

Young Ancient One
Issue #3
"The Mark of the Ancient Ones - Part 3"

by
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YOUNG ANCIENT ONE

"The Mark of the Ancient Ones - Part 3"

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RECAP PAGE

Legends tell of a hero. Part beast. Part man. Attacking from the shadows and striking down the unjust. This is the bTsan Saa, the Spirit Leopard, the defender of the poor and humble villagers of Lang Kah.

Behind every legend is an underlying truth. While the villagers regard this hero as a mystical creature, underneath the mask he is just a man: a doctor's apprentice and husband to...

...Leung Tan knows her husband wears the hero's mask. While the villagers have only awe for him, Leung is ready keep his feet on the ground and his head on straight.

PREVIOUSLY IN YOUNG ANCIENT ONE:

When the chronomancer Sensang uses his time-manipulation sorcery to save the Spirit Leopard's life, he ends up endangering his own.

Sensang bears the mark of the Ancient Ones tattooed on his arm, a mark Leung believes is connected to the disappearance of her mother.

Intrigued by sorcery, indebted to Sensang and wanting to solve the disappearance of Leung's mother, our hero contemplates leaving his village.

Before he can make a move, the demon sorcerer Mahgra invades with his horde of Empty Ones, seeking the Shenpa Phurpa, a mystical dagger that Ancient Ones could use to destroy him.

In a desperate bid to thwart Mahgra, Sensang uses his sorcery to make the Phurpa disappear and in the process seals his own fate. Enraged, Mahgra runs our hero through with his own sword...

PAGE ONE

Panel One - Large panel. Ditkospace: a surreal place of unreality. Strange pathways, like molten rock or slimy tentacles, snake their way through open space. Doorways of different shapes and sizes open up, giving way to alternate dimensions. Rocky plateaus float in mid-air. (NOTE TO ANDY: Go nuts!)

Lying on one such rock formation is the tiny figure of Yao. He wears the tattered remnants of his Spirit Leopard costume, sliced open by Mahgra. The Leopard mask lies nearby, torn and fractured. Yao's hands cover a bloody wound on his abdomen. A pool of blood wells up around him.

Panel Two - Closer on Yao, revealing: His hands actually grip the handle of the Shenpa Phurpa, which is lodged in the bloody wound. His eyes are closed.

Panel Three - Close on Yao's hands around the Phurpa.

Panel Four - Close on Yao's face. His eyes are now wide open. His face has the same look of age and decay as Mahgra's. His mouth is agape with black, spidery legs poking their way out. Something EVIL is inside of him!

PAGE TWO

Panel One - Same shot of Yao's face, except he's back in reality, screaming himself awake.

YAO

(2-1)

AAAAHHHH!

Panel Two - Yao is Dr. Sho's office. Sho is there with him. He sits up on a cot. His torso is wrapped in a bloody bandage.

YAO

(2-2)

Leung! Sensang!

SHO

(2-3)

Easy.

(2-4 - separate)

You're wounded.

Panel Three - Past Pabu's hand, holding the Spirit Leopard mask, to Yao and Sho. Yao stands but steadies himself on Sho.

YAO

(2-5)

* Ungh *

(2-6 - separate)

Dr. Sho. Where --

PABU

(2-7)

-- So it was **you** all along.

Panel Four - Yao and Pabu look at each other with a fresh perspective. The portly lawman looks stricken, lost, like we haven't seen him before. Yao feels guilty.

YAO
(2-8)
Pabu
(2-9 - separate)
I'm sorry.

PABU
(2-10)
There were so many of them.
(2-11 - separate)
They beat us so **easily**. We ran.

Panel Five - Yao starts to get alarmed. Sho tries to calm him.

YAO
(2-12)
Leung! Where is Leung?
(2-13 - separate)
Where is my wife?!

SHO
(2-14)
That demon took **all** the young women.

Panel Six - Yao is angry with Pabu, who just looks defeated. Sho intervenes, placing a hand on Yao's shoulder: both comfort and restraint.

