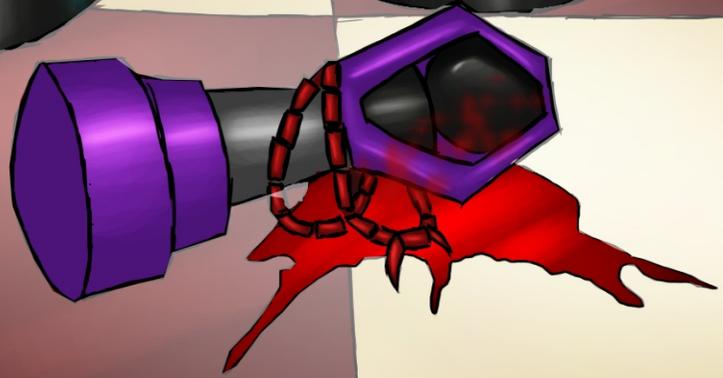




AREA



JEHIEL DANIEL SHAMSUDEEN

#**1**

GAME OF CHESS

ARRA

**CREATED BY;
SHAMSUDEEN IDRIS**

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editing Jehiel Omoruyi/Shamsudeen Idris





THE REGULAR LIFE OF A LAGOS BASED NORTHERNER CHANGES LITERALLY WHEN HE TOUCHES AN ANCIENT BATTLE-AXE WHICH BELONGED TO THE ORISHA OF THUNDER AND LIGHTENING, SANGO.

LAWAL TANKO BECOMES THE GATE KEEPER OF THE SPIRIT AND HUMAN REALM, ARA WIELDING THE AWESOME ABILITIES OF SANGO HIMSELF. FOLLOW SANGO'S SUCCESSOR AS HE STRUGGLES WITH THE CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH LIFE AND HIS NEW FOUND ABILITIES. IT'S GOING TO BE A HECK OF A RIDE.



CENTURIES AGO...

