

THE ARCHMAGE RETURNS AFTER. 4000 YEARS

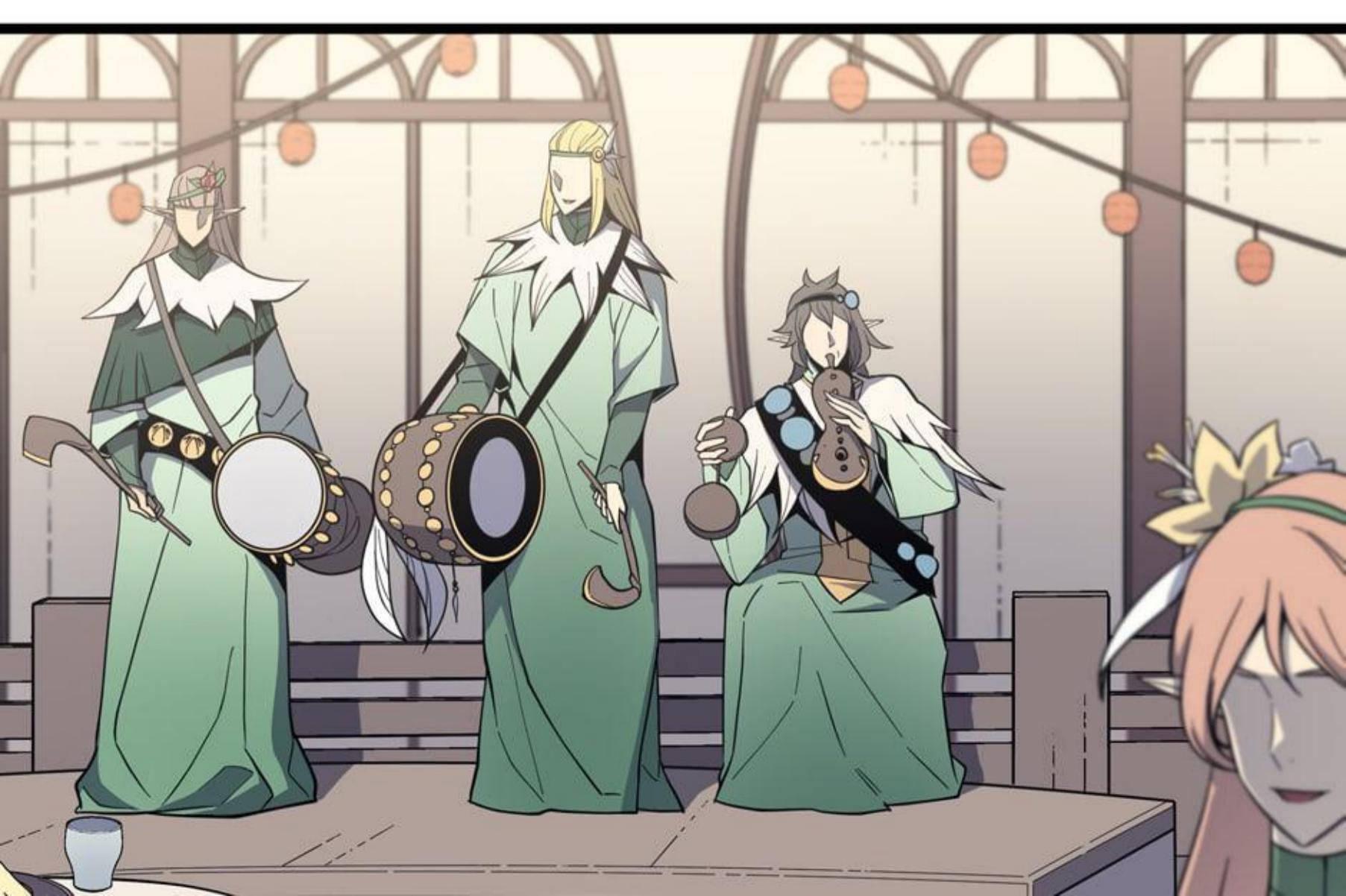
Story by: Barnicle
Art by: KD-DRAGON (Redice Studio)
Original Story by: Nakhasan

Quality Control: Barbra Ramos
Typesetting: Alex Culang
Translation: Jim Park

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BY HRUHIRAL!
HE'S HERE!



AHAHAHA...

IT'S THE
GRAND CHAMPION!





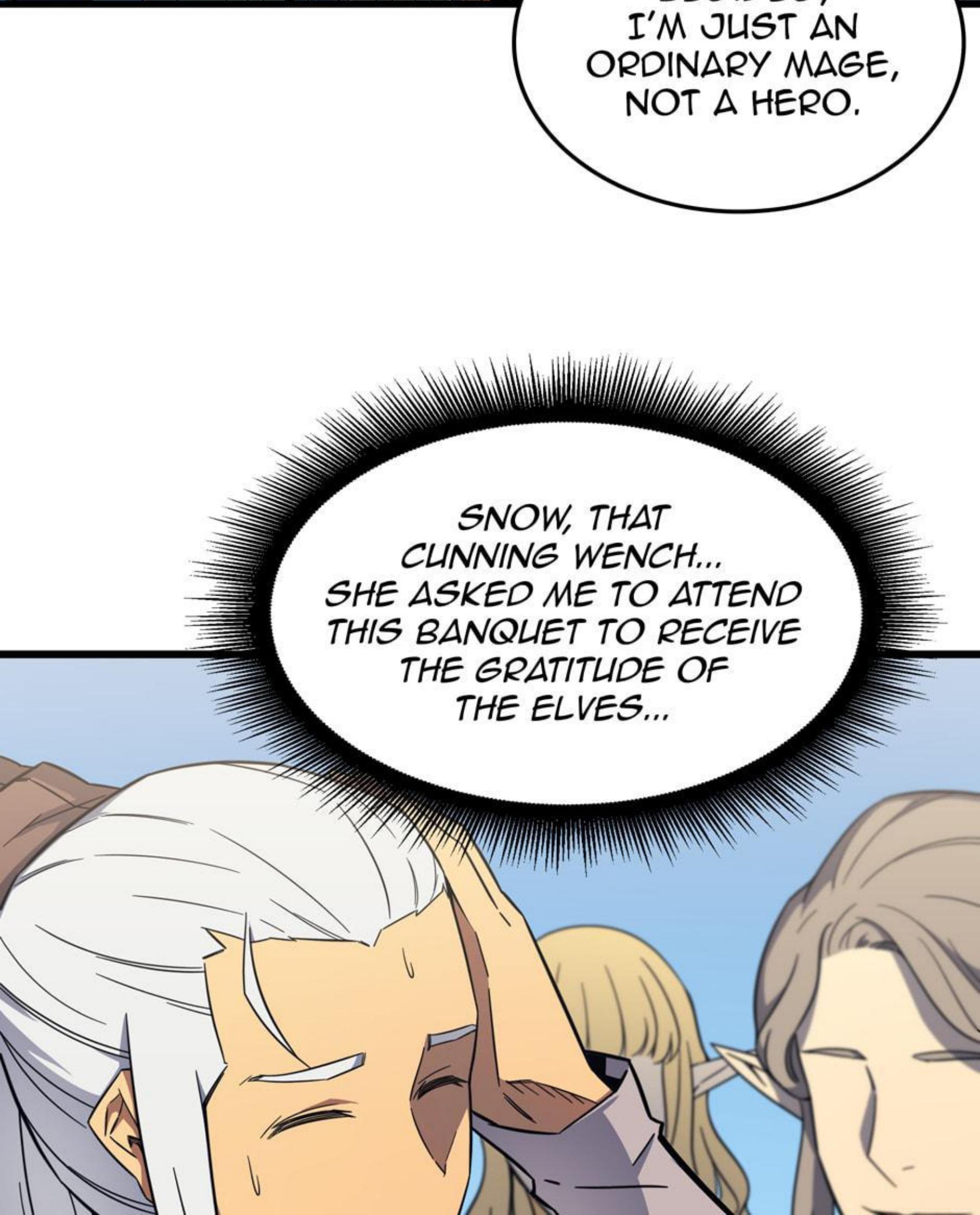
IT WAS DUE TO
YOUR HEROIC DEEDS
THAT MY FAMILY AND I
WERE SAVED FROM
THAT CALAMITY.

NOT ONLY THAT,
BUT YOU'VE ALSO
HELPED RESTORE OUR
HOMES! HOW CAN I
EVER REPAY THIS
FAVOR...?



N-NOT AT ALL,
IT WAS THE VALIANT
EFFORTS OF EVERYONE'S
COURAGEOUS DEEDS
THAT PROTECTED
THE VILLAGE...!

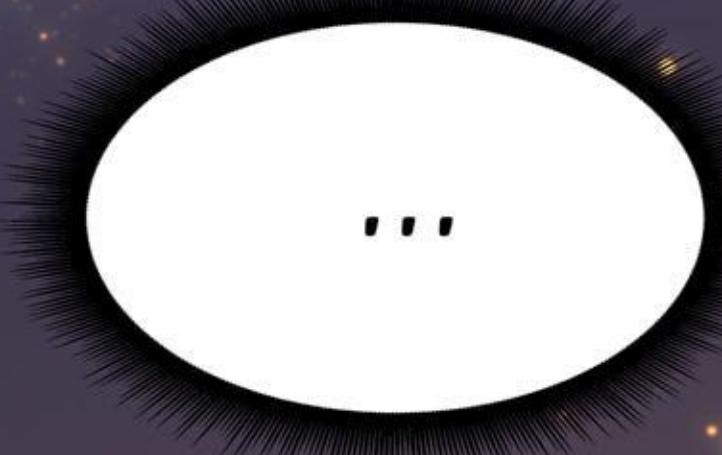
BESIDES,
I'M JUST AN
ORDINARY MAGE,
NOT A HERO.



SNOW, THAT
CUNNING WENCH...
SHE ASKED ME TO ATTEND
THIS BANQUET TO RECEIVE
THE GRATITUDE OF
THE ELVES...



YET SHE RAN
AWAY AND LEFT ME
TO DEAL WITH THIS
BY MYSELF!!

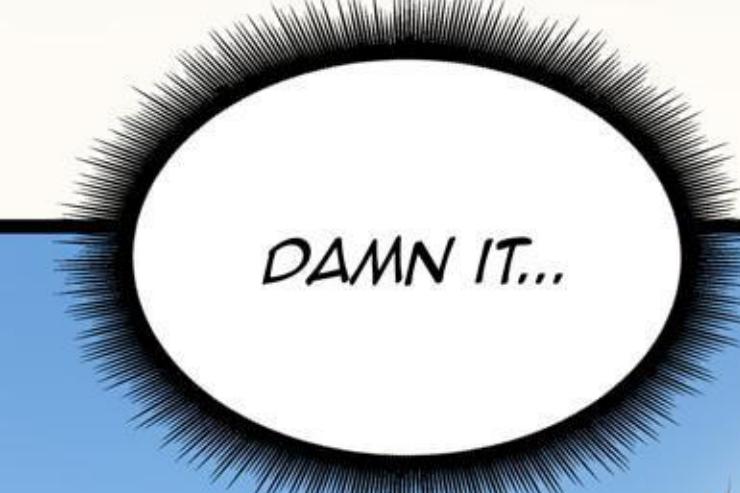


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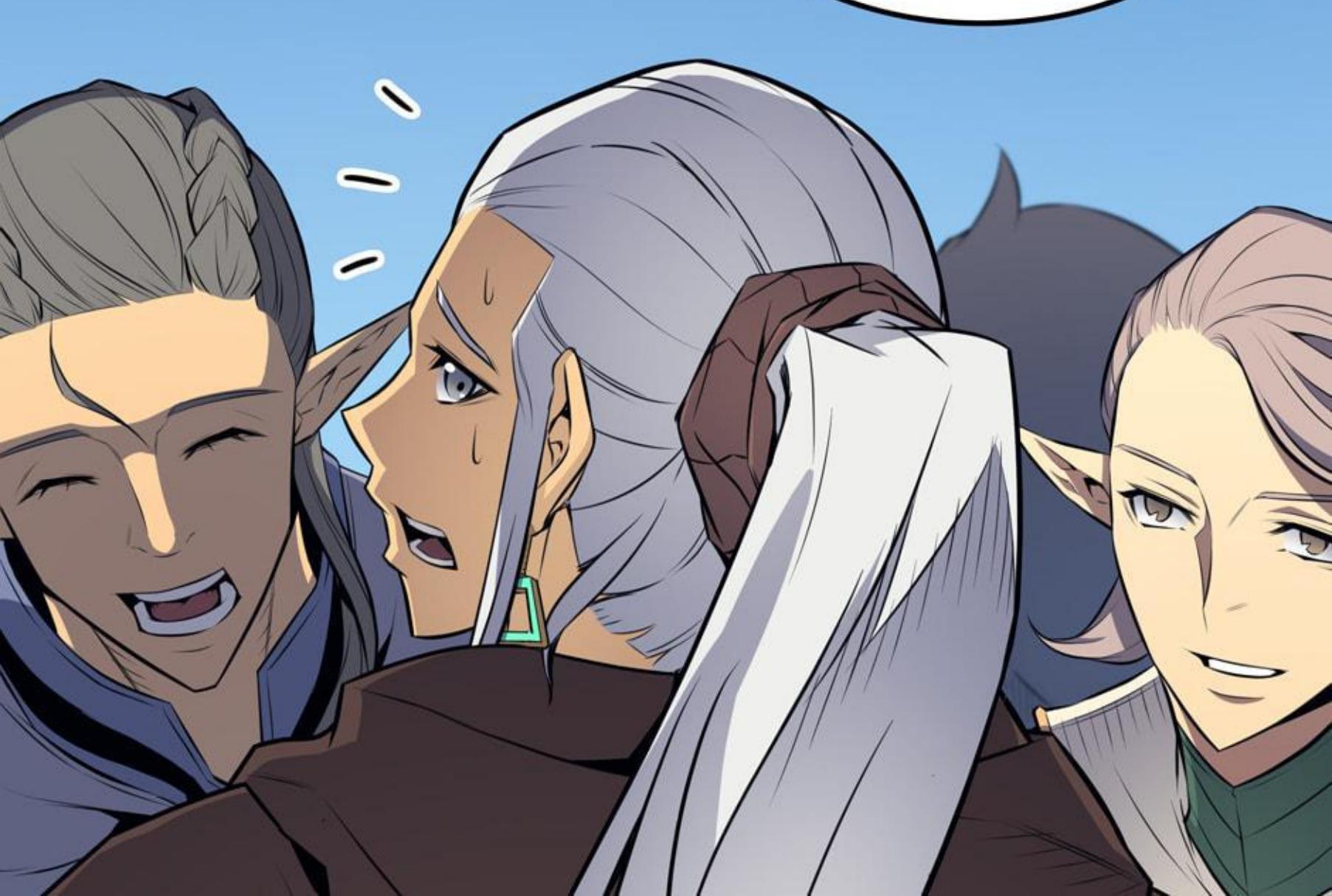
I'M SO
JEALOUS OF IVAN
RIGHT NOW...



DAMN IT...



MAYBE I
SHOULD HAVE
EATEN THAT FRUIT TOO
AND COLLAPSED FOR
A WEEK INSTEAD.



QUITE THE
HERO YOU'VE
BECOME.



CAMIL!!





YOU MUST
BE HERE FOR THAT
URGENT CASE YOU
MENTIONED!

NO TIME
TO WASTE!
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!

HUH? WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
ON ABOUT...?

