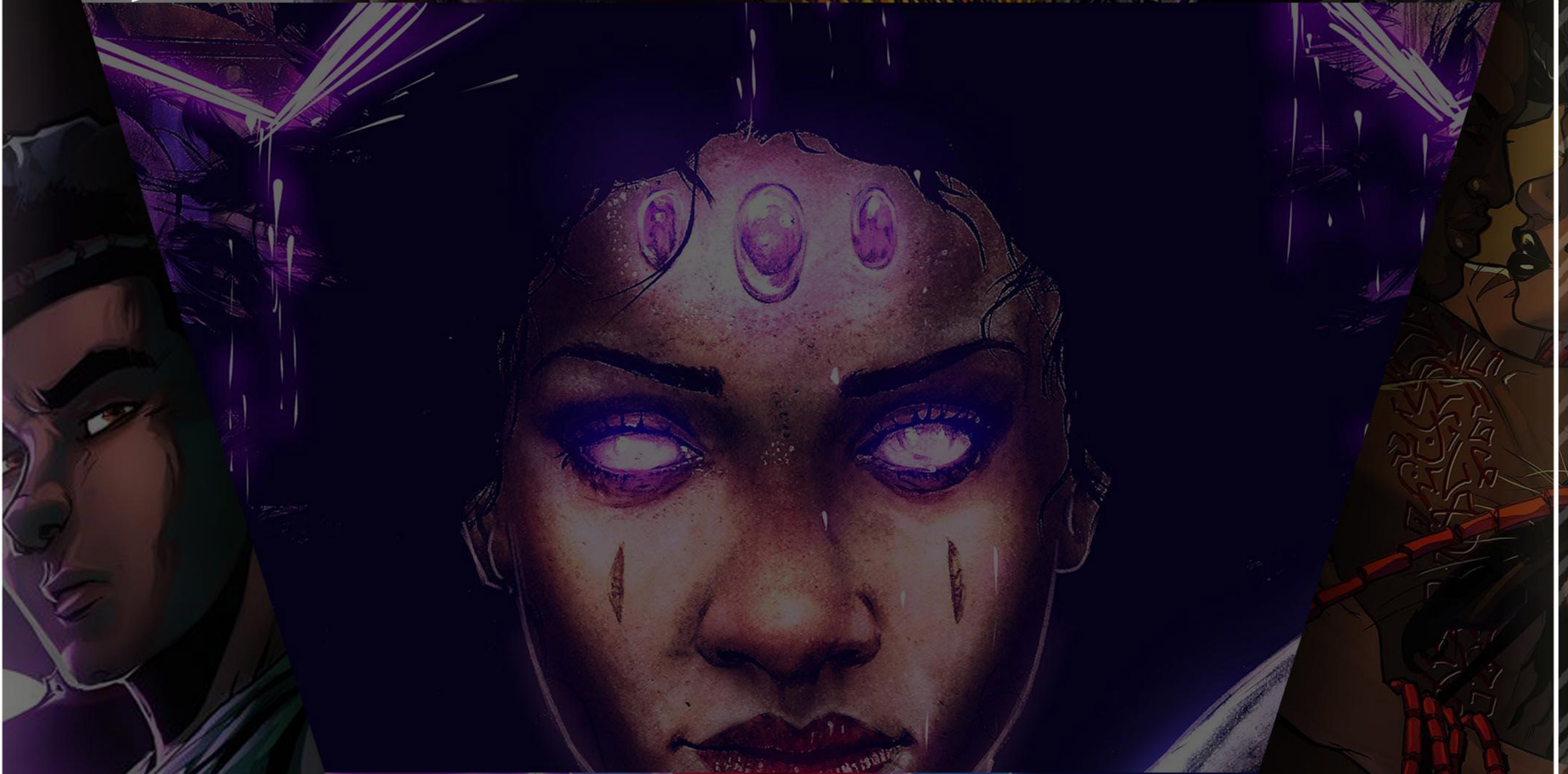


VOL.1



DARK



A COMPILATION OF AFRICAN FANTASY



HOME OF AFRICAN HEROES

ERU

Avonome
THE REALM WITHIN



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2.5



AWELENJE . UORIW OH



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AJE

CREATED BY
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AJEE

WE OBSERVE THE JOURNEY OF HUNTER-KNIGHT ADEPTUS FROM ORISHABUNMI'S PERSPECTIVE, AND LEARN THAT ALL IS NOT AS IT SEEMS BOTH IN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE!



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OR ANDROID
DEVICE...

...AND CLICK
"ADD HOME" TO
INSTALL OUR
FREE APP.



O-ri-shaaaaa-bunmi,
my Queen. He has a
cross on his face. Caw!!

Calm down, my little
flying pet. Who has a cross
on his face?

O-ri-shaaaaa-bunmi,
he is a visitor.
A Hunter-Knight!!
And a handsome one.
Caw!!

Is that so? I will be the judge
of that.




Oh my dearest pet, eiye tutu oba - tituba's bird.
Show me what you see.


Ah, I see your playmate, O'logbo tutu oba
at the horse's feet. But who is the rider?

He looks like one of Kramer's boys.




A hooded figure in a brown cloak sits atop a brown horse, carrying a large, round, light-colored pack. The horse is walking on a dirt path through a forest. A young, shirtless boy stands to the right of the horse, pointing towards the hooded figure. The background shows large tree trunks and dappled sunlight on the ground.

Ah, I see. He's after Iya-Aje.
Definitely one from Kramer.
Oh my dear Heinrich, do you listen
to nothing I tell you?

A hooded figure in a brown cloak sits atop a brown horse, carrying a large, round, light-colored pack. The horse is walking on a dirt path through a forest. A young, shirtless boy stands to the right of the horse, pointing towards the hooded figure. The background shows large tree trunks and dappled sunlight on the ground.

This poor, poor boy... so young.
So unaware of what disaster he may
be about to unleash on the world...

A close-up of a large, golden hammer with a curved head. A small, golden figure is perched on the crossbar of the hammer's head. In the background, three people are visible: a young boy on the left, a man in the middle with a glowing purple energy ball in his hand, and a woman on the right. The scene is set against a dark, purple background.

If this young Hunter - Knight kills the
Iya-Aje now, all our work will be for
nothing.

I have no choice!



Here goes - time to say hello to my very own...



 ...Hunter - Knight.

*E DAKUN
DURO NI IBE.

>PLEASE WAIT AT
THAT PLACE

KMMMMMM

I AM NOT A WITCH,
HUNTER.

IF YOU CLAIM TO BE
NO WITCH THEN WHY DO
YOU PROTECT THEM?!

*E DAKUN
GBE PADA.

>PLEASE MOVE
BACK

HNNGH...



DIE!!!



SWOOSH!



*E DAKUN DURO.

>PLEASE STOP



VMMMMMMMM



HOLY FATHER, I PRAY FOR THIS SINNER NOW AND IN THE HOUR OF HER DEATH.



*TITI MO WI, EYIKEYI IBI
O JABO
SI ONA MI...

>UNTIL I SAY SO, ANY EVIL YOU THROW AT ME...

TODAY, LEKKI LINK BRIDGE

DAD...?





I'D LIKE TO MOVE INTO A HOSTEL ON THE CAMPUS...

TENI?

THE ANSWER IS NO. WHEN YOU ARE IN YOUR THIRD YEAR, MY FRIEND DEAN WILL PROVIDE YOU A SUITE IN THE GUEST HOUSE. UNTIL THEN, WEEKDAYS AT AUNT JOLOMI'S, WEEKENDS AT HOME.

BUSINESS\$



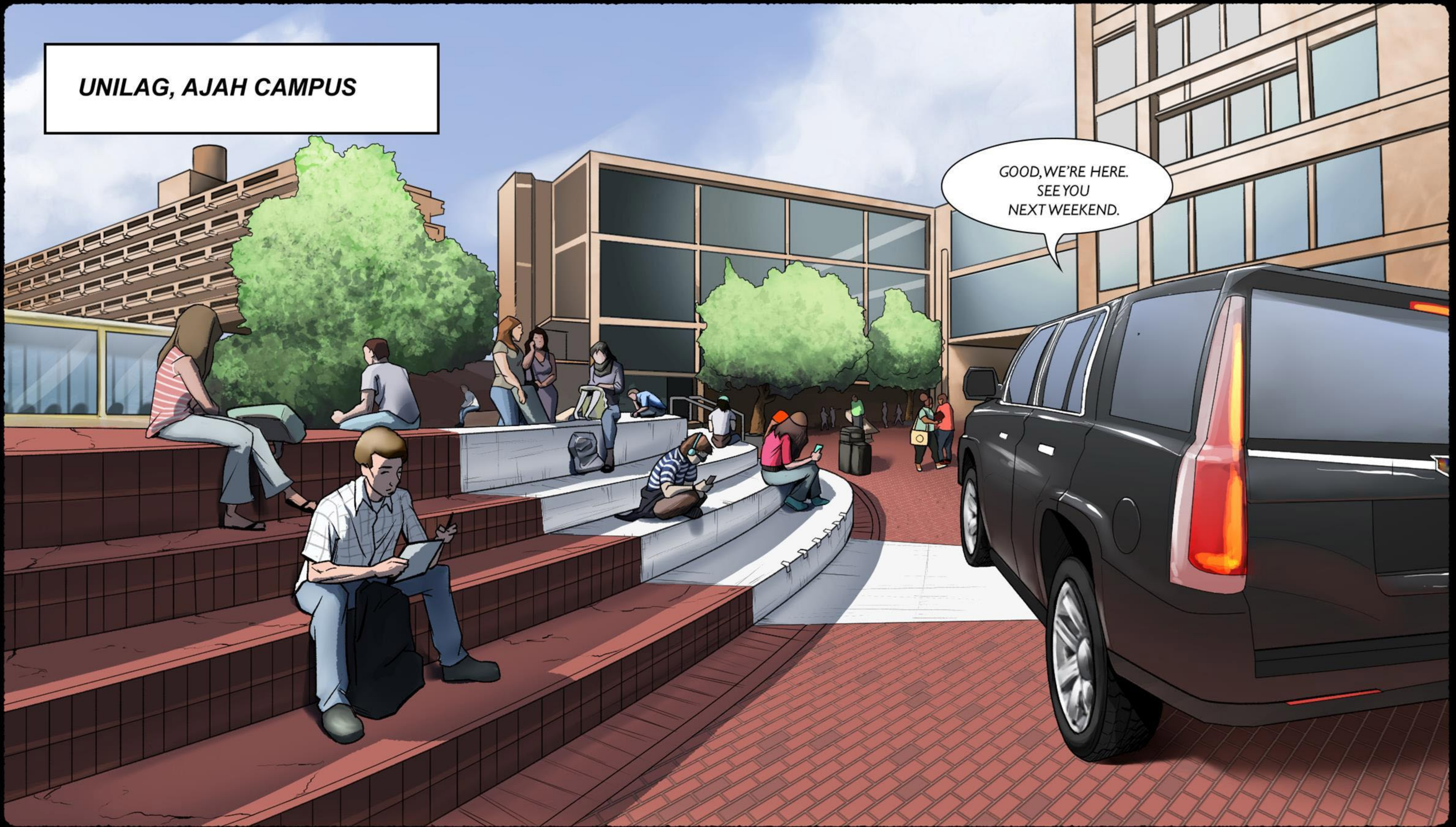
BUT DAD...



FOCUS ON YOUR STUDIES. REMEMBER YOUR SURNAME. THAT BOY IS NO LONGER A DISTRACTION, SO IT SHOULD BE EASIER NOW. UNDERSTOOD?



YES DAD.




UNILAG, AJAH CAMPUS

GOOD, WE'RE HERE.
SEE YOU
NEXT WEEKEND.



BYE DAD.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



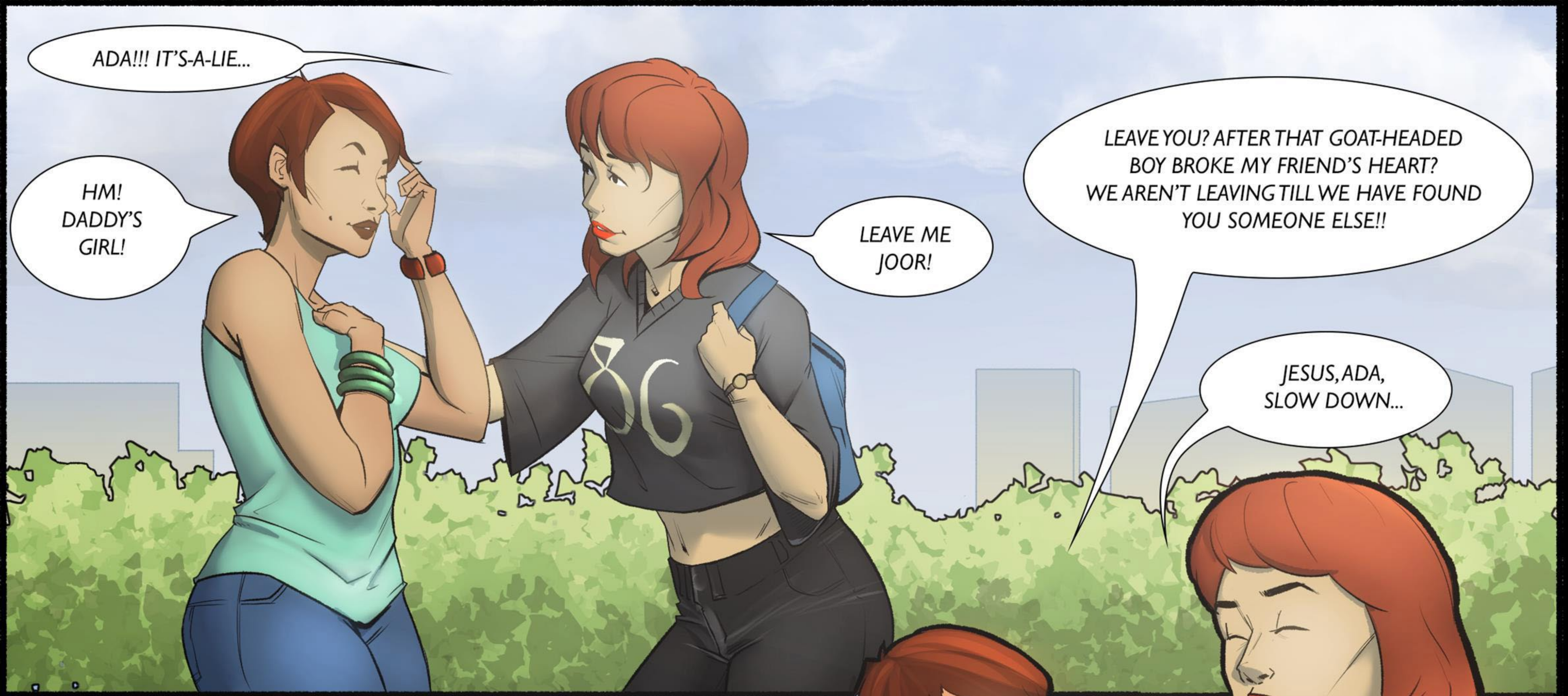
HI, FIONA. YES, I JUST DROPPED
HER OFF AT SCHOOL. I'L BE HEADED
TO THE OFFICE NOW. I LOVE YOU, DEAR.
BYE.



OFFICE OR HOTEL, SIR?



TENI!!



ADA!!! IT'S-A-LIE...

HM!
DADDY'S
GIRL!

LEAVE ME
JOOR!

LEAVE YOU? AFTER THAT GOAT-HEADED
BOY BROKE MY FRIEND'S HEART?
WE AREN'T LEAVING TILL WE HAVE FOUND
YOU SOMEONE ELSE!!

JESUS, ADA,
SLOW DOWN...



GIRL, WE NEED TO BOUNCE BACK, OH!
LOOK, I HAVE A CATALOGUE FOR YOU HERE;
CHOOSE WHICHEVER ONE YOU
WANT.

IT'S TOO SOON. EDEM MAY HAVE ENDED
THINGS WITH ME BUT I STILL LOVE HIM.

A woman with red hair is standing on a balcony. She is wearing a black crop top with a white geometric logo, black pants, and black high-heeled sandals. Her right hand is on her chest, and her left hand is holding a small object. The background shows a brick building with several windows and a sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. A long shadow is cast on the balcony floor.

DOES THAT MAKE ME FAITHFUL OR...

GULLIBLE...?

Oh Hunter Knight!

Knives...?

...Really?



*TITI EMI O SO BEE,
EYIKEYI IBI TI O
JU SINU MI ...



*...YOO...

>WILL



*PADANU!!!

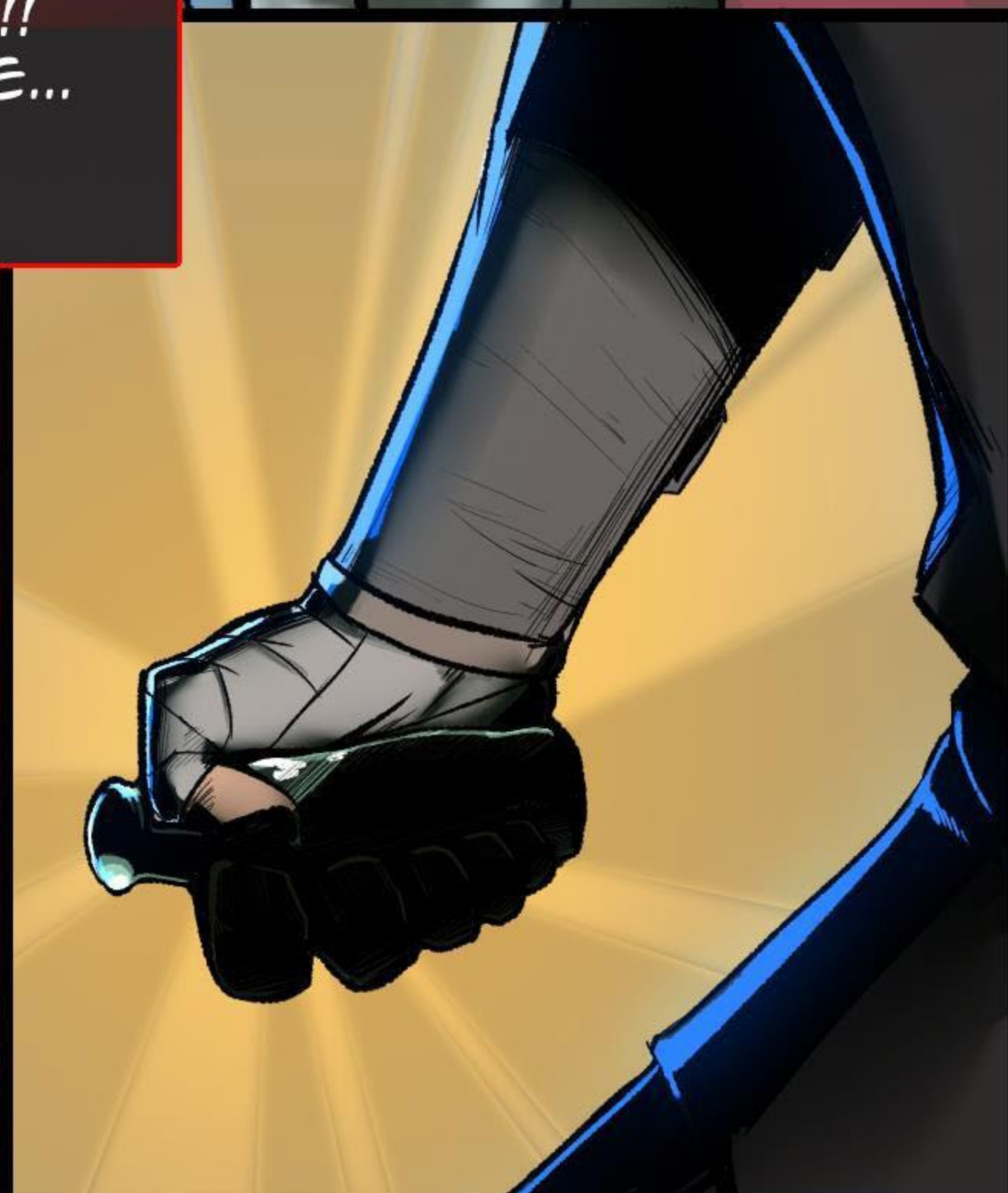
>MISS

SMASH!

SMASH!



HOW...DID I MISS?! HER CURSE!!
SPOKEN IN HER NATIVE TONGUE...
HOW COULD IT AFFECT ME?



NO MATTER; JUST AS SHE SPEAKS
THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH, I SPEAK
YORUBA FLUENTLY. AND HER CURSE
HAD ONE FLAW...



DASH!

SHE ONLY PROTECTED HERSELF FROM EVIL!!!


HOLY WATER,
BLESSED AND DIVINE.
BE AS VITRIOL TO THE
SERVANTS OF
HELL!!!

SPLASH

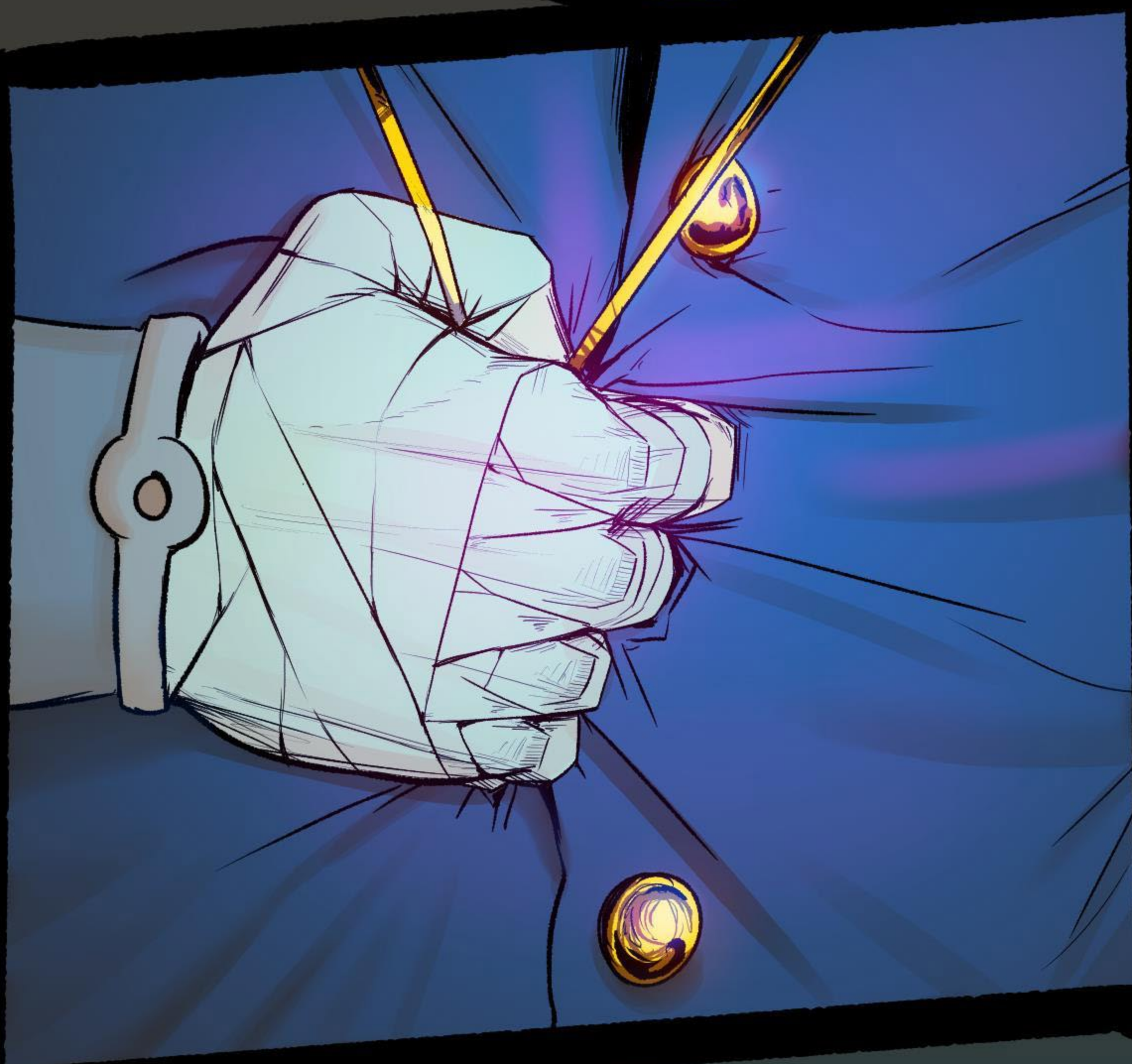
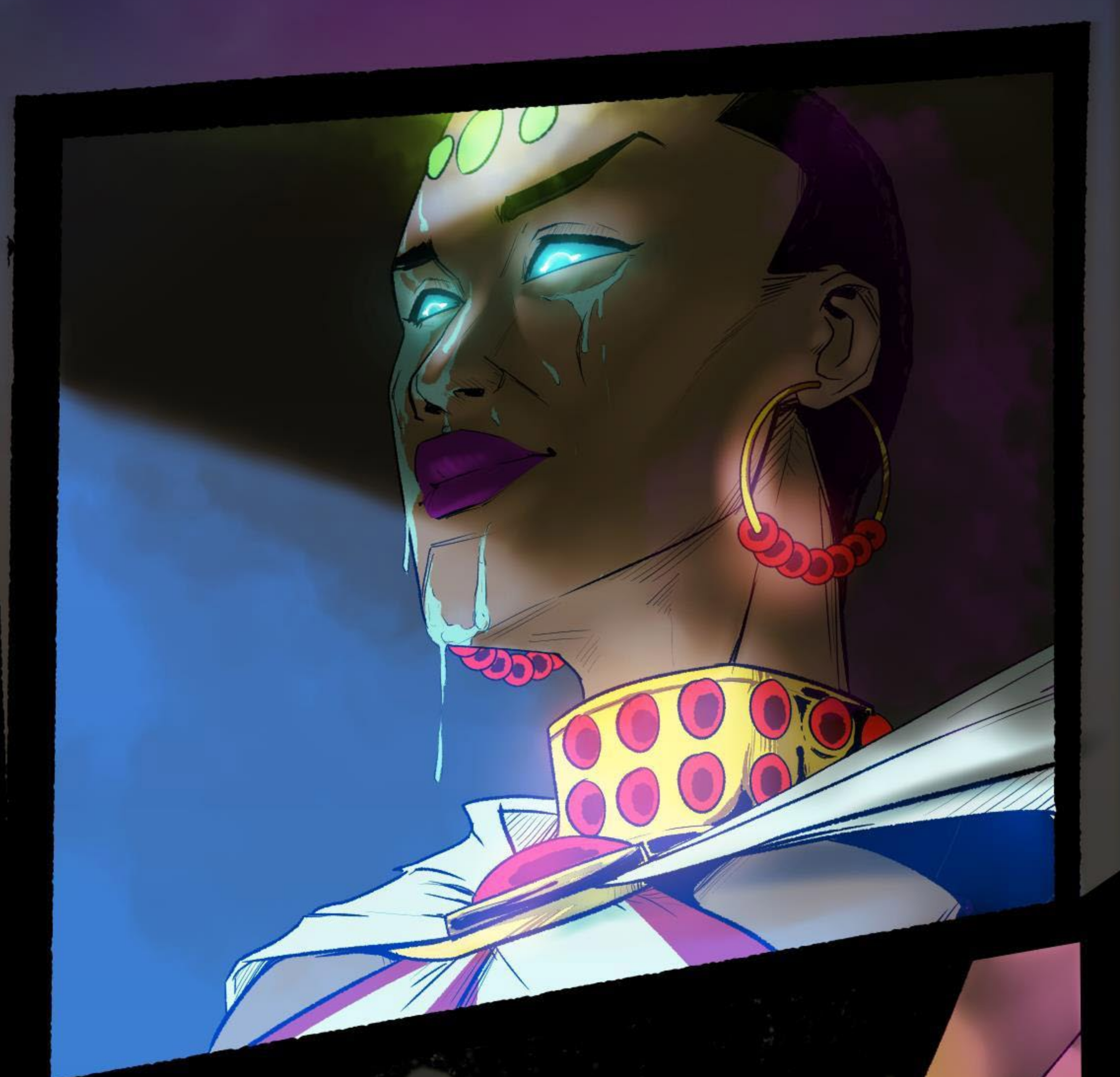
...

I SEE YOU
WILL NEED SOME
CONVINCING.

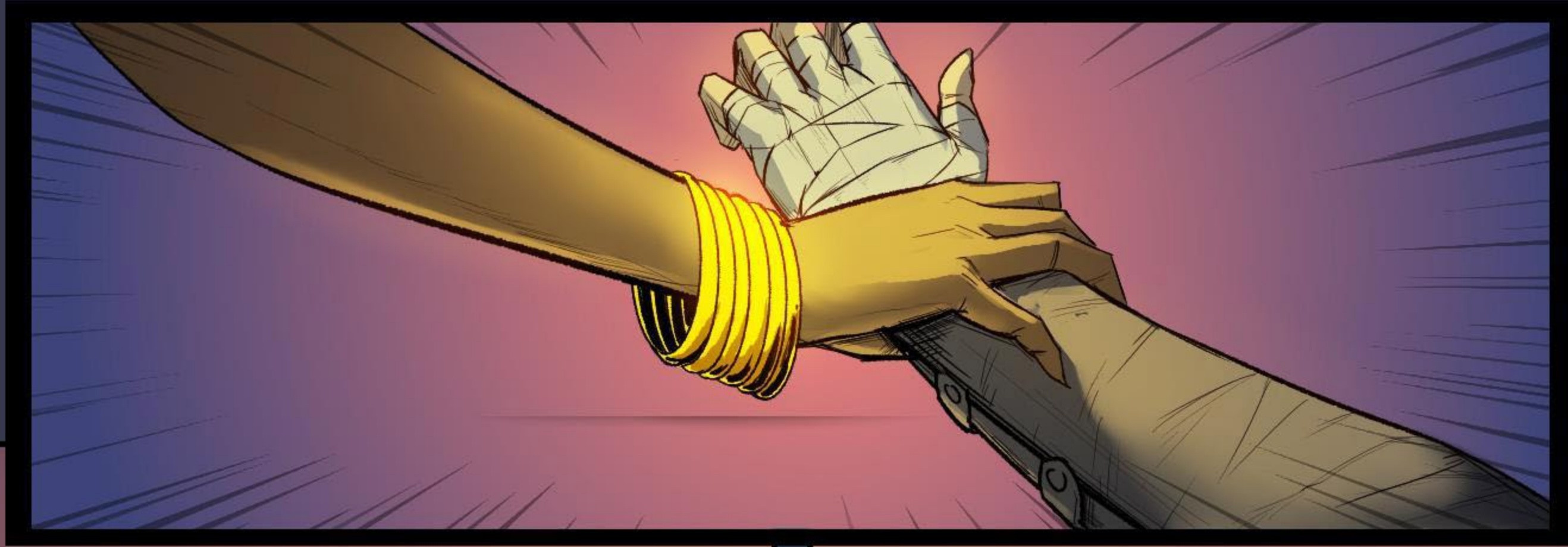




YOU SHOULD ASK
YOURSELF A QUESTION. DO YOU TRULY
BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF YOUR LORD
AND SAVIOUR TO CAST OUT
EVIL?



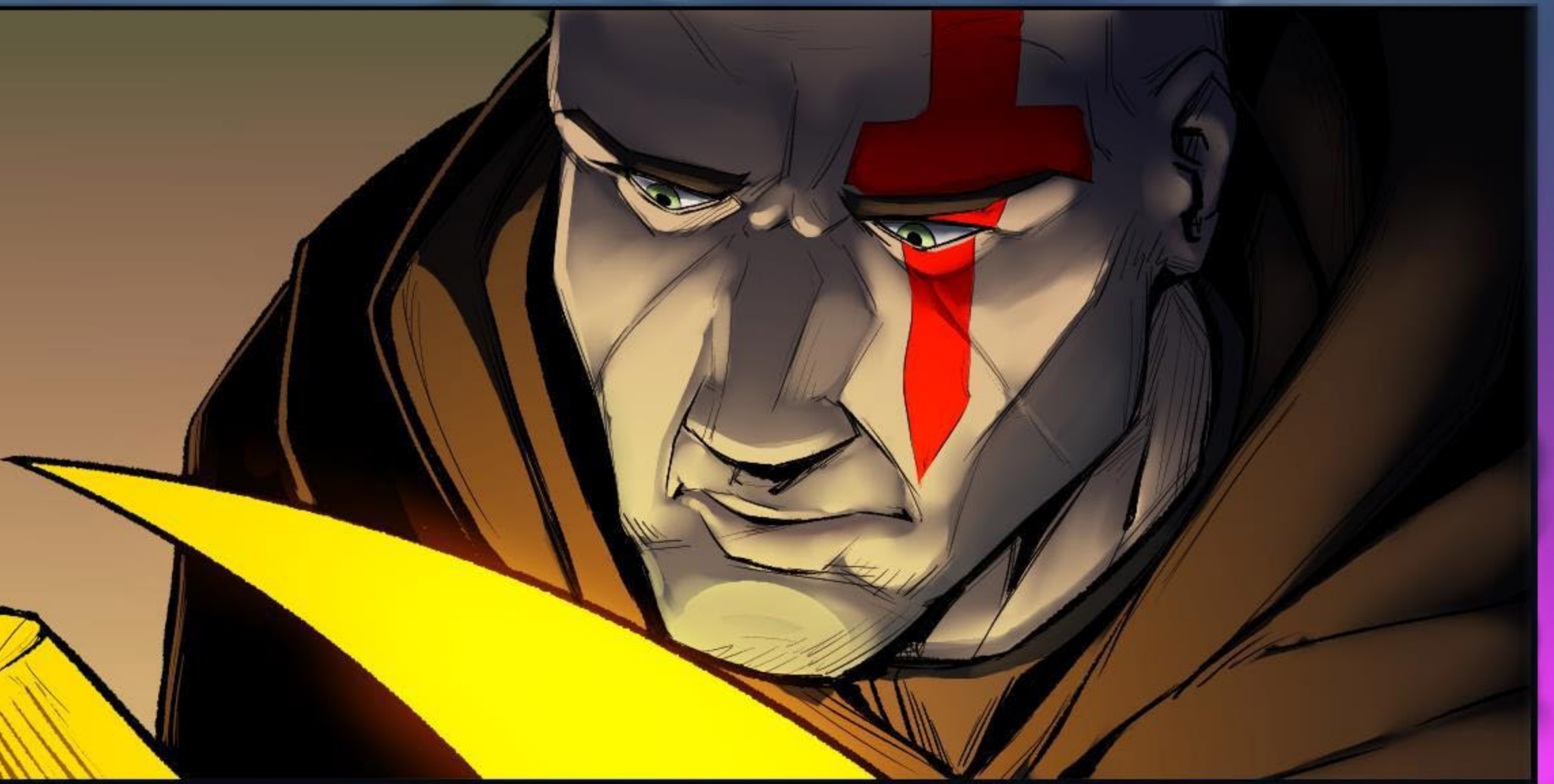
IF YOU TRULY
DO, THEN THE WATER YOU JUST
SPLASHED ON ME...



...SHOULD HAVE BURNED ME TO DEATH, AS IT WOULD ANYTHING TRULY EVIL.

MO TI SO BE - EEGIN TI GBE SOKE.

>I SO SAY - THE CURSE IS LIFTED.

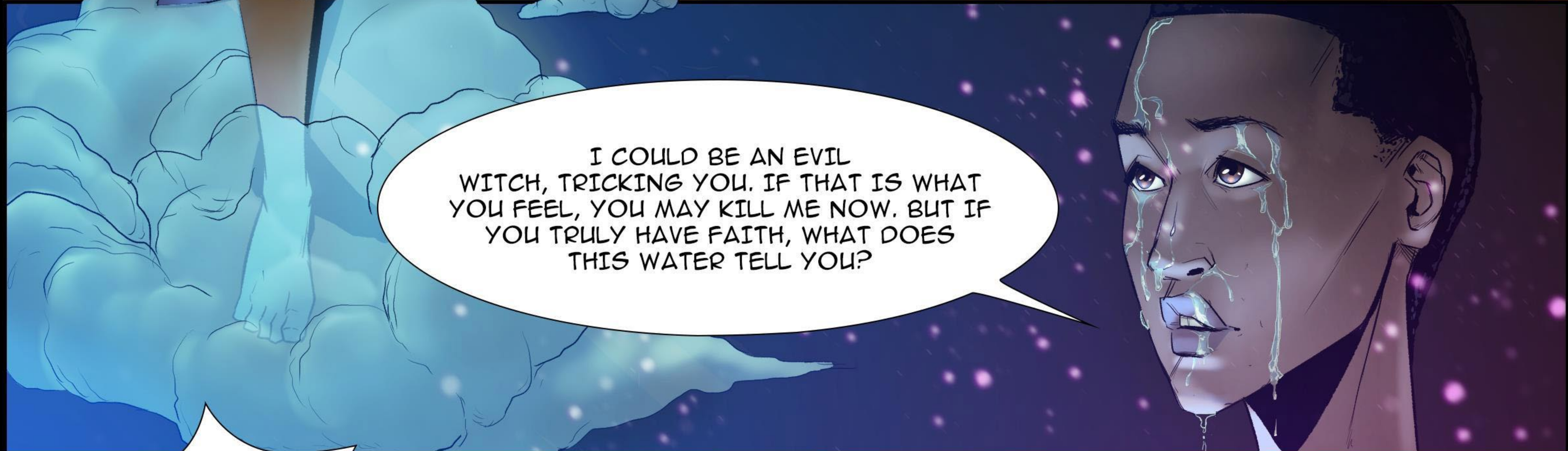




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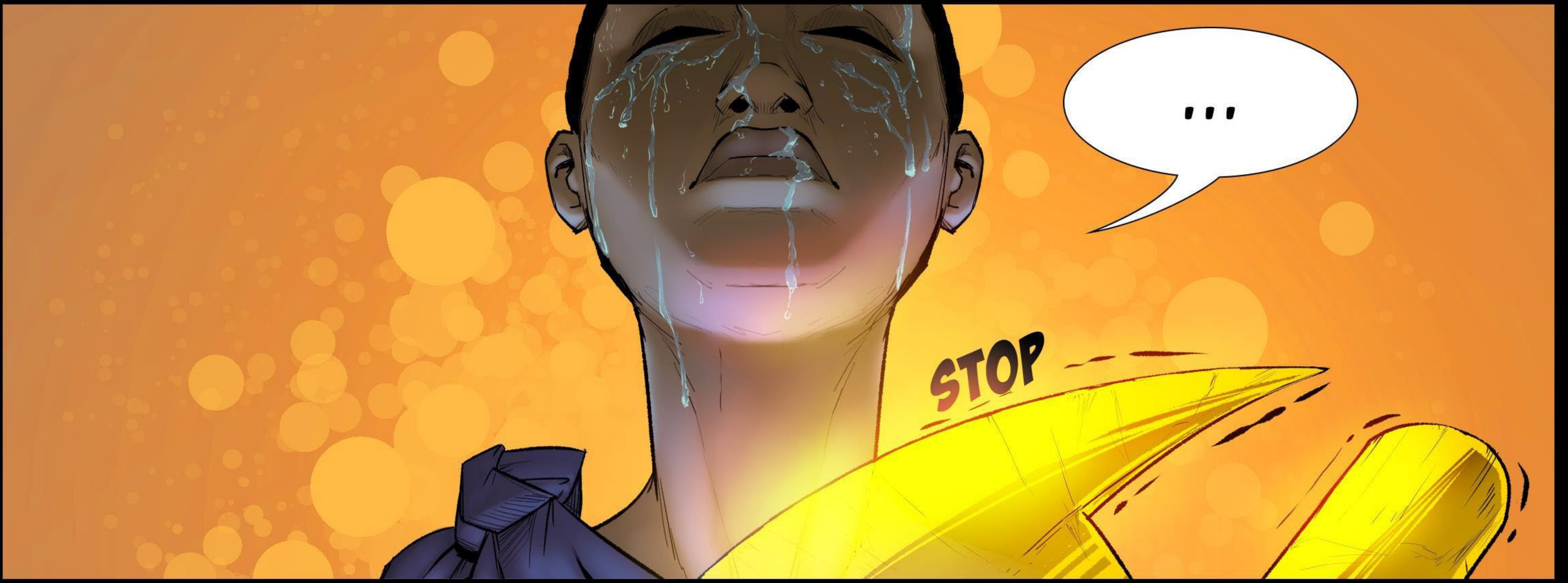
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



I COULD BE AN EVIL WITCH, TRICKING YOU. IF THAT IS WHAT YOU FEEL, YOU MAY KILL ME NOW. BUT IF YOU TRULY HAVE FAITH, WHAT DOES THIS WATER TELL YOU?



