



**SIMON M.**

**ATANA S.**

SCRIPT

PENCILS

PANEL LAYOUT

INK

COVER

TRANSLATION

(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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TIME TO WAKE UP, COCK-SUCKER.

WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON? HOW HAVE I ENDED UP HERE?



HOW HAVE I ENDED UP HERE?

YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO COOPERATE WITH ME, HUH?



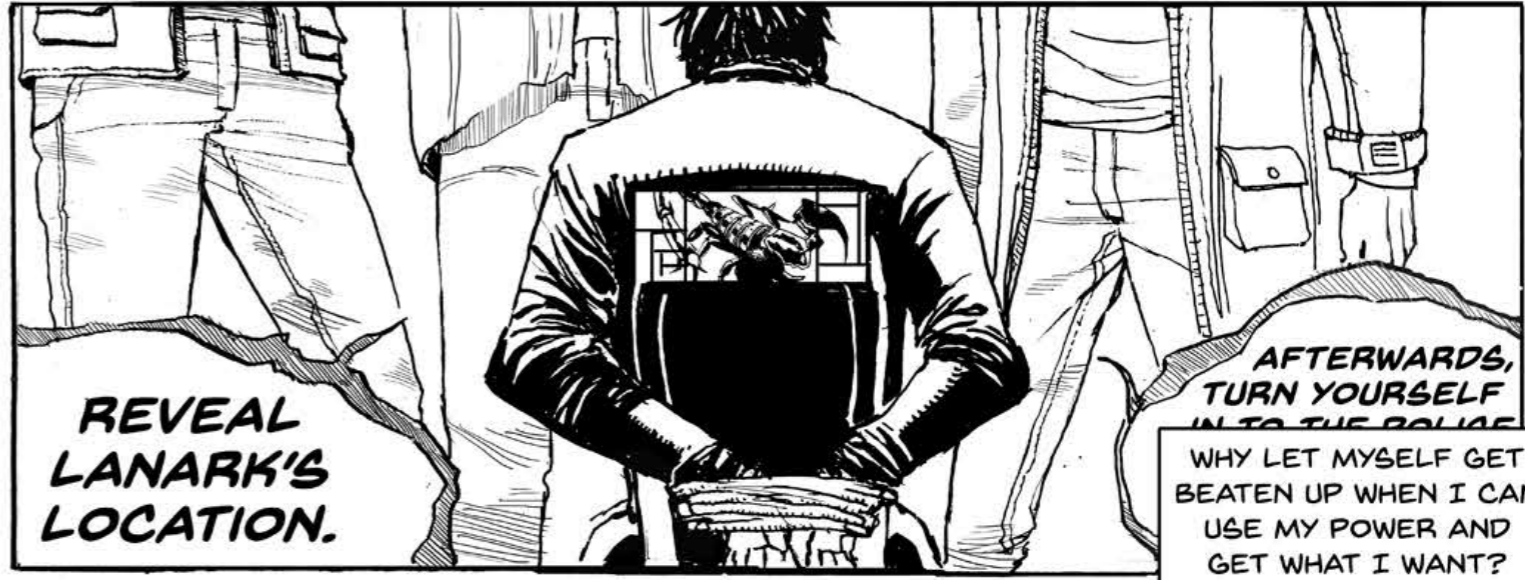
WHY AM I LETTING THE SONS OF GENGHIS KHAN PUNCH THE CRAP OUT OF ME?

IN ANY CASE, NO, I WON'T TELL YOU.

YOU KNOW WHY?



BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU HAVE ME TIED UP, WHEN IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE.



REVEAL LANARK'S LOCATION.

AFTERWARDS, TURN YOURSELF INTO THE POLICE. WHY LET MYSELF GET BEATEN UP WHEN I CAN USE MY POWER AND GET WHAT I WANT?



MORE? OR SAY US WHO SENDS YOU?\*

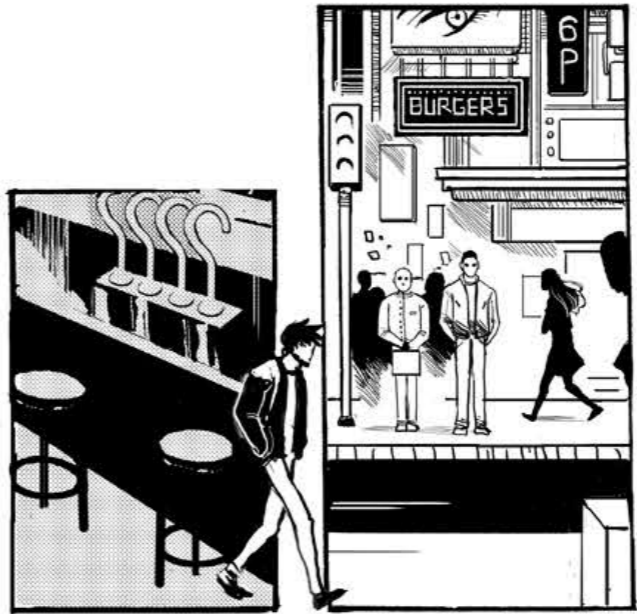


YOU CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT LAN-ARK?



H DO EV

IT'S GETTING HARDER, PUTTING MY MIND IN ORDER.



\*THEY'RE ACTUALLY SPEAKING IN ENGLISH. OR TRYING. (ALL THE DIALOGUE IN THIS EPISODE IS IN ENGLISH).

