

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *india*  authentic™  
**KARTIKKEYA**



MOHAPATRA/MANU



DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

# KARTIKKEYA india authentic™

Created by Deepak Chopra

Writer : Saurav Mohapatra

Pencils: Manu P.K.

Colors: M.N. Narasimha Murthy  
& S. Ayyappan

Letters: B.S. Ravikiran

Cover Art: M.P.M. Natarajiah

Project Manager: Sandeep Nair

Assistant Editor: Neha Bajaj

Editor: Mahesh Kamath

VIRGIN COMICS

Chief Executive Officer  
& Publisher

Sharad Devarajan

Chief Creative Officer  
& Editor-in-Chief

Gotham Chopra

President & Studio Chief  
Suresh Seetharaman

Chief Marketing Officer  
Larry Lieberman

SRVP - Studio  
Jeevan Kang

Vice President - Operations  
Alagappan Kannan

Director of Development  
MacKenzie Cadenhead

Chief Visionaries

Deepak Chopra

Shekhar Kapur

Sir Richard Branson

Special Thanks to:

Frances Farrow

Dan Porter

Christopher Linen

Peter Feldman

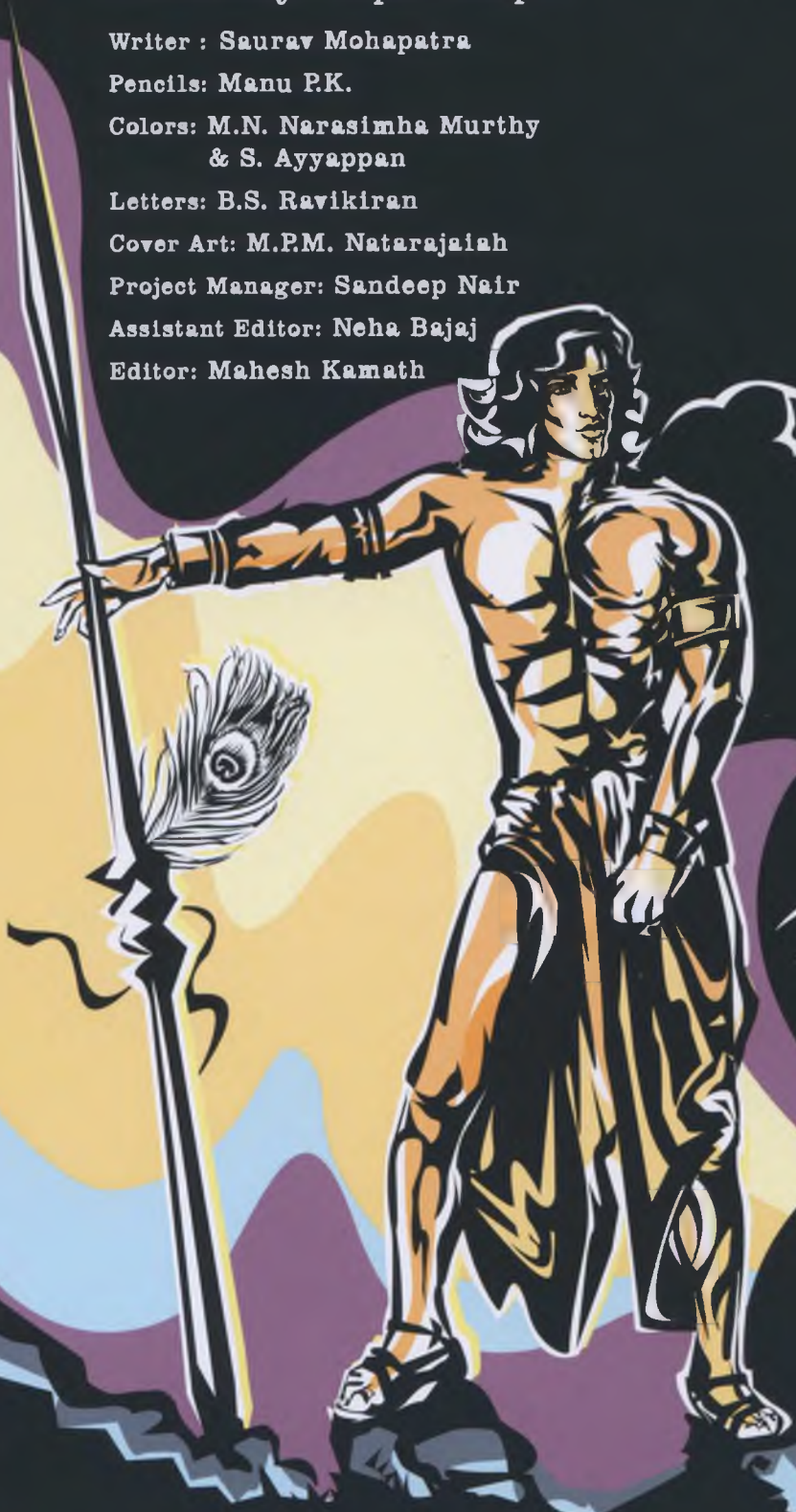
Raju Puthukarai

Mallika Chopra

INDIA AUTHENTIC ISSUE NUMBER 9 -  
KARTIKKEYA, January 2008. Published by  
VIRGIN COMICS L.L.C. OFFICE OF  
PUBLICATION: 594 Broadway, New York, NY  
10012. The characters included in this issue,  
INDIA AUTHENTIC, and the distinctive  
likenesses thereof are properties of Virgin Comics  
L.L.C. No similarity between any of the names,  
characters, persons, and/or institutions in this  
magazine with those of any living or dead person  
or institution is intended, and any such similarity  
which may exist is purely coincidental.

Printed in Canada.

