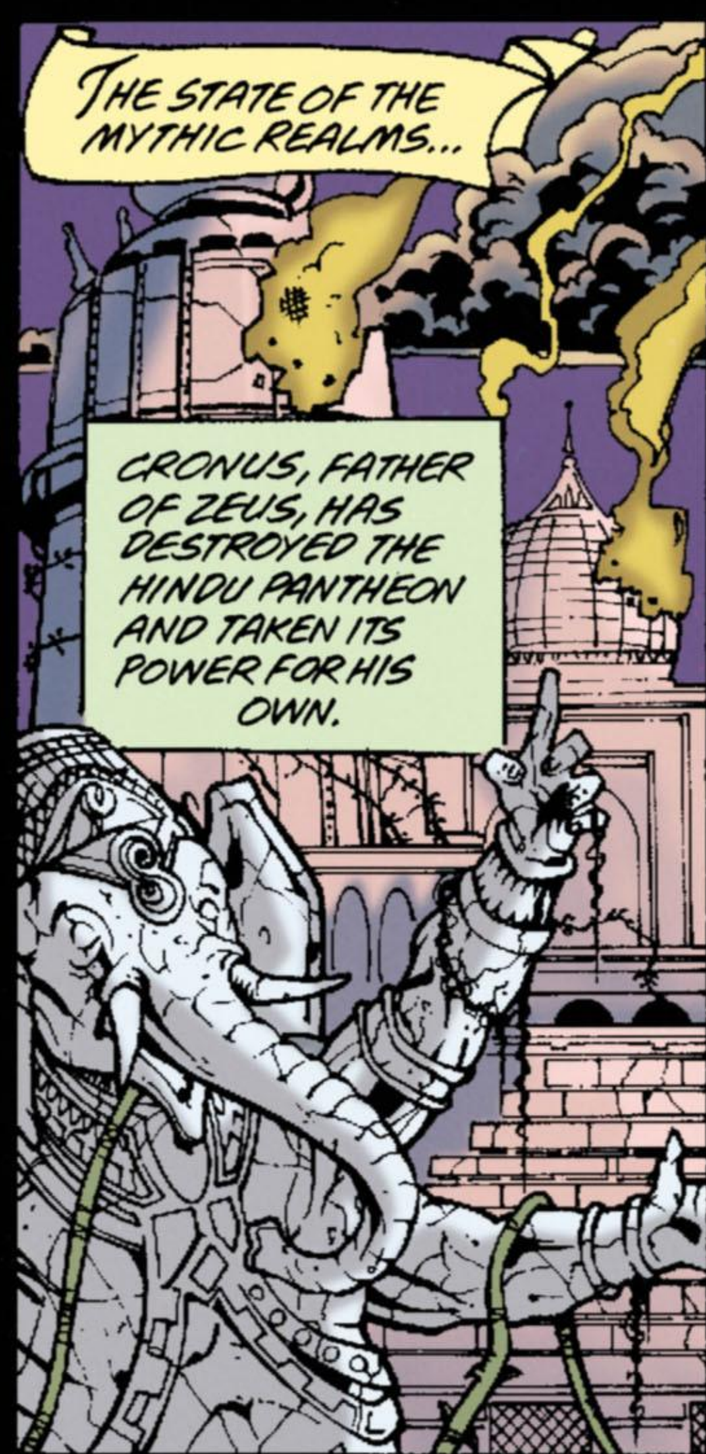
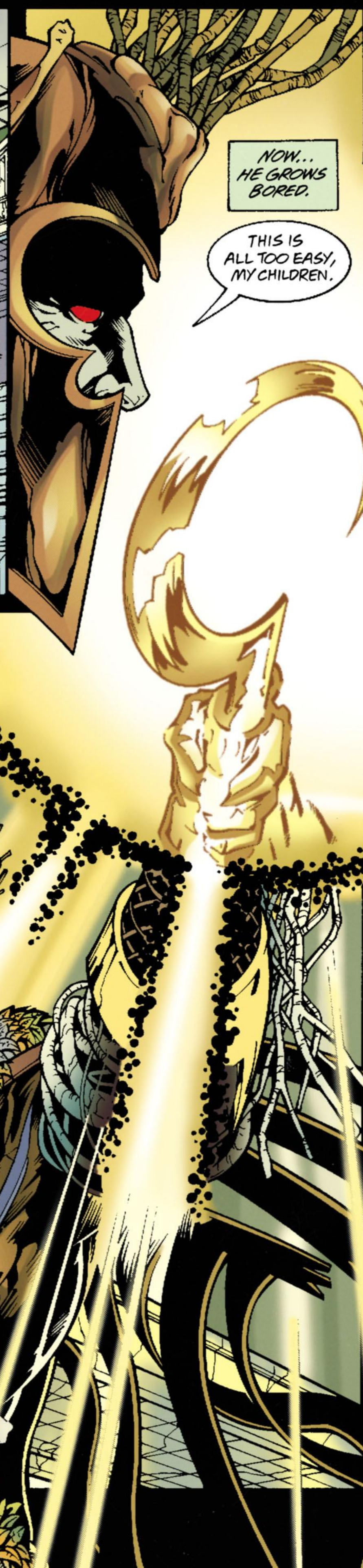
DC
WONDER WOMAN
150
NOV 99
LUKE CLARK SNYDER SIMMONS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
AH!
TRIUMPHANT!


THE STATE OF THE MYTHIC REALMS...
CRONUS, FATHER OF ZEUS, HAS DESTROYED THE HINDU PANTHEON AND TAKEN ITS POWER FOR HIS OWN.

CRONUS AND HIS CHILDREN OCCUPY OLYMPUS, AFTER THE SLAUGHTER OF THE GREEK GODS.


NOW... HE GROWS BORED.
THIS IS ALL TOO EASY, MY CHILDREN.

IT IS TIME TO *STORM* THE GATES OF HEAVEN!

GODWAR
CONQUEST!
WE FOUR ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF TWO PANTHEONS.
WE HAVE LOST SO MUCH...
OUR GODS DEAD...
OUR POWER GONE...
ADRIFT IN HEART AND MIND...
WE ASSEMBLE OUR COUNCIL OF WAR.
WONDER WOMAN
created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON
ERIC LUKE - writer
MATTHEW CLARK
new penciller
RAY SNYDER - inker
(pages 1-16)
TOM SIMMONS - new inker
(pages 17-38)
JOHN COSTANZA
letterer
PATRICIA MULVIHILL
colorist
MAUREEN McTIGUE
proud editor
Events herein take place before
DAY OF JUDGMENT!

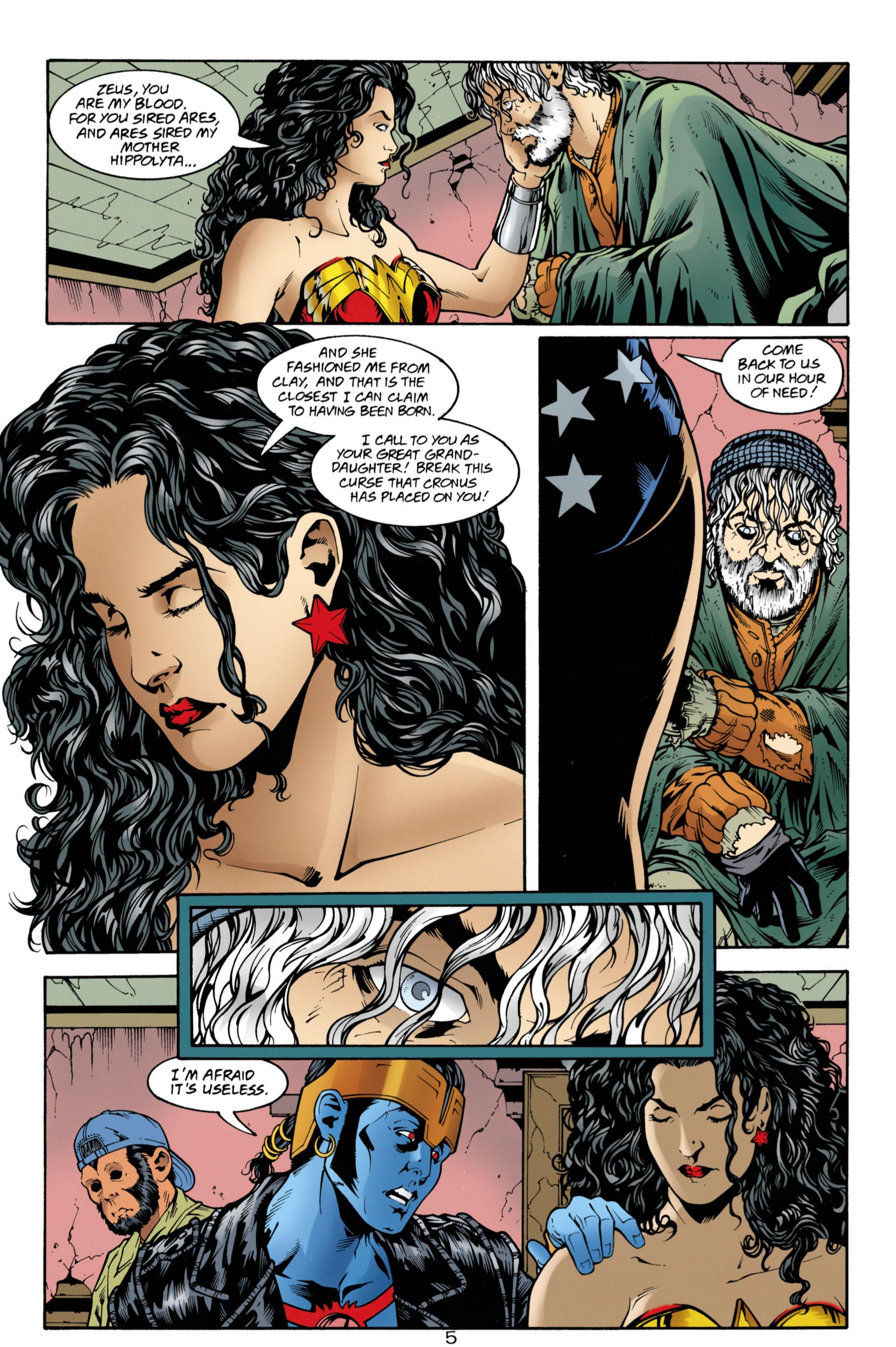
WITH MY GODS DEAD... I SEARCH FOR IDENTITY... IF I WAS CREATED BY THEM TO BRING PEACE TO EARTH... WHO AM I WITHOUT THEM?

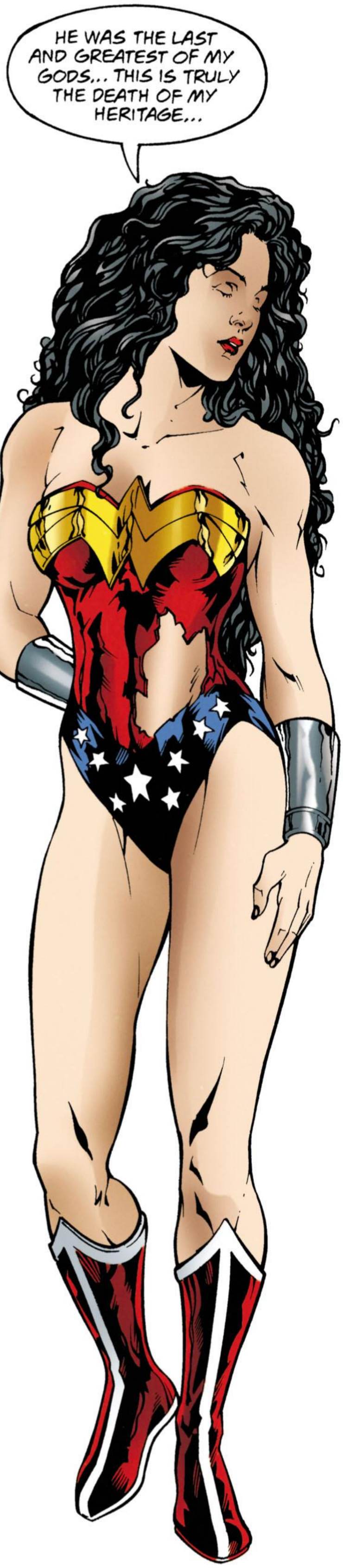
RAMA'S HINDU GODS ARE DEAD TOO, HIS POWERS LOST. I FEEL A KINSHIP... OUR LOSS HAS THROWN US TOGETHER.

