



# Solo Leveling

I

DUBU  
(REDICE STUDIO)

ORIGINAL STORY  
CHUGONG



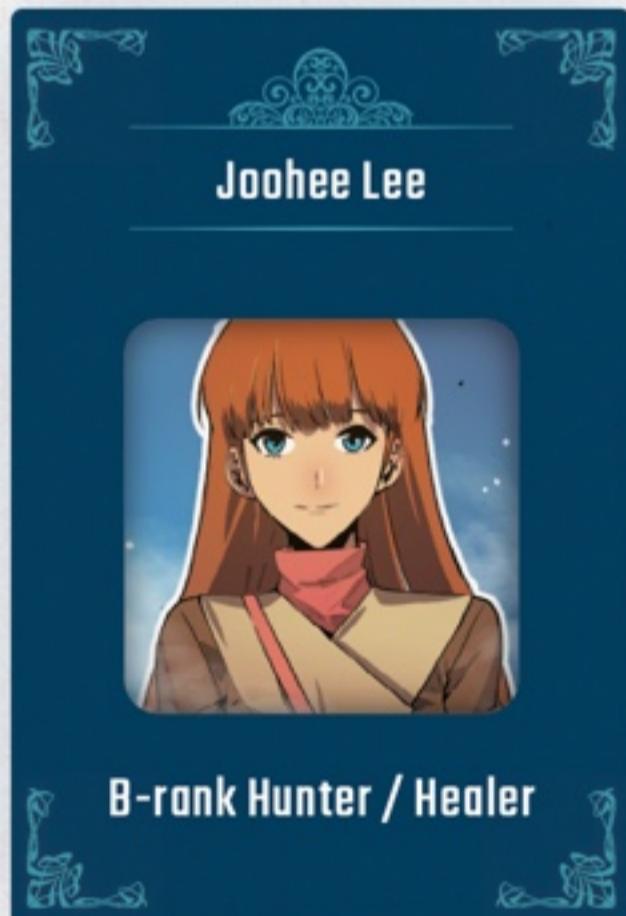
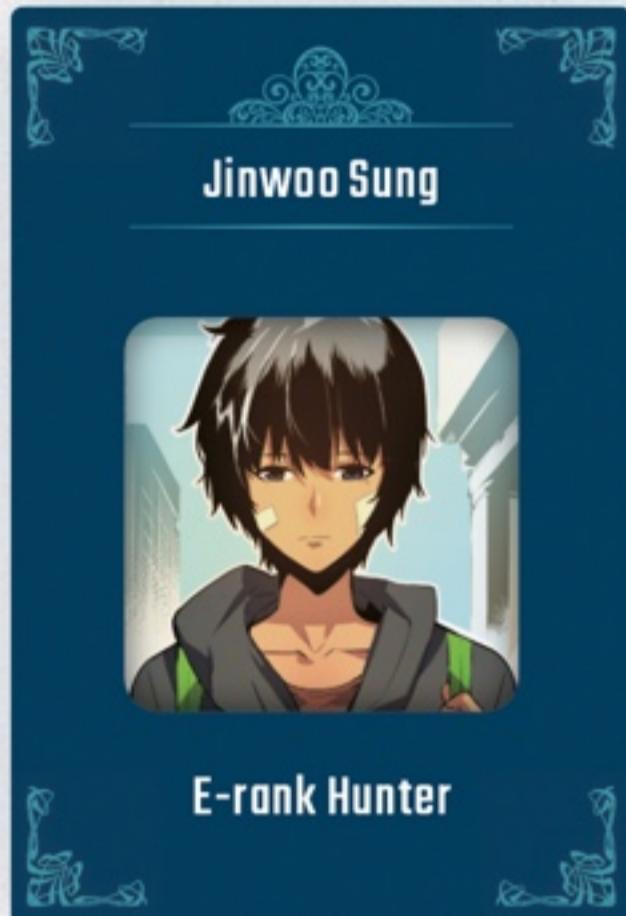
# Solo Leveling

## I

DUBU  
(REDICE STUDIO)

ORIGINAL STORY  
**CHUGONG**

# CHARACTERS





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Solo  
Leveling



# PROLOGUE



Solo  
Leveling

MY NAME IS  
JINWOO SUNG.



HUFF...

E-RANK  
HUNTER.

THE LOWEST  
LEVEL IN THE HUNTER'S  
ASSOCIATION. THE  
WEAKEST OF THEM ALL.

HUFF!

HUFF!

THUD

THUD

**THUD**

**THUD**

**THUD**

FOR SOMEONE  
LIKE ME TO BE IN  
A SITUATION LIKE  
THIS—

I NEVER  
EVEN DREAMED  
POSSIBLE.

HUFF...

HAAAH...

CHAK

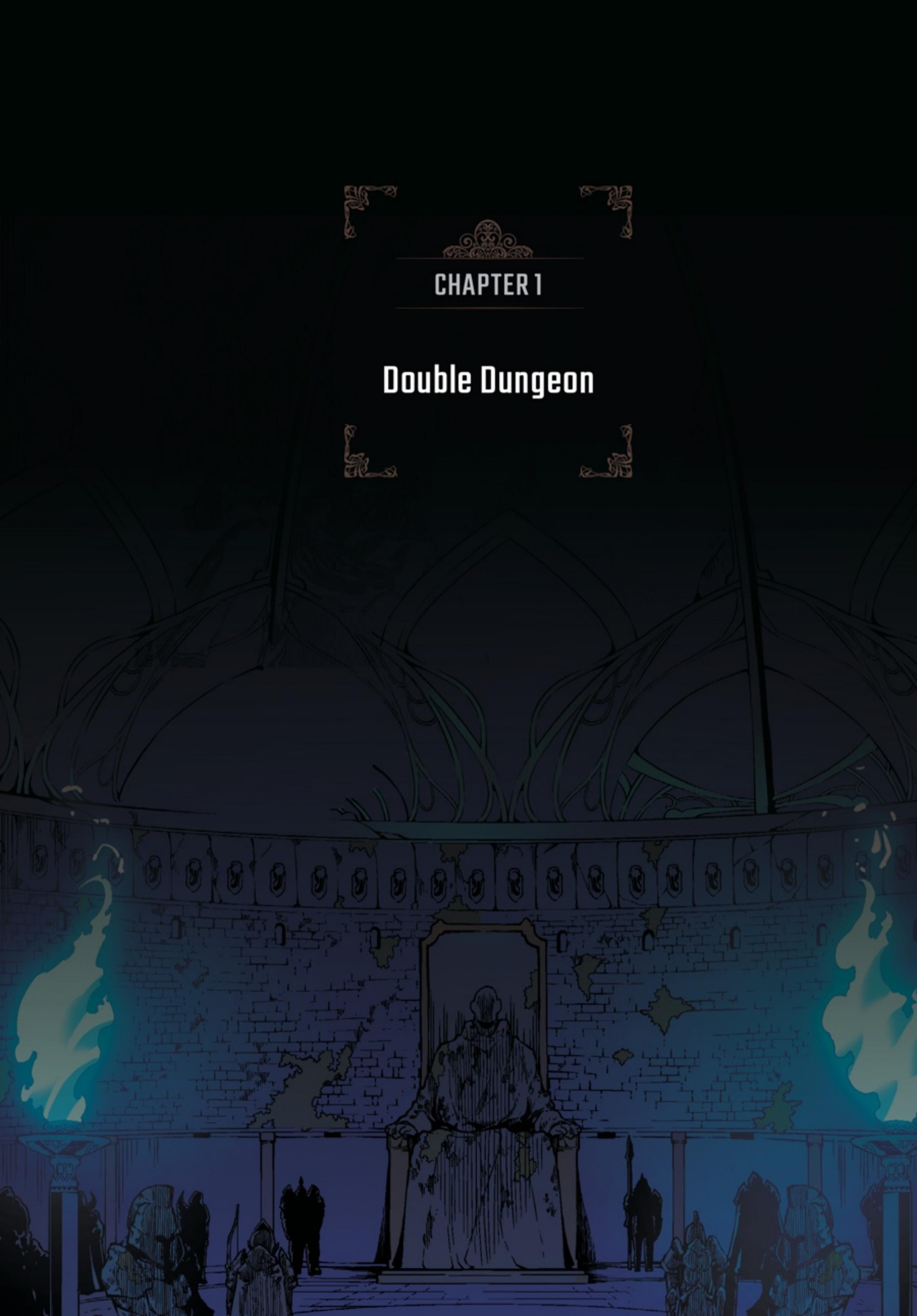
SWISH

DAMN IT...



SHUNK

Solo  
Leveling



## CHAPTER 1

# Double Dungeon

Solo  
Leveling

SEOUL, KOREA



JINWOO SUNG,  
E-RANK HUNTER.



I'M JUST A BIT  
STRONGER AND  
RECOVER SLIGHTLY  
FASTER THAN AN  
AVERAGE PERSON—  
IT'S EMBARRASSING  
TO CALL MYSELF  
A HUNTER.



NOT ONLY DO I GET HURT  
ALL THE TIME, NEAR-  
DEATH EXPERIENCES ARE  
NOTHING NEW TO ME.

I REALLY DON'T ENJOY BEING A HUNTER. IT'S DANGEROUS WORK, AND I HAVE TO RISK MY LIFE WITH EVERY JOB I TAKE.



I ONLY STICK WITH IT BECAUSE THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION HELPS COVER MY SICK MOTHER'S HOSPITAL BILLS.

A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN SEOUL



AS A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE WITH  
NO SPECIAL SKILLS OR TRAINING,  
IT WAS THE ONLY OPTION LEFT TO ME.



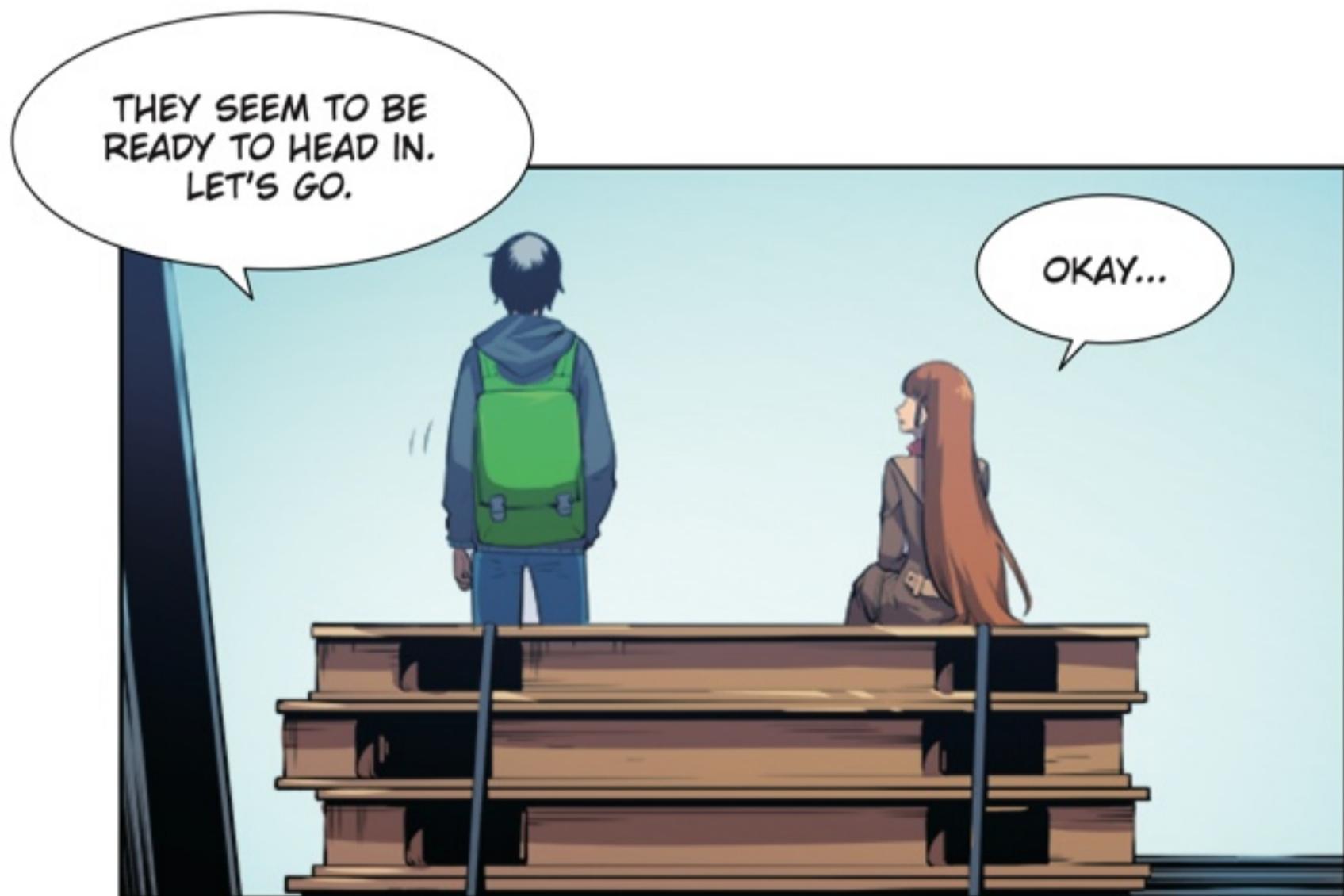
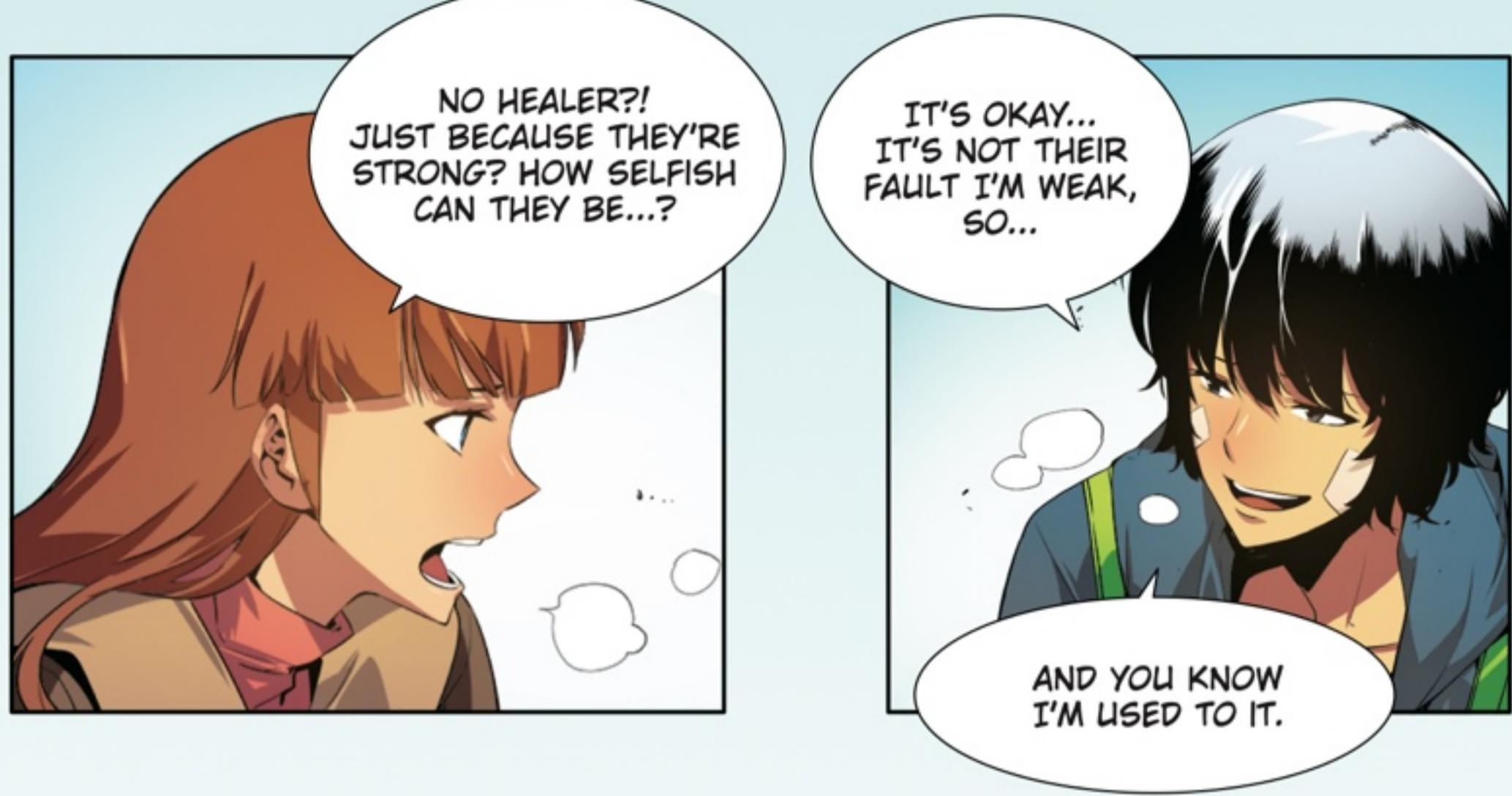
























I THINK IT'S  
D-RANK.

SINCE I STARTED  
WORKING HERE, I'VE  
NEVER SEEN HIM COME  
OUT UNINJURED.

IT'S A D-RANK  
DUNGEON, SO...HE  
SHOULD BE FINE,  
RIGHT?

**WOOOSH**



**SHNK**

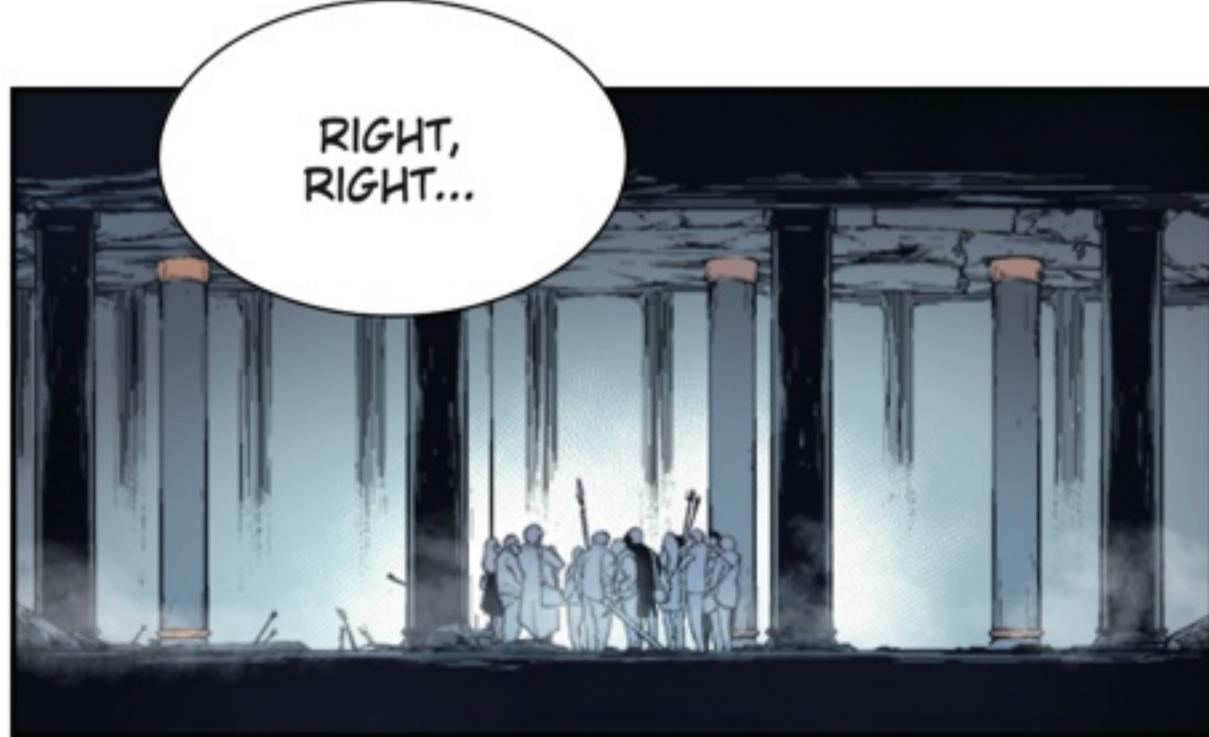






GOOD THING  
THIS RAID IS  
ALMOST OVER.







AN ESSENCE STONE FROM A C-RANK MAGIC BEAST COULD BE WORTH OVER TEN MILLION WON.



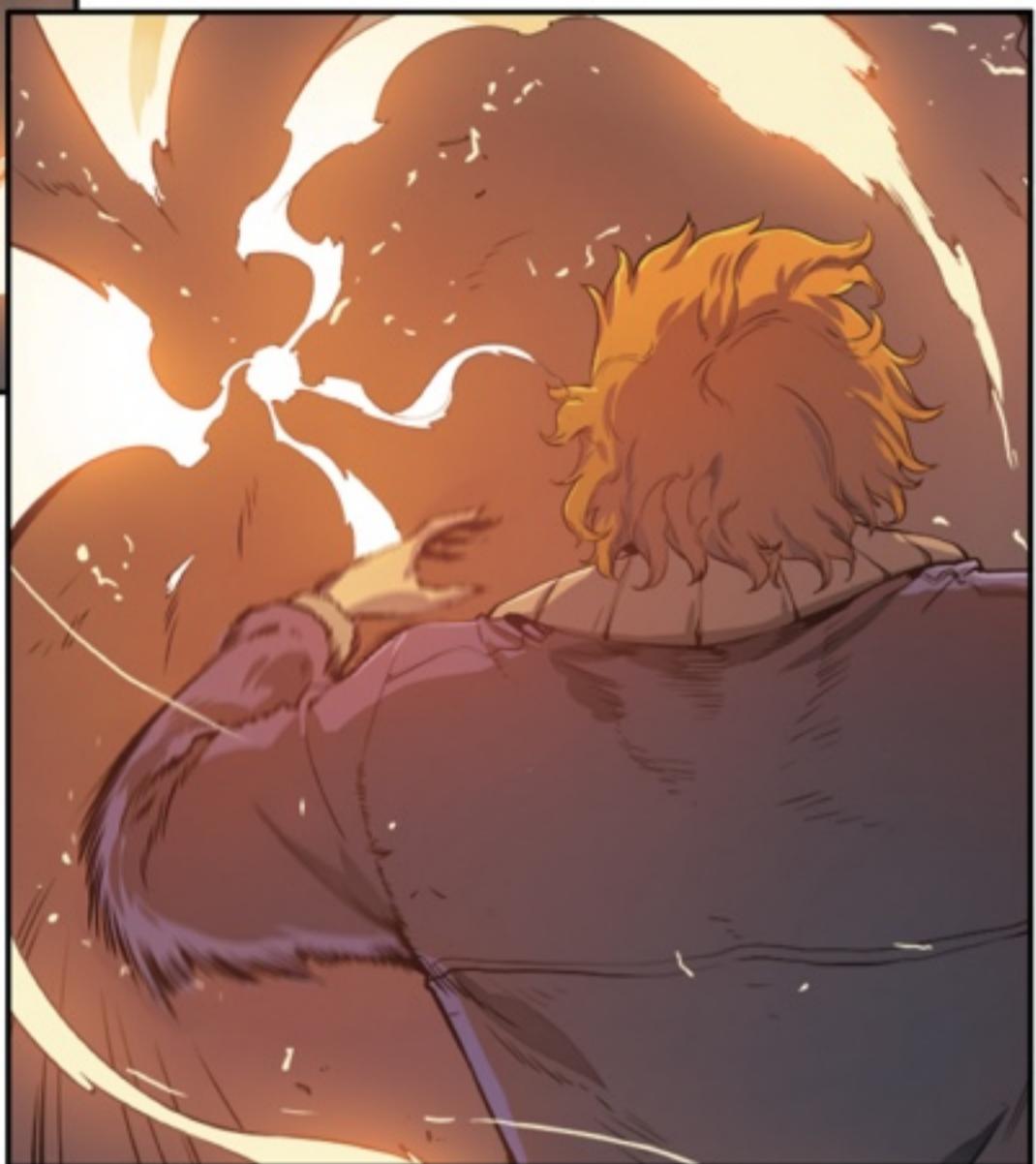
BUT AN E-RANK HUNTER LIKE ME WAS NO MATCH FOR A C-RANK MAGIC BEAST.

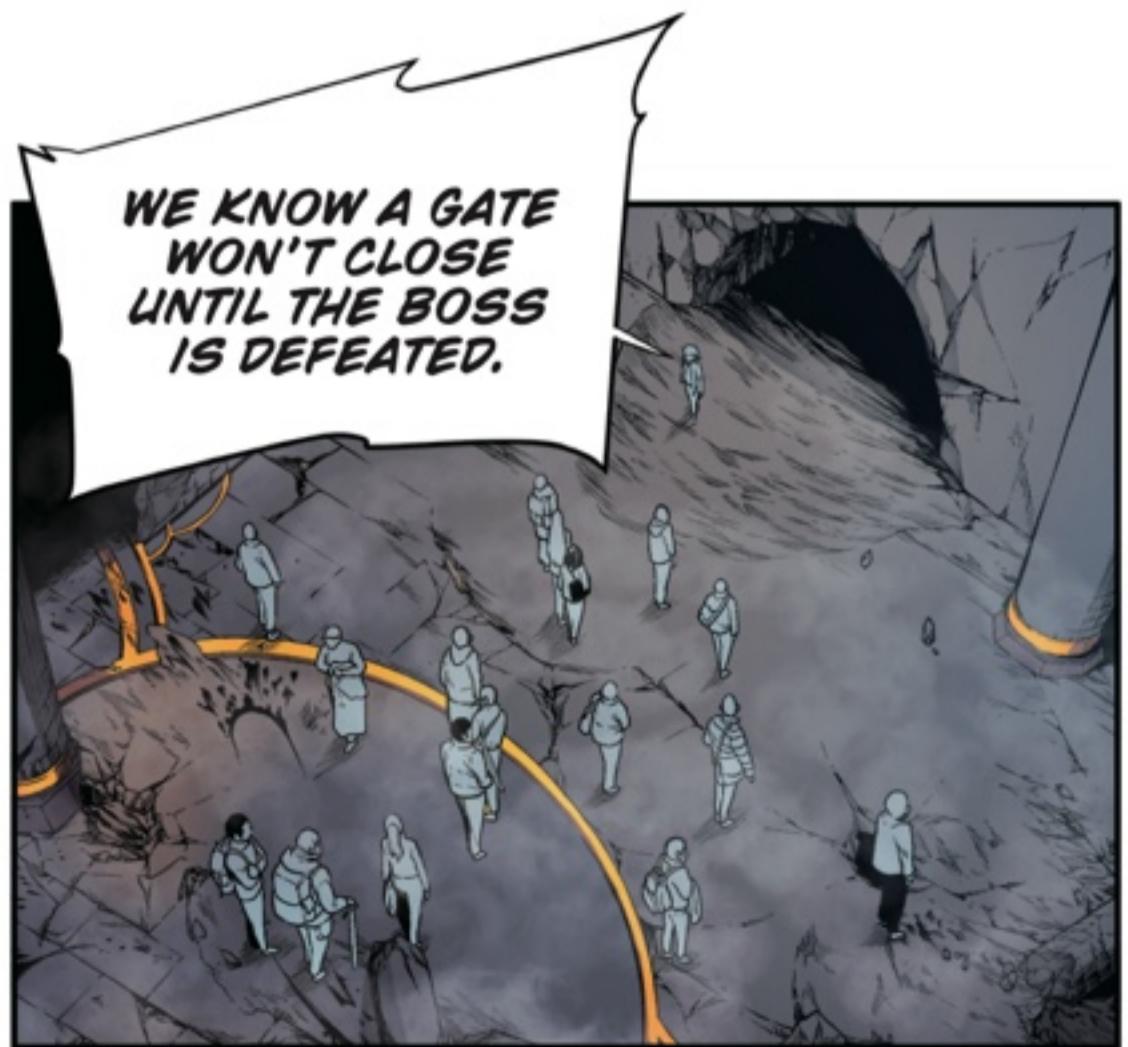
While exchange rates fluctuate daily, an easy conversion estimate is about 1,000 KRW to 1 USD.



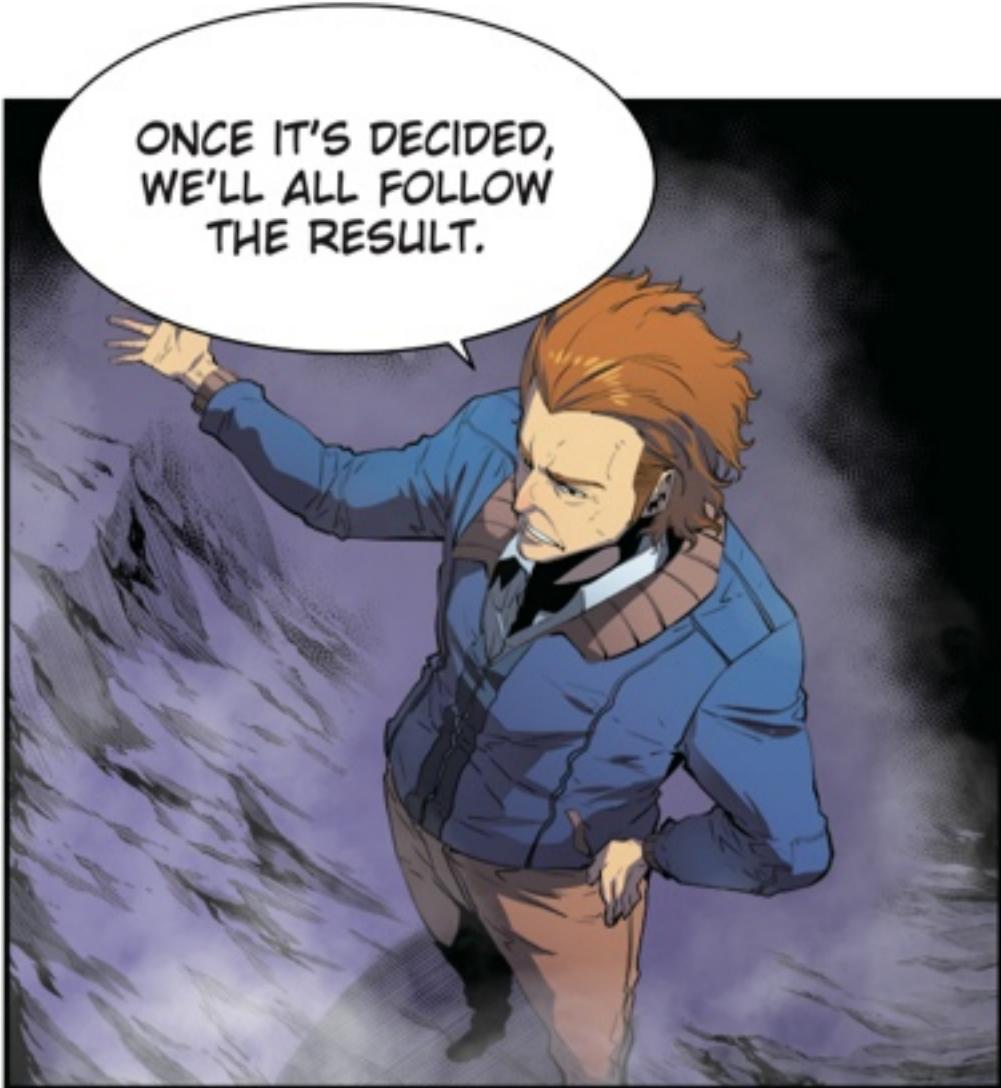


IT ACTUALLY  
EXISTS...A DOUBLE  
DUNGEON.





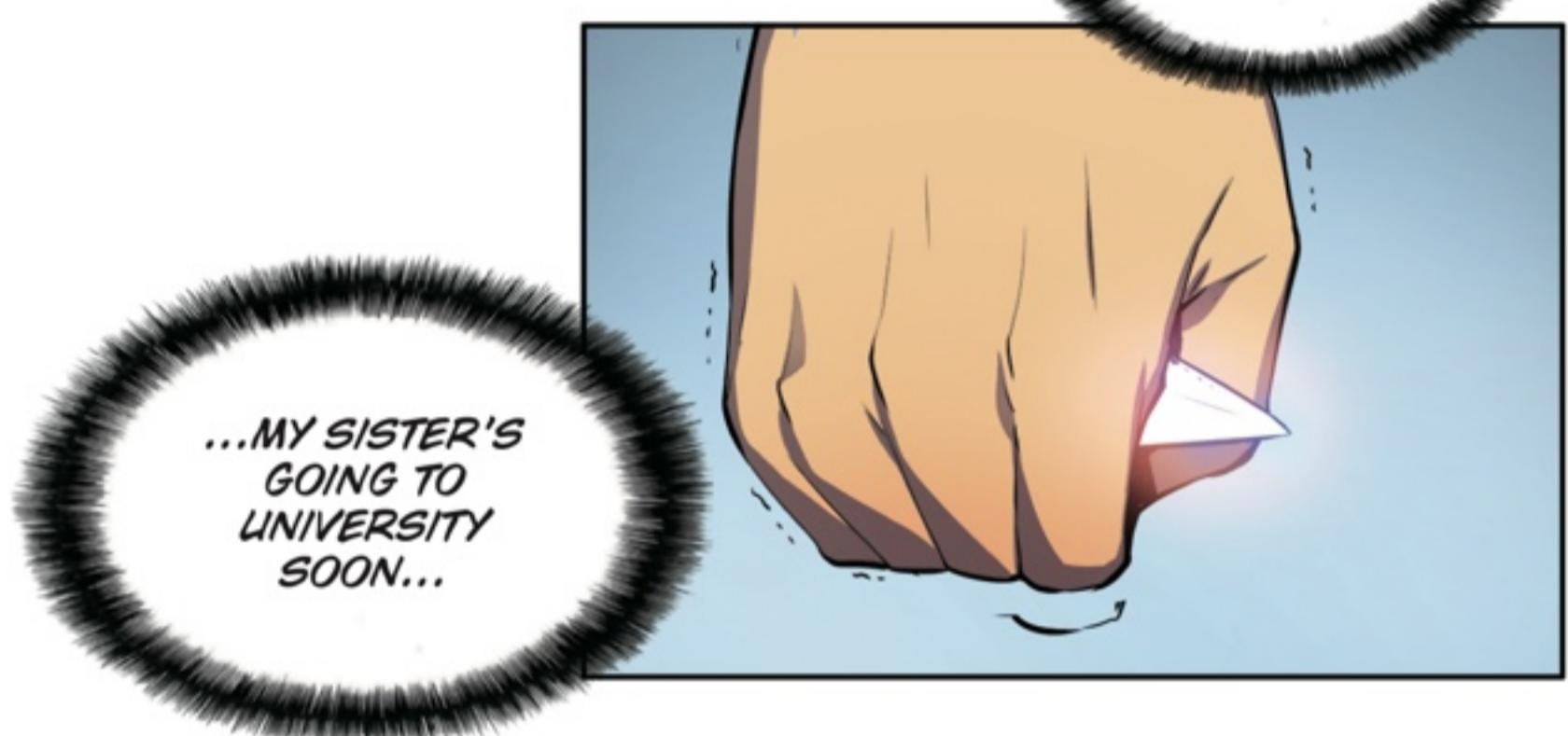




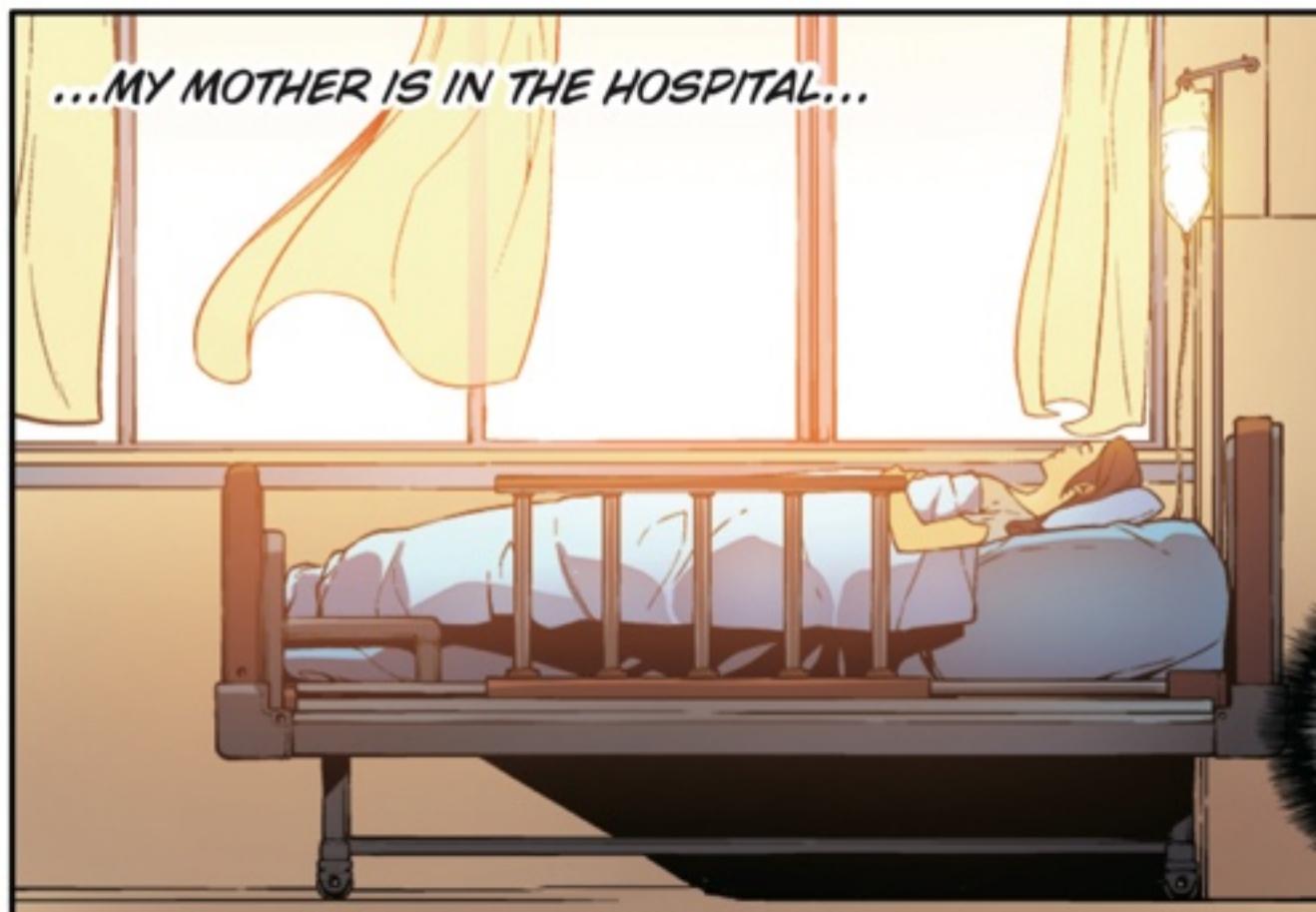


IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ME.

I HAVE NO SAVINGS...



...AND...



FOR MY  
FAMILY—

**I'M  
GOING  
IN  
TOO!**





**I'M GOING FOR  
IT THIS TIME!**





DON'T YOU  
THINK WE'RE  
GOING IN TOO  
DEEP?

HOW LONG  
HAVE WE BEEN  
WALKING?

FOR  
ABOUT FORTY  
MINUTES.

GATES CLOSE AN  
HOUR AFTER THE  
BOSS IS DEFEATED,  
SO WE'RE GOOD  
FOR ABOUT TWENTY  
MORE MINUTES.



SO...  
I'M SORRY.

ABOUT  
WHAT?

DRAGGING  
YOU IN HERE BY  
VOTING YES...

I'M OKAY.  
NO WORRIES.

ARE YOU...  
REALLY OKAY?

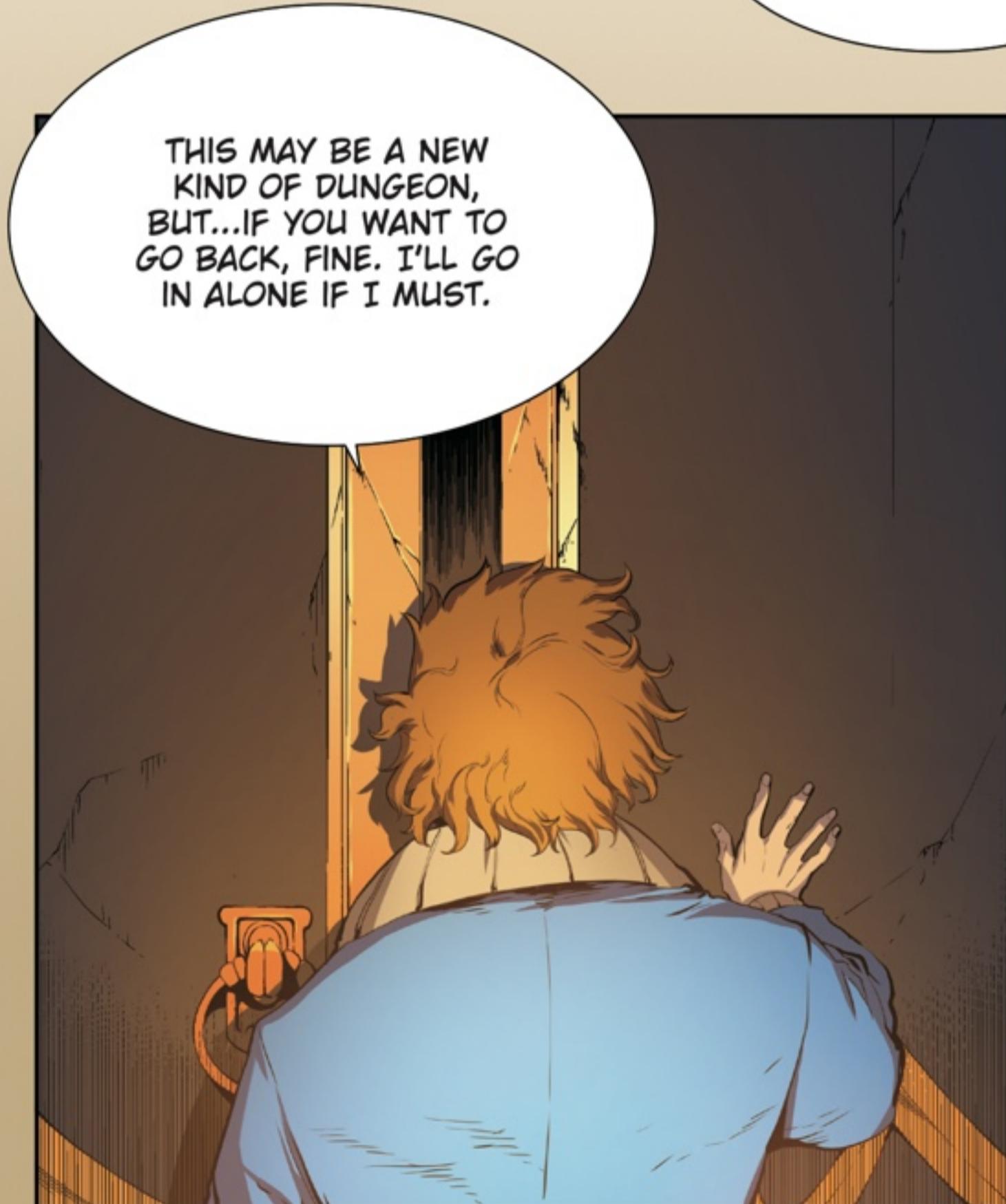






I'VE NEVER  
SEEN A LAIR  
WITH DOORS  
LIKE THIS...

ISN'T THIS  
STRANGE?





SONG'S BEEN  
AT THIS A LONG TIME.  
HE'S UP THERE WITH THE  
STRONGEST ATTACKING-  
TYPE C-RANKERS.

IF HE WASN'T  
OVER SIXTY, HE'D  
BE WORKING FOR A  
LARGE GUILD.

TRUST SONG  
TO THE END.



RRR UMBBLE

THESE DOORS OPEN  
QUITE EASILY...

RUN  
BYE



SHALL WE  
ENTER?

FWSH

FINSH

TORCHES LIT  
UP. NICE.

NEVER SEEN A  
DUNGEON LIKE  
THIS. LET'S SPLIT  
UP AND SEARCH  
THE PLACE.



LOOKS LIKE  
IT'S BEEN A WHILE  
SINCE ANYBODY WAS  
IN HERE.



THESE STONE  
STATUES...THERE'S  
SOMETHING CREEPY  
ABOUT THEM.



THEY'RE  
EACH HOLDING  
SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT. THAT  
ONE HAS A MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENT.

SO MANY OF  
THEM...WHICH KIND  
OF SCARES ME.

WOW...

DO YOU FEEL  
LIKE WE'RE BEING  
WATCHED?

STOP TALKING  
NONSENSE.

WOA, LOOK!  
IT'S HUGE!

COULD  
IT BE THE  
BOSS?



NO WAY.  
IT'S JUST A STONE  
STATUE.

THIS IS THE  
ONLY GIGANTIC  
ONE, THOUGH.

I DON'T  
SEE ANY MAGIC  
BEASTS.

RIGHT?

HUH! I DON'T  
EVEN SEE ANY  
BUGS.

THNK

HMM?

A DIVINATION  
CIRCLE?

SONG! THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
WRITTEN HERE!  
YOU NEED TO  
SEE THIS!



IS IT...A RUNIC  
INSCRIPTION?



LET'S SEE..."THE  
COMMANDMENTS  
OF THE CARTENON  
TEMPLE.

"FIRST, THOU  
SHALL WORSHIP  
GOD."



"SECOND,  
THOU SHALL  
PRAISE GOD."

TH-THERE...THE  
HUGE STATUE...

UH, JINWOO...

"THIRD, THOU  
SHALL PROVE  
THY FAITH."

ITS...EYES...  
THEY JUST LOOKED  
THIS WAY!

WHAT?  
YOU'RE JUST SEEING  
THINGS...



WAIT!



WHAT'S  
THIS...OMINOUS  
ENERGY?!



IT GOT  
STRANGELY  
QUIET.



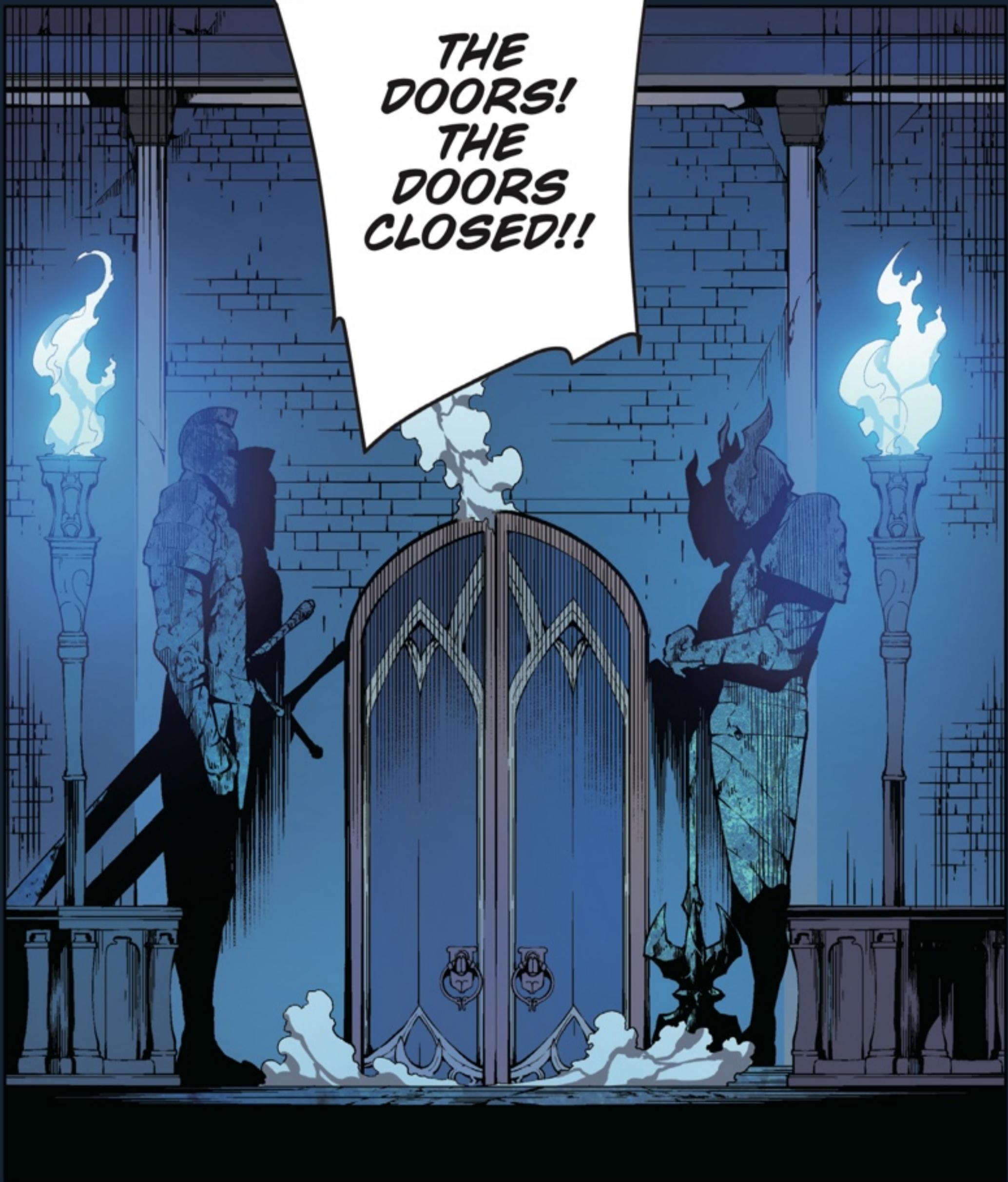
"THOSE WHO FAIL  
TO OBEY THESE  
COMMANDMENTS...

"...SHALL NOT  
BE SPARED."

# KING



**THE  
DOORS!  
THE  
DOORS  
CLOSED!!**



DAMN IT—  
I'M DONE!

