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WONDER WOMAN®



BY
JOHN
BYRNE

A MILE OR MORE ABOVE,
THE CHILL ANTARCTIC NIGHT
KEEPS VIGIL OVER A
CONTINENT LOCKED IN
ETERNAL SNOW AND ICE,
AND ALL IS STILL AND DEAD
AS THE HIDDEN FACE OF
THE MOON.

BUT HERE, WHERE STRANGE
SHADOWS SHIFT, BLACK ON
BLACK, AND STRANGER
HANDS MOVE TO RAISE A
SLENDER FIGURE HELD IN
ICY STASIS...

...THERE IS UNEXPECTED
WARMTH AND LIFE, AND
VOICES DRONE A CHANT
OLDER THAN THE MOST
ANCIENT CIVILIZATION
KNOWN ON EARTH.

THE PLACE IS THE CITY OF
LANSINAR, ENTOMBED FOR
FORTY THOUSAND YEARS IN
THE BELLY OF THE ICE. THE
TIME IS ONLY MOMENTS
AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF
OUR PREVIOUS CHRONICLE.

THE FROZEN FIGURE IS THE
AMAZON WARRIOR A WORLD
GROWN USED TO MIRACLES
HAS BEEN IMPRESSED
ENOUGH TO DUB...

WONDER WOMAN



JOHN BYRNE
WRITER-ARTIST

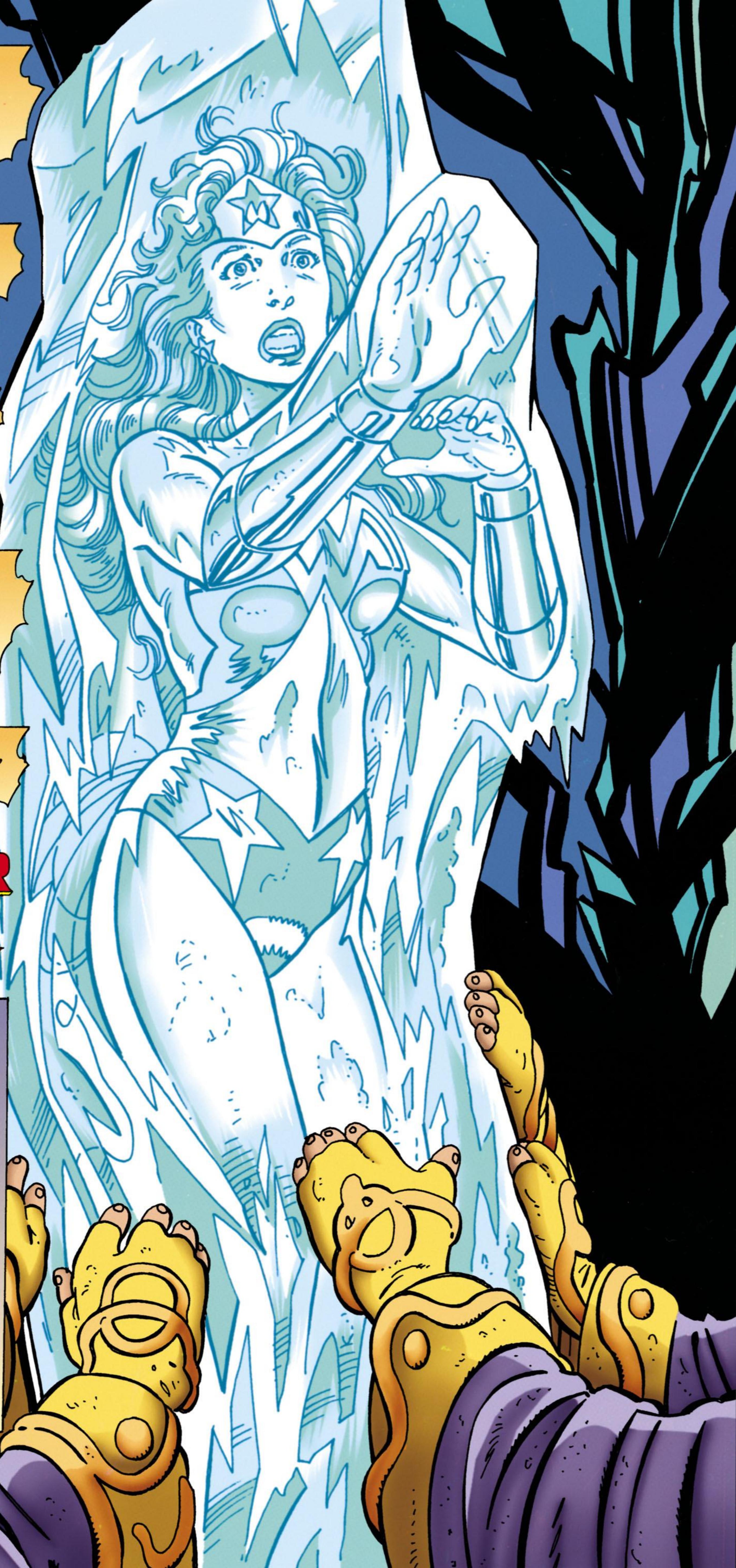
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GRATEFUL
ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO
THE WORKS OF
GARDNER FOX
AND
JOE KUBERT



THE MEN WHO MOVED THE WORLD



BULL, THIS SETUP HAS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE WORLDWIDE EARTHQUAKES WE CAME DOWN HERE TO INVESTIGATE.

BACK AT THE CARSON SUBTERRANEAN INSTITUTE WE'D TRACED THE CENTER OF THE SEISMIC DISTURBANCES TO SOMETHING IN THIS AREA. IT'S TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE THAT THIS CIVILIZATION COULD BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, AND YET UNCONNECTED!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THE WHOLE CRUST OF THE EARTH HAS BEEN ROTATING, BRINGING THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT NORTHWARDS BY MORE THAN A MILE SO FAR!

IT SEEMS INSANE, BUT I'M STARTING TO THINK THIS CITY GOT BUILT WHEN ANTARCTICA WAS HUNDREDS OF MILES FURTHER NORTH, AND THERE WAS NO ICE!

...THERE'S A HYPOTHESIS THAT THE WHOLE INTERLOCKING PLATE STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE MAY HAVE SHIFTED IN ONE PIECE AT CERTAIN TIMES IN PRE-HISTORY.

I'M THINKING THIS CIVILIZATION IS THE PROOF OF THAT PARTICULAR PUDDING!

"IT'S LUCKY I WAS ABLE TO PULL MYSELF AWAY FROM THE BURNING MOLE WHILE BULL GOT CHRISTIE TO SAFETY.

"UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS SO GROGGY FROM THE IMPACT OF THE MOLE'S CRASH THAT I WAS KNOCKED OUT BY THE CONCUSSION FROM THE BLAST.

"WHEN I CAME TO, BULL AND CHRISTIE WERE GONE, AND I HAD NO IDEA WHERE!

"LUCKILY I STILL HAD MY FULL KIT IN MY BELT POUCHES, SO I WAS ABLE TO EXPLORE!

NOW I BETTER SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT RESCUING BULL, CHRISTIE, WONDER WOMAN AND THAT MYSTERY MAN.

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY! ONE MAN AGAINST THOUSANDS OF...

...EH?

NO! THEY SNUCK UP WITHOUT ME EVEN KNOWING THEY WERE THERE!

SO MUCH FOR ANY HEROIC RESCUE ATTEMPTS!

IT IS GOOD THAT THEY SHOULD BE WITNESS TO THE RESTORATION OF OUR FORMER GLORY, SINCE THEY WILL BE THE FIRST OF THEIR INFERIOR RACE TO BE ENSLAVED!

A WORD OF CAUTION, ORUS. THE FEMALE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OF HER SPECIES. TWICE SHE CAME CLOSE TO CAPTURING US THREE.

YES, SHE IS KNOWN AS WONDER WOMAN, AN APT TITLE, EVEN IN A WORLD GIVEN TO EXCESSIVE HYPERBOLE.

FOOLS! HAVE YOU BEEN SO LONG AWAY FROM LANSINAR YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN? THERE IS NO CREATURE IN ALL THE WORLD THAT IS A THREAT TO US!

OF-OF COURSE, ORUS, YOU ARE RIGHT. BUT WE HAVE SEEN WHAT THIS FEMALE CAN DO. YOU HAVE NOT. WE SIMPLY COUNSEL CAUTION.

I WISH I COULD GET MORE THAN ONE WORD IN A HUNDRED OF WHAT THEY'RE SAYING! THEY MEAN TO DO SOMETHING TO WONDER WOMAN AND THAT GUY...

...BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT!

IF THEY'D JUST RELEASE THEM FROM THE ICE, I'LL BET WONDER WOMAN WOULD SORT THEM OUT PRETTY FAST!

OH! WHAT HAPPENED ...?

OMIGOSH! THAT WAS ANCIENT GREEK!

SURE! THAT'S THE LANGUAGE WONDER WOMAN SPEAKS NORMALLY!

IT CANNOT BE! SHE SPOKE IN THE ACCURSED TONGUE!

WE WILL NOT LET THIS CREATURE LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO WITNESS THE REBIRTH OF OUR ANCIENT GLORY!

IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT WAS AND ALL THAT EVER SHALL BE, I SEND HER BACK TO THE HADES WHENCE SHE CAME!

I THINK NOT!

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME
SINCE I LAST SET EYES ON
THE THREE OF YOU...