YAO
(2-15)
Why didn't you **stop** them?!

SHO
(2-16)
They tried.
(2-17 - separate)
Our lawman were not prepared for this. Nobody was.
(2-18 - separate)
Not even you.

Panel Seven - Yao calms a bit, looking more resolved.

YAO
(2-19)
I have to find them.

PABU
 (2-20)
 Sogma followed.
 (2-21 - separate)
 He's not much of a fighter, but
 he's **fast**.

PAGE THREE

Panel One - In the city square Yao, Sho and Pabu stand over a small mound of black debris, Sensang's remains.

CAPTION
 (3-1)
 And what of old Sensang?

SHO
 (3-2)
 I have asked that nobody touch this
 until I can be SURE it is safe.

YAO
 (3-3)
 I guess I was hoping the old guy
 had **one more** trick up his sleeve.

Panel Two - As if on cue, a glowing ball of energy appears just above their heads.

Panel Three - In the heart of the energy sphere, the Shenpa Phurpa materializes.

Panel Four - Yao crouches and examines the Phurpa as it drops to the ground and sticks, standing straight up.

SHO
 (3-4)
 How is this -- ?

YAO
 (3-5)
 -- sorcery. Sensang could control
time.
 (3-6 - separate)
 He must have sent it forward.

Panel Five - Yao holds the Phurpa. The three men study it.

YAO
 (3-7)
 The demon was **afraid** of this.
 (3-8 - separate)
 (MORE)

YAO(cont'd)

Sensang told me it could **destroy**
Mahgra.

PABU

(3-9)

Then we drive it **straight** into his
heart.

YAO

(3-10)

No. Sensang said that only someone
trained could --

SOGMA

(3-11 o.p.)

-- Pabu! I found them!

Panel Six - Yao, Sho and Pabu gather round Sogma who stands
hunched over, hands on knees, mouth open panting for breath.

SOGMA

(3-12)

Huff

(3-13 - separate)

Huff

(3-14 - separate)

Pabu. Dr. Sho.

(3-15 - separate)

I guess I should call **you** Spirit
Leopard.

YAO

(3-16)

Sogma, where is Leung?

PAGE FOUR

Panel One - Same. Sogma, Pabu and Yao.

SOGMA

(4-1)

I found them. I followed them.

PABU

(4-2)

You were stealthy?

SOGMA

(4-3)

I was stealthy.

(4-4 - separate)

There's a **pagoda**, in the **forest**.

(MORE)

SOGMA(cont'd)
I followed them there. I **ran** all
the way back.

Panel Two - Same. Yao contemplates the Phurpa.

YAO
(4-5)
Draw me a map. **I'm** going there.

PABU
(4-6)
We're going with you.

YAO
(4-7)
I don't think so, **guys**. I've got
this.

Panel Three - Sogma and Pabu look stern.

SOGMA
(4-8)
Wait a minute.

PABU
(4-9)
This is **our** town too.

SOGMA
(4-10)
These are **our** mothers, **our**
girlfriends...

PABU
(4-11 - smaller - aside)
You've got a girlfriend?

SOGMA
(4-12 - smaller - aside)
I thought you had one.

Panel Four - Pabu unsheathes a long Katana sword. Dr. Sho,
trying to avoid the erratic blade stumbles into Sogma.

PABU
(4-13)
Anyway!
(4-14 - separate)
We're **ready** for this.

YAO
(4-15)
Oh, man. You are so **not** ready for
this.

Panel Five - Yao is resigned to the idea.

YAO

(4-16)

Alright.

(4-17 - separate)

First of all, **lose** that **blade**. It's **too** long for you.

(4-18 - separate)

Check the dead zombies...

Panel Six - Yao looks over a pile of swords, hammers, chains and other weapons. Yao holds a short Tanto sword, about one foot long. He holds it like a knife (thumb over the top of the handle with the blade pointing down toward Earth) and addresses Sogma.

