

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS india  authentic™
PARASHURAM



MOHAPATRA/KUMAR

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

PARASHURAM



Created by Deepak Chopra

Writer : Saurav Mohapatra

Pencils: Kumar

Colors: M.N. Narasimha Murthy

Letters: B.S. Ravikiran

Cover Art: Dean Ruben Hyrapiet & Sundarakannan

Project Manager: Sandeep Nair

Assistant Editor: Neha Bajaj

Editor: Mahesh Kamath

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Special Thanks to:

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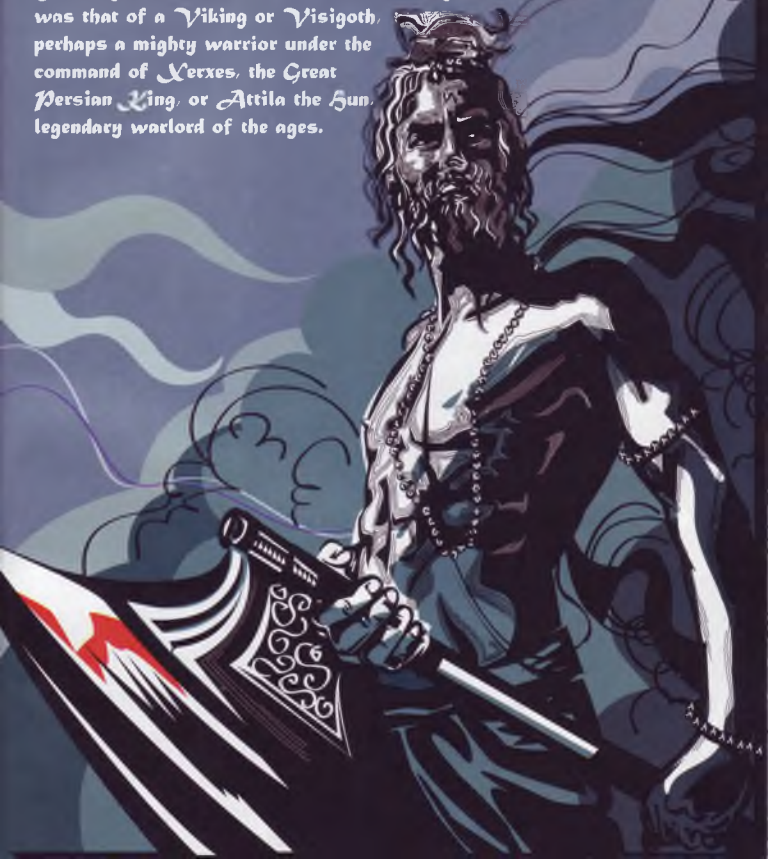
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PARASHURAM

What if I described for you the visage of a brawny man, striding with determination, stained with the gore and fatigue of battle, carrying over his shoulder a well-worn axe that itself was streaked with blood?

You might assume that this fearsome image was that of a Viking or Visigoth, perhaps a mighty warrior under the command of Xerxes, the Great Persian King, or Attila the Hun, legendary warlord of the ages.




It's unlikely, however, that you'd guess it was in fact the likeness of a God, an image of holiness, meant to inspire righteousness and morality. Alas, meet Sage Parashuram, the 6th Avatar of Lord Vishnu the Preserver, one of the principle deities of the Hindu pantheon. Aside from his fabled appearance, Parashuram also has quite a story to tell. For the tale of Parashuram that you will read in the following pages is the stuff that Hollywood is made of – classic revenge flick sort of material, one man poised to right the wrong perpetrated against his people and, worse, his mother.

It's all a rather dramatic story for sure, one of the most memorable in the vast canon of the Indian pantheon. What are debatable are its spiritual elements. For that, you'll need to determine at the end of this story just how spiritual an impulse is the need for vengeance. And you'll have to weigh for yourself just how holy a being is, that requires the death of dozens until his bloodlust is satisfied. For it is stories like that of Parashuram that force us to reflect upon ourselves, question our own motives, and ultimately understand our own emotions and impulses and wonder if the scriptures have it right – that we were created in God's likeness or perhaps it was the other way around all along.

