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**THE FORBIDDEN ZONE.**

PICK UP THE PACE, URSUS--THE MIDDAY SUN WILL SOON BATTER YOU AND YOUR SOLDIERS. WE HAVE A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER.



WHAT LOOMS YET OVER THIS WASTELAND IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR MISSION.

THE GREATEST SYMBOL OF MAN'S CRUELTY AND ARROGANCE.



HALT!

TAYLOR MAY HAVE OPENED A BOX, BUT WE WILL SEAL IT SHUT.



FOR THE GOOD OF APEKIND.



BLOW IT UP.  
LEAVE NO STONE  
EXPOSED.

WITH  
PLEASURE.



DOCTOR ZAIUS!

DOCTOR ZAIUS! QUICKLY!



WE FOUND IT! JUST BEYOND THE STATUE!

WHAT IS "IT," BOY? FOUND WHAT? SPEAK UP!



I... I DON'T KNOW...

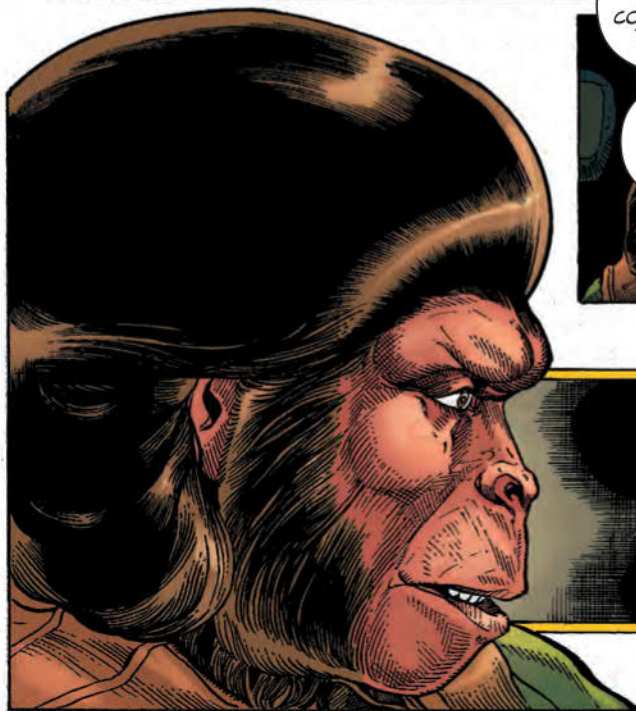
...IT'S HUGE.



SEE? I TOLD YOU!

MY GOD.

STAND DOWN... EVERYONE.





THE TRUTH IS THAT WE MAY AS WELL BE IN THE CAGES WITH THE REST OF THE HUMANS.

THE PROTESTS WILL BE SNUFFED JUST LIKE THE CAVE IN THE FORBIDDEN ZONE, AND WE'LL NEVER HAVE AN OUNCE OF SUPPORT. WE'RE DONE, ZIRA.



THEY CAN'T KEEP US QUIET FOREVER. ANY DAY NOW THE PEOPLE WILL RIOT.

WE'LL SEE JUST HOW SMART ZAIUS IS THEN. HMPH!



YOU WATCH YOUR TONGUE, MILO. I DO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO HAVE IT REMOVED.



DR. ZAIUS?

HAVE YOU COME TO HUMILIATE US MORE, OR JUST TO RELISH IN THE ABSURD PUNISHMENT YOU'VE PUT US UNDER?



ON THE CONTRARY. I'M HERE TO LIFT YOUR ARREST. TEMPORARILY.

THERE IS SOMETHING YOU AND ZIRA MUST SEE.

"SOMETHING THAT  
VERY WELL MAY  
SHOCK THE  
FOUNDATIONS OF  
SCIENCE AND FAITH  
FOR ALL APEKIND."

AS  
I LIVE AND  
BREATHE...

INCREDIBLE.  
SIMPLY  
INCREDIBLE!





A FULL REPORT AND AUTOPSY IS IN ORDER. I TRUST YOU WILL BE THOROUGH.

YOU'VE SHOWN NO HESITANCE IN SMOTHERING OUR STUDIES, DR. ZAIUS. WHY US?

DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES, ZIRA, WE ARE UNITED IN THE QUEST FOR TRUTH.



