

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



SPOTLIGHT ON... DAYBRIGHT

AND

Icon Powers



**PRESENT AND PAST
TO SAVE THE FUTURE!**



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:
ICON POWERS

REAL NAME: **KENT POWERS**

STATUS: **SEMI-RETIRED**

ARCHETYPE:
TANKER

PRIMARY POWER:
INVULNERABLE

SECONDARY POWER: **SUPER-STRENGTH**

THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GOD ALOR - NOW IN FULL CONTROL OVER THE DOUBLE-AGENT STARCYGNUS - HAS BEGUN HIS CRUSADE TO RESTORE HIS GODHOOD AND TO ELIMINATE ALL THREATS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT.

HIS FIRST VICTIM WAS DAYBRIGHT, WHO DISCOVERED STARCYGNUS' INVOLVEMENT WITH SHADOWBORN. BY REMOTELY TRIGGERING ALL OF HER TELEPORT DEVICES AT ONCE, SHE WAS PRESUMED TO BE DISINTEGRATED.

HIS SECOND VICTIM WAS FREEDOM PHALANX MEMBER CITADEL, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF ROBOTICS WOULD BE A THREAT TO STARCYGNUS' CYBERNETIC BODY. ALOR ALSO TOOK CONTROL OVER CITADEL'S DIGITAL BACKUP FACILITY AS A PART OF HIS OVERALL PLAN TO REGAIN HIS LOST POWER.

HE NOW TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO THE MAN THAT THWARTED HIS GRAND DESIGNS IN 2007... ICON POWERS.

MEANWHILE, DAYBRIGHT WAS SAVED BY THE MYSTERIOUS BEING KNOWN AS LIBRA AND WAS RECRUITED TO HELP ICON DEFEAT ALOR BACK IN 2007 AS THE MAD GOD IS ON THE VERGE OF DESTROYING ICON'S HOME UNIVERSE.



NAME:
DAYBRIGHT

REAL NAME:
**SALLY BRIGHT/
TALMYIA**

STATUS:
**PEACEBRINGER
REDEEMER**

ARCHETYPE:
PEACEBRINGER

PRIMARY POWER:
**LUMINOUS
BLAST**

SECONDARY POWER:
LUMINOUS AURA

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IT WAS APRIL, 2007...

IT WAS THE LAST DAY OF MY OLD LIFE... AND THE LAST DAY OF MY BIRTHWORLD.

MY COUSIN, ICON POWERS, WHOM I SAW MORE AS A BROTHER THAN AS A COUSIN, WAS GONE FOR OVER A YEAR.

HE DIDN'T GIVE A REASON WHY HE WAS NEEDED... ONLY THAT IT INVOLVED SAVING THE UNIVERSE.

AND AS I LOOKED UP AT THIS HUGE MAW, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIM. DID THIS MEAN THAT HE FAILED?

UNIVERSE XHT-57

THE LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

IT IS NOT OF THIS UNIVERSE. THAT MUCH I DO KNOW.

BUT THEN AS I STOOD THERE WITH MY TEAMMATES, AN EVEN WORSE THOUGHT CREPT THROUGH MY MIND.

WOULD I LET MY COUSIN DOWN?

WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT? I'M JUST AS POWERFUL AS ICON IS!

COME ON GUYS, ENOUGH OF THIS...

NO OFFENSE KAREN, BUT YOUR COUSIN HAS MORE EXPERIENCE IN THIS SORT OF STUFF.

KAREN POWERS

THE RUNNER

MIDNIGHT II

"Time and Changes" Phase 4 "PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

THAT'S PRECISELY THE KIND OF FEELING I HAVE RIGHT NOW.

I'VE LIVED FOR CENTURIES NOW... PULLED *OUT* OF TIME TO STOP THE CHANGES IN HISTORY THAT WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.*

IN MY HISTORY, RULARULI CAME TO THE PRIMAL UNIVERSE AND RENDERED THE WORLD UNINHABITABLE WITHIN TWO GENERATIONS.

AND IT WAS ALL BECAUSE DAYBRIGHT WASN'T AROUND TO PREVENT RULARULI'S PASSAGE IN 2018.

NOW THE ONE OPPORTUNITY TO FIX THINGS CAME AND WENT, AND I WASN'T ABLE TO ACT.*



GALATEA FUTURE

← ISSUE 18 ** ISSUE 20 →



GALATEA...

OH! I'M SORRY MENDER RAMIEL... I WAS LOST IN THOUGHT.



IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE A LITTLE BEYOND "LOST".

I PRESUME THAT THE MISSION HAS FAILED?



MENDER RAMIEL



I WASN'T EVEN GIVEN THE CHANCE FOR IT TO SUCCEED! THE PILLAR TOLD ME TO "BE READY" AND THEN IT JUST SAID THAT THE CHANCE WAS "GONE".



AH GALATEA... STILL THINKING LIKE AN ACOLYTE INSTEAD OF THINKING AS A MENDER.

WHAT?

THE PILLAR WAS NEVER GOING TO "LET" YOU CHANGE TIME ON ITSELF!



THE PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME MAY BE A PARADOX DEVICE, BUT AT THE HEART OF IT IS STILL A DESIRE TO MAINTAIN ORDER AT ALL COSTS.

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR LIFE HERE, FROM BEING MADE AN OMEGA INCARNATE TO SERVING AS THE LAST GUARDIAN OF EARTH, WAS BECAUSE TIME WAS ALREADY CHANGED. THE PILLAR WAS JUST ADAPTING TO THE INCONSISTENCIES.

THE PILLAR ITSELF ABHORS CHANGES. THAT'S WHY IT'S UP TO THE MENDERS TO FIX THINGS.

BUT WHY DO SILOS AND THE OTHERS... ?

BECAUSE THEY DON'T ACCEPT THE TRUTH. NOT ALL OF IT ANYWAY. I KNOW WHAT THE PILLAR CAN DO... AND NOW IT'S TIME THAT YOU KNOW IT AS WELL.

MY NAME IS DAYBRIGHT... AND I AM A PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER.

OH, AND I'M SUPPOSEDLY THREE YEARS IN THE PAST.

I WAS SENT HERE BY A FALLEN ANGEL NAMED TAINTED EYE. SHE SAID THAT I WAS ESSENTIAL IN THE FINAL BATTLE AGAINST A COSMIC MONSTER NAMED ALOR.*

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING WITH ICON POWERS. HE'S THE ONE THAT IS DESTINED TO DESTROY ALOR. I'M JUST HERE TO HELP HIM.

AND I LOOK DIFFERENT BECAUSE I WAS TOLD I COULDN'T LET ICON KNOW THAT I'M FROM HIS FUTURE.

(ISSUE 20)



DAYBRIGHT

WOW. EVEN MY KHELDIAN SENSES ARE GOING CRAZY OVER THIS SCENE.

A WHOLE UNIVERSE CANNIBALIZED. THE LAWS OF REALITY HAVE GONE MAD.

I'M HAVING TO FIGHT THE URGE TO SCREAM OVER WHAT HE'S DONE.

NOW I WISH I NEVER TOOK THE LIFEBOND.

I HAVE NEVER FELT THIS KIND OF EVIL... IN ANY OF MY SEPARATE LIVES.

AND THAT'S NOT COUNTING THE RECENT DEATHS I CAN SENSE EVEN FROM HERE. THE HEROES THAT CAME HERE WITH ICON THAT WERE KILLED.

ALOR NEEDS TO PAY FOR THIS!

FORTUNATELY THERE'S STILL A GRAVITY FIELD HERE, WHICH MEANS THAT I CAN FLY WITHOUT NEEDING TO SWITCH TO "SQUIDDY" FORM, WHICH WOULD GIVE AWAY MY KHELDIAN ORIGINS.