HNNGH!!



...

STOP



HAS SHE
BEWICHERD ME...?

NO...I CAN DO
ANYTHING I WANT.
I AM NOT UNDER
A SPELL.

BECAUSE
WHAT SHE SAYS
IS TRUE.

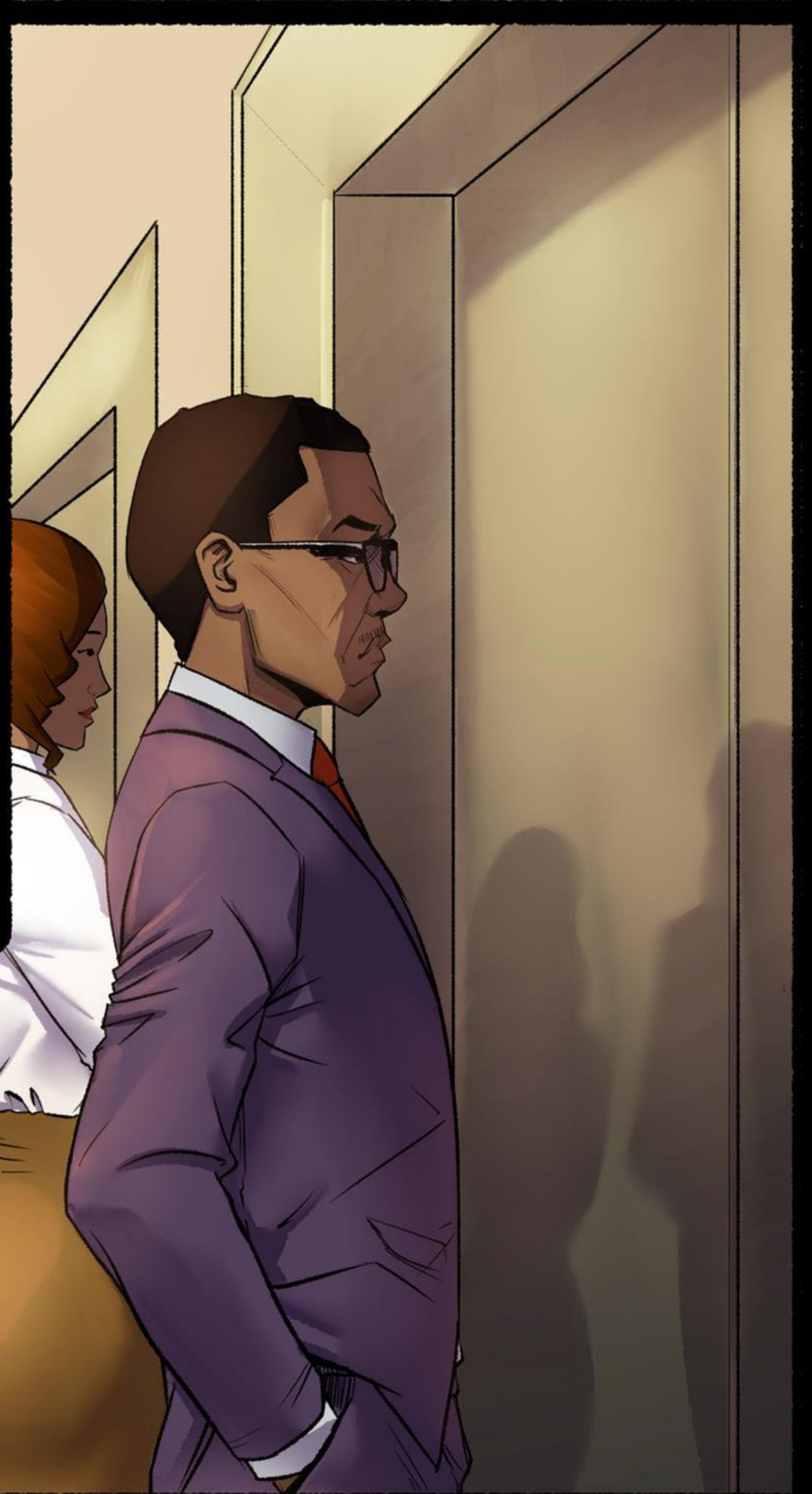
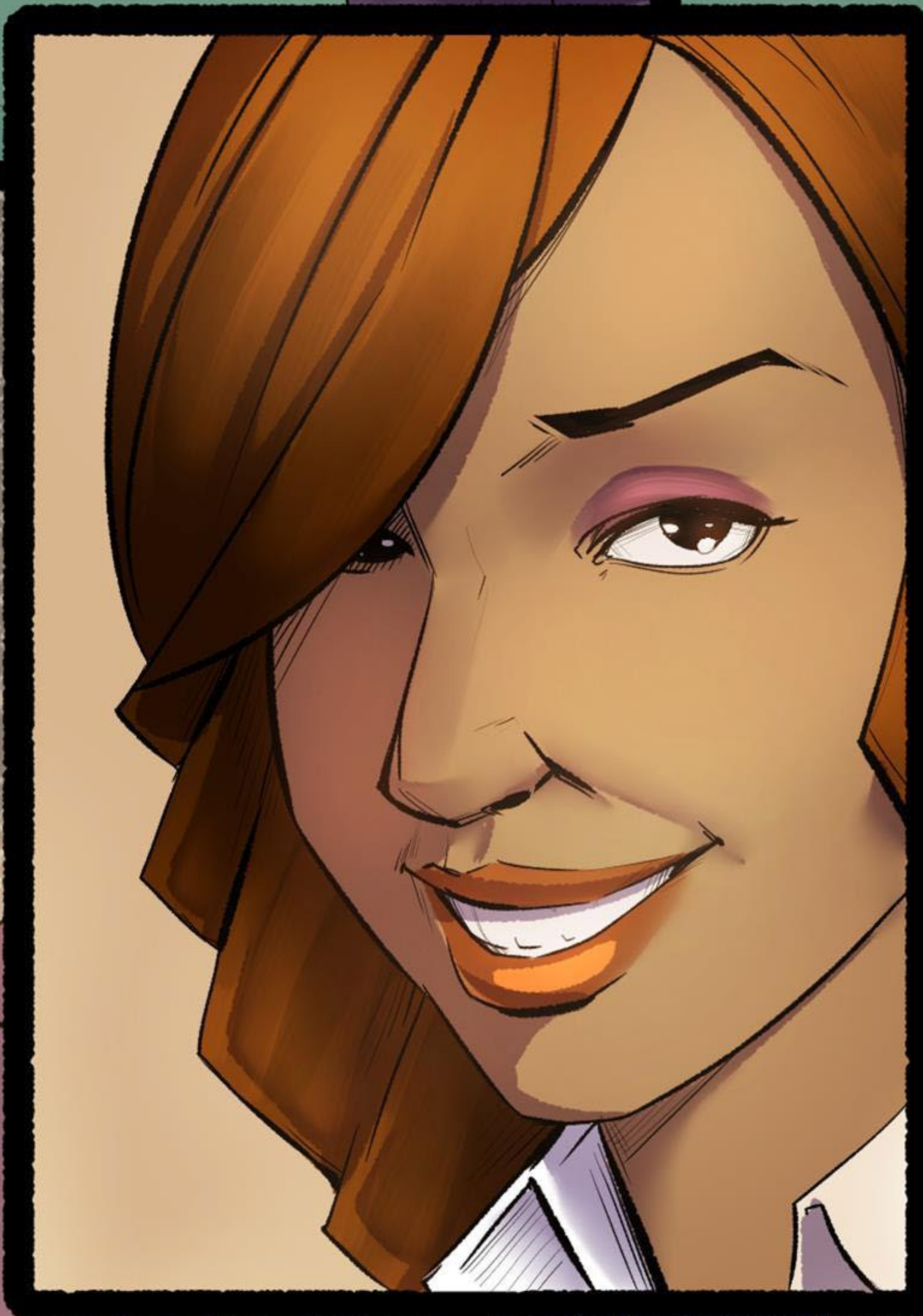
GOD DELIVER
ME FROM
DECEPTION...

...DELIVER ME
TOWARDS
TRUTH...



**MODERN DAY
ORIENTAL HOTEL...**

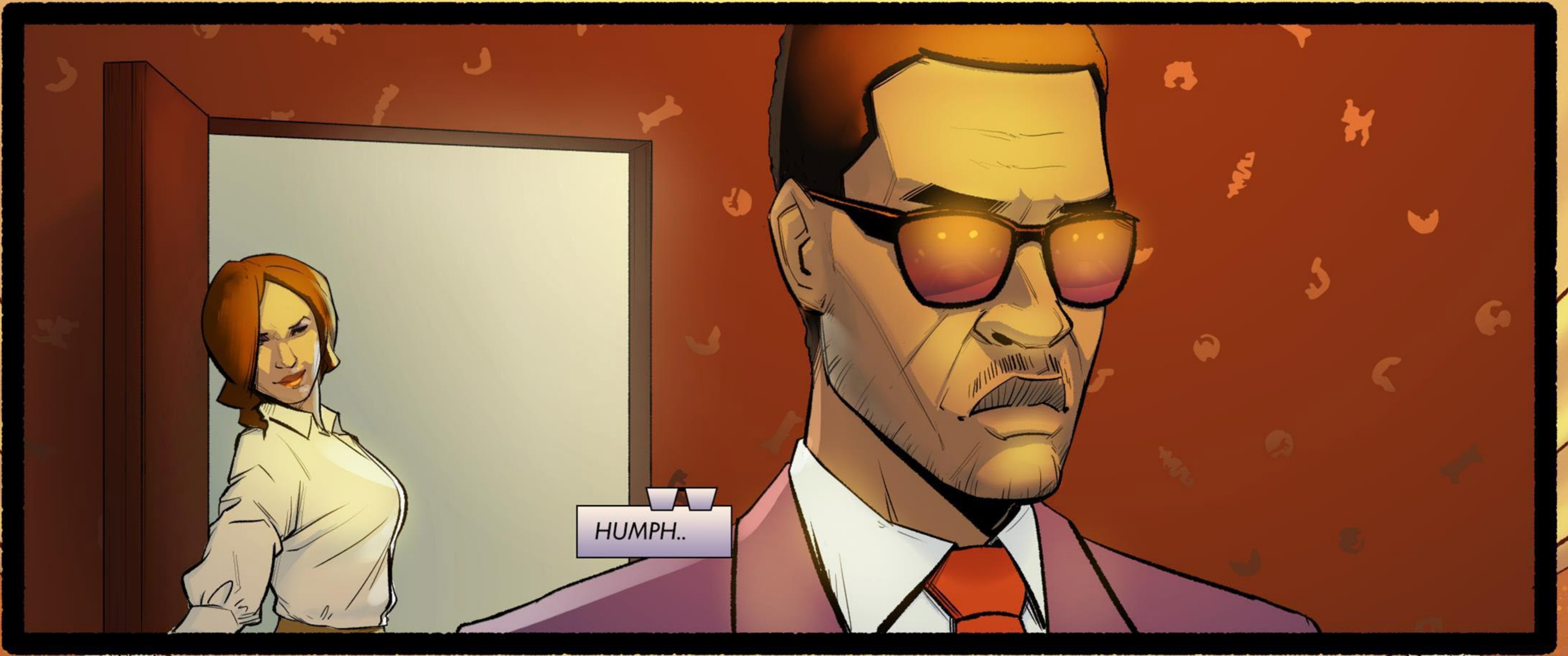






← 220 ~ 224
225 ~ 229 →





...THE USUAL SUSPECTS, AS EXPECTED.



FEMI FALONI.
HE FINALLY GRACES US
WITH HIS PRESENCE.



FAMUYIWA.



FABANJO.



FAJUYITAN.



FADAIRO.



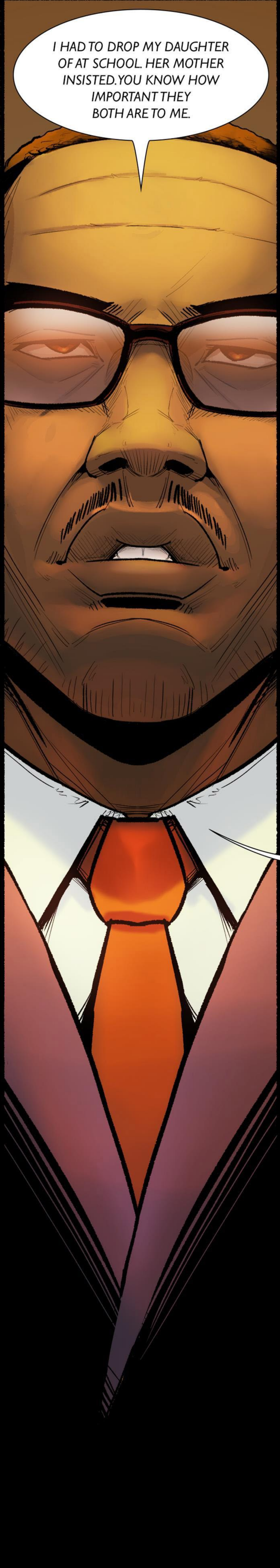
FASUGBA.



FAJANA.



FASHINA, LATE AS USUAL.



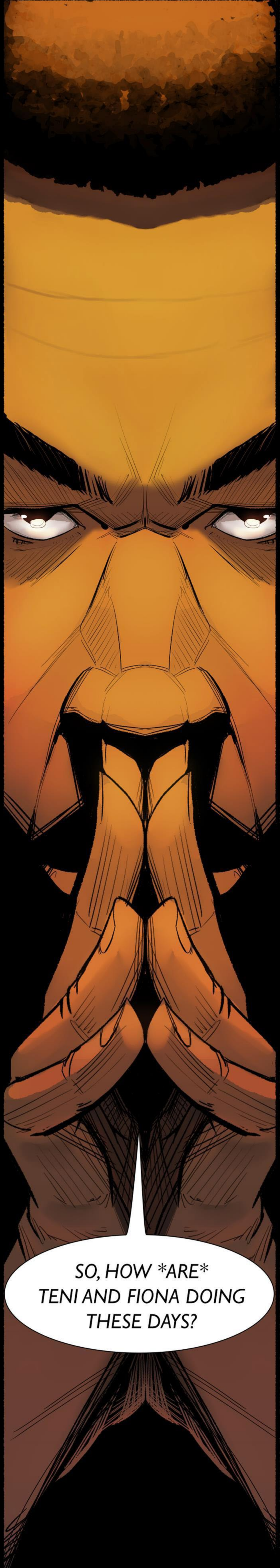
I HAD TO DROP MY DAUGHTER
OF AT SCHOOL. HER MOTHER
INSISTED. YOU KNOW HOW
IMPORTANT THEY
BOTH ARE TO ME.



YES, FEMI.



KABIYESI!



SO, HOW *ARE*
TENI AND FIONA DOING
THESE DAYS?



JUST FINE.

SPIRIT WALKER

THE HUNT HAS BEGUN.

“WHEN SEARCHING FOR THAT WHICH HIDES BEHIND INNOCENCE, FRAILTY, AND BEAUTY...WHICH OF OUR SENSES CAN WE TRULY TRUST?”

THEMES OF FAITH AND FOOLISHNESS SWIRL AROUND THE TALE OF AJE- IN THE PAST AND IN THE PRESENT. IT IS SAID THAT THE TRUE ENEMY OF THE ANCIENT AJE WAS FRAUD. DECEIT. UNTRUTHFULNESS.

OUR HEROINE WON'T BACK DOWN. BUT AT WHAT POINT DO THE FAITHFUL BECOME THE GULLIBLE?

THERE IS A GREAT DARKNESS COMING. AND IT WON'T BE DEFEATED IN ONE TIME, NOR ONE PLACE. TENI FALONI'S JOURNEY HAS BARELY BEGUN, AND SHE WILL FACE THE ABYSS IN HER OWN TIME, IN THE PAST, AND IN THE FUTURE.

BUT UNTIL THEN- THERE REMAIN MANY QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED.

COME ALONG WITH ME, AS WE SHINE A LIGHT- CUTTING THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT- AND LET'S ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE TOGETHER.

-WALE AWELENJE.

**“WHICH OF OUR
SENSES CAN WE
TRULY TRUST”**



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АМАДОНА



1



NEW TITLE

EZEOGU . ISAAC . BALOGUN

MAX!



AMADINDHA

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AMADIOHA

CREATED BY
TOBE MAX EZEUGU
WITH
KELECHI ISAAC NWAOGWUGWU

WRITER
TOBE EZEUGU
ARTIST
KELECHI ISAAC NWAOGWUGWU

COLORIST
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AMADIOHA

WORSHIPPED AS A GOD, REVERED AS A KING. SINCE TIME BEGAN, KAMALU
RULED OVER ELUIGWE, AND THE ALUSI AS AMADIOHA...

TILL HE LEFT.

NOW LIVING ON EARTH AS KALU AKANU, HE ATTEMPTS TO LIVE AMONGST
US WITH HIS DAUGHTER AND FAMILIAR.

THE PAST HAS COME KNOCKING, AND WITH IT, A STORM.
ONE HE IS ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH.



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I WILL TELL YOU OF A BEAUTIFUL PLACE I KNOW, A LAND BEYOND YOUR PERCEPTION, IN WAYS YOU ARE YET TO LEARN...



...I WILL TELL YOU OF THE LAND WHERE YOUR LAWS MEAN NOTHING, CHAOS WITHIN ORDER...

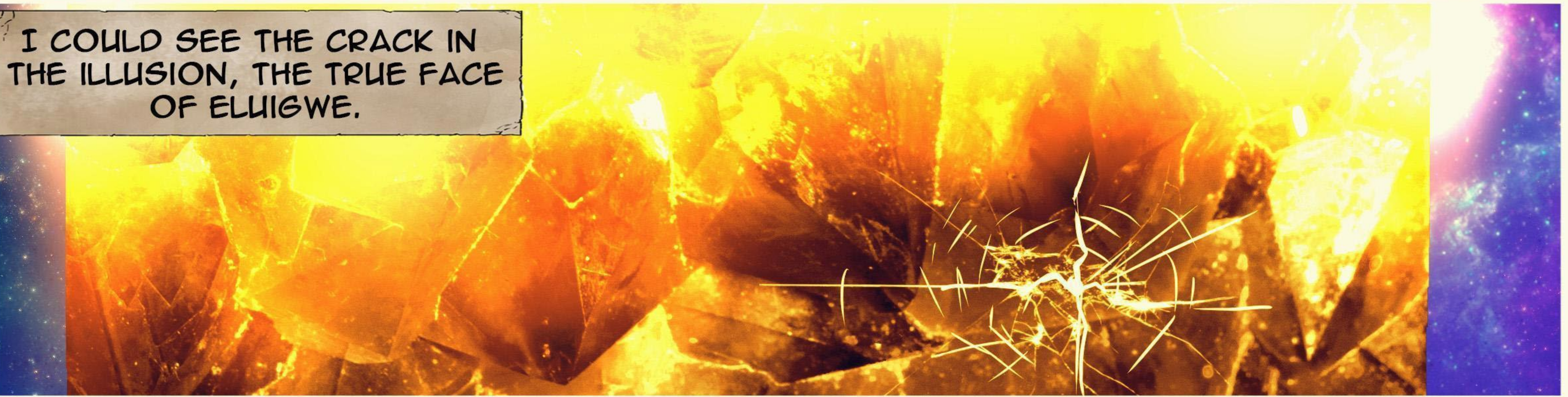
...THEN I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I SAW IN THIS WORLD, THIS BEAUTIFUL GIFT, CHUKWU HAD LEFT ME.



I WILL TELL YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MILLENNIA WHEN I COULD FINALLY SEE THE TRUTH.



I COULD SEE THE CRACK IN THE ILLUSION, THE TRUE FACE OF ELLIGWE.



A STORM WAS COMING... NO, ALREADY HERE.

-TAKEN FROM THE NSIBIDI ARCHIVES OF THE IKENGA OF TIME.



HE WHO HAS FORGOTTEN HIS NAME, IS A STRANGER
IN THE FOREST.

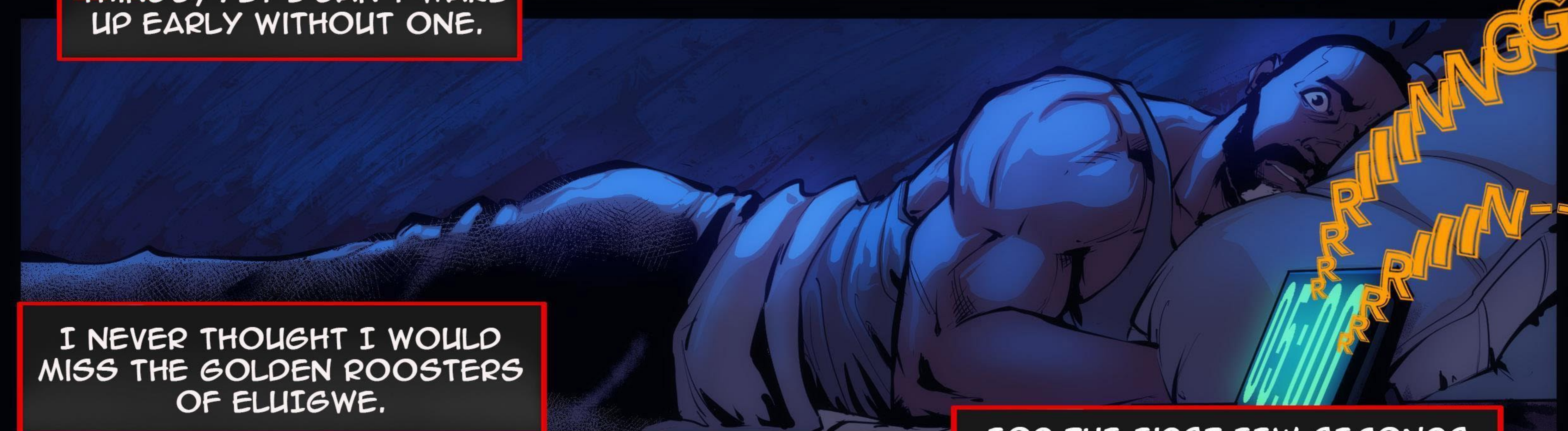
PORT HARCOURT CITY, NIGERIA.



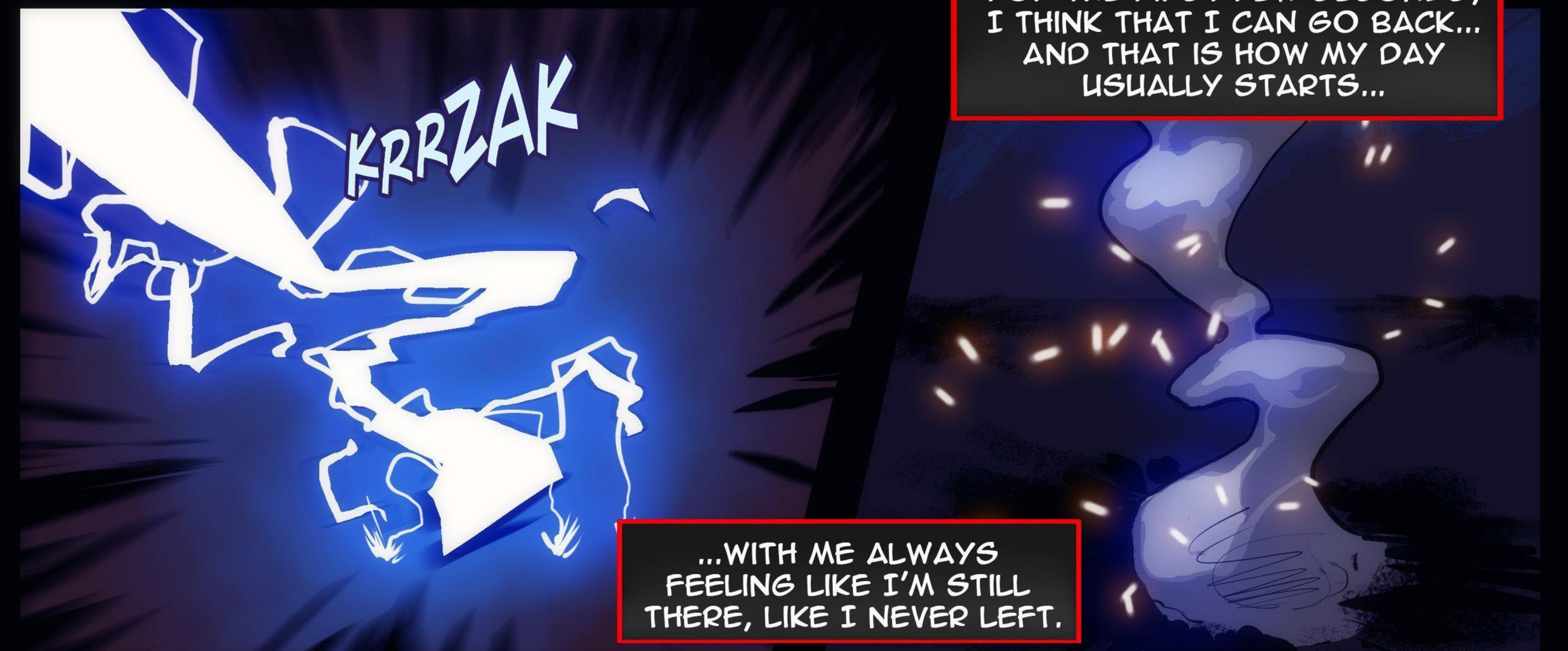
WHAT NOW? BLASTED
THINGS, YET I CAN'T WAKE
UP EARLY WITHOUT ONE.



I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD
MISS THE GOLDEN ROOSTERS
OF ELLIGWE.



FOR THE FIRST FEW SECONDS,
I THINK THAT I CAN GO BACK...
AND THAT IS HOW MY DAY
USUALLY STARTS...



...WITH ME ALWAYS
FEELING LIKE I'M STILL
THERE, LIKE I NEVER LEFT.



DADDY, WE WILL BE LATE AGAIN! I DON'T WANT MISS TOMI TO COMPLAIN.



WHAT DID I TELL YOU *NUAM, WHAT DO I ALWAYS TELL YOU?

*MY CHILD




THE AKANUS' ARE NEVER LATE.

WHEN I CAME HERE I TRIED TO BE MANY THINGS.



TAAH! THAT WAS BEFORE MUMMY LEFT.



I TRIED TO BE A SYMBOL. I TRIED TO BE MANY THINGS... JUDGE, JUROR AND EXECUTIONER OF THOSE WITH ILL INTENT.

LET'S GET YOU READY FOR SCHOOL.



I TRIED TO BE A WANDERER BUT I ONLY FELT DESPAIR, THE CURSE A LONG LIFE BROUGHT ME.

LET'S GET YOU READY FOR WORK! YAYYYY!



TODAY'S THE RED TIE DAY!



CHILDREN TODAY.

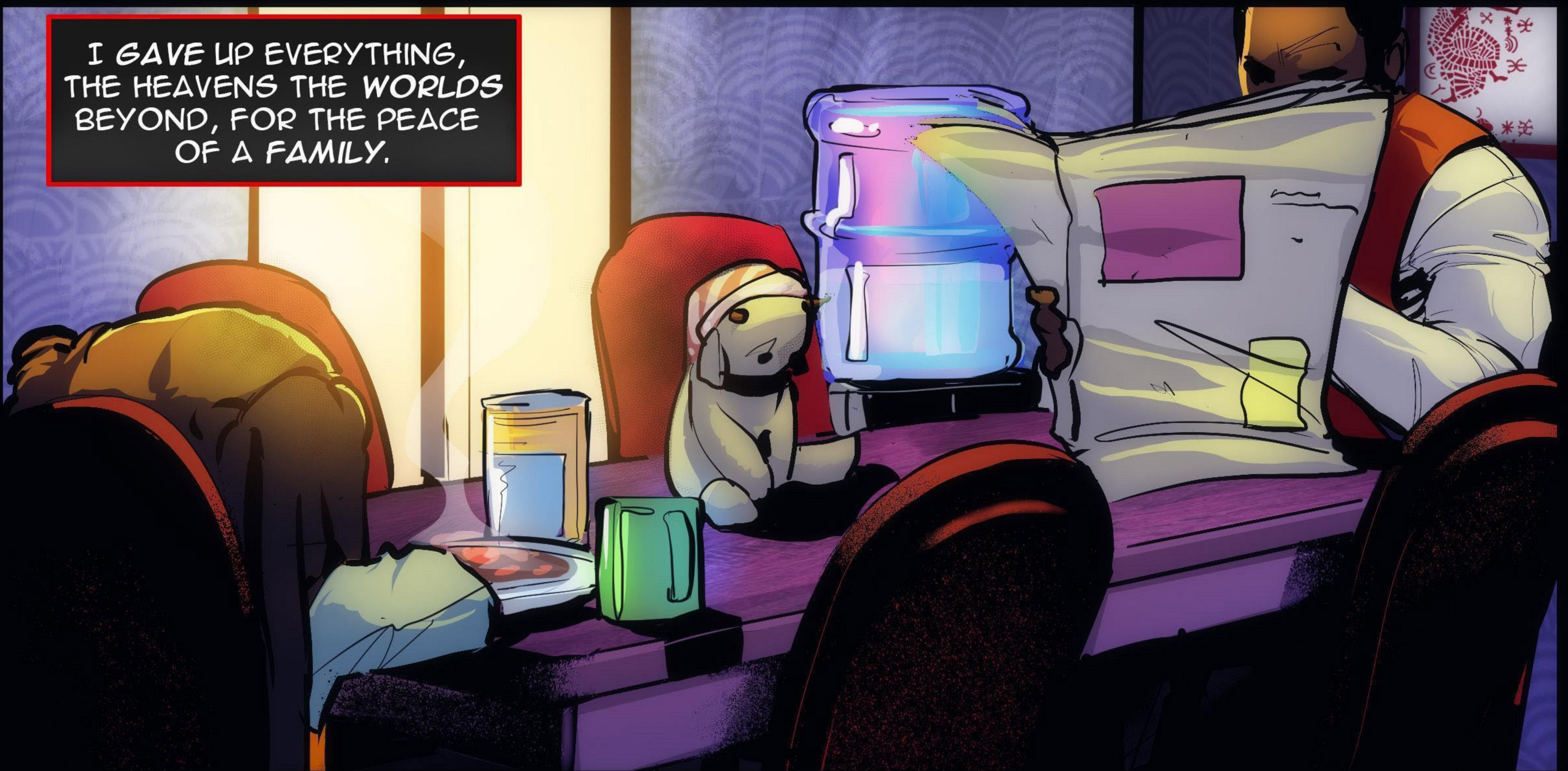
OF THE MANY THINGS I HAD TRIED, I HAD NEVER TRIED TO BE A FATHER. AT LEAST NOT TO A SMART MOUTHED LITTLE CHILD SUCH AS MINE.



AND WHEN I GOT THE CHANCE,
THROUGH DIVINE TWISTS OF
FATE I REALIZED THAT DESTINY
HAD NOT GIVEN UP ON ME
JUST YET.



I GAVE UP EVERYTHING,
THE HEAVENS THE WORLDS
BEYOND, FOR THE PEACE
OF A FAMILY.



ALBEIT A NOT SO NORMAL ONE.

SO YOU PEOPLE CANNOT CALL ME TO COME AND EAT, BA?

SO NA ONLY UNA DEY LIVE FOR DIS HOUSE BA? ISSOKAY, ISSORAI.

ÉGBÈ!
*I NWURU MMANYA OZO? WHY DO YOU NAG ME LIKE THIS EARLY IN THE DAY?

ARE YOU HIGH AGAIN?*

*NNA ANYI OKE IFUFE. I AM MERELY COMPLAINING...

IT'S MY FUNDAMENTAL FAMILIAR'S RIGHT.

I'M NOT NAGGING STORM FATHER*

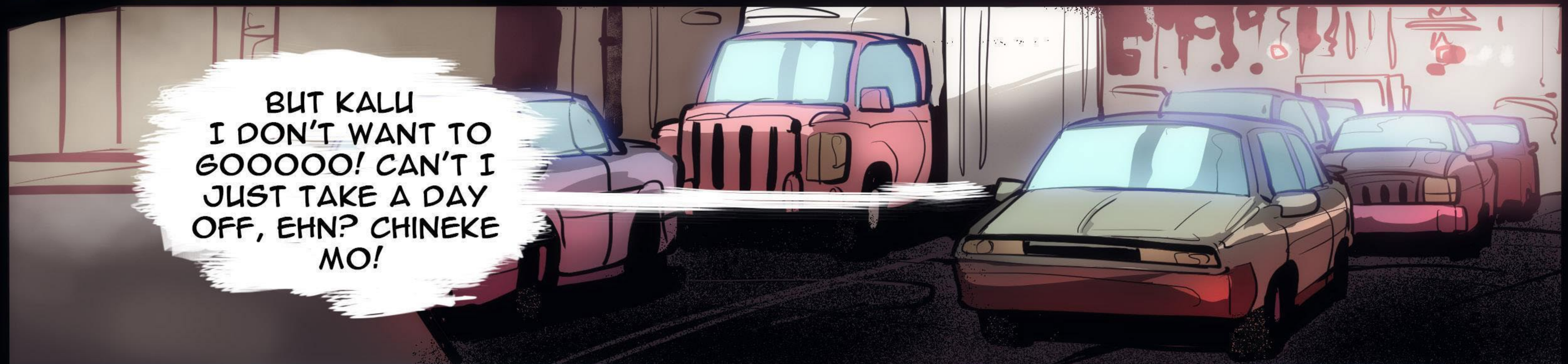
YOU'RE NOT EATING BREAKFAST BECAUSE YOU STOLE ALL THE MEAT LAST NIGHT!

CHAI! THAT ONE WAS NIGHT SNACK NA!! WE ATE MORE IN ELLIGWE.

I REALIZED AND ACCEPTED THIS WAS HOW THE REST OF MY DAYS WOULD PLAY OUT. I DIDN'T NEED TO BE THE GOD KING, I DIDN'T NEED TO BE THE PEOPLES HERO OR GENTLEMAN.



BUT KALLI I DON'T WANT TO GOOOOOO! CAN'T I JUST TAKE A DAY OFF, EHN? CHINEKE MO!



IMAGINE A WHOLE FAMILIAR OF KALLI, STORM FATHER OF ELLIGWE, FORCED TO TAKE THE FORM OF A CHILD'S TOY! MY MATES WILL LAUGH AT ME O! CHEI MY ENEMIES O!

I NEEDED TO BE THE HERO TO ONE PERSON AND ONE PERSON ALONE...



IT'S FROM YOUR VILLAGE.

MY VILLAGE PEOPLE HAVE USED ME TO DO SCREEN SAVER O!



I DON'T NEED TO WATCH OVER HUMANS.

I DON'T NEED TO SAVE THE WORLD AGAIN AND AGAIN. I'VE GROWN TIRED OF IT.

EGBE, MAKE SURE MY DAUGHTER IS NOT LEFT ALONE AT ANY TIME OR *MU'NA GI GA-EYIRI OTU AKWA AHU.

*YOU AND I WILL WEAR THE SAME CLOTH.

DON'T WORRY, DADDY. EGGY AND I WILL BE ALRIGHT. TODAY IS DRESS UP DAY.

KALU, M N'AYO GI* I DON'T WANT TO BE A PRETTY GIRL TODAY. WAHHHH!

I BEG YOU *

DADDY, LOOK!

I AM NO STRANGER
TO THE WHEEL OF FATE.

FIRE!!

WHAT
IS THIS?

KALLU,
ISN'T THAT YOUR
PLACE OF WASTED
LABOR?

I KNOW THAT SHE TURNS,
WEAVING AND WINDING
OUR LIVES FROM THE
CHOICES WE MAKE.

THOSE CHOICES LEAD
US TO A DEFINITE
CONCLUSION.

THAT IS THE
OFFICE, WHAT HAVE
THESE HUMANS
DONE AGAIN?

DADDY,
THE FIRE IS
TALKING!

HERE OUR CHOICES DEFINE US, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAN AND GODS.

THIS PRESENCE FEELS FAMILIAR.

DADDY, THE FIRE IS SHOUTING!

IT HURTS! DADDY IT HURTS, MAKE IT STOP NAU!

OFUFE POWER PLANT, PORT HARCOURT.

KALU...I SENSE SOMETHING ABNORMAL WITHIN THOSE FLAMES.

AS I STAND? WHAT SPIRIT WOULD DARE?

THIS ISN'T AN ORDINARY *AJO-MMLU...ITS MALICE IS QUITE STRONG.

*EVIL SPIRIT.

I'M NO STRANGER TO THIS. GIVEN ANOTHER TIME, MY ANSWERS WOULD BE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED BY NOW.

BUT HERE, I FIND DOCILITY AND INDECISION. A POISON THAT COMES FROM AN AGED MIND.

IT IS MOMENTS LIKE THESE I SEE MYSELF FOR WHO I TRULY AM.

I CARE NOT OF THIS PLACE NOR THE SPIRITS WITHIN...

...BUT YOU HAVE DISRESPECTED MY GROUNDS AND YOU HAVE MADE MY PRECIOUS CHILD SHED A TEAR.

THERE HE GOES FROM THE FACE OF A MORTAL TO THAT OF A GOD.

LET THE RAIN GREET ME. LIGHTNING IS MY PATH, THUNDER IS MY VOICE, I AM THE FATHER OF STORMS.

