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BATTLE



FOR POWER



FARSHTEY | GALLAGHER




SIX HEROES--THE TOA NUVA--HAVE COME TO KARDA NUU TO AWAKEN THE GREAT SPIRIT MATA NUU. HOWEVER, THE MAKUTA--MASTERS OF SHADOW--ARE FIGHTING TO STOP THEM.



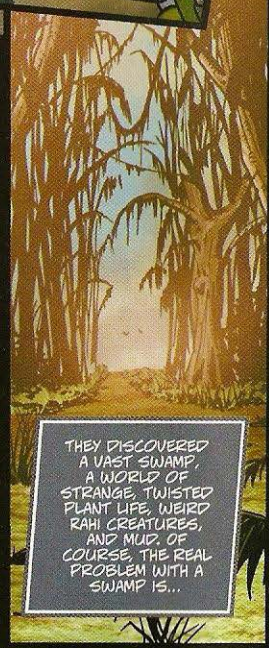
THE BATTLE HAS RAGED IN THE SKIES, ELEMENTAL ENERGIES AND THE POWER OF LIGHT...



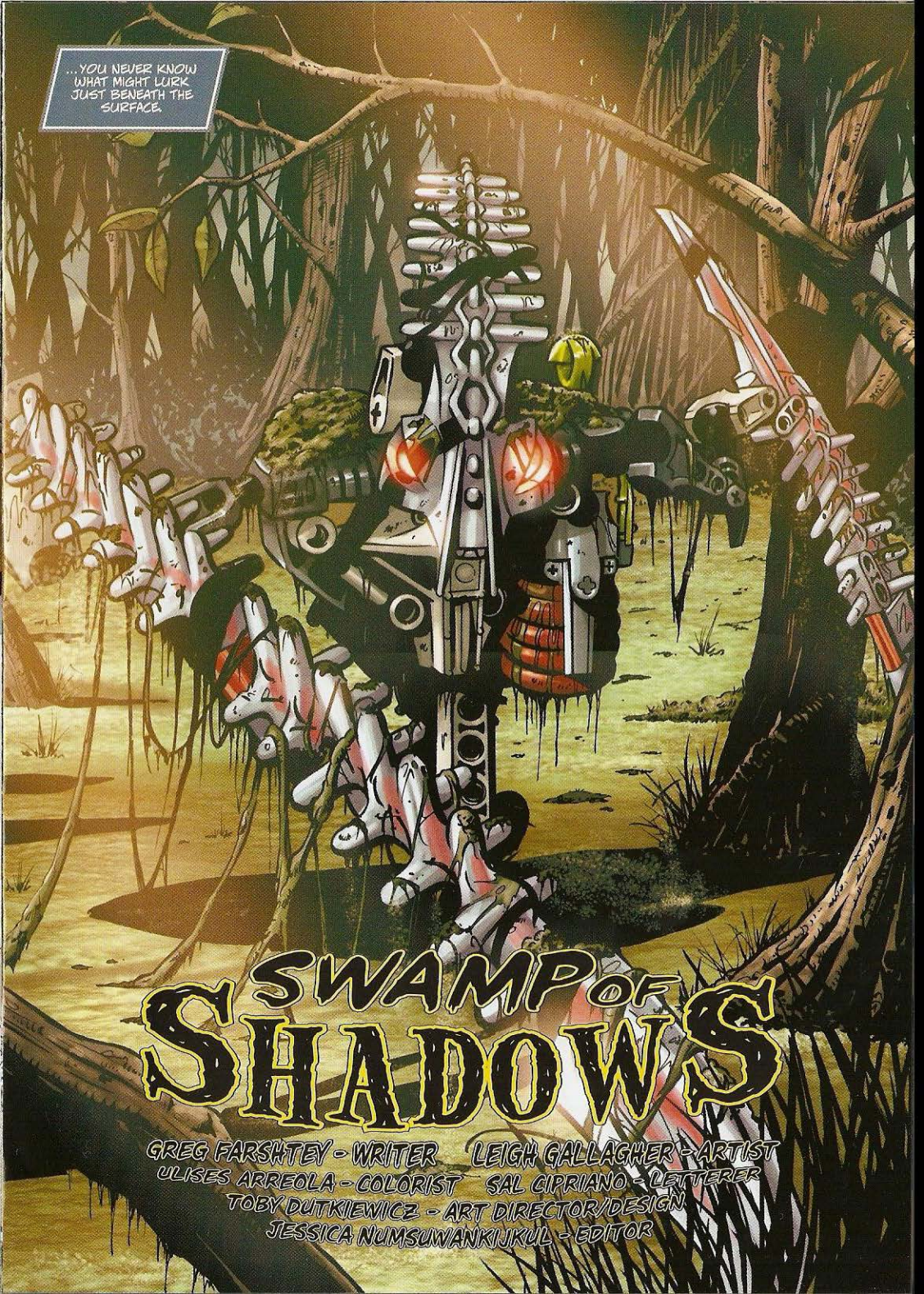
...AGAINST THE DEVASTATING FORCE OF SHADOW.



