



# DARKSIDERS™ II

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IF ANYONE BORN  
TO THE KINGDOM  
OF MAN COULD SEE  
THIS, THEY WOULD  
CALL IT HEAVEN.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF  
THE FIRST KINGDOM, IT  
IS CALLED THE WHITE  
CITY. WHERE ANGELS  
AND SERAPHIM DWELL.

AND LIKE  
ANY CITY...

...IT HAS ITS  
BACK ALLEYS.





I AM KNOWN AS DEATH.  
THE REAPER OF SOULS.

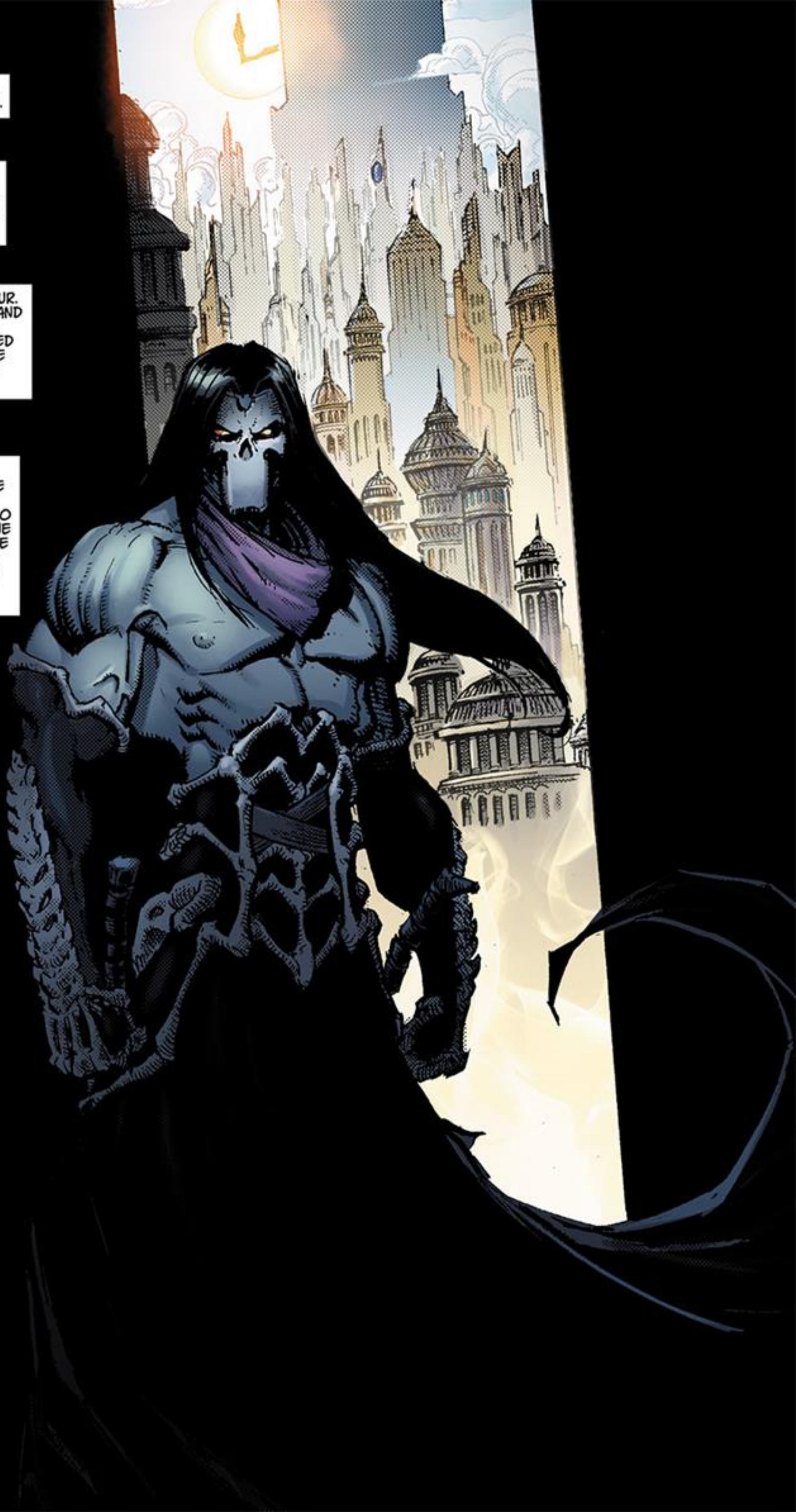
I AM A NEPHILIM.  
A RACE NEARLY AS  
ANCIENT AS ANGEL AND  
DEMON. NO MORE ONE  
THAN THE OTHER.

