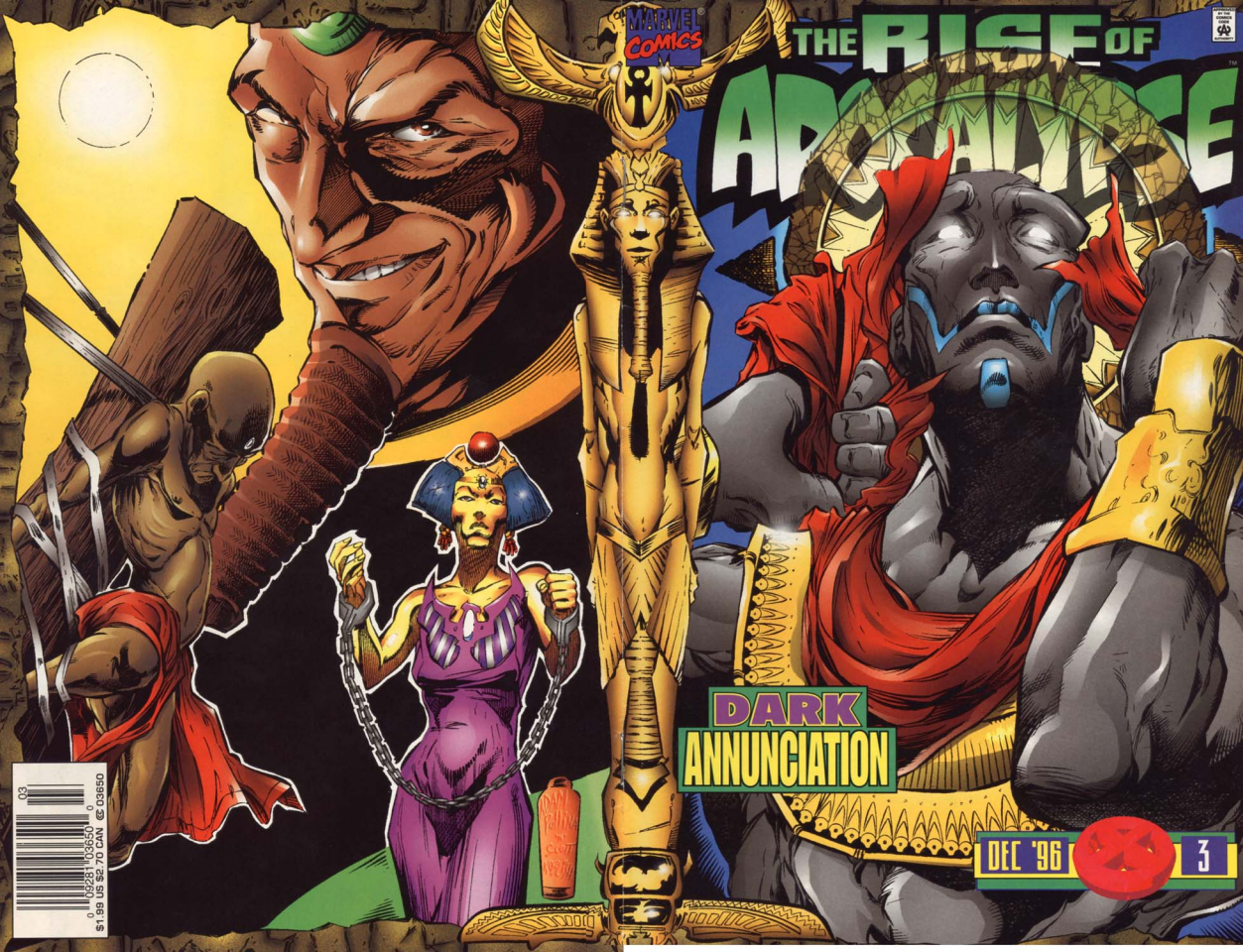


MARVEL
COMICS

THE RISE OF

APCALYPSE



**DARK
ANNUNCIATION**

DEC '96



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MARVEL COMICS
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FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

THE GLORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT IS BUILT UPON THE LABOR OF SLAVES...



... THOSE CRUSHED AND BROKEN BENEATH THE MASSIVE FOUNDATION STONES OF THE PYRAMIDS.

BUT ONE SLAVE WILL NOT BE CRUSHED OR BROKEN.

BOTH MONARCHS AND TYRANTS SHALL BOW TO HIM THROUGH THE COURSE OF HISTORY.



HE SHALL SHATTER THE FOUNDATIONS OF MANKIND'S "CIVILIZATION" THROUGH THE SHEER FORCE OF HIS FURY.

HE IS CALLED EN SABAH NUR -- THE WORLD'S FIRST MUTANT...

... A HARBINGER OF A RACE THAT WILL NOT WALK THE EARTH FOR NIGH ON FOUR MILLENNIA.

HIS IDENTITY IS KNOWN ONLY TO THE PHARAOH'S VIZIER, LOGOS...

... WHO HAS HIDDEN HIM HERE FROM HIS KING'S WRATH.

SOON THIS SLAVE WILL STAND ASCENDANT THROUGH ETERNITY, USING THE STRANGE POWERS ENCODED WITHIN HIS GENES TO ESTABLISH A DYNASTY THAT WILL LAST TILL THE END OF TIME...

... ONE DAY THIS LOWLY SERVANT WILL BE THE DESPOT KNOWN AS APOCALYPSE.

BUT FOR NOW, HE TOILS FOR OTHERS...

THIS IS HIS STORY.

HE MOVES THE MASSIVE
STONE SINGLE-HANDEDLY.

HIS STRENGTH
IS UNGODLY...

...AND IT INSPIRES
FEAR IN SLAVE AND
MASTER ALIKE.

"HE CANNOT BE
HUMAN," THEY
WHISPER.

BUT NUR IS USED TO
BEING AN OUTCAST.