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA. THE COMMUNIST COUNTRY WHOSE CITIES SEEM SCIONS FROM THE BLADE RUNNER MOVIE. MONGOLIA KNEW SHE COULDN'T COMPETE WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA MILITARILY, SO THEY GATHERED A BUNCH OF NERDS FROM THEIR COUNTRY AND SOME FROM THEIR NEIGHBOURS AND GAVE THEM CARTE BLANCHE.

SO THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOUR ENGINEERS HAVE NO RESTRICTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO ETHICS... AND NO IDEA ABOUT AESTHETICS. A TRUE WONDER.

WHY AM I HERE? SHOULD BE AN EASY QUESTION, RIGHT?

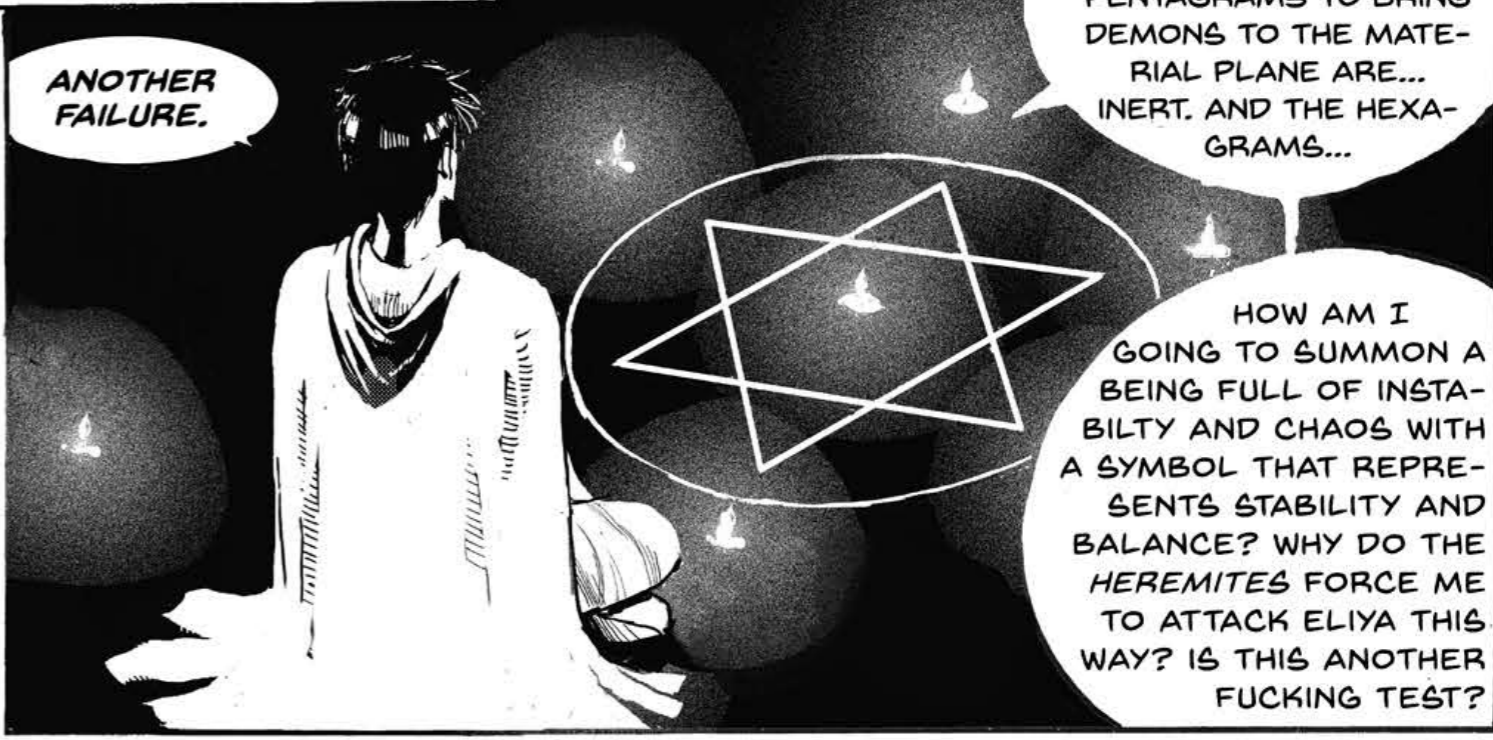


BUT I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF I'M TRULY EXPERIENCING THIS, OR REMEMBERING IT.

ANOTHER FAILURE.

THE EVOCATION IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE USUAL PENTAGRAMS TO BRING DEMONS TO THE MATERIAL PLANE ARE... INERT. AND THE HEXAGRAMS...

HOW AM I GOING TO SUMMON A BEING FULL OF INSTABILITY AND CHAOS WITH A SYMBOL THAT REPRESENTS STABILITY AND BALANCE? WHY DO THE HERMITES FORCE ME TO ATTACK ELIYA THIS WAY? IS THIS ANOTHER FUCKING TEST?