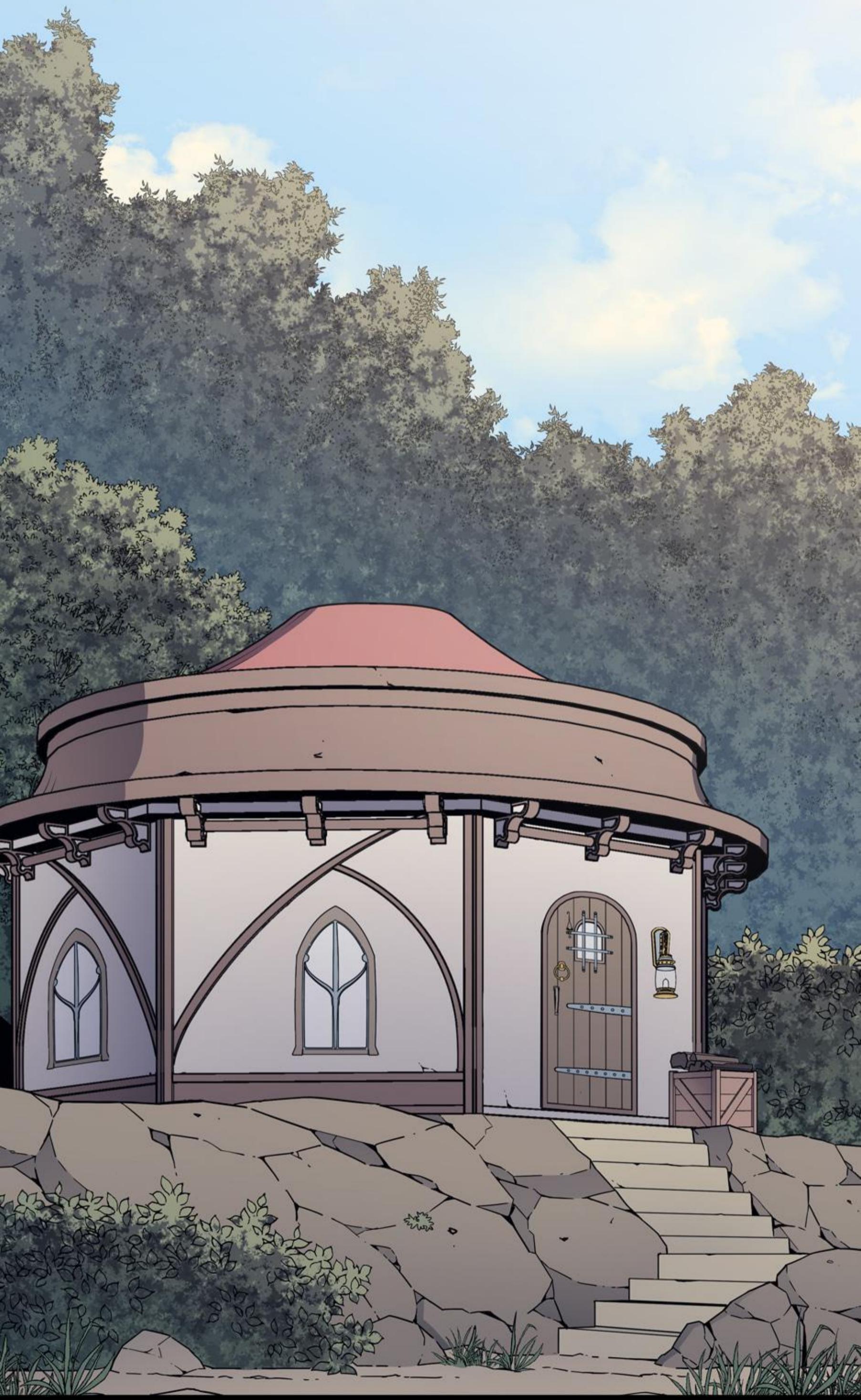


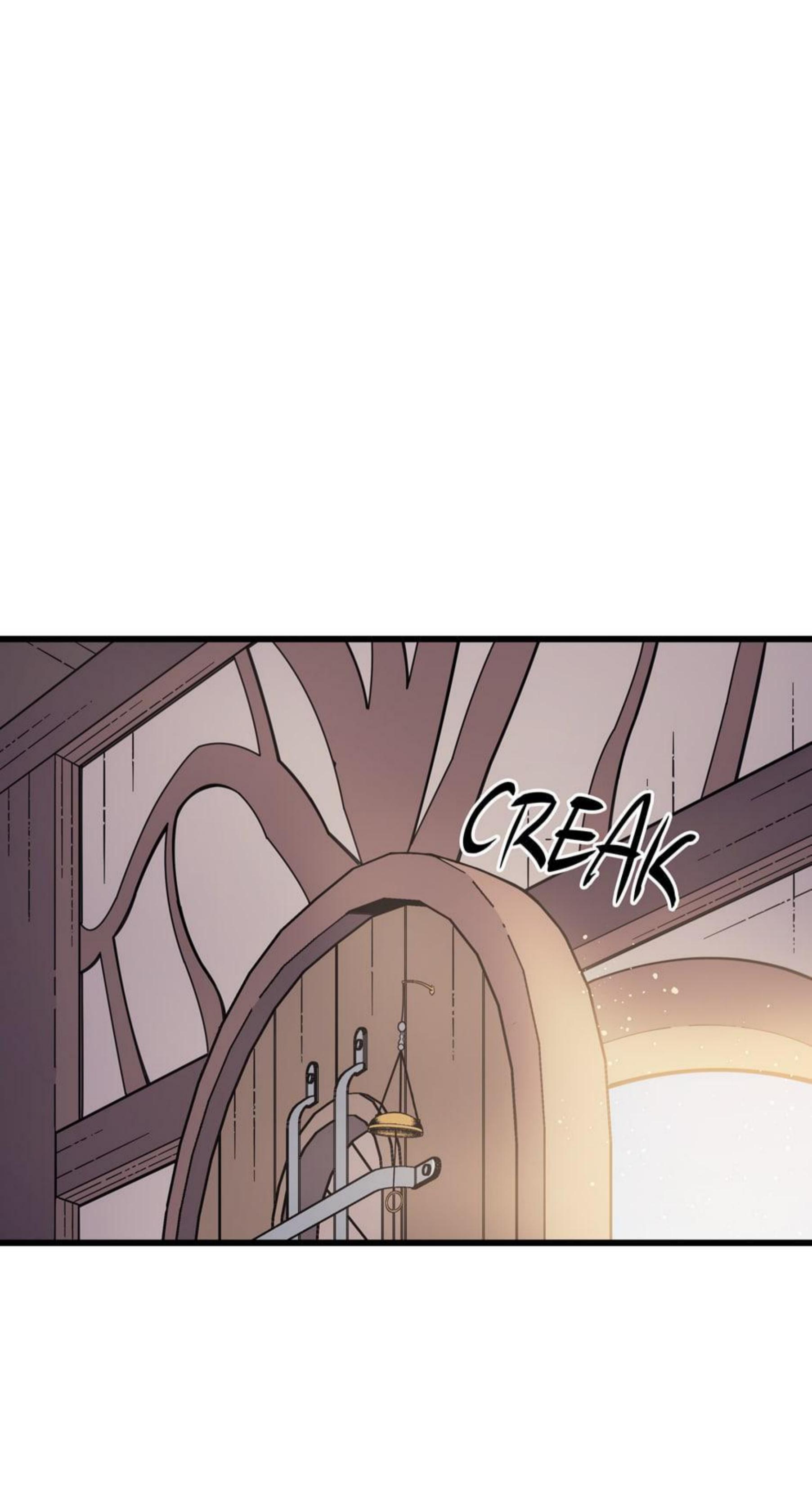
TAKE CARE
OF THESE GIRLS
FOR ME, WILL
YOU?!

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING, GRAND
CHAMPION?!

GRAND
CHAMPION!
THE FESTIVAL HAS
ONLY JUST
BEGUN!

I TOLD YOU,
I'M NO CHAMPION.
I'M JUST A
MAGE!





CREAK





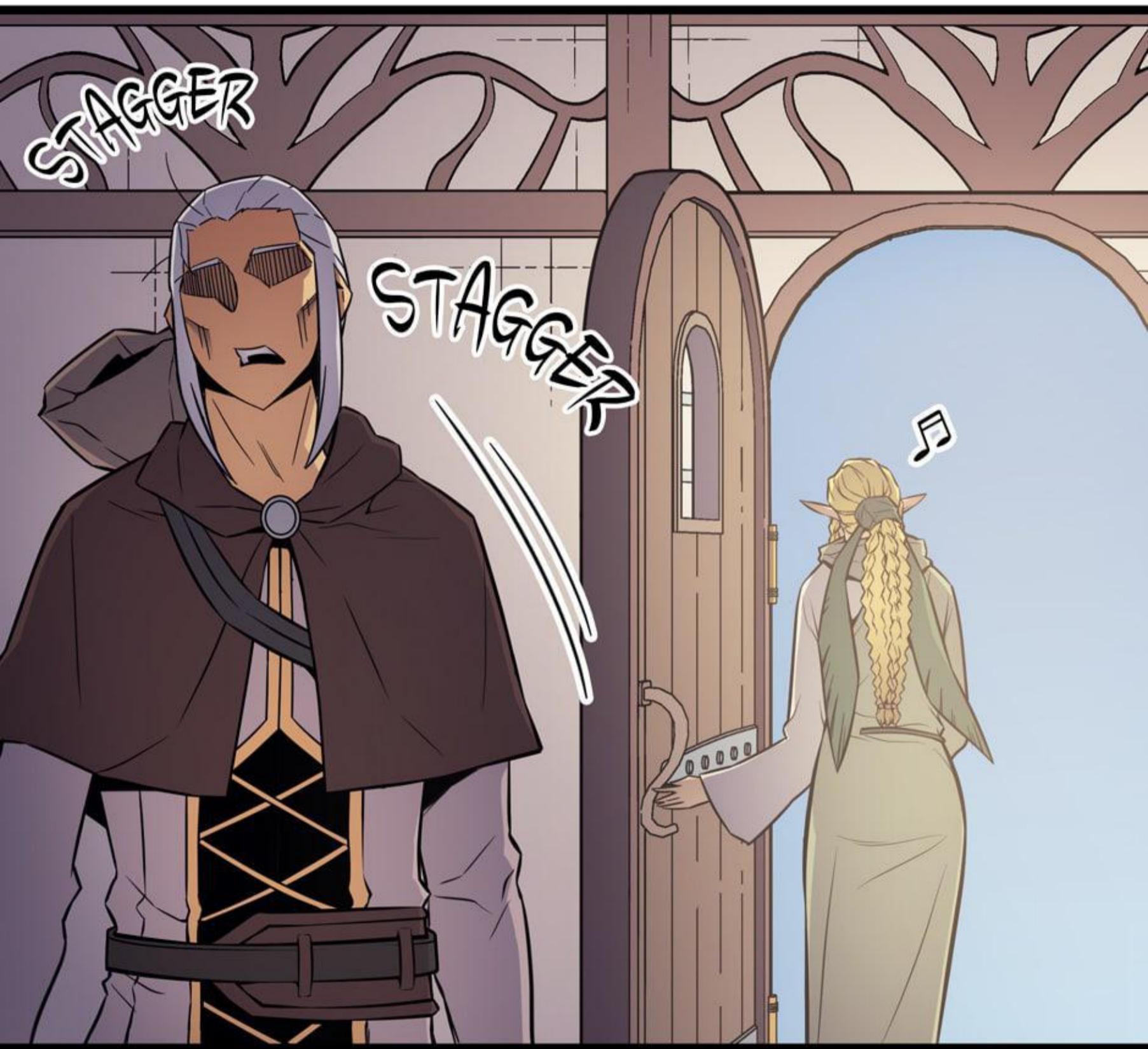
AH, THERE
YOU ARE!

SCREW YOU...

BOW



THEN I SHALL
TAKE MY LEAVE,
YOUR MAJESTY.





YOU KNOW...

SIACKS
HAS BEEN MY
PRECIOUS FRIEND
EVER SINCE I'VE
ARRIVED HERE.

DESPITE ME
BEING AN ICE ELF.

SHE BEFRIENDED ME
WITH OPEN ARMS
AND...





PRAY TELL,
WHY DO YOU SEEM
SO EXHAUSTED...?

DID YOU
DEFEAT YET
ANOTHER DRAGON
INVADING OUR
DOMAIN?



I'D RATHER
FACE ANOTHER
BONE DRAGON THAN
THOSE WOMEN
OUTSIDE...



I'M SORRY,
BUT I'D LIKE YOU
TO GET READY TO
LEAVE SOON.



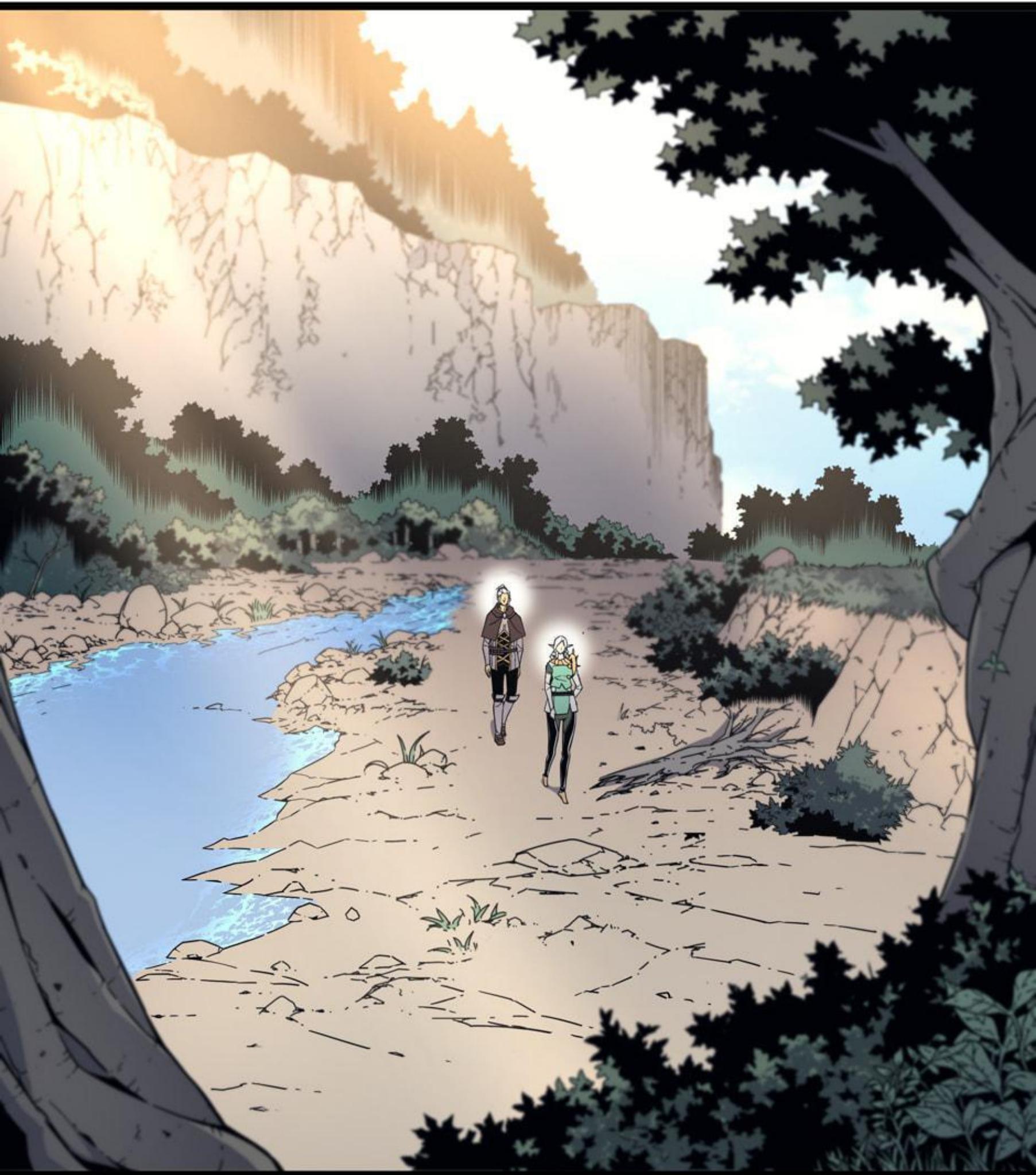
THE TWO OF
US MUST GO AND
SEE RICKY.

RICKY? WHY?



I'M NOT SURE...
HE MENTIONED
THAT THERE WAS
SOMETHING HE'D
LIKE TO DISCUSS
WITH US.

?