HE HAD BEEN ABANDONED
IN THE WASTES TO DIE AS
A FREAKISH BABE...

...AND THEN SHUNNED BY
THE TRIBE -- THE PEOPLE
OF THE SANDS --

-- THAT TOOK
HIM IN UPON THE
INSISTENCE OF THEIR
LEADER, BARL.

HIS TWISTED FEATURES
ARE SWATHED IN RAGS
TO OBLIVIOUS HIM.

FOR IN THIS CITY
OF HIDDEN MENACE,
HE IS HUNTED BY
EGYPT'S MYSTERIOUS
RULER, RAMA-TUT...

... WHO WANTS
THE YOUTH'S
BURGEONING
POWER FOR
HIS OWN USE.

ALREADY, NUR'S
TRIBE LIES DEAD
BECAUSE OF
PHAROAH'S
WARLORD
OZYMANDIAS.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:
**THE
FACE
OF THE
GODS**

TERRY KAVANAGH
AND JAMES FELDER
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ADAM POLLINA
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MARK MORALES
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MARK
POWERS
EDITOR

BOBA TUTT
HARRIS
CHIEF

THE ORIGIN OF THE
X-MEN'S GREATEST
FOE

THEY WILL HAVE NO
MONUMENTS ERECTED
BY SLAVES TO MARK
THEIR PASSING, ONLY
NUR'S MEMORY...

YOU HAVE
TAKEN
EVERYTHING
FROM ME -- MY
HOME...

... AND
BARL, WHO
PROTECTED
ME LIKE A
FATHER.

... WHICH WILL OUTLAST
EVEN THESE SENTINELS
MEANT TO OVERWATCH
ETERNITY.

SOON...

... SOON I
WILL HAVE MY
REVENGE UPON
YOU AND YOUR
GENERAL, BOTH,
TUT.

AND THEN
I WILL CLAIM
THE SECRETS MY
FATHER SPOKE OF
THAT LIE WITHIN
YOUR PRECIOUS
SPINE.



STOP YOUR DAYDREAMING, JACKAL!

YOU DARE TO ADDRESS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE ROYAL BY NAME?!

SNKAK

-UNH-

THAT WILL BE YOUR FINAL ACT, OFFAL!

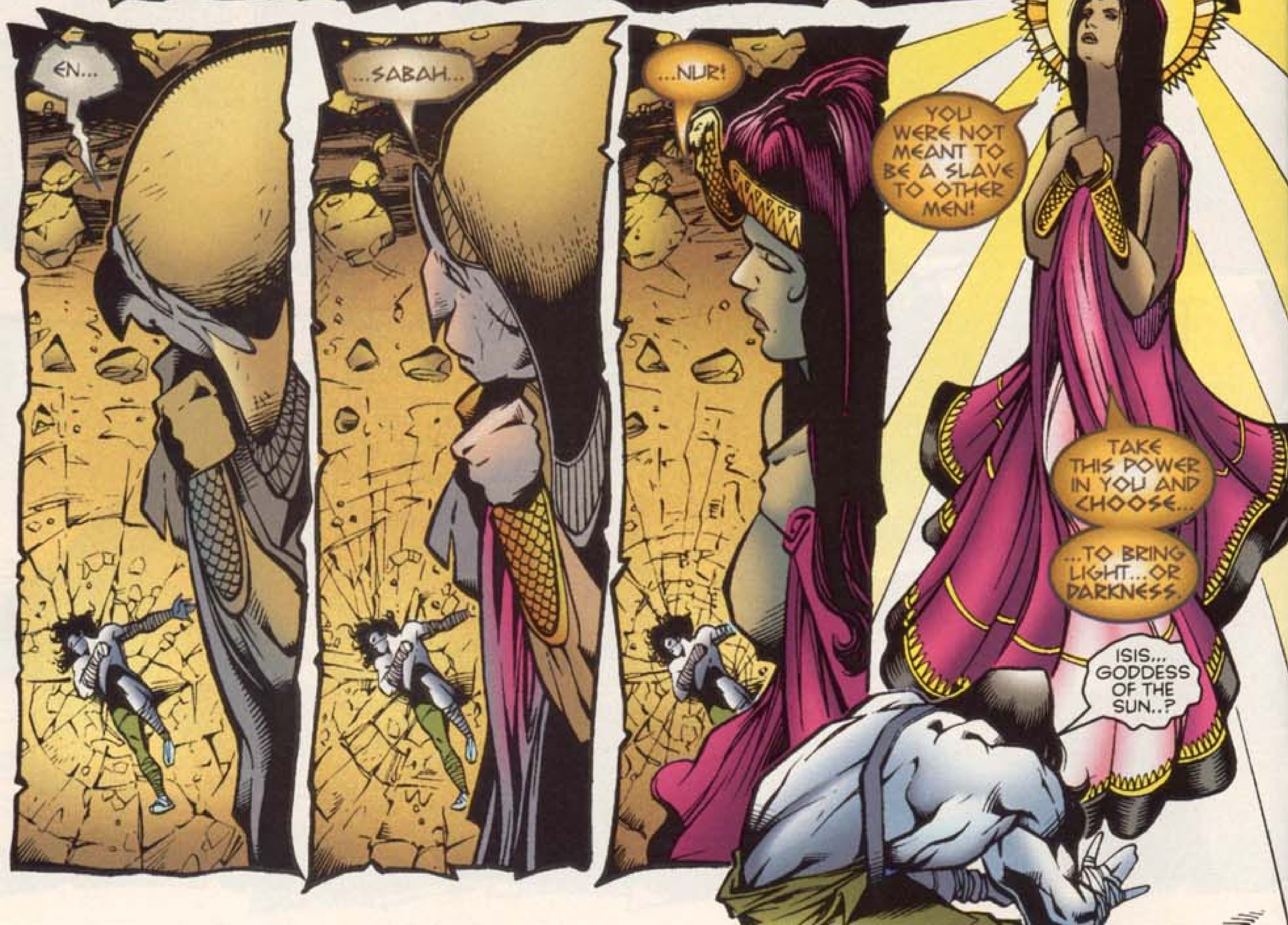
OZYMANDIAS!

