

# WANTED: HERO

WHERE GOOD AND EVIL IS BLACK AND WHITE.

WANTED:  
HERO  
STUDIOS



\$3.25US

HE WAS THE GREATEST  
HERO EVER BORN!

NO. 1

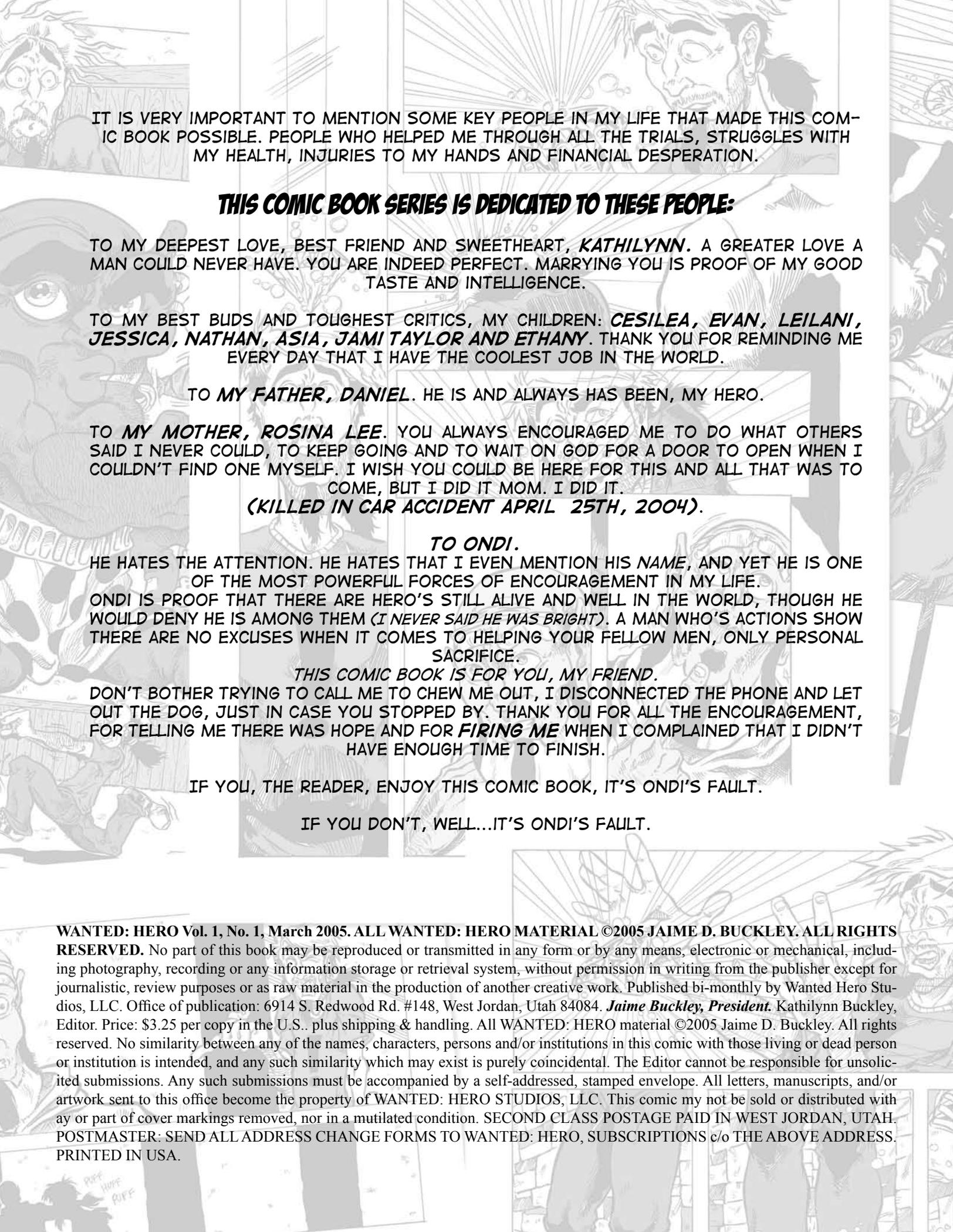
...IT'S LEAKING  
AGAIN...

-BUT SINCE  
HE WASN'T  
AVAILABLE

BUB---  
THIS AIN'T  
GONNA WORK...  
YER ON YOUR  
OWN!

CREATED BY  
JAIMIE  
BUCKLEY

...HIS BEST FRIEND WENDELL HAD TO FILL IN.



IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO MENTION SOME KEY PEOPLE IN MY LIFE THAT MADE THIS COMIC BOOK POSSIBLE. PEOPLE WHO HELPED ME THROUGH ALL THE TRIALS, STRUGGLES WITH MY HEALTH, INJURIES TO MY HANDS AND FINANCIAL DESPERATION.

***THIS COMIC BOOK SERIES IS DEDICATED TO THESE PEOPLE:***

TO MY DEEPEST LOVE, BEST FRIEND AND SWEETHEART, ***KATHILYNN***. A GREATER LOVE A MAN COULD NEVER HAVE. YOU ARE INDEED PERFECT. MARRYING YOU IS PROOF OF MY GOOD TASTE AND INTELLIGENCE.

TO MY BEST BUDS AND TOUGHEST CRITICS, MY CHILDREN: ***CESILEA, EVAN, LEILANI, JESSICA, NATHAN, ASIA, JAMI TAYLOR AND ETHANY***. THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME EVERY DAY THAT I HAVE THE COOLEST JOB IN THE WORLD.

TO ***MY FATHER, DANIEL***. HE IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, MY HERO.

TO ***MY MOTHER, ROSINA LEE***. YOU ALWAYS ENCOURAGED ME TO DO WHAT OTHERS SAID I NEVER COULD, TO KEEP GOING AND TO WAIT ON GOD FOR A DOOR TO OPEN WHEN I COULDN'T FIND ONE MYSELF. I WISH YOU COULD BE HERE FOR THIS AND ALL THAT WAS TO COME, BUT I DID IT MOM. I DID IT.

***(KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT APRIL 25TH, 2004).***

***TO ONDI.***

HE HATES THE ATTENTION. HE HATES THAT I EVEN MENTION HIS NAME, AND YET HE IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL FORCES OF ENCOURAGEMENT IN MY LIFE.

ONDI IS PROOF THAT THERE ARE HERO'S STILL ALIVE AND WELL IN THE WORLD, THOUGH HE WOULD DENY HE IS AMONG THEM (*I NEVER SAID HE WAS BRIGHT*). A MAN WHO'S ACTIONS SHOW THERE ARE NO EXCUSES WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING YOUR FELLOW MEN, ONLY PERSONAL SACRIFICE.

