

UPSURGE 24: en la memoria

SIMON M.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

ATANA S.

PENCILS
INK

EMAIL: UPSURGECOMICS@GMAIL.COM

WEBPAGE: WWW.UPSURGE.ES/ENGLISH

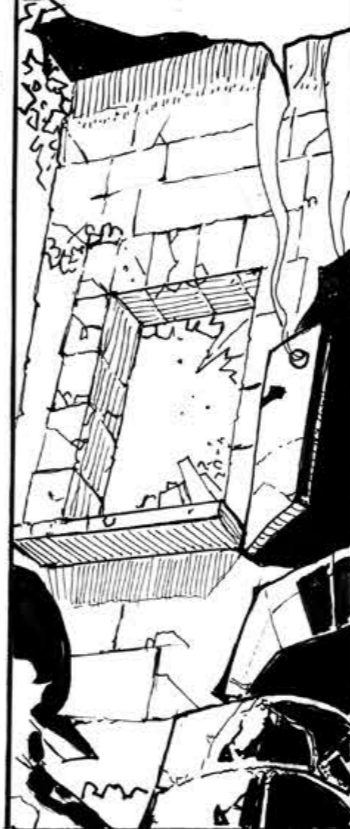
THIS COMIC IS PUBLISHED UNDER AN *ATTRIBUTION-NONCOMMERCIAL-NONDERIVATIVES* CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE, AND IS OWNED BY ITS AUTHORS, SIMON MONOGATARI (SERGIO RODRIGUEZ FUNGUEIRO) AND ATANA SUMI (CRISTINA ERRAEZ CASTELLTORT).



WHERE ARE THEY? THEM THE ONES THAT PUT THE SKY IN FLAMES?



GOD PUNISHED US, THAT'S ALL I KNOW.



WE HAVE TO RETURN THIS CITY TO ITS FORMER RADIANCE.



THESE GUYS... THEY DON'T SEEM TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE...

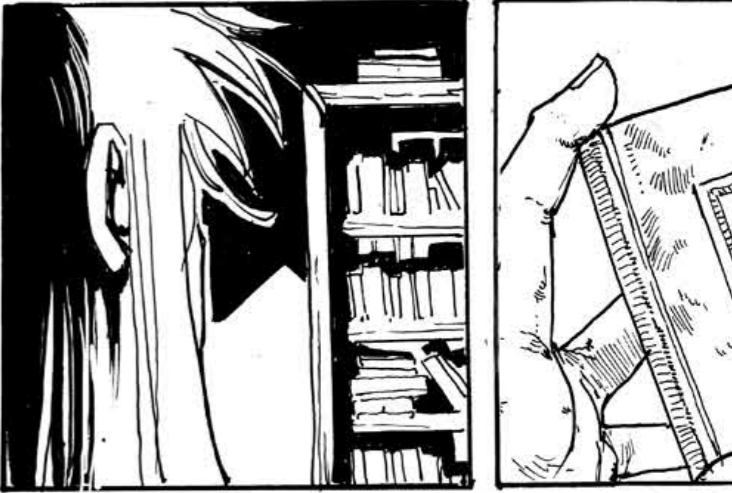


...COGNITIVE DISSONANCE...

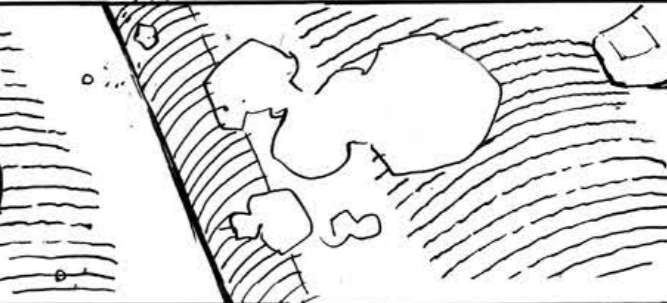
THEY'RE UNDER A SPELL. THAT MIST...

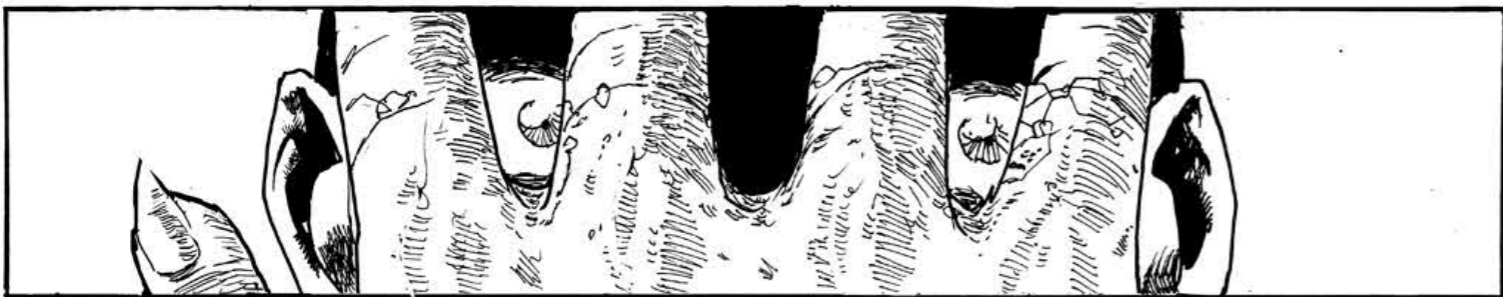


THE WHOLE CITY IS UNDER IT, I SUSPECT.



LET'S SEE...





OH, GOD...

I THOUGHT IT WAS OVER.



THAT I WOULDN'T BE ME ANYMORE.

IS IT ANY WONDER? YOU HAVE A HOLE IN YOUR HEART.



NATURE DOESN'T LIKE VOIDS. IF YOU DON'T FILL THEM UP...



...SOMEONE WILL DO IT FOR YOU.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

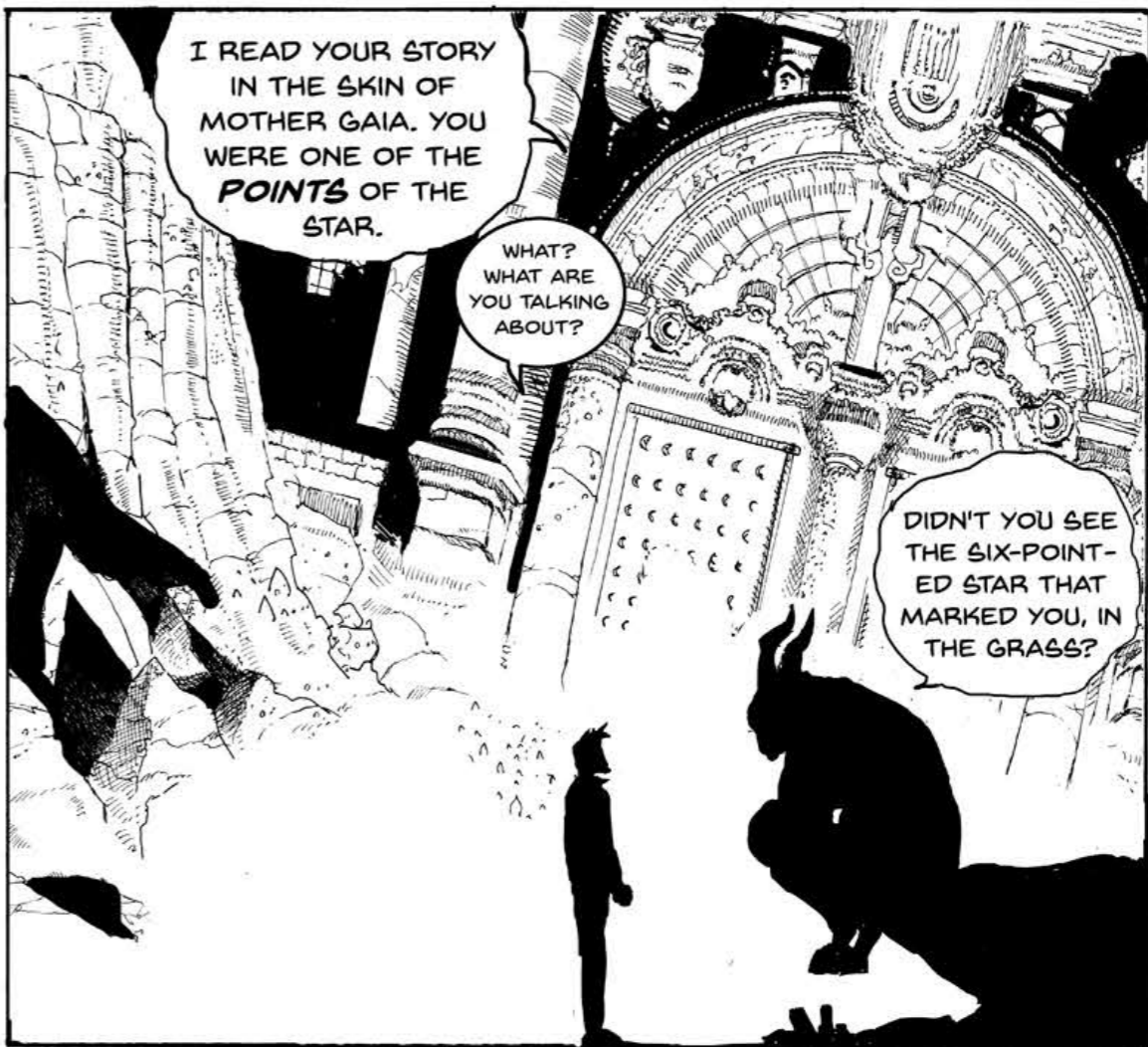


CAN YOU HELP ME?



YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WITH MY HAND?

YES.



I READ YOUR STORY IN THE SKIN OF MOTHER GAIA. YOU WERE ONE OF THE POINTS OF THE STAR.

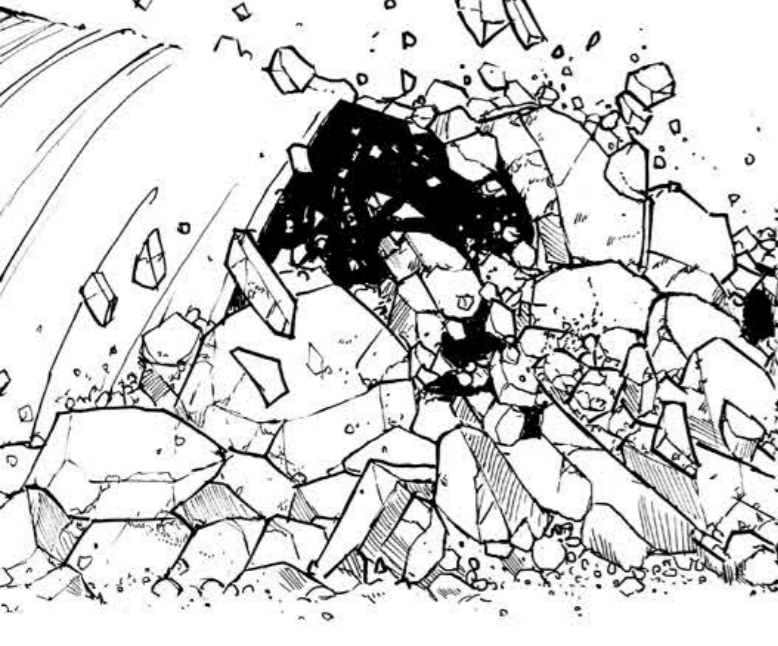
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIX-POINTED STAR THAT MARKED YOU, IN THE GRASS?



NO MATTER. LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

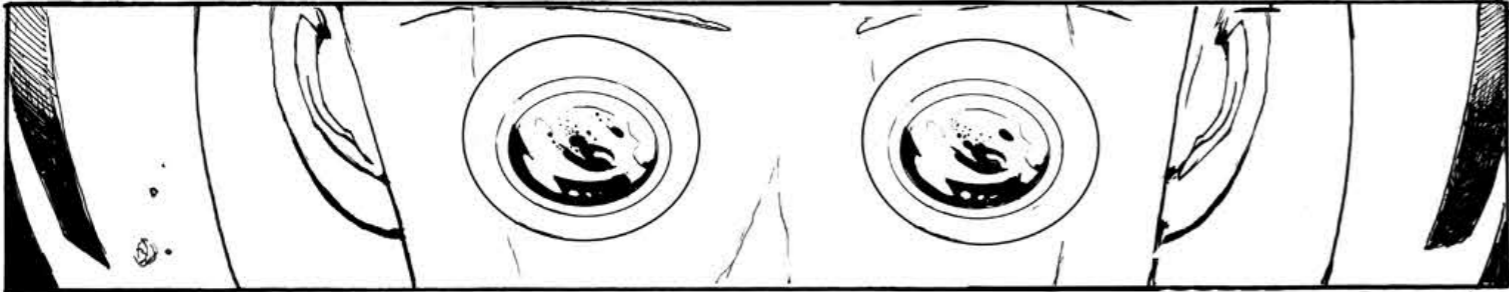
"THE STORY ABOUT SANTIAGO..."



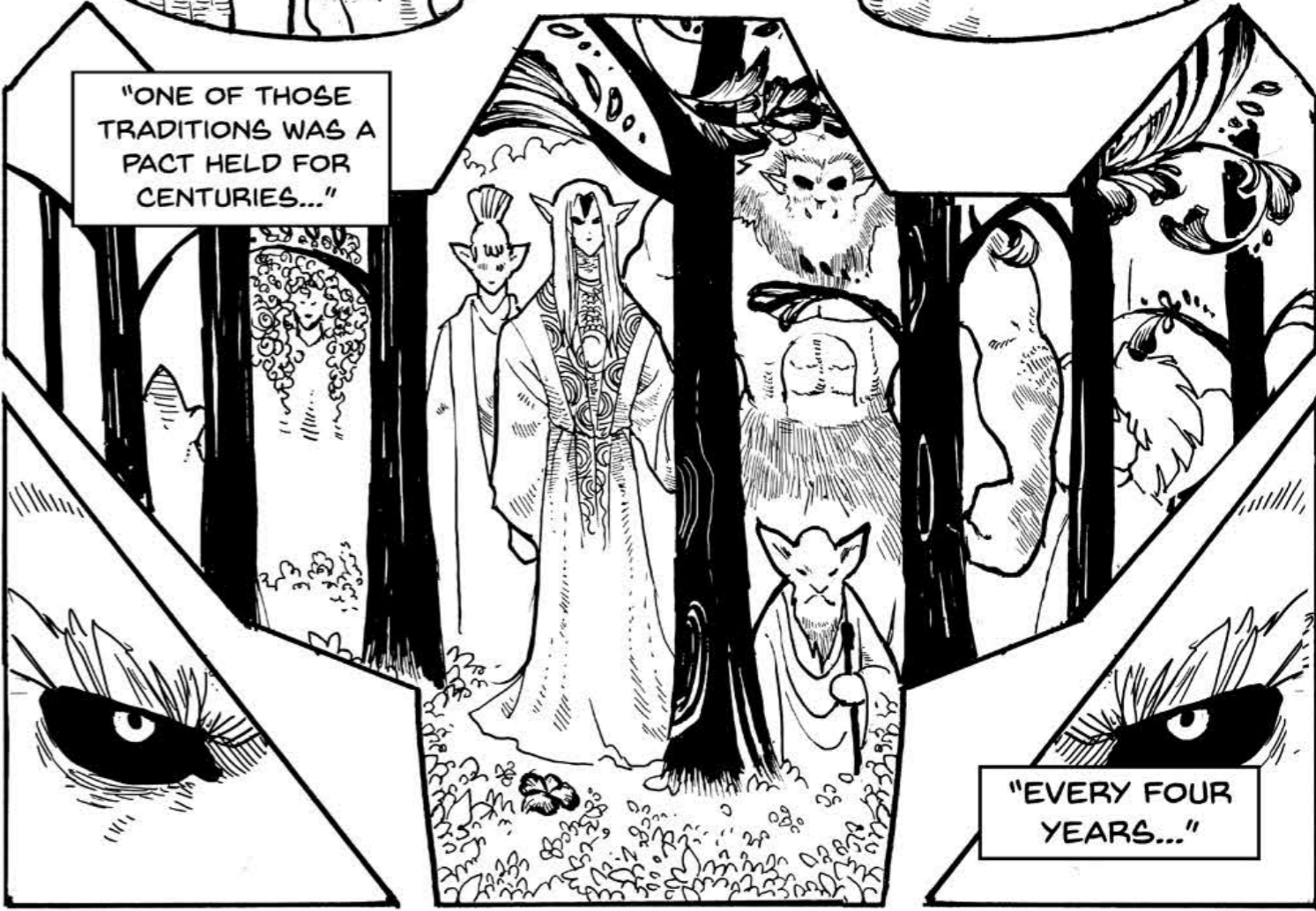
"IT WAS A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE, CATHOLIC, OFFICIALLY".



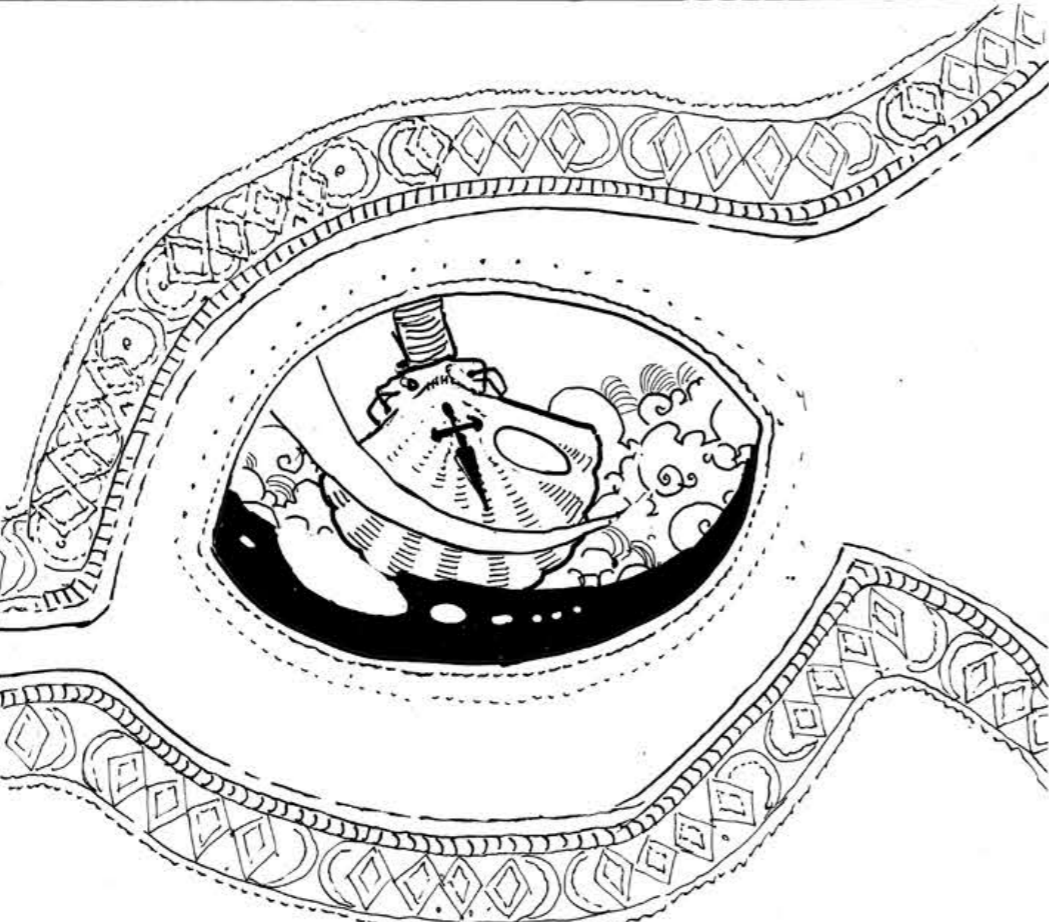
"IN TRUTH, SANTIAGO WAS PART OF A GROUP OF EUROPEAN CITIES WITH SECRET, MYSTICAL TRADITIONS. CATHOLICISM SIMPLY APPROPRIATED AND DILUTED THEM..."