I'M GOING TO FIND ICON POWERS... I'M GOING TO SAVE HIS HOME UNIVERSE...

AND THEN... I'M GOING TO HELP ICON KILL ALOR... IF I DON'T BEAT HIM TO IT!

PEREZ PARK - PARAGON CITY, RI - PRESENT DAY

CEO OFFICE OF THE ROCINANTE GROUP

I'M IN GEDDY'S OFFICE.

MIDKNIGHT X

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HQ - TALOS ISLAND

COPY THAT, YOUR LINK SIGNAL IS STILL STRONG.

LIBERTARIAN AVENGER

WHAT DID YOU CALL THAT DEVICE AGAIN?

WHISPER COM

NOT AN OPTION. NEED TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE ENEMY.

YOU SAID YOU'RE BARELY WHISPERING, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE STILL TALKING NORMALLY OVER HERE. YOU KNOW CYCORP AND GREY WOULD PAY A GOOD PRICE FOR THAT.

GEDDY'S OFFICE APPEARS TO BE SPARSE, NO COMPUTER, NO PERSONAL BELONGINGS, NO PHOTOS.

BLUEPRINT FILES ARE DATED LAST YEAR, MAYBE HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME YET TO BRING HIS PERSONAL ITEMS OVER FROM ATLAS PARK.



REPORTS ON HIS DESK, SOME ARE PROGRESS REPORTS ON INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING PROGRAMS. HAMM... REFERENCE TO A CONSULTANT NAMED... BARRISTER.

BARRISTER? SIMON BARRISTER?



DOESN'T GIVE A FIRST NAME.

SIMON BARRISTER IS A CORPORATE EXPEDITER. HE WORKS WITH THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE IN EUROPE. HE'S THE GUY THAT COMPANIES CALL TO SILENCE CRITICS.

THE PARAGON LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY HAD A SISTER GROUP IN AMSTERDAM A FEW YEARS AGO. THEY LOOKED INTO COMPLAINTS OF POLICE ABUSE RELATED TO THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE CONFERENCES.

IF BARRISTER IS HERE IN PARAGON CITY, THAT PROBABLY COULD EXPLAIN OUR RECENT SECURITY BREACH AND WHO WOULD BE BEHIND SELLING OUR SECRETS ON THE BLACK MARKET.

NOT LONG AFTER BARRISTER WAS SEEN IN THE AREA, THEIR CHAIRMAN WAS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES. OTHER MEMBERS HAD THEIR HOME ADDRESSES AND PICTURES OF THEIR CHILDREN POSTED ON THE INTERNET. THE GROUP HAD TO DISBAND.

YOU'RE ASSUMING THAT BARRISTER IS HERE AND THAT HE'S GOING AFTER THE GUARDIANS.

ISSUES 16 AND 17

"WE NEED CONFIRMATION."

I AGREE. THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT'S DESK SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION.

FILE CABINET HAS GROUP MANUALS, SEASONAL CARDS, AND AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY.

GOING INTO THE COMPUTER NOW.

HMM... HEX-5 ENCRYPTION. RUNNING IT THROUGH THE CODE-BREAKER ON MY GAUNTLET.

T Triumph Towers

Epic Luxury Condominiums

Email Confirmation

Name: S. Barrister
Unit: Penthouse 2
Triumph Towers - Talos Island
Lease Term: Corporate Extended

I HAVE AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION FOR AN OPEN-END LEASE FOR BARRISTER.

GEDDY IS PAYING BARRISTER TO STAY HERE IN PARAGON CITY. ON TALOS.

"THAT'S THE PROOF THAT WE..."

SSHH...

I CAN HEAR FOOTSTEPS.

I HAVE TO ENGAGE THE SUIT'S CAMOUFLAGE MODE TO HIDE MY PRESENCE.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, I MUST COMMEND YOU FOR MAKING IT THIS FAR.

IF I WASN'T HERE TO PICK UP SOME PAPERWORK I FORGOT ABOUT, YOU WOULD HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE UNNOTICED.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T MAKE THE CONNECTION, I'M ELLE MAPLE... AND THAT'S MY DESK YOU'RE RIFLING THROUGH.

I HOPE YOU FOUND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR, OR ELSE YOU'LL BE GOING TO JAIL FOR NOTHING.



MS. MAPLE



STRONG SILENT
TYPE, HUH?
FROM THE HOOD AND
CAPE, I WOULD FIRST
GUESS THAT YOU'RE
SIN STALKER.



BUT HE
DOESN'T HIDE
BEHIND A
CAMOUFLAGE
DEVICE...

HE'S NOT A
COWARD
LIKE YOU
ARE.



DOESN'T RILE YOU? IT
WAS WORTH A SHOT.
WELL, FOR LEGAL
REASONS I SHOULD
WARN YOU THAT I HAVE
BEEN TRAINED BY THE
CANADIAN LAND FORCES
IN CLOSE-QUARTERS
COMBAT.
SPECIFICALLY...



... BLADES.



STILL
DOESN'T
IMPRESS
YOU, EHP?



YOU WON'T
LEAVE HERE
WITHOUT
AT LEAST A
CLUT. I CAN
PROMISE
YOU THAT
MUCH.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO COME IN SO LATE AT NIGHT. HOW'S THE COFFEE?

IT'S GOOD, THANK YOU.

THAT'S GOOD, THAT'S VERY GOOD. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY ACCUSATIONS OF MISTREATMENT.

I'M INSPECTOR REVOK OF THE PSI DIVISION.

COMMANDER YINDELL ASKED ME TO KEEP YOU COMPANY WHILE HE MAKES HIS WAY OVER HERE.

I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY WE'D LIKE TO GET THESE QUESTIONS OUT OF THE WAY QUICKLY.

NO, I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, INSPECTOR.

THIS IS GOOD COFFEE...

THAT'S GOOD...

THAT'S VERY GOOD.

BECAUSE FOR THE LONGEST TIME WE HERE IN THE PPD HAVE BEEN GETTING THE SHORT END OF THE STICK FROM YOUR FELLOW HEROES.

ICON POWERS

TAKE, FOR INSTANCE, POLICE EVIDENCE.

WHEN SOMEONE BREAKS INTO A PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO LOOK AT EVIDENCE, THAT ACTUALLY CONTAMINATES THE EVIDENCE NOT ONLY FOR THAT CASE, BUT FOR ALL THE CASES HELD IN THAT AREA.

THINK ABOUT ALL OF THE CRIMINALS THAT COULD GO FREE JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE DECIDED TO TAKE A PEEK AT SOMETHING THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE.

SORT OF LIKE WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR WITH THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN FOUNDERS FALLS.*

ANYTHING YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER ABOUT THAT, MISTER POWERS?



VOLUNTEER?

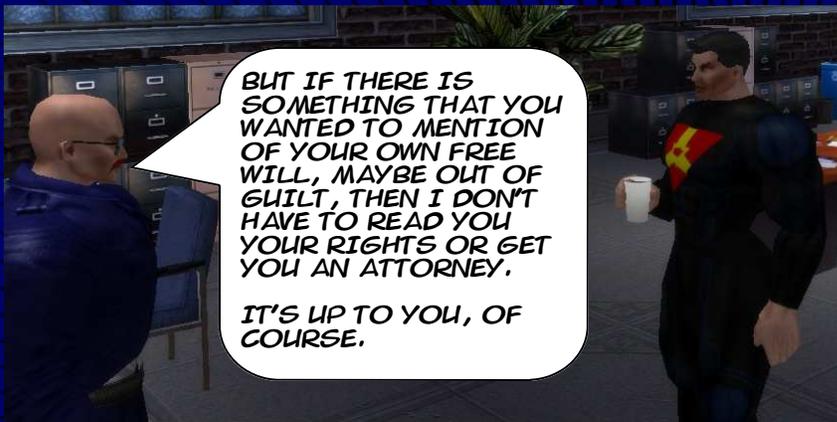
ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF DOING SOMETHING?



