



DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

indian authentic™

LAKSHMI



MOHAPATRA/SWAPNIL

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS **india authentic™**

LAKSHMI



CREATED BY DEEPAK CHOPRA
SCRIPT SAURAV MOHAPATRA
ART SWAPNIL SINGH
INKS JYOTSNA V. DOMSE
COLOR K. GOPALAKRISHNAN
LETTERS RAVIKIRAN B.S.
COVER ART ABHISHEK MALSUNI
PROJECT MANAGER SANDEEP NAIR
EDITOR MARIAH HUEHNER

II VIRGIN COMICS II

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PUBLISHER
SHARAD DEVARAJAN
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
GOTHAM CHOPRA
PRESIDENT & STUDIO CHIEF
SURESH SEETHARAMAN
CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER
LARRY LIEBERMAN
SRVP STUDIO
JEEVAN KANG
VICE PRESIDENT-OPERATIONS
ALAGAPPAN KANNAN
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
MACKENZIE CADENHEAD
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
NEIL MARKS
CHIEF VISIONARIES
DEEPAK CHOPRA, SHEKHAR KAPUR,
SIR RICHARD BRANSON
SPECIAL THANKS TO
FRANCES FARROW, DAN PORTER,
CHRISTOPHER LINEN, PETER FELDMAN,
RAJU PUTHUKARAI, MALLIKA CHOPRA,
JONATHAN PEACHEY.

INDIA AUTHENTIC #13, MAY 2008 published by VIRGIN COMICS L.L.C. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 594 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. Copyright ©2008, Virgin Comics L.L.C. All Rights Reserved. The characters included in this issue, LAKSHMI, and the distinctive likenesses thereof are properties of Virgin Comics L.L.C. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in Canada.

For advertising, licensing and sales info please contact:
info@virgincomics.com or (212) 584-4040. www.virgincomics.com

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *indian*
authentic™

LAKSHMI

In the Hindu pantheon perhaps the most revered goddess is Lakshmi; daughter of the Ocean and Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. The story goes that gods and demons, working together, churned the primordial ocean, and that great marine heart bestowed upon them gifts from her very bosom, each more grandiose and magnificent than the last. The most beautiful among them was Lakshmi, the betrothed bride of Vishnu.

It's easy to classify Lakshmi as just the goddess of "material" riches and Indian mythology is rife with famous *oneup(wo)manship* stories between Lakshmi representing wealth and Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning. But if one pauses but to look and think, there is another dimension to her.





She represents achievement and endowment. Industry and perseverance are the twin offerings she adores the most. In Lakshmi, we find a felicitation of the long hard road that one walks before achieving one's goal. She is as much the goddess of the journey towards it as she is the keeper of the prize at the conclusion, the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. She is the celebration of the human will to achieve great things and the inspiration to toil hard and never let adversities stand in one's way.

THE OCEAN,
MY MOTHER.

THE DEPTHS,
MY WOMB.

THE SWEET
SOUND OF THE
WAVES...

...MY
LULLABY.

THUS, I WAS
CONCEIVED.



THUS, WAS
I BORN.



I ROSE,
CARRESSED BY THE
WAVES INTO THE
WORLD ABOVE.



JUST LIKE MY
BROTHER, THE MOON,
BEFORE ME...

...A GIFT FROM MY MOTHER,
FOR THE WORLD OF MEN AND
GODS. I WAS TO BE
BETROTHED TO VISHNU,
THE HOLY PRESERVER.

LAKSHMI, DAUGHTER
OF THE OCEAN,
SISTER TO THE
MOON.



WELCOME, LAKSHMI. WE THANK THE OCEAN FOR GIVING YOU UNTO US.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BOUNTY YOUR MOTHER HAS BESTOWED UPON US OVER THE AGES, YOU ARE TO BE THE GODDESS OF WEALTH AND PROSPERITY, TO BE WORSHIPPED TILL THE END OF TIME...



...ALONG WITH YOUR CHOSEN HUSBAND, LORD VISHNU, THE PRESERVER.



HERE, FROM ALL OF US IN SVARGA IS A HUMBLE GIFT FOR THE PRESERVER AND HIS BRIDE...

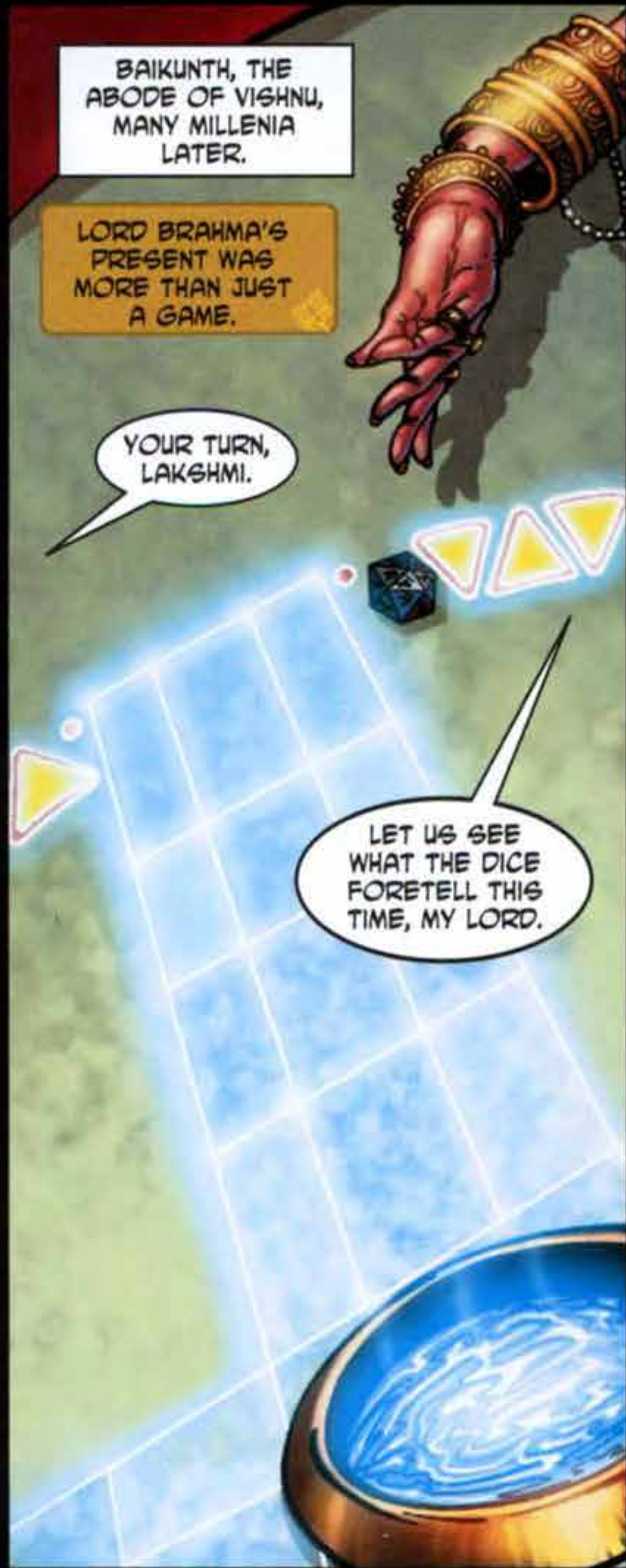
LORD BRAHMA, WHAT IS THIS?



