



Land of Gods

#1
Issue One

TVVZ OZUN



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ADEOJO
AJULUCHUKWU
AKPAN

A VORTEX ORIGINAL COMIC SERIES

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#1 - THROUGH THE MIRROR

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The Art Of

Land of Gods

OXUN



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WELCOME TO ORUN

The Land of Gods is a world of magic, celestial creatures and wonder. Home to all gods, elements and spiritual beings. The world consist of 9 realms each unique as her people, enviroment and culture. The leader of all realms is SANGO the Alaafin of Ile Ife leading a way of unity & peace. When the very foundation of ORUN is shattered by war. An unusal group of child gods set out on adventure to save not one but two worlds.

We present to you; LAND OF GODS: ORUN



FLAME



SKY



EARTH



STEEL



ILE IFE



CELESTIAL



DEEP



DREAM



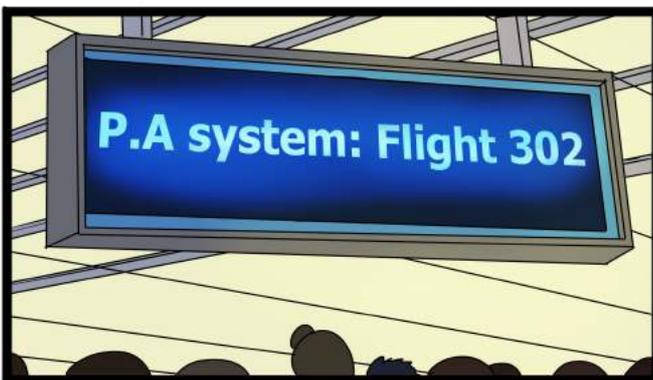
UNDER

᠎ᠠᠵᠢᠨ ᠠᠨᠠᠵᠢᠨ ᠠᠨᠠᠵᠢᠨ ᠠᠨᠠᠵᠢᠨ ᠠᠨᠠᠵᠢᠨ

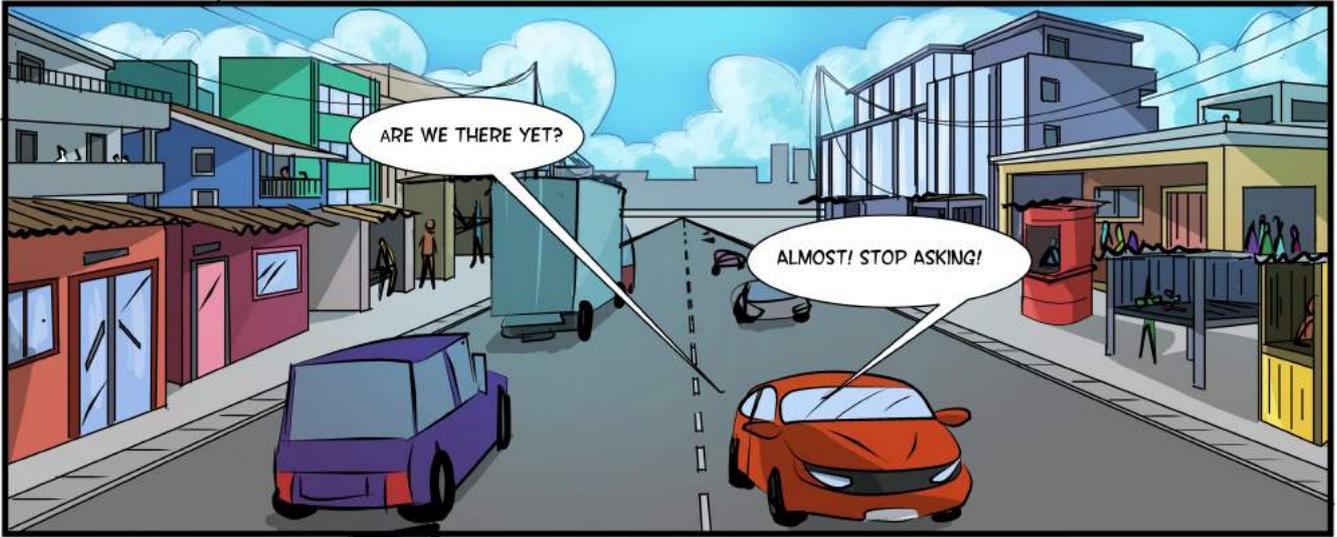




WHAT A WIERD DREAM ...
FELT SO REAL ... SO COLD...
I'M PLAYING WAY TOO MUCH
WORLD OF WAR CRAFT!







ARE WE THERE YET?

ALMOST! STOP ASKING!



SO, YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO COME VISIT!

AH MAMA, YOU KNOW IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

THEN HOW IS IT LIKE?



WE HAD HOPED TO VISIT EARLIER BUT MOFE AND I HAVE BEEN SO BUSY WITH WORK.

WE REALLY WANTED TO COME. I, FOR ONE HAVE MISSED YOUR COOKING.

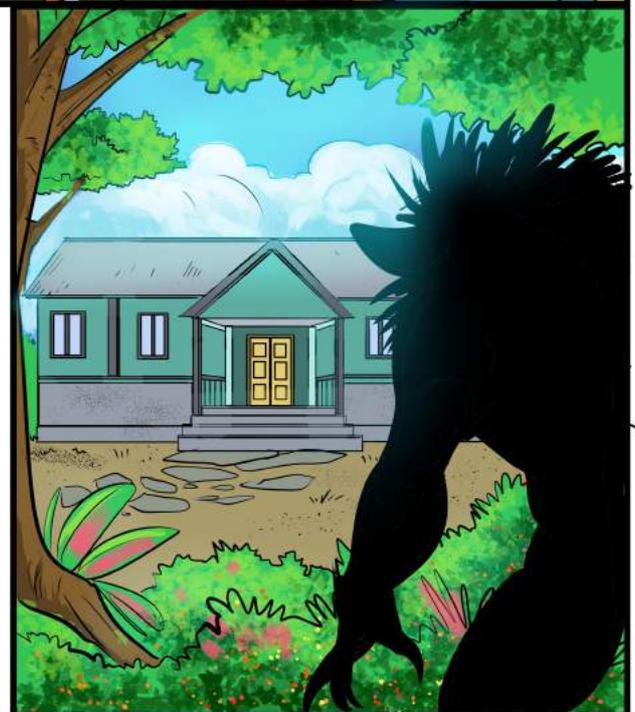


OF COURSE, I LOVE YOUR COOKING AS WELL!

OF COURSE, YOU DO!



AH! AH! AH! AH! AH! AH! AH!



OLUMO ROCK,
OGUN STATE







OH, COME ON PRINCESS, TODAY WAS AWESOME



MAMA! WE ARE HOME.

KASHIYA CAN'T YOU PUT THAT THING AWAY FOR FIVE MINUTES.



IT'S THE ONLY SOURCE OF FUN AROUND, LITERALLY



I GUESS...IF YOU SAY SO!



OH GOOD, YOU'RE BACK. DINNER IS ALMOST READY.



KASHIYA, WON'T YOU HAVE DINNER?

I'M PRETTY TIRED MOM, IS IT OKAY IF I HEAD TO BED?

OKAY, YOU'RE PROBABLY JET LAGGED. SLEEP WELL SWEETIE.

