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APR 98



BABYLON

IN VALEN'S NAME

PART TWO OF THREE

**BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI,
PETER DAVID, MICHAEL COLLINS
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BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

RAMDE
HAXTUR... A
PROBLEM HAS ARISEN
THAT MAY REQUIRE
OUR ABANDONING OUR
CURRENT SALVAGE
MISSION OF THE
PAKHEL SHIP.5

WHAT
SORT OF
PROBLEM?

5 AUTO TRANSLATION
OF TAK'CHA ENGAGED

WE
HAVE LOST
CONTACT WITH THE
TEAM WE LEFT BEHIND
ON ENDE X'TON...
ON THE LOST
STATION.

BUT THEIR
LAST REPORTS
STATED THEY MET WITH...
INTERFERENCE.

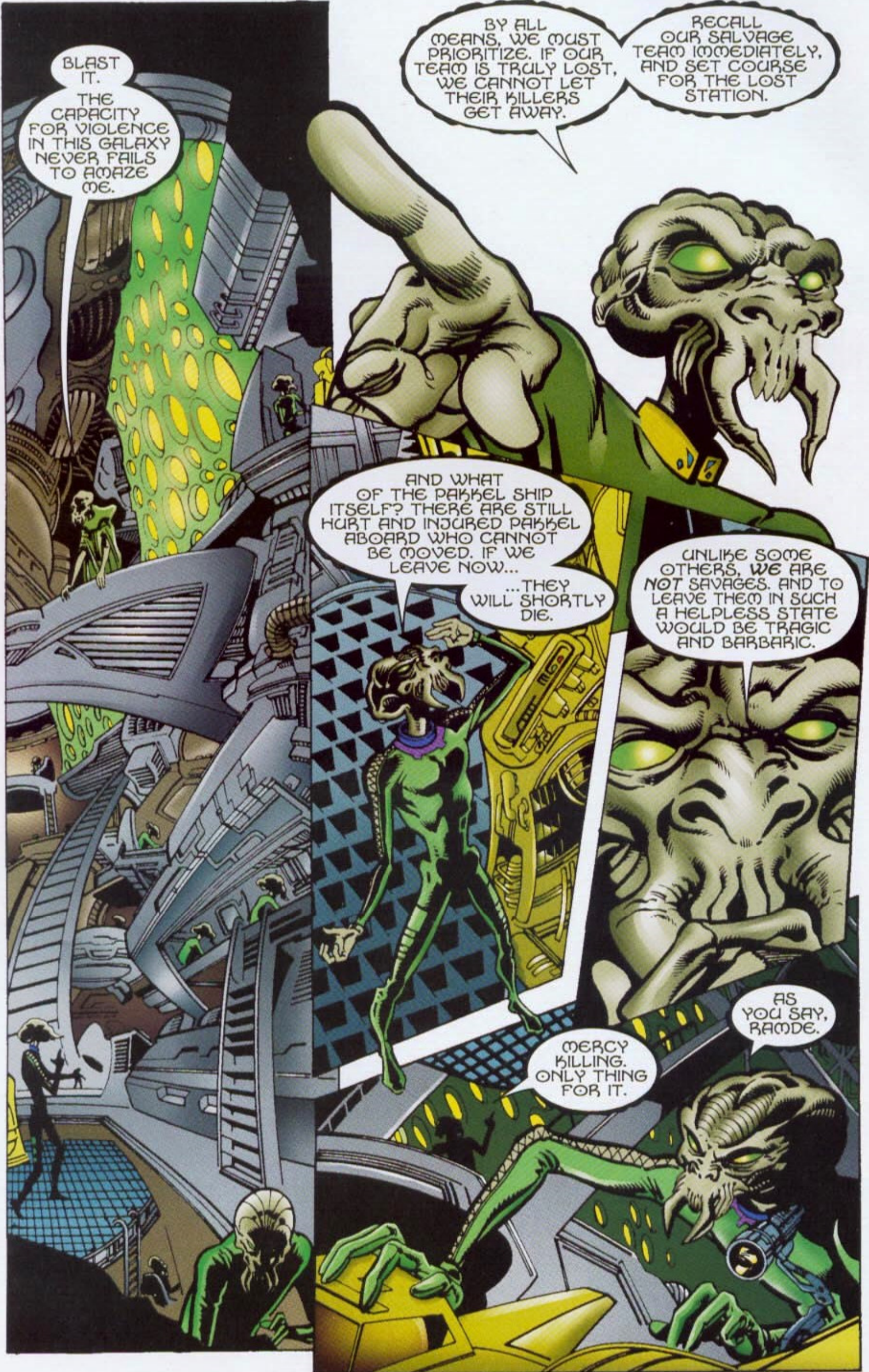
WHAT SORT OF...
"INTERFERENCE"?

UNCERTAIN
AT THIS TIME. BUT
FROM PRELIMINARY
REPORTS...

WE
FEAR THEY
ENCOUNTERED
SAVAGES... AND
THAT OUR
PEOPLE ARE
LOST.

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BLAST IT.
THE CAPACITY FOR VIOLENCE IN THIS GALAXY NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE ME.

BY ALL MEANS, WE MUST PRIORITIZE. IF OUR TEAM IS TRULY LOST, WE CANNOT LET THEIR KILLERS GET AWAY.

RECALL OUR SALVAGE TEAM IMMEDIATELY, AND SET COURSE FOR THE LOST STATION.


AND WHAT OF THE PAKKEL SHIP ITSELF? THERE ARE STILL HURT AND INJURED PAKKEL ABOARD WHO CANNOT BE MOVED. IF WE LEAVE NOW...

...THEY WILL SHORTLY DIE.

UNLIKE SOME OTHERS, WE ARE NOT SAVAGES. AND TO LEAVE THEM IN SUCH A HELPLESS STATE WOULD BE TRAGIC AND BARBARIC.


MERCY KILLING. ONLY THING FOR IT.

AS YOU SAY, RAMDE.



THE
TEACHINGS OF
THE Z'ONDAR WOULD
AGREE, DO YOU NOT
THINK SO?

ONCE AGAIN,
RAMDE, IT IS... AS
YOU SAY.



COMPASSION IS
THE GREATEST GIFT
THAT ONE CAN GIVE.
NEVER FORGET
THAT.

NEVER,
RAMDE.
NEVER.

NOW...
LET'S TEACH
THOSE SAVAGES
A LESSON.

IN VALEN'S NAME

**BOOK
TWO**

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**BOOM TODAY. BOOM
TOMORROW.**

THE SILENCE IS SURPRISING. AS WE GO UP IN FLAMES, HITTING THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE MORE NOISE THAN THAT. SCREAMS OF THE DYING, AND THE SOUNDS OF METAL TWISTING, THE HULL RUPTURING...