ACCUSE YOU?

I'M SORRY, DID I ACCUSE YOU OF ANYTHING?

NO, MISTER POWERS, ACCUSATIONS WOULD REQUIRE THAT I READ YOUR RIGHTS.



BUT IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WANTED TO MENTION OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL, MAYBE OUT OF GUILT, THEN I DON'T HAVE TO READ YOU YOUR RIGHTS OR GET YOU AN ATTORNEY.

IT'S UP TO YOU, OF COURSE.



ACTUALLY, I HAVE TWO THINGS THAT I WILL VOLUNTARILY TELL YOU WHILE WE ARE WAITING AROUND.

FIRST, THIS IS REALLY GOOD COFFEE.



SECOND, YOU SEEM TO THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE I WASN'T BORN IN THIS UNIVERSE THAT I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT TELEPATHS WORKING WITH THE POLICE.

I'VE BEEN FEELING YOUR PASSIVE PSIONIC NUDGES SINCE YOU HANDED ME THIS CUP OF COFFEE. VERY GOOD COFFEE.

BEING ALMOST INVULNERABLE DOESN'T MEAN THAT I CAN'T FEEL THESE THINGS ATTACKING ME. IN FACT, THEY'RE ALMOST LIKE LITTLE NEEDLES IN MY SCALP.

I SEE...



YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN AT THIS SINCE THE 1970'S.

QUITE A FEW TELEPATHS IN MY DAY. PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T WAIT TO TURN ME INTO THEIR SUPER-POWERED PUPPET.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HELPS ME OVERCOME THOSE MINOR TELEPATHIC NUDGES? KEEPING MY MIND FIXATED ON OTHER THINGS. SIMPLE THINGS.

LIKE TASTE...

DID I MENTION THIS IS SOME REALLY GOOD COFFEE?

ALOR'S UNIVERSE - YEAR: 2007



THERE HE IS!

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S AN ENERGY FIELD HOLDING HIM DOWN.



ONLY TWO GUARDS WATCHING OVER HIM.



HEY... OVER HERE!



I CAN'T SENSE ANYTHING LIVING...

FWASH!

THEY'RE ALMOST LIKE ZOMBIES.



SO I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK!



FWASH!



ICON POWERS, I PRESUME. ARE YOU OKAY?

YES... THANK YOU. I JUST NEED A MINUTE TO GATHER MY STRENGTH AGAIN.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING WHO YOU ARE.

I DON'T RECALL INTRODUCING MYSELF TO YOU BEFORE WE MADE OUR JOURNEY ACROSS, AND I CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE NOTICED AN ENERGY-BASED HERO LIKE YOU EARLIER.

I BETTER BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT THIS.

TAINTED EVE TOLD ME NOT TO LET HIM KNOW THAT I'M A KHELDIAN. AND I CERTAINLY CAN'T LET HIM KNOW THAT I WOULD BE WORKING WITH HIM THREE YEARS LATER.



MY NAME IS... REDEMPTION.

I WAS SENT BY THE LUTOPIANS TO HELP YOU IN CASE THE INITIAL ASSAULT FAILED. I'M SORRY I WASN'T HERE FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE THE OTHERS...



WELL YOU'RE HERE NOW, AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN SAVE MY WORLD FROM BEING DESTROYED BY ALOR.



THIS WHOLE PLANETOID IS A HUGE ENGINE DESIGNED TO DESTROY UNIVERSES FOR ALOR'S MAD QUEST FOR POWER.



THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?



WE STILL NEED TO FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE PORTAL CHAMBER.



MOST OF THE ENTRANCES HERE WERE SEALED OR TAKE YOU TO ANOTHER DOOR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SURFACE. THAT'S WHAT STOPPED MY TEAM.

THE LAWS OF REALITY HERE ARE SKEWERED TO SERVE ALOR AND HIM ALONE.

I AM A COSMIC TRAVELER... OR PART OF ME IS... IT'S REALLY A LONG STORY.

ANYWAY, I CAN USE MY SENSES TO FILTER OUT THE FALSE ENTRANCES AND FIND THE ONE THAT WILL TAKE US TO ALOR'S EQUIPMENT.

THEN WE CAN SAVE YOUR WORLD AND KILL THAT MONSTER.

OUROBOROS

<GALATEA... WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED?>

WHAT QUESTION DO YOU HAVE FOR THE PILLAR?>



PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME

<A FEW MINI-CYCLES AGO YOU SAID TO "BE READY" AND THEN LATER SAID THE OPPORTUNITY HAD PASSED.>

<I WAS JUST THINKING... COULD A MOMENT HERE EVER BE "PASSED"?>

<TRANSLATED FROM THE ANCIENT FIRST LANGUAGE OF THE UNIVERSE.>



<I WAS RECENTLY REMINDED THAT YOU ARE A PARADOX DEVICE. YOU CONTINUALLY FOLD TIME IN ON ITSELF.>

<THE PURPOSE OF THE PILLAR IS TO SUSTAIN ITSELF FROM EVENT TERMINAL.>



<RIGHT. AND WITH ENOUGH PRACTICE, SOMEONE LIKE MYSELF CAN ACTUALLY SEE EVENTS IN TIME FOLDING OVER ITSELF.>

I CAN EVEN ALMOST SEE MYSELF STANDING HERE ON THIS SPOT BEING TOLD TO "BE READY".>

<SO WHAT IS TO SAY THAT ANY OPPORTUNITY HERE IS TRULY "PASSED" IF ALL IT TAKES IS A LITTLE JUMP BACKWARD?>

<THAT IS NOT HOW THE PILLAR WORKS. THERE ARE RULES EVEN HERE WHEN IT COMES TO TIME.>



<EVERYTHING HAS A REASON, EVEN MY BECOMING AN OMEGA INCARNATE. YOU TOLD ME THAT MUCH.>

<GALATEA... DON'T DO THIS. SILOS...>



GALATEA?
WHAT ARE YOU... ?

MENDER SILOS

BOOOOOOOOM!



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paragon

YESSSS...

THIS IS IT... THE QUANTUM TRAIL OF MY PAST HANDIWORK* HAS LED ME RIGHT TO ICON POWERS' HOME UNIVERSE!

I MUST BE SURE TO THANK THE TIME MANIPULATOR THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM FOR MAKING MY WORK THAT MUCH EASIER.

 ALOR

(* ACCIDENTALLY LEFT BY DOC TOR, AS RECOUNTED IN ISSUE #10)



WHERE IS IT, REDEMPTION?

