

**Page 1****TASTING THE BITTER****Panel 1**

The top three quarters of the page. Calligraphy style map to give mountain layout (*it is the first page of the scroll that tells the story of Fang Chi that is passed down through the generations of the White Crane Secret Society that is created at the end of the story*):

An overview of the mountain that includes the positioning of the story's vital locations: The Tai Chi Temple (situated on the mountain's 'Point of Balance'); The home of the Fang family; the major villages and the powerful vortex 'Points of Maximum Yin and Yang'.

At the bottom of the page, beneath the captions is a simple, solitary home laying on the mountainside. A large mountain stream has slowed and circulated into a calm collecting point in front of the house – it is full of life – fish are abundant there and a crane stands by feeding off them. A large, vibrant and ancient-looking tree also feeds off the mountain stream next to the house, with a magnificent view of the mountain forests stretching down the valley below.

**Caption** (Top of page) THE WHITE CRANE – THE LEGACY OF FANG CHI

**Caption** (Top of page) SONG SAN MOUNTAIN RANGE, 1713 Qing dynasty

**Caption** (Bottom of page) THE FANG FAMILY HOME

**Page 2****Panel 1**

Large vertical panel down the left-hand side of the page. A face-on view of the fierceness of the HUNG's attack as he seems to leap out of the page as if he is attacking the reader, bringing his staff down vertically over his head. He is screaming like a demon as he does so, his eyes blazing with the ferociousness of the attack – he is not holding back.

HUNG  
REEEEEEE...

**Panel 2**

A slightly built, young girl is the recipient of the undiluted attack. We see the look of concentration, but not fear, on her face, as she bluntly blocks the blow with her staff held horizontally in front of her, taking the force of the attack head on.

HUNG  
...LLLLAAAAAXXXX!!!!!!

**Panel 3**

We pull out to see the girl get knocked to the ground as she failed to absorb or deflect the powerful strike from the thick, wooden staff. They are training on a well-worn patch of ground

in front of the humble wooden house. Although the area is lush, no grass remains on that spot because of their constant training. There is an old woman watching them from a seat on the porch. She is CHI's nanny, MU. The large tree is visible in the background to the side of the house.

- Panel 4** HUNG looks over at MU sitting on the porch, frustrated and disappointed, as if to say: 'why isn't she better than this?'.
- Panel 5** Close up of MU's face. She looks kind and seems concerned for the girl. Her face is lined and she is clearly old for the time, perhaps 70, but despite her apparent age she still has jet-black hair and a stout body, not frail, and a sparkle of life in her eyes.
- Panel 6** A 2-shot of FANG HUNG and FANG CHI as he helps her to her feet. The warrior chastises his indignant daughter:

HUNG  
Buddha's belly, Chi. How many times?! Relax and deflect, when you take a blow!

CHI  
You ambushed me like an invading mongol, you could have killed me!

HUNG  
You're still relying on muscle instead of your intent. This isn't external Shaolin training!

CHI  
Well, it might not work against you, but it does against the boys in the village!

### Page 3

- Panel 1** A closer-in 'head and shoulders' 2-shot of HUNG and CHI now that she is standing again.

HUNG  
And I've told you what I think about that! If you were as I know you could be, you wouldn't need to show off and hurt anyone.

CHI  
I can't train much more, father. The sun's barely up and I'm knocked on my arse. Again!

HUNG  
You think you are working hard? Real warriors train in their sleep!

Yes, we'll start your dream training soon.

- Panel 2** Close up of CHI. Incredulous, she looks to the heavens as she realises that he is not joking (he rarely jokes), he has even more training in store for her.

CHI

I'd think you were joking, if I didn't know you better.

**Panel 3**

A wider shot with HUNG and CHI on the left. HUNG places an encouraging hand on CHI's shoulder as he softens his criticism, revealing his passion for martial arts.

HUNG

Remember, our family art is soft, **internal**. It's not about how big your muscles are.

Just like Tai Chi Fist – that great accomplishment that was created on this very mountain.

**Panel 4**

CHI throws her arms in the air in child-like despair as she turns to walk towards MU on the porch.

CHI

Yes Dad, I've heard that story so many times I've started dreaming about it!

**Panel 5**

Close up of CHI's mocking expression, as she mimics her father's often-told story...

CHI

"*Chang San Feng manifested the essential polarity of the universe after watching a snake and a crane fight, using their movements to create the ultimate martial art.*"

I know!

I suppose you're going to send me to the live at the Temple to study that as well?