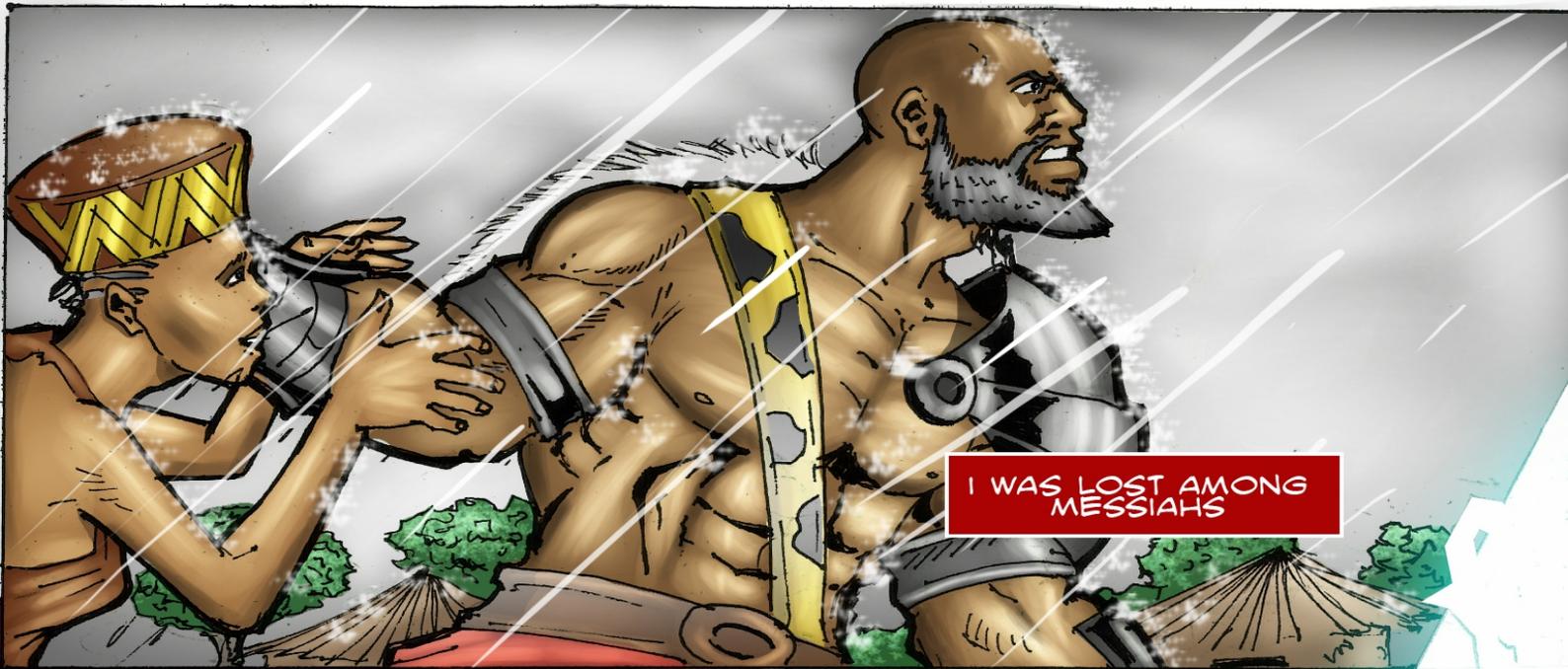


THE EARTH USED TO BE SHACKLES FOR OUR SOULS.



THE UNIVERSE OUR ILLUSION OF HOME...

UNTIL WE WERE CALLED BY THE FIRST GODS, THE CREATORS OF ALL, ELEDUMARE, OLORUN AND OLOFI.



