



31
DEC '08

CHECK 1 MATE

JONES
GARCIA

OVER THE
TOP!





...T-THAT
GIRL...



...I-I
KNOW
HER...

CHEN LEE,
CHANNEL 4,
REPORTING FROM
THE DECIMATED
OUTSKIRTS OF
TUNGCHOW...
FLATTENED UNDER
THE TALONS OF THE
MONSTROUS
QI YU...



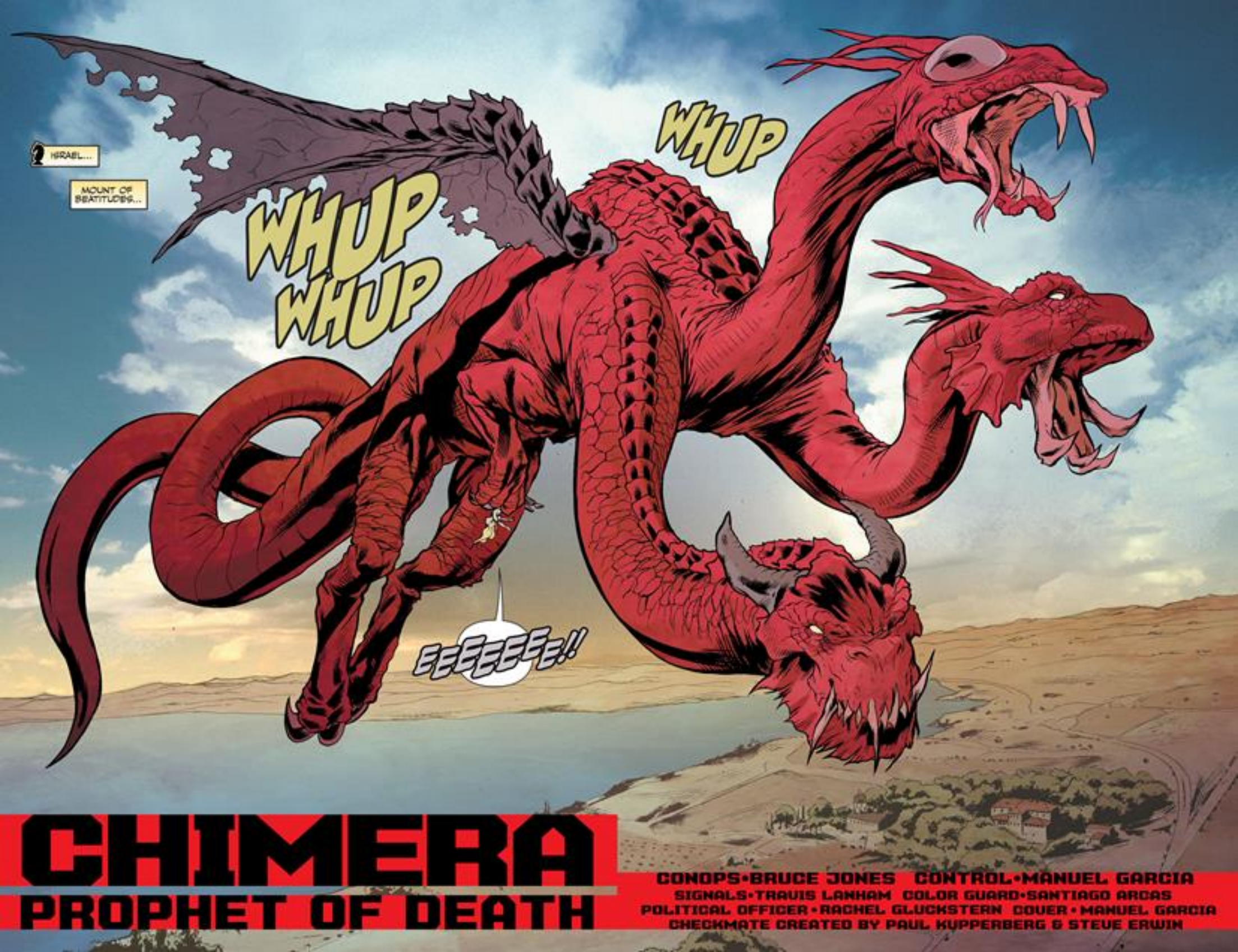
NOW THE
DESTROYER
HAS BECOME
THE **DESTROYED...**
DEFEATED BY
THE ONE THEY
CALL **CHIMERA--**
TO WHOM ALL
THE WORLD OWES
IMMEASURABLE
DEBT...

