

SHEKHAR KAPUR'S

DOM

TM



SAMVARA



ISSUE 10

BASU / PATEL

SHEKHAR KAPUR'S DEVI

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STORY SO FAR..

IN SHAPUR, THE DARINDE AND DURAPASYA WAGE WAR FOR CONTROL OF THE PASHUPATINAGAR SLIM, BUT THE REAL FIGHT WILL BE FOUGHT TONIGHT BELOW THE CITY, DEEP UNDER THE EARTH, IN AN ANCIENT, LONG-FORGOTTEN REALM FORSAKEN BY THE GODS IT WORSHIPPED. THERE, THE ARTEFACT KNOWN AS THE SOURCE LIES, WAITING TO CHANGE THE DESTINIES OF GODS AND MEN. MANY CRAVE THE SOURCE'S POWER, AND NONE MORE SO THAN THE FALLEN GOD BAGA, WHO, AT THIS MOMENT, STANDS UPON THE BRINK OF REALIZING HIS DREAM--TO WIELD THE SOURCE IN AN ORGY OF DESTRUCTION AND ANNIHILATE THE HOSTS OF THE HEAVENS. HE HAS CRUSHED BOTH FRIEND AND FOE ON HIS WAY TO HIS DESTINY, AND NOW, SO NEAR THE PRIZE, HE WILL NOT BE DENIED.

BUT BAGA'S PATH TO THE SOURCE IS NOT AN EASY ONE--AMARA GAELLE, ARCHAEOLOGIST, BOUNTY HUNTER AND AGENT OF A SECRET SOCIETY CALLED THE CABINET OF SHADOWS, IS A FEW STEPS AHEAD OF THIS GAME. AND THE DEVI, CREATED BY THE GODS TO PUT AN END TO BAGA'S TYRANNY, IS CLOSE ON HIS HEELS. SHE HAS VANQUISHED EVERY DEMON THAT BARRED HER PATH AND ALMOST EVERY DOUBT THAT PREVIOUSLY ASSAILED BOTH HER AND HER HUMAN HOST, TARA METHA, FROM WITHIN. IN EVERY WORLD, IN EVERY AGE, THERE ARE NIGHTS OF RECKONING WHEN KINGDOMS ARE BORN, HEROES FALL, AND LEGENDS MADE. TONIGHT IS ONE SUCH NIGHT.



Part Ten
SAMVARA

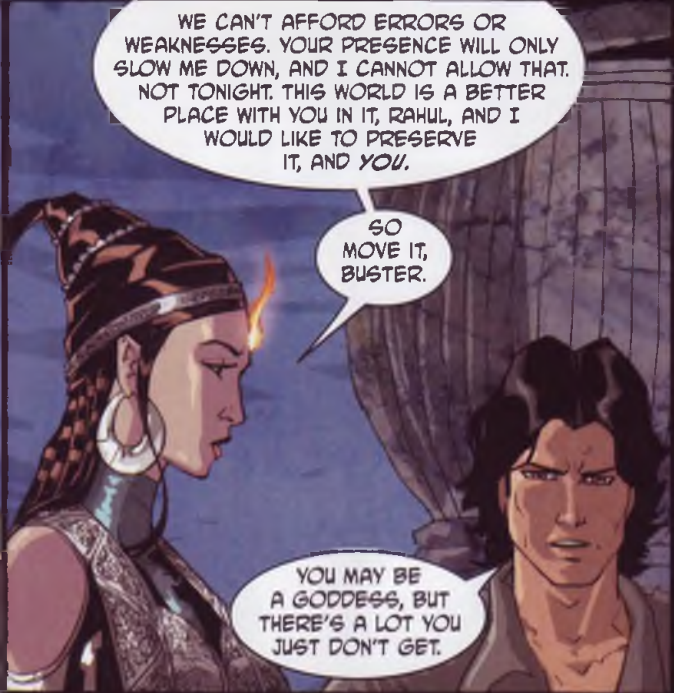




TONIGHT IS IT. THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW UNLESS I TURN THE TIDE. LORD BALA, A FALLEN GOD I DEFEATED IN A PREVIOUS AGE, SEEKS THE SOURCE, AN ANCIENT ARTEFACT THAT WILL GRANT HIM SUPREME POWER OVER THIS AND ALL OTHER WORLDS. ONLY I CAN STOP HIM.

