

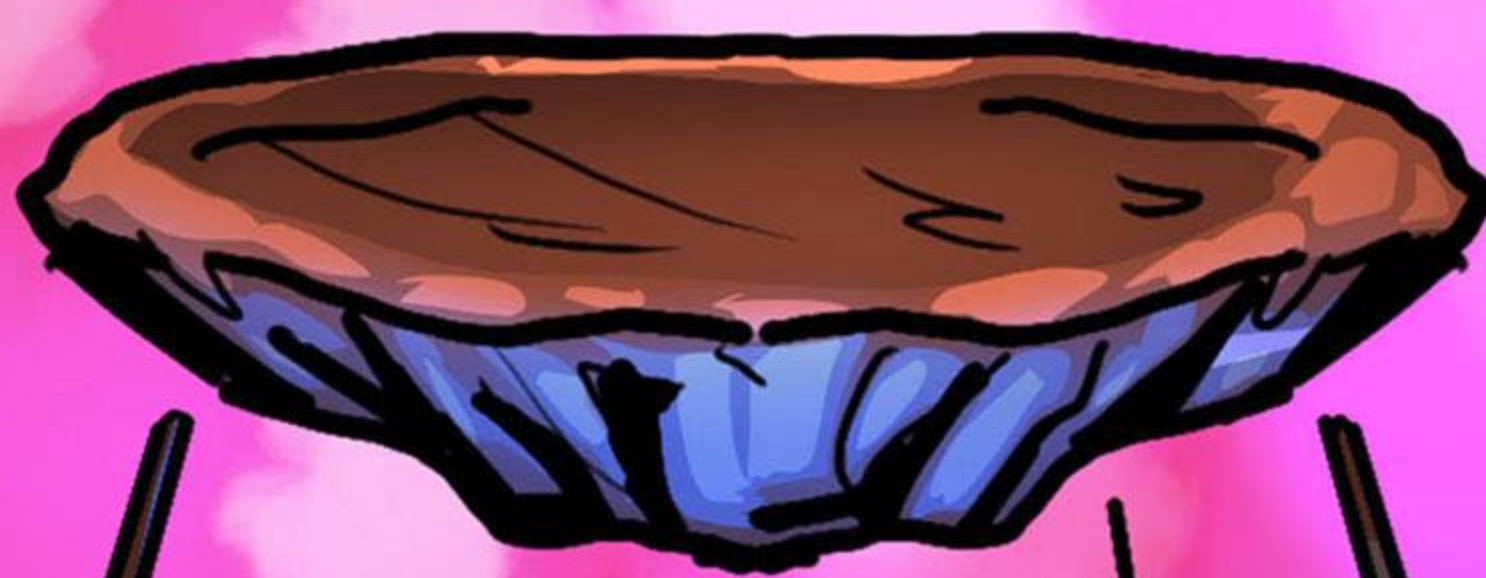


COMIC REPUBLIC

1

TRIALS OF THE

SPEAR



AWELENJE
OZIREN
BALOGUN



COMIC REPUBLIC

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AWELENJE

OZIREN

BALOGUN

TRIALS OF THE SPEAR

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TRIALS OF THE SPEAR

IN A TIME THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO
WHEN AFRICA WAS A LAND OF MYTH AND LEGEND
IMPENETRABLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD
THE MIGHTY KINGDOMS OF THE COAST WERE PROTECTED AND SERVED
BY HEROES KNOWN AS WARRIORS.
TO JOIN THEIR PROUD RANKS, YOUNG HOPEFULS ENTRUSTED WITH
SACRED SPEARS
WERE CHALLENGED TO FACE THE TRIALS....



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Novare Mall, Sangotedo,
Lekki-Epe Express-way

WARRI
Delta Mall, Effurun,
Delta State

ASABA
Asaba Mall, Okpanam
Delta State

ABUJA
Ceddi Plaza, No. 264
Tafawa Balewa Way, Abuja

Novare - Gateway mall
Airport Lugbe Abuja

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

HUNDREDS OF YEARS
AGO, FAR SOUTH-EAST OF
KATUNGA, WHERE MY LORD
THE ALAAFIN RULES THE
OYO EMPIRE



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



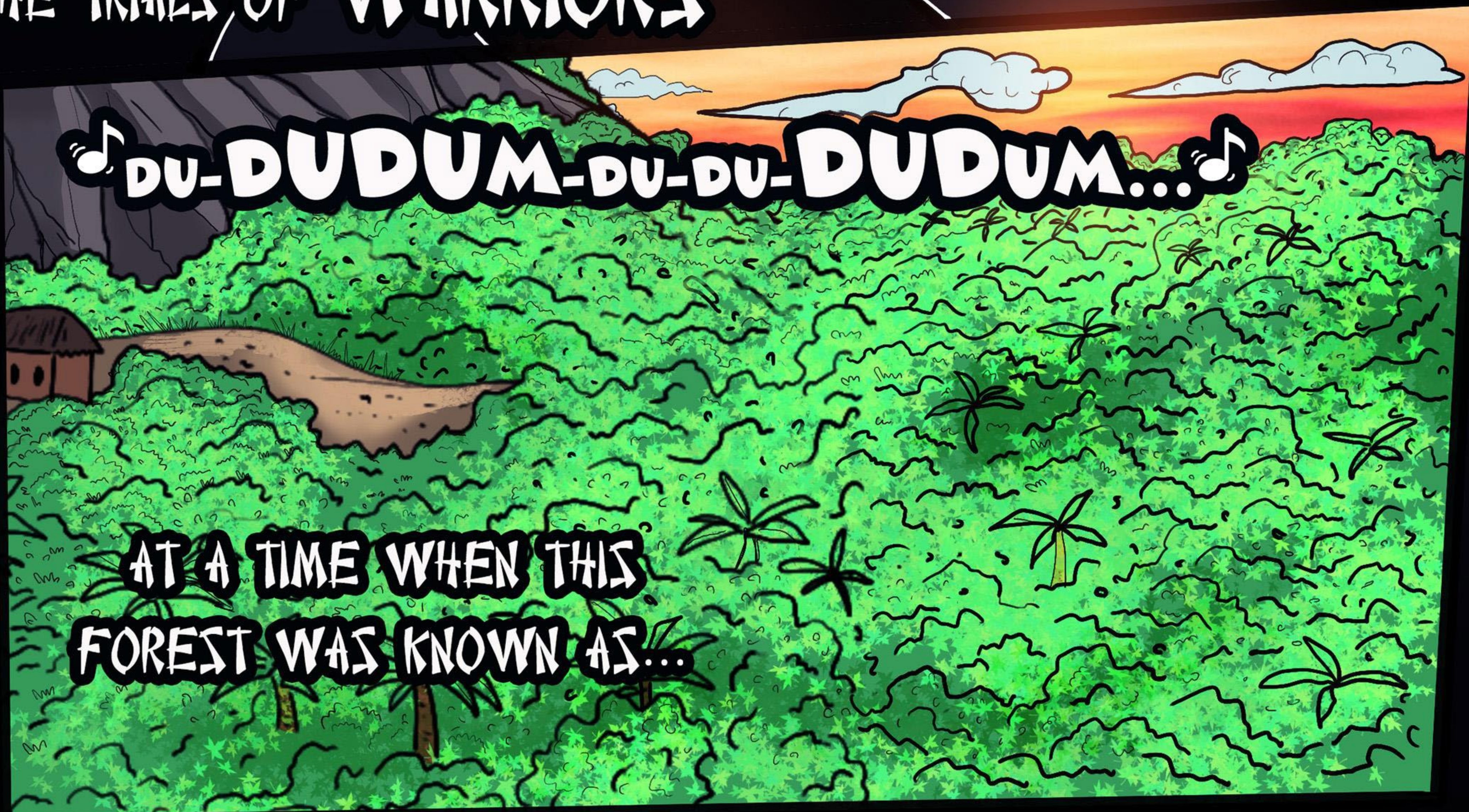
DU-DUDUM-DU-DU-DUDUM...



