

An adventure for
CHAMPIONS

SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH



ALLEN THOMAS

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An Adventure For *Champions*

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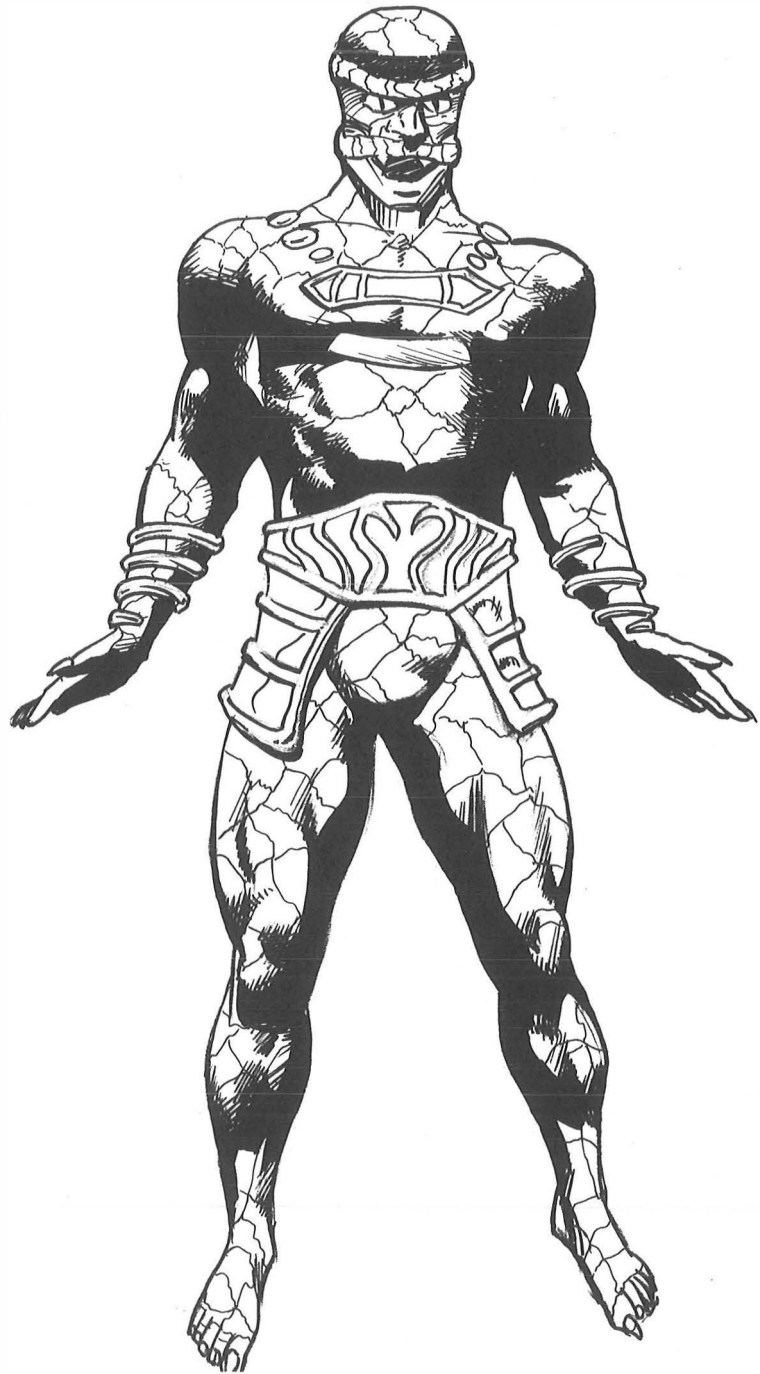
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A WORD OR TWO OF APPRECIATION

Dedication: We'd like to dedicate this book to
Bruce Harlick, ex-*HERO System* Line Developer,
who first created King Cobra and thus inspired all
the devilry you'll find herein. Thanks, Bruce!



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INTRODUCTION



"Soon, dear Naga, we will be brethren not only in spirit, but body also..."

Doctor Timothy Blank looked down admiringly at the king cobra that slithered across his workbench. He could see the dried skin flaking from its glistening scales. The cobra reared up, its hood flaring, and gently nudged Blank's hand.

"Grown so large already... soon you must join your fellows in the jungle..." He petted the serpent, scraping away the dried skin.

He turned away from the cobra. From the workbench he took up a beaker holding a reddish fluid. He put it to his lips, tilted back his head, and opened his mouth, allowing the thick fluid to ooze past his teeth and fill his mouth with its acrid taste. Soon he could feel the heat of it suffusing his body — a slow, painful burn that filled him with pleasure rather than pain. He knew the fluid was altering his cells, and the DNA at the heart of those cells. He knew the burn was just the result of a chemical change as the fluid flowed through his body and inserted his greatest discovery — the Coil Gene — into his genome. He

