

Fred Van Lente
Scott Koblish
Paul Mounts

THE WEAPON

NO. 2 OF 4

malibu comics



DIRECT EDITION

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PREVIOUSLY: Martial arts enthusiast and inventor Tommy Zhou has developed a groundbreaking innovation—wrist bands that create an endless variety of weapons from solid holograms. But an evil order of assassins believes Tommy has stumbled upon the long-lost mystic technique of the Order of Wu-Shi—“the Way of the Weapon”. Now Tommy, and his partner Megan, must discover the location of the secret scrolls before the Lin Kuei, or be destroyed.



Tommy Zhou
The Weapon



Megan Dean-Hughes
Looking for an Adventure



Lin Kuei
Death to the Sons of Shan-Tao

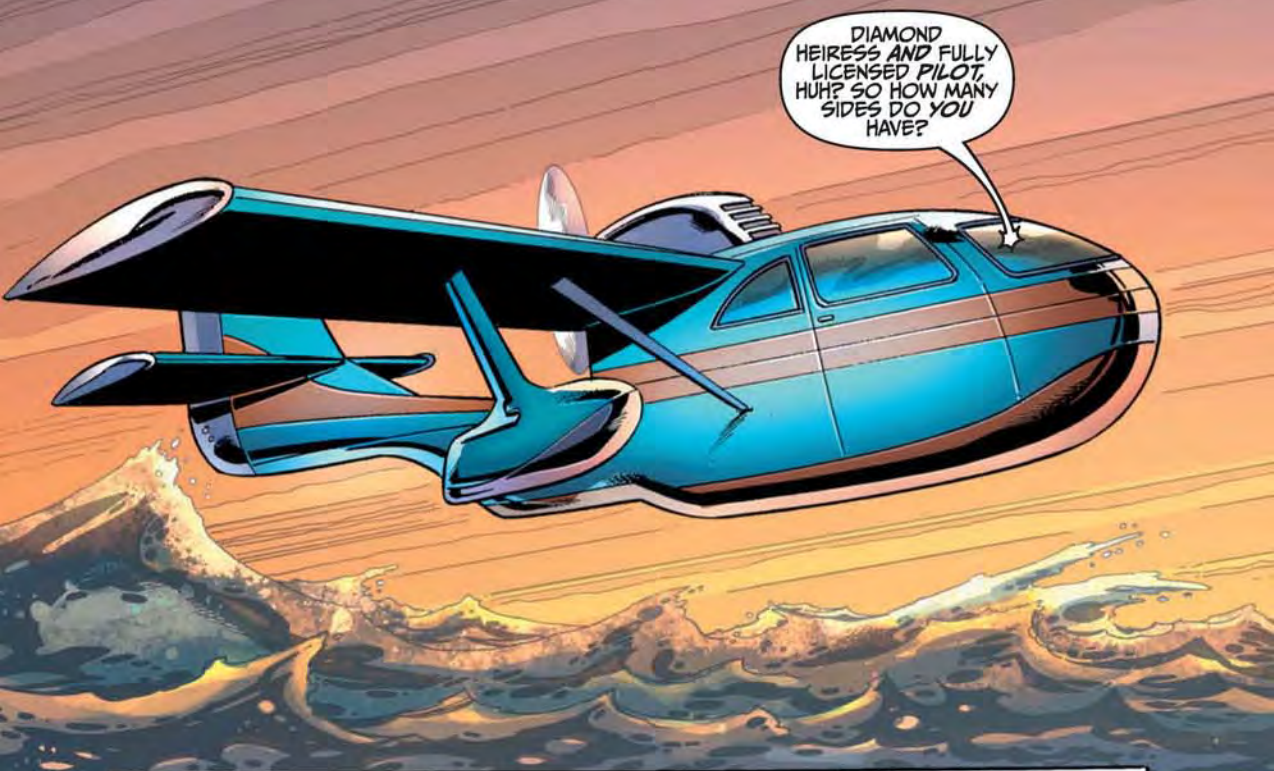
WRITTEN BY: Fred Van Lente
ART BY: Scott Koblisch
COLOR BY: Paul Mounts
LETTERS BY: Troy Peteri
COVER BY: Scott Koblisch AND Paul Mounts
EDITED BY: Paul Cibis AND Adam Rosenblum
CREATED BY: Scott Mitchell Rosenberg



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"ACCORDING TO THE HISTORY SITES, A WANDERING INDIAN PRIEST NAMED BODHIDHARMA BROUGHT BUDDHISM TO CHINA IN THE FIFTH CENTURY."



"HE HELPED HIS CONVERTS TRANSLATE BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS INTO CHINESE ..."