HANUMAN... THE ONLY GOD LEFT OF THE HINDU PANTHEON, A GOOD FIGHTER AND RAMA'S TRUSTED FRIEND.

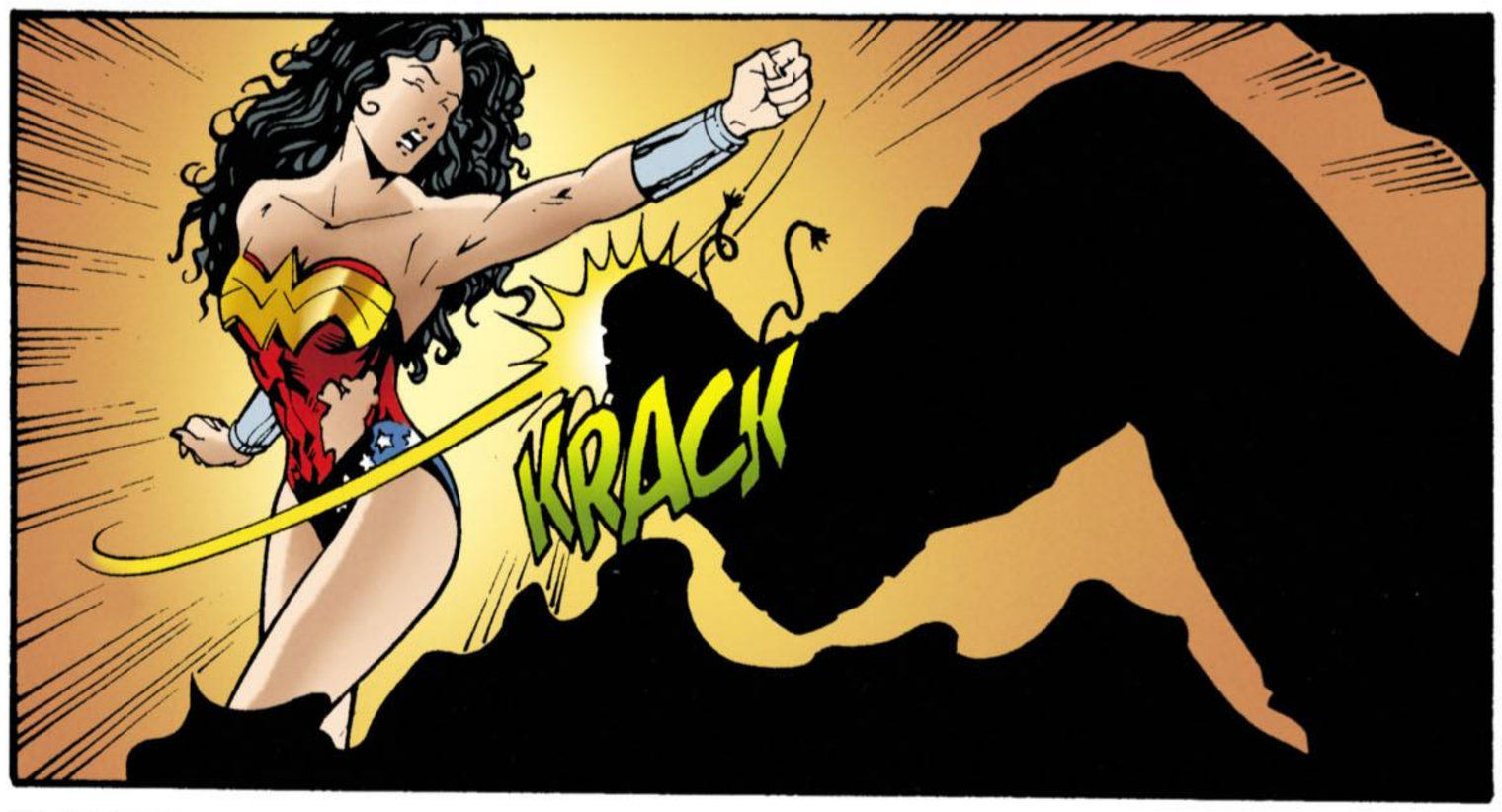
ZEUS, HIS MEMORY BLASTED BY CRONUS... I STRIVE TO BRING HIM BACK, TO SEARCH HIS BROKEN MIND FOR A CLUE THAT CAN HELP US.

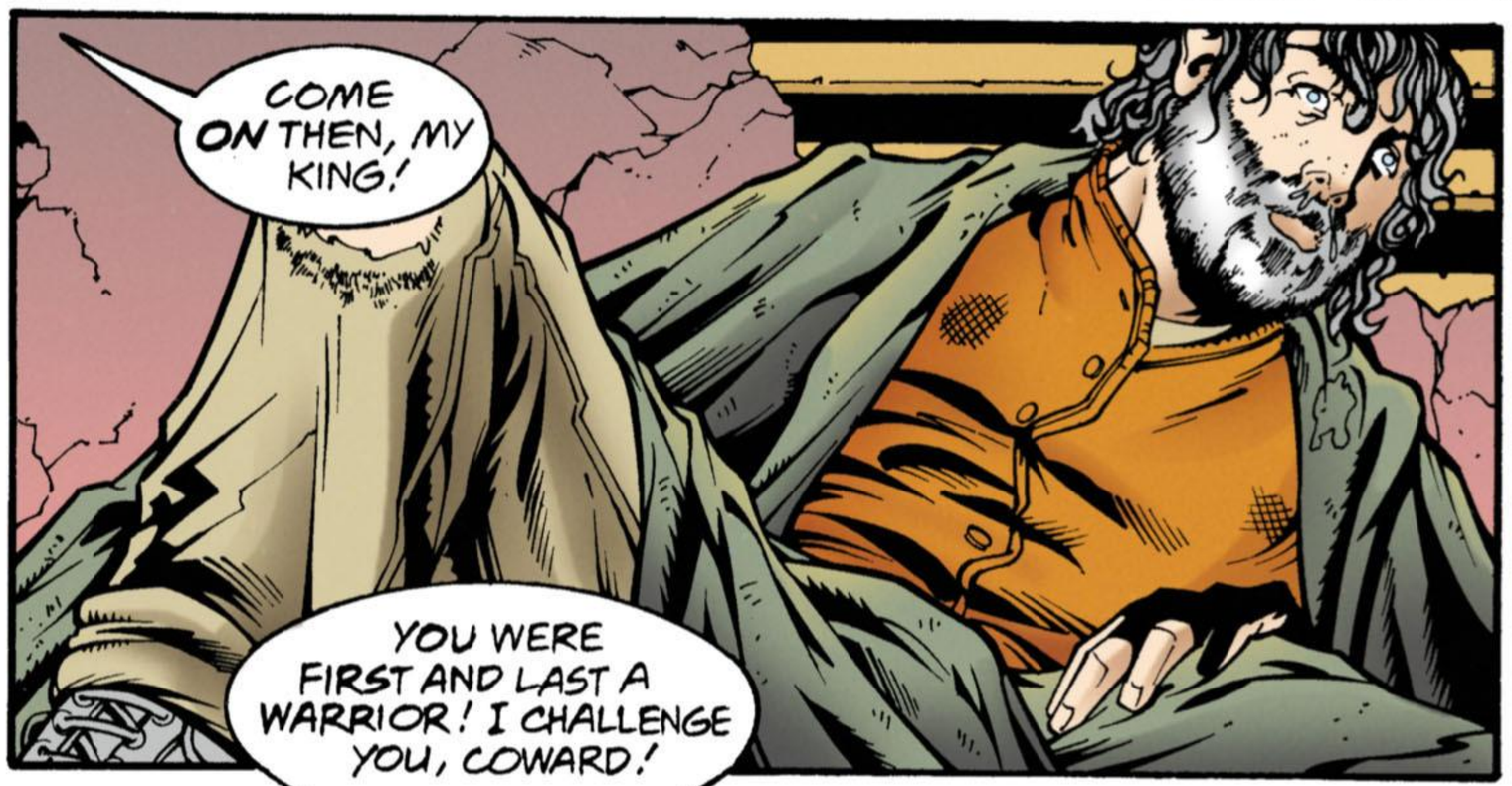
THIS CITY... THIS WORLD... THIS REALITY HANGS IN THE BALANCE...
...AS I GAZE INTO ZEUS' TERRIBLE, BLANK EYES... EMPTY AS A DREAM OF DEATH.
THIS TAKES TOO LONG! WHAT IS IT YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS OLD MAN?
THIS OLD MAN IS THE KING OF OLYMPUS AND FATHER OF MY GODS! PLEASE SHOW RESPECT!
EVERYONE TAKE A BREATH! IT WILL DO US NO GOOD TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS!
IF WE ARE TO FORMULATE A PLAN OF ATTACK... I KNOW THAT WE NEED WHAT IS INSIDE THE MIND OF ZEUS.


ZEUS, YOU ARE MY BLOOD. FOR YOU SIRED ARES, AND ARES SIRED MY MOTHER HIPPOLYTA...
AND SHE FASHIONED ME FROM CLAY, AND THAT IS THE CLOSEST I CAN CLAIM TO HAVING BEEN BORN.
I CALL TO YOU AS YOUR GREAT GRAND-DAUGHTER! BREAK THIS CURSE THAT CRONUS HAS PLACED ON YOU!
COME BACK TO US IN OUR HOUR OF NEED!
I'M AFRAID IT'S USELESS.


HE WAS THE LAST AND GREATEST OF MY GODS... THIS IS TRULY THE DEATH OF MY HERITAGE...

BUT MAYBE...

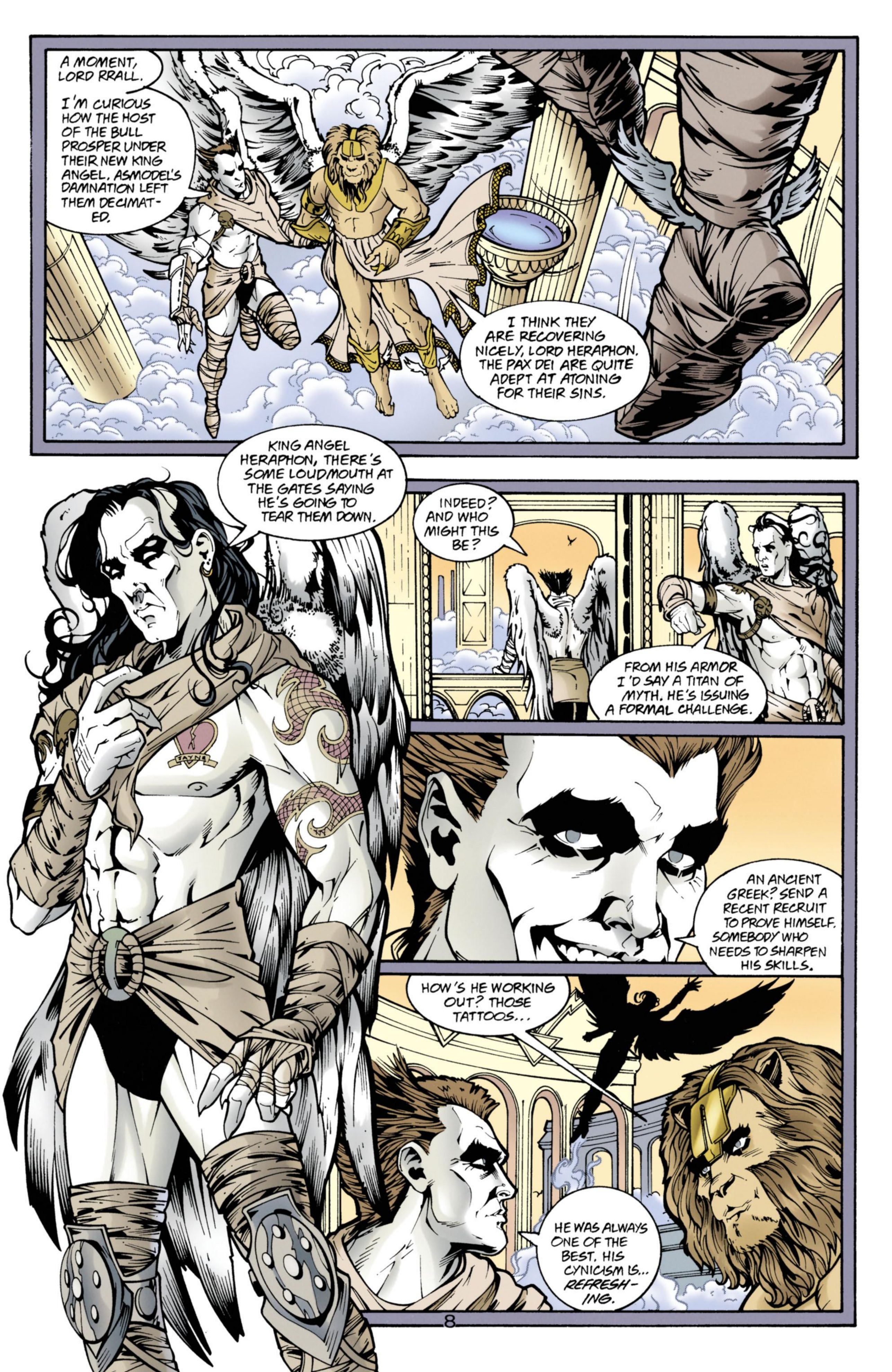

KRACK


COME ON THEN, MY KING!
YOU WERE FIRST AND LAST A WARRIOR! I CHALLENGE YOU, COWARD!

