

**COMIC
BANDIT
PRESS**

TRUE WILL DEFIES BELIEF

#15

VERSUS

VOL.1



**A. ADENJI
DAYO. A**

TRUE WILL DEFIES BELIEF

VERSUS

ISSUE FIFTEEN

**CREATED/WRITTEN/LETTERED
ADENIYI ADENIJI**

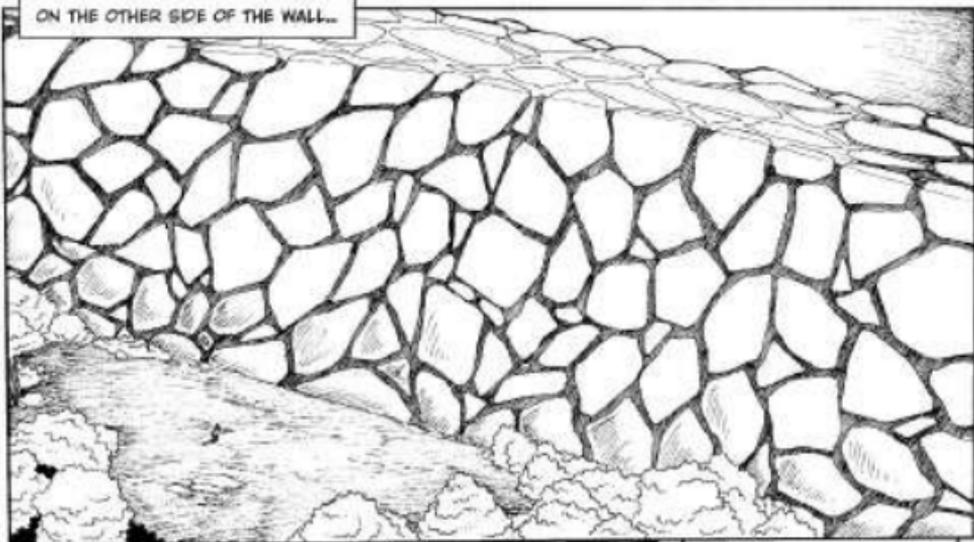
**PENCILS AND INKS
DAYO ANIMASHAUN**

**COVER ART BY:
THE FREE COMPANY HD**



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ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL...



PASCHAR: NAME OF HEBREW ORIGIN TRADITIONALLY USED FOR BOYS MEANING 'ANGEL OF VISIONS'.



AND HAVE YOU ALREADY RETRIEVED THE SECOND ARTIFACT..?

THE ALLIANCE ARE MOVING MORE QUICKLY THAN ANTICIPATED

...

...YOU WERE ALREADY ON YOUR WAY HERE WHEN IYAN'GURA DISCOVERED THIS.



THIS MISSION WAS MINE TO CARRY OUT...YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE!



SPARE ME!! DO YOU THINK I WOULD EVEN BE ON THIS PUTRID PLANET IF IYAN'GURA HADN'T ORDERED IT?



HMPH-- I SEE

...YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.





AH...
DAMBUDZO,
I DIDN'T SEE YOU
THERE... HIDING IN
THE TREES LIKE A
FRUIT WORM

...DID
THE CHILD'S
MONSTER
SCARE YOU?



NOT
AT ALL

...BUT
UNLIKE YOU,
I KNOW
BETTER THAN TO
INTERRUPT ZU/
IN THE MIDDLE
OF A FIGHT.



ENOUGH...
OUR MISSION
IS DONE

...THE
MASTER
WILL BE
EXPECTING
US.



WHAT
ABOUT
BERHANE
...?

I
HAVE BEEN
WATCHING
HER

...IT
APPEARS
OUR LITTLE
ANGEL WILL NOT
BE JOINING
US.

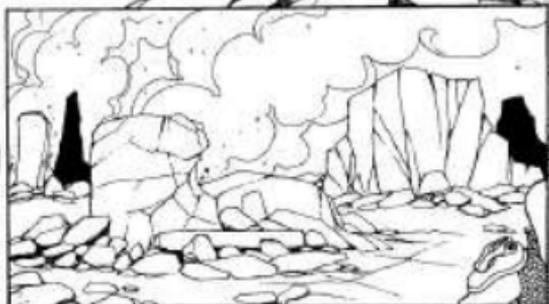


I SEE



PITY...
I ACTUALLY
LIKED HER.

ELSEWHERE ON CESA...





EREBOS

...



...
WELL OF
SHADOWS!!!



HOW
...?



YOU
FORGET
YOURSELF
BERHANE

...WE WERE
ONCE COMRADES
AFTERALL AND
I KNOW EVERYTHING
THERE IS TO
KNOW ABOUT
HONDO.



BUT...
HOW??

LIKE
THE FACT THAT
HONDO'S ATTACK
DEVASTATES
EVERYTHING
AROUND YOU.

