

THE ARCHMAGE

RETURNS AFTER

4000

YEARS

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~ 76 ~

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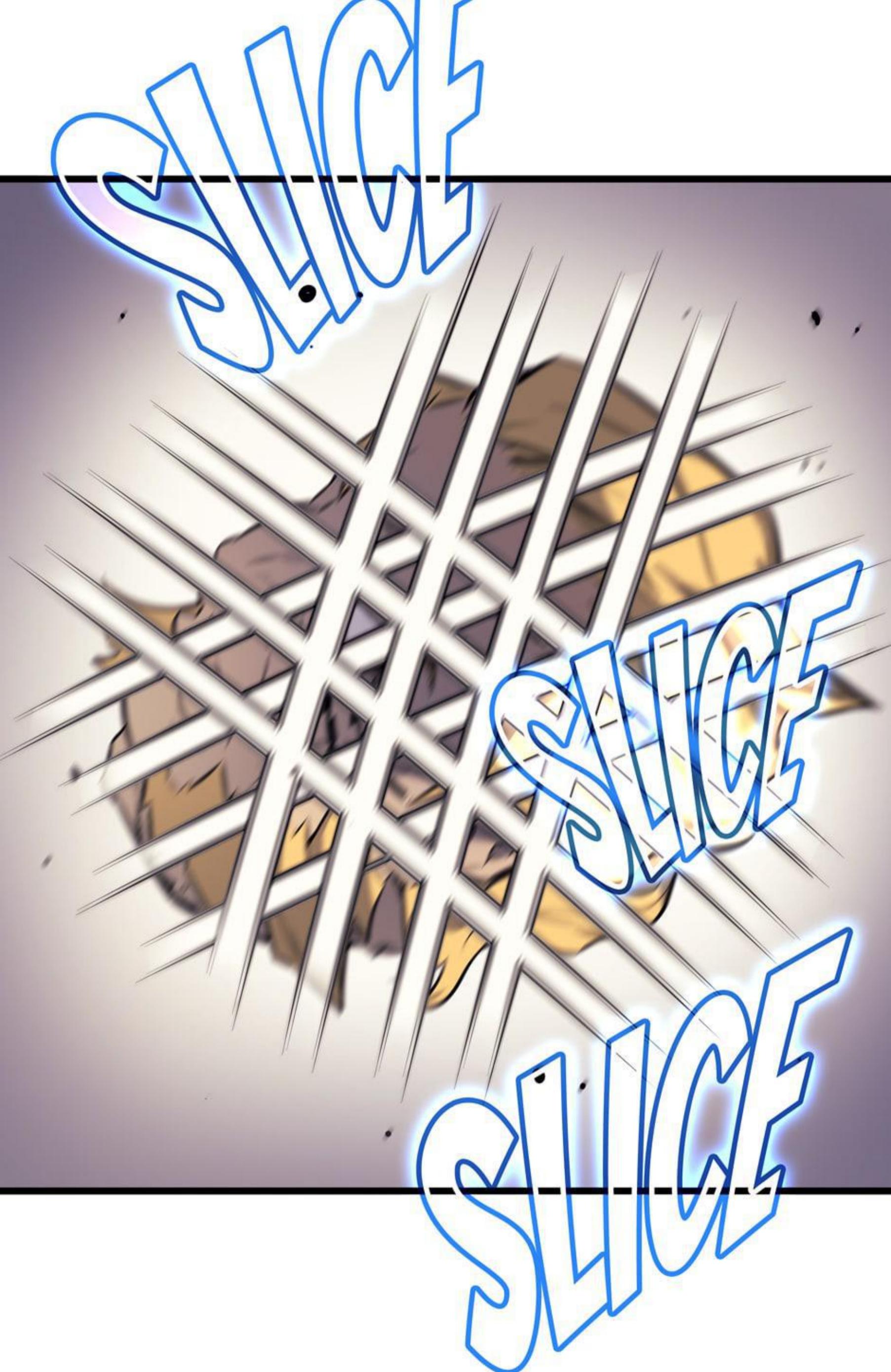




