

MOHAPATRA / MANIKANDAN

THE SILENT ONES

Satan

THE

ISSUE 2 OF 5



THE **Sadhhu**

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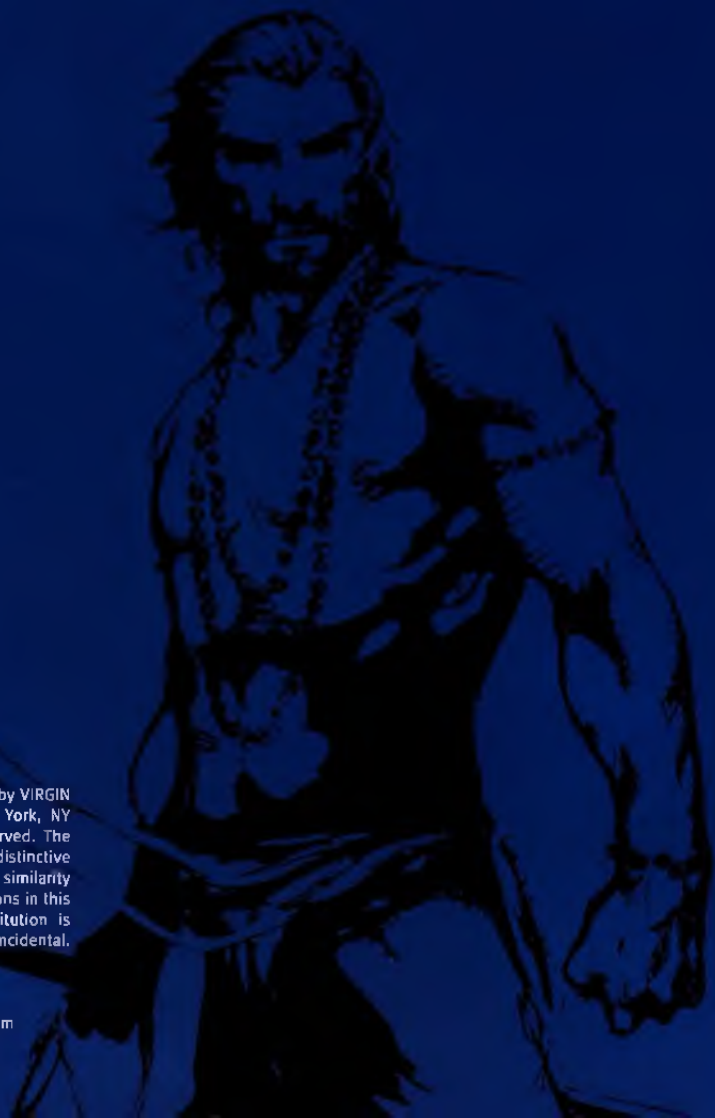
PREVIOUSLY...

James Jensen came to 19th-century India as a soldier in Her Majesty's Army. Marked as a traitor by his cruel commanding officer, **Col. Townsend**, for defending the indigenous population, Jensen's family was massacred before his eyes. Hunted as a deserter after escaping imprisonment, James found refuge with the enigmatic **Dadathakur**, who initiated him into the ways of the **Sadhhu**, mystic warriors of legend. Spurred by vengeance, James killed Townsend in a climactic battle.

His spiritual quest unfinished, James drifted through life without sense of purpose or ambition. But at the Kumbh Mela, the greatest gathering of mystics known to man, James encountered the evil cult of the **Silent Ones**, led by their **Grand Mistress**. She revealed to James that his son **Jack** was still alive, and was now her prisoner. As the **Grand Mistress** prepared to trap James in her thrall, the **Sadhhu** was mysteriously whisked away to **Limbo**, where he was greeted by a mysterious stranger named **Trishanku**.

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TRISHANKU!

THIS IS
YOUR DOING, YOU
MANGY DOG!

THIS *REEKS* OF YOUR
COWARDLY WAYS! ALL THESE
YEARS AND YOU *STILL* DON'T
HAVE THE COURAGE TO FIGHT
ME FACE TO FACE!





I HAD THE SADHU IN MY GRASP. I HAVE WAITED CENTURIES FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM, SOMEONE WITH A STRONG BUT TORTURED SOUL TO BEAR THE ESSENCE...

...AND YOU SNATCHED HIM AWAY.

HIDE IN WHATEVER HOLE YOU'VE PICKED THIS TIME, AND HIDE DEEP. YOU'VE MEDDLED IN MY AFFAIRS FOR THE FINAL TIME.

COUNT YOUR DAYS, COWARD, FOR SOON I SHALL PLUCK OUT YOUR HEART FEED IT TO YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS.



GRAND MISTRESS, IF I MAY?



WHAT?



THE INITIATES, MISTRESS.



THEY ARE READY FOR THE JOURNEY.



