



ISSUE 5

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra™



astish.07

BASU/PADLEKAR

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA Panchatantra



Lzo
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, known as TaleCorps, now invade the storyworlds, leaving death and oblivion in their wake. The Panchatantra, a book of ancient Indian fables, teeters on the edge of storybook history. But there is hope! The animal heroes of lore—Lion, Bull, Monkey, and Jackal—search for their savior, the true guardian of the Panchatantra, the heir to the seer Vishnu Sharma's legacy who would risk everything to save the ancient storyworlds.

Thing is... the current guardian has no idea they even exist.

Vishnu Sharma, would-be boy hero, is too busy playing in online tournaments to fight storybook wars. But when the Panchatantra characters show up at his door, he finds it difficult to separate fact from fiction. After being saved from murderous TaleCorps agents, pulled into the Panchatantra storyworlds by its animal heroes, and then yanked back into the real world by the evil Professor Shadow, it's still unclear which side Vishnu's on. Shadow urges him to join the TaleCorps cause: to gain control over the hearts and minds of story lovers the world over by uniting modern and long-forgotten stories alike, and killing anyone that gets in their way—including Vishnu's family if he rejects the offer.

The battle brews near as a conflicted Vishnu rejoins Leo at Council Rock. As mistrust and tensions heighten, Leo calls Vishnu forward, and miraculously the animals are silenced. The headline has not failed! A Guardian still exists! Hope lives on! Moved by their support, Vishnu admits his betrayal, but pledges his loyalty to the Panchatantra characters forevermore!

Or for a few minutes at least, since Professor Shadow just showed up.

And he's got a dragon with him....











THIS IS ALL MY FAULT FOR TRUSTING VISHNU.

LEO, LISTEN.

YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER.

VISHNU'S BETRAYED HIS BLOODLINE, BUT YOU STILL HAVE A DUTY TO YOURS. YOU ARE OUR LEADER.



WE'VE LOST A GUARDIAN. NO ONE BUT YOU CAN GUIDE US.

IF YOU DON'T PULL US THROUGH, WE ALL DIE HERE. I HAVE FAITH IN YOU, BROTHER.

BE OUR KING.



YOU'RE RIGHT.

OWLS! FIRE DUTY!



I, UM, MUST CONSULT MY PARLIAMENT...

TAKE DOVES AND CAMELS. FIND WATER. UNDERGROUND, IN THE CAVES. GLENCH THE FLAMES. QUICKLY. OR I'LL EAT YOU MYSELF.

Y-YES, SIR.



IN THE MEANTIME, NANDY, YOU'RE THE TOUGHEST HERE. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.



I DO.





"INDIA'S ANSWER TO LORD OF THE RINGS"

—THE TIMES OF INDIA

A story thousands of years in the making...

A re-imagining of one of the greatest tales ever...

Retold in a post-apocalyptic future...



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Alex Ross



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THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra



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TELL ME
HE'LL LIVE.

WE'LL LIVE.

I HOPE.



LEO, A
FAVOR.

ANYTHING.



KILL ME.



DON'T SAY
THAT. YOU'LL *MAKE*
IT. WE'VE ALMOST
WON HERE.

I *CAN'T* KILL YOU,
NANDY. NOT THIS TIME.
NOT AFTER ALL WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH.



IF YOU DON'T
DO IT, LEO, I'LL *NEVER*
BE REBORN. I'LL BE
LOST *FOREVER*.

AT LEAST
THIS WAY, A *PART* OF
ME LIVES. IF THERE IS
EVER ANOTHER STORY
CYCLE. IF OUR WORLD
SURVIVES THIS.





ISSUE 3

Deepak Chopra's

Buddha™

A Story of Enlightenment



ON SALE JUNE 2008

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COLLECTED EDITIONS

RAMAYAN 3392 AD



DEVI



JOHN WOO'S
7 BROTHERS



SHEKHAR KAPUR'S
SNAKE WOMAN



DEEPAK CHOPRA'S
INDIA AUTHENTIC



THE SADHU



GUY RITCHIE'S
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WITCHBLADE DEM.



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JUNE 2008

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LAND
LEISTEN
100



WE WILL FOLLOW *WHEREVER* YOU LEAD US, KING LEO.

OUR DOUBTS HAVE DIED HERE TODAY. ONLY *YOU* CAN SAVE US.

FOLLOW ME, THEN.

OUR FRIENDS ARE DEAD AND THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HONOR THEM IS THROUGH OUR OWN STORIES.

WE WILL LEAVE THIS WORLD AND SEEK OUR FORTUNES IN ANOTHER, ONE OUR ENEMY DOES NOT CONTROL YET--A WORLD THAT IS THE KEY TO *EVERY* STORY THERE IS.

I SPEAK OF THE *REAL* WORLD.