I AM ONE OF THE FOUR.  
I AND MY BROTHERS AND  
SISTER, WAR, STRIFE  
AND FURY, HAVE HELPED  
MAINTAIN THE BALANCE  
OF POWER BETWEEN  
HEAVEN AND HELL.

CHARGED BY THE  
CHARRED COUNCIL, WE  
WAIT PATIENTLY FOR  
THE SEVENTH SEAL TO  
BE BROKEN. AFTER, WE  
WILL BRING ABOUT THE  
APOCALYPSE, WHEN  
THE ERA OF MAN WILL  
END IN BLOOD AND  
DESTRUCTION.

UNTIL THEN...

...THERE ARE  
OTHER TASKS  
AT HAND.







ABADDON.

LEADER OF THE  
WHITE CITY'S  
LEGIONS -- THE  
HELLGUARD.

HE MAY HAVE  
WINGS, BUT HE  
IS NO ANGEL.







NOT SURE WHY HE IS TRYING TO KILL ME.



AFTER ALL...



...HE DID INVITE ME TO MEET HIM HERE.

YOUR MANNER OF GREETING LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.





I NEEDED  
TO KNOW IF YOUR  
REPUTATION AS A  
WARRIOR WAS AN  
EXAGGERATION.



GIVEN  
THAT MY BLADE  
IS POISED TO  
SEPARATE YOU FROM  
YOUR MANHOOD, I  
FEAR THAT MAY BE  
THE CASE.

IF YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
SOMETHING TO  
FEAR... HOW ABOUT  
TRYING TO FLY  
WITH ONE  
WING?







YOU  
RISK MUCH  
TO PARLAY.

YOU  
BELIEVE I  
SHOULD FEAR  
YOU?



ONLY A FOOL  
WOULD FACE ME  
WITHOUT FEAR.

DO YOU  
CONSIDER  
YOURSELF A  
FOOL?



WHY  
DID YOU SUMMON  
ME, ABADDON? WHAT  
BUSINESS DOES AN  
ANGEL HAVE WITH A  
HORSEMAN?

THIS  
BUSINESS DOES  
NOT CONCERN AN  
ANGEL. BUT A  
DEMON.

A FEARSOME  
CREATURE, SOAKED IN  
THE BLOOD OF MYRIAD  
SOULS. IT HAS ESCAPED  
TO THE THIRD KINGDOM.  
THE HUMANS HAVE NO  
DEFENSE AGAINST SUCH  
A GROTESQUE.

WHAT DOES  
THIS CREATURE  
HAVE TO DO  
WITH ME?



I WANT  
YOU TO  
KILL IT.





YOU  
COMMAND AN  
ARMY. THE FINEST  
SOLDIERS IN ALL  
THE WHITE  
CITY.

ARE THEY  
NOT UP TO  
THE TASK?



NO.





I CANNOT RIDE  
TO EARTH WITHOUT  
SANCTION.

FROM THE  
WHISPERS I HAVE  
HEARD, YOU WOULD NOT  
BE THE *FIRST* HORSEMAN  
TO SLIP THE COUNCIL'S  
REINS.



