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THE REALM WITHIN

COMIC REPUBLIC

#6



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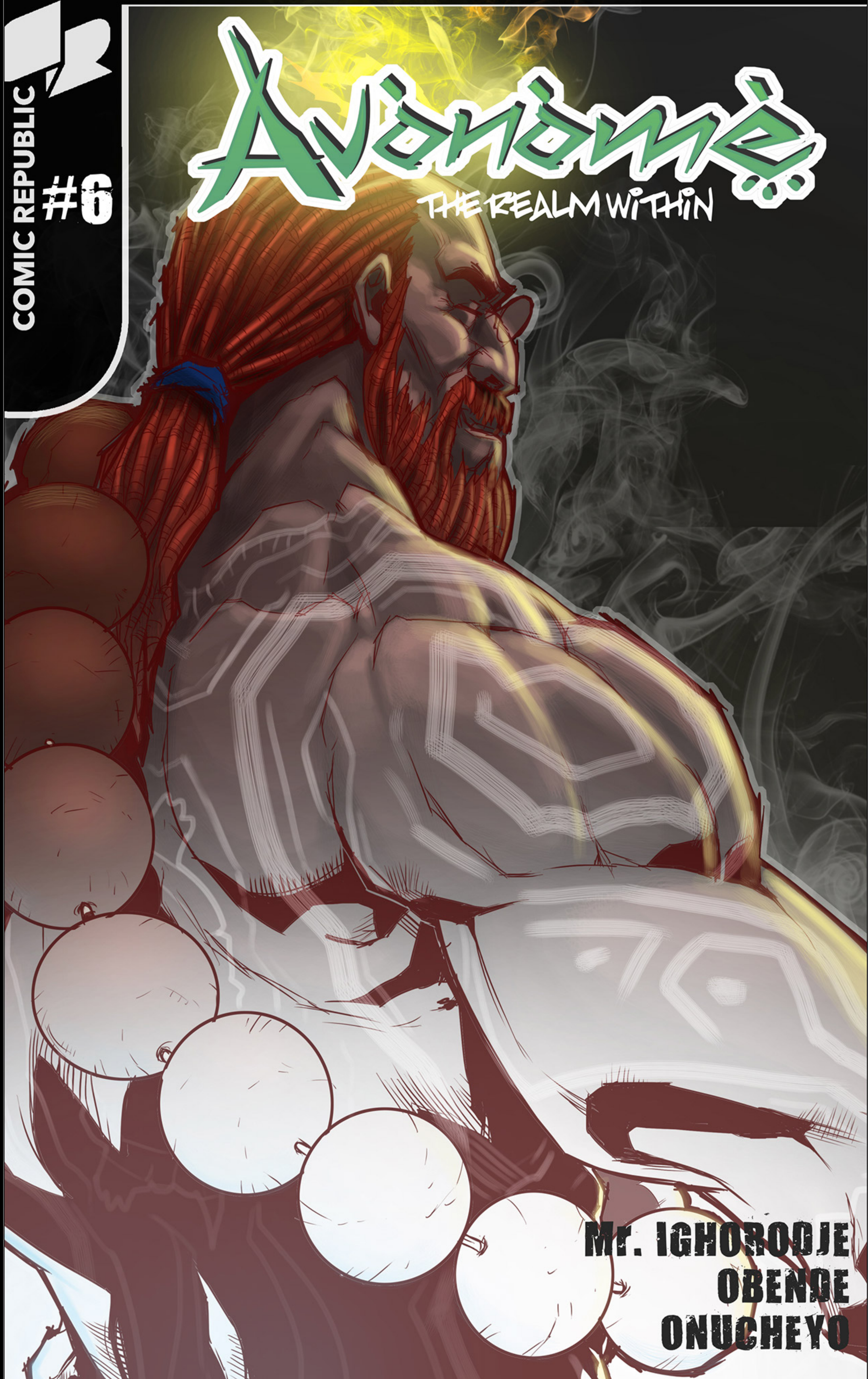
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**MR. IGHORODJE
OBENDE
ONUCHEYO**

AVANTION

THE REALM WITHIN

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WINNER
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"I can teach you how to split a mountain with a single straw, how to tame lightning, walk on water or go years without any form of sustenance but an ounce of dew. But what I can't teach you Avonome is the key to happiness.

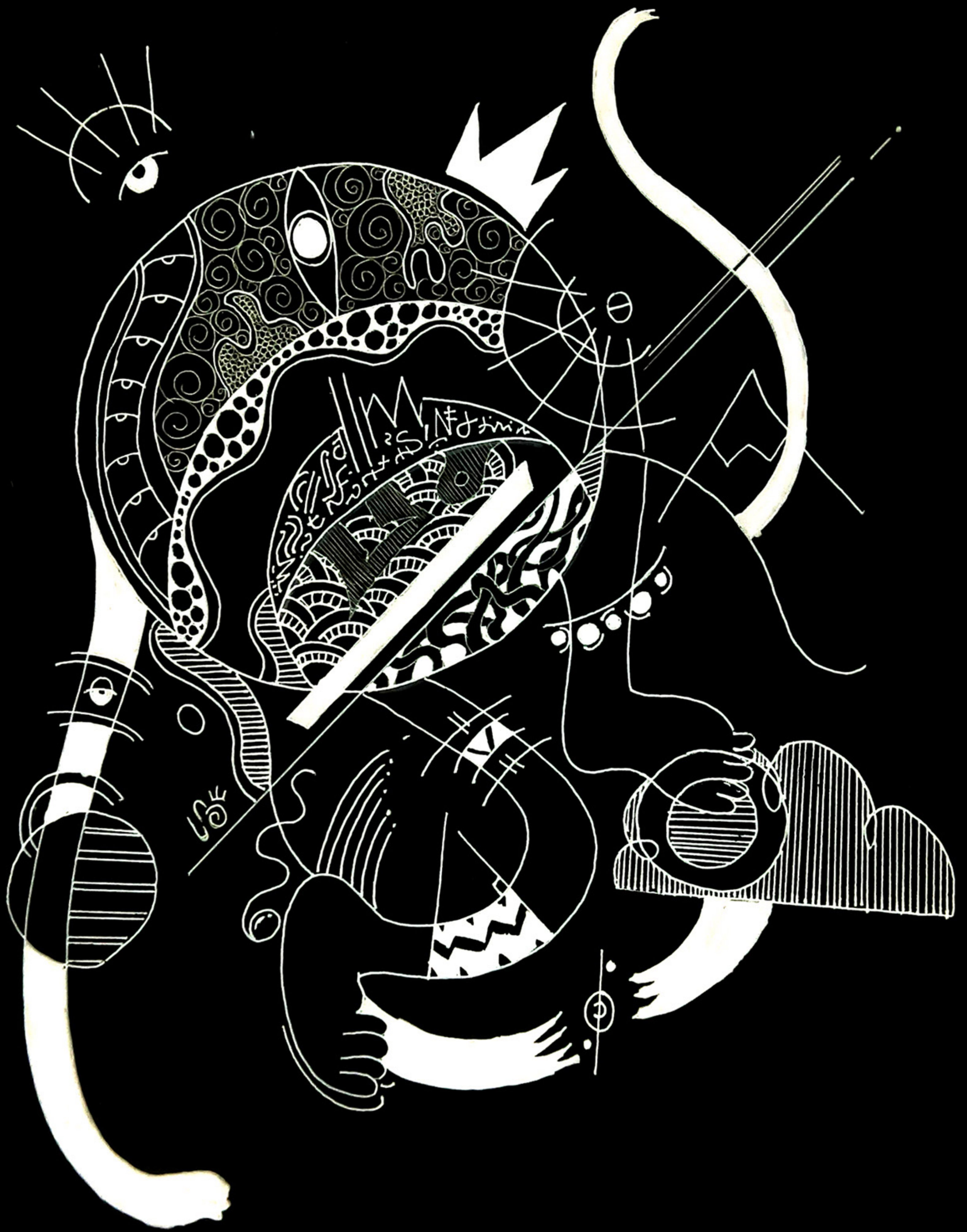
A man once beseeched the Buddha, "I want to be happy," said he. The Buddha replied, "First remove 'I', that's 'ego', then take away 'want', that is 'desire'.

All you are left with is happiness.

What do you truly want, keeper of a thousand spirits?"

- Black Ghandi (the HOGOSHA)

Puts
G '16



...
out of the huts of history's shame
i rise
up from a past that's rooted in pain
i rise
i'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
welling and swelling i bear in the tide.
leaving behind nights of terror and fear
i rise
into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
i rise
bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
i am the dream and the hope of the slave.
i rise
i rise
i rise.

...

excerpt from "still i rise" by
maya angelou



OVER TWO MILLION EXERCISE BOOKS AND STATIONARIES

At Aviva Group, we place a high level of importance when strategizing alliances that enhance the quality and appeal of our products. As one of the leading Exercise Book manufacturer's in Nigeria, we aim to popularize the notion of African Superheroes as role models for the younger generation. Moreover, we are delighted to have partnered with Mr. Jide Martin and the Comic Republic "Super-Hero" team. We believe that our collaboration will lead to the birth of several quality products to come!

- Aneesh Nair
(GM of Aviva Industries Nigeria).

WHAT IS
THE *COLOR* OF
MIDNIGHT?

HUH?!

HOGOSHA
SAMA.

IS IT
A *VARYING*
SHADE OF
DARK?

IS
IT THE
WITCHING
HOUR?

OR IS IT
IN THAT *MOMENT*,
THAT *INGLORIOUS*
SILENCE...

...WHERE YOU
FIND YOURSELF
TRULY *ABANDONED*
BY THE *THINGS*
YOU HAVE
LIVED FOR?

YOU HAVE
BEEN GIVEN A
CHOICE, WINGED ONE.
DO NOT LET YOUR *LIFE*
END IN ITS *MIDNIGHT*.
AND...



ARUN-ARTZAI-
AS'AD-ASAD-ASAPH-
ASAR-ASAREEL-
ASAR'EL.

...THESE WORDS
FROM ME TO YOU,
THEY ARE A RARE
GIFT.

BLACK GANDHI
THE ANCIENT.

HOGOSHA OF THE
WAY GATES.



I WILL NOT BE BOWING BEFORE YOU IF THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY.



THIS HUMAN CHILD, MY FRIEND AVONOME IS DYING

NONE CAN SAVE HER, SAVE YOU.

I WILL ANSWER, HOGOSHA SAMA, BUT FIRST, I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR INTRUDING.

HELLO LITTLE ONE. I HAD THOUGHT YOUR KIND, THE GOGONU, EXTINCT. IT IS A---

ME?! LITTLE?!



GROW
GROW

SO YOU KNEW MY ANCESTORS...

