



NATHAN HAWTHORNE

ARK SONG

CHAPTER 3

OTHER BOOKS IN THE ARKSONG SERIES



ARKSONA

STORY AND ART BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE

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CHAPTER 3:
FIRE AND WATER



AWAKE?



YOU'RE
A REAL PEST,
YOU KNOW



YOU BURST
INTO FLAMES,
MADE ME FIGHT,
THEN YOU GOT
ME CAPTURED -
ALL IN ONE
DAY!

I'M
DOCKING YOUR
PAY!

P/B



BU-



COME HERE!



HEY LET GO OFF MY HAIR!

RUMBLE

NO! GO THAT WAY!

CRASH

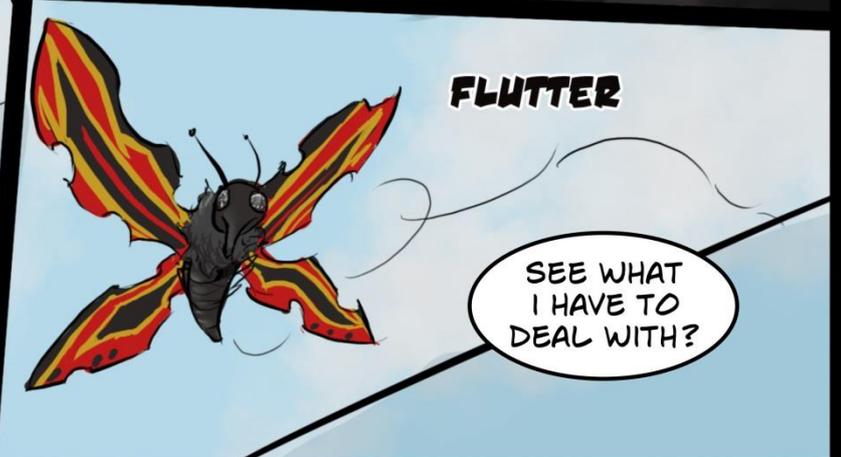
OW!



NOW, NO SLEEPING AT THE WHEEL, WE'RE HALF WAY TO THE LAB



SIGH, CAN'T FIND ANY GOOD CREW THESE DAYS



FLUTTER

SEE WHAT I HAVE TO DEAL WITH?



AH, YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY WE'RE HERE. WELL WORRY NOT MY FRIEND. I'LL FILL YOU IN...



AFTER FENG EXPLODED BACK AT THE WAREHOUSE WE ENDED UP GETTING CAPTURED

OW!



WHEN FENG WOKE UP I'D CALMED DOWN...

THUMP!

...SOMEWHAT



I'VE BROKEN OUT OF LOADSA PRISONS BEFORE, SO THIS WAS A PIECE O' CAKE

HOW DID YOU...?

TRADE SECRET



NO GUARDS?

OW

BANG



I HAD A PLAN...

...THEN WE RUN TO THE GRAY STONE-



FENG RUINED IT



**RING!
RING!**



BUT I'M THE SCOURGE OF THE SKIES! I DON'T NEED PLANS!

WE DID A LITTLE TEST WITH FENG'S ---PROBLEM

SMASH!!



REAPPROPRIATED THE TREASURE...



STOLE A JET...



AND ESCAPED IN STYLE



NOT BAD FOR A MORNING'S WORK EH?

FLUTTER



GAHH



HEY FENG

UHUH?

HOW DO WE KNOW YOU WON'T BLOW UP THIS SHIP?

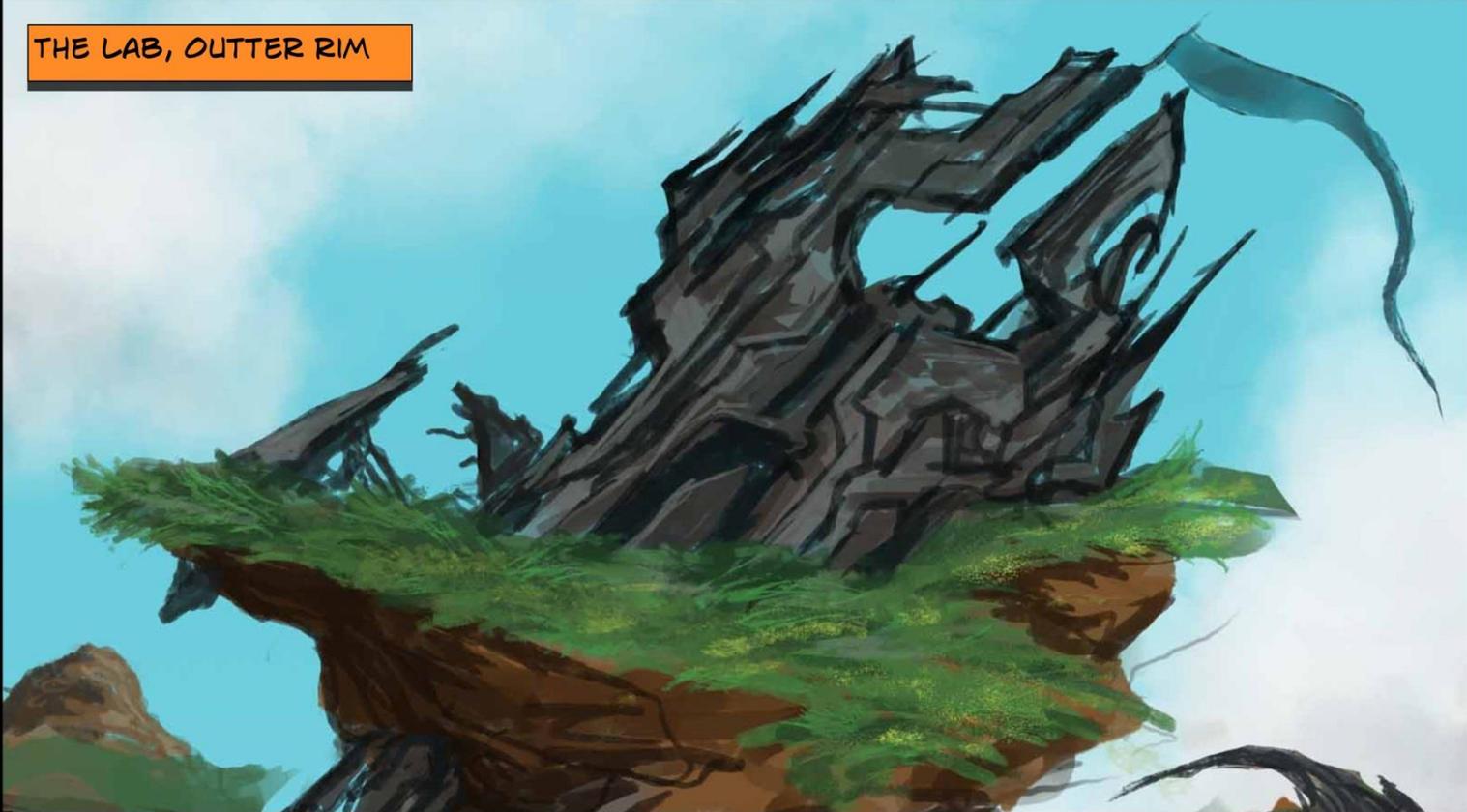


I THINK I'VE GOT IT DOWN. IF I REMEMBER SOMETHING WET OR DAMP IT GOES OUT. SO, LAST TIME IT WAS HOW I FELT WHEN YOU ALMOST DROWNED ME



AH... WELL HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOU COULDN'T SWIM?

I CAN SWIM, I JUST HAD A BROKEN ARM WHEN YOU THREW ME IN!



HOW'S IT LOOK OUT THERE, FENG?

NO TAILS AND WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO STOP

SAME AS USUAL. ALL CLEAR

SEEMS WE WERE CLOSER TO THE OUTER RIM THAN WE THOUGHT





FIRE
MUSTA KEPT
THEM BUSY

UHUH



AND WHO
STARTED THAT
FIRE?

SHUT UP,
FENG

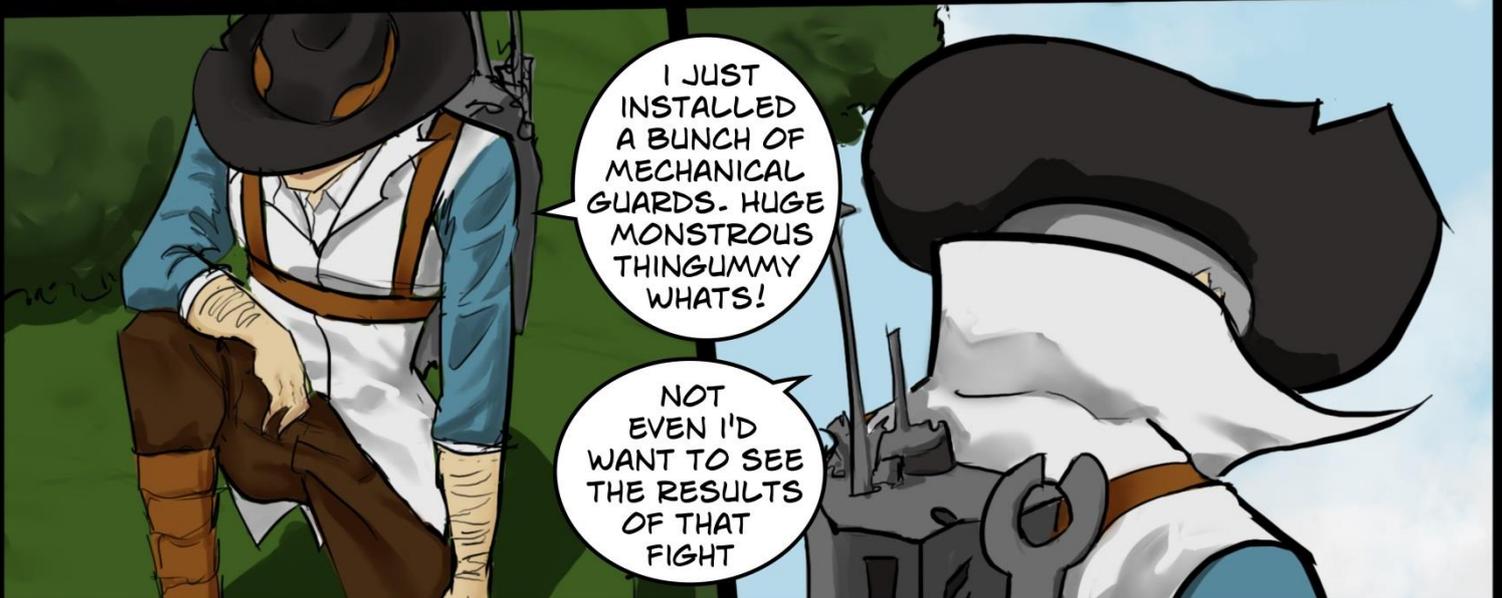


AND HERE WE ARE

**KNOCK
KNOCK**



HEY!
DON'T
KNOCK LIKE
THAT!



I JUST
INSTALLED
A BUNCH OF
MECHANICAL
GUARDS. HUGE
MONSTROUS
THINGUMMY
WHAT'S!

NOT
EVEN I'D
WANT TO SEE
THE RESULTS
OF THAT
FIGHT

HARROD PHESTUS

ROGUE SCIENTIST

WELL... IF IT
ISN'T YOUNG
LIRIKA AND HER
FIRST MATE.





HEY

YOU REALLY THINK SOME MACHINE COULD TAKE US OUT? THE DISRESPECT!

AND I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH YOU!



IS THAT SO? HMMM... AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SHIP?