THE FALL SHOULD BE LETHAL, WITHOUT A DOUBT.

PERHAPS THERE IS HUMOR AMONG THE GODS THAT NUR LANDS AT THE FEET OF A STATUE TO OSIRIS, GUARDIAN OF THE UNDERWORLD...

... OR PERHAPS IT IS PROPHECY.

AS CONFRONTATION WITH DEATH HAS BEFORE, IT AWAKENS IN NUR SOME PART OF HIS DAWNING GENESIS... HIS POWER.



EN...

...SABAH...

...NUR!

YOU WERE NOT MEANT TO BE A SLAVE TO OTHER MEN!

TAKE THIS POWER IN YOU AND CHOOSE...

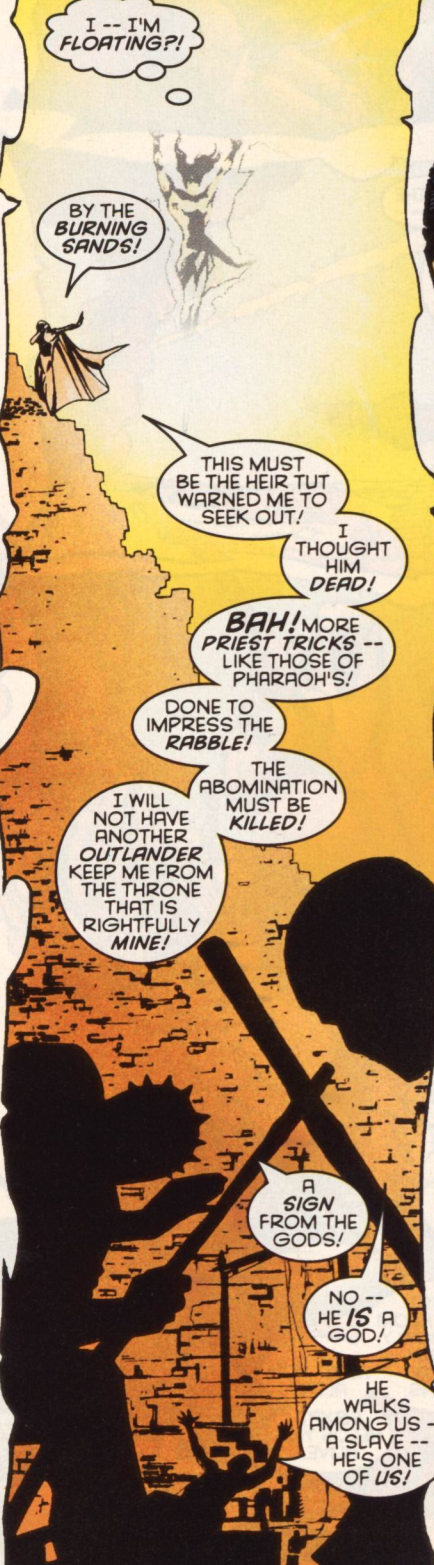
...TO BRING LIGHT... OR DARKNESS

ISIS... GODDESS OF THE SUN..?



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? IS THIS A TRICK OF THE DESERT...
... A HALLUCINATION?

THE POWER OF THE SUN IS FLOWING THROUGH ME --
-- MY BLOOD IS ON FIRE!



I -- I'M FLOATING?!

BY THE BURNING SANDS!

THIS MUST BE THE HEIR TUT WARNED ME TO SEEK OUT!
I THOUGHT HIM DEAD!

BAH! MORE PRIEST TRICKS -- LIKE THOSE OF PHARAOH'S!

DONE TO IMPRESS THE RABBLE!

THE ABOMINATION MUST BE KILLED!

I WILL NOT HAVE ANOTHER OUTLANDER KEEP ME FROM THE THRONE THAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!

A SIGN FROM THE GODS!

NO -- HE IS A GOD!

HE WALKS AMONG US -- A SLAVE -- HE'S ONE OF US!



SO MUCH LIGHT -- BLACKING OUT...

HE IS A GIFT FROM THE GODS -- TO LIBERATE US FROM THIS BONDAGE!

QUICK -- FETCH WATER! HE MUST BE DOUSED.



GET HIM!
KILL
HIM!



STAND BACK!
STAND BACK!



YOU RAISE
YOUR HANDS
AGAINST A
WARLORD OF
SACRED
EGYPT?!

I WILL
PAVE THESE
SANDS WITH
YOUR
BONES!



HE
COMES FROM
THE HEAVENS
TO PROTECT
US!



SIR -- OVER THE
HORIZON --

-- I
THINK THE
KING'S
DAY COURT
IS ON
FIRE!



HE IS A
GOD!

PROTECT
HIM FROM
PHARAOH'S
TROOPS!



MORE SAND-
STORMERS?

COME,
WE MUST
PROTECT
OUR REVERED
PHARAOH...

... FOR
NOW.

LIEUTENANT,
ROUND THESE
SLAVES UP.

I WILL
DEAL WITH
THEM WHEN I
RETURN --

-- MOST
FINALLY.

YOU ARE
FULL OF
SURPRISES,
MY BOLD
STRANGER.

WE MUST
GET YOU FROM
HERE QUICKLY
BEFORE MY...
GENERAL
RETURNS.

I
NEED YOU
ALIVE.

EGYPT
NEEDS YOU
ALIVE.

DESTINY...
THE SPHINX...
LIGHT...
ISIS...

HOURS LATER.

PEACE IS RESTORED IN RAMA-TUT'S COURT...

I CAUGHT THESE FELLOW TRAVELERS EASILY ENOUGH, BUT I AM TROUBLED.

