

THE ARCHMAGE

RETURNS AFTER.

40000

YEARS

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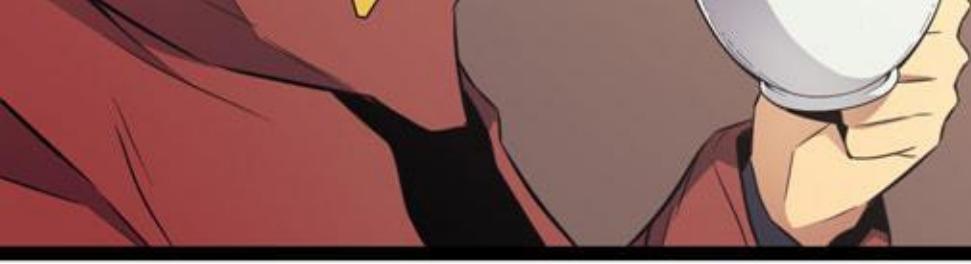
SO WHAT BRINGS
YOU HERE, CIRCLE
MASTER?





TO GET RIGHT TO
THE POINT, I CAME
HERE TO SEE IF I CAN
RECRUIT YOU INTO
OUR CIRCLE.





WITHOUT
ANY ENTRANCE
EXAMS?



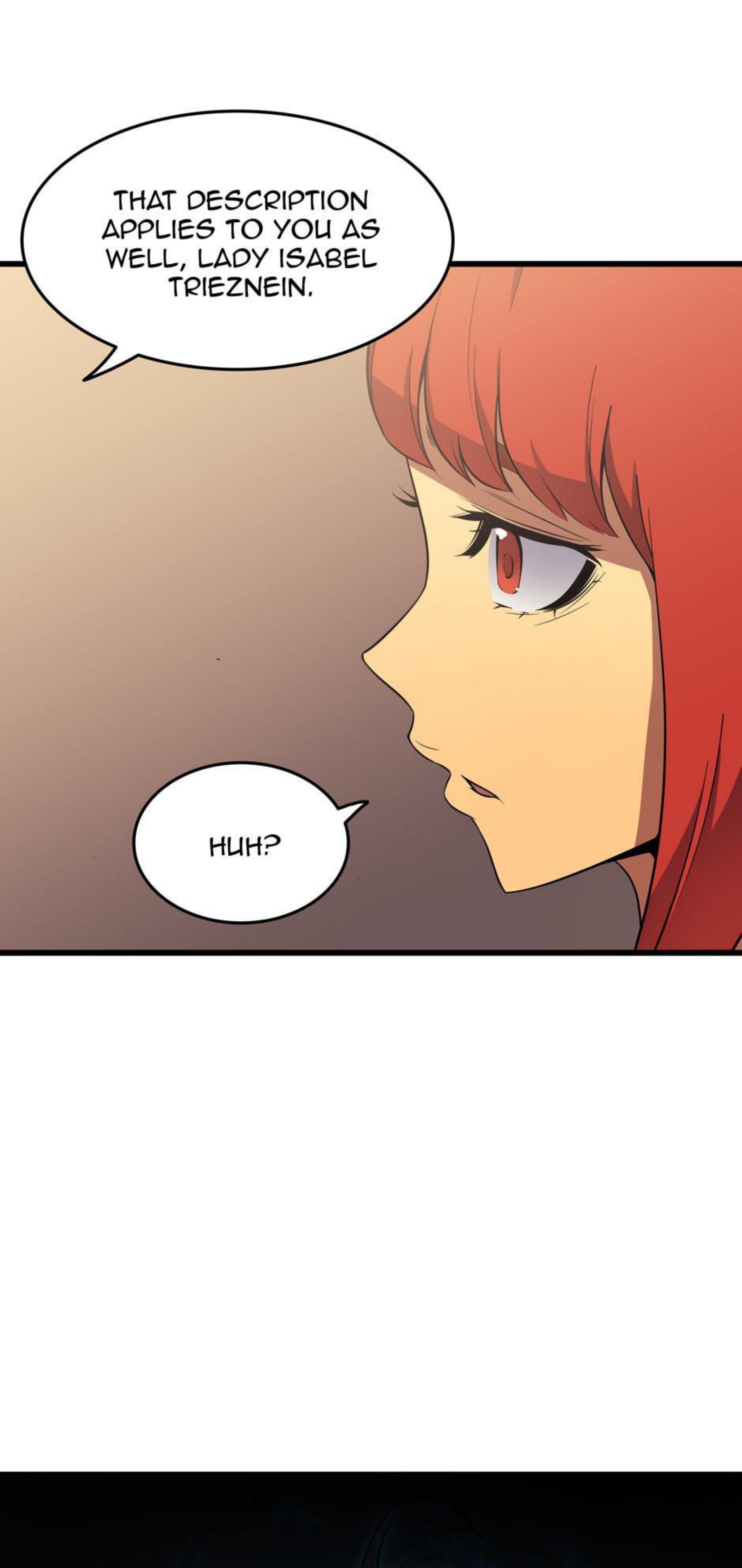
THERE ARE
TIMES WE NEED
TO STAY VIGILANT OR
INCREDIBLE ROOKIES
ARE ALL SNATCHED
AWAY BEFORE WE
LEARN OF THEM.

I'M SURE IT

WON'T BE LONG
BEFORE YOU ARE
APPROACHED BY THE
OTHER CIRCLES
AS WELL.



INcredible
rookie, she
says...



THAT DESCRIPTION
APPLIES TO YOU AS
WELL, LADY ISABEL
TRIEZNEIN.

HUH?



YOUR BATTLE AGAINST
THE APOSTLE IS ALREADY
A HOT TOPIC AMONG
THE CIRCLES.

BOTH OF YOUR
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THAT
BATTLE HAVE ATTRACTED
THE ATTENTION OF THE THREE
GREAT CIRCLES AND THEIR
RESPECTIVE EXECUTIVE
MEMBERS.