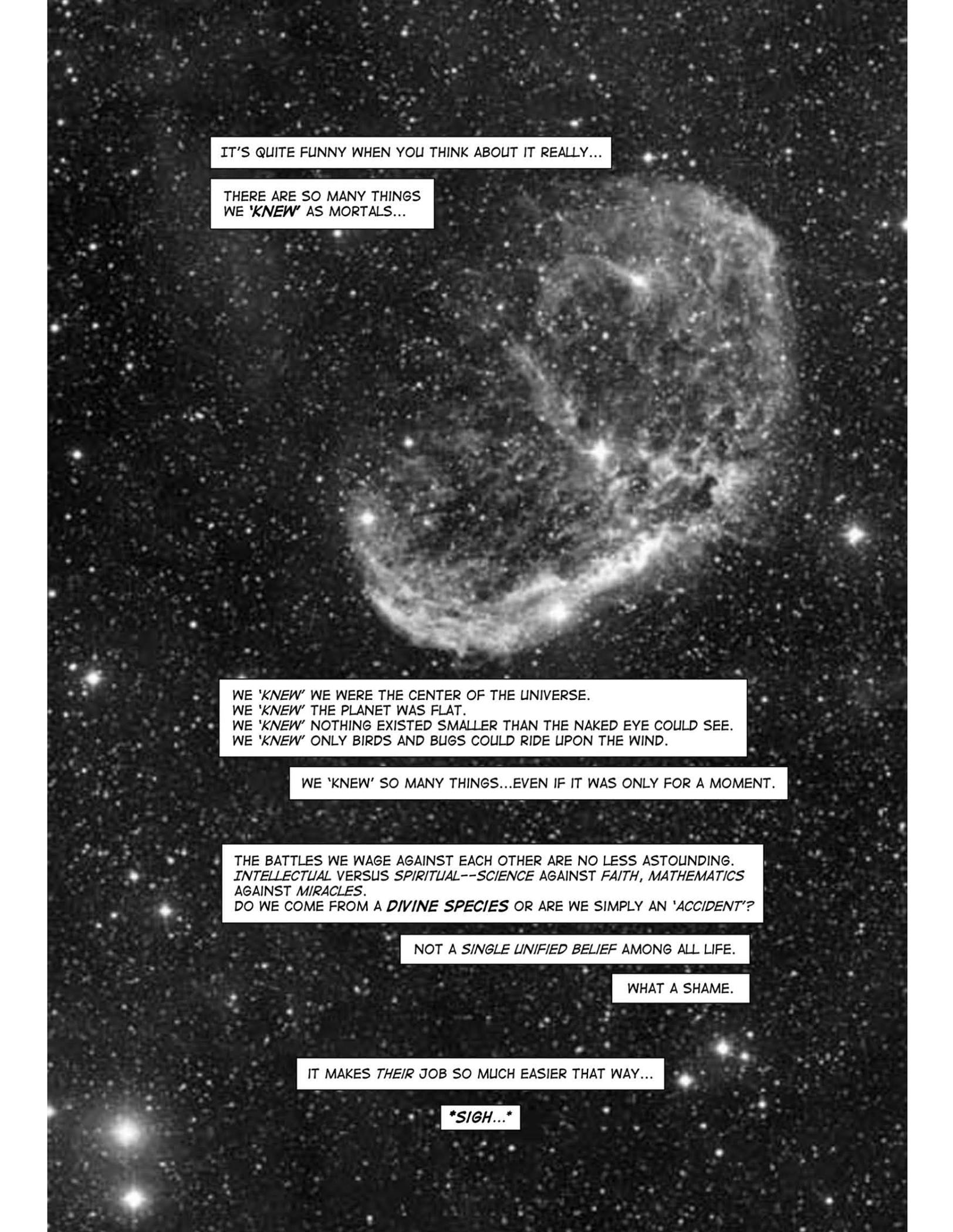
***THIS COMIC BOOK IS FOR YOU, MY FRIEND.***

DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CALL ME TO CHEW ME OUT, I DISCONNECTED THE PHONE AND LET OUT THE DOG, JUST IN CASE YOU STOPPED BY. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE ENCOURAGEMENT, FOR TELLING ME THERE WAS HOPE AND FOR ***FIRING ME*** WHEN I COMPLAINED THAT I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH.

IF YOU, THE READER, ENJOY THIS COMIC BOOK, IT'S ONDI'S FAULT.

IF YOU DON'T, WELL...IT'S ONDI'S FAULT.

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IT'S QUITE FUNNY WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT REALLY...

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS  
WE '**KNEW**' AS MORTALS...

WE '**KNEW**' WE WERE THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.  
WE '**KNEW**' THE PLANET WAS FLAT.  
WE '**KNEW**' NOTHING EXISTED SMALLER THAN THE NAKED EYE COULD SEE.  
WE '**KNEW**' ONLY BIRDS AND BUGS COULD RIDE UPON THE WIND.

WE '**KNEW**' SO MANY THINGS...EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

THE BATTLES WE WAGE AGAINST EACH OTHER ARE NO LESS ASTOUNDING.  
*INTELLECTUAL VERSUS SPIRITUAL--SCIENCE AGAINST FAITH, MATHEMATICS  
AGAINST MIRACLES.*  
DO WE COME FROM A *DIVINE SPECIES* OR ARE WE SIMPLY AN '*ACCIDENT*'?

NOT A *SINGLE UNIFIED BELIEF* AMONG ALL LIFE.

WHAT A SHAME.

IT MAKES *THEIR* JOB SO MUCH EASIER THAT WAY...

*\*SIGH...\**

WHAT IF ***BOTH*** SCIENCE AND RELIGION WERE RIGHT?  
...AND YET BOTH ***WRONG***?

WHAT IF THEOLOGY WAS *MATHEMATICAL PERFECTION* AND SCIENCE  
WAS NOTHING SHORT OF THE *PERFECT RELIGION*?



WHAT IF ALL THE TALK OF THESE BATTLES BETWEEN 'GOOD' AND 'EVIL'  
WERE TRUE...*GOD* AND THE *DEVIL*, *WORLDS WITHOUT END* AND THE  
*VASTNESS OF THE ETERNITIES*?

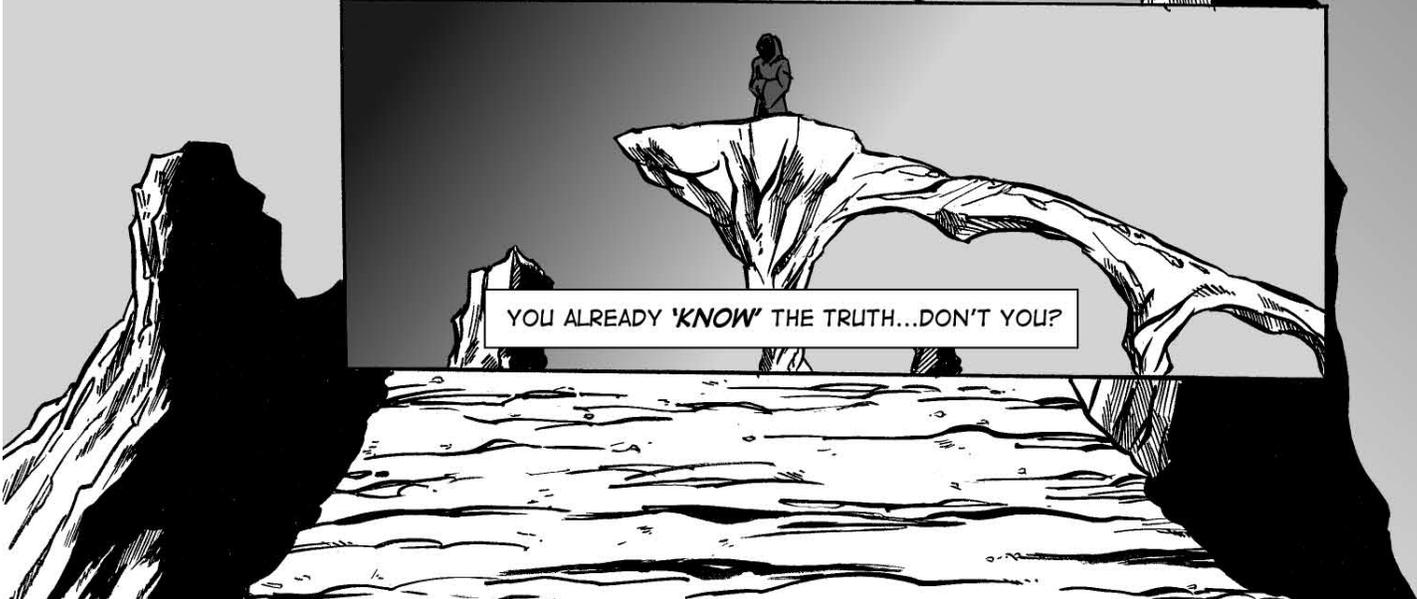
I GUESS THAT '*LITTLE WHITE LIE*' WOULDN'T SEEM SO  
'*LITTLE*' NOW WOULD IT?

