



44 WIP SUE JOHN KENT 1/2/20

SIMON M. ATANA S.

SCRIPT

PENCILS

PANEL LAYOUT

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COVER

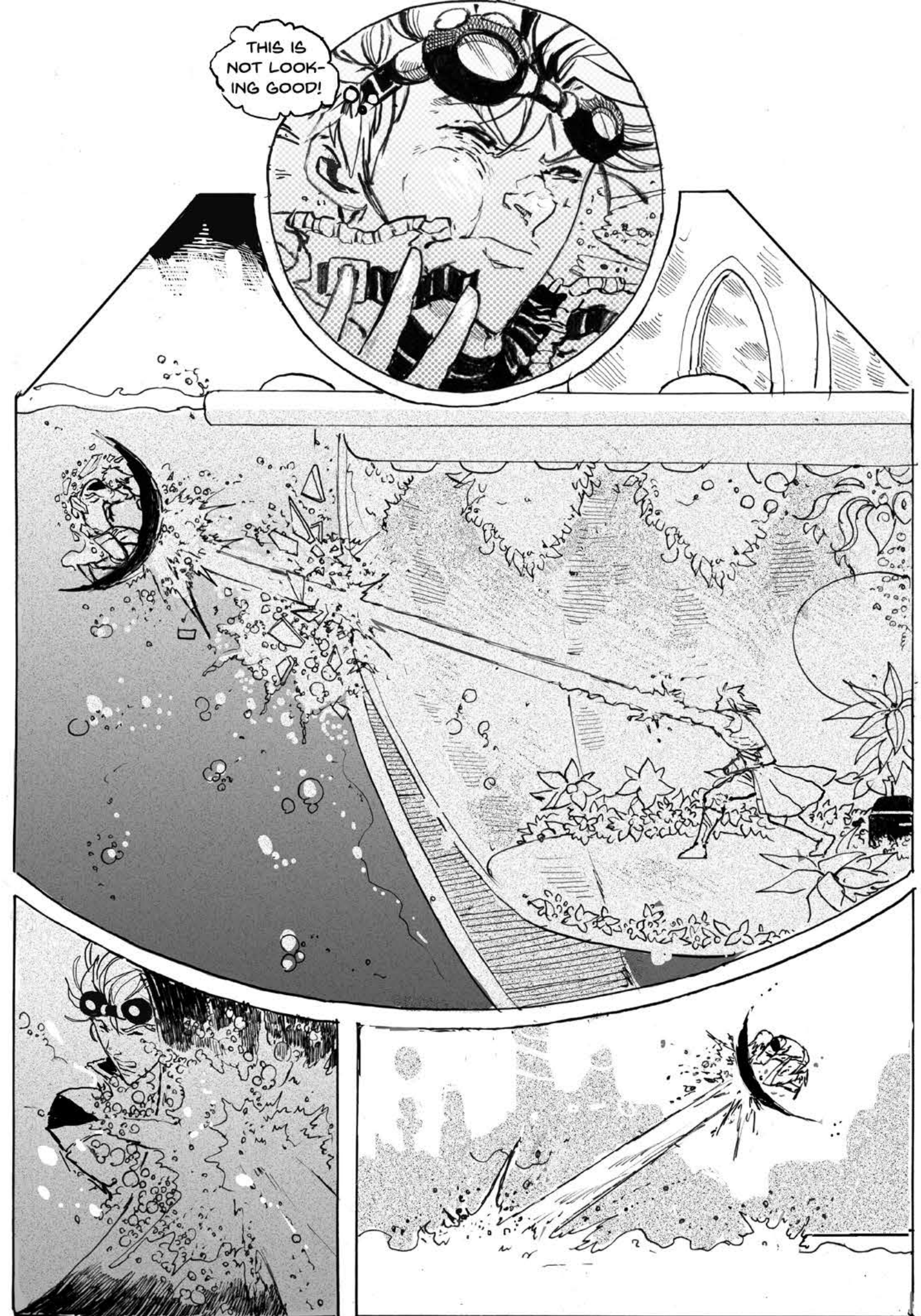
TRANSLATION

(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

EMAIL: UPSURGECOMICS@GMAIL.COM

WEBPAGE: WWW.UPSURGE.ES/ENGLISH

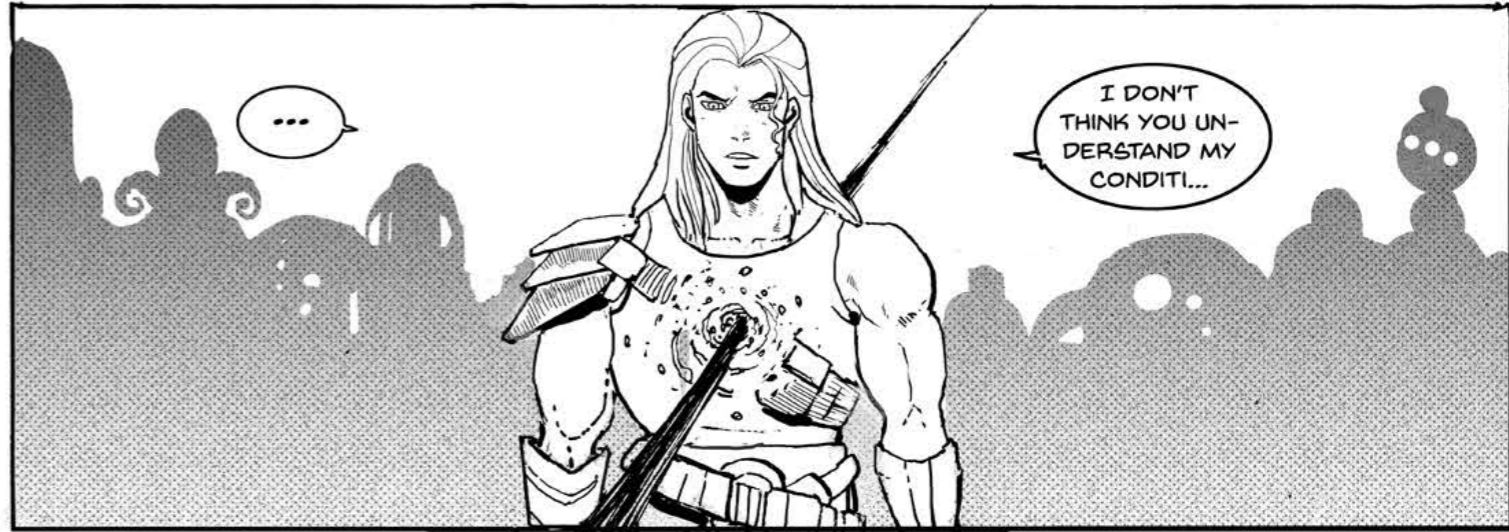
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OK. I KNOW THE STORY. YOU'RE GOING TO CAPTURE ME TO MAKE ME ANOTHER **SERVANT OF THE CITY**, RIGHT?

JACOB WAS TURNED INTO STONE IN SANTIAGO, I GET WATER... COFF.



I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND MY CONDITI...



COFF COFF!

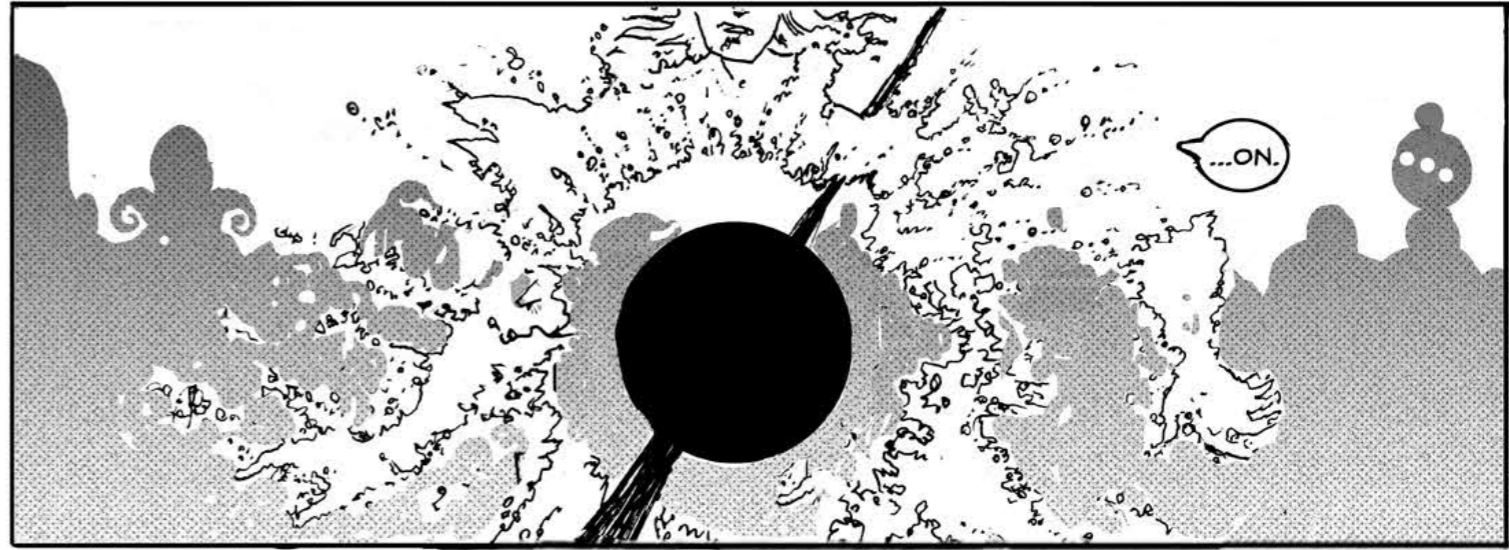


MRRPGG!



HANG IN THERE, LEON.

EVEN TRAITORS DESERVE HELP.



...ON.



WHAT DID YOU DO?

COFF HFG WHA...?

HMMM.



NOTHING FOR YOU TO BE LIKE THIS.



MPGGHH!



FINE... FGF... THEN...



GAFGHH!!



FAMINES AGAIN. BREADCRUMB THIEVES, BRUNO.

IS IT ANY WONDER? EVEN LORDS WITH A COUPLE OF ACRES CHARGE TAXES.



HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMORS? THERE ARE BOURGEOISIE FINANCING THE **REVOLTS**. THEY WANT TO ELIMINATE THE SERVITUDE TO THE NOBLES!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW CAN YOU DEFY AN ORDER THAT HAS **GIVEN** SO MUCH TO YOU?

THE ALTERCATIONS ARE LOCATED IN THE SOUTH. THEY SAY THAT A CERTAIN **ROBESPIERRE** IS **DECAPITATING** NOBLES, AND THE PEOPLE BECOME... **ECSTATIC**.



LÉON, THE PEOPLE ARE ATTACKING OUR SOLDIERS. SOMETHING... **SOMEONE** IS MANIPULATING THEM; A **SERVANT** SHOULDN'T HAVE THE **STRENGTH** TO DEFY THE CROWN.

WITNESSES REPORT THAT THE CHURCH OF RENNES HAS BEEN **VANDALIZED**. THAT'S **IMPOSSIBLE**. GOD PROTECTS THAT PLACE! YOU HAVE TO INVESTIGATE IT...



"IT'S A SACRED BUILDING!"

WHAT A STRANGE REACTION...



...DON'T WORRY. YOU WILL **DIE**, TO BE REBORN THROUGH THE BLESSING OF OUR TIDES. A LIFE SENTENCE.

