

**A SHORT STORY AND A
HANDFUL OF TRAGEDY**

Seigfred Cabral

IT WAS THE HOUR THAT WOULD USHER IN A NEW AGE,
one that would not be kind to the old gods.

The key to that new age was also the key to
survival, and they all urgently staked their claim.

...Until an unexpected arrival makes them
realize the meaning of inevitability.



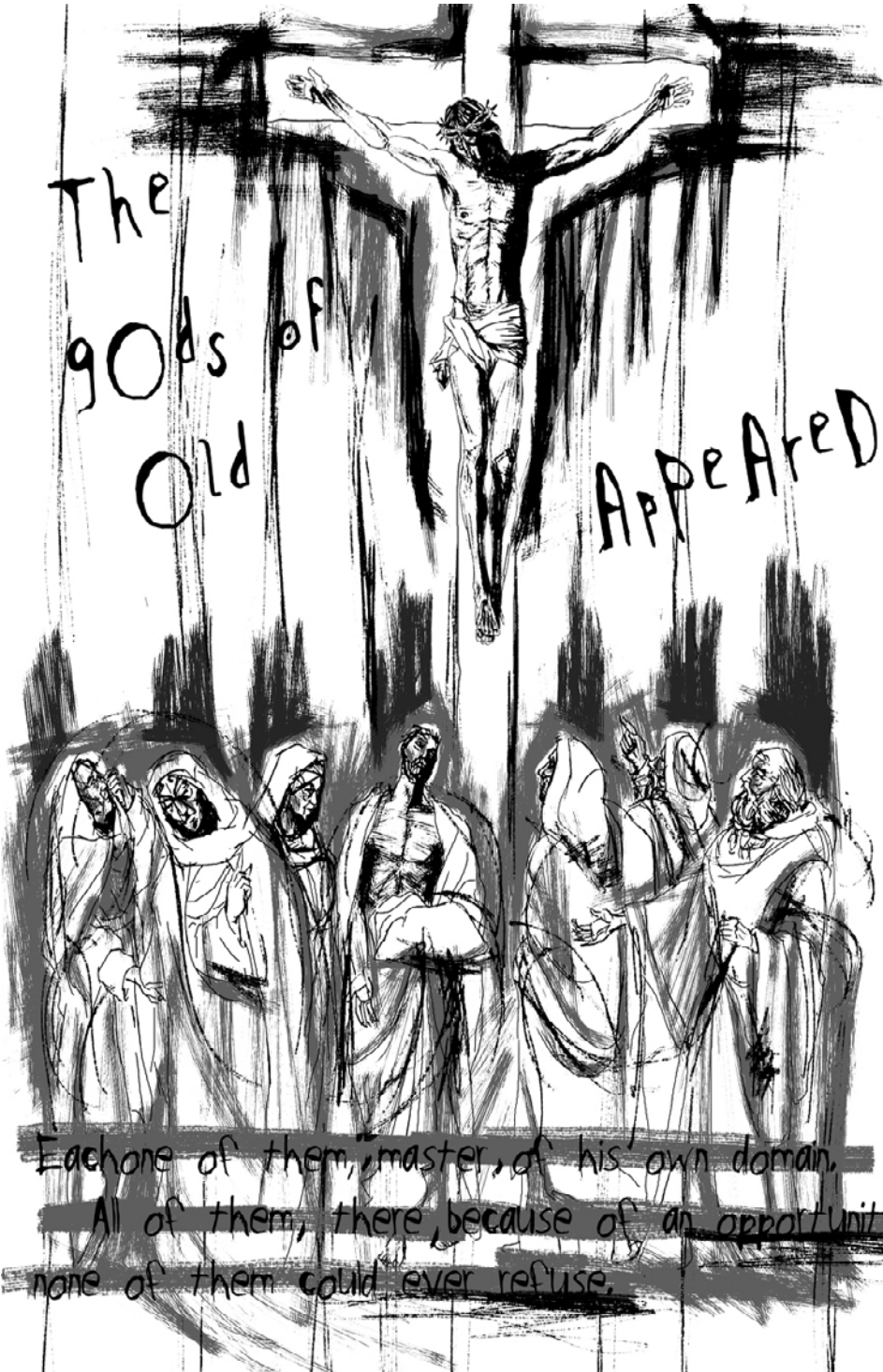
HE HAD BEEN UP
THERE FOR HOURS,
BLOOD DRIPPING
FROM HIS
FOREHEAD,
HANDS AND FEET...
LIFE DRIPPING AWAY
FROM HIS BODY.