...AND THEN IT WAS TO SEE
YOU SEALED FOREVER
BENEATH THE DESERT
SANDS!

ANOTHER ONE! ARE ALL
THESE INTRUDERS SCION OF
OUR ANCIENT ENEMIES?

HEY! THE
BIG GUY'S
SPEAKING
ANCIENT
GREEK,
TOO!



STOP THIS AT ONCE! THERE
IS NEVER TO BE BATTLE IN
THE HALL OF AUDIENCES!

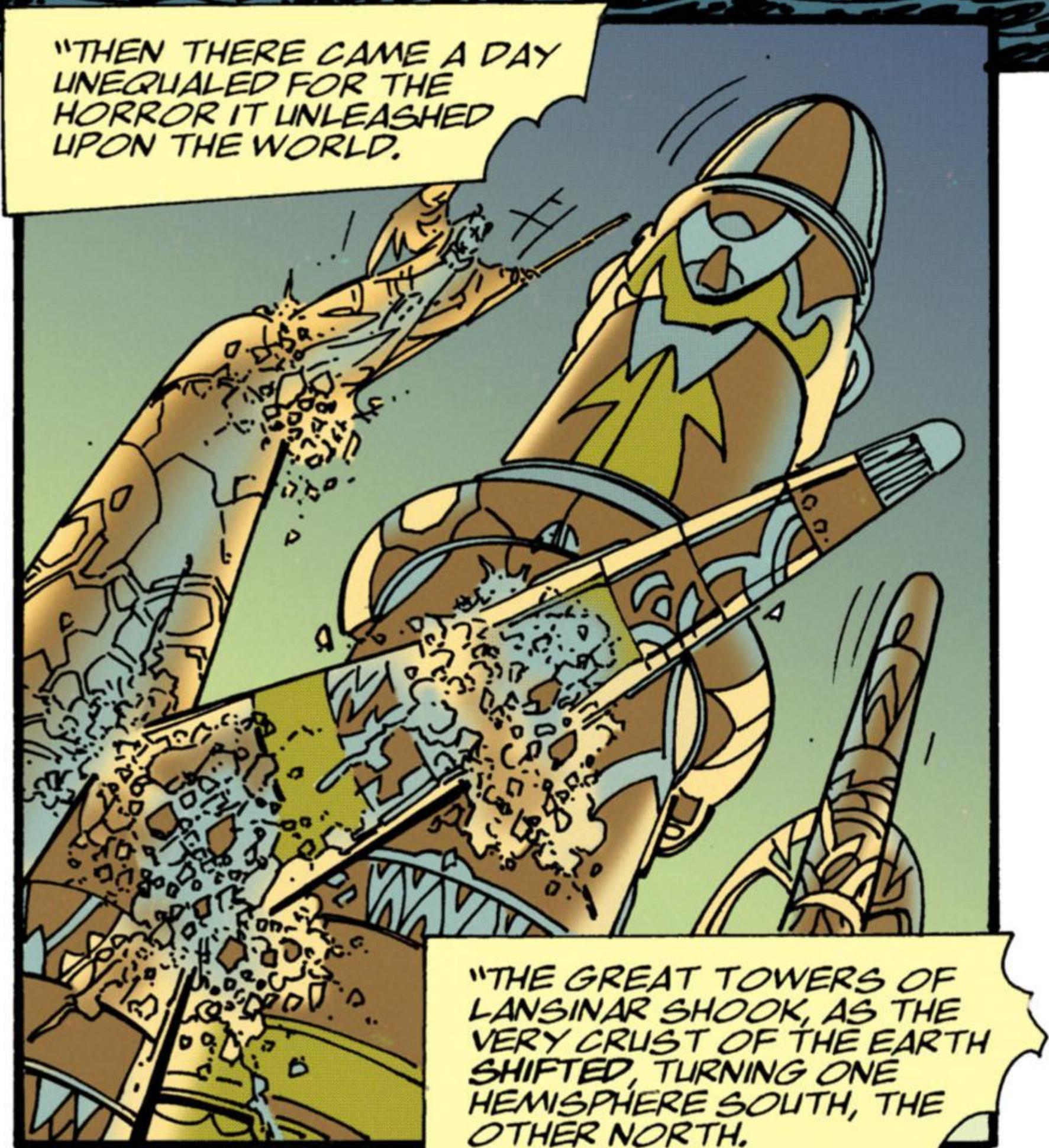
LUGH!

THE POWER OF MY
STAFF WILL STRIP
YOU OF ALL YOUR
STRENGTH,
WHOEVER
YOU ARE.
/ NOW
DEAL
WITH...
THE WOMAN!

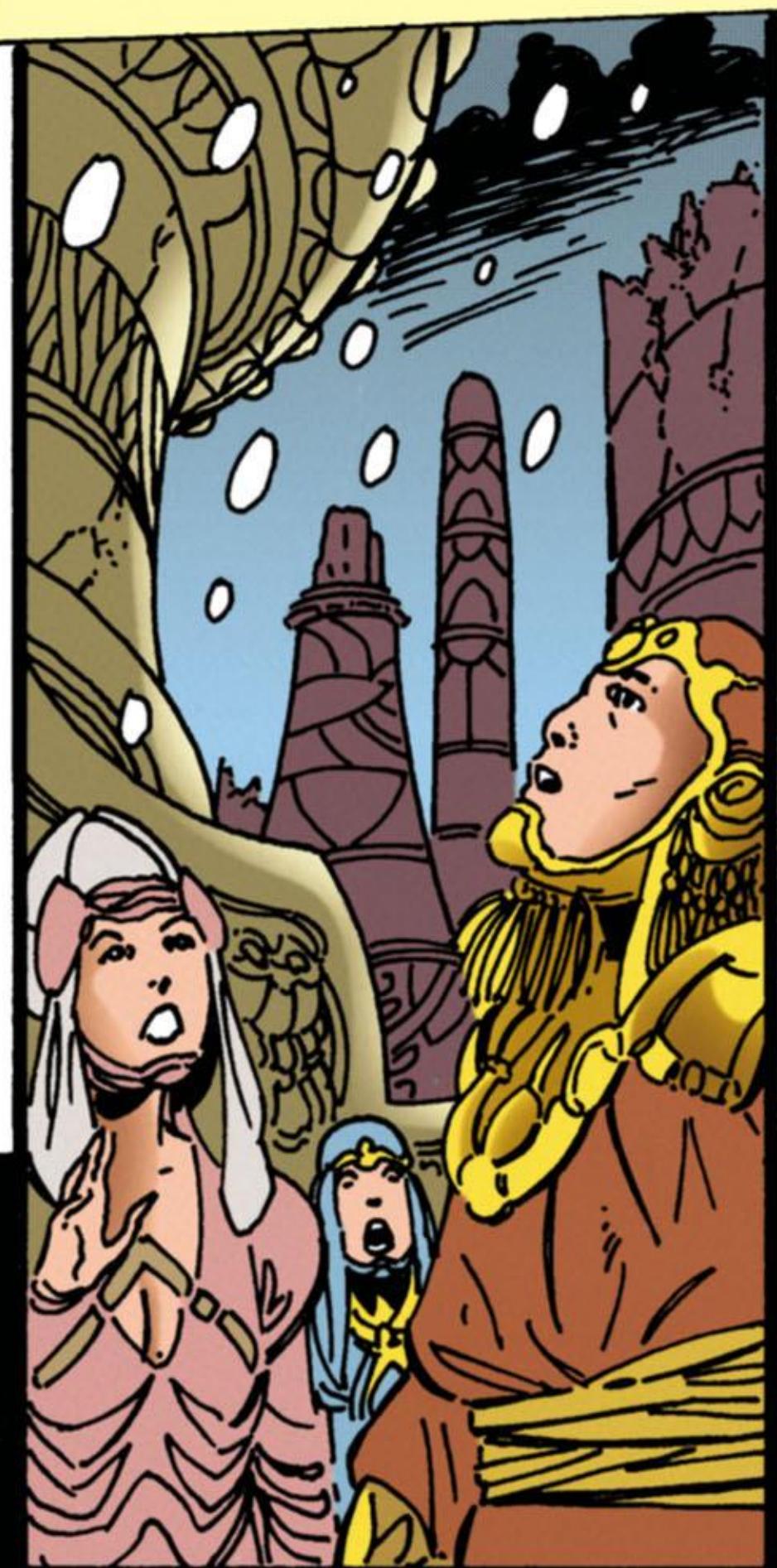
WHERE
IS
SHE???

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR
ME, MY STRANGE FRIENDS,
I AM HERE. AND YOUR
PRIZES ARE NOW MINE.