I, ONILU AKARIGBERE,
THE IMMORTAL DRUMMER,
PLAYED THE DRUMS
AT THE TRIALS OF WARRIORS

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

AT A TIME WHEN THIS
FOREST WAS KNOWN AS...



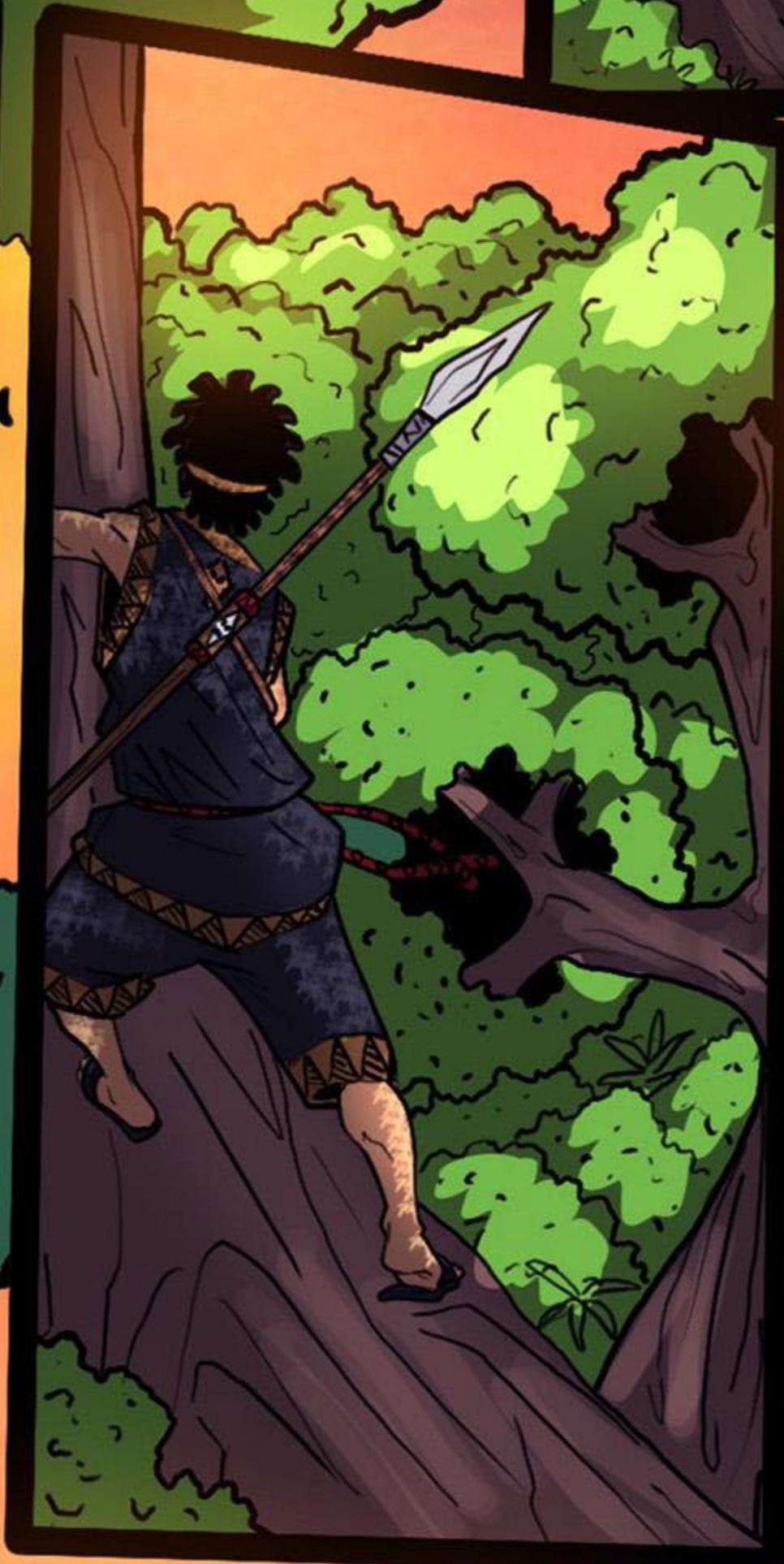
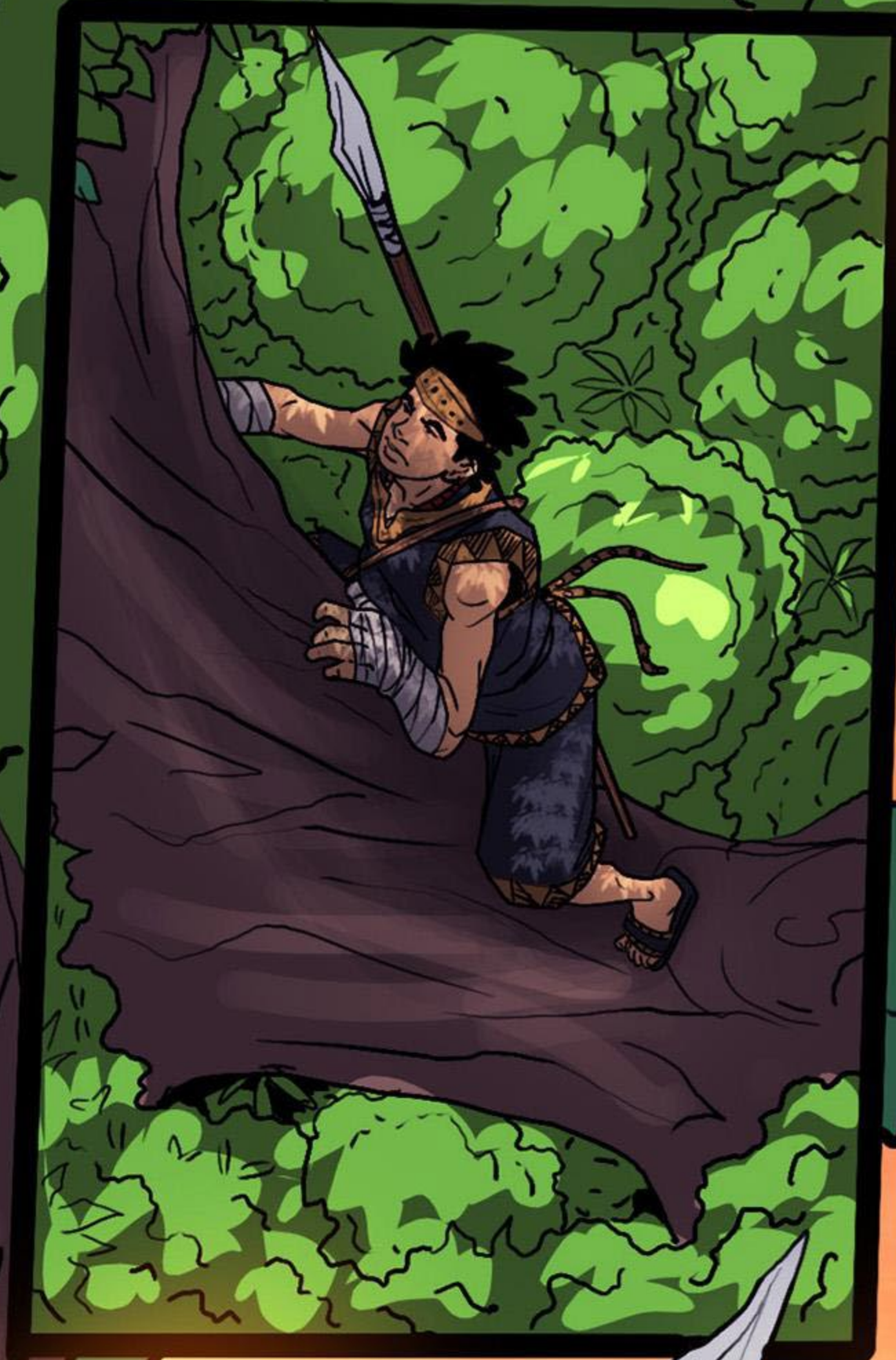
SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE FOREST...

