

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



ISSUE 20
2011



SPOTLIGHT ON...

ALOR



PARAGON CITY: THE CITY OF HEROES! THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE THE HERO-TO-PROBLEM RATIO IS ALMOST ONE-TO-ONE. IF YOU NEED A HERO IN THIS CITY, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK AROUND THE CORNER.

BUT NOT ALL HEROES ARE THE SAME. SOME ARE MORE MERCENARY THAN THE OTHERS. BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO SEE THE CALLING AS A SIGN OF BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD FOR ALL MANKIND. THESE ARE THE HEROES WHO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING BETTER. THEY ARE THE...

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



NAME:
ALOR

REAL NAME:
**ALEXANDER OF
THE FIRST ORDER**

STATUS: **COSMIC
ENTITY**

ARCHETYPE: **NOT
APPLICABLE**

PRIMARY POWER:
NOT APPLICABLE

SECONDARY POWER:
NOT APPLICABLE

AFTER CONFRONTING STARCYGNUS OVER HIS CONNECTION TO SHADOWBORN, THE PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER DAYBRIGHT WAS PRESUMED KILLED.

INSTEAD, SHE FOUND HERSELF TELEPORTED TO LIMBO, WHERE TAINTED EVE OF THE LIBRA ORDER TELLS HER THAT HER BENEFACTOR, THE MYSTERIOUS FORCE KNOWN ONLY AS LIBRA, HAS RECRUITED THE KHELDIAN HYBRID TO TAKE PART IN A GREAT BATTLE IN THE PAST. A BATTLE INVOLVING ICON POWERS AND ALOR, THE SAME COSMIC FORCE RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING THE HOME UNIVERSE OF THE "GUARDIAN EXILES", AND THE SAME BEING CURRENTLY POSSESSING STARCYGNUS.

MEANWHILE, STARCYGNUS, UNDER ALOR'S COMPLETE CONTROL, CONTINUES HIS OWN PLAN OF RETRIBUTION BY ELIMINATING THOSE WHO COULD STAND IN HIS WAY.

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PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND

YOU ASK... "WHY?"

GIVEN MY NEWFOUND APPRECIATION OF YOUR KIND OF EXISTENCE, I SUPPOSE YOU DESERVE AN EXPLANATION... FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT IT WILL DO FOR YOU.

I WILL IMPART TO YOU HOW THE UNIVERSE REALLY IS, SO YOU CAN THEN APPRECIATE WHY I DO WHAT I DO.



STARCYGNUS

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS THE UNIVERSE.

JUST ONE. ONLY ONE.

ONE REALITY, ONE PLANE OF EXISTENCE, ONE COSMIC DIMENSION FOR EVERYTHING.

IT WAS A UNIVERSE OF GODS.

THEY WERE THE ORIGINALS. THE FIRST, THE OLDEST, THE MOST POWERFUL.

BUT IT WAS A UNIVERSE THAT WAS DESTINED TO DIE AN EARLY DEATH.

SO POWERFUL WERE THE ORIGINALS THAT THEY RETARDED THE EXPANSION OF THE COSMOS, THUS TRIGGERING ITS PREMATURE FINAL ENTROPY.

REALIZING THEIR ROLE IN THEIR OWN COSMIC DEMISE, THEY BANDED THEIR POWERS TOGETHER TO REACH THE IMPOSSIBLE... EVENT ONE, THE START OF THE UNIVERSE.

THEY WERE GOING TO FIX THE "FLAW".

WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE MOMENT OF ABSOLUTE CREATION, THEY BEGAN TO DISAGREE ON HOW TO "FIX" THE UNIVERSE.

THEY EACH HAD AN IDEA OF HOW THINGS "SHOULD" BE, HOW THEIR OWN SPECIES "SHOULD" HANDLE CERTAIN MATTERS. HOW OTHER SPECIES "SHOULD" COME ABOUT AND THEIR ROLES IN THE COSMOS.

SO INVOLVED IN THEIR ARGUMENTS, THEY FAILED TO REALIZE THAT THIS BRIEF MOMENT OF ABSOLUTE CREATION WAS ABOUT TO END...

THUS THE UNIVERSE BEGAN AGAIN, ONLY THIS TIME ACROSS A WHOLE SPECTRUM OF DIMENSIONS.

AN OMNIVERSE WITH A SEEMINGLY INFINITE NUMBER OF MULTIPLE UNIVERSES INSIDE IT.

EVERYTHING THAT WAS THE ORIGINALS WERE SCATTERED ACROSS TIME, SPACE, AND DIMENSIONS.

MANY UNIVERSES DEVELOPED ALONG THE SAME PATTERN, THE SAME COSMIC TEMPLATE AS THE ORIGINAL VERSION.

BUT EACH UNIVERSE WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS. EACH WAS INFLUENCED BY SOME FRACTIONAL ELEMENT OF THE ORIGINALS.

AND AS TIME PROGRESSED, THESE DIFFERENCES BECAME MORE AND MORE PROFOUND.



OF COURSE GIVEN YOUR HISTORY WITH OTHER UNIVERSES, YOU CAN SEE HOW MANY WOULD DEVELOP ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

BUT I'M SURE YOU ARE WONDERING WHY I'M WASTING MY TIME TALKING WITH YOU ABOUT THESE SEEMINGLY MINOR THINGS.

"Time and Changes" Phase 3 "DESTROYER OF WORLDS"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

THERE IS A REASON FOR EVERY ACTION.

YOU WOULD NOT HAVE ATTACKED AND RESTRAINED ME IF YOU DID NOT HAVE A REASON FOR IT.

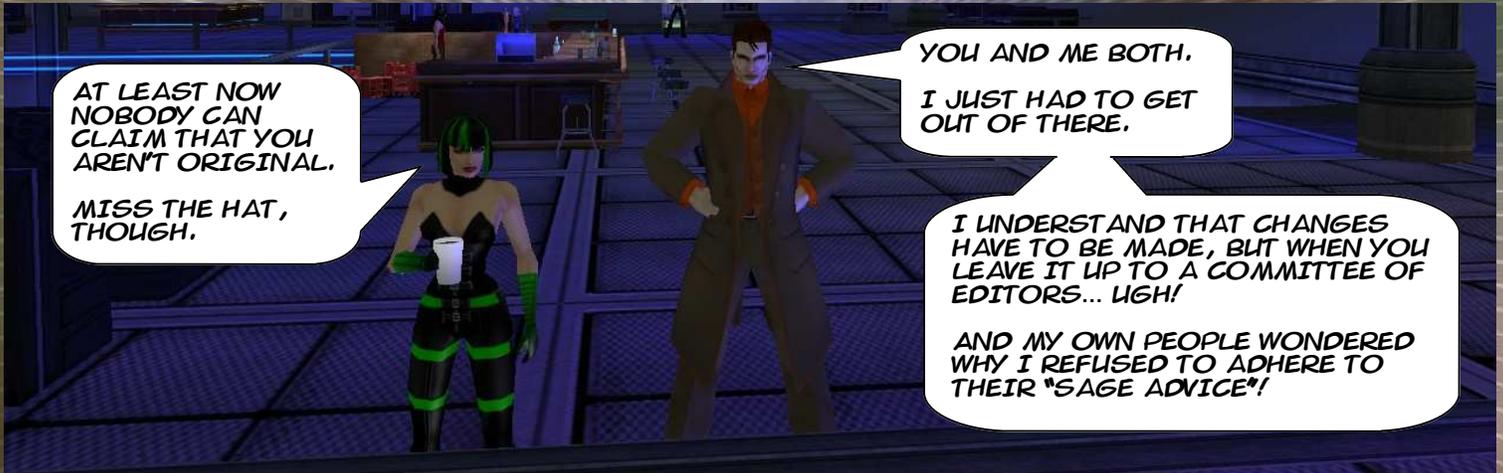
I WOULD THEORIZE, THEN, THAT YOUR EXPLANATION PLAYS A ROLE IN IT.

A FLAWLESSLY LOGICAL DEDUCTION BY AN ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORM. YOUR CREATOR CERTAINLY SHOULD BE COMMENDED.

YOU ARE RIGHT. THERE IS A REASON FOR ALL OF THIS.



 CITADEL



AT LEAST NOW NOBODY CAN CLAIM THAT YOU AREN'T ORIGINAL. MISS THE HAT, THOUGH.

YOU AND ME BOTH. I JUST HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT CHANGES HAVE TO BE MADE, BUT WHEN YOU LEAVE IT UP TO A COMMITTEE OF EDITORS... UGH!

AND MY OWN PEOPLE WONDERED WHY I REFUSED TO ADHERE TO THEIR *SAGE ADVICE*!