CAPTION

(4-19)

...a lot of **them** were carrying.
Round up their weapons.

YAO

(4-20)

Sogma, it's **Earth** technique for you.

PAGE FIVE

Panel One - Yao demonstrates technique with the tanto, swiping with his right hand across his body as if throwing a roundhouse punch and twisting his body. The tanto blade leads out running at about a 45 degree angle from his forearm. Sogma mirrors Yao's movements with his own.

YAO

(5-1)

Snap the blade in mid swing.

(5-2 - separate)

You'll easily remove a zombie's head with this strike.

Panel Two - Yao hands his Tanto to Sogma, giving him two weapons. Sogma beams with pride.

YAO

(5-3)

Hold them both and you'll have the **talons** of an Eagle.

Panel Three - Yao holds a longer weapon, a wakizashi sword, about two feet long, shorter than a katana but longer than the tanto. This one he holds blade pointing up, towards the sky.

YAO

(5-4)

Pabu, you and I are already close to earth so our technique is **sky**.

Panel Four - Yao demonstrates a two handed technique with the wakizashi, chopping across. Pabu mimics him.

YAO

(5-5)

Better for us to use this shorter blade for indoor fighting.

Panel Five - Yao watches as the two men practice.

YAO

(5-6)

Keep practicing. You saw what Mahgra did to **me**. If we fail, we won't **get** another chance.

PAGE SIX

Panel One - Mahgra in his harem room. His assortment zombie and captive, live women are off by the bed. A row of Lang Kah women are lined up, in chains. They all bow their heads except for Leung, who looks like she's spoiling for a fight.

MAHGRA

(6-1)

Ladies. Welcome to your new home. We're going to have **so** much fun together.

Panel Two - He walks up close to one of the bowed maidens, puts his hands on her arms, holding her by the outsides of her shoulders. Leung looks over with disgust.

MAHGRA

(6-2)

Ah...

(6-3 - separate)

...subservient. I **like** that.

LEUNG

(6-4)

Don't bow to that **pig**.

MAHGRA

(6-5)

Yes. No need to be so formal.

Panel Three - Mahgra picks the girl up and gives her a big, open-mouth kiss. The grey mist snakes in and out, from between their locked lips, from the girl's nostrils, ears and eyes. Leung struggles against her own bonds.

LEUNG

(6-6 - O.P.)

Leave her **alone!** Let her go!

Panel Four - Close on the girl, who is now zombified, eyes blank white. She grins an evil, empty grin.

MAHGRA

(6-7)

Oh, but I think **she** likes it.

GIRL

(6-8)

Ssssssss....

Panel Five - Close on Leung as she rages.

LEUNG

(6-9)

You sick --!

(6-10 - separate)

What did you do?!

Panel Six - Mahgra comes face to face with Leung.

MAHGRA

(6-11)

She's one of my Empty Ones now. Her body -- my influence. Such fun.

LEUNG

(6-12)

Figures. You would be into self-love.

Panel Seven - Mahgra grins.

MAHGRA

(6-13)

Oh, you've got spirit!

(6-14 - separate)

We're going to make quite a couple you and I.

Panel Eight - She spits in his face.

LEUNG

(6-15)

There's no **way** you're doing that to me, creep.

MAHGRA

(6-16)

No, you're **much** too precious.

(6-17 - separate)

And I **don't** think you'd make the transition...

Panel Nine - We see the bimbos again, the living ones in chains look even more empty than the zombies.

MAHGRA

(6-18)

...but that's what **chains** are for, my pet.

PAGE SEVEN

Panel One - Outside Mahgra's lair, Sogma and Pabu approach the two zombie guards.

SOGMA

(7-1)

Hi

PABU

(7-2)

We're lost.

SOGMA

(7-3)

Yeah. And...uh...unarmed.

Panel Two - The zombies come up close to the pair, who start to look a little scared.

PABU

(7-4)

* gulp *

SOGMA

(7-5)

So...zombies, right?

