

MIDWAY

MORTAL KOMBAT™

COLLECTOR'S
EDITION
COMIC BOOK

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THE SHAO LIN TOURNAMENT FOR MARTIAL ARTS WAS FOR AGES A COMPETITION OF HONOR AND GLORY. WARRIORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WERE INVITED TO TAKE PART. SHANG TSUNG WAS ONE OF THOSE WARRIORS. UPON ENTERING THE TOURNAMENT HE IMMEDIATELY WON THE TITLE OF GRAND CHAMPION.

BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE SHAO LIN WHO WERE HOSTS OF THE CONTEST, EACH OF TSUNG'S VICTORIES ADDED TO A HIDDEN DARK AND DESTRUCTIVE POWER.

SHANG TSUNG WAS CURSED BY HIS GODS AND TO APPEASE THEM MUST NOT ONLY TAKE THE LIFE OF AN OPPONENT, HE MUST ALSO TAKE THE SOUL. THROUGH THIS UNHOLY CEREMONY IS SHANG TSUNG ABLE TO KEEP HIS YOUTH.



UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF KUNG LAO, A NOBLE AND MIGHTY SHAO LIN MONK. HIS STRENGTH AND SPEED PROVE TOO MUCH FOR THE OVER-CONFIDENT SHANG TSUNG. LAO WINS THE FIGHT AND THE GRAND CHAMPION TITLE THAT TSUNG HELD SO DESPERATELY.



YEARS LATER, AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF ONE OF THE THREE TOURNAMENT GRANDMASTERS, SHANG TSUNG WOULD RETURN. PREMATURELY AGED AND WEAKENED FROM THE EFFECTS OF FAILING TO APPEASE HIS GODS, TSUNG INVITES AN OUTWORLDER AND FORMER FIGHTER TO COMPETE...



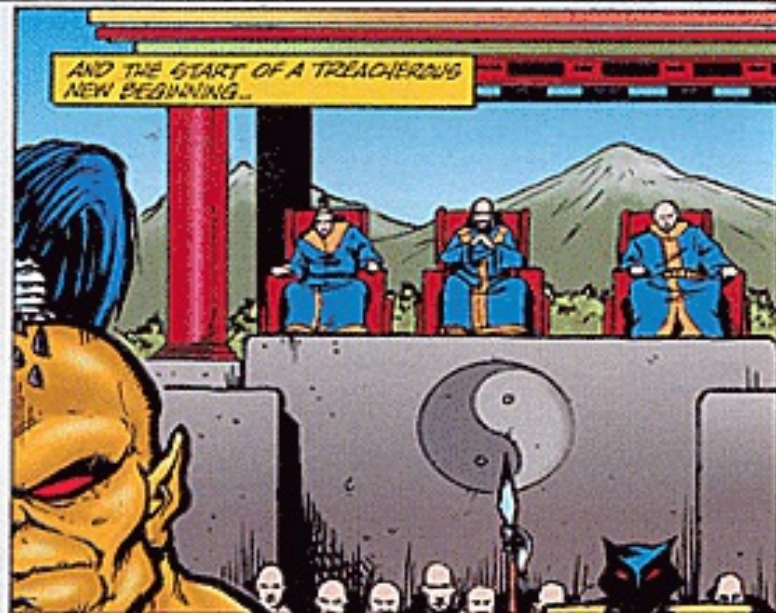
— HIS NAME IS GORD. HIS SPEED WAS INCREDIBLE. HIS STRENGTH UNMATCHED. AND ALTHOUGH KING LAO BATTLED LONG AND HARD—GORD WOULD PROVE THE BEST OF THE TWO.



FOR THIS ANCIENT TOURNAMENT, THE VICTORY MARKS THE END OF AN ERA...



AND THE START OF A TREACHEROUS NEW BEGINNING...



...ONE THAT WILL ALIENATE THE QIAOLIN FROM THEIR OWN TOURNAMENT AND GUARANTEE QHANG TOWNS THE IMMORTALITY HE SO GREATLY DESIRES.



500 YEARS LATER.

THE HONAN PROVINCE,
PRESENT DAY CHINA.