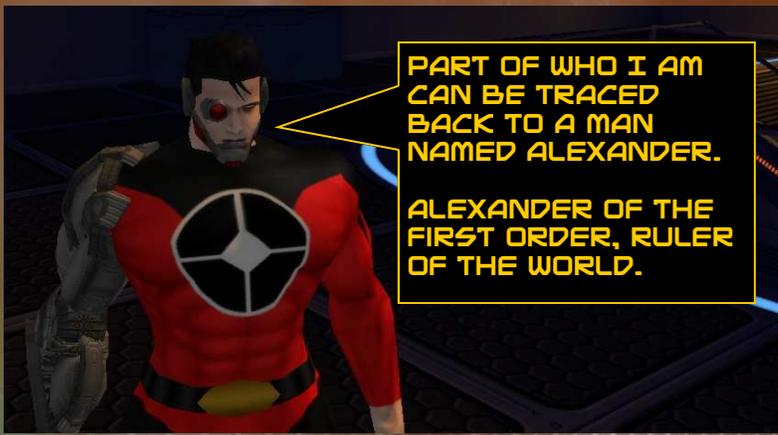
STILL... IT COULD BE WORSE.

HOW SO?



YOU COULD BE STUCK HERE WITH A GHOST TWIN IN CROATOA.

YOU HAVE A POINT THERE.

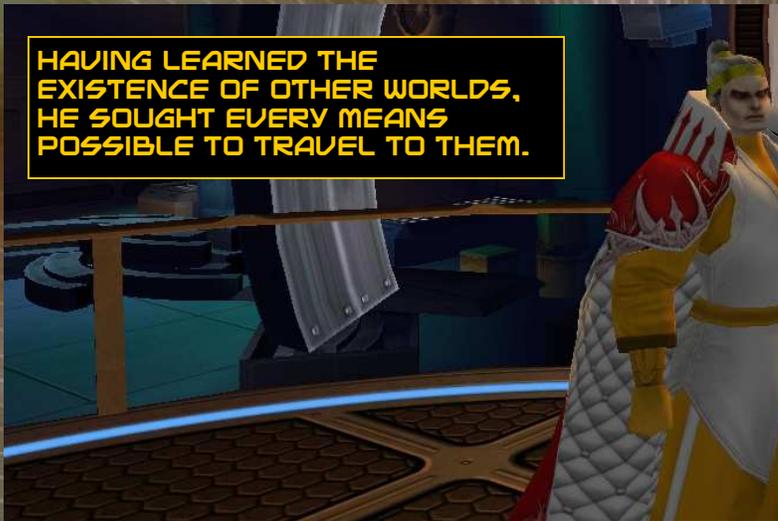


PART OF WHO I AM CAN BE TRACED BACK TO A MAN NAMED ALEXANDER.

ALEXANDER OF THE FIRST ORDER, RULER OF THE WORLD.



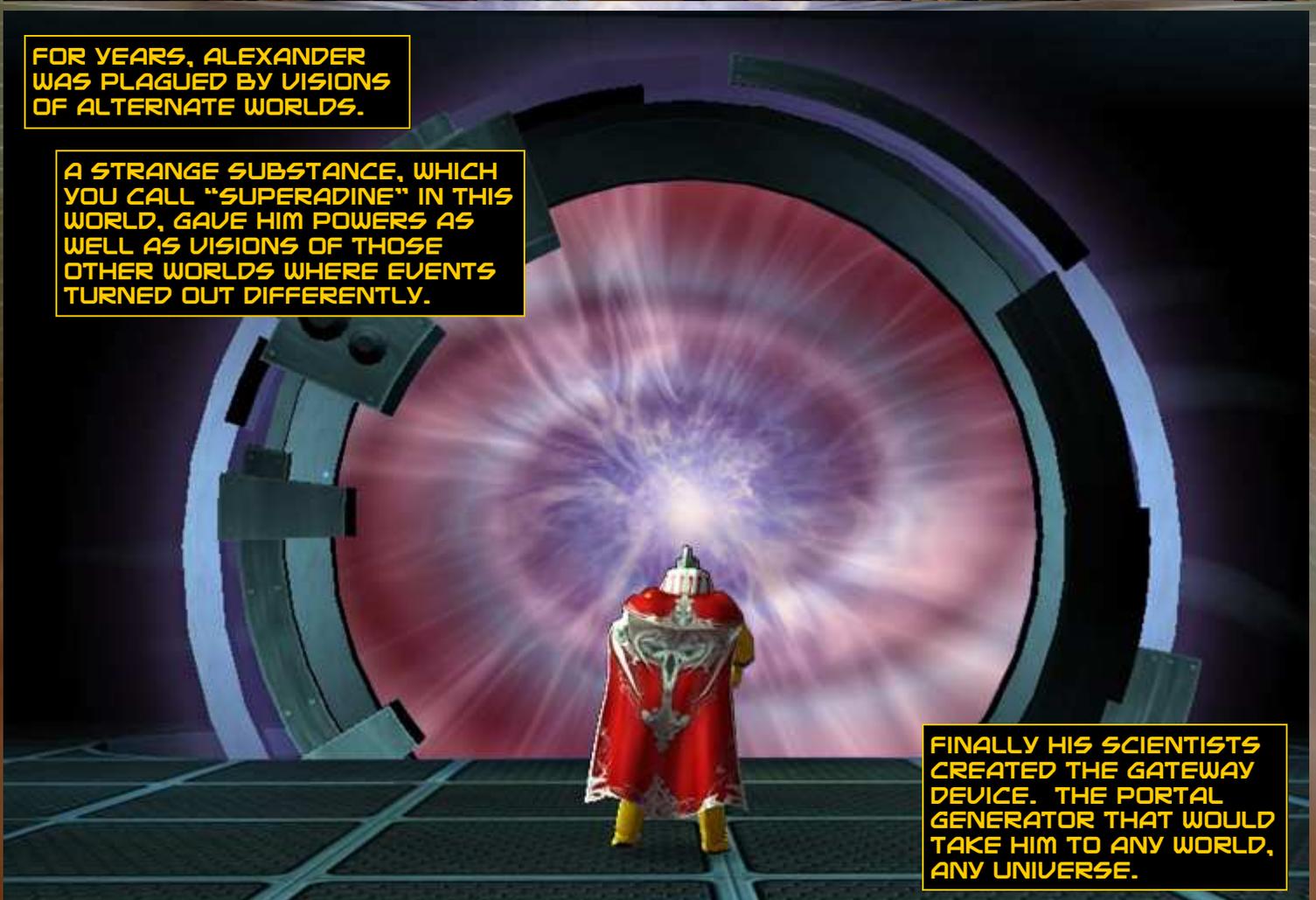
A PROUD MAN. A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT.



HAVING LEARNED THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER WORLDS, HE SOUGHT EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL TO THEM.

WE CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT THIS WILL EVEN WORK, SIRE.

IT WILL... OR YOU WON'T LIVE TO SEE YOUR FAMILY EVER AGAIN.



FOR YEARS, ALEXANDER WAS PLAGUED BY VISIONS OF ALTERNATE WORLDS.

A STRANGE SUBSTANCE, WHICH YOU CALL "SUPERADINE" IN THIS WORLD, GAVE HIM POWERS AS WELL AS VISIONS OF THOSE OTHER WORLDS WHERE EVENTS TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY.

FINALLY HIS SCIENTISTS CREATED THE GATEWAY DEVICE. THE PORTAL GENERATOR THAT WOULD TAKE HIM TO ANY WORLD, ANY UNIVERSE.



AM I TO PRESUME, THEN, THAT YOU ARE SOMEHOW THIS "ALEXANDER" THAT YOU SPEAK OF?

/com Emergency: Freedom Phalanx



HRRR!

BzzT!

FAR FROM IT. HE WAS JUST THE STARTING PHASE TO WHAT I BECAME.

Lost connection to server



ALEXANDER OF THE FIRST ORDER WAS DRIVEN BY NOTHING BUT HIS OWN VANITY.

HE SOUGHT WORLDS NOT TO CONQUER THEM, NOT TO LEARN GREAT SECRETS FROM THEM, BUT TO SEE JUST HOW GREAT HE WOULD BE IN THOSE OTHER WORLDS.

HE PRESUMED THAT HE WOULD BE GREAT IN EVERY WORLD, IN EVERY INSTANCE.

A LEADER, A RULER, A MAN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. THAT WAS ALL THAT ALEXANDER OF THE FIRST ORDER EVER CARED ABOUT.



AND, AT FIRST, HE WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED.



UNTIL...

IS THIS SOME KIND OF A JOKE?



AM I TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WORLD'S VERSION OF MYSELF?