CRAFTED BY VISHWAKARMA HIMSELF AND BLESSED BY THE ELDER GODS, WHAT YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND, GODDESS...



...IS THE GAME OF DESTINY, AN ENGINE OF FATE.



BAIKUNTH, THE
ABODE OF VISHNU,
MANY MILLENNIA
LATER.

LORD BRAHMA'S
PRESENT WAS
MORE THAN JUST
A GAME.

YOUR TURN,
LAKSHMI.

LET US SEE
WHAT THE DICE
FORETELL THIS
TIME, MY LORD.



IT WAS, IN A WAY, A
TOOL FOR MY DUTIES
AS THE GODDESS OF
WEALTH AND FORTUNE.

AH, THE
OMENS AUGUR
WELL, LORD
VISHNU.



THE DICE
SPEAK OF
PROSPERITY.



LAKSHMI, IN ALL
THESE YEARS OF US PLAYING
THIS GAME, HAVE YOU NOT
LEARNED THE SIMPLEST
OF TRUTHS YET?



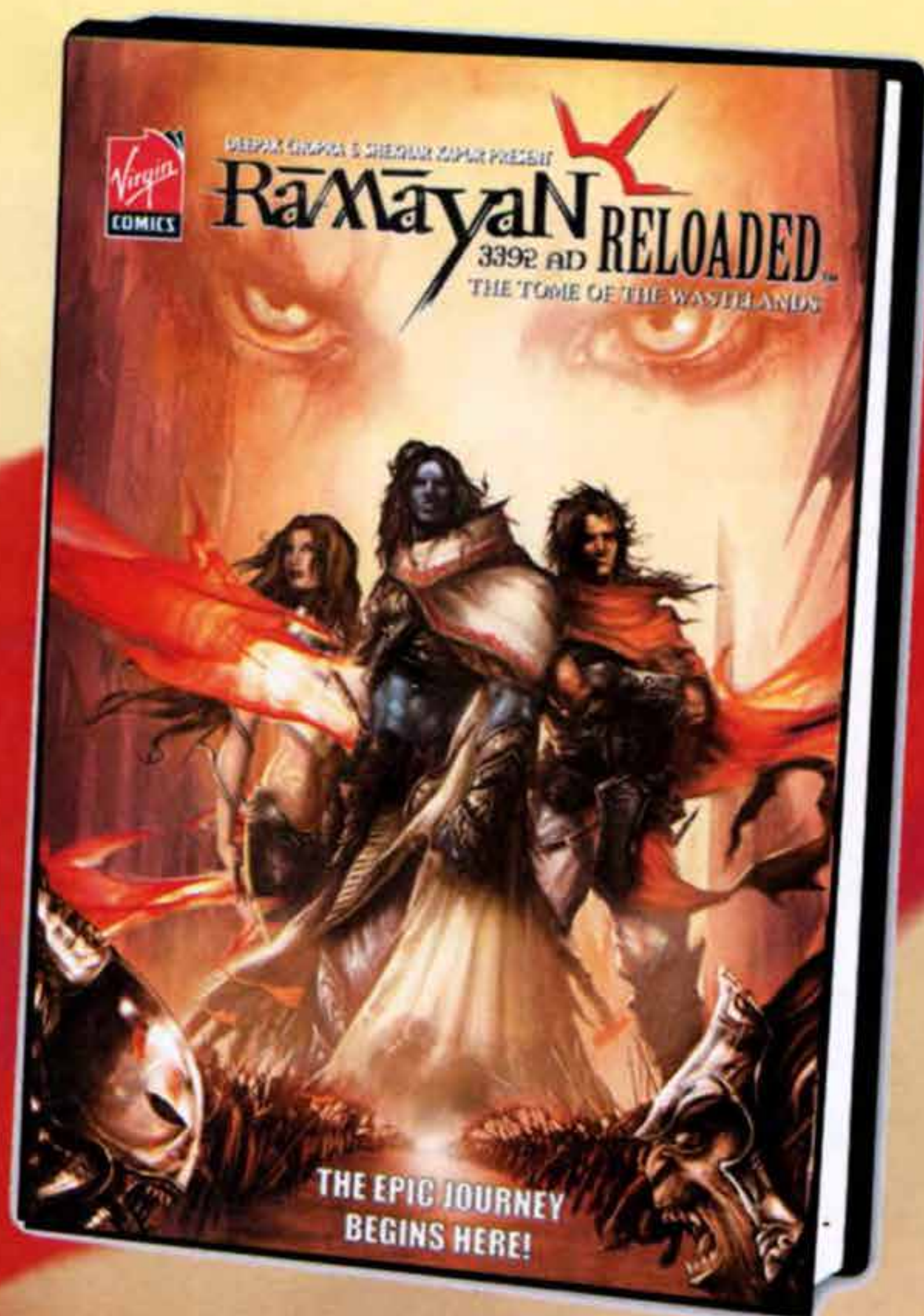
"INDIA'S ANSWER TO LORD OF THE RINGS"

—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...



Also
Available



Cover by
Alex Ross



VIRGINCOMICSSTORE.COM

© 2008 VIRGIN COMICS LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.





