THE STORY SO FAR

21st century Neo-Tokyo stands on the ashes of Tokyo, destroyed four decades earlier by the mind of a child—the mind of Akira. Subject of a military project gone horribly wrong, Akira was placed in cryogenic hibernation after the holocaust until his infinite powers could be harnessed. The other survivors of “The Project,” formidable psychics withering away in children’s bodies, knew that one day Akira would awaken.

Enter Tetsuo, an angry young member of a motorcycle gang led by his friend Kaneda. A violent accident sets off within Tetsuo dormant psychokinetic abilities that grow rapidly, as do a raging headache and a virulent madness. Tetsuo soon explodes in a psychic killing spree against friend and foe, turning Kaneda from blood-brother to mortal enemy. Tetsuo has not gone unnoticed by The Project’s leader, the mysterious Colonel, who uses a super-drug to quell Tetsuo’s agony while stimulating his powers and bringing Tetsuo under his thrall. But Tetsuo soon grows beyond the control of the Colonel and his psychics—Takashi, Masaru, and Kyoko—and Tetsuo’s discovery of Akira’s existence foments within him the urge to confront the child super-being.

A vengeful Kaneda allies with a resistance group, including the beautiful Kei and her partner Ryu, in an attempt to kill Tetsuo and infiltrate the secret subterranean lab that houses the sleeping Akira. They enter the facility and find Tetsuo in combat with the Colonel’s security forces. Tetsuo’s psychic vibrations stir Akira, and the child emerges from his frozen prison. Tetsuo helps the bewildered child to the surface, but the fratic Colonel orders the gigantic laser cannon of the military satellite SOL to fire on Tetsuo and Akira. Tetsuo’s arm is shredded, and the two become separated in the mayhem. Tetsuo disappears, but Kaneda and Kei find Akira and take him to safety.

A state of emergency blankets Neo-Tokyo as the population heads for shelter, the streets quarantined by military patrols and Caretaker robot sentries. Kaneda and Kei—along with Chiyoko, a powerful weapon of the resistance—head Akira to a yacht for safekeeping, but the duplicitous resistance leader, Nezu, takes Akira to use as a weapon against the government and orders the three killed. Chiyoko fights their way to freedom, and they invade Nezu’s home and recapture Akira. The Colonel’s forces eventually corner Akira, who for the first time in decades sees Masaru, Kyoko, and Takashi. The reunion is cut short by Nezu, who in trying to kill Akira rather than let him fall into government hands, shoots Takashi, whose death triggers Akira’s power. A titanic psychic wave surges through Neo-Tokyo, and the citizenry struggle desperately to survive the cataclysm. As the destruction subsides, Akira sits alone at ground zero. A lone figure approaches him through the wreckage. It is Tetsuo!

From the flooded ruins rises the Great Tokyo Empire, a small army of crazed zealots focused around Akira’s miracles but under the malevolent control of Tetsuo. The Empire seizes itself off from the world, but undercover agents from the outside arrive to assess the threat. The Empire plans to neutralize its most immediate enemies, the child psychics and Lady Miyako—an enigmatic religious figure and Project survivor—whom the temple is a haven for refugees. Tetsuo begins feeding the super-drug to “volunteers.” Most die, but a handful develop the power and become Empire shock troops. The intruders are caught and executed by the new psychics, but one operative, Yamada, evades capture.

Kei, Chiyoko, and Ryu have survived along with Masaru and Kyoko, but Kaneda is nowhere to be found, assumed lost in the holocaust. Deprived of the super-drug, Masaru and Kyoko are incapacitated, and Chiyoko and Kei set out to enlist the aid of Miyako, who gives them the drug and instructs them to return with Masaru and Kyoko. Meanwhile, Ryu observes Yamada’s escape and leaves to investigate. He finds the agent and offers his assistance to Yamada, who makes a beacon for Akira’s stronghold. With Ryu gone, Empire spies kidnap Masaru and Kyoko. Chiyoko and Kei return to find the children missing, and the two set off after their charges. They catch up to the Empire’s soldiers and free Masaru, but Kyoko’s captors escape. Kei sets off for the Temple with Masaru while Chiyoko, wounded in battle, goes after Kyoko.

Tetsuo also gives the drug to young women for his pleasure and amusement. They die in agony, all but Kaori, who palms the drug. She becomes Tetsuo’s companion and Akira’s nanny. Tetsuo has a series of confusing visions, and he realizes his thoughts are being manipulated by Akira. Tetsuo confronts the child, who drains Tetsuo into his mind and teleports him back to his chambers. Tetsuo withdraws in terror, having seen too far into the thoughts of the psychic colossus. He eventually comes to his senses and decides that Miyako might be of some use to him. He takes more drugs, kicking his power to new heights, and transports across space to Miyako’s chamber. Miyako gives him the history of the Project and the revelation that the drug is designed to inhibit his psychic development. Only by going cold turkey will he become all he can—perhaps even a match for Akira. He leaves to contemplate his future.

Chiyoko recaptures Kyoko but is trapped and further injured after narrowly escaping one of Tetsuo’s newly bred psychics. Facing almost certain capture, the two are rescued by the Colonel, who takes them back to a still-intact facility manned by a scientist and a drugged Chiyoko. Miyako reveals that Masaru is in Miyako’s temple, and the Colonel places her inside a Caretaker robot and begins the arduous journey through the rubble to the temple. He takes with him a special miniaturized targeting device for the super-laser of SOL.

Tetsuo begins his agonizing withdrawal. Tetsuo’s lieutenant, upon discovering that Masaru has reached safety in Miyako’s shrine, is unable to get through to his anguished master and takes matters into his own hands by organizing an assault on the temple. Many innocent refugees and monks are killed, but the attack is eventually repelled, partially by the psychic skills of the temple’s priests and finally by Kei taking Tetsuo’s lieutenant hostage. She eventually lets him go, but he vows to return.

Tetsuo appears to Ryu and Yamada and tells them that he has seen the American fleet not far from shore, ready to attack, but unwilling to get too close due to the power of Akira. Yamada tries to shoot Tetsuo, who easily stops him, and then he disappears as quickly as he appeared.

As the Colonel nears the Temple, a second attack by the Empire begins. Cornered, the Colonel prepares to unleash the power of SOL. Kei, Masaru, and Kyoko, and their monks retreat to the citadel of the temple as a final stronghold. At that moment, Tetsuo appears, half-mad with pain, demanding drugs from Miyako. As the superlaser of SOL ignites, Tetsuo rises howling into the air, unchaining his power and tossing wrecked skyscrapers about like so many toys. But Tetsuo goes on, transcending time and space, reliving his birth, and eventually arriving at...Akira. Tetsuo falls to his knees before his master.

And in the vast wasteland of ruined Neo-Tokyo, Kaneda suddenly appears...
TSHHHH
AKIRA
AIRCRAFT IN VIEW!

YOU ARE CLEARED TO LAND ON PAD SIX.

TUNE IN ON FREQUENCY 759.48 FOR LANDING INSTRUCTIONS...
WELCOME ABOARD, PROFESSOR!

RIGHT THIS WAY! THE ADMIRAL IS EXPECTING YOU!

I'VE GIVEN HIM A GENERAL SUMMARY...

...BUT THIS GOES FAR BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE MILITARY.

OF COURSE, THIS THIS IS HARDLY BUSINESS AS USUAL...

...WE'RE ALL SOMEWHAT DISORIENTED.
WE MUST BE CAREFUL. EVASIVE EXPLANATIONS COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS... CAUSE A PANIC.

IF WE MISHANDLE THIS, WE RUN THE RISK OF BEING CASTIGATED AS TRAITORS... OR MADMEN.

I CAN IMAGINE HOW GALILEO MUST HAVE FELT.

YOUR WORDS ARE LESS THAN COMFORTING. IF WE ONLY HAD MORE TIME...

IF THE MILITARY HAD LISTENED TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS POSITION.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU'RE HERE NOW. THANK GOD YOU'RE WITH US...

...AND THAT WE STILL HAVE TIME BEFORE THE BUTTON IS PUSHED!
...TO THE BOUNDARIES DICTATED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE Z000 ACCORD. I APPLAUD YOUR WISE AND COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN US HERE.

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF YOUR COUNTRY'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW HER FORCES...

I APPRECIATE THAT. I AM NOT A SOLDIER, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS CONFLICT HAS GROWN...

OUT OF MISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES. SOMEONE MUST BE WILLING TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP.

PLEASE THANK YOUR PRESIDENT FOR AGREING TO THIS JOINT RUSSIAN-AMERICAN APPROACH FOR THE SOLUTION TO THIS CRISIS.

I REALIZE THE PROFESSOR IS PROBABLY TIRED FROM HIS LONG JOURNEY, BUT I'D LIKE TO SHOW HIM THE LABORATORY AND INTRODUCE HIM TO OUR STAFF.

I WOULD LIKE THAT. WE MUST BEGIN OPERATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I HOPE YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING SHIP-SHAPE. LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED.
AN ELEVATOR...?

SPACE IS LIMITED, BUT OUR FACILITIES ARE FIRST-RATE.

BY THE WAY... CERTAIN PARTS OF THE SHIP ARE POSTED AS BEING OFF-LIMITS. I'M AFRAID THAT APPLIES TO YOU.

OF COURSE. I UNDERSTAND.

PERFECT.
HERE WE ARE.

HMM... INTERESTING...

PROFESSOR! FOLLOW ME...

THIS WAY...

KEEP OUT

RESTRICTED ACCESS
MY FRIENDS,
LET ME INTRODUCE DOCTOR DUBROVSKY.

I BELIEVE YOU ALREADY KNOW DOCTOR JORRIS.

OF COURSE! WE MET IN PARIS. WHAT HAS IT BEEN, FIVE YEARS?

IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING. THE OUTCAST SCHOLARS OF THE WORLD ARE TOGETHER AT LAST.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
This is Doctor Stanley Simmons.

How do you do?

It's a pleasure.

I'm George Hock. Nice to know you.

I know your work.

It's an honor to finally meet you, Dr. Dubrovsky.

The honor is mine, Professor Bernardi.

Karma Tangi has done us the honor of joining us.

The Lama comes all the way from his temple in Tibet.

Your seat, Doctor?

Thank you.
GOOD... SHALL WE BEGIN?

BEFORE WE EXAMINE THE NEW MATERIALS DR. DUBROVSKY HAS BROUGHT US, I SUGGEST WE MAKE SURE OUR OWN ANALYSIS IS COMPLETELY UP TO DATE.

A GOOD IDEA... BUT FIRST, DON'T YOU THINK THIS PROJECT SHOULD HAVE A NAME?

I CONCUR. PERHAPS DR. DUBROVSKY WOULD CARE TO...?

HOW ABOUT "JUVENILE A"...? THE "A" REFERS TO... WELL, YOU KNOW...

HMM... YES... I WONDER IF THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE...?
"Juvenile A", for Akira...

Well... what do you think?

"Juvenile A", I rather like it...

Then it's settled!
KA...  KANEDA...

KEI...
KANEDAAA!

HUHN?
HEY?! WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU'RE ALIVE?
YOU'RE REALLY ALIVE?!
YOU ASSHOLE!

DAMMIT... I SNIFF... I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
SHIT!

[Dramatic scene with characters expressing shock and distress, likely involving a reunion or a near-death experience.]
HUH?? OH, SHIT.... HEY!

WOON

PB-HK 51

TAKE...

TAKE ME... TO LADY MIYAKO...
51

That's a caretaker robot!

Check it out...

What the hell's it want here?

Whoa!

Stop pushing, dammit!

...It's not attacking... but... but it's...

Hah?

Shit! It's the skinhead!

How come he ain't dead?!

Kiyoko!
YOU...

SO, YOU SURVIVED...

HEY, I'M THRIVING.

WATCH OUT FOR THIS GUY!

IS KIYOKO ALL RIGHT?!

I SUMMONED HER!

I'M NOT CERTAIN BEFORE SHE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, SHE TOLD ME TO BRING HER HERE.
IT'S LADY MIYAKO! SHE'S HERE!

LADY MIYAKO!

WE ARE BLESSED!

BUT WHAT...?

SHE IS VERY WEAK. BRING HER TO ME. QUICKLY!

AT ONCE!

MIYAKO...

UGH...!

...SO IT'S YOU... NUMBER... IN...
Hey!

What's with Baldy?

He, too, is gravely wounded. Look after him.

Lean on me, and I'll support you.

I... I can... walk on my own...

When you found Kiyoko, was there a woman with her?

You saw her, didn't you? Answer me!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOPE!
THIS INCLUDES ALL AVAILABLE DATA ABOUT THE RECENT EVENTS IN NEO-TOKYO, INCLUDING THE MATERIALS BROUGHT BY DR. DUBROVSKY.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THE NUMBERS MARKED IN BLUE CANNOT BE VERIFIED AND MUST BE REGARDED AS ESTIMATES.

THE NUMBERS HERE ARE FROM THE THIRD PHENOMENON, WHICH OCCURRED SEVERAL DAYS AGO IN NEO-TOKYO.

I RENDERED IT IN THREE DIMENSIONS TO BETTER FIX ITS POSITION...

THIS DIAGRAM SHOWS THE QUANTITY OF ENERGY RELEASED AT THE TIME OF THE PHENOMENON, RELATIVE TO THE SCALE OF NEO-TOKYO.

AND NOW...