"SOON,"
HE THOUGHT,
"SOON."

IT HAD BEEN FORETOLD THAT
THE SON OF MAN
WOULD DIE TO
REDEEM THE WORLD.
THE HOUR TO CLOSE
THAT PROPHECY HAD ARRIVED,
BUT BEFORE THE HOUR ENDED...







XIPE TOTEQ
ARTEC GOD
OF SACRIFICE
AND RENEWAL



HE MOCKS US. AS HE WISHES, SO HE WILLS.
HE PLACES US IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.
HE ROLLS US ABOUT. LIKE PEBBLES, WE ROLL.
WE SPIN. WE MAKE HIM LAUGH. HE MOCKS US.



I STAND HERE
NOW TO DECLARE
OWNERSHIP OVER
THIS DIVINITY
OF A MAN.



BY THE SKINS
OF THE PEOPLE
SACRIFICED IN MY NAME...

I WILL PEEL HIS SKIN AND
WEAR IT WHILE HIS HEART STILL BEATS.





THE BODY
IS MINE!

ODIN NORSE GOD OF

THE BATTLEFIELD, A GOD OF WAR



I WILL END THIS MAN'S
SUFFERING
AND I WILL TAKE
THIS PATHETIC
ACT OF HUMILITY
DOWN FROM
THAT CROSS.
I AM ODIN, GOD OF
MY OWN REALM AND
MY OWN PEOPLE.



I HAVE WATCHED VALIANT MEN EMBRACE GLORY
IN DEATH TO ATTEND MY TABLE IN THE GREAT HALLS
ONLY TO WATCH THIS MAN, THE SON OF MAN,
ROB ME OF WHAT IS MINE!



ENOUGH, ODIN! ALL OF US
ARE HERE FOR THE SAME
REASON AS YOU. NONE OF US
WILL EASILY ACCEPT OUR FATE.
I TOO AM TIRED. EVEN
CHANGING MY NAME WASN'T
ENOUGH.



"I HAVE WITNESSED MY PEOPLE BUILD
TEMPLES AND GREAT CITIES TO HONOR
MY NAME, BUT BECAUSE OF THE
DIVINE BASTARD AND HIS SON'S
OBSESSION FOR ATTENTION, MY VAST
EMPIRE WILL BE CONSUMED AT
THE CROSSROADS
BY ROT AND FILTH.
WE ARE PAWNS, MIGHTY ODIN,
ALL OF US ARE TIRED. I HAVE
CREATED ABSOLUTE CIVILIZATIONS.

IT IS MY INFLUENCE THAT GAVE MY PEOPLE
THE AMBITION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
THEIR RACE. I AM HERE TO ASSERT MY RIGHT
FOR THE BODY OF THIS MAN."



"FOR THE
SAKE OF
MANKIND'S
GREATER
FUTURE."

JUPITER THE ROMAN KING

A GOD OF CIVILIZATION



GREATER FUTURE?

WE CAME FROM ARROGANCE! WE ARE HERE BECAUSE OF NIMROD. WE WERE THERE WHEN THEY BEGAN TO BUILD THE TOWER ON SHINAR. WE WERE THERE, WAITING TO BE BORN.



YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, PROUD JUPITER. WE ARE PAWNS, NOTHING MORE



OUR PURPOSE WAS TO SHOW THEM PEOPLE WORTHY OF THEIR TIME

"MAN'S GREATER FUTURE, WAR, TEMPLES, CITIES AND CIVILIZATIONS... ALL THESE LEAD TO CORRUPTION OF POWER AND GREED.