THE PICKINGS HAVE BECOME SLIM INDEED.



BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO *DO* FOR NOW. THE RANKS MUST BE REPLENISHED.

THE HOUR OF *CONFLUENCE* DRAWS NEAR. WE'LL NEED THE STRENGTH OF NUMBERS FOR THE RITE OF THE PASSING.



THIS ONE.

HE TRAVELED WITH THE SADHU ONLY *BRIEFLY*, AND YET THE SADHU DID NOT HESITATE TO COME TO HIS AID.

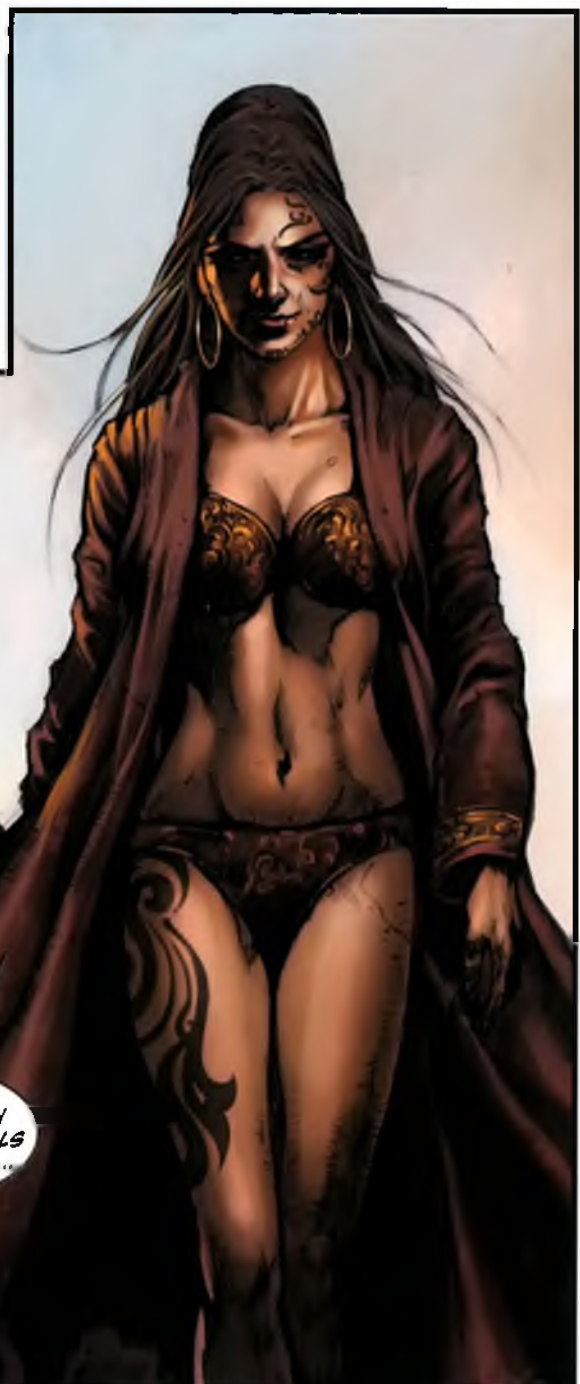


YES, MISTRESS, THAT IS SO.



THE SADHU *ESCAPED* US THIS TIME. BUT WE NEED NOT CHASE AFTER HIM.

WE HOLD HIS *SON*.



WE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR THE *HALLS OF SILENCE*...

"...LET THE SADHU
COME TO US."

WHAT
HAPPENED?

WHERE
AM I?

ONE MOMENT
I'M SEEING MY
SON, AND THE
NEXT...

...I'M HERE
WITH YOU.

WHEREVER
HERE IS...

**PATIENCE,
JAMES JENSEN,
PATIENCE.
TRISHANKU SHALL
EXPLAIN ...**

... URRRK!

HOW DO YOU
KNOW MY NAME?
WHO ARE YOU?

I WANT
ANSWERS!

TRISHANKU
SHALL TELL THE
SADHU... IF ONLY THE
SADHU LISTENS.

I AM
LISTENING.

TIME GROWS
SHORT...

...SO TRISHANKU
SEEKS TO
APOLOGIZE.

APOLOGIZE?





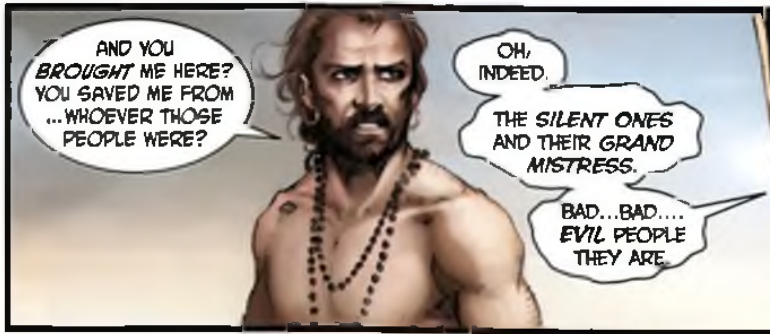
TRISHANKU, OF COURSE.