...AN EM SPECTROGRAM READING TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENT.

IT EXTENDS ACROSS A BROAD BAND AND SHOWS AN ASTONISHING DEGREE OF AMPLITUDE MODULATION.
There were gamma rays at the epicenter of the disturbance, as well as disturbing anomalies...

...which are corroborated by readings from other survey installations verified in real time...

...these anomalies include accelerated beta decay, nuclear fusion, gravitational deterioration, and the appearance of elementary particles...

All evidence that indicates...

The data don’t lie. We’ve observed hitherto unknown phenomena for the first time, and the appearance of these particles would seem to indicate such an event.

...the presence of a miniature Big Bang.

An exhaustive analysis of the data will take considerable time.

So...we’re attending at the birth of a new universe.
WE MUST TREAT THE SECOND AND THIRD EVENTS AS SEPARATE PHENOMENA. THE DATA SHOW INTRINSIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO.

WHEREAS THE SECOND EVENT GENERATED MASSIVE READINGS ACROSS THE ENTIRE ENERGY SPECTRUM, THE THIRD EVENT SEEMS CONCENTRATED IN MULTIPLE NARROW BANDWIDTHS...

AND OF MUCH SMALLER MAGNITUDE. IT CAN'T COMPARE WITH THE DAMAGE OF THE SECOND EVENT.

THE EVENTS HAD DIFFERENT INTENSITIES, WHICH POSES A PROBLEM...

IT'S INTERESTING THAT THE THIRD EVENT OCCURRED PRECISELY AT THE CENTER OF THE IMPACT SITE OF THE SOL SATELLITE LASER...

BUT THE FIRST PHENOMENA WAS DECADES AGO, LONG BEFORE SOL WAS BUILT...

YES, BUT--

WE CAN'T ASSUME A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP... ALTHOUGH THERE IS Undoubtedly A CONNECTION.

THE MILITARY USED SOL ONCE BEFORE, A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE SECOND EVENT... VERY NEAR THE SECRET BASE WHERE THEY'D SEQUESTERED AKIRA.
I agree. There was an interval of several minutes between the weapon's firing and the occurrence of the third phenomenon.

Access from the ground station to the satellite has been momentarily interrupted. It'll just take a little time to break the access code...

I think we're in general agreement that the source of the third event was not Akira.

Jorris, are you suggesting this was not a second-generation subject...?

But all indications were that the rest of the children in the 20 series were harmless.

Records indicate that numbers were registered all the way up to 41...
NUMBERS 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, AND 40 ALL DIED FROM BRAIN INJURIES INCURRED DURING THEIR TREATMENTS.

...NUMBERS 34, 35, AND 39 WERE STILL IN THE SECRET LAB AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND PHENOMENON. WITH THE COLLAPSE OF NEO-TOKYO, THEY ARE LISTED AS MISSING.

NUMBER 41 IS REPORTED TO HAVE ESCAPED ON APRIL 16, 2030...

THE SAME DAY THE SOL LASER CANNON WAS FIRED AT THE COMPLEX WHERE AKIRA WAS BEING HELD.
IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO TELL, BUT SHE APPEARS TO BE OUT OF DANGER.

WE HAVE AVOIDED THE WORST... NOTIFY ME WHEN SHE AWAKENS.
We must wait until number 25 has recovered.

After that, everything rests with number 41.

It comes down to a question of judgment... and perception...

Skat

My lady... is anything wrong?

...I have a bad feeling...

It's nothing...

It's just...
PLEASE... REST HERE.

IT WILL BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE YOUR WOUND IS CLOSED. UNTIL THEN, YOU MUSTN'T TAX YOURSELF.

DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID? IT MEANS I'M STUCK HERE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...

...BUT I KNOW THAT CHIYOKO IS ALIVE, AND YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER.

THEN YOU'RE IN FOR A FIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT.
IF CHIYOKO IS STILL ALIVE...

I KNOW SHE'LL TRY TO CONTACT ME, SOMEHOW.

UNLESS SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HER... SAY, IF SHE WERE INJURED... HAM?

DON'T PUSH ME...

WOULD IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT SATELLITE?
LOOKS LIKE I'VE PUT MY FINGER ON IT...

YOU FIRED THE SPACE LASER, DIDN'T YOU?

TALK! THERE'S NO ONE WHO CAN HEAR US.

LOOK...I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE SATELLITE.

ALL I WANT IS TO FIND CHIYOKO.
Kei... may I ask you a question?

Go ahead, Colonel.

What keeps you in Neo-Tokyo?

I see...

Me, I have a job to finish. No matter what the cost.

My friends are here... and one of them may be dying out there. That's all.

And for that, I need sol...
SOI...?

YOU PLAN TO USE IT TO--

THE SPACE LASER.

I HAVE TO READ WHAT I'VE SOWN...

...BEFORE HE GROWS INTO ANOTHER AKIRA.

YOU MEAN TETSUO!

I LEAVE BEFORE DAWN. IF YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME, BE WAITING AT THE FRONT GATES.
...then they set up the great Tokyo Empire.
He struts around like he's the king.

What happened to the kid--Akira?

Now that you mention it...he's the one supposedly in charge...
...but no one knows much about him.

But all the time...
It's Tetsuo giving the orders.

Those empire guys worship him...call him "Lord"...

Me, I think he's just a figurehead. He appears to run his empire without saying a word...

Shit...to think he survived all that.

Really tearing the place up, aren't you, Tetsuo? For a fucker who should be dead by now...
NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, WE CAN SETTLE THAT SCORE.

AH... BY THE WAY...

YOU GOT A SHIRT I COULD BORROW? MINE'S DEAD.

THAT'S RIGHT! I FORGOT!

I STILL HAVEN'T INTRODUCED YOU TO THE REST OF THE GANG.

WHAT GANG?

NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT I GOTTA GET SOME NEW GEAR FIRST.

COME ON... YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU WANT!

THERE'S SOMEONE YOU'VE GOTTA MEET.

SO, WHO IS IT?

NEVER MIND, YOU'LL SEE!

HEY!
KANEDA!

TAP.

Sshiiii

...KANEDAAA....!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

AWAY FROM THE TEMPLE. FOLLOW ME.

TELL ME, WHO IS THIS MIYAKO, ANYWAY?

SHE TAKES IN EVERYBODY—THE POOR, THE SICK, ANYBODY IN NEED.

FOUNDER OF HER OWN CHURCH... A LITTLE GODDESS, SORT OF...

THE REST COME THINKING SHE’LL SOLVE ALL THEIR PROBLEMS. PEOPLE GO THROUGH HELL JUST TO COME HERE AND BEG. IT MAKES ME WANNA PUKE...
NOT EVERYONE COMES EMPTY-HANDED. SOME BRING FOOD, MEDICINE... THERE'S EVEN A MARKET NOW WITH STORES...

THERE'S A LOT OF SERIOUS BARTER AND TRADING... PLENTY OF VULTURES THERE...

BANDS OF THIEVES ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE... IT'S LIKE A REGULAR CITY IS GROWING AROUND THE SHRINE. PEOPLE ARE EVEN DIGGING FOR SCRAP METAL TO USE AS MONEY.

WELL, IN THAT CASE...

...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET GEARED UP!

PROBLEM IS... I GOT NOTHIN' WORTH TRADING.

LIKE YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA FIND AN OPEN STORE THIS TIME A' NIGHT...?

SO HOW WE GONNA--

...WE'RE GOING TO THE THIEVES' QUARTER?
HEE—YOU SEE THAT GUY?

YEAH...

HEY! I'M BACK! THE BOSS IN?!

AN OLD BUDDY. HE FELL OUT OF THE SKY YESTERDAY.

C'MON, IT'S RIGHT HERE...

WASSUP! HOW YA DOIN'?!

OH, YEAH?

YEAH. WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?
KAIJUKU...? AIN'T YOU DEAD?!

IS IT TRUE THOSE TOKYO EMPIRE BASTARDS ATTACKED LADY MIYAKO? IS SHE DEAD, HUHN?!

DOES IT LOOK LIKE AKIRA WILL COME HERE NEXT? WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?

HEH HEH. NO!

THAT'S BULLSHIT. MIYAKO'S FINE. THEY GOT THEIRASSES KICKED.

TOLD YOU SO.

MEET MY PAL...

OVER HERE, KANEDA.
Huh?

Jo... Joker...

Stop stuttering. You know who he is.

I'm dreamin'. That you, Kaneda...?

That face of yours shook me up! You're still as ugly as ever!

You little turd! I see you still gotta big mouth... maybe I'll give it a--!
AHCHOO!

...after I got arrested, they put us both in the same dorm at their so-called rehabilitation facility.

when the city collapsed, a wall fell on me. I'd have died right there...

...if Kaisuke hadn't dug me out.

...'cause we're fightin' the same enemy--know what I'm sayin', Kaneda?

Well, we had our troubles with each other in the past...

...but now, guys like us have to stick together, y'know?

Tetsuo...

Hell yeah, Tetsuo!

I swear one day that guy's goin' down! Even if I have to die to do it!
NO ONE'S SAFE AS LONG AS HE'S ALIVE. ALL OUR FRIENDS ARE DEAD 'CAUSE OF HIM... I AIN'T FORGETTIN' THAT...

ALL RIGHT! I'M WITH YOU!!

...YOU WANT CLOTHES?

I KNEW IT!

BUT FIRST...

THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? NEW CLOTHES?

WELL, EH...YEAH

WHAT THE F--?!

HAAH! I KNEW IT!
I've gone with the Colonel to find Chiyoko.
ALL RIGHT... LET'S GET MOVING.

COLONEL...

I WARN YOU, IF WE RUN INTO TROUBLE, IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, COLONEL.

... YOU CAN'T COUNT ON ME TO HELP YOU.
ROCKET GRENADES AND MORTARS...? IT'S REALLY WAR, THEN.

NAH... THIS COLOR SUCKS...

OF COURSE IT IS. THE EMPIRE Brought EVERY WEAPON IN THEIR ARMORY.

AH! MAYBE THIS...

HOW DOES TETSUO FIT INTO ALL OF THIS?

YOU SAID HE DIDN'T GO OUT WITH THE EMPIRE'S GUYS.

LAST I SAW, HE WAS A WRECK... DOING A TON A' Dope... Totally STRUNG OUT!

FLAP... HUMP?

IT DON'T SURPRISE ME. HE WAS LIKE THAT FROM BEFORE.

CHECK IT! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR!

I'LL TAKE IT!
SINCE YOU'RE A PAL...

...YOU CAN HAVE IT FOR $1800.

CAPITALIST PIG! YOU USED TO LEAD A GANG...

...AND NOW YOU RUN A BOUTIQUE?! I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A CHEAP BASTARD....!

WHAT? SINCE WHEN DO YOU CHARGE A FRIEND?

YOU RAT! SHIT, WE'RE ON THE SAME TEAM!

C'MON, MAN! DON'T BE LIKE THAT! I NEED SOME BOOTS!

WHEN YOU COUGH UP, GOT IT?

KANEDA...

GET A LOAD 'N THIS....!

HUNN?!

GOD DAMN....!

PRETTY COOL, HUH?
DO THESE THINGS RUN?
JUST GAS 'EM UP.
THIS ONE'S PURE DEATH... DOUBLE ITS ORIGINAL HORSEPOWER!
I CANNIBALIZE JUNKERS TO PUT 'EM TOGETHER... ONE'S GOT PARTS FROM TWENTY DIFFERENT BIKES.

IT'S LIKE A DREAM!!

I'M HALLUCINATING... THIS TOTALLY KILLS....

OH, YEAH? WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THE CURTAIN....
GASP!

SLAF

A flying platform!
Where did you get this?

Kaisuke found it in the underground... a hidden stash...

It's some kinda military prototype.

Eh... it was easy!

It's all cobbled together from machine parts and ceramics.

Took scrap from three of them to put this one together, and it's still not complete.

I never figured her for an ace mechanic...

He had help.
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT KEI HAS LEFT THE SHRINE?!

APPARENTLY, SHE WENT OUT BEFORE DAWN, ACCOMPANIED BY THE COLONEL.

HOW FOOLISH! SHE THINKS ONLY OF Herself! WE NEED HER HELP!

THE COLONEL ALSO TOOK ANTIBIOTICS FROM OUR MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

ENOUGH! BRING THEM BACK AT ONCE!

YES, EMINENCE!

THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE SHRINE...

YES, EMINENCE!

WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN?

57
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
--MIYAKO WANTS TO SEE ME?!

HER PRIESTS ARE LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.

WHATS SHE WANT?

IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME GIRL WHO DISAPPEARED...
I THINK HER NAME IS... KEI... YEAH, KEI!

...KEI...!

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NO... IT'S NOTHING.
I see a girl... no, a young woman...

...and a wounded man.
MASTER
TETSUOOO!

SPAP

GRRR

MASTER
TETSUO!
WHERE IS MASTER TETSUO? AND WHERE HAS LORD AKIRA GOTTEN TO?

I DON'T KNOW. THEY WERE TOGETHER... AND THEN THEY JUST DISAPPEARED.

YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THEIR WHEREABOUTS AT ALL TIMES!

KRAK!

HUHN?

BROOO
IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!

BOOOOOOOO

SKRAK

GNCH
IT WOULD SEEM TO BE OVER...

WAS IT NUMBER 41'S DOING?

I CAN'T TELL...

HEY, KANEDA!