THROUGH HIS ENTIRE LIFE, LIU KANG HAS HEARD STORIES AND RUMORS ABOUT CHIANG TOUNG'S MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT. HE IS WELL AWARE OF THE EVIL BEHIND THE CONTEST AND MUST NOW DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE INITIATION HE RECENTLY RECEIVED.

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO COMPETE IN CHIANG TOUNG'S TOURNAMENT.

YES MASTER WU... I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ATTEND.

YOU MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE TRUE MOTIVE OF TOUNG'S INITIATION. IN HIS EYES YOUR DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF GORD WOULD MOST CERTAINLY PUT AN END TO THE THREAT OF THE SHAO LIN EVER RETAKING THE CONTEST.

BUT, GORD HAS GROWN OVER CONFIDENT.

AS WOULD ANY WARRIOR WITH A 500 YEAR STRETCH OF VICTORIES.

YOUR MIND AND SPIRIT MUST WORK AS ONE TO WALK WITH THE WIND. THESE ATTRIBUTES WILL ENABLE YOU TO PUT AN END TO CHIANG TOUNG'S TREACHERY.

I GRANT YOU PERMISSION LIU KANG. THE SHAO LIN DEPEND ON YOUR VICTORY.

I WILL NOT FAIL.

THAT IS MY PROMISE!

TWO WEEKS LATER.

HONG KONG.

JOHNNY CAGE, MARTIAL ARTS MOVIE STAR AND GOON-TO-RS COMPETITOR IN SHANG TEUNG'S TOURNAMENT, IS READY TO BOARD ONE OF TEUNG'S GAIL BORGES. FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS THE COMPETITION IS ALL HE COULD THINK ABOUT.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN ON THE MINDS OF HIS AGENT AND PERSONAL SECRETARY.

WILL YOU RELAX, CHUCK?

LOOK JOHNNY, ALL I'M SAYIN' IS MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST RECONSIDER THIS TOURNAMENT THING. LOOK AT THAT BOAT. YOU CAN'T GET ON THAT HUNK OF JUNK. YOU'RE A COMMODITY. YOU'RE LOOKING AT 20 MIL THIS YEAR. YOU WANNA RISK THAT?

JOHNNY YOU'VE GOT TO BE BACK BY THE 15TH. YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO START SHOOTING IRON CLAW ON THE 17TH AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN READ THE SCRIPT.

C'MON JOHNNY, THESE PEOPLE COULD BE CRAZY. THIS TOURNAMENT ISN'T SANCTIONED BY ANY MARTIAL ARTS ORGANIZATION AND I CAN'T FIND ONE PERSON WHOSE EVEN HEARD OF THE FRIGGIN' THING.

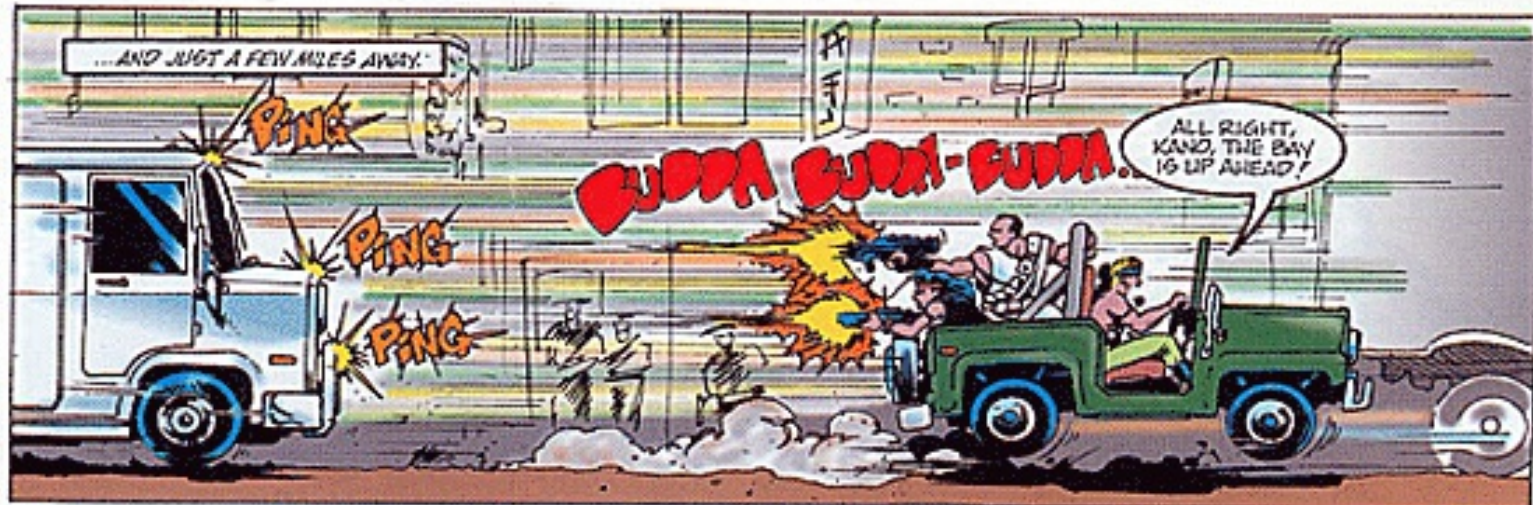
JUST RECONSIDER?