AND THIS PLACE?

LIMBO. TRISHANKU THINKS HE CREATED THIS... BUT SOMETIMES HE ALSO THINKS IT EXISTED **BEFORE**...

... BUT THEN HOW COULD TRISHANKU MAKE THIS? PERHAPS TRISHANKU **FOUND** LIMBO...

...THOUGH WHY DID TRISHANKU COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE? WHAT WAS HE **SEEKING**?



AND YOU **BROUGHT** ME HERE? YOU **SAVED** ME FROM ...WHOEVER THOSE PEOPLE WERE?

OH, INDEED.

THE **SILENT ONES** AND THEIR **GRAND MISTRESS**.

BAD...BAD.... EVIL PEOPLE THEY ARE.



TRISHANKU HAS **FOUGHT** THEM **BEFORE**. THEY **STEAL MINDS**. TRIED **STEALING** TRISHANKU'S **LONG** AGO.

TRISHANKU **BEAT** THEM **THEN**, AND NOW TRISHANKU HAS **STOLEN** THE **SADHU** AWAY FROM **EVIL** WITCH'S **VERY** HANDS.

HA HA HA HA!



TRISHANKU, PLEASE **LISTEN** TO ME. THAT **WOMAN**, THE **GRAND MISTRESS**, SHE **SHOWED** ME MY **SON**. SHE **SHOWED** ME **JACK**.

DO YOU **KNOW** OF HIM? CAN YOU **TELL** ME?

TRISHANKU CAN **SHOW** YOU.



TRISHANKU IS THE **MASTER** OF THE **MISTS** OF **LIMBO**...



LIMBO IS EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE.


TRISHANKU HAS BEEN HERE A LONG TIME. HE KNOWS.



THE MISTS OF TIME THESE ARE. TRISHANKU SEES ALL. HE CAN SEE PAST...PRESENT... AND A BIT OF THE FUTURE...



THERE, YOU SEE? JACK JENSEN, SON OF JAMES JENSEN...



"WHEN TOWNSEND KILLED YOUR WIFE, YOU ESCAPED, THINKING HE HAD KILLED YOUR SON AS WELL. BUT JACK JENSEN HAD SURVIVED... WOUNDED, BUT STILL **ALIVE**.

"TRISHANKU THINKS TOWNSEND WAS **AFRAID** OF JAMES JENSEN. OR PERHAPS HE WAS JUST BEING CRUEL.

"BUT TOWNSEND HAD A CHANGE OF PLANS WHEN HE MET THE GRAND MISTRESS. THE **EVIL** IN THEM DREW THEM TOGETHER.

"HE TRADED YOUR SON TO THE GRAND MISTRESS IN RETURN FOR POWERS....DARK POWERS...**EVIL** POWERS.

"THE WITCH WANTED YOUR SON BECAUSE SHE SENSED YOU IN HIS EYES. SHE CAN DO THAT. SHE CAN LOOK IN YOUR EYES AND SEE... THINGS...SECRET THINGS... **HORRIBLE** THINGS.

"SHE SAW TRISHANKU'S EYES ONCE, LONG AGO. MAYBE SHE SAW YOU IN YOUR SON'S EYES

"PERHAPS TOWNSEND WANTED TO PUNISH THE SON IN THE FATHER'S PLACE. WHO KNOWS? TRISHANKU DOES NOT CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND THE MINDS OF EVIL MEN. HE CAN SEE, BUT NOT COMPREHEND.

"SHE HOLDS HIM BECAUSE SHE *WANTS* YOU. SHE WANTS TO DEVOUR YOUR *SOUL*, TO RAVAGE YOUR *MIND*.

"IN YOUR SON'S EYES, SHE SAW WHAT YOU CAN BECOME, AND SHE *WANTS* THAT. SHE WANTS TO BE YOU...AND YOU TO BE HER.

"THAT IS HER WAY. *DECEPTION*...DARKNESS...EVIL...TRISHANKU KNOWS. HE SAW IT ONCE, HE SEES IT AGAIN. *THAT* IS WHY HE HELPED THE SADHU."



JACK!
NO!