YOU'LL HAVE A BODY OF OUR WATER, AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF LYS.



LÉON!

COFF!

THE KING... SAUNIÈRE!



HOW ...?

...DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



HRHG ...

HEY! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? LISTEN...!



DAMN IT.

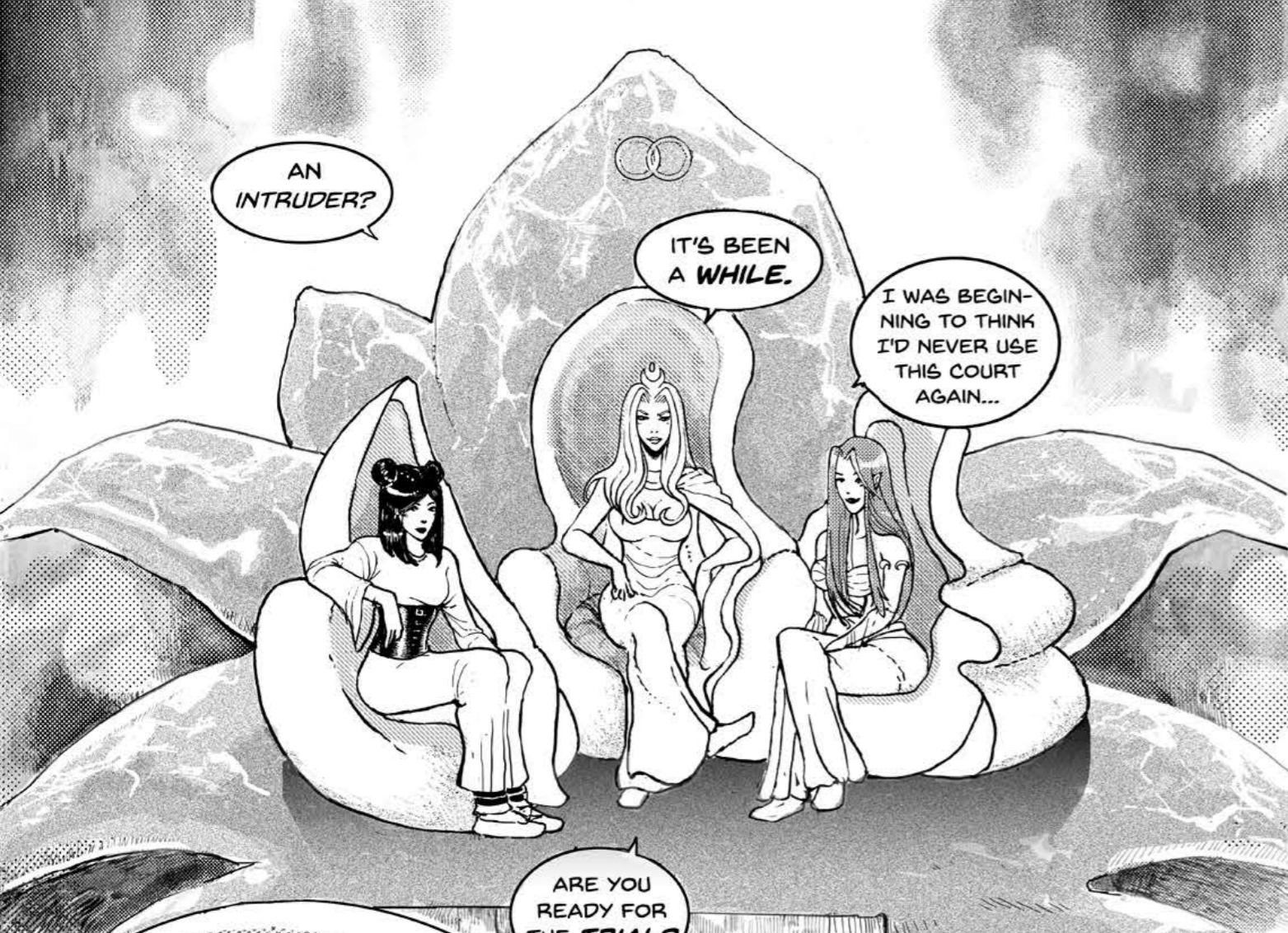
THE **HIGH PRIESTESS** WILL WANT TO SEE THIS BOY.



"I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO HELP PROLONG THIS **REPUGNANT CITY**".

IT'S REFRESHING TO SEE THAT WHEREVER YOU ARE, CERTAIN RACIAL **DYNAMICS** DON'T GO AWAY.

ALTHOUGH, WITH SUCH CAPTORS...



AN INTRUDER?

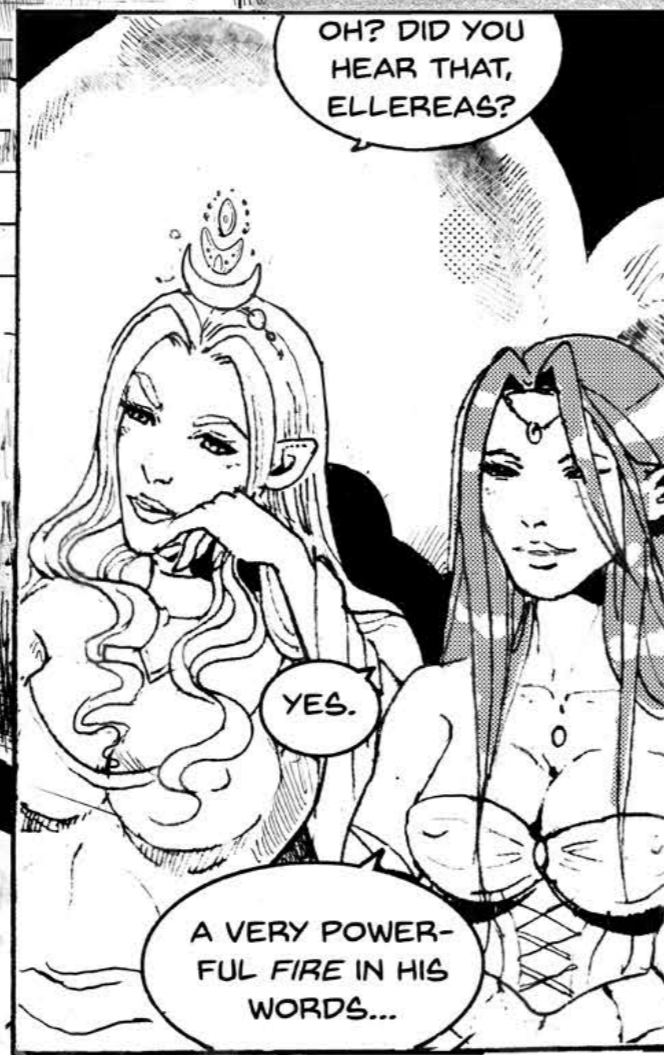
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK I'D NEVER USE THIS COURT AGAIN...

ARE YOU READY FOR THE TRIAL?



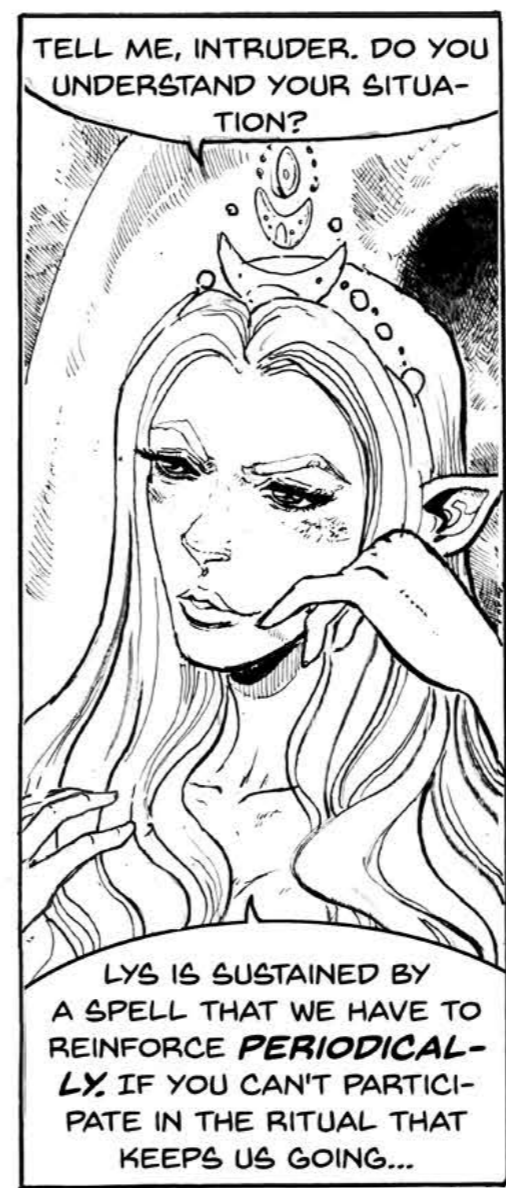
SILENCE, QUEEN OF LYS. I'M THE ONE WHO'S COMING HERE TO OFFER YOU A DEAL.



OH? DID YOU HEAR THAT, ELLEREAS?

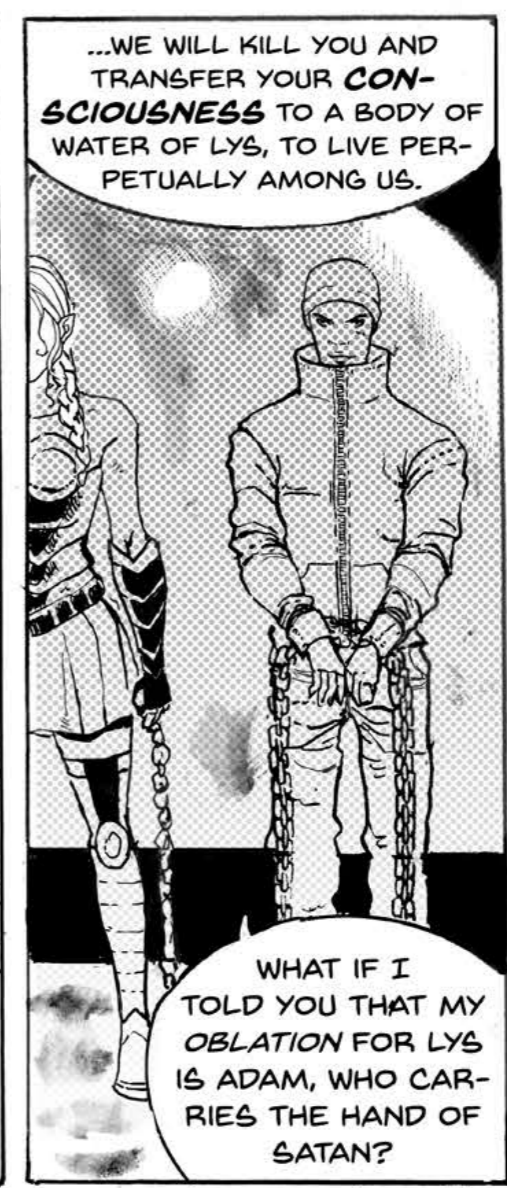
YES.

A VERY POWERFUL FIRE IN HIS WORDS...



TELL ME, INTRUDER. DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION?

LYS IS SUSTAINED BY A SPELL THAT WE HAVE TO REINFORCE PERIODICALLY. IF YOU CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN THE RITUAL THAT KEEPS US GOING...



