

THE ARCHMAGE RETURNS AFTER 4000 YEARS

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~ 19 ~

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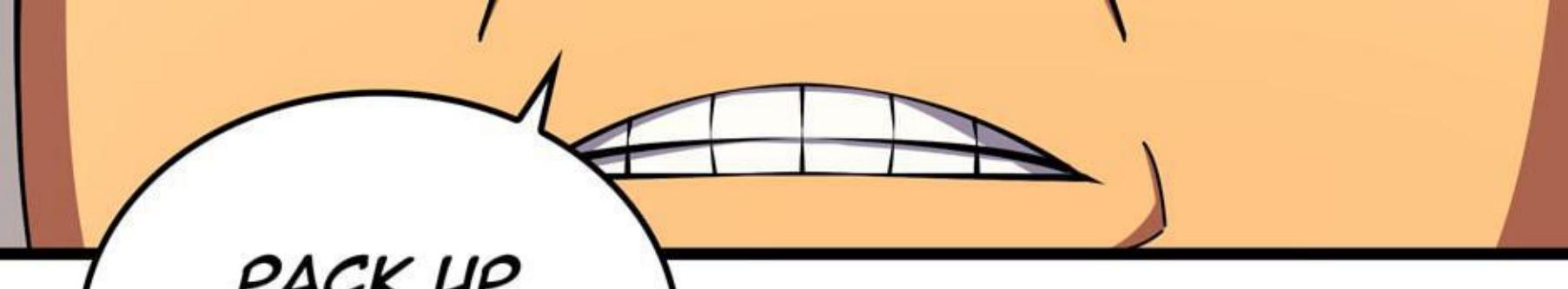


HOW DO I LOOK?





DOESN'T
IT LOOK GREAT
ON ME?



PACK UP
AND GO HOME
RIGHT NOW.



HUH?



ARE YOU
PLANNING ON
TRAINING WITH SUCH
AN OUTRAGEOUS
OUTFIT IN THE
MOUNTAINS?

GO CHANGE
INTO SOMETHING
LIGHT AND EASY
TO WEAR!!







**OF COURSE,
I KNOW THAT!
I WAS JUST TRYING
TO SHOW OFF SOME
OF MY FANCY
CLOTHES,
OKAY?!**

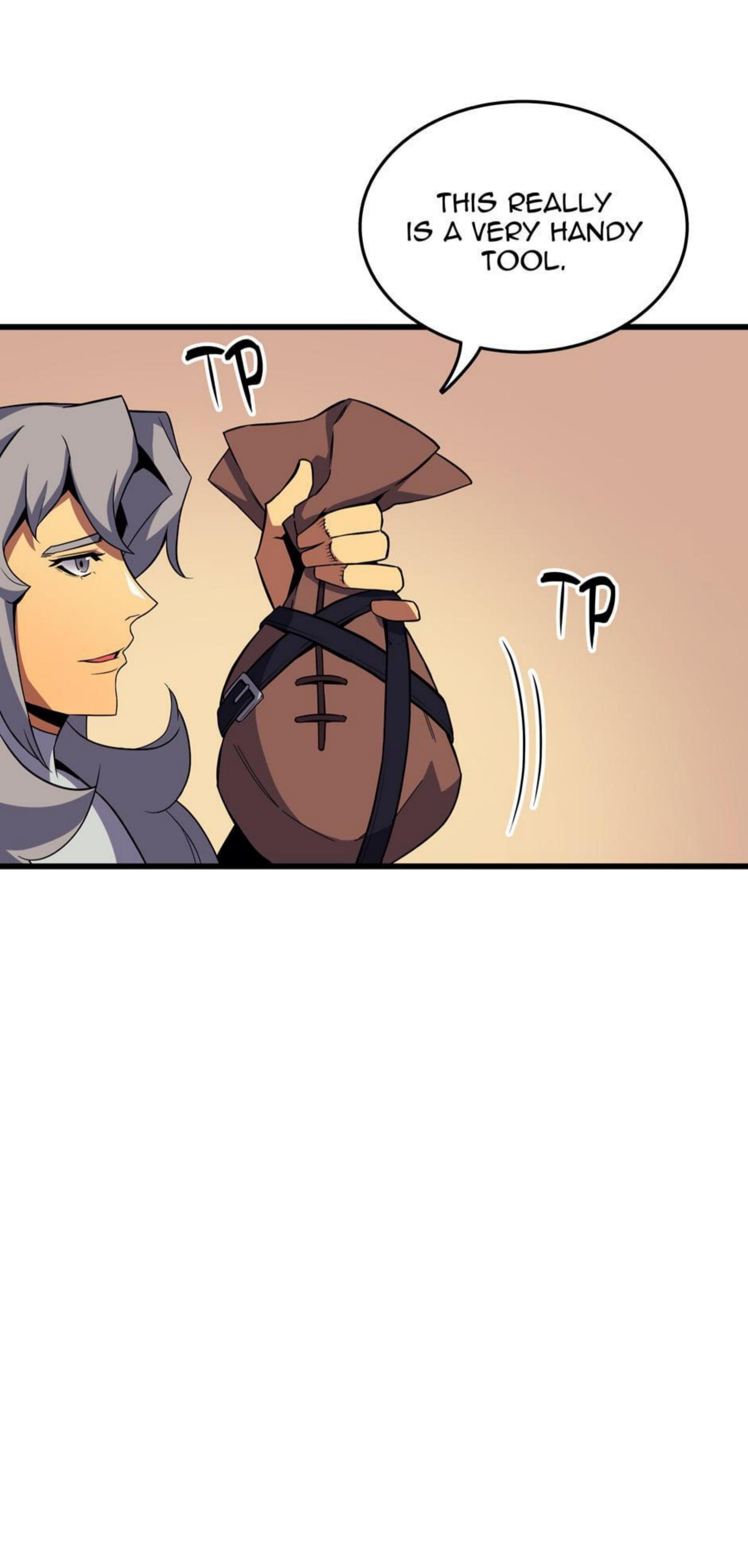
**HUH? WHY
ARE YOU
GETTING
MAD?!**

IT SEEMS LIKE
YOUR COMPANION
ISN'T USED TO
TRAVELLING ON
THE ROAD.

WHY DID I
EVEN BOTHER...?







THIS REALLY
IS A VERY HANDY
TOOL.

TP

TP

A POUCH
THAT'S IMBUED WITH
SPATIAL MAGIC TO ALLOW
YOU TO CARRY SO MUCH
STUFF WITH MINIMAL
WEIGHT...

THIS IS WHAT I CALL
A-SEXY-MAGICAL
INVENTION!!!

IS IT YOUR

FIRST TIME SEEING
ONE? IT'S A PRETTY
COMMON ITEM.

YOU LOOK
PISSED OFF?

WHAT'S
IT TO YOU?!



I NOTICED IT WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE WARP STONE, BUT CIVILIZATION HAS ADVANCED CONSIDERABLY.

THE POPULATION HAS INCREASED A LOT COMPARED TO BACK THEN.

EVEN SO... IT'S NOT OUTSIDE
WHAT I COULD HAVE PREDICTED.

CONSIDERING 4,000 YEARS
HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN,
I CAN'T SAY THERE'S BEEN A
LOT OF CHANGE TO THIS WORLD.

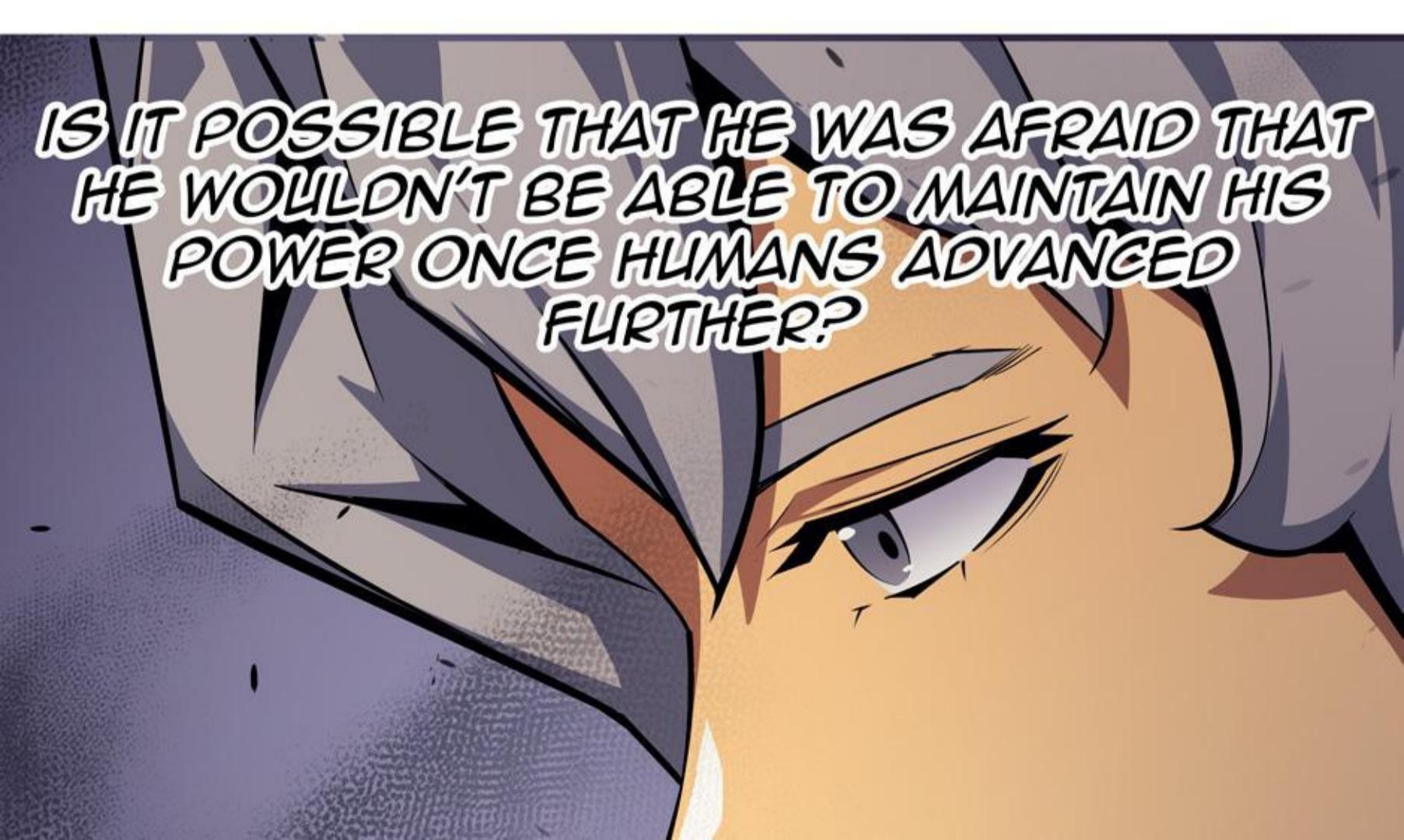
THIS JUST FEELS LIKE DFMIGOD

**THIS STUPID LIFE FORM DEMON
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR STALLING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CIVILIZATIONS.**





BUT WHY...?



**IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS AFRAID THAT
HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS
POWER ONCE HUMANS ADVANCED
FURTHER?**



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
THEY LOOKED DOWN ON HUMANS
AS IF WE WERE MERE BUGS TO THEM.

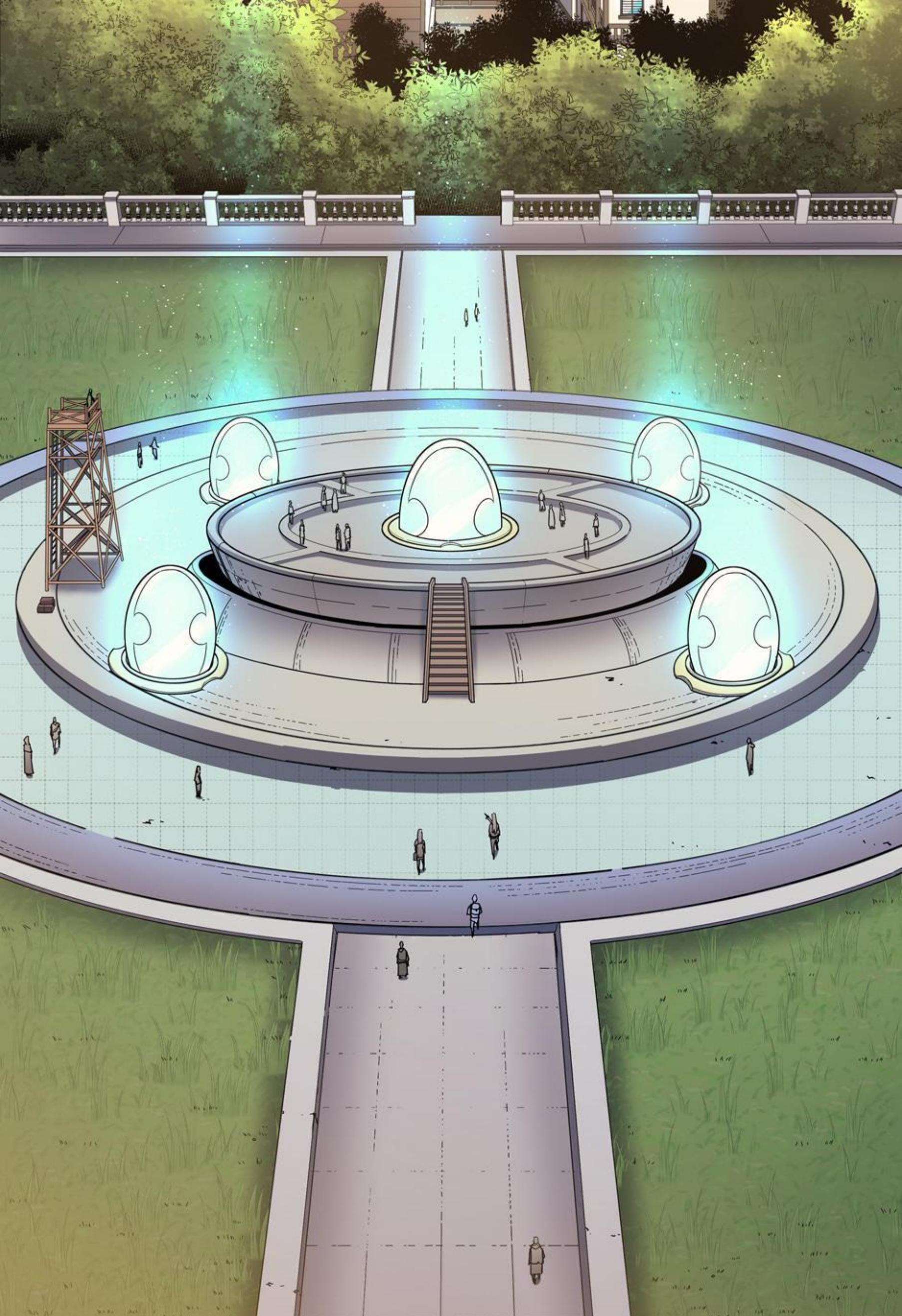
JUST
WHAT ARE
YOU THINKING
ABOUT?

WE'VE ARRIVED
AT THE WARP
STONE, YOU
KNOW?









THE WARP
WILL START
SOON!



ALL PASSENGERS,
PLEASE STAY WITHIN
THE MAGIC CIRCLE AT
ALL TIMES.

OH...?

SO THEY
ALL SHARE THE
SAME WARP STONE?
THAT'S PRETTY
INGENIOUS.





OH!

THE MASSIVE
AMOUNT OF MANA
NEEDED FOR ACTIVATING
THE WARP IS PROVIDED
FROM THAT STONE?
THAT'S SO COOL!

UGH, SERIOUSLY!

YOU'RE STARTING
TO MAKE ME FEEL
EMBARRASSED
HERE!



CAREFUL.

BECAUSE IF
YOU'RE NOT USED
TO LONG-DISTANCE
WARPS, YOU MIGHT
GET WARP SICK.

FZZZHH



I KNOW
ALREADY! STOP
SOUNDING
LIKE...

