


MORTAL KOMBAT[®]



COLLECTOR'S EDITION COMIC BOOK



HE RUSHED STRAIGHT FOR US.
ALL FOUR ARMS AND 550
POUNDS OF SOLID MUSCLE.

BUT WE
WERE
READY.

GORO LOST FAIR AND
SQUARE TO LIU KANG
IN SHANG TSUNG'S
TOURNAMENT. THAT'S
WHEN ALL HELL BROKE
LOOSE. TSUNG WAS
OUTRAGED; HE WANTED
ALL OUR SOULS. HE
SICKED GORO AND A
FEW HUNDRED OF HIS
BEST WARRIORS ON US.

ME, KANO AND SONYA WERE
TO HOLD BACK GORO. RAIDEN,
AND THE NINJAS SUB-ZERO AND
SCORPION, HELD BACK
TSUNG'S ARMY.

LIU KANG WAS HOPEFULLY
KICKIN' THE OLD MAN'S BUTT.



...UNTIL
RAIDEN
HAPPENED
BY.

HE
CAN
FLY.

HE'S A GOD,
YOU KNOW.

HOLD TIGHT,
JOHNNY CAGE. THIS
ISLAND REALM IS
SELF-DESTRUCTING
AS A RESULT OF
SHANG TSUNG'S
DEATH.

SO
LIU
KANG
WON
?

YES, HE DID.
BUT THIS ISLAND
WAS HELD TOGETHER
BY TSUNG'S
EXISTENCE. WE MUST
MAKE A QUICK EXIT
THROUGH A PORTAL
I HAVE CREATED.

WHAT
ABOUT
THE
OTHERS
?

LIU KANG HAS
ALREADY ESCAPED.
SUB-ZERO WAS KILLED
BY SCORPION AFTER OUR
BATTLE WITH TSUNG'S
ARMY. THEN SCORPION
BURST INTO FLAMES AND
BURNED TO ASHES BE-
FORE MY EYES.

WOW,
WHAT A
DRAMATIC
EXIT!

PREPARE
YOURSELF CAGE.
OUR EXIT THROUGH
THE PORTAL WILL BE
FOLLOWED BY A
VIOLENT
EXPLOSION.

DO WE
NEED SUCH
A DRAMATIC
EXIT?

FFOOOOOSH!

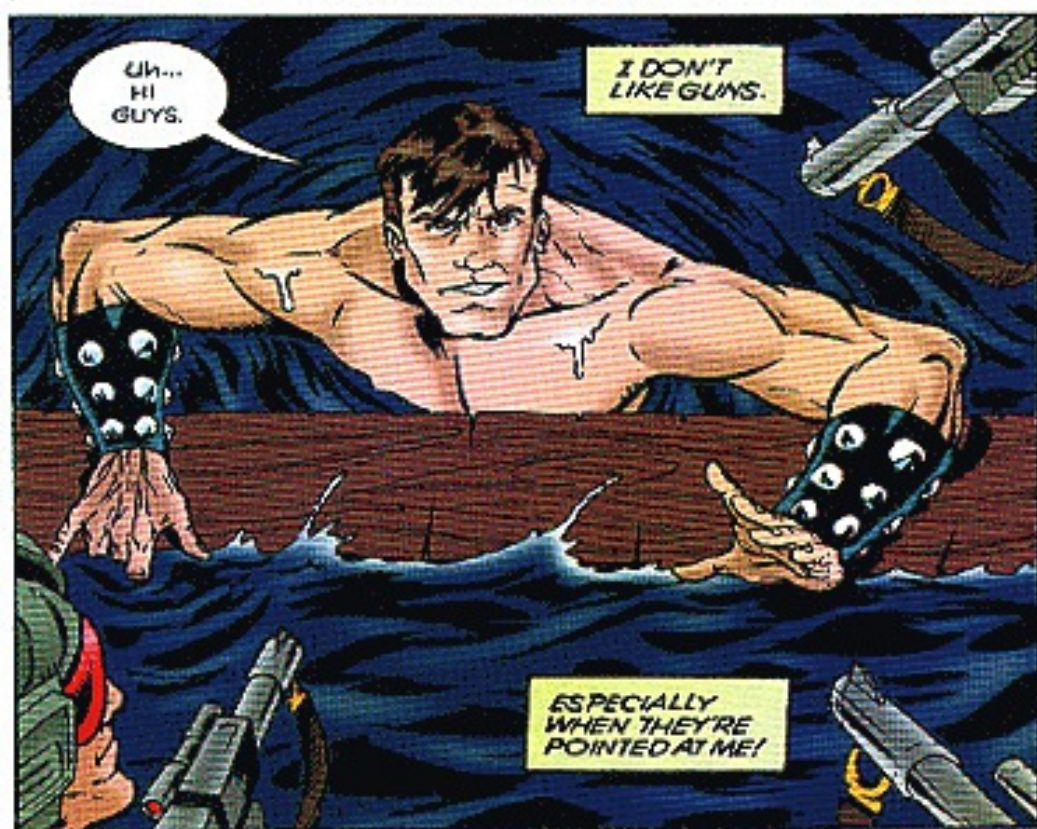


THE NEXT THING I KNOW I'M
FLOATING ON A PIECE OF
WOOD IN THE EAST CHINA
SEA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED TO RAIDEN,
MAYBE HE DROWNED...
BUT I DOUBT THAT.