COME NO FURTHER!

TAP TAP

THERE ARE RULES TO RESPECT WHEN ONE APPROACHES LADY MIYAKO'S CHAMBERS!

SHUT UP!
I AIN'T TAKIN' THIS SHIT! YOU TOLD ME TO COME, I CAME! IT AIN'T MY FAULT YOU CAN'T KEEP UP WITH ME!

HUUH?

THANK YOU FOR COMING... YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

LADY MIYAKO!

YOU MAY LEAVE US NOW.

SO, WHAT'S UP, GRANNY? WHAT BROUGHT YOU OUT OF YOUR HOLE?

MY DEMAND IS SIMPLE. I WANT YOU TO BRING KEI BACK TO ME.

I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM ANYBODY! IF I FIND HER, IT WON'T BE FOR YOU!

OF COURSE... BUT YOU MUST KNOW....

THAT ALL OUR DESTINIES DEPEND ON THIS GIRL. I ASK....

I BEG OF YOU TO BRING HER BACK. SHE IS AS PRECIOUS TO ME AS MY OWN DAUGHTER.

WE ALL DEPEND ON HER...?!
HMM?

KROO00

ANOTHER ONE?

IT'S BIGGER THAN LAST TIME!

SUCH FORCE! THIS IS NOT...

...AN ORDINARY EARTHQUAKE!

BROOBRO 

BAOW

BROOOO

BROOO
OH!  UM...  
...LORD AKIRA!

M-MASTER TETSUO!
... WELCOME BACK.

MASTER TETSUO...
...I HAVE A CONFESION TO MAKE.
WITHOUT TELLING YOU OR LORD AKIRA, I CALLED TOGETHER OUR ARMY AND LED IT AGAINST MIYAKO AND HER FOLLOWERS...

...BUT MANY REFUGEES CAME TO HER AID!

FINALLY, WE HAD TO PULL OUT! SOME OF HER PRIESTS HAVE THE POWER! WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH! PLEASE, MASTER TETSUO! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US!

RIGHT NOW, I'M TOO TIRED.

NO! YOU CAN'T LET MIYAKO--

BZIM

AAUGH!!
STAY WITH ME...

HARD TO STARBOARD!

Wooiii Wooiiiiii

GENERAL QUARTERS! GENERAL QUARTERS!
Tsunami approaching! Prepare for the shockwave!

Secure all aircraft on deck! Check all stowings! It's gonna be big!

Wooiiii!!

Wooiiii!!

Braaaaao!
STRRRR

WAAAA!!

KRUSH

KSIIIIF

PWRWF

SHIIIIIIIZ

GRRRKF
CANCEL THE ALERT!
ALL SECTIONS REPORT!

REPEAT!
CANCEL THE ALERT!

IS ANYONE HURT?

THANK YOU,
WE'RE FINE, ADMIRAL.

OF COURSE,
THE BOARD--AND
THE WAVES--WERE
A LITTLE SMALLER
BACK THEN!

I HAVEN'T BEEN SURFING
SINCE I WAS IN
HIGH SCHOOL.

EARLY REPORTS
HAVE IT THE TIDAL
WAVE WAS IN SOME
WAY CONNECTED
WITH AKIRA.

I SEE...

THE TSUNAMI
IS OF LESS
IMPORTANCE...

...THAN THE
EARTHQUAKE
THAT CAUSED
IT.
THE EPICENTER WAS 300 KILOMETERS BELOW NEO-TOKYO'S SURFACE. SHOCKWAVES MEASURE 8.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE--A MAMMOTH EARTHQUAKE!

However, the usual precursors to a quake of this magnitude--foreshocks, disruption of the Earth's magnetic field--were all completely absent.

In fact, there was no trace of increased seismographic readings at any of our tracking stations. This was not the result of natural stresses due to plate tectonics, but the result of human intervention or... an external power...

Japan is a natural earthquake center. You'll need irrefutable evidence to link this phenomenon to Akira. Otherwise, no one will listen...

What's your opinion, Karma Than? They are sleeping, both of them. They played hard, and now they are asleep.
AGAIN, I IMPLORE YOU TO GRANT ME THIS FAVOR. IT IS NOT ONLY FOR ME, BUT FOR YOU AS WELL...
I KNOW THAT YOU TOO ARE CONCERNED FOR HER.

OKAY... I'LL DO IT!
...ON ONE CONDITION!

I'M LISTENING.

I WANT YOU TO PAY MY DEBTS!

DAMN I'M GOOD. I WAS SHITTING BRICKS...

IT'S GOOD YOU DECIDED TO FIND KEI...

HEH HEH HEH!

...BUT WHERE WILL YOU LOOK?
KEI TOLD ME LAST NIGHT...
I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.

HEY...YOU AN' ME WERE WITH JOKER LAST NIGHT!
I KNOW...

BUT HOW COULD...?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE... I KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

...BUT I'M SURE SHE TOLD ME!
SO, WHERE IS SHE?

SHE'S... SHE'S... UMM...
*LIMM*... YEAH, RIGHT.

I'M TELLING YOU, I KNOW!!

HUH?

I FEEL LIKE SHE'S... SOMEWHERE IN THE EIGHTH DISTRICT...
THEY ARE PASSING OUT OF THE EIGHTH DISTRICT AND ARE ABOUT TO INVADE OUR TERRITORY!

TAKE UP ARMS, MY BROTHERS! WITH ALL THE POWER OF THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE PROTECTING US, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
KRR

COLONEL...

DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE...

WE'RE ALMOST THERE...
KANEDA!
GET OFF THAT!
SHIIIT!

THAT BIKE'S
NOT FOR SALE!
IT'S NOT EVEN
FOR RENT!

A BIKE'S
FOR RIDING,
NOT FOR SHOW,
YOU HOARDER!

DO YOU KNOW
HOW LONG IT
TOOK ME TO BUILD
THAT BIKE, GOD
DAMMIT?!

HEY, JOKER!
GANGWAY!

BRRRRR...
STOP
HOLD IT!

LOOK OUT!

WE'LL BRING 'EM BACK WHEN WE'RE DONE!

THAT BIKE GETS EVEN ONE SCRATCH...
...AND YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!

DON'T YOU FORGET IT, KANEDA!

SURE! IF I FEEL LIKE IT, BRO'!
WHAT A MESS... LOOKS LIKE SLOW GOING AHEAD.

I KNOW A SHORTCUT...

THIS WAY... FOLLOW ME!

I HOPE IT DOESN'T CAVE IN.

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

WE'RE TAKING THE SUBWAY?

YUP.
Do you want to rest, Colonel?

No, I'm okay. Let's go...

Oh!
WHERE DO WE TRANSFER TO GET TO THE EIGHTH DISTRICT?

I THINK WE TAKE THE OIZUMI LINE, HEADING WEST.

MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IT OUT.

RRROOO

POW

YEESHAW!
WE WANT TO FOLLOW TRACK FIVE!

LET'S GO!
YOU'VE INVADEN OUR TERRITORY!

THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER!

THREE OF THEM ARE ARMED, BUT ONLY ONE'S ON SOLID FOOTING.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE OTHER TWO.

SET UP CLOSE AGAINST THE GIANT. IT'S THE ONLY PLACE WHERE NO ONE CAN HIT YOU.

HUNN!?

WIIIF

FREEZE!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

JUMP!

GAHNN...

WOOAAH!

HURRY, COLONEL!

?!

WUARRGHH!
RAUGHH!

COLONEL!

Smak...

EHNN?

ARE YOU HURT? WHAT ABOUT YOUR WOUND?
GASP!

WHAT...?

WE'VE ARRIVED...
VOOF

DISTRICT 7! IT'S THE NEXT STATION!

BOOOOOO

HMM....?

HUHN?!
HEY! C'MERE AND TAKE A LOOK!

REST IN PEACE.

WHAT? YOU FIND SOMETHING?

OH, SHIT!

IT'S THE ARMY'S... ONE OF THOSE FLYING PLATFORMS...

WHAT WERE THEY DOING FLYING IT IN THE SUBWAY?

THERE'S MORE OVER THERE...
OR MAYBE THEY JUST FLEW DOWN HERE TO ESCAPE...

THAT'S MY GUESS, ANYWAY.

THEY'D BE A TASTY LITTLE PRESENT TO BRING BACK FOR JOKER, ANYWAY!

THERE'S GONNA BE A PASSAGE THAT HOOKS UP THE SUBWAY TO A MILITARY BASE...
THIS IS IT...

THAT'S RIGHT... YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?

YES.
YOU’VE GOT IT VERY WELL TRAINED.

IT’S EQUIPPED WITH A VOICE-PRINT RESPONSE MECHANISM.

KEEP MOVING.

SRAÄT

THEY WENT IN HERE.

REINFORCEMENTS SHOULD BE HERE SOON.
HALT, YOU TWO...

THIS PLACE IS OFF-LIMITS! ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL--

HOW IS THE WOMAN I LEFT BEHIND?

HARD TO SAY...

SHE'S BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR TWO DAYS... HASN'T MOVED AT ALL.
CHIYOKO!

She's alive. Weak, but alive.
If this thing's guarding it, there's gotta be some juicy shit inside.

We'll distract it. The rest of you head on in.

Eat this!
BASH

AAUGH!!

KZIIIT

82

TAP TAP

WOON

ZBAM

POUM

THAT'S IT! WE JAMMED IT OPEN!

TAKE A PISS INSIDE AND SHORT-CIRCUIT IT!

HA HA! SEE HOW IT LIKES THAT!
HEY! IF WE KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, WE'LL KILL THE ENGINES!

DON'T WORRY! THE WATER DOESN'T GET ANY DEEPER!

WHAT...

HUHN?

KEEEE EEEEE

KEI?!
SHiiiiiiiz

?!?

IT CAN'T BE...!

KEEEEFFFFFEE
SH—she walked right through you...

You...you saw it, too, didn't you? It was Kei, right?

How far are we from the exit?

Close.

Then let's go!

You think Kei's in trouble? We'll know soon enough...!
JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO...CARRY HER ON YOUR BACK?

PART OF THE WAY...
I'LL ASK LADY MIYAKO'S PRIESTS TO TAKE HER FROM THERE.

I WONDER IF THEY'LL HAVE TIME FOR YOU...

...
I'm touched by your concern.

Considering what you survived, you ought to be thanking the man upstairs.

Your being alive came as quite a surprise...

I didn't think you'd survive when you fired Sol's laser...

What's that?

Brak!

Shit! They tracked me here!

Are you sure they came in here?

Ow! Ow! Ow!

Idiot! Watch your step!

I'm positive!
CIRCLE AROUND THAT WAY!

...AND BE CAREFUL!

...THEY'RE HERE!

WE CAN'T MAKE A STAND IN HERE. GET THEM OUTSIDE!

RIGHT!

TAP TAP

...?

WH...WHAT'S HAPPENING...?

ARE YOU OKAY, COLONEL?

YEAH.

HEY! WAIT FOR ME!

WHAT A F**K UP...

DAMN...
Bip DZZZ DZZZ

This computer's on!

Look! There they go!

Get 'em!

Fire! Bam bam
HIYAAA!

AHH!

UP THERE!

BAM BAM

KSiIIIIF

THERE SHE IS! SHOOT! SHOOT!
BAM  BAM

SHIT!

klik klik

HJUN?

SWIIIP

PLAK

! TAKATATAK

PAK
BZAK

FWOOOM

Pshhh

THAT'S IT....!

I CAN BRING CHIYOKO BACK INSIDE THE CARETAKER!
THAT'S THE EXIT, DEAD AHEAD!

SKRIIII!

HOLY SHIT!
UH...NOW WHAT?

BANG BLAAM

GUNFIRE...?
Yeah... Sounds like it.

BEATS ME.

RAAK

MOVE IT!

BROOBRO

CHAAARGE!

YEEHAW!
TAP. TAP

HEY!

OH, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!

PLEASE—I NEED YOUR HELP!

MY HELP...

RIGHT! JUST LIKE THE COLONEL DID WITH KYOKO.

YOU WANT TO USE THE CARETAKER TO TAKE YOUR FRIEND TO THE TEMPLE?

...AND I NEED YOU TO PROGRAM IT!
RAKAKA

TAKATA

COVER ME!

BANG

KAKKATA

NOW!

BLAKAM

HMM.
Shhuffe

Kataba!

Blam

Krop

Katabaka

Shit... almost out of ammunition!
IT'S COMING FROM HERE!

RIGHT! WE'RE GOING IN! FULL THROTTLE!

BOOOOOO

VOOOOOM

SOUNDS LIKE AN ENGINE...

...COMING THIS WAY!

OVER THERE!
ACTUALLY... IT WOULD BE PRETTY SIMPLE...

HMM... BYPASS THE DSP BOARD... SET THE AUTO-NAV JUMPERS TO MANUAL... YES...

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE?

FIVE HOURS... PERHAPS TEN...

GOOD. START ON IT RIGHT AWAY.

HMM?

I’LL TAKE CARE OF CHIYOKO...

THEN BRING ME SOME CIGARETTES...!
AAH!!

SWAP

STOMP

WOOUH!

PLAK

AH!?

CHTok
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY COMPUTER?!

COME ON!

WOOOH!!
WHAT'S 'AMATTER-- OUT OF AMMO?

Vooooom

?! WHAT THE--?

WHA--?

WH--?

Bzim

Yahoo!!

Glang
SHIT!