"... AND HE INVENTED THE MARTIAL ARTS AS A WAY TO KEEP MONKS IN SHAPE FOR MEDITATION!"



"THEY SAY BODHIDHARMA GAINED COMPLETE MASTERY OF HIS OWN LIFE FORCE SO IT COULD BE PROPERLY CHANNLED FOR MEDITATION."

"HIS CHI-CONCENTRATION WAS SO INTENSE, HIS GAZE COULD ACTUALLY BORE HOLES THROUGH SOLID ROCK!"



"LEGENDS SAY BODHIDHARMA SET DOWN ALL HIS SECRETS OF CHI MASTERY IN A SCROLL... BUT NO SERIOUS SCHOLAR HAS EVER CONFIRMED IT ACTUALLY EXISTED."



AND YOU THINK THAT SCROLL IS THE ONE THESE MARTIAL ARTS LUNATICS ARE AFTER?

THAT WOULD MEAN THE WU-SHI FA OF YOUR GRANDFATHER'S SHAN TAO ORDER IS PART OF BODHIDHARMA'S CHI TECHNIQUE!



I'M...NOT SURE WHAT TO THINK. IN CHINA THERE'S NOT A LOT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HISTORY AND MYTH.

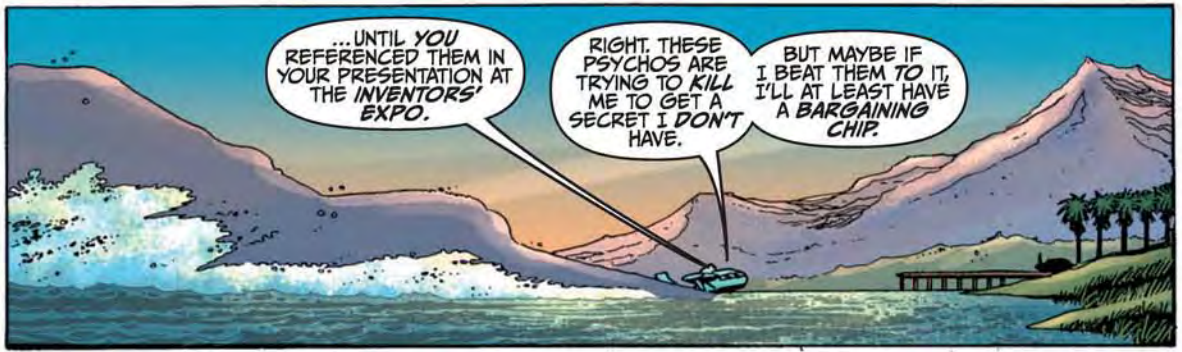
STILL...

"... THE HOLY GRAIL OF CHI MASTERY IS CALLED THE WAY OF THE SHIELD. USING THIS TECHNIQUE, A MARTIAL ARTIST COULD CHANNEL HIS LIFE FORCE TO BECOME IMPERVIOUS TO ANY ATTACK!

"THE 'BOXERS' DURING THE CHINESE REBELLION OF 1900 BELIEVED THEY HAD THIS ABILITY... THE SITE I FOUND CLAIMED THAT THEY RECEIVED IT FROM BODHIDHARMA'S SCROLL!



"BUT SINCE THEN, NO MENTION OF THE SCROLL OR THE TECHNIQUES IT DESCRIBES HAS BEEN FOUND IN HISTORY OR MYTH..."



...UNTIL YOU REFERENCED THEM IN YOUR PRESENTATION AT THE INVENTORS' EXPO.

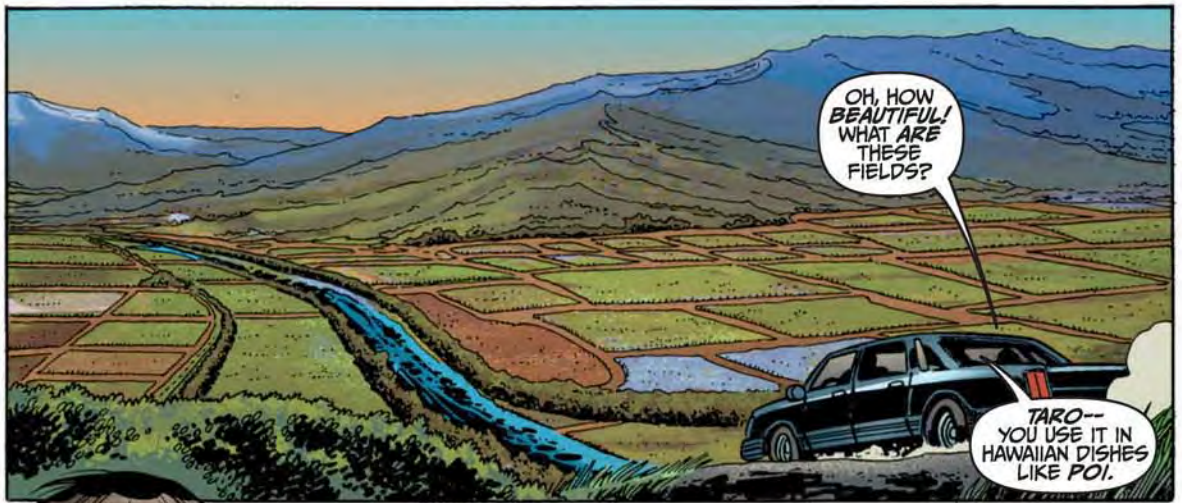
RIGHT, THESE PSYCHOS ARE TRYING TO KILL ME TO GET A SECRET I DON'T HAVE.