...YET
WHAT **NEW**
HORRORS AWAIT US
IN THE FORM OF THE
RECENTLY ARRIVED **AZHI**
DAHAKA... BEATING ITS
WAY **SKYWARD** NOW
TOWARD DISTANT
MOUNTAINS...



...TAKING
WITH IT A **STILL**
LIVING AMERICAN
GIRL...FOR WHOM--
SO FAR--NO ONE
EVEN HAS A
NAME...

...C-CHLOE?



ISRAEL...

MOUNT OF BEATITUDES...

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

WHUP

EEEEEE!!

CHIMERA

PROPHET OF DEATH

CONOPS • BRUCE JONES CONTROL • MANUEL GARCIA
SIGNALS • TRAVIS LANHAM COLOR GUARD • SANTIAGO ARCAS
POLITICAL OFFICER • RACHEL GLUCKSTERN COVER • MANUEL GARCIA
CHECKMATE CREATED BY PAUL KUPPERBERG & STEVE ERWIN



THAT'S
THE I.D.F. TEAM,
SIR...



...OUR
ESCORT
TO THE
COMMAND
POST...

...AND
THE GLOBAL
GUARDIANS.



THE
BEAST?

NOTHING
YET, SIR...

...HASN'T
SHOWN ON
RADAR.



GOOD.
WE'LL BE
THERE
THEN...



...TO
RECEIVE
IT.



WE HAVE
OFFICIAL
CONFIRMATION,
GENTLEMEN.
AZHI DAHAKI IS
ON HIS WAY
TO US.

SO THE
PREDICTIONS
WERE
ACCURATE!

HOLD THE
FANGS IN
CHECK,
TAS...

...I'M SURE
THEY'LL HAVE
THEIR DAY IN
THE SUN.

WHAT SUN?
IT'S THE END
OF THE WORLD,
HAVEN'T YOU
HEARD?

FROM
A FLYING
LIZARD?
HAH!

NOT
ON MY PLANET,
MANTICORE!



I'LL
REMEMBER YOU
SAID THAT, BEAST--
AFTER YOU'VE MET
AZHI DAHAKI.

HERE'S
THE CREATURE'S
PROJECTED LANDING
POSITION--
MT. ZION.



REQUIRES
LOTS OF ROOM,
DOES IT? WHAT
ABOUT JET? SHE
MISS THE
MEMO?

SHE'LL
BE THERE,
NEVER
FEAR.

HEY, WHO'S
AFRAID?

ME,
FOR ONE...



DISCIPLINE, JET...
THROTTLE BACK.
THIS IS STRICTLY A
RECONNAISSANCE
RUN...

...TO "DETERMINE
VICTIM'S
PHYSICAL STATE."

UNCONSCIOUS...

...BUT STILL
BREATHING.

I COULD TRY
FOR A FLANKING
MANEUVER...

...SWEEP
IN QUICK
AND SNATCH
THE GIRL...

...TAKE OLE
LIZARD-FACE
BY SURPRI--

HIISSSSS!

...WHOA...

...BELIEVE
THAT'S HIS
ANCIENT HEAD
OF PAIN...



EEWWAAAAAUAH!

...AND THAT
ONE'S THE
FACE OF
ANGUISH...

...OR ACID
INDIGESTION...



THIS ON
THE OTHER
HAND...

FOOSH



...WAS
NOT IN THE
BRIEFING!



HELP
ME!

PLEEEZZZEEE!

DISCIPLINE,
JET...DISCIPLINE...



WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT THIS SO-CALLED *SECRET* WEAPON OF YOURS, BLACK KING--THIS *CHIMERA*?

WE KNOW HE'S BEEN OUR *ONE* SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE.

HE'S NULLIFIED *EVERY* KNOWN MYTHICAL THREAT THROWN AT HIM. ALL OF THEM.