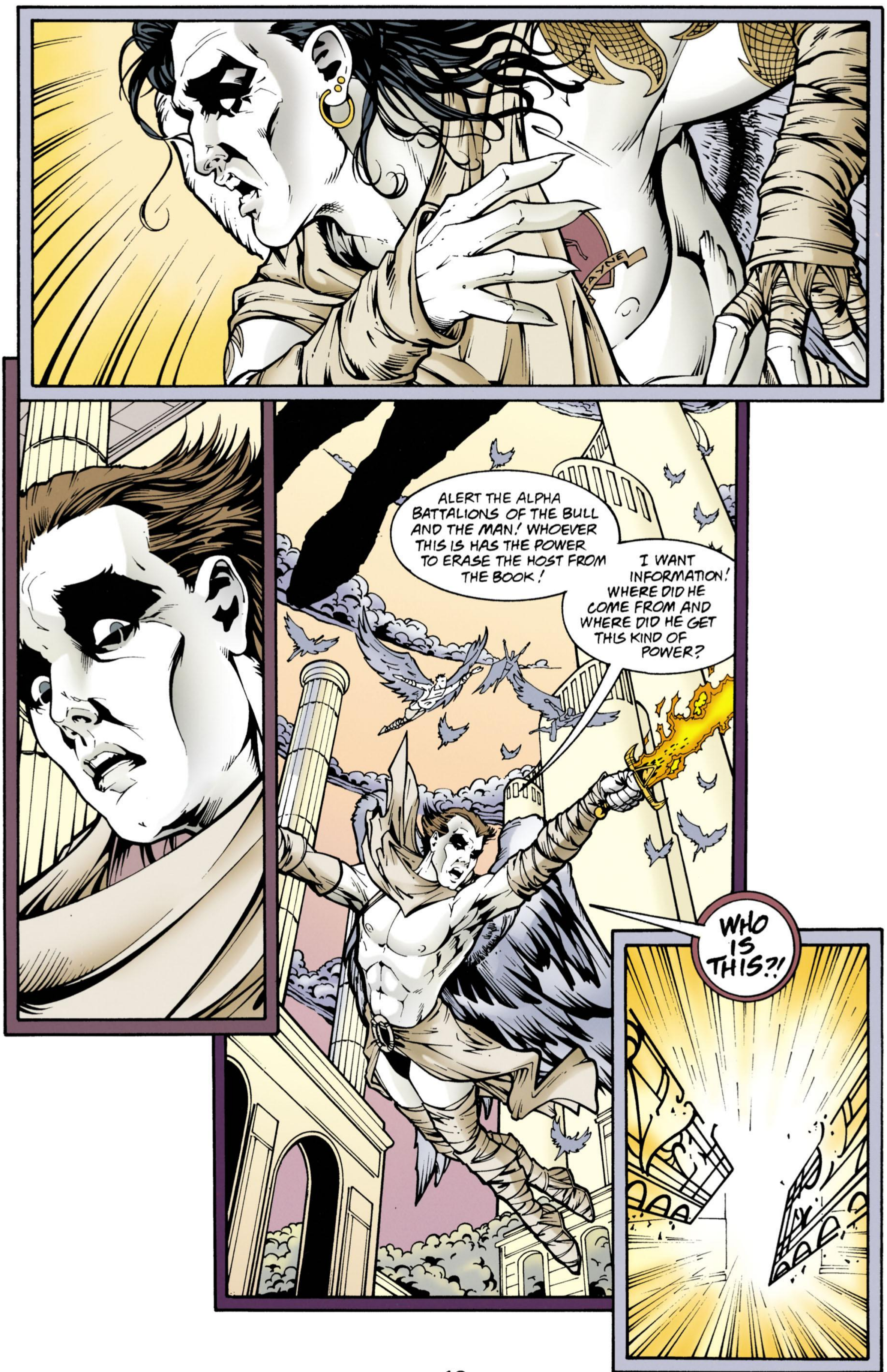
DIANA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
RORR

HOW... DARE... YOU?

FEAST YOUR EYES, MY CHILDREN! ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO ASCEND THESE STAIRS!
AT THE PINNACLE IS THE CENTER OF ALL CREATION, THE ULTIMATE POWER OF THE GODWAVE!
WE HAVE CONQUERED TWO RELIGIONS, AND WIELD THEIR POWER AGAINST A THIRD! WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE!
I CALL DOWN THE ANGELS! I CHALLENGE HEAVEN ITSELF!

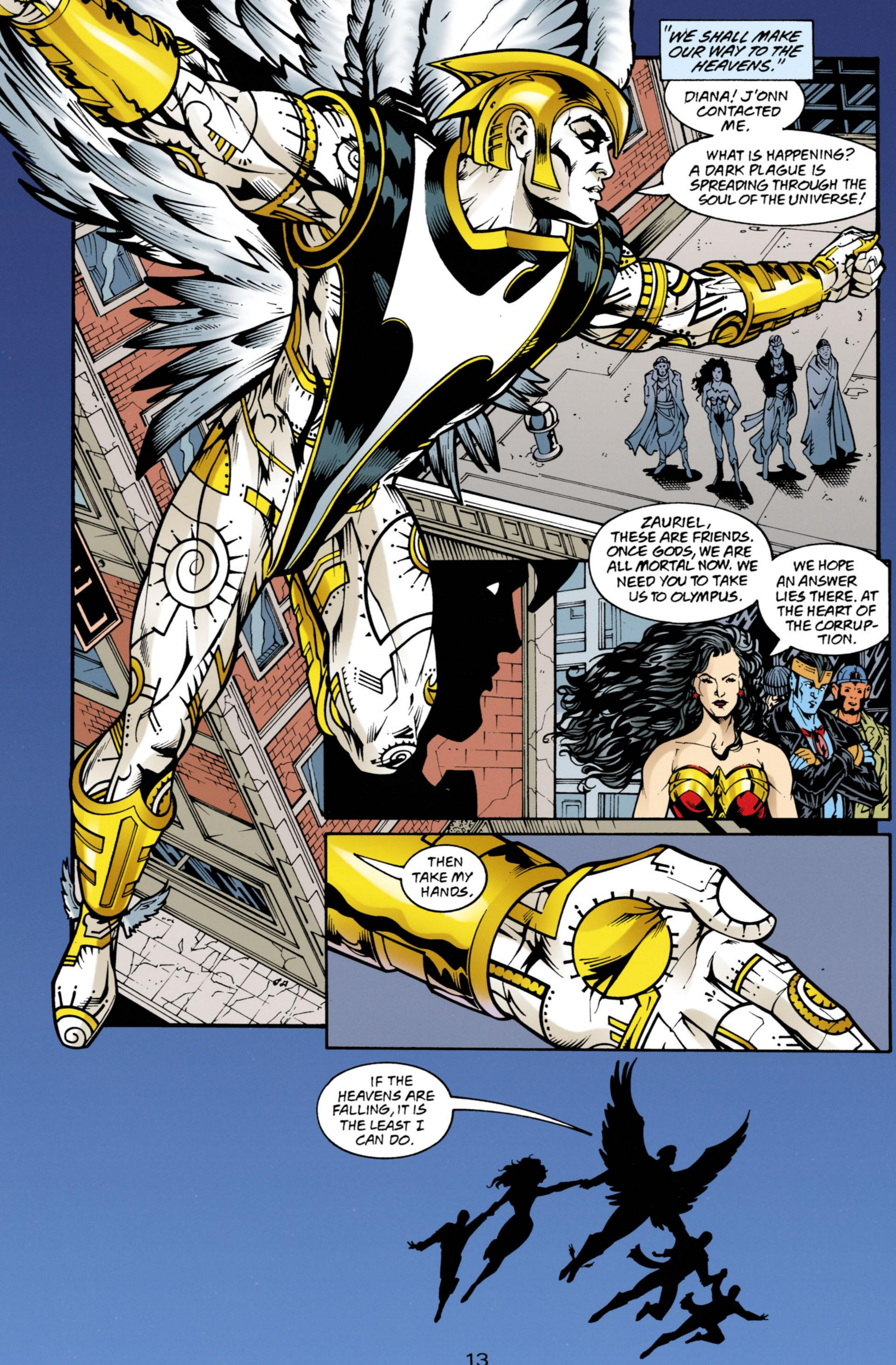

A MOMENT, LORD RRALL.
I'M CURIOUS HOW THE HOST OF THE BULL PROSPER UNDER THEIR NEW KING ANGEL. ASMODEL'S DAMNATION LEFT THEM DECIMATED.
I THINK THEY ARE RECOVERING NICELY, LORD HERAPHON. THE PAX DEI ARE QUITE ADEPT AT ATONING FOR THEIR SINS.
KING ANGEL HERAPHON, THERE'S SOME LOUDMOUTH AT THE GATES SAYING HE'S GOING TO TEAR THEM DOWN.
INDEED? AND WHO MIGHT THIS BE?
FROM HIS ARMOR I'D SAY A TITAN OF MYTH. HE'S ISSUING A FORMAL CHALLENGE.
AN ANCIENT GREEK? SEND A RECENT RECRUIT TO PROVE HIMSELF. SOMEBODY WHO NEEDS TO SHARPEN HIS SKILLS.
HOW'S HE WORKING OUT? THOSE TATTOOS...
HE WAS ALWAYS ONE OF THE BEST. HIS CYNICISM IS... REFRESHING.

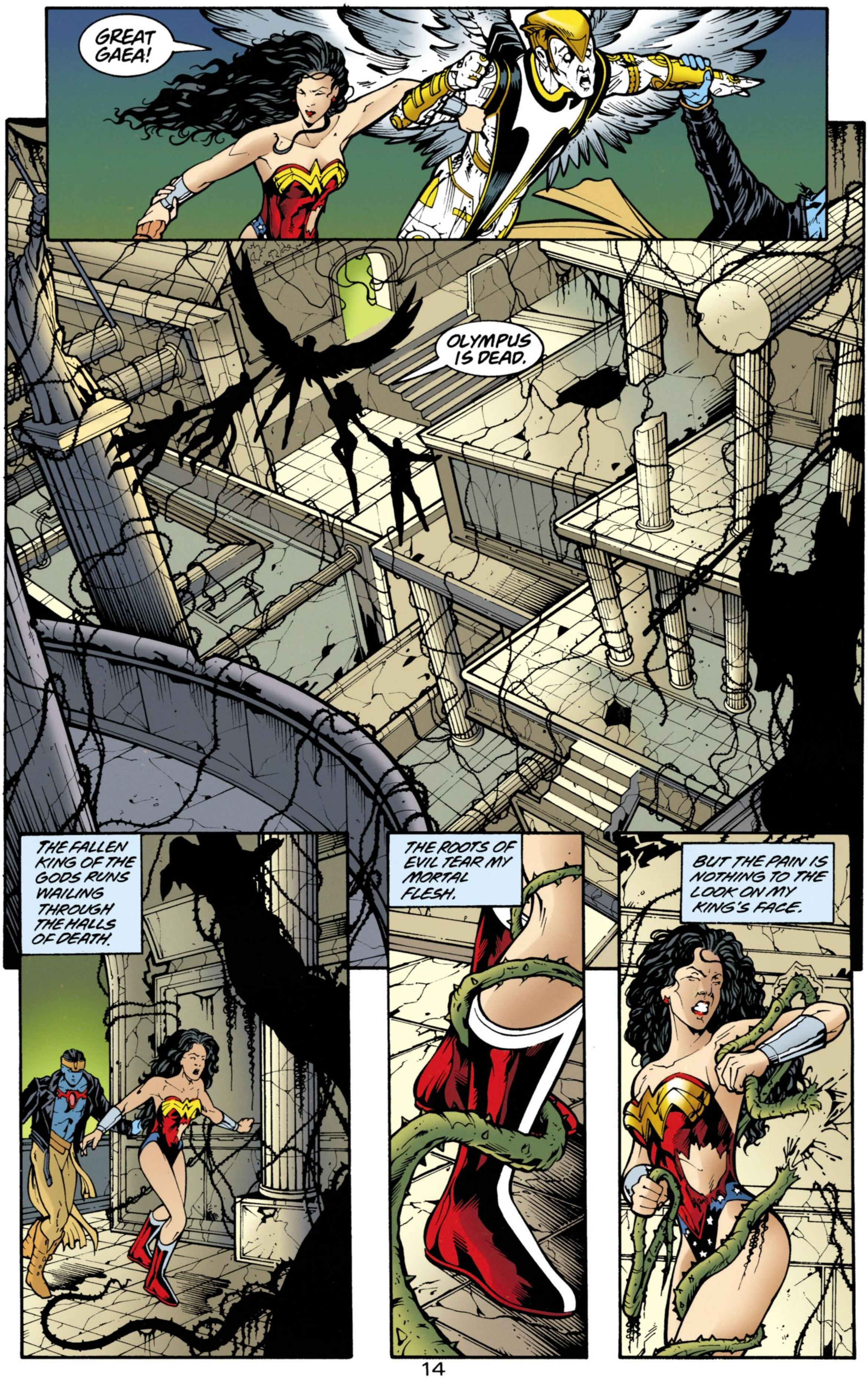
ECHIELIAS! THERE IS A CHALLENGER AT THE GATES! LORD HERAPHON POLITELY ORDERS YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HIM!
DEFENDING THE GATES OF HEAVEN! AT LAST A WORTHY ASSIGNMENT!
BEGONE, BARBARIAN! WE HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR ANIMISTIC NONSENSE!