... AND NOW WE RETURN TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM.

LET'S MOVE.



WE CAN'T AFFORD ERRORS OR WEAKNESSES. YOUR PRESENCE WILL ONLY SLOW ME DOWN, AND I CANNOT ALLOW THAT. NOT TONIGHT. THIS WORLD IS A BETTER PLACE WITH YOU IN IT, RAHUL, AND I WOULD LIKE TO PRESERVE IT, AND YOU.

SO MOVE IT, BUSTER.

YOU MAY BE A GODDESS, BUT THERE'S A LOT YOU JUST DON'T GET.



I CAN'T LET YOU GO IN THERE ALONE. SO THE STAKES ARE HIGH, AND IT'S TOO BIG FOR ME... SO WHAT? I MIGHT DIE? COME ON.

IF I'D BEEN THE KIND OF GUY WHO CHICKENED OUT IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, WE'D NEVER HAVE MET. AND RIGHT NOW I NEED TO GO IN THERE AND MEET THIS GUY, BALA, AND AT LEAST TRY TO STOP HIM. I WANT TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN.

WHAT ELSE HAVE I GOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO?



GO HOME.



ISSUE 8

THE

SADHU



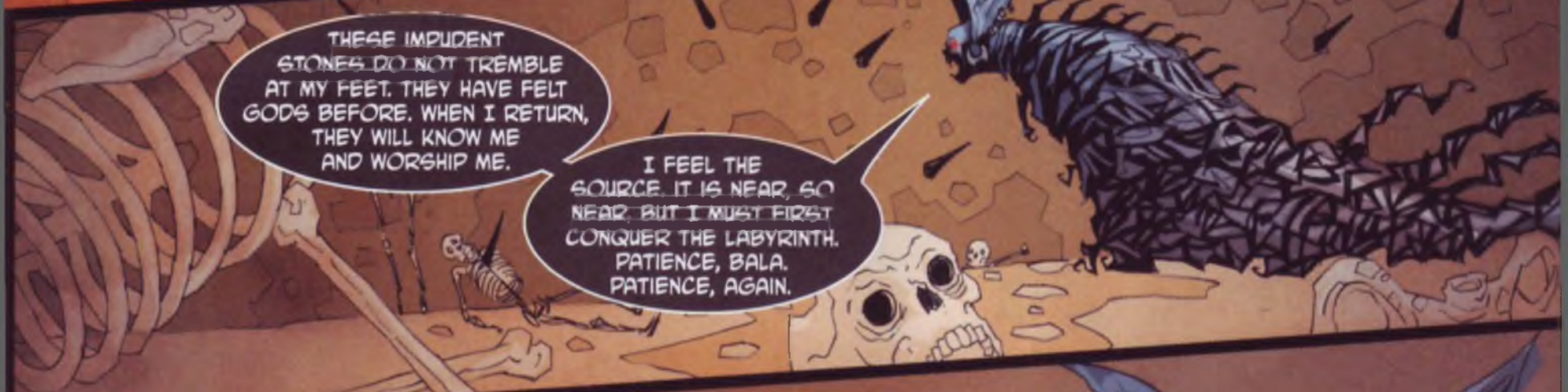
"THE SADHU IS A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE YARN." —IGN

CHOPRA | MANIKANDAN

ON STANDS MAY 2007



WORTHLESS TRINKETS.



THESE IMPUDENT STONES DO NOT TREMBLE AT MY FEET. THEY HAVE FELT GODS BEFORE. WHEN I RETURN, THEY WILL KNOW ME AND WORSHIP ME.

