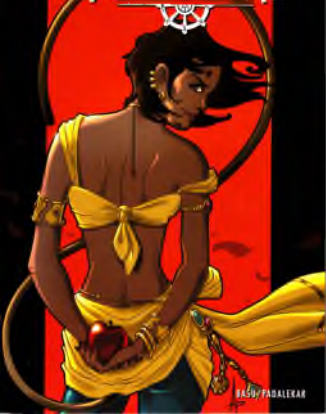




ISSUE 2

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA *Panchatantra*



SAGU PADALEKAR

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra™



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THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra



Leo
The Lion



Nandy
The Bull



Vishnu
Sharma



Bandra
The Monkey



Jack
The Jackal

Story so far...

The stories of our childhood are under attack. Sinister figures from an organization known as TaleCorps now invade their worlds, leaving death and oblivion in their wake. The Panchatantra, a book of ancient Indian fables, teeters on the edge of storybook extinction. But there is hope! The animal heroes of lore — Lion, Bull and Monkey in their modern avatars Leo, Nandy and Bandra, respectively — search for their savior, the true guardian of the Panchatantra and heir to the seer Vishnu Sharma's legacy. Thing is... the current guardian has no idea the Panchatantra heroes even exist.

Vishnu Sharma, would-be boy hero, is too busy playing in online tournaments to fight storybook wars. But when our animal heroes show up at his door, Vishnu finds it difficult to separate fact from fiction. As the Panchatantra heroes persuade Vishnu to join their cause, they're attacked by cuddly anime sociopaths and a deadly boy wizard. They are saved by a long lost tale brother, Jack — a trickster so shifty, you're not sure whether to hug him or kill him. Once they're safe, the heroes pull Vishnu inside the pages of the Panchatantra to journey to central storyworld of Katagraha. As they wander the worlds, Vishnu learns about the forgotten fables under his ancestors' protection — and the tragic fate that lies before Nandy and Leo.

But suddenly the storyworld begins to fade, and Vishnu is thrown back into the real world only to find himself prostrate before the evil Professor Shadow.

This fairytale is turning into a nightmare, and it seems that THE END is nowhere in sight...

ONCE UPON A TIME,
SITTING BY THE FIRESIDE, MAN
TOLD HIS FIRST STORY, AND BUILT
THE FOUNDATIONS OF HIS OWN
RULE OVER HIS WORLD.

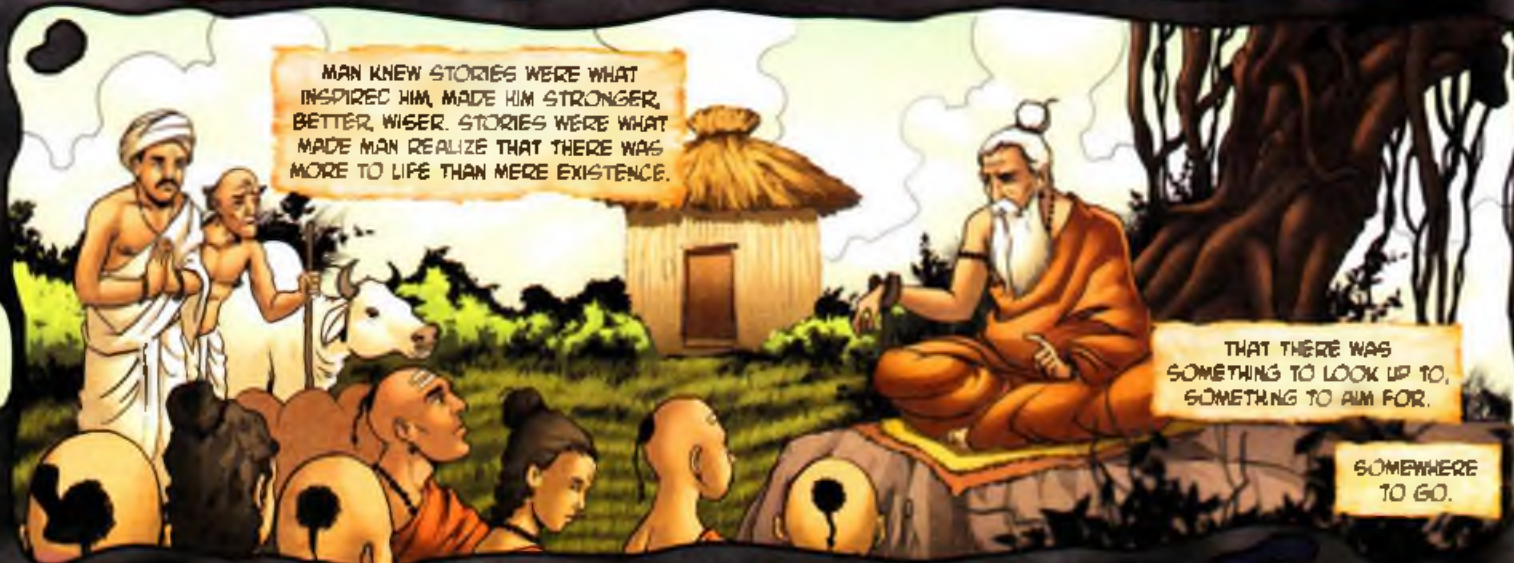


STORIES GAVE THE WORLD SHAPE. THEY ESTABLISHED ORDERS AND CHALLENGED THEM, SHOWED MAN THE ROAD TO THE FUTURE AND HELPED HIM UNRAVEL THE LABYRINTHS OF THE PAST.



THROUGH STORIES, MAN TRAPPED THE WORLD AROUND HIM AND BENT IT TO HIS WILL.

MAN KNEW STORIES WERE WHAT INSPIRED HIM, MADE HIM STRONGER, BETTER, WISER. STORIES WERE WHAT MADE MAN REALIZE THAT THERE WAS MORE TO LIFE THAN MERE EXISTENCE.



THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING TO LOOK UP TO, SOMETHING TO AIM FOR.

SOMEWHERE TO GO.

WHAT MAN DID NOT KNOW WAS THAT WHEN HE CREATED STORY, HIS WAS NOT THE ONLY WORLD HE WAS SHAPING. FOR MAN'S STORIES CREATED NEW WORLDS, WORLDS OF WONDER, FULL OF COLOR, SOUND AND LIFE, WHERE STORIES LIVED, LOCKED IN THEIR TALE-CYCLES UNTIL THE END OF TIME ITSELF.



AND AS CIVILIZATIONS AND THE TALES THAT SPANNED THEM PUT DOWN ROOTS, STORYWORLDS BECAME CLEARLY DEFINED.

