



ISSUE 7

THE

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CHOPRA | MANIKANDAN

THE SADHU™

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DEEPAK CHOPRA, SHEKHAR KAPUR,
SIR RICHARD BRANSON

Script GOTHAM CHOPRA

Art R. MANIKANDAN

Color S. M. BHASKAR

Letters RAVIKIRAN B.S. & NILESH S. MAHADIK

Editorial Coordinator SANA AMANAT

Assistant Editor MAHESH KAMATH

Cover Art JEEVAN KANG & SUNDARAKANNAN

Special Thanks to

Frances Farrow, Dan Porter,
Christopher Linen, Peter Feldman,
Raju Puthukarai and Mallika Chopra

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Story so far...

Three Indian summers have passed with James Jensen training himself on the spiritual and warrior ways of the Sādhu at the hands of the enigmatic Dada Thakur. But now it appears that the time may have just led him to another crossroads. Will he use his newfound powers to further his spiritual oath? Or will he use them to assuage his long sequestered instinct for revenge on his enemies?

After recovering from a thrashing at the hands of his nemesis, Townsend, James leaves the professor's house to seemingly make another attempt at challenging Townsend. But as James leaves he's accompanied by Anna, the professor's daughter, who considers him a hero and wants him to not only take down Townsend, but his entire operation as well. Later, James manages to locate his brother William, and confronts him in an alley. William is ecstatic to see James,

but saddened by the news of Tess's death. Knowing well that William can take him to Townsend, James asks him just that. Upon William's refusal, James bids him goodbye, and begins a one man war against Townsend by trashing one of his gambling houses and announcing his intentions to destroy Townsend.

James is then viciously attacked by Townsend's thugs, but successfully defends himself, largely due to Dada Thakur's training. All the attackers are duly dismissed by James, and the events of the evening culminate with a visit by William to James' old flat. William begs James to escape, but James refuses.

Stating that it is his destiny, James ends the conversation by asserting his hellbent desire to meet Townsend in one final battle to the finish.





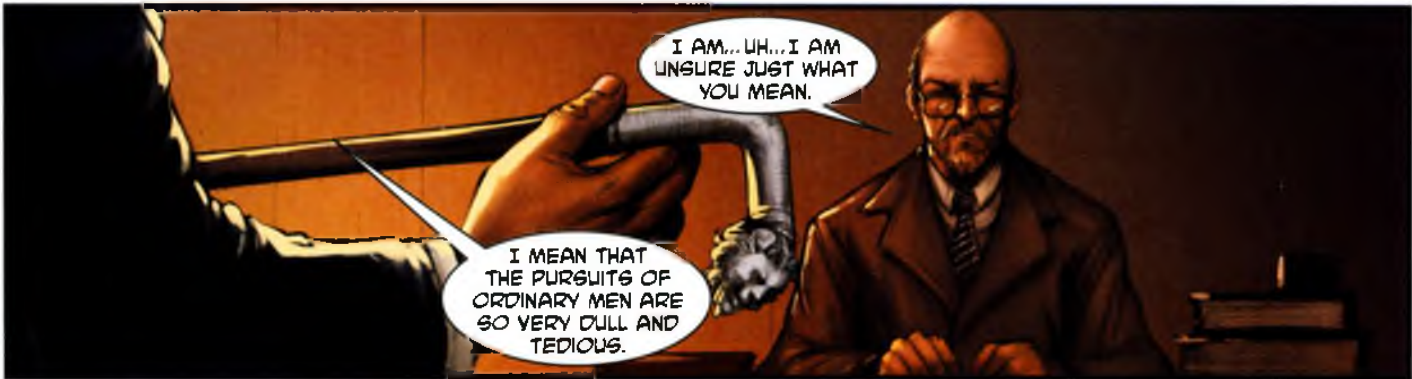
THE EXPLOITS OF MEN ARE GENERALLY SO MUNDANE. SO FULL OF SOUND AND FURY, POMP AND PAGEANTRY. WE WANDER HERE AND THERE, TOIL AWAY OUR TIME, DO WHAT WE MUST TO MAKE OURSELVES FEEL RELEVANT.

ALL IN A DESPERATE CHASE TO FEEL SOME SENSE OF MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE.





WOULD YOU AGREE PROFESSOR?

