

**COMIC
BANDIT
PRESS**

#8

TRUE WILL DEFIES BELIEF

VERSUS

VOL.1



**A. ADENJI
DAYO. A**

TRUE WILL DEFIES BELIEF
VERSUS

ISSUE EIGHT

CREATED/WRITTEN/LETTERED BY
ADENIYI ADENIJI

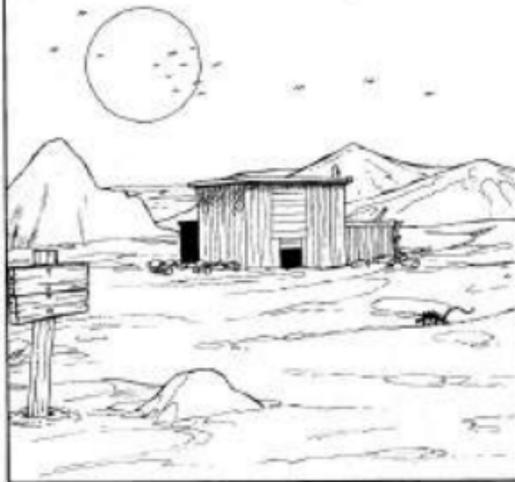
PENCILS AND INKS
DAYO ANIMASHAUN

COVER ART BY: THE FREE COMPANY HD



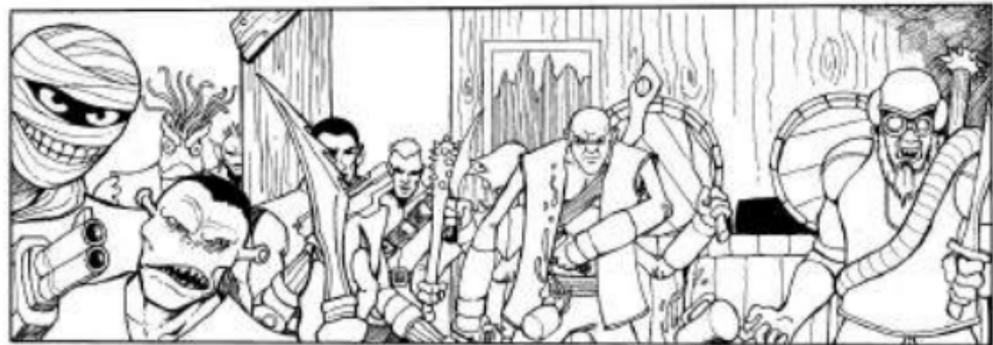
ALL rights reserved. Used under authorization. Text and illustrations for VERSUS characters and story are the copyright of Adeniyi Adeniji. ComicBandit Press and the ComicBandit Press logo are trademarks of Adeniyi Adeniji. Registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Adeniyi Adeniji. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES, AND INCIDENTS FEATURED IN THIS PUBLICATION EITHER ARE THE PRODUCT OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FACTITIOUSLY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DEAD), EVENTS, INSTITUTIONS, OR LOCALES, WITHOUT SATIRIC INTENT, IS COINCIDENTAL.

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE ELSE ON BOTSWANA //...



SFX: SOUNDS OF FESTIVITIES AND DRUNKEN
SQUALLORS*







...YOU BETTER
HAVE A REAL
GOOD REASON
FOR BEING HERE!!
OR YOU MIGHT
JUST END UP
BEING OUR
LUNCH!!!



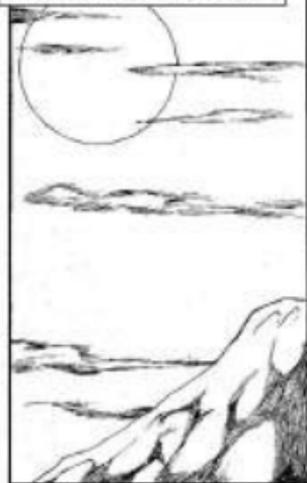
THEN IT
IS A GOOD
THING THAT
I DO.

YOU
MUST BE
THE ONE
THEY CALL
CRONKK

...
I AM
LITALO.
I HAVE A
PROPOSITION
FOR YOU AND
YOUR MEN.

LITALO: NAME OF AFRICAN
ORIGIN MEANING "WARRIOR".

ELSEWHERE ON BOTSWANA //...