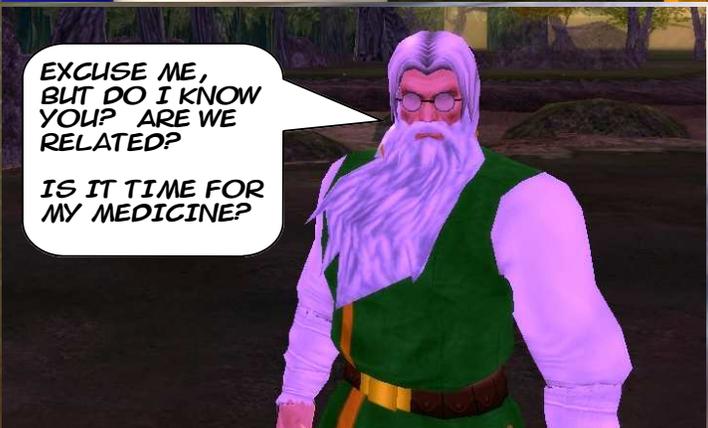
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT SOMEWHERE IN THIS VAST SPECTRUM OF MULTIPLE UNIVERSES, THERE IS A PLANET WHERE *I*, THE GREAT ALEXANDER OF THE FIRST ORDER, RULER, KING, GENIUS, AM REDUCED TO BEING NOTHING BUT... BUT... A FEEBLE-MINDED **GARDENER?**

WORKING ON THE GROUND ALL DAY... DOO-DAH, DOO-DAH... WORKING PASSES THE DAY AWAY... OH THE DOO-DAH DAY...



EXCUSE ME, BUT DO I KNOW YOU? ARE WE RELATED?

IS IT TIME FOR MY MEDICINE?



SERVICE DROID 7 HERE AND... OH, MY, ARE YOU A RELATIVE?



ENOUGH OF THIS!

I WILL NOT HAVE MY LIKENESS TARNISHED ON THIS WORLD OR ANY OTHER!

HRRR!

SO ANGRY WAS ALEXANDER THAT HE LASHED OUT AGAINST HIS SIMPLE-MINDED COUNTERPART.

ZZZZZAP!

ERROR! EEEEEEE...

CRACKLE!



ALEXANDER HAD NO IDEA OF THE TRUE IMPORTANCE OF HIS FEEBLE COUNTERPART IN THAT UNIVERSE. HAD HE WAITED, HE WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT HIMSELF.

A COLLECTIVE MIND FROM ANOTHER GALAXY WAS DESTINED TO INVADE THAT PLANET. IT WOULD HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE SIMPLE GARDENER'S MIND AND BEEN CHANGED BY IT. IT WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY TAMED THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.

A FUTURE UTOPIA, RUINED BY THE VANITY OF A FOOL.

HIS PROTECTIVE ARMOR, WHICH HE WORE UNDER HIS REGAL CLOTHES, SAVED HIM FROM BEING OBLITERATED.

BUT IT COULD NOT RETURN HIM TO HIS HOME UNIVERSE AS FAST AS HE EXPECTED.

INSTEAD HE WAS THROWN INTO THE GREAT VORTEX BETWEEN UNIVERSES.

WHAT... WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT ARE... WHAT ARE THESE VOICES? I... I CAN'T...

HIS MIND WAS FLOODED WITH IMAGES OF A WHOLE UNIVERSE'S FUTURE THAT HE DESTROYED THROUGH HIS ARROGANCE.

YES... I KNOW NOW... IT'S ALL CLEAR TO ME.

I KNOW WHAT I AM DESTINED TO BECOME!

IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE FACES OF THE ORIGINALS IN THE VOID.

HE WAS GIVEN A PORTION OF THEIR POWER.

HE THEN RETURNED TO HIS OWN WORLD CLEARLY CHANGED.

ALL OF THOSE WORLDS... ALL OF THAT WASTED POTENTIAL...

I WILL MAKE IT RIGHT. I WILL RESTORE MY FELLOW ORIGINALS TO THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THIS OMNIVERSE.

SO SWEARS... ALOR, THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA OF THE ORIGINALS.

AND THUS... I... ALOR... WAS BORN ANEW.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

MISTER CADE...
I'M TOLD YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR ME?

MR. CADE

WELL? SPEAK UP!
US NON-TECHNOMANCERS HAVE THIS THING CALLED A "MOUTH" THAT WE USE TO TALK WITH.

EDWARD VANCE

MY APOLOGIES MISTER VANCE... I WAS OVERSEEING THE BACKUP OF OUR SERVERS.
AS YOU KNOW, AS A TECHNOMANCER, I AM CONTINUALLY PLUGGED INTO ALL OF THE ELECTRONIC SERVICES IN THE BUILDING, AND THERE WAS ONE OPEN CASE THAT RECENTLY CAUGHT MY ATTENTION...
IF WE MAY PROCEED TO THE D.A.'S PERSONAL OFFICE, YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SO-CALLED "HOODED INTRUDER" THAT RAIDED YOUR TEMPORARY FEDERAL OFFICE.*

← ISSUE #8

A RATHER EMBARRASSING SITUATION TO BE IN...
IT WAS DURING MY FEDERAL PROSECUTION OF MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA FOR TREASON. A WOMAN WEARING A WHITE TECH BODYSUIT AND BLUE HOODED CAPE BROKE INTO THE FEDERAL OFFICES, ASSAULTED MY PERSONAL SECURITY GUARDS, AND DOWNLOADED SEVERAL GIGABYTES OF EVIDENCE.

WE BELIEVED THE ASSAILANT WAS KARA HAMILTON, SINCE A SIMILAR ATTACKER WAS SEEN AT A GREY PRIVATE POLICE STATION AFTER HER DETAINMENT ON PHONY CHARGES. WE ALSO TRIED TO LINK HER TO THE ATTACK ON CHIEF CLAYTON, BUT MS. HAMILTON HAD AN ALIBI FOR THAT PARTICULAR INCIDENT.*

← ISSUES #1 AND 16

SOON... VERY SOON... THIS WILL BE MY OFFICE.
SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE SEEING HERE?

SINCE THE CASE WAS STILL DECLARED UNRESOLVED, I DECIDED TO RUN A SEARCH OF ALL AVAILABLE SECURITY SYSTEMS IN THE CITY AND I MADE AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY CONCERNING THE INTRUDER.

I AM ACCESSING THE SECURITY CAMERAS FOR A STORE IN STEEL CANYON CALLED SUBGENETICS.
THE FOLLOWING FOOTAGE YOU'LL SEE WAS TAKEN JUST LAST MONTH.



SECURITY CAM



THAT'S HER!
WHAT TIME WAS THIS TAKEN?

TIME INDEX SAID 4:27 IN THE MORNING.



SADLY THERE WAS NO AUDIO TO GO WITH THE VIDEO, SO WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WAS BEING DISCUSSED.

SECURITY CAM



AND YET, WHY WOULD A TECH-BASED OPERATIVE HAVE A NEED FOR GENETIC-BASED ENHANCEMENTS?

SECURITY CAM



A GOOD QUESTION, BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS ISN'T THE ONLY THING YOU WANTED TO SHARE WITH ME.

CORRECT. IT WAS IN DOING THAT SEARCH THAT I CAME ACROSS A UNIQUE IDENTIFYING ELEMENT.



YOU'LL NOTE THE VERY DISTINCTIVE SYMBOL ON HER CHEST.

OF COURSE.

WE HEART GALATEA POWERS!

Dedicated to those of us who love Paragon City's True Guardian!

LATEST NEWS

NEWS ARCHIVE

GALLERY

VIDEO

SUBSCRIBE!

IS THIS GALATEA'S COUSIN... OR FATHER?

As we at WHGP miss our watchman's teammate

THIS APPEARED YESTERDAY ON ONE OF MANY FAN WEBSITES DEDICATED TO GALATEA POWERS.

NOTE THE SAME SYMBOL AND TECH-BASED DESIGN.

WHGP m

Canyon's [Architect Entertainment](#), said that he countered Icon Powers during his daily observations of one of Galatea's frequent fly-by routes. The elder hero tried to intimidate Ledgesitter47 off his perch, but our loyal observer invoked his rights and the old hero backed down.



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It's A Mouthful
Budda-
Budda-
Budda-

THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A COINCIDENCE.

IT MEANS THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN KARA HAMILTON, THE HOODED ATTACKER, AND THE POWERS FAMILY!

ONE COULD MAKE THAT CONCLUSION, MISTER VANCE.

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

THERE'S NOTHING "COULD" ABOUT THIS, CADE. THIS IS THE CLOSEST TO A SMOKING GUN AS WE'VE EVER HAD.

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HAVE BEEN STANDING IN THE WAY OF MY ATTEMPTS TO CLEAN UP THIS CITY. NOW WE HAVE SOME PROOF THEY'RE HINDERING OUR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.

I WANT YOU TO CALL UP COMMANDER JACK YINDELL IN THE PPD. YOU'LL FIND HE'S RECENTLY RETURNED FROM OVERSEEING THE OUTBREAK CONTAINMENT ZONE.*

HAVE HIM BRING IN EITHER ICON POWERS OR HIS COUSIN GALATEA.