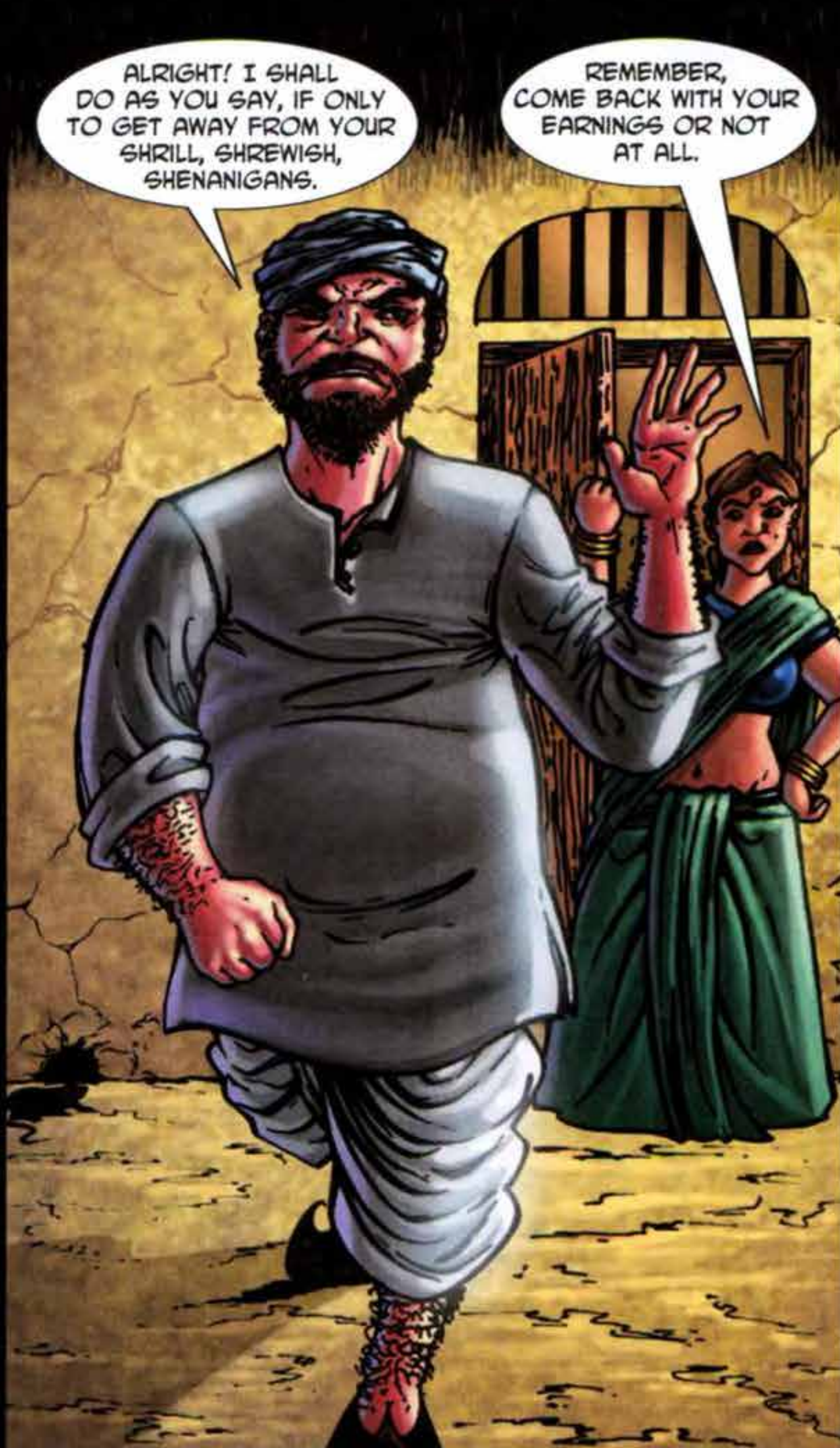
AHH, THOSE IDIOTS. LISTEN, AN ASTROLOGER TOLD ME LAST WEEK I AM TO COME BY GREAT RICHES TODAY.

SHUT UP!



STOP MOANING ABOUT THE PIPEDREAMS THE ASTROLOGER FED YOU. GO TO THE CITY AND FIND SOME WORK!

OR ELSE!



ALRIGHT! I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY, IF ONLY TO GET AWAY FROM YOUR SHRILL, SHREWISH, SHENANIGANS.

REMEMBER, COME BACK WITH YOUR EARNINGS OR NOT AT ALL.



STUPID WOMAN CAWING LIKE A RAVEN. ONCE MY FORTUNE SMILES TODAY, PERHAPS IT WILL BE TIME FOR A SECOND MARRIAGE.



LORD VISHNU, IT BEGINS.



PATIENCE,
LAKSHMI.



THERE
ARE YET
MANY TURNS
LEFT.



