

THE ARCHMAGE RETURNS AFTER 4000 YEARS

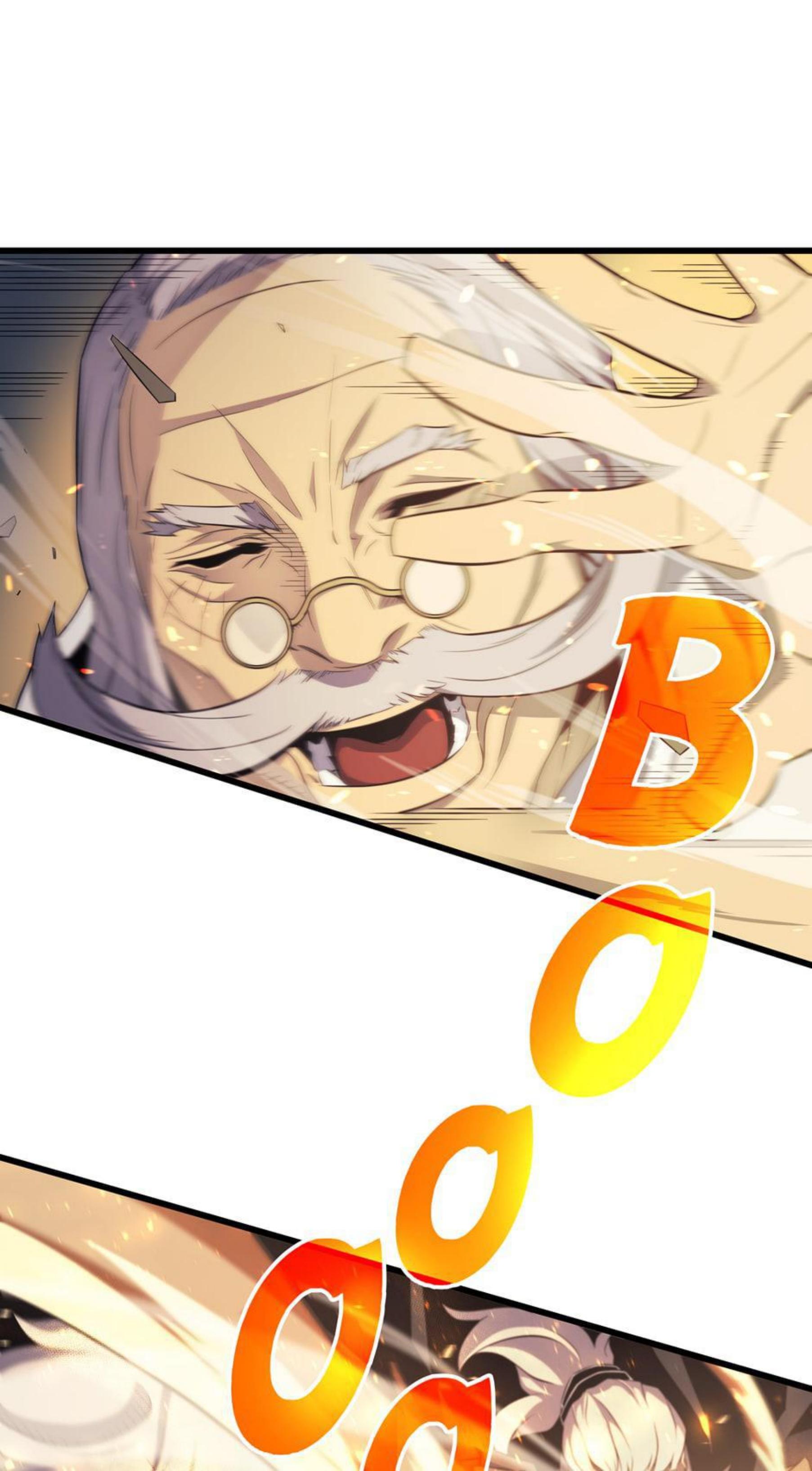
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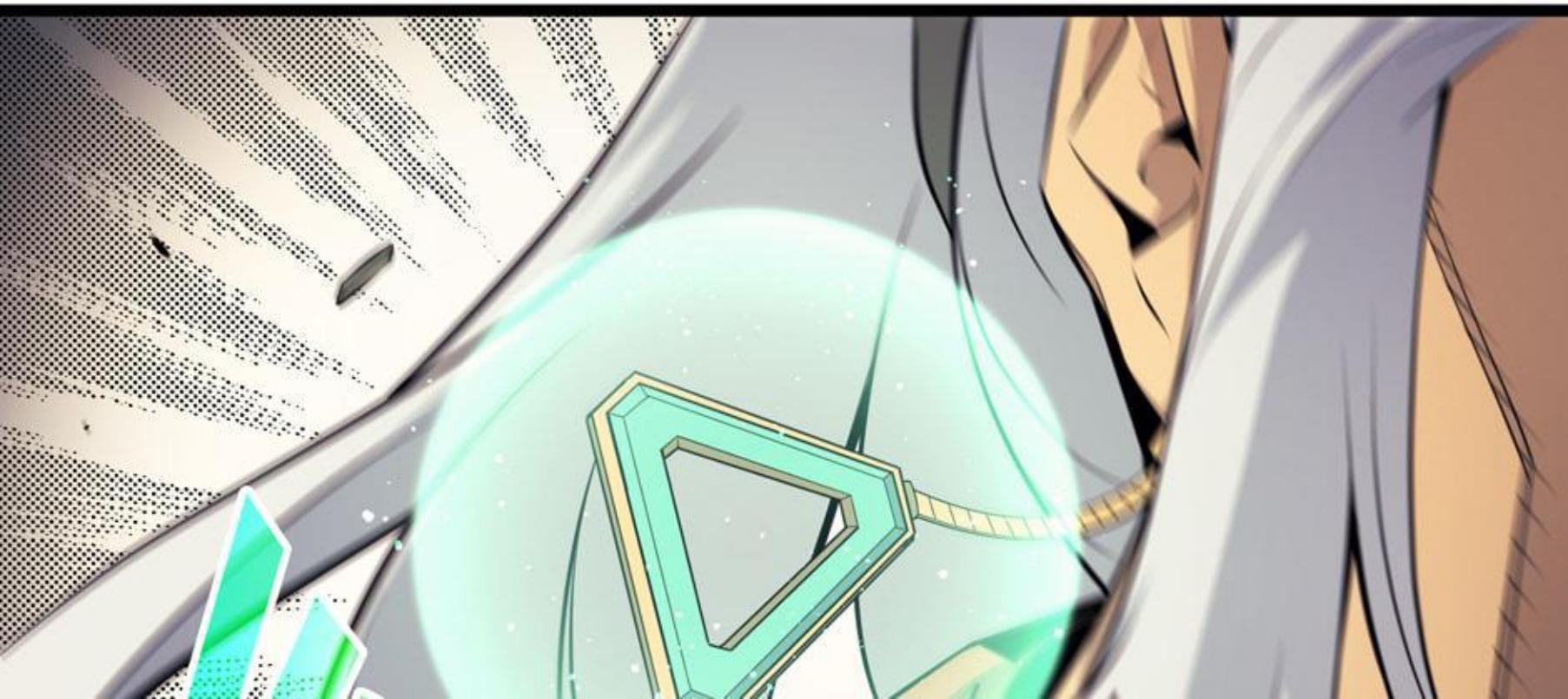