OH, AND CALL THE MEDIA. I WANT THIS ALL ON PNN!

(* AFTER HIS ACTIONS IN ISSUE #4)

PEREZ PARK - GALAXY CITY GATE

WELCOME TO PEREZ PARK. THIS IS A HAZARD ZONE, SO WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY BEYOND THE SECURITY GATES.

THAT'S OKAY MISS BALTIMORE. I'M JUST HERE TO VISIT THE ROCINANTE GROUP.

MIDNIGHT X

PSST WANNA READ SOME GREAT COMICS?



[HTTP://COMCOMICINDEX.COM/](http://comcomicindex.com/)

GRRR COMICS UPDATES:

[HTTP://NIGHT-HORNET.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://night-hornet.blogspot.com/)

EMAIL [G.GRRR@HOTMAIL.CO.UK](mailto:g.grrr@hotmail.co.uk)

**"It's the greatest comic
I've never seen!"**
- The Nearsighted Man

**"Stop calling me or
I'll call the cops!!"**
- Comic Book Critic

**"The Spectacular Sparky is
a thought provoking look
into the mind of a hero filled
with many layers. There I
said it, now stop zapping me!"**
- Random Hellion Thug

HOW ARE THESE
STUPID REVIEWS
GOING TO GET
PEOPLE TO READ THE
COMIC?

IT'S AT
LEAST WORTH
A SHOT.

THE SPECTACULAR SPARKY

STARRING A.R.G.H.

AVAILABLE AT COHCOMICS.COM

"LIMBO"

PROBLEMS?

A FEW DOZEN OF THEM.

YOUR BENEFACTOR, LIBRA... HE SPARED NO EXPENSE TO GET THIS ELABORATE PLACE SET UP, AND THEN BROUGHT ME HERE FROM CERTAIN DEATH...



TAINTED EVE



DAYBRIGHT

... ONLY TO TELL ME THAT I'M HERE TO HELP KILL THE BEING THAT BETRAYED THE GUARDIANS AND TRIED TO KILL ME... AND TO DO THIS BEFORE HE ATTACKED ME?

YOU'LL EXCUSE ME IF I FIND IT A LITTLE HARD TO ACCEPT. MY KHELDIAN HALF MAY GRASP SOME PRETTY BIG COSMIC NOTIONS, BUT FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL LOGIC WAS NOT ONE OF THOSE THINGS.

IT'S A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, DAYBRIGHT.

ALOR WASN'T JUST SOME VAIN POWER-MAD DICTATOR.

WHEN HE FIRST KILLED HIS ALTERNATE SELF AND CREATED A PARADOX THAT DESTROYED THAT UNIVERSE, HE BECAME CORRUPTED BY ITS POWER.

THE PREMATURE DEATH OF A WHOLE UNIVERSE, WHICH IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CREATE A CRITICAL TIME PARADOX, RELEASES A POWER IN AND OF ITSELF AS THE WALLS OF REALITY IMPLODE. IT IS QUITE LITERALLY THE POWER OF GODS.

THAT IS WHAT ALEXANDER ABSORBED THAT TURNED HIM INTO ALOR.

HE BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE ONE OF THE ORIGINAL GODS REBORN. AND LIKE ANY OTHER GOD, HIS FIRST MISSION IS TO DESTROY THE WORLD SO THAT HE CAN THEN RE-CREATE IT IN HIS OWN IMAGE.

NOW COMBINE THAT WITH THE IDEA OF HAVING INFINITE UNIVERSES AT YOUR DISPOSAL...

AND WITH IT ALL OF THE POWER YOU WILL EVER NEED TO FULFILL THAT PLAN.

OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT. HE'S A BIGGER THREAT THAN BOTH THE HAMIDON AND RULARUU.

BUT WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TRY TO STOP HIM FROM GETTING THIS POWERFUL?

ACTUALLY... SOMEONE DID TRY.

/com Emergency:
Freedom Phalanx

AS ENTERTAINING
AS THIS STORY
HAS BEEN, MAY I
INQUIRE AS TO
THE ROLE I WOULD
PLAY IN THIS
GRAND SCHEME?

I AM HARDLY A
THREAT TO YOU,
AS YOU HAVE
DEMONSTRATED
QUITE READILY.

THREATS MANIFEST IN
MANY WAYS, CITADEL.

Lost connection
to server

IN THE ULTIMATE
SCHEME OF THINGS,
YOU ARE BUT A
NOVELTY ITEM.

BUT IN THE HERE-
AND-NOW, IN MY
CURRENT FORM, YOU
WOULD SERVE AS MY
BIGGEST THREAT.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF
ROBOTICS AND
CYBERNETICS WOULD
ALLOW YOU TO FIND
WAYS TO STOP ME IF
I DID NOT ACT FIRST.

AND THERE IS
ANOTHER REASON
WHY I NEEDED TO
IMMOBILIZE YOU.

THIS BUILDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION
CREATED JUST FOR YOU IS MORE THAN A
PLACE FOR YOU TO REPAIR AND RECHARGE
WHEN YOU ARE IN-BETWEEN YOUR DUTIES
WITH THE FREEDOM PHALANX.

THIS WHOLE FACILITY IS WHERE YOU BACK
UP YOUR MEMORIES... YOUR VERY
ARTIFICIAL LIFE... IN THE EVENT OF YOUR
DESTRUCTION. SOMETHING THAT YOU HAD
TO USE WHEN ARACHNOS SHUT DOWN ALL
OF THE SUPERPOWERS IN PARAGON CITY
BACK IN 2005.*

ESSENTIALLY THIS FACILITY IS A HUGE
STANDBY ARTIFICIAL BRAIN.

A BRAIN THAT I HAVE BEEN SLOWLY CO-
OPTING AS I KEEP YOUR MIND BUSY WITH
MY TALE... SO THAT WHEN I DO DESTROY
YOU, YOU WILL NOT HAVE YOUR BACKUPS
TO COME BACK FROM.

AND WITH THAT HUGE BRAIN, I WILL HAVE
THE MEANS TO MAGNIFY MY POWERS TO
ONCE AGAIN BECOME THE GOD THAT I AM
DESTINED TO BE.

/com Emergency:
Freedom Phalanx

* HE WASN'T SEEN, BUT THE EVENT
HAPPENED IN TOP COW'S "CITY OF
HEROES" ISSUES 1-3)

NO! NO.. I... WILL... HRRR!!!

BzzZZzzT!

YOU WILL FIGHT ALL YOU WANT TO, BUT ULTIMATELY YOU WILL LOSE.

THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY TWO BEINGS THAT HAVE EVER THWARTED MY PLANS. ONE OF THOSE TWO WAS ICON POWERS. THE OTHER...

Lost connection to server

THE OTHER WAS SOMEONE I DID NOT EXPECT.

DID I HEAR YOU CORRECTLY WHEN YOU SAID THAT A FOURTH UNIVERSE JUST ARBITRARILY COLLAPSED?

Correct. Universe designation T-345990-Q underwent Event Terminal.

HMM... "CURIUSER AND CURIUSER", AS THE OLD SAYING GOES...

HE WENT BY A DIFFERENT NAME THEN, BUT YOU KNOW HIM AS "DOC TOR". HE WAS A TIME MANIPULATOR; SOMEONE WHO KNOWINGLY MESSSED WITH EVENTS IN TIME.

NO... WAY!

I MEAN... I KNEW HE WAS SPECIAL AND ALL... AND SOMETHING FROM MY KHELDIAN SIDE CAN VOUCH FOR THAT*... BUT A TIME MANIPULATOR? COME ON, LIBRA MUST BE MAKING THAT ONE UP!

LIBRA IS KNOWN FOR MANY THINGS, AND NOT ALL OF THEM GOOD, BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE TO LIE ABOUT YOUR TEAMMATE'S PAST, ESPECIALLY GIVEN HIS ALREADY SECRETIVE NATURE.

(* DAYBRIGHT'S KHELDIAN SIDE MET DOC TOR IN ISSUE #10.)

AT FIRST HE DIDN'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT WAS BEHIND THE COLLAPSE OF SEVERAL UNIVERSES.



EVENTUALLY MY ACTIONS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE TIME MANIPULATOR, WHO ONLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AT THE TIME AS "QUINN".