I WAS LOST AMONG MESSIAHS

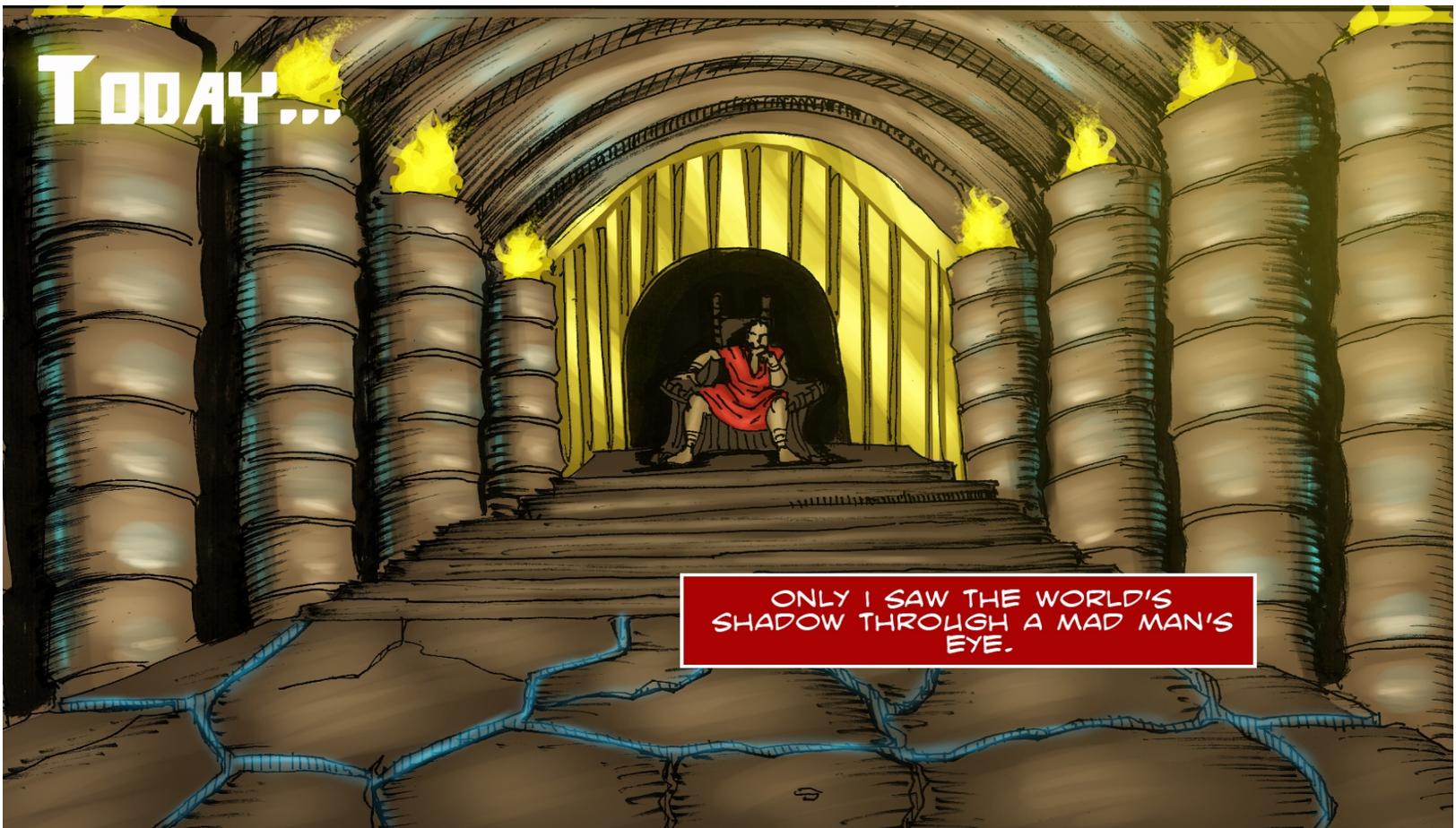


A SUFFERING FIRE BREATHING ORISHA.



MY PRIDE AS OLD KING CRUSHED BY DISTURBING PUZZLES FOR VISIONS.

TODAY...



ONLY I SAW THE WORLD'S
SHADOW THROUGH A MAD MAN'S
EYE.



AND ONLY I REMAINED BLIND
TO IT.





I SEEK MY FRIEND, TOBE ODE
THE FIRST ORISHA TO WALK
THE EARTH.

HIS KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM DID
NOT EQUAL THE STARS, BUT HE KNEW
ENOUGH TO FALL THEM.

*TOBE ODE, THE HUMAN NAME OF THE
GOD OF IRON, OGLIN.



AJA/OSOOSI AND OSAYIN KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERY ANIMAL, EVERY FOREST, FROM BIRTH TO DEATH.



LOGIC TELLS ME TO MEET THEM FOR ANSWERS, BUT I KNEW THEY WERE PROTECTORS OF THE FOREST WHO WOULD GIVE ANYTHING FOR MORE POWER TO PROTECT THEIR OWN...

--EVEN IF IT MEANS SELLING THEIR TERRITORY TO THE ENEMY.

OGUN'S HIGH-RISE,,

TOBE ODE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT WAR AND POLITICS

FOR NOW, HE IS THE PERFECT SOURCE OF TRUTH...



AND YET AGAIN, YOU WALK INTO MY PAGE, UNINVITED.

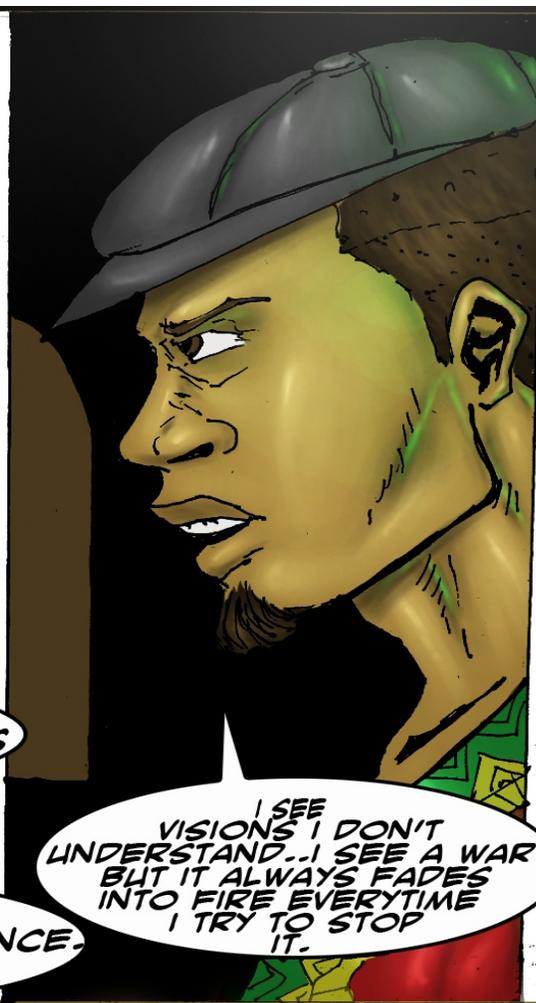
YOU STILL ARE VEXED AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COUNCIL.

IT WAS OYA'S FAULT, TOBE.

