



## Created by Deepak Chopra & Shekhar Kapur

Script - Shamik Dasgupta Art - Abhishek Singh Color - Ashwin Chikerur Letters - Ravikiran B.S. & Nilesh S. Mahadik Cover Art - Jeevan Kang Assistant Editor - Mahesh Kamath Consulting Editor - MacKenzie Cadenhead Editor - Gotham Chopra

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EMBITTERED AND DEFEATED, RAMA CONDEMNS HIS HOMELAND, BREAKS HIS ENERGY BOW AND RETREATS FROM ARMAGARH'S GREAT HALL. SCORNED BY ARMAGARH'S AUTHORITY, CRITICIZED BY HIS BROTHER LAKSHMAN, AND CONVINCED THAT HIS HOMELAND NO LONGER DEFINES THE IDEALS IT ONCE WAS FOUNDED ON, RAMA EMBRACES THE IDEA OF A LIFE FAR AWAY FROM ALL.

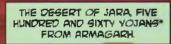
GENERAL VIV-SHAN AND HIS MINIONS. THE HUMANS FIGHT HARD AGAINST THE VICIOUS ASURAS BUT ARE OUTNUMBERED AND EVENTUALLY FACE A POTENTIAL SLAUGHTER WHEN THEIR FORCES ARE DEPLETED AND LAKSHMAN BEFALLS A GRAVE WOUND. FACED WITH ALL THIS, RAMA SURRENDERS TO VIV-SHAN UNDER THE CONDITION OF SPARING THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND VIV-SHAN AGREES, DEFYING THE ASURA CODE OF NO MERCY.' ALAS, THE CITIZENS OF JANASTHAN ARE SAVED BUT RAMA'S HUMANE SURRENDER IS AJUDGED TREASON BY THE ARMAGARHIAN COUNCIL, AND CONFIRMED BY THE CONSORTIUM OF HOLOGRAPHIC GODS. RAMA HIMSELF IS EXILED FROM ARMAGARH FOR FOURTEEN YEARS.

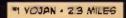
IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST OVERRUNS THE PLANET AND CIVILIZATION STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE. ARMAGARH, THE LAST BASTION OF HUMANKIND IS PLAGUED BY INCESSANT ASURA ATTACKS IN ITS VARIOUS OUTPOSTS. RAMA AND LAKSHMAN, BROTHERS AND OF THE WARRIOR CASTE, ARE SENT TO JANASTHAN, A TRANQUIL OUTPOST FAR AWAY FROM ARMAGARH.

BUT THE SERENITY OF JANASTHAN IS BROKEN WHEN THE SLEEPY VILLAGE IS ATTACKED BY THE ASURA















DAMN













KAFFC. )COUGHC... LUCKY WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR ARRIVING A FEW MINUTES EARLIER AND GAVING ME THE TROUBLE...

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? WHAT DID YOU DO, SO THAT I CAN BREATHE?

BRATEFUL BRAT! NDULGE IN

THE PLEASURE OF SIMPLE BREATH, BOY. AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS. MY NAME IS VISHWAMITRA.

VIGHWAWITRA? YOUR PARENTS NAMED YOU AFTER ONE OF THE SEVEN SEERS THAT FOUNDED ARMAGARH WAY BACK WHEN? YOUR PARENTS HAD HIGH HOPES FOR YOU, DIDN'T THEY? HE'S GAID TO BE AMONGST THE WISEST THAT EVER LIVED.

DON'T BELIEVE ALL THAT YOU'VE HEARD,

OLD MAN, I AM LAKSHMAN. I GUITE LIKE THE MAGIC TRICK YOU DID ON MY BREATHING, CAN YOU TURN WATER INTO WINE WITH THE NUCLEAR WITCH'S BROOM? TELL ME, WHERE CAN I GET ONE OF THOSE?

The Warriors of Yesteryear Were a Thousand Times More formidable than the Boys with Toys of Today.

YEAH OKAY, LIFE WAS TOUGH WHEN YOU WERE A KID. WELL, IT'S NOT EXACTLY A BARREL FULL OF LAUGHS THESE DAYS. PRE-MAHAVINAAGH I HOPE BECAUSE I'D ARGUE THIS IS PRETTY BAD. HEY, SPEAKING OF WATER, HAVE SOME?

DE THIRST!

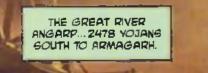
NO,

HEY ...









THREE WEEKS LATER.

> Haul the Rope... Haul the Rope... I've Got a big one in the net!









"AFTER YOU LEFT, FATHER'S HEALTH DETERIORATED RAPIDLY, AND FINALLY HIS HEART JUST GTOPPED.

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"APPARENTLY HE COULDN'T BEAR THE ABSENCE OF HIS 'BELOVED RAMA."

> "APTER FATHER'S DEATH, CERTAIN PEOPLE STARTED TO SHED THE MASKS THEY HAD SO SUCCESSFULLY WORN FOR MANY YEARS. WITH YOU, BHARAT, AND TUBBY GONE-PERHAPS NOT SO COINCIDENTALLY-I WAS ALONE AND OSTRACIZED BY THE ARMAGARHIAN ARISTOCRACY.

**WACLE SUMANTRA RESIGNED** FROM THE COUNCIL AND DISAPPEARED. THE RUMOR WAS HE'D ASSEMBLED A FACTION, A CABAL TO STAND AGAINST THE CORRUPTED COUNCIL.

"Everyone Just Assumed That I was already, or Would Eventually be a part of it even though I had no such intention. Still, it put me at even more risk as I started getting gecret messages, and letters From uncle sumantra's Revolutionary group URGING ME to Join...







