



534

SEP 96



LEGACY

PART  
FIVE

# BATMAN

LONE  
KELLEU  
JONES  
96MOENCH  
APARO  
SIENKIEWICZ

# A WOUND ON THE HEART OF HEAVEN

PART  
FIVE

CALCUTTA--ALREADY RAVAGED BY DISEASE AND THEREFORE THE ONE PLAGUE TARGET CHOSEN MOST CRUELLY AND CYNICALLY.

THE JETLINER'S GUIDEBOOK NAILED IT: "DENSELY POPULATED AND POLLUTED, CALCUTTA IS OFTEN AN UGLY AND DESPERATE PLACE REPRESENTING THE WORST OF INDIA."

AND YET THE BEST AS WELL--HUMOR AGAINST ADVERSITY AND INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AMIDST CRUSHING DESPAIR.

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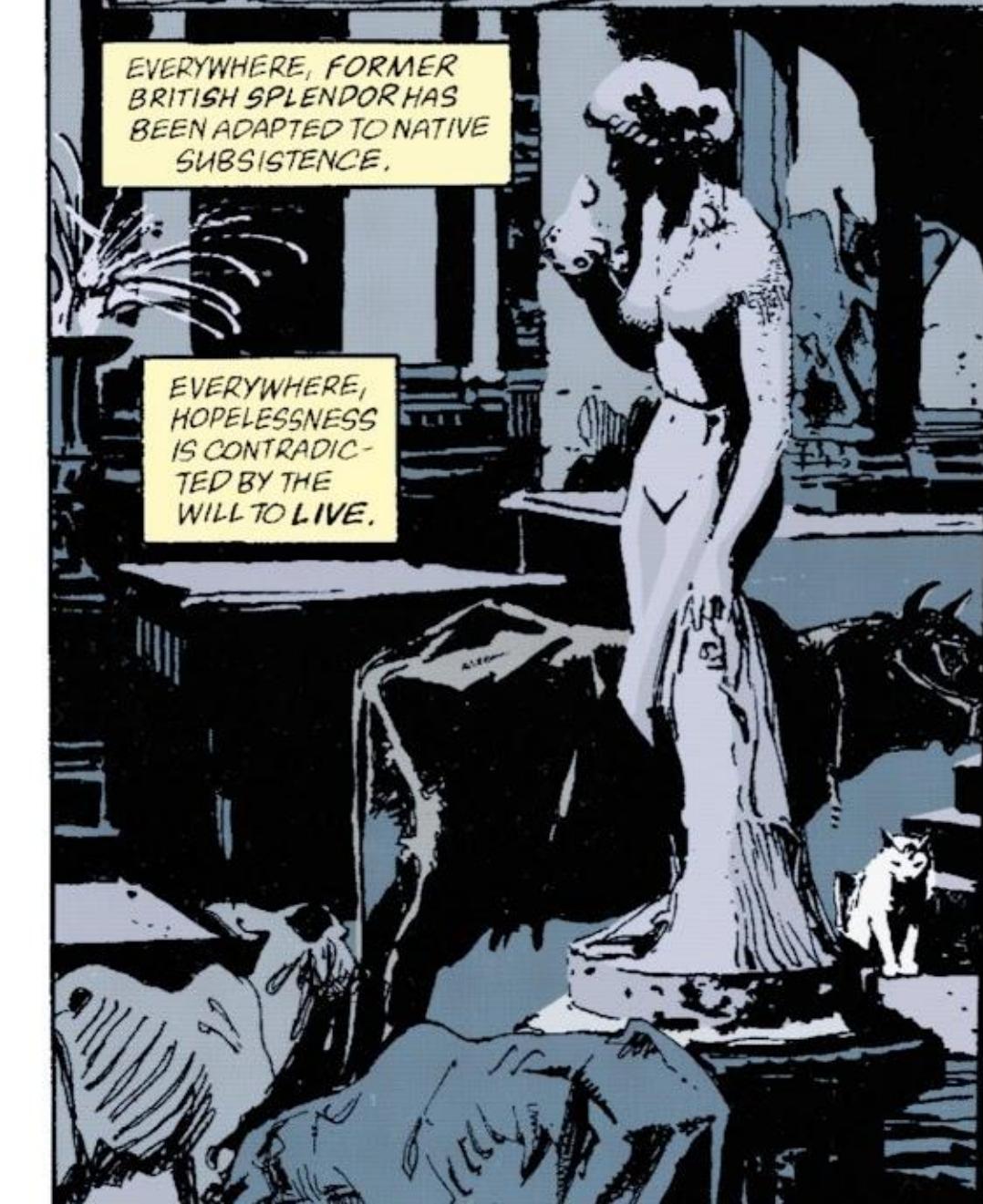