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

HERE COME
THE DRUMS.

ALL TALKING DRUMS
SPEAK TO PEOPLE...
BUT ONLY
AKARIGBERE'S
DRUM...

...CAN CALL
TO SPIRITS



...LIKE THAT ONE!
EI, TOO FAR!
I WANT TO SEE
HIS FACE...

...EH? IT LOOKS
LIKE AN OLD
*ARUGBO!!!

*OLD GEEZER

HIAN! IS THAT
A SPIRIT?

IT'S JUST AN OLD...

...EHP?!

...YEPA!!!
SPIRIT!!!!

ROAR

SURRRAH!

HE'S COMING...
HE'S COMING!

*HEEEEEEEY...
AYE MI OOOO.....

*AH! MY LIFE...

I CAN HEAR IT COMING,
THROUGH THE FOREST,
SMASHING THROUGH THE
TREES AND BUSH...
GETTING CLOSER.

...GETTING CLOSER



DAYO...

WHY AM
I HERE?
WHY AM I
HERE OOOOOO....

DAYO!!!!

IT'S GETTING
CLOSER!
I DON'T WANT
TO DIE!!!!
I DON'T WANT TO.....

SSSSSTUPIDBOY!!!

YOU WANT ME TO
SLAP YOU, YOUR HEAD
LIKE YAM!!!

ANSWER ME!!!!

Y-Y-Y-Y-YES
MA!!!!!!

MA YOUR HEAD!
OYYAH!!!,
TELL ME YOUR
NAME!

D...DAYO....

DI-DI-DAYO LIKE
A COWARD.
SHIORRR!!!
ST ANDUP!!!!

YES MA!!!

BETTER! OYYAH!
TELL ME
YOUR NAME!

*KILLODAY?
YOU ARE WAITING
FOR WHAT?!
I TOLD YOU
TO--

*KILODE

AJAPA OLOKO,
MY BELOVED WEAPON.
THANK YOU SO MUCH
FOR THAT....
I NEEDED IT.

...IT'S OKAY
IYYAH-*ARRUGBO.
YOU CAN STOP SHOUTING
NOW.

*IYA ARUGBO

*OLD GRANDMA

I KNOW MY
NAME.

MMHMM.
I HEAR YOU.

GOOD. NOW...

...SHUT UP AND...

...*FOON

*FLIN

*GVE

*...MIII NIII...

*ME

...IMMORLEHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

*LIGHT! *IMOLE





SPIRIT,
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE COMING
IN A HURRY?

STOP HIDING. COME
OUT AND FACE
A **WARRIOR**.