NOT ALL, BLACK KING.

AND FROM WHAT WE KNOW--THE *WORST* IS YET TO COME WITH THIS *AZHI DAHAKI*.

YAK-YAK-YAK! WHERE IS THIS FABULOUS *CHIMERA* OF YOURS ANYWAY?

AUGUST GENERAL'S ACCOMPANYING HIM TO YOUR *INDUCTION CENTER*, FREEDOM BEAST...

...WHERE YOU CAN ASK *CHIMERA* YOURSELF HOW "*FABULOUS*" HE IS.

SIR! THE *DRAGON'S* AT MT. ZION!



AND THE ABDUCTED GIRL, JET?

STILL ALIVE! AND KICKING!

WELL THEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... I SUGGEST WE COLLECT *CHIMERA*...

...AND ARRANGE AN INTRODUCTION.







ANOTHER DAY,
ANOTHER MYTHICAL
BEAST, SIR?

I ADMIRE YOUR
COMPOSURE, FIRE...

...SEE THAT YOU
RETAIN IT WHEN YOU
FACE AZHI.

WHICHEVER
FACE HE USES!



WHA--?
WHERE THE
DEVIL IS
HE?

JET--?

DRAGON
DESCENDING, SIR--
THROUGH THAT
NORTH CLOUD
BLANK!

BUT, SIR--
I JUST *SPOKE*
WITH CHECKMATE
HEADQUARTERS...



...AND WELL,
WE, UH...

...MAY
HAVE A *BIGGER*
PROBLEM!

THIS
HEAT!
W-WHAT
IS IT?

JUST
RUN!

GET
TO SHADE!
ANY KIND OF
SHA--

SSSSSSSS



--PATIENCE,
SON... THAT'S
HOW YOU CATCH
NIGHT BASS!

KINDA
HOT FOR
NIGHT--
ISN'T IT,
DAD?

YOU'LL
FORGET
THE HEAT
WHEN THOSE
BIG ONES
START--





WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

THIS
IS WHAT
ALL THE
FUSS IS
ABOUT?

--A BAD
JAPANESE
HORROR
FLICK?

PERSIAN,
MNDWE--

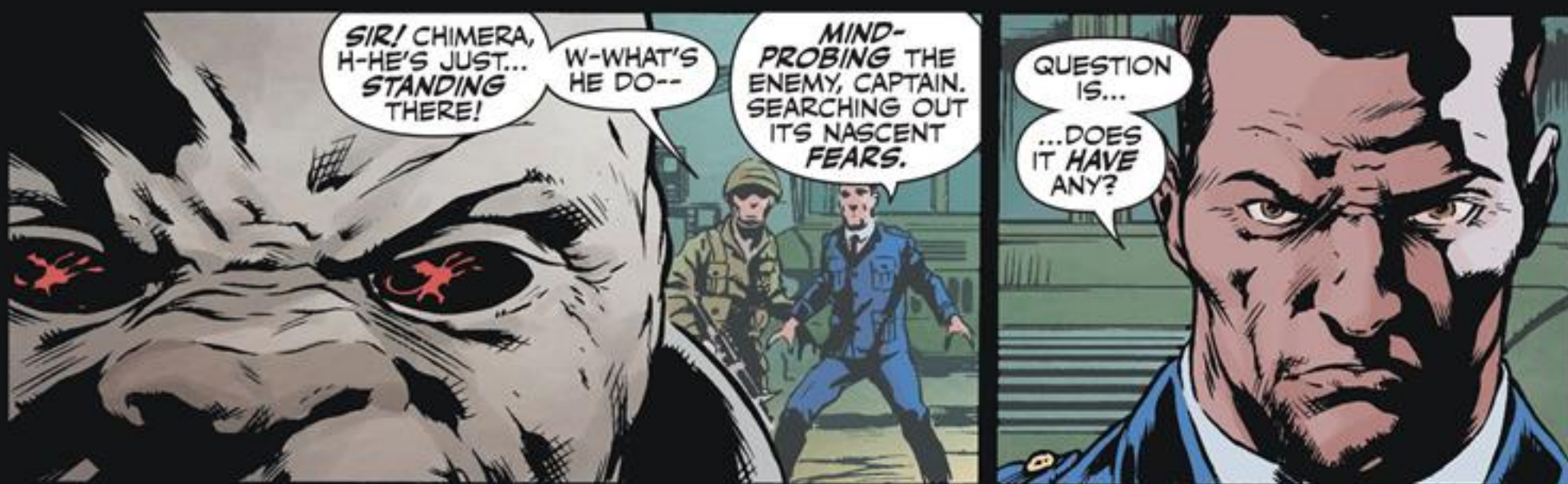
--BUT
YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT
THE BAD
PART!