THE MASSIVE INFUX OF REFUGEES  
AND LANDLESS FARMERS HAS  
SHAPED A MIRACLE FROM SQUALOR...

THRIVING COMMERCE, FIERCE LOVE  
FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS,  
IMPOSSIBLE ENTERPRISE IN A VACUUM  
OF OPPORTUNITY.

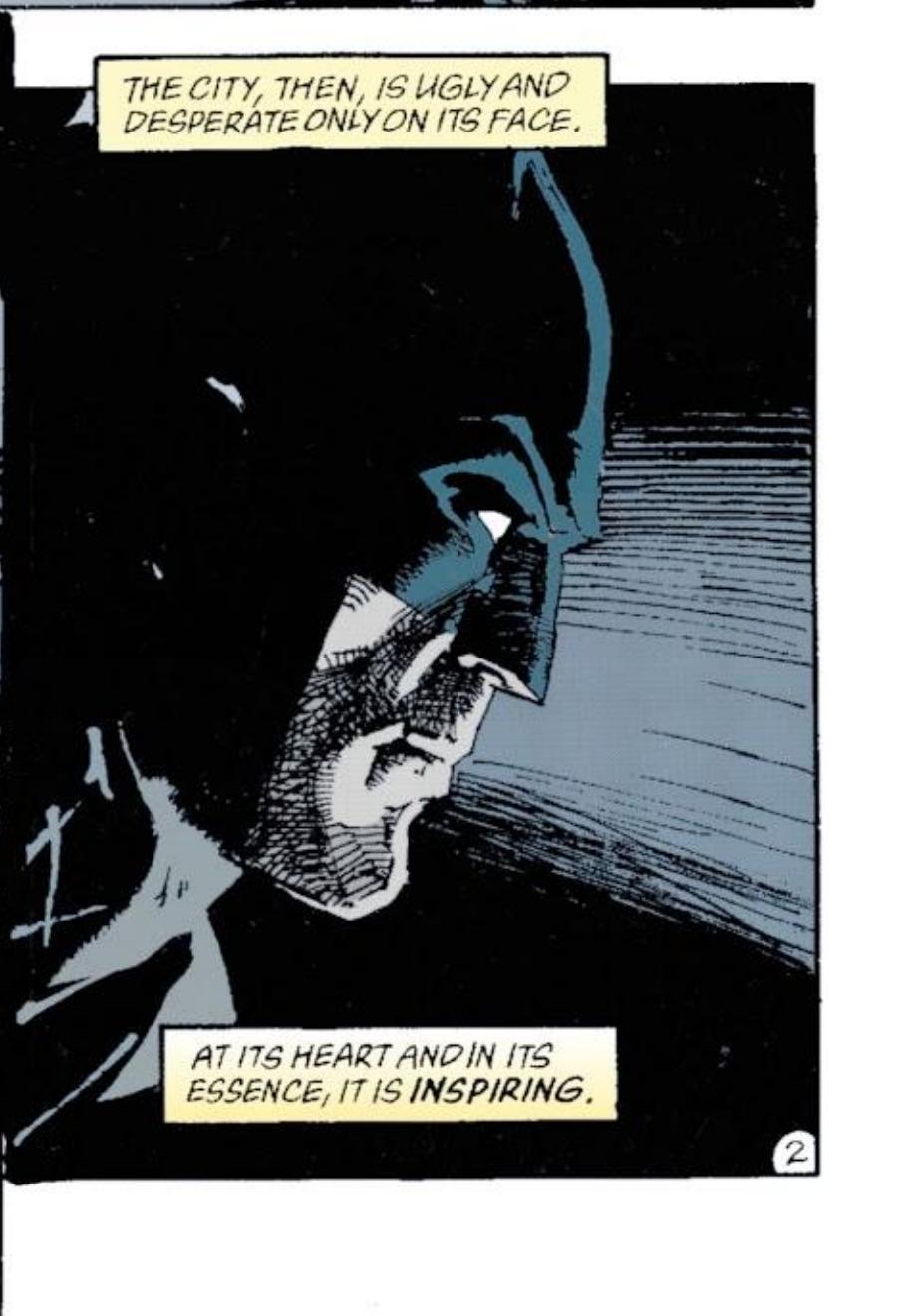
THAT CALCUTTA IS THE WORLD'S LAST  
BASTION OF THE HUMAN-POWERED  
RICKSHAW IS PROOF THAT ITS PEOPLE  
WILL DO ANY KIND OF WORK...

