

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

india authentic™



# KALI



MOHAPATRA | ABHISHEK



DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

# KALI india authentic™

CREATED BY

*Deepak Chopra*

SCRIPT - *Saurav Mohapatra*

ART & COLORS - *Abhishek Singh*

COVER - *Satish Tayade*

LETTERS - *B.S. Ravikiran*  
*Sudhir B Pisal*

PROJECT MANAGER - *S.P. Karthikeyan*

ASSISTANT EDITOR - *Neha Bajaj*

EDITOR - *Mahesh Kamath*

**VIRGIN COMICS**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
& PUBLISHER

*Sharad Devarajan*

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER  
& EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
*Gotham Chopra*

PRESIDENT & STUDIO CHIEF  
*Suresh Seetharaman*

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER  
*Larry Lieberman*

SRVP - STUDIO  
*Jeevan Kang*

HEAD OF OPERATIONS  
*Alagappan Kannan*

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
*MacKenzie Cadenhead*

CHIEF VISIONARIES  
*Deepak Chopra, Shekhar Kapur,*  
*Sir Richard Branson*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
*Frances Farrow, Dan Porter,*  
*Christopher Linen, Peter Feldman,*  
*Raju Puthukarai and Mallika Chopra*

INDIA AUTHENTIC ISSUE NUMBER 2 - KALI, June 2007 published by VIRGIN COMICS L.L.C. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 594 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 The characters included in this issue, INDIA AUTHENTIC, 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](mailto:info@virgincomics.com) or (212)584-4040. [www.virgincomics.com](http://www.virgincomics.com)



# Kali Mistress of Time

In one of his most famous poems entitled *Gitanjali*, the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore once wrote:

"Beautiful is thy wristlet, decked with stars and cunningly wrought in myriad-coloured jewels. But more beautiful to me thy sword with its curve of lightning like the outspread wings of the divine bird of Vishnu, perfectly poised in the angry red light of the sunset.

It quivers like the one last response of life in ecstasy of pain at the final stroke of death; it shines like the pure flame of being burning up earthly sense with one fierce flash.

Beautiful is thy wristlet, decked with starry gems; but thy sword, O Lord of Thunder, is wrought with utmost beauty, terrible to behold or think of."



काली



For decades scholars have debated the object of Tagore's ode, the powerful King of Gods - Indra, or the fearsome Goddess Kali. For the unfamiliar reader, such devotion to Kali may be perceived as unlikely or ironic. She is often depicted wearing a necklace of skulls, her bloody tongue hanging from her mouth, and poised atop the corpse of her husband. Indeed she carries an otherwise shiny sword, save for its bloody edge, dulled by its all too frequent use. She is no fairy Godmother, no gentle nurturer, nor matron saint.

Yet, she demands an awe that is perhaps more resonant than any other Goddess in the varied Hindu pantheon. She is often referred to as the *Goddess of Death*, the feminine force of destruction, and also *Mistress of Time* - because she is the consumer of all things, including time itself. The great myths that belong to her, chronicle her triumphs over varied demons, her violent and bloody demolition of those that dare to menace the Gods.

But beyond the myths is something still more resonant, too often overlooked. Kali represents our shadow selves. She is the ubiquitous force of destruction that resides in all of us, the alter ego to our more celebrated creative sides. And yet, it is in these ashes of destruction, this "kala" or blackness as it is called in sanskrit that Kali's true beauty is defined. For she is the protector of all life, the custodian of mortality, always insuring that from this ash can once again arise fertility, life, greatness.

Deepak Chopra








A DARKNESS SHALL  
FALL. A PLAGUE OF  
DEMONS SHALL COME.

THE HEAVENS WILL  
WEEP. THE WORLD OF  
MEN WILL BURN.

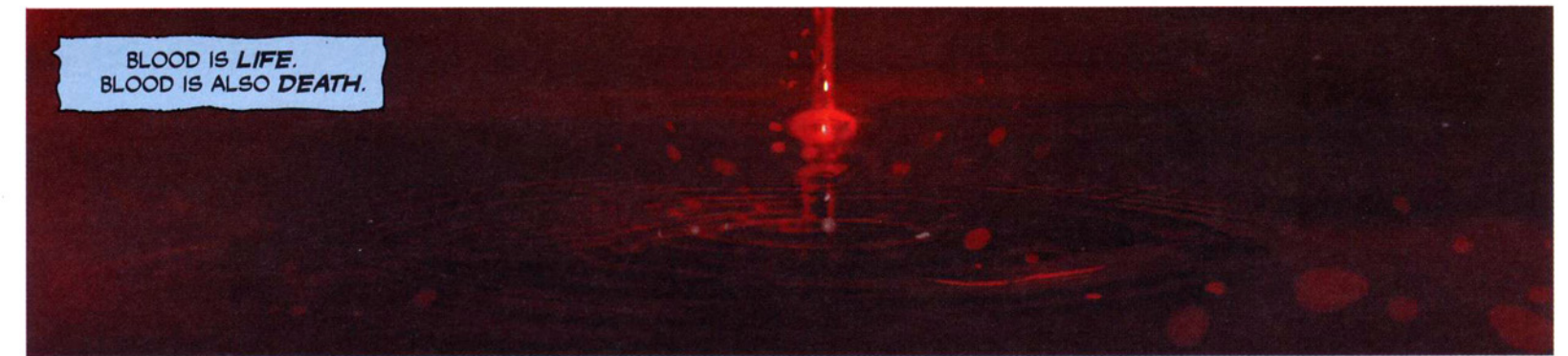
ALAS, FROM THESE  
ASHES A SAVIOR  
SHALL RISE.

FROM THIS DARKNESS,  
A WARRIOR SHALL  
BE BORN.






BLOOD IS A DROP IN THE  
VOID. BLOOD IS ALSO A  
GUSHING TORRENT.