THE DOORS!  
WHAT SHOULD  
WE—

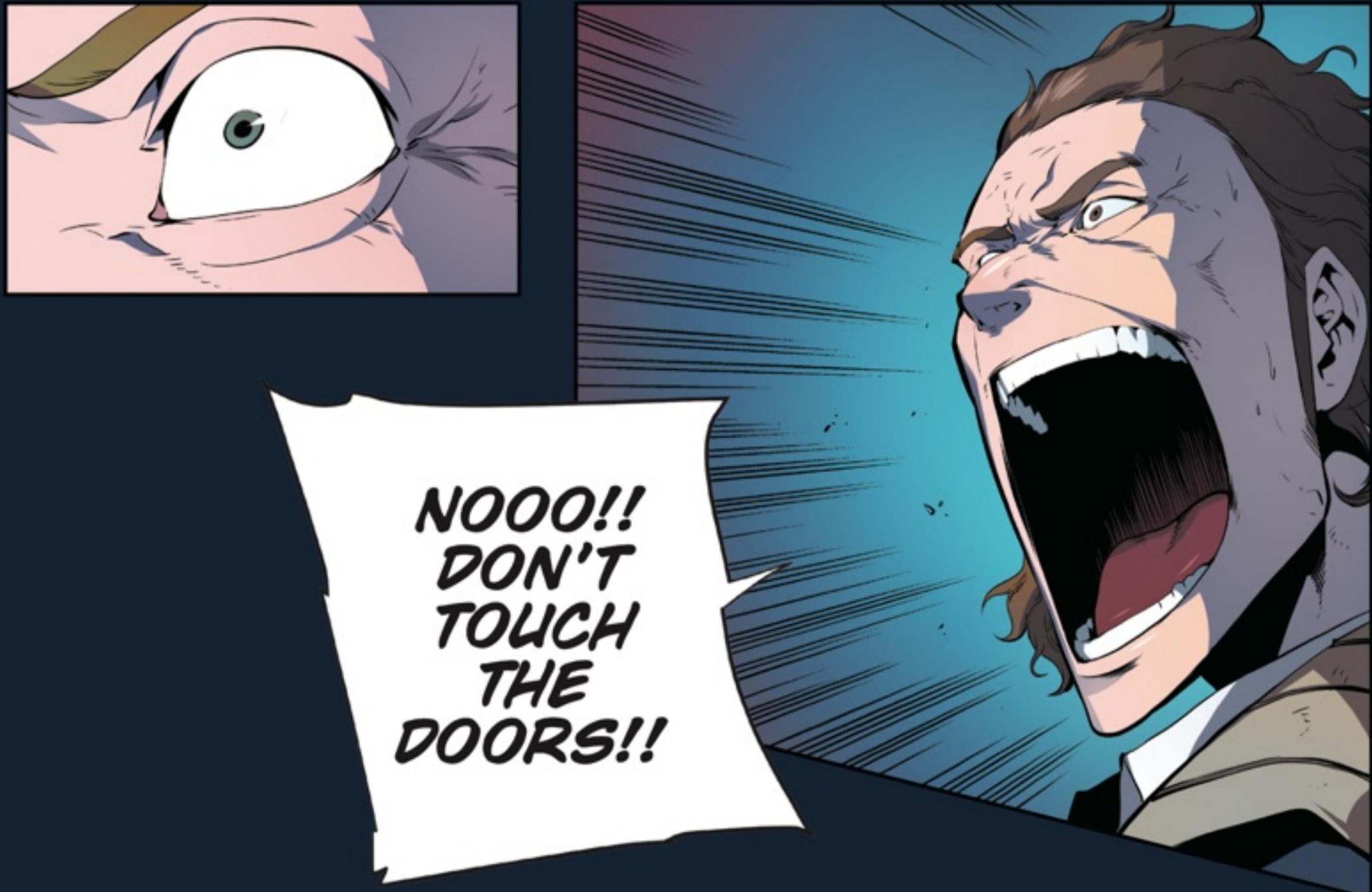
I SHOULDN'T  
HAVE COME TO THIS  
CRAZY PLACE!

I'M OUT  
OF HERE!

GET THE BOSS  
OR TREASURES  
WITHOUT ME.



GOOD LUCK TO  
YOU PEOPLE!







WHUD

SHHK

IT...IT CAN  
MOVE!







**WE REALLY HAVE  
TO FIGHT THOSE  
THINGS?!**

WHAT RANK  
WAS THE MAN WHO  
JUST DIED?

D-RANK?

HE'S  
STRONGER THAN  
ME, AN E-RANK,  
BUT IT ONLY TOOK  
ONE STRIKE?

WAIT A  
MINUTE...



SO CAN THAT  
GIANT...?!



THIS ISN'T THE  
FIRST TIME I'VE COME  
CLOSE TO DEATH.

ON MY FIRST RAID,  
I WAS SEPARATED  
FROM MY PARTY  
AND GOT LOST.



IT WAS ONLY AN  
E-RANK BEAST THAT  
STABBED ME, BUT I  
WAS HOSPITALIZED  
FOR WEEKS.

SHKK



ONCE, I WAS STUCK IN A MAZE  
AND RAN OUT OF FOOD.



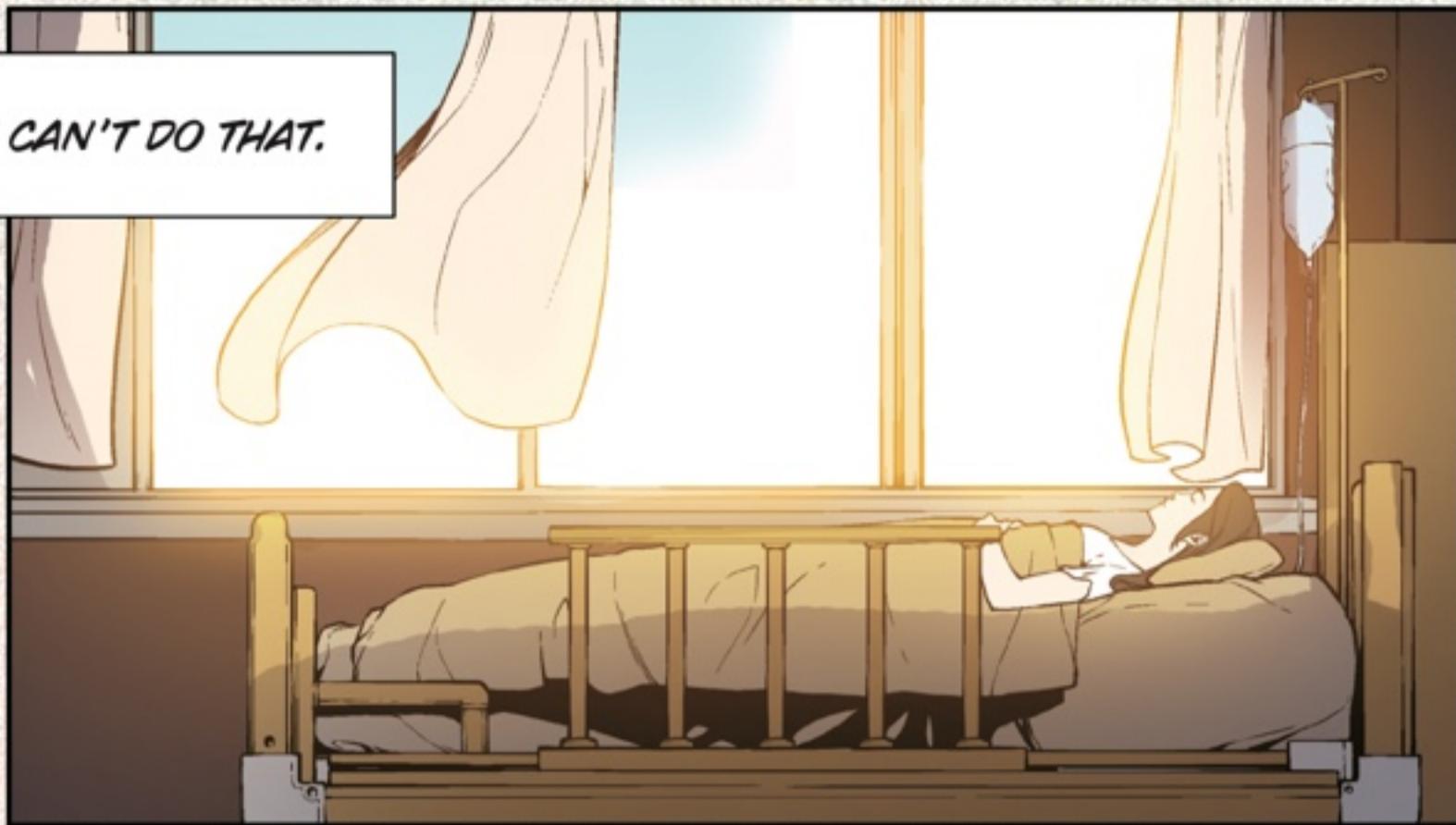
MY LIFE IS IN DANGER EVEN  
IN LOW-RANK DUNGEONS.

OTHER HUNTERS SELL ESSENCE  
STONES AND USE THE MONEY TO  
UPGRADE THEIR WEAPONS...

...SO THAT THEY CAN DEFEAT  
STRONGER MAGIC BEASTS  
AND EARN HIGHER FEES.



BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.



I USE MY  
BARE HANDS.

EVEN IF I BOUGHT  
A SO-SO WEAPON,  
IT'D JUST  
GET DESTROYED  
RIGHT AWAY.

UNLESS IT'S REALLY  
SERIOUS, I CAN BE  
HEALED FROM MOST  
INJURIES ANYWAY.

LOOK—THAT  
DUDE GOT BEAT  
UP AGAIN.

IN AN E-RANK  
DUNGEON?

I FEEL BAD FOR  
THE HEALERS WHO RAID  
WITH HIM.

IT'S TWICE  
THE WORK.



AMID ALL THE MOCKERY,  
I CONTINUED TO GET  
BEATEN UP EVERY DAY...

...DOING POORLY AT A  
DANGEROUS JOB, AND PUTTING  
MY LIFE ON THE LINE.



*...I COULD TELL  
RIGHT AWAY.*

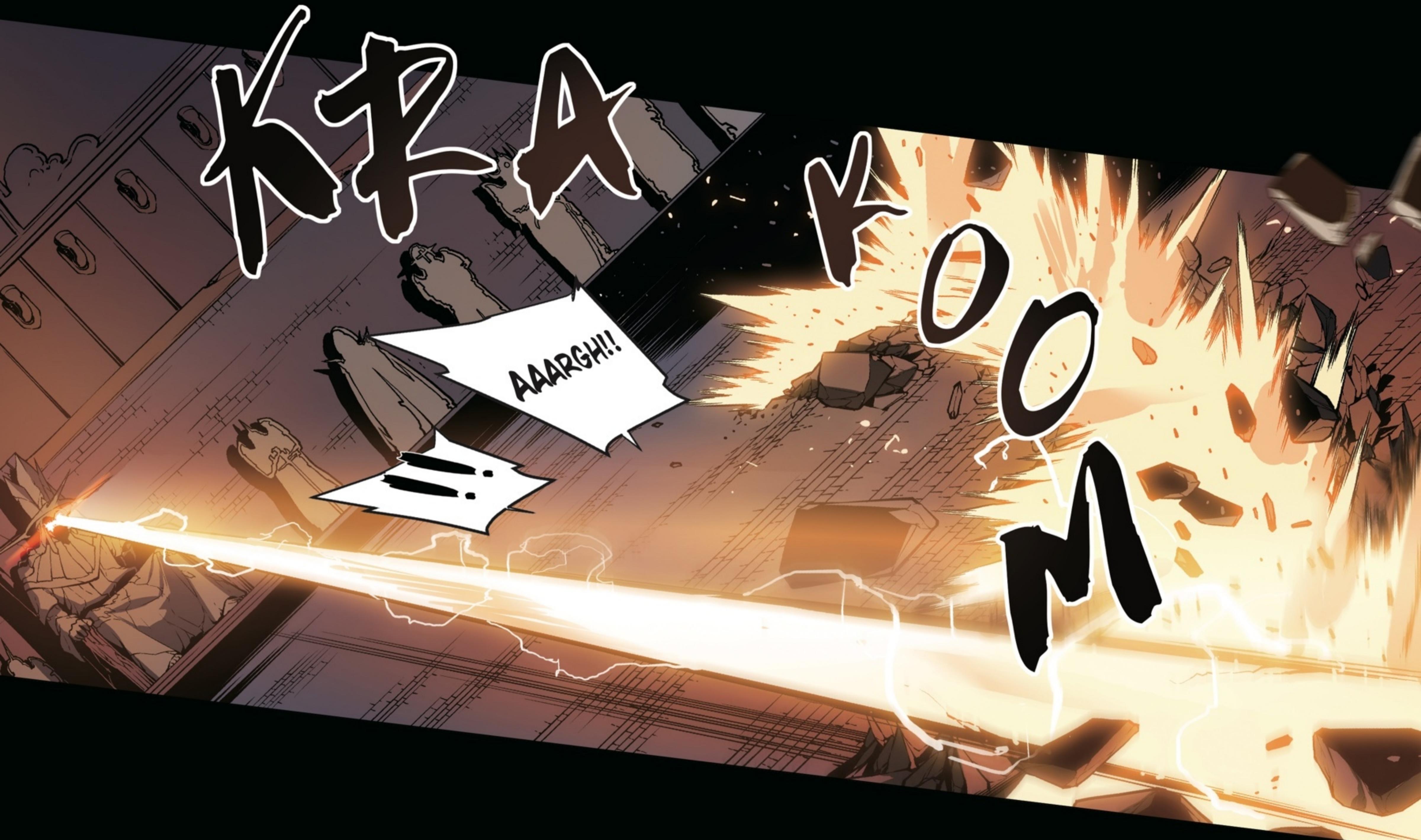
**SNAP**

**EVERY-  
ONE!  
DUCK!**

**GRAB**







AAARGH!!

KO

S H H H N G



**WTF-FN-BLUE**

**GET  
UP!**

**HEY!**





THAT'S WHY SHE  
ONLY DOES EASY  
RAIDS DESPITE BEING  
A B-RANK HEALER.

BUT THIS  
PLACE...

PSSHHH

...DOES NOT  
LOOK EASY.

EVERYONE  
WHO KEPT MOVING  
WAS KILLED. THOSE  
WHO HEARD YOU  
SURVIVED.

OH...  
I SEE.

HUH?  
DIDN'T YOU  
YELL KNOWING  
SOMETHING WAS  
COMING?

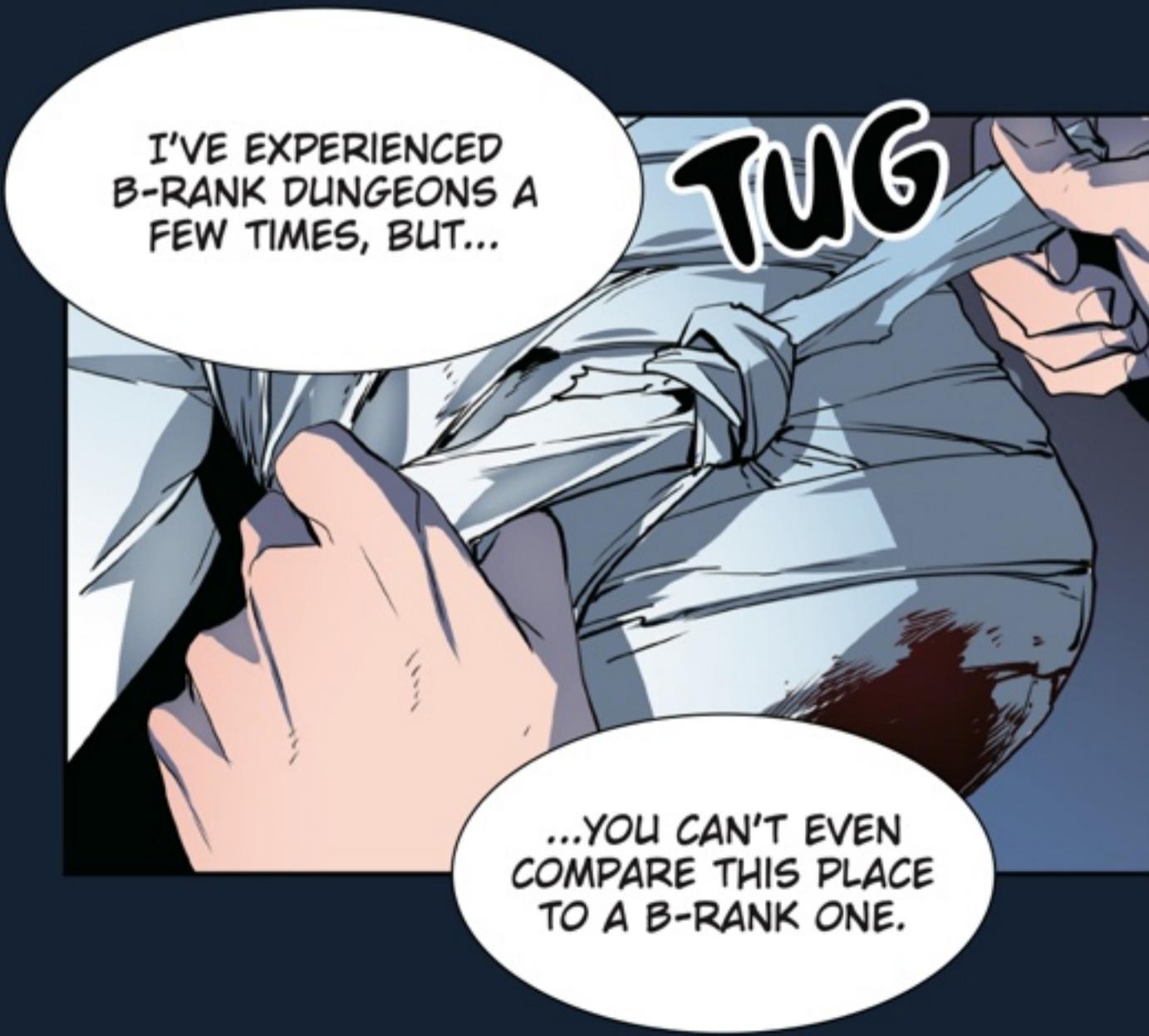
I...  
I JUST SENSED  
DANGER.

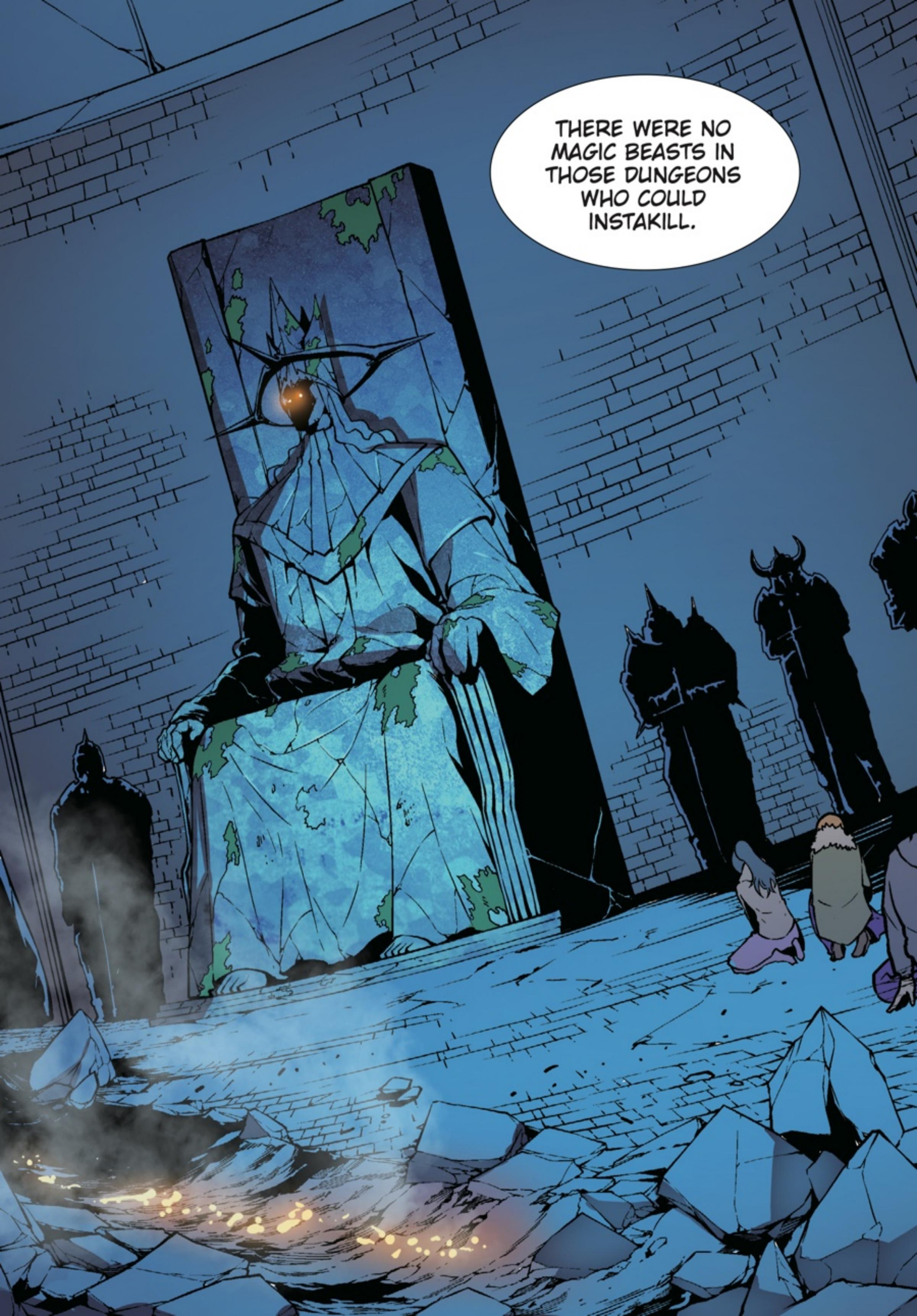
AH?!

YOUR...  
YOUR ARM!

RRR  
RIP

IT'S TOLERABLE.  
JUST HELP ME  
STOP THE BLEEDING,  
PLEASE.





THERE WERE NO  
MAGIC BEASTS IN  
THOSE DUNGEONS  
WHO COULD  
INSTAKILL.



THAT BASTARD  
IS A-RANK...



NO...



...MAYBE S-RANK!



THOSE  
COMMANDMENTS  
I READ...

"FIRST, THOU SHALL  
WORSHIP GOD.  
SECOND, THOU SHALL  
PRAISE GOD.

"THIRD, THOU SHALL  
PROVE THY FAITH.  
THOSE WHO FAIL  
TO OBEY THESE  
COMMANDMENTS...

"...SHALL NOT BE  
SPARED." THAT WAS  
WHAT IT SAID.







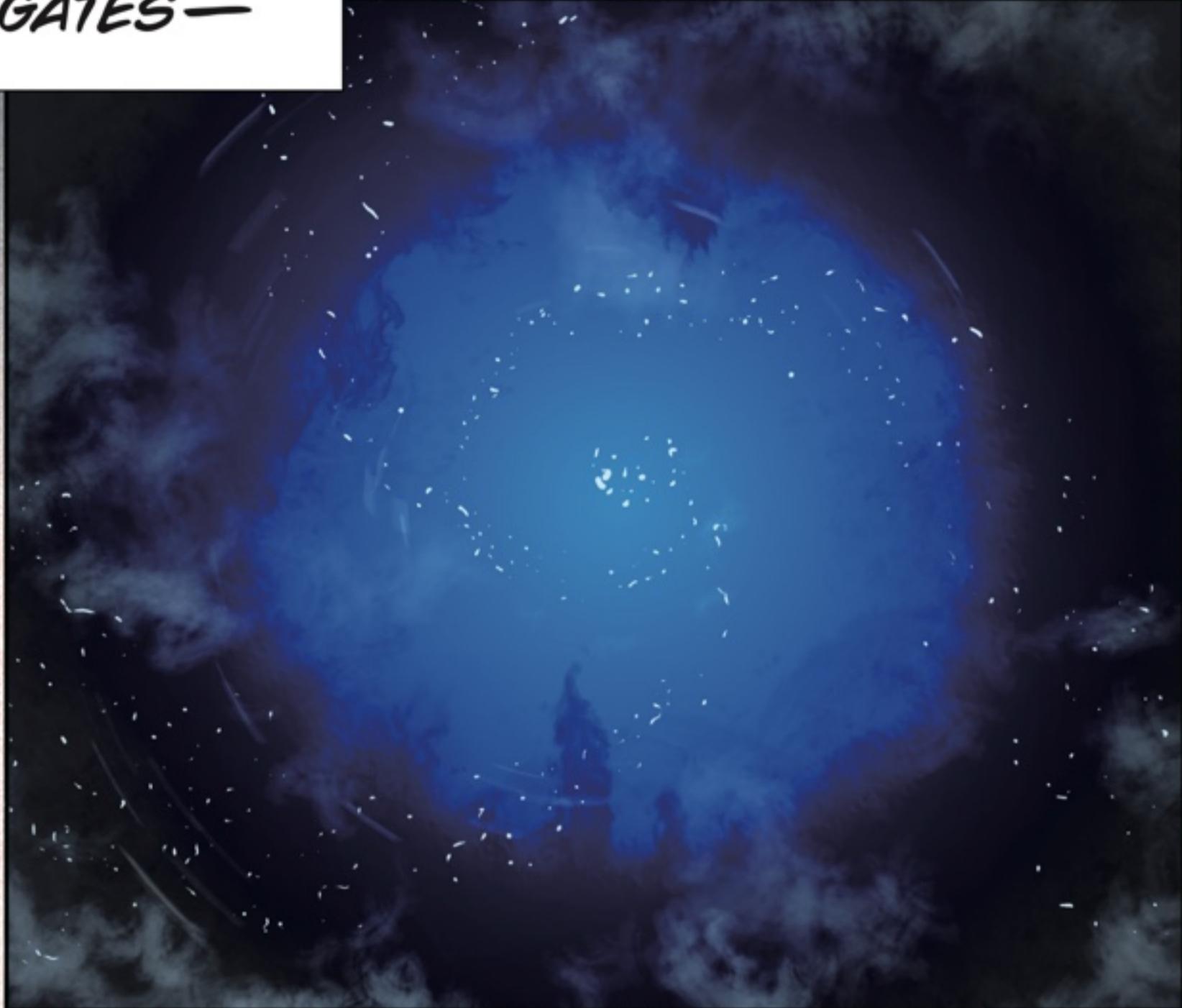
A dark, moody comic panel. In the foreground, a character with short dark hair, seen from the back, wears a long, dark, flowing robe. They are standing on a rocky ledge, looking out over a vast landscape. The sky is filled with large, dark, jagged clouds. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a lighter sky. A speech bubble originates from the left side of the frame, containing the text "...THAT BASTARD, ISN'T IT?"

...THAT BASTARD,  
ISN'T IT?

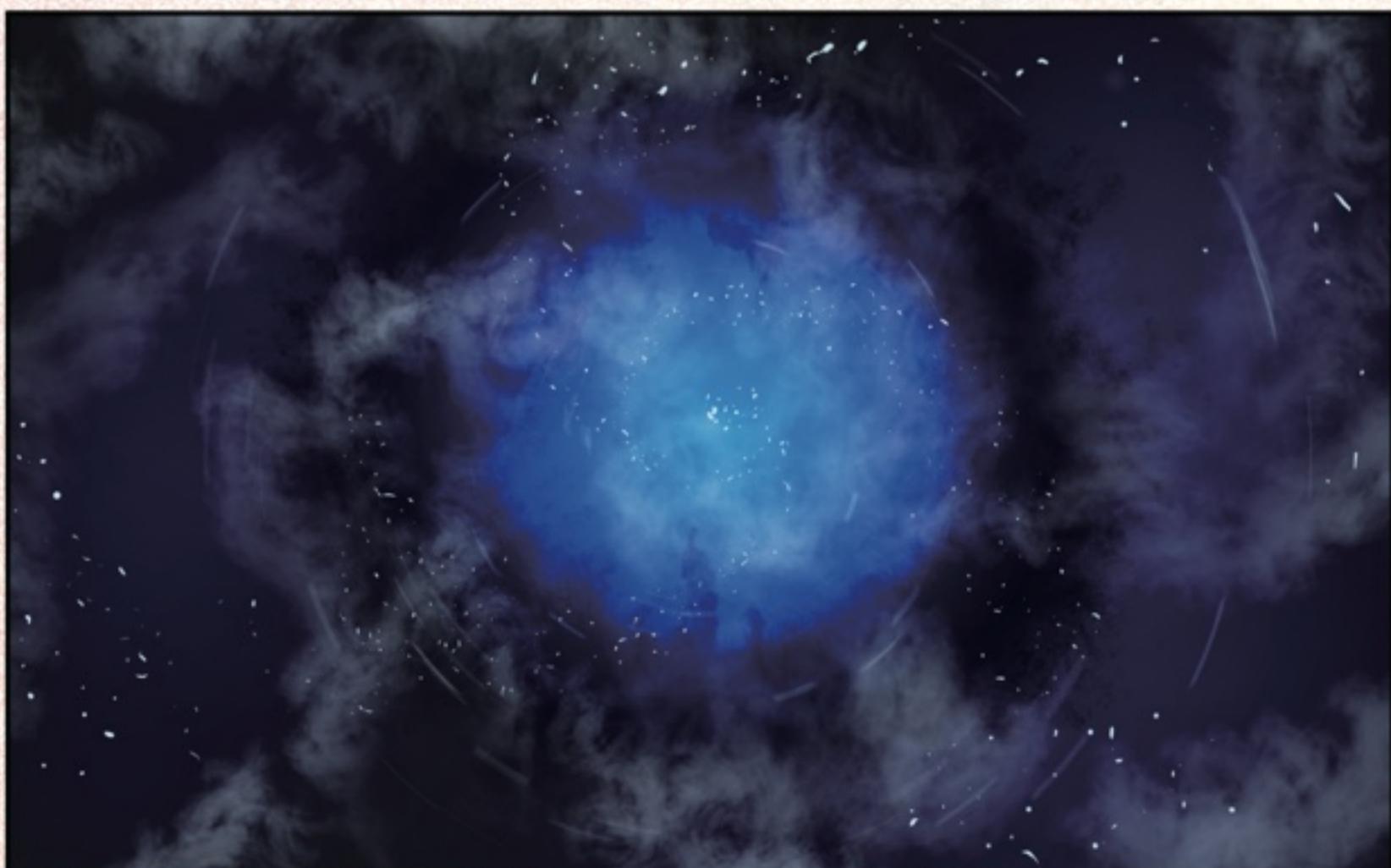


IT'S ONLY A MATTER  
OF TIME BEFORE WE  
ALL WIND UP DEAD...

GATES —



PATHS THAT LEAD FROM HERE  
TO THE OTHER WORLD.



ABOUT A  
DECADE AGO...

...THE FIRST GATE APPEARED, AND THE  
INEXPlicable BEGAN TO HAPPEN.

FOR ONE, AWAKENED  
BEINGS WHO ARE KNOWN  
AS HUNTERS SHOWED UP.



THEY RECEIVE THEIR POWERS  
DURING THEIR AWAKENING,  
AND THAT POWER NEVER  
CHANGES.

I'M ONE OF THEM, BUT  
BECAUSE MY POWER  
IS SO LOW, I WAS  
CLASSIFIED E-RANK.

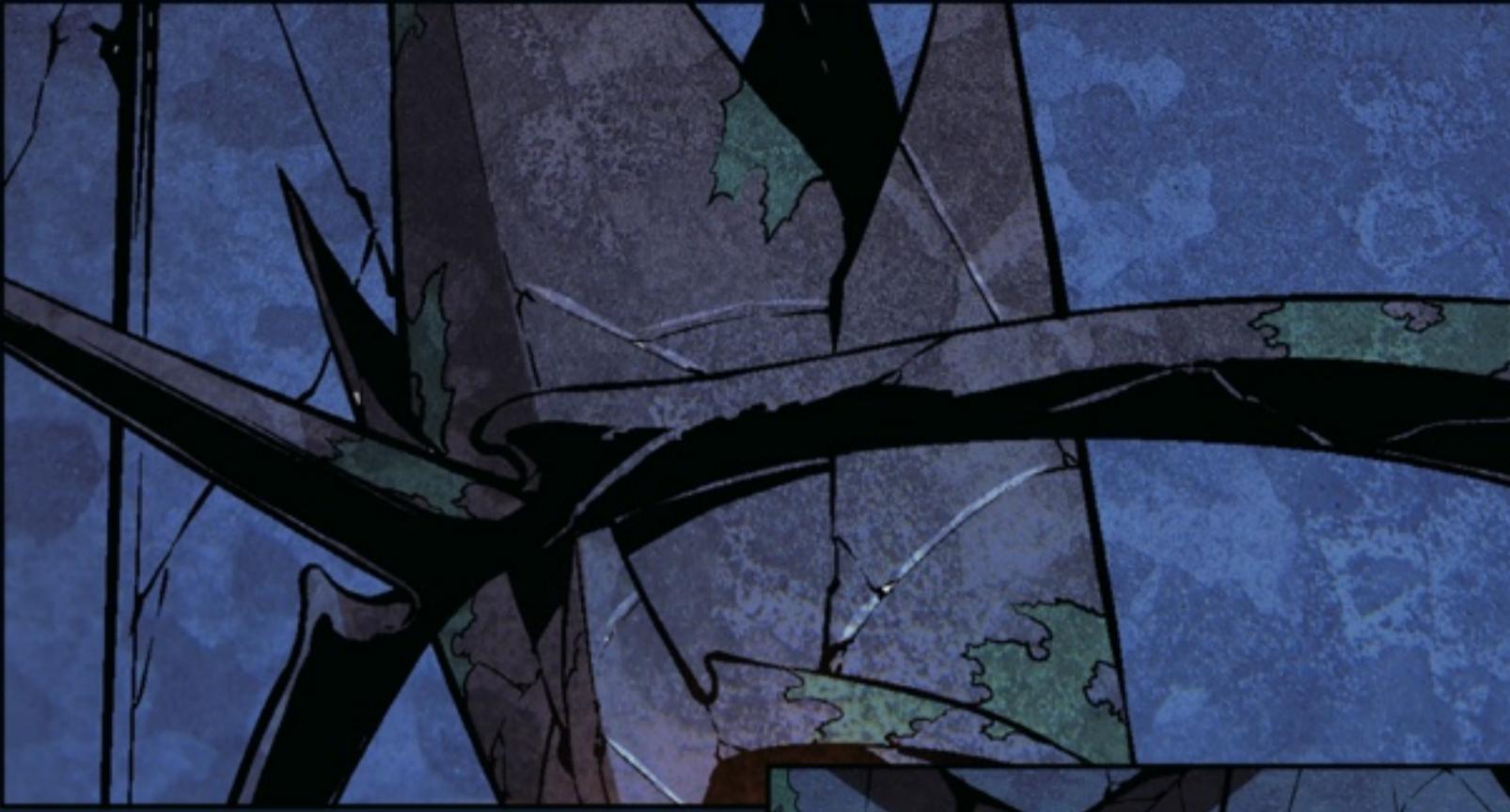
DESPITE BEING STRONGER  
THAN THE AVERAGE HUMAN,  
MY ABILITIES ARE A FAR CRY  
FROM WHAT THE HIGHER  
RANKS CAN DO.



THESE BEINGS RAID  
DUNGEONS THAT LIE BEYOND  
THE GATES IN ORDER TO  
DEFEAT MAGIC BEASTS...

...AND THOSE WHO  
MADE IT A JOB ARE  
CALLED HUNTERS.

SOMETIMES,  
BEYOND A GATE...



...A SCARY...



...AND  
UNBEATABLE...



...MONSTER  
APPEARS.



NOTHING CAN BE  
DONE. WE ONLY HAD  
THREE HEALERS ON  
THIS "EASY" RAID.



THIS IS ALL NEW,  
EVEN FOR A B-RANK  
HEALER LIKE JOOHEE...  
HA-HA...NO HEALING  
MAGIC FOR ME.



IT'S NOT A GOOD  
IDEA TO TACKLE THAT  
THING HEAD-ON.

ONCE THINGS CALM  
DOWN, WE SHOULD  
CONSIDER AN EXIT  
STRATEGY.



WHY  
US...?





LIKE MR. SONG  
SAID, WE'LL GET  
ATTACKED AS SOON  
AS WE MOVE.

EVEN IF  
WE'RE LUCKY AND  
GET CLOSER TO THE  
DOORS, THERE ARE  
GUARDS RIGHT BY  
THE ENTRANCE.

THEY HAVE NO  
INTENTION OF LETTING  
US OUT!



I CAN'T DIE  
LIKE THIS.

I'VE JUST SIGNED  
A CONTRACT WITH A  
MAJOR GUILD.

I CAN'T  
DIE IN A PLACE  
LIKE THIS.

HOO!

HOO!



YES!  
I CAN DO  
THIS!

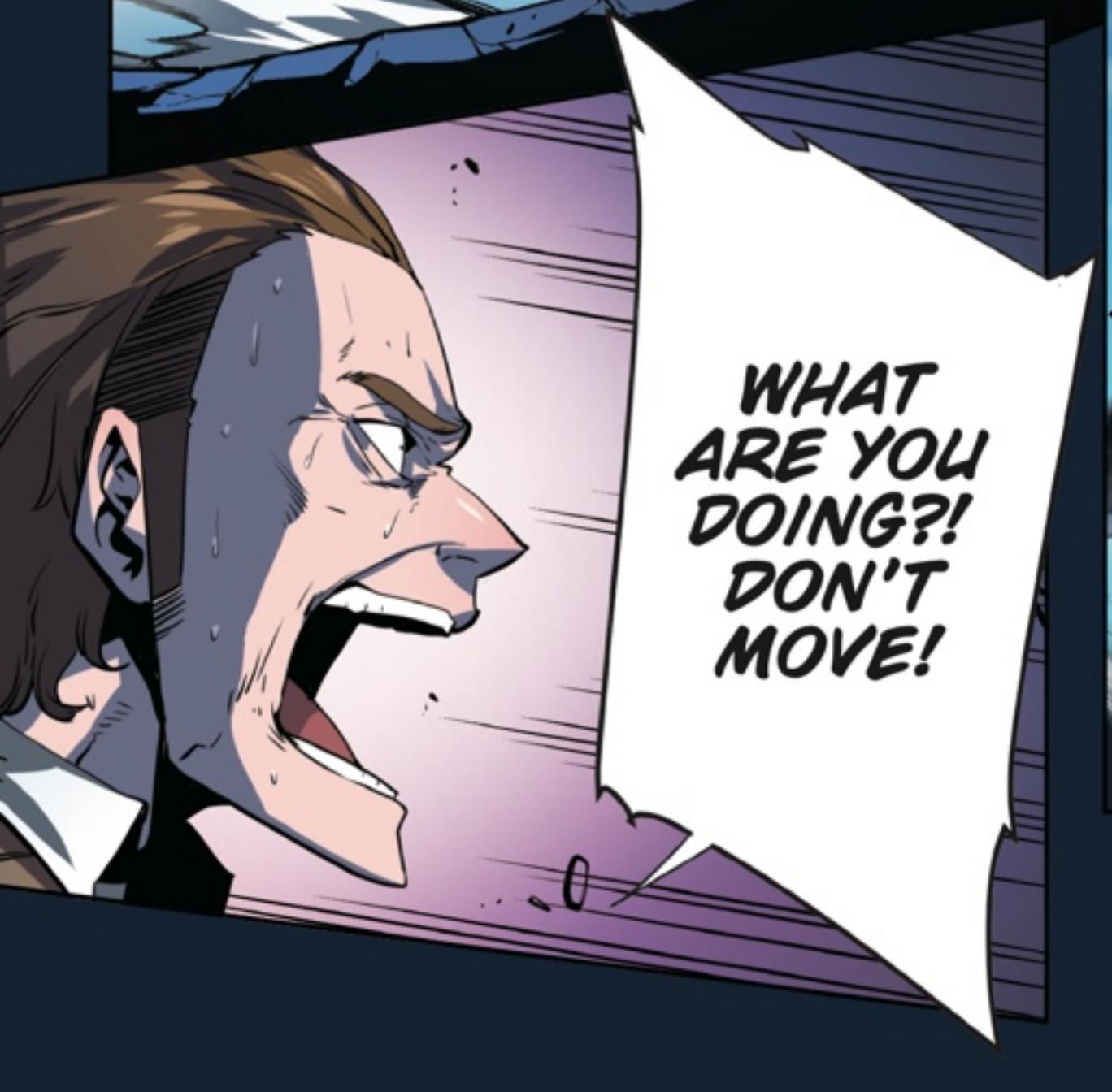


I'LL GET  
THROUGH THOSE  
DOORS IN A  
FLASH!

CRACK CRACK



I'M ESPECIALLY  
QUICK AS FAR  
AS COMBAT  
HUNTERS GO.



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!  
DON'T  
MOVE!



CRACK



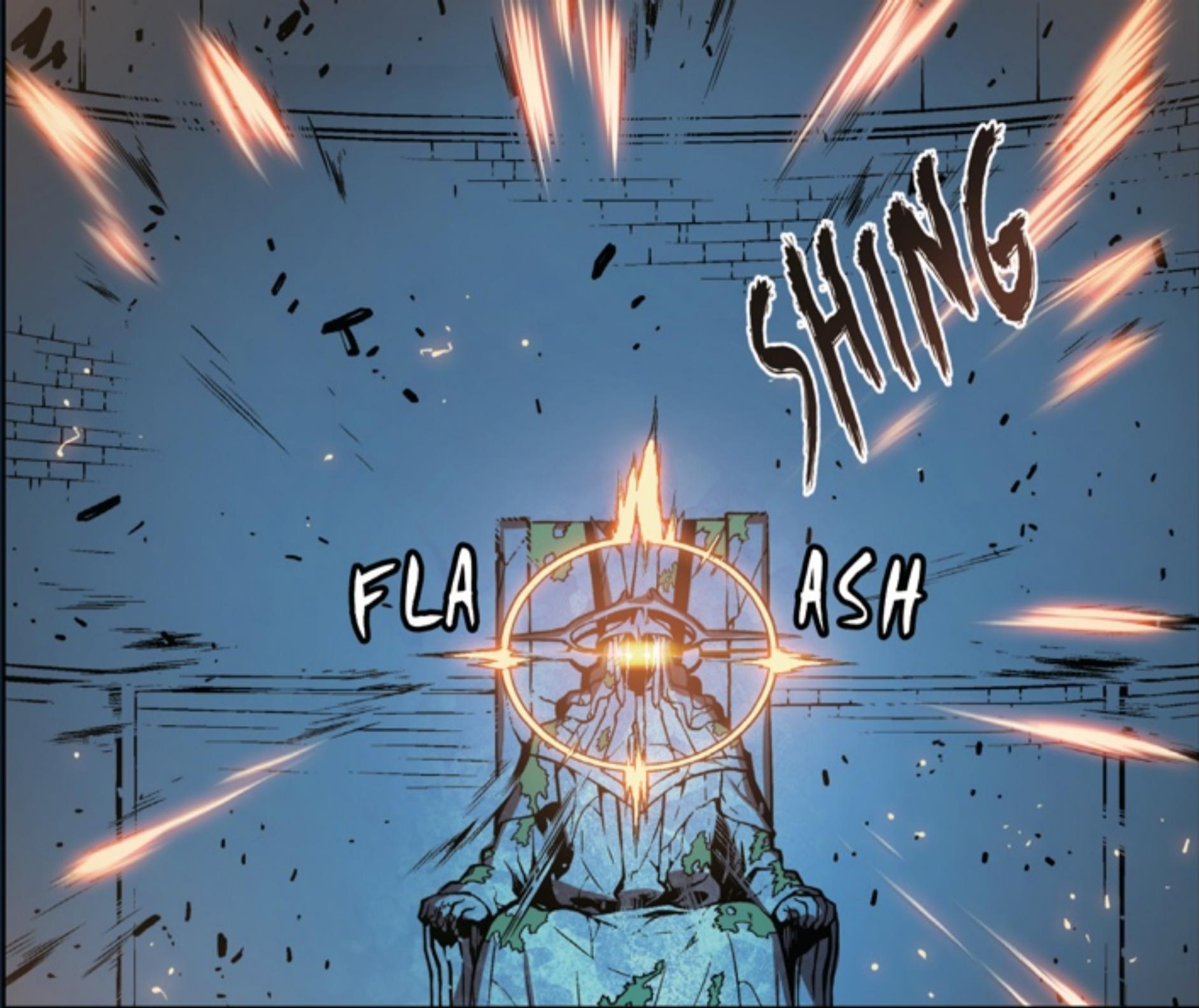
BOOM

Shogun







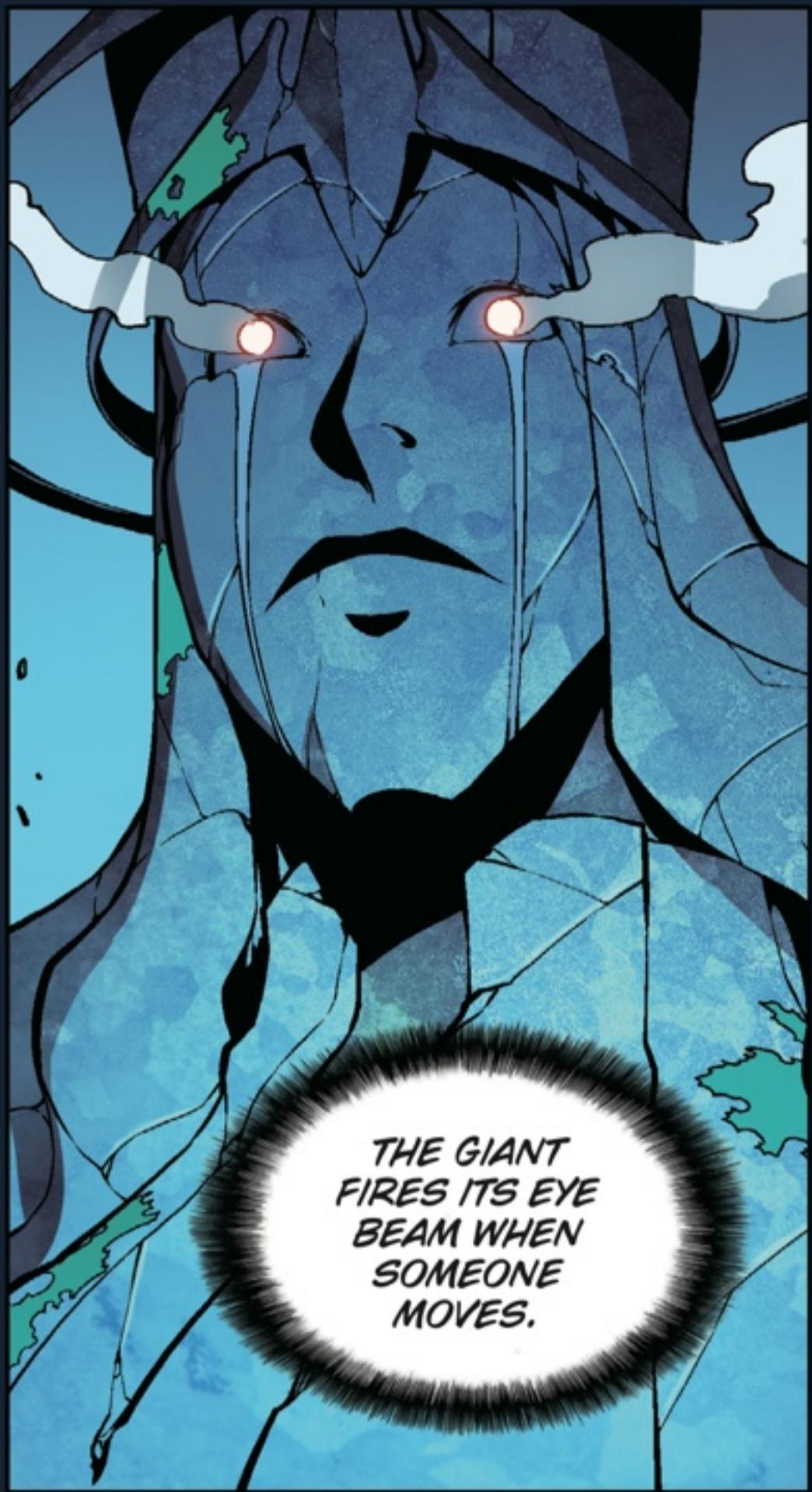






THEY  
COULD KILL  
US, BUT THEY  
AREN'T.

MAGIC  
BEASTS USUALLY  
ATTACK HUNTERS  
AS SOON AS THEY  
SEE THEM. BUT  
THESE ONES ARE  
DIFFERENT.





RULES?

IT CAN'T  
BE...



ARE THERE  
RULES IN THIS  
ROOM?!





YES!  
THAT'S IT!!





GOD...



SIR...  
THERE ARE  
RULES IN THIS  
DUNGEON.







THAT'S THE  
LOOK OF A  
FIGHTER.



...THAT STATUE ISN'T  
ATTACKING ANYTHING  
THAT MOVES!



## CHAPTER 2

# Three Commandments



Solo  
Leveling







THAT BASTARD  
ATTACKS IF YOU'RE  
ABOVE A CERTAIN  
HEIGHT.

P  
H  
O  
O  
O



I'VE GOT IT!  
I UNDERSTAND  
THE FIRST  
COMMANDMENT!

Drip

EVERYONE!  
SUBMIT TO THE  
GIANT!

HAVE YOU  
LOST YOUR MIND,  
JINWOO SUNG?!

WHAT THE  
HELL?!

WHAT?

YOU'VE FIGURED  
SOMETHING OUT,  
HAVEN'T YOU?

YES.



IT ONLY SHOOTS  
IF WE RAISE OUR  
BODIES ABOVE A  
CERTAIN HEIGHT.

THEN, IF WE ACT  
OUT "THOU SHALL  
WORSHIP GOD"...



