

BLIZZARD
ENTERTAINMENT

OVERWATCH



COST OF LIFE

BRANDON EASTON

JOE NG



COST OF LIFE



Doctrine, a brilliant cybernetic engineer, rejects the limits of life and death to save the one person he cares about. As his work begins to consume him, he is forced to face the consequences of what he's become.

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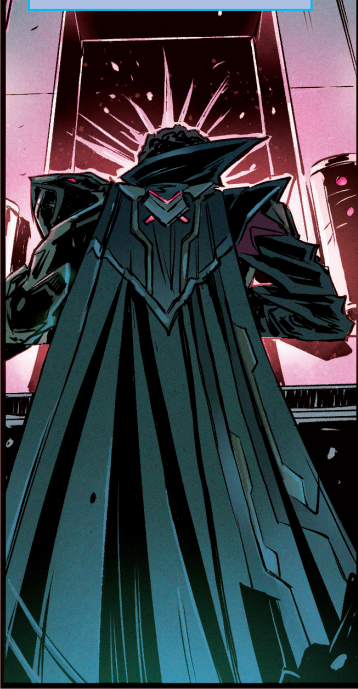
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WATCHPOINT: GRÍMSVÖTN...
LONG REGARDED AS THE
APPOINTED END OF MY KIND.



INNOVATORS.
FREE THINKERS.
VISIONARIES.

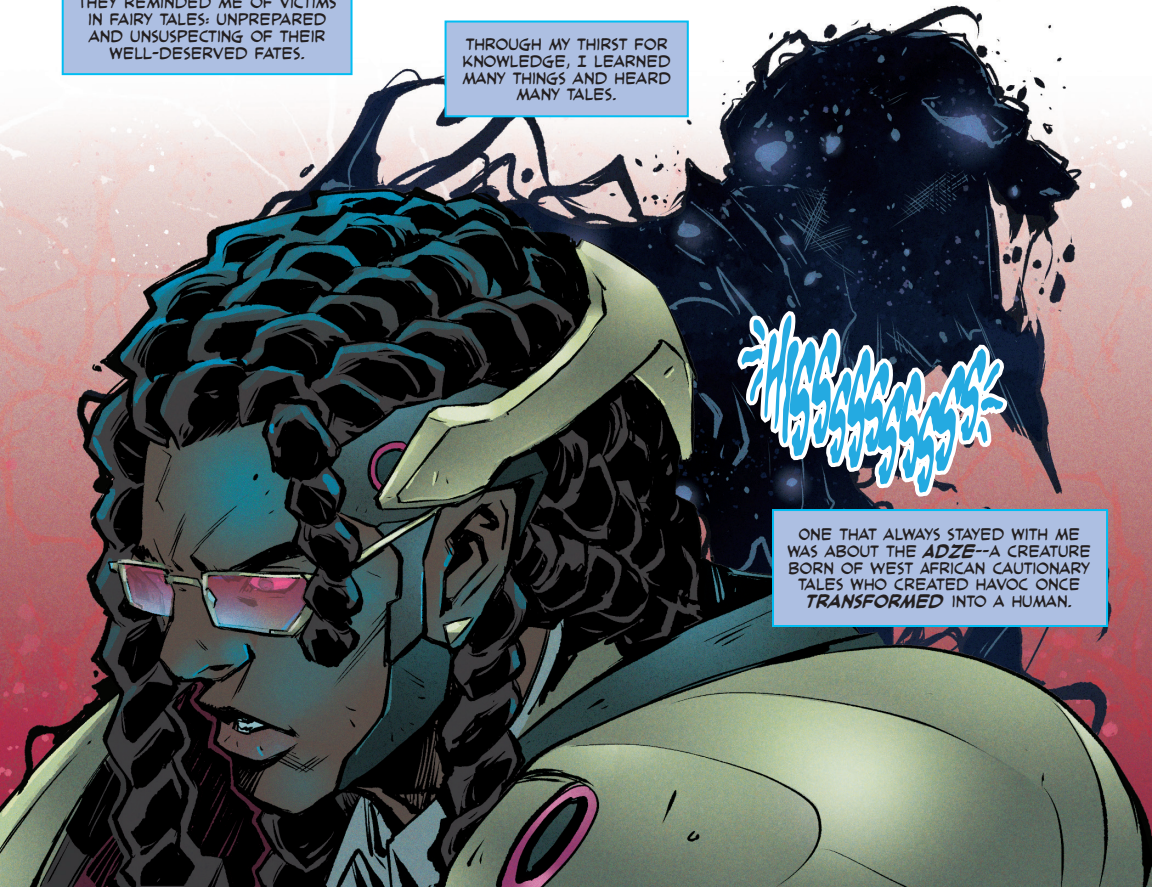
THEY DID WHAT THEY
COULD TO HUMILIATE ME.
MY STERN RESILIENCE WAS
AN INSULT TO MY JAILERS.



