

ALTERNATIVE COMICS' MOST PROPHETIC VISION OF THE FUTURE!

FOLLOWERS OF THE ALL!

TM



STOP!!

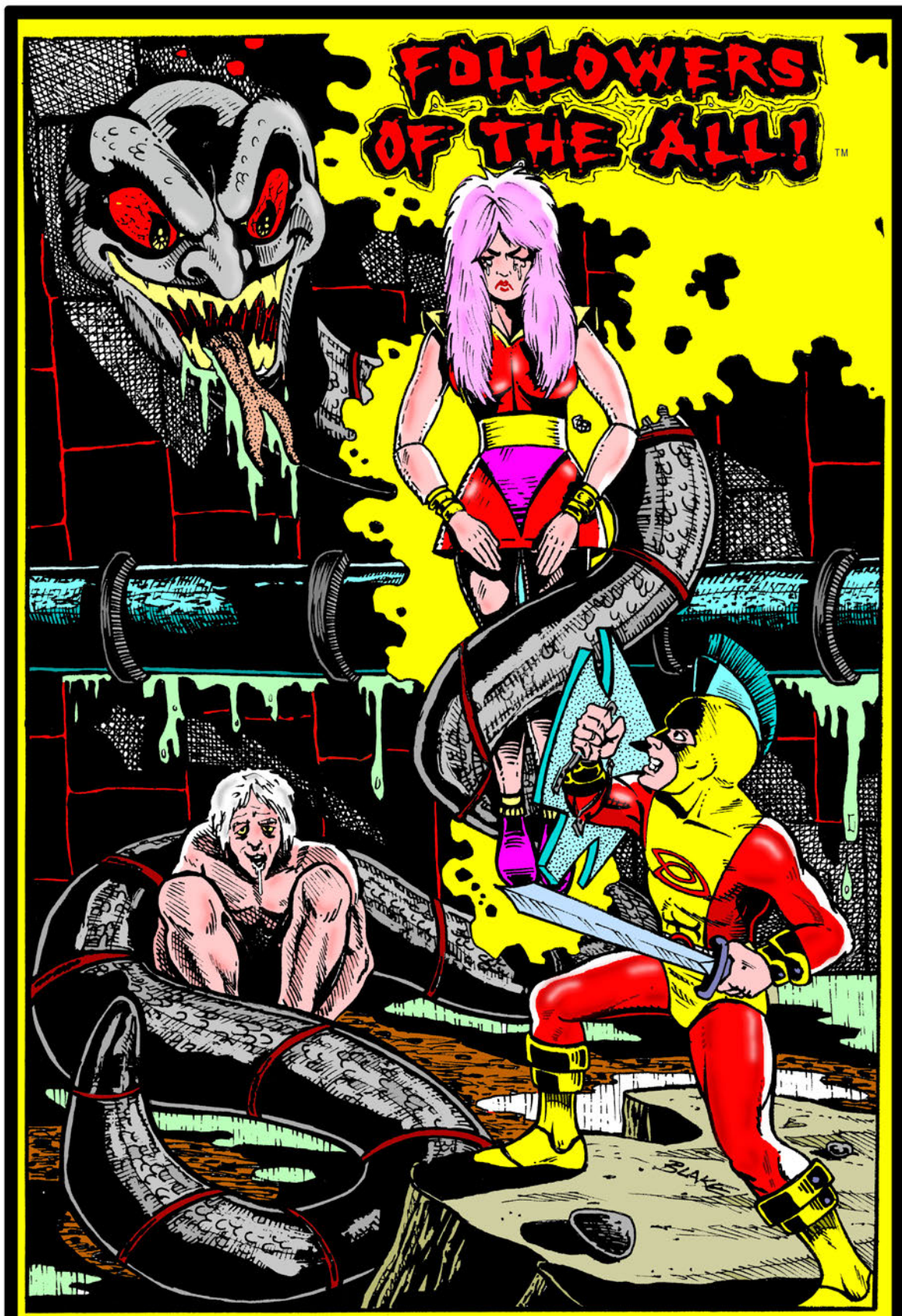
DON'T READ
THIS COMIC!!



THE ANTI-
CENSORSHIP
POLICE HAVE
DECLARED IT
ILLEGAL!!

1A





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OUT OF THE MORAL HAZE OF
THE SECOND GREAT DARK AGE
ONE FIGURE BECOMES DISTINCT.
A VOICE AS OF ONE CRYING IN
A PHILOSOPHICAL WILDERNESS.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE HAND
OF THE INFINITE TO MOTIVATE
AND GUIDE THE DIRECTION
OF THE FINITE?

THROUGH THE NEEDLES
EYE!

FOLLOWERS
OF THE ALL!

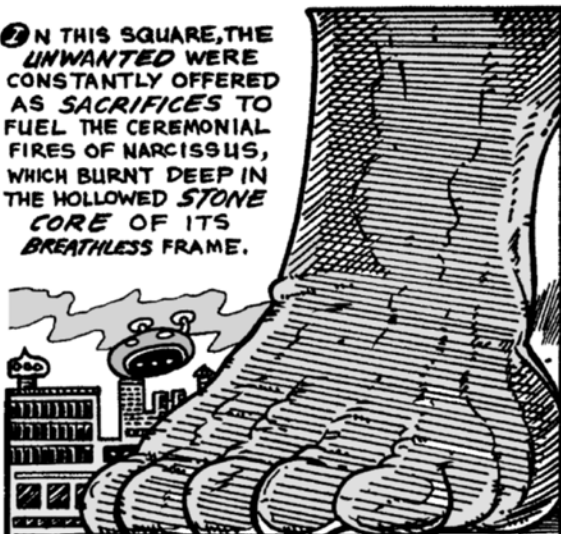
CREATED, WRITTEN &
ILLUSTRATED BY:
JAMES RUBINO
INKED & LETTERED BY:
LARRY BLAKE
"FOTA" LOGO DESIGNED
BY LB.

A BADDON HAD DECEIVED THE WHOLE WORLD. THE ENTIRE PLANET LAY
CLOTHED IN CHAINS OF DARKNESS AND IGNORANCE. BUT EVEN SO,
THERE WERE RUMORS OF AN "UNDERGROUND"--A RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT THAT WAS GAINING IN POPULARITY AMONG THE MASSES.
THEY WERE CALLED "FOLLOWERS OF THE ALL." THEY WERE QUIET
RENEGADES WHO DARED TO THINK, AND TO QUESTION THE
"NEW WORLD ORDER OF PEACE AND SAFETY." BUT, THEIR MOST
SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSE WAS THAT THEY DARED TO BELIEVE.

THE *TOWER OF BABEL* WAS THE CENTER OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN THE KINGDOM OF *BABYLON*, ITS GREAT LOOMING EDIFICE PERPETUALLY MASKED BY THE HAUNTING, FLAME-ILLUMINED *SHADOW* OF THE IDOL OF *NARCISSUS* WHICH STOOD IN THE TOWER'S VAST "COURT OF WORSHIP." THE IDOL REPRESENTED A MANIFESTATION OF THE ONE LEGALLY-SANCTIONED RELIGION OF--"MANN."



ON THIS SQUARE, THE UNWANTED WERE CONSTANTLY OFFERED AS SACRIFICES TO FUEL THE CEREMONIAL FIRES OF NARCISSUS, WHICH BURNT DEEP IN THE HOLLOWED STONE CORE OF ITS BREATHLESS FRAME.