SO WE ARE LEAVING OUR HOMES, OUR LIVES, OUR STORIES... *FOREVER?*



WE CANNOT WAIT HERE IN FEAR, COWERING AS OUR ENEMIES APPROACH. ONE DAY WE *WILL* RETURN. WHEN OUR HOMES ARE *SAFE*. UNTIL THEN, OUR KING WILL KEEP US ALIVE IN A NEW, STRANGE WORLD.

IT WOULDN'T BE *THAT* STRANGE IF WE HAD A *GUIDE*...



...AND A GUARDIAN. WE FOUND HIM ON THE CLIFF-TOP.

MARKS OF A SERIOUS SWORD-FIGHT UP THERE. WE ALSO FOUND THE REMAINS OF THAT SHADOW CHARACTER.



WELCOME BACK, GUARDIAN.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S JACK?

NO SIGN OF THAT RASCAL, BUT YOU--YOU WON A LEGENDARY VICTORY.

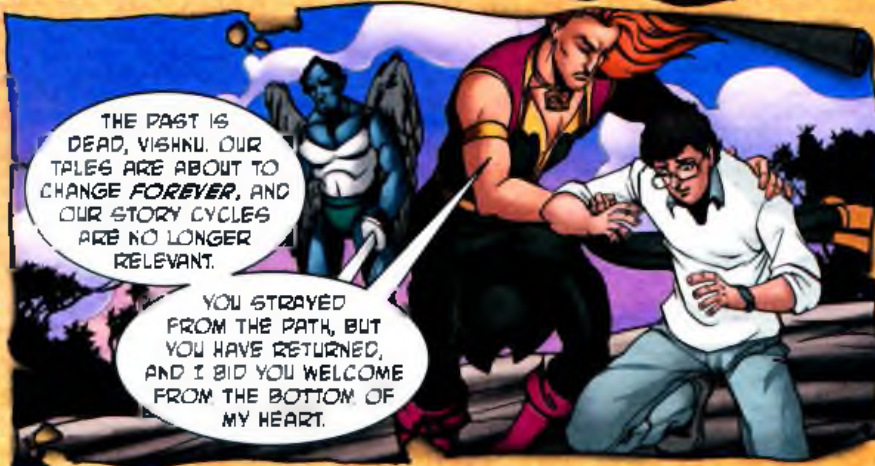
I DID?



WHAT IS YOUR COUNSEL, GENERAL?

I DON'T TRUST HIM.

THEN WE KEEP OUR EYES OPEN, BUT WE DO NEED HIM.



THE PAST IS DEAD, VISHNU. OUR TALES ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE FOREVER, AND OUR STORY CYCLES ARE NO LONGER RELEVANT.

YOU STRAYED FROM THE PATH, BUT YOU HAVE RETURNED, AND I BID YOU WELCOME FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.



FOR MY PART, I BEAR YOU NO ILL-WILL. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE A WORTHY HEIR TO YOUR GRANDFATHER. WILL YOU GUIDE US WELL IN THE REAL WORLD?

I WILL.

COME, THEN, AND LET US MOURN THE FALLEN UNTIL MORNING COMES.

TOMORROW
IS ANOTHER
WORLD.

THE END (

SPOTLIGHT ON SHAKTI

Shakti, an ancient Sanskrit word pronounced "shuk-TEE", has many meanings. Upon my latest Google search, I found over 3.6 million entries. Some say Shakti is the divine embodiment of power. Others claim Shakti is a bolt of electricity bestowed by the Gods to those seeking their benevolence.

To us, the comics that are part of the Shakti imprint showcase a generation of South Asian creators who are using their own imaginations and modern sensibilities to craft stories that feel fresh and original, yet intimately familiar. But Shakti does not merely retell classic tales. Our Shakti stories re-imagine the myths of old, in all their epic and fantastic glory, while boldly proclaiming their relevance in the world today.

In *Ramayana 3392 A.D.*, we re-imagined India's greatest epic... the adventures of Prince Rama, his brother Lakshman and Seeta, the daughter of Mother Earth, as they battle their nemesis Ravan in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic world. *Shekhar Kapur's Devi* tells the story of an omnipotent goddess reincarnated into the body of an inhibited modern woman.

Shakti also draws from the spiritual wisdom of Deepak Chopra (who happens to be my dad) who, in *India Authentic*, explores the lives of Hindu Gods

and Goddesses as archetypal embodiments of our own instincts. In *Deepak Chopra's Buddha*, a comic series adapted from his *New York Times* bestselling novel, we follow the story of a young prince destined to become The Enlightened One. Shakti has even dusted off the pages of the *Panchatantra*, an ancient Indian book of animal fables, with *The Tall Tales*, where the *Panchatantra* and its characters are threatened by modern-day anime sociopaths and evil boy wizards.

