. YOU ONLY TAUGHT HIM THAT IT'S PROFITABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE KIND.



YOU MY TEACHER NOW? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE TEACHERS.

I'M A PART OF THE WORLD. YOU WANT A TEACHER? TURN TO THE WORLD.

YEAH, WELL...

"...I THINK IT'S BEST THAT I KEEP TRAVELING ON MY OWN."



LORD SUDDHODANA...I AM SO SORRY FOR THE LOSS--

THE GALL TO TRY AND CONSOLE ME NOW MAY GET YOU KILLED, CANKI. HOLD YOUR TONGUE.



AM I NOT DEAD ALREADY, SIRE? FOR THE FAILURE OF OUR PLAN?

NO. WHAT I'VE DONE TO MY SON AND MY PEOPLE IS...RIGHT OR WRONG, MY OWN TO RECKON WITH.

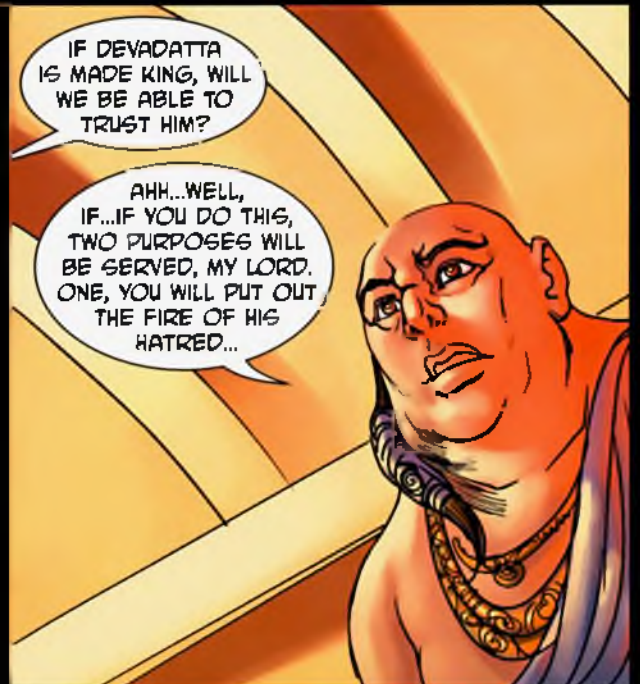


BUT SINCE CONSPIRACY IS OUR SOLE BOND, I HAVE THIS TO ASK.



IF DEVADATTA IS MADE KING, WILL WE BE ABLE TO TRUST HIM?

AHH...WELL, IF...IF YOU DO THIS, TWO PURPOSES WILL BE SERVED, MY LORD. ONE, YOU WILL PUT OUT THE FIRE OF HIS HATRED...



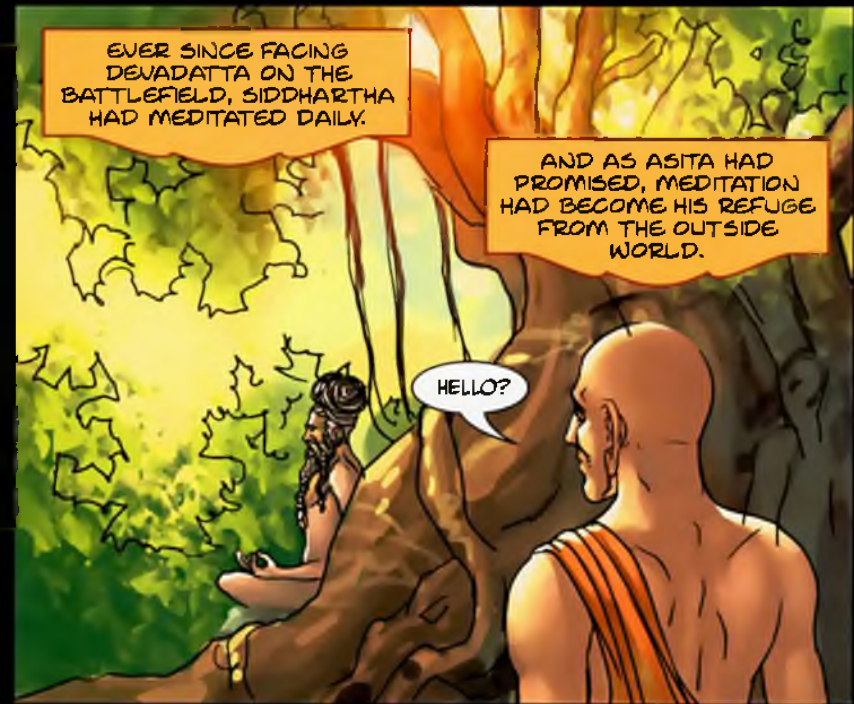
"...AND TWO, YOU WILL GIVE YOUR KINGDOM TO SOMEONE AS VISCIOUS AS YOURSELF."