"ONE OF THOSE TRADITIONS WAS A PACT HELD FOR CENTURIES..."

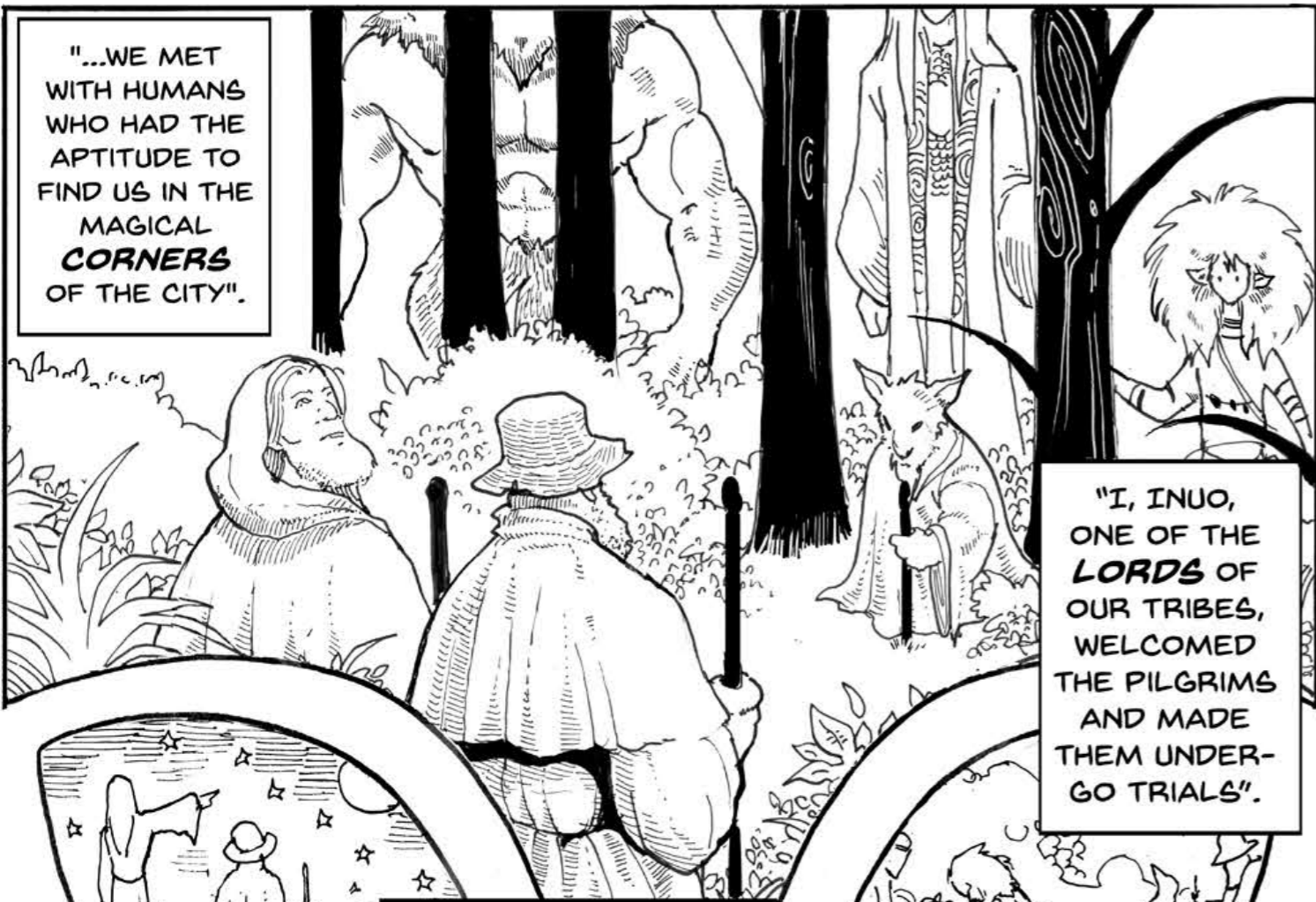


"...AND ITS FALL".



"EVERY FOUR YEARS..."

"...WE MET WITH HUMANS WHO HAD THE APTITUDE TO FIND US IN THE MAGICAL CORNERS OF THE CITY".

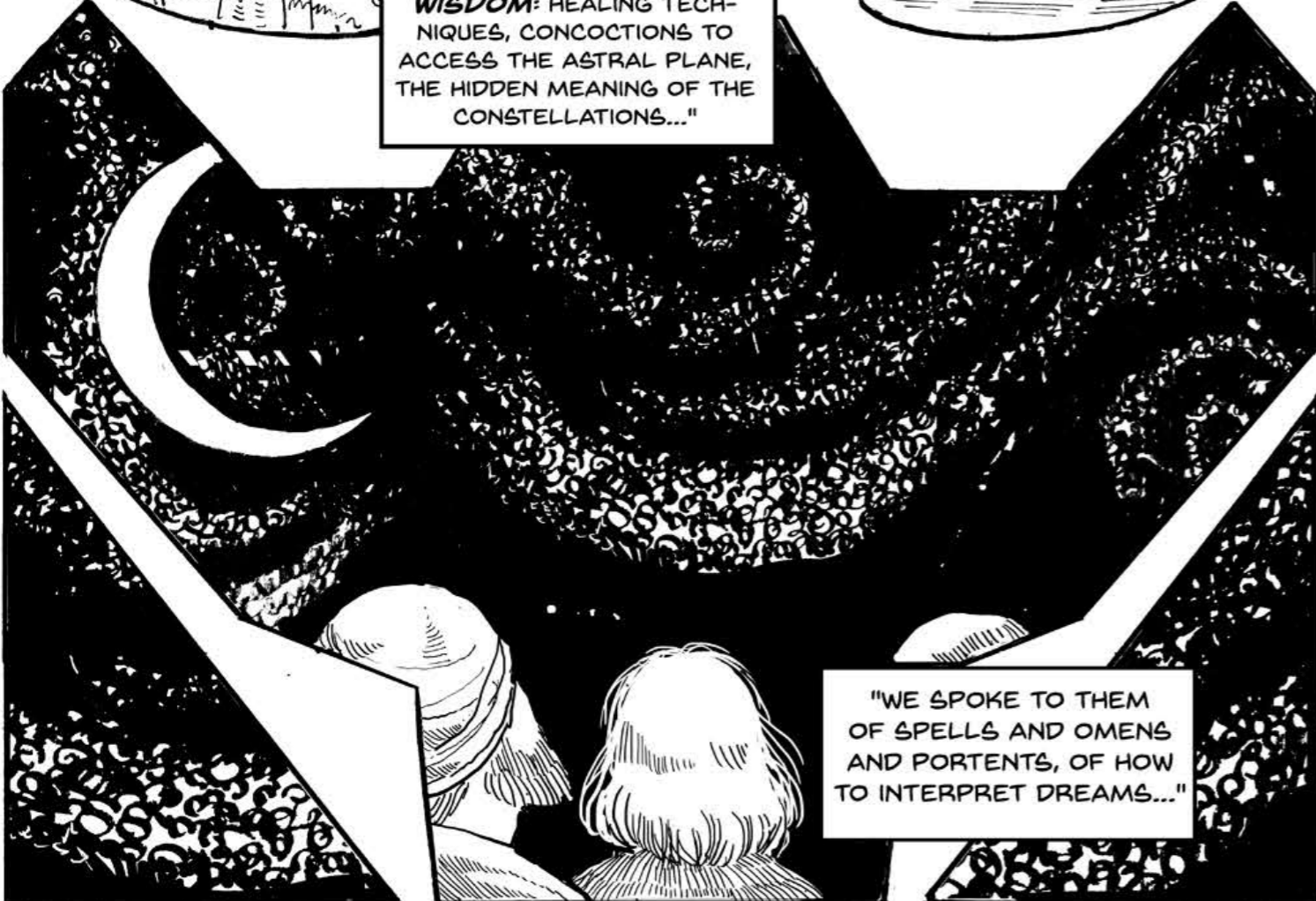


"I, INUO, ONE OF THE LORDS OF OUR TRIBES, WELCOMED THE PILGRIMS AND MADE THEM UNDERGO TRIALS".

"IF THEY PASSED THOSE TRIALS, WE TAUGHT OUR WISDOM: HEALING TECHNIQUES, CONCOCTIONS TO ACCESS THE ASTRAL PLANE, THE HIDDEN MEANING OF THE CONSTELLATIONS..."



