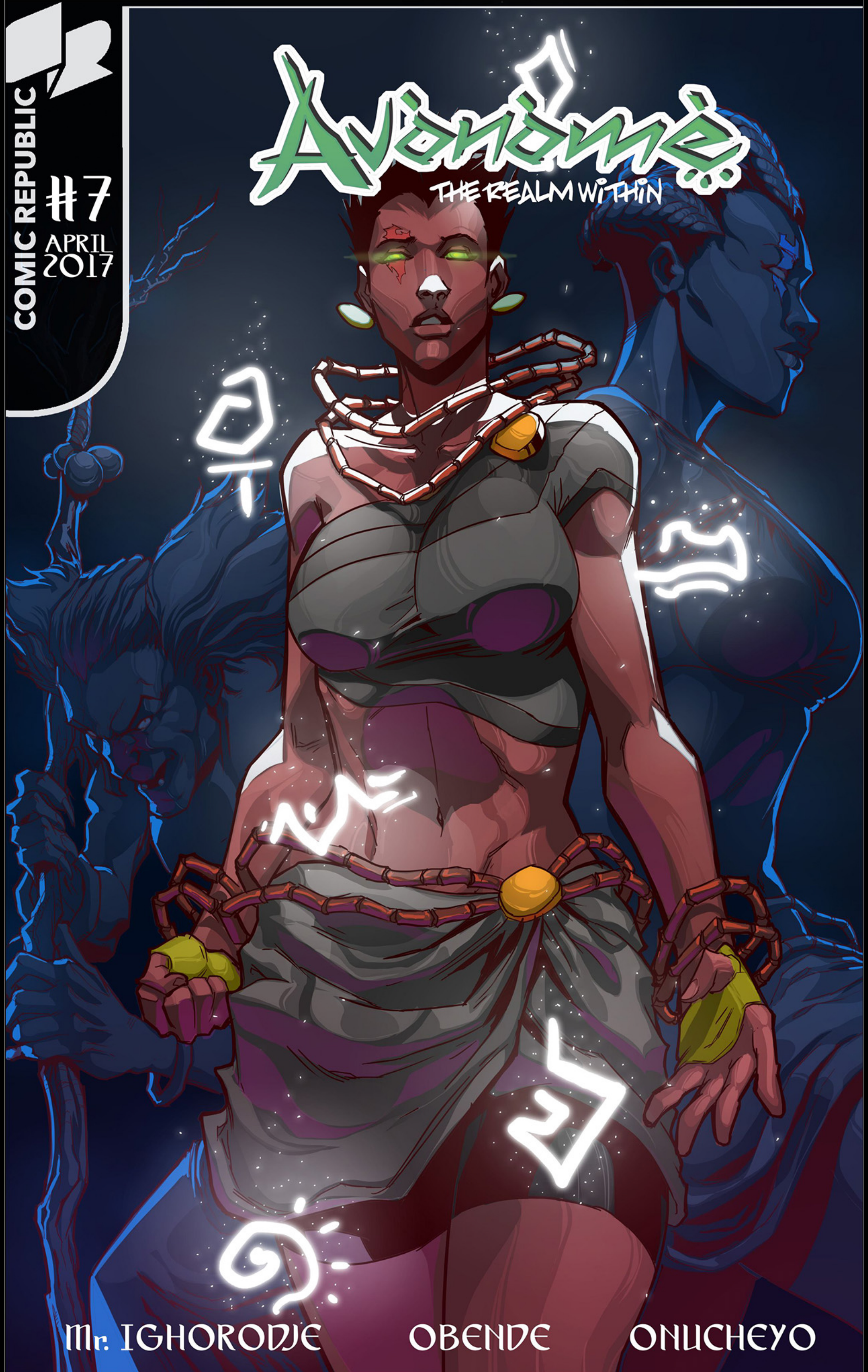


Awonime

THE REALM WITHIN

COMIC REPUBLIC

#7
APRIL
2017



Mr. IGHORODJE

OBENDE

ONUCHEYO

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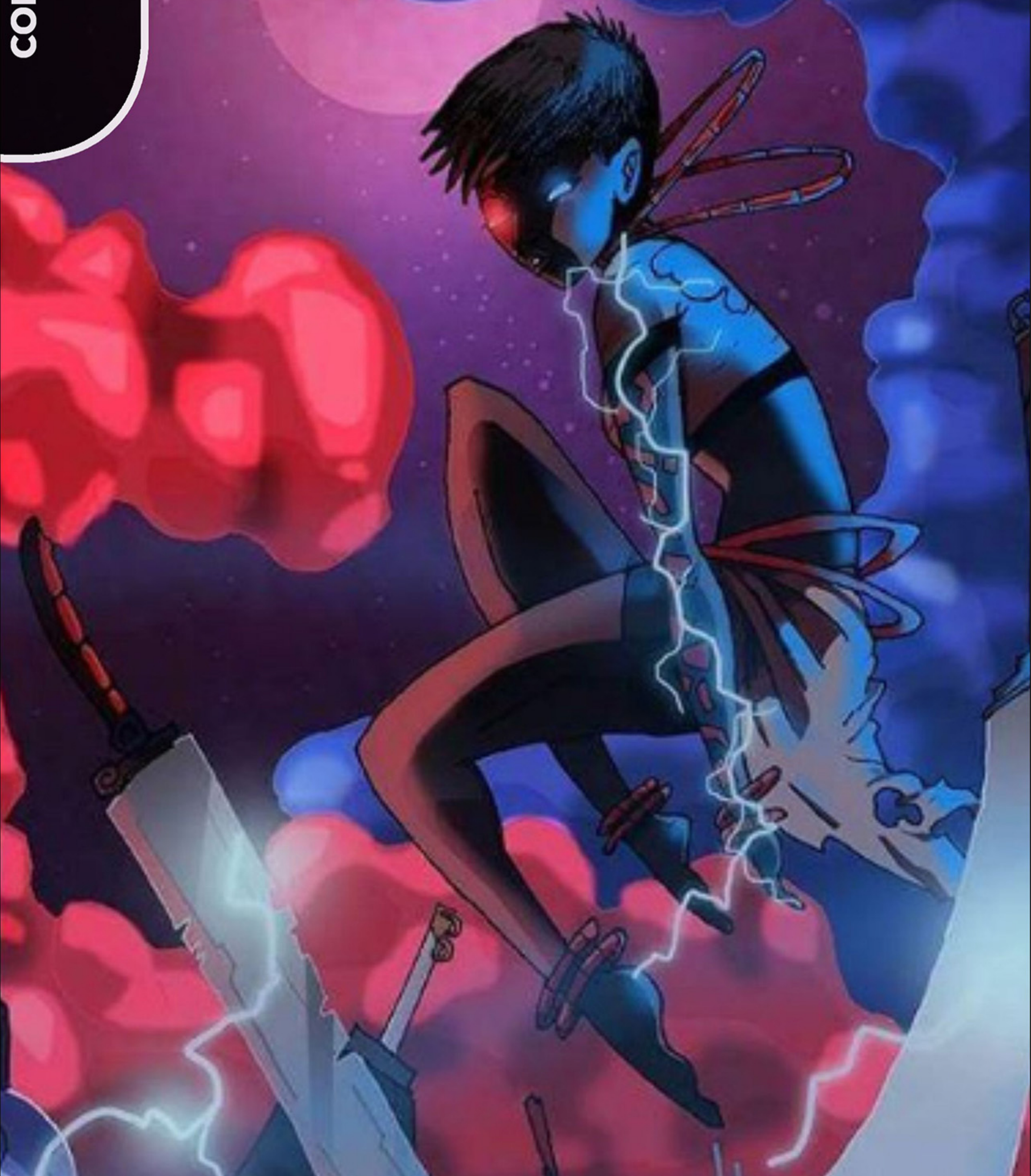
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COMIC REPUBLIC