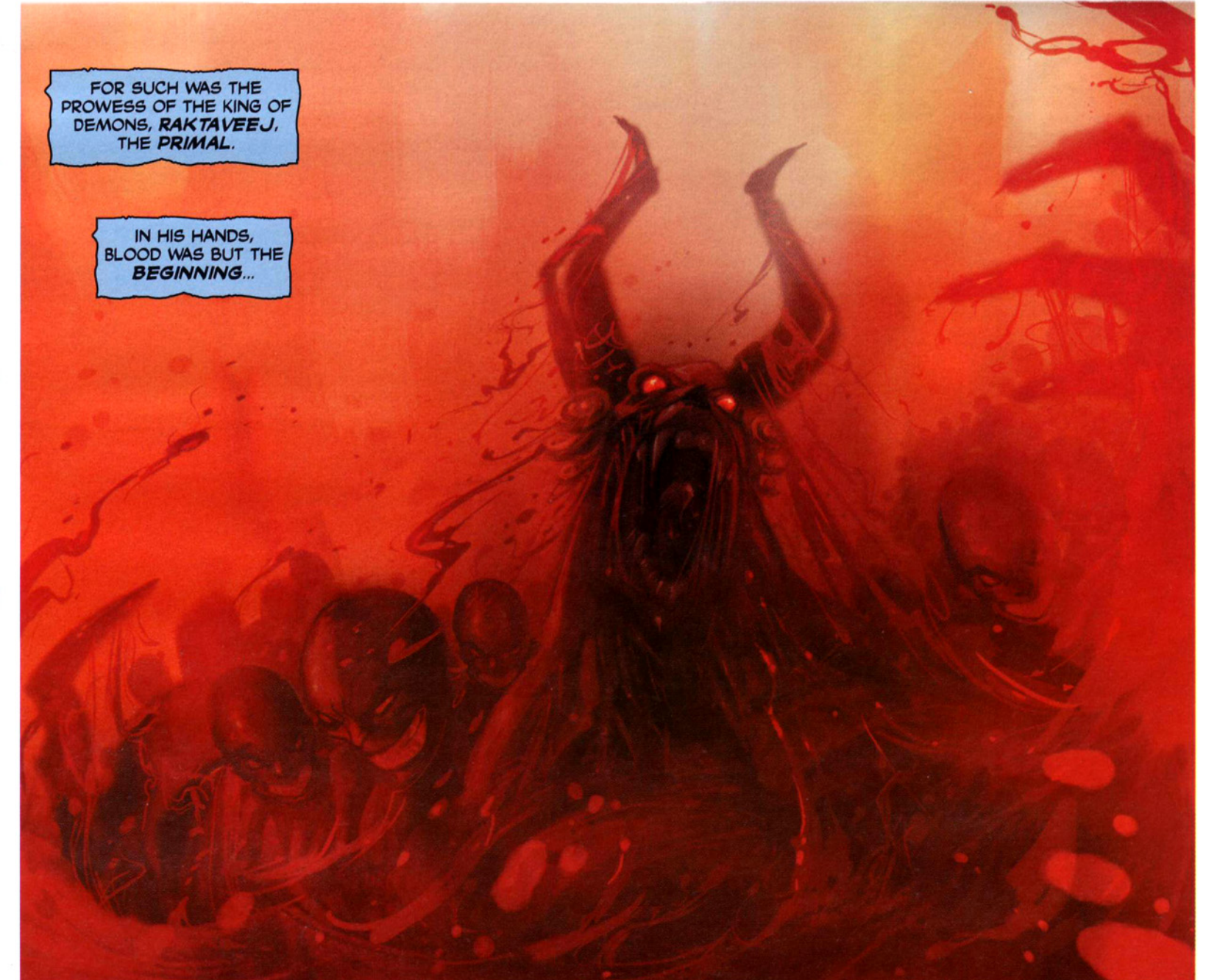


BLOOD IS *LIFE*.  
BLOOD IS ALSO *DEATH*.



ONCE UPON  
A TIME...

...EVEN THE GODS WERE  
AFRAID OF DEATH.



FOR SUCH WAS THE  
PROWESS OF THE KING OF  
DEMONS, *RAKTAVEEJ*,  
THE *PRIMAL*.

IN HIS HANDS,  
BLOOD WAS BUT THE  
*BEGINNING*...



...AND THE  
END!


BROTHERS! THE  
BLOOD OF OUR FALLEN KIN  
CALLS TO US. TODAY WE HONOR THE  
COUNTLESS OF OUR KIND SLAIN BY  
SO-CALLED "GODS". 'TIS A HEAVY  
DEBT WE OWE TO  
OUR ANCESTORS.

AND TODAY WE SETTLE IT.  
WE MARCH ON *AMARAVATI*, THE  
CITY OF GODS AND TOGETHER WE  
ACHIEVE WHAT SO MANY HAVE  
ONLY DREAMT.

FOR TODAY WE  
SHALL BATHE...

...IN THE BLOOD  
OF GODS!





BUT THE RANKLING OF  
THE DEMON'S SABER WAS  
HEARD IN HEAVEN.

LORD INDRA, THE  
DEMON HORDES ARE  
ABOUT TO BREACH  
THE GATES.

THE DEMONS DARE TRY  
CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF THE  
GODS? SUMMON MY *FORCES*.  
WE SHALL MEET THIS MENACE IN  
OPEN COMBAT!

WE WHO ARE *THREE*  
IN *ONE*, THE TRINITY OF  
*CREATOR, PRESERVER, DESTROYER*,  
HAVE KEPT OURSELVES OUT OF  
THESE MATTERS...

KING OF  
GODS! A WORD  
IF YOU MAY...

...UNTIL NOW.  
*VISHNU*, BEING *THE*  
*PRESERVER*, CANNOT  
BUT HELP GETTING  
INVOLVED.




"THIS IS *RAKTAVEEJ*,  
THE BLOOD DEMON.

"LONG AGO, HE WAS  
BLESSED BY THE  
*ELDEN GODS*  
THEMSELVES WITH A  
BOON."

IT IS NOT AN  
ORDINARY DEMON NOR  
A MUNDANE ARMY THAT  
YOU SET FORTH TO  
BATTLE.






"A BOON THAT  
MOCKS EVEN YAMA,  
THE LORD OF DEATH.

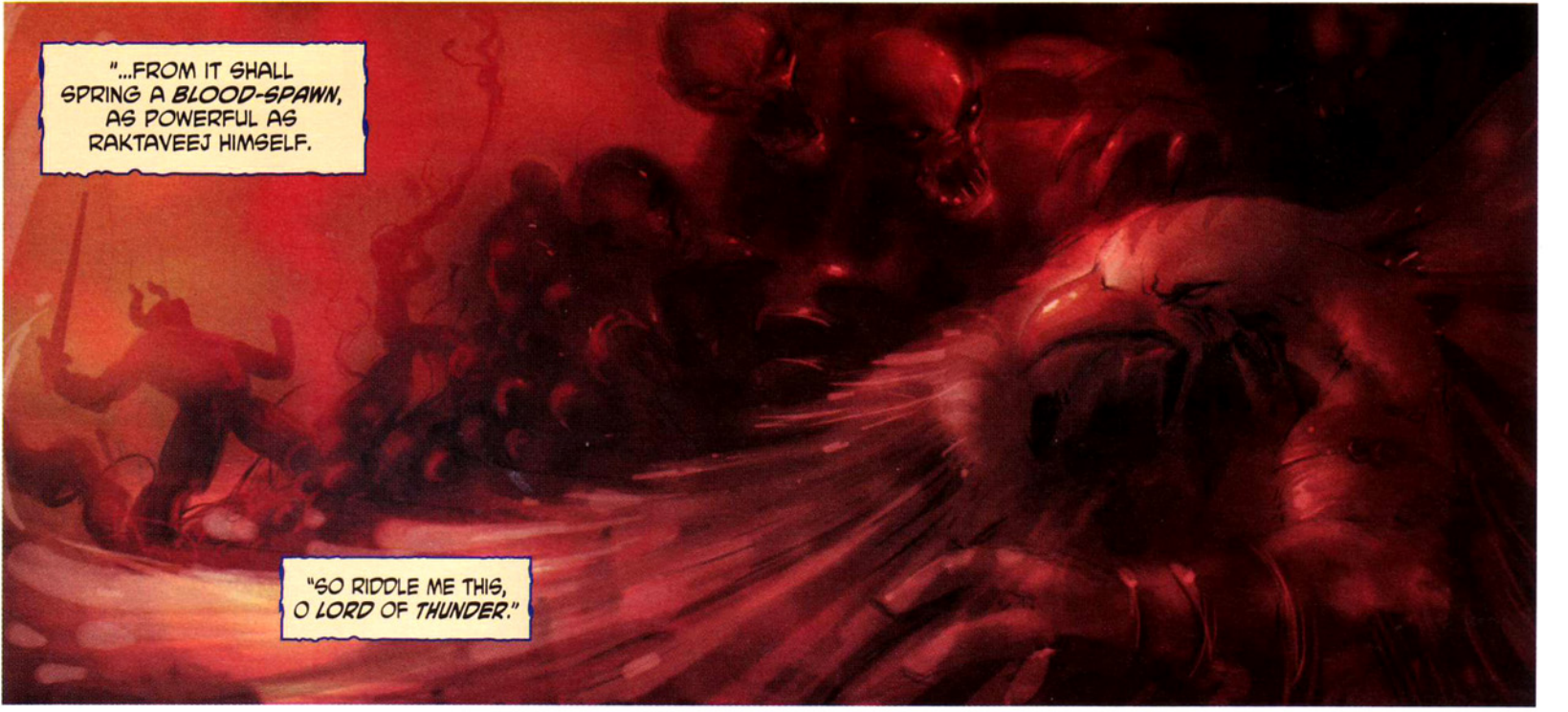
"FOR HIS IS THE  
POWER TO TRIUMPH  
OVER DEATH ITSELF.