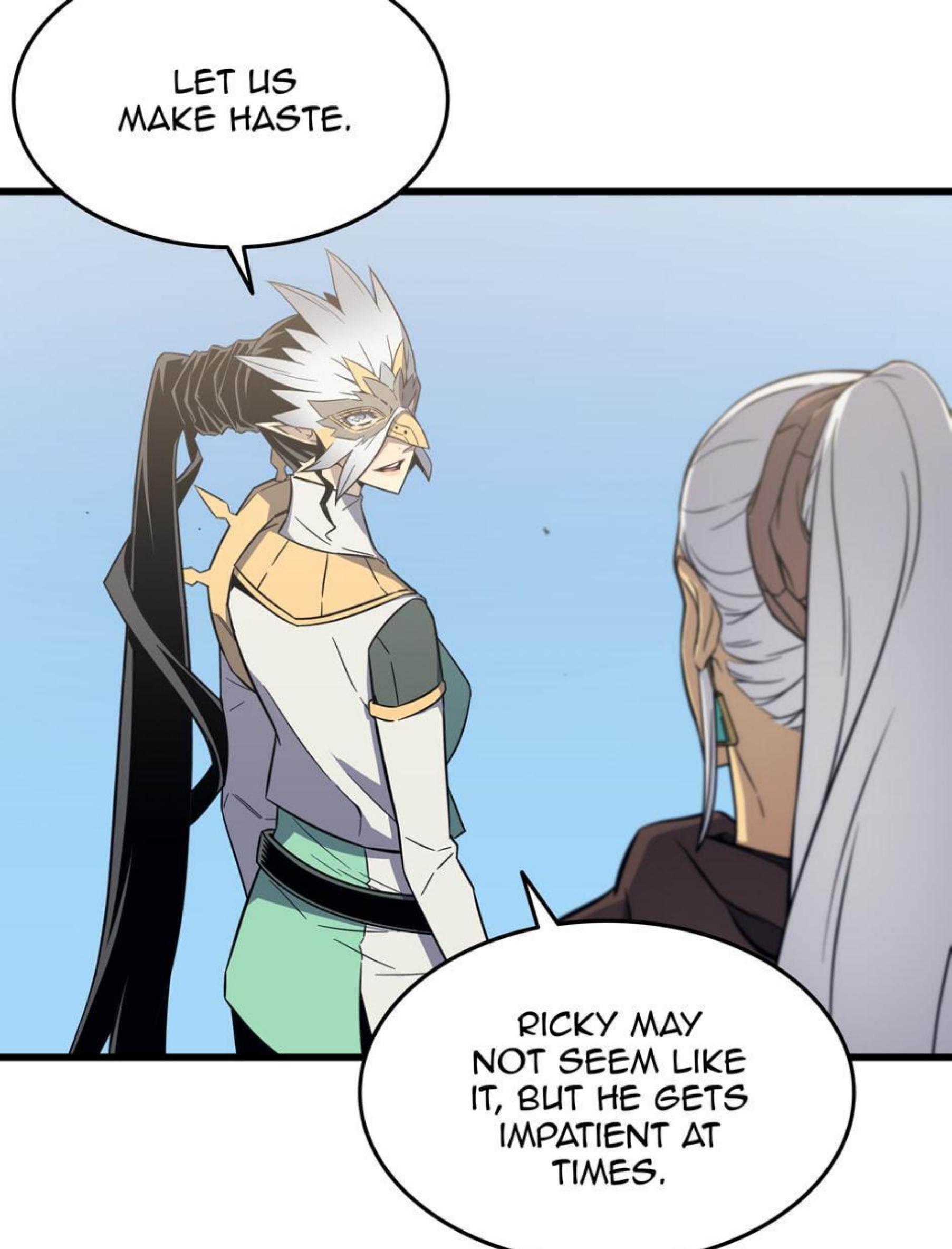
I'M A BIT CURIOUS...
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT
FOR THE QUEEN TO LEAVE THE
VILLAGE UNANNOUNCED LIKE
THIS? AREN'T YOU NEEDED
THERE TO PROTECT
THE FOREST?

OH...

IT SHOULD BE
FINE AS LONG AS I
DON'T GET CAUGHT,
RIGHT?

SSK

OKAY, WHERE
DID YOU GET THAT
THING? THAT'S REALLY
COOL AND I WANT
ONE AS WELL.



LET US
MAKE HASTE.

RICKY MAY
NOT SEEM LIKE
IT, BUT HE GETS
IMPATIENT AT
TIMES.



ARE WE GOING
TO WALK THERE?

RELYING
ON BLINK WOULD
STAND OUT TOO MUCH
TO PRYING EYES, SO
THERE'S NO OTHER
CHOICE.

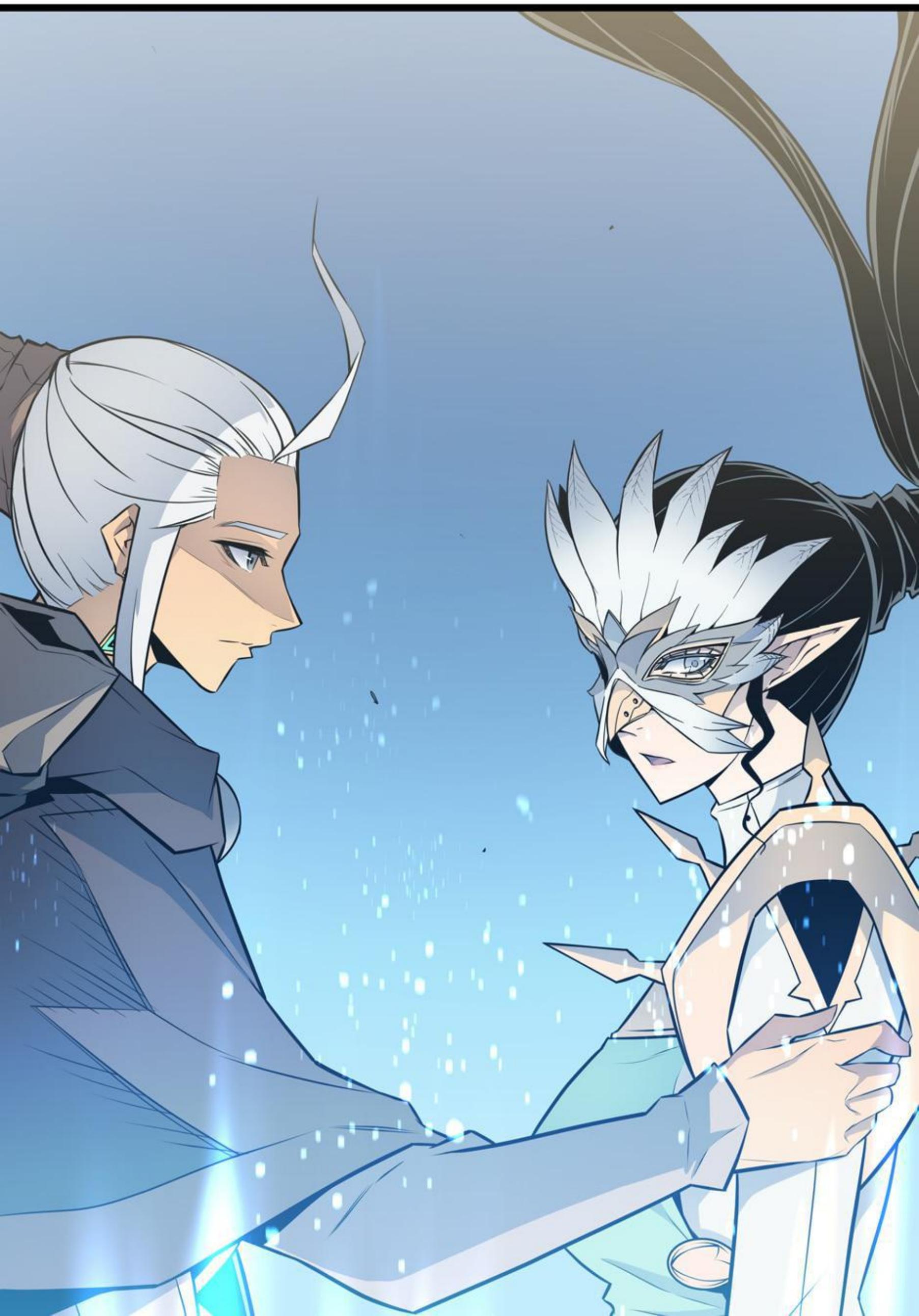
SIGH



WIRNNINGH

!



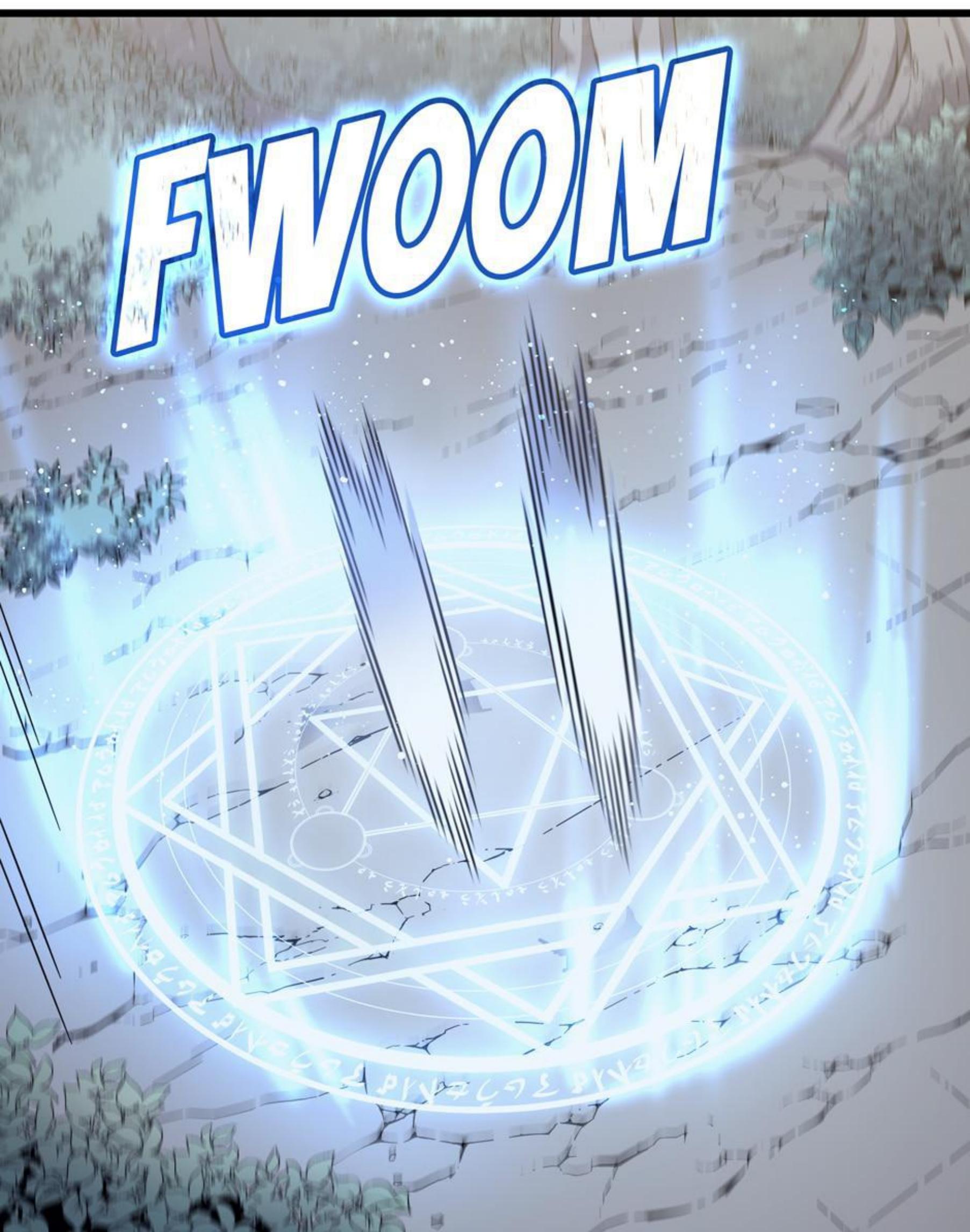




WARP MAGIC? BUT I
THOUGHT YOU WOULD
NEED TO DRAW A MAGIC
CIRCLE BACK AT RICKY'S
PLACE IN ORDER FOR
IT TO WORK...?

SUCH RULES
DON'T APPLY
TO ME.

FWOOM





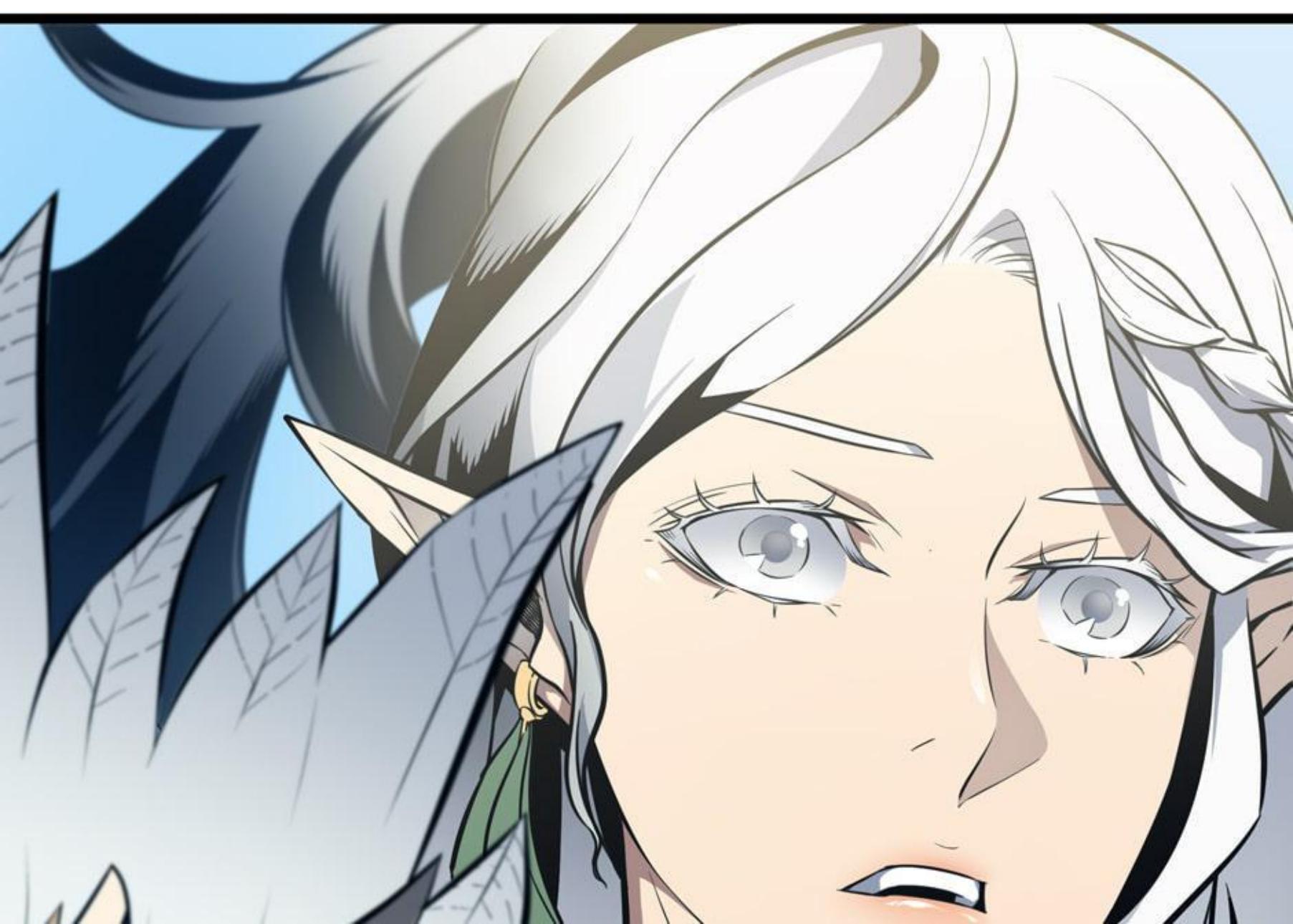
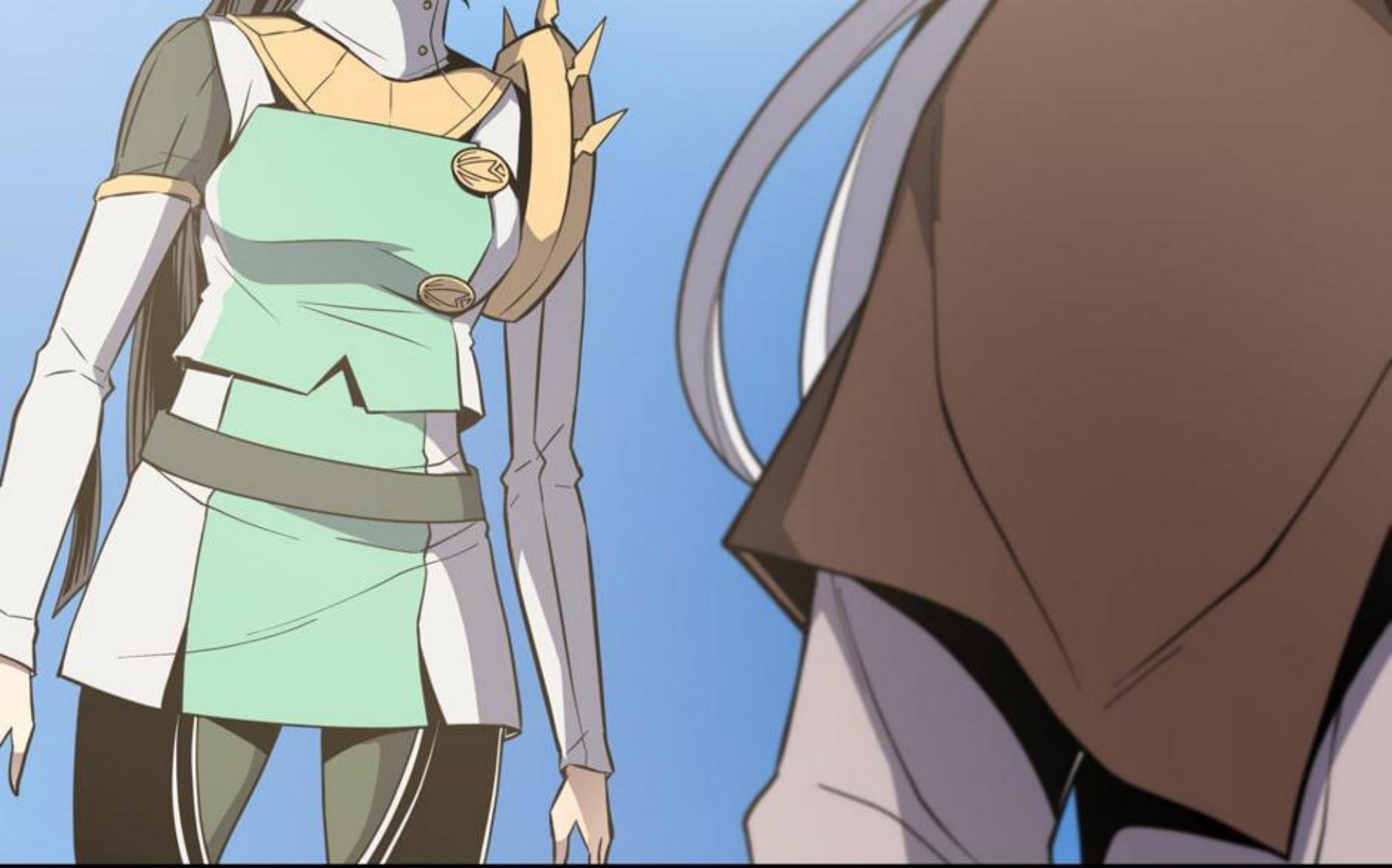


AND
WE'RE HERE.