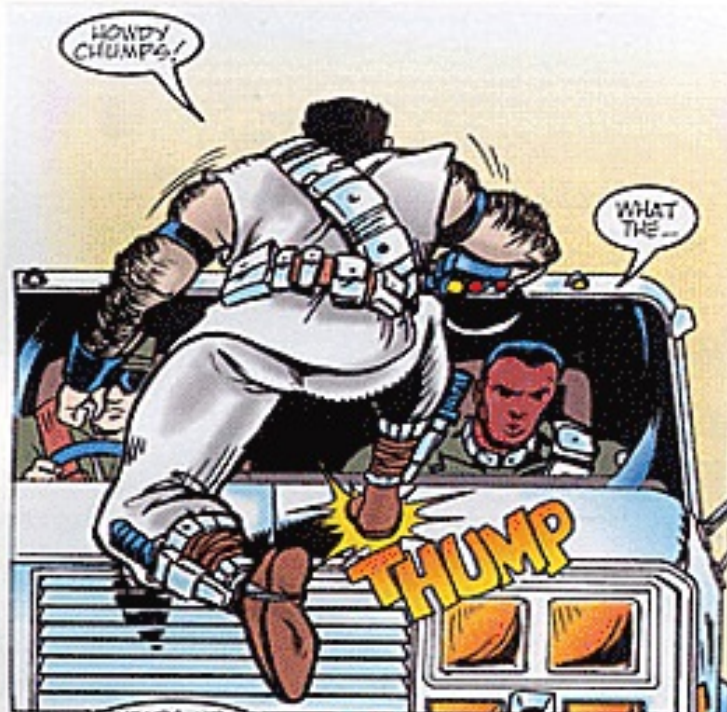
I'LL BE BACK IN TWO WEEKS... I PROMISE. THESE ARE QUALITY PEOPLE. CHUCK TRUST ME.

YEAH, JUST DON'T GET HIT IN THE FACE.

HEY, WHO WOULD HIT JOHNNY CAGE? EVERYBODY LOVES ME!