ONWARDS  
FOR HEAVEN!



"IF A DROP OF HIS  
BLOOD WERE TO TOUCH  
THE GROUND...



"...FROM IT SHALL  
SPRING A BLOOD-SPAWN,  
AS POWERFUL AS  
RAKTAVEEJ HIMSELF.

"SO RIDDLE ME THIS,  
O LORD OF THUNDER."





ISSUE 1

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

# Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3392 AD



VARIANT  
COVER BY  
MIKE OEMING

ON STANDS JUNE 2007





HOW DOES  
EVEN ONE SUCH  
AS YOU, THE *KING  
OF GODS* KILL  
SOMEONE...

WHOSE BLOOD  
YOU CANNOT  
*SPILL?*



SO WHAT DO  
YOU PROPOSE,  
LORD VISHNU?



THERE IS  
ONE...

NO! NOT  
*HER!* SHE CANNOT  
BE CONTROLLED.

I AM AFRAID  
THERE IS NO MORE  
TIME. SHE IS OUR  
ONLY OPTION.



"THE *SLEEPER*  
MUST AWAKEN."

CHOICE IS AN  
ILLUSION.

FOR EVEN GODS  
CANNOT ESCAPE  
THEIR DESTINY!





MOUNT  
KAILASH.

DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT YOU  
ASK FOR?

WE HAVE  
NO OTHER CHOICE,  
LORD SHIVA!

*SHE* MUST  
BE INVOKED. ONLY  
THE *SLEEPER* CAN  
DEFEAT THIS ARMY OF  
BLOOD-SPAWNS.



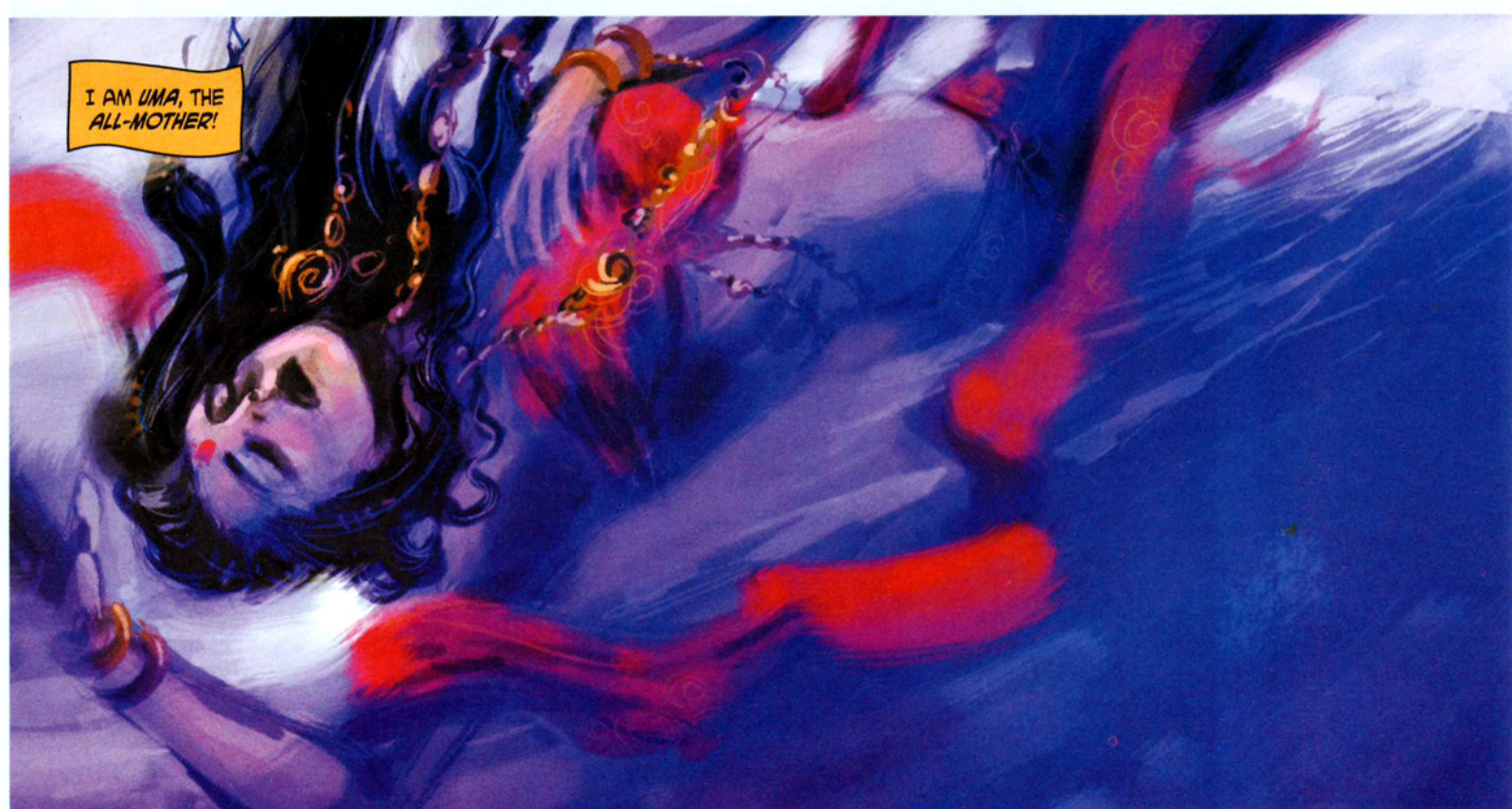
ARE YOU  
SURE? IS THERE  
NO OTHER  
CHOICE?

THEY SPEAK  
THE TRUTH, MY  
LOVE. I HAVE MADE  
MY CHOICE, THE ONLY  
ONE I CAN.

BUT...



I ONLY PRAY  
THAT THE PRICE IS  
NOT TOO HIGH.



I AM UMA, THE  
ALL-MOTHER!