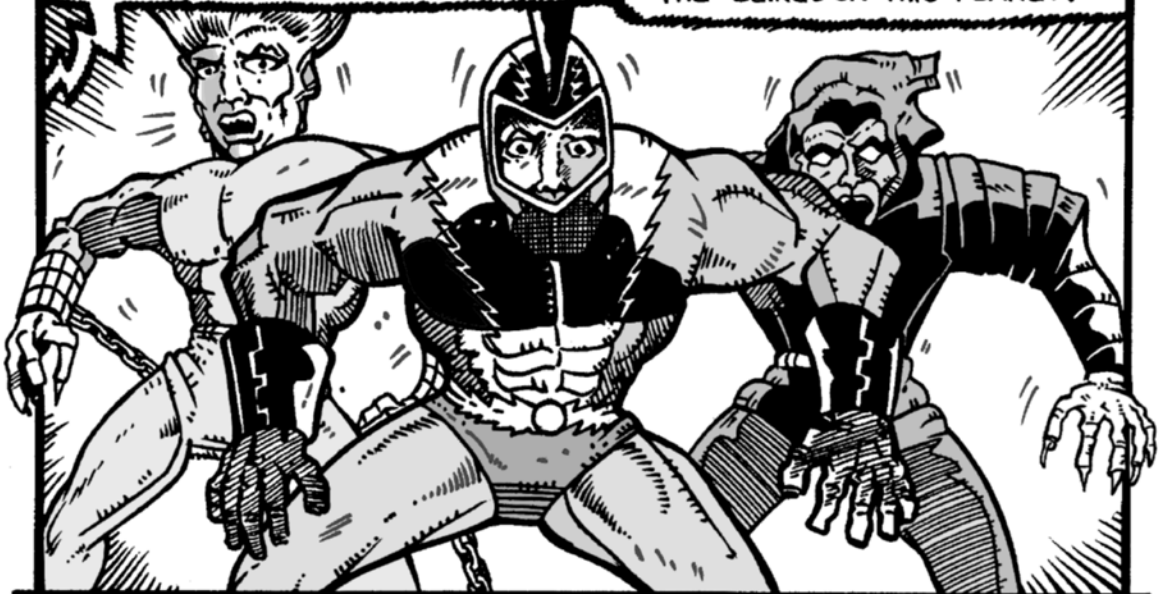


AND, FROM THE PENTHOUSE CONTROL-BASE OF THE TOWER, HIGH ABOVE THE TEEMING MASSES, THE NEW DICTATORS OF BABYLON VIEW THE MORBID SCENE WITH SADISTIC RELISH.

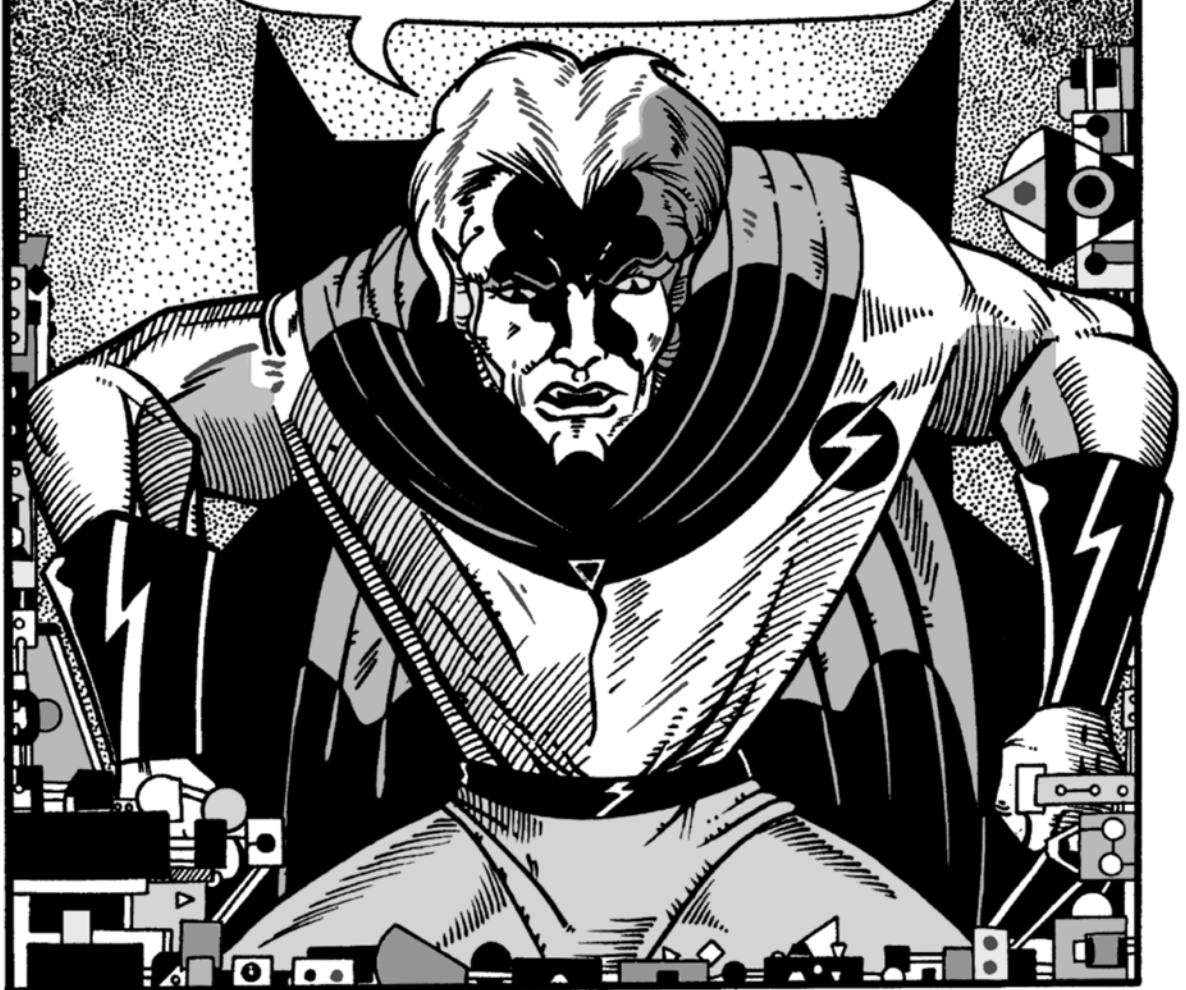




"OVERSTATED"??? NOW, YOU LISTEN TO ME, YOU GROPING, SNIVELING PUPPETS! IF EVEN ONE SOUL REFUSES TO BEND THE KNEE TO MY AUTHORITY-- IF EVEN ONE MOUTH STILL BREATHES A PRAYER TO "THE ALL" IN SOME SECRET CORNER, THEN WE HAVE UTTERLY FAILED!! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?! I WILL HAVE COMPLETE, TOTAL AND LITTER DOMINION OVER THE MINDS AND SOULS OF THE BEINGS ON THIS PLANET!



THE SHEEP GROW RESTLESS--THEY HAVE TOO MUCH IDLE TIME. IT IS YOUR JOB TO OCCUPY THEIR MINDS AND THEIR ATTENTION!