(7-6 - separate)

Is that a good gig?

Panel Three - Close on the zombies as Yao's sword slices through both their necks from behind, in one sweep. One head is falling as the blade makes its way through the other neck.

Panel Four - Pulling back, Sogma and Pabu face Yao as the zombie bodies fall to either side. From the waist down Yao is wearing the Spirit Leopard gear. He's got the tattered remains of the jacket on, with the bandages wrapped around the torso. He's not wearing the mask.

PABU

(7-7)

uck

YAO

(7-8)

Come on...

Panel Five - Inside the pagoda: the close confines a corridor with stone walls. Yao and Pabu face another pair of guards. Pabu holds his at bay. Yao's opponent wears an iron ring round his neck. It's a giant key ring with many keys strung onto it. Yao holds the ring and cocks his sword back, ready to stab the Empty One in the throat.

CAPTION

(7-9)

...plenty more of these inside.

Panel Six - Past Yao, who pulls the key ring free as blood splatters from off panel, to Sogma who slips through a nearby archway.

Panel Seven -At the bottom of a stairwell Sogma shouts up to the others. Yao and Pabu are rushing down the stairs. Yao holds the big key ring.

SOGMA

(7-10)

Down here! I **found** them.

YAO

(7-11)

Leung! Leung!

(7-12 - separate)

Where is she?

PAGE EIGHT

Panel One - Pabu unlocks a cage. Another door is already open. The women of Lang Kah are pouring out of the open cage while many more wait anxiously in the locked ones. One of them talks to Yao.

WOMAN

(8-1)

She is with that -- that demon --

YAO

(8-2)

Is she -- ?

WOMAN

(8-3)

She is alive. She would not **let** the evil one control her.

Panel Two - Close on a worried Yao.

YAO

(8-4 - small - quietly)

Oh Leung.

Panel Three - Yao barks orders as Sogma and Pabu start ushering the prisoners up the stairs. In the foreground a hand reaches out from one of the cages.

YAO

(8-5 - separate)

OK. Sogma. Pabu. Get them back to Lang Kah.

(8-6 - separate)

I'm going --

TIGER

(8-7 - O.P - From the hand)

Wait!

Panel Four - Yao finds Tiger, Chau and the remaining tax collectors in the cage. Tiger is bruised from his beating last issue.

YAO

(8-8)

Ghost Tiger!

CHAU

(8-9)

Let us out!

TIGER

(8-10)

Sniff. Sniff

(8-11 - separate)

You are the **Spirit** Leopard. **Free** us. We can help you.

Panel Five - Close on Yao's eyes.

YAO
(8-12)
Why should I trust you?

Panel Six - Close on Tiger's eyes

TIGER
(8-13)
You have my word --
(8-14 - separate)
-- of **honor**.

YAO
(8-15 - O.P.)
Let them out.

Panel Seven - Tiger, Chau and company exit the cages as Yao leads them out of the prison area.

TIGER
(8-16)
So is it fight or flight?

YAO
(8-17)
Fight.
(8-18 - separate)
He's got my **wife** up there.
(8-19 - separate)
Definitely, fight.

Panel Eight - Yao shows the Phurpa to Tiger and Chau. Chau seems to take a special interest.

TIGER
(8-20)
He is dangerous.

YAO
(8-21)
I've got **this**: the **Shenpa Phurpa**.
(8-22 - separate)
Special made to **kill** body-snatching, perv sorcerers **dead**.

PAGE NINE

Panel One - The group, lead by Yao, Tiger, Chau, Sogma and Pabu comes to a T-intersection in the corridors. A horde of zombies press in from one direction but it's clear sailing in the other. Yao and Tiger engage the Empty Ones.

YAO

(9-1)

Sogma. Pabu, Get them **out** of here.

(9-2 - separate)

We'll hold these freaks.

Panel Two - Past Yao hacking away with his sword, to the open corridor, where Pabu ushers the women through. Sogma faces the combat, ready to help, but filled with anxiety.