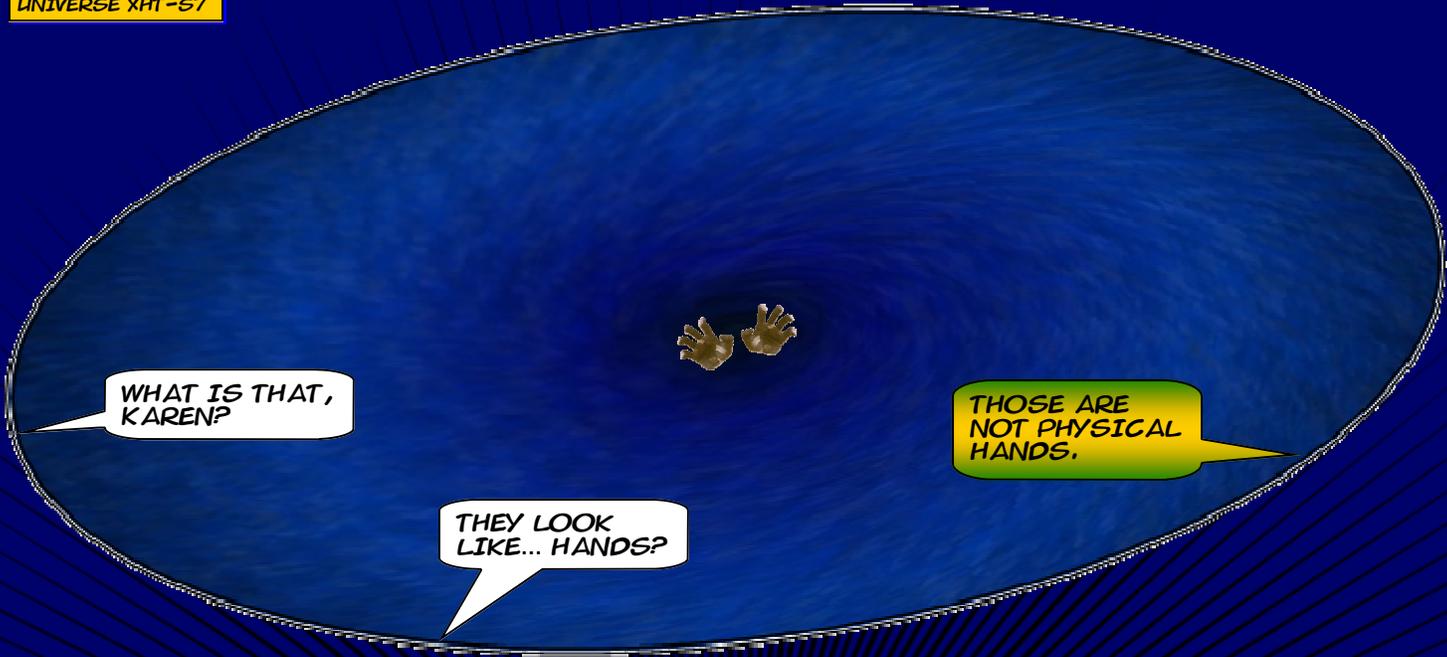
WE'RE CLOSE. I CAN FEEL IT.

I CAN ALMOST...

WAIT, THERE! UP THAT HILL! THERE'S A FALSE-ROCK ENTRANCEWAY!

NOW ALL I NEED TO DO IS REACH OUT TO THEIR EARTH... FIND THE FIXED POINT IN IT AND DESTROY IT UTTERLY.

AND THEN I CAN ADD THE DYING ENERGY OF THAT UNIVERSE INTO ME... AND LATER USE IT TO THEN OBLITERATE THEIR CHAMPION AS HE MOURNS HELPLESSLY!



WHAT IS THAT, KAREN?

THOSE ARE NOT PHYSICAL HANDS.

THEY LOOK LIKE... HANDS?



THERE!



THERE... THE FIXED POINT...

THE ENERGY BEING IN GREEN...



PHOTONIS, CREATE A TRACK AROUND THE MAW FOR THE RUNNER.

YOU HAVE TO RUN FASTER THAN YOU EVER HAVE IN YOUR LIFE.

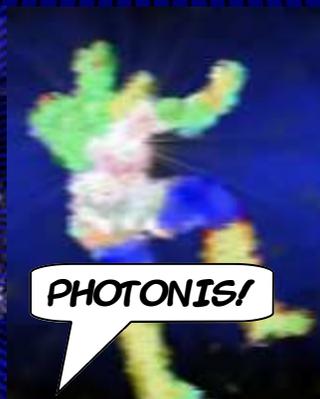


IS... IS THAT?

STOP IT ALOR!



YOU'RE TOO LATE.



PHOTONIS!



NOOOO!

Screee!



NO!
WHAT HAVE YOU...? NO!
YOU'VE ALTERED THE
CONNECTION! I'VE LOST
MY LINK TO THE UNIVERSE!

I CAN'T ABSORB THE
EXPPELLING ENERGY!
I HAVE TO FIND IT AGAIN
BEFORE THAT WORLD
REACHES EVENT TERMINAL!

Screee!



I'M NOT GOING
TO GIVE YOU
THAT CHANGE!

FWASH!



PARAGON CITY - PRIMAL UNIVERSE - APRIL, 2007

"WE HAVE A
FREE-FORMING
PORTAL OF
IMMEASURABLE
POWER."*

"THIS IS
POSITRON; I'M
ISSUING AN
EPSILON-LEVEL
EMERGENCY!"

(* SEE ISSUE #0)



NO! I CAN'T FIND THE
UNIVERSE! THAT'S NOT
THE RIGHT ONE... THOSE
FACES... THE QUANTUM
SIGNATURE ISN'T RIGHT!

ANOTHER UNIVERSE HAS
BEEN LINKED TO IT!
**NO... THIS WILL
NOT DO!**

KA-B00000MMMMM!

YOU FOOLS! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

ALL THE ENERGY FROM THAT UNIVERSE WAS EXPENDED WHEN IT COLLAPSED INTO FINAL ENTROPY! IT'S GONE!

THE ESSENCE OF THE ORIGINAL GODS HAS BEEN DISPERSED TO THE REMAINING UNIVERSES WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABSORBED AND APPLIED INTO THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF COMPLETE UNITY!

YOU WILL BOTH PAY DEARLY FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE!

FWASH!

I ALREADY PAID... NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

YOUR POWER CANNOT COMPETE AGAINST A GOD'S!

FWASH!

YOU'RE NOT A GOD!



BLASPHE-
AARGH!

FWASH!



NO, YOU'RE
NOT A GOD.

YOU'RE JUST
ANOTHER THUG
WITH POWER...

AND YOU JUST
MURDERED ONE OF
MY BEST FRIENDS!



I'VE DONE MORE
THAN KILL YOUR
FRIEND... HIS DEATH
WAS THE CATALYST
THAT DESTROYED
YOUR WHOLE
UNIVERSE!

THEN YOU BETTER
PRAY THAT YOU
ARE WRONG
ABOUT THAT...

BECAUSE
OTHERWISE THERE
IS NO PLACE IN
THE OMNIVERSE
THAT WILL BE
SAFE FOR YOU!



NO...



I WILL NOT
BE JUDGED
BY YOU!



ERF!

POW!



I'M NOT THE ONE
THAT CAN JUDGE
YOU, ALOR.

RIGHT NOW I HAVE
TO FIGHT EVERY
URGE WITHIN ME
TO TEAR YOU TO
PIECES.

WE'LL LET THE
LUTOPIANS DECIDE
YOUR FATE.

I AM IN COMPLETE AWE OVER WHAT I JUST SAW.

EVEN AFTER ALL THAT HAPPENED, ALL THAT HE HAD TO WITNESS, HE IS STILL EVERY BIT THE HERO ONE EXPECTS.

NOW I SEE WHY GALATEA AND THE OTHERS CALL HIM THE GREATEST HERO OF THEIR WORLD.

REDEMPTION, IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN USE THIS MACHINE YOURSELF TO FIX THE DAMAGE THAT ALOR HAS DONE?



I REALLY WISH I COULD SAY "YES", ICON.

RIGHT NOW MY COSMIC SENSES ARE PICKING UP ENERGY FRACTURES ALONG THE TACHYON CONTAINMENT BOTTLE.