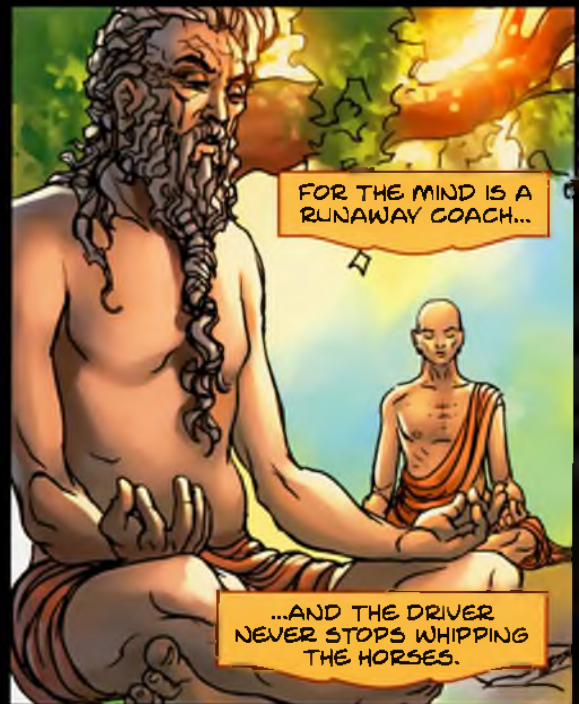
HELLO?
IS ANYBODY
THERE?

EVER SINCE FACING DEVADATTA ON THE BATTLEFIELD, SIDDHARTHA HAD MEDITATED DAILY.

AND AS ASITA HAD PROMISED, MEDITATION HAD BECOME HIS REFUGE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



HELLO?



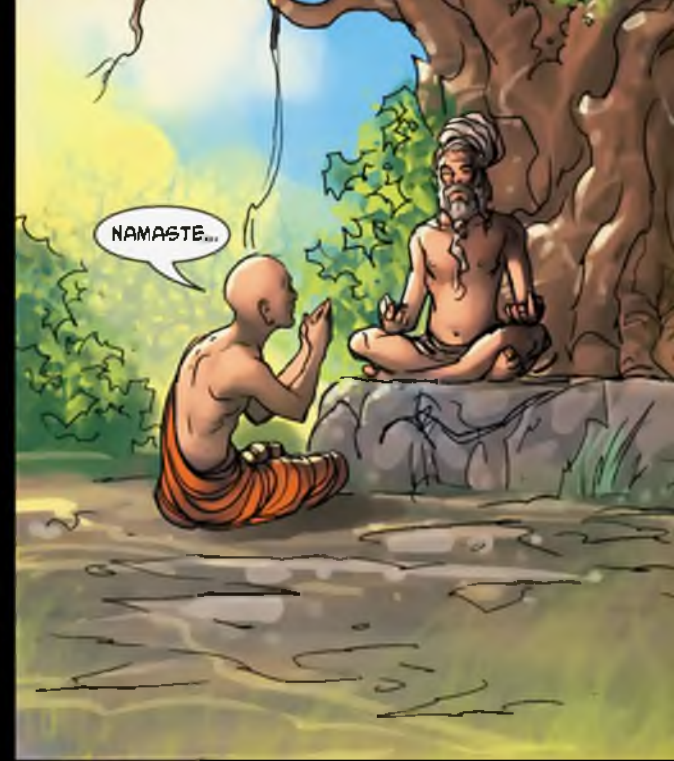
FOR THE MIND IS A
RUNAWAY COACH...

...AND THE DRIVER
NEVER STOPS WHIPPING
THE HORSES.