For advertising, licensing and sales info please  
contact: [info@virgincomics.com](mailto:info@virgincomics.com) or  
(212)584-4040. [www.virgincomics.com](http://www.virgincomics.com)





# THE NEXT SUPERPOWER

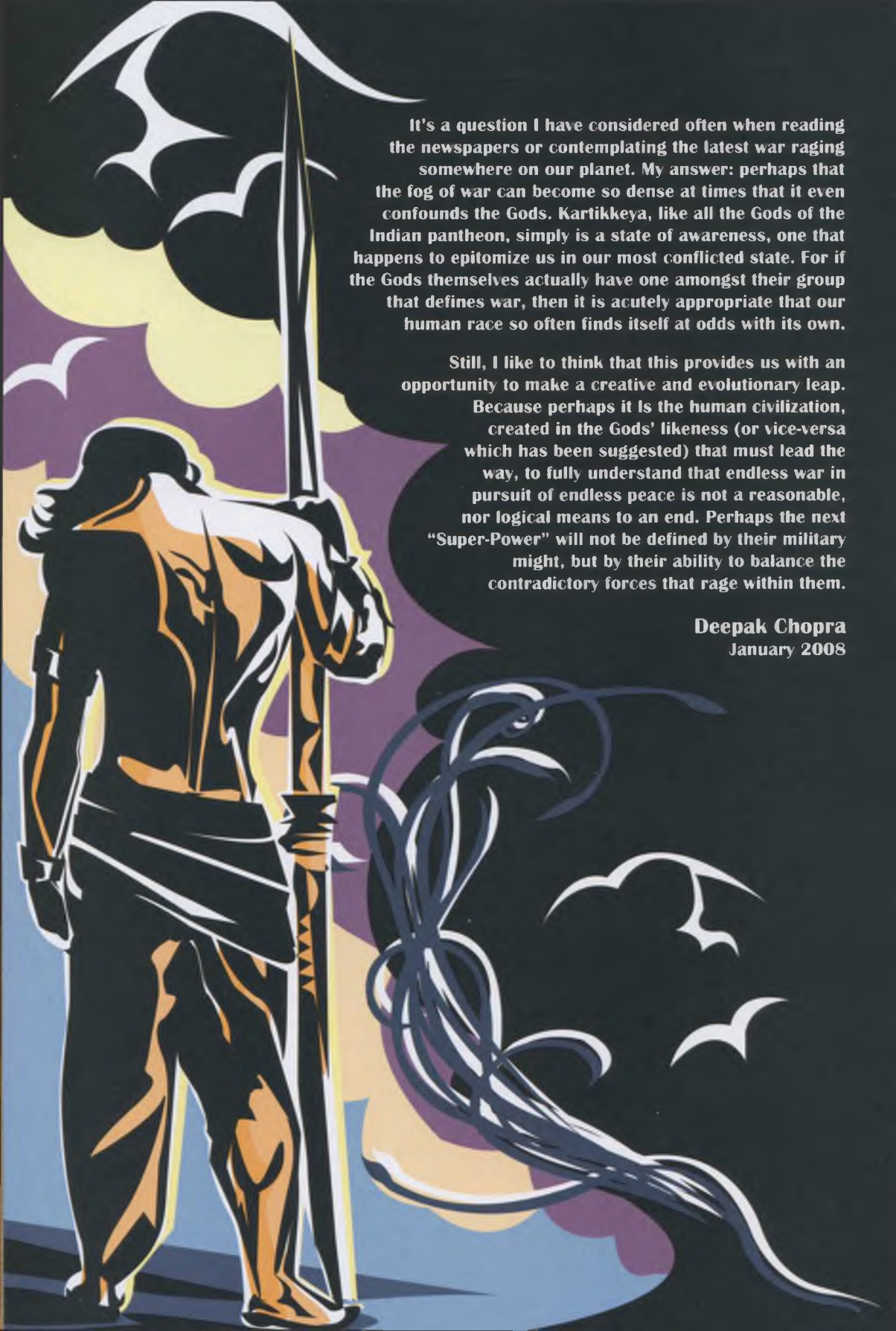
**It has been said in this era, an age when “super-power” nations are defined by who has the most military might, and whose strength is defined by how diabolical and murderous their weapons caches are, that the human race “worships war.”**

Well, we’re not the first.

Kartikkeya, one of the countless deities in the Indian pantheon, is commonly referred to as the “God of War.” He appears in countless myths under myriads of names, often armed and deputized by his divine brethren and commanding massive forces against demon armies. In other stories, he’s at odds with the Gods themselves, pitted against them in violent and bloody conflicts. In fact, if you read the scriptures themselves, chronicle the many stories in which Kartikkeya is mentioned, and try and understand who he is fighting and why, it’s no easy task. Even the Gods themselves who are upholders of righteousness, you’ll discover, too often find their own moral authority perverted when they find themselves feuding with Kartikkeya.

What then can we really take away from the stories of the great Kartikkeya, God of War? If the Gods themselves, worship war, what does that say about us?






It's a question I have considered often when reading the newspapers or contemplating the latest war raging somewhere on our planet. My answer: perhaps that the fog of war can become so dense at times that it even confounds the Gods. Kartikkeya, like all the Gods of the Indian pantheon, simply is a state of awareness, one that happens to epitomize us in our most conflicted state. For if the Gods themselves actually have one amongst their group that defines war, then it is acutely appropriate that our human race so often finds itself at odds with its own.


Still, I like to think that this provides us with an opportunity to make a creative and evolutionary leap. Because perhaps it is the human civilization, created in the Gods' likeness (or vice-versa which has been suggested) that must lead the way, to fully understand that endless war in pursuit of endless peace is not a reasonable, nor logical means to an end. Perhaps the next "Super-Power" will not be defined by their military might, but by their ability to balance the contradictory forces that rage within them.

**Deepak Chopra**  
January 2008






A MEANS  
TO AN END.



IS THAT  
ENOUGH TO  
DEFINE A LIFE?



DOES THE FACT THAT MY EVERY  
ACTION HAS BEEN FORETOLD BY  
PROPHECY LIMIT ME, *KARTIKKEYA*, THE  
SON OF *SHIVA* AND *UMA*, THE SAVIOR  
PROMISED TO THE *GODS* THEMSELVES?



OR DOES  
IT SET ME  
FREE?



SOME TIME BACK.  
THE COURT OF INDRA  
AT AMARAVATHI.