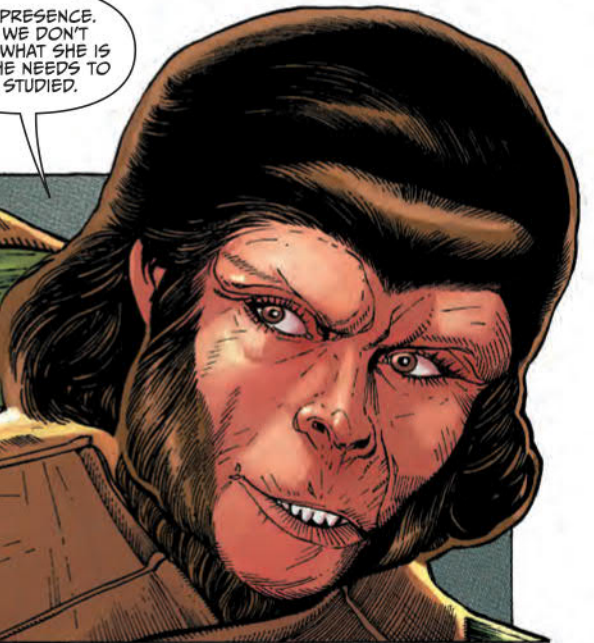
I FLINCH TO CONSIDER CUTTING SUCH A MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN UP.

CORNELIUS? WHY NOT? WE HAVE TO!



FOR ONCE, MY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE IS OVERWHELMING. I FEEL... SMALL IN ITS PRESENCE.

HER PRESENCE. AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE IS YET. SHE NEEDS TO BE STUDIED.



DOCTOR ZIRA, PROCEED WITH AN AUTOPSY. DOCTOR CORNELIUS... ASSIST.



YOU ARE MY BRIGHTEST SCIENTISTS, AND I ASK FOR YOUR MINDS AND YOUR INTELLECT SO THAT WE MAY UNCOVER WHAT GREAT TRUTH THIS BEAST BRINGS.



I'VE FELT SO INADEQUATE SITTING ON MY PAWS FOR SO LONG. THIS COULD RESTORE OUR CAREERS!

WE MUST BE CAREFUL, ZIRA...



"...MY TRUST IN DR. ZAIUS HAS EXPIRED."



COME ON, CORNELIUS? ARE YOU NOT EXCITED FOR WHAT THIS COULD MEAN?

WITH THE PROPER TIME, WE COULD PROVE A NEW STAGE IN EVOLUTION! OR A MISSING LINK!

IT VERY WELL COULD BE. OR A SCIENTIFIC IRREGULARITY, ZIRA. A FLUKE.

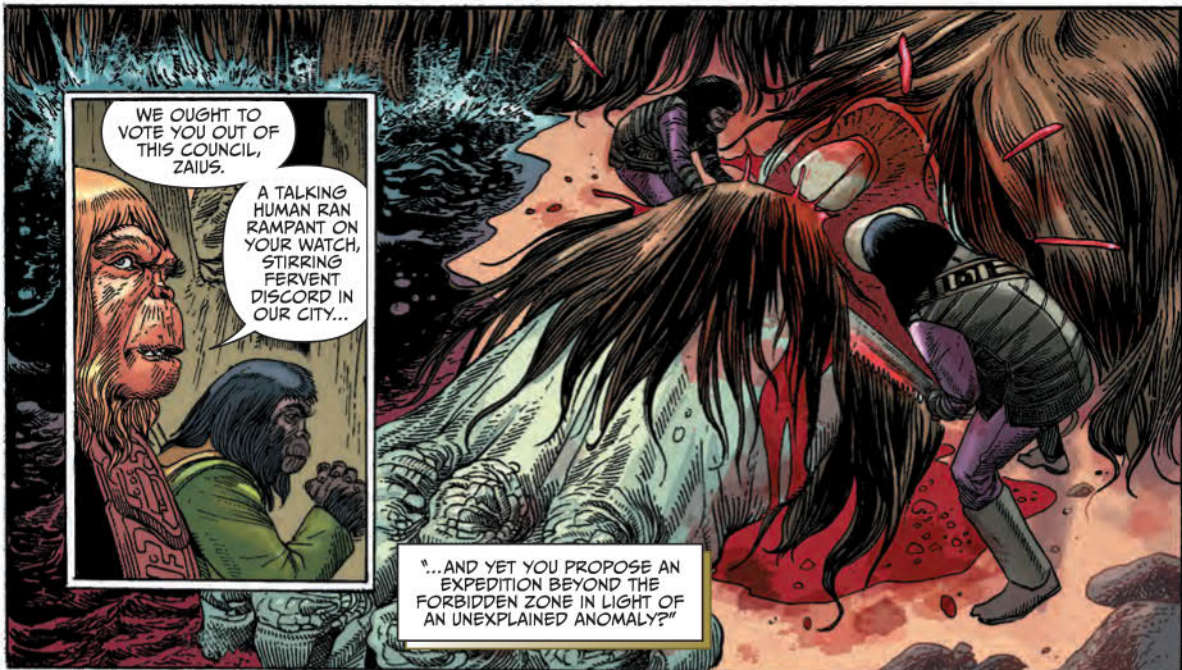
OR THAT GOD WAS REAL. AND SHE WAS LIKE US.

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THE REMAINS, GENERAL?

GENERAL?