"WE SPOKE TO THEM OF SPELLS AND OMENS AND PORTENTS, OF HOW TO INTERPRET DREAMS..."



"IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE HUMANS PLEDGED ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO OUR PEOPLE. OUR GIFTS WOULD MAKE THEM IMPORTANT, BUT THEY WOULD BE TIED TO US. WE WANTED MORE INFLUENCE IN THEIR WORLD... TO LEAD THEM TO A BETTER WORLD. SO WE BELIEVED. MORE AND MORE HUMANS WERE SEEING US, MORE AND MORE WERE LEARNING, HOW COULD WE THINK WE WERE DOING SOMETHING WRONG?"



"PEOPLE STARTED TO KNOW ABOUT US, CALLING US ELVES OR FAIRIES".

"WE ARE NOT LIKE THE GODS, WE LIVE VERY, VERY CLOSE TO THE MATERIAL PLANE, BUT OUR INFLUENCE IS NOT CONSTANT: THERE ARE CYCLES OF SPIRITUALITY AND CYCLES OF MATERIALISM, AND THE STARS WERE DICTATING A NEW ERA OF THE LATTER, AND WHEN IT CAME..."



"...IT WAS WORSE THAN EVER. A FRENZY UNLEASHED BY OUR DISCIPLES, WHO USED OUR KNOWLEDGE TO ENRICH THEMSELVES OR TO HURT. GOLD FROM STATUES AND CHURCHES WAS MELTED DOWN TO BE SCATTERED INTO COINS, OR TO ORNAMENT POMMELS OF MAGIC SWORDS. WE THOUGHT WE WERE LEADING HUMANS INTO A SPIRITUAL AGE EVEN IN THE MATERIALISTIC CYCLE, BUT, BEHIND OUR BACKS..."

"...THEY HAD LEARNED TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH US WITHOUT REVEALING THEIR TRUE HEART".



"AND THEN HE CAME. WE DIDN'T WANT ANY MORE DISCIPLES, BUT HE HAD A WAY OF TALKING THAT MADE US LISTEN".

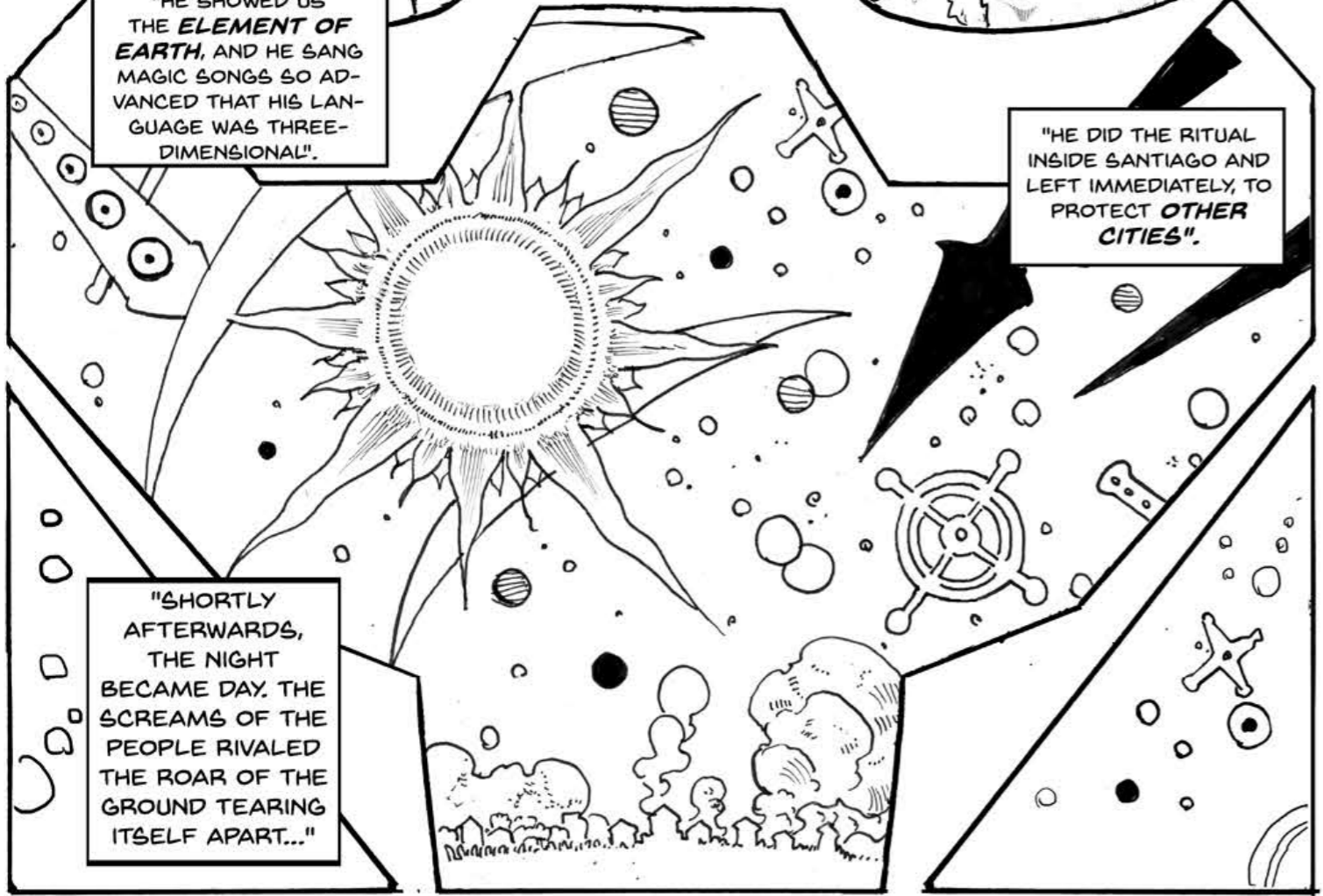
"HE SAID HE WAS THE-MAN-FROM-BEYOND-TIME. HE DEEMED THAT IN THE CONTACT BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS, WE HAD BECOME MORE LIKE THEM THAN THEM LIKE US, AND THAT THAT'S WHY WE COULDN'T SEE THE COMING CATAclySM".



"THE SKY, HE SAID, WAS GOING TO BE FILLED WITH FLAMES, AND WE WERE LUCKY THAT HE HAD A REMEDY".



"HE SHOWED US THE ELEMENT OF EARTH, AND HE SANG MAGIC SONGS SO ADVANCED THAT HIS LANGUAGE WAS THREE-DIMENSIONAL".



"HE DID THE RITUAL INSIDE SANTIAGO AND LEFT IMMEDIATELY, TO PROTECT OTHER CITIES".

"SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, THE NIGHT BECAME DAY. THE SCREAMS OF THE PEOPLE RIVALED THE ROAR OF THE GROUND TEARING ITSELF APART..."



THE SKY WAS IN FLAMES.

THE PEOPLE BURNED. WE BURNED. THE CITY WAS RUINED. AND WHEN I WOKE UP AGAIN, I WAS MADE OF STONE.



THE MEMORY OF... NO... THE MEMORY, IN STONE, SUFFERS...



THE MEMORY, IN STONE, RESISTS TIME.



GREAT, YOU'VE READ A BOOK. SO WHAT?

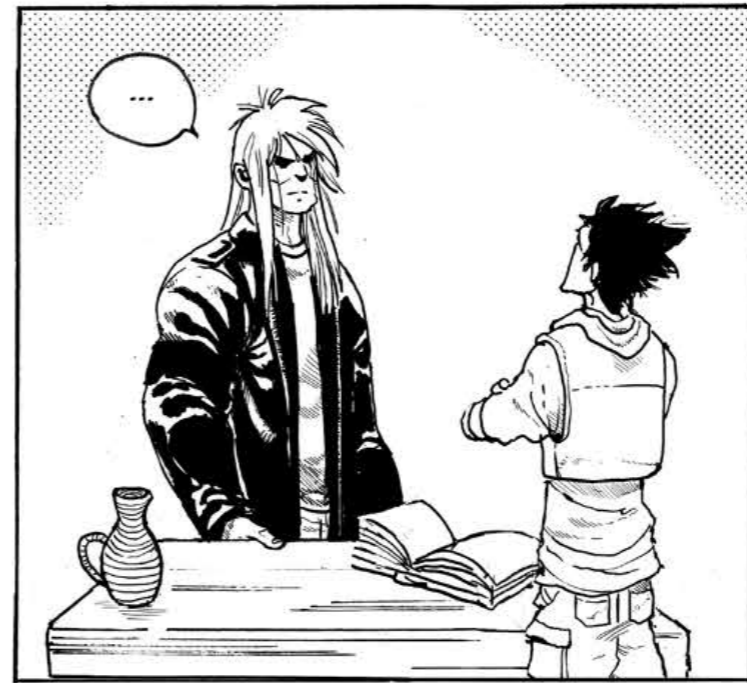
YOU HAVE MAGICAL POWERS AND YOU DON'T KNOW THIS? RANDOM READING HAS MANY USES.

...IN THIS CASE, IT SERVES US TO TRY TO UNCOVER THE INTENTION BEHIND THE SPELL OF SAN-TIAGO.