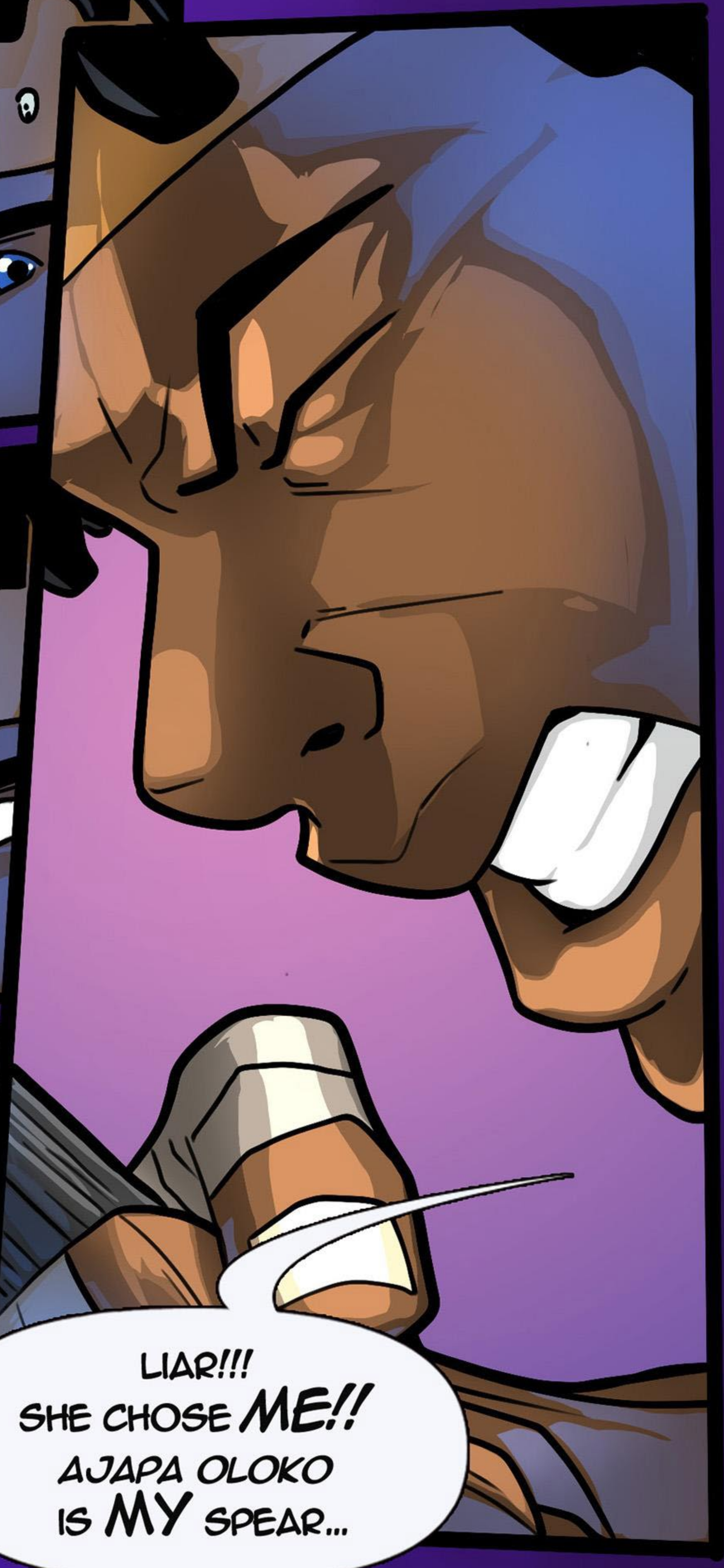
BIG WORDS.



FROM ONE SO SMALL.



WARRIOR? THIS YOU ARE NOT. A FRAUD, WHO DOESN'T DESERVE A SPEAR...



LIAR!!! SHE CHOSE ME!! AJAPA OLOKO IS MY SPEAR...

HEH,

HEH,

HEH,

HEH,

HEH,



IGNORE HIM. HE'S TRYING TO USE YOUR HEAD. DON'T LISTEN!!

AS IF SHE WOULD CHOOSE...

DON'T LISTEN...

...A BOY CURSED WITH DREADLOCKS ON HIS HEAD...

DAYO, PLEASE...

...THESE ACCURSED DADA...





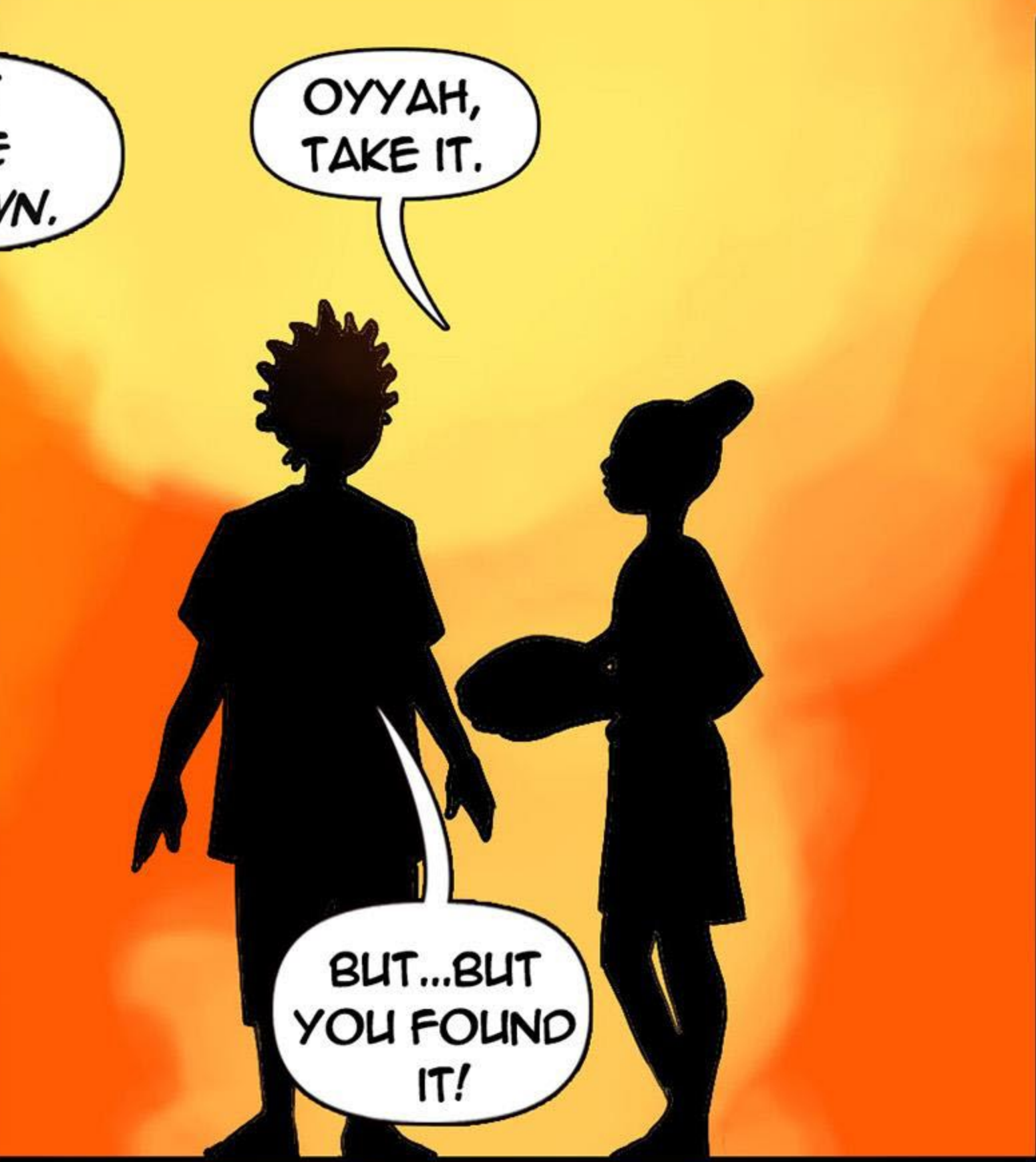
DAYO!!! COME,
NOOOOOOOWWWWWW!!!
ARE YOU
DEAF?!