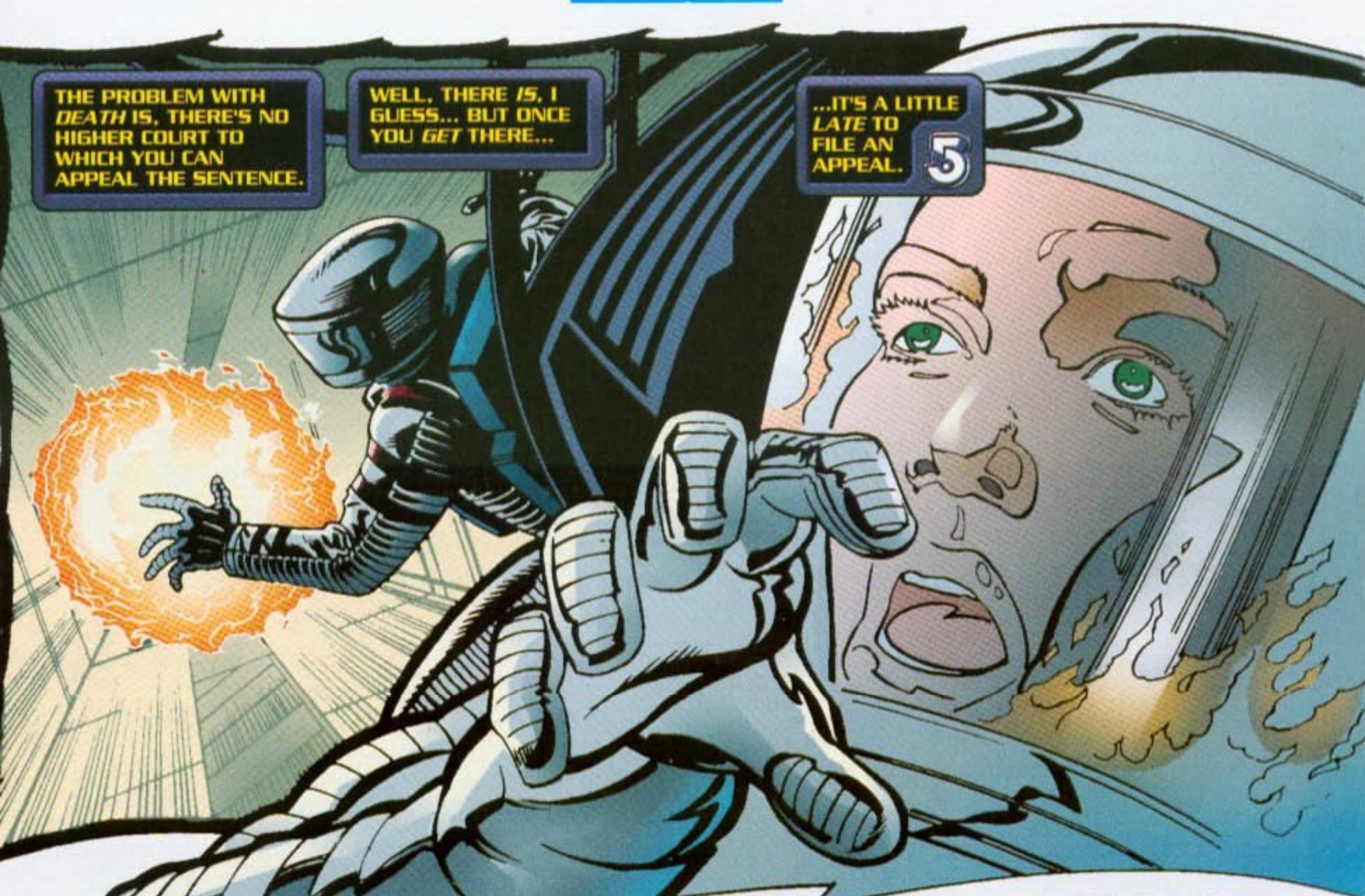
BUT IT'S ALL SO QUIET. LIKE OUR DEATHS MEAN NOTHING, BUT SHOULD INSTEAD BE UNREMARKED UPON, WITHOUT SO MUCH AS EVEN A SOUND.

THE PROBLEM WITH DEATH IS, THERE'S NO HIGHER COURT TO WHICH YOU CAN APPEAL THE SENTENCE.

WELL, THERE IS, I GUESS... BUT ONCE YOU GET THERE...

...IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO FILE AN APPEAL.

5



COMMANDER?

HUNNH?!

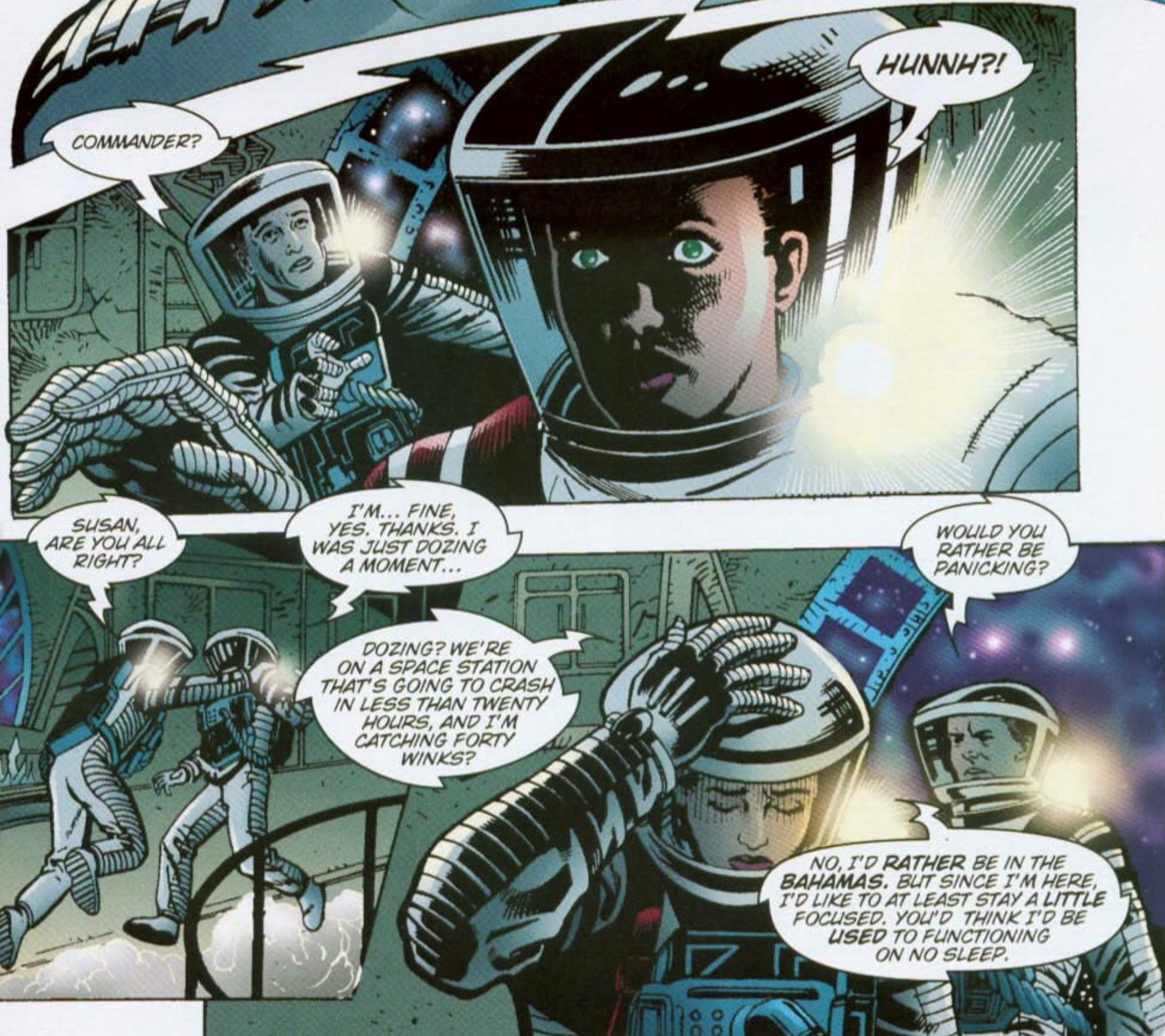
SUSAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M... FINE, YES, THANKS. I WAS JUST DOZING A MOMENT...