I FEEL THE SOURCE. IT IS NEAR, SO NEAR, BUT I MUST FIRST CONQUER THE LABYRINTH. PATIENCE, BALA. PATIENCE, AGAIN.



NO! I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE!

WAIT; FOOTSTEPS? I AM NOT ALONE HERE. DO LEGIONS OF GODS AWAIT ME OR ARE THESE MERELY TRICKS IN STONEMWORK?

I TIRE OF THIS; THEY SEEK TO DEFEAT BALA WITH ARCHITECTURE?



THERE WAS ONE RULE OF GEOMETRY THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND; THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN BALA AND POWER...



...IS A STRAIGHT LINE.

"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



MY HOUR HAS COME.





CELEBRATIONS
ARE IN ORDER



NNNNGRRRAAAAAHHH!!!!



AMAARAAA!!

COME OUT,
GIRL. GIVE ME MY
SOURCE, AND *DIE*
PAINLESSLY.

I KNOW
YOU ARE HERE.
I CAN SMELL YOUR
FEAR-DRENCHED
SWEAT.



THAT'S NOT A VERY POLITE THING TO SAY TO A LADY.



DEVI.

YES.

YOU HAVE RETURNED THE SOURCE TO YOUR OWNERS?



NO TALK.



EVEN WEAKER THAN LAST TIME. AND IT WAS A MIRACLE YOU SURVIVED THEN.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE WAITED AND LEARNED AND GROWN. I UNDERESTIMATED YOU CENTURIES AGO...



THIS TIME, THERE WILL BE NO MISTAKES.



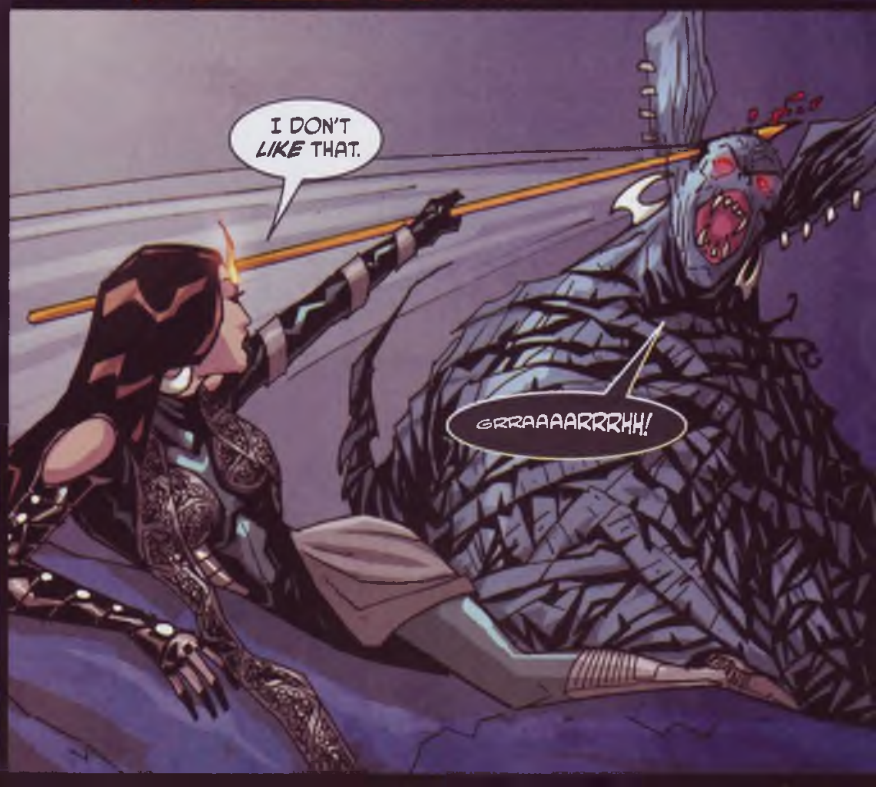
I WILL ASK YOU AGAIN. WHERE IS THE SOURCE?



