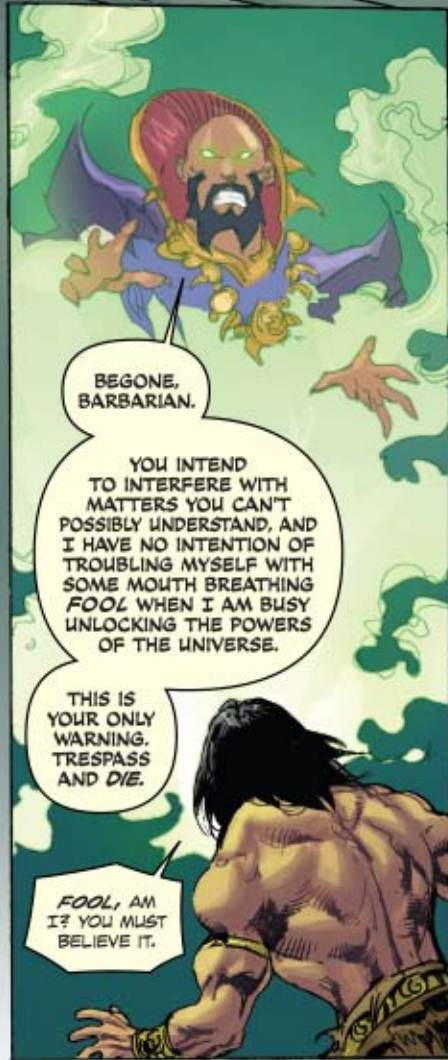






WHAT
DEVILRY IS
THIS?



BEGONE,
BARBARIAN.

YOU INTEND
TO INTERFERE WITH
MATTERS YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND, AND
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF
TROUBLING MYSELF WITH
SOME MOUTH BREATHING
FOOL WHEN I AM BUSY
UNLOCKING THE POWERS
OF THE UNIVERSE.

THIS IS
YOUR ONLY
WARNING.
TRESPASS
AND DIE.

FOOL, AM
I? YOU MUST
BELIEVE IT.

DO YOU
REALLY THINK I DON'T
KNOW YOU'RE PLAYING
WITH *BLOOD ROOT*
IN THERE?

I WAS ONCE
INFECTED WITH THAT
VILE WEED, SO I
KNOW ITS EFFECTS
WHEN I SEE THEM.



BUT YOUR GIANTS
ARE DEAD NOW,
WIZARD. AS SOON
YOU WILL BE.

"YOU'RE MAKING A
MISTAKE, KAL'ANG."



EXPLAIN YOURSELF, SEER.

ALWAYS YOU *HINT* AT THINGS.

CONAN ISN'T THE BARBARIC SIMPLETON YOU THINK HE IS.

YOUR SIMPLE, THEATRICAL TRICKS WON'T FRIGHTEN HIM AWAY.



NO? I FIND HALF OF ALL GOOD SORCERY CONSISTS OF SIMPLE SPELLS USED CREATIVELY.

BUT *THIS*... THIS IS WHAT ALL SORCERERS DREAM OF.

HOW I THANK THE FATES THAT BROUGHT ME THE SINGLE SEED OF BLOOD ROOT. IT CAME TO *ME*, A WIZARD WHOSE SPECIALTY IS HERBS AND POTIONS. ONLY *I* CAN EXPLOIT ITS FULL POTENTIAL.



AND YET YOUR MAGNIFICENT CREATIONS LIE DEAD ON THE BATTLEFIELD AND CONAN IS AT YOUR TOWER DOOR.

YOUR GLIMPSES INTO THE FUTURE USED TO BE OF GREAT HELP TO ME, SEER.

BUT LATELY YOU SEEM ONLY FULL OF VAGUE WARNINGS AND PESSIMISM. WHY CAN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING PLAINLY FOR A CHANGE?



I DON'T GET TO PICK AND CHOOSE THE VISIONS THAT COME TO ME. BUT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING SAID PLAINLY, TRY THIS.

YOUR ULTIMATE SUCCESS OR FAILURE WILL BE DECIDED *TODAY*. WILL YOU LIVE OR DIE, OH WIZARD?

WHAT?





ENOUGH OF YOUR RIDDLES, BLIND MAN! IF I'M IN PERIL THEN TELL ME.

YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN A LABYRINTH OF PERILS SINCE I'VE MET YOU, WIZARD. IT IS ONLY MY GUIDANCE THAT'S ALLOWED YOU TO WEAVE AND DODGE EVERY DANGER AND BRING YOU TO THE EXALTED PLACE YOU NOW FIND YOURSELF.

BUT NOW, IN THE FINAL HOUR, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS WITHOUT MY HELP. YOUR ULTIMATE FATE IS IN YOUR OWN HANDS.



SO JUST WHEN I NEED YOU MOST, YOU WASH YOUR HANDS OF ME.

WHY BOTHER TO SEEK ME OUT? WHY BOTHER TO BRING ME SO FAR ONLY TO ABANDON ME NOW? WHAT WAS ALL OF THIS TO YOU? NEVER MIND. I WILL DEAL WITH THIS BARBARIAN WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

YOU HAVE PRECIOUS FEW SOLDIERS LEFT TO GUARD YOU. MOST LIE DEAD ON THE BATTLE PLAIN.



I DON'T NEED THEM WHEN I HAVE THE BLOOD ROOT ELIXIR.



YOU HEARD CONAN. HE'S FACED BLOOD ROOT BEFORE. AND LIVED.

NOT LIKE THIS. YOU KNOW THE GUARDIANS I'VE CREATED.



VERY WELL. CONAN APPROACHES EVEN NOW...