I FIGURED ALL I COULD
DO WAS STAY AFLOAT
UNTIL A BOAT CAME BY
OR I GOT EATEN BY
SHARKS.



THEN I SEE A FRIENDLY-LOOKING
BOAT. IT EVEN HAS AN AMERICAN
FLAG ON IT. IT HAS COOL LIGHTS
AND NEAT SYMBOLS PAINTED
ALL OVER. AND IT HAD GUNS...
LOTS OF GUNS!



Uh...
HI
GUYS.

I DON'T
LIKE GUNS.

ESPECIALLY
WHEN THEY'RE
POINTED AT ME!



AND THAT'S
THE LAST TIME
I'M TELLING
YOU THE
STORY.

THURSDAY MORNING,
8 A.M. EST
SPECIAL FORCES
BASE 05

JAX, THAT'S THE FIFTH TIME HE'S TOLD THAT STORY. EACH TIME IN EXACT DETAIL, UNCHANGED. HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPLAIN HIM FLOATING IN THE EAST CHINA SEA, AND ALL THE WOOD AND STONE FRAGMENTS WE PICKED UP, THEY'RE ANCIENT.

I DON'T BUY IT, BERAN! SONYA AND HER TEAM SENT OUT THAT DISTRESS SIGNAL AND IT WAS CENTERED RIGHT WHERE WE PICKED UP MR. HOLLYWOOD!

AND I DON'T THINK SONYA WOULD EVER FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH KANO!

SHE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE!

ALL RIGHT, CAGE? WE'RE GONNA LET YOU GO!

BUT WHEN I GET SOME SOLID EVIDENCE I'LL COME AFTER YOU MYSELF. THEN IT'S GONNA GET UGLY!

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT, JAX!

NOW, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND UNTYING ME, I'VE GOT A MOVIE TO MAKE!

THE OUTWORLD.

A BATTLE-SCARRED REALM, RULED FOR AGES BY A FIERCE WARLORD KNOWN AS THE EMPEROR SHAO KAHN.

GREAT SHAO KAHN! I DEMAND SHANG TSUNG'S EXECUTION! THROUGH HIS CARELESS ENDEAVORS WE HAVE LOST THE GREATEST OF OUR WARRIORS, MY SON GORO!

THE HUMANS OF EARTH REALM WERE THOUGHT TO BE WEAK AND UNFOCUSED. THIS WAS ALL BASED ON THE WORDS OF SHANG TSUNG HIMSELF. YET HE WAS DEFEATED BY A SHAOLIN MONK! THE SHAOLIN STUDY PEACE AND PASSIVE WAYS.

LIU KANG SHOULD NEVER HAVE DEFEATED SHANG TSUNG--

IT IS HERE WHERE THE DEMON SORCERER SHANG TSUNG BEGAN HIS MISSION TO UN-BALANCE THE EARTH REALMS FURIES--

--THUS ALLOWING HIS MASTER SHAO KAHN TO ENTER THE REALM AND BRING IT UNDER HIS RULE.

BUT, TSUNG HAS FAILED IN HIS MISSION AND NOW MUST ANSWER FOR HIS CRIME OR PAY THE PRICE.

--AND WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE SENT A SORCERER TO DO THE WORK OF A WARRIOR!

AS GORBAK, KING OF KUATAN, I ASK THAT SHANG TSUNG RETURN WITH ME TO MY GREAT KINGDOM...

...AND BE EXECUTED BEFORE MY PEOPLE!

ONLY THIS WILL ATONE FOR THE DEATH OF GORO!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS, GORBAK.

HOWEVER, WE MUST NOW LOOK PAST THE DEATH OF OUR GREAT CHAMPION.

WE HAVE OCCUPIED THIS REALM FOR AGES. MY STRENGTH GROWS, YET THIS REALM HAS CEASED TO GROW WITH IT. I NEED ROOM FOR MY POWERS TO EXPAND.

I CANNOT SET FOOT ONTO EARTH'S SOIL UNTIL ITS FURIES ARE UNBALANCED. SHANG TSUNG HAS FAILED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. I WILL GIVE MY SERVANT ONE LAST MOMENT TO DEVISE A REASON...