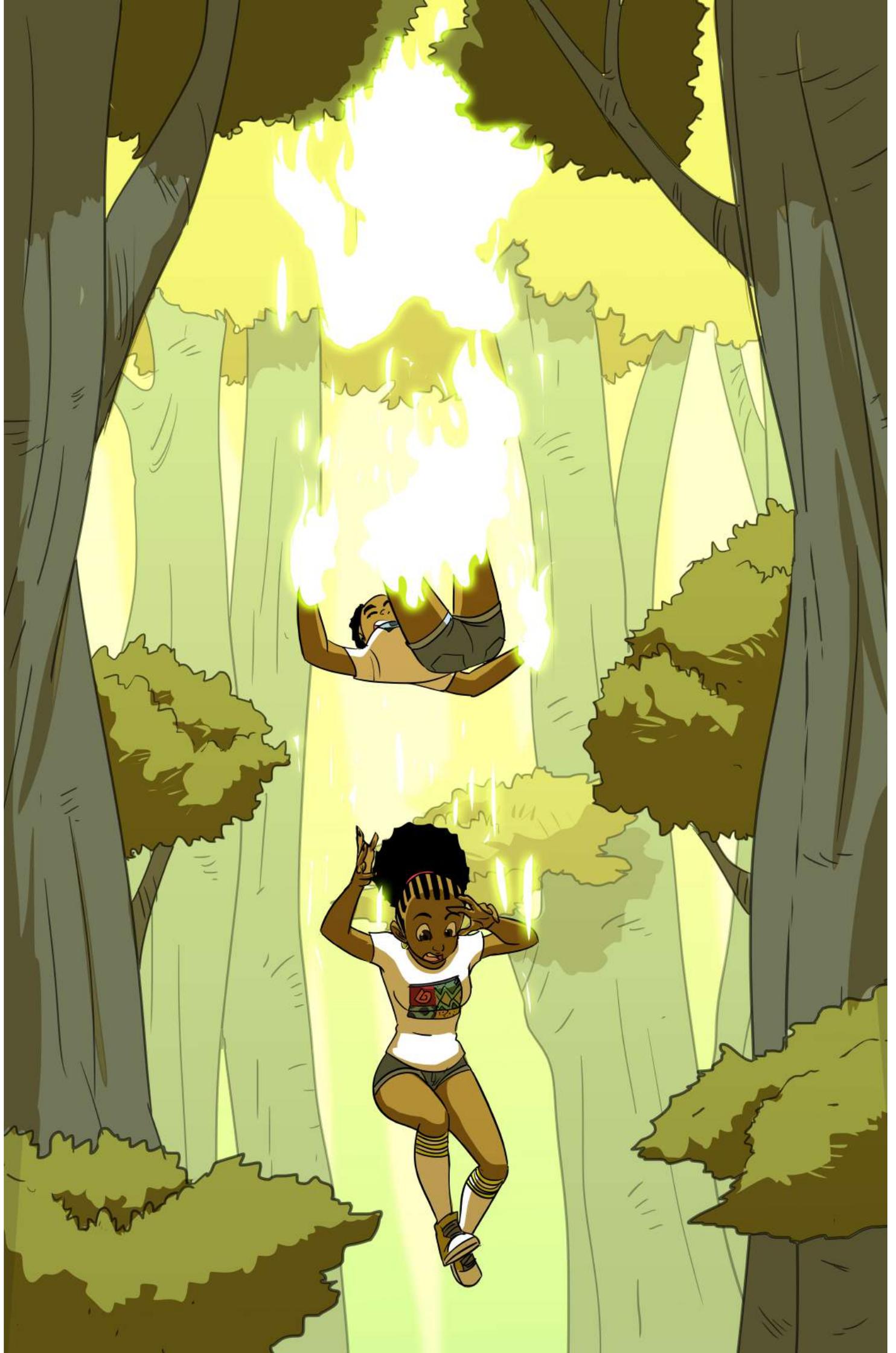




ANOTHER
WEIRD DREAM









OOMPH!



OWW
...WHERE AM I?



MOM... DAD!!!!
...GRANMA!!!



WHERE AM I?



WHO SAID THAT?

THERE, THERE NOW.
CALM DOWN.



MY NAME IS YEMOJA.

WELCOME TO ORUN!



WHAT....
WHAT ARE YOU?
...WHERE ARE WE?

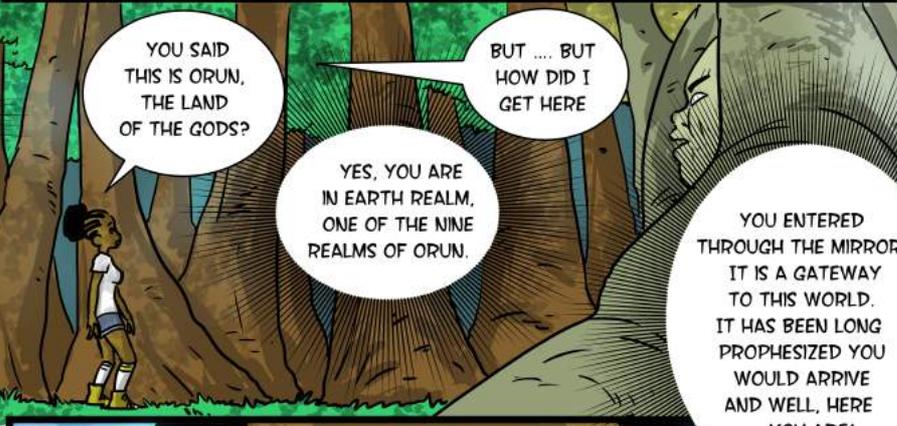
I JUST TOLD YOU DEAR,
WE ARE IN ORUN.
THE LAND OF THE GODS.



MAYBE WE SHOULD EXPLAIN FROM THE BEGINNING

I THINK YOU'RE JUST CONFUSING HER MORE

I DON'T RECOLLECT ASKING FOR YOUR AID!

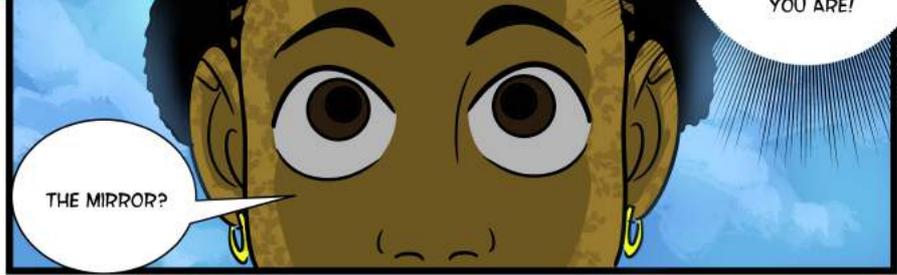


YOU SAID THIS IS ORUN,
THE LAND OF THE GODS?

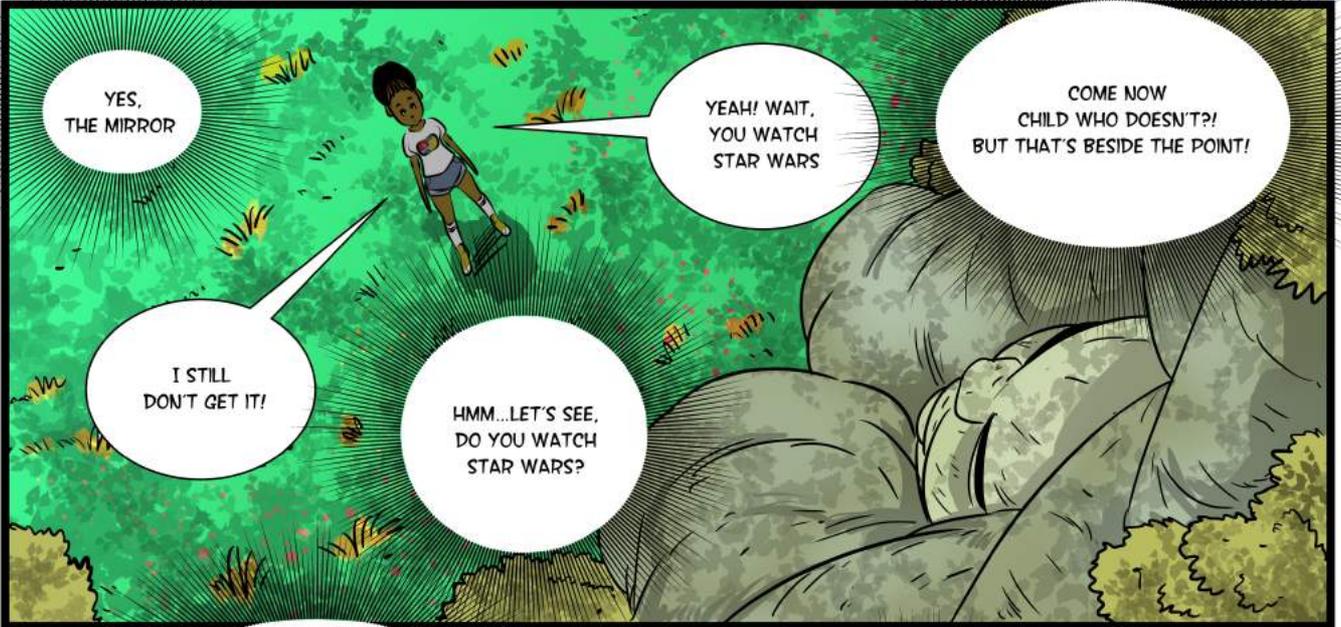
BUT ... BUT HOW DID I GET HERE

YES, YOU ARE IN EARTH REALM,
ONE OF THE NINE REALMS OF ORUN.