#7

Avonion

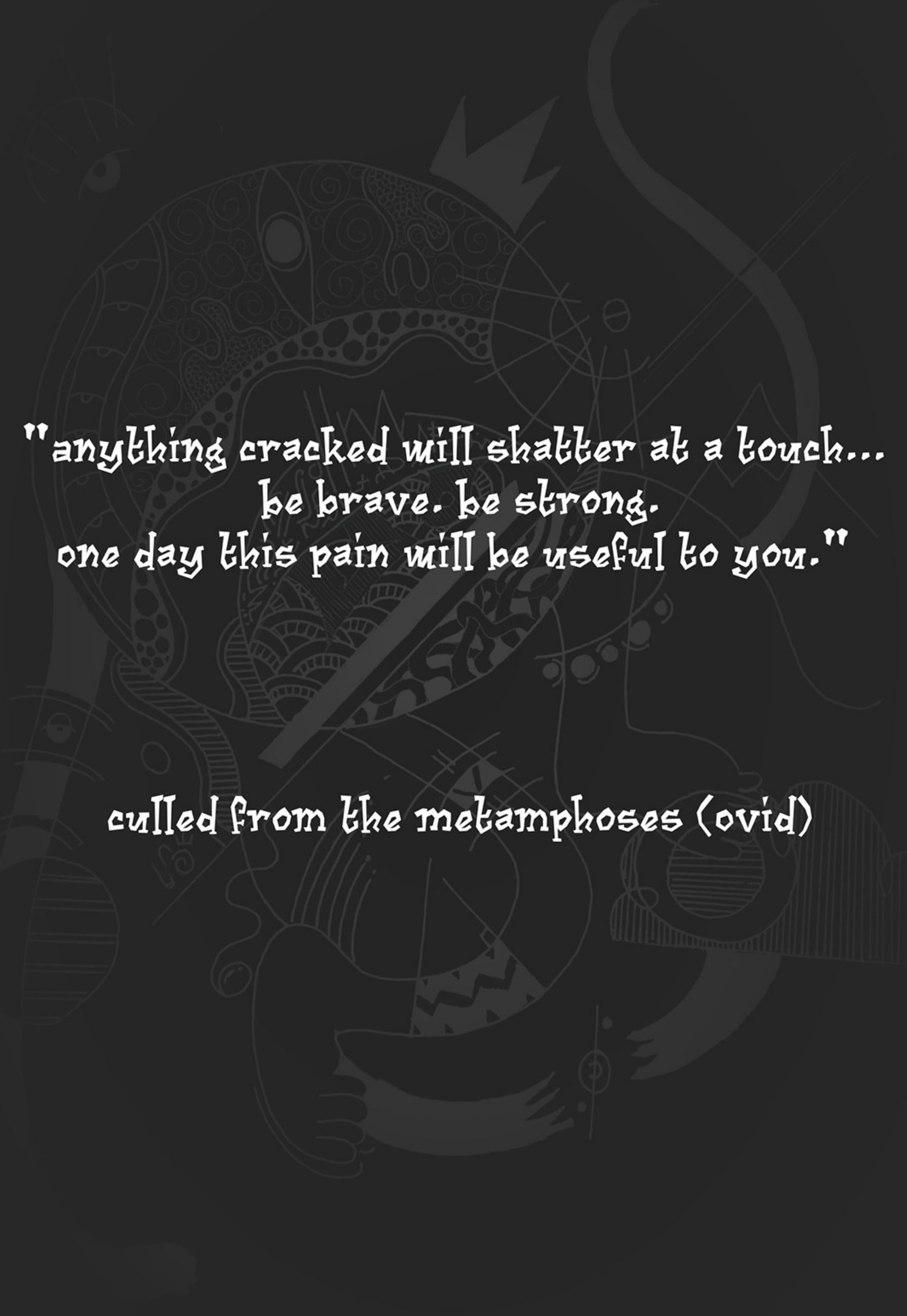
THE REALM WITHIN



PRECIOUS ZESTY ANIH

Winner of the fan made variant art cover challenge





"anything cracked will shatter at a touch...
be brave. be strong.
one day this pain will be useful to you."

culled from the metamorphoses (ovid)



WINNER
COMIC PANEL COMIC
OF THE YEAR 2015



WINNER
COMIC PANEL WRITER
OF THE YEAR 2015



WINNER
COMIC CONNECT COMIC
OF THE YEAR 2017



WINNER
COMIC CONNECT WRITER
OF THE YEAR 2017



WINNER
COMIC CONNECT COVER
OF THE YEAR 2017



For helping us through another milestone,
for being behind us this past year,
for believing and for patience beyond your years,
we are truly grateful.