Deepak Chopra

February 2008







WHEN I WAS
LITTLE, MY MOTHER
USED TO TELL ME
STORIES.




OF KINGS
AND QUEENS,
OF HEROES AND
GODS...



...AND OF
MONSTERS
AND DEMONS.



EVEN BACK
THEN I ALWAYS USED
TO WONDER WHERE
MONSTERS CAME
FROM.



WHAT MAKES
THEM DO THE
THINGS THEY
DO?

PERHAPS
THE ANSWER IS IN
THE PAST.



YESTERDAY.



WE ALL COME
INTO THIS WORLD WITH
A CLEAN CONSCIENCE,
A BASIC SENSE OF
RIGHT AND WRONG.

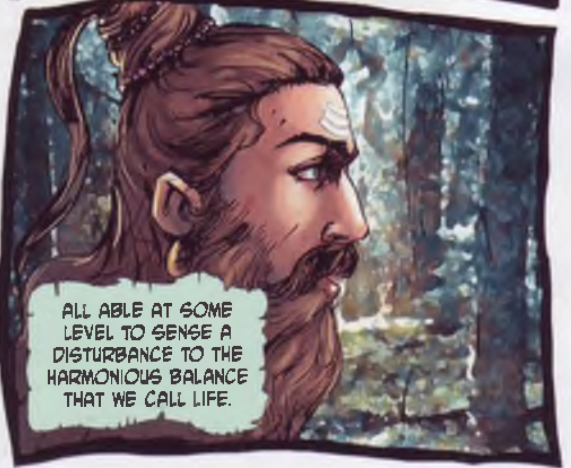
AN UNDERSTANDING
OF THINGS LIKE
COMPASSION, EMPATHY
AND ABOVE ALL RESPECT
FOR ALL LIVING THINGS.



I, RAMA OF THE BHARGAV
CLAN, PRAY FOR THE LIFE I JUST TOOK,
THE TREE THAT PROVIDED ME WITH SHADE AND
SHELTER. FORGIVE ME, FOR THIS WOOD SHALL
FEED THE SACRED FIRE AND PROVIDE
WARMTH FOR MY KIN.



WE ARE
BORN IN TUNE
TO NATURE.



ALL ABLE AT SOME
LEVEL TO SENSE A
DISTURBANCE TO THE
HARMONIOUS BALANCE
THAT WE CALL LIFE.



THE ROAD STARTS THERE...



...WHEN OUR HEARTS DRIVE US.



WE CHOOSE TO IGNORE THAT WHICH WE KNOW, THAT WHICH WE FEEL DEEP INSIDE.



FOR A MOMENT WE FEEL NO PAIN, JUST A MADDENING RUSH OF BLOOD TO THE HEAD, AN UNEASY PREMONITION.



WE RUSH IN WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD.



THE FIRST STAGE OF THE DESCENT IS FEAR.

ASHRAM OF CLAN
BHARGAVA.

THE FEAR OF
LOSING ONE'S
KIN.



THE FEAR OF COMING
HOME ONE DAY TO FIND
ALL THAT ONE HAD
CHERISHED GONE,
VANISHED IN THE BLINK
OF AN EYE.



HELP...
SOMEBODY...
HELP.



FATHER? WHERE
ARE YOU? WHAT
HAS HAPPENED?



THE SECOND STAGE IS ANGER.

HOLD STILL FATHER.

MY SON! RAMA IS THAT YOU?



FATHER? WHAT HAPPENED? I WAS BUT OUT FOR A FEW HOURS.

THE KING...THE KING'S MEN CAME... AGAIN...THEY WENT... AMOK...



THEY BURNT...THE ASHRAM DOWN... EVERYONE...THEY KILLED EVERYONE.



NO! FATHER?



ANGER STARTS OFF AS A NUMBNESS. ONE'S HEART FEELS NOTHING.

THE WORLD COMES CRASHING DOWN AND FOR A MOMENT ALL THERE IS...IS A SILENCE, A VOID.

SOON THE
NUMBNESS GIVES
WAY TO A WAILING
WAVE OF ANGER.

GODS OF
HEAVEN, I PRAY TO
YOU FOR THE SOUL
OF MY FATHER.