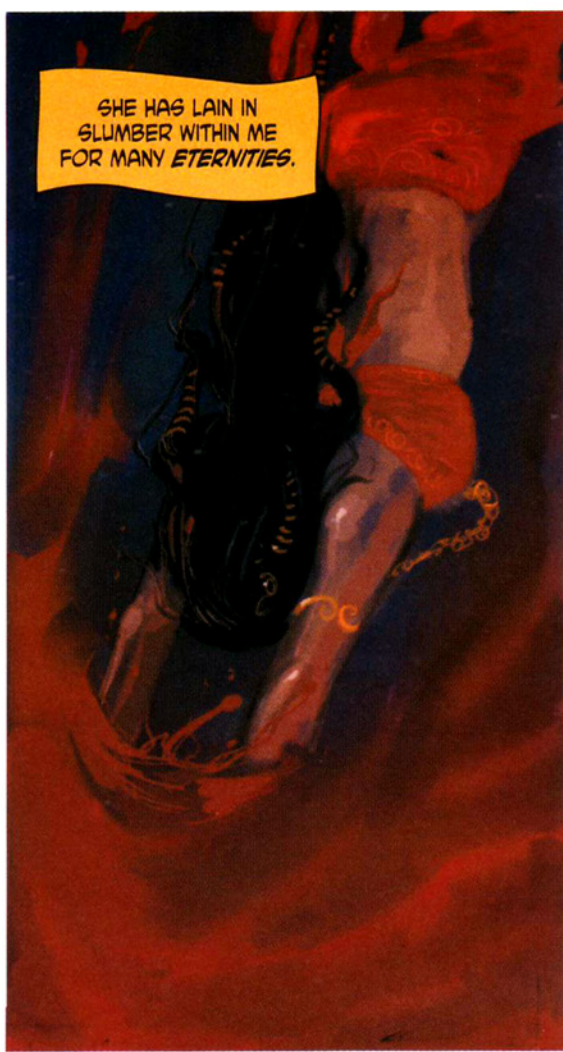





I TOO  
AM SHAKTI, THE  
POWER-DIVINE.



BUT THERE IS *ANOTHER*  
THAT SLEEPS WITHIN ME,  
WHO IS NEEDED TODAY.



SHE HAS LAIN IN  
SLUMBER WITHIN ME  
FOR MANY *ETERNITIES*.



AND TODAY SHE  
IS SUMMONED.

THE *SLEEPER*  
SHALL AWAKEN!



I WAS BORN IN A  
CRIMSON HAZE.

I BATHED IN  
THE BLOOD OF A  
THOUSAND WOUNDS.

I DEVOURED A  
MILLION CREATIONS.

I SMEARED ON  
MYSELF THE ASHES  
OF INFINITY...

...AND THEN I SLEPT.

TODAY, AFTER  
EONS, I HAVE BEEN  
AWAKENED.

TODAY I AM  
SUMMONED.

I AM DEATH.

I AM HUNGER.





I AM THE SACRED...

...AND THE PROFANE.

THE BEGINNING...

...AND THE END!

I AM...

...KAALI!



# RAAA

●● THE WARRIOR PRINCE ●●

**Own the first ever collectible from Virgin Comics!**

**11.5"**  
**COLD CAST PORCELAIN**

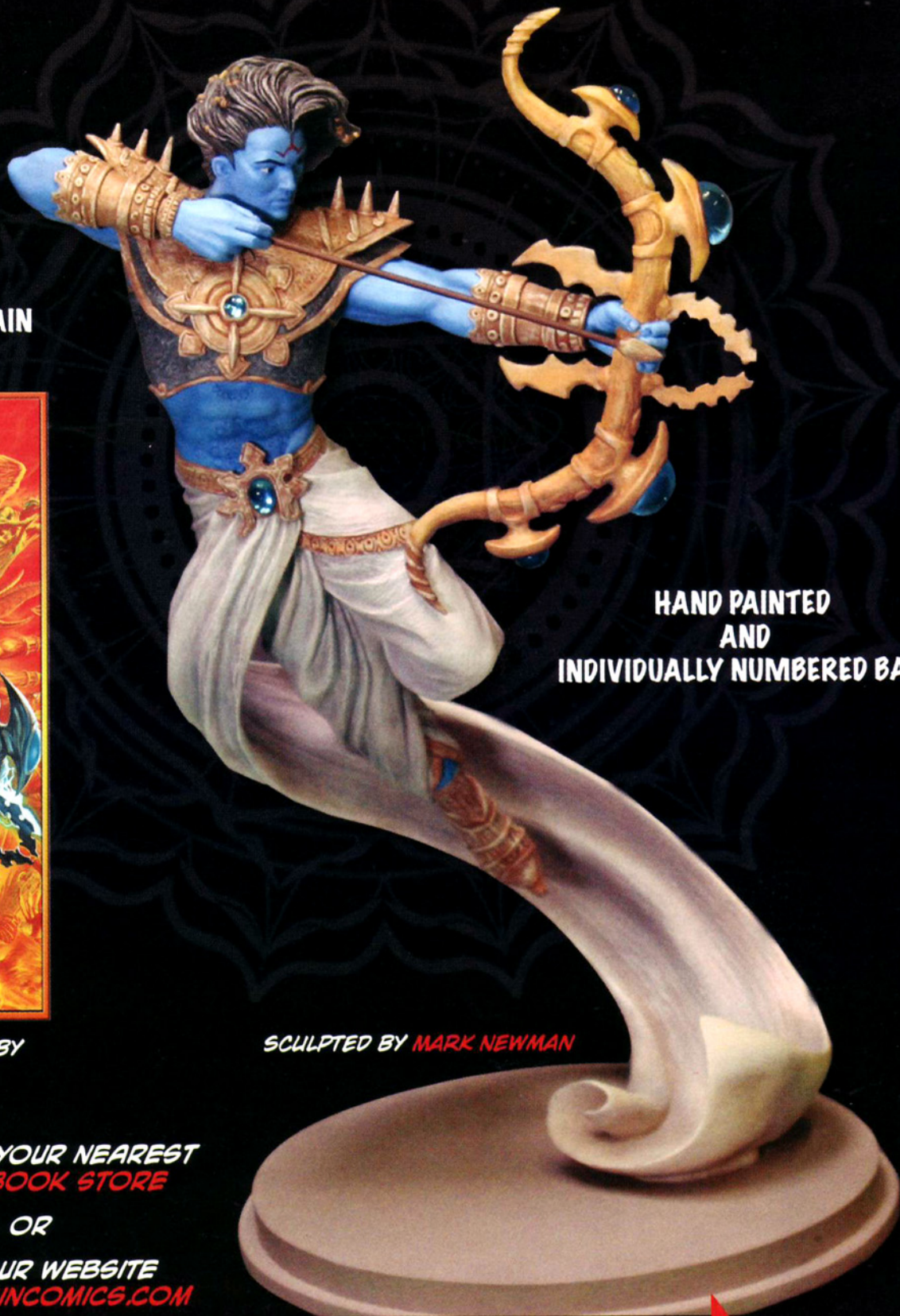


ORIGINAL PAINTING BY  
**ALEX ROSS**

**CONTACT YOUR NEAREST  
COMIC BOOK STORE**

**OR**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.VIRGINCOMICS.COM](http://WWW.VIRGINCOMICS.COM)**



**HAND PAINTED  
AND  
INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED BASE**

SCULPTED BY **MARK NEWMAN**



**UNLEASHED**  
**AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> 2007**

**Limited to  
1500 pieces  
Worldwide!**



AND THUS SHE  
WAS SUMMONED.