HAYNE
ALERT THE ALPHA BATTALIONS OF THE BULL AND THE MAN! WHOEVER THIS IS HAS THE POWER TO ERASE THE HOST FROM THE BOOK!
I WANT INFORMATION! WHERE DID HE COME FROM AND WHERE DID HE GET THIS KIND OF POWER?
WHO IS THIS?!

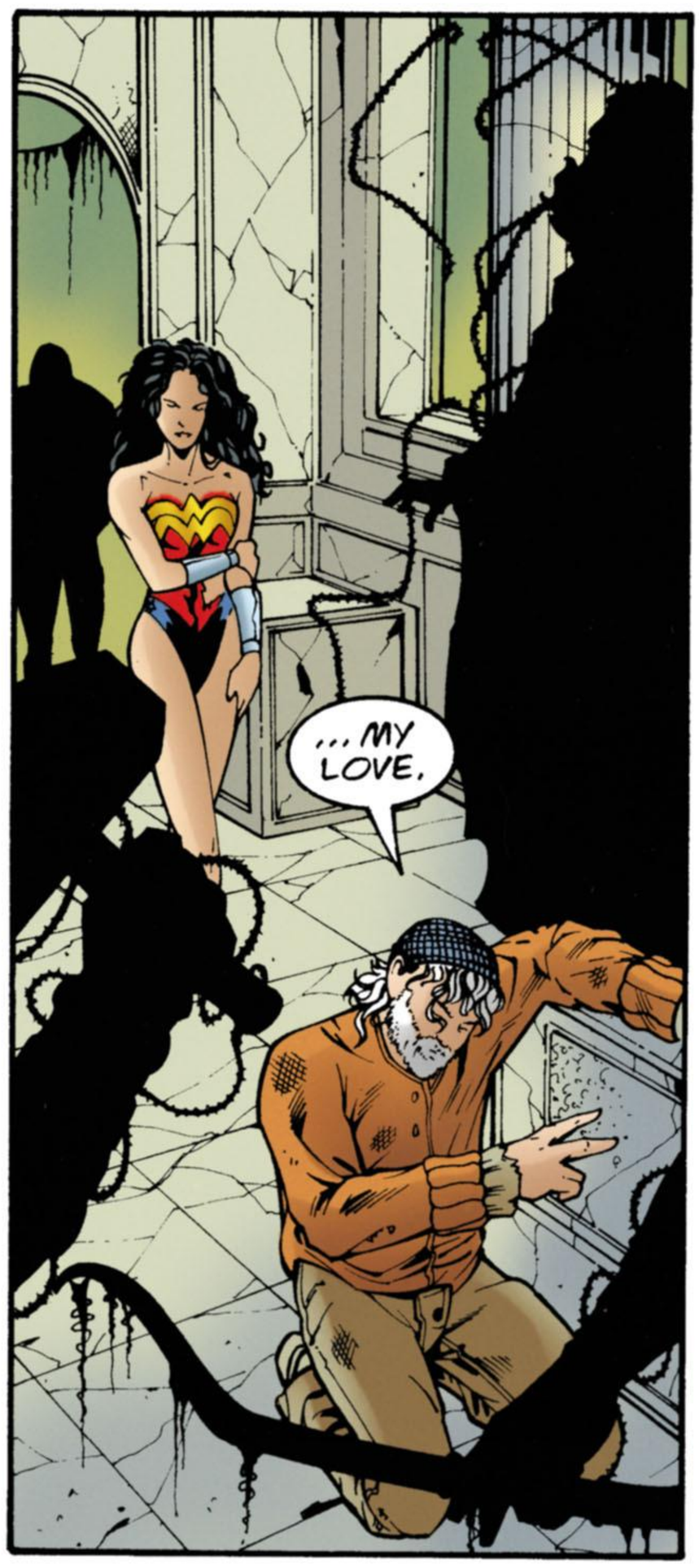
TEAR THE WINGS OFF THE ANGELS, MY CHILDREN, AND GORGE ON THEIR HOLY BLOOD! SO BEGINS OUR ASCENSION OF THE CELESTIAL STAIRS!
SO BEGINS THE CONQUEST OF HEAVEN!

CAN YOU FEEL IT?
AN INFECTION IS SPREADING THROUGH REALITY ITSELF.
THE ENERGY OF THE GODWAVE IS BEING CORRUPTED.
I CANNOT BEAR THIS! I CAN FEEL MYSELF DYING!
WHERE ARE MY CHILDREN? THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CHILDREN, WHETHER THEY BE GODS OR MORTAL.
THEY ARE GONE, MY LORD. I'VE SEEN THEIR LIFELESS BODIES IN THE NECROPOLIS THAT IS OLYMPUS.
IF I AM TO DIE, I WANT TO BE WITH THEM. I WILL FIND RESOLUTION THERE.
SOMETIMES A PATH SUDDENLY BECOMES CLEAR...
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE SHALL GO.


"WE SHALL MAKE OUR WAY TO THE HEAVENS."
DIANA! J'ONN CONTACTED ME.
WHAT IS HAPPENING? A DARK PLAGUE IS SPREADING THROUGH THE SOUL OF THE UNIVERSE!
ZAURIEL, THESE ARE FRIENDS. ONCE GODS, WE ARE ALL MORTAL NOW. WE NEED YOU TO TAKE US TO OLYMPUS.
WE HOPE AN ANSWER LIES THERE. AT THE HEART OF THE CORRUPTION.
THEN TAKE MY HANDS.
IF THE HEAVENS ARE FALLING, IT IS THE LEAST I CAN DO.


GREAT GAEA!
OLYMPUS IS DEAD.
THE FALLEN KING OF THE GODS RUNS WAILING THROUGH THE HALLS OF DEATH.
THE ROOTS OF EVIL TEAR MY MORTAL FLESH.
BUT THE PAIN IS NOTHING TO THE LOOK ON MY KING'S FACE.

MY GLORIOUS CHILDREN MURDERED BY CRONUS' HAND!
HERA, MY WIFE...

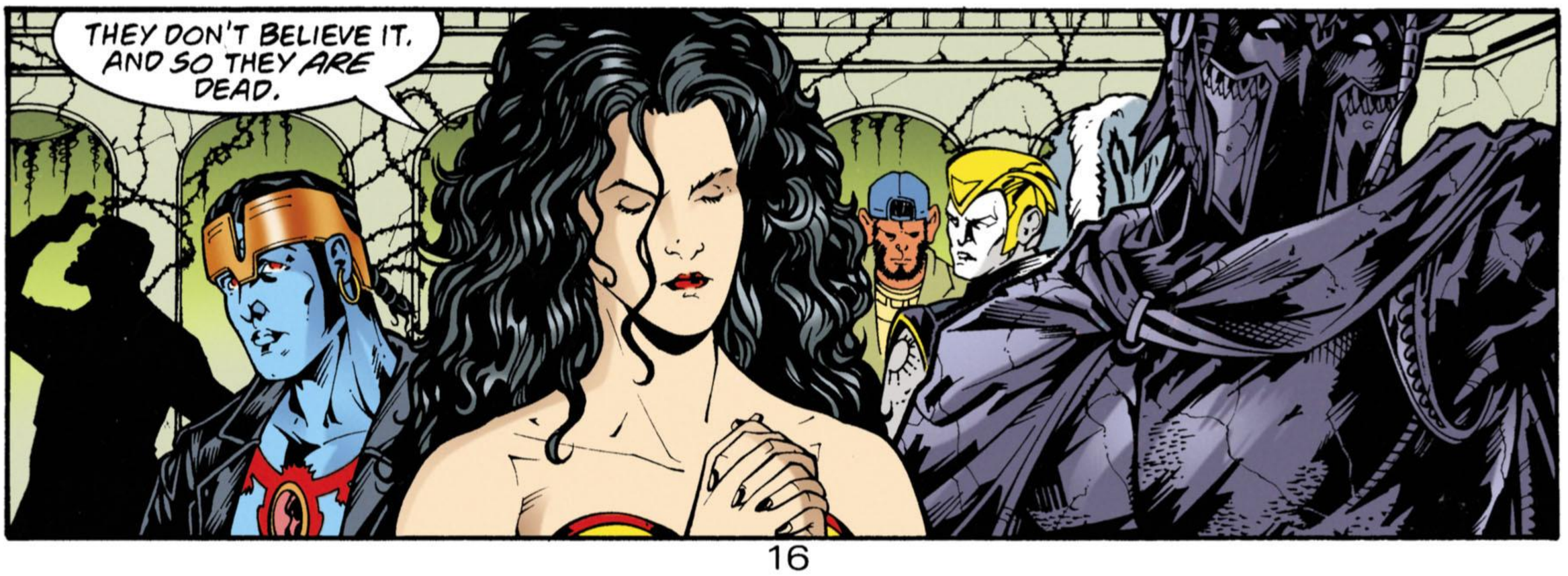

...MY LOVE.

MY KING...!

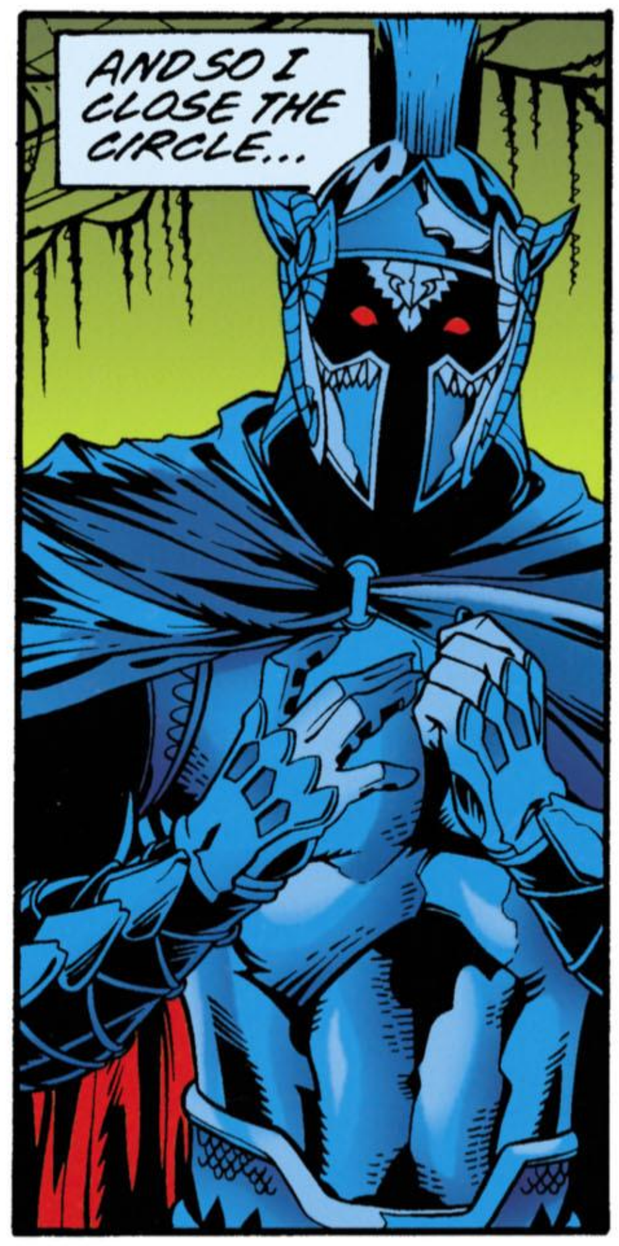
SHE'S CRYING!