BUT THE
SIGIL BLADE
ALSO SHIELDS YOU
FROM THE DESTRUCTION
BY DIRECTING THE
FORCE OF YOUR SACRED
STRIKE AWAY FROM
YOUR BODY...

SO ONCE YOU MADE
YOUR ATTACK...

...I WAS WELL AWARE
THAT HONDO WOULD
PROTECT YOU.

...AND IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE
MATTER OF MOVING MYSELF
INTO YOUR SAFE ZONE.



IT IS THE
SECRET BEHIND
HONDO'S
SACRED STRIKE

A
LITTLE PIECE OF
KNOWLEDGE
I OWE IN NO
SMALL PART TO
YOUR LORD AND
MASTER...



**WHY ARE YOU
SO SURPRISED...?
I WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT HE
WOULD HAVE TOLD
YOU BY NOW**



IYAN'GURA.



HE TRAINED
ME FOR YEARS
TO BE HIS LITTLE
PUPPET OF
DEATH...

...TO KILL AT
HIS COMMAND,
AND FOR A
TIME I DID SO
WILLINGLY.

HIS
MOST TRUSTED
AND DEVOTED
DISCIPLE...
WHO BETTER TO
TEACH THE SECRETS
AND WEAKNESSES
OF HIS OTHER
DISCIPLES TO



...WHO BETTER
TO TRAIN TO KILL
YOU AND THE OTHERS
IF EVER THE SITUATION
AROSE THAT YOU
CHOSE TO DEFY
HIM.

BUT WHEN I
RETURNED FROM MY
ENCOUNTER WITH
THE **STORM
WALKER**

...THINGS
CHANGED...
AND I BEGAN TO
QUESTION EVERY
ORDER, TO QUESTION
MYSELF... DID THESE
PEOPLE I KILLED...
DID THEY TRULY
NEED TO DIE...?



...COULD I NOT HAVE SPARED THEM AS SUTEKH'S FORMER MASTER HAD SPARED ME ...?

...BUT I KNEW IVAN'GURA WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT.



AND SO I PRETENDED EVERYTHING WAS FINE... BUT IT WASN'T.

AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE IVAN'GURA BEGAN TO SUSPECT...



...NOT LONG UNTIL I WAS GIVING AN ORDER I SIMPLY REFUSED TO OBEY, IT WAS THEN THAT IVAN'GURA DECIDED I NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH.

HE THOUGHT HE HAD KILLED ME... I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD...



...BUT THEN, ANOTHER STRANGER FOUND ME AND TOOK PITY ON ME.



AND FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE... I WAS FREE TO FOLLOW MY OWN WILL.



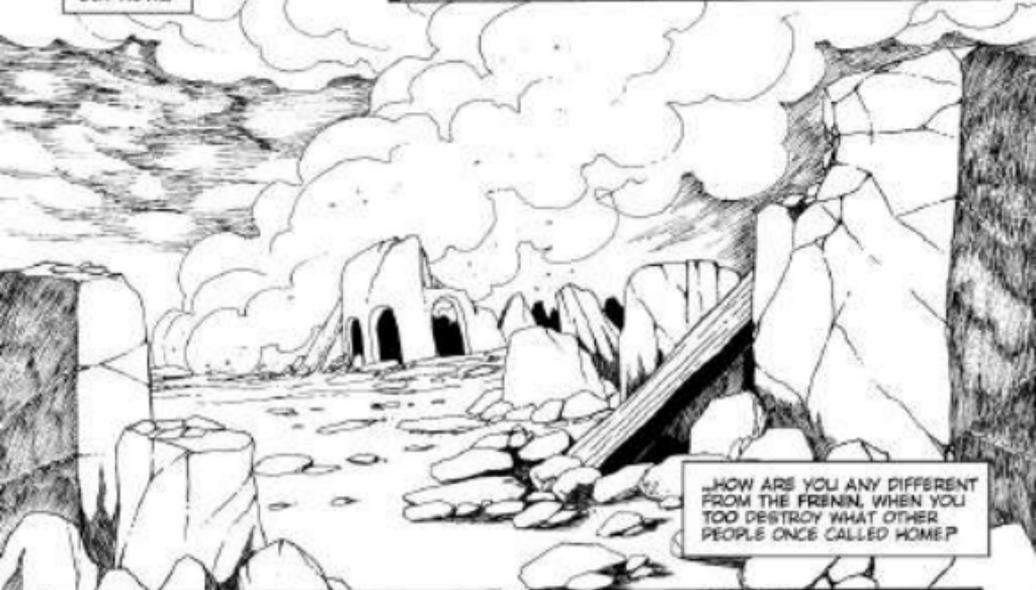
YOU
ONCE ASKED
ME WHY I
CARE ABOUT
THE FATE OF
THE UNIVERSE
...?



...IT IS
BECAUSE FOR
THE FIRST TIME...
THE CHOICE TO
CARE OR NOT,
IS MINE.