THIS DEVICE WASN'T JUST SERVICING ALOR'S SEARCH FOR UNIVERSES TO DESTROY AND ABSORB.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ALSO KEEPING THIS UNIVERSE FROM FINISHING FROM COLLAPSE INTO TOTAL ENTROPY.

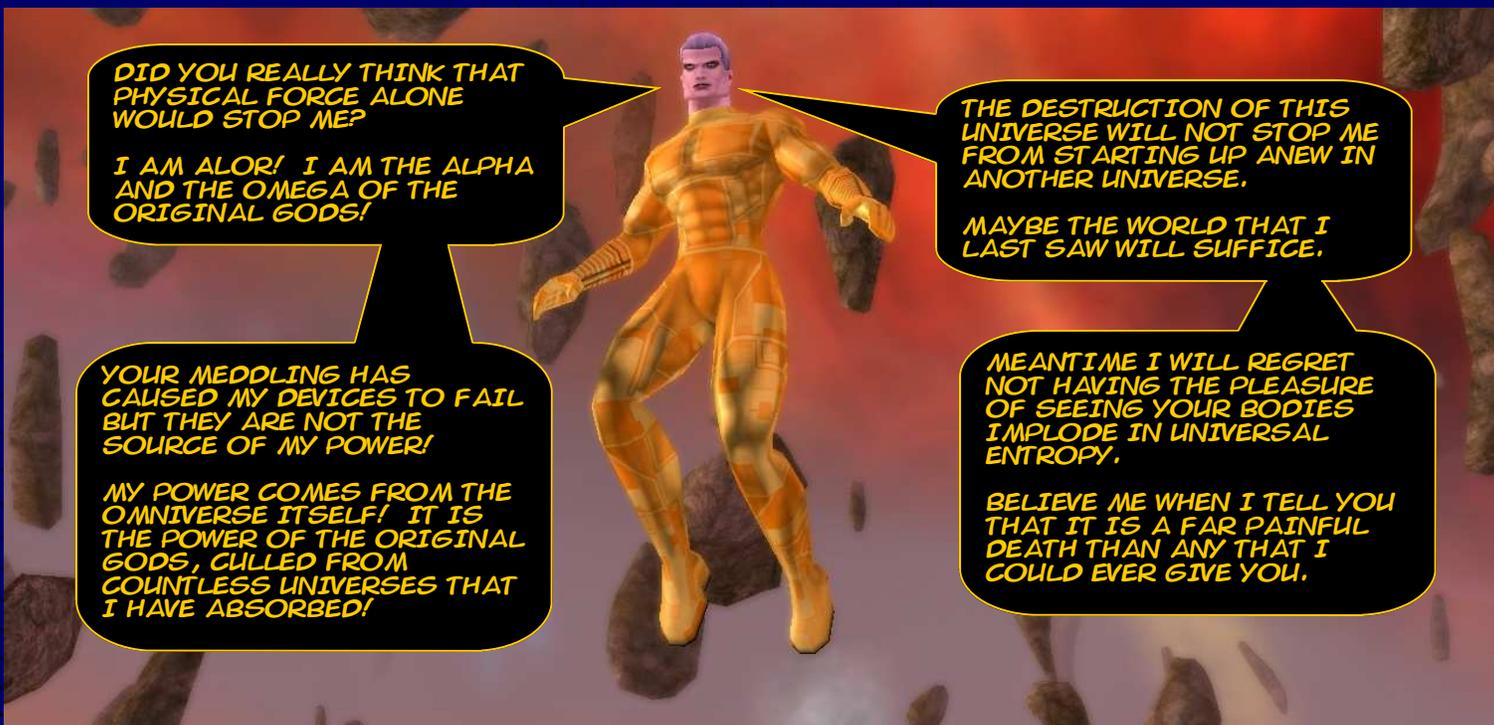
I SAY "WAS" BECAUSE I THINK THE EXPLOSION DAMAGED IT.

I ONLY HOPE THE UTOPIANS KNOW HOW TO FIX THIS AS WELL, BECAUSE PORTAL TECH REALLY ISN'T UP MY...



OOF!

HOW DARE YOU?!?



DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT PHYSICAL FORCE ALONE WOULD STOP ME?
I AM ALOR! I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA OF THE ORIGINAL GODS!

THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS UNIVERSE WILL NOT STOP ME FROM STARTING UP ANEW IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE.
MAYBE THE WORLD THAT I LAST SAW WILL SUFFICE.

YOUR MEDDLING HAS CAUSED MY DEVICES TO FAIL BUT THEY ARE NOT THE SOURCE OF MY POWER!
MY POWER COMES FROM THE OMNIVERSE ITSELF! IT IS THE POWER OF THE ORIGINAL GODS, CULLED FROM COUNTLESS UNIVERSES THAT I HAVE ABSORBED!

MEANTIME I WILL REGRET NOT HAVING THE PLEASURE OF SEEING YOUR BODIES IMplode IN UNIVERSAL ENTROPY.
BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT IT IS A FAR PAINFUL DEATH THAN ANY THAT I COULD EVER GIVE YOU.



GET BACK TO THE UTOPIANS.

NO! WE CAN...

DON'T ARGUE WITH ME!



IF THIS UNIVERSE IS ON THE VERGE OF BEING DESTROYED, THEN I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT HE GOES WITH IT!

AND I'M GOING TO USE EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT HE RIDES IT ALL THE WAY TO THAT FINAL EVENT!



NOT THIS TIME, COUSIN.

KAREN?

GALA.. I MEAN, KAREN?

***WHOOSH!**

SHE WAS MOVING SO FAST THAT I COULDN'T EVEN DETECT HER ENERGY AS SHE APPROACHED!

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A COSMETIC CHANGE...

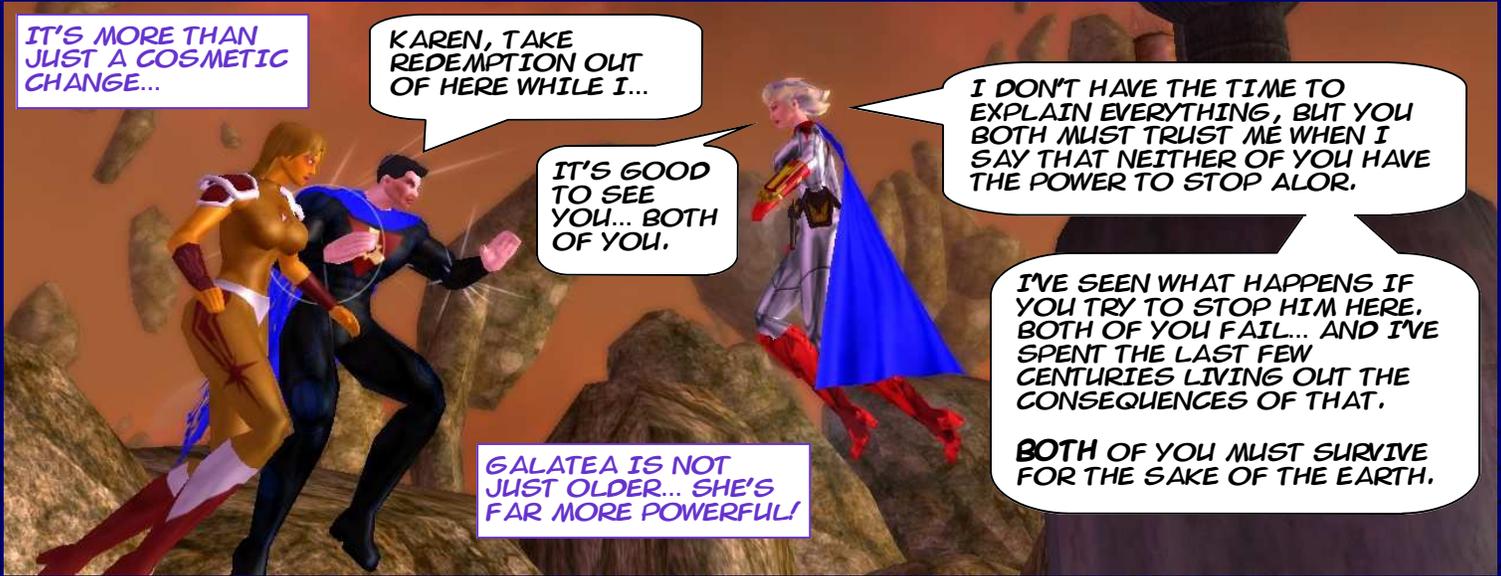
KAREN, TAKE REDEMPTION OUT OF HERE WHILE I...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU... BOTH OF YOU.

