

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

THE BLACK VORTEX

CHAPTER 4

Previously in *The Black Vortex*...

Billions of years ago, an ancient race named the Viscardi were gifted an object of immense cosmic power by a Celestial. This artifact, known as the Black Vortex, transformed the user, imbuing them with cosmic energy. However, the power of this object caused the Viscardi to turn on each other, annihilating their own race from within.

Presently, Peter Quill and Kitty Pryde have recently discovered that the sadistic Mister Knife is actually Peter's father, J'Son, the deposed Emperor of Spartax. Finding that Knife had recovered the Black Vortex, they were forced to act. Peter and Kitty stole the artifact and recruited the Guardians of the Galaxy and the X-Men to help battle Mister Knife. But the group was soon attacked by Knife's enhanced henchmen, the Slaughter Lords, forcing Gamora to use the Black Vortex to fend them off. To escape their pursuers, Storm had Magik teleport the group to Spartax's moon. As the group argued over what to do with the Vortex, the elder Beast and Angel chose to submit to the Vortex. Now cosmically aware, the three enhanced heroes set themselves above the others, taking the Black Vortex and rocketing away with a new mission—to reshape the universe in their image. But those they left behind did not have long to react, as Knife's flying fortress appeared in the sky, firing a massive blast directly at the moon!

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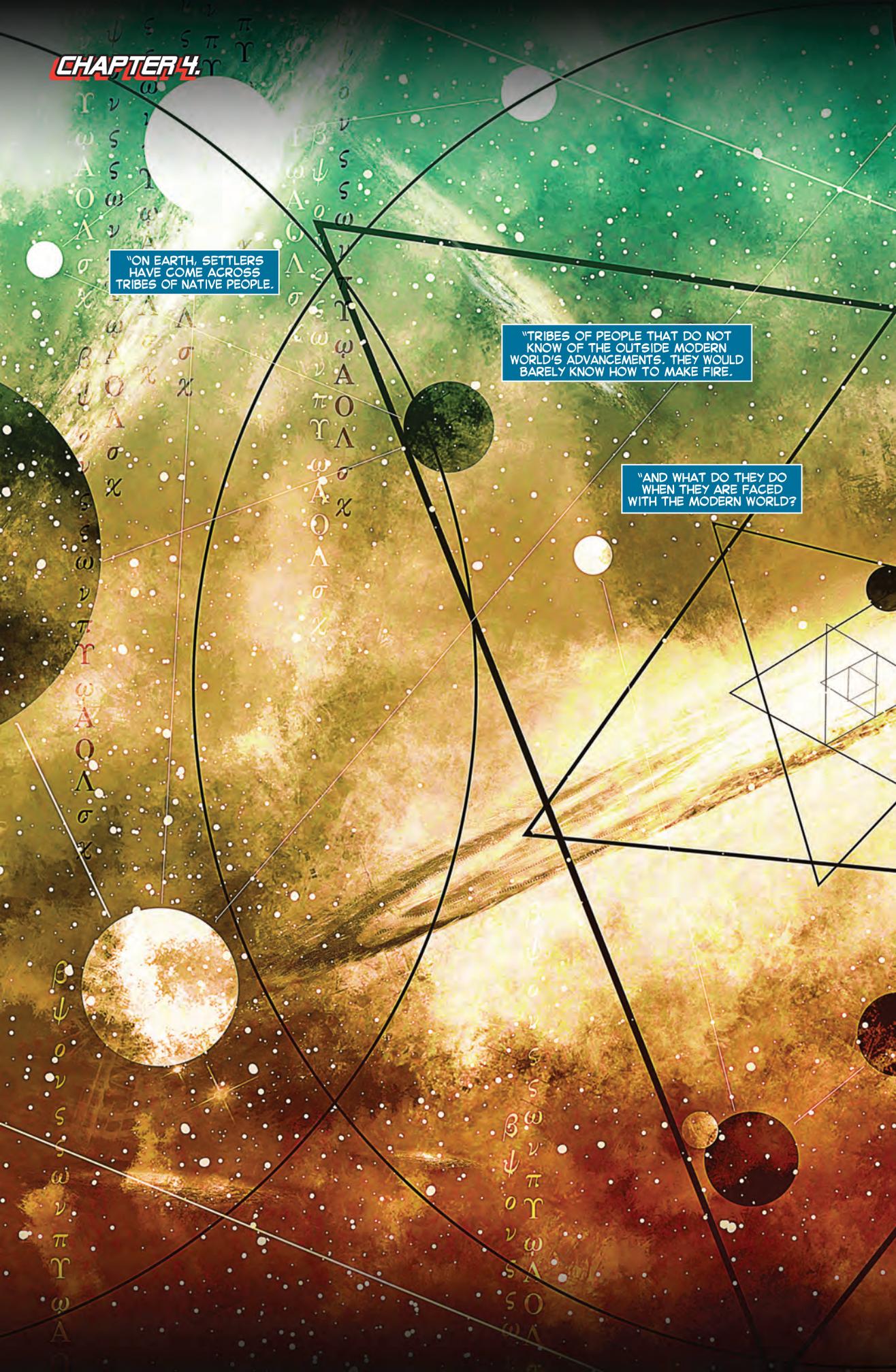
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CHAPTER 4