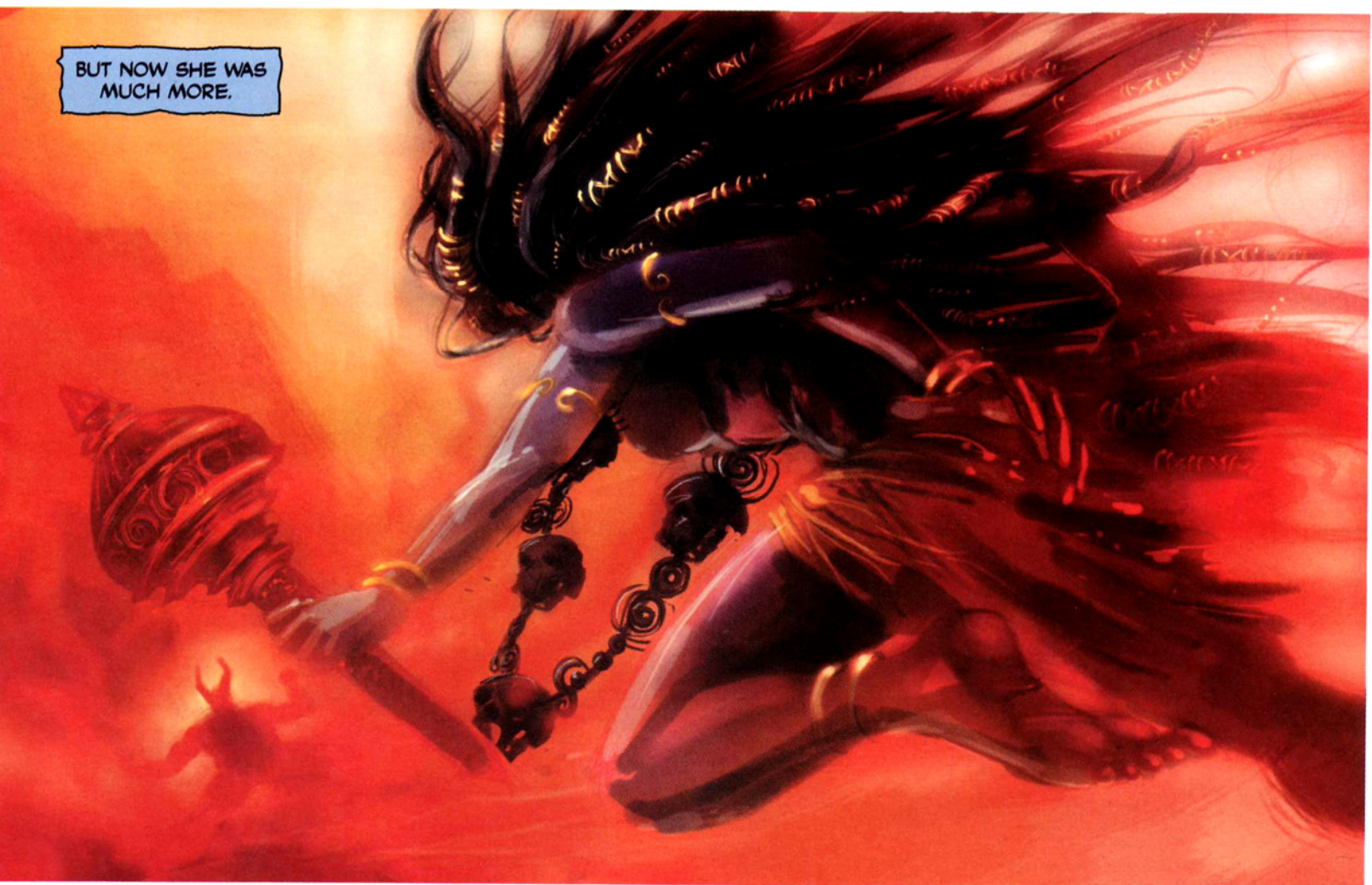


SHE WHO ONCE WAS  
UMA, THE ALL-MOTHER...

...AND ALSO  
MY BRIDE.