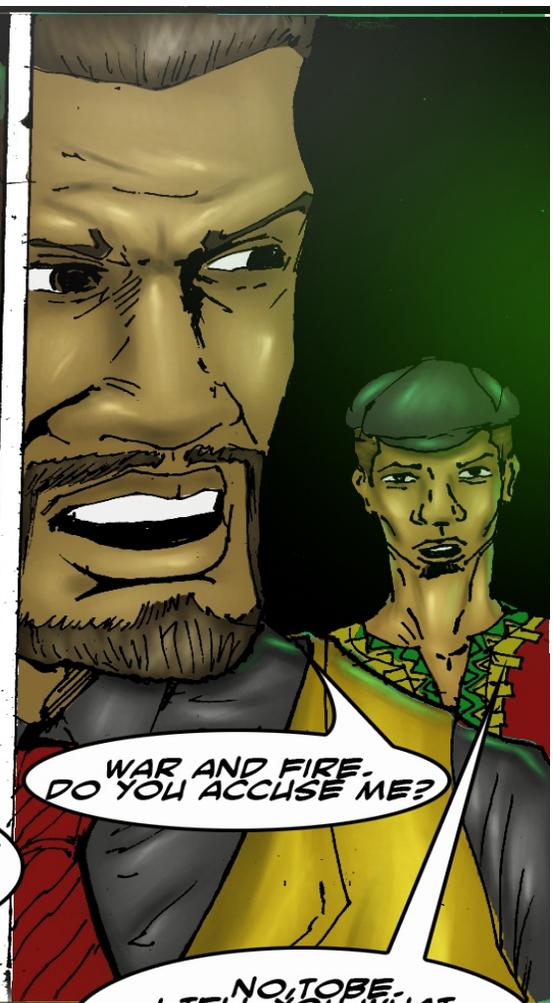


WITH YOU,
IT'S ALWAYS SOMEONE'S
FAULT.

A KING
NEVER APOLOGIZES
EVEN AFTER TRANSCENDENCE.
WHY ARE YOU
HERE?



I SEE
VISIONS I DON'T
UNDERSTAND... I SEE A WAR
BUT IT ALWAYS FADES
INTO FIRE EVERYTIME
I TRY TO STOP
IT.



WAR AND FIRE.
DO YOU ACCUSE ME?

NO, TOBE,
I TELL YOU WHAT
I SEE, HOPING FOR
ENLIGHTENMENT FROM
YOU.



EVERYTIME THE
WHITE MAN INFLUENCE OUR
PEOPLE WITH THEIR
CULTURE, I GROW
STRONGER THAN
I WISH.

THE TECHNOLOGY,
THE POLITICS. I KNOW
YOU ALL THINK I
PLAN EVIL.

IF YOU SEEK
ENLIGHTENMENT, WHY
COME TO ME WHEN
IFA ANSWERS ALL?

IFA STOPPED
ANSWERING ME..

IMPOSSIBLE.

TELL ME TOBE, WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN?

HMM..I SEE SHADOWS CRAWLING IN CLOUDS SOMETIMES REACHING FOR THE HEAVENS

WITH EACH PASSING DECADE, ELEDUMARE'S ABSENCE AFFECTS EVENTS.

I CLIMBED THE EDGE OF THE WILD STAR FOR A PEEK INTO THE FUTURE OF MAN..

BUT I SAW NOTHING, ONLY A VOID..BLACKER THAN THE WORLD'S BEGINNING.

THE WILD STAR- YOU JOURNEY FAR, TOBE.

AND YET NOTHING?

I GO WHERE ELEDUMARE TELLS ME TO. THE FORESTS GOSSIP..THEY SAY DISPICABLE THINGS, THEY CURSE A FORCE I'VE NEVER HEARD OF.

A FORCE? TELL ME, TOBE WHAT DO THEY SAY?