BUT FROM INSIDE
THE COACH, A VOICE
WHISPERS...

"STOP PLEASE,
STOP."



AND SO IT
BEGAN.

FOR MONTHS, GAUTAMA
ATE WHEN THE GURU ATE.
SLEPT WHEN THE GURU
SLEPT. LISTENED WHEN
THE GURU SPOKE.



HE SAT IN MEDITATION
UNTIL HIS LIMBS WERE
STIFF AND HIS BODY
RESTLESS.



AND ANY LESSON
THAT WAS TAUGHT
WAS TAUGHT IN
SILENCE.



HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
ME SO SOON,
LOVE?



FORGOTTEN
EVERYTHING
ABOUT ME?



Virgin
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SHARDON JONES AND THE DAP-KINGS

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"FORGOTTEN OUR WEDDING?"



"FORGOTTEN OUR WEDDING NIGHT?"

YASHODHARA. WHY DO YOU CRY?



IF I WAS CLUMSY OR DID SOMETHING WRONG, IT IS ONLY BECAUSE IT IS MY FIRST TIME--

NO...NO...



I HAD A VISION WHILE WE WERE MAKING LOVE... THAT YOU WOULD LEAVE ME SOME DAY.





Virgin
COMICS

ISSUE 7

DAN DARE



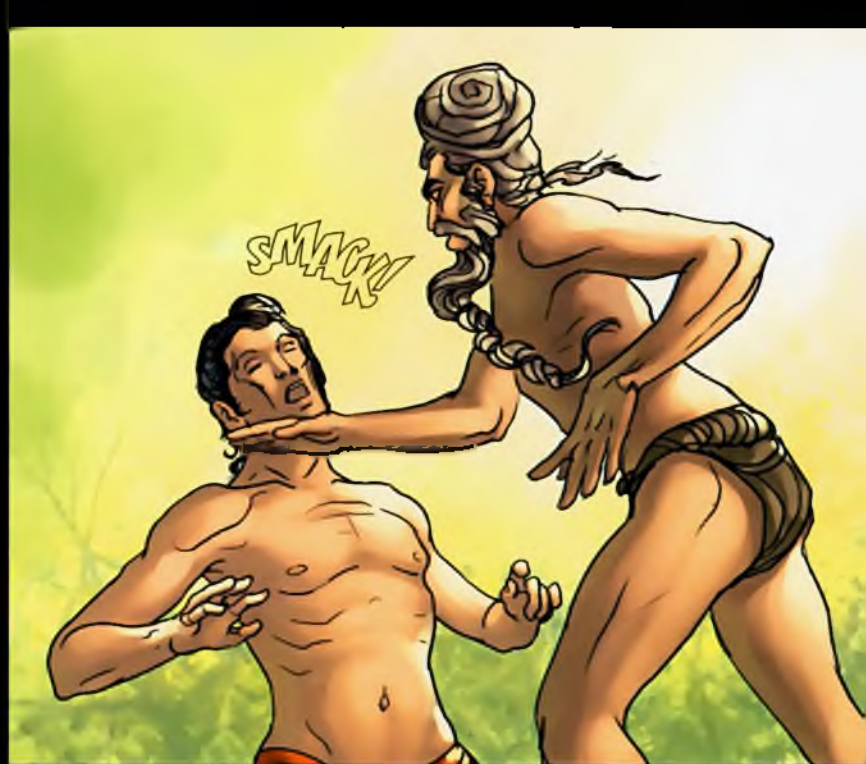
SPECIAL
DOUBLE-SIZED
FINALE

WRAP-AROUND COVERS BY
DAVE GIBBONS AND GARRY LEACH!

ON SALE JULY 2008



NO, MY LOVE...
NEVER...I'LL NEVER
LEAVE YOU.



SMACK



WHA...? HAVE
I...HAVE I OFFENDED
YOU SOMEHOW?

YOU SMELL
LIKE A MAN WHO
SLEEPS WITH WOMEN.
I'VE KNOCKED THE
STINK OFF YOU.



MARA.

WHAT?

THE DEMON
MARA. HE IS
INTERESTED
IN YOU.