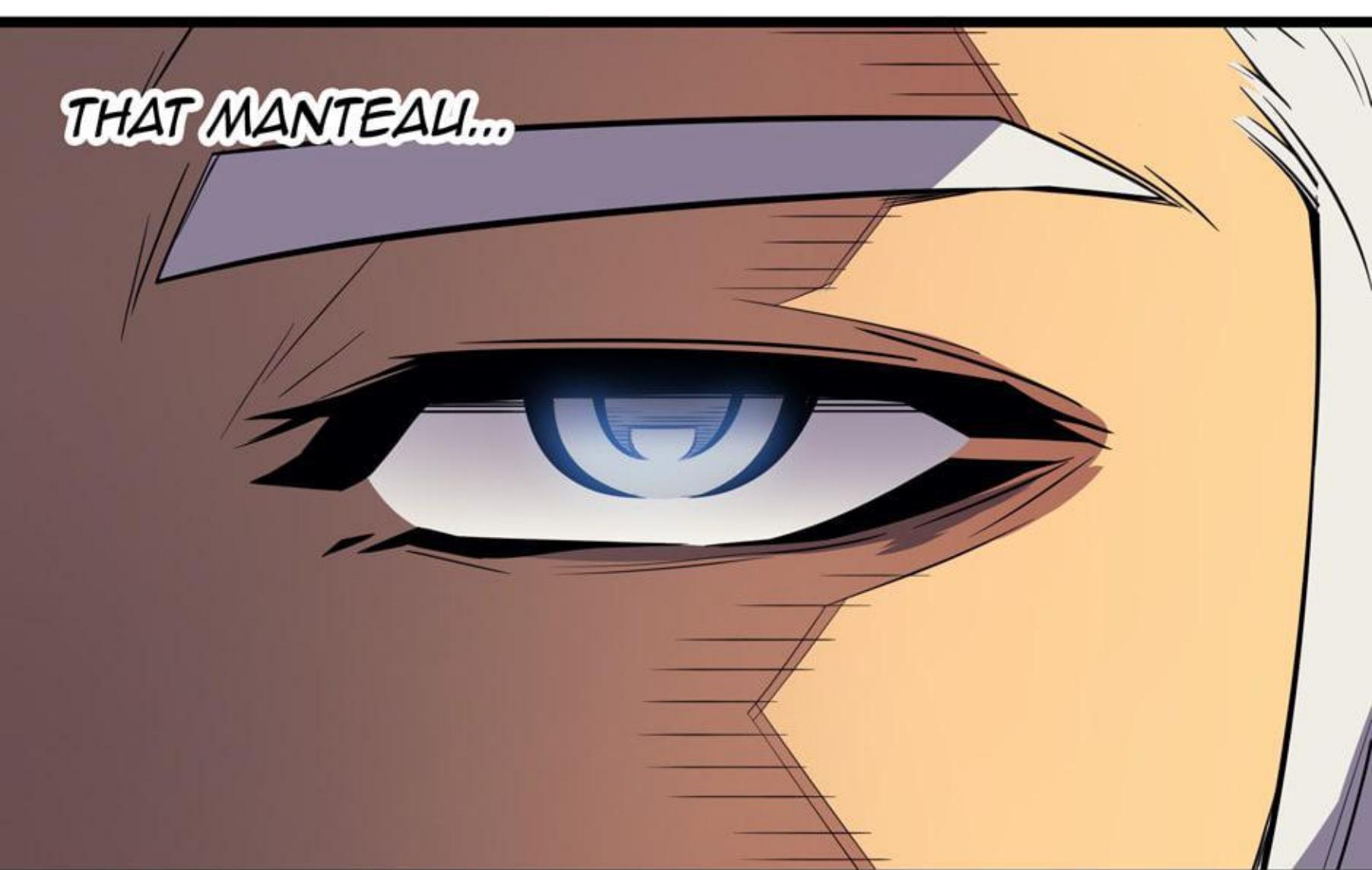


YOU MUST BE
EXAGGERATING...





I WAS ONLY
FOLLOWING FREI'S
ORDERS...



THAT MANTEAU...

IT'S THE SAME
ONE I USED TO WEAR
4,000 YEARS AGO.



THERE ARE RUNES ENGRAVED
ON IT AND SHE'S WEARING IT AS
A MAGIC ITEM, BUT I'M QUITE
CERTAIN IT'S THE SAME ONE.



WHAT BOTHERS
ME THE MOST IS...

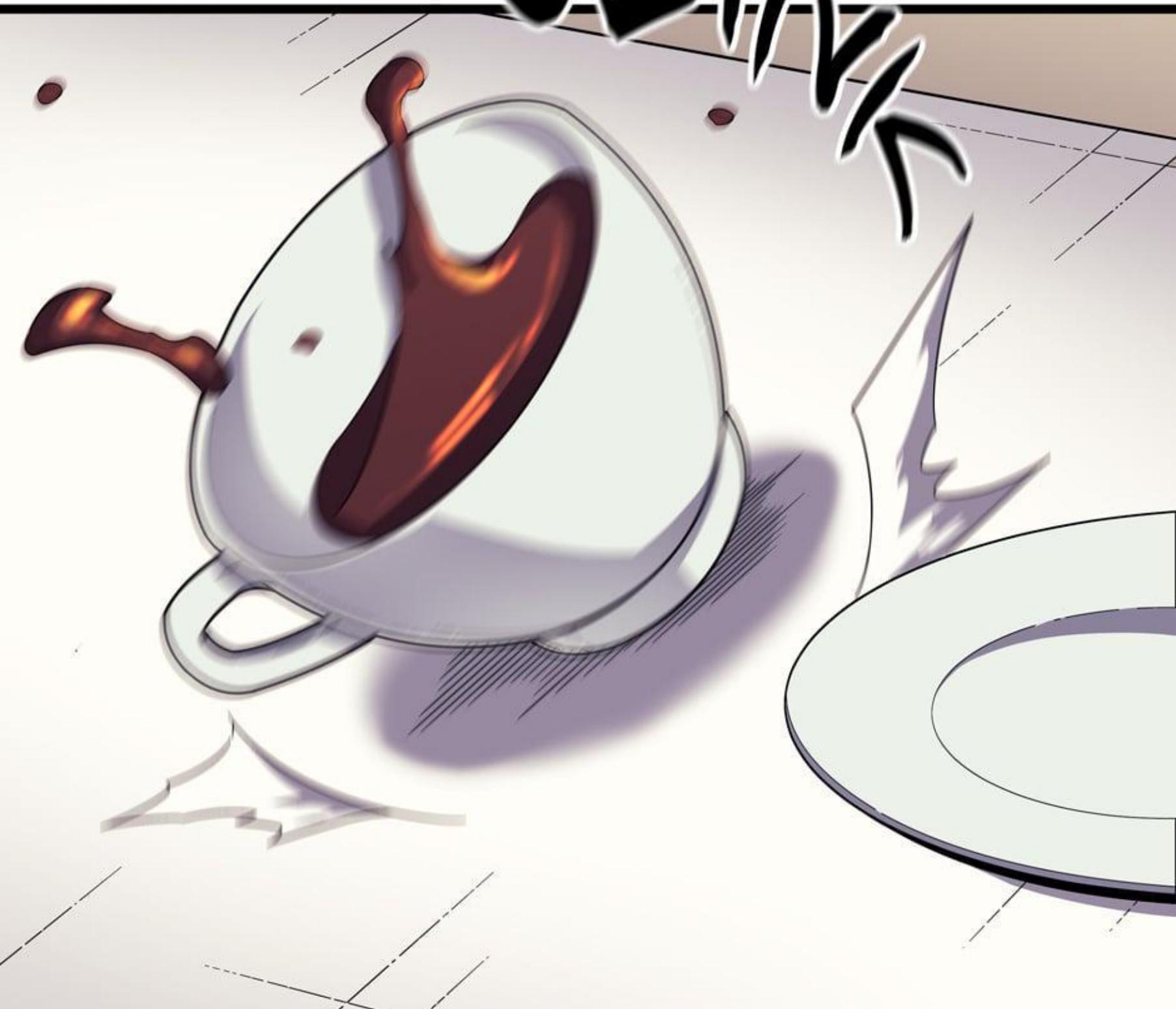


MASTER VENIAN...



ARE YOU
A DRAGON?

CLAW



UWW...

ERR...



W-WHY
WOULD YOU
THINK THAT...?

SHE'S CUTE...