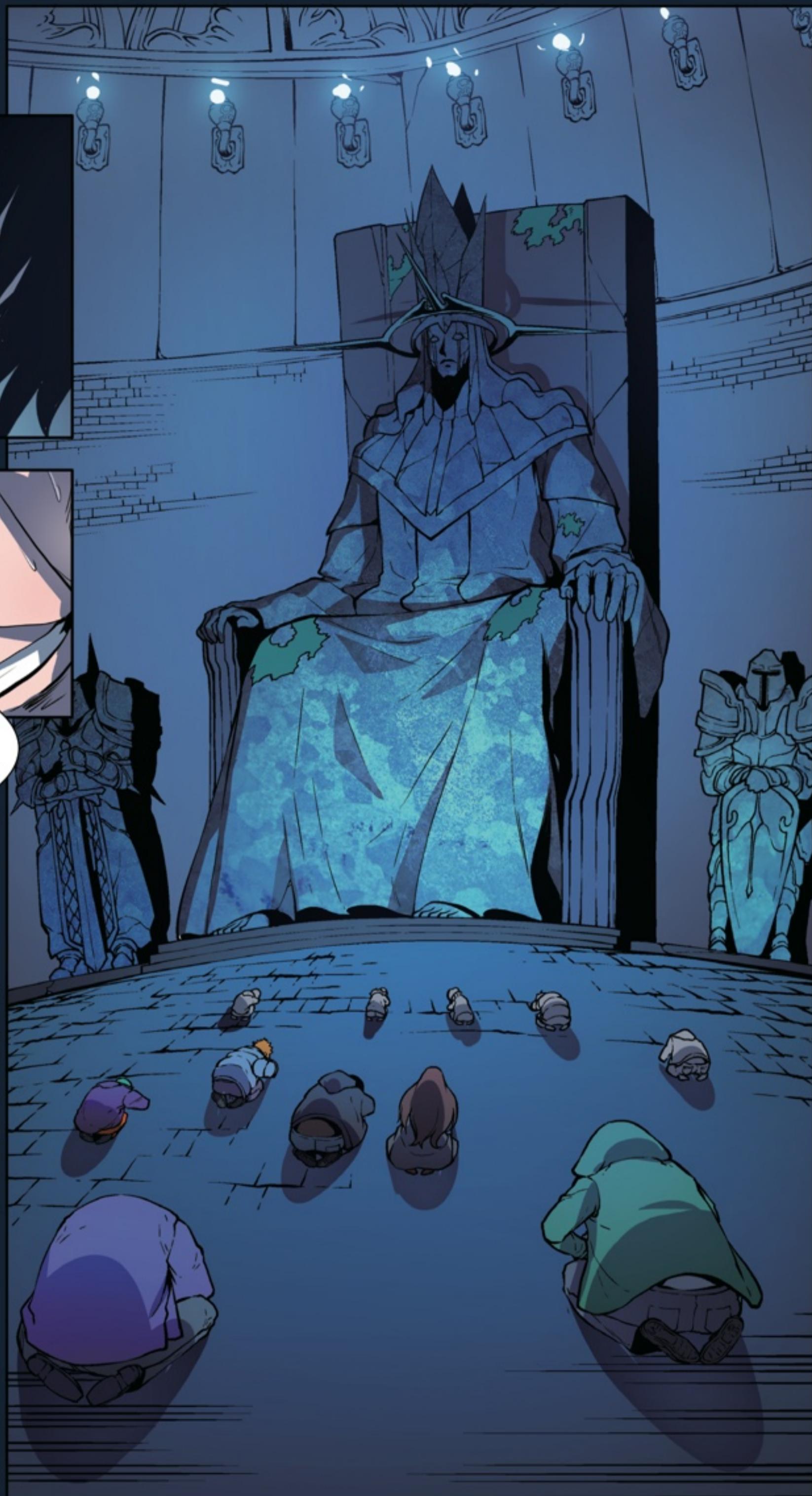
...AND WE STAY  
LOW, KNEELING  
IN FRONT OF THE  
STATUE...

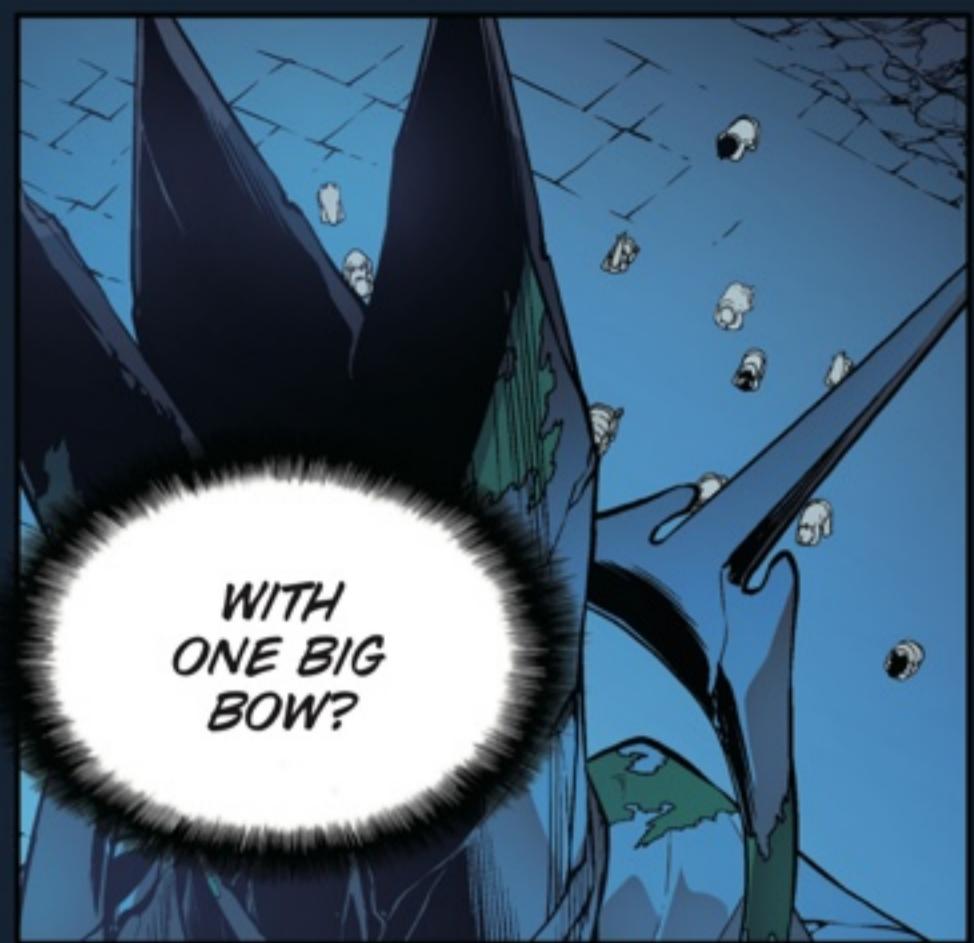


ANOTHER  
HUNCH?

...YES.  
FOR NOW.

WE HAVE  
NO BETTER  
OPTION.







SMIRK









IS IT PLANNING  
SOMETHING ELSE?

IS THIS REALLY  
WORKING?



UH, HEY!  
IF YOU JUST  
STAND UP...

LOOK!

IT'S NOT  
ATTACKING!



IT'S TRUE!

IT'S  
NOT DOING  
ANYTHING!

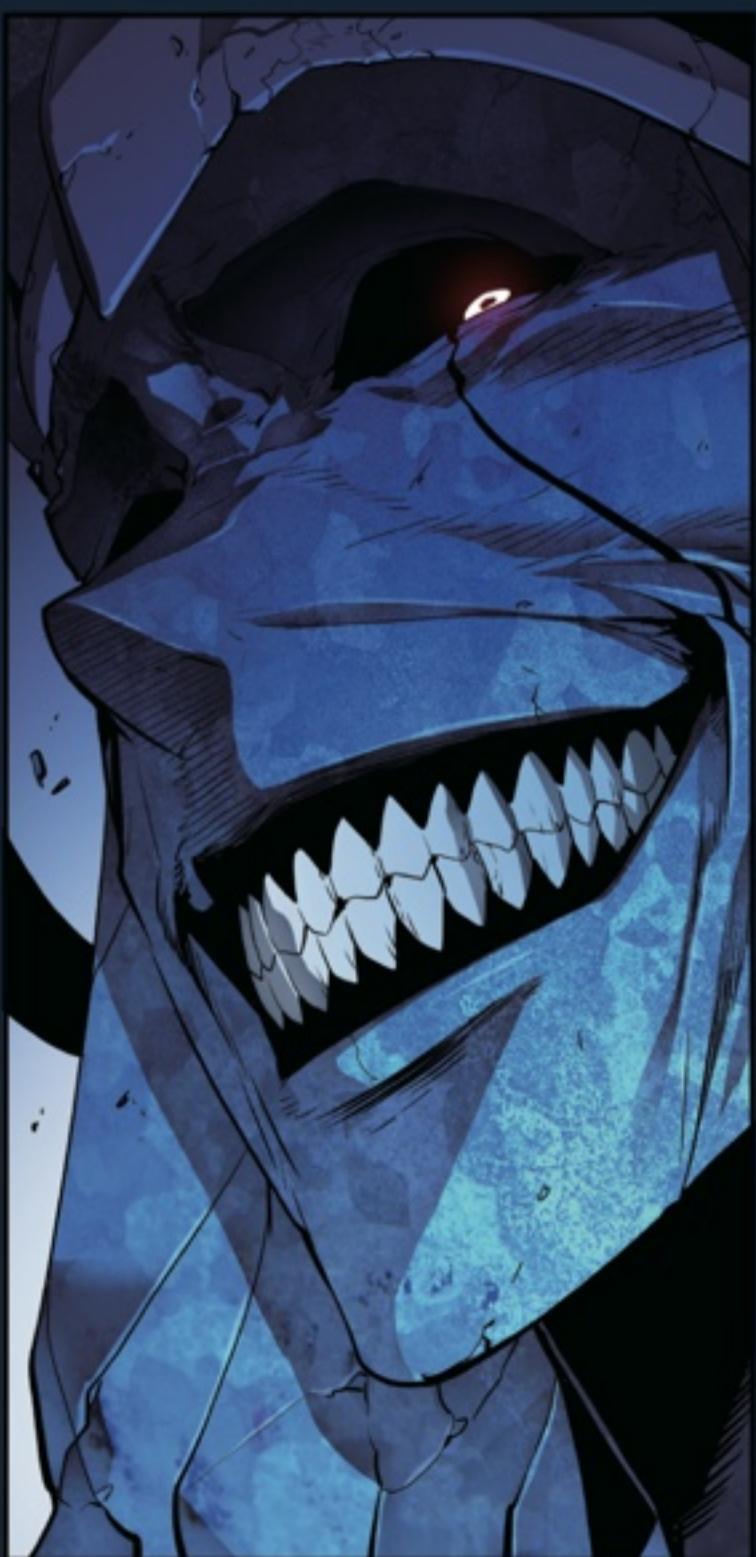
WHAT? IS  
IT REALLY  
OVER?

WE'RE  
OKAY!

WE  
SURVIVED!





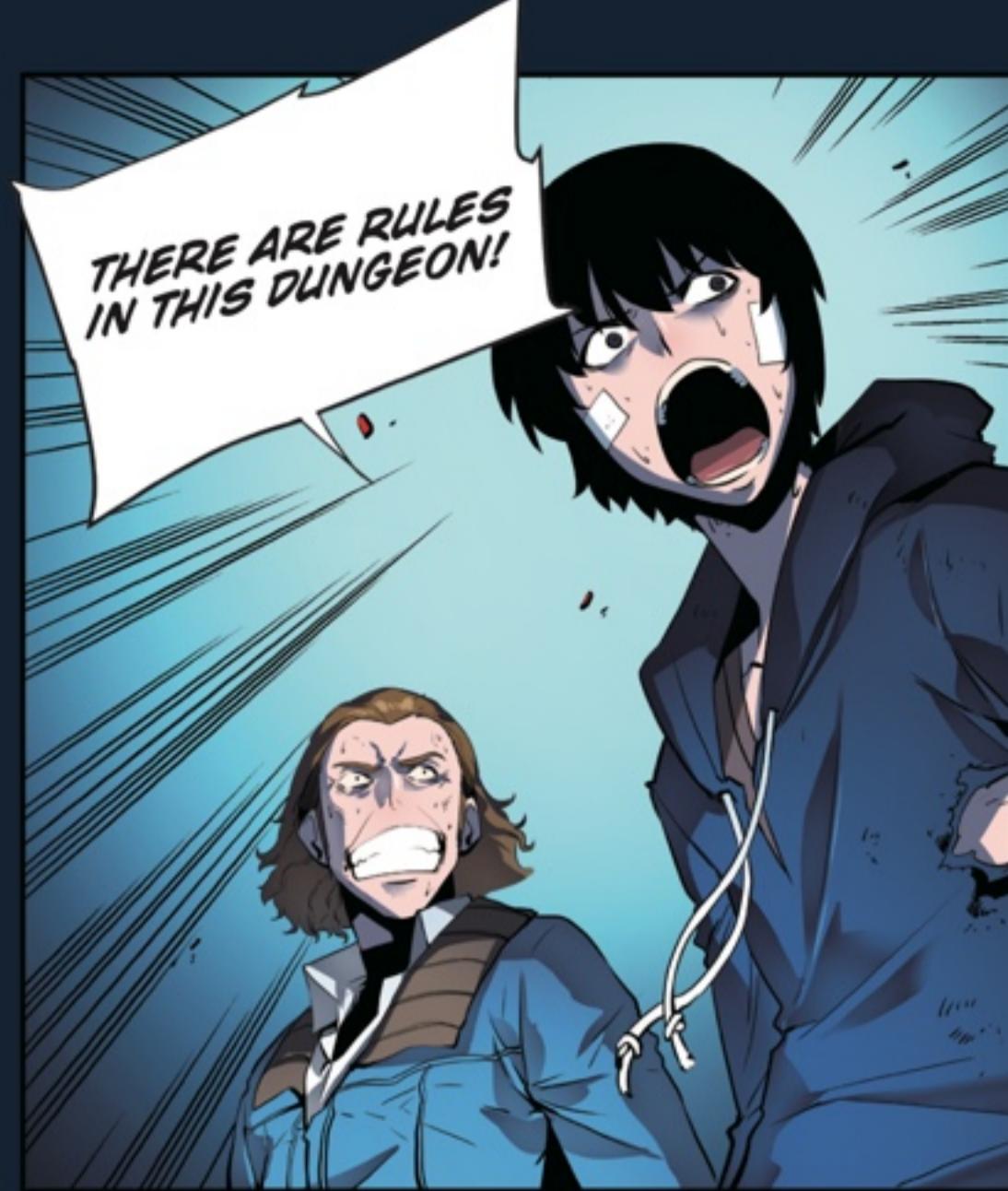


**Woo**

IS THERE  
A WAY OUT  
OF THIS?!

I DON'T  
KNOW!

**Thoom**



IF IT'S  
ABOUT  
PRAISING  
GOD...

...I WAS IN  
A CHURCH  
CHOIR.

I'M  
PRETTY GOOD  
AT IT!

STEP  
STEP

LORD,  
LET ME STAND  
BEFORE YOU...

THUD



THOUGH UNWORTHY,  
I CRAVE YOUR  
JUDGMENT.

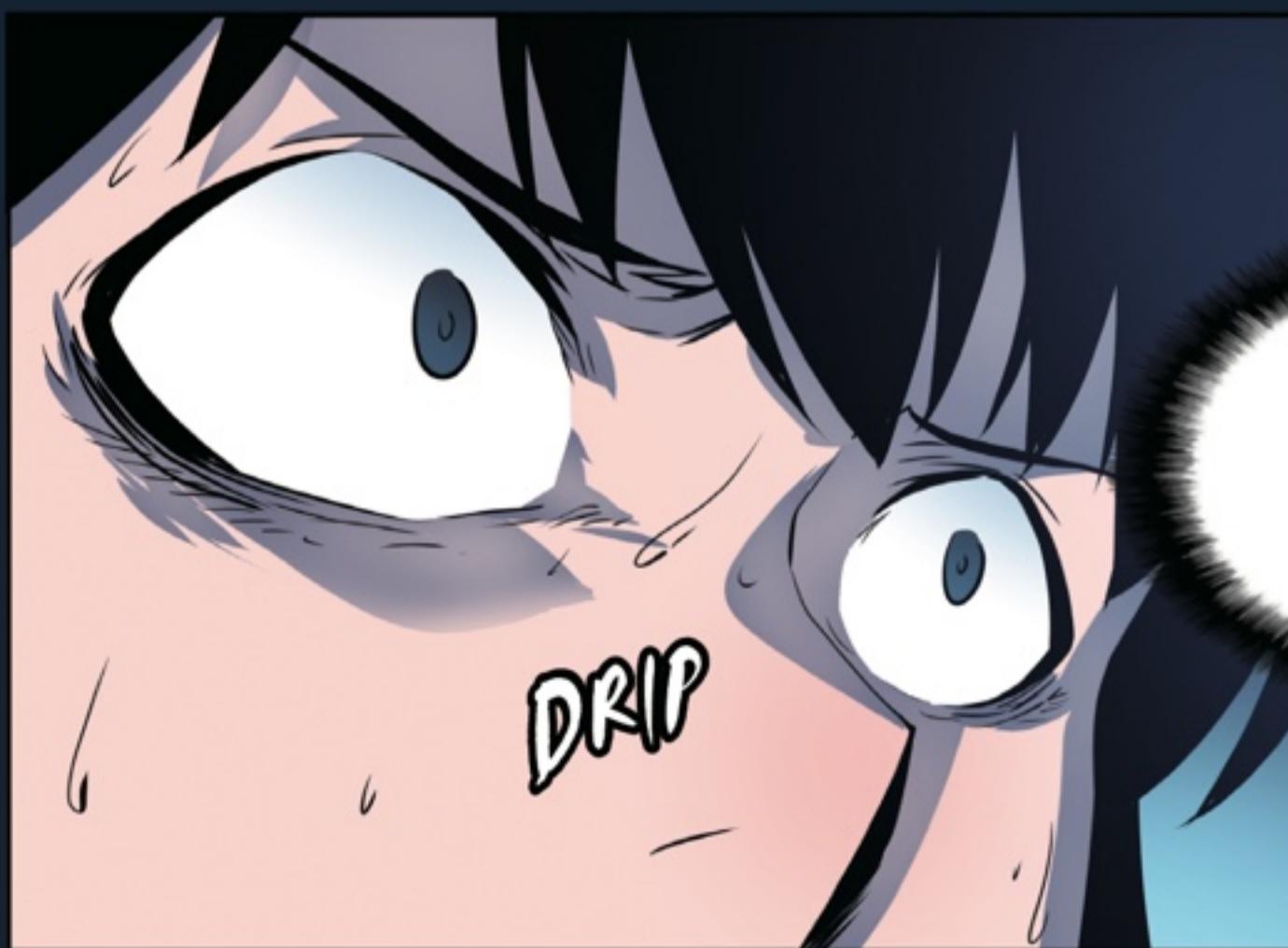
THUD

IN MY FAITH  
IN YOU...

...I KNOW  
I FIND MY  
PURPOSE.

THUD

IN YOUR  
EYES...





THOUGH  
UNWORTHY...

THIS IS...



H  
W  
O  
O  
O



...I CRAVE...









**SHANG**





THOU SHALL  
PRAISE GOD.



THOU SHALL  
PRAISE GOD.

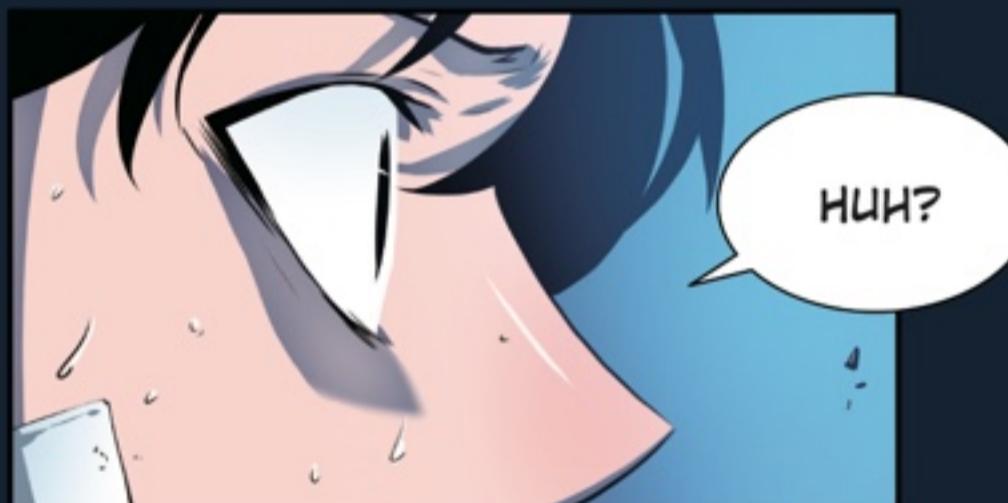




...HAMMER,  
MACE, BOW,  
INSTRUMENT...



CAN'T GET  
CLOSE, CAN'T  
GET AWAY! WHAT  
DO WE DO?



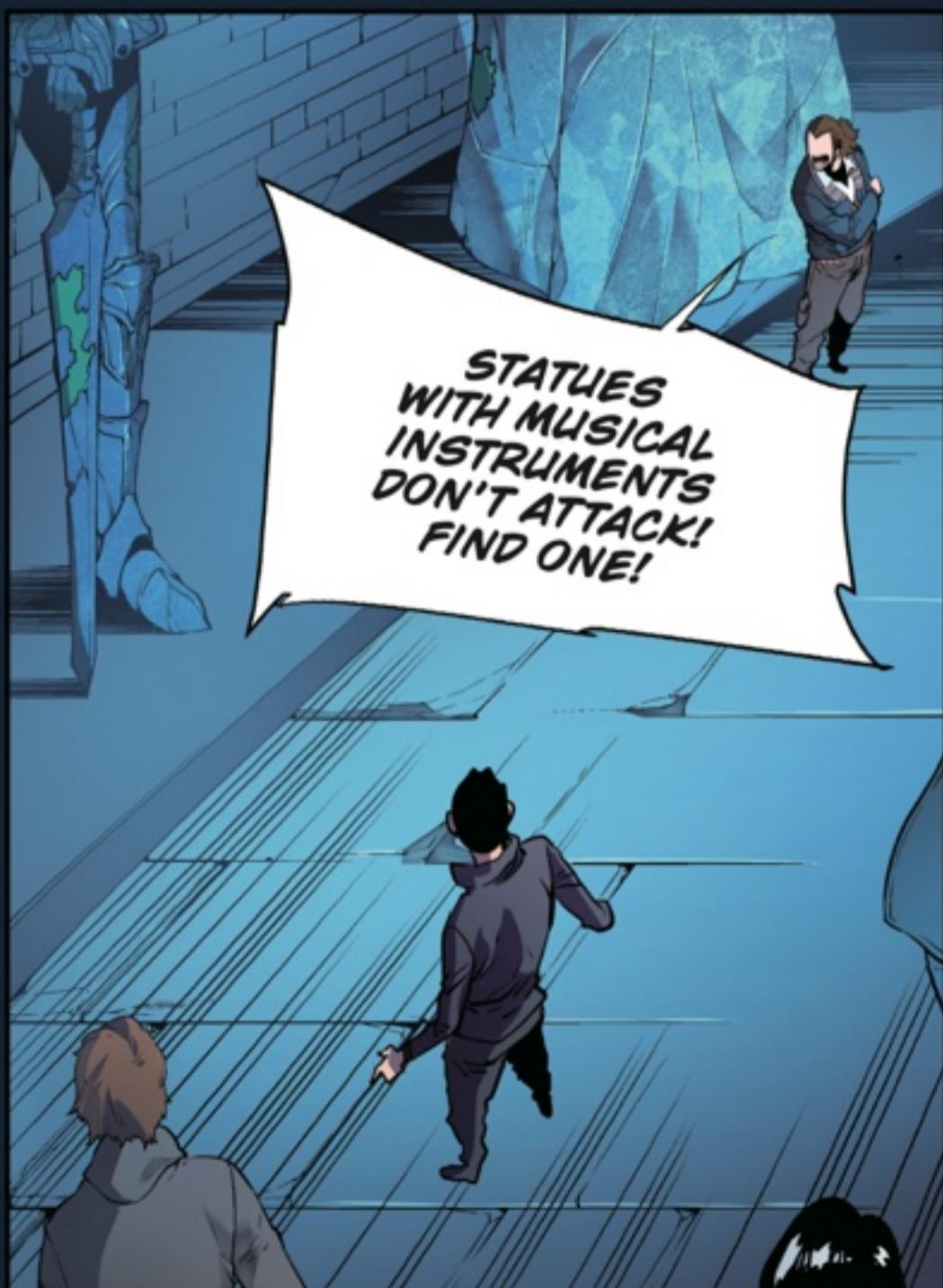
A MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENT?



THE STATUES  
ATTACK WHEN WE GET  
CLOSER. THEY MOVE A  
CERTAIN WAY WHEN  
WE GET NEAR.

WHAT ABOUT  
THE ONES  
WITH MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENTS?















NOT THAT  
ONE!



AH!



!!



NOT A MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENT...  
IT'S A SHIE—



WH UP

NOOOO!  
JINWOO!





...IF THERE  
IS A GOD...



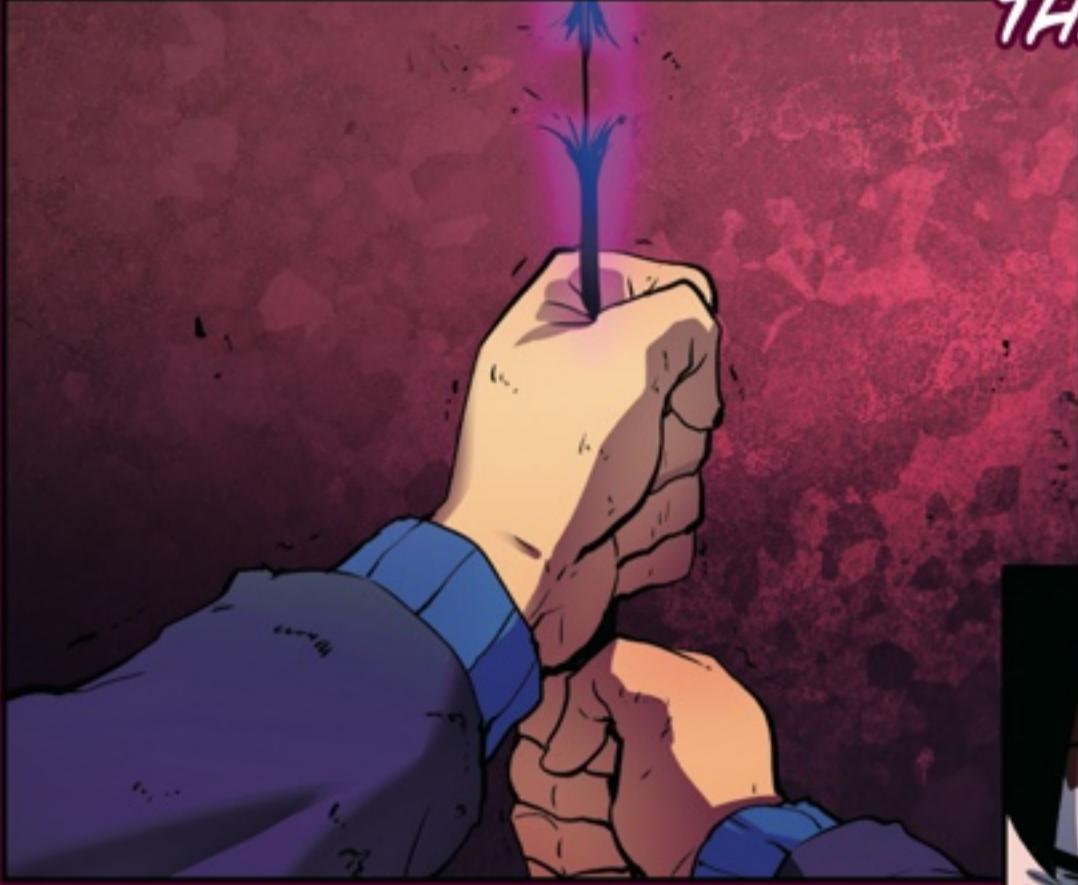


LIFE...

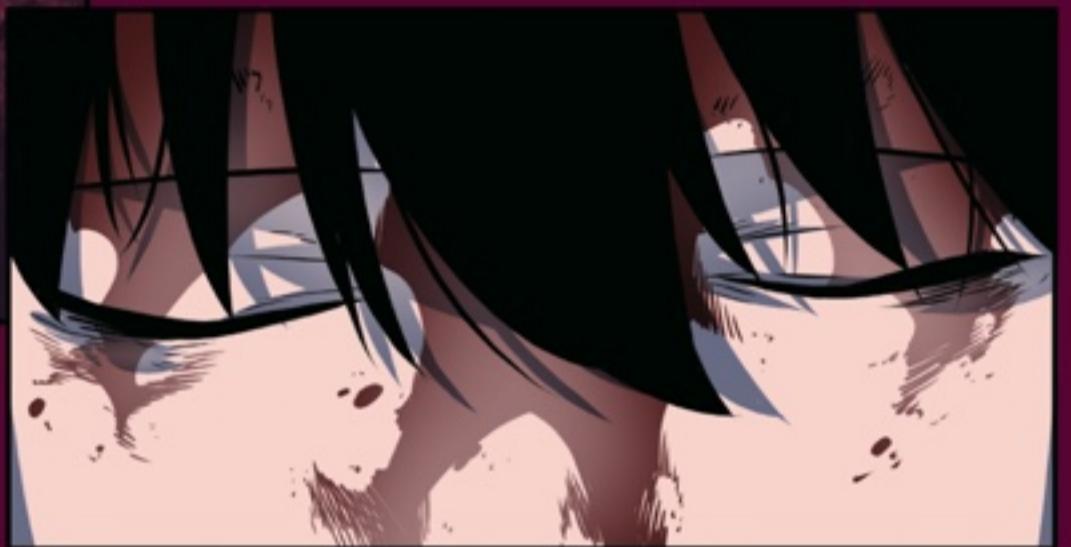
...OR DEATH...



*...HANGING ON  
BY A PROVERBIAL  
THREAD...*

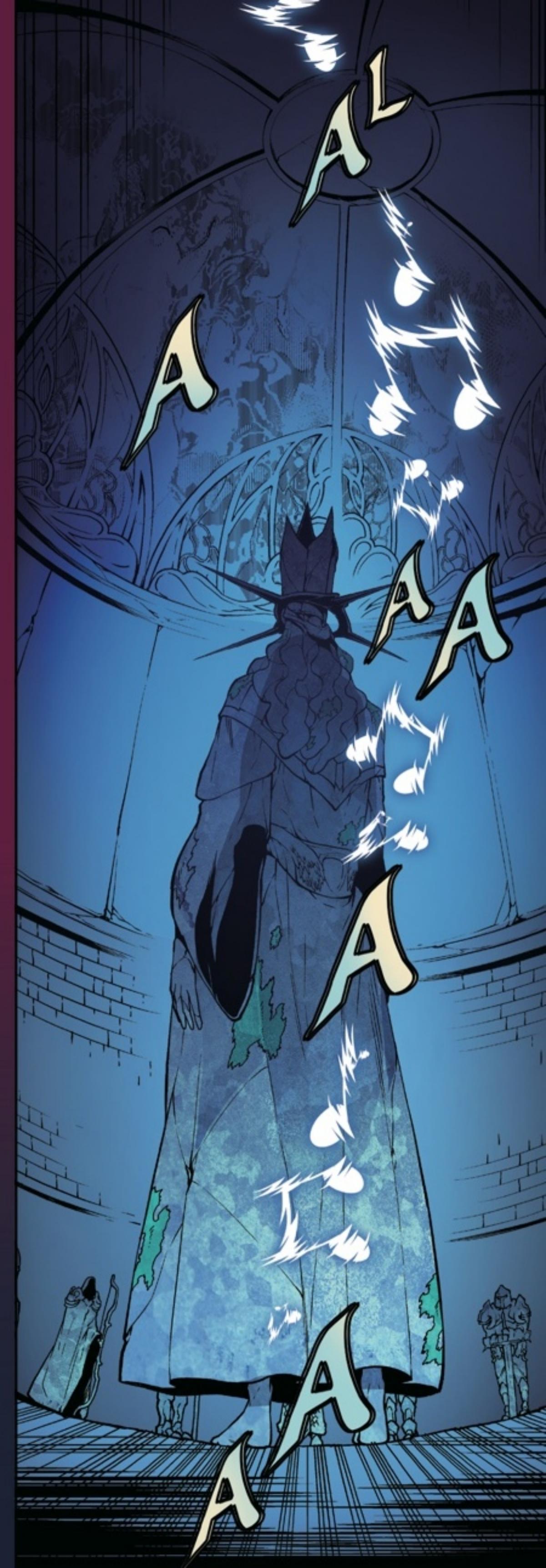
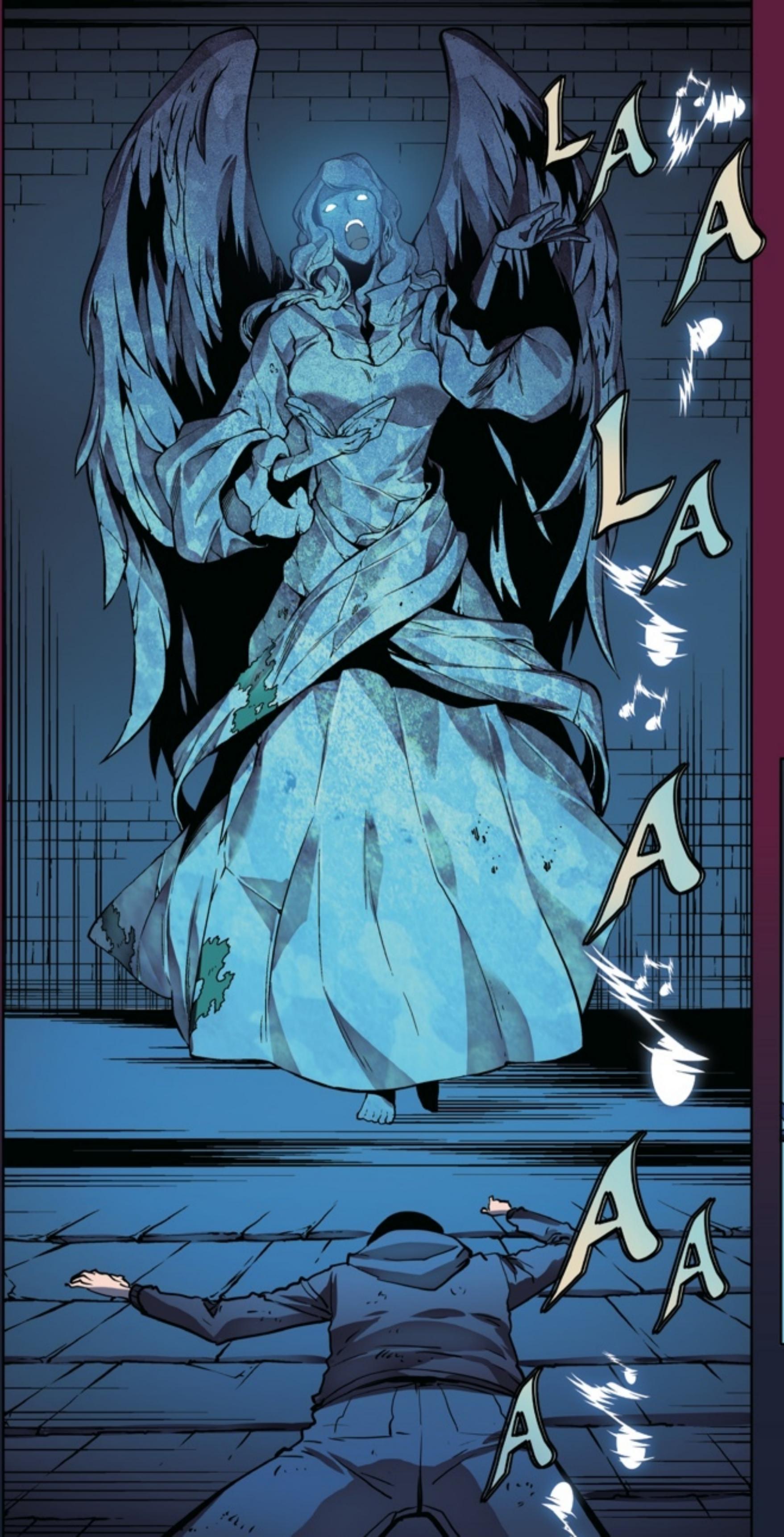


*WILL THE  
THREAD NOW...*



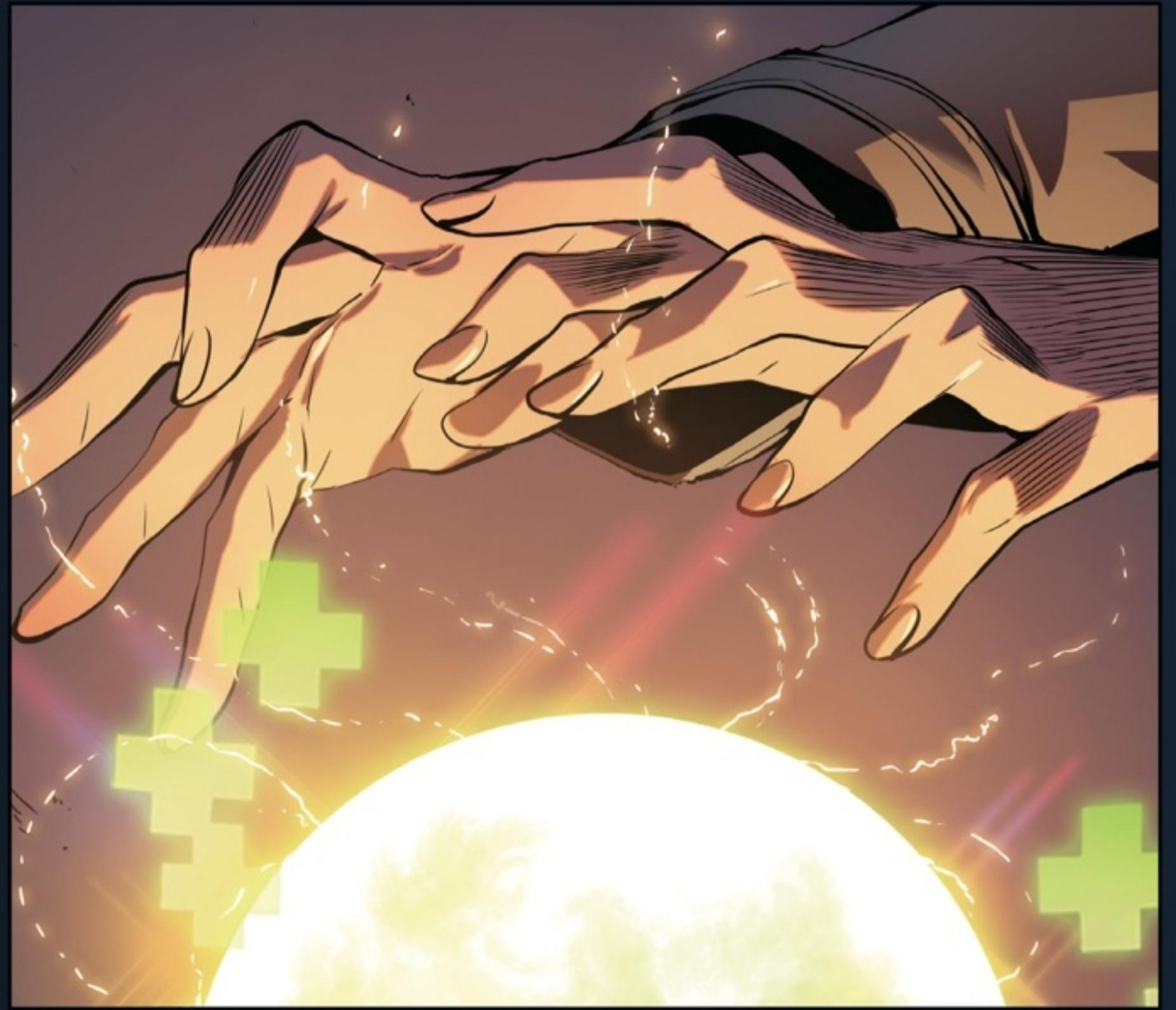
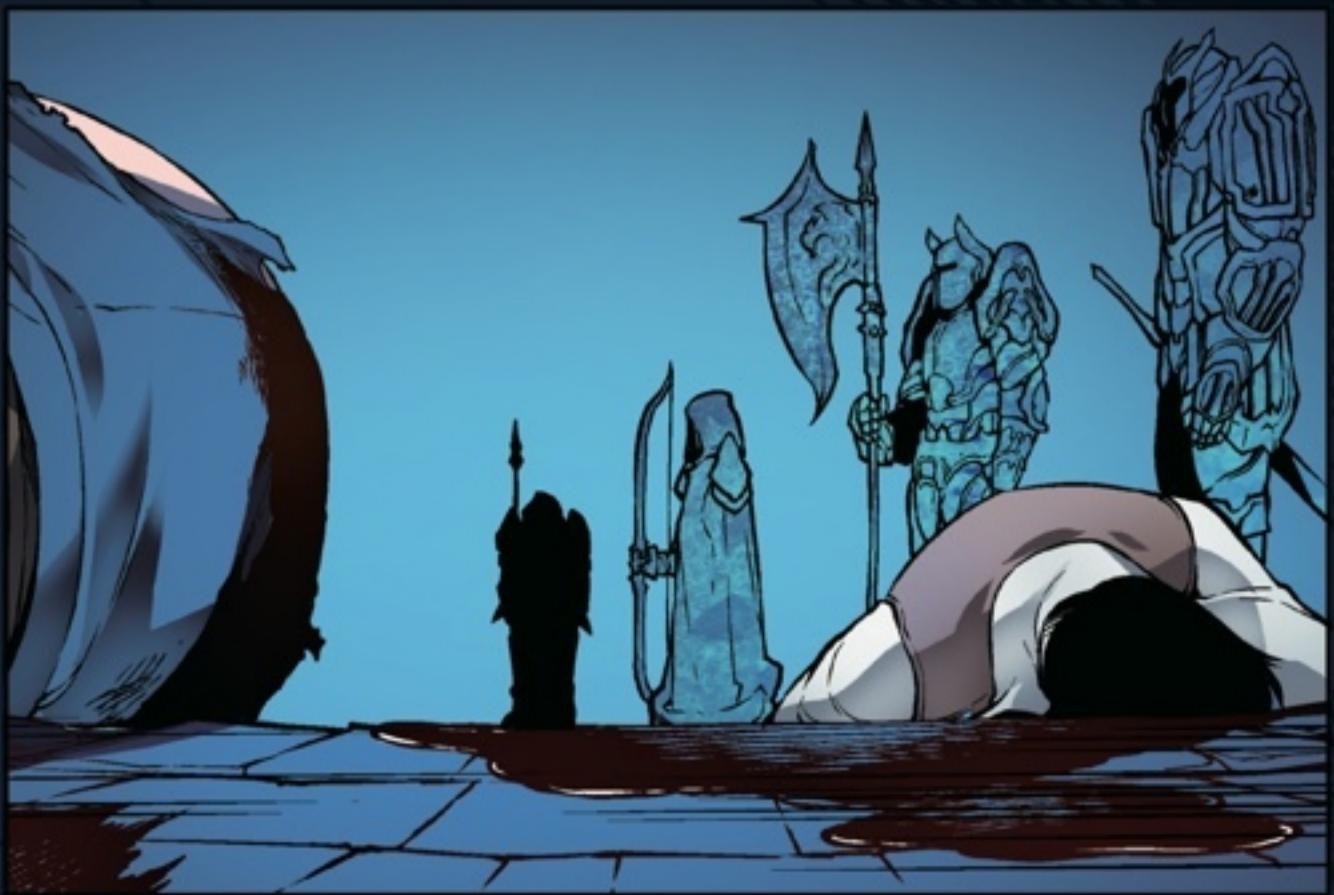
*...BE CUT...?*

















I'M SORRY  
YOU LOST YOUR ARM,  
BUT YOU'RE THE  
LEADER OF THIS RAID,  
AND YOU MADE THE  
WRONG CALL.



SONG...  
YOU'RE THE ONE  
WHO HAS TO TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THIS.

YES...

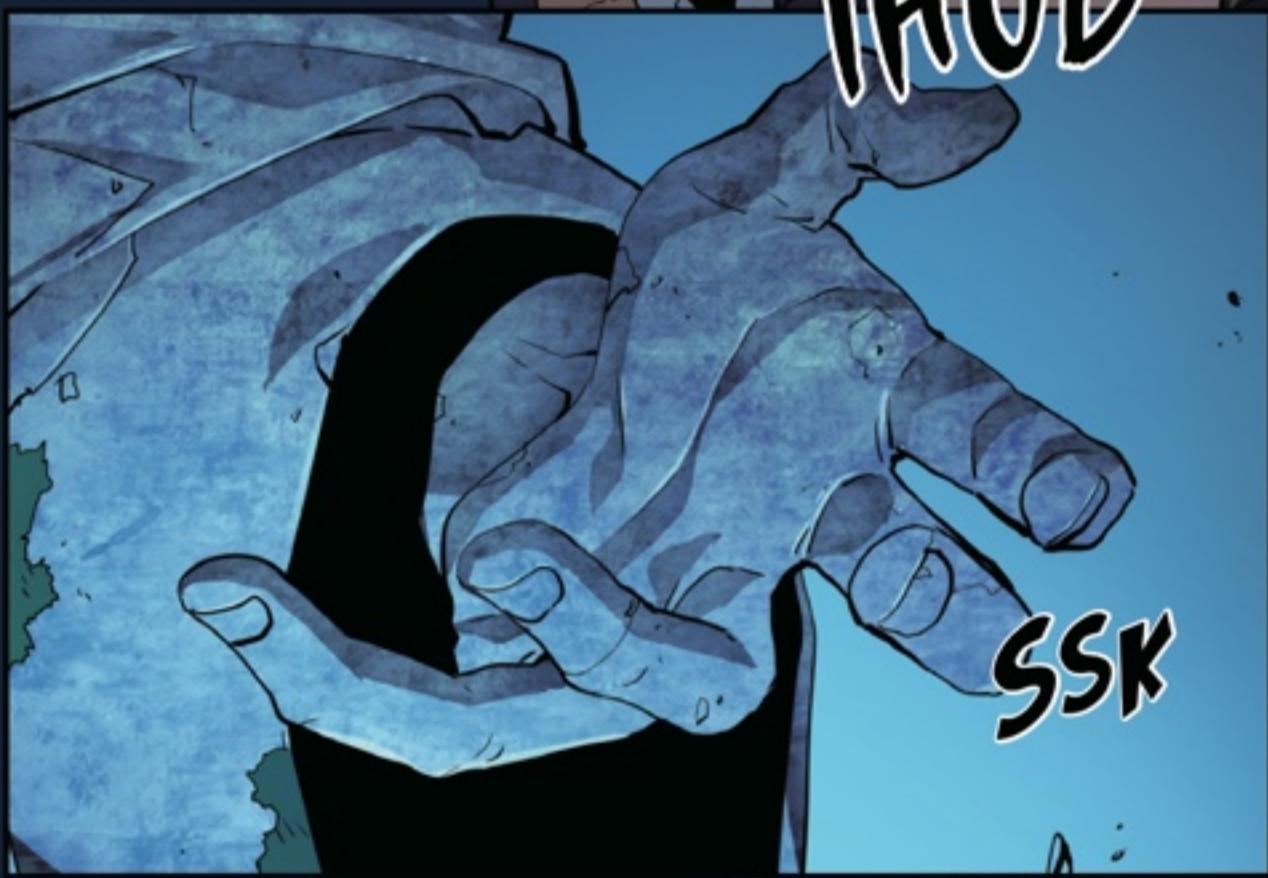


THUD



THUD

THUD



WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
NOW?!

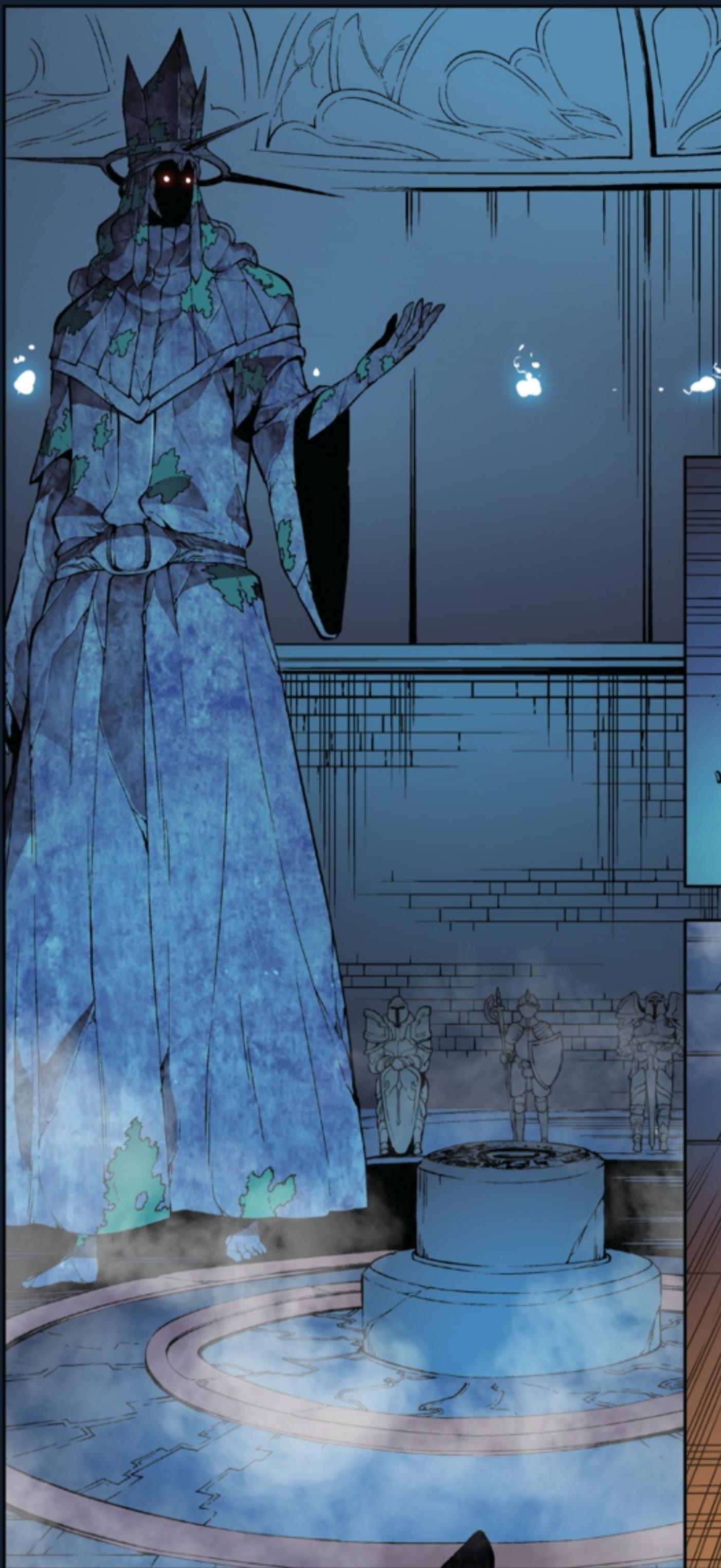
EARTH-  
QUAKE?