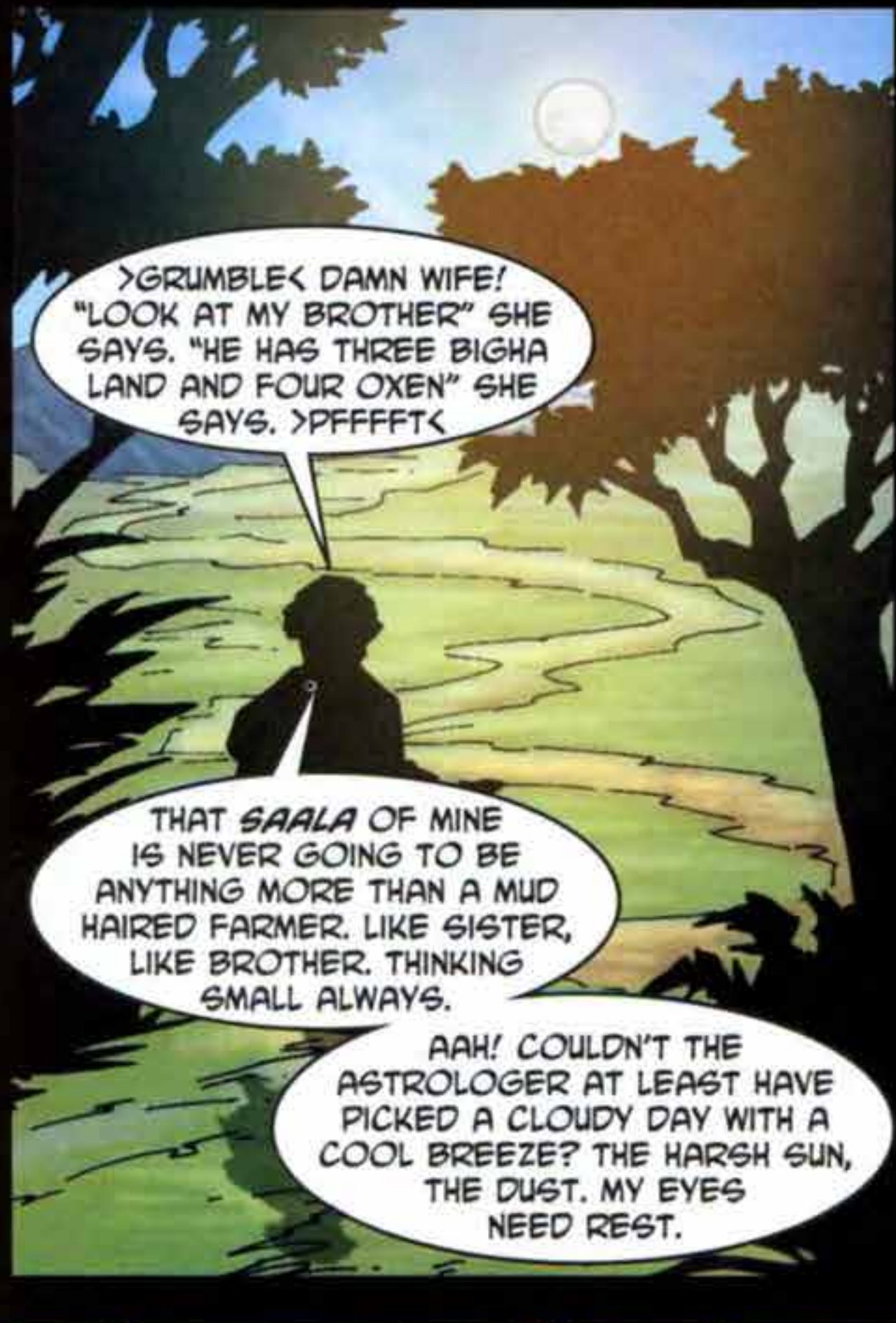
BUT MY LIEGE,
THE DICE NEVER
LIE. THIS MAN IS
DESTINED TO
RECEIVE GREAT
RICHES.



ALL THE DICE
DO, MY LOVE, IS
TO TELL US OF AN
ALIGNMENT.



THE ALLURE OF
THE GAME IS THAT IT IS
THEN LEFT TO THE SPIRIT OF
THE SUBJECT. THE ELEMENT OF
"FREE WILL" IS WHAT
MAKES THIS GAME SO
INTERESTING.



>GRUMBLE< DAMN WIFE!
"LOOK AT MY BROTHER" SHE
SAYS. "HE HAS THREE BIGHA
LAND AND FOUR OXEN" SHE
SAYS. >PFFFFT<

THAT SAALA OF MINE
IS NEVER GOING TO BE
ANYTHING MORE THAN A MUD
HAIRD FARMER. LIKE SISTER,
LIKE BROTHER. THINKING
SMALL ALWAYS.

AAH! COULDN'T THE
ASTROLOGER AT LEAST HAVE
PICKED A CLOUDY DAY WITH A
COOL BREEZE? THE HARSH SUN,
THE DUST. MY EYES
NEED REST.



AHA! WHAT
A BRILLIANT
IDEA!



I HAVE WALKED THIS
PATH MANY TIMES BEFORE. I KNOW
IT SO WELL THAT I CAN REST MY EYES
AND WALK IT AT THE SAME TIME.



WHY DIDN'T
I THINK OF THIS
BEFORE?



WELL, NO
HARM DONE. I DID
THINK OF THE IDEA
ULTIMATELY AND THAT
IS WHAT MATTERS.



THE NEW VIRGINCOMICS.COM IS HERE

Virgin COMICS

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT
Ramayana RELOADED
3392 AD
Trade Paperbacks On Sale Now

About Us | Featured Titles | Blog | Digital Comics | Videos | Community | Gallery | Extras | Store

SEARCH
Sign Up for Virgin Comics Newsletter

FEATURED TITLES

DAN DARE

Jenna Jameson's Shadow Hunter #2
Sexy, Powerful, Deadly

The Stranded #4
What If Your Entire Life Was a Lie?

Deepak Chopra's Buddha #2
A Story of Enlightenment

BLOG

Recent Posts

Virgin Comics Blog
STAN LEE TO CREATE NEW SUPERHERO UNIVERSE FOR VIRGIN COMICS!!!
YES, YOU READ RIGHT! We're extremely honored to announce that Stan Lee, the living legend of comics, and creator of titles such as Spider-Man, Fantastic Four, X-Men, and Hulk has found a new home to create his next epic universe of superheroes. No one has created perennial superheroes and defined global popular culture like Stan [...]

MySpaceTV Showcases Guy Ritchie's Gamekeeper Trailer on Homepage
The animated trailer for Guy Ritchie's Gamekeeper has been selected as featured content on MySpaceTV, the viral video community of MySpace. Concurrently, the trailer is also the Featured Video of the social networking site's comic book community, MySpace Comic Books.

Marc Guggenheim talks NOWHERE MAN
Marc Guggenheim, writer of Hugh Jackman's Nowhere Man shares his thoughts on story concepts and themes: "It's basically a science fiction book, set in the far future and it deals, essentially, with the Patriot Act on steroids, but in [...]"

More Posts

WIDESCREEN DIGITAL COMICS

EXTRAS CONTEST : **DAN DARE**
The Legendary Hero
Tell us why Dan Dare is your hero and win a limited edition Dan Dare lithograph signed by Garth Ennis
ENTER NOW

COMMUNITY

SPEAK OUT!
Interact with fans and creators on the Virgin Comics message boards
Join the conversation

SHAKTI **DIRECTOR'S CUT** **VOICES** **VIRGIN COMICS/SCI FI**

STAY UPDATED
ON OUR LATEST
RELEASES

LATEST NEWS!
UPDATED DAILY!

VIEW OUR
SIGNATURE
WIDESCREEN
DIGITAL
COMICS

EXCLUSIVE
CONTESTS,
DOWNLOADS
& MORE

PLUS...

ART GALLERY, TRAILERS, SKETCHBOOKS, VIRGIN COMICS STORE,
AND MUCH MORE...