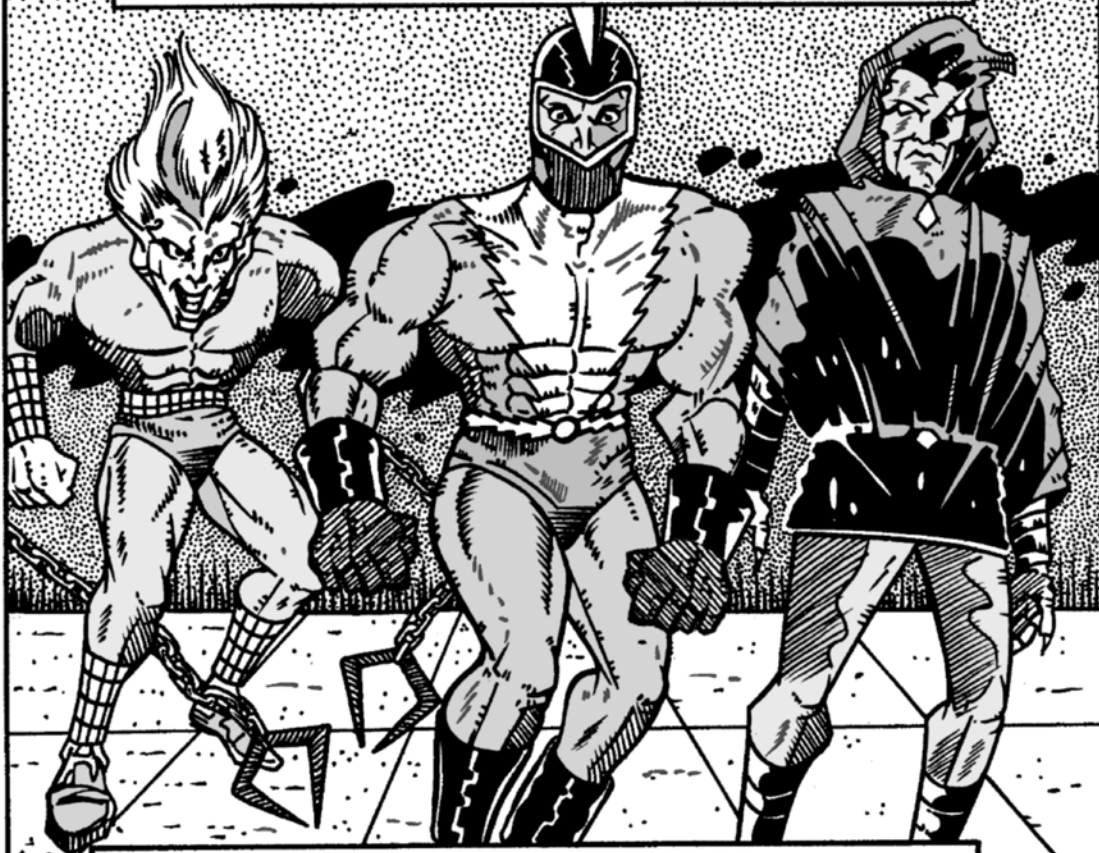


DON'T WORRY, MASTER!
WE'LL DEVISE *NEW* DISTRACTIONS
TO CAPTIVATE THEIR INTERESTS--
NOVEL TWISTS ON
OLD PROVEN
METHODS OF
MANIPULATION!

WE'LL WIN BACK
THE "DEFECTORS"
WITH PLEASURE--

--OR WE'LL
CRUSH THEM
WITH
POWER!!

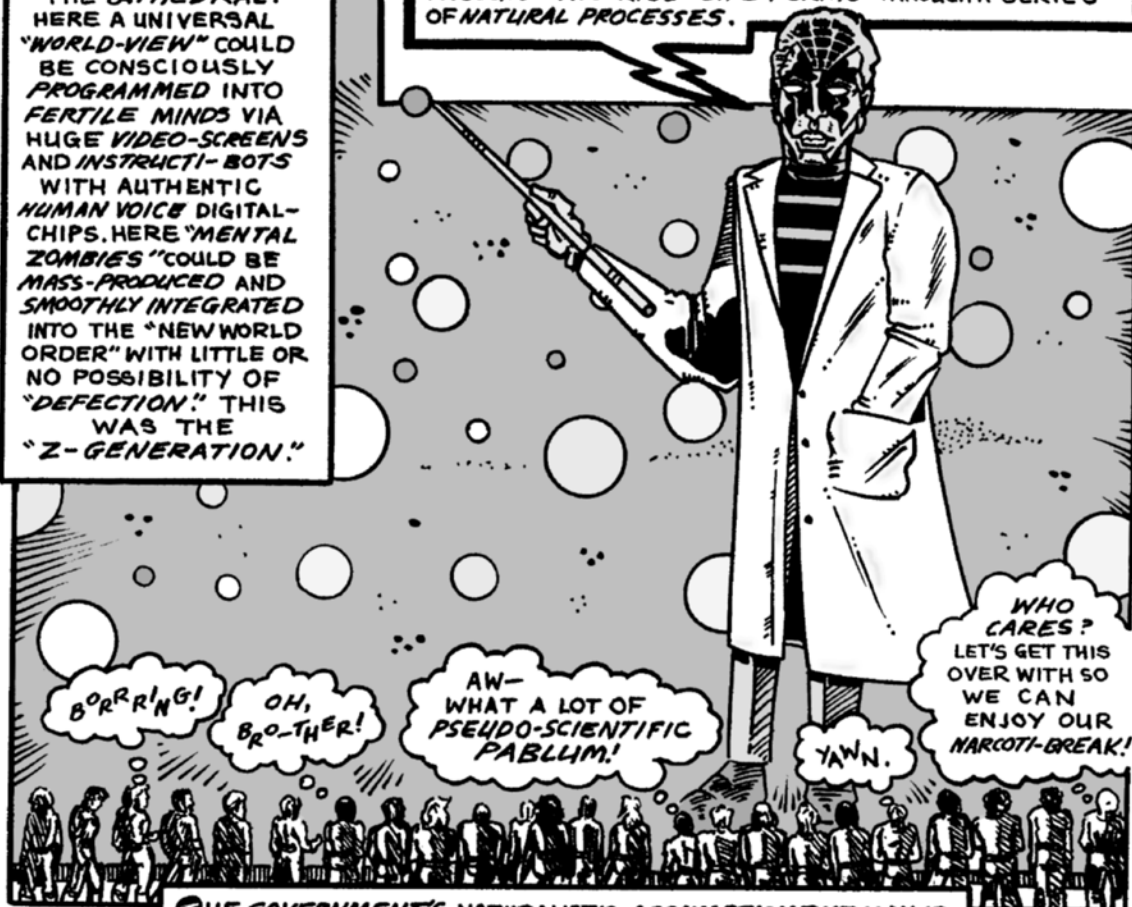
EVEN "DICTATORS" ARE *WORMS* BENEATH THE HEEL OF A
VORACIOUS TYRANT SUCH AS ABADDON-- *TOOLS* TO BE
USED FOR A *PURPOSE*, IN A GAME BEYOND THE UNDER-
STANDING OF THEIR INTENDED *VICTIMS*.



BROTHER SEKKZ, GENERAL DRUGGZ AND DR. ALCOHEL
ARRIVED AT THEIR POSITIONS OF POWER THROUGH CRAFT
AND CUNNING. THEY ARE FORCES TO BE RECKONED WITH :
DECEPTIVE, DETERMINED, AND DEADLY!!

RISING LIKE A GRIM
 MONOLITH ABOVE THE
 MYRIAD CIRCUITS OF
 BABYLON LOOMS
 THE CATHEDRAL.
 HERE A UNIVERSAL
 "WORLD-VIEW" COULD
 BE CONSCIOUSLY
 PROGRAMMED INTO
 FERTILE MINDS VIA
 HUGE VIDEO-SCREENS
 AND INSTRUCTI-BOTS
 WITH AUTHENTIC
 HUMAN VOICE DIGITAL-
 CHIPS. HERE "MENTAL
 ZOMBIES" COULD BE
 MASS-PRODUCED AND
 SMOOTHLY INTEGRATED
 INTO THE "NEW WORLD
 ORDER" WITH LITTLE OR
 NO POSSIBILITY OF
 "DEFECTION." THIS
 WAS THE
 "Z-GENERATION."

--THUS, THE *PROTO-GALAXY*, AN ENORMOUS *DUST MASS*,
 FORMED IN THE VASTNESS OF *EMPTY SPACE*, LATER TO *EXPLODE*
 AND SEND GALACTIC "*DUST-BALLS*" HURTLING THROUGH THE
 COSMOS! AS THESE SLOWED AND COOLED, THEY FORMED
 INTO *SOLID PLANETS*. SOME, SUCH AS OUR OWN, EVENTUALLY
 PRODUCED ASSORTED "*LIFE FORMS*" THROUGH A SERIES
 OF *NATURAL PROCESSES*.



BORRRING!

OH,
BRO-THER!

AW-
WHAT A LOT OF
PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC
PABULUM!

YAWN.

WHO
 CARES?
 LET'S GET THIS
 OVER WITH SO
 WE CAN
 ENJOY OUR
 NARCOTI-BREAK!

THE GOVERNMENT'S NATURALISTIC ASSUMPTION THAT MAN IS
 ONLY MIND AND FLESH WAS THE ONE FLAW IN THEIR PROGRAMME.
 THE SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE OF THE SOUL PRESENTED NAGGING
 QUESTIONS TO A FEW -- QUESTIONS THAT COULD NOT BE
 RESOLVED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S MASS-MARKETED
 "PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE AND HUMAN EXISTENCE."