TODAY IS A GLORIOUS  
DAY FOR THE RACE OF ASURAS.  
I, **TARAK**, KING OF DEMONS,  
HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT MANY OF  
MY ANCESTORS ONLY  
DREAMED OF...

...I HAVE CONQUERED  
**SVARGA** AND YOU, **INDRA**,  
"KING OF GODS" ARE  
AT MY MERCY.

I COULD HAVE  
YOU ALL SLAUGHTERED,  
BUT THAT WOULD ONLY  
END THE MISERY.

RULE HEAVEN, "LORD"  
**INDRA**, BUT AS MY **VASSAL**. I CAN  
THINK OF NO TORTURE MORE PAINFUL  
FOR YOU THAN TO BE REMINDED EVERY  
WAKING MOMENT THAT YOUR LIFE  
IS A **GIFT** FROM YOUR MOST  
HATED **ENEMY**.

PATIENCE, MY  
LORD **INDRA**.

THE SEEDS  
OF THE DEMON'S END  
HAVE ALREADY BEEN  
SOWN. IN HIS ARROGANCE,  
HE PAYS NO NEED TO  
THE **PROPHECY**.



MOUNT KAILASH, ABOVE  
OF LORD SHIVA.

"THE SAVIOR COMES.  
THE SON OF SHIVA IS  
BEING BORN AS  
WE SPEAK."

MY FATHER LORD SHIVA WAS  
REUNITED WITH HIS LOST  
LOVE OF A PREVIOUS BIRTH,  
UMA-THE ALL MOTHER, AND  
THUS I WAS BORN.

LORD VISHNU, DO YOU SEE? DO  
YOU SEE HOW MY SON GLOWS  
WITH A RADIANCE THAT PUTS  
EVEN THE MOST DIVINE OF HALOS  
TO SHAME?

AH! THIS IS  
NO ORDINARY CHILD,  
LORD SHIVA. YOUR SON IS  
SVARGA'S SAVIOR.

SAVIOR OR NOT,  
I COULD NOT HAVE  
WISHED FOR A MORE  
PERFECT CHILD.

DO YOU HEAR  
THAT, LITTLE ONE? YOUR  
MOTHER IS PROUD  
OF YOU.

I AM AFRAID,  
ALL-MOTHER, THAT  
YOU HAVE TO PART WAYS  
WITH YOUR NEW BORN  
SON.

TO FULFIL THE  
PROPHECY, HE MUST BE  
TAKEN TO THE OTHER REALM.  
I HAVE ARRANGED FOR  
MOTHER GANGA TO  
FERRY HIM.



THUS, FROM THE VERY MOMENT OF MY BIRTH, THE WHEELS OF PROPHECY SPRANG INTO MOTION.



REMOVED FROM MY MOTHER'S WARM EMBRACE I WAS FERRIED TO THE OTHER REALM BY THE MOTHER GANGA.



THE PROPHECY HAD RULED THAT I WAS TO BE LEFT IN THE CARE OF THE KRITTIKA\*.

\*PLEIADS



THE SIX WHO ARE ONE, THE NAKSHATRA MAIDENS OF THE OTHER WORLD, KEEPERS OF THE WAR FLAME.



AMH! GANGA! WHAT BRINGS YOU PAST THE BARRIER DEEP INTO THE HEART OF OUR REALM?



HAS THE HOUR COME? HAS THE SAVIOR BEEN BORN?



YES, MY SISTERS. I BRING THE ONE WITH ME. I HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO CARRY THE INFANT TO YOU.



LEAVE HIM WITH US. IN THIS OTHER WORLD WE SHALL RAISE HIM AS OUR OWN...





WE SHALL *SHAPE*  
HIM. *TEACH* HIM.



THE *WAR FLAME* SHALL  
FORGE HIM INTO A WARRIOR  
WORTHY OF THE PROPHECY  
THAT *HERALDED* HIS BIRTH.



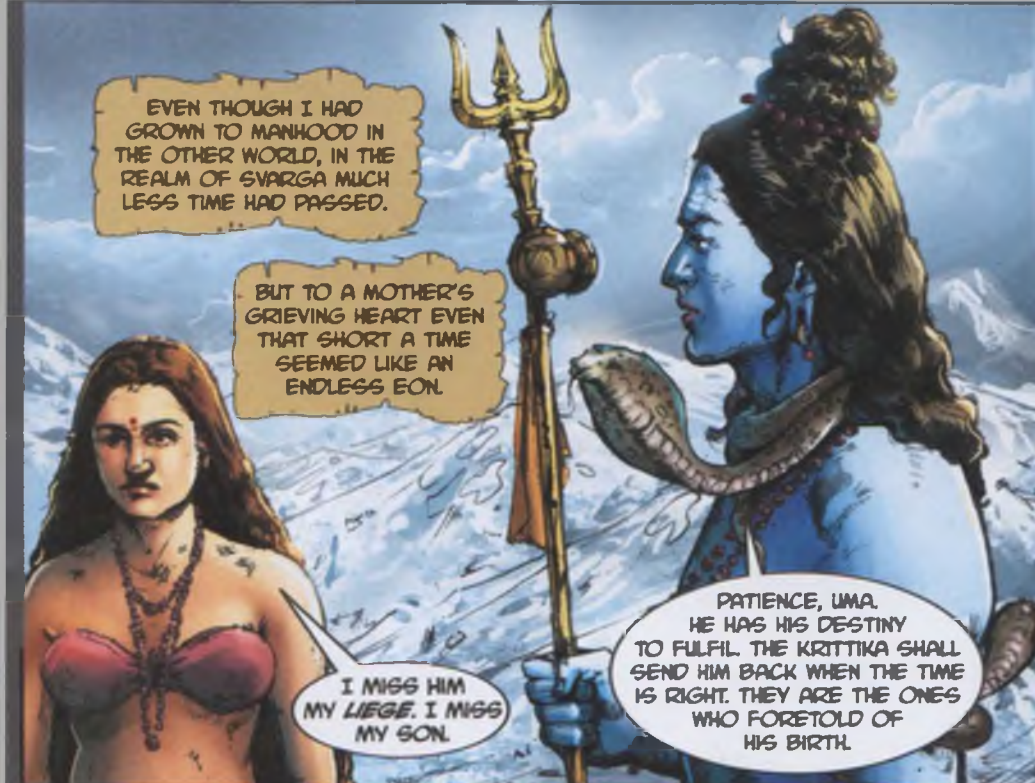
AHH! THE TIME HAS  
COME, SON OF SHIVA, WHEN YOU  
*RETURN* TO YOUR OWN REALM  
TO FULFIL YOUR DESTINY.