GROW

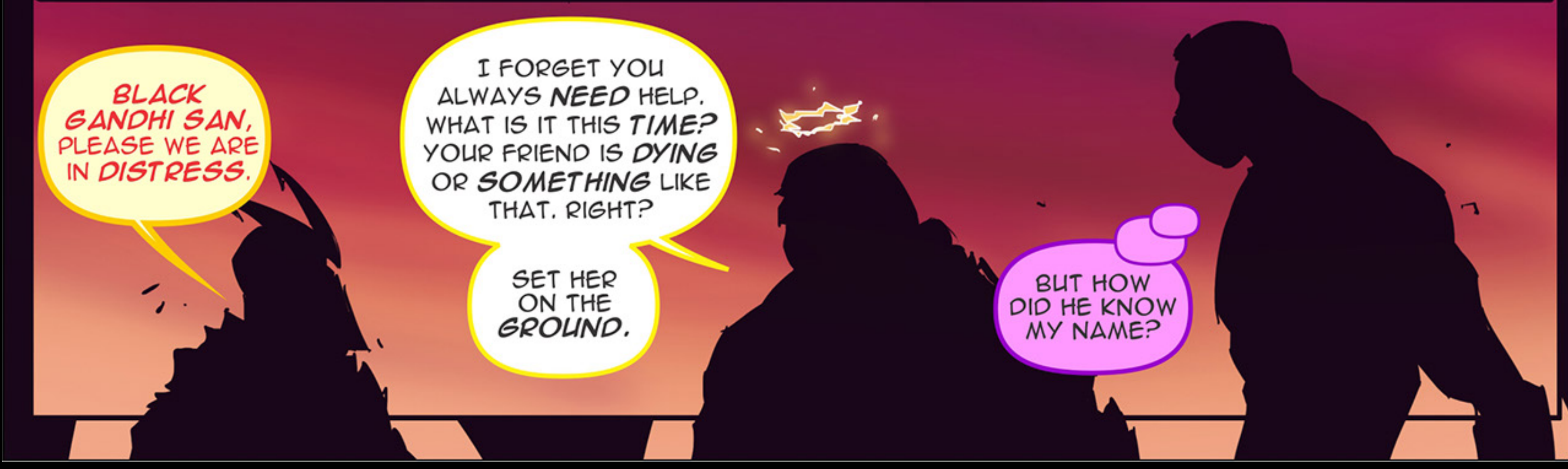


BIG DEAL? IT'S A SMALL WORLD.

BUT IF INDEED IT WERE A SMALL WORLD, I WOULD HAVE MET YOU A MILLION TIMES—HISNABEKGABENIK.

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

AHEM



BLACK GANDHI SAN, PLEASE WE ARE IN DISTRESS.

I FORGET YOU ALWAYS NEED HELP. WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? YOUR FRIEND IS DYING OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. RIGHT?

SET HER ON THE GROUND.

BUT HOW DID HE KNOW MY NAME?



AH... I *SEE* IT NOW. THE BLADE IS A *DEVOURER*.

NOTICE THE *YORUBA TEMPERED STEEL* AND *JAPANESE KATANA DESIGN*?



OF COURSE YOU DON'T. YOU DO NOT KNOW THE *HISTORIES* OF THE WORLD.

IF YOU DID, YOU WOULD KNOW THAT ...THIS IS NO *ORDINARY* ITEM.



BUT LET ME FEEL IT'S *CURSED* EDGE.

EVEN NOW, THE BLADE TRIES TO *RESIST* ME, THE *HOGOSHA*.



I'VE GOT A *BAD* FEELING!



WHERE DID YOU *SEND* THE BLADE TO?



LET THAT BE MY *BURDEN* TO BEAR.



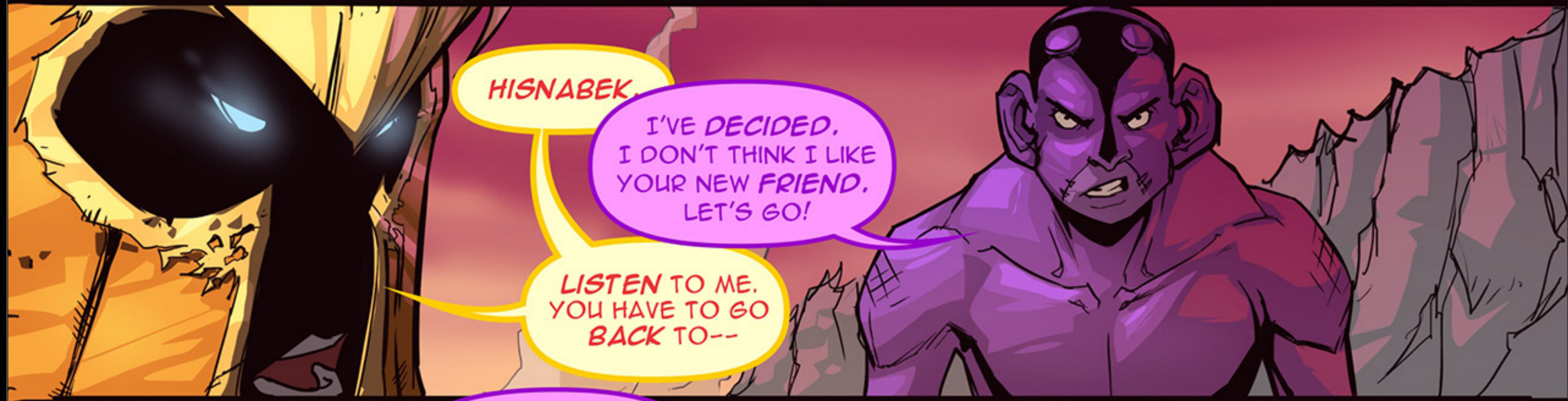
BRING THE GIRL. COME WITH ME.

WHAT?!

THIS IS A RARE HONOR, OR WOULD YOU RATHER BE BACK WHERE YOU CALL HOME WITH A LIFELESS CORPSE?

I MEAN THE FLOW OF TIME IN YOUR REALM...

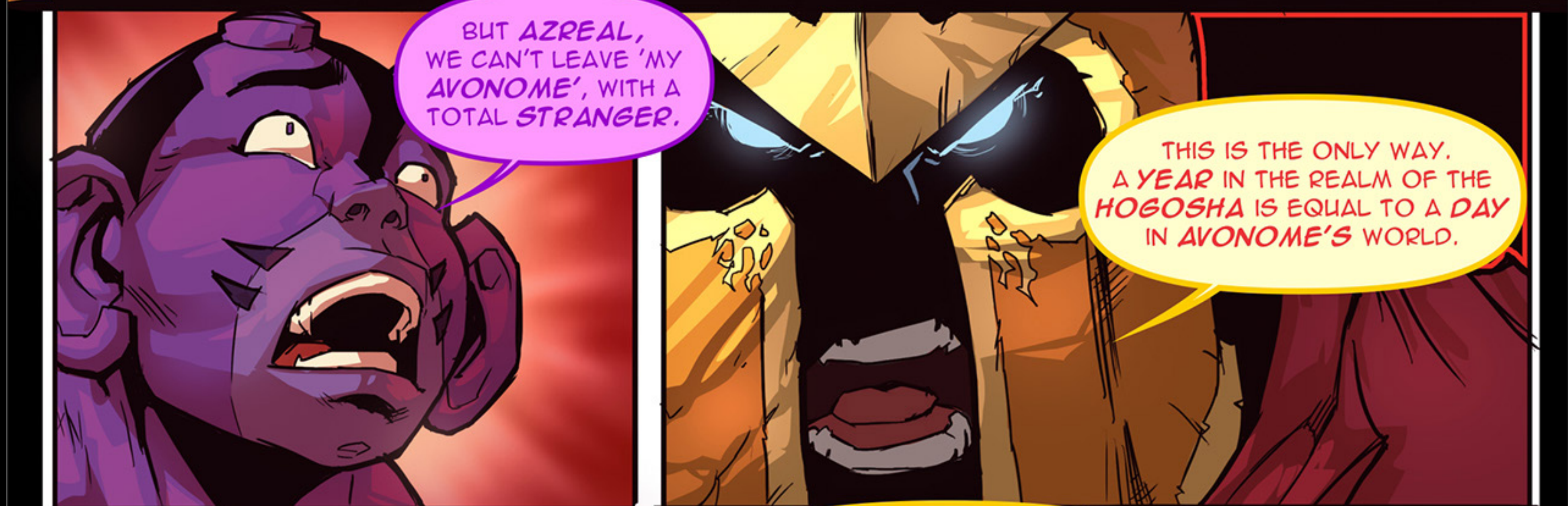
TIME FLOWS FASTER. SO? ARE YOU IN A HURRY TO BURY YOUR FRIEND?



HISNABEK

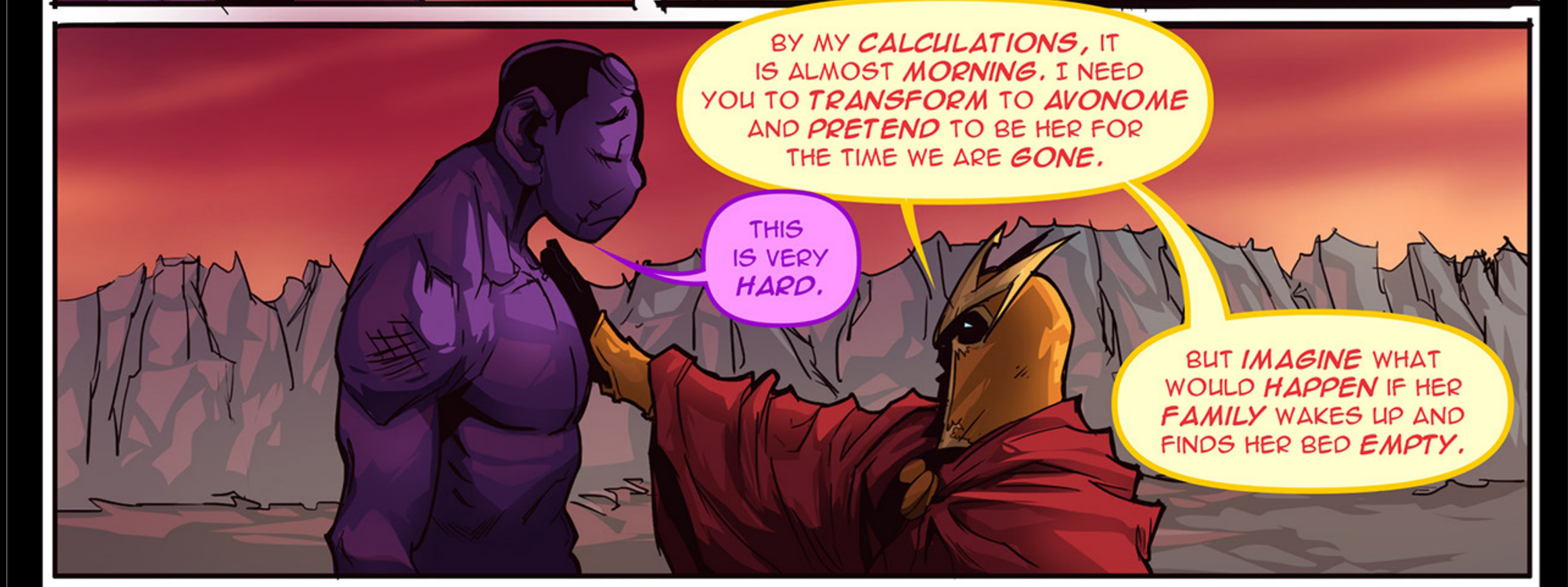
I'VE DECIDED. I DON'T THINK I LIKE YOUR NEW FRIEND. LET'S GO!

LISTEN TO ME. YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO--



BUT AZREAL, WE CAN'T LEAVE 'MY AVONOME', WITH A TOTAL STRANGER.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY. A YEAR IN THE REALM OF THE HOGOSHA IS EQUAL TO A DAY IN AVONOME'S WORLD.



BY MY CALCULATIONS, IT IS ALMOST MORNING. I NEED YOU TO TRANSFORM TO AVONOME AND PRETEND TO BE HER FOR THE TIME WE ARE GONE.

THIS IS VERY HARD.