BUT MAYBE IF I BEAT THEM TO IT, I'LL AT LEAST HAVE A BARGAINING CHIP.



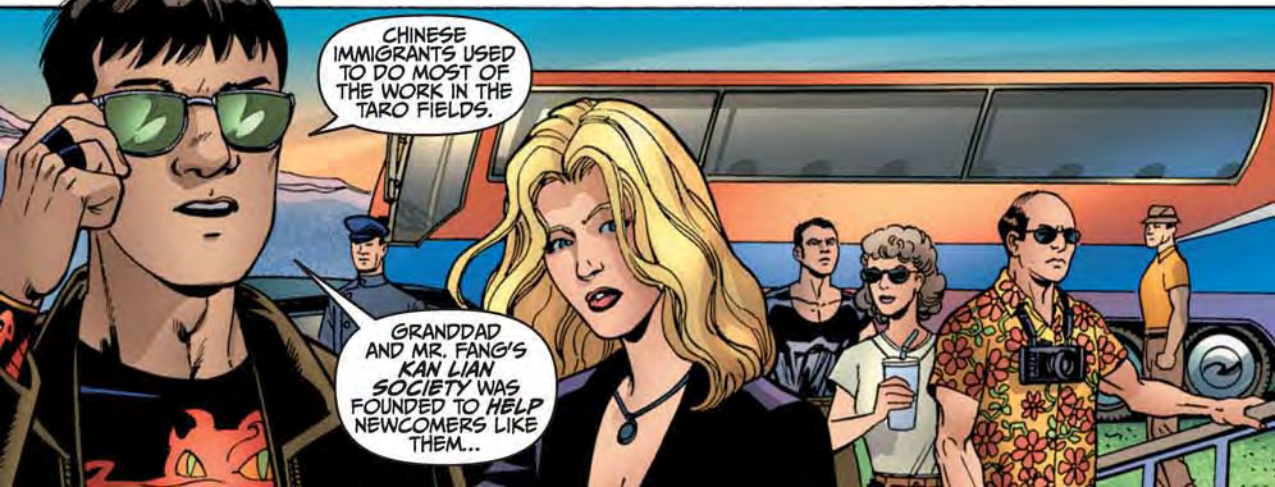
I WON'T GET ANY HELP FROM THE POLICE. THEY LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS FROM MARS WHEN I TOLD THEM WHY I THOUGHT MR. FANG WAS MURDERED.

GOOD! WHY SHOULD THEY HOG ALL THE FUN?



OH, HOW BEAUTIFUL! WHAT ARE THESE FIELDS?

TARO-- YOU USE IT IN HAWAIIAN DISHES LIKE POI.



CHINESE IMMIGRANTS USED TO DO MOST OF THE WORK IN THE TARO FIELDS.

GRANDDAD AND MR. FANG'S KAN LIAN SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED TO HELP NEWCOMERS LIKE THEM...



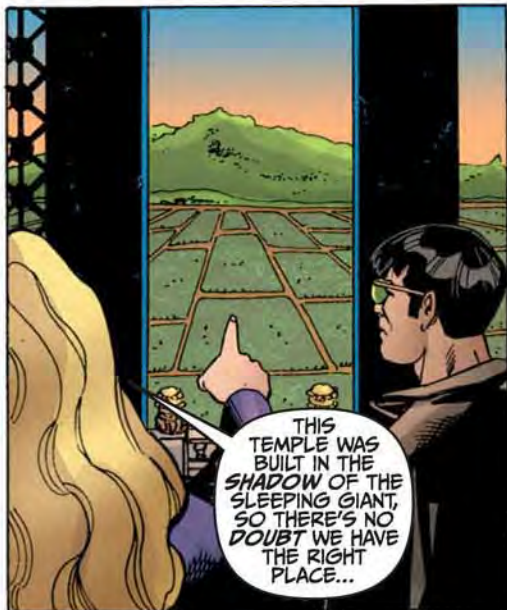
...PARTLY BY MAKING SURE THEY HAD A PLACE TO WORSHIP.