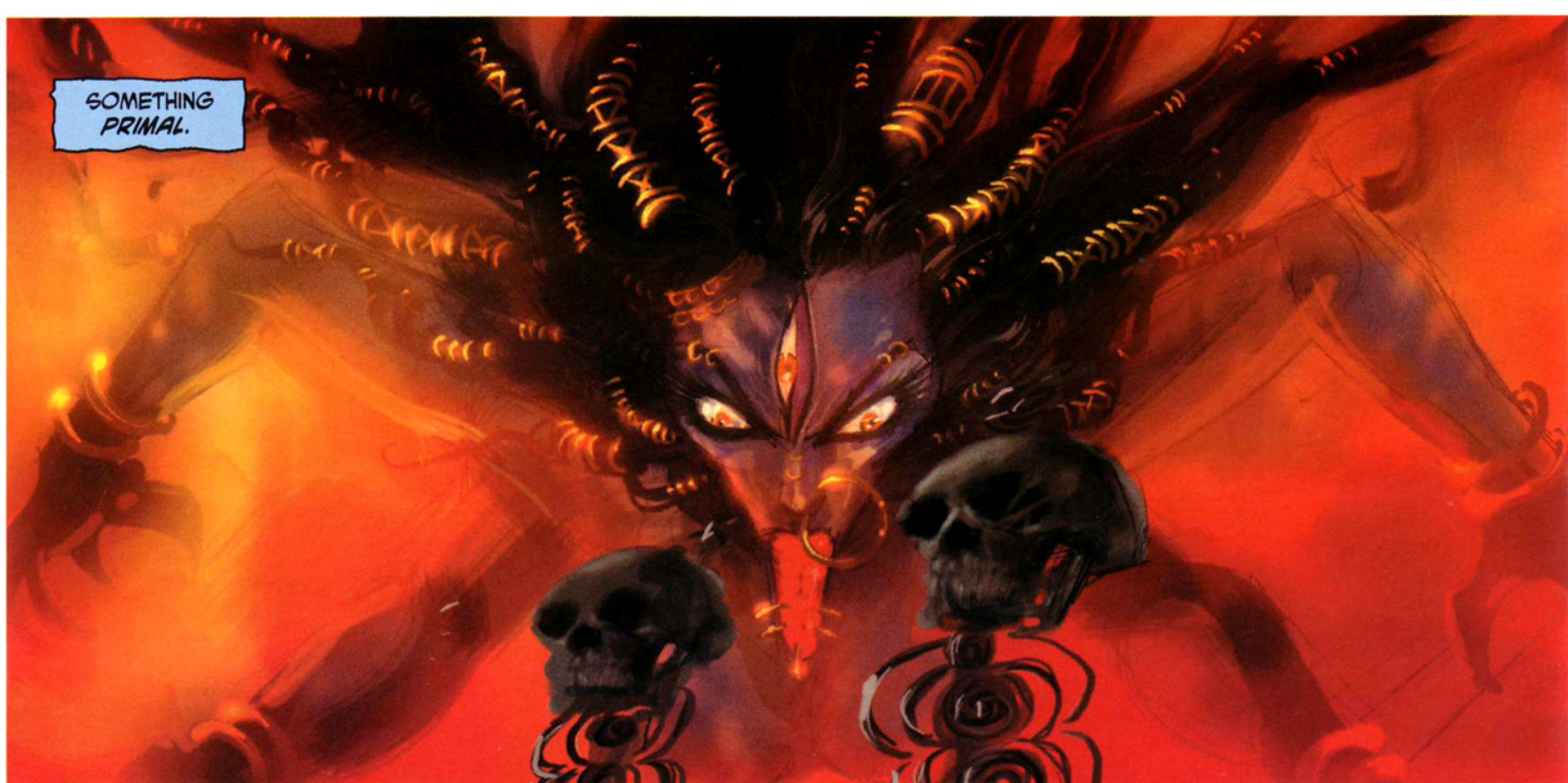


BUT NOW SHE WAS  
MUCH MORE.

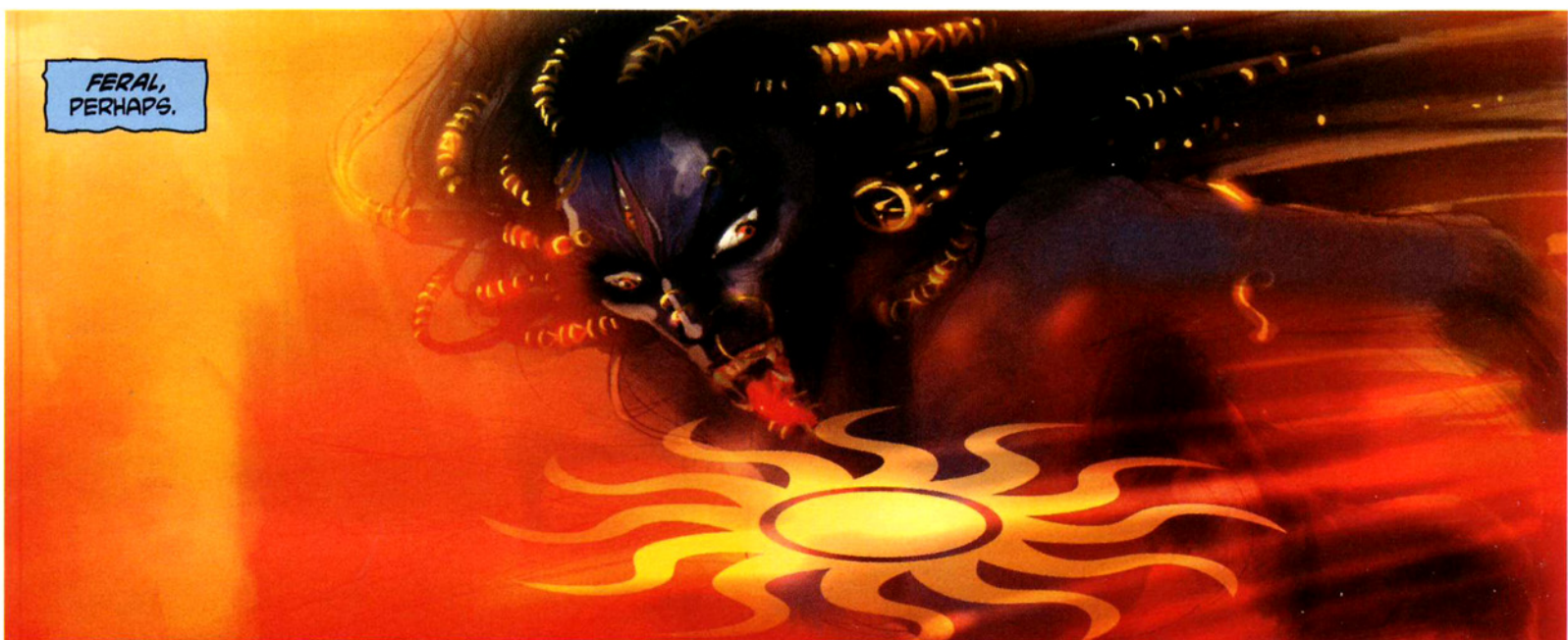




SOMETHING  
PRIMAL.



FERAL,  
PERHAPS.





RAKTAVEEJ PAUSED AS  
HE SAW *KALI* APPROACHING  
LIKE THE MAELWIND FROM  
THE WEST.




HE PAID LITTLE HEED TO  
THE WEAPON OF VISHNU.  
FOR THE MOST IT COULD DO  
WAS MAKE HIM BLEED.



AND THAT WOULD ONLY  
GIVE HIS ARMY MORE *COIN*  
FOR THE BLOOD-SPAWNS!








BUT PERHAPS HE DID NOT  
KNOW OF THE *TRUE FORM*  
OF THE *SLEEPER*.



WHAT THE ALL-MOTHER  
*GNETH...*



... THE *SLEEPER*  
*TAKETH AWAY!*





IT PAINED ME TO SEE  
MY UMA LIKE THIS.

I WEPT WHEN  
SHE HOWLED LIKE  
A WILD BEAST...



...AND TURNED ON  
THE BLOOD-SPAWNS.



ON STANDS JULY 2007



ISSUE 1


THE *Saint*™



THE SILENT ONES  
1 OF 5

NEW STORY ARC  
SPEARHEADED BY  
RON MARZ







SHE CUT THROUGH  
THEM...




...LIKE *LIGHTNING* SEARING  
THROUGH THE MIDNIGHT SKY.



SOON, NONE WERE LEFT  
OF THE ONCE MIGHTY ARMY  
OF THE BLOOD-SPAWNS.




AND AS THE GODS  
REJOICED, I FELT AS IF...



...IT WAS ALL  
TOO SOON.





THE COSMOS  
IS CAUSAL.

WHAT YOU SOW...

...IS WHAT  
YOU REAP.

CALL IT KARMA, CALL IT  
DESTINY. EVEN GODS ARE  
NOT IMMUNE TO CAUSALITY.



FOR KALI/ COULD  
NOT STOP AT THE  
DEMONS.


SHE WAS THE  
PRIMAL WILL.



PAST.




PRESENT.



AND FUTURE.






SHE WAS DEATH *MANIFEST*  
FOR DEMON AND GOD ALIKE.




SHE DID NOT  
STOP...




...BECAUSE SHE  
*COULD* NOT STOP!






THE HAPLESS GODS  
STOOD PETRIFIED...




...AS THEIR "SAVIOR"  
TURNED ON THEM.  
PETRIFIED AT HER  
MALEVOLENCE.



BUT I COULD NOT  
STAND BACK AND WATCH.

I HAD TO TRY AND  
BRING HER BACK.

MY *UMA*, THE  
ALL-MOTHER.