Let's do more!

PREVIOUSLY ON AVONOME: THE REALM WITHIN...

O-TU-MO-KPOR!

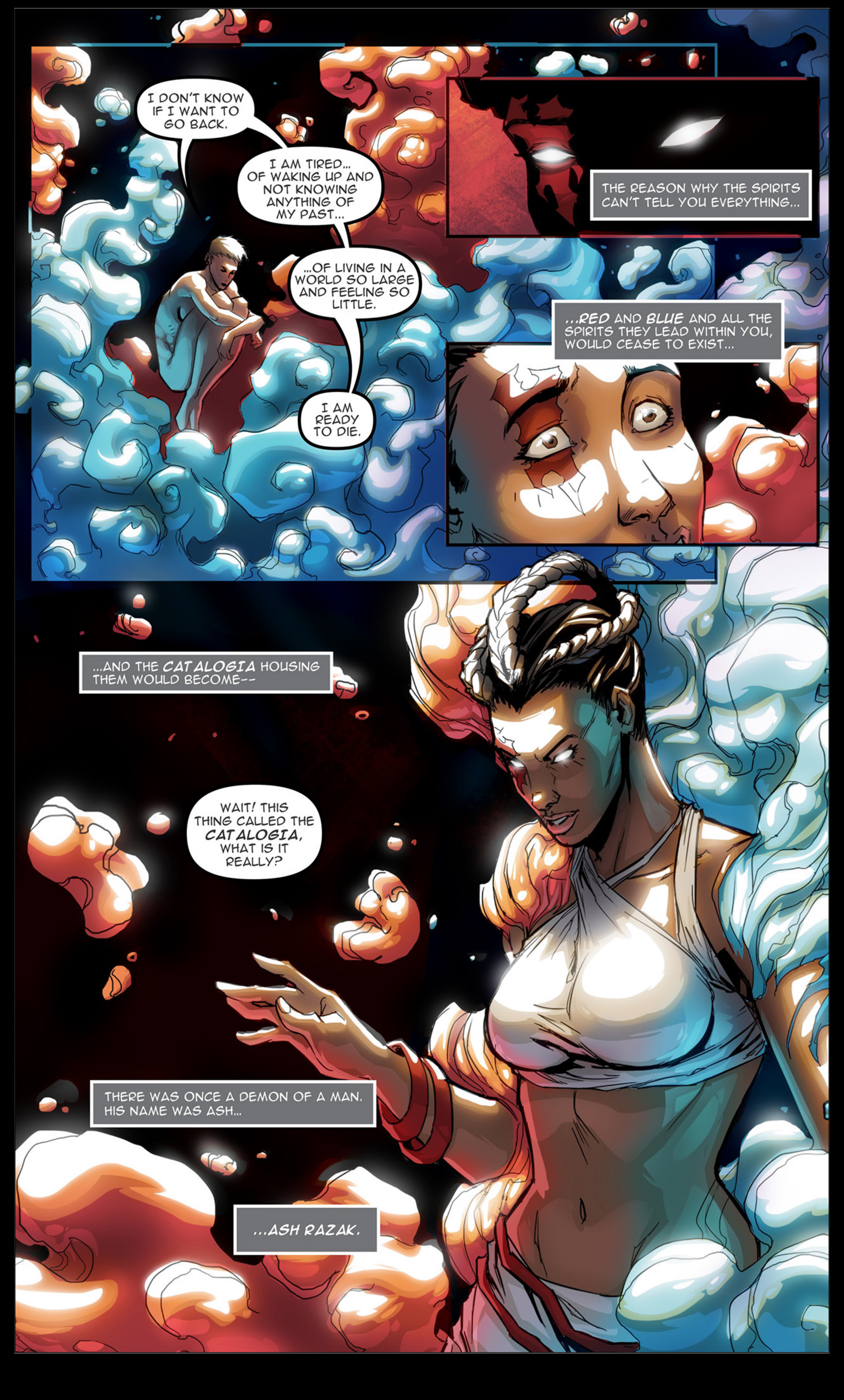
Have you ever seen the devil?

I will show you a faint glimpse of the devil trapped in my right eye.

S W I R L !

so this is how your powers work, the power you have been hiding for so long!

mission accomplished.




I DON'T KNOW
IF I WANT TO
GO BACK.

I AM TIRED...
OF WAKING UP AND
NOT KNOWING
ANYTHING OF
MY PAST...

...OF LIVING IN A
WORLD SO LARGE
AND FEELING SO
LITTLE.

I AM
READY
TO DIE.



THE REASON WHY THE SPIRITS
CAN'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING...



...RED AND BLUE AND ALL THE
SPIRITS THEY LEAD WITHIN YOU,
WOULD CEASE TO EXIST...

...AND THE *CATALOGIA* HOUSING
THEM WOULD BECOME--

WAIT! THIS
THING CALLED THE
CATALOGIA,
WHAT IS IT
REALLY?

THERE WAS ONCE A DEMON OF A MAN.
HIS NAME WAS ASH...

...ASH RAZAK.

OZEBA

SPIRIT
OF
NEUTRALITY

You want to know why us Kirijis who can kill a god should worry at the mention of the name ASH RAZAK?

THE *CATALOGIA* WAS FORGED BY HIM.