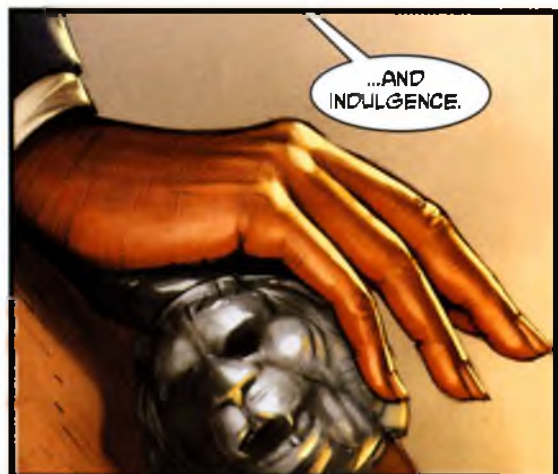


I AM... UH... I AM UNSURE JUST WHAT YOU MEAN.

I MEAN THAT THE PURSUITS OF ORDINARY MEN ARE SO VERY DULL AND TEDIOUS.



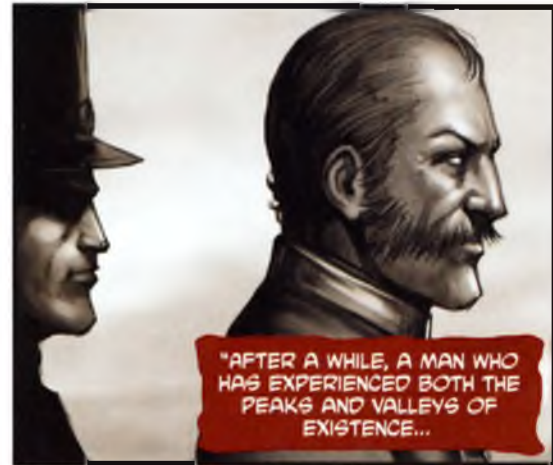
THERE IS NO GLORY IN A LIFE LIVED WITHOUT INSIGHT AND REFLECTION, WITHOUT SACRIFICE, TEMPTATION...



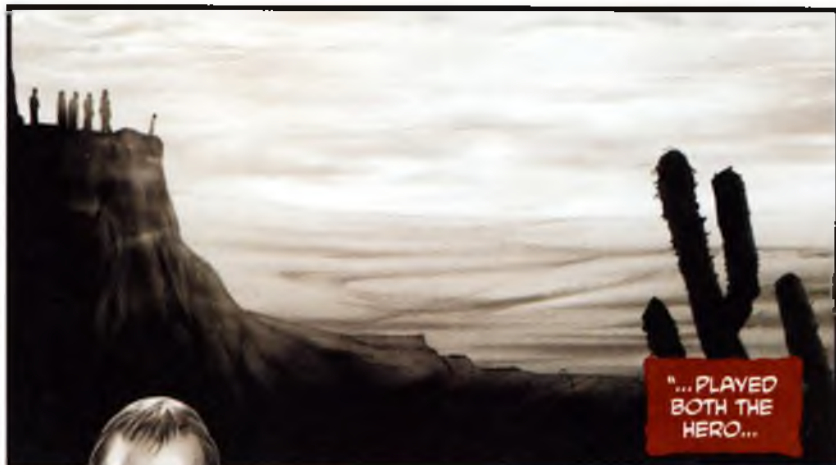
...AND INDULGENCE.



AND EVEN THEN, ONE MUST JUST SIT BACK AND REFLECT.



"AFTER A WHILE, A MAN WHO HAS EXPERIENCED BOTH THE PEAKS AND VALLEYS OF EXISTENCE...




"...PLAYED BOTH THE HERO...



"...AND VILLAIN..."




" WE REALIZED THERE IS A FINE LINE THAT SEPARATES THE TWO."




"YOU SEE WHEN I FIRST LEFT LONDON, I ACTUALLY BELIEVED I WAS ON A MISSION FOR HER MAJESTY."



"I BELIEVED IN CROWN AND COUNTRY."



