

..... DEC 19 08:39 CST


DON'T
MAKE ME ASK AGAIN,
DR. MEGALA...

...I
WANT THE
TRUTH.

DID I
KILL ANYONE
TODAY?

AS YET
UNDETERMINED,
NATHANIEL.

THE INITIAL
DAMAGE REPORTS
ARE JUST STARTING
TO COME IN.



SUFFICE TO SAY, THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF YOUR QUANTUM FLARE-UPS EXCEEDED OUR PROJECTIONS.


EVEN THE **JUSTICE LEAGUE** MEMBERS WHO INTERVENED COULDN'T CONTROL ALL THE DAMAGE.

THEY UNDERESTIMATED WHAT THEY WERE DEALING WITH. I CAN SPIN THIS SO THE SUPERHEROES INHERIT PARTIAL BLAME.



THAT WOULD AT LEAST TAKE SOME OF THE HEAT OFF THE **CONTINUUM...**

...ASSUMING, DOCTOR, THE WORST IS OVER AND OUR ASSET WILL REMAIN FULLY CONTAINED INSIDE YOUR **SUBTERRANEAN SUPPRESSION DOME.**



THE INTERNAL NUCLEON BUFFERS AND GEODESIC TESLA-SHIELDING ARE PRIMED. THE DOME SHOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND WHATEVER MAY BE COMING **NEXT.**

YEAH, WELL, ABOUT THAT...



...ANYONE ELSE GETS SICK, THEY SPREAD GERMS. I GET SICK, I UNLEASH **CHAOS** AND **DESTRUCTION.**

YOU KNOW IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE AT THE END. AND THIS **WILL** END, DOC. **EVERYTHING** ENDS.

WHAT WE ALL WITNESSED TODAY...WHAT IF THAT'S THE UNIVERSE TELLING ME MY TIME IS UP?



THE UNIVERSE ISN'T TALKING TO YOU, SOLDIER. I AM.

STOW THE PITY PARTY. NO TIME TO SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY FOR YOUR STONES, SO JUST MAN THE HELL UP.



LET'S FACE IT. EVER SINCE MY ACCIDENT IN THE QUANTUM FIELD, I STOPPED BEING NATHANIEL ADAM.

CAPTAIN ATOM-- THAT'S JUST BEEN A CODENAME FOR AN ATOMIC FREAK SHOW.

A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN.

I THOUGHT I COULD HOLD ONTO MY LAST SHREDS OF HUMANITY...BUT YOU KNEW BETTER, DOC. YOU KNEW SOONER OR LATER A DAY LIKE THIS WOULD COME...

A NUCLEAR MELTDOWN--**THAT**, I HAVE PROTOCOLS FOR. BUT A MELTDOWN LIKE THIS IS OUTSIDE MY WHEELHOUSE.

GIVEN THE TRAUMA OF TODAY'S EVENTS, IT MIGHT BE SOME FORM OF ACCELERATED PTSD.



...AND YET, NO MATTER HOW HOPELESS OR HOW BAD THINGS GOT, YOU WERE THERE FOR ME, DOC. YOU ALWAYS HAD MY BACK.

YOU, I AM GOING TO MISS.



YOU, GENERAL... NOT SO MUCH.

THERE IT IS! AT LEAST HIS DEFIANT STREAK STILL--

BRACE YOURSELF, NATHANIEL. YOUR MOLECULAR COHESION LEVELS ARE HEMORRHAGING.



THIS ATTACK WILL BE THE MOST SEVERE YET, BUT I'M CONFIDENT IN YOUR ABILITY TO WITHSTAND EVEN THE MOST--

CAN THE PEP TALK, DOC...

...I THINK WE BOTH KNOW CAPTAIN ATOM WILL NEVER SEE 2013.



THANKS AGAIN...FOR EVERYTHING...

.....DEC 19 08:43 CST



...SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.

NATHANIEL!

BLOWBACK

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TWENTY-THREE MINUTES EARLIER.

THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY
OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

GUYS, ANY
WAY I CAN HANG
UP ON YOU? NO
OFFENSE.

NONE TAKEN,
NATHANIEL.
BUT MARK MY
WORDS...

...THE INTERNAL
NANO-COM ARRAY
WE INJECTED YOU WITH
WILL BE AS UBIQUITOUS
AS THE SMARTPHONE
ONE DAY.