THIS I NEVER READ OF IN THE CHRONOLOGS.

PERHAPS IT IS A GOOD SIGN.

ALREADY I CHANGE HISTORY...

... FOR NO RECORD EXISTS OF THIS TWENTIETH-CENTURY QUARTET OF HEROES EVER APPEARING IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

WHAT WAS TO BE IS NO LONGER, AND I CONTROL THE COURSE OF THINGS...

... AS I SHALL CONTROL THESE "HEROES" FROM THE FUTURE WHO HAVE STUMBLER UPON SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN THEY CAN SUSPECT.

ON YOUR FEET, CAPTIVES! YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AWESOME RAMA-TUT, KING OF KINGS, MASTER OF MEN, LORD OF THE SEVEN SUNS!

NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHO I AM, THERE IS NO NEED TO INTRODUCE YOURSELVES... FOR I AM QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE--

Fantastic Four!

BEN GRIMM, CALLED THE THING.

SUE STORM, THE INVISIBLE GIRL.

THE GROUP'S LEADER, REED RICHARDS, ALSO KNOWN AS MR. FANTASTIC.

YOU KNOW US?!

JOHNNY STORM, THE HOT-HEADED HUMAN TORCH.

SIRE, DO YOU KNOW THESE REMARKABLE STRANGERS? ARE THEY FROM YOUR HOMELANDS?

THEIR SKIN IS PALE, LIKE YOURS.

ONE IS OF STONE... ONE CAN BURN LIKE A TORCH!

WHAT ARE THEY, MY LORD?

SILENCE!
LEAVE!

WHAT
PASSES HERE
IS NOT FOR YOUR
EARS, VIZIER
LOGOS!

YES, MY
LIEGE.

I
SERVE THE
THRONE, AS
ALWAYS.

INCREDIBLE!
THE STRANGE
LANGUAGE THEY
SPEAK... IT MAKES
NO SENSE.

... I AM
NOT A
PART OF
IT!

AS YOU
MIGHT HAVE
OBSOULETLY
GUESSED, NO
ANCIENT PHARAOH
FROM PRIMITIVE
TIMES COULD
HAVE THE POWER
TO SUBDUCE THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR!

I KNEW
TUT TO BE AN
OUTSIDER,
BUT...

YOU!

WE HAVE
ORDERS TO ESCORT
YOU TO YOUR
CHAMBERS.

ORDERS
FROM
OZYMANDIAS
HIMSELF.

THE
SPEARS
ARE NOT
NECESSARY...
YET.

OF
COURSE!
THIS IS THE
WEAPON WHICH
SAPPED YOUR
POWERS, WHICH
MADE YOU MY
CAPTIVES!

THIS
ULTRA-DIODE
RAY, INVENTED IN
THE YEAR 3,000...
ONE THOUSAND
YEARS FURTHER IN
THE FUTURE THAN
YOUR OWN
CENTURY!

THEN...
YOU TOO
ARE -- A TIME
TRAVELER!!

YES, I COME FROM THE YEAR 3,000 -- THE GLORIOUS AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT, THE CENTURY OF PEACE AND PROGRESS --

-- THE ULTIMATE IN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE!

I COME TO THIS BACKWARDS ERA AS A TIME LOOTER.

WITH MY HEADQUARTERS HERE IN ANCIENT EGYPT, AND WITH MY VAST SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE...

... I WILL BECOME THE ABSOLUTE RULER OF MANKIND!

MOST OF HIS POWER IS IN THAT AWESOME WEAPON!

IF I CAN JUST USE MY STRETCHING POWER TO SEIZE IT --!

HAH! NOT FAST ENOUGH, MY OVER-EAGER FRIEND! NOW I'LL SHOW YOU THE UNDREAMED-OF POWER OF MY MIGHTY WEAPON!

BRANNNGG

BY BATHING YOU WITH ITS LOW-INTENSITY RAYS, IT CAN SAP YOUR WILL AND MAKE YOU MY SLAVES...

... UNTIL I DECIDE TO REPEAT THE TREATMENT AND FREE YOU!

AND IT SHALL NEVER BE MY INTENTION TO FREE YOU!



TAKE THEM AWAY TO AWAIT MY PLEASURE.

BUT YOU SHALL REMAIN AT MY SIDE!

FOR YOU HAVE TRAVELED ALL THESE CENTURIES BACK THROUGH TIME... AND YOU SHALL BE REWARDED...

... BY BECOMING MY QUEEN!

IN LOGOS' BARREN CHAMBER...

THIS IS MY REWARD FOR SERVING EGYPT?

MY PLANS AND SCHEMATICS FOR THE PYRAMIDS SEIZED BY OZYMANDIAS' MEN.

NOW THE GENERAL READIES HIMSELF TO TAKE THE THRONE...

... WHILE TUT ALLIES HIMSELF WITH MORE OUTLANDERS WITH UNIMAGINABLE POWERS.

NOT EVEN OZYMANDIAS' SAVAGERY CAN STOP THEM!

I MUST ACT SOON -- OR I WILL DIE, AND EGYPT WILL BE DESTROYED.

MY ONLY HOPE IS EN SABAH NUR.

WHERE ARE YOU WHEN I NEED YOU, BOY?



JUST THIS SIDE OF THE UNDERWORLD...

um... WHERE AM I? WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

HUSH. REST.

YOU ARE DEEP WITHIN THE BURIAL CHAMBER OF RAMA-TUT -- WITHIN THE MAIN PYRAMID.

HERE YOU CAN HIDE AND REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH.

WHO ARE YOU..?

I AM NEPHRI -- PROMISED TO WED PHARAOH.

THIS HAS GIVEN ME FREE PASSAGE OF THE GROUNDS -- EVEN SOME SECRET PASSAGES.

INTO HERE... ONTO THE SLAVE FIELDS... EVEN CLOSE TO THE SPHINX --

WHAT?!