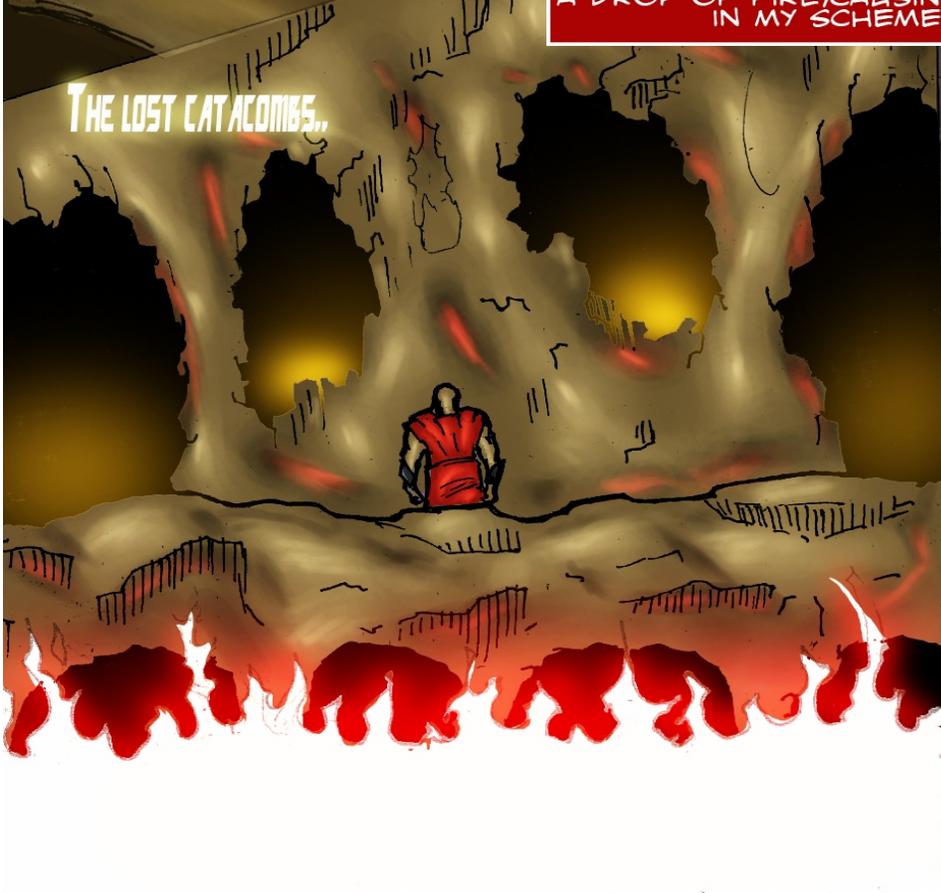
SEVEN SHADOWS AND A SCARRED SOUL



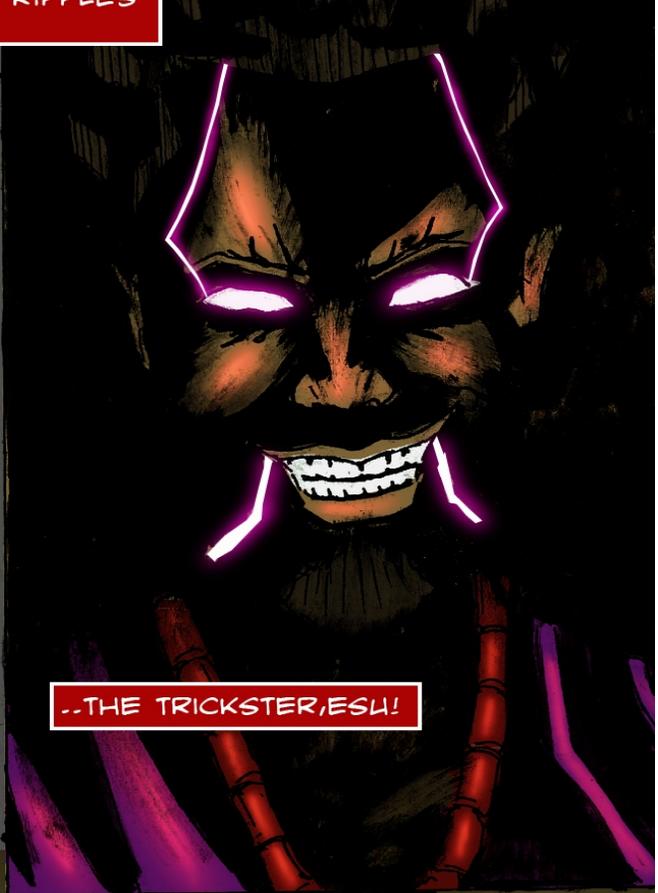
--NO--

..I FEEL HIS PRESENCE..

A STWIST IN EVENTS..
A DROP OF FIRE/CAUSING RIPPLES
IN MY SCHEME..



THE LOST CATACOMBS..



..THE TRICKSTER,ESU!



ESU!

YOUR
PERVERTED LOVE
FOR CHEAP ENTER-
TAINMENT IS UNBECOMING
OF ORISHAS.

DO
YOUR WIVES
BORE YOU?

WHY DID YOU INTERRUPT MY MEETING WITH OGHN?

IT WASN'T TIME FOR THAT BODY TO EXPIRE. AND WE'RE BOTH NOT MEANT TO BE IN THE CATACOMBS.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THAT WASN'T ME. YOU INTERRUPTED YOUR "MEETING" WHEN YOU CHOSE TO LEAVE YOUR BORROWED HUMAN FORM.