FOR EACH CHILD THAT HEARD
STORIES FROM HIS ELDERS, THE
TALE-WORLDS' LINKS TO THE MORTAL
WORLD GREW STRONGER, CLOSER.



UNTIL ONE DAY, TALE-WORLDEERS
BECAME AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE
OF THE REAL WORLD THAT BREED
THEM AND FED ON THEM.

FOR CENTURIES, STORIES
EXISTED FOR THEIR OWN SAKE--
TO TEACH AND INSPIRE, TO AMUSE
AND ENTERTAIN, TO CREATE BONDS
BETWEEN PEOPLE AND WORLDS.



BUT AS MAN GREW
AND CHANGED, SO
DID HIS STORIES.

AND AS STORIES, WITH THEIR
CREATORS, TRAVELED AND BLENDED,
THEY BREED NEW STORIES AND REACHED
NEW CULTURES. THEY LEARNED OF OTHER
STORYWORLDS AND QUESTIONED THEIR
OWN UNCHANGING NATURES.



THEY LONGED TO BREAK
FREE, AND STRIKE OUT ON
VOYAGES OF EXPLORATION AND
DISCOVERY OF THEIR OWN.

AS MAN GREW MORE TWISTED, AND
LEARNED HOW TO USE STORIES TO
CORRUPT AND DECEIVE, TO FLATTER
AND SEDUCE, STORIES, TOO, LEARNED
MUCH--POLITICS OUTSIDE THEIR OWN
SPHERES, STRATEGY, COMMERCE...



...AND WAR.

IN THE AGE OF INDUSTRY, EVEN AS MAN BUILT EMPIRES OF IRON AND STEAM ACROSS THE CONTINENTS, STORIES WERE BOUND TO PRINT, AND SUDDENLY BECAME BOTH WIDELY ACCESSIBLE AND MORE PERMANENT.

(THE REVIEWS ARE GOOD, BUT I'LL WAIT FOR THE PAPERBACK EDITION.)

THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT DAWNED, AND NEW WAYS OF TELLING STORIES CHANGED THESE TALES EVEN FURTHER.

THE OLD STORIES HAD WIELDED GREAT POWER, BUT HAD NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW TO HARNESS THAT POWER FOR THEIR OWN GAIN.

THAT CHANGED.

TECHNOLOGY HELPED STORIES TRAVEL AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, AND SO STORIES BECAME, WITHIN THEMSELVES, ARCH PELAGOS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. AS THE CHARACTERS LEARNED THE MEANINGS OF STRANGE NEW WORDS LIKE 'MERCHANDISE', AND 'FRANCHISE', AND 'BESTSELLER', THEY BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT IT WAS TIME THEY TOOK CONTROL OF THEIR OWN LIVES.

AND THE TIME HAD COME FOR A HERO, A MAVERICK WHO COULD SHIFT BETWEEN STORIES AS EASILY AS A CHAMELEON CHANGES COLOR, TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF. A HERO WHO KNEW HIS DESTINY WAS TO CHANGE THE STORY UNIVERSE. HIS TRUE NAME IS UNKNOWN, BUT HE HAS ANOTHER, A NAME YOU SHOULD KNOW. A NAME TO LOVE AND FEAR.

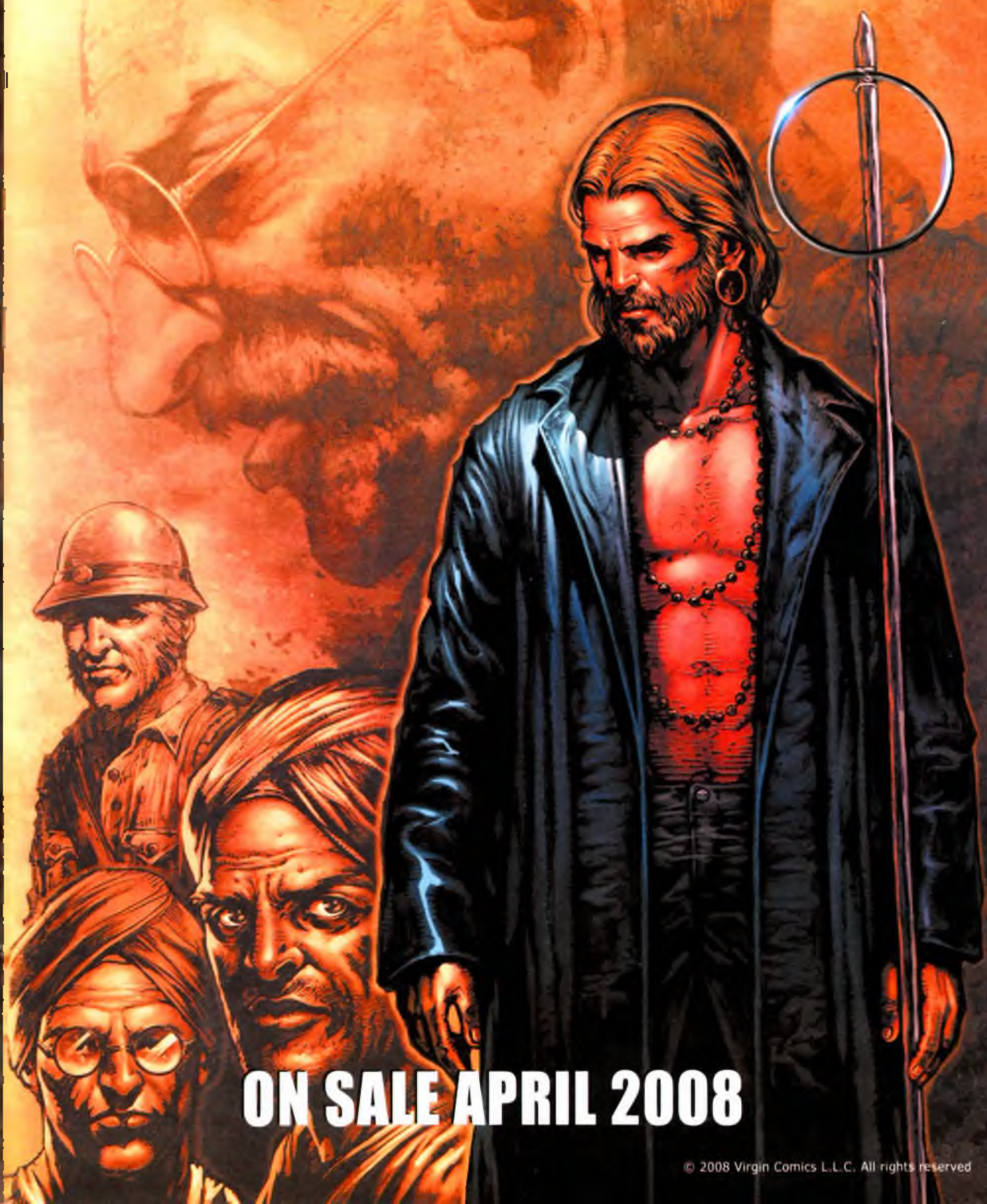
THAT NAME IS CAMEO



ISSUE 1

THE *Saradnu*

WHEEL of DESTINY



ON SALE APRIL 2008



I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS PROFESSOR SHADOW.