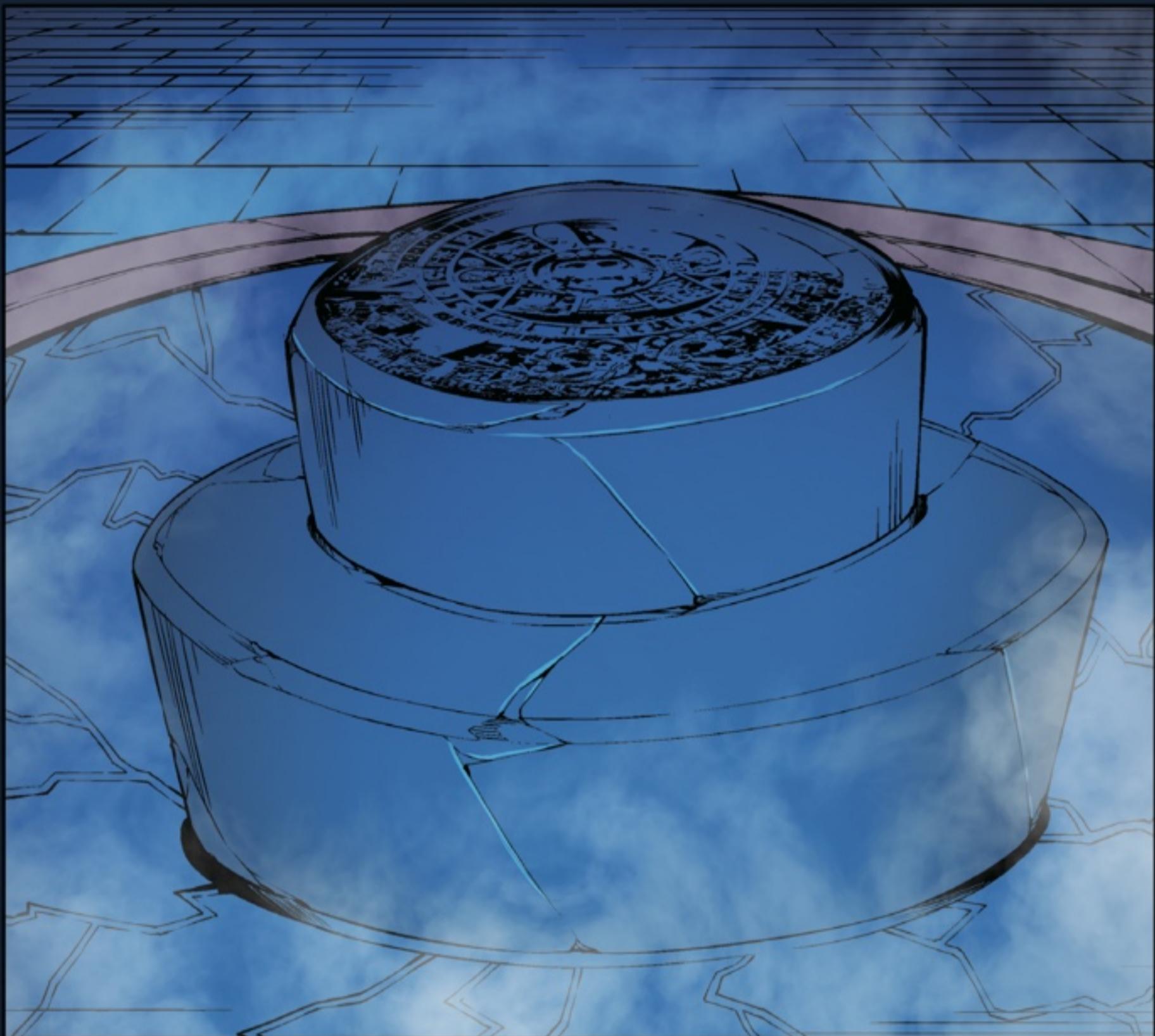
R

R  
R  
R











THAT IS  
PROBABLY THE  
LAST TEST!

HAAH...

HAAH...

I MAY NOT  
BE THE SMARTEST,  
BUT I GET WHAT'S  
GOING ON NOW.

Shwooo





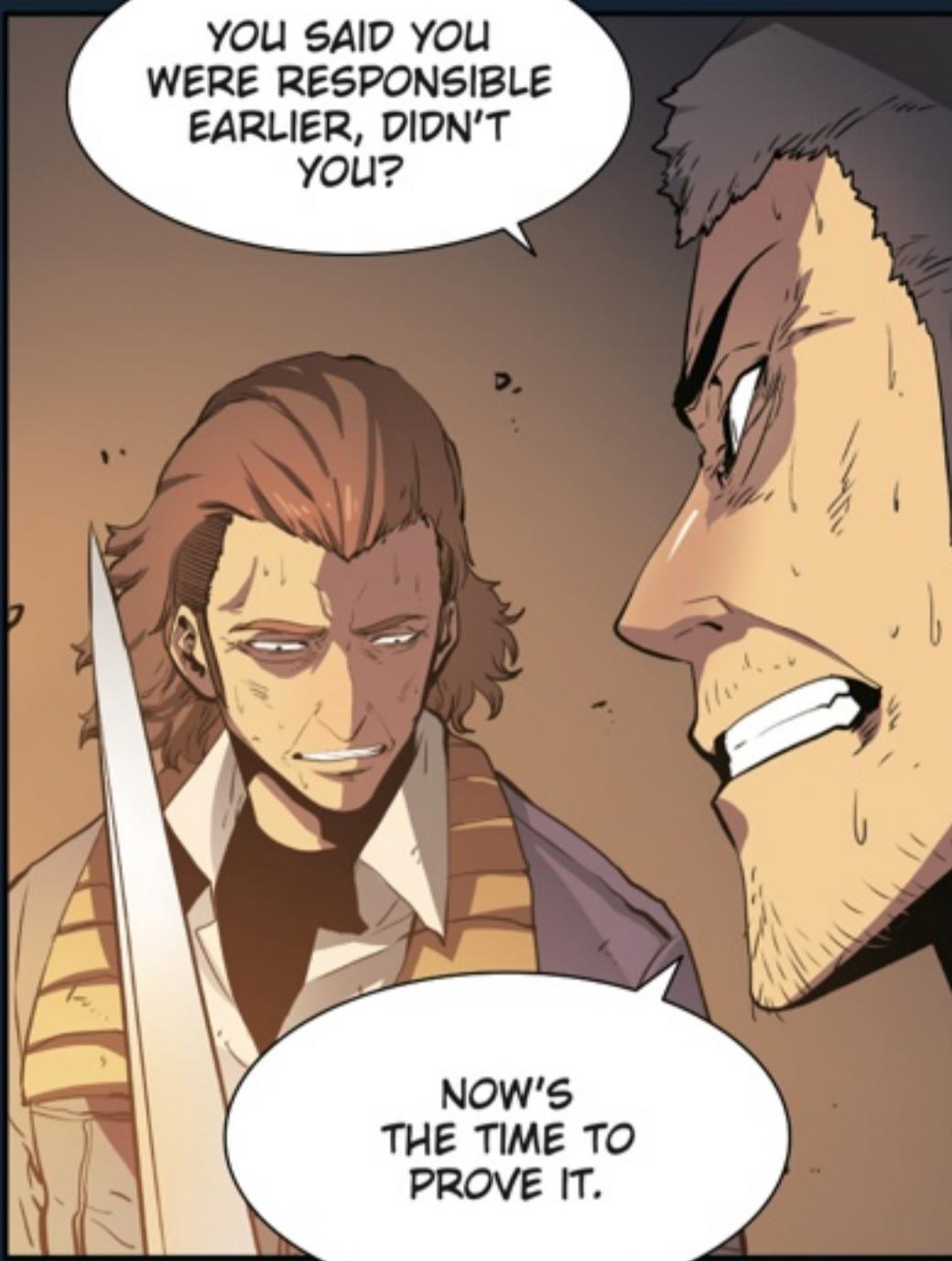
WHO  
BROUGHT US  
HERE?

IT WAS  
YOU, CHIYUL  
SONG.



PARK WAS  
BRAGGING ABOUT  
HIS WIFE BEFORE  
WE CAME IN HERE,  
AND NOW HE'S  
DEAD!

AND THERE  
ARE TEN MORE...

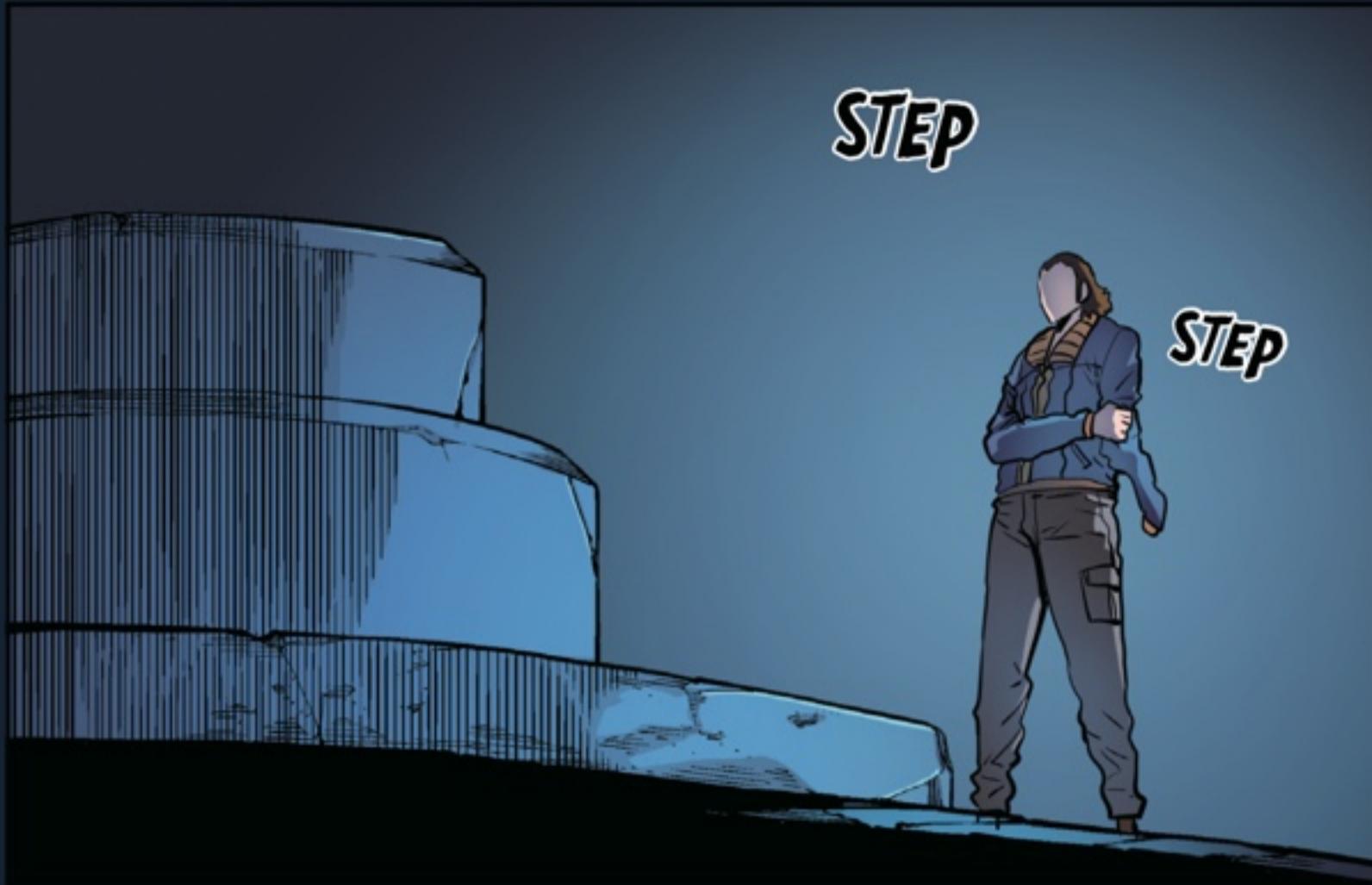


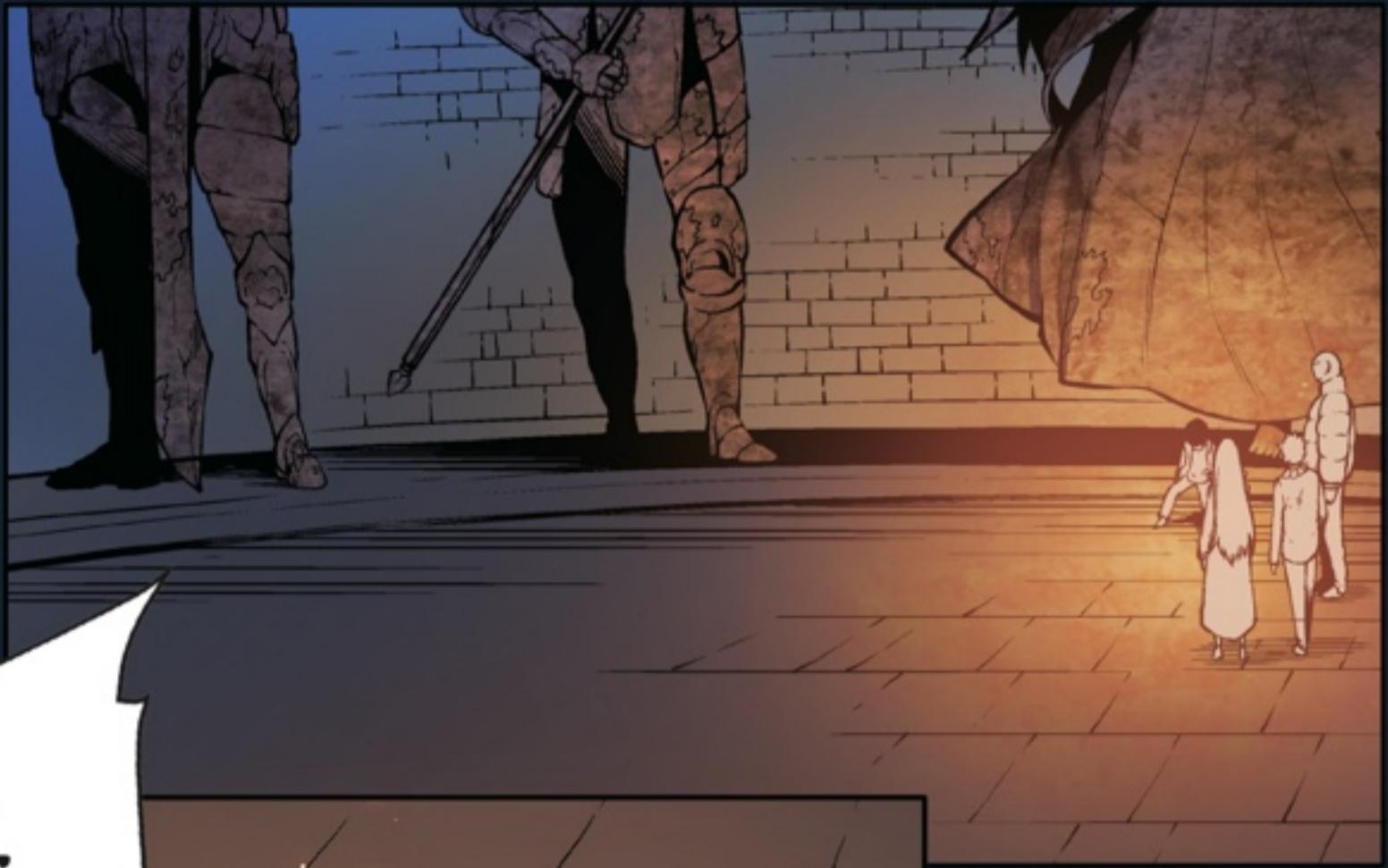
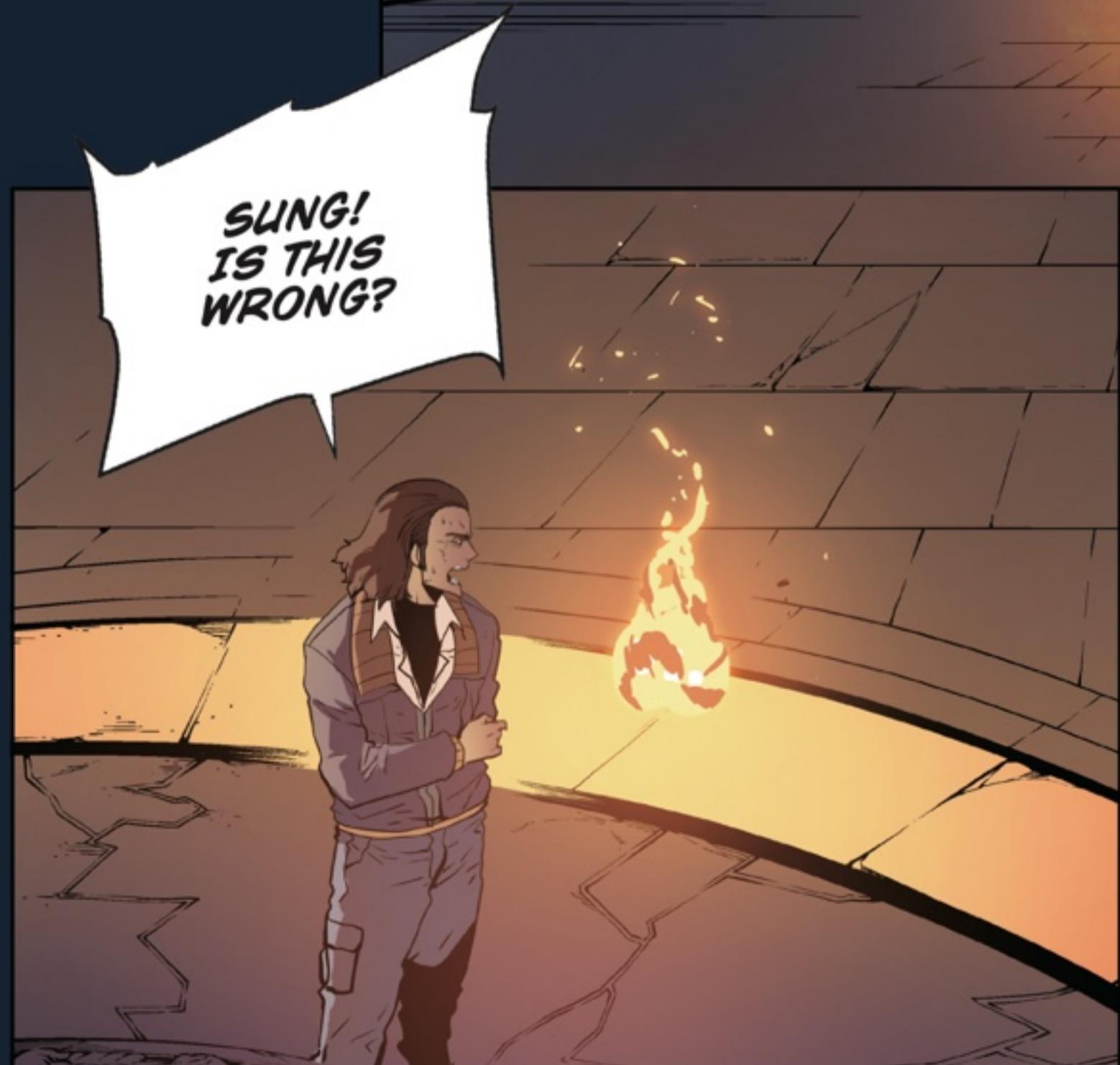
IT'S A COWARDLY  
THING TO BLAME  
MR. SONG FOR  
EVERYTHING THAT'S  
HAPPENED!

STEP

STEP



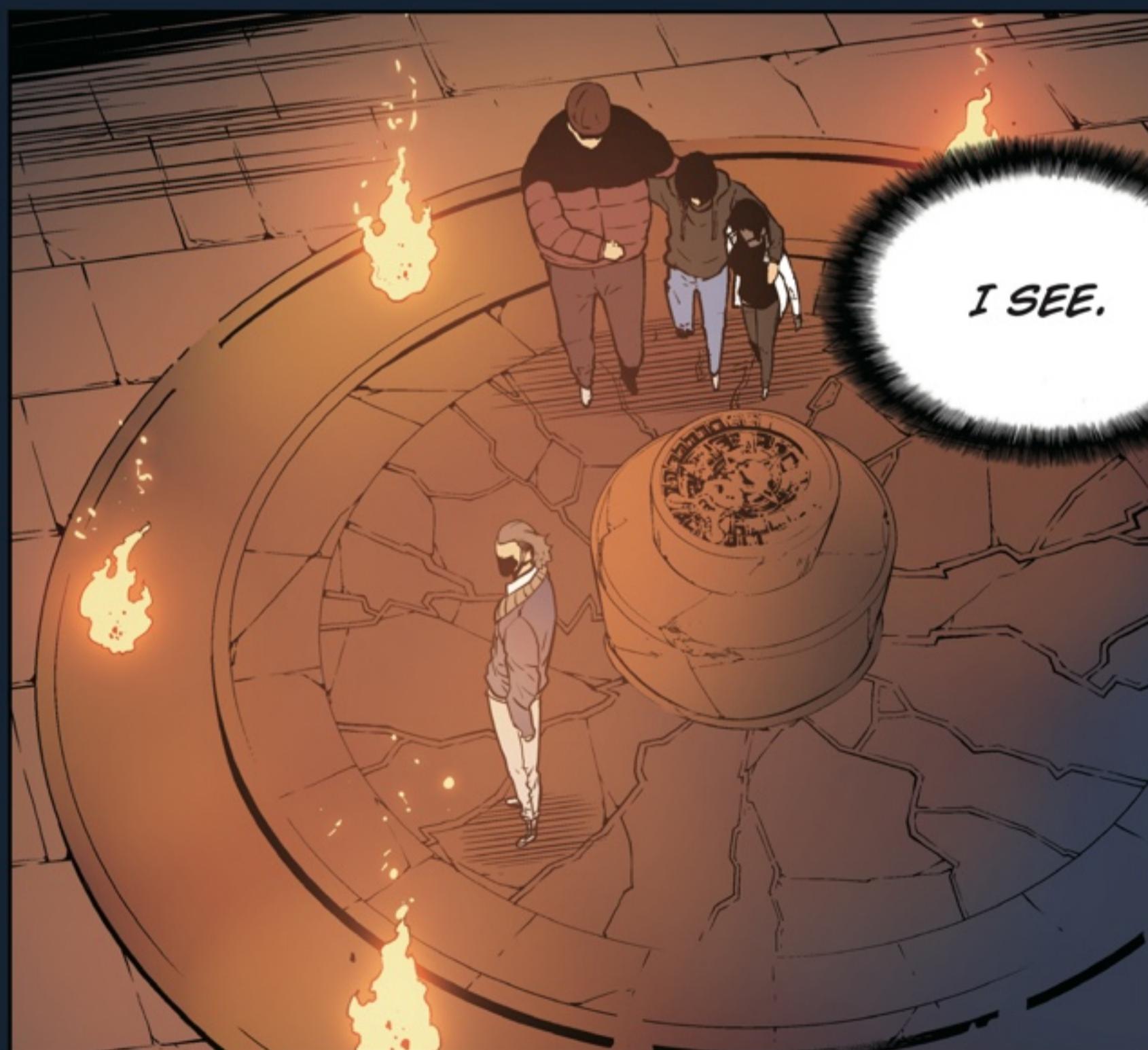






WHAT DOES  
IT MEAN? IT  
DOESN'T WANT A  
SACRIFICE?







WILL OTHER HUNTERS COME TO RESCUE US IF WE WAIT HERE?

TODAY IS THE SEVENTH DAY THE GATE HAS BEEN OPEN.



THOSE THINGS WILL ACT BEFORE ANY RESCUERS CAN GET HERE.



THE ASSOCIATION HAS IGNORED THIS GATE FOR TOO LONG BECAUSE IT'S A D-RANK GATE.

YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS WITH THEM.



IT TAKES SEVEN  
DAYS FOR A GATE TO  
COMPLETELY OPEN.

ONCE THE GATE IS FULLY  
OPEN, THE MAGIC BEASTS  
INSIDE ARE ABLE TO CROSS  
OVER INTO OUR WORLD...

...SO A RAID'S PRIMARY  
MISSION IS TO DEFEAT  
THE BOSS TO CLOSE THE  
GATE WITHIN THAT TIME.

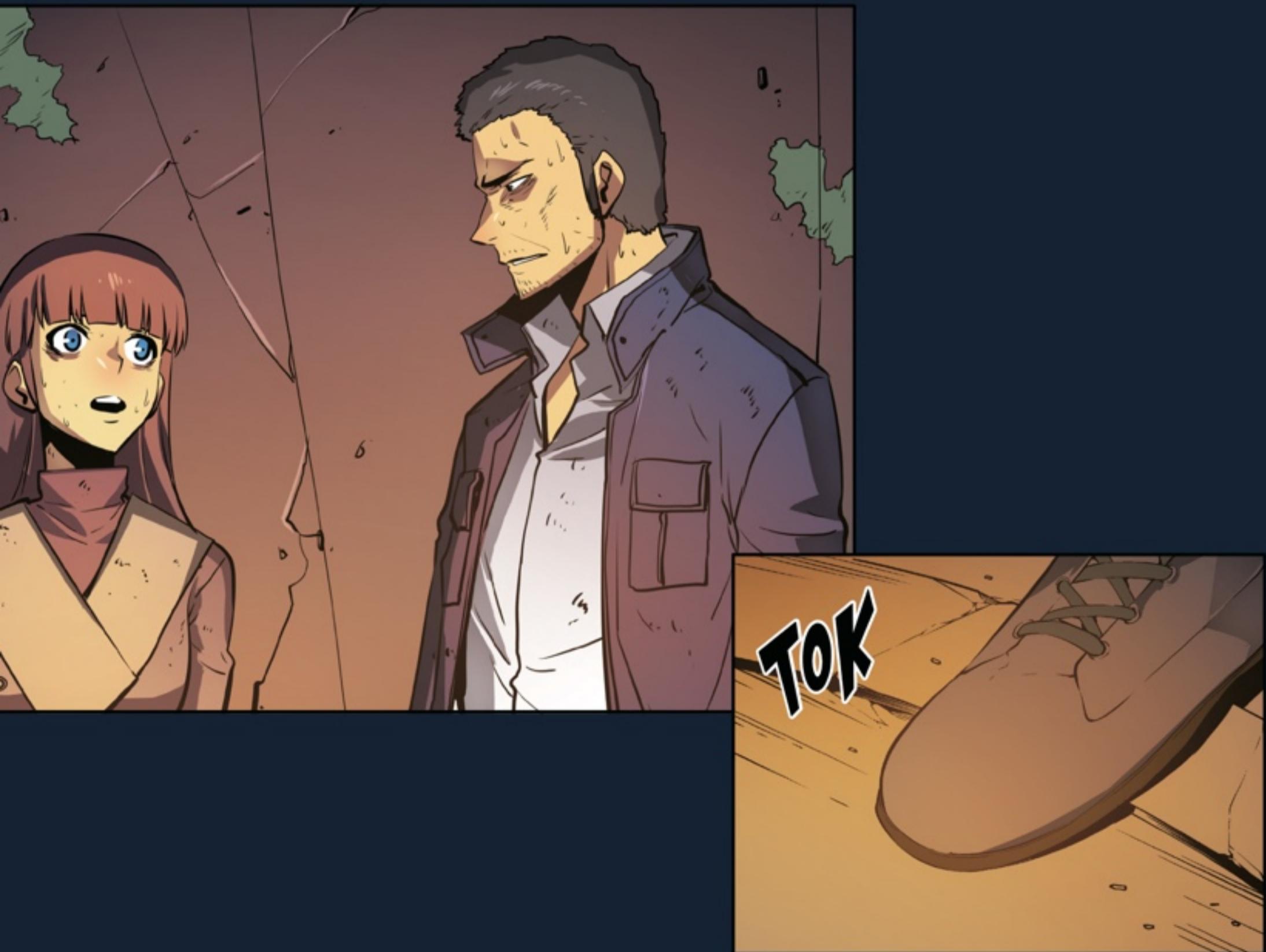


IF WE FAIL HERE...

...THAT  
THING WILL  
GET OUT.



PLEASE,  
I NEED YOU  
BOTH TO COME  
HERE.

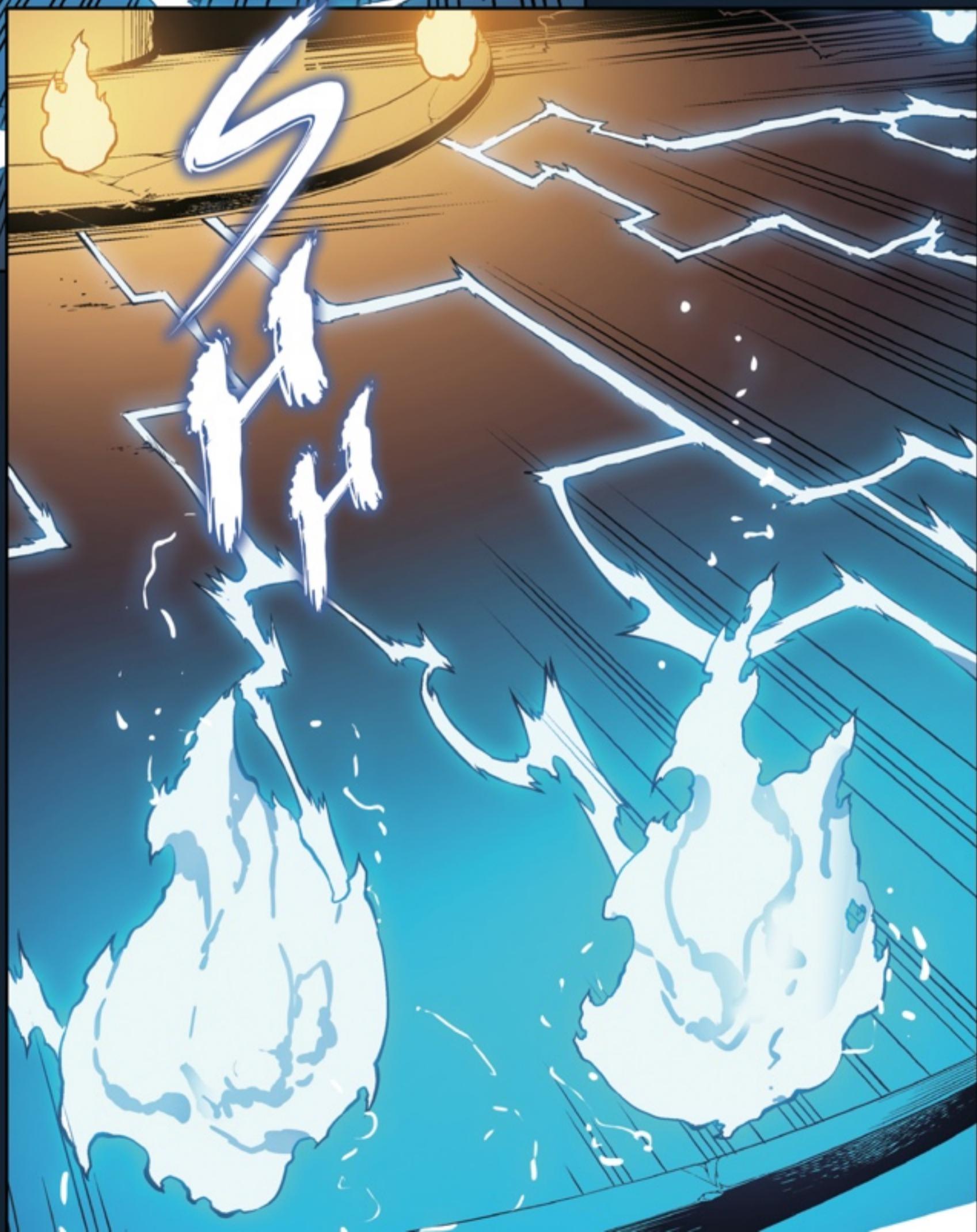


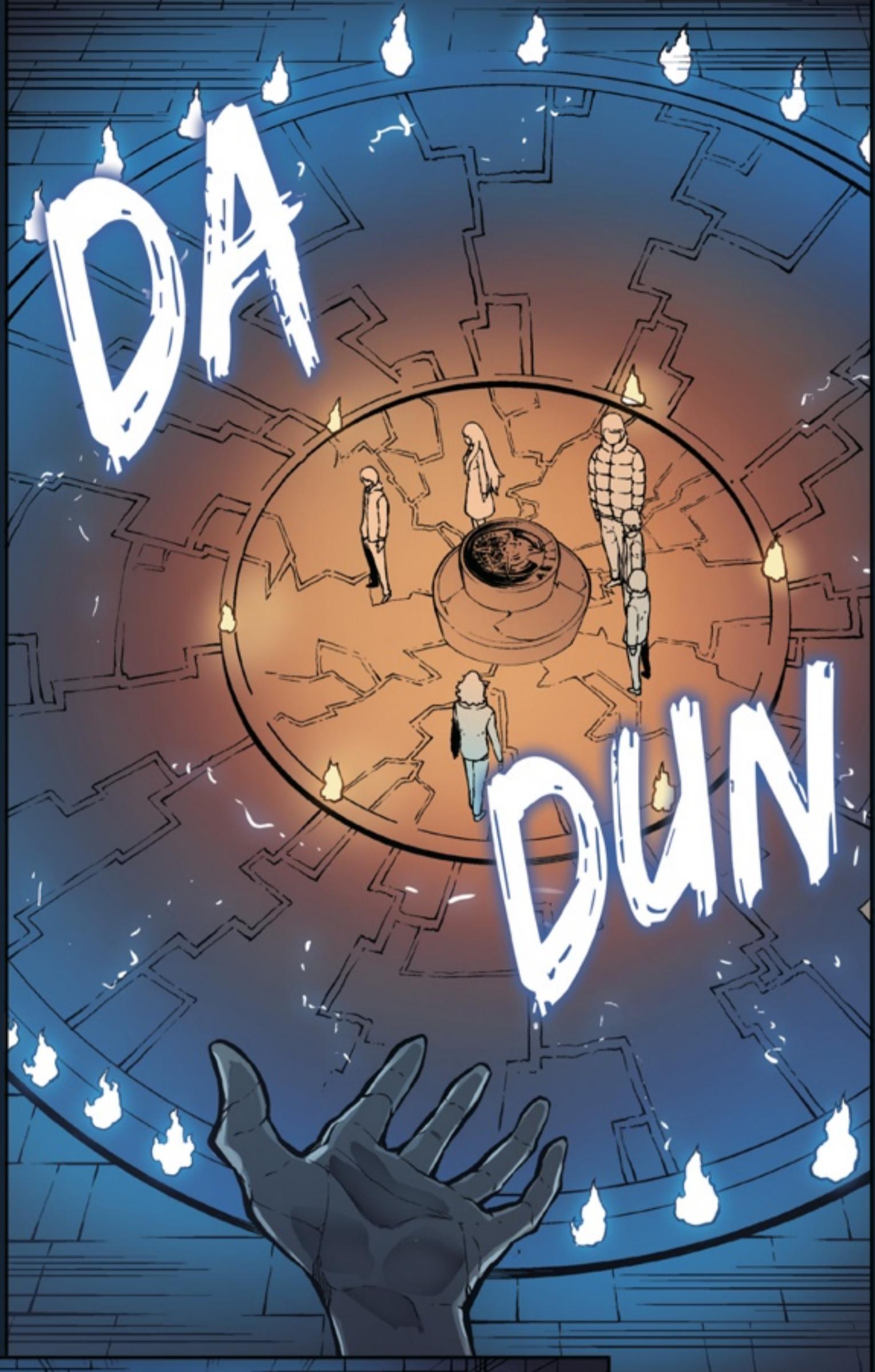
**FN0009H**



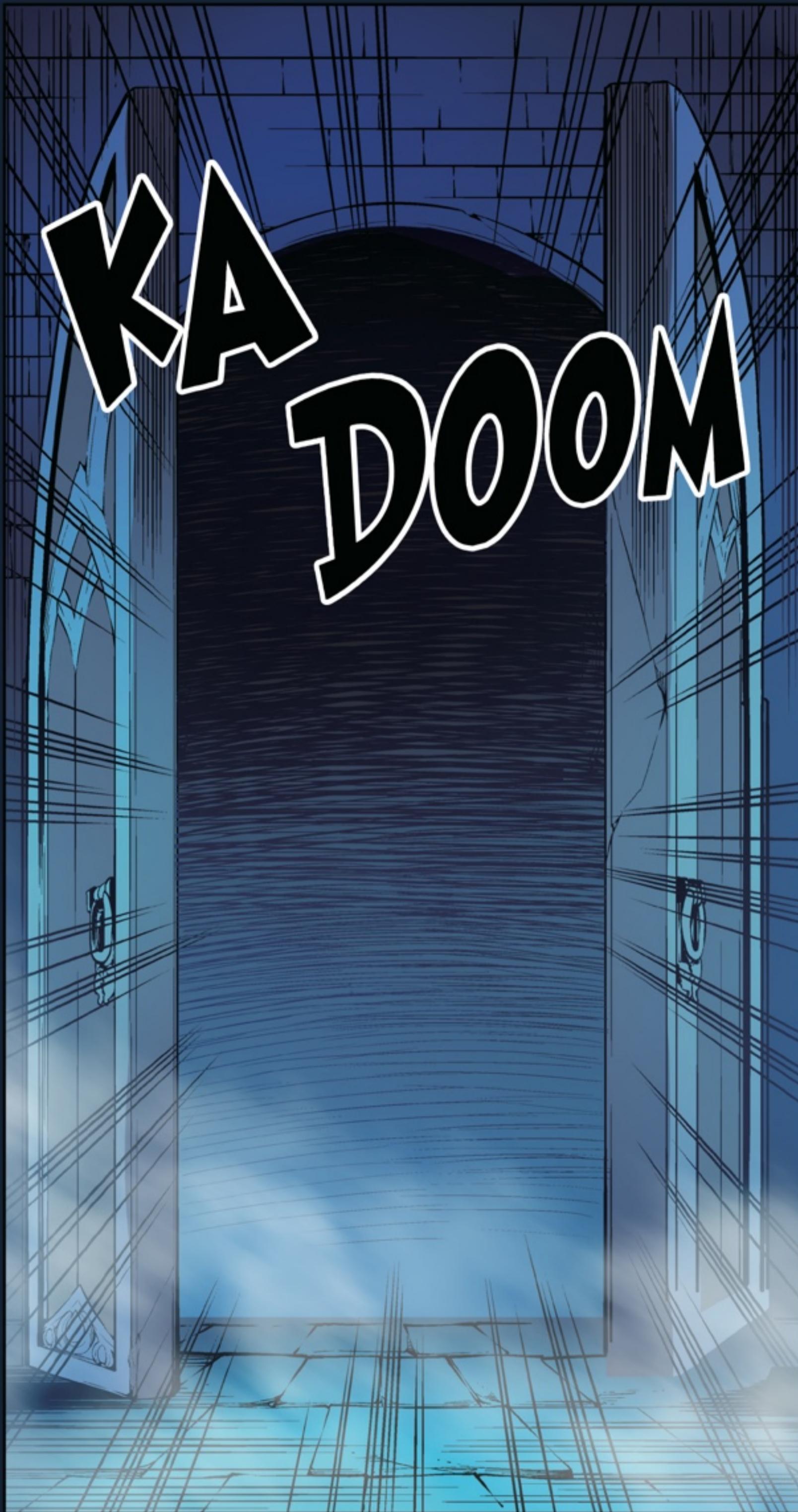
KRACK

WOO





**KADOM**





WHAT'S GOING ON?!

CAN WE LEAVE?

NO, SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN...

FWSHK

THUD

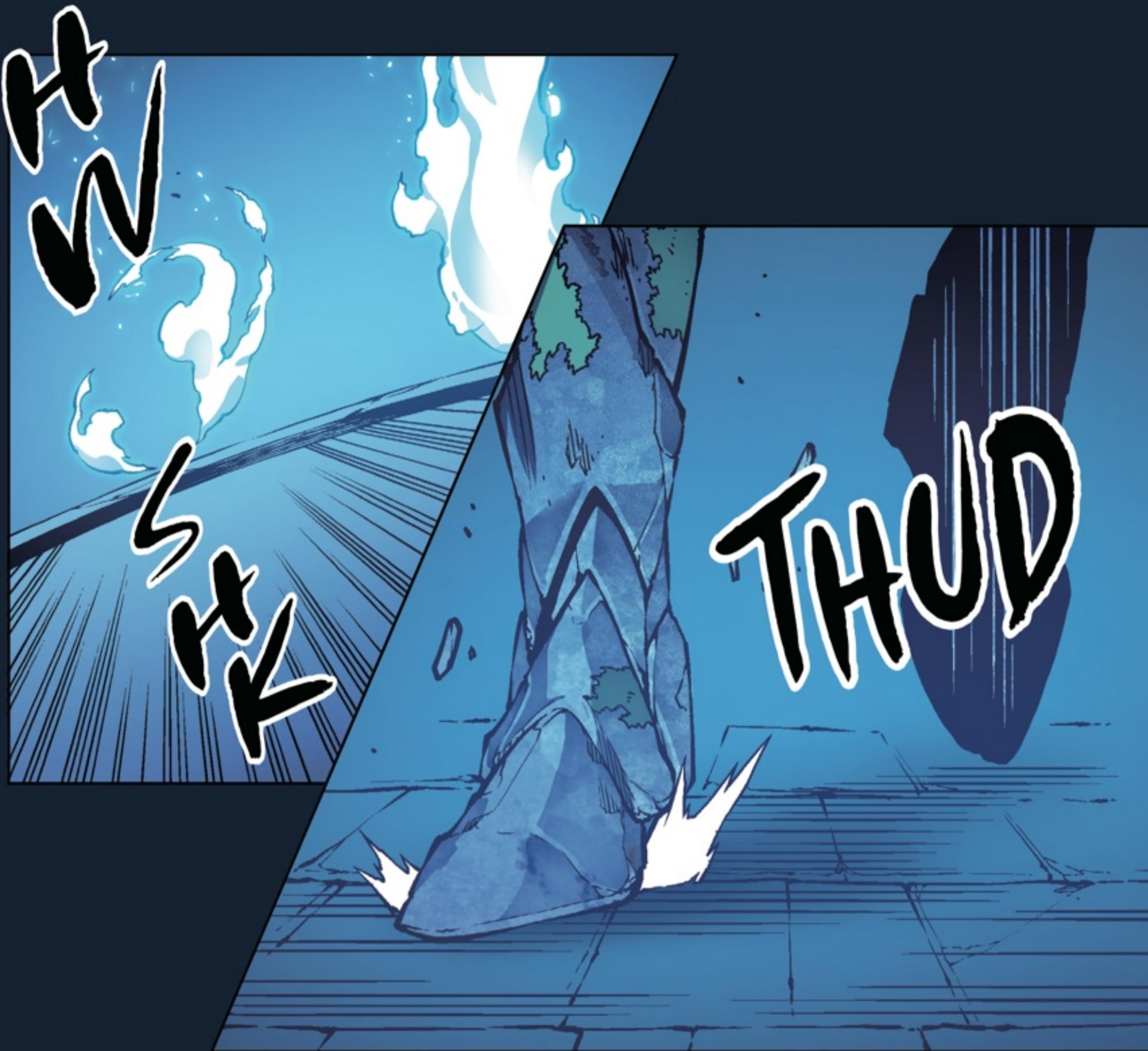
THUD



WHAT  
NOW?!

TH-THEY'RE  
CLOSER!

THEY'RE  
MOVING!

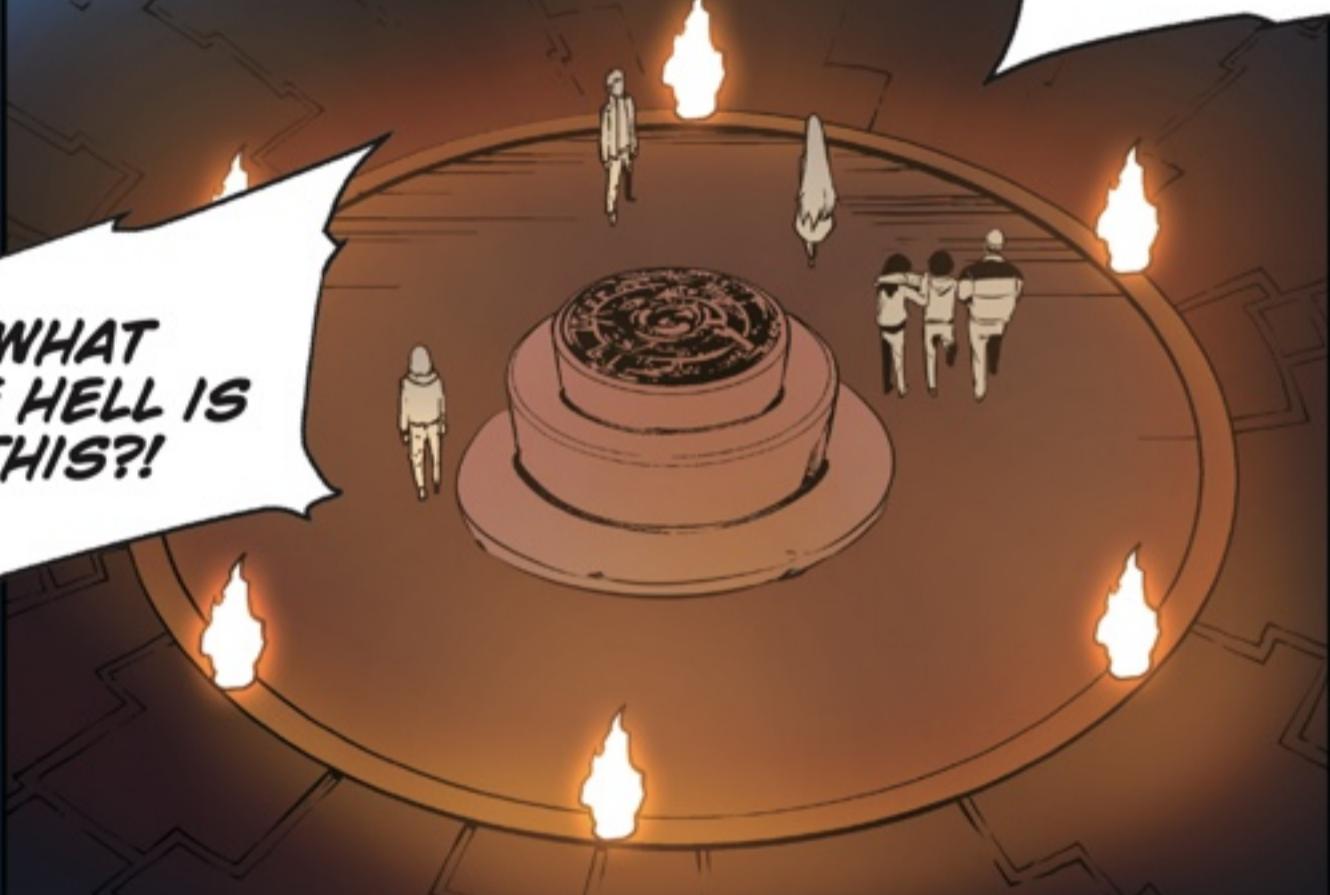




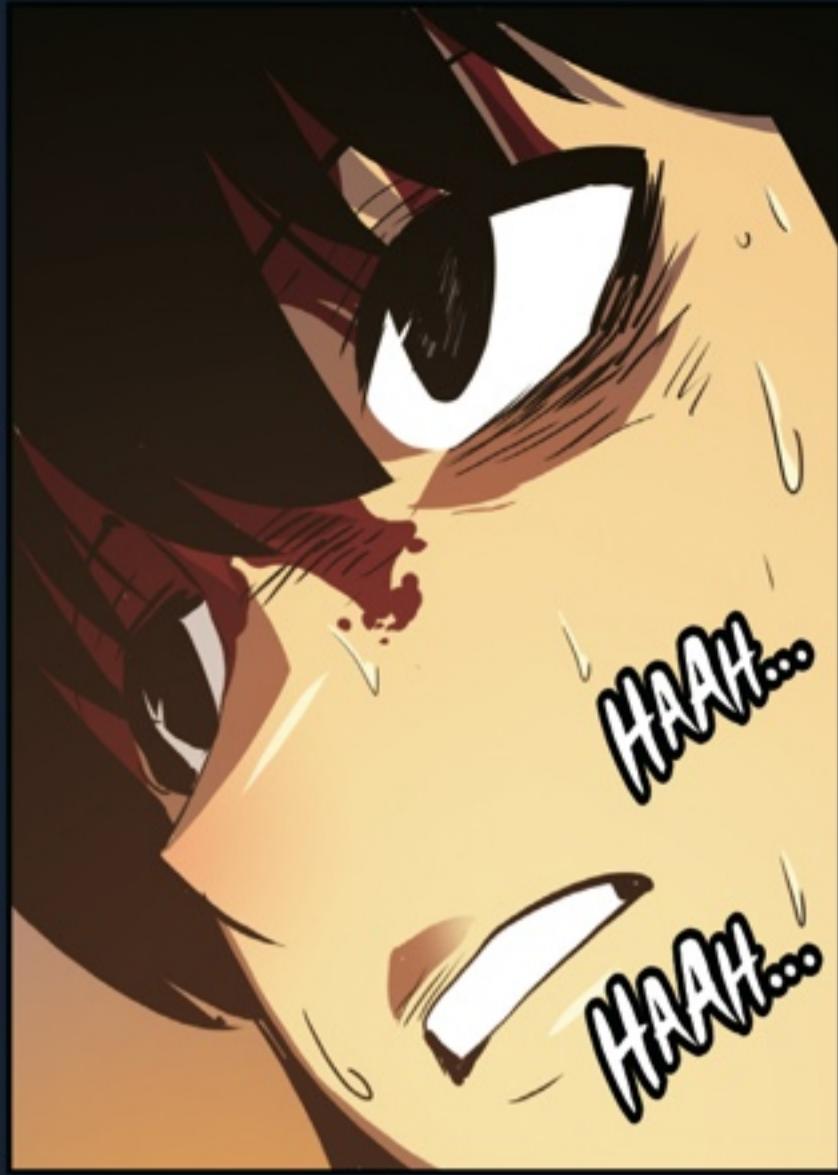
HWOOM

WH-WHAT  
DO WE DO?