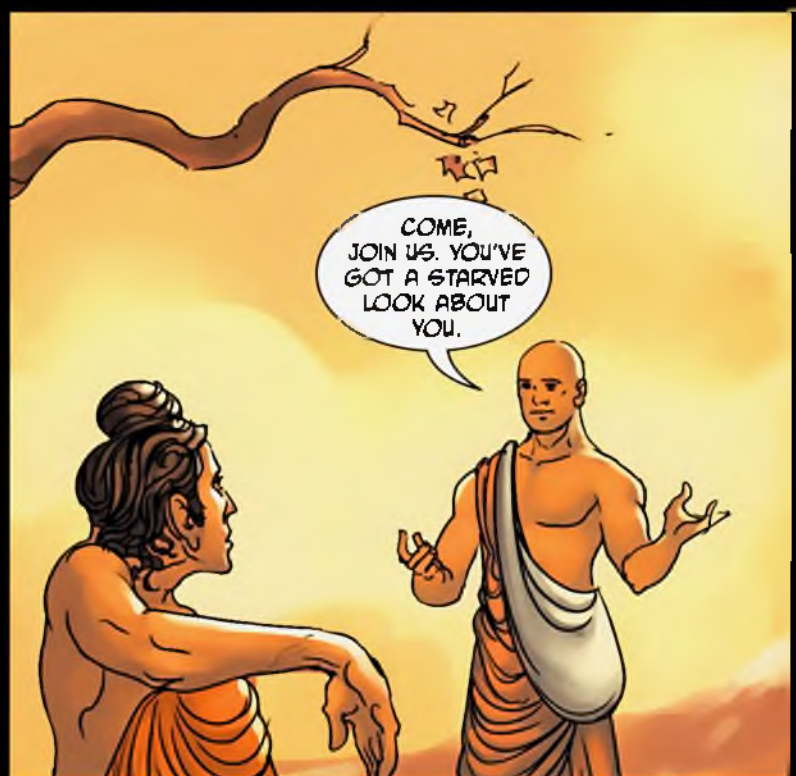
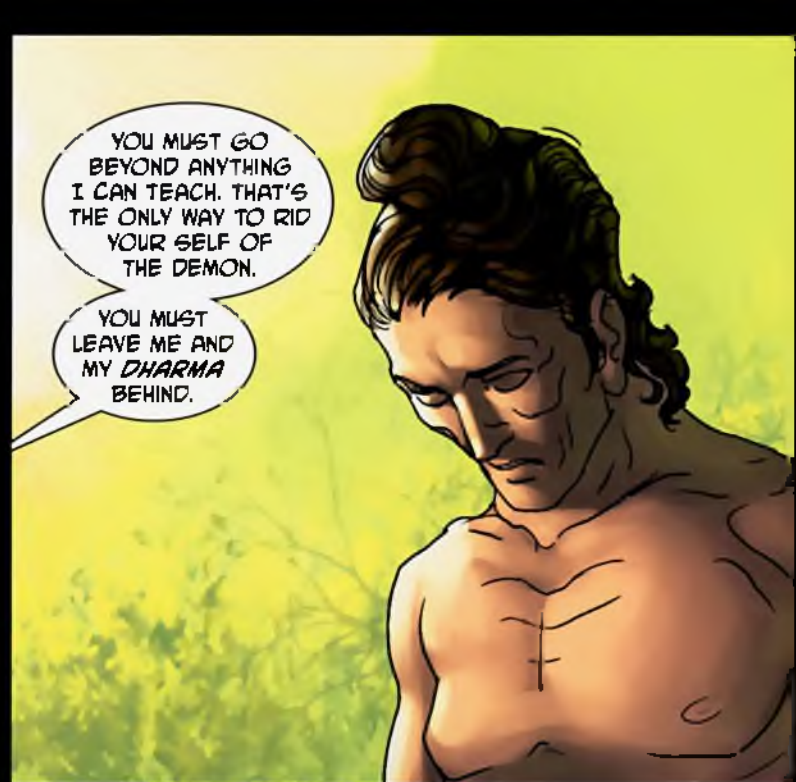
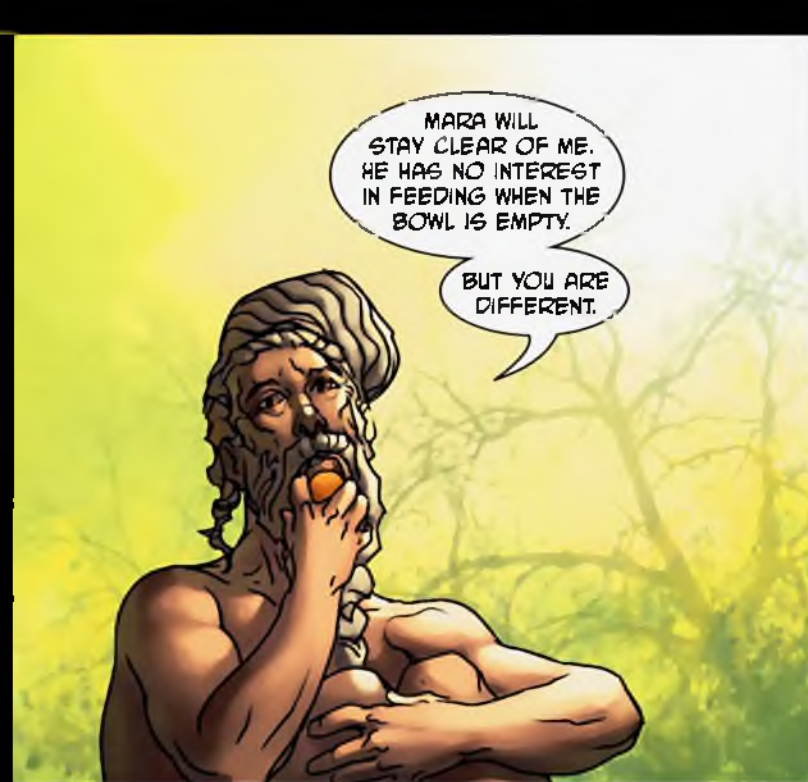