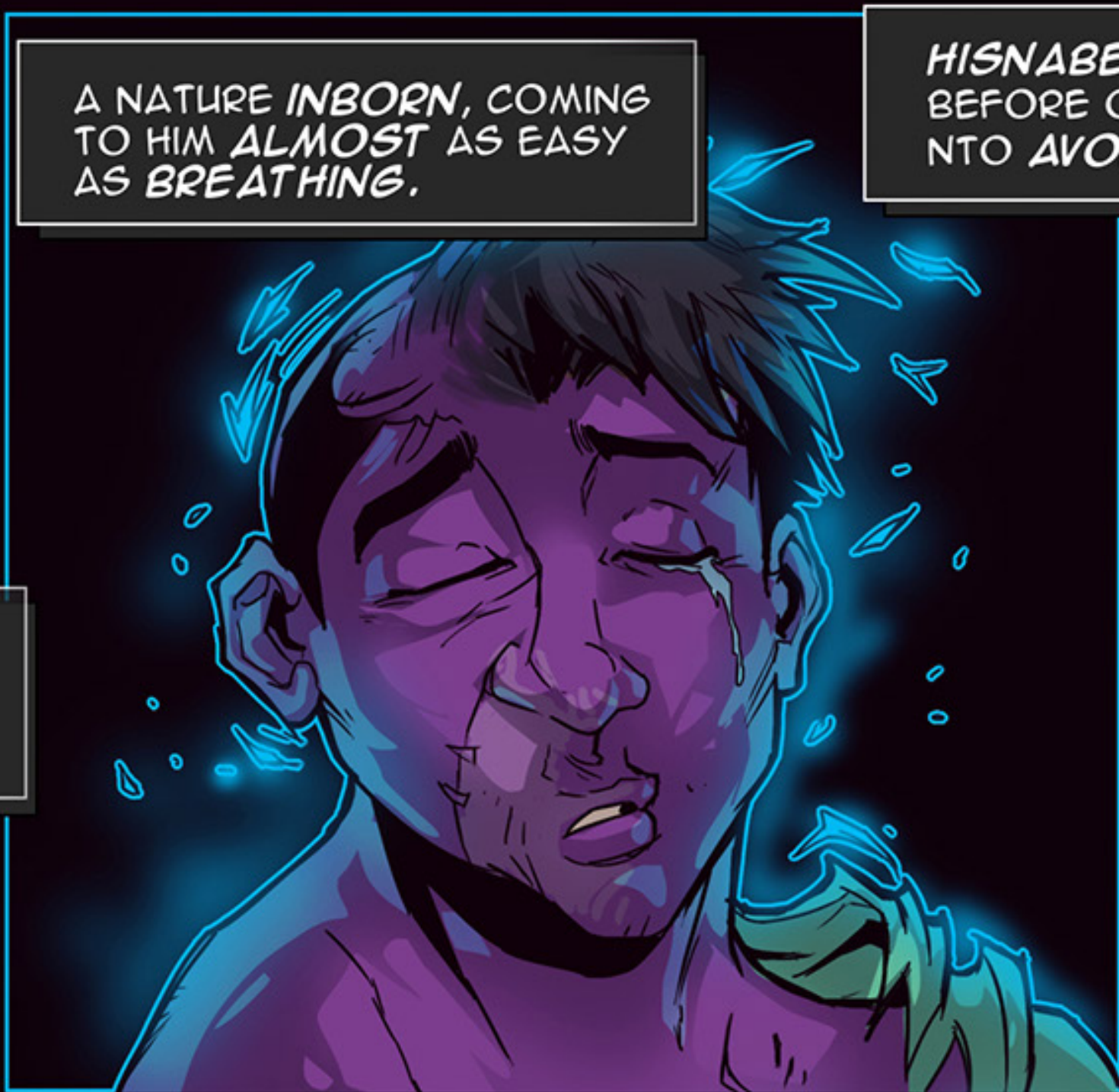
BUT IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HER FAMILY WAKES UP AND FINDS HER BED EMPTY.



A NATURE *INBORN*, COMING TO HIM ALMOST AS EASY AS *BREATHING*.

HISNABEK CHANGES SKIN BEFORE OUR VERY EYES INTO *AVONOME*.

RELYING ON *POWERS* BORN MORE OUT OF *INSTINCTS* THAN THE *SUPERNATURAL*.



"SOBBING" BUT I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE *AVONOME*.



THE *ANGEL* OFFERS SOME *PARTING* WORDS.

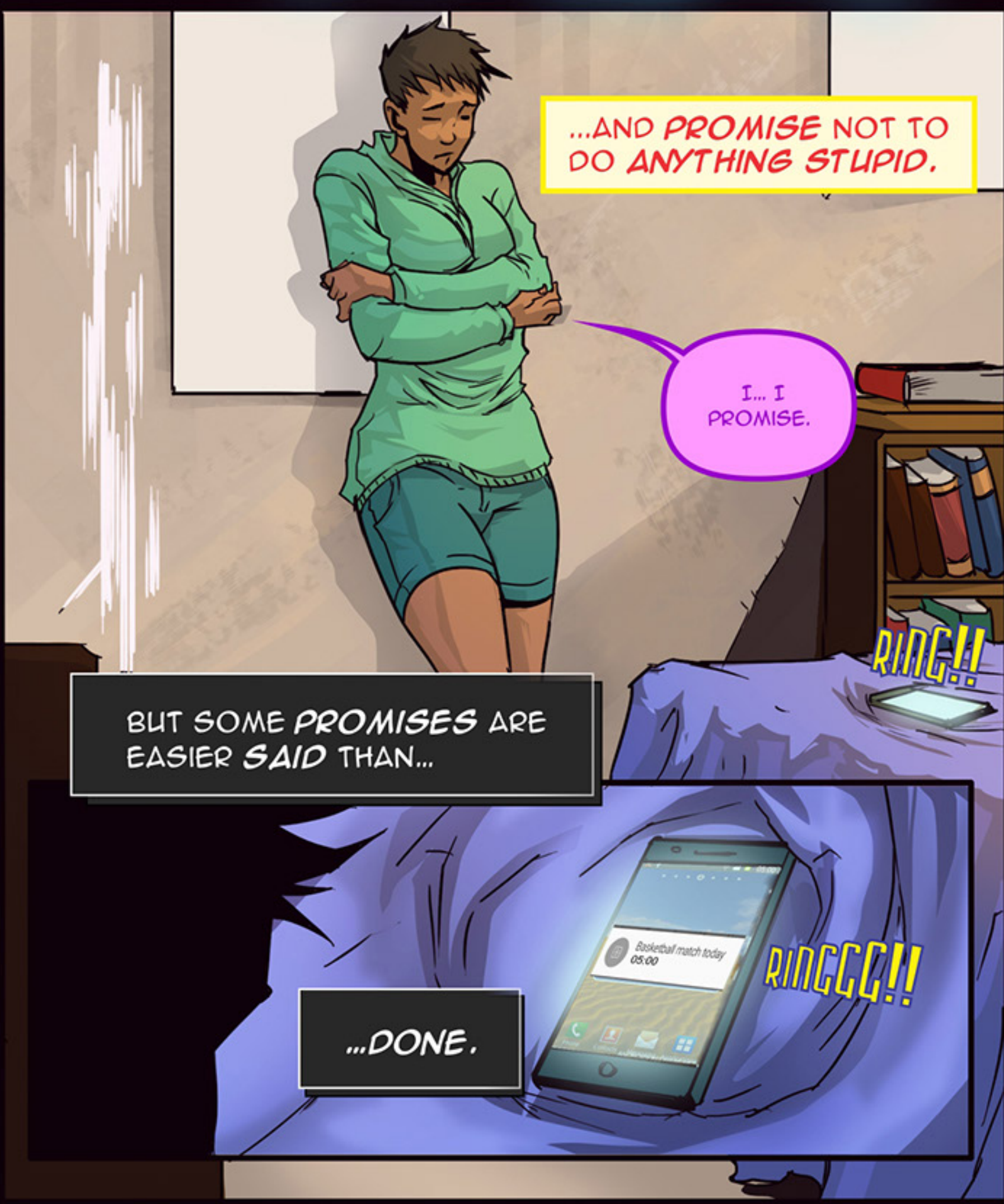
TRUST ME *HISNABEK* AND FOLLOW THE *WAY GATE*.

AND REMEMBER THE *WORDS* I TAUGHT *AVONOME*.

APPEAR *NORMAL*.



BLEND IN. *SURVIVE*.



...AND *PROMISE* NOT TO DO ANYTHING *STUPID*.

I... I *PROMISE*.

BUT SOME *PROMISES* ARE EASIER SAID THAN...

...*DONE*.







RINGGGG!!!

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COMIC
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Avonome

THE REALM WITHIN

AVONOME IS THE STORY OF HILDA 'AVONOMEMI' MOSES, BORN IN 1937. IN THE REMOTE VILLAGE OF ETUNOR, A SETTLEMENT IN IGHARA, EDO STATE. SHE DISAPPEARS WITHOUT A TRACE ONLY TO REAPPEAR IN A CEMETERY IN RECENT TIME, STILL UNCHANGED WITH NO MEMORY OF WHO SHE WAS OR WHERE SHE HAD BEEN ALL THIS WHILE, EXCEPT A KNOWLEDGE OF HER NAME, A MYSTERIOUS COMPANION AND AN UNBELIEVABLE GIFT - THE ABILITY TO SEE SPIRITS.

THE STORY SO FAR

FACING NEAR DEATH AFTER DOING BATTLE WITH AJOBARA - THE ALARINKIRI, AVONOME'S COMPANIONS TAKE HER TO SEE THE ONLY BEING WHO THEY ARE CERTAIN CAN SAVE HER - BLACK GHANDI (THE HOGOSHA). MEANWHILE HER SUBCONSCIOUS WAKES UP IN A STRANGE PLACE RULED BY SPIRITS OF SHADOW AND LIGHT - THE 'REALM WITHIN', THE SEAT OF HER POWER. FULL OF QUESTIONS AND WITH TIME RUNNING OUT, SHE FACES HER GREATEST BATTLE YET AS THE SPIRITS TEMPT HER FOR HER SOUL. MEANWHILE THE KIRIII, A MYSTERIOUS CULT OF IMMORTALS HAVE GATHERED WITH ONE NAME ON THEIR LIPS - ASH RAZAK.

AVONOME CREATED BY STANLEY OBENDE

MR XAVIER
IGHORODJE
STORY

STANLEY
OBENDE
PENCILS
LETTERS
COVER

ETUBI
ONUCHEYO
COLOURS

MARTIN
AVWENAGHA
ZENTANGLE
ART

JIDE
MARTIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

MICHAEL
BALOGUN
VICE - PRESIDENT
COMIC
PRODUCTION

TOBE
EZEUGU
CHIEF OPERATING
OFFICER AND
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

OZO
EZEUGU
EDITING
DIRECTOR

EDUVIE
MARTIN
HEAD MARKETING
AND CORPORATE
COMMUNICATION

MARK
ONEWO
HEAD OF
ONLINE
OPERATIONS

AKINTOBA
KALEJAIYE
HEAD CONTENT
CREATION
AND DIRECTION

WALE
AWELLENJE
STORY AND
CONTENT
DIRECTOR



MUDHOUSE BLACK

MR XAVIER
IGHORODJE
CREATIVE
DIRECTOR

STANLEY
OBENDE
ART
DIRECTOR

ELSEWHERE,
IN 'THE PLACE OF
BONES'

WE MIGHT HAVE
LEFT THE WORLD UNATTENDED
TO FOR TOO LONG. CONCERNING MY
VISIONS OF THE RETURN OF
ASH RAZAK.

IT APPEARS THAT
IN TRYING TO PREVENT THE
RAINS - WE HAVE PREPARED
OURSELVES TO REAP
THE HURRICANE.

what
is this I
sense?

elders,
shivering, scared
like a gathering
of chicks...

GULPS

Keehehehe.
My bones quiver
at the thought of
doing that battle
all again.

HMPH

...over the shadow of
an approaching hawk. what
is this smell? so much...so
much weakness. it stinks
to the high heavens. I
am disappointed.



ahh... fascinating!!!