WHAT *IF*, MY YOUNG FRIEND, I WERE TO TELL YOU THAT *ALL YOU KNOW*,  
*ALL YOU SEE*, *ALL YOU COMPREHEND* OF 'SPACE', 'TIME', 'LIFE'...  
*EVERYTHING*--WAS BALANCED UPON A SINGLE, SIMPLE *MISTAKE*?

...*MY* MISTAKE.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?

*OF COURSE NOT.*



YOU ALREADY '*KNOW*' THE TRUTH...DON'T YOU?



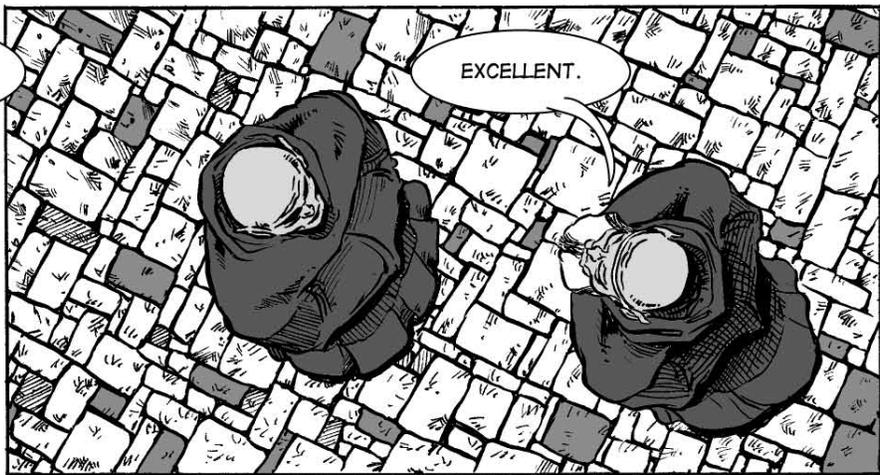




YOU HAVE ALSO DONE AS YOU WERE INSTRUCTED?

YES FATHER. HE HAS FAR MORE POTENTIAL THAN WE HAD HOPED.

STRENGTH, COURAGE, LOYALTY AND DETERMINATION UNMATCHED BY ANY PREVIOUS HERO!



EXCELLENT.

GO AND MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE. THE DARK LORD\* MUST REMAIN DISTRACTED WHILE OUR HERO IS BEING RETRIEVED.



AS YOU COMMAND FATHER, SO SHALL IT BE DONE.

WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. PEACE BE UNTO YOUR SOUL, FOR ALL IS AS I HAVE FORSEEN IT.

"THE GNOLAUM\* WILL SOON BE HOME..."



...SO I SAID 'MOM, DAD--IT'S TIME I MOVED OUT!'

I PACKED MY BAGS AND LEFT WITHIN THE HOUR! MAN--WHAT FREEDOM!!

\*LINK: G.R.R. DATABASE



WHAT'S SO FUNNY?



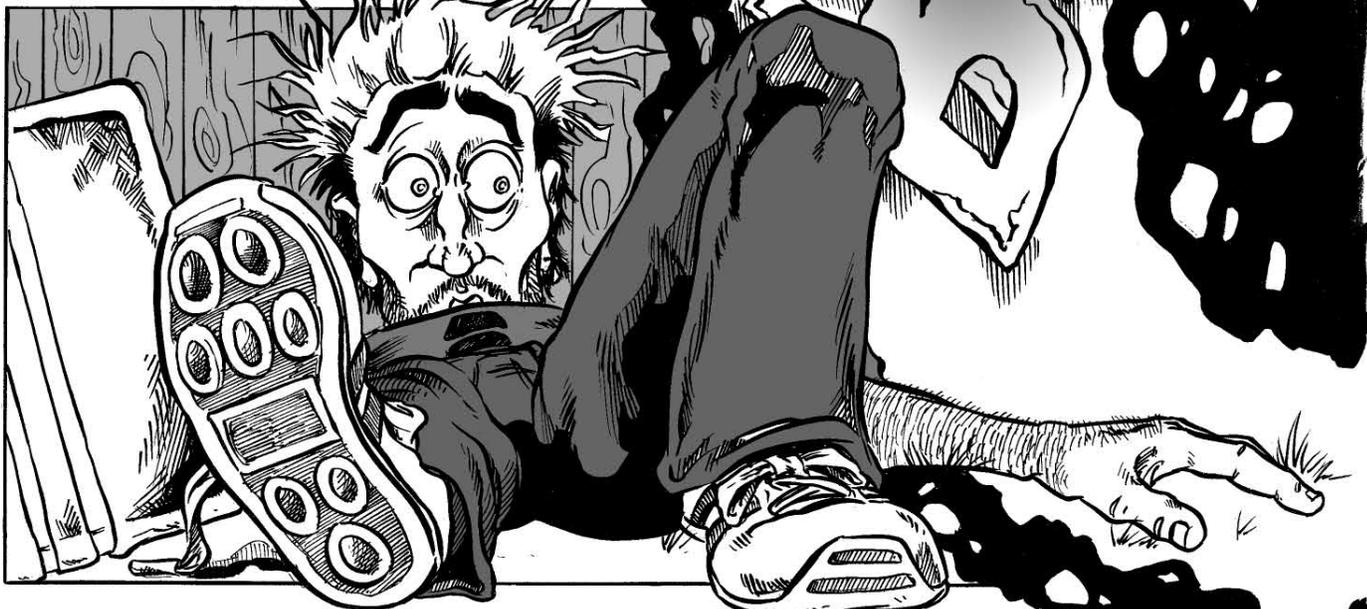
DUDE--YOU MOVED TO THE BACK YARD INTO THE CAMPING TRAILER!

WELL, TECHNICALLY I MOVED OUT...



YOU'RE 35 YEARS OLD WENDELL! 35 YEARS OLD, WITH A MAJOR IN... WHAT WAS IT CALLED AGAIN?

'MODERN CULINARY SCULPTING', SMARTY-PANTS!!









RATS!  
MONSTERS!  
MARTIANS!  
POLITICIANS!!

THIS IS THE HERO??  
WE ARE SO WHIPPED!



...THEN AGAIN,  
HE AIN'T MY  
PROBLEM NOW.



GOOD  
LUCK KID!  
HAHAHA!!