YOU ENTERED THROUGH THE MIRROR.
IT IS A GATEWAY TO THIS WORLD.
IT HAS BEEN LONG PROPHEZISHED YOU WOULD ARRIVE AND WELL, HERE YOU ARE!



THE MIRROR?



YES,
THE MIRROR

YEAH! WAIT,
YOU WATCH
STAR WARS

COME NOW
CHILD WHO DOESN'T?!
BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT!

I STILL
DON'T GET IT!

HMM...LET'S SEE,
DO YOU WATCH
STAR WARS?



THINK OF IT AS A REALLY COOL
STAR WARS TELEPORTATION
MODULATOR BUT BETTER!

...I GUESS THAT WORKS...
BUT WHAT AM I DOING HERE?



SHUSH,
YOU NEVER SEE
THE VIEW AT THE BASE
OF THE MOUNTAIN,
ONLY AT THE TOP.
SO, I SUGGEST
YOU START CLIMBING.



I WISH YOU
A THOUSAND BLESSINGS
ON YOUR JOURNEY.

UM....
THANK YOU?

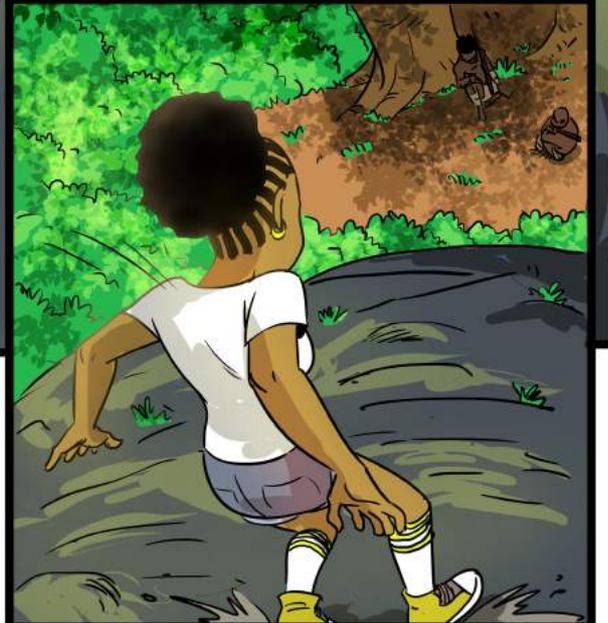


AND SO
IT BEGINS...

ILE IFE

ILE IFE IS ONE OF THE REALMS IN ORUN AND CITADEL OF ALL 9 REALMS, HOME TO THE KING SANGO AND STANDS AS THE COURT FOR THE HIGH COUNCIL OF GODS & SPIRITS.







UM HELLO....



WHO APPROACHES THE REALM OF KINGS?!

KASHIYA! MY FRIENDS CALL ME KASH!



AND WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS IN THE REALM OF KINGS KASHIYA?!



OH, ZOZO LIGHTEN UP. SHE IS JUST A CHILD.

JUST A CHILD WHO SEEKS TO APPROACH THE REALM OF KINGS, NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY!



FORGIVE MY COLLEAGUE HERE

, ZOZO CAN BE A BIT DRAMATIC SOMETIMES. I AM NDU ... WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?

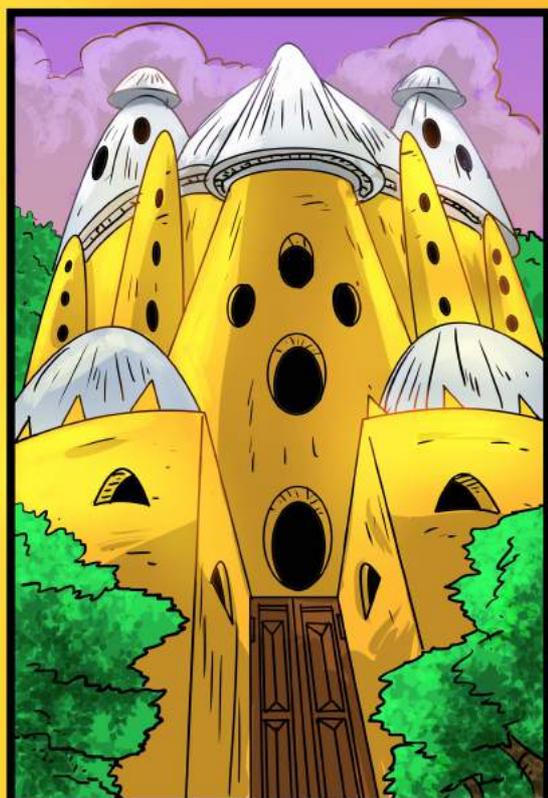


WELL... A NICE BUT CREEPY TREE WOMAN POINTED ME ALONG THIS PATH... I'M JUST TRYING TO GET HOME ... OR WAKE UP



YOU CLAIM YEMOJA SENT YOU ALONG... HMM PERHAPS IT'S BEST WE SEND YOU TO MEET THE KING.

HE WILL KNOW HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION. COME KASHIYA





SO, WHAT'S THE KING LIKE?

... HE'S OUR KING! WISE, STRONG AND POWERFUL!



OH ... KAAY!

DON'T LET THEM INTIMIDATE YOU TOO MUCH, HE MAY BE KING BUT HE'S STILL A PERSON!



HELLO, I'M INA!



PRINCESS OF ORUN!!!

PLEASE STOP IT!

SO YOU'RE THE KING'S DAUGHTER!



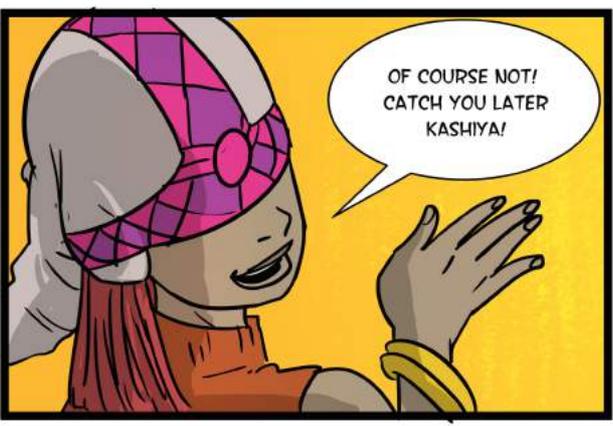
NOT TRYING TO BRAG OR ANYTHING BUT... YUP!

NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M KASHIYA. THEY'RE SENDING ME TO SEE YOUR DAD. ANY ADVICE?



YUP, DON'T LOOK INTO HIS EYES DIRECTLY FOR TOO LONG... HE'LL VAPORISE YOU IF YOU DO!