THESE ARE THE DARKEST DAYS OF ARMAGARH AFTER YOU'D COWARDLY ACT IN JANASTHAN---SURRENDERING TO THOSE FILTHY ASURAS, GOILING OUR CODE, OUR KIND, EVERYTHING COLLAPSED. ARMAGARH PLUNGED INTO SCANDAL AND DARKNESS. WE'VE SO MANY PROBLEMS WITHIN OUR DECAYING WALLS, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE ASURAS EXPLOIT THAT AND INVADE. THEY WON'T FIND SO MUCH AS A GOLDIER WITH HIS BOW RESISTING.

Let them attack Armagarh fell when it Abandoned its ideals. Now what difference Does it make?

TAKE GUHA, HE WAS AN HONEST AND LAW ABIDING CITIZEN. BUT KAALNEMI BANIGHED HIM FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTK THE CORRUPTION OF ARMAGARH DESTROYED HIM. NOW HE LIVES THOUSANDS OF YOJANG AWAY FROM HIS MOTHERLAND, SCORNED AND HUMILIATED, NOT MUCH UNLIKE ME.

ARMAGARH 15 DOOMED TO FALL.



AND SO STARTS THE MAD PROPHET OF THE APOCALYPSE... YAAWWWNN....!



THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES. HE MAKES WATER FROM...NOTHING, TRACKS LOST MEN WITH WHIRLING DUST. HE'S VISH-WA-MIT-RA, NAMED AFTER ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SEVEN SEERS. HE'S QUITE A FUNNY GUY, BUT WATCH OUT! FOR HE'S GOT SOME NASTY TRICKS UP HIS GRIMY SLEEVE

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I'M NOT INTERESTED IN TALKING ANYMORE. I HAVE NOTHING TO GAY. I'M HAPPY OF THESE GOOD

PEOPLE

RAMA ... YOU ME ... WE HAVE

AND

I AM LIKE THIS FROM BIRTH THERE NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.

AS AN ARMAGARHIAN YOU MUST KNOW THAT THE AGURAG ARE GROWING AORE POWERFUL BY THE DAY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES THEM SO

POWERFUL?



WHAT MAKES YOU ... 60 SPECIAL?

EVER AGKED YOURGELF WHY ARE YOU BLUE IN COLOR?



I DO. APART FROM THEIR TECHNOLOGY, THEY HAVE DEVISED A WAY TO INFILTRATE OUR LAND ESCAPING DETECTION I SAW IT FIRSTHAND



THE LEGEND OF THE LOKAS?



YOU ... HAVE LOGT YOUR MIND.

LEAVE ME IN

A MAGNIFICENT MYTH



I HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH FOR BELIEVING IN THE MAD DOCTRINES OF ARMAGARH, WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN



"AN AGE OF FINAL APOCALYPSE IS UPON US.

"OUR EARTH HAG SUFFERED ENOUGH FROM THE MAHAVINARGH". THAT WAG SUPPOSED TO END ALL LIFE. STILL, WE SURVIVED.

"But the Mahavinaash Weakened the Barriers That Separate Our Reality From the Others. And Now Ravan, through hig yantas Force has Devised Means to enter the Other Dimensions... The Lokas.

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"Now even your father's Beloved Armagarh Will Shatter in Front of the Vile Ravan's might for He Hag learnt terrible Secrets and Arts from The Lokas He has been Traveling Covertly.

"IT IS YOU, ONLY YOU WHO CAN TURN THE TIDE, FOR YOU ARE OF AN ORIGIN THAT'S NOT OF OUR WORLD

> YOUR BIRTH WAS A MYSTERY, AND THE VOICES GAY THAT YOU ARE LINKED WITH ONE SUCH LOKA AND A GREAT BEING WHO MASTERS SUCH A REALM.

> > "Hence It is you... Only you, who can match the might of lord ravan and *bring Down* his reign of terror."

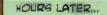
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WHO NEEDS HIM ANYWAY? THE FATE OF THE WORLD SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO SUCH GENTIMENTAL SCIONS. MORE APT FOR ONE WHO'S SURE OF HAND, STRONG OF WILL, AND WITHOUT FEAR. I BELIEVE I KNOW JUST THE MAN.

Young Man, Such Bravado is no Such Agget on the Great plaing. There is A lot to learn. Your valor is to be both admired... and feared, lakshman. You speak with great, yet unfounded wisdom.

I MAY NOT HAVE SKIN THE COLOR OF THE GODG, NOR THE NAME CALLED OUT BY THEM. BUT I DO HAVE THE COURAGE TO GERVE THEIR PURPOSE.

> EVEN IF IT'S FOR NAUGHT, I WILL END MY DAYS WITH MY WEAPON IN MY GRIP AND THE ENEMY WITHIN MY SIGHT,

> > 00000

Dana

MY FIGHT WILL BE FOR NO SUCH IDEALS.

THEN I'LL LEARN. YOU'LL TEACH ME.

A6 0'1

I'LL HAVE YOU JOIN ME, BUT ONLY UPON YOUR OATH NEVER TO DEFY ME.

WELL OKAY ...

PRAY O' LORDS, AS GREAT AS YE ARE, LET A HUMBLE MAN SERVE YE. ME WIGH T JOIN YE, FER I OWE A LOT TO THE MA'RAJ...ME SHALL FIGHT FO' ARM'GARH AND DIE IF NEED BE. ...FOR I DO NOT Believe in Them. Nor do I believe in Prophecies of the Apocalypse or Chosen ones.





OPF WE ARE THEN, FIRGT, THROUGH THE FORESTS OF DANDAKARANYA.

WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS? NEAR JANASTHAN?