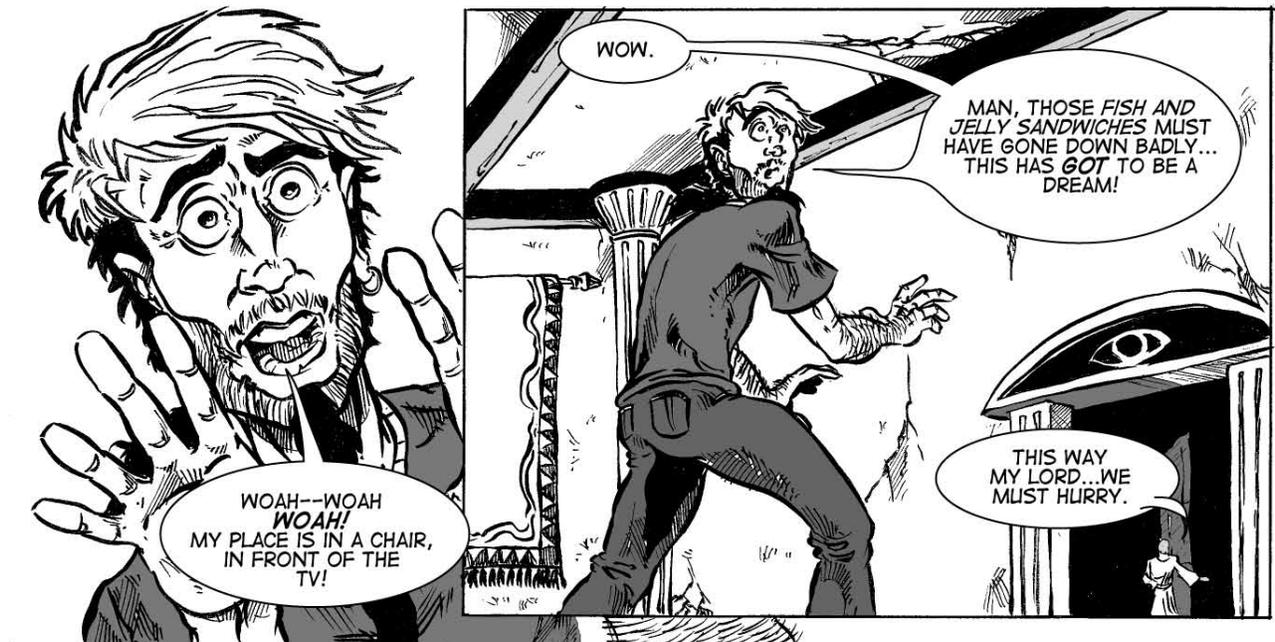


WELCOME HOME  
MY LORD!

W-WHO  
ARE YOU?!

I'LL DO ANYTHING  
YOU WANT, JUST DON'T  
HIT ME...AND DON'T  
LET THAT GREEN THING  
EAT ME!



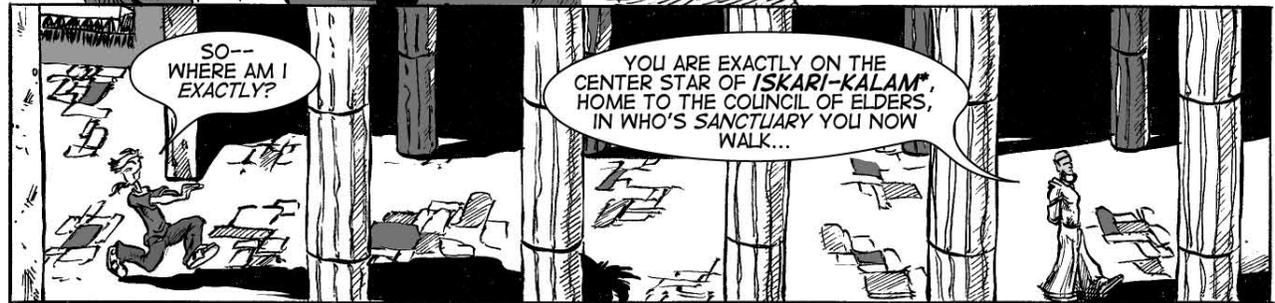


WOAH--WOAH  
**WOAH!**  
MY PLACE IS IN A CHAIR,  
IN FRONT OF THE  
TV!

WOW.

MAN, THOSE FISH AND  
JELLY SANDWICHES MUST  
HAVE GONE DOWN BADLY...  
THIS HAS GOT TO BE A  
DREAM!

THIS WAY  
MY LORD...WE  
MUST HURRY.



SO--  
WHERE AM I  
EXACTLY?

YOU ARE EXACTLY ON THE  
CENTER STAR OF *ISKARI-KALAM*\*,  
HOME TO THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS,  
IN WHO'S SANCTUARY YOU NOW  
WALK...

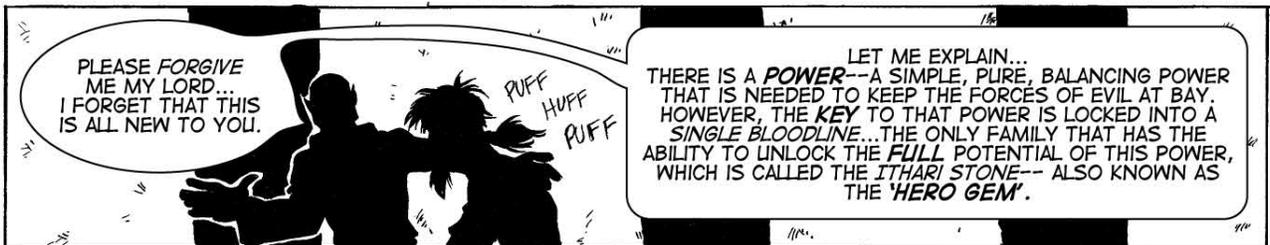


THE 'BALANCE' IS AT  
A CRUCIAL POINT...ANY DELAY  
ON OUR PART WILL COST MILLIONS  
OF LIVES AND COUNTLESS MORE  
ENSLAVED FOR A MILLENIUM!



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!  
WHAT'S THIS "OUR" CRAP?  
AFFECTS MILLIONS OF  
PEOPLE!??

WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?



PLEASE FORGIVE  
ME MY LORD...  
I FORGET THAT THIS  
IS ALL NEW TO YOU.