WHAT  
THE HELL IS  
THIS?!



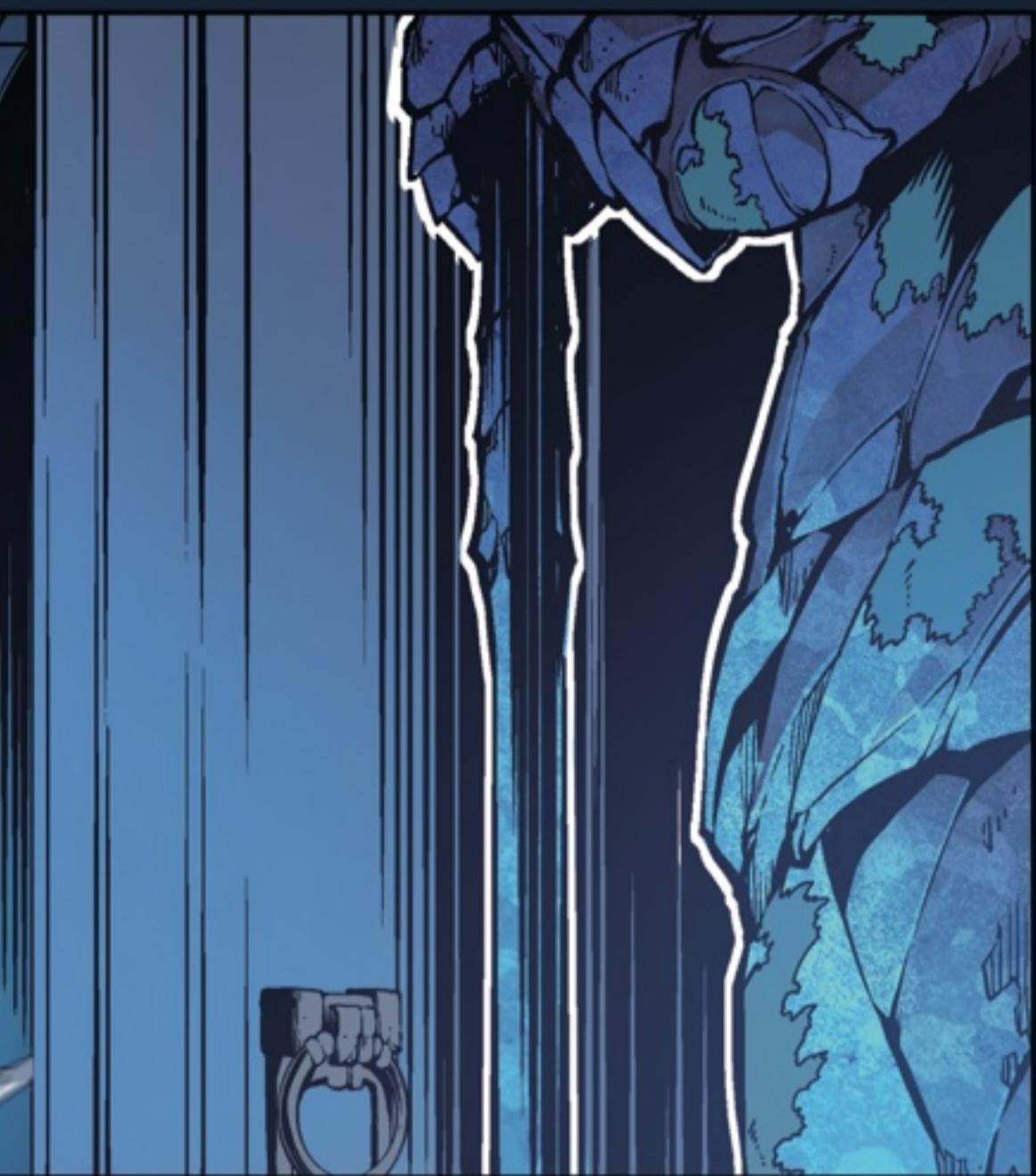
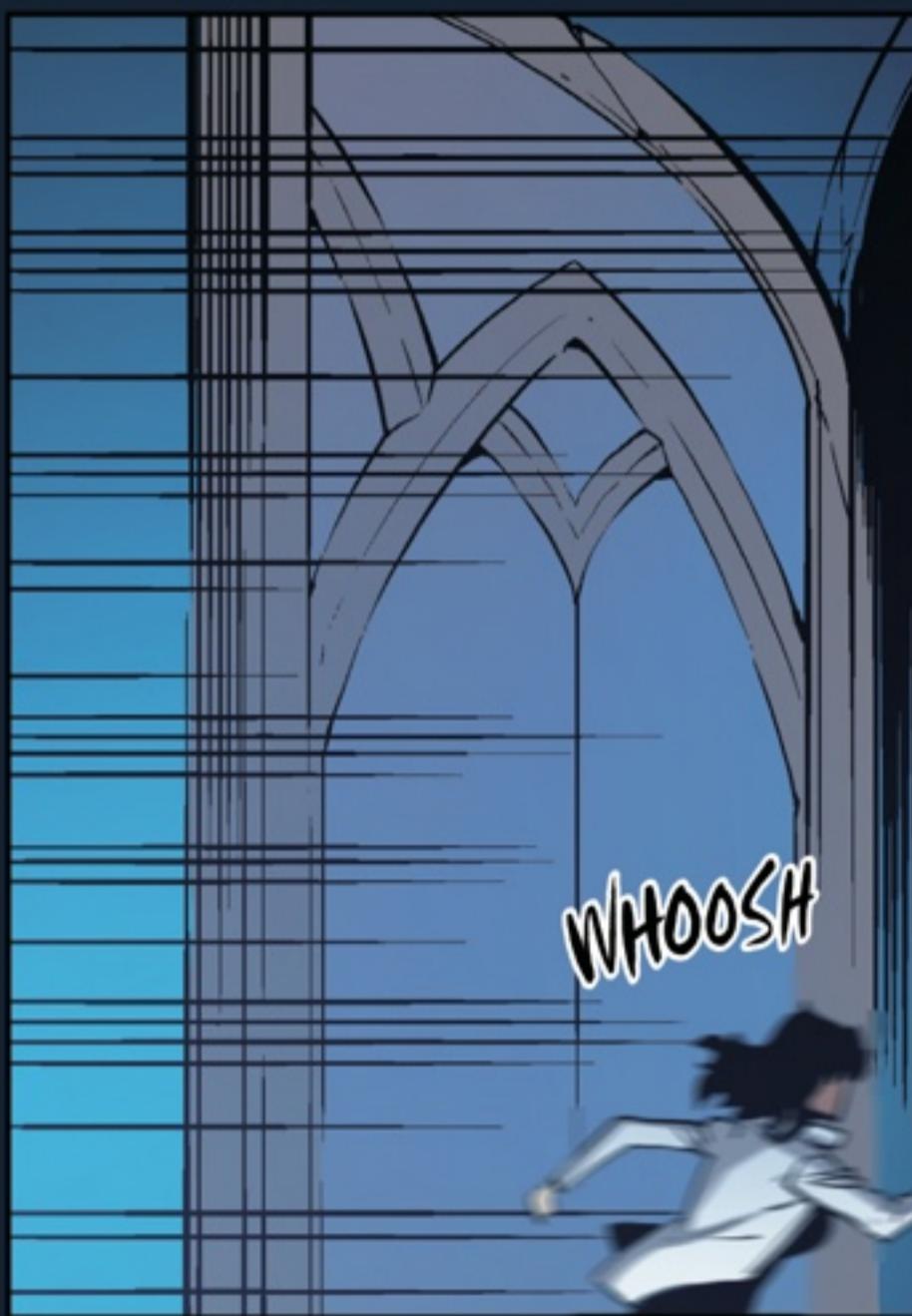












WHAT JUST  
HAPPENED,  
SLING?

SHE  
GOT OUT!

THE DOORS  
CLOSED A LITTLE  
BIT, BUT...

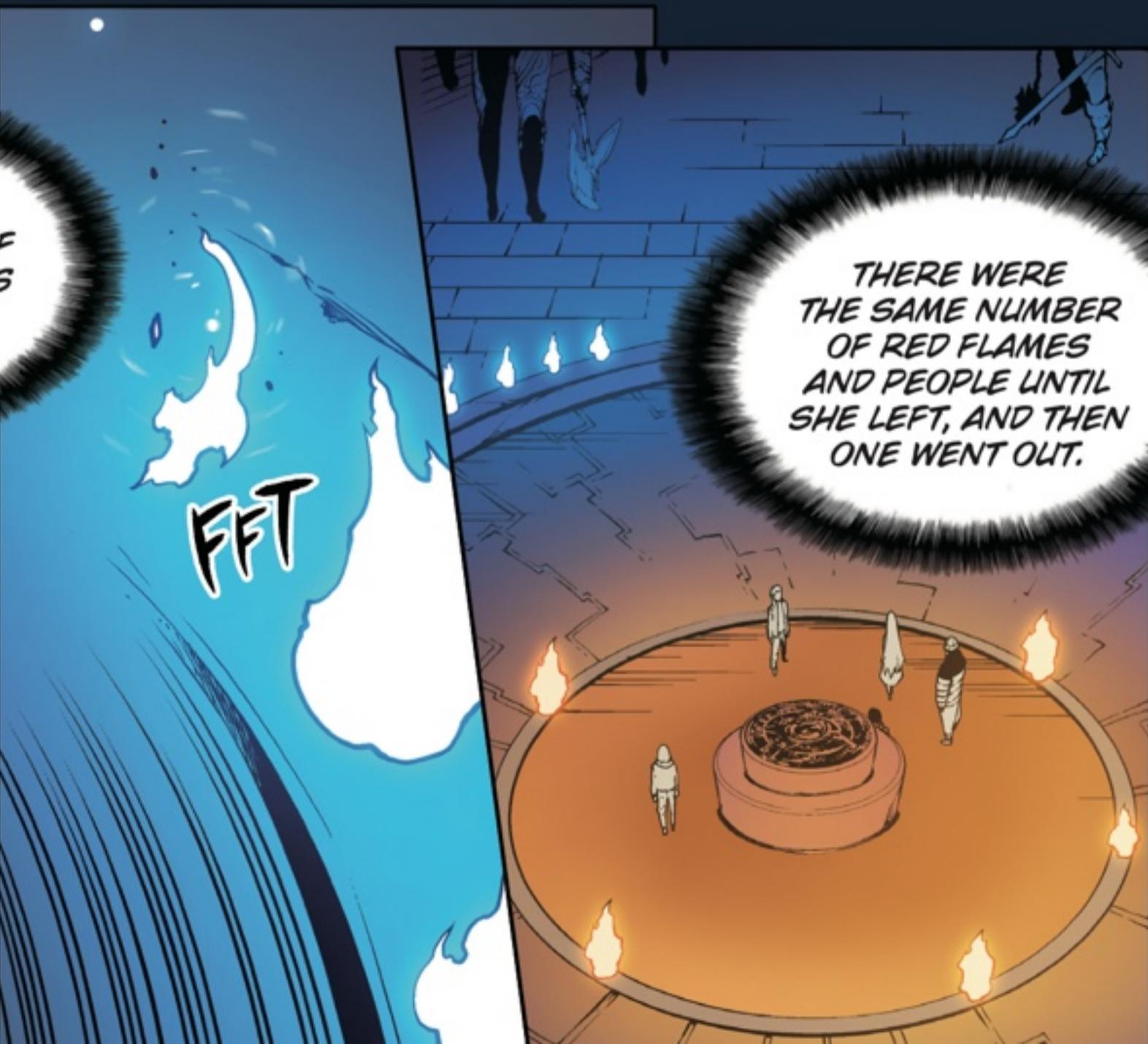
...SHE MADE IT  
OUT THE DOORS  
SAFELY!

WHAT? WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?

BLUE  
FLAMES GO OFF  
ONE BY ONE AS  
TIME PASSES.

FFT

THERE WERE  
THE SAME NUMBER  
OF RED FLAMES  
AND PEOPLE UNTIL  
SHE LEFT, AND THEN  
ONE WENT OUT.





THE FIRST  
COMMANDMENT  
WAS WORSHIPPING  
GOD.



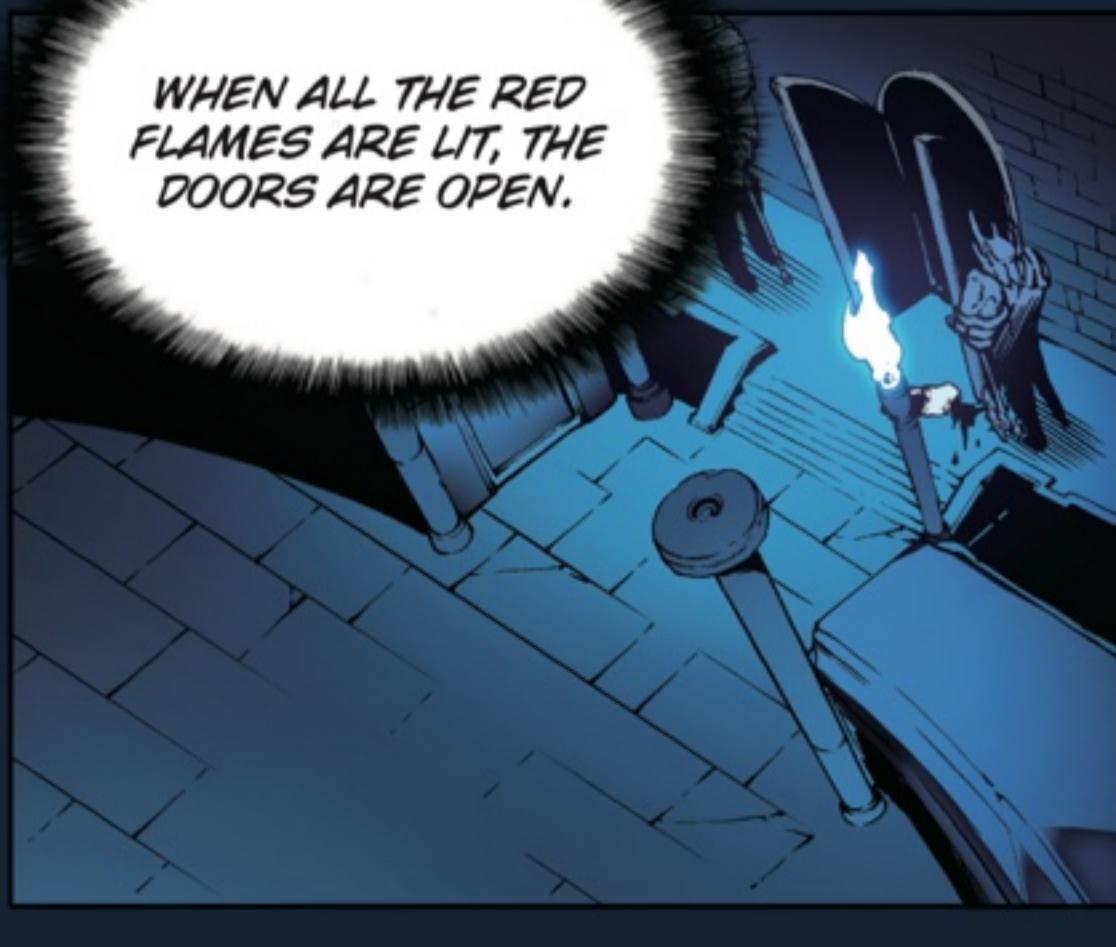
THE  
SECOND ONE  
WAS PRAISING  
GOD.



AT LEAST THE  
SOLUTIONS WEREN'T  
NONSENSE LIKE THE  
SPHINX'S RIDDLE.



THE OPEN  
DOORS ARE  
ACTUALLY A TRAP.  
THEY'RE FALSE  
HOPE.



WHEN ALL THE RED  
FLAMES ARE LIT, THE  
DOORS ARE OPEN.



EVERY TIME A  
RED FLAME GOES OUT,  
THE DOORS CLOSE A  
LITTLE BIT...IF ALL THE  
RED FLAMES GO OUT,  
THE DOORS WILL CLOSE  
COMPLETELY!



"PROVE  
THY FAITH"  
MEANS...

...WHILE AFRAID  
AND UNDER  
THREAT...

...BEING ABLE  
TO RESIST  
TEMPTATION!

S-SORRY.

TREMBLE  
TREMBLE!

I CAN'T  
DO THIS  
ANYMORE...

NOOO!

TIMP

TIMP

TIMP

TIMP  
TIMP

WHUMP



DASH



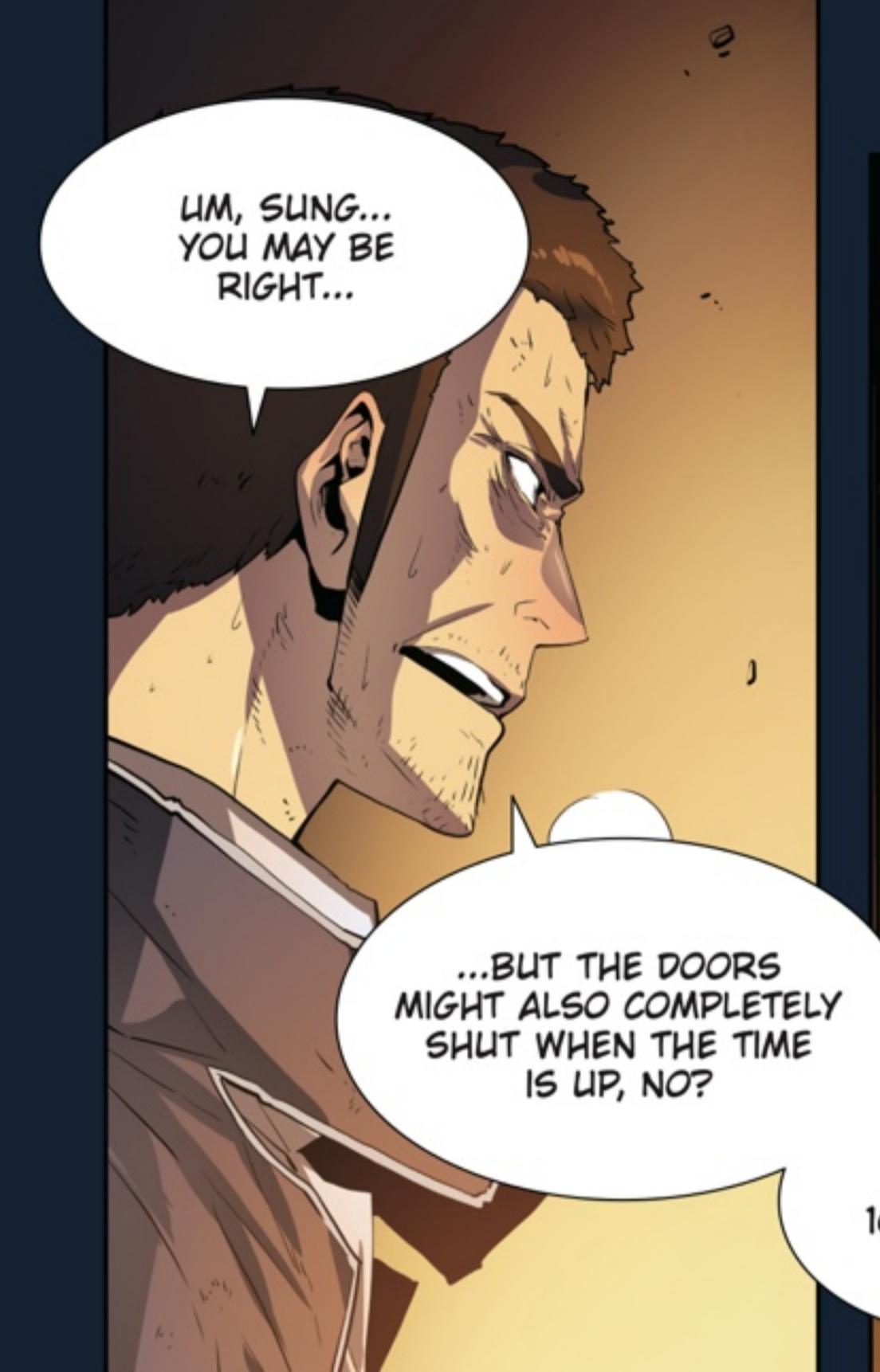
...HUUH?  
HUUH!?



DO NOT MOVE!  
WE CAN'T LOSE ANY  
MORE PEOPLE!







UM, SUNG...  
YOU MAY BE  
RIGHT...

...BUT THE DOORS  
MIGHT ALSO COMPLETELY  
SHUT WHEN THE TIME  
IS UP, NO?



ARE YOU  
100% SURE?



TO BE HONEST,  
I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS  
MUCH FROM THE  
WEAKEST HUNTER.



I'VE ALWAYS  
LOOKED DOWN ON YOU.  
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE  
IN OUR PARTY, I ASSUMED  
YOU WOULDN'T CONTRIBUTE  
ANYTHING.



A GOOD NUMBER  
HAVE DIED SINCE WE  
ENTERED THIS PLACE,  
BUT...THANKS TO YOU,  
SOME OF US  
ARE STILL ALIVE.



BECAUSE  
YOU SOLVED THE  
RIDDLES...

...WE'VE  
BEEN ABLE TO  
SURVIVE.



MR. KIM...



BUT...

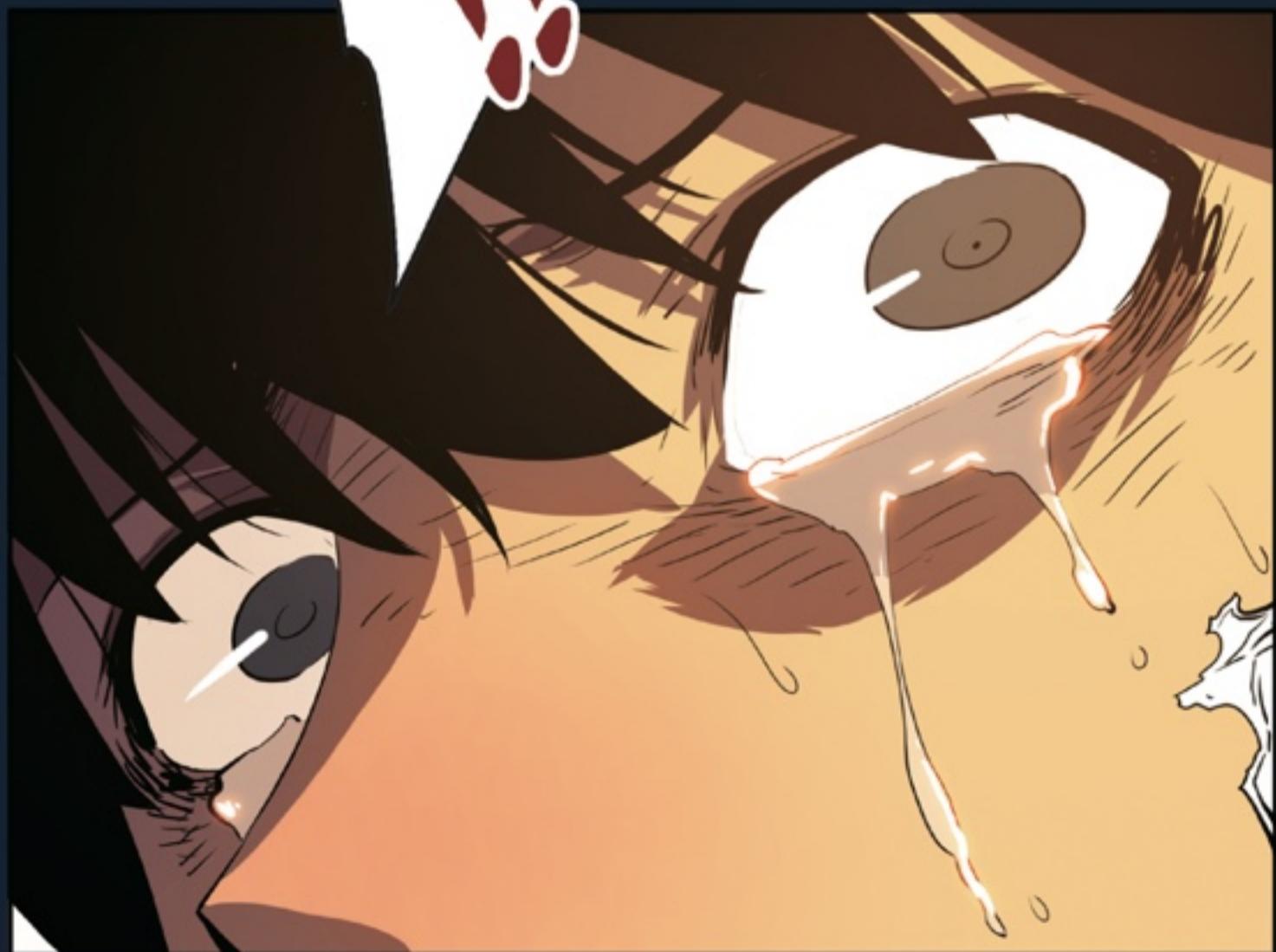
CLANG

...YOU  
KNOW...





DID HE SAY  
"THANK YOU"?

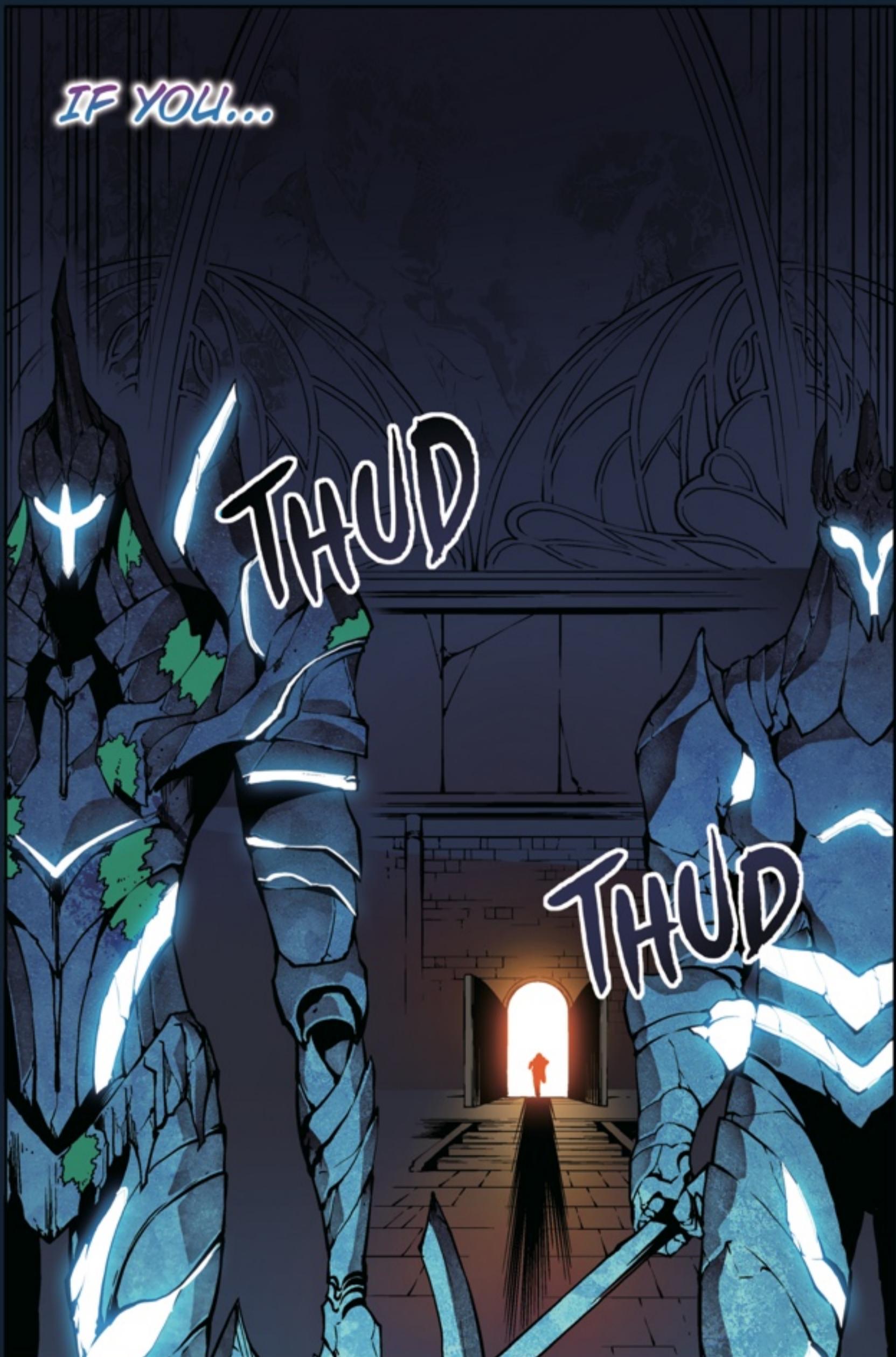




ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!



*IF YOU...*

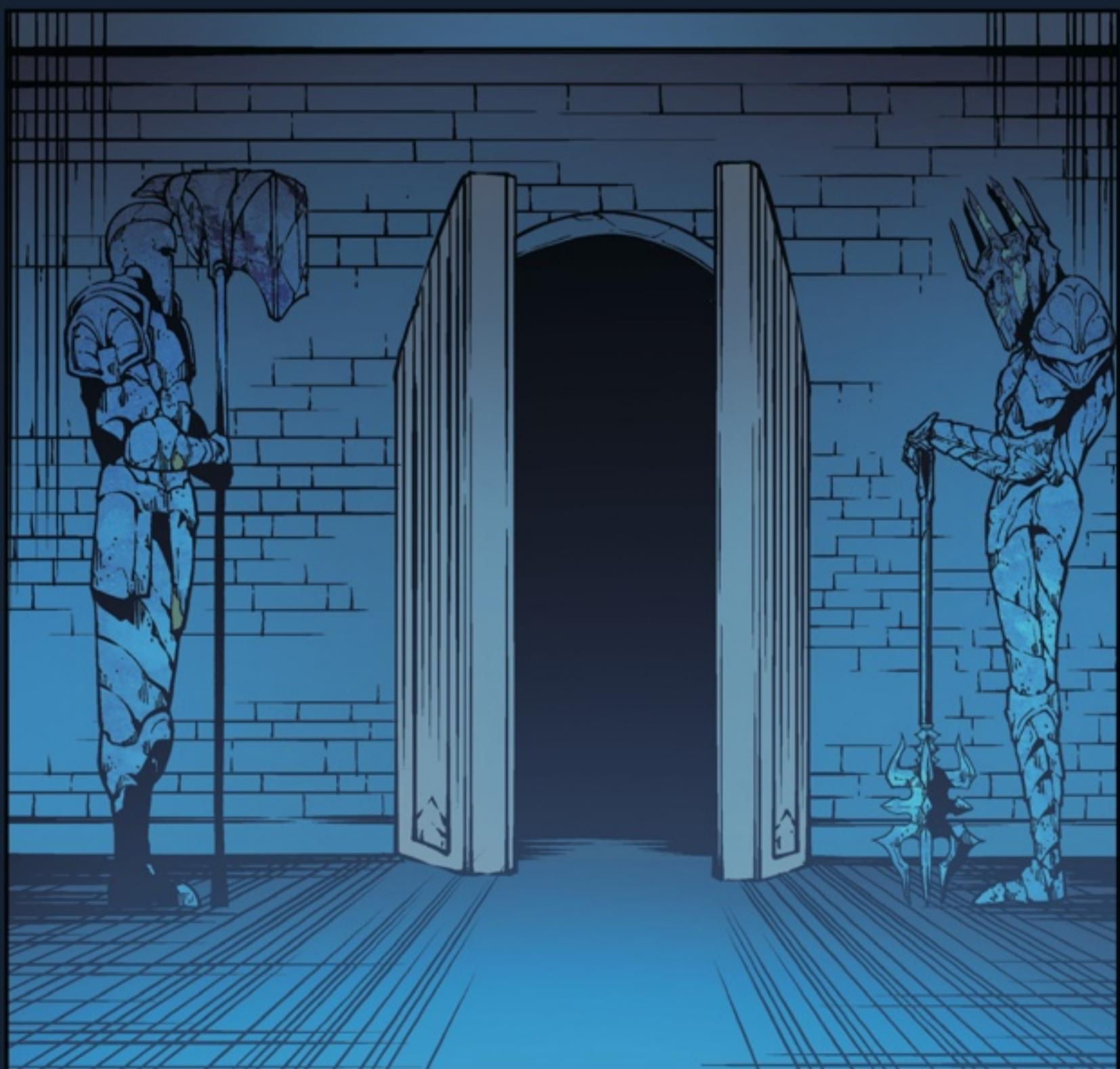


*...RUN  
AWAY...*

*...IT'S  
A DEATH  
SENTENCE  
FOR THE REST  
OF US...*

THUD

THUD



THE DOORS  
HAVE CLOSED  
A LOT.

IT'S TOO LATE,  
BUT I UNDERSTAND  
THE RULES NOW.

YOU TWO  
NEED TO GO.

MR.  
SONG...?

THE DOORS WON'T  
CLOSE AS LONG AS  
SOMEONE IS ON THE  
ALTAR, RIGHT?

YOU HAVE  
MORE LIFE AHEAD OF  
YOU THAN I DO, SO YOU  
SHOULD GO.



OH NO...





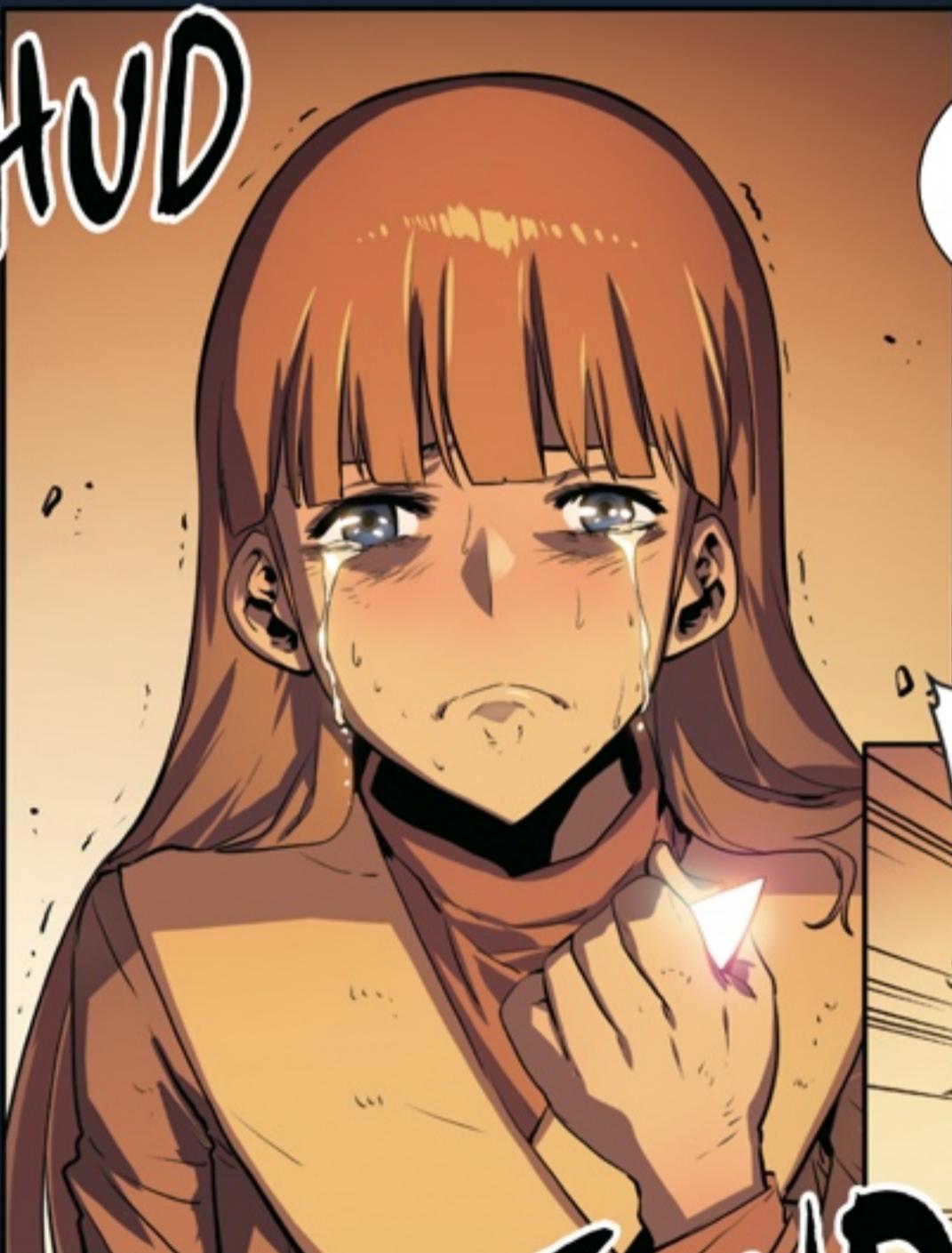


THUD

USE THIS  
AND TREAT  
YOURSELF.

I'LL GET MY  
CHANGE FROM YOU  
WHEN I GET OUT  
OF HERE.

HOW CAN  
YOU JOKE—



THUD

SHUP

...I'M SORRY.  
THERE REALLY  
ISN'T ANY TIME  
LEFT.

THD

THAUD

PLEASE TAKE  
GOOD CARE OF  
HER.

I WILL.

THUD





I'M GLAD...

THUD

THUD



...I'M THE  
ONLY ONE  
DYING...

THUD

THD



THUD

THUD

I SHOULD'VE  
GOTTEN MORE LIFE  
INSURANCE...



THUD

HFF...

THUD

THUD

HFF...



HUFF!

HUFF!

IF I'M GOING  
DOWN, I'M TAKING  
AT LEAST ONE OF  
THESE THINGS  
WITH ME.

**THUD**

**THUD**

**THUD**





HWOOF...



S

S

K









I DON'T  
WANT TO DIE.

HOW COULD  
I BE FINE WITH  
THIS?

A GOOD NUMBER  
HAVE DIED SINCE  
WE ENTERED THIS  
PLACE, BUT...

...THANKS TO  
YOU, SOME OF  
US ARE STILL  
ALIVE.

BECAUSE  
YOU SOLVED THE  
RIDDLES, WE'VE  
BEEN ABLE TO  
SURVIVE.

WHAT WAS  
HE THANKING  
ME FOR?

I DON'T  
WANT TO DIE.

SORRY...

BEEN ABLE TO  
SURVIVE.

THANK YOU.

...I HAVE  
A FAMILY.

HE  
USED ME AND  
THREW ME AWAY!  
I HAVE A FAMILY  
TOO!

...I'M THE  
ONLY ONE  
DYING...

I DON'T  
TO DIE

"GLAD I'M  
THE ONLY ONE  
DYING"?

I'M GLAD...

I DON'T  
WANT TO DIE

S  
I  
R  
V

WHAT A JOKE!  
I'M SUCH A  
HYPOCRITE!



I DON'T WANT  
TO DIE...

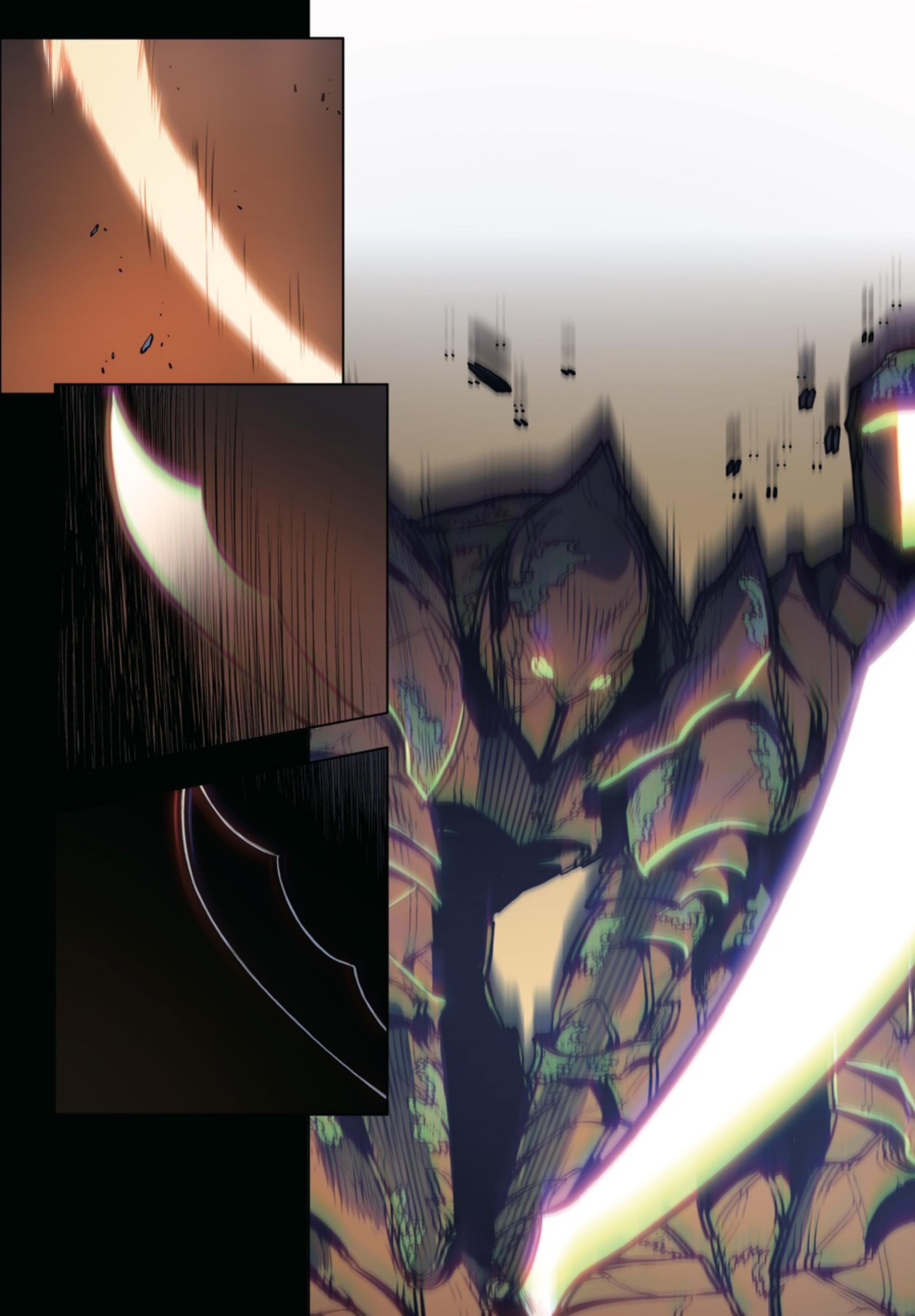


ONE  
MORE...



IF ONLY I  
COULD HAVE  
ONE MORE  
CHANCE!



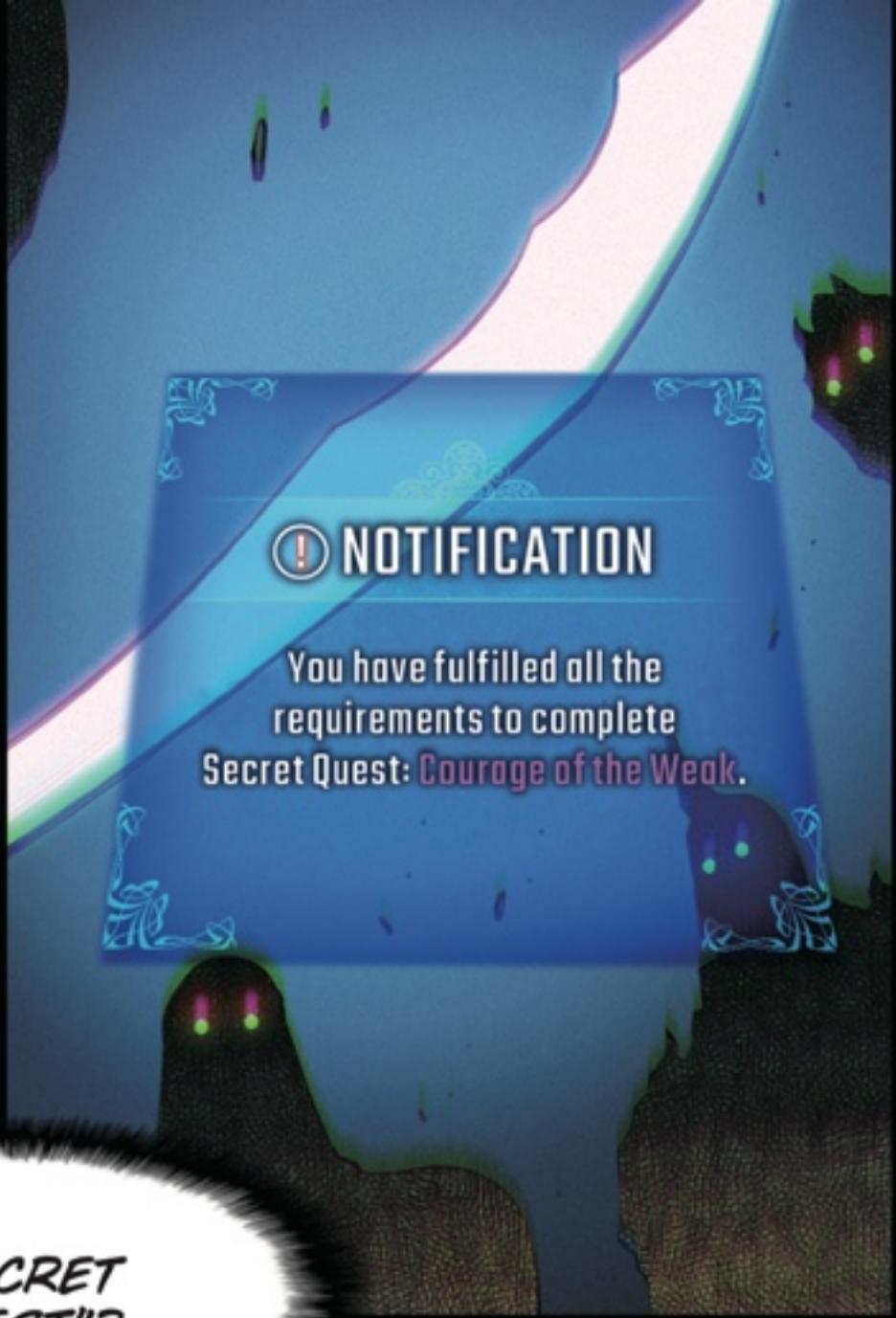


PING!

## ! NOTIFICATION

You have fulfilled all the requirements to complete  
Secret Quest: Courage of the Weak.

WHAT?



## NOTIFICATION

You have fulfilled all the requirements to complete Secret Quest: Courage of the Weak.

"SECRET QUEST"?

"REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE"?

[You have fulfilled all the requirements to complete Secret Quest: Courage of the Weak.]

WHERE IS THIS VOICE COMING FROM?

[You have acquired  
the qualifications to  
be a Player. Will  
you accept?]

"QUALIFICATIONS"?  
"ACCEPT"?

WHAT IS  
ALL THIS...?

[Your time is  
running out.]

[Your heart will stop in  
0.02 seconds if you choose not  
to accept. Will you accept?]

OH...

ACCEPT IT?

! NOTIFICATION

Your heart will stop  
in **0.02** seconds if you  
choose not to accept.

Will you accept?

ACCEPT

DECLINE

THEN...  
I WON'T DIE?

FINE...  
I...