TP

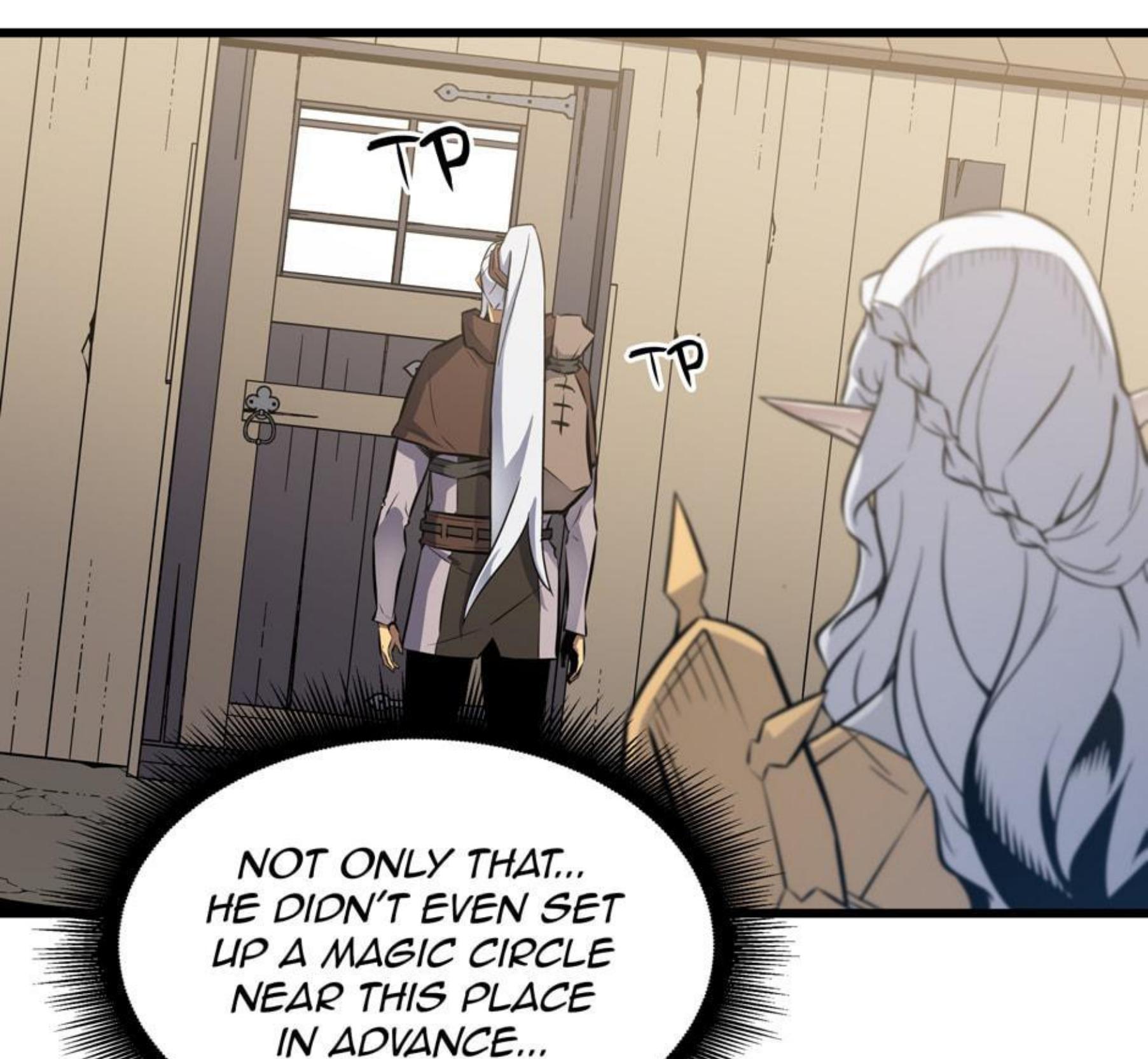
TP







THIS IS THE
MOST STABLE
WARP I'VE EVER
EXPERIENCED.



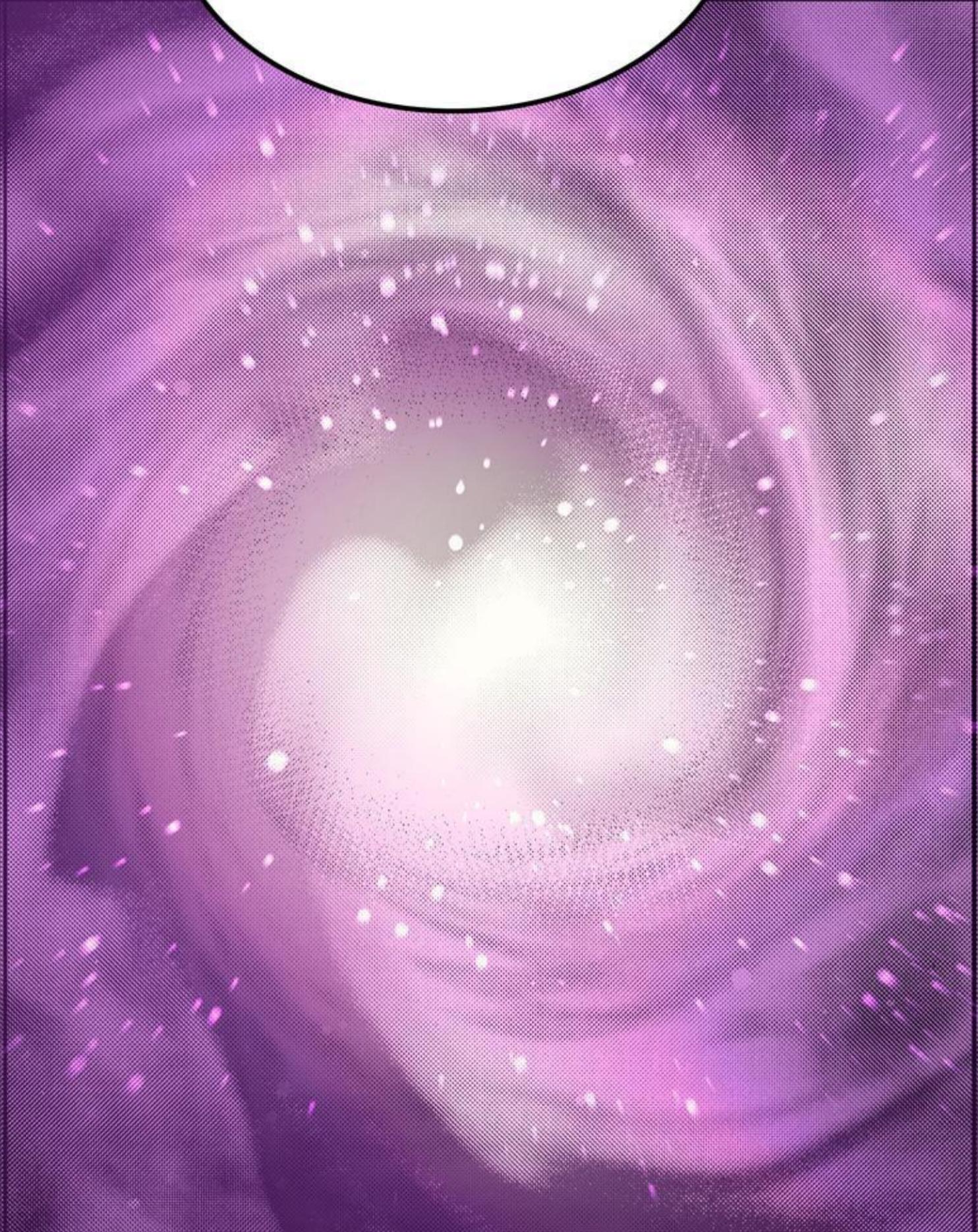


!

CREE



IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE
REALLY SEEKS
IMPATIENT.



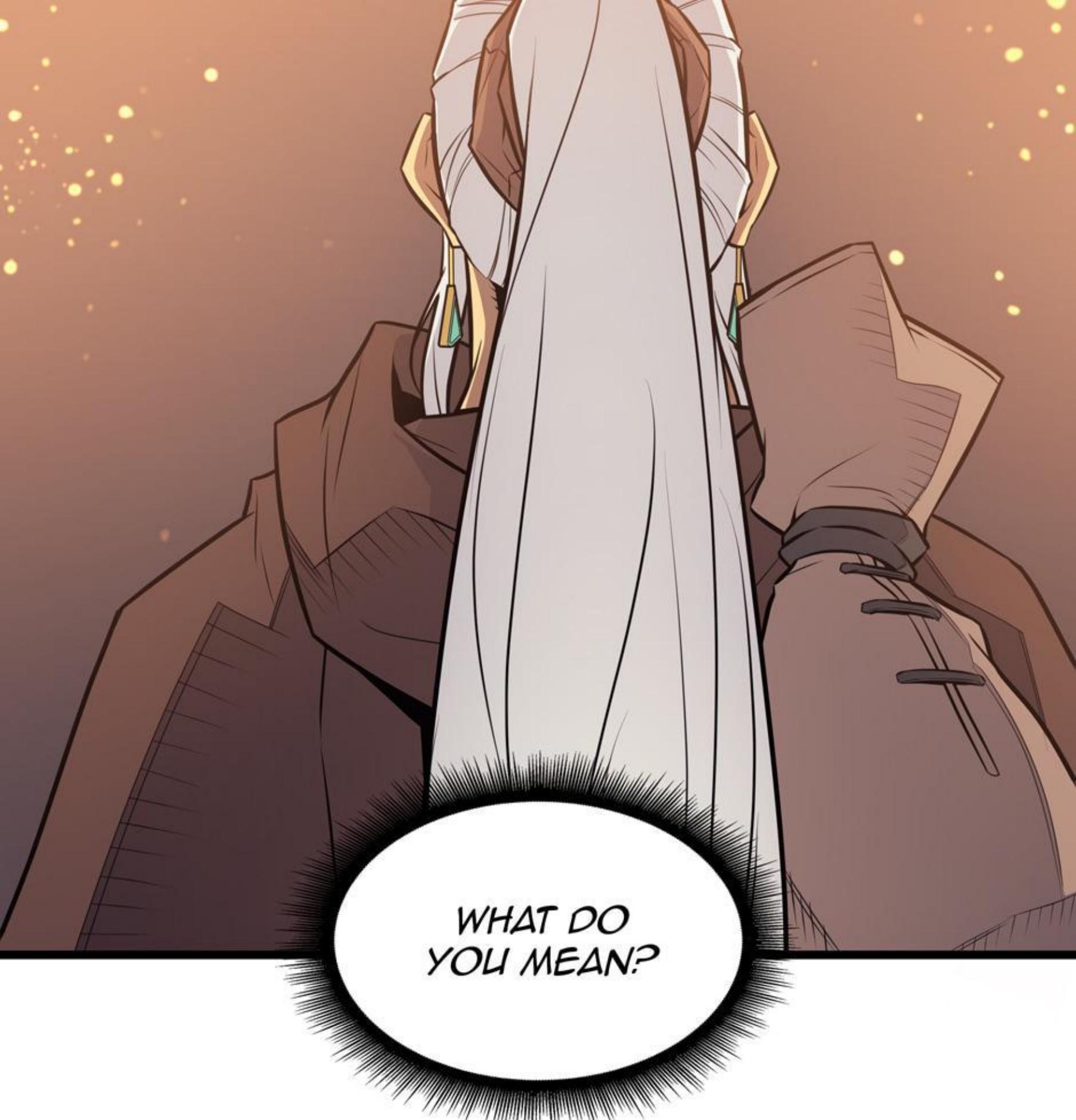


BUT THIS
IS GOOD...

THERE'S
GROWING UP

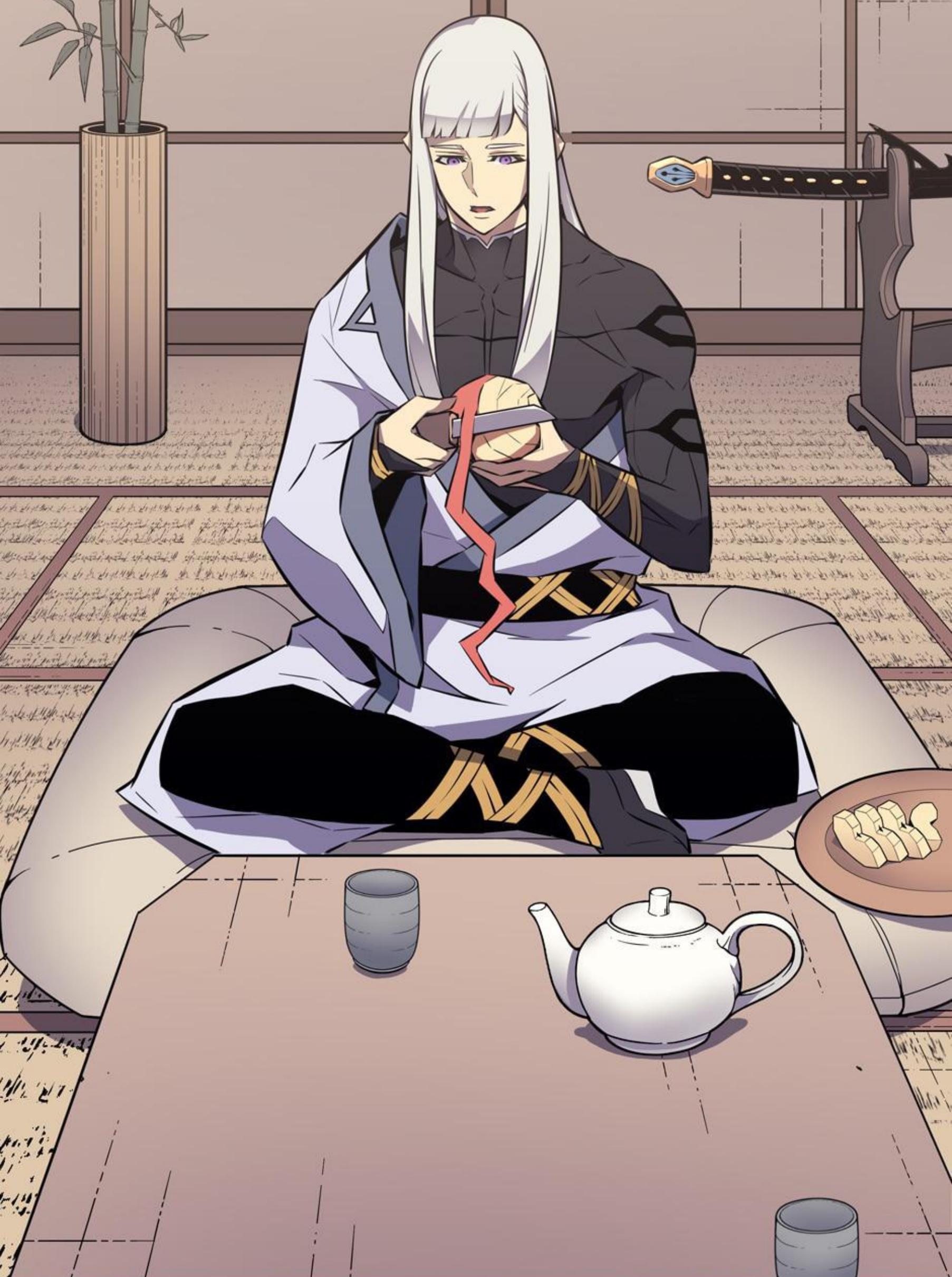
SOMETHING I
WANTED TO CHECK
UP ON WITH HIM
AS WELL.