I COMMIT
INTO YOUR HANDS
THE SOULS OF
MY KIN.

WATCH OVER
THEM AND GUIDE
THEM INTO THE
AFTERLIFE.

OVER THE BURNING
EMBERS OF THEIR PYRE I,
RAMA, SON OF JAMADAGNI,
LAST SON OF THE BHARGAVA
CLAN, MAKE YOU A
PROMISE.

THE KING AND
HIS CLAN TOO
SHALL SUFFER
THIS FATE.

MAKE WAY IN THE
AFTERLIFE FOR THEM
TOO, FOR I SHALL
SEND THEM ALL
THERE.



ISSUE 2

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Panchatantra™



ON SALE NOW

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COALITION COMIX

THE STORY SO FAR...

WE KNOW
THE GENRE...

...THE THEME...

...THE VISUAL
STYLE...

...BUT THERE'S
MORE TO DO!



Story Master Mike Carey (writer of *Voodoo Child* and *X-Men*)
still needs your help. **Vote Now. Vote Often!**

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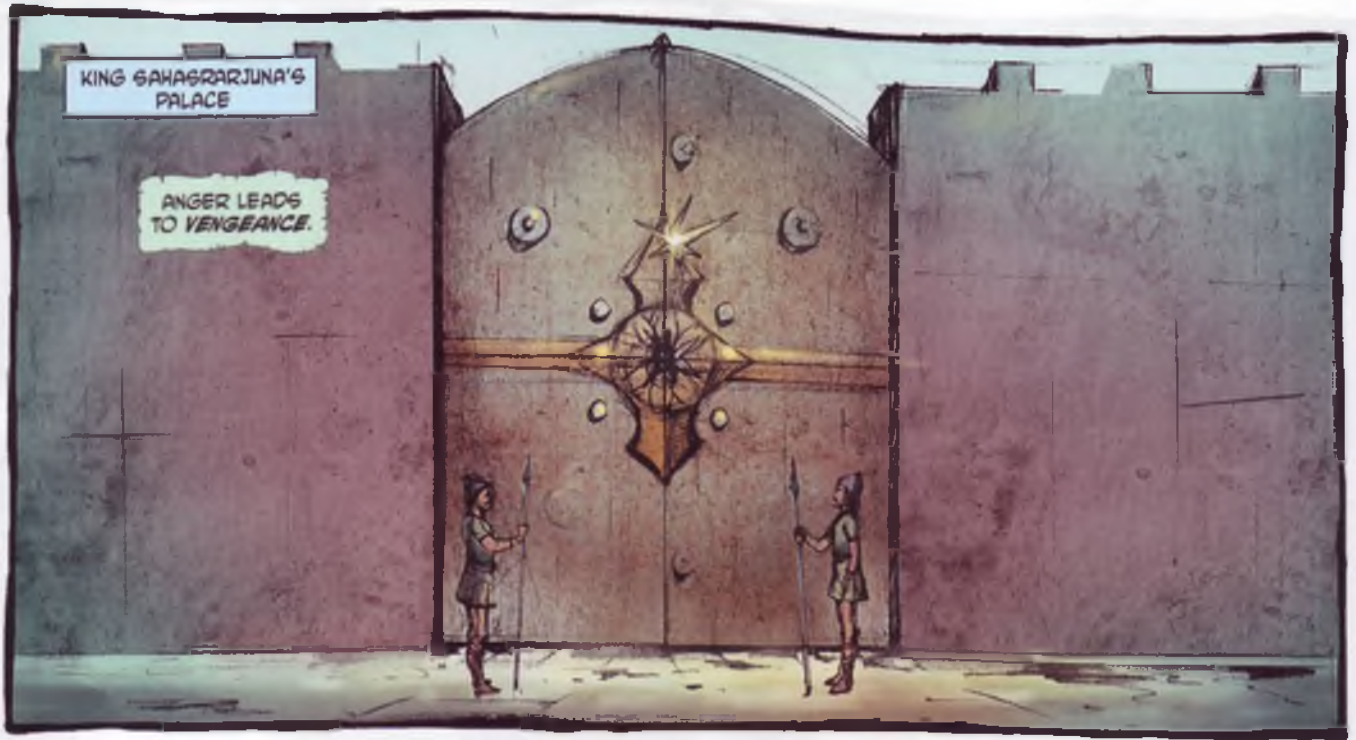
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KING SAHASRARJUNA'S PALACE

ANGER LEADS TO VENGEANCE.