A CONVENIENT NAME FOR A TRAVELER WANTING TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

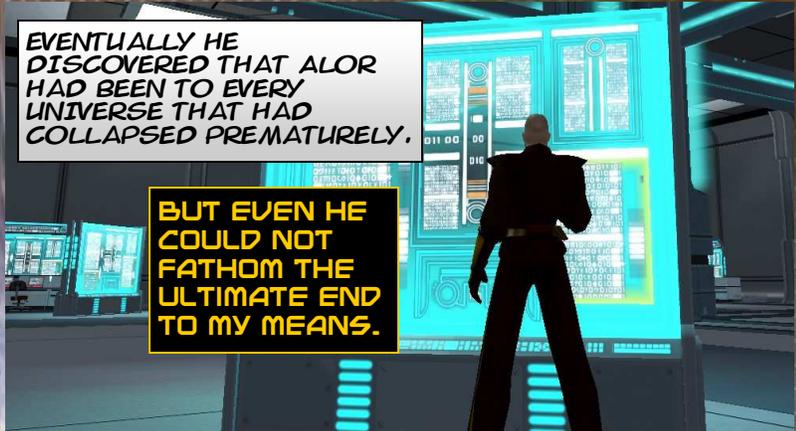


HE "PRETENDED" TO NOT KNOW I WAS BEHIND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OTHER UNIVERSES.

EVENTUALLY HE DISCOVERED THAT ALOR HAD BEEN TO EVERY UNIVERSE THAT HAD COLLAPSED PREMATURELY.

BUT EVEN HE COULD NOT FATHOM THE ULTIMATE END TO MY MEANS.

HE CONVINCED ALOR HE WAS AN ALLY SO HE COULD SNOOP THROUGH ALOR'S PORTAL SYSTEM.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY DESTROY THOSE REALITIES?

AT FIRST, HE TRIED TO REASON WITH ALOR.

EVEN WHEN HE KNEW THE TRUTH, HE PRETENDED TO BE IGNORANT OF IT.



WHY? YOU, WHO CAN TRAVEL BETWEEN UNIVERSES AS I DO, HAS TO ASK "WHY"?

WELL I COULD GUESS... BUT I'D RATHER YOU TELL ME SO I'D HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING.



THE DESTRUCTION OF THOSE SUBSTANDARD REALITIES IS BUT A MINOR CONSEQUENCE TO THE OVERALL GRAND DESIGN.

A NECESSARY COMPONENT TO THE RESTORATION OF THE ORIGINAL GODS OF THE ONE UNIVERSE.

EVERY UNIVERSE, INCLUDING THE ONE WE ARE IN RIGHT NOW, IS BUT A SHADOW OF THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSE.

IN EVERY UNIVERSE, EVERY LIFE FORCE THAT EXISTS AT ANY TIME HAS A FRACTIONAL PORTION OF ONE OF THE ORIGINAL GODS. THAT IS WHAT MAKES LIFE SO IMPORTANT IN ANY UNIVERSE.

IN DESTROYING THOSE WORLDS, I ABSORB THAT ENERGY, BRINGING ME THAT MUCH CLOSER TO THE FINAL UNITY AND THE RETURN OF THE ORIGINALS.





YOU'RE MAD...
YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY MAD.



MAD?

YES... MAD FROM ALL OF THE POWER THAT YOU HAVE ABSORBED.
A TERRIBLE POWER THAT NO ONE BEING WAS EVER MEANT TO POSSESS.



THAT IS WHERE YOU ARE WRONG.

R-r-r-r-umble

THOSE WERE THE WRONG WORDS TO SAY IN FRONT OF A BEING LIKE ALOR.



FATALLY WRONG!

R-R-R-R-R-umble!



I SHOULD HAVE JUST KILLED HIM THEN...

THAT... NOISE...

FORTUNATELY HE WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE THANKS TO THE DEVICES IN THE VESSEL HE USES TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.

BUT EVEN A GOD CAN MAKE MISTAKES.

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE



EVEN PINNED BETWEEN SOLID ROCK HE STILL MANAGES TO ELUDE MY FATAL BLOW.
THIS "QUINN" IS A DANGEROUS PERSON, EVEN IF HE IS BUT A MORTAL.
FIND HIM. KILL HIM ON SIGHT! I WILL EXTRACT HIS SECRETS FROM HIS CORPSE!

IT WAS A MISTAKE THAT I WAS NOT PLANNING TO REPEAT.

PEREZ PARK

I'VE BEEN OBSERVING THE BUILDING FOR A FEW HOURS NOW.

GUARDIAN BASE - TALOS ISLAND

I'M SURPRISED THEY WOULD EVEN HAVE THEIR OFFICE IN THAT AREA GIVEN THE FACT IT'S OVERLAIN BY GANG MEMBERS AND THE KRAKEN.

Never trust a Mender! Even a Guardian Mender!
Who is the 22th face of 740? Can we show more faces? Is Rona gone?
What happened to First Captain?
Who should be District Attorney? -
• The Trust?
• A Hero?
• Have an election?
• LA?
Loyalties in Praetoria?
Can we have some changes in the weather?

LIBERTARIAN AVENGER

NO, IT ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE TO PUT IT HERE.

AN ORGANIZATION THAT DEALS IN "INFORMATION BROKERAGE" DOESN'T WANT TO BE IN A PLACE WHERE THE PUBLIC CAN READILY FIND THEM AND PAY THEM A VISIT.

AND IT'S CHEAPER TO GIVE THE SKULLS SOME "INCENTIVE" THAN TO PAY SECURITY OFFICERS TO GUARD THE BUILDING.

IT'S SOMETHING I WOULD HAVE DONE IN THEIR SITUATION.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?

ONCE IT GETS DARK I CAN USE MY NEW KNIGHT SUIT WITH THE DARK CAMOUFLAGE AND GO IN THROUGH THE ROOF.

EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW SHOULD BE IN LORD GEDDY'S OFFICE.

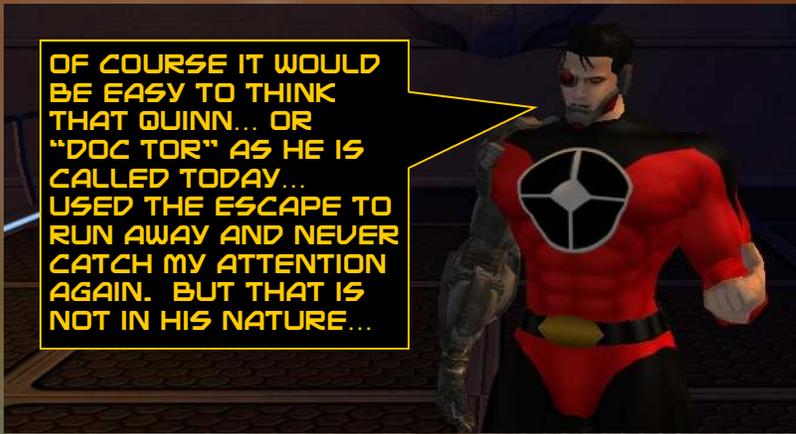
ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO REACH THE ROOF UNDETECTED? THE BUILDING IS RIGHT NEXT TO THE WAR WALLS.

AS MUCH AS I TRUST YOUR EXPERIENCE IN STEALTH, DARK MIASMA POWER AND RIKTI-BASED TECHNOLOGY DON'T EXACTLY WORK WELL TOGETHER. THOSE WALLS ARE LITERALLY THE WORLD'S BIGGEST NIGHT LIGHT AND YOU'D STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB AGAINST THEM AS YOU ASCEND.

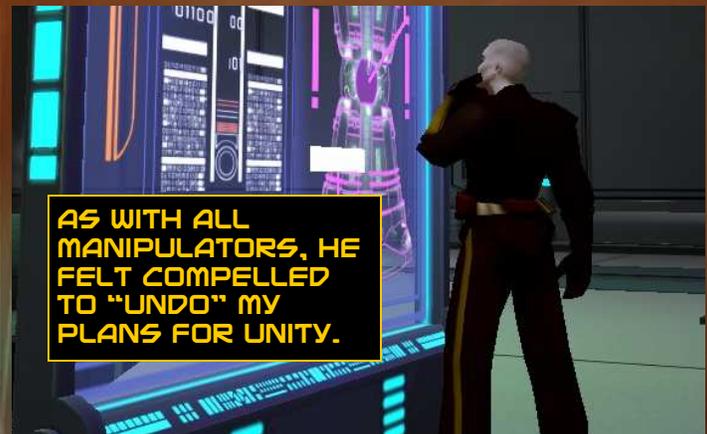
STEALTH IS NOT A MATTER OF NOT BEING SEEN. IT'S A MATTER OF NOT BEING NOTICED. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT MY MENTOR... THE ORIGINAL MIDNIGHT... TAUGHT ME IN MY WORLD.