LOOK AROUND
YOU *BERHANE*...
BEFORE YOU CAME
THIS VILLAGE WAS
PEACEFUL...

BUT NOW...



...HOW ARE YOU ANY DIFFERENT
FROM THE FREMIN, WHEN YOU
TOO DESTROY WHAT OTHER
PEOPLE ONCE CALLED HOME?





PFAH!
IT HARDLY
MATTERS
NOW.



YOU HAVE
EXPENDED THE
MAJORITY OF
YOUR PSYCHIC
ENERGY ON YOUR
SACRED
STRIKE

...YOU NO
LONGER HAVE
THE *WILL*
TO MATCH ME.



THEN LET
OUR WEAPONS
MEET ONE
FINAL TIME!!



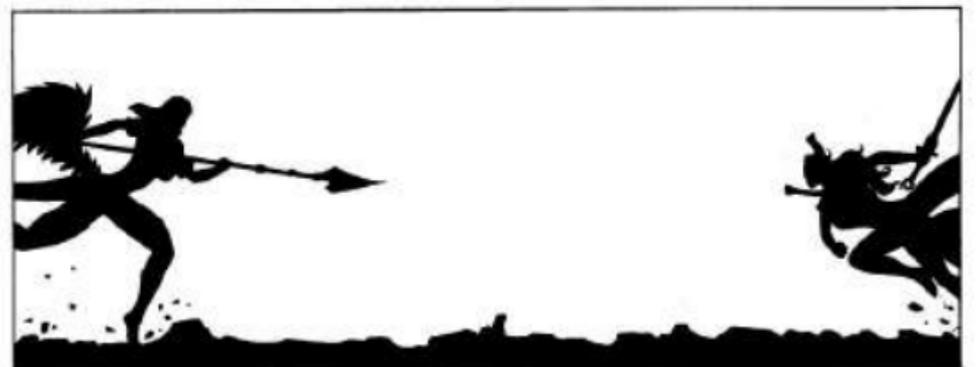
I TRULY
DID ADMIRE
YOU *KAYA*...
I STILL DO.



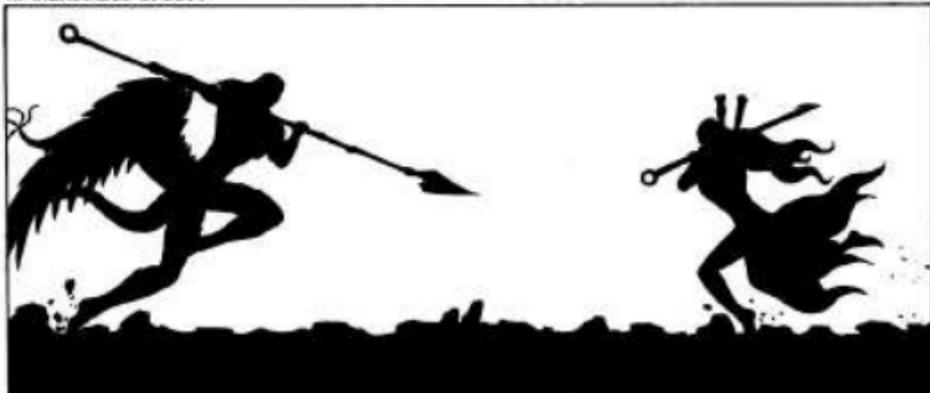
AND I
AM TRULY
SORRY
BERHANE.



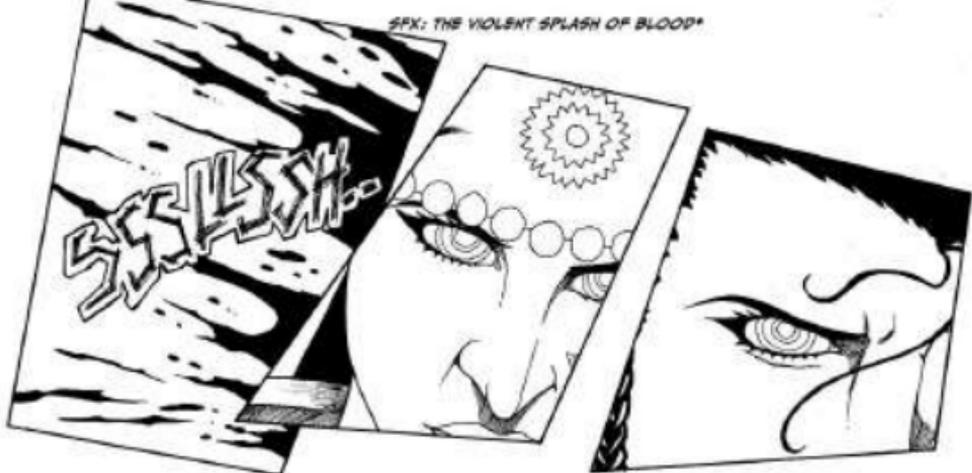
THEN
LET THE END
COME AS IT
WILLS!!!