...A REASON WHY I SHOULD NOT STRIKE HIM DOWN MYSELF.

MY MASTER-- WE CAN INITIATE A NEW CHALLENGE, A NEW TOURNAMENT. THE RULES ARE QUITE CLEAR IN THIS MATTER.

ANY REALM CAN EXERCISE ITS RIGHT OF CHALLENGE AS LONG AS IT CAN BREACH THE DIMENSIONAL GATES THAT SEPARATE IT FROM THE OTHER REALM.

THE TRICK IS OPENING A PORTAL. I COULD ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK AS I DID A THOUSAND YEARS AGO -- IF MY STRENGTH WAS RENEWED.

THE RESULTING PORTAL WOULD ALSO BE LARGE ENOUGH FOR A SMALL ARMY OF WARRIORS TO ENTER THE EARTH REALM...

...AND, PERHAPS, ENACT REVENGE AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GORO'S DEATH.

SHADOW PRIEST, TELL ME...

WHAT LIES IN MY FUTURE IF I ALLOW SHANG TSUNG TO EXECUTE THIS PLAN?

THE DEMON SORCERER'S PLAN IS A TWIST IN THE RULES OF TOURNAMENT BATTLE. THE BREACH THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL GATE IS A METHOD OF EXERCISING THE RIGHTS OF CHALLENGE-- THOUGH IT GOES AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE ELDER GODS.

THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SEE A CLEAR OUTCOME. IF WE WIN THIS NEW TOURNAMENT, YOUR LIFE WILL BE ETERNAL, YOUR POWER UNMATCHED. -- YOU WILL BECOME A GOD.

IF YOU LOSE-- YOU WILL SUFFER ETERNAL DAMNATION.

IF SHANG TSUNG MUST LIVE, THEN SO BE IT! BUT I INSIST, IF THIS EXCURSION BACK INTO THE REALM IS TO SUCCEED, WE MUST SEND A WARRIOR FROM KUATAN.

I OFFER KINTARO.

GREAT SHAO KAHN, I STAND AT YOUR COMMAND.

YOUR PRESENCE IS WELCOMED, KINTARO.

SHANG TSUNG, YOUR LIFE NO LONGER EXISTS IN THE EARTH REALM. THEREFORE, I WILL GRANT YOU A NEW PHYSICAL FORM.

ONE THAT WILL REPLENISH YOUR POWERS OF SORCERY AND FOOL THE EARTH GODS INTO ALLOWING YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL GATE.

IF YOU FAIL IN THIS MISSION, ALL THE OUTWORLD WILL BE WIPED FROM REALITY... AND YOU WILL SUFFER A FATE OF ETERNAL TORTURE.

SHANG TSUNG FEELS PAIN HE HAS NEVER FELT BEFORE.

HIS FLESH, HIS SOUL... TORN FROM ITS VERY EXISTENCE.

HE WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED, HIS YOUTH RESTORED, HIS STRENGTH MULTIPLIED, HIS UNHOLY POWER REPLENISHED.

SHANG TSUNG,
BEFORE ANY
CHALLENGE IS
MADE, I WANT
THE PRESENCE
OF THE OUT-
WORLD FELT.

YOU ARE TO CRUSH THE WARRIORS
RESPONSIBLE FOR GORO'S DEATH.

LET THE POWER OF THE
OUTWORLD SPEAK TO THE SHADIN
TEMPLE THROUGH DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION.

WE MUST NOT FALTER
IN OUR SCHEME... VICTORY
WILL UNBALANCE THE EARTH'S
FURIES. MY DARK POWERS
WILL EXPAND THROUGHOUT
IT'S UNIVERSE AND THE
ELDER GODS' WISHES
WILL BE NOTHING MORE
THAN A NUISANCE.

"KITARO--

"KITANA--

"MILEENA--

"BARAKA--

"SHANG
TSUNG--

"BY THE UNHOLY
DARKNESS THAT
CONSUMES ME...
I WILL HAVE
THE EARTH
REALM!"

EEACH,
TRY AND
CLEAN UP
THAT
SIGNAL.

SIR, I
CAN'T EVEN
PINPOINT HIS
SOURCE.

ZZZZZZZZZZ
BLADE...:XOXO SIO...
BET CAN...:SSZZZ...
GET THIS
MESSAGE TO
MAJOR BRIGGS.

JAX, I'M TRAPPED IN ANOTHER REALM CALLED THE
OUTWORLD--IT'S A LONG STORY. YOU'VE GOTTA
BELIEVE EVERY WORD NO MATTER HOW RIDICULOUS
IT SEEMS. FIND MURPHY CASE OR A GUY CALLED LAI
KANG. WE THINK MAYBE THEY'RE BACK ON EARTH.
THEY CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.