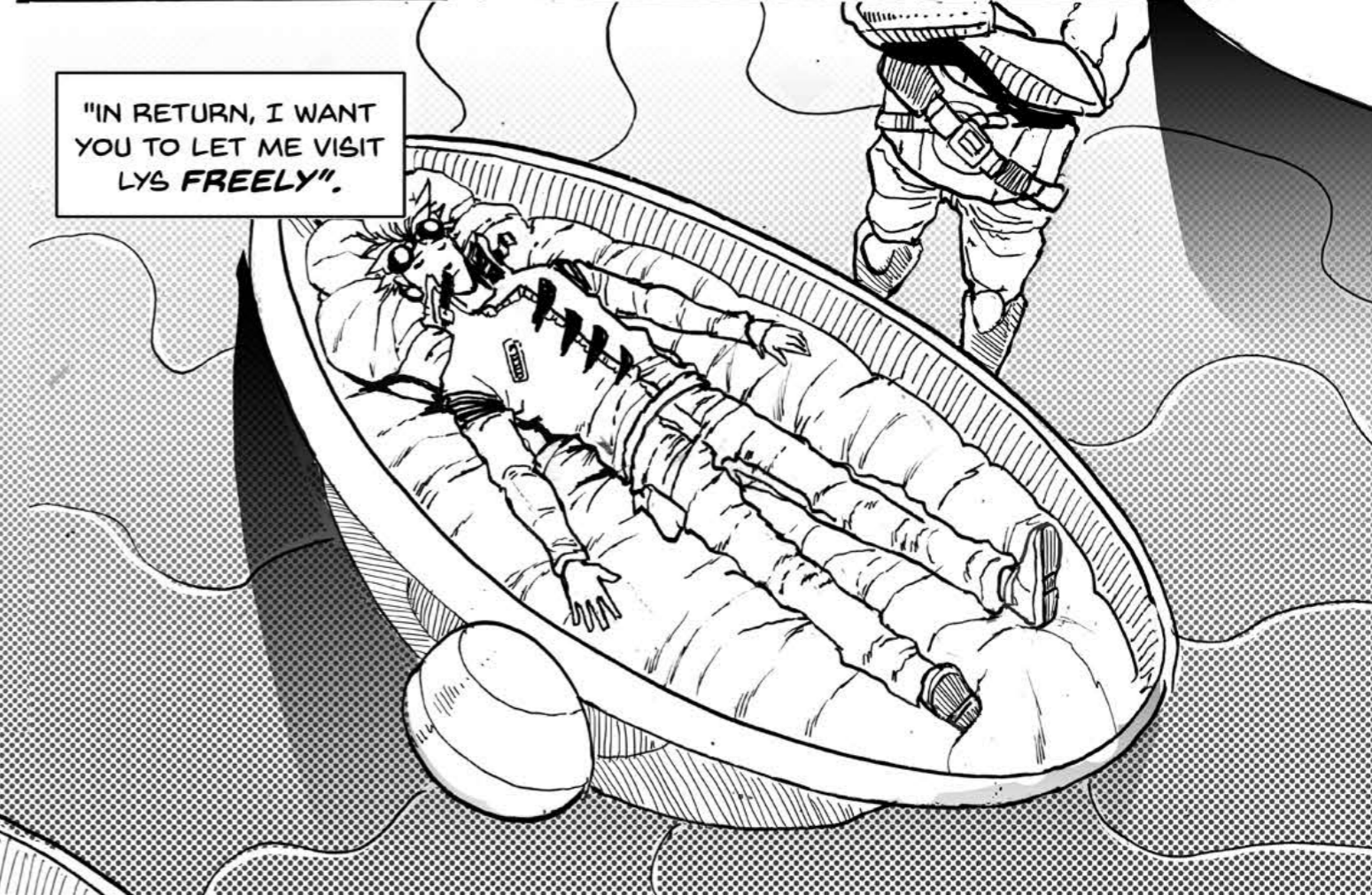
...WE WILL KILL YOU AND TRANSFER YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS TO A BODY OF WATER OF LYS, TO LIVE PERPETUALLY AMONG US.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT MY OBLATION FOR LYS IS ADAM, WHO CARRIES THE HAND OF SATAN?



HE'S BEEN TO SANTIAGO, HE'S FIGHTING THE POWERS THAT BE...

...I'M SURE HE HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO GIVE YOU SEVERAL DECADES OF ENERGY.



"IN RETURN, I WANT YOU TO LET ME VISIT LYS FREELY".



SURPRISED WE'RE REBEL- LING, ROYAL GUARD?



WE FIGHT YOUR WARS AND YET YOU IMPOSE TITHES THAT LEAVE US WITHOUT **BREAD.**

THE FAMINES ARE AFFECTING ALL OF FRANCE, BUT THE REVOLTS ALL HAPPEN IN THE SOUTH. EVERY SINGLE BEHEADING HAS HAPPENED NO FAR- THER THAN 20 KILOMETERS FROM RENNES!



I SAW THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH! VEKAM ADONAI! WHERE IS SAU- NIÈRE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?



LÉON. THE CROWN SENT YOU WITHOUT EX- PLAINING WHO SAU- NIÈRE REALLY IS, DIDN'T IT?



J-JEAN? I THOUGHT YOU...!

DIED? NO. THAT'S WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME IF I REMAINED IN SER- VITUDE TO THE CHURCH AND THE CROWN, LÉON. THERE ARE NEW **TIDES** IN FRANCE.



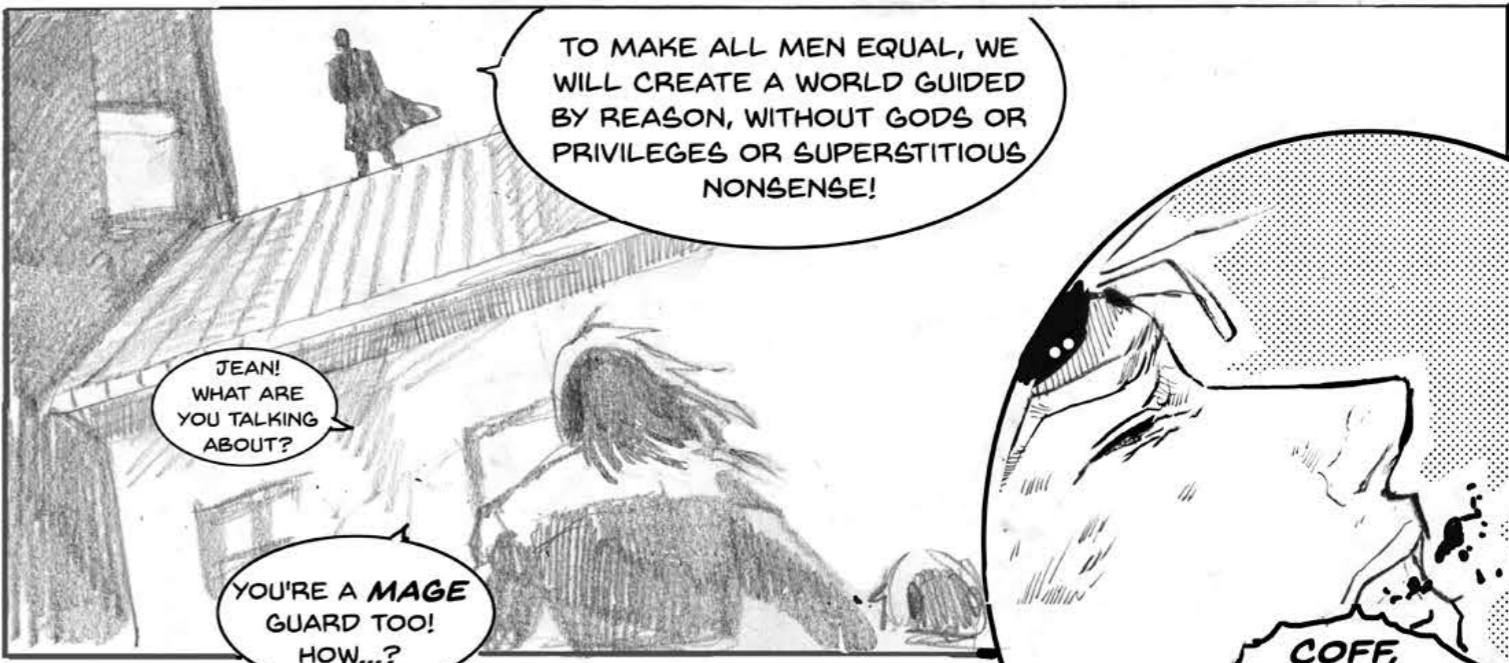
TIDES THAT WILL BRING DOWN THE SYSTEM THAT HAS KEPT US **CHAINED.**

FRANCE WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A **NEW WORLD.**



WE WILL TEACH THE FRENCH PEOPLE THAT KINGS HAVE NO DIVINE AURA, THAT NO MAN SHOULD BE ABOVE ANY OTHER. NO ONE IS **SPECIAL!**

FOR TOO LONG WE'VE LIVED IN AN IRRAT- IONAL WORLD WHERE KINGS HA- VE DIVINE RIGHTS THAT PLACE THEM ABOVE OTHERS, LIKE THEY DON'T EAT AND BREATHE LIKE THE REST OF US!



TO MAKE ALL MEN EQUAL, WE WILL CREATE A WORLD GUIDED BY REASON, WITHOUT GODS OR PRIVILEGES OR SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!

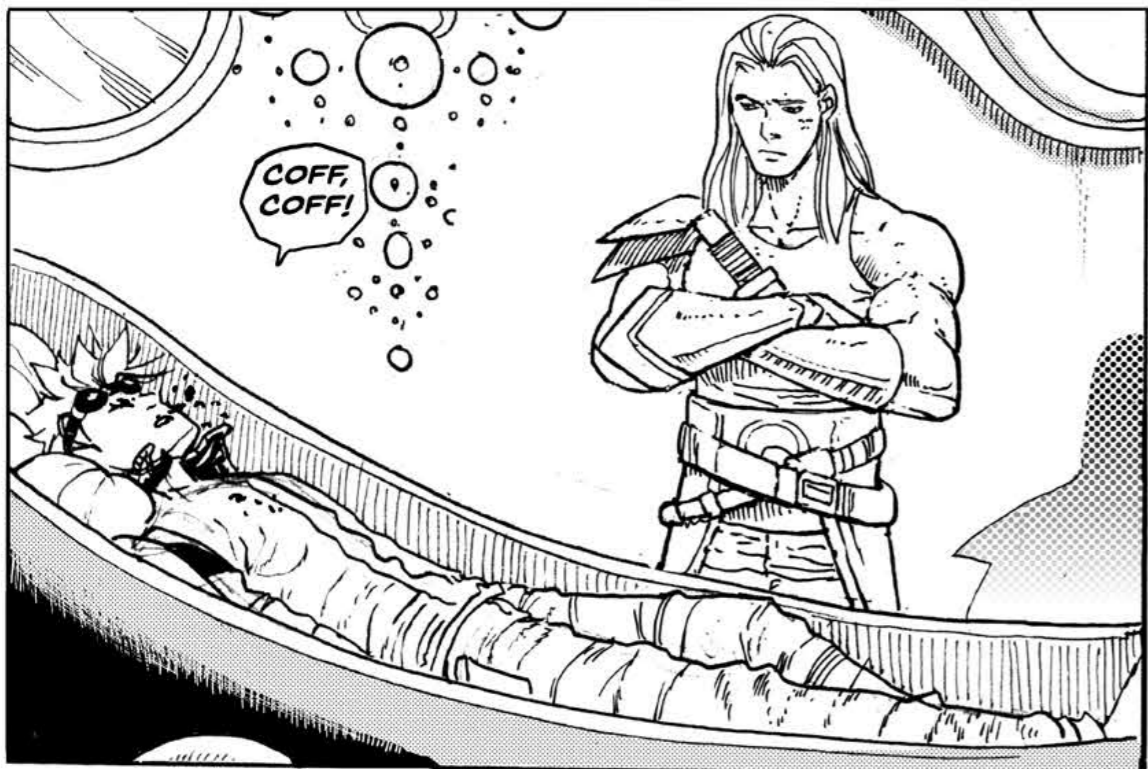
JEAN! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'RE A **MAGE** GUARD TOO! HOW...?