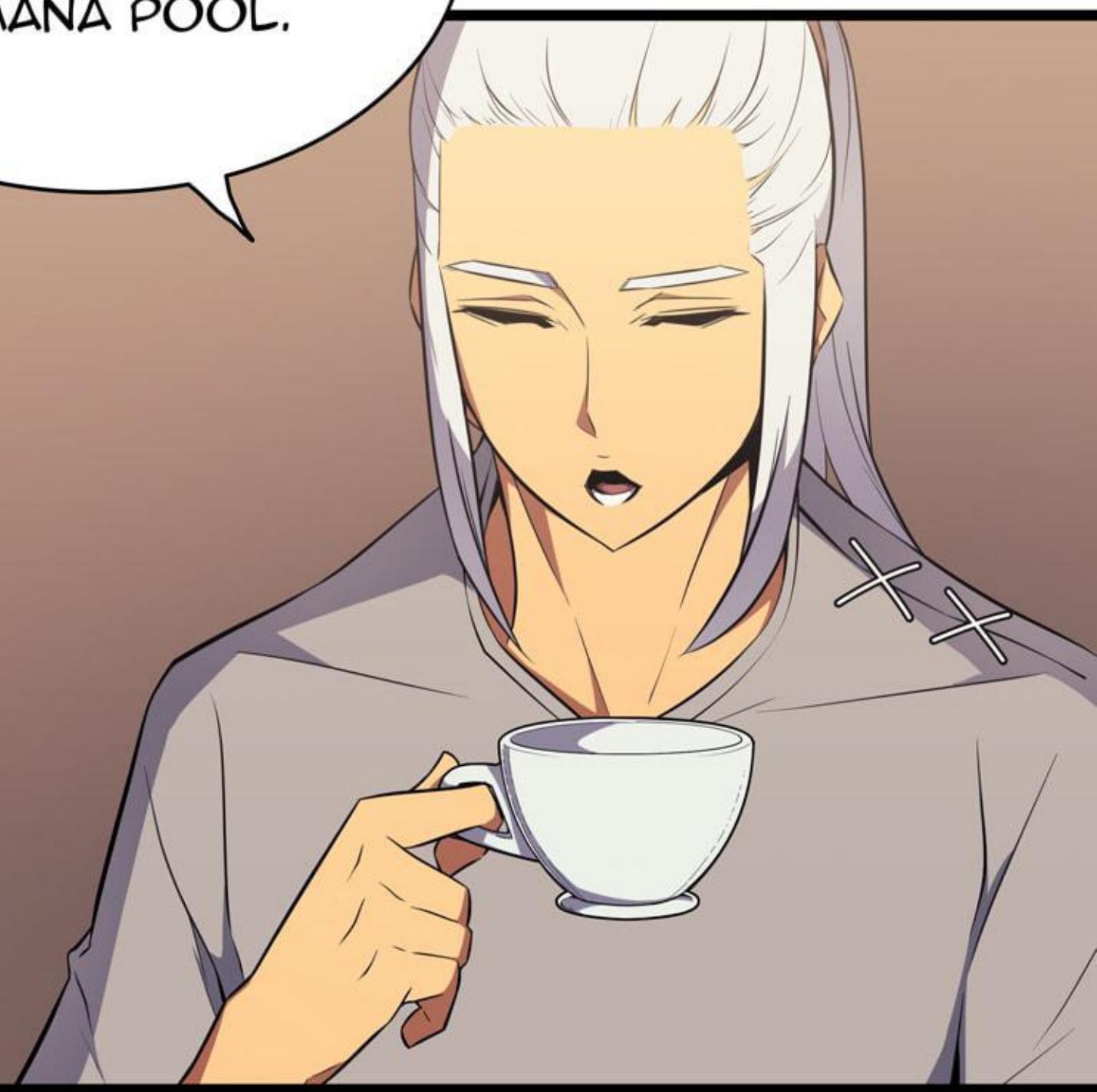




VERY CUTE.



YOU SEE,
DRAGONS DON'T
NEED TO RELY ON
A MANA POOL.





THEIR HEART
FUNCTIONS AS A
BIOLOGICAL ORGAN
THAT ALLOWS THEM
TO CONTROL
MANA...

MEANING THAT THEY
CAN CONTROL THE MANA
IN THE SURROUNDING NATURE
AS-IS WITHOUT PASSING IT
THROUGH THEIR BODY
AS A CONDUIT.

I CAN SENSE
THAT YOU POSSESS A
MANA POOL, MASTER
VENIAN...



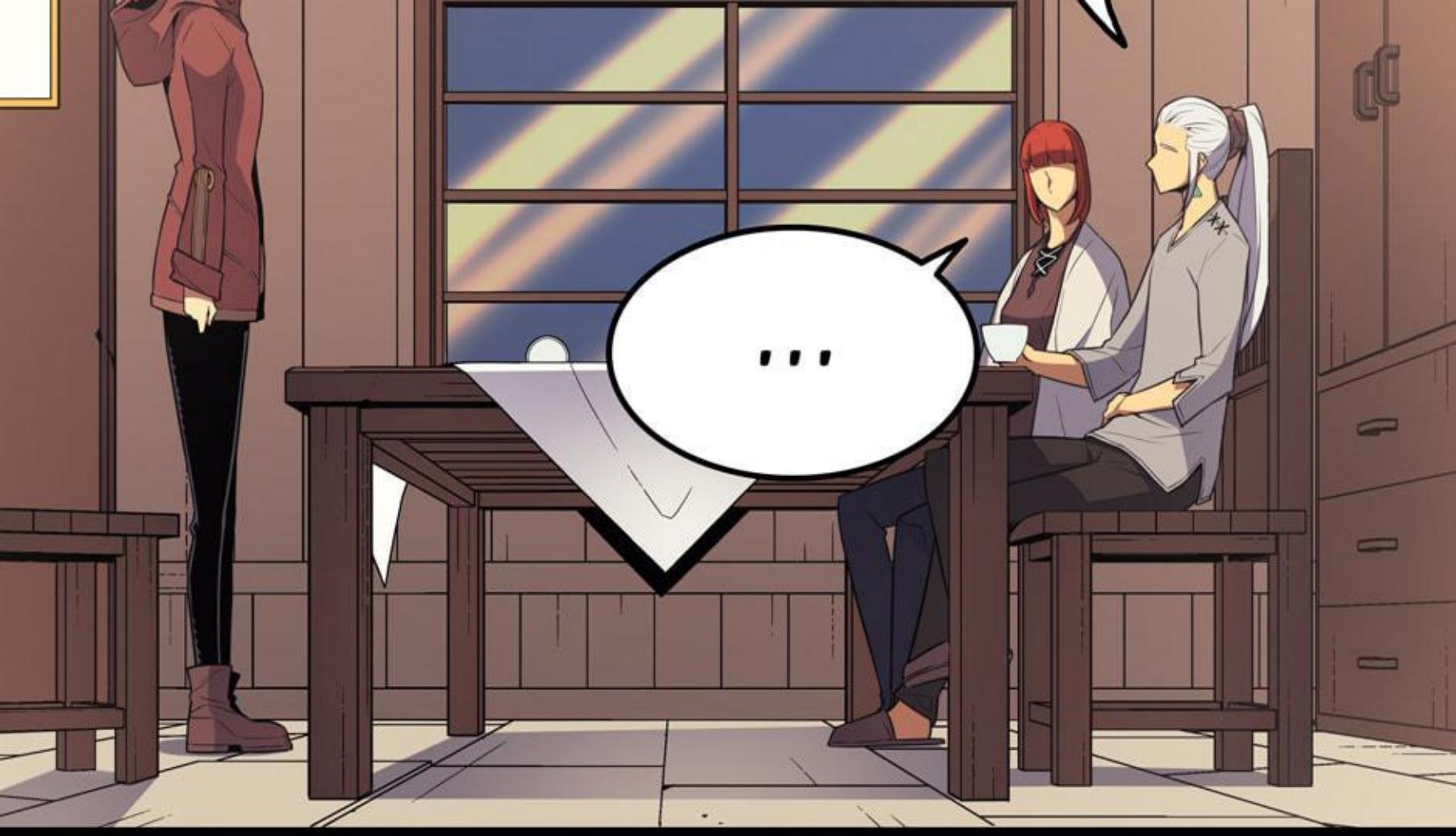


BUT I ALSO
SENSE A PECULIAR TYPE
OF UNREFINED MANA
FROM WITHIN YOU.



I SEE...
Y-YOU'RE QUITE
KNOWLEDGEABLE
ABOUT DRAGONS.

I READ
ABOUT THEM
IN A BOOK.



NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I REMEMBER FREI TELLING
ME THIS BEFORE...



LUCAS LEARNED
MAGIC 4,000 YEARS
AGO FROM HIS MASTER,
WHO WAS A DRAGON.



YOU'RE HALF
CORRECT.

I'M A
HALF-DRAGON...





A HALF-BREED
BETWEEN A DRAGON
AND A HUMAN.



I'LL BE
WAITING FOR YOU
CONSEQUENCE

DOWNSTAIRS.