RANISH



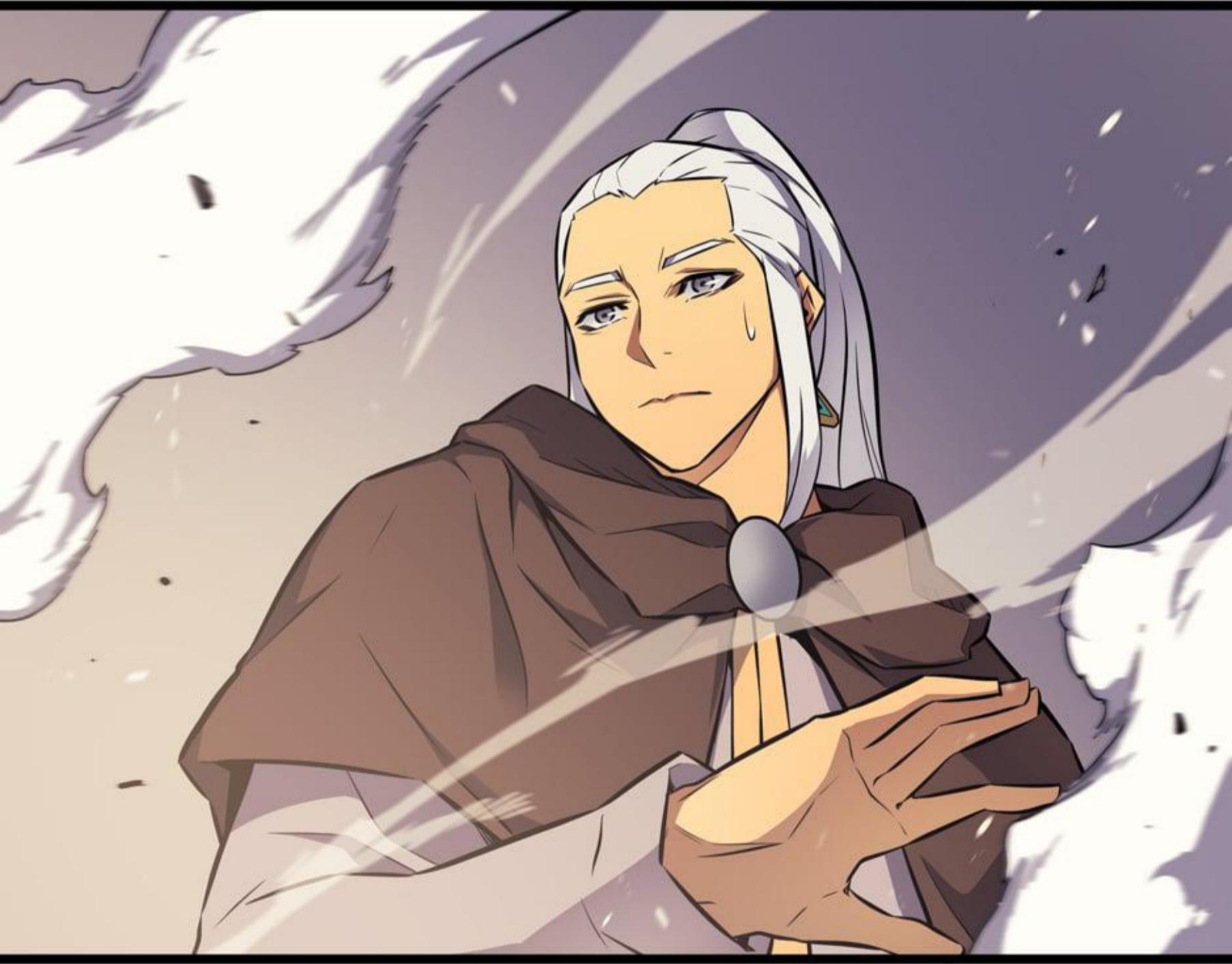




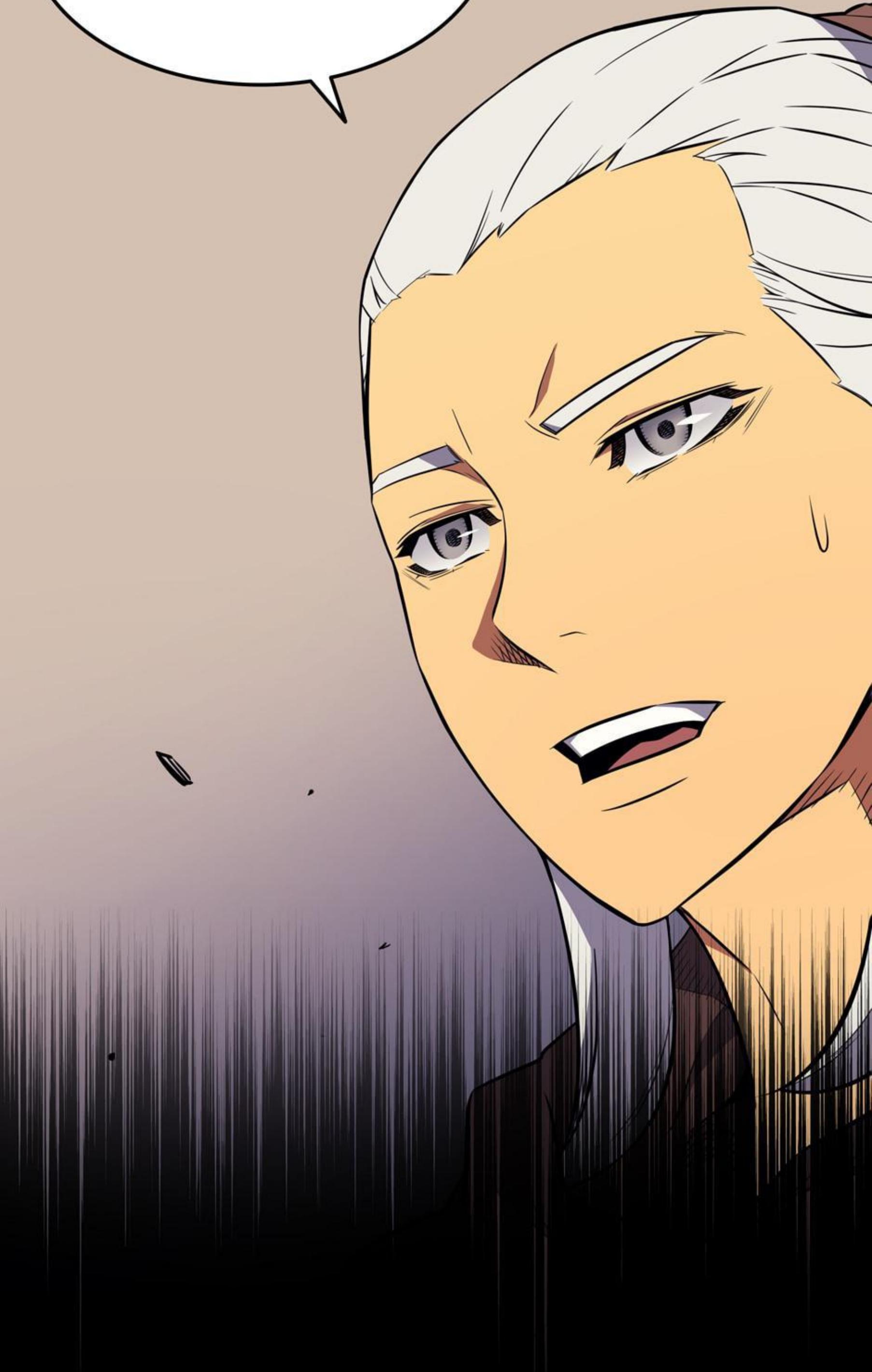
OOF!!

KABOOM





I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...
WHY DO DEMIGODS
EVEN CREATE APOSTLES
IN THE FIRST PLACE?



COMPARED TO THE
RAW POWERS DEMIGODS
WIELD, THEIR APOSTLES'
POWERS PALE IN
COMPARISON.

IF I THINK ABOUT IT
LOGICALLY, CREATING
SUCH PROXIES POSE FAR
TOO MUCH RISK FOR
SO LITTLE GAIN.

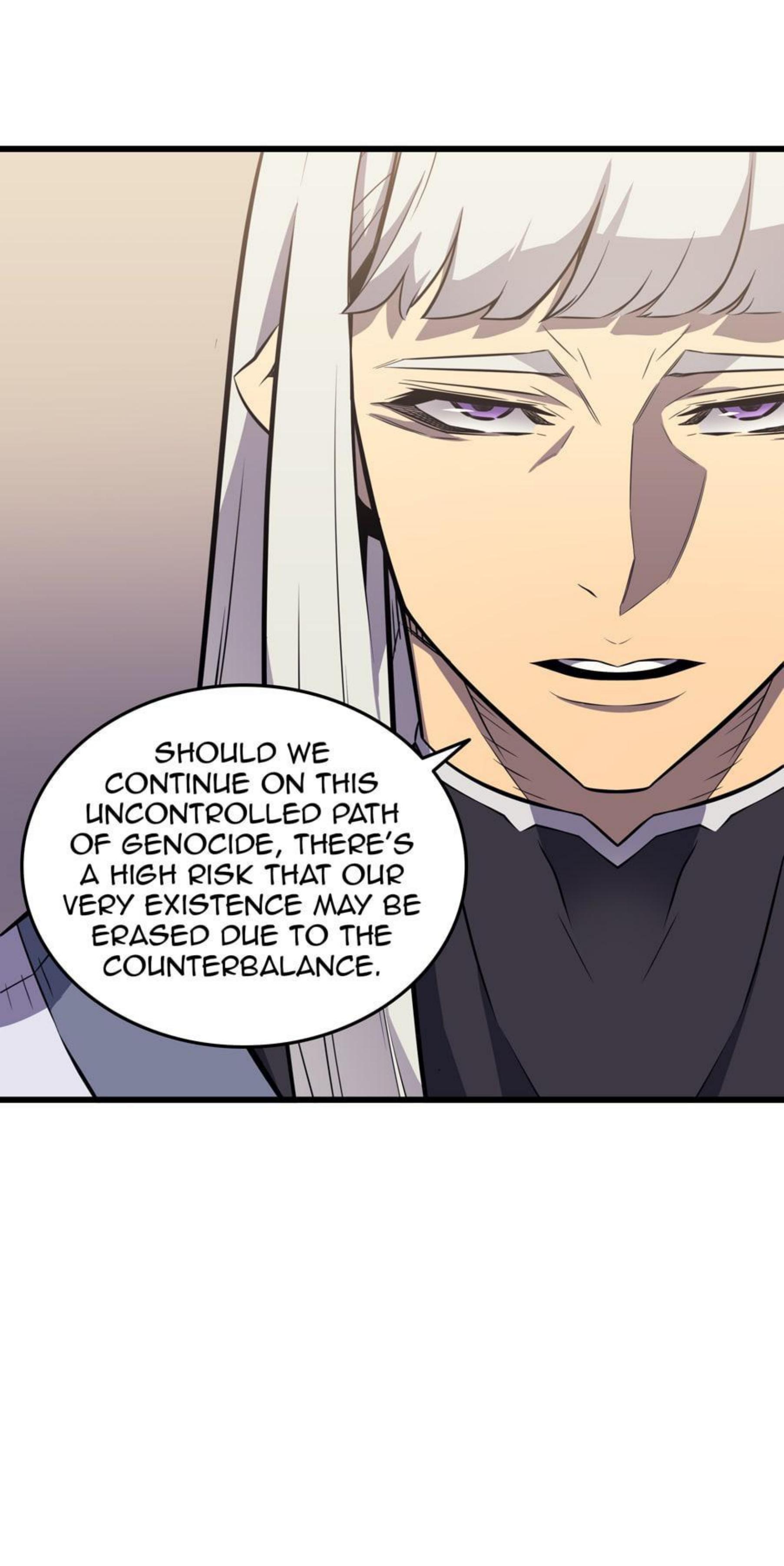
SSK

THE FACT THAT
THEY'RE WILLING
TO TAKE SUCH RISKS
SUGGESTS THERE'S
A PRIZE THAT
JUSTIFIES
THEM.

