




CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS THE RED SKULL. THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE DOCTOR DOOM.

I HAVE *DORMAMMU*, LORD OF THE DARK DIMENSION.

I HAVE OFFENDED THE DEMONS OF THE *FALTINE*, AND *DORMAMMU* IS HERE PERSONALLY TO OVERSEE THE RESULT OF MY TRANSGRESSION.



I HAVE ALSO EXHAUSTED THE TRUST OF ALLIES *ZELMA*, *KANNA* AND *WONG*, WHO BELIEVE THAT I'M TOO *SECRETIVE*.

AND I CAN BE.



BUT NOT TODAY.



AH, THE FRAGILE HUMAN HEART, FULL OF CONCERN. YOU'VE SENT YOUR FRIENDS TO SAFETY.

THREE DOWN, SEVEN AND A HALF BILLION MORTALS TO GO. FAR BEYOND THE SCOPE OF ANY SORCERER'S ABILITIES. TELL ME...

...CAN YOU TRULY FIND ANY PATH TO VICTORY HERE?

ME? NO.



THAT'S THEIR JOB.

STEPHEN...?

WHY'D HE SEND US BACK TO THE ACCOUNTANT'S--

I HAVE IT! WAIT! HOW DO I HAVE IT?



BECAUSE HE ZAPPED IT INTO OUR HEADS. IS THAT **NORMALLY** HOW HE COMMUNICATES HIS SECRET PLANS?

I WOULDN'T KNOW.

FIGURES.



C'MON. HE "TOLD" US WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

SCRAMBLE!

A MOMENT AGO, I BRAGGED THAT DORMAMMU WAS NO MATCH FOR ME ANYMORE.



THE TRUTH IS THAT I CAN'T BE CERTAIN, BUT THE SEED'S BEEN PLANTED IN HIS BRAIN. OTHERWISE, HE'D STRIKE WITHOUT **HESITATION**.

SO WE CIRCLE ONE ANOTHER LIKE TWO GUNSLINGERS WAITING FOR ONE ANOTHER TO **FLINCH**. I HAVE TO KEEP HIM DISTRACTED. I HAVE TO BUY **TIME**.



CONGRATULATIONS, DORMAMMU. YOU'VE **WON**. WHAT'S **YOUR** STAKE IN THIS DEMONIC INFECTION?

THAT'S IT. KEEP HIM FOCUSED ON **YOU**.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A **FALTINIAN EXILE**.

KEEP HIM **TALKING**.



THE **FALTINE ENY** ME...

...HE LIED.

THEY HAVE FOR **MILLENNIA**.

"THE FALTINE ARE A COLLECTIVE  
UNI-RACE, DUPLICATING  
RATHER THAN SPAWNING.

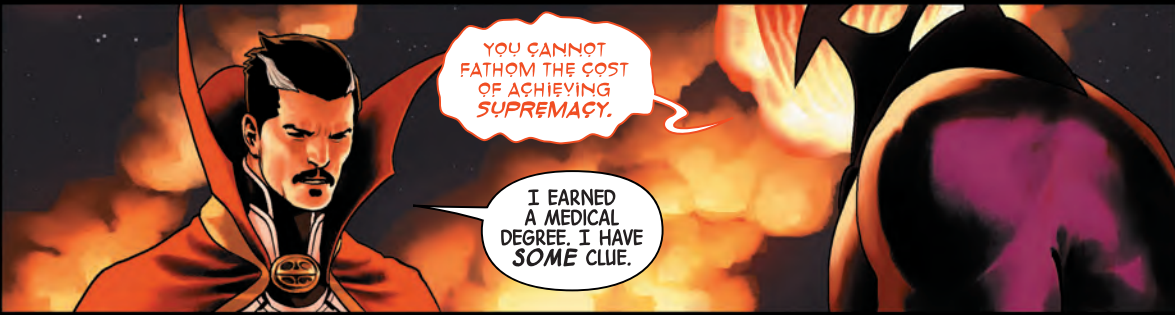


"INSPIRED BY THE VAGARIES  
OF OTHER RACES, THE FALTINE  
SIMIFER SPAWNED TWO  
UNIQUE CHILDREN.



"A FATAL MISSTEP.

"MY SISTER UMAR AND I, STUNG  
BY DISDAIN FROM OUR OWN KIND,  
REFUSED TO REST UNTIL WE ACHIEVED  
DOMINANCE OVER OUR LESSERS."



YOU CANNOT  
FATHOM THE COST  
OF ACHIEVING  
SUPREMACY.

I EARNED  
A MEDICAL  
DEGREE. I HAVE  
SOME CLUE.



GOT  
IT!

THE ACCOUNTANT  
DIDN'T JUST REMOVE  
THE ANCIENT ONE'S  
KNOWLEDGE OF  
MAGIC--

--HE  
KEPT  
IT.