GORDO STOLE IT

UMM...



BY THE LOOK OF THAT BLACK DIVISION JET, I ASSUME YOU GOT CAPTURED TOO?



WELL DON'T BLAME US! YOU GAVE US BAD INTEL

WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

NO WEAPONS. ALL WE FOUND WERE SCROLLS



DID YOU SAY SCROLLS? HMM... JUST AS I FEARED

EW. STILL
KEEPING THIS PLACE
UNORGANISED I SEE

MAKE
YOURSELVES AT
HOME. AND I'LL GET
YOU A LITTLE
SOMETHING TO
EAT

ONLY IF
YOU'RE NOT
COOKING

A BIT LATER



SO THE EMPIRE'S BIG BAD SECRET CARGO WERE PHONICIAN SCROLLS, EH?



I ASSUME YOU PLAYED IT?



YUP, AND THEN WE STARTED GLOWING - COMMANDER BLACK TOO- THEN KABOOM!

AND SINCE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO WEIRD STUFF



LIKE THIS



CLACK!



CLATTER



I SEE, I SEE!
NOW YOUR INCREDIBLE
STRENGTH MAKES SENSE,
FENGHUANG. WHO'D HAVE
THOUGHT YOU HAD THE
N-GENE



HANDS
OFF THE FIRST
MATE!

SMACK



AND
WHAT'S THIS
N-GENE?

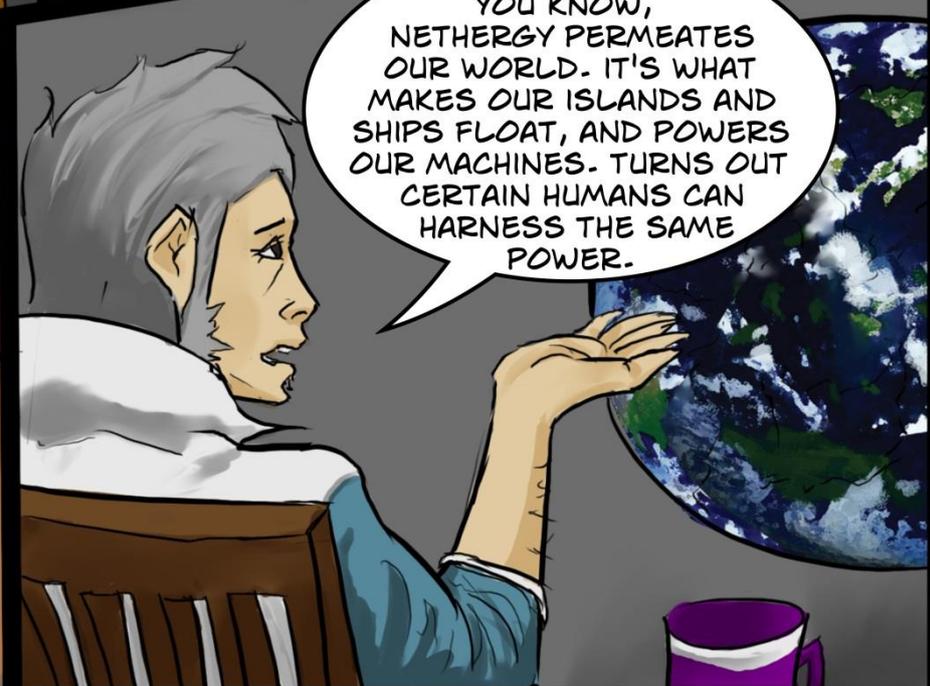
A GENE
IT APPEARS
YOU BOTH
HAVE.

LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE'S
CARRYING ON
MY WORK BACK
AT THE
CAPITAL

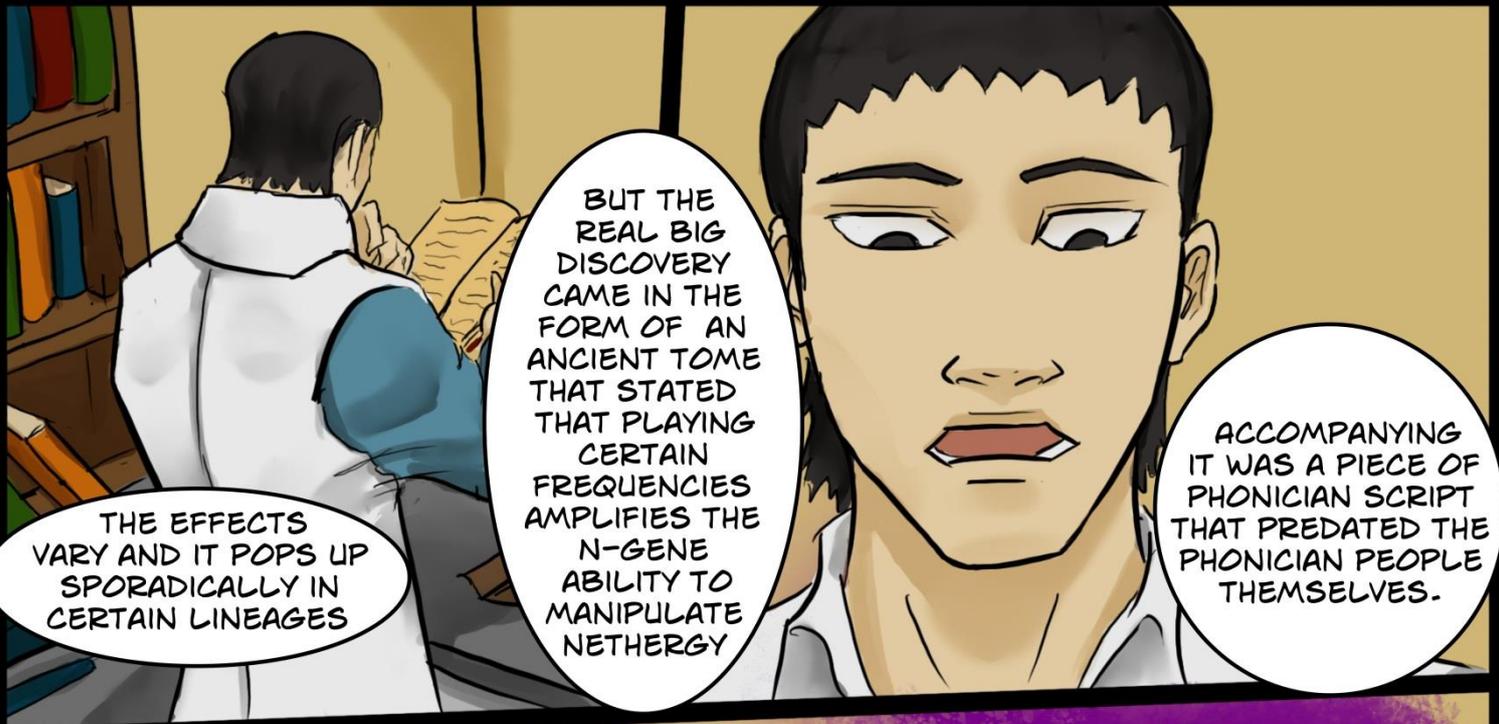


YOUR
WORK?
WHAT?

START
AT THE
BEGINNING



WELL AS
YOU KNOW,
NETHERGY PERMEATES
OUR WORLD. IT'S WHAT
MAKES OUR ISLANDS AND
SHIPS FLOAT, AND POWERS
OUR MACHINES. TURNS OUT
CERTAIN HUMANS CAN
HARNESS THE SAME
POWER.



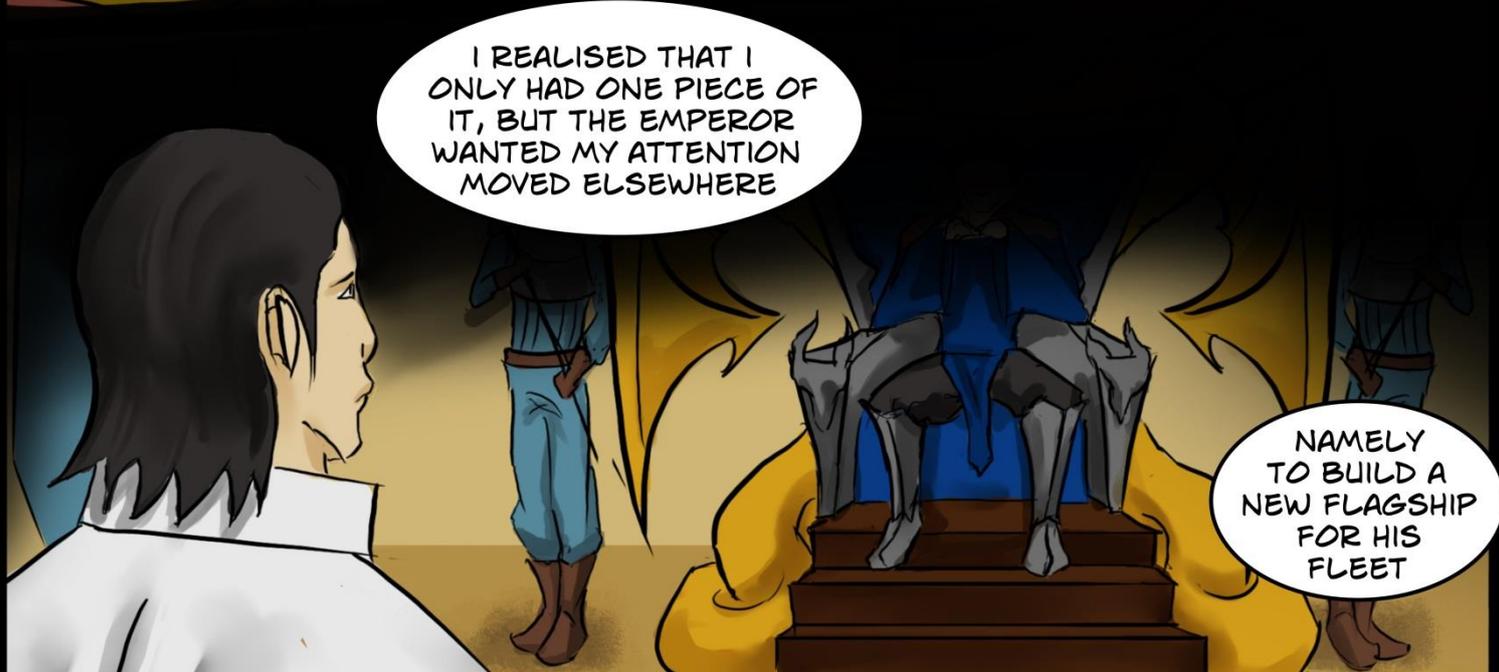
THE EFFECTS VARY AND IT POPS UP SPORADICALLY IN CERTAIN LINEAGES

BUT THE REAL BIG DISCOVERY CAME IN THE FORM OF AN ANCIENT TOME THAT STATED THAT PLAYING CERTAIN FREQUENCIES AMPLIFIES THE N-GENE ABILITY TO MANIPULATE NETHERGY

ACCOMPANYING IT WAS A PIECE OF PHONICIAN SCRIPT THAT PREDATED THE PHONICIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES.