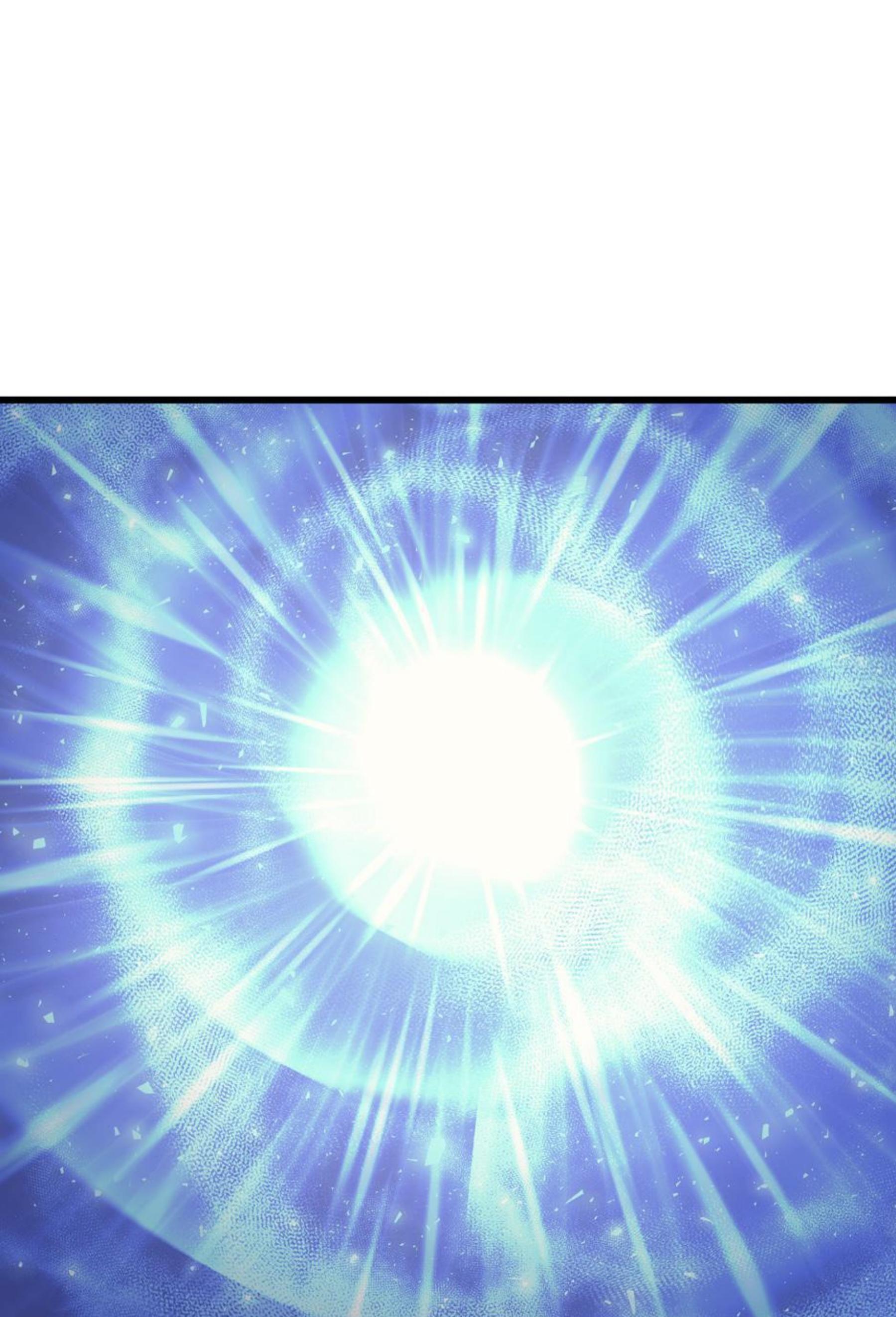


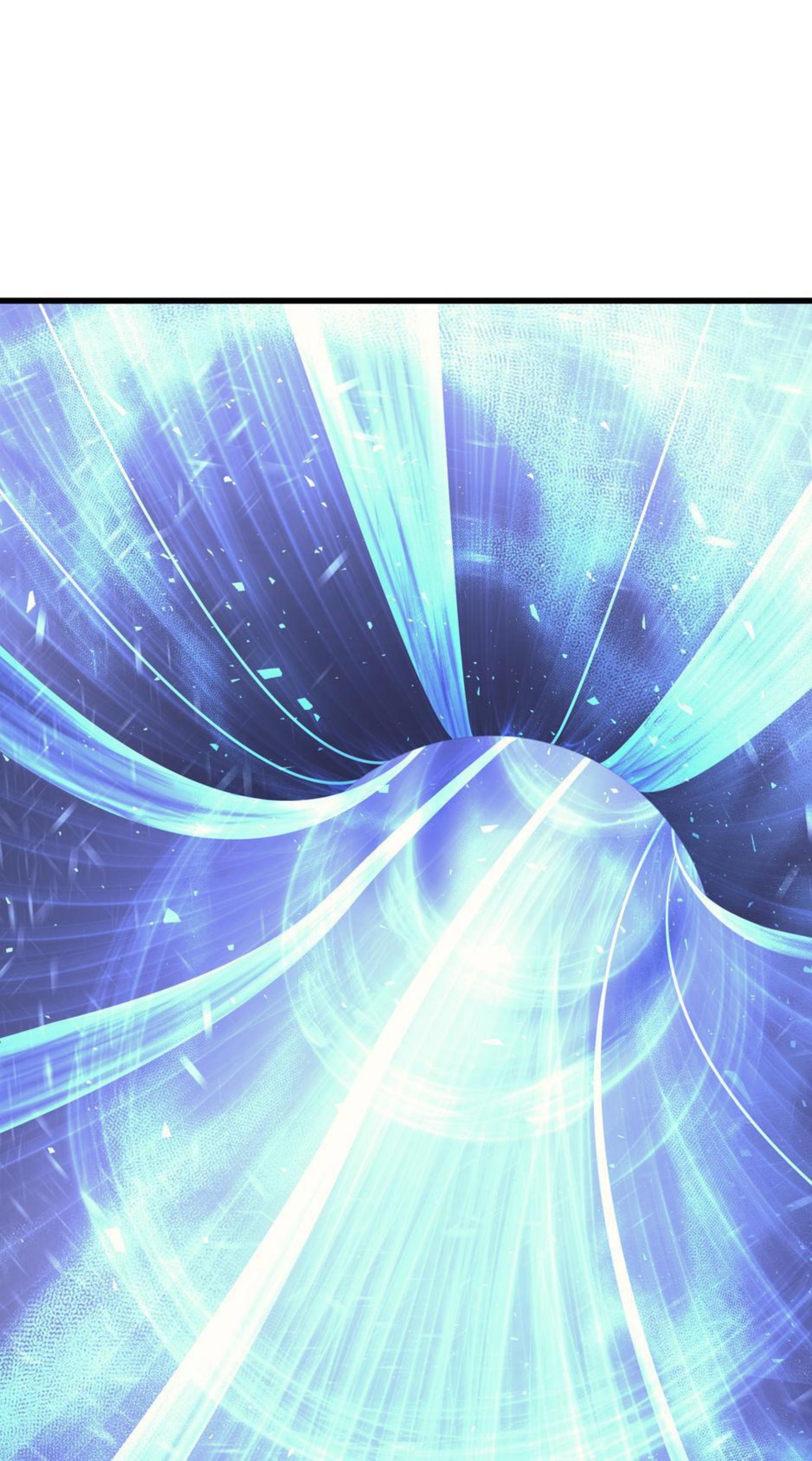
A COUNTRY
B-BUMPKIN...!!

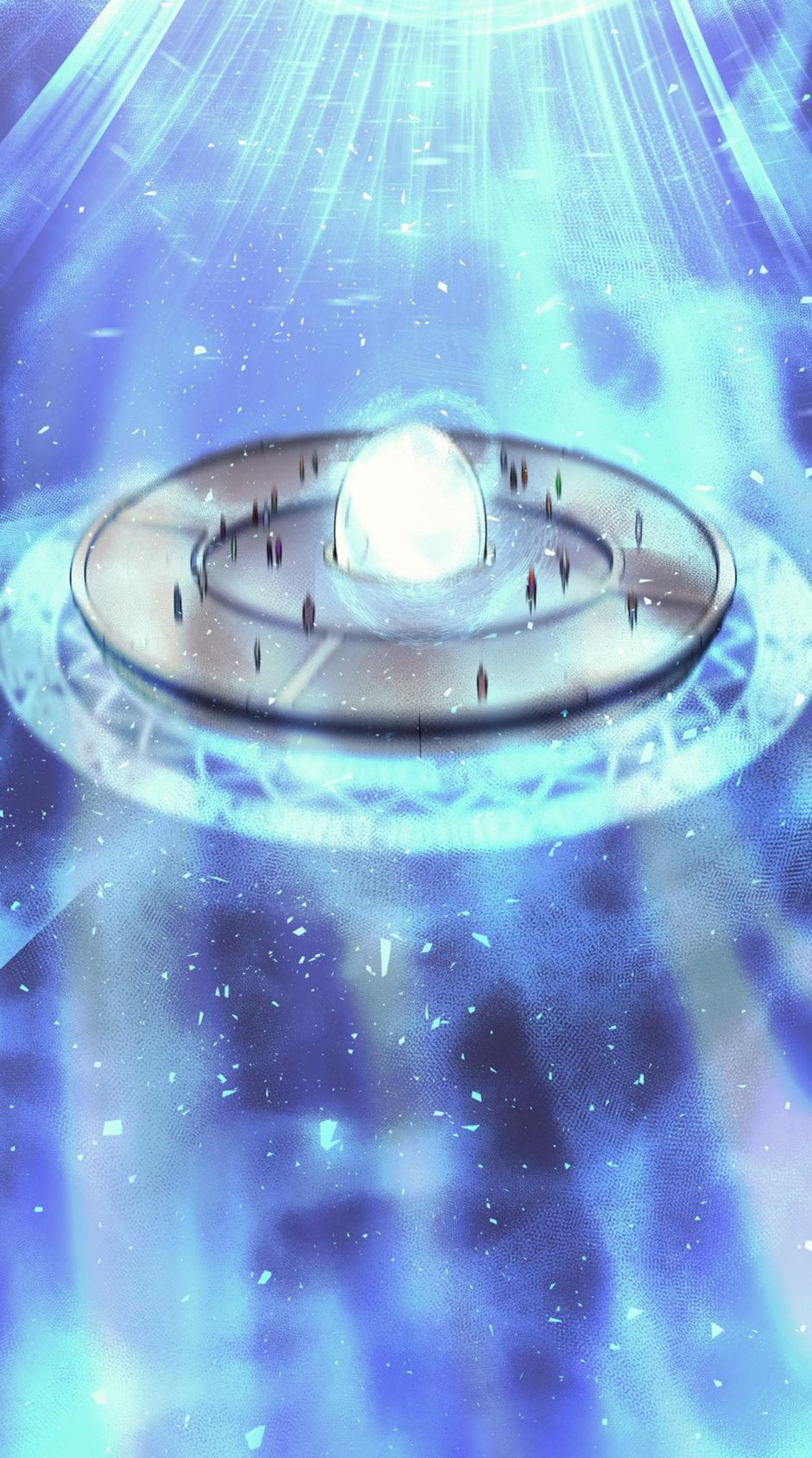
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