SUCH POWER, AT THE WILL OF THE MEEK. WE SHOULD BE BUILDING A SHRINE, NOT DISSECTING IT.

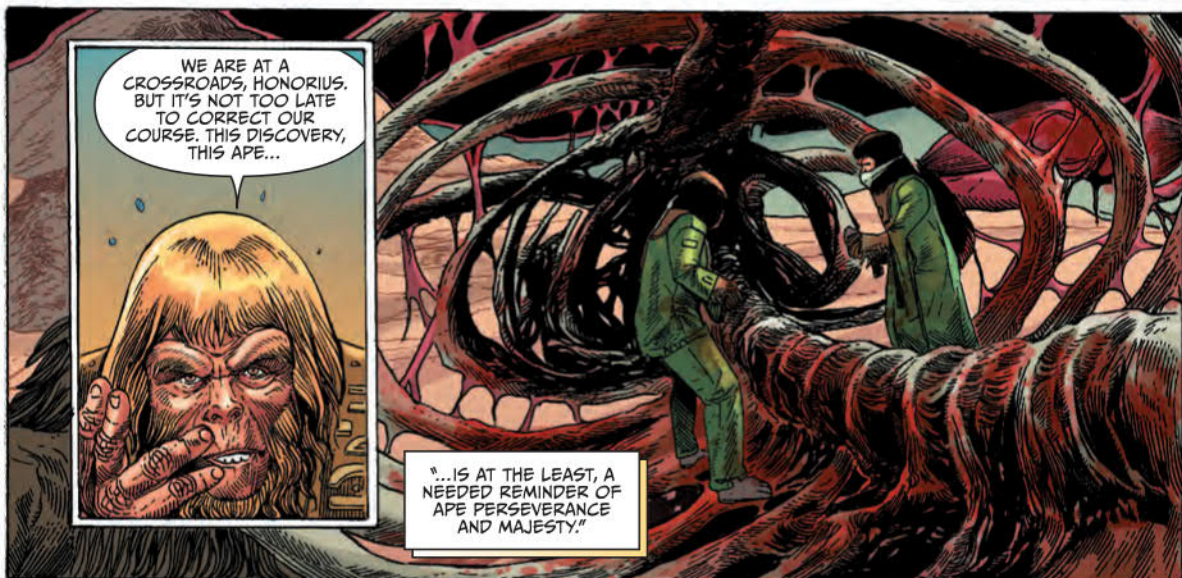




WE OUGHT TO VOTE YOU OUT OF THIS COUNCIL, ZAIUS.

A TALKING HUMAN RAN RAMPANT ON YOUR WATCH, STIRRING FERVENT DISCORD IN OUR CITY...

"...AND YET YOU PROPOSE AN EXPEDITION BEYOND THE FORBIDDEN ZONE IN LIGHT OF AN UNEXPLAINED ANOMALY?"



WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS, HONORIUS. BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CORRECT OUR COURSE. THIS DISCOVERY, THIS APE...

"...IS AT THE LEAST, A NEEDED REMINDER OF APE PERSEVERANCE AND MAJESTY."



AND WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST AT MOST? A SIGN FROM GOD?

APE IS THE SUPERIOR, DOMINANT SPECIES. WE NEED NOT PROVE THAT, ZAIUS.

"NO. A SIGN IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT PROOF, MAXIMUS."

"WHAT IF IT IS THE GOD?"



PREPOSTEROUS! THE LAWGIVER SPOKE NOT A WORD OF THIS...THIS GIANT.

HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY AN EXPEDITION, WHEN WE'RE FANNING THE FLAMES OF DISCONTENT ON OUR OWN STREETS, ZAIUS?



WHAT IF THIS PROVES SOMETHING BEYOND THE LAWGIVER'S WORD? WHAT IF THIS PROVES A DESTINY GREATER THAN WHAT WE THOUGHT IMAGINABLE?



OUR STREETS WILL RUN RED WITH SIMIAN BLOOD IF WE DO NOT FIND COMMON GROUND.

THE GIANT MAY SHOW US WHAT WE ARE. WHAT WE COULD BE. SUCH A PROFOUND DISCOVERY COULD UNITE APEKIND.



"I WITNESSED MY TOP SCIENTIST GRASP FOR FACT AND FAITH AT THE VERY SIGHT.

"SHOULD OUR STUDY PACIFY BOTH FACETS OF THIS COUNCIL, SO WILL IT FOR THE MISGUIDED AMONG US."



"YOU'VE GOT YOUR EXPEDITION, ZAIUS. FOR YOUR SAKE, AND APEKIND, YOU HAD BETTER RETURN WITH SOMETHING... OF SUBSTANCE."



HAVE YOU EVEN CONVINCED YOURSELF OF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, ZAIUS?

ALL I HAD TO CONVINC WAS THEM, GENERAL.