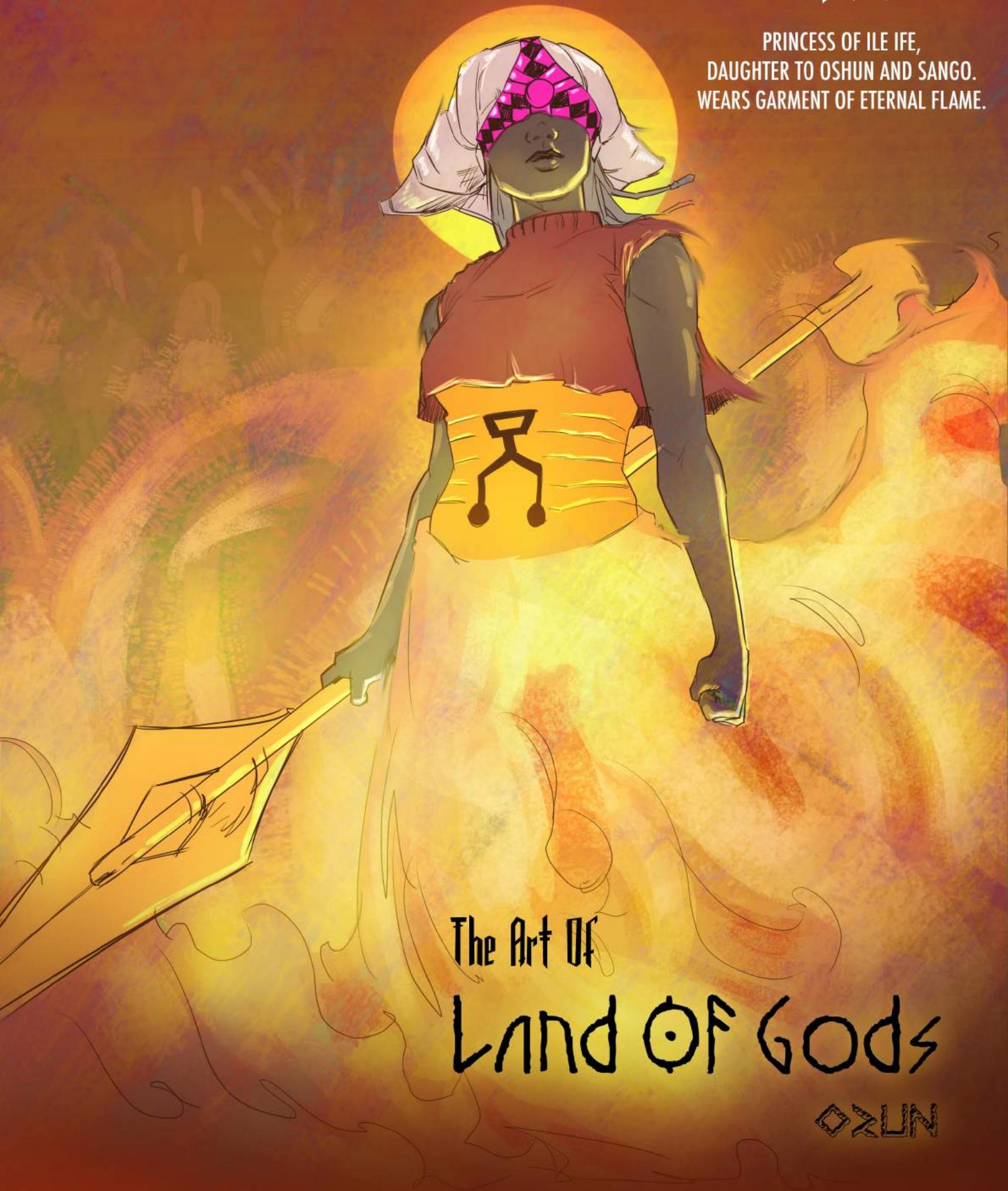
REALLY?



OF COURSE NOT! CATCH YOU LATER KASHIYA!

ina

PRINCESS OF ILE IFE,
DAUGHTER TO OSHUN AND SANGO.
WEARS GARMENT OF ETERNAL FLAME.



The Art Of
Land Of Gods

OSUN







HOW IS IT YOU ENDED UP HERE IN ORUN



...I FELL THROUGH A MIRROR, I THINK....



SILENCE!



DID YOU ... MENTION A MIRROR?





RETURNING YOU HOME CHILD IS NO SIMPLE TASK I'M AFRAID. SO, UNTIL THE TIME COMES, YOU WILL LEARN OUR WAYS AND STUDY ALONGSIDE OUR YOUNG.



BUT WE WILL FIND A WAY TO RETURN YOU HOME, TO THE REALM OF MEN



UNTIL THEN, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE YOUNG ONE.



UMM THANKS



WHY DO YOU SEEM A LITTLE DISTURBED?



MY KING?

.... IT'S NOTHING

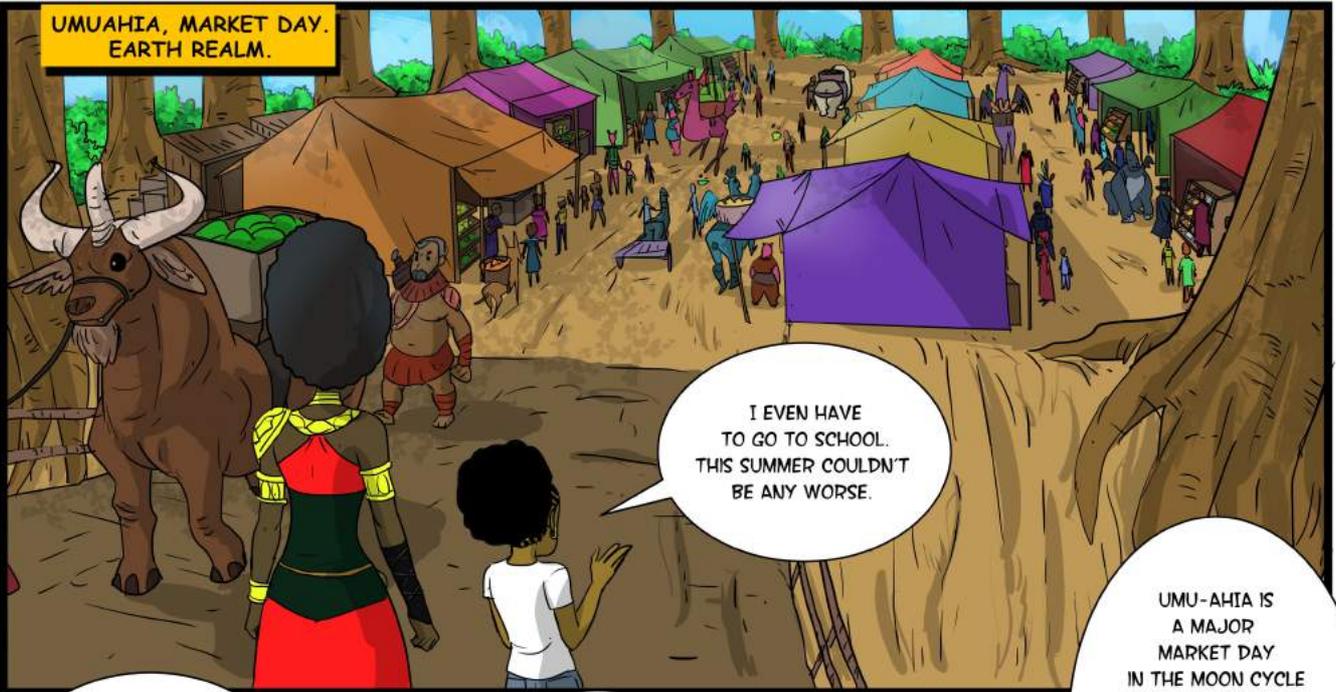


Umuahia

A FLOATING GREENLAND AREA PROTECTED BY THE 3 HEADED SPIRIT; EMI META. UMUAHIA THROUGH MOST OF THE MOON CYCLE IS A MONASTERY. HOWEVER, DURING THE SEASON OF LEARNIG IT SERVES AS A MARKET PLACE FOR ALL GODS & SPIRITS ACROSS THE 9 REALMS.



UMUAHIA, MARKET DAY.
EARTH REALM.



I EVEN HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL. THIS SUMMER COULDN'T BE ANY WORSE.

UMU-AHIA IS A MAJOR MARKET DAY IN THE MOON CYCLE OF ORUN. IT COMES RIGHT BEFORE THE SEASON OF LEARNING AND GUESS WHO SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME!



WELL, NOT JUST YET. YOU NEED TO PREPARE FOR SCHOOL AND...

YOUR ARRIVAL IS GODLIKE TIMING ...



SCOFF

NOT TO FORGET YOUR JUJU BOOKS FOR SCHOOL ARE SOLD HERE FROM MERCHANTS FROM ACROSS ALL THE REALMS.