Our mission with Shakti is simple: to give readers a taste of the rich storytelling that goes back thousands of years. We also hope that each book feels fresh, provocative, and unlike anything fans have previously experienced. We realize that we're asking a lot for folks to enter into an alien world, one with strange names and exotic settings. It's uncomfortable—at first. But trust me, it gets easier. Remember the first time you held a Japanese Manga in your hands?

These aren't your parents' comics. But then again, that's why we're making them.

Gotham Chopra
Editor-In-Chief



DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Ramayana

ESQAD
RELOADED

India's answer to *The Lord of the Rings*, *Ramayan* (pronounced ruh-MY-an) follows the epic adventures of the mighty warrior, Prince Rama, who, along with his brother and the daughter of Mother Earth, set out on a perilous journey to end the treacherous reign of Ravan, a monstrous being attempting to wipe out what little is left of humanity in this post-apocalyptic retelling of one of the greatest tales every told.



SHEKHAR KAPUR'S

DEVI

Devi (day-VEE) follows the story of Tara Mehta, a young woman whose body was fused with the spirit of a divine warrior and became a living goddess more powerful than any other deity. As mankind's champion, Devi protects the earth and her own city of Sitapur from supernatural scourges and criminal elements alike.

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA.

Some books have lives of their own. So it is with the *Panchatantra*, an ancient Indian book wherein fabled animals live in harmony with one another. But now assassins seek to destroy their world and corrupt the minds of story-lovers worldwide. To ensure their survival, three heroes—a lion, a bull, and a monkey—must convince a craven, video-gaming teen named Vishnu Sharma to accept his destiny as protector of the *Panchatantra*.





Deepak Chopra's

Buddha

A Story of Enlightenment

Awaken. Seek truth. Stumble. Begin again. This is the simple yet profound message from the inspiring man who achieved Enlightenment and showed the world a way for peace, understanding, and serenity. Follow young prince Siddhartha as he defies tradition and achieves his destiny as the *Buddha*. No desires, fears, or duties could prevent what was always to be: the coming of the great Awakened One.

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

india
 authentic

There exists a world beyond our mortal comprehension that tells the story of life before men came to be. These are stories of the Gods and Goddesses who now reign over humanity and wield the forces of the universe, providing balance for all existence. These are the stories that have laid the foundations of a country a billion strong, that have taught and inspired countless generations.



THE
Sādhu

James Jensen's sole purpose in life was to seek vengeance on the British officer who murdered his family in 18th century India. But his life was not meant for just blood-thirsty revenge. He was destined to be a *Sadhu* (*sah-DOO*), a mystic warrior walking the path to spiritual salvation. But can James' quest for enlightenment overcome his desire for revenge?

EXPLORE THESE UPCOMING SHAKTI RELEASES



BLADE OF THE WARRIOR: KSHATRIYA

An exiled prince, whose kingdom was stolen by his demonic brother, returns for revenge in this epic sword-and-sorcery tale of bravery, retribution and family war set in a mysterious eastern kingdom. Torn between vengeance and honor, and forced to survive with only his wits and the mystic black blade he wields more fiercely than any man, Kshatriya's (*shut-REE-yuh*) path is paved with blood on his journey to becoming the greatest warrior the world has ever known.

DEEPAK CHOPRA'S BEYOND

Acclaimed writer Ron Marz adapts Deepak Chopra's original science fiction story of an American businessman who is propelled across dimensions and into an adventure like no other when his wife goes mysteriously missing in India. His journey will lead him to trials both physical and metaphysical as he will stop at nothing—and go literally anywhere—to save her.



PROJECT: KALKI

The end of the world is upon us. War, famine, suffering. There's no stopping the havoc created by humans. But in a small lab in India, a geneticist has cloned the remains of what was once thought to be only a mythological figure, creating a "human" being with the power to save the world... or end it.

MUMBAI MACGUFFIN

This one-shot graphic novel is a high-octane adventure through the never-before-seen underbelly of Mumbai, as an ace CIA operative finds himself out of his element and out of his depth when tasked with recovering a downed satellite deep within the biggest slum in Asia. Nothing can prepare him for the wild and dangerous characters he encounters, including a wheelchair-ridden gangster hooked on John Wayne westerns, a brilliant bar dancer, a trigger-happy cop and a religious cult that will do ANYTHING to protect its phallic totem. Seriously.



DEEPAK CHOPRA'S



ISSUE 1
OF 4

BEYOND



A missing woman.

A desperate man.

An adventure that takes them both *BEYOND*.

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—DEEPAK CHOPRA

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *india authentic*™

**"TRUE MYTHIC WONDER...
5 OUT OF 5 STARS."**

—Comiccritique.com

**"A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO
SUBJECTS RARELY BROACHED
IN COMICS."**

—Comixfan.com

**"STRANGE AND MAGICAL
AND MOVING."**

—Mike Carey

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

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

—Desicritics.com



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