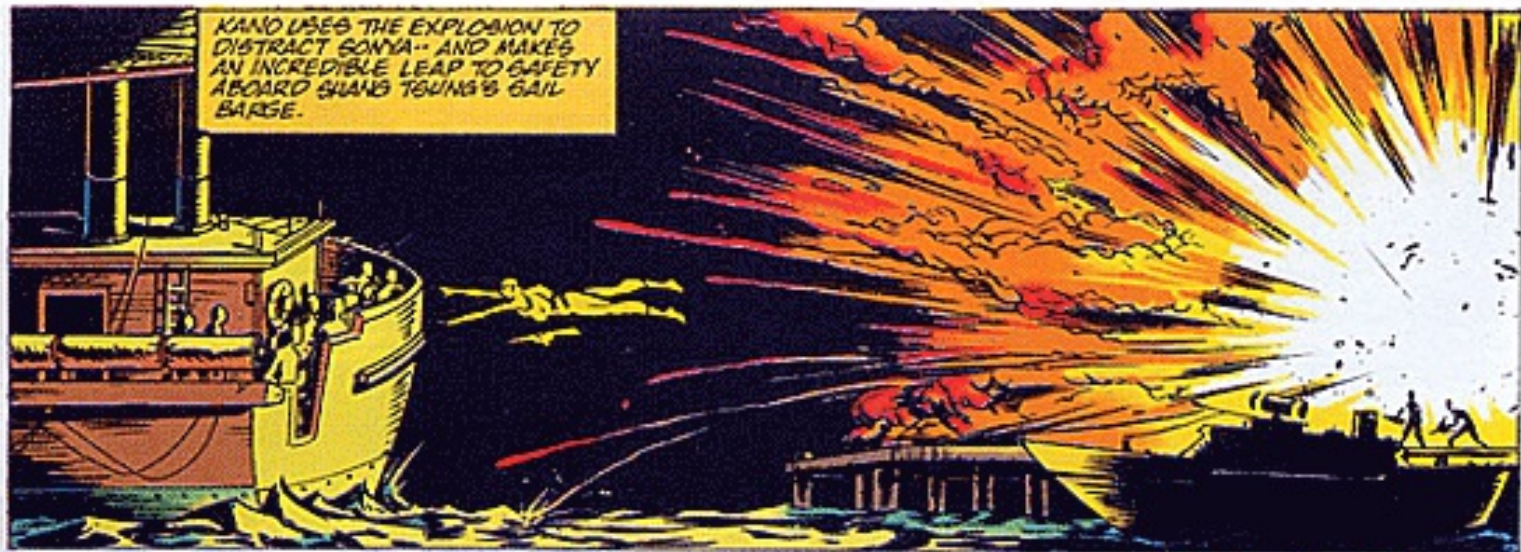
NOPE.







KANO USES THE EXPLOSION TO DISTRACT SONJA... AND MAKES AN INCREDIBLE LEAP TO SAFETY ABOARD SHANG TSUNG'S GAIL BARGE.



I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT AWAY.



WHAT AN ODD ASSORTMENT OF CHARACTERS. THAT SURE ISN'T THE REST OF THE BLACK DRAGON ON THAT SHIP.

I WONDER WHERE IT'S HEADING?

NOT VERY FAR IF WE OPEN FIRE.

NO! WE MIGHT HIT A PASSENGER! I'LL RADIO AHEAD FOR A SPEEDER BOAT. WE'LL LET THAT FLOATING JUNK PILE SAIL FURTHER OUT BEFORE WE INTERCEPT.



DUDE, WAS THAT REAL?

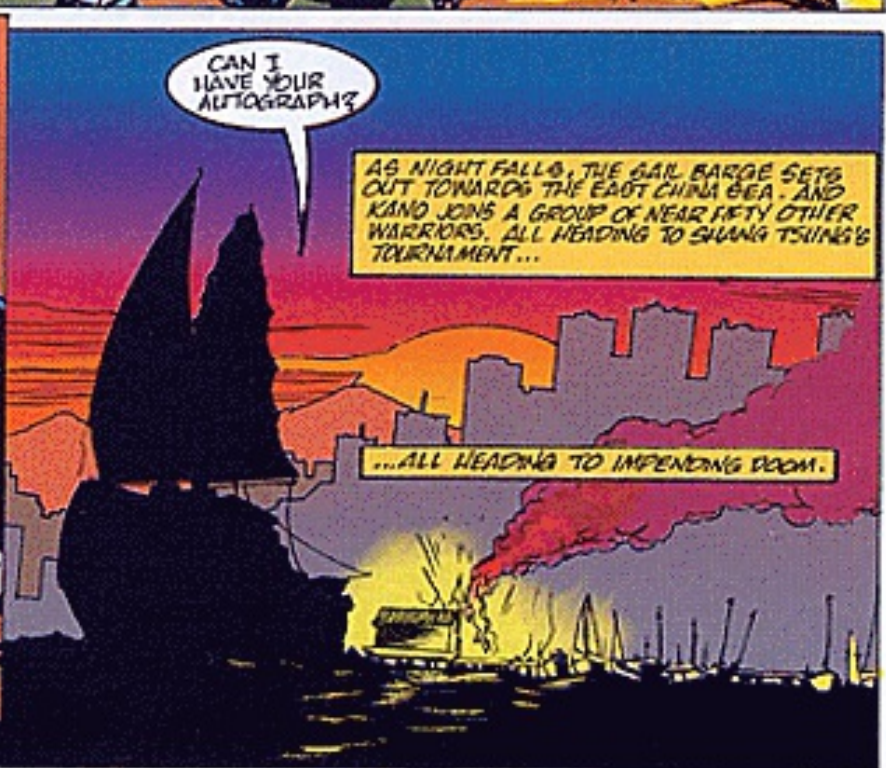
NO, IT'S AN ILLUSION... HEY, YOU'RE JOHNNY CAGE!



CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

AS NIGHT FALLS, THE GAIL BARGE SETS OUT TOWARDS THE EAST CHINA SEA... AND KANO JOINS A GROUP OF NEAR FIFTY OTHER WARRIORS, ALL HEADING TO SHANG TSUNG'S TOURNAMENT...

...ALL HEADING TO IMPENDING DOOM.



DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN VASTNESS OF RURAL JAPAN, GIANG TSUNG TRAVERSES THROUGH STRANGE LANDS TO DELIVER A PERSONAL INVITATION.

RAIDEN! GOD OF THUNDER, HEAR THESE WORDS!

I HAVE TRAVELLED THROUGH YOUR LANDS, SPOKEN YOUR LANGUAGE, AND YOUR RELIGIONS TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE.

I ASK OF YOU ONCE MORE...

...ACCEPT THIS INVITATION AND COMPETE IN MY GREAT AND NOBLE TOURNAMENT! OR DO YOU FEAR THE DANGERS OF MORTAL COMBAT?!

I FEAR NO MORTAL!!

AND YOUR TOURNAMENT IS NO MORE GREAT AND NOBLE THAN THE DECREPIT BODY YOUR SPIRIT POSSESSES!

I HAVE LONG WATCHED YOUR PRACTICES GIANG TSUNG! YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A PEAGANT BORCERER!

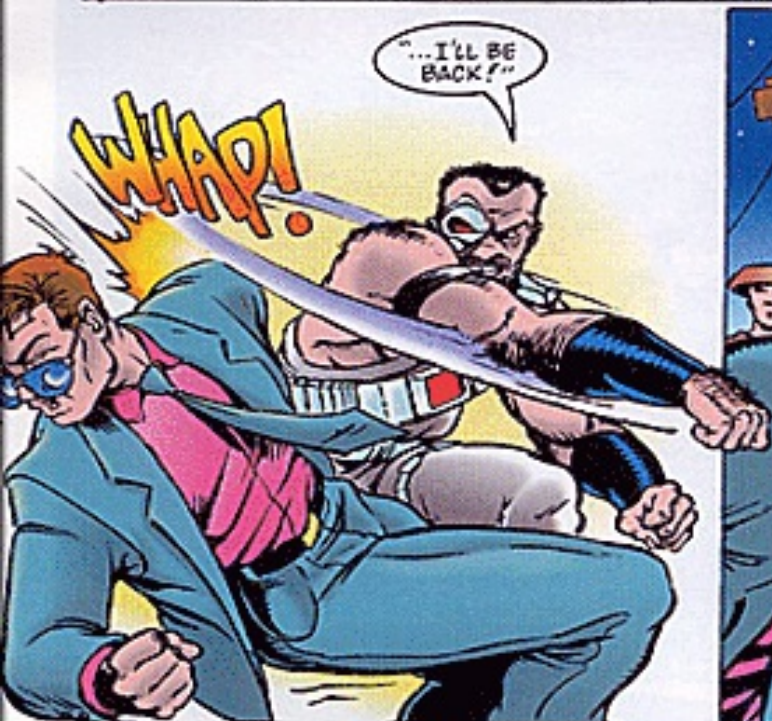
I ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION AND GIVE YOU THIS WARNING...