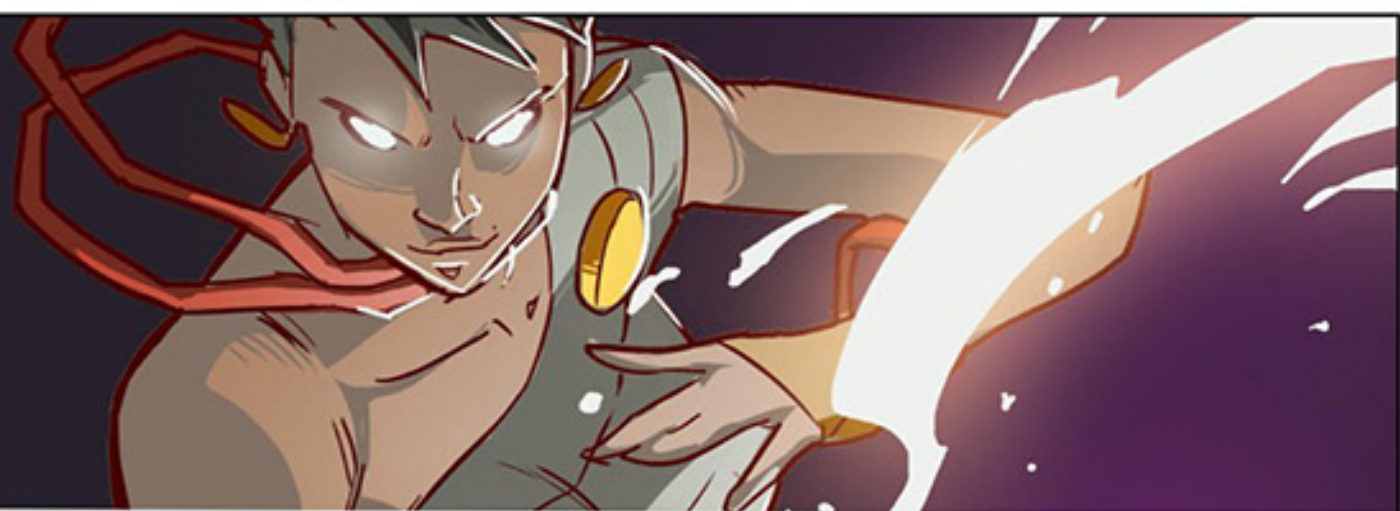
Brace yourself for a lesson in history.
>DO TO TA!<

> BENIN: SIT DOWN <

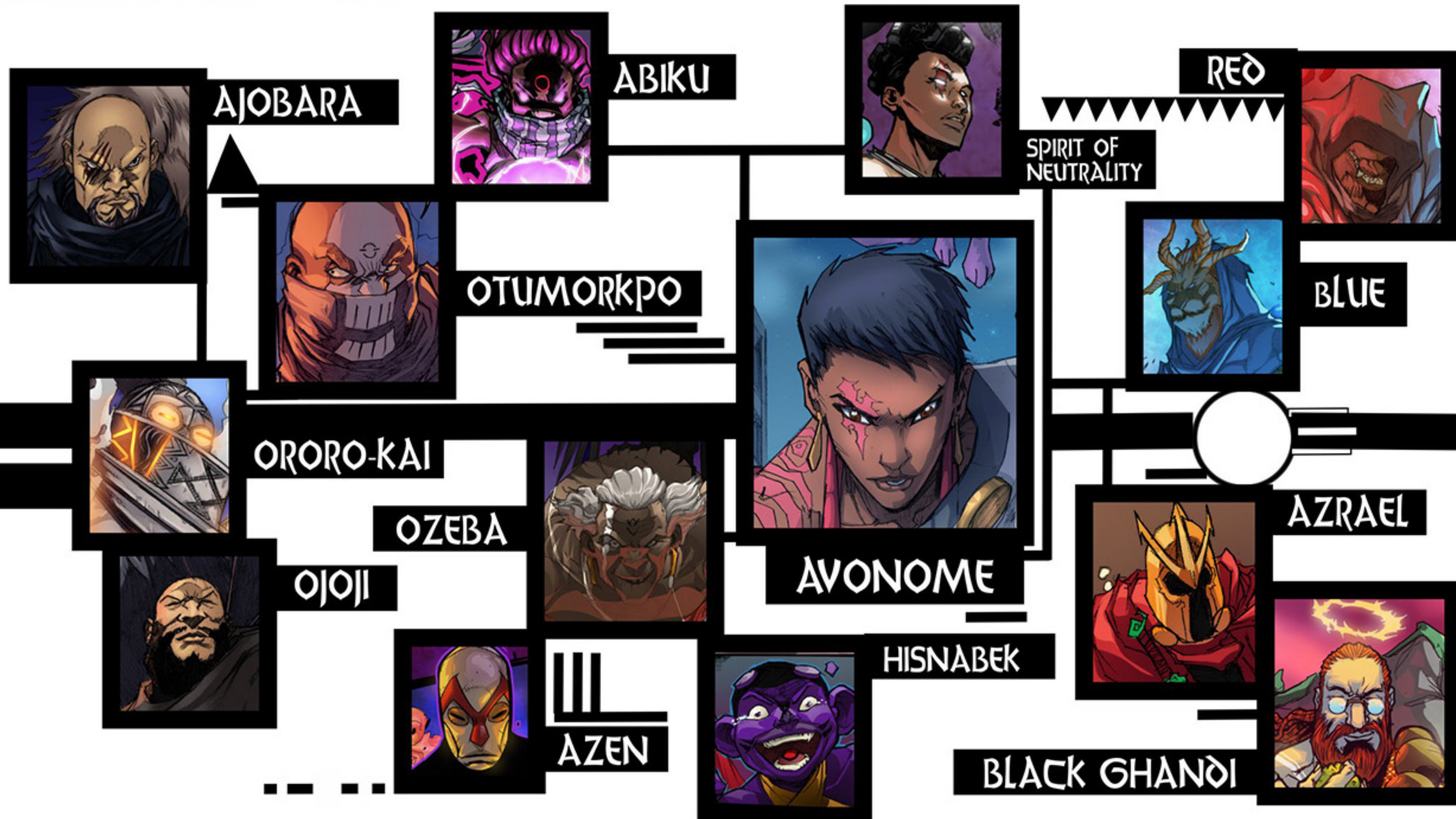
IT IS STARTING LIKE THIS...

