

MONSIEUR MARDI-GRAS DESCENDRES VOLUME 1: WELCOME!

By

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MONSIEUR MARDI-GRAS DESCENDRES

VOLUME 1: WELCOME!

PAGES ONE AND TWO:

Frontispiece and introduction

PAGE THREE

(NO DIALOGUE)

PAGE FOUR

MARDI-GRAS

On Earth, they talked about a great
light...

PAGE FIVE

PANEL SIX

ROBED FIGURE

(quoting religious dialogue)

"Great Charlatan of the Living and
the Dead, since the Scene of your
Great Sham, your Children, each
Day, thank you for the heaven-sent
Screw that you have forgotten in
the Cogs of your Infernal
Machine..."

PAGE SIX

PANEL ONE

ROBED FIGURE

(still quoting)

"These scant Coffee Beans, which
arrive in the Skulls of your last
Deceased, are the evident Failure
of your foolish World... the Spark
of Life that your spectral Kingdom
has not been capable of reducing to
Silence!"

ROBED FIGURE (2)
(quoting)
"Coffee! Ultimate Relic of the
terrestrial World! Let your Aroma
Shine unto the Alveolus of our
bleached Flock, our vengeance
against the Creator's indignity!"

PANEL TWO

ROBED FIGURE
(quoting)
"Give unto us again the Perfume of
the Sunsets, the burning Zincs and
the tender Mornings! We faded
Marionettes that feel Nothing, and
whom the Almighty mocks in their
infinite Distress!"

ROBED FIGURE (2)
(not quoting)
DRINK!

PAGE SEVEN

PANEL TWO

ROBED FIGURE 2
SADISTIC AND DISHONOURABLE GOD! Not
only did you savage our lives on
Earth...

ROBED FIGURE 2 (2)
...but you continue to TORTURE us
in the AFTERLIFE! Why do you molest
those you will not see again?
ANSWER ME!

ROBED FIGURE
Oh! Calm down! We'll capsize!

PANEL THREE

ROBED FIGURE
You must be crazy to carry on like
this! Who says "he" isn't
listening?

ROBED FIGURE 2
It's just what "he" deserves! The
curses of his abandoned children!

ROBED FIGURE
We're not the worst off... think
about that loser we just sent
below! I'd rather be here on my
barge, looking at the stars...

PANEL FOUR

ROBED FIGURE
Ooh -- speaking of him, he's
already on his way!

PAGE EIGHT

PANEL TWO

MARDI-GRAS
What is this hole?

MARDI-GRAS (2)
This is a JOKE!!

PAGE NINE

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
I didn't expect the red carpet, but
a welcoming committee, at least...

PANEL TWO

MARDI-GRAS
But NOTHING!

MARDI-GRAS (2)
Nothing but sand... crushed rock...

PANEL THREE

MARDI-GRAS
...and that huge fallow melon
hanging in the darkness...

PAGE TEN

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
 On Earth, they talked about a great
 light... vanished loved ones
 welcoming you with open arms...

PANEL TWO

MARDI-GRAS
 But... nothing but a garden of
 desolation...

PANEL FIVE

MARDI-GRAS
 Okay, let's take stock.

MARDI-GRAS (2)
 I'm still alive...

MARDI-GRAS (3)
 ...in a manner of speaking...

PAGE ELEVEN

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
 I've kept my body, or at least the
 essentials...

PANEL TWO

MARDI-GRAS
 I'm thinking as clear as spring
 water and I've got all my senses...

MARDI-GRAS (2)
 ...but just to spend eternity
 somewhere like this?

PANEL FOUR

MARDI-GRAS
 No! NO! It's not possible!

PANEL FIVE

MARDI-GRAS
 There MUST be something other than
 THIS!!

PAGE TWELVE

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
Since my arrival, all this time
that I've been evaluating, I
haven't seen a soul ANYWHERE!

MARDI-GRAS (2)
And I'm bored!

MARDI-GRAS (3)
I'm CRAZY bored!

PANEL TWO

MARDI-GRAS
Maybe I'm the only one to
experience this sort of thing!

MARDI-GRAS (2)
They FORGOT me!

PANEL FOUR

MARDI-GRAS
The other dead people are in
paradise... and I'm in what must be
HELL!

PANEL FIVE

MARDI-GRAS
But this is hardly the image that
they've been painting all this
time...

MARDI-GRAS (2)
No flames! No screams! No demons!

PAGE THIRTEEN

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
And even so... I hardly deserve
HELL! Granted, I haven't been the
model of WISDOM...

MARDI-GRAS (2)
...but from that to winding up in
this VOID... there must be a
mistake!

PANEL THREE

MARDI-GRAS
What next? What's to keep me from
stagnating in this sandy oblivion?

MARDI-GRAS (2)
I can scream myself blue, and my
voice will just be lost in this
inky sky...

PANEL FOUR

MARDI-GRAS
But the worst of it is...

MARDI-GRAS (2)
...this terrible...