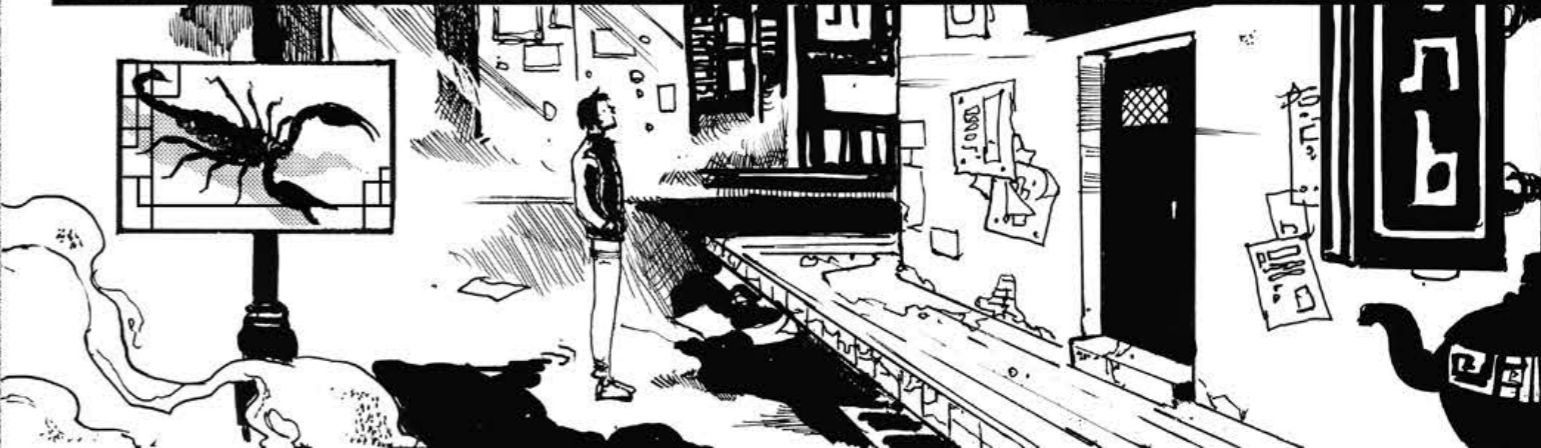
HOW LONG DID IT TAKE BEFORE I DID WHAT I SAID I WOULD NEVER DO?

YOU'LL FIND THE WAY, SIGURD.



YOU'LL FIND THE WAY TO BRING ABADDON.

HOW MANY TIMES DID I DO WHAT I SAID I WOULD NEVER DO?



FOCUS,  
SIGURD.



LANARK. I'M  
LOOKING FOR  
LANARK.

THE EBI WANTS  
HIM CAPTURED.  
BUT I CAN'T DO IT  
IMMEDIATELY...

LANARK?



WELL, IF  
IT ISN'T THE GUY  
WHO PUT SOME  
SONS OF GENGHIS  
KHAN IN PRISON!



HOW DID YOU  
...THE CABALISTS, FOR EXAM-  
PLE, WANT ME TO INVESTI-  
GATE HIS DRUG, FOR ITS PO-  
TENTIAL TO FREE THE MINDS  
OF PEOPLE...  
DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE  
THEM TURN THEMSELVES  
TO THE POLICE?



WHO ARE YOU,  
BOY? WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME?

HEH.

I'M THE OLD  
HAY AND THE  
SCYTHE THAT  
REAPS IT.

AH... A SMAR-  
TASS, HUH?

SSSSSSSSSS

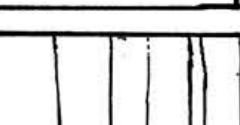
HAHAHAHAHA!

I KNOW WHO  
YOU ARE NOW, BOY.

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S  
THIS GUY, GORGEOUS?

HE'S A FAGGOT  
OF CONSTIPATED  
SPIRIT.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT THAT MEANS,  
GIRLS? IT MEANS THAT HE  
HATES YOU FOR FEELING CON-  
TENT ABOUT YOUR LIFE... ONLY  
THE **TORTURED** AND AMB-  
ITIOUS DESERVE RESPECT,  
UNDERSTAND?



YOU READ ALL THAT INTO MY LOOK OF CONTEMPT? YOU SHOULD GIVE TAROT READINGS TO MENOPAUSAL WOMEN OR SOMETHING, YOU WOULD BE GOOD AT IT.

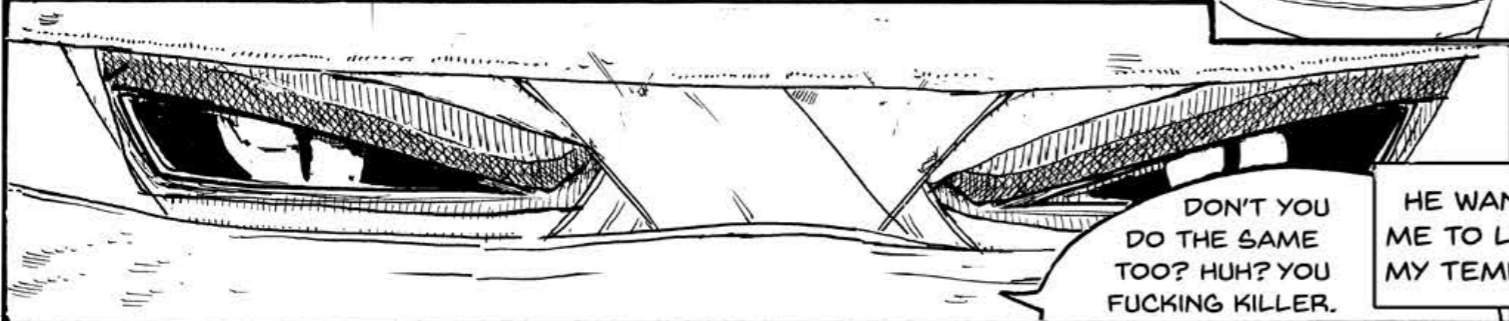
I DIDN'T READ IT; I SMELLED IT.