GO FORTH, WARRIOR! WE WHO ARE  
*SIX BUT ONE* HAVE BLESSED YOU THUS. SHAPED  
BY THIS OTHER WORLD, PURIFIED BY THE WAR  
FLAME OF ETERNITY, FROM THIS DAY ON YOU  
SHALL BE KNOWN AS...



...*KARTIKKEYA*, HE OF THE  
*NAKSHATRA MAIDENS*  
OF *KRITIKA*.






EVEN THOUGH I HAD GROWN TO MANHOOD IN THE OTHER WORLD, IN THE REALM OF SVARGA MUCH LESS TIME HAD PASSED.


BUT TO A MOTHER'S GRIEVING HEART EVEN THAT SHORT A TIME SEEMED LIKE AN ENDLESS EON.

I MISS HIM MY LIEGE. I MISS MY SON.

PATIENCE, UMA. HE HAS HIS DESTINY TO FULFIL. THE KRITTIKA SHALL SEND HIM BACK WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO FORETOLD OF HIS BIRTH.




WHAT DOES A MOTHER'S ACHING HEART KNOW OF DESTINY AND PROPHECIES?



MOTHER. FATHER.



MY SON!



YOU HAVE RETURNED.





PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE ME AGAIN.



PROMISE ME THIS, MY SON.

ALL-MOTHER, I FEEL TERRIBLE INTERRUPTING YOUR REUNION...



...BUT I AM AFRAID YOUR SON'S DESTINY CALLS HIM.



THE KRITTIKA HAVE DONE THEIR TASK WELL INDEED AND NOW, SON OF SHIVA, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO DO YOURS.



# NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

OVER A MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LIVING  
ON AMERICA'S STREETS TODAY

Join Virgin Mobile USA, American Eagle Outfitters and Levi Strauss Signature to help  
bring a little comfort to these homeless youth.

TEXT 'KARMA' TO 68405 and a piece of clothing will be donated to a homeless or at risk  
youth, all for the cost of a standard text message.

**Want to make an even bigger difference?**

The RE\*Generation is a Virgin initiative supporting incredible organizations that help some  
of the most marginalized young people in America.

Make a difference, join the movement visit [virginunite.com/theregeneration](http://virginunite.com/theregeneration)



**TEXT 'KARMA' TO 68405**

**THE RE\***  
**GENERATION**





DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

# Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3392 #10

ISSUE  
#3

FEATURING  
BACK-UP STORY  
BY RON MARZ AND  
DAVID PETERSEN

**ON STANDS NOW**





WHERE HAS MY YOUTH GONE, DEVARSHI NARAD? WHERE DID I LOSE MY VIGOR? LIFE AS TARAKASUR'S VASSAL HAS INDEED ROBBED ME OF WHAT LITTLE DIGNITY I HAD LEFT IN MY LATE YEARS.

LORD INDRA, THE TIME FOR LAMENTATION IS PAST INDEED...



...FOR THE HOUR OF THE PROPHECY IS NEIGH.



WHAT? WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING, NARAD MUNI?



THE SAVIOR HAS RETURNED. THE KRITTIKA HAVE SHAPED HIM INTO A MIGHTY WARRIOR. FORGED BY THE WAR FLAME OF THE OTHER WORLD, THE SON OF SHIVA HEADS OUR WAY TO FULFIL THE PROPHECY.




RIDDLE ME THIS DEVARSHI, A DEMON REDUCED ME TO A VASSAL AND NOW WE MUST WAIT FOR ANOTHER TO DELIVER US FROM THIS FATE.

WHAT USE ARE WE AS GODS THEN? WHAT WILL THE FUTURE SPEAK OF US THOSE THAT LOST CONTROL OF THEIR OWN DESTINY?

"MIGHTY GODS OF YORE THAT WAIT WITH BATED BREATH FOR DELIVERANCE BY A MERE YOUTH?"









AS BIDDEN BY MY FATHER AND LORD VISHNU I MADE MY WAY TO THE PALACE OF LORD INDRA, TO SEEK HIS BLESSINGS.


BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED, THAT THERE MIGHT BE MORE TO LIFE THAN *PRE-DESTINY*.



I MET *DEVASENA*, DAUGHTER OF LORD INDRA.