SHLIIN

BOM

OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE!

TSHIK

VOOOOOOM

OOOOOO

DIE!
KANEDAAA!

RAAH!

TAKA TAKATA

ZING TING

EAT THIS!!

CHBAO!

BROOO

KANEDA, YOU OKAY?

OH, CHRIST!
MY HEAD!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE...?

NHH...

HEY, KANEDA... IT'S YOUR BUDDY, THE SKINHEAD...

KEI...

BAM

GN... GNIN...

ON... GAN...
KSHAK

HAAH ??!
YOU HEAR THAT? SOMEONE'S COMING!

SLAP

UH --!
OH!

SMAK

NOOOOO!

ZZIIIIII

!
GWAARH!

OOH!

PLOP

DODOM

?!

KSHAKAKKA
GRRAH!

KEI!!

SHE'S DOWN!

KEI!!

TALK TO ME!
SHIT! HE DID SOMETHING TO HER...

AH!

GAIIN...

EHH...?!
MY GLASSES... WHERE ARE MY GLASSES...?

AH... AHH...

HEY! IS ANYBODY THERE?
TAP
TAP
TAP

SSSHHH
One of the officers was discussing it in the mess. I didn't get any details, but they're arriving tonight.

TODAY?

I've heard of this unit, but I always thought it was just a rumor...

Admittedly, given recent events, the situation has become much worse...

...and I can't believe they would bring in the special forces to try to kill Akira.
THE SPECIAL OPS TEAM, YOU MEAN? WELL...

...IT'S TRUE. THEY ARRIVE TONIGHT.

BUT AS TO WHETHER THEIR MISSION IS ASSASSINATION OR NOT...

...DEPENDS ON YOUR REPORT.

WE'LL STUDY IT...

...EXCHANGE OPINIONS WITH WORLD LEADERS, ARRIVE AT A CONSENSUS, SIGN SOME TREATIES...

...AND IMPLEMENT. OR PERHAPS... IMPLEMENTATION COMES FIRST.

EITHER WAY... IF WE WAIT FOR A DECISION BEFORE WE GET OUR PIECES INTO PLACE, WE'LL RUN OUT OF TIME... SO... FRONT LINE DEPLOYMENT, SHALL WE SAY...

AND JUST HOW FAR UP YOUR "CHAIN OF COMMAND" WILL OUR REPORT GO...?

OH, IT'S TOP PRIORITY. OF COURSE.
BUT ADMIRAL... THIS IS LUNACY WITH AKIRA.

ASSASSINATION TEAMS? ABSURD...

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...BUT I ASSURE YOU, THESE BOYS ARE TOUGH.

A POINTLESS WASTE OF LIFE.

TRUE PATRIOTS ALL...
WHO GOES THERE?!

HOLD YOUR FIRE! IT'S KAIJUKE!
OH, IT'S YOU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SEE FOR YOURSELF...

KANEDA TOLD ME TO SEE IF EVERYTHING'S OKAY...

UH... HOW'S IT GOIN'?

THEY'RE HAVING QUITE A GOOD TIME.

AH!

ARF! ARF!

YAHAAA!

YEAH... THEY'RE ALL WASTED.

EH...?

JUST TWO OR THREE AND THEY'RE FLYING...

IT'S THOSE PILLS...

HA HA HA DEEE!

LIKE I WAS SAYIN'...

THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF STINKIN' JUNKIES. THEY ONLY STAY WITH TETSUO FOR THE DRUGS...

...THE DRUGS YOU MADE!
KAI! LIKE! WHERE'D YOU GET TO?

CLING

OH, THERE YOU ARE.
HOW'S IT LOOK?

THEY'RE NOT COMING TONIGHT, THAT'S FOR SURE...

LET'S GO CHECK UP ON THAT DOCTOR.

HOW'S KEI?

NO CHANGE.

IT'S OKAY TO LEAVE HER?

DON'T WANT HIM GETTING LAZY...

I HATE THIS WORRYING.

“MAKE THIS! MAKE THAT!” THEN WHAT?

AND I CAN'T EVEN GET A F***ING CIGARETTE...!
GENTLEMEN... FALL IN!

ATTENTION!
WHAT THE HELL?!

WHAT IS THIS?! THE KINDERGARTEN SPECIAL FORCES...?!

"KINDERGARTEN"...? WHAT?

SEND THOSE CHILDREN INTO...
SHIT! IT'S ALREADY PAST DAWN.

SO WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US...?

I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO HERE. UNFINISHED BUSINESS...

NO KIDDING?

YOU'RE TAKING ON TETSUO IN YOUR SHAPE?
IS HERE OKAY...?

OVER ON TOP OF THAT... GOOD... KEEP HER OFF THE LEFT SIDE--IT GETS HOT.

TELL ME HOW TO RUN IT!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO.

THIS IS THE CONTROL BOX.

HOW'S IT WORK?

THIS IS THE JOYSTICK... USE IT TO SET YOUR DIRECTION... AND THAT'S THE THROTTLE...

WHAT'S THIS THING HERE? "AUTO-BALANCER"...

AH! DON'T TOUCH THOSE TWO SWITCHES! EVER!!
WAHH! D'JA FIX IT?!

HEY-BY-BY, KANEDA AHHH!

COULDN'T GET THE FRONT FORK COMPLETELY STRAIGHT, BUT I RIDE WELL ENOUGH TO COMPENSATE.

Moooooo

BROOOOB

AWRIGHT...

LET'S GO!

TAKE THIS, KID. YOU'LL NEED IT.

SWEET! GRACIAS, COLONEL.

IT'S JUST THE CALIBER I NEED...

...TO Plug TETSUO'S HOLE FOR GOOD!

VROOBROOOOO
LET'S ROCK!

Their youth is their greatest weapon...

Keep your hands off the red switch!

Woom

Lessee now... The joystick's for steering...

...And this other thing's the throttle. Got it!
Wake up!

What the hell?!

Fire!

Shoot!

Wiizzer!

Damn! This thing hauls ass!
DOM DOM
TCHIN TCHIN
KLAN

TCHIN TCHIN
GLOOB

KLAN KLAN

BLESS LORD AKIRA, WHO GIVES US OUR DAILY BREAD!
EAT IT WITH GRATITUDE!
LINE UP! LINE UP! FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

FEWER OF THE FAITHFUL SHOW UP EVERY DAY, SIR.

CHILDREN EAT FIRST! ALL KIDS COME TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE!

LATELY, WE'VE EVEN HAD LEFTOVERS.
THAT MAN...

GO GET HIM.

YES, SIR!

HUNH...

HEY, YOU! C'MERE!

SRIIP!

EEEEE!

YAAH!

BLAM

WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY?
LOOK! HE'S GOT BREAD!
...AND IT'S FRESHER THAN OURS!

SHOW ME.

DID YOU GET THIS FROM MIYAKO?

WELL?! DID YOU?!

Y-YES... MIYAKO...

THE PRIESTS FROM THE TEMPLE SAY THERE ARE DANGEROUS DRUGS IN YOUR FOOD.

THAT OLD BITCH...

FLAP

KROP
...?! [Sound effects]

HeliCOPTER!

SWAK

TSSSIIF
OOOOh!

WE CAN'T LET RELIEF SUPPLIES REACH MIYAKO!

SOMEONE IS GUIDING THE INTRUDERS WITH SMOKE MARKERS!

THERE IS A SPY AMONG US!

HURRY!

SWAP SWAP

TCHOF
HURRY! GET IT!

NOT VERY BIG FOR A FOOD PACK....

GOT IT!

OPEN IT AND SEE....

STAY BACK! DON’T TRY TO OPEN IT!

MORE THAN JUST RATIONS, HUH?

...YOU!

IT’S RIGGED TO EXPLODE IF YOU FORCE IT.

YOU KIDS HEARD THE MAN. NO FOOD.

NOW BEAT IT!

KSHAK
OH YEAH!

COOL!

HEH. A BOX FULL OF SOUVENIRS... WHAT'S INSIDE? GOLD BARS? A MONSTER?

THERE'S NO POINT WASTING IT.

DON'T BE SO COLD, MY FRIEND. AFTER ALL, I'M EXPENDABLE.

STOP FOLLOWING ME... I SAVED YOUR LIFE ONCE ALREADY.

Vooooooooo...
HAAM...

MASTER TETSUO...

NOW WHERE...?

HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO...
GET YOUR BUTTS IN GEAR! IF WE'RE NOT SCRAMBLED IN FIVE MINUTES WE'RE SITTING TARGETS!

TAP TAP

DELTA TANGO 457 CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF!
DELTA TANGO 457, DO YOU COPY...?
JESUS! THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE RUNWAY!

GO!

GET THAT IDIOT OUTTA THERE!

RRRROO

NOOOOO!
DOOM

DAMAGE CONTROL! DAMAGE CONTROL!

FIRE ON THE FORWARD FLIGHT DECK! REPEAT--FIRE ON THE DECK!
woooliiii
woooliiii!

APPARENTLY, ONE OF THE FIGHTERS CRASHED ON TAKEOFF.

Ooh!

HE'S COMING!

?! WHO'S COMING...?!
HE IS HERE...
GNN...GNNN...

WHAT'S GOING ON, KARMA TANSU?

HUHN...?!

OH!

THE LIGHTS...!
Blink

Aaah!

Eh?

Wh... who are you?!

How did you get in here?!

Mmm... e

Number 41...!

You know who I am, huh? Glad to see I've got a fan club.
THAT'S A 3D GRAPH OF THE THIRD PHENOMENON...

...WHICH WAS OF SMALLER MAGNITUDE THAN THE SECOND.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY AKIRA...

...BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE ELSE... PERHAPS YOU, NUMBER 41...

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO FIND BY STUDYING AKIRA?

MAYBE YOU WANT TO FIND A NON-POLLUTING SOURCE OF POWER TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE? OR MAYBE YOU JUST WANT ANOTHER BOMB TO THREATEN THE REST OF THE WORLD...

HE...
HE'S USING TELEPATHY!
Scientists, just stay in your dark little labs...

...peer through your microscopes, peek out at the sky all night through your telescopes, and jerk off!

As far as we're concerned...the problem is having such massive power running out of control...

That "truth" you're all lusting for over your bottle-glass lenses is a pile of crap!

How provocative...yet, we're still desperate to understand Akira's power.

...through these bottle-glass lenses!

Power...you say?

You do that sort of shit when you're young, right? Strain too hard, and throw your shoulder out of joint.

I got it wrong, too, at first.
I tried to blow off all the power inside me. The more I got, the more I wanted...it was never enough...

Then I realized that to evolve, I had to break out of my head...

...to go beyond myself to reach a higher level...

A higher level of power?

It flows like a river...

...a great current of energy and time...

How can I explain...?

Think about the Earth...how it rotates...

Imagine how much power it would take to make it stop. The power in the stream...it's not power you can own, ever...but think of being able to direct its infinite flow!

We take it for granted...but think how much power it takes to turn the Earth on its axis in each moment...
I don't understand how you can control...

If you don't understand...

...I'll show you.

AARGH!

Ooh! Ooh!

Karma tang!!

Oh...

What's happening...?!
NOW DO YOU SEE?

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEORY AND REALITY...

WOAA!

SLINK

AAAH!
AGHK!

AAH!

HA HA HA!

HA HA HA!

HA HA HA!

HA HA HA!
DROOO

KANEDA! I NEED A HAND!

HEY! C'MON!

FIRST COME AND GIMME A PUSHER! I'M STUCK!

GZWWII!

KANEDA!

PIECE A'CRAPE! SHIT!

THINK THEY'RE FROM THE EMPIRE?

I DUNNO...

BROOO
"PACKAGE ARRIVED SAFELY, OVER AND OUT," RIGHT?

TSHIK TSHIK

SNAP

POP

PWOOOM

SRAAK

BLAOM

SPAS
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

I GUESS I WAS FATED TO RUN INTO YOU... I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU.

LIKE THEY SAY, "THE LOST SOUL IS WITHOUT REDEMPTION." MAN.

...SO SCRAM!

TCHOOF

Tik tik tik

TCHOK
AH....!

PLEASE, MASTER... GRANT ME AN AUDIENCE. THE SITUATION IS --

MASTER TETSUO!

GO AHEAD. I HAVEN'T FELT THIS DAMN GOOD IN A LONG TIME...

THANK YOU, MASTER!
SAY WHAT...?

YOU WANT A GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

I--I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA...

LADY MIYAKO EXERTS A HARMFUL INFLUENCE OVER THE EMPIRE.

EVERY DAY, MORE OF OUR CITIZENS ARE DRAWN AWAY, SWELLING HER RANKS.

SO... WE HOLD A GREAT GATHERING...

WHERE YOU WOULD APPEAR WITH LORD AKIRA AND SHOW THEM YOUR POWER...

...TO STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE OF THE FAITHFUL... AND PULL THE OTHERS BACK IN LINE!

SO YOU WANT TO ORGANIZE A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION...

Yeah, not a bad idea. They could use a good kick in the ass...!
THAT'S A FUNNY LOOKING WEAPON... WHAT--?

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

WAIT JUST A...

...YOU'RE USING BIO-WEAPONS?!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

YOU’LL KILL EVERYONE!

THINK OF THE PEOPLE!

YOU WON’T BE KILLING JUST EMPIRE FANATICS... BUT EVERYONE IN NEO-TOKYO!

I OFFERED YOU A CHANCE TO LEAVE...