MARDI-GRAS (3)
...TERRIBLE...

MARDI-GRAS (4)
...TERRIBLE BOREDOM!

PAGE FOURTEEN

PANEL FOUR

POSTMAN
HELLO! That's an astounding
likeness you're working on... but
the city is much, er, taller!

POSTMAN (2)
As you'll see for yourself!

PAGE FIFTEEN

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
Wh-- where did you come from?

POSTMAN

I have a registered letter for a
Mr. Mardi-Gras Descendres, former
cartographer on Earth. That is you,
no?

POSTMAN (2)

You'll need to sign here.

PANEL TWO

MARDI-GRAS

A registered... but that's just
great! You've made a mistake. My
name is VICTOR TOURTERELLE!

POSTMAN

Not any more, sir.

PANEL THREE

POSTMAN

You are now Mardi-Gras Descendres.
Deceased between Fat Tuesday
[Mardi-Gras in French -- Trans.]
and Ash Wednesday [Mercredi
Descendres in French -- Trans.].

POSTMAN (2)

Again: you need to sign this
receipt. It's urgent.

POSTMAN (3)

Please.

PANEL FOUR

MARDI-GRAS

Wait! This is GROTESQUE!

MARDI-GRAS (2)

I just told you, my name is VICTOR
TOURTERELLE!

MARDI-GRAS (3)

And no CIVIL SERVANT from BEYOND
the GRAVE is going to change my
IDENTITY!

PANEL FIVE

POSTMAN

Listen, your terrestrial name is ancient history! You're Mardi-Gras Descendres now! Dead between Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday? Got it?

MARDI-GRAS (2)

But that's RIDICULOUS!

POSTMAN (2)

Not at all! It's very practical! According to your death date, we rebaptize you according to the postal calendar and add an identification number. This avoids wretched paperwork and everybody's HAPPY!

PAGE SIXTEEN

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS

You... you're mocking me!

MARDI-GRAS (2)

There is NO question of me changing my real name for... for something from a CARNIVAL!

POSTMAN

Listen, that's the way it is and there's nothing I can do!

POSTMAN (2)

Take a look at your post-mortem report from Central if you want proof!

PANEL TWO

[POST-MORTEM REPORT]

On the night of April 11/12 1997, precisely at midnight, cartographer Victor TOURTERELLE slipped on a toy car left on the bathroom floor by his son. Breaking his neck on the edge of the tub, he completed his 178th incarnation on Earth. The fall broke several of his neck bones and irreparable separation of the spinal marrow.

[more details, including last meal: traces of coffee]

PANEL THREE

MARDI-GRAS
My God... but it's not possible...

PANEL FOUR

POSTMAN
It's quite curious... every
cartographer that I've stamped has
died on the dot of the hour, just
like the clocksmiths...

MARDI-GRAS
Stamped?!?

PANEL FIVE

POSTMAN
Anyway, I'd better register you.
It's your only proof you've arrived
in this world!

MARDI-GRAS
DON'T TOUCH ME!

PAGE SEVENTEEN

PANEL ONE

POSTMAN
I'm sorry, but it's MANDATORY!

MARDI-GRAS
Stop! Stop this lunatic circus! I
just want to talk! I've got a
thousand questions to ask!

PANEL TWO

POSTMAN
Descendres... just let me get you
squared away. If not, you don't
exist! Then, after, we can talk.
Please!

PANEL THREE

POSTMAN
Traditinally, the stamp goes right
here under the occiput -- it's more
discreet.

PANEL FOUR

MARDI-GRAS
 (thinking)
 ...a real nightmare...

POSTMAN
 G'wan, it's normal! You're in
 post-mortem shock! You'll get over
 it quickly, you'll see.

PANEL FIVE

MARDI-GRAS
 Good! Since, you seem to know your
 way around, tell me where I'm
 buried! Tell me why I was left to
 wander for so long in this sordid
 desert! And why we're running
 around dressed for the catacombs!

POSTMAN
 I'm not the complaints department,
 Mr. Descendres! On the other hand,
 you will find all the people you
 want to talk to in the city!

POSTMAN (2)
 And I can even be your taxi
 there... let's go!

PAGE EIGHTEEN

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
 What th-- for a bike without a
 chain, this thing can really move!

POSTMAN
 Well, the next train to Central is
 in 25 minutes, and we're not there
 yet! It'd be a shame if you missed
 it!

PAGE NINETEEN

PANEL ONE

MARDI-GRAS
 I've got all my time, you know...

POSTMAN
Don't believe that!

PANEL TWO

MARDI-GRAS
Hey! Look! It's a copy of my
sandcastle!

POSTMAN
Not exactly... that's the
Saint-Cecile borough, part of
District 47 North...

PANEL THREE

MARDI-GRAS
Districts? HERE? Listen, if your
country is carved into districts,
there must be a map of the area --

POSTMAN
NO!!!

POSTMAN (2)
I've never seen one...

POSTMAN (3)
And I think I've heard that it's
FORBIDDEN!