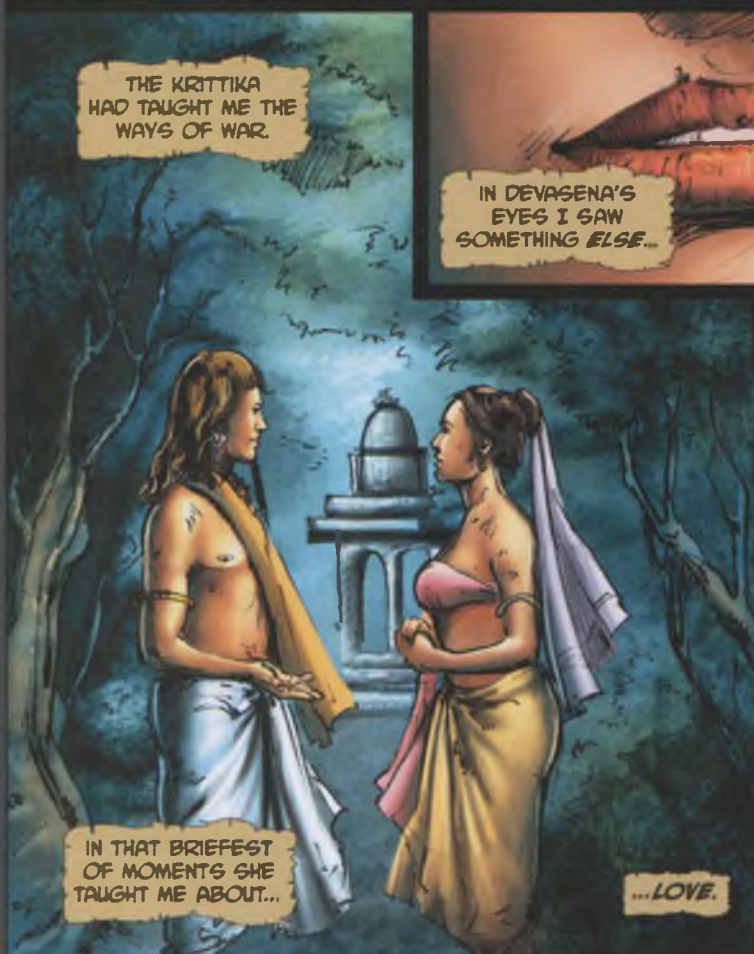


AND IN THOSE *DOE* BROWN EYES, I SAW *POSSIBILITIES*.



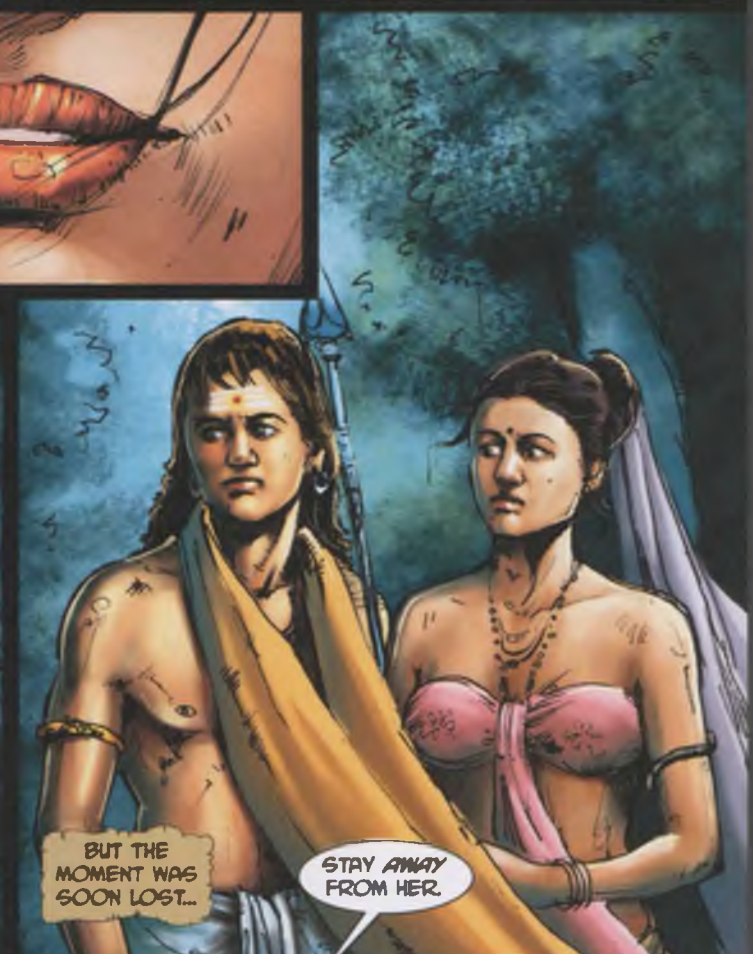
THE *KRITTIKA* HAD TAUGHT ME THE WAYS OF WAR.

IN *DEVASENA'S* EYES I SAW SOMETHING *ELSE*...



IN THAT BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS SHE TAUGHT ME ABOUT...

...*LOVE*.



BUT THE MOMENT WAS SOON LOST...

STAY AWAY FROM HER.





YOU MAY BE THE SAVIOR OF PROPHECY, BUT THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DALLY WITH MY DAUGHTER.

NO, KING OF GODS, PLEASE STAY YOUR HAND.

FATHER!

PERHAPS LORD INDRA WAS MIFFED THAT I MET HIS DAUGHTER WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION...



IF YOU ARE THE WARRIOR OF PROPHECY, THEN PROVE IT. SHOW ME YOUR MIGHT OR PERISH UNDER THE BLADE OF MY VAJRA.

...OR THAT IT FELL TO ANOTHER BY DINT OF PROPHECY TO SLAY THE DEMON.



NO!