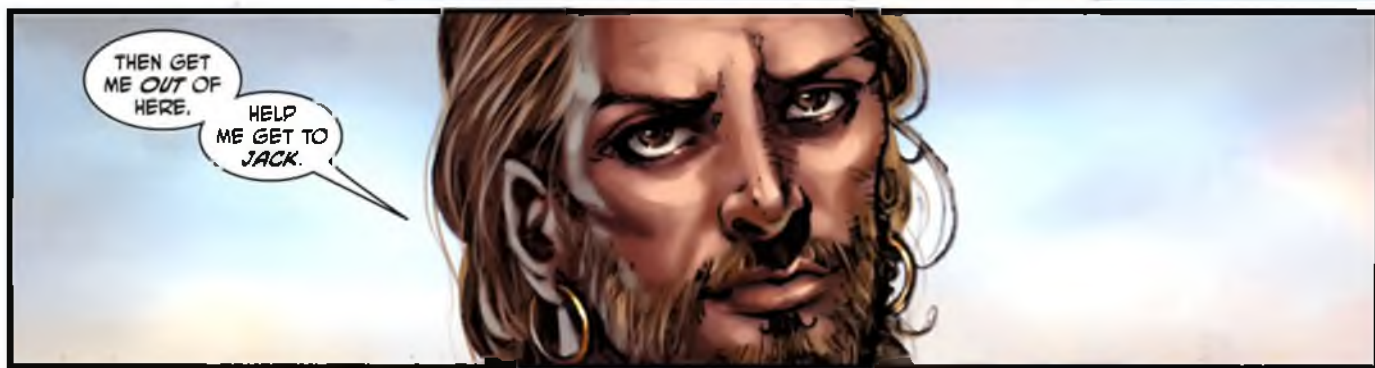
I HAVE TO GET BACK, I HAVE TO RESCUE MY SON.

HELP ME...



...PLEASE.

AH! IT IS TRISHANKU'S DESTINY TO HELP THE SADHU.



THEN GET ME OUT OF HERE.

HELP ME GET TO JACK.



TRISHANKU ONLY KNOWS THE WAY INTO LIMBO...



... AND NOT THE PATH OUT.

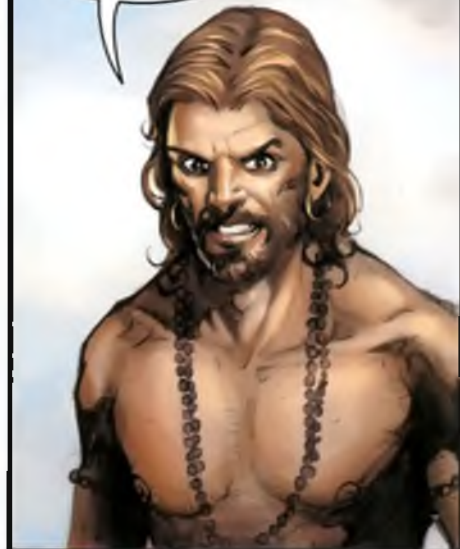
YOU DON'T KNOW THE WAY OUT? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?



TRISHANKU DOES NOT KNOW THE WAY OUT SIMPLY BECAUSE HE HAS NEVER NEEDED TO.



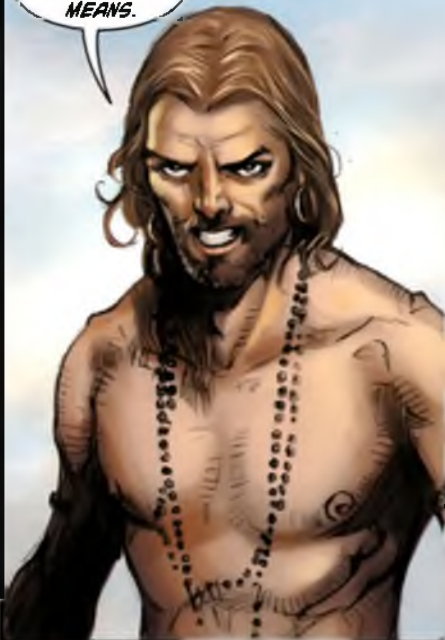
BUT... YOU BROUGHT ME HERE. YOU HAD TO GO OUT OF THIS PLACE TO DO THAT.



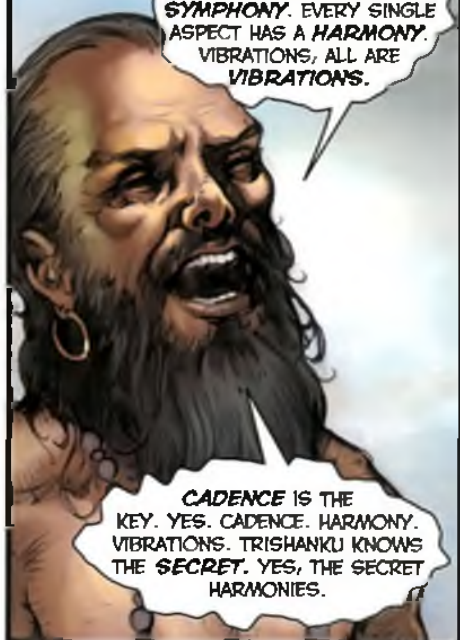
TRISHANKU NEVER HAD TO LEAVE LIMBO FOR THAT. HE MERELY SENT THE SEEKING HARMONY OUT.