I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED!
THIS IS NOT DEATH!

HEAR ME, GODS OF OLYMPUS!
YOUR POWER HAS BEEN TORN FROM YOU! YOU NO LONGER FEEL CREATION RUSHING THROUGH YOU!
YOU BELIEVE THAT WITHOUT IT YOU HAVE NO LIFE! BUT YOUR ONLY SALVATION IS TO BELIEVE ME!
YOU ARE NOT DEAD!
YOU... ARE... MORTAL!


THEY DON'T BELIEVE IT, AND SO THEY ARE DEAD.

KKKKK


AND SO I CLOSE THE CIRCLE...

I RETURN THE GIFT OF LIFE.

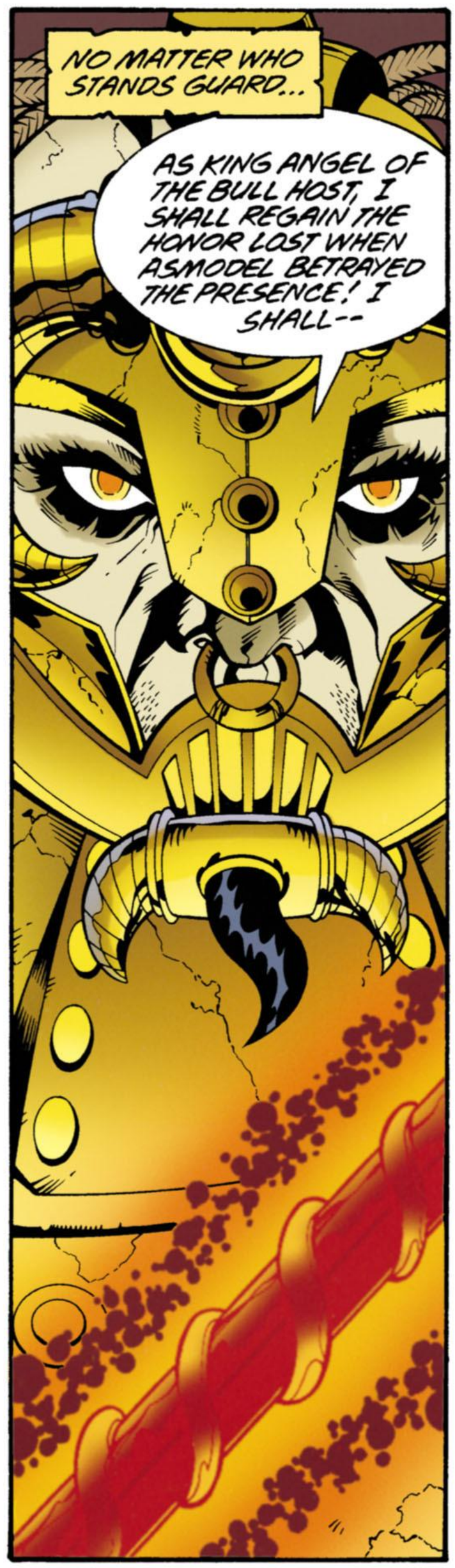
JUST AS THEY BROUGHT LIFE TO THE CLAY OF MY BODY...

...SO I BRING MORTAL LIFE TO THE STONE OF THEIR BELIEVED DEATH.

I HATE TO SPOIL THE MOMENT, BUT WE HAVE TO HURRY.
I JUST FELT A CRACK IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF HEAVEN!

HELL HAS COME TO HEAVEN.
THE CHAOS SO LONG WISHED UPON THE STEPS OF HEAVEN BY THE FALLEN ANGEL LUCIFER...

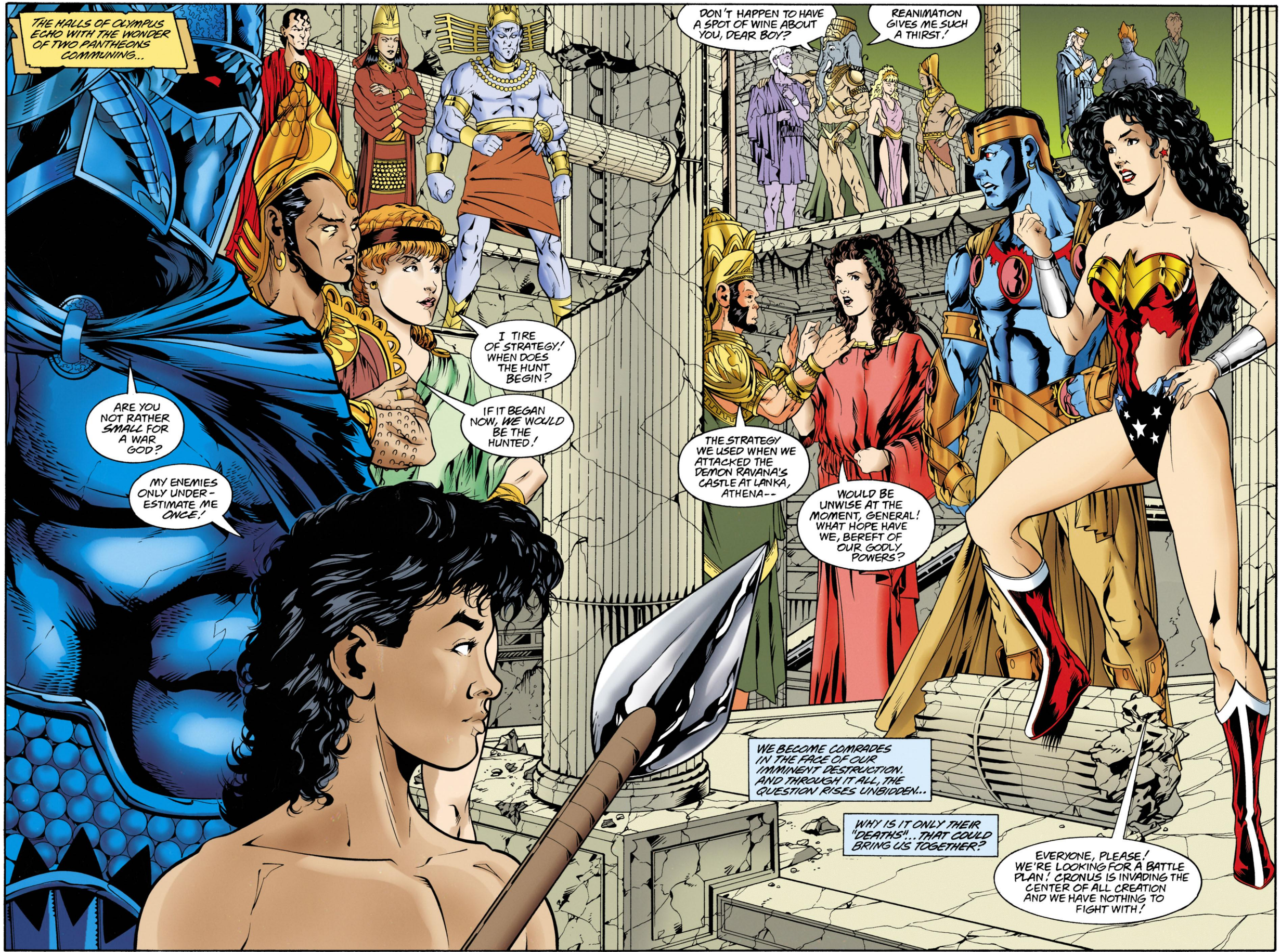
... IS WROUGHT UPON THE HOLY BY ANCIENT EVIL.


NO MATTER WHO STANDS GUARD...
AS KING ANGEL OF THE BULL HOST, I SHALL REGAIN THE HONOR LOST WHEN ASMODEL BETRAYED THE PRESENCE! I SHALL--

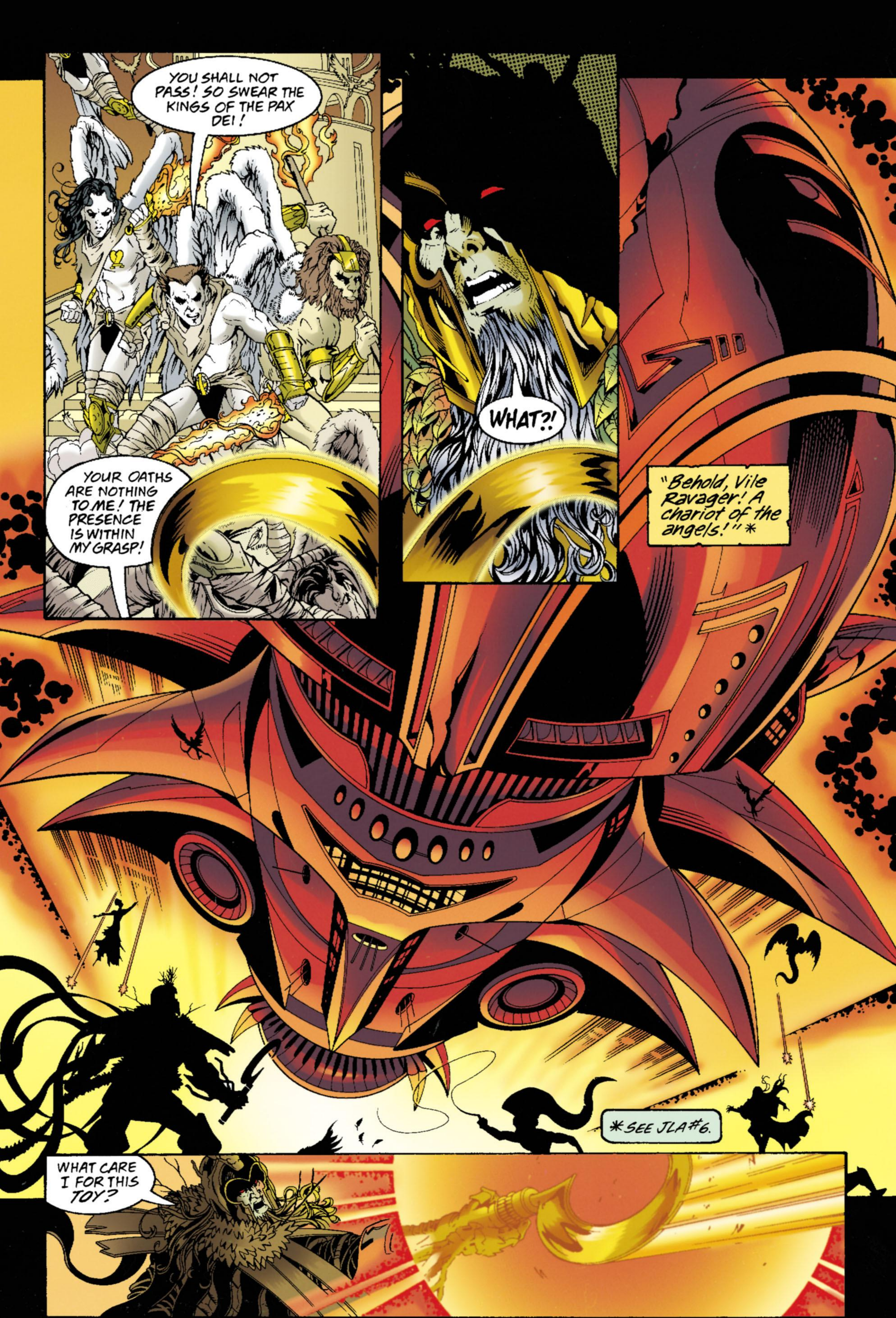
THE PAX DEI TALK TOO MUCH!

COME, CHILDREN, THE GOAL IS IN SIGHT! I SHALL EXTINGUISH THE PRESENCE AND TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AT THE CENTER OF CREATION!