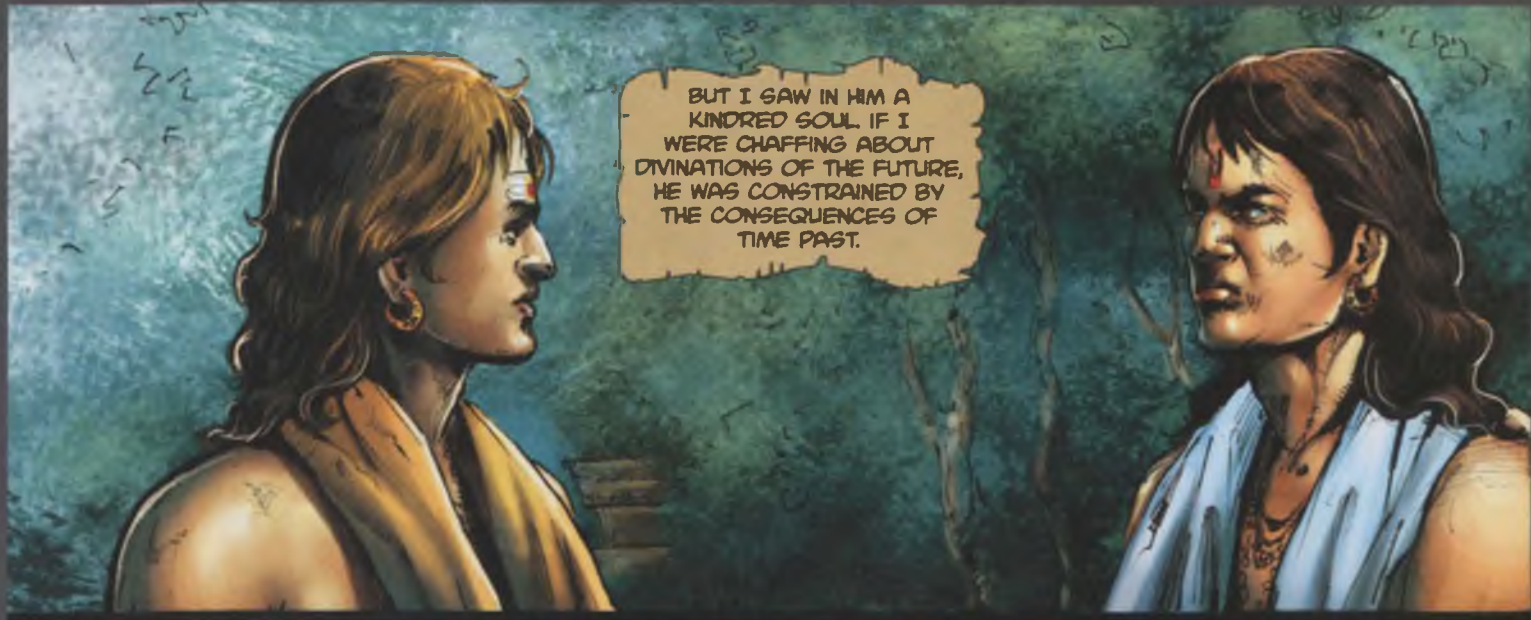


IT IS TRUE. HE INDEED IS THE ONE.



BUT HOW COULD I EXPLAIN IT ALL TO HIM? THAT I WOULD TRADE ALL THE GLORY OF BEING THE SAVIOR OF PROPHECY FOR THAT BRIEF MOMENT THAT I SAW IN DEVASENA'S EYES?

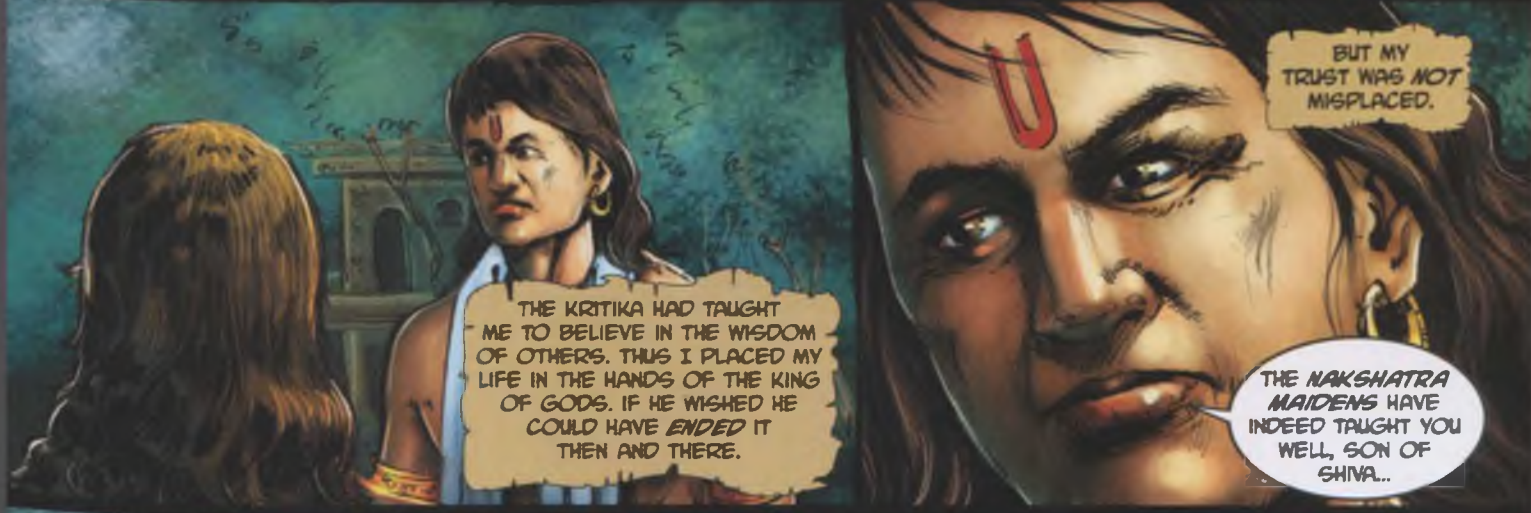




BUT I SAW IN HIM A KINDRED SOUL. IF I WERE CHAFFING ABOUT DIVINATIONS OF THE FUTURE, HE WAS CONSTRAINED BY THE CONSEQUENCES OF TIME PAST.



HE WAS NOT THE ENEMY, AND I DID NOT WISH TO FIGHT HIM.



THE KRITIKA HAD TAUGHT ME TO BELIEVE IN THE WISDOM OF OTHERS. THUS I PLACED MY LIFE IN THE HANDS OF THE KING OF GODS. IF HE WISHED HE COULD HAVE ENDED IT THEN AND THERE.

BUT MY TRUST WAS NOT MISPLACED.

THE NAKSHATRA MAIDENS HAVE INDEED TAUGHT YOU WELL, SON OF SHIVA...



PLEASE FORGIVE MY LAPSE AND WITH MY BLESSINGS GO FORTH TO DO...



*"...THAT WHICH YOU  
WERE BORN FOR."*



*"TO DESTROY  
TARAKASUR."*





THE WHEELS OF DESTINY HAD SPUN FULL CIRCLE.

YOU GODS NEVER LEARN. I, TARAK, KING OF DEMONS, HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY LORD BRAHMA, THE ELDER, HIMSELF. NONE BUT THE SON OF SHIVA CAN HARM ME.



AND YOU BRING A CHILD TO A MAN'S WAR? WHO IS THIS THAT LEADS YOU?



I AM KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, DEMON KING.



YOU MAY CALL ME MURUGAN.



THAT IS, IF YOU STILL ARE ABLE TO SPEAK.



MMMPFFF!!




AHH! THE YOUNG PUP BARKS.


SO TELL ME KARTIKKEYA WHAT OTHER NAMES HAVE YOU?