PERHAPS THE LOSS OF A FEW LIMBS WILL LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE?



YOU KEEP TALKING.



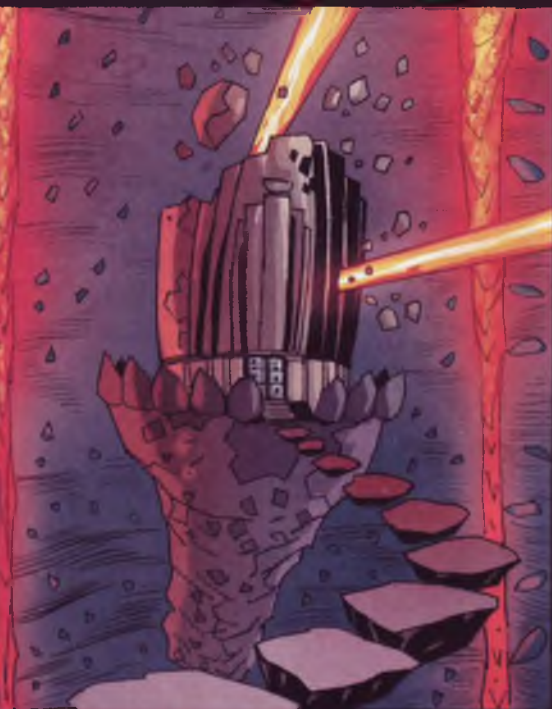
I DON'T LIKE THAT.

GRRAAAARRRH!



OK. EITHER THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE IS BEING DECIDED, OR A VERY LARGE ELEPHANT'S GIVING BIRTH.

EITHER WAY, THIS IS REALLY NOT MY SCENE.



WHICH LEADS TO THE QUESTION: WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE?

I WISH I KNEW. SHE TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY. BUT SHE'S IN DANGER. SHE SAID THIS IS TOO BIG FOR ME...



BUT HOW COULD I NOT--?



MUST... HELP...

YOU?

YOU
HAVE TO... DO
SOMETHING...
HELP.

SHHH.
DON'T SPEAK
NOW, JUST
REST.

WHAT IS IT WITH
YOU AND ROUGH
NEIGHBORHOODS?

NO... TIME.
LISTEN. I HAVE...
SOMETHING HERE...
YOU MUST... HIDE IT. IF
HE... DON'T LET HIM...
TOUCH IT... KILL...
EVERYONE.

TAKE
THIS... CABINET...
SHADOWS... THEY
WILL... KNOW...

I'LL
GIVE IT TO
HER--

NO! GODS...
DEMONS... USE HUMANS...
SHE WILL... BETRAY... YOU
MUST... FOR MANKIND...
PLEASE. JUST... DO
THIS.

SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH. CAN
YOU MAKE IT
OUT--?



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** [Devi]

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





LET ALL BE DARK!



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

DAVE STEWART'S

**WALK
MEN**



Plot
Parker

"SPECIAL
ISSUE WITH
STORY AND ART BY
JEFF PARKER"



ISSUE 6



ON STANDS MAY 2007





BALA.





SAVE RAHUL!

THIS IS NO ORDINARY CAVERN, MY CHILD. IT WAS BUILT BY MIGHTY SAGES LONG AGO, AND ITS LOWER REALMS ARE FILLED WITH DARK ENCHANTMENTS DEADLY TO GODS AND DEMONS ALIKE. THIS PRECIPICE HAS NO END; I AM AFRAID YOUR FRIEND IS LOST. MORE IMPORTANTLY, SO IS THE SOURCE.

BUT--

EVEN I CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT THIS.

WHY SEND ME TO THIS PLANE IF YOU NEVER INTENDED TO LET ME CARRY OUT MY TASK?

