

TRIALS OF THE
SPEAR



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TRIALS OF THE SPEAR

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TRIALS OF THE SPEAR



THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, FAR EAST OF KATUNGA, WHERE THE LORD ALAAFIN RULED THE OYO EMPIRE IN A FOREST KNOWN NOW AS SHASHA-OLUWA THE IMMORTAL DRUMMER ONIDUNDUN AKARIGBERE, PLAYED THE DRUMS AT THE TRIALS OF WARRIORS AT A TIME WHEN THIS FOREST WAS KNOWN AS IGBO IRUNMALE

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION:

THIS BOOK INCLUDES A LOT OF WORDS IN THE YORUBA LANGUAGE. MATCHING SPELLINGS TO PRONUNCIATION CAN BE A LITTLE TRICKY, SO WE HAVE A SMALL GUIDE TO MAKE THINGS EASIER!

E IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED "AY",

SO "GELE" IS PRONOUNCED "GAY LAY"

E(WITH A DOT) IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED "EH",

SO "BERE" IS PRONOUNCED "BEH REH"

O IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED "OH"

SO "OWO" IS PRONOUNCED "OH WOH"

O(WITH A DOT) IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED "AW",

SO "IMOLE" IS PRONOUNCED "EE-MAW - LEH"

I IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED "EE" AS IN "BEE"

U IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED "OO" AS IN "BOOK"



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I AM

DU-DUDUM-DU-DU-DUDUM...

ONIDUNDUN AKARIGBERE

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS,
THE KINGDOM OF KATUNGA,

PRESERVED FROM
THE EYES OF THE WORLD

AND RULED BY
DYNASTIES DESCENDED FROM OUR
LORD ODUDUWA

OWED ITS SAFETY
TO ELITE FIGHTERS
KNOWN AS WARRIORS...

THEY WHOSE TRIALS
ARE HERALDED BY
THE BEAT OF MY DRUMS...

IN THE FOREST OF ULTIMATE SPIRITS...

I GBO IRUNMALE

DAYO DARAWU!

THIS TRIAL IS COMPLETE,
MY DRUMS ARE SILENT.

GBEMISOLA,
END THIS SHAM
IN MY NAME.

IN THE
NAME OF HER
HIGHNESS, **KABIYESI
YETUNDE** OF THE HOUSE
AIRO, OSEMAWE OF
ALL THE ONDO
PEOPLE,...

... GUARDIAN
AND
SOVEREIGN RULER
OF THE IGBO IRUNMALE,
I, GBEMISOLA,
DEMAND YOU CEASE
THIS ILLEGAL TRIAL
AND HAND OVER
THAT SPEAR!

SHAM? WHAT DO
YOU MEAN SHAM?!
THE DRUMS HAVE
STOPPED!
I PASSED THE TRIAL!!

BABA ARUGBO*,
WHY ARE YOU
QUIET, NAAAAA????
TELL THEM!!

**OLD GEEZER*

YETUNDE
IS SOVEREIGN OF THIS LAND.
MORTAL MONARCHS'
DOMINION IS DIVINELY
BESTOWED, SO TALK TO
HER, NOT ME.

YOUR MORTAL
QUARRELS ARE NONE
OF MY BUSINESS.

THANK YOU,
O GREAT SPIRIT.

AS THE SPIRIT SAID, MY
LADY DEMANDS COMPENSATION
FROM KATUNGA WHENEVER A TRIAL
IS TO HOLD. WE RECEIVED NEITHER
NOTICE, NOR PERMISSION
FOR THIS TRIAL,
AND SO...

...STRATEGIST DEOLA,
DELIVER YOUR VERDICT
TO THIS RUNT!

EXTENDED TRIAL

WE DEMAND
THAT YOU HAND
OVER THE SPEAR...

UNTIL YOUR
KING SETTLES THIS
WITH OUR LADY...

LOOK, I DON'T CARE
WHAT YOU THINK
SOMEONE OWES YOU.
I TOOK THE TRIAL AND I PASSED.
I'M A WARRIOR!