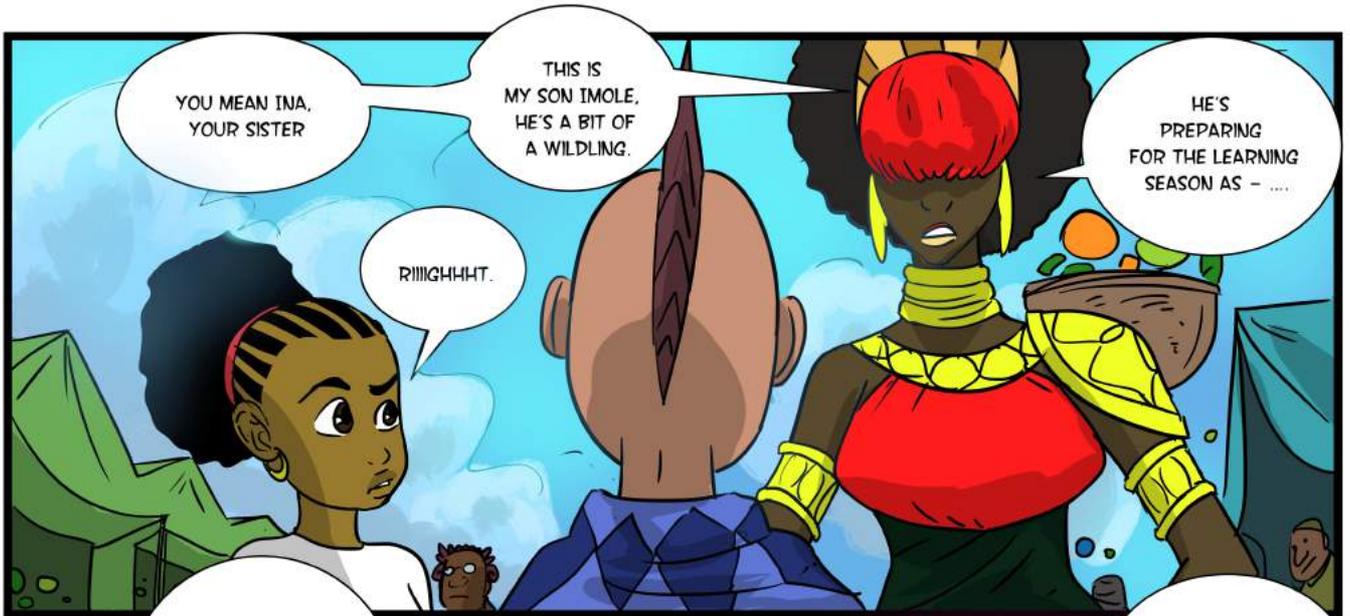
THE RAINBOW COMES TO THIS VERY MARKETPLACE AT THE EXACT SAME TIME OF EVERY MOON CYCLE AND MARKS THE SEASON OF LEARNING. OUR YOUNG ONES OF AGE BEGIN TO LEARN THE SACRED WAY OF GODS

UMU-AHIA IS A MARKET DAY FOR ALL. MAGIC SUPPLIES, FOOD AND CELESTIAL ORNAMENTS.

WAAAAWWUU, THIS IS LIKE DISNEY WORLD, BUT ... REAL!



HELLO MOTHER! HAVE YOU SEEN THAT FIERY IMP?



YOU MEAN INA, YOUR SISTER

THIS IS MY SON IMOLE, HE'S A BIT OF A WILDLING.

HE'S PREPARING FOR THE LEARNING SEASON AS - ...

RIIIIGHHT.



YEAH! IN THE FLESH, HEIR TO THE THRONE OF GODS, MASTER OF TRANSFIGURATION, CHAMPION OF GOLDEN STOOL!

ERR ... HI



GREAT TO MEET YOOOOOOUUUU - ...

GO GET INGREDIENTS FOR THE ASTRAL CONCOCTION

BYE ...



HAVE YOU SEEN THE PRINCESS ANYWHERE? SHE NEEDS TO TRY ON THIS NEW DRESS. ...

AH, INA! NOPE, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN PLAYING WITH IMOLE.



YOUR SON IS TURNING HER INTO A WILDLING. SHE SHOULD BE MORE MINDFUL OF HER COMPANY ... ESPECIALLY NOW



WHAT DID I DO?

GIVE LITTLE WORRY TO OSHUN, SHE'S ... ERR ... TERRITORIAL

OH INA! MET HER YESTERDAY, SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER?

THE KING HAS 3 WIVES ..LET'S GO GET YOU SOME CLOTHES. THE DAY IS MOVING FAST



QUEEN OYA, ORE MI,
KI LON SHELE
(MY FRIEND, HOW ARE YOU?)

MO WA DADA,
ORE MI ATIJO
, AYEYE AWON BABA
TI SAJU
(I'M GOOD, MY OLD
FRIEND, THE FOREFATHERS
HAVE BEEN KIND).



AH, THERE'S SOMETHING
CHARMING ABOUT THIS ONE.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM CHILD?

SHE IS NEW TO EARTH
REALM AND NEEDS SOME
ATTIRE FOR THE LEARNING
SEASON AS WELL AS SOME
PROTECTIVE ORNAMENTS.

NEW -- ...



AHA! IS THIS DRAGLE
SKIN! OH, YOU DIDN'T TELL
ME YOU WERE BACK IN
STOCK FOR NEWT EYES.



DRAGLE?! NO! YOU SHOULD KNOW
THAT BEAST HASN'T BEEN SEEN
IN CENTURIES. THAT SCALE IS FROM
THE GREAT AGWO (SNAKE)

GLORIOUS! LET'S GET
PEDDLING THEN, SHALL WE?
KHASHIYA DRESSING ROOM,
THE SUN SETS SOON.

AH YES, WELCOME
TO THE HOME OF
MAGICAL THREADS.

I LOOK LIKE LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD VOMITED BY THE WOLF



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NO, LOVE. YOU LOOK YOU LIKE THE ROYAL PEACOCK

LISTEN TO THE QUEEN



HMMM TOO ASSASSIN

HA! TRY THIS ONE



BAD IDEA, ERR MAYBE NOT

I CONCUR, HER CLOTHES WOULD GET EATEN BY THE LOCAL GOATS BEFORE SHE CROSSES THE PINK LAKE.

LET'S DO SOME CLASSIC ILE IFE WITH JEWELS FROM THE WELL OF SHIMMERS. (WELL LOCATED IN THE CELESTIAL REALM CAPITAL)



HOW DO I LOOK?

LIKE A GODDESS!!



YOU'RE SURE?

ILE IFE,
COURT OF KINGS

THERE'S NO DOUBT.
YEMOJA CONFIRMED
SHE'S THE CHOSEN ONE.



INTERESTING.
YOU'VE DONE
WELL YELE.

WELL WHAT
ARE FRIENDS FOR?



WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

I NEED TO
SEE THE KING!



MY KING...



WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE MY QUEEN.



IT IS CONCERNING THE HUMAN CHILD. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP HER SETTLE IN. I BELIEVE I CAN HELP HER FIND HER WAY HOME.



IT WOULDN'T BE A BOTHER?

NOT AT ALL.



I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT! I NEED YOU TO GO TO THE CELESTIAL REALM THEN!

OKAY, BUT WHY MY KING?



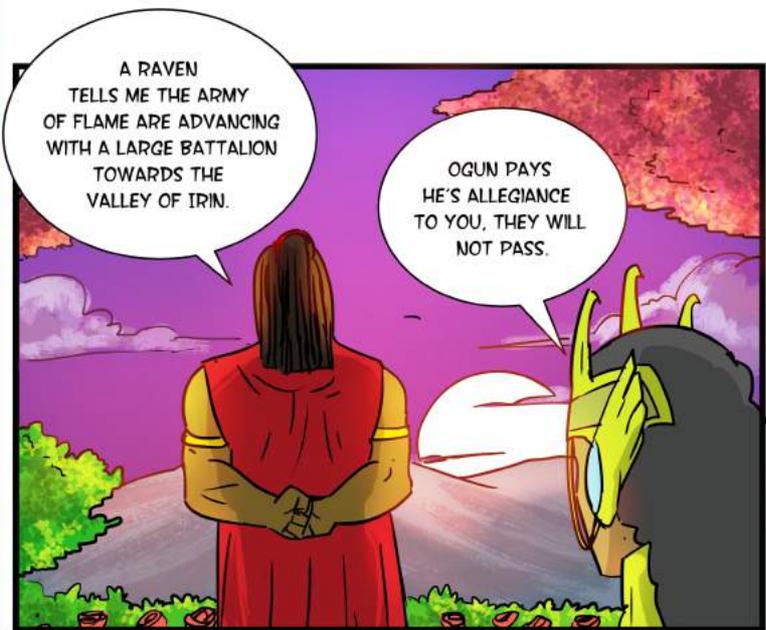
SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM THE GUARDIANS. THEY MAY BE HER BEST CHANCE OF RETURNING HOME ... THE MAGIC OF THE MIRRORS COMES FROM THE CELESTIAL GRAND MASTERS.