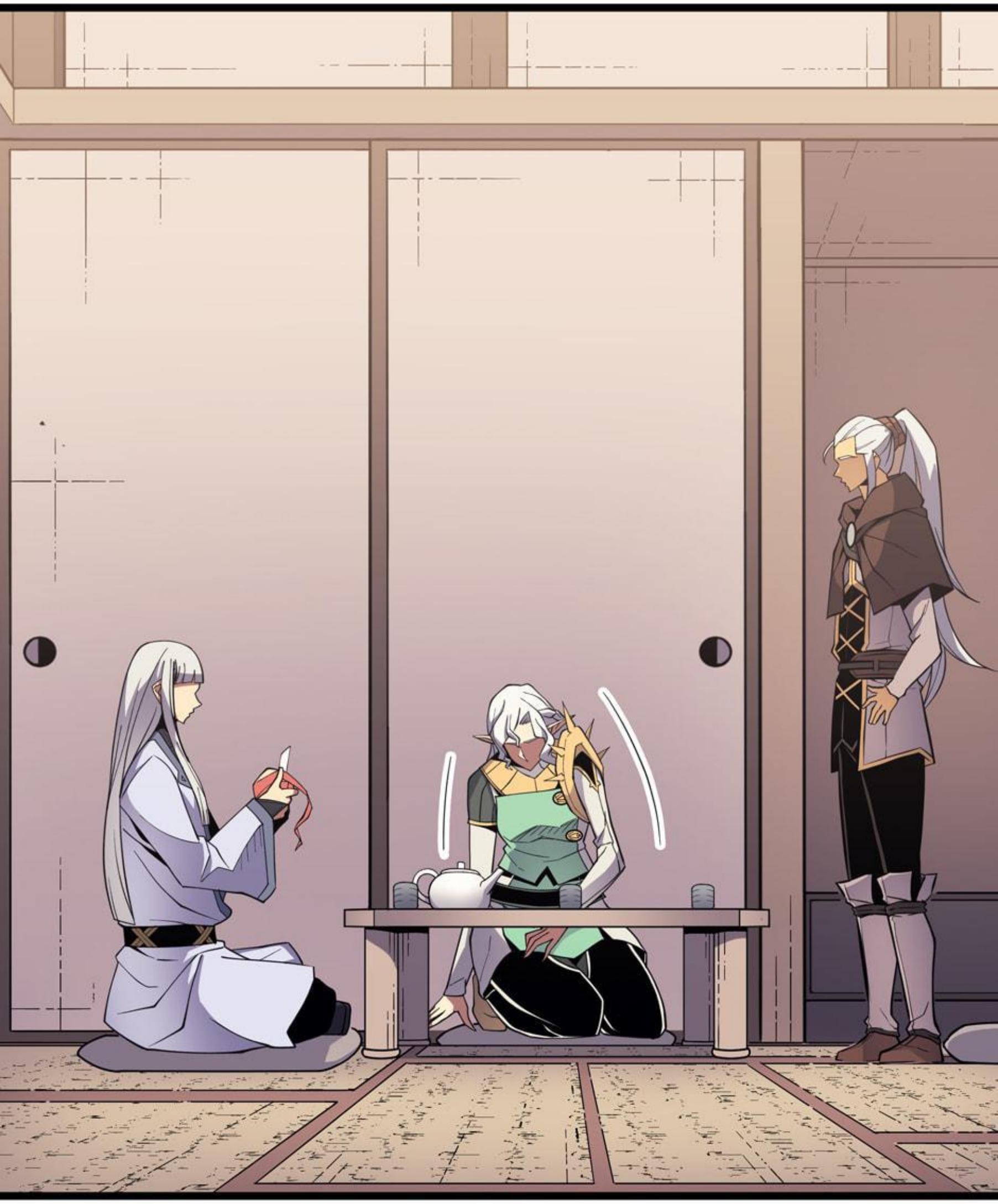
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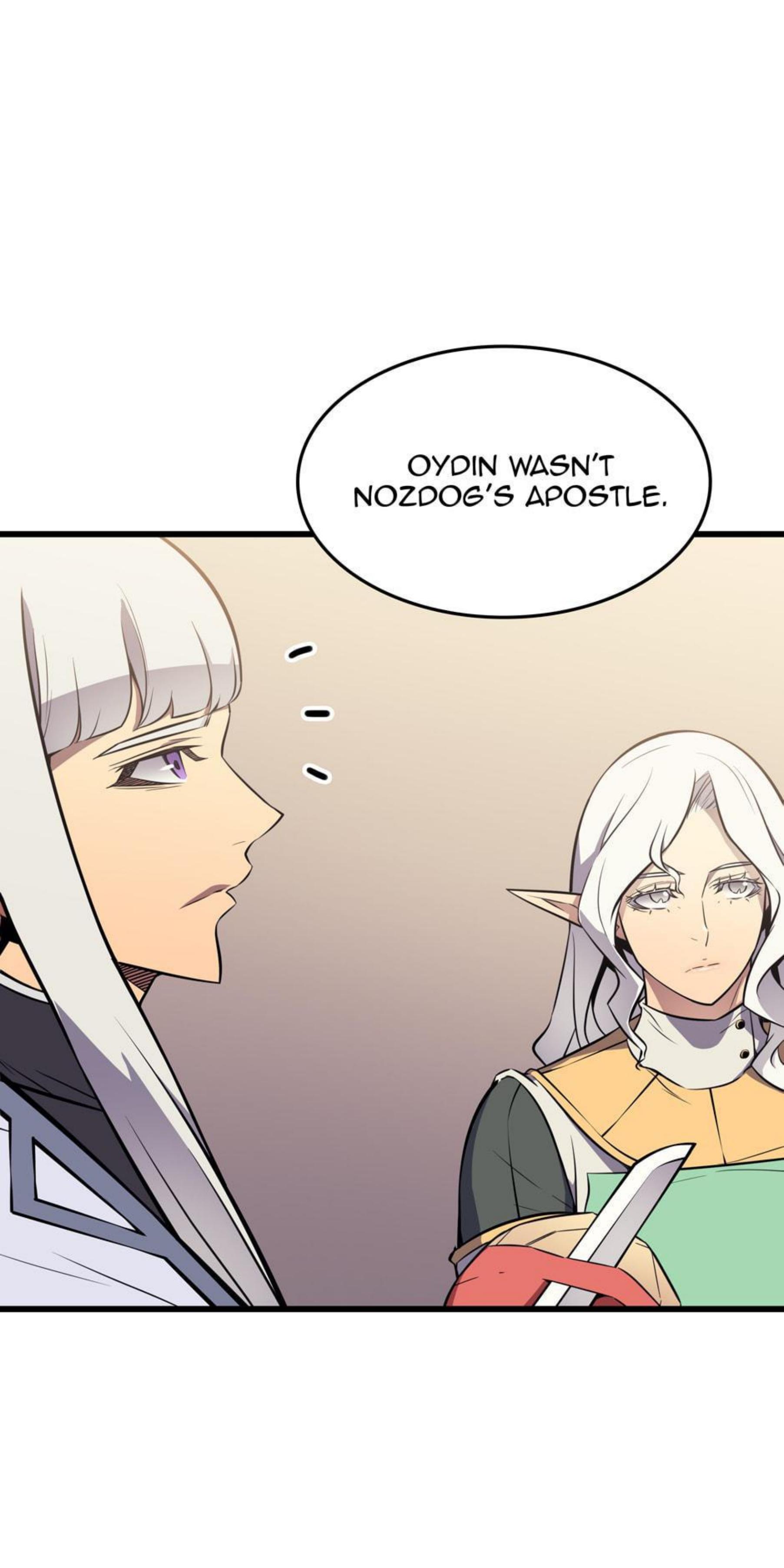


WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

COME
AND SIT. I'VE
PREPARED SOME
TEA FOR YOU.







OYDIN WASN'T
NOZDOG'S APOSTLE.



WELL? YOU
GOT NOTHING TO
SAY, RICKY?

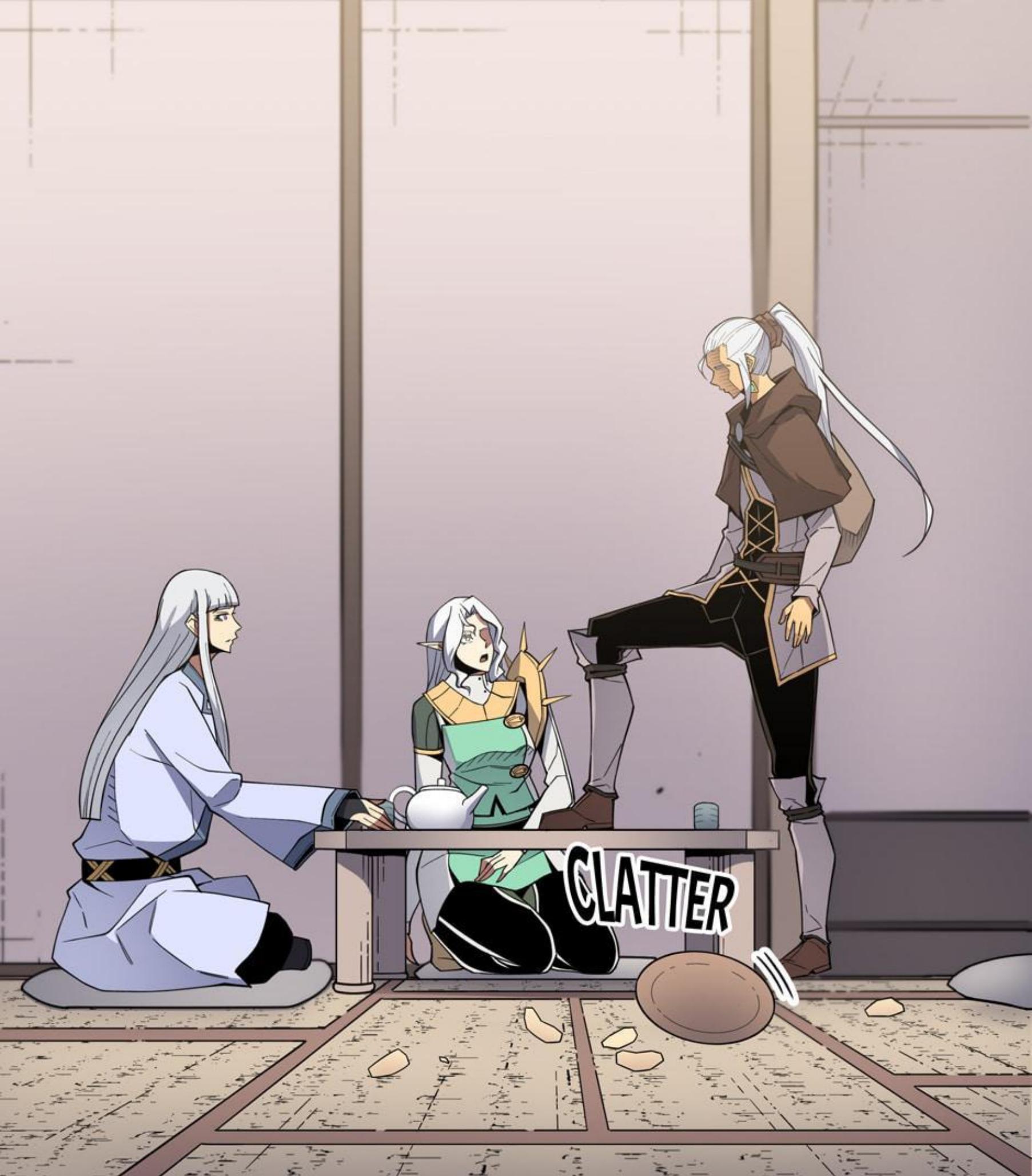


IN ALL
HONESTY, I WAS
JUST AS SURPRISED.
I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH
METHODS WOULD
BE POSSIBLE.

SSK

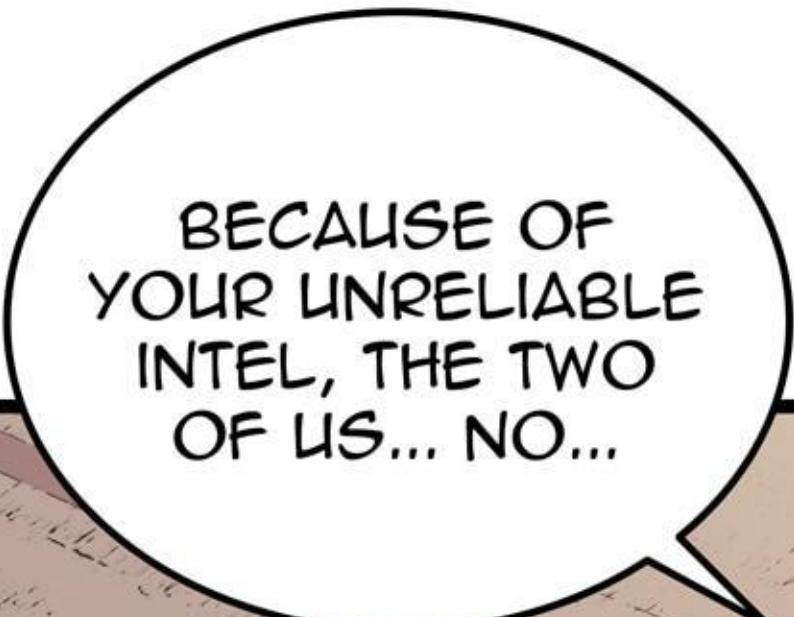
SLAM





F-FREI...?!

THAT'S
NOT THE ISSUE
I HAVE HERE.