WOULD YOU RATHER BE PANICKING?

DOZING? WE'RE ON A SPACE STATION THAT'S GOING TO CRASH IN LESS THAN TWENTY HOURS, AND I'M CATCHING FORTY WINKS?

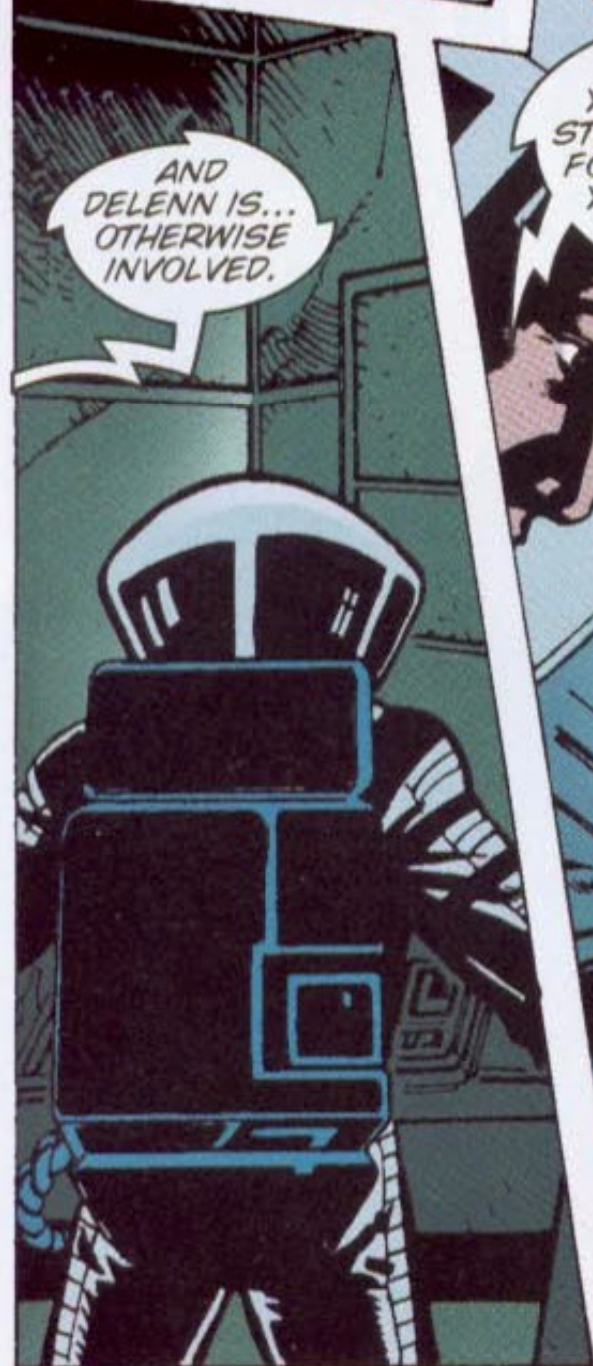
NO, I'D RATHER BE IN THE BAHAMAS. BUT SINCE I'M HERE, I'D LIKE TO AT LEAST STAY A LITTLE FOCUSED. YOU'D THINK I'D BE USED TO FUNCTIONING ON NO SLEEP.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE YOU CHECKING MY WRIST READOUT?

BECAUSE I WANT TO VERIFY SOMETHING, AND YOU MIGHT BE TOO WOOLY TO...



AND DELENN IS... OTHERWISE INVOLVED.



UH-HUH. THE MIX ON YOUR REBREATHING UNIT IS OFF. YOU'RE GETTING A BUILD-UP OF CARBON DIOXIDE. I THINK I'VE GOT IT ADJUSTED, THOUGH.

OH, TERRIFIC. I'M LUCKY I WOKE UP AT ALL.



DELENN... YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING THOSE FOR HOURS. DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A...



...BREAK?

DELENN... WHAT IS IT?




SO... WHAT DID I MISS?

NOTHING MAJOR SO FAR. NO WORD FROM BABYLON 5 REGARDING RESCUE...

WE'RE STILL SPIRALLING DOWN TOWARDS THAT PLANET. THERE'S NO POWER ANYWHERE IN THE STATION... I JUST CAME BACK FROM SCOUTING AROUND, AND GARIBALDI IS SEEING WHAT HE CAN TURN UP THAT MIGHT HELP...



HEARTBREAKING.




"MY SON
DIED TODAY.
ZATHRAS, THE
FOLLOWER
OF VALEN,
TOLD ME."

"MY SON, TULAN,
WHO FOLLOWED
VALEN UPON THE
CREATION OF THE
ANLA 'SHOK."


"HE SAID
HE DIED...
BRAVELY."

"AND I IMAGINE THAT I
SHOULD TAKE SOLACE...
IN THE TEACHINGS...
AND REJOICE IN THE
LIBERATION OF HIS
SOUL AND INEVITABLE
SPIRITUAL GROWTH..."

"BUT WHEN I
CLOSE MY EYES...
I CAN..."




