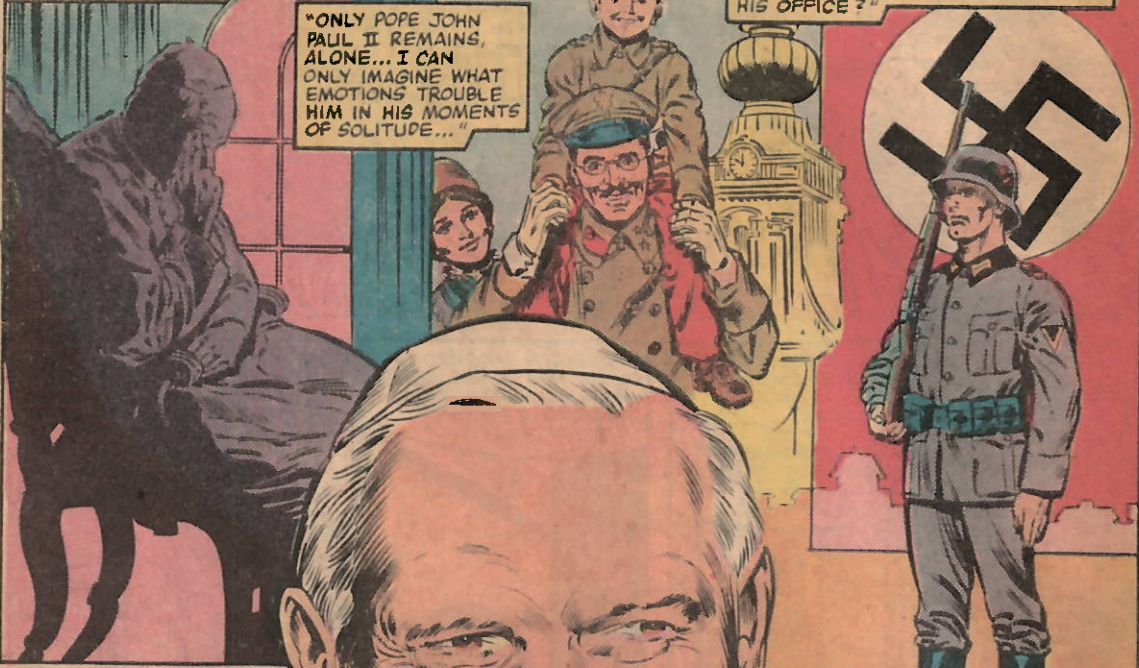


"FINALLY, AFTER SEEMING YEARS, THE FRIENDS ARE GONE, THE REPORTERS ARE GONE, THE SPECTATORS AND THE DEVOUT ARE GONE..."

"ONLY POPE JOHN PAUL II REMAINS, ALONE... I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT EMOTIONS TROUBLE HIM IN HIS MOMENTS OF SOLITUDE..."

"DOES HE THINK ABOUT HIS PARENTS, HIS LIFE, THE STRANGE AND CIRCUITOUS PATH THAT BROUGHT HIM TO HIS OFFICE?"



"DOES HE CONSIDER WHAT HE HAS LOST-- HIS HOMETOWN, HIS PERSONAL MOBILITY AND FREEDOM-- TO FOLLOW IN THE SERVICE OF HIS GOD? FOR A POPE IS LESS A MASTER THAN SERVANT, BELONGING NOT TO HIMSELF, BUT TO THE CHURCH."

"DOES HE LONG TO BE A SIMPLER-- AND PERHAPS HAPPIER-- PARISH PRIEST SOMEWHERE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CRACOW?"



"OR DOES HE SIMPLY ACCEPT? I DON'T KNOW... AND PERHAPS I NEVER WILL. BUT THE POPE WAS A MAN LONG BEFORE HE REACHED THE VATICAN... AND HE IS STILL AS MUCH A MAN AS A MAN OF GOD..."