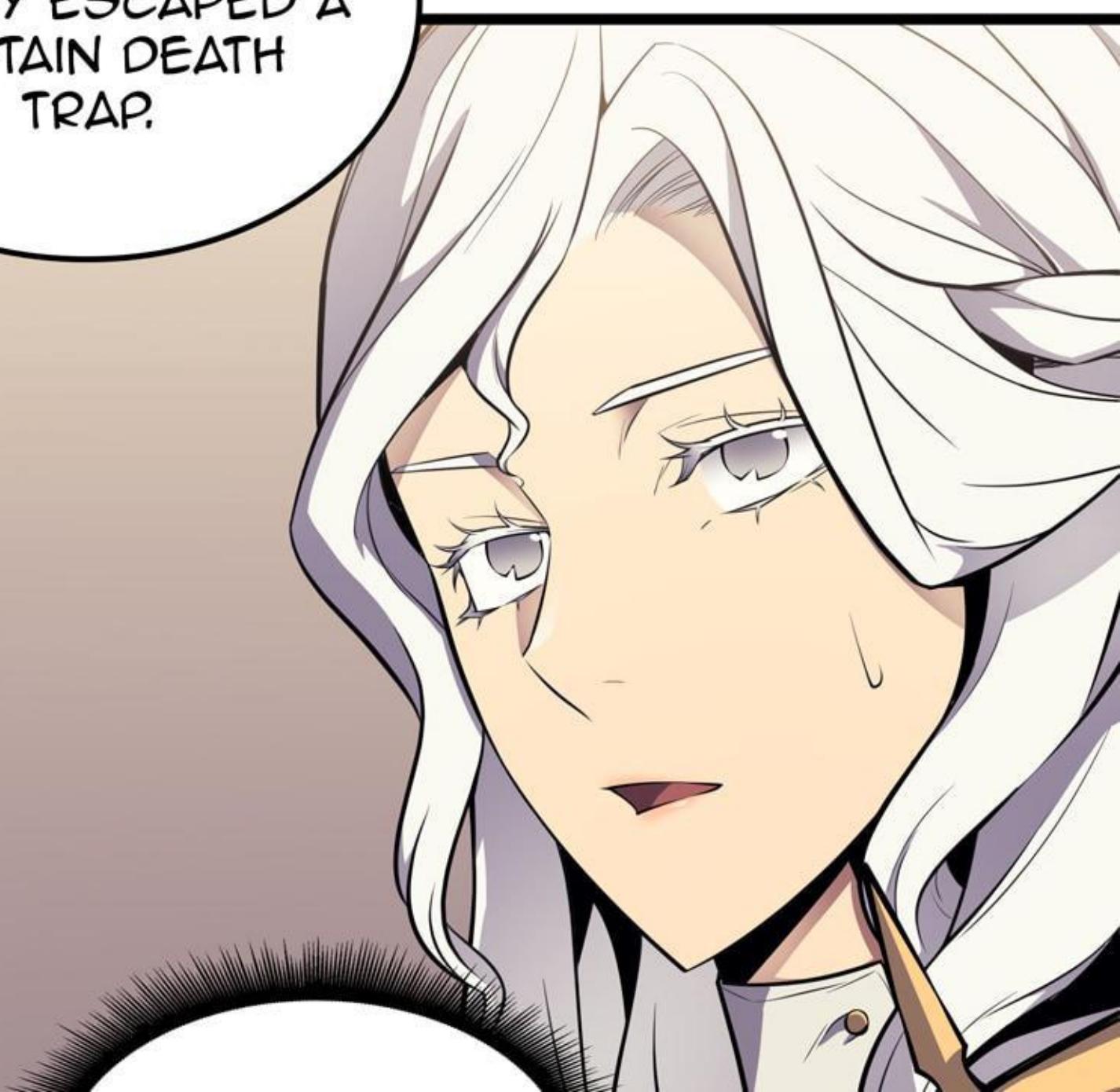


**BECALM OF
YOUR UNRELIABLE
INTEL, THE TWO
OF US... NO...**



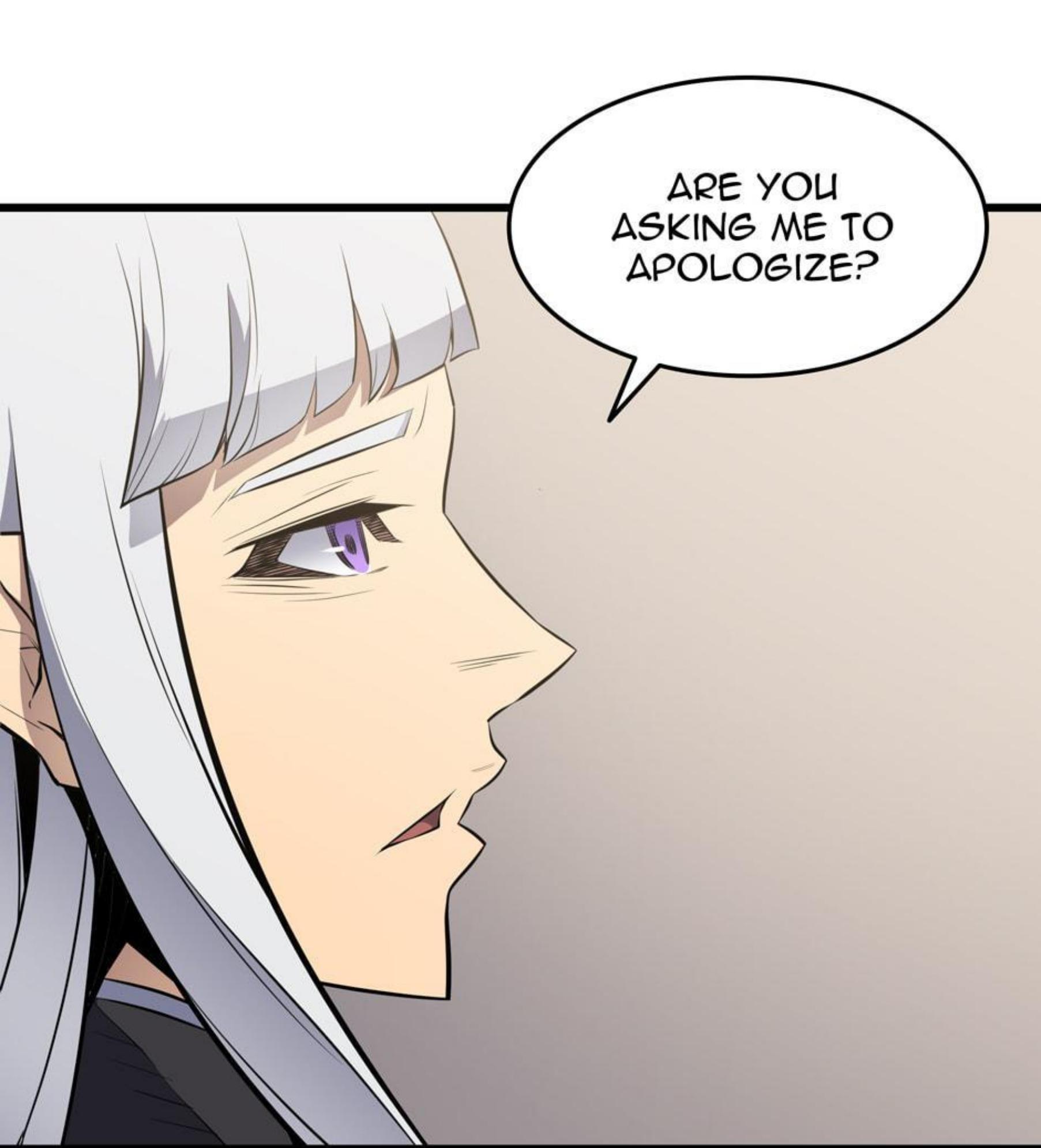


THE THREE OF US
BARELY ESCAPED A
CERTAIN DEATH
TRAP.

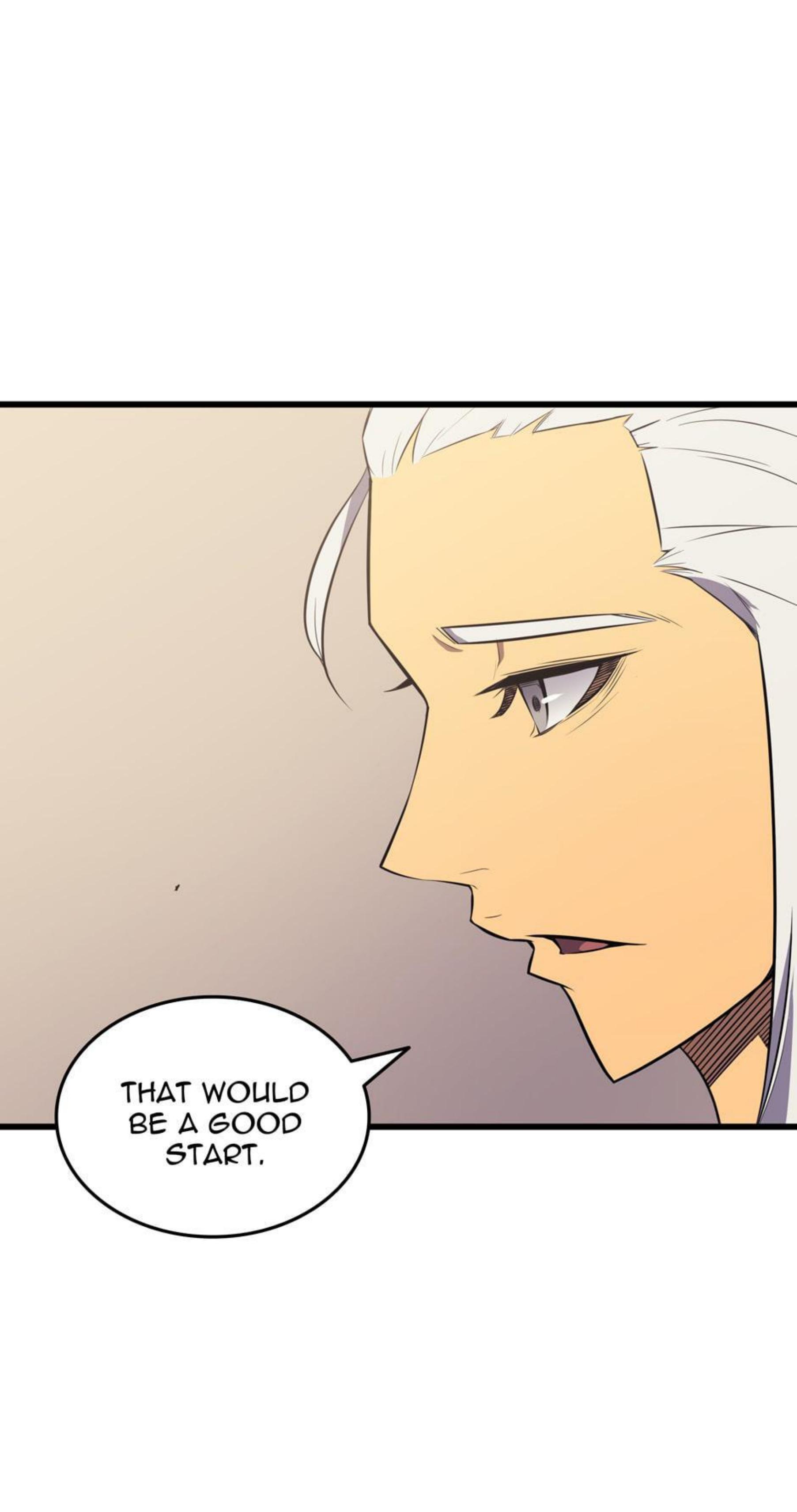




FREI...!

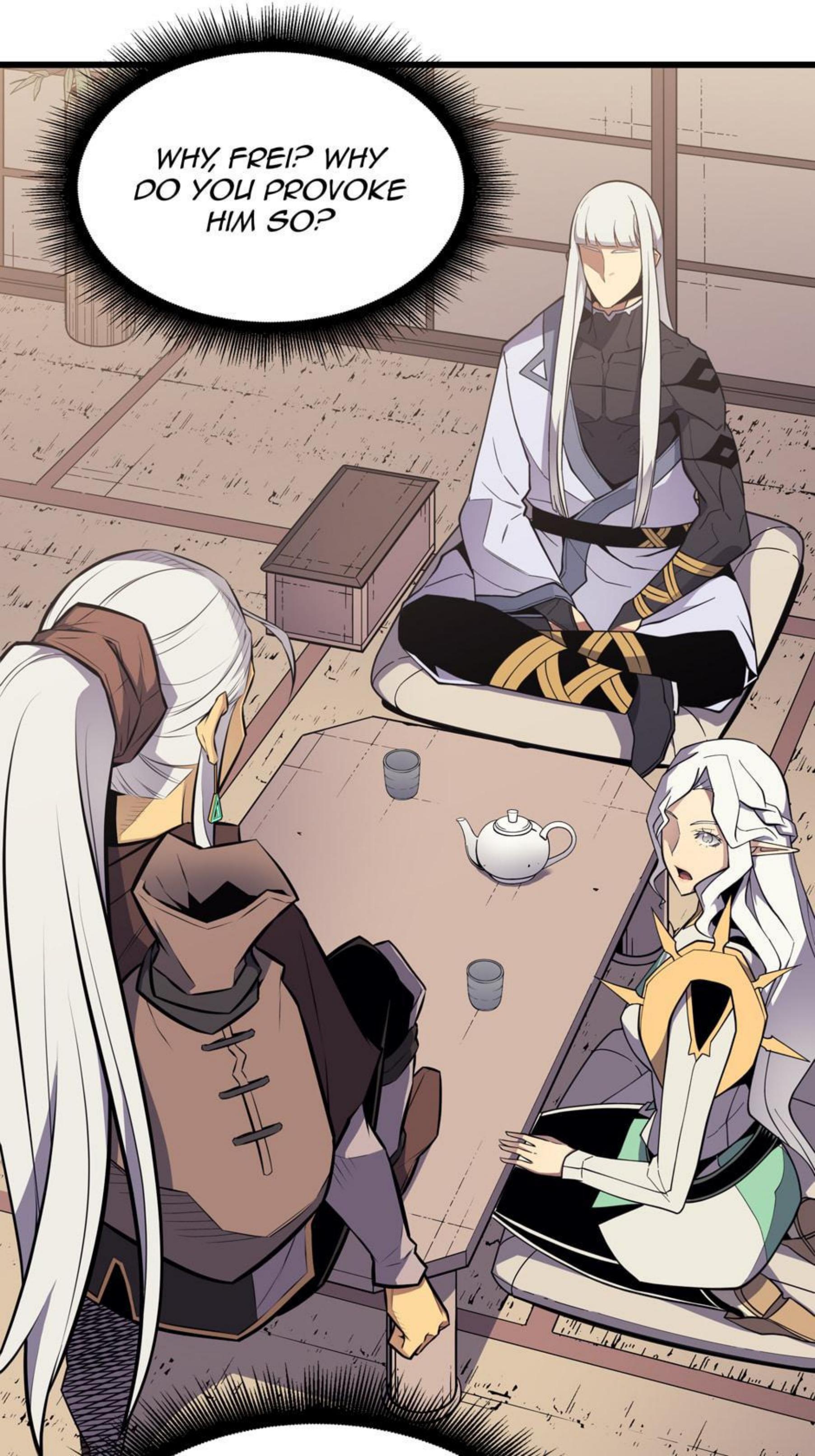


ARE YOU
ASKING ME TO
APOLOGIZE?



THAT WOULD
BE A GOOD
START.

WHY, FREI? WHY
DO YOU PROVOKE
HIM SO?

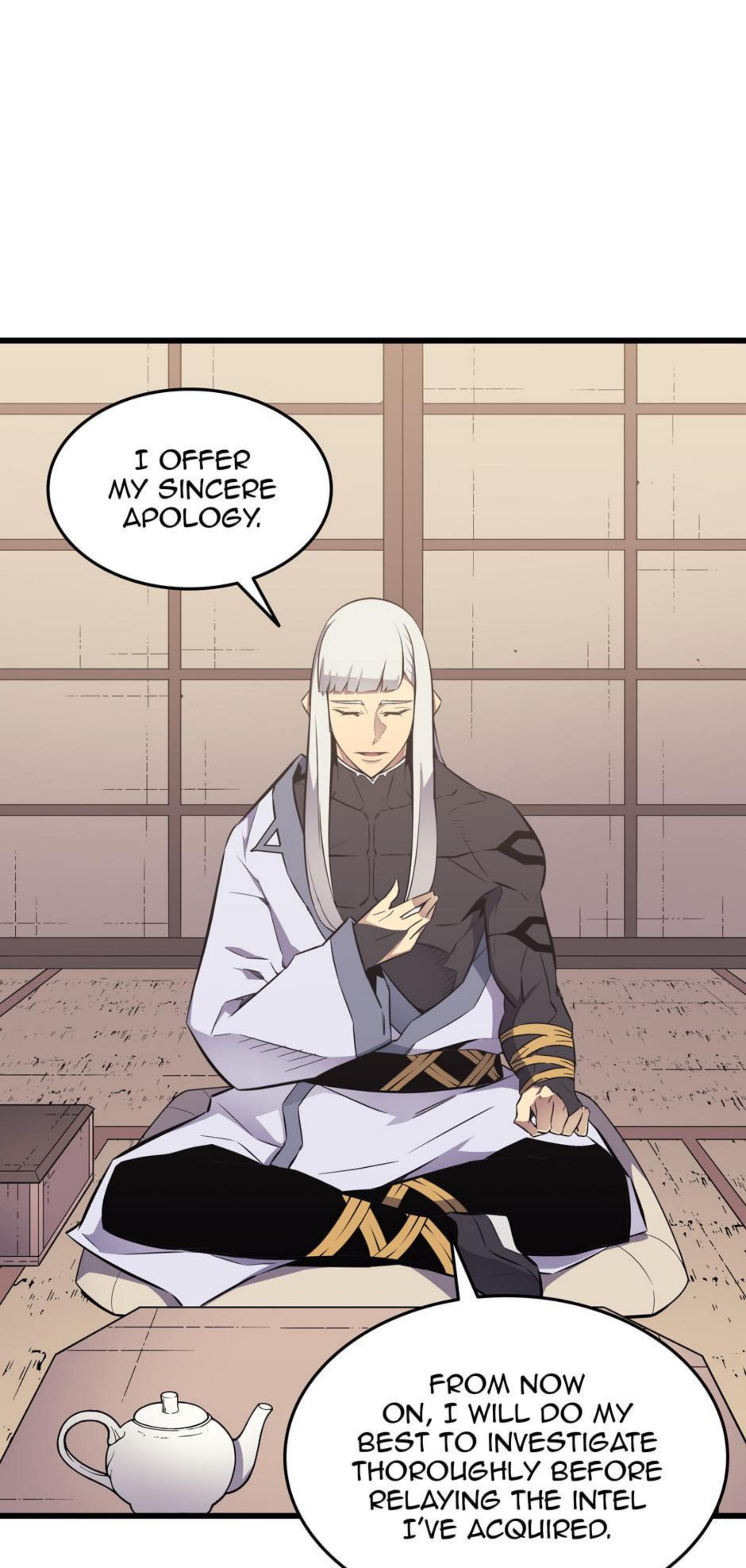


NOT ONLY IS HE A
DEMIGOD, BUT HE IS ONE
OF THE FIVE APOCALYPSE
THAT TOWER OVER
OTHERS!

WITH A SINGLE
FLICK OF HIS FINGER,
HE CAN DESTROY
US ALL!

HEH

I SEE...