SFX: THE SOUND OF FEET MOVING
AT INCREDIBLE SPEED.



SFX: THE AWESOME CLANG OF BLADES
STRIKING TOGETHER*



...MAY
YOUR SOUL
REST EASY
NOW.





BOBB

YOU SURE ARE ONE SADISTIC BASTARD

—BEATING ON THE POOR KID LIKE THAT EVEN AFTER HE'S DOWN.



IT WAS NOT MY INTENT TO MAKE THE BOY SUFFER...



—I ONLY WISHED TO SEE THE FULL POWER OF ISKINDER AT WORK.



HEH. FOR A GUY WHO TALKS SMART, YOU SURE AIN'T TOO BRIGHT.



.....



LOOK AT HIM...



YOU'VE
PULVERIZED
THAT KID WITHIN
AN INCH OF
HIS LIFE...



...IT'S
QUITE CLEAR
HE WANTS
TO WIN THIS
FIGHT
...

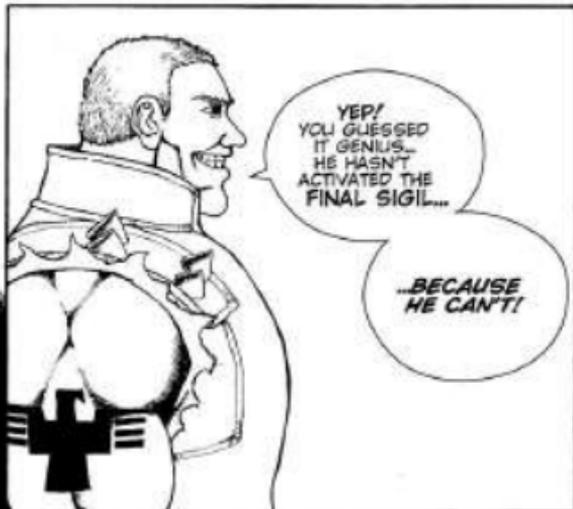


...SO WHAT
POSSIBLE
REASON COULD
HE HAVE FOR
NOT ACTIVATING
THE FINAL SIGIL
ON THAT FANCY
SWORD OF HIS
P



WAIT!!!
IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE
THAT HE...
!!!?





I SEE...
SO RELEASING
THE MOTION
SIGIL WAS NOT
JUST A TACTIC

...IT WAS
YOUR LAST
RESORT.



...THE NEMESIS BLADE IS A WEAPON OF INCREDIBLE POWER AND WHILE YOU POSSESS THE SKILL AND ABILITY TO UTILIZE THE FIRST TWO SIGILS...



...I SEE NOW THAT YOU LACK THE CLARITY AND FOCUS OF MIND TO UNLOCK THE "VOID" SIGIL.

AND MANY BEFORE YOU HAVE TRIED...AND FAILED.

YOUR MASTER HAS DONE YOU A GREAT DESERVICE BOY...BY BINDING YOU TO A WEAPON YOU CAN NEVER HOPE TO MASTER.

MASTER OHIN... WHY??

HEH... YOU JUST KEEP KICKING THE KID WHEN HE'S DOWN DON'T YOU?

WELL... HE'S NOT YOUR OPPONENT ANYMORE



ROCKY



VS

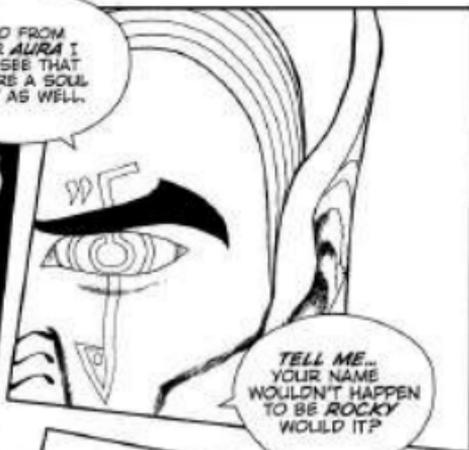


LUTALO





...AND FROM
YOUR *AURA* I
CAN SEE THAT
YOU ARE A SOUL
SAINT AS WELL.



TELL ME...
YOUR NAME
WOULDN'T HAPPEN
TO BE *ROCKY*
WOULD IT?



HEHEHE...
THIS IS A
MOMENTOUS
DAY INDEED!!

FIRST
ISKINDER
AND NOW...



NICE TO KNOW MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME.