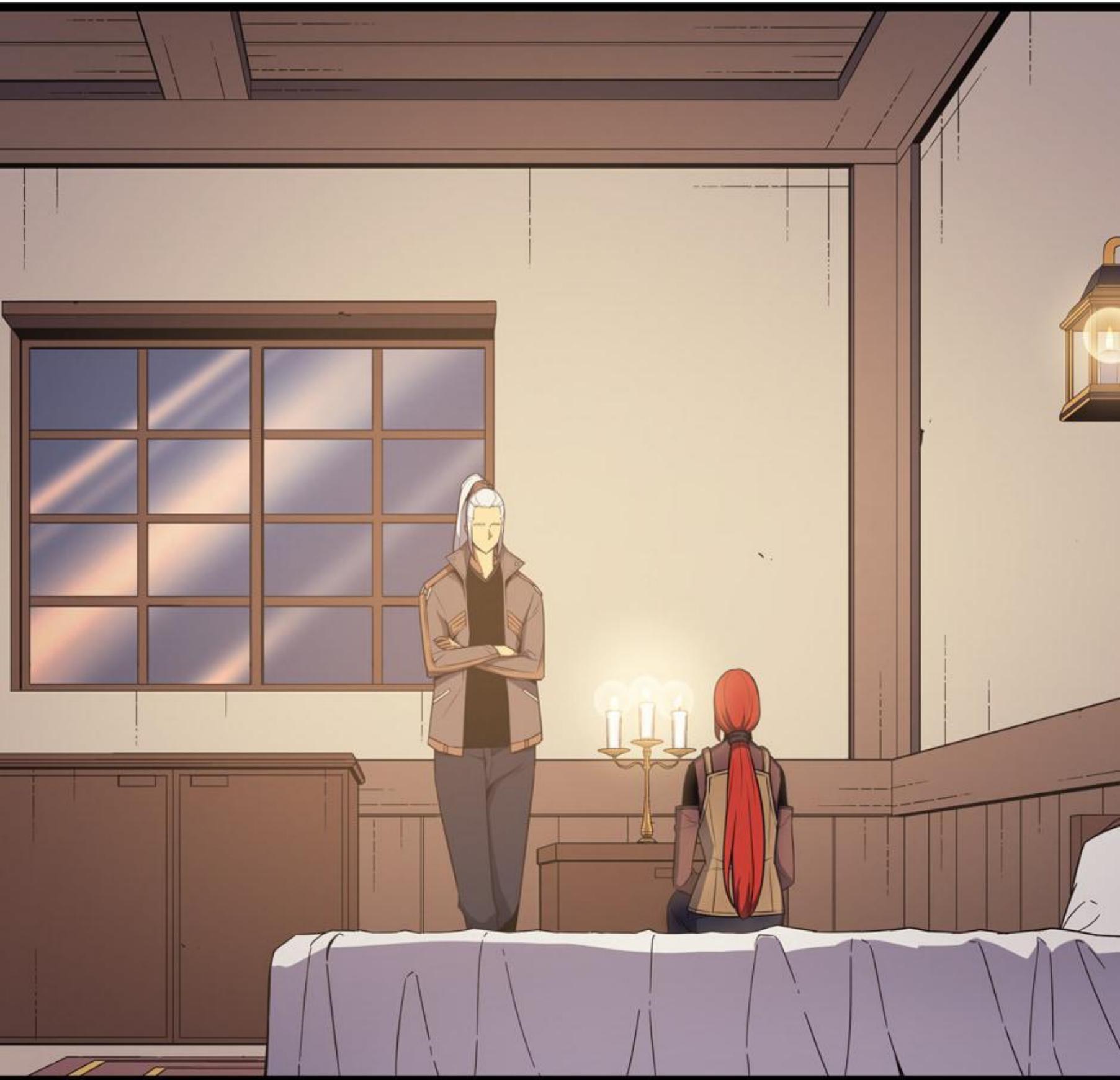
I'LL HEAD
DOWN ONCE I'M
FINISHED MAKING
PREPARATIONS.





WHAT DO
YOU THINK?



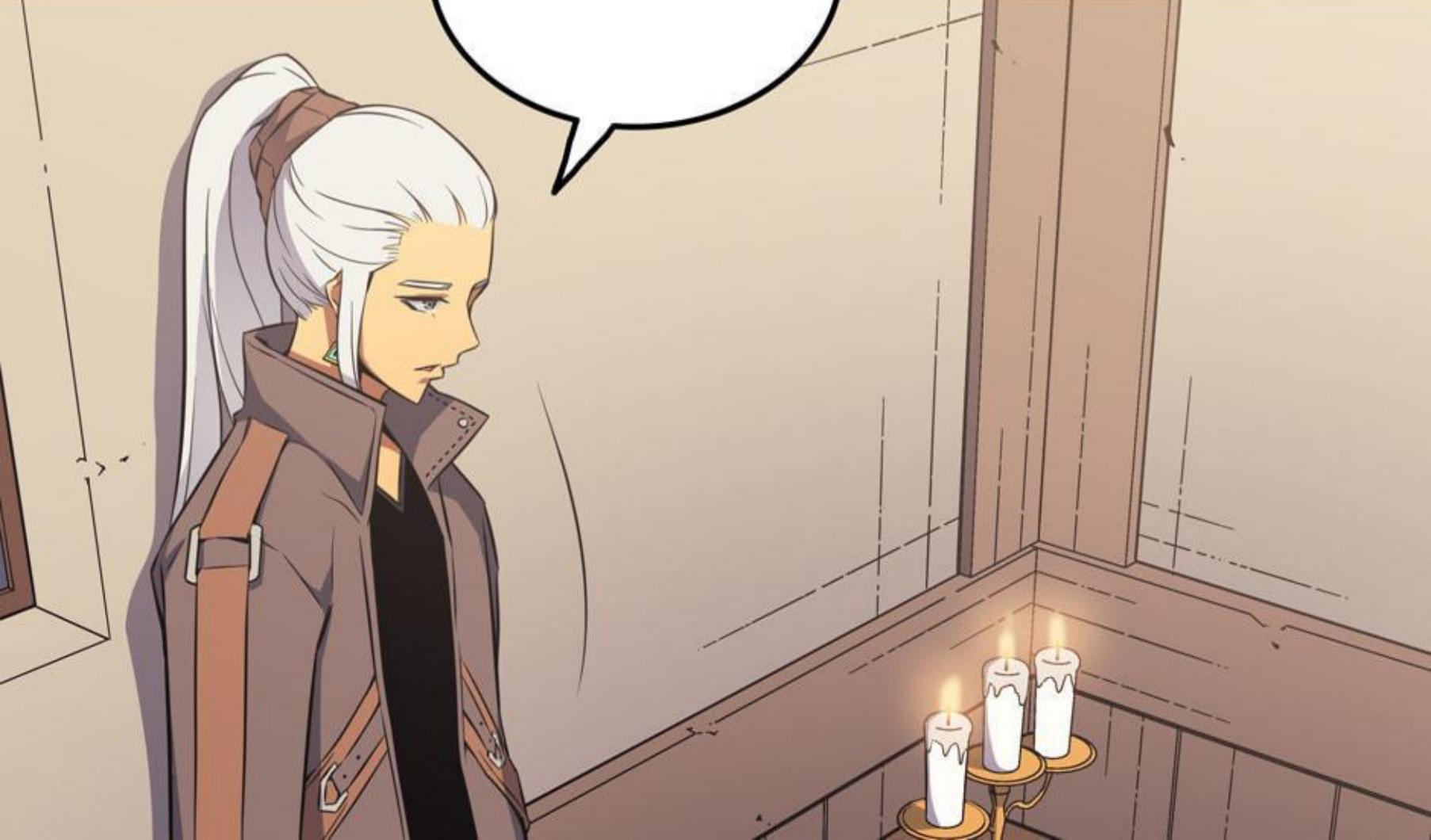


SHE LEFT A
STRONG IMPRESSION
ON ME WHEN SHE READILY
ADMITTED THAT THE TROWMAN
RINGS ARE CURRENTLY IN A
DIRE SITUATION. SHE DIDN'T
SUGAR COAT THE
FACTS.





USUALLY PEOPLE
WOULD ONLY TELL YOU THE
ADVANTAGES WHEN RECRUITING
SOMEONE... BUT SHE GAVE ME THE
IMPRESSION THAT SHE'S NOT
THE TYPE TO LIE AT ALL.