OVER THE PAST
FEW MILLENNIA, WE
DEMIGODS COMMITTED
GENOCIDES OF
UNIMAGINABLE
NUMBERS.



WELL, I'M
SURE LORD
DISAGREES WITH MY
SENTIMENTS BUT...



SHOULD WE
CONTINUE ON THIS
UNCONTROLLED PATH
OF GENOCIDE, THERE'S
A HIGH RISK THAT OUR
VERY EXISTENCE MAY BE
ERASED DUE TO THE
COUNTERBALANCE.



HAH!
DEMIGODS ARE
AT THE RISK OF
ANNIHILATION?

WHO IN THE
WORLD IS CAPABLE
OF COMMITTING SUCH
FEATS IN THE FIRST
PLACE...?!



GOD.



...



ARE YOU
FOR REAL?



WHILE I
CALL IT GOD, IT'S A
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
EXISTENCE THAN WHAT
HUMANS WOULD REVERE
AND WORSHIP AS
AN ENTITY.

TO PUT IT
SIMPLY, YOU
WOULD THINK OF
IT AS A CONCEPT OF
A GREAT BALANCE IN
THIS UNIVERSE THAT
KEEPS EVERYTHING
IN CHECK.



YOU'RE SAYING
IT'S LIKE THE PRINCIPLE
OF CAUSE AND EFFECT...
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT?

VERY
SIMILAR.

LIKE A CLUMP OF
ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY
THAT GROWS AND

THAT GOVERNS AND
MAINTAINS ORDER AND
BALANCE IN THE
WORLD.

SSK

US DEMIGODS
ARE LIKE SMALLER
PIECES OF THAT MASS
THAT BROKE AWAY AS
FRAGMENTS AND NOW
CARRY OUR OWN
SENTIENCE.

HAHAHA...

SSK

SSK



IN ALL HONESTY,
IF I WEREN'T HEARING
THIS COMING FROM A
DEMIGOD'S MOUTH, IT
WOULD SOUND LIKE THE
NONSENSE SPEWED
BY SOME KIND
OF CULT.

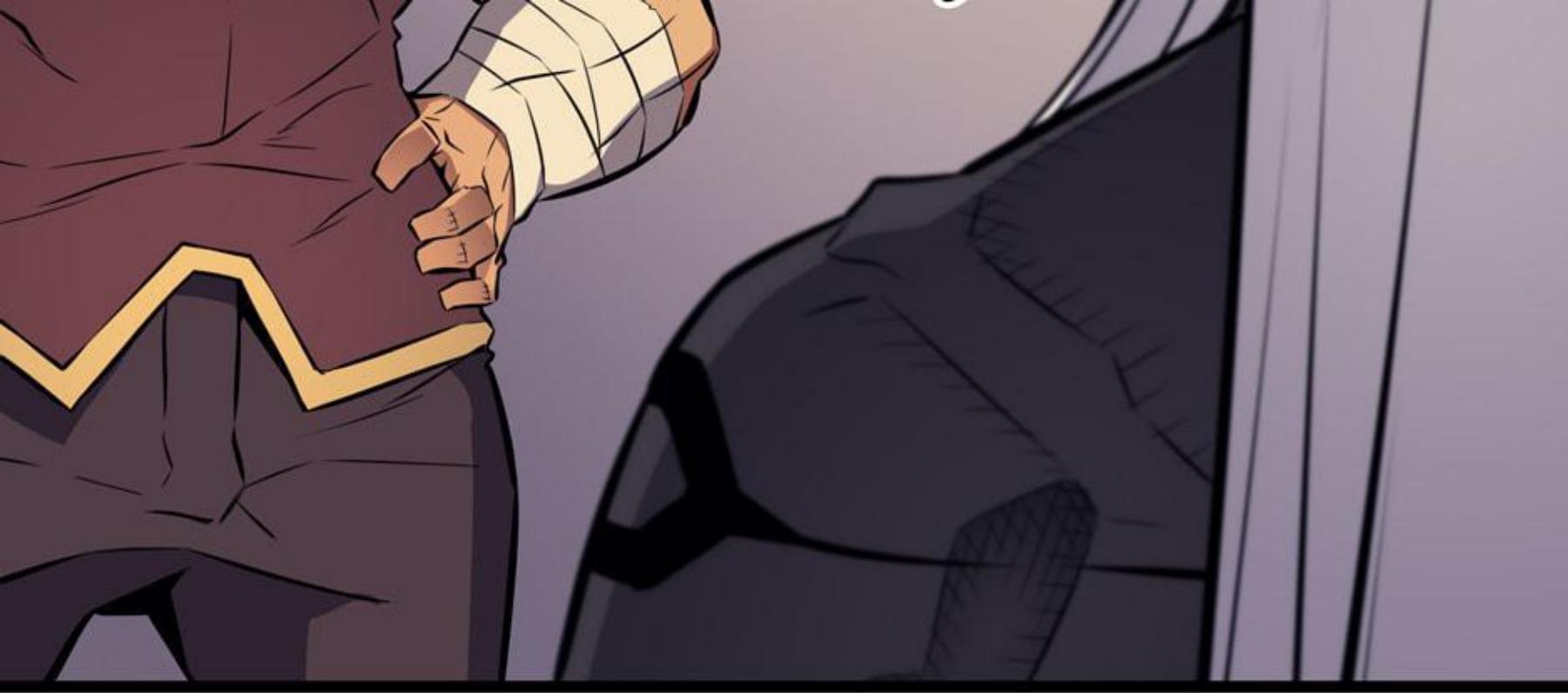
ARE YOU SAYING
THAT ONE OR TWO
DEMIGODS WERE
ACTUALLY ERASED
BY THIS GOD OF
YOURS?



MUCH MORE
THAN THAT.



SSK





AMONG THE CASUALTIES I PERSONALLY KNOW OF, ROUGHLY TWENTY DEMIGODS WERE SWALLOWED BY THE VOID.

TWENTY?!



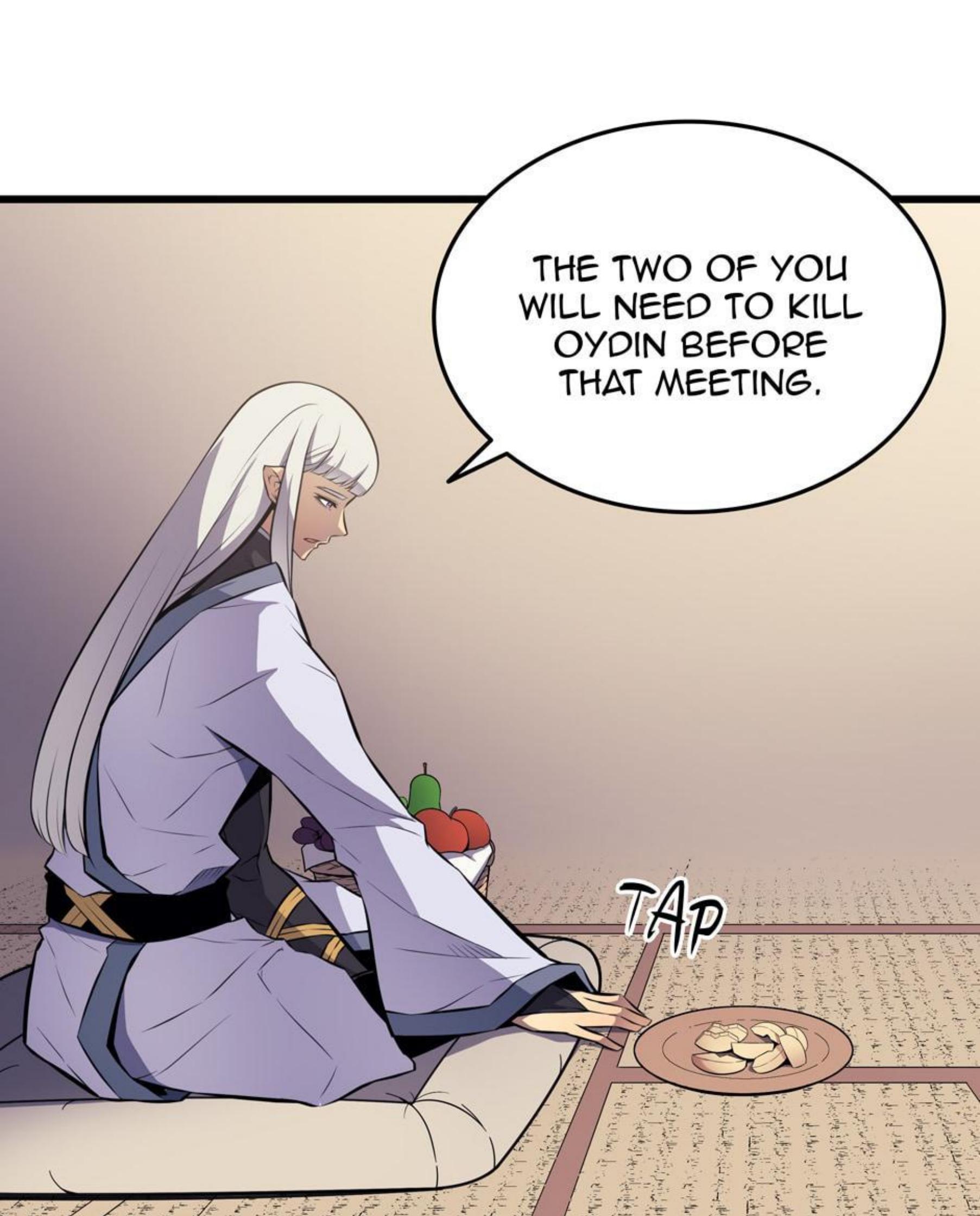
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO FOR NOW.