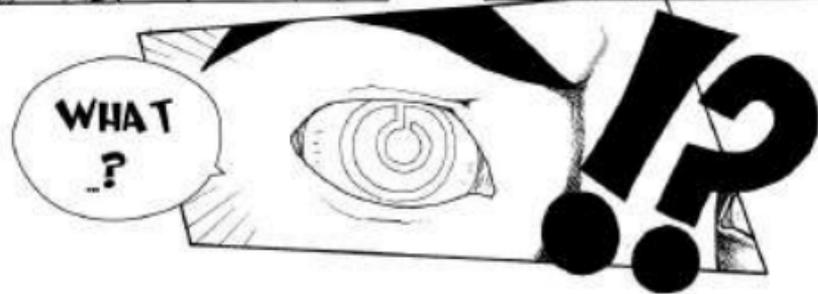
AS IT SHOULD...
THE
FIST OF AGES
THE SOUL SAINT
WHO DEVOTED HIS
LIFE TO MASTERING
EVERY MARTIAL ART
IN THE KNOWN
UNIVERSE.

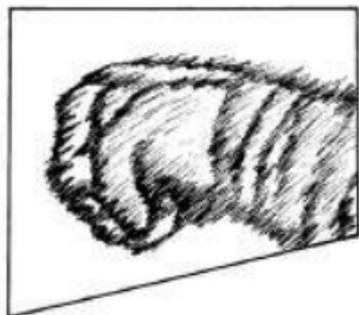
...YOU
HONOR ME
WITH YOUR
PRESENCE.

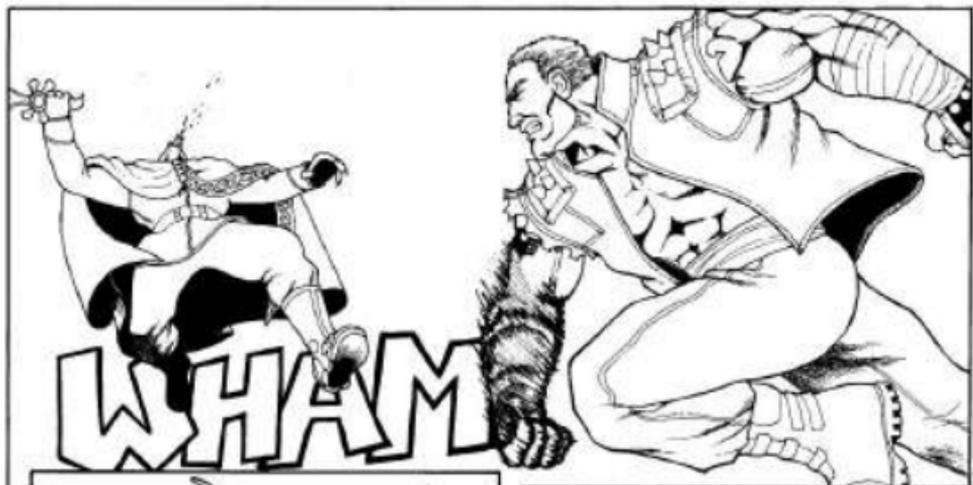
ROCKY
IS THE
**FIST OF
AGES!!**

THEY SAY
YOU HAVE NO
NEED OF A WEAPON,
BECAUSE YOUR
BODY IS A
WEAPON

...ONE HONED
BY A THOUSAND
MASTERS UNDER
A THOUSAND
SUNS.









WHOK!



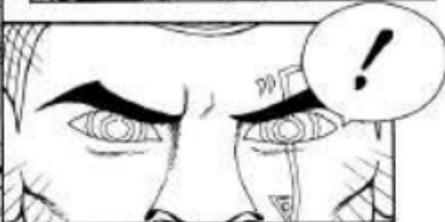
KABAKA...
STRIKE
!!!

BOOM!



IT APPEARS
THAT I KEEP
UNDERESTIMATING
MY OPPONENTS
TODAY

...IT SHALL
BE THE LAST
TIME.





KABAKA...



...OPEN YOUR
EYES.



NOW...
STRIKE!!



KATHOON



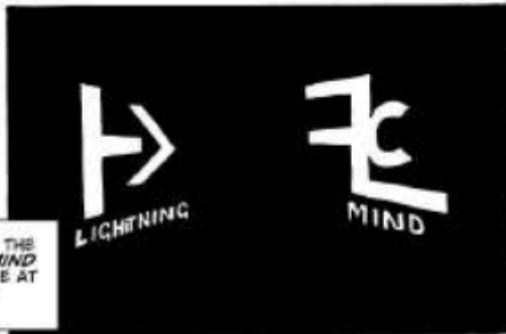
NNGH...



...WHAT
WAS
THAT?



AND BY COMBINING THE *LIGHTNING* AND *MIND* SIGILS... I CAN STRIKE AT YOU WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING.



AS A MARTIAL ARTIST YOUR ABILITY TO FIGHT RELIES SOLELY ON YOUR ABILITY TO LAND A PUNCH.



KABAKA'S STORM EYE TECHNIQUE IS THE WORST POSSIBLE MATCH UP FOR YOUR SKILLS.