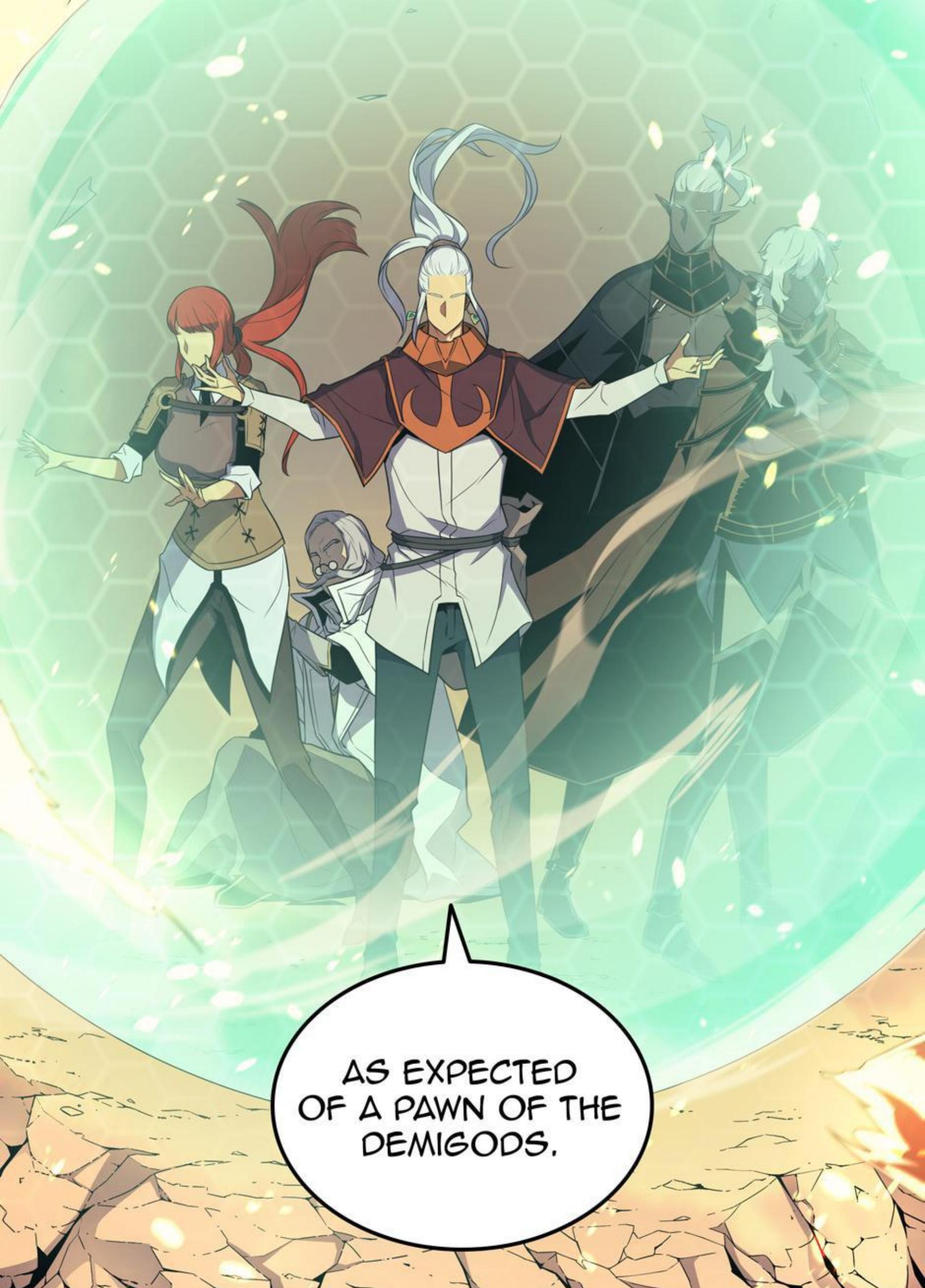
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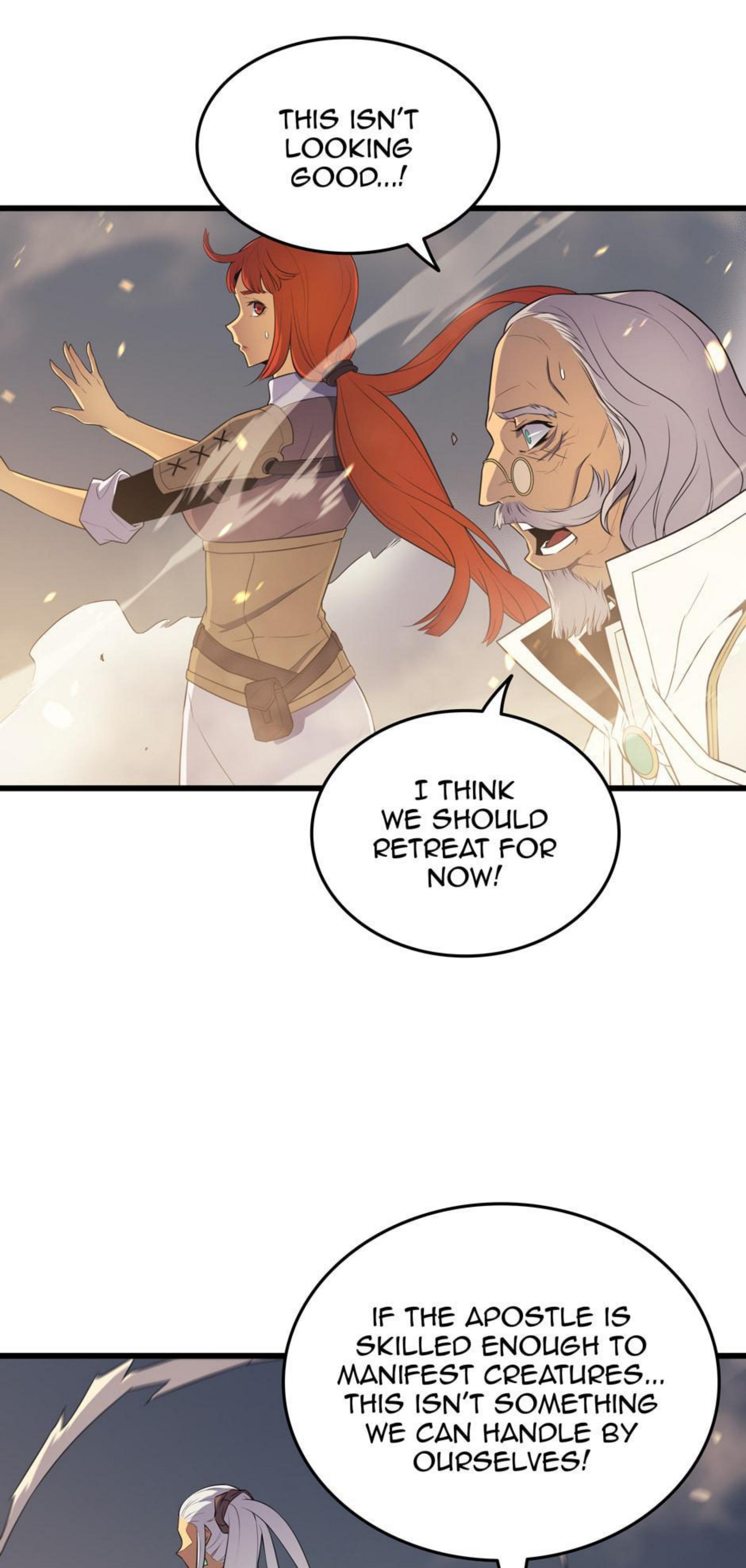
B



HE WAS INFILTED
WITH A POWERFUL CURSE
THAT WAS PRIMED TO EXPLODE
BEFORE HE COULD GIVE UP
ANY IMPORTANT INTEL.



AS EXPECTED
OF A PAWN OF THE
DEMIGODS.



THIS ISN'T
LOOKING
GOOD...!

I THINK
WE SHOULD
RETREAT FOR
NOW!

IF THE APOSTLE IS
SKILLED ENOUGH TO
MANIFEST CREATURES...
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING
WE CAN HANDLE BY
OURSELVES!

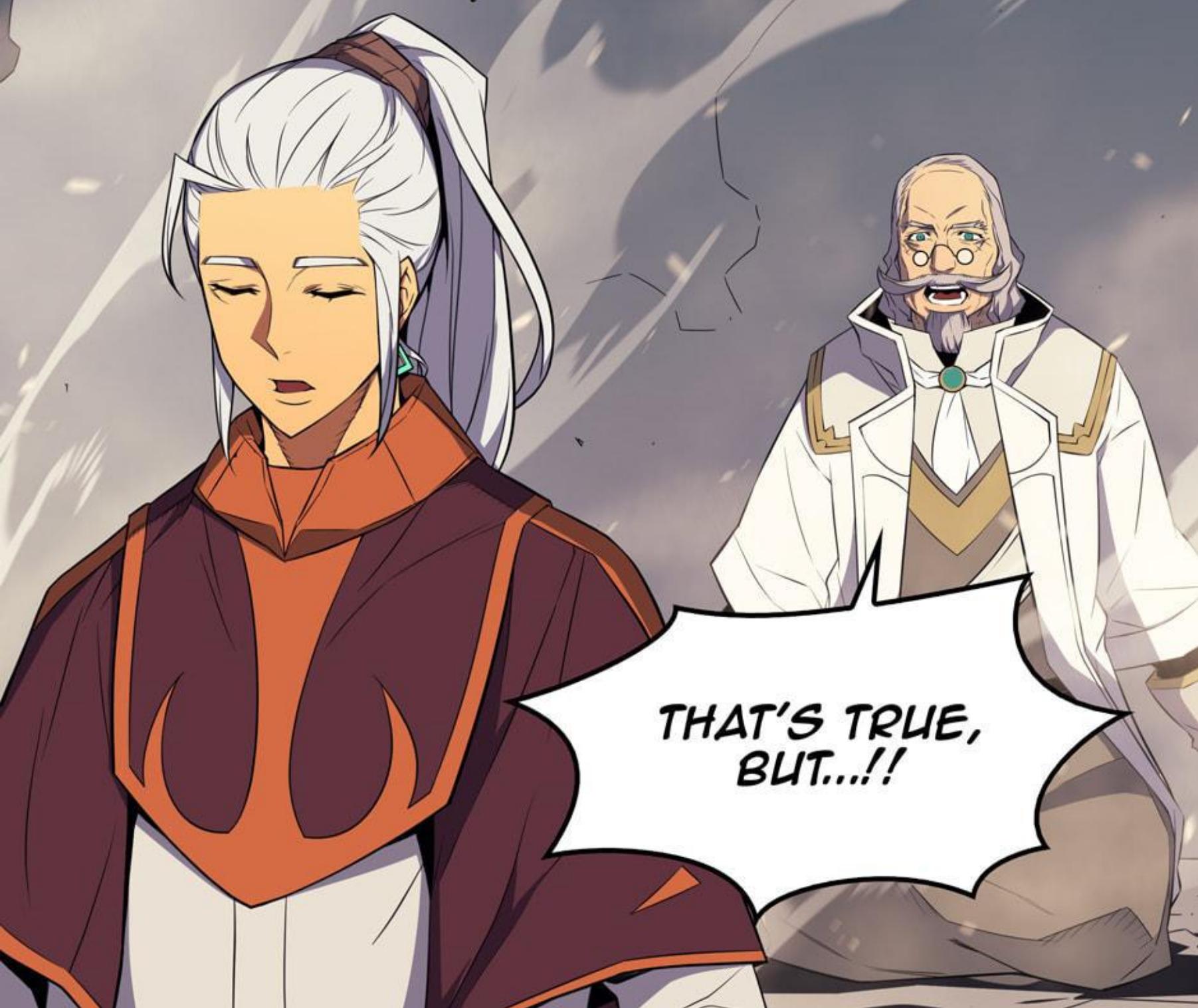


NO, WE MUST
PRESS ON!





THEY'VE ALREADY
BEEN ALERTED TO OUR
PRESENCE HERE. IT'S
NOW OR NEVER.