LIKE A BREWING STORM IT RISES.

HEY! LOOK AT THAT! WHAT IS HE THINKING?



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS. WHO IS THAT?



BUILDING UP IN MALEVOLENCE...

IS THAT A PARASHU IN HIS HANDS?

*AXE



A MADMAN MOST PROBABLY. LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE HERMITS FROM THE FOREST.



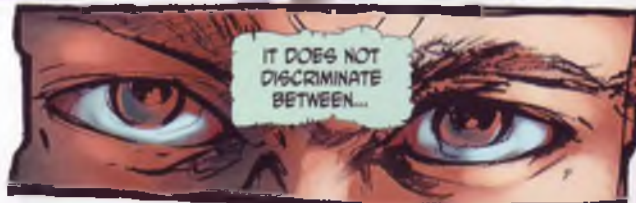
I GUESS THE RAIDING PARTY MISSED ONE, GET READY FOR SOME SPORT.



VENGEANCE IS
BLIND, A PRIMAL
FERAL URGE.



IT DOES NOT
DISCRIMINATE
BETWEEN...



...THE
TORMENTOR...



NO!

...OR ANYONE
ELSE WHO GETS
IN THE WAY.



NEXT, THE
THRUST IS
TRIGGERED.

KHRASHHHHHHHH



TILL ALL THAT
ONE FEELS IS A
MORBID FRENZY.



AN INSATIABLE
ONE.



TO ARMS
MEN, WE'RE BEING
ATTACKED.



ARCHERS AT
THE READY.



TROOPS, IN
POSITION.



IT IS ONE OF THE HERMITS. FIRE AT WILL.





KILL HIM.

IT HAPPENS
IN A BLUR.



NO CONSCIOUS
EFFORT IS
EXPENDED.



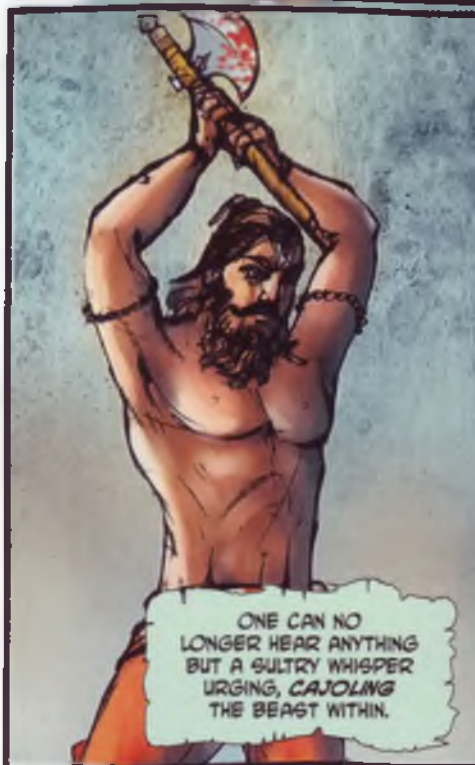
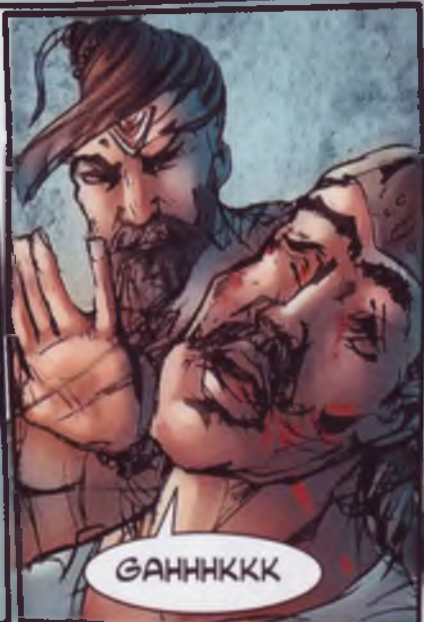
VIOLENCE BEGETS
VIOLENCE AND THE
CYCLE STARTS.