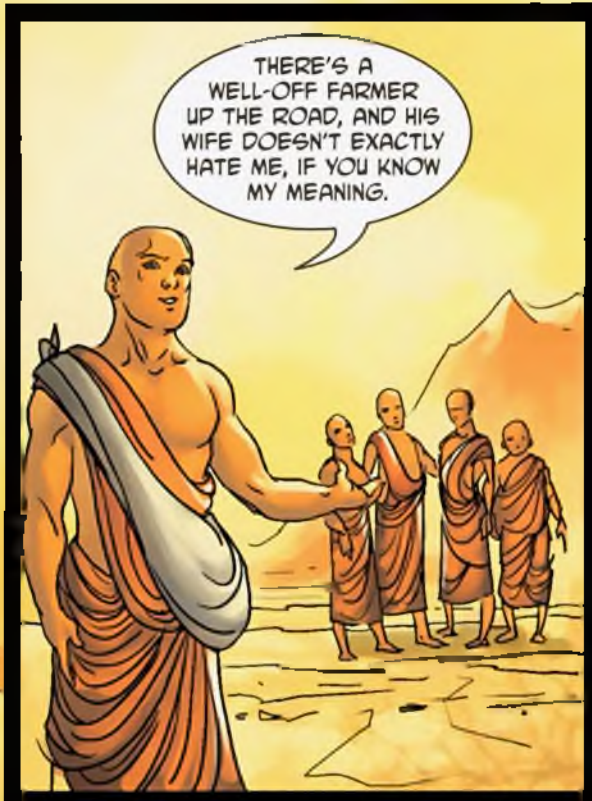
YOU KNOW
IT TO BE TRUE. YOU
KNEW IT BEFORE YOU
CAME HERE.




I--I HAVEN'T
THOUGHT OF MARA
IN YEARS.

AND SO
YOU KEPT HIM AWAY.
FOR A TIME.