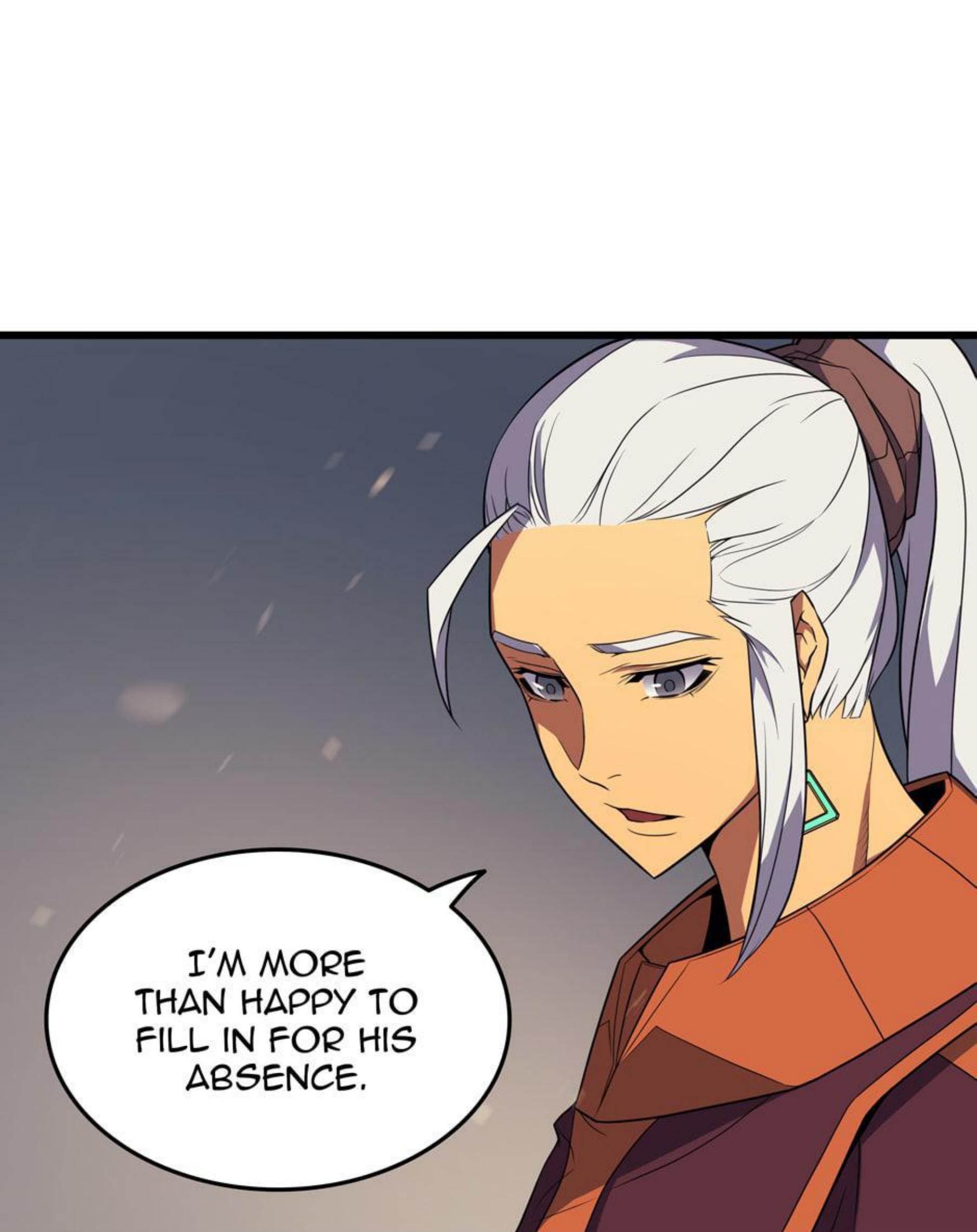




WE SHOULD
WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE
HONOR LUKESS
WITH US!

HE IS A
TIER 7 MAGE.

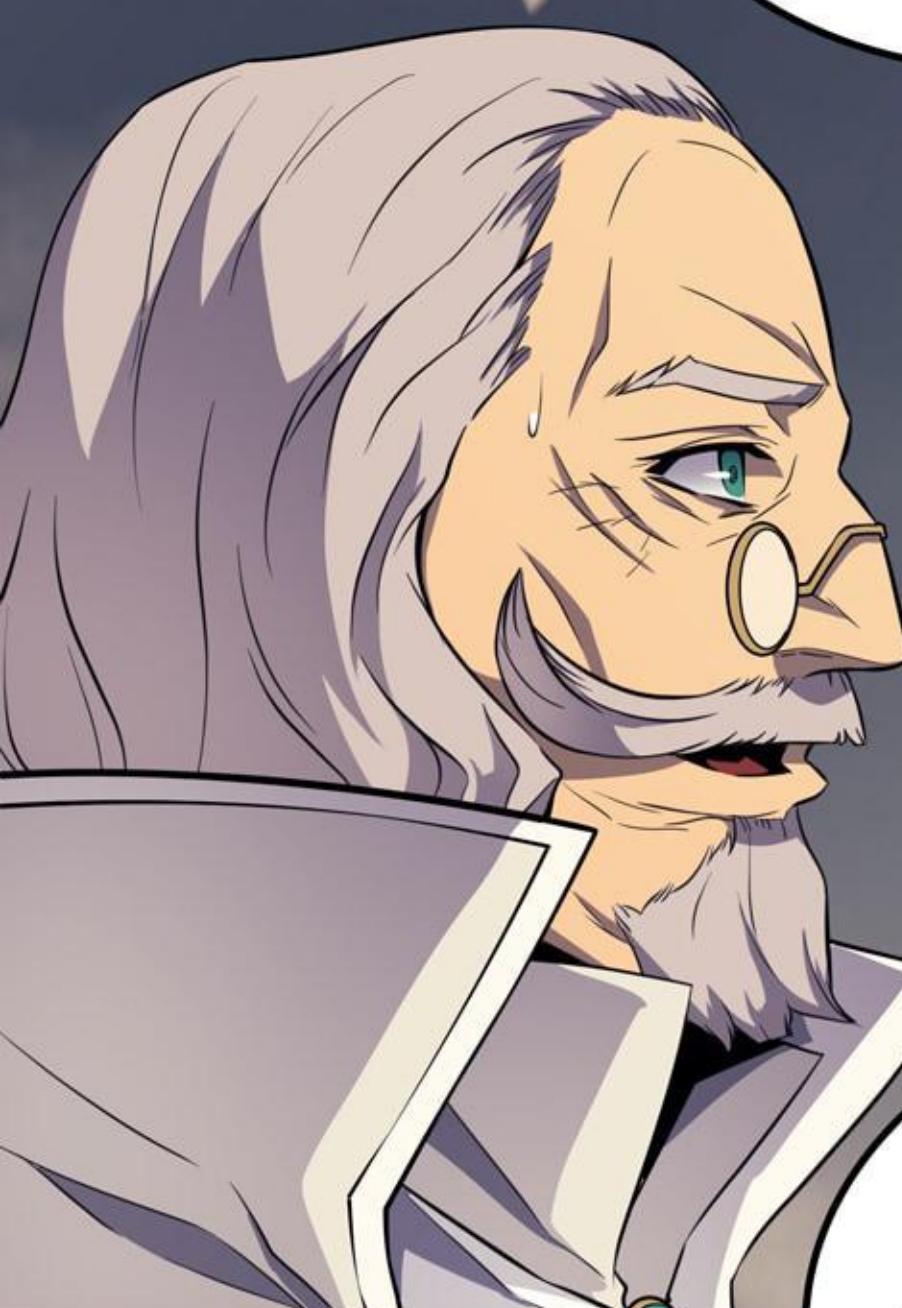
RUSHING INTO THIS
WITHOUT HIS AID WOULD
BE NOTHING MORE THAN
CERTAIN SUICIDE.



I'M MORE
THAN HAPPY TO
FILL IN FOR HIS
ABSENCE.

THIS IS
NO TIME TO
SUCCUMB TO SOME
FLIMSY SENSE OF

PRIDE, YOUNG
MAN!



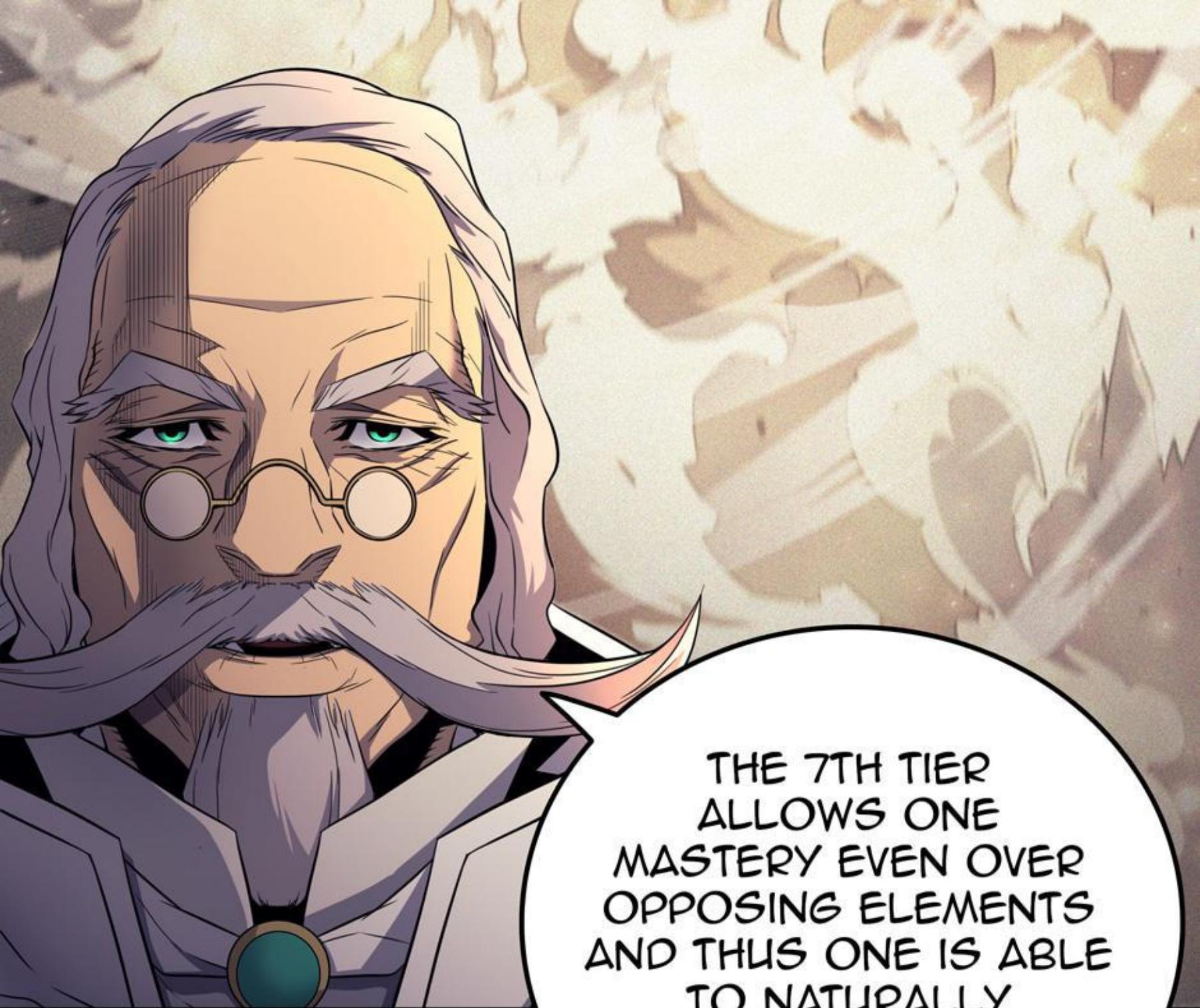
TIER 7 IS A
STATE OF POWER
ACHIEVED THROUGH
FUSION OF HIGH LEVEL
LEARNINGS FROM
ALL ASPECTS OF
MAGECRAFT!