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.



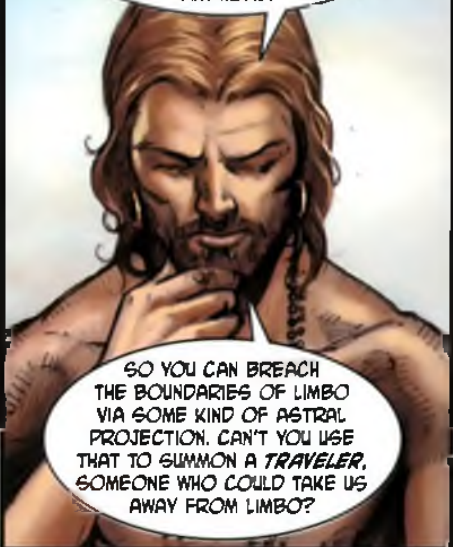
THE UNIVERSE, SADHU. THE UNIVERSE IS A SYMPHONY. EVERY SINGLE ASPECT HAS A HARMONY. VIBRATIONS, ALL ARE VIBRATIONS.



THE SADHU'S VIBRATIONS RESONATED WITH IT AND THUS TRISHANKU WAS ABLE TO BRING THE SADHU INTO LIMBO.

CADENCE IS THE KEY. YES. CADENCE. HARMONY. VIBRATIONS. TRISHANKU KNOWS THE SECRET. YES, THE SECRET HARMONIES.

YOU MEAN THE HYMNS OF HARMONY? I THOUGHT THEY WERE LOST. MY GURU ONCE TOLD ME THAT THERE WERE NONE ALIVE WHO KNEW THEM ANYMORE.



JAMES JENSEN IS WISE INDEED. VERY CLEVER!



BUT TRISHANKU DOES NOT KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE SUMMONED FROM OTHERSIDE. IS THE SADHU READY TO RISK THAT?



SO YOU CAN BREACH THE BOUNDARIES OF LIMBO VIA SOME KIND OF ASTRAL PROJECTION. CAN'T YOU USE THAT TO SUMMON A TRAVELER, SOMEONE WHO COULD TAKE US AWAY FROM LIMBO?

TRISHANKU HAD NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT. TRISHANKU NEVER NEEDED TO.

IF IT MEANS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF GETTING BACK TO JACK ...

"... I'M READY TO RISK ANYTHING."



I SUMMON THEE, O TRAVELER
OF THE UNKNOWN
BE KIND AS *AVNI*, THE EARTH
BE SWIFT AS *MARUT*, THE WIND
BE MIGHTY AS *TEJ*, THE FIRE
BE FLUID AS *AP*, THE WATER
BE VAST OF HEART AS *GAGAN*,
THE ETHER
BY THE FIVE ELEMENTS,
I SUMMON THEE
O WAYFARER OF THE MISTY
PATHS, COME TO MY AID.

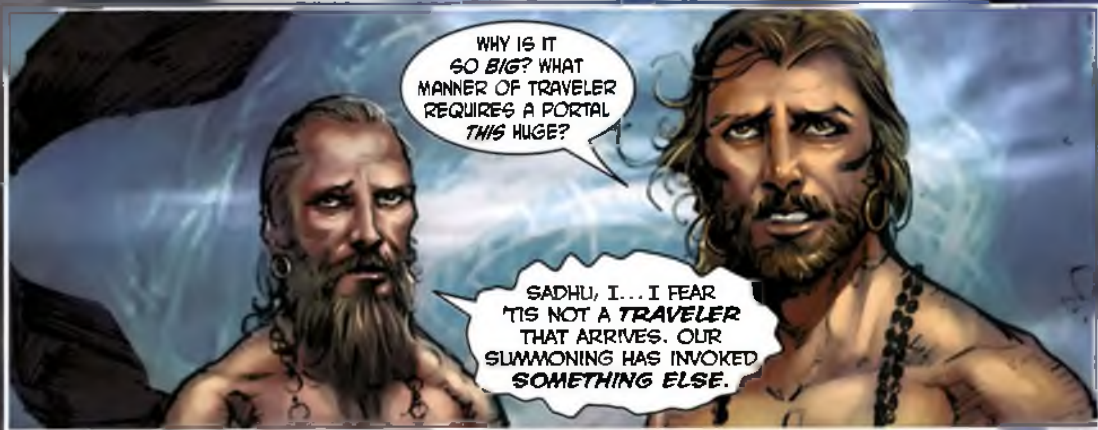




YOU DID IT!



IT WAS THE SADHU'S WISDOM THAT GUIDED TRISHANKU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.



WHY IS IT SO BIG? WHAT MANNER OF TRAVELER REQUIRES A PORTAL THIS HUGE?