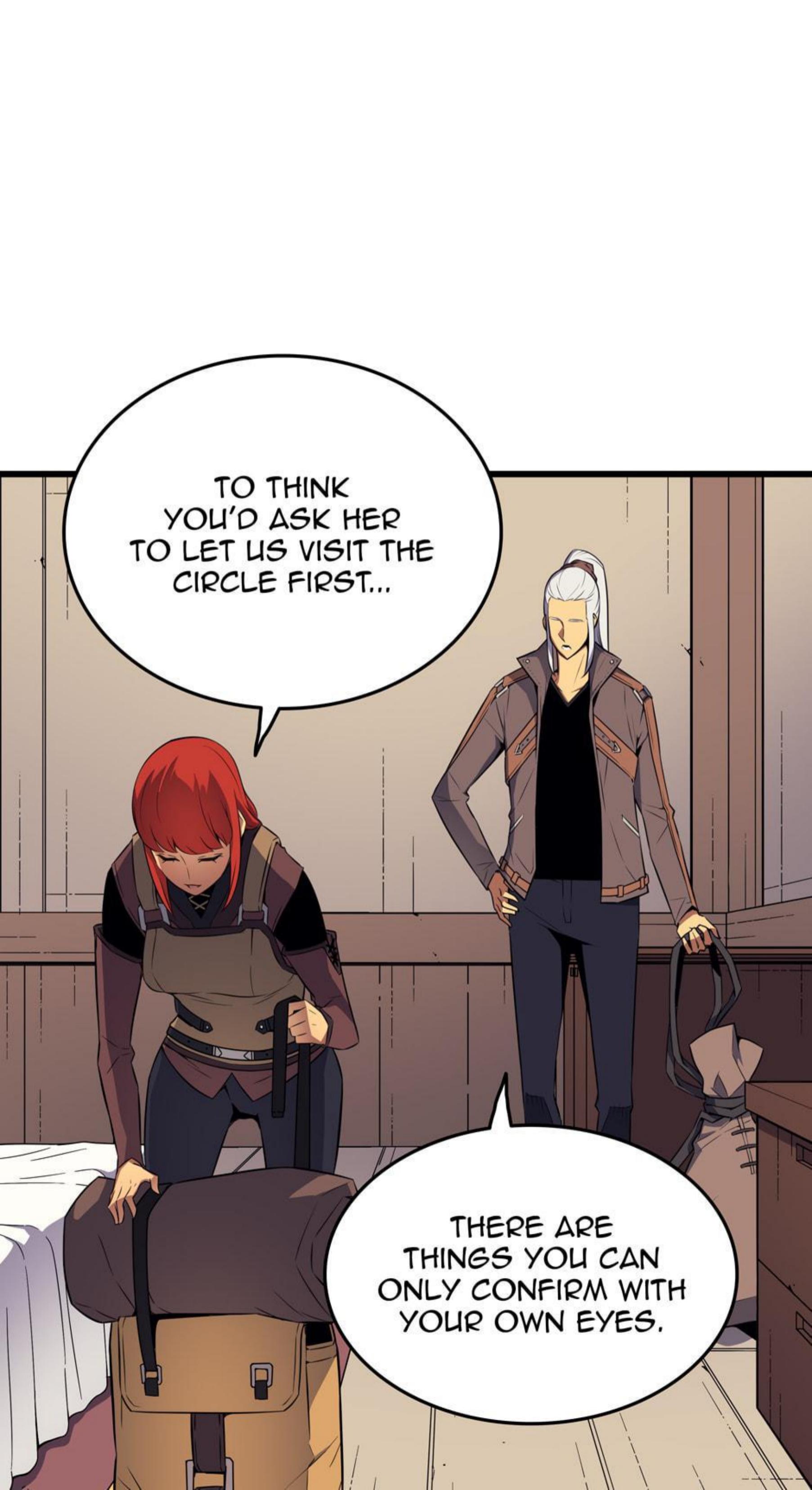


YEAH.



A VERY NOBLE
CHARACTERISTIC TO
HAVE AS A CIRCLE
MASTER.

BUT I FOUND
YOUR ANSWER A
BIT UNEXPECTED.



TO THINK
YOU'D ASK HER
TO LET US VISIT THE
CIRCLE FIRST...

THERE ARE
THINGS YOU CAN
ONLY CONFIRM WITH
YOUR OWN EYES.



ARE YOU
INTRIGUED BY
THE TROWMAN
RINGS?



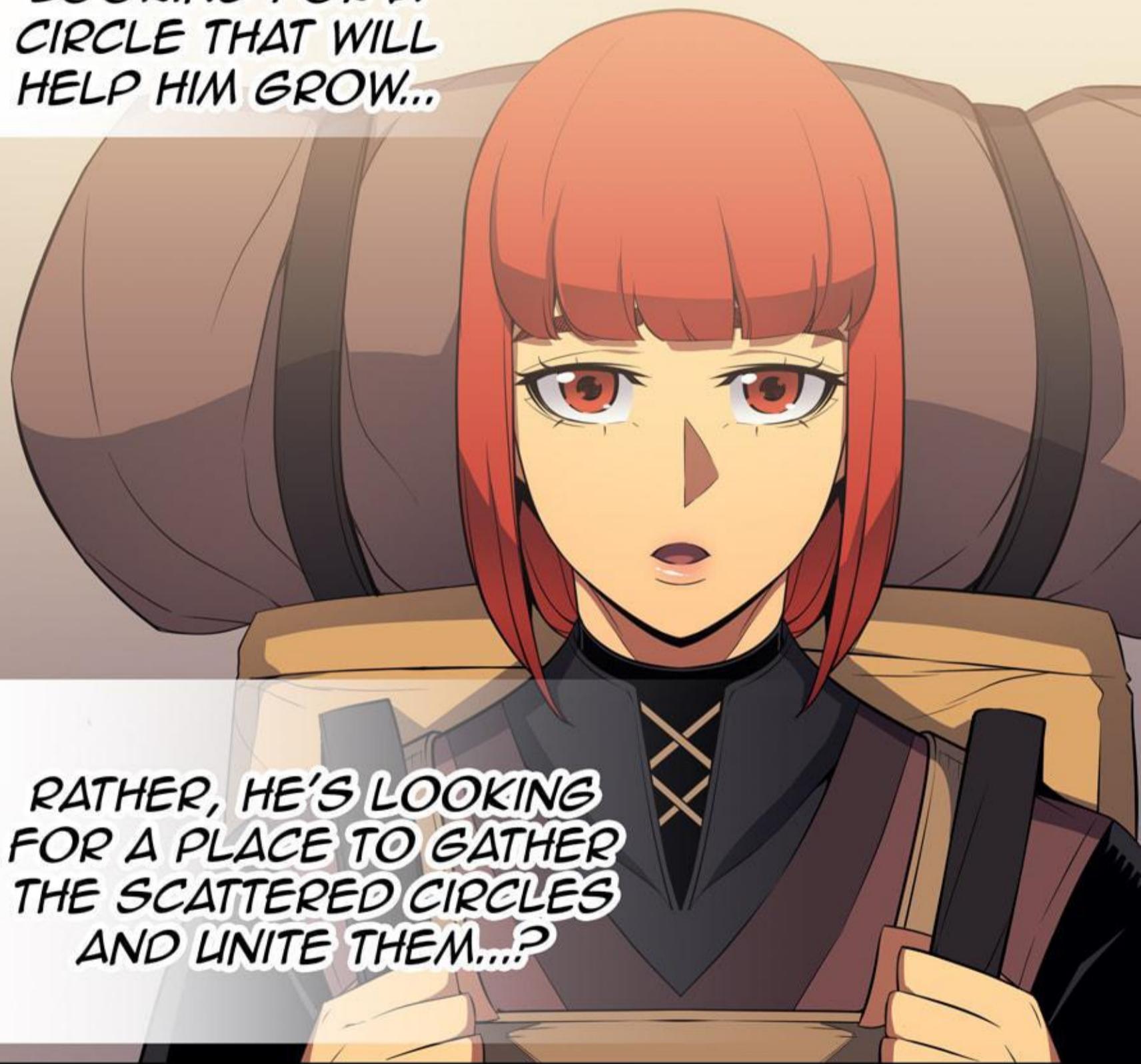
I'VE NO INTEREST
IN INVOLVING MYSELF
WITH POLITICS.



WHAT'S IMPORTANT
IS TO FIGURE OUT HOW
TO ACCUMULATE OUR
FORCES AND WHERE,
THAT'S ALL.



HE'S NOT
LOOKING FOR A
CIRCLE THAT WILL
HELP HIM GROW...