**Panel 6**

Pull out to a wide shot as HUNG heads towards the house and shouts back towards his daughter.

HUNG

Not until you've mastered our family art!

That's enough for today. I'm going to get ready for our supply run to the village.

**Page 4**

**Panel 1**

HUNG goes into the house as CHI walks over towards her nanny, looking for some comfort.

**Panel 2**

CHI is sitting on the floor next to MU, an arm on MU's leg and her head resting on her arm. They are clearly very close and affectionate with one another.

MU THE NANNY

Not to worry, poppet, you'll get it. If you want to improve, you should **study the animals** like Chang San Feng did.

He would just sit quietly every day, watching the world around him at the mountain's **Point of Balance**, where they built the **Temple** after his death.

**Panel 3** Close up of MU's face for emphasis – as this is what gives Chi the idea of praying to the spirit of the crane in Issue 2, which is the crux of the story.

MU  
Even the ancient Shaolin masters would **pray to the animal spirits** to guide their boxing.

But best to stay away from the ones who hide in **the darkness**, like the bat or the spider!

**Panel 4** Reverse on CHI who is feeling too petulant to take in the importance of MU's words.

CHI  
You don't really believe those old stories do you? Hurting people from a distance and all that stuff?

And maybe I don't want to improve, anyway! All we do is train, and father doesn't even want me fighting those bullies, so what's the point?! All my friends are meeting boys--

**Panel 5** Close up of MU who stops Chi short.

MU  
I know it's hard but it is part of your heritage. Your mother understood this. She was one hell of a warrior herself, you know.

**Panel 6** Pull out to see HUNG has come out of the house ready for their trip to the village.

HUNG  
Come on Chi, time to go. Maybe there will be time for you to see your friends.

## Page 5 VILLAGE LIFE

**Panel 1** Large, open, far-away establishing shot of the mountain as Chi and her father make their way down the rocky path to the small village.

**Panel 2** Closer in on HUNG and CHI as they walk.

CHI  
Have you had any more trouble with Tan's men, father?

HUNG  
No, that mob have been pretty quiet. I don't think they can afford the damage!

**Panel 3** 2-shot again but with more emphasis on CHI. HUNG seems serious, as usual, despite CHI trying her

best to make conversation.

CHI

Old man Chan was ever so grateful, he'd like to give you some money, if you'd let him.

We could do with it, father.

HUNG

**Humpff.**

I'm not a damn mercenary!

**Panel 4** 2-shot, but closer in on HUNG this time.

CHI

The villagers just want to show you their gratitude. Since those bandits--

HUNG

They could show some gratitude by having a little backbone themselves!

Save me the trouble.

**Panel 5** Wide, establishing shot of the simple and rustic buildings from over HUNG and CHI's shoulders as the village comes into view comes into view.

**Caption** SHAN VILLAGE

**Page 6**

**Panel 1** Walking through the village HUNG and CHI each carry a large sack, now having picked up their supplies. In front of them in the street they see a scuffle happening over by one of the market stalls. Three men appear to be kicking a young, robed man on the ground.

THUG 1

Come down from your tower to mix with the ordinary folk? Show us your magic powers then!

THUG 2

I bet he's tired of rolling around with all those men! Come to get himself some cunny.

THUG 1

Nah, I heard they're all eunuchs, these monks.

**Caption** AN HOUR LATER

**Panel 2** Close up of CHI.

CHI

Are those men who I think they are? Excellent! I'll just--

**Panel 3** HUNG puts a hand up to stop CHI jumping in.

HUNG

You won't do anything Chi.

I mean it. I'll handle this.

**Panel 4** The largest panel on the page. Close up of the scuffle in the foreground. The man being attacked is dressed in the robes of a monk from the Tai Chi Temple. HUNG appears as an imposing figure (silhouette?) in the background, his white robes and long hair make him instantly recognisable to the thugs. (ART NOTE: Need to get a sense of the awe and fear he inspires in his enemies just by being there. His reputation is enough to see them off.)

**Panel 5** Close up of one of the thugs who recognises HUNG and freezes in terror, his eyes open wide.

**Panel 6** Close up of HUNG smiling as he appreciates the response his mere presence has provoked in the bully.

**Panel 7** Pull out to see the thug run away as it dawns on the other two that they are in trouble. HUNG just stands calmly over them as they are crouching to beat the monk on the ground.

**Panel 8** Close up of HUNG as he leans over the two remaining thugs.

HUNG  
I think you two should go with your friend before I put you over my knee.