STATE OF
FUSION YOU
SAY?





YOU SHOULD
BE AWARE THAT WHEN
TWO OPPOSING ELEMENTS
CLASH, IT GENERATES AN
ENORMOUS EXPLOSION,
CORRECT?



THE 7TH TIER
ALLOWS ONE
MASTERY EVEN OVER
OPPOSING ELEMENTS
AND THUS ONE IS ABLE
TO NATURALLY
COMBINE THEM
INTO ONE.



I'M NOT
OVEREXAGGERATING
NOR AM I LETTING
PRIDE BEST ME.





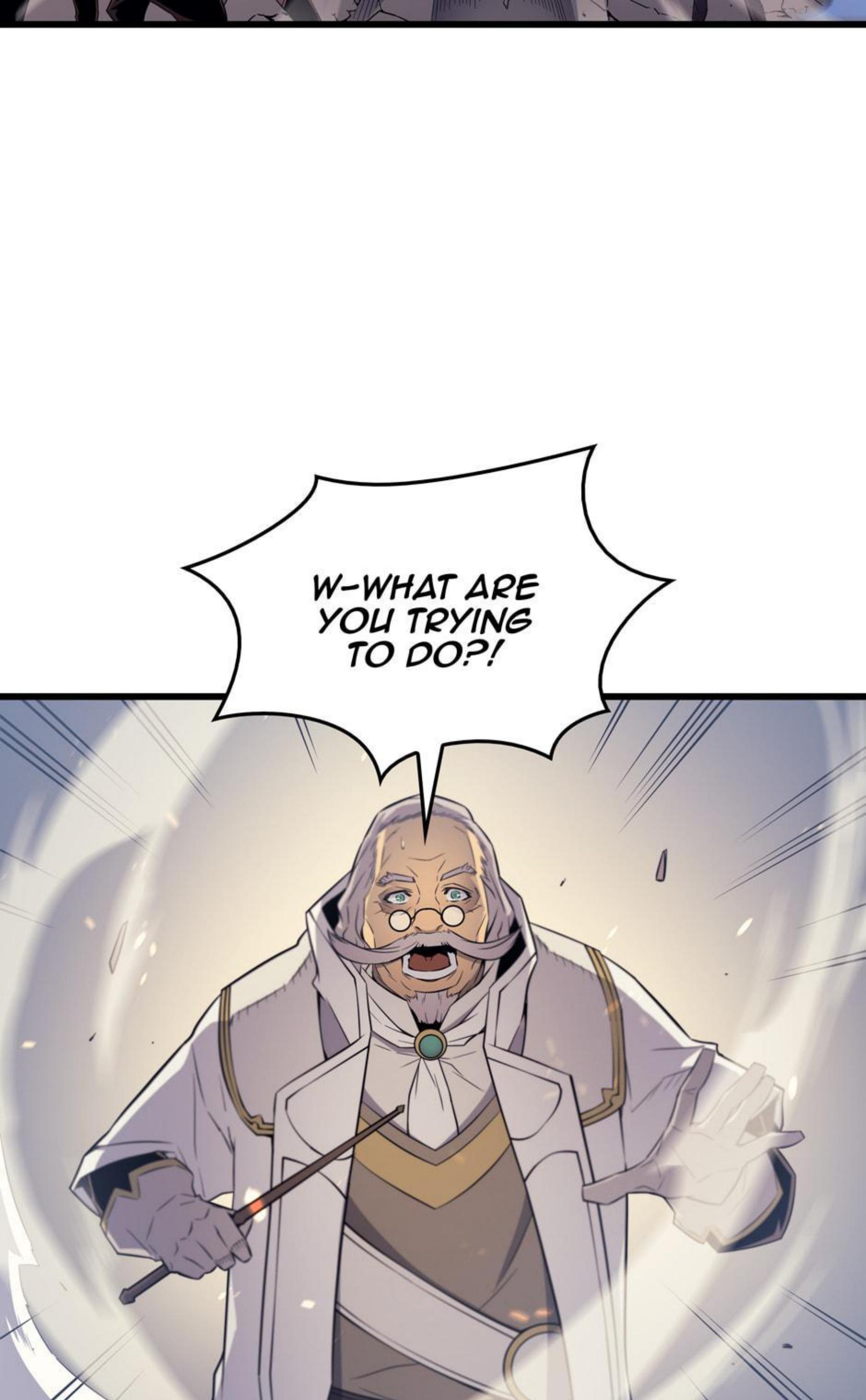
CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE



W-WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO DO?!



YOU FOOL!!



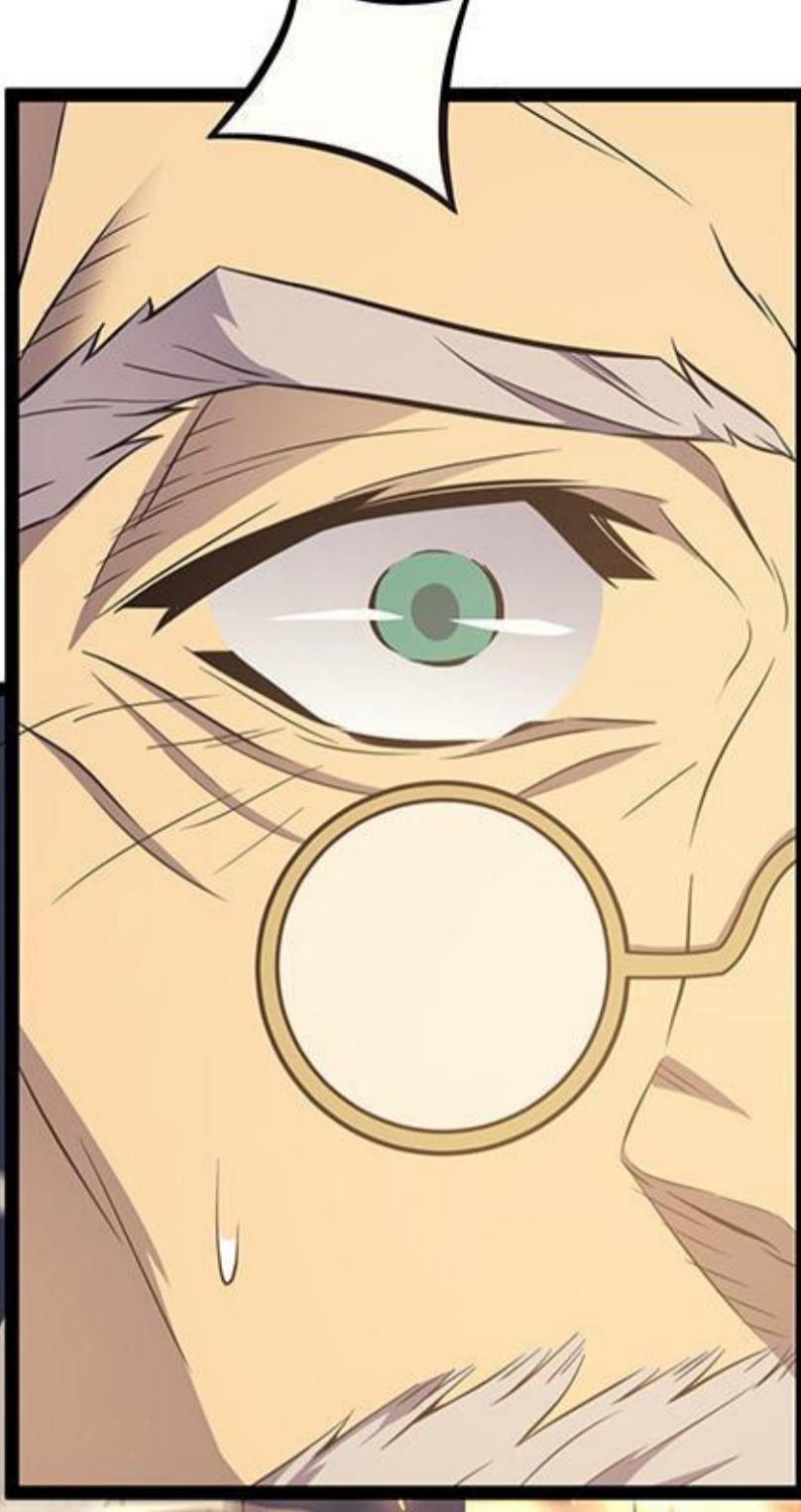
STOP!
YOU'LL KILL
US ALL!!

CRACK

CRUNCH

CRACK

**THAT'S NOT
SOMETHING A
YOUNG ONE CAN
ACHIEVE...!**



S S S
S S S
S H N
N

A large, dynamic panel featuring several stylized letters. The letters are rendered with motion blur and vibrant colors, primarily blue, purple, and red. The letters include 'S', 'S', 'S', 'S', 'S', 'H', 'N', and 'N'. The background is filled with streaks of light and energy, suggesting rapid movement or a powerful attack.