WHAT ARE YOU TAL- KING ABOUT, JEAN?

ROBESPIERRE, THE JACOBIANS, EVEN THE CORDELIERS WORK UNDER SAU- NIÈRE'S PLAN, WHETHER THEY KNOW IT OR NOT. THEY ARE ALL GOING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FALL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE NOBLES... **THE CROWN.**

COFF, COFF!

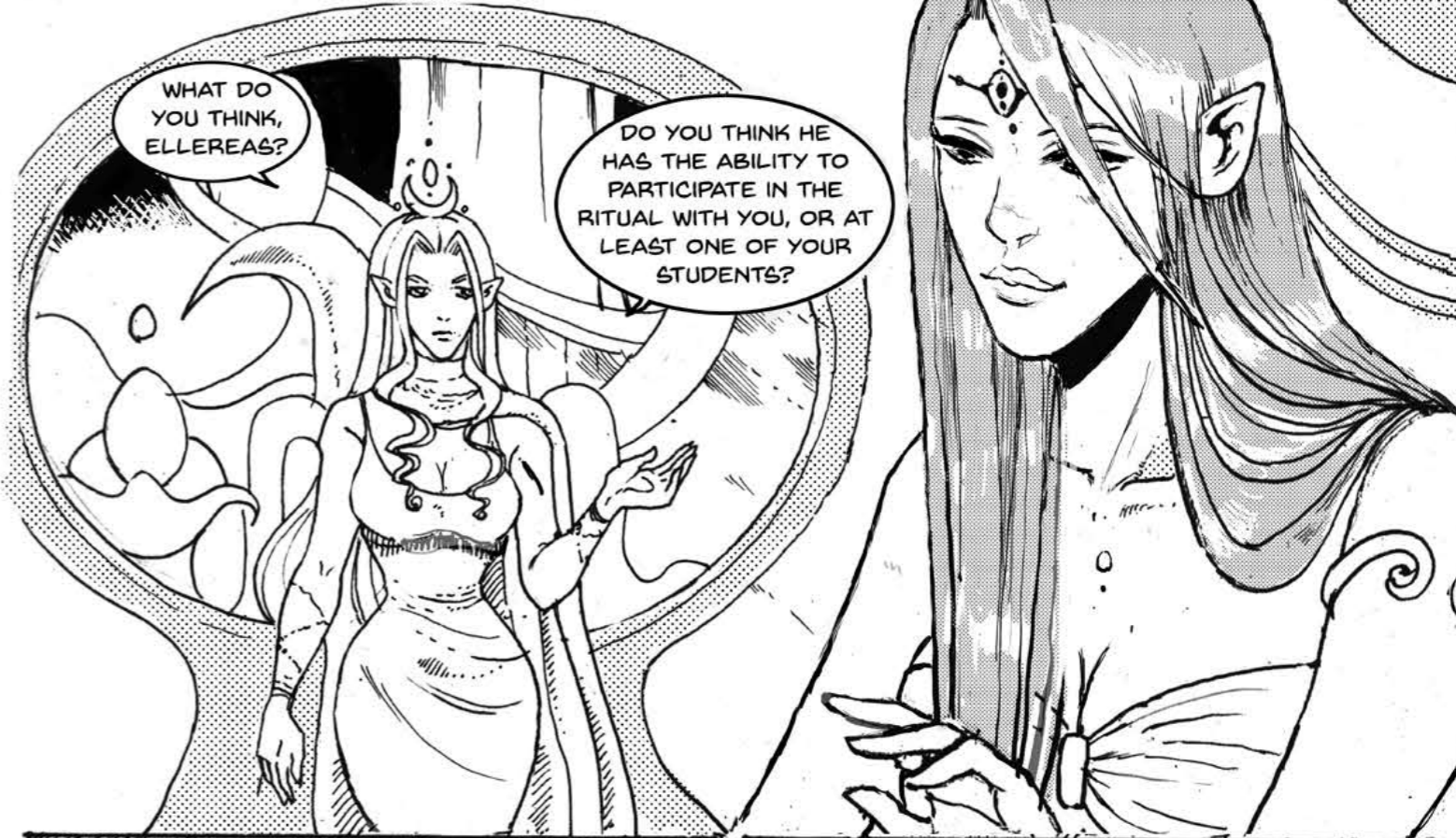


COFF, COFF!



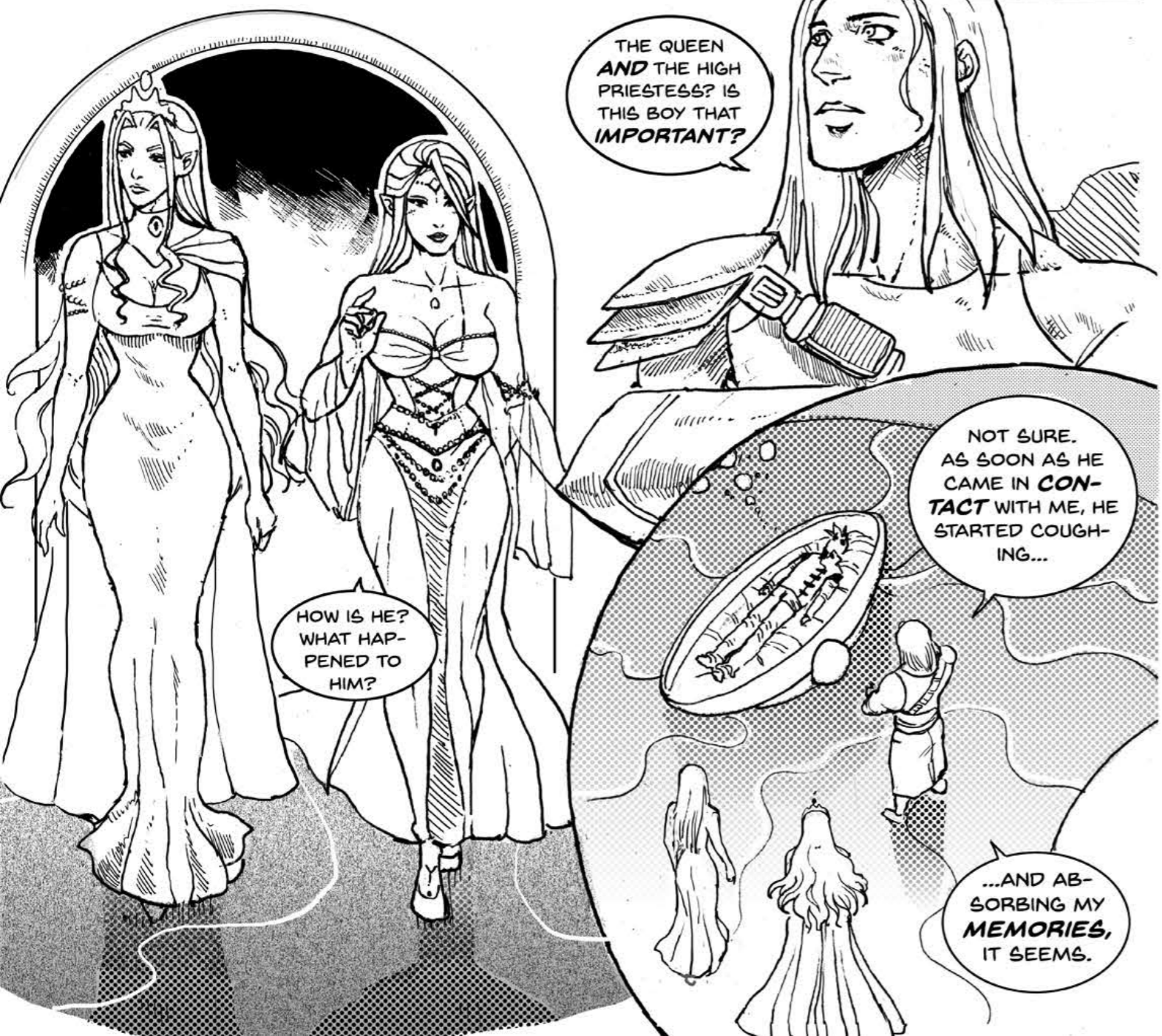
LÉON!

IS THE INTRUDER HERE?



WHAT DO YOU THINK, ELLEREAS?

DO YOU THINK HE HAS THE ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RITUAL WITH YOU, OR AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS?

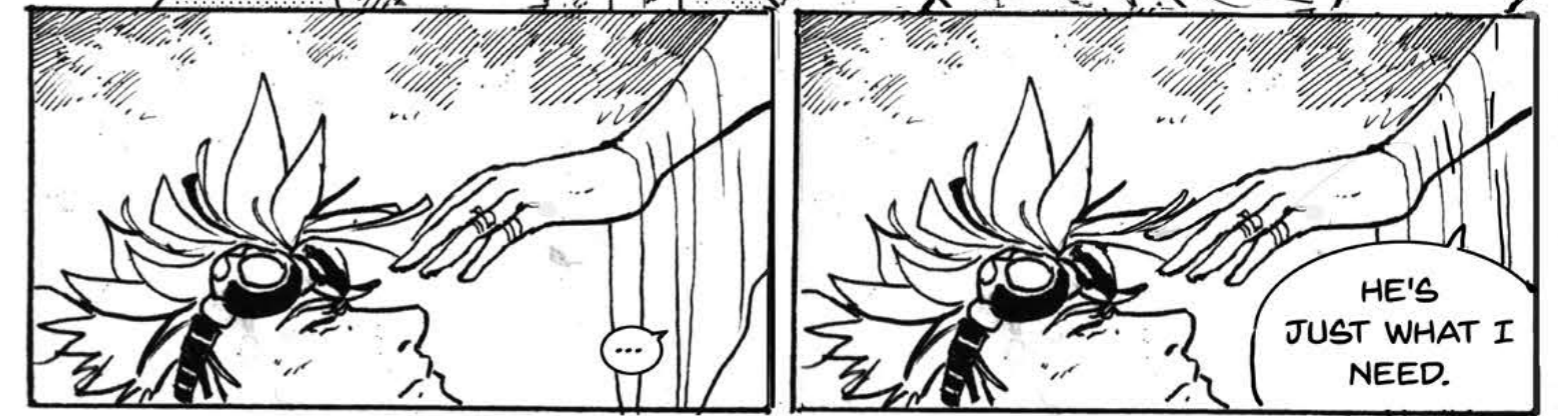


THE QUEEN AND THE HIGH PRIESTESS? IS THIS BOY THAT IMPORTANT?