## Page 7

**Panel 1** They both run off as CHI helps the young monk to his feet, disheveled and bruised.

**Panel 2** Close up of the monk, who we see is about the same age as CHI. He looks into her eyes as he thanks her.

MONK  
Ahhh, i'll be feeling **that** tomorrow. Thank you, both of you. I'm Tin.

**Panel 3** Close up of Chi who is just happy to be with someone of her own age, especially a boy, and clearly likes him. But she is brash, not coy as you might expect from a girl her age at that time.

CHI  
No problem. Nice to meet someone new around here my own age, maybe I can show you around--

**Panel 4** Close up of the young monk who starts to go red with embarrassment. He is clearly not used to speaking with girls, certainly not someone as up-front as CHI.

**Panel 5** HUNG interjects, putting a stop to this

immediately.

HUNG

For heaven's sake Chi, he's clearly a young initiate from **the Temple**, he's not going to be interested in you.

**Panel 6** Reaction shot of CHI, annoyed by her Father's interference. (Note: The tension between them should, be building up to her flying off the handle in the next scene.)

**Panel 7** A 2-shot of HUNG and TIN who is dusting himself off.

HUNG

I think you've been neglecting your **Tai Chi Fist** young one. Those three shouldn't have been able to put a hand on you.

TIN

I'm exhausted, I've come straight from the Temple without a break.

I'm looking for a friend of the Abbot – a hero who used to be a monk at the Temple, his name is **Fang Hung**.

**Panel 8** With a wry smile, HUNG says:

HUNG

Let's get you something to drink.

## Page 8

**Panel 1** HUNG, CHI and TIN are sitting undercover in the open-air tavern with a view of the mountain stretching below them (SEE REFERENCE PIC). They have small cups in front of them, waiting to hear TIN's story. The place is pretty quiet as it is daytime, with only one barman and maybe someone sweeping the floor.

HUNG

So, start from the beginning.

**Panel 2** 2-shot of TIN and HUNG as he tells his story. TIN is slightly shame-faced telling a hero from the Temple like HUNG that he was out at night disobeying orders, and HUNG's look should reflect that scolding, teacherly quality.

TIN THE MONK

I had just achieved a deeper connection to earth, so, that night, I decided to continue my walking meditation around the Temple grounds.

HUNG

Another impetuous child! You know you are not allowed outside of the Temple at night, Tin.

TIN

But I didn't want to lose this new feeling of earth energy coursing through my body. So...

**Panel 3** We see the scene that the young monk is describing in FLASHBACK. The speech is told over the top of the panel in a large caption box. We see TIN scuttling across the rooftops of the monastery towards the wooded area at the back of the Temple grounds where the monks can practice surrounded by trees. He skips effortlessly from rooftop to rooftop with great skill, but nothing that could be seen as 'supernatural'. (SEE REFERENCE PIC OF MASTER HE.)

**Caption** TIN – ...I used our 'light-body' stepping to sneak out. I wanted to feel the ground beneath my feet, so I headed for the woods at the edge of the Temple grounds.

**Panel 4** We see TIN peering out from behind a tree at a small group of monks practicing snake boxing. But they are not holding back on each other, being excessively violent and causing unnecessary injuries. Among them is a large, hooded man instructing them (it is LUNG, but just in plain dark robes with no symbols on it). We cannot see his face, maybe just a hint of a grin from inside the darkness of his hood. He has a young monk in an extremely painful joint lock (SEE REFERENCE PIC) – maybe even breaking his arm – and we can see the agony on his face.

**Caption** There were monks practicing some brutal techniques. And the energy there was like nothing I've felt before, like moving through treacle. The Sifu, it was like he was torturing one of them, just to demonstrate a joint lock. And the others were laughing, enjoying his pain! It was sickening.

**Panel 5** Small panel close-up of the hooded man who was instructing the monks. He spots TIN out of the corner of his yellow, reptilian eye. (Need to keep this subtle though, don't want to give the game away that he's basically not human until the end of the issue.) TIN has been seen but he doesn't know it.

**Caption** I couldn't see the Sifu's face but there was something... different about him. His posture, the way he moved... I don't know. I left quickly, before I was spotted.

## Page 9

**Panel 1** Close up of TIN talking.

TIN THE MONK

The Abbott told me to come here and find you. He needs someone from outside of the Temple he can trust to investigate.

I asked those men if they knew where you lived - it seems not everyone is a fan of the famous Fang Hung!