THEIR SMALL MINDS COULD
NOT COMPREHEND THAT
THEIR TORTURE WOULD
NOT BREAK ME.

THEY REMINDED ME OF VICTIMS
IN FAIRY TALES: UNPREPARED
AND UNSUSPECTING OF THEIR
WELL-DESERVED FATES.

THROUGH MY THIRST FOR
KNOWLEDGE, I LEARNED
MANY THINGS AND HEARD
MANY TALES.



ONE THAT ALWAYS STAYED WITH ME
WAS ABOUT THE **ADZE**--A CREATURE
BORN OF WEST AFRICAN CAUTIONARY
TALES WHO CREATED HAVOC ONCE
TRANSFORMED INTO A HUMAN.



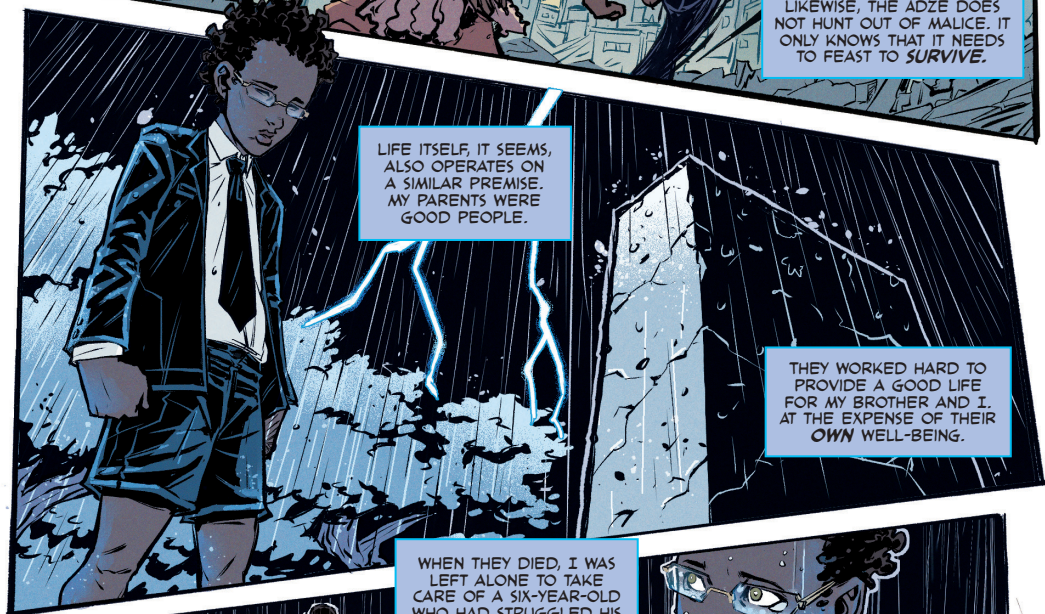
THESE TALES WARNED CHILDREN: NEVER GO OUT AFTER DARK! OR ELSE THE ADZE WILL CLAIM YOU.

THE SUPERSTITIOUS SAW THE ADZE AS A **MONSTER**, BUT MY VIEW WAS DIFFERENT. LIKE A MOSQUITO, IT REQUIRED... OTHER LIFE TO BE SUSTAINED.



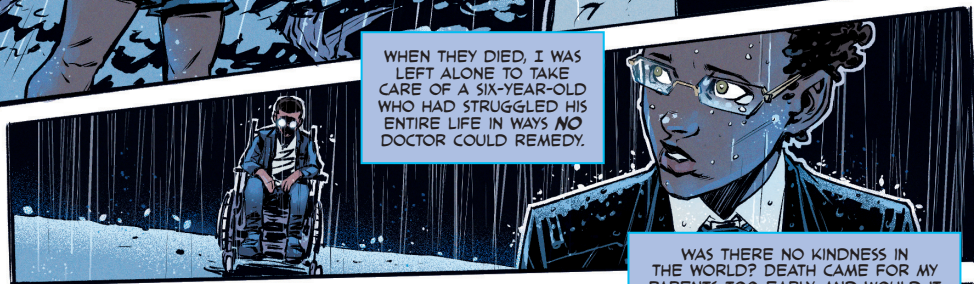
THE INSECT IS MOTIVATED BY THE PANGS OF SURVIVAL. IT MEANS NO HARM. BUT ITS BITE LEAVES LASTING DISCOMFORT.