"ON EARTH, SETTLERS
HAVE COME ACROSS
TRIBES OF NATIVE PEOPLE.

"TRIBES OF PEOPLE THAT DO NOT
KNOW OF THE OUTSIDE MODERN
WORLD'S ADVANCEMENTS. THEY WOULD
BARELY KNOW HOW TO MAKE FIRE.

"AND WHAT DO THEY DO
WHEN THEY ARE FACED
WITH THE MODERN WORLD?"



"THEY SEE SORcery.
THEY SEE DEMONS.
THEY ATTACK IT."

"THIS IS WHAT IS
HAPPENING NOW."

"THEY CAN'T *SEE* WHAT
WE SEE, THEY CAN'T
FEEL WHAT WE FEEL."

"CHANGE
TERRIFIES
THE WEAK."

"WE HAVE TO SHOW
THEM THIS IS FOR
THEIR OWN GOOD."

"WE HAVE TO
SHOW THEM
WHAT WE SEE."

"WE HAVE TO SHOW
THEM THEY ARE
PRIMITIVE CAVE
PEOPLE AND THAT WE..."



... WE ARE THE NEXT STEP TOWARD THEIR HAPPINESS AND ENLIGHTENMENT.

WE HAVE THE BLACK VORTEX.

WE CAN MAKE ALL THIS HAPPEN.

YOU TWO GO DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, I'LL GET THE OTHERS TO THE VORTEX.

I'M MORE THAN READY.

WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER, ANGEL.



HANK, YOU'RE ABOUT TO UNLOCK ANOTHER LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE CONSCIOUSNESS.

DO THAT.

GAMORA, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THANOS AND RIP HIM IN TWO.

DO THAT.

GIVE ME THE VORTEX AND SEND ME ON THIS QUEST. I CAN DO THIS.



EVERY MOMENT OF THIS NEW LIFE UNVEILS NEW UNIVERSAL TRUTHS.

AND IT ALL CONNECTS.

IT IS ALL BEAUTIFUL.



AND WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE PUPPIES, HENRY.

NO ONE IS HAPPIER FOR YOU THAN I AM.

AND LOOK AT YOU, WARREN.



A TRUE WARRIOR ANGEL. CENTERED. POWERFUL.

YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL BEFORE, BUT NOW...

OH, YOU.



EARTH MUTANTS, WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER VERY WELL. WE WERE THRUST TOGETHER ON THIS JOURNEY...

...WHAT DO WE WANT?

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

THE ONLY THING WORTH HAVING...



...PEACE IN THIS UNIVERSE.

THAT... YES, THAT WILL DO IT.

CAN WE DO THAT?

NOW? WITH THIS? I THINK WE CAN.

THEN WE CAN.



HOW FAR DO YOU THINK WE WILL NEED TO GO?