"HUMANS" MERELY REPRESENT ONE POINT ON A GRAND AND
 EVER-FLOWING LINE OF EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT--NOT THE
 HIGHEST POINT BY ANY MEANS. A HIGHLY EVOLVED ANIMAL,
 A COMPLEXITY OF CHEMICAL - PROCESSES -- YES!
 BUT AN ANIMAL NONETHELESS.



-- THEREFORE, "HUMAN-KIND'S" ORIGIN IS IMPERSONAL--ONE MIGHT EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO SAY ACCIDENTAL. HUMAN-BEINGS ARE REALLY NOT MUCH MORE THAN A SORT OF FLESH AND BLOOD MACHINE.

-- STUDENTS YOU ARE PRIVILEGED TO EXIST IN A TIME SUCH AS THIS -- WHEN HUMANS ARE NO LONGER HAMPERED BY THE OPPRESSIVE YOKE OF RELIGIOUS SUPERSTITION. YOU ARE NOW FREE TO BECOME WHAT YOU TRULY ARE: NOTHING. "LIFE" NEED NOT HAVE "VALUE" OR "MEANING" TO VALIDATE ITSELF. YOUR FUNCTION IN THE GREAT DESIGN OF EVOLUTION IS JUSTIFICATION ENOUGH FOR YOUR EXISTENCE. -- THERE IS NO "TRUTH" AND THERE ARE NO "MORAL ABSOLUTES": A SENSE OF QUIET DESPAIR MEANS YOU HAVE ARRIVED--AND WELCOME TO THE GREAT SOCIETY! AND NOW, CLASS IS ENDED...

EMOTION
LOVE
INTELLECT
ASPIRATION
NOBILITY
AWARENESS
CREATIVITY
PURPOSE
EXISTENCE

NOTHING.

-AND, HAVE A
NICE DAY!





--HE'S A
DEFECTOR!
STOP HIM!
STOP HIM!

CAN'T KEEP
RUNNING-- BUT,
I'VE GOT TO--
I'VE GOT TO!!

HURRY
UP---

DON'T LET
'IM GET
AWAY!

THERE'S A
THOUSAND
"CREDITS"
FOR ALL
OF US
IF WE
CATCH
HIM!

--DEAD
END!

IT'S NO GOOD--THEY'RE
GOING TO GET ME-- I'M
FINISHED. MAY THE ALL
HAVE MERCY ON ME!

WE'VE
ALMOST GOT
'IM!! HAH!

-- LOUSY FANATICS !! YOU'RE
TO BLAME FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS
IN OUR SOCIETY!-- I'LL BEAT A
LITTLE SENSE INTO YOU!!

HEY! SAVE
A LITTLE FOR
THE REST OF
US! HAH! HAH!

N--
NO--
URKK!!



WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?

SECURITY-POLICE ROUNDING UP ANOTHER "SUBVERSIVE" --SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE HERE! MOVE IT!!

POLICE

Z-2756

-- FEEL LIKE HITTING THE "PITS"
BEFORE CURFEW? THEY'VE
GOT A GREAT NEW BAND
PLAYING THERE---THE
"DEMONS" --

NAH--

I'M NOT IN
THE MOOD
TONIGHT. I'M
JUST GONNA GO
BACK TO MY
CUBICLE
AND TAKE
IT EASY.

"PEACE AND SA



everyone's bus

ALL
RIGHT.
SEE
YA'
TOMORROW,
Z-3.

OKAY--

Z-
32656

AS SOON AS Z-3 ENTERS HIS
EXISTENCE CUBICLE, A BUILT-IN,
GOVERNMENT MANDATED AND CON-
TROLLED HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION
UNIT CLICKS TO LIFE--

HI
THERE!
AND
HOW
WAS
YOUR
DAY?

TERRIBLE!

THAT'S WONDERFUL!
AND NOW, MAKE YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE FOR ANOTHER
ENTERTAINING EVENING OF
HOLOGRAPHIC PROGRAMMING!

LIFE MAKES NO SENSE TO ME--
THIS IS ALL SO HORRIBLE AND POINTLESS.
IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE --

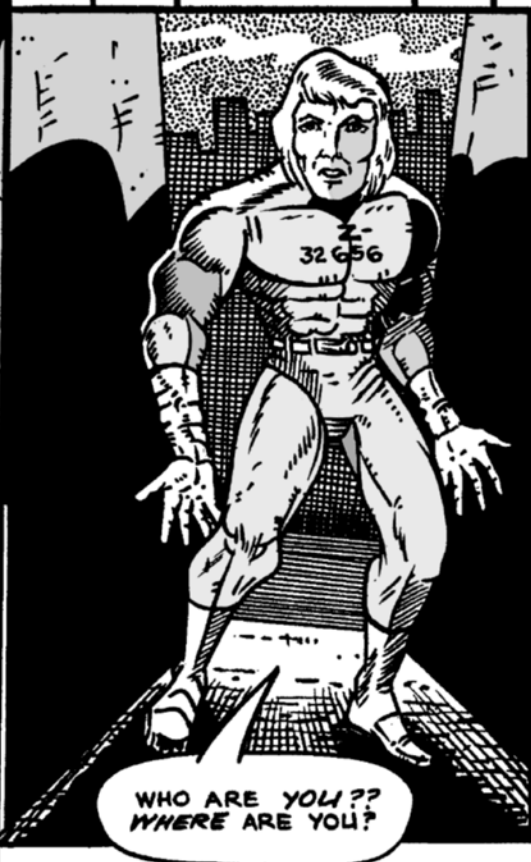


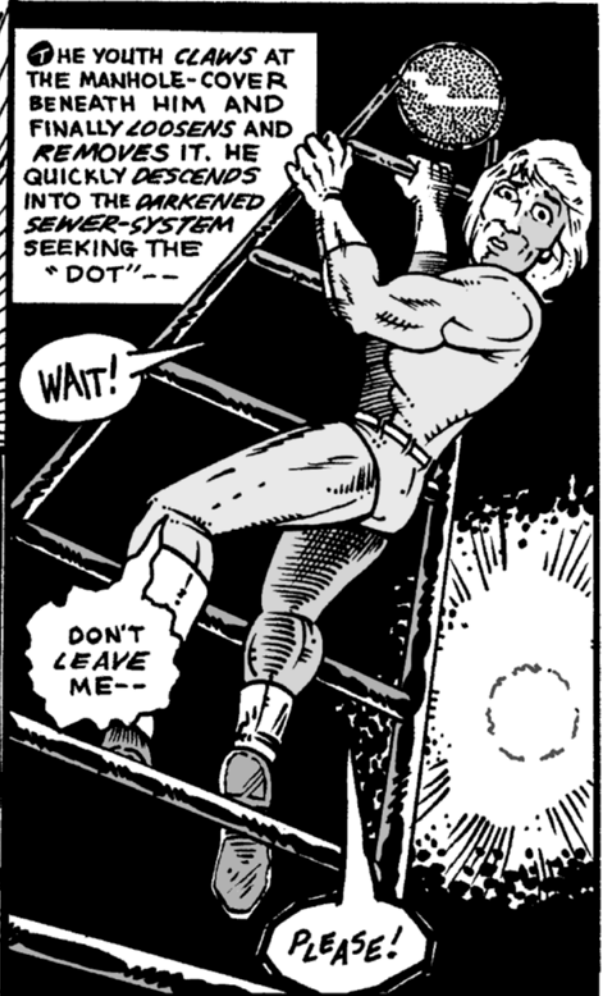
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE WORLD?--I
FEEL SO DEAD
INSIDE--



②- 32656 KNOWS NOT WHETHER THE VOICE IS MERELY PART OF HIS *IMAGINATION* OR A REMNANT OF SOMETHING IN HIS *MEMORY* THAT HE HAD HEARD *LONG AGO*, BUT HE IS *CURIOUS* ENOUGH TO DEFEY CURFEW AND TO PURSUE THE VOICE INTO THE STREETS BELOW.