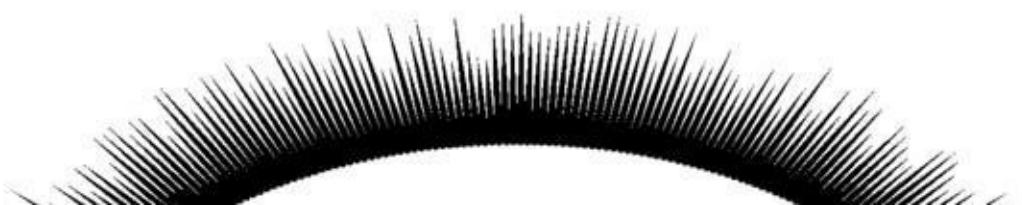
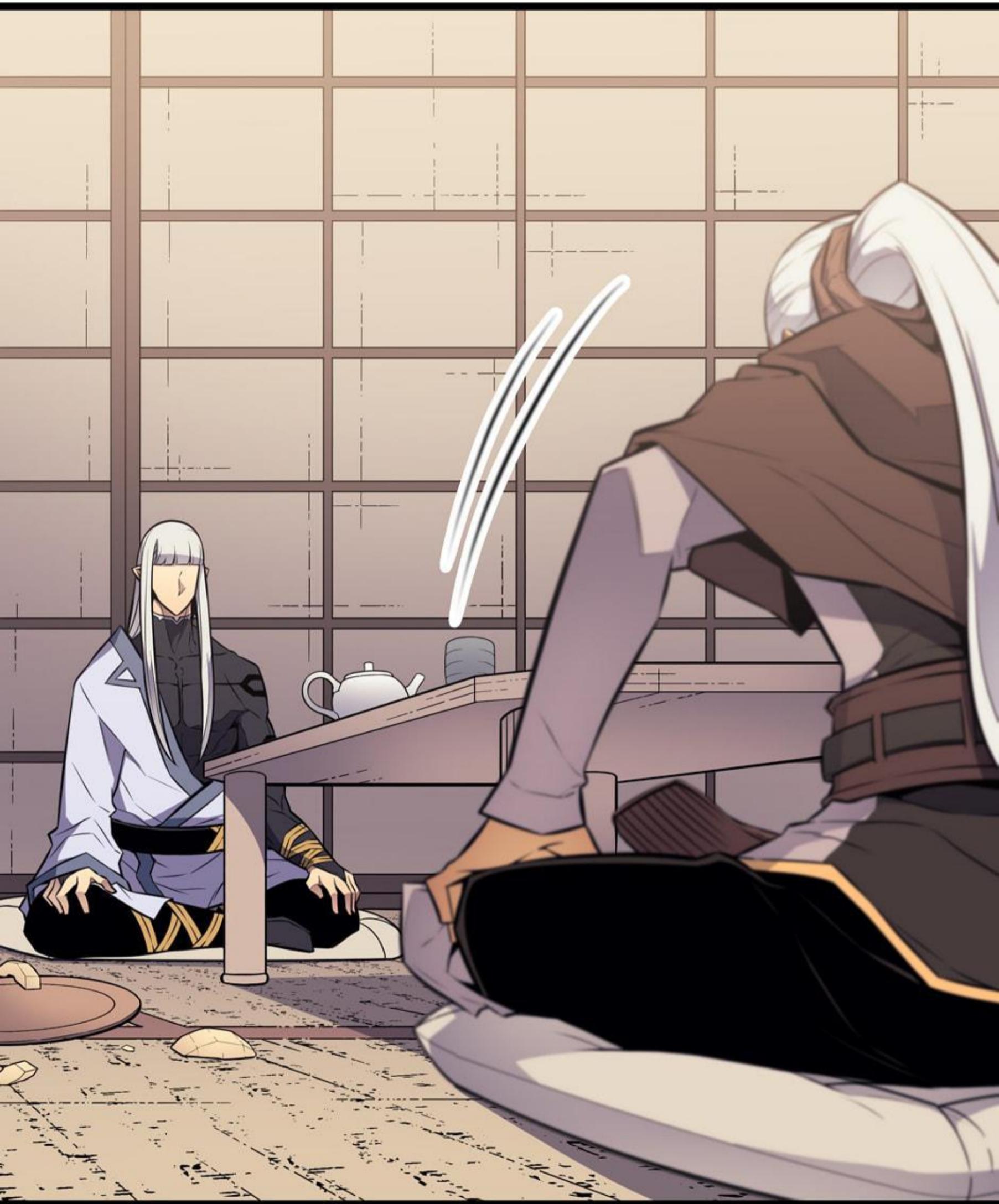
I OFFER
MY SINCERE
APOLOGY.

FROM NOW
ON, I WILL DO MY
BEST TO INVESTIGATE
THOROUGHLY BEFORE
RELAYING THE INTEL
I'VE ACQUIRED.





WELL, SO
LONG AS YOU
UNDERSTAND.



COULD IT BE...
THIS WAS WHAT HE
WANTED TO CHECK
WITH RICKY?





FREI...

SIP

YOU DID THIS ON
PURPOSE TO CHECK
WHETHER OR NOT RICKY
WAS A TRAITOR TO
THE DEMIGODS.

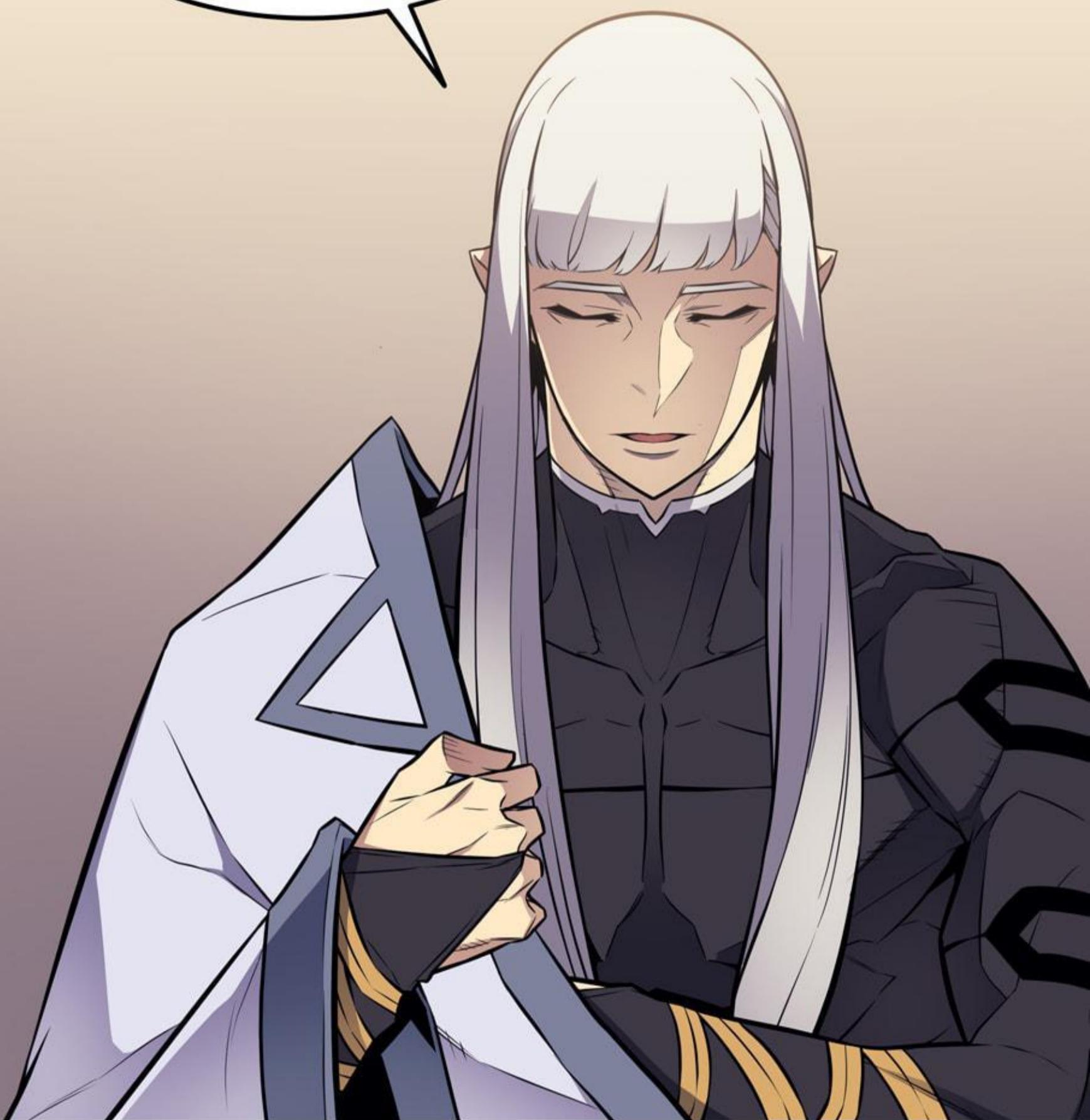


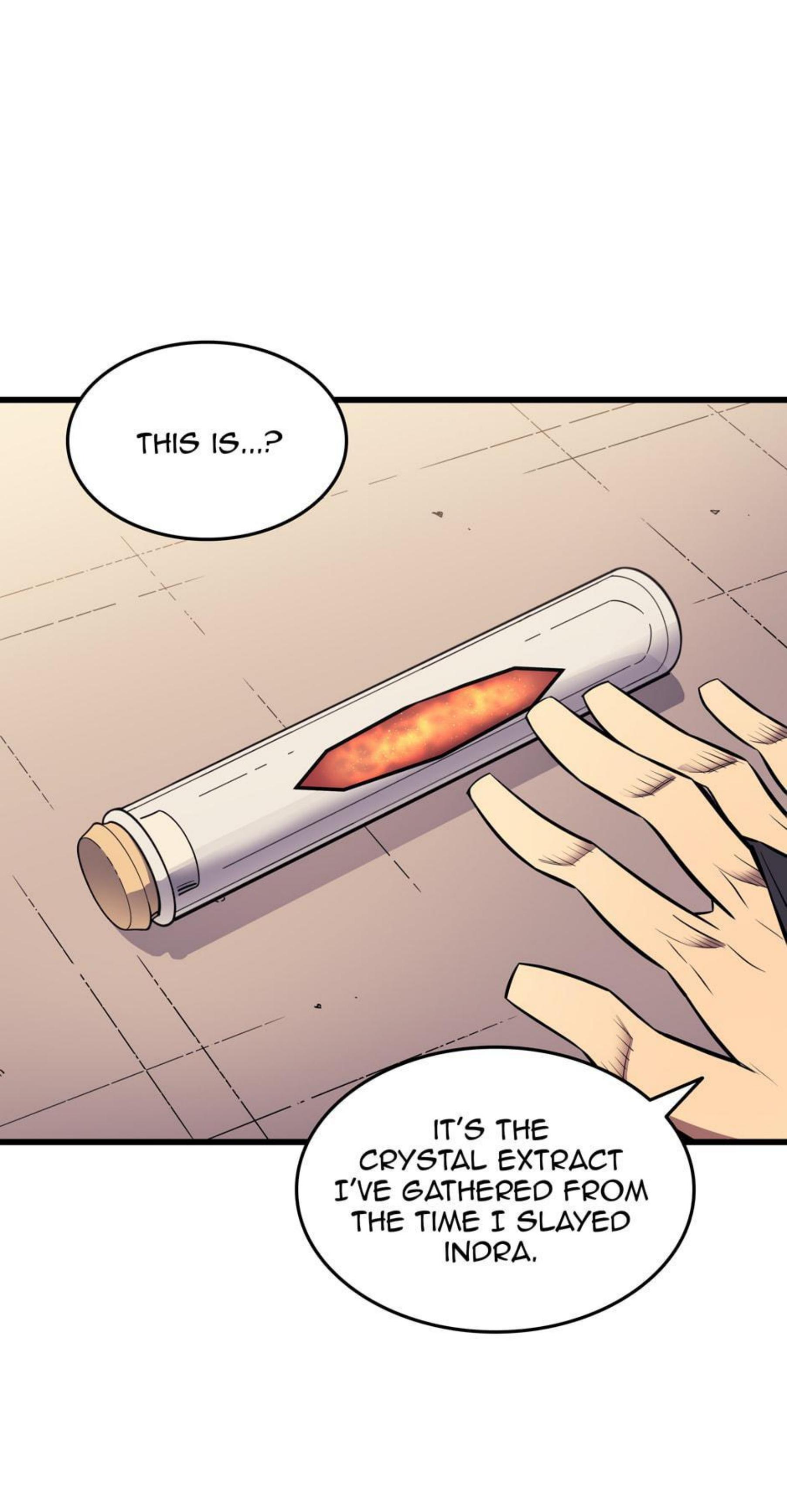
HAD HE BEEN
LYING TO US FROM
THE START, HE WOULD
HAVE NO REASON
TO ENDURE SUCH
PROVOCATIONS...



BUT WHAT
WOULD YOU HAVE
DONE IF HE REALLY
TURNED OUT TO BE
OUR ENEMY...?

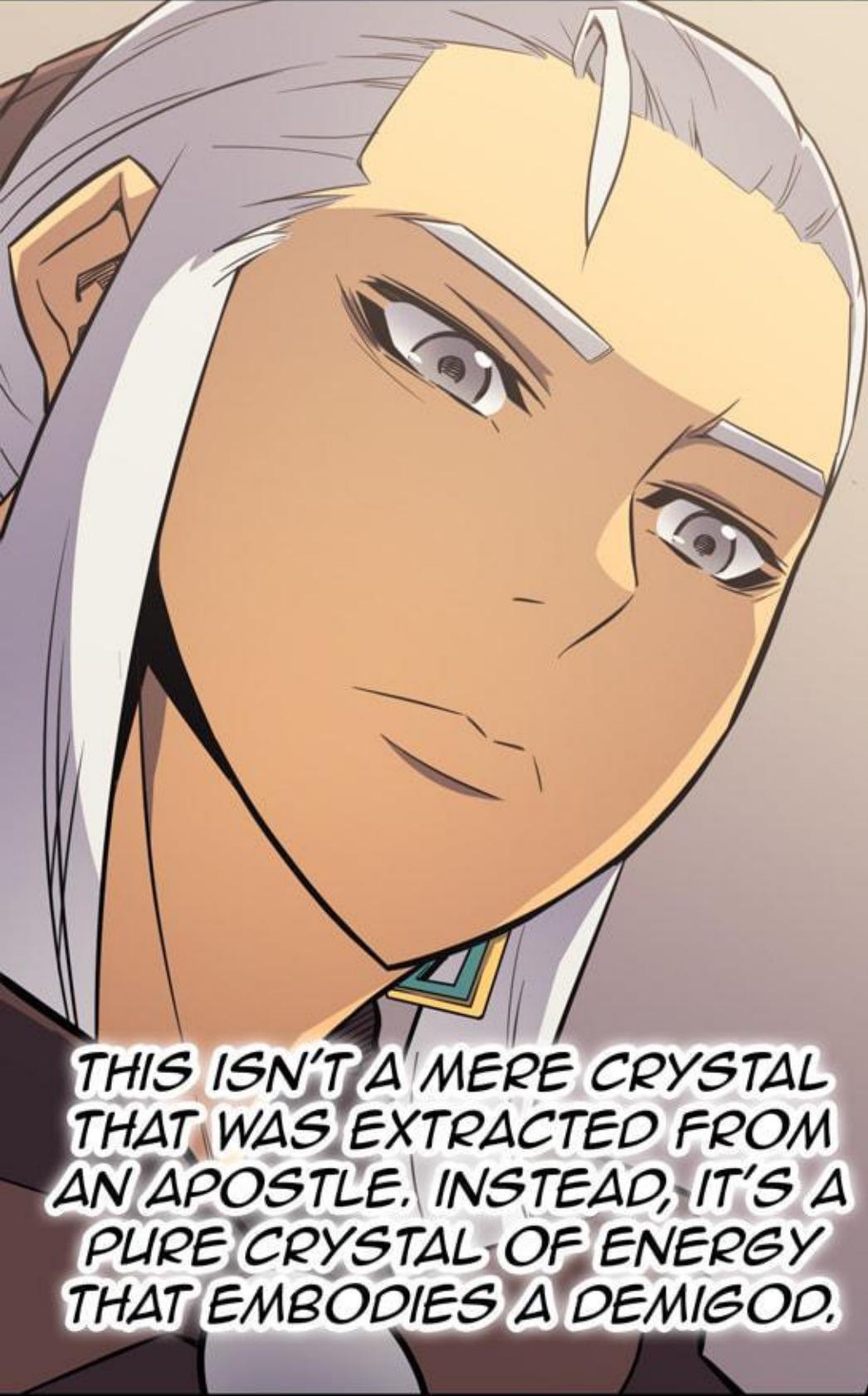
THE REASON I
CALLED YOU HERE
TODAY IS BECAUSE
THERE'S SOMETHING
I WANT TO GIVE
YOU.