GBEMISOLA OOOO!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?

WAS SOMETHING
TALKING? TOSIN,
SHO GBO NKAN NI?

*DID YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

HA! I HAVE
NO IDEA!

LISTEN TO THE SPEAR, BOY. IT HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.

PLEASE DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ALL ARE LAUGHING AT.

OH, SHUT UP, RUNT. EVEN IF THIS WAS THE ONLY TRIAL YOU NEEDED TO PASS TO BECOME A WARRIOR... LOOK AT YOUR HAIR FOR SANGO'S SAKE

YOU'RE JUST LUCKY HER MAJESTY IS IN A GOOD MOOD. AN ACCURSED CHILD LIKE YOU HAS NO BUSINESS SPEAKING IN HER PRESENCE!

WAIT...

...WHO SAID I'M IN A GOOD MOOD? OYA, STOP LAUGHING. GBEMISOLA!

KABIYESI...

TOYIN

KABIYESI.

DEOLA.

TOSIN.

MY LADY.

KABIYESI.

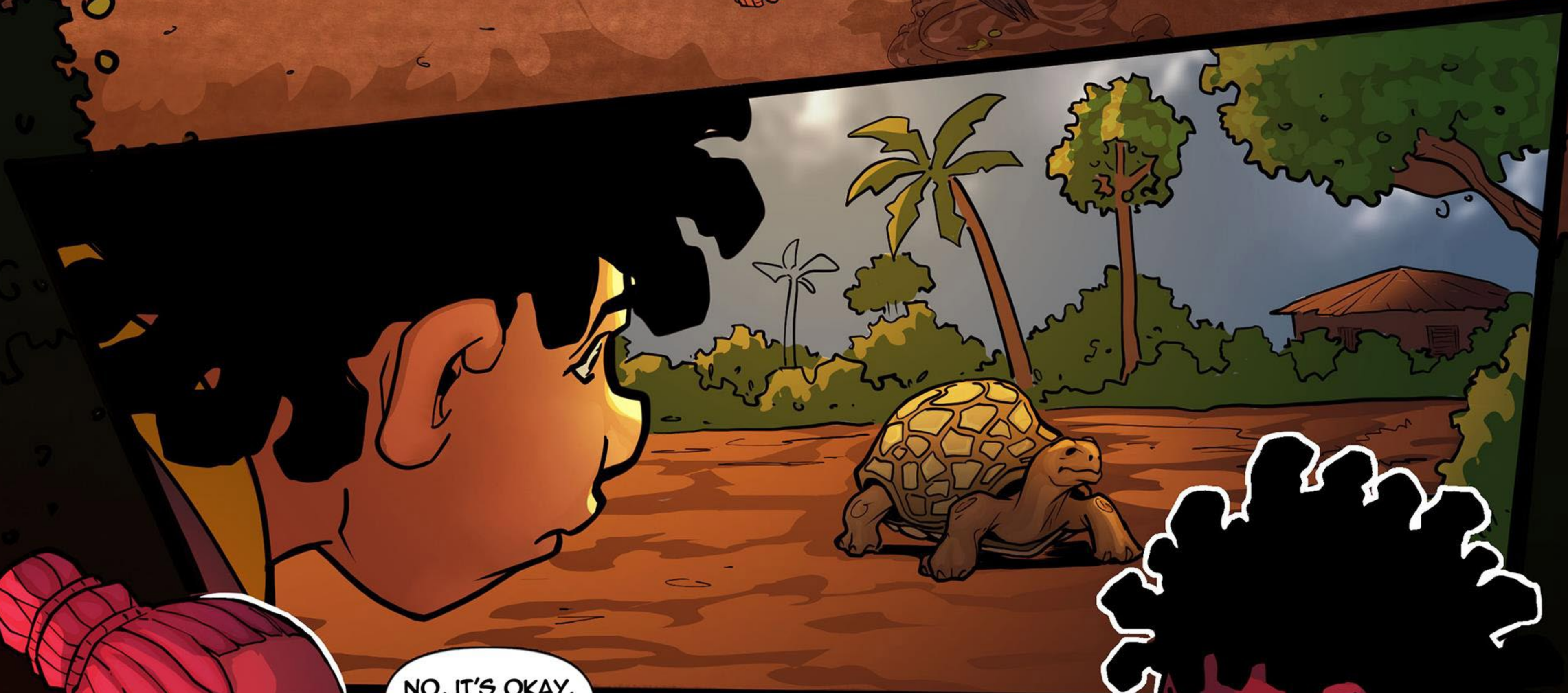
I AM YETUNDE, OSEMawe OF THE ONDO KINGDOM, LADY OF OKE AGUNLA, AND I AUTHORIZE AND COMMAND YOU...