IT WAS CALLED THE ARKSONG

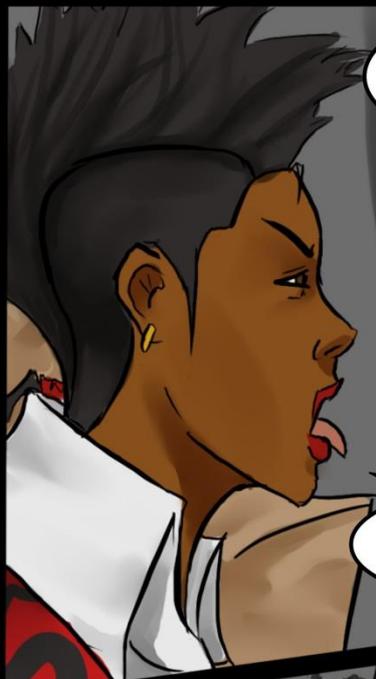


I REALISED THAT I ONLY HAD ONE PIECE OF IT, BUT THE EMPEROR WANTED MY ATTENTION MOVED ELSEWHERE

NAMELY TO BUILD A NEW FLAGSHIP FOR HIS FLEET



OH I KNOW THIS PART!



NYEHH



LET HIM FINISH, CAPTAIN

DON'T WORRY I'LL LEAVE IT OUT SINCE YOU KNOW IT

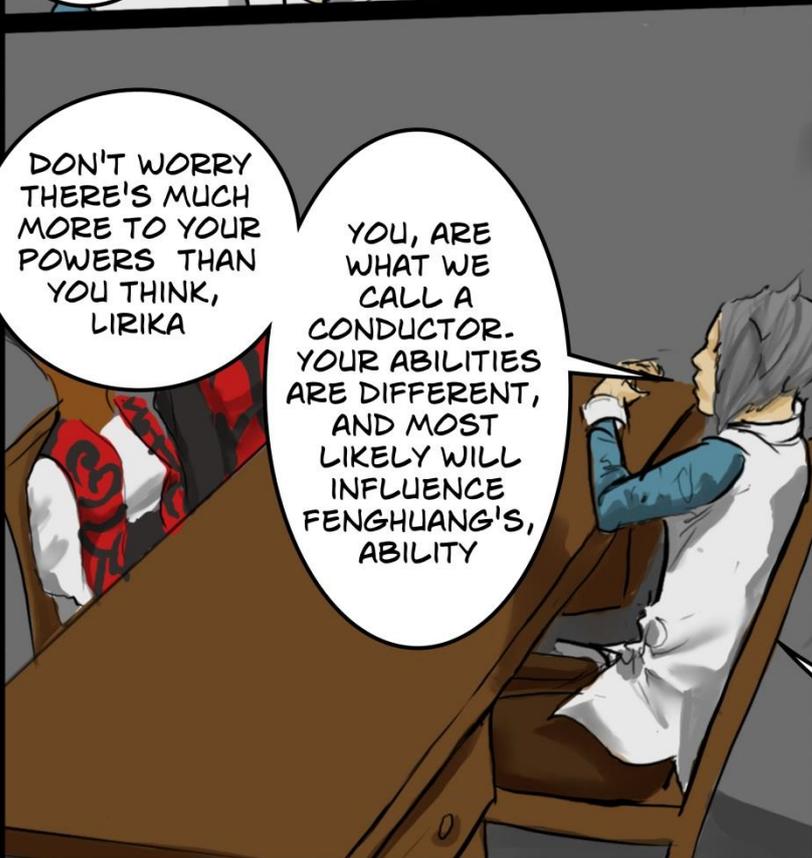


WITH YOUR ABILITIES, THE RELIGIOUS POPULOUS WOULD CONSIDER YOU ARKNIGHTS



HOLY KNIGHTS?! I CAN'T DO A THING AND ALL HE DOES IS SET FIRE TO THINGS!

BLACK JUST SORTA MAKES THE GROUND GO FUNNY



DON'T WORRY THERE'S MUCH MORE TO YOUR POWERS THAN YOU THINK, LIRIKA

YOU, ARE WHAT WE CALL A CONDUCTOR. YOUR ABILITIES ARE DIFFERENT, AND MOST LIKELY WILL INFLUENCE FENGHUANG'S, ABILITY



FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME COMMANDER BLACK IS AN ARKNIGHT TOO. AND ONLY ONE PERSON COULD HAVE PLAYED HIM THE ARKSONG AND THEY'RE DEFINITELY A CONDUCTOR LIKE YOU



WE BOTH KNOW WHO THAT PERSON IS, AND WHAT THEY'RE CAPABLE OF

...



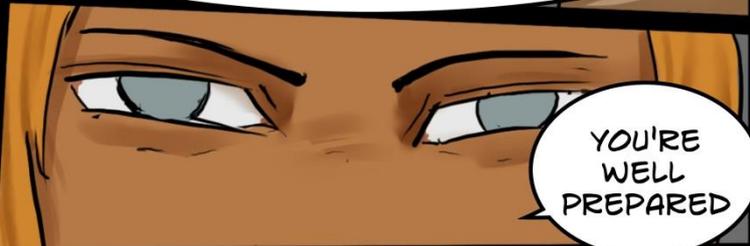
SO THE AERISIAN EMPIRE'S PLANNING TO RECRUIT AN ARMY OF ARKNIGHTS



NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS



NETHERGY CONCENTRATES AROUND N-GENE CARRIERS, THIS RADAR WILL HELP YOU FIND THEM BEFORE BLACK DOES



YOU'RE WELL PREPARED



I STILL HAVE EARS IN THE CAPITAL

TAKE THESE TOO



LAST TIME WE TOOK YOUR MEDS WE GOT GREY SKIN

AND WEIRD BLUE VEINS

WASN'T THAT COOL?

NO



LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT ONE

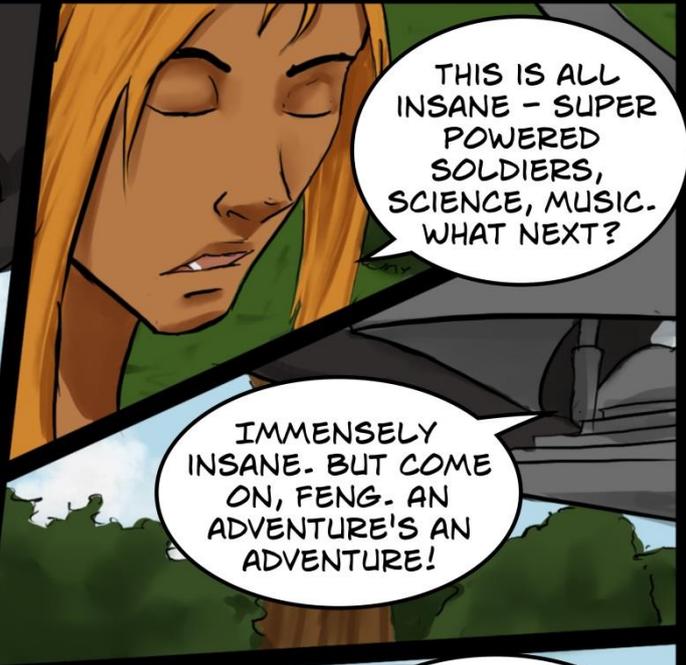
LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT TOO FAR FROM BANDIT'S EYRIE

HIGH DENSITY LOCATED

LATER

THIS WHOLE THING SOUNDS RIDICULOUS, BUT YOU GOT ME CURIOUS, PROF. IT'LL BE USEFUL TO FIND MORE OF THOSE SCROLLS

THE TWO SCRIPTS YOU PLAYED MADE UP A MOVEMENT, AND I LEFT ONE AT THE CAPITAL WHEN I FLED. AT THE MOMENT THEY ARE STRONGER, LIRIKA. TRY TO KEEP UP



THIS IS ALL INSANE - SUPER POWERED SOLDIERS, SCIENCE, MUSIC. WHAT NEXT?

IMMENSELY INSANE. BUT COME ON, FENG. AN ADVENTURE'S AN ADVENTURE!

STOPPING THE EMPIRE'S PLANS WOULD BE DOING THE WORLD A FAVOUR. AND I LIKE THE THOUGHT OF BEING OWED ONE BY THAT MANY PEOPLE



TRUST YOU TO TRY AND GAIN SOMETHING FROM THIS



WELL IT'S FUN BOTH TO GIVE AND RECEIVE, FENG. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT

NOW HUSH, AND LET ME SLEEP



STRAIGHTER, LIRIKA!

BEING ABLE TO CONTROL YOUR BODY IS IMPORTANT BOTH TO MUSIC AND FIGHTING



YOUR FATHER'S RIGHT, RIKKI.

PLAY A VIOLIN WITH THAT POSTURE AND YOU'LL SOUND LIKE NAILS ON A CHALKBOARD

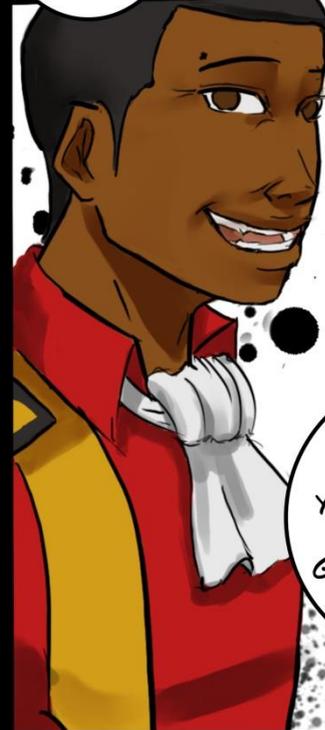


MUM!

DID YOU GET IT?!



I MOST CERTAINLY DID. YOUR NEW E-STRING IS IN HERE, PLAY LESS HARSHLY NEXT TIME



BETTER HARSH THAN WITHOUT SOUL!

NOW GIVE YOUR MUM A HUG. YOU RECEIVED PLENTY, SO GIVE IN EQUAL MEASURE!

OH! YOU GET STRONGER EVERY DAY! HAHHAHA!





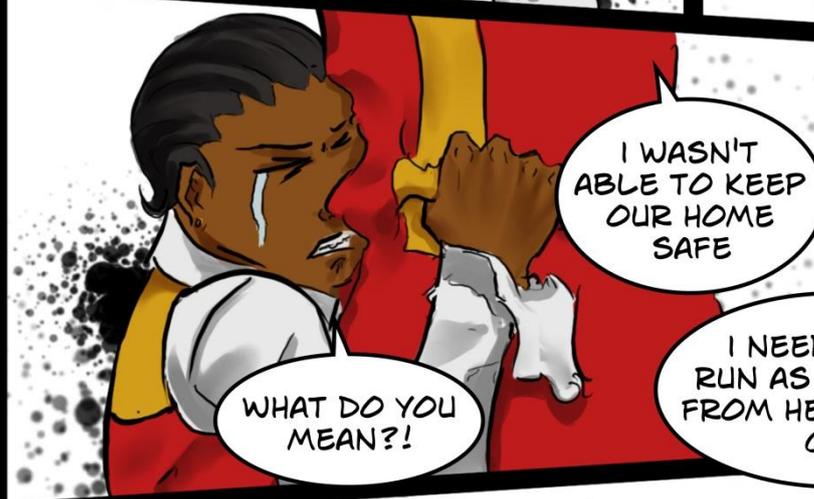


DAD!

MUM'S HURT! SHE'S HURT!