BUT WHAT OF THE REST OF KARDA NUU? AND WHAT OF THE THREE TOA--TAHU, GALI, AND ONUA--WHO LEFT TO EXPLORE IT?



THEY DISCOVERED A VAST SWAMP, A WORLD OF STRANGE, TWISTED PLANT LIFE, WEIRD RAHI CREATURES, AND MUD. OF COURSE, THE REAL PROBLEM WITH A SWAMP IS...



... YOU NEVER KNOW
WHAT MIGHT LURK
JUST BENEATH THE
SURFACE.

A SWAMP OF SHADOWS

GREG FARSHTEY - WRITER LEIGH GALLAGHER - ARTIST
ULISES ARREOLA - COLORIST SAL CIPRIANO - LETTERER
TOBY DUTKIEWICZ - ART DIRECTOR/DESIGN
JESSICA NUMSUWANKIKUL - EDITOR



TAHU,
TOA NUVA OF FIRE.

THIS IS A
LOT OF SWAMP--GOOD THING
GALI, ONUIA AND I SPLIT
UP. HOPEFULLY, ONE OF
US WILL SPOT THE MASK
OF LIFE*, OR ONE OF
THE KEYSTONES
WE SEEK.

*TAHU DOESN'T KNOW THE MASK OF LIFE
MADE A BODY FOR ITSELF AND NOW
CHALLENGES THE MAKUTA AS TOA IGNIKA.
BUT YOU DO, IF YOU READ ISSUE #12!



WAIT A
MOMENT--WHAT'S
THAT?

WHATEVER IT
IS, IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE IT
BELONGS HERE. DID
THE MAKUTA BUILD IT,
OR DID SOMEONE
ELSE?



WE WERE TOLD
BEFORE WE CAME HERE
THERE WAS A WEAPON IN
KARDA NUU WE COULD USE TO
FINISH OUR MISSION--MAYBE
IT'S IN THERE. WORTH
CHECKING OUT.

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE, FOR THE STRUCTURE IS SURROUNDED BY AN INVISIBLE BARRIER OF ENERGY, AS TAHU JUST FOUND OUT.

KZZZAAKKK!

YHIIIIII!

SNORCH

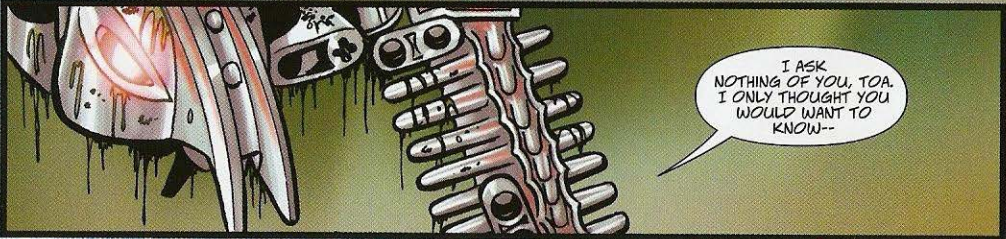
AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A BRAVE AND DARING TOA, FALLEN AT THE FEET OF MAKUTA KRIKA?

DO YOU KNOW WHY WE MAKUTA HATE TOA SO MUCH? IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE WHAT WE COULD ONLY PRETEND TO BE, ONCE UPON A TIME--HEROES WHO DO GOOD FOR NO REWARD, AND SO WE CALL YOU FOOLS, AND EVEN SLAY YOU... BECAUSE WE CANNOT BE YOU.

AM I SUPPOSED TO FITY YOU? AFTER ALL THE EVIL YOU AND YOUR KIND HAVE DONE?



I DON'T
THINK SO. SHARE
YOUR BURDENS WITH
SOMEONE WHO
CARES, MAKUTA.



I ASK
NOTHING OF YOU, TOA.
I ONLY THOUGHT YOU
WOULD WANT TO
KNOW--



--WHY IT
IS YOU HAVE
TO DIE.