WE'RE
HANGING OUT
IN A FOREST
OUTSIDE OF
A GIANT CITY
CALLED
SHOKAN.

HEY SONYA,
LOOK WHAT
I FOUND.

JAX, THEY'RE OUT
TO GET CAGE AND RAND...
YOU'VE GOTTA HUNT
THEM.

GIMME
THAT
CAMERA!

HI, JACKO!
WE'RE WORKING
TOGETHER ON
THIS ONE. THESE
FREAKS WANT
THE ENTIRE
PLANET. CAN'T
LET 'EM HAVE
IT SEEM' AS
HOW I WANT
IT.

HEY, BRING
GUNS! LOTS OF...
SSZZZZZZ

HOLD THE
SIGNAL!

I STILL
CAN'T GET
A FIX...
WE'VE
LOST
IT!

BERAN,
TRACK DOWN
CAGE. STACEY,
GET A COMBAT
READY. IT LOOKS
LIKE MR. HOLLY-
WOOD WAS
TELLING THE
TRUTH.

THE HONAN
PROVINCE,
CHINA

HIDDEN DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THIS
RICH COUNTRYSIDE IS LIU KANG'S
SHAOLIN TEMPLE. NOW, AS LIU RETURNS
VICTORIOUS, THE ONCE GREAT TEMPLE
LAYS IN RUIN.

THE STUDENTS WERE YOUNG. THEY WERE
LEARNING THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF THE
SHAOLIN WAY OF LIFE AND MYTHS OF
THE ORDER
OF LIGHT.

THE ATTACKERS KNEW THIS
TEMPLE WAS AN EASY TARGET.
THEIR MOTIVE WAS REVENGE--
AND REVENGE CAN RESULT IN
THE MOST VIOLENT OF ACTIONS.

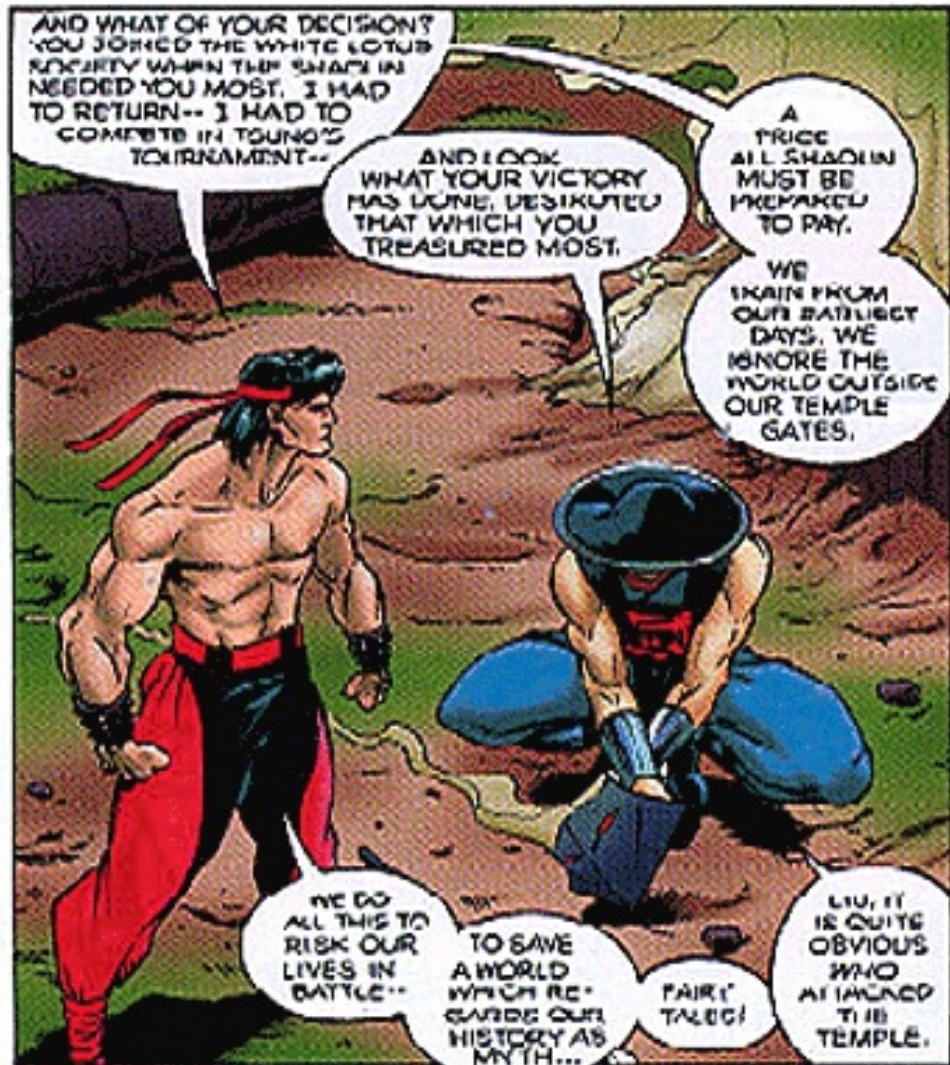
I SWEAR
MY SHAOLIN
BROTHERS...THE
VILLAINS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
THIS CRIME SHALL
PAY. THAT IS
MY PROMISE!