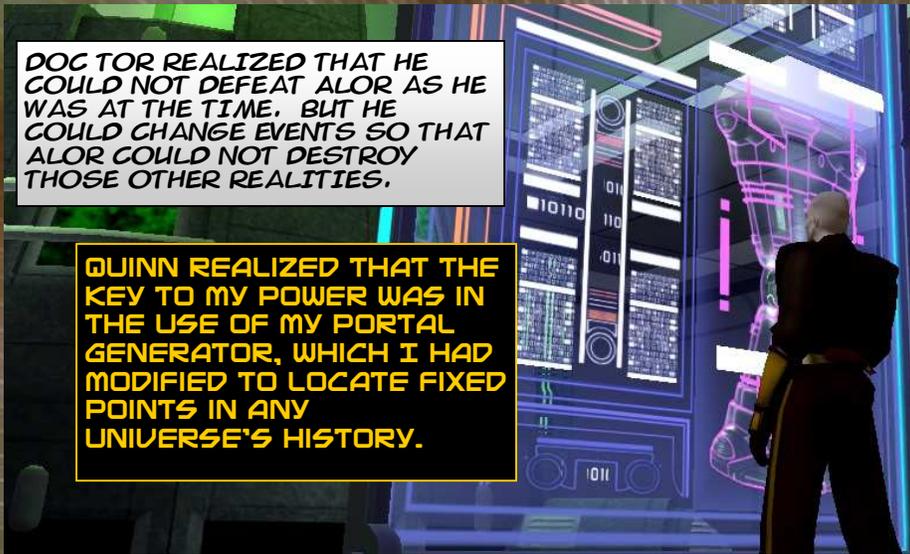
I JUST HOPE THE BLUEPRINTS THEY HAVE ON FILE WITH THE CITY ARE CURRENT.



OF COURSE IT WOULD BE EASY TO THINK THAT QUINN... OR "DOC TOR" AS HE IS CALLED TODAY... USED THE ESCAPE TO RUN AWAY AND NEVER CATCH MY ATTENTION AGAIN. BUT THAT IS NOT IN HIS NATURE...



AS WITH ALL MANIPULATORS, HE FELT COMPELLED TO "UNDO" MY PLANS FOR UNITY.



DOC TOR REALIZED THAT HE COULD NOT DEFEAT ALOR AS HE WAS AT THE TIME, BUT HE COULD CHANGE EVENTS SO THAT ALOR COULD NOT DESTROY THOSE OTHER REALITIES.

QUINN REALIZED THAT THE KEY TO MY POWER WAS IN THE USE OF MY PORTAL GENERATOR, WHICH I HAD MODIFIED TO LOCATE FIXED POINTS IN ANY UNIVERSE'S HISTORY.

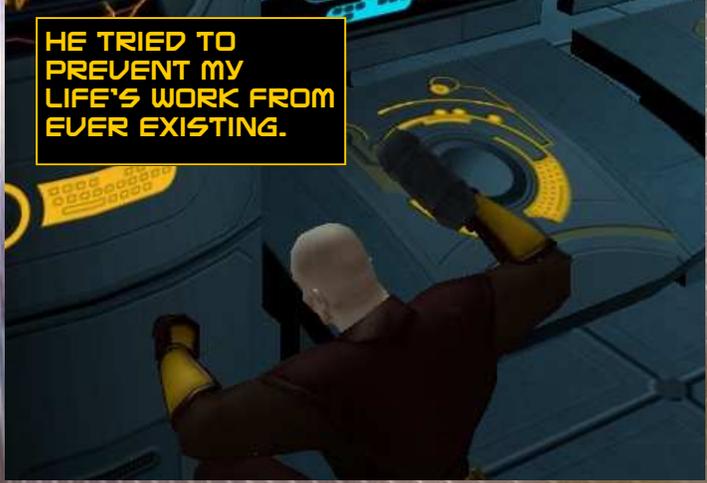
WHY COULDN'T HE JUST DESTROY THE DEVICES WHEN HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO?

ALOR WOULD ALREADY HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE POWER TO REBUILD THE DEVICES, IT WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED THE THREAT; ONLY SLOWED IT DOWN.

ALL QUINN NEEDED TO KNOW WAS WHEN IN TIME THE GENERATOR WAS FIRST PUT TO USE.



SO HE WENT BACK IN TIME TO THE POINT BEFORE ALOR'S MACHINE WAS FIRST PUT TO USE AND CHANGED THE DEVICE SO THAT IT WOULD NOT WORK.



HE TRIED TO PREVENT MY LIFE'S WORK FROM EVER EXISTING.



WHAT DIVISION ARE YOU WITH AGAIN?

HE TRIED NUMEROUS TIMES TO PREVENT ME FROM HAVING THE MEANS TO TRAVEL TO THOSE OTHER WORLDS.



HE EVEN ATTEMPTED TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE SUPERADINE AGENT THAT GAVE ALOR THOSE VISIONS OF OTHER WORLDS.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, SECTOR 6.

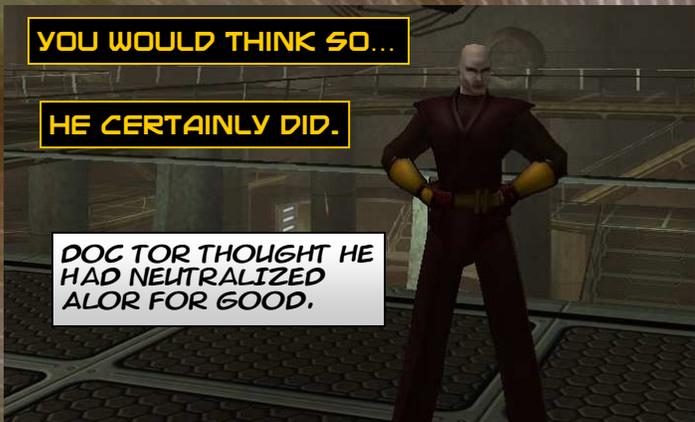
QUINN EVEN TRIED TO DEPRIVE ME OF MY POWERS!



BUT OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE ALL DONE IN VAIN.



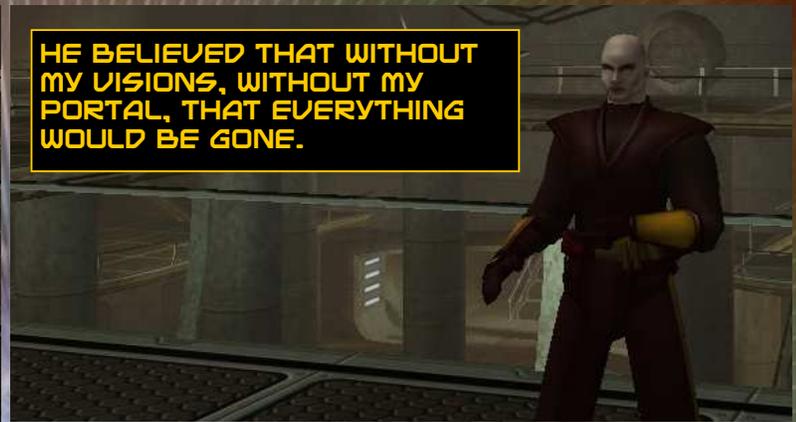
LOGICALLY, IF SUCH A CONCEPT COULD APPLY TO TIME, IT SHOULD WORK. MAKING THOSE CHANGES SHOULD CHANGE YOUR HISTORY.



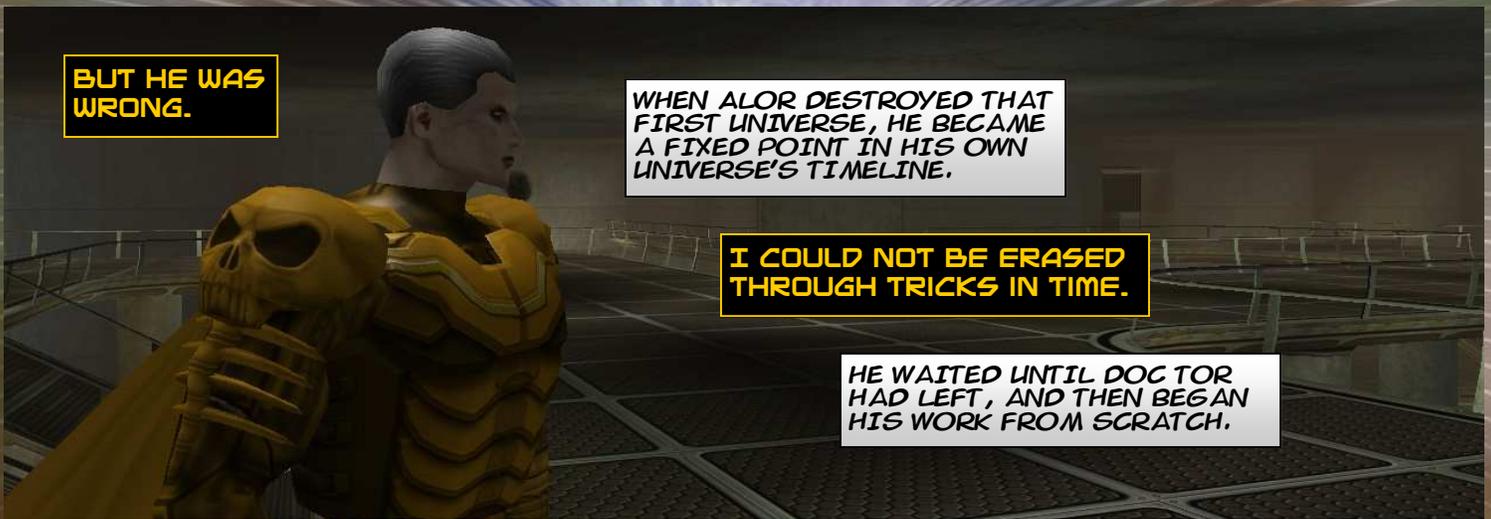
YOU WOULD THINK SO...