Avonome

THE REALM WITHIN



AFTER A BRIEF SKIRMISH WITH AJOBARA THE LAST ALARINKIRI, AVONOME IS SLAIN AND LEFT FOR DEAD. IN NEED OF A MIRACLE TO SAVE HER, HER GUARDIAN ANGEL, AZRAEL GOES TO SEEK THE FACE OF BLACK GANDHI, THE HOGOSHA. MEANWHILE IN THE REALM WITHIN, AVONOME'S CONSCIOUSNESS ENCOUNTERS THE SPIRITS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER POWERS AND THE SECRETS THEY HOLD WILL PROVE BOTH DIRE AND SHOCKING. AND AS TIME SLOWLY GROWS TO A HALT FOR OUR HEROINE, THE KIRIJI, A BAND OF IMMORTALS GATHER AND THEIR EYES ARE SLOWLY TURNED TO NONE OTHER THAN AVONOME.



AVONOME CREATED BY STANLEY OBENDE

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Life began with darkness.

THE UNIVERSE WAS FORGED
FROM THE DARK.

This darkness was not the absence
of light, but it was the presence of
a lot of things.

WHEN THE OLD GODS DREDGED THE WORLD
OF THE DARK THAT THEY MET IN IT, THEY
KEPT IT SEALED IN A REALM THAT SHOULD
NEVER BE OPENED.

In order for there to be light... life, the darkness
had to be tamed, bound, banished - sent to hell.

Until someone set it free.

IN HISTORY BOOKS, YOU FIND ECHOES OF
THE TRUTH, WHO HISTORIANS BELIEVED SET
THE DARK FREE UPON OUR WORLD.

Some say it was IBLIS, 'THE ACCUSER',
that set the darkness free.

LOOK AT *PANDORA* AND HER BOX,
OR *EVE* AND THE APPLE.

ALL DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE TRUTH;
SOMEONE SETTING THE DARK FREE.

Eventually, the darkness was bound, in THE AGE OF DREAMS, in various items by a being you all know too well, our master and mistress...

SOMEWHERE...



OJOJI'S STONE OF AGONY.

OTUMOKPO'S UZOBO CASK OF TEARS.

ABIKU'S IKUKU BOOK OF BONES -




- and other curses we bear. The seat of our power...

...and immortality is rooted in that primordial darkness that the BONES subjugated and bound.

Now fast forward several millennia down the line.





And two exceptionally gifted brothers emerged.

Ejime. Twins. Two halves of the same seed.

They were taken by the BONE at infancy and before nine, they had completely mastered all the secrets of the sacred art of tradition.

Magic, science, combat and the great mysteries of our world, name it. These exceptional genius were great at everything.

Before twelve, they had devoured all the lumen, yes - scrolls, written wisdom and knowledge permissible by the BONE.

And the BONE found them worthy of the most sacred of curses; the god complex known as the URANUM and the KRO - the death of a universe.

Then the brothers left on a journey to seek deeper enlightenment.



An age passed, where all records of the brothers were lost from time itself.

And even to the BONE, they had disappeared.

It is said that they were only able to do this by consorting with a great many lords and masters of shadow and fire.


Gods who would rather see the world descend into chaos.



WHEN THE BROTHERS WOULD AGAIN
RETURN TO OUR WORLD, IT WAS IN A
REIGN OF BLOOD AND FIRE.

BUT ONLY ONE BROTHER, THE ELDER,
WOULD BECOME KNOWN.

AND HIS NAME WAS...



ASH RAZAK.



ASH WANTED
THE WORLD.

BY SLAUGHTERING AN ENTIRE RACE
OF SHAPE SHIFTERS, ASH WOULD
MOULD THEIR TISSUES WITH ARCAINE
ARTS AND USE IT TO FASHION
A RELIC, THE *CATALOGIA*.

And for almost a century, great Kirijis'
died denying him of it.

But on the three hundred and sixty fifth day
of the ninetieth year, OJOJI combining his
power with ARUAHAN of the CHRONOS key
dealt Ash's Soul a fatal blow.

ASH RAZAK used this
relic in imprisoning the great
spirits of the world and subjugating
them to do his will, to grant him great
powers. Anything he wanted, by the
help of the *CATALOGIA*, which
he bound within himself,
it would come to
pass.

Cracking the *CATALOGIA*,
Stunning Ash Razak enough
for us...

...To seal him.



The seal was kept under the protection of the FIVE who first returned from the black forest.

THE BROKEN PIECE OFF THE *CATALOGIA* WAS THEN SEALED INTO THE REALM OF THE *NASRI*.



We put it in a realm that could never be found, a region nigh unreachable, lost and forgotten.



question though
old hag...

...if this realm could never be found and ash razak is safely sealed, why the hell are we here?



HMMMMMMM.

...THE REALM WITHIN...

SO A PIECE OF THIS *CATALOGIA* WAS SEALED IN THE *NASRI*, THE SAME PIECE THAT IS NOW BOUND TO MY SOUL, THE SAME PIECE RED AND BLUE AND ALL THE SPIRITS THEY LEAD LIVE IN?

YES.

HOW DID I GET THIS PIECE?

THERE ARE QUESTIONS WE CAN'T ANSWER.

OH I CAN.

DON'T DO IT RED.

YOU AND THAT COWARDLY SPIRIT COMPANION OF YOURS, THE SHAPE-SHIFTER, THE LAST *GOGONU*, WERE THE ONES WHO FOUND AND BOUNDED IT TO YOUR SOUL THEN--

--ARRRRGGGGHHHHH!

WAIT! SHAPE SHIFTER? *HISNABEK'S* RACE WAS MURDERED TO MAKE THIS THING WITHIN ME?!

SHADOW
FACTION
SPIRIT
DEPLETING

PRECISELY.


HE IS THE LAST OF HIS KIND?

YES. AND *ASH RAZAK* IS COMING TO THE WORLD AGAIN.





NOW, KNOWING THIS, IN GOOD FAITH, IS DEATH REALLY STILL WHAT YOU WISH FOR?



IF I CAN BE KILLED BY A SIMPLE NAMELESS ENEMY, I AM NO MATCH FOR THIS... THIS... ASH. IT IS NOT MY FIGHT... IT... BUT... BUT I CAN'T JUST NOT DO ANYTHING.



I WILL TRY, EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.

I'VE DIED ONCE. DEATH IS NOT SO PAINFUL.



HISNABEK IS MY ONLY TRUE FRIEND.