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, BUT YOU BOTH MUST TRUST ME WHEN I SAY THAT NEITHER OF YOU HAVE THE POWER TO STOP ALOR.

I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU TRY TO STOP HIM HERE. BOTH OF YOU FAIL... AND I'VE SPENT THE LAST FEW CENTURIES LIVING OUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT.
BOTH OF YOU MUST SURVIVE FOR THE SAKE OF THE EARTH.

GALATEA IS NOT JUST OLDER... SHE'S FAR MORE POWERFUL!



IF YOU'RE FROM MY FUTURE, THEN YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S DONE. I CAN'T SIT THIS OUT. NOT NOW.

KAREN... WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF "THE" EARTH?
WHICH EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



I'VE SAID WAY TOO MUCH ALREADY.
<OUROBOROS TRIGGER ONE, ENGAGE.>

<SUBJECTS TELEPORTED TO POINTS OF ORIGIN.>

HOW TOUCHING...



ANOTHER FOOL THAT THINKS SHE CAN STOP A TRUE GOD!

THERE ARE ONLY A FEW MICRO-CYCLES LEFT BEFORE YOUR EQUIPMENT SHUTS DOWN.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THIS UNIVERSE WILL FINISH COLLAPSING IN ON ITSELF.
BUT I PROMISE YOU BEFORE THEN THAT YOU WILL FIND OUT WHAT A TRUE GOD IS.



<OUROBOROS TRIGGER RESET. FIFTY MICRO-CYCLES. UNTIL CHRONAL TARGET ACQUIRED.>



AND YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE POWER TO STOP ME?

YOU?

I SMELL THE SAME REMNANTS OF MY HANDIWORK AS ICON POWERS.

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVE ARMORED YOURSELF WITH BUT IT IS STILL INFERIOR TO MY POWER.

AND YOU THINK THAT WILL HELP?

WHO DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU ARE, MORTAL?

<THIRTY MICRO-CYCLES UNTIL CHRONAL TARGET ACQUIRED.>



I AM GALATEA POWERS.

I WAS BORN KAREN POWERS, FROM THE UNIVERSE THAT YOU JUST CALLOUSLY DESTROYED.

I AM THE LAST GUARDIAN OF THE PLANET EARTH THAT YOU OBSERVED BUT WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO HARM.



I AM AN OMEGA INCARNATE; I HAVE BEEN ALIVE FOR MORE CENTURIES THAN I CAN COUNT.

I HAVE FACED GODS, DEMIGODS, AND DEMONS ACROSS TWENTY DIMENSIONS.

AND I KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED WHAT A REAL GOD IS LIKE... AND YOU ARE CLEARLY NOT ONE!

AND YET YOU WASTE YOUR TIME TALKING TO ME INSTEAD OF PROVING THAT I AM NOT YOUR SUPERIOR.

OH I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU SOON ENOUGH.

YOU SEE, A RATHER OLD ARTIFACT TOLD ME THAT ALL THAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED WOULD BE NEEDED TO FACE WHAT WAS TO COME.

IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FIGURE IT OUT, OF COURSE. BUT WHEN I DID, I KNEW HOW I WOULD DEFEAT YOU.

<FIFTEEN MICRO-CYCLES UNTIL CHRONAL TARGET ACQUIRED.>



**YOU BORE ME,
GALATEA POWERS.
AT LEAST ICON
WAS WILLING TO
FIGHT ME.**



**<THREE... TWO... ONE,
CHRONAL TARGET IS
ACQUIRED AND READY.>**

**YOU'LL GET YOUR SHARE
OF FIGHTING AS THIS
UNIVERSE FINISHES
COLLAPSING.**

**BUT IT'S NOT JUST
GOING TO BE ME.**

**<OUROBOROS TRIGGER
TWO, ENGAGE!>**



**<OUROBOROS
TRIGGER ACTIVATED.>**

*** RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRUMMMBLE ***

**SINCE I'VE ALREADY
CHANGED HISTORY, MY
ASSOCIATE IS ALSO
ON BORROWED TIME...
BUT NOT BEFORE HE
MAKES SURE THAT YOU
FOLLOW THIS WORLD
INTO OBLIVION.**

**ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE YOU TO A
REAL GOD FROM 2018...**

**RULARUU THE
RAVAGER!**



RULARUU THE RAVAGER

HELLO-OOP?

ELLE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE A SHOWER AND I WAS...

WAIT... WHAT? ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE. MY MYSTERIOUS ATTACKER STUNNED ME WITH SOME SORT OF TASER IN HIS GLOVES, BUT NOT BEFORE I PUT A FEW SCRATCHES ON HIS ARMOR.

FILTHY CHEATER!

YOU KNOW, IF YOU ACCEPTED MY OFFER OF A GIRL'S NIGHT OUT AFTER OUR WORKOUT WE WOULD HAVE FACED THAT BIG BAD INTRUDER TOGETHER.

CHUCKLE I'M SURE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN... ENTERTAINING...

BUT I'M AFRAID MY CALL TO YOU IS MORE OF A PROFESSIONAL NATURE.

ELLE, YOU KNOW ME... YOUR BUSINESS IS MY PLEASURE, AND YOUR PLEASURE IS MY BUSINESS.

SIGH FAIR ENOUGH.

THE SECURITY CAMERAS WERE DISABLED, BUT I BELIEVE I SAW ENOUGH TO DEDUCE THAT THE INTRUDER WAS MIDNIGHT X OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

AND I'M GUESSING YOU DIDN'T CALL UP LORD GEDDY'S LITTLE GIRL SCOUT BECAUSE YOU WANT THIS DONE RIGHT?

I DIDN'T CALL NOVAPRIMA BECAUSE SHE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THIS INFORMATION.

PAY THE GUARDIANS A VISIT AND DESTROY THAT INFORMATION.

CONSIDER IT DESTROYED.

AND I'LL ALSO BE SURE TO GIVE MIDNIGHT X A FEW MORE KNICKS UNDER HIS ARMOR TO GO WITH THE ONES YOU ALREADY GAVE HIM.

AND THAT PART I'LL DO FOR FREE.

LIMBO

YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



TAINED EVE

WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE.

YOU OF ALL BEINGS!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL DAYBRIGHT THAT SHE WASN'T GOING TO SURVIVE THE BATTLE WITH ALOR?



DAYBRIGHT'S LIFE WAS ALREADY CONSIDERED FORFEITED WHEN LIBRA BROUGHT HER HERE.

TO TELL HER THAT SHE WOULD STILL BE DEAD WOULD BE POINTLESS.

"FOREFITED"?

YOU'RE TALKING TO AN AGENT OF OUROBOROS HERE!

