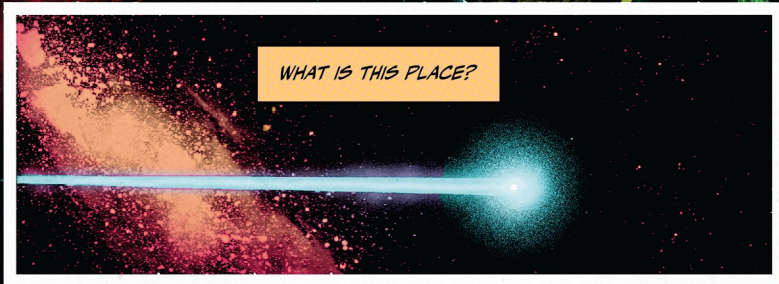




Once an ordinary working-class everyman, Sam Brausam concocted a secret and **HIGHLY COMBUSTIBLE** fuel known as **COBALTUM** that burns the brightest--and hottest--of azure hues! Donning his extraordinary **MERCURROTANK** and **WRIST-JETS**, Sam transforms himself into the virtuous **BLUE FLAME**, committed to defending the cosmos with blasts of sapph-FIRE from his own two hands!

Join the **BLUE FLAME**'s odyssey for answers that, indeed, lie at the **MYSTERIOUS CENTER OF OUR VERY UNIVERSE!**



WHAT IS THIS PLACE?



I THINK I'M ALL ALONE OUT HERE.



HOW DID I GET HERE?

HOW DO I GET BACK?

THIS IS AN UNKNOWN SECTOR.

COMPLETELY UNEXPLORED.

I'M WAY BEYOND THE DEMARCATION.





UNCHARTED CELESTIAL BODY.  
ACCEPTABLE ATMOSPHERE.  
GRAVITATIONAL PULL, SEDIMENT.

INSTRUMENTS IN MY NAV-SUIT  
ARE DETECTING A HOMING  
BEACON .00000241 PARSECS  
AHEAD ALONG MY Z-AXIS.



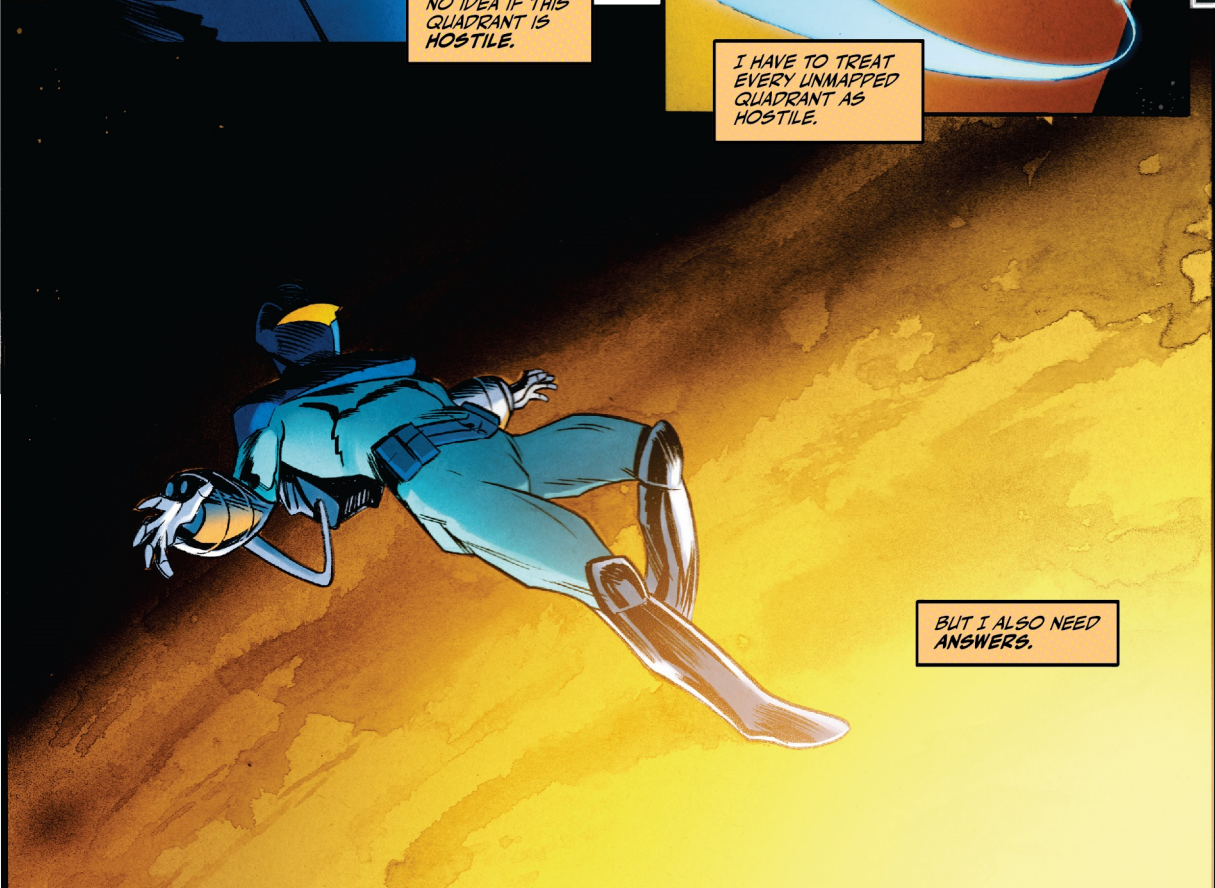
HMMM.