THERE IS MUCH HERE YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, DAUGHTER.

MY SON, THOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW IT, HAS SERVED ME WELL. HE HAD BEEN PLACED HERE TO RALLY MY ENEMIES, TO DRAW OUT OTHER ANCIENT, HIDDEN FOES WHO COULD BRING US REAL DANGER. BUT HE GREW STRONG ENOUGH TO THREATEN THE PANTHEON. THAT IS WHEN WE SENT FOR YOU.

THE PANTHEON HAD HOPED BALA WOULD DISCOVER THE LOCATION OF THE SOURCE; ONCE WE KNEW WHERE IT WAS, WE INSTRUCTED YOU TO ACQUIRE IT BEFORE BALA DID. THE SOURCE'S POWER WOULD HAVE BEEN A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE PANTHEON'S GLORY, AND YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN RICHLY REWARDED.

NOW, OF COURSE, THE SOURCE IS LOST. GODS AND DEMONS MAY NOT ENTER THIS CAVERN, AND NO MORTAL COULD DELVE ITS INFINITE DEPTHS. IT IS A DISAPPOINTMENT - BUT AT LEAST IT DID NOT FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

WHY WAS ALL THIS HIDDEN FROM ME UNTIL NOW? HAVE I NOT EARNED THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHY I FIGHT?

BALA AND I ARE NO DIFFERENT, ARE WE? WE WERE BOTH YOUR PAWNS.

THESE ARE MATTERS TOO LOFTY FOR YOU, CHILD. ANCIENT EVIL STILL STALKS THIS WORLD, AND BALA MUST REMAIN UNTIL IT IS VANQUISHED; BUT BECAUSE OF YOU, THIS AGE IS PRESERVED. FOR THIS WE OWE YOU THANKS.

WHY DID RAHUL HAVE TO DIE?

ALL MORTALS DIE IN TIME, CHILD. BUT THE MANNER OF HIS PASSING MADE HIM GLORIOUS; A HERO, AND THE GODS WILL REMEMBER HIM FOR HIS FAITH AND SACRIFICE. HIS STORY WILL BECOME A LEGEND, AND THROUGH IT HE WILL LIVE FOREVER.

COULD ANY MORTAL ASK FOR MORE?

NO. MORTALS ARE FOOLS--

THEY STILL EXPECT US TO LISTEN TO THEM.



IT IS TIME, MY CHILD.

BID FAREWELL TO YOUR HUMAN HOST; SHE HAS SERVED YOU WELL. THE CITADEL AWAITS YOUR RETURN.

NO. I MUST REMAIN HERE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE. I PROMISED A MAN I WOULD HEAL HIS WORLD; HE TRUSTED ME AND LOST HIS LIFE.

YOU DID NOT WRITE HIS DESTINY, CHILD.

I KNOW. BUT TARA'S TIME HAS NOT COME YET, AND I AM NOT READY TO LET HER GO.



I LIKE HER. SHE ASKS QUESTIONS THAT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME. SOME QUESTIONS WE WOULD ALL DO BETTER TO SEEK ANSWERS TO. QUESTIONS I SHOULD HAVE ASKED MYSELF AGES AGO, WHEN I FIRST THREW DOWN BALA'S TOWERS. THE PANTHEON HAS NEVER SEEN FIT TO TRUST ME, BUT WITH TARA, I CAN LEARN TO TRUST MYSELF.

THIS WORLD IS STILL IN DANGER; IT MUST BE PROTECTED. I WILL REMAIN HERE AND DO WHAT I CAN.



THAT TASK IS NOT YOURS NOW, DEVI. DO NOT QUESTION THE PANTHEON. WHEN YOU ARE NEEDED AGAIN, YOU WILL BE CREATED ANEW.


YOU DON'T SEE IT, DO YOU?

I AM NEEDED NOW.



THAT DECISION IS NOT YOURS TO MAKE.