PUFF  
HUFF  
PUFF

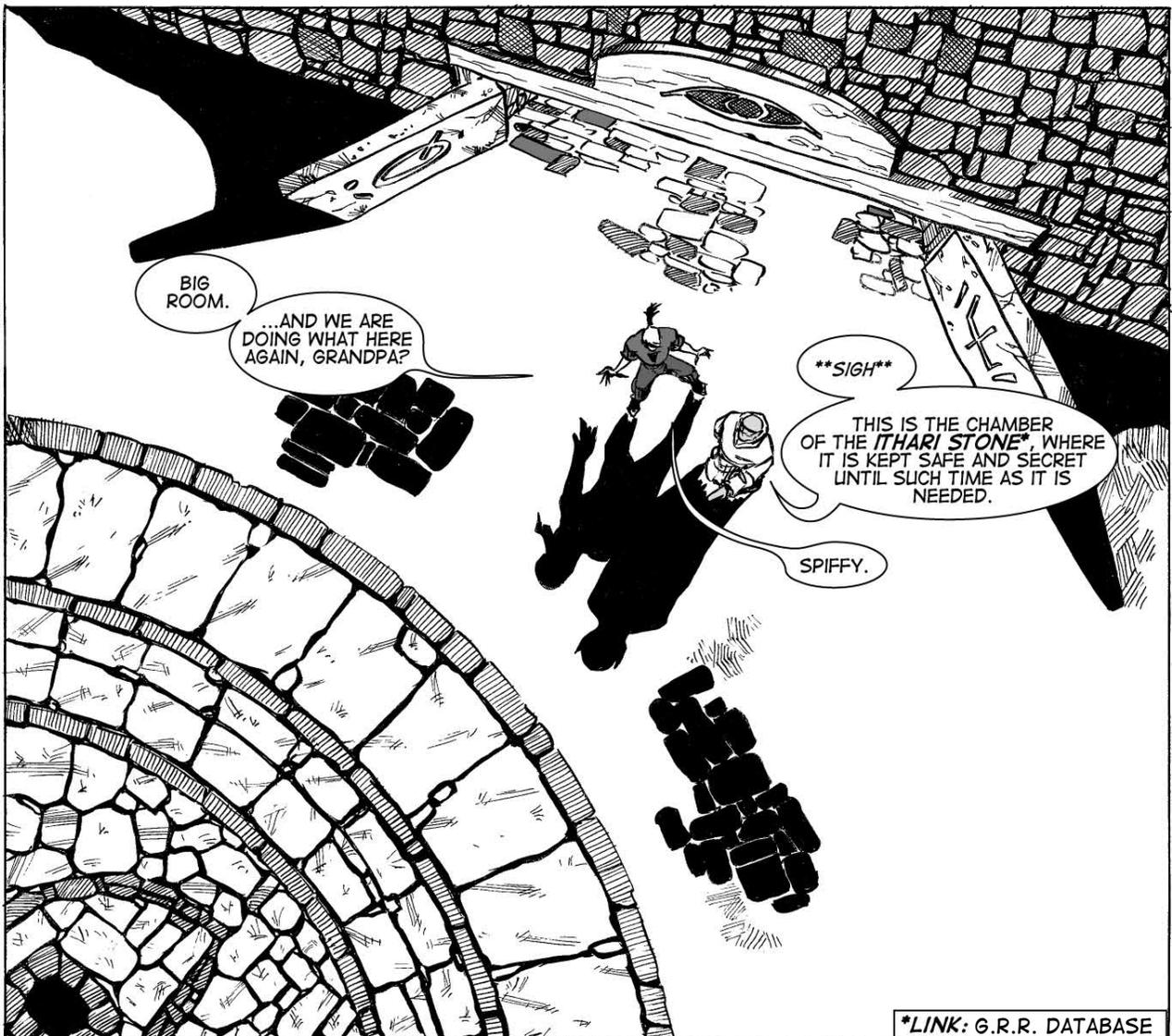
LET ME EXPLAIN...  
THERE IS A **POWER**--A SIMPLE, PURE, BALANCING POWER  
THAT IS NEEDED TO KEEP THE FORCES OF EVIL AT BAY.  
HOWEVER, THE **KEY** TO THAT POWER IS LOCKED INTO A  
**SINGLE BLOODLINE**...THE ONLY FAMILY THAT HAS THE  
ABILITY TO UNLOCK THE **FULL** POTENTIAL OF THIS POWER,  
WHICH IS CALLED THE **ITHARI STONE**-- ALSO KNOWN AS  
THE **'HERO GEM'**.



IT CANNOT COME TO LIFE  
WITHOUT THE 'KEEPER' OF THE  
GEM--THE PERSON TO UNLEASH  
THE POWER.

WHY COULDN'T I  
HAVE A DREAM ABOUT BEING  
A **COMIC BOOK HERO** OR  
SOMETHING INTERESTING  
LIKE THAT?

THAT 'KEEPER' HAS  
BEEN **HIDDEN** FROM THE EYES  
OF THE ENEMY, TO PRESERVE  
HIS LIFE UNTIL THE PRECISE TIME...  
WHEN HE COULD BE ESCORTED  
TO THE GEM AND RESTORE ALL  
THINGS AS THEY MUST  
BE.







# THE HERO GEM!

WOOT!  
NOW WE'RE  
TALKIN!!



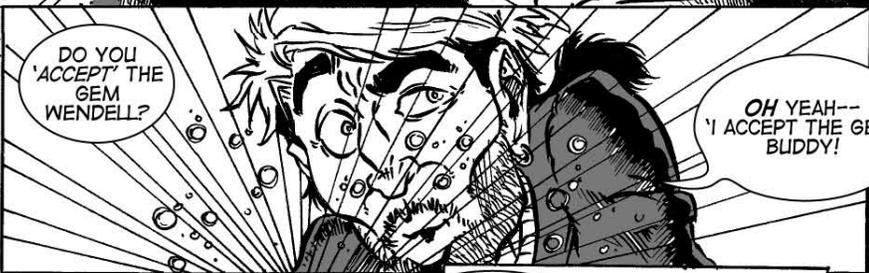
FOR ITS POWER  
TO TAKE EFFECT UPON  
OUR WORLDS, IT MUST BE  
OPENED---  
AND ONLY YOU CAN DO  
THIS...  
WHAT IS YOUR EARTH  
NAME?



WENDELL.  
...LORD WENDELL.  
FORGET THE  
'LORD' STUFF---JUST  
WENDELL. SO, YOU SAY  
THIS IS MINE--ALL I HAVE  
TO DO IS ACCEPT IT?  
CORRECT.  
WHAT'S THE  
CATCH?



THERE IS NO 'CATCH'  
AS YOU PUT IT--JUST  
SAY:  
'I ACCEPT THE GEM'.  
..my precious...hehe



DO YOU  
'ACCEPT' THE  
GEM  
WENDELL?  
OH YEAH--  
'I ACCEPT THE GEM'  
BUDDY!



THEN OUR BUSINESS  
IS CONCLUDED.



OH,  
BY THE WAY...  
THE NEXT FEW  
MOMENTS MAY  
'STING' A LITTLE...



So be it...

This host is acceptable to us...

HOLY CRAP---  
THIS THING TALKS!!

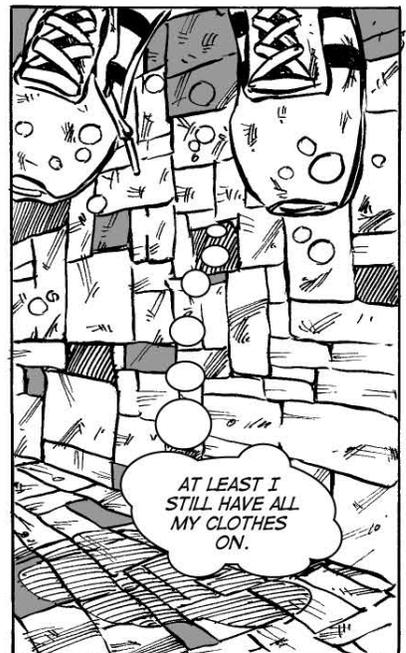


HOST!?!

OK, OK...  
NOT GOOD--  
WAKE UP WENDELL!  
COME ON EVAN,  
SLAP ME OR  
SOMETHING!!