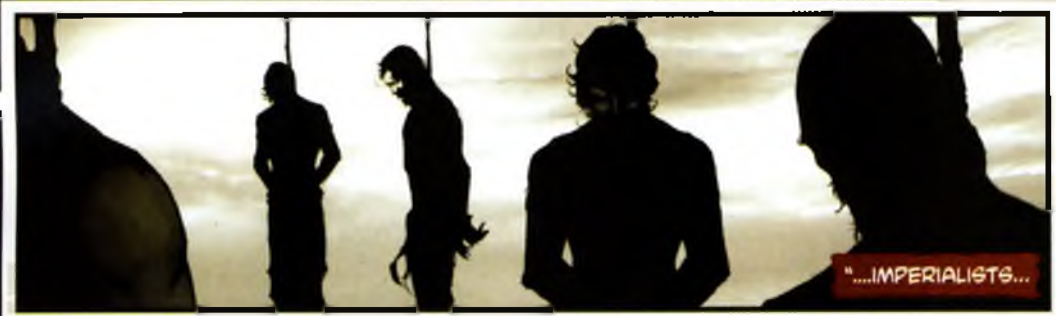
"I EVEN BELIEVED WE COULD BE OF SERVICE TO THE NATIVES AND SHOW THEM THE WAYS OF THE MODERN WORLD..."



"BUT THEN REALITY INTERVENED, INTRUDED UPON WHATEVER STERILE EXPLANATION WE HAD BOUGHT INTO."



"SOLDIERS..."



"...IMPERIALISTS..."



"...TERRORISTS..."



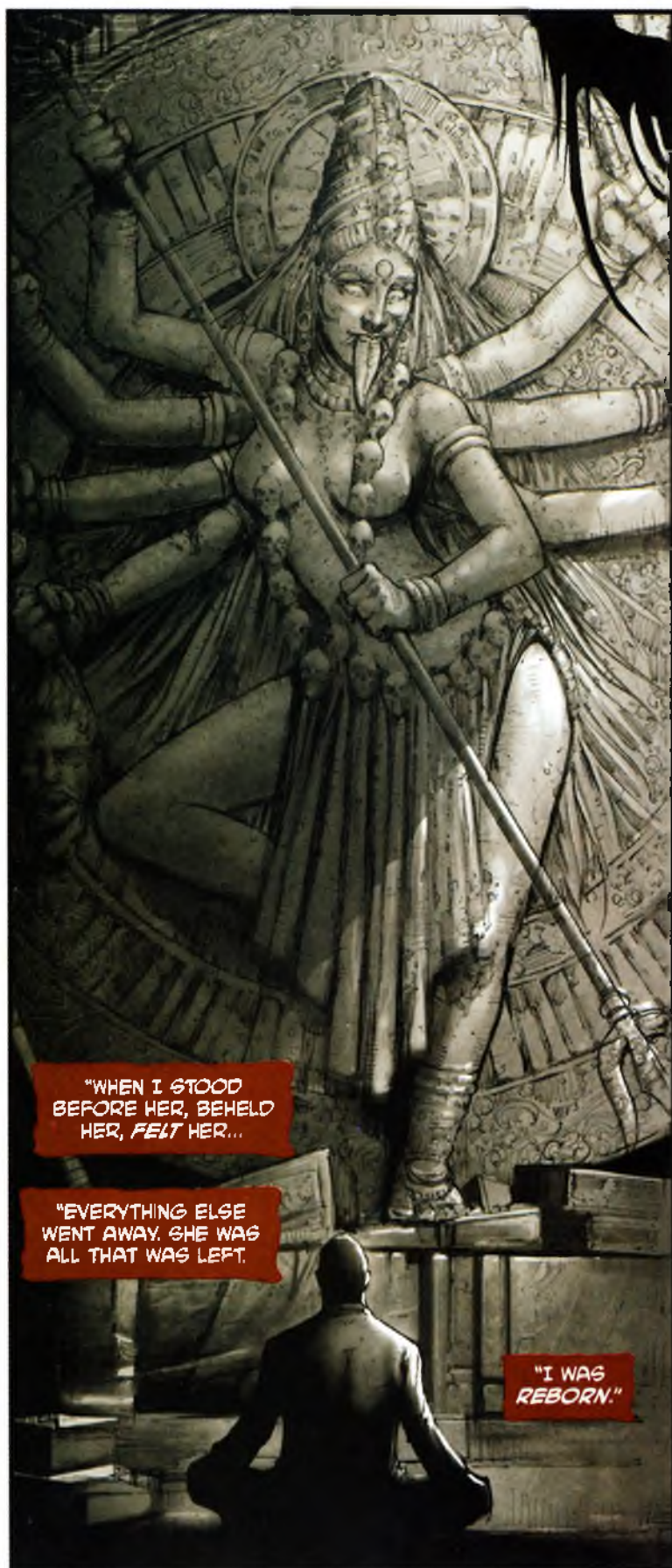
"... FREEDOM FIGHTERS..."



"IT ALL BECAME RATHER MURKY..."



