

THE MYSCIRA.

IT'S
STRANGE,
PHILIPPUS.

IN WHAT
WAY, QUEEN
HIPPOLYTA?

STRANGE
THAT THE **SUN**
SHOULD SHINE SO
BRIGHTLY AS WE
ARE ABOUT TO
DESCEND INTO
DARKNESS.

YOU FEEL IT
SIGNIFIES
SOMETHING?

PERHAPS--IF ONLY
TO REMIND US THERE
ARE PLACES EVEN
THE **BRIGHTEST**
LIGHT CANNOT
ILLUMINATE.



BUT THAT IS THE
PURPOSE OF THIS
PLACE--A PRISON
OF DARKNESS SO
COMPLETE THAT
EVEN THE **GOD OF**
WAR HIMSELF MAY
NOT ESCAPE.

IT IS
NOT THE
THOUGHT
OF HIS
ESCAPE THAT
TROUBLES
ME...





...IT IS THE FEAR THAT NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, HE MAY HAVE LEARNED HIS **LESSON**.

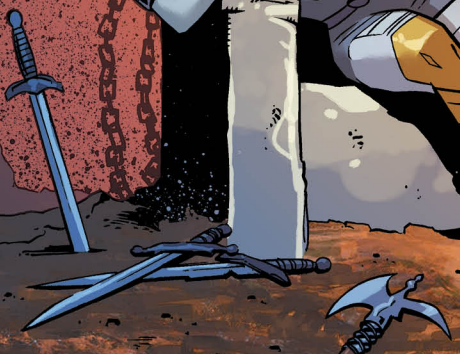
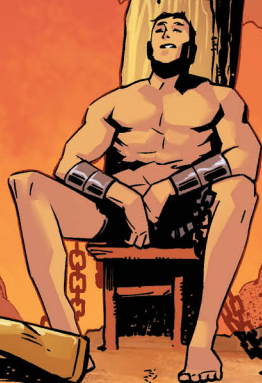
AND IF HE HAS? WHAT POSSIBLE THREAT COULD HE POSE TO US?

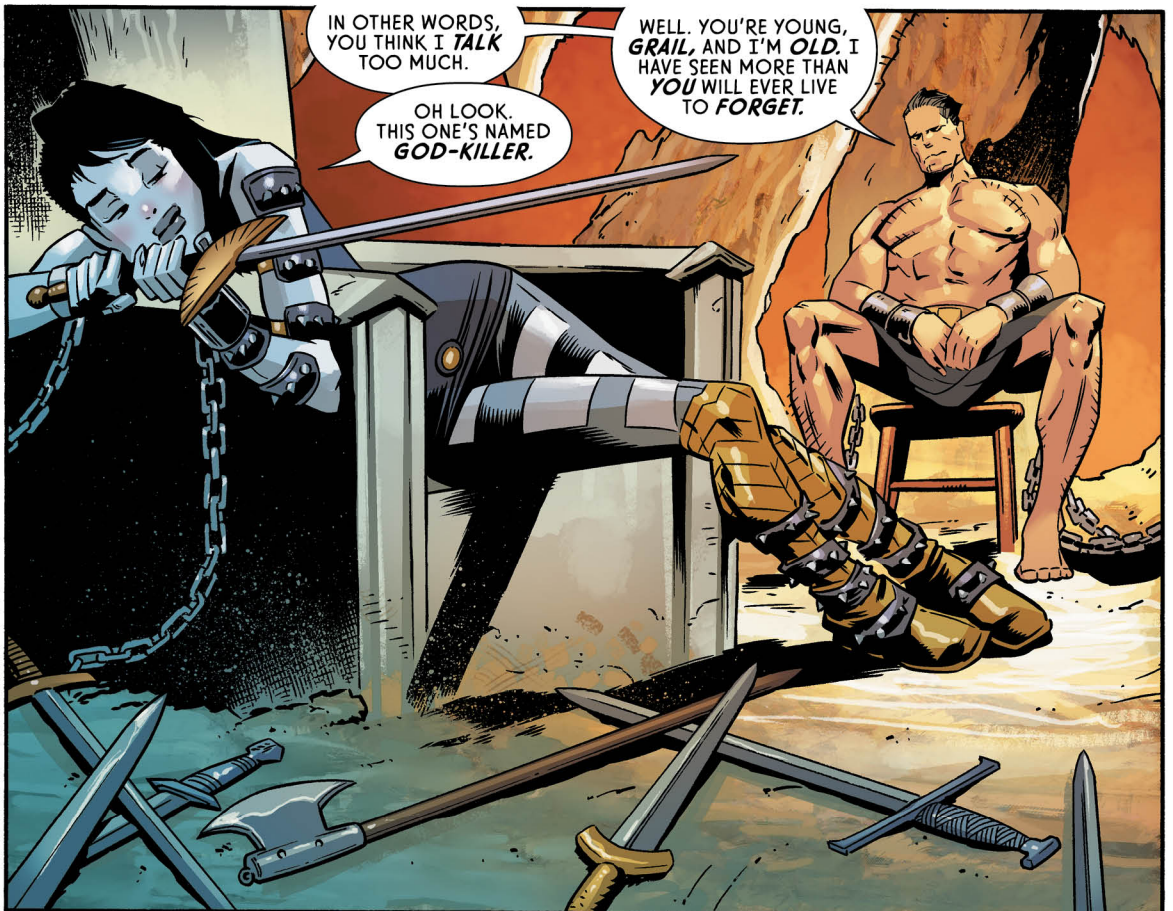
I DON'T KNOW, GOOD GENERAL. I ONLY KNOW I **FEAR** IT.