**LIBERATE
BY FORCE
THAT SPEAR
FROM THIS** cccc

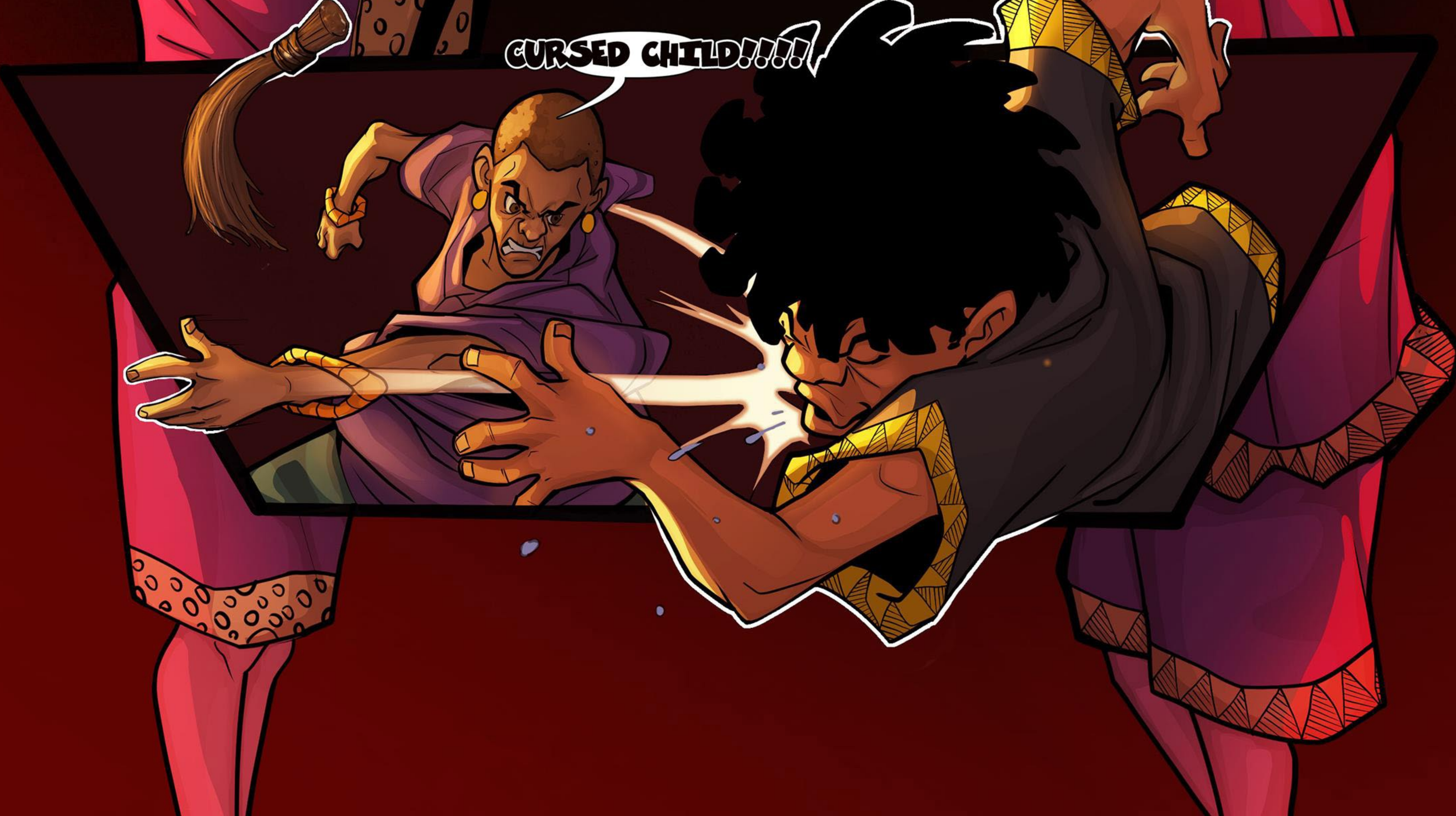


YEARS AGO....

"...CURSED CHILD"



NO, IT'S OKAY.
IT'S YOURS.
KEEP IT.



CURSED CHILD!!!!

OMO ALE!
OMO JATI JATI! I TELL YOU
TO SWEEP AND YOU STAND
HERE DAYDREAMING. WHAT ARE
YOU PLANNING? TO KILL ME
IN MY SLEEP?
WITCH CHILD!!!!

MUMMY,
I WAS SWEEPING THE
FLOOR, I WAS SWEEPING,
MUMMY...MUMMY!!!!



WHO IS YOUR MUMMY?
SHE EMI LO BI O?
WITH THIS RUBBISH
ON YOUR HEAD? I SWEAR,
YOU WILL NOT PUT
YOUR CURSE ON ME O!

MUMMY-OH!!!!
MUMMY-OH!!!!
MUMMY
OOOOOOOOH!!!!



WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
WICKED CHILD!!! DEVIL!!! YOU WILL PUT
THAT BROOM BACK TOGETHER AND YOU
WILL FINISH WHAT I TELL YOU TO DO
BEFORE THE SUN GOES DOWN
OR NO FOOD FOR YOU!



I DIDN'T...
I DIDN'T...
IT CAME APART....



SHUT UP!!
AND GET RID
OF THAT
TORTOISE!



I SWEAR,
SOMETIMES
I REGRET ADOPTING
THAT CREATURE

I TOLD YOU,
