This is where Phantacea really begins

"Justice Reborn...!

Does a seventeen-year-old kid become a hero...? Only to die?...

Inside! The Launching of the Cosmic Express

...At the Blood-Soaked Hands of Stiletto Signalman of a Satanic Saviour?
Justice for All - including this writer.

It started in '62 with GREEN LANTERN and THE FANTASTIC FOUR. Except for a few titles, i.e., the aforementioned LANTERN, DOC STRANGE, and much later CONAN, it stopped in '67. The world was too much with me in those days. It took Starlin and Englehart to bring me back to comics in '72 and '73. I've read a lot of comics since then.

Think, now. What's new in mainstream comics? All a character need have to get his own book these days is super strength, the ability to fly, and some sixth sense or other. Who are the latest writers? Ex-asst. editors from Marvel. And what's so great about the Big Apple anyhow? What gives New York the right to monopolize the comic book business? Money...that's what! Marvel and DC. The establishment. And where's the Justice in that?

Glad you asked.


PHANTACEA is the Greek word for imagination. From it derived our words fantasy and fantastic. It's a beautiful word. To name my company PHANTACEA implies a commitment on my part to provide the very best in creative entertainment I can muster. Support PHANTACEA and the people behind it. You'll enjoy yourself.

Jim McPherson,
Publisher.
From 1940 to 1960, the name Baron Justice represented courage and strong moral commitment...

Now, a generation later, a seventeen-year-old youth receives the boon of his birthright and becomes: Justice Re-Incarnate

Terry Hamilton  Jim McPherson  Dave Sim  George Michael
Editor       Writer       Artist       Producer
LADDIE, HAVE YE NAUGHT TO DO BUT READ THIS SMUTZ!

1977, VANCOUVER, AN ELDERLY COUPLE AND THEIR 17 YEAR-OLD GRANDSON...

HEY... DON'T!

THE DEVIL YOU SAY, WOMAN!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, NANA--I'M LEAVING...

NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE, JOCK!!

BUT IT SADDENS ME, WIFE! TJ. MAY BE PHYSICALLY CRIPPLED...

BUT NOT MENTALLY, TOO!

HUSH, MON--THE BOY MAY HEAR YOU...

BUT IT'S NOT RIGHT, I TELL YOU--THE GRANDSON OF BIG MAX MAXWELL OF THE HIGHLAND BRIGADE... A CRIPPLE!

MEET COLONEL JOCK MAXWELL, RETIRED; HIS WIFE, THE ONCE RADIANT BUNNIE MAXWELL AND ONE TIMOTHY J. MAXWELL--"TJ" TO ALL!

I'M GOING FOR A WALK...

...SEE YOU SOON!
"TRUST IN THE LORD, JOCK! THE BOY'LL DO ALL RIGHT!"
"I HOPE SO, POUR ME A DRAM, WIFE!"

"NOW, JOCK, YOU KNOW WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY ABOUT YOUR DRINKING!"
"HANG THE BIGHTERS AND DO AS I SAY!"

"TEMPER, JOCK! REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T GET EXCITED!"
"BAAH! DEPRIVE A SCOTSMAN OF HIS WHISKEY AND YE MIGHT JUST AS WELL CUT OFF HIS..."

"NUIS! IF ONLY MY FATHER WERE HERE!"

HELP! SOMEBODY HELP ME PLEASE!

Hey! Hey, punks! Take off, ya hear me?!

Justice for all! If a cripple can help—why can't you?

Kitsilano—Greeks, longhairs, pensioners, old buildings, lots of rain and the occasional hoodlum...

T.J.'s never been a hero before! But there was something about the woman's scream..."
THAT'S IT, DUKE! RUN! IF I COULD CATCH YOU, I'D RAM YOUR STUPID SKULLS TOGETHER!

YOU OKAY, LADY?

OF COURSE! YOUNG MAX, YOU ARE VERY BRAVE!

NIGHTINGALE THANKS YOU!