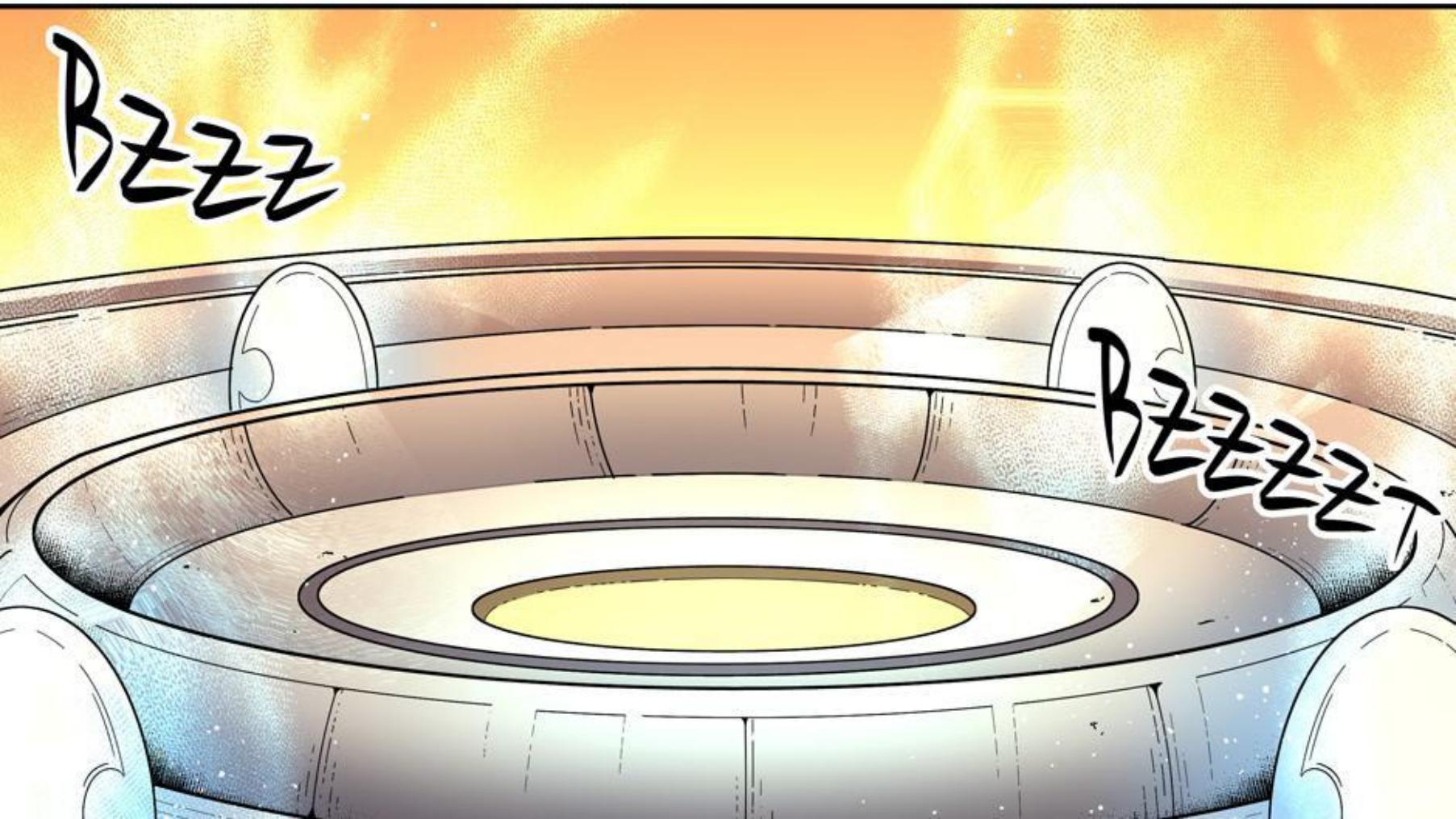
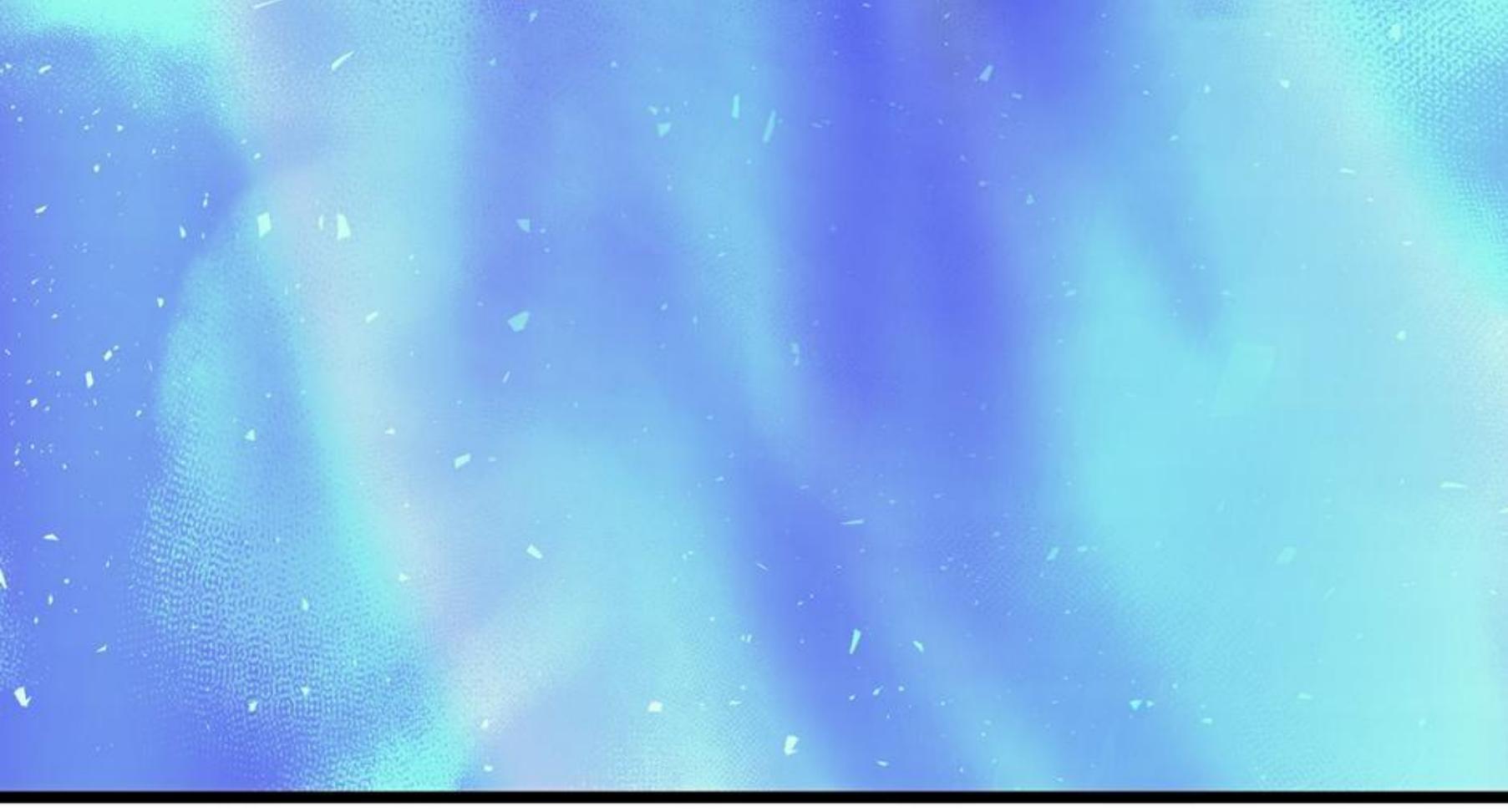
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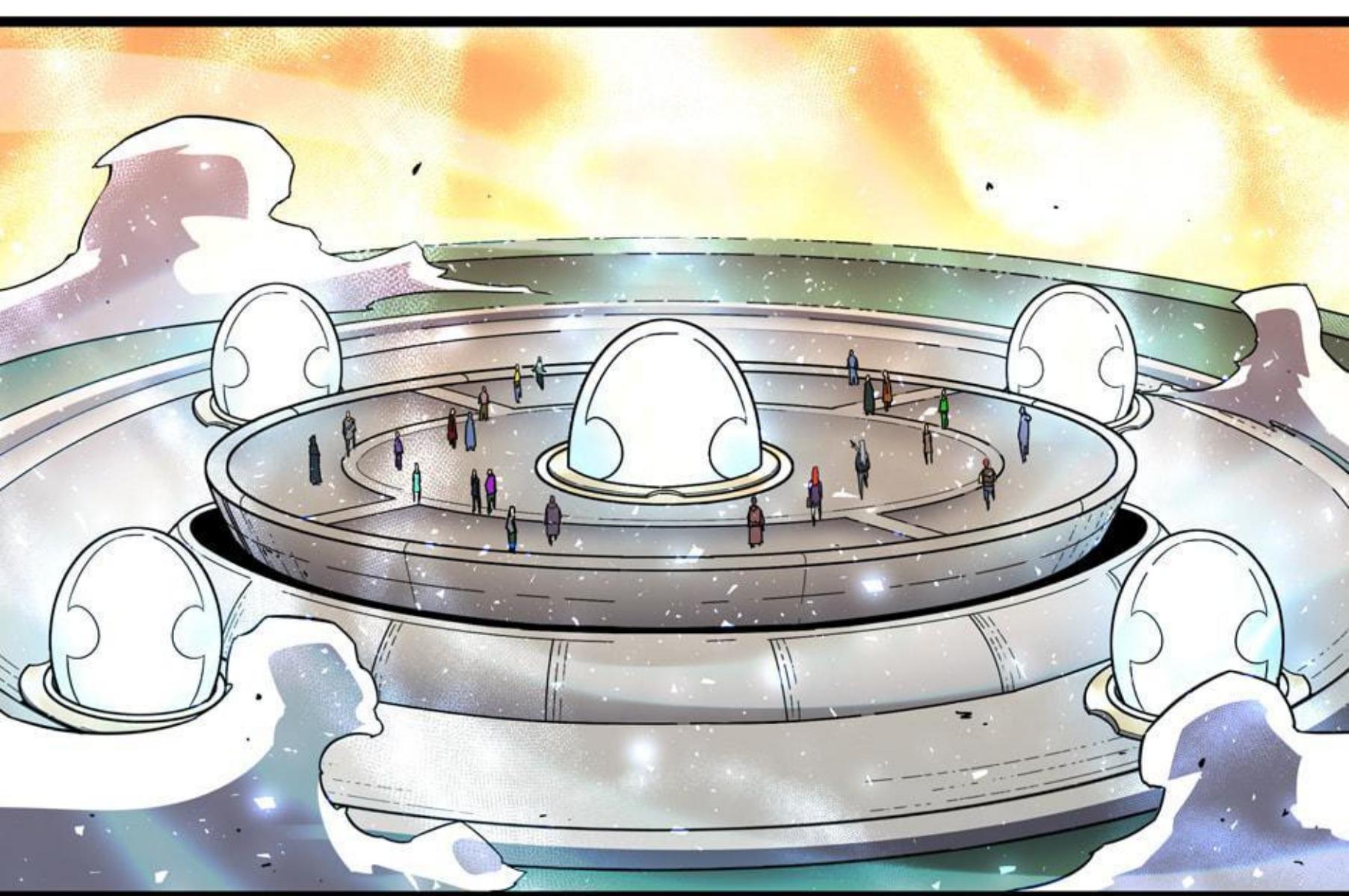