KSHIN

NO!

I CAN’T LET YOU COMMIT THIS CRIME!

SO... THE FORMER TERRORIST HAS BECOME THE PARAGON OF VIRTUE!

DON’T MAKE ME LAUGH...
NOW, I'M LEAVING!

HOLD IT!

TCHOP

YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE!

KPOW

PUNCH

I WARNED YOU! DON'T MAKE ME...

AH...AHHK... GODDAMN FOOL!

TRY TO STAY UPWIND...
WHO'S THAT COMING...?

MAMA, I'M SCARED!

WHAT?! ARE YOU CERTAIN?!

Huh?

OUTTA THE WAY!

WE'VE GOT WOUNDED!

SOMEBODY SET MIYAKO!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

IT'S KEI!

SHE'S BEEN INJURED?!

BRING HER INSIDE, GENTLY! I'LL SEE TO HER AT ONCE!

BE CAREFUL! HOLD HER HEAD UP...
WELL? SHE GONNA BE OKAY?

DO NOT DISTURB HER EMINENCE!

MAMM...

BE SILENT!

DON'T WORRY. IT IS NOT A SERIOUS HEMORRHAGE.

REALLY?!

SHE'S GONNA COME OUT OF IT!

THE WOUND IS ALREADY CLOSED.

KEL...

IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE BLOOD IN HER BRAIN TO DISSIPATE...

...BUT SHE'LL BE BETTER SOON.
Hey...

What's the story on Kei?

She's gonna make it?

Kaisuke!

The ol' bag really came through for her!

It looks like the worst is over.
MASARU...

...BUT SHE'LL BE WEAKENED BY HER ORDEAL.

WE CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT HER.

YES, BUT OUR REAL CONCERN IS STILL NUMBER 47.

SO TRUE.... THE PROBLEM IS YOUNG TETSUO'S EVOLUTION.

SO FAR, IT'S PROCEEDING WELL....

BUT STILL... TIMING IS EVERYTHING.
WHOA!
SWEET!
SO COOL...
A BIKE LIKE THIS WILL HIT 200 KPH!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF!
GET OUTTA THERE, YOU BRATS!
GO HOME TO YOUR MOM!
GO DIE!
YOUR BIKE SUCKS!
LET'S GO...
OH, SHIT! IT'S--
YOU LITTLE CHICKENSHTS.... NOW WE'LL SETTLE THIS LIKE MEN...
HAVE A NICE RIDE? FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE YOU TOOK CARE OF MY MACHINES...
...HOWZIT GOIN'?
UH...
I Gotta go...

Huh?

I only see one bike. Why is that?

Pof

Kaneda!

Shuru

I don't believe it! He split!

Heyy!

What are you waiting for?! Go get him!!

Kaneda! Don't leave me here! C'mon....!
SHUK SHUK

Rshhh

THERE! THAT CAN'T BE MISSED...

FROP

OKAY, COME ON.

Yeah...That's good.

THERE'S A WALL ON FIFTH STREET WE CAN DO NEXT.
THOSE GUYS WERE FROM THE EMPIRE...

WHAT THEY'RE UP TO NOW?

HUUH...?

"ASSEMBLY OF THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE." WHEN'S THAT... TODAY?

WHAT'S IT MEAN?

YOU THINK WE'RE ALL INVITED?
ATTENTION ALL SUBJECTS OF THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE!

HEAR YE!

THE GREAT ASSEMBLY HAS BEGUN! ALL CITIZENS MUST ATTEND! NO EXCEPTIONS!

PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEO-TOKYO OLYMPIC STADIUM!

THE CELEBRATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CENTRAL ARENA!

REJOICE! SHARE THE MOMENT WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR AKIRA--IN PERSON!
DO NOT BE MISLED BY THE SEDUCTIVE LIES OF MIYAKO, SWORN ENEMY OF OUR EMPIRE!

LET US UNITE UNDER THE SAME BANNER....!

...LET US SHOW OUR LOYALTY TO OUR GREAT LORD AKIRA.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES! WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!

PROVE YOUR RESPECT AND YOUR TOTAL DEVOTION—INCLUDING YOU, YOU DIRTY LITTLE SHIT!

THOSE WHO CAN WORK, HELP WITH THE CONSTRUCTION!

THOSE WHO CAN SPEAK, GO OUT AND SPREAD THE WORD!

ALL MUST PARTICIPATE! WITH EVERYONE'S ASSISTANCE, WE CANNOT FAIL!
AN ASSEMBLY?! TETSUO'S WHAT?!

WITH AKIRA...

NO SHIT?!
BAM BAM

WE HAVE THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS WORKING...

BAM BAM

...BUT LIGHTING THE OLYMPIC FLAME WON'T BE EASY...

CLING

WELL?

HOW'S THE JOB PROGRESSING? WHERE ARE WE?

WE'RE DOING OUR BEST...

ZiiK

IT'LL BE TOUGH TO KEEP IT BURNING FOR VERY LONG...

SO, FIGURE IT OUT! THAT'S YOUR JOB!

Y... YESSIR!

THE FLAME MUST LIGHT THE STAGE FOR 24 HOURS...

A BRIGHT, CLEAR LIGHT WILL BE JUST THE SYMBOL WE NEED!
Why aren't you at the assembly?!

Over here, guys!

Shooting five or six of 'em would teach the rest a lesson!

No! No bloodshed on this special day!

But... my legs are... I can't...

Round up all the traitors!
LORD AKIRA!

AKIRA! OUR SAVIOR!

THE STADIUM IS JUST AHEAD!
REMEMBER TO LEAVE YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE GATE!

REJOICE! OUR FIRST NATIONAL CELEBRATION IS UPON US!
Row KPOF KPOF

DON'T STOP! THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM IN FRONT!

COME TO THE FRONT! KEEP COMING!
HELLO, NEO-TOKYO! C'MON, PEOPLE--LEMMIE HEAR YOU!

DO YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT?!

I DUNNO ABOUT YOU, BUT I FEEL LIKE SHIT, MAN.

HE'S USING A MICROPHONE!

HEY--WHO SAID THAT?!

THEY'VE GOT ELECTRICITY ...?!

I'M STARVING.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS ALL RIGHT, DIPSHIT!

JUST FEED US!

YOU LOOK LIKE A CLOWN, DUDE!

YOUR FLY'S OPEN, JERKWARD!

EAT SHIT AND DIE!

COME ON, EVERYONE! LEMME HEAR YA CHEER!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, LORD AKIRA AND MASTER TETSUO ARE HEADED THIS WAY!
AKIRA!
LONG LIFE TO YOU!
HERE HE COMES!
HOORAY!

DAMN! I CAN'T GET BY THEM!
I'VE GOTTA GET TO THE ARENA BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
I CAN'T FIRE IT HERE....
...UNLESS...

HEY, YOU!

I OWE YOU THIS!

THOK

HUHN?
HIIIIIIIN...?

WHAT'S WRONG, BUDDY?

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DITCHED ME.

DIRTY...

DON'T TAKE IT WRONG, PAL. GUESS YOU COULD SAY I SAW THE ERROR OF MY WAYS...

YOU... B-BASTARD... YOU THINK YOU CAN... DO THIS AND... 

... GET AWAY... WITH IT...

HERE THEY ARE, FOLKS!

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR HIS EXCELLENCY, LORD AKIRA!

YAAA!
YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

COME ON! GIVE IT UP FOR LORD AKIRA!

SHUT UP, JACKASS!

GET OFF ALREADY!

BOM

LORD AKIRA! RAH! RAH! RAH!
The Admiral is needed in Sick Bay! I repeat...

I was notified that Dr. Hock is in critical condition!

Any improvement?

Well...

They're trying to rebuild his ribcage right now, but it doesn't look good.
I HAVE TO BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR THIS...

I CHEW THEM OUT ABOUT CATAPULT SAFETY SO OFTEN I DEM NEAR BREAK MY JAW, AND YET...

I KNOW, I KNOW. MODERN CARRIERS ARE SO MASSIVE, AND ALL THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IS CONNECTED BY A SKEIN OF UNCOUNTABLE CABLES.

SOME OF THEM MUST HAVE SHORTED BECAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT... AND IGTITED SOME OF THE FLAMMABLE GASES IN YOUR LAB.

I'M SORRY, ADMIRAL, BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!! DIDN'T YOU READ OUR REPORT?!

...YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE IT. NO INTRUDER COULD EVADE EVERY RADAR ON THIS SHIP, ALL OUR SECURITY...

AH, YES... YOUR REPORT. I READ IT. BUT REALLY, GENTLEMEN...
STUMBLING THROUGH THE NIGHT... FROZEN IN THE DARK...

WANDERING WITHOUT HOPE IN MY HEART....

LOST IN BLACK, I'M ALL ALONE... CAN'T TURN BACK, NOWHERE TO GO... LIKE A SHEEP ON THE KILLING FLOOR....

Oooh... THE KILLING FLOOR!

NO HOPE IN MY HEART
GET YOUR FOOD HERE! GOOD, HOT FOOD, PLENTY FOR EVERYONE!
STOP THIS MASSACRE! HAVE PITY!

THE MASTER HEALED MY WOUNDS... AND SHowered ME WITH FOOD...!

AKIRA
YOU SUCK!
PLAY SOME MUSIC!
THIS IS SHIT!

THEN ONE DAY AKIRA CAME...
AND HE TOOK AWAY MY PAIN...

AKIRA IS GREAT! HE’S INSIDE US ALL...

...LORD AKIRA, I LOVE YOUUU... GUIDE ME AS ONLY YOU CAN DOOO...!

GLORY TO LORD AKIRA!
LONG LIVE AKIRA!
DROP DEAD, LOSERS!
GET OFF! YOU’RE PATHETIC!
THANK YOU, LORD!
HURRAY!

Yeah! He’s the Master, AKIRAaaa....!
OPEN THIS DOOR!

PIECE A' SHIT...

BAM

klik klik
AKIRA, I LOVE YOU!

HA HA! LOOK AT THIS IDIOT....!

PLIK PLOK

BLORP BLUP

AWRIGHT! NOW IT'S A PARTY!

...BUT YOU AIN'T SEE NOTHIN' YET!

SO, LET THE LORD REALLY HEAR YOU!

MASTER TETSUO, I THINK IT'S TIME...

...TO SHOW THEM WHAT YOU CAN REALLY DO!
MASTER, I'M BEGGING YOU! INSPIRE AND UNITE YOUR SUBJECTS!

HMM...

USE YOUR POWER TO FILL THEIR HEARTS!

RAUGH...

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES?!

OBSERVE HIS MIGHTY POWER!

ALL RIGHT...

HEY! CHECK IT OUT!

BIG FUCKIN' DEAL....

RAH! RAH! RAH!

INFINITE THANKS, MASTER! THE CROWD WILL BE TRULY AMAZED!

HMM? OH...RIGHT AWAY, SIR!

ENOUGH!

GOOD! NOW FUCK OFF!

...I WAS JUST GETTIN' STARTED!

BWOX

SNAP

BUT...
QUIET!
QUIET!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... MASTER TETSUO!
HUHN?!
MASTER TETSUO!
DOWN IN FRONT!
AW, SHUT UP...!
THE MOON, LORD?

THE MOON...

YES, MY LORD.

HUHN? WHA...?
THE... THE MOON? THE ACTUAL MOON?

...IN THE SKY?

HUHN?!

VRAK

AIEEE!!

WHAT'D HE DO?

WHERE DID HE GO?

HE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR...

DID YOU SEE...?
TapTap

OF COURSE WE'RE AWARE OF IT! THE PHONE'S BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK!

Look! We're checking into it!

Later!

Oh! Professor...

Ashidachi? Where are you?

What's this story about a column rising from a crater on the moon? Has everyone gone mad?

See for yourself...!

Here, professor!
HUHN? WHAT IN...?! ON THE MOON...?!

WHERE?
GET OFF ME, DUMBASS!
WHAT ABOUT THE MOON?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
SO, MOVE!

YES, FRIENDS—DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FULL MOON! WATCH CLOSELY!
ONE... TWO... THREE...

YEAH!
FRROOOSHH

ZRAK

BROOBRO
OH LET US TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME, Washed by the wake of the moon...

WE MET BY CHANCE, WE LOVED BY CHANCE, holding this dream, we two...

TWO PEOPLE IN LOVE, NOW LET US GO...

HAND IN HAND, TO FIND OUR WAY HOME...

LORD AKIRA! LONG LIVE LORD AKIRA!

RAAH!

BLOW WIND, AND CRACK YOUR CHEEKS! RAGE, BLOW!

HELL! ONE MOON, TWO MOONS, SHOOT 'EM DOWN!

PRAISE MASTER TETSUO!

IT'S A BUJUUJU MOOOON!

SHiiiii!

IT'S RAINING!

NO RAIN SHALL FALL ON LORD AKIRA!
MOVE IT, YOU!
HURRY UP!

LOOK! I SAW A LIGHTNING FLASH!
AIEE! HURRY!

WOOAH!!
BROOM
KRR
BLONG

WHAT IN...?

THIS STORM'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER--

HUHN PI!

RYU!

GWAAK
I'M BACK, LORD.
NUMBER 41 HAS RAVAGED THE MOON...

His growth has been so rapid, we can't expect a period of respite. I didn't imagine he would become so developed in such a short time...

It's dangerous to expend that much energy at once.