**Panel 2** Reverse on HUNG.

HUNG

I've had a few run-ins with their uncle, Tan, and his gang, they're nothing to worry about.

But this training you saw, hidden in the dark of night - it has no place at the Temple of Balance.

**Panel 3** Same as panel 2.

HUNG

Such techniques have come out of the misunderstanding of Tai Chi's methods before, and they lead to dark places.

We must act quickly to find out who this 'Sifu' is.

**Panel 4** Pull out to see all three around the table, CHI stands up, excited by the idea of some action and change in her regimented life.

CHI

Yes, finally! Damn, I wish I'd bought my staff. Never mind, i'll just--

HUNG

Hang on, Chi. Sit down.

Tin and I must return to the Temple alone.

CHI

But this may be a chance to actually use my training!

**Panel 5** Closer in to the conversation between CHI and HUNG, to emphasise the building tension, but with the focus more on HUNG.

HUNG

You must take the provisions back home to nanny and tell her what has happened. Tell her I will be back by the next full moon.

CHI

What?! But I can help! You always sai--

HUNG

I'm sorry, Chi, but it may be dangerous and we can't leave Mu--

**Panel 6** A reverse view of last panel so we can see CHI's reaction to her Father's decision.

CHI

Dangerous?! You have me training eight hours a

day! If not for this, then what?!

HUNG

Somebody needs to tell nanny, and... home is the best place for you to continue your training. The energy there is calm an--

**Panel 7** CHI is really starting to lose her temper and bangs her fists on the table.

CHI

Training! More training for no purpose...

Go then, go and use your skills, and don't trust me to use mine!

**Panel 8** As CHI storms out of the tavern with the other two still sitting there, HUNG remains stoic, knowing the mission may be more dangerous than he can say.

HUNG

Chi, wait... It's only for a few weeks. We'll talk when I get back.

Stubborn, willful girl. Just like her mother.

#### **Page 10** THE POOLING POINT

**Panel 1** Establishing shot of the 'pooling point' at the Fang family home: (IMPORTANT PANEL: as we go from Chi's hectic, whirling, unchecked emotions of the last page to the calm, natural setting of her home. So this should be large panel maybe the whole width of the page.) Close up of the small mountain river that has slowed and collected into a 'pooling point' next to the ancient tree at CHI's house. Like a wide reservoir of calm energy, it is full of fish swimming, with a crane standing on the bank feeding on them.

**Caption** THE POOLING POINT

**Caption** TWO MOONS LATER

**Panel 2** Close up of a beautiful Chinese straight sword typically used by Tai Chi players, lying on a bed about to be carefully wrapped up. It has clearly been well cared for but has battle scars – it is beautiful but not simply decorative – it has been well used, but maybe not for some time. It has the Tai Chi symbol of a crane fighting a snake in front of the Yin Yang symbol on the handle (SEE REFERENCE PIC).

**Panel 3** Pull out to see that it is MU the nanny packing the sword and the rest of her bag. CHI is standing behind her.

CHI

You're going after him aren't you? Well, don't think I'm not going with you.

Closer in on Mu who turns to face Chi.

MU

I didn't think stopping you was going to be easy my poppet, but I'm going to ask you anyway, because your father would never forgive me if anything happened to you.

I'd like you to stay here and look after the house.

**Panel 5** CHI throws her arms in the air again in despair.

CHI

Oh, this damn house! What's so special about it anyway? I've never understood why we've had to live so far from everyone else!

**Panel 6** Close up of MU, calmly looking at CHI trying to placate her.

MU

You will understand when your practice deepens.

Like where the river outside calms and circulates so that life can breed - this house is a pooling point for you.

**Panel 7** 2-shot of MU (with a look of resignation on her face) and CHI.

CHI

Well I don't feel very calm at the moment, and neither do you. I've never seen you worried about father before.

You more than anyone know that he can look after himself. I'll pack some things.

MU

That's what I thought. Bring your staff.

**Page 11** THE GUARDIAN OF THE WATCHTOWER

**Panel 1**

It is early morning, with twilight just turning into the first rays of sun. CHI and MU are wandering up a steep, barren mountain path on the road to the Temple of Chang San Feng. CHI is in front, eager to forge ahead, and is using her six-foot staff like a huge walking stick. MU has her sword wrapped in fabric and strapped diagonally across her back. Each of them carries a small bag for supplies.

**Panel 2** CLOSER IN – a 2-shot of MU and CHI.

MU

You can see the Temple's Watchtower from this ridge.

CHI

Thank the **Tao!** It's taken forever!