Shhhhh.
REST...

I WAS TAUGHT BY MY MOTHER TO PAY HEED TO THE OMENS, EVEN WHEN ALL OUR PEOPLE DISREGARDED THE OLD RELIGION -- THE OLD BLOODLINES... OUR ROYAL BLOODLINES.

SUCH WAS THE FALL OF OUR HOUSE.

SUCH DISREGARD MADE EGYPT LOOK TO OUT-LANDERS LIKE RAMA-TUT.

STILL I LOOK TO THE OMENS, THOUGH. I BELIEVE GOOD THINGS CAN COME FROM THE GODS.

MY MOTHER SAID TO LOOK UPON THE FACE OF THE GODS --

-- RECOGNIZE THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE.



SHUN OSIRIS, FOR HE BRINGS DEATH IN HIS WAY.

EMBRACE ISIS AND SHE WILL BIRTH LIGHT.

MY FATHER DIED PROTECTING MY BROTHER, OZYMANDIAS, DURING A SCAVENGERS' RAID.

OZYMANDIAS..?

MY MOTHER DIED IN THE FLOOD SEASON. I SAW IT WAS COMING IN THE OMENS --

-- DEAD SCARABS I FOUND LITTERING THE REEDS DURING HARVEST.



I LOOKED UPON TUT'S FACE AND SAW OSIRIS' SEARING GAZE.

AND YOU... YOU... I SAW YOU AS A HOPE ON THE HORIZON...

... FOR TOMORROW.

IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE, STRANGER... WITH YOUR STRANGE POWERS FROM THE GODS?

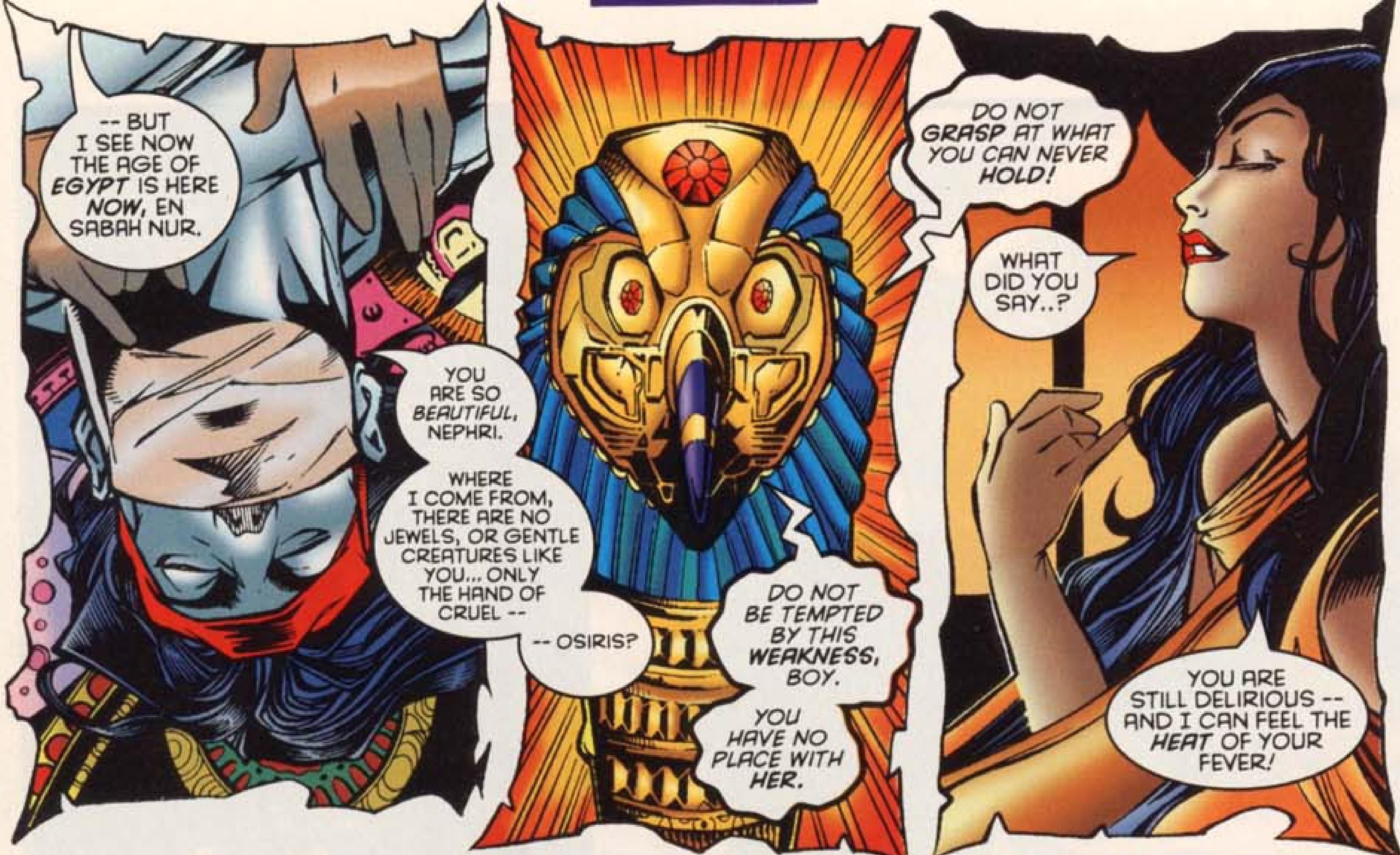
YOUR TOUCH IS SO WARM...



WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

I AM CALLED... EN SABAH NUR.

WHEN TUT CAST MY HOUSE FROM THE THRONE, I SWORE I WOULD NOT GIVE MY HEART TO ANOTHER FOR ALL ETERNITY...



-- BUT I SEE NOW THE AGE OF EGYPT IS HERE NOW, EN SABAH NUR.

YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, NEPHRI.