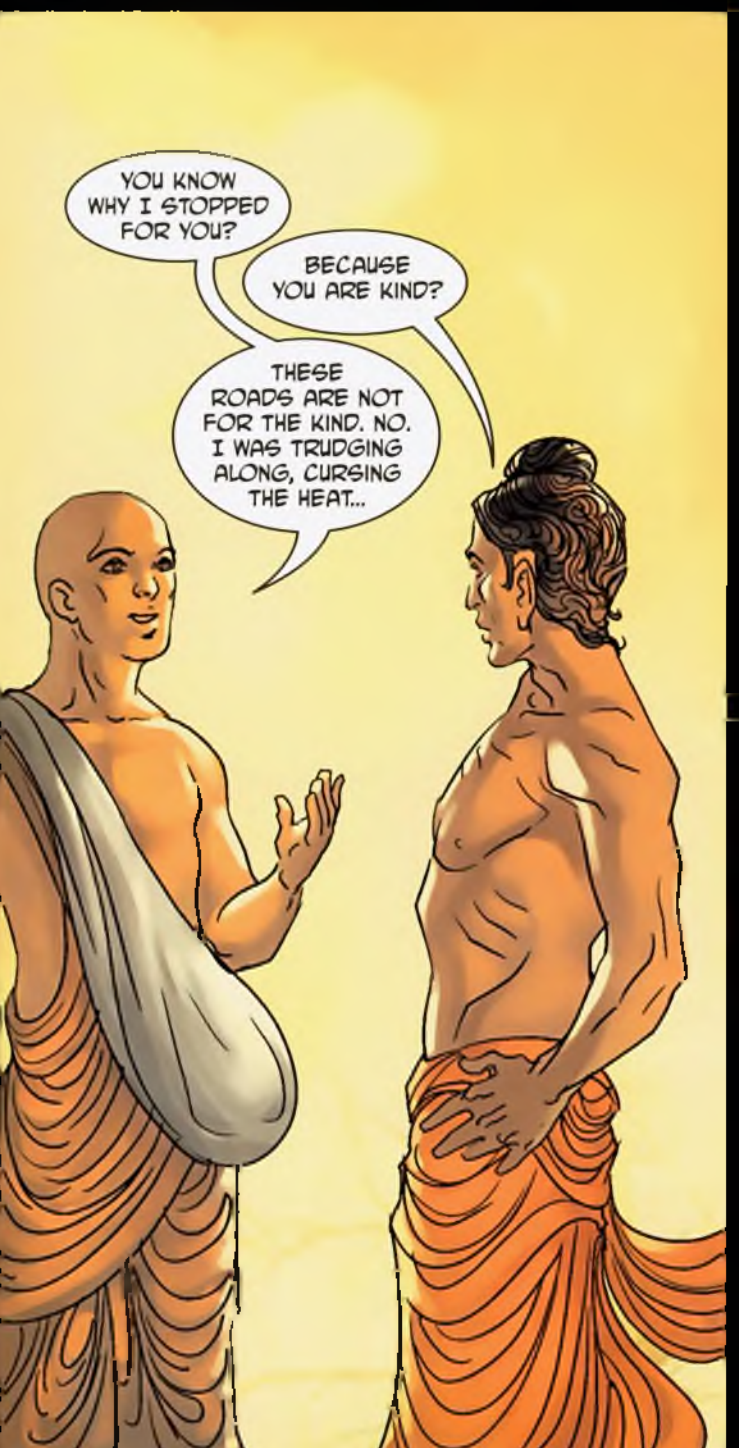
THERE'S A WELL-OFF FARMER UP THE ROAD, AND HIS WIFE DOESN'T EXACTLY HATE ME, IF YOU KNOW MY MEANING.



MY NAME IS PABBATA. THESE ARE MY COUSINS.

YOU ALL WANTED TO BE MONKS?


WE ALL WANTED TO SEE MORE OF LIFE THAN THE FAMILY FIELD.



YOU KNOW WHY I STOPPED FOR YOU?

BECAUSE YOU ARE KIND?


THESE ROADS ARE NOT FOR THE KIND. NO. I WAS TRUDGING ALONG, CURSING THE HEAT...



THINKING ABOUT SOMEONE I LEFT BEHIND, YOU UNDERSTAND?

THEN I FELT THIS COOL BREEZE COMING FROM UNDER THE TREE. WHEN I LOOKED OVER, THERE YOU WERE.

YOU SEE? I FELT YOUR PRESENCE.



I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE... I-I'VE BEEN WITH A SAINT IN THE FOREST FOR SOME TIME.

I FELT HIS PRESENCE EVERY DAY, EVERY MOMENT. THAT MUST BE WHAT YOU SENSED.

