

WHEN YEZDIGERD BECAME KING OF THE SPRAWLING DESERT KINGDOM OF **TURAN**, HE DID AS MANY NEW KINGS WILL DO.

HE LUSTED FOR **MORE**.

YEZDIGERD SWELLED THE RANKS OF THE TURANIAN ARMY WITH MERCENARY RECRUITS AND BEGAN INVADING HIS NEIGHBORING KINGDOMS.

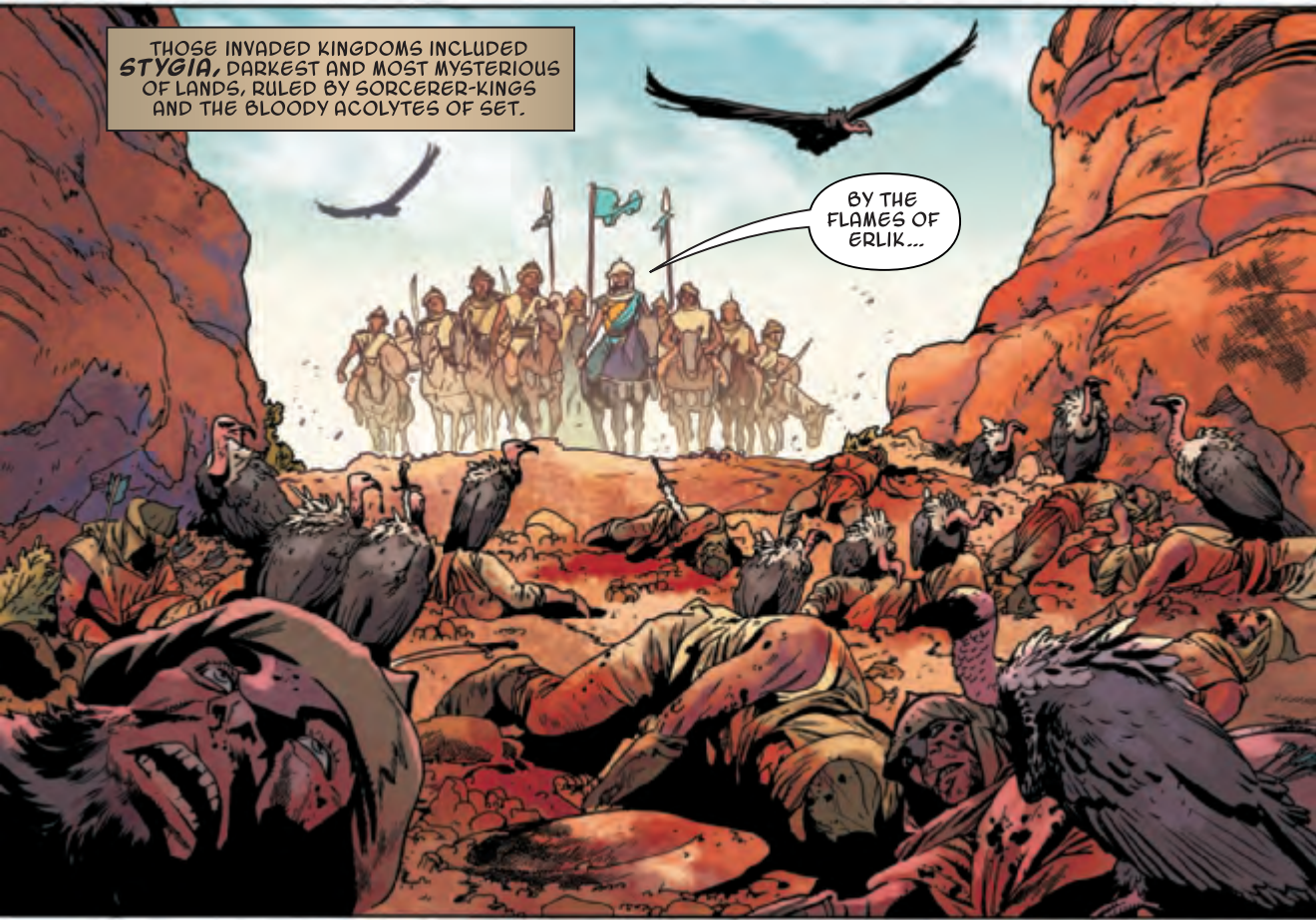
HIS CASTLE SOON FILLED WITH PLUNDER.

AND THE DESERT FILLED WITH **BLOOD**.

WHOA.

THOSE INVADERS KINGDOMS INCLUDED **STYGIA**, DARKEST AND MOST MYSTERIOUS OF LANDS, RULED BY SORCERER-KINGS AND THE BLOODY ACOPLYTES OF SET.