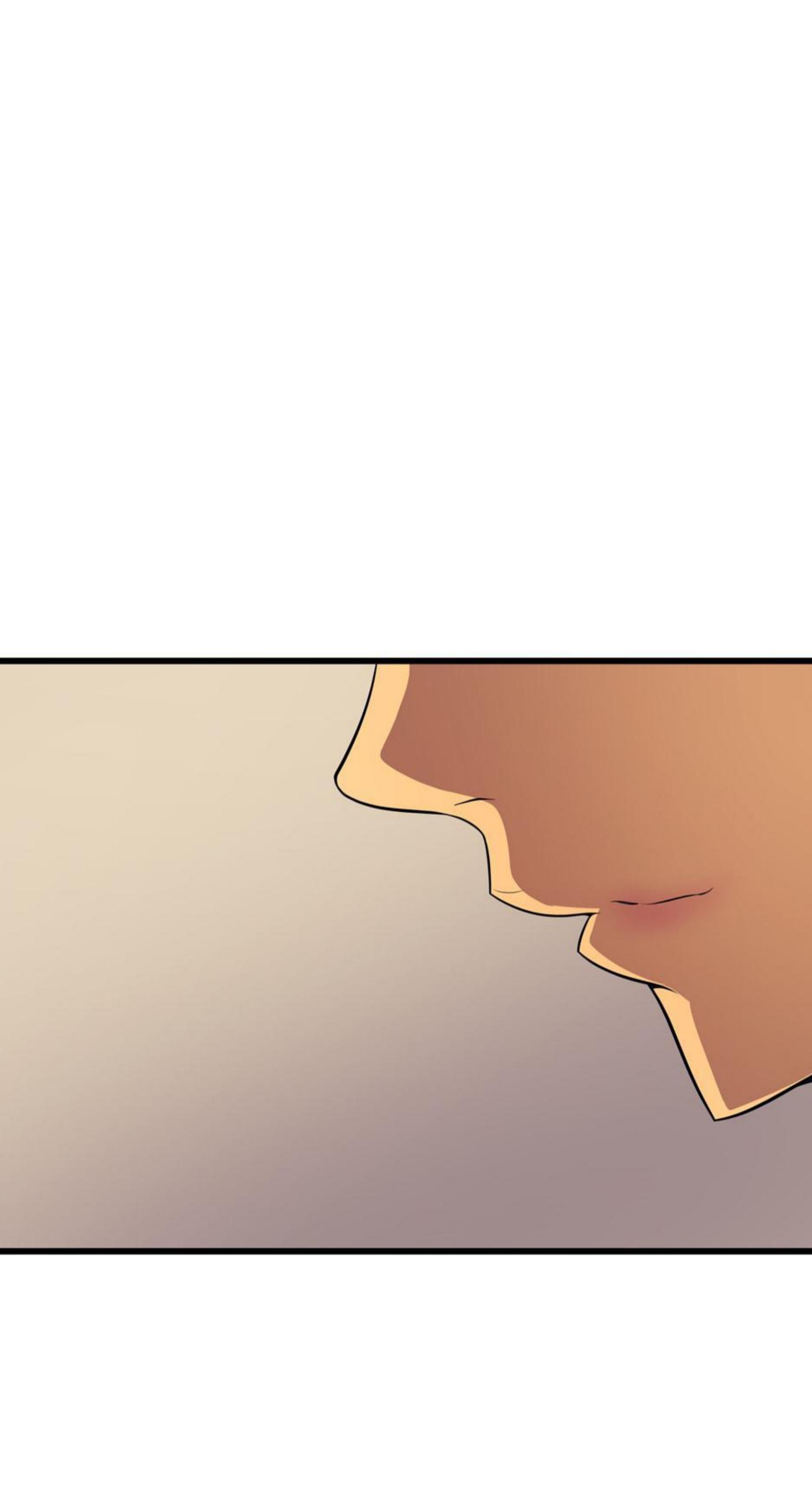


RATHER, HE'S LOOKING
FOR A PLACE TO GATHER
THE SCATTERED CIRCLES
AND UNITE THEM...?

"LUCAS TROWMAN WAS

*and was having a drive
Remember; at the market he
will work.*

OUR CENTRAL FIGURE."



TRULY...

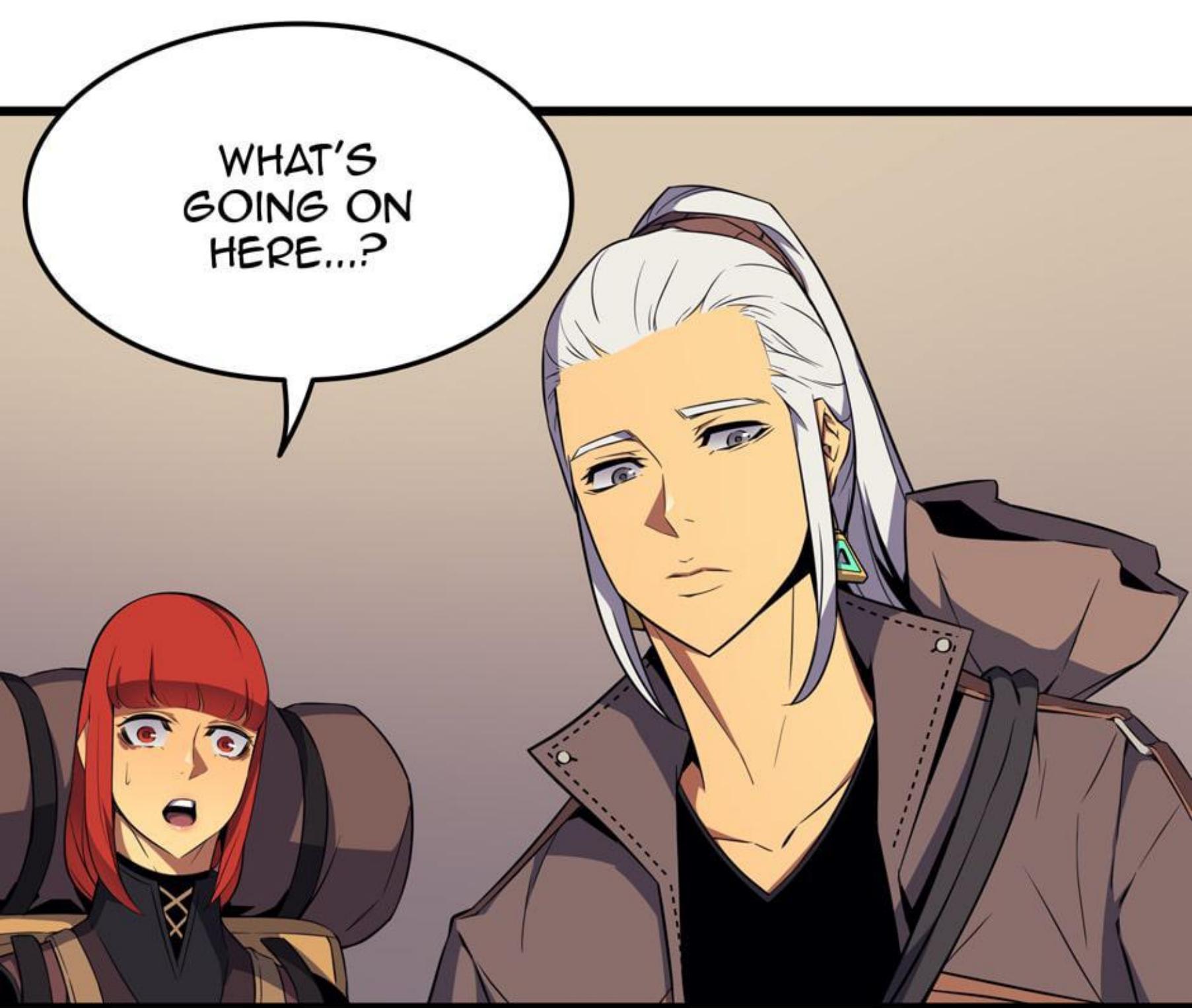
**...YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED
ONE BIT IN ALL THOSE YEARS.**

QUIITE THE
IMPATIENT ONE...
MAKING A MOVE ON
HIM SO QUICKLY?





N-NO,
I'M JUST...!



WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE...?



THEN ARE
YOU SUGGESTING
THAT I'M MISTAKEN,
MASTER VENIAN?!

NO, YOU
MISUNDERSTAND...