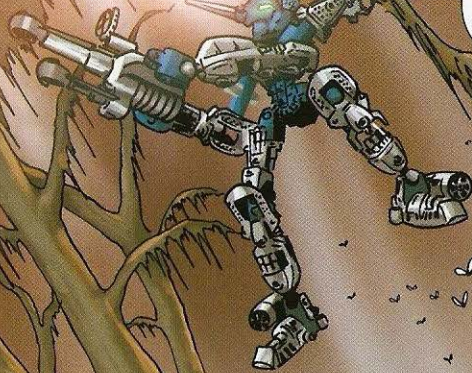
OHMMMM...
SO COLD...
WEAK...



WHATEVER
HE'S DOING, MY
STRENGTH IS FADING
FAST. JUST ENOUGH
LEFT TO SIGNAL
FOR HELP...

"...BUT IF ONE OF THE OTHERS
DOESN'T SEE IT IN TIME, THE
TOA NUVA ARE GOING TO NEED
A NEW LEADER."

IN ANOTHER PART OF
THE VAST SWAMP...



YES! THE MATORAN
SAID WE NEEDED TO FIND
SIX KEYSTONES IN KARDA
NOU--THEY WILL TELL US HOW
TO AWAKEN THE GREAT
SPIRIT. AND I THINK
I SEE ONE NOW.

"BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A PLANT
LIKE THAT ONE BEFORE--IT
CLINGS TO THE KEYSTONE LIKE
IT IS GUARDING A TREASURE."



I'VE HEARD
ENOUGH TALES OF
POWERFUL AND
HUNGRY PLANTS--LET
US SEE HOW IT LIKES
THE POWER OF A TOA
OF WATER!

NOW IT WILL BE EASY
TO COLLECT, AND I
CAN--WAIT! WHAT'S
THAT SOUND
BEFORE ME?



HSSSSSSSS

WHAT--?

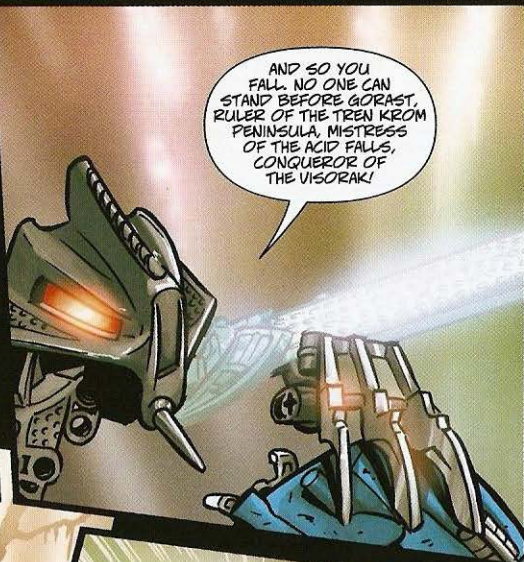
FFWAM

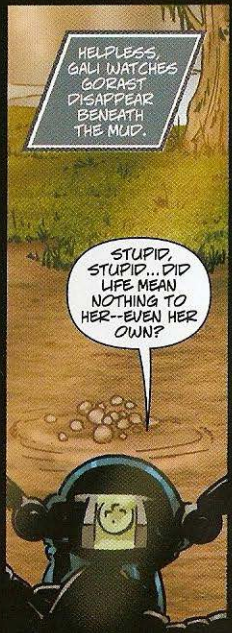
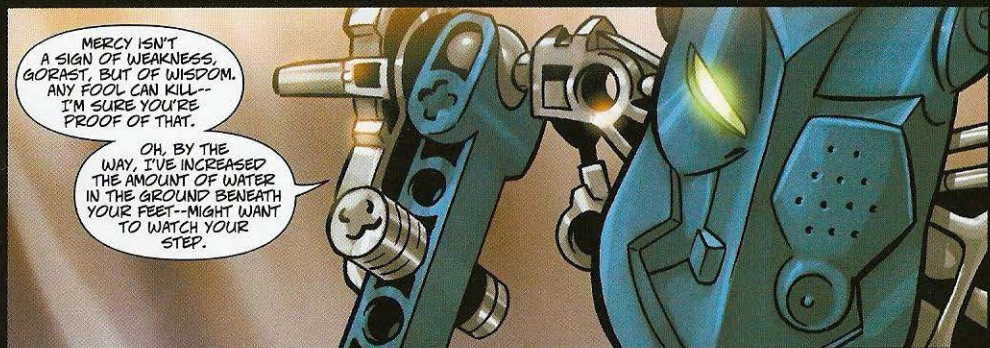
BACK OFF!

UNNGGHH!

SO YOU WISH TO DIE THEN...