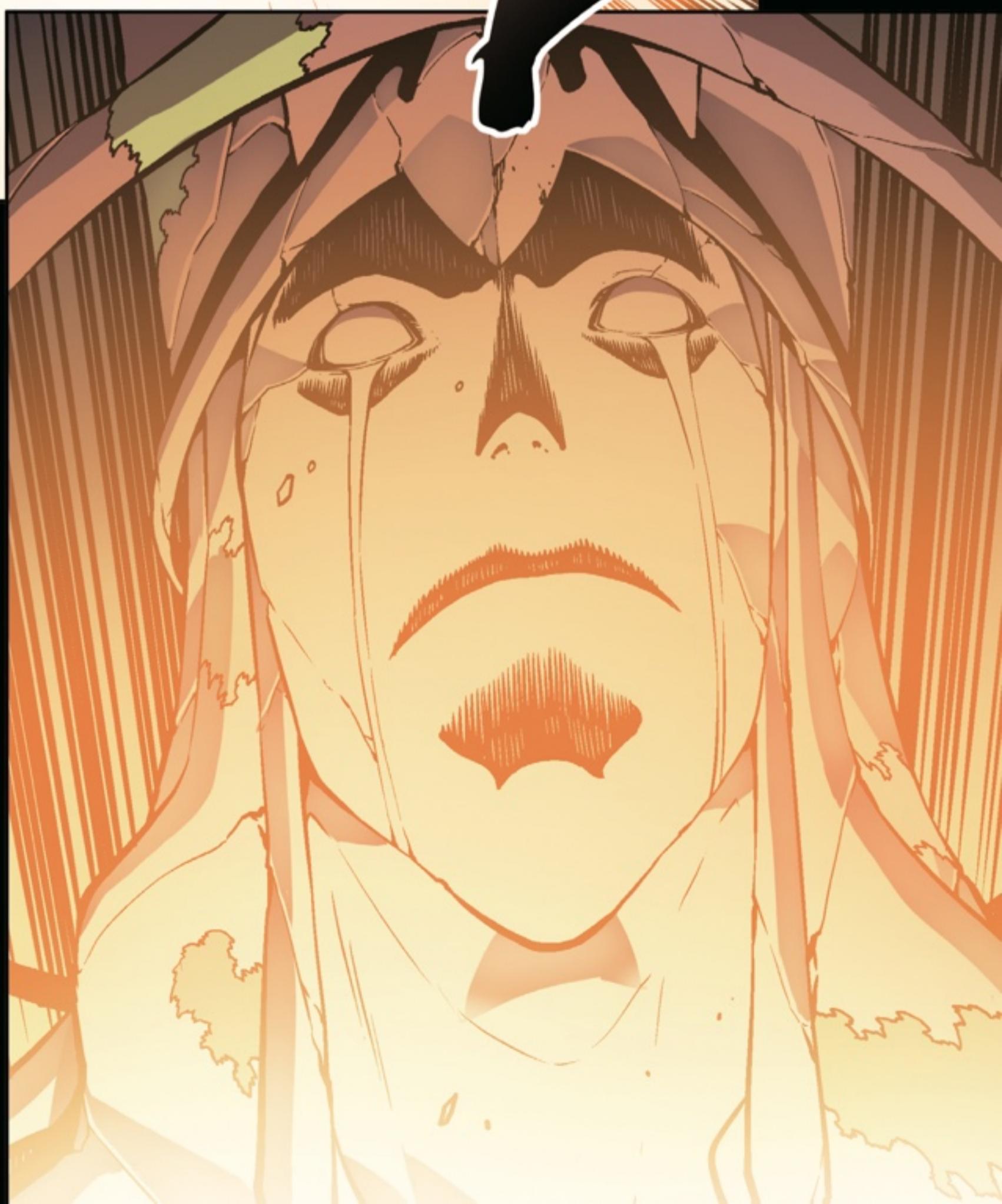
...ACCEPT.

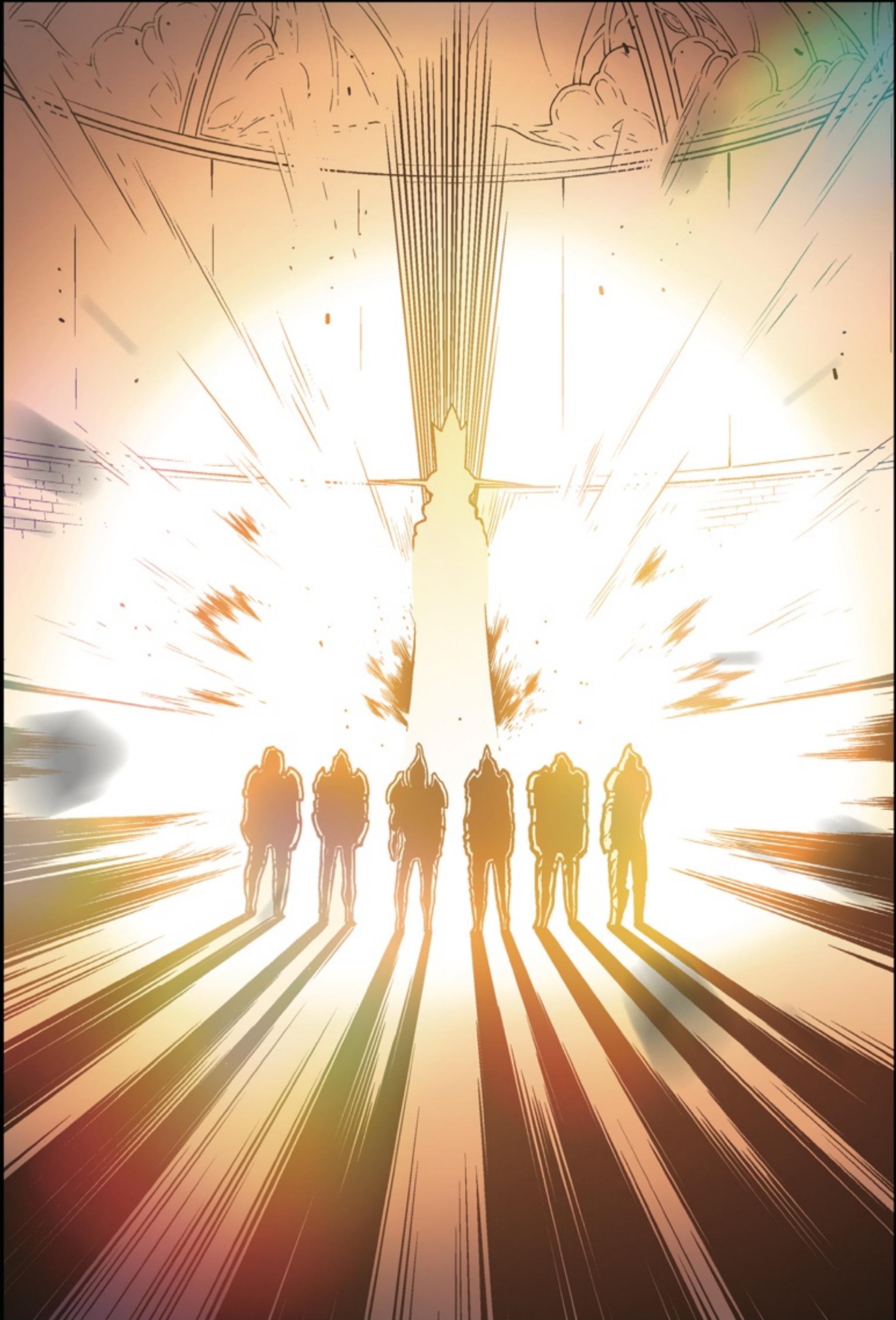
! NOTIFICATION

Congratulations on becoming a Player.



**SMAZ**







Solo  
Leveling



## CHAPTER 3

---

### Quest



Solo  
Leveling

[Congratulations on becoming a Player.]









DREAM...?

WAS IT A DREAM?





WHY ARE YOU  
HERE...?



THEY'RE FINE,  
BUT...



...HUNTER CHIYUL  
SONG LOST ONE OF HIS  
ARMS. IT WILL MAKE  
WORK CHALLENGING, SO  
HE MAY RETIRE.



HUNTER JOOHEE LEE  
IS BEING TREATED FOR  
TRAUMA. I'M NOT SURE  
IF EITHER OF THEM CAN  
CONTINUE TO WORK AS  
HUNTERS.

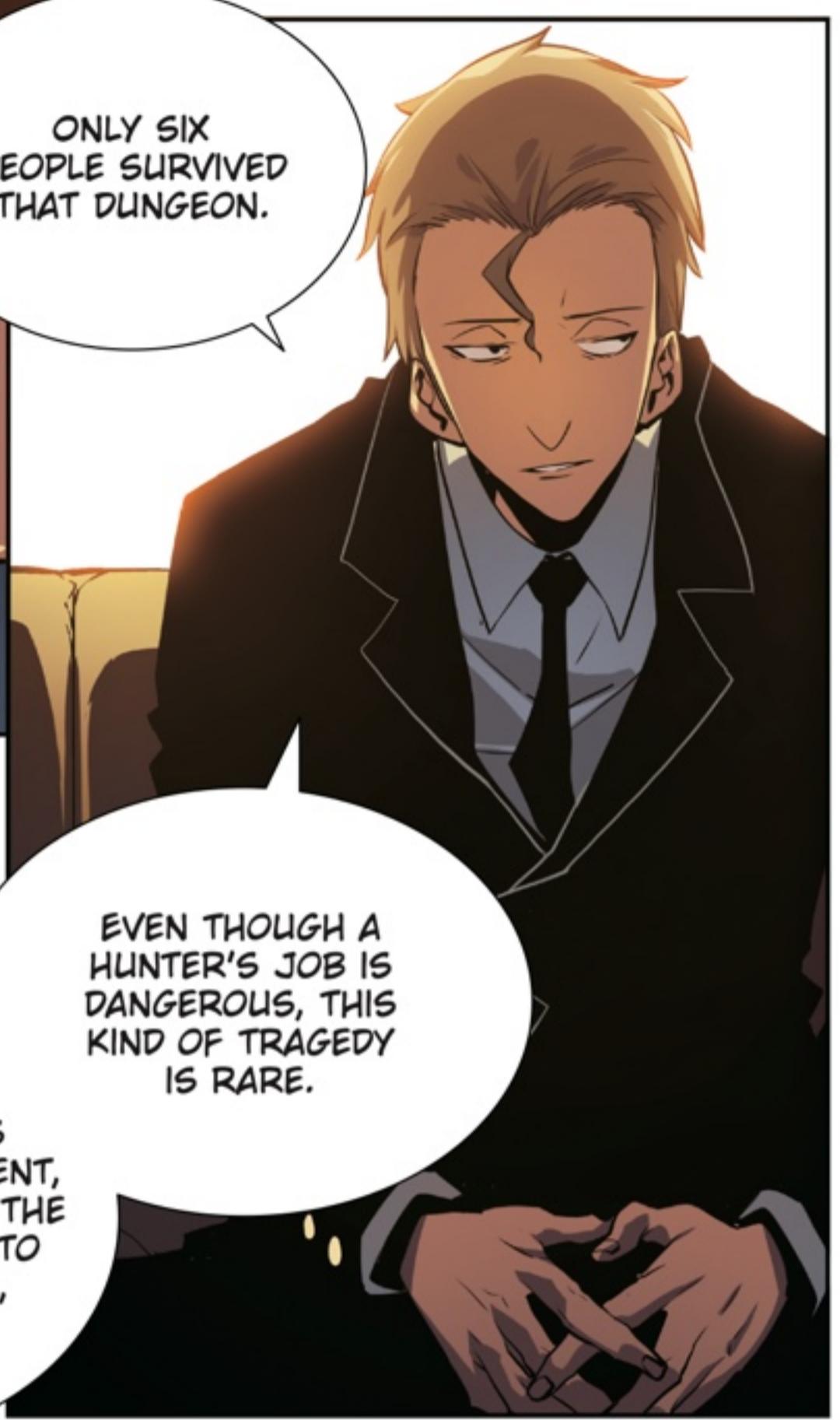


ABOUT HUNTER  
SANGSHIK KIM AND THE  
OTHER HUNTERS...

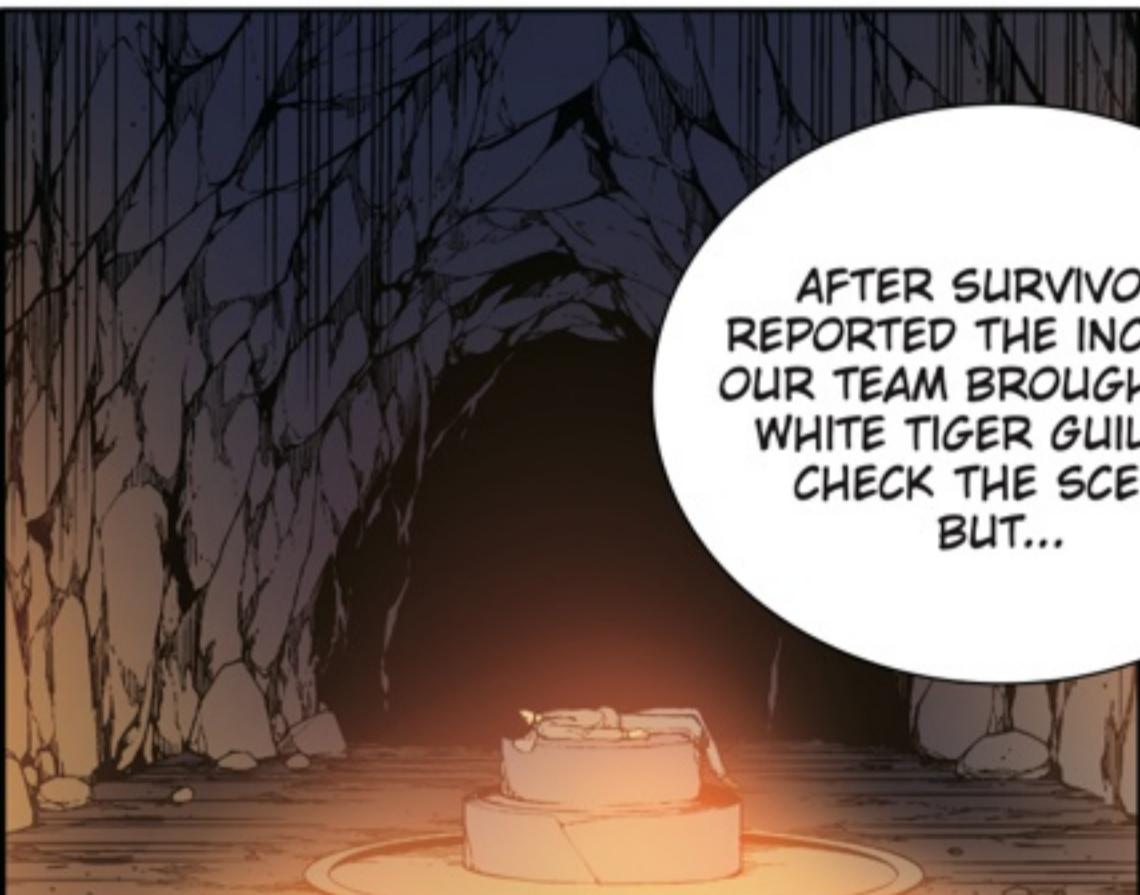


NO...  
I DON'T NEED TO  
HEAR IT.

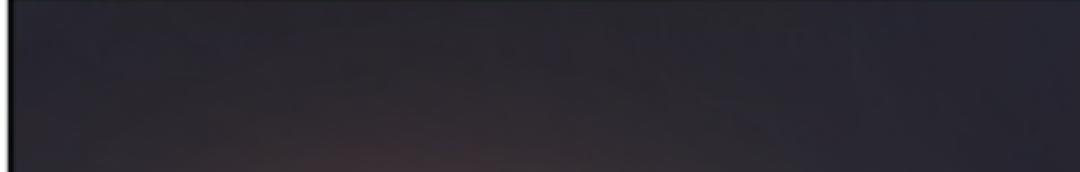
THAT'S  
ENOUGH.



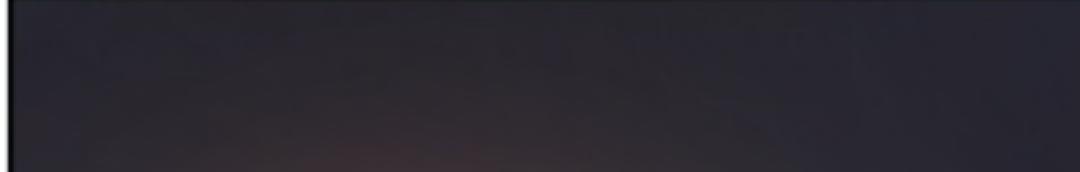
ONLY SIX  
PEOPLE SURVIVED  
THAT DUNGEON.



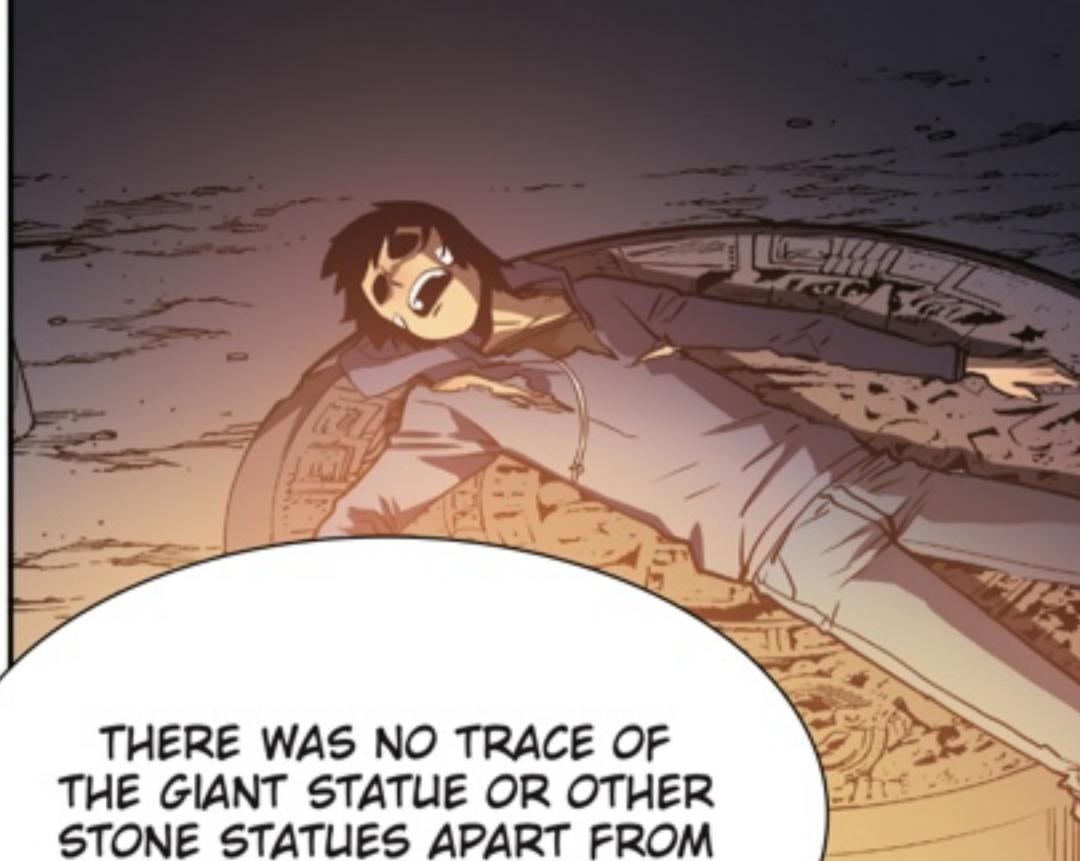
AFTER SURVIVORS  
REPORTED THE INCIDENT,  
OUR TEAM BROUGHT THE  
WHITE TIGER GUILD TO  
CHECK THE SCENE,  
BUT...



EVEN THOUGH A  
HUNTER'S JOB IS  
DANGEROUS, THIS  
KIND OF TRAGEDY  
IS RARE.



...THERE  
WAS NOTHING  
THERE.



THERE WAS NO TRACE OF  
THE GIANT STATUE OR OTHER  
STONE STATUES APART FROM  
YOU LYING UNCONSCIOUS.



NO WAY...!



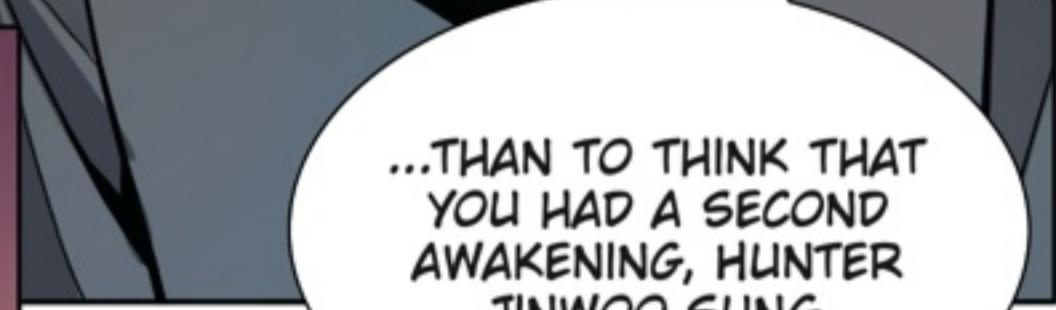
WE  
COULDN'T  
BELIEVE IT  
EITHER.



BUT THE  
SURVIVORS' STORIES  
WERE CONSISTENT, AND  
WE FOUND THE VICTIMS'  
REMAINS.



WE COULDN'T  
EXPLAIN IT ANY  
OTHER WAY...



...THAN TO THINK THAT  
YOU HAD A SECOND  
AWAKENING, HUNTER  
JINWOO SUNG.

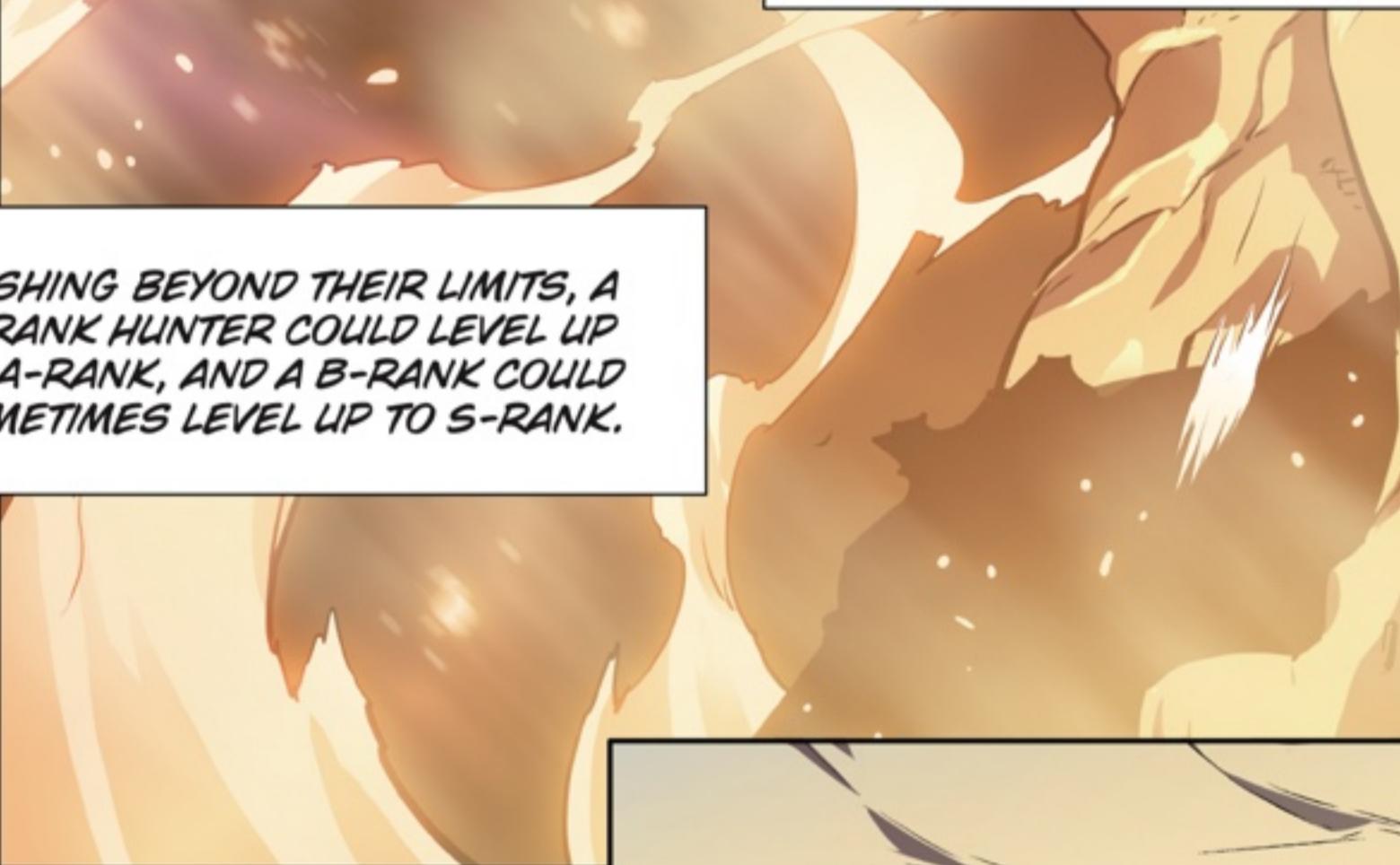


A SECOND  
AWAKENING?!



A HUNTER'S ABILITY IS  
ESTABLISHED WHEN THEY AWAKE.

IT'S RARE, BUT A PERSON WHO HAS  
ALREADY AWAKENED AS A HUNTER  
CAN HAVE A SECOND AWAKENING.



PUSHING BEYOND THEIR LIMITS, A  
C-RANK HUNTER COULD LEVEL UP  
TO A-RANK, AND A B-RANK COULD  
SOMETIMES LEVEL UP TO S-RANK.



THIS IS A  
MANA METER.

ALL YOU  
HAVE TO DO IS PLACE  
YOUR HAND ON THIS  
ESSENCE STONE.



IF THEY REALLY MET INSTAKILL-LEVEL MAGIC BEASTS, AN AVERAGE HUNTER COULDN'T HANDLE IT.

WE WOULD'VE SUMMONED A-RANK AND EVEN S-RANK HUNTERS TO DEAL WITH ANYTHING THAT POWERFUL.

BUT THOSE HIGH-LEVEL MAGIC BEASTS DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE...



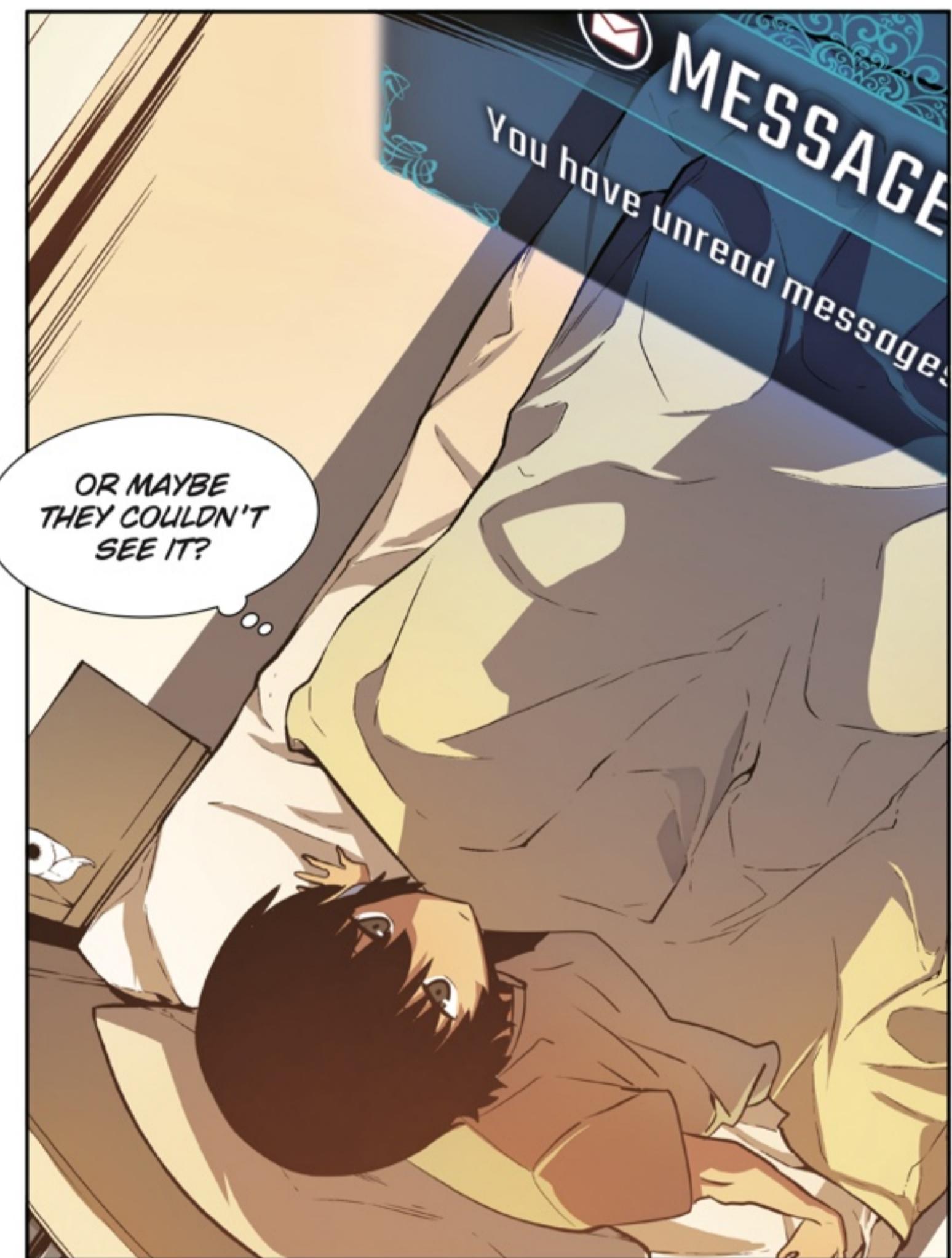
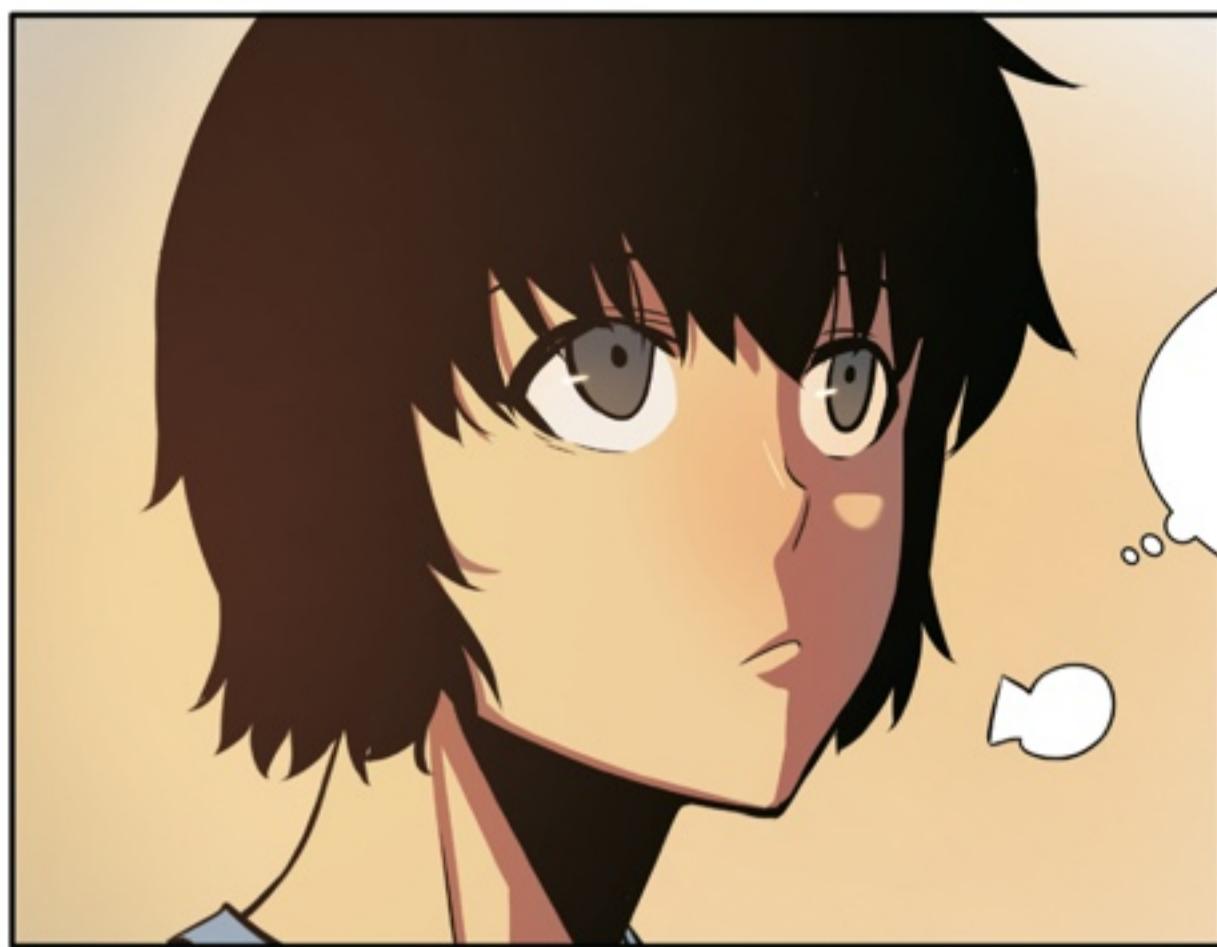
...GARBAGE IS AS GARBAGE DOES.

EVEN THE  
LOWEST E-RANK  
HUNTER IS AT  
LEAST 70, BUT...

WHAT'S THE  
RESULT?

WE MUST HAVE  
MADE A MISTAKE.  
I APOLOGIZE.

I GUESS I  
SHOULDN'T HAVE  
GOTTEN MY HOPES  
UP.





...AND NOT EVEN A SCRATCH  
WHERE I WAS STABBED THROUGH  
BEFORE I DIED.







IT STILL  
FEELS LIKE I'M  
IN A DREAM,  
THOUGH.

## MESSAGE

You h

ARE YOU  
LISTENING? GET  
HURT ONE MORE TIME,  
AND I'M QUITTING  
SCHOOL AND  
YOU'RE QUITTING  
HUNTING!

JINAH.

DO YOU  
SEE THIS?

MESSAGE

.2900229m b091nu evnd unV

SEE  
WHAT?

MES

You have unre

...NOTHING.

WHAT DO YOU  
DO IF YOU HAVE  
AN UNREAD  
MESSAGE...

...WHEN  
YOU'RE PLAYING  
A GAME?

## MESSAGE

unread messages.

SERIOUSLY,  
DID YOU HURT  
YOUR HEAD?

OPEN YOUR  
INBOX.

OPEN THE  
INBOX?

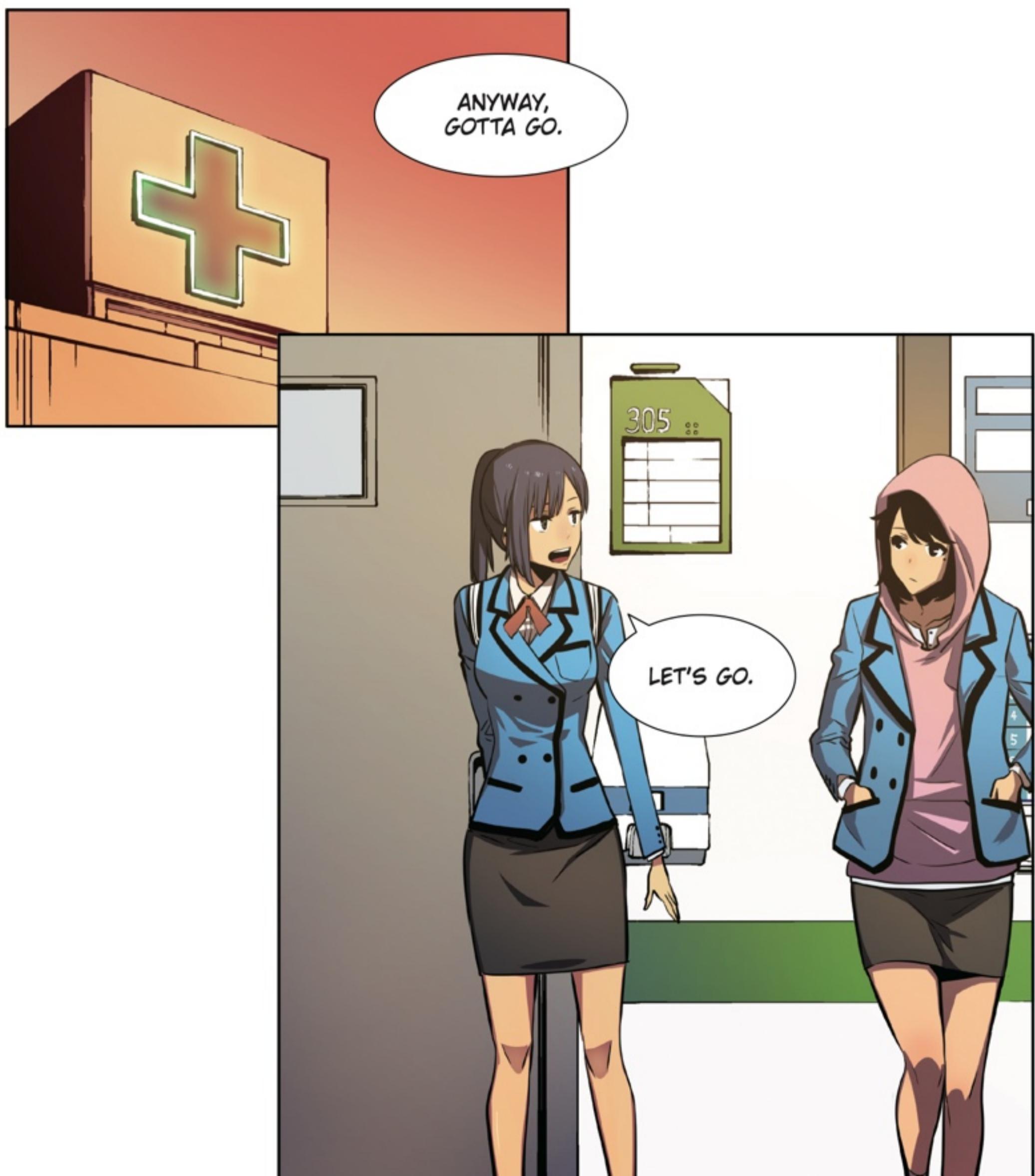
PING!



## MESSAGE

[Congratulations on becoming  
a Player.] (UNREAD)

[Daily Quest: Strength Training  
has arrived.] (UNREAD)



## ! NOTIFICATION

This system is designed to assist the development of the Player.

## ! NOTIFICATION

Failure to comply with the system may result in a penalty.

## ! NOTIFICATION

The rewards have been delivered.

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND WHAT  
ALL THESE ARE.



BUT I THINK...  
I SAW SOMETHING  
SIMILAR WHEN I WAS  
LEFT ALONE ON THE  
ALTAR...

### ! NOTIFICATION

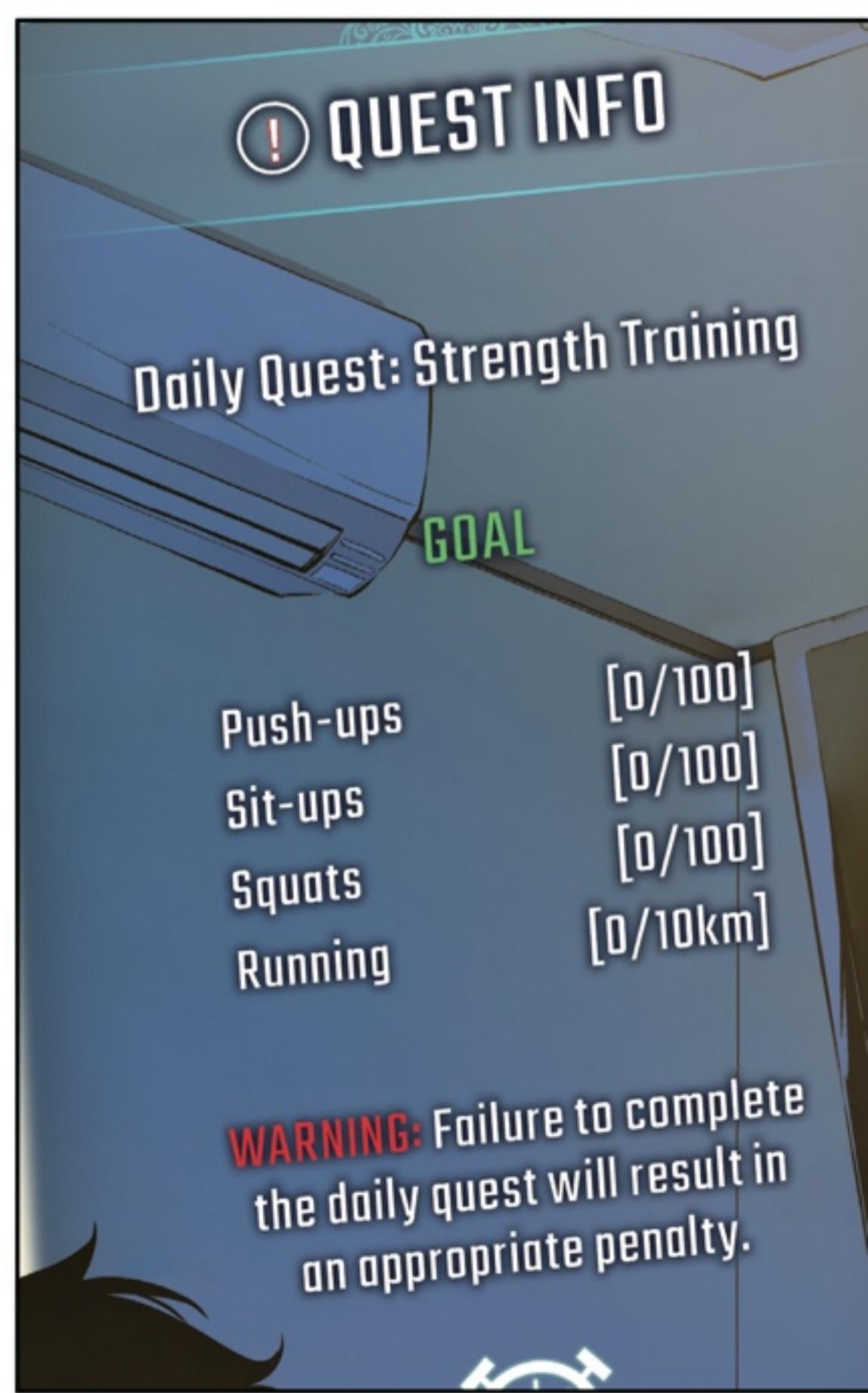
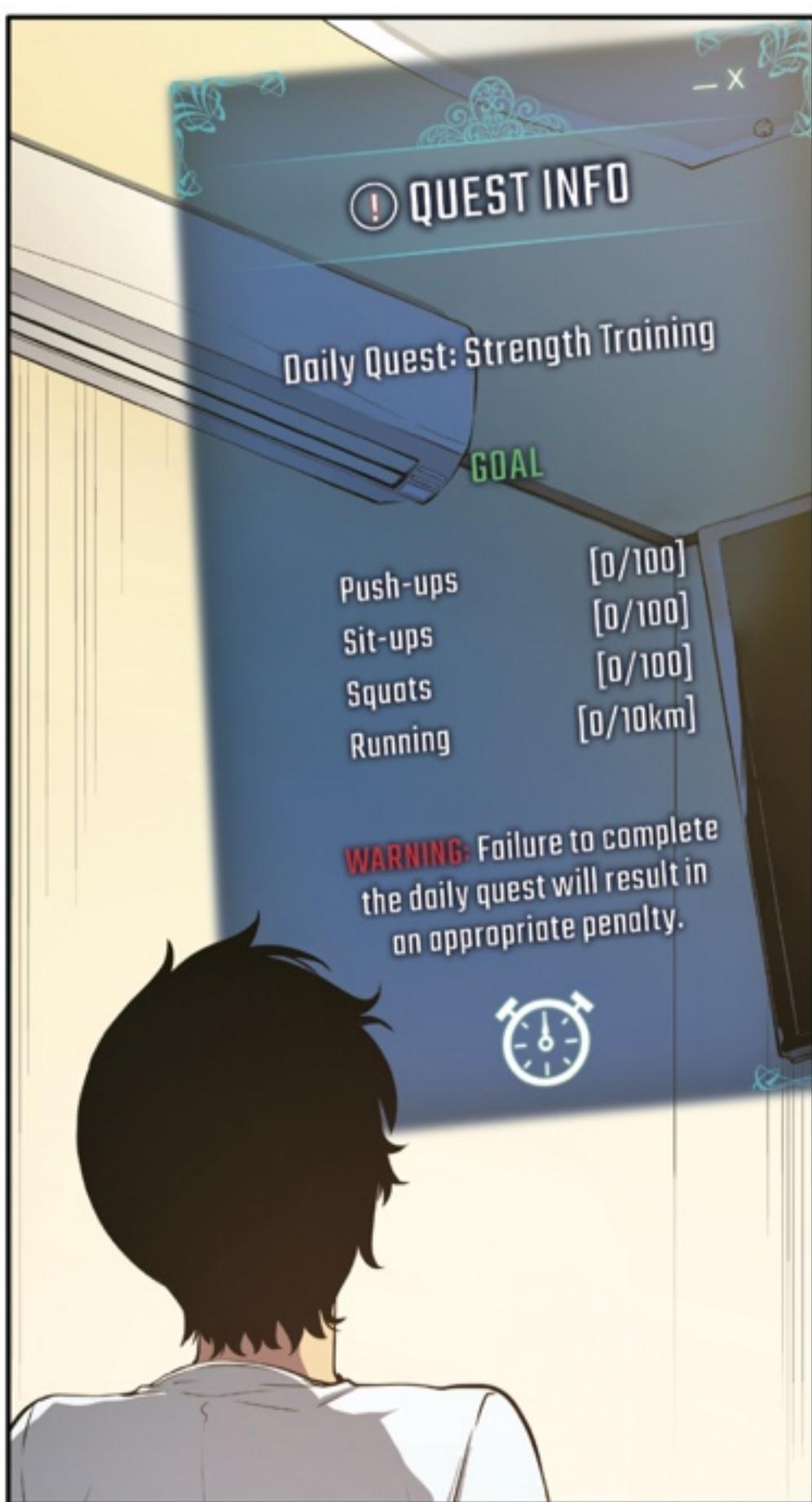
You have fulfilled all  
the requirements to  
complete Secret Quest:  
*Courage of the Weak.*

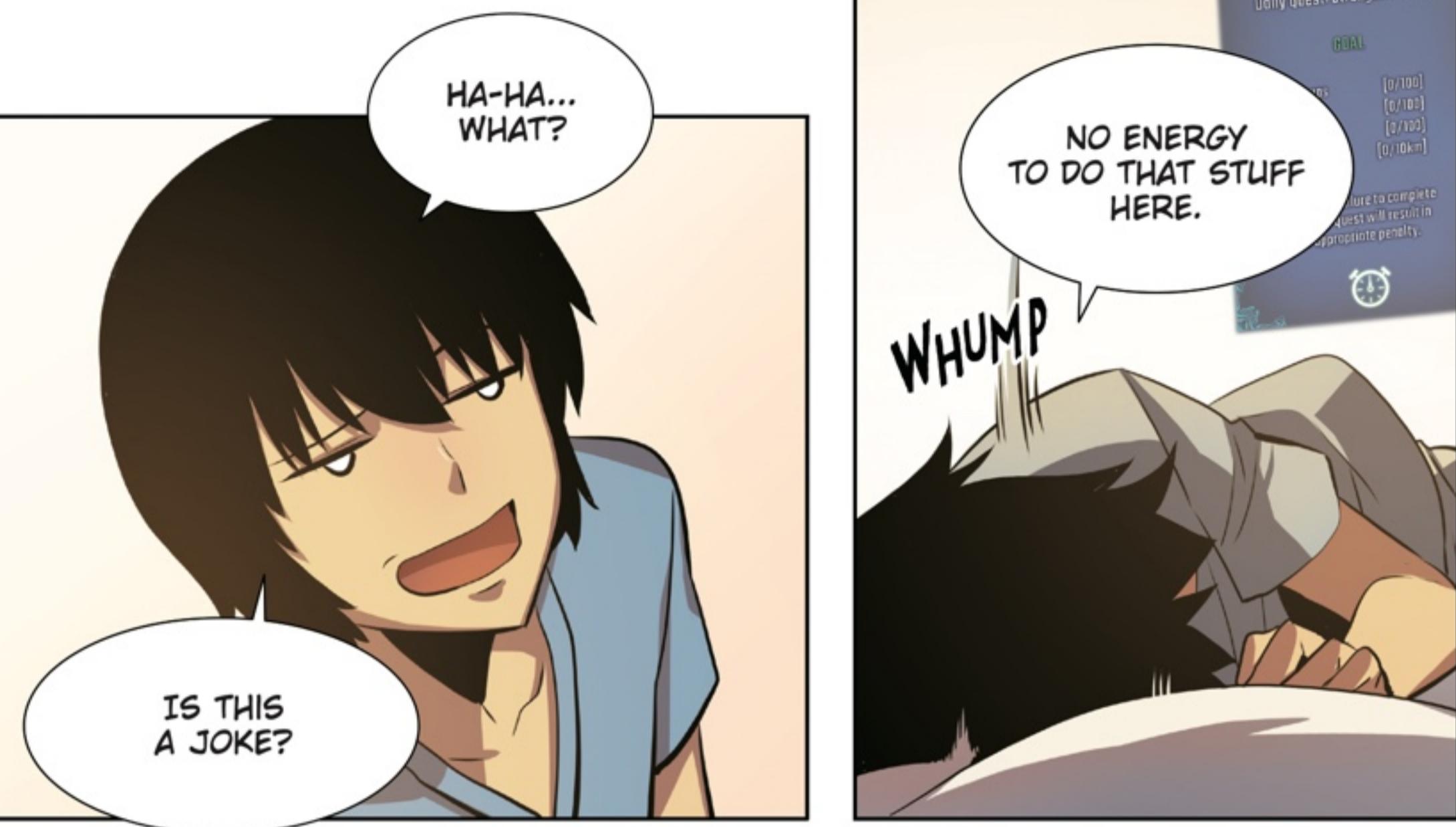
?