THERE WILL BE A DEMIGOD GATHERING IN ONE MONTH.



COUNTLESS DEMIGODS
INCLUDING THE FIVE YOU
CALL APOCALYPSE WILL
BE ATTENDING THE
MEETING...

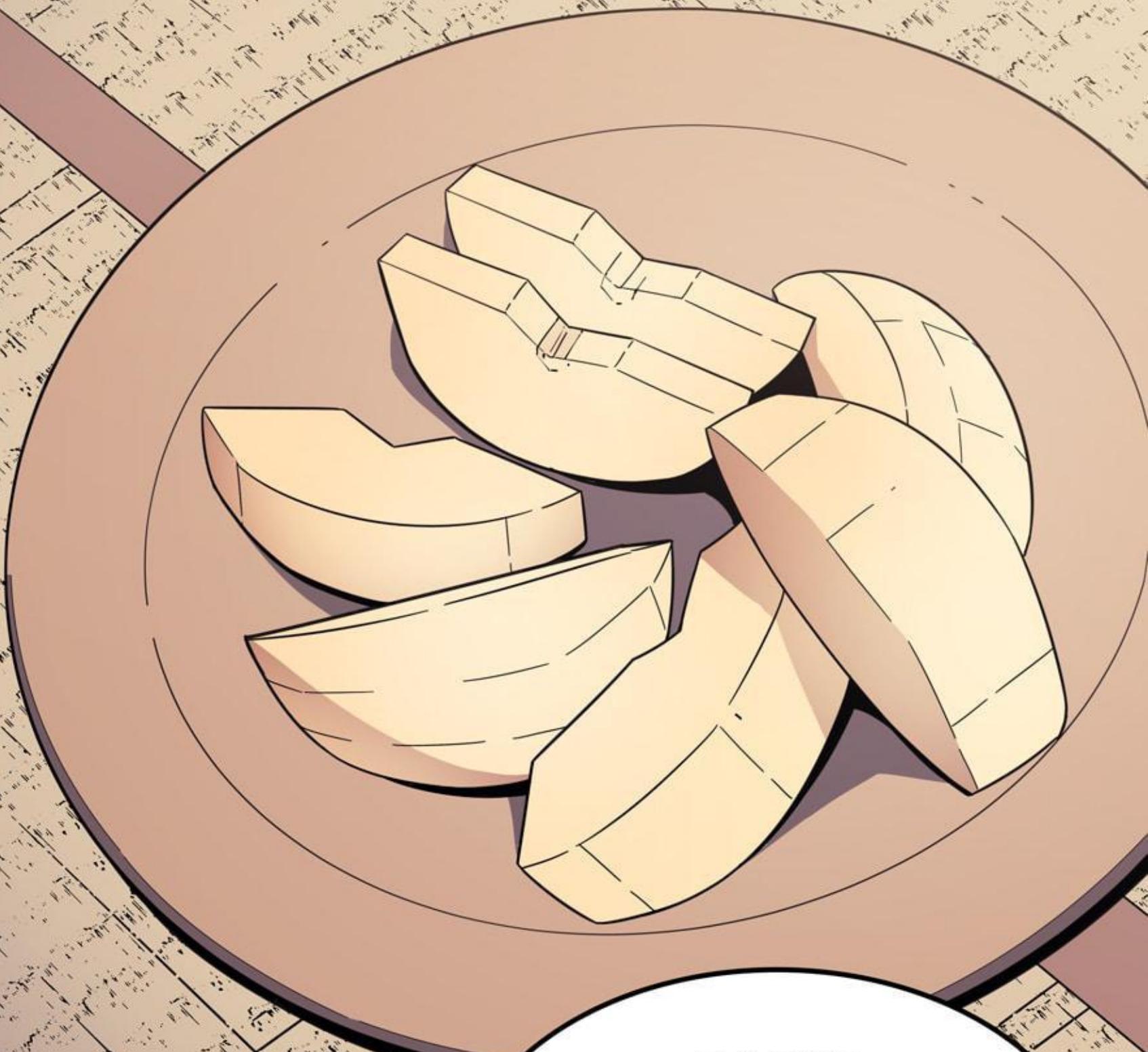
LORD HIMSELF
INCLUDED.



THE TWO OF YOU
WILL NEED TO KILL
OYDIN BEFORE
THAT MEETING.

TAP

WHY IS
THAT...?