WHAT IS IT WITH THIS PLANET...

FIRST... I WAS ALMOST FROZEN TO DEATH AND NOW, IT'S TRYING TO ROAST ME ALIVE.



AND THIS USELESS SUIT ISN'T WORKING !!!



THE THERMO-FIBRES ARE WORKING FINE...

...IT'S OUR BODIES THAT ARE HAVING TROUBLE ADAPTING TO THE SUDDEN CHANGES.



HEH... IF YOU THINK THE CLIMATE'S STRANGE --



...WAIT TILL YOU GET A LOAD OF THIS.



PLACE JUST GETS WEIRDER AND WEIRDER.

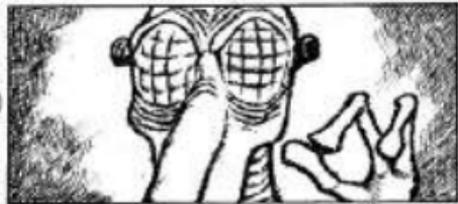
A RAIN-FOREST...??

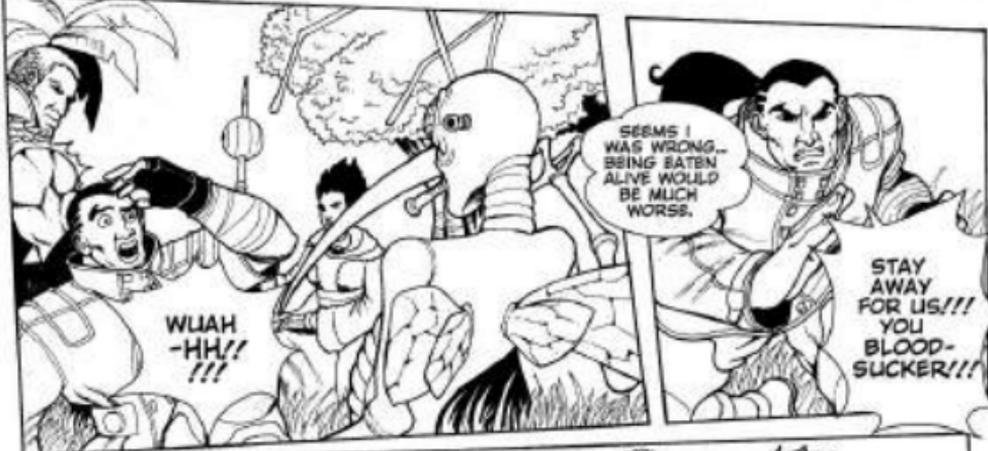


• SIGH •

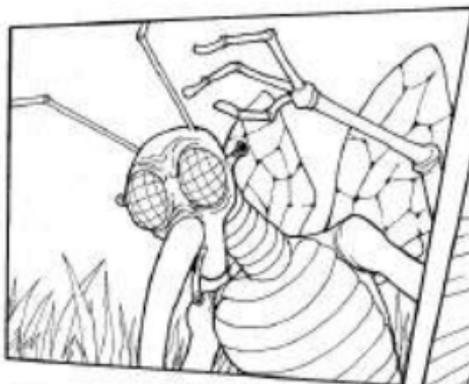
...WELL I GUESS IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN GETTING FROZEN OR COOKED ALIVE.

A LITTLE LATER ON...











YOU SHOULD JUST SETTLE DOWN AND ENJOY THE FOREST

...ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL ?



SOMEONE SURE SOUNDS A LITTLE HOMESICK.



I GUESS THIS PLACE DOES REMIND ME A LITTLE OF BRAIL.



AND THERE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, BUT NONE COMPARE TO THE ORCHIDS ON BRAIL, AND PERHAPS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THEM ALL - PERHAPS EVEN IN THE UNIVERSE - THE GLOOM ORCHID.



THE GLOOM ORCHID... ??

WHAT'S WRONG JABAR...

...DON'T YOU LIKE FLOWERS ?



WHAT'S WRONG JABAR...

...DON'T YOU LIKE FLOWERS ?



OH... I LIKE 'EM FINE

...JUST THAT, IN THE NIGHT FORESTS, WHERE I LIVE, THERE ARE PLANTS THAT WOULD RATHER EAT YOU FIRST, THAN LET YOU SMELL THEM.