I WAS BORED, AND YOU'RE FATE'S NEW ACTOR. I JUST WANT A PIECE OF THE SHOW, THE LAUGHS AND CHAOS, AND... ..ANSWERS.

HE-HE-HE.. ELEDUMARE HAS ALL ANSWERS. IF YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR HIS RETURN, FIND HIM.

HEH.. WHY DO HORSES RUN BACKWARDS?

WHY ARE BIRDS BLIND?



BECAUSE ELEDUMARE ATE THEIR EYES.

HOW DARE YOU?!

I ONLY ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION. NOW TELL ME WHY WOULD AN ACTIVE ORISHA CHOOSE A SUCCESSOR?



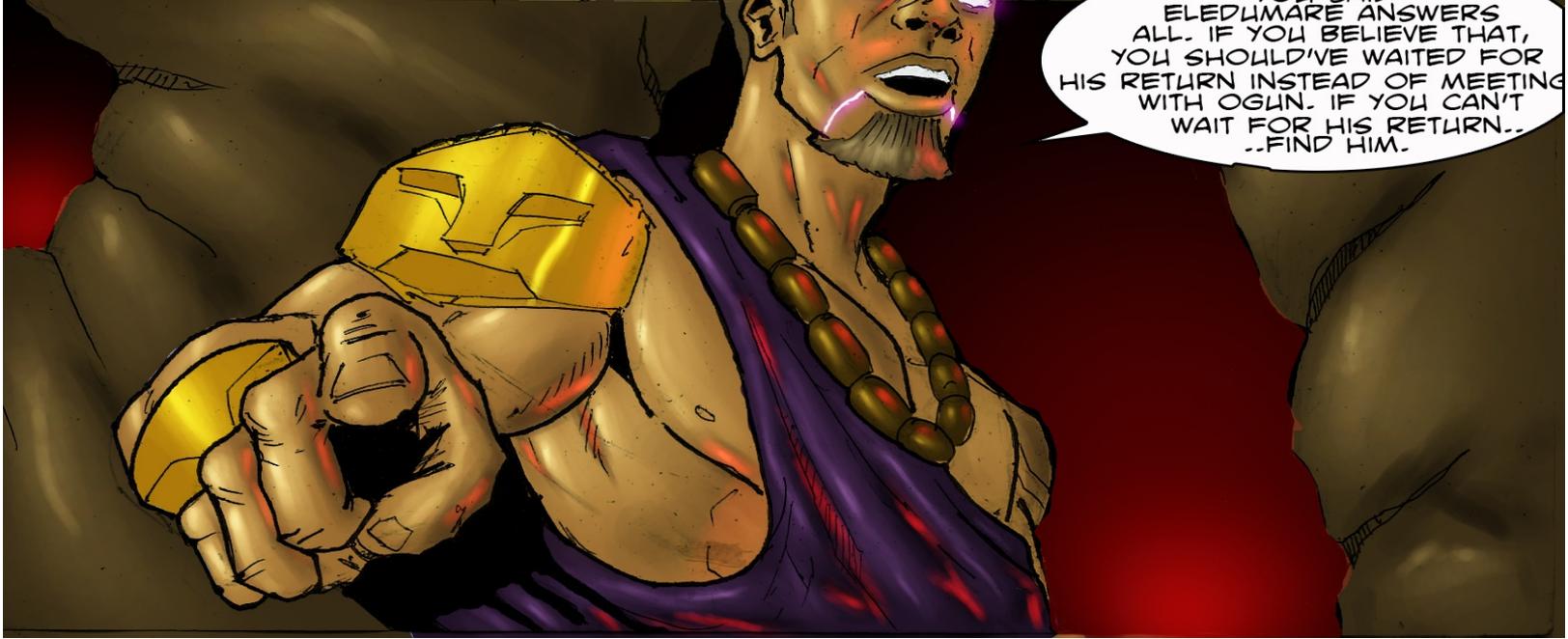
THE SAME REASON YOU INTERRUPTED I AND OGLUN'S TALK.

YOUR TONGUE SHOULD BE CUT!!

I HAVE NO MISCHIEF PLANNED AGAINST MAN. I JUST REPAIR THE BROKEN THREADS IN ELEDUMARE'S WORK.

YOU BURN EVERYTIME I TELL YOU WHAT IS. YOU ALL REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH ELEDUMARE. YOUR HYPOCRISY DISGUSTS ME.