GUILTY.

THEN WHY ARE YOU CALLING YOURSELF CAMEO?

IF YOU STRAIN YOUR POWERFUL MIND EVEN FURTHER, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT I DID NOT LISTEN.



MAKE SURE IT'S STUCK FAST. A NATION'S FATE DEPENDS ON IT.

CAMEO HAD BEEN PRESENT IN THE SHADOWS OF STORIES SINCE THE **BEGINNING** OF STORIES. HE WAS THE SECOND BROTHER, THE LAST-BUT-ONE SUITOR, THE HERO'S NEIGHBOUR. HE WAS SHERLOCK HOLMES' DRUG DEALER, QUIXOTE'S BLACKSMITH, AND POLLYANNA'S DENTIST.

AND HE WAS NOT CONTENT WITH HIS ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE.



ONE DAY, AFTER HELPING THE SEVEN DWARFS SHOP FOR SHOES, CAMEO PUSHED AWAY THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE, MADE UP A NUMBER OF POLITICALLY INCORRECT HEIGHT-BASED JOKES, TOOK A DEEP BREATH, AND WISHED HIMSELF INTO THE REAL WORLD.

AND CHANGED IT FOREVER.

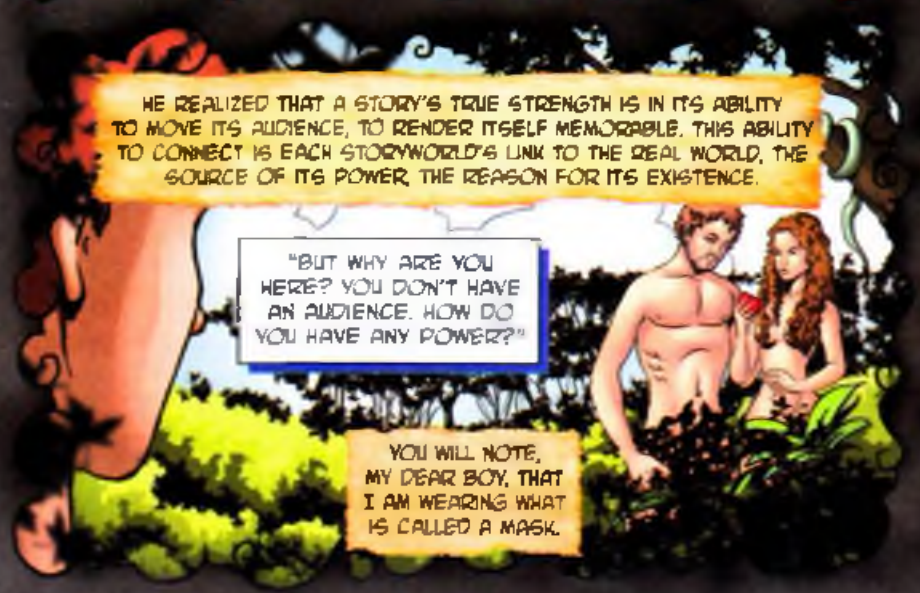
"HOW ARE YOU MAKING ME SEE ALL THIS?"

FUNDAMENTAL OPTICS, VISHNU. I WILL NOW CONTINUE.



CAMEO KNEW THAT THE REAL WORLD HELD DOORWAYS TO EVERY STORYWORLD IN EXISTENCE, AND WITH A LITTLE EFFORT, HE COULD UNLOCK THEM ALL--THAT NO STORY CYCLE COULD CONTROL HIM.

HE SPENT YEARS TRAVELING FROM ONE STORY WORLD TO THE NEXT, TALKING TO CHARACTERS, MAKING FRIENDS, LEARNING WHAT MOVED THEM, WHAT THEY NEEDED, WANTED, LOVED AND FEARED.



HE REALIZED THAT A STORY'S TRUE STRENGTH IS IN ITS ABILITY TO MOVE ITS AUDIENCE, TO RENDER ITSELF MEMORABLE. THIS ABILITY TO CONNECT IS EACH STORYWORLD'S LINK TO THE REAL WORLD, THE SOURCE OF ITS POWER, THE REASON FOR ITS EXISTENCE.

"BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE? YOU DON'T HAVE AN AUDIENCE. HOW DO YOU HAVE ANY POWER?"

YOU WILL NOTE, MY DEAR BOY, THAT I AM WEARING WHAT IS CALLED A MASK.



IF I MAY RETURN TO MY STORY, CAMEO SAW THE FUTURE--A FUTURE WHERE STORIES COULD GOVERN THEMSELVES, AND NO LONGER BE SUBJECT TO THE WHIMS OR GREED OF MANKIND, OR TO THEIR OWN FIXED NATURES.

HE SHARED THIS VISION WITH THE TRUEST FRIENDS HE MADE, AND FOUND, TO HIS DELIGHT, THAT MANY LISTENED.



TALECORPS TRIED TO PERSUADE THE OLDEST OF STORIES--MYTHS AND LEGENDS, FOLK AND FAIRY TALES--TO JOIN THEM IN THEIR QUEST FOR A WORLD WHERE STORIES AND MAN STOOD SIDE BY SIDE.

THE INCLUSION OF MYTHICAL ARCHETYPES AND CHARACTERS FAMILIAR TO MANKIND FOR MILLENNIA WOULD GIVE TALECORPS UNIMAGINABLE POWER



MANY OLD STORIES WERE DELIGHTED TO JOIN TALECORPS. ANCIENT HEROES, HUNGRY FOR THE ATTENTION DENIED THEM FOR CENTURIES BY THE INVASION OF NEWER, YOUNGER CHARACTERS, WERE OFTEN WILLING TO SHED THEIR OUTDATED GARB AND CUSTOMS, REINVENT THEMSELVES AND EMBRACE THE FUTURE VIA INSATIABLE AUDIENCES.



THE OCCASIONAL TWINGE OF SELF-DOUBT WAS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR WORLDWIDE FAME.



BUT IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR OLD TALES TO LEARN NEW TRICKS. WHEREVER THE TALECORPS EMPIRE WENT, THERE WERE ALWAYS A FEW OUTDATED STORIES STANDING IN THEIR WAY--REFUSING, IRRATIONALLY, TO SUBMIT PEACEFULLY, STRUGGLING TO RETAIN THEIR HOLD OVER THEIR PEOPLE, UNWILLING TO EVEN LISTEN TO TALECORPS' PROPOSALS.