HE CERTAINLY DID.

DOC TOR THOUGHT HE HAD NEUTRALIZED ALOR FOR GOOD.



HE BELIEVED THAT WITHOUT MY VISIONS, WITHOUT MY PORTAL, THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE GONE.



BUT HE WAS WRONG.

WHEN ALOR DESTROYED THAT FIRST UNIVERSE, HE BECAME A FIXED POINT IN HIS OWN UNIVERSE'S TIMELINE.

I COULD NOT BE ERASED THROUGH TRICKS IN TIME.

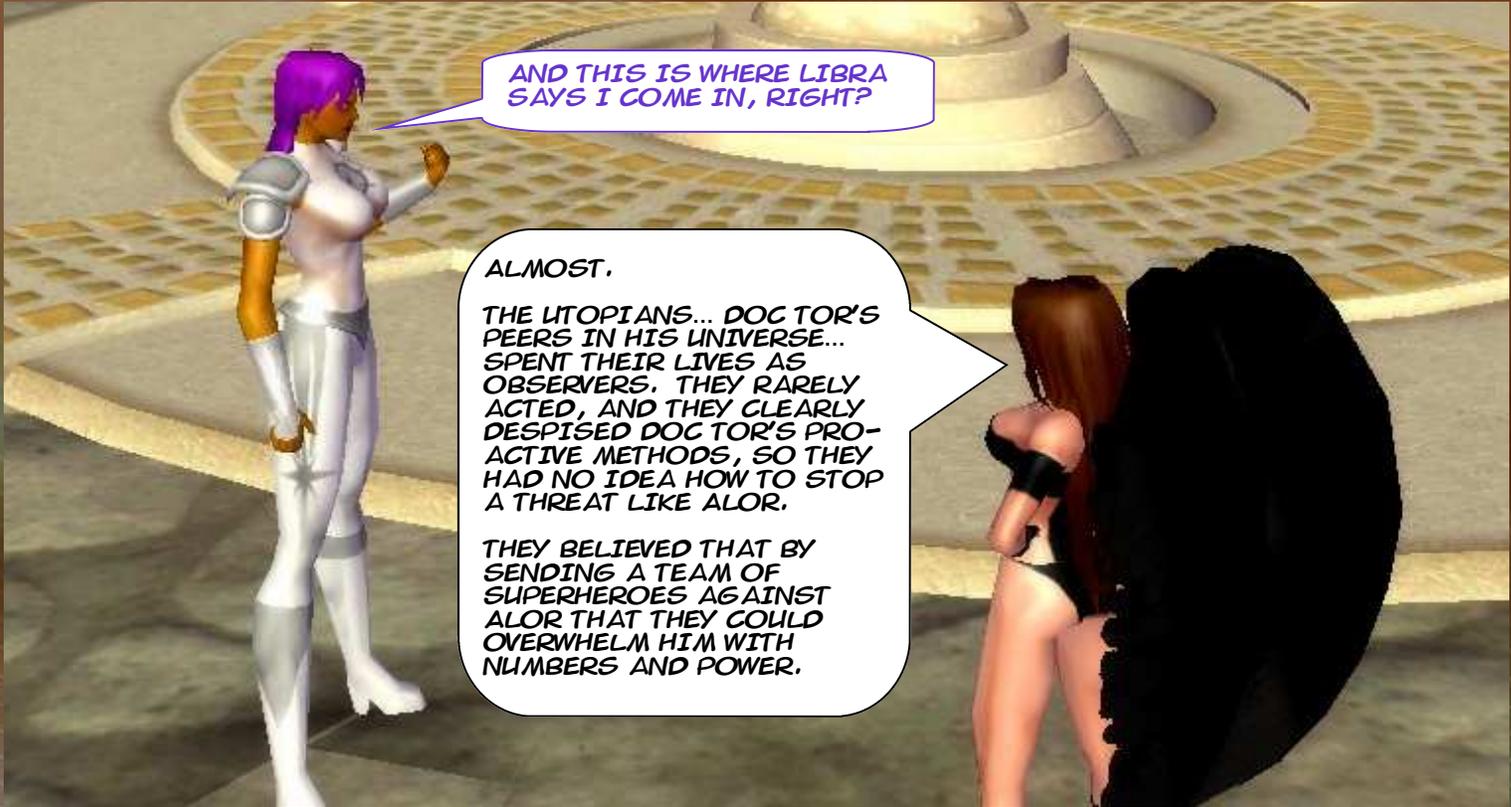
HE WAITED UNTIL DOC TOR HAD LEFT, AND THEN BEGAN HIS WORK FROM SCRATCH.



EVENTUALLY QUINN REALIZED THAT I HAD SURVIVED, BUT BY THEN I HAD EVOLVED BEYOND EVEN HIS COMPREHENSION. THAT WAS WHEN QUINN'S PEOPLE DECIDED TO STOP "OBSERVING" AND TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ME. THEY DECIDED TO RECRUIT SUPER-POWERED BEING FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSES, DEMIGODS IN THEIR OWN WORLDS.

/com Emergency: Freedom Phalanx

Command unrecognized.



AND THIS IS WHERE LIBRA SAYS I COME IN, RIGHT?

ALMOST.

THE LUTOPIANS... DOC TOR'S PEERS IN HIS UNIVERSE... SPENT THEIR LIVES AS OBSERVERS. THEY RARELY ACTED, AND THEY CLEARLY DESPISED DOC TOR'S PRO-ACTIVE METHODS, SO THEY HAD NO IDEA HOW TO STOP A THREAT LIKE ALOR.

THEY BELIEVED THAT BY SENDING A TEAM OF SUPERHEROES AGAINST ALOR THAT THEY COULD OVERWHELM HIM WITH NUMBERS AND POWER.



GALATEA TOLD ME THAT HER COUSIN VANISHED A YEAR BEFORE THEIR WORLD WAS DESTROYED.

HE WAS THE FIRST THEY RECRUITED. HE HAD THE COSMIC EXPERIENCE THAT THEIR FORCES NEEDED.

SO WHY AM I NEEDED NOW? IF I WAS SO ESSENTIAL, WHY WASN'T I SUMMONED BY THE LUTOPIANS TO TAKE PART IN THE BATTLE THEN?



BECAUSE ALOR NEEDED TO BELIEVE THAT HE WON.

I... THINK I ALMOST WET MYSELF A LITTLE...



SORRY... HE DOES HAVE THAT EFFECT. BUT HE'S RIGHT.

BUT IF ICON POWERS IS ALIVE, DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT ALOR LOST?



AS CRAZY AS IT MAY SOUND... THAT EVENT... HASN'T HAPPENED YET.

HAVE I TOLD YOU YET THAT I REALLY HATE FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL LOGIC?

EVEN WITH THEIR GREAT POWERS, I WAS STILL NO MATCH FOR THEM.

PATHETIC.
RECRUITED FROM ALL OVER THE OMNIVERSE, AND YOU STILL COULD NOT POSE A THREAT TO ME.
MY OWN MINDLESS MINIONS, SHADOWS OF THEIR FORMER SELVES, WERE ABLE TO OVERWHELM YOUR FORCES.



OH HOW I WISH THAT THE TIME MANIPULATOR WAS HERE TO WITNESS THIS MOMENT!



LOOK AROUND YOU!
I'VE DECIMATED MY OWN UNIVERSE TO GIVE MYSELF THE EXTRA POWER NEEDED TO RESTORE THE ONE TRUE UNIVERSE!



HOW CAN ANYONE EXPECT TO STAND AGAINST A GOD WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIS OWN DOMAIN?
BUT I SUPPOSE AN EXAMPLE NEEDS TO BE MADE, LEST MORE OF MY TIME IS WASTED ON THESE FOLLIES.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE; I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO STOP YOU, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE.

BUT THEIR LEADER, ICON POWERS, WAS DEFIANT RIGHT TO THE END.



KILL YOU?

THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY.

