DIGITAL GENESIS

#1

godmode



WHAT ARE YOU TWO HAVING?

LET'S SEE... HOW ABOUT TWO STUFFED EMPANADAS?

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, THE WORLD WAS STILL SANE... AND THEN ONE DAY, ***IT ALL CHANGED.***

COMING RIGHT UP.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

GETTING A ***BLACK ALERT*** ON MY PHONE!

GODLIKE BEINGS CALLING THEMSELVES ***THE ASCENDANT,*** SUDDENLY APPEARED, AND TURNED EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN. *THE ASCENDANT* CLAIMED TO BE THE MESSENGERS OF A HIGHER POWER SENT TO IMPOSE ***PEACE AND ORDER*** TO A WORLD HELL-BENT ON DESTROYING ITSELF.

BLACK ALERT?

THAT AINT GOOD.

I'M GETTING ONE TOO!

THAT'S THE SECOND ONE THIS MONTH. I WONDER...

CHU-BOOM!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG AFTER *THE ASCENDANT* SHOWED UP FOR NEW RELIGIOUS FACTIONS TO SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE... SOME DECLARING THE ASCENDANT TO BE GOD'S ANGELS, CAST DOWN TO WATCH OVER US.

VRUUUUUUUUUN

OH SHIT.

AAAIEEE!

SOME EVEN BELIEVED THAT THE ASCENDANT WERE GODS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT... HERE TO GUIDE MANKIND TO A ***HIGHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE.***

GROARRR!

OTHERS CLAIMED THEY KNEW THE *ASCENDANT* FOR WHAT THEY TRULY WERE...

...HARBINGERS OF ARMAGEDDON... THE FINAL JUDGEMENT FOR ALL MANKIND.

THAT BELIEF WAS MADE REAL WHEN THE *MONSTERS STARTED SHOWING UP!*

WHEN THE ***ASCENDANT*** CAME, THEY BROUGHT BLESSINGS BEYOND ANY-THING WE COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED.

AN END TO WAR... ABUNDANT FOOD... RESTORED CLIMATE. PEACE, PROSPERITY AND ***MIRACLES.***

BUT THEIR ARRIVAL ALSO BROUGHT A ***CURSE...***

KU-RUUUCH!

THE DAEMONS!

WHEN IT'S GOOD, THE EARTH IS NOW LIKE PARADISE...

WHOOOOSH!

ARRGGHHH!

WHEN IT'S BAD... IT'S LIKE ***HELL.***

GROWWWRR!

THIS IS ONE OF THE BAD TIMES.

URT. URRT. URRRT.

URRGG.. GRUNT. GRUNT.

DAYS LIKE THIS MY JOB REALLY ***SUCKS!***

I'M JAMES TOWER. "J.T." FOR SHORT.

TALK TO ME PEOPLE... WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT?

THIS IS THE WORLD COUNCIL ***AEGIS*** COMMAND CENTER. I RUN THE PLACE.

WRRRRRR

ARCH DAEMON ON THE WEST COAST.

MY OFFICIAL TITLE IS AEGIS OPERATIONS COMMANDER. ***AEGIS***, IS AN ALLIANCE FORGED BETWEEN HUMANITY AND THE ASCENDANT TO ***FIGHT THE DAEMONS.***

JUST POPPED UP OUT OF A ***CHAOS RIFT*** IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE.

HMM.

MEAN LOOKING SUCKER.

THAT THING IS ***HUGE!*** THE SYSTEM CLASSIFIES IT AS ***HYDRA CLASS!***

"HYDRA CLASS...?" THAT CHANGES THINGS. SEATTLE'S CHANCE OF SURVIVING THIS JUST DROPPED TO ***UNDER THIRTY PERCENT.***

NEWS

PANIC IN TOKYO

HOW LONG TO GET A RESPONSE TEAM ON LOCATION?

WE COULD SCRAMBLE FIGHTERS OUT OF MCCORD AIR FORCE BASE. THAT WOULD BE FASTER THAN WAITING ON FIELD RESPONSE UNITS TO GET INTO PLACE.

THE BIG GUY IS *MIKE CARSON.* MY LOGISTICS OPERATIONS COORDINATOR.

BREAKING NEWS

PANIC IN SEATTLE

REPTILIAN ENTITY SPOTTED

WHAT...? AND DROP ***BOMBS*** ON A MAJOR AMERICAN CITY?

THAT THING IS SO BIG, IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST A ***MOAB**** TO EVEN SCRATCH IT.

MIKE'S A GOOD GUY. SOLID AS THEY COME.