IF YOU WOULD HELP ME.



I CHOOSE LIFE, BEFORE DEATH. I WILL TRY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ASH RASAK.

WHAT COMES NOW?

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU ALL ON THE OTHER SIDE?

HAVE FAITH. ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THEM THAT BELIEVE.

tzzzzt

hiss YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MY OFFER WHEN I GAVE IT TO YOU.

BLITZZZ

IT'S ASH RAZAK. KNOW YOUR ENEMY BY NAME.

NOW KNEEL.

YOU ASKED IF YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE US.

YOU ARE US. WE BELONG TOGETHER.

JUST BREATHE.

INHALE.

EXHALE.





HMMMM... SHE HAS CHOSEN.

INTERESTING.



CHOSEN WHAT, **BLACK GANDHI** BABA?

YOU CAME HERE IN SEARCH OF A MIRACLE, **ARUN-ART ZAI-AS'AD-ASAD-ASAPH-ASAR-ASAREEL-ASAR'EL.**




WELL, STAND ASIDE.



YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE A...



...WITNESS.



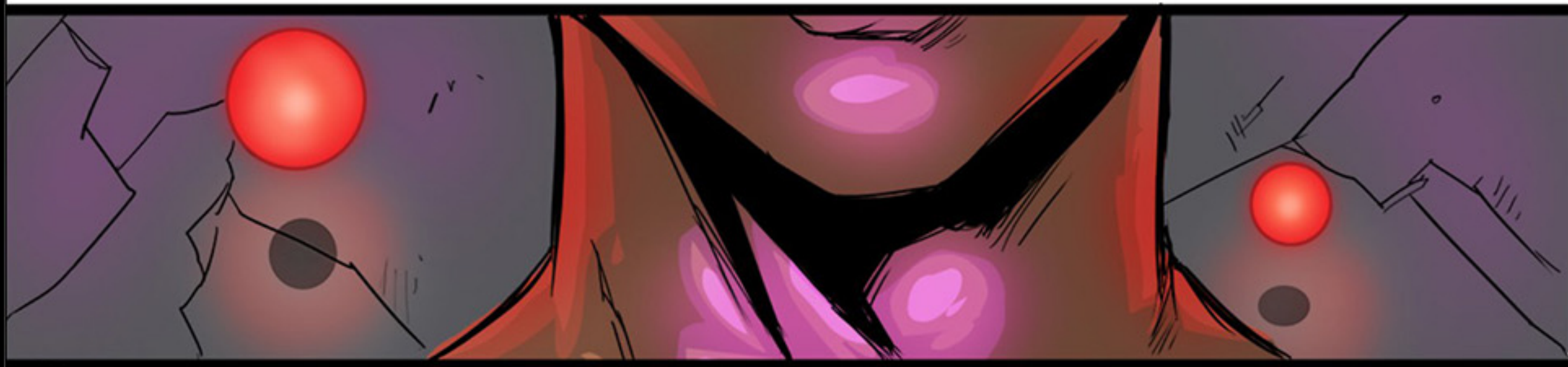
CAREFUL, OR I WILL
POSSESS YOU.

WE WILL BE
BEHIND YOU.

REMEMBER,
EVERYDAY
IS ONE DAY.

GROWTH IS STILL
A PROCESS.

BE PATIENT
WITH YOU.



...YOU
ARE
ALIVE!!!



Spirit walk

Hi there,

If you're reading this, chances are that you stuck it out with us from 1 through 6 and now you're done reading our definitive issue 7. It could also be that this is the first copy of Avonome you've picked up. If that's the case mighty thanks, but go back and read the build up to this episode. It will prove an exciting journey, or this is what we hope.

First off, we would love to thank you for a lot of things. One is our emergence as the best indigenous comic book, best writer of a comic book series and best cover art (issue 6, all Thanks to the amazing work of our Creator Stanley 'the Stanch' Obende, at the comic connect 2017 event. We've also gotten nominated as the best Nigerian comic book, an award that we'll be presented at the Ake festival 2017 (when we win as I'm hoping we do, that is). These feats are in no small way attributed to you our readers. We love you, we are grateful and we are humbled. I remember walking into the comic connect event and being swarmed by several fans of the comic book. One in particular had a lot of questions about the story and where we were headed. He actually got the sub plots we had spread around the comic books thus far. He also said he was a great fan of the Spirit Walk page. Like wth?! That's so rad! I hope you found issue 7 deeply rewarding, thanks for starting an unofficial Avonome fan club in your school.

Comic book making is not an easy venture in the country, a major problem being the unwarranted disdain most comic book lovers treat indigenous content. We are hoping to change that, one issue at a time. But the Internet is a good thing, we get more access to readers all over the globe. We thank our fans spread all over the African continent, Bahamas, Brazil, Europe and in the realms over.

I'm in a bus, out of town, barely had 7 hours of sleep in the last 48hrs, but permit me to tell you about something. Issue 7 has always been the definitive story, where the cocktail is supposed to turn and our story be free to leap forward. Now with Ash Razak revealed, issue 8 promises to be mad. And for those itching for some fighting action, something big happens in issue 8. If you've missed the Jagaban and the last Alarinkiri Ajobara, there's more about them in 8, also for those wondering what Hisnabek has been up to.. Lmao! you will be amazed. With 7 and Avonome's return, get ready for a new arc and more deliciousness!

For us on Avonome and at MHB, we refuse to participate in the recession. You shouldn't too. As always, mad love for CR and congratulations on sealing that investment deal.

May the odds forever remain in your favor. Remain a witness.