IT SOUNDS
MORE LIKE A
THREAT OF
REVENGE.

WHO...?

KUNG
LAO!

I AM
SURPRISED YOU
REMEMBER. YOU
LEFT OUR WHITE
LOTUS SOCIETY
TO COMPETE IN THE
GREAT TOURNAMENT.
NOW...YOU RE-
TURN TO THIS.



AND WHAT OF YOUR DECISION? YOU JOINED THE WHITE LOTUS SOCIETY WHEN THE SHADO IN NEEDED YOU MOST. I HAD TO RETURN-- I HAD TO COMPLETE IN TOUNG'S TOURNAMENT--

AND I LOOK WHAT YOUR VICTORY HAS DONE, DESIKUTED THAT WHICH YOU TREASURED MOST.

A PRICE ALL SHADOIN MUST BE PREPARED TO PAY.

WE SKINN FROM OUR BATHLET DAYS. WE IGNORE THE WORLD OUTSIDE OUR TEMPLE GATES.

WE DO ALL THIS TO RISK OUR LIVES IN BATTLE--

TO SAVE A WORLD WHICH RE-GARDE OUR HISTORY AS MYTH...

FAIR TALK!

LIO, IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS WHO ATTACKED THE TEMPLE.



YOUR BATTLE WITH THE OUTWORLD DEMONS IS FAR FROM OVER.

WHEN IT RESUMES YOU CAN COUNT ON KUNG LAO TO FIGHT AT YOUR SIDE.



FROM THE SKY COMES AN ODD SIGHT OF A HOVER-JET -- OUT OF PLACE IN THESE ANCIENT SURROUNDINGS -- AND WELCOME.

WE HAVE VISITORS.

THIS TEMPLE HAS BEEN A SACRED AND HIDDEN LOCATION FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.



APPARENTLY, NO LONGER. THAT AIRCRAFT BELONGS TO THE LIN KUEI.



HELLO THERE!
QUITE A BATTLE THAT
TOOK PLACE HERE! WE
CAUGHT SOME OF IT ON
SURVEILLANCE.

WHAT
DO YOU WANT,
ASSASSIN?

ASSASSIN?
ONLY WHEN THE
JOB CALLS FOR IT.
PLEASE GIVE ME
A MOMENT TO
EXPLAIN.



HERE'S
MY
CARD.

CONTACTS
IN:
HOLLYWOOD
PACIFIC
SUB-ZERO

YOU'RE
NOT
SUB-ZERO.

I SAW
FIM SEE.
MURDERED
BY A SPECTER
CALLED
SCORPION.

YES WE ALL HAVE OUR GHOSTS.
THE SUB-ZERO YOU SAW KILLED
WAS MY OLDER BROTHER. HE WAS
STUBBORN IN MANY WAYS, REFUSED
TO UTILIZE MODERN TECHNOLOGY
ON HIS MISSIONS.

A SHAME,
REALLY. HE WAS
AMONG THE LIN
KUEI'S FINEST--
ALTHOUGH FAST
BECOMING
OBSOLETE.

I AM
TAKING HIS PLACE--
AND AS I AM SLOWLY
DISCOVERING, IN-
HERITING SOME OF
HIS GHOSTS.

WE WERE PICKING UP
VERY HIGH GAMMAMATRONIC READINGS
IN THIS AREA, INDICATING A PORTAL
OPENING. WE THOUGHT MAYBE GORO
WON THE TOURNAMENT... YOU KNOW
THE MYTHS-- TEN WINS IN A ROW
ALL HELL IS GOING TO COME
THROUGH A PORTAL.



WE TOOK
SURVEILLANCE
PHOTOS...

THEY KEPT
CALLING THIS GUY
SHANG TSUNG--
I THOUGHT HE
WAS AN OLD MAN.

THEY
SAID SOME-
THING ABOUT
GOING AFTER
CAGE.

A FRIEND.

WHO'S
HE?

TELL ME
SUB-ZERO--
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
OF HOLLY-
WOOD?