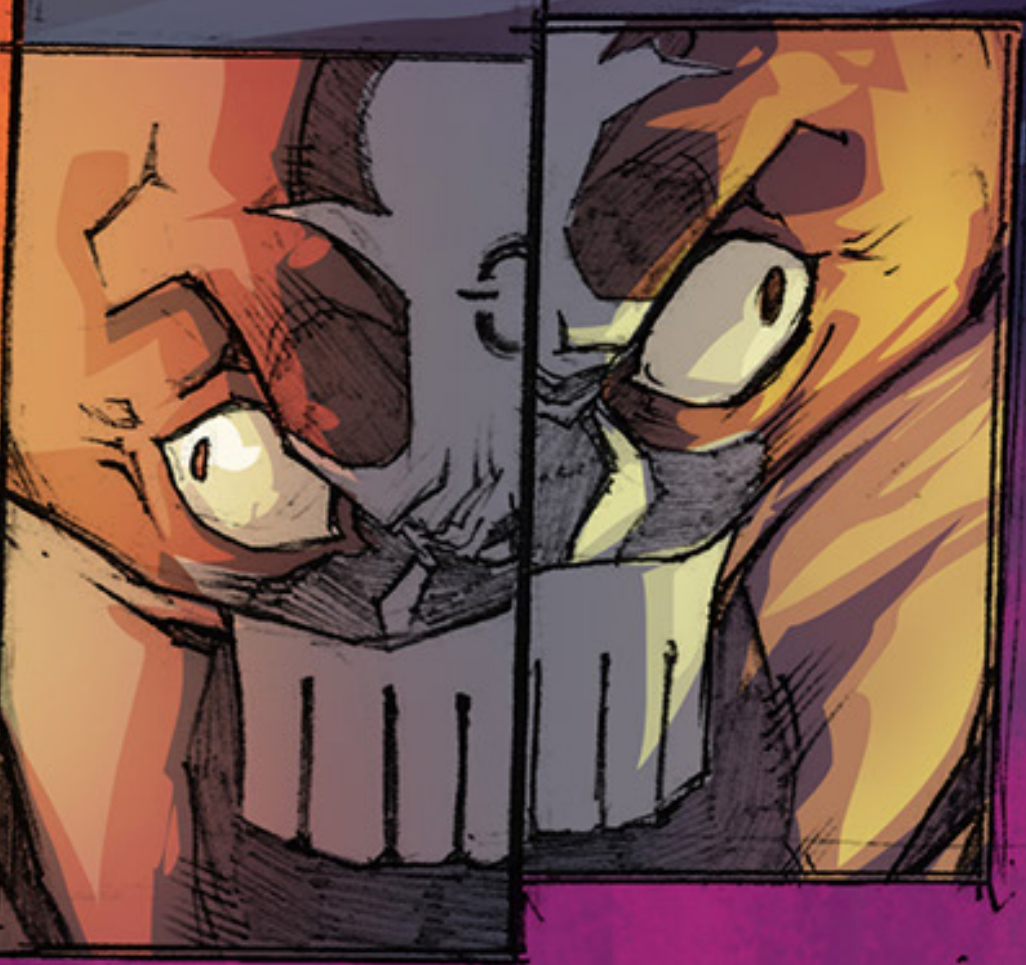
HMM.

GRRGGHICK!!!
GRRGGHICK!!!

GRRGGHICK!!!



you control the earth? that is a fearsome gift. I Love it!



ahh ~ I see, so it's like that now? moderation they say is for cowards. I'm greatly impressed.

finally I get to feel the thrill of a worthy battle. ohhh! what a glorious night.

but you see,
you were too
slow...

...and
now it's
my turn.

prepare to
dance with me.

DAI!

KPA!

DAAA!!!

HINHIN... SO ALL
THEY CAUGHT WAS
HIS AFTER IMAGE.
BEAURRIIFULLLL!

ahhh, the feel
of UZOBO around my
hand is ORGASMIC.

FORGIVE ME
ELDERS, BUT I
HAVE A REQUEST
TO MAKE.

AFTER FEELING
MY THUNDER, YOU
MUST TELL ME HOW
IT TASTES LIKE.

Abiku, close
your bible! do
not spill blood
here!

this is holy ground!

eh?!

what is this feeling behind me?

what the hell?!

CREAK!!

OH H IYE*
LEAVE ME. LET ME
TEACH HIM
SENSE.

you were not
so BRAVE when it
was just you and I,
alone. such
cowar~

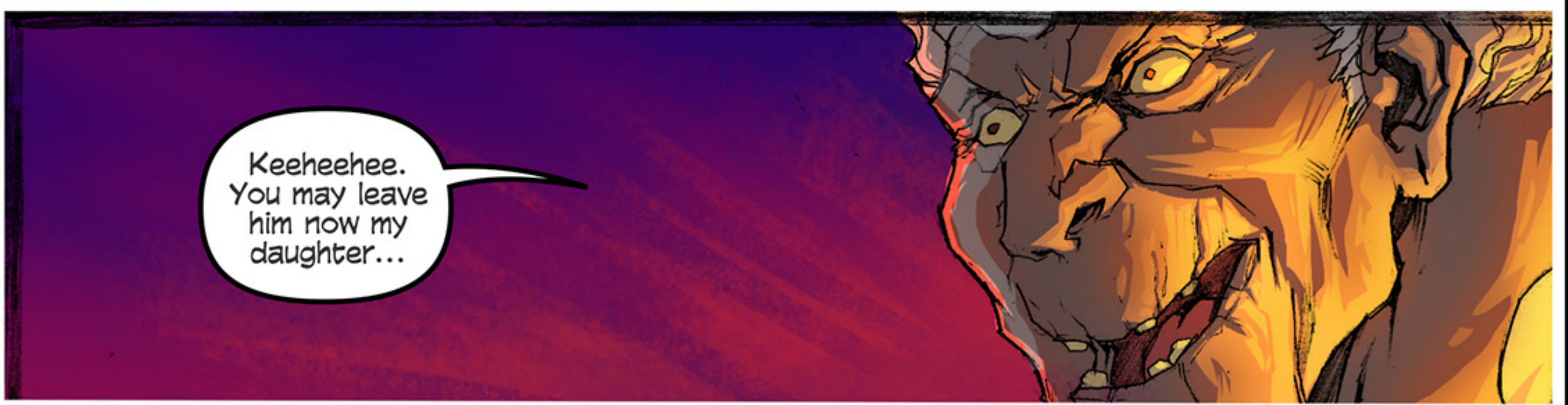
~dice!!!

ABOLO HEAD, YOU
MISTAKE HUMILITY FOR
COWARDICE!

BUBBLE

huh?
I can't
move.

ah, the whole
world is against
me tonight. I'm almost
impressed.



Keehehee.
You may leave
him now my
daughter...

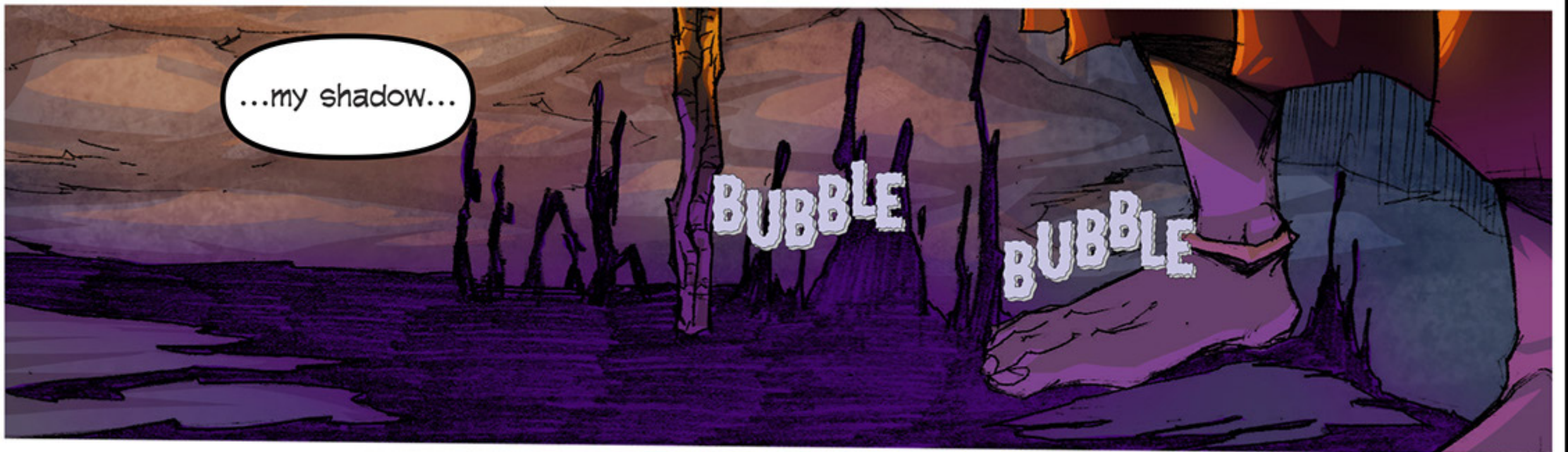


...the
darkness.

ahh ~ the audacity
of the dead. someone
must pay for interfering
my dance.

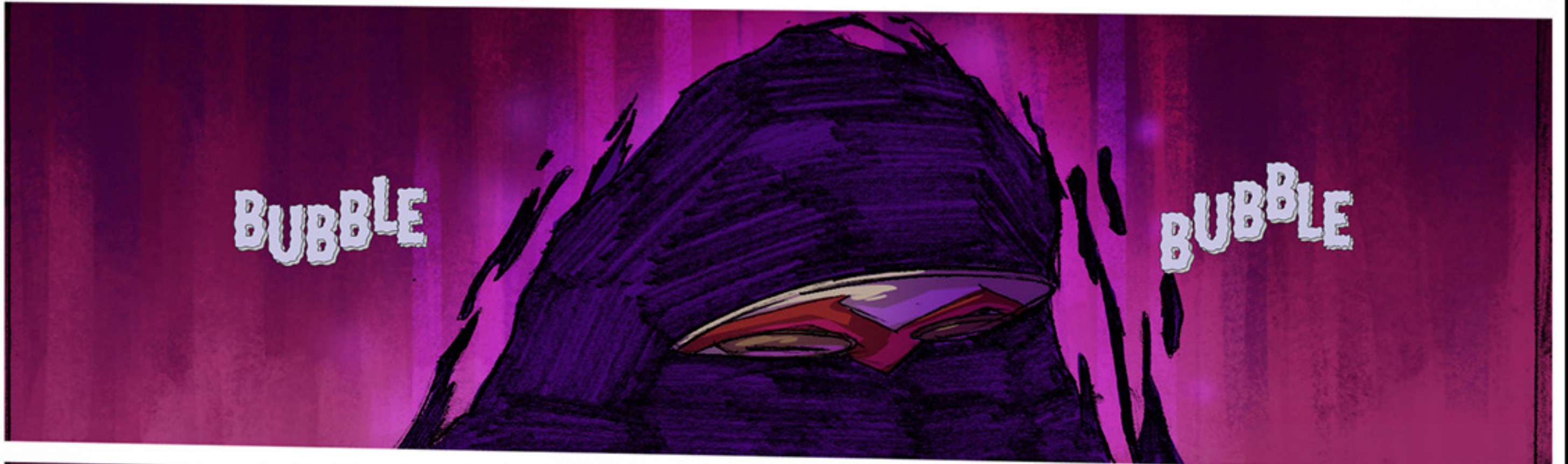


BUBBLE
BUBBLE



...my shadow...

BUBBLE
BUBBLE



BUBBLE
BUBBLE



BUBBLE

...AZEN.

BUBBLE

ENINWAEN OBOTA.

Who dares disturb my dance?!

WHO BEFORE, IF NOT AZEN THE SEVENTH?

shut up!

take style explain yourself

HOW MANY YOU THINK SAY WE BE?

REMEMBER OUR PLEDGE.