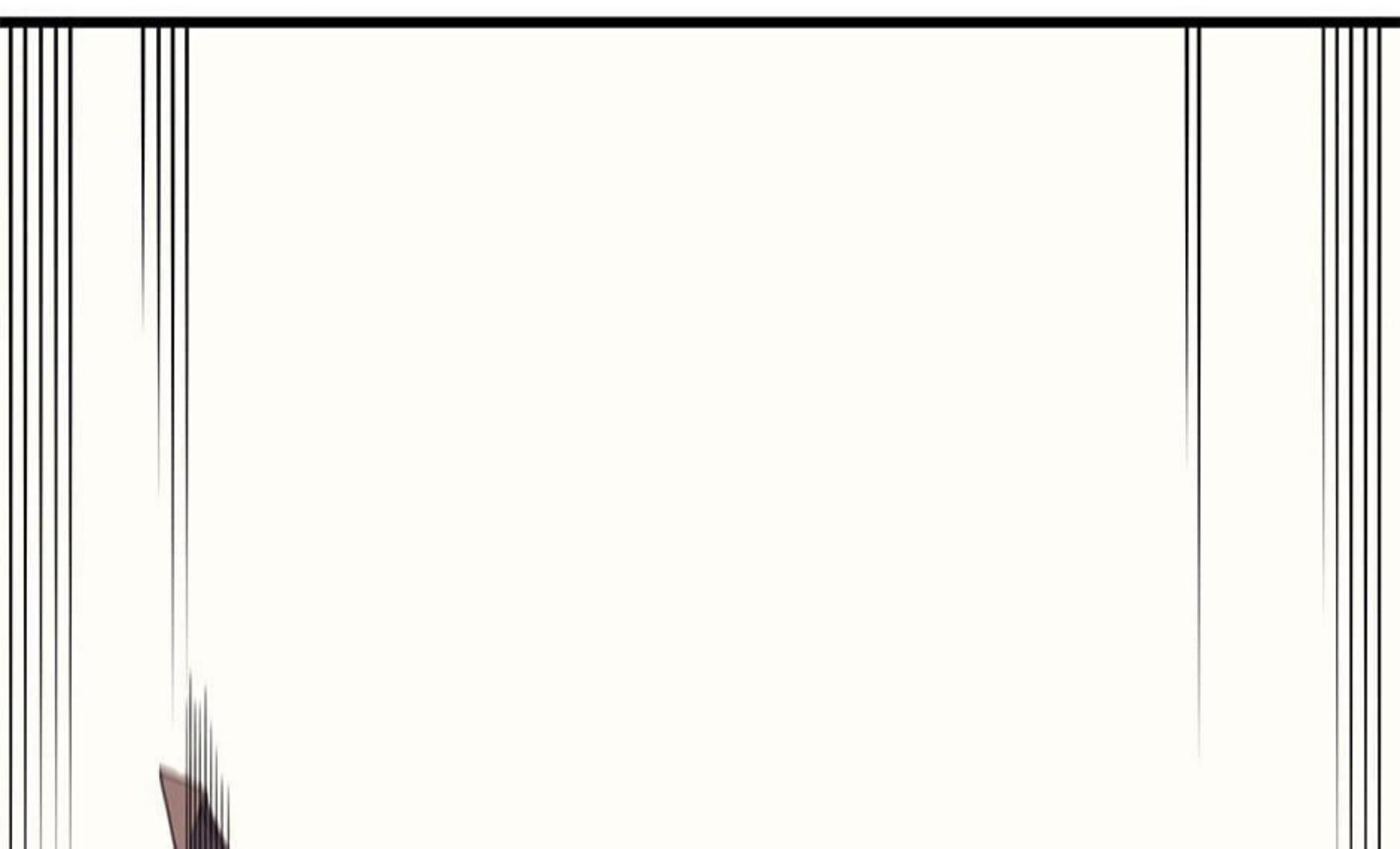
IMPOSSIBLE...!!

G

YOU MANAGED
TO COMBINE SUCH
ENORMOUS ENERGY
INTO ONE...?!

TH-THE WOULD
MEAN YOU REALLY
REACHED THE 7TH
TIER...?!

ALLOW ME...





**TO FIGHT
ON BEHALF OF
HONOR LUKESS.**





FREI, COME
TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS.







THIS ONE
WASN'T BURNT
ALIVE.

IT LOOKS LIKE
HE WAS CHARRED
BY LIGHTNING.



THIS IS
DECISIVE PROOF
THAT THE MASTER
OF THE APOSTLE IS
THE DEMIGOD THAT
WIELDS LIGHTNING...





A MERE HUMAN
WHO IS ABLE TO TAP
INTO THE POWERS
OF A DEMIGOD...

THIS IS QUITE
COMPLICATED.

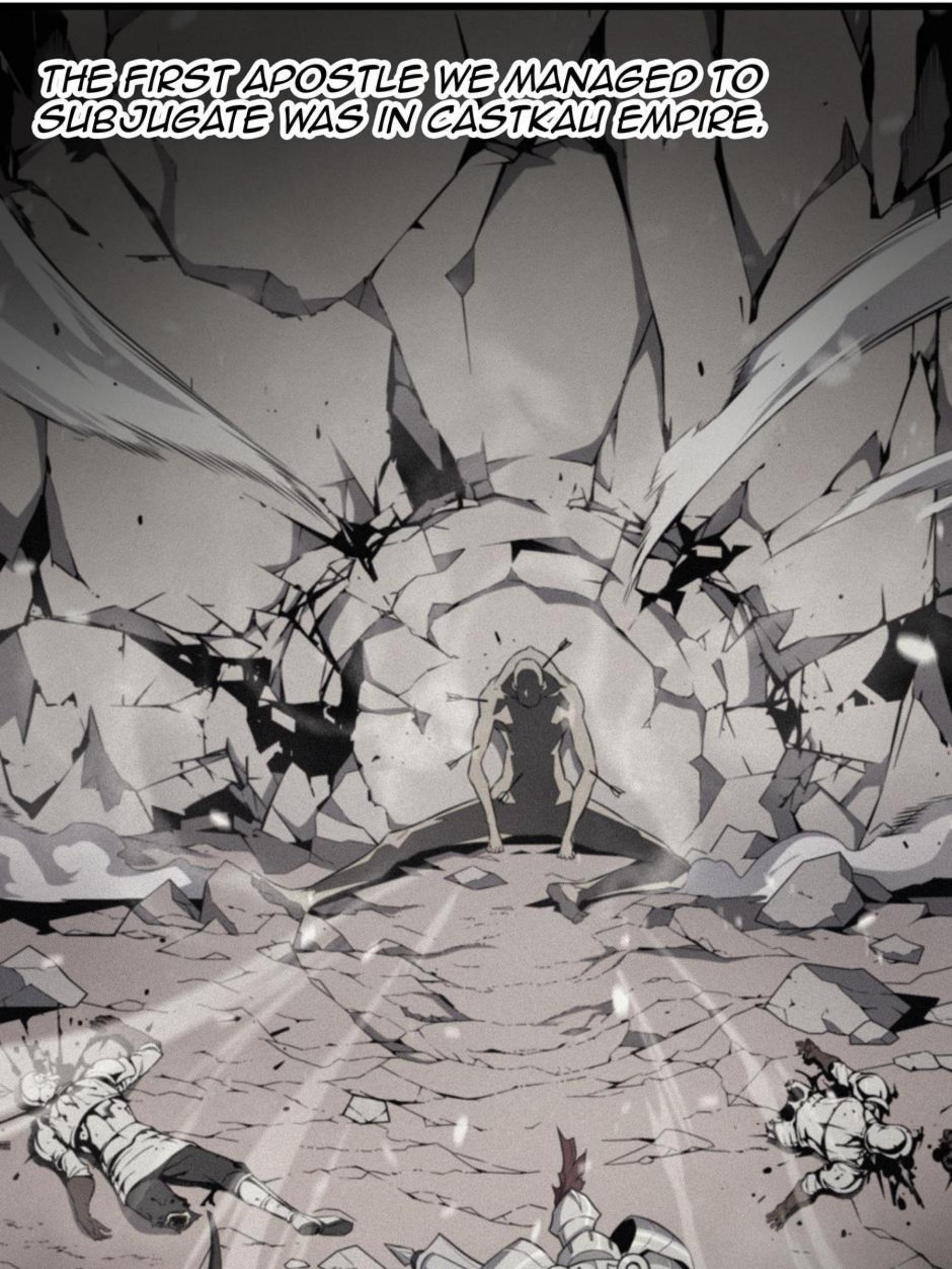
SIGH



THIS MAY
COME AS A SURPRISE,
BUT THE EXISTENCE OF AN
APOSTLE MAY ALSO PROVE
TO BE A BLESSING IN
DISGUISE...

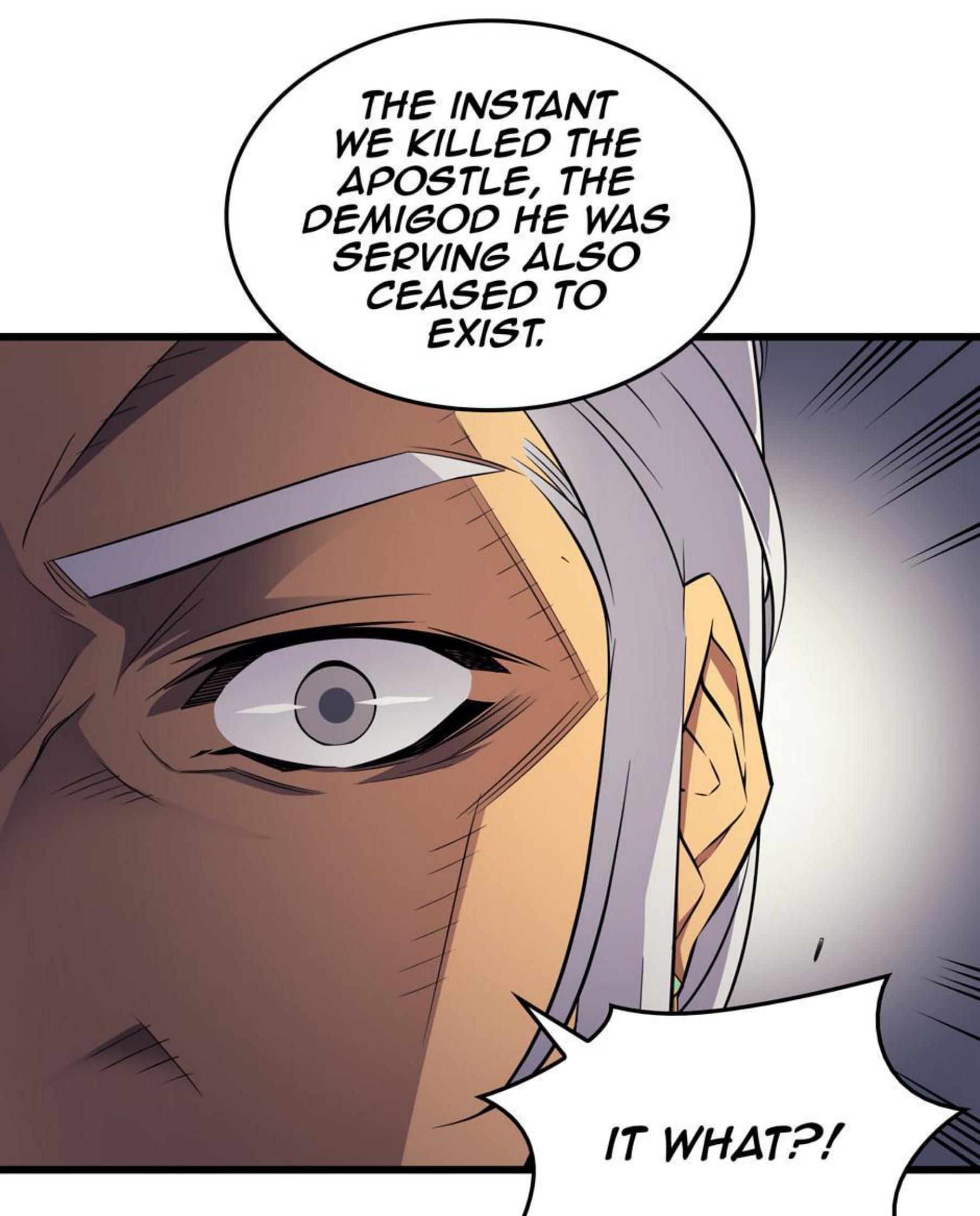
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN BY THAT
LORD MIKEL?