...AND EVIDENCE OF THEIR  
REFUSAL TO SAY DIE.



EVERWHERE, FORMER  
BRITISH SPLENDOR HAS  
BEEN ADAPTED TO NATIVE  
SUBSISTENCE.

EVERWHERE,  
HOPELESSNESS  
IS CONTRADI-  
CTED BY THE  
WILL TO LIVE.



THE CITY, THEN, IS UGLY AND  
DESPERATE ONLY ON ITS FACE.

AT ITS HEART AND IN ITS  
ESSENCE, IT IS INSPIRING.

THE GUIDEBOOK'S MOST HAUNTING PASSAGE QUOTED A BENGALI SAYING...

"CALCUTTA IS AN ENORMOUS COW BEING MILKED BY MILLIONS AS BEST THEY CAN. AND SO, IS IT NOT A SYMBOL OF LIFE?"

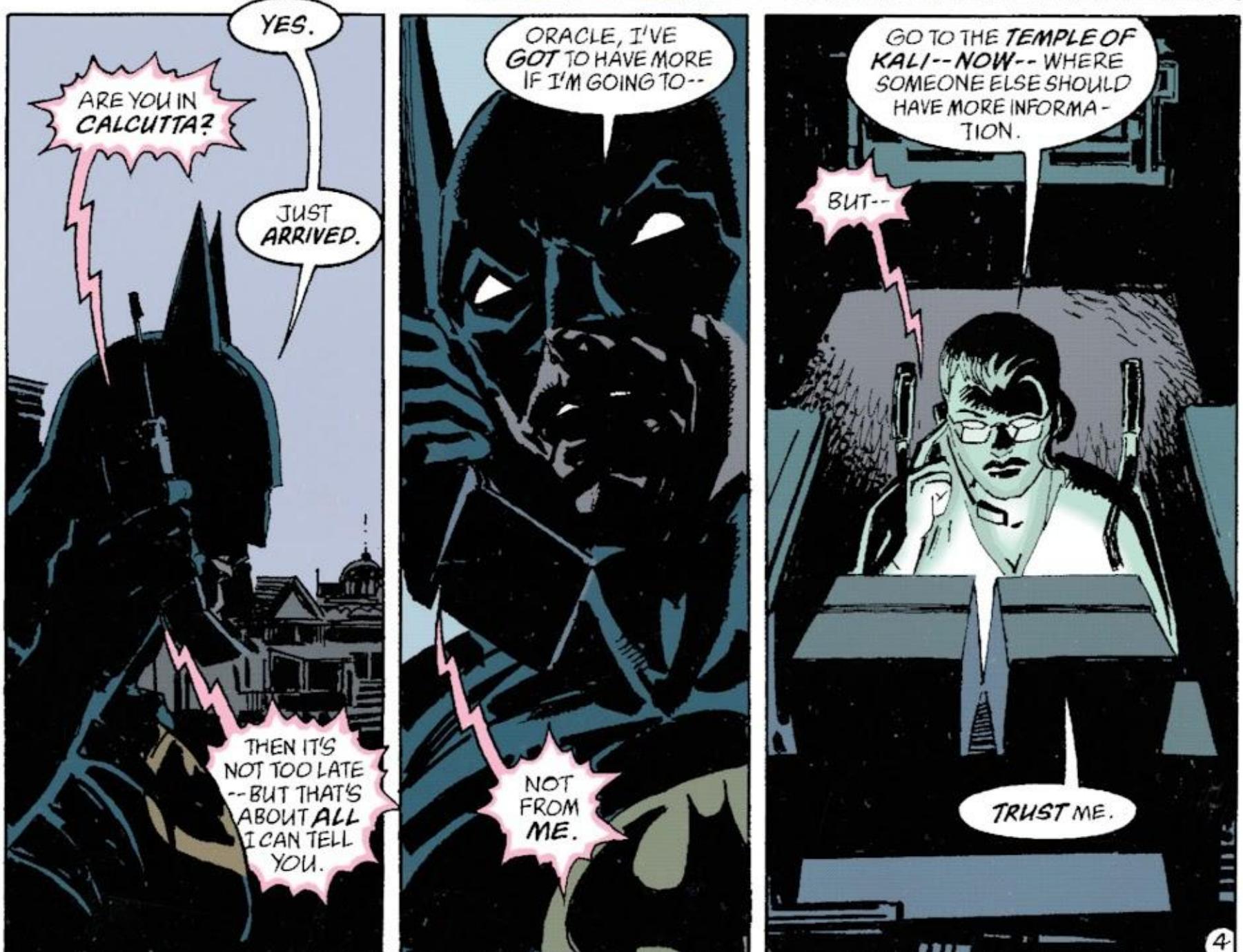
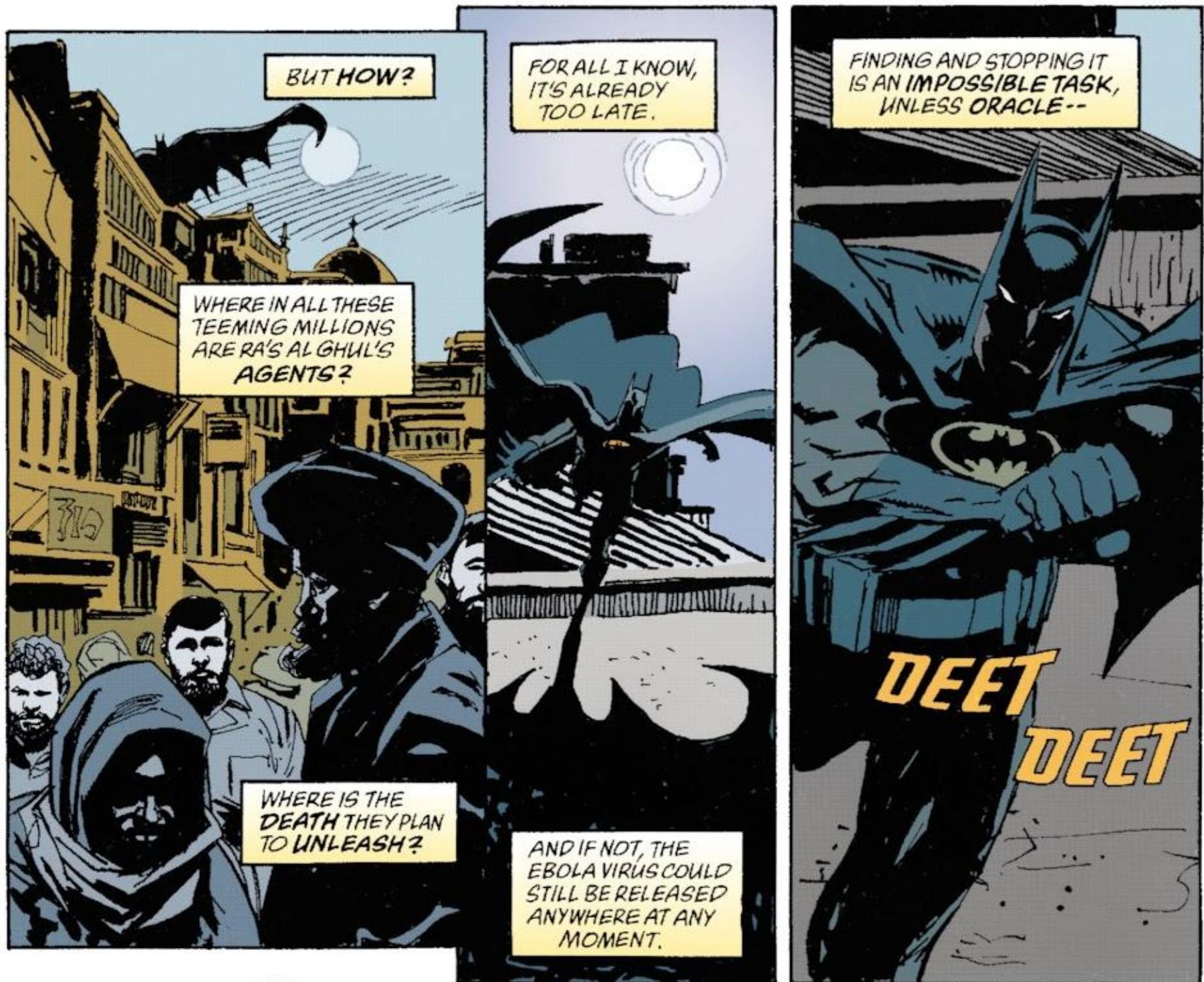
"AND LIKE LIFE, IT LEAVES WOUNDS ON THE HEART."