LINGH! I HATE  
THE FLYING PART  
OF DREAMS...

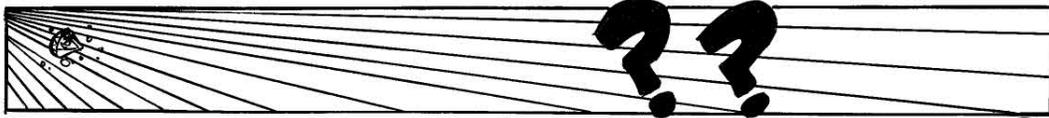


AT LEAST I  
STILL HAVE ALL  
MY CLOTHES  
ON.



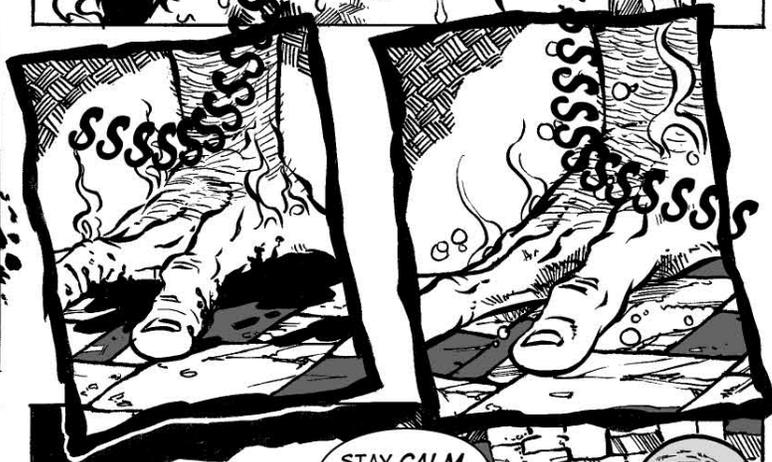
HEY!

I CAN'T MOVE!...COME ON, PUT ME DOWN MAN!!  
I DON'T LIKE HEIGHTS...LOOK, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE  
'OLD MAN IN A DRESS' CRACK--REALLY.





LINH... HURTS..SO...BAD



WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO ME OLD MAN!?



STAY CALM WENDELL ...CALM...

CALM!?! GET AWAY FROM ME YOU MONSTER! WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME!???



THE POWERS OF THE GEM HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO YOU LORD WENDELL.



THE PAIN WILL PASS  
SHORTLY MY LORD.  
YOU MUST GET  
**WARM...**

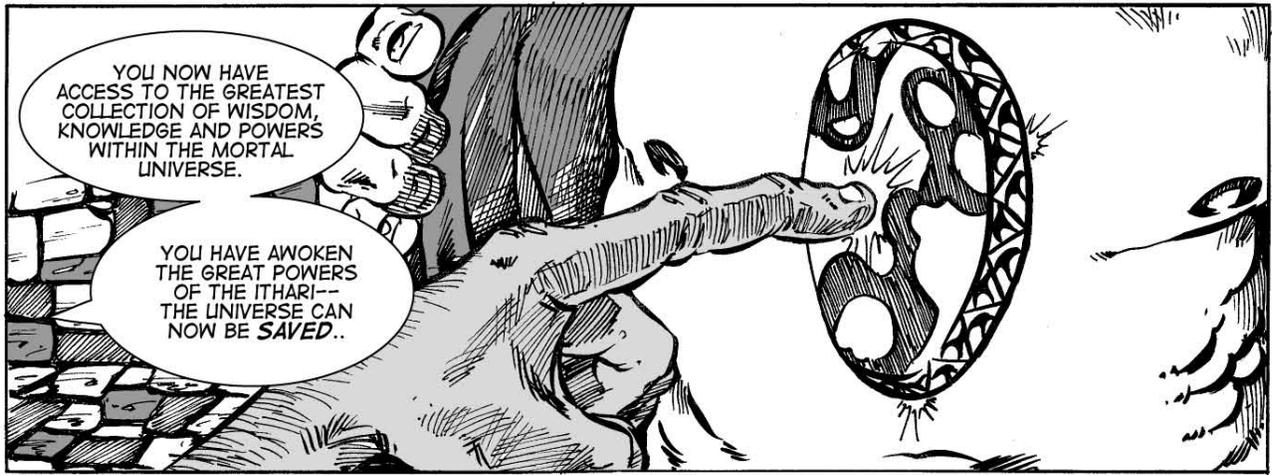
YOU HAVE MORE POWER  
THAN ANY MORTAL COULD  
IMAGINE...THE GEM HAS  
ACCEPTED YOU AS IT'S  
**'PARTNER'...**

**IT WAS TALKING!**  
YOU SAY 'PARTNER'...BUT  
I HEARD IT SAY "HOST"!

LOWER THE CLOTH  
MY LORD--AND BEHOLD  
THE 'GIFT' OF THE ITHARI  
STONE!

IT--IT'S  
**STUCK IN MY  
FLIPPIN CHEST!**

AND THERE IT WILL  
REMAIN, UNTIL IT HAS  
ACCOMPLISHED ALL IT  
MUST, TO RESTORE THE  
BALANCE...



YOU NOW HAVE ACCESS TO THE GREATEST COLLECTION OF WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND POWERS WITHIN THE MORTAL UNIVERSE.

YOU HAVE AWOKEN THE GREAT POWERS OF THE ITHARI!-- THE UNIVERSE CAN NOW BE SAVED..



GREAT-- I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU.

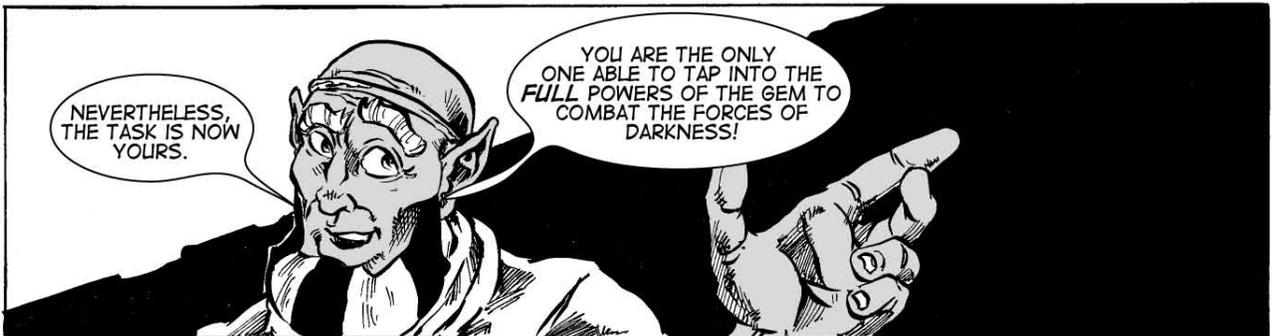
SO HOW DO I GET THIS THING OUT OF MY CHEST AND GET BACK HOME?



BY FIGHTING THE FORCES OF DARKNESS!