**THE FIRST APOSTLE WE MANAGED TO
SUBJUGATE WAS IN CASTKALI EMPIRE.**





AND BACK THEN, SOMETHING
EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENED
UPON DEFEATING HIM,



THE INSTANT
WE KILLED THE
APOSTLE, THE
DEMIGOD HE WAS
SERVING ALSO
CEASED TO
EXIST.

IT WHAT?!

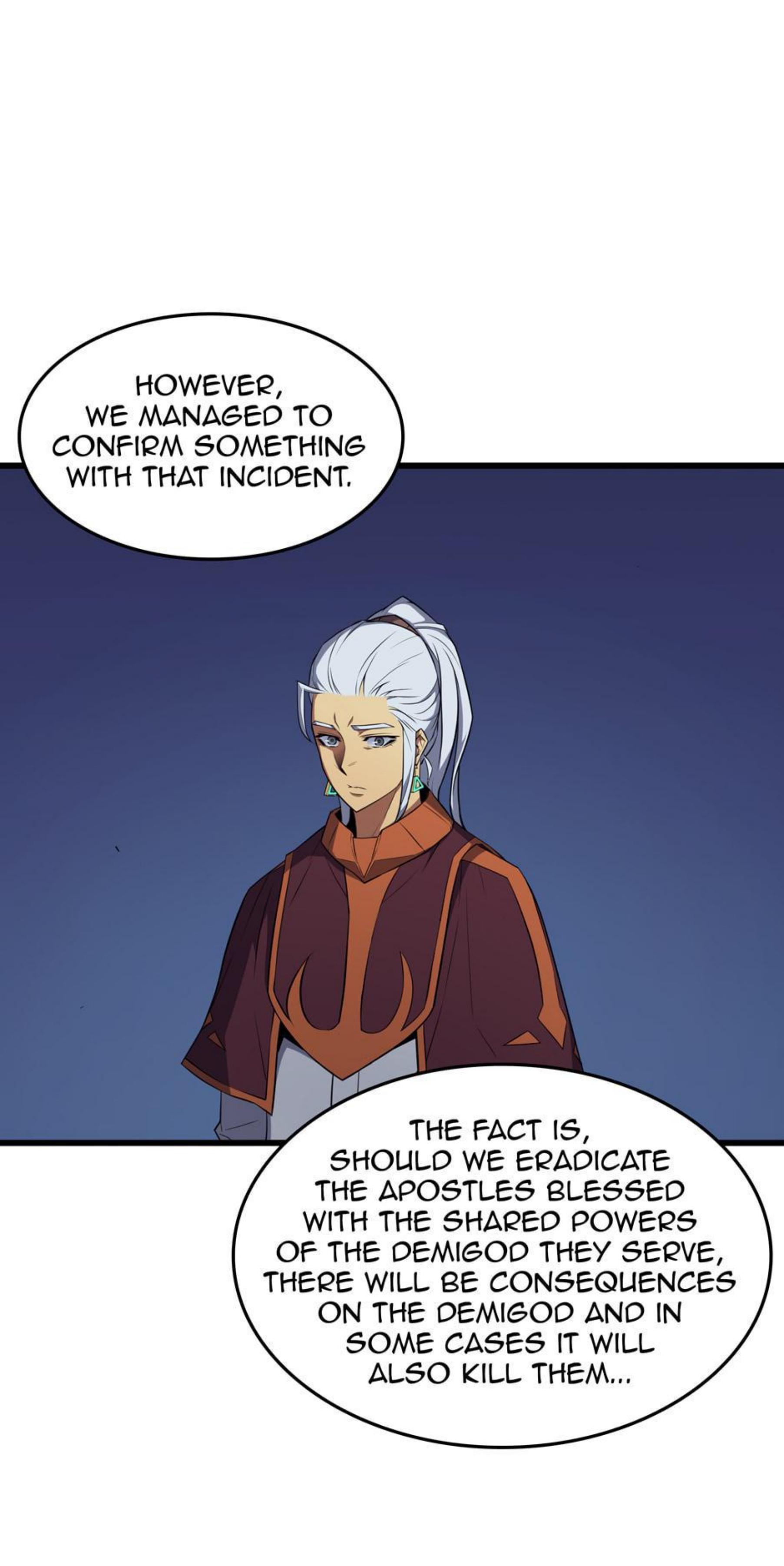


SUCH THINGS
ARE RARE AND IT
DOESN'T ALWAYS
HAPPEN.



WE'VE
YET TO TRULY
COMPREHEND WHY
NOR HOW IT
HAPPENS.

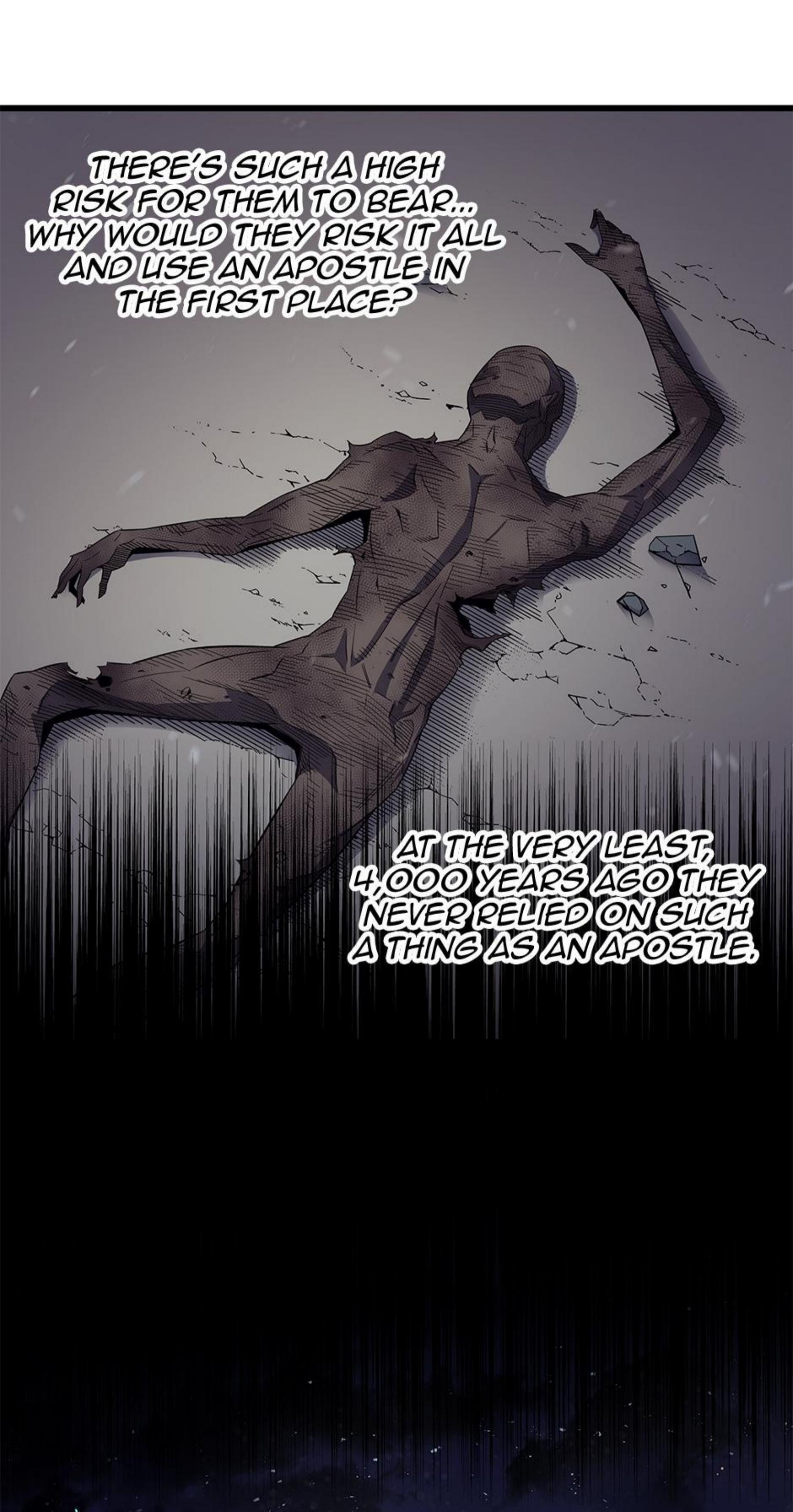




HOWEVER,
WE MANAGED TO
CONFIRM SOMETHING
WITH THAT INCIDENT.

THE FACT IS,
SHOULD WE ERADICATE
THE APOSTLES BLESSED
WITH THE SHARED POWERS
OF THE DEMIGOD THEY SERVE,
THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES
ON THE DEMIGOD AND IN
SOME CASES IT WILL
ALSO KILL THEM...

THERE'S SUCH A HIGH
RISK FOR THEM TO BEAR...
WHY WOULD THEY RISK IT ALL
AND USE AN APOSTLE IN
THE FIRST PLACE?