AT THE STUDIOS OF KARATE
FLICK PICTURES IN HOLLYWOOD...

CAGE COLDSNE
DIR: E. BOON
I.C. PRODUCTS
SCENE
1
TAKE
5

CAGE
COLDSP,
TAKE
ONE!

AND...
ACTION!

OH CAGE
YOU SAVED MY
LIFE ONCE AGAIN
AND YOU SMELL
SO GOOD

THAT'S
BECAUSE
I'M WEARING
MY NEW
COLDSP...
CAGE!

WHEN
I WIN THE
GIRLS... I'VE
GOTTA SMELL
GOOD!

SOMETHING
UNEXPECTED
IS ABOUT TO
HAPPEN...

JOHNNY CAGE WILL SOON
FIND THAT HIS RECENT
EXPLOITS ON SHANGHAI ISLAND
HAVE FOLLOWED
HIM HOME

HEY!
WHAT'S
WITH THE
EFFECTS?

COOL!

THEY'RE
WRECKIN'
MY BACK-
GROUNDS!



SHANG TSUNG.

MR. CAGE IS IN THE LOBBY...

LOOK, LADY, WE DON'T NEED WARRANTS. WE'RE WITH THE SPECIAL FORCES AND WE'RE TRYING TO BE NICE ABOUT THIS.

WE KNOW CAGE IS TAPING IN ONE OF THESE STUDIOS. WE'LL SHUT THIS ENTIRE PLACE DOWN AND CATCH HIM OURSELVES IF WE HAVE TO.

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

GOOD JOB, LADY.

BA-BADOOSH!

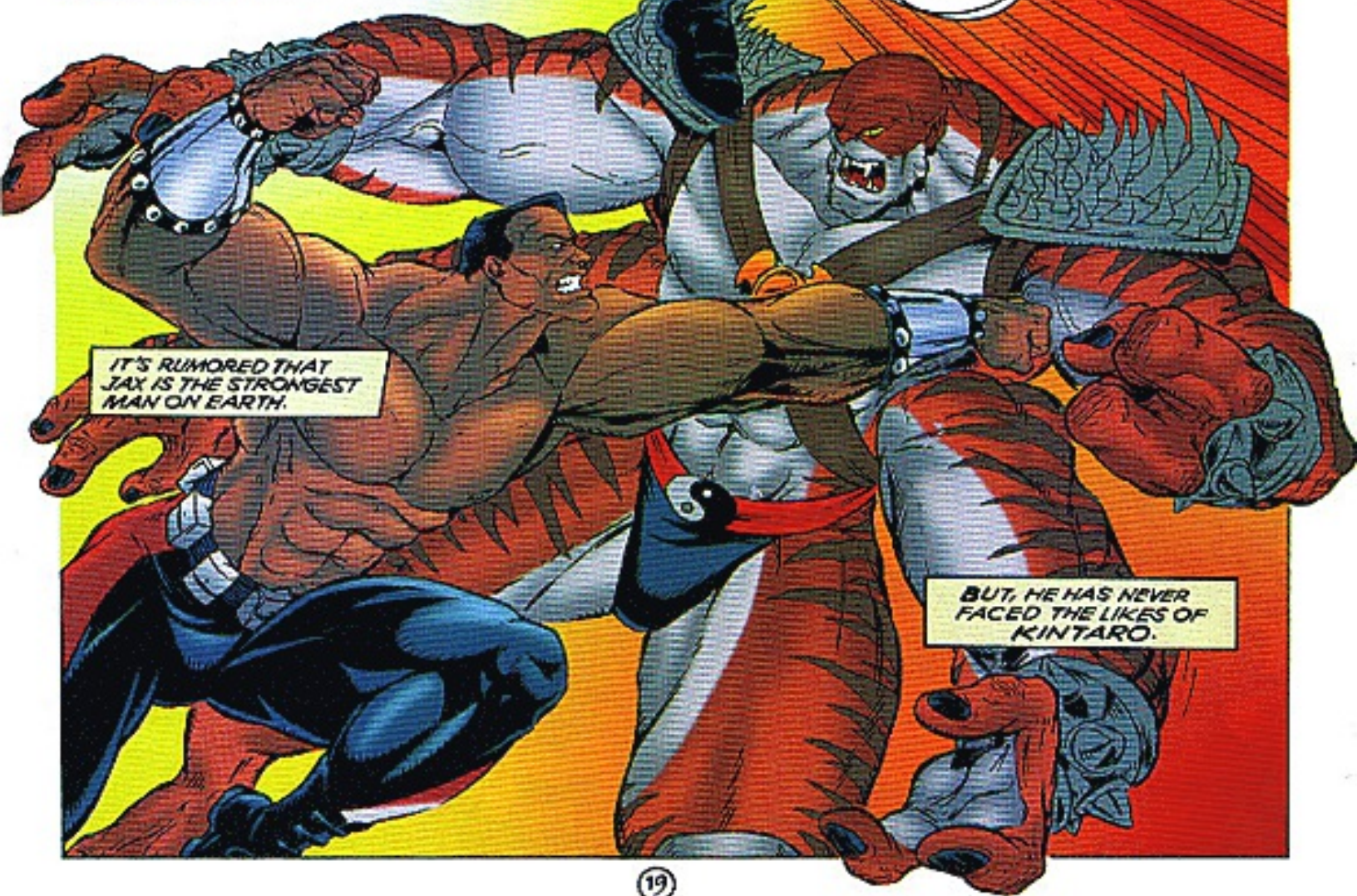
Omigod!!