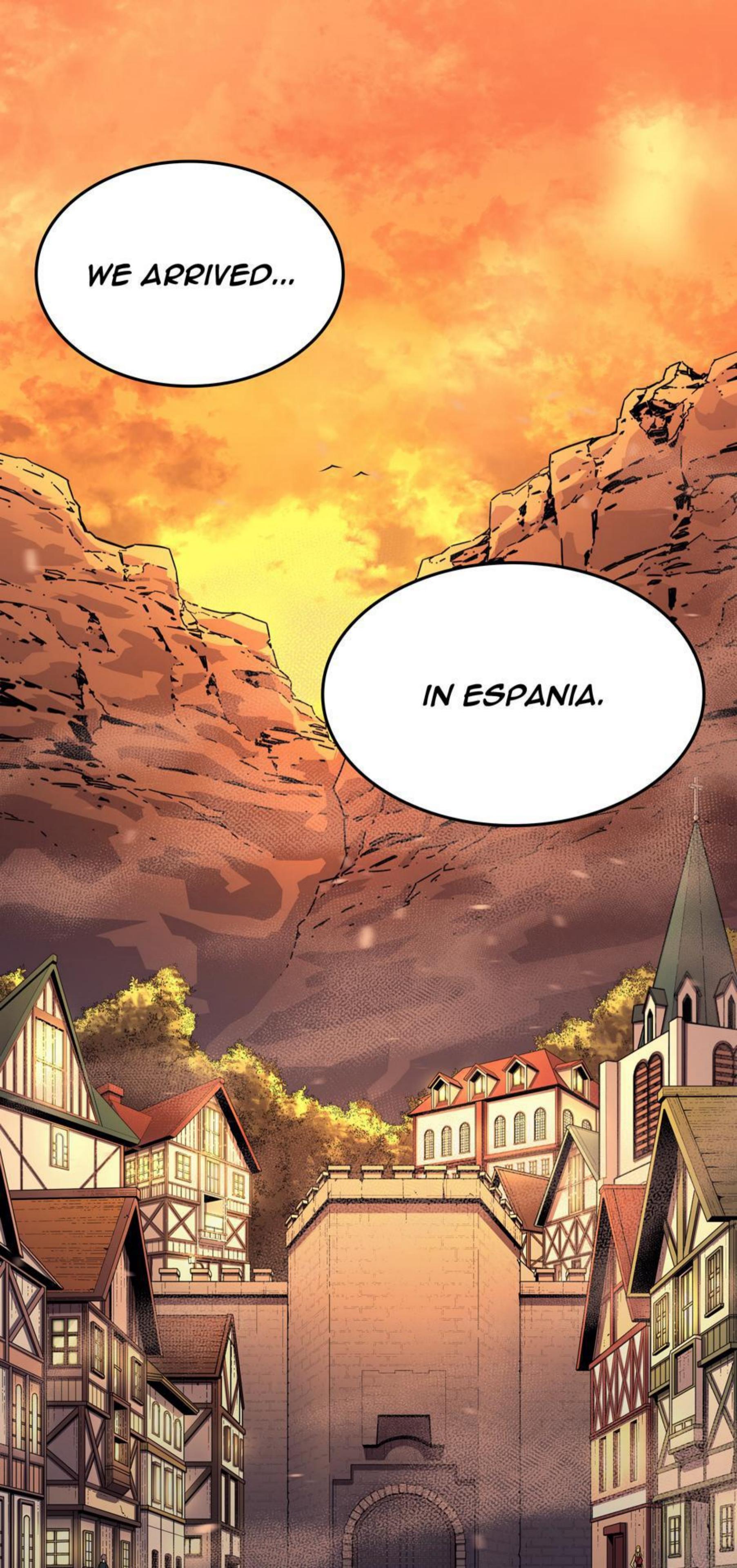






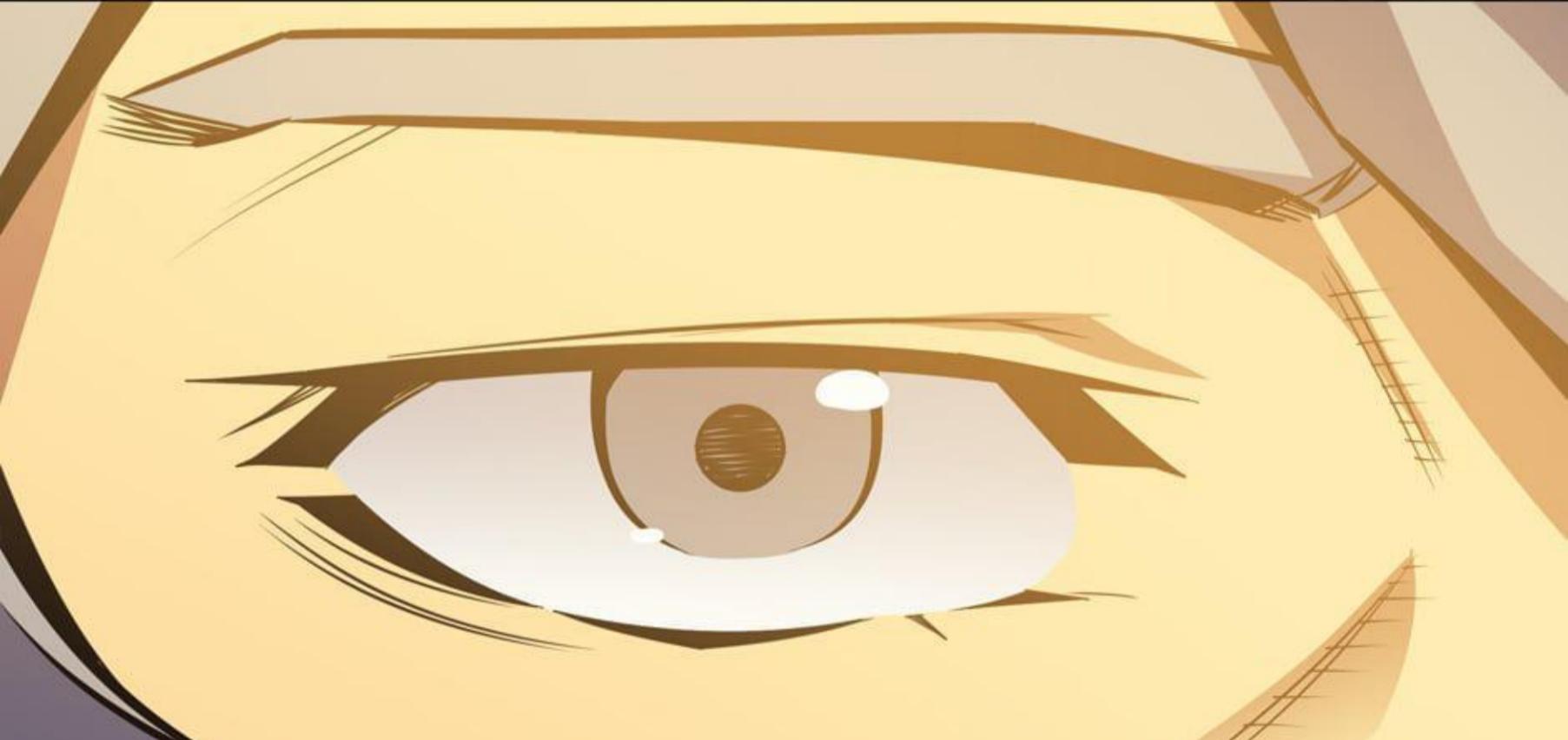


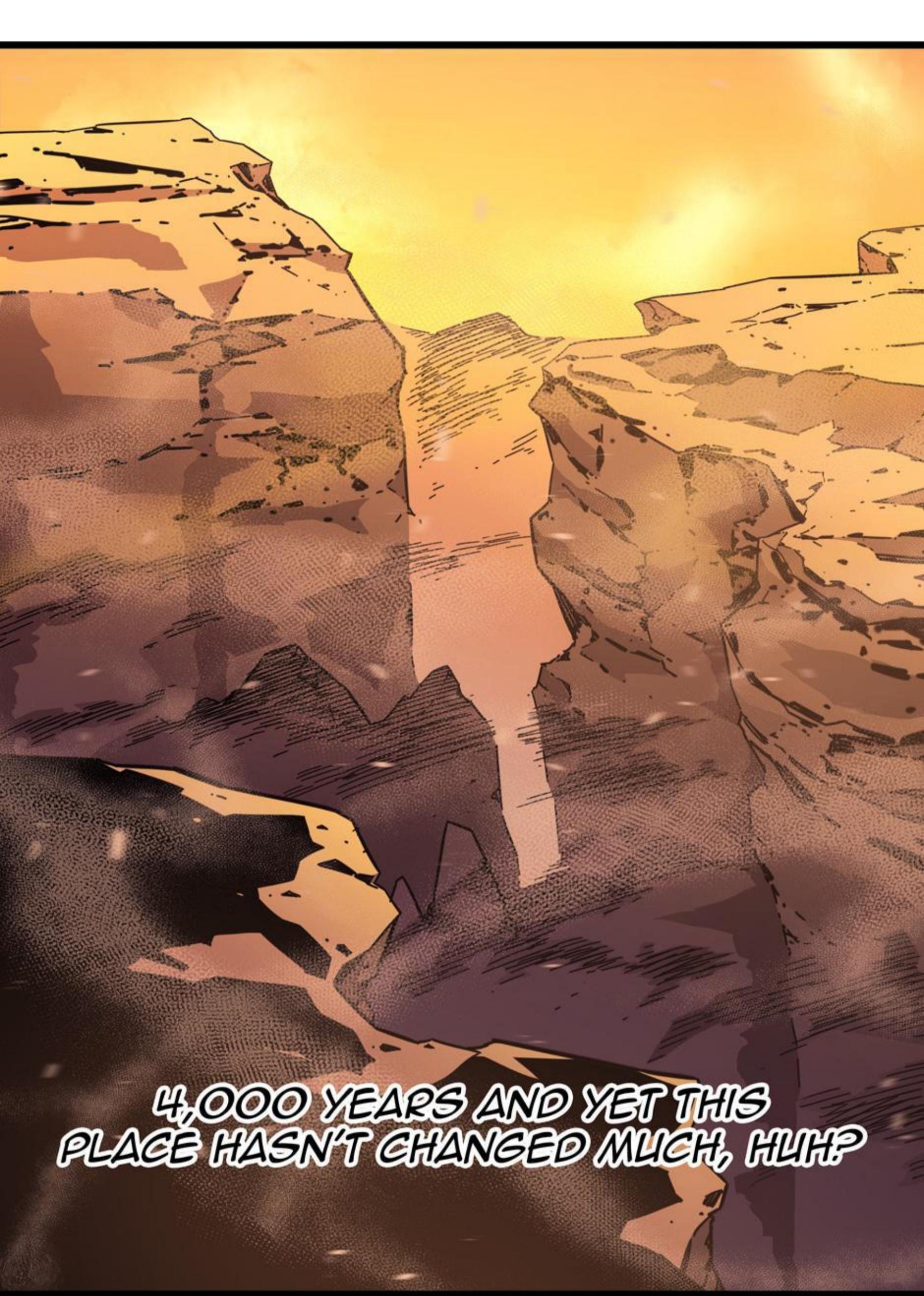


The background of the image is a vibrant sunset or sunrise over a town. The sky is filled with warm orange, yellow, and red hues, with darker clouds at the bottom. In the foreground, there's a dense cluster of buildings, mostly traditional European-style houses with half-timbered facades and red roofs. A large, light-colored stone wall runs across the middle ground, partially obscuring the town. On the right side, a church steeple with a cross is visible against the sky.

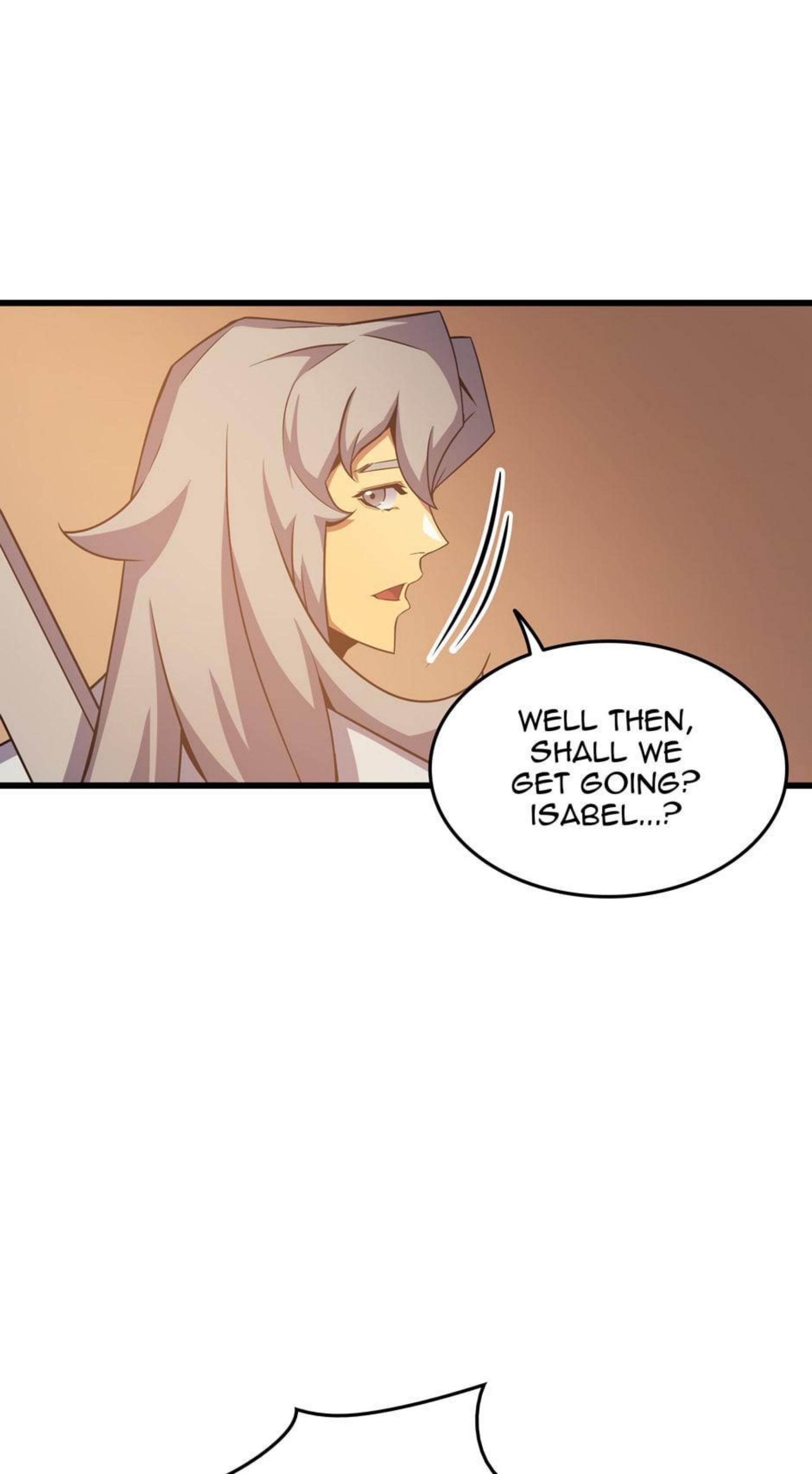
WE ARRIVED...