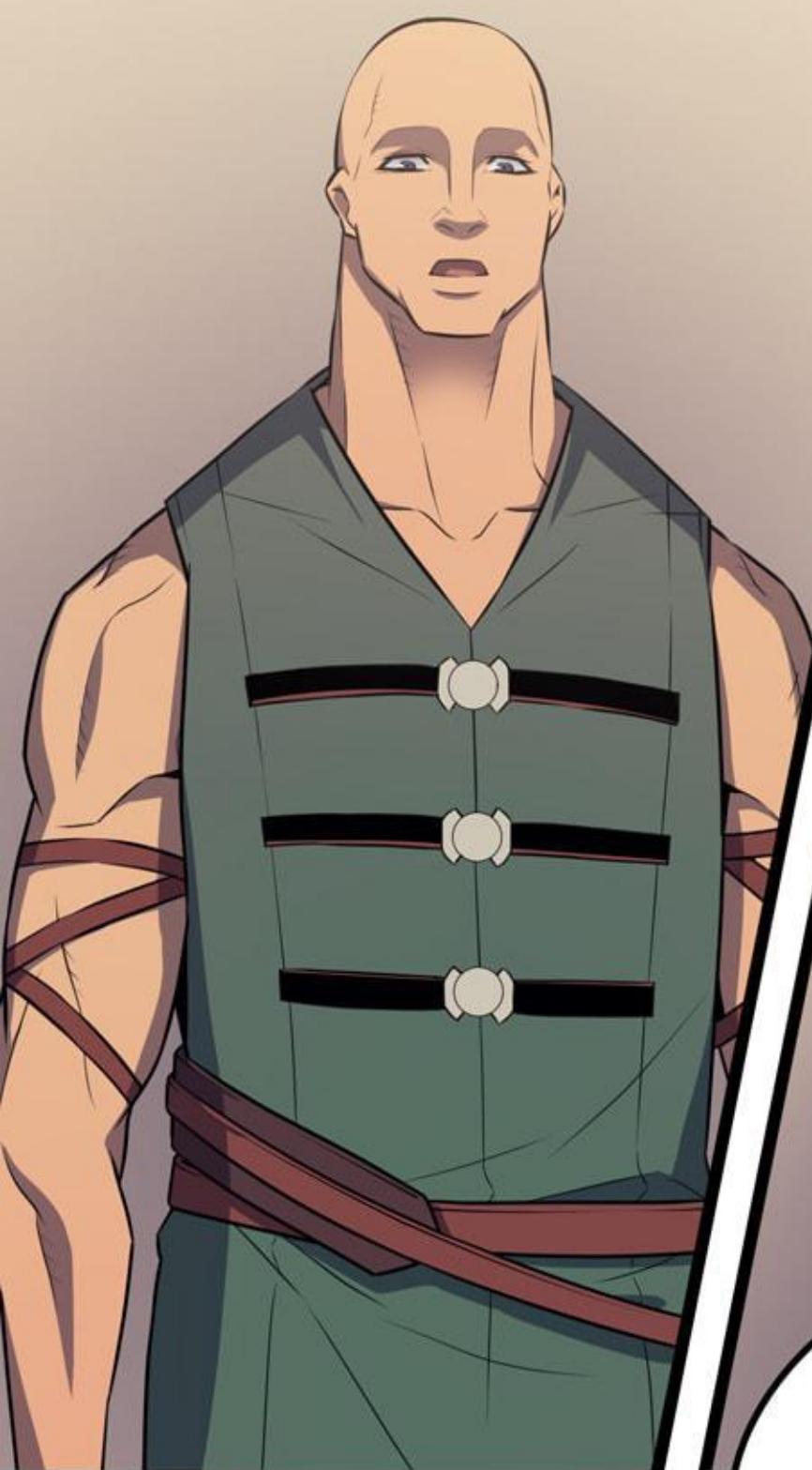
WHAT IS
ALL THIS?

HMPH!

WELL, AREN'T YOU
THE POPULAR ONE,
FREI BLAKE?!



I'M JEROME
WERNER OF LUCID
SWORD.



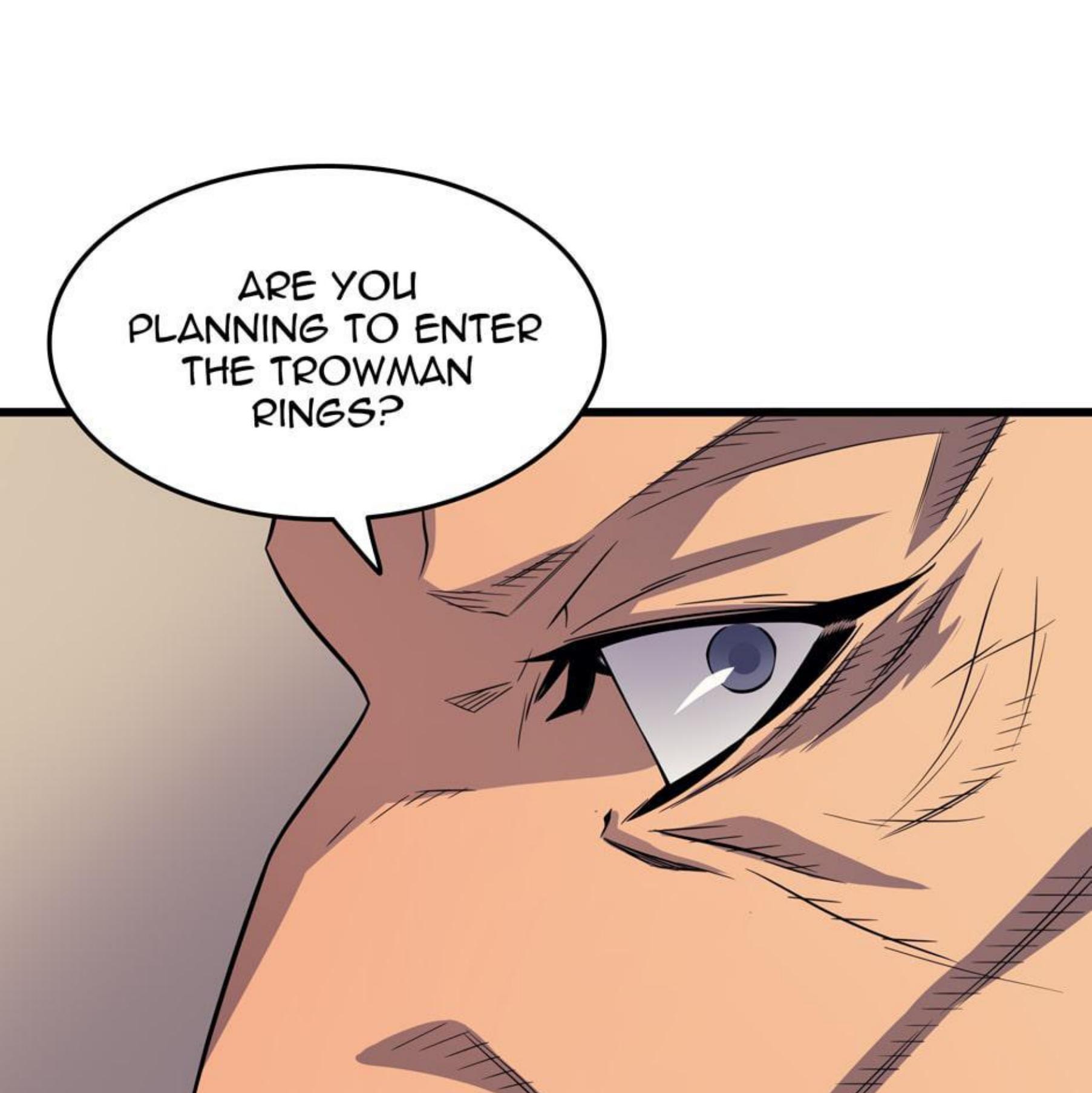
STEVE D'ARC OF
THE STRAU NECKLACE.



ARE YOU
HERE FOR
ME?

YES, BUT IT
SEEMS WE ARE
SLIGHTLY LATE.





ARE YOU
PLANNING TO ENTER
THE TROWMAN
RINGS?





AND WHAT
IF I AM?



HMPH!

SEEMS QUITE
FITTING FOR
LOSERS!



SIR FREI...

WILL YOU COME
VISIT US AFTER YOU'VE
VISITED THE TROWMAN
RINGS?