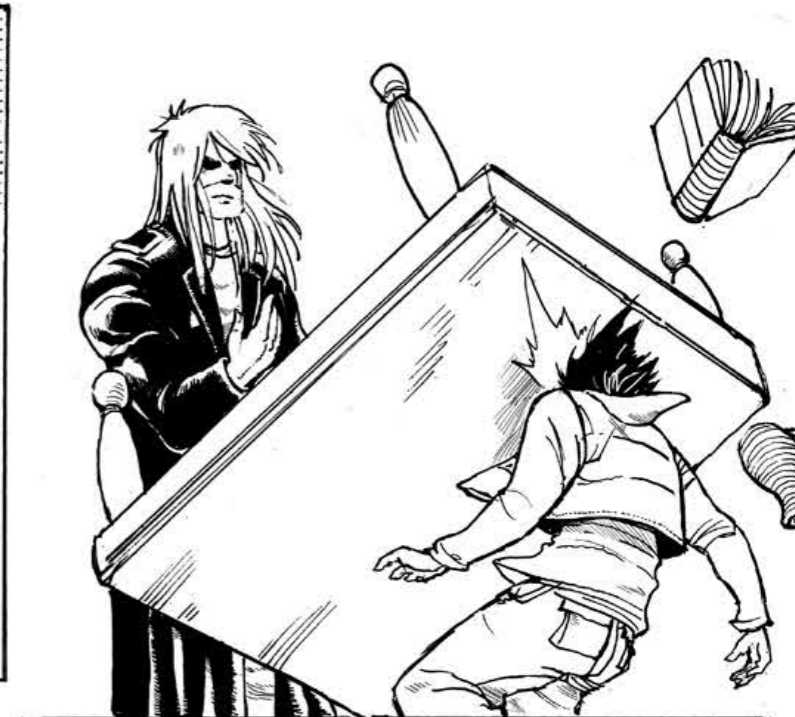
...

SO?

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE A **PRESERVATION SPELL**. WE CAN RULE OUT GHOSTS, I THINK. IT'S MORE LIKE A... **HARD DRIVE** WHERE THE IDENTITIES THAT INHABIT THE STATUES HAVE BEEN STORED... A SINGLE SPELL FOR SO MANY PEOPLE... WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THEY'RE KIND OF... **DEFECTIVE**.



...



AGH.



WHAT ...?



THESE STONE PEOPLE... THEIR IDENTITIES, ARE THEY REAL, OR JUST A **SCRIPT** INSIDE THE SPELL?

WHICH LEADS ME TO THINK...



...A SPELL SO BIG SHOULD HAVE **WEAKENED** OVER TIME...

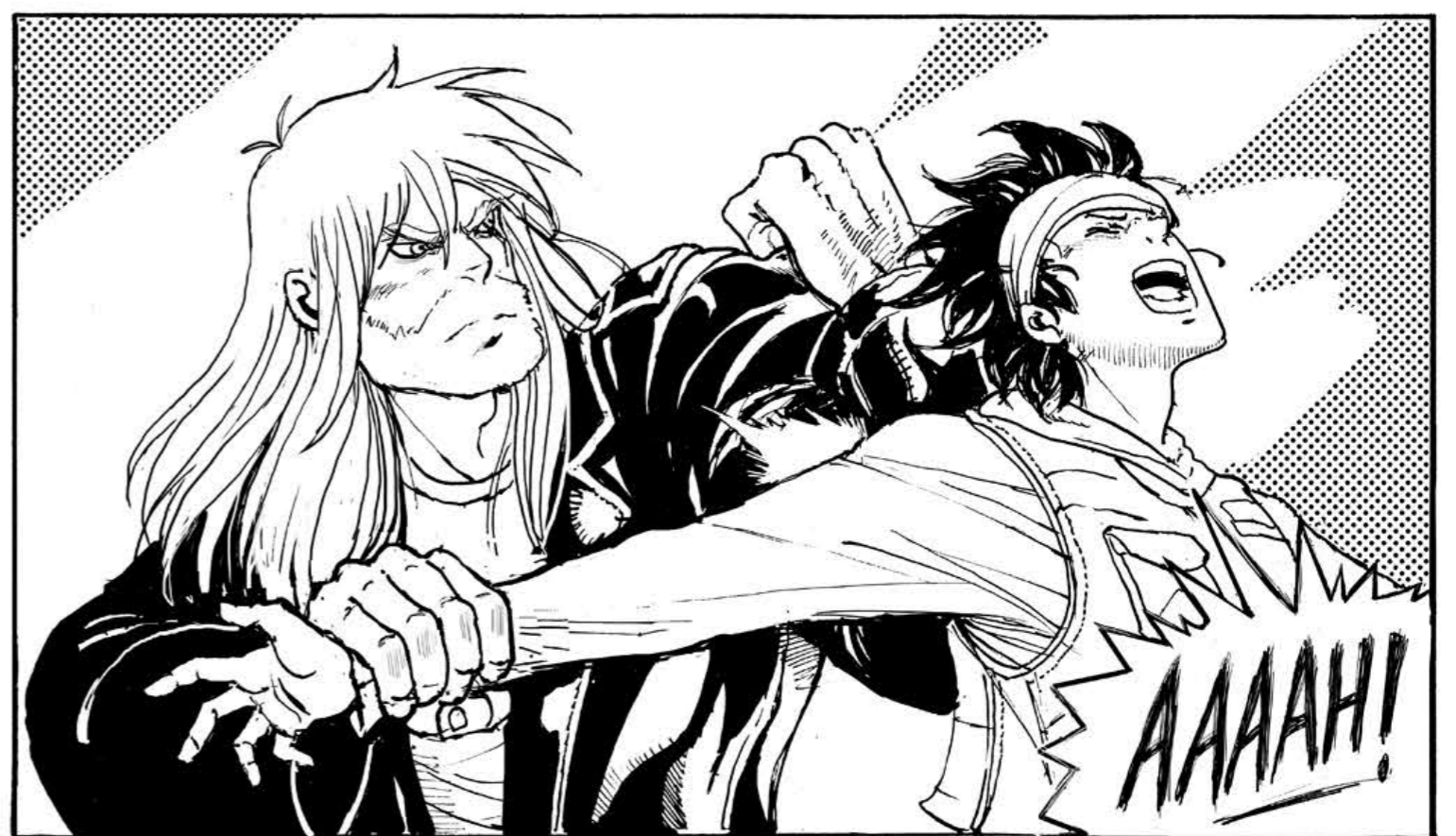
...UNLESS THERE'S A SOURCE OF POWER THAT **RE-GALVANIZES** SAID SPELL...



...AND THAT MAKES ME WONDER **WHAT THE HELL** ARE YOU NUMB-NUTS DOING HERE...



I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING, MAN. I CAN GET OUT OF HERE **IN A SECOND**.



AAAAH!

YOU DIS-LOCATED MY...!

GOOD, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT MESS WITH OUR PLANS.

TALK.



"WANT ME TO KEEP GOING? TALK".



...THE EARTH ELEMENT.



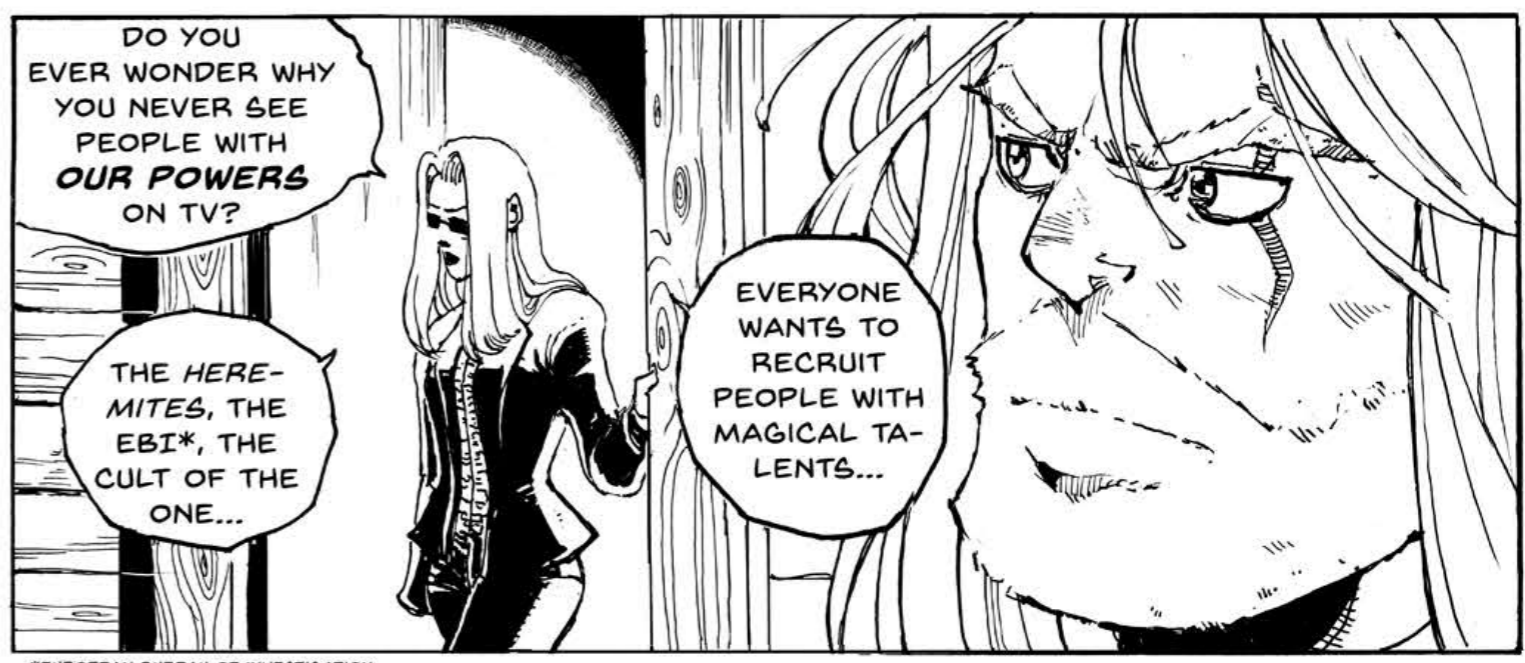
A MAGICAL ARTIFACT. AN OLD ITEM...