YOU ARE A  
FOOL, ABADDON.  
GIVE ME A SINGLE  
REASON I WOULD  
ACCEPT THIS  
REQUEST.



TO PROVE  
YOUR STRENGTH  
AND SKILL IN  
COMBAT AGAINST  
A FEARSOME  
OPPONENT.



YOU  
CONFUSE ME  
WITH MY BROTHER,  
WAR. I DO NOT  
SEEK COMBAT  
FOR COMBAT'S  
SAKE.



DO  
THIS TASK  
AND I WILL BE  
INDEBTED TO  
YOU.

THAT  
*WOULD* BE A  
REASON...

...IF I  
VALUED YOUR  
PATRONAGE.





THEN VALUE  
THE KINGDOM  
OF MAN.



THE  
DEMON WILL FEED  
ON THE HUMAN ANIMAL  
UNTIL IT IS GORGED WITH  
THEIR WORLD ENTIRE.  
SLAKED ONLY BY THEIR  
EXTERMINATION.

WAITING  
TO FOMENT THE  
APOCALYPSE IS WHAT  
GIVES YOUR EXISTENCE  
MEANING, DEATH. CAN YOU  
BRING ARMAGEDDON TO  
AN EARTH ALREADY  
DESTROYED?



I HAVE NO  
SANCTION TO VISIT  
EARTH. MY SCYTHE  
WOULD BE  
POWERLESS.

THERE ARE  
OTHER WAYS. VISIT  
VULGRIM--A PURVEYOR  
IN THE IMPOSSIBLE.  
HE WILL PROVIDE  
THE NECESSARY  
TOOL...

...FOR  
A PRICE.



VERY  
WELL.


BUT  
TAKE CARE,  
ABADDON. IF  
I SMELL ANY  
TREACHERY  
ON YOUR  
PART...











I AM AT THE EDGE OF  
FOREVER. THE FIRST  
STEP ON MY QUEST.

THE ANGEL ABADDON  
HAS ASKED ME TO SLAY  
A ROGUE DEMON LET  
LOOSE UPON EARTH.

I HAVE AGREED TO  
SMITE THE BEAST.



AS A HORSEMAN OF  
THE APOCALYPSE, MY  
VERY EXISTENCE  
STANDS FOR BALANCE.



THE BALANCE  
BETWEEN GOOD  
AND EVIL.



BETWEEN  
DARKNESS  
AND LIGHT.



THIS CREATURE  
HAS UPSET THAT  
BALANCE.



BALANCE WILL  
BE RESTORED.





THE RIVER STYX.



IN THE LANGUAGE  
OF THE GREEKS  
ON EARTH, STYX  
TRANSLATES AS  
"HATE."

LIKE MYSELF, IT  
HAS WELL EARNED  
ITS APPELLATION.



THE RIVER STYX CONTAINS  
WRATHFUL SOULS LOST  
BETWEEN THE THREE  
KINGDOMS AND THE WELL  
OF SOULS.



HERE THEY DROWN  
IN THEIR OWN  
ANGER AND BILE.  
FOR ALL ETERNITY.

I AM REPULSED BY  
THEIR STENCH.

BUT IT IS A  
NECESSARY EVIL...








THIS MISSION TO EARTH HAS NOT BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE CHARRED COUNCIL.

MY WEAPON -- MY SCYTHE -- MUST HAVE LEAVE TO ACT.



I AM THEREFORE FORCED TO SEEK OUT AN ALTERNATIVE BLADE WITH WHICH TO SEND THIS DEMON BACK TO HELL.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO VULGRIM.



A DEMON MERCHANT SERVING THE BLACK MARKETS OF THE UNDERWORLD.

FROM HIM, I COULD OBTAIN THE NECESSARY TOOL.



AN EXOTIC REQUEST, HORSEMAN.



FOR SUCH AN EXOTIC WEAPON...



... I WILL REQUIRE AN EXOTIC FEE.





WHY VULGRIM  
WOULD REQUIRE  
SUCH A... PRIZE...  
I DO NOT KNOW.