"I CAN ALMOST
HEAR HIM."




"HE WAS A GENTLE
SOUL. A SPIRITUAL
SOUL. RAISED TO BE
A SCHOLAR, NOT A
WARRIOR."

"BUT THE WORDS
OF VALEN 'INSPIRED'
HIM... DROVE HIM TO
PLACE THE ANLA 'SHOK
ABOVE HIS CASTE..."


"...DROVE
HIM TO FACE
THE ENEMY..."

A circular panel showing Zathras, a bald man with a small tuft of hair, wearing a blue robe with gold buttons. He is holding a sword with both hands, looking forward with a determined expression. The background shows a landscape with clouds and a path.


"BRAVELY
SO SAID
ZATHRAS."

A circular panel showing Zathras in a dynamic, almost dancing pose. He is wearing the same blue robe, and his arms are raised. The background is a landscape with a path and clouds.

"BUT ZATHRAS
SAYS MUCH. HE
FILLS THE AIR
WITH WORDS."

A circular panel showing Zathras in a dynamic, almost dancing pose. He is wearing the same blue robe, and his arms are raised. The background is a landscape with a path and clouds.


"AND PERHAPS
NOT ALL THE
WORDS...
ARE TRUE."

A circular panel showing a woman in a brown and gold robe standing in a stained-glass window. She has her arms crossed. Below her, Zathras is kneeling on a ledge, looking up at her. The window is set in a stone wall.

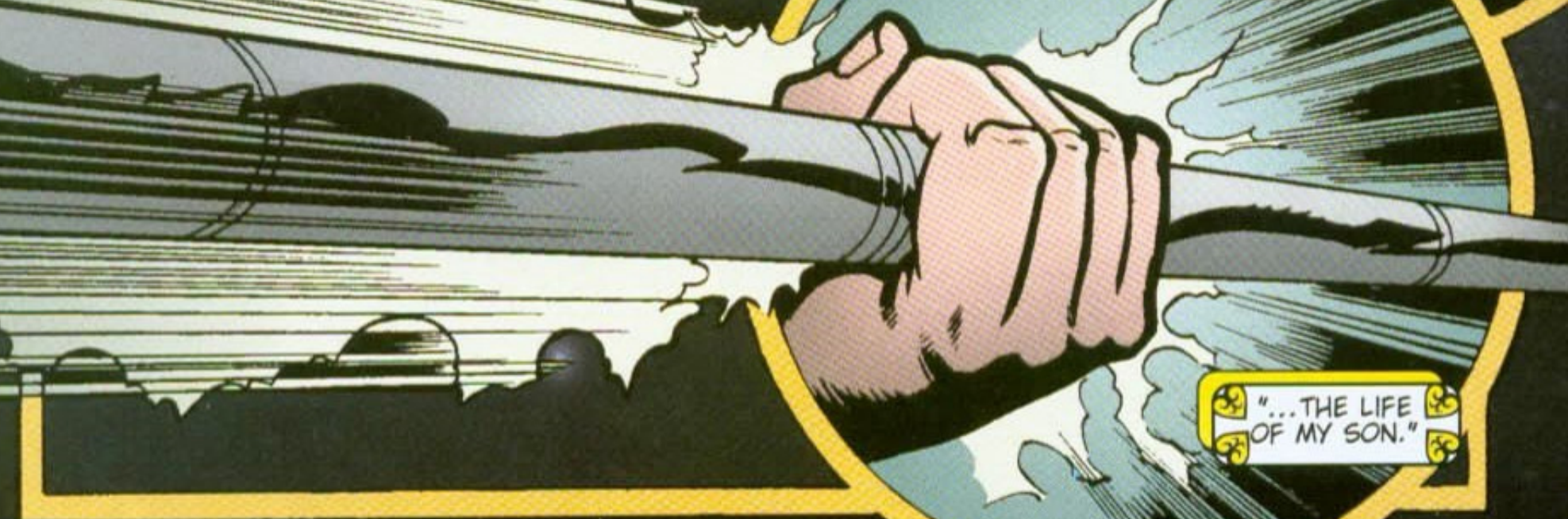
"MY GENTLE
SON, REMAKING
HIMSELF..."

A circular panel showing a close-up of Zathras. He is holding a sword with both hands, looking down at it with a somber expression. He has a tear on his cheek. He is wearing a green and blue patterned tunic.

"FOR THE
SAKE OF
VALEN..."

A circular panel showing a close-up of Zathras. He is holding a sword with both hands, looking down at it with a somber expression. He has a tear on his cheek. He is wearing a green and blue patterned tunic.

"FOR THE NAME OF
VALEN. VALEN, IN
WHOSE NAME I
CRAFTED THE WINDOW,
WITH A CARE EQUAL
TO THAT WITH WHICH
I CRAFTED THE
LIFE..."

A circular panel showing a close-up of a hand holding a sword. The hand is gripping the hilt of the sword. The background is a dark, shadowy area.

"...THE LIFE
OF MY SON."



DAMN
VALEN! DAMN
THEM ALL! AND DAMN
ME FOR LETTING IT
HAPPEN!