LIRIKA... I'M SORRY.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

I WASN'T ABLE TO KEEP OUR HOME SAFE



I NEED YOU TO RUN AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS YOU CAN

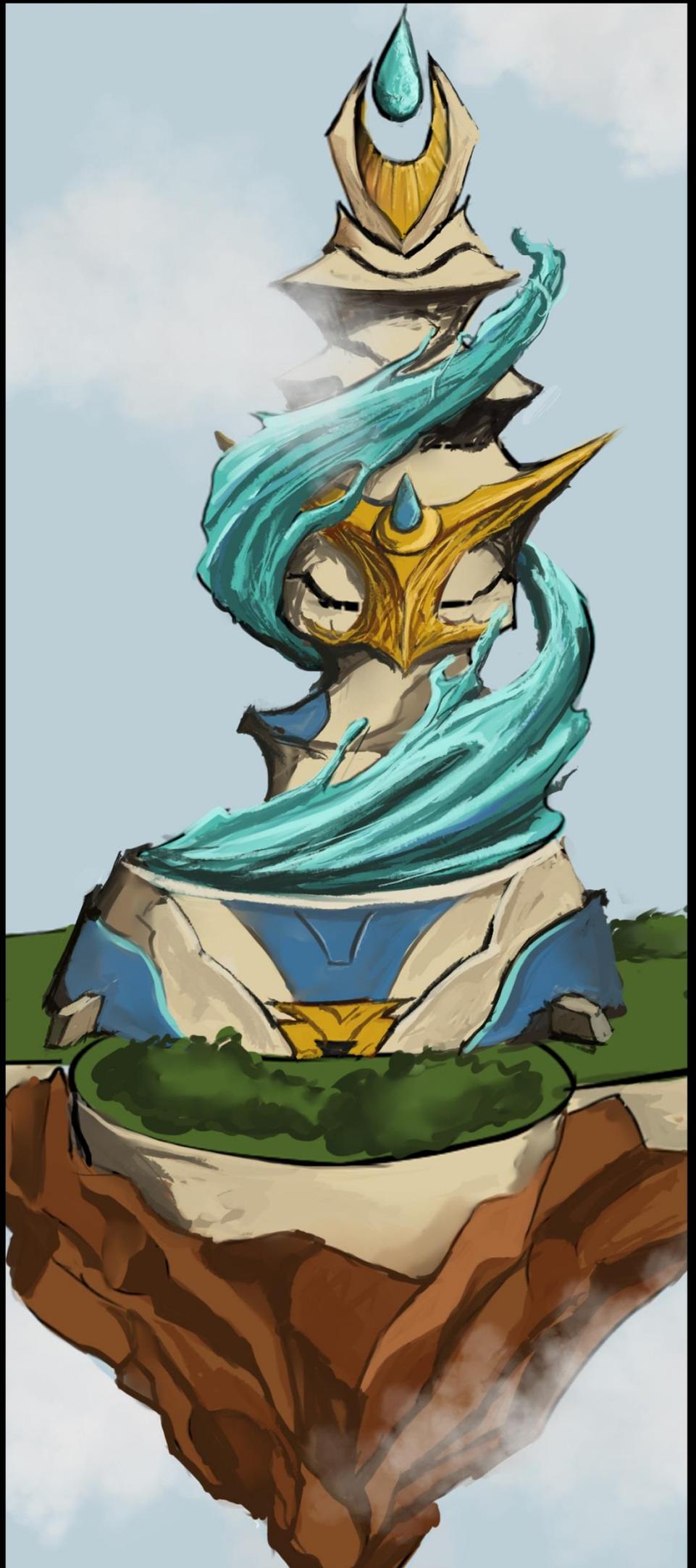


LIVE ON, MY DAUGHTER...

AND I BEG OF YOU

FIND WHAT WE'VE LOST.







HERE WE ARE!

HUH?



THIS IS WHERE THE RADAR LED US



IT POINTS TOWARDS SKYWATER TEMPLE



YOU SURE, FENG? THE TEMPLE? MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE IT





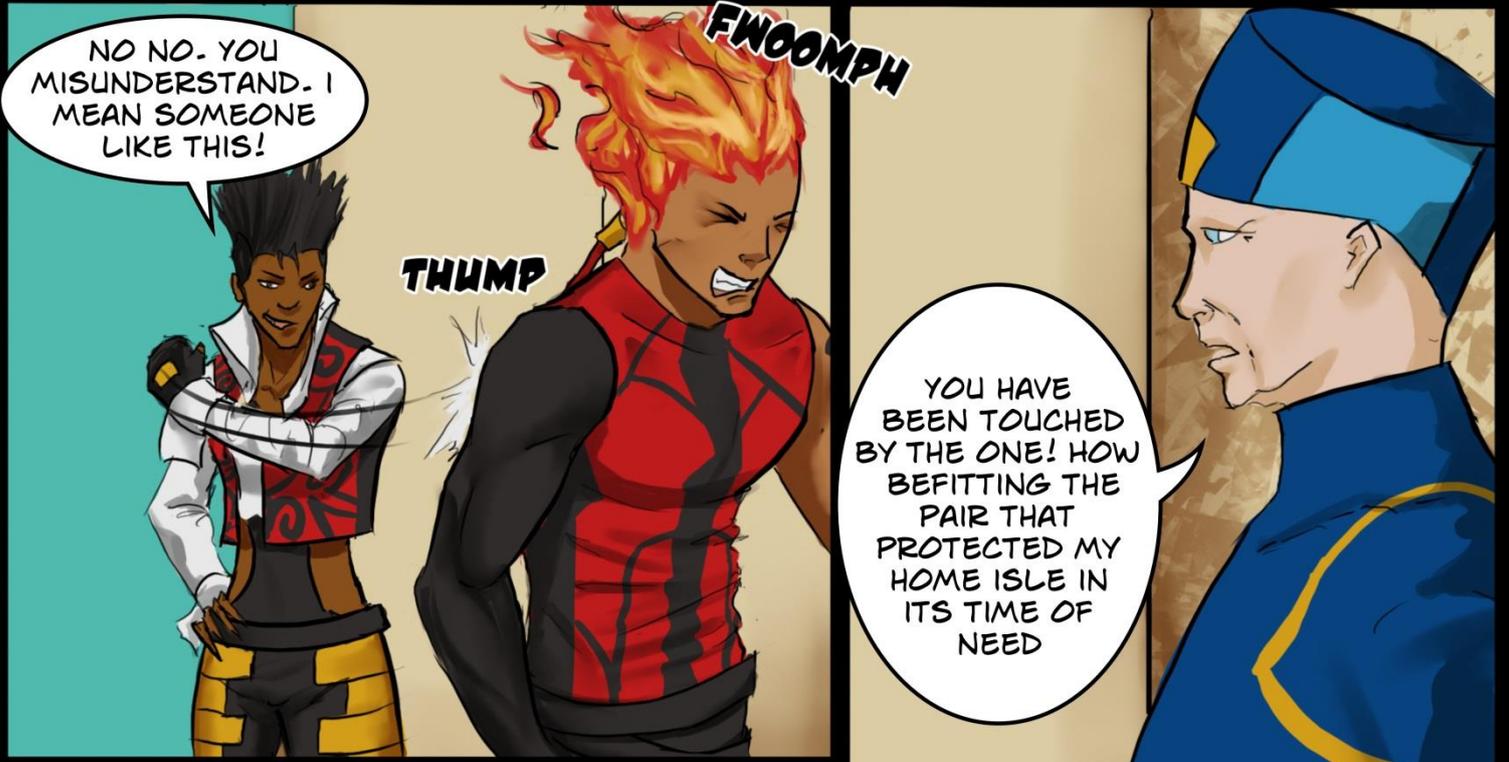
HIGH PRIEST! YOU HAVE VISITORS. LIRIKA OVERLORE AND FENGHUANG. THEY SAY THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE

SOMEONE WITH SOME GOOD GENES!

I AM FAMILIAR WITH THEIR EXPLOITS, SEND THEM IN

WHO IS IT YOU SEEK, YOUNG CAPTAIN?

DENIM IS NOT THE TYPICAL CLOTH OF THE MONK

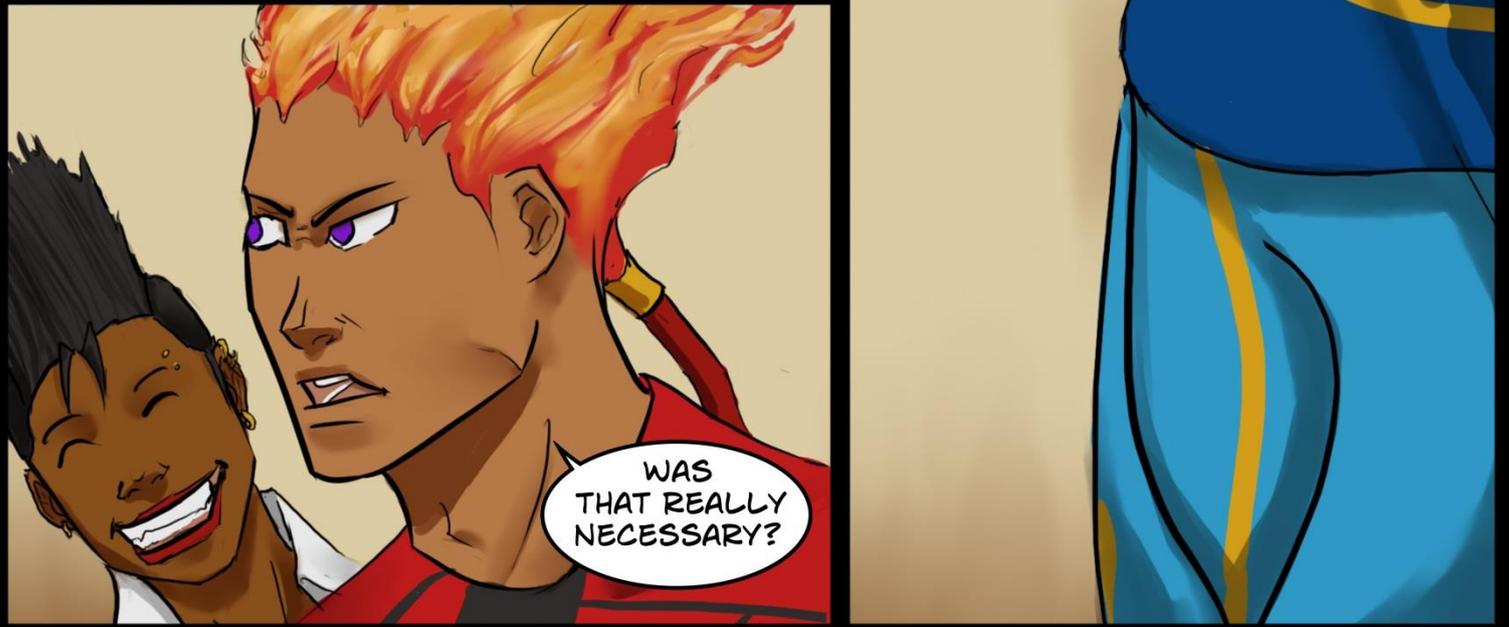


NO NO. YOU MISUNDERSTAND. I MEAN SOMEONE LIKE THIS!