SFX: THE SMACK
OF A HIGH SPEED
UPPER-CUT*

SFX: THE SPARK OF ELECTRICITY*



WHOK
WHOK

WHAA

SFX: THE CRUNCH
OF BONES
BREAKING*



SFX: THE AWESOME SPLASHING OF BLOOD*



HEH!
EVEN NOW...
YOU STILL HAVE
THE PRESENCE OF
MIND TO STOP
KABAKA FROM
STRIKING YOUR
MAJOR ORGANS...
COMMENDABLE.

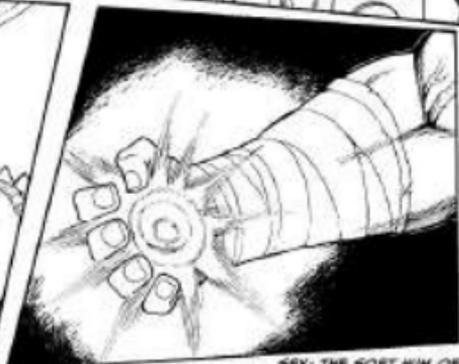
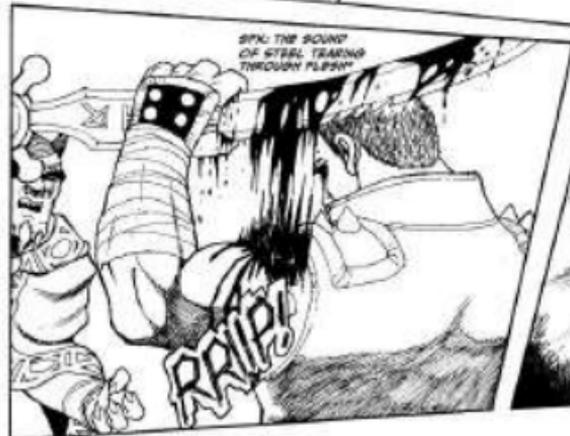


HEH!
YOU KNOW
WHAT...?

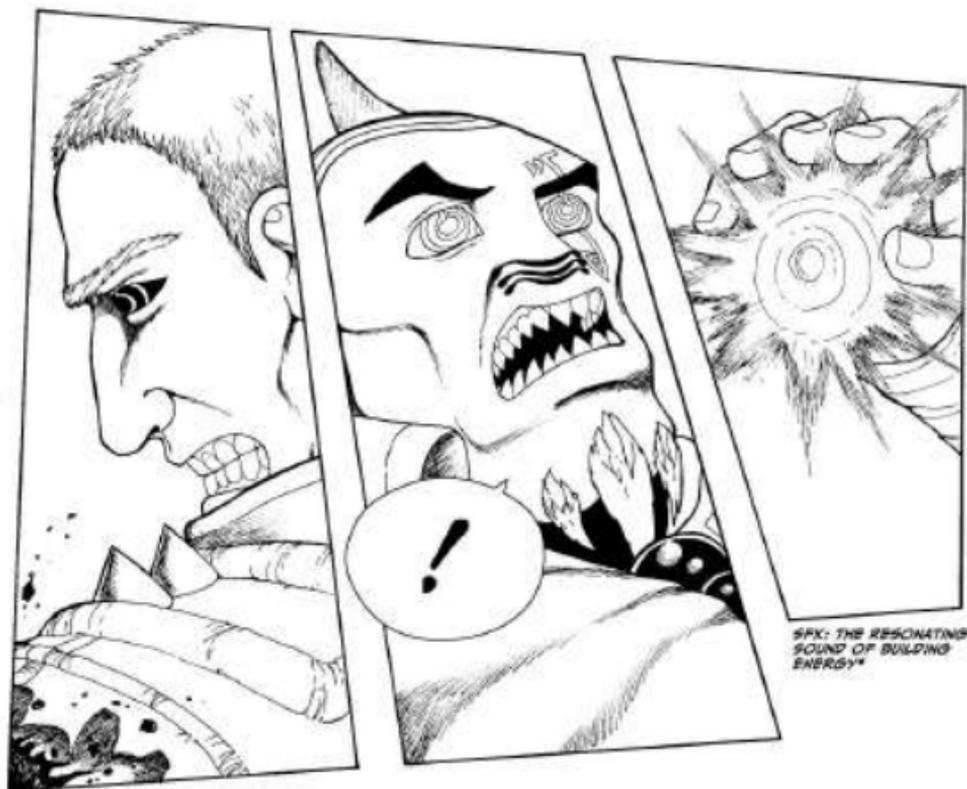


...YOU
TALK TOO
MUCH!





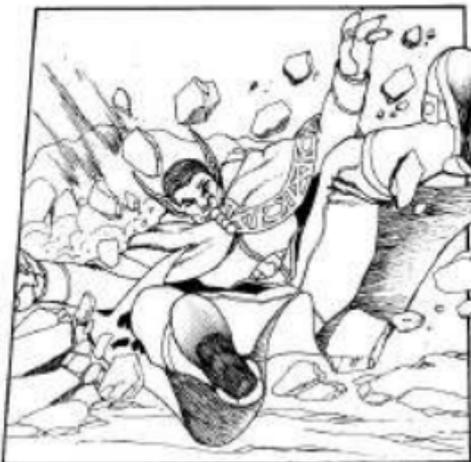
SPK: THE SOFT HUM OF BUILDING ENERGY!