IT'S JUST THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE CONTENT BY BEING SIMPLE SERVANTS ARE QUITE REPUGNANT TO ME.



WHAT'S SERVILE ABOUT GETTING WHAT YOU WANT BY OFFERING YOUR TALENTS?



DON'T YOU DO THE SAME TOO? HUH? YOU FUCKING KILLER.

HE WANTS ME TO LOSE MY TEMPER.



-TT-



HE'S SUCCEEDING.

THERE'S NO POINT IN RESISTING. YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS, BY NOW.



HEH.

HAS TO BE PRETTY BORING, GETTING EVERYTHING ON THE FIRST TRY, NO?



TURN AROUND, SIGURD.



WHY DO THEY ALWAYS FORCE ME TO SUPPRESS THEIR WILL?

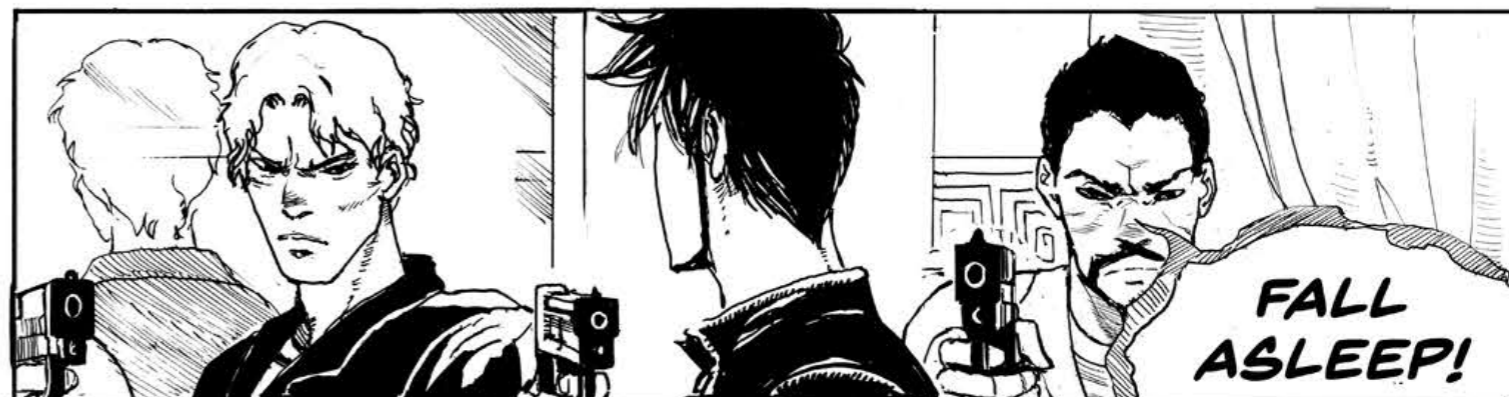
WHY CAN'T THEY DO WHAT I NEED WITHOUT HAVING TO USE MY HYPNOTIC VOICE ON THEM?



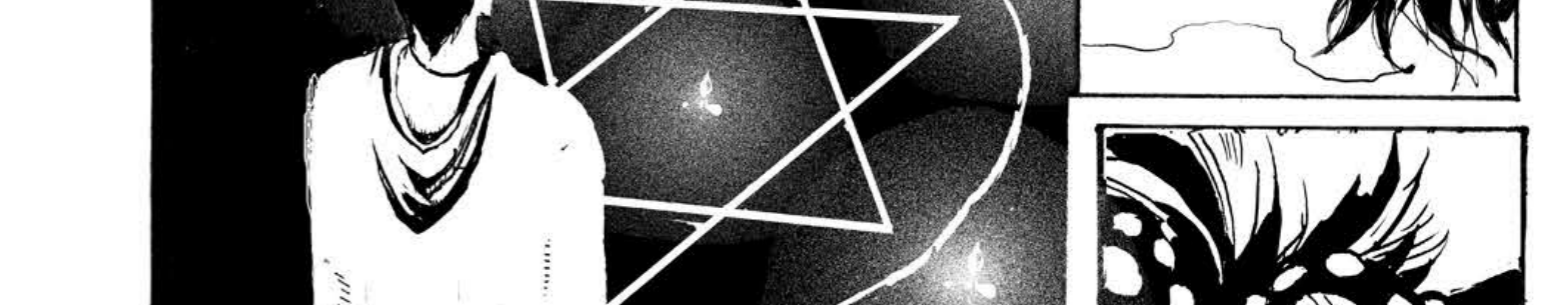
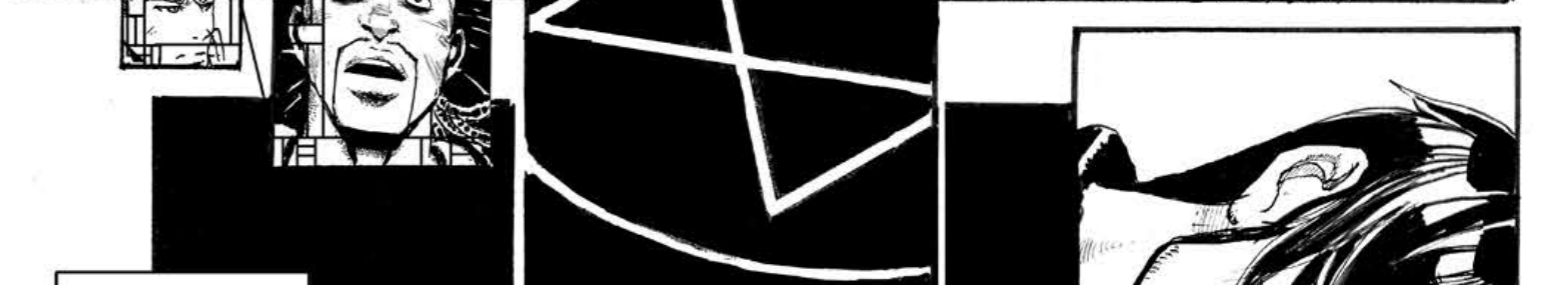
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME WITH THOSE GUYS? I'M SORRY, LANARK.