BUT HE SHALL  
HAVE IT.



THE LOST SOULS  
RELEASE ME.



IT IS NOT ME THEY  
RUN FROM. WHAT  
MORE CAN THEY  
FEAR FROM DEATH  
ITSELF...



I WOULD ASK FROM WHAT IN  
ETERNITY THEY HAVE TO  
SHIRK. BUT I ALREADY KNOW  
THE ANSWER. IT IS WHY I  
PLUNGED MY ARM IN STYX.




SO IT  
COULD GET  
MY SCENT.



THE LEVIATHAN.







ONE OF MANY WHO  
BATHE IN THE AGONY  
OF THE REVENANT.



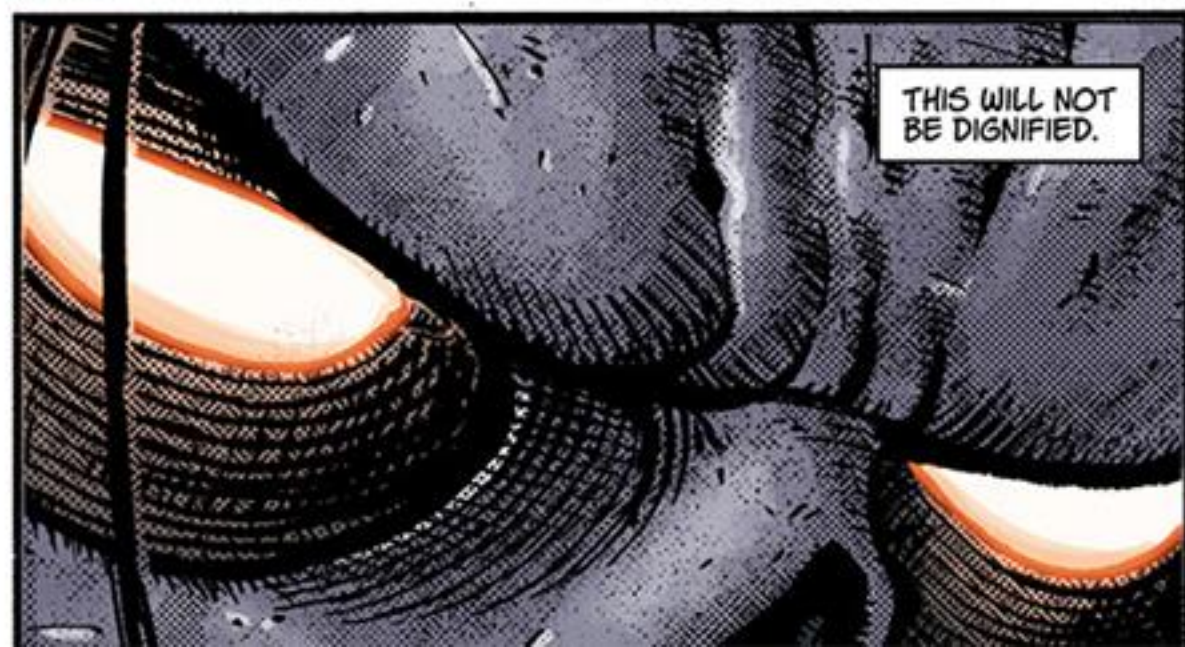


THIS MUST BE THE WAY. MY  
SCYTHE WILL NOT STAND TRUE  
ON EARTH WITHOUT LEAVE OF  
THE COUNCIL. IN EXCHANGE FOR  
A WEAPON I CAN UTILIZE...

...VULGRIM HAS  
ASKED FOR THE  
NEAR IMPOSSIBLE.

THE CREATURE'S  
TONGUE.