**Panel 3** CHI races on ahead, desperate to find out what has happened to her father. MU can't keep up – she is old and the journey has been tiring, so she shouts:

MU

Hang on poppet! We don't know if it's **safe!**

**Panel 4** LARGE PANEL. CHI stands at the top of the hill, seeing a stunning view of the Watchtower, with the sun rising behind it. There is some activity at the base of the watchtower but it is hard to make out.

**Caption** THE GUARDIAN OF THE WATCHTOWER

**Panel 5** SMALL PANEL CLOSE-UP of CHI's eyes as she tries to focus through the glare of the sunrise.

**Panel 6** FROM CHI'S P.O.V. Closer in on a battle ensuing on the flat top of the hill that houses the watchtower. We can just make out that one large man is fighting about ten smaller men.

**Panel 7** CHI shouts back down the hill to MU:

CHI

There's a **huge** fat man attacking the monks!  
Come on, hurry!

**Panel 8** MU, being too slow to catch up, shouts:

MU

Wait Chi! Stop!

**Page 12** THE PAGE IS DIVIDED INTO 3 LARGE HORIZONTAL PANELS.  
(ART NOTE: WITH THE 'FIVE ELEMENT FISTS' – IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE THE ELEMENT REPRESENTED SOMEWHERE IN THAT PANEL.)

**Panel 1** CHI is running headlong up the hill towards the battle. We can see the huge man (called WANG) being attacked by men dressed in the robes of ordinary monks from the Temple. They all carry weapons including daggers, axes and spears. Half of them are already scattered on the ground either unconscious or dead, with five remaining. WANG is standing in the 'En Guard' posture of his style as one monk is charging at him with his dagger aimed at WANG's huge stomach.

**Caption** FIVE ELEMENT FIST – THREE TRINITY POSTURE

ATTACKING MONK

C'mon you **bastard!**

Let's see the fat stomach stop this blade!

**Panel 2** WANG breaks the attacking arm easily with a 'SPLITTING FIST', which hits down with open hands

like swinging an axe to chop wood. The monk's body is brought slightly down and forward from the angle of the Splitting Fist. We can see in the background that CHI is much closer now, running up the hill behind WANG.

**Caption** SPLITTING FIST - METAL  
(ART NOTE: METAL DAGGER ON SHOW)

WANG  
Hah!

ATTACKING MONK  
HUNH?!

**Panel 3** With the monk's arm shattered and his axe falling to the floor, WANG then delivers a devastating 'DRILLING FIST', like a corkscrew drilling upwards into the monk's chin, knocking him up and back. Behind WANG we see CHI leaping into the air with her staff raised high above her, ready to bring it down on WANG's head.

**Caption** CRUSHING FIST - WOOD  
(ART NOTE: TREE IN BACKGROUND FOR 'WOOD')

WANG  
BAH! (large font)

ATTACKING MONK  
OOMMPF! (large font)

**Page 13** (ART NOTE: PANELS 5,6 AND 7 RUN INTO EACH OTHER ALONG THE BOTTOM HALF/THIRD OF THE PAGE)

**Panel 1** CHI lands behind WANG, cracking him over the head with her staff as she does so.

CHI  
HUH! (large font)

WANG  
?

**Panel 2** CLOSE-UP reaction shot of WANG looking back over his shoulder at CHI and smiling. The attack should have knocked him unconscious but had no effect.

WANG  
Heh...

**Panel 3** CLOSE-UP reaction shot of CHI's face as she realises her blow made no impression - a look of shock but not fear.

CHI  
Shit.

**Panel 4** The three remaining monks have grouped together

to attack WANG all at once from the front.

WANG  
Come on then. You dicks first.

**Panel 5** (ART NOTE: PANELS 5, 6 AND 7 RUN INTO ONE ANOTHER — LIKE ONE MOVEMENT BROKEN INTO THREE PARTS. THE THREE MONKS ATTACK FROM THE SAME DIRECTION, ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND ARE KNOCKED DOWN LIKE BOWLING PINS OVER THE NEXT THREE PANELS.  
WANG METAPHORICALLY ROLLS OVER THEM LIKE A BIG STONE BALL — WITH EACH ATTACK HE TAKES ONE STEP FORWARD. EACH HIT BY WANG KNOCKS THE ATTACKER OUT OF THE WAY, CLEARING THE PATH FOR THE NEXT ONE TO COME THROUGH.)

With a 'POUNDING FIST' WANG blocks a slash from a sword and breaks the monk's ribs in one movement.