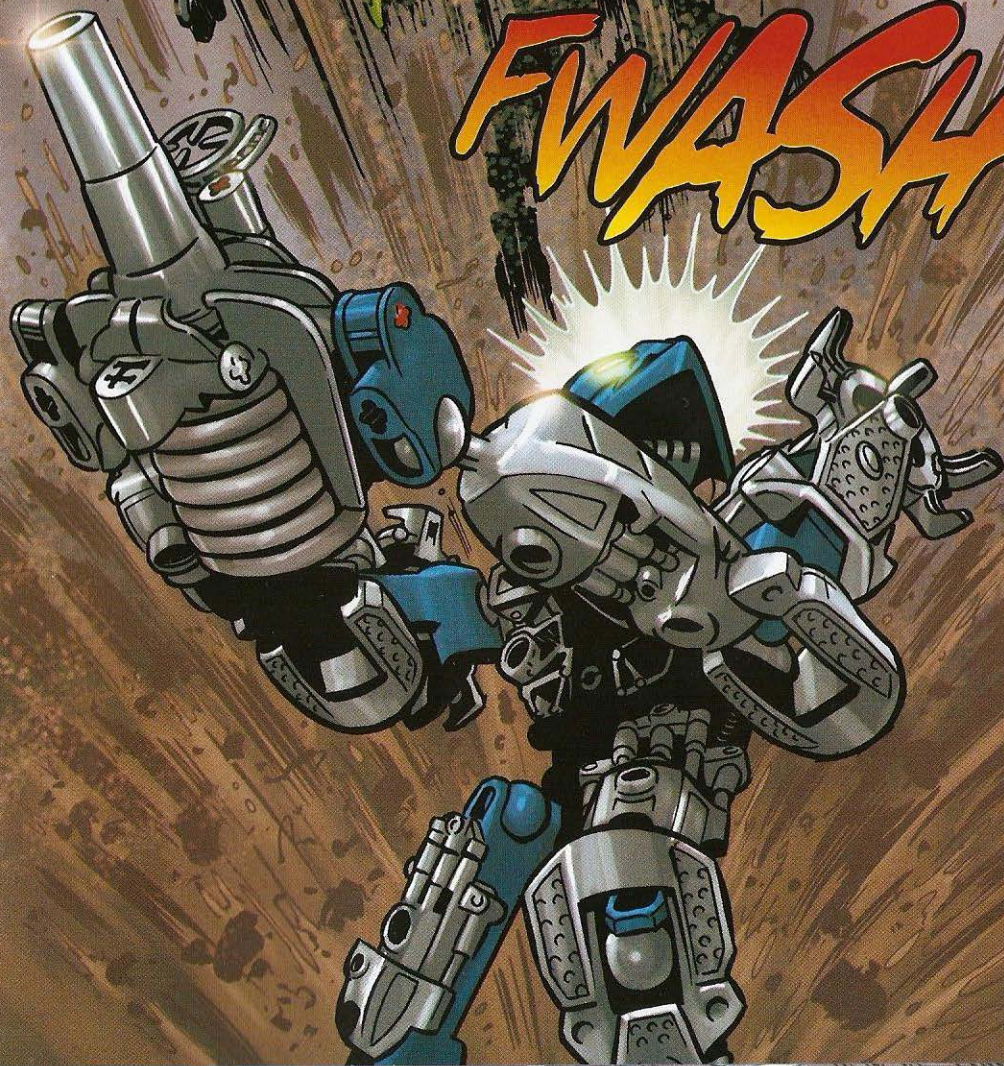
...MAKLITA GORAKT WILL BE HAPPY TO OBUAGE!





MY LIFE
DOESN'T MATTER.
YOUR LIFE DOESN'T
MATTER. ONLY THE GREAT
PLAN MATTERS, AND IT
WILL--IT MUST!--
SUCCEED!

FWASH






WONDERFUL. I'M WORRIED ABOUT RUNNING INTO ONE MAKUTA AS I SEARCH THIS SWAMP, AND I RUN INTO SEVEN!

MAKUTA KRIKA WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE A TOA CAPTIVE. IF HE IS NOT ON THE HUNT, HE WILL BE HERE.



KRIKA! SHOW YOURSELF??

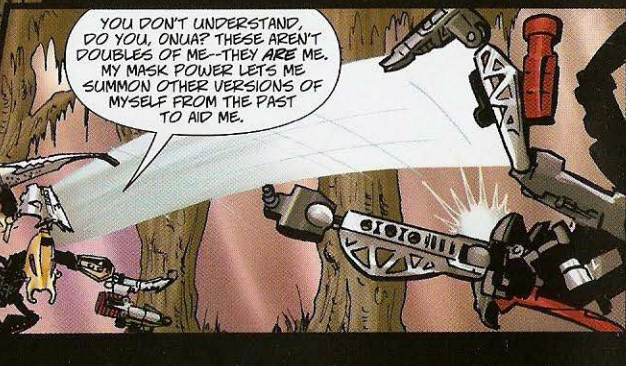
YOU NEVER SEE HIM UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT. I REALLY HATE THAT.