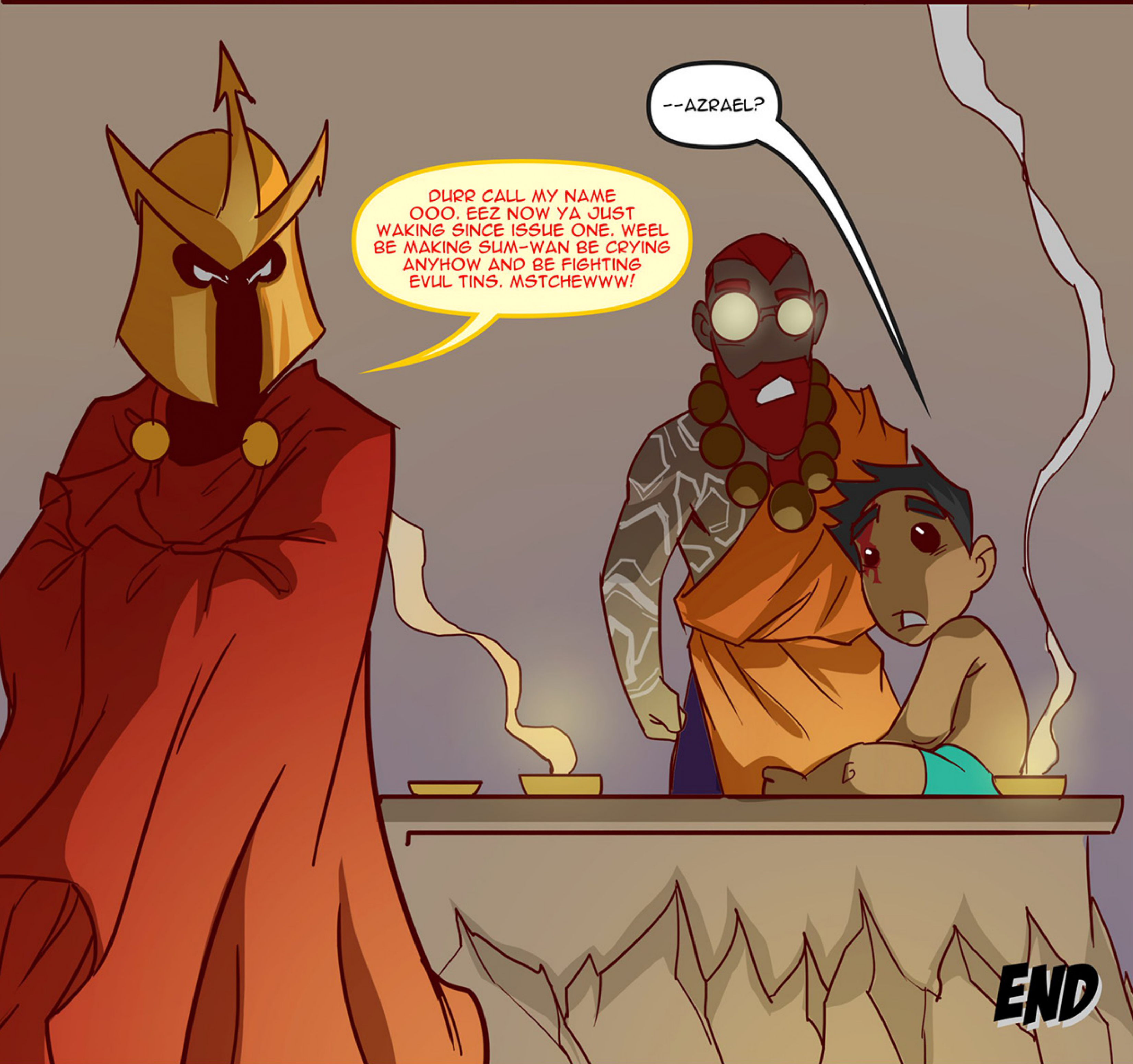
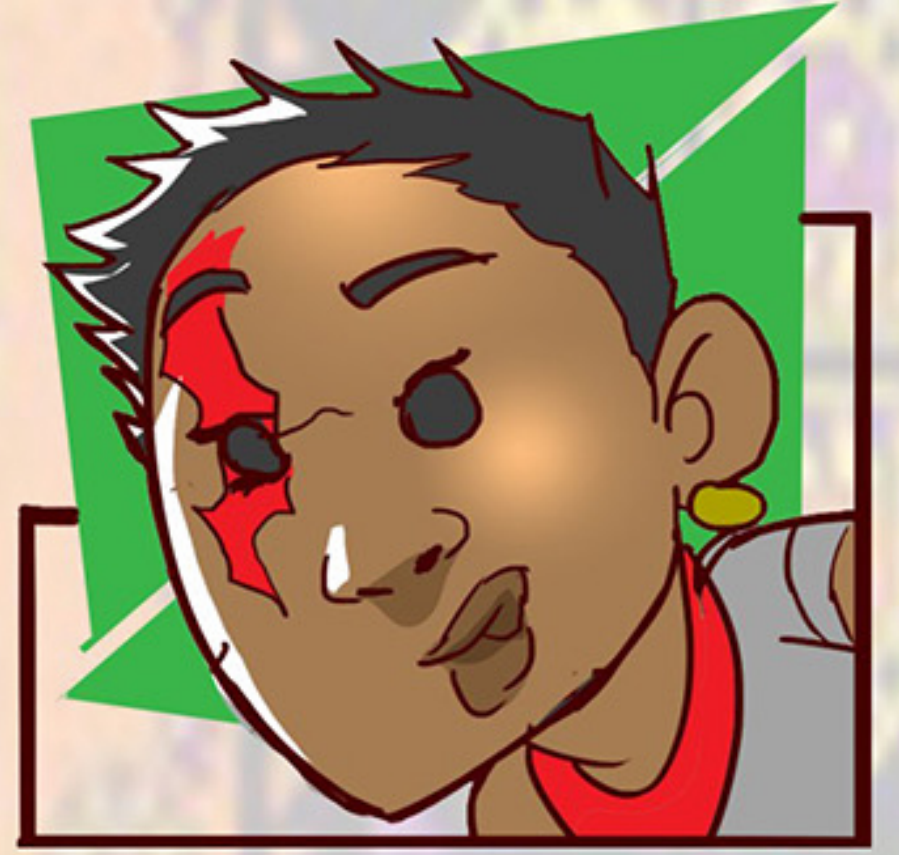
Mr. Xavier IGHORODJE.

Writer.

Hero Kekere

featuring

Avonome



END

FAN MAIL

I just read issue 1 through 6 of Avonome and I am loving it. I only downloaded them on my brother's request, but I decided to go through 'em and mehn was I blown away. I didn't have much access to comics and story books as a kid, but I did manage to borrow from a few friends.