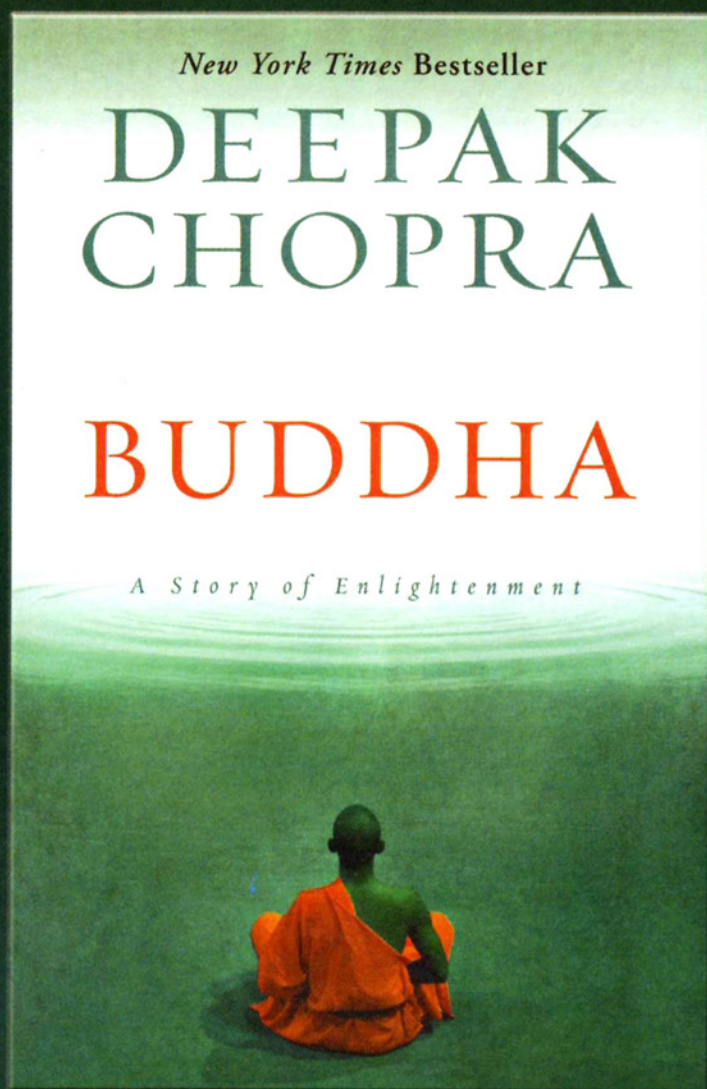
*UMA*, THIS  
CANNOT BE.

YOU MUST  
*FIGHT* HER.



# THE LATEST FROM DEEPAK CHOPRA

Chief Visionary of Virgin Comics



Buddha is the most important man who ever achieved enlightenment. Although we can see him as calm, benevolent figure, the actual life story of Buddha was tumultuous and dramatic. I wanted to bring this mysterious figure, who died 2,500 years ago, into the present in all his psychological complexity. What better way to grip the reader than to tell Buddha's story from the inside. No other human being has lived such a life.


"BUDDHA is unlike anything Deepak has ever written before. A timeless story retold by one of the most inspiring spiritual guides of our era, it is essential reading for anyone curious about the foundations of Buddhism."

—BRIAN GRAZER, Oscar Award Winning Producer of "*A Beautiful Mind*,"  
Emmy Winning Producer, "24"


"BUDDHA offers us a most extraordinary opportunity to look at the road to enlightenment taken by one man. Deepak's insightful re-imagining of the life journey of one of the world's greatest spiritual leaders is a captivating read and a road map to personal spiritual growth from one of the most respected and inspiring leaders of our time."

—TERRY SEMEL Chairman and CEO, Yahoo!






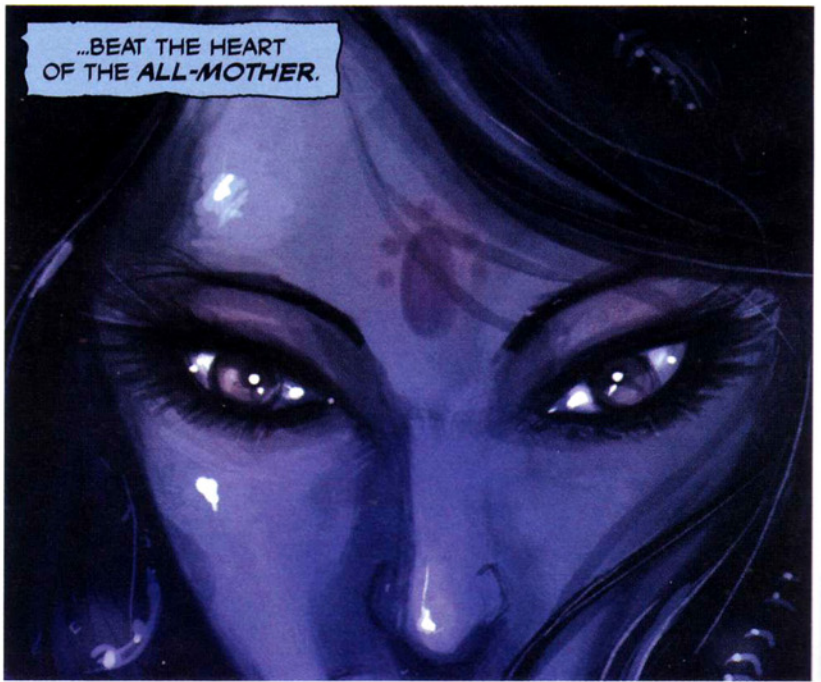
T'WAS A MAELSTROM  
THAT RAGED IN THE EYES  
OF KALI.



BUT I WAS SURE  
THAT WITHIN THIS  
SAVAGE WARRIOR...



...SOMEWHERE DEEP  
INSIDE THE VIOLENT  
PSYCHE...



...BEAT THE HEART  
OF THE ALL-MOTHER.



THE SLEEPER SLUMBERED  
AGAIN. FOR IT WAS *UMA*  
WHO OPENED HER EYES.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE  
FATIGUE OF BATTLE THAT  
QUELLED THE PRIMAL WILL.



PERHAPS IT WAS  
THE POWER OF THE  
ALL-MOTHER.





BUT SOMETIMES  
I LIKE TO THINK...

...MAYBE...JUST  
MAYBE...

...IT WAS ME.

THE END



# INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

## RAMAYAN RELOADED

**In Hollywood**, movie studios refer to their big summer blockbusters as their “tent-poles.” These are the movies, ala *Spider-Man*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *Shrek*, on which production budgets can far exceed the \$100 million mark, with marketing budgets to match, and are expected to make that much in their opening weekend. The scale of the whole business has become so massive that these blockbusters, you’ll notice, are now almost entirely sequels, remakes of familiar titles (*The Dirty Dozen* is in the works), or built off of big brands (*Transformers*). The point is that building a new “franchise,” as they call it in the biz, is virtually impossible because, to enter the game, you’d better come with a big wad of cash and be prepared to lose it all. That’s a pretty tough sell.

Thank God the comics industry plays by a different set of rules! At Virgin Comics, we like to say that money is no issue because, in a sense, we don’t really even have budgets. As a creator, if you want to create the Universe on page 3 and blow it up on page 4, so long as you can make that organic to the story, I’m all for it. In Hollywood, they’d run the numbers first, price out the scene and it’d be more than likely that it would never happen.