COMPANY POLICY FOR SUCH CASES WAS VERY CLEAR: STORIES THAT WOULD NOT ADAPT COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SURVIVE.

"IN OTHER WORDS, TALECORPS GOT STRONG, AND THEN WENT AROUND KILLING THE WEAKER STORIES."

ADMIRABLY SUMMARIZED, VISHNU. NOW, TO BUSINESS AND A MODE OF PRESENTATION WITH WHICH EVEN YOUR ATTENTION-DEFICIT MIND WILL BE FAMILIAR.

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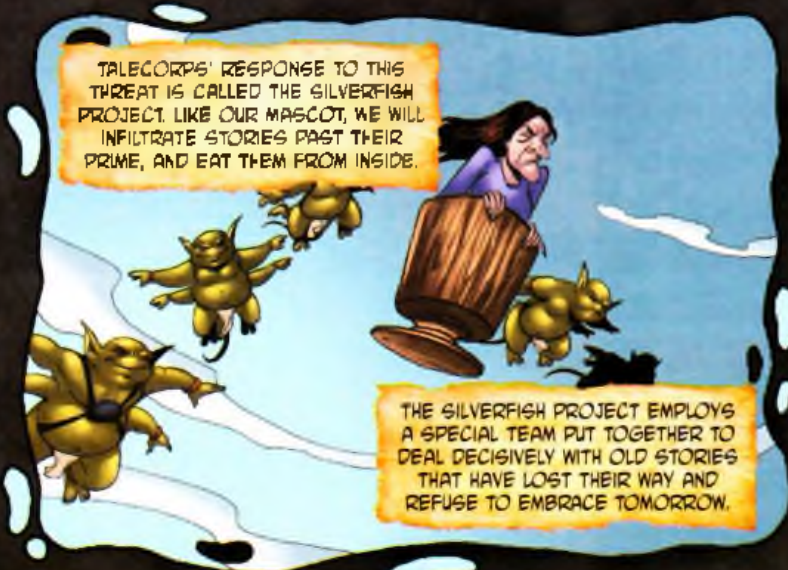
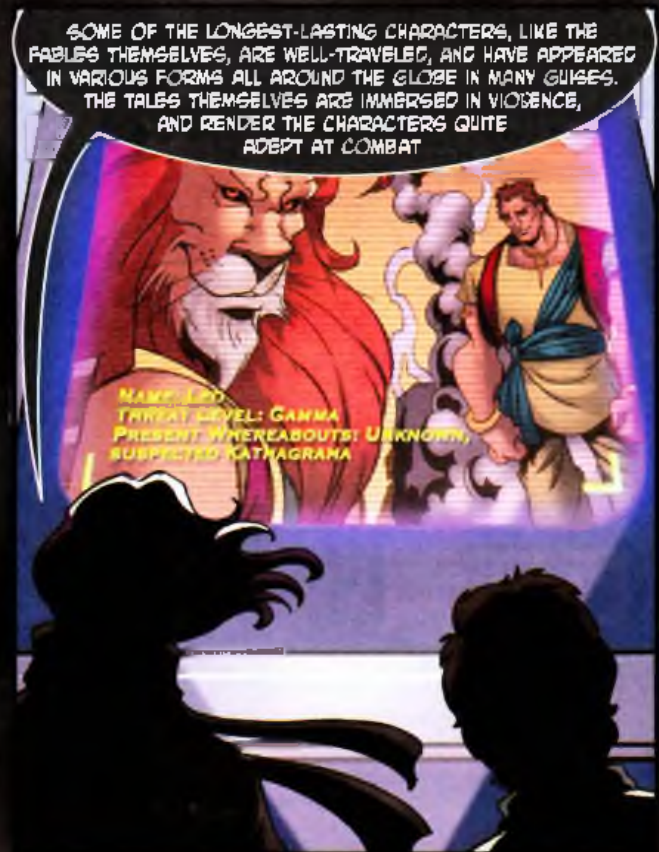
(AUTHOR OF *X-men*, *Voodoo Child*)

**"A BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED
GRAPHIC NOVEL...
A MUST READ AND A COLLECTOR'S
ITEM."**

—Desicritics.com



**ON SALE
NOW**





THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T GET. EVEN IF YOU DO KILL THEM ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE THE PANCHATANTRA WILL DISAPPEAR.

THE TERMINATION OF STORIES IS NOT AS NEBULOUS A PROCESS AS YOU MIGHT ASSUME. STORIES DIE NATURALLY WHEN THEY ARE FORGOTTEN, OR WHEN THEY ARE PHYSICALLY KILLED BY CHARACTERS FROM OTHER STORIES, THUS BREAKING THE STORY CYCLE.

OBSERVE, IF YOU WILL. WITHOUT CHARACTERS, THERE IS NO STORY. NO STORY, NO AUDIENCE. NO AUDIENCE, AND OVER TIME, NO BOOKS. REMEMBER, YOU ARE APPLYING A TIME FRAME OF HUMAN LIFETIMES--OUR CHRONOLOGY EXISTS IN CENTURIES. THE SILVERFISH AGENTS ARE PROUD TO CARRY OUT THIS PROCESS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GREATER GOOD. FOR BETTER STORIES, AND BETTER STORYWORLDS.



THE SILVERFISH SYMBOL IS THE LAST WORD IN QUALITY CONTROL IN THE STORY UNIVERSE. WE TRACK DOWN AND ELIMINATE POTENTIAL OPPOSITION TO TALECORPS.

WE PERFORM VARIOUS OTHER OPERATIONS--OBSOLETE STORY ESSENCE EXTRACTION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT...

MOOR

WEREN'T EXPECTING US, WERE YOU?

NOBODY DOES.



...TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF LOST STORIES WE ENCOUNTER DURING OUR TRAVELS.

SING HI HO... HI HO... HI HO!!!!

HI HO, MASTER.

NOT YOU!

BUT OUR KEY RESOURCE AREA IS IN SIMPLE DESTRUCTION. UNPLEASANT, BUT STRANGELY ENJOYABLE.

THE PANCHATANTRA STORYWORLDS ARE AT THIS MOMENT CLOSED TO TALECORPS. SILVERFISH AGENTS HAVE MANAGED TO INFILTRATE SOME OF THE LESSER KNOWN STORIES, THROUGH THEIR LINKS WITH OTHER VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES IN FABLES BELONGING TO TALE-GALAXIES UNDER TALECORPS' BENEVOLENT CONTROL.

