



THE NEUTRAL ZONE.
ON THE EDGE OF KNOWN SCIENCE.

From the notes of Dr. Adam Brashear
(via thought transcription):

I'm standing
on a crystal of
frozen spacetime.

Above me, other crystals
rotate through non-Euclidean
angles, their positive and
negative energies coexisting
in total harmony.

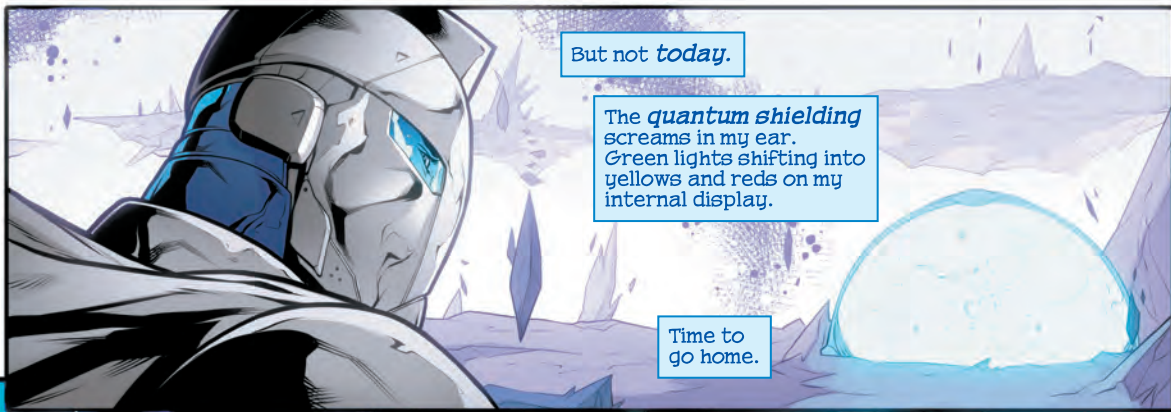
This is the "magic matter"
I call *Neutronium*. If I
could bring it back into
normal space, it could
potentially solve *hundreds*
of global problems...

...including
helping me to
find my *son*.

Kevin has been *lost*
in this infinity for
over a decade. How he
even *survived*, I don't
know...but he's *alive*
in here. Somewhere.

And someday,
I'll *find* him...

THE BLUE MARVEL.
EXPLORER OF THE IMPOSSIBLE.



But not *today*.

The *quantum shielding* screams in my ear. Green lights shifting into yellows and reds on my internal display.

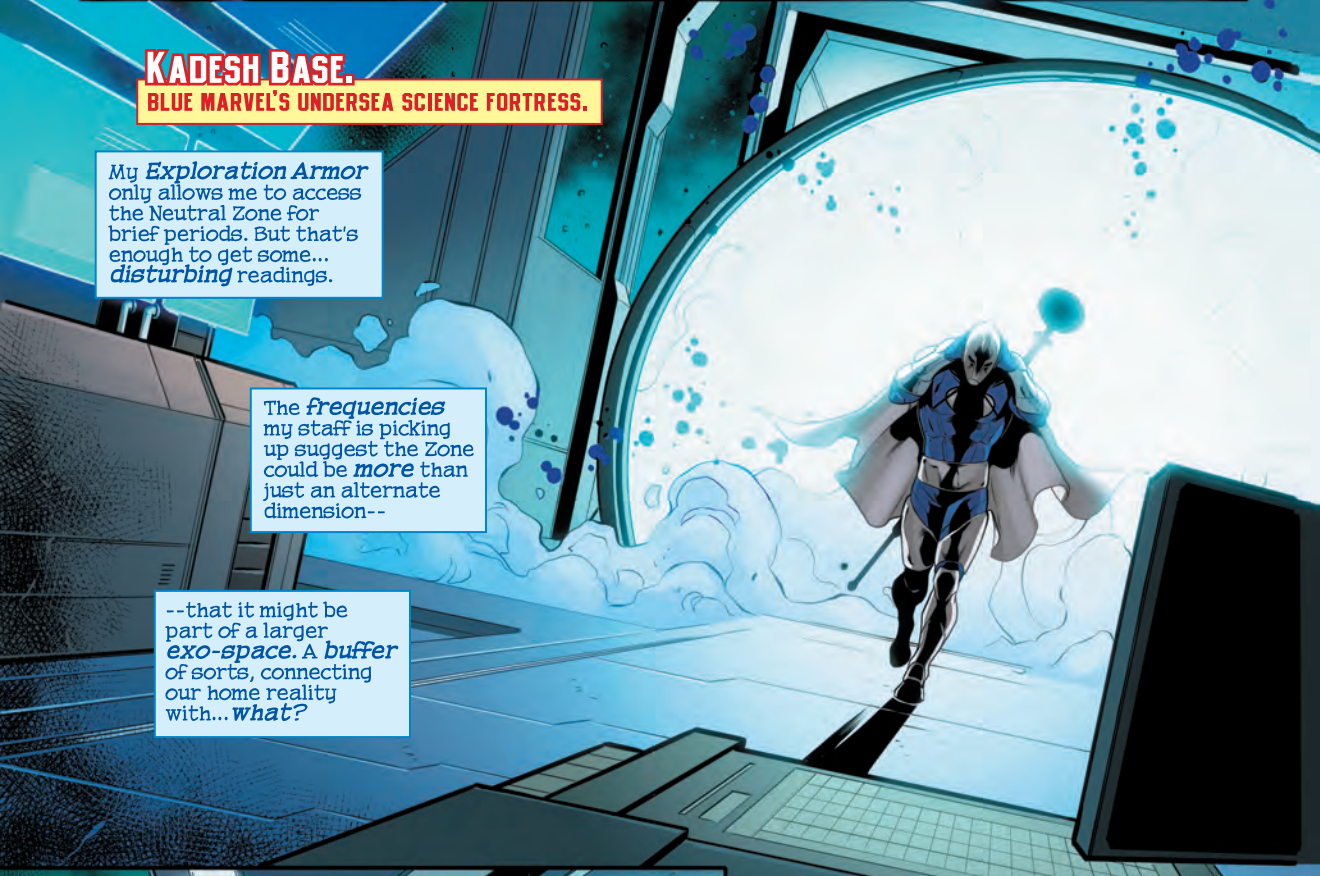
Time to go home.