INDEED--AND AFTER SURVIVING SO MUCH MISERY, CALCUTTA CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO DIE AT THE WHIM OF A MADMAN CALLING HIMSELF "THE DEMON!"

AND WHATEVER IT TAKES--

RA'S AL GHUL  
MUST BE STOPPED.

--THIS CITY  
MUST BE  
SAVED.





















OH NO...

OF COURSE--  
AND NO WONDER  
THEY CHOSE THIS  
LOCATION...

THE FESTIVAL  
OF DURGA--PERFECT  
COVER...AND VERY  
CLEVER.

COMPLIMENT THEM  
LATER, SHIVA--IF YOU'RE  
STILL ALIVE TO DO SO.

BACK TO SQUARE ONE'S IMPOSSIBLE  
TASK--TOO MANY PEOPLE...

WHY ARE THEY GATHER-  
ING BY THE RIVERBANK--  
RIGHT WHERE WE DON'T  
WANT THEM? WHAT IS  
THIS FESTIVAL?

EACH YEAR,  
SNOW MELTS OFF  
THE HIMALAYAS--

--CAUSING THE RIVER TO  
SWELL AND FLOW INTO THE  
SEA, BEFORE EVAPORATING  
UP INTO THE CLOUDS, WHICH  
MOVE OVER THE HIMALAYAS  
TO SNOW AGAIN.

BUT WHY ARE THEY  
BLOCKING THE  
RIVER?

YOU SEE THOSE  
LIFE-SIZE FIGURES?  
THEY ARE MUD-PLASTER  
STATUES OF THE  
HINDU GODDESS  
DURGA, VANQUISH-  
ER OF ALL EVIL...

...EACH YEAR AT THIS  
TIME, HUNDREDS OF THE DURGA  
STATUES ARE CAST INTO THE RIVER,  
THERE TO MELT ON THEIR  
JOURNEY TO THE SEA...

AN ENDLESS  
CYCLE--LIKE LIFE, DEATH,  
AND REINCARNATED  
LIFE.

"...AND ALL IN THE BELIEF THAT THE GODDESS WILL  
THEREBY REAPPEAR FROM HER HIMALAYAN ABODE  
THE FOLLOWING YEAR, AN ETERNAL SYMBOL OF  
COURAGE AND HOPE."

**PLASH!**





THEY'RE BOLTING  
FOR THE BRIDGE --  
PROBABLY TO RELEASE  
THE VIRUS!

THEN LUCK IS  
STILL OURS -- IF  
WE CAN OVERTAKE  
THEM!

OH BY GOLLY,  
MAYBE HE IS  
MEANING TO SAVE  
THE WORLD OF  
CALCUTTA AND  
BEYOND!

SHUMP

UHN--!

HWAKK

CHUT

SWAKK



**WUMPT!**

MURDERER!

KRKT

AAAIEEEEEEEE

"...H-HIDDEN... IN ONE  
OF THE STATUES."