SOGMA

(9-3)

Y-y-you need any --

YAO

(9-4)

GO!

Panel Three - Tiger pushes a zombie down with his foot, holds a second zombie by the throat with his left hand and runs the third through the neck with a knife in his right.

TIGER

(9-5)

RAARRRRHHH!

Panel Four - At the intersection Sogma follows the women up the clear passage.

Panel Five - Same shot: Chau peeks around the T-corner of the intersection as Sogma and company recede. He's up to no good, this one.

PAGE TEN

Panel One - Sogma and Pabu lead the troop of women out of the pagoda into the clearing in front where they find they're surrounded by Mahgra's minions.

SOGMA

(10-1)

* gulp *

PABU

(10-2)

Spirit Leopard?

Panel Two - Close on Pabu, who finds bravery.

SOGMA

(10-3 - O.P.)

We left him back **there**.

PABU
(10-4)
We'll have to be the Spirit
Leopards tonight, Sogma.

Panel Three - Pabu give the two hand slash he learned earlier, and relives a zombie of his head.

SOUND EFFECT
(10-5)
CHOP

Panel Four - Sogma slashes into a zombie using the exact technique that Yao taught him. The zombie's head goes flying.

SOUND EFFECT
(10-6)
SLICE

Panel Five - The pair regroup, back to back, standing between the prisoners and the zombies.

PABU
(10-7)
It works!

SOGMA
(10-8)
Ladies, head out the forest path
towards the road. We'll be **right**
behind you.

Panel Six - Our guys face the zombies, brimming with confidence. Pabu lets out a primal battle cry.

SOGMA
(10-9)
Now. **Who** wants some?!

PABU
(10-10)
YAAAHHHHHHH!!

PAGE ELEVEN

Panel One - Tiger holds a zombie from behind and cuts its throat with a large knife.

TIGER
(11-1)
I miss my claw.

YAO

(11-2)

Yeah. Sorry.

(11-3 - separate)

I wasn't into the whole "kill the Spirit Leopard" vibe you were throwing.

Panel Two - They look around the corridor, empty save for the two of them and the zombie corpses. Yao looks around, confused.

TIGER

(11-4)

I had orders to follow.

YAO

(11-5)

Hey. Where's Chau? Did they get him?

TIGER

(11-6)

Somehow...

Panel Three - Chau sneaks down a dark corridor.

CAPTION

(11-7)

...I think not.

Panel Four - A hand reaches out and grabs him by the neck.

MAHGRA

(11-8)

You and your friends **chopping** up my minions...

(11-9 - separate)

Gives me a **headache**.

CHAU

(11-10)

N-no. Wait! Not me.

(11-11 separate)

The Spirit Leopard

MAHGRA

(11-12)

So the little cat hero has nine lives.

Panel Five - Same. Mahgra holds Chau.

CHAU
(11-13)
P-Please, let me help you.

MAHGRA
(11-14)
You help me?

Panel Six - Same. Chau pleads.

CHAU
(11-15)
We'll help each other. With your
powers we could have an **empire**. I
could be a **king**.

MAHGRA
(11-16)
And what's in it for **me**?

Panel Seven - Same. Chau pleads.

CHAU
(11-17)
I know things.
(11-18 - separate)
The hero has a special weapon
designed to kill you.

Panel Eight - Close on Mahgra

MAHGRA
(11-19)
The Shenpa Phurpa.

CHAU
(11-20 - o.p.)
That's it...

PAGE TWELVE

Panel One - Yao and Tiger enter Mahgra's pleasuredrome. All the harem is here, living and unliving. Mahgra sits on his bed. He holds a chain which leads to Leung, in a manacled collar. Yao has the Phurpa behind him tucked into his belt.

CAPTION
(12-1)
...but **you've** got something **he**
wants too.

MAHGRA

(12-2)

Please, come in. I've been expecting you.

YAO

(12-3)

Let the girl go.