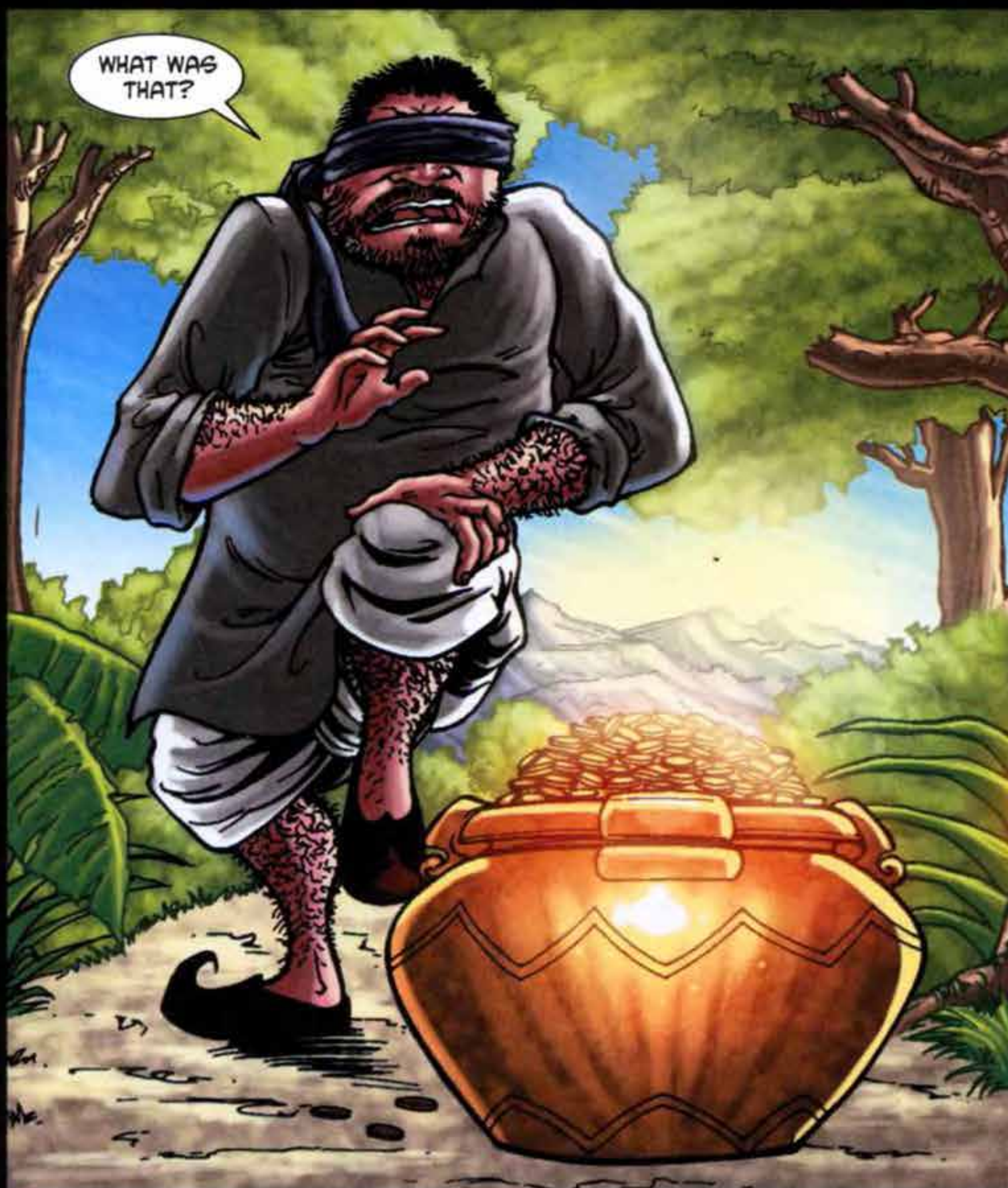
I SEE YOU'VE DOUBLED YOUR BET, LAKSHMI.



YES, I HAVE MADE THE PRIZE BIG ENOUGH SO THAT EVEN OUR SIMPLETON CANNOT MISS IT.



AAAAHHHHH!



WHAT WAS THAT?



WHY DOESN'T THE KING TAKE CARE OF THE ROADS OF HIS KINGDOM? LITTERED WITH ROCKS THEY ARE.



MY GOD! THAT IS A HUGE ONE. PERHAPS I SHOULD MOVE IT OFF THE ROAD.



AH! WHY BOTHER! TOO MUCH WORK.



LET THE NEXT PERSON WHO COMES ALONG DO IT.



THE FOOL REFUSES TO SEE WHAT I PLACE IN HIS VERY PATH.

THE FAIREST OF FORTUNE IS READY TO SHOWER RICHES ON HIM, YET HE HIDES UNDER THE IMMENSE ROCK OF HIS OWN IDIOCY.



LAKSHMI, YOU STILL HAVE ONE TURN LEFT AS MANDATED BY THE GAME. WHY NOT GIVE IT YOUR BEST EFFORT?



DO I DETECT A HINT OF SARCASM IN MY LORD'S VOICE?

A LITTLE, BUT PLEASE DO CONTINUE MY LOVE. THIS IS INDEED THE MOST INTERESTING ROUND IN ALL THE ONES WE HAVE PLAYED SO FAR.



"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

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*)

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

—Desicritics.com



Also Available



HE HAS GIVEN UP SO
VERY CLOSE TO THE
RICHES THAT ARE HIS
BY DESTINY.



HAVE HEART, MY
DEAR LAKSHMI. LET THE
GAME PLAY OUT
THIS ROUND.



IT IS THE COSMIC
BALANCE, LAKSHMI. NO
AMOUNT OF GOOD
FORTUNE CAN GUARANTEE
ACHIEVEMENT, UNLESS
ONE HAS THE WILL TO
TOIL FOR IT.



MY LORD
IS INDEED
WISE.



AHA! PERHAPS
THE RICHES ARE IN
SOMEONE ELSE'S
DESTINY.





LAKSHMI, THE GAME NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME...



AT LEAST SOMEONE SHALL RECEIVE THE RICHES.



...WAIT AND WATCH, MY DEAR...

<ALAKH NIRANJAN!> WHAT IS THIS THAT BLOCKS MY PATH?



...FOR WE ARE ABOUT TO BE SHOWN THE OTHER FACE OF OPPORTUNITY.

AHA! BEAUTIFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP.