BUILT IN 1902, THE SLEEPING GIANT BUDDHIST TEMPLE IS MODELED AFTER THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN COMPLEX IN BEIJING, WHICH DATES TO 1540.



THIS GONG WAS USED TO CALL WORKERS IN THE SURROUNDING TARO FIELDS TO THE TEMPLE FOR PRAYERS.



THIS TEMPLE WAS BUILT IN THE SHADOW OF THE SLEEPING GIANT, SO THERE'S NO DOUBT WE HAVE THE RIGHT PLACE...



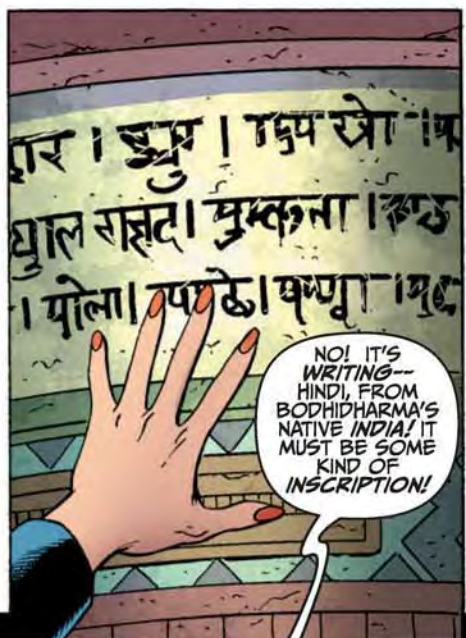
...BUT WHAT KIND OF "GUIDE" ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR?

DON'T LOOK AT ME, I HAVE A TOUGH TIME WITH THE CROSSWORD PUZZLES IN "TV GUIDE."

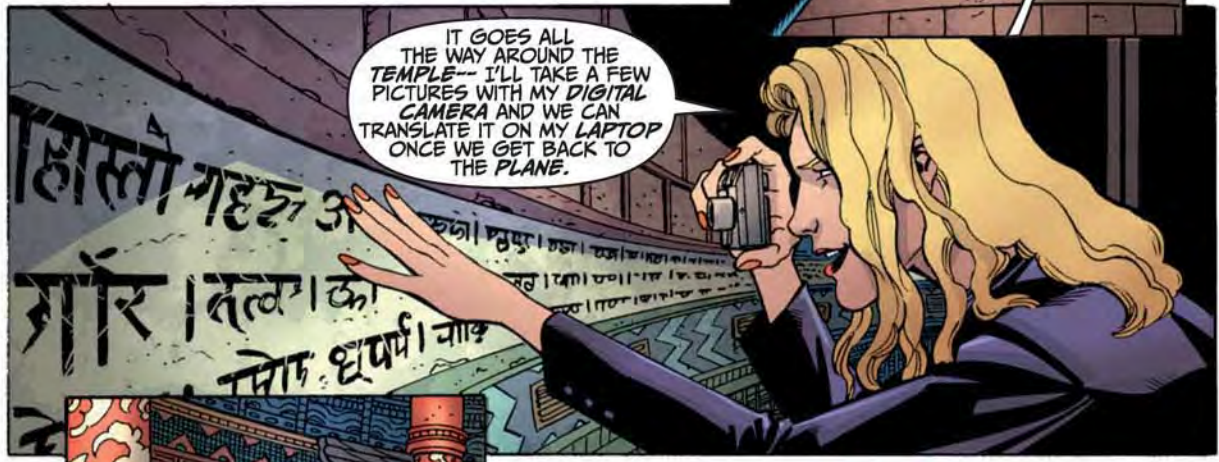


WAIT... WHAT'S THIS ON THE WALL?

THAT PATTERN? MAYBE SOME DECORATION...



NO! IT'S WRITING-- HINDI, FROM BODHIDHARMA'S NATIVE INDIA! IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF INSCRIPTION!



IT GOES ALL THE WAY AROUND THE TEMPLE-- I'LL TAKE A FEW PICTURES WITH MY DIGITAL CAMERA AND WE CAN TRANSLATE IT ON MY LAPTOP ONCE WE GET BACK TO THE PLANE.



OVER HERE TO YOUR LEFT IS THOMAS ZHOU...

WHA...?