IT IS SAID THAT THE ONE WHO HAS IT HAS CONTROL OVER THE MATERIAL ASPECTS, IF HE KNOWS HOW TO USE IT: MONEY, SECURITY, INFLUENCES...



ASIDE FROM WHAT FOOL SAYS, WE WANTED TO HELP YOU, ESSEX.



DO YOU EVER WONDER WHY YOU NEVER SEE PEOPLE WITH OUR POWERS ON TV?

THE HERMITES, THE EBI*, THE CULT OF THE ONE...

EVERYONE WANTS TO RECRUIT PEOPLE WITH MAGICAL TALENTS...

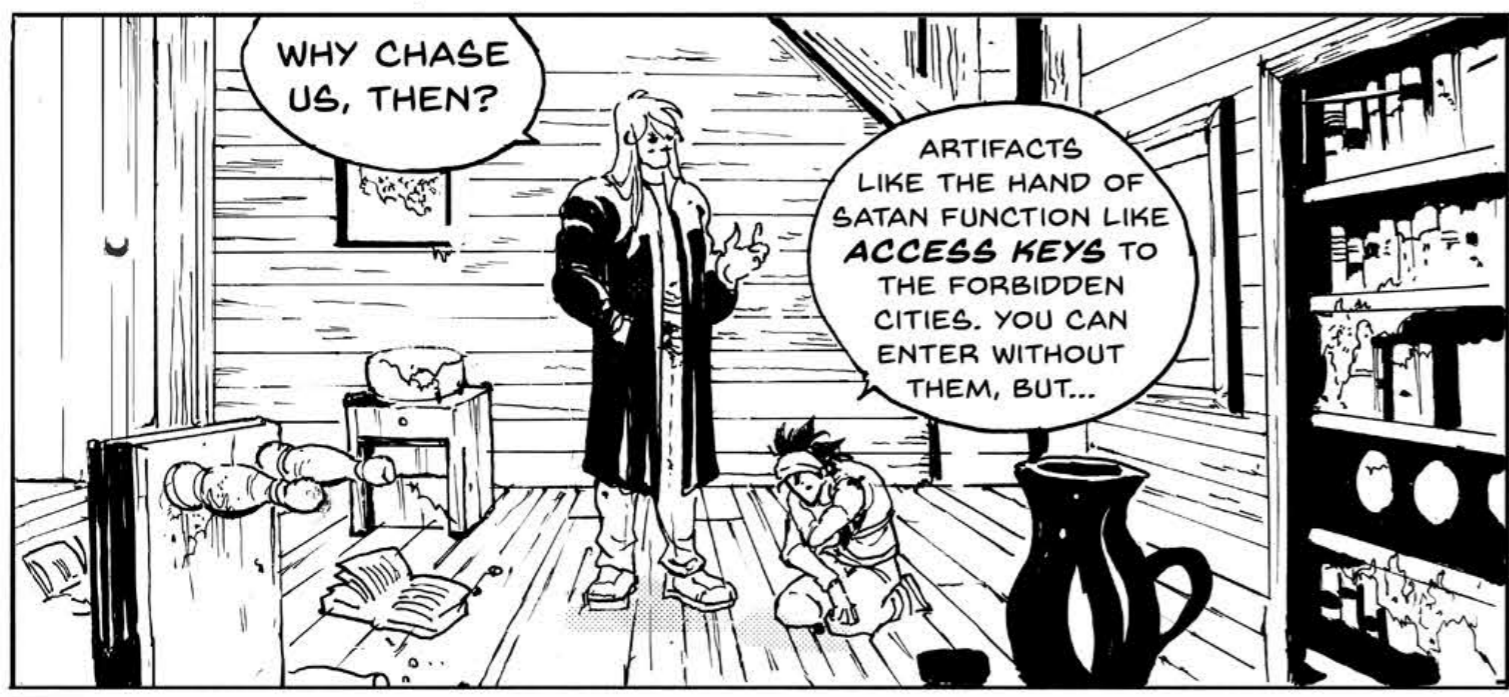
*EUROPEAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.



...WHILE KEEPING YOU IN THE SHADOWS, SO THAT YOU DON'T SPREAD "DANGEROUS IDEAS" TO EVERYONE ELSE.

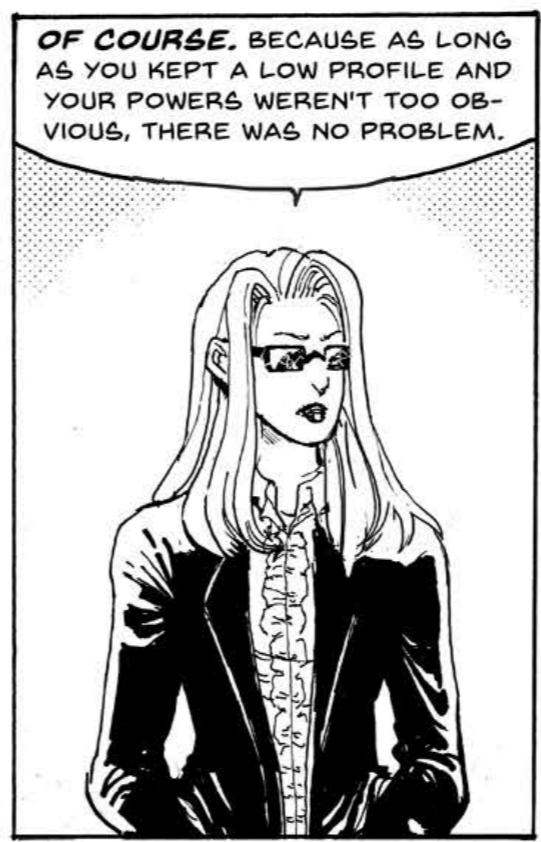
AND ANY POSSIBILITY OF A SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION IN THE WORLD VANISHES.

HMM. I STUDIED MAGIC AT AN OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY, KIDDO. UNTIL I GOT INVOLVED WITH ADAM, NO ONE GAVE A FUCK...



WHY CHASE US, THEN?

ARTIFACTS LIKE THE HAND OF SATAN FUNCTION LIKE ACCESS KEYS TO THE FORBIDDEN CITIES. YOU CAN ENTER WITHOUT THEM, BUT...



OF COURSE. BECAUSE AS LONG AS YOU KEPT A LOW PROFILE AND YOUR POWERS WEREN'T TOO OBVIOUS, THERE WAS NO PROBLEM.

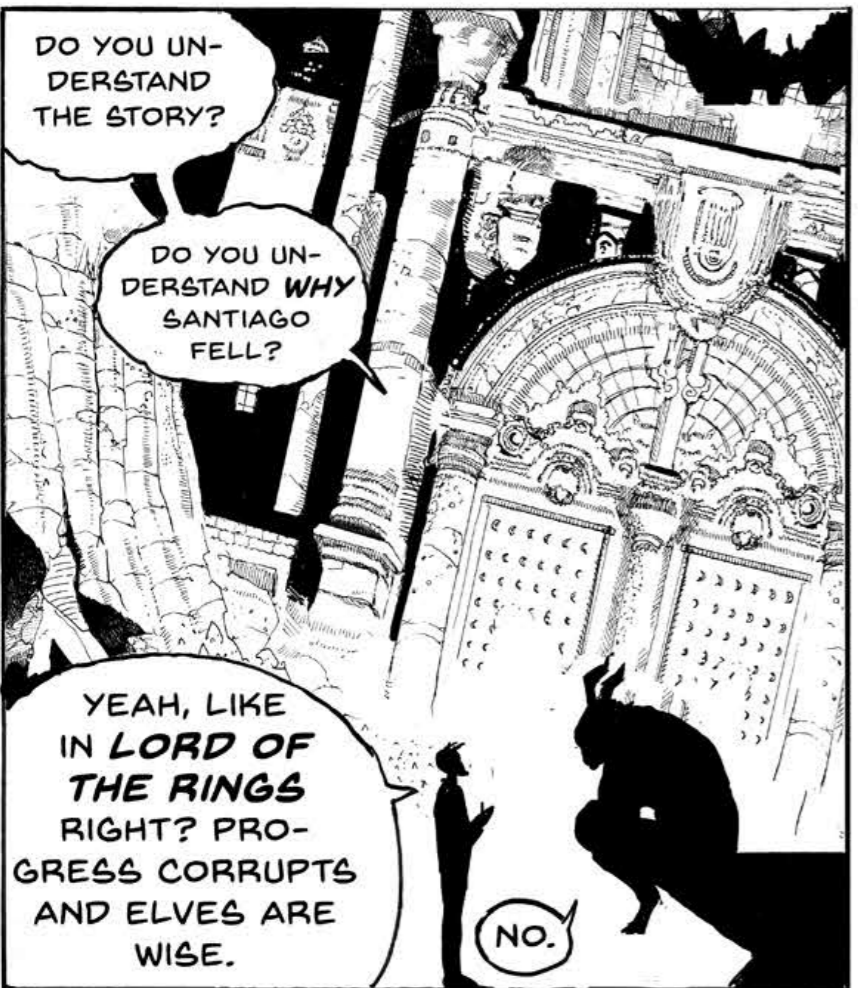


= SNIFF =

I'LL TAKE YOUR BULLSHIT AS A SIGN OF COOPERATION.



STAND UP, KID. I'LL PUT YOUR SHOULDER IN PLACE.

