

# GRANT MORRISON'S 18 DAYS



ISSUE 4



**THE UNHOLY  
BIRTH OF  
DURYODHANA!**

# The Birth Of Duryodhana

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## The story so far...

Hastinapur was once a golden kingdom where ancient and wise kings ruled peacefully over the continent of Bharata. Duryodhana's rise to power threatens to end that golden age. But what unholy power brought about the birth of Duryodhana and his 99 Kaurava brothers?

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YEARS AGO.

AAAAAAAAHHHHH!!

SPEAK, LORD BHEESHMA.

BY YOUR HEAVY STEP AND EVEN HEAVIER SIGH, I CAN TELL SOMETHING IS WEIGHING ON YOU.

AAAAAAAAHHHH!!

WHAT IS IT?

YOUR PEOPLE ARE SCARED, DRITH.

TERRIBLE OMENS ARE BEING REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM.



\*ANIMALS  
TAKING THE  
SHAPE  
OF MEN.



\*DEMONS STEALING  
CHILDREN IN THE  
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.



\*THERE HAS BEEN  
NO SIGHT OF THE  
MOON FOR WEEKS.

\*MY KING, I KNOW  
YOU CAN'T SEE  
WHAT I DO BUT--"



I MAY BE *BLIND*, LORD BHEESHMA, BUT DO NOT MISTAKE THAT FOR ONE WHO CANNOT SEE.



I SEE MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

THEY FEAR IT'S THE BIRTH OF YOUR CHILD THAT IS CAUSING ALL OF THIS. THESE... DARK THINGS.

**AAAAAAHHH!!**



THEN THEY ARE WRONG.

THE QUEEN HAS BEEN WITH CHILD FOR TWO YEARS. IT'S UNNATURAL TO CARRY A CHILD IN SUCH FASHION. THE HEALERS HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.



I'VE CONSULTED THE SOOTHSAYERS. THEY TOO BELIEVE THAT THESE EVENTS PORTEND DARK TIMES...



AAAAAHHHHH!  
DARK TIMES DO AWAIT US, MY FRIEND, BUT NOT BECAUSE OF MY HEIR.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I WILL SHARE WITH YOU SOMETHING I HAVE NEVER SPOKEN OF AND NOTHING THAT WILL EVER BE REPEATED.



SINCE THE QUEEN BECAME WITH CHILD, I HAVE BEEN VISITED BY THE SAME DREAM EACH NIGHT.

A DREAM OF A MAGNIFICENT SERPENT WITH NINETY-NINE HEADS THAT STOOD AS WIDE AS A LEGION AND AS TALL AS TOWERING SPIRES.



ON ITS BACK WAS A BLACK WOLF THAT STOOD AS A MAN AND BURNED WITH EYES OF RED FIRE.



HE RODE ATOP THE BONES OF ALL OTHER CREATURES...LIONS, JACKALS, ELEPHANTS, TIGERS. NONE COULD WITHSTAND ITS POWER, IT DEVoured ALL IN ITS PATH...EXCEPT...

"EXCEPT WHAT, MY KING? WHAT DID YOU SEE?"



THERE WAS ONE CREATURE THAT DARED TO WALK FEARLESSLY IN ITS PATH.

A SMALL PEACOCK...



...AND IN ITS SMALL BEAK IT HELD THE ENTIRE WORLD, SAFE FROM THE FIRES AND VENOM OF THE BEASTS.



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, BHEESHMA...? I KNOW THIS PEACOCK IS MY PRINCE AND YOUR FUTURE KING.

MY CHILD WILL BE THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF THE COMING DARKNESS. HE WILL BE THE LIGHTBRINGER OF DESTINY.



PERHAPS  
IT'S JUST A  
DREAM, NOTHING  
MORE.

NO. THE  
RED EYES OF  
THE WOLF STARE  
AT ME EVEN  
NOW, TAUNTING  
ME...



"THESE DARK OMENS  
YOU SPEAK OF,  
THESE HORRORS  
THAT HAVE BEFALLEN  
OUR QUEEN, THEY  
ARE HIS DOING.

"THE DARK WOLF WANTS  
TO STOP MY HEIR FROM  
EVER BEING BORN."



AAAAAHHH--!







WHAT  
HORROR IS  
THIS?



WHAT?  
WHAT'S WRONG?  
TELL ME WHAT  
YOU SEE!