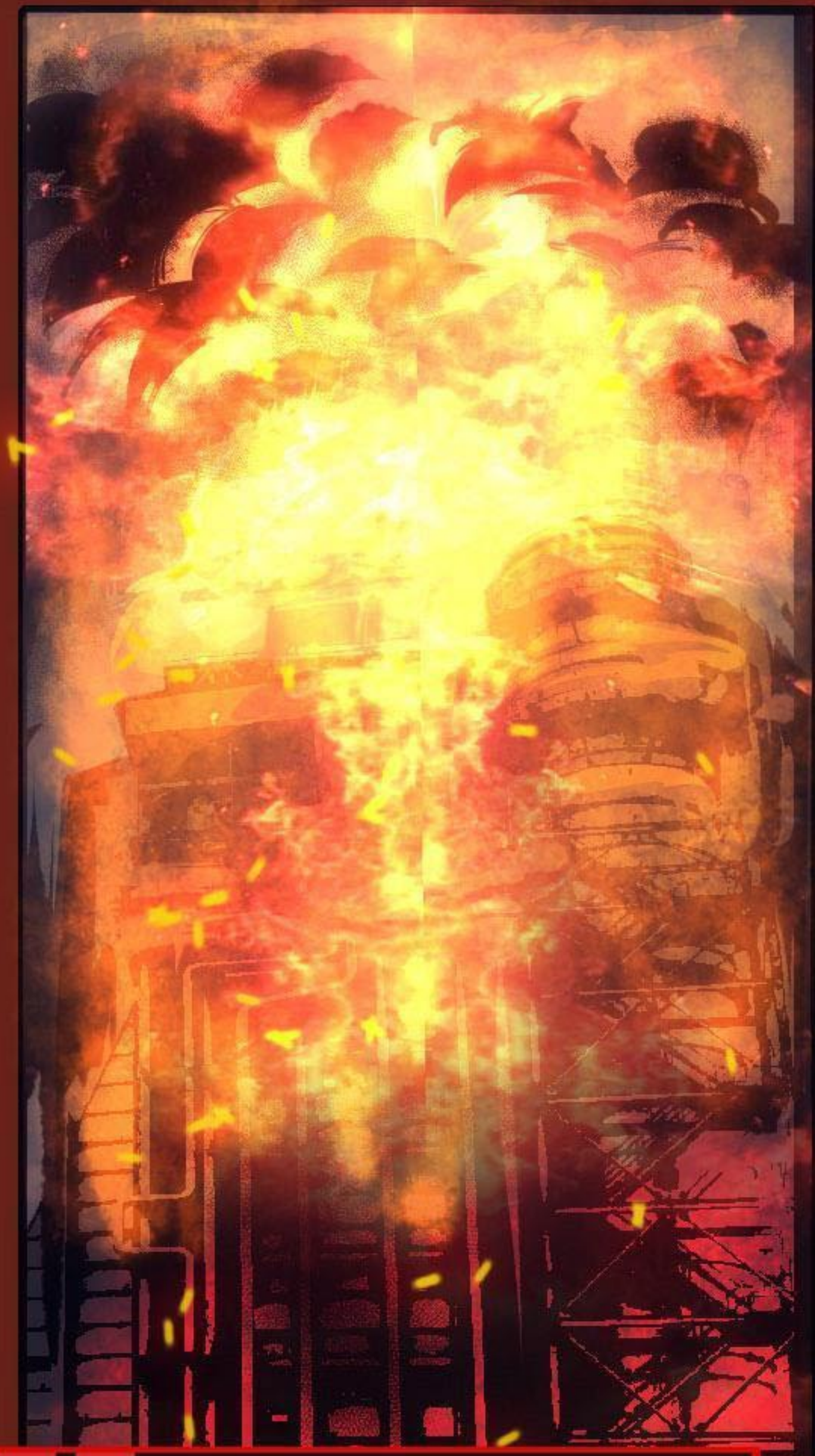
TO EARTH, A FORCE OF NATURE AND WORSHIPPED AS A GOD BY MEN.

TO MY PEOPLE A KING, TO MY DAUGHTER A FATHER.

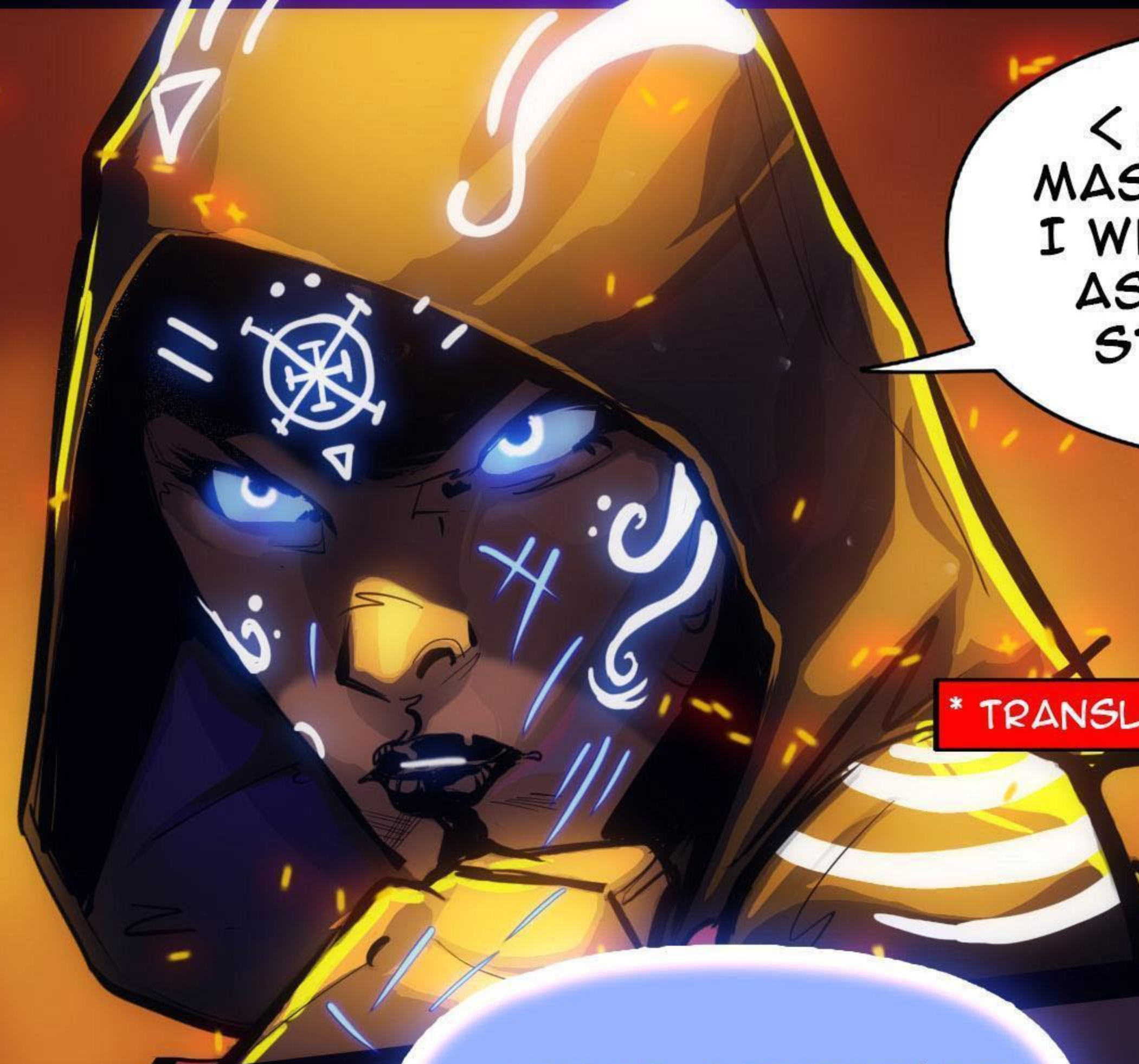
FIRST UNVEIL!

TO REALITY, ONE OF THE FIRST BORN, THE PROTECTORS.

ZAAARRAAK



LIKE THE SUNRISE I AM CONSTANT.



< GO BACK TO YOUR MASTER, ABOMINATION! I WILL NOT FALL TODAY. AS LONG AS ELLIGWE STILL SHINES, I WILL NOT FALL.>

* TRANSLATED FROM IGBO DIALECT.



FOOLISH LITTLE THING...

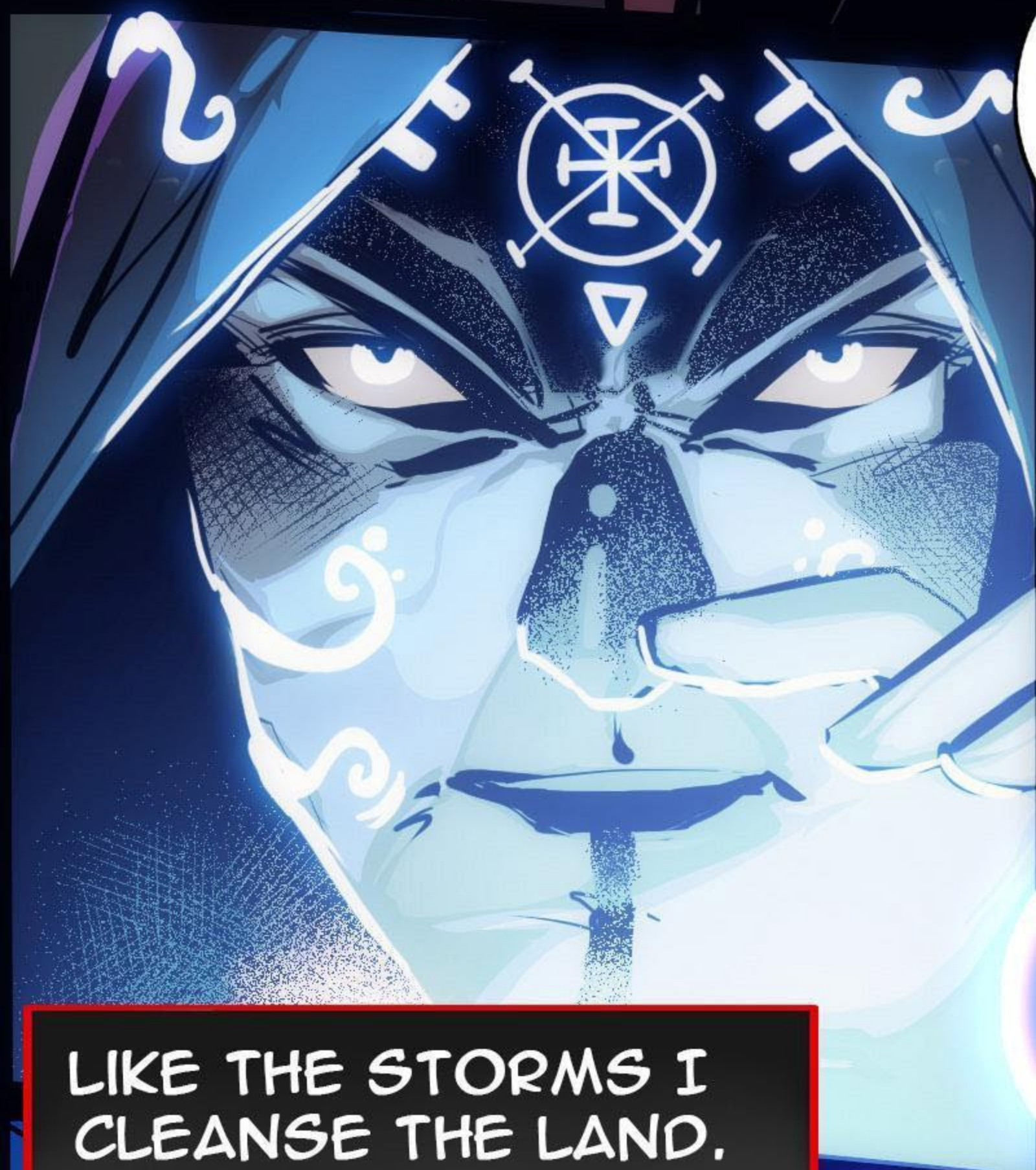


...I HAVE CONSUMED MANY GREATER ALUSI MUCH GREATER THAN YOU...

...YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A SNACK!



<THE ONLY THING YOU WILL TASTE IS MY WRATH>



LIKE THE STORMS I CLEANSE THE LAND.

YOU THINK HE WILL SAVE YOU? I WILL DEVOUR YOU BEFORE HE ARRIVES!

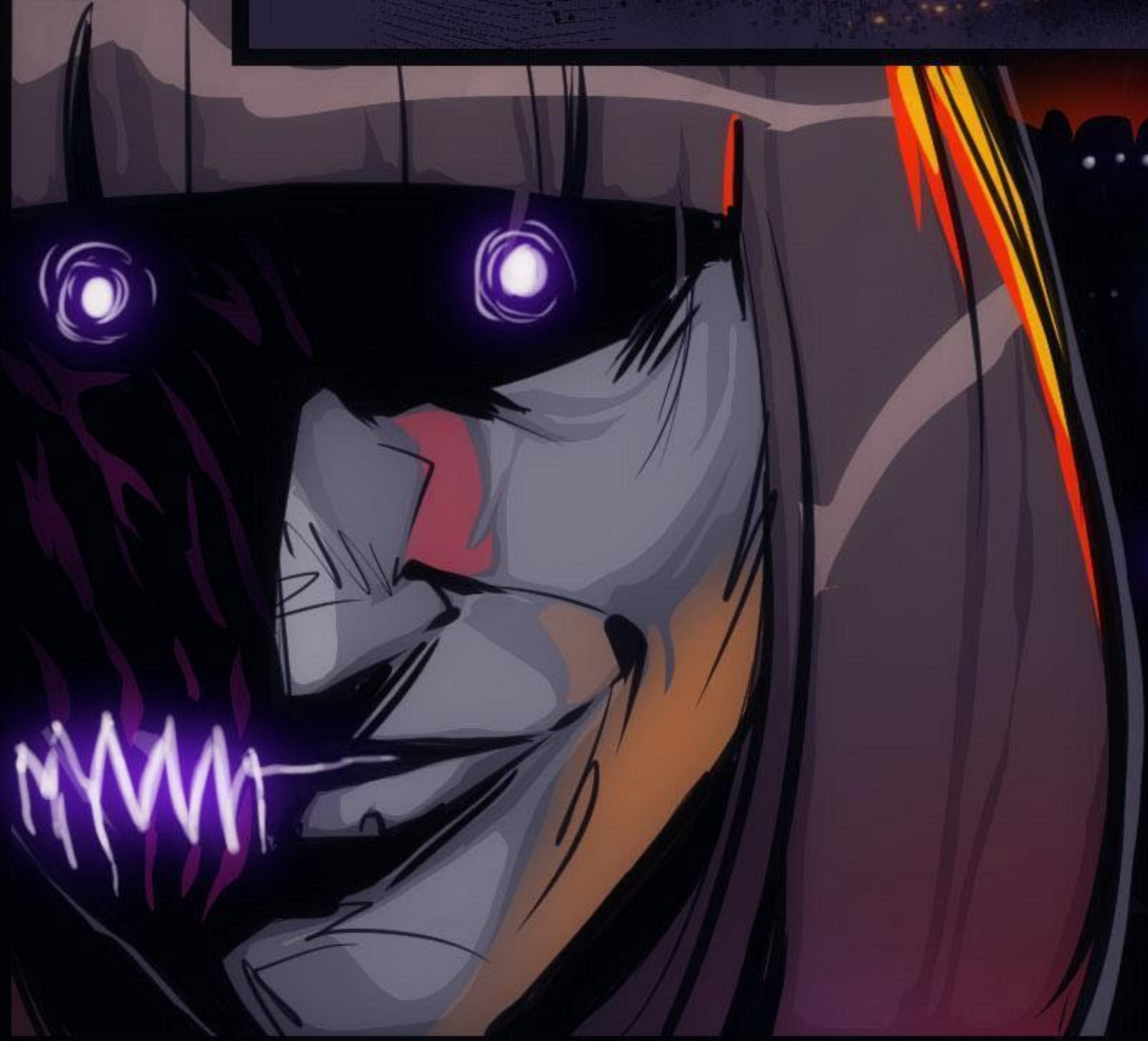
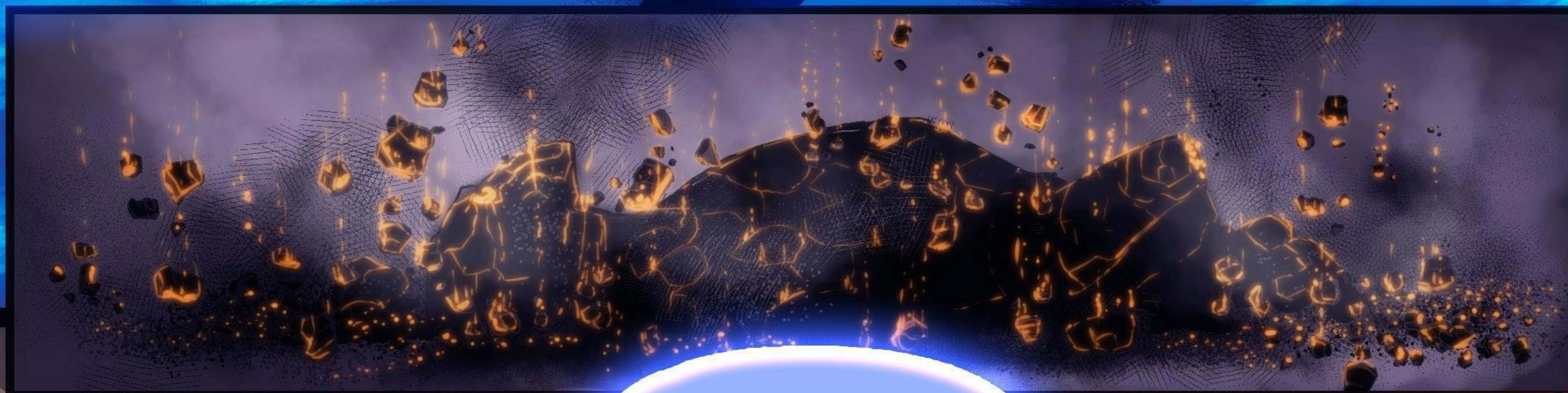


THEN I CAN FINALLY ASCEND AND GO TO ELLIGWE!



<FIRE OF MALICE!>

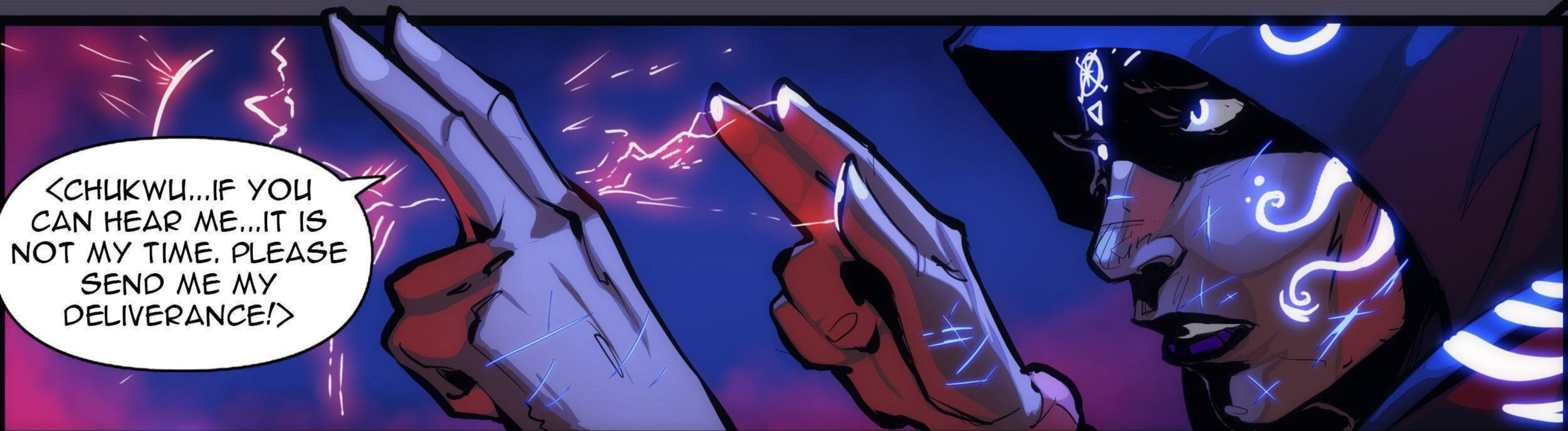
FOOOSSHH



YOU'RE SO OUT OF TOUCH, ALUSI. YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT THESE VESSELS DYING?

DESTROY THEM IF YOU WANT.

LIKE FATE, I DECIDE.



<CHUKWU...IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...IT IS NOT MY TIME. PLEASE SEND ME MY DELIVERANCE!>



THERE...

WILL...

BE...

NONE.

LIKE DESTINY...

ZAAARRRAAK

I ARRIVE.



KAMALLU!
OFUFE.

YOU? YOU
SHOULD NOT BE
DOWN HERE, HAVE
YOU LOST YOUR
MIND?!

< YOU HAVE
ANSWERED
MY CALL >



PLEASE,
MY LORD. I
CAN EXPLAIN,
BUT...



IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE WILL DEVOUR HER...

WE NO LONGER FEAR THE ALLSI. WE SERVE THE NOTHINGNESS!



FILTH! YOU DARE NOT ONLY TO TRESPASS UPON MY TERRITORY AND HARM MY PEOPLE, BUT ALSO TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE!



YOU FOOL...

...YOU WILL NOT HARM US IN THESE BO--

I ASKED A QUESTION.





THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND FINALLY YOU SHOW YOURSELF, OLD ONE...

YOUR REIGN IS OVER, YOUR KINGDOM FALLS AND NIGHT COMES, ALUSI.



AJO
MMUO?



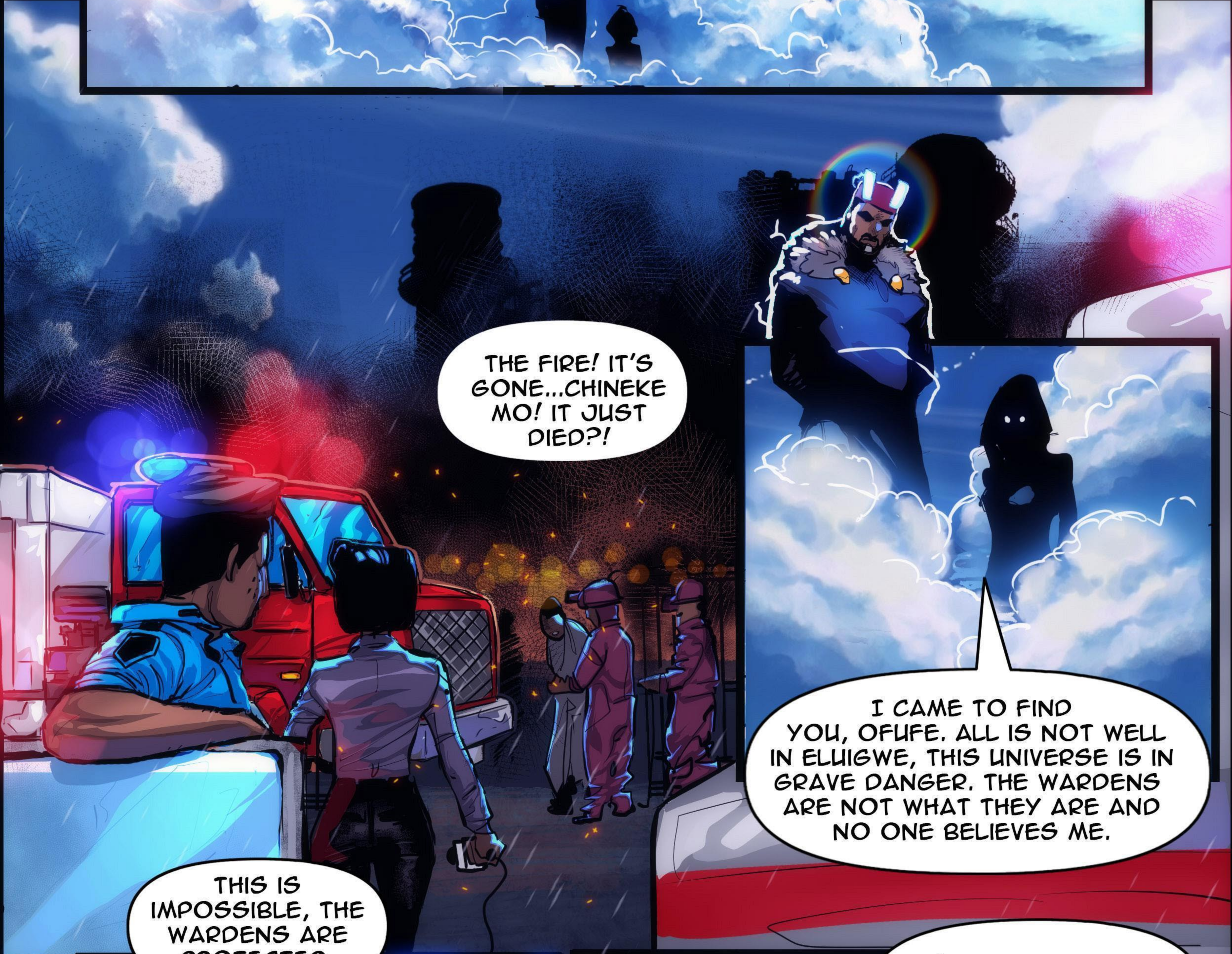
WHEN DID YOU AND I BECOME MATES?

SNAP

YAHHHH
GK!



LATER ON...



THE FIRE! IT'S GONE...CHINEKE MO! IT JUST DIED?!

I CAME TO FIND YOU, OFUFE. ALL IS NOT WELL IN ELLIGWE, THIS UNIVERSE IS IN GRAVE DANGER. THE WARDENS ARE NOT WHAT THEY ARE AND NO ONE BELIEVES ME.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, THE WARDENS ARE PROTECTED.



IF YOU WERE IN ELLIGWE YOU WOULD KNOW, THINGS HAVE CHANGED THE SEAL STONE IS CRACKED.



OUR REALITY, ALL OUR WORLDS BEYOND WILL FADE TO NOTHING.

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE FORECAST

IF YOU'RE READING THIS, YOU'RE EARLY. YOU'VE COME TO THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY AT ALMOST FIVE YEARS IN THE MAKING, AN IDEA LONG SINCE PROCRASTINATED ON FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF ERU #2-3. I HAD BEEN DROPPING HINTS AND EASTER EGGS HERE AND THERE, ("THE THUNDERGOD IN THE EAST (*ERU3 PANEL2). THE SILHOUETTE FIGURE IN THE STORM CLOUDS(*ERU2# PAGE 8 PANEL1).. THERE WERE MANY CONCEPTS I HAD DECIDED TO RUN WITH WHICH I ULTIMATELY THREW IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS. THIS WAS A CHARACTER I FELT PEOPLE WOULD RELATE WITH, A FATHER, A RULER WITH A PAST THAT DOESN'T LET HIM SLEEP AT NIGHT, SOMEONE WHO KNEW POWER WASN'T EVERYTHING. AND THUS, KALU AKANU WAS BORN AFTER MUCH RESEACH AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS. I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE TEAM I HAVE AND TO TOBA SENPAI (AKINTO-BA KALEJAYE) FOR POINTING ME IN THIS DIRECTION. JIDE MARTIN FOR TAKING MY IDEA OFF THE DESK, KELECHI ISAAC FOR JOINING ME ON THIS LONG JOURNEY, WALE FOR NOT GIVING THE IDEA THE BOOT, CASS FOR CONVINCING ME THAT IT WASN'T A BAD IDEA, BALOX FOR THE COLORS DESPITE HIS BUSY SCHEDULE, OZ FOR LET-TERING- THANK YOU BRO. JEDI FOR HELPING ME WITH THE LINGUA, DUVY, TOCHI, EMMANUEL. I LOVE YOU ALL MI FAMILIA. SPECIALLY DEDICATED TO MR/MRS EZEUGU.

-TOBE MAX EZEUGU

WRITER/CREATOR

THIS COMIC DID TAKE SOME TIME. YEAH, SO I JOINED THE TEAM IN AROUND AUGUST, 2017. TOBE MAX JAEGER (I LATER DISCOVERED JAEGER WASN'T HIS NAME), CAME TO ME WITH THIS IDEA HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON FOR A LONG WHILE (HE HAD A BOOK FULL OF CONCEPTS) AND ASKED IF I WANTED TO BE A PART OF IT. AFTER SOME CONSIDERATION (THERE WAS NO CNSIDERATION, THE IDEA WAS AWESOME) I SAID YES...AND SO THE JOURNEY BEGAN. THROUGH MY EVOLUTION FROM PENCIL TO STYLUS, FROM AN INTERN TO A STAFF, AMADIOHA HAS BEEN LOOKING DOWN, WHISPERING ENCOURAGMENT IN MY EAR ("IF THIS COMIC DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, THUNDER WILL STRIKE YOU") AND FINALLY, AMADIOHA ISSUE ONE IS OUT. YAY AND YES, I DREW IT!

SPECIAL THANKS TO JIDE MARTIN WHO SHOWED ME THE WAY, IT WAS THE HARD WAY, TO TOBE FOR BEING MAX CREATIVITY, BALOX FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE, OZ FOR BEING GREAT, YUSUF FOR BEING YUYU, STANCH -JEDI MASTER, CASS, SAMUEL, JEFFERY -WARRI DEMON, TOCHI,TOBA,- FRANKLIN,WALE, BRIAN, EMMANUEL, RACHEL,JEDIDIAH, MY DAD AND MUM-MR AND MRS NWAOGWUGWU- FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE, THE WOMEN IN MY LIFE-MY BEAUTIFUL SISTERS AND FINALLY GOD, WHO SAID IT WILL BE.

NDI'IBO, ANY A'BIALA...

-KELECHI ISAAC NWAOGWUGWU

ARTIST/CO-CREATOR

**LIGHTNING
STRIKES TWICE
ON WHOM THE
GODS SEEK TO
PUNISH.**



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2



KALEJAYE . OBENDE . EZEUGU



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VISIONARY

Ìbà Ọxòssì.

Homage to Oxossi.

Ìbà ọlọgàá ararẹ.

Homage to the master of himself.

Ìbà Oşólikére.

Homage to the magician of the forest.

Ọde ata mátàsé,

The Hunter who never fails,

Agbani lójó to burú,

The savior on the days of wickedness and evil,

Òní ọdé gàn fì ò jà,

Owner of the parrot that guides me to overcome fear,

A júbà Ọde Àìkú.

Homage to the Undying Hunter.

Àşẹ.



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ỌMỌ ỌDẸ TÍ DÉ ILÉ È ẸWỌN BÀBÀ RẸ...

THE SON OF THE HUNTER HAS GOTTEN TO THE HOUSE OF HIS FATHERS...

ỌMỌ ỌDẸ SỌ ỌNÀ NÙ ŞÙGBỌN...

THE SON OF THE HUNTER IS LOST BUT...

IBI TÍ ỌNÀ KÁN TÍ PARÍ NÌ OMIRÁN TÍ BẸRẸ...

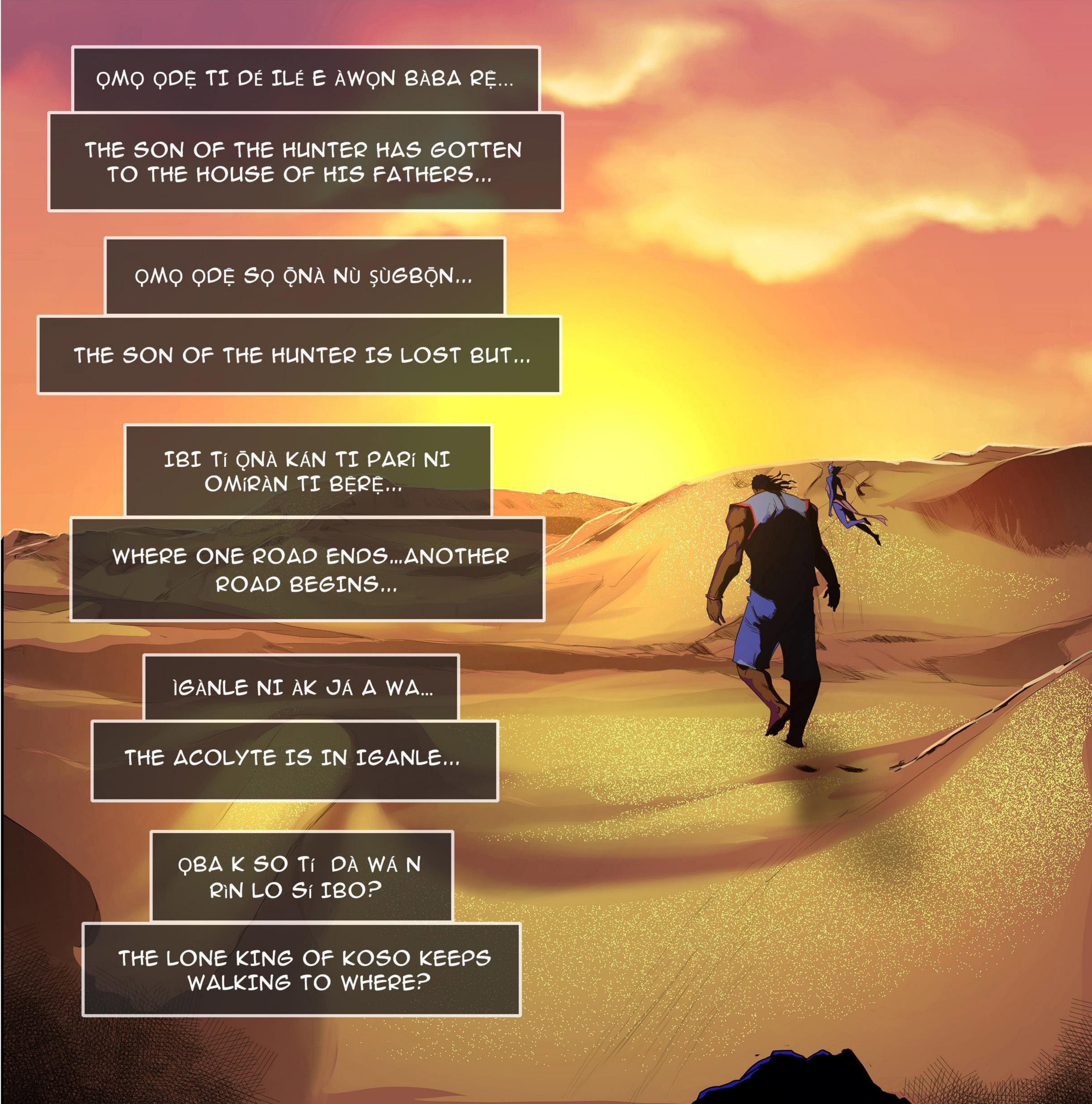
WHERE ONE ROAD ENDS...ANOTHER ROAD BEGINS...

IGANLE NÌ AK JÁ A WÁ...

THE ACOLYTE IS IN IGANLE...

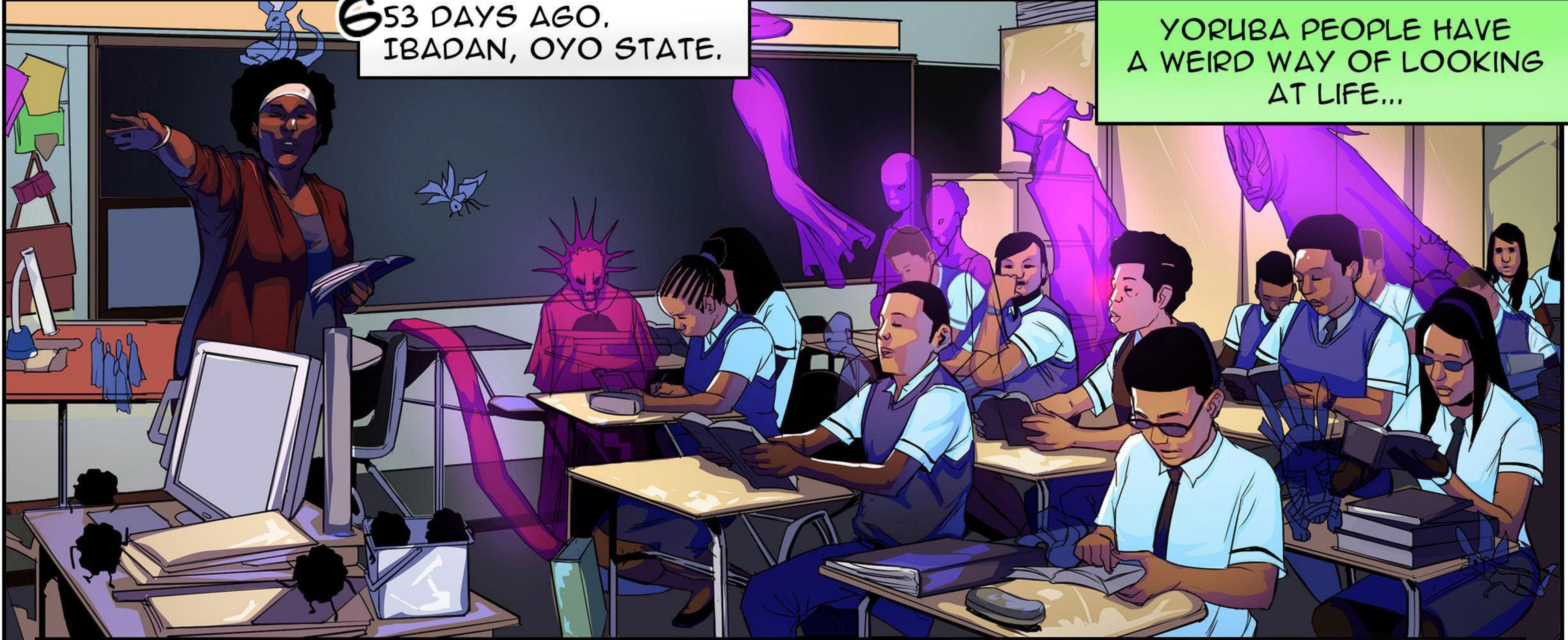
ỌBA K SỌ TÍ DÀ WÁ N RIN LO SÍ IBO?

THE LONE KING OF KOSO KEEPS WALKING TO WHERE?



653 DAYS AGO.
IBADAN, OYO STATE.

YORUBA PEOPLE HAVE
A WEIRD WAY OF LOOKING
AT LIFE...



WE BELIEVE THAT ALL IS WITHIN
THE PLANS OF ELEDUMARE, GOD.



ÌWỌ ỌMỌ
YII, O LÈ RÍ
MI ÀBÍ?

CHILD, IT SEEMS
YOU CAN SEE ME?