...A SON OF SHAN TAO AND THEREFORE A SWORN ENEMY OF THE LIN KUEI!

?!



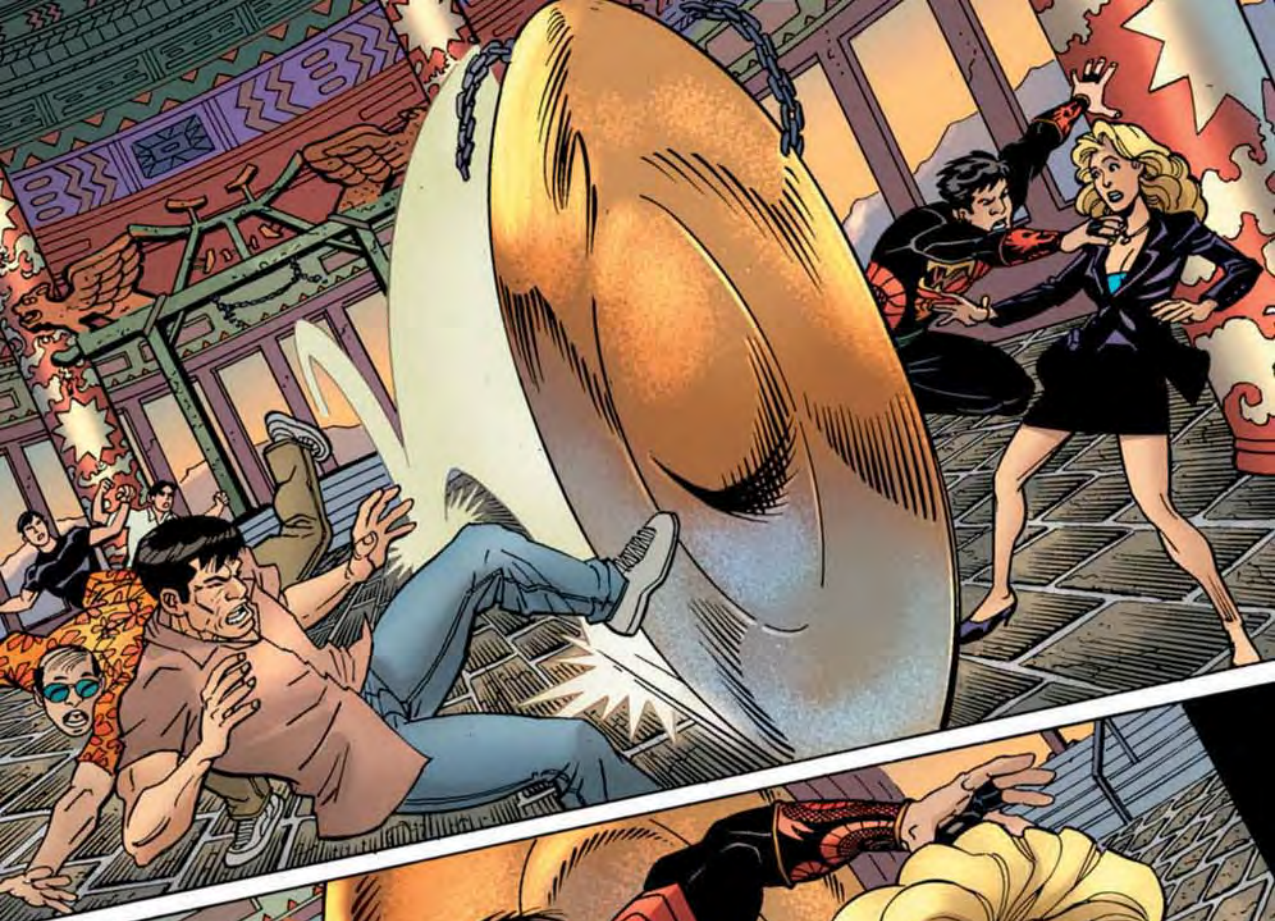
DEATH TO THE SONS OF SHAN-TAO!

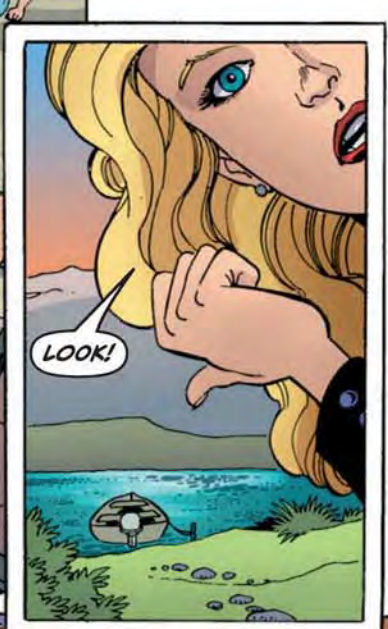
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.