LIKewise, THE ADZE DOES NOT HUNT OUT OF MALICE. IT ONLY KNOWS THAT IT NEEDS TO FEAST TO **SURVIVE**.



LIFE ITSELF, IT SEEMS, ALSO OPERATES ON A SIMILAR PREMISE. MY PARENTS WERE GOOD PEOPLE.

THEY WORKED HARD TO PROVIDE A GOOD LIFE FOR MY BROTHER AND I. AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR **OWN** WELL-BEING.



WHEN THEY DIED, I WAS LEFT ALONE TO TAKE CARE OF A SIX-YEAR-OLD WHO HAD STRUGGLED HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN WAYS **NO** DOCTOR COULD REMEDY.

WAS THERE NO KINDNESS IN THE WORLD? DEATH CAME FOR MY PARENTS TOO EARLY, AND WOULD IT NOW COME FOR **MY BROTHER** TOO?



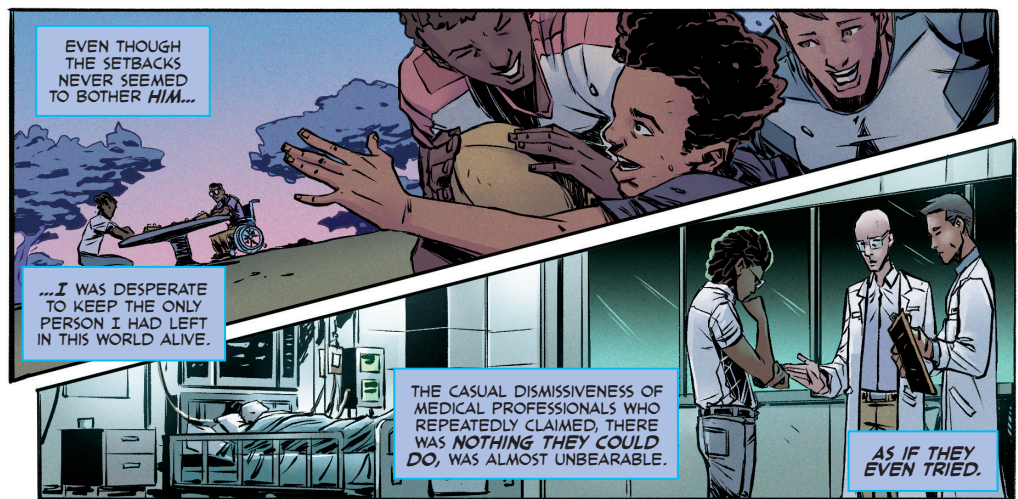
OR WAS SALVATION A **MYTH**? LIKE THE MONSTERS IN THE LEGENDS?

I **DEMANDED** AN ANSWER FROM THE UNIVERSE, AND I WOULD SOON LEARN THE PRICE FOR POSING SUCH A QUESTION.



I SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR **TATENDA**. WILLINGLY, FUELED BY THE FULL FORCE OF MY HEART.

HE SAW ME AS A HERO... AS HIS SAVIOR FROM A DANGEROUS WORLD.



EVEN THOUGH THE SETBACKS NEVER SEEMED TO BOTHER HIM...

...I WAS DESPERATE TO KEEP THE ONLY PERSON I HAD LEFT IN THIS WORLD ALIVE.

THE CASUAL DISMISSIVENESS OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WHO REPEATEDLY CLAIMED, THERE WAS **NOTHING THEY COULD DO**, WAS ALMOST UNBEARABLE.

AS IF THEY EVEN TRIED.