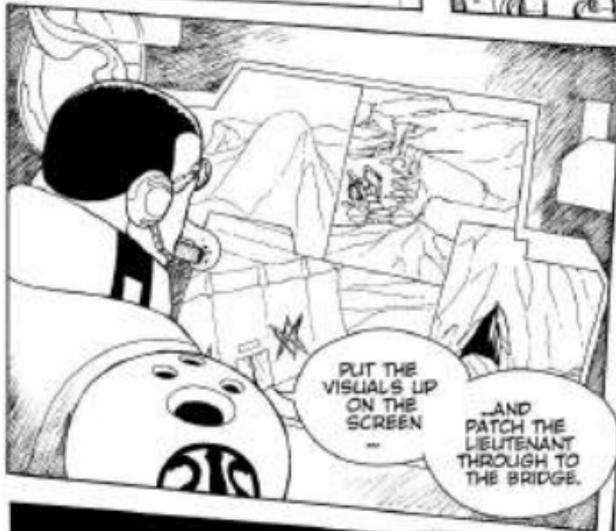


MEANWHILE, THE STAR-SHIP ZEPHYR IS IN ORBIT ABOVE PLANET GRUUL...



COMMANDER
ROUK...
OUR SPY SATELLITE
IS IN POSITION

...FIELD TEAM
ALPHA HAVE REACHED
THE RECONNAISSANCE
POINT AND LT. LEETA
WISHES TO REPORT

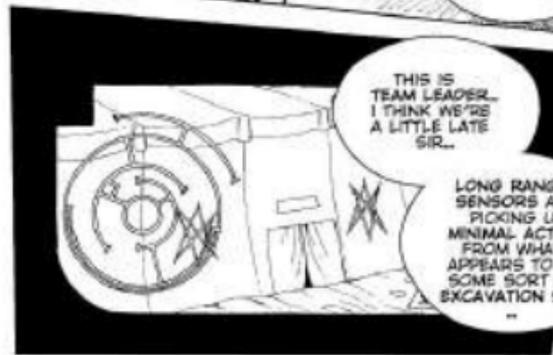


PUT THE
VISUALS UP
ON THE
SCREEN

...AND PATCH THE
LIEUTENANT
THROUGH TO
THE BRIDGE.



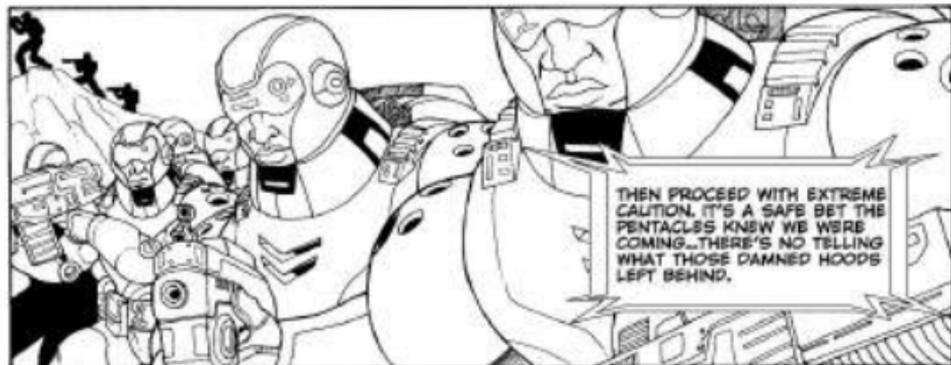
TEAM
LEADER...
REPORT...
?



THIS IS
TEAM LEADER...
I THINK WE'RE
A LITTLE LATE
SIR...

LONG RANGE
SENSORS ARE
PICKING UP
MINIMAL ACTIVITY
FROM WHAT
APPEARS TO BE
SOME SORT OF
EXCAVATION SITE





THEN PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION. IT'S A SAFE BET THE PENTACLES KNEW WE WERE COMING...THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THOSE DAMNED HOODS LEFT BEHIND.

THE SPECIAL FORCES ARM OF THE RIMM GOVERNMENT, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS ZEROES, ARE WELL VERSED IN THE ARTS OF ESPIONAGE AND WAR...



...BUT AMONGST THE ZEROES, THE ZERO ONES ARE THE ELITE.

FOR THIS REASON...ONLY THE EXCEPTIONAL ARE BROUGHT INTO THEIR RANKS.