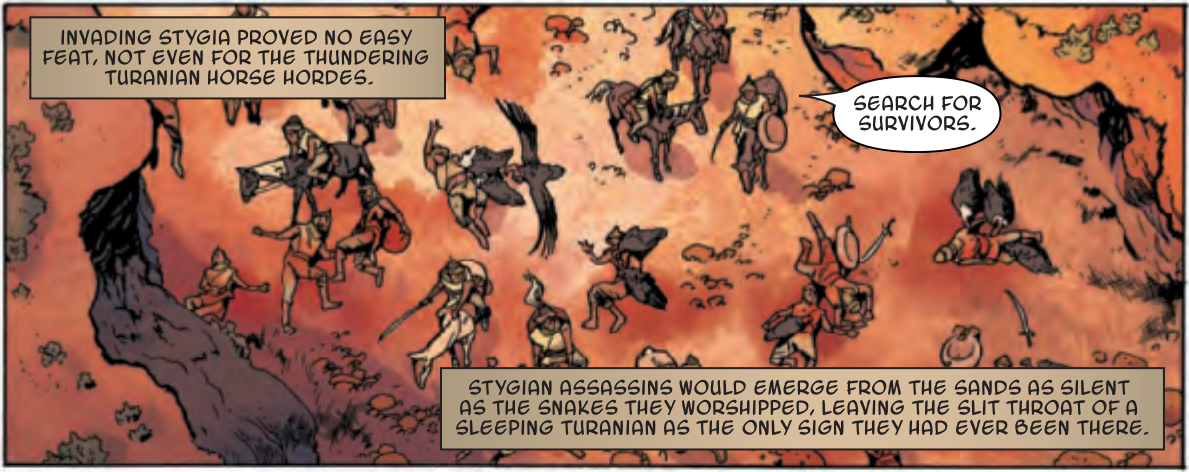
BY THE FLAMES OF ERLIK...



INVADING STYGIA PROVED NO EASY FEAT, NOT EVEN FOR THE THUNDERING TURANIAN HORSE HORDES.

SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS.

STYGIAN ASSASSINS WOULD EMERGE FROM THE SANDS AS SILENT AS THE SNAKES THEY WORSHIPPED, LEAVING THE SLIT THROAT OF A SLEEPING TURANIAN AS THE ONLY SIGN THEY HAD EVER BEEN THERE.



AMBUSHES SWEEPED THROUGH THE DESERT LIKE DUST STORMS, LEAVING HEAPS OF DESECRATED TURANIAN CORPSES IN THEIR WAKE.

EVEN THE POOR HORSES.

NO NEED FOR SEARCHING. THERE'S NOTHING HERE THAT STILL BREATHES.





NOTHING
BUT ME.

THE STYGIANS
NEVER LEFT
SURVIVORS.

NOT
EVEN
ONE.

UNTIL THE MERCENARY
CONAN CAME TO
THE DESERTS OF THE
GREAT RED WASTE.



TELL ME AGAIN.

WHEN THEY FOUND HIM AFTER THE MASSACRE, HE WAS COVERED IN ENOUGH BLOOD TO DROWN MOST MEN.

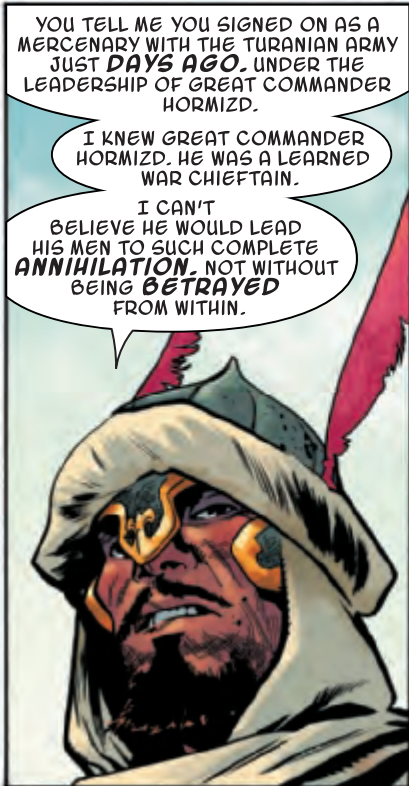


AND SURPRISINGLY LITTLE OF IT WAS HIS.

TRUE THIS TIME. IT STILL SOUNDS FAR TOO UNBELIEVABLE.

I ALWAYS SPEAK TRUE.

AND A MAN WHO CAN'T BELIEVE THE UNBELIEVABLE HASN'T SEEN MUCH OF THIS WORLD.



YOU TELL ME YOU SIGNED ON AS A MERCENARY WITH THE TURANIAN ARMY JUST DAYS AGO. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GREAT COMMANDER HORMIZD.

I KNEW GREAT COMMANDER HORMIZD. HE WAS A LEARNED WAR CHIEFTAIN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WOULD LEAD HIS MEN TO SUCH COMPLETE ANNIHILATION. NOT WITHOUT BEING BETRAYED FROM WITHIN.



IT WAS ONLY HIS WITS THAT BETRAYED HIM.

HE HAD US CHASE A SMALL BAND OF FLEEING STYGIANS INTO THIS RAVINE. A MORE OBVIOUS PLACE FOR AN AMBUSH YOU COULD NEVER FIND.

YES, SO YOU SAY, CONAN. AND YET... HERE YOU ARE.




HOW EXACTLY IS IT THAT YOU CAME TO BE THE ONLY SURVIVOR? I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD HAVE ME BELIEVE IT WAS LUCK.

A MAN MAKES HIS OWN LUCK. AND I MADE MINE HERE.



"WITH THE
STEEL IN
MY HAND.

"IF YOU CAN'T LOOK
AROUND AND TELL THAT WITH
YOUR OWN EYES, GREAT
COMMANDER BAHRAM..."



...THEN I IMAGINE YOU'RE
ABOUT AS LEARNED A
WAR LEADER AS YOUR
FRIEND HORMIZD WHO'S
OVER THERE ON
THE FIRE.