

**COMIC
BANDIT
PRESS**

#2

TRUE WILL DEFIES BELIEF

VERSUS

VOL.1



**A. ADENIJI
DAYO. A**

TRUE WILL DEFIES BELIEF
VERSUS
ISSUE TWO

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FREE HD COMPANY**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OLUSEUN ADENIJI

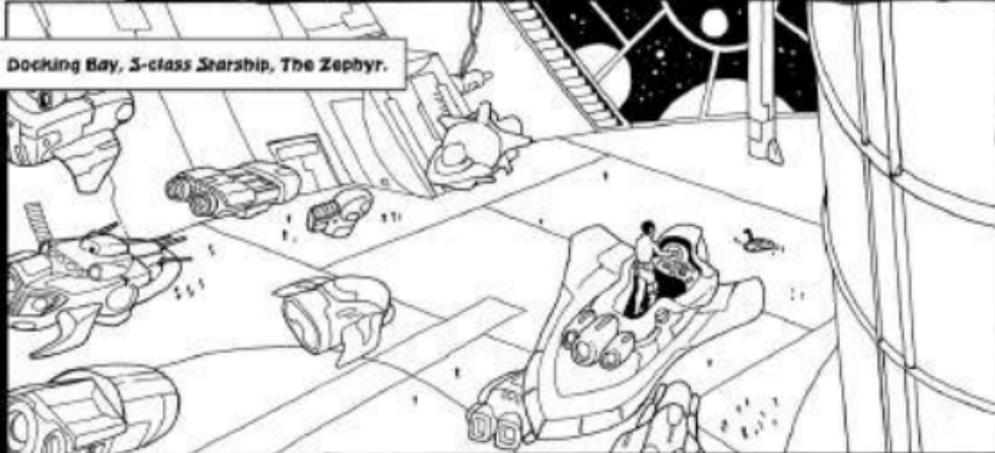


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SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
CASTRO PHENOMENA...



Docking Bay, S-class Starship, The Zephyr.



SFX: THE REACHING SOUND OF
SOMEONE THROWING UP*



SFX: THE BUSTLING SOUND OF
A BUSY DOCKING AREA!





WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHY THIS GREENER'S MESSING UP MY DOCK?



HE'S SUFFERING FROM MOTION SICKNESS I BELIEVE.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE



AND YET... THERE HE IS.



WHO IS HE...?



THE INERTIA DAMPENERS ON THE TRANSPORT SHIPS NEGATE THOSE TYPES OF SIDE-EFFECTS.



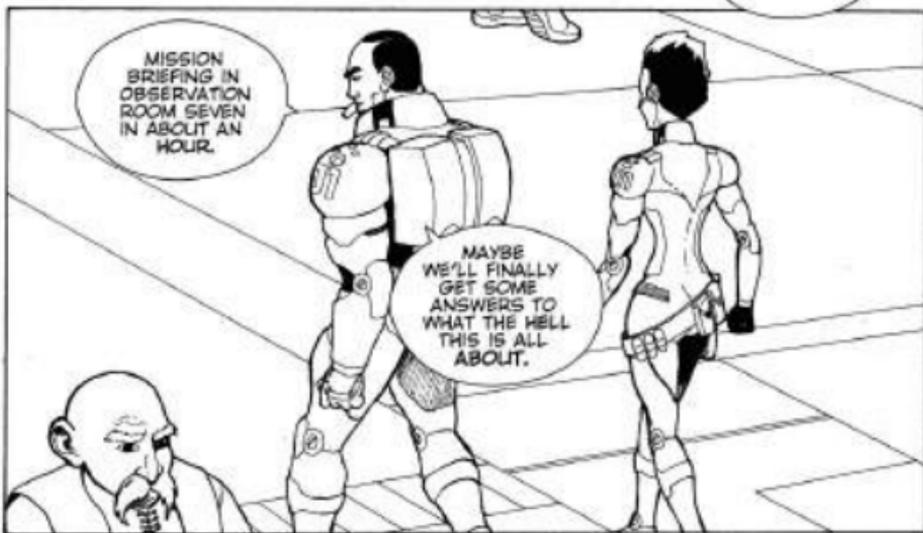
JUST
THE WARD
OF AN OLD
FRIEND.

YOU
DIPLOMATS
AND YOUR
SECRETS.

FINE...
IF YOU DON'T
WANT TO TELL
ME WHO HE IS,
THEN I DON'T
NEED TO
KNOW.

BUT IF
HE'S HERE FOR
THE REASON
I THINK HE
IS...