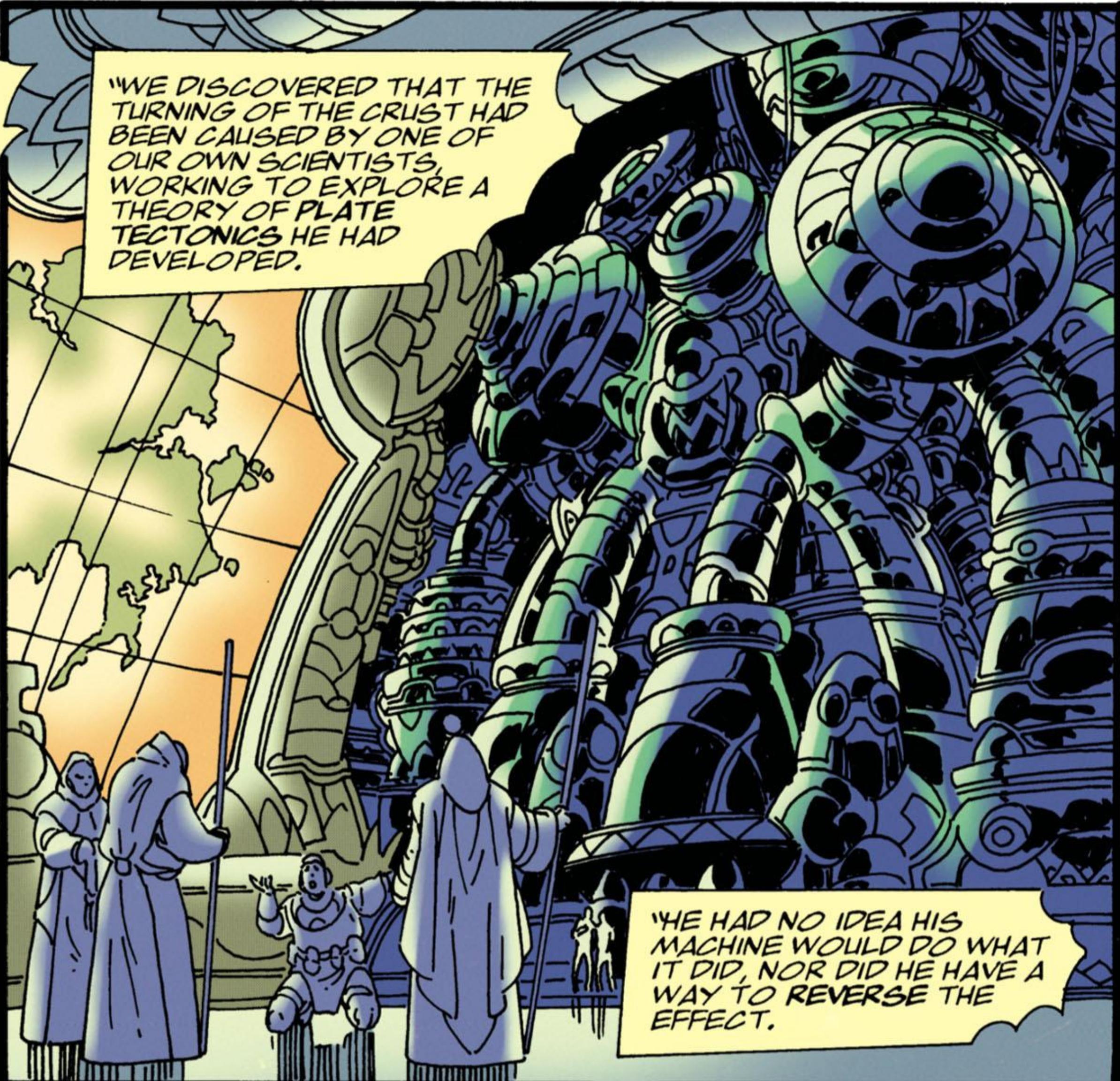




"WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS WE UNDERSTOOD THE FULL IMPORT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, AS FOR THE FIRST TIME SNOW FELL ON THE TOWERS OF LANSINAR.

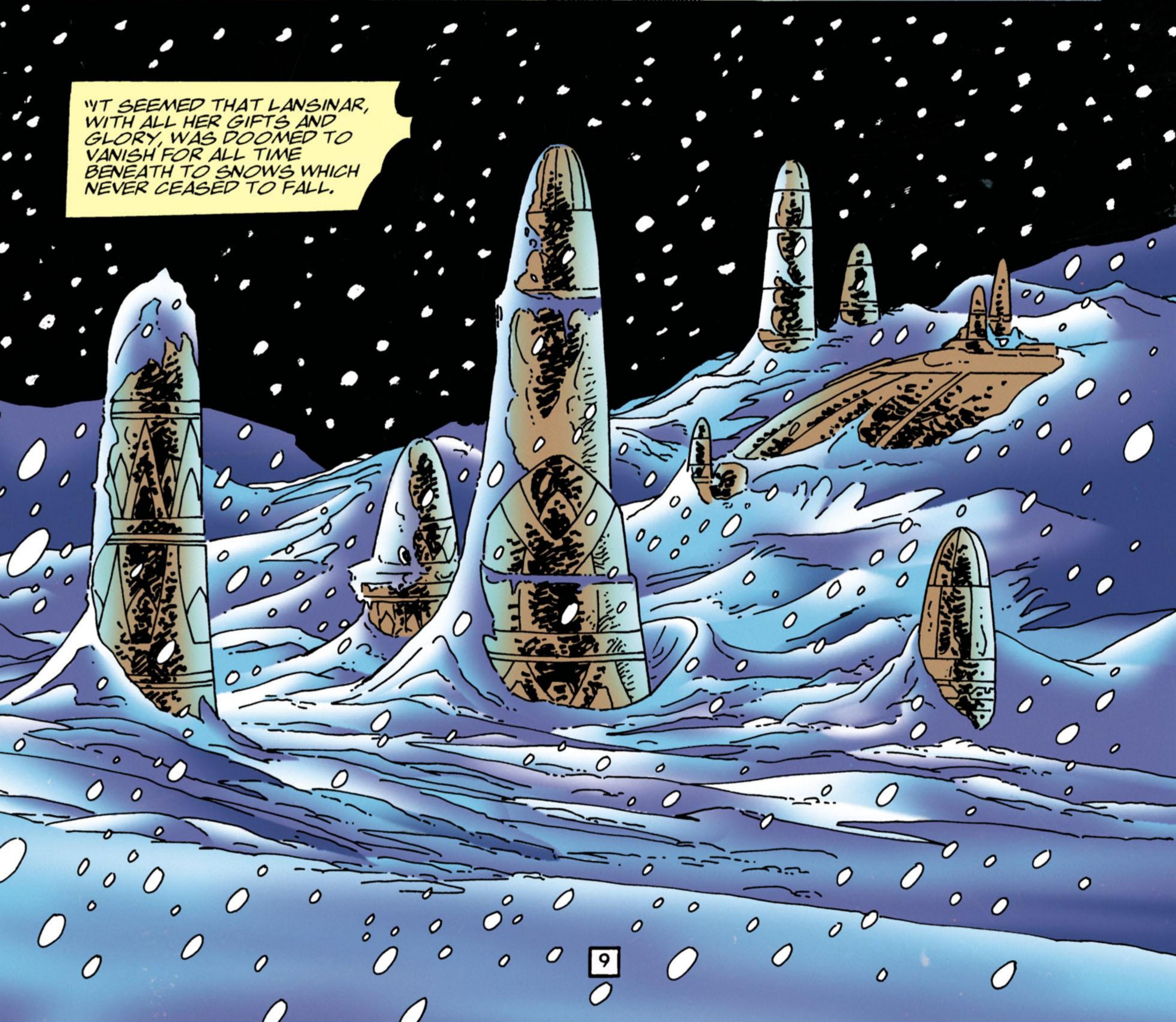


"WE DISCOVERED THAT THE TURNING OF THE CRUST HAD BEEN CAUSED BY ONE OF OUR OWN SCIENTISTS, WORKING TO EXPLORE A THEORY OF PLATE TECTONICS HE HAD DEVELOPED.



"HE HAD NO IDEA HIS MACHINE WOULD DO WHAT IT DID, NOR DID HE HAVE A WAY TO REVERSE THE EFFECT.

"IT SEEMED THAT LANSINAR, WITH ALL HER GIFTS AND GLORY, WAS DOOMED TO VANISH FOR ALL TIME BEHIND TO SNOWS WHICH NEVER CEASED TO FALL.



"KNOWING THE WAR AGAINST THE ETERNAL WINTER WOULD CONSUME MUCH TIME AND RESOURCES..."

"...WE INSTRUCTED OUR SUBJECTS TO TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES NECESSARY TO PRESERVE LANSINAR..."

"...WHILE WE FOUR TOOK ON THE FORMS OF WILD BEASTS SUCH AS WE KNEW WOULD STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE PRIMITIVES WHO LIVED BEYOND OUR SHORES..."

"...AND SET OUT IN SEARCH OF A PLACE WHERE WE COULD ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND FIND A WAY TO SAVE OUR HOME."