"SO YOU SEE, WHEN I
STUMBLED UPON
THAT TEMPLE..."



"WHEN I STOOD
BEFORE HER, BEHELD
HER, FELT HER..."

"EVERYTHING ELSE
WENT AWAY. SHE WAS
ALL THAT WAS LEFT."

"I WAS
REBORN."

"I BECAME
INTOXICATED WITH
HER.



"AND ALL OF A
SUDDEN I COULD
HEAR THINGS IN
SUCH DETAIL...



"I COULD SEE FAR
BEYOND ANY
ORDINARY MAN.



"I HAD INEXPLICABLE
POWERS THAT NONE
OTHER HAD."





"WHEN I RETURNED TO LONDON, DEALING WITH THE DREGS OF THIS CITY, MANIPULATING THEM, WAS LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY."



"I HAD MORE MONEY THAN EVER BEFORE... BUT I NEEDED SOMETHING MORE."



YOU DON'T BELONG 'ERE, MATE!

IT'S A PRIVATE CLUB IS WHAT IT IS.

SO I SUGGEST YOU SCRAM!



I'M AFRAID I CANNOT COMPLY WITH YOUR REQUEST.



THEN, SORRY MATE!

TOO LATE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND!



PINNNGG



BLOODY 'ELL.



'E'S THE BLOODY DEVIL IS WHAT 'E IS.

LET'S GET THE 'ELL OUTTA 'ERE!



SORRY MATES... TOO LATE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.

"IN THIS TOWN, WORD
GETS AROUND PRETTY
FAST WHO'S THE NEW
BOSS.



"ESPECIALLY WHEN
THEY ARE SO VERY
TERRIFIED OF HIM.



"IN NO TIME FLAT,
I CONTROLLED
THIS TOWN."






SO WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF MY STORY,
PROFESSOR.

I THINK YOU'VE
BEEN ON QUITE THE
ADVENTURE. YOU'VE
TAKEN IN SOMETHING
VERY POWERFUL WITH NO
GUIDANCE AT ALL. HENCE,
I SHOULD WARN
YOU...



WARN ME?
WHATEVER
OF?




...THAT YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF
THE POWER THAT YOU POSSESS.
AND WHILE YOU MAY THINK IT GRANTS
YOU GREAT POWER OVER OTHERS,
ITS DESTRUCTIVE POWERS OVER
YOU COULD EMERGE AT
ANY MOMENT.



THAT'S SAGE ADVICE,
PROFESSOR. I DO APPRECIATE
IT. THOUGH IT'S NOT WHY I
ASKED YOU HERE. I ACTUALLY
WANTED TO THANK YOU.

THANK ME?
FOR WHAT?



YOU'RE GOING TO
HELP ME KILL JAMES
JENSEN.

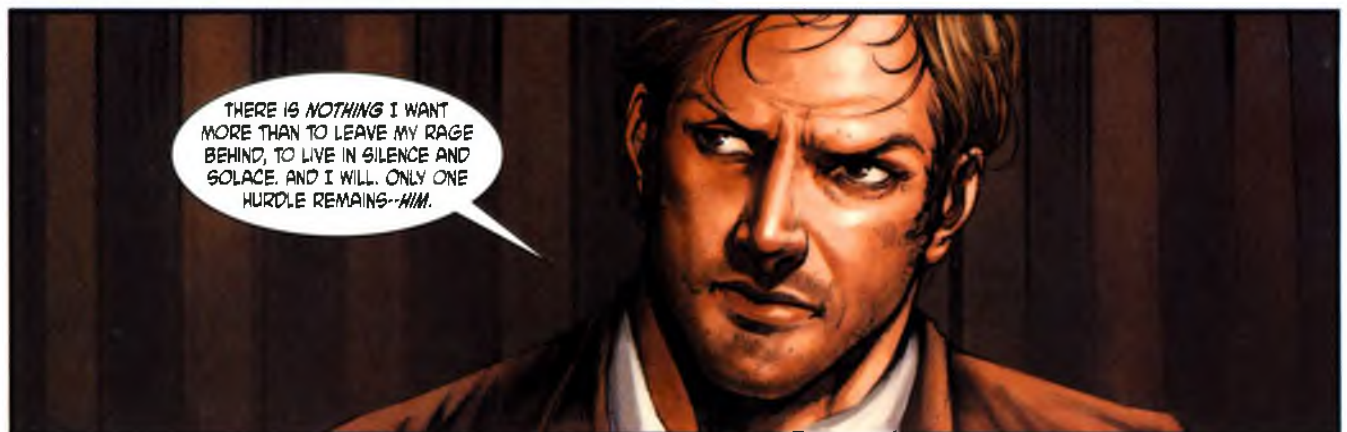


HE'S AN EVIL MAN, JAMES. HE KNOWS NO MERCY.