HEY, LADY... WHERE ARE YOU GOING? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

SLOW DOWN WILL YA? HEH! I'M NOT EXACTLY SUPERMAN!

FOLLOW ME AS YOU PLEASE, YOUNG MAX... BUT FOLLOW ME YOU WILL... SOME DAY SOON...

...AND NIGHTINGALE BIDS HER TIME WELL...
UH-UH, IT'S JUST A TRICK O'THAT WEIRD LIGHT! SHE DIDN'T REALLY VANISH!

GOOD THING I'VE GOT THESE CANS TO FEEL MY WAY AROUND!

NOW IF I WAS BARON JUSTICE I COULD SEE DOWN HERE...

HEY, THERE'S THAT LIGHT....

WELCOME, MY SON...

SUDDENLY...

...TO THE CELLAR OF DR. NIGHTINGALE!

CRAK!

OMIGOD! GAAS....
AS YOUR FATHER WAS BEFORE YOU, SO SHALL YOU BE NOW.....

BARON JUSTICE!

CUT...
THE MID-PACIFIC: CENTAURI ISLAND!
PRIVATELY OWNED BY ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD, AND KEPT SECURE BY...

RIGHT, DULLES! THIS SHIP CAN'T BE ANY TIGHTER! ALL A SPY'D'VE TO DO IS BREATHE AND WE'D HAVE HIM!

...THIS MAN -- ONE O'RYAN JAMES MAXWELL -- T.J.'S FATHER!

INTRODUCING ALPHA CENTAURI: HIS BODYGUARD YATASAN AND THE ULTRA-EFFICIENT SAMARAND...

AH! MR. MAXWELL -- EVERYTHING A-OK?

COULDN'T BE BETTER, MR. CENTAURI!

DR. SAMARAND -- CONTINUE THE COUNTDOWN!

I NEED NOT REMIND YOU THAT THE COSMIC EXPRESS IS NOT ONLY THE FIRST PRIVATELY FUNDED SPACECRAFT EVER LAUNCHED...

...BUT ALSO THE MOST AMBITIOUS AND CONSEQUENTLY THE MOST EXPENSIVE...

REMEMBER, ALSO, THAT NOTHING IS TO STOP...

AH! I THOUGHT YOU'D REMEMBER!
THE LAUNCHING OF THE COSMIC EXPRESS

WITH SEVEN SEPARATE CAPSULES - THE COSMIC EXPRESS IS UNPARALLELED.

WHAT ITS LAUNCHING WILL SET IN MOTION IS ANYONE'S GUESS!
IMBECILES! GET AWAY FROM ME!

CENTAURUS!

YOU CAN STILL STOP THIS MADNESS!

ROMAINE KINESIS, GYPSY—MASTER OF MOTION—DESIGNER OF THE COSMIC EXPRESS'S UNIQUE PROPELLING AGENT...

BUT, NOW HE WANTS TO PREVENT IT'S LAUNCHING!

AGAIN YOU DEFY ME, PROFESSOR...

STOP HIM, MAXWELL... HE'S CRAZY!

DEFY YOU Fatman?

YES! DEFIANCE SHALL BE MY NAME!

PROPHET'S BEARD—HE JUMPED!!!

NO, HE'S GODDAMN FLYING!!!
DAMN YOU, MAXWELL--STAND STILL!

I'VE GOT HIM!

YOU'VE GOT NOTHING!...

...NOT EVEN BRAINS!

THINKING THAT BIG MAX IS OUT OF COMMISSION, KINESIS TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO ALPHA CENTAURI...

Nooo!

NOW, FAT MAN, IT'S YOUR TURN!

HEH!
YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM, DID YOU...?

NAW-- JUST A SLEEP PARTY!

ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT MAN -- BUT CRACKERS!

WHAT'S HIS BEEF?

SUDDENLY THOUGHT THE EXPRESS WAS TARGETED THROUGH SOME FUNNY ENERGY ZONE...