HIS PRESENCE LINGERING ABOUT ME.

Virgin
COMICS
ISSUE 2

PROJECT: KALKI

ON SALE
NOW

Man of the Year... or Master of
Armageddon?





FAR AWAY.



YES, DEVADATTA. CAN YOU FEEL IT? LIKE A FRESH BREEZE. NEARBY. LET ME GUIDE YOU...



TO YOUR FUTURE.



SIDDHARTHA!?



CAN I HELP YOU, FRIEND?



THOSE ARE ROYAL CLOTHES. YOU KILL SOMEONE FOR THOSE, OR ARE YOU WITH THE DACOITS?

KILL? NO, SIR. AS YOUR WORSHIP CAN SEE, I'M ALONE. I'M OLD...I FOUND THESE...

I'VE NEVER
BEEN TO COURT, MY
LORD...I KNEW THEY
WERE FINE BUT NOT
ROYAL...PLEASE
FORGIVE...



TO BE CONTINUED...



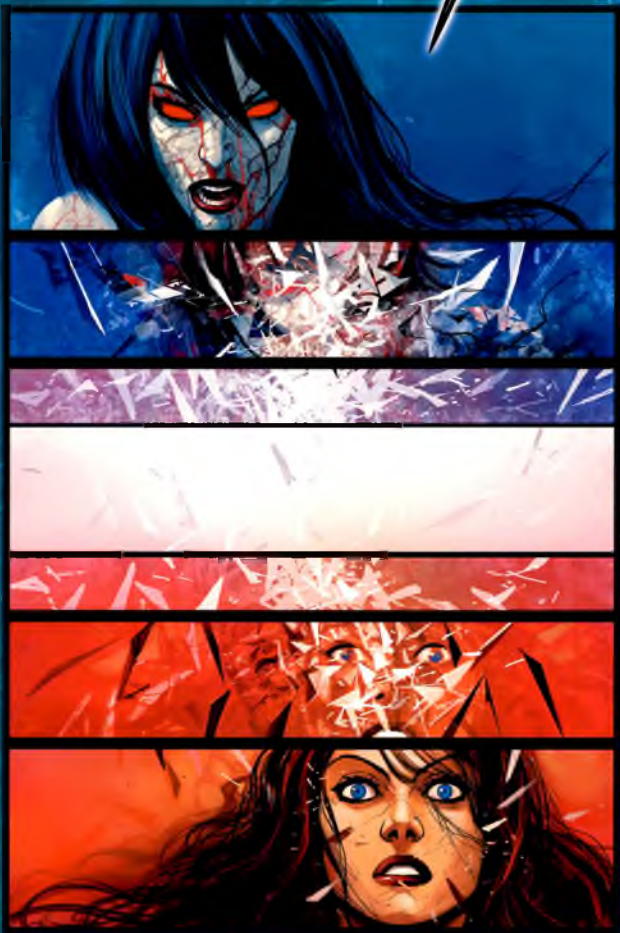
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SHEKHAR KAPUR'S

DEVI WITCHBLADE

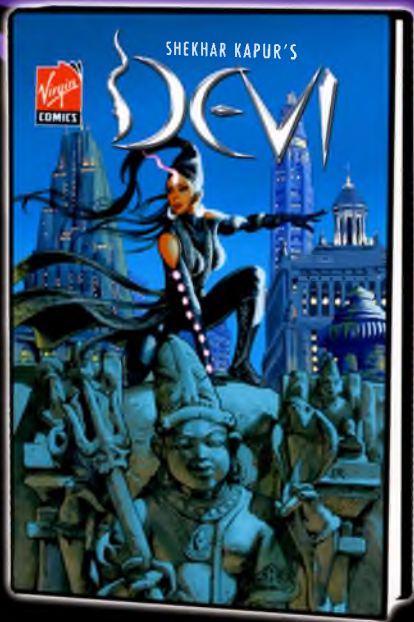


WITCHBLADE DEM.



**THE EPIC CROSSOVER CONTINUES
ON SALE NOW**

**BETWEEN THE DIVINE AND
THE DIABOLICAL,
THERE IS...**



DEVIL

**VOLUME 4 TRADE PAPERBACK
ON SALE NOW**

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—ComicCritique.com

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THE MINUTEMEN
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