I ASSURE YOU, WILL, I NEED NO REMINDER OF THAT.



DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BROTHER, BUT ARE YOU NOT BETTER OFF LETTING GO OF YOUR ANGER, MOURNING TESS AND JACK, AND AVOIDING YOUR OWN DOWNFALL?



THERE IS *NOTHING* I WANT MORE THAN TO LEAVE MY RAGE BEHIND, TO LIVE IN SILENCE AND SOLACE. AND I WILL. ONLY ONE HURDLE REMAINS--*HIM*.

WHERE HAS HE ASKED YOU TO BRING ME? TELL ME WHAT TO EXPECT.

"HE'S GOT A HOME IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS."

"A PRODUCT OF ALL HIS WEALTH."

"HE HAS A SECRET GUARD THAT PROTECTS THE PLACE. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING OF ENORMOUS VALUE INSIDE."



"JAMES, THE ONLY FOLKS INVITED UP TO TOWNSEND'S ESTATE, ARE THE ONES WHO NEVER COME BACK."



PLEASE, SIR!
I PROMISE NOT TO
DO IT AGAIN. I HAD
NO OTHER WAY. MY
FAMILY... T-THEY...



OH OKAY,
IF THAT'S YOUR
EXCUSE. I MEAN, I
SUPPOSE IF YOU
PROMISE...



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! I
SWEAR SIR...

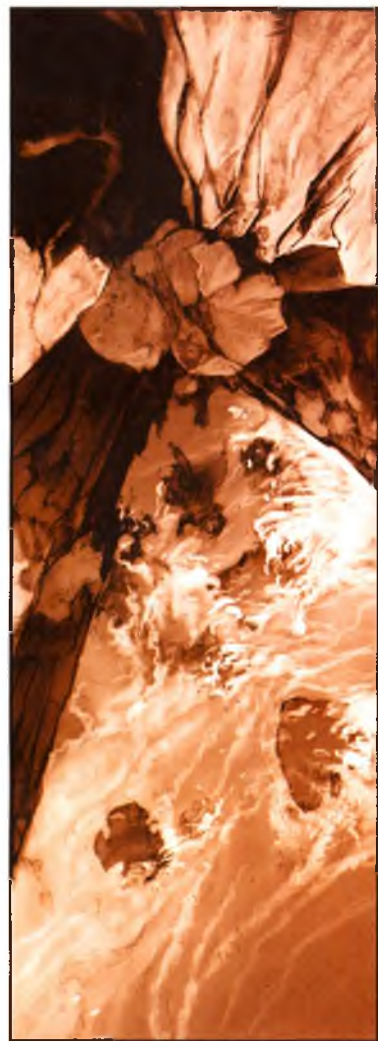


ACTUALLY...

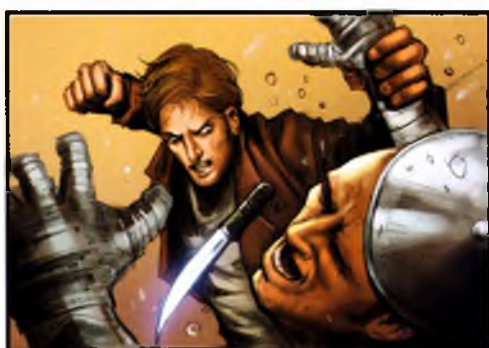


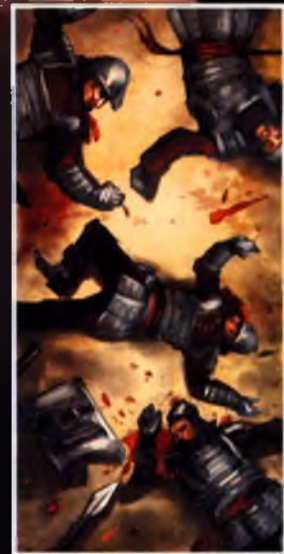
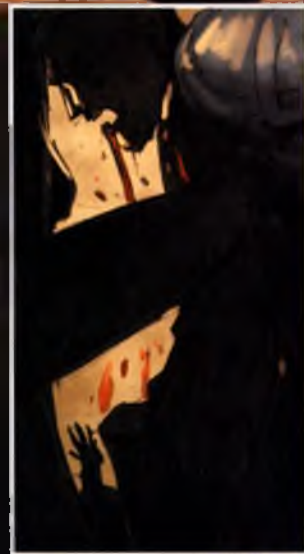
... I CHANGED
MY MIND!