MAN BECOMES
A COG IN THIS
INFERNAL PERPETUAL
MACHINE.



THE WHEELS
TURN...





THERE IS NO STOPPING.



NO TURNING BACK.



ONCE THE MADNESS STARTS...



...IT FEEDS ON ITS OWN MOMENTUM.

PLEASE, SPARE HIM. I BEG OF YOU.



AAAGGGH!



NO!



YES.



SAHASRARJUNA,
THE LAST SON OF THE
BHARGAVAS HAS COME
FOR YOUR HEAD.



BY THE BLADE
OF MY PARASHU SHALL
THE EARTH BE RID OF
YOU AND YOUR KIN.



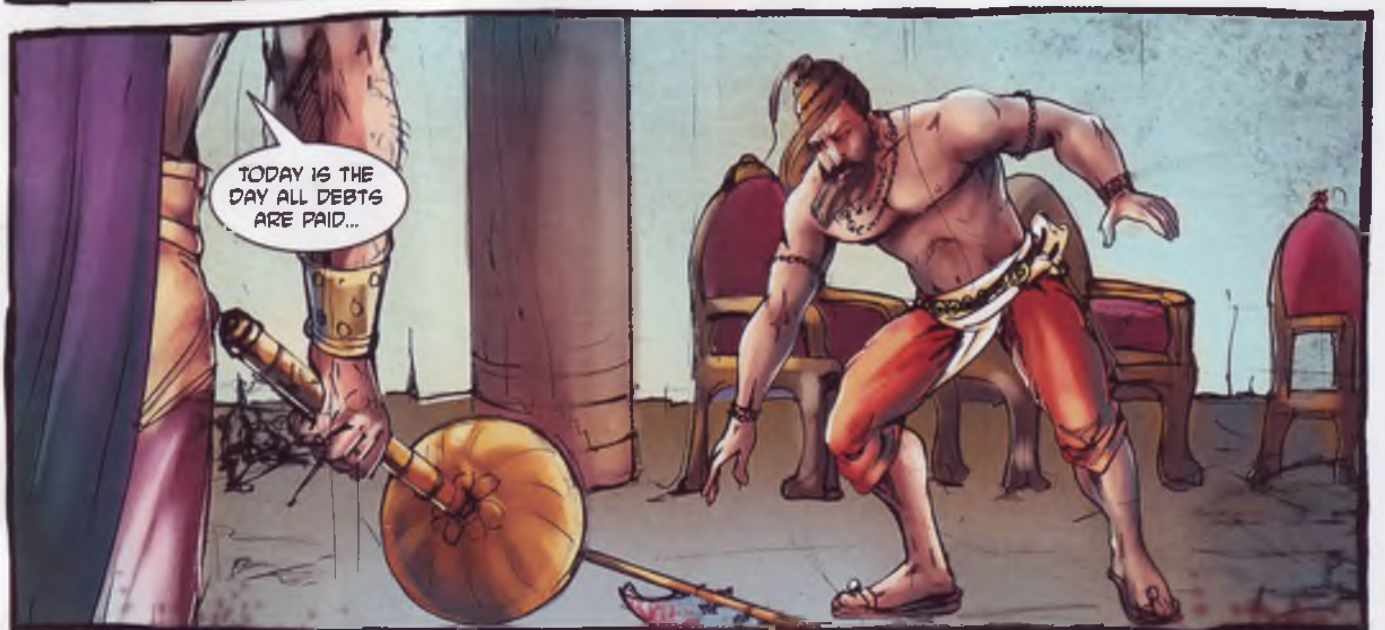
IT'S
TIME...



... SOMEONE PUT
YOU UPPITY FOREST
DWELLERS IN YOUR
RIGHTFUL PLACE.



FOR
GENERATIONS YOU
HAVE BEEN A THORN
IN MY CLAN'S SIDE.



TODAY IS THE
DAY ALL DEBTS
ARE PAID...

... TODAY THE
LAST OF THE
BHARGAVAS
DIES.