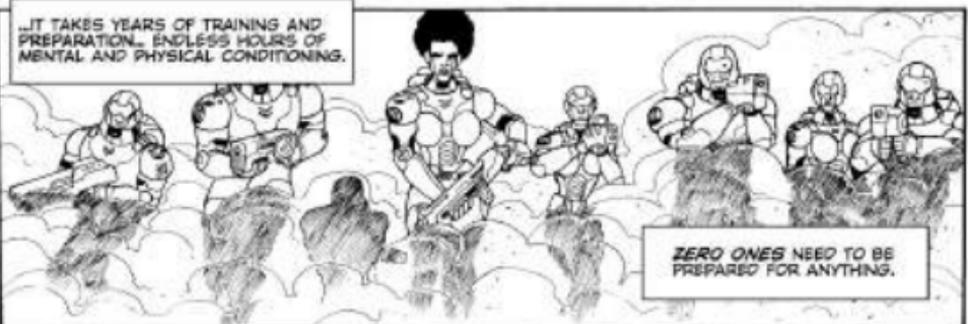


LIKE LIEUTENANT LEBTA FOR INSTANCE.

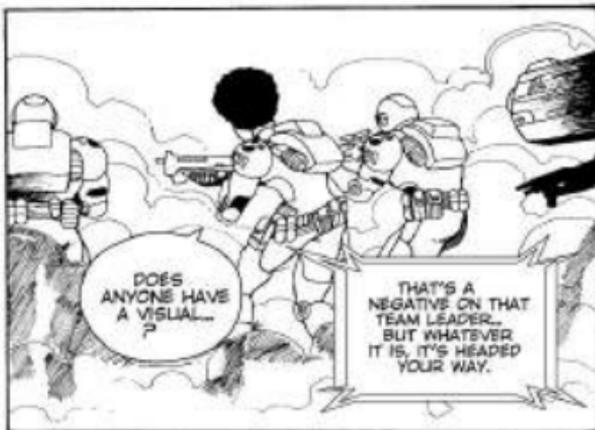
BUT BEING THE BEST IS NO EASY TASK...



...IT TAKES YEARS OF TRAINING AND PREPARATION... ENDLESS HOURS OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONING.



ZERO ONES NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.



LEETA: TAKEN FROM THE NAME 'LETA' OF AFRICAN ORIGIN MEANING 'BRINGING'.



...BY SURPRISE.



TEAM
LEADER
TO BRIDGE
...

...COMMANDER
I THINK WE
HAVE A
PROBLEM
...





THE ZEROES

The Special Forces Arm of the Rimm Government, known as the Zeroes, have seen it all and done it all. But the Zero Ones, the Zero Sixty-Sixes (commonly called Sixers) and the Zero Eight's (known as O-Eights) are considered to be the Elite, even amongst the numerous ranks of their Rimm's elite fighting squads. However, the Zero Ones, led by Commander Rasmus Rouk are the most famous of the Zeroes, due in no small part to a former member of their unit, one Lieutenant J.T. Branegan, the Soul Saint who would one day come to be known as "BRAGG the WORLD CLEAVER".



COMMANDER "RASMUS" ROUK

Commander Rasmus Rouk is a legend amongst the Military personnel of the Galactic Alliance and their enemies. As one of the first members of the Rimm Special Elite Force- then only known as the Zeroes- he would become one of the most influential figures in the Rimm Army. As the leader of the Zero Ones, his exploits (along with that of his second in Command and most trusted friend, one J.T. Branegan) would become legendary. His most notable exploits would come at the end of what is now known as the "Lost Wars".

Planet Cesk, Ego Village.



"THEY SPEAK OF GHOSTS."
IT IS A SAYING WELL KNOWN
TO THOSE WHO TRAVEL THE
STARS.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO
BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE
SOME PLACES WHICH STILL
TELL THE STORIES OF THE
PEOPLE WHO ONCE LIVED
THERE...



EVEN AFTER THE LIVING
HAVE LONG DEPARTED...

"YOU CAN HEAR THEIR STORIES
IN THE WINDS THEY SAY..."



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...



...IS LISTEN.







AND I
HALF EXPECTED
THAT KIND OF
ATTACK



...FROM
HIM
...



...BUT I
EXPECTED
A LITTLE
MORE FROM
YOU.