ALL WHO OPPOSE RAIDEN WILL BE CRUSHED!

YOUR ACCEPTANCE IS WELCOMED GREAT RAIDEN. OH... AND PLEASE REMEMBER THIS TOURNAMENT TAKES PLACE IN MY DOMAIN, UNDER MY RULE.

AND ON THE EAST CHINA SEA, SHANG TUNG'S SAIL BARGE CONTINUES IT'S TREK TOWARDS THE TOURNAMENT'S SECRET LOCATION.

C'MON, CAGE, SAY IT!



AND BEFORE ANY OF KANO'S NEW
FOUND FRIENDS CAN JOIN THE FIGHT...

CRASH!



...LIU KANG ENDS IT.



THE NEXT TIME WE DO ANY
FIGHTING WILL BE AT THE
TOURNAMENT.

AND IT MAY ALSO BE
AGAINST EACH OTHER.



WATCH YER BACK MR.
HOLLYWOOD 'CAUSE YOU
JUST MADE ME YOUR
WORST ENEMY!



PROCEED WITH
CAUTION JOHNNY
CAGE. KANO HAS
LOTS OF FRIENDS
HERE.

HE WILL MAKE
THE TOURNAMENT
DIFFICULT FOR YOU.

I THINK I CAN
TAKE CARE OF
MYSELF.

AS LIU KANG AND JOHNNY CAGE GET
BETTER ACQUAINTED, THEY FAIL
TO NOTICE THE SHADON CLAD FIG-
URE WATCHING FROM ABOVE.

HE IS A MEMBER OF THE LIN KUEI--A RARE CLAN OF CHINESE SUPER-ASSASSINS. UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, HIS ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE ALTERCATION BELOW...

...AND NOT ON THE GHAUTLY SPECTER HE IS ABOUT TO ENCOUNTER...

LIN KUEI...



LOOK INTO MY EYES!

NO! IT CAN'T BE...I...I

YESS... YOU MURDERED ME EXACTLY TWO YEARS AGO TO THIS DAY.

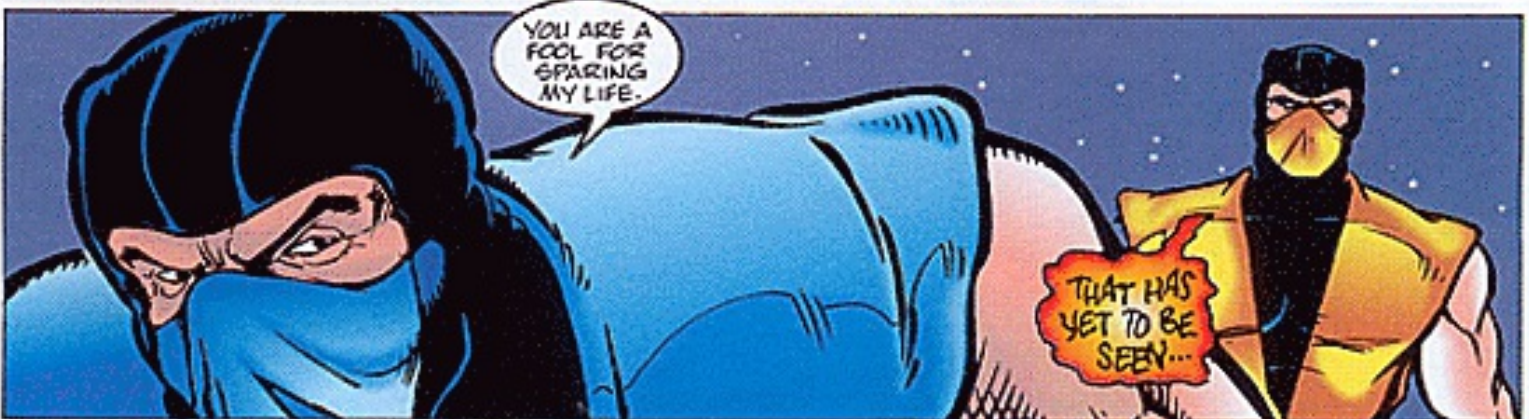
BUT MY DEMONS HAVE ALLOWED ME TO RETURN TO AVENGE MY DEATH. I COULD KILL YOU AT THIS MOMENT... BUT I AM NOT A MURDERER.