WE ARE NOW WITNESS TO A GATHERING THE LIKE OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN. I ASK YOU TO PUT ASIDE OUR BELIEFS.
IT IS NOT TIME FOR RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES...
IT IS TIME FOR BATTLE!
AS YOU SUSPECTED, THE SAME HELD TRUE FOR MY GODS, DIANA. I APPEALED TO THEIR HUMBLE NATURES, AND THEY REALIZED THEIR MORTALITY.


THE HALLS OF OLYMPUS ECHO WITH THE WONDER OF TWO PANTHEONS COMMUNING...
ARE YOU NOT RATHER SMALL FOR A WAR GOD?
MY ENEMIES ONLY UNDER-ESTIMATE ME ONCE!
I TIRE OF STRATEGY! WHEN DOES THE HUNT BEGIN?
IF IT BEGAN NOW, WE WOULD BE THE HUNTED!
DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A SPOT OF WINE ABOUT YOU, DEAR BOY?
REANIMATION GIVES ME SUCH A THIRST!
THE STRATEGY WE USED WHEN WE ATTACKED THE DEMON RAVANA'S CASTLE AT LANKA, ATHENA--
WOULD BE UNWISE AT THE MOMENT, GENERAL! WHAT HOPE HAVE WE, BEREFT OF OUR GODLY POWERS?
WE BECOME COMRADES IN THE FACE OF OUR IMMINENT DESTRUCTION. AND THROUGH IT ALL, THE QUESTION RISES UNBIDDEN...
WHY IS IT ONLY THEIR "DEATHS"... THAT COULD BRING US TOGETHER?
EVERYONE, PLEASE! WE'RE LOOKING FOR A BATTLE PLAN! CRONUS IS INVADING THE CENTER OF ALL CREATION AND WE HAVE NOTHING TO FIGHT WITH!

THEN WE FIGHT AS WE ARE!
OUR WEAPON WILL BE THE MOST PRECIOUS POWER IN THE UNIVERSE... LIFE ITSELF!
IT MATTERS NOT WHETHER THAT LIFE BE MORTAL OR IMMORTAL!
WE SHALL SACRIFICE IT TO STOP THE CORRUPTION OF THE COSMOS!
AND LET DEATH TAKE THE LOSER!
THEN WE ARE UNITED! ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO FIND THE MEANS OF ATTACK!
I BELIEVE WE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER!

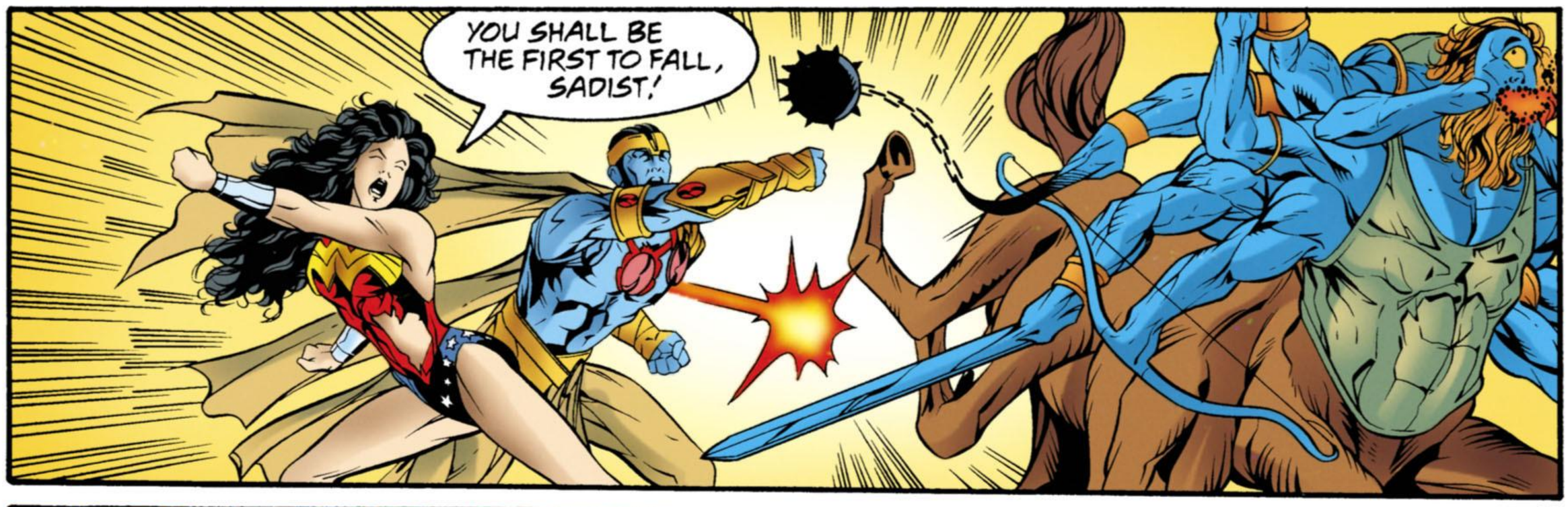

YOU SHALL NOT PASS! SO SWEAR THE KINGS OF THE PAX DEI!
YOUR OATHS ARE NOTHING TO ME! THE PRESENCE IS WITHIN MY GRASP!
WHAT?!
"Behold, Vile Ravager! A chariot of the angels!"*
*SEE JLA #6.
WHAT CARE I FOR THIS TOY?

THIS USURPER SHALL NOT TAKE THE THRONE OF HEAVEN!

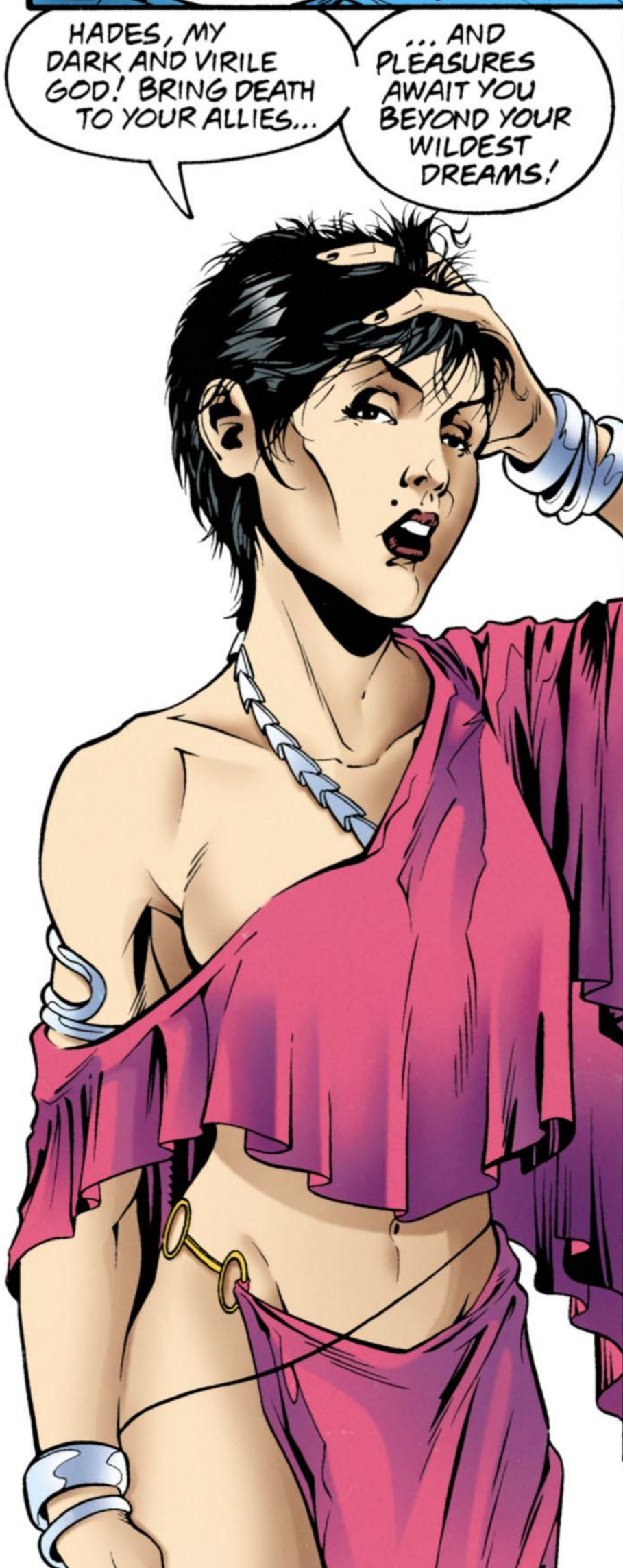
DIE BY THE POWER OF THE GODWAVE!
DIE BY THE WEAPON THAT CONQUERED IT!
BY ALL CREATION...!
DIANA! HE DOES NOT HOLD THE POWER!
THE POWER IS IN THE SICKLE!
THERE ARE MOMENTS ONE SPENDS A WHOLE LIFE TRAINING FOR...
THEY MAY ARRIVE WITHOUT FANFARE... OR IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE...
BUT THEY ARE SUDDENLY UPON US!
AND IF WE ARE EQUAL TO THE CHALLENGE...

BALANCE IS RESTORED!
CREATION MENDS ITSELF.
THE ETERNAL POWER OF THE COSMOS REGAINS ITS AWE-SOME SYMMETRY...
FLOWING FROM THOSE WHO WOULD HOLD IT TIGHT... LIKE BLOOD FROM A MORTAL WOUND!
NOOOOOOOO!

I BELIEVE THE EXPRESSION IS... WE'RE BACK.

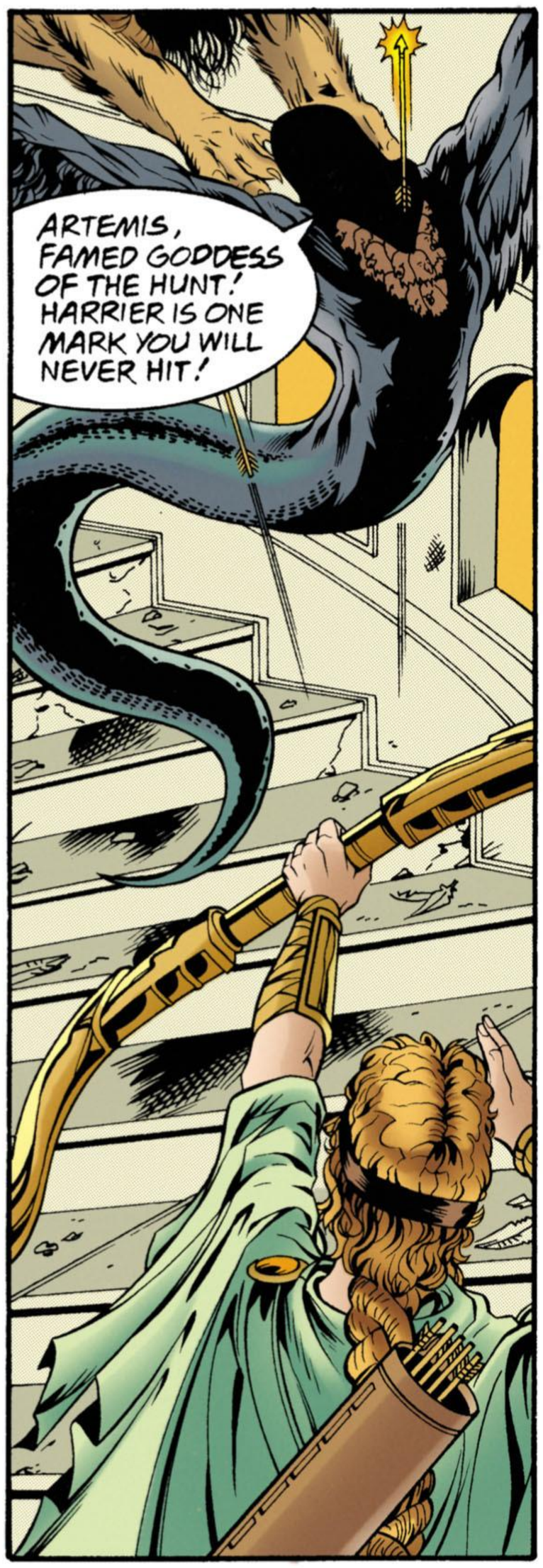

YOU SHALL BE THE FIRST TO FALL, SADIST!

FEEL THE WRATH OF TWO WAR GODS!


HADES, MY DARK AND VIRILE GOD! BRING DEATH TO YOUR ALLIES...
... AND PLEASURES AWAIT YOU BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!