With such rapid development, his periods of stability will become increasingly shorter...

I wish we could take the precaution of waiting until we are certain...

...but we haven't that luxury.

You're right... we've no time to lose.

But Kei hasn't regained--
YOU'RE RIGHT. IF HE CONTINUES SUCH ILL-CONSIDERED RELEASES OF POWER, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE AKIRA REACTS...

NOW THAT HE IS OFF THE DRUGS, HE AND HIS ESCALATING POWER MUST COEXIST WITHIN HIS OWN CAPACITY TO CONTROL IT... SUCH A DELICATE BALANCE!

WE NEEDN'T WORRY AS LONG AS TETSUO REMAINS MASTER OF HIS OWN ABILITIES...

...BUT HOW LONG WILL THAT LAST?

HE IS LIKE THAT HALF-SHATTERED MOON, FLOATING IN PRECARIOUS EQUILIBRIUM...
AWESOME AIN'T IT? I COUNCERN'T BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN WE FOUND IT!

YOU STILL THINK I'M FULL OF SHIT?

NOW WE'RE EVEN FOR THOSE BUSTED BIKES.

I'M STILL COSTING OUT THE USABLE PARTS.

NOT YET, PAL.

DON'T Gimme THAT CRAP! YOU'RE FREAKIN' LOADED!!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH'A YOUR SHIT, KANEDA!

SO ?! SCREW YOU, YA FAT BASTARD!

"COSTING OUT"...?I'M BROKE, YOU CHEAP-ASS MISER!

...
JUST A GOD DAMN SECOND!

THIS SHIT STARTED 'CAUSE YOU STOLE MY BIKES!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT ANY MORE, BALDY?!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT ANY MORE, BALDY?!

UH... KANEDA...

KANEDAAA!

WE DON'T GOT TIME FOR THIS!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

HURR? HEAR WHAT...

DON'T YOU HEAR IT...?!
WHAT'S THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE...
...WATER.

GROOOOMM

...SHIIIIIT!!
HAUL ASS!

FLASH

HUFF
HUFF

MOVE IT!

HERE IT COMES!

VROOB
CAN'T WE GO ANY FASTER?!

NOT UNLESS YOU LOSE SOME WEIGHT!

DRROOM

TTSHOOF

IT'S RIGHT BEHIND US!

VVRROOM
VOCOMG!

AAUGH!

FASTER!

...JOKER!

SWOSH
VRRAAA

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN MAKE IT RIDING TOGETHER!

SKORCH!

DON'T WORRY, KAISUKE! I'LL HONOR YOUR MEMORY!

YOU BASTARD!

HOW CAN YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

I PROMISE I'LL TAKE CARE OF TETSUO, SO YOU CAN REST IN PEACE! NOW GET OFF!

GWAARH!
YOY! DUMBASS....!

VRRRAAHH

KANEDA!

VRIIIIISH

DOOM
SSHR AF

POUTCH

BAOF

HOLY SHIT!
AW, MAN!!!
MY BIKE!!

BLAARGH!
KOFF!
KOFF!

QUIT YER BITCHIN'!
AT LEAST YOU STILL GOT IT!

DON'T YOU THINK SOMETHING'S WEIRD...? THAT WAS SEAWATER!

Yeah...it was salty, all right.

And a bit too fast and a bit too much just for high tide...
I'm a little bit dizzy, but better...

Hmm...

How are you feeling?

Tap tap
WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE NEED... OF YOUR POWER, KEI...

WHAT DO YOU SEE OUTSIDE?

HIGH WINDS... A BIG STORM.

IT WAS UNLEASHED BY THE RAVAGING OF THE MOON.

WHAT?!

DID AKIRA--?!

IN TRUTH, JUST A FRAGMENT OF IT WAS DESTROYED...

...AND SO THE EFFECTS ON EARTH ARE LIMITED TO THE SURFACE ONLY. WEATHER DISRUPTED, THE TIDE HIGHER...
NO. IT WAS NUMBER 41.

TETSUO?!

THE TIME WE'VE AWAITED HAS COME...

"WE"...?

AH...!

KIYOKO? MASARU! YOU'RE HERE TOO!

YOUNG TETSUO... CAN FINALLY USE POWERS LIKE AKIRA'S WITHOUT DRUGS... AND WITHOUT THE LOSS OF HIS PERSONALITY...

POWERS...

...LIKE AKIRA'S?!

WE'LL USE THAT POWER TO BURY AKIRA.
WAIT. SLOW DOWN. MY HEAD'S SPINNING.

WE'LL SMASH NUMBER 41'S FULL POWER INTO AKIRA.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

BUT...IF WE CAN JUST...DIRECT THE POWER INWARD...

WE DON'T KNOW...WE CAN ONLY TRY.

AND TO THAT END...WE'RE ASKING YOU TO OFFER YOUR OWN POWER AS A MEDIUM.

WE WILL BECOME ONE WITHIN YOU, DRAW OUT 41'S POWER...

...AND HEAD FOR AKIRA.
YOU WANT TO USE ME... LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.

KSHIN

YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT YOUR LOVE...

Huhn?!

FORGIVE ME. I DID NOT INTEND TO PRY INTO YOUR THOUGHTS.

YOU'RE MISTAKEN. KANEDA AND I AREN'T --

KEI, WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME.

TETSUO'S POWER WILL SOON BE BEYOND HIS CONTROL.
IT WILL SLOWLY EAT INTO HIM... UNTIL IN THE END HIS OWN PERSONALITY WILL COLLAPSE, AND THE POWER WILL SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE DESTRUCTION WON'T END AT JUST THE MOON.

LISTEN TO US, KEI!

WE USE THE DRUGS TO COEXIST WITH THE POWER...

...BUT THERE'S NO RESTRAINT ON AKIRA.

THE INSTANT HE FULLY OPENED HIMSELF TO THE POWER, HIS PERSONALITY DISINTEGRATED.

NOW HE IS THE POWER MANIFEST, NOTHING MORE... AND HE Responds impulsively TO STIMULI, SOMETIMES RELEASING IT IN TINY BURSTS.

THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE...

KEI...
WHATEVER HAPPENED UP HERE WAS MAJOR...

Hey! Over there! It's all flooded!

Kaneda, where you goin'?

Look at this shit... it's gotta be him!!

That ol' bag, Miyako, can probably explain it. Wait here!

This wasn't any normal storm!
STAY HERE... YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME WITH THE BIKES!

HUHN?!

KANEDA...
GRROOO

ADOGA
ADOGA

ATTENTION SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL! REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE OPERATIONS ROOM DRESSED FOR LEVEL FIVE COMBAT!

REPEAT, SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL...
This is intolerable! Why are we being kept out of the plan of action against Akira?!

We have the right and the duty to assist and advise in this operation. It's our prerogative, and you know it!

This was decided at the presidential level. I'm sorry, but it's out of my hands.

What about the reports we submitted?

I understand they were given full consideration.

In that case, we want to address the president in person.

A soldier's duty is to carry out his assignment as ordered. We are not here to debate. The losses will be justified if the operation is successful. I have nothing more to say on the matter.

If he'll only listen, we can minimize the loss of human life and--

Gentlemen, listen carefully...
This is the drop zone. We will disembark here.

Information regarding topography of the area is sketchy, so the chopper will drop us at sea. We row to shore.

This is a picture...

Of Lieutenant George Yamada, leader of the recon team that infiltrated Neo-Tokyo. Remember this face...

Once we’re on the ground, we rendezvous with him, at which point the lieutenant will take over command of the operation. Understood?

We’ll then proceed to operational stage three. However! If you are unable to rendezvous with the lieutenant...

...or should you detect anything unusual about him or his actions... proceed to stage three at your individual discretion...!
COMMENCEMENT OF THE FOURTH PHASE WILL BE ALERTED BY A SIGNAL ROCKET FIRED BY THE MAIN FORCE.

THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE TRAINED FOR!

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE YOU WILL EVER FIGHT!

YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE WORLD AND THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE!

GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT! YOUR COUNTRY'S DEPENDING ON YOU!
STORM DOESN'T SEEM TO WANT TO STOP...

SHIT. JUST WHEN EVERYONE WAS GETTING INTO IT...

HOW ABOUT WE BUILD A NEW TEMPLE RIGHT HERE...?

WHERE'S MASTER TETSUO?

HE JUST WENT INSIDE.
AA...
AAH...

GO SEE WHAT'S WRONG.
RIGHT.

MASTER TETSUO?
WELL? DID YOU FIND HIM?

HEH! SAY SOMETHING!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST! HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU!

...UH... UH...

MASTER TETSUO!
HEY! WHAT'SA' MATTER WITH YOU?

MIST... HIS ARM... IT'S...

MASTER? IS ANYTHING WRONG?

...NO. NOTHING'S WRONG... I'M FINE...
Huh? What is this...?

I'm hallucinating... There's a hole in the moon!
...AND THE SEA'S COME UP EVEN HIGHER!

GRAB MY HAND!

AAIEE!

SOOOSH

TETSUO!

THIS TIME YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR...
SSSHHHHHHHH!

OBER HERE! WHAT IS IT?

COLONEL! WHERE ARE YOU?

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"THEY"

THE AMERICANS!
THE RUSSIANS!
THE CHINESE!

...MAYBE ALL OF THEM!

THEM?

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THEM?
WHAT IF YOU RECONFIGURE IT NOW...?

I'M TRYING, BUT THEY'VE ALREADY BREACHED THE PROGRAM'S OUTER SHELL...

EVERYTHING I CAN DO IS SUPERFICIAL... THEY'LL OVERTAKE ME SOONER OR LATER.

HOW MUCH TIME CAN YOU BUY?

I DON'T KNOW! A WEEK...? THREE DAYS...? FIVE HOURS...?!

SHIT...

LOOK... IF THEY DON'T CATCH ON TO WHAT I'M DOING... THREE DAYS.

I'LL TAKE IT!
Yeah...

No bullshit, huh? I'm counting on you!

...we'll see...

Three days!

I've taken too long as it is!
HOTEL-545, LIFT OFF! LARGE WAVE APPROACHING STARBOARD! BRACE FOR IMPACT!

SECOND HELO CLEARED FOR TAKE OFF!

AIRCRAFT DIRECTORS TO THE NUMBER TWO ELEVATOR!
AS SOON AS TAKEOFF PROCEDURES FOR THIS FLIGHT ARE COMPLETE, MOVE ALL REMAINING DECK AIRCRAFT INTO THE HANGAR.

LISTEN UP, GUYS, I'M NOT GONNA REPEAT THIS!

THAT'S A CHOPPY SEA OUT THERE, WITH A HIGH WIND, SO IF YOU CAN'T REACH A BOAT ONCE WE HIT THE WATER...
...PROCEED TO SHORE UNDER YOUR OWN POWER!

RENDEZVOUS AT POINT ALPHA-3 AT OH-THREE-HUNDRED, INITIATE OP AT OH-THREE-FIFTEEN!

ANY STRAGGLERS WILL BE CONSIDERED DROWNED! THAT MEANS NO MEDALS!

UNDERSTAND?!

AYE AYE, SIR!
KEII! WHERE ARE YOU?!

HEY, YOU GUYS!

TAKE ME TO MIYAKO! I GOTTA TALK TO HER.

OUR LADY IS WITH MADAME KEII PRESIDING OVER THE RITUAL OF PURIFICATION. YOU MAY NOT SEE THEM JUST NOW.

HUNP! "PURIFICATION"...?!

WHAT'S THIS BULLSHIT?!

NO...!

STOP, PLEASE!

KEII! WHERE ARE YOU?!
I'm grateful you've agreed...

...will go 'til the end of our strength.

...and although I don't know that it will provide you any comfort...

...but know that we too...
SO WILL I...

...TO THE END!
The purification is only a formality... 
...but the ceremony it requires will allow Kei to focus her spirit...

I think she needs that.

Look...!

You're already here?

As you can see, all is well with Kei. There is no need for concern.

The next step is to make a place for her—

Kei!!
LEMMIE GO, DIPSHITS!
BUT SIR...!!
KANEDA!

THAT STORM--
IT'S THAT
BASTARD TETSUO,
RIGHT ?!

FUCK OFF!

YOU HEARD
HER. SCUMBAG!
HANDS OFF!

THAT'S
ENOUGH!
RELEASE
HIM!

KANEDA...

IT'S TRUE,
ISN'T IT, MIYAKO ?!
TETSUO'S DOING
THIS SHIT!
I got it all figured. I've teamed up with Joker.

We'll flush out Tetsuo!

Only...

I take him out—just me!

Is it all right...? Leaving them alone like that...

She has great strength of spirit, that child. She will be fine.

Wait a--

Where'd everyone go...?
LISTEN...

...STAY WITH ME TONIGHT.

WHAT?

WH...WH...WHAT'D YOU SAY? YOU WANT ME TO...WITH YOU?!

...EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH...

WELL, UH...HA HA...ER...

ARE YOU SERIOUS?! FOR REAL?!
I DON'T GET IT...
Hmmm?

Hold it!

....?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT!

THIS IS JUST MAJOR WEIRD!

TOO FREAKIN' WEIRD!

MIYAKO, YOU OLD WITCH....!

WHAT WAS THIS "PURIFICATION" CRAP...?! SOME KINDA BRAINWASHING...?!
WHAT THE HELL'S THAT CRAZY OLD BAG UP TO?!

KEI!

TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!