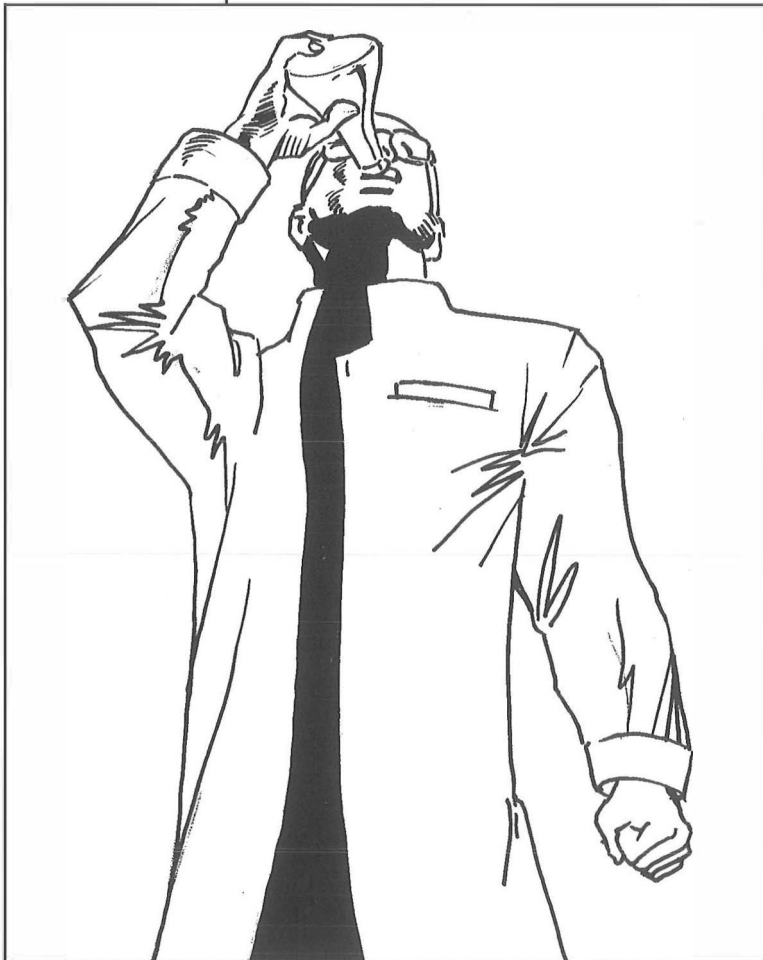
knew beyond the burning lay his true desire.

His body began to twitch uncontrollably; he fell to floor. Painfully he crawled to the wall. His whole body convulsed, but the satisfied smile never left his lips. When he reached the wall, he hit a button on a control panel. A barrier of plexiglass slid into place. He hit another button. The room exploded with radiation. He felt the radiation burn through his skin to kill the few cells that repulsed the Coil Gene, searing away what little remained of his humanity.

The radiation stopped; the barrier retracted into the wall. Blank stood up. Now he had no need to admire Naga; his own self was worthy of such attention. Scales covered his arms, and a livid glow emanated from his black-taloned hands. He opened his mouth, and a forked tongue darted across scaly lips and long, glistening fangs. He laughed, an ominous and malevolent hissing.

Naga reared up before him, its mouth open to show its own fangs and its sinuous length dancing.

"Naga... only you bear witness to my birth and rightfully you pay me homage... but soon... soon the world will know of my arrival. And then all humanity will pay homage to King Cobra!"



"... AND YOU WILL STRIKE HIS HEEL!"

One of Dr. Timothy Blank's earliest memories is when he realized his first grade teacher was his inferior. Blank sat in class near the front of the room, staring with disgust at the man who spoke too slowly, who knew too little. Blank understood, almost intuitively, that he was the moronic man's superior. Never one to hold his tongue (even at that young age), he spoke his mind, interrupting the insulting lesson on how to color within the lines.

In no uncertain terms he informed the man of his failings. The teacher disciplined Blank for telling the truth, for stating the obvious, and the indignity Blank felt toward the man became a burning rage — a rage he came to feel toward every other authority figure in his life, from his thesis advisor in graduate school, to the head of the Biology Department at the University of Florida, to the Supreme Serpent of VIPER.

That he, Timothy Blank, should be in charge, should command, should rule all other lesser men was obvious. That few others acknowledged his superiority and right to rule fanned the flames of Blank's burning rage. For wasn't knowledge power? And who possessed more knowledge than he? Who possessed a superior intellect? Most importantly, who possessed a greater right to rule?

A COBRA AMIDST VIPERS...

From within the heart of the insidious organization VIPER, a new evil has arisen... one that wishes to conquer both VIPER and Earth! Can your heroes survive the challenges to come and save humanity from the clutches of **King Cobra** and his minions of **COIL**?

In **Showdown At Snake Gulch**, the heroes receive word that all is not as it seems at a tourist attraction in New Mexico. Investigation uncovers a VIPER Nest where a fiendish plot has been put in place to cripple VIPER and launch a scheme of world conquest.

Clues gathered at Snake Gulch lead the heroes into **The Ophidian Plague**, in which **King Cobra** unleashes a virus that turns people into serpent-men. As they struggle to contain the plague and keep the violent serpent-men from destroying the city, the PCs have to track down the villain who helped **King Cobra** defect from VIPER.

An encounter at the end of Chapter Two starts the events of **In The Coils Of The Cobra**. The heroes chase **King Cobra's** minions through the sewers to the Hothouse, an underground jungle and **King Cobra's** lair. There they must find and confront the master villain and his followers and recover the cure for the plague!

This adventure also includes complete details on **King Cobra**, his superpowered inner circle, and the agents of **COIL** — an all-new master villain and criminal organization!

Stevens'03



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Uses characters from **Champions Universe** and **Conquerors, Killers, And Crooks**. The **VIPER** sourcebook is helpful, but not necessary.

HERO SYSTEM
FIFTH EDITION