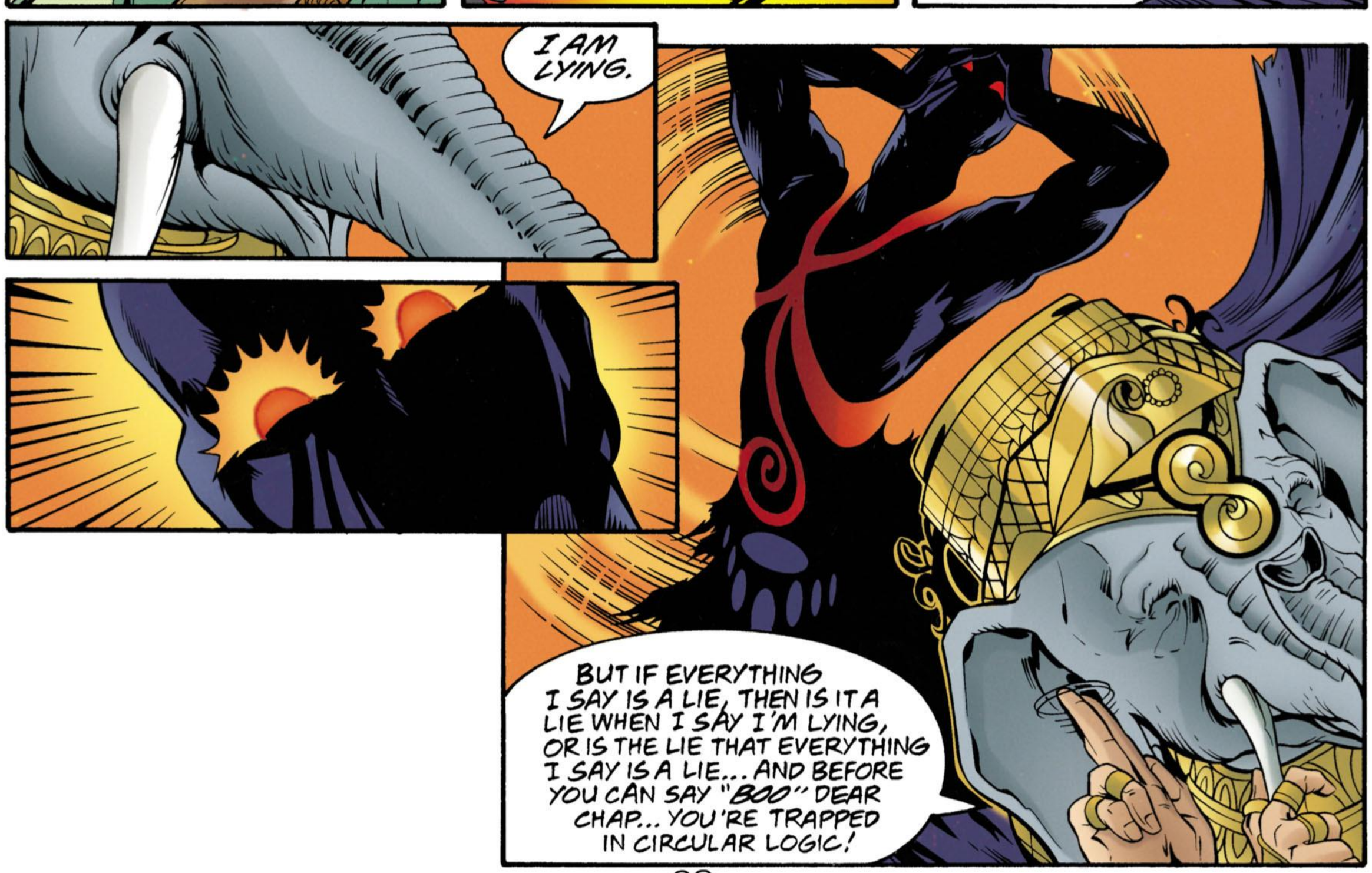
YOU ATTEMPT TO SEDUCE THE WRONG GOD, DISDAIN.

MY HEART IS DEAD.

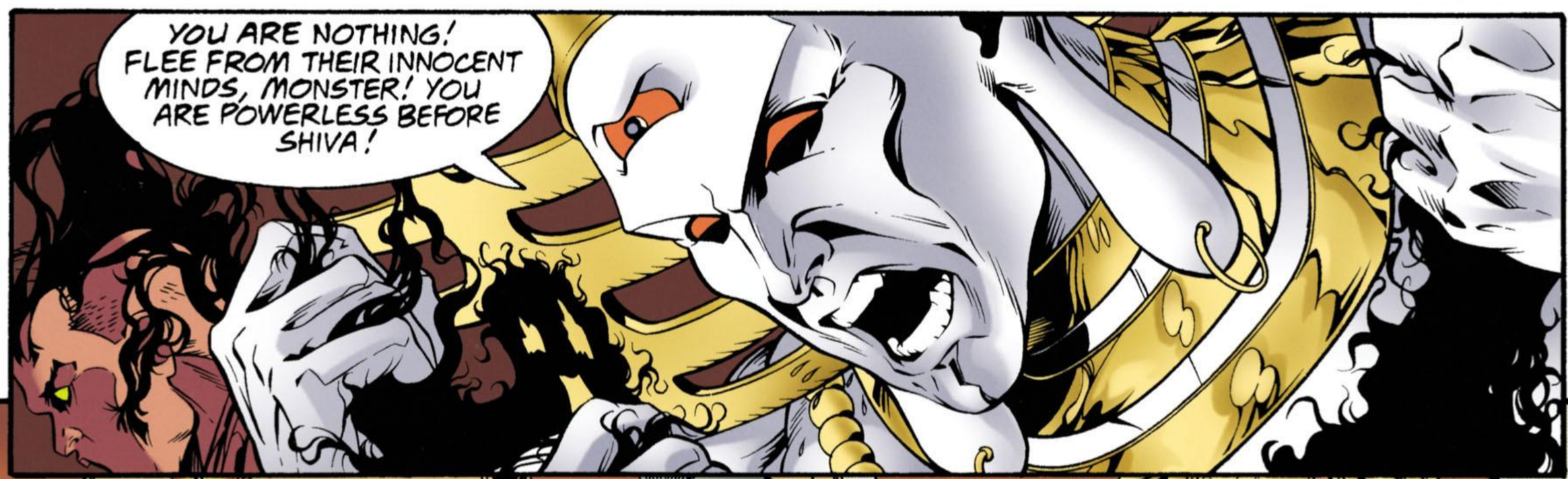

ARTEMIS, FAMED GODDESS OF THE HUNT! HARRIER IS ONE MARK YOU WILL NEVER HIT!

THEN BEWARE DURGA, WIFE OF SHIVA, HUNTRESS OF KILLERS! BE GLAD I DO NOT SET KALI LOOSE ON YOU, SCAVENGER!

WELL, I'M IN A PICKLE NOW! POSSESSED BY OBLIVION, A CREATURE OF PURE THOUGHT.
BUT I HAVE JUST THE REMEDY. LISTEN TO ME, OLD BEAN... EVERYTHING I SAY IS A LIE.


I AM LYING.
BUT IF EVERYTHING I SAY IS A LIE, THEN IS IT A LIE WHEN I SAY I'M LYING, OR IS THE LIE THAT EVERYTHING I SAY IS A LIE... AND BEFORE YOU CAN SAY "BOO" DEAR CHAP... YOU'RE TRAPPED IN CIRCULAR LOGIC!

You shall not take titan, for we are the fifty, and we are one!


YOU ARE NOTHING! FLEE FROM THEIR INNOCENT MINDS, MONSTER! YOU ARE POWERLESS BEFORE SHIVA!

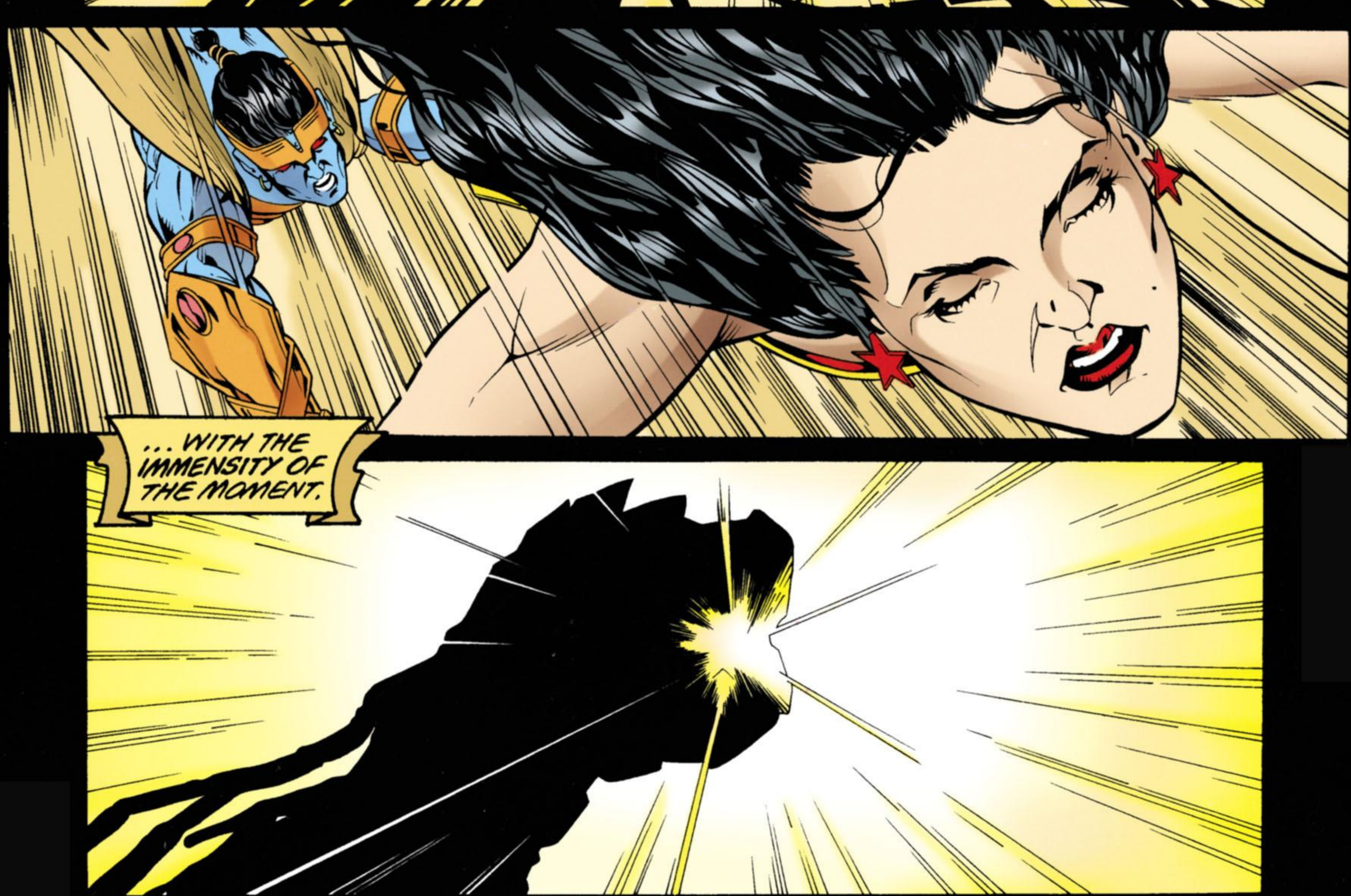
NOT SO FAST, ARCH! TRICKSTER, STRATEGIST, "WISEST OF THE WISE"!

MAY I INTRODUCE ATHENA, GODDESS OF WISDOM!
NO LONGER SHALL YOU WHISPER PLANS TO YOUR SIBLINGS! I AM HERE TO OUT-THINK YOU AT EVERY TURN!
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU HAVE ALREADY LOST! IT'S ALL BEEN A DIS-TRACTION. NOW, FATHER!

WHAT NEED HAVE I OF A WEAPON!? I SEIZE VICTORY WITH MY BARE HANDS!

TIME SLOWS...