WHAT KIND OF ENERGY ZONE?

"YOUR MIND-TAP WORKS PERFECTLY, MAJOR." "SEEMS TO, DISL'ORCA -- SEEMS TO"

MAXWELL! SNAP OUT OF IT!

RULLES! CALL A DOCTOR!

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MAXWELL! HIS MIND'S BLANKED OUT!
MADRE? DIGGOS! MIND, THIS IS YOUR FAULT!

SOMETHING HAPPENED... CEREBRAL OVER-LOAD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT!

THE INQUISITION SHALL HEAR OF THIS!

HE'VE PERFECTED THE MASTER TECHNIQUE! THE PERFECT SPY DEVICE -- THE MIND-TAP!

NOW IT HAD FAILED! AND MAJOR MIND WAS TERRIFIED...

NO! NOT DEMONICUS!

PLEASE, DISLO ORCA -- I'LL TRY TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT...

TRY ALL YOU WANT, MAJOR!

SHEAN?

READY THE KAMIKAZE!!

SALVATORE DISLO ORCA COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HIS COLLEAGUE; HE HAD A JOB TO DO...

THE JOB -- TO DESTROY THE COSMIC EXPRESS BEFORE IT REACHED OUTER SPACE!!

KINESIS' RAY MUST'VE HIT HIM! SOME SORT OF DELAYED REACTION!!

HEAT RESISTANT

FINISH THE COUNTDOWN...

SOME SECURITY CHIEF -- TAKE HIM AWAY!

...THE COSMIC EXPRESS MUST BE LAUNCHED!

CUT...
Dance, Gypsy, Dance!

Hark ye, people, to this witty-ditty

Who's that?

Suddenly...

The knife of knives will take some times
The dancer will dance no more!

Must be part of the show...

Spinstress, dear spinstress,
She spun us a web
Just so's we could bring house down on your head

Your gold and your jewels!
This joke's no fool, and his buddies would like some too!
A SLICE OF LIFE
HE'LL CAVE YOU UP PRETTY
BUZZSAW'LL MAKE
YOUR FACE BLOODY DIRTY!

WOOSH!

THIS BIRD IN THE BUSH
IS WORTH TWO IN YOUR HAND,
BUT MADRUSH'S BREATH
WILL SEND YOU TO THE
PROMISED LAND!

AND A CHALLENGE NOW
FROM THE CHALLENGER MAN;
CALM YOURSELF DOWN
OR MAKE YOUR LAST STAND!

THE GLITTER'S IN
YOUR EYES
BUT THE MONEY'S ON
YOUR CHEST—

THE DEATH DOGGER'S
JUST TAKE
WHAT THE IRS
NEVER GETS

THE DEATH DOGGER'S
WE'RE CALLED
AND WE'RE REALLY NOT BAD,
WE JUST WANT TO TAKE BACK
THE WEALTH WE ONCE HAD...
VANCOUVER, DOWNTOWN. THE TWO PUNKS FOUND ANOTHER MARK AND, FINALLY, ARE ABOUT TO SCORE...

DROP IT TO SIXTY FOR THE TWO...

FORTY A CAP - AND ONLY CUZ YOU'RE FRIENDS...

COMMON, MAC - WE'RE FRIENDS...

**$$! IT'S THE PIGS!

RUN FOR IT!

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM...

BACK OFF!

JESUS!

THAT IS NO COP!

RUSH THE BASTARD!

FREEZE, DEVIL-SPAWN!

YOUR DOOM IS NIGH!
COME, INFIDELS!

...MEET THY FATE!

AAAEEEE

CRUMP WUGHAA!

JESUS... MY STOMACH...

QUITE THE RUSH, EH?

STAY BACK

DEATH RUSH...

THEN THE BLAST!

AND FINALLY YOU'RE IN HEAVEN...

CHUIK
THOSE ARE THE WORDS YOU USED...

...WEREN'T THEY, DEALER MAN?!

...THE NIGHT YOU TURNED MY KID SISTER ONTO JUNK!...