DO NOT PATRONIZE ME! IS MY BROTHER NOT ENOUGH OF A **REVELATORY CASE** FOR YOU?! YOU CANNOT FIND A CURE QUICKLY SO YOU SIMPLY **GIVE UP?**

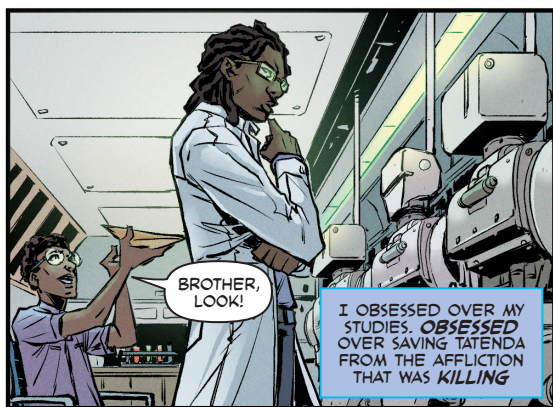
THEIR COLLECTIVE INCOMPETENCE ONLY FUELED MY DESIRE TO **SAVE** TATENDA... IN THE ONLY WAY I KNEW HOW.



I TORE INTO THE DISCIPLINES OF BIOENGINEERING, CELLULAR MANIPULATION, AND CYBERNETICS.

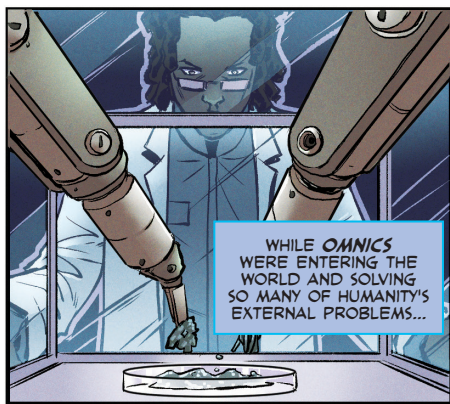
TO ME, THESE WERE NO LONGER SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS...THEY BECAME MY **RELIGION**. AND SOON, I WOULD FORMULATE A **NEW GOSPEL**.

BROTHER, ARE YOU DONE YET...?



BROTHER,
LOOK!

I OBSESSED OVER MY
STUDIES. **OBSESSED**
OVER SAVING TATENDA
FROM THE AFFLICTION
THAT WAS **KILLING**



WHILE **OMNICS**
WERE ENTERING THE
WORLD AND SOLVING
SO MANY OF HUMANITY'S
EXTERNAL PROBLEMS...

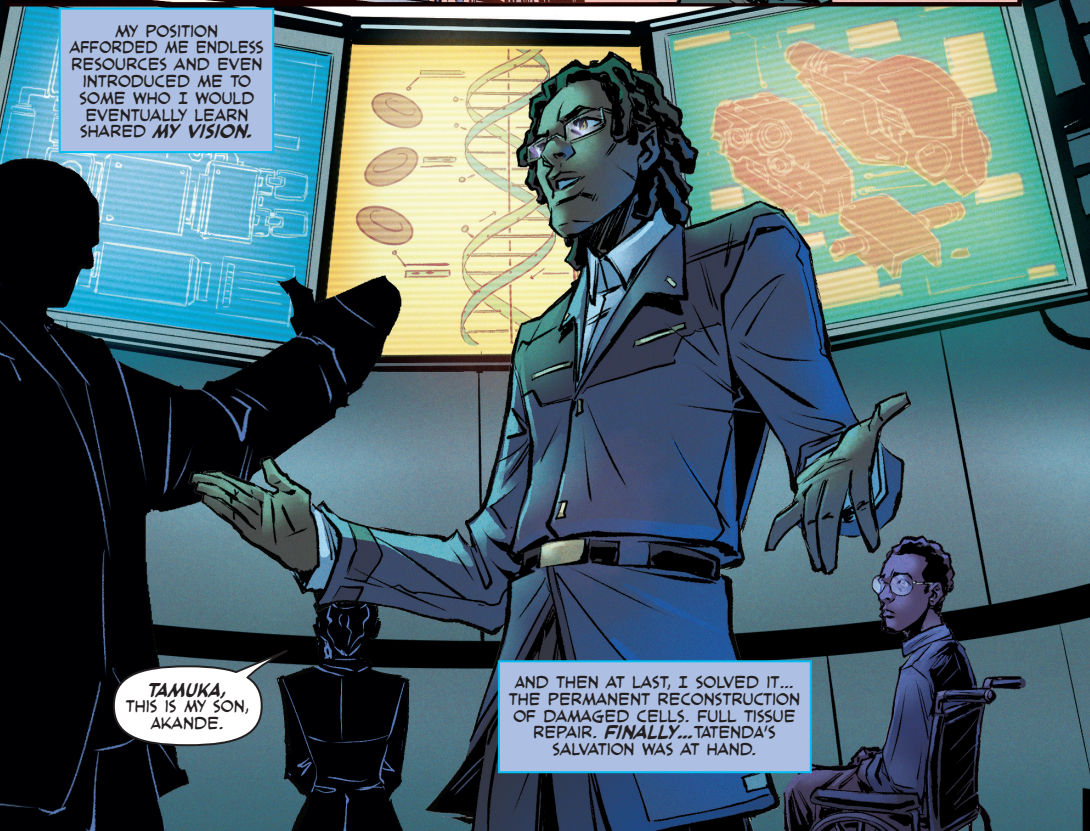


...I WAS MORE INTERESTED
IN SOOTHING THE ILLS THAT
RAVAGED US FROM **WITHIN**.