③ IN THE PASSAGEWAY BETWEEN TWO HUGE CUBICLE-HOUSING COMPLEXES, Z-3 CRIES OUT IN A FORBIDDEN ACT OF "FAITH"--







I AM
HERE--
I AM WAITING
FOR YOU. YOU HAVE
BEEN CALLED--

"C--CALLED"??
I--I DON'T
UNDERSTAND--

Z-32656



THE WORLD IS IN DARKNESS
AND THE CATAclysm DRAWS
NEAR WHEN THE EARTH MUST
BE JUDGED FOR ITS TRANS-
GRESSIONS. I HAVE CHOSEN YOU
TO BEAR WITNESS TO
THE LIGHT--

BUT THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
YOU COMMUNICATE IN A
FASHION I CAN PERCEIVE
WITH MY SENSES--

--YET, I
CAN'T SEE
YOU!

UNTIL YOU ARE REBORN, YOU
CANNOT SEE--OR UNDERSTAND ME!



"REBORN"--?
BUT, HOW--I'M
A GROWN MAN!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE--



WITH ME--NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
LEAP THROUGH THE "NEEDLE'S EYE"
INTO THE REAL WORLD!

--THE "DOT"?? BUT,
IT'S TOO SMALL--
I COULD NEVER--

BELIEVE MY WORDS--AND ACT!

Z-3 LISTENS AND DECIDES. AN ACT OF FAITH IS THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSE POSSIBLE IN HIS TIME --

--ITS MANDATORY SENTENCE IS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT --BUT, HIS DECISION RESTS ON A HIGHER AUTHORITY--

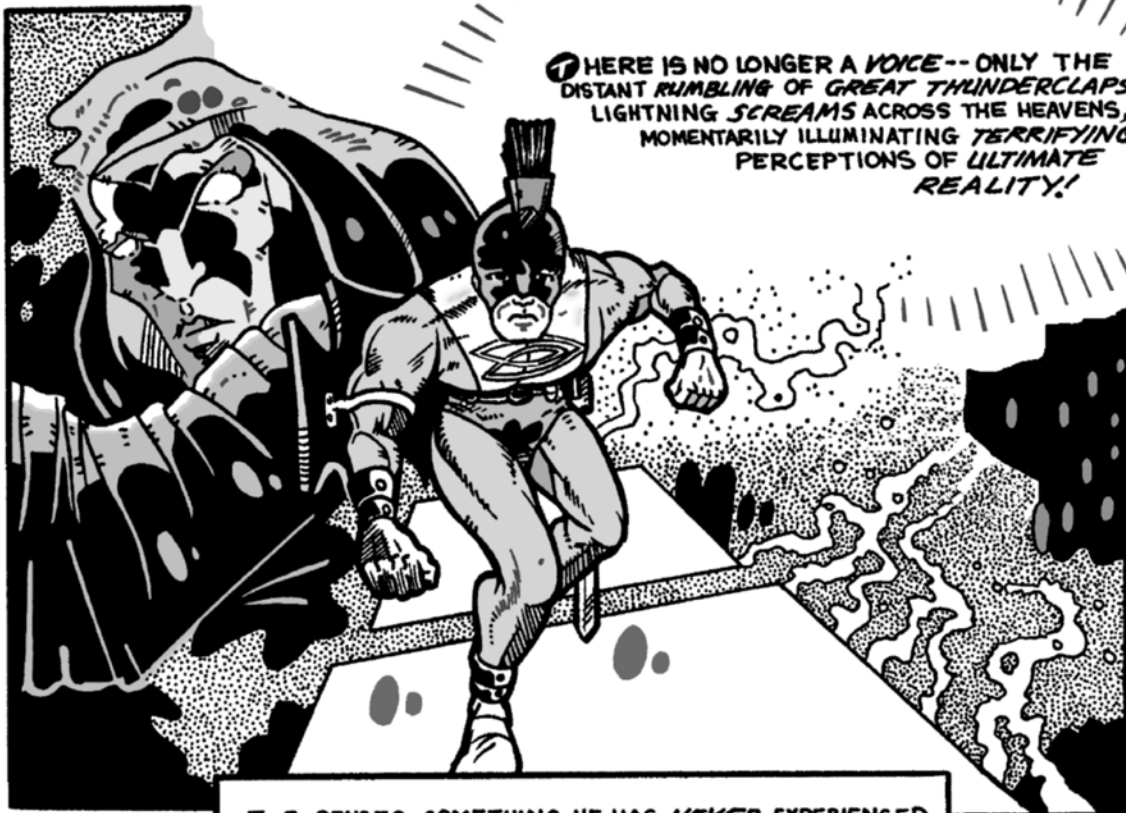
THE NEEDLE'S EYE!! THE PORTAL FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT! A MIND-STAGGERING NEW WORLD-VIEW-- THE STUNNING REALIZATION OF TRUTH AND REALITY!!

THE "CONVERSION-PROCESS" WHEREBY Z-3 IS ENABLED TO PASS THROUGH THE NEEDLE'S EYE IS MYSTERIOUS AND INEXPLICABLE! LIKE THE WIND, IT OCCURS *WHERE* AND *WHEN* IT WILLS-- AND, *WITHOUT WARNING!* PERHAPS THE "DOT" GROWS TO ADMIT ITS TRAVELLER AT THE PRECISE MOMENT OF CONTACT; BUT, MORE LIKELY, THE SUBJECT IS DRASTICALLY REDUCED IN SIZE AT THAT INSTANT TO ALLOW PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAIT GATE INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE ALL!

AS Z-3 PASSES THROUGH
THE NEEDLE'S EYE HE FINDS
HIMSELF SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED
INTO THE POWERFUL IMAGE OF
A WARRIOR!



⑦ HERE IS NO LONGER A VOICE-- ONLY THE
DISTANT RUMBLING OF GREAT THUNDERCLAPS!
LIGHTNING SCREAMS ACROSS THE HEAVENS,
MOMENTARILY ILLUMINATING TERRIFYING
PERCEPTIONS OF ULTIMATE
REALITY!