YOU STUPID WOMAN.
I TOLD YOU WE
SHOULDN'T HAVE
BOTHERED WITH THE
SMALL ONE. HE WAS
BORN CURSED

HE HAD A TWIN,
YOU KNOW. SHE WAS
FOUND DEAD WHEN
THEY WERE BORN

OMO ALE!!!
HE MUST HAVE KILLED
HER IN THE WOMB.
DEVIL!!!

HOW THAT LAZY
THING CAME FROM
THE SAME MOTHER
AS KAYODE,
IS BEYOND ME....



SMALLIE. ARE YOUR EYES LEAKING?



BRO...BROTHER KAYODE?



BROTHER KAYODE!!!! YOU'RE BACK!!!



HAHAHAHA!
EASY NOW,
SMALLIE!

BROTHER KAYODE!
DON'T LEAVE AGAIN...

HOPE YOU'VE BEEN
GOOD TO MAMA AND
PAPA, EH, SMALLIE?

AH...EM...ABOUT
MAMA....SHE....

KAYODE
OMO MI!!!!!!
KAYODEEEEEEE!!!!

MAMA????

EKU-ILE, MAMA, PAPA

KAYODE OOOOOO!!!!
MY BABY!

HM. KAYODE,
YOU HAVE GROWN!



STAND UP, MY SON.
AND WHO ARE THESE
FINE MEN

THESE ARE ONADIPE,
AND OGLINJAGUN,
MY INSTRUCTORS.

PAPA KAYODE,
WE HAVE GOOD
NEWS FOR YOU.
KAYODE IS THE
YOUNGEST STUDENT
EVER TO FIND HIS
OWN SPIRIT TREE.

O SELIN
OOOOO! OLORUN O!
PRAISE BE TO YOU!