I WAS GETTING CLOSER TO
FINDING THE SOLUTION FOR
TATENDA'S ILLNESS, BUT I KNEW I
NEEDED TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES
OF MY DOCTRINE TO THE EDGE
OF REASON FOR SUCCESS.



MY GROWING PROGRESS CAUGHT
THE ATTENTION OF THE GREAT ELAINE
ESAT WHO RECOMMENDED ME FOR A
POSITION AT **OGUNDIMU SYNERGIES**.



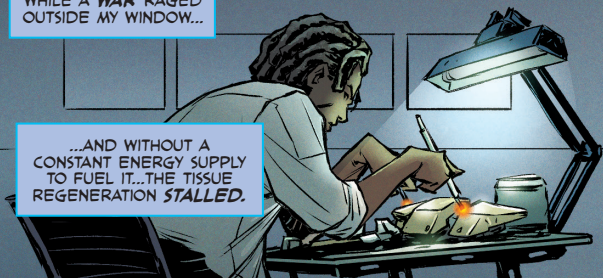
MY POSITION
AFFORDED ME ENDLESS
RESOURCES AND EVEN
INTRODUCED ME TO
SOME WHO I WOULD
EVENTUALLY LEARN
SHARED **MY VISION**.

TAMUKA,
THIS IS MY SON,
AKANDE.

AND THEN AT LAST, I SOLVED IT...
THE PERMANENT RECONSTRUCTION
OF DAMAGED CELLS. FULL TISSUE
REPAIR. **FINALLY**...TATENDA'S
SALVATION WAS AT HAND.



BUT I STRUGGLED TO
CONTINUE MY WORK
WHILE A **WAR** RAGED
OUTSIDE MY WINDOW...

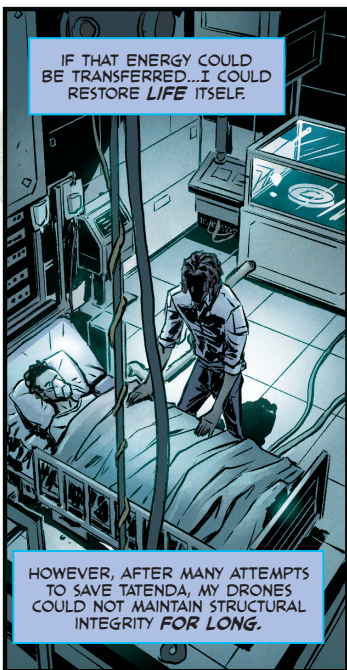


...AND WITHOUT A
CONSTANT ENERGY SUPPLY
TO FUEL IT...THE TISSUE
REGENERATION **STALLED**.



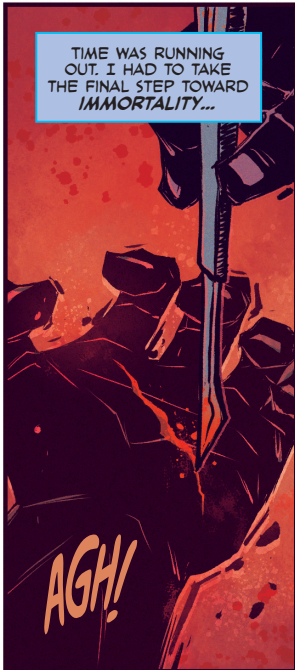
**BROTHER!
NO!**

IN THE URGENCY OF THE
MOMENT, MY MIND RACED.
ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET WAS
POWERED BY ELECTRICAL
IMPULSES--IT'S THE UNDERLYING
BATTERY OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

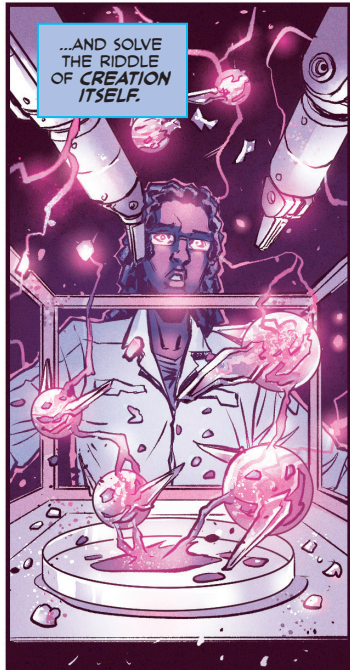


IF THAT ENERGY COULD
BE TRANSFERRED...I COULD
RESTORE **LIFE** ITSELF.