THUMP

FWOOMP

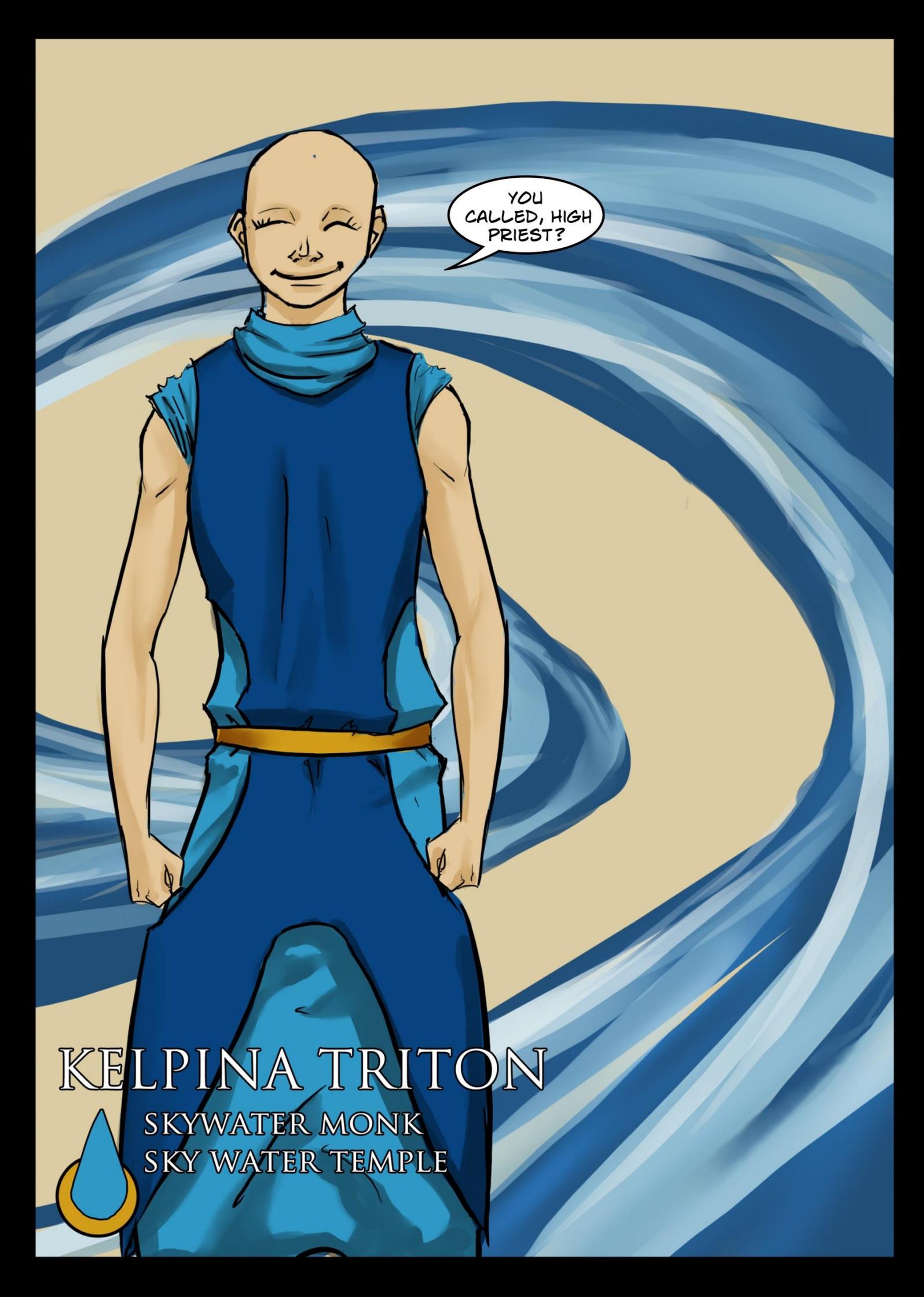
YOU HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE ONE! HOW BEFITTING THE PAIR THAT PROTECTED MY HOME ISLE IN ITS TIME OF NEED



WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?







YOU
CALLED, HIGH
PRIEST?

KELPINA TRITON

SKYWATER MONK
SKY WATER TEMPLE





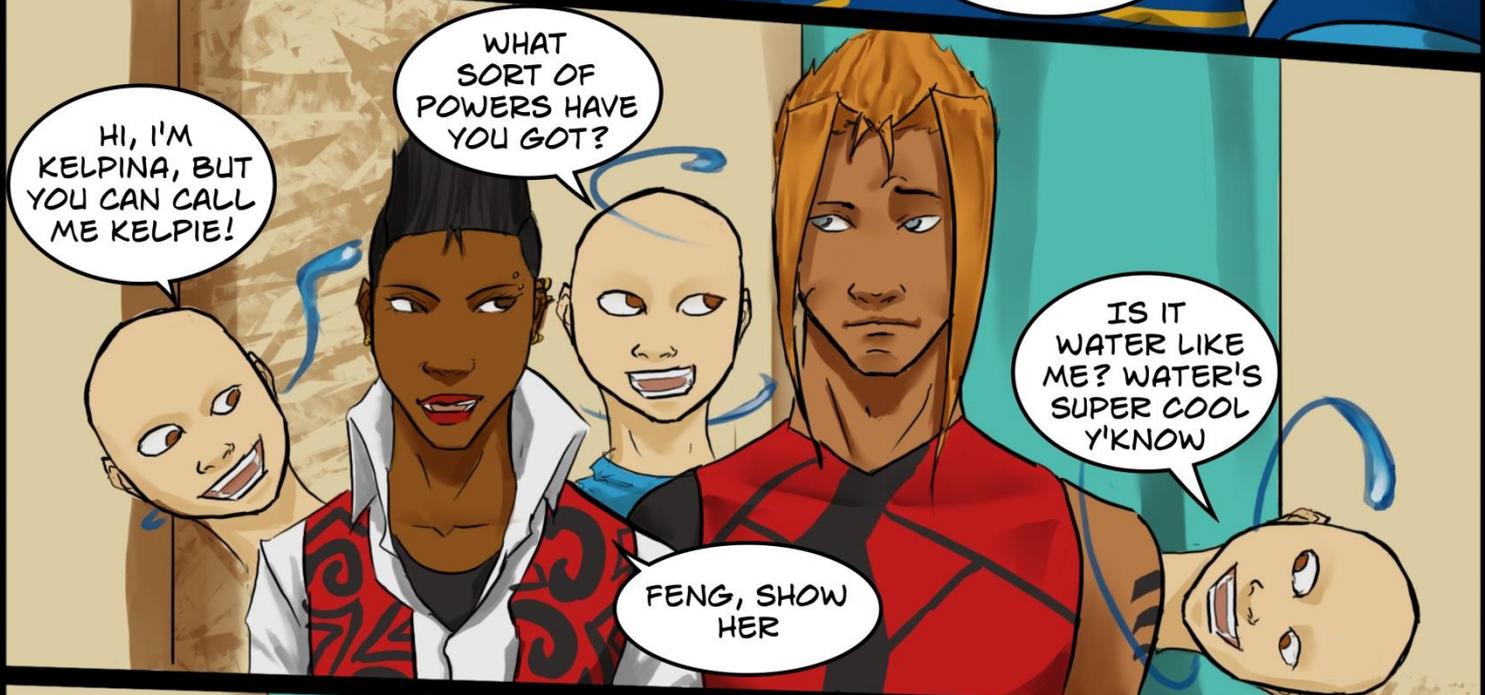
YOU DO REALISE YOU JUST EXPOSED YOUR GIFTS TO OUTSIDERS

WOOPS



LUCKY FOR YOU, THEY ARE OF ARK AS WELL

WHAT?! NO WAY!!



HI, I'M KELPINA, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME KELPIE!

WHAT SORT OF POWERS HAVE YOU GOT?

IS IT WATER LIKE ME? WATER'S SUPER COOL Y'KNOW

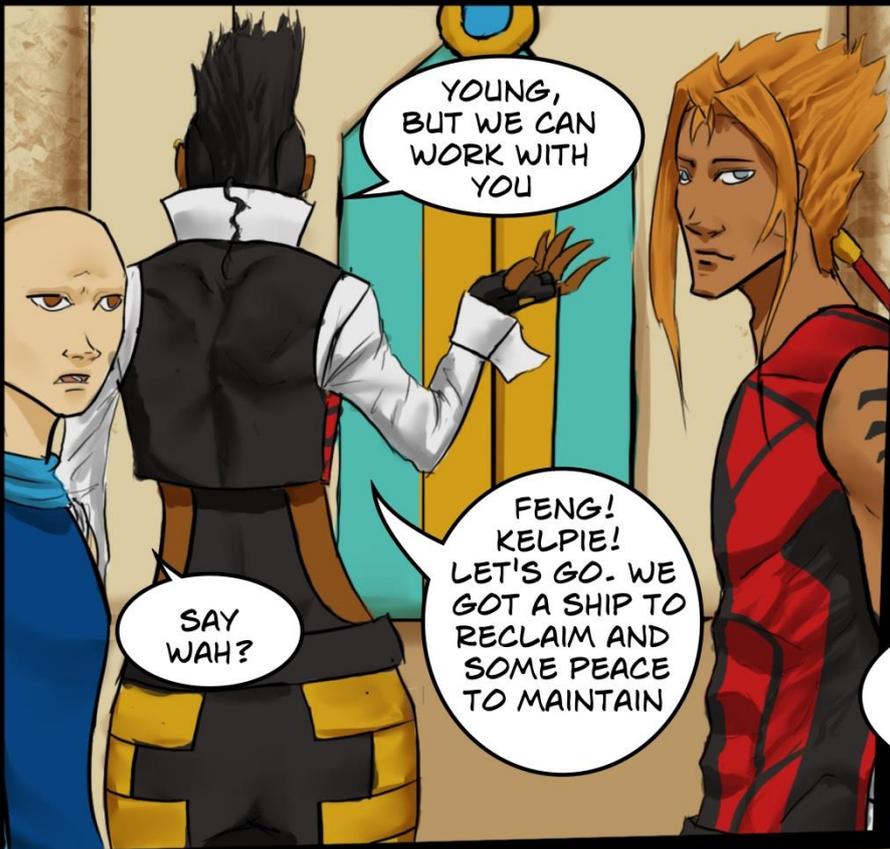
FENG, SHOW HER



OOOOOO

GEEZ, KID, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

SEVENTEEN



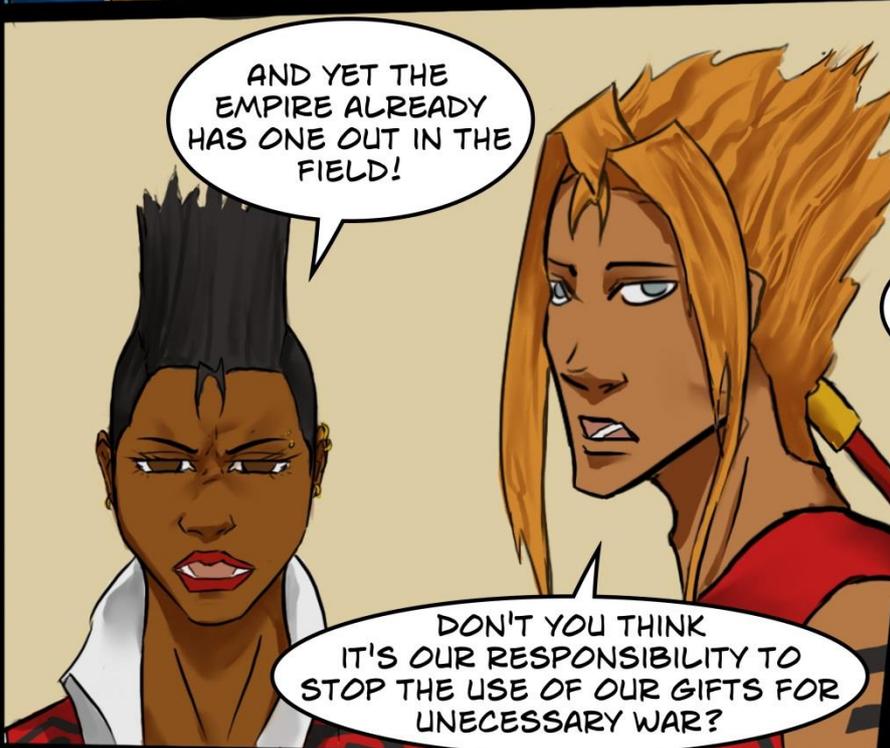
YOUNG,
BUT WE CAN
WORK WITH
YOU

SAY
WAH?