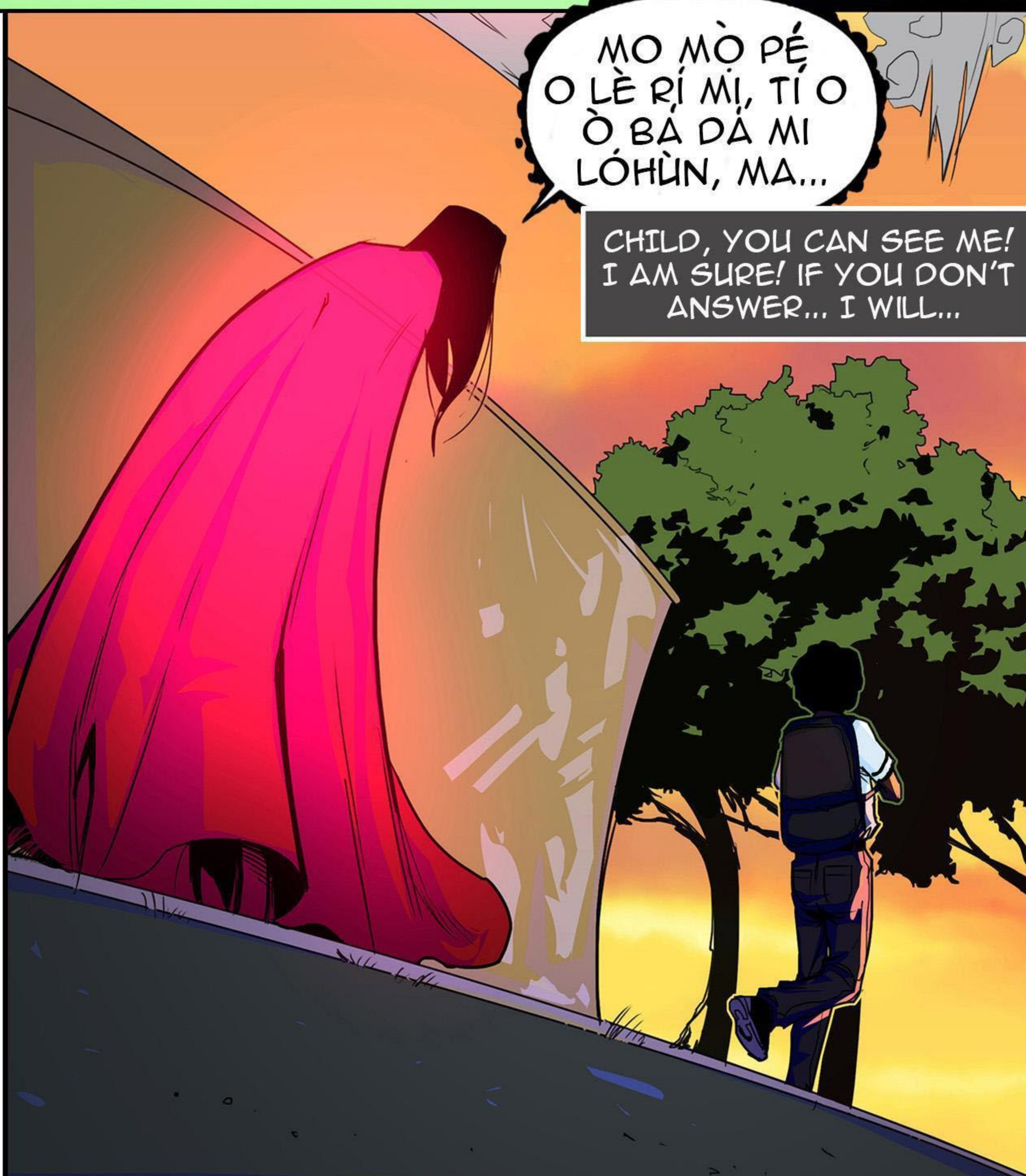
NOTHING NEW HERE, SEEING
THESE MONSTERS IS A PART
OF MY DAILY LIFE.

MO MÒ PÉ
O LÈ RÍ MI, TÍ O
Ò BÀ DÀ MI
LÓHUN, MA...

CHILD, YOU CAN SEE ME!
I AM SURE! IF YOU DON'T
ANSWER... I WILL...

ÀRÓLÉ MÁ MA WÒ WỌN.


AROLE, DO NOT
ACKNOWLEDGE THEM.



AS I AM FAMILIAR
WITH THEM, I AM ALSO
FAMILIAR WITH IT.



A VOICE OF A PURPLE
THING THAT SEEMS TO
PROTECT ME FROM THEM.



180 DAYS AGO,
OYEBAMIJI STREET,
IBADAN.

UNTIL... THEY CAME.

THAT DAY, I FOUND OUT THAT
THE SHADOWS I FEARED WERE
NOT THE REAL DEMONS...



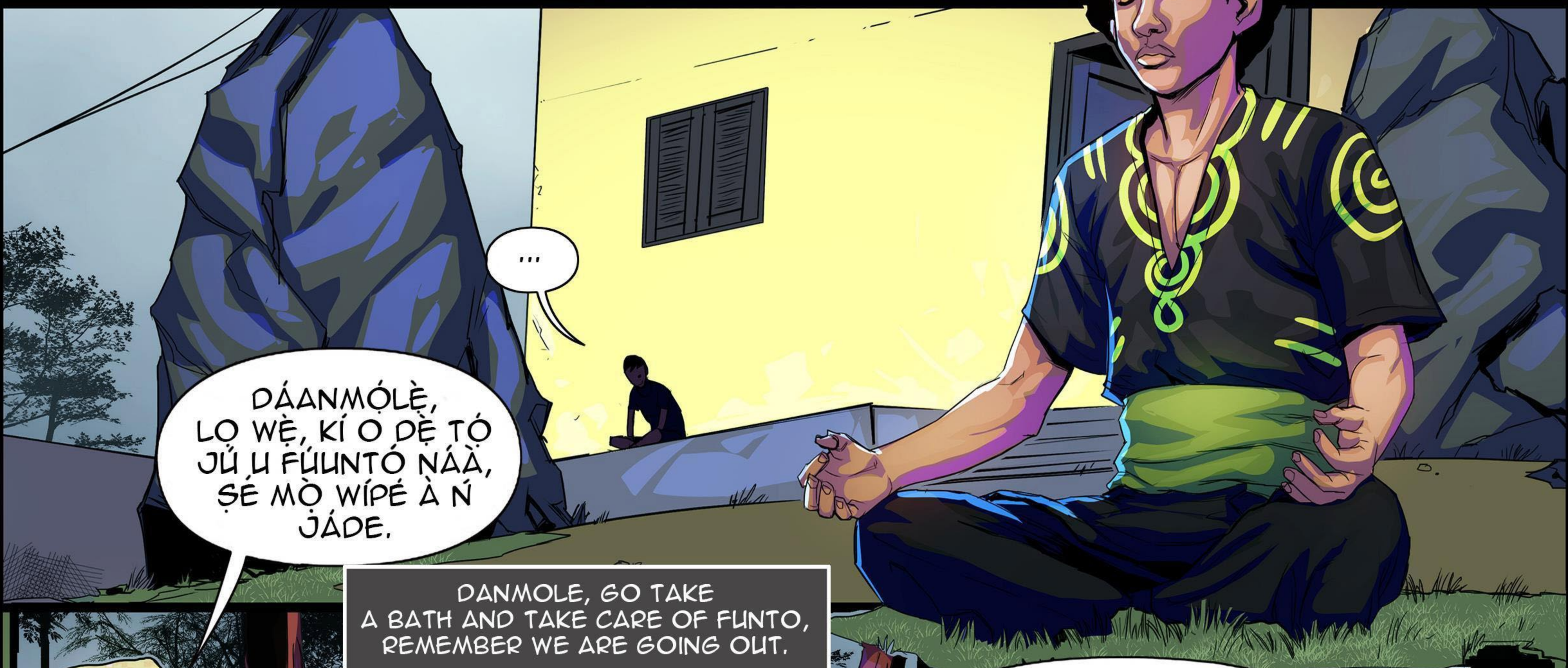
AHHHH!
MY EYES!

...OTHER PEOPLE WERE THE REAL MONSTERS.

Now, IGANLE, UNKNOWN LOCATION.

7TH CREED OF IJAKADI, THE SPIRIT OF THE WARRIOR IS IN HIS BREATH.

ÌRÓ ÌJÀKADÌ KEÈJE. EMI KANLE NI EMI JAGUN JAGUN.



DÁANMÓLÈ, LO WÈ, KÍ O DÈ TÓ JÚ U FÚUNTO NÁÀ, SÈ MÒ WÍPÉ À N JÁDE.

DANMOLE, GO TAKE A BATH AND TAKE CARE OF FUNTO, REMEMBER WE ARE GOING OUT.

...

WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE SERVANT OF IFA TODAY, *SIGH* MAYBE HE CAN HEAL FUNTO!



MỌ TI, GBỌ, IYE MI.

I HAVE HEARD, OUR MOTHER.

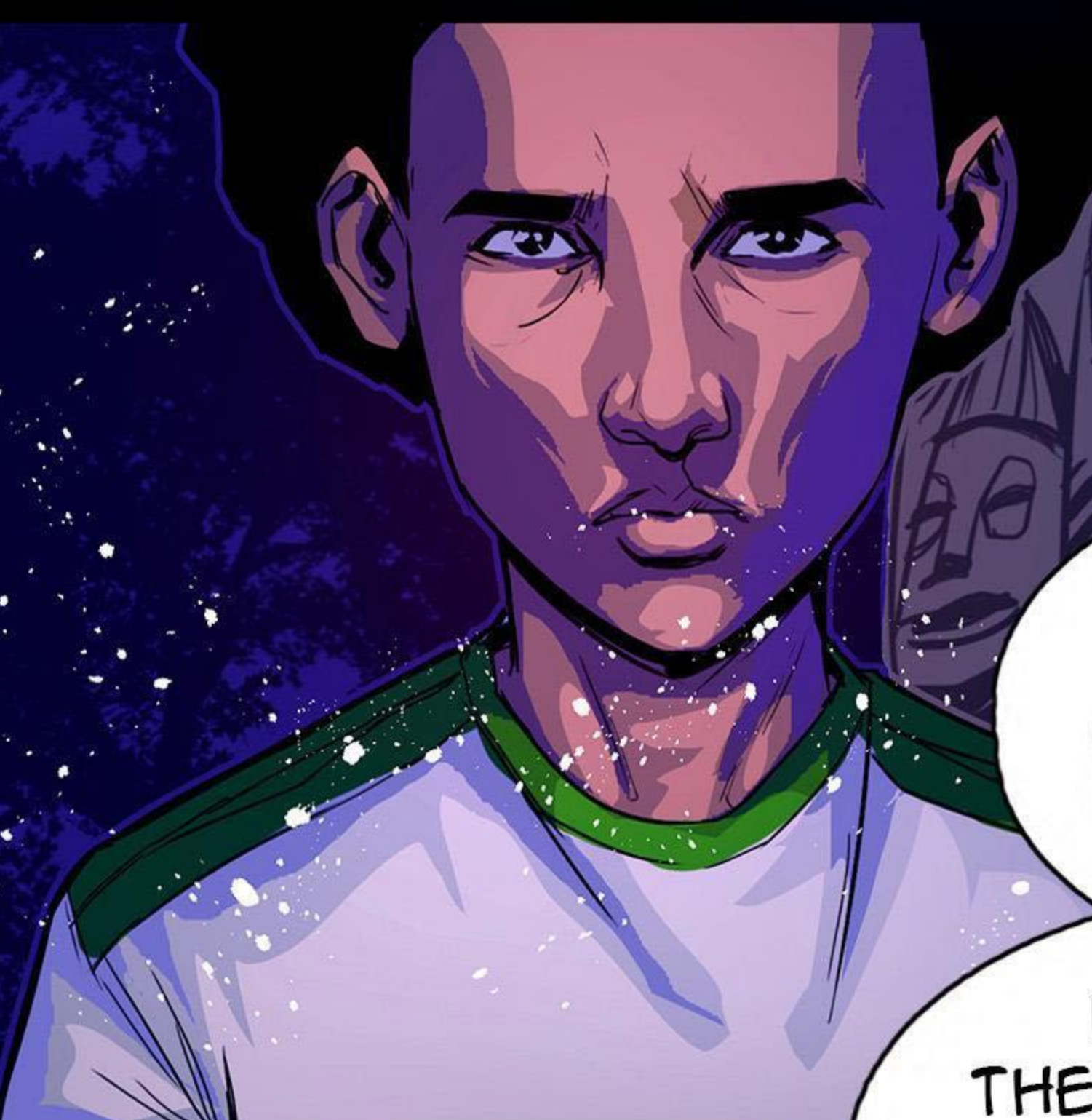


*IFA: GOD OF DIVINATION.



I SEE THEM AGAIN BUT THESE ONES ARE DIFFERENT.

IGANLE, IS A PLACE PROTECTED BY THE GODS THEMSELVES. THIS PLACE IS YOUR BIRTHPLACE AND IT SEATS UPON A DESIGN OF IMMENSE POWER.



...

THESE LIVING STATUES, THE SIGIDI ARE MEANT TO PROTECT US.

IGANLE PROTECTS THE SECRET OF OXOSI, AN IMMENSELY POWERFUL OLD GOD AND THE SECRET IN TURN PROTECTS IGANLE.



ARE THESE STATUES FOLLOWING US?

IT IS STRANGE THOUGH, THE SIGIDI ARE NORMALLY AT THE SHRINE OF THE HUNTER...

WALK CAREFULLY... WE ARE NEARLY THERE.

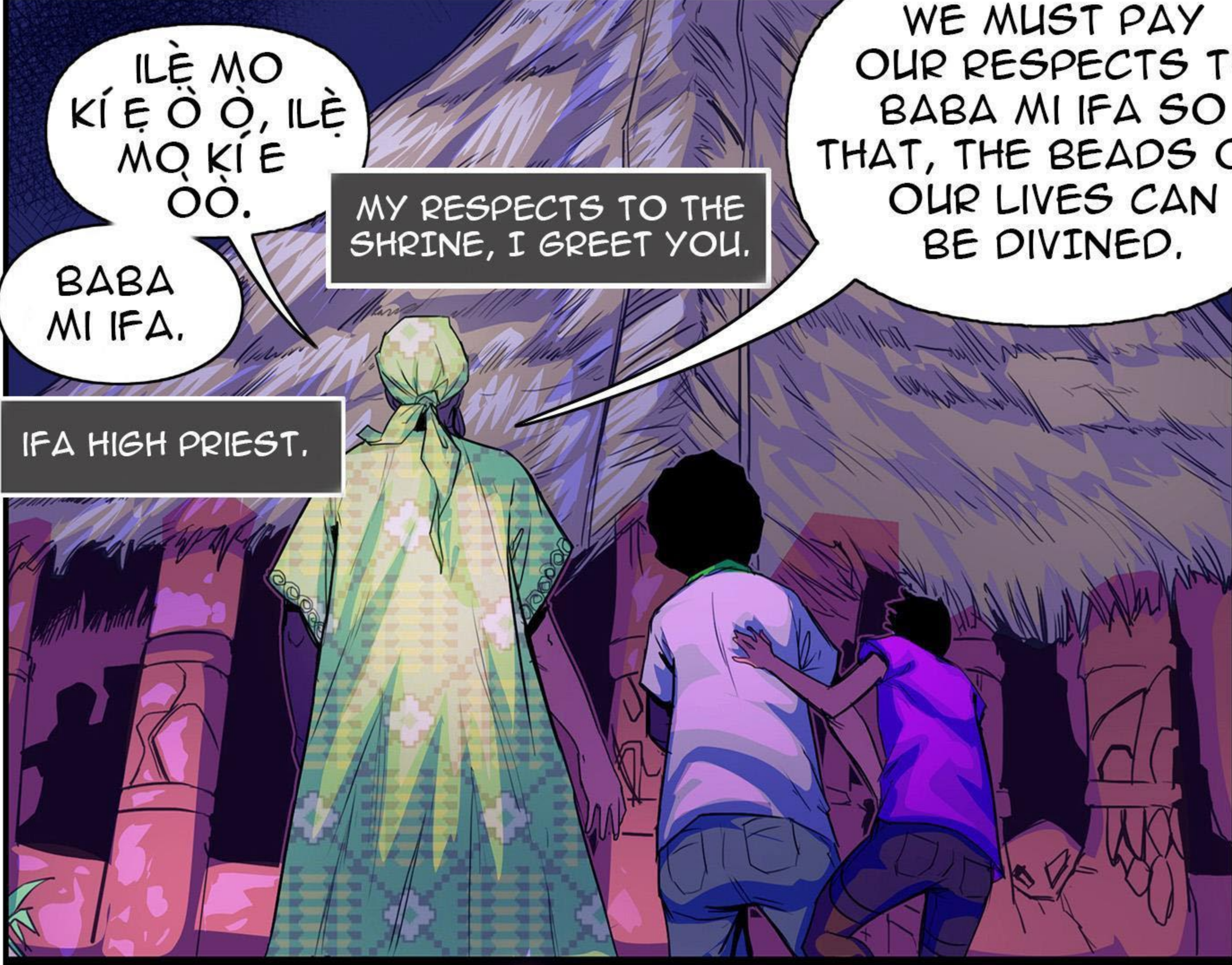
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?



WOW,
THIS IS
BEAUTIFUL!

THIS IS THE FIRST
PEAK OF IGANLE, LENT
TO IFA BY HE WHO CREAT-
ED AND PROTECTED
IGANLE!

WAKE
FUNTO UP!



ILÈ MO KÍ È Ò Ò, ILÈ MO KÍ È Ò Ò.

MY RESPECTS TO THE SHRINE, I GREET YOU.

WE MUST PAY OUR RESPECTS TO BABA MI IFA SO THAT, THE BEADS OF OUR LIVES CAN BE DIVINED.

BABA MI IFA.

IFA HIGH PRIEST.



IYÈ MI...



WAIT!



WOW, ÒGBÈNÌ! SO YOU CAN SEE THROUGH MY SPELL OF ILLUSIONS?

ÒGBÈNÌ: MR MAN.



THEY TOLD ME ABOUT THAT YOUR EYE BUT SEEING IS BELIEVING!

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP



YOU!!!

YES,
ME. YES,
ME.

IFÁGBÈMÍ! IWO
OMO JÁTI JÀTI TÌ GÉ
OWÓ TÌ Ó FÚN È NÍ OÚNJE!
TALÓ BÍ È DA LÁTI PADÀ
SÍ ÒKÈ ÒÓKÁN IFÁ.

IFAGBEMI! YOU USELESS CHILD
THAT BIT THE HAND THAT FED YOU,
HOW DARE YOU RETURN
TO THE FIRST PEAK OF IFA.

CALM
DOWN,
OLD HAG.

YOU!
YOU WERE THERE
THAT DAY!

180 DAYS AGO.

"YES CHILD OF AJANAKU, I WAS
THERE THAT DAY, YOU CAN EVEN
SAY I HAD A LOT OF FUN WITH
YOUR FATHER."



YOU BACK STABBING ANIMAL!

OMO ERAN LÁSÁN LÁSÀN!
YOU ARE ONE OF US! A CHILD OF
IGANLE CHOSEN BY IFA AND
CORRUPTED BY POWER! TODAY,
I WILL AVENGE MY SON
AND GRAND CHILDREN!

ÀRÀNYÀN ŞÁNÁ SÍ
IWÁJÚ Ò MÌ, JÓ BÍ O
ŞE N RIN!

ARANYAN, SPARK YOUR
EMBER BEFORE ME,
SCALD AS YOU WALK!

BREEEJIM

KRAKRAKRAKRAKRAK

OMÍŞEFÚN,
BÍ O TÌ FÉ, NI
Ó ŞE JÈ!!!

OMISEFUN,
AS YOU WILL IT!!!

NI O
ŞE JÈ!!

SO WILL IT BE!!

THE INNOCENCE OF THE
INNOCENT MUST BE PROT-
ECTED OVER THE GUILT OF THE
GUILTY BEING PUNISHED;
TWENTY SECOND CREED
OF IJAKADI!

ÀŞE ALÀŞE, NI A GBÓDÒ
DÁABÒBÒ LÓRÍ ÈBÌ TÌ ÈLÉBÌ
TÍ Ó NJE IYÀ! IRÒ IJAKADI
KEJI LE LOGÚN.

MY SISTER
SAFETY IS
IMPORTANT.





SPARKING FORTH!

COME ALREADY SLAVE!



EÉRÚ ÒKÚ INÀ EDUÀ!!

EMBER OF THE DYING DIVINE FIRE!!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES IFA PRIESTS DANGEROUS?

HEHEHE!



BOOOOON



ÀSÈ!

SO BE IT!

ÌBÈRÈ.

WE KNOW
WHAT YOU WILL
DO, EVEN BEFORE
YOU KNOW IT.

OMI KÌÍ
SÀN... K' Ó BOJÚ
WEYÌN...

WHEN WATER FLOWS...
IT NEVER LOOKS BACK.

ÀGBAMI
INÁ IMỌTÓTÓ!

FIERY FLOODS
OF PURIFICATION!

ẸRÉ NÍ
IWÁJÚ MI, ẸRANKO
INÁ TÍ Ó TÍ DÌ
ÒKÚ-INÁ!

BEGONE CUR OF A DYING FIRE!

MI ARAÀ,
MI PÈLÚ ORUKO
ALÀILÉRÈ Ẹ.

GRACE MY BODY WITH
YOUR HUMBLE NAME.

OMÍŞEFÚN, YOU
ARE WORTHY OF THE
NAME OF THE HOUSE
AJANAKU BUT
TODAY...



THE HOUSE OF HUNTER'S LINEAGE ENDS.

OMIRAN İBAJE... DA İYÒ SÌ İLÈ AYÈ.

GIANT OF DECAY- SALT THE EARTH IN MY NAME.

THAT DEMON! NO!



RUN FROM HERE WITH FUNTO, THAT DEMON HE IS CALLING WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THE WHOLE OF İGANLE IS DESTROYED!

NO!!!



GO DANMOLE, HELP HER!!

THE NINTH CREED OF İJAKADI: WE BEAR OUR OWN WILL, TO UPHOLD THE MIGHT OF HUMANITY AGAINST ALL THREATS.

İRÓ İJAKADI KEŞÁAN- A JÉRİİ FÚN ARÀ WA, LÁTI GBÈWÓ AGBARA TÌ EDÀ ENİYÀN, SÌ GBÓGBÓ İROKEKÈ.

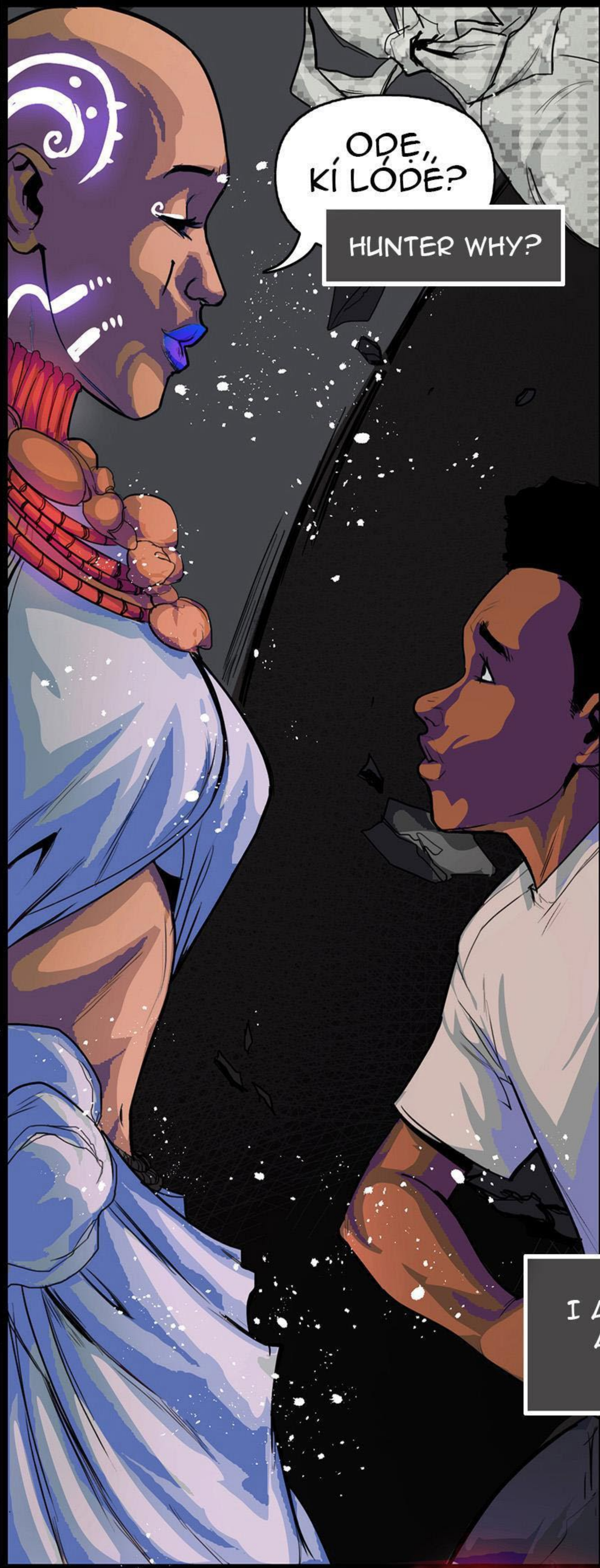


QING QING QING

WHAT IS GOING ON, WHY IS EVERYTHING FROZEN?



WHO IS THAT?



ODE, KÍ LÓDÉ?

HUNTER WHY?



IWÀ OBA ÀRÁ TÌ SÚ MI... OO PÈ JÍ KÍ DÀ AYÉ YII RÚ NÌ ÈKAN SI.

I AM TIRED OF THE KING OF LIGHTNING'S ANTICS, WAKE UP THROW THIS WORLD INTO DISARRAY ONCE AGAIN.

ÒJÌJÌ, YÈN ABÍ? HAHHAHAHA!

THAT SHADOW, HUH? HAHHAHAHA!



WHERE AM I?
WHAT DID THAT
WOMAN DO TO
ME?

ÒLE, ÒKÓBÓ,
SÉ O MA TUN JẸ
KÍ OMÍSEFUN ÀTI
FÚLUNTỌ KÚ FÚN Ẹ!

WEAKLING, COWARD...YOU
WILL ALLOW OMISEFUN
AND FUNTO DIE FOR YOU!

ÌGBÀTÍ TÚUNBÍ
ÀTI DÁWÓDÚÚ KÚ,
BÍ O SE FI ÒLẸ PA
WỌN NÁÀ NÌ YẸN.

WHEN TUNBI AND DAWODU DIED,
YOUR WEAKNESS KILLED THEM.

...

MI Ò
NÍ GBÀ!!!

I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!!

MI Ò NÍ GBÀ KÍ
ÈNIYAN MI MAA
KÚ NÍ OJÚ
MI!

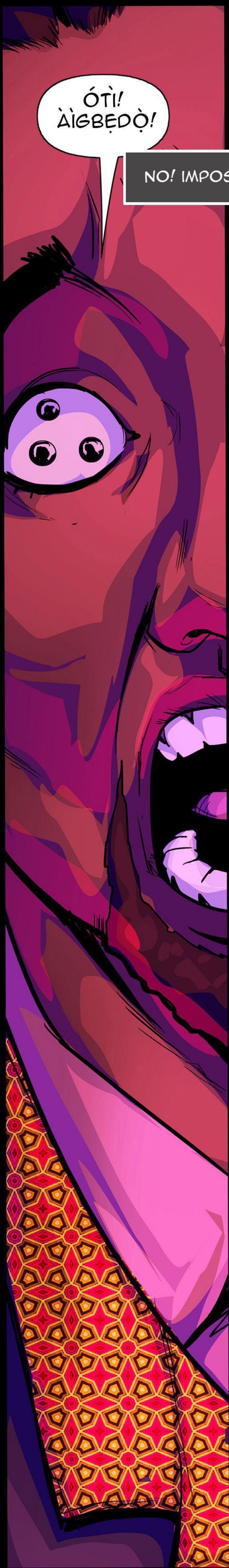
I WON'T ALLOW MY PEOPLE
DIE IN FRONT OF ME!

MO TI SÙN
TỌ... AJIJA, LO
NÍWÁJÚ MI!

I HAVE SLEPT ENOUGH,
AJIJA GO BEFORE ME!

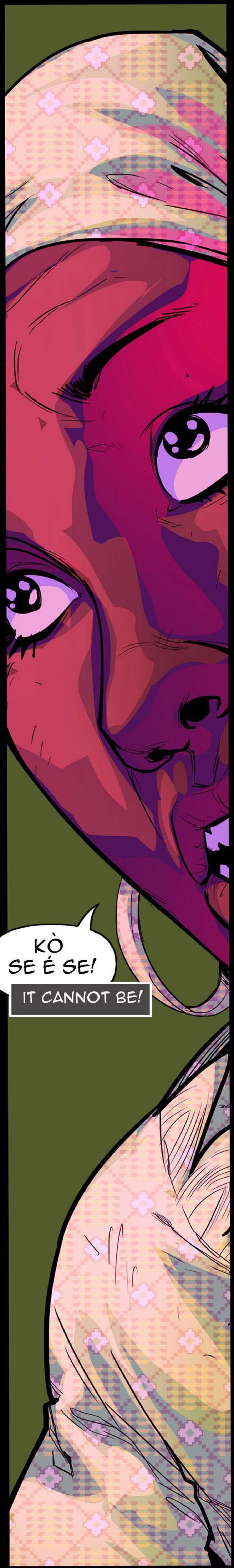
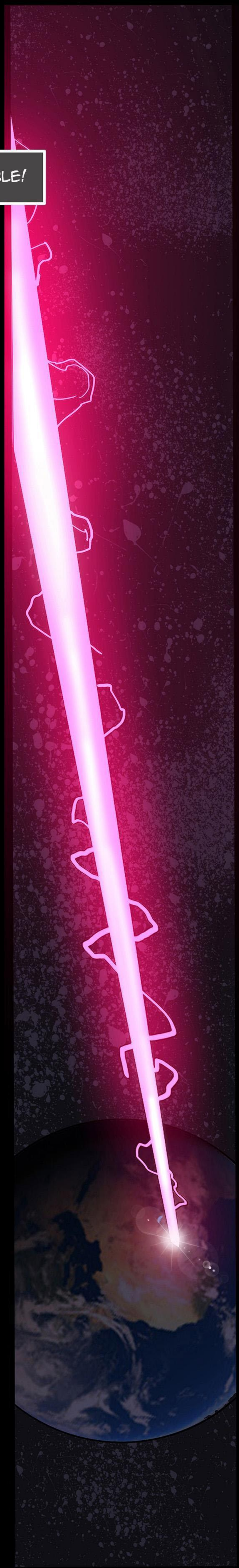


QING!



ÓTÌ!
ÀÌGBEDÒ!

NO! IMPOSSIBLE!



KÒ
SE É SE!
IT CANNOT BE!

OBA
KÒSÒ, ÈTÌ JÉ
KÌ Á SỌ...

OBA KOSO, YOU HAVE
GOTTEN US LO...

HUH?

BÈÈN!!!
ÌWO ÒTÁ MI
EGBÈRÚN MÁRÚÚN
ODÚN TÌ DÉ!

YES!!! MY ENEMY OF FIVE
THOUSAND YEARS!... YOU HAVE
ARRIVED!

ÀRÁ
JÉ KÌ Á LỌ!

ARA LET'S GO!

KRAKOOOM

NEXT : THE DELUGE

GOD'S EYE

AYÉ TÍ ẸṢIN Ò JẸ, TÍ ÌRÙ ÌDÍ RẸ BÁ NÍ SÙÚRÙ, Á JẸ JÙ BÈÈ LỌ.

IF THE TAIL OF A HORSE CAN BE PATIENT (TO BECOME A FLY WHISK), IT WILL SURPASS THE QUALITY OF LIFE NEVER ENJOYED BY THE HORSE.

HELLO VISIONARIES,

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING WITH DANMOLE. WAS THAT OXOSI YOU JUST SAW? NOW SANGO IS ON HIS WAY TO IGANLE TO CONFRONT HIS OLD ENEMY. BUT WHAT DOES SANGO WANT EXACTLY? VISIONARY 2 IS HERE AND THE STORY FINALLY GETS OFF TO A RUNNING START.

THIS ISSUE WAS A BIT OF WORK, AND STANLEY, TOBE, OZO AND MYSELF WORKED REALLY HARD TO ENSURE YOU GUYS GET THE QUALITY YOU DESERVE. AS ALWAYS, THE ENTIRE COMIC REPUBLIC TEAMS CONTRIBUTION IN BRINGING THIS TO LIFE CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED.

NOW TO THE PROVERB ABOVE, YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN PATIENT AND I ASSURE YOU THAT THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BRING SOME INSANE ACTION AND REVEALS THAT WE BELIEVE ARE INSANE! YOUR PATIENCE HAS PAID AND WILL MASSIVELY PAY OFF IN THE FUTURE. THE PROVERB SIMPLY MEANS [BE PATIENT; THE BEST IS YET TO COME].

ON OUTSPOKEN FANS LIKE DOTUN FADAIRO, CHARLES ANDREW, ELIZABETH TSUNADE AND FABLING PAM... AND ALL THE FANS... THANK YOU. YOU GUYS ARE THE REASON WE DO THIS. PLEASE CONTINUE TO HOLD US TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD. WE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT. TO MY MUSES, DEMI & TARA, DADA LOVES YOU GUYS TO INFINITY AND BEYOND.

ELÉDÙMARÈ Á GBE GBOGBO WA.

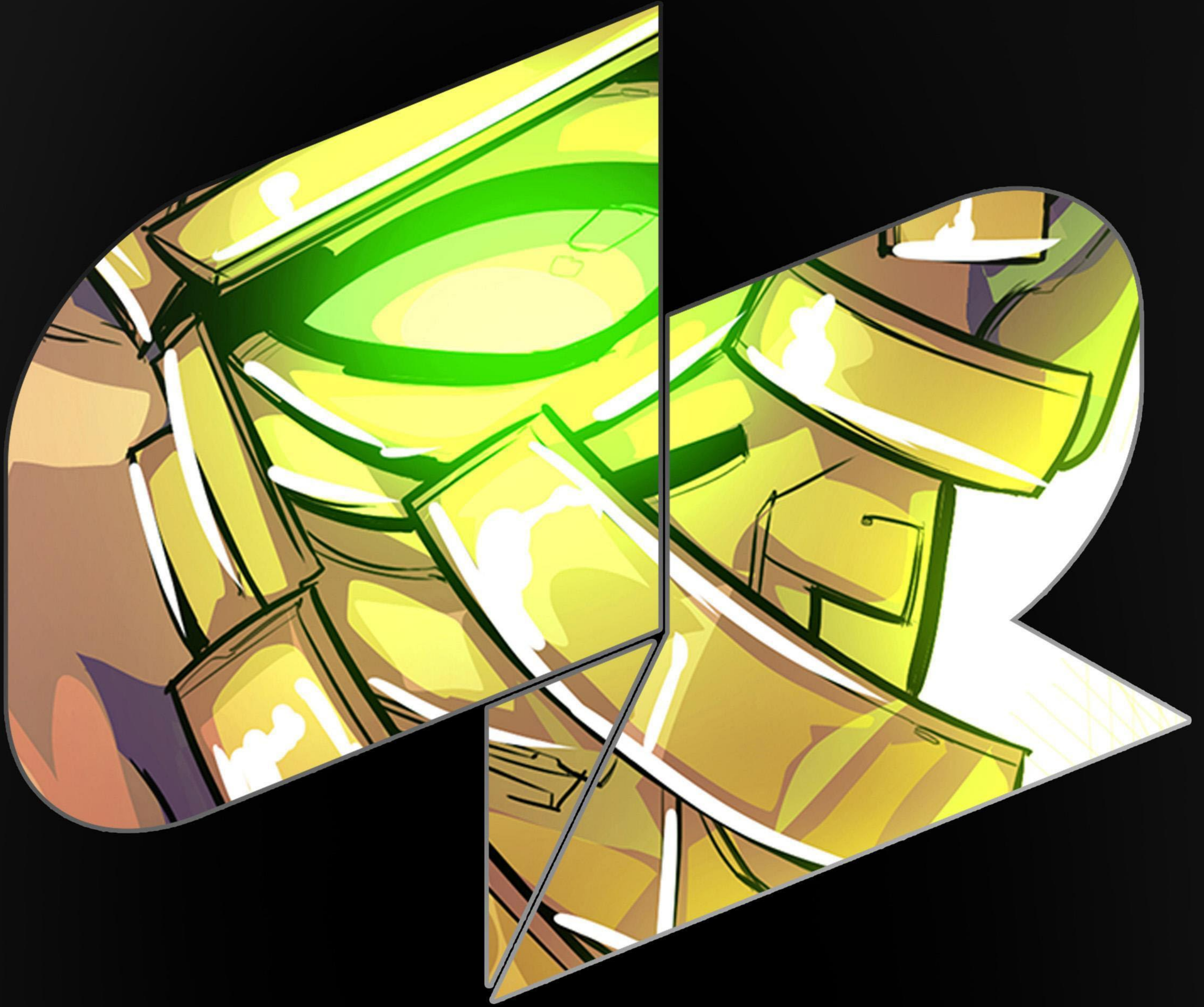
GOD WITH US ALL.

-AKINTOBA KALEJAYE
CREATOR

**BE PATIENT; THE
BEST IS YET TO
COME.**



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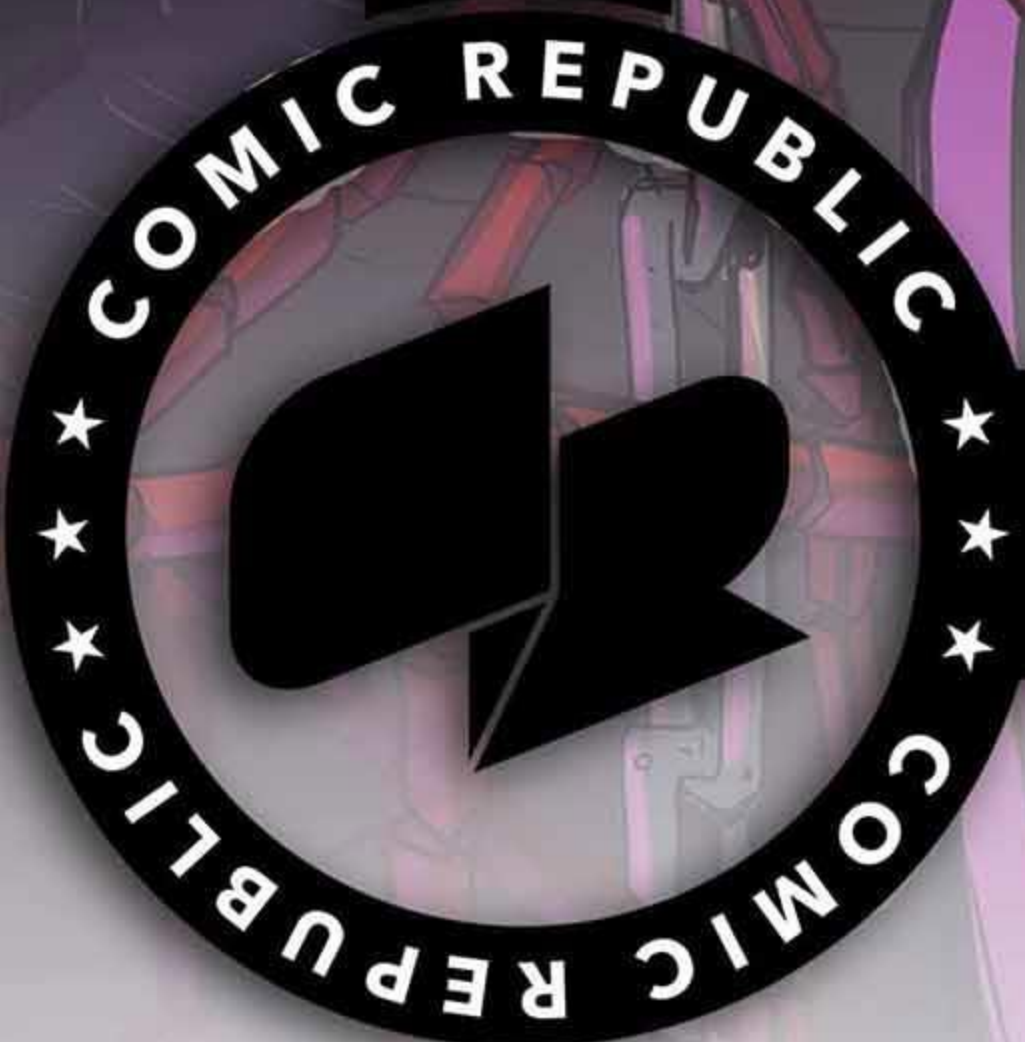
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AVENTURE

THE REALM WITHIN



9



IGHORODJE.OBENDE.AJETUNMOBI

AVONOME

THE REALM WITHIN

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AVONOME

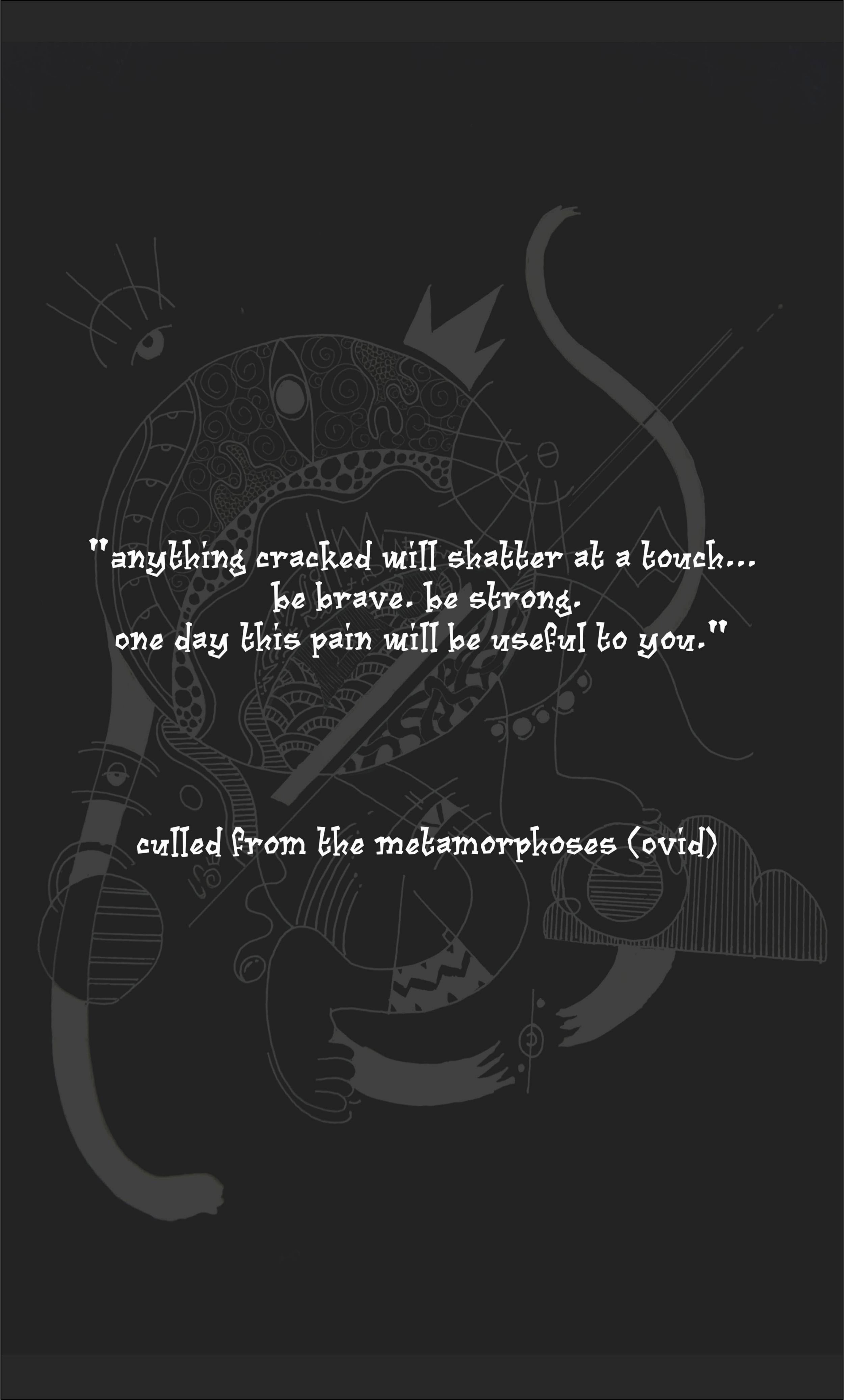
THE REALM WITHIN

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 CONCIIOUSNESS 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



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

cullled from the metamorphoses (ovid)



2017
NOMINEE



THANK YOU!