AHHHH...











NO OFFENSE BROTHER, BUT IT'S NOT QUITE THE WELCOME I EXPECTED.

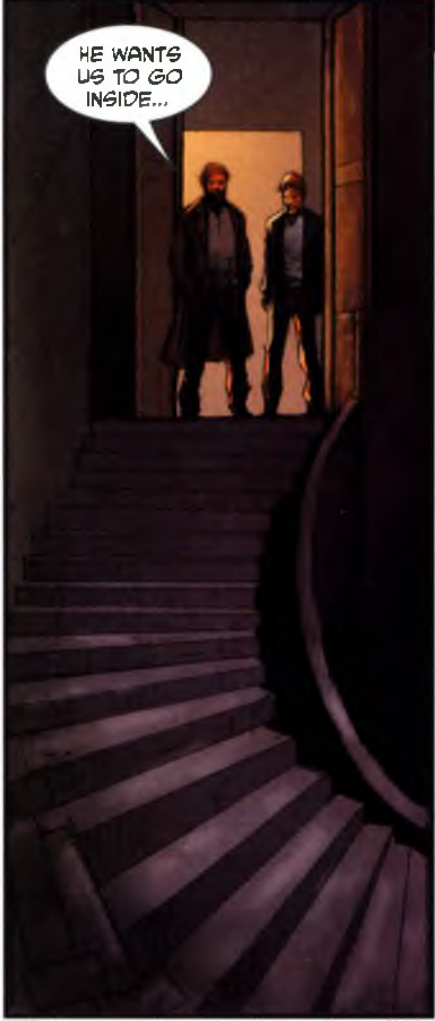
THAT WAS JUST TO GET OUR ATTENTION.



WELL, CONSIDER IT GOTTEN.