SADHU, I... I FEAR 'TIS NOT A TRAVELER THAT ARRIVES. OUR SUMMONING HAS INVOKED SOMETHING ELSE.

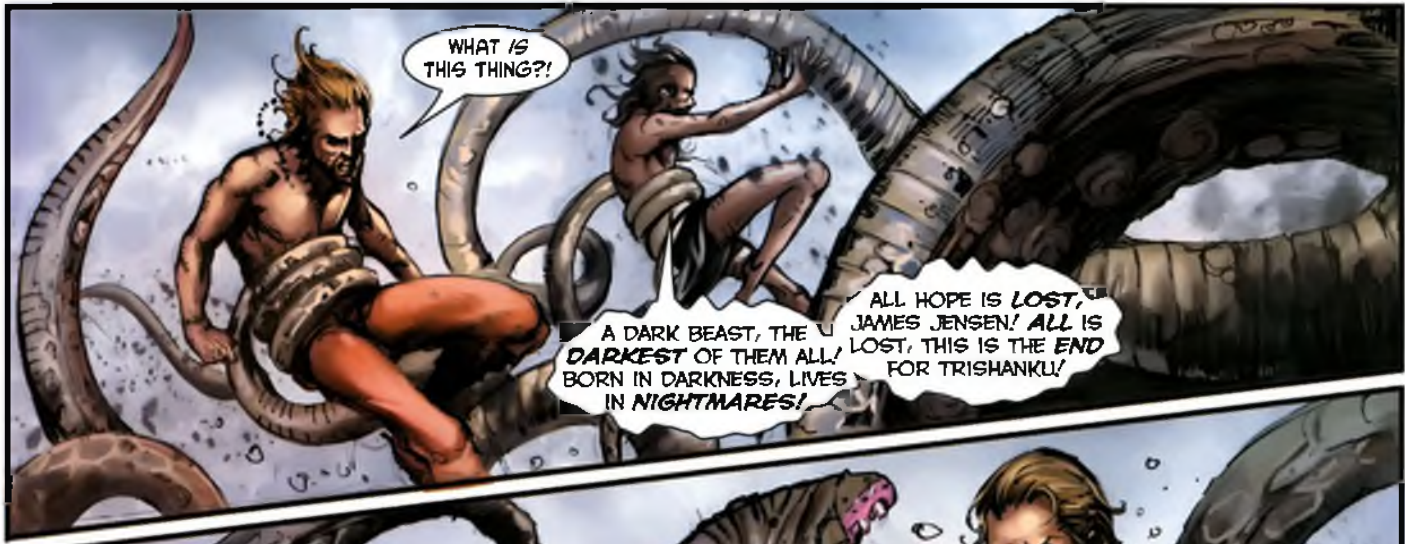


DAMNATION! TRISHANKU HAS FAILED THE SADHU!

THE TENTACLES COME, THE TENTACLES OF DARKNESS! RUN, O SADHU, FOR WHAT YOU SEE...



... IS THE
'MARE BEAST
OF ANDHAKAR!



WHAT IS THIS THING?!

A DARK BEAST, THE DARKEST OF THEM ALL! BORN IN DARKNESS, LIVES IN NIGHTMARES!

ALL HOPE IS LOST, JAMES JENSEN! ALL IS LOST, THIS IS THE END FOR TRISHANKU!



IT CANNOT END LIKE THIS, I HAVE TO SAVE JACK...



... AND NOTHING WILL BAR MY WAY!



NOT EVEN THIS INFERNAL BEAST!





WE MUST KEEP TRYING!



TRISHANKU HAS SEEN HIS DESTINY. HE IS WITH YOU ...



GODS...

... UNTIL THE VERY END.



NO!
I CAN'T
FAIL MY JACK
AGAIN!

THIS IS THE END,
THIS IS THE END,
THIS IS THE END...



TRISHANKU?
WHAT... WAS
THAT? DID YOU
DO THAT?

NO, TRISHANKU
DID NOT DO IT.
TRISHANKU WAS
PREPARING TO DIE.
SOMEONE ELSE
DID IT.

GOOD MAGIK,
TOUCHED BY LIGHT!
TRISHANKU FEELS IT,
STRONG MAGIK BLT
GOOD!



THAT WAS
MY DOING.

YOU ARE
THE ONES, I
PRESUME, WHO
SENT OUT THE
SUMMONING?

AND YOU
ARE...?



I AM XULI,
DAUGHTER OF THE
EVENSUNG, SONGSTRESS
OF THE SOUTHERN
SKIES.

I HEARD YOUR
SUMMONING, AND THUS I
HAVE COME TO FERRY
YOU ACROSS TO THE
MORTAL PLANE.

THAT *BEAST* TOO RESPONDED TO THE SUMMONING. HOW CAN WE TRUST YOU?

