

MORECI • DANIEL • LORIMER • LAFUENTE

# BURNING FIELDS™

THREE OF EIGHT





# BURNING FIELDS™ ISSUE 003: A BELIEF AGREED UPON

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...AND THE GREAT DECEIVER HAS MANY WAYS TO CORRUPT YOUR HEART AND MIND.



YOU ARE JOINING AN ORDER THAT COMBATS HIS DEADLY INFLUENCE; AS SUCH, HE KNOWS YOU NOW AS AN ENEMY.

PRECAUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN.



THIS IS BARBARIC. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THIS IS A NECESSARY MEASURE. NONE OF US HAS EVER WITNESSED A MANIFESTATION--HE MAY NOT EVEN BE REAL.

WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE--IT'S CALLED FAITH, BROTHER ABAN. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF THAT.



THE REMOVAL OF THE TONGUE IS THE FINAL ACT IN YOUR LIFELONG COMMITMENT.

HE MAY TAKE YOUR MIND, HE MAY TAKE YOUR HEART, BUT HE WILL NEVER HAVE YOUR WORDS.



YOU CAN HAVE FAITH AND BE WRONG, BROTHER GHADA. WITHOUT PROOF, THIS--? THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN...MADNESS.

ABAN, UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF YOUR WORDS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS. IF YOU LEAVE, YOU WILL NEVER BE ALLOWED TO RETURN.

AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF NINURTA SHALL SEE YOU AS JUST ANOTHER POISONED TONGUE.



THEN LET THE GREAT DECEIVER PERMIT YOU PEACE, BROTHER GHADA. BETTER YET...



"...MAY HE NOT  
EVEN EXIST."

YOUR FINAL  
WORDS HAVE BEEN  
IN MY MIND FOR MANY  
YEARS, PROVIDING ME  
WITH WHAT I LIKE TO  
CALL "HOPEFUL  
DOUBT."

BUT  
HOPE IS NO  
SUBSTITUTE  
FOR FAITH.

I'M NOT  
HERE FOR A LESSON  
IN THEOLOGY, GHADA,  
AND YOU KNOW  
THAT.

DEAD BODIES.  
CARVINGS. AND MOST  
IMPORTANTLY, **MISSING  
TONGUES.**

IT MAY HAVE TAKEN NEARLY  
TWO DECADES, BUT IT SEEMS  
LIKE YOU'VE RETURNED TO  
THE MISSION YOU ONCE  
ABANDONED--WHETHER  
YOU LIKE IT OR  
NOT.

AND IT  
SEEMS LIKE  
YOU'VE WAITED  
ALL THAT TIME TO  
SAY, "I TOLD  
YOU SO."

I TAKE NO  
PLEASURE IN THIS  
TRAGEDY--REMEMBER  
WHO HAS REMAINED  
VIGILANT IN STEMMING  
THIS EVIL AT ITS ROOT.

I HAVEN'T WAITED  
FOR THE DECEIVER  
TO AWAKEN TO  
DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT.

EXCUSE ME--  
YEAH, HI.

DOES  
SOMEONE WANT  
TO CLUE ME IN TO  
WHAT THE HELL  
YOU'RE TALKING  
ABOUT?

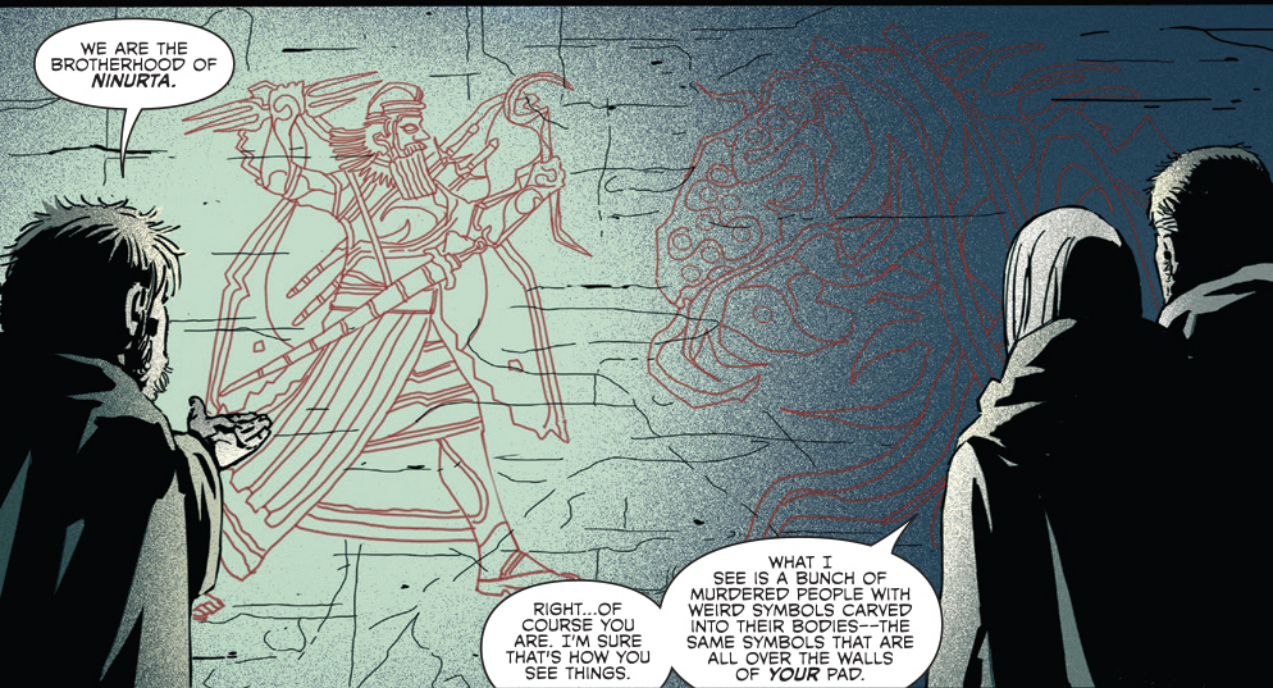
ABAN,  
ABAN...YOU HAVEN'T  
TOLD YOUR OWN  
**PARTNER** ABOUT  
YOUR "SHAMEFUL"  
PAST?





