

ANCIENT WISDOM

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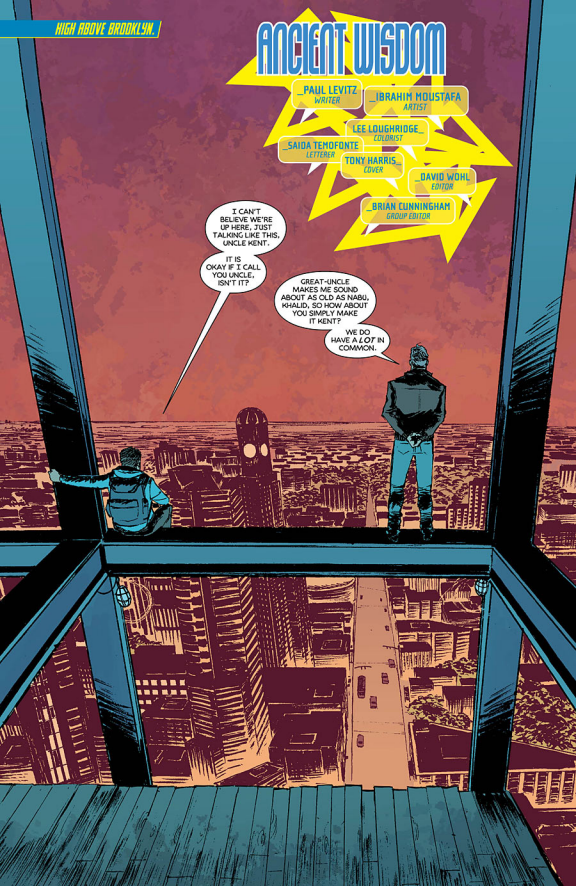
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I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE UP HERE, JUST TALKING LIKE THIS, UNCLE KENT.

IT IS OKAY IF I CALL YOU UNCLE, ISN'T IT?

GREAT-UNCLE MAKES ME SOUND ABOUT AS OLD AS NABU, KHALID, SO HOW ABOUT YOU SIMPLY MAKE IT KENT?

WE DO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.





DID THE HELMET COME TO ME BECAUSE OF YOU?

DON'T THINK SO... YOUR STORY OF BAST OFFERING IT SO YOU COULD STOP ANUBIS SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE...

...AND IF THERE'S ANY EGYPTIAN PHAROAH'S DNA IN MINE, IT'S DILUTED BEYOND RECOGNITION.



WE GET CALLED BECAUSE THE UNIVERSE NEEDS US, LAD.

YOU LOOK LIKE A HERO-- YOU EVEN SOUND LIKE ONE, WITH THAT GREAT DEEP VOICE.

THE HELMET HAS TO CHANGE MY VOICE TO MAKE ANYONE BELIEVE I'M FATE.



MAGIC CHANGES US ALL.

I BARELY REMEMBER WHAT I WAS LIKE WHEN I FIRST TOUCHED THOTH'S MASK. I THINK I WAS STILL AFRAID OF HEIGHTS...



...NOT SO MUCH ANYMORE.

THEN WILL YOU TAKE IT BACK? LET ME HAVE MY NORMAL LIFE AGAIN?



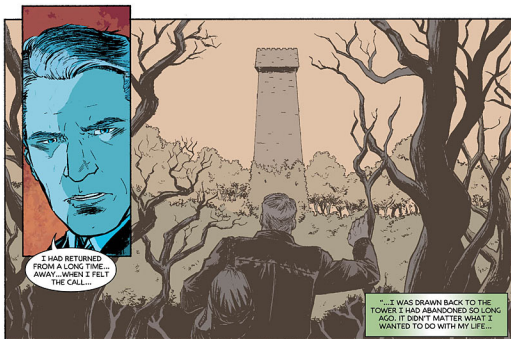
PLEASE?!



THERE'S NO GOING BACK, KHALID, EVEN IF I TOOK THE MASK...OR IF I TOOK AWAY YOUR MEMORY OF EVER HAVING IT.

B--BUT...

FATE'S TOUCHED YOU NOW.

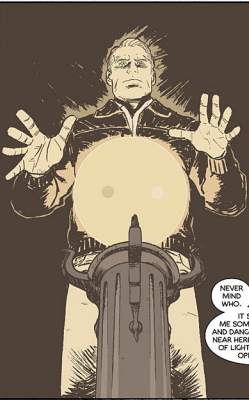


I HAD RETURNED FROM A LONG TIME... AWAY...WHEN I FELT THE CALL...

"...I WAS DRAWN BACK TO THE TOWER I HAD ABANDONED SO LONG AGO. IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH MY LIFE..."



"...LIKE THE MOVIE SAID, 'THEY PULL YOU BACK IN...'"



WHO PULLS YOU BACK IN?



NEVER MIND WHO. IT SHOWED ME SOMETHING DARK AND DANGEROUS LURKING NEAR HERE. AND A POINT OF LIGHT THAT COULD OPPOSE IT. YOU.



WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE YOU WERE, KHALID. I DON'T THINK I'D SEEN YOU SINCE YOU WERE A TODDLER.

I STILL FEEL LIKE I'M LEARNING TO WALK...OR FLY.

I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HOW YOU GOT US UP HERE, OR WHY?



DON'T YOU LIKE THE VIEW?



NOT WITHOUT THE HELMET ON.



IT'S NOT ALL IN THE HELMET, LAD.



WHAT'S THAT--?

WHY I CAME, I THINK.

TAKE THE HELMET, KHALID.



DO YOU WANT IT?



YOU TAKE IT.



H-HOW...



OK.

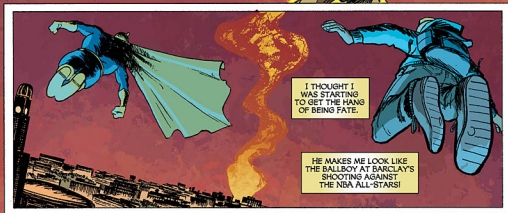


...HOW CAN HE DO THAT?

HE IS MORE THAN A MORTAL MAN, KHALID, AND HE DOES NOT NEED TO WEAR THOTH'S GARB TO SHARE HIS POWER.

NO WAY!

SOMEDAY, PERHAPS...



I THOUGHT I WAS STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF BEING FATE.

HE MAKES ME LOOK LIKE THE BALLBOY AT BARCLAY'S SHOOTING AGAINST THE NBA ALL-STAR!