Panel Two - Mahgra grins with evil spite. Leung looks frightened.

MAHGRA

(12-4)

"The girl"?

(12-5 - separate)

Don't you mean, "my wife?"

Panel Three - Yao looks worried. Tiger squints and scans the room as one who smells a rat.

MAHGRA

(12-6 - O.P. Connected)

Now, we both have something the **other** wants.

Panel Four - Tiger looks off to the side and sees Chau sneaking out of a side entrance.

Panel Five - Past Mahgra on Yao who produces the Phurpa. Tiger has disappeared.

YAO

(12-7)

Let her go. When she's outside and safe I'll **hand** over the Phurpa.

MAHGRA

(12-8)

I don't know what gives me a bigger **headache**: losing my minions...

(12-9 - separate)

...or your pathetic **power** plays.

Panel Six - Abruptly, Mahgra snatches up Leung. She screams. He opens wide. The grey mist emerges.

SOUND EFFECT

(12-10)

EEEEEE!

YAO
 (12-11 - O.P.)
 Noooooo!

PAGE THIRTEEN

Panel One - Yao throws a drop kick and knocks Mahgra aside. Leung falls away, eyes closed, limp.

Panel Two - Yao cradles Leung, who remains still.

YAO
 (13-1)
 Oh no.
 (13-2 - separate)
 No. no. no.
 (13-3 - separate)
 Leung.

Panel Three - Yao rages at Mahgra, who is on his feet.

YAO
 (13-4)
 Damn you, **Mahgra**!

MAHGRA
 (13-5)
 That's what **happens** when they resist.

Panel Four - Yao tucks the Phurpa back into his belt.

YAO
 (13-6)
 Why did you have to harm **her**?
 (13-7 - separate)
 Why not just **wave** your hands and defeat me, like you did in Lang Kah?
 (13-8 - separate)
 The Phurpa shields me from your power, doesn't it?

MAHGRA
 (13-9)
 You **are** a quick study...

Panel Five - The hulking Mahgra strikes a kung fu challenge pose.

MAHGRA

(13-10)

...but do you really think I need
sorcery to deal with the likes of
you?

Panel Six - Closer on Yao who draws his sword and responds with his own challenge pose.

YAO

(13-11)

I am the **defender** of Lang Kah. So
long as blood flows in my veins,
you will **not** harm another.

PAGE FOURTEEN

Panel One - Yao makes a two handed chop at Mahgra who easily dodges. The sword impacts the ground with a...

SOUND EFFECT

(14 - 1)

CLANG!

Panel Two - With his back to Yao, Mahgra stomps his foot down on the sword, cracking it in two.

SOUND EFFECT

(14-2)

SNAP!

Panel Three - With the sword-breaking foot planted, Mahgra flattens Yao with a roundhouse sweep of the opposite foot across our hero's face.

PAGE FIFTEEN

Panel One - Chau sneaks down a dark corridor. Looking around nervously.

Panel Two - Tiger melts from out of the shadows.

Panel Three - Close on Chau as a hand grabs him from behind.

Panel Four - Tiger holds Chau's mouth shut and a knife to his throat.

TIGER

(15-1)

I can't let you **dishonor** us again.

Panel Five - Close on Tiger's face, splashed with blood.

PAGE SIXTEEN

Panel One - Mahgra stomps down at Yao who rolls clear.

SOUND EFFECT

(16-1)

THOOM!

Panel Two - Yao kicks Mahgra's knee out from under him.

SOUND EFFECT

(16-2)

KRACK!

Panel Three - Yao, on his feet, plants a roundhouse kick across Mahgra's cheek.

Panel Four - Yao focuses all his chi behind a single punch which sends the sorcerer flying across the room.

PAGE SEVENTEEN

Panel One - With Mahgra beaten, Yao pounces on him, pinning him to the floor. He has the Phurpa in hand, ready for his revenge. The sorcerer laughs triumphantly, knowing Yao is sealing his own fate.