DO NOT ORDER ME TO OBEY YOU, ALL-FATHER BODHA. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO START A REBELLION.




THE PANTHEON WILL NOT BE PLEASED. SOME MIGHT SEE THIS AS A BETRAYAL.

I AM WILLING TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES, LORD BODHA. EVEN PUNISHMENT, SHOULD IT COME TO THAT.

I HOPE IT WILL NOT. BUT WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF THE GODS LEADING YOU FORWARD, DEVI, YOU WILL HAVE TO STRUGGLE HARD TO KEEP YOURSELF FROM SUCCUMBING TO THE SHADOWS. PERHAPS THIS IS THE ROAD MEANT FOR YOU. BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO WALK IT ALONE.


I AM NEVER ALONE.



WE WILL BE WATCHING. THE DOORS OF THE CITADEL ARE OPEN TO YOU NOW, DEVI, BUT REMEMBER--THE PANTHEON'S POWER IS UNLIMITED, BUT ITS PATIENCE AND MERCY ARE NOT.




WELL, THAT WAS A SURPRISE.



WAS IT? DID YOU REALLY THINK WE WOULD PART WAYS THIS SOON?

I USED TO HOPE SO. BUT AFTER ALL THIS...I'M NOT SO SURE.



AND YOUR DOUBTS WILL SHOW US THE TRUE PATH, TARA. I USED TO THINK I KNEW GOOD FROM EVIL. I WAS WRONG.

I DOUBT THIS WORLD CAN BE SAVED. BUT WE WILL FIND OUT, TOGETHER, TO SHOW THE HEAVENS WHAT THE EARTH NEEDS FROM ITS GODS.

NOT ME.



ISSUE 11

SHEKHAR KAPUR'S

DOOM

TM

**NEW STORY
ARC!**

ON STANDS MAY 2007

I'LL DO IT
FOR RAHUL.



EPILOGUE



REST,
LAD.

YOU'RE IN
GOOD HANDS
NOW.

THE END

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.

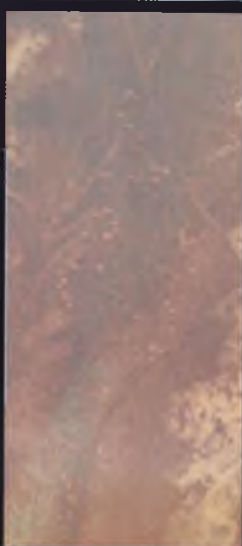
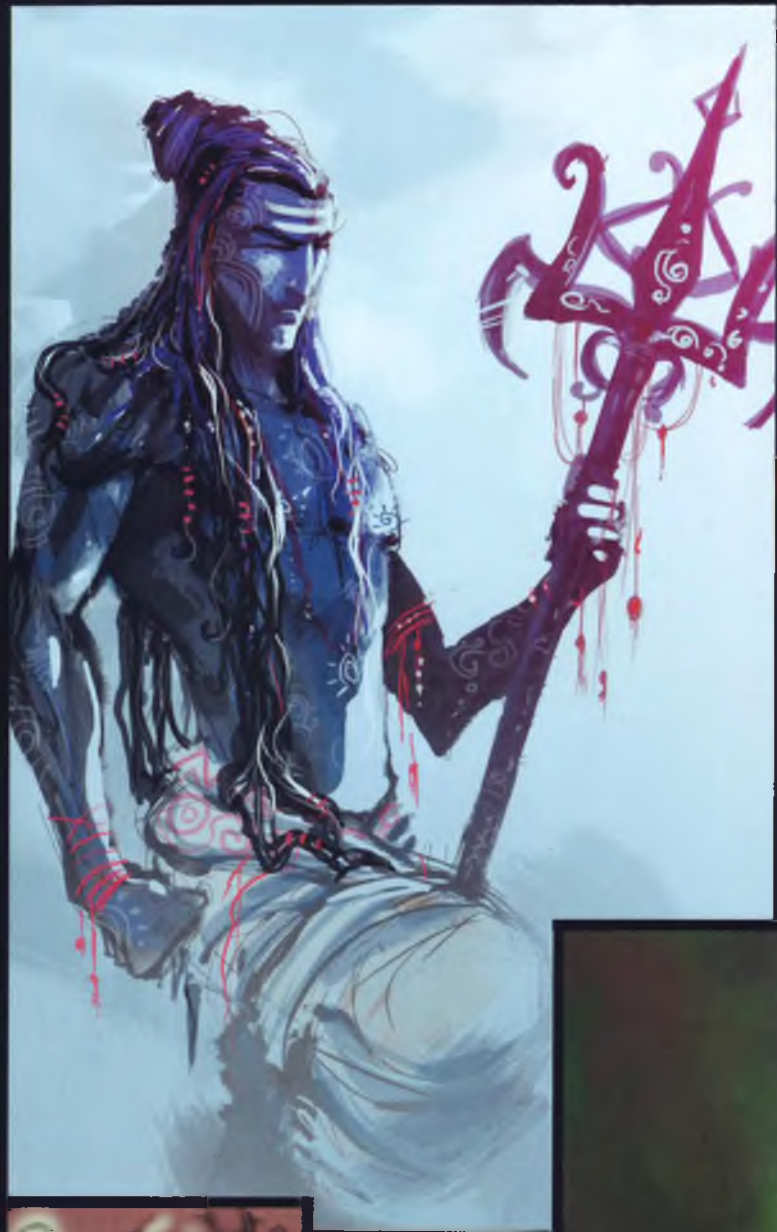
So check out this new series, coming to your local comic shop and Virgin Megastore this May. We hope you enjoy it!