I ALWAYS KNEW
YOU WOULD BE GREAT.
BRING ME YOUR SWORD,
KAYODE

COME.
LET ME SHOW YOU
HOW TO FASHION
A SPEAR HEAD
OUT OF THIS.

CAN DAYO
COME TOO?

NO. NEVER
SUGGEST THAT
AGAIN, KAYODE.

YOU KNOW
WHAT YOUR
BROTHER IS.

YOU
KNOW
HE IS A...

..CURSED RUNT!!!



CURSED.
NO MATTER WHAT
I DO...

RUNT, EHP
AS IF YOU'RE
MUCH OLDER THAN
I AM.

IF YOU WANT
TO FIGHT.
..THEN FINE.

NO MATTER
HOW HARD I PROVE
MYSELF...

DAYO, THIS ISN'T
THE TIME- YOU
DON'T NEED TO BE...



FUN MI IMOJE!*

***GIVE ME
LIGHT!**

DAYO...NO...
THIS ISN'T THE WAY.

IF YOU WON'T
HELP ME, IYA ARUGBO*,
I'LL DO IT MYSELF!!

***OLD LADY**

HE CAN'T EVEN
COMMAND HIS SPEAR.
WHAT A DISGRACE.

IN THE END,
I'M ALWAYS ON
MY OWN.

IF IT PLEASES YOU,
MAY I COUNSEL SENDING
THE TWINS IN FIRST?



VERY WELL...
YOU'RE THE STRATEGIST.
TOYIN! TOSIN!!!



IYA IBEJI!!!! FUN WA IRANSE!!!!

***MOTHER OF TWINS!
GIVE US SERVANTS!!!!**

THE SKY DARKENS. A SUDDEN STORM BEGINS.



I WONDER IF THEY ARE EVEN TAKING ME SERIOUSLY

IS THAT ALL? JUST A BIT OF RAIN???



FOOLISH CHILD, THE RAIN IS HOW TWIN WARRIORS ATTUNED TO WATER SUMMON THEIR...