COME
NOW KAYA,
WE BOTH
KNOW THAT
ATTACK WAS
NEVER MEANT
TO BE FATAL

...JUST
LIKE EXPOSING
YOURSELF WAS
NOTHING BUT
A PLOY TO ALLOW
YOUR FRIENDS TO
SLIP PAST US.



SEEMS
YOU HAVE IT
ALL FIGURED
OUT.



MORE
THAN YOU
KNOW...

DAMBUDZO
...
THE OTHER
THREE HAVE
GONE AFTER
ZU...



...FOOLISH
AS THAT
MAY BE.



BACK ON BOTSWANA !!...

THIS AGAIN!!

WASN'T IT NICE OF FLIT TO SHOW US THE QUICKEST WAY OUT OF THE FOREST...?

PHEW...

AND IT SEEMS THERE'S LESS INTERFERENCE WITH OUR TECH HERE

...THE LITTLE GUY MAY JUST HAVE SAVED US HALF A DAY'S TRAVEL...

AT LEAST HE DIDN'T EAT US.

JUST SAYING.

SOMETHING'S COMING...





HEH!

TO BE CONTINUED...



**EVERY MONTH FIRST @
WWW.COMICBANDIT.COM**

SIGIL SWORDS

The Sigils/Runes/Symbols on Sigil Swords are taking from the Ranghoul race's ancient language. Each symbol represents the embodiment of a fundamental law or element and grants the User of the weapons access to a pre-programmed manipulation of the element in question. The Swords themselves aren't magical, but a highly evolved form of technology. Technologically created conduits for a Saints massive psychic energy, programmed to replicate the synaptic process a Saint would otherwise have to learn through training or natural processes. Normally a Soul Saint would have to be taught specifically to control one or the other of these elements or would naturally attune themselves to one (or sometimes more) of these elements in question, often due to the nature of their environment. In other words, a Sigil Sword/Weapon does the brainwork for the Soul Saint and gives him/her access to fundamental or elemental forces they would otherwise spend a lifetime trying to master. This highly advanced synaptic replication has caused the Sigil blades to develop a sort of sentient intelligence of their own, as they record and mimic the brainwaves of their various Users. It has often happened, where Sigil Blades choose their Masters rather than just being giving to a Soul Saint. However, even with this, a Soul Saint/Deathly Saint, can often force or bend the blade to their will, if they know how.

The Power level of the symbols on a Sigil blade is determinant on the arrangement of the Sigils on the flat of the blade (as well as the power of the User). With the symbol close to the hilt being the weakest and the one at the top, towards the point of the blade being the strongest. The range and power of the elements the Sigils are able to access are also determinant on this arrangement. For instance, a Sigil sword with a "Force Sigil" at the top of the blade would be able to summon far more powerful attacks and a wider range of techniques, than one with the "Force Sigil" at the hilt. Also, the way a Sigil User combines the abilities of the symbols is also limited by this hierarchy. The position of the sigils on the blade also indicate the level or amount of Will a Soul Saint would have to muster to activate them, the least tasking of which being the weakest symbol at the hilt and the symbol above it, going up to the tip of blade, requiring the most psychic energy to activate. In order to activate the sigils, most Saints use "keywords" or "Mantras". In truth, these Mantras aren't really necessary, activating the symbols has nothing to do with the spoken word, but is initially used to train Saints through the mental process of unlocking the power of the Sigils.

Most Sigil Swords have three to two symbols. There are, however, Sigil weapons with only one symbol. These are often amongst the rarest Sigil Blades, due mostly to the great difficulty it took for the Ranghoul Sigil Masters to craft a single symbol weapon of any real worth or power. However, single sigil weapons are amongst the most powerful of the Sigil weapons, with legendary blades like Sutekh, Ista, Mongo and Shani, to name a few. It is also said that the most powerful Sigil weapon in history was also a single sigil weapon. Its ability was so feared, even by the Sigil Masters, that all record of its name was expunged from the Ranghoul archives.

It is also important to note that no civilization has ever been able to successfully replicate the technology of the Sigil Blades. Only the Order of Priests on a planet known as Brail ever came close.

"...and much to our combined dread, he called out the name of his sword and then his opponent...and his enemy was no more."

-ISHAK, SIGIL MASTER OF THE RANGHOUL.



TIME



SOUND



MOON



FORCE



ICE



LIGHT