WHERE I COME FROM, THERE ARE NO JEWELS, OR GENTLE CREATURES LIKE YOU... ONLY THE HAND OF CRUEL --

-- OSIRIS?

DO NOT BE TEMPTED BY THIS WEAKNESS, BOY.

YOU HAVE NO PLACE WITH HER.

DO NOT GRASP AT WHAT YOU CAN NEVER HOLD!

WHAT DID YOU SAY..?

YOU ARE STILL DELIRIOUS -- AND I CAN FEEL THE HEAT OF YOUR FEVER!



THOSE WRAPPINGS CAN'T BE HELPING.

TAKE THESE BANDAGES OFF...

... LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.

NO...



NO!

GET AWAY FROM ME!



WHAT... WHAT IS WRONG?

I WOULD OPEN MYSELF TO YOU -- MY HEART --

-- AT A TIME WHEN THIS COULD MEAN MY DEATH.

TRUST ME... DO NOT SHUT ME OUT. YOUR LIFE CANNOT BE WORSE THAN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN HERE.

I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU. THIS I SWEAR!

YOU... DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM. I CAN NEVER BE PART OF THIS... PART OF YOUR HUMANITY.

YOU SPOKE OF THE SPHINX. TAKE ME THERE...

... NOW!

ON THE THRONE ROOM...

YOU BOW TO ME, GENERAL. BUT ALL BOW TO ME.

I AM TUT. NO LESS IS EXPECTED.

I ASK YOU THIS -- WHY DID YOU TELL ME THE HEIR I SOUGHT WAS DEAD?

I HEAR OF RIOTS IN THE SLAVE GROUNDS, AND WHISPERS IN THE TEMPLES SPEAKING OF OUR GODS' WRATH.

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD'S WRATH TO FEAR, AND IT IS MINE.

YOU TELL ME THINGS ARE TAKEN CARE OF NOW. Hmm?

TUT MUST HAVE ANSWERS. THE TRUTH. I WARN YOU ONLY ONCE, GENERAL...

... LIE, AND YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO SEE THE DAWN.

SO RISE, MY REVERENT GENERAL, AND ANSWER ME.

WHERE IS THE PROPHESED ONE?

MY... LIEGE... THE CITY OF KINGS IS SECURED... NO ONE CAN ESCAPE...

... IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF... TIME... BEFORE WE FIND THE OUTLANDER BOY --

DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF TIME! YOUR TIME IS UP, WARLORD!

THE SLAVES HIDE HIM! FIND HIM!

Heh heh. MIGHTY TUT, THE SLAVES DO NOT HIDE HIM.

I HAVE... TAKEN CARE OF THE SLAVES. MOST FINALLY.

SUDDENLY...

PHARAOH!

WHY HAS WORK STOPPED ON THE PYRAMIDS?

FIRST, THE EQUIPMENT IN MY LAB WAS SEIZED.

NOW I AM DENIED ACCESS TO THE PYRAMID GROUNDS.

I --

-- THE WOMAN IN THE GARB OF PHARAOH'S BETROTHED

TUT PICKS ANOTHER FOREIGNER TO BE HIS BRIDE?

BUT THEN, WHAT OF NEPHRI?

DO NOT TROUBLE YOURSELF WITH THOSE TOMBS. OZYMANDIAS ALERTED US TO A PROBLEM --

-- THE WORKERS HAD TO BE DISPOSED OF.

THEY THREATENED REVOLT BECAUSE OF SOME HEATHEN SAVIOR THEY THOUGHT HAD ARRIVED.

A DISGUISED STRANGER AMONGST THEM WHO SEEMED TO PERFORM... MIRACLES.

I AM IN AS MUCH IGNORANCE OF THIS MATTER AS YOU ARE, WISE LOGOS.

WE ALL SEEK ANSWERS -- LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE, NO?

I AM TOLD YOU HAD A SLAVE WITH BANDAGED FACE IN YOUR QUARTERS EARLIER.

ANSWER ME, MY TRUSTED VIZIER...

MEANWHILE...

GO BACK NOW.
YOU'VE SHOWN ME THE PASSAGE -- BEYOND HERE LIES MY DESTINY.

THIS IS A PLACE OF EVIL!
THE SPHINX IS SAID TO HAVE APPEARED FROM NOWHERE...
... WITH TUT HIMSELF!

MORE TALK OF OMENS, NEPHRI?

DO NOT MOCK ME!

THE SPHINX DOES NOT GUARD OVER MY EGYPT, BUT OVER PHARAOH'S WORLD --

-- IT STANDS READY TO DEVOUR THOSE WHO SEEK THE SECRETS OF THE KING!

DON'T TAKE THAT TONE.

I'M AN OUTLANDER. MORE SO THAN ANY...

... AND THOSE SECRETS WILL BE MINE, NEPHRI.

RETURN TO YOUR LIFE IN THE PALACE...

... WHERE IT'S SAFE. MY PLACE IS HERE --
-- ALONE, AS I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU. YOU CANNOT DISMISS ME!
THIS LAND NEEDS YOUR POWER -- YOUR COURAGE!
EVEN IF YOU DO NOT WANT ME TO --

I... DO WANT YOU HERE.
BUT I WOULDN'T SEE YOU HURT.
ALREADY ONE PERSON DIED THAT I...
... THAT I SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED.

NEPHRI, I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS TO SAY THIS...
... BUT I'M NOT FROM YOUR COURT OF LEARNING AND CULTURE.
I'M JUST A NOMAD SEEKING TO PROTECT YOU FROM WHAT LIES...

... WITHIN.
BY THE BURNING SANDS!

DEAR
ISIS,
NO!

IT
CAN'T
BE!

LOGOS!

BUT THIS
MEANS --

THAT
YOU ARE IN
THE VIPER'S
NEST,
BARBAR-
IAN.