FINE!

YOU DON'T WANNA TELL ME...I'LL ASK HER!

NO!

I'LL TELL YOU...

WAIT....!
THIS IS IT, BOYS! SHOW ME THAT YOU GOT A PAIR!

OKAY! JUMP!!
A "MEDIUM"...?!

WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?!?

I HAVE... THAT POWER...

THEY'LL UNIFY ALL THEIR POWERS INSIDE ME, AND...

...FIGHT TETSUO.

WHAT?! THAT'S CRAZY!!

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU?!

DO YOU SEE THE STORM?

TETSUO'S POWERS ARE INCREASING RAPIDLY.
...Soon, Tetsuo will no longer be able to control them.

We have to take him now, before he grows into another Akira.
LADY MIYAKO SAID THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.

FUCK THAT SHIT!!

LET THAT WHACKED-OUT OLD BAG DO IT HER OWN FREAKIN' SELF!

WH--WHY DID SHE HAVE TO PICK YOU?! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

IF I CAN BE OF USE TO THEM...

...THEN I WILL.

BUT--

I WANT TO HELP... FOR THE SAKE OF DEAD FRIENDS...

...AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL ALIVE.
TH... THIS...

THIS SUCKS! IT'S YOUR ASS ON THE LINE, SO WHY SHOULD SHE GIVE A SHIT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU!?

KEI!!! DON'T DO IT! QUIT!

THIS IS ALL SOME KIND OF MIND CONTROL TRICK!

YOU'RE WRONG, KANEDA! I MADE UP MY OWN MIND!

IT WAS DURING THE PURIFICATION...
I'LL KILL TETSUO MYSELF!

HE'LL BE DEAD MEAT BEFORE YOU GET ANYWHERE NEAR HIM!

I WON'T LET YOU RISK YOUR LIFE FOR THESE CREEPS!

KANEDA...
BELIEVE IT!

YOU CAN'T! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW POWERFUL HE IS, KANEDA!

TOUGH SHIT!

GEAR UP, TETSUO... WE'RE GONNA PARTY!
TAP TAP TAP

KEI...

HUNH?

...KANEDA, WHAT'S--

I FORGOT SOMETHING!

MMH...
KANEDA...

NEXT TIME, I'LL STAY WITH YOU ALL NIGHT--I PROMISE!
Ah! There's a new leak over there!

Seal that wall, too, or it'll get in there!

We're going to have to get up on the roof...
IS HE STILL ASLEEP?

JUST LIKE A BABY...
AND LORD TETSUO?

ONE GUY HAD HIS GUTS BURST OPEN.

ANOTHER GOT HIS ARMS BLOWN TO SHIT.

PLUS WE GOT MULTIPLE BROKEN RIBS, BUSTED LEGS...

AND ONE GUY'S JUST A SMEAR ON THE WALL.

WHAT THE FUCK GOT INTO HIM?!

THEY'RE ALL TERRIFIED. WON'T GET NEAR HIM.

HE'S GONE LOCO! LIKE HE'S LOST HIS MIND!
"As soon as the storm breaks..."

"I'll reassemble our army for another offensive against Miyako. It's time to go to war."

"...Master Tetsuo's the one who should lead us."

"If he's up to it..."
IS... IS MASTER TETSUO...?!

ROOM AT THE END OF THE HALL.

WATCH YOURSELF, KAORI. HE JUST FINALLY CALMED DOWN...

"FOR NOW, JUST CALM LORD TETSUO DOWN! GOT IT?!"
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

COME CLOSER.
I finally settled down a bit. Just now.

Now, come here...
YOU'RE TREMBLING! THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR...

KAORI...!
SLAP SLAP TAP TAP

DROWNED? YOU'RE SHITTIN' ME!

I HEARD SOMEBODY YELLING FOR HELP...

THIS IS NO TIME TO STAND AROUND YAKKIN'!

...AND THEN THERE HE WAS AT THE FOOT OF THE SHRINE, BEING SWEEPED AWAY.
DID YOU HEAR ME?!
I JUST WENT TO MIYAKO'S PLACE! AND GET THIS—
JESUS, KANEDA... CAN'T YOU EVEN SWIM?
WHAT A LAME-O...

HUHN?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

YOU FAT BASTARD!

WYTHE F*CK'D YOU SAVE HIM?

SO? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

OH? RIGHT!
THE STORY IS...!

PUNCH

AHH?!

BAM

SLIIIZ

KANEDA?!

HEY, KANEDA?
WHAT?!

KEI’S DOING WHAT?!

IT’S TRUE, DAMMIT!

MIYAKO CONvinced KEI! I couldn’t talk her out of it!

YOU DOWN WITH US, JOKER?

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?

MIYAKO’S ready to go right now!

BUT... BUT... BUT, KANEDA... what’s the plan?

NONE!
FUCK PLANS!

I'M DOING IT! ALONE IF I HAVE TO!

THAT'S CRAZY! WE CAN'T DO NOTHIN' WITHOUT A PLAN! WE DON'T EVEN GOT ANY WEAPONS...!

YOU WITH ME, JOKER?

I'LL FIGHT WITH MY BARE HANDS!

YEAH!!

BUT FIRST, I WANNA SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
WE GOT US A REGULAR ARSENAL!

THAT'S NO JOKE!

OH, SHIT....!

WE GOT US A REGULAR ARSENAL!

THAT'S NO JOKE!

OH, SHIT....!

THAT AIN'T GONNA DO FOR TETSUO. FOR HIM, I GOT SOMETHIN' SPECIAL....

SOMETHIN' A LITTLE MORE LETHAL....

IT'S DANGEROUS STUFF--A PROTOTYPE....!

Yeah? What is it?
A TOP-SECRET MILITARY WEAPON! STATE OF THE ART!

OH... IT'S A LASER!

HUNH?!

HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT...!

BITCHIN' GAT! SICK! CAN I TRY IT? CAN I, JOKER?

THIS IS THE POWER SWITCH... HERE'S THE TARGETING SIGHT...

GREAT.

HEY! I GOT SOMETHIN' ELSE TO SHOW YOU!
HEY, AREN'T THESE--?

YEAH, THOSE JUNKERS WE FOUND DOWN IN THE SUBWAY!

THEY'RE MOSTLY SHIT. SHAPE THEY'RE IN. IT'D TAKE TWO WEEKS JUST TO GET THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS WORKING.

TOO BAD...I COULD USE ONE.

CHECK IT OUT, KANEDA.
THIS IS WHAT I BUILT FROM THAT SCRAP.

I...uh...haven't actually taken 'er up...but the engine checks out fine.

YOU RIDE IT...

UH-UH. THE GUY WHO BUILT IT GETS FIRST HONORS...
They're from Randy's team! Looks like they're hurt!

Where are the others?

Any sign of Travis?

I saw Randy get swept up in a tornado, but I don't know about the rest...
WE'RE IN BAD SHAPE TO BEGIN THIS OPERATION...

NOT YET, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT FOR HIM. WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE OUT...

HAS LIEUTENANT YAMADA MADE CONTACT YET?

THE WOUNDED REMAIN HERE! EVERYONE ELSE, MOVE OUT!

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
ATTENTION!

I see a group of armed men!

Wh... What's that? Where's that coming from?

They have infiltrated our empire!

It's like a voice in my head!

General alert!

They are enemies, come to end the reign of Lord Akira!
STOP THEM! THEY COME TO DESTROY THE EMPIRE!

PREPARE YOURSELVES, CITIZENS!

HE'S OUT OF RANGE! USE YOUR RIFLE! FIRE!

TAKA TAKATA

HA HA HA HA HA!

WHAT THE--?!

THE BULLETS ARE DEFLECTING?!

HA HA HA!

YOU ARE NOTHING!

MASTER TETSUO WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BY SUCH WEAK OPPONENTS!

EH...?!

WHO... WHO'S THAT?!

STAY BACK....
There's someone else up there! Another bad guy?

Aaugh!
SPLAT

GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, BOYS.

IT'S LIEUTENANT YAMADA! TENCHUT!

THIS IS OUR BATTLEFIELD.
THE REST OF THE BOY SCOUTS HAVE ARRIVED... ALMOST MAKES ME WANT TO SIGN UP...

THEY'LL PROBABLY START LIGHTING CAMPFIRES ANY TIME NOW...
WHAT?!

THE BIRDMAN IS DEAD...?!?

TELL HIM WHAT YOU TOLD ME.

IT'S TRUE. I SAW HIM HIT THE GROUND.

RIGHT. YOU'RE ABLE TO "TALK" WITH HIM, AREN'T YOU?

BUT I CAN'T NOW. 'CAUSE HE'S ALL SQUARE.

WHO DID IT? WAS HE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT?

HUHN?! IT'S THE AMERICANS!!

SOLDIERS... SOLDIERS WITH BLUE EYES WHO CAME FROM THE SEA...
ALERT!

BLAKAM BLAM

SOUND THE ALARM!

TAP TAP TAP

IT'S A STATE OF EMERGENCY!

...WHUZZAT?

...EMERGENCY...

...ALERT...?

THE ENEMY IS APPROACHING!

PREPARE FOR BATTLE!!
WHO THE HELL'S ATTACKING US?

I DUNNO... GOTTA BE MIYAKO.

MAYBE KILLER MONKS...!

HEE HEE! YEAH, THAT'S IT!

WELL?

WHAT'S NEW, GUYS?

LOTTA EXCITEMENT DOWN THERE. WHAT'S UP?

SOME OF MIYAKO'S CRAZIES ARE PLANNING AN ATTACK.

NO SHIT?

YEAH, KEEP AN EYE OUT WHILE I GET US SOME CHOW.

NO REASON TO FIGHT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!
WE'LL SEE...

THINK IT'LL BE A BIG ONE?

BUT THEY AIN'T COMIN' HERE TO PLAY AROUND...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND TETSUO?

HUH?
They sure as hell picked a lousy time to --

Oh!

How's it goin'? So far, so good. Who? Me? Why me...? Do what I tell you, and don't argue!

Bring me Kaori.

Kaori...? You here...? What are you doing here?

Aah!
Uh... Kaori... I was asked to bring her...

Kaori... has just... Fallen asleep...
WE NEED TO LET HER SLEEP...
THE STADIUM?

Yeah. They moved in there after their big ceremony.

A lot of soldiers from their empire are there, too...

How many?

Word is there's been a lot of desertions, but there must be fifty or sixty...

There are still some passable roads between here and there, so we can use the bikes.

Right! We gonna haul ass?!
GO...?
YOU MEAN...

JOKER SAYS HE'S GOT A PLAN...
HEY ?!
KANEDA!

PLAN...? STRATEGY...? FUCK THAT SHIT...

WE'RE JUST ABOUT TO TALK STRATEGY...

SITTING AROUND CHATTING ?!
IS THIS ANY TIME FOR THAT ?!

HE SAID THAT THING OF HIS WOULDN'T RUN. HE'S BEEN MAKING SWEET LOVE TO IT.

YEAH. HE'S BRAGGING HE'LL LEAD THE CHARGE IN THE DAMN THING.

AT LEAST THE ENEMY WILL FLIP OUT WHEN THEY SEE IT....!

WHERE IS JOKER, ANYWAY ?

WE'RE NOT OUT TO MAKE THEM FUCKING LAUGH!

THEY CAN PICK HIM OFF WITH A ROCK BEFORE HE FIRES ONE SHOT!

HEY! KANEDA!

WE'RE OUTTA HERE, KAISUKE!
YOU REALLY GOING BY YOURSELF?

JUST WHEN I GOT THEM ALL ON BOARD?

WE'RE GOING TOGETHER!

REALLY?

THAT CRAZY GIZMO'LL BE THE PERFECT DECOY!

HUHN?!

SO HURRY UP AND GET THAT FACE-PAINTED PORKER OVER HERE!

YOU IDIOT! DON'T!
WHAT'S UP?

DUNNO.

SWEET! BATTERIES ARE FULLY CHARGED!

MOVE YOUR ASS, YOU FAT FUCK!!

KANEDA, KNOCK IT OFF! SHIT...

WOOA!

OH, YEAH! THAT'S MY BABY!

KROPF
WHAT KIND OF READINGS ARE YOU GETTING, DR. JORRIS?

NOTHING UNUSUAL TO REPORT.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO BE BACK AT WORK?

DON'T WORRY. IF I DON'T FEEL UP TO IT I'LL ASK TO BE RELIEVED.
THREE MORE DAYS... TWO MORE DAYS... EXTENSION AFTER EXTENSION, AND NOW, TODAY, YOU STILL DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHEN YOU'LL CRACK IT?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, LIEUTENANT?

YOU WERE STRUTTING AROUND SAYING YOU'D BREAK THE SECURITY LOCK ON SOL IN A WEEK!

BUT SIR... THEY'VE NOTICED WE'RE HACKING IN. THEY'RE SWITCHING CODES LIKE CRAZY!

NO EXCUSES!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE PUT MY OWN SON IN FRONT OF A LOADED GUN...!
Hey! You over there! Tighten up those wires!

It's the wind! Think of the damned wind direction...

Twak

How are you doing in there, Dr. Simmons?

A little cramped but otherwise, fine.

I'm more disturbed that I'm the only one who gets to go.

It can't be helped. We can't all of us just up and vanish...

More to the point...
...Please proceed with the utmost caution.

I understand, Doctor Bernadi. I promise to come back alive.

Be careful...