WE STAND HERE, SEVEN IN ALL - PERFECTION, CREATED BY THE BONES. DARK GATES THAT SHALL SUFFER NO MAN TO PASS, HEAR OUR NAME AND OPEN UNTO US, YOUR MASTERS...

who cares?!

For the last time Otumokpor, stand down.

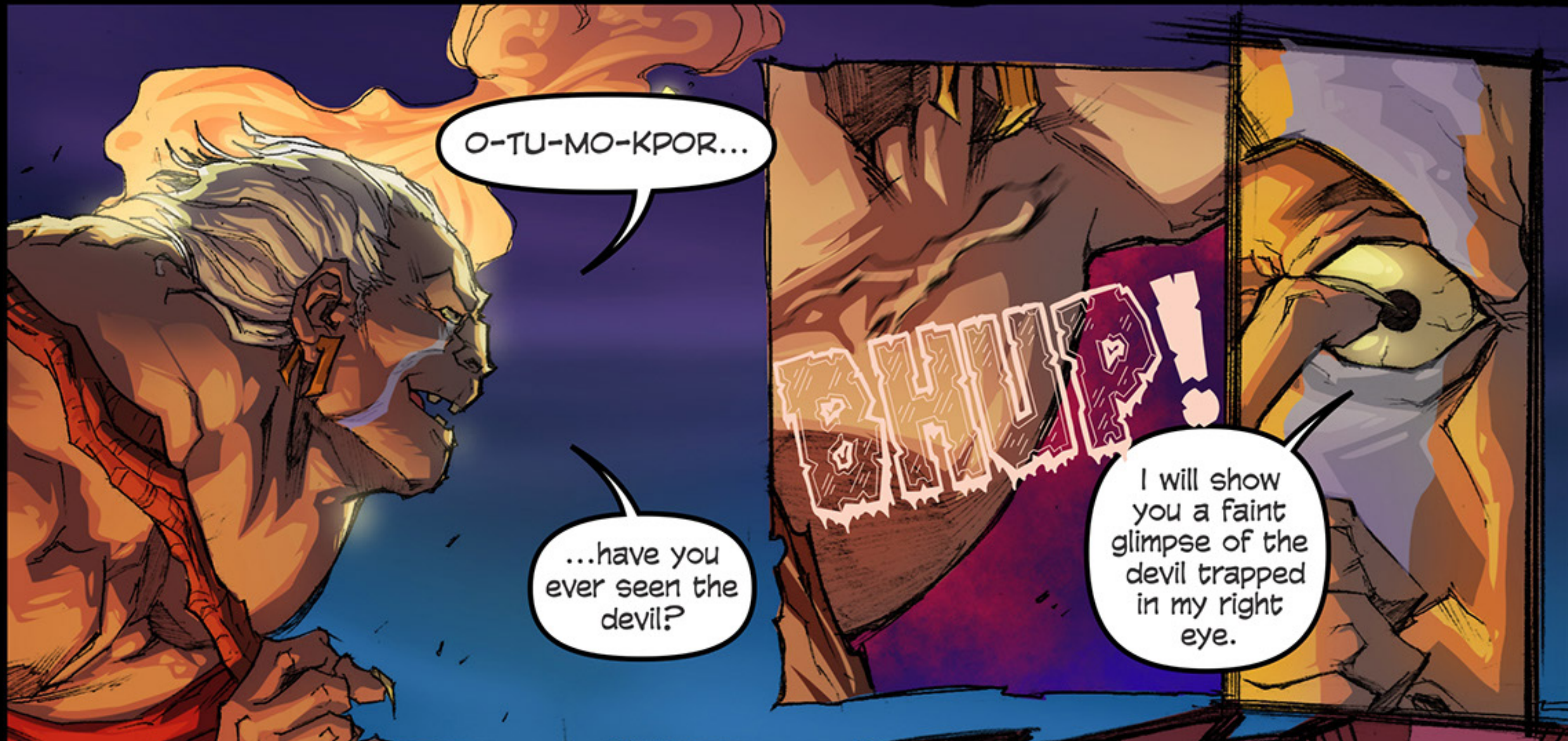
never! not until I spill some immortal blood!

Very well then, you asked for it.

TRANSLATION: HOW MANY DID YOU THINK WE WERE?

NAME : AZEN
SYMBOL/MEANING: UNAVAILABLE/UNKNOWN
GROUP AFFILIATION: THE KIRISI
ROLE: INFILTRATOR
CURSE: UNKNOWN.

*TRANSLATION FROM BENIN: GOOD EVENING ELDERS.



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.



Keeheehee.

SWIRL!



KAAAAARRRGHHH!

SWIRL!

SWIRL!

SWIRL!

SWIRL!

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



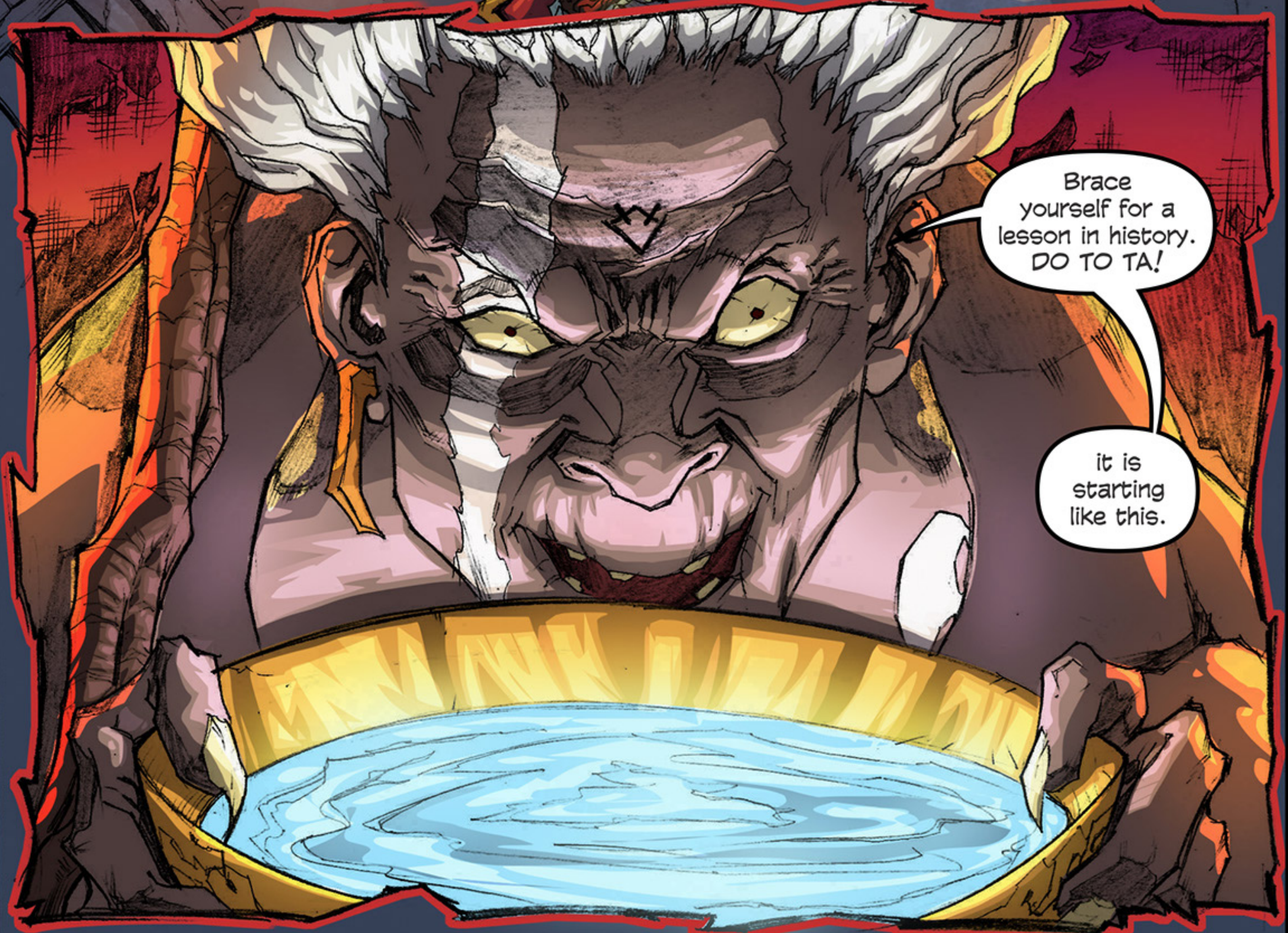
mission accomplished.



Now that things have calmed down a bit. Sit, gather round the fire children.



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



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

it is starting like this.

VISIONARY

ASCENSION



MEANWHILE IN THE REALM WITHIN.

WHAT... WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? WHY ARE MY HANDS SUDDENLY GROWING SO FAINT?

HOW DO WE BEGIN TO PUT THIS TO YOU? YOU'RE STANDING AT DEATH'S GATE RIGHT NOW.

BY THIS TIME, THE PART OF YOU STILL LEFT IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD SHOULD HAVE GROWN COLD AND STIFF.

HISS* HISSSS

BUT PERHAPS WE CAN COME TO AN AGREEMENT.

GRANT ME CONTROL OF YOUR MIND, GIVE ME THE FREEDOM TO ROAM. AND IN EXCHANGE, I WILL BRING YOU BACK FROM THE DEAD.

I WILL HEAL YOUR BODY. I WILL MAKE YOU WALK AGAIN.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO RED?

DO YOU NOT WISH TO SEE YOUR FRIENDS? THE PURPLE DISGUSTING CREATURE?

THE FALSE ANGEL?

INTERESTING.

WHAT? HER POWERS ARE RETURNING?

NOT QUITE. SHE IS MAKING A CHOICE.

NO ONE CAN SAVE HER AND YOU KNOW THIS.

DO NOT LIE TO HER, RED.

SHUT UP, BLUE. I. CAN. SAVE. YOU.

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

I AM TIRED OF NOT HAVING ANSWERS, OF WAKING UP AND NOT KNOWING ANYTHING OF MY PAST. I CAN'T FEEL THE VALUE OF LIVING IN A WORLD SO LARGE AND FEELING SO LITTLE... SO HELPLESS.

I CAN MAKE ALL THIS HAPPEN.

YOU HAVE SPOKEN WELL...

I AM READY TO DIE.

BUT NOT WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.

...AVONOMEMI.

EH!

WHAT IS *THIS*? IT FEELS LIKE I AM *STARING* BACK INTO A MIRROR... SEEING *MYSELF* FROM ANOTHER TIME. WHO ARE YOU AND WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE ME?

IN MANY WAYS YOU ARE *ME*... OR MORE APPROPRIATELY, I AM YOU. THE *YOU*, YOU WERE, BEFORE YOU *RETURNED*.

I AM ALSO *NOTHING* BUT A *FIGMENT* OF YOUR WILL - CALL ME THE *SPIRIT OF BALANCE*. I WAS ONLY CREATED TO KEEP BOTH *LIGHT AND SHADOW* SPIRITS WITHIN YOU FROM *OVERRUNNING* EACH OTHER.