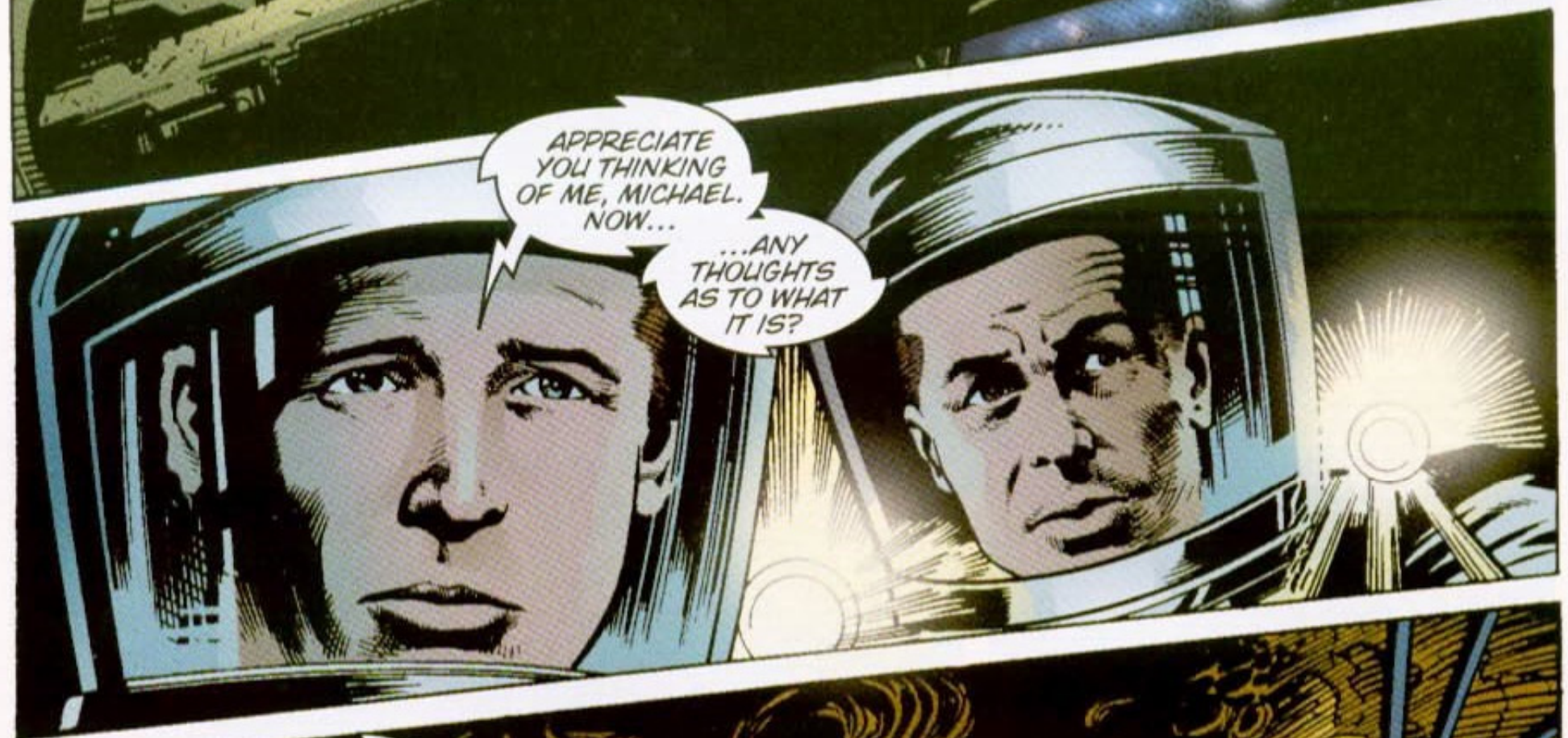
LET THE SHADOWS HAVE ME. HAVE ALL OF US. I... CARE NOT ANYMORE.

SHADOWS ONLY EXIST WHEN THERE IS LIGHT TO FORM THEM.

WALK WITH ME, NUKENN.

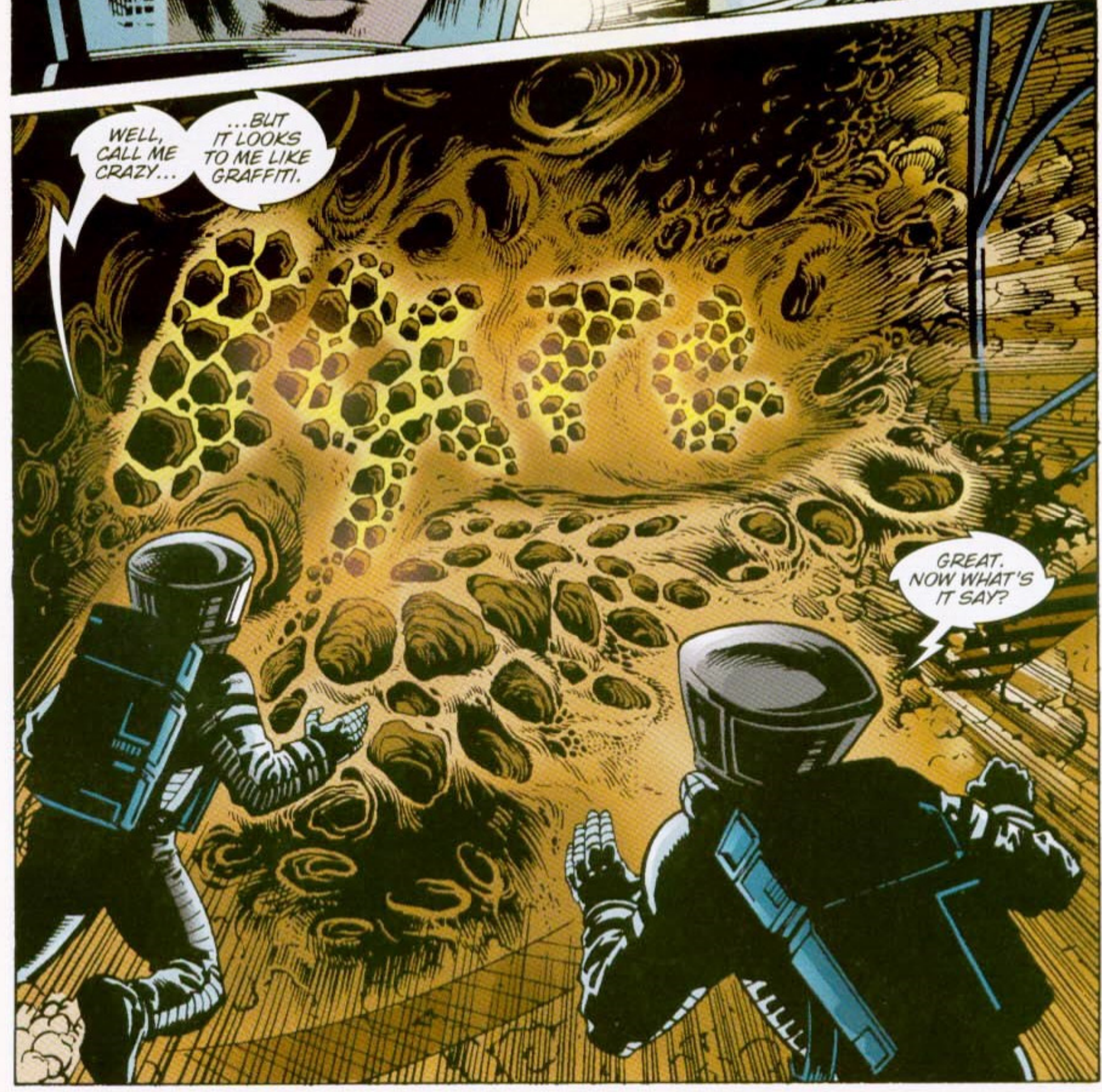


YEAH, CAPTAIN, I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS, SOON AS I FOUND IT.



APPRECIATE YOU THINKING OF ME, MICHAEL. NOW...

...ANY THOUGHTS AS TO WHAT IT IS?



WELL, CALL ME CRAZY...

...BUT IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE GRAFFITI.

GREAT. NOW WHAT'S IT SAY?



TRANSLITERATED
IT SAYS
"Z'ONDAR."



HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

IT'S IN
MINBARI!