YOU MAY CALL  
ME KUMAR, THE  
GOD OF ETERNAL  
YOUTH...



...OR IF IT  
PLEASES YOU...  
AND I AM SURE  
IT WILL NOT...



...KARTIKKEYA,  
THE SON OF  
SHIVA.



THE ONE  
FORETOLD BY  
PROPHECY.



# BECOME A GAMING NINJA



Ever Thought About  
Designing Your Own  
Video Games or  
Creating Your Own  
Animation?

Here's the chance to do more than just play...  
you could actually earn money doing what you love...

Learn More At:

[www.video-game-education.com](http://www.video-game-education.com)





AWH! DID NOT SEE THAT ONE COMING. BUT TELL ME THIS KARTIKKEYA...



...IF YOU ARE THE ONE OF PROPHECY...



WHAT PURPOSE WILL YOU HAVE LEFT, ONCE YOU HAVE FULFILLED IT?



THE DEMON'S WORDS RANG TRUE IN MY MIND.



HE HAD LAID HIS FINGER ON THE VERY CENTER OF MY DILEMMA.





JOIN ME. A WARRIOR OF YOUR MIGHT SHOULD NOT BE BOUND BY THE LIMITS OF A PROPHECY. WHY SHOULD YOU DO AS IS FORETOLD?



MAKE YOUR OWN DESTINY AND JOIN ME.



TOGETHER WE SHALL BE SUPREME.



KARTIKKEYA, LISTEN NOT TO HIS VENOMOUS WORDS. THE PROPHECY...



THERE IS NOT VENOM IN HIS WORDS, KING OF GODS...



...BUT AN ECHO OF MY OWN THOUGHTS.





BUT I  
HAVE MADE MY  
PEACE WITH MY  
DESTINY.



I KNOW  
IN MY HEART  
A SIMPLE  
FACT...



THE PROMISE OF  
A LIFE IS NOT DEFINED  
BY DESTINY OR A  
PROPHECY...



"... BUT IS WHAT ONE HAS THE WILL TO MAKE OF IT."





SHEKHAR KAPUR'S



ISSUE 18

GVN™



e.bas  
2007  
O-  
CAESAR

ON STANDS FEBRUARY 2008



THUS, IT WAS DONE.  
THE PROPHECY WAS  
FULFILLED...



BUT THE FUTURE  
STILL REMAINED  
UNKNOWN.

KARTIKKEYA,  
WAIT.



I KNEW NOT  
WHAT LAY IN  
STORE FOR ME.

THE KRITTIKA  
HAVE INDEED  
RAISED YOU  
WELL.



THERE WAS NO  
SET PATH NOW.

THEY HAVE GIFTED  
YOU WITH A WISDOM THAT  
EVEN THE WISEST OF THE  
GODS WILL ENVY.



NO PREDESTINY  
TO UPHOLD.

MAKE THE MOST  
OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN  
GIVEN. SVARGA NEEDS YOU  
NOW AS A WARRIOR AND  
A STATESMAN.



I WAS  
FREE...

HONOR US.  
HONOR ME. STAY WITH  
US, TEACH US.





...TO MAKE OF MY  
LIFE WHAT I WISHED  
IT TO BE.



**THE END.**



# INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

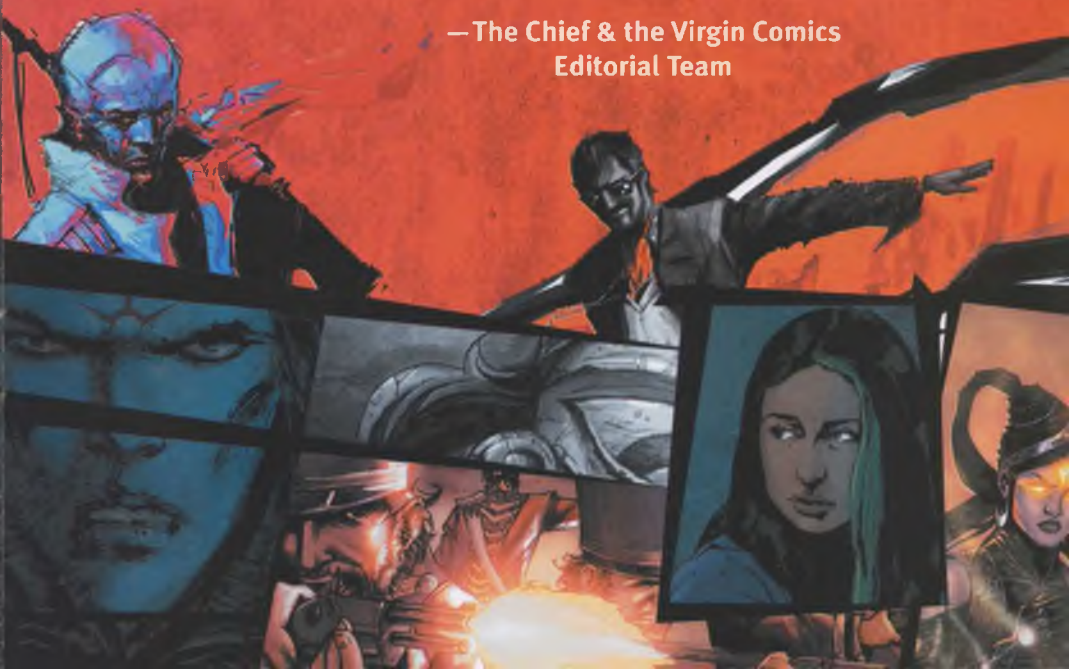
## Welcome to *The Tall Tales of Vishnu Sharma*

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



I UNDERSTAND THIS MUST BE VERY CONFUSING FOR YOU, VISHNU.

COMPLETELY WORLD-ALTERING AND BRAIN-FRYING, YES. CONFUSING WORKS, TOO.