The re-launch of our series *Ramayan 3392 AD* is our equivalent of the tent-pole movie. The scale of the story is massive. The Universe of the story is massive. The main characters themselves are Gods, hence they are massive. In turn, to produce it, to “reload it” as we say, we needed massive talent. That’s why we’ve brought in story editor Ron Marz to guide a creative team that includes stalwart Shamik Dasgupta (the original series’ writer) and Virgin titan Jeevan Kang (artist on *Spider-Man India* and John Woo’s *Seven Brothers*). We know that *Ramayan 3392 AD*, which is based on India’s seminal 3,000-year-old myth, is not an easy story for the unexposed reader. It’s full of exotic character-names and settings, and a different type of story-telling than much of what you’ll see at your local comic shop. But that is what makes it so special—it is a legendary tale of honor and sacrifice, tragedy and amazing triumph told through a different lens that, we think, our readers will find themselves connecting with despite the newness of it all.

We’ve crafted the reload as a fresh beginning, so that new readers can come aboard now and not feel lost. We encourage you to go back and read the “prequels,” if you will, out in trade paperback this summer. But we also assure you that not doing so won’t get you lost in the matrix. And here comes the interesting twist of fate, Hollywood is waking up to it. Some of Hollywood’s biggest and brightest seem to have got their hands on our crazy comic *Ramayan 3392 AD*. I know too well the perfect storm of scenarios that is required to get a movie made in Hollywood, so I am not making any predictions, but watch out *Spider-Man 8* and *Pirates 5*—our Blue Boy (read the book and you’ll get the reference) may be showing up at a theater near you very soon.

Gotham Chopra  
Chief Creative Officer  
Virgin Comics



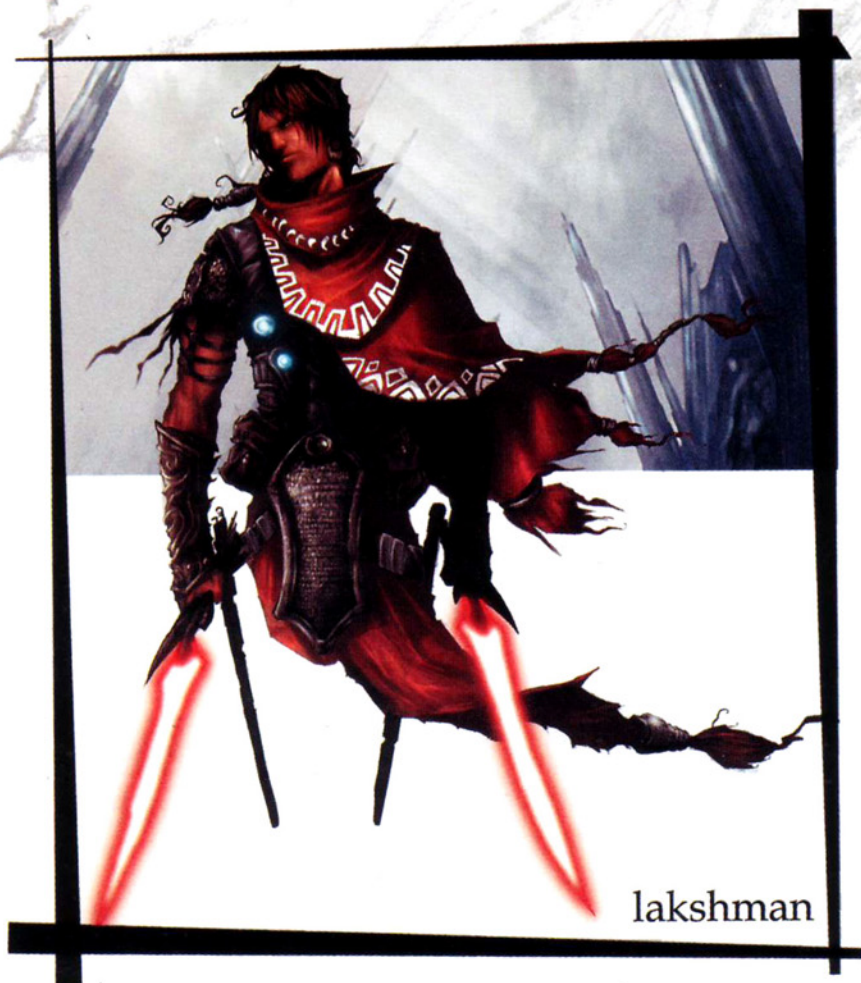




rama



EXPLORATIONS BY  
RAMAYAN  
3392 AD  
RELOADED  
JEEVAN KANG



lakshman





seeta



hanuman



panchvati



ngad

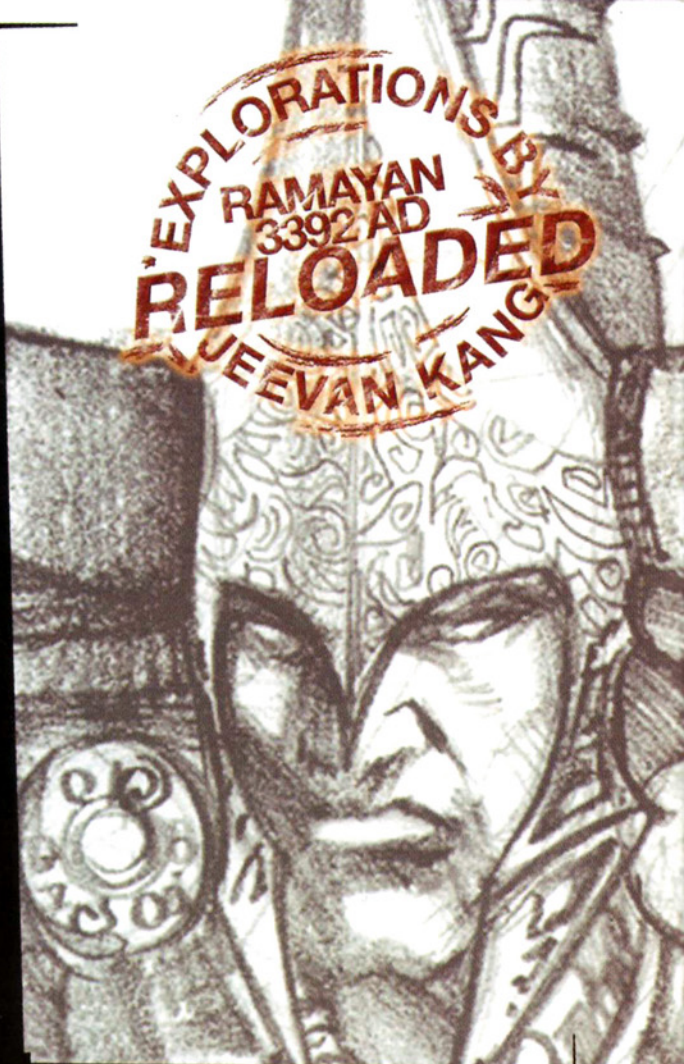


pampa





3392 : RAVAN



EXPLORATIONS  
RAMAYAN  
3392 AD  
RELOADED  
JUSEEVAN KANG



lanka





DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *india* authentic™

# INDRA



ON STANDS JULY 2007



**EXPERIENCE THE UNKNOWN**



**[www.virgincomics.com](http://www.virgincomics.com)**