THE *BEAST* IS ONE OF THE MINDLESS LEVIATHANS THAT TRAWL THE DARKNESS WHICH BLEEDS BETWEEN REALITIES. IT SENGED A *WEAKNESS* IN THE FABRIC OF REALITY, AND IT PUSHED THROUGH.

IF IT WERE MY WISH TO INFLECT *HARM* UPON YOU, I WOULD HAVE LEFT YOU AT THE MERCY OF ITS TENTACLES RATHER THAN *INTERCEDING*.

I BEAR NO ILL-WILL TOWARDS YOU. YOU SUMMONED AND I CAME.

AS ONE BESTOWED WITH THE GIFT OF TRAVELING BEYOND REALMS, I AM BOUND BY THE ANCIENT *CODE OF WAYFARERS*. I MUST HEED THE SUMMONING OF THE MAROONED, AND LEND AID.

BUT EVEN THAT ASIDE, *THINK* FOR A MOMENT. WHAT *OTHER* MEANS DO YOU HAVE...

...OF ESCAPING THIS LIMBO?

NONE.

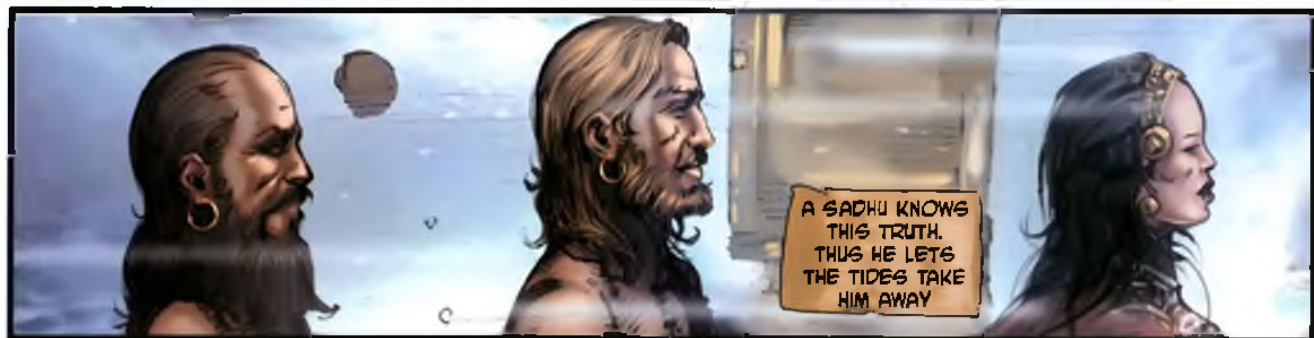
WE MUST MAKE HASTE. THE SUMMONING MIGHT HAVE ATTRACTED *OTHER* MONSTERS WORSE THAN THIS *BEAST*.

TRISHANKU, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, MY FRIEND. I MUST TAKE YOUR LEAVE NOW.

INDEED, NO!

TRISHANKU HAS SEEN HIS DESTINY IN THE MISTS. THE SADHU SHALL *NEED* HIM ON THE MORTAL PLANE.

TRISHANKU SHALL GO *WITH* THE SADHU TO RESCUE JACK JENSEN.



INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

Is it September already? Is the summer already gone? Wow—that was fast. Here at Virgin Comics, we've had a summer full of excitement, celebrating our one-year anniversary, finding new partners to play and create with, and building out our business so we have stuff to celebrate at our two-year anniversary and beyond.

Along the way, we've also been asking the oh-so-existential question: "who are we?"

You see, it's not just our own corporate adolescence we are dealing with, it's also the fact that, you, our audience, and even some of our partners, are asking that question in an effort to figure us out. We get that our projects aren't exactly classifiable into one overarching category. We generate stories that stem from great Asian mythos (*Ramayana 3392 AD, Devi*) and then tap into the creative minds of some of the coolest filmmakers and creators on the planet (Guy Ritchie's *Gamekeeper*, Dave Stewart's *Walk In*), churning out a fusion of eastern, western, and admittedly bizarre elements of storytelling. See, we're obsessed with funky stories and funky creative partners and resist anything that puts us in a box. So as we continue down this path of self-discovery, we search for more ways to expand our creative horizons to further perplex, inspire and excite our audiences, our partners and ourselves.

In that spirit, we've partnered with Studio 18, one of India's premiere film and television studios to create a line of graphic novels, as well as animation, games, and movies that cater to the teen horror genre. We thought it would be fitting to expand on our crazy fictional fantasies and delve into the wildly horrific, dark and twisted world of thrillers. For centuries India has enchanted the world with its entrancing and spiritually-minded stories, so it's about time we turned up the freak factor.

Eat the Dead, included in the following pages as a sneak peek, is the first from our India Horror imprint, the premiere of our truly "graphic" graphic novels. It's a story about what lurks in the shadows of our pasts, what happens when our karmic duties defy the laws of "humane" nature, and the dark deeds one must do to rectify their wrongs. And then, there's also one crazy looking beast of a woman who's not interested in playing nice. I won't tell you more, because it's wrong to ruin a great story, but I can say that this comic is a true testament to what we represent here at Virgin Comics... you'll never know what to expect next.