WHERE'S THE  
VIRUS?! WHICH ONE  
OF YOU HAS IT?!

D-DURGA...

WHAT? THE  
GODDESS--!

S-SOLUBLE...WAX  
CONTAINER...

YOU'RE...  
T-TOO...  
LATE...

FALSE TOOTH FILLED WITH POISON--  
LIKE THE DEMON'S SUICIDAL AGENTS  
IN EDINBURGH.

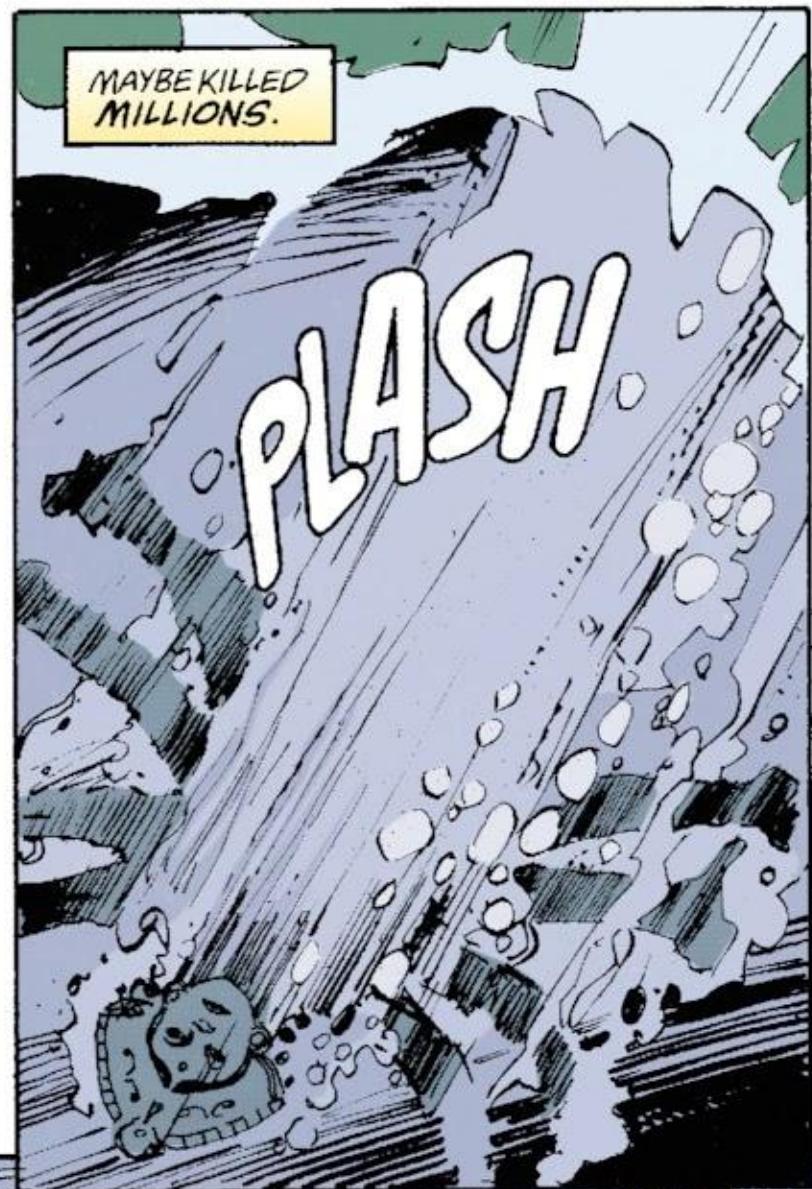
KILLED A KID.



KILLED HIMSELF.



MAYBE KILLED MILLIONS.



OR MORE.



HUUUUUUH?



OR HAS THE WAX CONTAINER  
ALREADY BEEN RELEASED...?

RUNNING OUT OF AIR.

...ALREADY DISSOLVED?

NO MORE TIME...

THERE.

STILL INTACT.

FINSHH

JUST BARELY.



CONTINUED IN  
DETECTIVE #701 ■ NEXT  
ISSUE: *The OGRE and the APE!*



**novus**  
Distributions