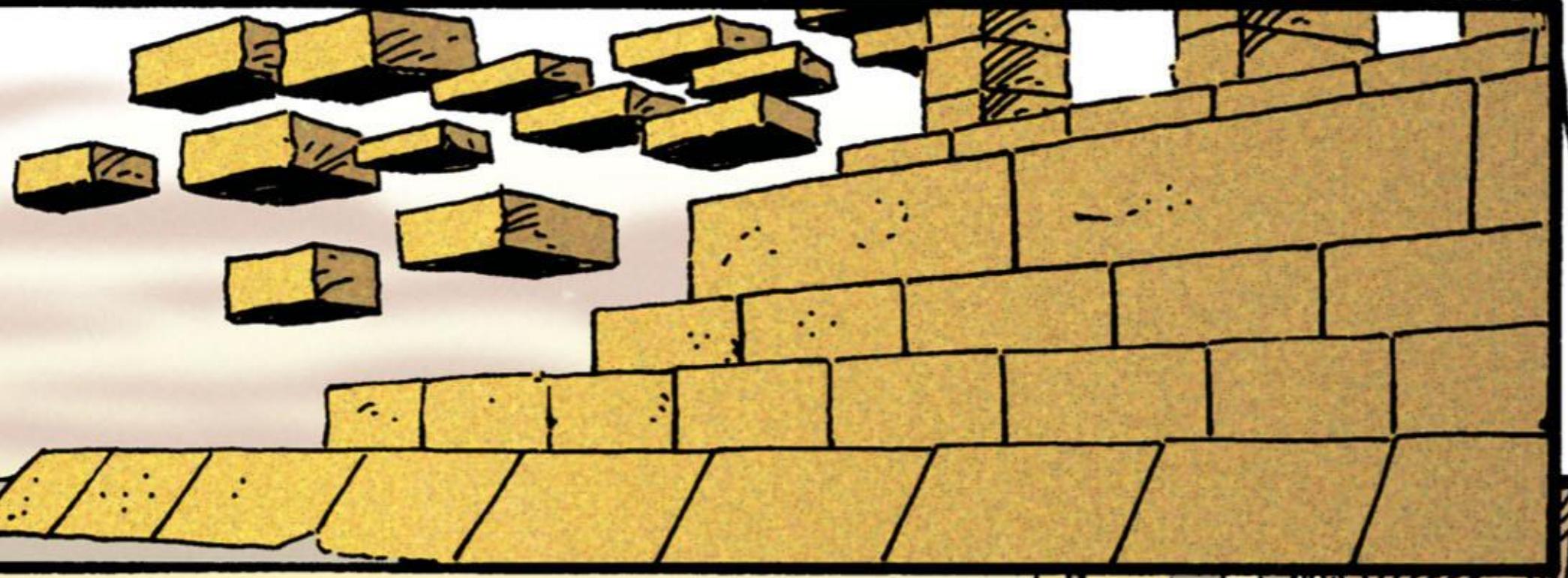
"AFTER MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES OF SEARCHING, WE CHANCED UPON A LAND OF SCORCHING SANDS AND QUICK-WITTED PEOPLE."

"WE WERE BROUGHT BEFORE THEIR LEADERS -- BEINGS OF STRANGE POWER AND DIGNITY."

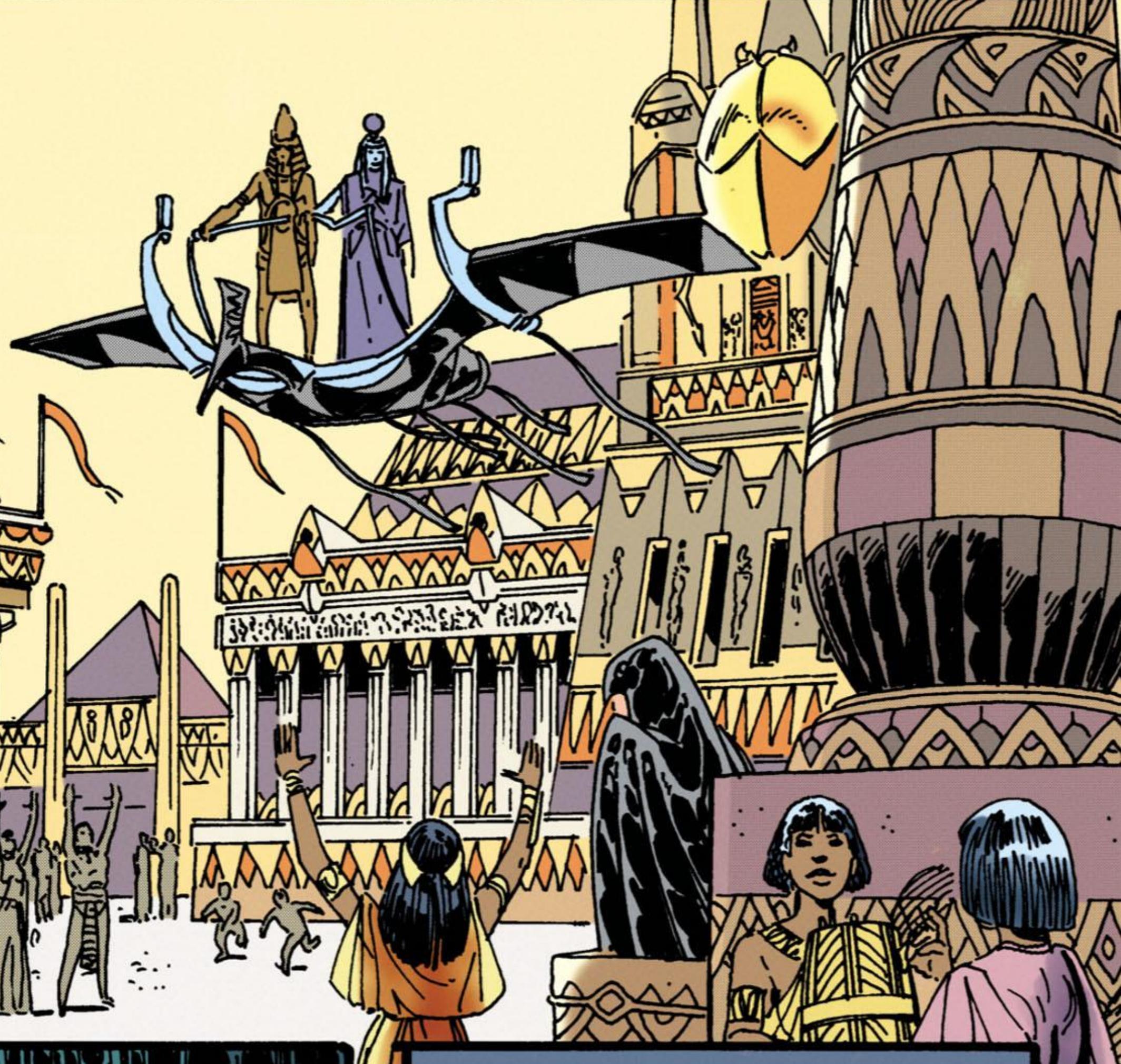
"WE SENSED AT ONCE THAT THERE WAS IN THEM SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN."

"NATURALLY, THEY RECOGNIZED IN US SOMETHING FAR SUPERIOR TO THEIR NARROW EXPERIENCE."

"THE COMBINATION OF
THEIR POWERS AND OUR
INSUPERABLE INTELLETS
WAS GREAT INDEED."



"IN THE SPAN OF A DOZEN
GENERATIONS WE BROUGHT
THEM TO THE VERY
PINNACLE OF THEIR
ACHIEVEMENT."



"UNDER OUR DIRECTION
THEY WERE ABLE TO REACH
A LEVEL WHERE THEY
COULD CREATE A SOLUTION
TO THE DOOM WHICH
THREATENED LANSINAR."

"THREE DISKS, EACH
POSSESSED OF GREAT
POWER, WHICH, WHEN
ATTACHED TO THE DEVICES
HERE, WOULD SERVE TO
REVERSE THE ROTATION
AND RESTORE LANSINAR TO
HER PROPER PLACE."



"ALL WAS PERFECT. WE
WERE IN THE FINAL DAYS OF
PREPARATIONS TO RETURN
TO LANSINAR, WHEN..."



"AT FIRST WE SAW THE INVASION OF THESE PRIMITIVES AS NO MORE THAN A MOMENTARY DELAY."



"THEIR SWORDS AND LEATHER ARMOR WERE NO MATCH FOR OUR WEAPONS AND THE POWERS OF THE GODS WE HAD ELEVATED."

"WE HAD NOT GUessed THAT THE UNKNOWN ENERGIES WHICH HAD SPAWNED THE POWERS OF OUR PUPILS..."



"...MIGHT HAVE CREATED OTHERS WITH SIMILAR POWERS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD."

"INCREDIBLY, THESE INVADERS PROVED TOO MUCH FOR US!"



"TAKING THE PRECIOUS DISKS, WE ATTEMPTED TO FLEE THE EMBATTLED CITY."