YAO

(17-1)

Now you **pay** for Leung Tan.

MAHGRA

(17-2)

Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Panel Two - Close on Yao's face, filled with tormented rage and hatred.

YAO

(17-3)

Now you **die**!

Panel Three - Yao drives the Phurpa into Mahgra's chest.

Panel Four - The carnomancer's chest opens up revealing the true Mahgra, a black, amorphous demon with spider-like legs and snaking tentacles. Some of the tentacles wrap around Yao's wrists and neck, as if to pull him closer.

Yao's rage builds. He screams.

YAO
 (17-4)
 Noooooooooo!

PAGE EIGHTEEN

Panel One - In the foreground, Leung wakes from where she's been lying. Yao struggles with the Mahgra in the background.

LEUNG
 (18-1 - quietly -- small)
 Husband?
 (18-2 - separate -- shout)
HUSBAND!

Panel Two - Yao is startled but manages a smile, even as the Mahgra demon tears at him, a disgusting appendage inching towards his mouth.

YAO
 (18-3 - open F/X font)
 Leung!

Panel Three - Yao's face goes into a meditative calm. His eyes and mouth are closed. The blackness begins to overwhelm him. Black tendrils pry at his mouth and snake up his nostrils.

Panel Four - Yao is almost lost in the black embrace of the Mahgra.

Panel Five - The blackness recedes from his face as a glow lights it. The glow appears to be coming from within the demon. Eyes closed, Yao is deep in a state of meditative bliss.

Panel Six - Wider we see the glow is actually coming from the Phurpa. The demon seems to be getting sucked into the head of the dagger.

SOUND EFFECT
 (18-4)
 MMMMWWAAAAAHHHHH

PAGE NINETEEN

Panel One - Leung holds the exhausted Yao. He's on the verge of collapse but holds her too, the phurpa still in his hand. The Phurpa's crystal head is now blackened with the Mahgra spirit contained within. Yao has tears streaming down his cheek.

YAO
 (19-1)
 Leung.
 (19-2 - separate)
 I thought I **lost** you.
 (separate)
 I thought I lost **everything**.

PAGE TWENTY

Panel One - Leung supports Yao as they make their way through the corridors.

LEUNG
 (20-1)
 I'm OK.
 YAO
 (20-2)
 But he --
 LEUNG
 (20-3)
 I knew if I resisted I would **die**,
 but if I didn't he would take over
 my **body**.
 (20-4 - separate)
 So I just made room.

Panel Two - Close on Leung.

YAO
 (20-5 - O.P.)
 Huh?
 LEUNG
 (20-6)
 I meditated and went out of body.
 Just like you **taught** me.
 YAO
 (20-7 - O.P.)
 You can do that?
 LEUNG
 (20-8)
 I do it all the **time**.

Panel Three - They exit the pagoda and encounter Sogma and Pabu, who have torches.

SOGMA
 (20-9)
 You're **OK**. Pabu, they're **OK**!

PABU
 (20-10)
 I can **see**.

SOGMA
 (20-11)
 We were coming back to **rescue** you.

Panel Four - Yao and Leung look at each other.

SOGMA
 (20-12 - connected)
 And then burn this place **down**.

YAO
 (20-13)
 Don't let us stop you.

Panel Five - Yao, Leung, Sogma, Pabu, Tiger, the women, the surviving tax collectors: Everyone watches the Pagoda burn.

PAGE TWENTY ONE

Panel One - The gang's all here: Yao, Leung, Sogma, Pabu and Tiger. Sogma and Pabu each have a woman on their arm.

SOGMA'S WOMAN
 (21-1)
 Sogma and Pabu were **awesome**.

PABU'S WOMAN
 (21-2)
 They were cutting down zombie **scum**
 left and right.

SOGMA'S WOMAN
 (21-3)
 You should've seen it.

PABU'S WOMAN
 (21-4)
 should
 (21-5 - separate)
 of
 (21-6 - separate)
 seen it.