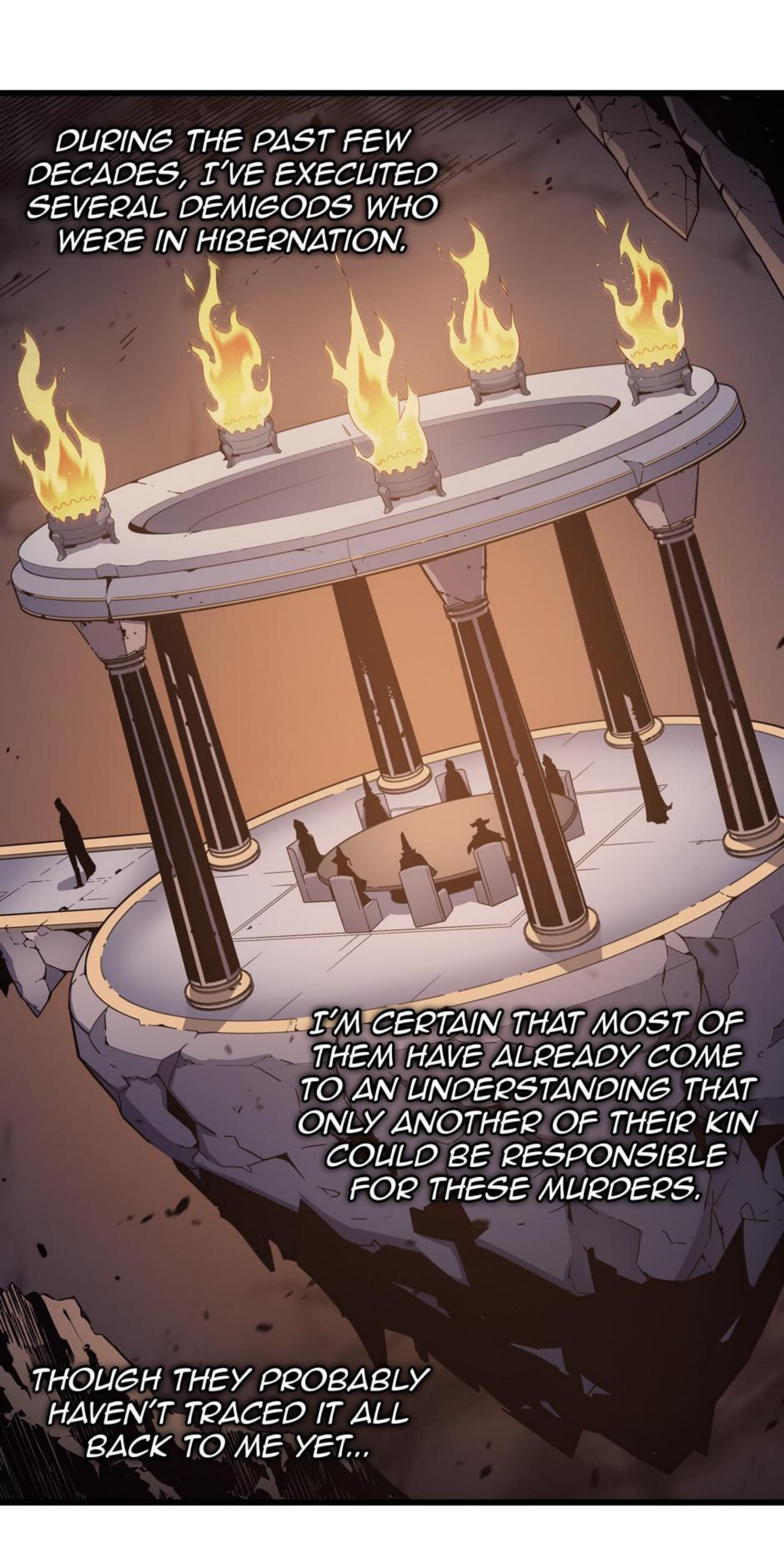
I WENT
THROUGH THE
TROUBLE OF CUTTING
UP SOME APPLES FOR
YOU. WHY DON'T YOU
EAT SOME?

THE OBJECTIVE
OF THIS UPCOMING
GATHERING IS TO
FIND THE TRAITOR
AMONGST US.

SSK



DURING THE PAST FEW DECADES, I'VE EXECUTED SEVERAL DEMIGODS WHO WERE IN HIBERNATION.



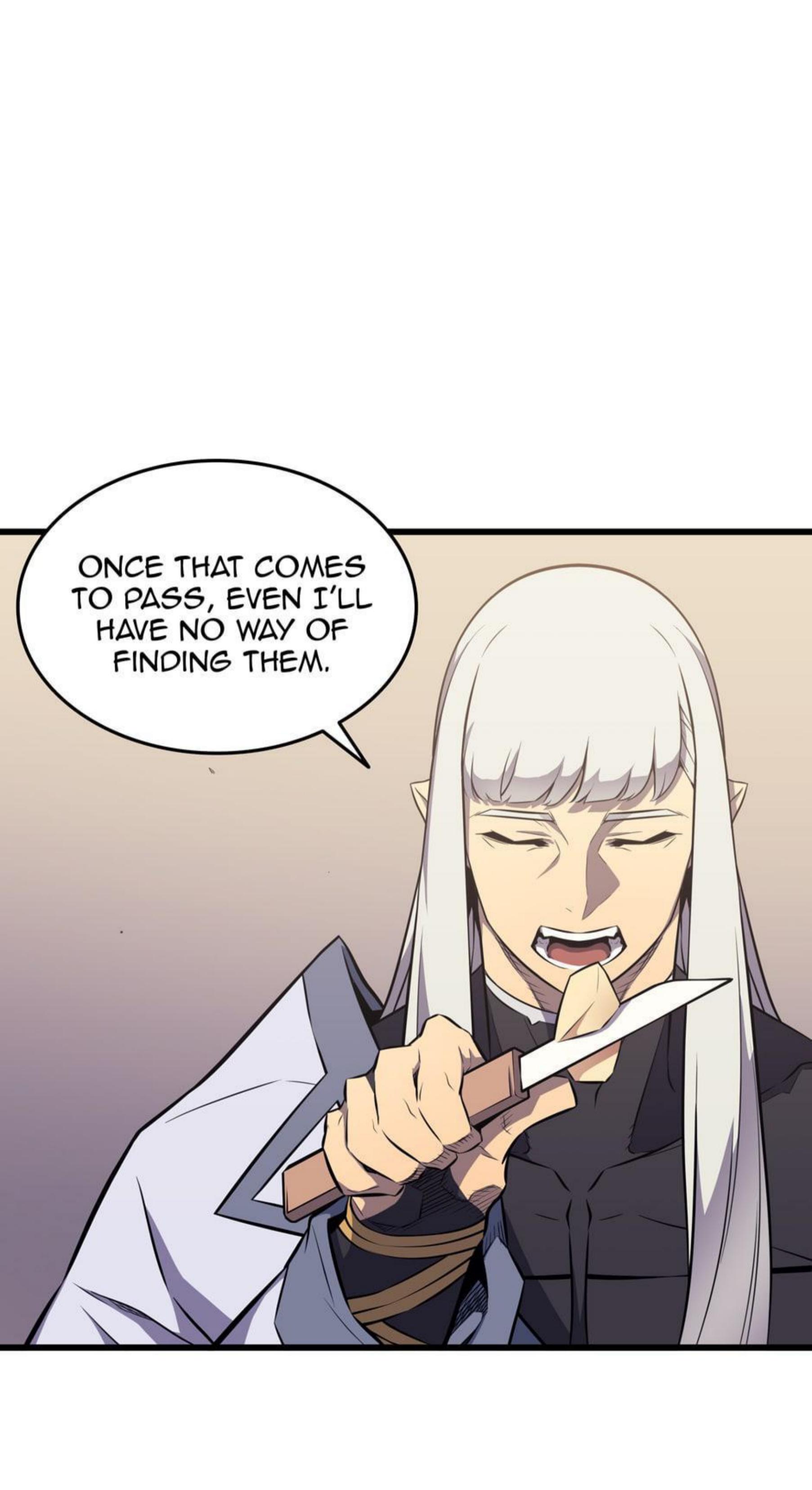
I'M CERTAIN THAT MOST OF THEM HAVE ALREADY COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING THAT ONLY ANOTHER OF THEIR KIN COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE MURDERS.

THOUGH THEY PROBABLY HAVEN'T TRACED IT ALL BACK TO ME YET...

ALL THE DEMIGODS
WILL BE ACCOMPANIED
BY THEIR APOSTLES
DURING THE MEETING
AND OYDIN WILL ALSO
BE PRESENT THERE.



THERE'S A GOOD
CHANCE THAT ONCE
THE GATHERING IS OVER,
NOZDOG, ALONG WITH
HIS APOSTLE, WILL
GO INTO HIDING.



ONCE THAT COMES
TO PASS, EVEN I'LL
HAVE NO WAY OF
FINDING THEM.

NOM

NOM

FOR FUCK'S
SAKE... I TOLD YOU
TO STOP TALKING IN
A COMPLICATED
MANNER.