See you on the inside....

—The Chief
and the Virgin Comics Editorial Team



EAT THE DEAD



ON STANDS
SEPTEMBER 2007

EAT THE IDEAD™



ON STANDS
SEPTEMBER 2007

EAT THE DEAD



ON STANDS
SEPTEMBER 2007

ON STANDS NOVEMBER 2007

THE
SADHU

SPEARHEADED BY
RON MARZ

Virgin
COMICS

ISSUE 3

IN PRODUCTION AS A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING
NICOLAS CAGE AS THE SADHU.

THE SILENT ONES
3 OF 5

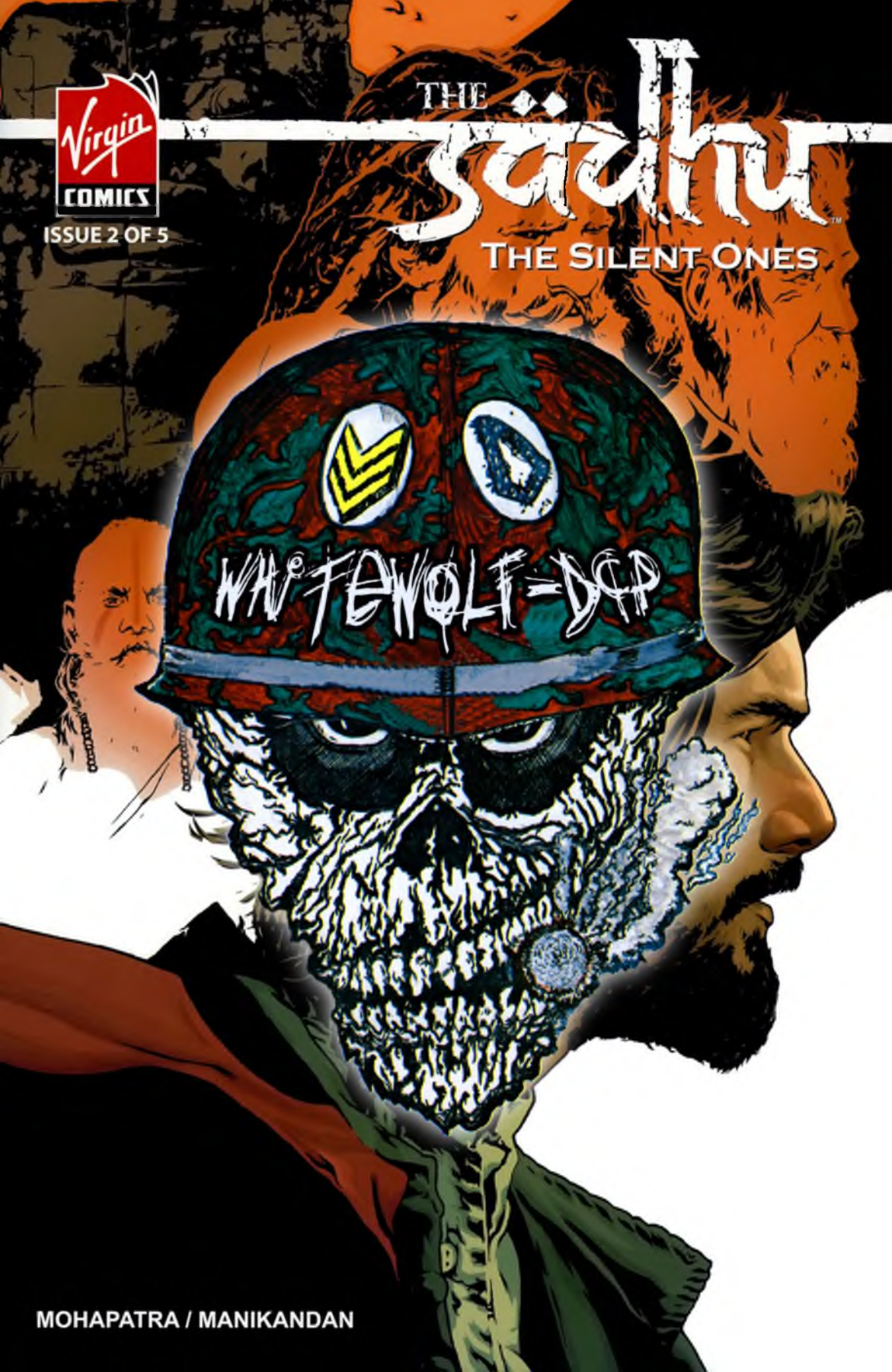


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THE

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THE SILENT ONES



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