

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE, OAF?

OBVIOUSLY, NO ONE HAS TAUGHT YOU RESPECT FOR YOUR ELDERS, BOY.

BY "WE" I SUPPOSE YOU ARE REFERRING TO YOUR TRESPASSING MAN-BAT CHAINED BEHIND ME?

DON'T CALL HIM A MAN-BAT. HIS NAME IS GOLIATH.

DID YOU KNOW HE WAS CAUGHT ENGORGED, NEARLY UNCONSCIOUS FROM POACHING OUR BLESSED COWS?

WE CAN AGREE, THEN, THAT HE IS INDEED A THIEF AND A GLUTTON, IS HE NOT?



COO COO

I THOUGHT AS MUCH.

SUCH BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS DEFILED.

THE BEAST WILL BE DESTROYED. AND NOW YOU ARE HERE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS AN OFFER TO ME FOR RESTITUTION?

I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU, OLD MAN, BUT A WARNING.

DON'T CALL ME BOY AGAIN.

HA! YOUTH WILL NOT ABSOLVE YOU OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES. YOU ARE, WHAT? TEN? ELEVEN YEARS OLD? YOUR IMMATUREITY IS EVIDENT IN THE POOR COMBAT PILOTING SKILLS THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE.

OBVIOUSLY, THE GODS FELT YOU NEEDED A SUITABLE GUARDIAN AND HAVE SENT YOU HERE TO ME.



*AT FIRST LIGHT, YOU WILL MEET MY SON IN *BATTLE* AND REPAY YOUR DEBTS. AFTER YOUR TESTING, YOU WILL CALL ME FATHER, AND I WILL TAKE YOU IN AS ONE OF MY SONS TO SERVE HERE IN THE PALACE.

THE MOTHERS WILL ESCORT YOU THROUGH THOSE DOORS TO YOUR NEW QUARTERS.

WOMEN, RID HIM OF THOSE FILTHY GARMENTS AND BATHE HIM. SCRUB EVERY CREVICE THOROUGHLY.

IN THE MORNING, HE TAKES HIS FIRST STEPS TOWARD *MANHOOD* AND TRUE FREEDOM!



HERE IS MY OFFER TO YOU, OLD MAN.

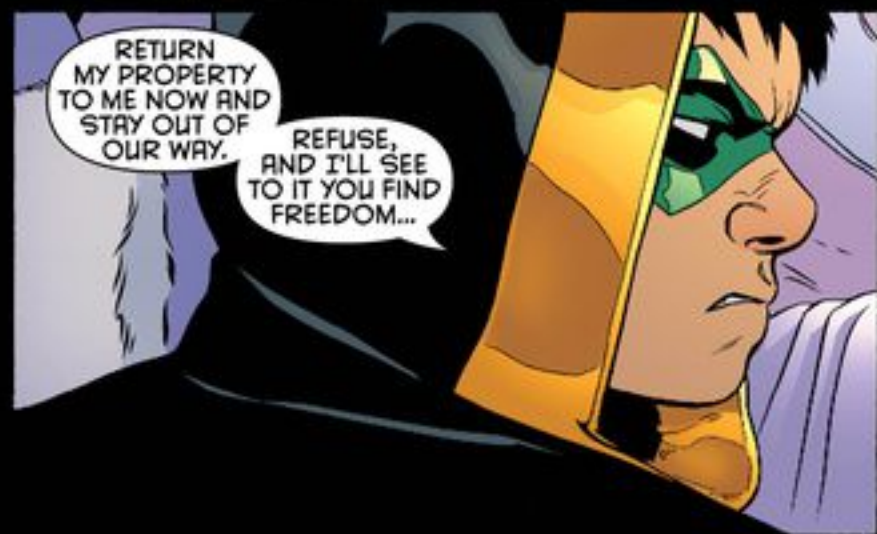


WAIT. WHERE IS MY BI--



...FROM YOUR TEETH.

ACK!



RETURN MY PROPERTY TO ME NOW AND STAY OUT OF OUR WAY.

REFUSE, AND I'LL SEE TO IT YOU FIND FREEDOM...



RRRRR
INSUFFERABLE
WHELPS AND
MONGRELS!

HOW
DARE
YOU?!

I AM ABUSH! SON OF A THOUSAND
ANCIENT KINGS! HEIR TO THE SACRED
HILLS AND VALLEYS AND THE GLORIOUS
BEASTS THAT INHABIT THEM! WHAT RIGHT
DO YOU HAVE TO SPEW SUCH
ARROGANT DEMANDS!

JUST WHO DO
YOU THINK YOU
ARE, BOY?!



DEET
DEET
DEET

MANUAL
OVERRIDE
ACCEPTED.
DOOR LOCK
ENGAGED.

VVVRRR UUUUU



I AM
ROBIN.



SON OF
BATMAN.



AND THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!

YEAR OF BLOOD

PATRICK GLEASON - SCRIPT & PENCILS PART ONE
MICK GRAY - INKS JOHN KALISZ - COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO - LETTERER
GLEASON, KALISZ - COVER ROBBY RODRIGUEZ - VARIANT COVER
REBECCA TAYLOR - ASSOCIATE EDITOR MARK DOYLE - EDITOR - BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

THE BATCAVE. THEN.



WE'RE JUST GETTING WARMED UP, PENNYWORTH.