WE'LL TALK LATER... WHEN YOU WAKE UP.



FALL ASLEEP!



HOW CAN A SYMBOL OF HARMONY BE CORRUPTED?



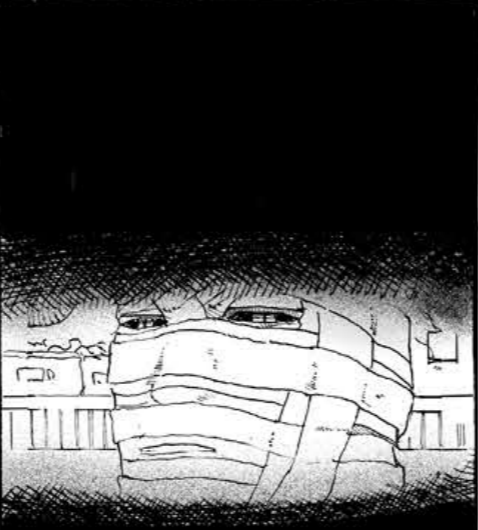
THAT'S WHERE I GOT THE INSPIRATION FROM ADAM. TO DEFEND THE STABILITY OF A CORRUPT SYSTEM SO THAT IMMEDIATE PEACE CAN BE MAINTAINED IS A SUBTLE FORM OF EVIL.

THERE'S NO NEED TO CHANGE THE HEXAGRAM, JUST RECONTEXTUALIZE IT AS THE SYMBOL OF THOSE WHO DEFEND AN OUT-MODED WAY OF LIFE. TO DO GOOD, HERE, IS TO BE DISRUPTIVE, TO SHIT ON THE OLD "WORKING IN A PIZZA JOINT AND BEING A GOOD BOY WILL SET YOU FREE" CRAP. FUCK THAT.

WHO HAD THIS IDEA? CAN I REALLY SAY THAT I CAME UP WITH IT? I USED MY POWER ON MYSELF...



I OVERTAKE THE WILL OF PEOPLE WITH IT, SO CAN I REALLY SAY THAT I WAS MYSELF WHEN I EVOKED ABADDON, WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE MISSION...?



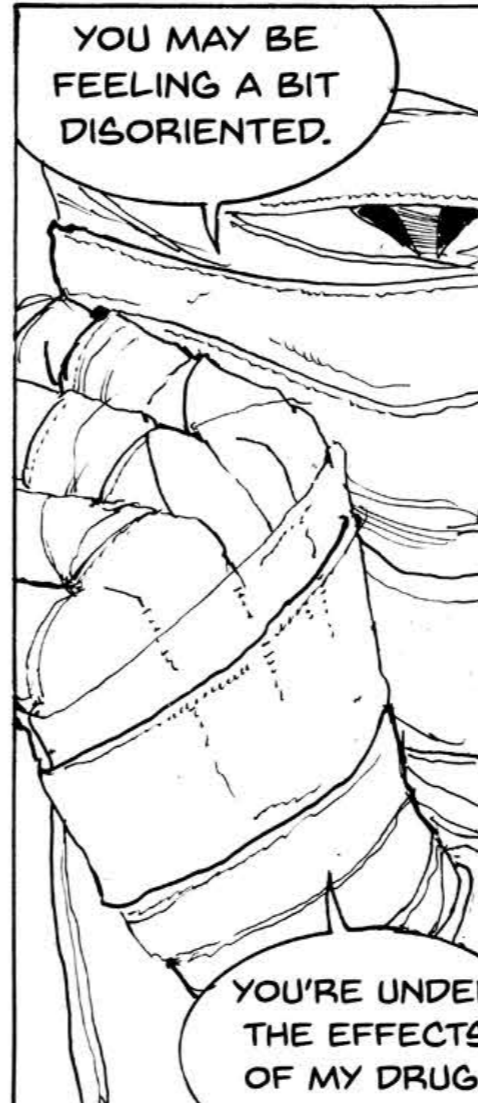
COME ON, MOTHER-FUCKER.



TIME TO WAKE UP.



AM I CAPABLE OF THESE THINGS?