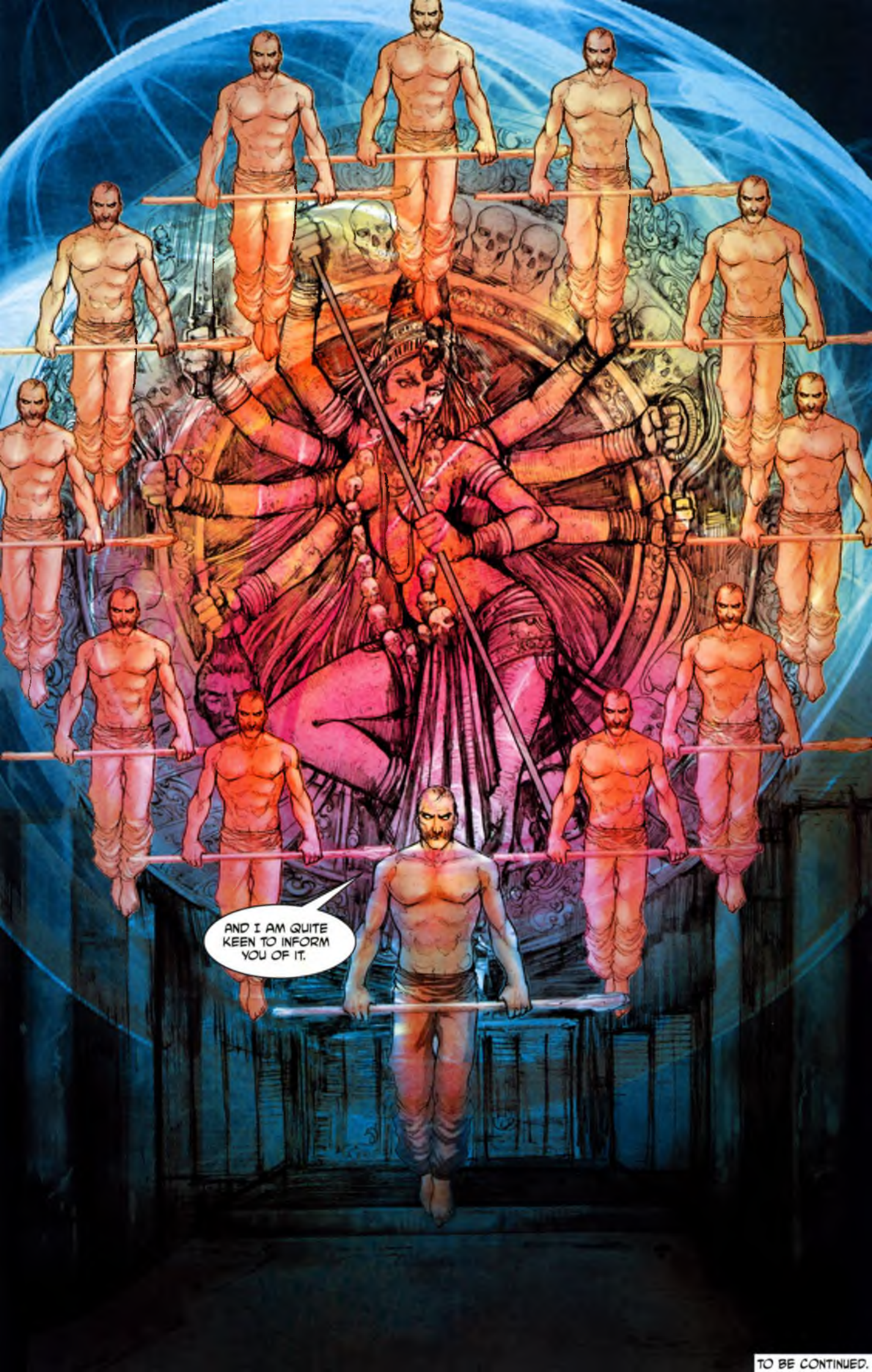


YOU SEEM TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING.



HE WANTS US TO GO INSIDE...





AND I AM QUITE KEEN TO INFORM YOU OF IT.

INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

BLUE IS THE NEW BLACK

INDIA AUTHENTIC

They're a motley crew, our Indian Gods. You've seen them, the ones with blue skin, with multiple arms, and the occasional animal head in place of a human one. Together they create a pantheon that ranges broadly (depending on who you ask), from a couple dozen to a few hundred to thirty-three million (according to a certain passage in a certain scripture). On the other hand, if you read the small print, some scholars and sages will proclaim there is actually only one Supreme Being and the other thirty-odd million are just different facets of the one. Go figure.

The point is, even if you're an expert on Indian Gods, you'll never know it all. But to begin chipping away at this pantheon is well worth the effort. This May, Virgin Comics will launch a series of comic books entitled **India Authentic**. It is not meant to be the definitive anthology of Indian mythology, but rather an exploration of the many gods, kings and legends that we think are the most compelling stories of our culture. As it is with all the Virgin titles, our goal with this series is to do something fresh, offering readers a glimpse of a world that they don't often see. We're calling it "authentic" because it is our intention to present the tales as faithfully as we can so that our readers can experience the characters and stories in all their glory.