SFX: THE RESONATING
SOUND OF BUILDING
ENERGY*

SPIN AN EMPATIC BOMB OF PURE ENERGY!







AN OPEN PALM STRIKE THAT IMMOBILIZES MY OPPONENT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM WHILE FORCING YOUR MUSCLES TO CONTINUOUSLY MAKE YOU RISE TO YOUR FEET.

IF YOU WEREN'T A SOUL SAINT, I'M PRETTY SURE THAT STRIKE WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU...



...BUT THEN, THAT TECHNIQUE WASN'T MADE FOR NORMAL PEOPLE.



I SHOULD HAVE USED IT FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT I GUESS I WAS STILL A LITTLE PEEVED ABOUT WHAT YOU DID TO THE KID...

...SLOPPY.



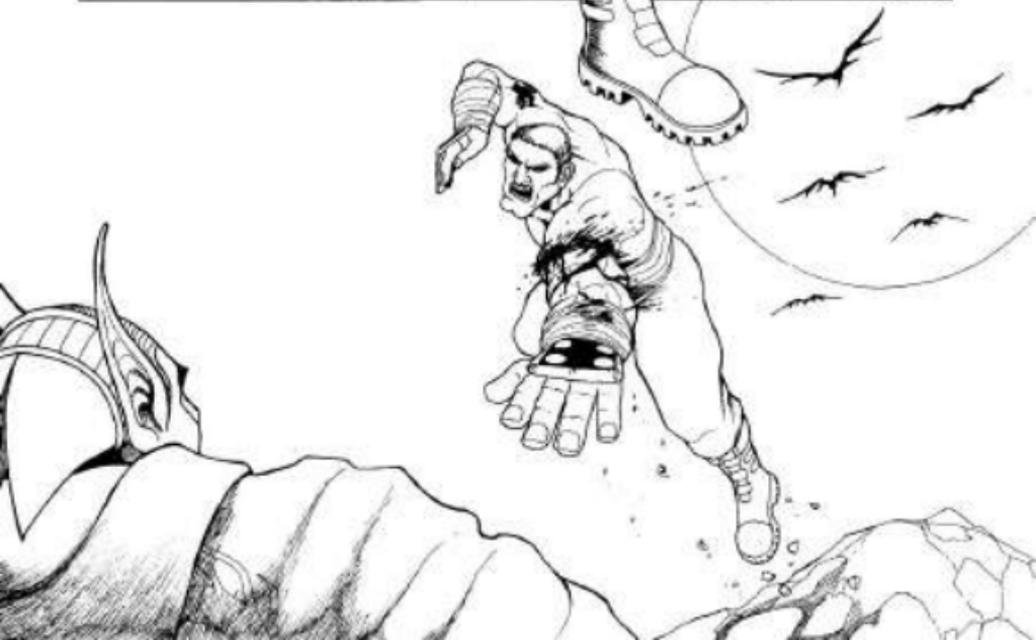
I LIED EARLIER...



I WAS TRAINED BY A THOUSAND MASTERS UNDER A THOUSAND SUNS.



LET ME
SHOW
YOU WHAT
I HAVE
LEARNED!!





**HAWK'S
FIST OF
SHIVERS!!!**



**...ANY PINCH
OF THE SEVEN
DESTRUCTIONS!!**

**...
BLOW OF
THE TO'E
BOAR!!!**



**...FOOT OF
THE COLD
SHAMAN!!!!**

...ELEVEN
GROOMS
FISTS OF
HATREDS!!!

...SMASH OF
THE TRULY
CLEVER
MURDERER!!!

...MYSTERIOUS
ONE THOUSAND
PURGATORIES
TOSS!!!

...LEG OF
SPECTRAL
MARRON!!!

...DEMONIC
ELEVEN STARS
CLUTCH!!!

WHAKE

...SWEEP
OF TERRIBLE
VISIONS!!!

...LEGENDARY
THUNDER LIFT
OF FLOATING
KINGS!!!

...FORTY
SOLDIERS
UNDERHOOK OF
GROTTOS!!!

...PUNCH OF
THE SACRED
RABBIT!!!

...THIRTEEN
WOLVES
TWIST OF
LYRES!!!

...EMPEROR'S
SWEEP OF
SAINTLY
AXES!!!

KRAK!

...ARCHA'S
FIST OF
WORDS!!!



...FIFTY
SEEKERS TOSS
OF DANCING
ARMORS!!!



...GROOP'S
TRIP OF AERIAL
RAVENS!!!



...
AIRBORNE
BANDIT'S
KNEE OF
QUAKES!!!



...KING
RABBIT'S
ILLUSIOYARY
PUNCH!!!



