



NO, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT.




HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? SOME TRICK MAYBE.


IT *MUST* BE. I KILLED YOU, THOTH-AMON. I SHOVED YOUR OWN FOUL CREATION DOWN YOUR THROAT AND SAW YOU *CHOKE* ON IT.




**FOOL!**  
YOUR EVERY UTTERANCE EXPOSES YOUR IGNORANCE. THERE IS MORE TO THOTH-AMON THAN A MERE MORTAL SHELL.



IT'S TRUE  
THERE WAS A  
SORT OF CRUDE  
EFFECTIVENESS  
TO YOUR BASE  
ATTEMPT TO  
UNDO ME.



"BUT EVEN ONE AS POWERFUL AS I CAN  
ANTICIPATE THE UNLIKELY, THE POSSIBILITY THAT  
I WOULD NEED TO *ESCAPE*...NOT JUST FROM  
PERIL, BUT FROM MY DYING BODY ITSELF.



"SO AT THE FINAL CLIMAX,  
YOU MAY HAVE DESTROYED  
MY BODY, BUT THE *ESSENCE*  
OF THOTH-AMON ENDURED.



"A FINAL SPELL THAT  
LET ME FLEE INTO THE  
ASTRAL PLANE WHERE  
NONE COULD FOLLOW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE  
CONAN/RED SONJA.



"I DID NOT  
JUST FLEE  
THROUGH  
SPACE.

"I FLED  
THROUGH TIME,  
SENDING MY  
CONSCIOUSNESS  
BACK NEARLY A  
DECADE.

"I SOUGHT A WAY  
BACK INTO THE  
MORTAL WORLD, A  
PLACE TO SETTLE  
MY ESSENCE.



"ANY OLD BODY WOULD DO. I PLANNED TO TAKE THE LONG VIEW AFTER ALL."

"THE BODY OF THE BLIND OLD BEGGAR WOULD SERVE. HIS LIFE FORCE PASSED MINE AS WE EXCHANGED PLACES IN THE VOID OF ETERNITY. HE SEEMED ALMOST RELIEVED."

"WITH MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE, IT WAS SIMPLE ENOUGH TO PASS MYSELF OFF AS A SEER."



"KAL'ANG WAS EASILY IMPRESSED."

"I TOOK HIM FROM A RAG TAG COURT MAGICIAN TO THE MASTER OF HIS OWN CASTLE AND MADE HIM BELIEVE IT WAS HIS OWN TALENTS THAT MADE IT HAPPEN."

"AND YET HE HAD ONE TALENT: HERBOLOGY."




"NEVER MIND THAT HE WAS A FOOL."



"I MUST ADMIT MY FIRST ATTEMPTS TO USE THE BLOOD ROOT WERE TOO BLUNT. KAL'ANG'S APPROACH WAS MORE SUBTLE. MORE PATIENT."




"LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT ALL OF HIS LABORS WERE FOR MY BENEFIT."




I WILL ADMIT THAT KAL'ANG REMINDED ME OF THE *LONG SPELL*, THE PATIENT APPROACH... AND SLOWLY FROM WITHIN I TRANSFORMED THE BEGGAR'S BODY INTO MY OWN.

I HAVE RETURNED WITH EVEN *GREATER* AMBITIONS THAN BEFORE. WHY SETTLE FOR BEING THE *HERALD* OF A GOD...




...WHEN I CAN *MYSELF* ASCEND TO *GODHOOD*?




YOU'RE *MAD*, SORCERER.

YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING FAIRLY BASIC, THOTH-AMON. WE WERE HERE TO STOP YOU BEFORE.




AND WE ARE HERE AGAIN.



IDIOT SLATTERN. DO YOU NOT THINK IN ALL THESE YEARS I HAVE NOT PERFECTED MY REVENGE!

NO LONGER DO I SEEK TO BEST YOU *PHYSICALLY*.



WHY WOULD I, WHEN I CAN INSTEAD VANQUISH YOU WITH THE *SUPERIORITY* OF MY *MIND*?!