...THE NIGHT SHE OD'D
MAXIMUM SECURITYWARDS

MESSRS. BARRY AND LAPIN
YOUR EMPEROR CALLS YOU

CRASH
HE SEES MANY THINGS...

SOME THAT OTHERS HAVE NOT...

MUCH THAT OTHERS HAVE SEEN...

BUT CAN'T UNDERSTAND

THIS JUSTICE IS FAR FROM BLIND...!

TRY AS THEY MIGHT...
SEDON'S EYE COULD SEE EVERYTHING!

"THOUGH IT TENDS TO HAVE TUNNEL VISION..."

"FOOLS! I MAY STILL BE IN TIME..."

"LAUNCH THE KAMIKAZES!"

"FOCUSED ON THE MIRROR OF ITS OWN CONFUSION..."

"THE CONTINENT OF SEDON'S HEAD..."

"TOO BAD FOR SEDON, HIS HEADWORLD AND THE EARTH..."
This is it! When Phantacea really begins...

Inside the control column of the Cosmic Express, Commander Avatar Sol writhe under the pressure of the take-off...

Like Colonel Starrus and Diomad and their thirty-odd compatriots in the seven Cosmicars...

But, on Centauri Island, there is only jubilation...

We’ve done it! She’s out there...!

Centauri Island disappears far below...
DAMNATION! CENTAURUS LAUNCHED IT? NO WAY OF CATCHING IT, NOW!

AND THERE IS YET ANOTHER WHOSE FATE IS ULTIMATELY TIED TO THE LAUNCHING OF THE COSMIC EXPRESS...

SHE IS KAMIKAZE KALIGULA -- TRAINED TO TAKE THE COSMIC EXPRESS WITH HER INTO OBLIVION...

SIR... WE'VE PICKED UP TWO BLIPS ON THE RADAR...

ONE'S ON AN INTERCEPT COURSE WITH THE EXPRESS...

SIR! THEY'RE GOING TO...

...COLLIDE!

KOKAMMO
ON YOUR FEET, MURDERER...

JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED...

LITTLE TWERP! NO ONE HITS A SIGNALMAN AND LIVES LONG ENOUGH TO REGRET IT....!

NO, THIS JUSTICE IS NOT BLIND! HE'S SEEN A WRONG AND NOW SEeks TO RIGHT IT....

BUT HE'S NEW AT THIS GAME....

INCREDIBLE! HE STILL LIVES—IT'S AS IF HIS BODY COVERING WAS FASHIONED BY THE SAME HOLY HANDS THAT CREATED MY OWN....!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HOLY HANDS, PINHEAD--BUT....
...I KNOW ONE THING...

...WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING...

YOU'RE STRICTLY NOWHERE!

EVERY EVENT HAS ITS WITNESSES...

DID YOU SEE THAT TURKEY?

MAYBE THEY'RE FILMING A TV SHOW

NAAH! NOT VIOLENT ENOUGH!

LET'S CHECK IT OUT...

TOO EARLY! CAN'T BE SEEN, YET!

MUST FIND A BETTER PLACE FOR BATTLE!

HERE'S AS GOOD AS ANY--NOW IF THE LITTLE TWERP CAN FIND ME

ABOVE THE BLURKARD BRIDGE...
NICE TRY, PINOCCHIO...!

BUT WHERE YOU CAN GO...

...JUSTICE WILL ALWAYS FOLLOW...!

COMPRENZE, PINHEAD?

SNAP!

YOU MAY BE STRONGER THAN ME, JUSTICE...

...BUT YOU'RE ALSO STUPIDER!

GASP! GAS! NOT AGAIN!

HALF-CONSCIOUS, JUSTICE RESISTS...

...BUT, TO NO AVAL!
CAN A MAN'S DEATH BE CAPTURED ON FIVE FRAMES OF A FILM STRIP...?

I AM NICK STILETTO, SIGNAL-MAN OF THE LORD AND YOU, JUSTICE, ARE...