IN ESPANIA.





**4,000 YEARS AND YET THIS
PLACE HASN'T CHANGED MUCH, HUH?**

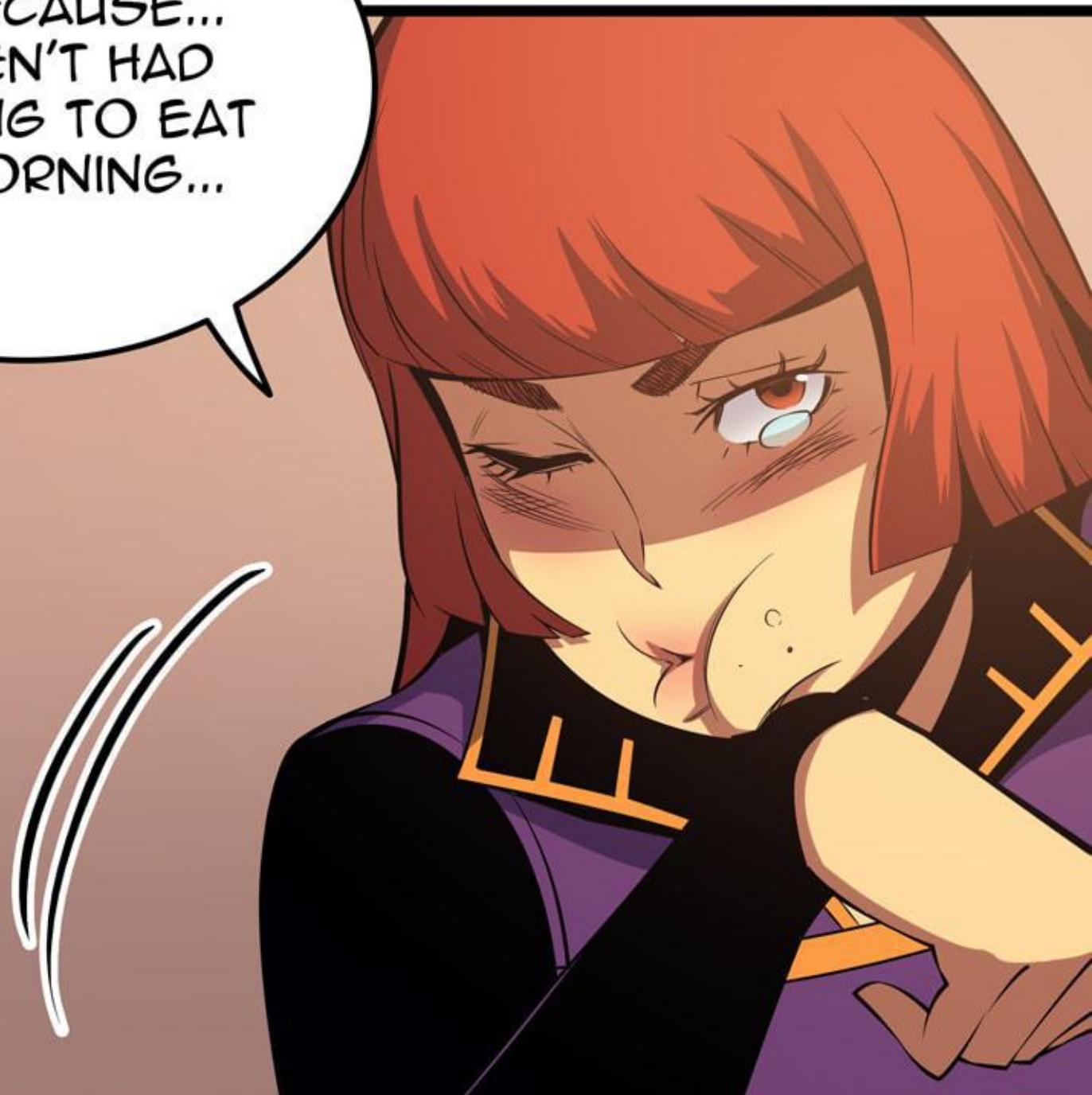


WELL THEN,
SHALL WE
GET GOING?
ISABEL...?

BWEEERGH!!

SEE...
WHAT DID I TELL
YOU...? YOU'D GET
WARP SICK.

IT'S BECAUSE...
I HAVEN'T HAD
ANYTHING TO EAT
ALL MORNING...



IF I ATE,
THEN I...

BWEERGH!

..."



MAYBE
I SHOULD HAVE
JUST LEFT HER
BEHIND...



CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER



CREAK



FIVE SERVINGS OF
BREAD AND MEAT!
LOTS OF MEAT
ESPECIALLY!



OH, AND
A PINT OF
BEER.

B-BEER...?!

CLACK

**FREI! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?!**

**YOU'RE
ORDERING
BEER?! DON'T BE
RIDICULOUS!**



CALM DOWN.
YOU KNOW, IT'S
BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I HAD
BEER.



WHY DON'T
THEY SELL THEM
AT THE ACADEMY
ANYWAY?



ISN'T THAT
OBVIOUS?! IT'S
ILLEGAL TO SERVE
ALCOHOL TO
MINORS!



IT'S FINE.
I USED TO DRINK
THEM ALL THE TIME
WHEN I WAS 13.

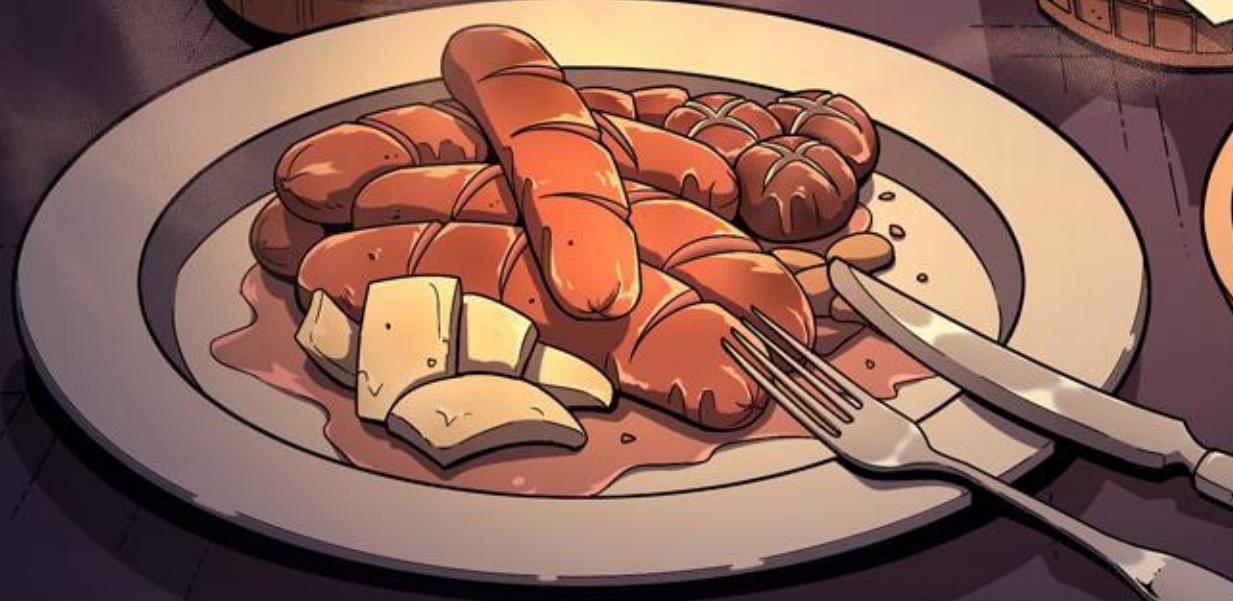
WHAT
NONSENSE!

ARE YOU A MERC?

TAP

TA-DAH

OOOH!



LOOKS LIKE
YOU'RE NEWBIES
HEADING TOWARD
MOUNT ESPANIA.





WEARING
BRAND NEW ARMOR
AND SWORDS ON
YOUR BACKS,

I'M SURE YOU'RE

FEELING LIKE YOU
CAN HUNT A DRAGON
ON YOUR ADVENTURE
RIGHT NOW.



A man with white hair and a beard, wearing a dark vest over a white shirt, stands in a wine cellar. Behind him are tall wooden shelves filled with numerous bottles of wine. He is holding a white cloth in his hands.

WELL,
NOTHING BAD
ABOUT IT.

IT'S GOOD FOR
YOUNGSTERS TO BE
FULL OF AMBITIONS
AFTER ALL.

YOU SHOULD
FINISH THE MEAL
AND GO HOME.

THAT MOUNTAIN
IS NO PLACE FOR
NEW ADVENTURERS
LIKE YOU TO
TACKLE.