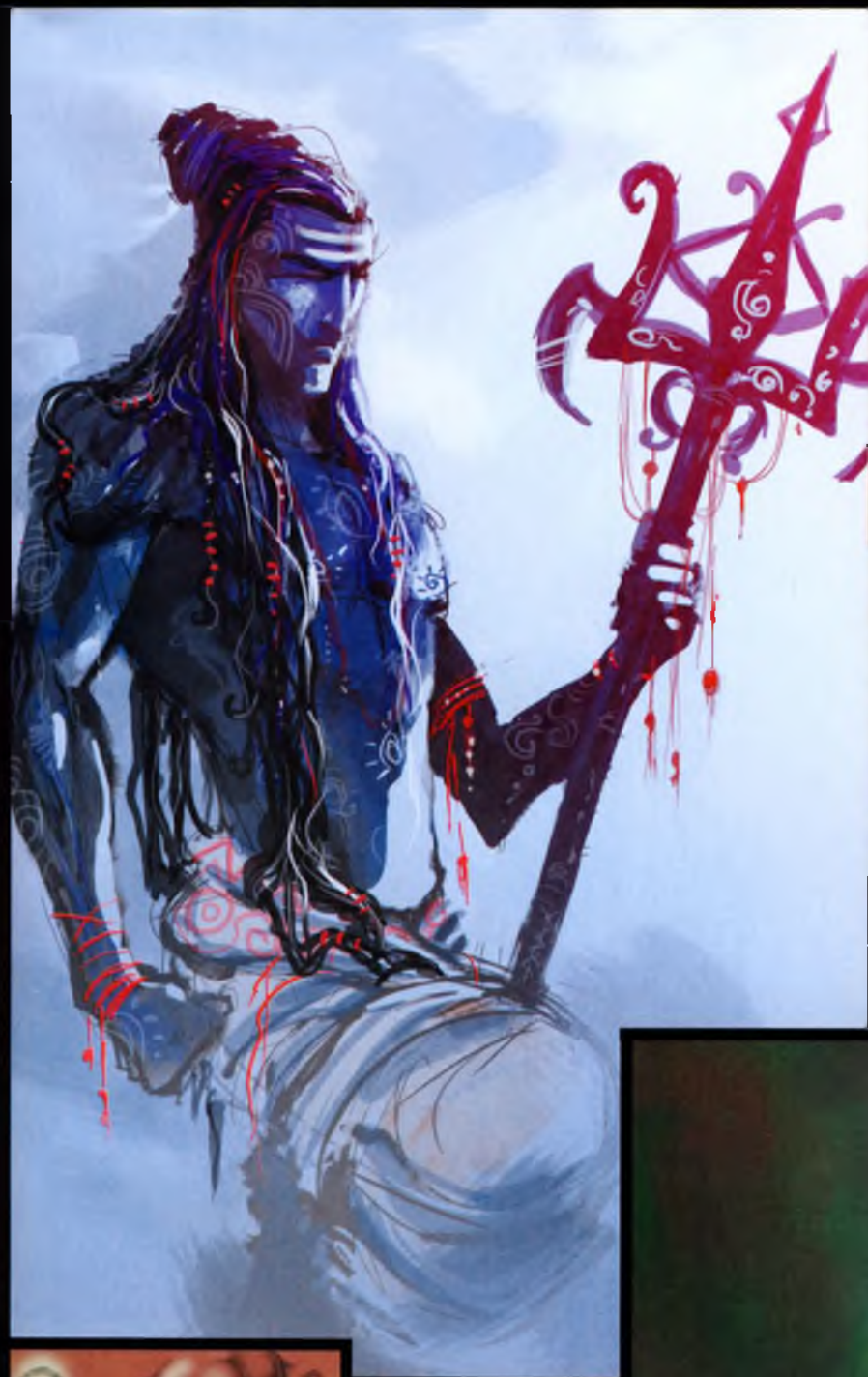
So check out this new series, coming to your local comic shop and Virgin Megastore this May. We hope you enjoy it!

GOTHAM CHOPRA
Editor-in-Chief

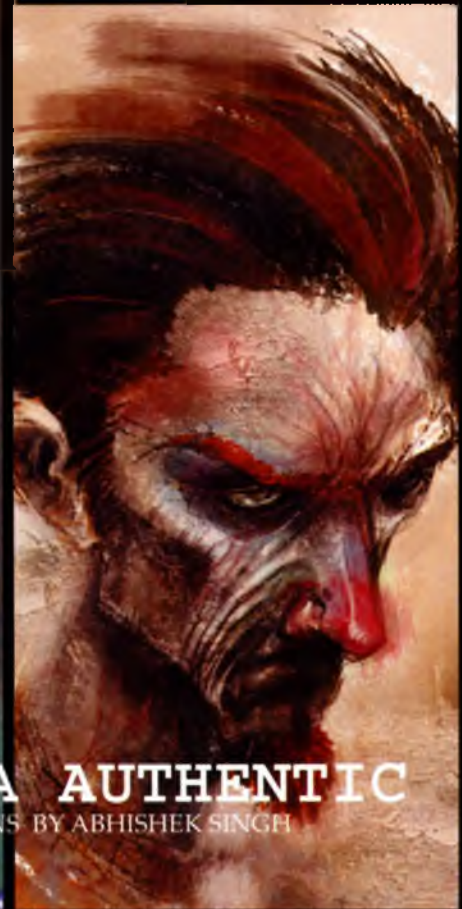
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Publisher

SURESH SEETHARAMAN
President





INDIA AUTHENTIC
EXPLORATIONS BY ABHISHEK SINGH



INDIA AUTHENTIC
EXPLORATIONS BY ABHISHEK SINGH



INDIA AUTHENTIC
EXPLORATIONS BY ABHISHEK SINGH

A hand holding a large, ornate axe with a glowing aura. The axe has a circular emblem on its head and a long handle. The background is dark with a glowing white outline around the axe and hand.

WHITEWOLF-DCP

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