

2020.

Low Earth Orbit.

THE CHAINS OF *NEED* HAVE BEEN LIFTED FROM THE WORLD. SOLAR THE SAVIOR HAS DECLARED THAT *POWER IS FREE*.

THAT THE LIGHT OF *PROGRESS* SHOULD SHINE IN EVERY NATION, EVERY HOME, WITHOUT THE BURDEN OF COST. AND SO IT DOES. *WEALTH* NO LONGER DETERMINES *POTENTIAL*.

BUILDING THE GREAT ORBITAL NETWORK TO HARNESS THE SUN'S LIGHT AND PROVIDE THIS GLOBAL BOON WAS *SIMPLE*. STARTING UP THE GENERATORS WITH SOLAR'S POWER AND EXPERTISE WAS NO TRIAL.

BRINGING THE EARTH'S GOVERNMENTS AROUND TO THE IDEA OF SOLAR'S GIFT WAS MUCH, *MUCH* MORE DIFFICULT. THERE WERE ATTEMPTS AT SABOTAGE. THERE WAS VERY NEARLY A *WAR*.

IT WAS *MAGNUS* AND *SPEKTOR* WHO HANDLED ALL THAT. *MAGNUS*, WITH HIS DIPLOMACY. *SPEKTOR* WITH...*LESS POLITE METHODS*.

SOLAR RECALLS A CONVERSATION WITH DOCTOR SPEKTOR WHEN THE NEW SYSTEM STARTED UP. "THEY'LL LOVE YOU," HE SAID, "BECAUSE YOU GIVE THEM THE SUN.

"YOU *UNDERSTAND* THE SUN. YOU'RE MADE OF THE SAME STUFF. BUT I AM A CREATURE OF THE MOON, AND WE ARE *ALWAYS HATED*. *NOBODY UNDERSTANDS* THE MOON.

"IT'S A MIRROR, NEVER PRODUCING LIGHT, ONLY REFLECTING IT. PEOPLE *FEAR MIRRORS*."






EMERGENCY

CODE
BLUE

NEURAL
OVERLOAD



AUTONOMOUS
SYSTEMS
FAILURE

EMERGENCY

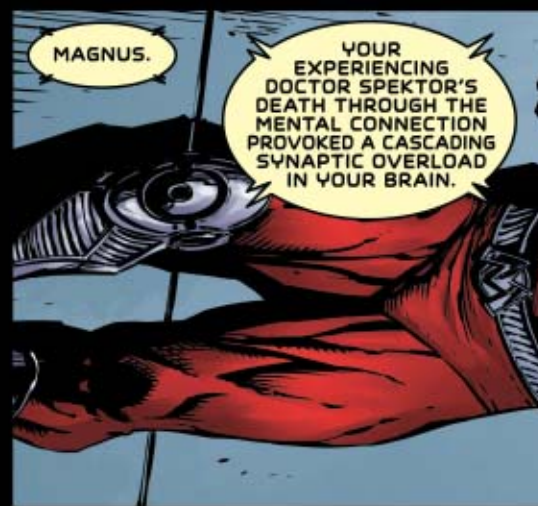
DEFIBRILLATION
ATTEMPT IN
3...2...1...



FAILURE

PREPARE
TESTAMENT
PROTOCOL AS
INSTRUCTED.

SECOND
ATTEMPT IN
3...2...1...



MAGNUS.

YOUR EXPERIENCING DOCTOR SPEKTOR'S DEATH THROUGH THE MENTAL CONNECTION PROVOKED A CASCADING SYNAPTIC OVERLOAD IN YOUR BRAIN.

YOUR HEART STOPPED AT 19:33 HOURS AND WAS RESTARTED AT 19:36 HOURS. SCANS ARE SHOWING TRIVIAL BRAIN DAMAGE.

THE SYSTEM IS PROVIDING YOU WITH A SEDATIVE--

UNNECESSARY ACTIVITY IS NOT ADVISED--

SHUT UP.

NO. BELAY THAT.

I NEED TO THINK...



ROOOOAAAAARRRR

...EVERYTHING'S MOVING TOO FAST. I CAN'T LET THIS DISASTER GET ON TOP OF ME.

The bay of SA'SFO.

Approximately 500 years from now.

THE INKY BLACK SHAPE OF THE CREATURE KNOCKS THE MIGHTY SAMSON TO THE GROUND, FORCING THE BREATH FROM HIS LUNGS.

FOR A MOMENT, HE THINKS THE ENEMY HAS HIM...

...AND WHEN IT TEARS AT HIS FLESH, NEARLY TAKING THE ARM FROM HIS SHOULDER, HE VERY NEARLY BUCKLES.

BUT HIS FAILURE WOULD MEAN THE SURRENDER OF THE WHOLE OF THE WORLD TO THE GREAT MONSTER IN THE BAY...

AND THIS IS ONLY A BEAST OF THE WILD...

AND SAMSON HAS SLAIN MANY BEASTS.

THE CAT ROARS ITS DISPLEASURE. SAMSON'S BONES SHAKE INSIDE HIS BATTERED FLESH. HIS HEART SKIPS A BEAT.

BUT HE WILL NEVER SURRENDER.