"Encoded into the stories of the divine Pantheon of India are some of the most primal stories ever told. They chronicle our greatest aspirations, our darkest fears, and our collective experience as a species."

—DEEPAK CHOPRA

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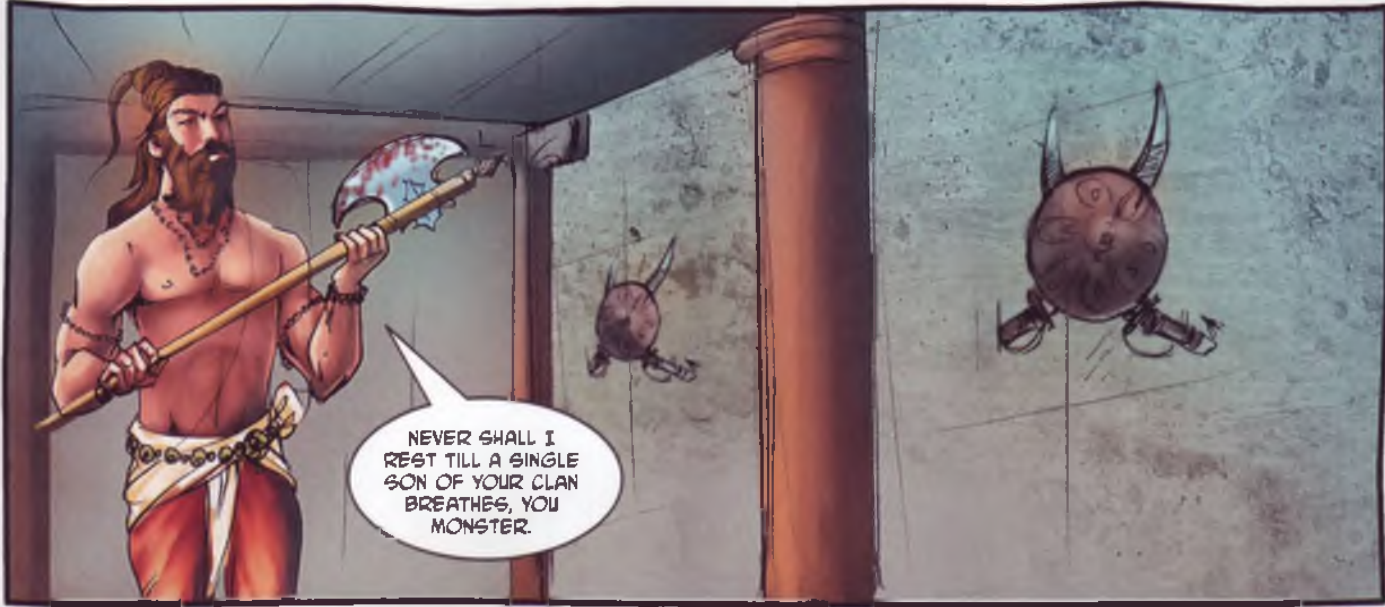
ISSUE 4