...
FOURTEEN
STALKERS
DROP OF
MOUNTAINS!!!



...ARCHA'S
BURNING
DANCE OF
ANTS!!!!



...KICK OF
THE GRAND
BRIDES!!!



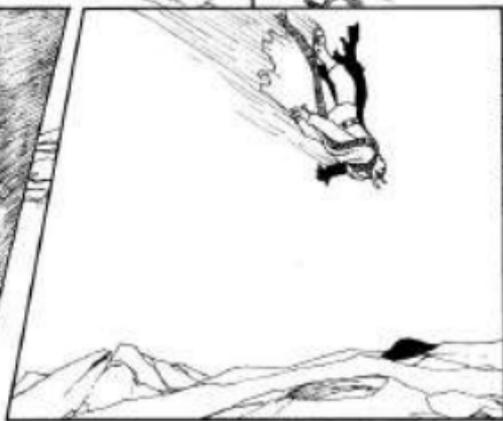
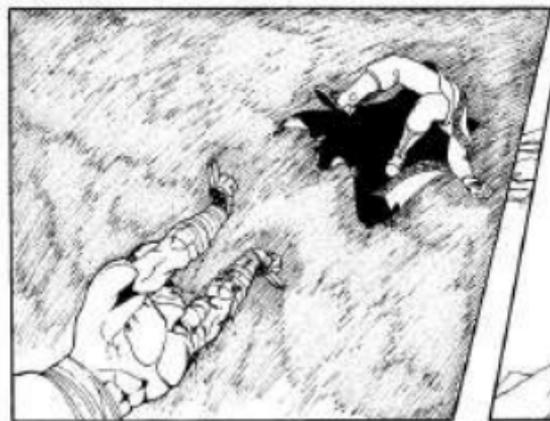
...
SIXTEEN
KINGS
HAMMER OF
POLES!!!

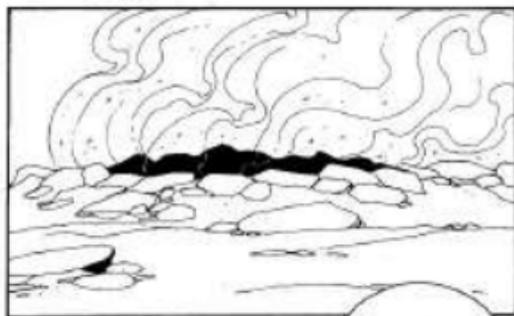


...PALM
STRIKE OF
OPEN
STARS!!!



...
PHANTASMAL
PUNCH OF THE
FORGOTTEN
MURDERER!!!!











YOUR
FRIEND IS A
FORMIDABLE
ADVERSARY...



...PERHAPS,
THE BEST
I'VE EVER
FOUGHT

...BUT
I HAVE A
MISSION TO
COMPLETE
AND I SHALL
NOT FAIL.



I'LL
STOP
YOU...

DO YOU
HEAR ME
LUTALO





SFX: THE SOUND OF SLOW FOOTFALLS
AGAINST ROCKY TERRAIN*



YOU HAVE
CHOSEN
HONORABLY
JABARI!

...THERE IS
NO SHAME
IN HONOR.

I'LL FIND
YOU LUTALO...
YOU AND YOUR
MASTER!

YES...
I BELIEVE
YOU WILL

...AND WHEN
YOU DO...WE
SHALL SEE
IF YOUR *WILL*
IS STRONGER.



...TO BE CONTINUED

SIGIL SWORDS



TIME



SOUND



MOON



FORCE



ICE



LIGHT

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, Isla, 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.

THE SAINTS OF SWORDS



Ohin Longshadow is of a humanoid race from a planet called Dela Eden. Born a Soul Saint, and being one of the only of their kind amongst his people, he was immediately drafted into the Crucible-the Ranghoul Training camp for aspiring Deathly Saints- by the Elders of his home planet.

His somewhat diminutive stature instantly made him a target of snide remarks and jokes by the other Crucible candidates. Their jests were short-lived however, as the diminutive little boy showed a great flair for the art of swordplay, one which was further highlighted by the inability for majority of his peers to even land a single blow on his person, leaving the pure white garments he often wore practically unstained.

So, it would come as no surprise to the Sigil Masters when he would eventually become the Master of Isia (which means Island), a legendary single sigil sword and go on to become one of the 13 Legendary Saints of Swords and was hence known as "Ohin the Immaculate, god of the White Cloth".



The mysterious Deathly Saint known more commonly as "The Storm-Walker" is often claimed to have been the most powerful Deathly Saint of his time.

As Master of the Stormblade "Sutekh" it is often said that there were few (with the possible exception of the Sigil Masters themselves) who could challenge him. Having fought in the "Lost Wars" along with Ohin and Iyan'gura he would also be named as one of the 13 Legendary Saints of Swords.



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 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 has now become known as the "Lost Wars".