MY  
KING--I...  
I...



WHERE'S  
GANDHARI? MY  
WIFE, THE QUEEN!  
WHERE IS  
SHE?!



DRITH--  
LET'S GO  
BACK TO YOUR  
CHAMBERS--



SHE'S  
DEAD, ISN'T  
SHE?



I'M SORRY, SIRE. SHE'S IN A  
COMA. WE ARE TRYING EVERY-  
THING WE CAN TO SAVE HER BUT  
IT WAS JUST TOO MUCH FOR  
THE QUEEN TO DELIVER  
THIS... THIS...

THIS  
WHAT? *SPEAK*  
UP, DAMN  
YOU!

I HAVE  
NEVER  
SEEN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE IT...



DRITH,  
NO!!



WHAT THE--?!



WHAT IS IT MADE OFF?

SOME-THING ORGANIC, BUT NOT HUMAN.



IT'S GROWING, THOUGH. THIS COULDN'T HAVE FIT INSIDE OF HER.

NO, WHAT IS OCCURRING HERE IS UNNATURAL, WE MUST DESTROY IT...



I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WASN'T HUMAN?

THERE SEEM TO BE SOME HUMANOID FEATURES INSIDE IT. BUT IT'S NOT HUMAN.



MY SON... HE LIVES. THE WOLF HAS NOT WON YET.



SIRE... LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR CHAMBERS...



WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM, BHEESHMA... IT'S THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE.

MY MEN WILL EXAMINE THIS... THIS THING. WHATEVER IT IS, WE WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT.



THIS THING IS MY SON AND YOUR FUTURE KING...IF YOU DARE TOUCH IT WITH YOUR PROBES I WILL HAVE YOU AND EVERYONE IN HERE HANGED WHILE YOUR CHILDREN WATCH.



GET OUT...ALL OF YOU, OUT NOW!



I'M BLIND, NOT DEAF! I DON'T HEAR ANYONE MOVING!





CALL HIM.

MY KING, SUMMONING HIM IS MADNESS, WHATEVER THIS IS IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE BORN...

I WILL NOT LET THE BLACK WOLF DESTROY THIS WORLD.



DO NOT DEFY ME, BHEESHMA, REMEMBER WHO I AM.

CALL HIM. NOW.



YES, MY KING.





OH MIGHTIEST OF KINGS, WHAT YOU ASK ME TO DO NEXT CAN NEVER BE LINDONE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES. CAN YOU SAVE HIM?

WHAT PRICE ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY?

ANYTHING.

THEN GIVE ME YOUR SWORD, GREAT KING.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

GIVE ME YOUR SWORD WILLINGLY AND WITH NO HESITATION.



DRITH, PLEASE STOP THIS. THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE.





**AAHH!!**  
WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?!

FROM  
ONE...



...LET  
THERE BE ONE  
HUNDRED...



IT'S BEEN DAYS,  
MY KING. WHY DO YOU  
TORTURE YOURSELF?  
THERE'S NOTHING MORE  
THAN PIECES OF DEATH  
IN EACH OF THESE  
JARS.

DEATH  
IS THE FERTILE  
GROUND FROM WHICH  
ALL LIFE SPRINGS. I  
WILL STAY FOR AS  
LONG AS IT  
TAKES.





BHEESHMA...  
PLEASE... TELL  
ME WHAT YOU  
SEE.



IT'S A  
BOY. MY KING.  
THE BOY OF YOUR  
DREAMS... BLACK  
HAIR...



DARK EYES. OLIVE SKIN. HE'S FLAWLESS, KING DRITH.



COME...



I HAVE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS. FOR YOU, MY LITTLE PEACOCK. THE WOLF TRIED, BUT HE COULD NOT STOP YOU THEN AND HE WILL NOT STOP YOU WHEN THE TIME COMES.



YOU HAVE THE WILL OF A KING. YOU SHALL BE NAMED DURYODHANA--THE UNCONQUERABLE ONE!!



IT'S A  
GOOD NAME. HAIL  
DURYODHANA--THE  
FINEST AND FIERCEST  
WARRIOR THE WORLD  
WILL EVER  
SEE.



TELL ME  
WHAT YOU  
SEE.

I SEE  
THE FUTURE,  
KING DRITH...  
I SEE THE  
FUTURE.



**NEXT ISSUE: *Bhima Unleashed!***





# THE POWER OF STORY



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