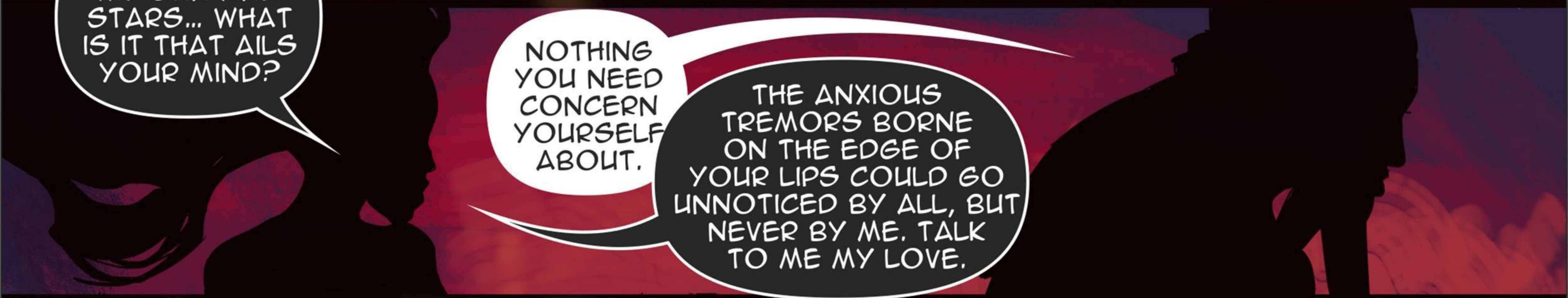


A LONG TIME AGO, IN A REALM QUITE FAR FROM OUR OWN.



A LONE WARRIOR SITS ON A STRANGE BED, NURSING A STRANGE BED FELLOW.

UNABLE TO SLUMBER OR REST, HIS MIND AFFLICTED WITH THE WEIGHT OF DECISIONS HE WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE... HIS MIND PLAGUED WITH WHAT HE HAS TO BECOME.



ASHALNTE... MY SUN AND STARS... WHAT IS IT THAT AILS YOUR MIND?

NOTHING YOU NEED CONCERN YOURSELF ABOUT.

THE ANXIOUS TREMORS BORNE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR LIPS COULD GO UNNOTICED BY ALL, BUT NEVER BY ME. TALK TO ME MY LOVE.



IS IT ABOUT YOUR TWIN BROTHER?



...

MY SUN...



ECLIPSE YOUR WORRIES UNDER THE LONG SHADOWS CAST BY MY MOON.



STOP IT ANANSI... HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT AILS ME, WHEN EVEN YOU WEAR A MASK BEFORE ME.

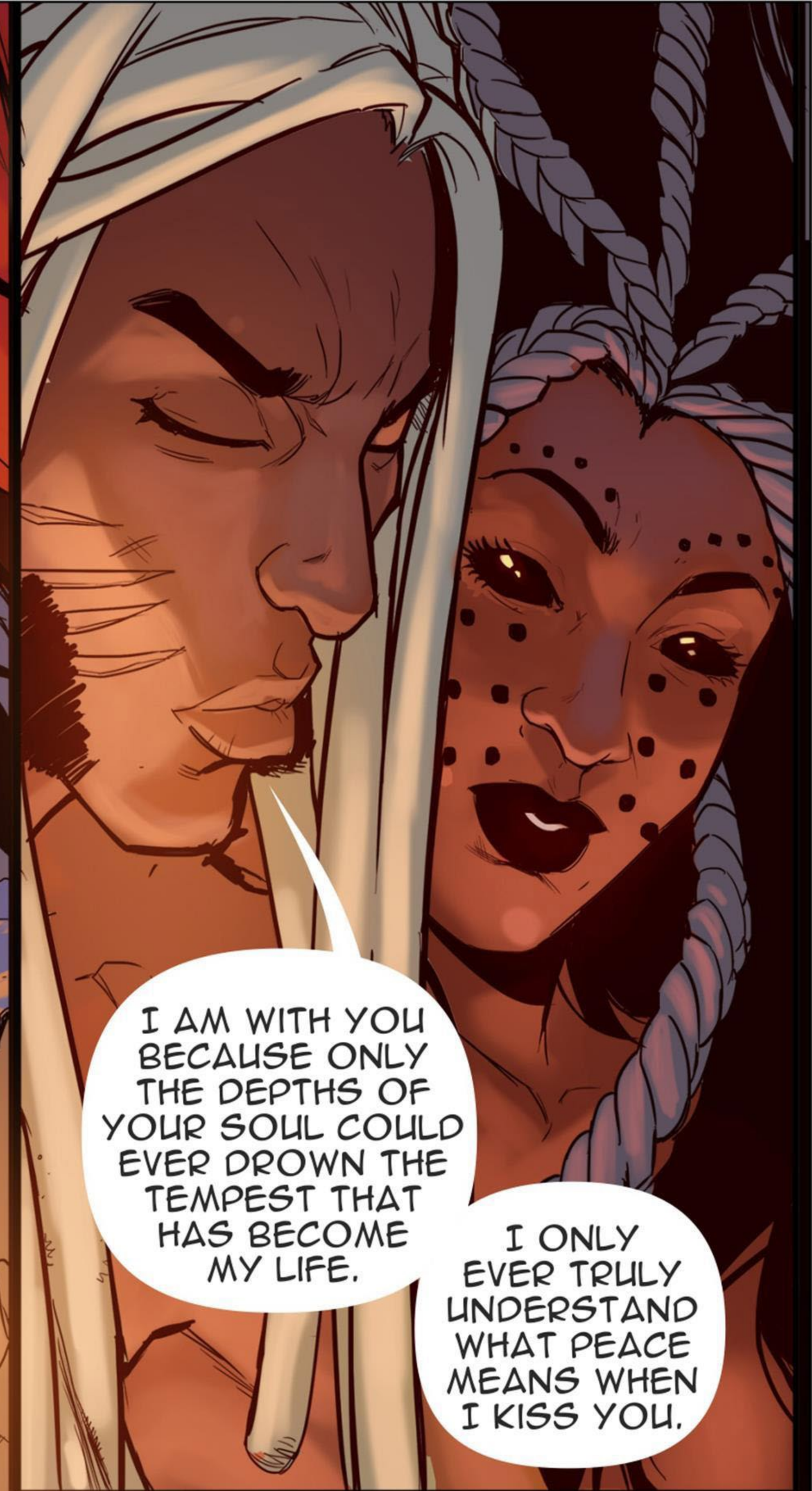
OH MY SUN, I DIDN'T MEAN TO-

ENOUGH!



I KNOW YOU MUST THINK THAT BECAUSE I AM MORTAL, MY DESIRES ARE FOREVER TETHERED TO THOSE OF MY MORTALITY. FOR HOW COULD A MAN EVER WANT AN AGELESS CREATURE SUCH AS YOURSELF.

BUT THIS IS WHERE YOU ERR MISTRESS OF WONDER, WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.



I AM WITH YOU BECAUSE ONLY THE DEPTHS OF YOUR SOUL COULD EVER DROWN THE TEMPEST THAT HAS BECOME MY LIFE.

I ONLY EVER TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT PEACE MEANS WHEN I KISS YOU.



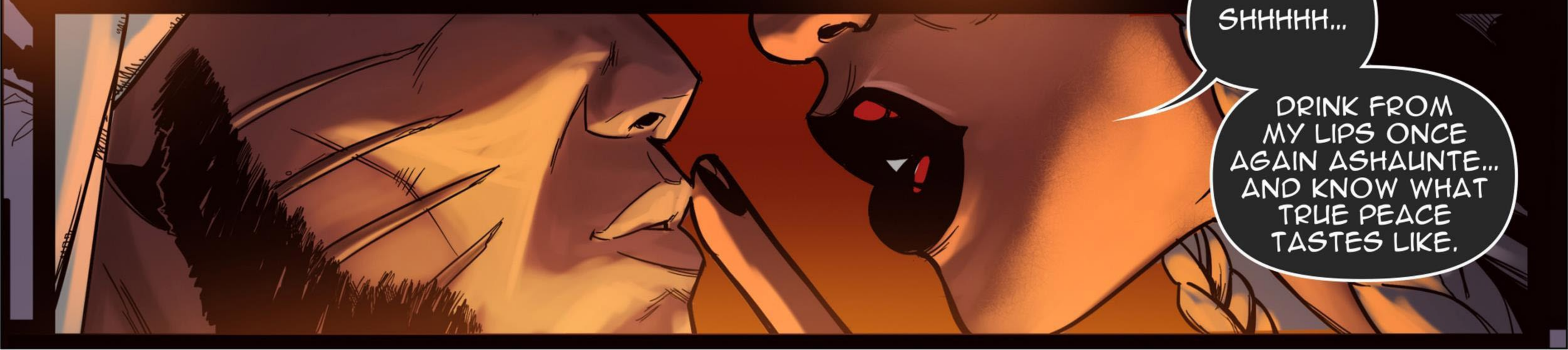
OH ASHAUNTE RAZAK, I SWEAR TO NEVER KEEP THE SHADOWS OF MY BEING AWAY FROM YOU, EVER AGAIN.

AND WHAT IF THE UNIVERSE SHOULD CONSPIRE TO SET A WEDGE BETWEEN OUR SOULS?



THEN BY THE VOICE WHO SPEAKS ALL THINGS INTO BEING, I WILL SCOURGE THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE, A THOUSAND TIMES, A THOUSAND TIMES AND FOREVER BE A BLIGHT TO THEM THAT IMAGINE THEY COULD COME BETWEEN US.

AND IF THAT-



SHHHHH...

DRINK FROM MY LIPS ONCE AGAIN ASHAUNTE... AND KNOW WHAT TRUE PEACE TASTES LIKE.

REALM OF THE HOGOSHA

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 SUSTENANCE BUT AN OUNCE OF DEW.

BUT WHAT I CANNOT TEACH YOU *AVONOME* IS THE KEY TO THE BRAND OF HAPPINESS YOU THINK YOU NEED.

BUT ALL I HAVE DONE FOR NEARLY A YEAR, SINCE *AZREAL* LEFT ME BEHIND, IS READ THE BOOKS YOU GIVE ME AND DO WORKOUT TILL MY BODY HURTS ALL OVER.

YOU ARE WORKING OUT IN THE OLD WAY. ALL YOUR MUSCLES WILL ANSWER BY NAME WHEN YOU NEED THEM.

MY POINT IS, I DO NOT KNOW HOW MY FATHER, MOTHER OR BROTHER ARE DOING? I DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT *HISNABEK* IS UP TO? HOW CAN I THEN BE TRULY HAPPY HERE?

A MAN ONCE BESEECHEED 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."

BABA, WHY DO YOU TAKE PLEASURE IN TEASING ME?

NOTICE HOW IN NEARLY A YEAR SPENT SURVIVING MY JIBES, YOU HAVE GROWN IMMUNE TO EMPTY WORDS?

SO ALL THOSE TALKS ON TEACHING ME HOW TO BREAK A MOUNTAIN AND WALK ON WATER WERE JUST LESSONS NOT MEANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY?

DOES THIS MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU *AVONOME*?

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT MY DEMANDS ARE FULL OF PRIDE AND AS LONG AS I KEEP PUTTING MYSELF FIRST, I CAN NEVER BE TRULY HAPPY WITH MY TIME HERE?

AHHHH BRILLIANT. THERE IS HOPE FOR YOU YET.

SO EVERYTHING WITH YOU IS A LESSON?

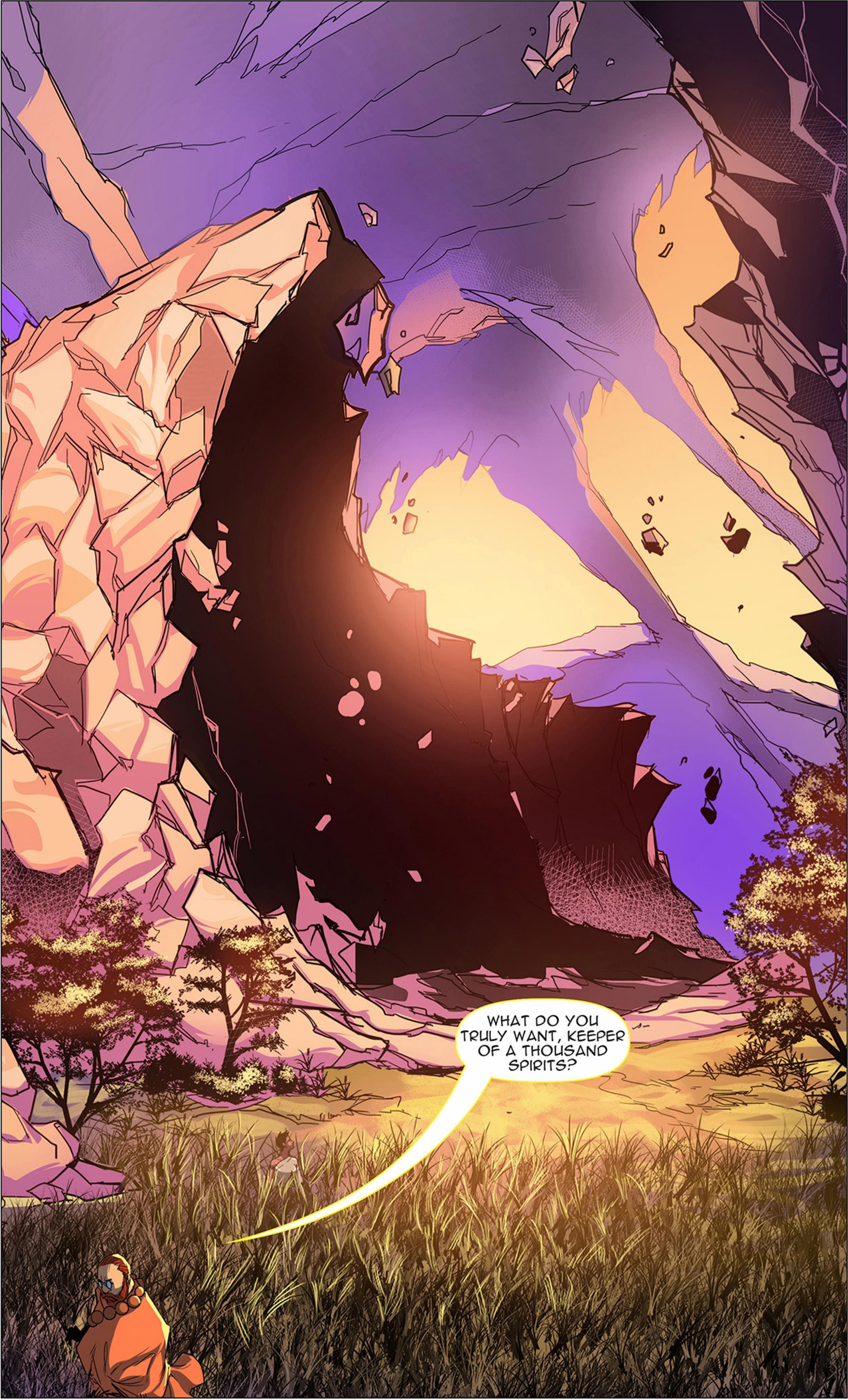
FINALLY! SOME SENSE!



A BLADE OF GRASS
IN THE HANDS OF A
MASTER IS MORE
DANGEROUS THAN A
LEGENDARY KATANA
IN THE HANDS OF
A NOVICE.

...

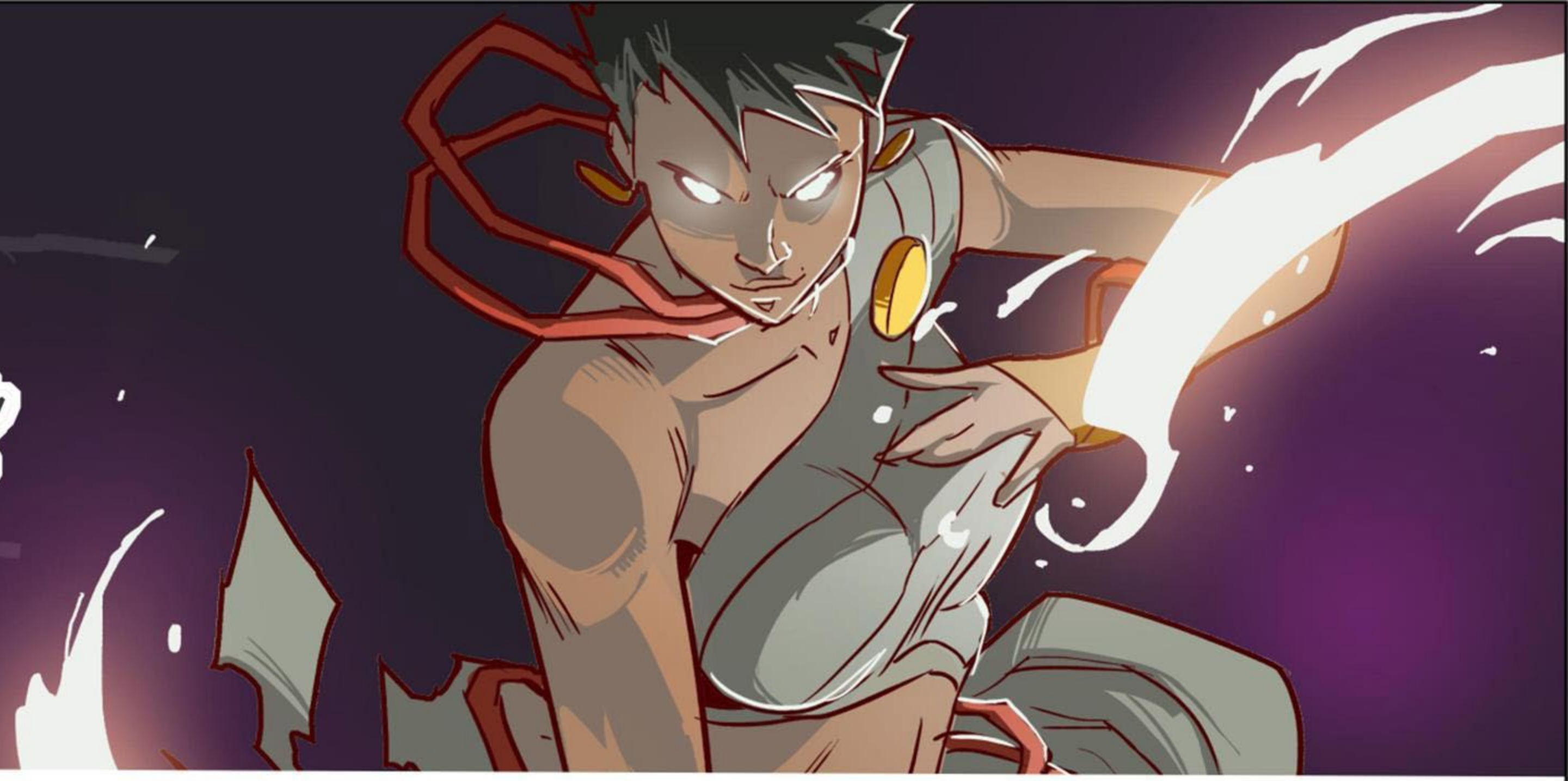




WHAT DO YOU TRULY WANT, KEEPER OF A THOUSAND SPIRITS?

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.



MUDHOUSE BLACK

SORRY FOR THE BREAK IN TRANSMISSION, WE HAD TO TURN OFF THE INDOOR'S MAIN FLOOD LIGHTS BECAUSE WE ARE RUNNING ON GENERATORS HERE. SO UZOR BACK TO YOU.

I SAY WE CALL TIME AND WRAP THE GAME UP. THE QC PARAKEETS ARE DONE FOR.

Indoor sports hall, Teslim Balogun Stadium.

HILDA, NO OFFENSE, YOU NEVER SHOW UP FOR ACTUAL GAMES AND EVEN WHEN YOU DO, YOU NEVER EVER KIT UP... EVER!

I KNOW BUT COACH SAID I SHOULD... SEE YOU ALL LOOKED LIKE YOU NEEDED SOME HELP.

HELP? WE ARE BEING TRASHED SEVENTY TO FIFTEEN AND YOU THINK WE NEED HELP?

WHAT WE NEED IS A MIRACLE!

WELL, DESPERATE SITUATIONS CALL FOR DESPERATE SOLUTIONS.

AND DESPERATE SOLUTIONS USUALLY MEAN DOING SOMETHING STUPID, LIKE LETTING ME PLAY. RIGHT?... RIGHT?

WELL, YOU SHOWING UP TODAY WAS A MIRACLE AND ENTERING THE GAME COUNTS AS STUPID.

NOW THAT WE HAVE TICKED ALL THE BOXES, WHAT DO WE DO?

WE BEGIN WITH A PLAN!

mtsheew!

FIRST THINGS FIRST, THEIR NUMBER SIXTEEN HAS SCORED THIRTY-TWO POINTS, OBVIOUSLY SHE IS A PROBLEM AND THAT PROBLEM IS OUR PROBLEM, WE HAVE TO GATHER TOGETHER AND SOLVE IT.

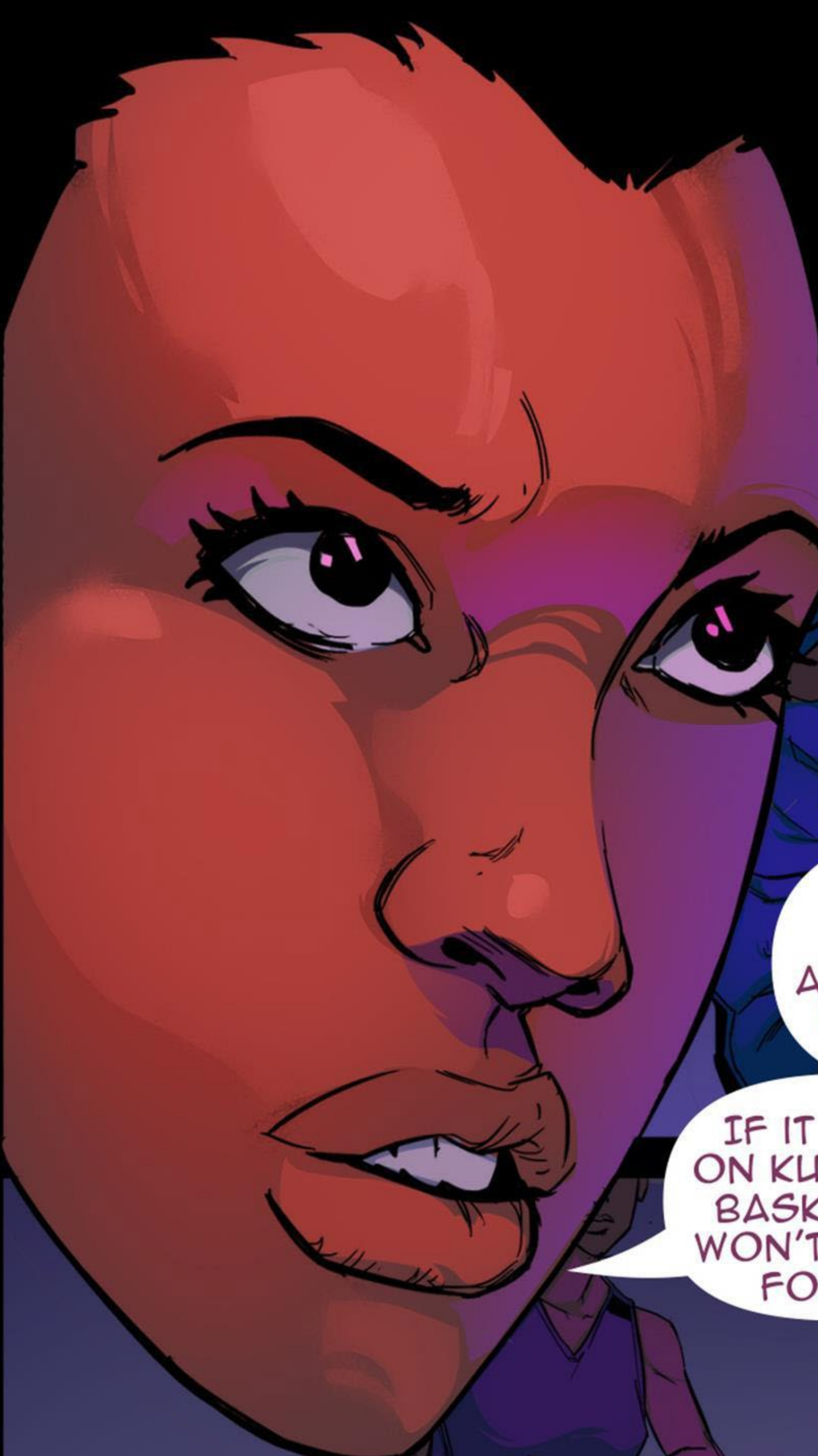
ESEOSA AND NUMBER FOURTE-ERM.. CASSANDRA, YOU BOTH GUARD HER LIKE SHE STOLE YOUR BOYFRIEND.



BUT I DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND!

A WIN TODAY WILL REMEDY THAT.

AND WHAT ABOUT ME, WHAT DO I AND SHIRLEY DO?



SIMPLE. WITH ESE AND CASS ON SIXTEEN, YOU AND SHIRLEY SPREAD OUT WIDE AND GET ME THE BALL.

IF IT WORKS ON KURUKO NO BASKET, WHY WON'T IT WORK FOR US?

KU-WHAT-NOW?

FOCUS LADIES! FOCUS!

THE PARAKEETS SEEM LIVELIER. DON'T YOU THINK UZOR?

OH! SO A LUCKY ANKLE BREAKER SUDDENLY MAKES THEM LIVELIER.

YOU FAIL TO SEE THE ANKLE BREAKER HAS ISOLATED THE NEWBIE, MADE HER FREE TO SHOOT.

NO WAY SHE GETS PAST THE HEART OF THE IKOYI HORNET'S DEFE-

NOOO-FRIGGING-WAY!!!!



THE NEWBIE IS LEFT WITH JUST A DEFENDER. BUT CAN THE NEWBIE...

MOSES. HER NAME IS HILDA MOSES.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO HILDA?

COME AT ME. I DOUBLE DARE YOU!



SHE FAKES A PASS.



THE BALL SPINS BETWEEN THE LEGS OF OCHI.



HILDA TAKES OFF!



SLAM DUNK BY THE QC PARAKEETS!!



THE CROWD GOES WILD!

WHAT A WAY TO MAKE A STATEMENT!

THIS IS THE POINT WHERE WE ASK, CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF BETHLEHEM?

AND BOY! DID THE GIRLS FROM QC ANSWER.



HEY HILDA, I HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT-



THE SCORE IS STILL SEVENTY TO SEVENTEEN. HOW ON EARTH DO WE SCORE FIFTY-THREE POINTS?

"I GUESS IT IS TIME I TOLD YOU THE STORY OF HOW THE WARRIORS SHOT FIFTY-ONE POINTS AGAINST THE DENVER NUGGETS IN A SINGLE QUARTER SOME WEEKS AGO."

Female rest room, Teslim Balogun stadium.

S P L O O T T C H H

BUT OZOZ, I FEEL WE SHOULD NOT GET OUR PANTIES IN A KNOT, IT WAS JUST A TWO POINT PLAY.

WELL, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME PALPABLE FORM OF ENERGY THAT SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE QC PARAKEETS SINCE HILDA MOSES CAME INTO THE GAME.

S P L O O T T C H H

S P L O O T T C H H



BUT THIS IS A SURPRISE, I MEAN... WHY HAVEN'T WE HEARD OF SUCH A STUDENT BEFORE NOW?

COULD BE BECAUSE WE ARE NOT ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.



ANATA NO FUKU O KUDASAI.



Jesus Christ!



BLURGGGH



OHMYGOD!



FOUR TURN-OVERS AND FOUR THREE-POINTERS BACK TO BACK!!



IT IS LIKE THE PARAKEETS ARE REBORN!



HAHAHA! EMERGING LIKE A PHEONIX FROM ITS ASHES!

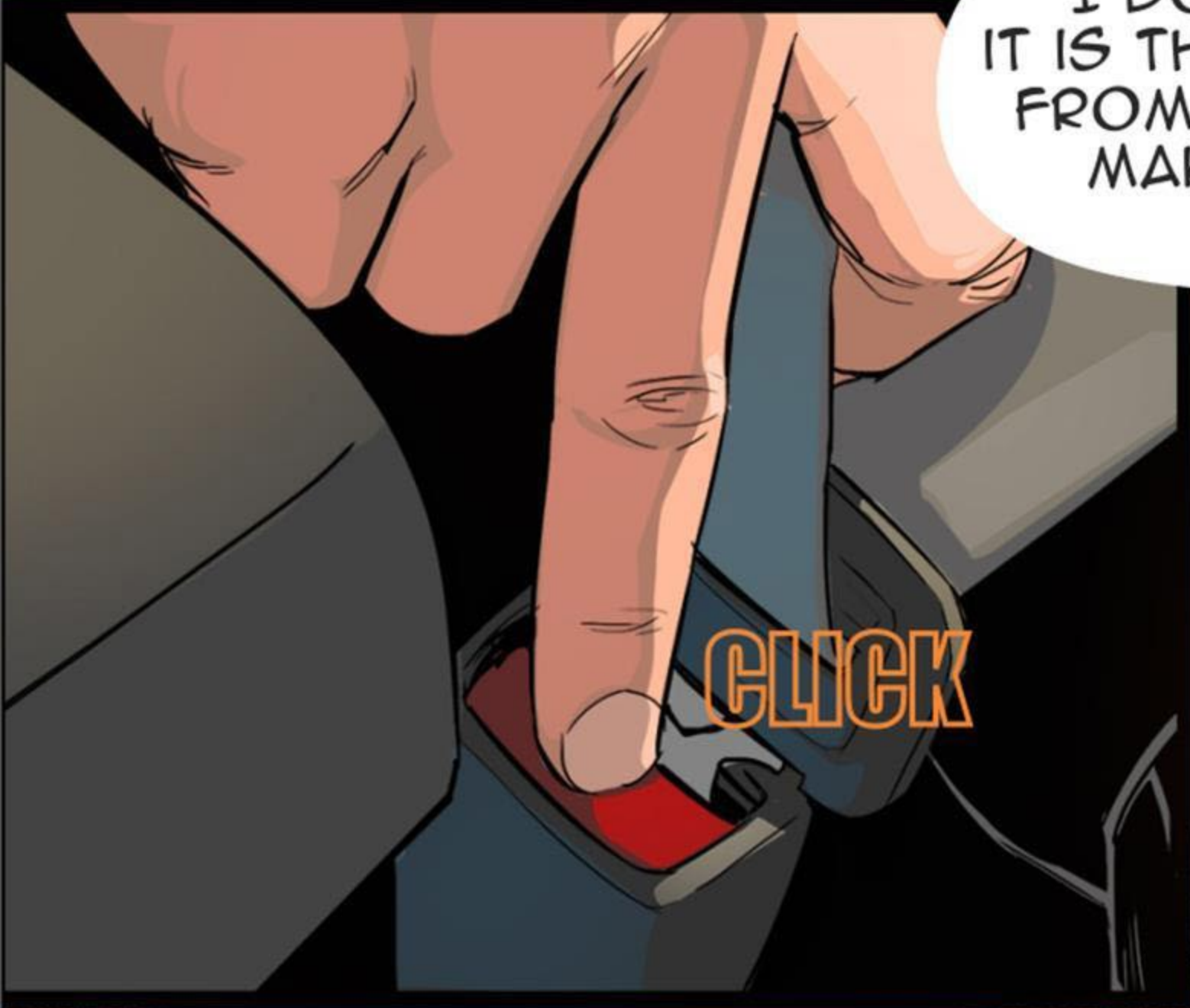
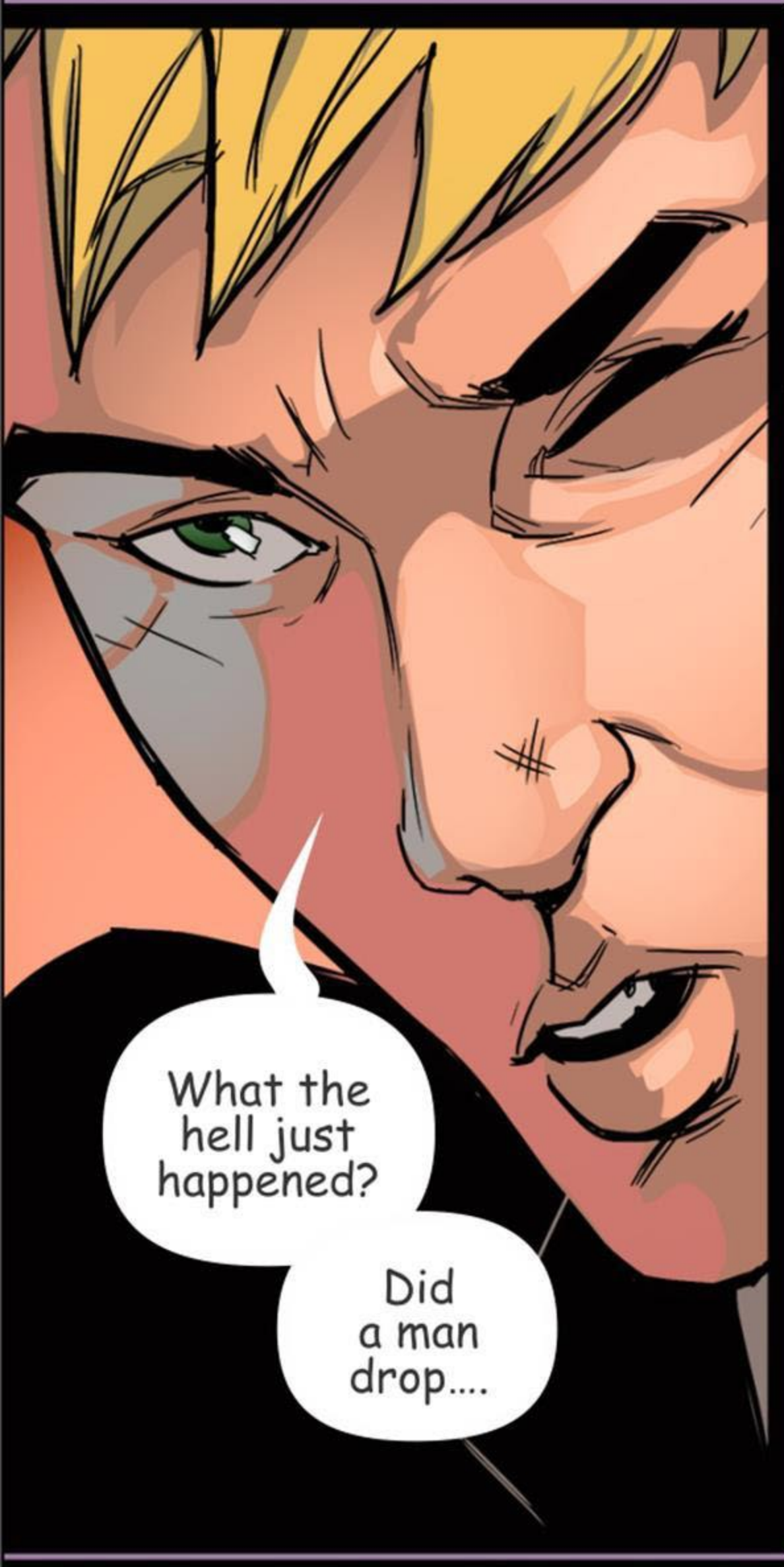
I DARE SAY NOW WE HAVE A GAME ON OUR HANDS.



Meanwhile,
Lekki toll gate.

**BEEEEEP!
BEEEEEP!
BEEEEEP!**

oh S#@#
...s#@##!



I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS THE CONCUSSION FROM THE ACCIDENT MAKING ME SEE THINGS...

...BUT I GOTTA GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE! I AM NOT PAID ENOUGH TO DIE ON A FOREIGN SOIL!





IT WASN'T MY EYE DECEIVING ME, SOMEONE DID DROP DOWN FROM THE SKY.