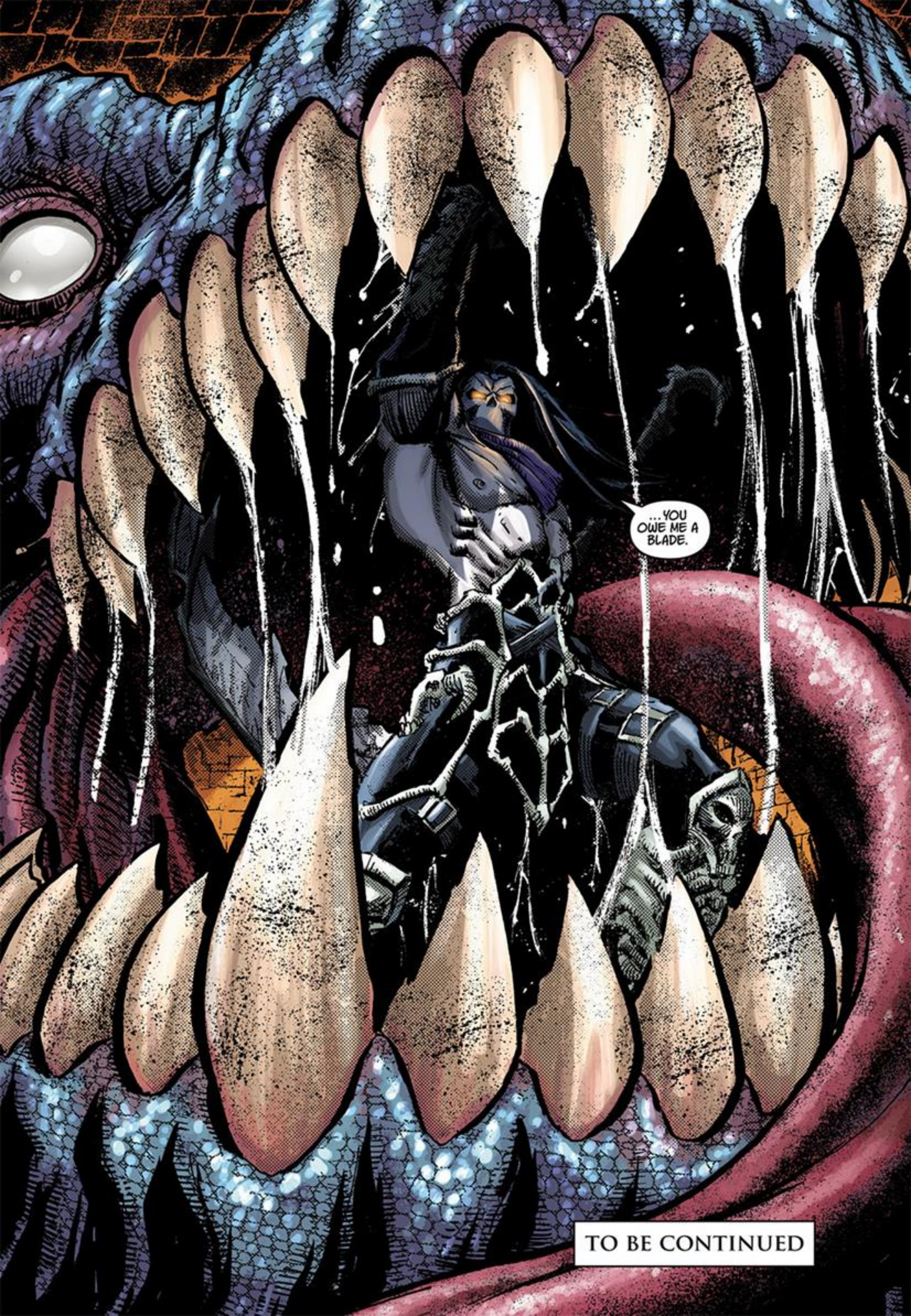
THIS WILL NOT  
BE DIGNIFIED.











... YOU  
OWE ME A  
BLADE.

TO BE CONTINUED



# DARK HORSE DIGITAL

## COMICS ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.



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