I'M
HARDLY WHAT
YOU'D CALL
FLUENT...

...BUT THAT
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE ANY MINBARI
I'VE EVER SEEN.



OUR LANGUAGE,
LIKE ANY, CONSTANTLY
EVOLVES. THIS IS ONE
OF THE MORE
ARCHAIC STYLES.

NOT DISIMILAR
FROM WHAT YOU
WOULD TERM "OLDE
ENGLISH."

OKAY,
BUT WHAT'S
"Z'ONDAR?"



I... WISH I
KNEW.
AND NOW IF
YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
I HAVE FURTHER
RESEARCH
TO DO.



BACK TO
THE COMPUTER
RECORDS?

YES.

DON'T
WORRY, DELENN.
EVERYTHING YOU'RE
LEARNING FROM THEM
WON'T BE IN VAIN. WE'RE
WORKING ON A PLAN TO
GET OUT OF HERE
IN TIME.



I
NEVER
HAD ANY
DOUBT.



AND THAT PLAN WOULD BE...?

NO CLUE.

MY HERO.



ACTUALLY, I DO HAVE A THOUGHT. COME ON.

WHERE TO?



"THE LAUNCH BAY. IF WE CAN FIND FOUR SHIPS DOWN THERE THAT CAN FUNCTION..."

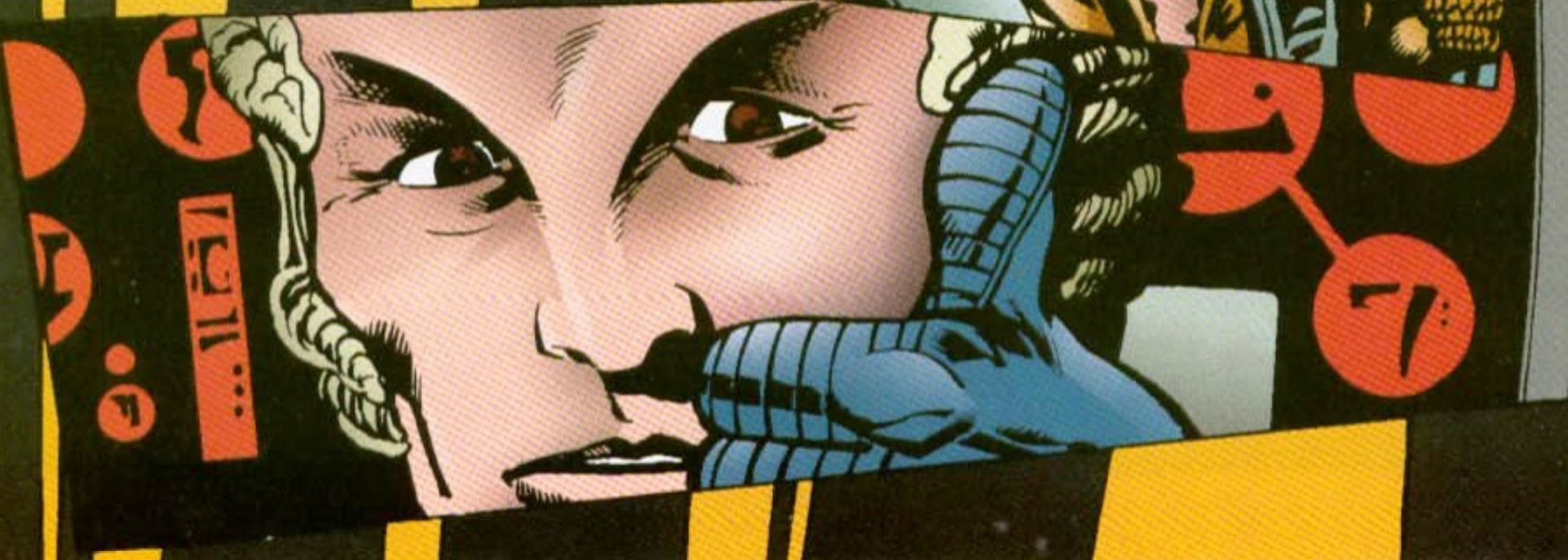
"...WE MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO LEAVE UNDER OUR OWN STEAM."


"VALEN BROUGHT US HOPE. MORE THAN THAT... HE FORGED ALLIANCES WITH OTHERS THAT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

"AND I, RASHOK, WHO ONCE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR US SAVE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION...

"...EAGERLY AWAITED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO BATTLE WITH THE CREATURES OF SHADOW ONCE MORE. AND I KNEW THAT I WOULD, INDEED, FOLLOW VALEN INTO FIRE, INTO DARKNESS, INTO DEATH...


"...FOR HE WAS UNAFRAID TO LEAD US INTO THE HEART OF THE BATTLE. IT WAS AS IF HE KNEW THAT TRIUMPH WAS INEVITABLE. FROM HIS CONFIDENCE... FLOWED OUR OWN.





"ONE BATTLE SEEMED TO FLOW INTO THE NEXT, LIKE ONE GREAT TRIBUTARY INTO ANOTHER. MOVING, SHIFTING, AS DO CURRENTS..."

"...BUT WHEREAS THE CURRENT HAD FLOWED AGAINST US BEFORE... THIS TIME..."



"...THIS TIME WE BECAME SWEEPED UP IN IT, HURTLING AGAINST THE ENEMY AND AS UNSTOPPABLE AS A TIDE."



"WE WERE JOINED BY POWERFUL ALLIES, FLOCKING TO OUR BANNER, TO OUR LEADER... TO VALEN, THE MINBARI OF DESTINY..."

"WE FOUGHT FOR THE SAKE OF VALEN... IN THE NAME OF VALEN..."

"...AND IT WAS GLORIOUS."



VALEN!
I BRING YOU
NEWS OF NEW
HONORS FOR
YOU!

TAKE WORD OF
ZATHRAS. IS NOT
GOOD TIME SPEAK
TO VALEN. NO.

I WILL
NOT HAVE
WORD OF THIS
GREAT DAY
DELAYED SO
MUCH AS
A --

HE WILL
WISH TO HEAR OF THIS.
THE CASTES WHICH ONCE STOOD
AGAINST HIM DESIRE TO UNITE BEHIND
HIM! OUR MOST RECENT VICTORY, AND
THE EXAMPLE VALEN HAS SET, HAS
GIVEN THEM COURAGE! THEY
HAVE...

ZATHRAS
SAY... IT CAN
WAIT.

ZATHRAS
SAY... IT CAN
WAIT!



IF VALEN
CAN LISTEN TO
ZATHRAS...!

... YOU
CAN LISTEN TO
ZATHRAS...!