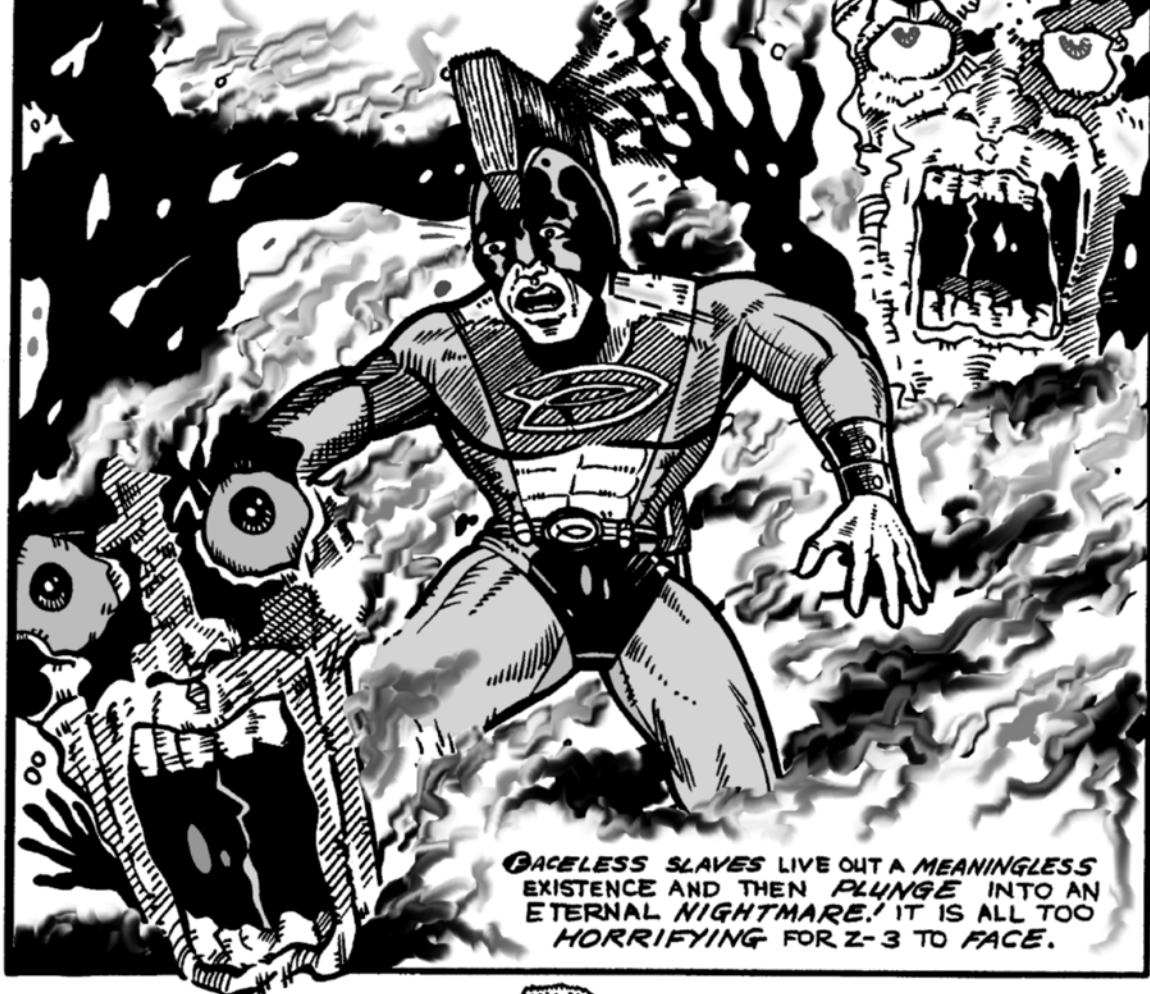


Z-3 SENSES SOMETHING HE HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED
BEFORE--AN AWARENESS OF THINGS AS THEY
REALLY ARE. IT IS AWESOME AND FRIGHTENING!



⑧ BEFORE HIM LOOM GREAT IMAGES OF
HORROR AND HATE! Z-3 REALIZES HE
HAS BEEN PLUNGED INTO A CONFLICT
OF UNIMAGINABLE PROPORTIONS!

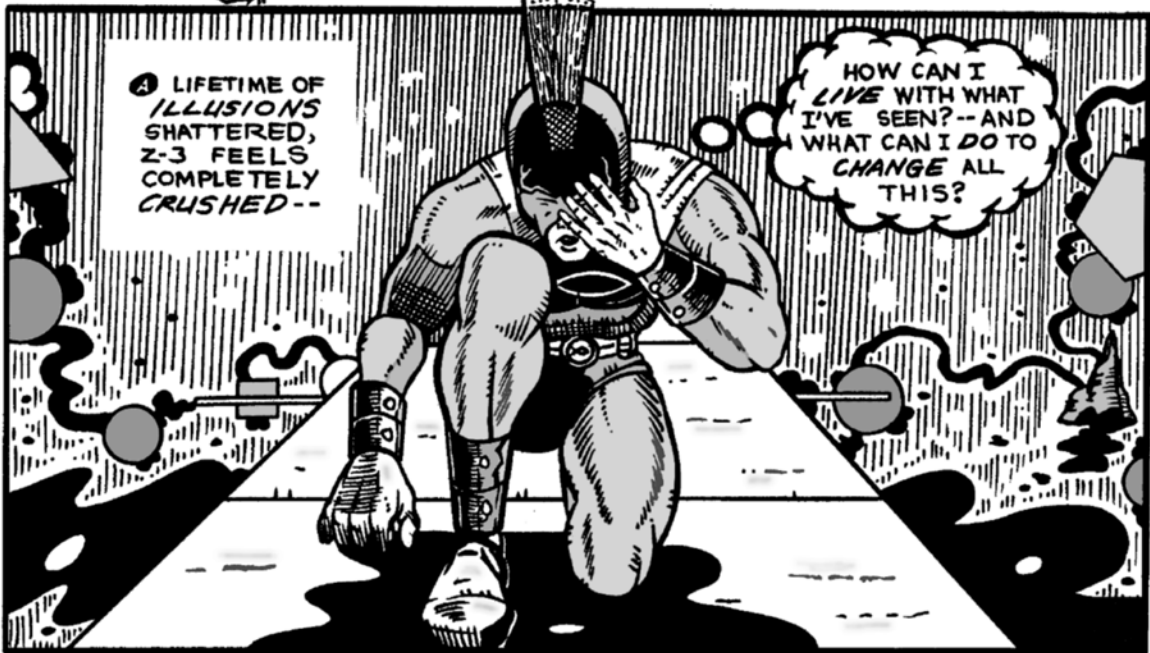
⑥DISTORTED SHADOWS DANCE WILDLY ON MAMMOTH PRISON WALLS -- CONTORTED FACES SCREAM IN TERROR FROM THE BURNING PIT'S OF GEHENNA !! -- A THOUSAND, THOUSAND TROPHIES TO ABADDON'S HEARTLESS REIGN!



⑦FACELESS SLAVES LIVE OUT A MEANINGLESS EXISTENCE AND THEN PLUNGE INTO AN ETERNAL NIGHTMARE! IT IS ALL TOO HORRIFYING FOR Z-3 TO FACE.

⑧A LIFETIME OF ILLUSIONS SHATTERED, Z-3 FEELS COMPLETELY CRUSHED--

HOW CAN I
LIVE WITH WHAT
I'VE SEEN?--AND
WHAT CAN I DO TO
CHANGE ALL
THIS?



I SEE IT NOW--I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND--THIS WAS THE PURPOSE OF MY LIFE. ALL THE YEARS OF *DIS-SATISFACTION*--OF *ALIENATION*--THE *AWFUL EMPTINESS* INSIDE--IT CAUSED ME TO LONG FOR SOMETHING *HIGHER*--*NOBLER*--SOMETHING *REAL*--SOMETHING *ULTIMATE*!

--THE ALL!



2-3 BEGINS TO REALIZE WHO HE *REALLY IS* NOW--AND *WHY* HE EXISTS--AND WHAT HE *MUST DO*--THE *MISSION* OF HIS *LIFE*! THIS IS *WARFARE* ON THE *SICKEST* OF *BATTLEFIELDS*, WITH OPPONENTS WHO ARE *MORE REAL* THAN THE MIND CAN BEAR TO ACCEPT! *2-3* IS NO LONGER MERELY THE MAN HE ONCE WAS--OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY--ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME *NEW*!

I HAVE COME TO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS! THE *CLOCK* IS *RUNNING OUT* AND THE *CATACLYSM* DRAWS NEAR! *MULTITUDES, MULTITUDES* IN THE *VALLEY OF DECISION*! AND, I MUST *HELP* THEM--FOR I AM--



A black and white comic book illustration of a muscular superhero named Mr. Faith. He is wearing a helmet with a single vertical visor and a suit with a large eye emblem on the chest. He holds a large sword in his right hand and a shield in his left. A large, dark, stylized shadow of his figure is cast behind him to the right. A speech bubble above him contains the text "MR. FAITH!".

MR. FAITH!