### ✉ MESSAGE

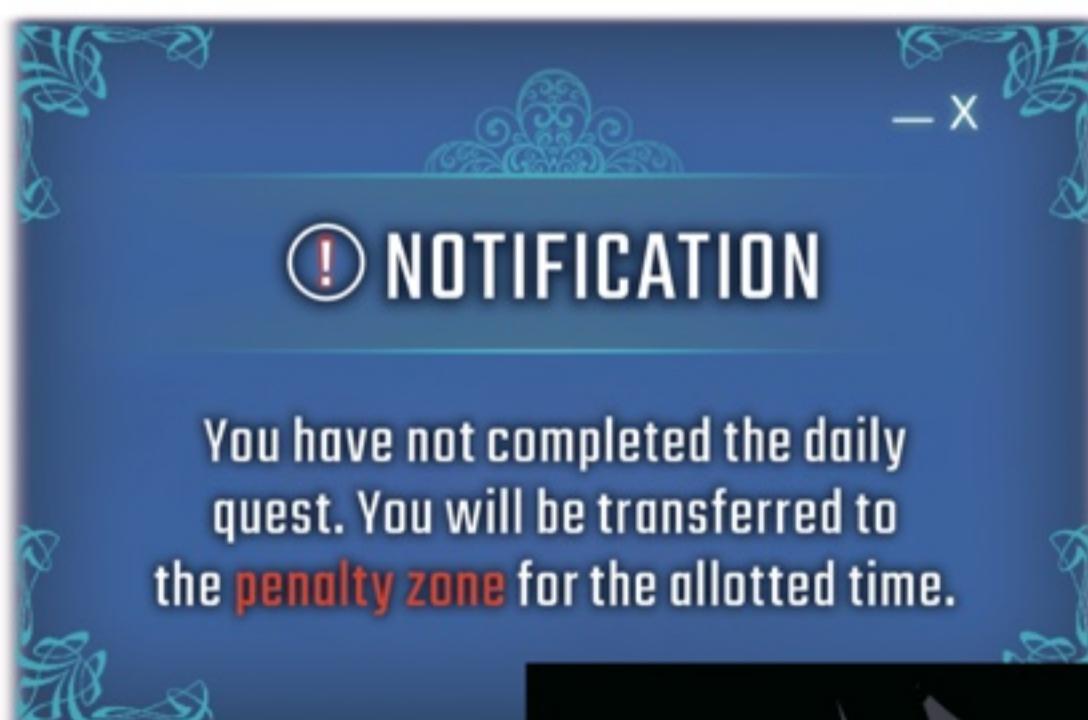
[Daily Quest: Strength Training  
has arrived.] (UNREAD)

"STRENGTH  
TRAINING"?





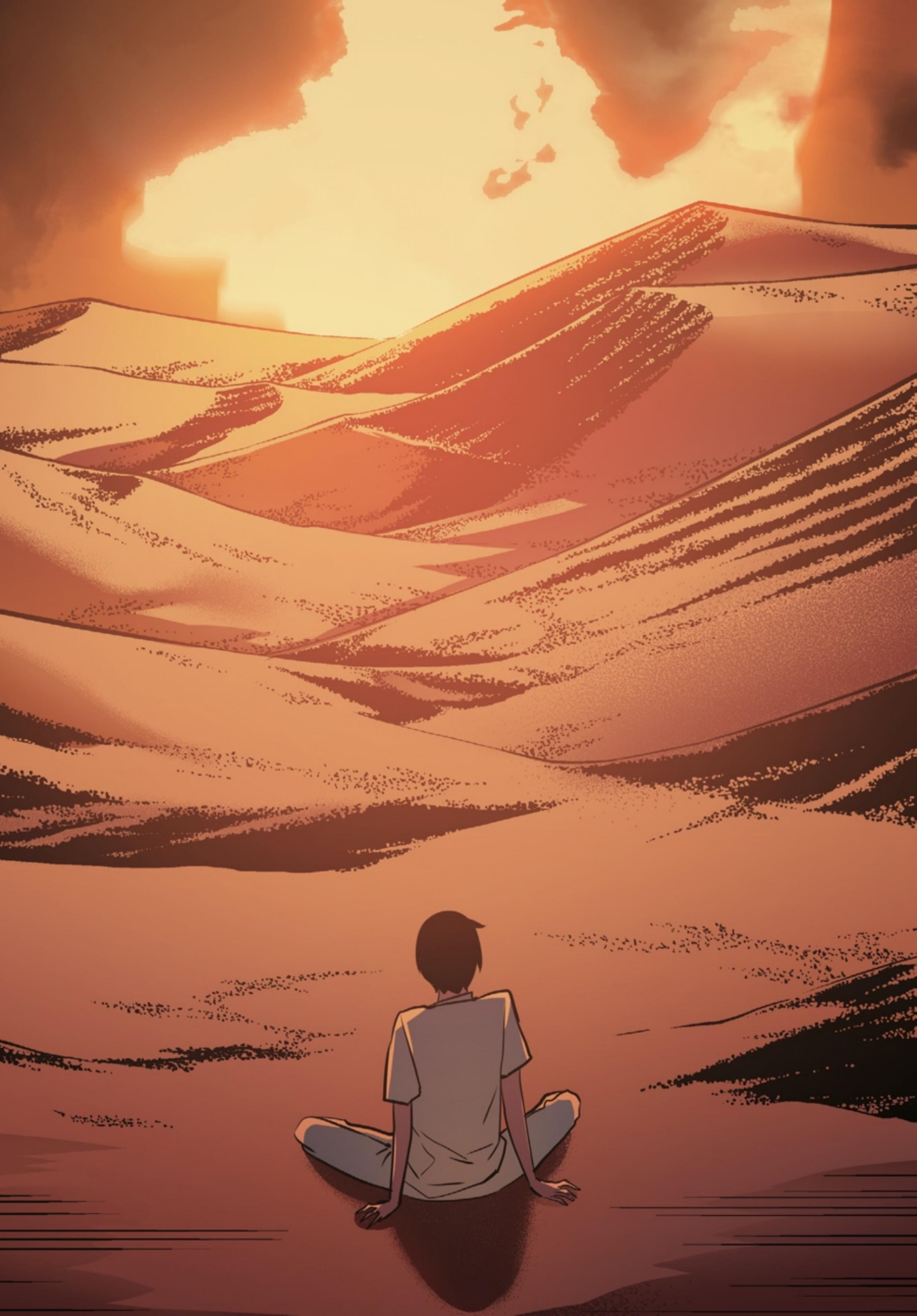
**WARNING:** Failure to complete  
the daily quest will result in  
an appropriate penalty.

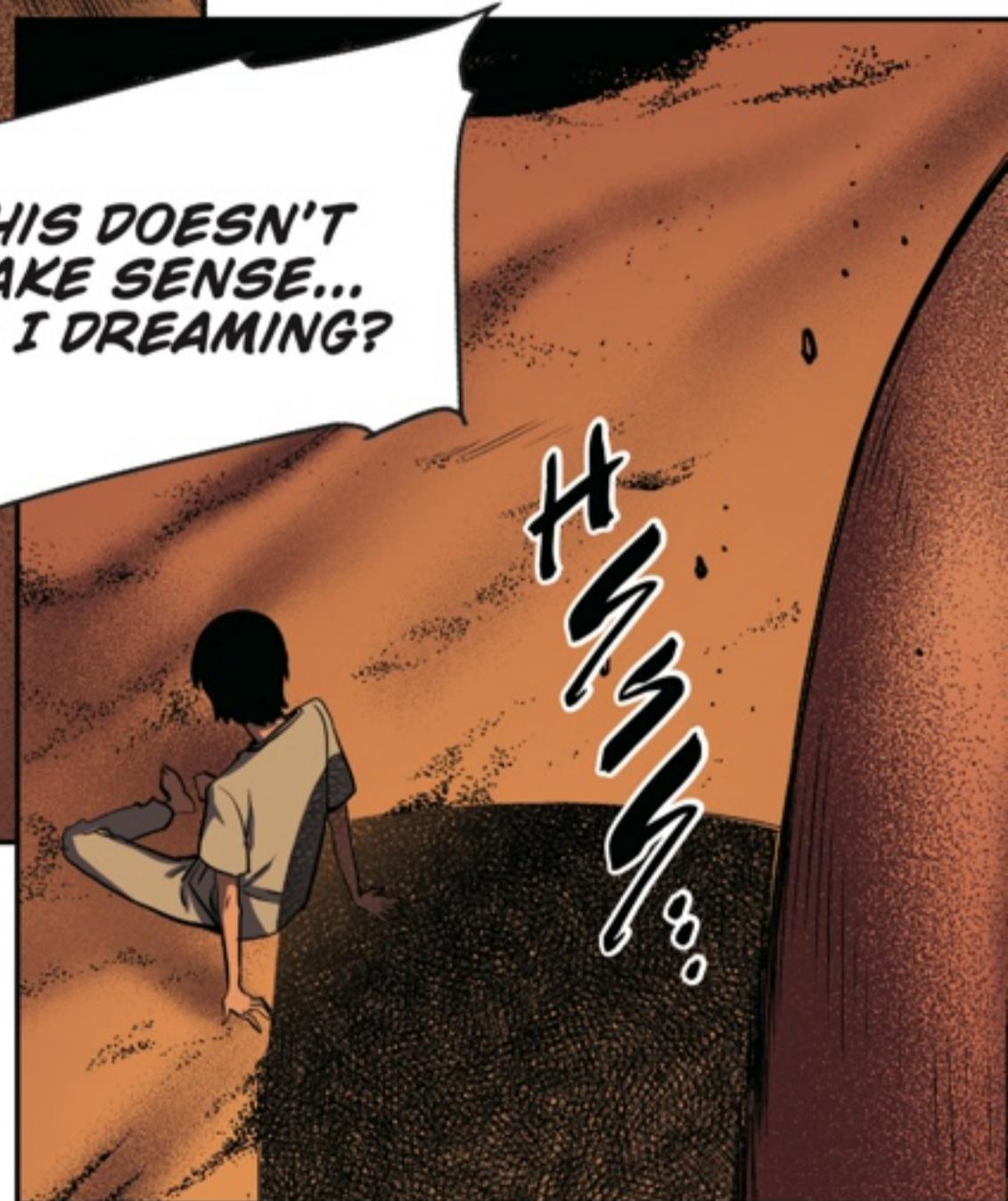




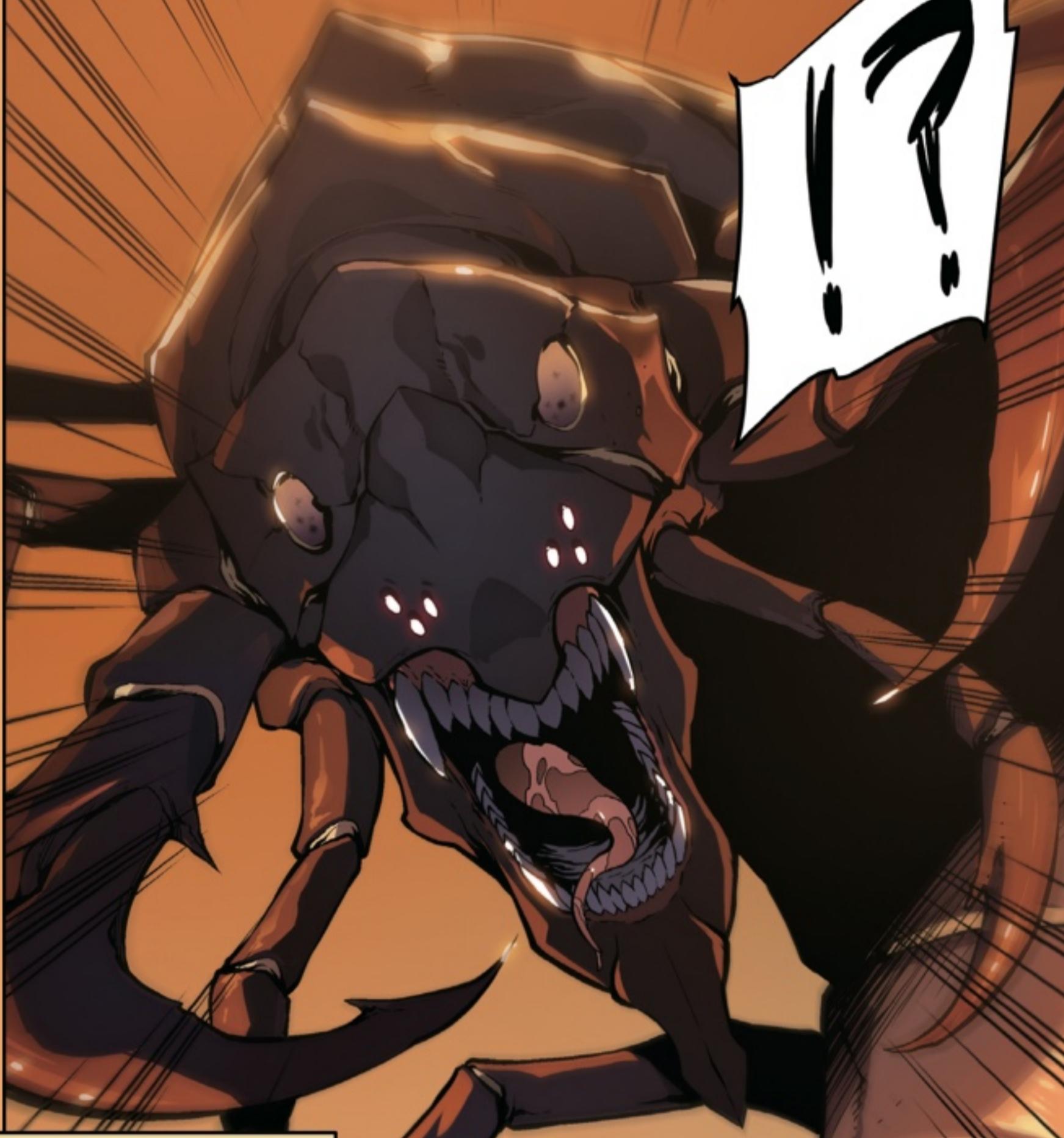
WAH...  
EARTHQUAKE?!





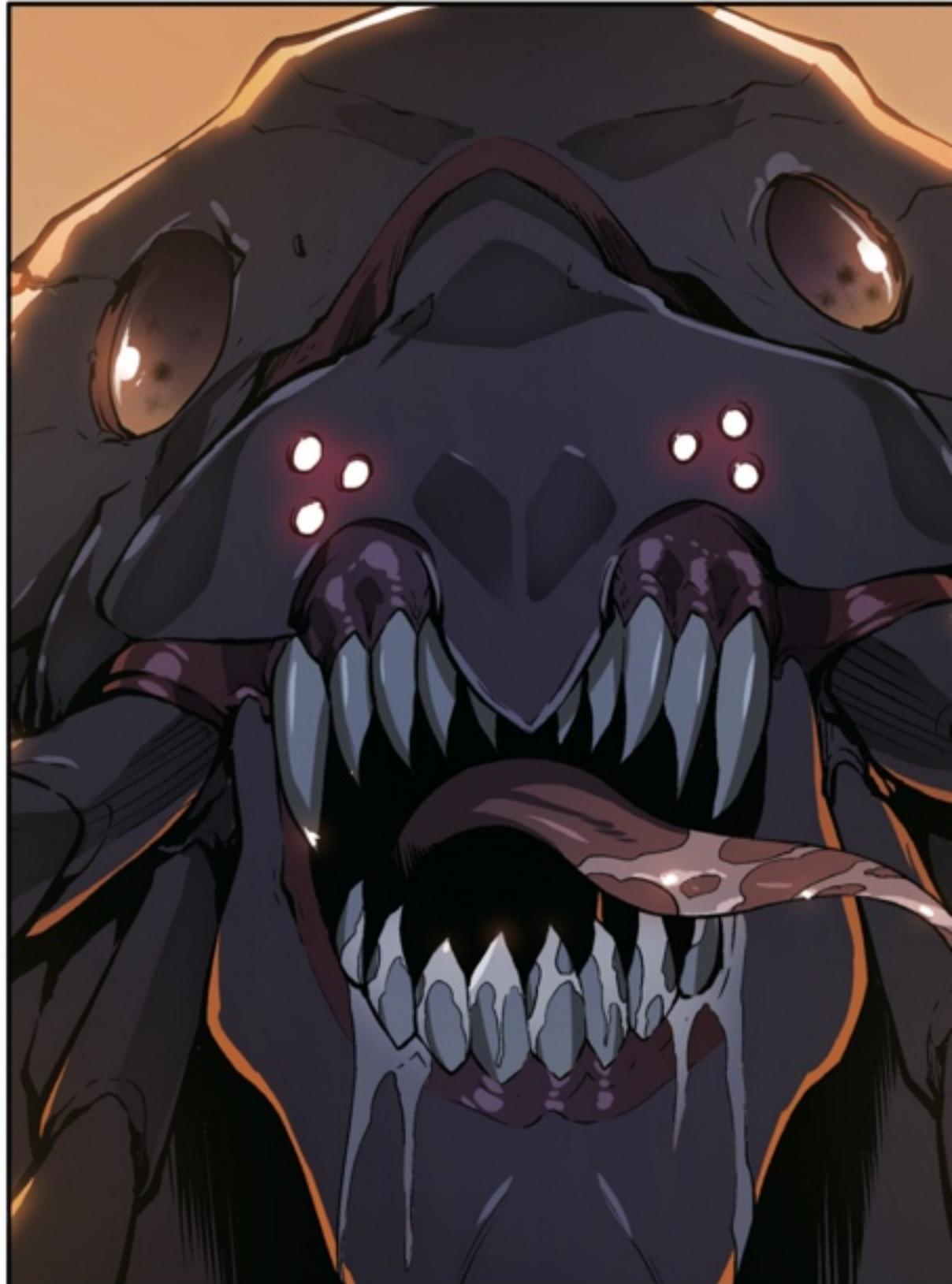
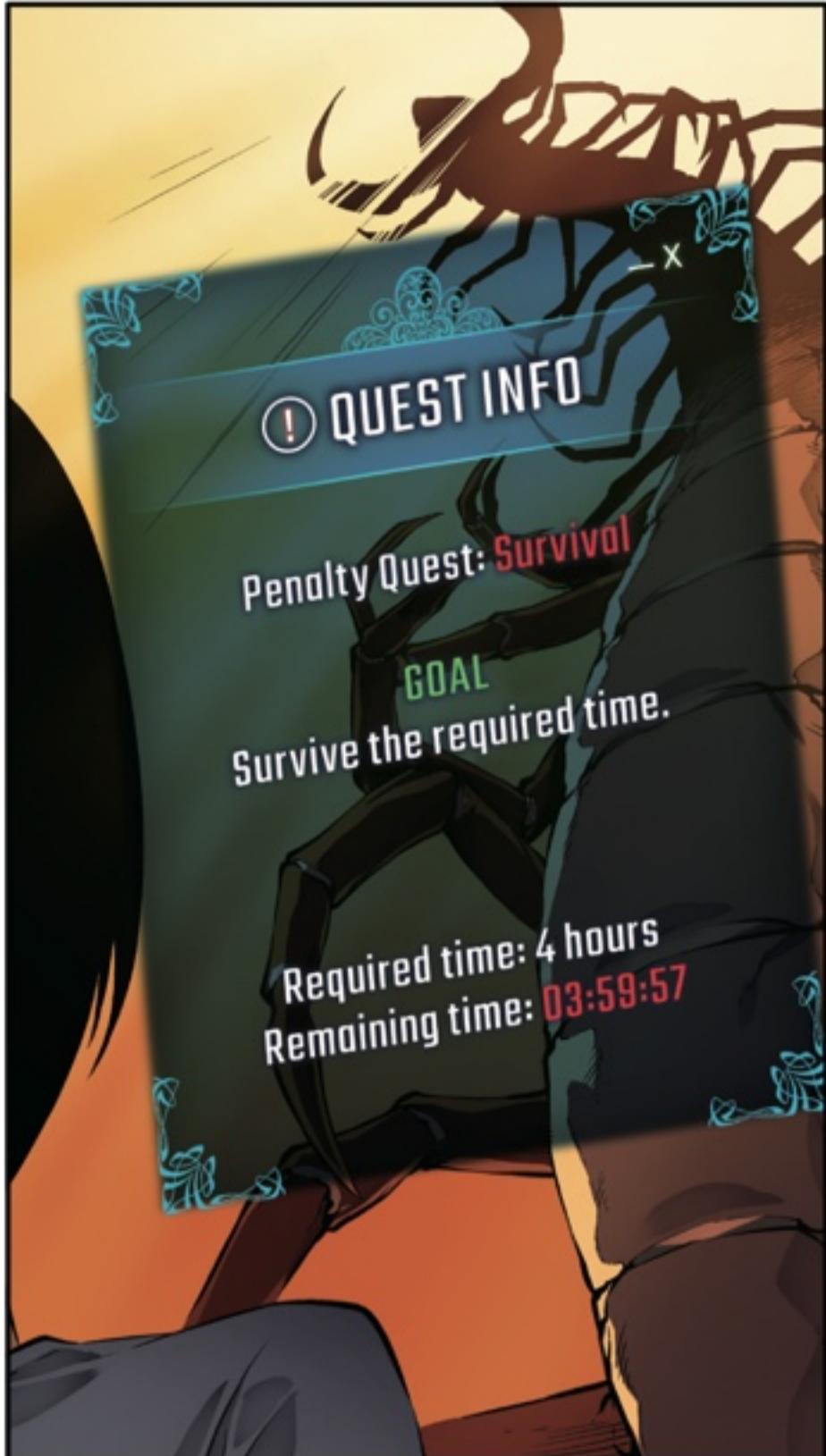


# POISON-TOOTHEDE GIANT DESERT CENTIPEDE



!?



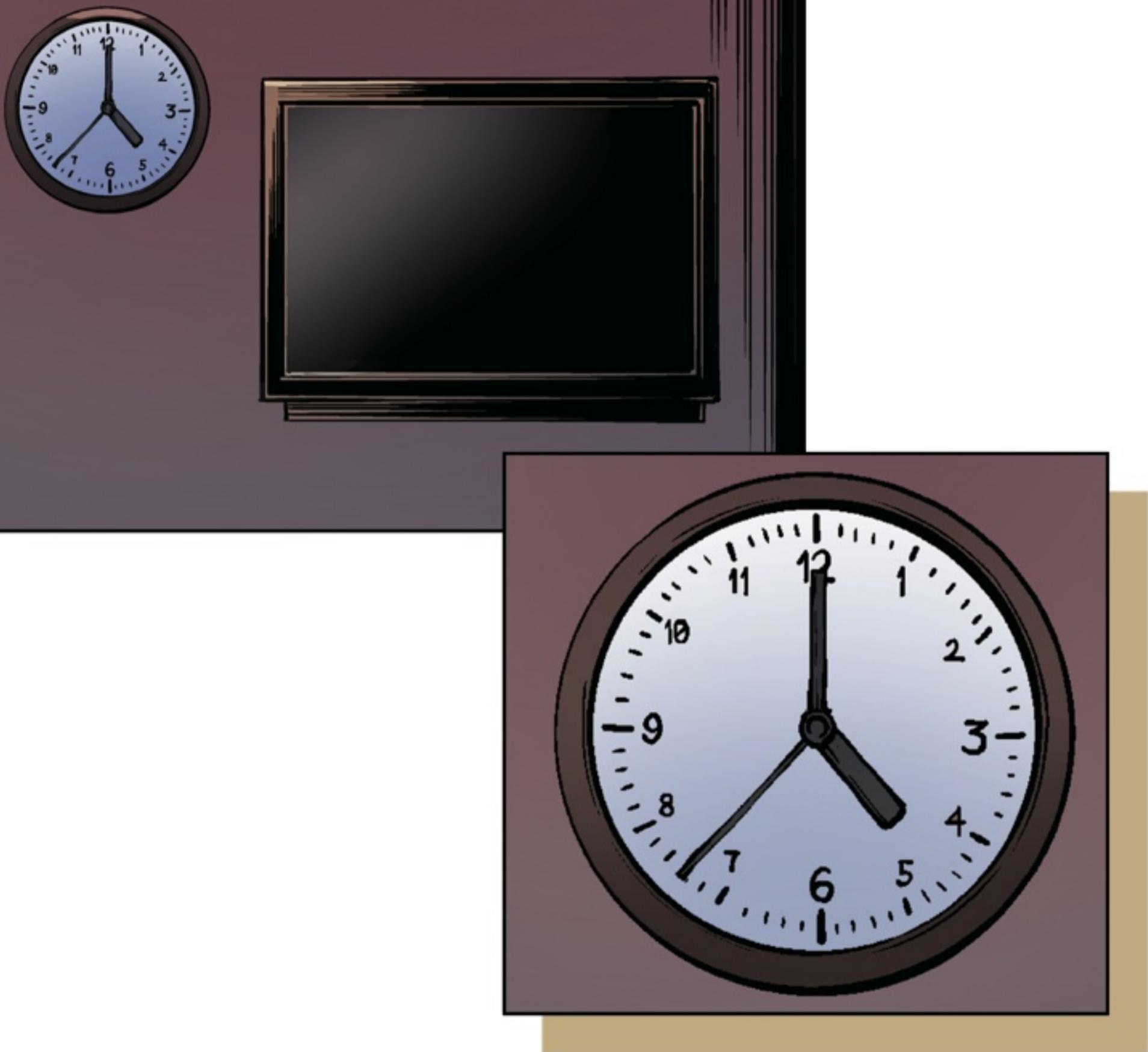
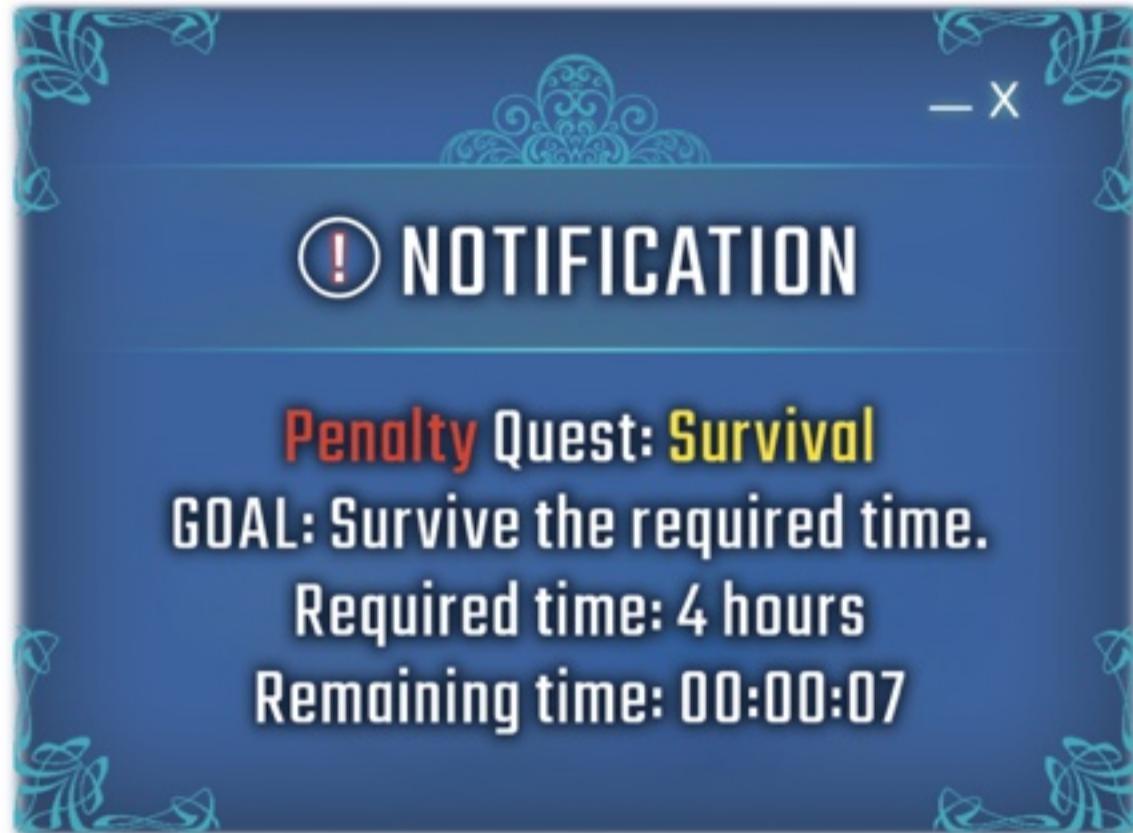


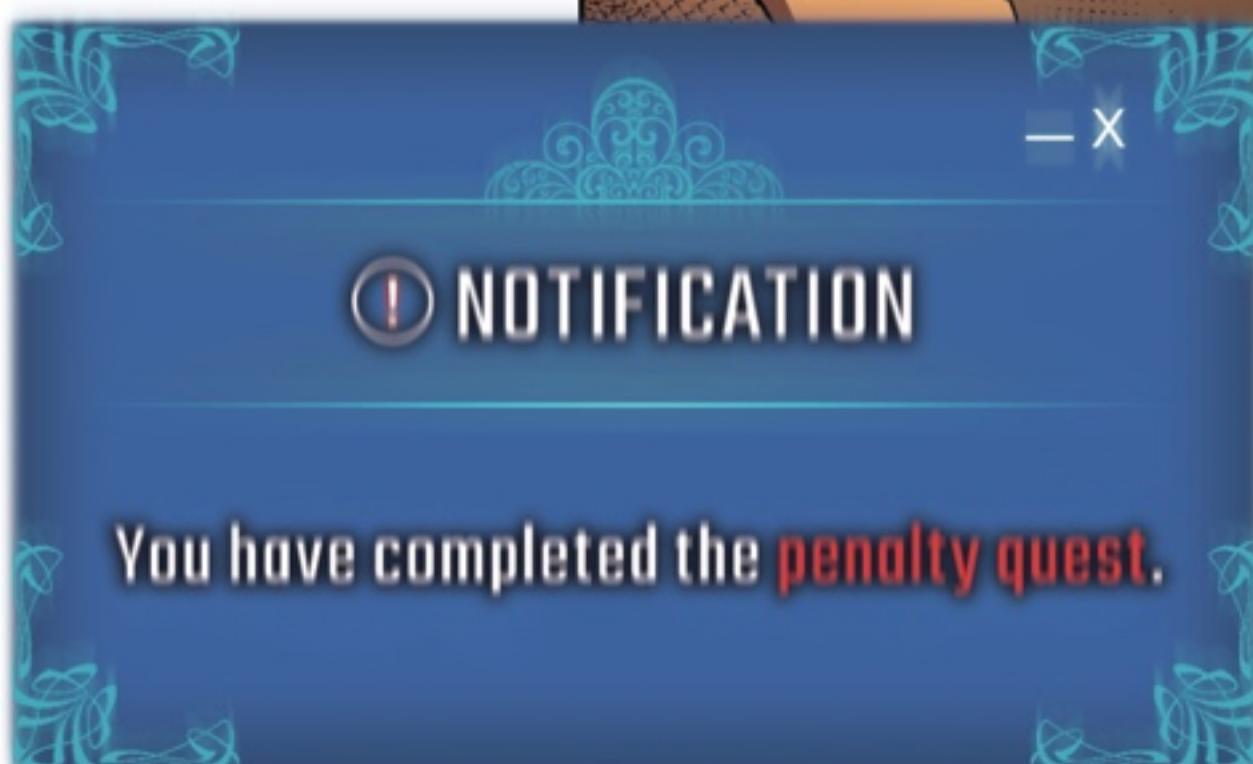
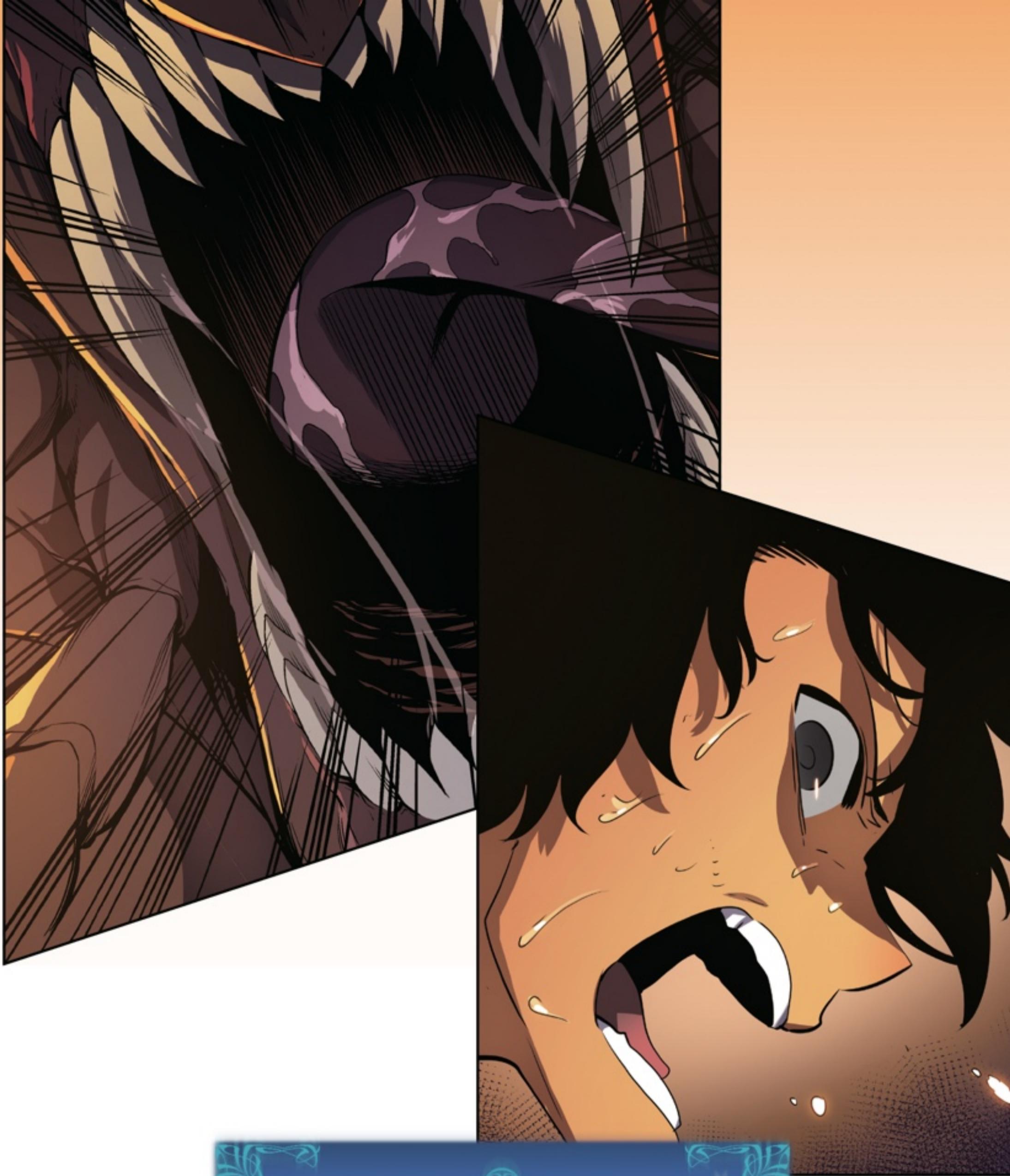


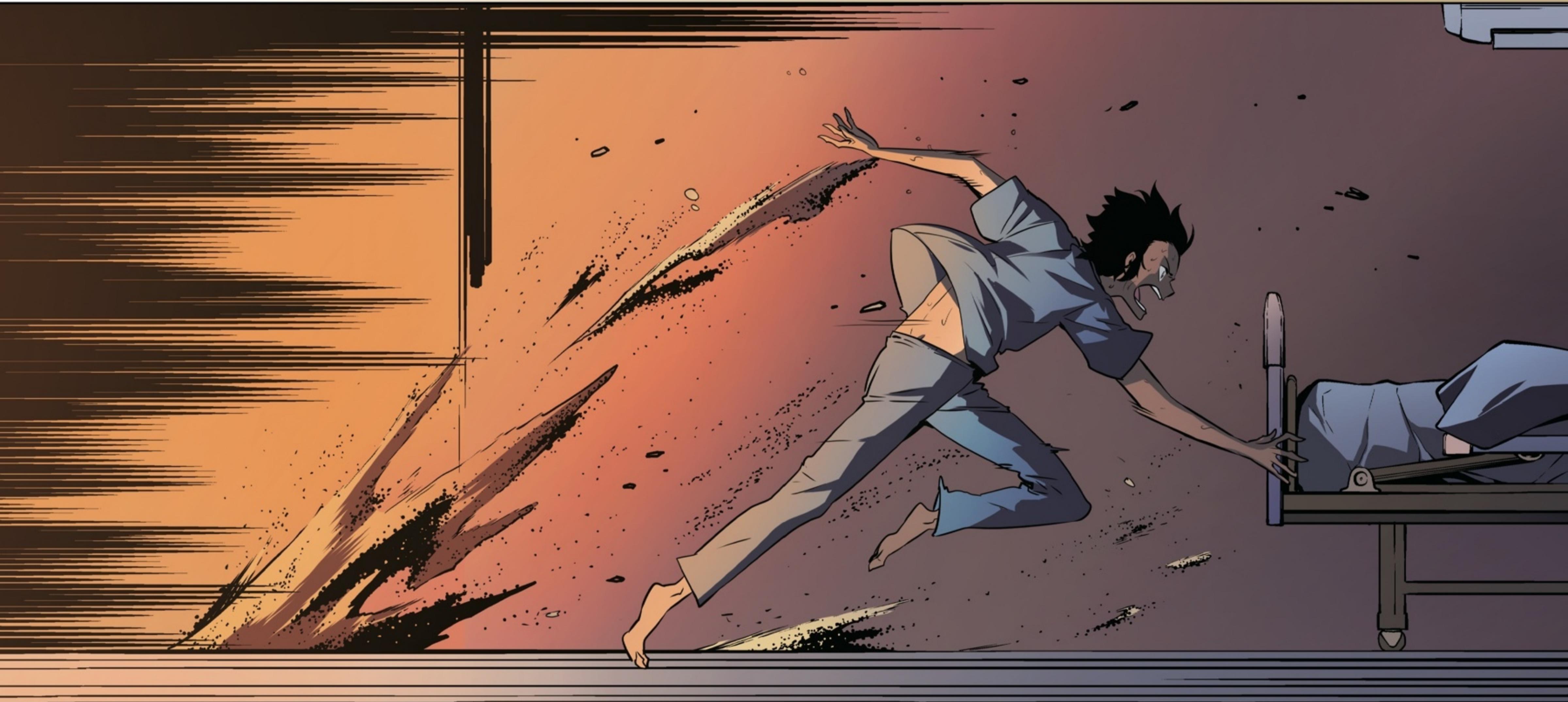




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PING!

! NOTIFICATION

You have completed the **penalty quest**.



PENALTY  
QUEST?

HUFF!  
HUFF!

MESSAGE

Your rewards for completing the  
penalty quest have been delivered.

Would you like to check your rewards?

ACCEPT

DECLINE



KCHAK



OH NO! WHAT  
HAPPENED?



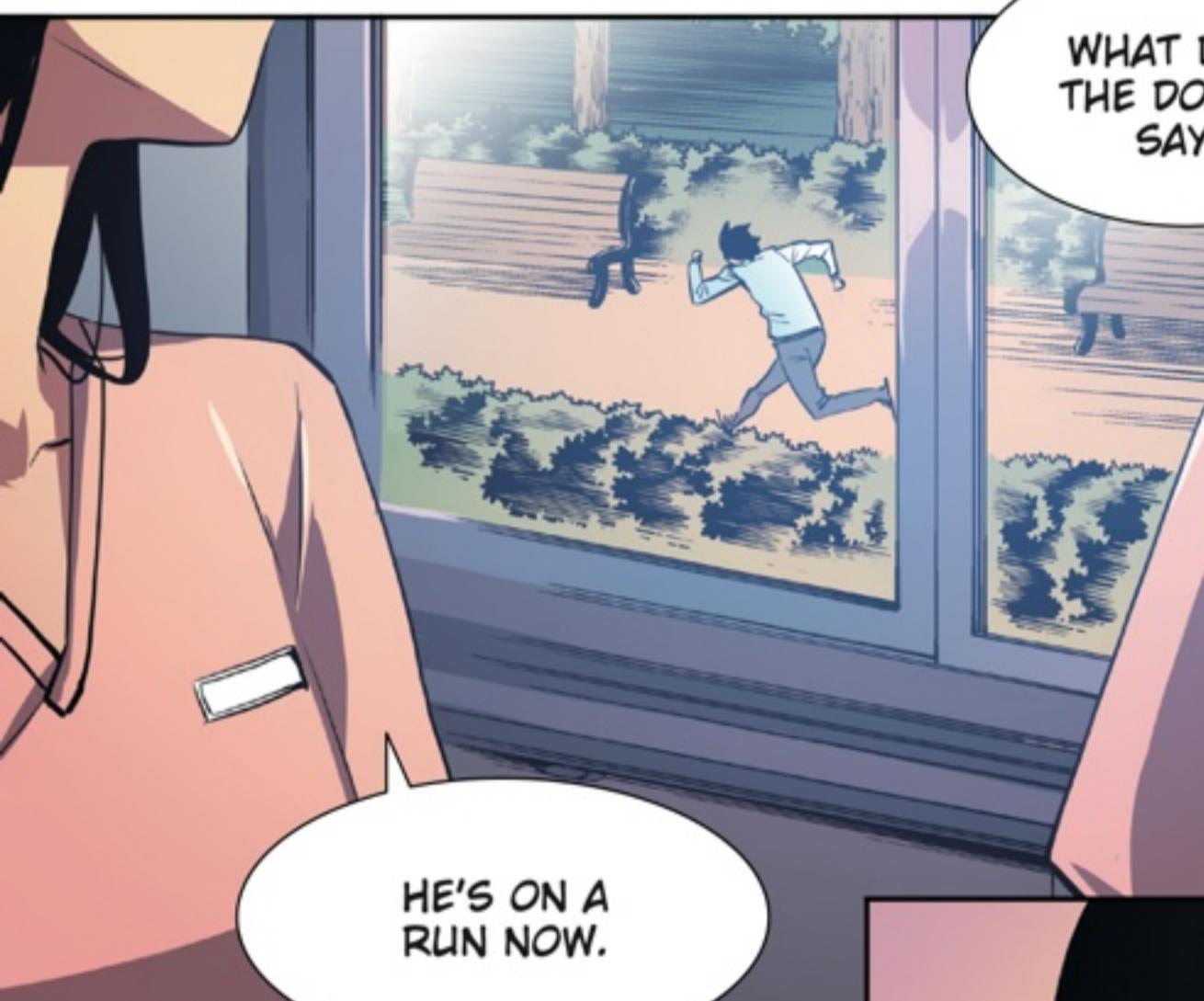
HELP! OVER  
HERE!



YOU KNOW THE  
PATIENT JINWOO  
SUNG?

I HEAR HE'S  
A HUNTER!

YEAH, HE'S BEEN  
RUNNING EVERY DAY  
SINCE HE WOKE UP.



HE'S ON A  
RUN NOW.

WHAT DOES  
THE DOCTOR  
SAY?

HE SAID HUNTERS  
ARE DIFFERENT FROM  
US AND RECOVER FASTER,  
SO LIGHT EXERCISE  
IS FINE...

"LIGHT EXERCISE"  
IS OKAY, HUH?

HUFF!

HUFF!

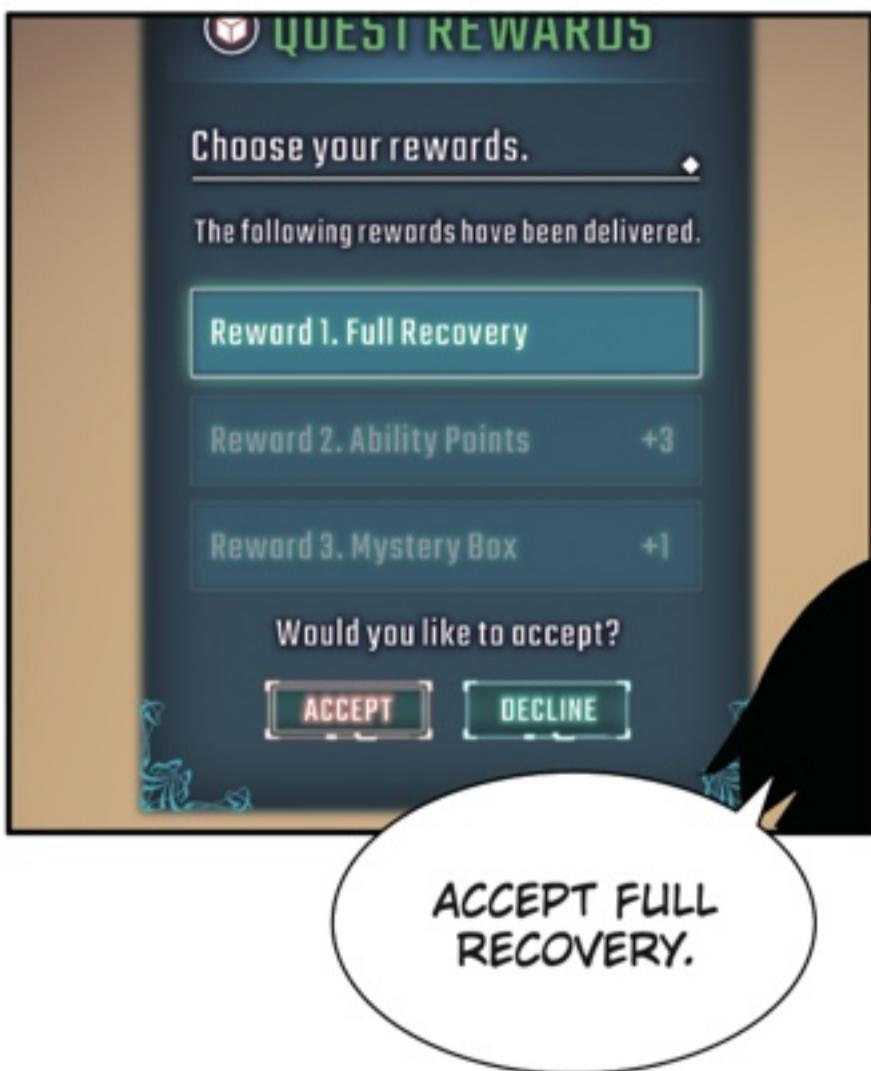
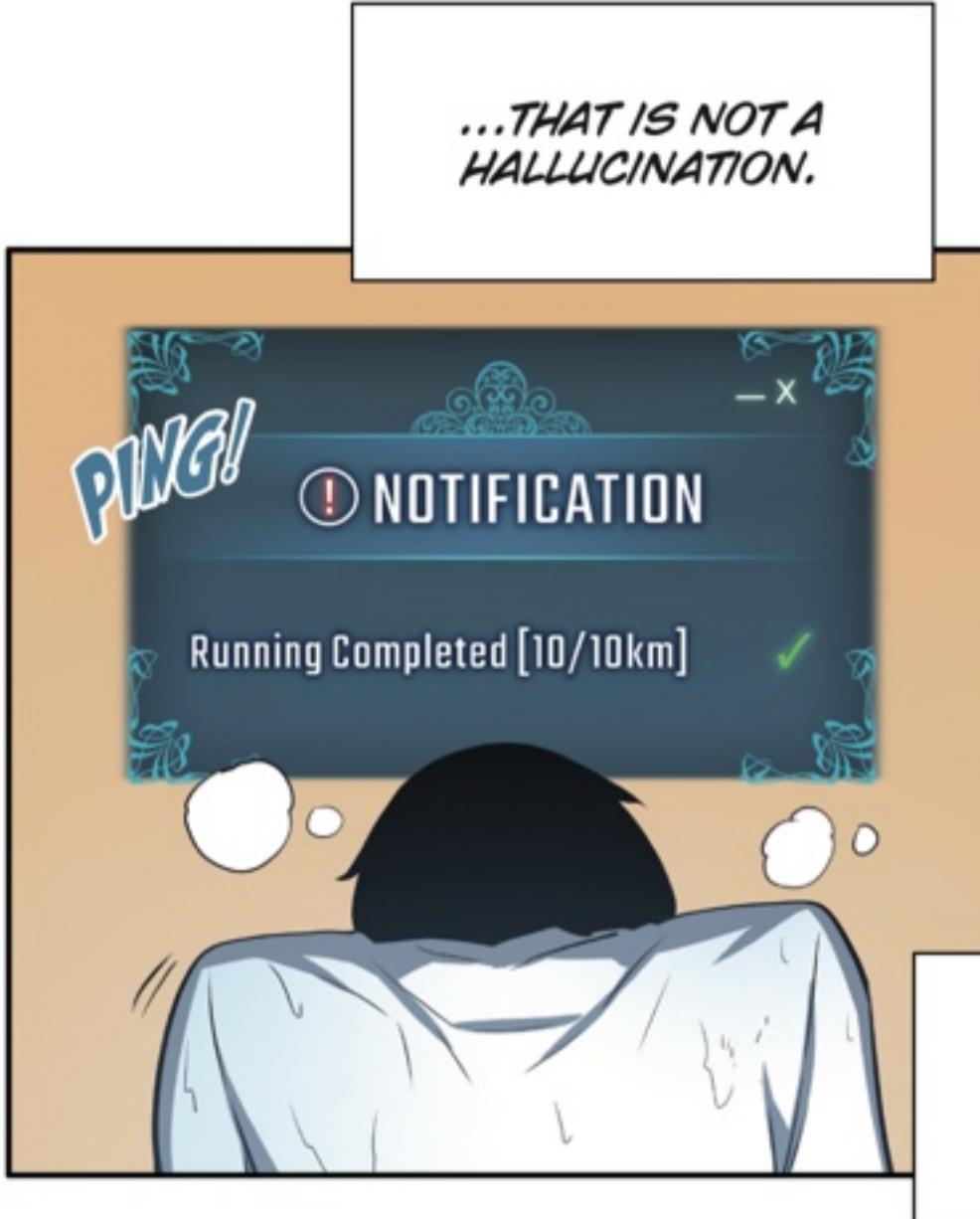
HOW LONG  
HAS HE BEEN  
RUNNING?

IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS  
SINCE I WOKE UP.

I'VE FOUND OUT A  
FEW THINGS SINCE.

FIRST...