BUT I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU.



SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIEND!



AARRGGH!



SUCH BRAZEN ARROGANCE FOR ONE ABOUT TO MEET HIS MAKER.

THE UNWISE CALL IT CONFIDENCE. THE ELDERS KNOW IT BY ANOTHER NAME-

FOOLISHNESS!



WHAT THE ACTUAL F@%K?!

ANSWER ME THIS QUESTION MISTER COLONIZER...

CLICK
CLICK



...CAN YOU KILL THAT WHICH YOU ARE ETERNALLY FORBIDDEN TO TOUCH?



GOTTA... GO... GOTTA RELOAD.



THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.

CLING
CLANG



MY
TURN!



OH NO!
GOTTA RUN!



GOING
SOME-
WHERE?



ARRGH!



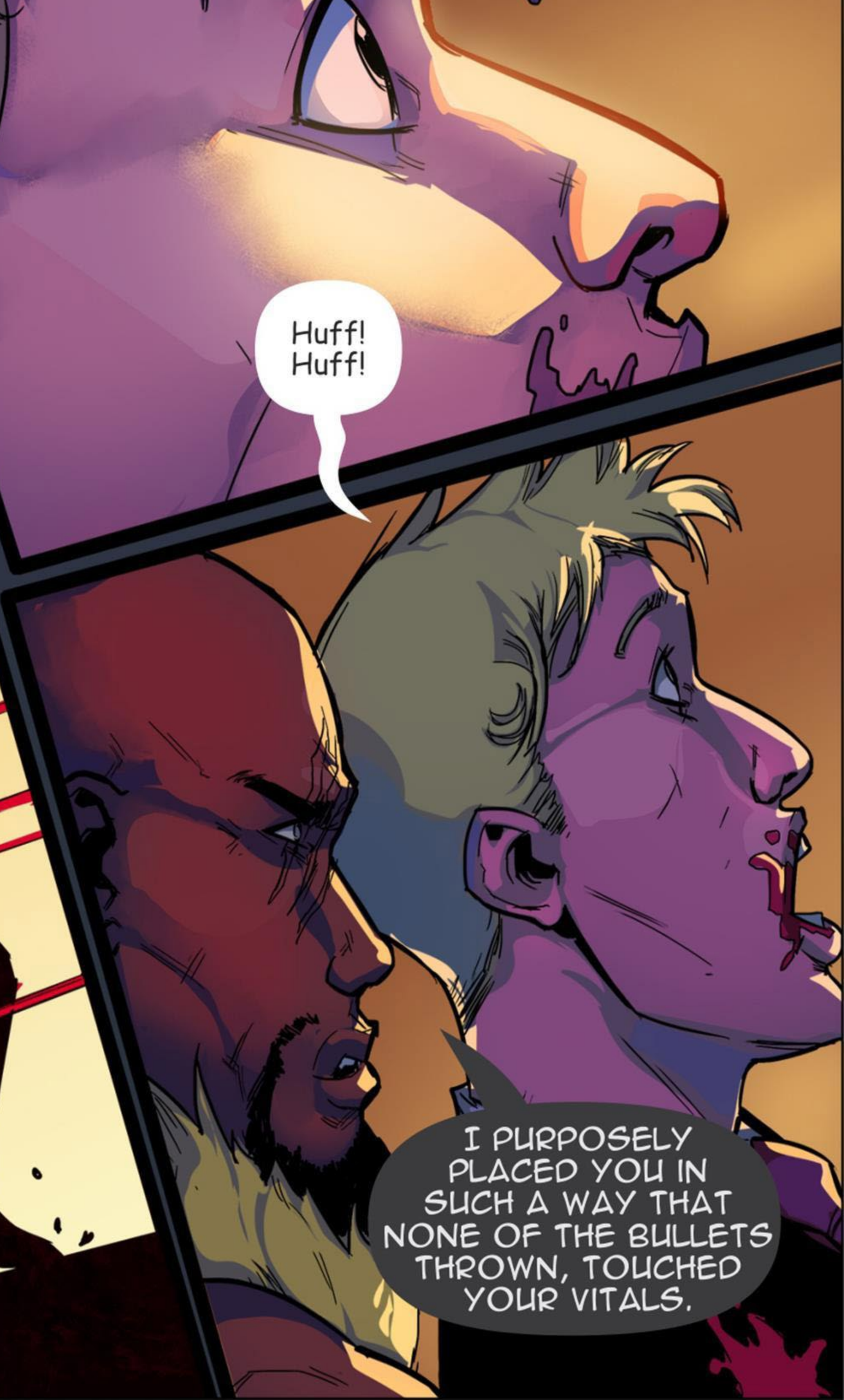
RELAX.



Huff!
Huff!



LET
THE *GBEDU*
ENTER
BODY.



I PURPOSELY
PLACED YOU IN
SUCH A WAY THAT
NONE OF THE BULLETS
THROWN, TOUCHED
YOUR VITALS.



FZZZT!

LIKE A GOD, I AM KNOWN TO BE MAGNANIMOUS LIKE THAT.

BUT TODAY, UNFORTUNATELY... I AM OUT OF MERCY.

SPLAT!



AND OF COURSE YOU SWITCHED YOUR BODY JUST IN TIME, CHIEF SIR.



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TRULY DISAPPOINTING FOR ONE AS REPUTABLE AS YOU TO PERISH FROM SUCH A SIMPLE ATTACK LIKE THAT.



RISEING OUT OF INTERLOCKING TILES, DEFACING THE ROAD NETWORK LIKE SANWOLI'S POSTERS IN LAGOS?

*BAWO NI IWO SE AJOBARA, NJE O TI SO OKAN RE NU?

*HOW DARE YOU AJOBARA, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?

I ASSURE YOU, MY MIND HAS NEVER BEEN CLEARER.



I AM SURE YOU KNOW YOU DUG YOUR GRAVE THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO INSOLENTLY RAISE A FINGER AGAINST ME?

YOU F@#%@\$& BASTARD! ILL BEGOTTEN SON OF THE UNION BETWEEN A VILLAGE PROSTITUTE AND A DRUNKARD! CHILD OF A WHORE! I WILL MAKE A LINE FROM YOUR NECK TO YOUR ANUS AND PEEL YOUR FLESH APART.

ANSWERS ARE USELESS TO A DEAD MAN.

FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP

THE HUNTER DID NOT LITTER A WORD TO HIS INTENDED PREY. IF ANYTHING, HIS TONGUE WAS ALREADY HEAVY...

...HEAVY AND DRY FROM THE ANTICIPATION OF HIS NEXT HUNT.

YOU WILL BEG ME FOR DEATH, BUT EVEN THAT MERCY I WILL NOT GIVE... THIS I PROMISE YOU BEFORE THIS FIGHT IS DONE!

AND ONLY BLOOD COULD WATER IT.

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 8 issues.



Emmanuel Ozor



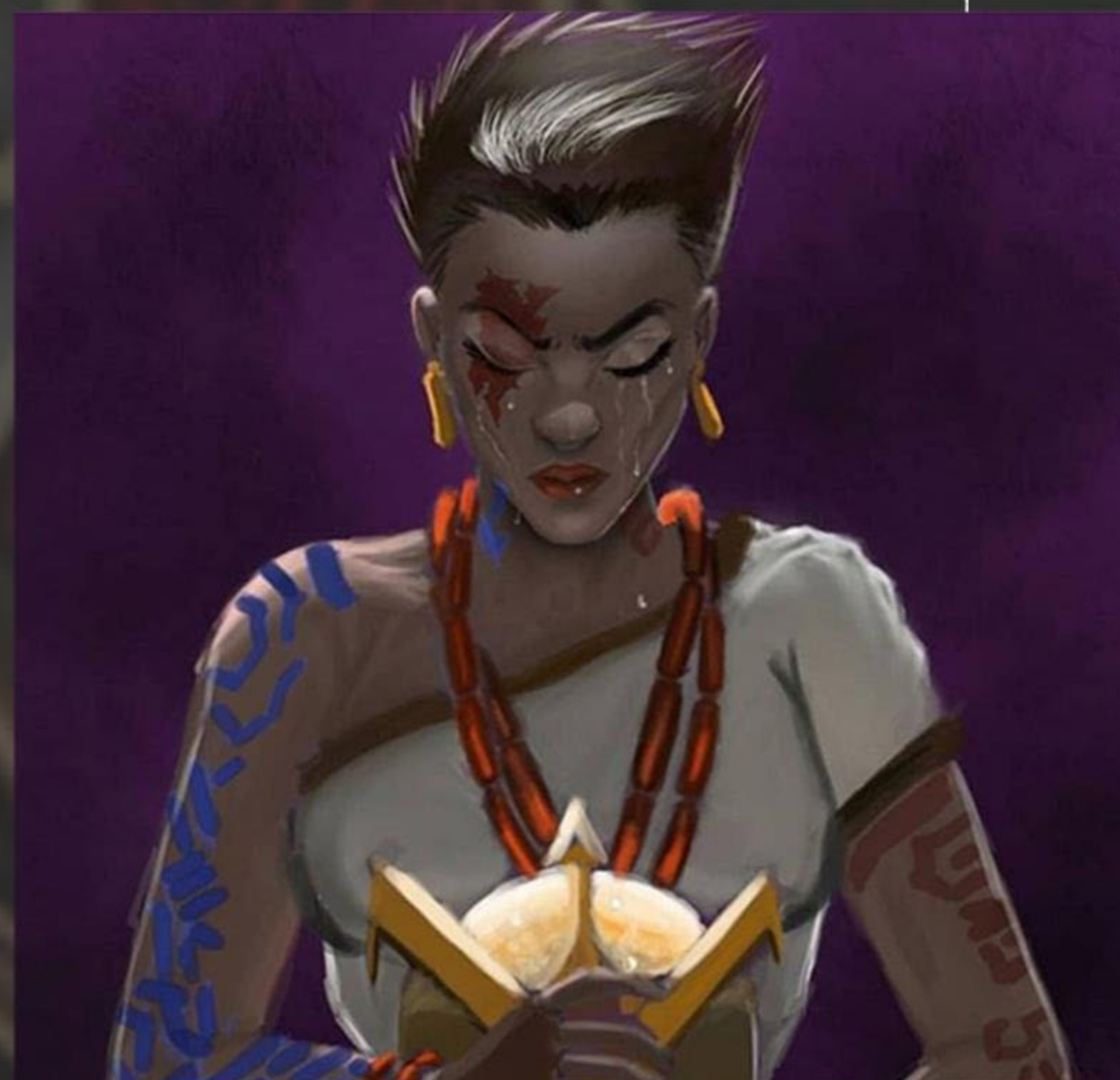
Dominic Ozirien



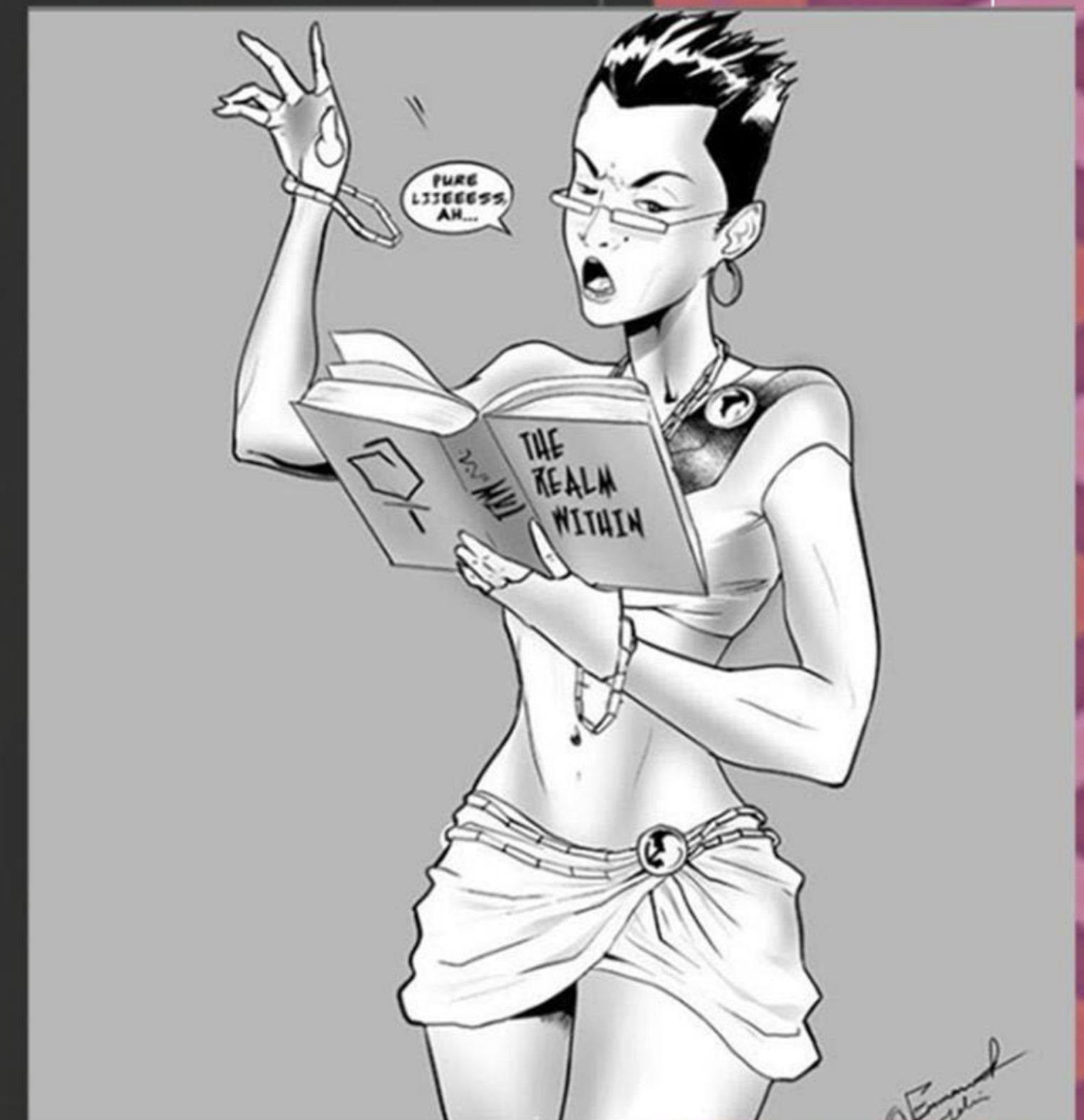
Oluwale Ibukun



Emmanuel Elbuba



Babatunde Ajibulu



Emmanuel Ochenjele



DayourTheFuture



Johnmark Nwabuwa

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

SPIRIT WALKER

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE ISSUE 8, RIGHT... AND IN THAT TIME, STAN LEE DIED, ENDING A LIFE MANY DREAMT ABOUT BUT FEW WERE ABLE TO LIVE, A MARVELOUS LIFE WELL LIVED INDEED. WHILE THAT HAPPENED TO STAN LEE, STANLEY AND I MANAGED TO PROPOSE TO THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES AND WE WILL BE GETTING MARRIED ROUGHLY 3 WEEKS APART; FEBRUARY AND MARCH RESPECTIVELY. WITH THIS UNDERTONE IN MIND, IT HARDLY COMES AS A SURPRISE WHAT THE COVER IMAGE FOR ISSUE 9 IS. ANOTHER WEIRD THING IS THE FIRST TWO PAGES OF ISSUE 9 – A LOVE STORY. BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THIS, NONE OF THE FOLLOWING WERE PLANNED WITH OUR WEDDINGS IN MIND. AS THE PRINCIPAL CUSTODIAN OF STORY, I KNEW WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH THIS ISSUE, PICK THINGS UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF, TURN THINGS UP A NOTCH AND GIVE YOU ANOTHER WELL-DESERVED FIGHT. I HAD KNOWN THIS SINCE ISSUE 1 AFTER BREAKING THE STORY FOR THE FIRST 10 ISSUES. BUT SEEING AS THE PART THE CENTRAL MEMBERS OF THE KIRIJI PLAYED IN THIS TALE IS OVER FOR NOW, IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT THE STORY WENT IN THE DIRECTION OF EXPLORING THEIR ARCH NEMESIS, ASH RAZAK, WITHOUT GOING INTO TOO MANY DETAILS ABOUT HIM, SO IN THE OCCASION OF HIS POSSIBLE RETURN, THERE WOULD BE A TON TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

THE SAFEST THING TO EXPLORE WAS HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ANANSI AND THAT WAS HOW THE PROLOGUE PAGES OF ISSUE 9 WERE FLESHED FROM JUST AN IDEA. I WOULD LOVE TO KNOW HOW WELL WE DID THERE, IN BOTH THE PENCILS, THE STORY AND DIALOGUES. ALSO FOR HARD CORE FANS, YOU WILL NOTICE THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN AVONOME AND BLACK GHANDI WAS HINTED BY WAY OF PROPHECY IN OUR POETRY AND FAMOUS QUOTE PAGE OF ISSUE 6; EASTER EGGS? I THINK SO. THIS ISSUE IS FULL OF A COUPLE OF THEM, LIKE THE KURUKO NO BASKET REFERENCE. JUST READ THROUGH AND SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN SPOT.

LIFE IS HAPPENING TOO FAST, THERE IS A TON STAN AND I WANT TO DO INDIVIDUALLY WITH OUR YEAR AND IT IS ALWAYS A PRIVILEGE TELLING THIS TALE WITH YOU AT THE READING END. PLEASE DON'T STOP SPREADING THE WORD, RECOMMEND FOR FRIENDS, FANS, FOES AND FAMILY ALIKE TO READ. I HOPE TO ONE DAY SHARE A WARM DRINK ON A COLD DAY WITH YOU.

ALSO A HUUUGGEEEE THANKS TO ALL AND EVERY ARTIST AND WOULD-BE ARTIST OUT THERE, WHO HAVE SINCE ISSUE 8 SUBMITTED A TRUCK LOAD OF FAN ART FOR OUR HEROINE. WORDS FAIL US AT EVERY BEND. FOR NOW, GOOD BYE, SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MARRIED.

MR. XAVIER.

**IT IS ALWAYS A
PRIVILEGE
TELLING THIS
TALE-**



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FOLK



EZEQGU

EZEQGU

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FEAR



EZEUGU

EZEUGU

F O L K T A L E S

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ERU



EZEAGU

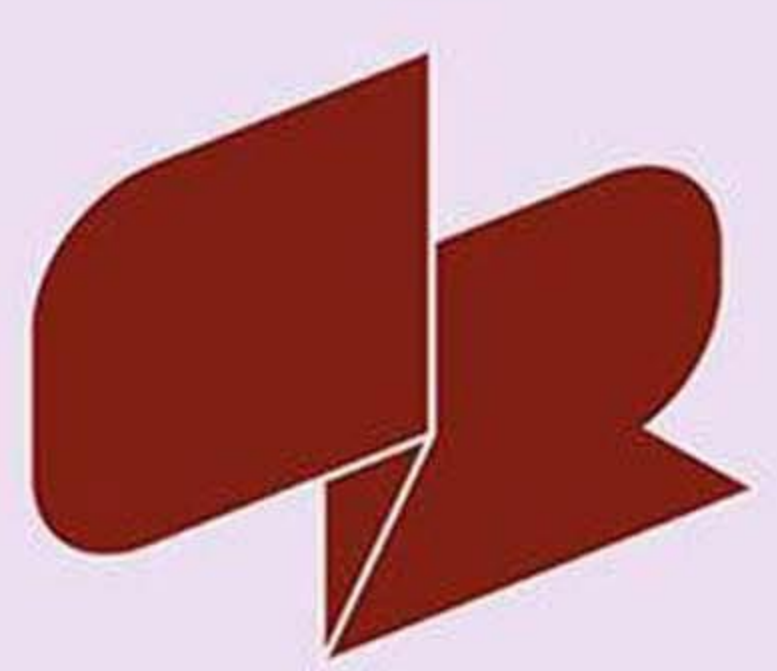
EZEAGU



FERU

ALL THE KING'S MEN

CREATED BY TOBE MAX EZEOGU
PENCILS OZO EZEOGU
COLORS TOBE MAX EZEOGU
WRITER OZO EZEOGU YUSUF
EXTRA PAGE (COLORS) ADELEYE YUSUF
EXTRA PAGE (COLORS) MICHAEL BALOGUN
ZENTANGLE MARTIN AVWENEGHA
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HEAD ONLINE OPERATIONS MARK ONEWO



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MAR

#4



ERU

ERIC KUKOYI IS NOT A NORMAL MAN. HE DOESN'T AGE OR SLEEP. HE LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, ALSO DOUBLING AS A PART TIME PSYCHIATRIST AND PARAPSYCHOLOGIST. WHEN NIGHT DAWNS, WHERE CREATURES HAUNT CORNERS AND CRIME REARS ITS HEAD, HE BECOMES THE ONE THING ANY OF THEM WILL EVER FEAR, HE BECOMES FEAR ITSELF. BOUND BY OATH TO HAUNT THE NIGHT AS A FORCE OF RETRIBUTION. THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY HAVE CALLED HIM MANY NAMES, BUT ONE ECHOES THE LOUDEST... ERU FEAR ITSELF, WALKS AMONG US.



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Dictates from the
ASABIE ASHRA* CREED:

THE PRIMORDIAL OF
LIGHT: WAAQ*.

THE PRECURSOR OF
HUMANITY: AADAMAHA*.

IN AADAMAHA'S DEFIANCE HE
BEAT THE DRUM OF THE ALL
FATHERS WRATH, DANCED INTO
THE FLOORS OF HIS ANGER,
AND HE WILL BE TORMENTED IN
THE PRESENCE OF THE PRIMORDIALS
AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ALL.

AND WAAQ WILL JUDGE HIM. IN
HIS LIGHT HE WILL BIND HIM.
IN HIS TERROR HE WILL CUT HIM
IN HALVES, BUT CAN NEVER KILL
HIM. AND WHOEVER BRINGS HIS
PIECES WHOLE WILL FREE HIM.

*ASABIE ASHRA: TEN FINGERS

IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, WAAQ MANDATED US TO GUIDE THE HALVES. HE ANOINTED ON OUR HEADS JARUMI.*

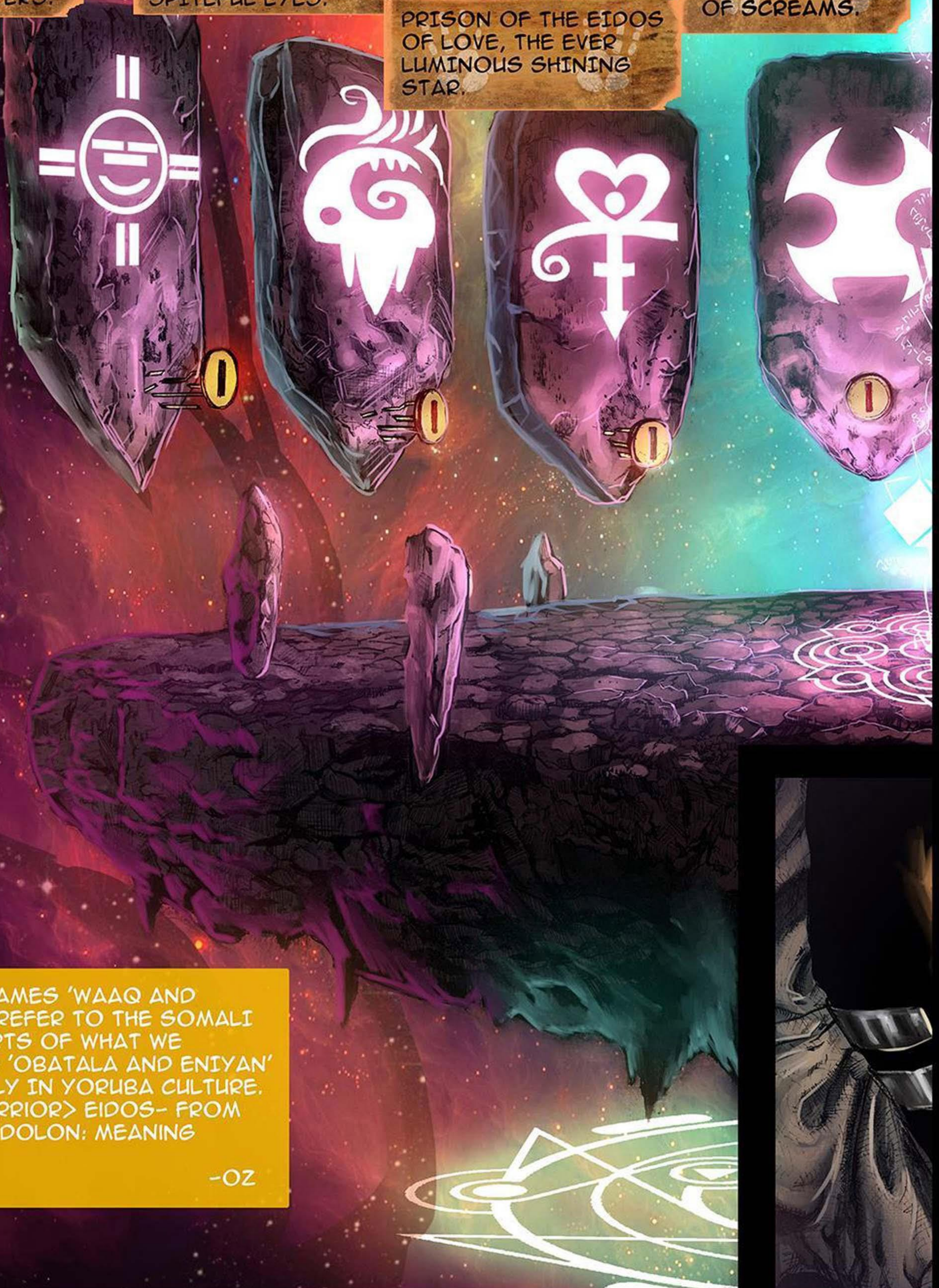
THE HALVES, THE FORMULA FOR HUMANITY: FEAR, LOVE, ANGER, SADNESS, JOY, SURPRISE AND THEIR EMPATHY.

PRISON OF THE EIDOS OF JOY, THE LOUD CRYING KING OF ABUNDANT CLUSTERS.

PRISON OF THE EIDOS OF ANGER, THE MADNESS OF SPITEFUL EYES.

PRISON OF THE EIDOS OF FEAR, THE COMPOSER OF SCREAMS.

PRISON OF THE EIDOS OF LOVE, THE EVER LUMINOUS SHINING STAR.



NOTE: THE NAMES 'WAAQ AND AADAMAHA' REFER TO THE SOMALI COUNTERPARTS OF WHAT WE KNOW TO BE 'OBATALA AND ENIYAN' RESPECTIVELY IN YORUBA CULTURE. JARUMI- WARRIOR> EIDOS- FROM THE WORD EIDOLON: MEANING INCARNATE

-OZ



PRISON OF THE EIDOS OF SADNESS, THE RIVER THAT DROWNS EYES.

PRISON OF THE EIDOS OF SURPRISE, THE ONE THAT CAN STARTLE STONE.

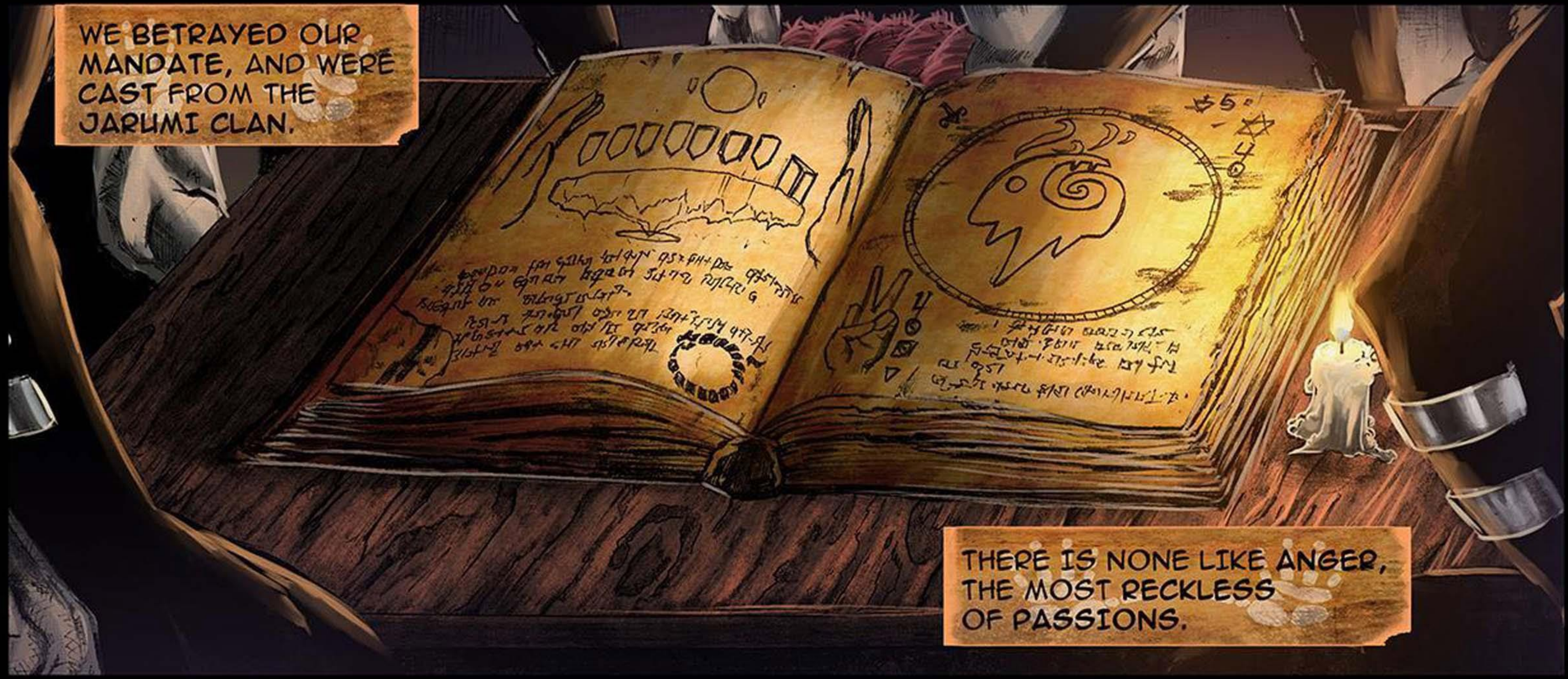
PRISON OF THE EIDOS OF EMPATHY, THE MARE WHO DESTROYS MERCIFULLY.

BUT NOT FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, BUT FOR THE POTENTIAL THAT WAS PAINTED INTO OUR PUPILS.

WHAT WE COULD NOT SEE BUT FEEL, THE BRAIL PRINTS DANCED ON OUR FINGERTIPS, THE SHROUDED WORD SPELT POWER.

SO WE SOUGHT TO FREE AADAMAHA'S ASPECTS, HIS EIDOS.

WE BETRAYED OUR MANDATE, AND WERE CAST FROM THE JARUMI CLAN.



THERE IS NONE LIKE ANGER, THE MOST RECKLESS OF PASSIONS.

ALL THE GODS
ALL THE HEAVENS
ALL THE HELLS
ARE WITHIN YOU
-JOSEPH CAMPBELL



**MOGADISHU, SOMALIA,
EAST AFRICA, 1993...**

Sid ...AND TO THINK IT WAS ALL ON
FIRE, 23 YEARS AGO.



HMMM... AND THEY
STILL DON'T KNOW
THE REAL CAUSE.

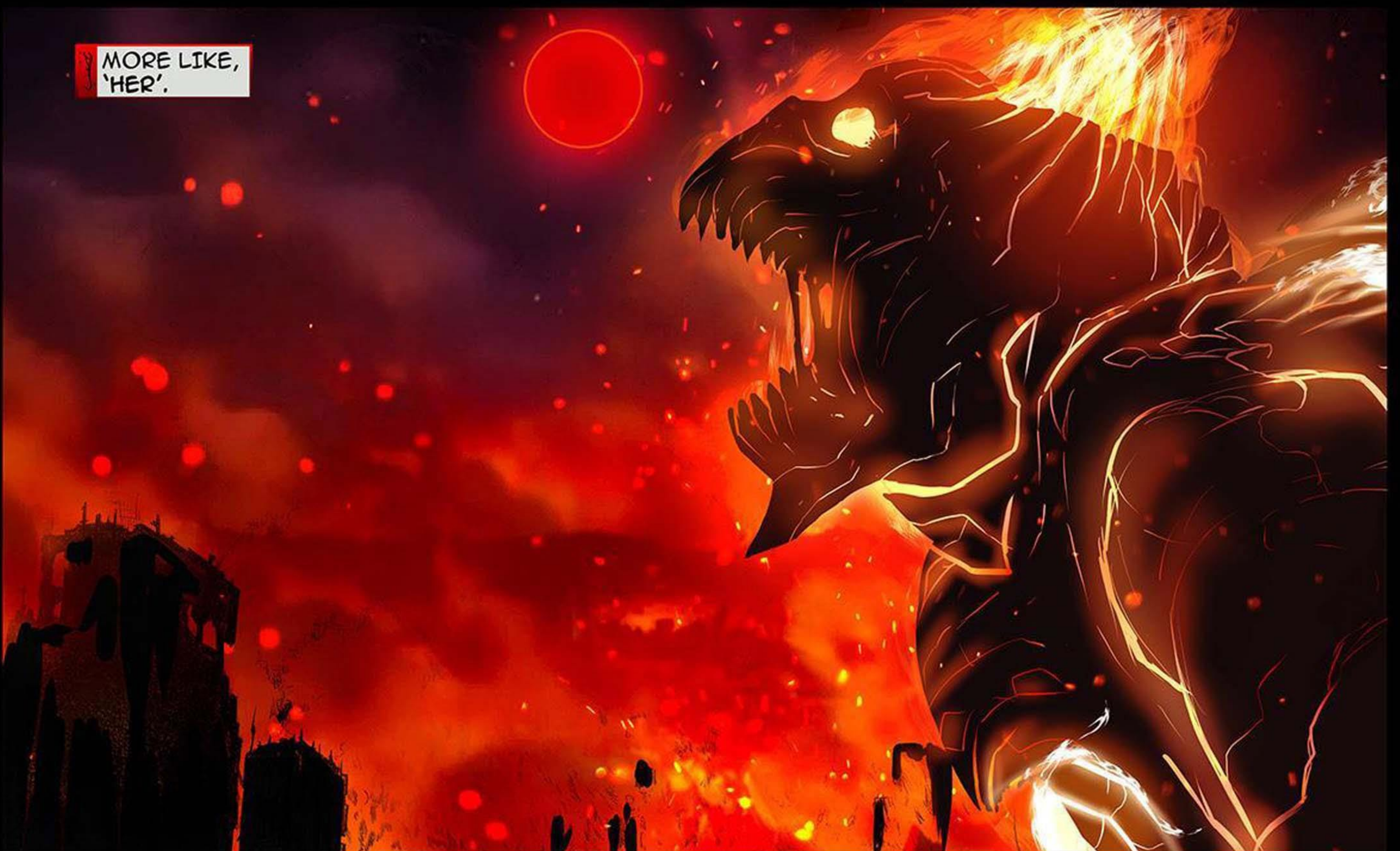


THEY DON'T KNOW
WE DID THIS...



WELL, NOT 'WE'...

MORE LIKE,
'HER'.



Now, look at Mogadishu today... it looks good.



MOGADISHU IS BACK TO THE WORLD?



BAHDOON, YOU ARE MY CHIEF OF SECURITY AND PERSONAL ADVISER. AND CHIEF JARUMI.* DO YOU THINK I CAN EXTEND THIS CONTROL I HAVE, OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY?

*JARUMI: HAUSA FOR WARRIOR.

WRITTEN BY OZYMANDIAS GHEIST
MOGADISHU, SOMALIA — BRIGHT SUN, SKY SCRAPERS
KIDS PLAY WITH SOCCER BALLS IN THE PORTS

PHOTO CREDIT BY HARLEQUIN.S.MARK © MAXJAEGER PHOTOGRAPHY

ROYAL PALACE TO THE SULTAN OF HAWOYE, MOGADISHU, SOMALIA.

SULTAN XAWAAL MUHAMMADU ADEER. (ALNNAR MIN ALSSALI-HIN)

I MEAN I HAVE CARRIED IT FOR SO LONG NOW, I KNOW HOW TO USE IT. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY CAN OPPOSE ME IF I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO.

I HAVE HAD THIS DISCUSSION WITH YOU BEFORE, MY LORD--

OH YES, YOU HAVE.

<FIRE OF THE RIGHTEOUS>

THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN. YOU CAN RULE THIS CLAN DESPITE YOUR FOURTEEN YEAR OLD APPEARANCE BECAUSE YOUR TIES WITH THE FORMER SULTAN, MADE YOU THE NEXT IN LINE DURING THE COUP.



I AM THIRTY SEVEN, BADHOON.

BUT THE FORCE INSIDE YOU IMMORTALIZES YOU LIKE THIS.



BUT WHAT SEEMS LIKE A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD PRESIDING A COUNTRY!

IT'S NOT LIKE HERE, WHERE THE LAWS OF TRADITION, DEVIATE. IT IS NOT LEGAL.



BESIDES, DO YOU PLAN ON TAKING IT BY FORCE WHEN YOU ARE EVENTUALLY DENIED? THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES...

FINE. GUARD, LET THE ELDERS IN, AND LET US BEGIN THIS MEETING.



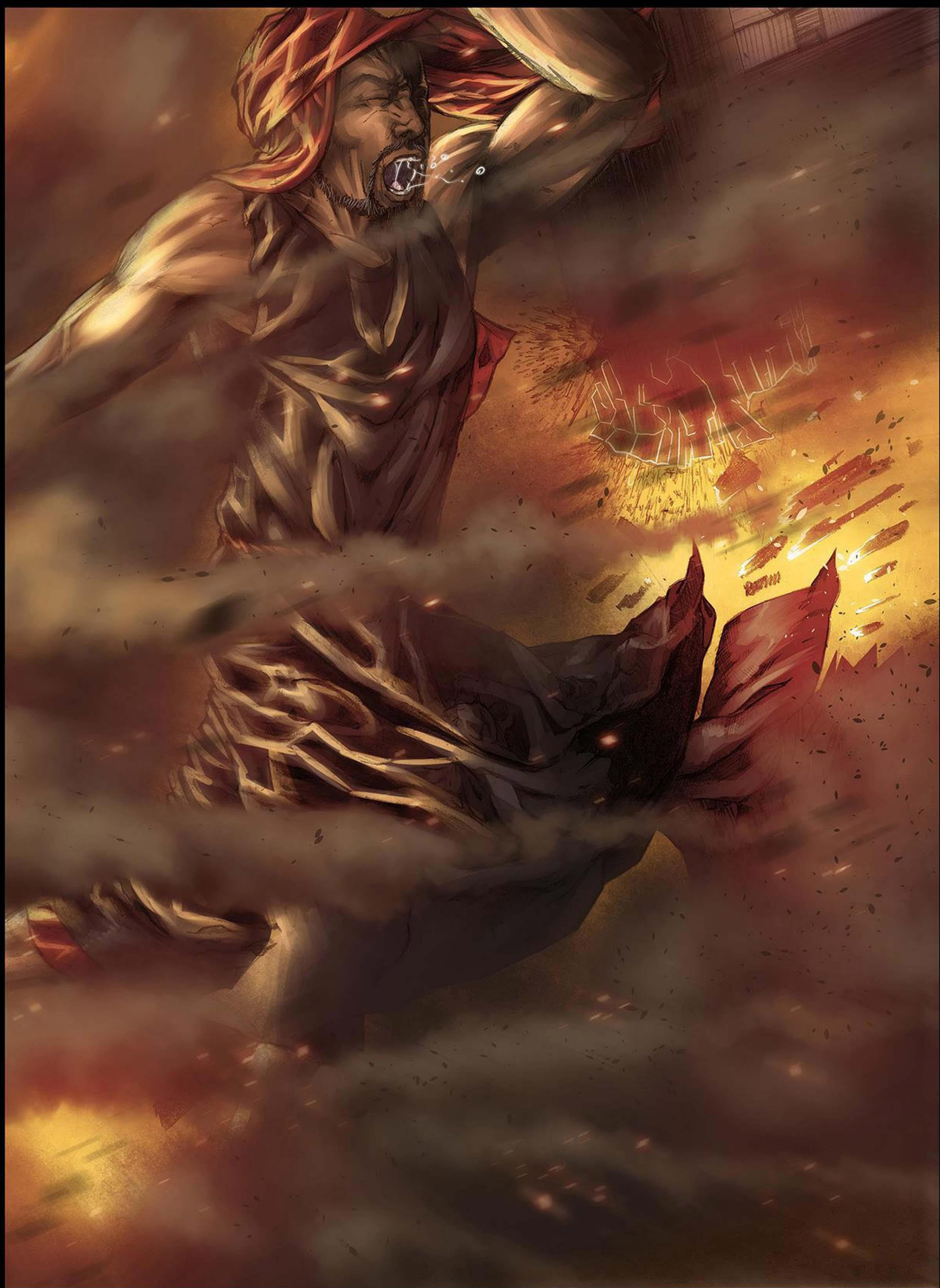
SOONER OR LATER, WE MUST ADDRESS THIS ISSUE OF YOU NOT BEING ABLE TO AGE, BEFORE THE PUBLIC NOTICES.