FENG!
KELPIE!
LET'S GO. WE
GOT A SHIP TO
RECLAIM AND
SOME PEACE
TO MAINTAIN



SORRY? I THOUGHT YOU
WERE BRINGING FENGHUANG TO
STAY. THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS NO
PLACE FOR PEOPLE OF SUCH
IMMENSE POWER



AND YET THE
EMPIRE ALREADY
HAS ONE OUT IN THE
FIELD!

DON'T YOU THINK
IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO
STOP THE USE OF OUR GIFTS FOR
UNNECESSARY WAR?



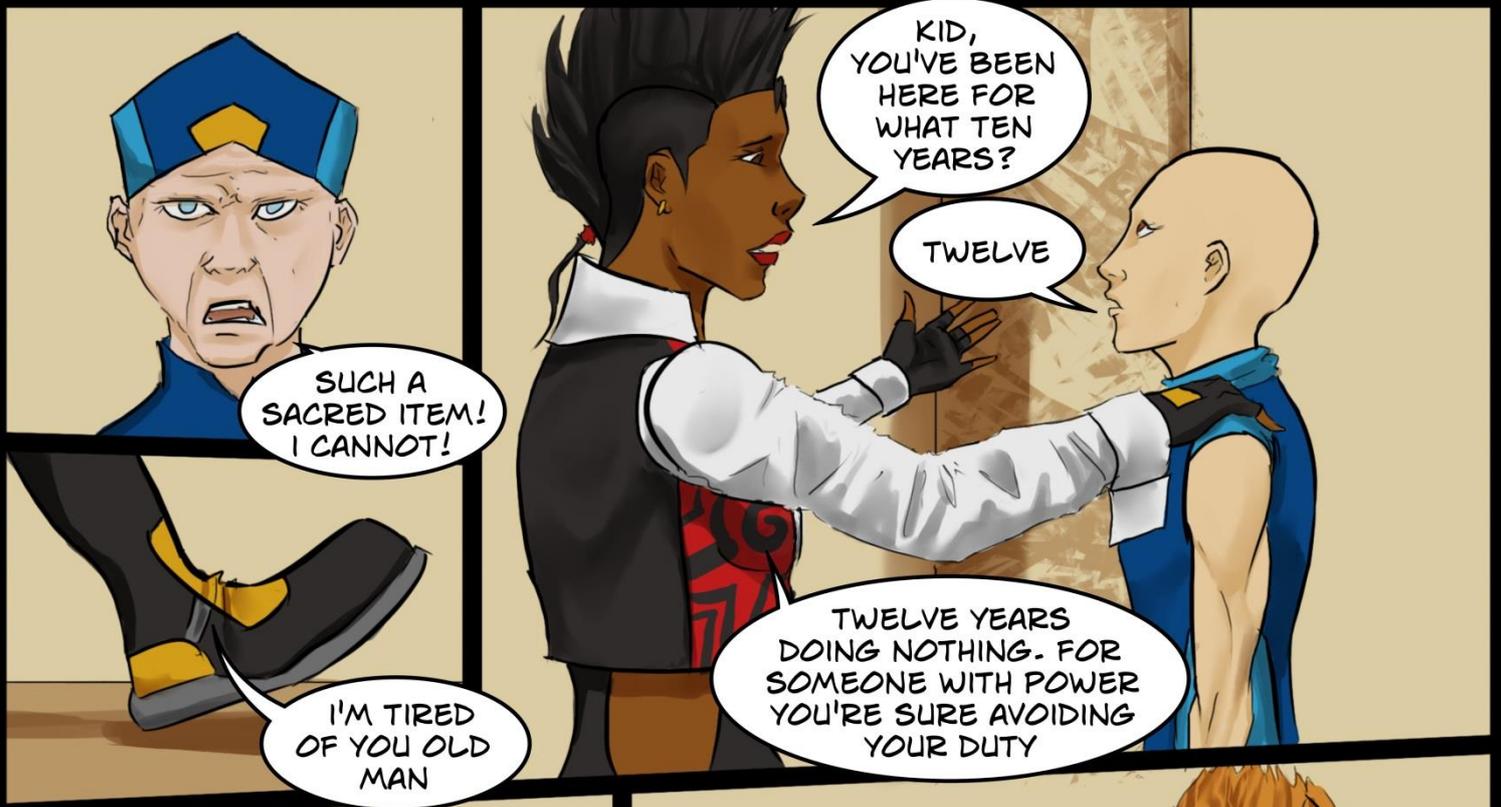
THERE ARE
MORE? BUT
HOW?

A CERTAIN
SCROLL. YOU WOULDN'T
HAPPEN TO HAVE ONE
WOULD YOU?



YES, BUT IT
MUST REMAIN HIDDEN,
LEST THE EMPIRE
SHOULD GAIN MORE
POWER!

FENG
NEEDS TO BE
STRONGER OR
ELSE WE'LL
STAND NO
CHANCE



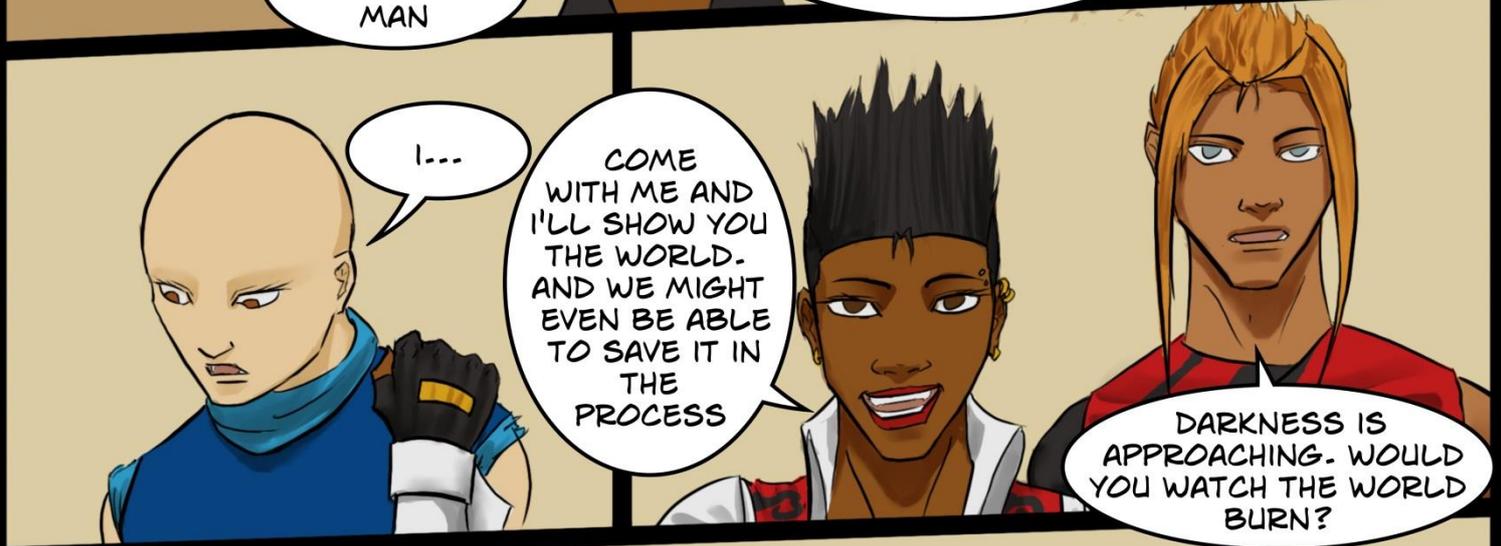
SUCH A SACRED ITEM!
I CANNOT!

I'M TIRED
OF YOU OLD
MAN

KID,
YOU'VE BEEN
HERE FOR
WHAT TEN
YEARS?

TWELVE

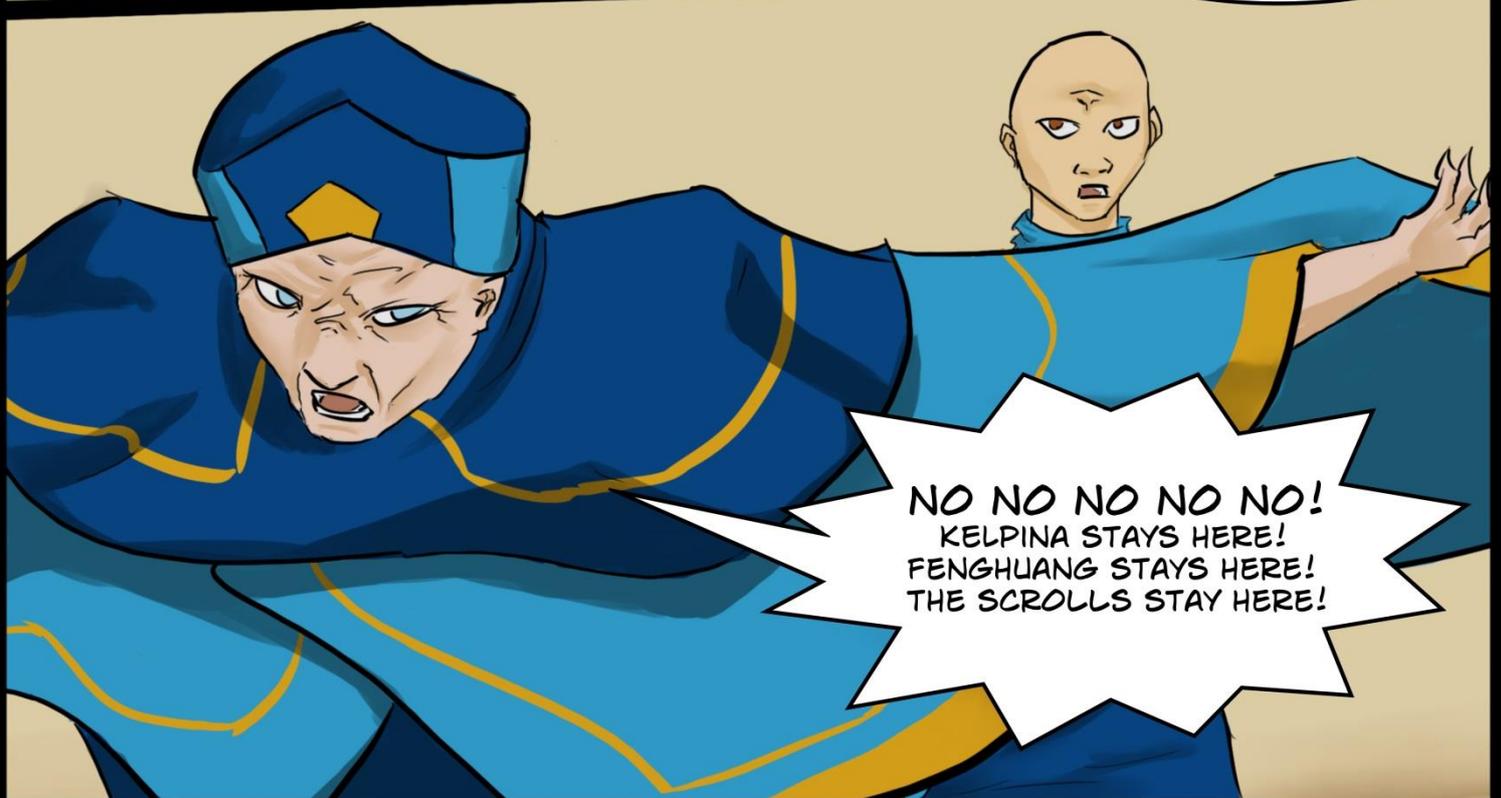
TWELVE YEARS
DOING NOTHING. FOR
SOMEONE WITH POWER
YOU'RE SURE AVOIDING
YOUR DUTY



I....