YOU HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW, MAKUTA. TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO BACK AWAY IF THEY LIKE YOUR HEAD ATTACHED TO YOUR BODY.



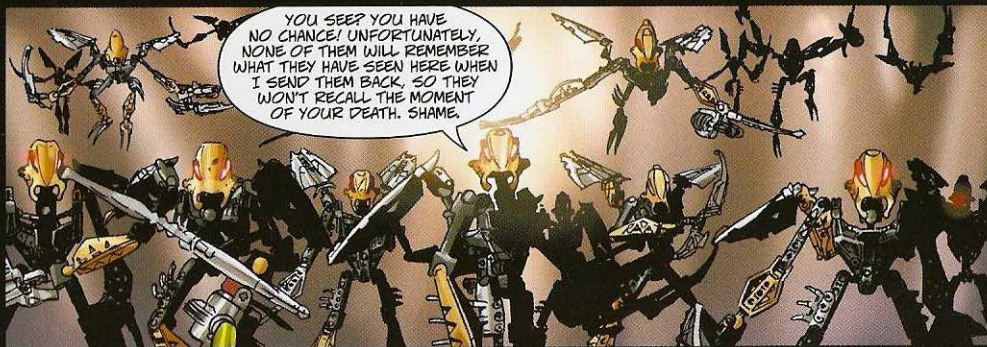
OH, WE LIKE IT MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE, TOA. BUT CAN YOU ACT BEFORE WE STRIKE YOU DOWN??



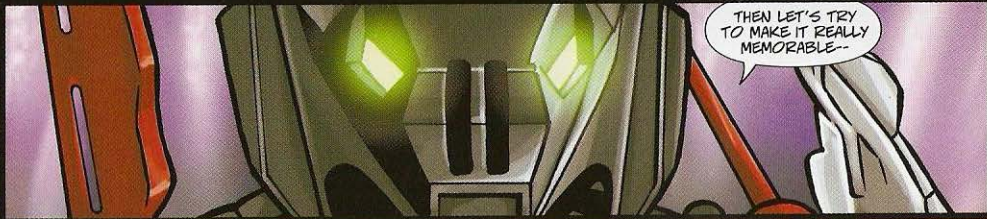
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, ONUA? THESE AREN'T DOUBLES OF ME--THEY ARE ME. MY MASK POWER LETS ME SUMMON OTHER VERSIONS OF MYSELF FROM THE PAST TO AID ME.



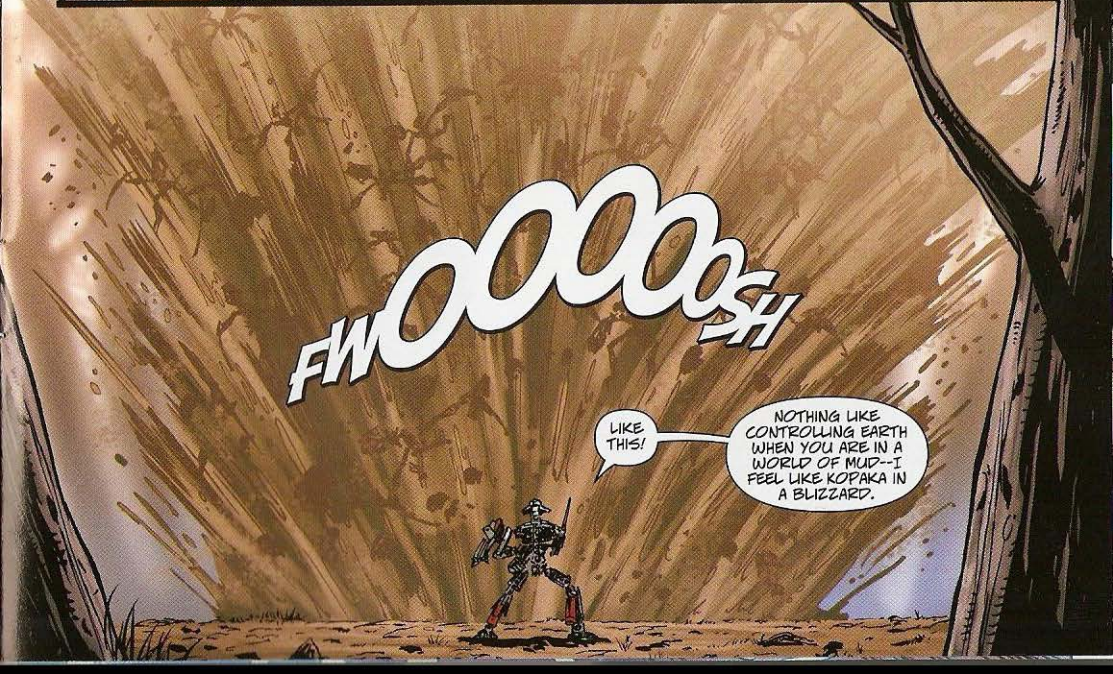
AN INSTANT
ARMY, ALL OF THEM
COMPLETELY LOYAL,
AND AS MANY AS I NEED
FOR AS LONG AS I
NEED THEM.