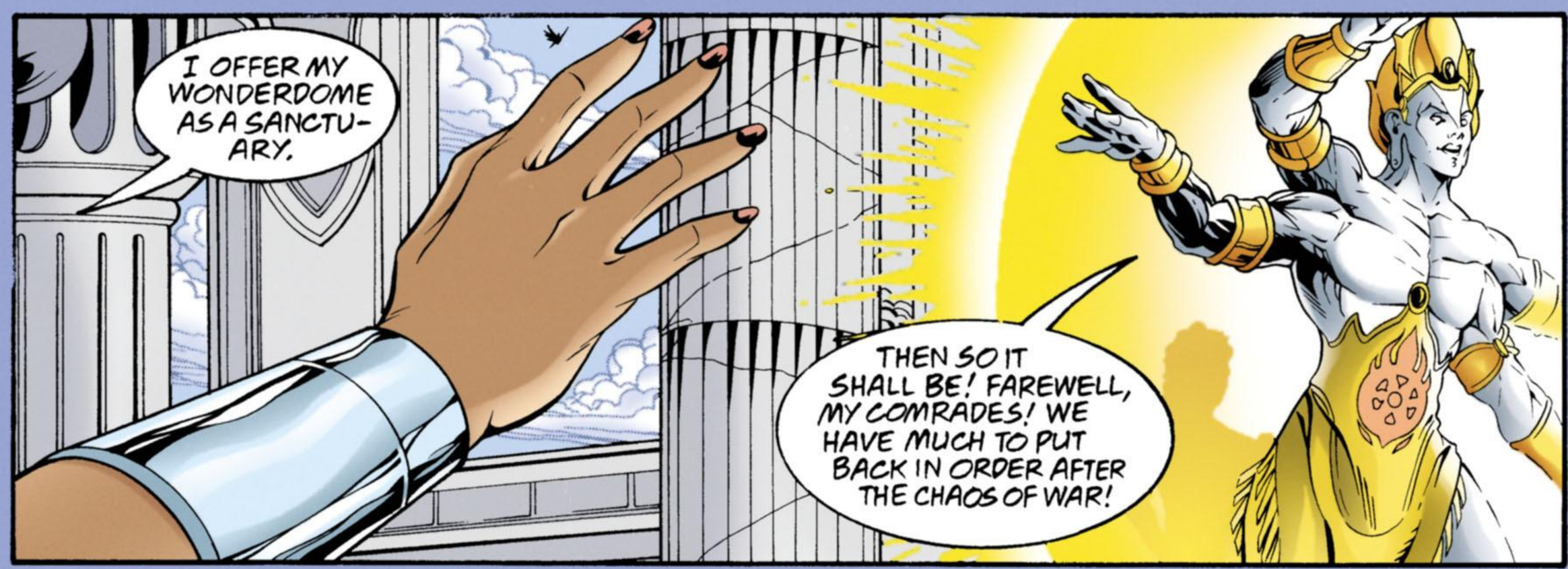
THE POWER OF THE PRESENCE IS MINE!

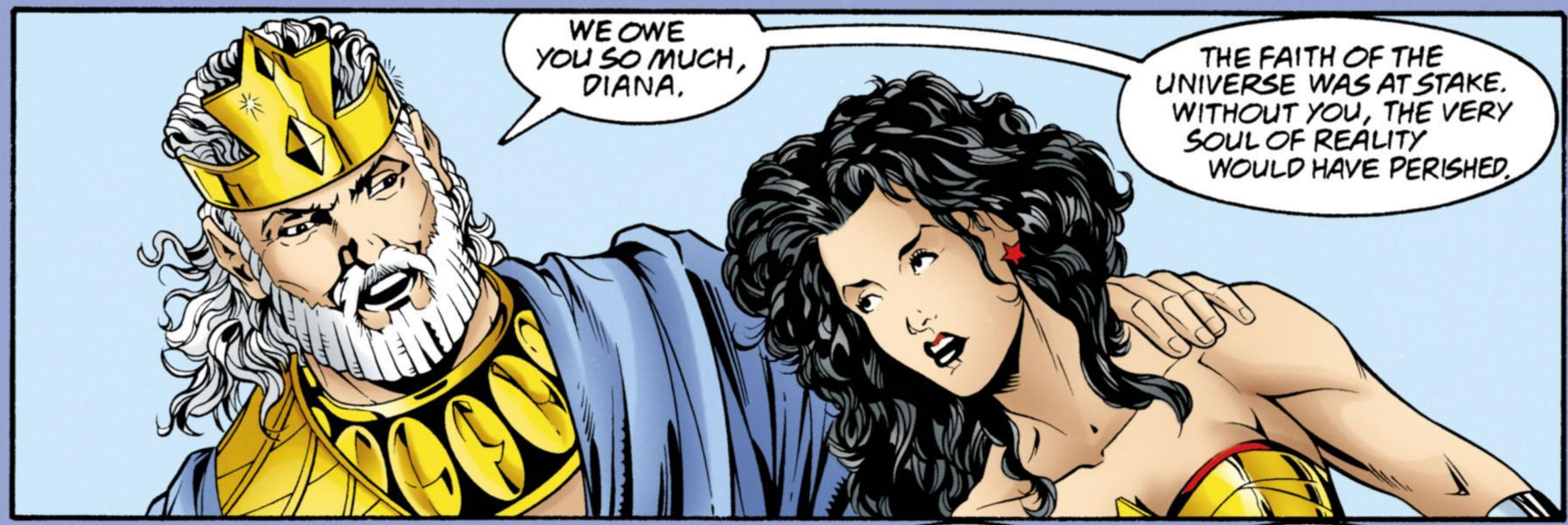

...WITH THE IMMENSITY OF THE MOMENT.

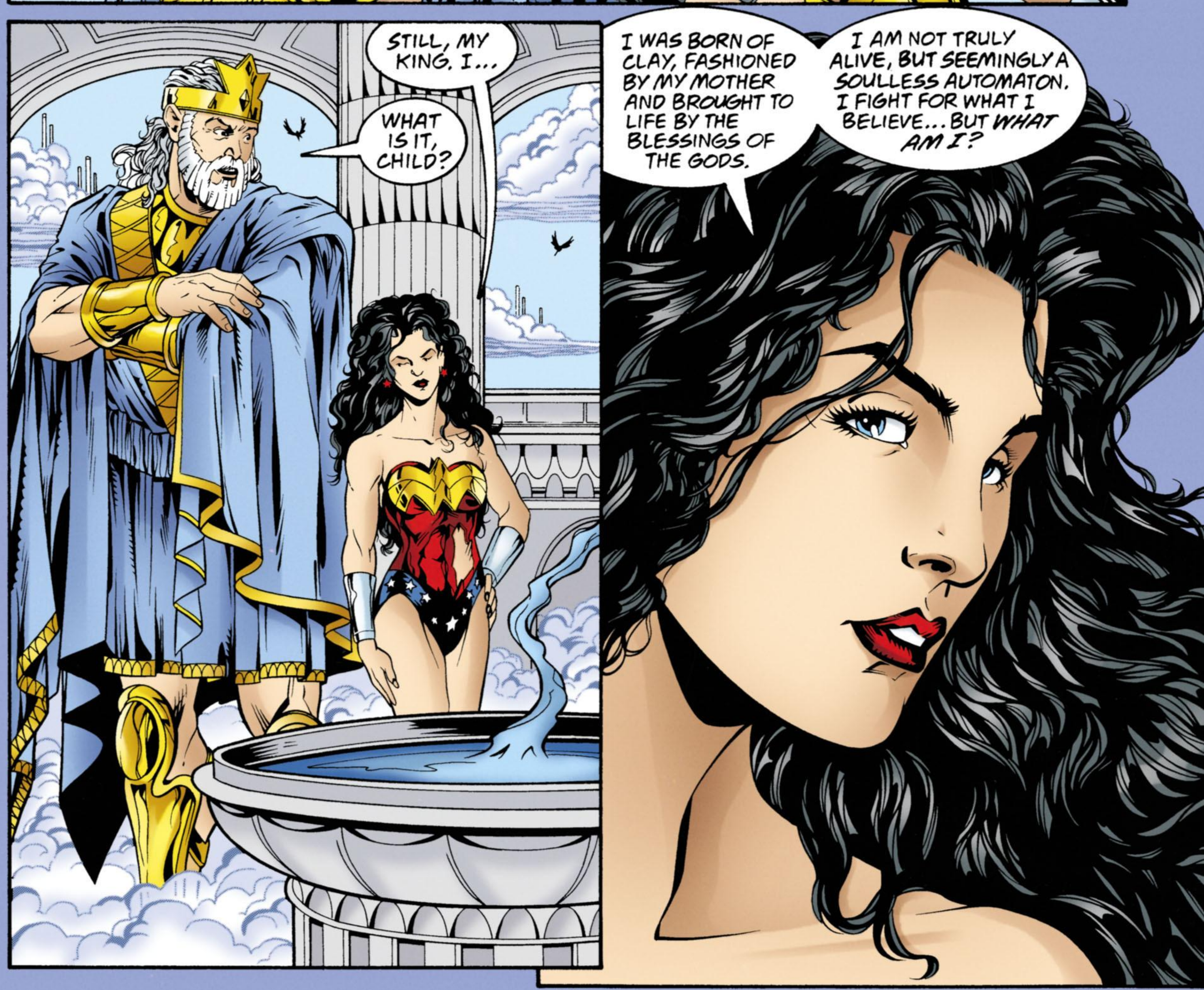
I SEE IT! I SEE IT ALL!
EVERYTHING AT ONCE!
MORTAL... IMMORTAL...WE ALL ARE ONE!
THE GODWAVE EXPLODES...! IMPLODES...!
CREATES...! DESTROYS...!
NO! PLEASE! IT'S TOO MUCH!
TOO... MUCH...

MOTHER GAEA!
I RETURN TO THE BEGINNING... TO THE END...
ALL IS ONE! ALL IS ONE!
ALL...
IS...
ONE...!

And so comes Justice.
NO ONE BEING WAS EVER MEANT TO ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRETY OF THE GODWAVE.
I SHALL WATCH OVER CRONUS' CHILDREN, IN THE ETERNAL PRISON OF THE LAND OF THE DEAD!
THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF WE'D BEEN IN COMMUNICATION.
WE SHOULD MEET FROM TIME TO TIME, ESTABLISH A NEUTRAL GROUND FOR ALL GODS.
AND INVITE EVERYONE!
THERE SHOULD BE ROOM FOR ALL BELIEFS! EVEN THOSE THAT DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHERS.


I OFFER MY WONDERDOME AS A SANCTUARY.
THEN SO IT SHALL BE! FAREWELL, MY COMRADES! WE HAVE MUCH TO PUT BACK IN ORDER AFTER THE CHAOS OF WAR!


WE OWE YOU SO MUCH, DIANA.
THE FAITH OF THE UNIVERSE WAS AT STAKE. WITHOUT YOU, THE VERY SOUL OF REALITY WOULD HAVE PERISHED.


STILL, MY KING. I...
WHAT IS IT, CHILD?
I WAS BORN OF CLAY, FASHIONED BY MY MOTHER AND BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THE BLESSINGS OF THE GODS.
I AM NOT TRULY ALIVE, BUT SEEMINGLY A SOULLESS AUTOMATON. I FIGHT FOR WHAT I BELIEVE... BUT WHAT AM I?

DIANA... DID YOU NOT KNOW?
YOU WERE THE UNBORN CHILD INSIDE YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB WHEN SHE DIED. YOUR SOUL WAS PLACED INTO THIS BODY WHEN YOU WERE BROUGHT TO LIFE.
YOU... MEAN...
YOU ARE ALIVE IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.
ALIVE!

WHAT IS IT, DIANA? YOU GLOW WITH HAPPINESS!

I HAVE JUST BEEN GIVEN THE MOST WONDERFUL GIFT IN THE WORLD! I NOW KNOW... I AM TRULY ALIVE!

I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT! YOU ARE MORE ALIVE THAN ANYONE I HAVE EVER MET!

BUT I AM MY OWN PERSON! FREE TO MAKE CHOICES ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG... TO FOLLOW MY BELIEFS!

BUT I THOUGHT YOU ALWAYS HAD THAT!

I WAS NEVER SURE IF IT WAS ME, OR THE GODS PUTTING THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS IN MY MIND.

I'M ENVIOUS, DIANA. I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE TRAINING IN MOUNT MANDARA. I'M AFRAID I KNOW VERY LITTLE OF THE WAYS OF THE OUT-SIDE WORLD.

THEN COME, MY FRIEND! I'LL TELL YOU OF VICTORIES AND DEFEATS! OF HEROES AND VILLAINS! OF THE BATTLE TO WHICH I DEVOTE MY MY LIFE ANEW! TOGETHER WE WILL FIGHT...

..."TO BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD!"
Only the Beginning