COME
WITH ME AND
I'LL SHOW YOU
THE WORLD.
AND WE MIGHT
EVEN BE ABLE
TO SAVE IT IN
THE
PROCESS

DARKNESS IS
APPROACHING. WOULD
YOU WATCH THE WORLD
BURN?



NO NO NO NO NO!
KELPINA STAYS HERE!
FENGHUANG STAYS HERE!
THE SCROLLS STAY HERE!



YOU SAY YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE



CLENCH



BUT I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY DO



CAPTAIN-
HUSH



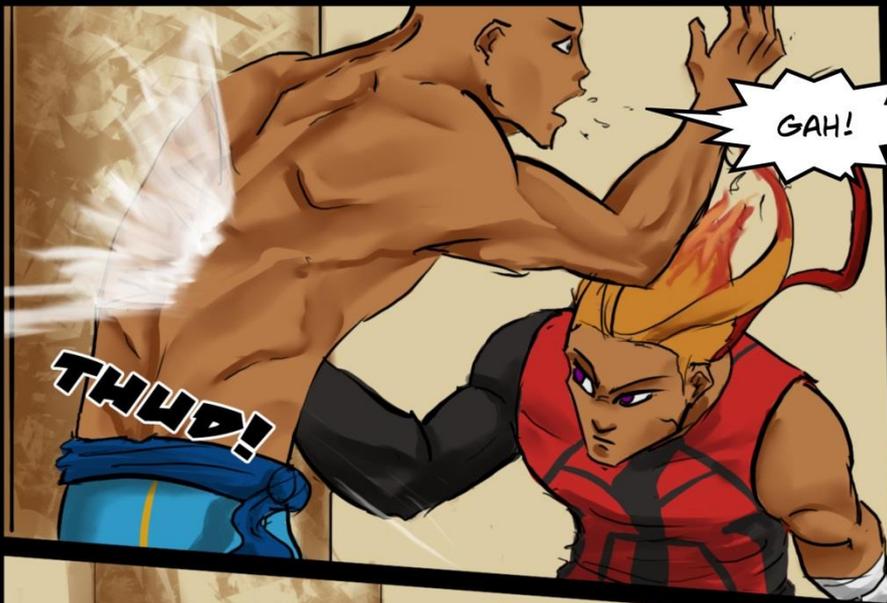
I'M CAPTAIN LIRIKA OVERLORE,
SCOURGE OF THE SKIES,
ROBBER OF ISLES.
AND I GET WHAT I WANT!

FENGHUANG!

CAPTAIN!







GAH!

THUD!



SUCH... FEROCITY



PAT

SUCH...



ARGH!!

SMACK!

...ANGER

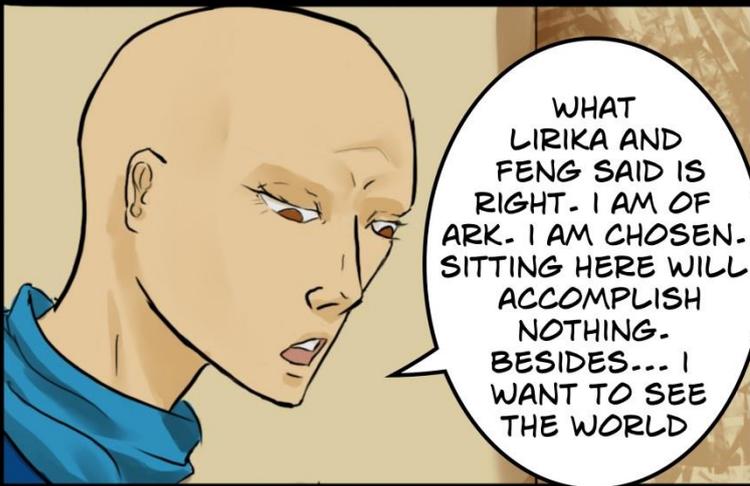




HIGH PRIEST, I'VE DECIDED THAT I'LL GO



WHAT? WHY?!



WHAT LIRIKA AND FENG SAID IS RIGHT. I AM OF ARK. I AM CHOSEN. SITTING HERE WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING. BESIDES... I WANT TO SEE THE WORLD



I... SEE. MAYBE YOU ARE RIGHT, KELPINA. MAYBE IT IS MY OWN FEAR THAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK. YOU... YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE



PHEW! GLAD THAT'S OVER



ABOUT TIME YOU CAME AROUND. WE COULD DO WITH THAT SCROLL TOO, IF YOU HAVE IT



IT IS WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE I GIVE THIS TO YOU

THIS COMES FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF BAKKEN-CRUZ



WE HAVE KEPT THIS TOME SAFE FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS CENTURIES OLD, MAYBE EVEN MILLENIA.



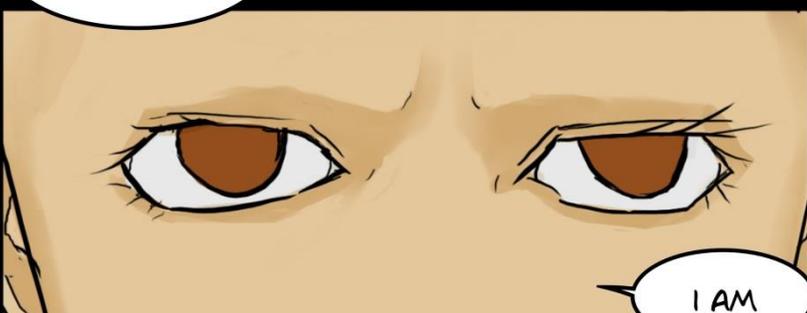
YOU SERIOUS? SEEMS THE PROFESSOR WAS RIGHT, THESE THINGS DO PREDATE PHONICIA



YOU TWO READY?



YES, CAPTAIN



I AM



LATER

IT SEEMS JUST LIKE YESTERDAY YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE TO US, KELPINA. EVERYONE HERE WILL MISS YOU

AND I WILL MISS YOU ALL TOO. YOU'RE THE CLOSEST THING I HAD TO A REAL FAMILY IN THIS WORLD

KELPINA, PLEASE TAKE THIS WITH YOU

WHAT IS IT?

OUR GREATEST TREASURE, OWNED BY AN ARKNIGHT OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO

I PRAY THAT IT WILL KEEP YOU SAFE



HEY YOU COULD READ THE SCROLL, DOES THAT MEAN-

YUP, I'M PHONICIAN - CURRENTLY A SUPER ENDANGERED SPECIES



THE OLD HIGH PRIEST WAS PHONICIAN. HE STUMBLED UPON THE SCROLLS IN THE VAULTS AND PLAYED IT FOR ME. HE DIED OF THE PLAGUE NOT LONG AFTER



AT LEAST HE DIDN'T LIVE TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO PHONICIA THEN



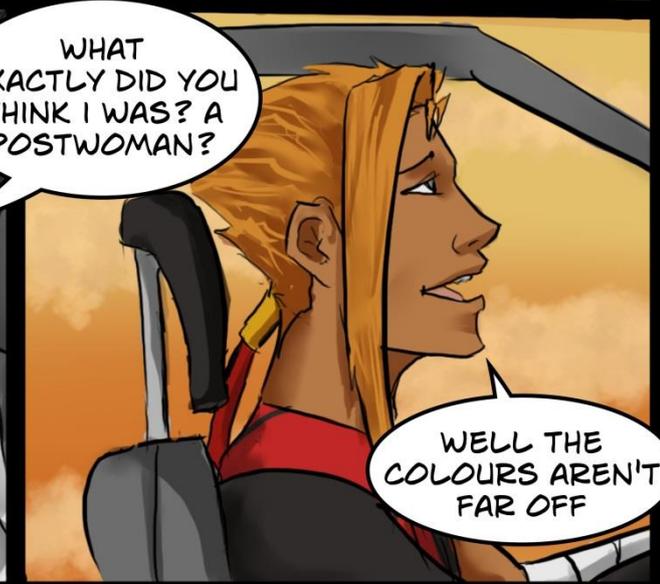
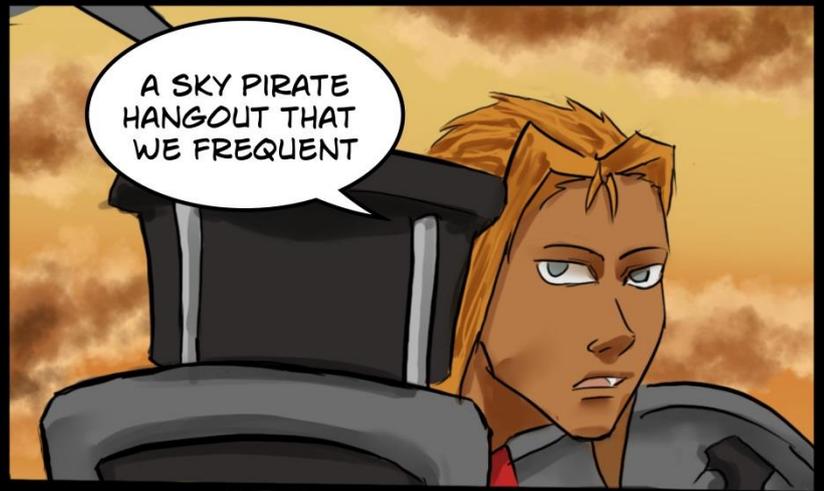
I... HAVE A QUESTION

IF YOU'RE THIS SCOURGE OF THE SKIES, WHY IS YOUR SHIP SO SMALL?



LISTEN, KID. THIS IS NOT MY SHIP. MY SHIP IS THE MOST MAGNIFICENT THING TO HAVE EVER FLOWN THESE SKIES

OW







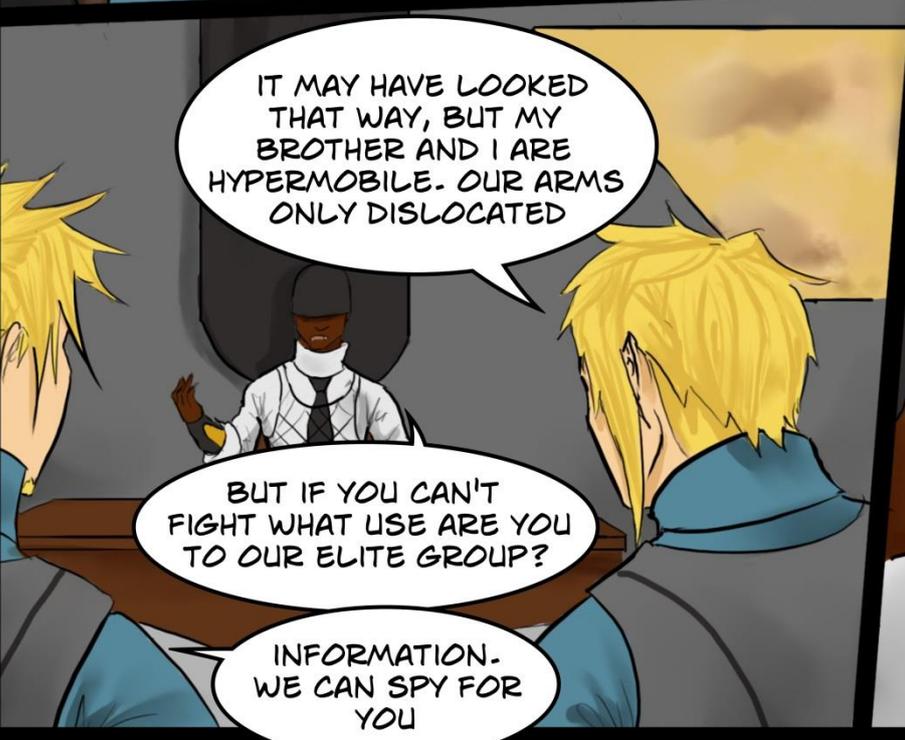
EDGE AND RIGBA
JAYSON... SO YOU TWO
THINK I SHOULD LET YOU
JOIN THE BLACK
DIVISION?