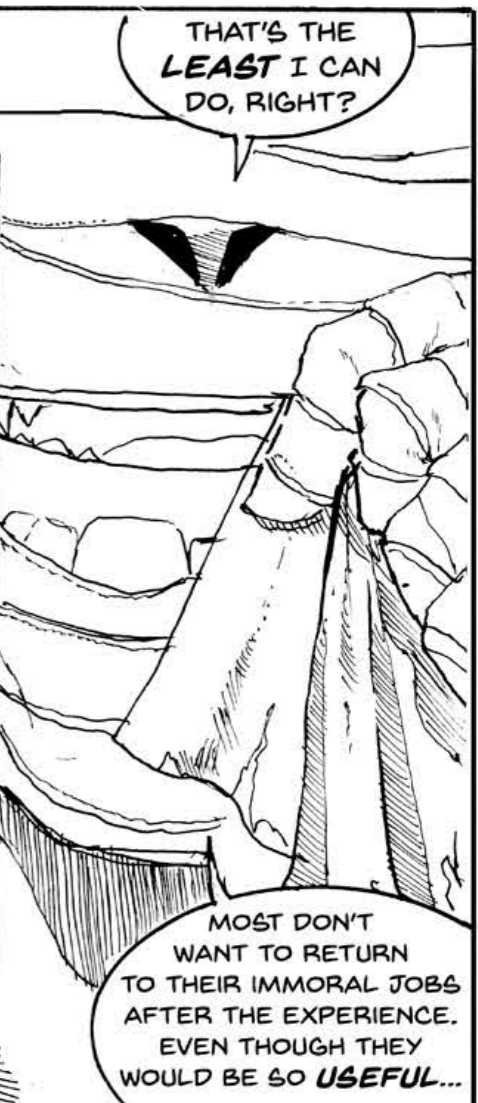
YOU MAY BE FEELING A BIT DISORIENTED.



YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST AGENT THAT WANTS IT, YOU KNOW?

YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST AGENT THAT ENDS UP WITH HIS VEINS FULL OF IT, EITHER.

YOU'RE UNDER THE EFFECTS OF MY DRUG.



THAT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO, RIGHT?

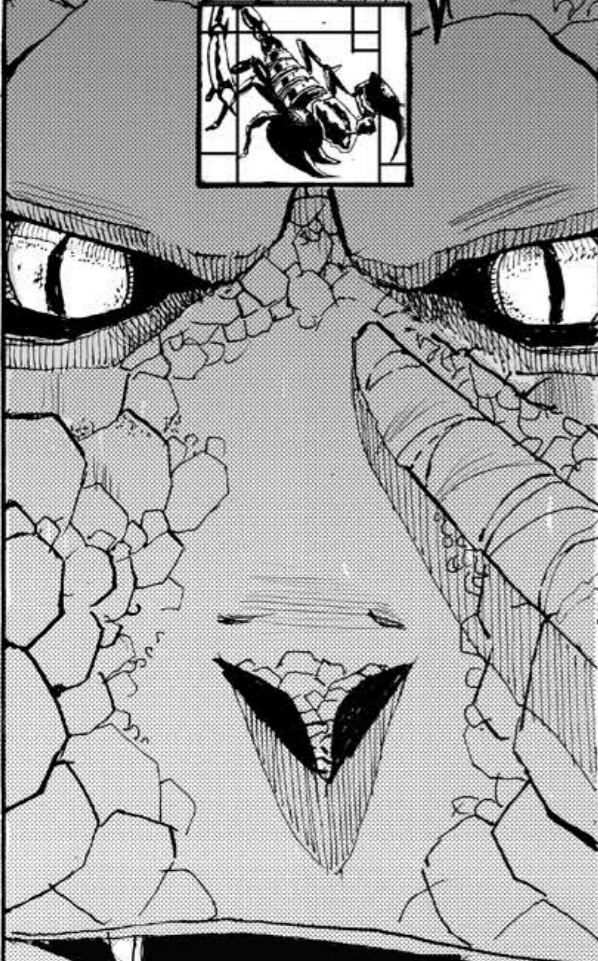
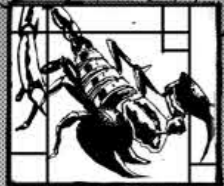
MOST DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR IMMORAL JOBS AFTER THE EXPERIENCE. EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD BE SO USEFUL...



SHOULD'VE BEEN STRIKING, HIS FACE.

WANT TO KNOW HOW IT'S MADE?

IT'S A POORER VERSION OF DMT. SECRETED BY MY **PINEAL GLAND.**



CONTRARY TO HUMAN ANATOMY, MY GLAND HAS A SMALL HOLE IN MY FOREHEAD.

MAKES FOR VERY EASY EXTRACTIONS, HONESTLY.

IT ALMOST MAKES UP FOR THIS FACE RUSSIA, MY BELOVED HOMETLAND, GAVE ME AFTER YEARS OF TORTURE AND EXPERIMENTS! IT WOULD BE QUITE UNFAIR IF YOU ALSO TOOK THAT FROM ME, NO?

BUT I'M IN NO CONDITION TO FIND IT STRIKING. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF NOW IS **NOW.**



HOW ARE YOU DOING?

YOU SEEM FINE... DON'T WORRY, I'LL DOUBLE YOUR **DOSE.**



FEEL ANYTHING? SOMETHING LIKE... DISTORTED TIME? MEMORIES BOTH NEW AND OLD MIXING WITH THE PRESENT? DOESN'T MAKE YOU **REEVALUATE** ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE?



YOU'RE QUITE RESISTANT...

I'M FINE

...THEY NEVER WANT TO RETURN TO WORK, TOO MANY MEMORIES...

NO

NO

I'M FINE I'M FINE I'M FINE

NO NO

ADAM ABANDON

I'M... WHERE AM I?

I'M FINE

NOW, SHOULD

TELL ME WHAT YOU ARE THINKING

IS YOUR HEAD CLEARING UP... SIGURD?

WH-WHAT... HAVE YOU...?