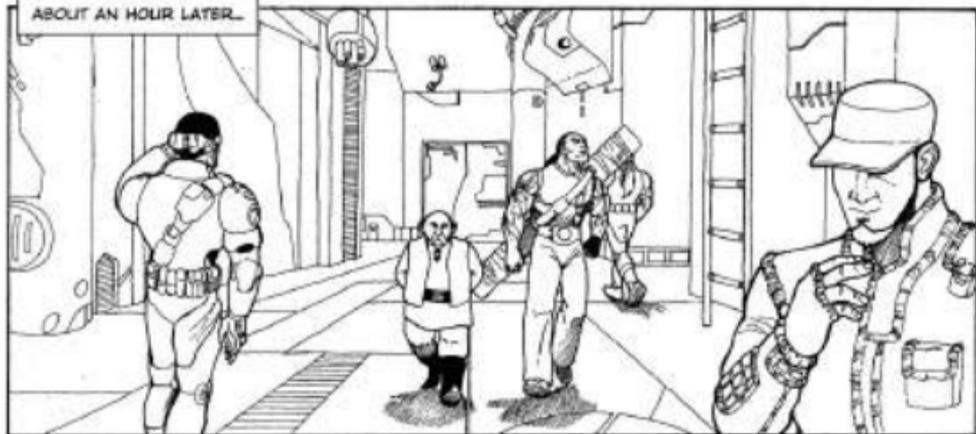
...THEN YOU
NEED TO GET
HIM CLEANED UP
AND PREPPED
ASAP...



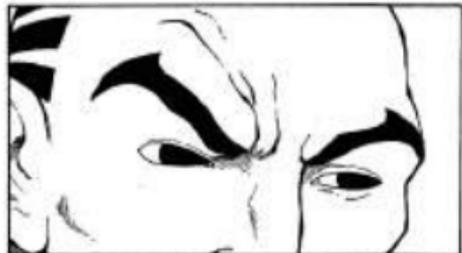
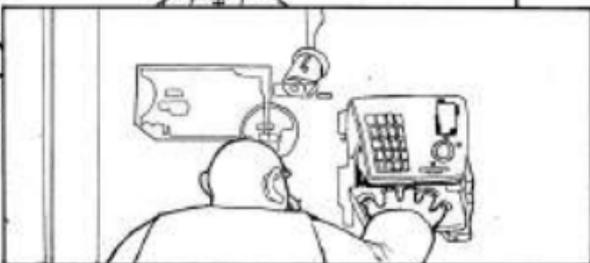
MISSION
BRIEFING IN
OBSERVATION
ROOM SEVEN
IN ABOUT AN
HOUR.

MAYBE
WE'LL FINALLY
GET SOME
ANSWERS TO
WHAT THE HELL
THIS IS ALL
ABOUT.

ABOUT AN HOUR LATER...









I CERTAINLY
HOPE ALL
THAT MUSCLE
AIN'T JUST FOR
SHOW KID.



YOU'RE
ONE TO
TALK.



HEHEHE...
FINALLY...
SOMEONE WITH
A SENSE OF
HUMOR.

THERE
SOME PRETTY
SERIOUS PEOPLE
AROUND HERE,
DON'T JUST STAND
THERE KID...



WAY THIS IS SHAPING UP...

SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.



COME ON IN...

INTRODUCE YOURSELF.



WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN??

ONLY SOME OF US BITE!

A SHORT WHILE LATER...



OKAY,
SO WE'RE
ALL HERE

NOW
WHAT IS
THIS ALL
ABOUT?

I BELIEVE
COMMANDER,
THAT IT IS
ABOUT SURVIVAL.

SEVERAL
YEARS AGO,
AN UNNAMED
OPERATIVE WORKING
UNDER THE SPECIAL
OPERATION'S ARM
OF THE RIMM
GOVERNMENT...

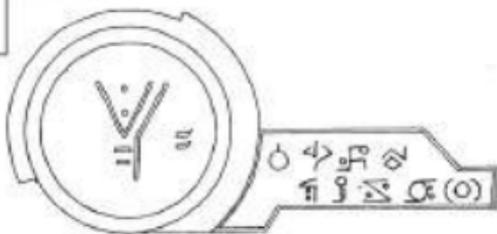
...UNCOVERED
WHAT WOULD BECOME
THE FIRST PIECE OF
A PUZZLE THAT NOW
THREATENS THE VERY
NATURE OF THE
UNIVERSE.

TELL ME
COMMANDER...
WHAT DO YOU
KNOW OF A GROUP
KNOWN AS
THE
PENTACLES?





NEARLY NINE-THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THIS MAN, MAMADAN BUTU CLAIMED HE HAD COME INTO POSSESSION OF THE BOOK, FROM WHICH HE WOULD EVENTUALLY WRITE THE TENETS THAT WOULD BECOME THE HOLY DOCTRINE OF HIS FOLLOWERS.