YOU SEE? YOU HAVE
NO CHANCE! UNFORTUNATELY,
NONE OF THEM WILL REMEMBER
WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN HERE WHEN
I SEND THEM BACK, SO THEY
WON'T RECALL THE MOMENT
OF YOUR DEATH. SHAME.



THEN LET'S TRY
TO MAKE IT REALLY
MEMORABLE--



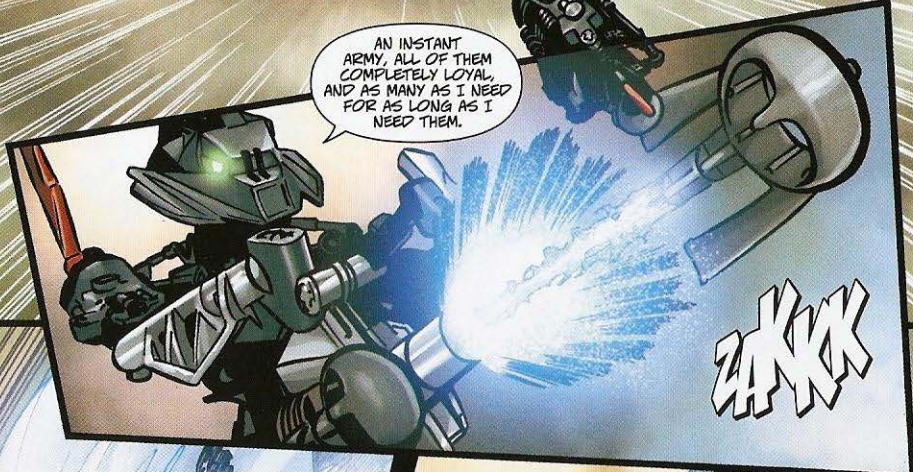
FWOOOSH

LIKE
THIS!

NOTHING LIKE
CONTROLLING EARTH
WHEN YOU ARE IN A
WORLD OF MUD--I
FEEL LIKE KOPAKA IN
A BLIZZARD.



SO
LET'S SEE
WHAT THIS
DOES!




AN INSTANT
ARMY, ALL OF THEM
COMPLETELY LOYAL,
AND AS MANY AS I NEED
FOR AS LONG AS I
NEED THEM.

ZAKKK



NO!

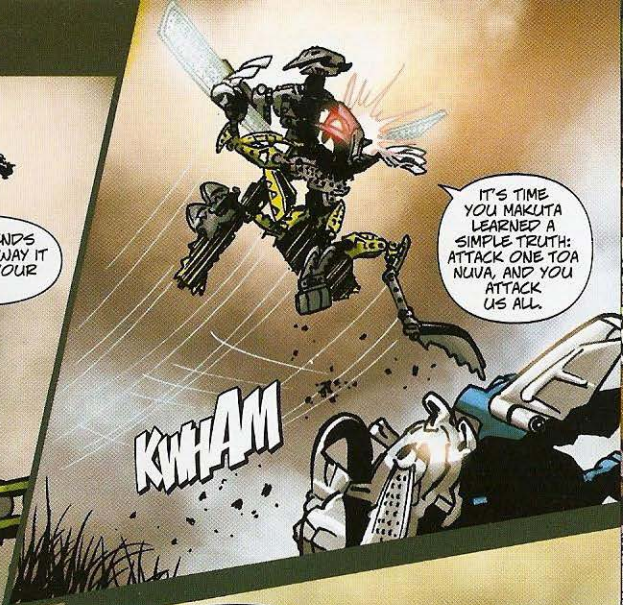


UH-OH. EITHER
TAHU'S FOUND
SOMETHING HE WANTS
TO SHARE, OR HE'S
CALLING FOR HELP. AND
HE NEVER CALLS
FOR HELP!