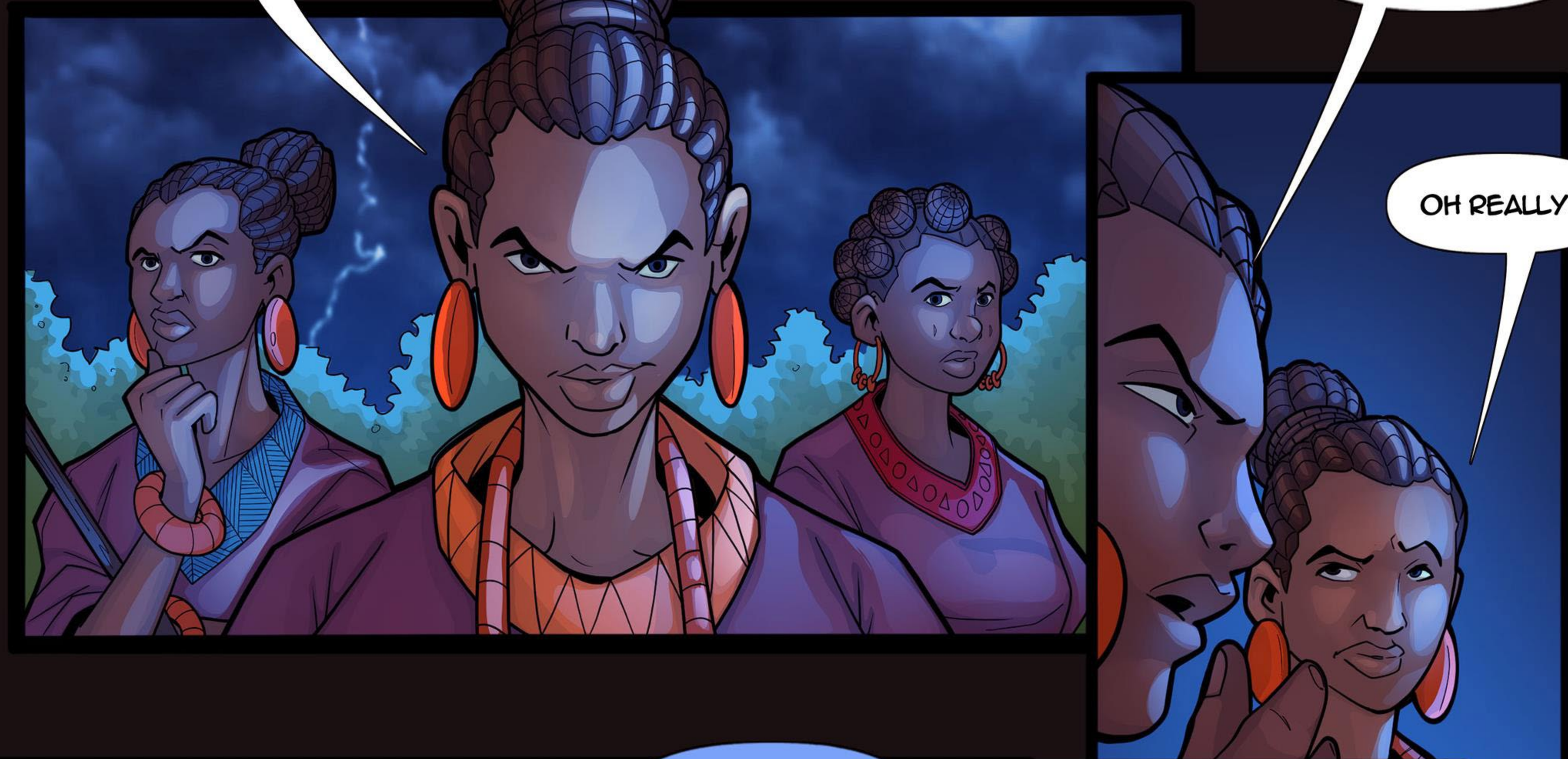
ERE IBEJI

* IMAGE OF THE TWINS



YOU KNOW, DEOLA,
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.
HE DOESN'T DESERVE
MORE EFFORT THAN
ACTUALLY NEEDED.

ON THE CONTRARY,
MY LADY, I FEEL
WHAT WE OBSERVE
HERE MAY BE
OF VALUE...



OH REALLY?

YOU KNOW, DAYO,
IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
YOU CAN STILL
FIND ANOTHER WAY
TO WORK THIS OUT...



UNLESS YOU WANT
TO GIVE ME LIGHT,
IYA ARUGBO....

KEEP QUIET,
AND LET ME
HANDLE THIS!



NEXT: TO HANDLE A WARRIOR'S WEAPON!



SPEAR HEAD

AT LONG LAST, THE JOURNEY WE STARTED DEEP IN THE "IGBO IRUNMALE" HAS PICKED UP ITS' PACE AND IS WELL AND TRULY ON ITS' WAY!

WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HANDS (OR ON YOUR SCREEN) AT THE MOMENT IS A SMALL SLICE OF WHAT I CALL DAYO'S "BECOMING". BY NOW, YOU PROBABLY HAVE A SENSE OF THE CONFLICT WITHIN HIM, AND HOPEFULL, LIKE ME, YOU'RE EXCITED TO SEE WHAT SORT OF PERSON HE BECOMES WHEN THIS IS RESOLVED- IF THIS EVER HAPPENS!

WE ALSO GOT OUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE WIDER WORLD THAT OUR CHARACTERS LIVE WITHIN. A WORLD WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE COME TO VIBRANT, GLOWING LIFE WITHOUT THE TALENTS OF DOMINIC, THE BRILLIANT ARTIST WHO BRINGS THESE STORIES TO LIFE!

THANKS FOR STICKING WITH US, AND HOPE YOU ENJOY THE REST OF THE JOURNEY!

WALE "SPEARHEAD" AWELENJE

**SEE WHAT SORT
OF PERSON HE
BECOMES WHEN
THIS IS RESOLVED**



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