MAYBE OUR LUCK'S FINALLY STARTING TO CHANGE!



WE CAN ONLY HOPE.

HEY...DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE IN THE DISTANCE?

OVER THERE! A POLICE HELICOPTER!

WE NEED HELP! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! DOWN HERE!



HELLLLL!



AAAAHHH!

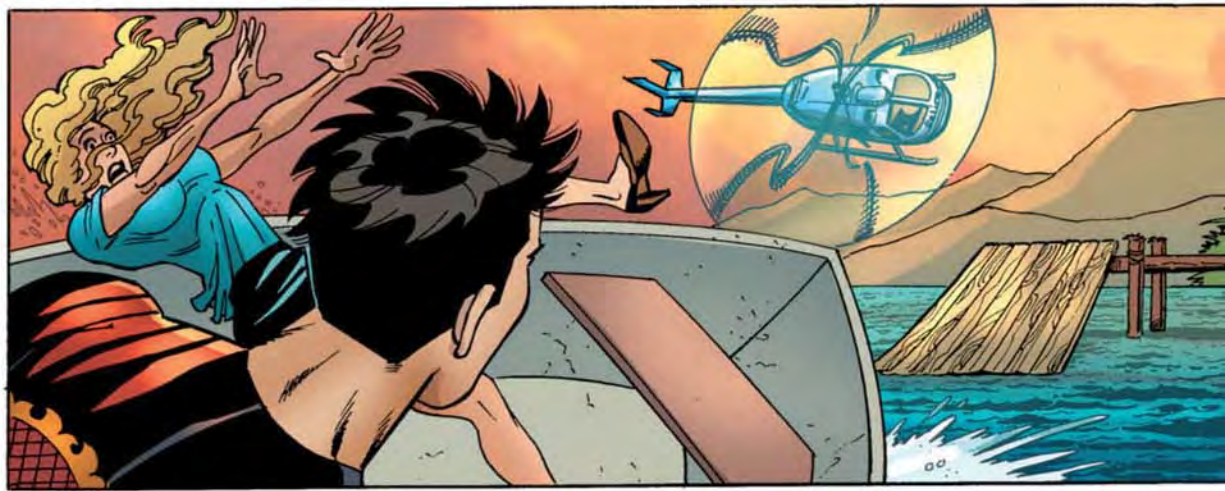
GET DOWN!



YEAH, OUR LUCK CHANGED.



IT GOT WORSE!





JUMP!

AAAA...

GAAGGH!





GASP!



DID WE ->GASP!-> SWIM UNDERWATER FAR ENOUGH TO GET AWAY ->GASP!-> FROM THEM?

I THINK ->GASP!-> SO.



SO... ...ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?



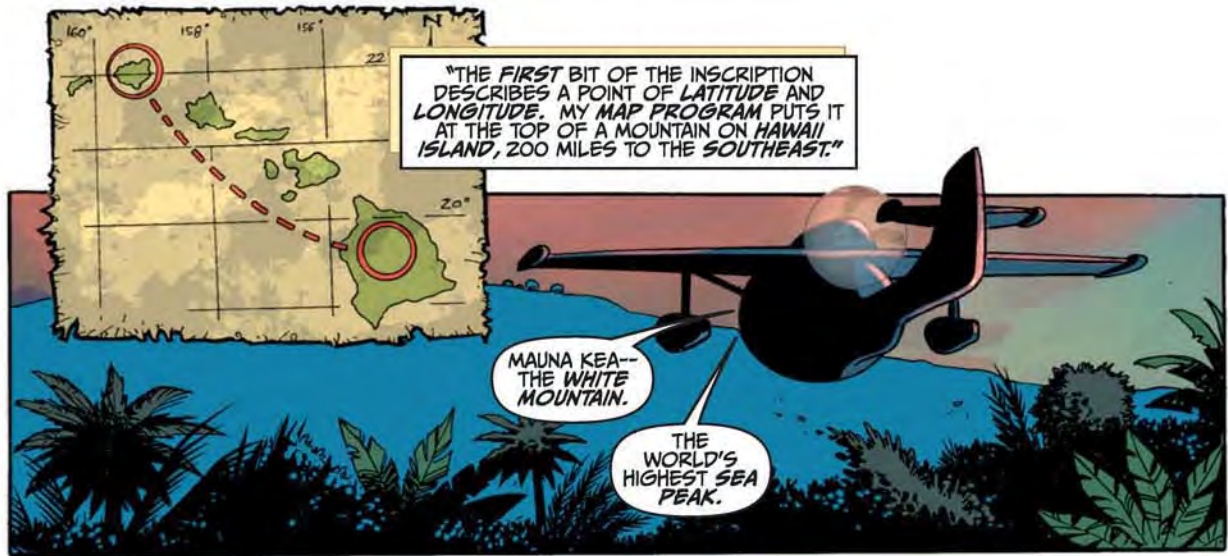
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

FOR BEING YOU.