NOW THIS ENDS IN THE ONLY WAY IT CAN--WITH YOUR DEATH.



IT'S TIME YOU MAKUTA LEARNED A SIMPLE TRUTH: ATTACK ONE TOA NUVA, AND YOU ATTACK US ALL.

KWHAM



AND, BY THE WAY--THE TRUTH HURTS!

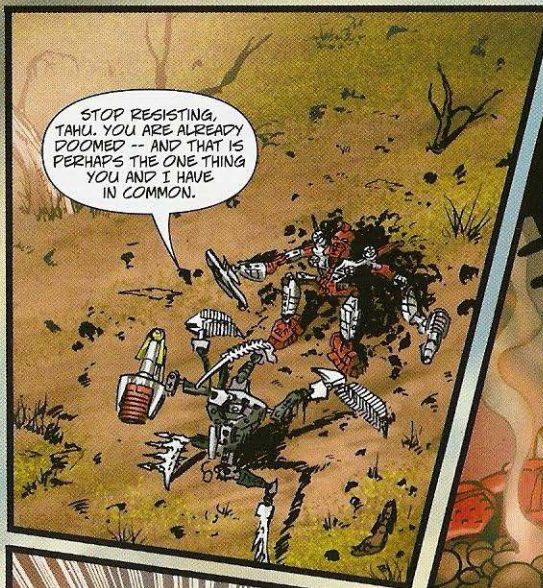


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

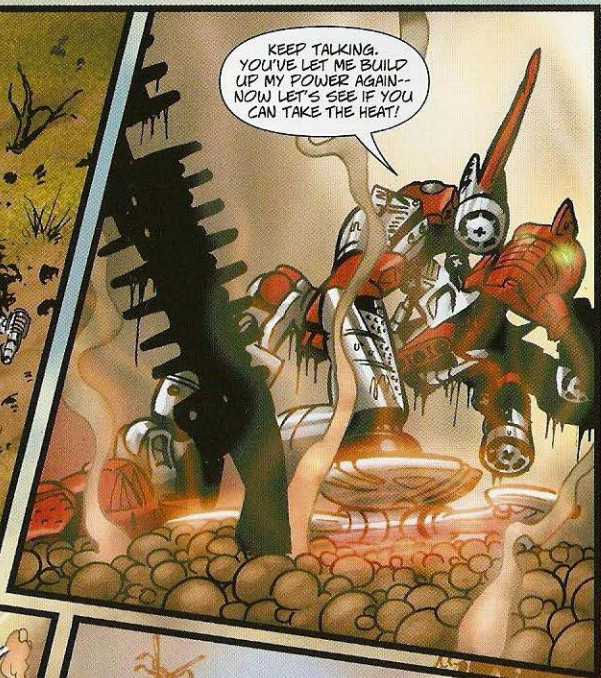
YES, BUT GORAST WILL BE BACK.



WE WON'T BE HERE, WE'RE NEEDED SOMEWHERE ELSE.



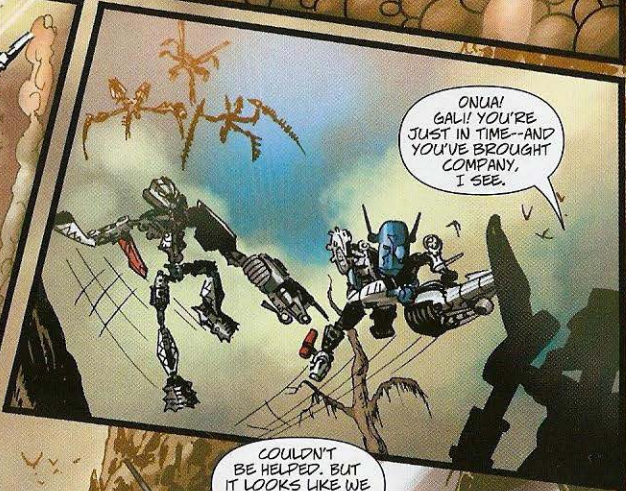
STOP RESISTING, TAHU. YOU ARE ALREADY DOOMED -- AND THAT IS PERHAPS THE ONE THING YOU AND I HAVE IN COMMON.



KEEP TALKING. YOU'VE LET ME BUILD UP MY POWER AGAIN-- NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE THE HEAT!