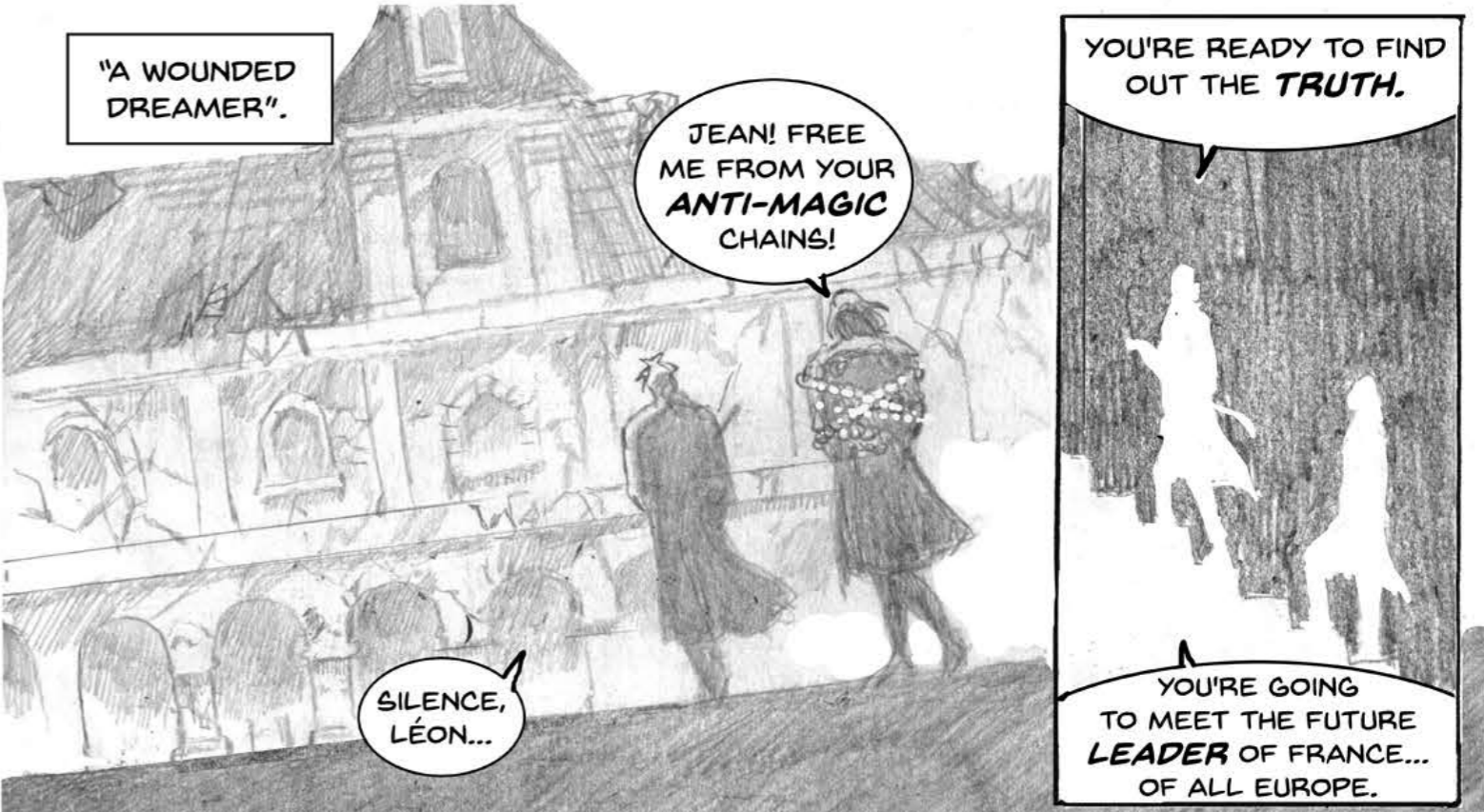
HOW IS HE? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

NOT SURE. AS SOON AS HE CAME IN CONTACT WITH ME, HE STARTED COUGHING...

...AND ABSORBING MY MEMORIES, IT SEEMS.



HE'S JUST WHAT I NEED.



"A WOUNDED DREAMER".

JEAN! FREE ME FROM YOUR ANTI-MAGIC CHAINS!

YOU'RE READY TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH.

SILENCE, LÉON...

YOU'RE GOING TO MEET THE FUTURE LEADER OF FRANCE... OF ALL EUROPE.



IS THIS THE NEW RECRUIT? BRING HIM IN, JEAN.



YOU'RE ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ROYAL MAGIC GUARD, AREN'T YOU?

HAH.

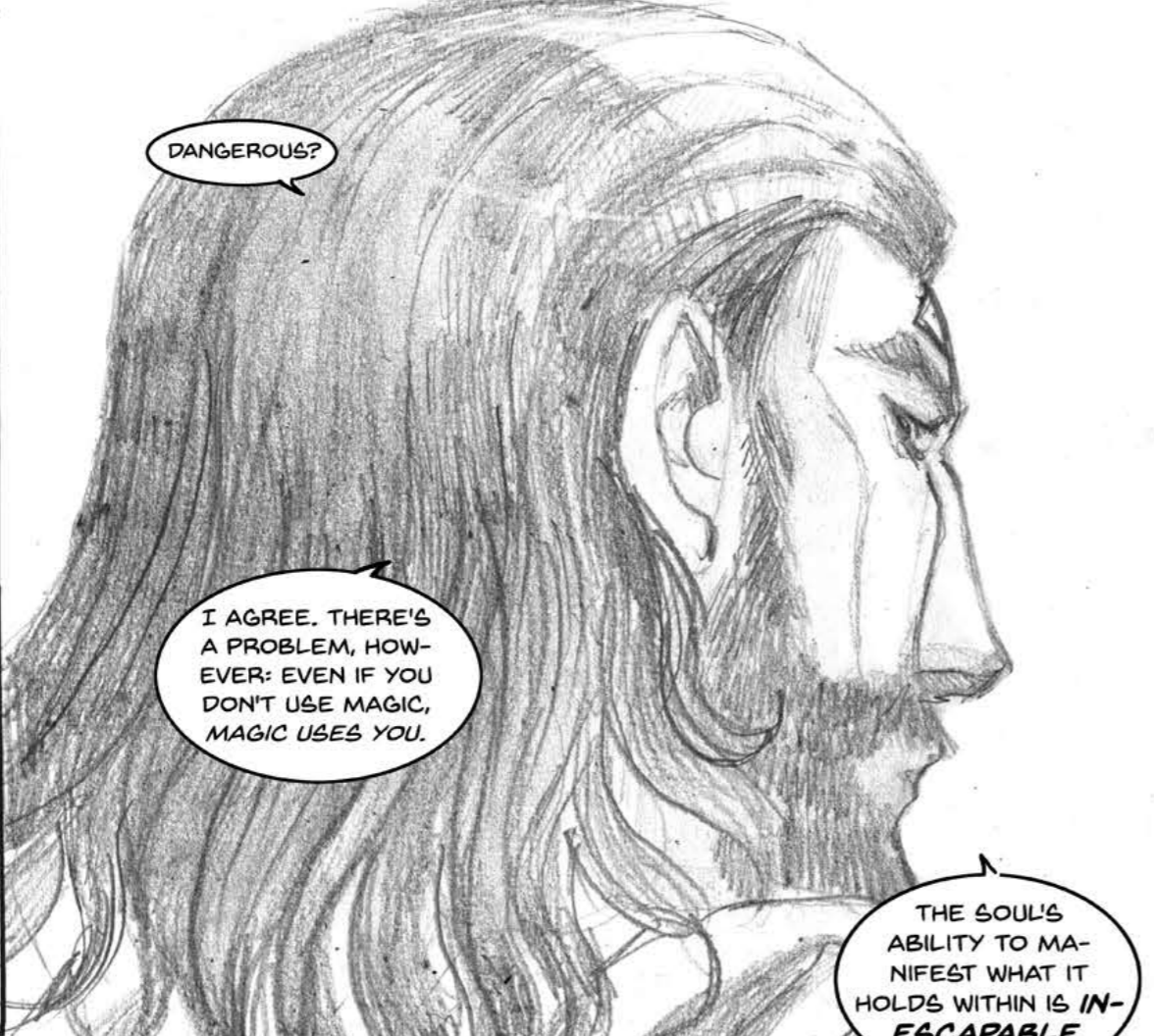


WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THEM MAKING YOU KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MAGIC WHILE TELLING THE COMMON PEOPLE THAT USING MAGIC MAKES YOU A **WORSHIPPER OF SATAN**, SOMETHING PUNISHABLE WITH EXECUTION?

WHAT?



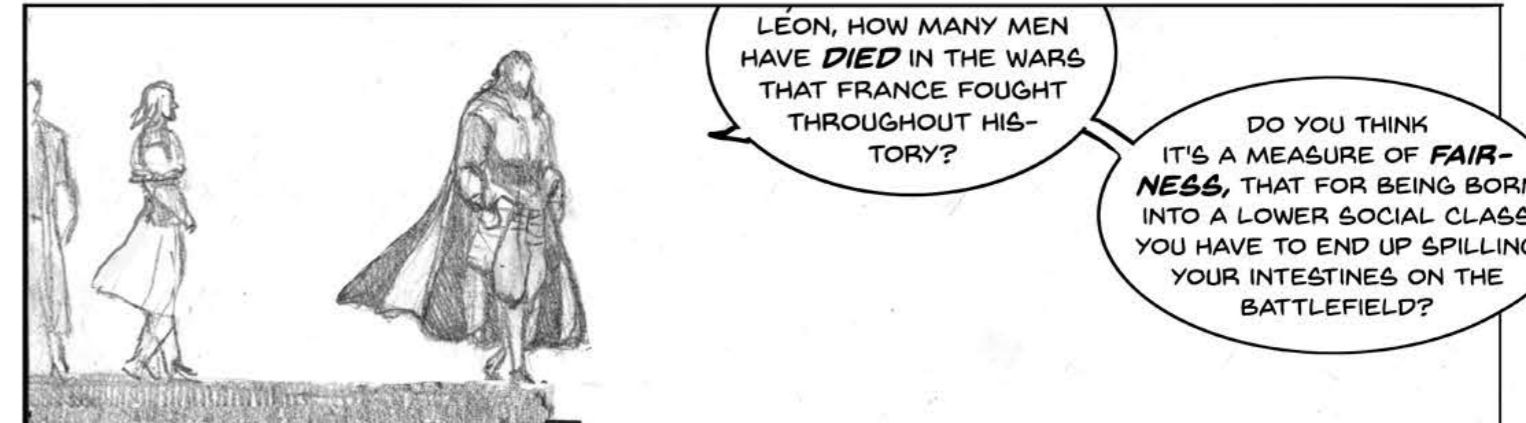
THAT'S... THE CROWN IS **AFRAID** THAT PEOPLE WILL USE MAGIC IN IRRESPONSIBLE... **BESIDES**, THEY ARE ILLITERATE, IT WOULD BE...



DANGEROUS?

I AGREE. THERE'S A PROBLEM, HOWEVER: EVEN IF YOU DON'T USE MAGIC, **MAGIC USES YOU.**

THE SOUL'S ABILITY TO MANIFEST WHAT IT HOLDS WITHIN IS **IN-ESCAPABLE.**



LEON, HOW MANY MEN HAVE **DIED** IN THE WARS THAT FRANCE FOUGHT THROUGHOUT HIS-TORY?

DO YOU THINK IT'S A MEASURE OF **FAIR-NESS**, THAT FOR BEING BORN INTO A LOWER SOCIAL CLASS YOU HAVE TO END UP SPILLING YOUR INTESTINES ON THE BATTLEFIELD?