DEAD
RIGHT,
JET?

LET'S
STAY FROSTY,
PEOPLE!







YOU
THINKING WHAT
I'M THINKING,
GLOSS?

YEAH--
THERE'S
A MAN
INSIDE THE
BEAST!

ISN'T THERE
ALWAYS?

SO
LET'S
SEE WHAT
A FUSELAGE
OF FEMALE
PHEROMONES
DOES TO "PUFF"
THIS MAGIC
DRAGON!

HE'S INTERESTED,
FOXY, BUT NOT FULLY
SMITTEN...

...BETTER
PUMP UP THE
PULCHRITUDE!

DON'T
USUALLY BRING
OUT THE HEAVY
ARTILLERY...

...BUT HOW
'BOUT THESE
.45'S, SNAKE-
EYES?

NICE
FORM, FOX!

NOW, WATCH
GLOSS GET
ELEMENTAL...

...AND OPEN
SOME DRAGON-
LINES FOR THE
DRAGON!





ARAWAN,
TO THE WELSH,
RIGHT? ORDOG TO
HUNGARIANS?

BAAL, TO
THE CANAANITES?
CHERNABOG, TO
THE SLAVIC?

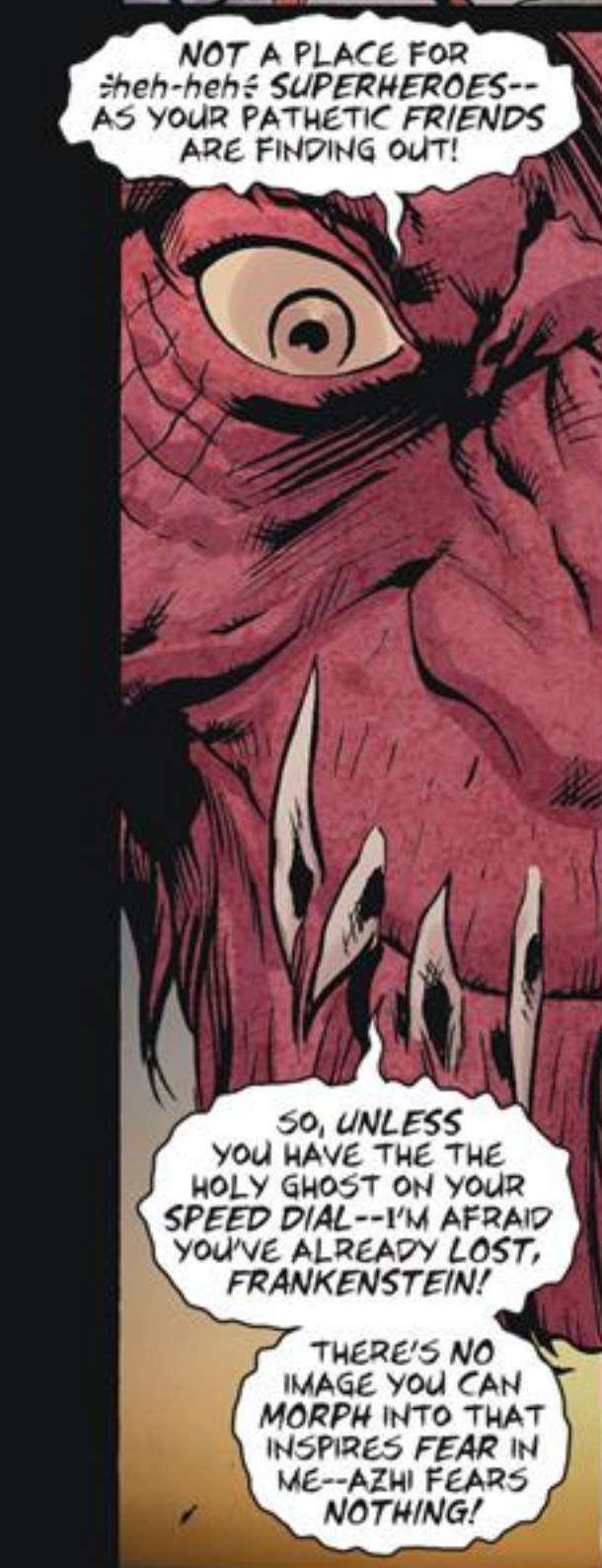
DAGON...
MARA... NERGAL... SET...
TYPHON? IT'S YAMA IN
CHINA, ISN'T IT?