BUT THE CENTRAL STORYWORLD, KATHAGRANA, REMAINS HIDDEN.

WE HAVE ARTIFACTS IN OUR POSSESSION THAT ALLOW ACCESS TO KATHAGRANA. WE CAN BE GUIDED BY THEM... BUT ONLY IF WE COOPERATE WITH OUR AGENTS... FROM WITHIN KATHAGRANA.

WHICH NECESSITATES THE EMPLOYMENT OF A SO-CALLED PIONEER-GUARDIAN IN THIS WHOLE BUSINESS.

AND BEFORE YOU ASK, YES, I DO MEAN YOU.

OLD TALES YIELD TO STORIES NEW.
THREATS ARE ISSUED,
DEATHS ARE DUE.
METAL MEN ARE DOOMED TO RUST,
WHEN GUARDIANS FAIL,
WHO CAN WE TRUST?



LOOK, PROFESSOR, HERE'S THE THING.

ALL THIS IS VERY...WELL PRESENTED, BUT YOU'RE LOOKING TO RULE THE WORLD, KILL THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND SIT ON A THRONE GOING "NWA-HAHA..."

WHICH MEANS YOU'RE IN THE WRONG COUNTRY. AND YOU'RE TALKING TO THE WRONG GUY.



HARDLY. TALECORPS CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN YOUR COUNTRY FOR GENERATIONS NOW, AND CHANGING WORLD ECONOMIC STRUCTURES MAKES IT ONE OF THE REGIONS WE'D REALLY LIKE TO EXPLOIT IN THE COMING YEARS.



AS FOR BEING WITH THE WRONG PERSON--DON'T INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE. GIVEN YOUR ANCESTRY, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT YOUR LIFE WOULD BE INTERTWINED WITH STORIES. THE SMART THING FOR YOU TO DO, OF COURSE, IS TO CAREFULLY CHOOSE WHICH STORIES.

TO PUT IT VERY SIMPLY...

...WE WANT YOU TO WORK FOR US.



YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE A VERY VALUABLE DEATHWORTHY TALECORPS OPERATIONS AND THE PANTHERS OPERATIONS IS THE PERFECT TRAINING GROUND TO SIMPLIFY IT EVEN FURTHER...

WE NEED YOU VISIONED IN THE HISTORY NOW AND HELP US MAKE IT LEGENDARY.



WHAT I NEED IS FOR YOU, AND EVERY OTHER STORYBOOK MANIAC IN THIS OR ANY OTHER WORLD, TO GET OUT OF MY LIFE AND NEVER COME BACK.

IN OTHER WORDS, NO. THANK YOU. NO. I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS.



SO YOU WISH
TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE
TALECORPS' PLANS?

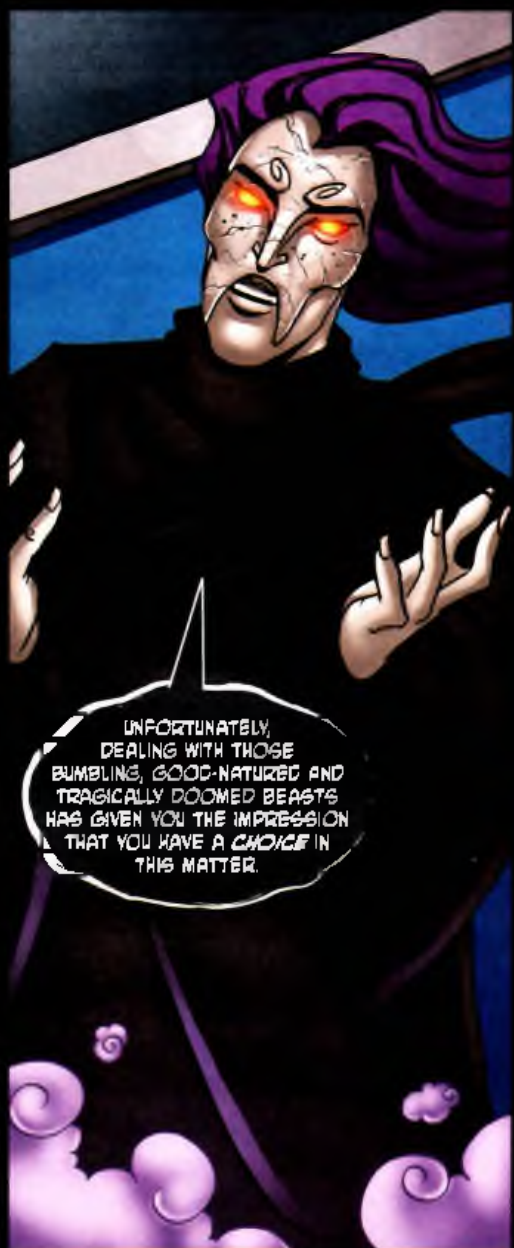
I WANT TO FORGET
I EVER MET YOU, AND GET
BACK TO LIVING MY OWN
NOT-SO-EXCITING LIFE. I
DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT
HAPPENS TO ANY
OF YOU.

I JUST WANT
ALL OF THIS
TO STOP.



A NOBLE
SENTIMENT. SO, YOU
CHOOSE TO ABSTAIN
FROM SERVICE. A
CRUSHING BLOW.

YES. I PROMISE
NOT TO HELP *THEM*. BUT
I DON'T WANT TO *HARM*
THEM, EITHER.



UNFORTUNATELY,
DEALING WITH THOSE
BUMBLING, GOOD-NATURED AND
TRAGICALLY DOOMED BEASTS
HAS GIVEN YOU THE IMPRESSION
THAT YOU HAVE A *CHOICE* IN
THIS MATTER.



WHEREAS IN
REALITY THE EXTENT
OF ~~YOUR CHOICE~~ ~~OF CHOICE~~
DOWN TO TWO FAIRLY
SIMPLE OPTIONS.

EITHER YOU HELP
US BRING DOWN KATHAGRAHA
AND ITS DENIZENS...



...OR WE FIND
INTERESTINGLY IRONIC
~~WAYS TO DESTROY YOU AND~~
EVERYONE YOU CARE
ABOUT.

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GOOD TIME."**

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UNDEAD TO
BRING LIFE BACK
TO BROADWAY."**

**—THE NETHERWORLD
REPORTER**

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NOW!**



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THIS IS
ALL MY FAULT

PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER, LEO. IT COULD
BE FAR WORSE. WE'RE HOME,
AND WE'LL MAKE IT TO COUNCIL
ROCK WELL IN TIME FOR
THE SUMMONING.

YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENOUGH HAD
OUR ENTIRE WORLD'S FUTURE NOT
BEEN AT STAKE. THE FACTS ARE SIMPLE:
I ENDANGERED THE ENTIRE TEAM, AND
I SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
EXPERIENCE FOR THIS.