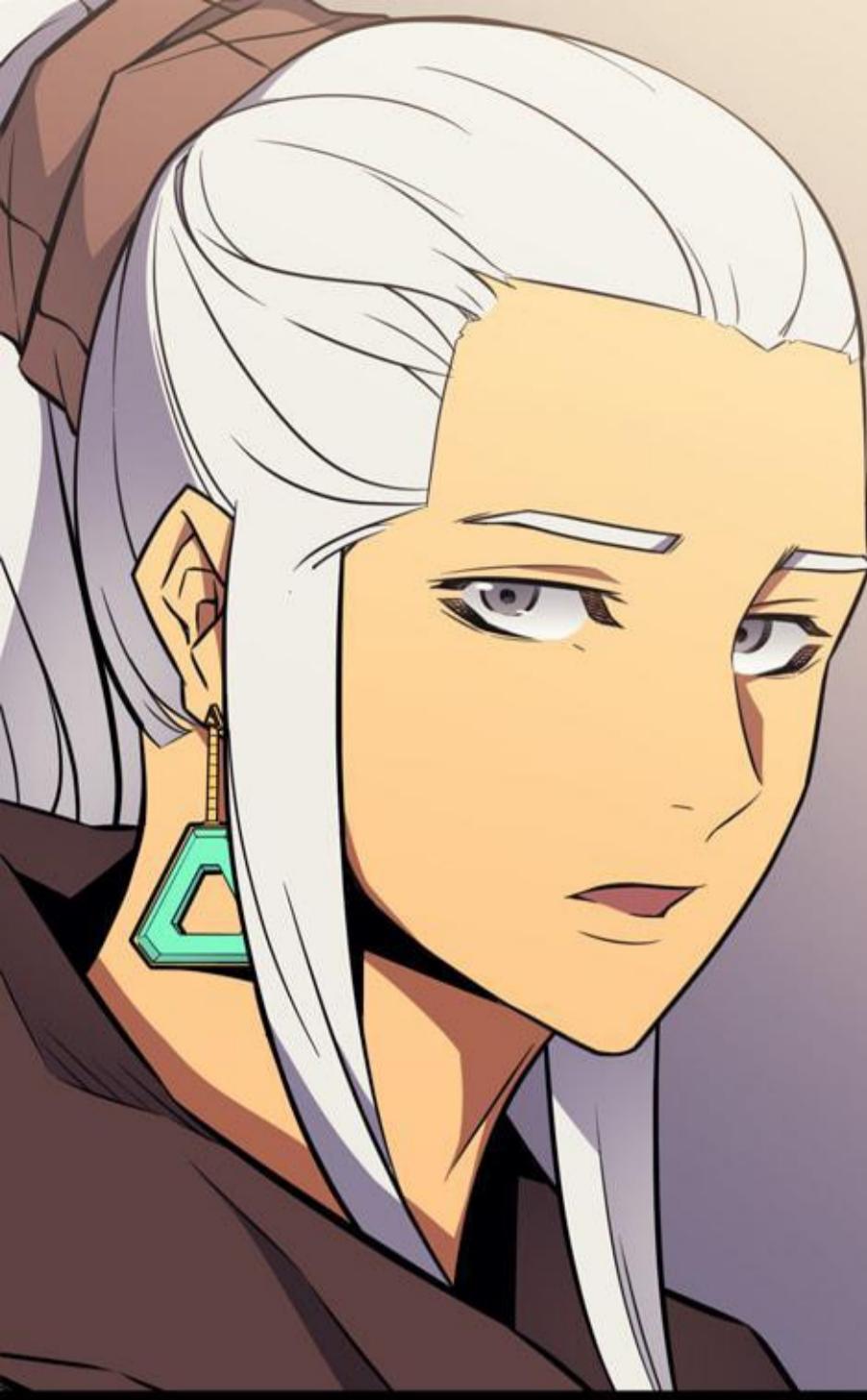


SO BASICALLY
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS
WE SMASH HIS APOSTLE
AND THAT GETS US A GOOD
CHANCE TO SMASH THIS
APOCALYPSE WHILE
HE'S SNOOZING.

IN THAT CASE,
WE WOULD NEED TO
FIND A WAY TO ENTER
REINALS FOREST.

THAT'S
PRETTY
SIMPLE.

I NOTICED THAT
YOU FLEW HALF WAY
AS WE MADE OUR
WAY HERE.



AND...?



WE CAN
FLY THROUGH THE
SKIES AND SMASH
INTO OYDIN'S HEAD
AS WE LAND INTO
THE FOREST!!



AND THEN
WHAT?

HUH?!



WHETHER WE

TRAVEL BY AIR OR
IN A TUNNEL UNDER
THE GROUND, WE'LL
BE LABELED AS
TRESPASSERS.



W-WHAT
I'M SAYIN' IS
WE, ERR...

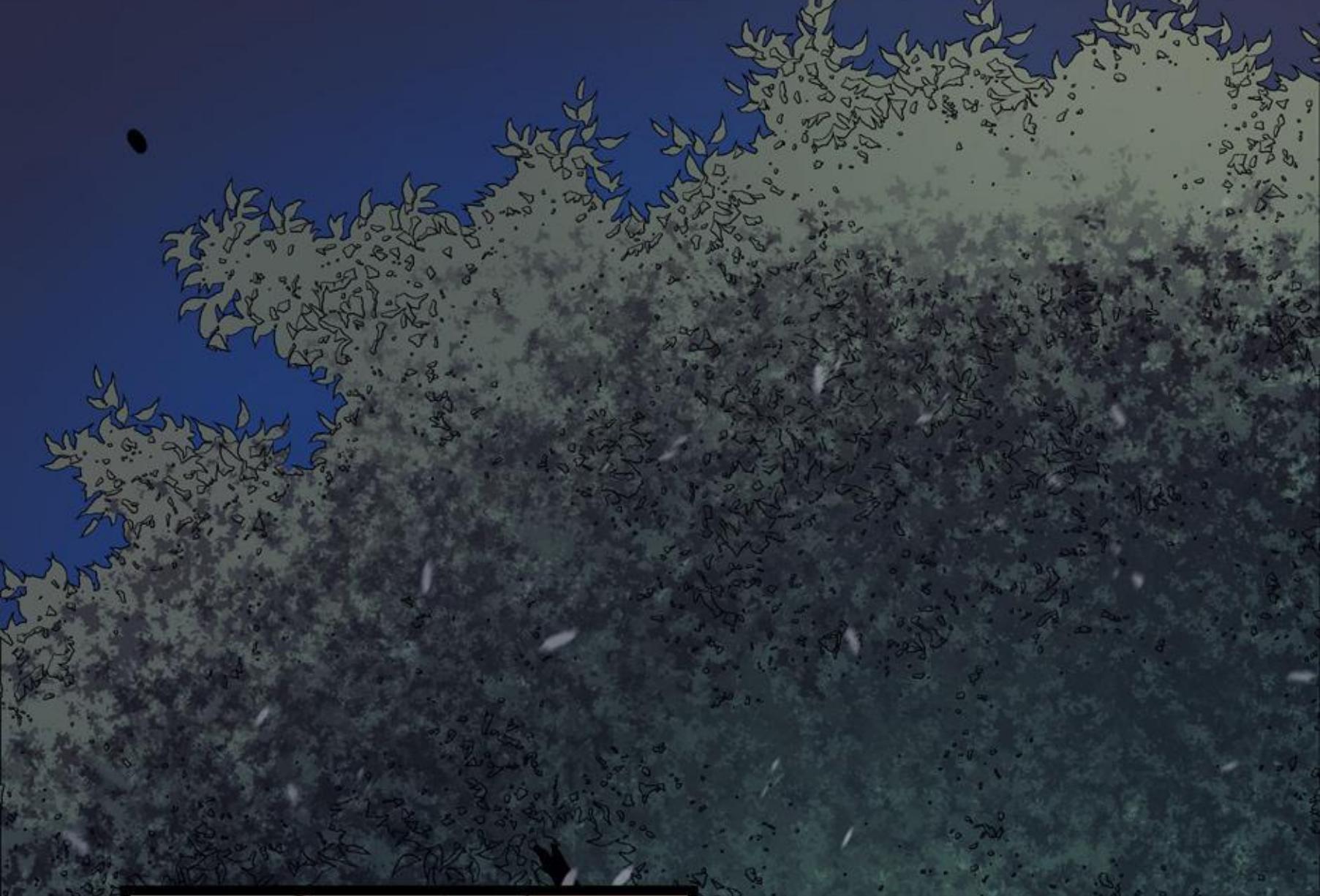
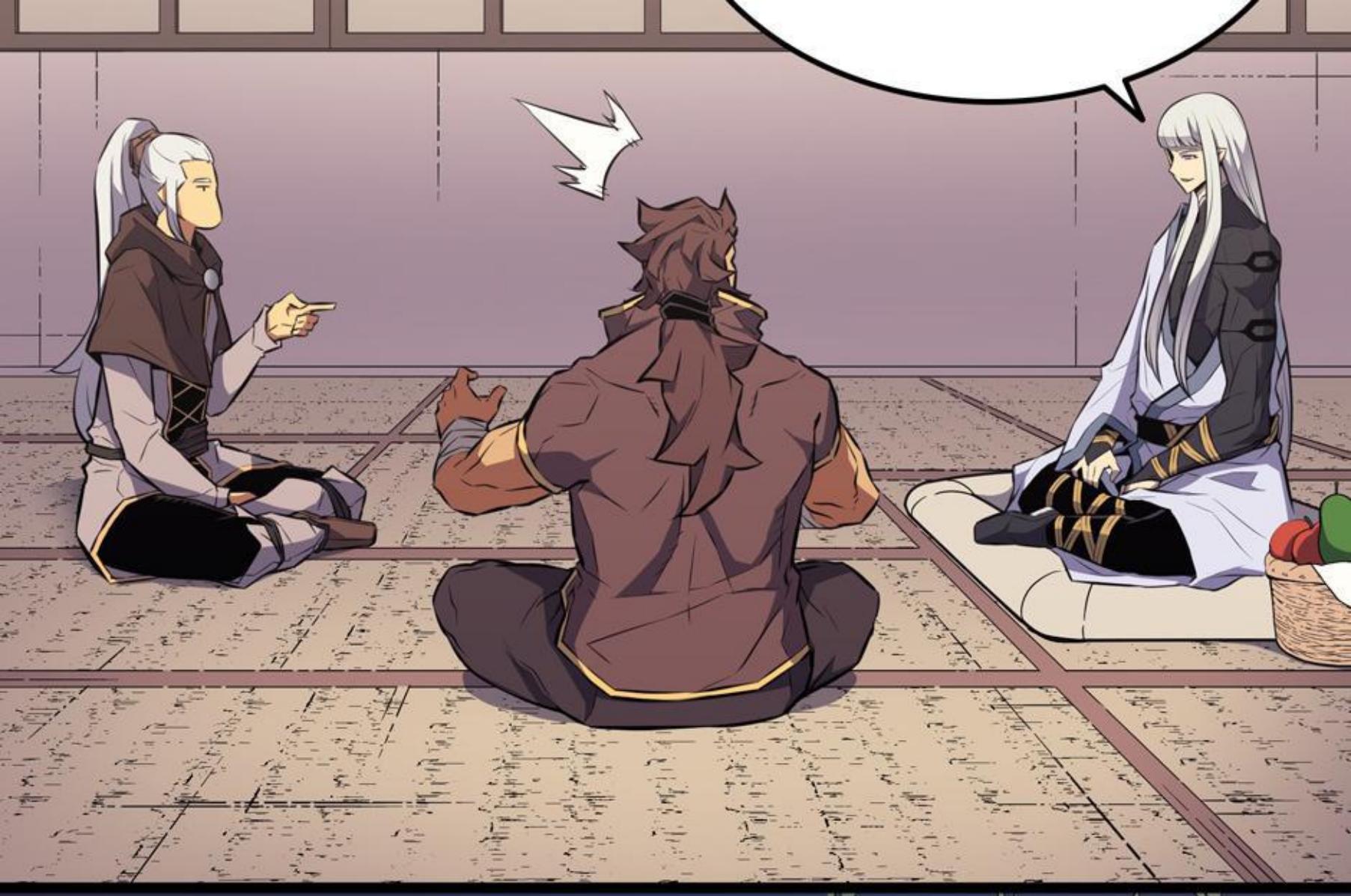
MAKE SURE TO