DEAD!

TOUGH LUCK, SUCKER!
Will you look at this! Somehow or other, the Cosmic Express has been blasted into the Chthonic Zone!...

...The vibrating living space between Earth and Sedon's Head, dominated by the Sedonic Eye and prison to dozens of deadly Devas...

Devas -- Super-Powerful Spirit Beings called in the Vedic tradition the Sedon-Spawn....

You pig! Whumping mechanical monster!...

Look what you've bleeding done...

And in the Cosmic Control Column, Commander Sol can think of only one thing...

Fire Second Stage...

Let's get the hell outta here....
"SECOND STAGE FIRED!!"

NOT ONLY HAVE YOU RIPPED MY HOLY HALO AND PIERCED THE FORBIDDEN ZONE...

A LITTLE GOD-NIBBLE WILL TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS...

AND AFTER ALL THAT, YOU'RE TRYING TO GET AWAY! WELL, PUKE ON YA....

"BUT YOU'VE FREED MY JACKASS OFFSPRING AS WELL!"

SSSWRRRP...

RRRRRRP

BLOODY HELL...

YUK

SPLOOSH...

"YOU EARTHINGS TASTE AS LOUSY AS YOU DID FOUR THOUSAND YEARS AGO!!"
I SWEAR THE EXPRESS VANISHED AROUND HERE!

HEY! WHAT WAS THAT?

SOMEONE'S ATTACKING ME!

JESUS!

STAY YOUR HAND, CREATURE... OR YOU'LL REGRET IT....

NO, HUMAN! IT'S YOU WHO'LL RUE THE DAY YOU MET VAYU MAELSTROM....

...THE WHIRLING DEVA!

LET IT GO ON RECORD: NOW IS THE MOMENT PROF. ROMAIN KINESIS BECOMES DOC DEFIANCE.

WE'RE ALIVE NIBADA...!

LOOK ON THE SCREEN!

ALIVE, BUT FUNNY... ENERGY INSIDE!

IT'S SOL...!

MIGHTY CYRUS RIDE WITH YOU, MIKELANGELO!

I'M GOING FOR HIM, WIFE!
STAY PUT AVATAR--I'M COMING!

NO! STAY AWAY--I'M GOING TO...

ENAN! PULL HIM UP!

THE MECHANISM'S BROKEN! HELP ME, SISTER!

PERSONAL FEELINGS ARE FORGOTTEN

WE'VE DONE IT!

STARRUS' WIFE REACTS IMMEDIATELY...

IN AN EMERGENCY, EVERYONE PITCHES IN...

Pull...

THANK CIRCUIS! YOU'RE ALIVE!

BUT I FEEL--

MIX! YOUR FOREHEAD!

HIS DEVIL EYE!
IN VANCOUVER, JUSTICE LIVES...

HE'S ALIVE!

STILETTO! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

BUT BARELY!

HEY! STOP HIM - HE'S GOING TO...

MUST STOP HIM!

...AND PERHAPS NOT FOR LONG...

DEJECTION

WE'VE FAILED.

I KNOW.

MAXWELL'S DISAPPEARED!

OH GOD --

WHAT NEXT?

ONE OF MY NUCLEOPS IS MISSING!

WONDERTMENT

CONCERN

FATMAN!

ASTONISHMENT
NO. 2

THIS IS WHERE PHANTACEA REALLY BEGINS

$1

COMING SOON

INSIDE! MEET THE INDESTRUCTIBLE "ANONYMOUS!"
PHANTACEA WELCOMES YOU

DOC DEFIANCE
MASTER OF MOTION

THE EMPEROR MAMMALIAN
KING OF THE MANIMALS

STARRUS --
THE PRIMORDIAL
POWERHOUSE

VAYU MAELSTROM
THE WHIRLING DEVA

THE MYSTERIOUS
DR. NIGHTINGALE

FELICITATIONS FROM FIVE OF OUR FINEST