→ ◊ ◊ ◊ ◊ ◊ ◊ ◊

FROM HIS STUDIES OF THE HOLY TEXTS, HE SURMISED THAT THE VERY FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE EXISTED ON A VERY FRAGILE AND DELICATE BALANCE...



ONE... WHICH COULD BE EASILY OFFSET...

...BY THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF SENTIENT LIFEFORMS.





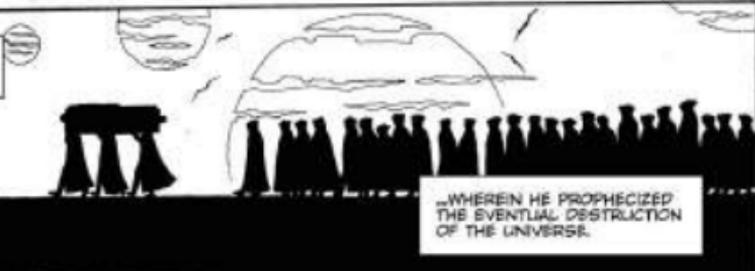
MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS
WOULD COME TO VIEW THIS
PARTICULAR DOCTRINE AS
THE GRAVEST OF WARNINGS.

LIPON HIS DEATH...



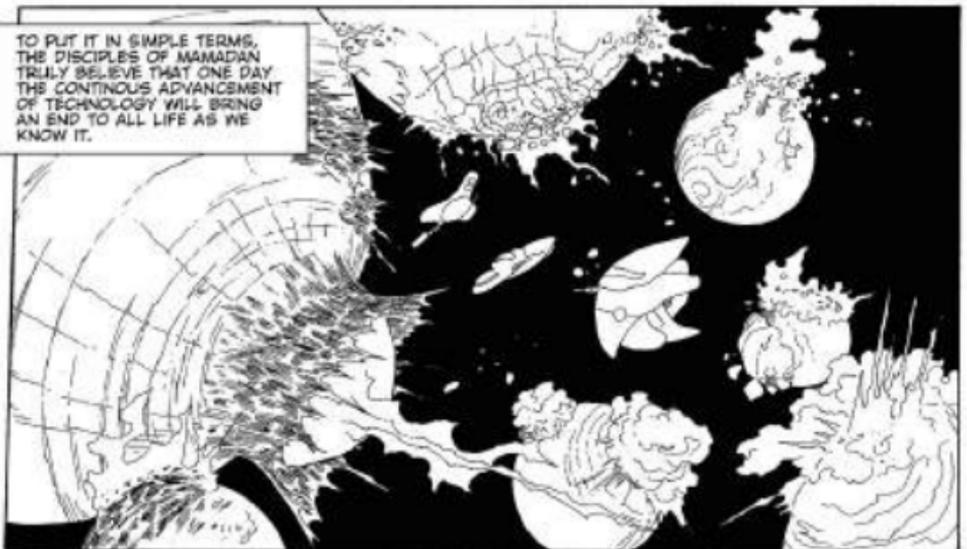
...THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL
OF HIS TEACHINGS WOULD
BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT.

THE FINAL CHAPTER OF
BUTU'S LEGACY...



...WHEREIN HE PROPHECIZED
THE EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION
OF THE UNIVERSE.

TO PUT IT IN SIMPLE TERMS,
THE DISCIPLES OF MAMADAN
TRULY BELIEVE THAT ONE DAY
THE CONTINUOUS ADVANCEMENT
OF TECHNOLOGY WILL BRING
AN END TO ALL LIFE AS WE
KNOW IT.





FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES THE MAMAGANS, AS THEY CAME TO BE KNOWN, WOULD BE REGARDED AS NOTHING MORE THAN A RELATIVELY HARMLESS GROUP OF RELIGIOUS FANATICS, THE UNWITTING DUPES AND ACOLYTES OF AN ANTIQUATED BELIEF SYSTEM.

...DEMANDING AND SUBSEQUENTLY GIVING NO REAL CREDENCE OR THOUGHT BY INTER-GALACTIC GOVERNMENT.

CONSEQUENTIALLY HOWEVER, A HIGHLY CLANDESTINE SP-INTER GROUP WOULD EMERGE FROM THEIR RANKS, PRONOUNCING THEMSELVES, THE PENTACLES OF SCIENCE.

IT WOULD LATER BE DISCOVERED THAT THIS GROUP WERE BEHIND SOME OF THE MOST PROLIFIC CONSPIRACIES EVER KNOWN BEFORE OR SINCE. FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES THEY HAVE AIDED UPRISINGS, IGNITING THE SPARKS OF REBELLION AND EVEN INSTIGATED INTER-PLANETARY WAR...

...ALL IN THEIR BID TO STEM THE FLOW OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT.

LIKE I SAID... THEY'RE VERY BAD PEOPLE.