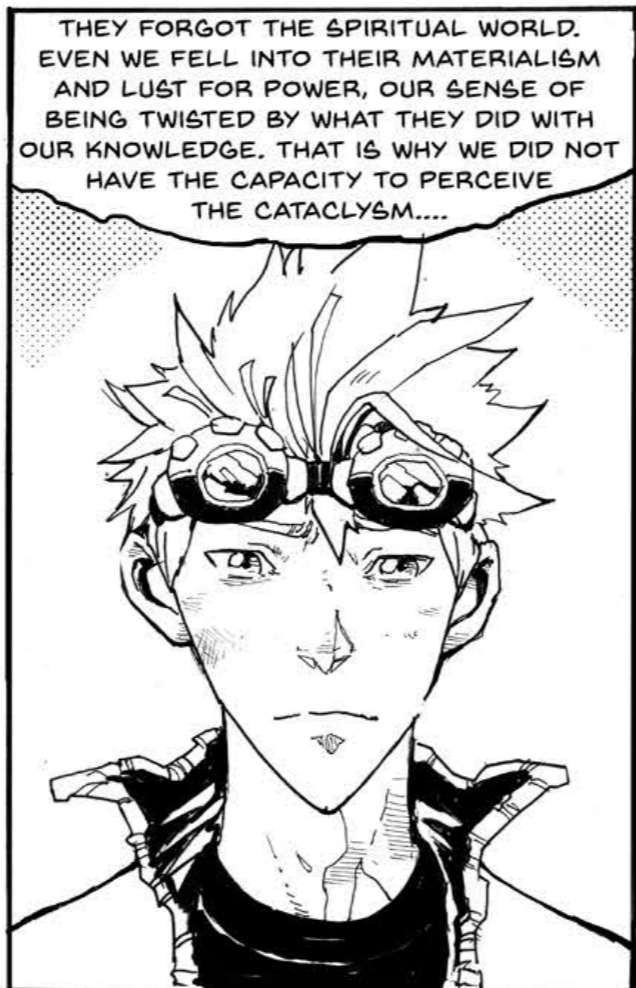


DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE STORY?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY SANTIAGO FELL?

YEAH, LIKE IN LORD OF THE RINGS RIGHT? PROGRESS CORRUPTS AND ELVES ARE WISE.

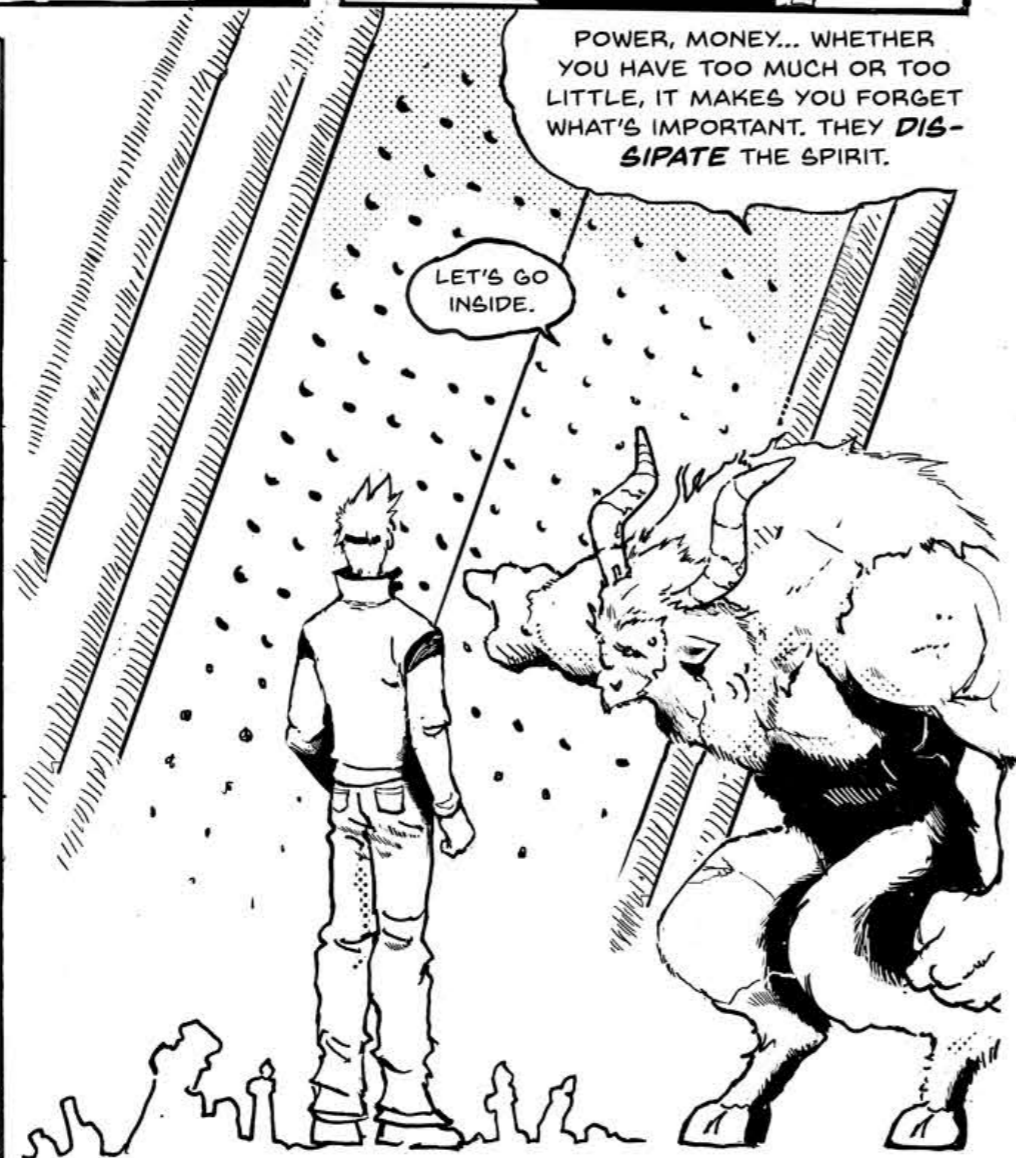
NO.



THEY FORGOT THE SPIRITUAL WORLD. EVEN WE FELL INTO THEIR MATERIALISM AND LUST FOR POWER, OUR SENSE OF BEING TWISTED BY WHAT THEY DID WITH OUR KNOWLEDGE. THAT IS WHY WE DID NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PERCEIVE THE CATACLYSM....



WE FORGOT THE DREAM WORLD.



POWER, MONEY... WHETHER YOU HAVE TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE, IT MAKES YOU FORGET WHAT'S IMPORTANT. THEY DIS-SIPATE THE SPIRIT.

LET'S GO INSIDE.



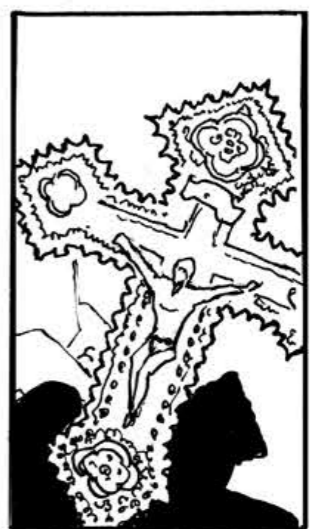
YOUR STORY IS INTEGRATED INTO A MYSTICAL GEOMETRY.

A GEOMETRY IN WHICH YOU ARE MANIPULATED BY EVERYONE, USED, BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FIGHT FOR BEYOND WANTING TO DO "GOOD", AS IF THAT MEANT SOMETHING... YOUR VOID ATTRACTED HARDSHIPS INTO YOUR LIFE...

BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR SELF, PEOPLE CAN CORRUPT YOUR NAME.



YOU CAN'T DEFEND YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO PROTECT.



YOU DON'T HAVE DREAMS TO GUIDE YOU.



TELL ME, WHO ARE YOU REALLY?



DID YOU FORGET?



EVERY TIME I SAY WHAT I REALLY THINK, SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS.

IS THAT REASON ENOUGH TO GIVE UP?

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM, BOY?

HOW WAS YOUR LIFE IN THE DREAM WORLD?

DUDE... I'M 22 YEARS OLD...

AH, TIME INTERS EVERYTHING, HUH?



WHEN I WAS LITTLE, THERE WAS THIS COMIC BOOK, MR. MAGICK.



I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THAT IDEA ALWAYS FASCINATED ME. BUT... WELL... PEOPLE... THEY LOATHE...



I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT CYNICISM... BUT I SUPPOSE I GAVE IN TO IT AND I SAID TO MYSELF, IF I CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD, AT LEAST I CAN ENTERTAIN IT, SO I STARTED TO PRACTICE THE OTHER MAGIC, THE ONE ABOUT CARD TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS...



I HAD BEEN PRACTICING FOR MONTHS WHEN THE TEACHER TOLD US TO DO SOME PRESENTATIONS IN FRONT OF THE CLASS... GREAT, I THOUGHT, I CAN SHOW EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED.