I'VE INTERROGATED YOU. NOTHING EXHAUSTIVE, DON'T WORRY.

YOU'VE GOT BALLS, BOY. MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE ON THE FLOOR, CRYING AT THE HORRORS OF THEIR LIFE...



WHAT HAVE YOU WHEEDED OUT OF ME? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

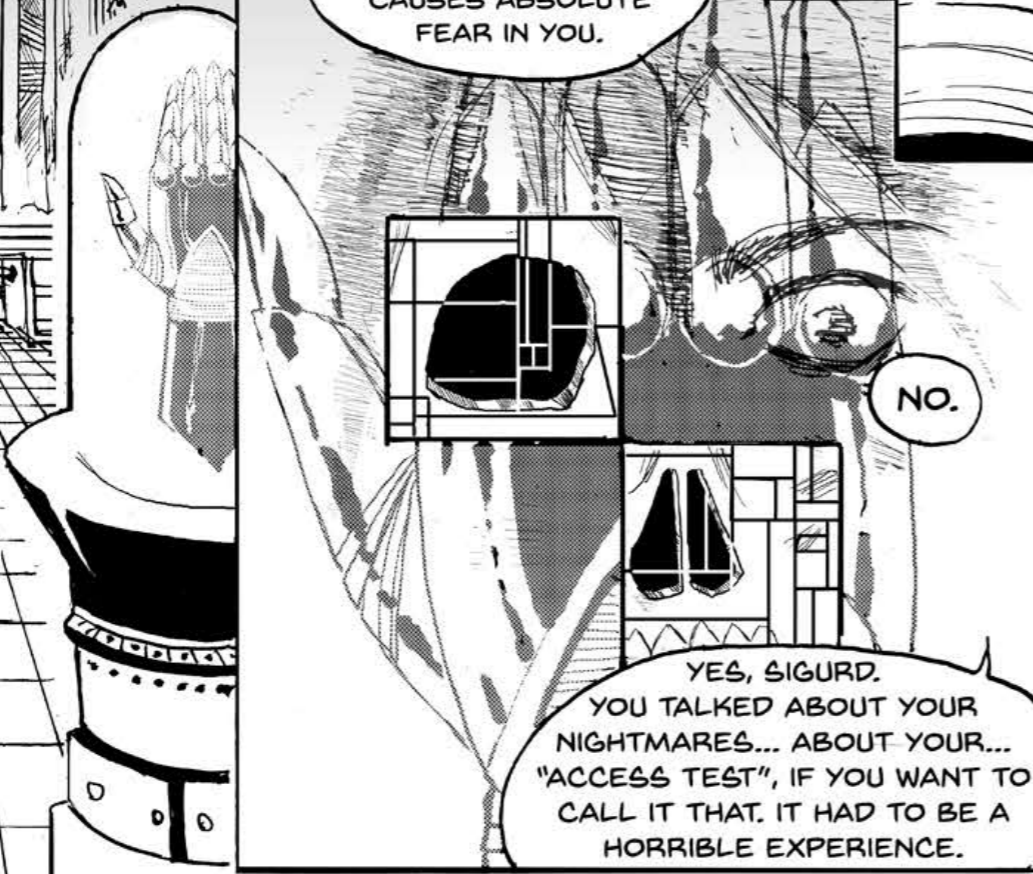


I KNOW YOU COME FOR THE GAUNTLET I STOLE FROM THE BASE WHERE THEY MADE ME A DRAGON.

THE HEREMITES WANT IT, RIGHT? THE CABALISTS WANT MY DRUG, THE HEREMITES WANT MY GAUNTLET, AND THE EBI WANTS ME TO STOP REPROGRAMMING MINDS OF ITS SOLDIERS.



AND I KNOW ONLY ONE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS CAUSES ABSOLUTE FEAR IN YOU.



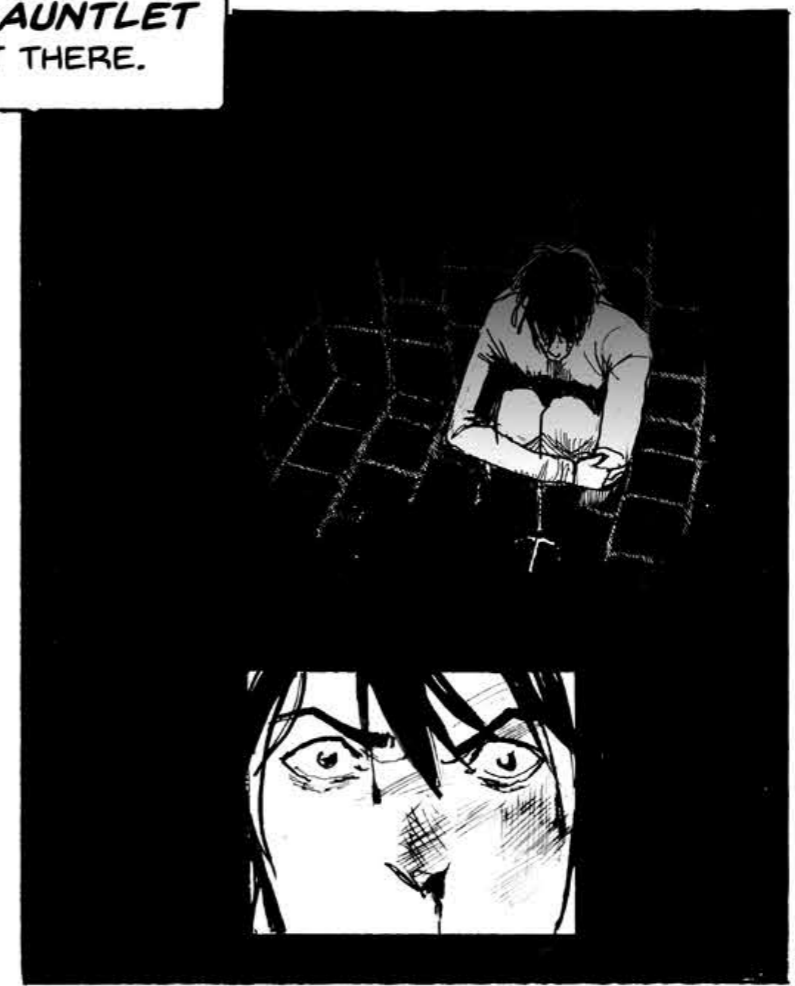
NO.