KEMI,
KEEP SHUT
JAREY!!!!
I'M COMING.

COME, BEFORE
IT RUNS AWAY!



DON'T
TOUCH ITS
HEAD!!
IT'LL GO INTO
ITS SHELL....



KEMI!!!
WHY ARE YOU
PLAYING WITH THAT
CURSED BOY? YOU
WANT TO HAVE DADA
ON YOUR OWN
HEAD AS WELL?



*KO-NI-BABA,
KO-NI-IYA.

*NO-FATHER
NO-MOTHER.

NEVER COME NEAR
MY DAUGHTER AGAIN.
AKOBA, ADABA,
SHANGO-OH-MA-JE-A-RI

*GOD OF THUNDER,
PROTECT US FROM
THE EVIL OF
THESE CURSES.

*SANGO-O-JE-A-RI



KEEP YOUR CURSE
TO YOURSELF,
DEVIL CHILD!!!



I AM NOT
ACCURSED.....

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YOUR AVIVA
GO
FOR
GOLD
EXERCISE BOOKS
NATIONWIDE!**



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...I AM A WARRIOR!!!!

COME OUT AND FACE ME!!!



ROAAAAAARRRR!!!



**RUNT. PATHETIC
MAN-CUB.
YOUR BLOOD WILL
SATE MY THIRST.**



COWARD
STOP HIDING.

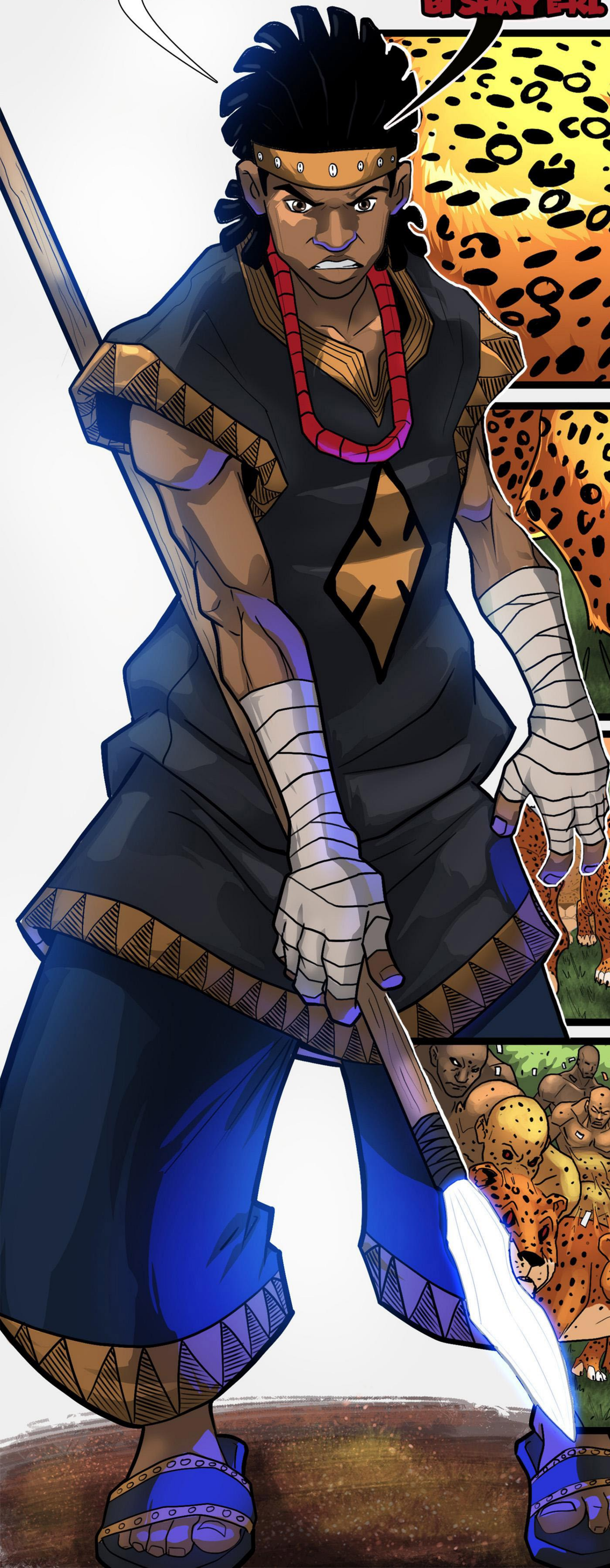
**I MERELY WAIT.
FROM WHAT ANGLE
WILL I ATTACK YOU?**

OYYAH,
THE TIME IS
NOW.

***EH JEH KAH SHAY,
BI WON TH SHAY,
K'OH LE-BAA-RI,
BI SHAY ERL**

*E JE K'A SEE
BI WON TII SE K'O
LE BAA RI BI I SEE RI

*LET US DO IT,
THE WAY IT IS USUALLY DONE,
SO THAT WE MAY HAVE....
THE USUAL RESULT.



HM.



HE HAS LIGHTNING.
THE FIRST
IN CENTURIES.



AND HE SUMMONS
US WITH THE
PROPER WORDS.