MAYBE
SO. BUT IF I
KNEW YOU'D BE
PLUMPING SWARMS
OF **NANO-BOTS**
INTO MY ENERGY
MATRIX, I MIGHT'VE
STAYED IN
EXILE ON THE
MOON.

BEING
SURVEILLED
24/7 AT THE
SUB-ATOMIC
LEVEL IS REALLY
CREEPY.

WE'VE BEEN
OVER THIS,
NATHANIEL.

YOUR
PAST EPISODES OF
HAZARDOUS MOLECULAR
INSTABILITY ARE ON
RECORD.

BUT
NOW THAT WE CAN
MONITOR YOUR ATOMIC
SUB-STRUCTURE HERE
FROM THE **CONTINUUM**,
WE'LL GET A JUMP
ON ALL FUTURE
ANOMALIES.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH...

...WE DID HAPPEN
TO DETECT A MINOR
GLITCH IN YOUR LATEST
NANO-DIAGNOSTIC.



IT WOULD APPEAR THE RATE AT WHICH YOUR ATOMS ARE SPLITTING AND COALESCING IS SLIGHTLY ELEVATED.

IF YOU SAY SO.



THINK OF IT AS A MILD "QUANTUM FEVER."

JUST TO BE PRUDENT, WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU BACK HERE ASAP SO WE CAN ASSESS THE--

HOLD ON!



SOUTH OF MY FLIGHT PATH-- THERE'S A CRUISE SHIP IN TROUBLE! SWEEPED UP BY A MONSTER WAVE!

COPY THAT. WE'LL CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE MARITIME AUTHORITIES.

--I REPEAT, A NEARBY MERCHANT VESSEL HAS BEEN ALERTED AND IS HEADING FOR THE CRUISE SHIP NOW.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU'RE ADVISED TO RESUME YOUR ORIGINAL COURSE AND--



NEGATORY!



SITUATION JUST ESCALATED. THE SHIP IS STARTING TO CAPSIZE. PASSENGERS ARE IN JEOPARDY.

NO TIME TO WASTE!

HEADS UP, PEOPLE. WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

CAPTAIN ATOM?!

IF A SUPER-HERO IS OUT HERE, THINGS MUST BE EVEN WORSE THAN THEY LOOK!



IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, GENERAL EILING IS IN THE BUILDING TODAY.

HAVE HIM INFORMED WE HAVE A POTENTIAL CODE RED DOWN HERE.



--IF I CAN'T TALK YOU OUT OF THIS, AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

COLLAGEN! IT HAS LONG STRINGY MOLECULES THAT TEND TO GET TANGLED UP IN LOOSE KNOTS...

...IF I CREATE ENOUGH OF THEM, THEY'LL START *GUMMING UP* THE H₂O MOLECULES AND--



YES! THE SHIP WILL BE STABILIZED AS THE SURROUNDING WATER BECOMES ONE HUGE GELATINOUS MASS.



I WAS GONNA GO WITH "GIANT JELLO-MOLD," BUT HEY--

--HOLD ON.

THERE'S A PROBLEM.



IT'S NOT HAPPENING!

MY TRANSMUTATION BEAMS JUST FIZZLED OUT!

THE FEVER MAY BE IMPEDING YOUR POWERS. THIS IS A RED FLAG.



I'M NOW URGING YOU TO ABSTAIN FROM ANY FURTHER--

THAT'S NOT HAPPENING EITHER, DOC.

OKAY, SO MAYBE I'M NOT AT 100% RIGHT NOW...



...I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP POURING IT ON TILL I'M MAXED OUT! 'CAUSE I STILL THINK I'VE GOT THIS! SCRATCH THAT--



--I KNOW I'VE GOT THIS!

NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING.

WHATEVER CAPTAIN ATOM DID TO THE WATER-- WE'VE STOPPED SINKING!

GUESS HE HAS SOMEWHERE ELSE HE NEEDS TO BE.



JUST AS WELL. SOME SAY HE'S RADIOACTIVE.

LOTS OF PEOPLE DO GIVE HIM A BAD RAP.

MAYBE THE SAME CROWD THAT USED TO TRASH-TALK BATMAN AND SUPERMAN...