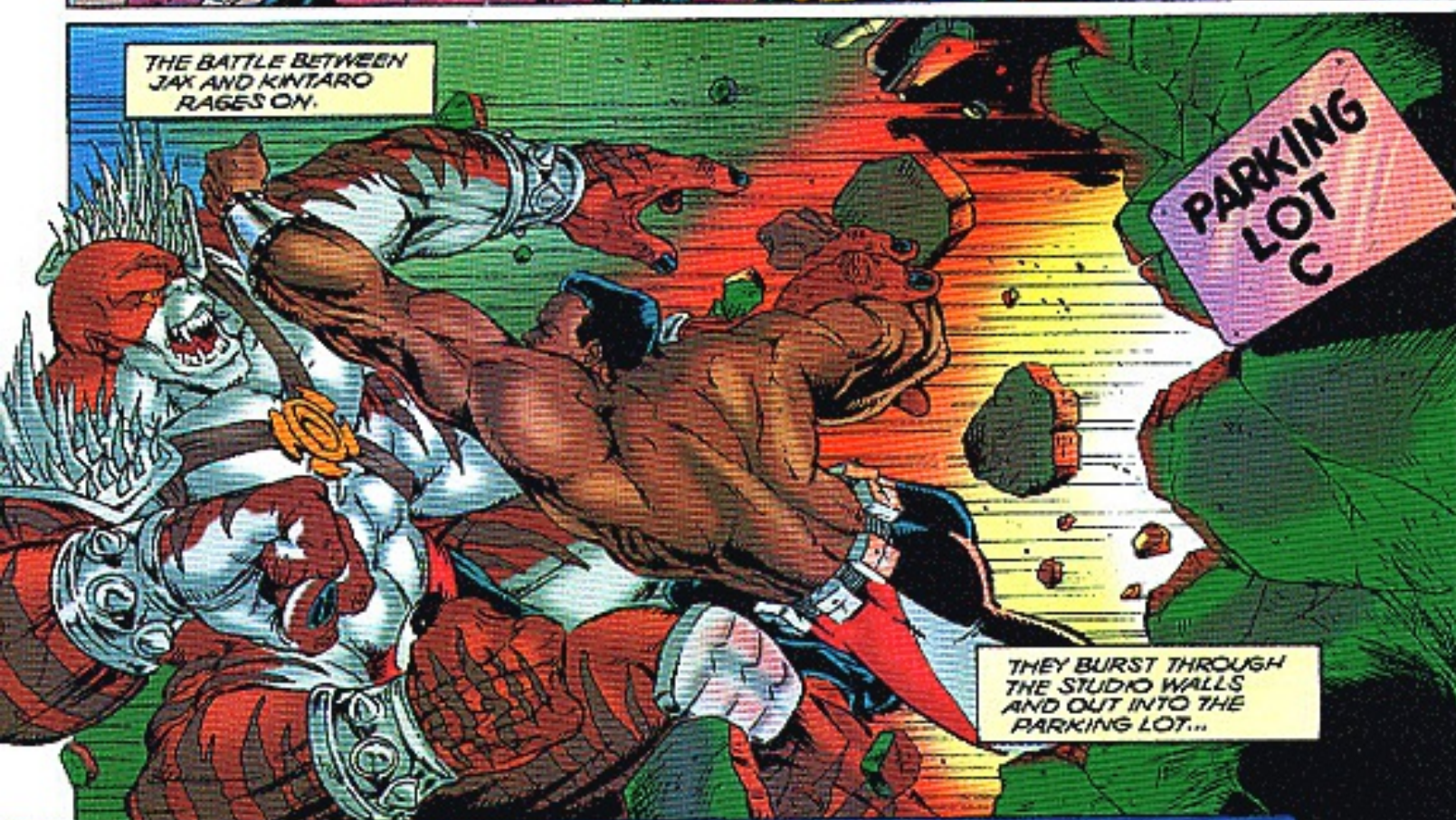
WOAH! HE DOES DO HIS OWN STUNTS!