PRACTICE UTMOST
STEALTH AND...!



I'M SURPRISED
YOU WERE SERIOUSLY
THINKING OF KILLING
THE APOSTLE WITH
THIS MORON.

AH, I MUST
ADMIT THAT I AM
QUITE RELIEVED TO
HAVE YOU ON
BOARD NOW.





LISTEN WELL,
YOUNG IVAN.

INSIDE THE
REINALS FOREST
WHERE THE HIGH ELVES
CREATED THEIR SETTLEMENTS
LIES THE WORLD TREE
THAT SUSTAINS
THE FOREST.

YOU COULD SAY
THAT THIS TREE IS THE
CORE OF ALL LIFEFORMS
THAT ARE CONNECTED IN



THAT ARE CONNECTED IN
EVERY CORNER OF
THE FOREST.

LAST BUT NOT
LEAST, THE QUEEN OF
THE ELVES SHARES HER
CONSCIOUSNESS WITH
THE WORLD TREE AT
ALL TIMES.

WELL THEN, TAKING THESE FACTORS INTO CONSIDERATION, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE FOR THEM TO NOTICE AND LOCATE THE TRESPASSERS, YOUNG IVAN?

OH, FUCK'S SAKE! WHAT THE FUCK DO WE DO THEN?! IS THERE ANOTHER WAY IN?!!

AND STOP CALLING ME 'YOUNG IVAN'! YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE ANNOYING, OLD PRICK!!

..."

AH...



I MIGHT
ACTUALLY KNOW
OF A CONVENIENT
WAY IN.



WE SOMEHOW
MANAGED TO REACH
THE ENTRANCE...

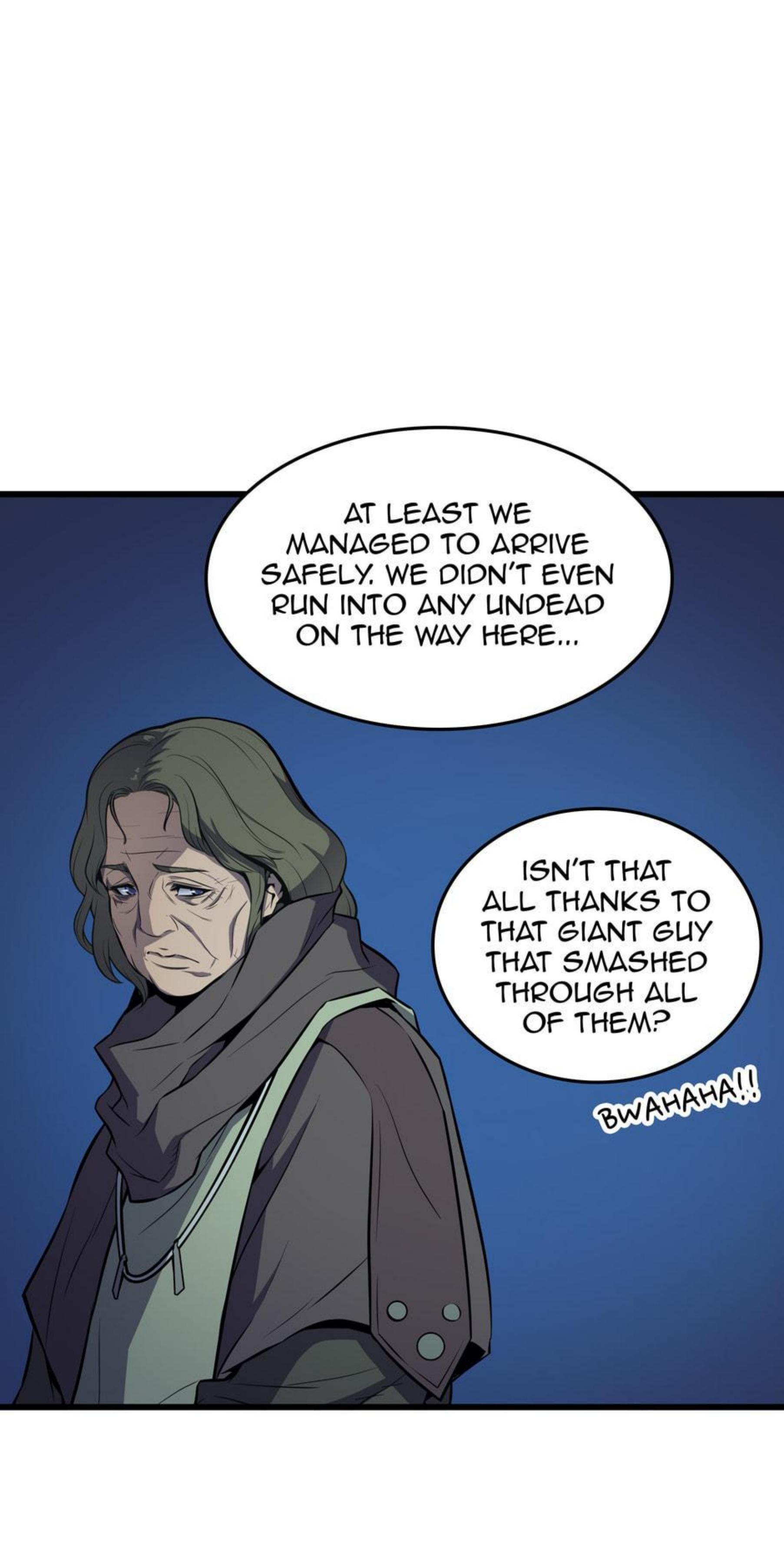
YET WE'RE
STUCK OUTSIDE
THE GATES AND
FORCED TO CAMP
OUTSIDE?!