NEXT:

**THE
DEFECTOR**

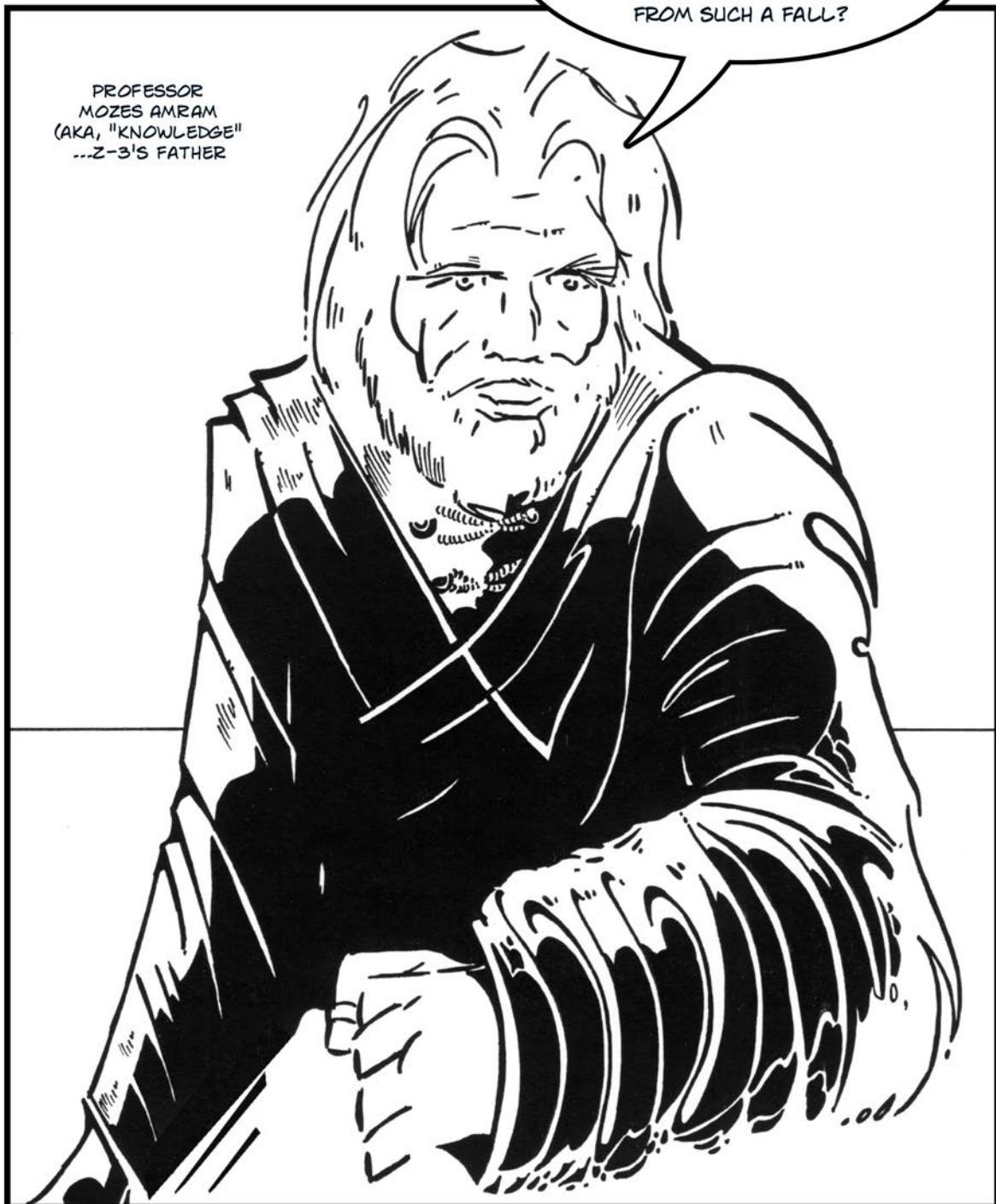
NR
+ BLAKE

AFTERTHOUGHTS:

FOTA-GRAPHS

THIS IS THE SECOND GREAT
DARK AGE. THIS IS THE
CRUMBLING EDGE OF THE VAST
MORAL ABYSS FOR A
CORRUPTED HUMANITY. SHALL
THE HUMAN SPIRIT RISE AGAIN
FROM SUCH A FALL?

PROFESSOR
MOZES AMRAM
(AKA, "KNOWLEDGE")
...Z-3'S FATHER



IN THE VAST GLOBAL PURGES OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER IT WAS NECESSARY TO
ELIMINATE THE CONCEPTIONS OF THE PAST. "HEROES" WERE TO BE VILLAINIZED;
VILLAINS PORTRAYED AS CHAMPIONS OF THE PEOPLE. THOSE WHO DARED TO
QUESTION WERE OSTRACIZED, RIDICULED, DESTROYED.

THE MORAL DARKNESS

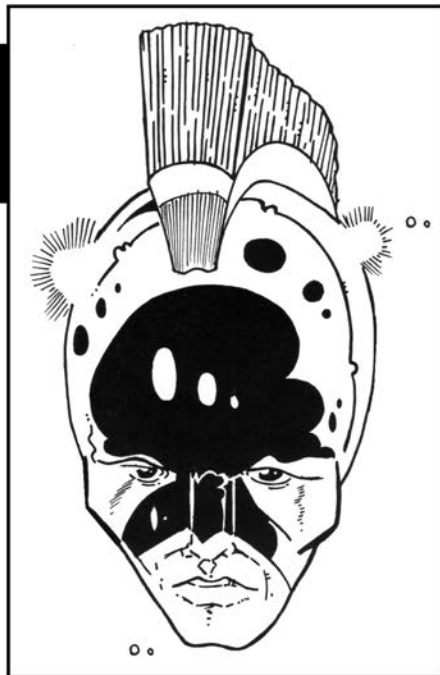
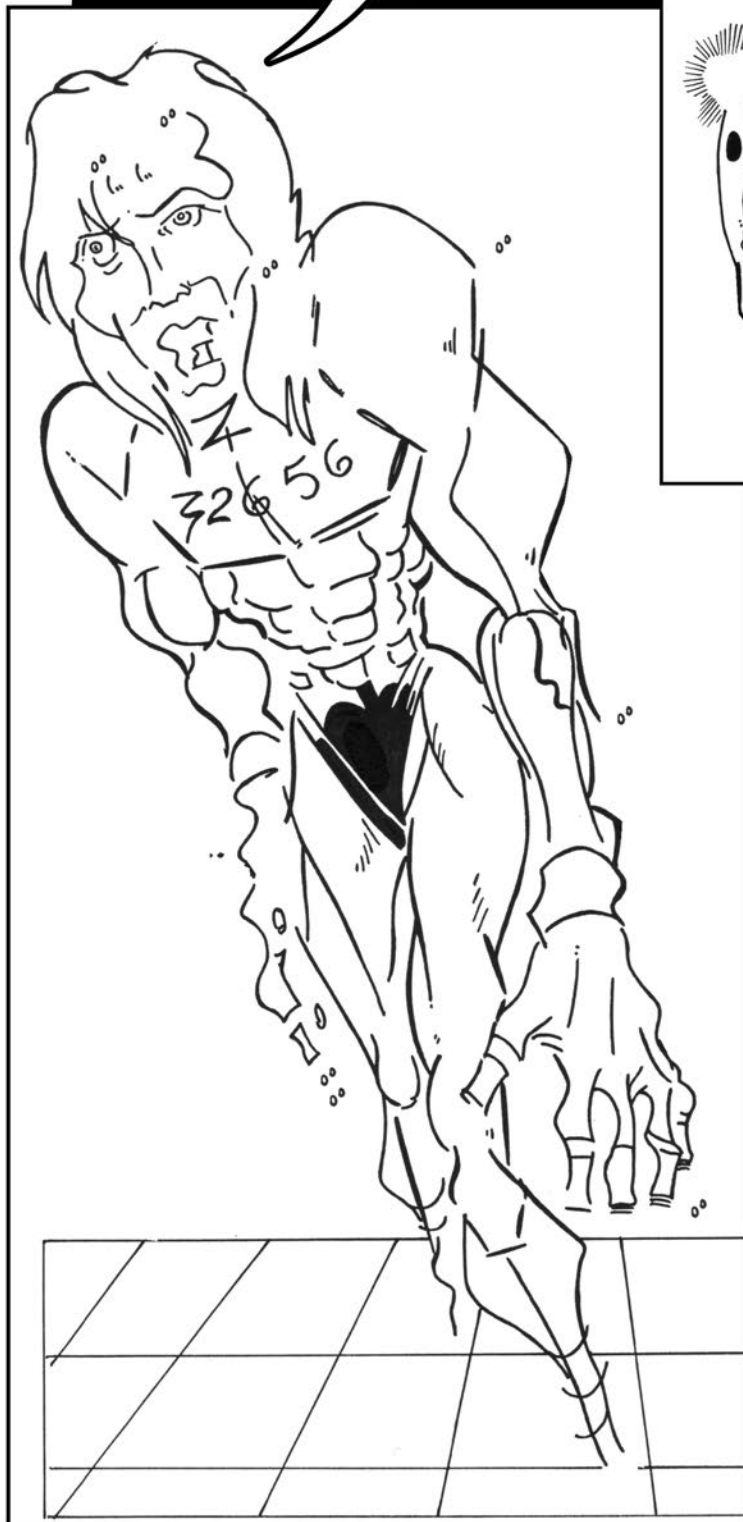
EMERGING FROM THE VACUUM OF COMPLACENCY AND SPIRITUAL APATHY THERE AROSE A HORRIFYING DARKNESS...A MENTAL PESTILENCE WHICH SPREAD ITS SATANIC TENTACLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD INFECTING EVERYTHING IT TOUCHED...STRANGLING THE LIFE, THE BEAUTY, THE INNOCENCE, THE VIRTUE, THE VERY MEANING OUT OF VIRTUALLY EVERY HUMAN SOUL.