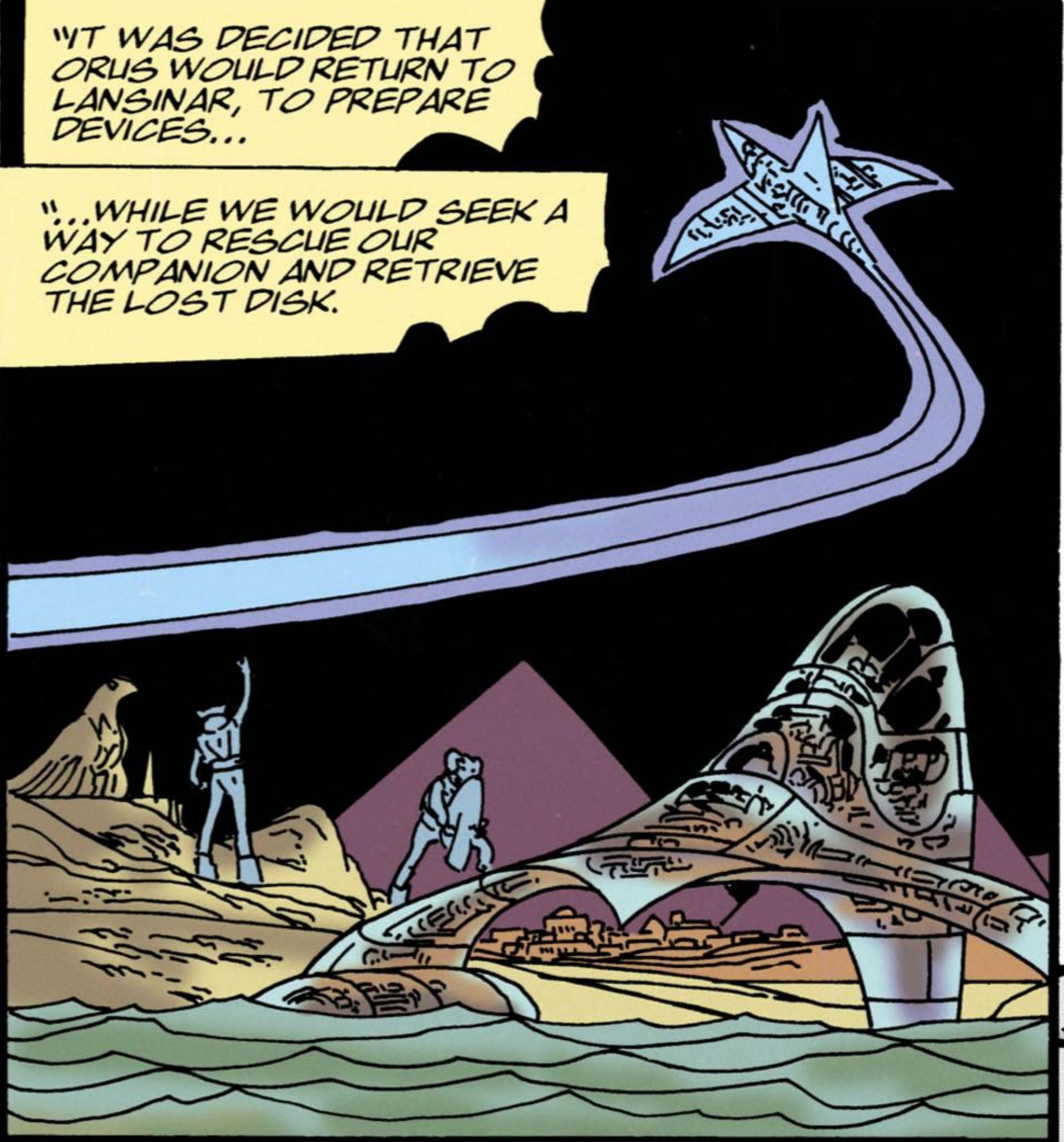


"ONLY THREE OF US WERE
SUCCESSFUL.



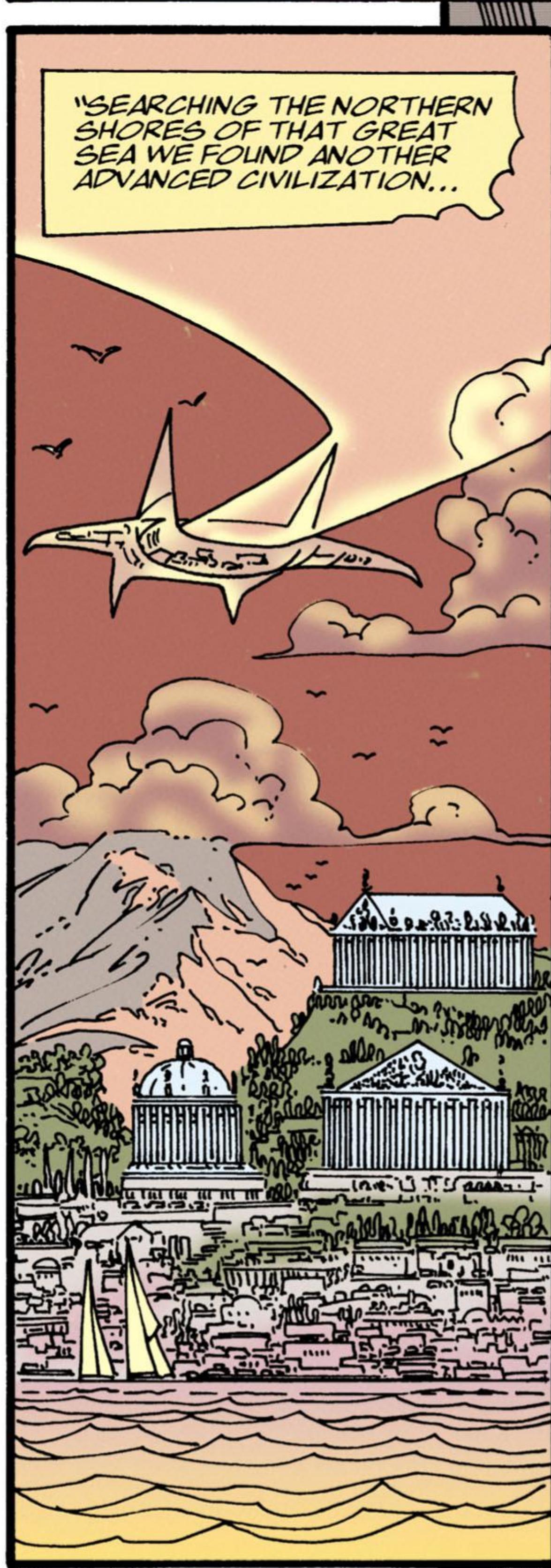
"IT WAS DECIDED THAT
ORUS WOULD RETURN TO
LANSINAR, TO PREPARE
DEVICES...

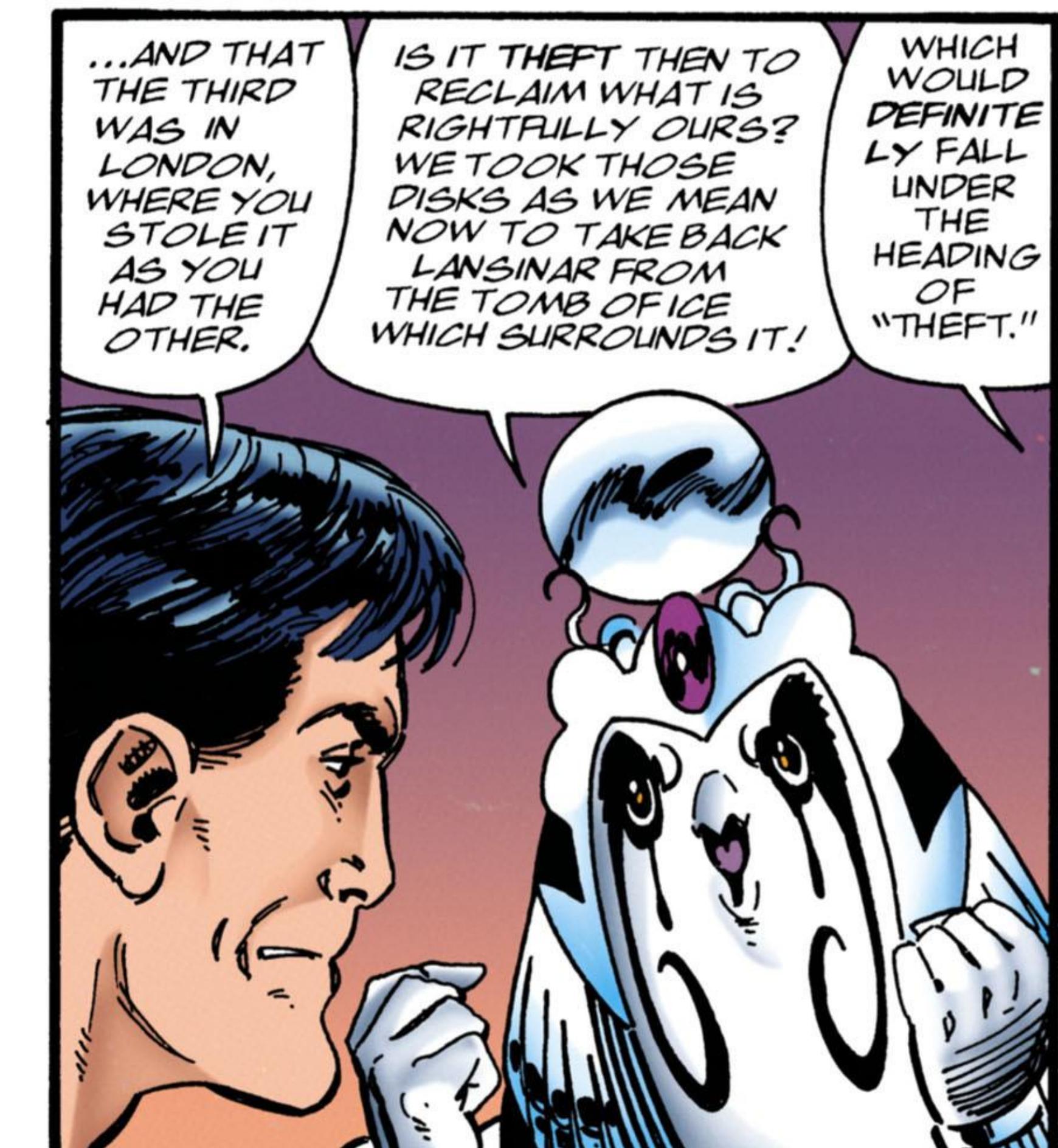
"...WHILE WE WOULD SEEK A
WAY TO RESCUE OUR
COMPANION AND RETRIEVE
THE LOST DISK.