**Caption** POUNDING FIST — FIRE ELEMENT  
(ART NOTE: A FLAMING TORCH LIES ON THE GROUND THAT THE MONKS HAVE BROUGHT WITH THEM TO SET FIRE TO THE WATCHTOWER AFTER THEY HAVE KILLED WANG.)

WANG  
Taste...

**Panel 6** The monk flies a few feet away (back and to the side) from the force of the attack, clearing the path for the next one, who is hit by WANG's 'DRILLING FIST'. A 'Chinese uppercut' spiralling upward from WANG'S centre into the monk's chin.

**Caption** DRILLING FIST — WATER ELEMENT  
(ART NOTE: TO GET THE 'WATER ELEMENT' VISUALLY INTO THIS PANEL WE SHOULD SEE LOTS OF SALIVA AND BLOOD SPRAYING FROM THE MONK'S MOUTH AS HE IS HIT ON THE CHIN.)

WANG  
my...

**Panel 7** Rather than knocking him backwards, the energy of the punch stays inside the attacker's body, dropping him straight to the ground on the spot. As this happens, WANG steps diagonally forward and to the side, dodging the next monk's spear thrust and uses the 'CROSSING FIST' to the monk's temple, cracking his skull.

**Caption** CROSSING FIST — EARTH ELEMENT  
(ART NOTE: EARTH IN THE PANEL — DIRT KICKED UP AROUND WANG'S FEET AS HE DOES THE 'CROSSING STEP' TO THE SIDE.)

WANG  
...fists!

WANG has turned to face CHI, taking the 'En Guard' posture again, with a terrifyingly joyous grin on his face. He is clearly at his happiest when he is fighting.

**Caption** THREE TRINITY POSTURE

WANG

Now. Let's see if **you** can penetrate my **mind boxing**.

**Panel 2** CLOSE-UP OF CHI — she knows she is in trouble, but stays focused.

CHI

Right then...

**Panel 3** Summoning her courage she takes an offensive posture with her staff.

CHI

No problem **fatman!**

**Panel 4** Three quick strikes all in one blurred panel showing CHI showering WANG with blows from her staff. She hits his arm, leg and formidable stomach while WANG simply maintains his posture. She cannot reach any vital pressure points to put him down.

WANG

Ha ha! Good technique, but predictable!

**Panel 5** With WANG totally unmoved and his structure still intact, CHI raises her staff between his legs with what should be a crippling shot to his groin.

CHI

How about **this?!**

**Panel 6** Close up of WANG who again just smiles back at her, and says:

WANG

Weak! The power should come from the backhand!

**My** turn now, little girl.

**Page 15**

**Panel 1** Having finally caught up, MU comes running up to the top of the hill, shouting at them to stop. WANG is still in THREE TRINITY POSTURE and about to attack a resilient CHI who has taken another defensive stance with her staff.

MU

Stop! Wang, don't hurt her! She's Hung's girl!

**Panel 2** Closer in. WANG drops his guard and looks over at CHI, who is still wary and has her defenses up.

WANG

What?! This is little Chi? Has it been that long since you left?

You've turned into a fine **figure** of a woman!  
You're lithe. Like a **bird**!

**Panel 3** Close up of CHI's face, giving a disgruntled/disgusted look at this slightly pervy comment from a much older man.

CHI

Nice.

**Panel 4** Wang turns to Mu with his huge arms open, ready to embrace her.

WANG

Come here Mu, you old tart! You look dreadful!

**Panel 5** Reverse on MU, whose smile softens as she is pleased to see that her old friend is alright. But behind her two of the fallen monks have recovered and are getting to their feet, picking up weapons as they do so.

MU

Nice to see you too, you mean old basta--

**Panel 6** Close up of CHI as she shouts a warning to MU.

CHI

Nanny!

## Page 16

**Panel 1** Without even looking, MU turns towards the monks with one arm raised in 'WARD OFF' posture. She connects with the outstretched forearm of the closest monk. It looks like just the faintest touch from MU's relaxed arm. The other monk is about five feet behind him, also holding a weapon ready to attack.

**Caption** TAI CHI FIST – WARD OFF

MONK

HOONNF!

**Panel 2** The first monk is knocked up and backwards off his feet and into the other one, five feet away, sending them both tumbling back towards the edge of the hilltop.

**Panel 3** We see CHI's face, wide-eyed with shock as both of the monks are rolling uncontrollably down the hill in the background. They are already quite far away, such was the power of MU's attack.