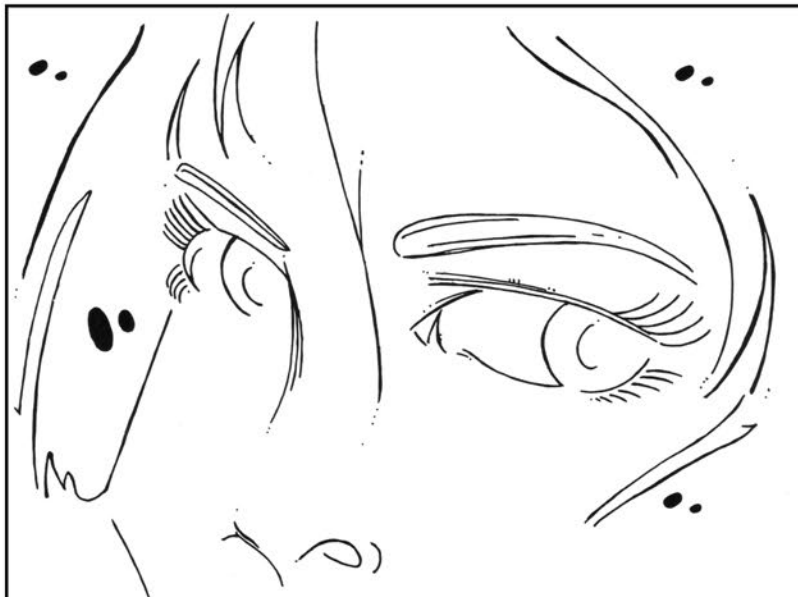
THE SHEEP BLEATED IN APPROVAL AS THE WOLVES DEVoured THE FLOCK. THE CURTAIN AROSE ON A VALLEY OF SHADOWS THAT ONCE WERE MEN. THE PUPPETS, EVER GRINNING, DESCENDED, THEIR MOVEMENTS CONTROLLED BY UNSEEN HANDS. FOR THOSE WHO HAD FORGOTTEN THE ALL, THE INTELLIGENTSIA, THE ELITISTS BECAME THEIR "PRIESTS"...THEIR "SAVIORS".

THE Z-GENERATION: I AM LEGION

IS SOCIETY
WARPED...
OR AM I?



TYRANNY'S MOST
TRAGIC VICTIMS
ARE ALWAYS
THE YOUNG.
FRESH, VIRGINAL,
THEY MUST BE
CORRUPTED AND
MADE TO EMBRACE
THE PHILOSOPHY
OF DEATH.
YET THEY ARE
ALSO THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT
THREAT TO THE
CONTROLLERS...
WHAT THEY DREAD
THE MOST.

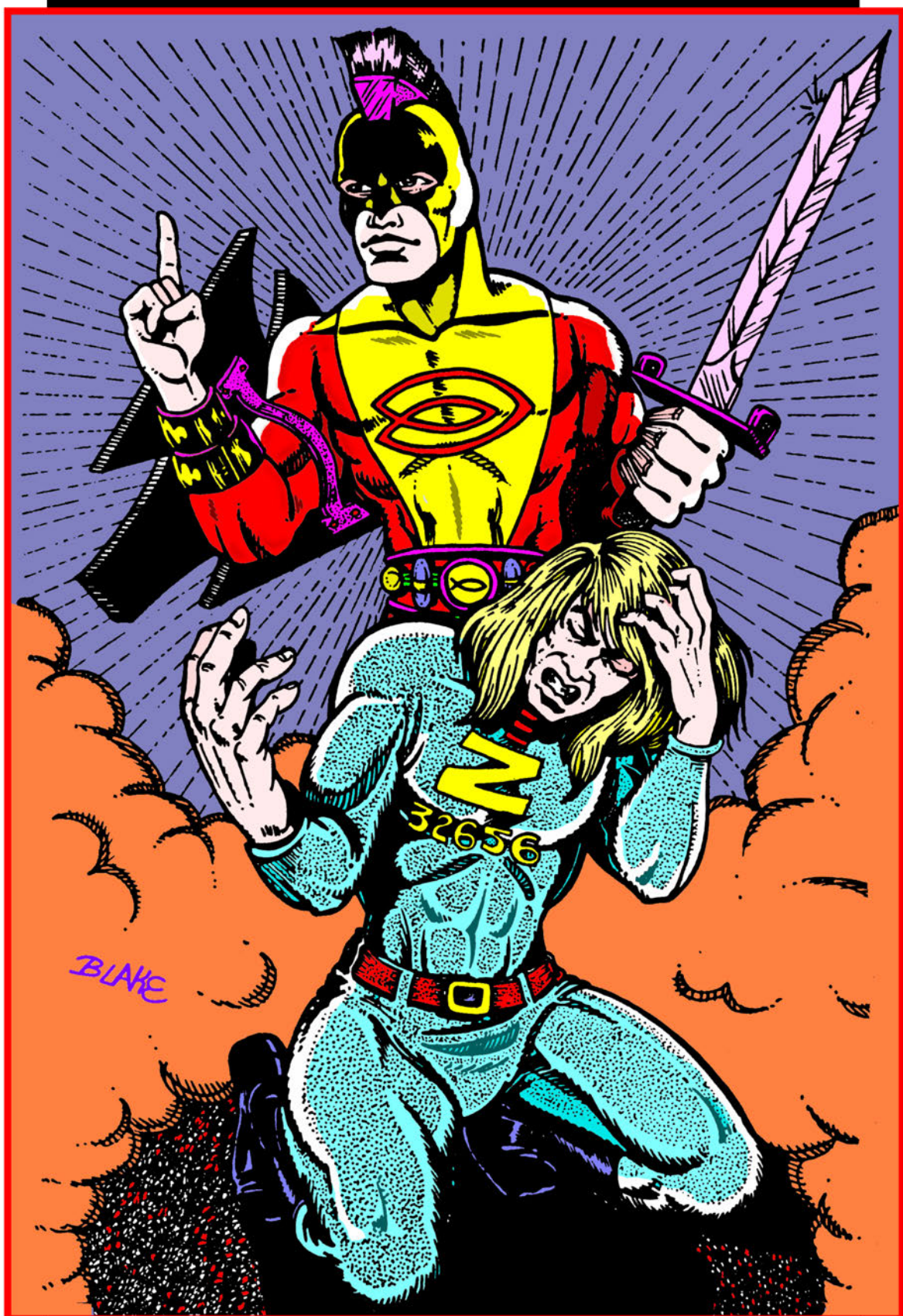


...FOR PERHAPS
ONE WILL APPEAR
WHO DARES TO BE
DIFFERENT...

...WHO COMMITS THE
UNPARDONABLE SIN
IN THE KINGDOM OF
BABYLON:
TO BEGIN TO THINK,
TO QUESTION, TO
STEP OUT FROM
AMONG THE
OBEDIENT HERD...
TO STAND ALONE.



...AND BY GOD, THERE
AROSE SUCH A MAN.



"...And this is the victory that overcomes the world: even our faith" - The Logos

FOLLOWERS OF THE ALL!

IN A WORLD WHERE **FAITH** IS **ILLEGAL** AND
THE MIND IS **CONTROLLED**, THE
GOVERNMENT FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO
COMPLETELY ERADICATE THE HUNGER FOR
TRUTH AND **REALITY** IN THE HUMAN HEART!