"SEARCHING THE NORTHERN
SHORES OF THAT GREAT
SEA WE FOUND ANOTHER
ADVANCED CIVILIZATION...

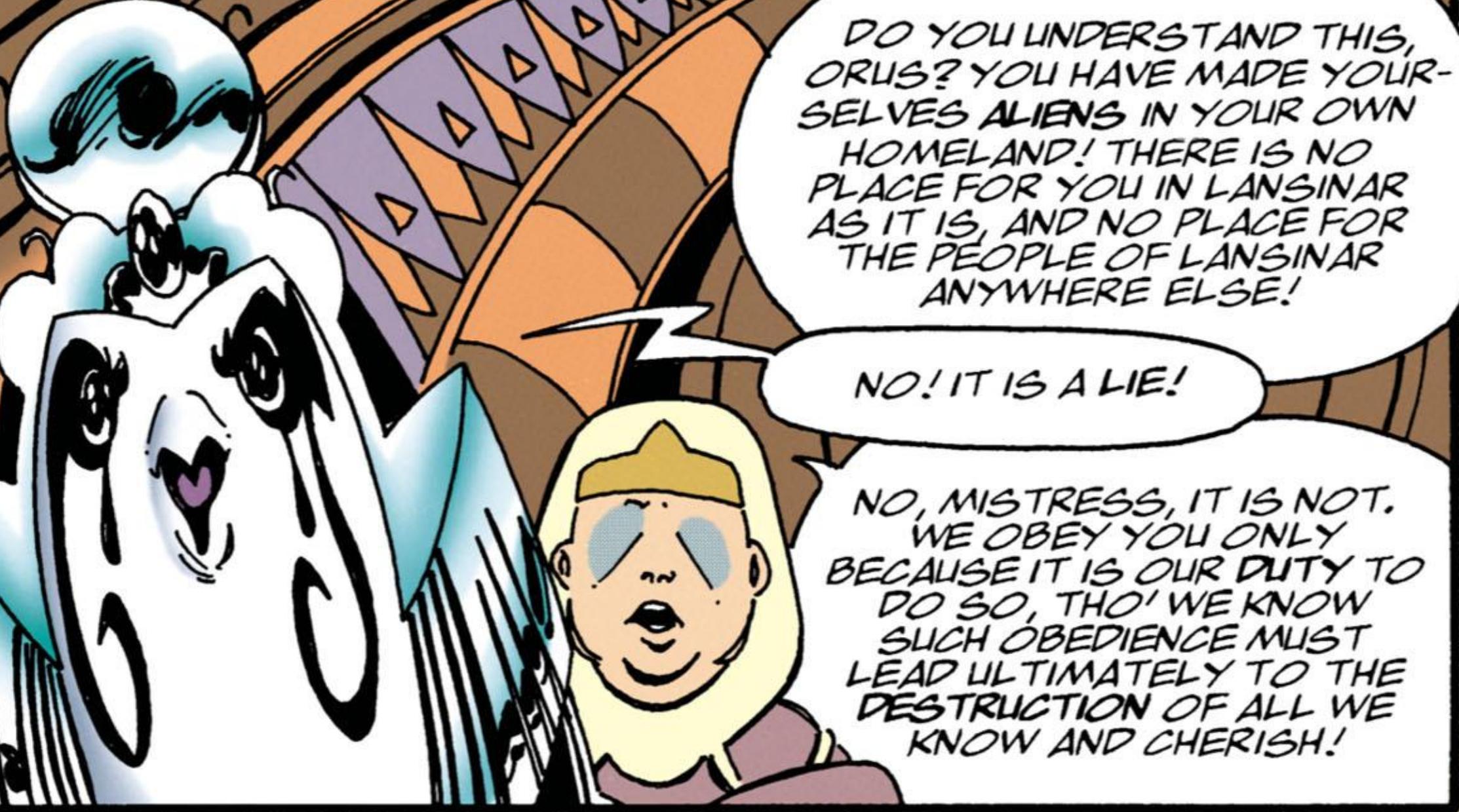
"... WHICH UNFORTUNATELY
PROVED TO BE UNDER THE
CONTROL OF A RACE OF
GODS WHO BORE A
STARTLING RESEMBLANCE
TO OUR ENEMIES.





THESE FOLK'S ANCESTORS WERE LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. WHICH THEY DID-- BY ADAPTING TO LIFE UNDER THE ICE!

OF COURSE! IN FORTY THOUSAND YEARS, THIS HAS BECOME NATURAL TO THEM! TO REMOVE THEM FROM THIS ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE AS IF A PENGUIN WERE HURLED INTO THE SAHARA DESERT!



DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS, ORUS? YOU HAVE MADE YOURSELVES ALIENS IN YOUR OWN HOMELAND! THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU IN LANSINAR AS IT IS, AND NO PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF LANSINAR ANYWHERE ELSE!

NO! IT IS A LIE!

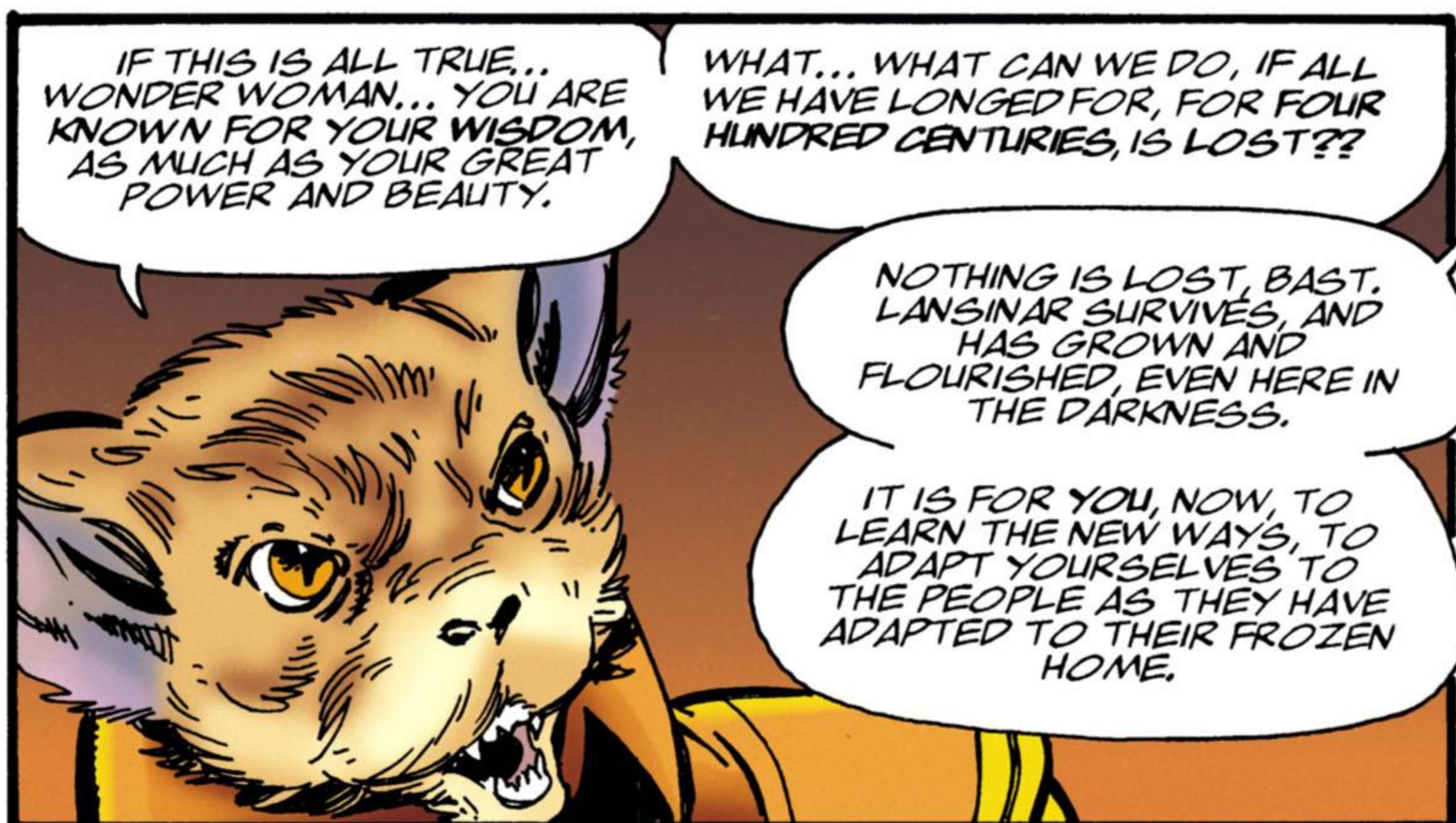
NO, MISTRESS, IT IS NOT. WE OBEY YOU ONLY BECAUSE IT IS OUR DUTY TO DO SO, THO' WE KNOW SUCH OBEDIENCE MUST LEAD ULTIMATELY TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL WE KNOW AND CHERISH!



IT CANNOT BE!
ALL THE
CENTURIES OF
PAIN AND
IMPRISONMENT...

IT MUST BE A
LIE, A TRICK TO
TURN US FROM
OUR COURSE...

YET... TO LOOK
UPON THE FACES
OF OUR SUBJECTS
IS TO LOOK UPON...
STRANGERS.