NO IDEA IF THIS  
QUADRANT IS  
HOSTILE.



I HAVE TO TREAT  
EVERY UNMAPPED  
QUADRANT AS  
HOSTILE.

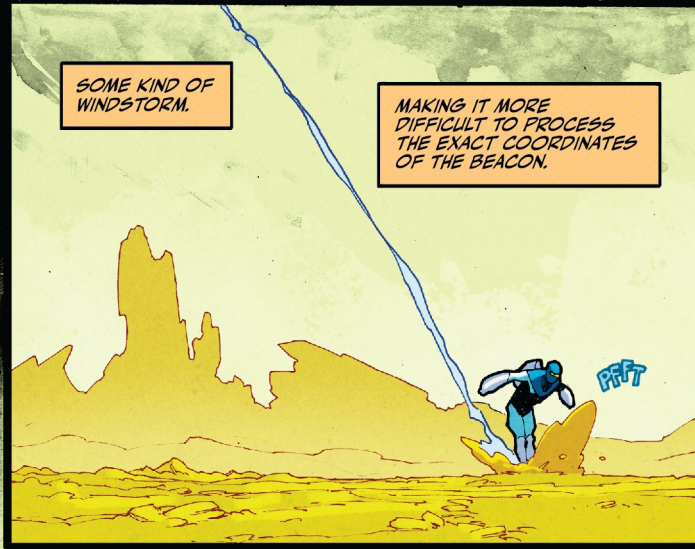
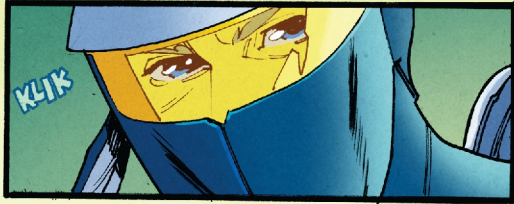


BUT I ALSO NEED  
ANSWERS.



SOME KIND OF  
WINDSTORM.

MAKING IT MORE  
DIFFICULT TO PROCESS  
THE EXACT COORDINATES  
OF THE BEACON.



LOOK AT THAT.  
BEAUTIFUL. LIKE THE  
BEST FLORIDA BEACH  
SANDCASTLE I'VE EVER  
SEEN. DEFINITELY AN  
ADVANCED INTELLIGENCE.



AND HERE THEY COME.



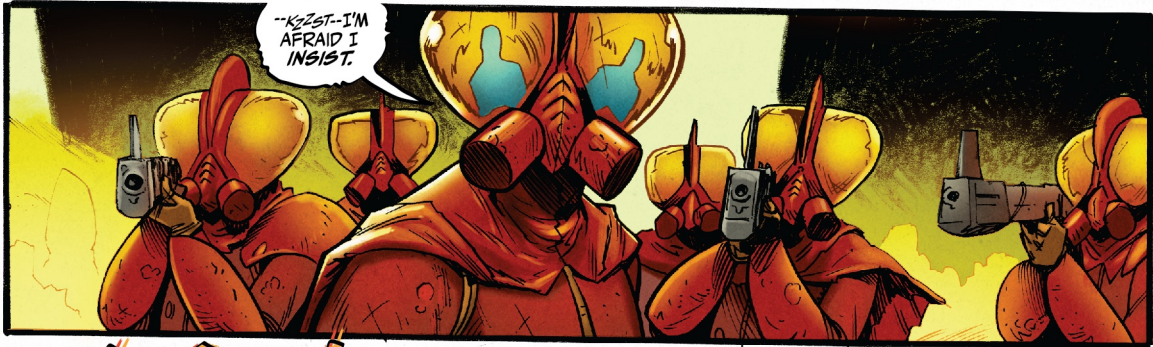


...//TRANSLATING//  
--KZZST--EAN YOU NO HARM. WE'RE UNDER ORDERS TO ACCOMPANY YOU.