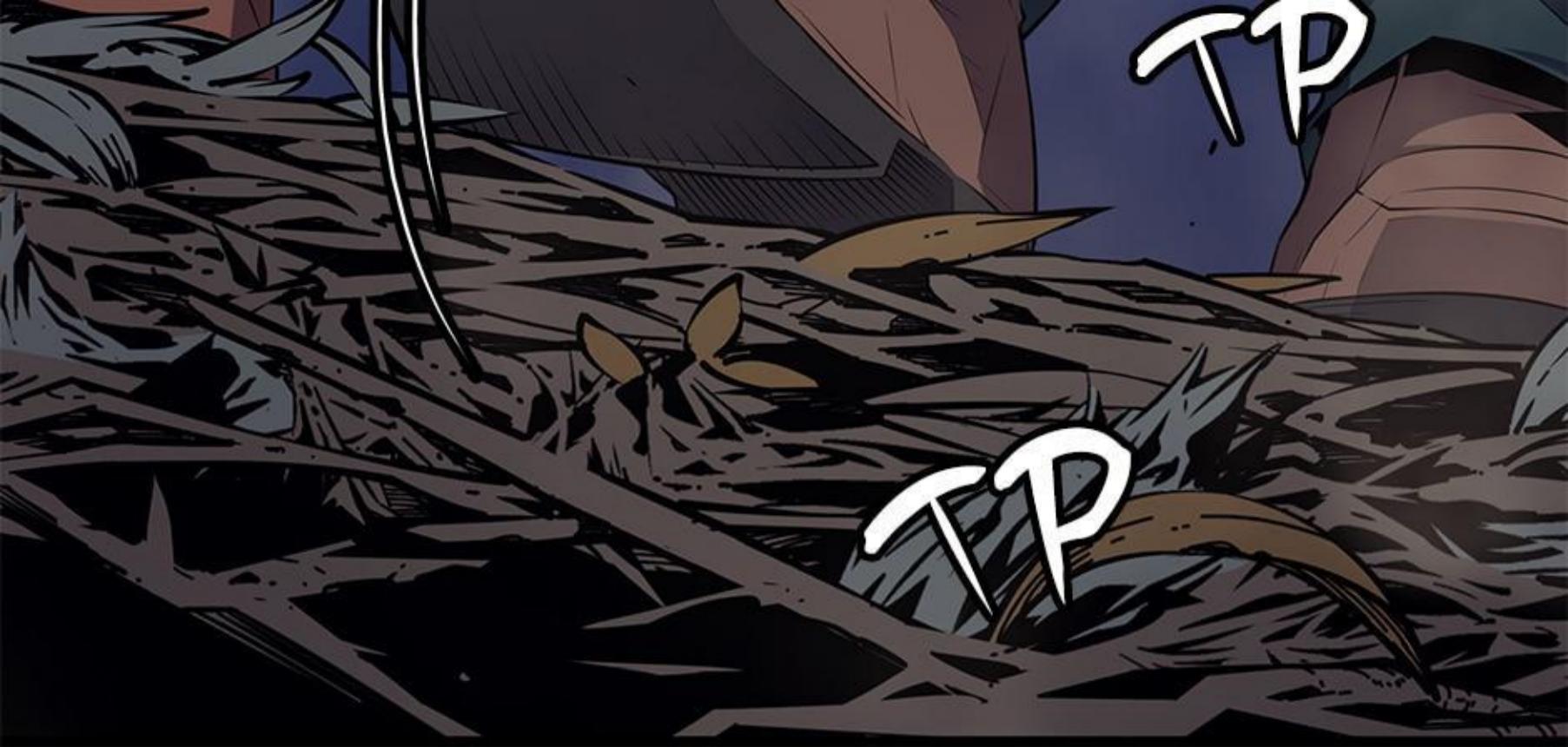


AT THE VERY LEAST,
4,000 YEARS AGO THEY
NEVER RELIED ON SUCH
A THING AS AN APOSTLE.

**HAS SOMETHING
CHANGED WITH THE
DEMIGODS OVER THE
PASSAGE OF TIME...?**







THIS FOREST...





I CAN'T SENSE
ANY LIFE ENERGY
HERE AT ALL...

IT'S A DEAD
FOREST.



TREES,
ANIMALS...
THEY'RE ALL
DEAD.

NOT EVEN
BUGS REMAIN IN
THIS SOIL.

TCHOO

THEY'VE ALL
HAD THEIR ENERGY
DRAINED DRY.

HOW CAN
ANYONE TREAT
NATURE LIKE
THIS?!



THIS ENTIRE
FOREST... IT SEEMS
TO BE A TRAP.

A POWERFUL
BARRIER HAS BEEN
ERECTED IN THIS VICINITY
SO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO
SEND RECONNAISSANCE
PAST THIS POINT.



IN THAT CASE,
WE'LL JUST DESTROY
EVERYTHING IN THE
VICINITY.

F-FREI?!



IT'S A
DEAD FOREST
SO IT CAN'T BE
HELPED.

IF IT CATCHES
ON FIRE DURING
THE FIGHT, IT MIGHT
PUT THE NEIGHBORING
VILLAGES IN
DANGER.

...



YOU'RE NOT
WRONG...

BE THAT AS IT MAY...

IT WOULD TAKE
TWO WHOLE DAYS
FOR US TO DESTROY
SUCH A POWERFUL
BARRIER...







WHAT IS
HE PLANNING
TO DO?

IT LOOKS LIKE
HE'S EXAMINING THE
BARRIER TO SEE HOW
HE'LL DESTROY IT.

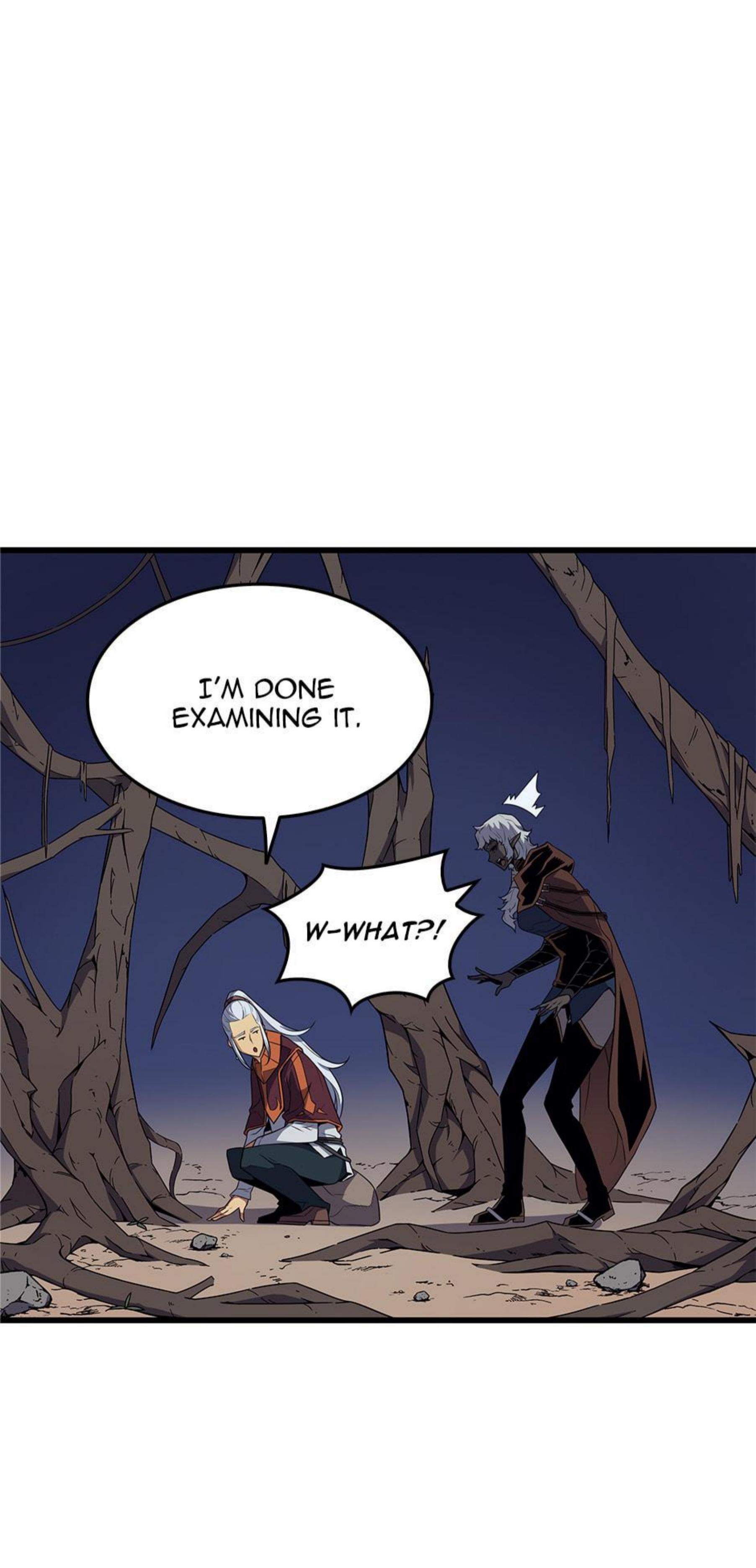


SO HE'S THE
TYPE THAT WOULD
RATHER TAKE ACTIONS
FIRST AND THINK
LATER?

HAHAHA, HE'D
FIT RIGHT IN WITH
THE DARK ELVES.

ALL RIGHT,
FREI, YOU FOCUS ON
BREAKING THE BARRIER.
WE'LL WATCH YOUR
BACK.





I'M DONE
EXAMINING IT.

W-WHAT?!



EVERYONE,
GET BEHIND ME.

O-OKEY...