TSK...



WHAT ELSE
ARE WE MEANT
TO DO THEN? THEY
SAID THEY'VE STRICT
ORDERS NOT TO LET
HUMANS INSIDE
THEIR VILLAGE.

I HONESTLY
CAN'T STAND THOSE
STUCK-UP ELVES.



AT LEAST WE
MANAGED TO ARRIVE
SAFELY. WE DIDN'T EVEN
RUN INTO ANY UNDEAD
ON THE WAY HERE...

ISN'T THAT
ALL THANKS TO
THAT GIANT GUY
THAT SMASHED
THROUGH ALL
OF THEM?

BWAHAHA!!



FORGET
THAT, DID YOU
SEE THOSE HIGH
ELF BABES
EARLIER?

I MEAN,
DAMN SON!
ELVES LOOK
SMOKING
HOT!



GOOD WORK,
MAGGOTS!

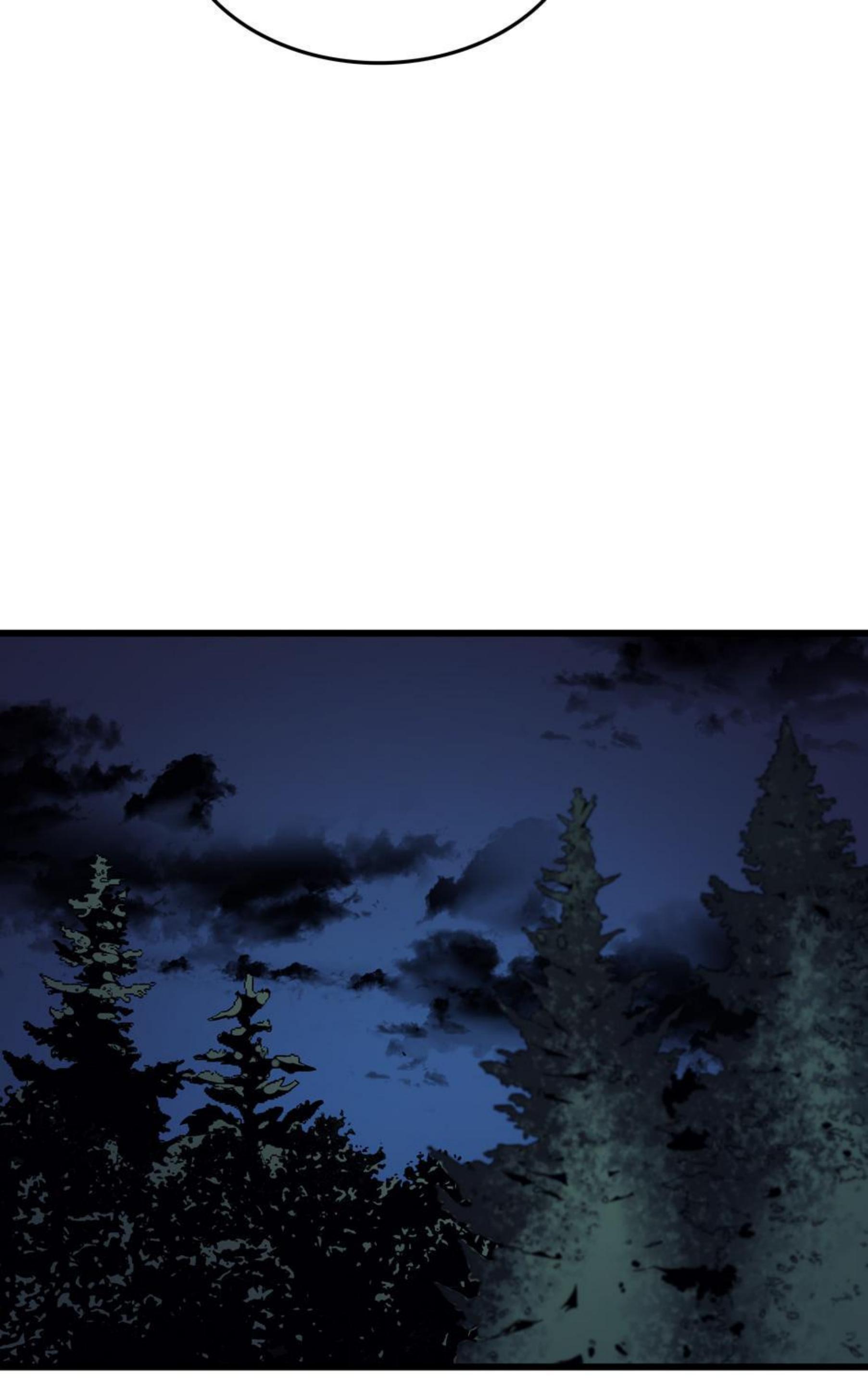
WE WILL BE
TRADING WITH THE
ELVES TOMORROW
SO REST UP FOR
TONIGHT!

YES, SIR!

PHEW...

THERE ARE
ALWAYS PERVERTED
SCUM EVERYWHERE,
BE IT ELVES OR
HUMANS.







WHOOSH





THE FOREST
IS GROANING...

SHOOOSH



THIS SITUATION
DOESN'T BODE
WELL.

SHOOOOOO

IF THE UNDEAD
KEEP SPAWNING AT
THIS RATE, THIS WILL
BECOME A DEAD
FOREST...

RUSTLE







OH... IT'S YOU.





IT'S A RELIEF TO
SEE YOU MADE IT
BACK IN ONE
PIECE.





CAIN.



HAVE YOU FOUND
OUT ANYTHING ABOUT
THAT WARRIOR?



SO THAT'S
THE HAG YOU
MENTIONED?





THE ONE WHO CAN
GUIDE US INSIDE THE
REINALS FOREST?



W-WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE...?



HEY,
GRANNY!!

SHUT THE FUCK UP
AND LEAP US INSIDE

AND DEAD AS INDEED
THE FOREST!





**DO IT BEFORE
I BEAT THE CRAP
OUT OF ALL THOSE
POMPOUS ELVES!**



I'LL HANDLE
THIS, SO STAY
OUT OF IT,
IVAN.

WHAP



SIACKS...

WE REQUIRE
YOUR AID TO ENTER
THE VILLAGE OF THE
ELVES. CAN YOU
HELP US?



CAIN!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND YOUR
CIRCUMSTANCES HERE,
BUT I MUST PROTEST
ABOUT THE WAY YOUR
COMPANION SHOWS NO
RESPECT TO THE
ELDERLY...

НУН?!

ТУР

COME ON,
THIS ISN'T THE
TIME FOR YOUR
HORRIBLE
ACTING.

WE DON'T
HAVE A LOT OF
TIME AND THAT APPLIES
TO BOTH YOU AND
YOUR PEOPLE.

W-WHAT DO
YOU MEAN...?!





SIACKS, I'VE
KNOWN YOU WERE A
HIGH ELF FROM THE
BEGINNING.







YOU'RE NOT
THE ONLY ONE
IN DISGUISE.



I'M A
CIRCLE MAGE.





I NEED YOUR HELP.