WRITER'S FOOTNOTE: MOAB. MOTHER OF ALL BOMBS. GO GOOGLE IT.

NO, THAT'LL NEVER FLY WITH THE WORLD COUNCIL.

WELL, WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING, AND QUICK!

THE BRUNETTE IS AVA MORALES, SENIOR SPECIAL AGENT, TACTICAL RESPONSE UNIT. MY RIGHT HAND.

THERE'S A FESTIVAL IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA...

"OVER 8,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. WE'RE TALKING MASSIVE CASUALTIES...

"AND GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW MANY DAEMONIC POSSESSIONS."

AVA'S SHARP AS A RAZOR. A BRILLIANT STRATEGIST. I'D BE LOST WITHOUT HER.

VZZZZZZZHHHH

MORTALS, PREPARE FOR AN INCOMING TRANSMISSION FROM THE ASCENDANT.

AND THEN THERE'S THIS FREAK... AEGIS'S LIASON TO THE ASCENDANT...

GIANT MONST

THE GOLDEN GHOST GOES BY THE NAME OF THOTH. HE'S THE ASCENDANTS ARTIFICIAL SUPER-INTELLIGENCE.

OH MY GOD!

MY STOMACH GETS QUEASY EVERYTIME THIS THING POPS UP. I HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED SOMETHING, SO... NOT HUMAN!

THOTH... YOU DO REALIZE THAT IT'S OKAY TO JUST USE ***THE PHONE?***

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

NEVER MIND.

HIS VOICE IS A PITCHED ELECTRIC WINE RIDING ON TOP OF A DEEP INDUSTRIAL THRUM. IT *VIBRATES THE MARROW OF YOUR **BONES!***

IT'S LIKE STANDING INSIDE A DATA CENTER WHILE IT THINKS.

FORGIVE THOTH'S ***MANNERS*** COMMANDER. I ASKED HIM TO CONTACT YOU, DIRECTLY.

THE ***ASCENDANT*** ARE IN ROUTE. ETA IS LESS THAN THIRTY SECONDS.

OKAY, THE FIRST FAMILY OF THE ASCENDANT IS ON THE CASE. WHO KNOWS...? MAYBE, SEATTLE, WILL SURVIVE THIS AFTER ALL.

THE LADY SPEAKING IS *ALHENA FARID-ODUN* ...ALSO KNOWN AS ***MORNING STAR.***

SHE'S A HUMAN FUSION REACTOR. A SUN GIVEN HUMAN FORM.

APEX... WHAT DO YOU SEE?

HOLD ON...

THE GUY WITH THE PERFECT DREADLOCKS IS HER HUSBAND, DR. *OSIRIS WALLACE ODUN...* HE GOES BY THE NAME OF ***APEX.***

THIS MAY TAKE A FEW SECONDS.

HE POSSESSES COMPLETE MASTERY OF GRAVITY. HE'S INCALCULABLY POWERFUL, ***A LIVING SINGULARITY.***

THE ASCENDANT WERE NORMAL HUMANS BEFORE ***APOTHEOSIS...*** THE DAY SOME UNKNOWN FORCE ELEVATED THEM TO GODHOOD.

DR. ODUN WAS A ***NOBEL PEACE PRIZE*** WINNING ASTROPHYSICIST EVEN BEFORE HE BECAME A GOD. WHEN YOU COMBINE HIS POWER WITH HIS INTELLECT, YOU GET A GUY WHO CAN DO ALMOST ***ANYTHING HE CAN IMAGINE.***

ONE OF HIS TRICKS IS TO CREATE A LOCALIZED GRAVITATIONAL LENS...

THE SAME PHENOMENON THAT LETS ASTRONOMERS SEE GALAXIES BEHIND OTHER GALAXIES.

ESSENTIALLY, HE CAN PULL PHOTONS FROM OTHER PLACES TO HIS EYES.

HE CALLS IT ***ASTRONOMICAL VISION.***

I JUST SCANNED A FIVE KILOMETER RADIUS AROUND THE DAEMON. IT'S A SINGLE ***CHAOS RIFT.***

I MARK LESS THEN FIFTY-FIVE POSSESSIONS SO FAR.

SO, WE STILL HAVE TIME, BUT THIS COULD GO SOUTH ***ANY SECOND.***

I'LL DEAL WITH THE ***ARCH DAEMON.***

YOU AND SHANGO NEED TO ROUND UP THE MINORS AND CLOSE THE RIFT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS OVERWRITTEN

HOPEFULLY, WE CAN KEEP IT CONTAINED THIS TIME.

THE LAST THING WE WANT IS A REPEAT OF ***OCEANIS.***