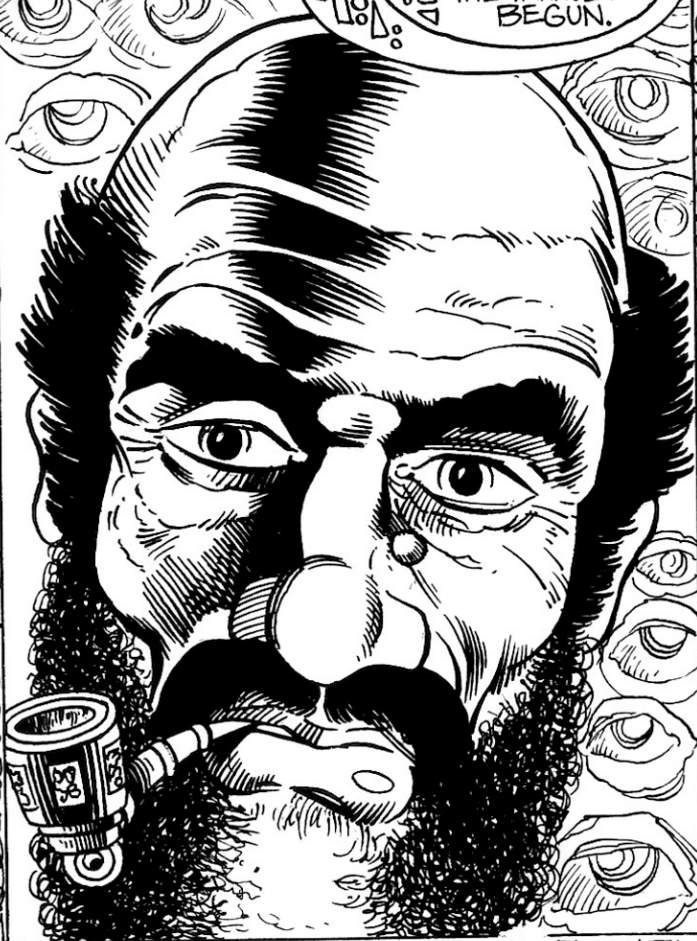


ORIGINS

BY RICK McCOLLUM WITH INKS BY BILL ANDERSON
11-27-81

AGAIN, THE PIPE IS EMPTY. AGAIN, THE TRANCE IS BEGUN.



HE'S BUILT A LUXURY
FORTIFIED APARTMENT
DOWN HERE. HIS
LOVE VANESSA LIKES
IT VERY MUCH.

THE
EVENING RAG
SHOULD INTEREST
YOU, MONTGOMERY.
LET ME ROLL YOU
UP A NUMBER.



OMNIMAN! READING WITH GREAT
INTEREST, HIS FACE CONTORTS
WITH COLD FURY...FOR REVENGE.



NEXT: THE RABID RETURN OF RAGE!

SUPERHERO OF TERROR-12

THE CHITTERING
HORRORS EMERGE
FROM THE VOID
TO SWEEP OVER
HIM —



THEY REEK OF
BLOOD AND
VOMIT AS THEY
KISS AND HOLD
HIS LIMP FORM —



BUT HE ENDURES
IT ALL. THEY ARE
BUT OBSTACLES
TO KNOWLEDGE.



HE NEEDS THIS KNOWLEDGE, AND ITS POWER...