HOWEVER, AFTER MANY ATTEMPTS
TO SAVE TATENDA, MY DRONES
COULD NOT MAINTAIN STRUCTURAL
INTEGRITY **FOR LONG**.



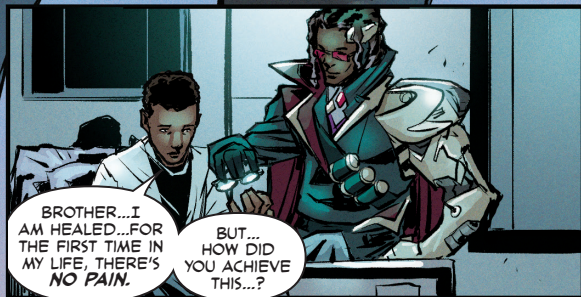
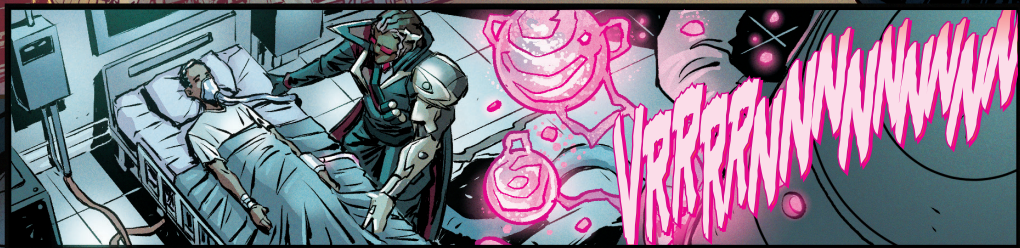
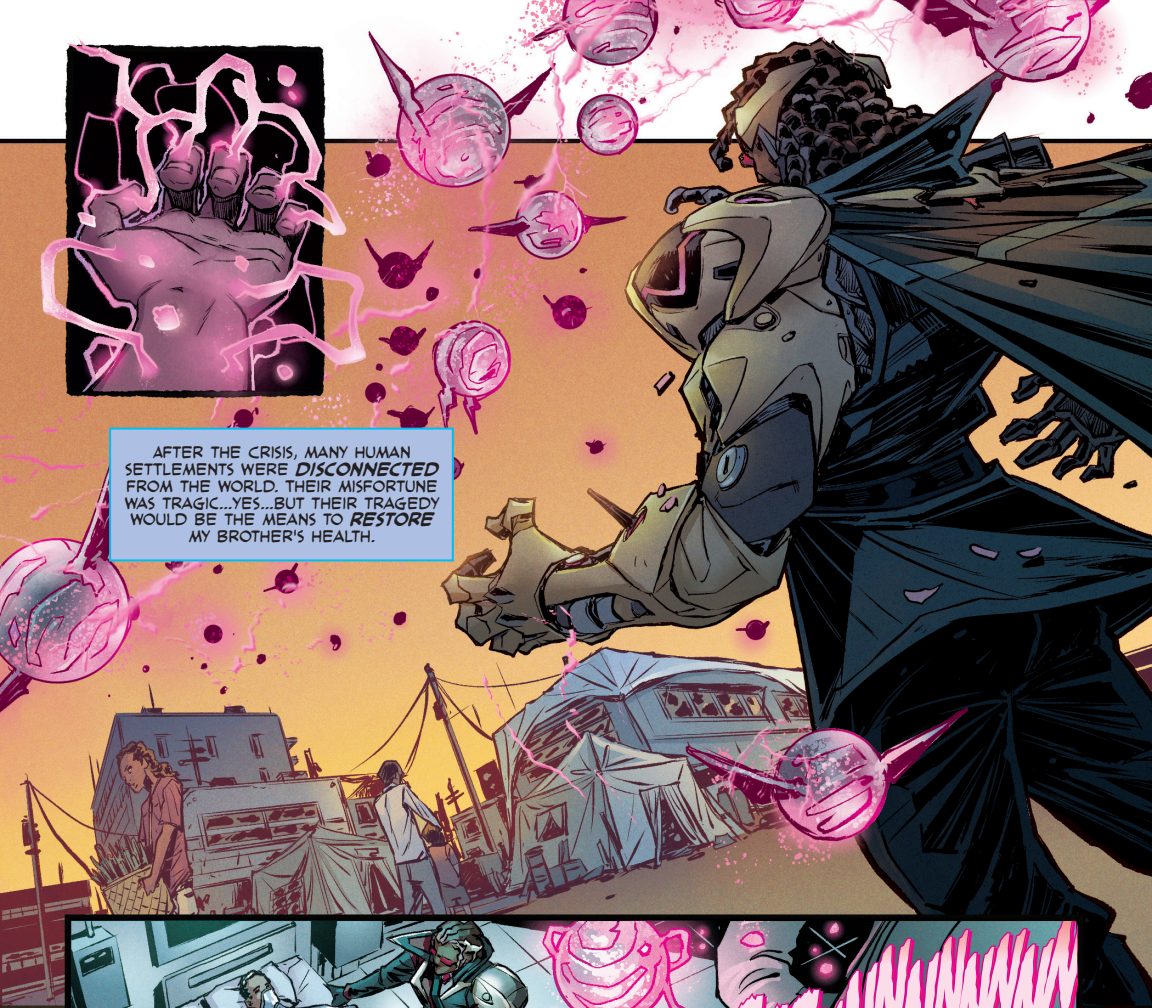
TIME WAS RUNNING
OUT. I HAD TO TAKE
THE FINAL STEP TOWARD
IMMORTALITY...