YOU SAID ELEDUMARE ANSWERS ALL. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, YOU SHOULD'VE WAITED FOR HIS RETURN INSTEAD OF MEETING WITH OGLUN. IF YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR HIS RETURN.. ..FIND HIM.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ESH?

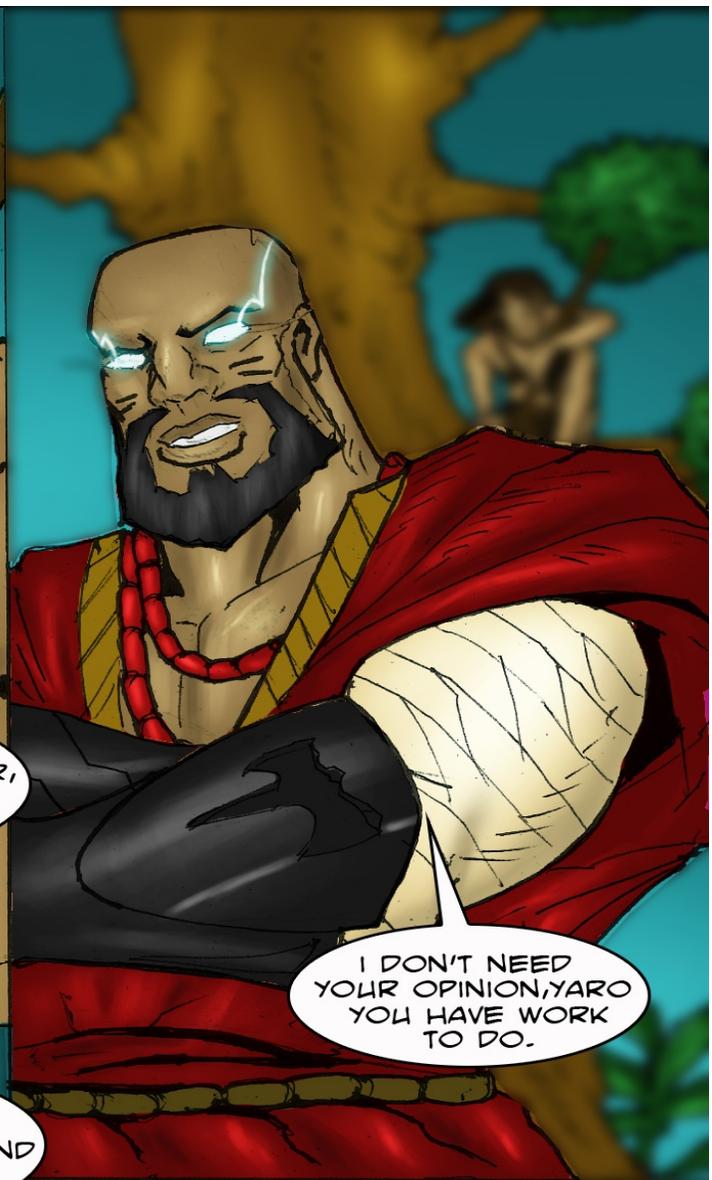
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE YOU DO, MAYBE YOU DON'T. MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT I DO BECAUSE YOU DO WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO FOR ME.

LET'S CALL THIS OUR LITTLE GAME OF CHESS. TIME TO WAKE UP SANGO, IT'S YOUR MOVE NOW.