FAIRNESS? E-EVERYBODY HAS OBLIGATIONS... KINGS HAVE THEM T-TOO...

WHAT ABOUT PESTS, OR FAMINES? KINGS NEVER **SUFFER** A TENTH OF WHAT THEIR PEOPLE SUFFER.



THE NOBLE AND ECCLESIAS-TICAL CLASSES DO NOT LOOK AFTER THE WELFARE OF THE PLEBES... AND YET PEOPLE STILL **BELIEVE** IN THEM. EVEN IN PROTESTS!

ISN'T A PROTEST AGAINST THE KING AN IMPLICIT ADMISSION THAT HE, AS AN AUTHORITY HIGHER THAN YOU, SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOU?

WEAK MINDS.

UNDERSTAND? PEOPLE HAVE DOR-MANT MAGICAL ABILITIES. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY THINK THEY'RE **WEAK**?



WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT THEIR SPIRIT MANIFESTS BACK ALL THE STRENGTH THAT THEY BANISH... **OUTSIDE.**

SPIRIT SEEKS UNITY. IF YOU BANISH A FRAGMENT OF YOUR SOUL, THAT FRAGMENT IS MIRRORED OUTSIDE. SO IN THIS CASE, THIS BANISHED STRENGTH MANIFESTED LORDS AND PRIESTS FOR YOU TO BE A SERF...

AND THE MORE YOU CLAIM YOU'RE WEAK AND THEY'RE STRONG, THE MORE THEY THINK THEY'RE STRONG AND NOT WEAK, MAKING THE PROBLEM GROW.



THIS COUNTRY IS BUILT ON THIS ERROR OF **PER-CEPTION**. AND WE'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR SO MANY CENTURIES...

WE'VE ALLOWED OUR SOCIETIES TO BE A COLLECTION OF SERVITUDES AND DOMINANCES, WHERE YOU DON'T FOLLOW OUT OF MERIT, BUT OUT OF FEAR. WE WEAVE THE FLAG WITH A THREAD OF CHAINS, AND STILL WE CELEBRATE IT LIKE THE WORK OF A DELIBERATE GOD.



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO END WITH A CORRUPT SPIRIT, BOY. AND THAT CORRUPTION WILL ALWAYS **MANIFEST** ITSELF.

THE WEAK BELIEVE THAT BEING WEAK MAKES THEM **GOOD**, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT COMMIT THE SINS OF THE STRONG. TO THEM, THE SIN OF COWARDICE IS A VIRTUE.



SO WHAT...?

LISTEN. YOU FOCUS YOUR SPIRIT TO EXERCISE MAGIC DELIBERATELY, THEY DO IT UNKNOWINGLY. THE FEAR, THE EXCUSES THEY USE TO JUSTIFY NOT DOING THE RIGHT THING...

...IT BECOMES AN **INVOLUNTARY SPELL**, A DAILY RITUAL THAT **CALLS** FOR UNJUST LEADERS, BECAUSE THEIR IDEA OF GOODNESS DEPENDS ON BECOMING PERPETUALLY VICTIMIZED BY EVERYTHING THEY REJECT IN THEMSELVES.



THE PROBLEM IS THAT THIS DRAMA WILL NEVER END. PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO **MANAGE** THEIR LATENT MAGICAL POWERS...

...AND THE POWERFUL HAVE TAKEN GOOD ADVANTAGE OF IT.



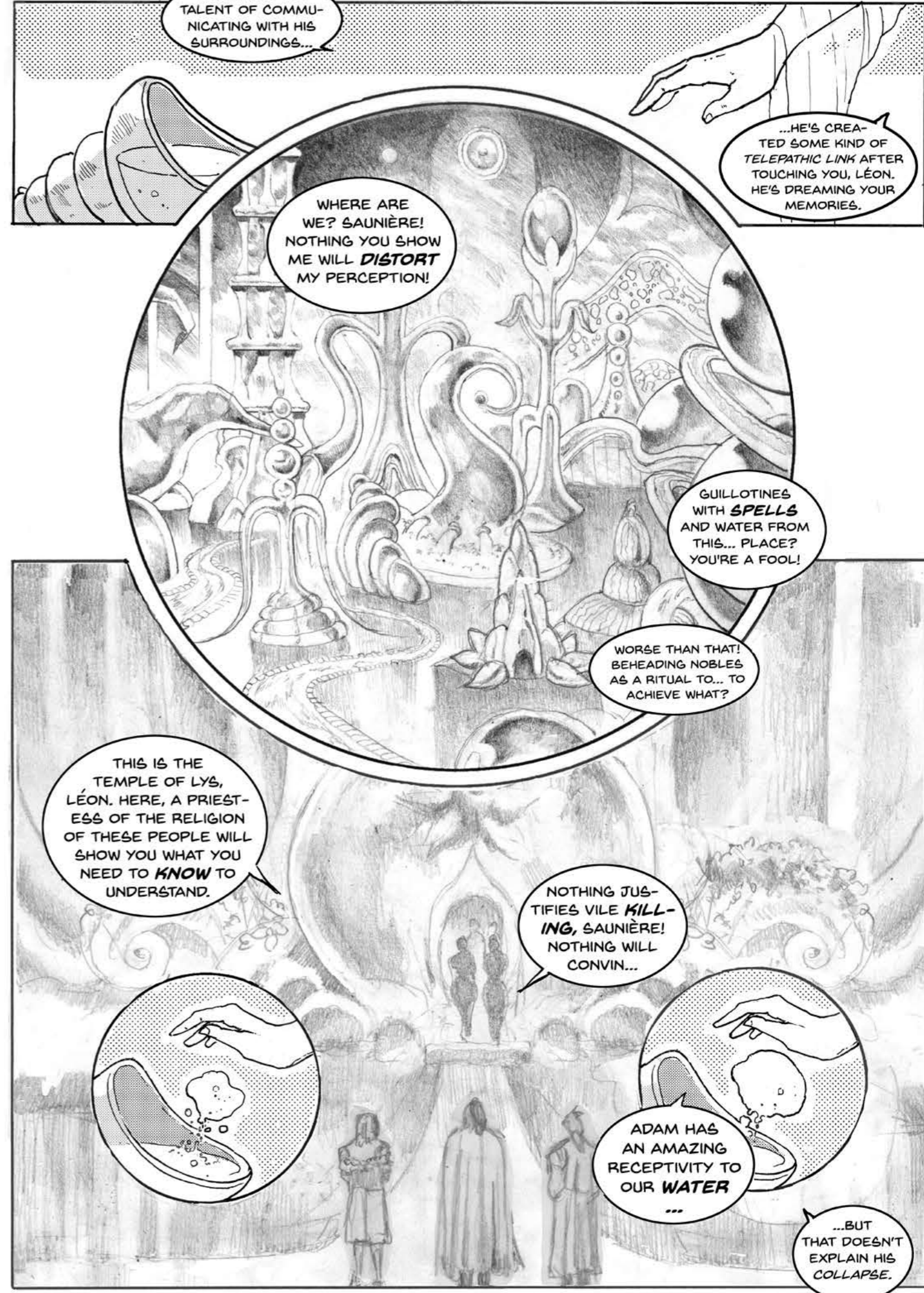
IT'S EASIER TO RECEIVE PAIN FROM THE **OUTSIDE** THAN TO CONFRONT THE PAIN FROM THE **INSIDE**.

WE CAN'T CHANGE THAT. BUT WE COULD CHANNEL THAT DESIRE FOR WEAKNESS INTO SOMETHING BETTER, SOMETHING MORE **CONSTRUCTIVE**...



...FOR AS BAD AS WHAT I HAVE SAID ABOUT THE PEOPLE IS, IN CHURCHES AND PALACES, SOMETHING FAR MORE **REPUGNANT** IS BEING DONE.

IT'S TIME TO **CUT THE CHAINS, KID.**



ADAM HAS THE TALENT OF COMMUNICATING WITH HIS SURROUNDINGS...

...HE'S CREATED SOME KIND OF TELEPATHIC LINK AFTER TOUCHING YOU, LÉON. HE'S DREAMING YOUR MEMORIES.

WHERE ARE WE? SAUNIÈRE! NOTHING YOU SHOW ME WILL **DISTORT** MY PERCEPTION!

GUILLOTINES WITH **SPELLS** AND WATER FROM THIS... PLACE? YOU'RE A FOOL!

WORSE THAN THAT! BEHEADING NOBLES AS A RITUAL TO... TO ACHIEVE WHAT?

THIS IS THE TEMPLE OF LYS, LÉON. HERE, A PRIESTESS OF THE RELIGION OF THESE PEOPLE WILL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO **KNOW** TO UNDERSTAND.

NOTHING JUSTIFIES VILE **KILLING**, SAUNIÈRE! NOTHING WILL CONVIN...

ADAM HAS AN AMAZING RECEPTIVITY TO OUR **WATER** ...

...BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN HIS COLLAPSE.





WELCOME TO THE TEMPLE OF LYS, WARRIOR.

NO. THE COLLAPSE HAS ANOTHER CAUSE.

OUR WATER IS MAGNETIZED WITH A RITUAL BASED ON INCREASING THE ECSTASY OF CONTACT...



BUT HIS HAND IS LINKED TO A SPELL OF ANONYMITY... OF SEPARATION.



HEH. HERE HE COMES.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE RITUAL?



LÉON! YOU COME FREE OF CHAINS?

OR THEY JUST SHARED THEIR MEMORIES WITH YOU?



OUR WATER SEEKS CONTACT; HIS SPELL, SEPARATION.

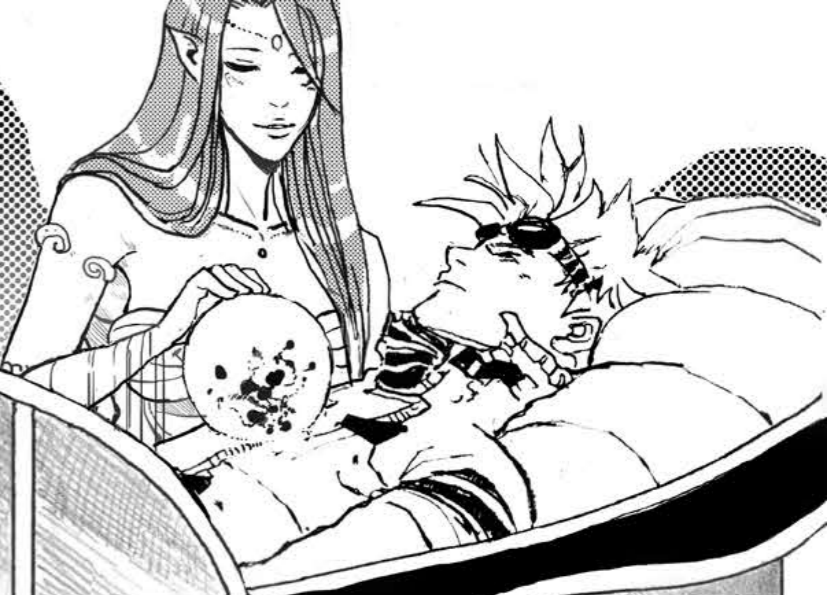
UNGGH

W... WHA...



IT'S A VERY COMPLEX BALANCE...

...AND I CAN ONLY PROVIDE SMALL RELIEF.



MY GOD.