PERHAPS NANDY
OR JACK SHOULD
LEAD--IF WE FIND
THEM AGAIN.

THEY'LL
FIND US.

WHAT WAS
JACK TALKING TO YOU
ABOUT INSIDE THE TOME?
SOME LITTLE SECRET
BETWEEN THE TWO
OF YOU?

NOTHING YOU
SHOULD WORRY ABOUT.
HE WAS JUST BEING
JACK.




IT IS INDEED
NOBLE OF HIM TO LEND HIS
ANCIENT POWERS TO OUR
CAUSE WITHOUT CLAIMING
LEADERSHIP.

BANDRA? DID
JACK TRY TO TURN YOU
AGAINST ME?



SERIOUSLY, LEO,
YOU NEED TO GO EASY
ON THE DOUBT--EVERYTHING
THEME. LIONS DON'T
WHINE.



FOCUS. WE'RE
NEAR. CAN YOU
FEEL THE TINGLE
IN THE AIR?

YES.

COUNCIL
ROCK. I'VE
MISSED IT.

THIS IS WHAT THE
GUARDIAN MISSED. THE
HEART OF OUR STORY AND
HIS. THOUSANDS OF YEARS
OF LOVE AND DEATH. THE
LITTLE FOOL.

AND HERE
I WALK, WHERE GIANTS
HAVE TRODDEN BEFORE ME,
DAZZLING THE JUNGLE AND THE
WORLD WITH THEIR SHEER
PRESENCE.

SINCE YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE HERE,
LET ME CONFESS: I'M
TERRIBLY INTIMIDATED.

WE'LL STAND
BY YOU, LEO, WHATEVER
YOU ARE. NO KING HAS FACED
THE CHALLENGES YOU WILL.
I WISH THE GUARDIAN COULD
HAVE SEEN ALL THIS.

YOU DO?

WELL, MAYBE NOT
THIS GUARDIAN. I'M QUITE
GLAD THE NEW VISHNU ISN'T
HERE, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO
KNOW. HE'D JUST HAVE SLOWED
US DOWN. WE HAVE ENOUGH
TO WORRY ABOUT.

WHAT WAS
IMPORTANT WAS WHAT HE
STOOD FOR. HIS PRESENCE
WOULD HAVE RALLIED
OUR BRETHREN.

WE WILL HAVE TO
DO OUR BEST WITHOUT
HIM, I SUPPOSE. AND I'M
STILL HAPPY THAT HE'S THERE,
IN THE REAL WORLD, LOOKING
OUT FOR US. THAT OUR
EFFORTS HELPED KEEP
HIM SAFE.





YEAH, YEAH.
THEN I STEAL THE
TOME AND BOLT.

ONLY ONCE THE
ASSEMBLY AT THE TERRORIST
HEADQUARTERS COMPLETES TO ACTIVATE
THE BOLT. ONLY THEN CAN YOU
REMOVE THE TOME. WE WILL TAKE
CARE OF THE REST. IS THAT
UNDERSTOOD?



BUT HOW DO I
GET THERE? YOU SAID THE
TOME-GUARDIAN COULD GO TO
THEIR WORLD. THOUGH YOU
COULDN'T. BUT I DON'T
KNOW HOW.



FORTUNATELY,
THESE LITTLE EXCERPTS
FROM THE TOME WILL TAKE
CARE OF THAT
PROBLEM.

WHERE
DID YOU GET
THOSE?

THESE WERE
WITH YOUR GRANDFATHER,
THE LAST GUARDIAN.



A VERY PLEASANT
GENTLEMAN, MAY HIS STORY
NEVER END. I MET HIM A FEW DAYS
AGO, AND ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT HIM FOR
TALECORPS. HIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF
THE METHODS OF THE PANCHATANTRA
TERRORISTS COULD HAVE PROVED
INVALUABLE.

UNFORTUNATELY...



...HE
REFUSED TO
COOPERATE.

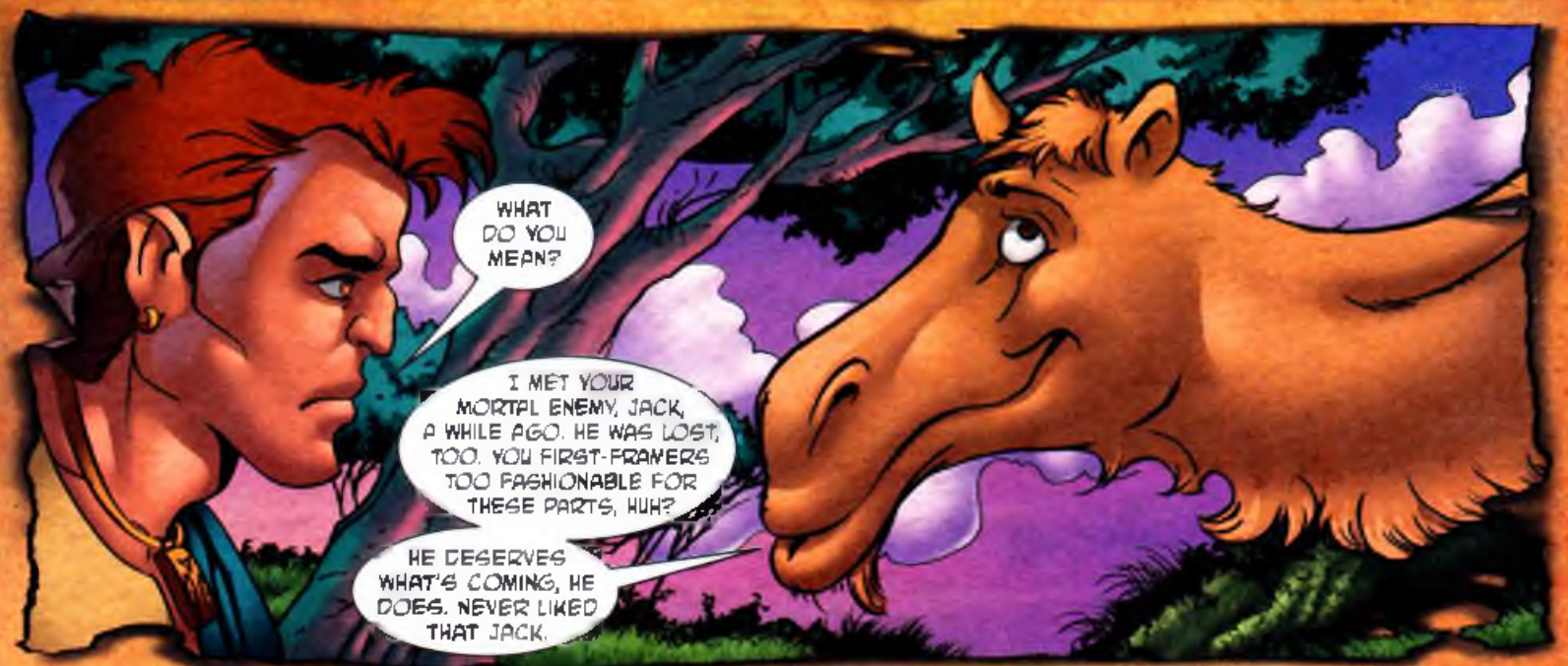
FORTUNATELY HIS
SUCCESSOR--YOU--PROVED
TO BE SMARTER.