CHI

By the Tao, Nanny. I knew you studied at the Temple, but I had no idea you were **that** good!

WANG moves towards MU with a huge smile on his face and his arms outstretched for an embrace.

WANG  
Ha! Little Mu and your father were the **best** Tai Chi fighters we had!

Now come here and give an old soldier a hug!

**Panel 5** As WANG picks MU up and gives her a huge, powerful bear hug, full of affection for the old lady, she says:

MU  
OOFF!

I see you are as delicate in manner and body as ever.

**Panel 6** As they hug and their faces touch, we see MU whisper in WANG's ear (so that CHI can not hear), with fear and anxiety all over her face.

MU  
By the heavens, Wang, it can't be **them**? Can it?

## Page 17

**Panel 1** WANG puts MU down as he explains what he knows.

WANG  
All I know is I haven't seen anything like that fucked up snake style since the Battle of Changping.

It'll damage your body in time, but it's effective, i'll give it that. But where did these pups learn it?

**Panel 2** Close up of MU, as she realises the Temple itself is under threat.

MU  
That's what Hung came here to find out, moons ago--

--wait, the Temple!

**Panel 3** Close in on CHI who has also realised that the attack on WANG probably means that the Temple is also already being attacked.

CHI  
No! Dad's there!

Come on, let's go!

**Panel 4** Reverse on WANG as he points to the Watchtower.

WANG

We may still have time to warn them. Run to the top of the Watchtower and ring the alarm bell.

Go, fly little bird!

- Panel 5** CHI running towards the Watchtower.
- Panel 6** CHI running up the spiraling staircase inside of the Watchtower.
- Panel 7** CHI reaches the open top of the tower that houses the huge warning bell hanging from the roof.
- Panel 8** From a distance we see the Temple from Chi's P.O.V. Not close enough to see the full horror of what has happened there, but there is an eerie stillness.

**Page 18** DEFENDING THE TEMPLE

- Panel 1** SPLASH PAGE.  
 Closer in, we see the outside of the Temple – it is like a war zone.  
 Dead and dying monks are scattered on the ground and strung up on the walls of the Temple.  
 Even the statue of Chang San Feng in his large white robes that stands in front of the Temple gates is stained with blood (SEE REF PIC FOR STATUE).  
 There are severed limbs where some monks have tried to defend the gates against heavily armed attackers. It seems they have failed: we can't see the attackers, and the front gate is open – their defenses have been broken.  
 Smoke is coming from somewhere deep inside the Temple, although it is not ablaze yet.
- Page 19** LAST MAN STANDING. Inside the Temple's courtyard where the real fight is going on between HUNG and the undisguised, armoured troops of the Serpent Cult (SEE REFERENCE PICS).
- Panel 1** LARGE PANEL. Inside the Temple's courtyard HUNG cleaves one of the armoured cultists completely in two at the torso with a HUGE broadsword. (SEE REFERENCE PIC FOR WEAPON.)
- Panel 2** Pull camera FAR AWAY to give an establishing shot of the courtyard. HUNG is surrounded by the dead and dying, including the attackers he has hacked to pieces, (at least a dozen), and the monks that have been killed by them (which number even more). Limbs and blood are everywhere in this war zone. There are only about half a dozen serpent cultists left, who are keeping their distance from HUNG, now scared to get close to him. A large hooded man (called LUNG) in crimson robes stands calmly with his hands inside his sleeves, watching from the Temple steps.
- Panel 3** As the hooded man barks orders at the remaining cultists, HUNG pulls two 'deerhorn knives' from

his robes (SEE REFERENCE PIC).

LUNG

What are you waiting for?! He's just one man!  
Attack all at once or I'll kill you myself!

**Panel 4** LARGE PANEL – Now with an deerhorn knife in each hand, as three cultists attack all at once, HUNG becomes like an edged whirlwind – spinning on the spot, cutting and blocking simultaneously. As the attackers step into his range they are instantly cut down. All three cultists are killed in this one panel/move

**Panel 5** CLOSE UP HEAD SHOT of HUNG. Sweat pours down his forehead. He is beginning to tire – he has killed many.

**Panel 6** LUNG produces a huge, vicious-looking hooked sword from inside his robes. (SEE REFERENCE PIC.)

LUNG

Ok. Maybe that was bad advice. But what a waste of guards. I should have just dealt with you myself right away.