GOTHAM CHOPRA
Editor-in-Chief

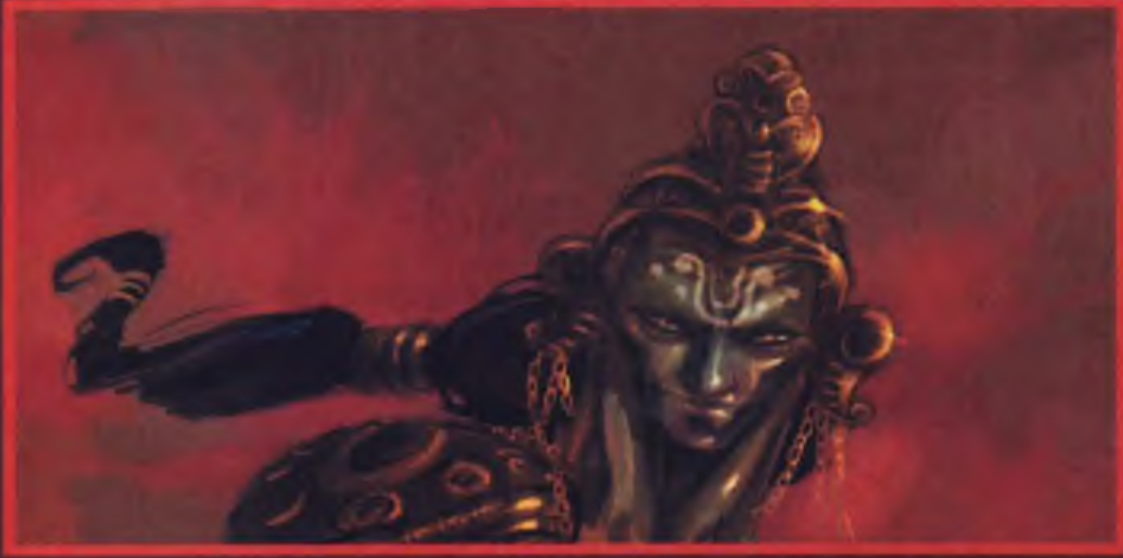
SHARAD DEVARAJAN
Publisher

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