THAT'S WHY THE MOST LOGICAL THING TO DO, EVEN IF IT MAY SEEM TYRANNICAL, IS TO RULE WITH POWER. AFTERALL, I AM A KIND KIN--









<*ALSSALAM
EALAA HADHA
ALBAYT.>

<*PEACE BE UPON THIS HOUSE>



GUARDS!

WE HAVE
COME TO KILL THE
SULTAN, WE HAVE COME
TO RAISE HIS
EIDOS.



YOU KNOW WHAT
I AM, YET YOU
YOU COME HERE.
TELL ME, BECAUSE
NOW I AM CURIOUS,
WHO SENT YOU?

HOW DID
THEY CLOAK
THEIR
MAGIC?

*ASABIE ASHRA: TEN FINGERS

...SOON THIS PLACE WILL BE SURROUNDED WITH GUARDS, YOU HAVE NO WAY OF ESCAPING.

I AM ASABIE ASHRA.*

OH I WOULD NOT WAIT ON THOSE MEN IF I WERE YOU...

...ALL PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT WE ARE NOT INTERRUPTED.

GOOD, THEN WE CAN FINISH THIS QUICKLY. JARUMI CADHADII...*

LET'S US DANCE WITH THEM!

JARUMI (CADHADII) GUARDIANS OF WRATH.

*JARUMI CADHADII- GUARDIANS OF WRATH.



STOP THIS CEREMONIAL TALK. IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, DO NOT DO IT WITH PATIENCE.

I AM XANAAQ, THE MADNESS OF SPITEFUL EYES. YOU HAVE TEMPTED MY RAGE WITH INSOLENCE, I REBLIKE YOU.



WEAKLINGS!

IS THIS ALL YOU ARE?
NO! GIVE ME MORE,
GIVE ME MORE!



THIS IS
ALL YOU
BRING?

GIVE ME MRRRAAAAAAAGH!!!

MORE!
MORE! MORE!
MORE!



JARUMI,
DON'T FIGHT...
THEY WON'T BE
ENOUGH FOR ME.
THEY ARE MINE
TO BURN.

*SHAMSUN
DAAN!



OVER
MY DEAD
BODY!

WE ARE
PASSED THAT
POINT.



*<SHAMSUN DAAN IS THE ARABIC
WORD FOR 'SAMSON'S JAWBONE'>



YOUR AUDACITY
ALARMS ME. I HAVE DANCED
WITH EVERY SPIRIT OF ANGER,
RAGE, AND MALICE IN THIS WORLD,
AND THEIR TITLES ECHO
IN MY PRESENCE. WHY
DELUDE
YOURSELF?

GNNNGH!
LET--

I DID NOT WILL
YOU TO SPEAK, SHEEP.
SO TELL ME, BEFORE I
SEND YOU TO SLAUGHTER,
WHERE IS THE LAST ONE
OF YOU... THE TEN
FINGERS, YET ONLY
NINE APPEAR?

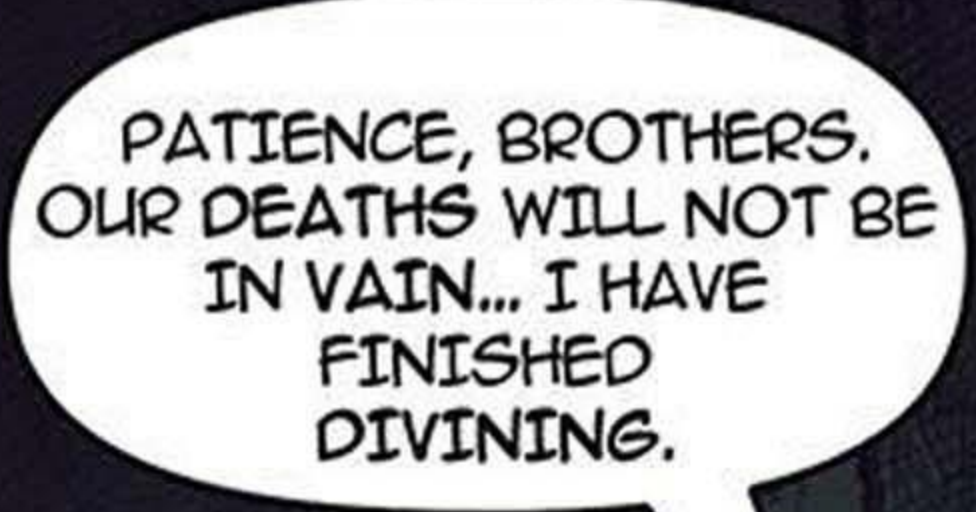


WHERE IS
HE HIDING, SHEEP?
DON'T WORRY,
WHISPER IT IN
YOUR
SHAME.

I AM A'SHIR
'IISBAE*, I WILL DIE
WITH MY HON---

HONOR? ARE
YOU TRYING TO PULL
A SMILE FROM
RAGE.

*TENTH FINGER



PATIENCE, BROTHERS.
OUR DEATHS WILL NOT BE
IN VAIN... I HAVE
FINISHED
DIVINING.



BROTHERS,
WE HAVE COME
THIS FAR. ONE
MORE STEP...
MY LIVE.

*THE
SPECTRE
OF LYSSA'S
MADDENING
HYMN*

♪ BEHOLD HIM!
SEE HOW EVEN NOW
HE IS WILDLY TOSSING HIS
HEAD AT THE OUTSET,
AND ROLLING HIS EYES
FIERCELY FROM SIDE TO
SIDE WITHOUT
A WORD.

♪ NOR CAN HE
CONTROL HIS PANTING
BREATH, LIKE A FEARFUL
BULL IN AN ACT
TO CHARGE ♪

9

10

11

12

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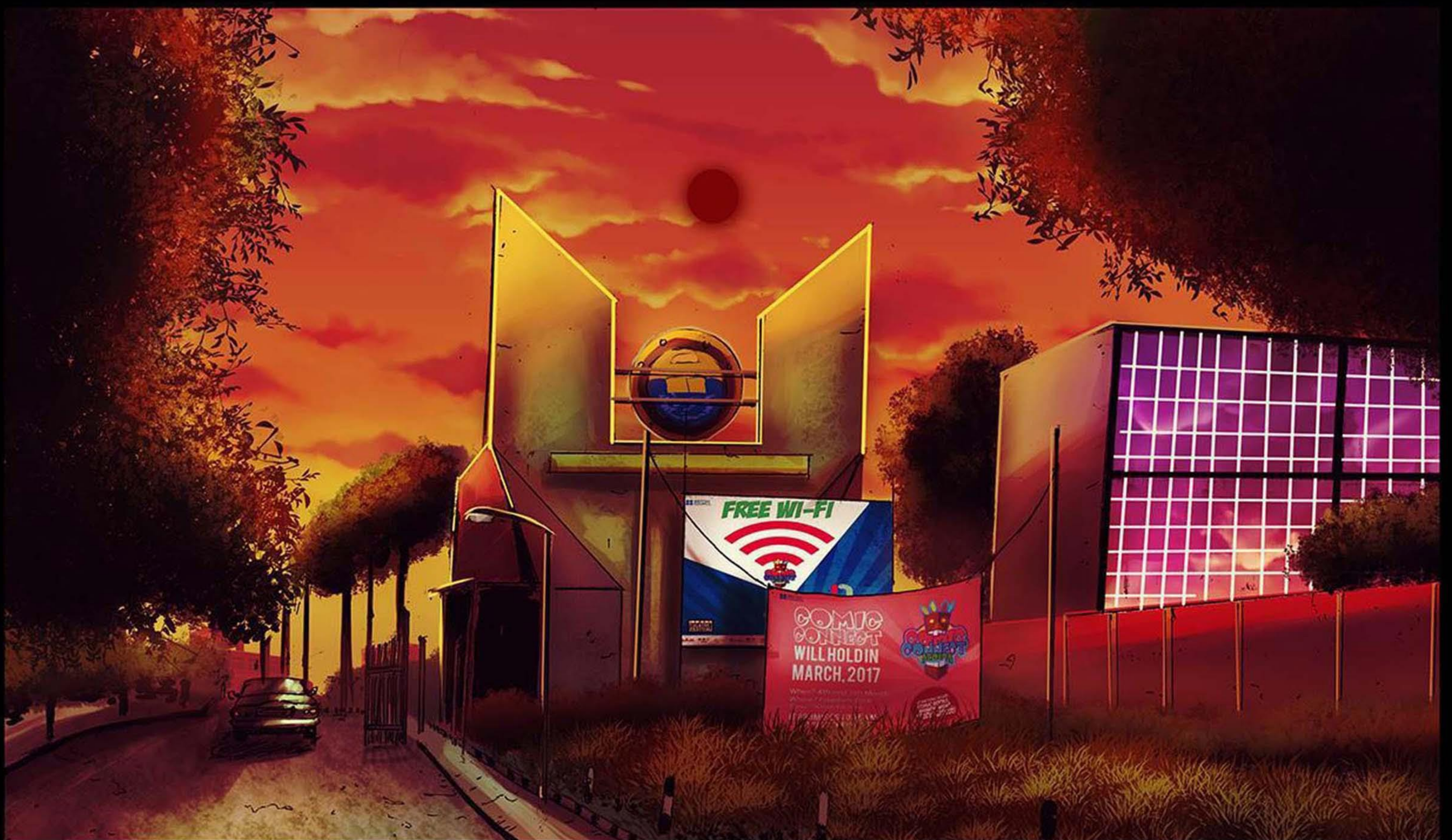
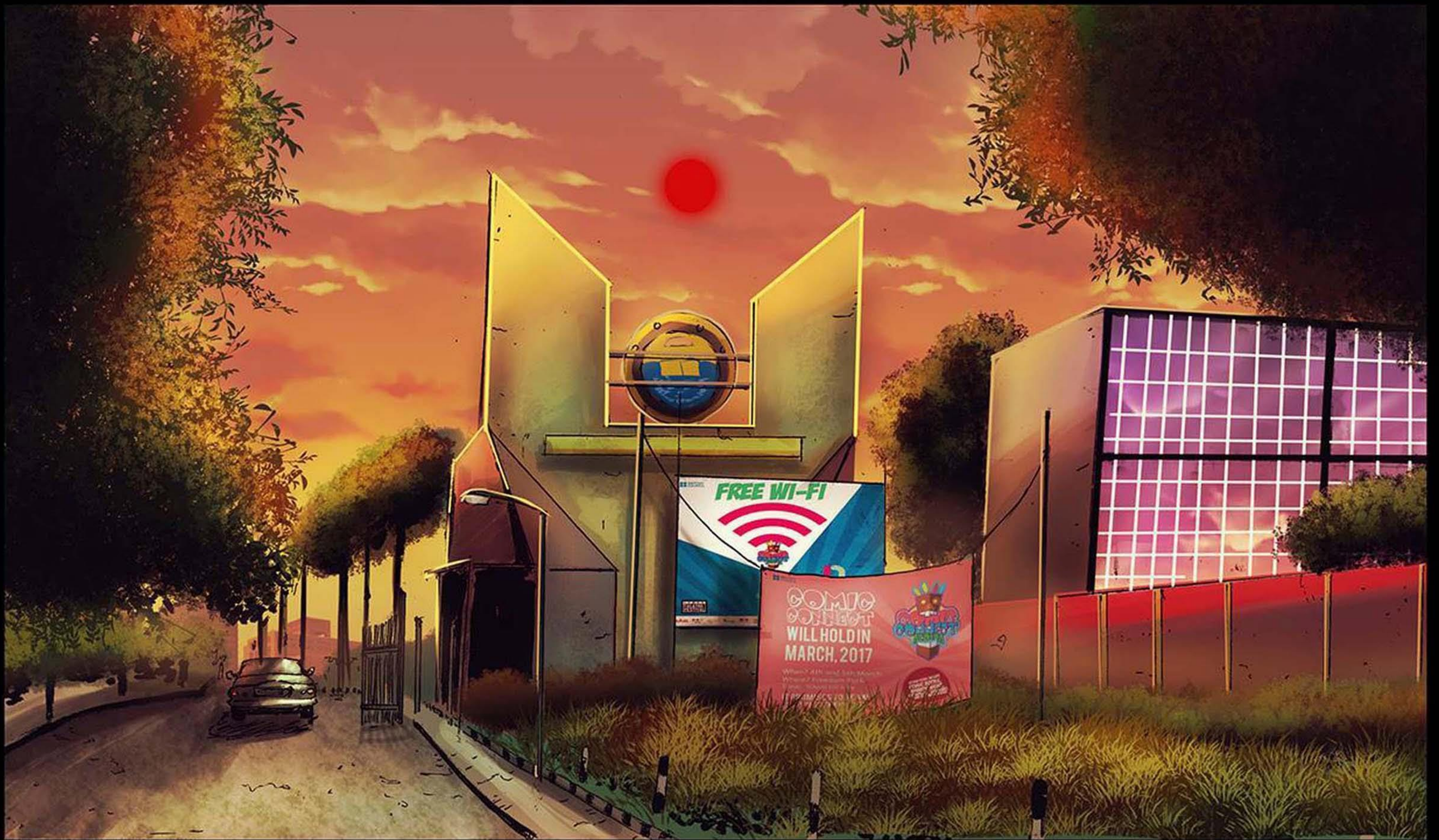
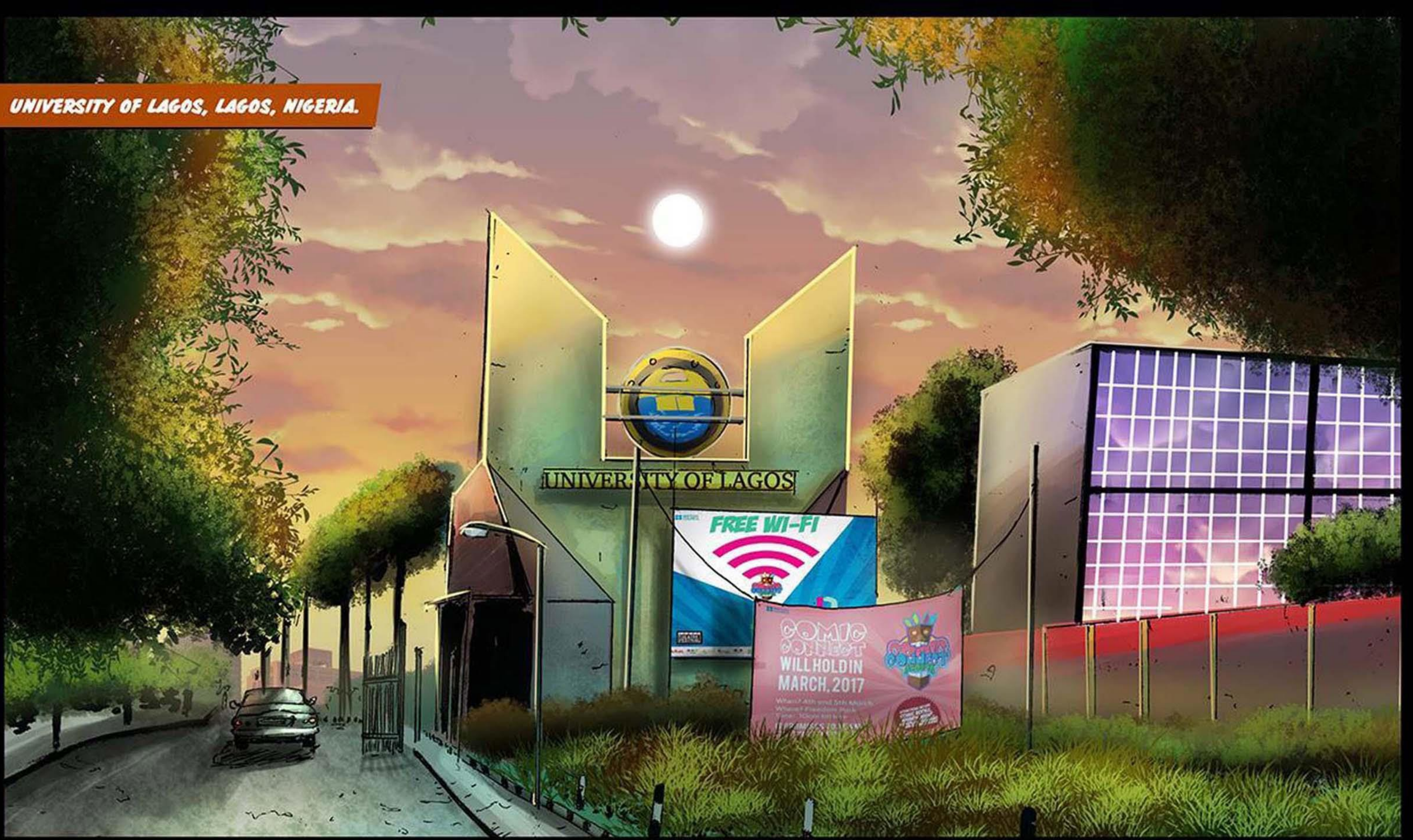
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17

XINWADQ IS COME!

THE SENTENCE 'IS COME' IS
ARCHAIC FORM OF ENGLISH.
IN MODERN DAY, 'HAS COME'
IS USED INSTEAD.

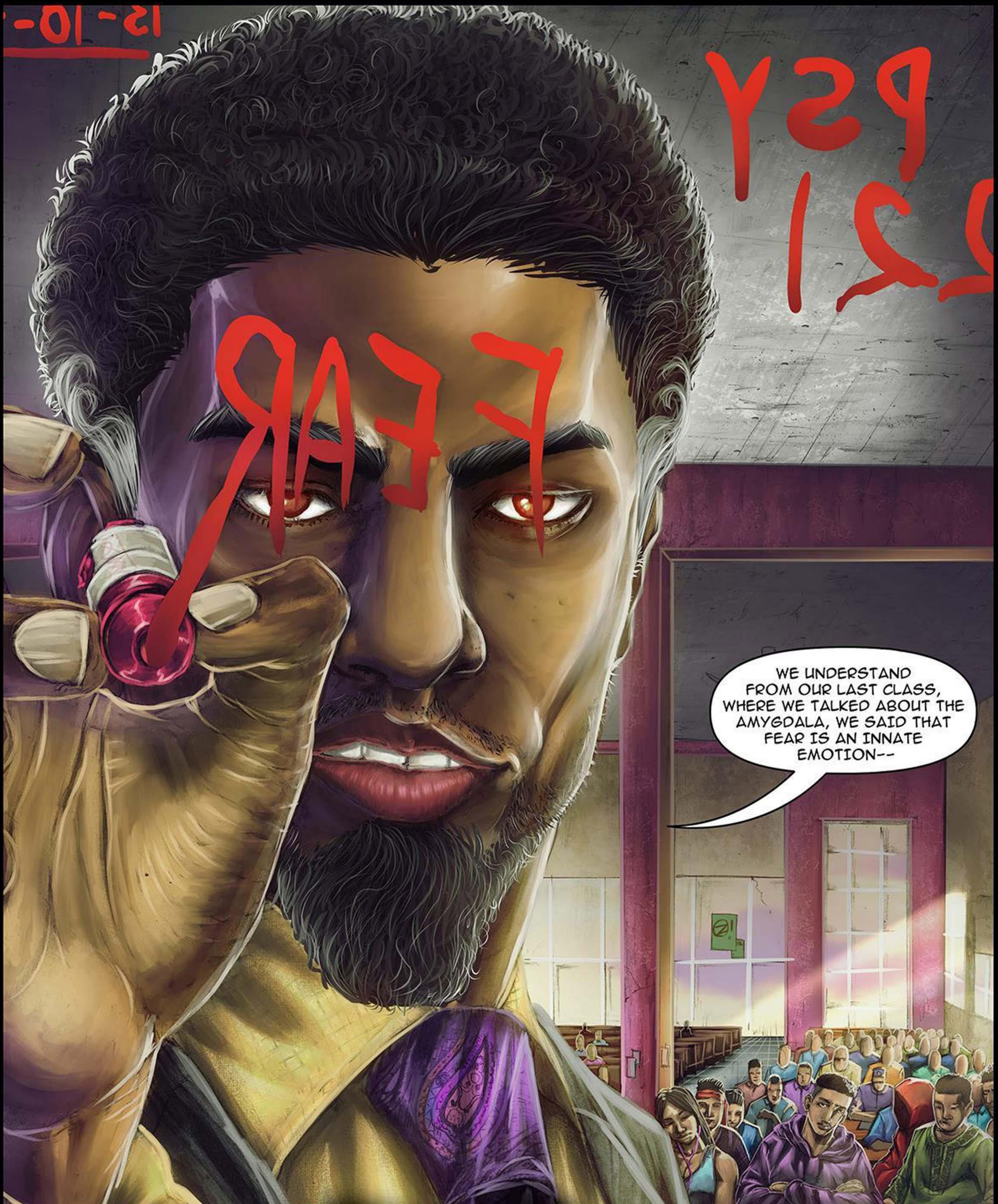
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, LAGOS, NIGERIA.



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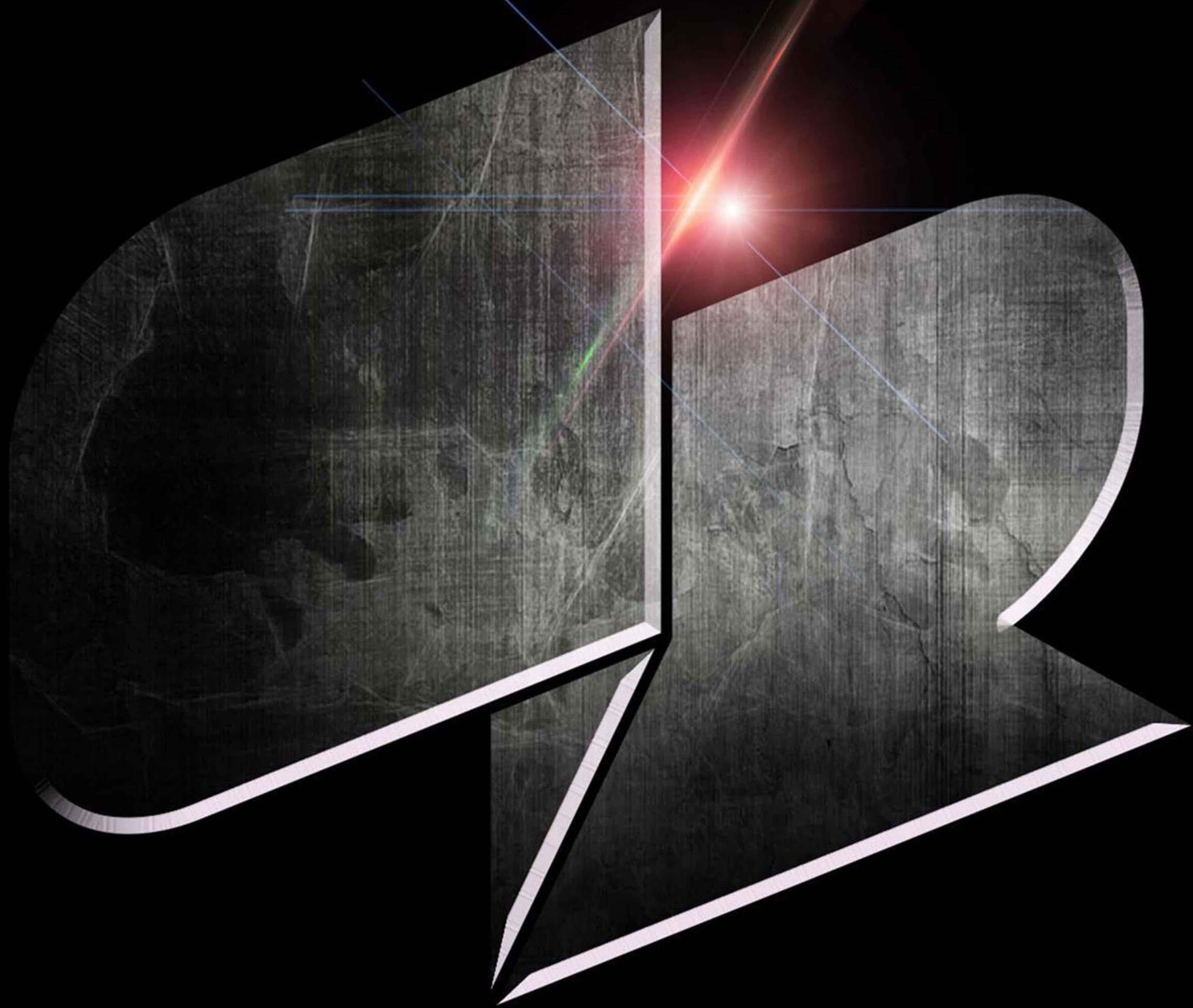
FEAR



WE UNDERSTAND FROM OUR LAST CLASS, WHERE WE TALKED ABOUT THE AMYGDALA, WE SAID THAT FEAR IS AN INNATE EMOTION--

XINNAQ IS COME!

BROTHER!



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AEF



3



AWELLENJE . EZEUGU . EZEUGU



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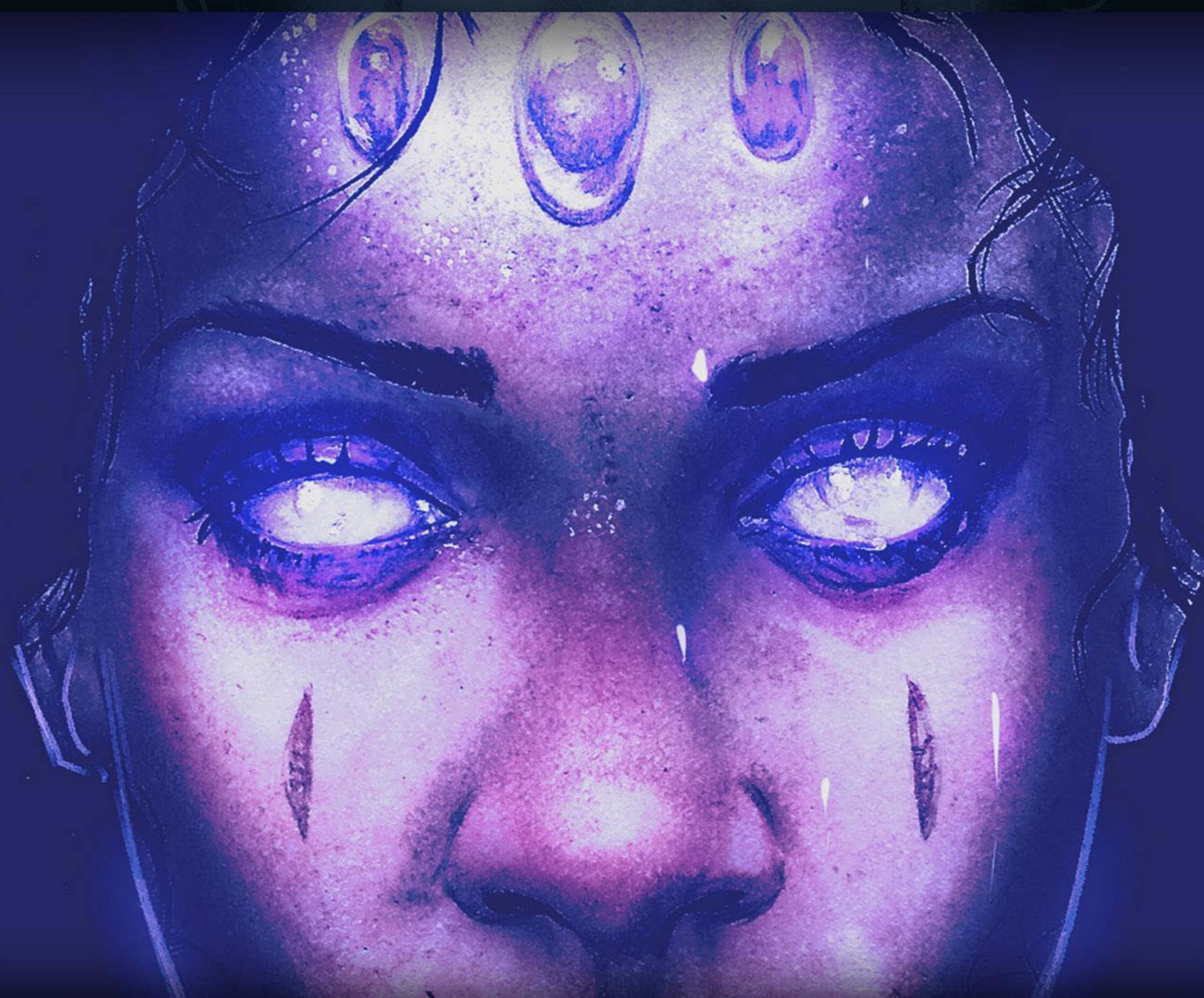
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AJE

WHAT IS TRUTH? WHAT IS NOT? WHICH IS OUR HISTORY? WHICH IS NOT? WHAT IS THE AJE? WHAT IS A WITCH? ARE THEY ONE AND THE SAME? OR IS THAT WHAT WE'VE BEEN TAUGHT? WHAT IS TENI? QUEEN WITCH OR NOT? IN TIME WE SHALL SEE, THEN AGAIN, MAYBE NOT.

- JIDE MARTIN



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...BYE, ADA.

MY NAME IS TENI FALONI. I'M A LAW STUDENT AT THE NEW AJAH CAMPUS OF UNILAG.

BYE, TENI.

THE GIRL IS ADA. FOR THE LAST HOUR OR SO, SHE'S BEEN TRYING TO CHEER ME UP, SHOWING ME PICTURES OF SENIORS SHE THINKS I SHOULD DATE.

I LIKE HER. SHE'S CHEERFUL, AND SHE DOESN'T MIND THE FACT THAT I'M QUIET, SHY OR THAT MY FATHER IS A FAMOUS MULTIMILLIONAIRE. ADA'S MY ONLY FRIEND.

SHE WASN'T ALWAYS THE ONLY ONE, THOUGH. I HAD A BOYFRIEND, YESTERDAY. AND A BEST FRIEND.

NOW, EDEM AND LARA ARE A COUPLE.



I CRIED A BIT YESTERDAY,
BUT TODAY I FEEL...
WORRIED.

NOT JUST BECAUSE,
DESPITE IT ALL, I STILL
LOVE EDEM, IN A WAY...

HELLO, TENI.
CAN I SEE YOU IN
MY OFFICE?

YES,
MA'AM.



BUT BECAUSE I'VE
GOTTEN OVER HIM
ALREADY...

AM I NORMAL? JUST
GULLIBLE? OR DO I
HAVE NO EMOTIONS?

LIKE A--

SOFIAT KOLAWOLE,
FACULTY HEAD,
GENERAL AFRICAN
STUDIES.

WHY DOES SHE
WANT TO SEE ME?

AFTER
YOU, MY
DEAR.



ONE DAY EARLIER

MY NAME IS EDEM AND I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY IN LAGOS!

I MEAN, JESUS! JUST LOOK AT THIS BABE. KAI!!

CONCENTRATE ON THE ROAD, THIS MAN. DEM NEVER SWEAR FOR ME FROM VILLAGE, NA MOTOR ACCIDENT YOU GO TAKE SPOIL MY HUSTLE ABI?

HAHA, RELAX, BABE. I'M JUST BLOWN AWAY... I MEAN YOU KNOW I'M WITH TENI, RIGHT?

TENI'S MY RICH GIRLFRIEND. LARA HERE IS HER HOT BEST FRIEND... AND I'M THE PLAYA THAT GETS TO HAVE THEM BOTH!

WHAT DID I SAY AGAIN ABOUT BEING THE LUCKIEST GUY?

MSHEWW! JAMB QUESTION. SO BECAUSE YOUR PAPA DON HAMMER, YOU DON DEY BEGIN TALK LIKE AJEBUTTER.

HAHAHA!

YEAH, MY DAD DID JUST LAND A MASSIVE GOVERNMENT CONTRACT. WHAT DID I SAY AGAIN ABOUT BEING THE LUCKIEST GUY?

ANYWAY, WITHOUT YOUR OMO OLOWO* GIRLFRIEND, HOW WOULD YOU EVEN AFFORD THIS CAR?

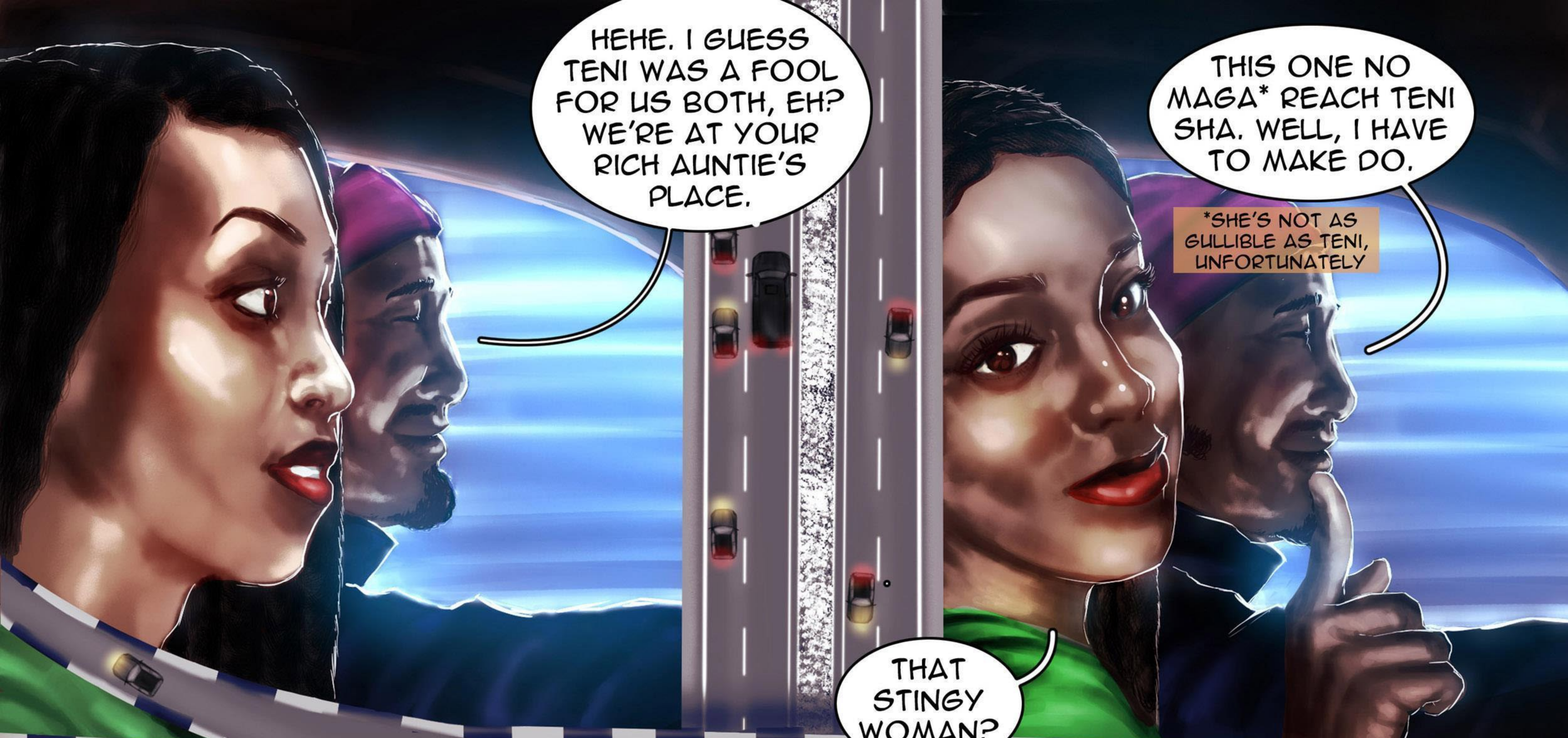
*RICH CHILD

BABE, YOU'RE COLD! TENI'S YOUR BESTFRIEND!

THAT ONE? EDEM, IT'S NOT TODAY YOU AND ME WILL START TO DULL. YOU THINK IT'S CHEAP TO LOOK THIS SEXY?