ONLY A DRAGGART WILL PRIDE HIMSELF WITH SUCH CLAIMS. I'M NOT HERE TO CLAIM THAT THE FUTURE OF MAN LIES IN THESE HANDS. I CAN GIVE THEM SHELTER, GOOD HARVEST, PEACE... I CAN GIVE THEM LIFE."

BATHALA

THE OLD MOUNTAIN GOD OF THE CORDILLERAS. A GOD OF NATURE. A GOD OF ORDER.



I APOLOGIZE FOR MY REASONS FOR BEING HERE, LUMINOUS ONE, BUT MY PEOPLE... MY REALM...



"MY EXISTENCE"



BRAHMA
HINDU GOD OF
CREATION

"BY OUR SINS, WE SHALL FALL.
THE DANCE OF KARMA RULES US ALL.
HEARTS WILL DECLARE OUR FATE,
OUR SALVATION LIES WITHIN THEIR FAITH."



OUR "PEOPLE'S" SALVATION!
THEIR SALVATION LIES WITHIN
THEIR LOYALTY.
THE WISDOM WE SHARED
WITH THEM IS ENOUGH TO LAST
US A THOUSAND LIFETIMES.
BUT IS IT ENOUGH FOR THEM
TO STAY?



IS IT?

WE ARE WHAT WE ARE, BROTHERS,
THE AUDACITY OF THE HUMAN SOUL.
IT WAS NOT OUR FAULT
THAT THE PEOPLE LUSTED
FOR UNITY, A GLORIFIED
EMPIRE OF MAN.



IT WAS NOT OUR DOING WHEN
THE SELECT BEGGED US INTO BEING.
I ASSURE YOU TWO THAT OUR COUNTRY
WILL EVEN SERVE OUR PETS TO
PRESERVE ITSELF



"NOW, SILENCE! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THIS, THIS ALMOST
MIRACULOUS EXPLOIT HERE, IS A CHANCE FOR
US TO LENGTHEN AND AMPLIFY OUR VERY EXISTENCE?"



SHIVA
HINDU GOD OF
DESTRUCTION

ALTHOUGH BRAHMA
IS LUSTING FOR
THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPAND
OUR NAMES,
I AM HERE
ONLY TO WATCH,
TO WITNESS THIS
MAN CLOSE
THE PROPHECY



AND
BRING
THE
DOWNFALL
OF
THE
WEAK.

N e v e r !



WE GODS WILL DECIDE OUR
FATE! WE WILL DECIDE THIS
ACCORDING TO THE SEVERITY
OF THE DAMAGE THAT WAS
DONE BY HIS BASTARD OF
A FATHER AND THE FUTURE
DAMAGES THAT THIS LATEST
UNDERTAKING WILL INCUR.

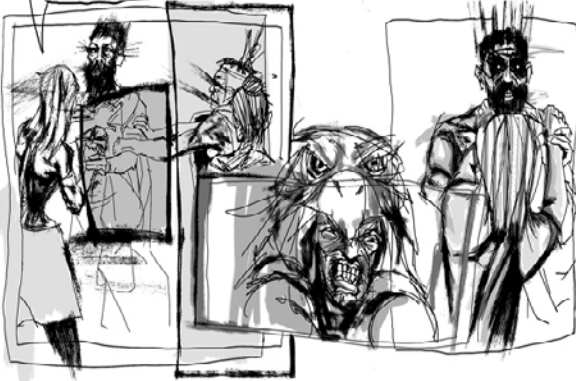


AMUN RA
THE EGYPTIAN
SUN KING

LIKE MOST OF YOU,
I CHANGED MY NAME
TO PROLONG MY
EXISTENCE.

STILL, I FIND
MYSELF MERELY
CLINGING TO WHAT
VESTIGES OF
POWER STILL REMAIN..

ESPECIALLY AFTER YOUR ROMAN PIGS
INVADED MY EMPIRE AND SEDUCED
THE LAST BEAGON OF MY KINGDOM!