As I grew older, I envisioned tortoise stories remade to conform to modern times. A comic with tortoise in moon hulk (I'm not sure about the correct spelling, too lazy to google it right now, lol) and pencil jeans, or a lion with a school bag, that kinda stuff. But an evil spirit singing Bahd Badoo Bahdest (Hisnabek in the taxi?) Mehn, you guys have done a wonderful job, promoting local content. I especially love the mix of our cultures. You guys are the best.

You are the Marvel and DC of tomorrow. You make me want to come to Lagos now more than ever.

An'nya la (Idoma for 'Thank you all'), you have my prayers and best wishes. Peace.

- Meo.
Benue, Nigeria.

Thanks for all the kind words Meo. It is mails like yours that validate all the hard work and sweat we put into the title. Thanks friend. Please don't forget to share the good gospel to your friends. They need to 'know'.

PLEASE IF YOU LOVED THIS COMIC BOOK, HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE'S ISSUES OR ANY IDEA ON HOW TO SELL JOLLOF RICE ON THE BLACK MARKET TO ALIENS AND OR WOO A ZOMBIE, LET US KNOW ON –

holla@thecomicropublic.com

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BUZZ!!!

If you enjoyed this comic, please show some love for the other titles currently being published by COMIC REPUBLIC. They make sure we stay in print and ensure AVONOME gets to you at absolutely no cost.

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AVONOME FANS

VOILA! Avonome is back! We delve deeper into the connection between Ash Razak, Avonome and the KIRIJI and the frenzy of pure thrills that would come after. But first, let's regale you with some amazing fan images sent in after 6 issues.



FOLORUNSHO MUYIWA

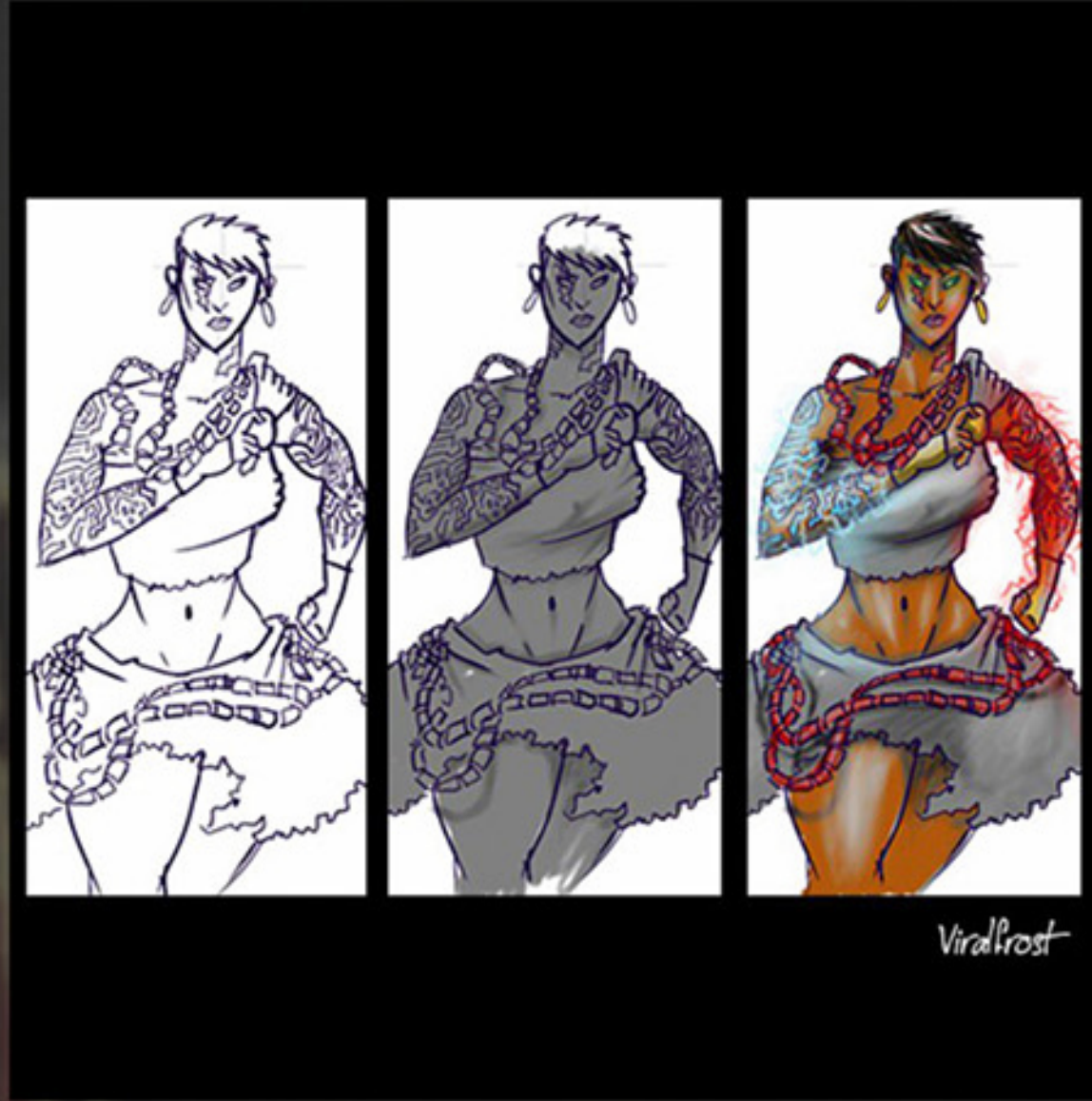
'DAMILOLA AKINOLA



PRECIOUS ZESTY ANIH

AVONOMEMIS

IKENNA OGBU



DOMINIC OMOARUKHE

EDDIE OSEAHON JNR.



Note: We want to switch things up a little, appreciate our fans loyalty and dedication by giving a form of free PR. So if you've got an art, send it in to our mail box at holla@thecomicropublic.com or our facebook page: www.facebook.com/avonememi but include a little fun note about yourself and a publishable email address and you would get published right here.

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#1

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SOON! SOON!!



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