YES, SIGURD. YOU TALKED ABOUT YOUR NIGHTMARES... ABOUT YOUR... "ACCESS TEST", IF YOU WANT TO CALL IT THAT. IT HAD TO BE A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE.

I WAS TEMPTED TO PUT THE GAUNTLET ON RIGHT THERE.



HOW LONG WERE YOU IN THE BLACK ROOM, KID?



MONTHS, RIGHT?



IT FELT LIKE MONTHS, AT LEAST. THE MIND... IS QUITE MALLEABLE.



"EVERY DAY, A BOWL OF FOOD, A BOWL OF WATER..."



"...AND A SCORPION".

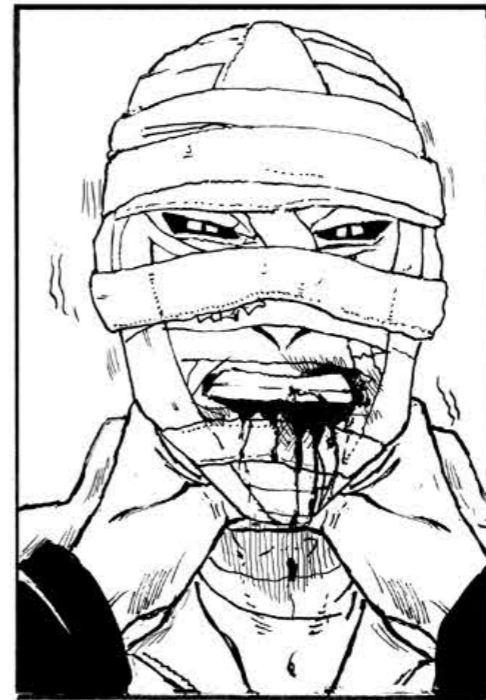


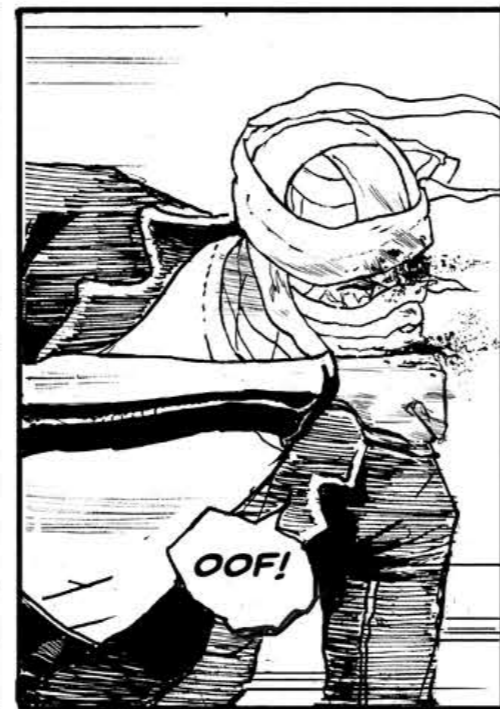
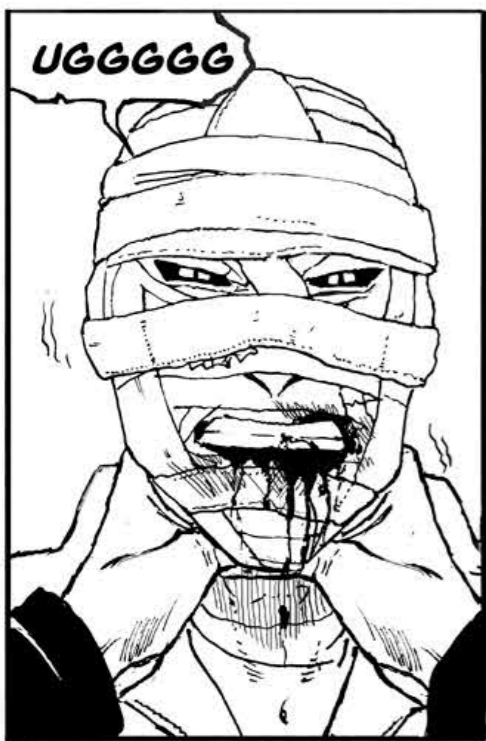
HOW MANY SCORPIONS LIVED WITH YOU, BY THE END?



WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU WANT OF ME?

BUT I DON'T USE SHORTCUTS. I DON'T MIND CONFRONTING THE WORST LIFE HAS TO OFFER. I'M NOT ADAM.





# ...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!

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