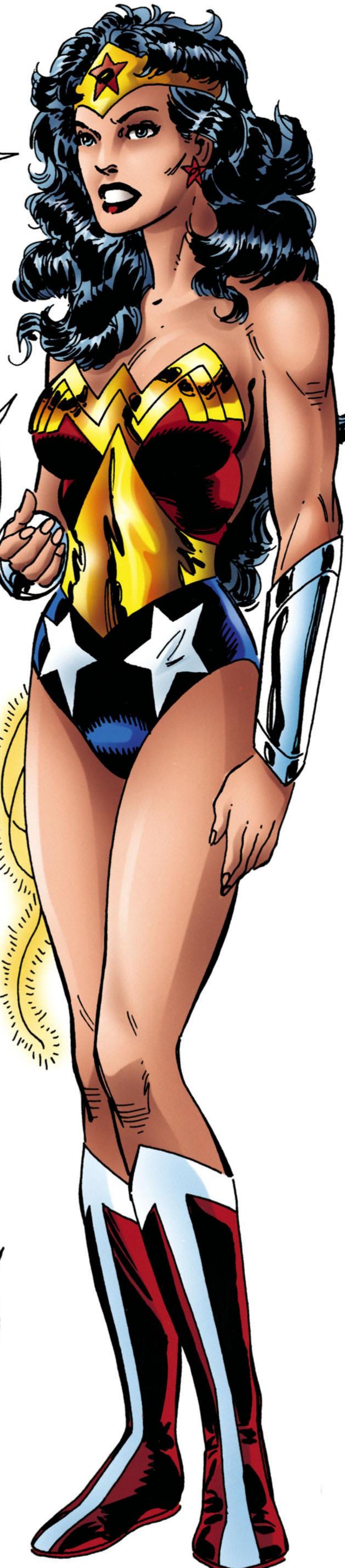


IF THIS IS ALL TRUE...
WONDER WOMAN... YOU ARE
KNOWN FOR YOUR WISDOM,
AS MUCH AS YOUR GREAT
POWER AND BEAUTY.

WHAT... WHAT CAN WE DO, IF ALL
WE HAVE LONGED FOR, FOR FOUR
HUNDRED CENTURIES, IS LOST??

NOTHING IS LOST, BAST.
LANSINAR SURVIVES, AND
HAS GROWN AND
FLOURISHED, EVEN HERE IN
THE DARKNESS.

IT IS FOR YOU, NOW, TO
LEARN THE NEW WAYS, TO
ADAPT YOURSELVES TO
THE PEOPLE AS THEY HAVE
ADAPTED TO THEIR FROZEN
HOME.



"IT IS FOR YOU TO SEEK WITHIN YOUR OWN HEARTS AND SOULS A NEW AND BETTER PATH TO PEACE AND CONTENTMENT."

THE LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT DOWN HERE IS QUITE REMARKABLE! AND ALL BUILT IN DARKNESS AND COLD!

I'M SURPRISED THEY DIDN'T FIND A WAY TO LIGHT AND HEAT LANSINAR, IF THEY'RE SO ADVANCED.

OF COURSE, THEY TRIED THAT AT FIRST. BUT THEY QUICKLY REALIZED THEY WOULD BE EXPENDING HUGE AMOUNTS OF EFFORT AND ENERGY BATTING SOMETHING THAT SEEMED LESS AND LESS LIKELY TO EVER GO AWAY.

SO THEY ELECTED TO GO WITH THE FLOW, AS IT WERE. THEY ADAPTED THEMSELVES, AND THEIR TECHNOLOGY, TO THE NEW SHAPE OF LANSINAR.

AND SPEAKING OF ADAPTING TECHNOLOGY...



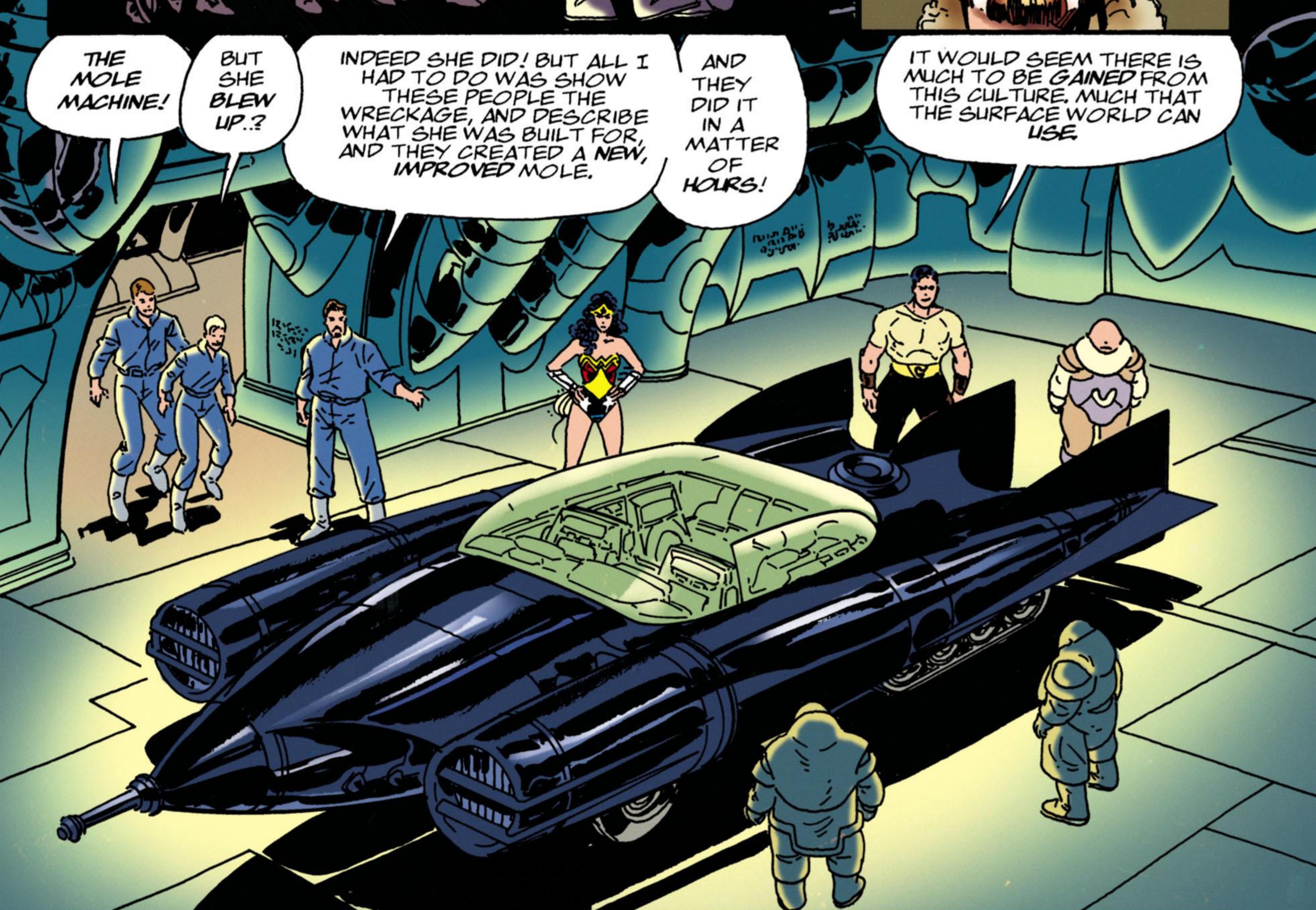
THE MOLE MACHINE!

BUT SHE BLEW UP..?

INDEED SHE DID! BUT ALL I HAD TO DO WAS SHOW THESE PEOPLE THE WRECKAGE, AND DESCRIBE WHAT SHE WAS BUILT FOR, AND THEY CREATED A NEW, IMPROVED MOLE.

AND THEY DID IT IN A MATTER OF HOURS!

IT WOULD SEEM THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED FROM THIS CULTURE, MUCH THAT THE SURFACE WORLD CAN USE.



EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THESE PEOPLE WISH TO BE LEFT ALONE, CHAMPION. I KNOW THAT IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE AS HAROLD CAMPION YOU ARE A MULTINATIONAL BUSINESSMAN...

...BUT THIS IS AN INSTANCE WHERE YOU SHOULD LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR PROFIT AND EXPLOITATION.

PERHAPS.

"SO I GUESS IT'S TIME SAY TO 'GOOD-BYE,' WONDER WOMAN."



I ONLY WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT THAT WATCHMAN YOU SAID WAS KILLED.