NANDY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THESE PARTS?

GOOD TO SEE YOU, CAMELOT. I'M RELIEVED, ACTUALLY. I'VE BEEN WANDERING AROUND FOR HOURS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER I WAS HOME OR NOT.

HEERMPH. YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST OLD TALE TO RUN THAT STORY BY ME TODAY.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MET YOUR MORTAL ENEMY, JACK, A WHILE AGO. HE WAS LOST, TOO. YOU FIRST-FRAMES TOO FASHIONABLE FOR THESE PARTS, HUH?

HE DESERVES WHAT'S COMING, HE DOES. NEVER LIKED THAT JACK.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "DESERVES WHAT'S COMING"? WHAT'S COMING, CAMELOT?

HEH. LOTS OF SHINY METAL MEN WITH BIG STICKS. SPOKE FUNNY. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR JACK.

THE ENEMY HAS REACHED KATHAGRAHA!



WE'RE ALL ENEMIES HERE, NANDY GOOD RIDDANCE, I SAY.

WHERE DID THEY GO?

WON'T TELL YOU, OH NO. YOU'LL SPOIL THE FUN.



GRRRRRRRR!

THAT WAY, SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICELY.





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THEY SHOULD
NAME AN ENERGY
DRINK AFTER
YOU.

WELL, THAT'S
THAT. LOOKS LIKE
WE MAKE A GOOD
TEAM.

ARE YOU
TRYING TO HAVE A
SPECIAL MOMENT
HERE?



IF YOU WANT
WE'LL GROUP-HUG WHEN
WE FIND THE OTHERS.
WHERE ARE THEY?

NO IDEA.
BUT KAVA WAS WITH
ME. IN TRUE CROW STYLE,
SHE DID NOTHING
TO HELP.



YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO FLY
GRACEFULLY TO MY HAND
WHEN I SAY THAT, YOU
INGRATEFUL BIRD. I JUST
SAVED YOUR LIFE.

SHE MUST
BE SCARED, POOR
THING.

KAVA,
TO ME!



THAT'S RIGHT.
UNCLE NANDY WON'T
PRETEND NOT TO CARE
ABOUT YOU, KAVA.



AND WHY
EXACTLY ARE YOU
MAKING COW-EYES
AT ME, *UNCLE
NANDY?*



BECAUSE
YOU'VE JUST SHOWN
ME THAT THIS ENTIRE ADVENTURE
MIGHT JUST SUCCEED--THAT WE
MIGHT ACTUALLY MANAGE TO
WORK AS A TEAM.

YOU'VE GONE
SOFT IN THE HEAD,
NANDY. CHECK FOR
DISLODGED METAL
PIECES.



YOU RISKED YOUR OWN
LIFE TO SAVE KAVA AND
ME AND YOU CHOSE TO
TRUST ME WHEN YOU
NEEDED TO.

NOTHING
YOU SAY CAN
CHANGE THE FACTS,
JACK.

THERE'S
HOPE FOR YOU
YET!

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IS THAT

a SNAKE

IN YOUR pants...



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GAMES

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DON'T LOSE
HOPE, LEO. NANDY AND JACK
WILL TURN UP. WHEN HAS NANDY
EVER LET US DOWN? AND WHEN
HAS JACK EVER MISSED A
CHANCE TO MAKE AN
ENTRANCE?

BANDRA...BEFORE
WE BEGIN WHAT MAY BE
OUR LAST ADVENTURE, THERE'S
SOMETHING I WANT TO
TELL YOU.



IF THINGS GO
WRONG--IF I LEAD OUR
PEOPLE DOWN THE WRONG
ROAD--YOU MUST SET THINGS
RIGHT, EVEN IF IT MEANS
KILLING ME.



SINCE WE
ARE ALL DOOMED
ANYWAY IF YOU DON'T
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF,
PERHAPS I SHOULD DO
IT RIGHT NOW.

LET'S IMAGINE
WE'RE IN A STORY WHERE
YOU'RE A GREAT LEADER
AND CARRY ON, ALL
RIGHT?



YOU'RE
READY?

AS I'LL
EVER BE.



HEAR ME NOW,
TALE-COURTIERS OF
THE FOUR CIRCLES OF
PINGALAKA'S ROYAL
COURT...



IS IT WORKING?

NOT YET. I HAVEN'T EVEN SAID THE WORDS.



BUT LEO, SOMETHING'S HAPPENING.

AWAKEN NOW, DENIZENS OF--



WELL, THIS IS A SURPRISE.



HI.

I...UM... CHANGED MY MIND.

I'M READY TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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.