KADESH BASE.
BLUE MARVEL'S UNDERSEA SCIENCE FORTRESS.

My *Exploration Armor* only allows me to access the Neutral Zone for brief periods. But that's enough to get some... *disturbing* readings.

The *frequencies* my staff is picking up suggest the Zone could be *more* than just an alternate dimension--

--that it might be part of a larger *exo-space*. A *buffer* of sorts, connecting our home reality with... *what?*



What lies *outside?*

(Helmet link broken. Transcription ends.)

WHAT INDEED...?

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

INTERESTING TIMES, SPIDER-MAN.



AND YOU? HOW'S YOUR EXPERIMENT WITH...MONICA...

...PROCEEDING...



TAKE A LOOK.

AH...



I'M... NOT USUALLY SO UNDERDRESSED...

I WANTED TO GET THE FINE DETAILS RIGHT.

IT'S SCIENCE!

I SWEAR IT ONLY JUST OCCURRED TO ME HOW INAPPROPES THIS IS.

SPECTRUM.
REALLY.

SPIDER-MAN.
BACK OFF, MAN.
HE'S A SCIENTIST.



"INAPPROPES"?

HORRIFYING AWKWARDNESS ASIDE--HERE'S THE RESULTS, DOC.

NOT A SINGLE SPIKE--ENERGY EXPENDITURE CONSTANT ACROSS THE BOARD. SHE COULD DO THIS ALL DAY.

HMM.

YEAH. LISTEN, MUCH AS I LOVE POKING AROUND YOUR COOL SCIENCE BASE--WHICH REED RICHARDS NEVER LETS ME DO, BY THE WAY--



HE SHOULD.

THERE'S A BRILLIANT MIND BEHIND THE BANTER, SPIDER-MAN. I VALUE YOUR INSIGHTS.

YOU...REALLY?

WOW.

BUT, UH, I'VE GOT A CLASS ON POSITIVE THINKING TO TEACH BACK AT WE'RE-ALL-GONNA-DIE HIGH*, SO...

*HE MEANS THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL, WHERE HE TEACHES IN SPIDER-MAN & THE X-MEN.--TOM



YOU KNOW THE WAY BACK TO THE PORTAL ROOM?

SECOND ON THE LEFT. HAVE FUN COLLATING THE DATA, DOC.

ON YOUR NAKED OTHER SELF.

INAPPROPES.



HE HAS A POINT, MONICA. THIS IS SOMEWHAT INAPPROPES.

LIKE I SAID--FINE DETAILS.

ALSO, THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE WAS A PICTURE.

NEVERTHELESS...



SPOILSPORT.

HOW'S THAT?

PERFECT, ACTUALLY-- IN EVERY DETAIL.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS HAD A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY, MONICA?

WELL, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD, BUT IT'S IMPROVED SINCE I GOT MY POWERS. AND THAT PHOTON TRANSFUSION I HAD FROM YOU LAST YEAR DIDN'T HURT.

I HAVE ALMOST TOTAL RECALL NOW-- FULL EIDETIC MEMORY, CLEAR AS CRYSTAL, A LITTLE TOO CLEAR, IF I'M HONEST.

THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'D RATHER FORGET.