**THIS MAY BE
THE ONE.**

**IT IS DONE. THEN, LET US START THE TRIAL.
LET US SEE IF YOU ARE TRULY...**



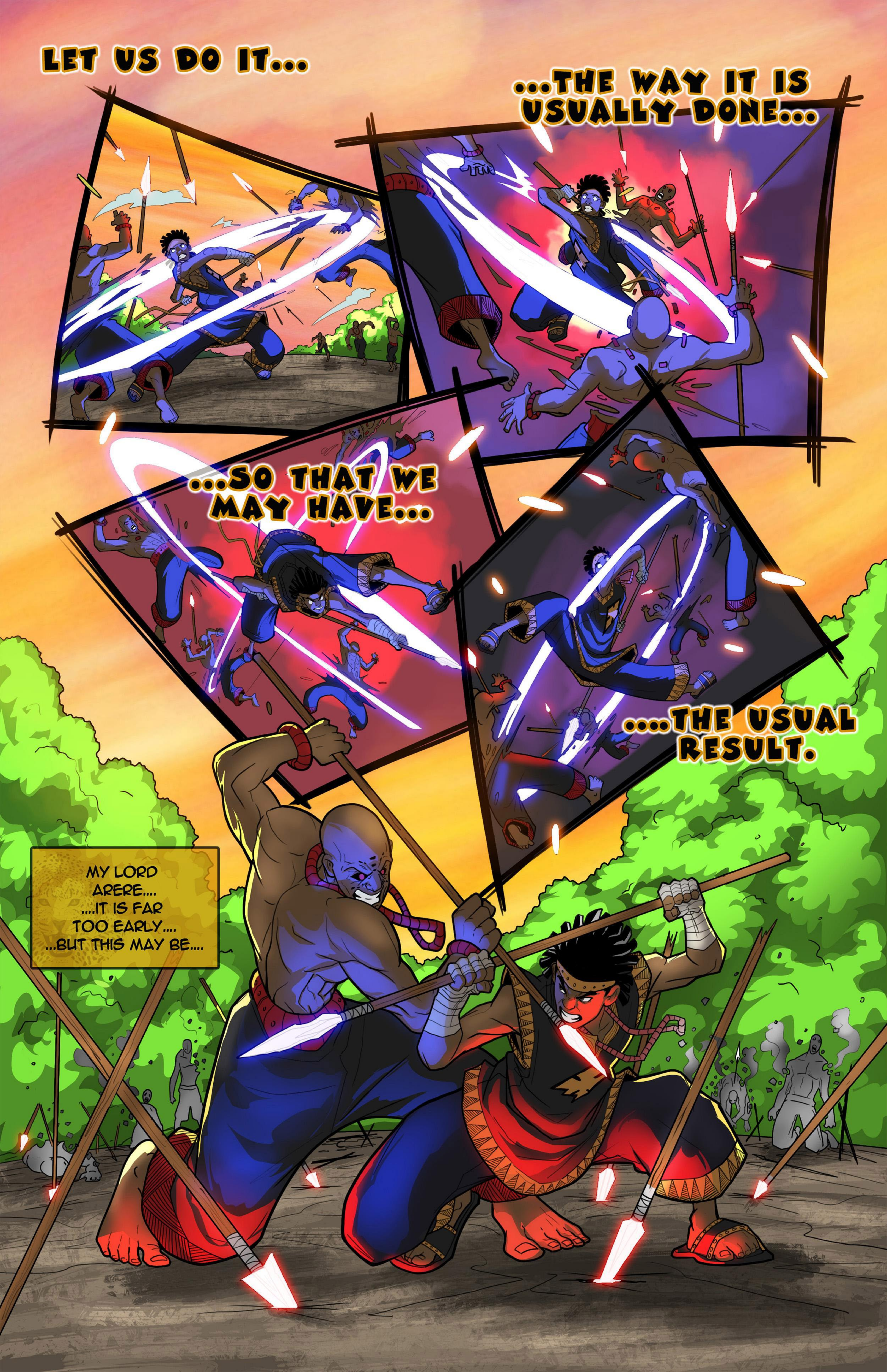
LET US DO IT...

**...THE WAY IT IS
USUALLY-DONE...**

**...SO THAT WE
MAY HAVE...**

**...THE USUAL
RESULT.**

MY LORD
ARERE....
....IT IS FAR
TOO EARLY....
...BUT THIS MAY BE....