...AND SOLVE
THE RIDDLE
OF **CREATION**
ITSELF.



AFTER THE CRISIS, MANY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WERE *DISCONNECTED* FROM THE WORLD. THEIR MISFORTUNE WAS TRAGIC...YES...BUT THEIR TRAGEDY WOULD BE THE MEANS TO *RESTORE* MY BROTHER'S HEALTH.



BROTHER...I AM HEALED...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, THERE'S **NO PAIN.**

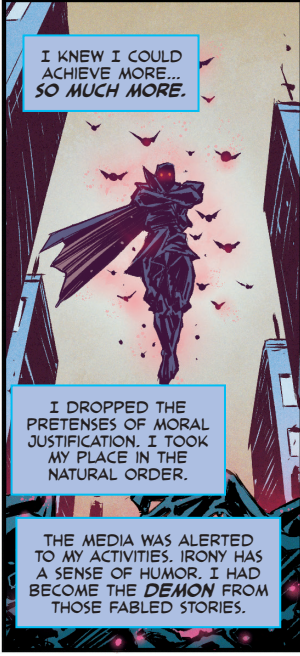
BUT... HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE THIS...?



WORRY NOT, MY BROTHER. LET US **REJOICE** IN YOUR WELLBEING.



THOUGH SUSPICIOUS OF MY METHODS, TATENDA BASKED IN THE RAYS OF HIS **NEW LIFE.** I SHARED IN HIS JOY, IN THE STILLNESS OF HAPPINESS UNTIL AN UNFAMILIAR SENSATION LED TO A BRAND-NEW KIND OF ACHE.



I KNEW I COULD
ACHIEVE MORE...
SO MUCH MORE.

I DROPPED THE
PRETENSES OF MORAL
JUSTIFICATION. I TOOK
MY PLACE IN THE
NATURAL ORDER.

THE MEDIA WAS ALERTED
TO MY ACTIVITIES. IRONY HAS
A SENSE OF HUMOR. I HAD
BECOME THE **DEMON** FROM
THOSE FABLED STORIES.



I ENDURED THE WORLD'S
SCORN...BUT WHAT I DID
NOT EXPECT WAS MY DEAR
BROTHER'S **REJECTION**.



BROTHER...THIS **WAS** YOU.
THIS IS HOW YOU HEALED ME.
WITH THAT **WRETCHED**
TECHNOLOGY.

WRETCHED?!
HOW COULD YOU
FORSAKE MY GIFT? YOU
WERE **SUFFERING**...I
ONLY WISHED TO SEE YOU
SMILE **WITHOUT PAIN**
IN YOUR EYES.



BUT BROTHER...
I WASN'T SUFFERING,
I SMILED WITHOUT
PAIN. ALL I WANTED,
ALL I **NEEDED**,
WAS YOU.