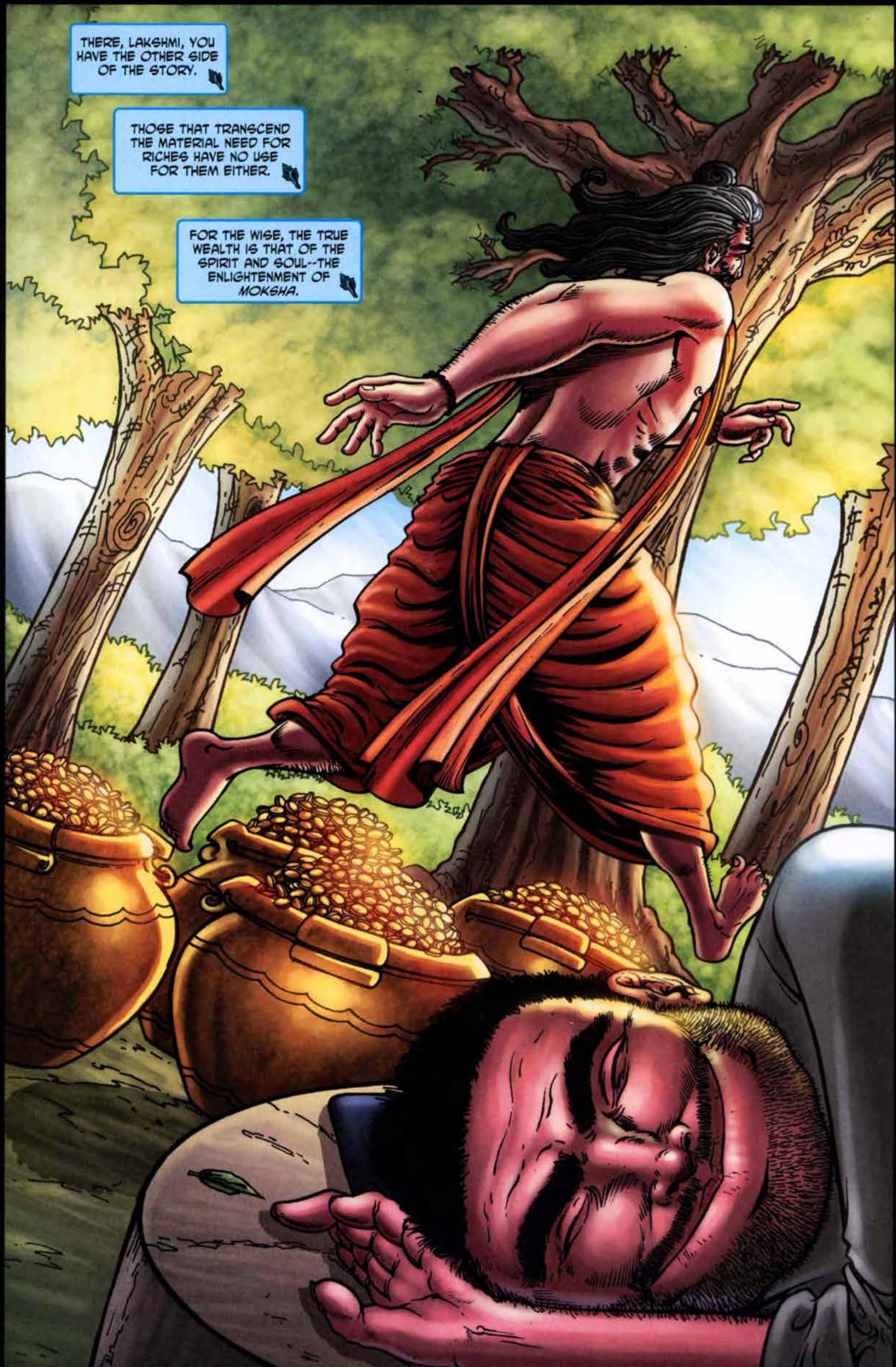


BUT ALAS! FILLED WITH WORTHLESS TRINKETS.

THERE, LAKSHMI, YOU
HAVE THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE STORY.

THOSE THAT TRANSCEND
THE MATERIAL NEED FOR
RICHES HAVE NO USE
FOR THEM EITHER.

FOR THE WISE, THE TRUE
WEALTH IS THAT OF THE
SPIRIT AND SOUL--THE
ENLIGHTENMENT OF
MOKSHA.





THE UNIVERSE
IS INDEED
JUST.



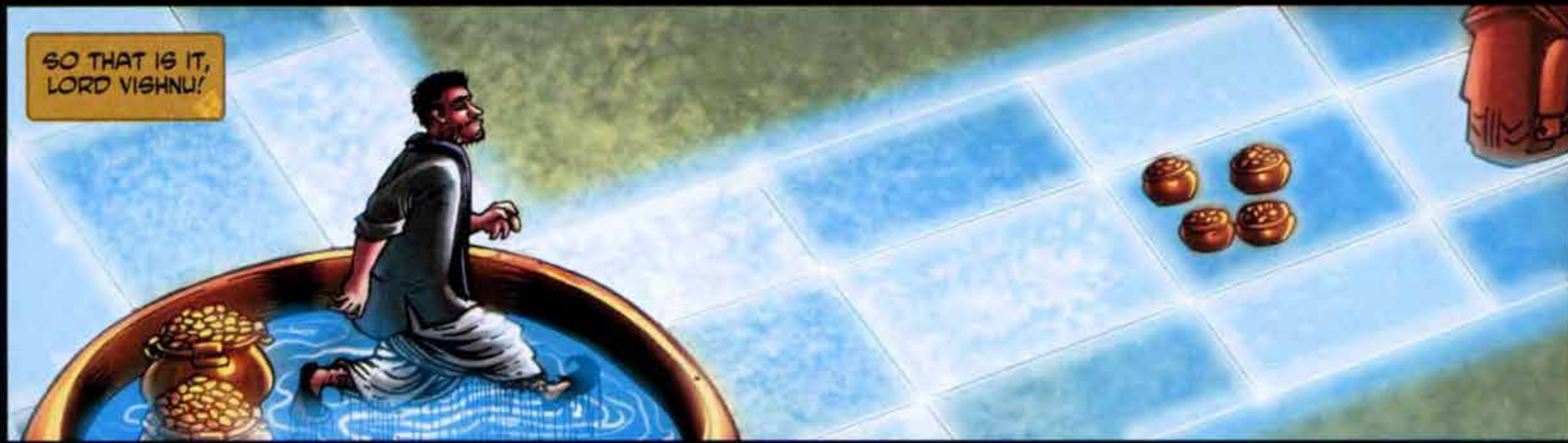
AH, SUNSET
ALREADY? I MUST
HAVE HAD A NICE
NAP. TIME TO
GO HOME.