FOR
FAR TOO
LONG HAS
THIS *LEARNED*
FOOL TAUNTED
ME WITH HIS SELF-
IMPORTANT
SCIENTIFIC
NONSENSE.

BUT
LOOK WHERE
HIS SO-CALLED
WISDOM HAS
BROUGHT
HIM.

THOUGH
I MUST ADMIT...
HE WAS WILLING TO
ENDURE A GREAT
DEAL OF PAIN
TO *SHIELD*
YOU.

MORE
THE PITY IT
WAS FOR
NAUGHT.

TUT
KNEW YOU'D BE
DRAWN HERE,
NUR...

... BUT NOT
THAT YOU'D
HAVE A *COMPANION*.
THIS IS A SURPRISE,
DEAR SISTER.

NOW,
IF YOU'LL
BOTH COME
WITH ME...

... OUR
MONARCH HAS
MUCH HE WISHES
TO *DISCUSS*
WITH YOU.

SUNRISE.

ONE LAST TIME, LOGOS' PYRAMID GROUNDS ARE REOPENED...

ONE WHOSE IMPACT WILL BE FELT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS HENCE...

... FOR A VERY PUBLIC EVENT IS TO OCCUR THIS DAY.



WHAT... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE... WITH NUR?



BROTHER!

THESE STAKES ARE FOR THOSE TO BE EXECUTED!

I AM OF THE HOUSE ROYAL --

-- FOR PITY'S SAKE, WE SHARE THE SAME BLOOD!

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?!

YOU SPEAK OF OUR NOBLE BLOOD WHEN IT IS OBVIOUS YOU WOULD BEFOUL IT WITH THAT... THING.

NO, MY CHERISHED SIBLING, I'M AFRAID I MUST DISPOSE OF BOTH YOU AND THIS FEEBLE OLD MAN AS AN EXAMPLE...



... FOR THE PEOPLE.

THEY MUST SEE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE WHO WOULD DISREGARD THE RULE OF THE EMPIRE.

THEY MUST FEAR OUR POWER.



SOME THEY SHOULD FEAR MORE THAN OTHERS, OZY-MANDIAS.

Er... SALUTATIONS, MY BELOVED EMPEROR.

WE HAVE MUCH TO SHOW OUR PEOPLE THIS MORNING, GENERAL.

MY FAIR, FAITHFUL BRIDE WITH THE GOLDEN TRESSES --

-- AND MY HEIR --

-- MY CHOSEN SUCCESSOR.

LET ALL BOW TO HIM...

... AS HE BOWS TO HIS BELOVED KING.

BOW TO ME... SON.

SO THE PEOPLE MAY SEE YOUR RESPECT FOR ME.

I AM NOT YOUR SON, TUT.

AND I BOW TO NO ONE.



SUBMIT!

BOW TO YOUR SUPERIOR!

IT IS TREASON NOT TO -- PUNISHABLE BY DEATH!



LOWER YOUR SPEAR, WAR-MAKER.

IT WOULD BE OF LITTLE USE AGAINST THIS ONE.

TRUST ME.

HE IS TO BE MY HEIR -- TO SUCCEED PHARAOH IN LEADING HIS NEVER-DYING DYNASTY.

YOU SHALL YIELD TO HIM AS YOU DO TO ME, OZYMANDIAS.

IN TIME, ALL SHALL BOW TO HIM!

WHAT IS THIS --?



THESE SUPERSTITIOUS IMBECILES REVERE YOU, EN SABAH NUR.

YOU ARE THEIR HOPE -- THEY WHISPER OF YOU AS THEIR SAVIOR!

AFTER ALL YOU HAVE ENDURED IN YOUR LIFE, WOULD IT NOT BE FINE TO ACCEPT THEIR IGNORANT AFFECTION FOR YOU?

COME -- SHOW YOUR SUBJECTS YOUR HOLY FACE.

SHE MIGHT YET LIVE, BOY... SO BE STILL.

DON'T --! I DON'T WANT HER TO SEE MY --

THE SCREAMS OF HORROR QUICKLY DIE DOWN TO GASPS OF HUSHED REVERENCE AMONG THE ASSEMBLED CITY-FOLK.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT PIERCES EN SABAH NUR TO HIS HEART.

-- AND FINALLY KILLS SOMETHING WITHIN HIM AS SHE TWISTS AWAY.



IT IS THE SILENT STING OF REVULSION AS NEPHRI GAZES UPON HIS TWISTED VISAGE THAT STABS AT HIM ---

THIS WAS THE GIRL WHO YOU THOUGHT MIGHT LOVE YOU...

... AM I NOT RIGHT?

FORGET HER, NUR. SHE CAN ONLY HAVE DISGUST FOR OUR LIKE. SHE CANNOT LOOK INTO THE TRUE FACE OF POWER.



SUCH IS OUR LEGACY.

I DO NOT TURN FROM YOU, NUR. YOU AND I ARE ALIKE.

CAN YOU NOT SEE THIS?

NUR... DO NOT TRUST HIM! HE IS A VIPER. HE SHALL STING YOU... AS HE HAS EGYPT... AS HE HAS ME...

... JOIN HIM AND YOU BECOME A MONSTER LIKE HIM... CORRUPTED...

... A TREACHEROUS LAP DOG LIKE OZYMANDIAS...



SILENCE,
THINKER!

I SAID
SHOW ME
RESPECT AND YOU
DID NOT. I SAID
NOT TO MEDDLE IN
ROYAL AFFAIRS,
AND YOU
DID!

NOW
YOUR
TONGUE WILL
RATTLE NO
MORE!

LET
ALL HERESSEE
THAT THIS IS WHAT
AWAITS THOSE WHO
IGNORE THE
ARMIES OF
EGYPT --

-- THE
POWER OF LORD
OZYMANDIAS!

SHUK

DO NOT
MOURN HIM,
CHILD.