DAN DARE

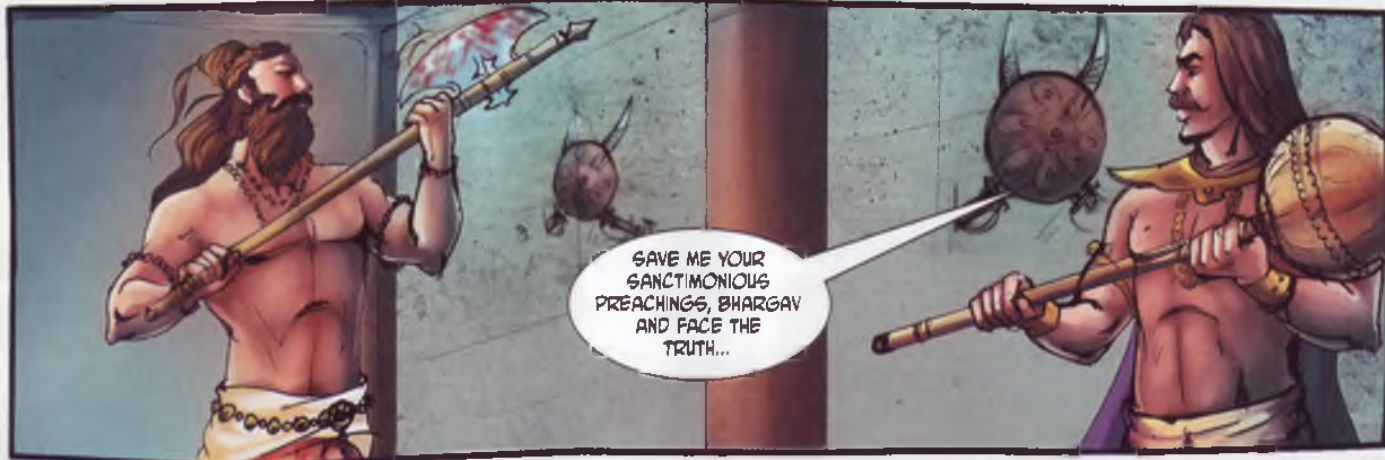


ENNIS / ERSKINE

ON SALE FEBRUARY 2008



NEVER SHALL I REST TILL A SINGLE SON OF YOUR CLAN BREATHES, YOU MONSTER.



SAVE ME YOUR SANCTIMONIOUS PREACHINGS, BHARGAV AND FACE THE TRUTH...



... WE BOTH ARE MONSTERS.



TODAY, MAY THE WORST OF THE TWO LIVE.



VENGEANCE REACHES A CRESCENDO WHEN A FACE IS PUT ON THE FACELESS TORMENTOR.



ALL THE ANGER, ALL THE WRATH POURS OUT IN A CLIMACTIC INFERNO.



LIKE A VOLCANO LONG DORMANT STIRRED BACK TO LIFE.



NO PAIN.



NO FEAR.



ALL THAT IS LEFT IS JUST THE WILL.



THE DESIRE TO TAKE FROM THE OTHER WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM ONE.



A SIMPLE PRIMITIVE INSTINCT...



...TO KILL.



THE DESCENT
IS COMPLETE...



... AND THE
MONSTER HAS
BEEN BORN.

A MONSTER
DOES NOT
STOP.



A MONSTER
DOES NOT
PAUSE.



A MONSTER
JUST KEEPS ON
GOING.





NO! NO!



AAAAAGGGHHH!
PLEASE! NO!



YOU ARE
THE LAST OF THE
ROYAL CLAN.



WITH YOU MY
VENGEANCE WILL BE
COMPLETE.

A MONSTER
DOES NOT CARE
WHO HE KILLS.

WHEN I WAS LITTLE MY MOTHER USED TO TELL ME ABOUT MONSTERS.



I USED TO WONDER WHERE MONSTERS COME FROM.



I KNOW THE ANSWER NOW...



... FOR I HAVE BECOME ONE.



MONSTERS
LIVE WITHIN
US.



LURKING
BENEATH THE
SURFACE.



WAITING FOR THE
SLIGHTEST LOSS OF
CONTROL TO RISE
UP AND CLAIM US AS
THEIR VESSEL.



I, RAMA, SON OF
JAMADAGNI, LAST OF
THE BHARGAVA CLAN
KNOW THIS FIRST
HAND.



I HAVE
STARRED INTO
THE ABYSS...



... AND THE
ABYSS STARES
BACK AT ME.



SO HOW DOES
ONE SLAY A
MONSTER?



I KNOW NOT
THE ANSWER
YET...




... BUT I KNOW
WHERE TO
BEGIN.



PERHAPS THE
FIRST STEP IS
REPENTANCE.



THE END.



FROM JONATHAN MOSTOW,
DIRECTOR OF *U-571* AND
*TERMINATOR 3:
RISE OF THE MACHINES*

THE MEGAS™

**OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS,
THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK FROM OUR GOVERNMENT
ABOUT SPREADING DEMOCRACY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.**

So I GOT TO THINKING...

What would life be like if our country—the beloved U.S. of A—*wasn't* a democracy? What if 230 years ago, our founding fathers—instead of being dedicated to principals of freedom—were a group of powerful men whose only purpose was to ensure the continuity of their own reign?