OF COURSE, MY KING.



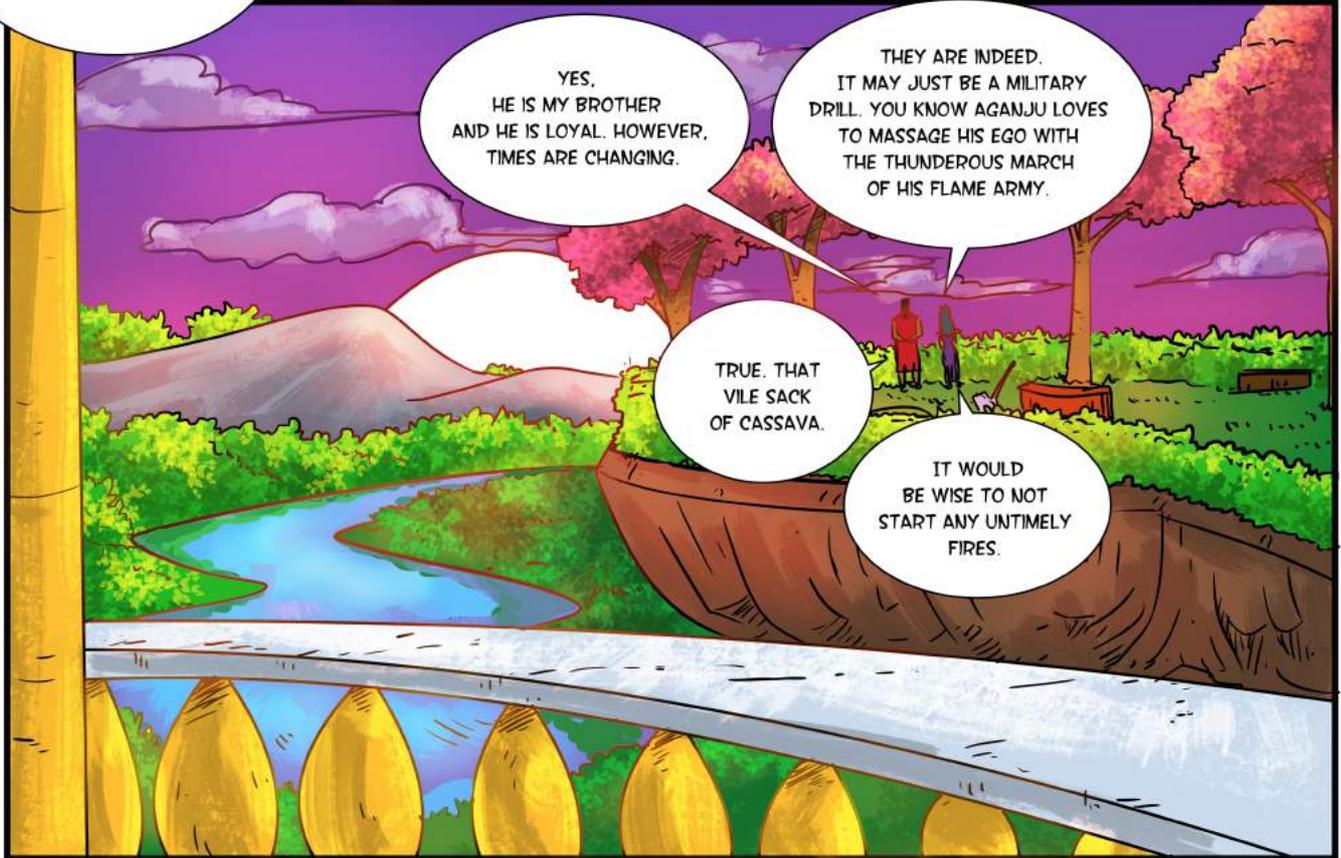
HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO YEMOJA ABOUT THE CHILD? IF SHE'S THE CHOSEN ONE, IT COULD MEAN

YES, I KNOW. SHE HASN'T GRANTED ME AN AUDIENCE SINCE THE GREAT WAR, NONE OF US.



A RAVEN TELLS ME THE ARMY OF FLAME ARE ADVANCING WITH A LARGE BATTALION TOWARDS THE VALLEY OF IRIN.

OGUN PAYS HE'S ALLEGIANCE TO YOU, THEY WILL NOT PASS.



YES, HE IS MY BROTHER AND HE IS LOYAL. HOWEVER, TIMES ARE CHANGING.

THEY ARE INDEED. IT MAY JUST BE A MILITARY DRILL. YOU KNOW AGANJU LOVES TO MASSAGE HIS EGO WITH THE THUNDEROUS MARCH OF HIS FLAME ARMY.

TRUE. THAT VILE SACK OF CASSAVA.

IT WOULD BE WISE TO NOT START ANY UNTIMELY FIRES.



OSHUN IS TO PERFORM CUSTOMARY RIGHTS FOR THE RAIN FESTIVAL A FORTNIGHT FROM TODAY. SHE WOULD SIT WITH OGUN.

HMM, GOOD.



FIRE CANNOT DANCE IN THE RAIN.

MY WISE KING, YOU REMAIN THE CROWN OF THE 9 REALMS AND I YOUR FIRST QUEEN.

FLAME REALM, ETC AMMOU





COIN? WHAT IS COIN
TO GOLDEN WALLS AND
GROUNDS OF WATERFALLS.

THE BLOOD
OF A KING.



HEE HEE HEE... AH,
I SEE, THOSE ARE MERELY
THE SPOILS OF WAR.
DO AS INSTRUCTED AND
IT WOULD ALL BE YOURS.

ONCE WE LAY
SIEGE ON OSIGO PLATEAU,
ILE IFE WOULD
BE BLIND.