WHEN
HIS BONES
ARE DUST, BUT
A PASSING
MOMENT WILL
HAVE PASSED
IN YOUR
LIFE.

NOW,
SWEAR YOUR
LOYALTY
TO ME --

-- LET
ME GIVE YOU
THE UNPARALLELED
SECRETS OF MY
TRAVELS --

-- AND
YOU WILL ONE
DAY RULE NOT
JUST EGYPT,
BUT THE
WORLD!

DEFY
ME, AND YOU
AND ALL THAT YOU
CHERISH WILL BE
DESTROYED.

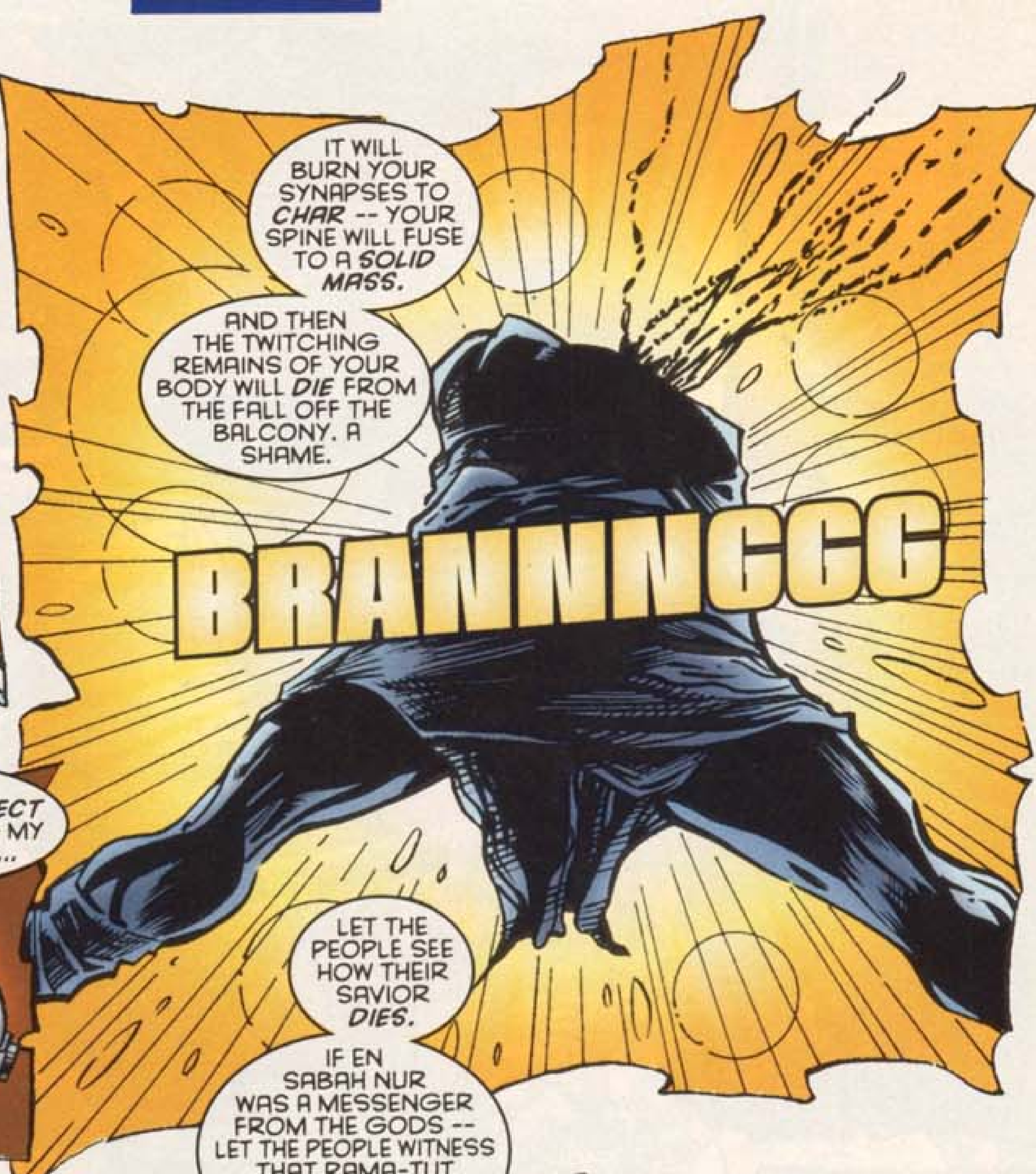
NEVER!



YOU DARE RAISE A HAND AGAINST RAMA-TUT?!

AS YOU ONCE KILLED BAAL, NOW I KILL YOU!

I AM THE TEST UNTO YOUR DYING KINGDOM!



IT WILL BURN YOUR SYNAPSES TO CHAR -- YOUR SPINE WILL FUSE TO A SOLID MASS.

AND THEN THE TWITCHING REMAINS OF YOUR BODY WILL DIE FROM THE FALL OFF THE BALCONY. A SHAME.

BRANNINGGG



YOU CANNOT SUSPECT THE DEPTHS OF MY POWER, NUR...

... OR THE EXISTENCE OF THE ULTRA-DIODE RAY!

LET THE PEOPLE SEE HOW THEIR SAVIOR DIES.

IF EN SABAH NUR WAS A MESSENGER FROM THE GODS -- LET THE PEOPLE WITNESS THAT RAMA-TUT EASILY KILLS THIS INSOLENT GODLING!



GUARDS -- DISMEMBER THE BODY OF THE OUTLANDER AND SCATTER THE PARTS FROM PELUSIUM TO MEMPHIS...

... AS A WARNING.

TAKE THE VIZIER AND CAST HIM TO THE DELTA WATERS.

AS FOR THE GIRL, CUT HER DOWN...

... I WOULD FIND USE FOR HER.

QUICKLY! I HAVE A WEDDING TO PREPARE FOR!

NEXT:

THE FIRST CULLING!