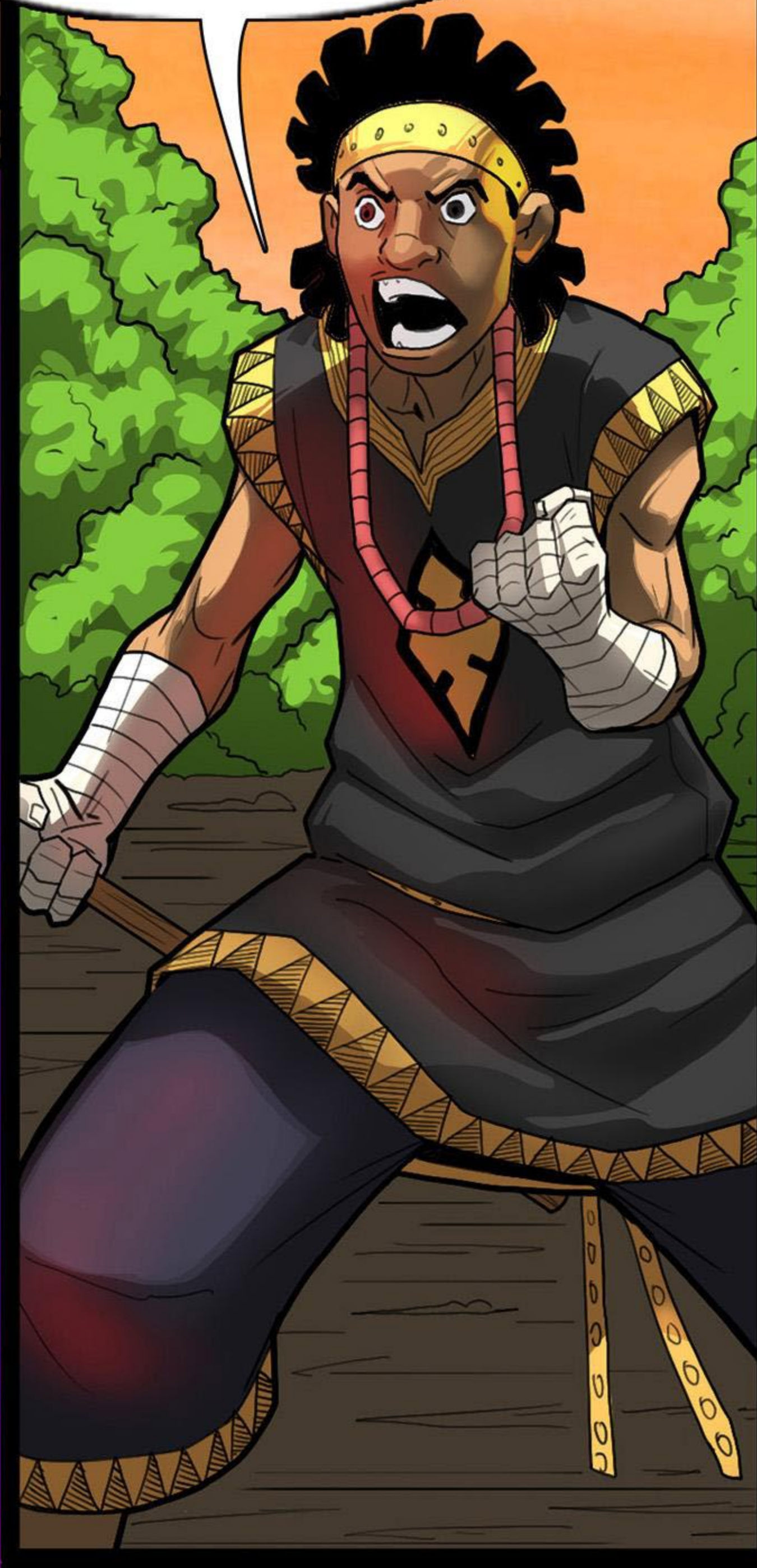
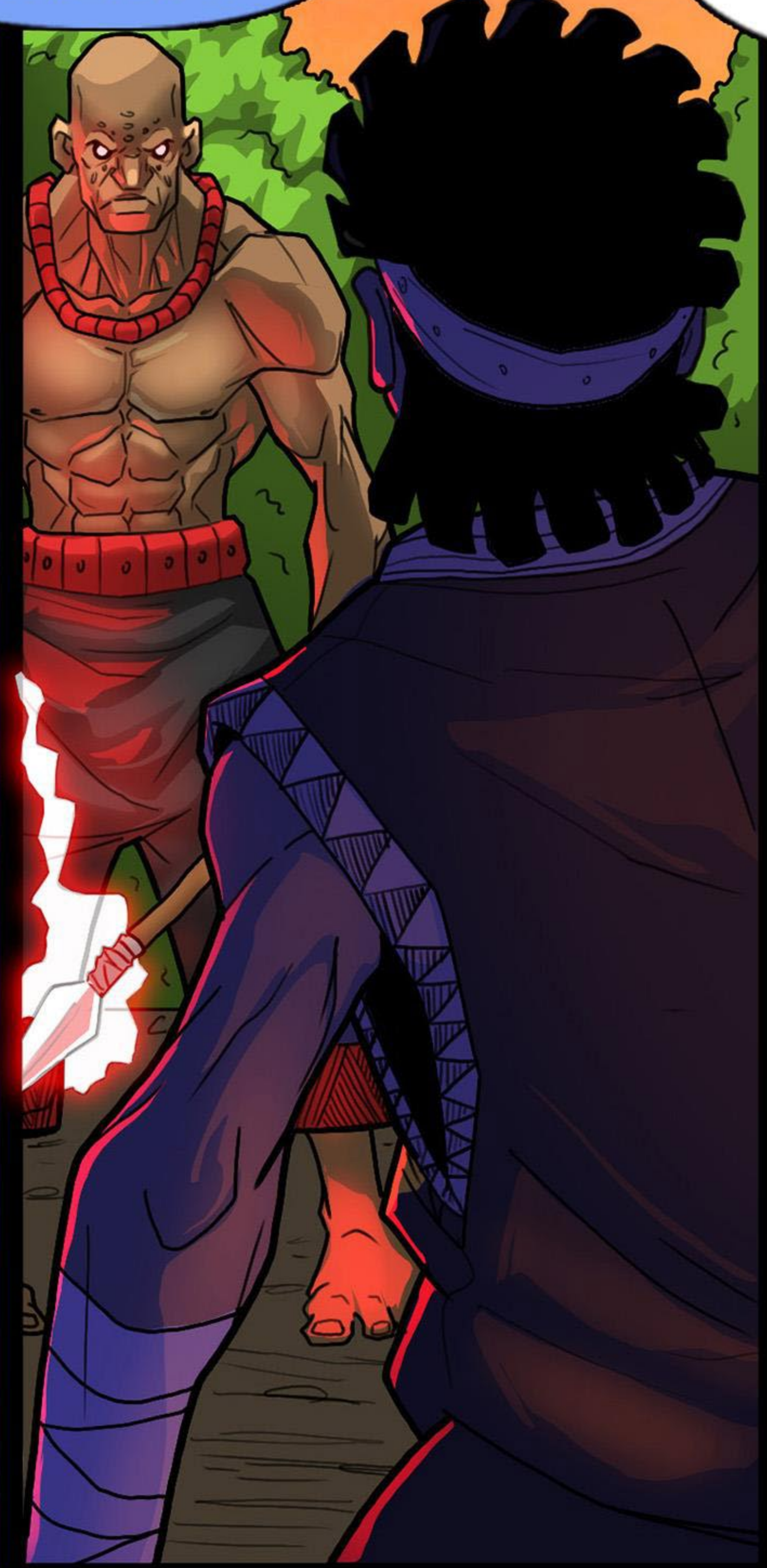


THE ONE!!!!



THE DRUMS ARE
SILENT, SPIRIT.
MY WARRIOR HAS
PASSED
THE TEST.

YOU HEARD MY SPEAR!
I PASSED,
FAIR AND SQUARE!!
I SURVIVED THE DRUMS...
YOU HAVE TO GIVE
ME PROOF THAT
I WON!



THIS TRIAL IS
A SHAM!!

EHP?!

I AM YETUNDE,
PRINCESS OF THE ONDO.
AND YOU BOTH
ARE TRESSPASSING.



NEXT: EXTENDED TRIAL!!!



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SPEARHEAD

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE FIRST ISSUE OF TRIALS OF THE SPEAR?