YES SIR, WE
HAVE THE
DEDICATION AND
THE SKILL



SKILL? I
HEARD YOU HAD
YOUR ARMS BROKEN
BY FENGHUANG IN
ONE HIT



IT MAY HAVE LOOKED
THAT WAY, BUT MY
BROTHER AND I ARE
HYPERMOBILE. OUR ARMS
ONLY DISLOCATED

BUT IF YOU CAN'T
FIGHT WHAT USE ARE YOU
TO OUR ELITE GROUP?

INFORMATION.
WE CAN SPY FOR
YOU



MOST OF
THE NEW RECRUITS
WOULD BE HAPPY TO
GET SICK LEAVE.



WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?



MOST OF YOUR RECRUITS ARE CONSCRIPTS. WE AREN'T. WE SERVE TO PROTECT THE EMPIRE AND ITS PEOPLE



WELL WE HAD A FEW SOLDIERS KNOCKED OUT OF COMMISSION DURING THE WAREHOUSE CLASH. SO WE'LL TAKE YOU



SO DESPERATE FOR TROOPS YOU'RE RECRUITING BLUESLEEVES NOW?

RUKHI? SNEAKING AROUND AGAIN I SEE

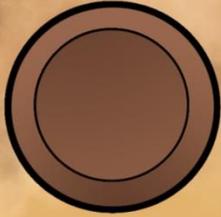


HEARD YOU'VE GOT TWO EXTRA ARKKNIGHTS ON YOUR HANDS, CUWAKE.



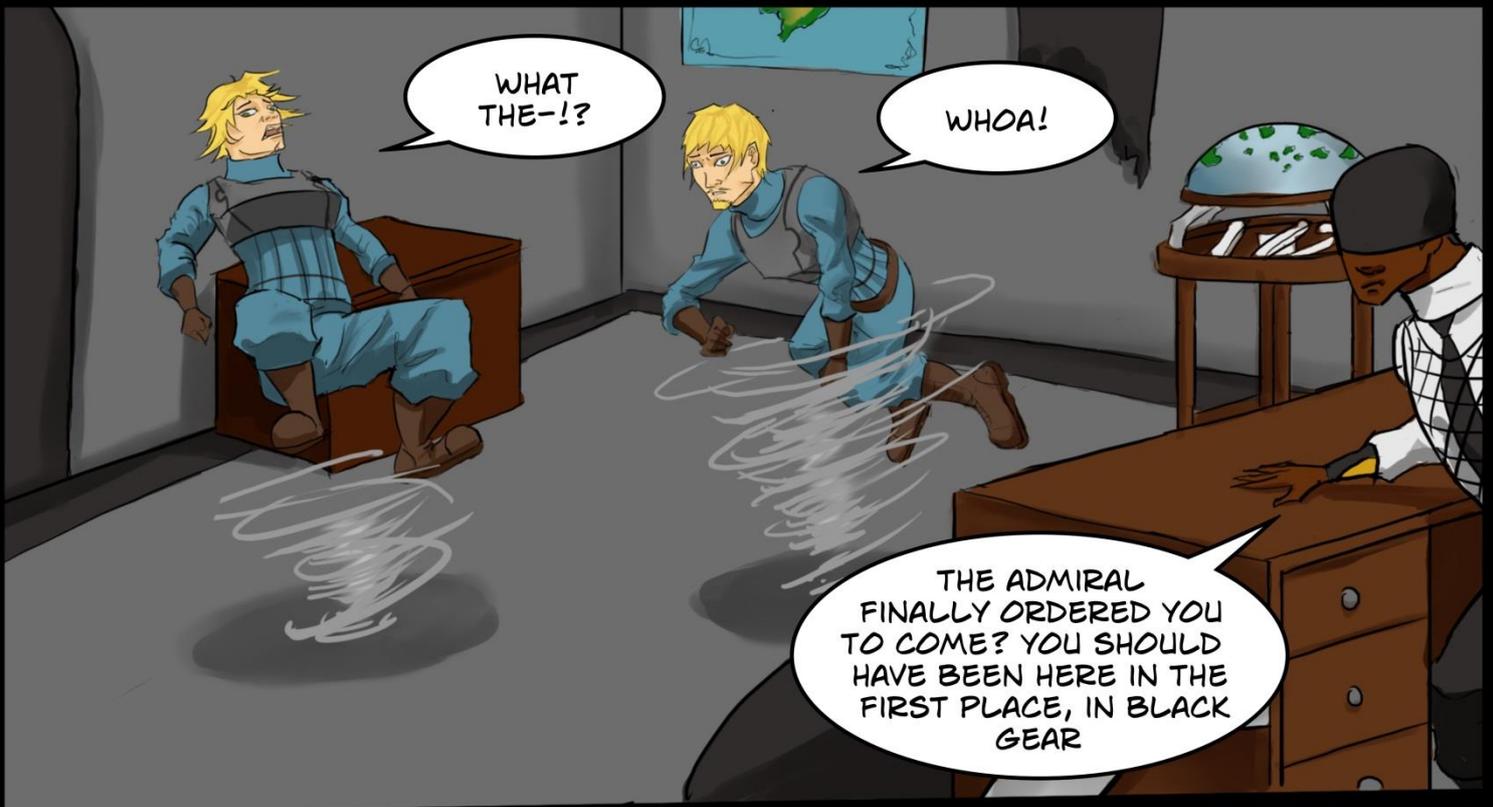
RUKHI GARUDA

HUNTER
FREELANCE



I WAS BORED.
THOUGHT YOU COULD
USE SOME EXTRA
WINDPOWER





WHAT THE-!?

WHOA!

THE ADMIRAL FINALLY ORDERED YOU TO COME? YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, IN BLACK GEAR



PFT... I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO, CUWAKE. WHY ON GAIA WOULD I WORK FOR YOU?



NOW YOU TWO

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS THE COMMANDER HERE

FIND OUT WHERE THOSE PIRATES ARE HEADING AND SEND US THE INTEL

AND THEN?



AND THEN...

ARGHH!

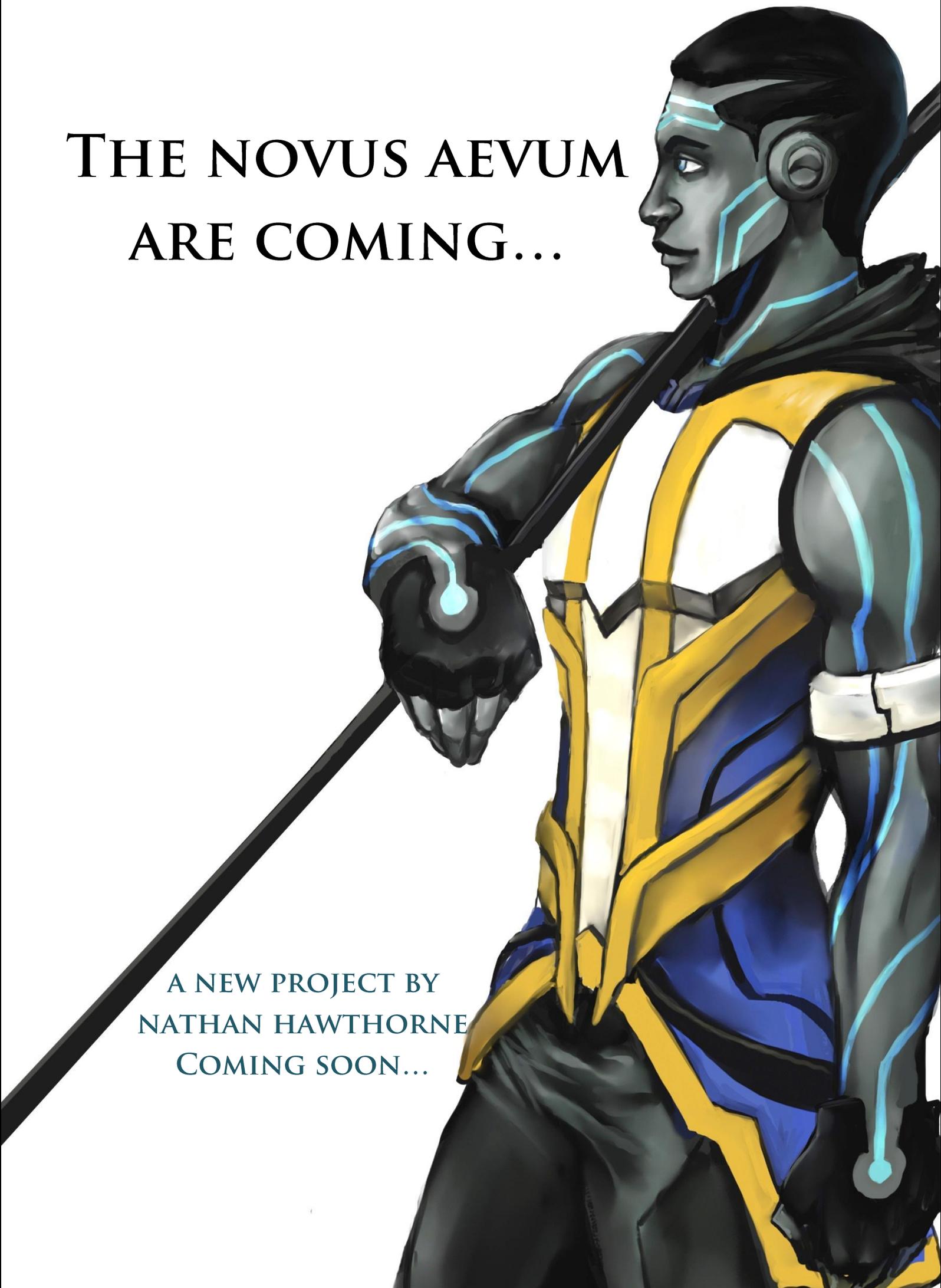


...YOU LEAVE IT TO THE BIG GUNS

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE NOVUS AEVUM
ARE COMING...

A NEW PROJECT BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE
COMING SOON...



**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ARKSONG
AND OTHER PROJECTS BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE ONLINE:**

WWW.NATHANHAWTHORNE.COM



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THERE ARE QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERING...

LIRIKA AND FENGHUANG SOUGHT ANSWERS, BUT ONLY FOUND MORE QUESTIONS. FENG BURNS WITH A FIRE THAT DOESN'T HARM HIM, AND COMMANDER BLACK EXHIBITS EQUALLY STRANGE CHARACTERISTICS, MANIPULATING THE GROUND WITH EASE.

WITHOUT A SHIP OR CREW, LIRIKA AND FENG, MUST MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE OUTER RIM OF AERISIA. THERE LIES THE INDIVIDUAL WHO DIRECTED THEM TOWARDS THE WAREHOUSES, HIDDEN AMONG THE FLOATING ISLES OF CIVILISATIONS LOST.

THIS CAPTAIN WANTS ANSWERS, AND SHE'S GOING TO GET THEM.



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