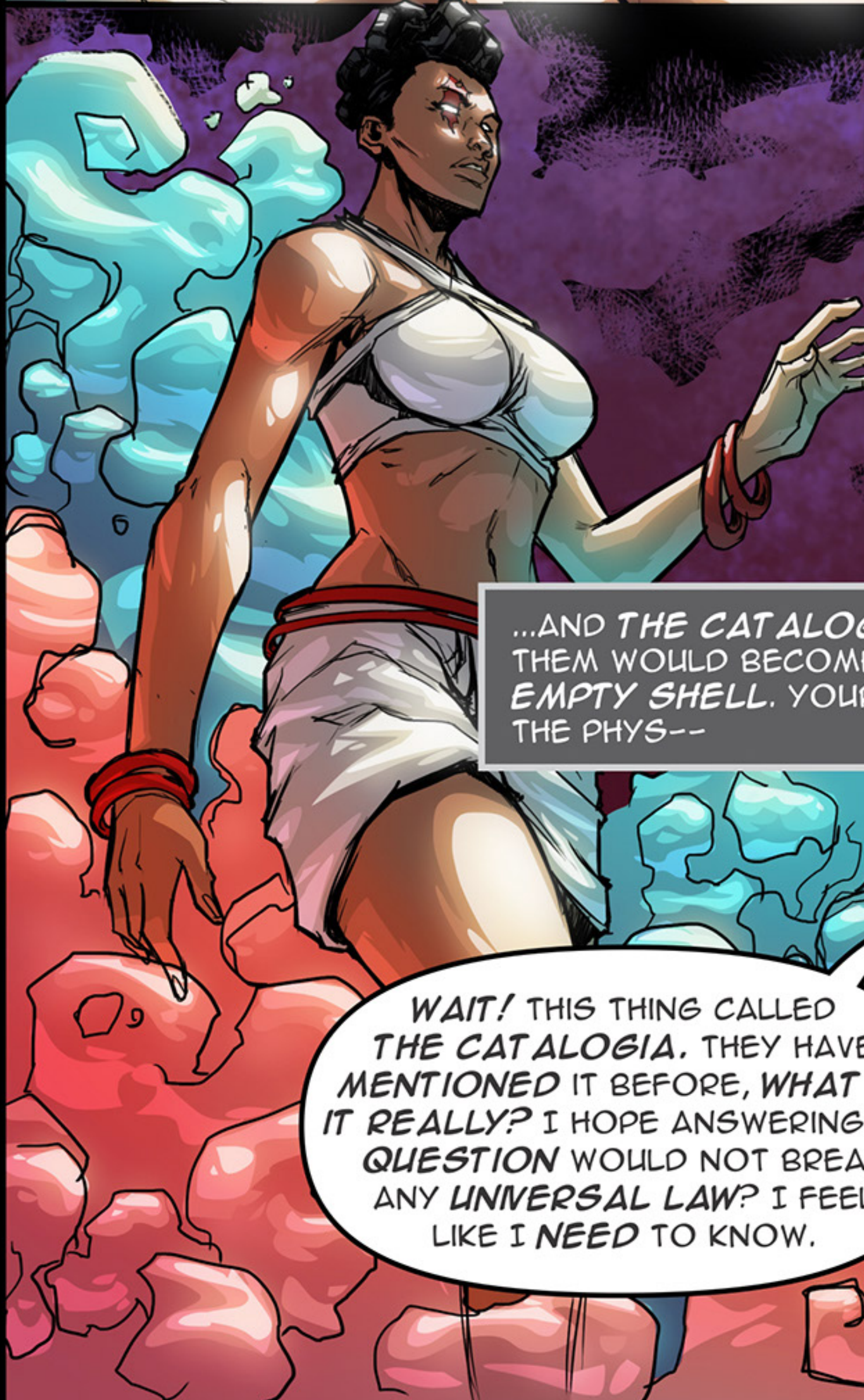
AND I ONLY *COME* WHEN YOU *NEED* JUST THAT, THAT *BALANCE*.

DO YOU WANT TO *DIE* OR DO YOU WISH FOR THE *LEGION* WITHIN YOU TO *PERISH*? THERE IS A WAY TO *ACHIEVE* ONE OF THE *TWO* OR *BOTH* OF THEM.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

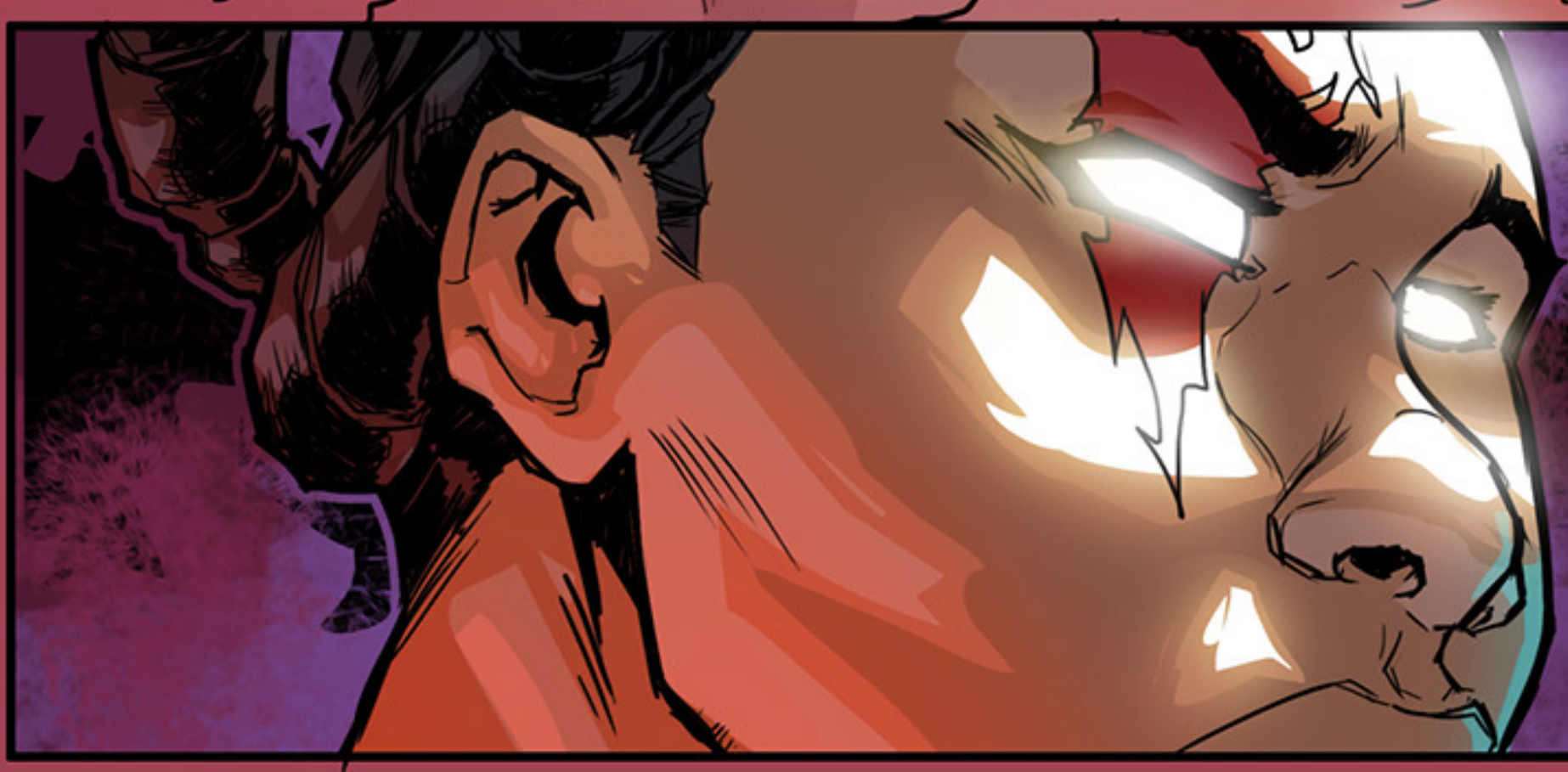
THE REASONS WHY THE SPIRITS CAN'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF IS BECAUSE IN SO DOING, THEY WOULD BE BREAKING A UNIVERSAL LAW - THE LAW OF EQUIVALENT EXCHANGE.



THE LAW PLAYED A PART IN YOUR WAKING UP AT THE CEMETERY. IF I, FOR INSTANCE, TELL YOU ABOUT THE THINGS THAT GOT YOU THERE THAT NIGHT, RED AND BLUE AND ALL THE SPIRITS THEY LEAD WITHIN YOU, WOULD CEASE TO EXIST...

...AND THE CATALOGIA HOUSING THEM WOULD BECOME JUST AN EMPTY SHELL. YOUR BODY IN THE PHYS--

WAIT! THIS THING CALLED THE CATALOGIA. THEY HAVE MENTIONED IT BEFORE, WHAT IS IT REALLY? I HOPE ANSWERING MY QUESTION WOULD NOT BREAK ANY UNIVERSAL LAW? I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO KNOW.



NO IT WON'T.

THERE WAS ONCE A DEMON OF A MAN, HIS NAME WAS ASH... ASH RAZAK. THE CATALOGIA WAS FORGED BY HIM.

RITUAL NUMBER TWO:
BAITING.

NUMBER ONE HUMAN
RITUAL: I THINK AVONOME
CALLED THIS 'BRUSHING
THE TEETHS'.

SHE USUALLY SPITS
THE FOAM AWAY. I
FIND IT DELICIOUS.
I WILL SWALLOW IT.

DEAR HUMANS, WHAT
ANIMAL ARE YOU TRYING
TO TRAP UNDER A
SHOWER?

WAWUU!! WATER WAS
MADE FOR DRINKING
AND ONLY DRINKING
ALONE.

BRAP? CHECK. PANTIES?
DOUBLE CHECK. TIGHTS
NKOR? STILL A WORK IN
PROGRESS.

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

KNOCK!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!

KNOCK!

STURD
KNOCK!

KNOCK!

HILDA
AVONOME MI
MOSES!

KNOCK!

KNOCK!

KNOCK!

KNOCK!

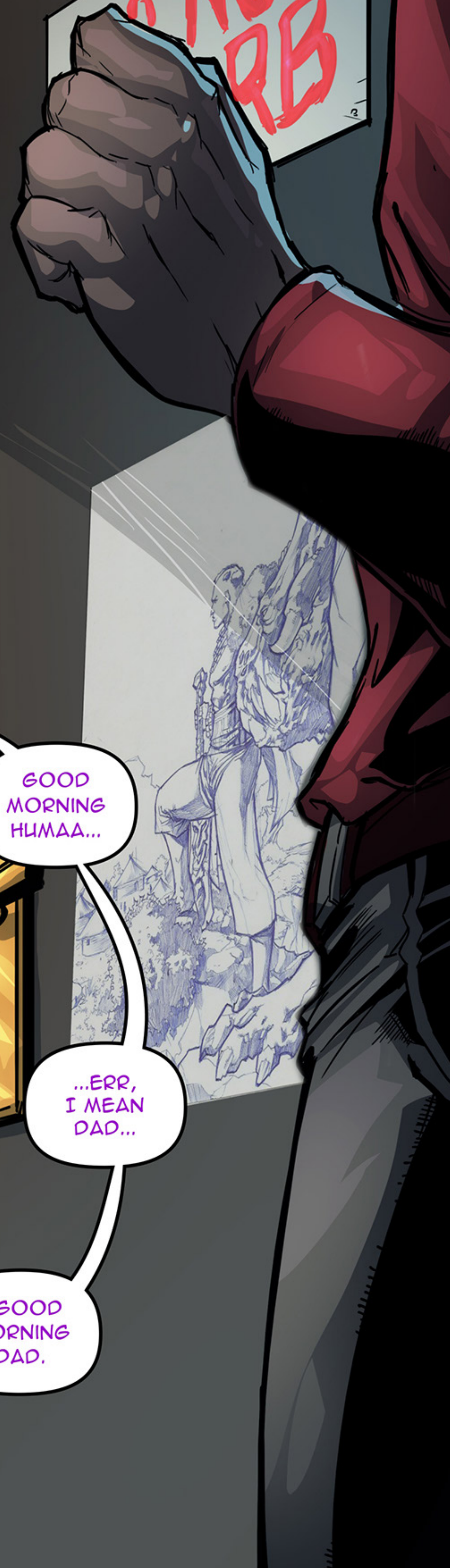
DEAR HUMANS, DRESSING
IS TOO MUCH STRESS.
WHY NOT JUST OFF
CLOTHES?