I GUESS THE
ASTROLOGER
WAS WRONG
AFTER ALL.

SERVES ME RIGHT
FOR PAYING HEED
TO THAT CHARLATAN'S
PREDICTION OF
GREAT RICHES.

I WONDER WHAT
THE WIFE HAS PREPARED
FOR SUPPER?

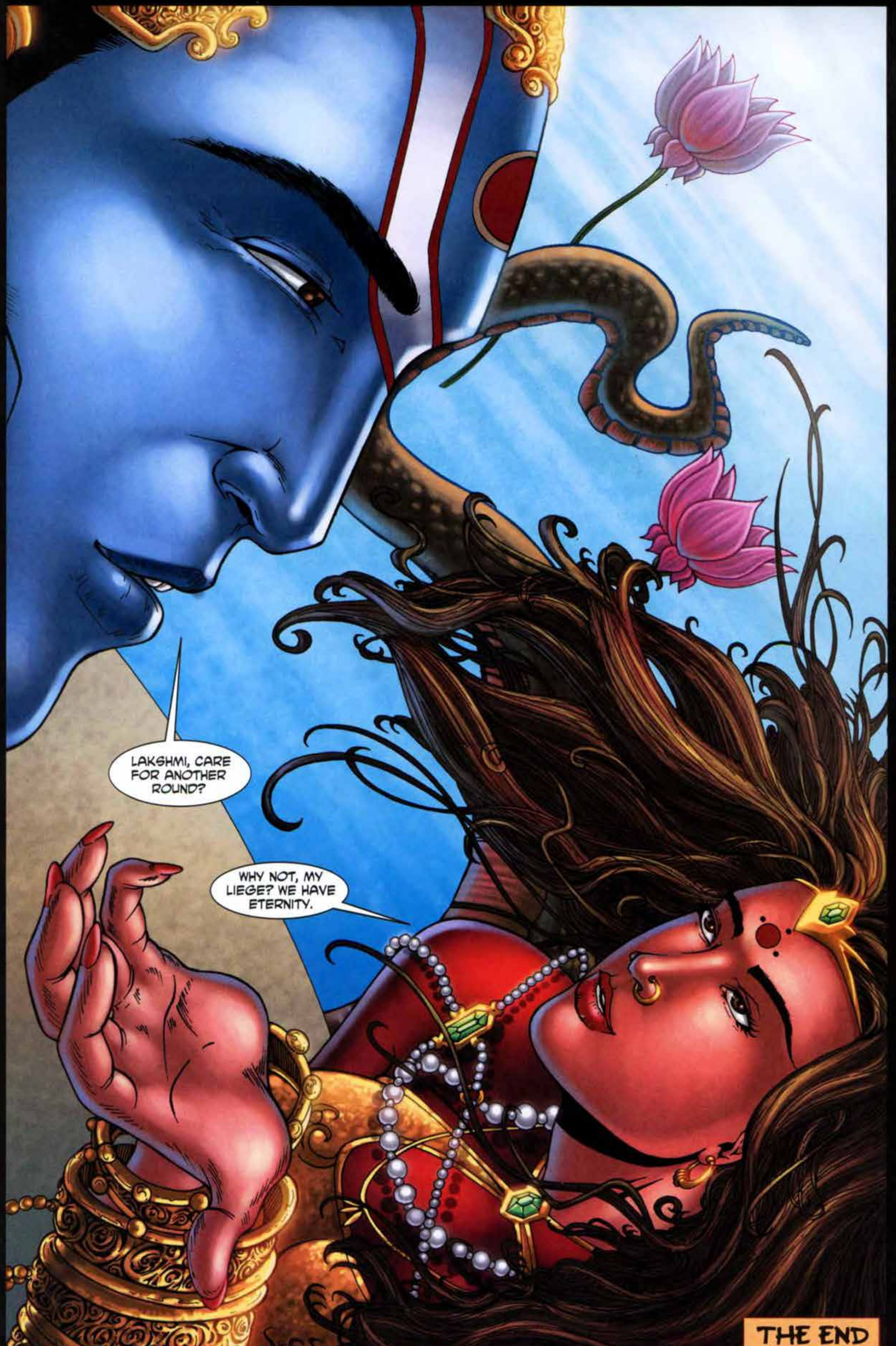


SO THAT IS IT,
LORD VISHNU!



THIS ROUND HAS FINISHED
AND I HAVE LEARNED A
DEEPER TRUTH ABOUT
HUMAN NATURE AND THE
UNIVERSE IN GENERAL.

LORD BRAHMA'S GIFT
HAS INDEED AFFORDED US
AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE
OVER THE MILLENNIA.



LAKSHMI, CARE
FOR ANOTHER
ROUND?

WHY NOT, MY
LIEGE? WE HAVE
ETERNITY.

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 *Ramayan 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
Rāmāyaṇ 3392AD
 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
Sanchhu