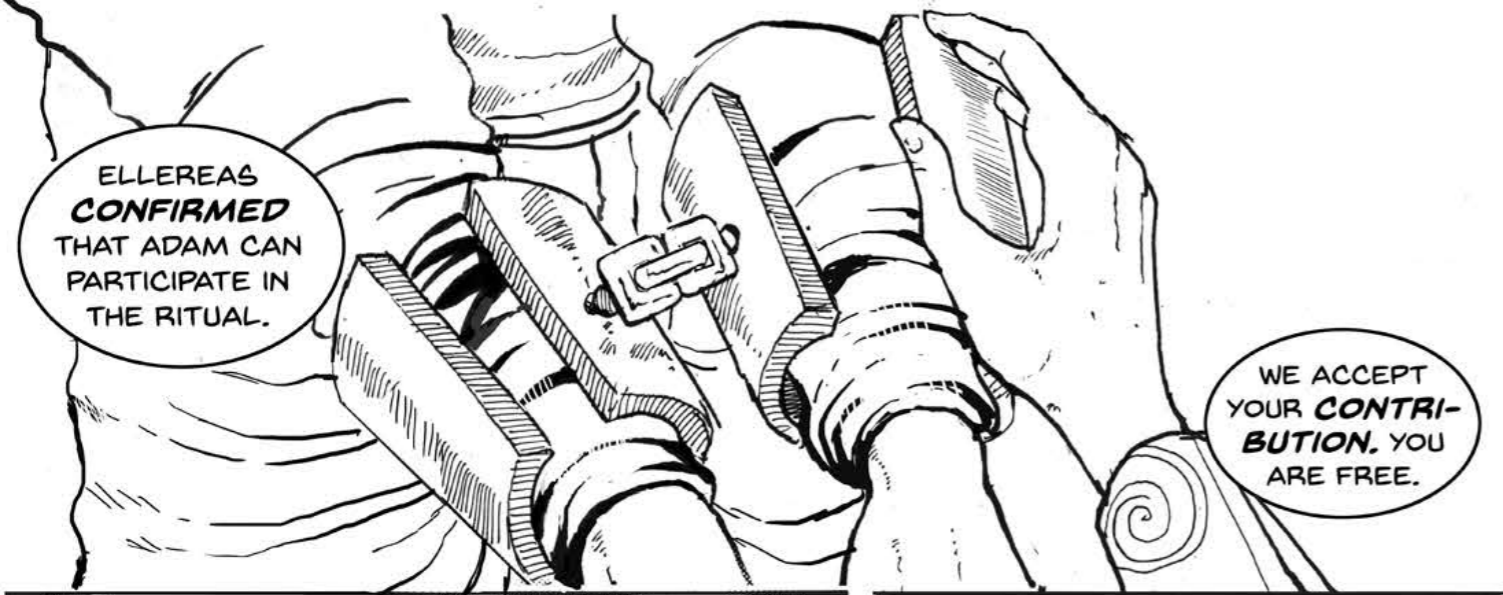
WHY HAVE WE CREATED SUCH A HORRIBLE WORLD?



I'LL HAVE TO RESPECT THE BLOCKAGE.

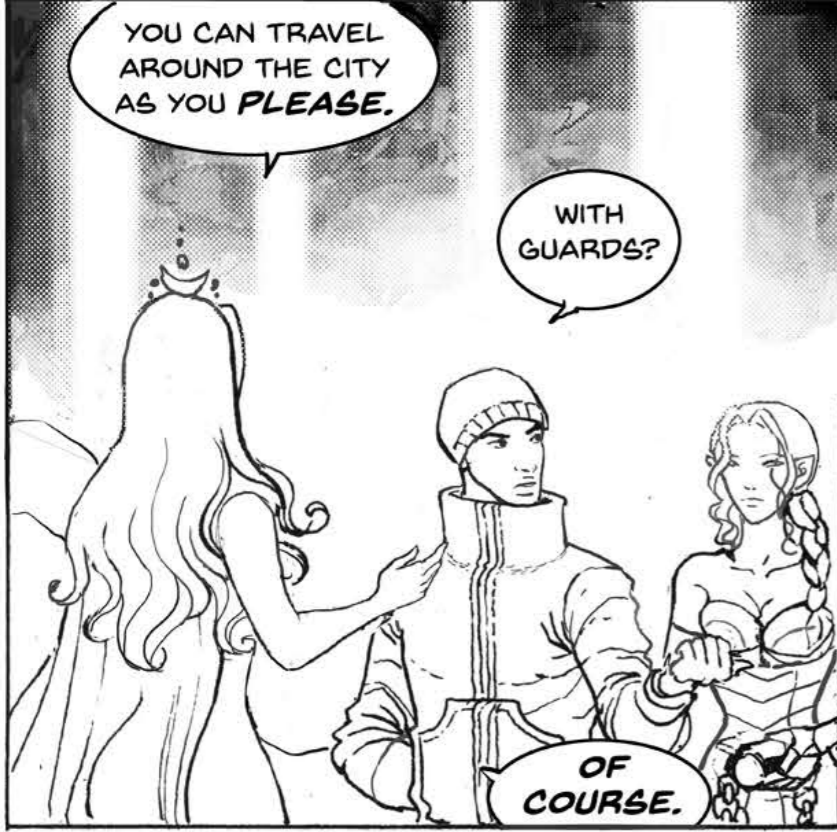
OH, WHA...?

...WHE... RE?



ELLEREAS CONFIRMED THAT ADAM CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE RITUAL.

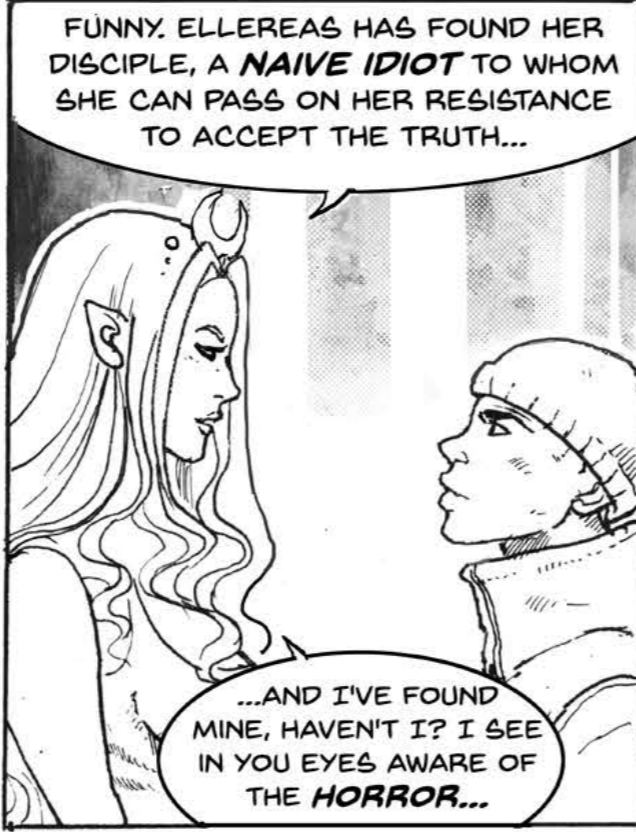
WE ACCEPT YOUR **CONTRIBUTION**. YOU ARE FREE.



YOU CAN TRAVEL AROUND THE CITY AS YOU **PLEASE**.

WITH GUARDS?

OF COURSE.



FUNNY. ELLEREAS HAS FOUND HER DISCIPLE, A **NAIVE IDIOT** TO WHOM SHE CAN PASS ON HER RESISTANCE TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH...

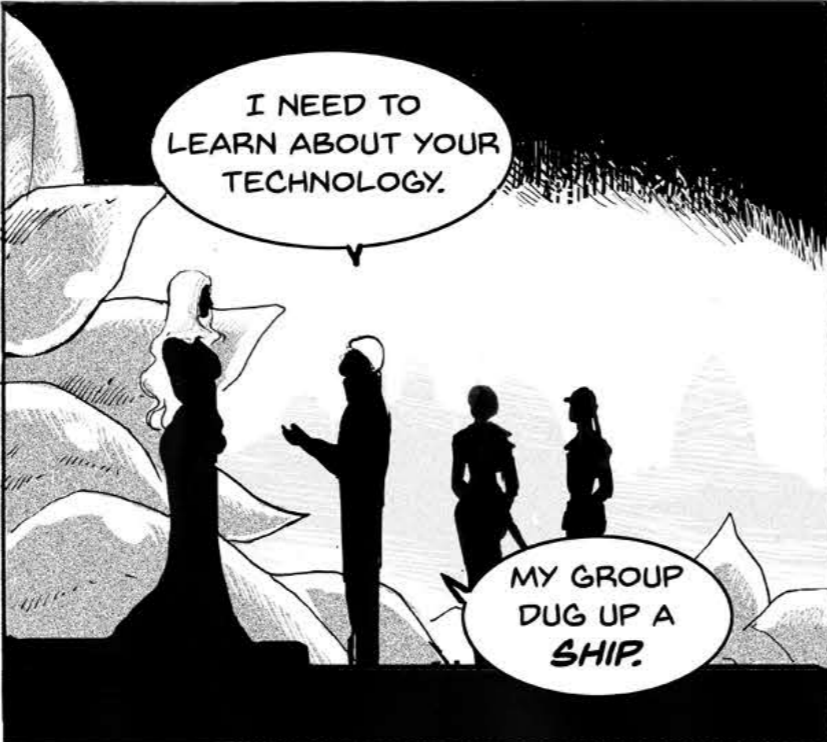
...AND I'VE FOUND MINE, HAVEN'T I? I SEE IN YOU EYES AWARE OF THE **HORROR**...



WHY DID YOU **COME** TO LYS, GREG?