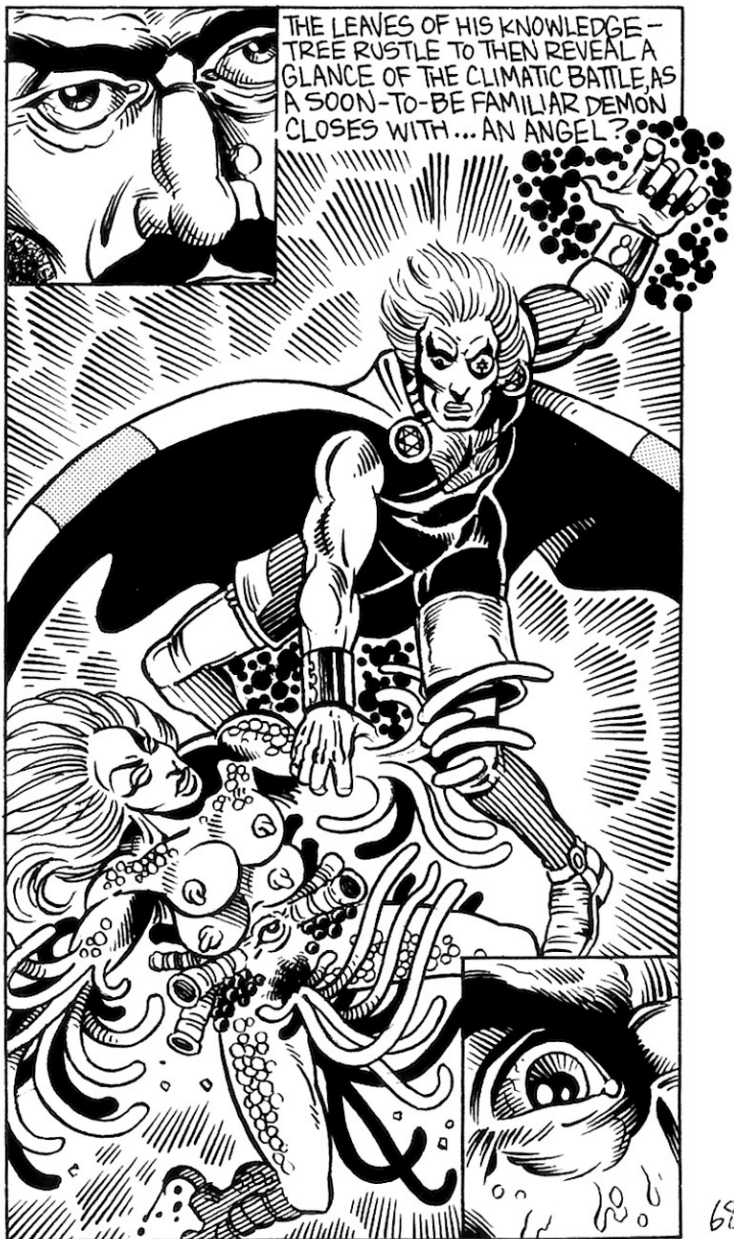
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THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSMORGIFIES HIM. THE MASTER SORCERER SEES HIMSELF AS A COSMIC TREE, AND HIS ROOTS HOLD AND TIE HIM DOWN TO HIS PLANET, EARTH, IN THE TERRIBLE CONFLICT TO COME. AND ON BRANCHES OF HIS CALLING AS AN AGENT OF LIFE HANG THE HEADS OF PEOPLE DRAWN IN TO FIGHT IN THE WAR, FOR BOTH NOBLE AND EVIL REASONS. SOME, LIKE FRUIT, WILL FALL.

THE LEAVES OF HIS KNOWLEDGE -
TREE RUSTLE TO THEN REVEAL A
GLANCE OF THE CLIMATIC BATTLE, AS
A SOON-TO-BE FAMILIAR DEMON
CLOSES WITH... AN ANGEL?





AND IT ALL DECOMPOSES INTO THE BLACK OF SPACE. THE PLANETS ARE BURNING, THE UNIVERSE IS IN FLAMES. BUT THROUGH THE DESTRUCTION THE MASTER SORCERER SEES A LAUGHING FACE, DARK WITH EVIL. AND HE HEARS FOR THE FIRST TIME A NAME... MALEVIL! THEN...

THE TRANCE -

IS OVER!



MONTGOMERY LANCASTER HAS HAD A DREAM. MORE THAN ONCE. SO HE STANDS BEFORE THIS DARK MT. ADAMS HOUSE -



AND HE GOES TO TALK TO ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE HE TRUSTS.



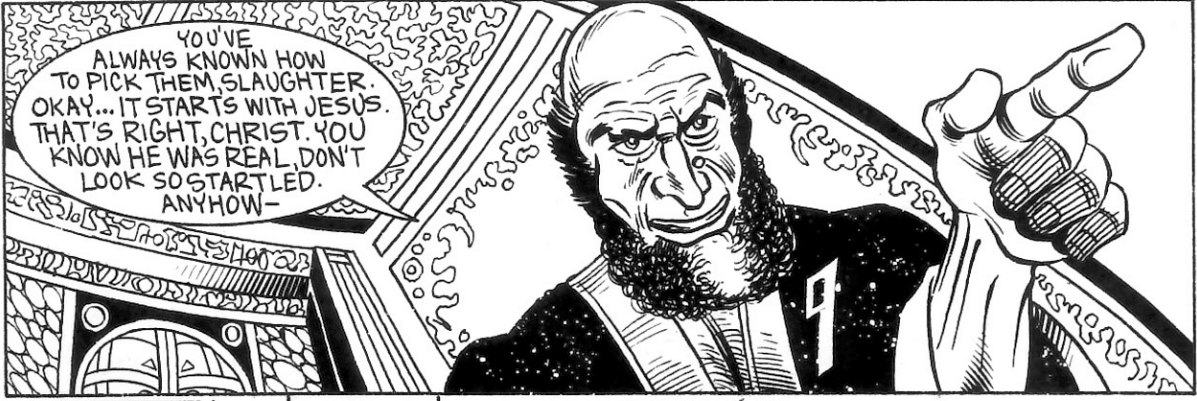
COME IN, SLAUGHTER. YOU'VE BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME NOW.





† IN AN AS-YET UNTOLD SLAUGHTER ADVENTURE —

11-30-81-77A



"WHEN CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED IT WAS PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST TRAUMATIC EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE COSMOS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS ALL PREDESTINIED, GOD WAS ANGRY- STOP LAUGHING, SLAUGHTER-SO GOD ACTED!"