## Page 20

**Panel 1** LONG PANEL THE WIDTH OF THE PAGE, so that we can see that there is a large distance between HUNG and LUNG, maybe 15 feet, seemingly out of attacking range. LUNG is slightly crouched as if ready to pounce, and HUNG is standing calmly, not even taking a defensive posture as LUNG is so far away.

**Panel 2** THE SAME LAYOUT AS PANEL 2 so we can get a feel of the incredible distance LUNG jumps. LUNG leaps at HUNG with great explosive energy. His jump is high and it looks like he will easily cover the whole distance between them. It is an impossible, inhuman feat – nothing we have seen up to this point has indicated 'superhuman' actions are possible in this world.

**Panel 3** CLOSE UP of the surprise on HUNG's face.

HUNG

By the Tao. Such power.

**Panel 4** Large vertical panel of LUNG as he is about to crash down on his victim as he lands. He is leaping out of the page at the reader, mirroring HUNG's attack on CHI in Panel 1 on Page 2, with the same posture, with his sword raised vertically above his head. Maybe get a glimpse of LUNG's inhuman face. Again, needs to be kept subtle, maybe we can see that his skin is a sickly colour, but he could just be diseased, not totally inhuman.

**Panel 5** HUNG doesn't receive the blow head on but steps

to the side as he deflects the strike past him, perfectly executing the move he was trying to teach Chi on Page 2. LUNG's hooked sword slides past, smashing the paved floor of the courtyard.

**Panel 6** LUNG takes another huge swing at HUNG, and their swords clash together so that their bodies are almost pressing against each other. We cannot see LUNG's face under his hood but we can see that there is something wrong with his hands. They are scaly and a sickly green colour. As HUNG looks down at them he says:

HUNG  
Having a little skin trouble? I have an excellent ointment for that.

## Page 21

**Panel 1** As HUNG delivers a straight thrust to LUNG's chest with his deerhorn knife with little effect, one of LUNG's guards that we thought dead plunges a dagger deep into HUNG's back.

**Panel 2** HUNG has sunk to his knees with the dagger still sticking out of his back, with blood pouring out. He is defeated, his head hanging low. LUNG stands over him with his sword placed threateningly near HUNG's neck. LUNG has his other hand on his hood, as if about to pull it down. From inside the darkness of his hood, we can now see his demonic, cat-like eyes.

LUNG  
Lift your head warrior, and see my face.

**Panel 3** BIGGEST PANEL ON THE PAGE. A large reveal of LUNG's inhuman/hybrid face as he drops his hood.

LUNG  
There's no one left to protect your Abbot. And my men are nearly through the doors.

He'll tell us where it is – unless you would like to tell spare him the torment of **the Blue Snake?**

**Panel 4** CLOSE UP OF HUNG, who, surprisingly, begins to laugh. With his mouth wide open, he says:

HUNG  
Ha, ha! You think I would tell your kind anything, even if I knew! That's hilarious!  
Ha!

Ha ha ha! I am a serious man, I haven't laughed like this in a long time.

**Panel 5** Still with a smile on his face and bravely resigned to death, HUNG looks up at LUNG and defiantly says:

HUNG

Thank you monster – one **should** die with a smile on his face, I hear it makes the transition to the next life go much more smoothly!

**Caption** SFX: BONG! BONG! BONG!

**Panel 6** LUNG begins to remove his robes in front of his defeated yet mocking enemy, to reveal his powerful, inhuman frame. He looks towards the Watchtower in the distance, as he hears its warning bell chime.

LUNG

Do you hear the bell from the Watchtower? It seems those young wyrms I sent weren't enough to silence that fat old soldier.

No matter. He'll be too late to save you, or your Abbott.

HUNG

Something will come to stop you, demon. Nature abhors imbalance.

**Caption** SFX: BONG! BONG! BONG!

**Page 22** DEATH OF A HERO

**Panel 1** SPLASH PAGE.

LUNG cuts off HUNG's head with one skillful stroke of his hooked sword. We see LUNG's whole disfigured, hybrid body. (Again, he doesn't look completely inhuman, he could almost pass for a seriously disfigured and diseased man, but incredibly powerful and muscular. His chest and stomach are a lighter shade of yellow, compared to the sickly green colour of the rest of his scaly skin – like the underbelly of an alligator.) HUNG's body is still kneeling, with his hands resting on his thighs like he is in meditation posture as he is decapitated (SEE REFERENCE PIC OF TESHU) – his head has flown off to the side with blood spurting from his neck. The arc of LUNG's sword strike has passed right through HUNG's neck and is still in motion.

(END ISSUE ONE)