THE MEGAS is an exploration of that idea. It depicts an America ruled by a monarchy—with Kings, Queens, Princes, Dukes and their accompanying royal infrastructure.

THE MEGAS is more than a cool “what if” scenario. It's a metaphor for the America we live in today. Think about it... aren't there two classes in our society—the privileged few and... everybody else? CEOs and celebrities reap fame and riches while the rest of us toil away in our anonymous daily grinds. Are they not like the royal class of centuries past, who lived in luxury, enjoying special treatment, seemingly immune from legal or moral consequences, while the peasant hordes struggle to make ends meet?

Ironically, as much as we might envy or even resent these glitterati, we glorify them. We put their faces on the covers of splashy magazines, we gossip about them endlessly—and secretly, we wish we could be like them. But we can't. Because they've been gifted with something special that we mere mortals can never hope to attain. In our story, these special people are called “Megas”, and they constitute the ruling class that has governed America for centuries.

Don't worry—this isn't a preachy comic. There's no soapbox. THE MEGAS is supposed to be entertaining and cool. But I do hope you find it thought-provoking. I had a lot of fun working on this project along with some very talented creative partners. The script was written by the supremely clever John Harrison, whose numerous Sci-Fi credits include the acclaimed mini-series *Dune*. For the art, I brought aboard a longtime collaborator who had never drawn a graphic novel before, the brilliant conceptual artist Peter Rubin, who previously was a leading art director at Industrial Light and Magic, working on some of the biggest visual effects blockbusters of all time.

THE MEGAS is coming soon to a comic store near you. I hope you get a chance to check it out.

JONATHAN MOSTOW

FROM JONATHAN MOSTOW,
DIRECTOR OF *U-571* AND
TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES



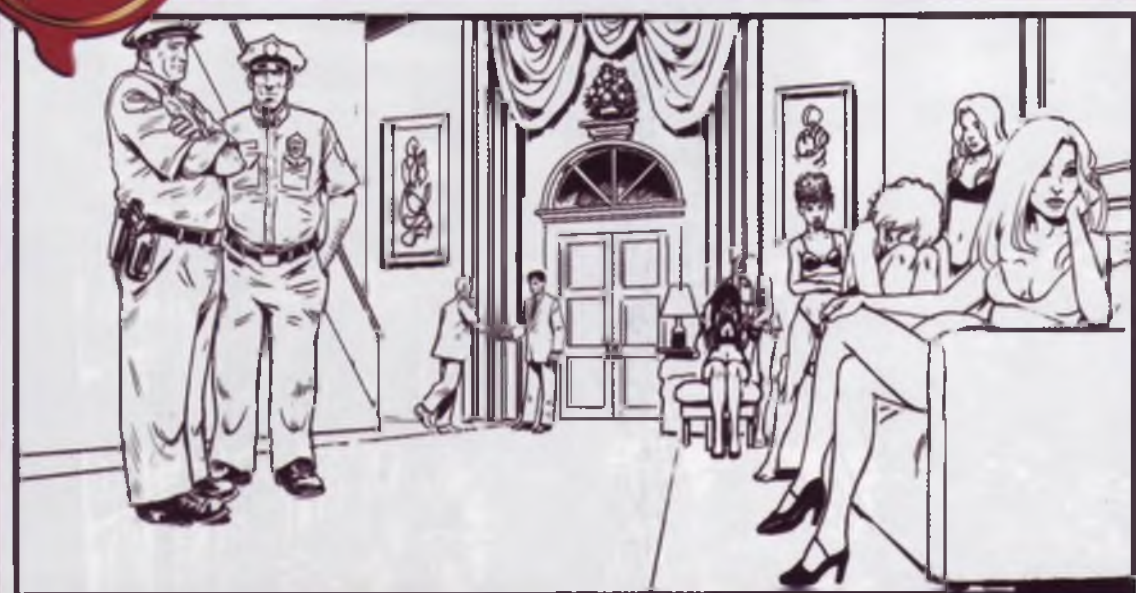
MEGAS



THE MEGAS™



THE MEGAS



ON SALE MARCH 2008



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