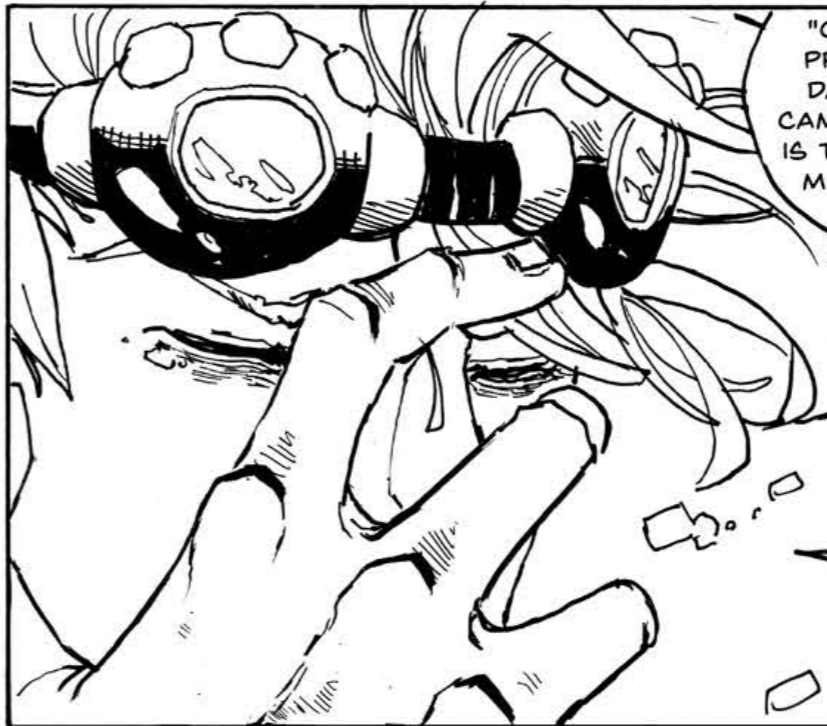


THEY LAUGHED AT ME, OF COURSE. THEY LAUGHED SO HARD THAT I GOT ANGRY AND STARTED INSULTING THEM... AND THEN THEY BEAT ME UP. I WAS LIKE NINE, TEN YEARS OLD... FROM THEN ON I WAS THE OUTCAST OF THE CLASS, THEY INSULTED ME EVERY DAY...

THE PROTAGONIST, AT CRUCIAL MOMENTS, WAS ABLE TO ALTER THE WORLD WITH HIS MAGIC. UNDO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE VILLAINS.

"IF SOMEONE HAD THAT POWER HE WOULD USE IT TO ABUSE OTHERS", THEY USED TO SAY TO ME BETWEEN INSULTS. CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS I WAS!

...MAYBE THAT WAY I WOULD FIT IN AND LIFE WOULD BE AS EXCITING AS IN THE COMICS, YOU KNOW? DO SOMETHING THE WORLD VALUES.



"COWARD, FAGGOT..." THINGS GOT PRETTY UGLY. AND ONE OF THOSE DAYS, ONE OF THE QUIETER ONES CAME AND SAID: "YOU KNOW SIGURD IS THE ONE WHO LAUGHS AT YOU THE MOST, BEHIND YOUR BACK, RIGHT? HE'S ALWAYS IMITATING YOUR SHITTY TRICKS".

SIGURD WAS THE ONLY FRIEND I HAD, AND UNTIL ALL THAT HAPPENED, HE WAS MORE OF AN OUTCAST THAN I WAS. I TOLD HIM WHAT THAT KID TOLD ME, AND HE SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS SAYING. IT MADE SENSE, WHAT WOULD HE GAIN BY DOING THAT?



WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRYING ANYTHING IN SUCH A **DISGUSTING** WORLD? WHAT, SO THEY CAN TEAR YOU APART AND TREAT YOU LIKE SHIT?

YES, JUST DURING ALL THAT I FOUND THE MASTER WHO TAUGHT ME **REAL** MAGIC...

GROOOO...



... BUT EVEN HE TOLD ME NOT TO TALK ABOUT IT WITH THE WORLD, THAT PEOPLE HAVE AN **AVERSION** TO ALL THOSE THINGS, WHICH I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW CAN YOU BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU POWERFUL?

...OOOOOOOO



I-IT'S NOT WORTH IT..... FOR THE GOOD OF EVERYONE, IT'S BETTER NOT TO DO ANYTHING...



GROOOOO



SORRY, BOY...



WHAHG!

...I CAN'T ALLOW YOUR HAND TO **NULLIFY** THIS CITY.

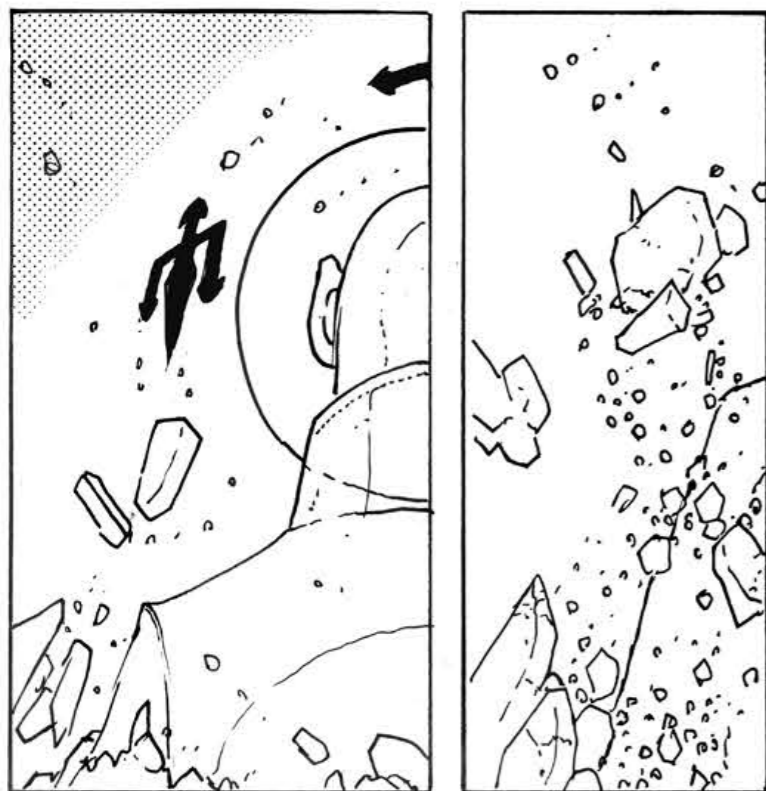
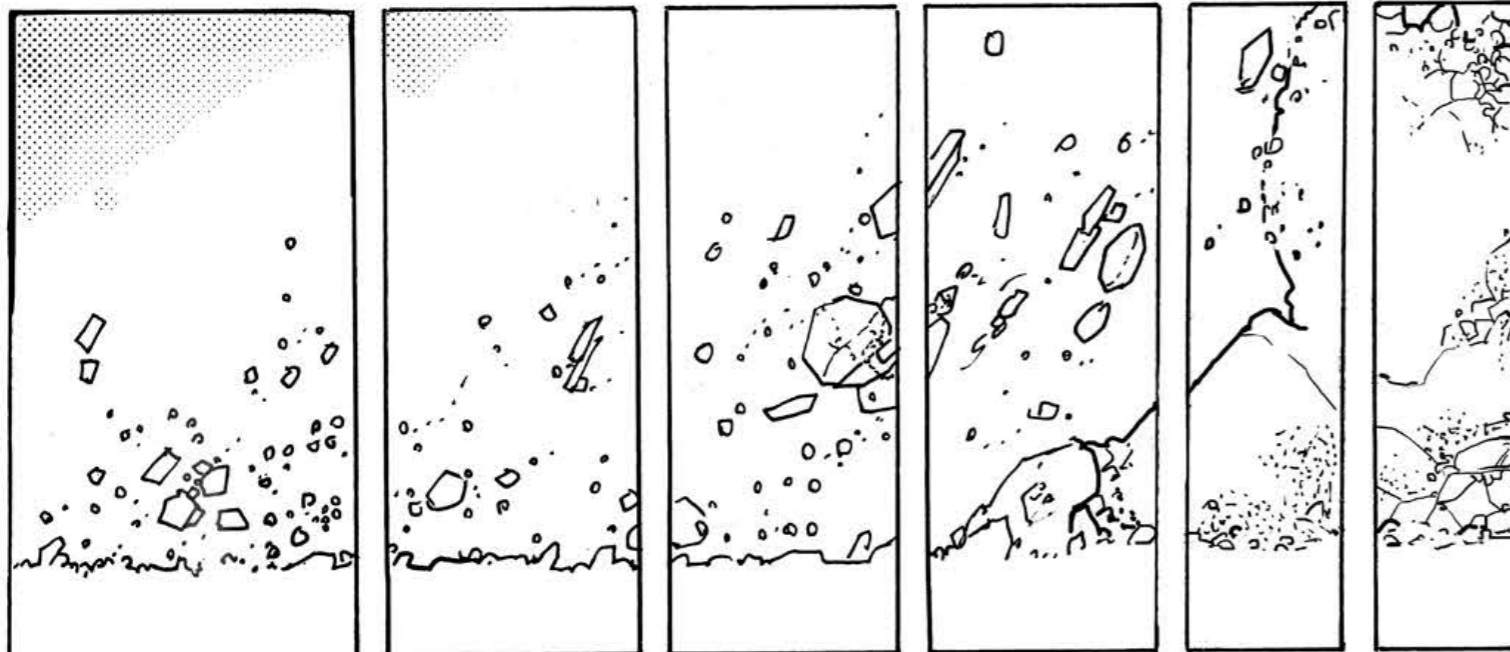
WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING...!

I KNEW THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE BLACK HAND WOULD COME IN NEED OF **POWER** AND STEAL THE EARTH ELEMENT!

WHA...? WHAT ARE YOU S...?

TO BE CONFINED FOR CENTURIES ONLY SO THAT A **MORON** COMES AND TAKES EVEN **THAT** AWAY!

WHAT KIND OF GOD ALLOWS SUCH A THING!?



...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)