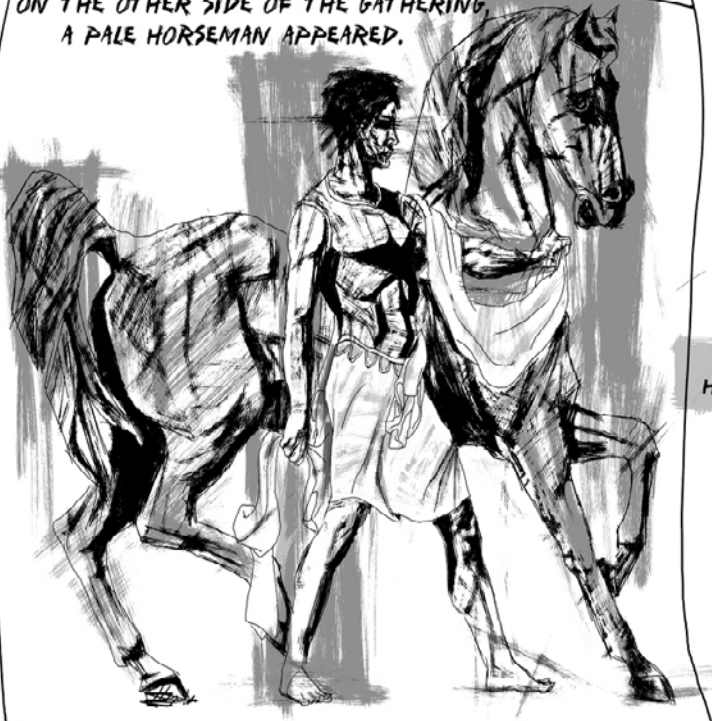


AMIDST THE AGITATION
AND UPROAR,
A FAINT CRY COULD
BE HEARD...



"FATHER, WHY HAVE YOU
FORSAKEN ME?"

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATHERING,
A PALE HORSEMAN APPEARED.



ACCOMPANYING
HIM WAS SILENCE.



THE CARDINAL
CONCEPT
OF MAN'S
MORTALITY.
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?



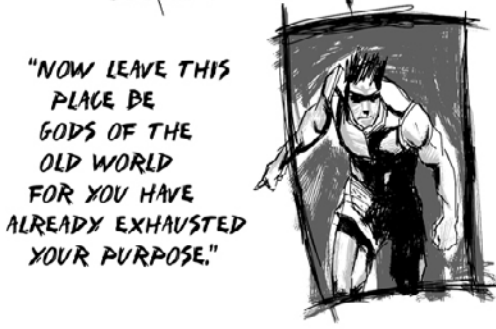
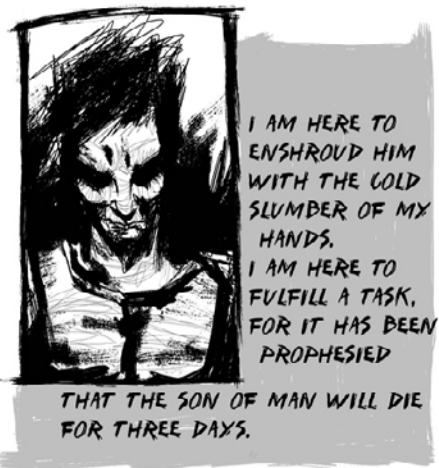
THE ROMAN KING
ASKED YOU
A QUESTION,
END-GIVER!

GREETINGS TO YOU,
TOO, PROUD ZEUS.
OR IS IT JUPITER?

BE CAREFUL, OLD GOD.
I DO NOT FEAR YOU
NOR ANY OF YOU.
I AM NOT HERE
TO CONCERN MYSELF
WITH YOUR PRIDE.



I AM HERE TO END
THIS CONGREGATION
AND CLAIM THE SON.



After Death had spoken to them,
the sky began to tremble.

The son of man knew,
and with his last breath. . .



It IS ACCOMPLISHED!