THAT DOES IT!

MR. CAGE, ARE YOU ALL KRYITS!











ANY
ENEMY
OF SHANG
TSUNG IS A
FRIEND OF
OURS.

NOW
VILLAINS, YOU
HAVE THREE
WARRIORS TO FACE.
I WOULD SAY THE
ODDS HAVE
EVENED OUT
A LITTLE.

WHAT'S
THE MATTER,
FREAKS?
YOU LOOK
SCARED.

I CAN
ASSURE YOU
WARRIOR,
FEAR IS NOT
A CONCERN
OF OURS.

AND, NOW
THAT THE GRAND
CHAMPION LIU KANG
HAS ARRIVED WE HAVE
A PROPOSITION FOR
THE WARRIORS OF
YOUR REALM.



AS SHANG TSUNG SPEAKS, HE FAILS TO NOTICE SUB-ZERO--WHO DELIVERS A SNEAK ATTACK WITH STARTLING PERFECTION.

BUT, AS SUB-ZERO WAS WARNED EARLIER...

...WITH SHANG TSUNG, THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM.

WHAM!

OOOF!

WHAT?!
I SEEM TO HAVE HIT AN INVISIBLE WALL?

POOF!

AH, I SEE THE LIN KUEI HAVE SENT SUB-ZERO ONCE AGAIN. YOUR MISSION, NO DOUBT, IS MY ASSASSINATION.

BUT, HE HAS FAILED AGAIN MY MASSSTER. NOW HE WILL PAY WITH HIS LIFE AT THE HANDS OF REPTILE.



KRA-KOOM

ENOUGH!
SHANG TSUNG,
YOU ARE HERE A-
GAINST THE WISHES
OF THE ELDER GODS.
THIS SKIRMISH HAS
TAKEN PLACE OUT-
SIDE OF TOURNAMENT
BATTLE--AN ACT THE
ELDER GODS WILL
NOT TAKE
LIGHTLY.

I DO
NOT KNOW WHERE
YOUR RENEWED POWER
TO OPEN THE DIMENSIONAL
GATES CAME FROM, BUT I
ASSUME YOUR FOUL
EMPEROR SHAO KAHN
HAD A HAND
IN IT.

THIS
BATTLE WILL
CONTINUE NO
LONGER. YOU ARE
NOT WELCOMED IN
THIS REALM. STATE
YOUR BUSINESS
SHANG TSUNG AND
LEAVE--OR FACE
THE WRATH OF
THE THUNDER
GOD.

MY BUSINESS,
RAIDEN, IS TO EXERCISE
MY RIGHT OF CHALLENGE.
AND I CHALLENGE THESE
MORTALS TO COMPETE IN
A NEW CONTEST HOSTED
BY THE MIGHTY SHAO
KAHN HIMSELF.

WE HAVE THIS RIGHT,
RAIDEN, FOR WE AS MORTALS FROM
THE OUTWORLD POSSESS THE ABILITY
TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL
GATES--THUS WE ALSO POSSESS THE
RIGHT TO CHALLENGE ANY REALM
WE HAVE ACCESS TO.



THE CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MADE. NOW YOU MUST ACCEPT IT OR FORFEIT.

EARTH WARRIORS.



THE DEMON IS GONE!

YES, AND HE LEAVES A MOST INTERESTING SITUATION.

RAIDEN, THE TOURNAMENT IS FINISHED--WE BEAT SHANG TSUNG. HOW CAN HE MAKE THIS CHALLENGE? WHAT IF WE REFUSE TO TAKE PART?



YOU MUST DEFEND YOUR TITLE, LIU KANG. THIS IS AN ONGOING BATTLE. IT DOES NOT END WITH ONE VICTORY. TO FORFEIT THE CHALLENGE WOULD WEAKEN YOUR REALM'S STANDING WITH THE ELDER GOOS-- YOU WOULD UNBALANCE THE FURIES."

YAX, KING LAD AND SUB-ZERO, YOUR PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN PREORDAINED BY THE GOOS THEMSELVES. YOUR ACCEPTANCE WOULD STRENGTHEN YOUR REALM'S CHANCE OF WINNING.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS HOCUS FOCUS STUFF. I'LL HAVE TO ASK MY PARTNER.



YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR PARTNER.

I FOUND HIS HAT NEXT TO A PILE OF BONES RIGHT AFTER THE FREAKS DISAPPEARED.

THEN THE ANSWER IS YES. I WILL COMPLETE.





**"BY THE UNHOLY DARKNESS THAT CONSUMES ME
I WILL HAVE THE EARTH REALM!"**

SHAO KAHN