DO YOU
REALIZE HOW
LATE YOU ARE
FOR THE
GAME?

WHAT
IS TAKING
YOU SO...

...LONG.

DO NOT
RB



GOOD
MORNING
HUMAA...

...ERR,
I MEAN
DAD...

...GOOD
MORNING
DAD.



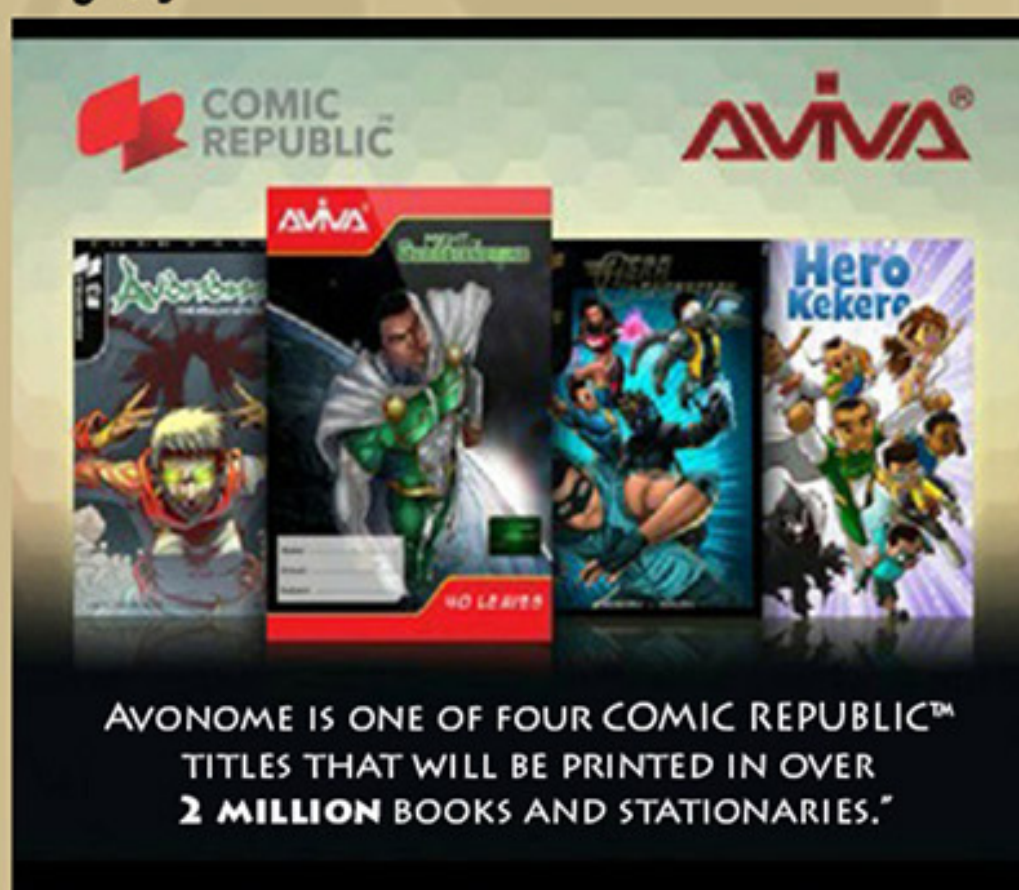
Spirit walk

HOW WE MADE OUR FIRST CASH AND OTHER RANDOM DEVELOPMENTS

Okay? So you've got a comic book idea and don't know what to do with it just yet, then you recruit a friend mad enough to believe that the comic book idea is going to be, pardon my French, 'kick-ass'. You both begin developing the story for over 3 years till you find a publisher crazy enough to pick it up and take on the title. Then you think all is set, the die is cast - you'll finally get some reward for all your hard work.

Ding!!! ding!!! You hear that bell ringing? That's the sound of the real world telling you wake up from your day dreams. You finally wake up - then keep at it - keep the art 100, keep the story and writing 100, shuffle through a few of the best color artists in the game, offer them peanuts and your left kidney to whip in that color, bring in that magic at the end of their finger tips. Over the space of one year, you will call in the favor of friends, Micheal 'Balox' Balogun (he has a doppelganger that looks nothing like him), Tobe "Max Spectre" Ezeogu (I hear he goes by a different name these days, talk about identity crisis), Martin "the Ufo Uforious" Avwenagha (doodle overlord and master of broken promises), Etubi "Mumu illustrator" Onycheyo (have you guys read 'Mumu Juju', No? How are we even friends, are you living under a rock? Yes? Err - okay), Franklin Ikechukwu (that guy is weird) and demand more from yourself. You will offer trade by barter with them or where possible pay them something beneath their talent. They will agree because they believe or just because you held their ...uhmm..*coughs* and threatened them at the end of a ball point pen (no kidding, we do this with Stanley every time we have a deadline, in fact at the moment, we are grabbing his... never mind).

Then if you wait long enough, you will receive a mail.



A mail that says in essence, all these hard work and self financing has reaped something (don't come knocking on our door, we don't run a charity), it would just be a way the universe validates your dream by telling you, "Well done, the job is far from finished, keep at it."

Thank you all for making this dream come true. Thank you all for sticking with us till episode 6.

See you on the other side.
The Stanch + Mr. Xavier

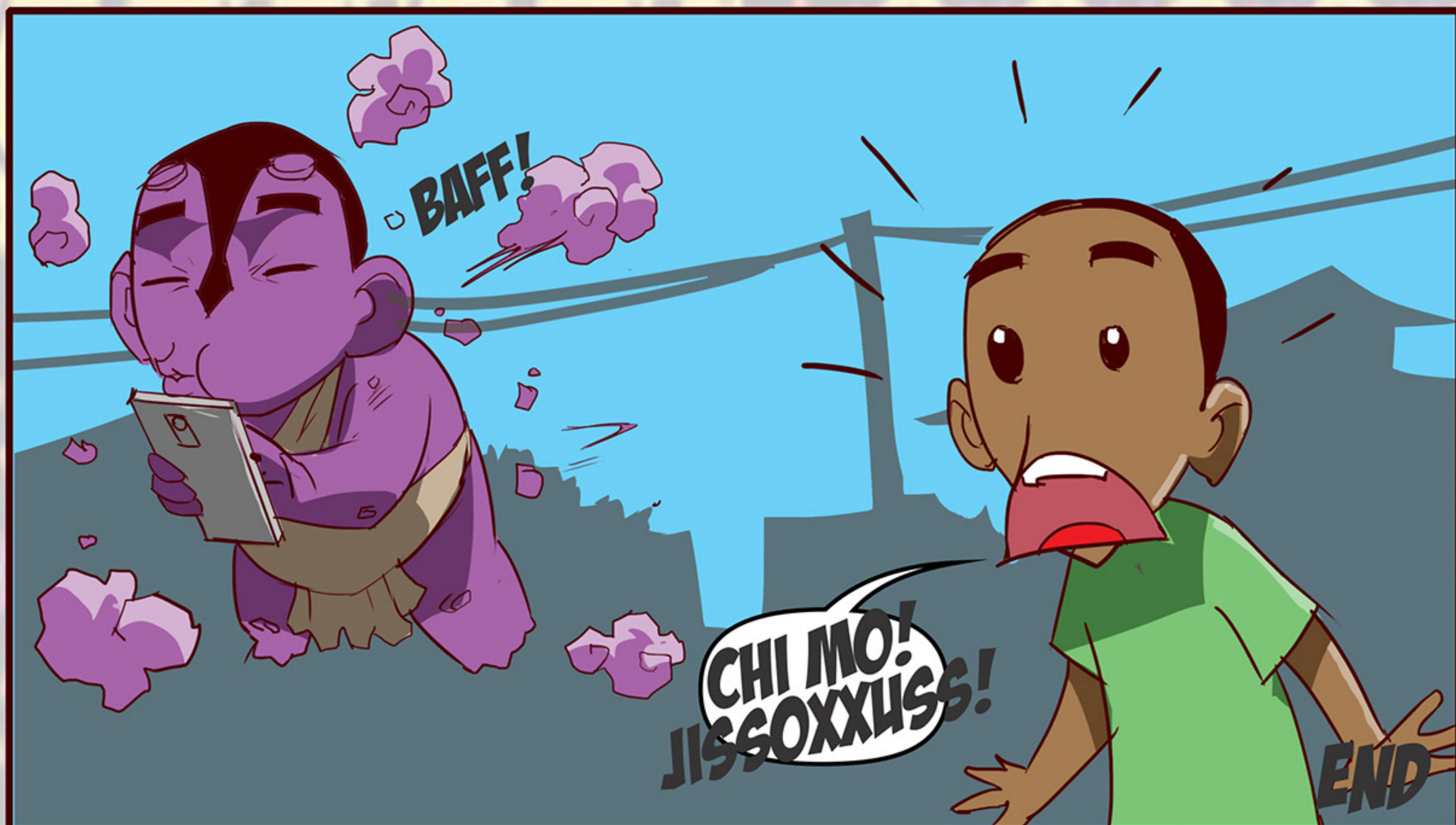
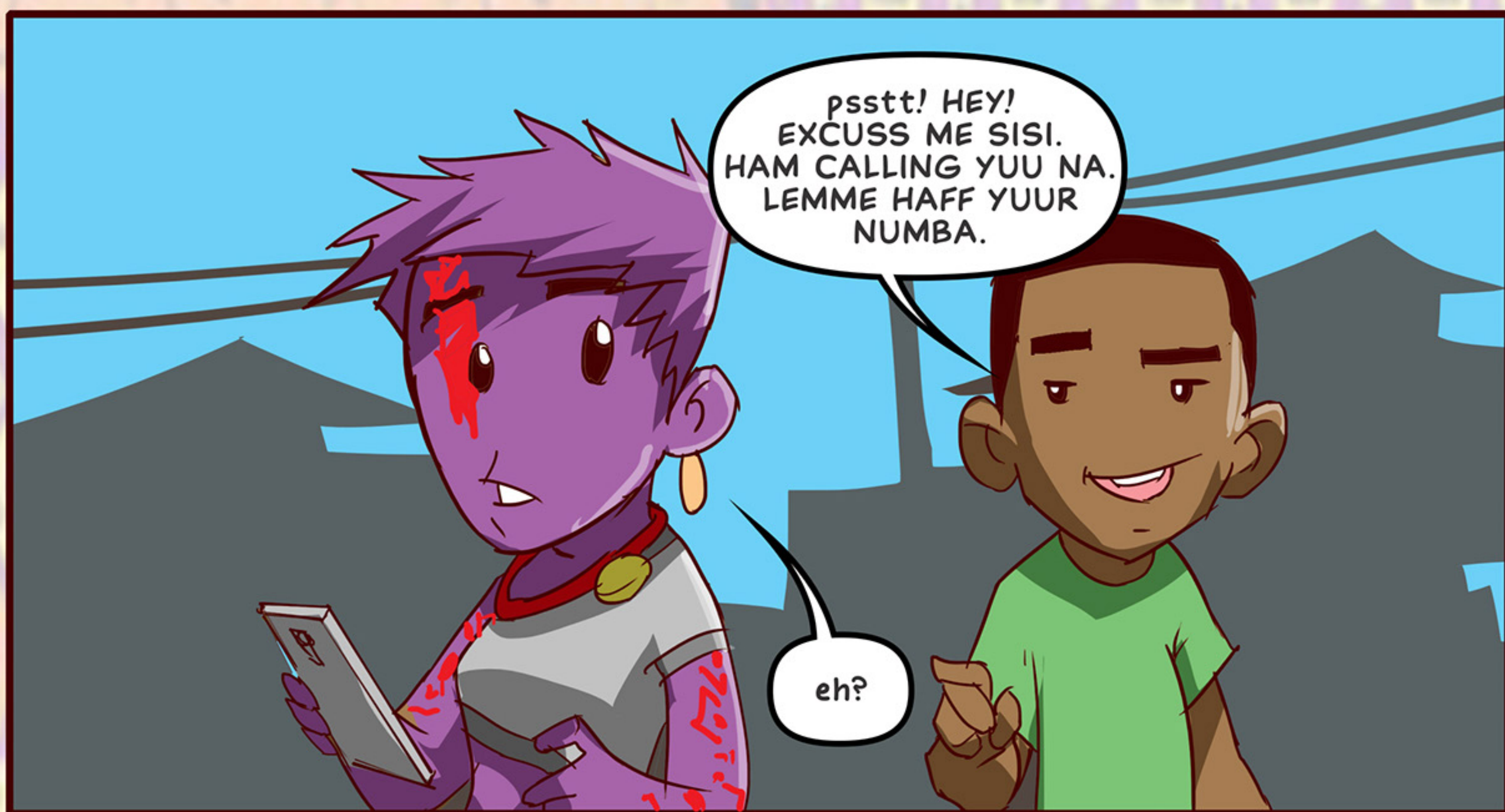
Hero Kekere

featuring

Hisnabek



SCENE THREE



FAN MAIL

“YOU GUYS ARE COMPLETELY ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. I'm a huge fan. Avonome is strong willed, really interesting and doesn't have a personality of a rock...like a certain caped superhero. She isn't a shameless rip-off either. I'm a big fan all the way from Zambia. You guys keep doing what you're doing. I hope you find a good animating studio so we can watch the cartoon soon”

- Yours truly, From a huge fan and aspiring comic writer.