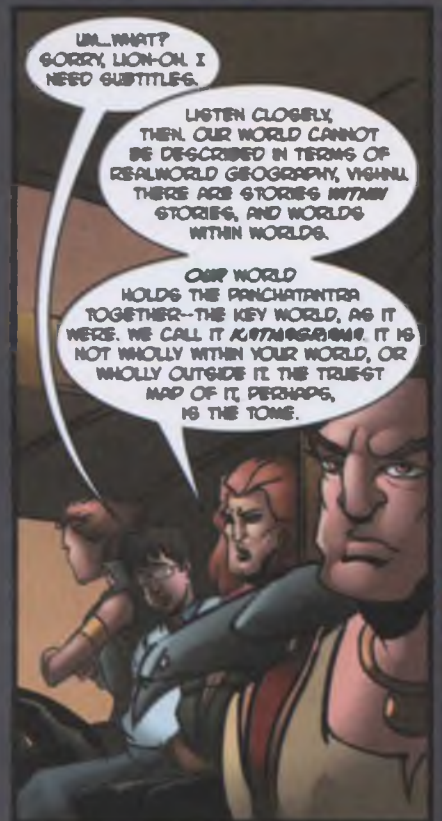


OK, QUESTION.

OF COURSE. ASK SEVERAL.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?

WE'RE...TALE-BEINGS, CHARACTERS FROM THE STORIES IN THE PANCHATANTRA. ANIMALS, MOSTLY, THOUGH OUR FORMS ARE FLUID, LIKE OUR STORIES. AND OUR STORIES ARE OUR WORLDS.



UH...WHAT? SORRY, LION-ON. I NEED SUBTITLES.

LISTEN CLOSELY, THEN. OUR WORLD CANNOT BE DESCRIBED IN TERMS OF REALWORLD GEOGRAPHY, VISHNU. THERE ARE STORIES WITHIN STORIES, AND WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS.

OUR WORLD HOLDS THE PANCHATANTRA TOGETHER—THE KEY WORLD, AS IT WERE. WE CALL IT *KATHAGRAHA*. IT IS NOT WHOLLY WITHIN YOUR WORLD, OR WHOLLY OUTSIDE IT. THE TRUEST MAP OF IT, PERHAPS, IS THE TOME.



MY GRANDFATHER'S PANCHATANTRA?

YES. IT IS THE FIRST PRINTED REALWORLD PANCHATANTRA IN EXISTENCE, THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO DRAW *KATHAGRAHA* IN THE MATERIALS OF THIS WORLD. IT IS A SUPREMELY SACRED ARTIFACT, FOR IN IT OUR FOREFATHERS FIRST CAME TO LIFE.

CAME TO LIFE? PUSH PRAISE. THIS IS BIG-TIME FLUFFY BUNNY TERRITORY. GO ALL BOOKS ARE ALIVE, AND THEIR CHARACTERS ARE BOUNCING AROUND LIKE YOU GUYS?



YES. AND NO. MOST STORIES NEVER LEAVE THEIR OWN STORYWORLDS—THEY SIMPLY DON'T KNOW THEY HAVE A CHOICE.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE, EITHER, EXCEPT THAT JACK SHOWED US HOW ALL WOULD BE LOST UNLESS WE LEFT. ALL MAY YET BE LOST. WE ARE IN GRAVE DANGER, VISHNU.

#1 SNEAK PEEK  
on sale now



# THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

## Panchatantra



YOU KEEP SAYING THAT WHAT DANGER?

OUR BRETHREN IN KATHAGRAHA ARE DYING—SWIFTLY, RUTHLESSLY BUTCHERED BY OUR ENEMIES, ABOUT WHOM WE KNOW NOTHING, SAVE THAT THEY ARE NUMEROUS AND DEADLY AND USE THE SILVERFISH AS THEIR EMBLEM.



WE NEED TO UNITE ALL OF KATHAGRAHA TO FIGHT THIS THREAT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. FOR THIS, WE NEED TO PERFORM A SUMMONING, A MERGING OF TALES UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON—THIS VERY NIGHT.

THAT IS WHY WE NEEDED THE TOME. THAT IS WHY WE ENTERED YOUR WORLD AGAIN, FACING GREAT PERIL. FOR YOUR WORLD IS A FICKLE ONE, WHERE OUR STORIES ARE BARELY EVEN REMEMBERED.



EVEN YOU, OUR GUARDIAN, HAVE FORGOTTEN US. AND THE MORE PEOPLE FORGET OUR STORIES, THE WEAKER WE BECOME, AND THE EASIER TO DESTROY.

BUT LET US NOT SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS NOW. THERE IS STILL HOPE. WE HAVE YOU AND THE TOME. WE WILL PERFORM THE SUMMONING TONIGHT.

WE COULD HAVE MISSED YOU ENTIRELY, OR OUR ENEMIES MIGHT HAVE FOUND YOU FIRST. AND THEN OUR DEBT TO YOUR GRANDFATHER COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN REPaid.

WHAT DEBT?

#1 SNEAK PEEK  
on sale now



# THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA Panchatantra

YOUR GRANDFATHER DEDICATED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO KEEPING US ALIVE. HE ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY KEPT US FROM EXTINCTION'S JAWS. HE WAS THE NOBLEST, TRUEST GUARDIAN IN CENTURIES. YET HE DIED ALONE, WITHOUT EVEN CALLING US FOR HELP, SO EAGER WAS HE TO KEEP US OUT OF DANGER.

WE MUST PROTECT OURSELVES IN HIS HONOR, AND HIS BLOODLINE IN HIS DEBT.



**#1 SNEAK PEEK**  
on sale now



DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS **india**  **authentic™**  
**PARASHURAM**



ON STANDS FEBRUARY 2008





# COALITION COMIX



**CREATE A COMIC BOOK  
WITH MIKE CAREY**

**[ Writer of X-Men and Weston & Nicolas Cage's Voodoo Child ]**

**COALITION COMIX** are original comic books created from a blank canvas by YOU! **Story Master Mike Carey** will present the Coalition with a decision to make- and let you decide the course of this comic with your votes!

**Become a friend and get comic book badges from our profile!**

**Vote Now, Vote Often**  
[myspace.com/coalitioncomix](http://myspace.com/coalitioncomix)

**YOU ARE IN CONTROL!**



 [myspace.com](http://myspace.com).  
comic books



[www.virgincomics.com](http://www.virgincomics.com)