AND YOU DON'T FIND ALTERING YOUR LIGHTFORM DIFFICULT? OR DRAINING?

EASY AS THINKING.

LIKE SO.



MONICA...WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU WERE TO CHANGE TO YOUR LIGHTFORM...MAKE ALTERATIONS...AND THEN CHANGE BACK?

I'D JUST TURN BACK TO THIS, WOULDN'T I? JUST...TURN HUMAN.



WELL, THAT'S THE THING, MONICA.

JUDGING BY THESE READINGS, I'M NOT SURE YOU EVER DO TURN BACK TO--

CRASHROOM

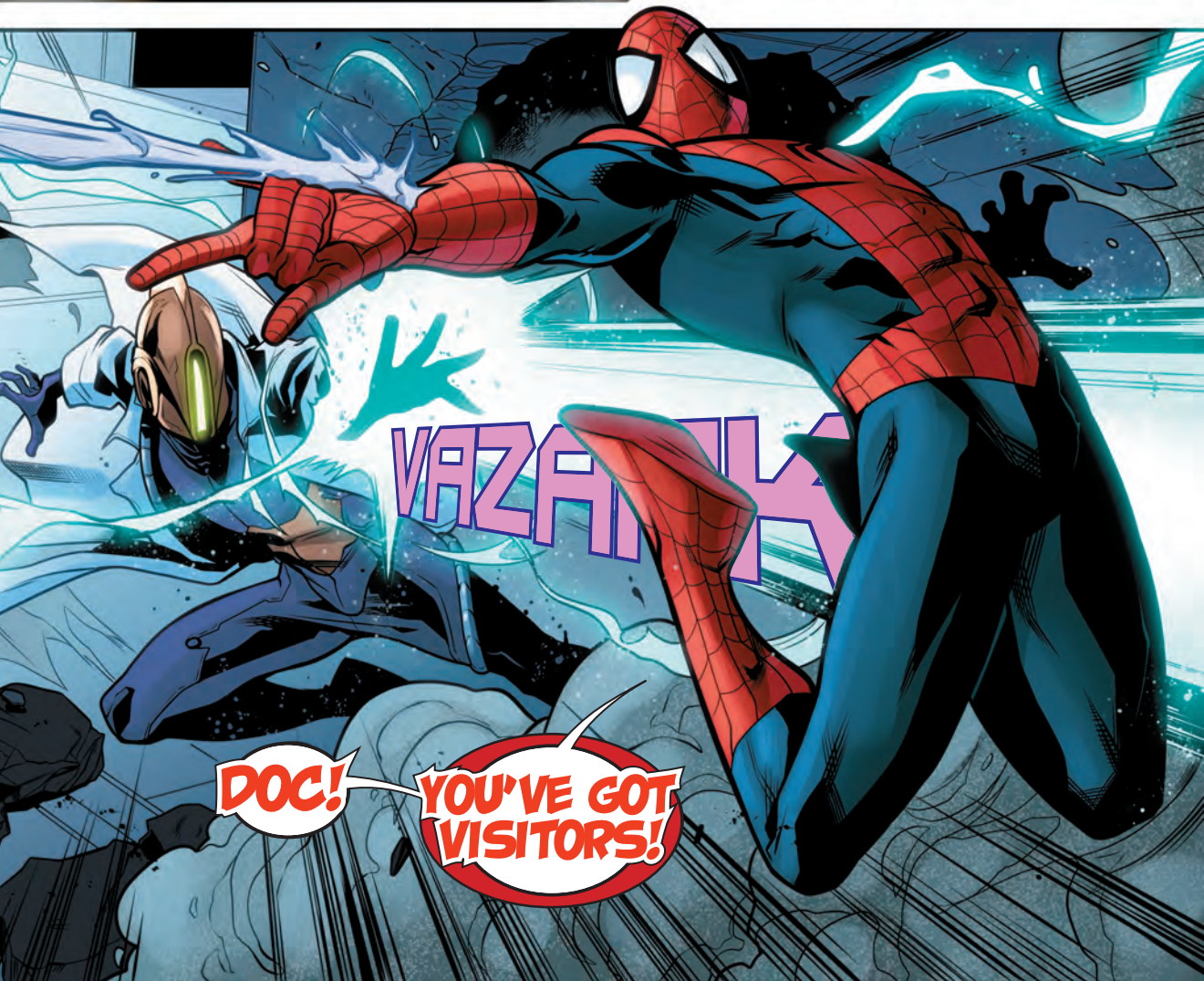




WHY, THANK YOU, BUT IT'S JUST MODULATING THE ENERGY, ADAM--HARDER TO DESCRIBE THAN TO DO.

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE MY PHYSICAL SHAPE OR ANYTHING--

ABOUT THAT...



DOC!

YOU'VE GOT VISITORS!