"I, RASHOK, OF THE FAMILY DOSH, A WARRIOR BORN, FROM
TEN GENERATIONS OF WARRIORS... AND HE KNOCKED ME TO THE
GROUND AS IF I WERE A NOVICE OF THE RELIGIOUS CASTE.

"I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED. IF VALEN, THE MINBARI NOT BORN OF MINBARI, COULD BE MORE THAN HE APPEARED..."

"...NATURALLY, HIS HELPMATE WOULD BE, AS WELL."

COME. ZATHRAS MAKE YOU SNACK?

YOU SEE VALEN LATER. LATER IS BETTER THAN SOONER, IS WHAT ZATHRAS THINK.

VERY... WELL. IF YOU THINK THAT IS... VALEN'S WISH. I WILL HONOR IT.

GOOD. HONORING VALEN'S WISH IS VERY GOOD. ZATHRAS HONOR IT. YOU HONOR IT. ALL MINBARI HONOR IT. ZATHRAS SAY IS GOOD THING.

JUST AS, NOW, VALEN HONORS ALL DEAD. ALL MINBARI DEAD, VORLON DEAD, TAK'CHA DEAD. EVEN SHADOWS DEAD. ZATHRAS SAY IS ALSO GOOD THING.

BUT IS ALSO... SAD THING.

"HERE WAS VALEN, WHO HAD TORN DOWN WALLS BETWEEN ENEMIES, FORGED ALLIANCES. THE STRONGEST INDIVIDUAL I HAD EVER KNOWN..."

"...WEEPING. WEEPING OVER THE LOSS OF THOSE WHO HAD FOLLOWED HIM. AND I..."

"I DID THE ONLY THING... I COULD THINK OF."

"WALK WITH ME, NUKENN," HE SAID AFTER I SHATTERED THE WINDOW. I DO NOT KNOW FOR HOW LONG WE WALKED.

"BUT OUR JOURNEY TOOK US TO MOUNT H'LEYA, THE PEAK FROM WHICH VALEN HAD DELIVERED HIS HOLY 'TIMES TO COME' SPEECH.

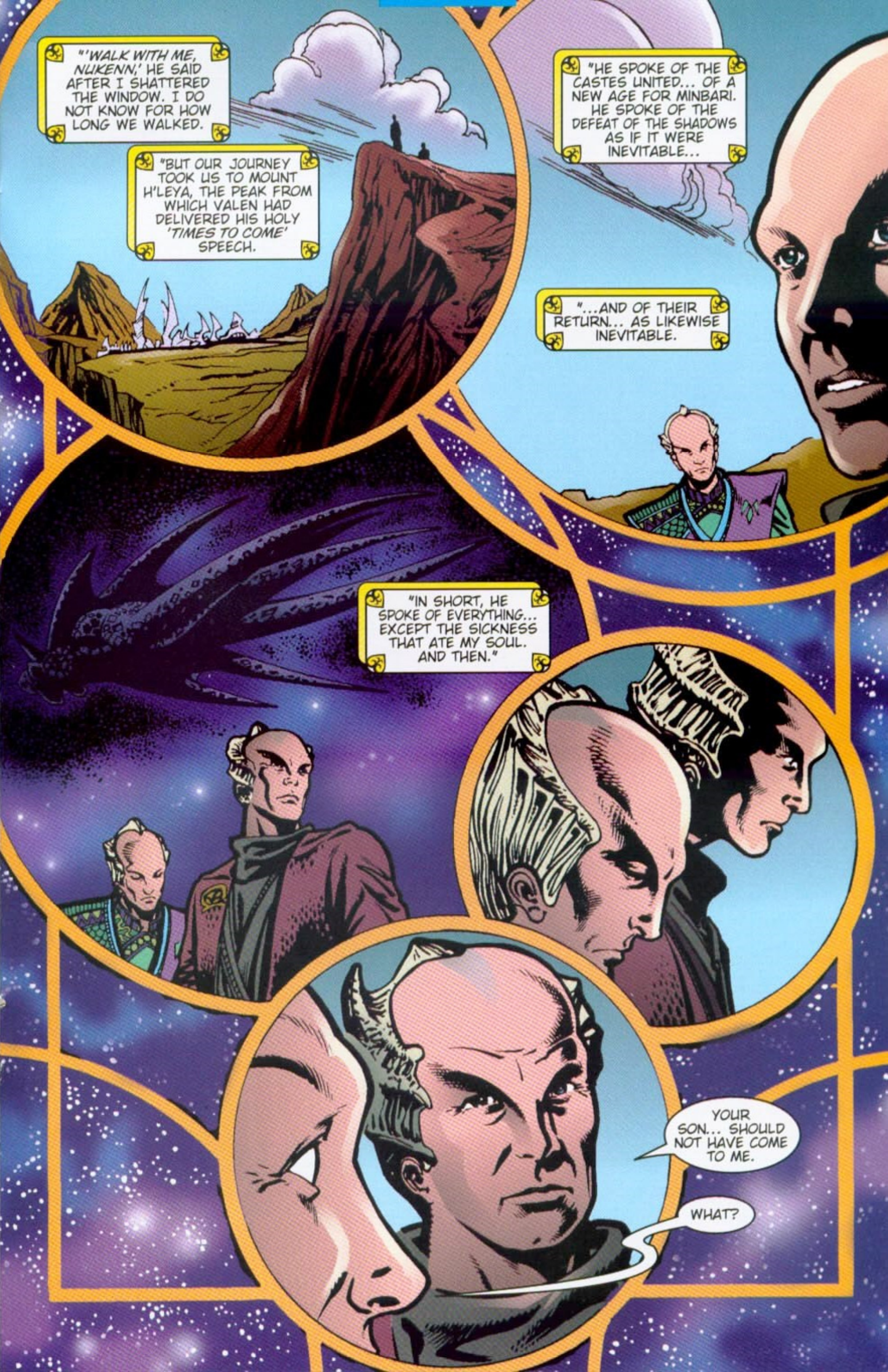
"HE SPOKE OF THE CASTES UNITED... OF A NEW AGE FOR MINBARI. HE SPOKE OF THE DEFEAT OF THE SHADOWS AS IF IT WERE INEVITABLE..."


"...AND OF THEIR RETURN... AS LIKEWISE INEVITABLE."

"IN SHORT, HE SPOKE OF EVERYTHING... EXCEPT THE SICKNESS THAT ATE MY SOUL. AND THEN."

YOUR SON... SHOULD NOT HAVE COME TO ME.

WHAT?






HIS WAS A MOST... GENTLE SOUL. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WHEN A GENTLE SOUL FACES THE DEPTHS OF DARKNESS... AS HE DID... IT BECOMES TAINTED. DARKENED.

THE LOSS OF SUCH A SOUL... IS A LOSS TO US ALL.