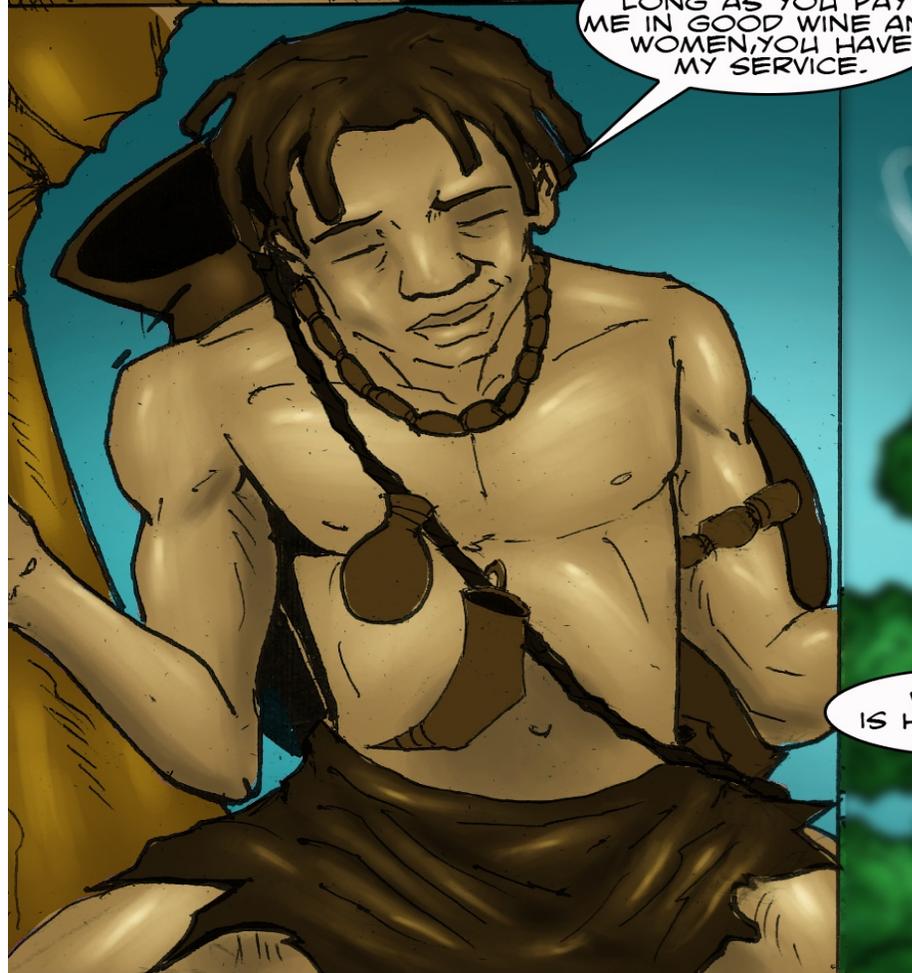
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, SANGO. ESH IS A BETTER PLAYER. HE SINGLEHANDLEDLY TOPPLED GOVERNMENTS IN MINUTES AND SPARKED AN ORISHA WAR WE ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM.



THIS ARA BOY YOU TALK ABOUT, YOUR SUCCESSOR, HE'S A BAD MOVE IN YOUR SCHEME OF THINGS.



I DON'T NEED YOUR OPINION, YARO YOU HAVE WORK TO DO.



ANYWAY, AS LONG AS YOU PAY ME IN GOOD WINE AND WOMEN, YOU HAVE MY SERVICE.



WHERE IS HE ANYWAY?



HE'S PROBABLY BEING
FED THE LIES OF THE WHITE
MAN IN THEIR MODERN-DAY
SCHOOLS AND..

..WAIT, I FEEL..

..OH NO.

TO BE CONTINUED..

CREATOR'S COLUMN

JEHIEL OMORUYI (CREATIVE DIRECTOR)

Developing Ara's 'Game of Chess' with Shamsudeen Idris was more fun than work, an experience we will replay as we bring more episodes to you. Wildfire comic's interest is the entertainment and education of our dedicated readers, so while Dean and Daniel thought up and created Ara's unique art and colors, I developed a story which would educate our readers about the beautiful heritage of the Yoruba traditional worship. We hope you had a wonderful read.

SHAMSUDEEN IDRIS (C.E.O)

Working with Jehiel Omoruyi and Daniel Ekpo Inniel on Ara's issue 1 was great. I'd call it an expansion of Ara's world with a whole lot of new faces that you'd get to see more often as we go further. And I'm guessing you all have a lot of unanswered questions. Don't worry, you'd get to put the pieces of the puzzle together. There's more coming your way from Wildfire.

FAN ART!!!

Do you love WILDFIRE COMICS?? Well, because we also love our fans and the effort they've put into supporting us,, this is the very least we can do!



LARRY OFIONG JR.



ISAAC ESIDIENE



CHISEL J. PEACHTTT



WISDOM ONYEUKWU



ABDULHAMEED DANLADI



YUNUS DANLADI



EGB ON BLUNT

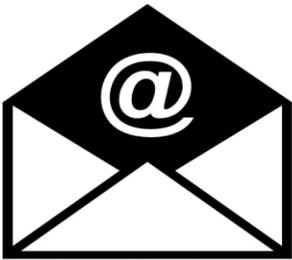
***DELVE INTO FIRST EARTH...
..HIP HOP HIGH AWAITS YOUR PRESENCE.***

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