WELL I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE ME MORE OFTEN, THEN.

HERE'S HOPING THIS CAMERA IS WATER-RESISTANT.





"THE FIRST BIT OF THE INSCRIPTION DESCRIBES A POINT OF LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE. MY MAP PROGRAM PUTS IT AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN ON HAWAII ISLAND, 200 MILES TO THE SOUTHEAST."

MAUNA KEA-- THE WHITE MOUNTAIN.

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST SEA PEAK.



BRRRR! TH-THIS IS HAWAII! IT WAS EIGHTY DEGREES ON THE BEACH!



THE SLEEPING GIANT'S COORDINATES ARE ABOUT A HUNDRED YARDS FURTHER-- BUT THAT OBSERVATORY IS IN THE WAY.

HOLD UP, FOLKS!

THIS IS A RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT AREA. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO TURN AROUND. SORRY.

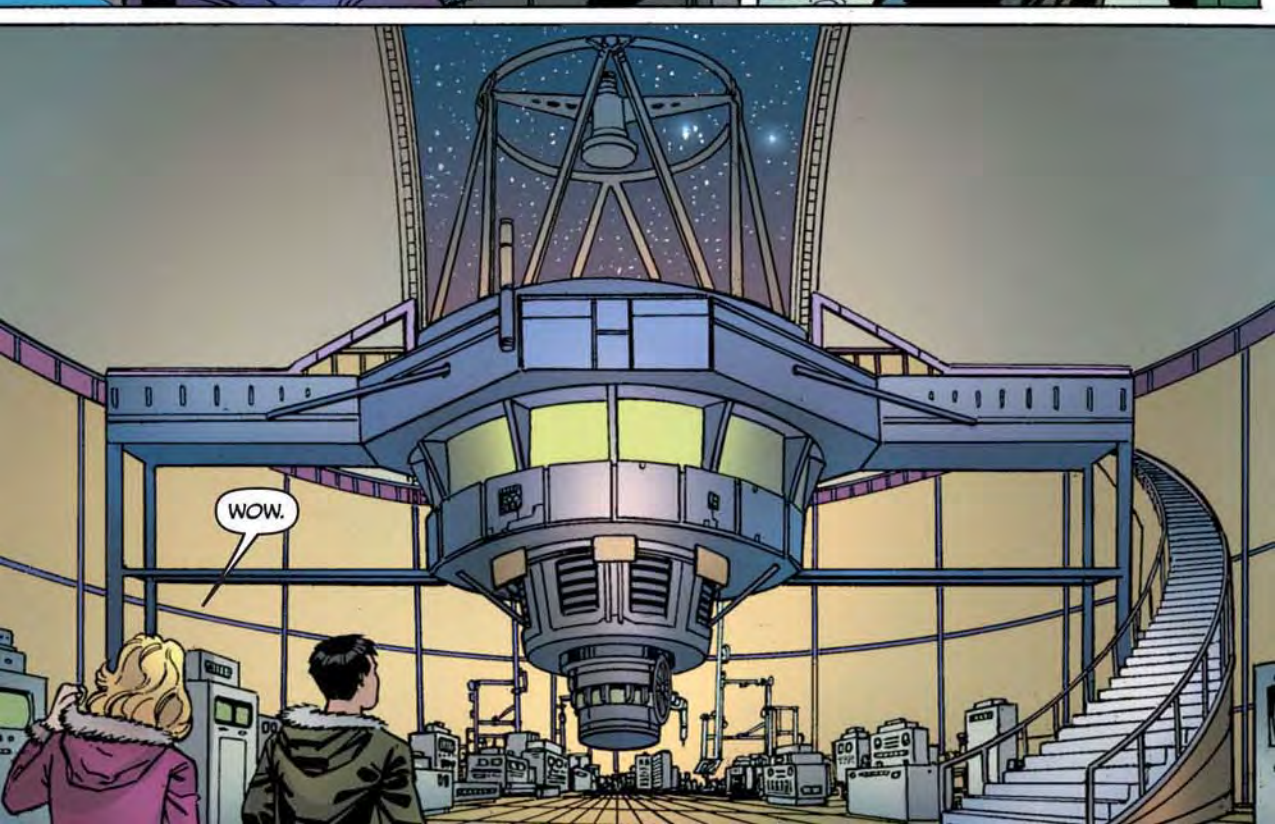


I GUESS A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE THAT DESCRIPTION WAS WRITTEN IN 1902.