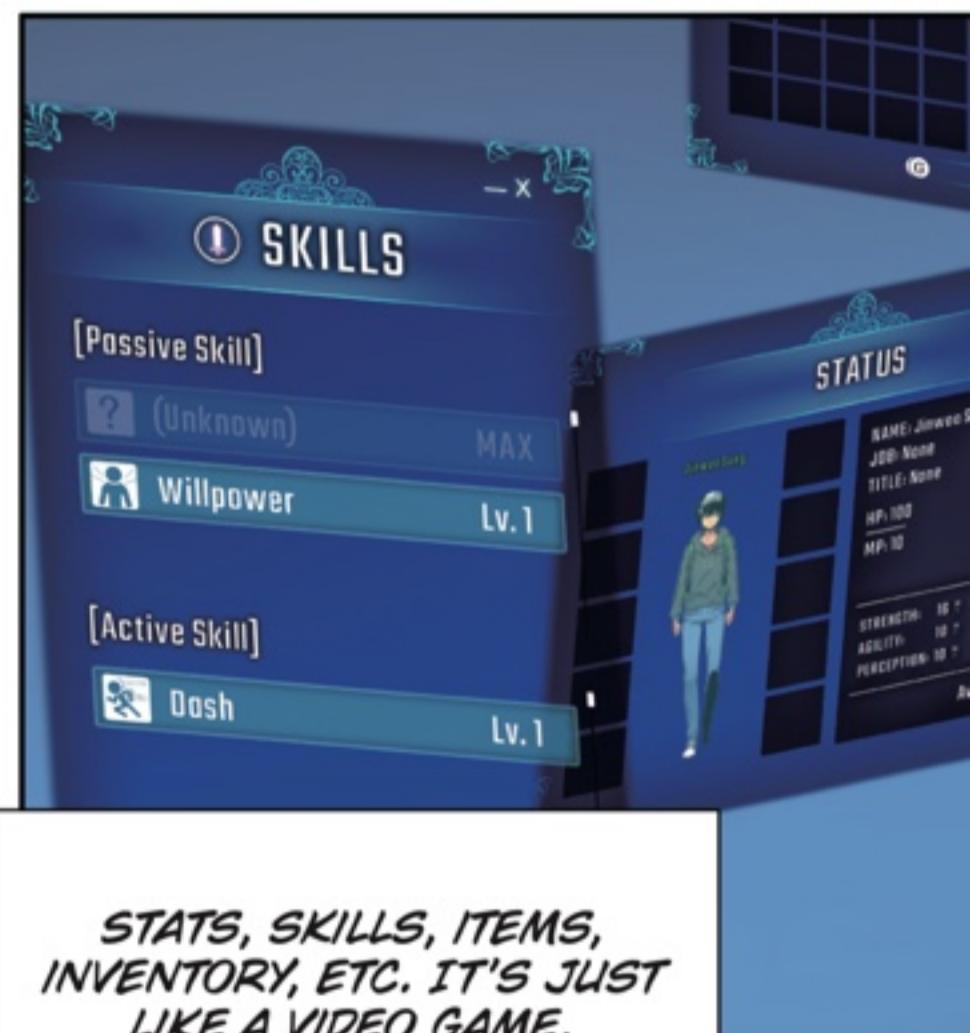
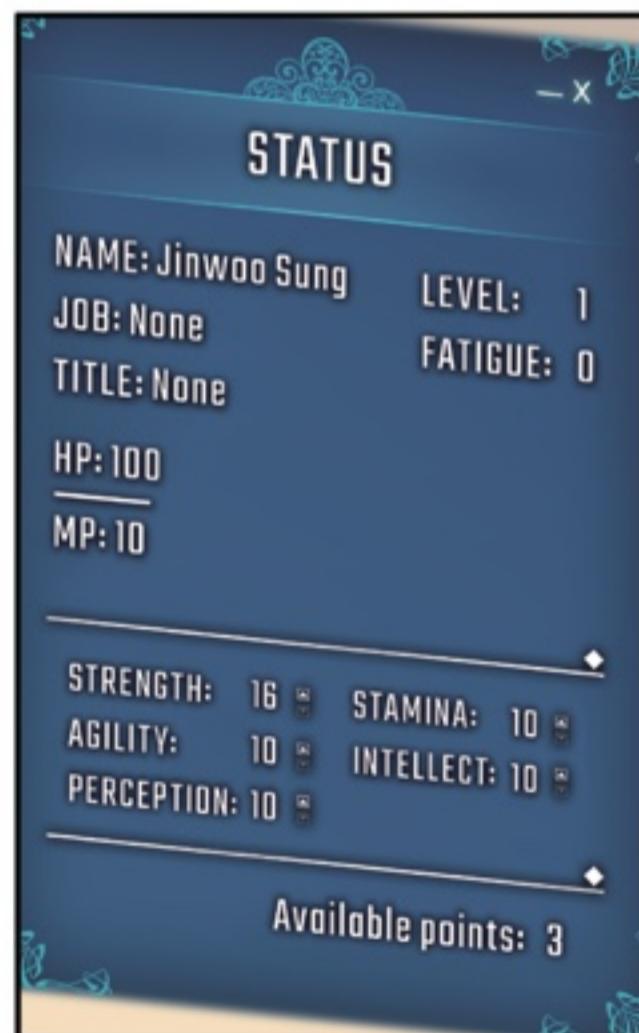
HUFF!  
**HUFF!**



WHEN APPLIED,  
FATIGUE DISAPPEARS LIKE  
I WAS NEVER TIRED.



ABILITY POINTS INCREASE MY STATS. I  
CAN APPLY THEM TO ANY STAT, AND I GET  
STRONGER AS THE STAT GOES UP.

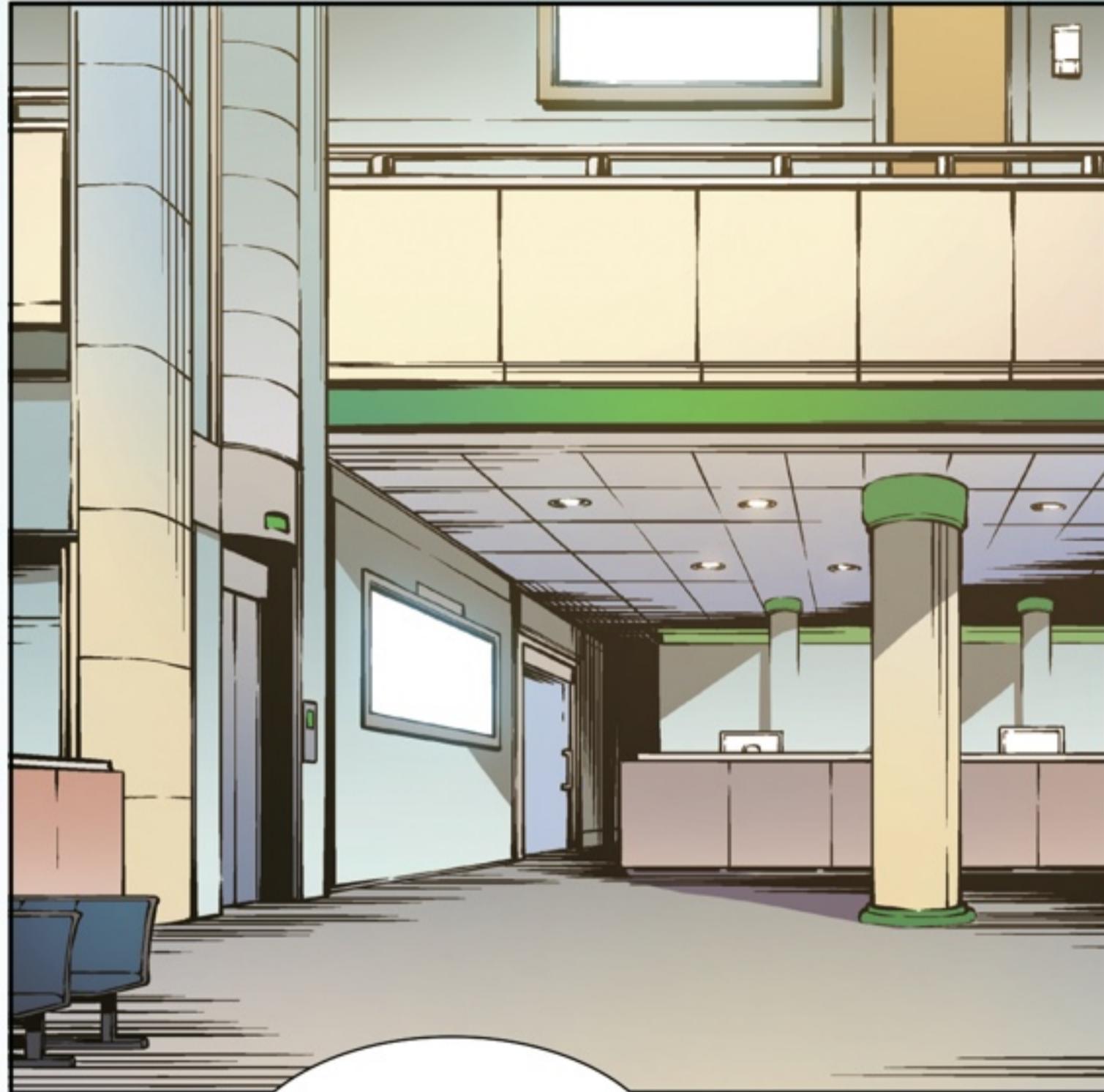


STATS, SKILLS, ITEMS,  
INVENTORY, ETC. IT'S JUST  
LIKE A VIDEO GAME.

I AM BEING  
CONTROLLED  
BY THIS WEIRD  
PHENOMENON.







MAY I LEAVE  
THE HOSPITAL FOR  
THE DAY?

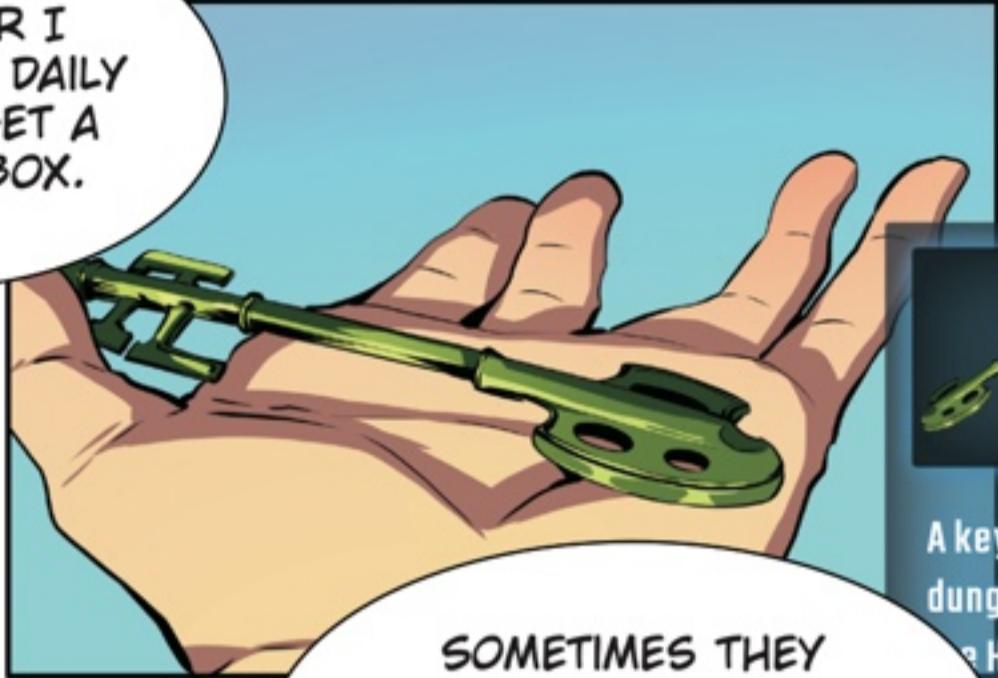


I HAVE  
SOME ERRANDS  
TO RUN.

YES, BUT  
WHERE ARE YOU  
GOING?



WHENEVER I COMPLETE A DAILY QUEST, I GET A MYSTERY BOX.



ITEM: Dungeon Key

ACQUISITION DIFFICULTY: E-rank

CATEGORY: Key

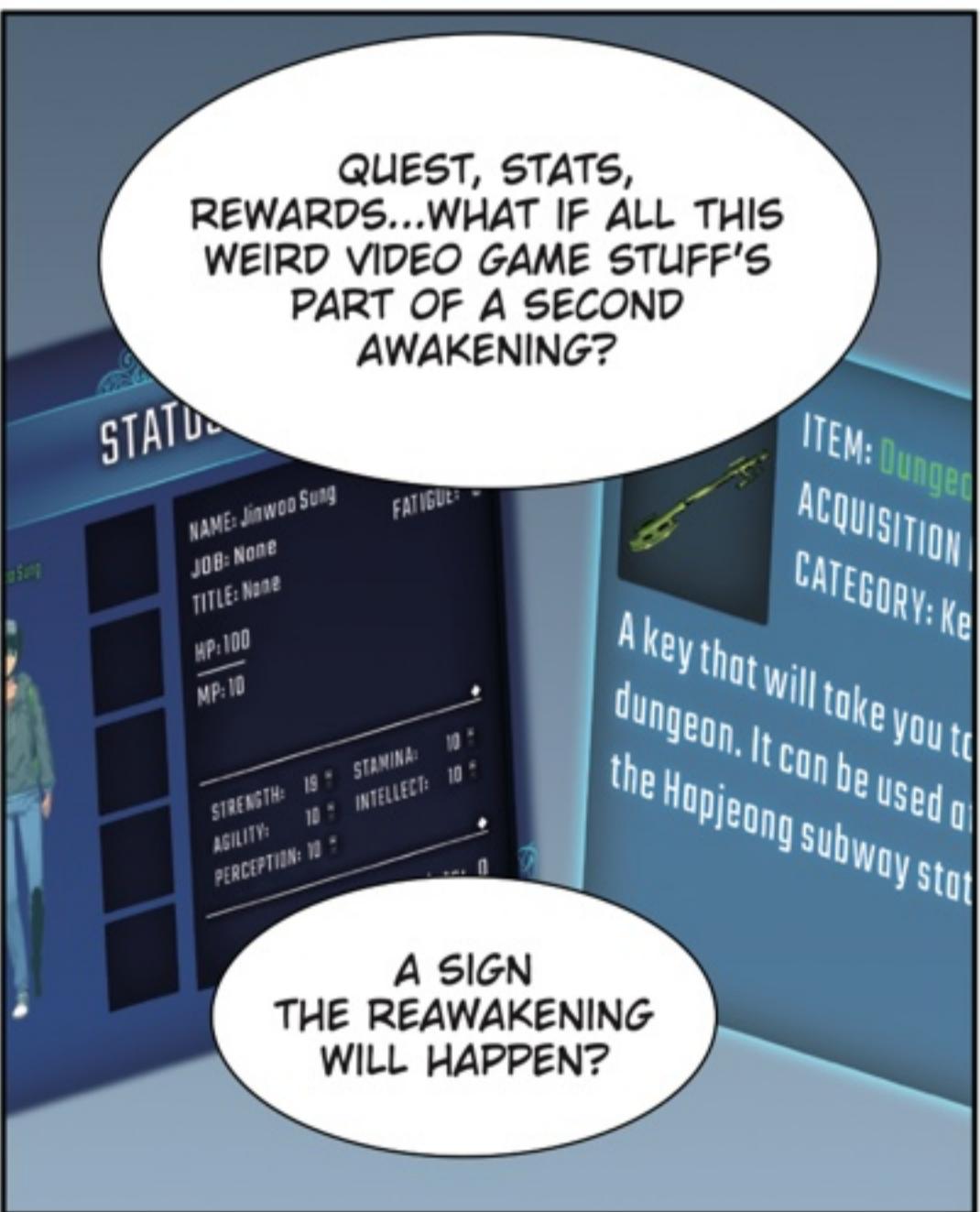
A key for teleporting to an instance dungeon. It can be used at exit 3 of the Hapjeong subway station.

SOMETIMES THEY CONTAIN USELESS ITEMS LIKE A BANDAGE OR A PEN, BUT...THIS IS DIFFERENT.

A KEY FOR "AN INSTANCE DUNGEON."



QUEST, STATS, REWARDS...WHAT IF ALL THIS WEIRD VIDEO GAME STUFF'S PART OF A SECOND AWAKENING?



OR PART OF THE PROCESS?



IF SO, THIS IS WORTH A SHOT!



THE SECOND  
AWAKENING OF THE  
WEAKEST HUNTER OF  
ALL MANKIND...

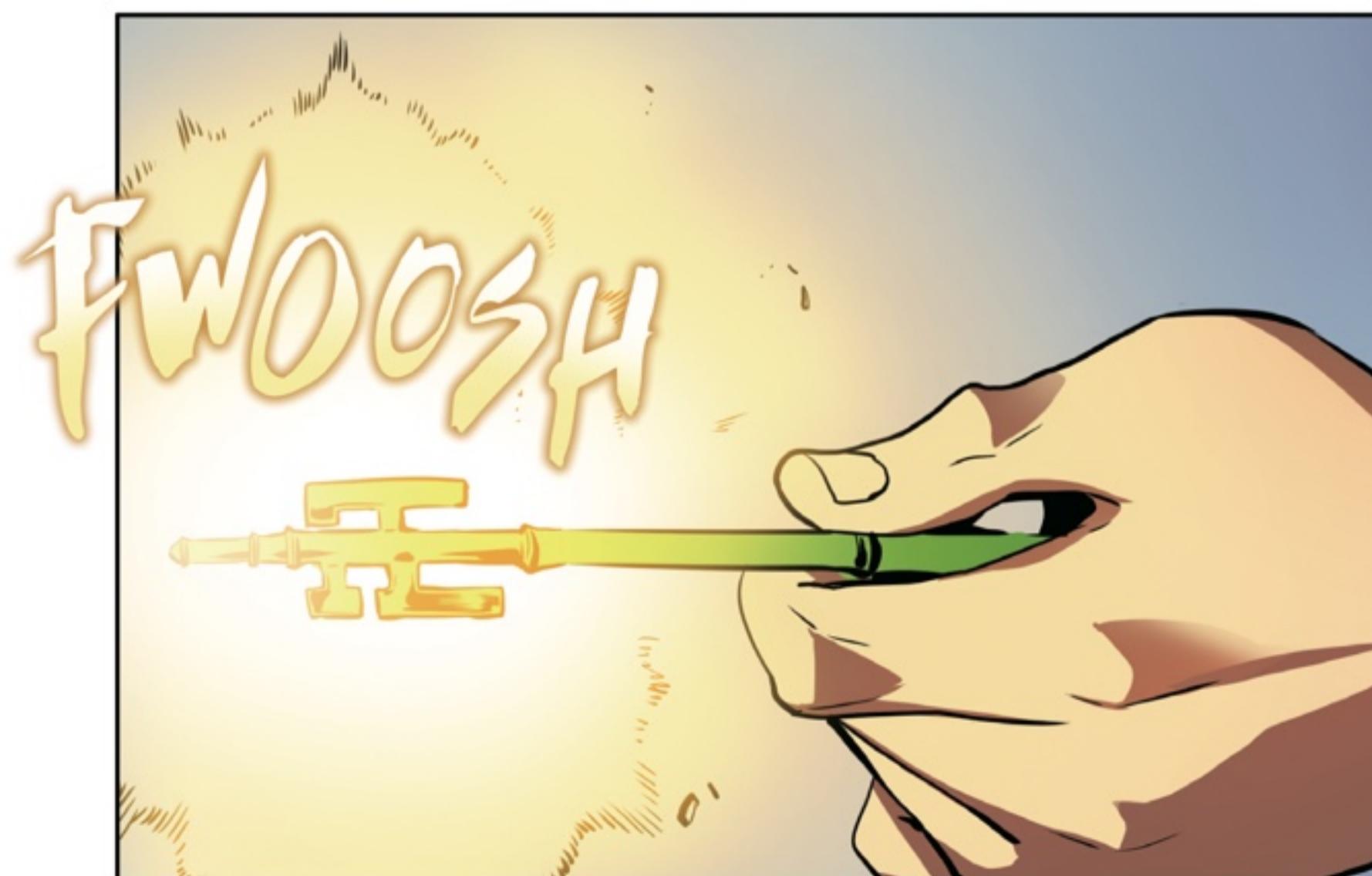
IF ANYONE  
HEARD THAT, THEY'D  
JUST LAUGH AT ME,  
RIGHT?



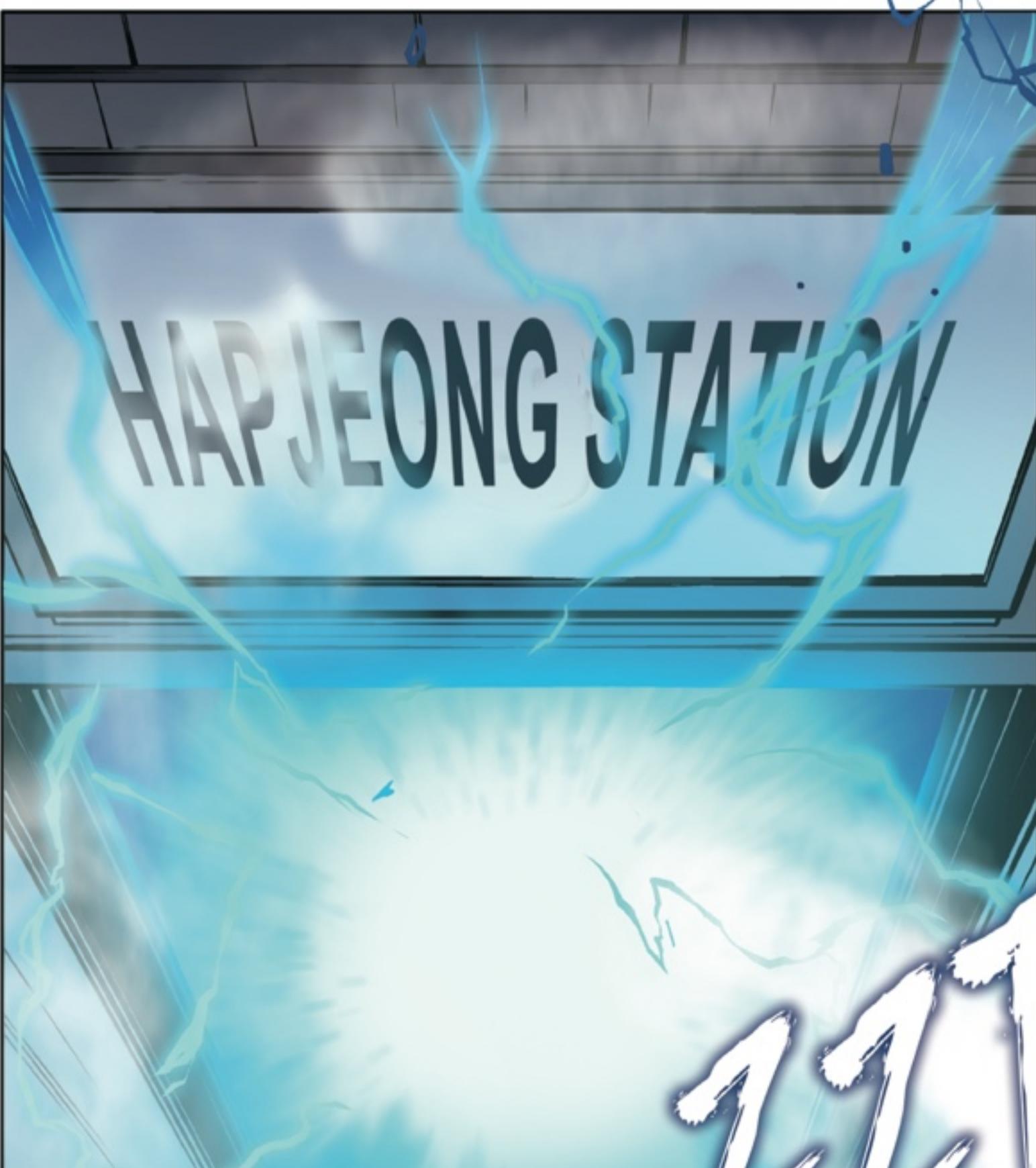


I'M PRETTY  
GOOD AT RUNNING  
AWAY, SO...

...IF THINGS GET  
DANGEROUS LIKE  
LAST TIME, I'LL  
JUST RUN!



KRAK  
AK  
LE



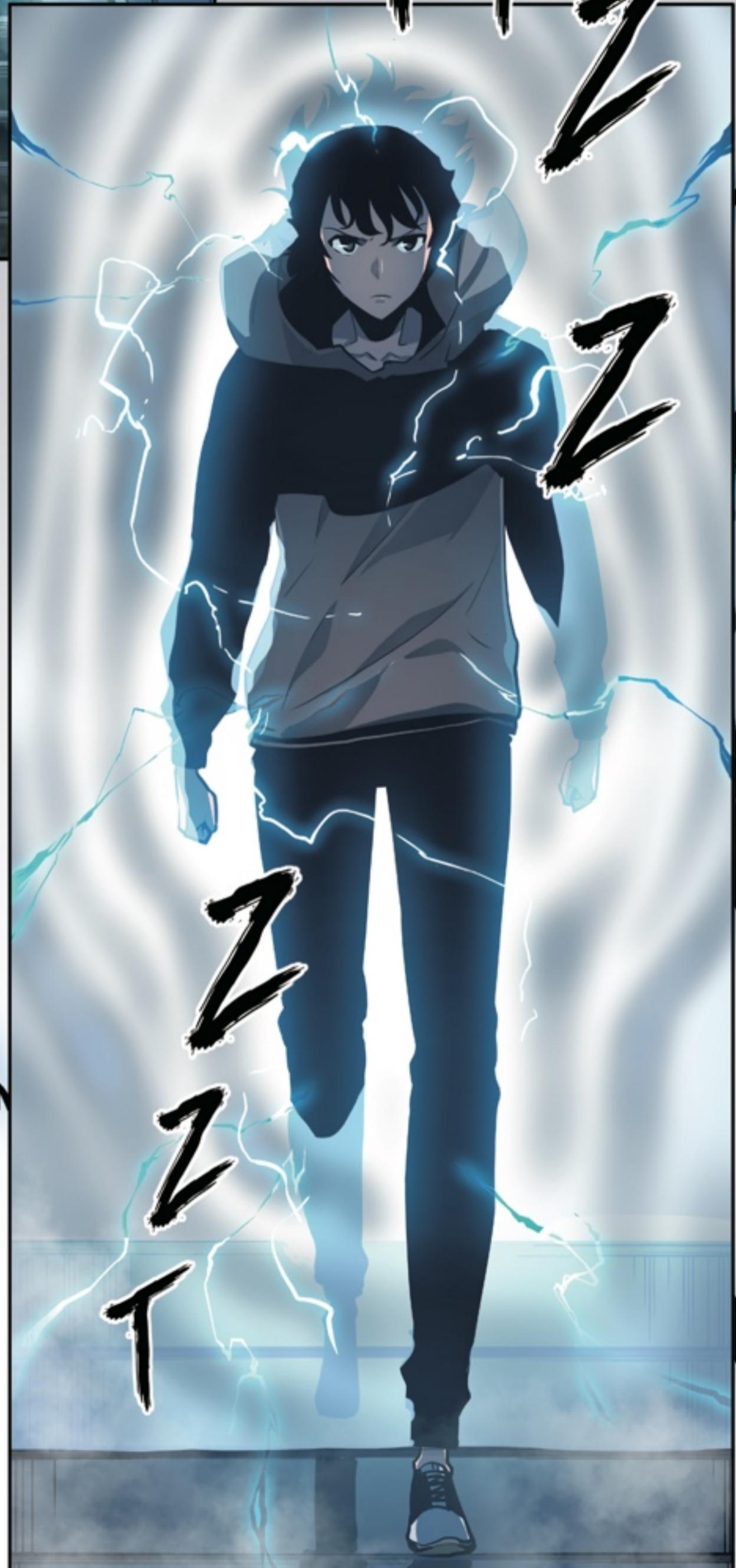
KPR 1

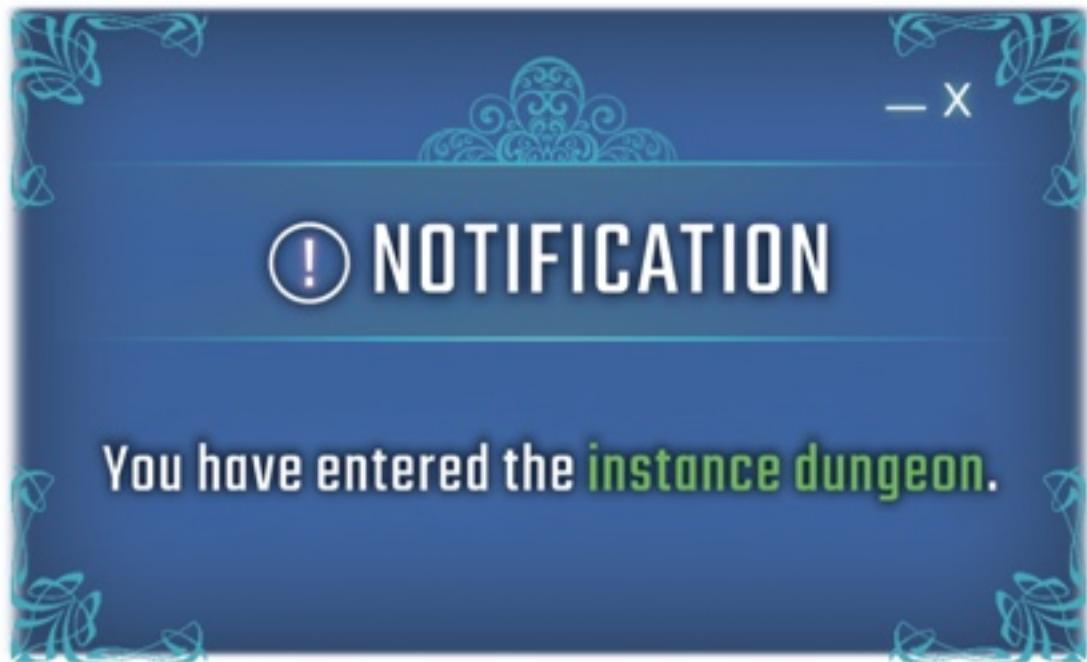
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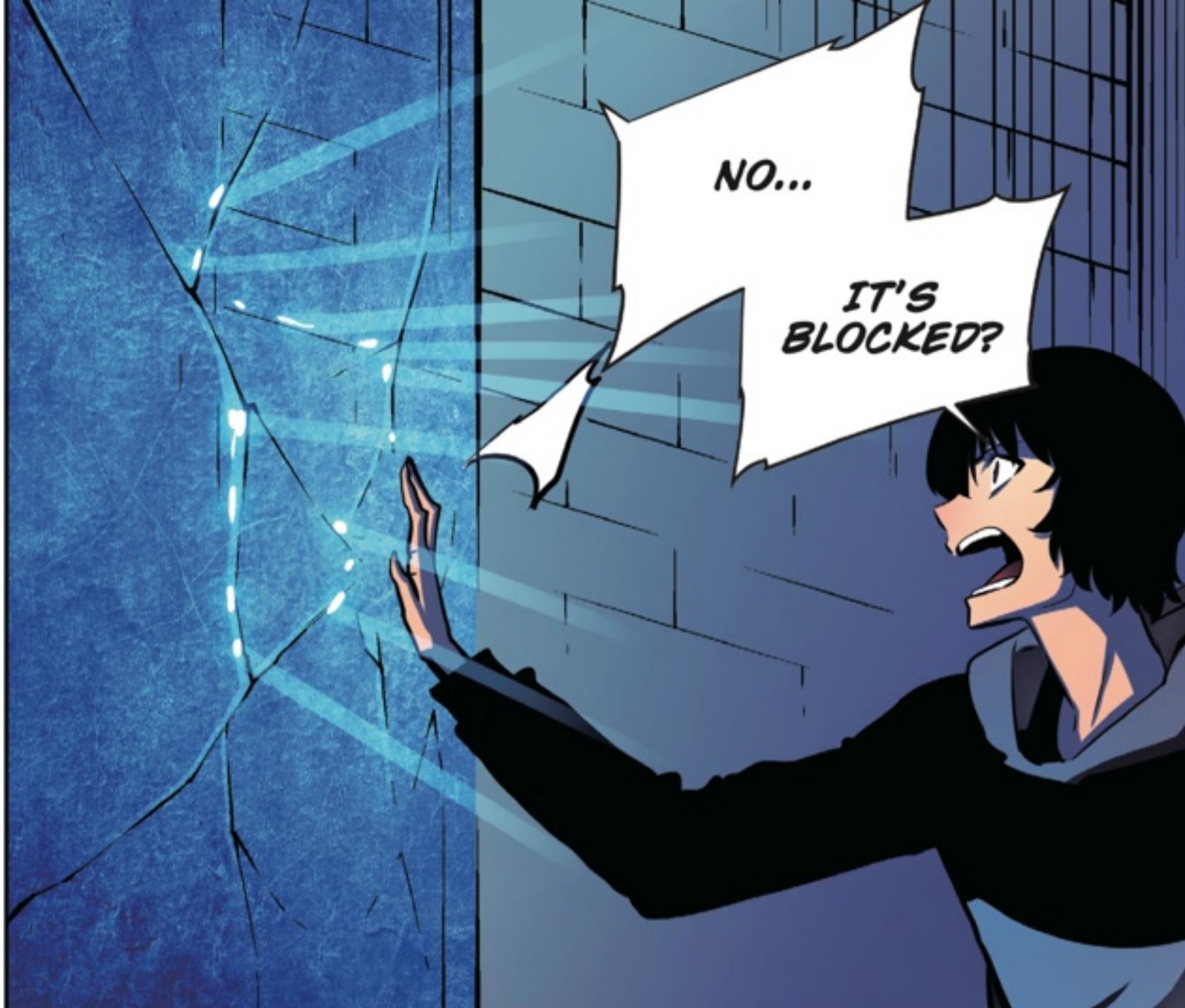
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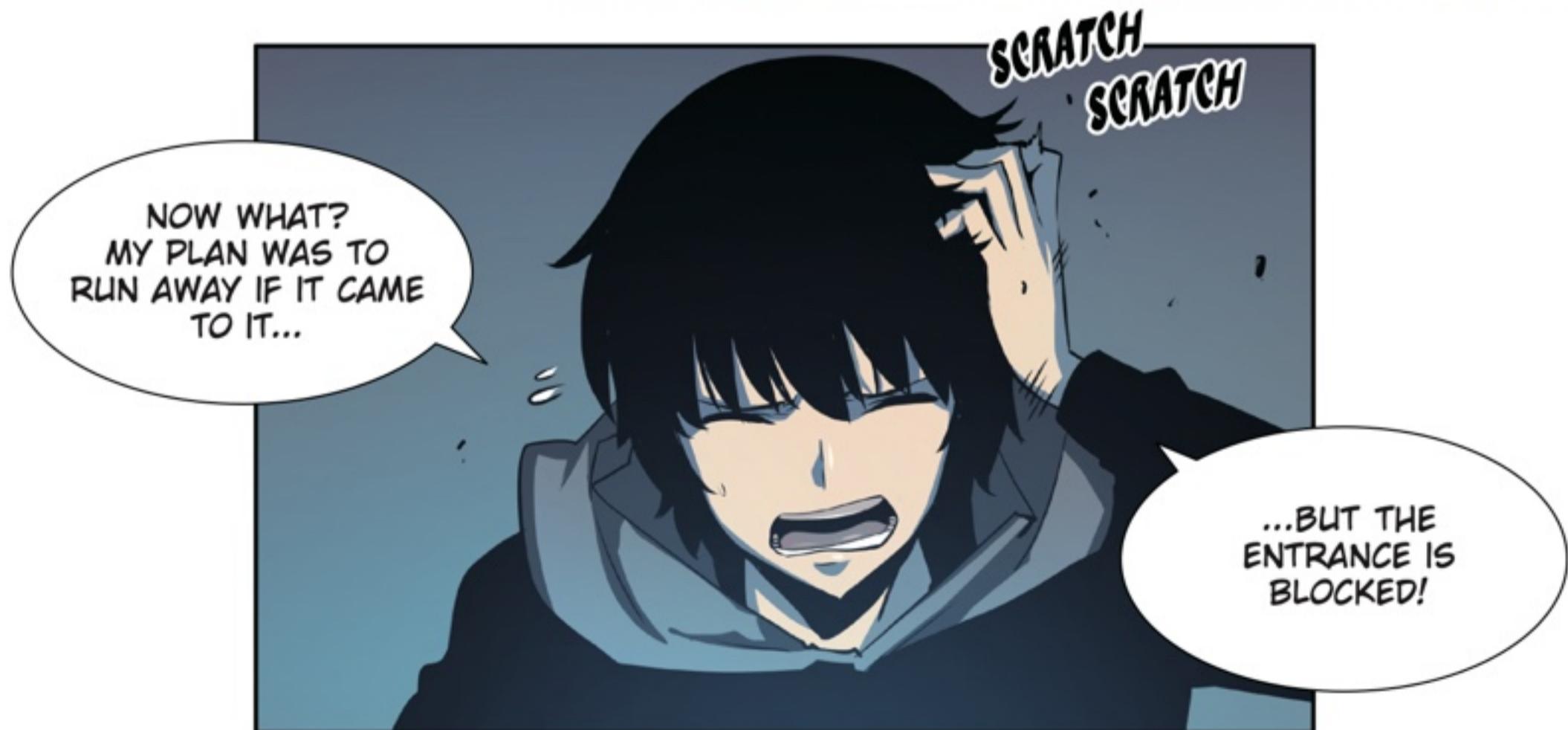
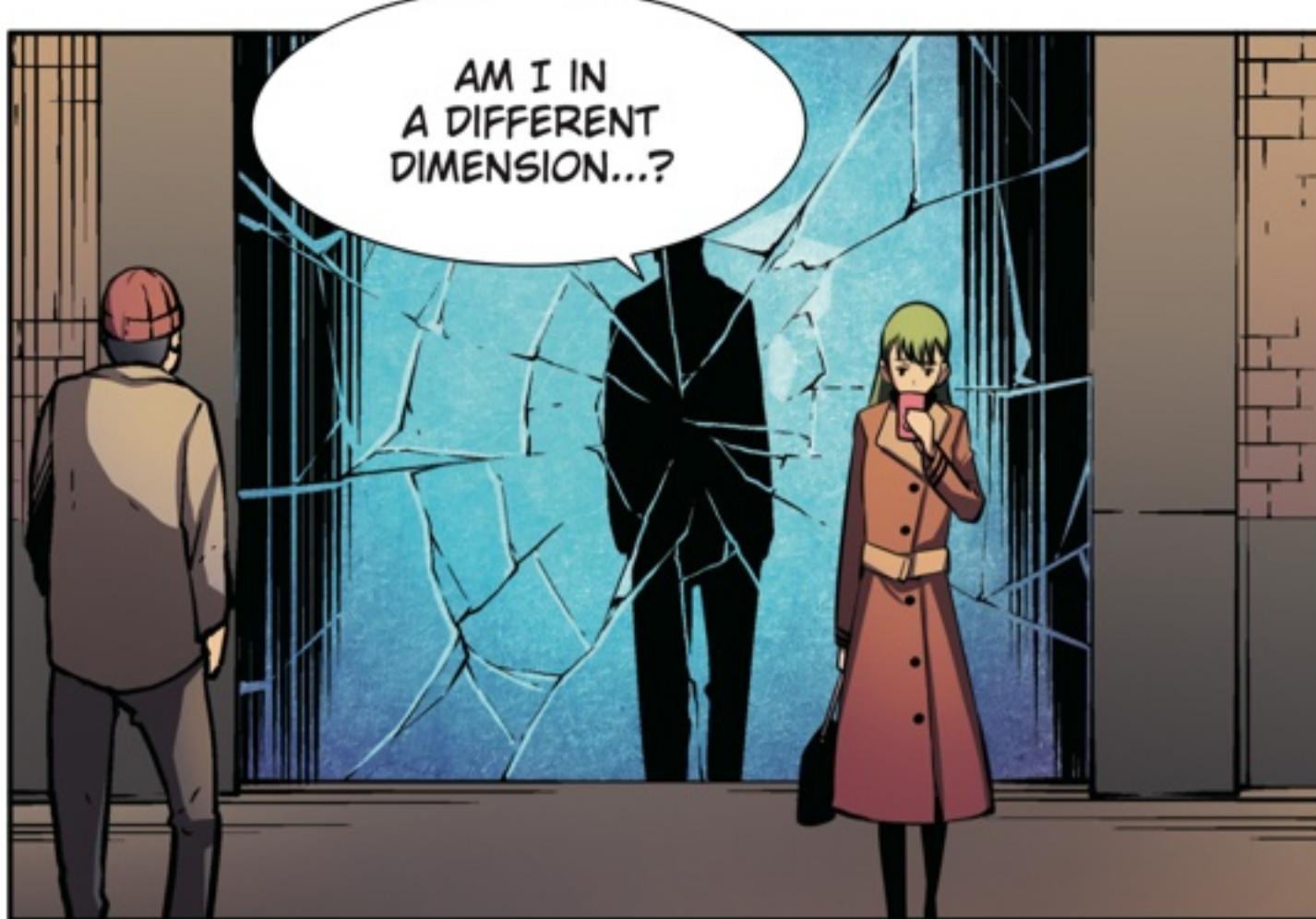




NO...

IT'S  
BLOCKED?





## ! NOTIFICATION

You cannot exit the dungeon.  
You must either defeat the **boss**  
or use a **teleportation stone**.

I CAN'T LEAVE  
UNTIL I CLEAR IT...

I COULDN'T EVEN  
HANDLE AN E-RANK  
MAGIC BEAST, AND NOW  
I HAVE TO DO THIS  
ALONE?

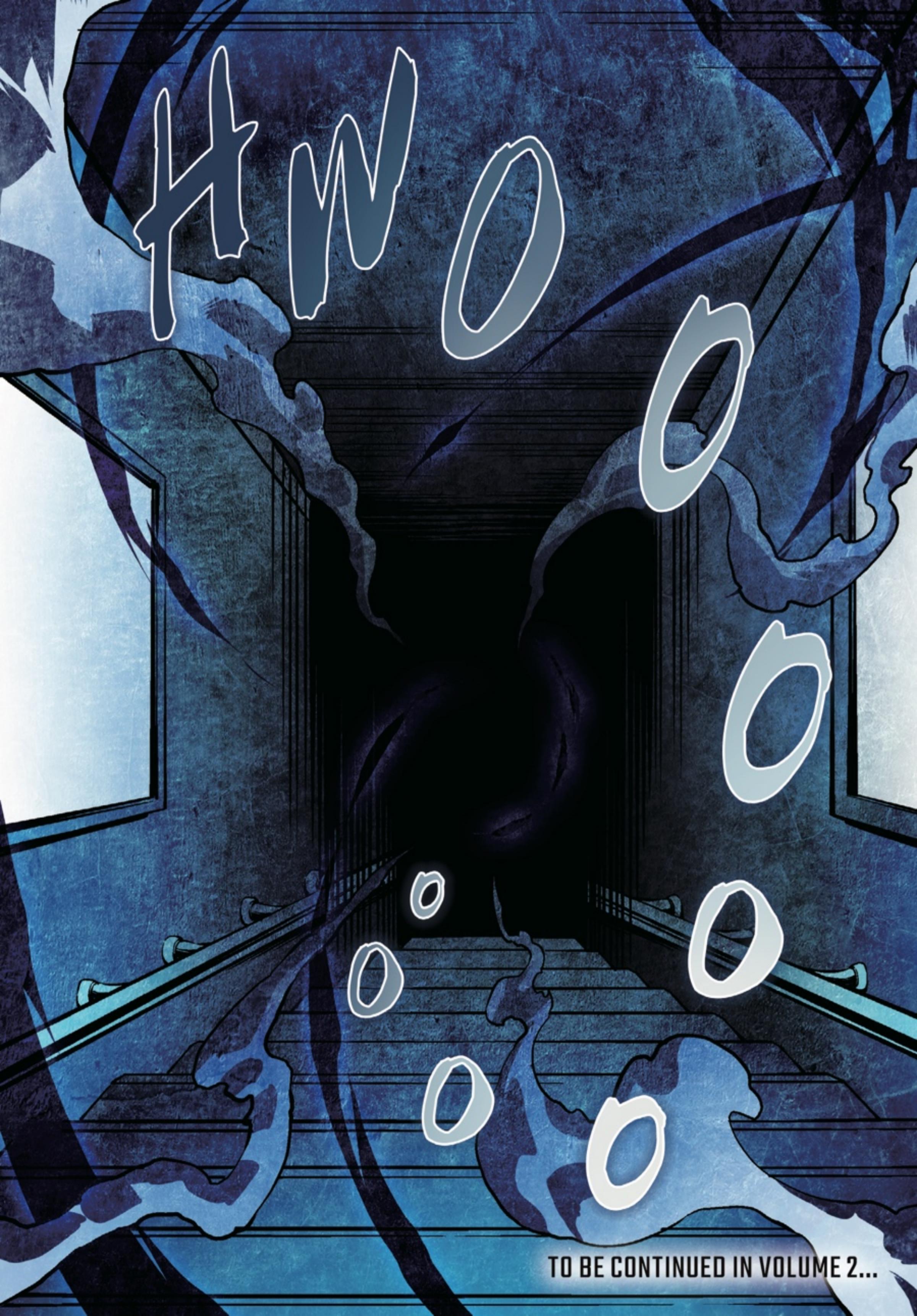
DAMN IT...  
THIS IS BS...







I HAVE  
TO DO IT ALL  
MYSELF?!



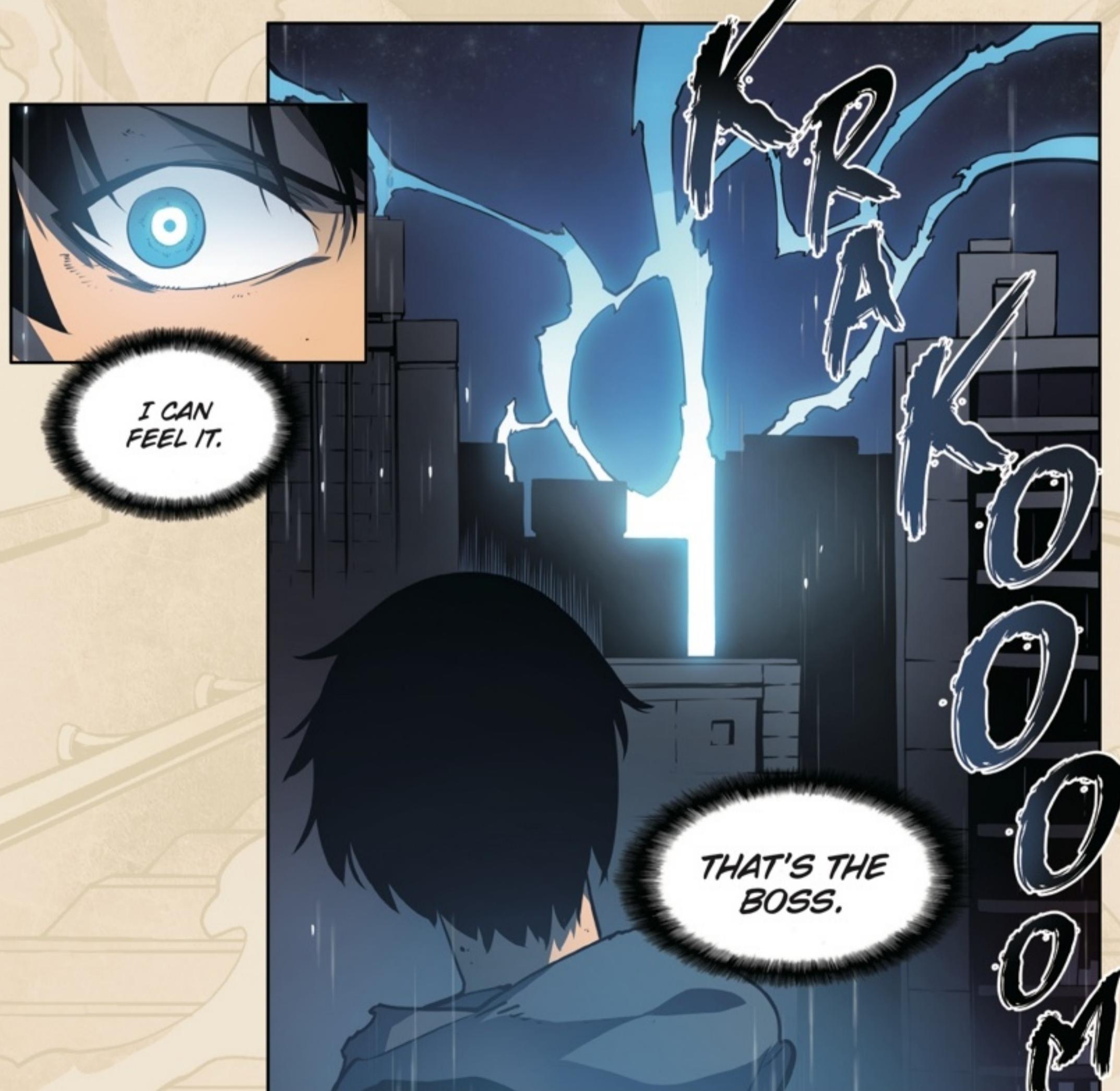
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2...

**"If it means I'll get stronger, then  
I can play by these BS rules!"**

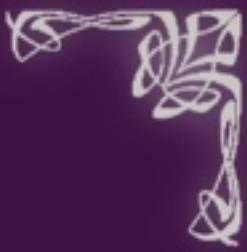


"How strong do I have to get...  
to escape my powerless past?!"

Facing the danger alone...  
reminds him of the double dungeon...  
**NONSTOP SOLO LEVELING!**



Solo  
Leveling



# SOLO LEVELING

DUBU  
(REDICE STUDIO)

I ORIGINAL STORY  
CHUGONG

Translation: Hye Young Im ◆ Rewrite: J. Torres ◆ Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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SOLO LEVELING Volume 1

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