WARRRRRR





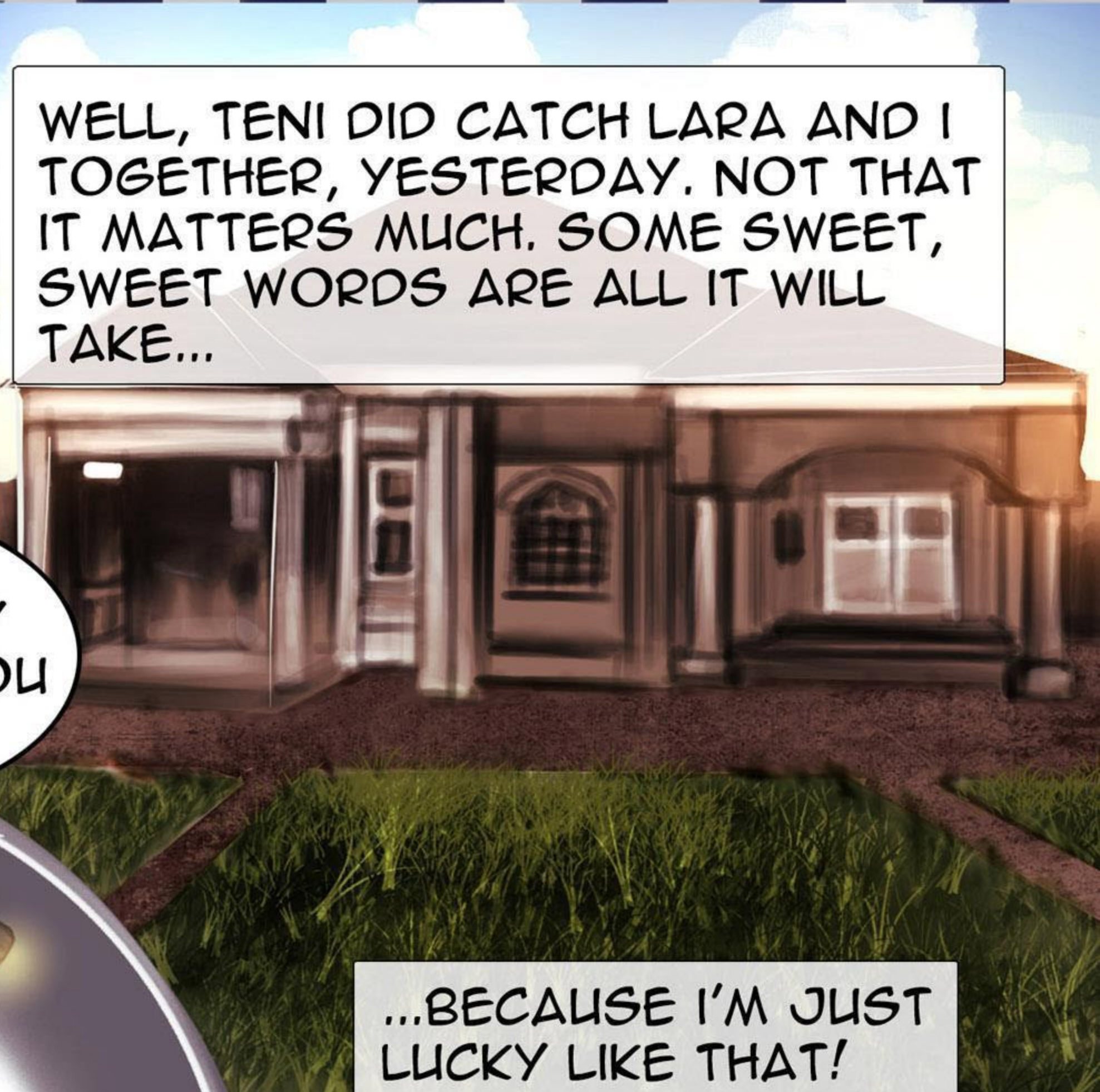
HEHE. I GUESS TENI WAS A FOOL FOR US BOTH, EH? WE'RE AT YOUR RICH AUNTIE'S PLACE.

THIS ONE NO MAGA* REACH TENI SHA. WELL, I HAVE TO MAKE DO.

*SHE'S NOT AS GULLIBLE AS TENI, UNFORTUNATELY

THAT STINGY WOMAN?

ANYWAY, I KNOW YOU HAVE TO GO SEE HER AND DO AJEBUTTER BOYFRIEND THINGS TODAY, SO COME PICK ME UP IN THE EVENING, EH?



WELL, TENI DID CATCH LARA AND I TOGETHER, YESTERDAY. NOT THAT IT MATTERS MUCH. SOME SWEET, SWEET WORDS ARE ALL IT WILL TAKE...

LARA, LARA! OKAY NOW, SEE YOU LATER.

...BECAUSE I'M JUST LUCKY LIKE THAT!




LATER THAT EVENING...



AT LONG LAST. SO HOW WAS YOUR AJEBUTTER GIRLFRIE--





--JESUS,
EDEM! WHAT
HAPPENED?

TENI'S BROTHER
WENT MENTAL! THAT
THEIR FAMILY IS CRAZY!
AND THAT TENI IS A WITCH,
I TELL YOU... SHE PUT A
CURSE ON ME!

EDEM OOO,
SLOW DOWN! YOU'RE
WORRYING ME! WHAT
THE HELL?

WARRRRRR

LOOK. I WENT TO
TENI'S HOUSE AND HER
BROTHER JUST ATTACKED
ME. THEN SHE OPENED
THE DOOR AND WAS
DRESSED LIKE A RITUALIST!
SHE SWORE
FOR ME...*

BLEEP!
BLEEP!
BLEEP!

WARRRRRR

*SEE ISSUE 1.
--WALE

THERE'S A POLICE CHECKPOINT AHEAD, EDEM, YOU SHOULD STOP.

OK.

MUM'S CALLING. THANK GOD I'VE GOT MY HANDSFREE ON...I'LL TAKE THIS CALL, LET HER KNOW I'M AT A CHECKPOINT...

EDEM! THIS IS YOUR MAMA O! THEY HAVE ARRESTED YOUR DAD!

WHAT!

IF YOU SEE ANY CHECKPOINT, DON'T STOP O, EDEM!!!

OH SNAP, TOO LATE! WHAT BLOODY BAD LUCK! WHY DIDN'T SHE CALL ONE SECOND EARLIER?

THIS NUMBER PLATE IS WANTED, SIR. PLEASE PARK WELL.

THAT CONTRACT O! IT WAS FROM THE DEVIL O! THEY SAY HE IMPLICATED... YOUR FATHER. HAY! GOD!

OH MY GOD, DON'T TELL ME THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME TODAY...

BLEEP!

BLEEP!

BLEEP!



LA--LARA...
WHAT DO I DO? IF
I GET DOWN, THESE
POLICEMEN WILL
ARREST ME!

GOT TO LOCK THE DOORS,
WIND UP THE WINDOWS,
THINK...

WHAT THE HELL IS
SHE LOOKING AT HER
PHONE FOR AT A TIME
LIKE THIS?

LARA, WHAT ARE
YOU LOOKING AT
ON THAT PHONE?
WHY ARE YOU
CRYING?

< THE EX (DO NOT ANSWER)

LARA, THE TEST WAS POSITIVE. PLEASE
GET YOURSELF CHECKED. YOUR NEW
BOYFRIEND, TOO.

WHAT?!
POSITIVE? TESTED?
THIS CANT BE
HAPPENING!!!

JESUS CHRIST! THAT
TRUCK IS OUT OF
CONTROL!

BRAKES O!
MY BRAKEES!!!

HE'S HEADED FOR ME!
CAN'T START IN TIME!!!

MY GOD...NEED TO OPEN
THE DOOR...TOO LATE...
TOO LATE...

WHAT DID I DO
TO DESERVE
THIS?!

CYNTHIA ATUZIE

WARDEN



**NEXT DAY
OFFICE OF SOFIAT
KOLAWOLE
UNLAG, AJAH
CAMPUS.**



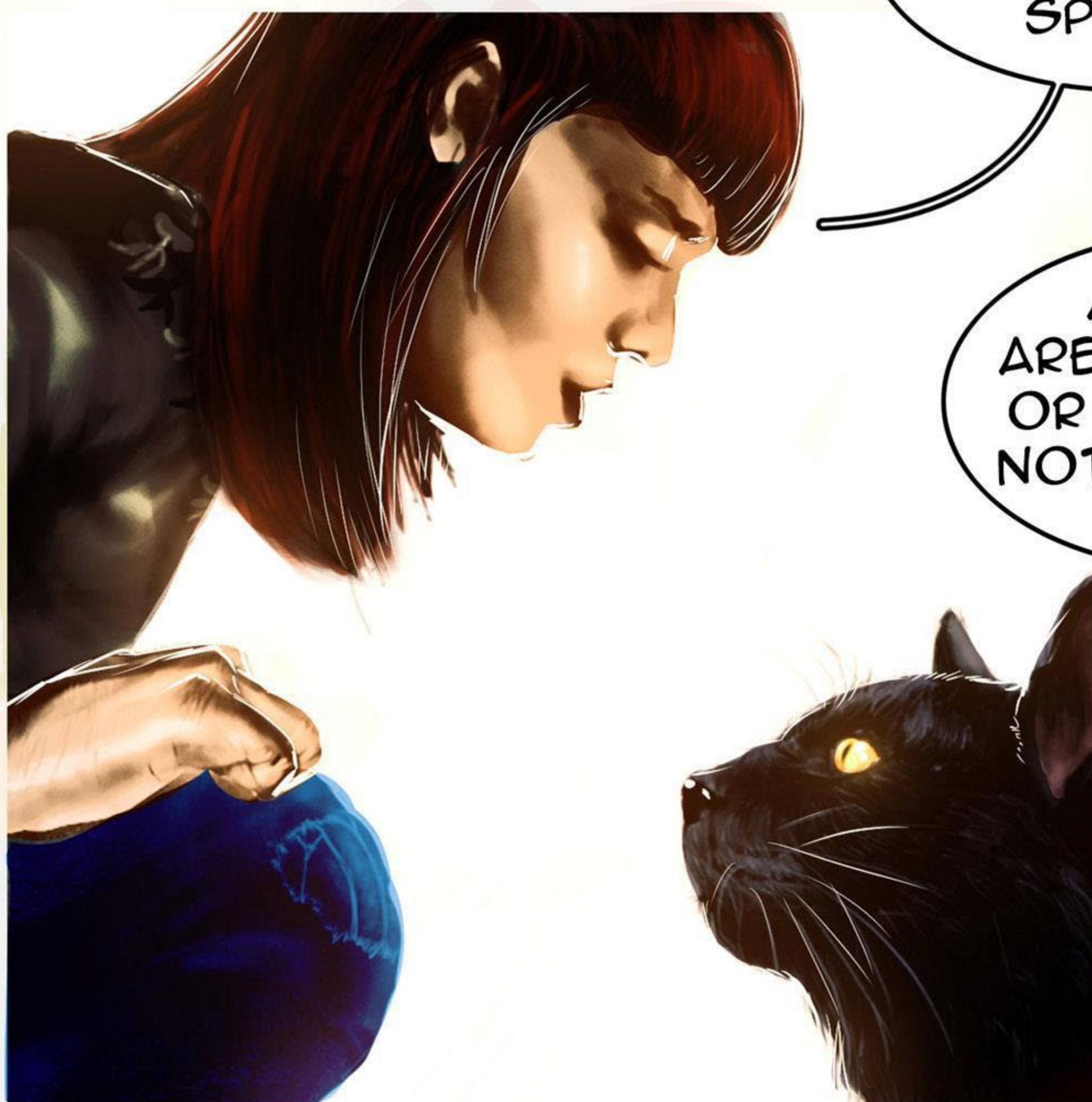
WELCOME,
TENI DEAR.



SOFIAT, WHY
DID YOU BRING HER
HERE? WE AREN'T
SURE OF
HER YET!

DID THAT
CAT JUST
SPEAK?!

MRS
KOLAWOLE...
YOUR CAT JUST
SPOKE.



AND YOU
AREN'T SCARED
OR STARTLED?
NOT SHOCKED?



IT IS THIS LACK OF EMOTION THAT SCARES ME.

SHOULD I BE? I JUST FEEL CURIOUS...LIKE I SHOULD KNOW THIS CAT.

HMMM! YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOMETHING, SOFIAT...

...BUT IF YOU'RE CORRECT, THAT MEANS THIS IS GOING TO GET BAD...

WELL, I AM CORRECT. TENI, *KIYA MI AYABA, ÒLORI, È DAKUN. ÒLÓLUFÈ È, EDEM, SÈ È SÈ ÈPÈ FUN NI ANÀ NI?*

*TRANSLATED FROM YORUBA LANGUAGE: MY QUEEN, I GREET YOU. PLEASE, YOUR BOYFRIEND, EDEM, DID YOU CURSE HIM YESTERDAY?

EH?!

È KÒ GBÓ YORUBÀ RÀRÀ ÀBÍ?

YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND YORUBA DO YOU?

I AM SORRY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT EITHER OF YOU ARE SAYING.

THIS IS A COMPLICATION.

OH NO, THIS IS BAD! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY, SOFIAT, THIS IS GOING TO BE REALLY BAD!

I KNOW, I KNOW. THIS IS A PUZZLE. WHAT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG?

I'M SORRY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT ARE YOU TWO GOING ON ABOUT?

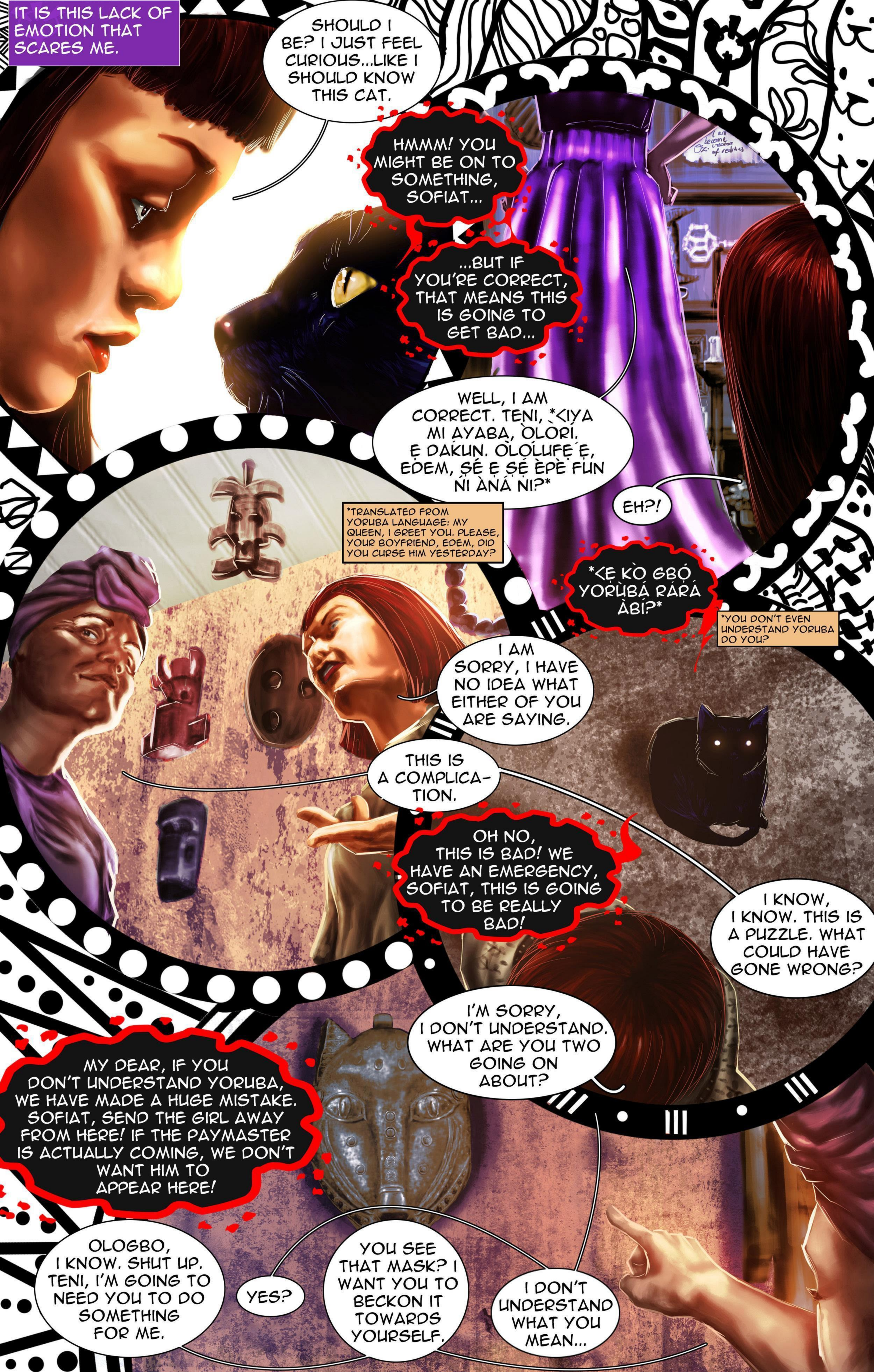
MY DEAR, IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND YORUBA, WE HAVE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE. SOFIAT, SEND THE GIRL AWAY FROM HERE! IF THE PAYMASTER IS ACTUALLY COMING, WE DON'T WANT HIM TO APPEAR HERE!

OLOGBO, I KNOW. SHUT UP. TENI, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

YES?

YOU SEE THAT MASK? I WANT YOU TO BECKON IT TOWARDS YOURSELF.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN...



JUST ROLL WITH IT, TENI. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TALKING CAT?

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU'RE TRYING TO TEACH ME WITCHCRAFT.

AND HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

ODDLY, I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT AT ALL.

SO...DO I JUST BECKON OR IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD SAY?

OH MY GOD. SHE MIGHT JUST BE THE ONE...

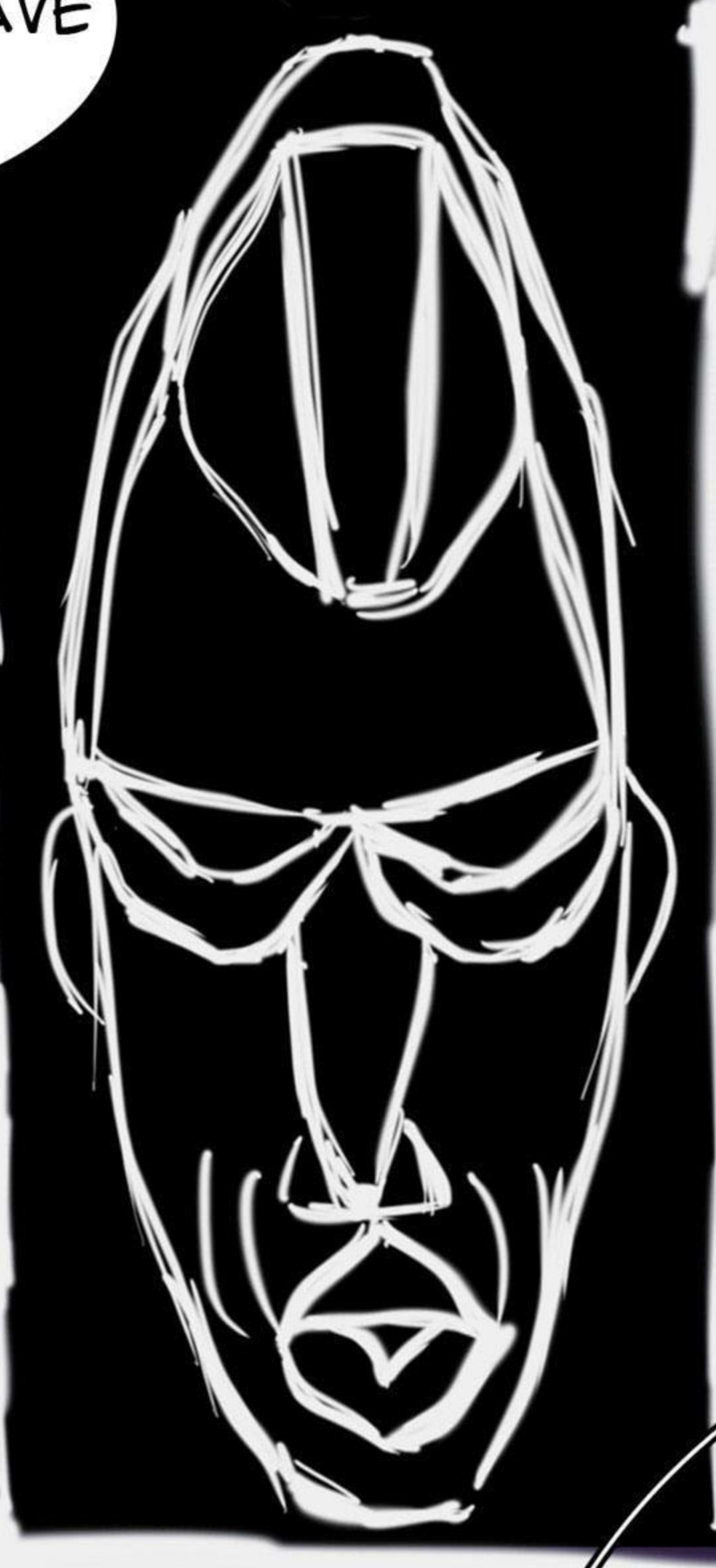
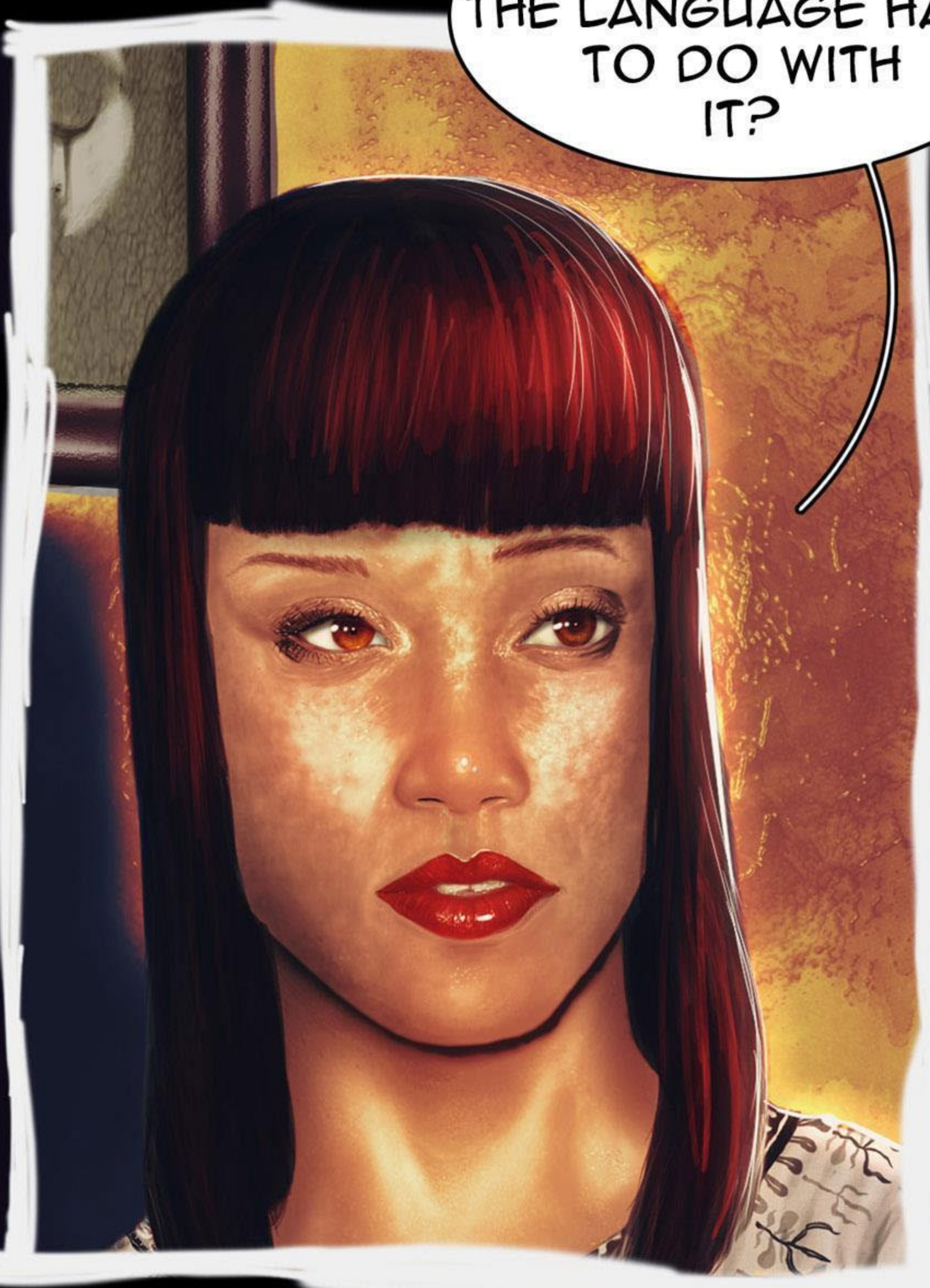
YES. WHILE BECKONING, REPEAT AFTER ME- "E DAKUN, WA MBIBAYI".

"EDDAYKUN... WAMBIBAT" IS SOMETHING SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?

SHEGE! THIS IS GOING TO BE HARD.

YOU'VE NEVER SPOKEN A WORD IN YORUBA IN YOUR LIFE, HAVE YOU AJE BUTTER GIRL?

WHAT DOES THE LANGUAGE HAVE TO DO WITH IT?



THIS...





SOFIAT, TIME IS RUNNING OUT! THIS IS CLEARLY NOT WORKING! IF THE PAYMASTER COMES HERE, HE WIL--

PLEASE OLOGBO TUTU- OBA, SHUT UP! TENI, PLEASE, IT'S YOUR TURN. YOU HAVE TO TRY.

AY... DAKKUN...

NO. YOUR PRONOUNCIATION MUST BE CORRECT. REPEAT AFTER ME... E DAKUN.

AY... DAKKUN DAKKUN?

STOP WASTING MY TIME, STUPID GIRL!

*<DAKÉ!!! TA LÒN BÀ MÍ SORÒ? ÀBÌ... SÈ EGBE NÍ WÀ NÍ?

*TRANSLATED FROM YORUBA: QUIET!!! AM I YOUR MATE?

*<SÈ IWO YÍ KÒ LÈKÒÒ NÍ? ABI O MÓ ÈNÌ TÌ MO JÈ NÍ?

*SO YOU HAVE NO RESPECT?! OR DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

MY-- MY QUEEN...

YE--YES, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE...



WHAT...
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?

TENI, LISTEN
TO ME. HAS THIS
EVER HAPPENED
BEFORE?



TIME'S ALMOST
UP! WE'VE GOT TO
GET HER TO CHANGE
BACK INTO THE
QUEEN! NOW!



I--I THINK
SO... THERE WAS
ONCE...

THINK!!! YOUR
BOYFRIEND, EDEM.
DID SOMETHING
HAPPEN?

IT DOESN'T
MATTER NOW, SOFIAT.
WE WILL HAVE
TO FIGHT...

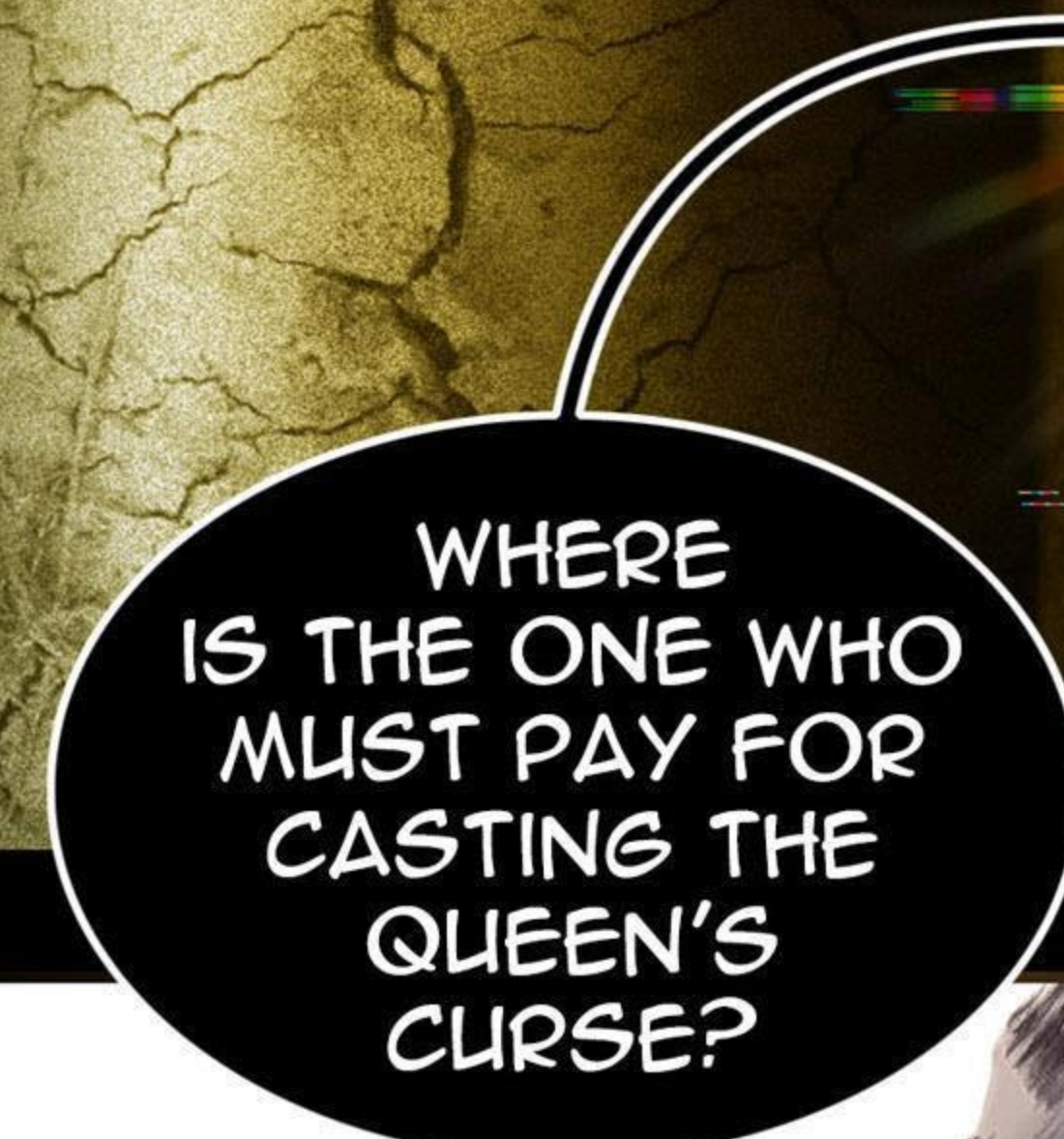
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
FIGHT?

YOUR BOYFRIEND,
THE ONE YOU CURSED. HE
WAS IN AN ACCIDENT YESTERDAY
AND HAS BEEN BATTLING FOR
HIS DEAR LIFE. WE HOPED TO
GET YOU TO LIFT THE CURSE IN
TIME, BUT IT'S TOO
LATE NOW.

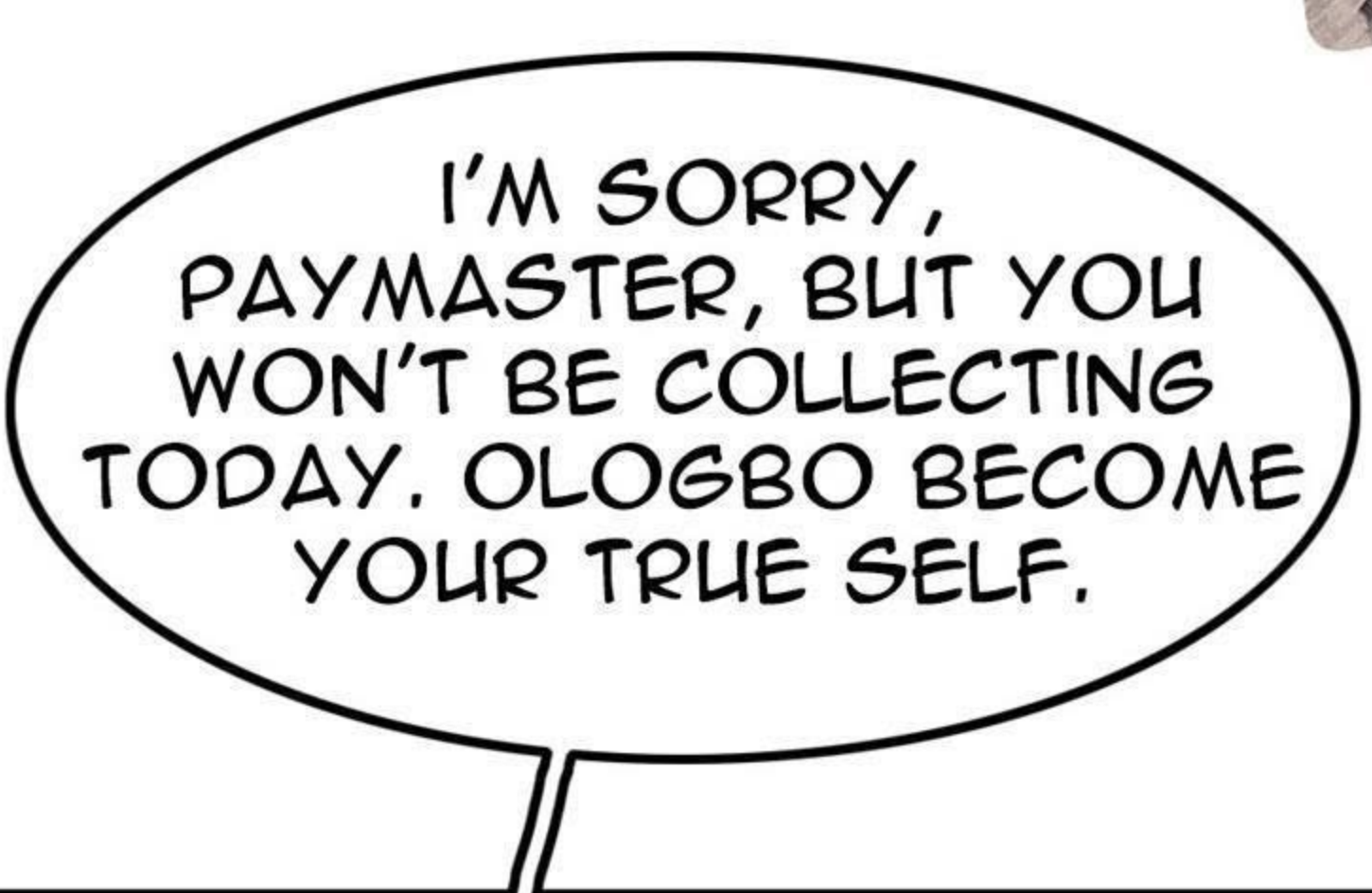




THE
PAYMASTER HAS
COME.



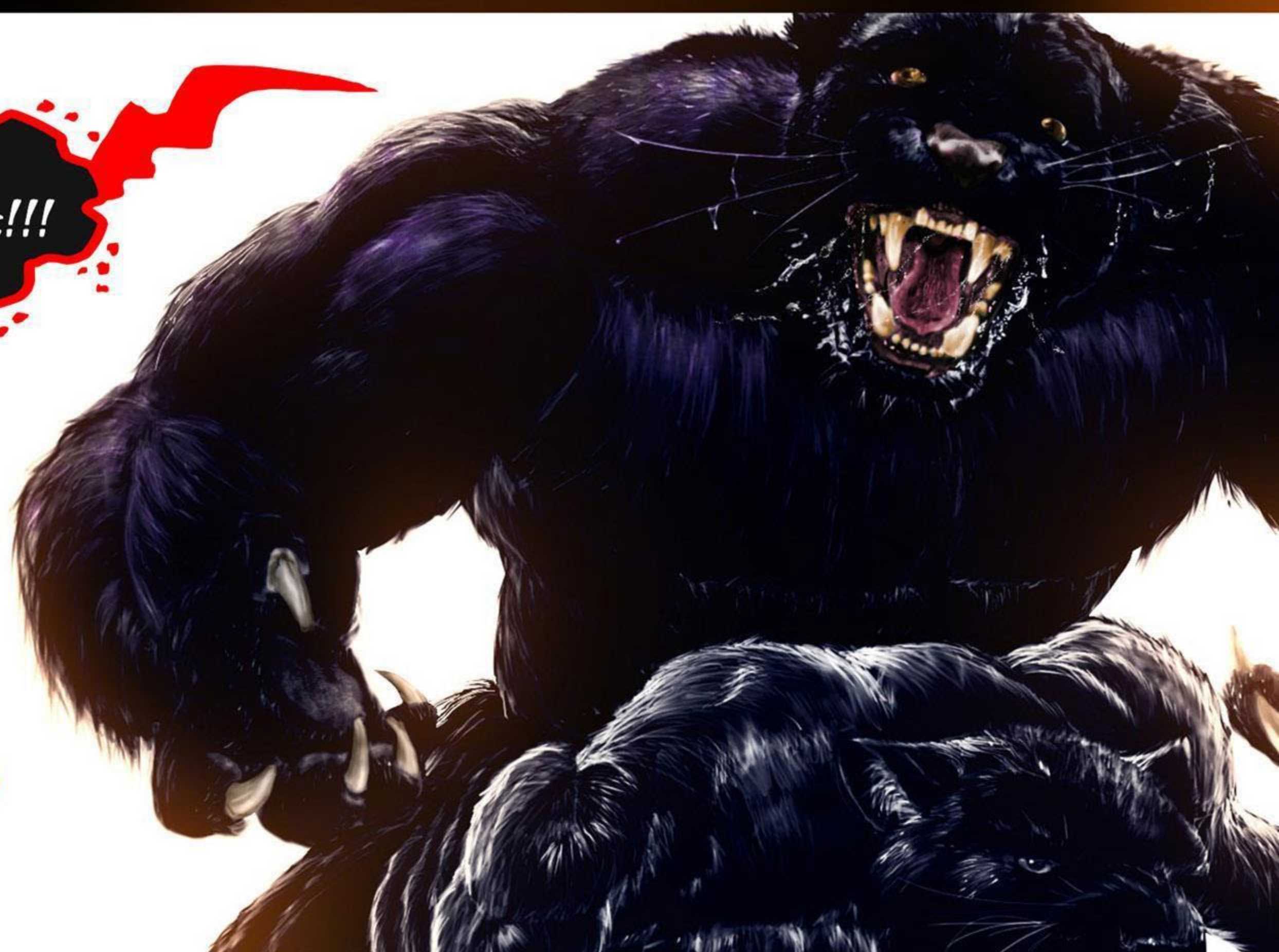
WHERE
IS THE ONE WHO
MUST PAY FOR
CASTING THE
QUEEN'S
CURSE?



I'M SORRY,
PAYMASTER, BUT YOU
WON'T BE COLLECTING
TODAY. OLOGBO BECOME
YOUR TRUE SELF.



WITH
PLEASURE!!!



PAYMASTER,
RETURN FROM
WHENCE YOU
CAME!

ÒLÒRÍ
TENÍOLA FALÓNÍ,
REINCARNATED FORM
OF THE FINAL AYABA-ÀJÉ
ÒRISHABUNMI...

...AND RIGHTFUL
HEIR TO SOVEREIGN
RULE OVER ALL WHO
CALL THEMSELVES
AJE...

...WILL NOT
BE PAYING
TODAY!



ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER...
THE SCALES WILL
BE BALANCED!!!



NEXT: BALANCING THE SCALES!

SPIRIT WALK

WHEN MOST OF US HEAR THIS WORD, WHAT COMES TO MIND IS QUITE STRAIGHTFORWARD: "AJE" MEANS "WITCHCRAFT", AND THE WOMEN CALLED "AJE" ARE WITCHES.

HOWEVER, HAS IT EVER CROSSED OUR MINDS...THAT WITCHCRAFT IN THE CONTEMPORARY SENSE WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE ALIEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN PRE-COLONIAL AFRICA?

GREAT POWER FROM THE GODS, ONLY ACCESSIBLE TO WOMEN, AND ASSOCIATED WITH CURSES AND THE SPOKEN WORD, DEFINITELY DOES DRAW PARALLELS WITH WITCHCRAFT IN THE NORMAL SENSE, BUT WHAT IF IT WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT? SOMETHING THAT COULD ACT AS A WINDOW INTO THE HISTORY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA AS A REGION, AND TO THE IMMENSE POWER THAT THESE WOMEN COULD WIELD IN SOCIETY?

THIS IS THE BASIS OF AJE, ONE OF COMIC REPUBLIC'S LONGEST RUNNING SERIES. I INVITE YOU TO ENJOY THE GORGEOUS LINEWORK OF THE GREAT AND POWERFUL OZ, OUR FEATURED ARTIST FOR THIS ISSUE, AS WE TAKE YET ANOTHER JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF TENI FALONI, AT THE BEGINNING OF HER GRAND DESTINY AS PROTECTOR OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF US ALL.

THANKS, AND ENJOY THE BOOK!

-WALE AWELENJE
HEAD SCRIPT AND STORY DEVELOPMENT/
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

**THE BEGINNING OF HER
GRAND DESTINY AS
PROTECTOR OF THE
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FUTURE OF US ALL.**



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