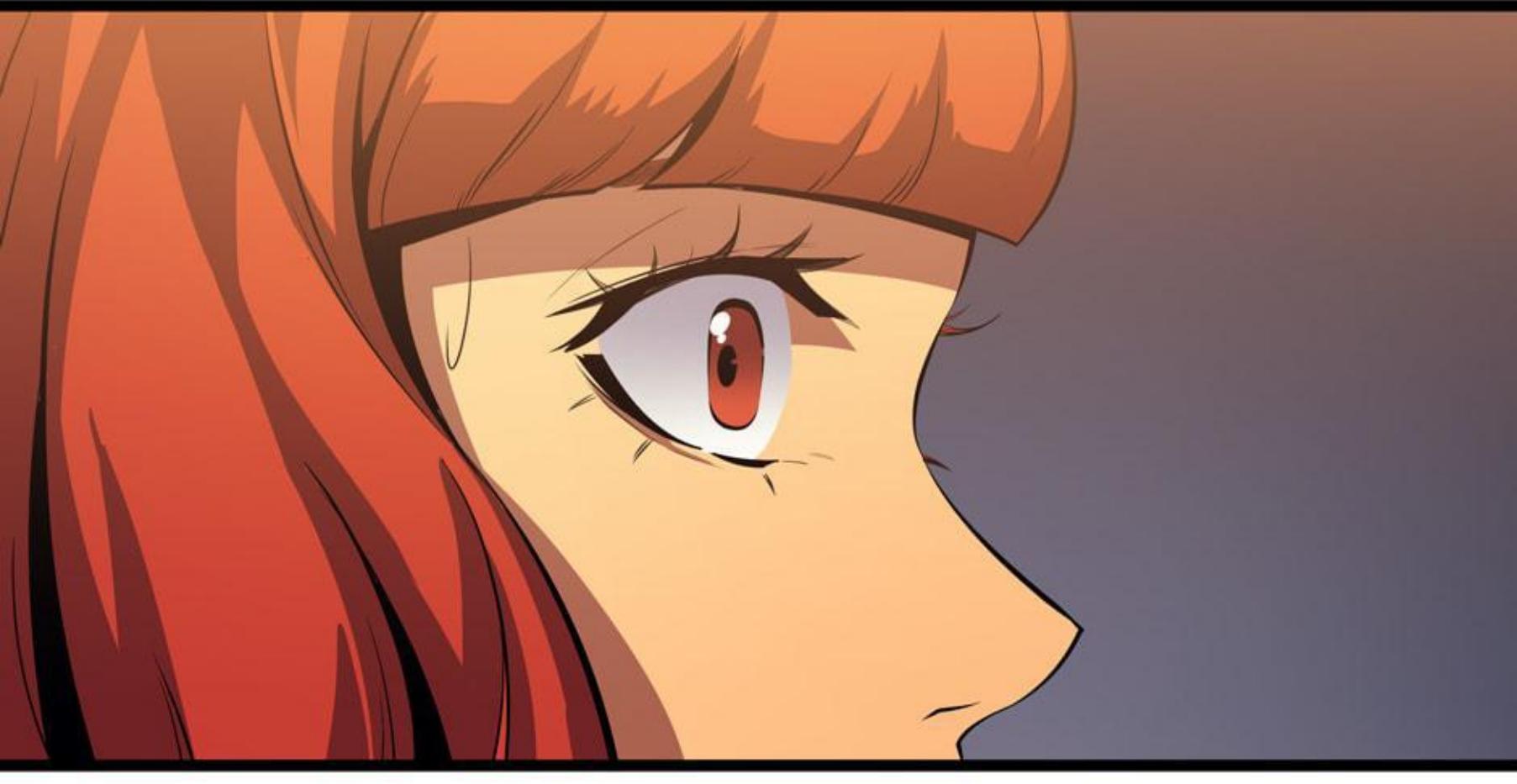
I DID HEAR THAT
IT'S A HAVEN FOR
MANY DANGEROUS
MONSTERS.

WE ALREADY
KNOW HOW
DANGEROUS
IT IS.

HMPH...
DANGEROUS?!



**YOU KIDS
HAVE NO IDEA!**



*OH...
THIS IS SO
GOOD!*





LISTEN...

I USED
TO HAVE A
SON AROUND
YOUR AGE,
YOU SEE.

FWSK
FWSK

HE WAS
AN UNGRATEFUL

AN UNGRAVED, AD
BRAT WHO CONSTANTLY
SPOUTED NONSENSE THAT
HE'LL BE THE GREATEST
MERCENARY
THERE IS.



I'M REMINDED
OF MY OLD KID
WHEN I LOOK AT
YOU TWO.



THEN YOUR
SON IS...



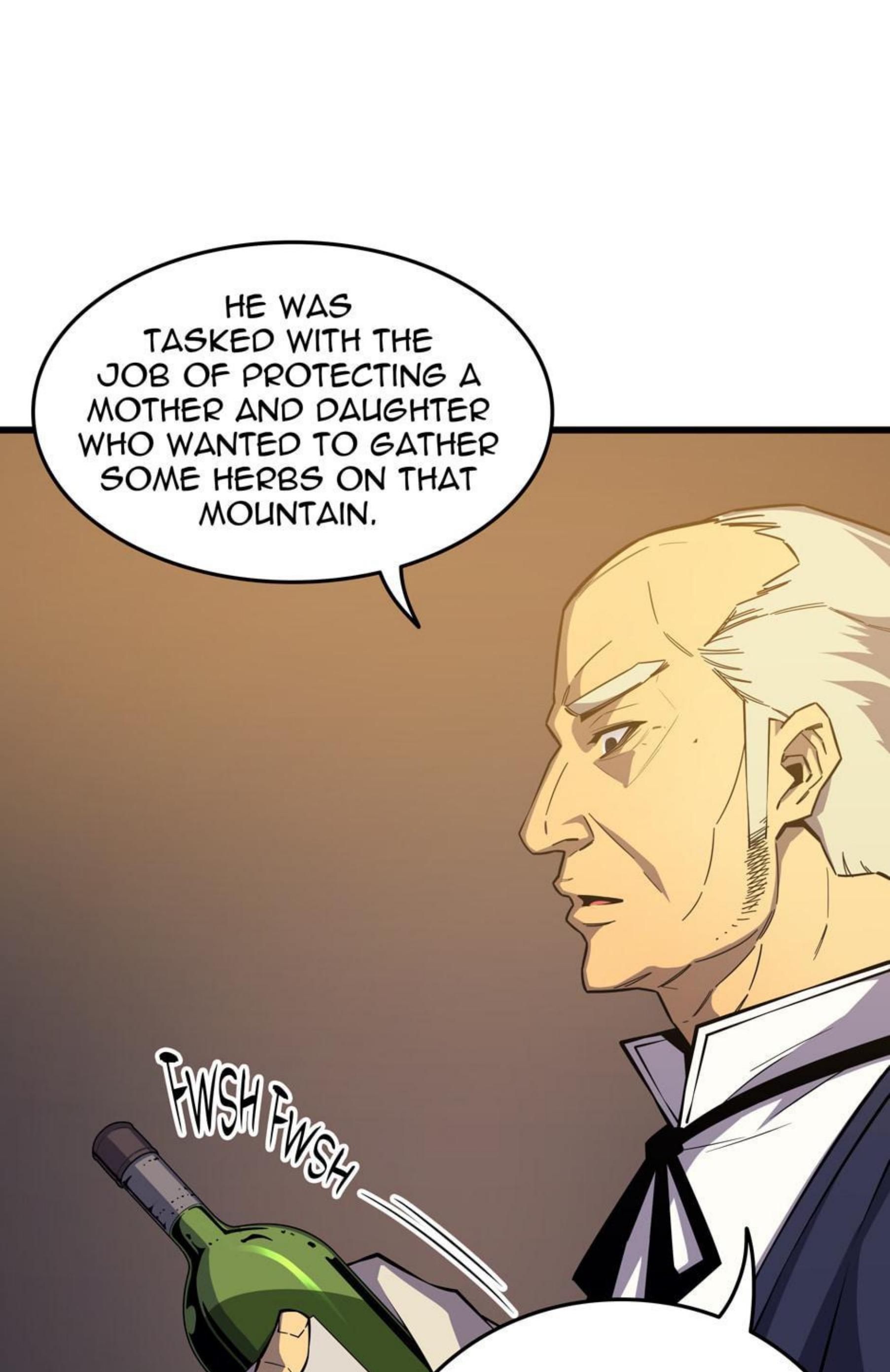
HE DIED, WHILST
ADVENTURING ON
THAT DEVIL'S
MOUNTAIN...



I'M SO SORRY...

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

I DIDN'T SAY
IT TO GET YOUR
SYMPATHY.



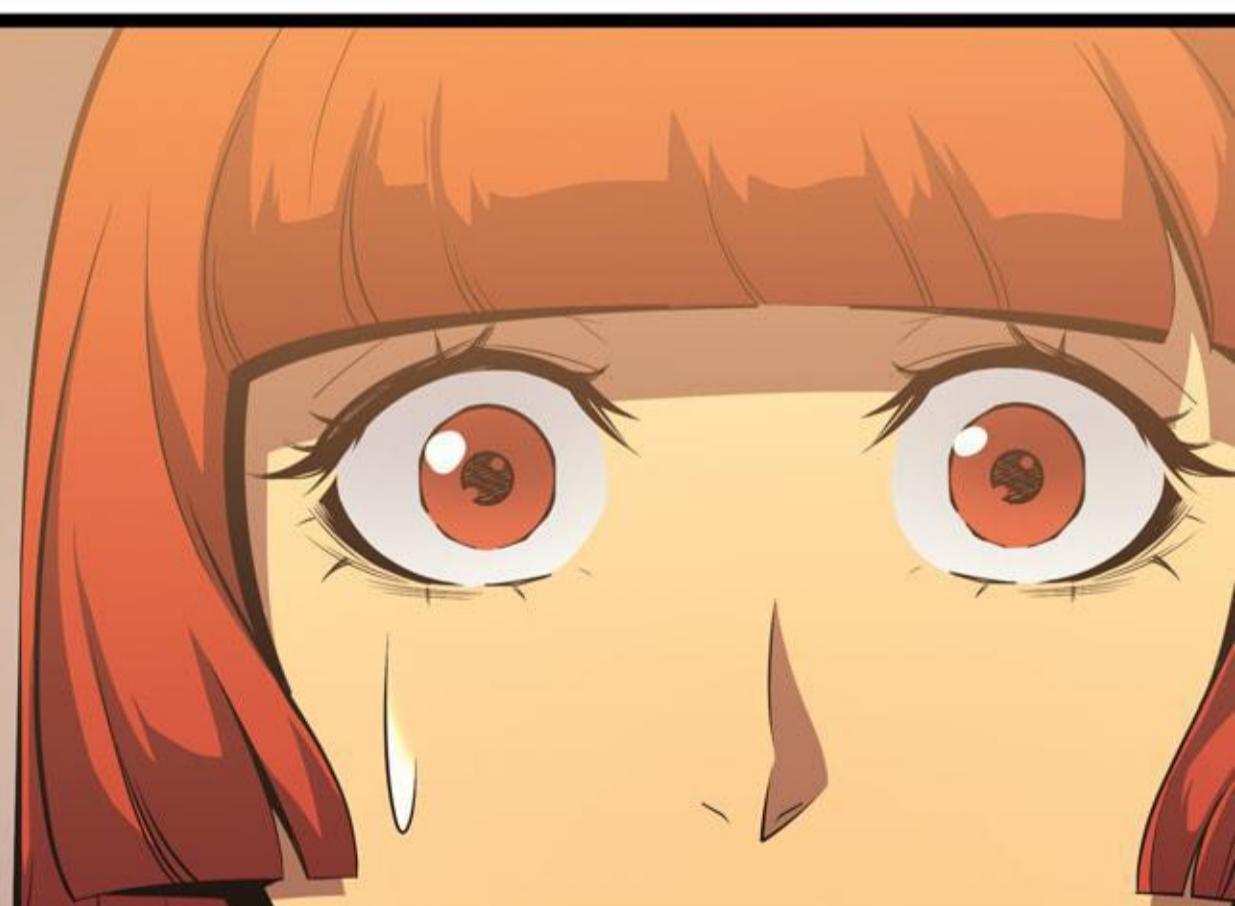
HE WAS
TASKED WITH THE
JOB OF PROTECTING A
MOTHER AND DAUGHTER
WHO WANTED TO GATHER
SOME HERBS ON THAT
MOUNTAIN.