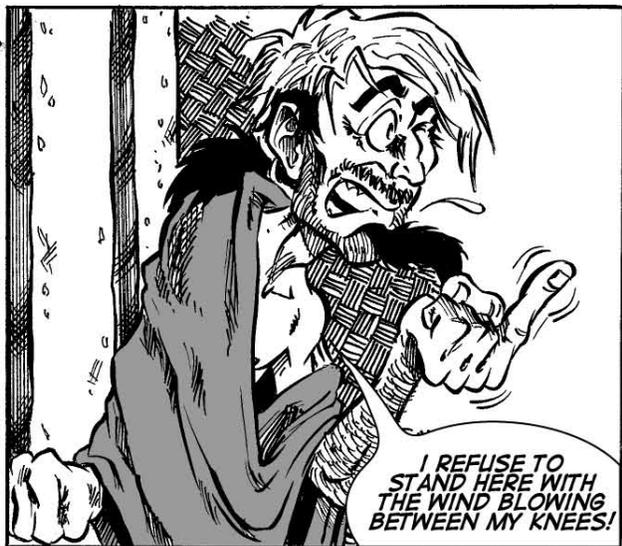


EXCUSE ME!?? YOU JUST KIDNAPPED ME! ALL I WANT IS TO GET RID OF THIS THING AND GO HOME!!



NEVERTHELESS, THE TASK IS NOW YOURS.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE ABLE TO TAP INTO THE FULL POWERS OF THE GEM TO COMBAT THE FORCES OF DARKNESS!





ANY MOMENT YOU'LL WAKE UP...  
...WAKE UP...  
...WAKE UP...

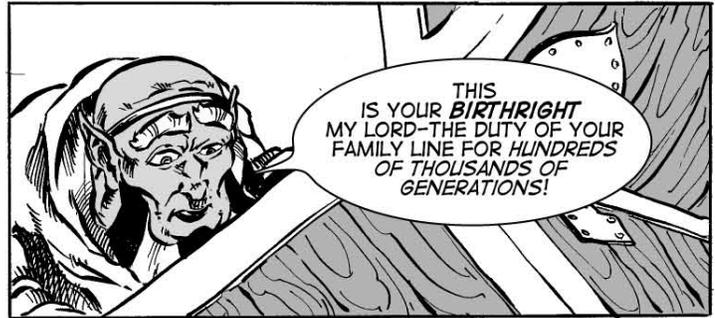
WELL, WHILE YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO WAKE UP--WHY DON'T WE FIND YOU SOME CLOTHES ALRIGHT?



WHAT IF I SIMPLY DON'T WANT TO BE THE HERO?

WHAT THEN?

HOW DO I GET THIS THING OUT OF ME?



THIS IS YOUR **BIRTHRIGHT** MY LORD--THE DUTY OF YOUR FAMILY LINE FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GENERATIONS!



HUMOR ME BUD--WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?



WELL, IF YOU INSIST MY LORD, I WILL EXPLAIN...

FOR THERE TO BE LIFE AND PROGRESSION THERE MUST BE A **BALANCE** BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. YOU CANNOT EXPERIENCE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER.

WITHIN EACH SET OF "CREATIONS", THERE IS A **NEXUS**--A SYSTEM WHERE MATERIALS ARE GATHERED TO FORM THOSE WORLDS.

IT IS THE BALANCE *WITHIN THE NEXUS* THAT THE GEM SEEKS, AND IN SO DOING, MAINTAINS THE BALANCE OF ALL CREATIONS.

TO BE RELEASED AS THE HOST, ONE OF THREE EVENTS MUST OCCUR:

ONE, YOU RESTORE THE BALANCE WITHIN THE NEXUS AND IT WILL RETURN HERE TO THE SANCTUARY.

TWO, YOU REFUSE THE HERO MANTLE--IN WHICH CASE, THE GEM WILL REJECT YOU AFTER ONE REVOLUTION OF THE MOON AND FALL FROM YOU FOREVER.

...AND THE THIRD WAY?

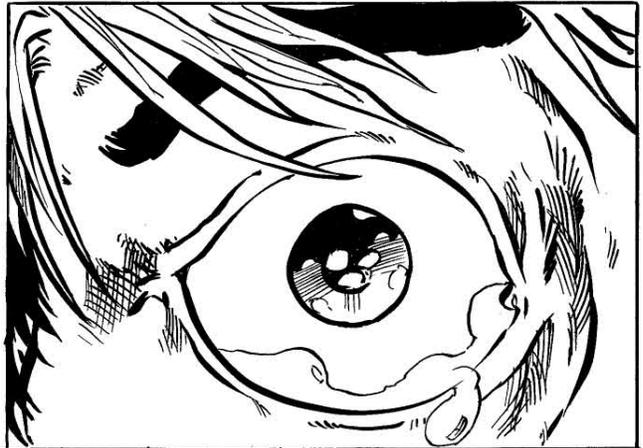
IT IS SO RARE, IT IS NOT WORTH CONSIDERATION--THE POSSIBILITY IS TOO REMOTE.



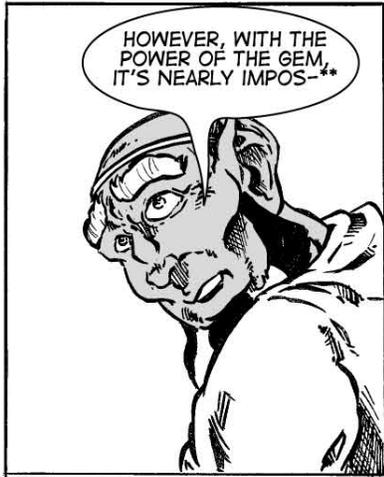
YOU KIDNAP ME  
FROM THE ONLY HOME  
I KNOW, TRICK ME INTO  
TAKING ON A RESPONSIBILITY  
TO SAVE WORLDS,  
GET ME IMPALED BY A TALKING,  
BLOODSUCKING DIAMOND  
...AND YOU WANT TO  
HOLD BACK!??



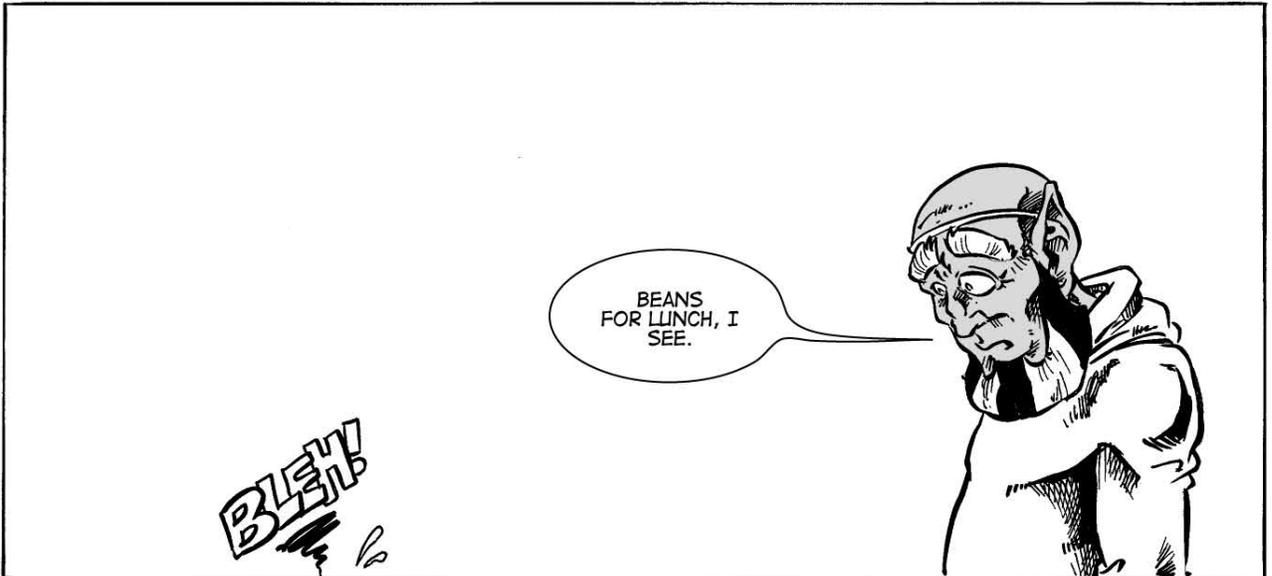
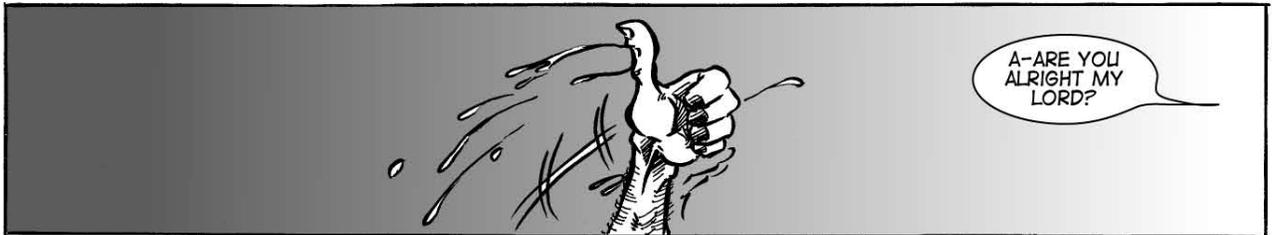
WHAT IS THE  
THIRD WAY??