SHAME
YOU WERE A
NONBELIEVER!
TOO BAD. BUT
YOU MAY CALL
ME SIMPLY
LUCIFER,
MY DEAR
CHIMERA!

--OR IS THAT
"PRIVATE ADAM
SHARP"?

SO MANY
MONIKERS...SO
LITTLE TIME
TO LIVE!



NOT A PLACE FOR
shh-heh-heh SUPERHEROES--
AS YOUR PATHETIC FRIENDS
ARE FINDING OUT!

SO, UNLESS
YOU HAVE THE THE
HOLY GHOST ON YOUR
SPEED DIAL--I'M AFRAID
YOU'VE ALREADY LOST,
FRANKENSTEIN!

THERE'S NO
IMAGE YOU CAN
MORPH INTO THAT
INSPIRES FEAR IN
ME--AZHI FEARS
NOTHING!



"THE
ARCHANGEL
GABRIEL"...
HMMMM...

YOU FEAR
THE LIGHT--
GOODNESS--
SPIRIT!

WHAT
WOULD YOU
KNOW ABOUT SPIRIT,
YOU SOULLESS
MANMADE
MONSTER?!!



SO
HOW DO YOU
EXPLAIN YOUR
STUPIDITY?

DON'T
PRESS YOUR
LUCK, MORTAL!
I REPEAT:
YOU'VE ALREADY
LOST!

ALREADY
WON! AND
WITHOUT LAYING
A FINGER
ON YOU!

NEXT
TIME, AZHI...
CHOOSE A
LESS FRAGILE
VESSEL!



--EH?

A DEVIL CAN
NEVER OVERCOME THE
SPIRIT OF LIGHT...

BECAUSE YOU'RE
WRONG--I HAVE A SOUL!!
AND IT CAN CHANGE AND
EVOLVE--JUST AS MY
BODY CAN!

BEGONE,
DEMON OF
DARKNESS!!!





THANK YOU.

FOR DOING THIS.

THANK YOU.

FOR BELIEVING I COULD.



LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE SLEPT THROUGH THE LAST ACT!

SHE'LL BE FINE, CHIMERA.

HIS NAME IS ADAM.

ADAM SHARP.



THE WORLD OWES YOU, SHARP. CHINA OWES YOU.

JUST NAME IT, ADAM. WHAT-EVER IT IS YOU WANT.

IF IT'S NOT INCONVENIENT, SIR...



...I COULD USE A WEEKEND PASS.



CHECKMATE
HEADQUARTERS
...THREE DAYS
LATER...

YOU
WANTED TO
SEE ME, PAWN
1? SOMETHING
URGENT?

THIS
WAY, SIR...

WHAT *IS* IT?
WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

I-IS
IT--?

SOMETHING
YOU NEED TO **SEE**
IMMEDIATELY ON ONE
OF THE MONITORS, SIR!
WE **JUST** GOT THE FEED
OPERATING THIS
MORNING.

YESSIR!
VERY IMPORTANT!
AUGUST GENERAL
INSISTED!

BUT
I DON'T **SEE**
ANYTHING...

...IT
ALL LOOKS
PERFECTLY
NORMAL.
PERFECTLY
FINE
EVEN!

YESSIR...



"...LIKE
HEAVEN ON
EARTH!"

MISSION COMPLETE