WHERE TO?

--KZZST--YOU'RE BEING CONSCRIPTED INTO COMPULSORY SERVICE.

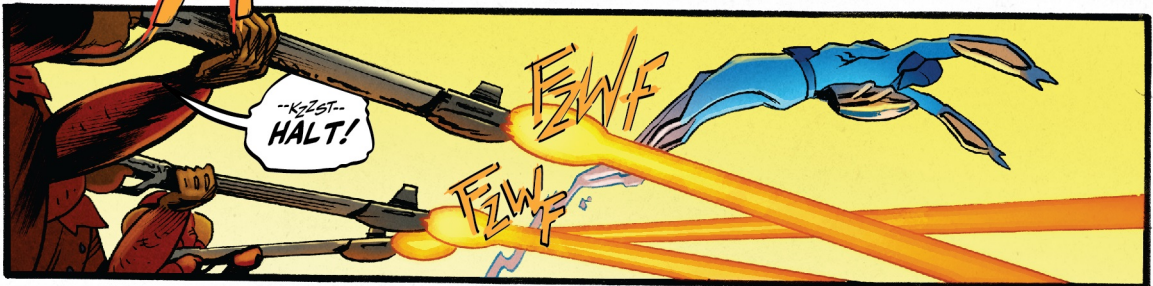
LIKE HELL I AM.



--KZZST--I'M AFRAID I INSIST.



SORRY, FELLAS, I'M JUST VISITING.



--KZZST-- HALT!

FWWF  
FWWF



--KZZST--THIS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO YOUR SECTOR! WE'RE USING NON-LETHAL FORCE!



--KZZST--BUT I'M CERTAIN THIS WOULD STILL HURT VERY MUCH.



THIS STRUCTURE IS FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN THE EXTERIOR SUGGESTS.

--KZZT--  
I KNOW YOU LET US TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY.

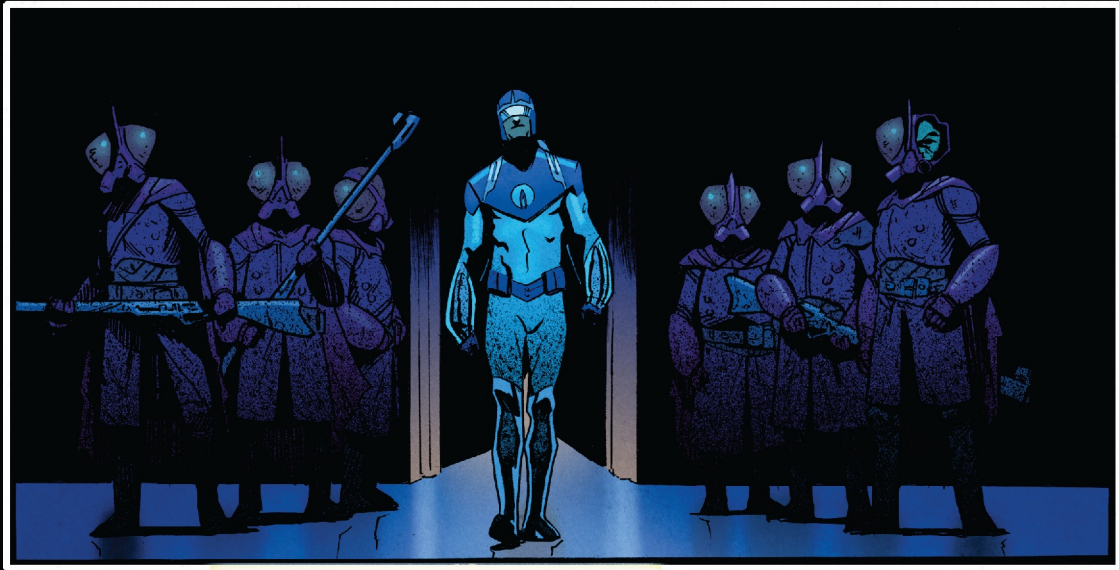
CORRECT. I COULD'VE KILLED YOU. BUT I'M CURIOUS.

A WISE CHOICE.

THIS IS AT LEAST A TYPE III CIVILIZATION.

PROBABLY HIGHER.





HELLO?