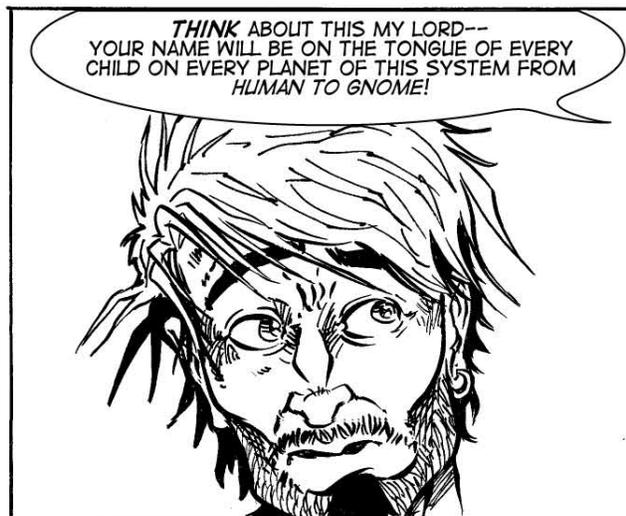


DEATH.



**BARF**





I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS WILL LAST--BUT I'LL GIVE THIS DREAM A SHOT AND ROLL WITH IT!

**FATHER!**  
THE LANTHYA STONE HAS NOT BEEN DISCOVERED!



THOUGH I MUST SAY THAT THE COST HAS BEEN VERY DEAR.



OH, MY DEAR SON!  
WELCOME HOME.



MY HEART IS GLAD AT YOUR SAFE RETURN.



I MUST RETURN FATHER. THE DARK FORCES HAVE OPENED A GATE TO ABIR\* AND EVEN NOW, PUSH THROUGH.



\*LINK: G.R.R. DATABASE

THEN TAKE OUR HERO WITH YOU!



HE IS HERE?!  
GLORY TO THE GODS!!





HERE HE IS MY SON--TAKE OUR CHAMPION FOR GOOD AND SCOURGE THE LAND OF EVIL!

TA-DAAA.



FATHER....I CANNOT TAKE *THIS* MAN TO BATTLE.



HE IS *NOT* THE HERO.



RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN?



FATHER, PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE NOT BESTOWED THE POWER, UPON THIS INFIDEL!??

HEY!

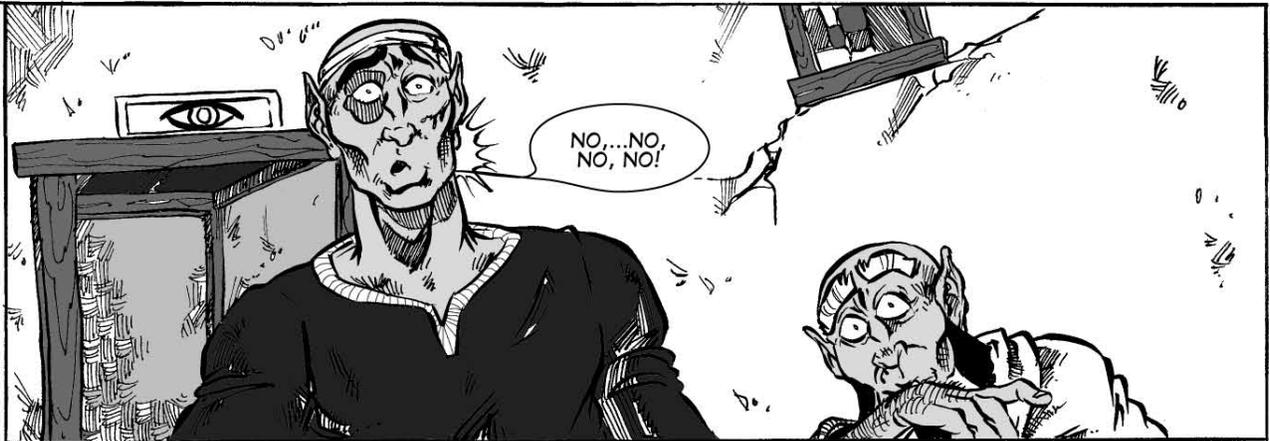
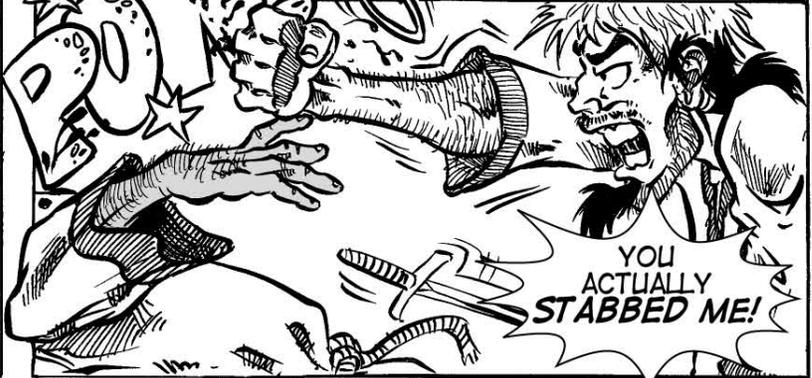


THIS CAN BE EASILY SOLVED WITH A SIMPLE TEST!

? ?



HELLO!  
WHAT THE FLIP YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA DO WITH THAT!?





UH-OH.

**NEXT  
ISSUE:**

"OOPS."



**AVAILABLE NOW!**

**ISSUES #2: "OOPS!"**

**AND**

**ISSUE #3: "STICKS AND STONES"**

**ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD!**

**EACH ISSUE IS 100 FREE!**

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(though this doesn't taste quite as good)

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