IS THERE A POINT TO THIS LITTLE HISTORY LESSON?

PERHAPS, THIS MIGHT HELP TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE ISSUE.

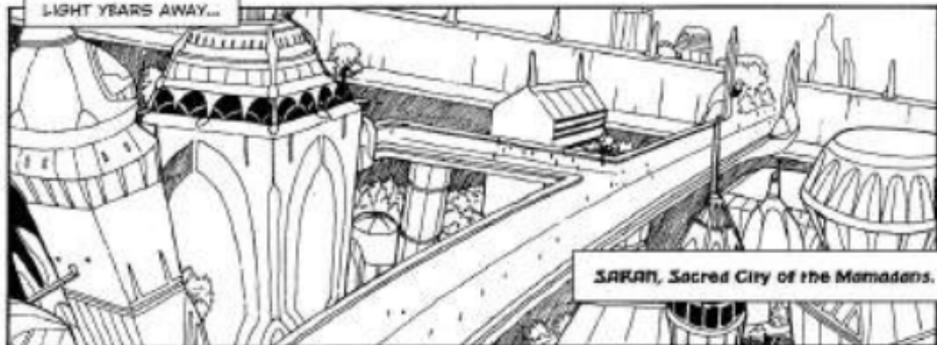


THANK YOU
MENTOK...

BUT
I BELIEVE
I CAN TAKE IT
FROM HERE.

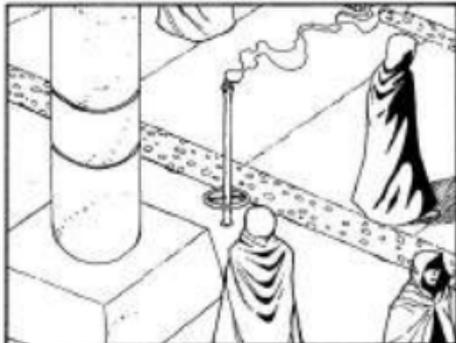


LIGHT YEARS AWAY...



SARAN, Sacred City of the Momadans.

SARAN: NAME OF AFRICAN ORIGIN MEANING 'JOY'.



AND SO
IT BEGINS...

THE FORCES
OF THE
DESTROYERS
MOUNT
AGAINST
US.



AS WE
KNEW THEY
WOULD.

NOTHING MUST
BE ALLOWED
TO STAND IN THE WAY
OF YOUR MISSION.



IT MAY
ALREADY BE TOO
LATE TO KILL.
THE STORM THEY
HAVE UNLEASHED
UPON US ALL.



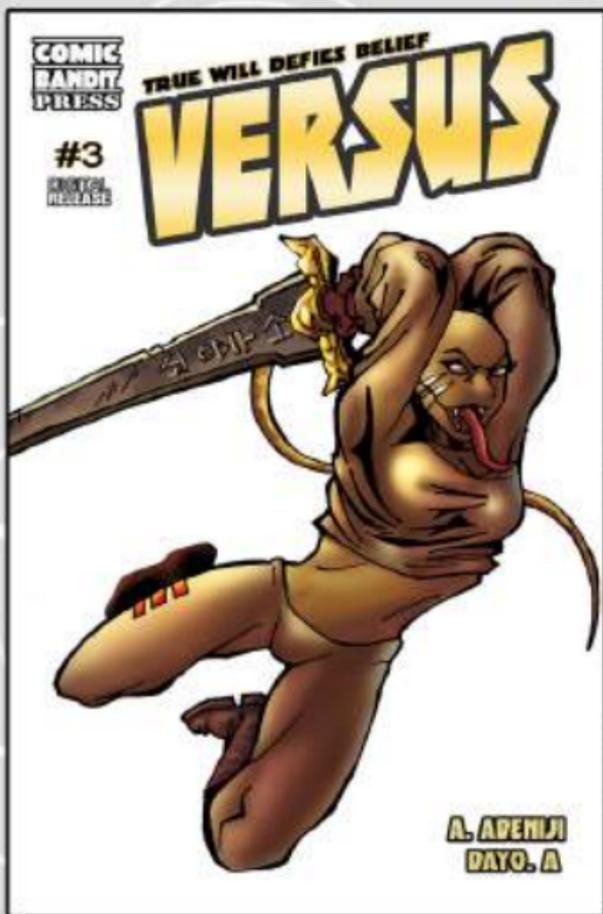
OUR
CAUSE IS
JUST...
WE SHALL
NOT FAIL.





IYAN GURA: ORIGINALLY FROM THE NYANJA OF ZAMBIA
MEANING "ARBITRATOR OF CEREMONIES".

TO BE CONTINUED...



**IN ISSUE THREE NEXT
MONTH FIRST ON
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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