WE WILL MEET AT THE TOURNAMENT. AND THEN, LIN KUEI, YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES.



YOU ARE A FOOL FOR SPARING MY LIFE.

THAT HAS YET TO BE SEEN...





AT SUNSET, THE GAIL BARGE WHICH LEFT HONG KONG LATE THE NIGHT BEFORE, IS JOINED BY A DOZEN OTHER SHIPS...

...ALL ARRIVING AT GUANG TUNG'S ISLAND FORTRESS.



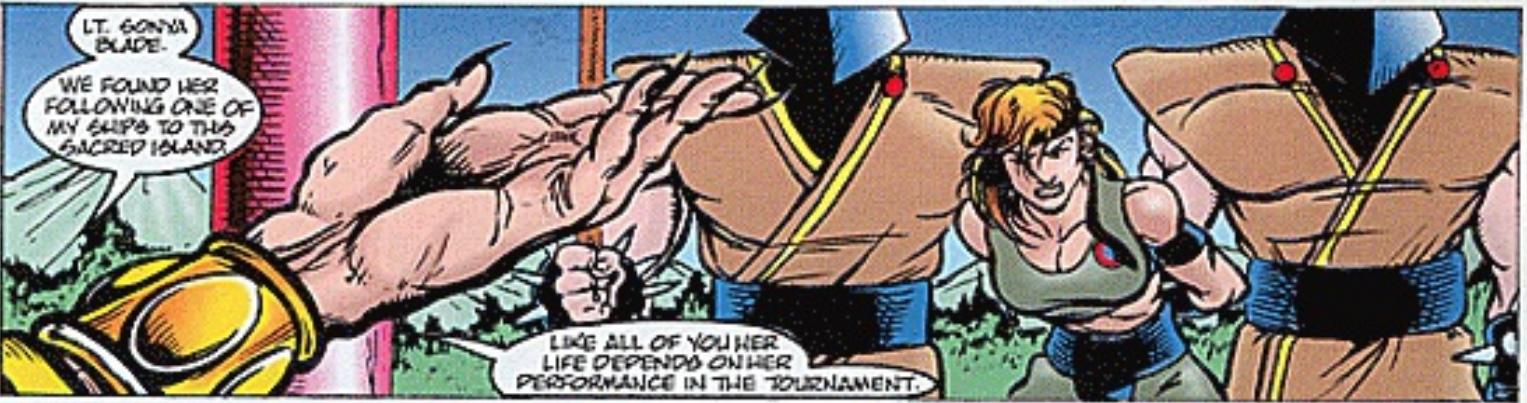
AFTER A DAY OF PRACTICE AND TRAINING THEY ARE GREETED BY THE ISLAND'S EMPEROR AND THE TOURNAMENT'S 500 YEAR GRAND CHAMPION...

WELCOME WARRIORS TO THE GREATEST OF ALL MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENTS.



YOU HAVE ALL TRAVELLED GREAT DISTANCES TO BE HERE. I HOPE IT PROVES WELL WORTH IT.

NOW LET ME INTRODUCE THE NEWEST ENTRY INTO OUR CONTEST...



LT. GONYA BLADE. WE FOUND HER FOLLOWING ONE OF MY SHIPS TO THIS SACRED ISLAND.

LIKE ALL OF YOU HER LIFE DEPENDS ON HER PERFORMANCE IN THE TOURNAMENT.



BUT SO DO THE LIVES OF HER COMPANIONS.