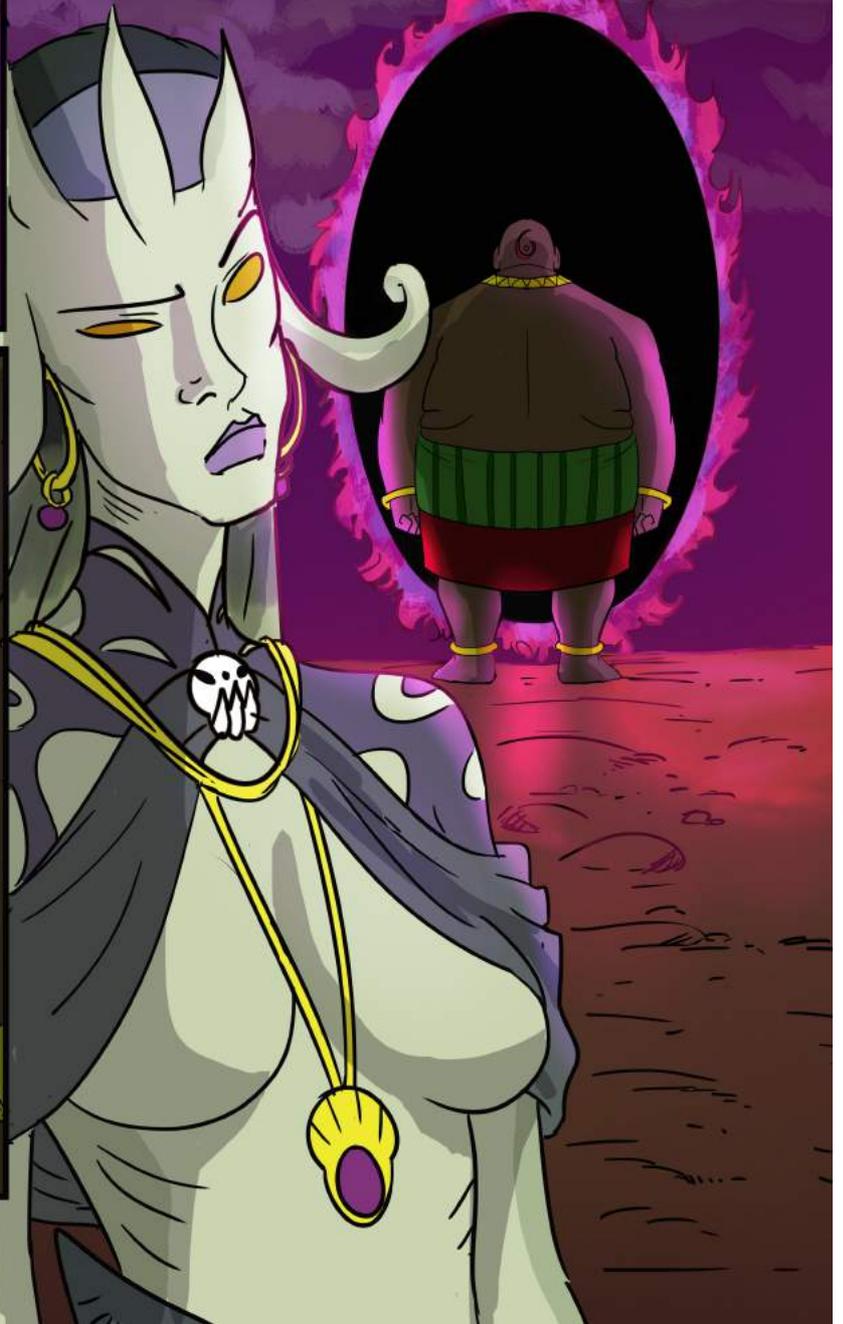


YES! AND
WE WILL MARCH
FULL STRETCH INTO
IGODO FOREST,
TURNING LEAF
TO ASH.

NO ...
I WOULD THEN
ANSWER ONLY
TO THE DARK
CROWN
HIMSELF.



OR I WOULD
DEFILE AND MURDER
THE NEXT MESSENGER
IN MY COURT
OF BRIMSTONE.





UMU-AHIA MARKET DAY, EARTH REALM



YES MA, DON'T TELEPORT ME AGAIN! PLEASE

WOW SO MUCH ... MAGIC. THIS HAS TO BE THE LONGEST DREAM.

IMO, DID YOU GRAB THE SILVER SALT BY THE BABALAWO CART?



I KNOW IT'S HARD AND YOU'RE SCARED BUT THIS IS NO DREAM. THAT REALM IS LEAGUES AWAY. WE WOU- ...

MOTHER! I FOUND THE OCEAN BOTTOM BERRIES!



SHOW ME!



ONE SECOND MY LOVE, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!

YEAH ... SURE.



WHAT THE HELL IS REALLY GOING ON, THIS IS CRAZY!

LIKE FOR REAL, IT'S BEEN 2 DAYS, WHERE'S DAD & MOM, HOW DO I GET BACK, I NEED ...



WHA... YOU AGAIN!

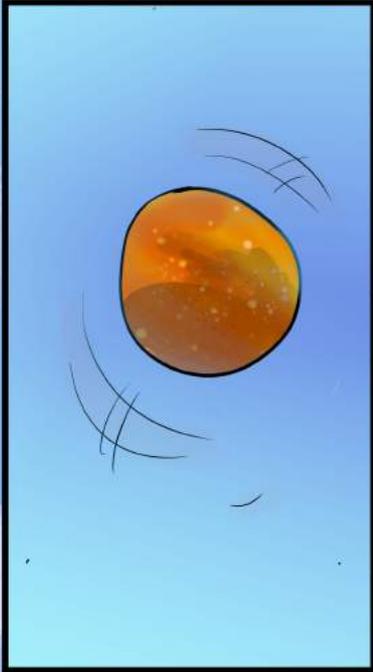


YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THIS TIME YOU LITTLE POKEMON THING.



THIS POKÉMON IS A HARD ONE TO CATCH, GOTTA OUT SMART IT. WELL I'M NOT THE CAPTAIN OF THE GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM FOR NOTHING

I JUST NEED TO KEEP MY ANKLES STRAIGHT AND BE ON TARGET ENOUGH TO STARTLE HIM. I CAN DO THIS.





THAT'S THE GIRL,
A MERE COMMONER!!

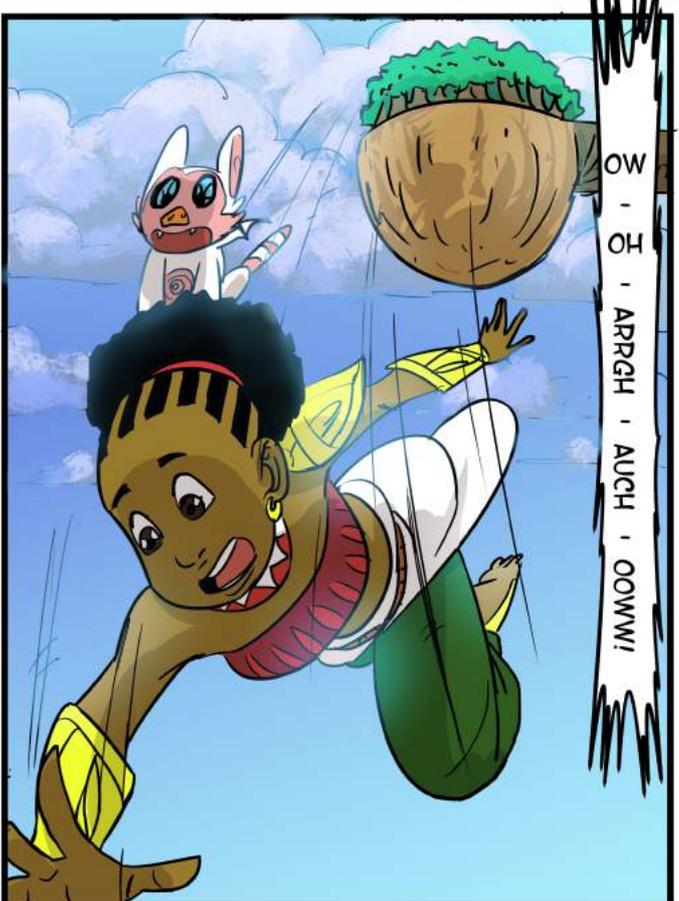
GOTCHA!



PHEW* SEEMS
WE LOST THEM



WOOOAH!!!

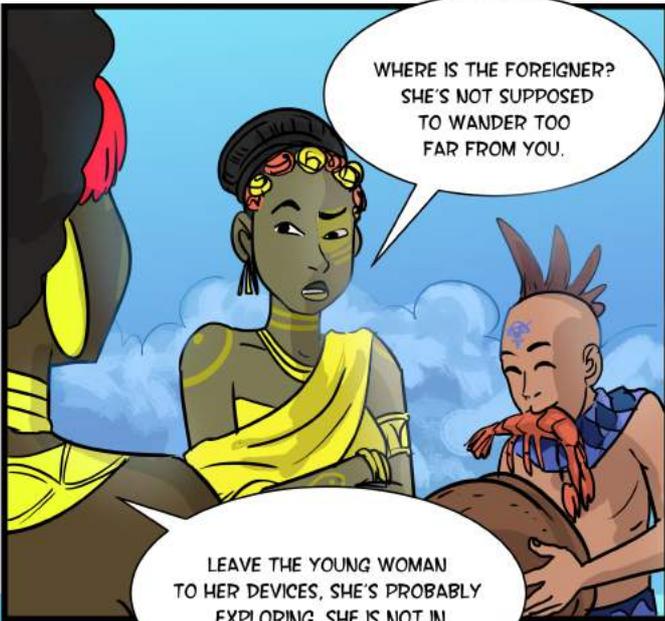


OW - OH - ARRGH - AUCH - OOWWI!



OSHUN, WOULD YOU BELIEVE WE SAW AN OCEAN BERRY STALK THIS BIG?

OH, WOW THAT'S RARE! WOULD MAKE A SPLENDID MEAL FOR THE CEREMONIAL FEAST OF GODS.



WHERE IS THE FOREIGNER? SHE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO WANDER TOO FAR FROM YOU.