THE GUARDIANS WERE IN THE PROCESS OF RECOVERING HER WHEN LIBRA STEPPED IN AND STOPPED IT!



(* ISSUE 18)

AND IF LIBRA DIDN'T STEP IN, THEN DAYBRIGHT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE FINAL BATTLE, TRYING TO SAVE YOUR WORLD AND CREATED THE CONDITIONS THAT BROUGHT YOU AND THE OTHER "EXILES" INTO OUR WORLD.



IN FACT YOUR VERY PRESENCE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SACRIFICE DAYBRIGHT WOULD MAKE.

IN THIS CASE THE ENDS REALLY JUSTIFY THE MEANS.

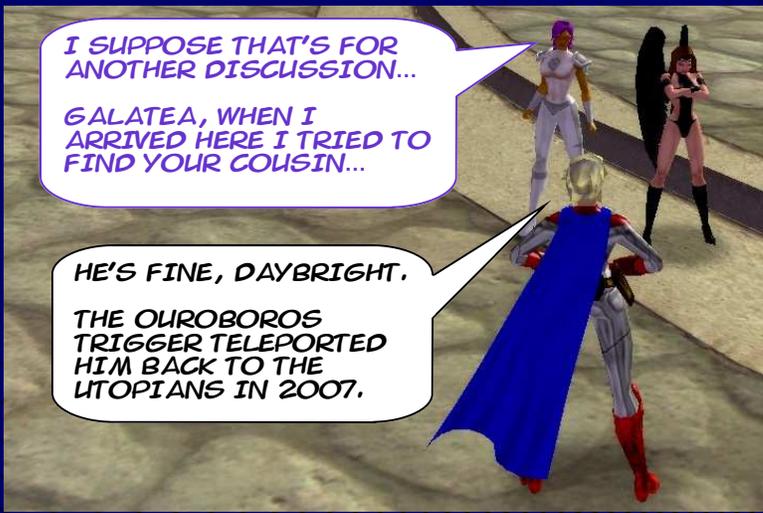


REALLY? AFTER ALL I JUST WENT THROUGH, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO PULL THAT LINE?



...





I SUPPOSE THAT'S FOR ANOTHER DISCUSSION...

GALATEA, WHEN I ARRIVED HERE I TRIED TO FIND YOUR COUSIN...

HE'S FINE, DAYBRIGHT.

THE OUROBOROS TRIGGER TELEPORTED HIM BACK TO THE UTOPIANS IN 2007.



TIME SHOULD BE FIXED AT THIS POINT. HISTORY SHOULD BE MORE OR LESS ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



BUT I THOUGHT HISTORY RECORDED THAT ICON DEFEATED ALOR.

"PFFT!" SEMANTICS!

HE STILL DOES... WITH YOUR HELP OF COURSE.



I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU COULD EVEN BE HERE IF TIME REALLY WAS "FIXED".

IF YOU'RE FROM A FUTURE THAT DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE, HOW COME YOU'RE STILL TALKING WITH US?



THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...

TO SPEAK WITH YOUR "PATRON".



OKAY LIBRA... OUT WITH IT.

SOMEONE PULLED ME "OUT OF TIME" WHEN THIS ALL STARTED*, AND I'M GUESSING THAT IT WAS YOU.

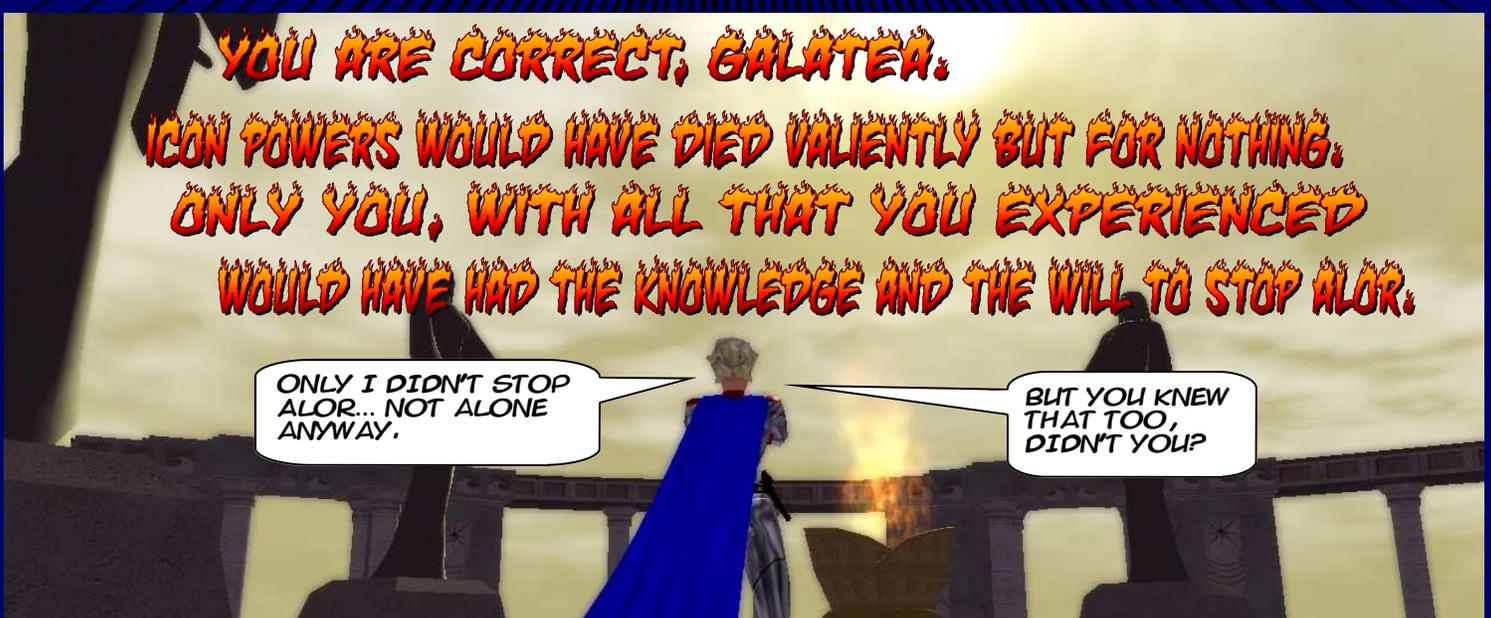
(* ISSUE 17)

YOU ARE CORRECT, GALATEA.

ICON POWERS WOULD HAVE DIED VALENTLY BUT FOR NOTHING.

ONLY YOU, WITH ALL THAT YOU EXPERIENCED

WOULD HAVE HAD THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE WILL TO STOP ALOR.



ONLY I DIDN'T STOP ALOR... NOT ALONE ANYWAY.

BUT YOU KNEW THAT TOO, DIDN'T YOU?



SO IF ALL YOU NEEDED WAS A GOD TO STOP ALOR, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST RECRUIT RULARUU YOURSELF? OR THE HAMIDON? OR ANY OF THE OTHER DEITIES? WHY USE DAYBRIGHT AS A RED HERRING IN ALL OF THIS?

WAIT... WHAT?



YOU KNOW WHY.