Panel Two - Leung and Yao grin. From off panel, Tiger puts a hand on Yao's shoulder.

LEUNG
(21-7)
I'm sorry I missed **that**.

Panel Three - Tiger pulls Yao aside.

TIGER
(21-8)
You destroyed a great evil today.

YAO
(21-9)
Well, I had help.

TIGER
(21-10)
You fought with **honor**. Your village
will be proud.

Panel Four - Same

YAO
(21-11)
What happened to your boy, Chau?

TIGER
(21-12)
He is gone.
(21-13 - separate)
I will advise Emperor Tong that
your people have **no** gold for him.

Panel Five - Yao extends a hand.

YAO
(21-14)
Thanks.
(21-15 - separate)
Friends?

TIGER
(21-16)
I serve my Emperor. Such a warrior
has no friends.

Panel Six - Tiger leaves with the surviving tax collectors.

Panel Seven - Yao is Back with Leung.

YAO
(21-17)
You know. That Ghost Tiger guy is
alright.

Panel Eight - Leung smacks him in the head.

LEUNG
(21-18)
He just tried to **kill** you
yesterday!

PAGE TWENTY TWO

Panel One - The villagers of Lang Kah walk the long road home, the sun rising ahead of them. Sogma and Pabu lead while Yao and Leung bring up the rear.

YAO
(22-1)
Were you scared?

LEUNG
(22-2)
Nah. I **knew** Spirit Leopard would
save me.
(22-3 - separate)
But I thought I was in **trouble** when
you showed up instead.

Panel Two - Closer on the pair, seen from behind. We can see the Phurpa tucked in the back of Yao's belt. The head is blackened with the spirit of the Mahgra inside.

YAO
(22-4)
No point in wearing a **mask** when
everybody knows what's underneath
it.

LEUNG
(22-5)
You'll always be my hero. You know
that.

Panel Three - Close on Sogma and Pabu.

YAO
(22-6 - O.P.)
Well, Lang Kah has many heroes
today.

LEUNG
(22-7 - O.P.)
You can share the glory this once.

Panel Four - back on Leung and Yao. Yao is smiling.

YAO

(22-8)

No, I like it.

(22-9 - separate)

I like it.

(22-10 - separate)

It's good.

LEUNG

(22-11)

You're off to a good start with those two, I think.

(22-12 - separate)

Hey. If Lang Kah has **real** lawmen, then the Spirit Leopard could take a vacation.

Panel Five - The two stop and face each other, framing the sunrise. Again, we see the Phurpa sticking up from the back of Yao's belt.

YAO

(22-13)

What did you have in mind? I hear Kamar Taj is nice this time of year.

LEUNG

(22-14)

Well, I know certain group that I'd like to ask some questions about my mother.

Panel Six - Pulling back: the pair walk on, the mark of the Ancient Ones glowing in the sunrise. Their word balloons get progressively smaller as the pair walks into the distance.

YAO

(22-15)

I've heard tell of this group. The fraternity of old coots?

LEUNG

(22-17)

No...

YAO

(22-18)

The league of elderly gentlemen?

LEUNG

(22-19)

I don't think so.

YAO

(22-20)

The order of the Ancient Ones?

LEUNG

(22-21)

That's them.

YAO

(22-22)

Come to think of it, I really
should talk to **someone** about this
demon in my pocket...

THE END

ALTERNATE RECAP PAGE

"The Mark of the Ancient Ones" - Chapter 3

Previously: Old Sensang introduces our hero to sorcery by using his chronomancy to save Spirit Leopard's life. Sensang also wears the Mark of the Ancient Ones, a clue to Leung Tan's troubled past. While the hero contemplates leaving Lang Kah to find the Ancient Ones, the demon sorcerer Mahgra invades seeking the Shenpa Phurpa, an artifact that could destroy him. In his dying act, Sensang makes the phurpa disappear, leading the enraged Mahgra to run our hero through with his own sword.