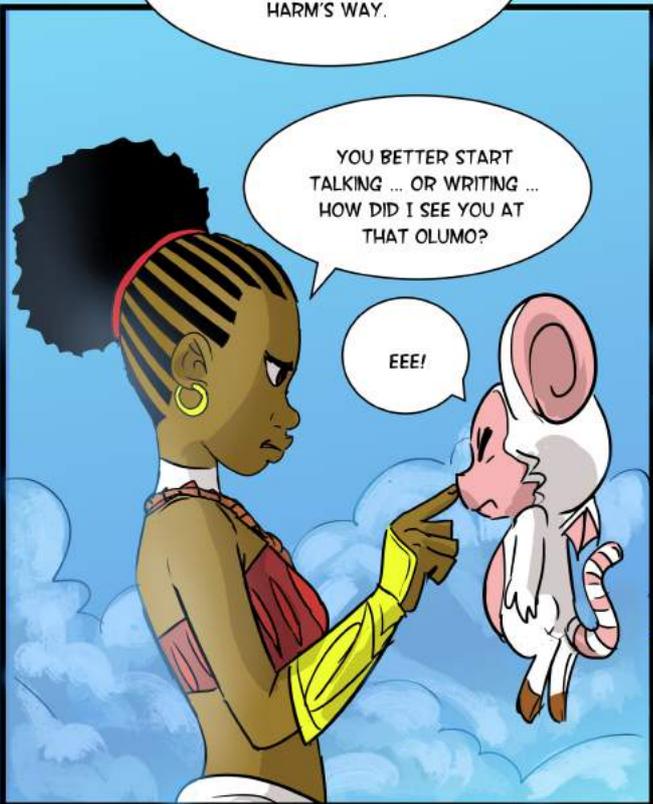
LEAVE THE YOUNG WOMAN TO HER DEVICES, SHE'S PROBABLY EXPLORING. SHE IS NOT IN HARM'S WAY.



GREAT JOB SNOWBALL, NOW I'M OFFICIALLY LOST AGAIN.

PURR

WHATEVER!



YOU BETTER START TALKING ... OR WRITING ... HOW DID I SEE YOU AT THAT OLUMO?

EEE!



WOWZERS, HOW DO WE GET BACK UP THERE.

PURRRRR ...

IGODO DARK FOREST

SPIRITS OF ETERNAL NIGHT,
I SUMMON YOUR
DIVINE POWER.

I OFFER YOU THE HEART
OF ANCIENT CUT BY THE SILVER
STEEL FORGED IN THE LAKE OF
YOUR ESSENCE, OKUN IKUN.

I OFFER YOU FLESH AND BLOOD,
AN UNTAINTED SOUL OF
THE BOTTOMLESS DEEP

eḡe ti ọlorun
kan, mu iye
wa si iku

COME FORTH BEAST OF
THE SHADOW, CLAW OF
DARKNESS, ANSWER TO
THE SCEPTER

I CALL ON
YOU IKOOKO
HOWL OF
THE SHADOWS.

AWWWUUUOOO



RRRR... WHAT DOES ESHU SCEPTER
OF DARKNESS REQUIRE OF
HIS BLOOD THIRSTY SERVANT.

MORE BLOOD,
THE HEART OF A MORTAL
, BRING IT BEATING.

MAY YOUR DARK
WILL BE DONE.





**RRAAARRR!
WHOM DISTURB ME
SLUMBER ... GOLEM
DESTROY!**

ARRRGHHHH

EEEE!

Land of Gods

OXUN



The Art of
Land of Gods

OXUN



Talking Drums

EDITORS NOTE

This was my first time editing a comic book, or any major publication for that matter and it's been an honor to be part of this process, and a privilege I don't take lightly. I am still learning what it takes to bring out the best from our talented writers but collaborating to bring forth this vision has been such a wonderful journey. Speaking of journeys, I'm really excited for you to meet our main character Kashiya, a bright, courageous pre-teen who takes us with her as she travels throughout The Land of Gods universe discovering her destiny.

You'll get to learn the rich history of the nine realms and meet an interesting cast of characters along the way. I hope you enjoy the magic we created. Welcome to Orun!

- JANICA BARNETT

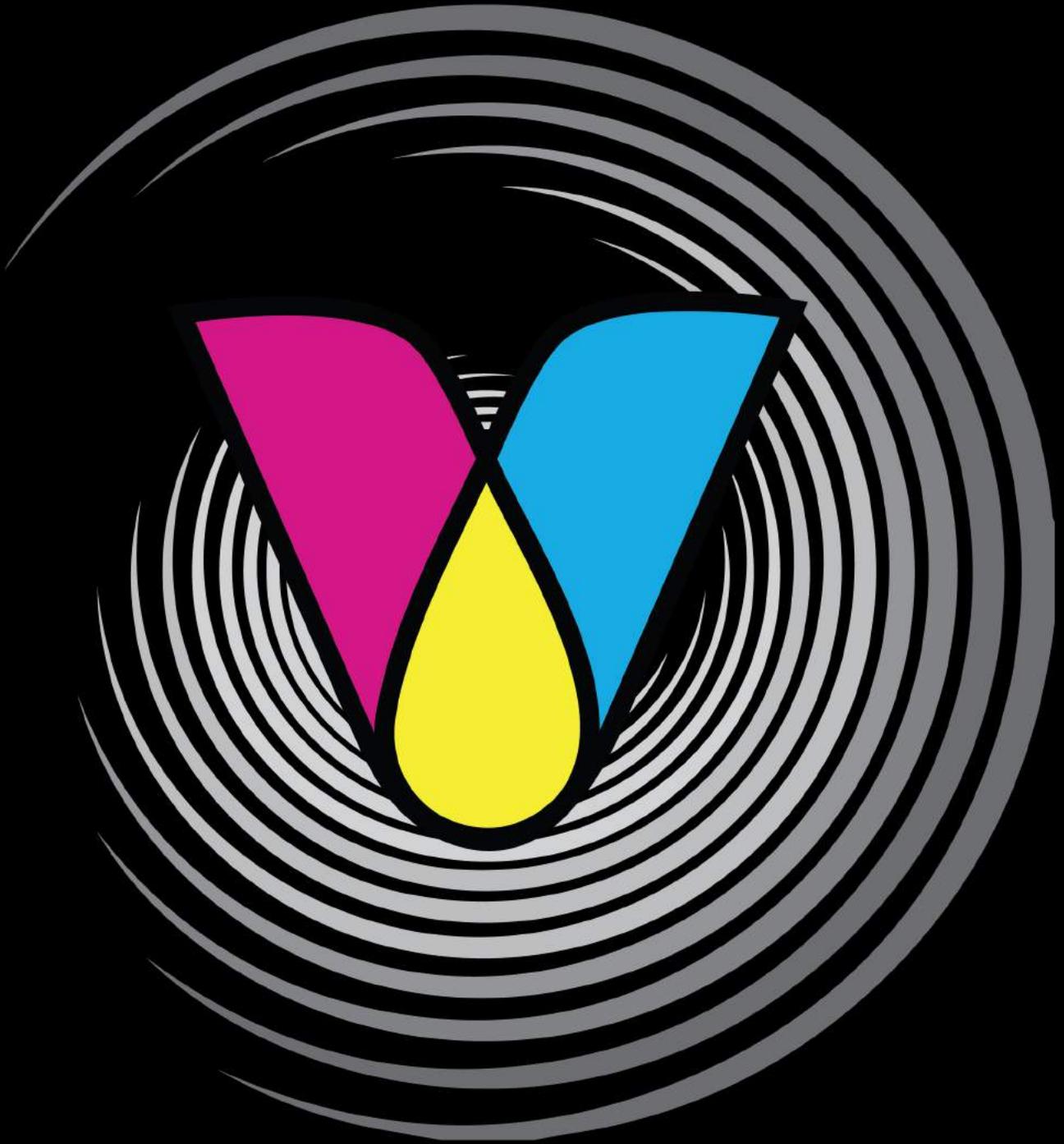
Creating & developing LOG is one of my dreams becoming reality, It all started as a day dream one afternoon, now im lost in a vast world of magic, mystical creatures & African Gods.

Deciding to write this was a journey and thus has become a project close to my heart and that of the team as well. I hope you guys enjoy this jouney as much as we do.
P.S; I hope you love Snowball as much as I do!

- SOMTO AJULUCHUKWU



KUUNGANA



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