YOU SACRIFICED THE LIVES OF
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
TO CHASE SOMETHING I
NEVER AGREED TO.

beep



I KNEW YOU WERE UP TO
SOMETHING **WICKED**. BUT I HAD
TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF. I NEEDED
CONFIRMATION. IT MAKES THIS
THAT MUCH EASIER.

WHAT DID
YOU--?



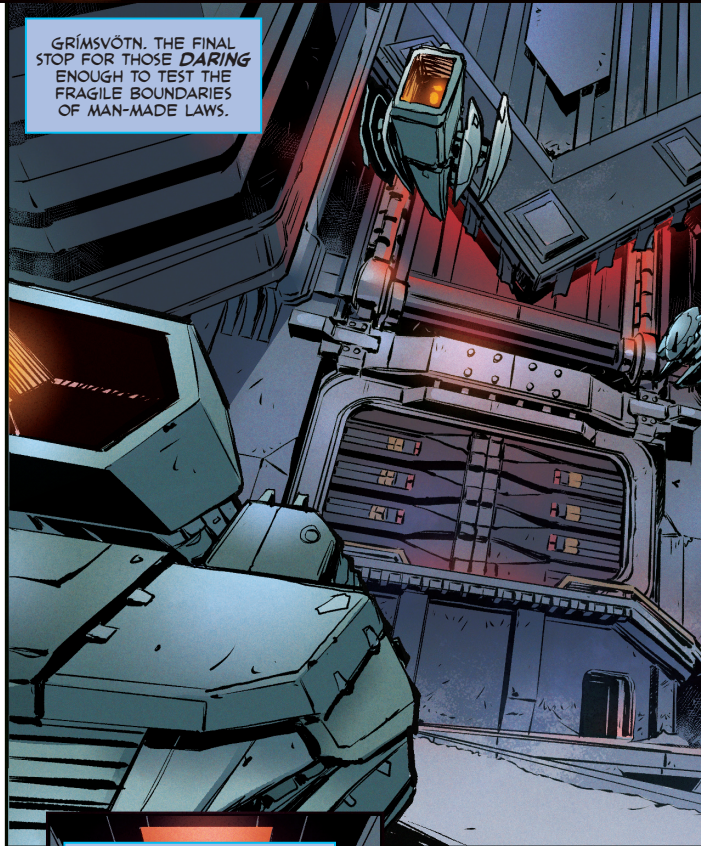
YOU ARE
UNDER ARREST. THINK
CAREFULLY ABOUT YOUR
NEXT MOVE, IT COULD
BE YOUR **LAST**.



GRÍMSVÖTN. THE FINAL STOP FOR THOSE *DARING* ENOUGH TO TEST THE FRAGILE BOUNDARIES OF MAN-MADE LAWS.



MY "TRIAL" WAS A FARCE. MY SENTENCE, *AN INSULT*. I WAS TO FOREVER BE BURIED IN THIS PLACE OF INTERMINABLE MISERY.



THE PRISON STANK OF HOPELESSNESS AND STUNTED ANGER. YOU COULD FEEL THE HATRED POURING FROM EVERY CELLBLOCK.



PATIENCE *IS* THE ULTIMATE VIRTUE. MY BODY WAS IMPRISONED, BUT THEY COULD NOT SHACKLE MY SOUL. MY MIND STAYED ACTIVE... IT STAYED *WORKING*.



LIKE THE MOSQUITO HUNTS ONLY TO *SURVIVE*... I TOO WOULD ONE DAY PROVE TO TATENDA THAT I DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIS OWN GOOD--THAT MY WORK WAS TO BE *PRaised*, NOT FEARED.

IN TIME, THE
WHEELS OF FATE
BEGAN TO SPIN IN
MY DIRECTION...

...MY SKILLS WERE
NEEDED ONCE MORE.
MY TALENTS...APPRECIATED
BY AN **OLD FRIEND**.

A PRISON BREAK...THE
JUSTIFIED EXHALE OF THE
DOWNTRODDEN...BUT I DID
NOT FLEE THESE CONFINES
AS MANY OTHERS DID.

FOR MY LIBERATOR
HAD NEED OF ME,
AND I WOULD
READILY OBLIGE.



IS IT
DONE?

OH,
YES...IT IS
DONE.

AND DESPITE THE WORLD'S
SCORN AND JUDGMENT, I WILL
ENDURE AND RISE AGAIN...
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.