Blink

All clear! Release the wires!
TAKE A LOOK.

SURE...
YES, SIR. I'LL GO...

IF ANYTHING LOOKS WEIRD, GET BACK HERE PRONTO!
Krumble

Yaugh!!

Wh... what the hell is that?!
WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE...?

Huh?

SRAAK

WHAT ARE THESE TUBES?!
TETSUO!

WHERE... AM I....?

OOAAGH!
OOOH!

MY... MY BODY... IS...

NO!

THEY'LL KNOW...

AHH!

WAIT!
BROOM

SHIT...

I WAS TOO SLOW!

HUFFE

HUFFE

HUFFE

HUFFE

GOTTA STAY CALM! GOTTA STAY CALM! GOTTA--
NOT AS STRONG AS THE LAST ONE...

COULD THEY BE FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES, SIR?

WE'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE GET THERE. LET'S GO!
FOXTROT VICTOR-25 RETURNING FROM MANEUVERS! TRAINING SEQUENCE COMPLETE!

DECK CREW, REPORT TO STATIONS!

PREPARE FOR LANDING!
NOTHING TO SAY, DR. BERNARDI?

I'M PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS MISSION. AS COMMANDER OF THIS VESSEL, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SHOULDER THIS BURDEN.

IF DR. SIMMONS IS CAUGHT IN A RESTRICTED AREA, HE COULD BE SHOT AS A SPY. THIS IS A DELICATE SITUATION...

WE RUN THE RISK OF CREATING A SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT, WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE THE FUTURE OF THIS AND OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS.

IT'LL BE BEST FOR EVERYONE IF YOU TELL ME WHERE DOCTOR SIMMONS WENT...

HMM...?!?

WHAT'S GOING ON?! ARE WE UNDER ATTACK?!!

OHH!
BATTLE STATIONS! ALL PERSONNEL TO BATTLE STATIONS IMMEDIATELY!

SECURE ALL AIRCRAFT ON DECK!

LAUNCH THE SH-BO HELOS AS SOON AS THEY'RE READY.

DAMAGE REPORT! WHAT HIT US! A MISSILE?! TORPEDO double question mark!

CAN'T TELL, SIR! THERE'S NO SMOKE VISIBLE FROM THE BRIDGE!

AHHH!

ZBAM

THE WHOLE SHIP'S TWISTING!

TH... THERE IT IS AGAIN...!

BRR
SHROOOB

IT SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED...

NO! HE'S SEARCHING FOR US!

EH...?

BWORF

HE'S HERE!
MY GOD... IT CAN'T... WHAT IS...?

NUMBER 41?!!

HE... HE'S FUSED WITH THE STRUCTURE OF THE SHIP!
...MY BODY...

WHAT'S HAPPENING... TO IT...?

YOUR BODY IS NO LONGER ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN IT, SO IT SEeks TO ABSORB THE OBJECTS AROUND YOU SO THAT IT CAN CONTINUE TO GROW...

WHAT?! YOU MEAN IT WANTS TO ABSORB THIS SHIP?!

N... NONSENSE...

YOUR BODY IS A PRISON IT SEeks TO ESCAPE!
THAT'S...

...THAT'S BULLSHIT!

BLAM

GWAARH!!

FOOL! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

IT'S A MONSTER...
HEH... HEH HEH... LOOK AT THIS...

THAT HURT!

HA... HA HA... HA HA...

HA... HA HA... HAHA! HA HA... HAHAHAHAA!!
Swoom

Aaugh!

Is... is he gone?!?

No!

He's still here!

Shraak

It's shaking again! My ship...!

Ohh...!
SHIIIIIZ

EMERGENCY ALERT! ADMIRAL, THE SHIP’S CONTROLS ARE NOT RESPONDING!

WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU SAY?! HELLO! BRIDGE, RESPOND....!

WE ARE NOW WITHIN HIM....

BOOOOOOO
I’LL FIND OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING ON THE BRIDGE. STAY HERE...

ADMLRAL...

...

IT’S... IT’S NOT POSSIBLE....!

TCHAK

AH!
THE NUCLEAR MISSILE LAUNCHERS HAVE ACTIVATED!

THAT CAN'T BE, CAPTAIN... CONTROLS ARE DEAD...! NOTHING'S WORKING...

PSHUU

TSSSIIF
FWOOOM

...FIGHTERS ARE RETURNING FROM PATROL!

THERE...!
WHAT IN...?!?

DELTA 2, DO YOU COPY? I'M GETTING NO RESPONSE FROM THE SHIP!

THERE'S NOTHING ON EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

BETTER CONTACT OKINAWA COMMAND!
KIN KIN KIN

ADMIRAL!

WELL? IS ANYTHING FUNCTIONING?

THAT MONSTER...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP, SIR. ALL CONTROL SYSTEMS SHUT DOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY!

FIGHTERS ON FINAL APPROACH, SIR!
WOOOO

NOTHING UNUSUAL ON DECK... I DON'T SEE ANYTHING--

ASSHOLE...
IT'S HIM!!
USE THE HAND SEMAPHORE FOR SIGNALING!

SIR...?

I FOUND HIM! THERE! KILL HIM!

WHO IS THAT?

THAT MONSTER'S BEHIND ALL OF THIS...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE IS! GO KILL HIM!

GET THE SECURITY TEAM!

THE INTERCOM'S DOWN! RUN!

BZIM

HE... HE VANISHED?!
DELTA 2, LANDING IS IMPOSSIBLE! LET'S HEAD FOR OKINAWA!

HUhH?
WHAT WAS THAT?!

THE POWER'S BACK!

ORDER THOSE PLANES TO WITHDRAW!

I WANT ALL DECK PERSONNEL IN RADIATION SUITS!

LOWER THE BRIDGE SHUTTERS! BATTLE STATIONS!

WHAT IN...?

LIEUTENANT! ONE OF THE FIGHTERS IS IN TROUBLE!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

THE FUSELAGE IS UNDERGOING SOME KIND OF DEFORMATION...

WHAT?!

MY GOD, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

LET ME SEE.
...THE MONSTER!

THAT'S WHY WE REGAINED CONTROL OF THE SHIP!

COMMENCE FIRING!

AT WHAT, SIR?

ATTACK THAT PLANE!! FIRE EVERY MISSILE WE'VE GOT!!

BUT ADMIRAL... IT'S ONE OF OURS...! WE CAN'T--

BUT THE PILOT... WE CAN'T RADIO AND WARN HIM, SO HIS ONLY HOPE IS TO EJECT BEFORE THE MISSILES STRIKE.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE! IT MUST BE DESTROYED!

I'LL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY! SHOOT DOWN THAT PLANE!
DAMN! CONTROLS WON'T RESPOND!

A HA HA HA HA!

HMM?
NOOOO!

BOOM
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
LIEUTENANT! THE PLANE IS DIVING ON US!

IMPOSSIBLE! WE BLEW IT TO HELL!

FSHOK

CHBAQ! POUM

MISSILE LAUNCH! INCOMING ON OUR POSITION!
AFT RADAR MAST HIT, MAJOR DAMAGE! DAMAGE CONTROL TEAMS, MEDICS TO ELEVATOR THREE!

SKORCH

FIRE! FIRE! SHOOT IT DOWN!

USE EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

CALL THE AREA DEFENSE MISSILE OPERATOR!
FIRE! FIRE ON DECK!

RUN! IT'S GONNA BLOW!

$\text{SiiiiF}$

TAP
PCHITT
POUCH
FSHAFF
VRAOOOM
IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US!

WAARRHH!!
POW
POW
POW

BOOOW
HE'S SEVERELY DETERIORATED, MIYAKO.

YES... HIS PERSONALITY IS BARELY CLINGING TO THE POWER.

KEI... WASN'T IT?

IT'S TRAGIC, MASARU. TRAGIC...
HRRG...!

SO EVEN GRANNY MIYAKO'S ONBOARD, HUH?
NICE PARTY YOU GOT THERE.

WATCH OUT, KEI! HE'S TARGETING YOU!

EH?!

HERE'S A LITTLE PRESENT... FOR OUR LOVELY REUNION.
This won't work here. Too many people could get hurt.

EEK!

Keep your spirit calm, my dear!

Center your energy!

Come on, come on... Missiles comin' to getcha!
SLAM

WHAT THE --?!?

BLOM

BWAM

HUHN ?!

SHLOOM
POUM

TETSUO?!

DON'T PANIC! THAT LITTLE THING WON'T KILL HIM.

BUT...!
KEI!

FOCUS, KEI! DON'T LOOK AWAY!

HE'LL READ YOUR HEART!

WATCH OUT, KEI! HE'S TRYING AGAIN!
AHH!

DIEEEE!

SHRIIIIC
SHIT!

WHERE'D SHE GO...?

UHNN!

OOOH!

I... I feel bad...
OH!

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I...I'm...

UNLIKE LAST TIME, WE DIDN'T ERASE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS, MY DEAR...

YOU WERE WONDERFUL!
AND WE NOW HAVE AN IDEA OF THE CONDITION OF NUMBER 41...

I'M SORRY...I LET IT ALL GET TO ME...

SO MANY THINGS, HAPPENING ALL AT ONCE...

I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, MY CHILD...

BUT THE NEXT ONE WILL BE FOR REAL...THERE'S NO TIME FOR REHEARSAL. YOU MUST LEARN AS YOU GO!

STAY BACK!

...OR I'LL KICK YOUR ASS!

LEMMIE GO...

NO...
YOU MAY NOT ENTER!

KEI!

NOW WHAT?!

CHIYOKO!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

KEI! WAIT...!
MAYBE IT WON'T WORK... LIKE LAST TIME...

NO! THE RISK IS UNACCEPTABLE!

WE COULD COLLAPSE AT ANY TIME DURING THE BATTLE...

...AND TO START ALL OVER THEN WILL BE TOO LATE.

IF THAT MOMENT COMES, HER YOUTH AND WILLPOWER WILL BE OUR LAST FORTRESS AND REDoubT.

IT WILL SIMPLY BE A TRIAL FOR KEI! UNTIL SHE'S READY, AND FOR US AS WELL.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

Yeah, I had plenty of rest.

I'm so glad!

You gonna fight?

How did you hear about it?!

The monks, they've been jumpy all day.

Anyone could tell something's up.

Are you really going up against...

...Tetsuo... and Akira?
Tetsuo's power is reaching its peak... It's our only chance.

I have to.

...and they need me.

Will you be all right?

Yeah.

Is there anything I can do?

I think so. We'll see.

Please help...

...Kaneda and his friends.

He said he'll kill Tetsuo before we do. Then he just ran out!

He's so reckless...

...
STAY ALIVE.

THE FUTURE IS YOURS.

YOU AND KANEDA WILL STAY ALIVE AND HAVE CHILDREN, PROMISE?

O-KAY...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
CHIYOKO...!
I wonder what happened to Joker...

He's probably a grease spot against the side of some building by now...

Yaaaahoo!!

Piece a' shit!

Hey! There's the stadium!

Huhn?
OH, SHIT...!

TRAKATAKA

SMAK

BANG

TAKA TAKATA

HOLD YOUR FIRE!
OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS AKIRA'S CHAMBER.

WAIT!

BUT, SIR... IT'S JUST SOME KID...

NO, THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT...
BIRDMAN WAS MY FRIEND. PEOPLE CALL ME EGGMAN.

BUT I WON'T FORGIVE YA. UH-UH. 'CAUSE YOU KILLED MY FRIEND BIRDMAN.

LIEUTENANT! QUICKLY... BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE...

OKAY... ON MY COMMAND...

FIRE!

AAH! AAH! AAH! AAH!

THAT'S IT. LET'S GO...

KATA KATKA KATKA
ZZiii!

Unh...??

[Sigh!]

Hey! What is it...?

My... My Heart...!

Squish!
I tamed this kid when he was still playing in the rubble...

Has the destiny I built for myself finally...run out?

Heh.

The hell it has!
WHAT'S... HAPPENING...?!
MASTER TETSUO...

HMM...

AAAH....!!

AH...?!
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED...?

MAGISTER TETSUO!
KROOOBRO

SRIIIK
LET'S DO IT! CHAAARGE!

BROOOOOOM!
IN THE 21ST CENTURY, the once-glittering Neo-Tokyo lies in ruin, leveled in minutes by the infinite power of the child psychic, Akira. From the flooded wasteland of rubble and anarchy, the Great Tokyo Empire rises, populated by a ragtag army of zealots and crazies who worship and fear Akira and his mad prime minister, Tetsuo, an angry teen with immense powers of his own — and equally immense, twisted ambitions. The world at large is not taking the threat lying down, and the military strength of the planet is massing to take on the Empire, but will technology's most advanced weaponry be enough to destroy Akira? And are the rapidly growing paranormal abilities of Tetsuo a potentially greater threat?

A mind-blowing epic of over 2000 pages, *Akira* is a sweeping graphic-novel tour-de-force of awe-inspiring vision and gut-wrenching intensity and the inspiration for the brilliant *Akira* animated film. Creator Katsuhiro Otomo has influenced a generation of graphic novelists and animators and is universally acknowledged as a storyteller of extraordinary skill, standing alongside the finest writers and directors of science fiction.

"...the Dark Horse editions are an invaluable gift to newer fans who appreciate the speed and clarity of the movie's images, but still haven't had a chance to plumb the depths of humanity and complexity hidden in the original work."

— Tasha Robinson, The Onion