

AVENGERS vs X-MEN

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SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AGO.

SO THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR WEEKS NOW WITH THE BEST MINDS ON THE PLANET, HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAVE THE DAY, AND WE HAVE OFFICIALLY EXHAUSTED THE KNOWN LIMITS OF SCIENCE.

FOR ME, THAT'S A FIRST.



WE'VE TRIED EVERY WAY WE COULD DREAM OF TO STOP THE PHOENIX. WE COULDN'T DEFLECT IT. WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE TRIED TO BREAK IT APART. WE CAN'T GO TOE TO TOE WITH IT. HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO EVEN ATTEMPT TO KILL IT, AND NO ONE AS OF YET SEEMS ABLE TO CONTROL IT.

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN ABLE TO HURT IT ARE WANDA AND HOPE. TOGETHER, THEY'RE THE KEYS TO WINNING THIS BATTLE. THEY HAVE TO BE.

BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL WE'VE GOT LEFT.

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WHEN YOU START TALKING ABOUT YINS AND YANGS, THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SCIENCE. THAT SOUNDS LIKE IRON FIST STUFF.

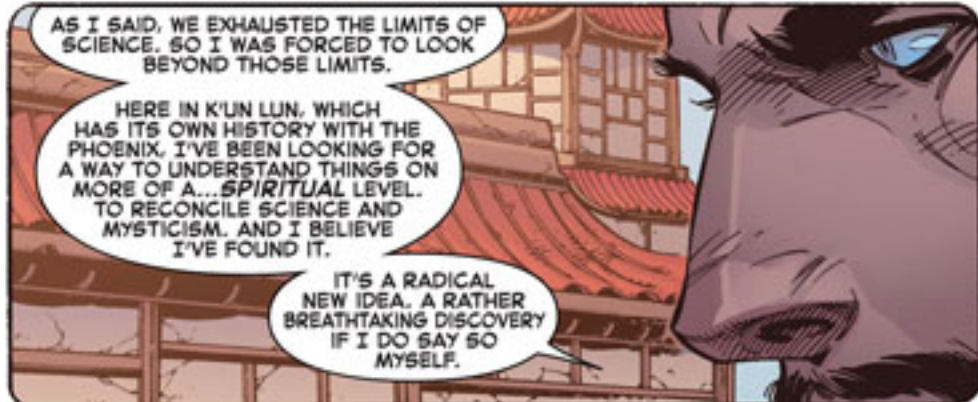
IT IS. THAT'S THE OTHER BIG PIECE OF THE PUZZLE.



AS I SAID, WE EXHAUSTED THE LIMITS OF SCIENCE, SO I WAS FORCED TO LOOK BEYOND THOSE LIMITS.

HERE IN K'UN LUN, WHICH HAS ITS OWN HISTORY WITH THE PHOENIX, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO UNDERSTAND THINGS ON MORE OF A...SPIRITUAL LEVEL. TO RECONCILE SCIENCE AND MYSTICISM. AND I BELIEVE I'VE FOUND IT.

IT'S A RADICAL NEW IDEA, A RATHER BREATHTAKING DISCOVERY IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.



I CALL IT... "FAITH."



SOON AS HE STARTS PASSIN' AROUND THE KOOL-AID, I'M OUT.

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS, TONY, BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION HERE. WANDA AND HOPE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO WHAT EXACTLY?



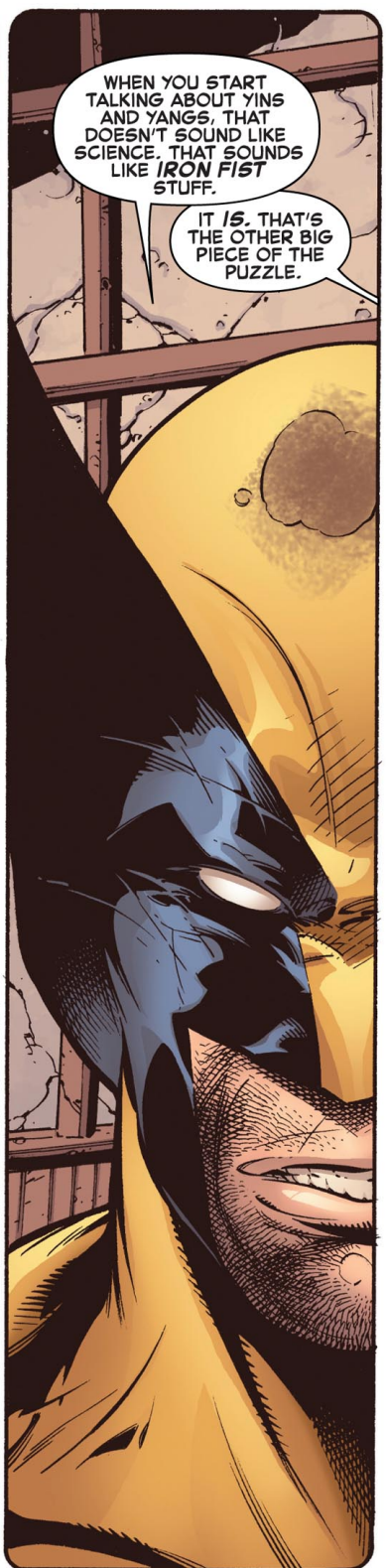
WELL, CAP...





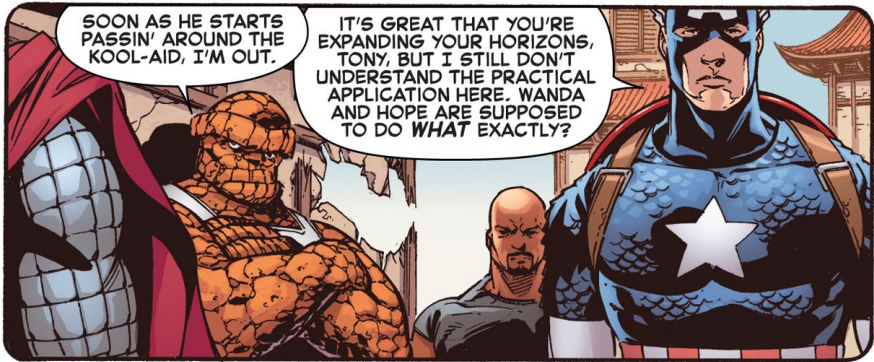
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WELL, CAP...





"...I THINK ONLY THEY CAN ANSWER THAT."



I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, HOPE. WE SHOULD BE IN THERE WITH THE OTHERS. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT US.

THEY'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT US. I'M SICK OF LISTENING TO THEM TALK ABOUT ME.

THIS WASN'T HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO.



I JUST HELD MY OWN AGAINST CYCLOPS. I SHOULD BE EXCITED, RIGHT? SO WHY DO I FEEL LIKE SUCH A JERK?

WAS THIS REALLY WHAT I'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR ALL THIS TIME? NOT SO I COULD SAVE MY PEOPLE, BUT SO I COULD STAND AND FIGHT AGAINST THEM?



THIS FIGHT WILL BE TO SAVE THE WORLD. THE PHOENIX X-MEN HAVE TO BE STOPPED. THE PATH THEY'RE ON WILL ONLY END BADLY. TRUST ME, I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THEIR CHOICES.

YOU KNOW SOMETHING? YOU'RE RIGHT...



...I SHOULD BLAME YOU.