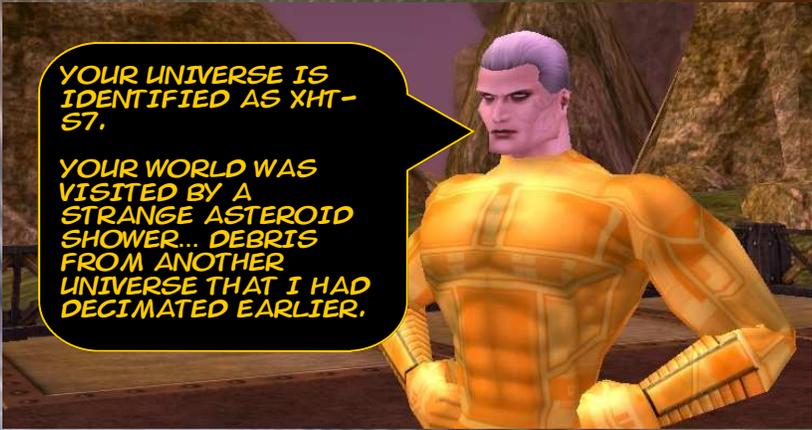
I KNOW YOUR KIND. YOU'RE READY TO GIVE UP YOUR LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE IF YOU WEREN'T DOING THIS FOR YOUR OWN UNIVERSE AND FOR THE PEOPLE THAT YOU LOVE.

NO, I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU. I'M GOING TO KILL YOUR WHOLE UNIVERSE WHILE YOU'RE HELD THERE RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.



BY THE TIME YOU FIGURE OUT WHICH UNIVERSE I'M FROM, I'LL BE FREE FROM THIS...

AND THEN I'M COMING AFTER YOU. COUNT ON IT!



YOUR UNIVERSE IS IDENTIFIED AS XHT-57.

YOUR WORLD WAS VISITED BY A STRANGE ASTEROID SHOWER... DEBRIS FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE THAT I HAD DECIMATED EARLIER.



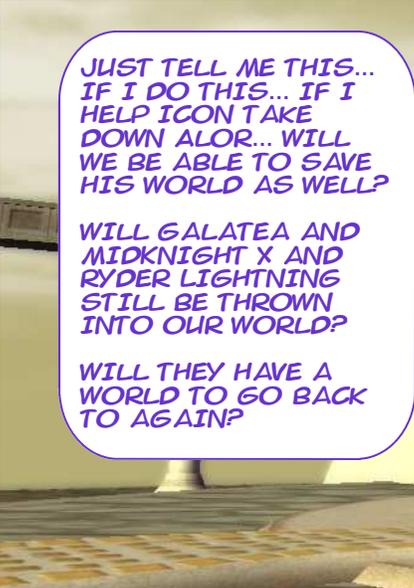
H-HOW...?



I COULD PRACTICALLY SMELL THE REMNANTS OF MY HANDIWORK THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED.



BUT DON'T WORRY... YOU'LL ONLY LIVE SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN YOUR WORLD.



JUST TELL ME THIS... IF I DO THIS... IF I HELP ICON TAKE DOWN ALOR... WILL WE BE ABLE TO SAVE HIS WORLD AS WELL?

WILL GALATEA AND MIDNIGHT X AND RYDER LIGHTNING STILL BE THROWN INTO OUR WORLD?

WILL THEY HAVE A WORLD TO GO BACK TO AGAIN?



YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THOSE QUESTIONS.

SOME EVENTS MUST HAPPEN AS THEY ARE DESTINED TO.

BUT IF YOU DON'T HELP, THEN ALOR'S PATH OF DESTRUCTION WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO OUR UNIVERSE.



WHAT DO I DO?

JUST FLY THROUGH THOSE PILLARS...



THE GATEWAY WILL TAKE YOU TO ALOR'S HOME UNIVERSE AT THE MOMENT IN TIME YOU NEED TO BE TO HELP ICON POWERS DEFEAT HIM.

OUROBOROS - NEAR THE END OF TIME



GALATEA FUTURE



<PILLAR... DID YOU FIND HER? DID YOU FIND DAYBRIGHT?*>

* TRANSLATED FROM FIRST-SPEAK



<THE VERGENCE KNOWN AS DAYBRIGHT HAS BEEN DETECTED.

THERE IS A PORTAL LINKING OUR UNIVERSE TO ANOTHER THAT IS CONNECTED TO HER.>

<BE READY... >

<CAN YOU CONNECT TO THAT PORTAL?>



PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME





UNIVERSE XHT-57 - YEAR: 2007



ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Unknown energy vortex appearing over U.S. Southwestern sky!

All League of Champions members assemble!



OKAY...
NOW I
JUST...



WOW! SHE
WASN'T KIDDING
ABOUT MY
APPEARANCE
BEING ALTERED!
I LOOK LIKE A
90'S COMIC
BOOK HERO IN
THESE COLORS.

WELL, I STILL
HAVE AN
OMNIVERSE TO
SAVE... I BETTER
FIND ICON.

AS ENJOYABLE AND AS CATHARTIC AS THIS HAS BEEN, IT'S TIME THAT I CONCLUDE MY INTERACTION WITH YOU.

OH, AND YOU CAN STOP TRYING TO SIGNAL YOUR FRIENDS IN THE PHALANX FOR HELP. I'M SURE YOU'RE AS TIRED OF GETTING THOSE "LOST CONNECTION TO SERVER" MESSAGES AS I AM IN SENDING THEM BACK TO YOU.

/com Emergency:
Freedom Phalanx

You can stop now Citadel.



IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, THEN DO IT NOW AND GET IT OVER WITH.

Backup access established. Drones on standby status.



HOW PLEASANTLY FAMILIAR.
GOODBYE.

*** BZZZZZZZZT! ***



ONE DOWN...
TWO TO GO.

NOW IT'S TIME TO RE-INTRODUCE MYSELF TO ICON POWERS.

Subject: Citadel
Status: Inoperable



TO BE CONTINUED



The Fourth Wall

“I hate it when people break the fourth wall.”

That was recently conveyed to me when the discussion came up about this issue.

The “fourth wall” is an old stage concept. The whole idea of theater is that you’re looking into life through a window or a wall. When sets are put up, they put up three walls, because the fourth is where the audience peers in. This easily carried over into the world of motion pictures and television because they needed to create theater-like sets in order for the bulky cameras and lighting and boom mikes to be used.

But here’s the thing: the characters are not supposed to act as though the audience really IS there. They need to make people believe that there really IS a fourth wall there instead of an audience. At the same time, though, the actors portraying the characters continually HAVE to project their dialogue TOWARDS that non-existent fourth wall.

“Breaking the fourth wall”, then, is when a character actually ADDRESSES the audience instead of pretending that they aren’t there.

A great example of this is the 1986 movie “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” where the title character addresses the audience from start-to-finish. The other characters don’t act like the audience is there, but Bueller pretty much lets the audience in on every prank and joke out there. There was even a scene where he narrates to the audience in front of the washroom attendant and the attendant remains in character, completely of the narration happening in front of him.

DC Comic’s iconic hero Superman used to break the fourth wall on a continual basis at the end of an issue by winking at the reader in a rather condescending manner as if he enjoyed lying and manipulating people in order to keep his secret identity intact. This was something that was carried through to both the Fleischer Studios and Fimation versions of the Superman animated series in the 1940’s and 1960’s. Take a look at the end of those cartoons and you’ll see Superman winking at you.

My fellow comics creator Night Hornet’s series “GRRR” has also broken through the fourth wall numerous times, including having a whole storyline where the characters find out that they’re in an MMO called “City of Heroes”.

Continues on next page...

But sometimes the fourth wall is broken in subtler ways.

For instance, both the “Matrix” and “Tron” movie series come up with the concept of a universe within a universe, of “programs” and “users” and people who could possess god-like powers within this universe-inside-a-universe. Even DC’s “Sovereign Seven” series ended up being the figment of two women that were seen in a coffeehouse.

And that brings us to “The Editors”.

“The Editors” first made their appearance in the text-only Issue #0 as the means by which several “inspired by” characters appeared in the City of Heroes universe. And while they would rather remain “off-screen”, they do serve a rather important function to the comic series itself. In fact, the disagreement about Doc Tor’s “new look” can be traced back to the discussions about the changes that need to be made concerning several characters in the Guardians of the Dawn group that you will see in subsequent issues.

So are “The Editors” gods? Are they characters? Or are they something in-between?

Probably the latter would suffice. They are a means to an end, with the end being a way for you the readers to enjoy the story and for the characters to remain an important part of that story.

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Is it too late for Galatea Future?

Is Citadel really dead?

How will Icon Powers and Daybright stop Alor both in the past and the present? And can they find a way to save the home universe of the “Guardian Exiles” from destruction?

Plus: MidKnight X pays a visit to the heart of Shadowborn!

All this and more as “Time and Changes” continues!



"I was sent here as a harbinger. This is the exact time period when it all changes."



www.CityOfHeroes.com

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