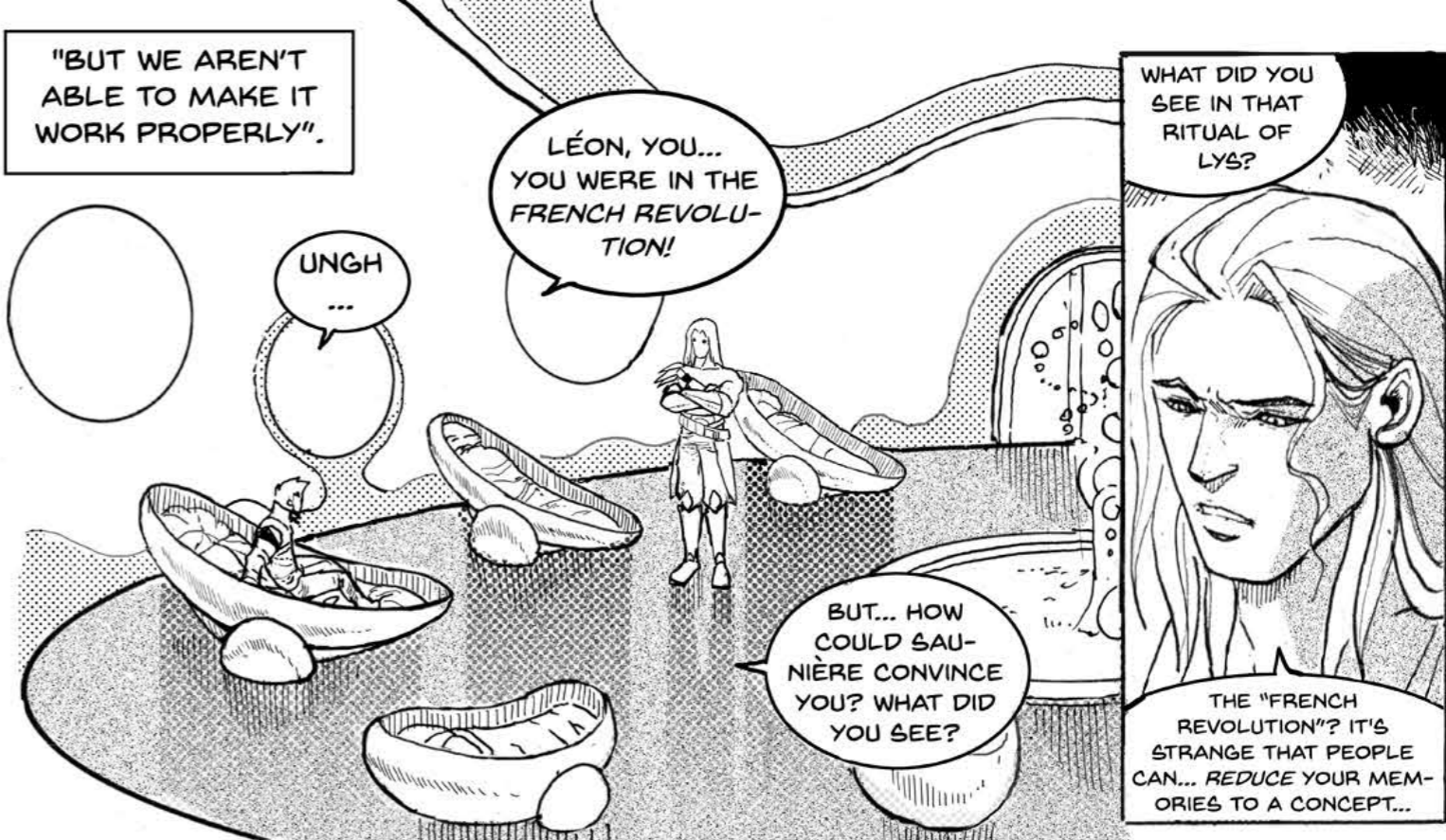


HEH.



I NEED TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR **TECHNOLOGY**.

MY GROUP DUG UP A **SHIP**.



"BUT WE AREN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT WORK PROPERLY".

UNGH ...

LÉON, YOU... YOU WERE IN THE **FRENCH REVOLUTION!**

WHAT DID YOU SEE IN THAT RITUAL OF LYS?

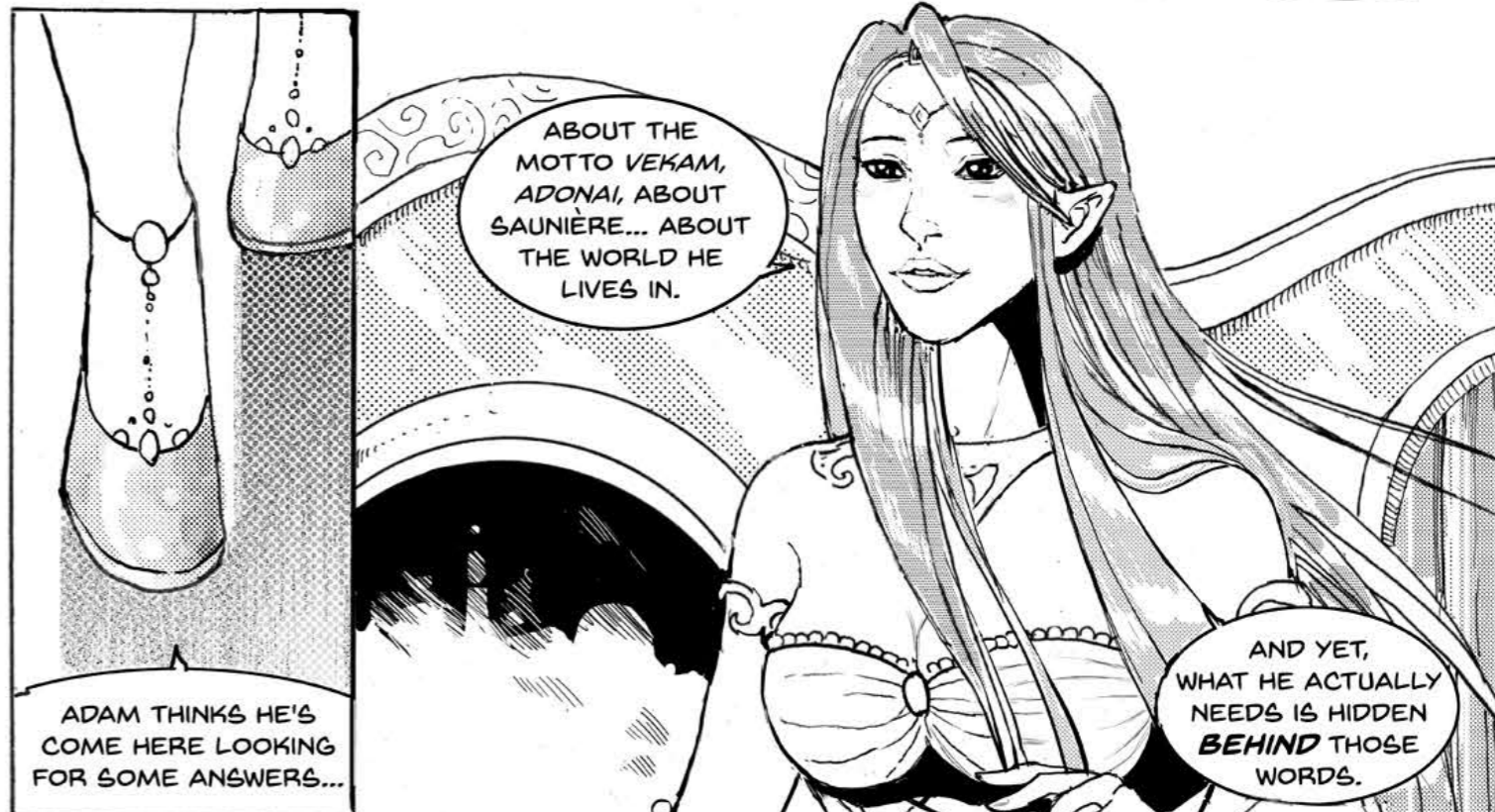
BUT... HOW COULD SAUNIÈRE CONVINCE YOU? WHAT DID YOU SEE?

THE "FRENCH REVOLUTION"? IT'S STRANGE THAT PEOPLE CAN... **REDUCE** YOUR MEMORIES TO A CONCEPT...



...OR THE FACT THAT NO ONE WHO TALKS ABOUT THAT "REVOLUTION" KNOWS ABOUT LYS OR THE DAMN RITUAL FOR WHICH I'LL LIVE CHAINED HERE UNTIL THE **END OF THE WORLD**.

THAT'S NOT THE ANSWER ADAM **NEEDS**, LÉON.

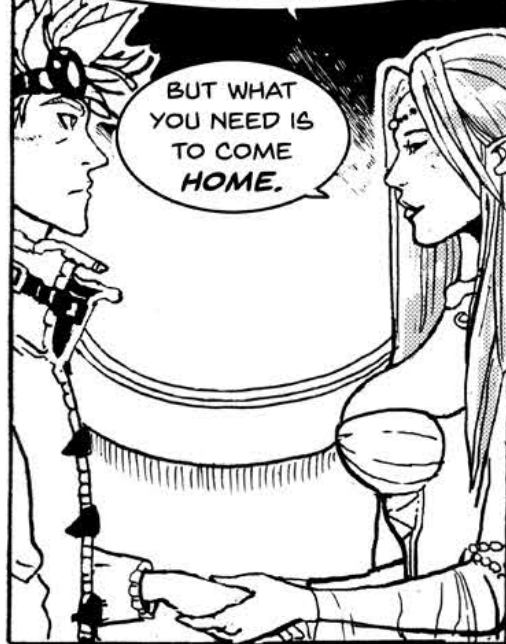


ABOUT THE MOTTO VEKAM, ADONAI, ABOUT SAUNIÈRE... ABOUT THE WORLD HE LIVES IN.

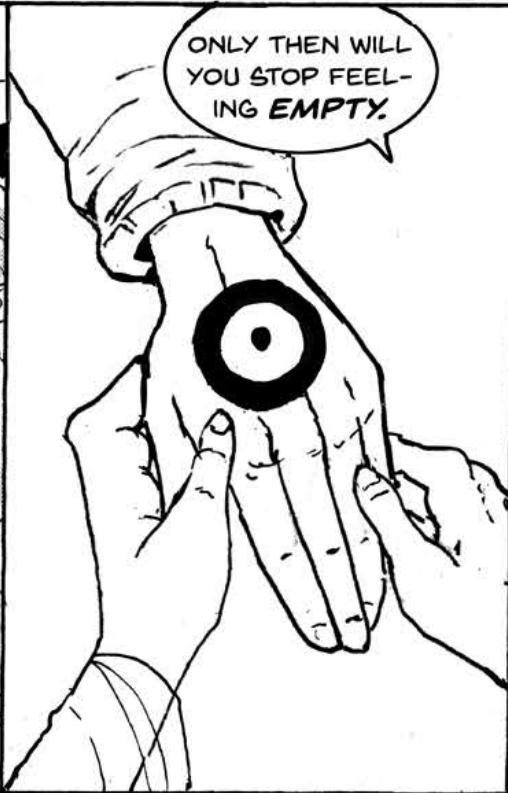
ADAM THINKS HE'S COME HERE LOOKING FOR SOME ANSWERS...

AND YET, WHAT HE ACTUALLY NEEDS IS HIDDEN **BEHIND** THOSE WORDS.

SOMEONE CAUSED YOU SUCH A DEEP SHOCK YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE ANYMORE... AND YOU THINK THAT UNDERSTANDING THIS WILL MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.



BUT WHAT YOU NEED IS TO COME HOME.



ONLY THEN WILL YOU STOP FEELING EMPTY.



COME WITH ME TO PERFORM THE RITUAL, ADAM.

YOU'LL SOLVE EVERYTHING THERE. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ALWAYS FEEL DISPLACED...



...AND YOU'LL GET ANSWERS ABOUT YOUR PERSECUTORS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR WORLD PERMANENTLY.

ARE YOU... HITTING ON ME?

...TO BE CONTINUED

UPSURGE IS AN ALMOST MONTHLY (40 DAYS) SERIES THAT STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO REACH THE INTENDED ENDING. HOWEVER, WE CAN'T KEEP DOING IT FOR "FREE" INDEFINITELY. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING US WHILE ALSO GETTING **EARLY ACCESS** TO AN ISSUE, **PREVIEWS** OF FUTURE EPISODES, OR **VIDEOS** AND TEXTS ABOUT OUR CREATIVE PROCESS, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING US THROUGH PATREON AT THE 3\$ PLEDGE LEVEL (LINK BELOW). IF WE HAVE ENOUGH HELP, WE'LL TURN UPSURGE INTO A **MONTHLY** SERIES. THANK YOU!

LINKS:

OUR PATREON -> [PATREON.COM/UPSURGE](https://patreon.com/upsurge)

OUR FACEBOOK -> [FACEBOOK.COM/UPSURGECOMIC](https://facebook.com/upsurgecomic)

THROW SOME PEANUTS TO THE APE -> [TWITTER.COM/SIMONOGATARI](https://twitter.com/simonogatari)