"THE TEARS OF MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS, WERE THE SADDEST EVER SHED--"

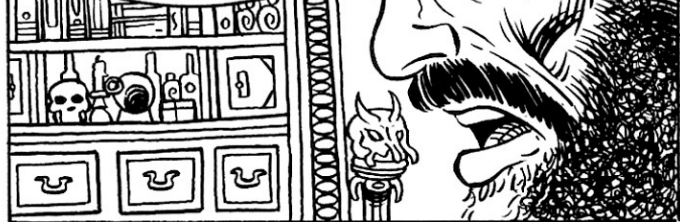


"WHEN SHE WAS GONE, THEY WERE FORBIDDEN TO EVAPORATE. AN ANGEL GATHERED THEM UP, AND USING HIS GOD-GIVEN POWERS, CONGEALED THEM INTO A ROUND GEM. THE EYE OF JUDGEMENT! IT IS A GEM OF SO MUCH POWER IT IS HARD TO GAUGE! THIS GEM IS GOD'S CURSE UPON THE HUMANITY WHO KILLED HIS SON. ALTHOUGH IT CAN BE USED FOR GOOD, IT IS INHERENTLY EVIL, FOR IN IT IS STORED GOD'S HATE."

"IT MAY BE ALIVE. IT CAN SPAN ALL TIMES AND PLANES OF REALITY. IT IS A WEAPON THAT CONSTANTLY CHANGES ITS SHAPE - THOUGH IT APPEARS MOST OFTEN IN ITS ROUND EYE OF DAVID APPEARANCE. OVER THE EONS IT HAS BEEN HELD BY MANY - IN THE AXE OF A BLOODY-HANDED BARBARIAN, IN THE SHAPE OF A COSMIC CUBE, BLACK IN AN ALBINO'S SWORD, GREEN IN A SOUL-GEM ON A GOLDEN AVENGER'S BROW, AS A RING IN AN ALIEN'S GRASP, AS AN EMERALD EYE OWNED BY A FAR-FUTURE PRINCESS, AS A CARVED RUNE STAFF- THE LIST IS WITHOUT END. IT HAS BEEN HELD BY ANGELS, DEMONS, EVEN SATAN HIMSELF ONCE FELL UNDER ITS STRANGE POWER!"



YOU YOURSELF HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE EYE BEFORE, SLAUGHTER. YOU DO REMEMBER THE RY'LEH ARTIFACT, DON'T YOU, SLAUGHTER?



HOW HE DOES! HIS EYES NARROW WITH ANGER AS HE RECALLS HOW HE WAS A PAWN OF EVOE PAN.



THERE WILL BE A HORRIBLE WAR FOUGHT HERE IN CINCINNATI, SLAUGHTER! THE DEATH AND BLOOD WILL AFFECT A UNIVERSE! YOU ARE BUT ONE AMONG MANY WHO PLAY VITAL PARTS IN THIS BATTLE! I DO KNOW MORE, BUT IT IS NOT BOR YOU TO KNOW!



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+ An unpublished story





THIS STATUE OF THE VIRGIN MOTHER IS SACRED. IN TIMES PAST, IT IS SAID TO PERFORM MIRACLES. RUBY THE DYKE AND HER GIRL GOONS (NOW IN THE SERVICE OF SPINOZA GRIMALDI) ARE WAITING FOR ONE NOW.



GRIMALDI SAID WAIT FOR A MIRACLE.

GIMME A BREAK! WHAT IS THIS SHIT?

DON'T WE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO?

SHADDUP AN' WAIT. THAT'S FINAL.



THEN THE STATUE'S EYES
GLOW WITH MAD FIRE!



AROUND HER HANDS, TIME
IS TORN INTO SHREDS!



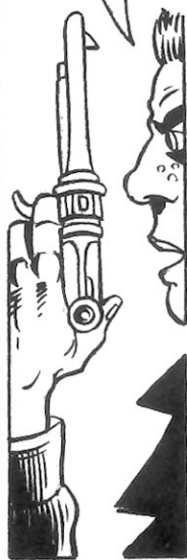
AND GRIMALDI HAS THE
ANSWER TO HIS PRAYERS.
GIFTS FROM GOD - TO
TAKE CARE OF THE HERO
CALLED OMNIMAN!



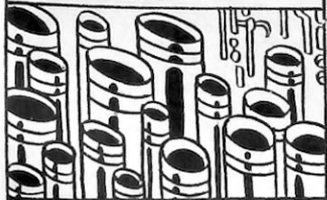
SO WHAT'S
IN THE BAG?



GUNS.
REALLY STRANGE
RODS.



FAR AWAY IN SPACE...
AND TIME...



REPORT
TO EXCALIBUR
THAT THE LATEST
TEMPORAL MATTER
TRANSMISSIONS
HAVE BEEN
DONE.



CINCINNATI ALMOST HAD A
SUBWAY ONCE. THE ENTRANCES
ARE ALL BOARDED UP—BUT
THE TUNNELS ARE STILL THERE.
THEY RUN DEEP. VERY DEEP.



SLAUGHTER MAKES HIS
HOME HERE. HE LIKES IT.