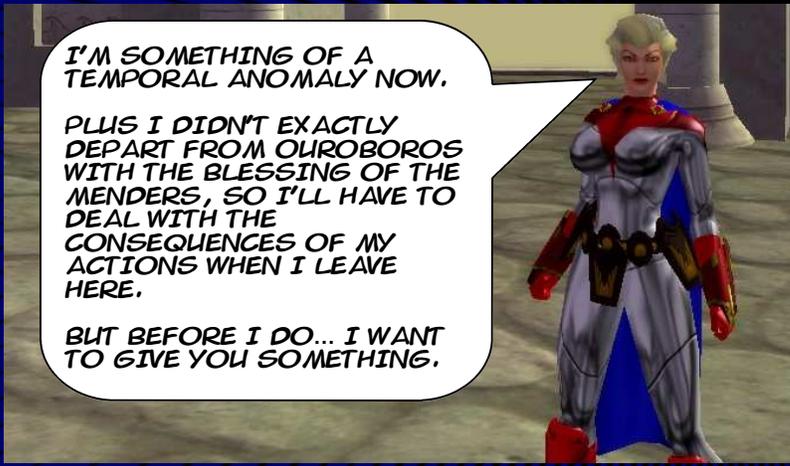
OF COURSE...
"MATTERS OF GODS AND MEN."
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.



SO... THAT'S IT? I GO BACK TO 2010 AND YOU... WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU?

2011

THAT, I REALLY DON'T KNOW.



I'M SOMETHING OF A TEMPORAL ANOMALY NOW.

PLUS I DIDN'T EXACTLY DEPART FROM OUIROBOROS WITH THE BLESSING OF THE MENDERS, SO I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS WHEN I LEAVE HERE.

BUT BEFORE I DO... I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING.



AAHH!

DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT IT IS WHEN YOU GET BACK TO PARAGON CITY.



THAT JUST LEAVES... YOU.

I REMEMBER JOHN COLE TELLING ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS ABOUT YOU AND THE LIBRA ORDER, AND NOT ALL OF THEM WERE GOOD.

SO YOU TELL ME... WHERE DOES THE ORDER STAND?



WHERE WE ALWAYS ARE... IN THE GRAY ZONE BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD.
OR IS IT THE "GOLD" ZONE NOW? I FORGET.



ANYWAY, I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING THAT WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR TIME, YOU'LL FIND A FEW MORE THINGS THAT ARE CHANGED...
AND THAT YOU'LL BE ASKING YOURSELF WHERE YOU STAND.



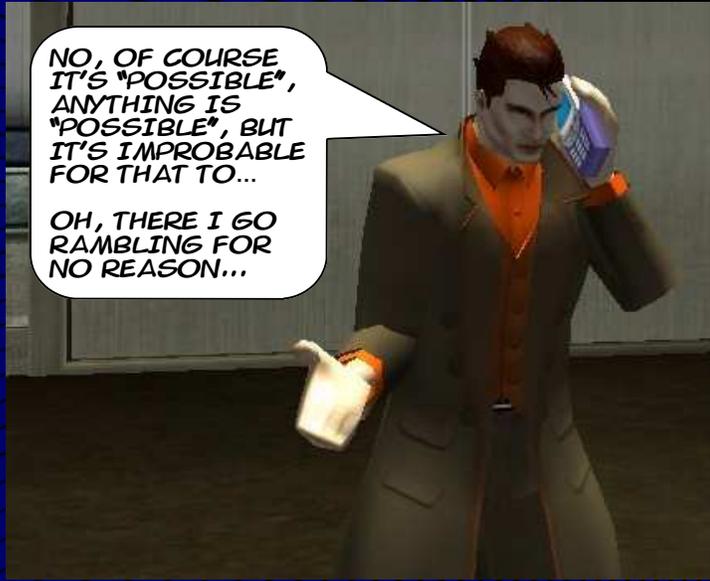
POCKET D LOBBY - 2011

HELLO?

DOC TOR



CAN YOU SPEAK UP A BIT? YOU SOUND ALMOST...
AH, THAT'S BETTER.
YES, I USED TO GO BY THAT NAME... BUT WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
NO... NO THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE.



NO, OF COURSE IT'S "POSSIBLE", ANYTHING IS "POSSIBLE", BUT IT'S IMPROBABLE FOR THAT TO...
OH, THERE I GO RAMBLING FOR NO REASON...



WHAT?
THAT IS BAD. THAT IS WORSE THAN BAD.
NO... STAY THERE, I'LL... OKAY, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN BY THAT!
I'LL GET THE OTHERS.



ICON POWERS...

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WERE BROUGHT IN FOR QUESTIONING.

STARCYGNUS?
YOU LOOK... DIFFERENT.

STARCYGNUS

YES... ANYONE YOU RECOGNIZE?

YOU ALMOST LOOK LIKE...
NO... IT CAN'T BE!
YOU WERE STOPPED!
I STOPPED YOU!

YOU DELUDE YOURSELF, HERO.

AN ERROR THAT I WILL NOW CORRECT.

NO, ICON POWERS... YOU DON'T DIE JUST YET.

YOU STILL OWE ME FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MY MACHINERY. FOR THE ENERGY THAT I WAS DENIED YEARS AGO.

YOU AND THE TIME MANIPULATOR WILL BOTH WATCH AS I TRANSFORM YOUR ADOPTED WORLD INTO MY NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS.

THE ORIGINAL GODS SHALL RETURN... HERE ON THIS WORLD!

TO BE CONCLUDED...



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



PARAGON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Interview of Icon Powers

Interview by Inspector D. Revok, PPD Psi Division

At 22:00 hours I was contacted by Commander Jack Yindell requesting assistance in the interview of [REDACTED], a registered superhero known as Icon Powers.

In my pre-interview discussion, Commander Yindell informed me that the subject's name came up by Deputy District Attorney Edward Vance as possibly being connected to the breaking in of the U.S. Department of Justice office in 2010, in which Vance served as a temporary special prosecutor. The subject was not being accused of the actual break-in and assault on security agents, but was suspected as having a connection to the actual culprit.

Yindell initiated the contact with the subject via telephone, requesting that the subject report to the Skyway City District stationhouse immediately. The subject reported in with the Duty Officer at 00:23 hours. Yindell requested that I conduct a "passive" interview with the subject before he conducted his own interview several hours later.

"Passive" interviews by members of the Psi Division involve a low-level or "passive" psionic scan of the subject. This can detect high-level thinking, often associated with lying or concealment. Passive scans can also be combined with suggestive comments and phrases to break down a subject's mental resistance and encourage cooperation. Both of these are considered legal interview techniques by Psi Division officers and do not require either advising the subject of his or her Miranda rights or provide an attorney present.

Upon arrival at the station, the subject was offered and accepted

Continues on next page...

coffee. He was also informed that he would have to wait until Commander Yindell would arrive.

It is at this point that I approached and introduced myself to the subject. The subject appeared to be relaxed and willing to engage in a conversation while waiting for Command Yindell. I led the subject into a discussion about the intrusion of the Department of Justice offices and asked if he would be willing to volunteer any information. The subject's mental state appeared to be constant, even when he asked if he was being accused of a crime.

It was during this time that the subject informed me that he was keenly aware of the passive scan being conducted and that he had several years experience in mentally thwarting low-level scans. Additional attempts at persuasion without resorting to higher measures of intrusion and charging the subject with a crime were deemed futile.

At approximately 04:00 hours, the subject was involved in an altercation with an unknown individual which also took the life of several police officers. The subject was rendered unconscious in the conflict and was taken away by the assailant.

[NOTE: Information deemed sensitive has been redacted as per FBSA PR14.]

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



This is it!

It's Alor/StarCygnus versus the Guardians of the Dawn for the future of the Primal Universe!

Find out who Ms. Maple was talking to.

And what will be the fate of Galatea Powers?

Find out as "Time and Changes" reaches its FINAL phase!



FROM THE CREATOR OF "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT"

TALES FROM PARAGON CITY

BECAUSE SOME STORIES NEED TO BE TOLD!



<http://battlerockx.blogspot.com>