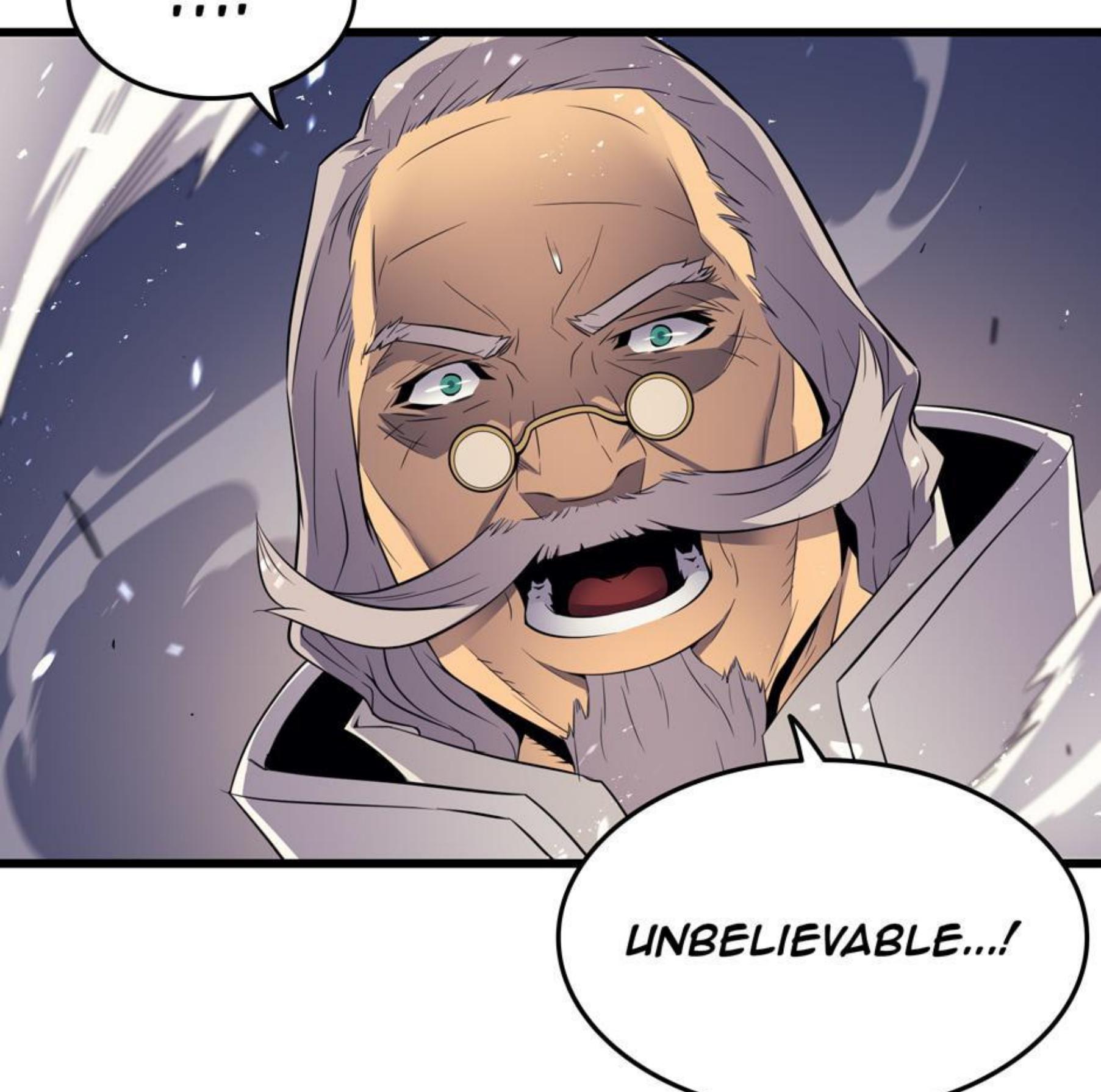
WIND STORM.













**THIS IS THE POWER
OF 20-YEAR-OLDS
NOWADAYS...?!**

I FEEL ASHAMED
TO CALL MYSELF A
FLOOR MASTER. THIS OLD
MAN HAS BARELY BEEN
ABLE TO HELP AT ALL.



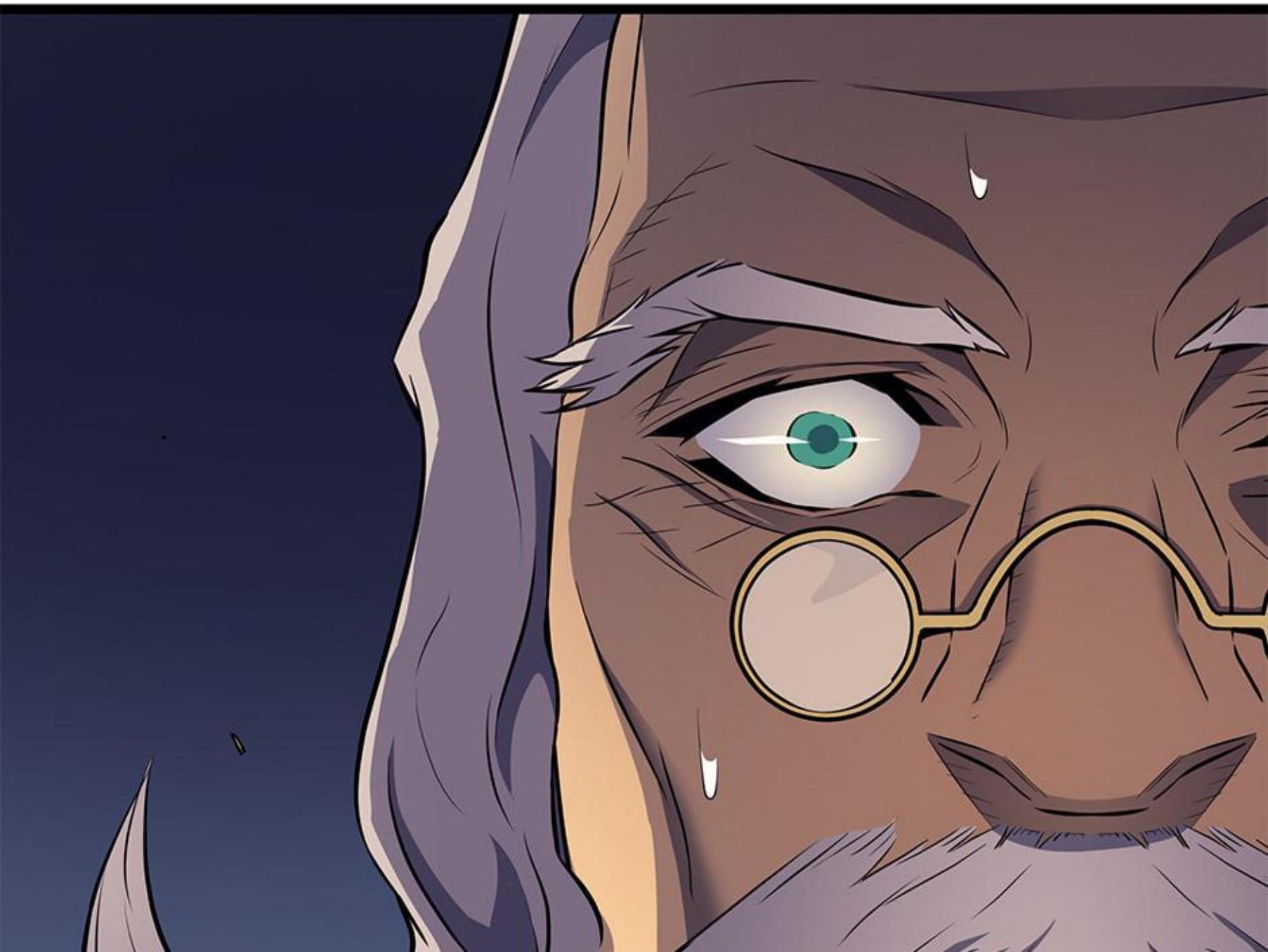
IS IT ALREADY
TIME FOR THE NEXT
GENERATION TO
SURPASS US...?

**SO YOU FINALLY
SHOWED UP.**

**A FIGURE
OOZING WITH
DIVINE ENERGY...**



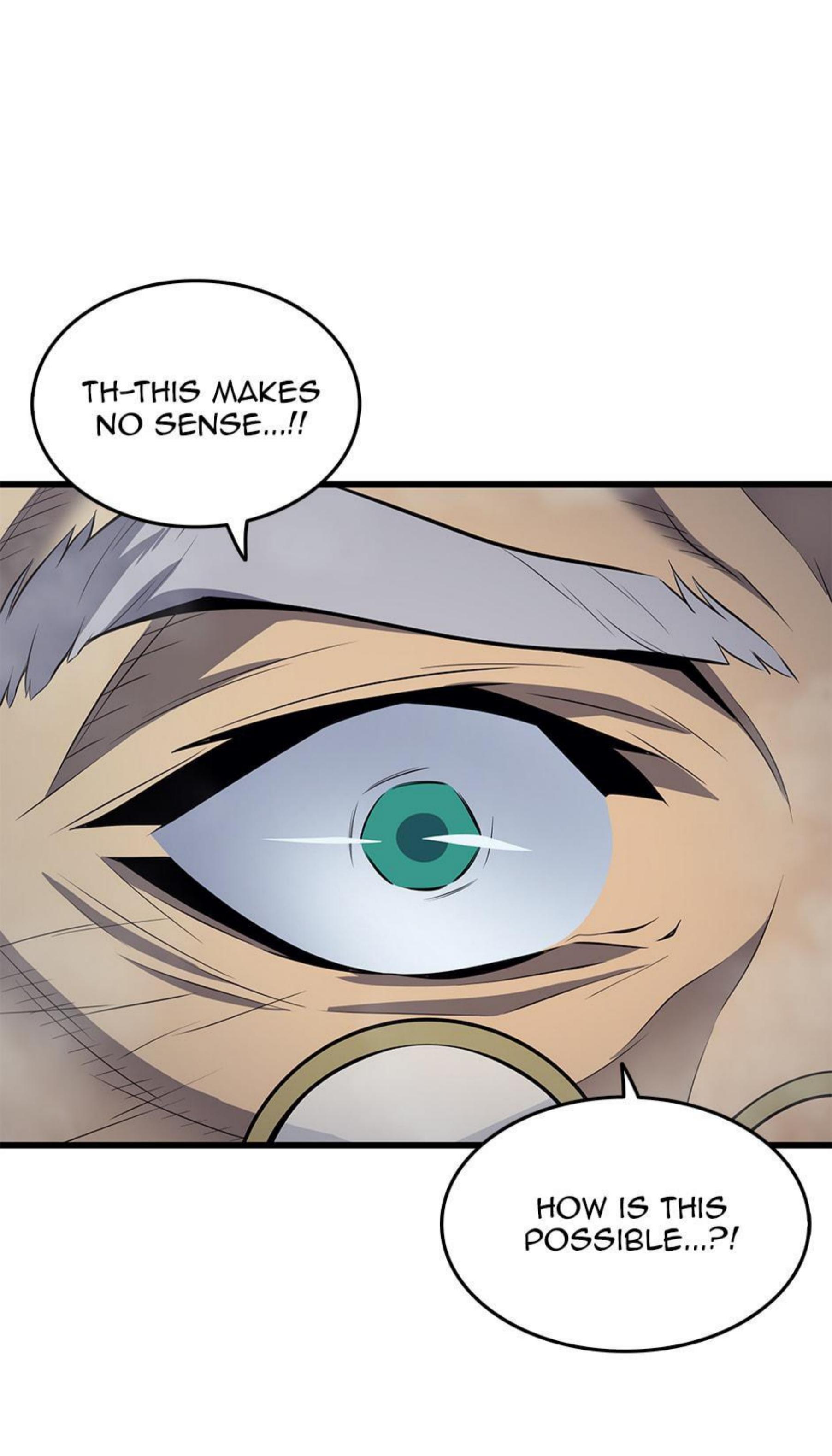
IT'S AN APOSTLE.





TH-THAT
CAN'T BE...?!





TH-THIS MAKES
NO SENSE...!!

HOW IS THIS
POSSIBLE...?!

HONOR LUKESS!!





WHY WOULD YOU...?!