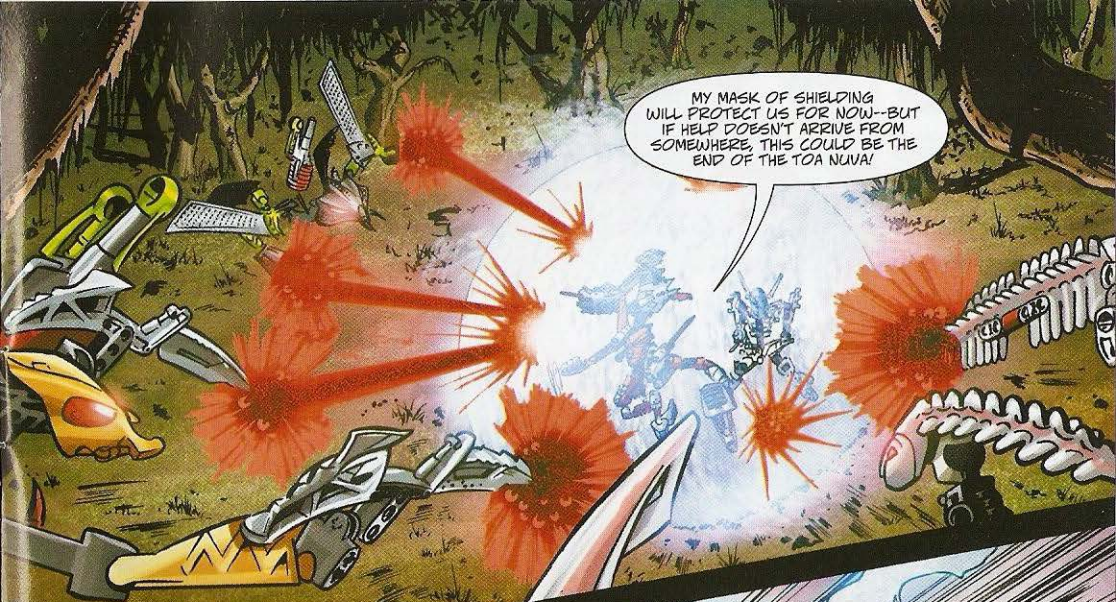
ARRRRGH!



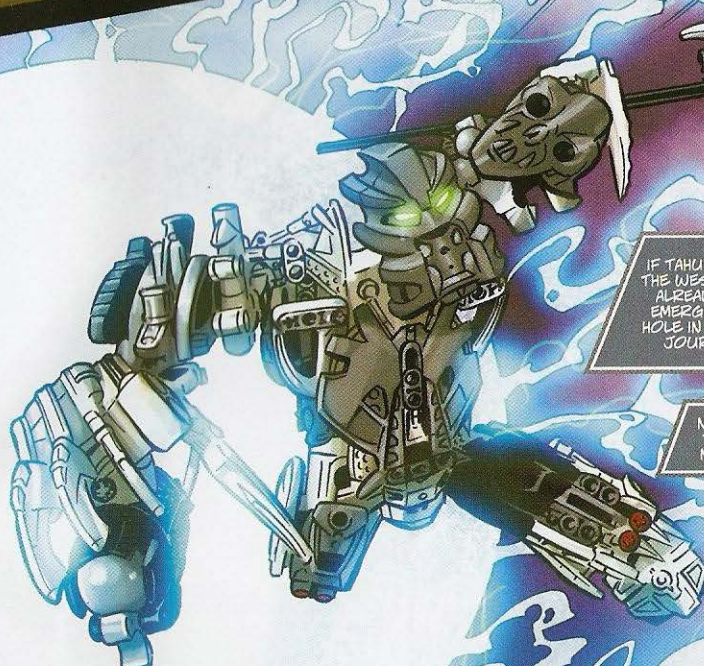
ONUUA! GALI! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME--AND YOU'VE BROUGHT COMPANY, I SEE.



COULDN'T BE HELPED. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAKE OUR STAND HERE.



MY MASK OF SHIELDING
WILL PROTECT US FOR NOW--BUT
IF HELP DOESN'T ARRIVE FROM
SOMEWHERE, THIS COULD BE THE
END OF THE TOA NUVA!



IF TAHU COULD SEE A SIGHT FAR TO
THE WEST, HE WOULD KNOW HELP IS
ALREADY ON ITS WAY. THE FIGURE
EMERGING INTO KARDA NUI FROM A
HOLE IN SPACE HAS BEEN THROUGH A
JOURNEY BEYOND IMAGINATION.

NOW HE HAS ARRIVED--AND EVEN
THE MAKUTA KNOW FEAR AT HIS
NAME--TAKANUVA, TOA OF LIGHT!

**COMING IN SEPTEMBER:
ENTER THE CODREX... IF YOU DARE!**