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

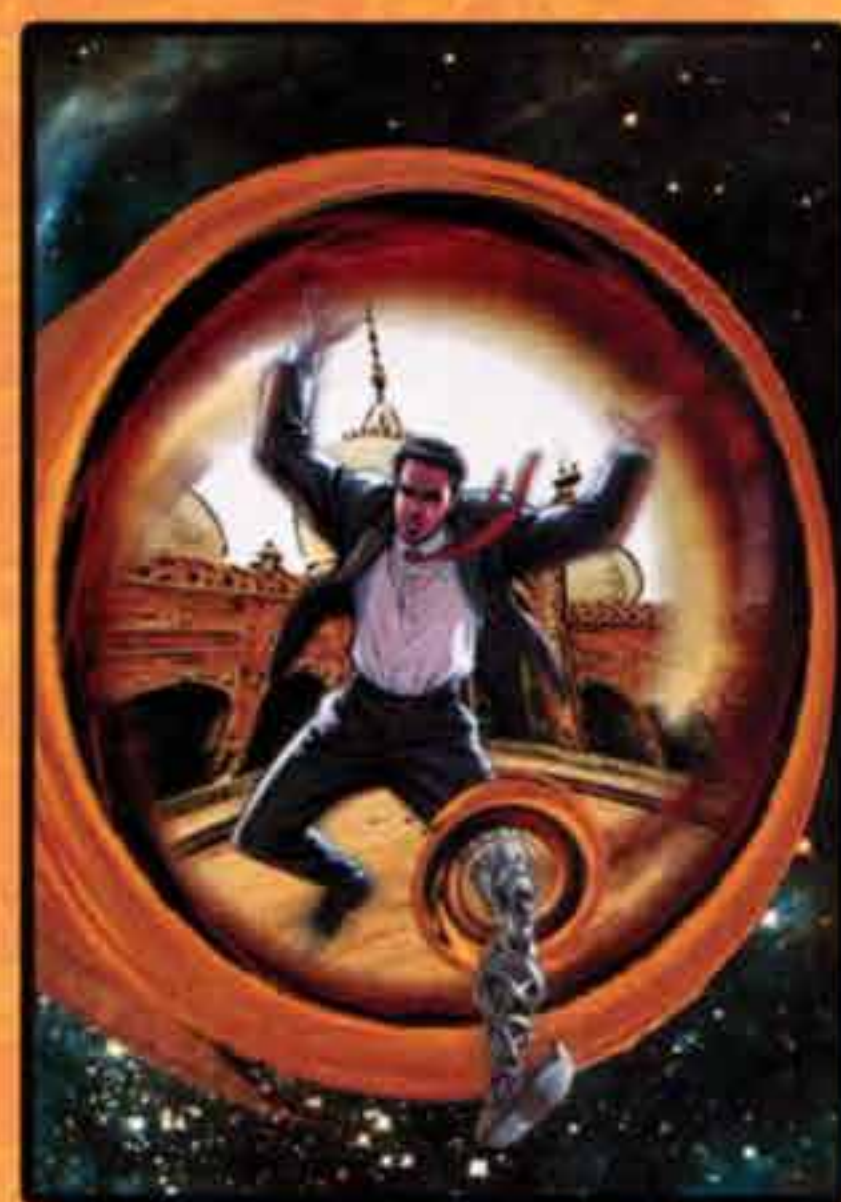


BLADE OF THE WARRIOR: KSHATRIYA

He is a prince who lost his kingdom. He is a hero who struggles to be heroic. He will go on to define a class of warriors. He is *Kshatriya* (*shut-REE-yuh*). Before the great civilizations of the world had begun, when sword and sorcery still existed and Gods walked the earth in mortal disguise, he was born to oppose an inexorable tide of darkness. When faced with the evil forces of the demonic Shaitan (*shaye-tahn*) in the form of his own brother, this warrior will face the battle of his life.

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.

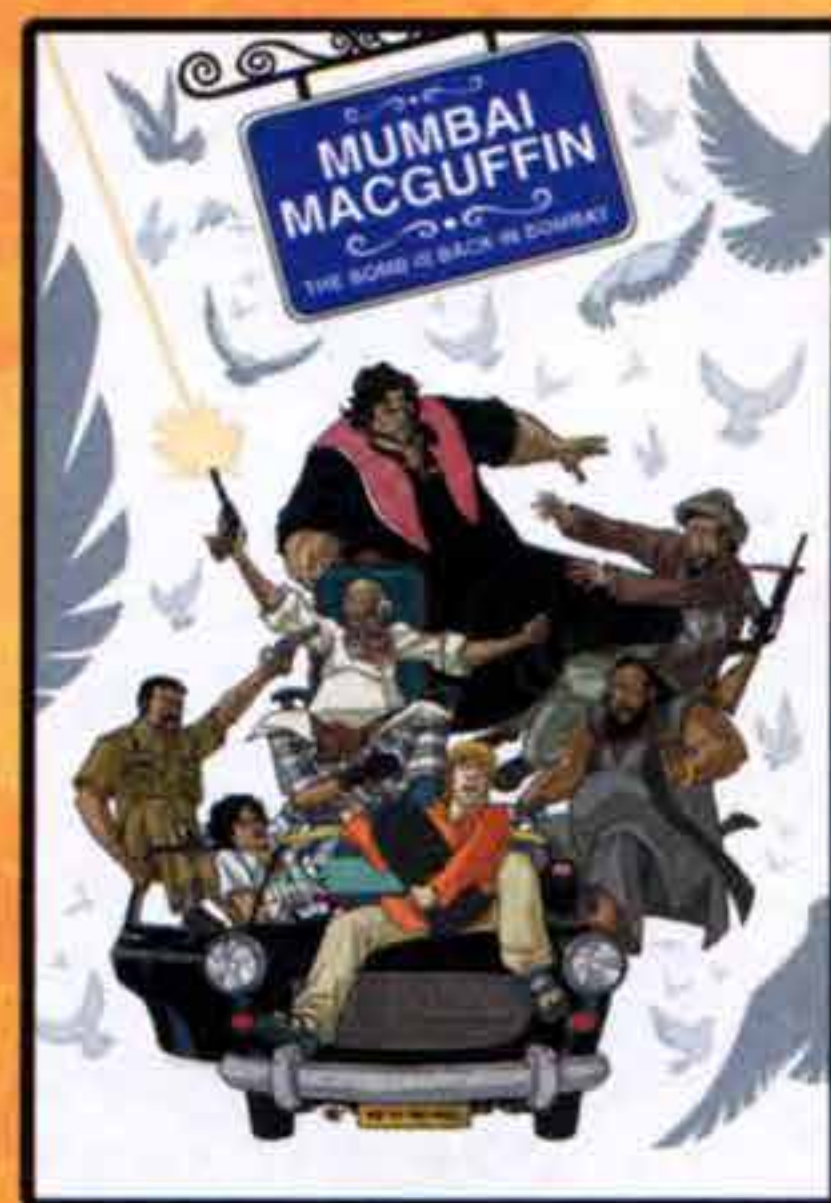


PROJECT: KALKI

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.





ISSUE 1
OF 4

DEEPAK CHOPRA'S

BEYOND



A missing woman.

A desperate man.

An adventure that takes them both BEYOND.

ON SALE MAY 2008



DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Rāmāyaṇ

3392AD
RELOADED

JUMP IN NOW!

Heroes

Villains

Weapons

Technology

Maps

City Guides

Exclusive Art

and much more



8 90299 00134 1
US\$ 2.99

BUY THE GUIDEBOOK NOW