THIS IS ONLY GOING TO SLOW US DOWN, THOUGH. WE'LL BE BACK TONIGHT.



C-C-CAN WE GO BACK TO THAT SKI CHALET WE P-P-PASSED? I-I-I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE SOME MORE APPROPRIATE C-C-CLOTHING!





THAT'S WHAT I CALL A TELESCOPE.



HERE WE ARE, THE HIGHEST POINT ON HAWAII. JUST LIKE THE INSCRIPTION SAID.

IT'S THE SECOND HALF THAT HAS ME BEAT. SEEKERS OF THE GREATEST OF KAN LIAN'S SECRETS MUST HOLD THE WU-SHU IN THE FIFTH POSITION BEFORE THE FULL MOON AND THE WAY TO ENLIGHTENMENT SHALL BE MADE MANIFEST.

"WU-SHU?" DOESN'T THAT JUST MEAN "THE WEAPON?" ISN'T THAT YOU?



THAT'S "WU-SHI."

"WU SHU" IS A KIND OF CEREMONIAL BROADSWORD, LIKE ONE MY GRANDFATHER OWNED.



"AS A KID I WAS FASCINATED BY IT. HE KEPT IT OVER THE ALTAR IN OUR HOUSE.



"ONE DAY HE CAME IN AND FOUND ME PLAYING WITH IT. I HAD NEVER SEEN HIM SO ANGRY!

"HE CURSED ME OUT IN MORE DIALECTS THAN I KNEW EXISTED!



"I WAS PART AMERICAN, HE SAID, AND PART CHINESE. I HAD TO RESPECT BOTH PARTS...

"...IF I WANTED TO EARN HIS RESPECT, AND ONLY SOMEONE HE RESPECTED COULD HOLD THE SACRED WU SHU OF HIS SOCIETY."




HE PASSED AWAY BEFORE I EVER GOT A CHANCE TO HOLD IT AGAIN. WHEN HE DIED... I KNEW THAT STAYING HERE IN HAWAII WASN'T FOR ME.

THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, HALFWAY BETWEEN ASIA AND AMERICA, AND NOT QUITE EITHER. JUST LIKE ME. I'LL NEVER FEEL WHOLE AGAIN AS LONG AS I'M STUCK HERE.

THAT'S WHEN I DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MY COMPANY, SO I COULD MOVE TO THE MAINLAND.



THESE "FOREST DEMONS," WHOEVER THEY ARE, ALWAYS SEEM TO BE ONE STEP AHEAD OF US. WE DON'T HAVE GRANDPA'S BLADE...




... BUT MY LASER RESONATORS CAN GENERATE ANY WEAPON WE WANT. I JUST HAVE TO PROGRAM THE WIRE-FORM COORDINATES OF THE OBJECT INTO IT.



I GUESS WE HAVE TO TRUST MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.



GOD KNOWS I STARED AT THE THING LONG ENOUGH TO COMMIT EVERY CENTIMETER TO MEMORY.



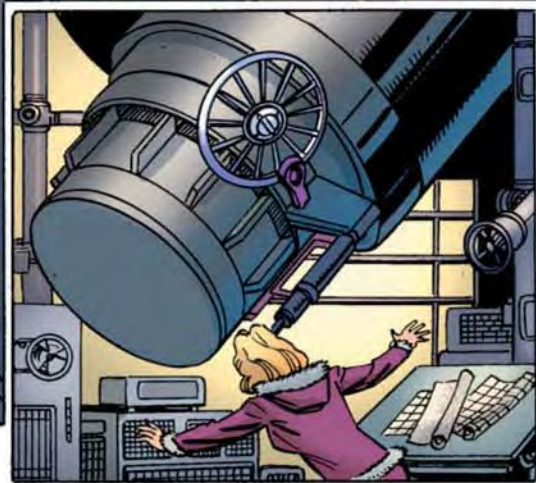
THIS -GRUNT!- IS WU-SHI FA POSITION NUMBER FIVE.



OH MY GOD! IT'S WORKING!



IT'S ACTUALLY WORKING! HOLD THAT POSE!





GREAT
->GRUNT!-> DOES
THIS MEAN I CAN
STOP HOLDING
THIS POSITION?
->GRUNT!-> I'M
REALLY STARTING
TO ACHE!

MEGAN?
CAN I?

MEGAN...?



SHE'S
HERE, MR.
ZHOU.

SAFE...

...WITH
US.



Continued...