ONLY THE
DAUGHTER MANAGED
TO ESCAPE AND RETURN
BACK HERE WITH NEWS
OF MY SON'S
DEMISE.



I WON'T SAY
ANY MORE ON THIS
TOPIC, BUT I STRONGLY
SUGGEST YOU GIVE UP
ON CONQUERING THAT
MOUNTAIN.

EVEN SEASONED
MERCENARIES DON'T
COME OUT OF THAT PLACE
UNSCATHED... IT'S A
LITERAL HELL.



PHEW!!

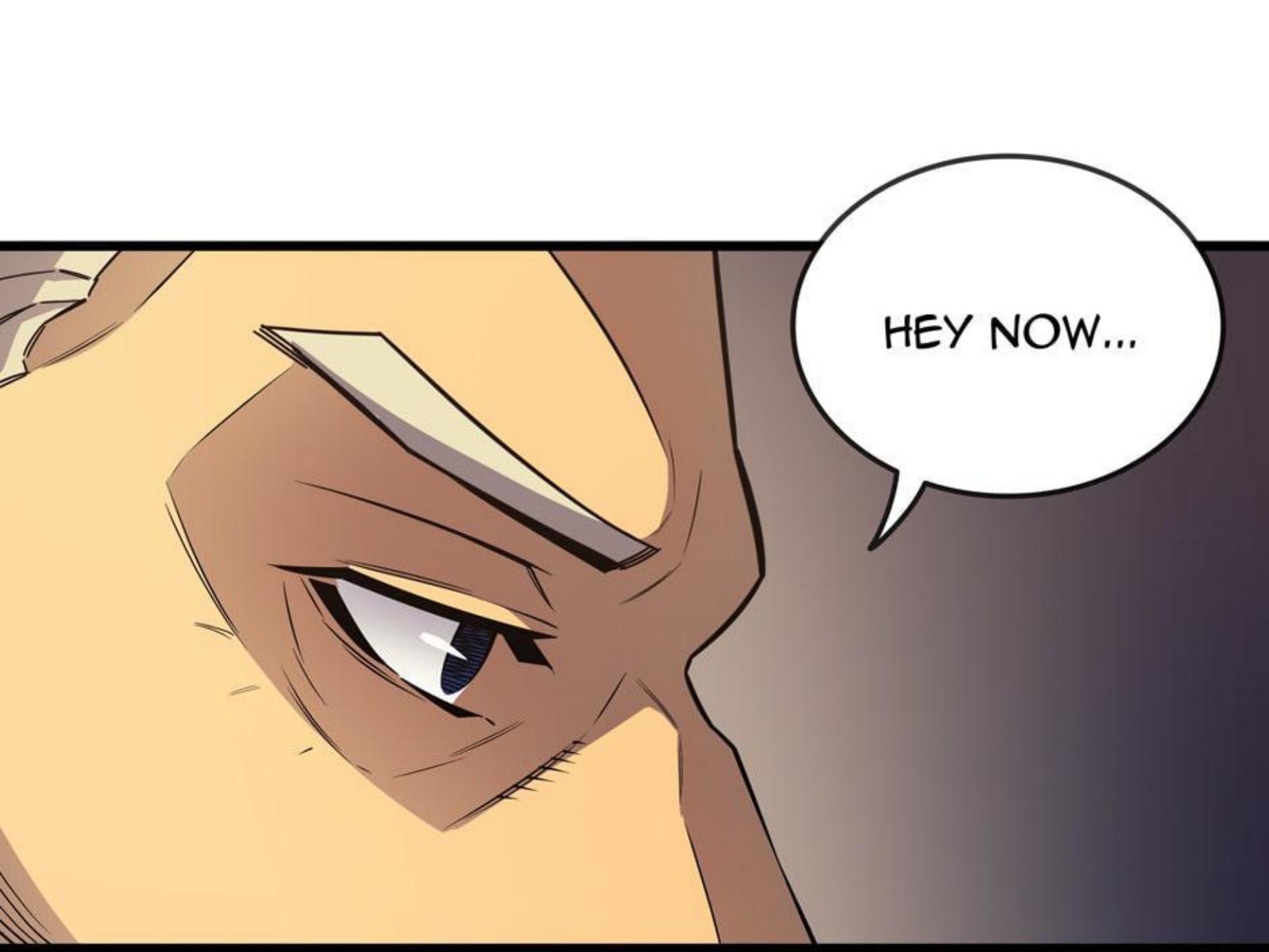
THAT WAS A
GOOD MEAL!





CAN YOU
TELL ME MORE
ABOUT THE MONSTERS
THAT WERE SIGHTED
ON THE MOUNTAIN?

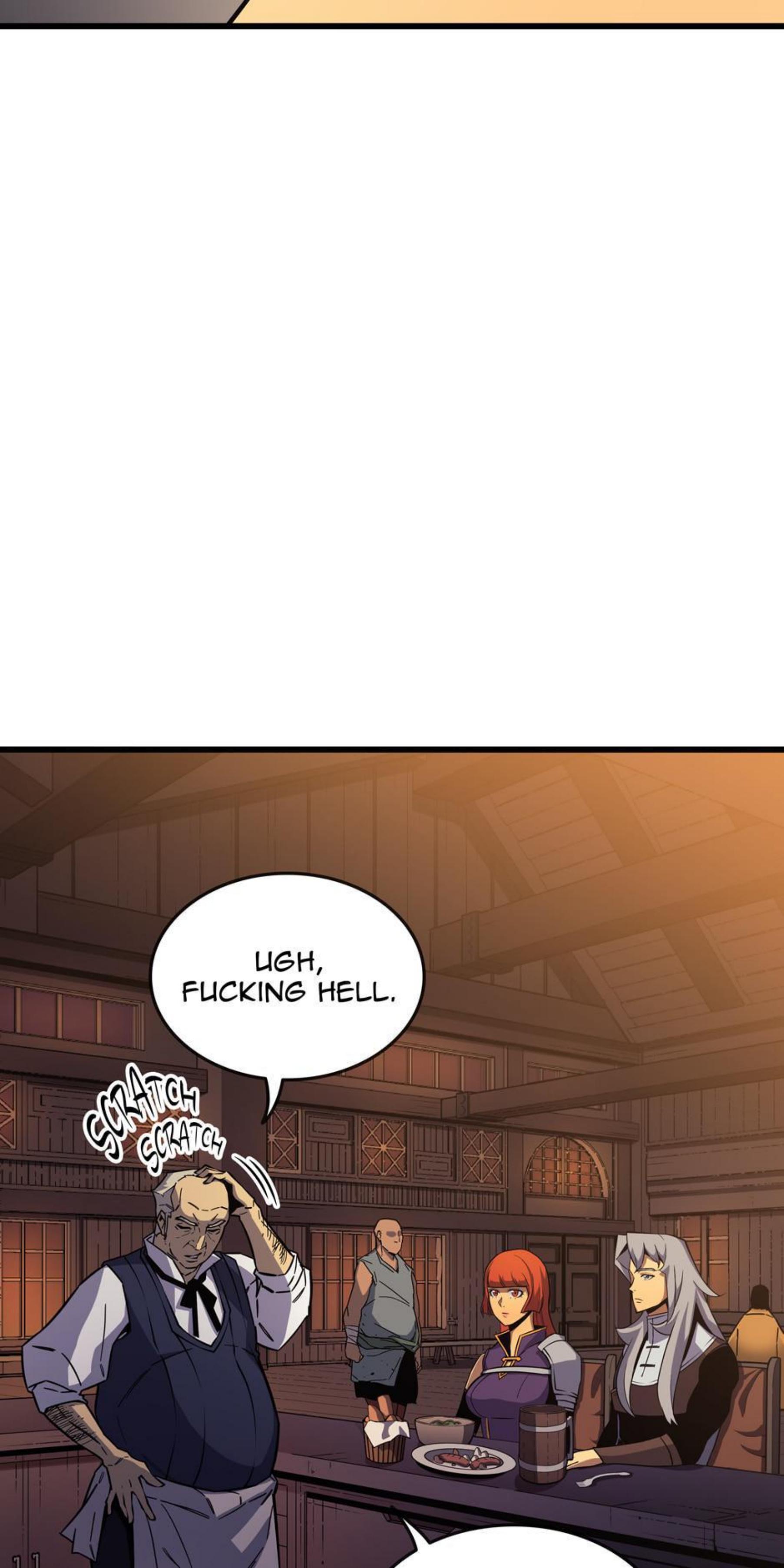




HEY NOW...



YOU SAYIN'
YOU'LL STILL GO
RISKING YOUR LIFE?
IS THAT IT?



UGH,
FUCKING HELL.

SCRATCH
SCRATCH





LOOKS
LIKE I WON'T BE
SLEEPING WELL
TONIGHT.







...

I HAD MY
DOUBTS, BUT TO
THINK IT'S THIS...

THANKS FOR
THE INSIGHTS.
HOW MUCH
IS IT?





NO NEED
FOR PAYMENT.

I'LL PUT IT
ON YOUR TAB
SO COME BACK
ALIVE TO PAY
FOR IT.

COME ON,
YOU KNOW YOU
WON'T BE ABLE TO
RUN A BUSINESS
LIKE THAT.

HMPH!
I HEARD THAT
LINE PLENTY.



THANK YOU
FOR THE MEAL.
YOUR SAUSAGES
WERE TO DIE
FOR

HAH!

SEEMS YOU'RE
A HOPELESS LIAR...
THEY ALL TELL ME THAT
ASIDE FROM THE BEER MY
PLACE HAS NOTHING
ELSE TO OFFER.





A dark, atmospheric scene at night. In the background, a multi-story building with multiple windows is visible. Some windows have light on, while others are dark. In the foreground, several glowing orange and yellow circles of varying sizes are scattered across the dark blue sky, resembling distant stars or perhaps reflections on water.

I'LL REMEMBER
YOU LOT.

AND I'LL
PREPARE THE
BEST SAUSAGES
I CAN OFFER
UPON YOUR
RETURN.