BUT WE BECAME WHAT WE MUST IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE FELT NEEDED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. WE TRANSFORMED OURSELVES.




I HAVE SOME... SMALL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN SUCH MATTERS.



YOUR SON SHOULD NOT HAVE COME TO ME... BECAUSE HE WAS SOMETHING DELICATE, AND INSTEAD HE BECAME HARD AND UNYIELDING. THAT IS A GREAT SADNESS.

BUT WE CANNOT... MUST NOT... ALLOW THE SADNESS TO WEIGH US DOWN. WE MUST NOT DOUBT. WE MUST NOT HESITATE. WE MUST NOT LOOK BACK.



BUT IF YOU MUST RELEASE YOUR ANGER... RELEASE IT UPON ME. I COULD HAVE TURNED YOUR SON AWAY, BUT DID NOT. I HONORED HIS COMMITMENT, AS I WOULD HAVE YOU DO. AS HE WOULD HAVE HAD YOU DO.

IF THAT IS INSUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, THEN LASH OUT AT ME. NO MERE GLASS WINDOW THIS TIME THIS WILL BE FAR MORE SATISFYING.



WELL?

"I WANTED HIS STRENGTH. WANTED HIS CONVICTION."

"I ALSO FEARED IT. FOR IN A WAY, HE HAD SEEMED DISTANT, INFLEXIBLE."

"HE DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE... COMPASSION, NOT REALLY. UNDERSTANDING, PERHAPS, BUT NOT COMPASSION."

"HOW COULD HE HAVE THOUGHT THAT AN OFFER OF VIOLENCE WOULD, IN ANY WAY, HELP THE ACHE WITHIN ME?"

"AND THEN..."

"I SAW IT."

"I NEVER KNEW HOW HE ACCOMPLISHED IT."

"IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS... IT DID NOT MATTER."





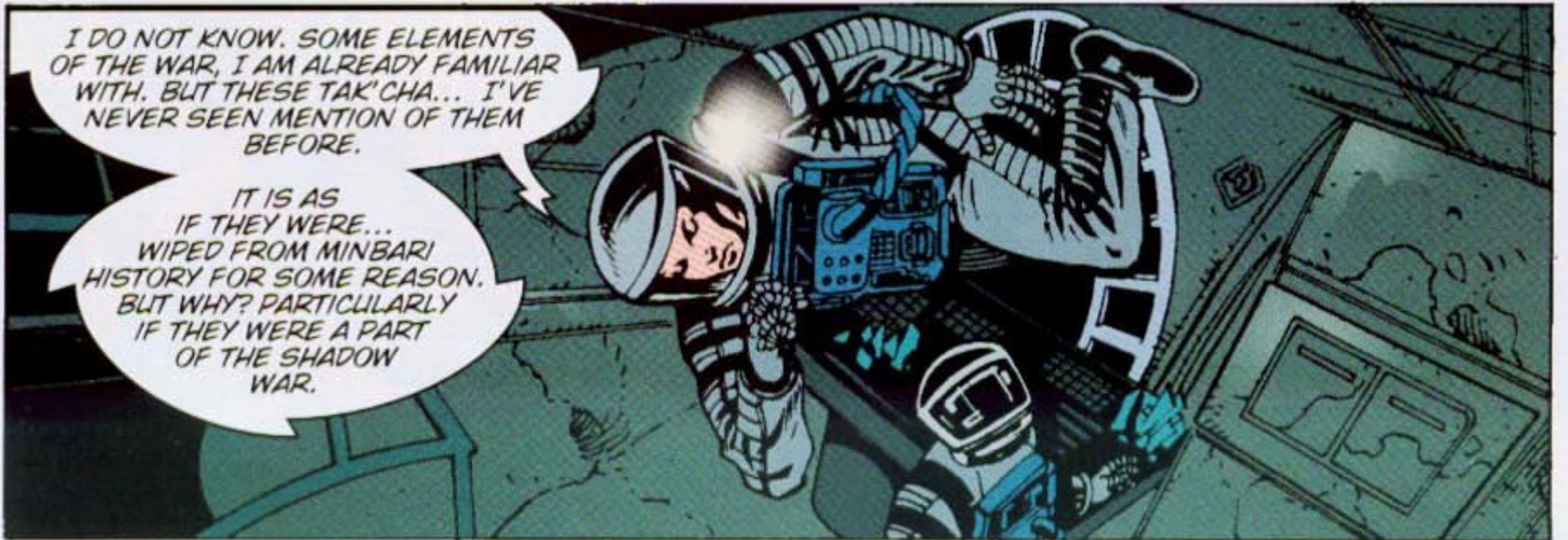
ЗАВСОМ ИВАНОВА
 IT WAS NICE TO SEE THAT DELENN HAD COME UP FOR AIR. BUT WASN'T ENTIRELY SURE OF WHAT TO MAKE OF IT. WITH ALL THE RESEARCH INTO MINBARI HISTORY, YOU'D THINK SHE'D BE HAPPY. INSTEAD SHE SEEMED...

BOTHERED BY SOMETHING, DELENN?



THERE HAS BEEN MENTION IN THESE RECORDS... OF THE TAK'CHA.

AND THEY, OR HE, WOULD BE...?



I DO NOT KNOW. SOME ELEMENTS OF THE WAR, I AM ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH. BUT THESE TAK'CHA... I'VE NEVER SEEN MENTION OF THEM BEFORE.

IT IS AS IF THEY WERE... WIPED FROM MINBARI HISTORY FOR SOME REASON. BUT WHY? PARTICULARLY IF THEY WERE A PART OF THE SHADOW WAR.



PERHAPS THERE ARE MORE REFERENCES... OTHER STORIES, RELATED TO THEM.



AW, HELL.



IN VALEN'S NAME...



NOPE.
THIS ONE'S
DEAD, TOO.
MAYBE IF...



VROOO

WHOA!
IS THAT WHAT
I THINK IT
IS...?



SAY THIS
FOR THE MINBARI:
THEY BUILT THEIR
STUFF TO
LAST.



GREAT
JOB, MICHAEL!
HOW DID YOU
DO IT?

PERCUSSIVE
MAINTENANCE.

WHAT?

I HIT IT.
HIT SOMETHING.
AT ANY RATE. STARTED
RIGHT UP. DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO NEXT, BUT...
IT'S A BEGINNING.



CAPTAIN,
THIS IS
IVANOVA!

SUSAN,
GREAT NEWS!
WE GOT ONE OF THE
FIGHTERS UP AND
RUNNING!



THAT'S...
REAL GOOD,
SIR...



NOW IF YOU CAN FIX ANOTHER TWO DOZEN OF SO WITHIN THE NEXT THIRTY SECONDS, WE SHOULD BE IN GREAT SHAPE.