ALL OF WHAT YOU SEE HERE--THE CARVINGS, THE SILENCED FAITHFUL-- IS THE WORK OF WHAT I'M CERTAIN YOU'D CALL A CULT.

BUT WE ARE THE TORCHBEARERS OF TRUTH AND SOLDIERS AGAINST AN EVIL GREATER THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY KNOW...



WE ARE THE BROTHERHOOD OF NINURTA.

RIGHT...OF COURSE YOU ARE. I'M SURE THAT'S HOW YOU SEE THINGS.

WHAT I SEE IS A BUNCH OF MURDERED PEOPLE WITH WEIRD SYMBOLS CARVED INTO THEIR BODIES--THE SAME SYMBOLS THAT ARE ALL OVER THE WALLS OF YOUR PAD.



I'M SURE YOU SEE WHAT I'M GETTING AT HERE.

ABAN, YOU KNOW I'M A MAN OF HUMBLE MEANS. I COULDN'T FLEE IF I WANTED TO--

PERHAPS WE'VE BEEN REUNITED FOR A REASON, TO FINISH THE WORK WE STARTED SO MANY YEARS AGO.

IS THAT SO?



WE STILL HAVE EARS EVERYWHERE, AND I'VE HEARD MURMURS. THE SCAVENGERS WILL NO LONGER ENTER THE KIRKUK SCRAPYARD. SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE GONE MISSING, VANISHED. THEY CLAIM THE ENTIRE GROUND'S SMELL OF DEATH.

GIVE ME UNTIL TOMORROW, AND I WILL TAKE YOU THERE MYSELF.



YOU HAVE UNTIL MORNING.

AND, GHADA-- IT WON'T TAKE MUCH FOR YOU TO GO FROM CONFIDANT TO THE ACCUSED. DON'T CROSS ME.





LET ME  
GET THIS  
STRAIGHT...

YOU'VE BEEN  
PUMPING *ME* FOR  
INFORMATION AND, ALL  
THE WHILE, NEVER THOUGHT TO  
*MENTION* YOUR KNOWLEDGE--  
AND MEMBERSHIP--OF A CULT  
THAT DEALS IN THE SAME  
MURDEROUS PRACTICES  
AND SYMBOLS INFLICTED  
ON EVERY VICTIM?!

YOU'RE RIGHT, DANA.  
YOU'RE *RIGHT*. I JUST...  
I'VE KEPT THAT PART OF  
MY LIFE HIDDEN FOR SO  
LONG. FROM MY FAMILY,  
FROM WORK, FROM  
THE PERSON I  
NOW AM.

THE  
PAST ISN'T EASY,  
DANA. YOU, OF ALL  
PEOPLE, SHOULD  
UNDERSTAND THAT.

YOU GET  
*ONE*  
PASS.

WHAT'S THE DEAL, THEN? YOU  
THINK THEY'RE SOMEHOW  
CONNECTED TO THE  
MURDERS?

UNLIKELY. AS MUCH AS  
IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT,  
GHADA MIGHT BE THE  
ONLY ONE WHO CAN  
HELP US.





DAMN  
IT.

IT'S THE HEAT,  
BOSS. MAKES  
PEOPLE  
CRAZY.

IS THAT  
SO?

HELL YEAH.  
YOU DON'T SEE  
PEOPLE IN ICELAND  
SCREAMING AT  
EACH OTHER  
ALL DAY.

GREENLAND  
HAS THE ICE. ICELAND  
HAS THE GREEN. AND YOU  
MAY BE SIMPLIFYING  
THINGS, PIERCE.



YOU WANT MY OPINION?  
I SAY WE LET THEM TEAR  
EACH OTHER APART. LET THE  
HOSTILITIES BOIL OVER,  
AND WHEN THINGS  
GET DESPERATE  
ENOUGH, THEN  
WE STEP IN.



THAT'S ONE  
PERSPECTIVE. ANOTHER  
SAYS THAT WE HAVE A  
RESPONSIBILITY.

WE'RE  
OCCUPYING NOT  
ONLY THIS LAND, BUT  
THE ENTIRE CULTURE.  
MAYBE IT'S OUR  
JOB TO TEACH  
THEM...



"TO HELP THEM  
TO KNOW  
BETTER."