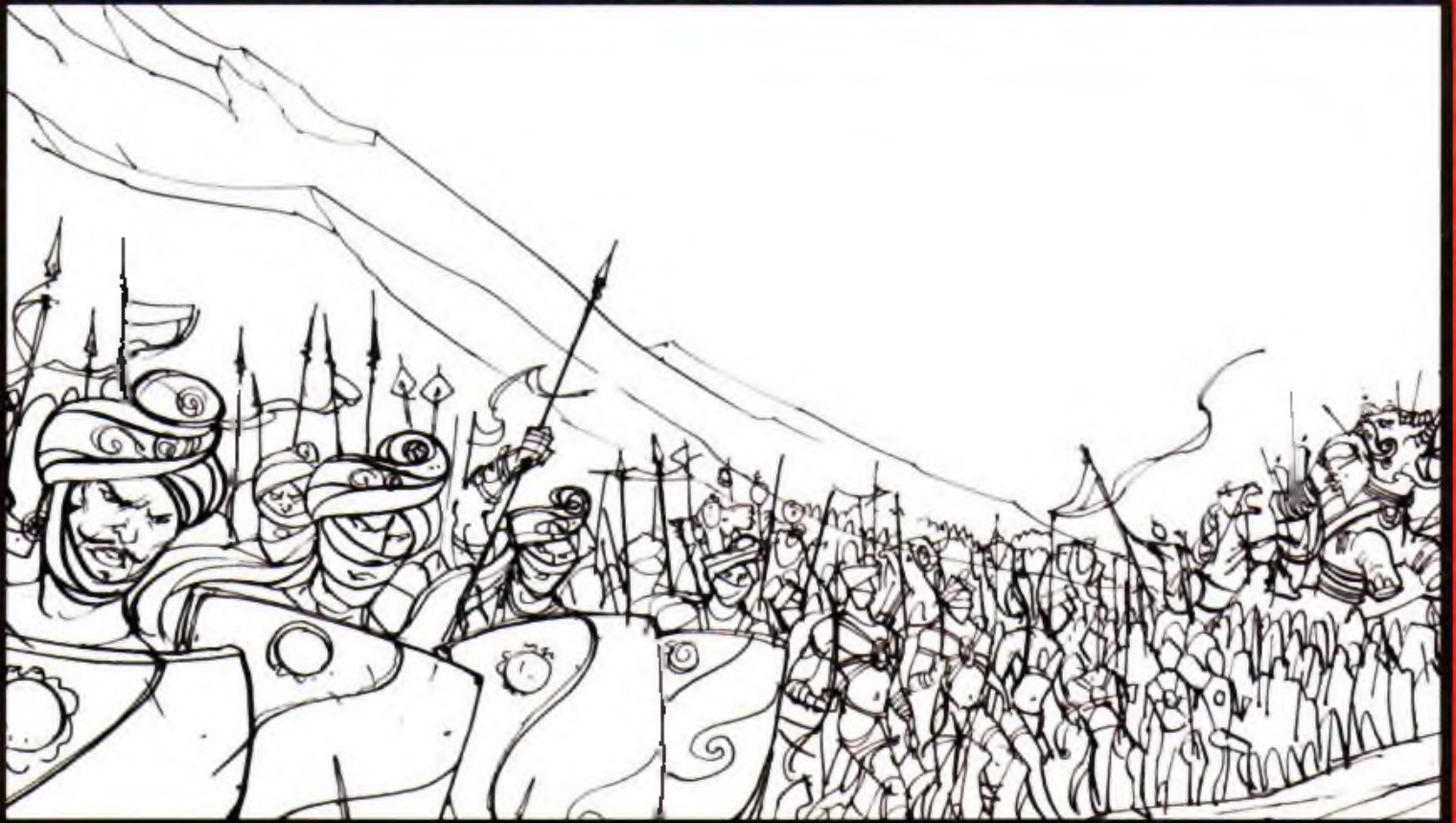
The word Buddha means to be awake. If we are to solve our own existential unhappiness and its consequences, such as violence, war and terrorism, social injustice, extreme economic disparities, and ecological devastation, then our collective humanity has to wake up.

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

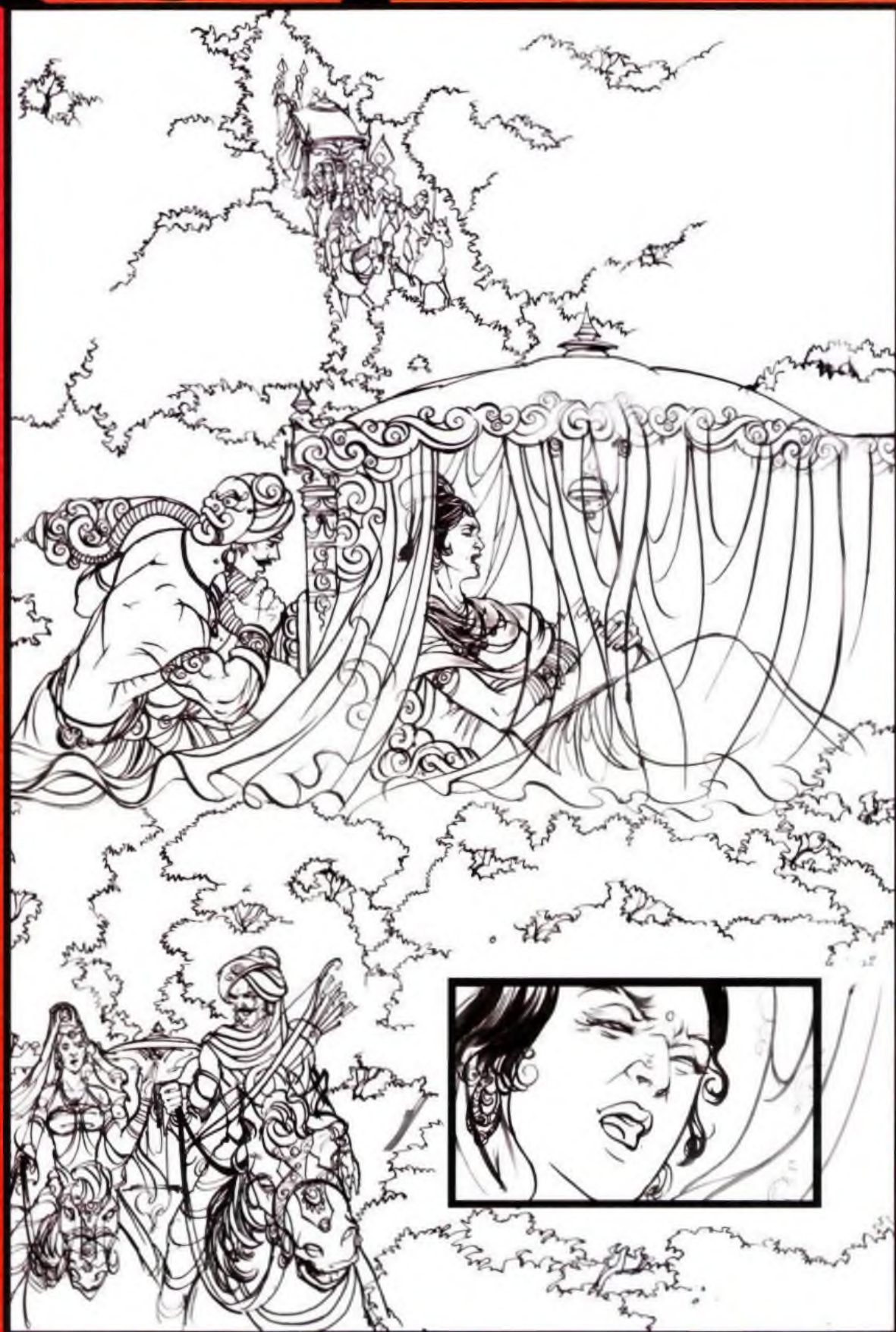
Deepak Chopra
Virgin Comics
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SHADOW HUNTER

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