Matotelo Musonda
Zambia.

Matotelo,
Thanks Matotelo, fans like you are the reason why we keep Avonome on this journey. Rest assured, our best is yet to come. BUT duuudeee – did you just take shots at the Man of Steel?!! Lol, I will not be held accountable when the Justice League finds you. I refuse!!!

“Avonome is one comic I love. As a Lagos boy, I can relate to the language. The only issue I have with each issue (pun intended) is the brevity. It always seems too short. Maybe cos I enjoy it so much sha.”

- Chika Jones Onwuasoanya.
Lagos, Nigeria.

Chika Jones,
Arigato! Arigato! Arigato!

PS: Can I call you Jones Bones Jones after my favorite MMA fighter?

Special featurette:

This thing got us. A fan (remember **Kurolayefah Owugah**? We received an extensive fan mail from him which was published in our last issue) did a review of our issues 5 (prologue inclusive) and sent it in to CR. We at team Avonome™ were blown literarily. These are the kind of mindsets we appreciate – an unbiased approach to a new and alien material. Without further ado, here's your chance to read his thoughts. Dig in.

REVIEW:

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE AVONOVERSE: WHY ISSUE 5 PROLOGUE AND 5 IS A MAJOR GAME CHANGER.

I recently picked up comic republic's two in one edition “Avonome” issue 5 prologue and Issue 5. I'm not one for doing reviews but this issue piqued my sordid interest in doing one...in between I had to struggle with setting aside time to draft this objective piece. I am not going to reveal much and will stay right on track with few spoilers just enough for those who haven't read it to go and pick up a copy here as well as anticipate 6.

Alright, let's get down to some in depth review. When it comes to visual story telling of indie publishers in Nigeria, our major lean to in this aspect has always been tapping into the mythical ethos of the ancestral world, gathering symbolic elements that guide the reader through significant markers of ancient culture that reflect societal beliefs. Avonome rests heavily upon these elements and draws deeply from it.

Issue 5 prologue & 5 picks up from where issue 3 & 4 left off, pretty much in a clandestine manner. We not only get to see Avonome on a brink of life and death but we also get a glimpse of things through

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character perspective. We journey at first narrative into the character's life through her guardian angel Azrael who shares insight of his first meeting with the character and what he sees in her. I like the way this is handled pretty deeply (the point of views are pretty reminiscent of #4 though it pretty much has a different feel because of the angles even though we get the vibe that we've seen this before). We journey through the realms into the physical world with Ajobara (remember him? the fellow responsible for putting Avonome in a life and death situation in #3) our journey with Ajobara leads us to a meeting and introduction of a certain new mysterious character that is much more powerful than Ajobara or so it seems...

To top it all off this menacing new character seems to have stronger ties to Avonome's past. Godlike immortal in nature...the mystery deepens tugging on one's psyche to learn more. It gets even deeper when we are teased of a new villain's awakening. This is revealed to Avonome in her sojourn with the realm within... When I initially started reading Avonome I always felt this realm within sub title was a subtle reference to the spirit realm or some realm we were going to be treated to sometime later on but this issue firmly establishes the core center that gravitates towards this reference.

The realm within is none other than the mysterious realm from which Avonome draws her powers from (but then again I might still be wrong considering you know... (Go figure)...Writer's twist but I firmly believe so). We finally move over to the gathering of the Kiriji and the rest of the gods who are also aware and somehow dread the arrival of this new villain.

Then we phase back to Avonome's world as yet another mysterious figure bearing an interesting title (of which I'm going to lay reference to later) appears just in time to save Avonome from a horde of carnivorous beast creatures or rather monsters. Then we are left longing for more just to

wrap things up. A couple of haunting questions lingers at the end though to hunt your psyche...an interesting creative buildup of a character name such as "Black Ghandi" provokes hints of a revolution coming our way and to top it all up the Hogosha title (which is an adopted Japanese term) attached to his persona which is hinted in a quote at the beginning pages of the book brilliantly significantly translates to guardian, patron or protector. So that's pretty much it, wait you're expecting more, heesh! even I too but I wouldn't want to spoil so much...

A lot of wonderful content not mentioned could quench your thirst. I know it left me pretty much satisfied. Once again go pick it up here www.thecomicropublic.com [you can only dive too deep.](#)

In conclusion to this brief overview here are the critique points and why issue 5.5&5 is a major game changer in the avonoverse.

[5 stars] Well-established plot and excellent pacing.

[4 stars] Great dialogue

[5 stars] established villain (hey! at least now we've got a major bad guy to look out for)

[5stars] Spectacular art especially colors suggestive of mood and established tone.

[3.5 stars] satisfying read.

These are our strong points. Now we move onto weak points.

Aaaargh! I hate to point out there are none (personal opinion though). Do inbox me if you noticed any. I terribly enjoyed this issue and constantly snuck in for several readings and each time I discovered something new. Only one nitpick I have to point out though; the release: Issue 5 prologue was released first before the mash up. And I picked that up too. So going through 5 prologue and 5 and realizing I had read most of the beginning wasn't much of a pleasant surprise...

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it only made what was left undiscovered a bit pretty small in content. Can't wait to see what's coming next in 6 and 7 though (that's if CR keeps up with the mash up trend).

A word of commendation and fiery motivation to push forth, goes forth to the entire Comic Republic team (yes I do believe everyone needs commendation nowadays on an equal note) especially those who handled the art direction, colors and story for working out the magic to make this piece.

Thank you very much.

Thanks!

Kurolayefah Owugah
Writer, Comic Book artist,
colorist and illustrator.
Port Harcourt. Nigeria

Kurooo,
Words fail us. I see you've been reading Avonome the way we expect a true believer to i.e. between the lines. I must admit you caught us spot on with some of your predictions. We will work hard at destroying this spirit of prophecy you think you have. Lol. Thanks a million for this.

PS: The fan called issue 5 prologue - issue 5 and issue 5 - issue 6. We had to quickly edit these changes in, and take out the images he attached due to the spacing constraints. Otherwise the review remains untouched.

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

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/avonomemi

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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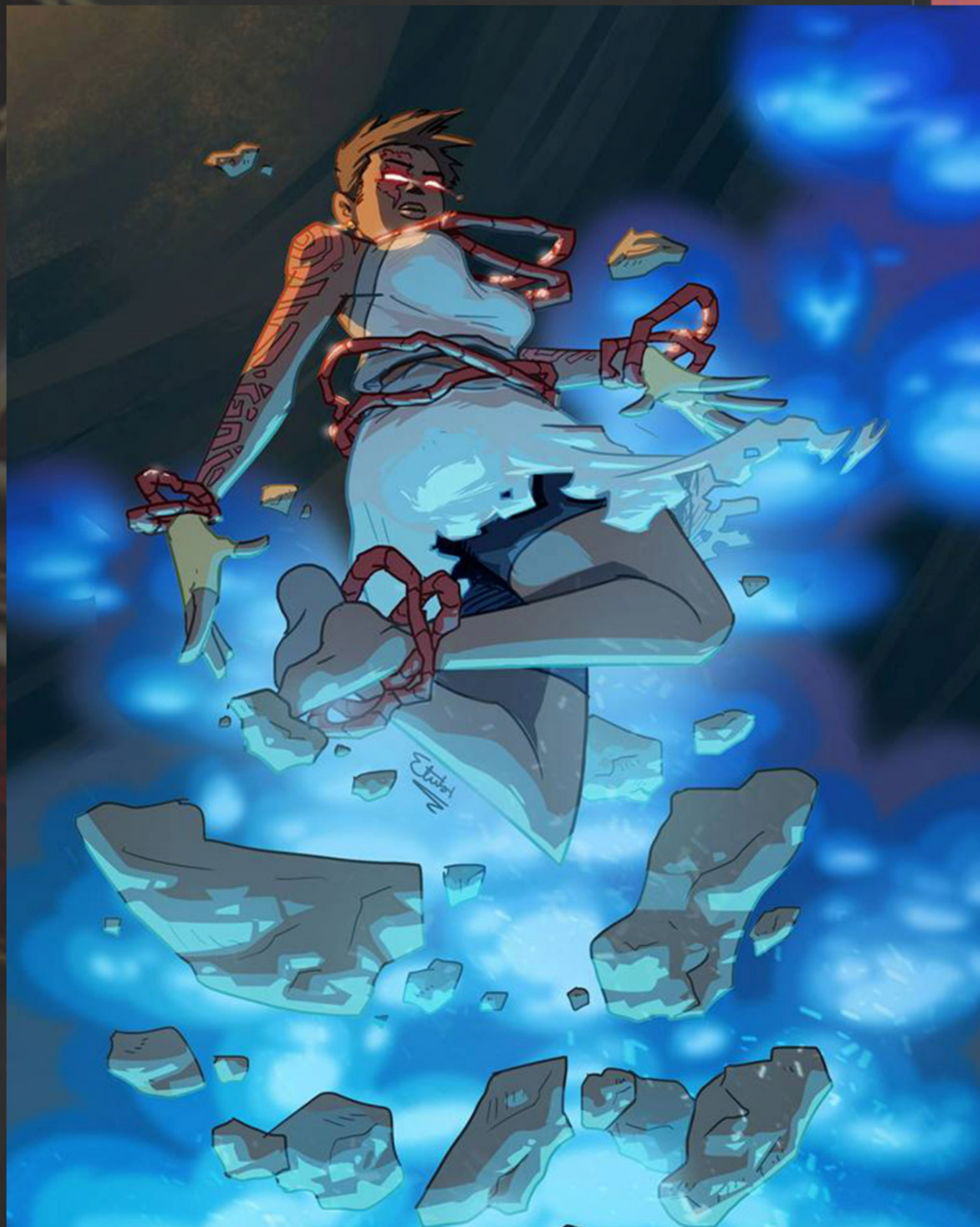
BOOM! Now how was that for an ending? Finally we get to see the story behind the dreaded Ash Razak and how he's connected to Avonome, plus Hisnabek is about to turn things up a silly notch. But first, let's regale you with some amazing fan images sent in after 5 issues - dig in.



Wonderful Avonome Art by Dominic Oziren Omoarukhe and Martin Avwenagha

AVONOME FANS

And the Mumu illustrator, Etubi Onucheyo kills it with his Avonome art piece.



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/avonome but include a little fun note about yourself and a publishable email address and you would get published right here.

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