THIS IS **UNJUST**, ARES.

BANISHMENT, IMPRISONMENT-- PERHAPS THESE ARE PUNISHMENTS I **DESERVE**, BUT--

--BEING STUCK IN THIS ROOM WITH **YOU** IS A GREATER BURDEN THAN **ANYONE** SHOULD BE ASKED TO BEAR.





IN OTHER WORDS, YOU THINK I **TALK** TOO MUCH.

WELL, YOU'RE YOUNG, **GRAIL**, AND I'M **OLD**. I HAVE SEEN MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER LIVE TO **FORGET**.

OH LOOK. THIS ONE'S NAMED **GOD-KILLER**.



IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AGE AND WISDOM **DO NOT** ALWAYS GO HAND IN HAND.

FWISH

PERHAPS THAT'S TRUE.

IT WAS TRUE FOR THE WARRIORS WHO WIELDED THESE SWORDS, AND WHOSE NAMES ARE NOW **FORGOTTEN**, THOUGH THEIR WEAPONS SURVIVE.

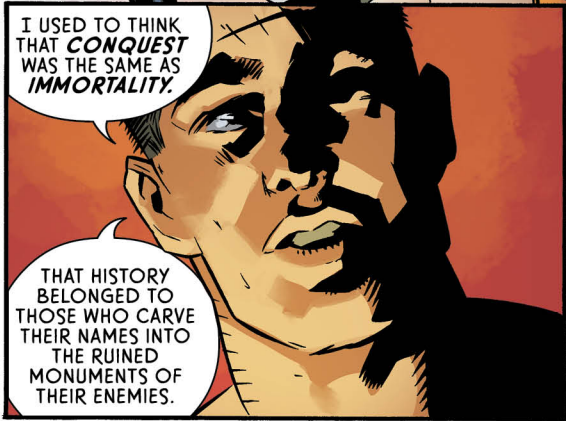


BUT CONSIDER THIS...

YES, OH GOD OF WAR?

LET ME **FINISH** YOU LITTLE PIMPLE.

PERHAPS THEY--AND WE-- WERE **WRONG**. PERHAPS THERE IS A **MESSAGE** HERE, IN THIS TOMB FOR THE LIVING.



I USED TO THINK THAT **CONQUEST** WAS THE SAME AS **IMMORTALITY**.

THAT HISTORY BELONGED TO THOSE WHO CARVE THEIR NAMES INTO THE RUINED MONUMENTS OF THEIR ENEMIES.



AND NOW?

AND NOW--I WONDER. WHO REMEMBERS THE **ACHAEMENIDS**? THE **PANDYANS**?

EVEN THE GREAT **MITHRIDATES**, THE KING OF KINGS, HAS FALLEN OUT OF MEMORY. DUST, ASH, NOT EVEN THE RUIN OF A RUIN.

IN THE END,
THE REAL
VICTOR IS
NOT WAR.

IT IS
TIME.

YET THERE IS SOMETHING
THAT TRANSCENDS EVEN TIME--
IT IS WHY **MITHRIDATES** IS
FORGOTTEN, YET MORTAL MEN
WORSHIP A **CARPENTER**
WHO NEVER HELD A
SWORD.

IT'S **LOVE**,
ISN'T IT? IT'S
ALWAYS LOVE.

NO.
NOT LOVE.

JUSTICE.

I HAVE LEARNED ALL I CAN
LEARN IN THIS PIT. I HAVE SEEN
MY **FOLLY**. ALL I WANT
NOW IS JUSTICE--

**FINAL
JUSTICE.**

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND,
LITTLE PIMPLE?

SHINE

I--
I--

DO
IT.
NOW.