LIU KANG

AGE: 24
HEIGHT: 5' 10"
WEIGHT: 185
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: BROWN
LEGAL STATUS:
CITIZEN OF THE
PEOPLES REPUBLIC
OF CHINA.
KNOWN RELATIVES:
LEE KANG, FATHER
(DECEASED)
LIN KANG, MOTHER
(DECEASED)
CHOW KANG, BROTHER
(WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN)
BIRTHPLACE:
HONAN PROVINCE,
CHINA
OCCUPATION:
SHAOLIN MONK,
FISHERMAN



JOHNNY CAGE

REAL NAME: JOHN CARLTON
AGE: 29
HEIGHT: 6' 1"
WEIGHT: 200
HAIR: BROWN
EYES: BLUE
LEGAL STATUS:
CITIZEN OF THE
UNITED STATES
KNOWN RELATIVES:
ROBERT CARLTON,
FATHER
ROSE CARLTON,
MOTHER
REBECCA CARLTON,
SISTER
CINDY FORD, WIFE
(DIVORCED)
BIRTHPLACE:
VENICE, CALIFORNIA
OCCUPATION: ACTOR



KANO

AGE: 35
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 205
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: 1 BROWN,
1 INFRA-RED (BUILT
INTO METAL IMPLANT)
LEGAL STATUS:
DEPORTED FROM
JAPAN, WANTED
CRIMINAL IN 35
COUNTRIES.
KNOWN RELATIVES:
NONE — WAS
ORPHANED AS A
SMALL CHILD BY AN
AMERICAN WOMAN
IN TOKYO.
BIRTHPLACE:
UNKNOWN
OCCUPATION:
CRIMINAL MEMBER OF
THE BLACK DRAGON
ORGANIZATION.



SONYA BLADE

AGE: 26
HEIGHT: 5' 10"
WEIGHT: 140
HAIR: BROWN
EYES: BLUE
LEGAL STATUS:
CITIZEN OF THE
UNITED STATES
KNOWN RELATIVES:
MAJ. HERMAN BLADE,
FATHER
ERICA BLADE,
MOTHER
DANIEL BLADE, TWIN
BROTHER, (DECEASED)
BIRTHPLACE:
AUSTIN, TEXAS
OCCUPATION:
LIEUTENANT IN THE
U.S. ARMY, MEMBER
OF A SPECIAL
PARA-MILITARY
POLICE FORCE.



RAIDEN

AGE: ETERNAL
HEIGHT: 7'
WEIGHT: 350
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: NONE
LEGAL STATUS:
DEITY—DOES NOT
APPLY
KNOWN RELATIVES:
NONE
BIRTHPLACE: NONE
OCCUPATION:
THUNDER GOD



SUB-ZERO

REAL NAME:
UNKNOWN
AGE: 32
HEIGHT: 6' 2"
WEIGHT: 210
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: BROWN
LEGAL STATUS: NONE,
HOWEVER RESIDES
SOMEWHERE IN CHINA
KNOWN RELATIVES:
NONE
BIRTHPLACE:
UNKNOWN
OCCUPATION:
LIFE LONG MEMBER OF
THE LIN KUEI, A RARE
CLAN OF CHINESE,
NINJA-TYPE,
ASSASSINS.



SCORPION

REAL NAME:
UNKNOWN
AGE: 32
HEIGHT: 6' 2"
WEIGHT: 210
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: VARIES
LEGAL STATUS:
SCORPION IS A
REINCARNATED
SPECTER AND HAS
NO LEGAL STATUS.
KNOWN RELATIVES:
WIFE AND CHILD IN
FORMER LIFE.
BIRTHPLACE:
IN FORMER LIFE—
UNKNOWN
AS SCORPION—HELL
OCCUPATION:
IN FORMER LIFE—
UNKNOWN
AS SCORPION—A LOST
SOUL HELL-BENT ON
REVENGE



GORO

AGE: 2,000
HEIGHT: 8' 2"
WEIGHT: 550
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: RED
LEGAL STATUS:
EARTH—NONE
OUTWORLD—PRINCE
OF KUATAN
KNOWN RELATIVES:
KING GORBAK, FATHER
QUEEN MAI, MOTHER
GORO ALSO HAS 7
WIVES
BIRTHPLACE: KUATAN,
4TH ASTRAL PLANE OF
SHOKAN, REALM OF
THE OUTWORLD.
OCCUPATION: PRINCE
OF KUATAN, RULER
SUPREME OF
SHOKAN'S ARMIES.





JOHN TERIAS
ANDREW HENKULEVA
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