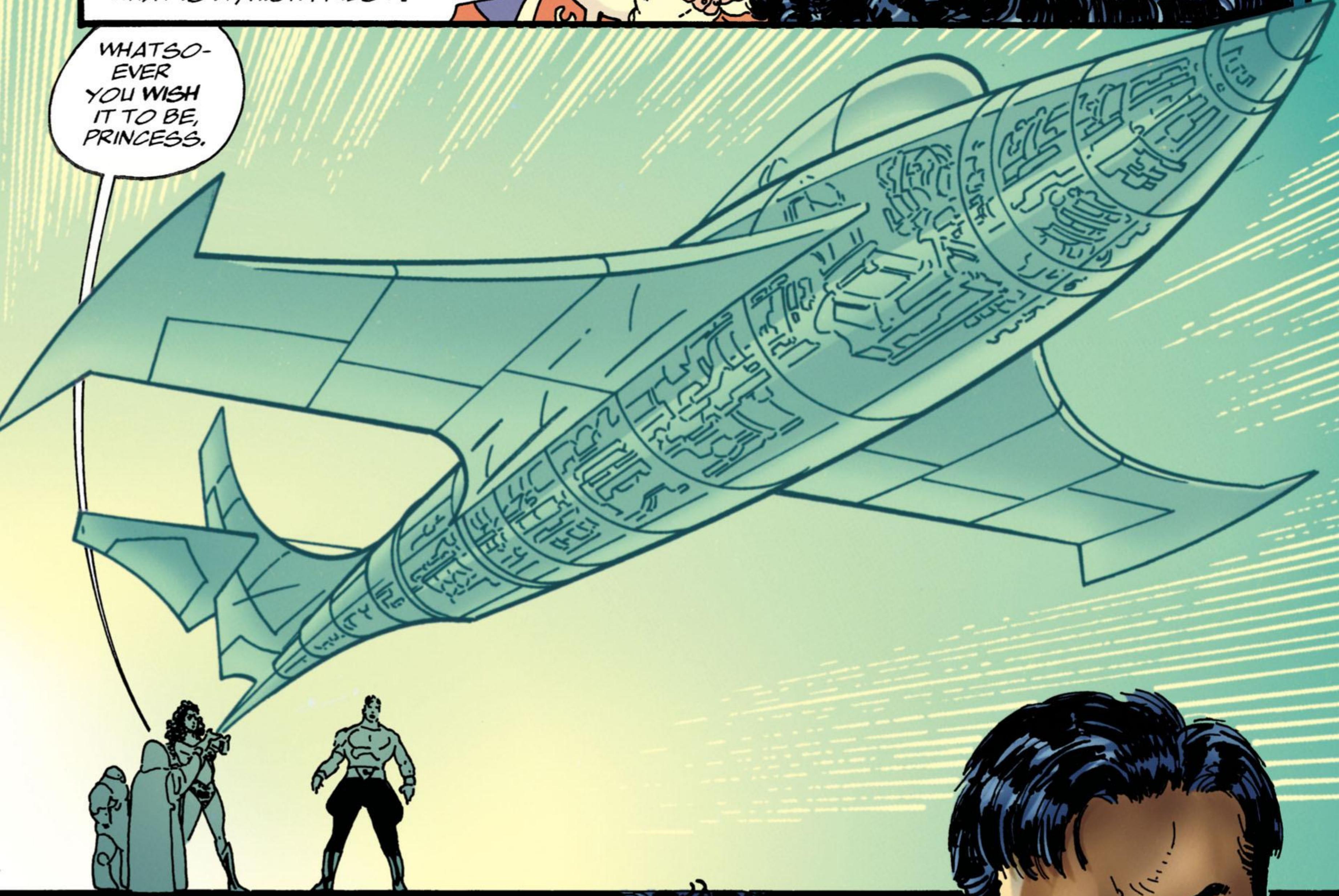
THE LANSINARIANS HAVE PROMISED TO ADDRESS THE MATTER UNDER THEIR OWN LAWS. WE CAN ASK FOR NO MORE.



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR PART IN THIS, PRINCESS DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA. WE WISH YOU TO ACCEPT THIS AS A TOKEN OF OUR ESTEEM.

WHAT IS IT, HIGH PRIEST?

WHATSOEVER YOU WISH IT TO BE, PRINCESS.



THE INVISIBLE AIRCRAFT! AND IT CAN BE ANYTHING ELSE I DESIRE? A MOST WELCOME GIFT, HIGH PRIEST.

THIS FREES YOU TO RETURN TO GATEWAY CITY ON YOUR OWN, CHAMPION...



"...WHILE I RETURN TO LONDON TO RETRIEVE HELENA AND MIKE SCHORR."

I NEVER THOUGHT GATEWAY CITY COULD LOOK SO GOOD TO ME!

I WILL DROP YOU OFF AT YOUR HOUSE, HELENA. WHATEVER WORK IS STILL TO BE DONE AT THE MUSEUM CAN WAIT UNTIL THE MORNING!

I QUITE AGREE, DIANA!

YEAH, I'M BUSHED TOO, EVEN THO' WE MISSED ALL THE FUN, HELENA!

"I'M READY TO HIT THE SACK!"

YOU'RE...
MORE THAN WELCOME
TO COME IN FOR
A WHILE, IF YOU
LIKE, DIANA.

I'M... NOT ALL THAT TIRED,
DIANA. PLEASE... COME UP
FOR A WHILE, JUST TO
TALK.

MIKE...

NO, MIKE, AS YOU SAID, YOU ARE TIRED. YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST BEFORE YOU FILE A REPORT WITH YOUR SUPERIORS.

MIKE, YOU HAVE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND IN THE MONTHS SINCE I MOVED HERE TO GATEWAY CITY. I COUNT MYSELF LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND SOMEONE LIKE YOU SO SOON AFTER ARRIVING.

AND... I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE WANTED MORE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP THAN I WAS WILLING TO GIVE. PERHAPS YOU HAVE EVEN BEEN DESERVING OF MORE, AND IF I HAVE "LED YOU ON" IN ANY WAY, I AM TRULY, DEEPLY SORRY.

THIS SOUNDS A WHOLE LOT LIKE A KISS-OFF, DIANA...

IF I UNDERSTAND THAT PHRASE CORRECTLY, IT IS NOT. I LOVE YOU AS A FRIEND, MIKE. A DEAR, DEAR FRIEND WHOSE ABSENCE WOULD LESSEN MY LIFE.

BUT, BECAUSE OF THAT FRIENDSHIP, BECAUSE OF THE FEELINGS I HAVE FOR YOU, I MUST NOW BE HONEST, AND YOU MUST BE STRONG ENOUGH TO ACCEPT WHAT I SAY.



IT'S THAT CHAMPION GUY, ISN'T IT? HIM AND HIS GOOD LOOKS AND HIS MUSCLES AND HIS MONEY.

I'M SURPRISED YOU'D FALL FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT, DIANA.

WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER WHERE THE FATES LEAD US. IF APHRODITE DEEMS HAROLD CAMPION BE THE FIRST WITH WHOM I KNOW LOVE, THEN SO BE IT.

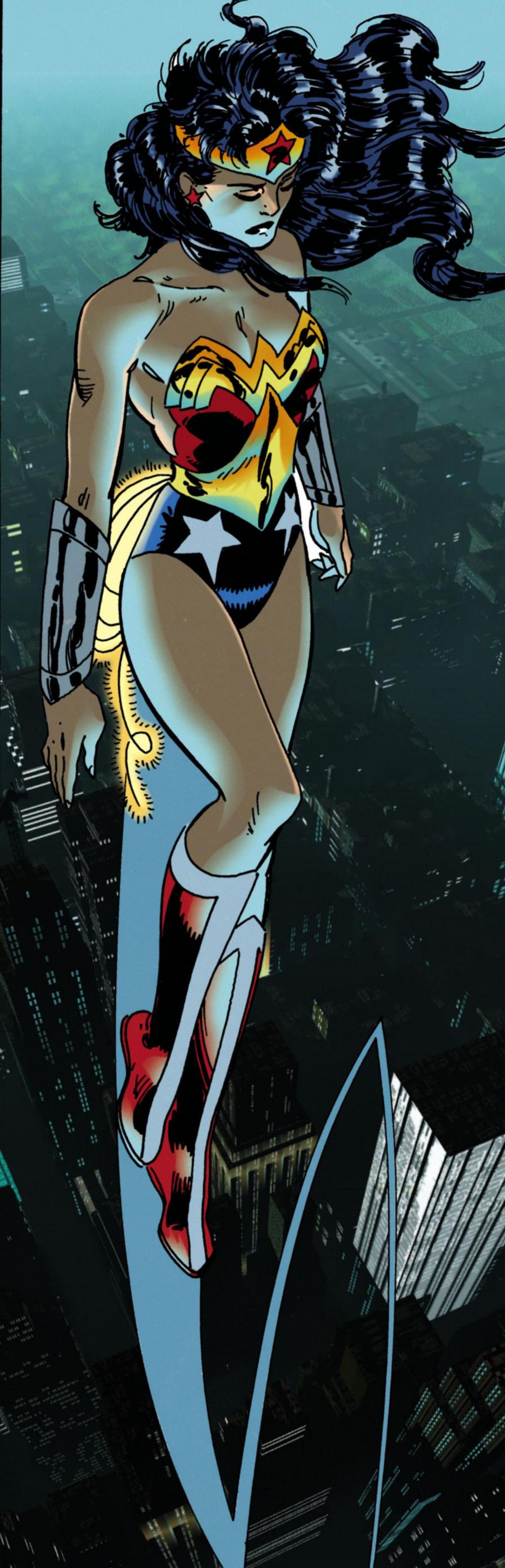


CAN YOU ACCEPT THIS, AND BE HAPPY FOR ME, AS A FRIEND?

NO. NOT YET, ANYWAY. AND NOT FOR A LONG TIME, I DON'T THINK.



I... AM SORRY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, MIKE. AS
SORRY AS I AM FOR ANY PAIN I MIGHT HAVE CAUSED
YOU WITHOUT MEANING.







NEXT ISSUE: BECAUSE YOU
DEMANDED IT, THE RETURN
OF ONE OF DIANA'S
OLDEST FOES. BE HERE IN
THIRTY DAYS FOR

CLAWS!
PART ONE!