THIS IS A TITLE THAT IS VERY CLOSE TO MY HEART, PERSONALLY. DAYO DARAWU (WITH HIS DADA!!) HAS BEEN POKING AT ME FOR YEARS, TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT THE TIME TO TELL HIS STORY HAS DRAWN NEAR... AND ON THE 3RD OF JUNE 2017, I SAT DOWN AND LET HIM AND THE WORLD AROUND HIM POUR FORTH INTO A TREATMENT WHICH FORMS THE BASIS OF ALL YOU SEE OF HIM TODAY, AND HOPEFULLY IN THE FUTURE!

ALTHOUGH, DAYO HIMSELF HAS BEEN "TRYING TO BE BORN" FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, HE IS ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER OF LITTLE IDEAS THAT GREW OUT OF A QUESTION I ASKED MYSELF WHEN I WAS MUCH YOUNGER.

WHO ARE THE HEROES OF AFRICA?

THAT QUESTION MAY SOUND A BIT GENERIC, BUT EXCUSE ME FOR THAT- I WAS VERY YOUNG. I MEAN...EVERYWHERE YOU WENT IN THE WORLD, THERE WAS A POWERFUL IMAGE OF ANCESTRAL HEROISM. NINJAS WITH THEIR DAGGERS AND THROWING STARS. COWBOYS AND THEIR TRUSTY REVOLVERS. KNIGHTS WITH THEIR SHINING ARMOUR. SAMURAI WITH THEIR SWORDS.

I ANSWERED THE QUESTION FOR MYSELF VERY QUICKLY- THE HEROES OF AFRICA ARE WARRIORS. AND THIS IS INDEED THE SOURCE OF THE SPIRIT OF THE AFRICAN HERO- NOT THE INDEPENDENCE AND MYSTERY OF THE OUTLAW GUNSLINGER, OR THE STOIC RESOLVE OF THE SAMURAI...BUT THE FIERCENESS, INDOMITABLE SPIRIT, AND RELENTLESS COURAGE OF THE WARRIOR.

AND WHERE OTHERS HAD THEIR SWORDS, GUNS AND BOWS, WARRIORS HAD THEIR SPEARS.

OF THE MAJOR ICONIC WEAPONS OF OLD, THE SPEAR HAS SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH THE WARRIOR SPIRIT OF AFRICA: ITS STORY IS YET TO BE TOLD. DAYO AND I HOPE TO DO OUR LITTLE BIT TO HELP FILL THAT LITTLE VACUUM.

I HOPE YOU'LL BE ALONG WITH US FOR THE RIDE!

-WALE AWELENJE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER/ HEAD SCRIPT AND STORY DEVELOPMENT

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**WHO ARE THE
HEROES OF
AFRICA?**

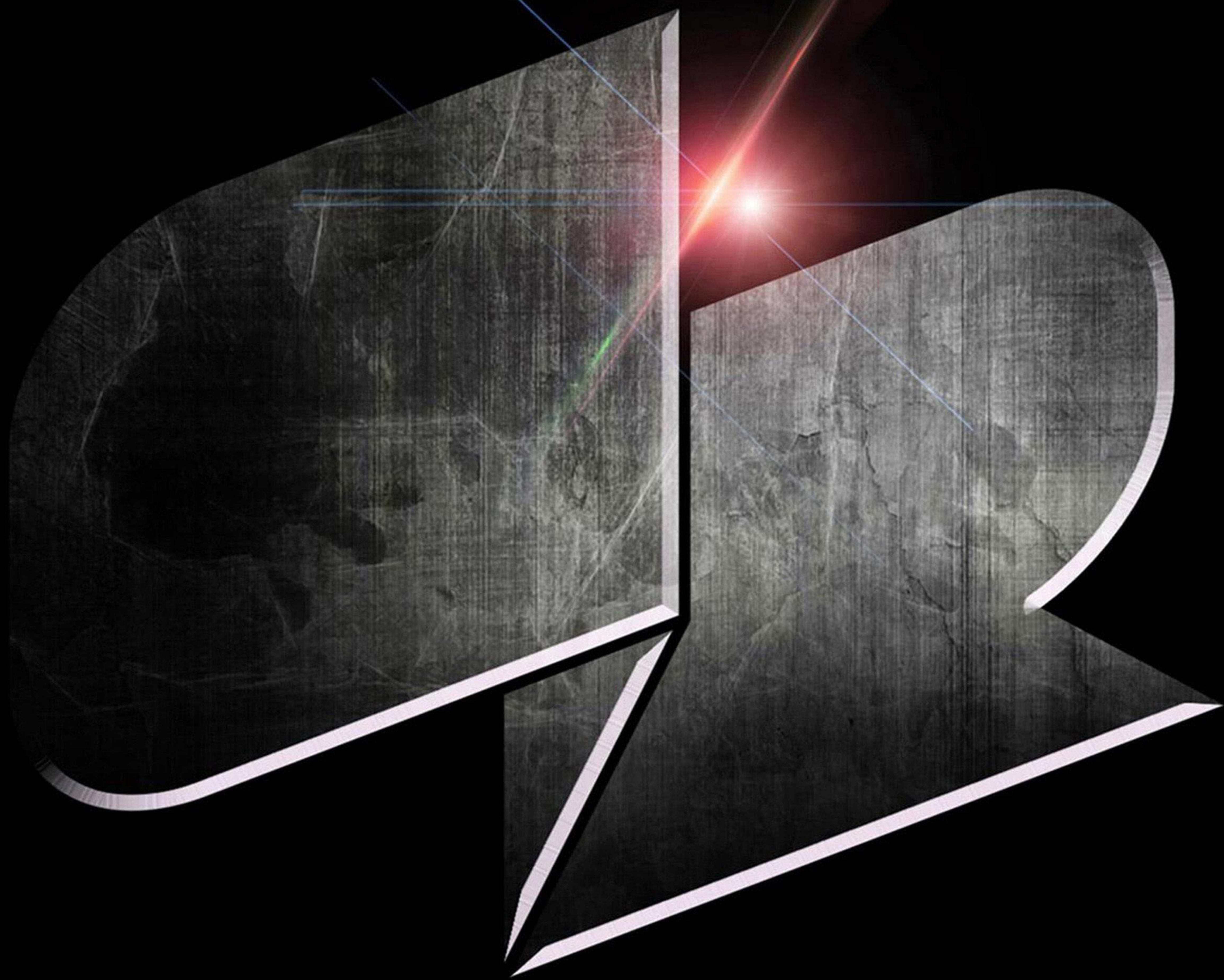


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