THIS IS...?

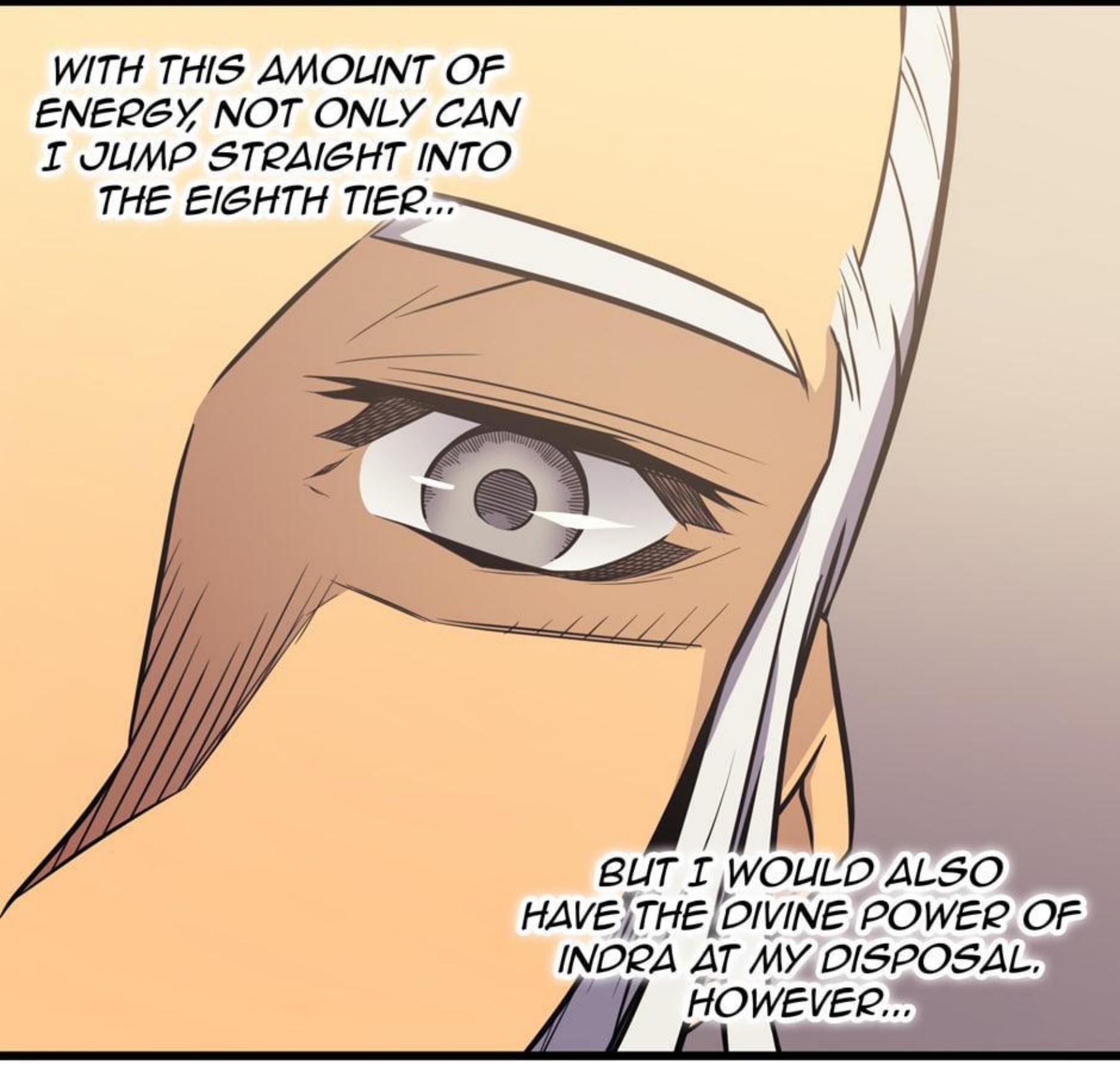
IT'S THE
CRYSTAL EXTRACT
I'VE GATHERED FROM
THE TIME I SLAYED
INDRA.



THIS IS ON
A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT LEVEL
COMPARED TO THE
ESSENCE I HAD
ABSORBED LAST
TIME...

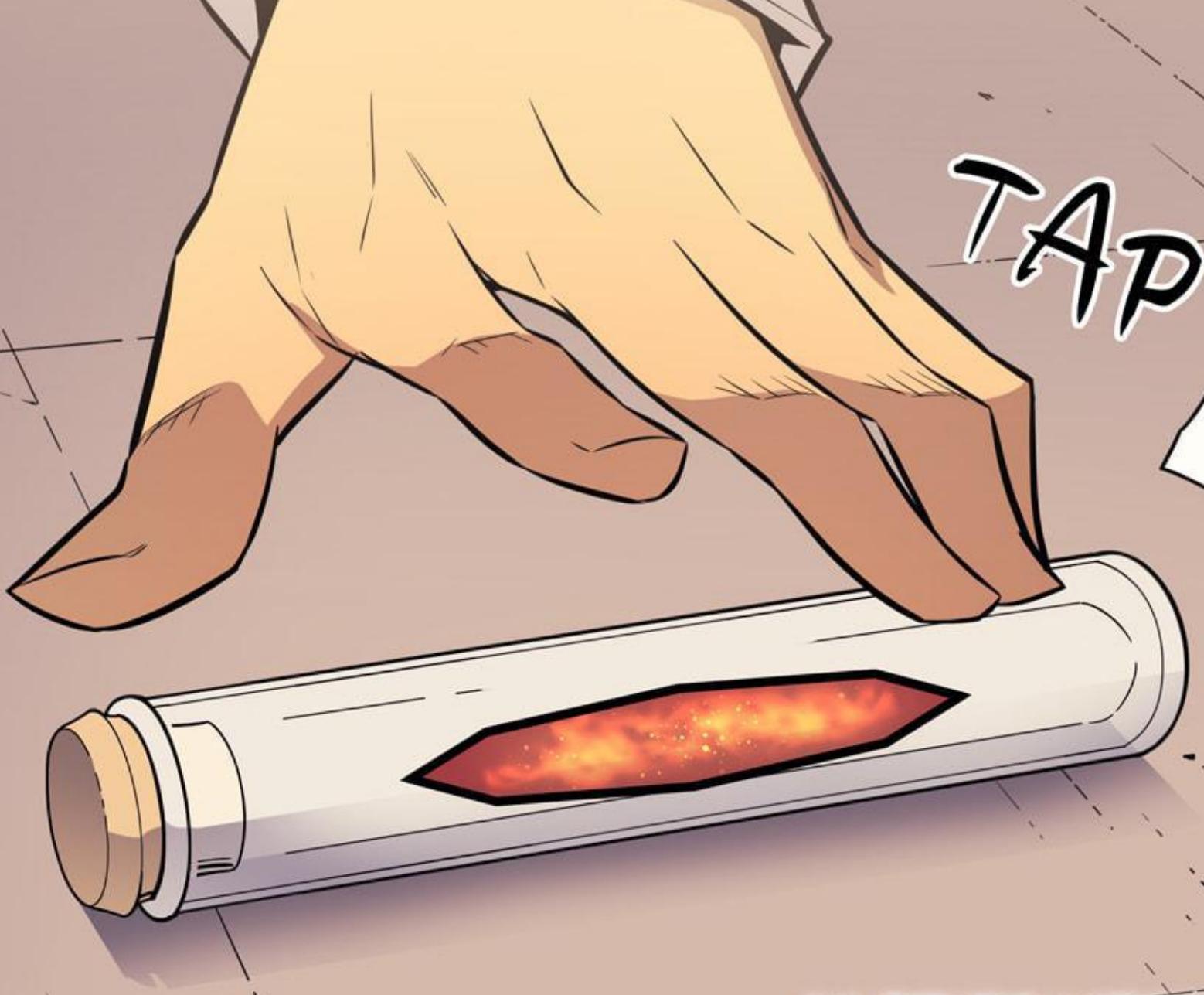
THIS ISN'T A MERE CRYSTAL
THAT WAS EXTRACTED FROM
AN APOSTLE. INSTEAD, IT'S A
PURE CRYSTAL OF ENERGY
THAT EMBODIES A DEMIGOD.

WITH THIS AMOUNT OF ENERGY, NOT ONLY CAN I JUMP STRAIGHT INTO THE EIGHTH TIER...



BUT I WOULD ALSO HAVE THE DIVINE POWER OF INDRA AT MY DISPOSAL. HOWEVER...

THE MOMENT I OBTAINED DIVINE POWERS, I WOULD LOSE MY MANA, AND WITH IT, ESSENTIALLY ALL MY ABILITIES AS A MAGE.



IN OTHER WORDS,
DRINKING THIS
WOULD MEAN...



WHAT ARE YOU
PLAYING AT?



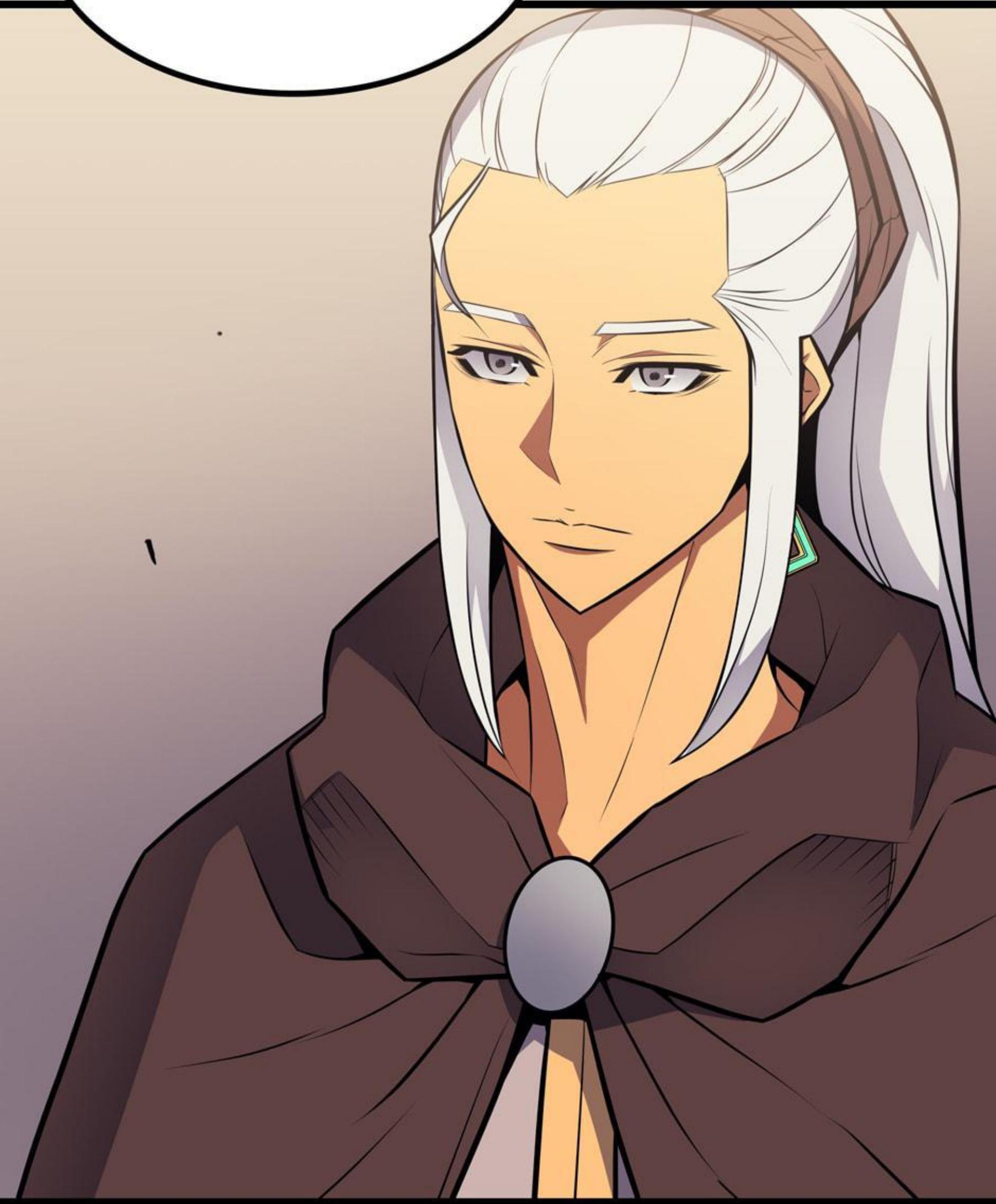
I WANT YOU TO
DRINK THAT AND JOIN
ME IN THE GATHERING OF
DEMIGODS THAT'S TO BE
HELD THREE MONTHS
FROM NOW

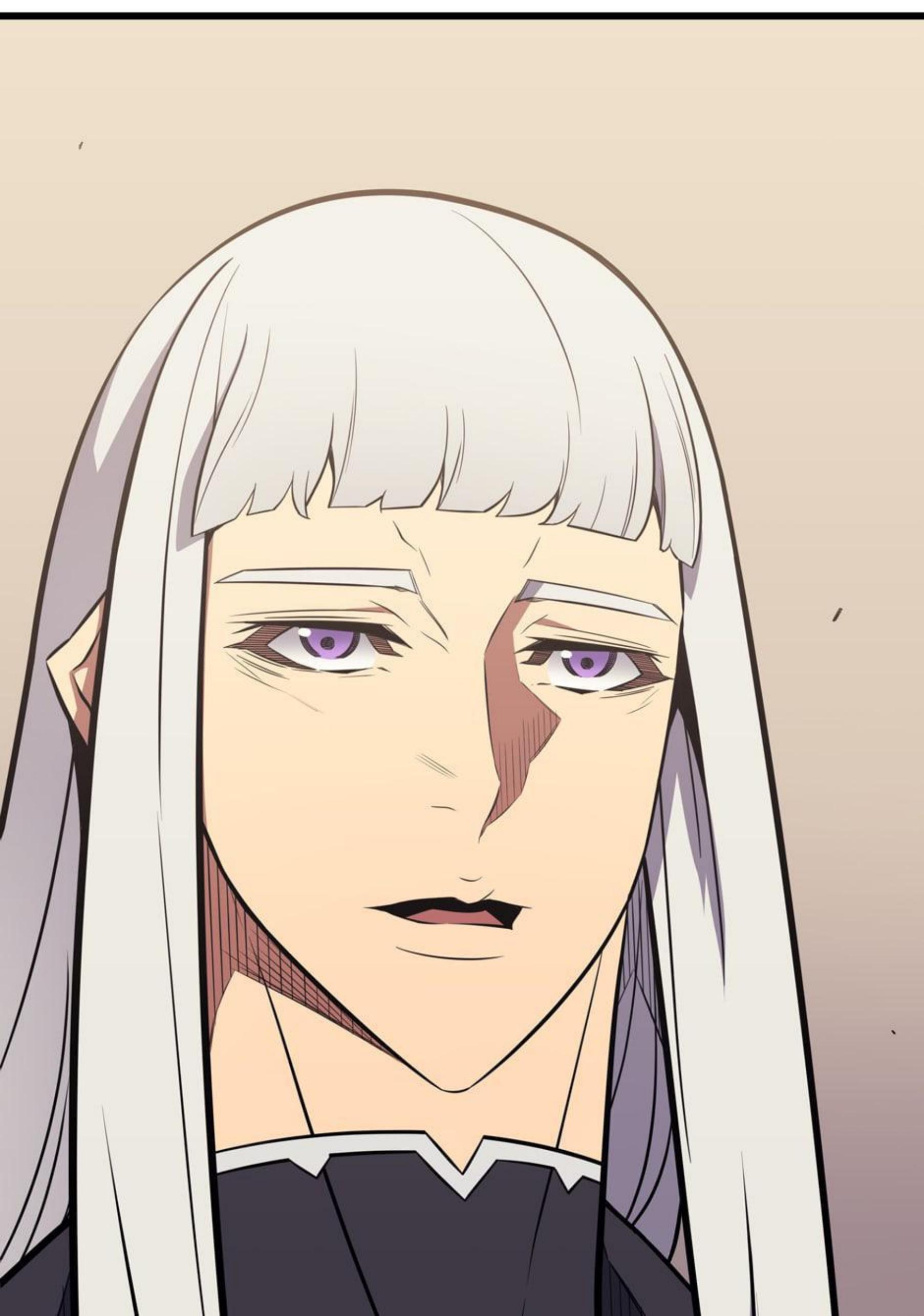


GATHERING OF
DEMIGODS?!

BUT I THOUGHT
THE ONLY PEOPLE
THAT CAN ATTEND SUCH
GATHERING WERE DEMIGODS
AND THEIR RESPECTIVE
APOSTLES.

PRECISELY.







**FREI, BECOME
MY APOSTLE.**