THIS IS A
WARP SCROLL THAT
WILL TAKE YOU TO THE
ENTRANCE TO OUR BASE

ENTRANCE TO OUR BASE
OF OPERATIONS.



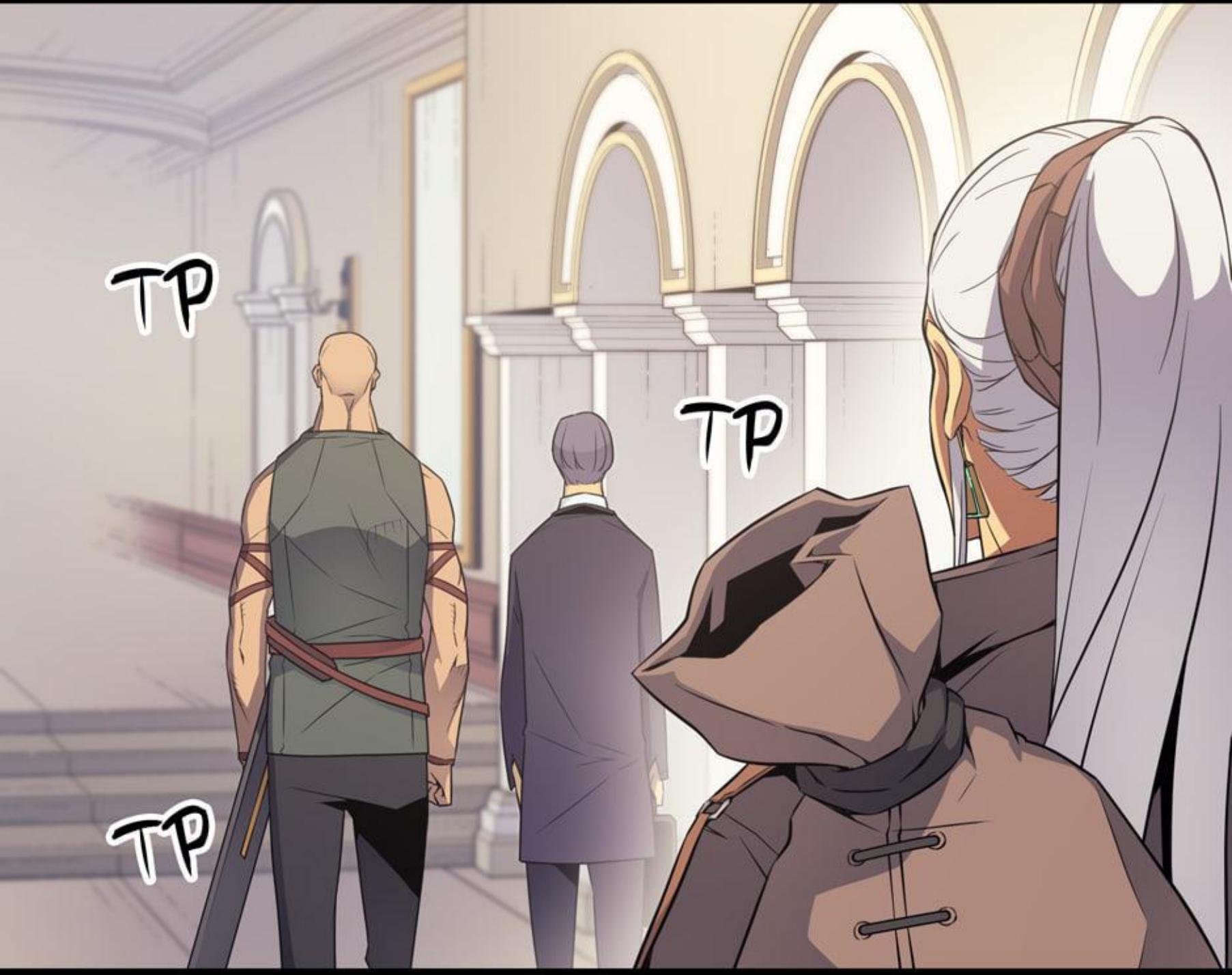
YES,
THANK YOU.

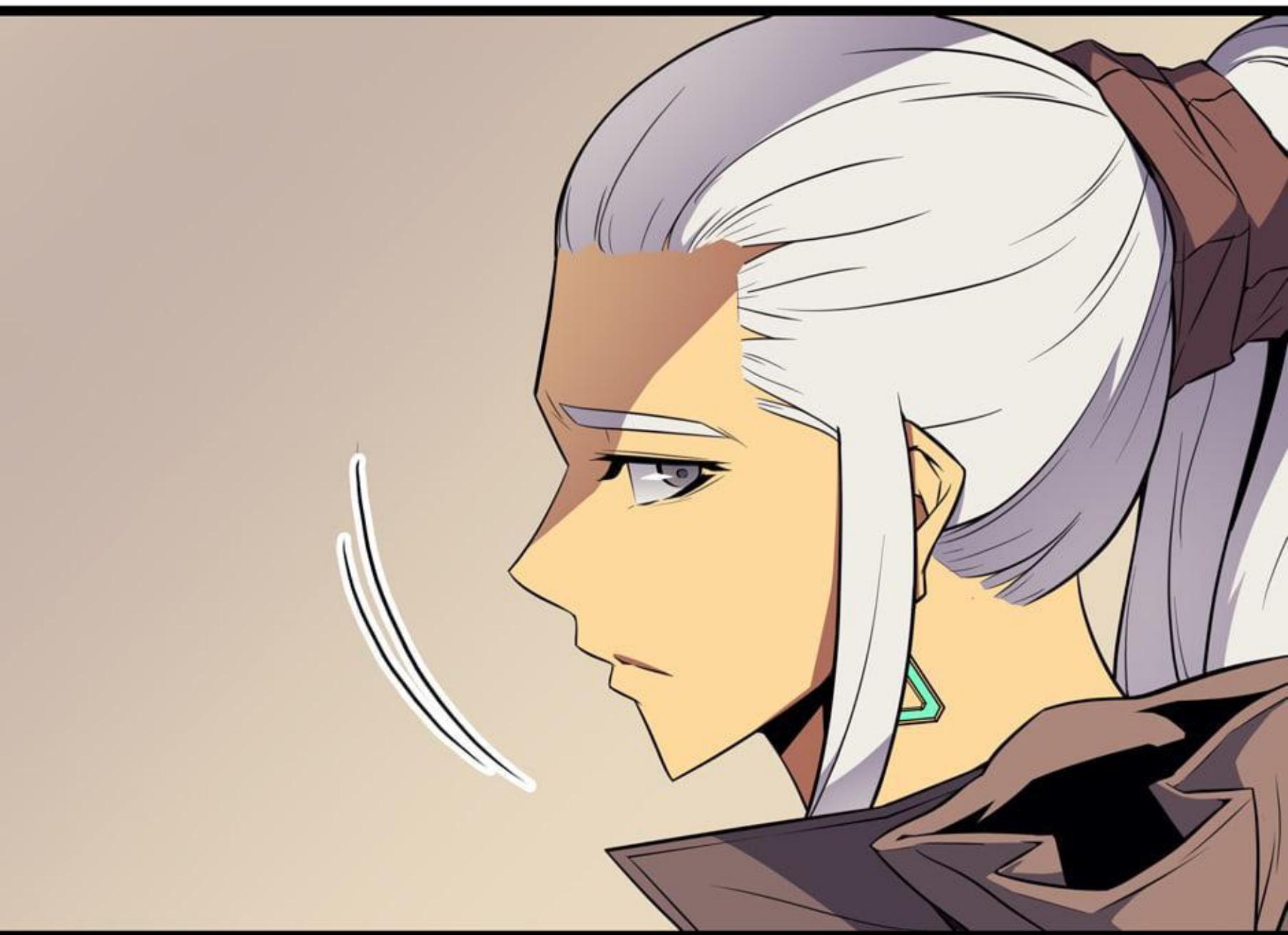
IT SEEMS WE
WERE TOO HASTY
AND FORGOT TO
PREPARE A WARP
SCROLL.

BUT IF YOU
HAPPEN TO VISIT THE
RHANOBLE KINGDOM

OR THE GEOTANBUL,
PLEASE SEEK US
OUT AT SILKID.

YES, I'LL
KEEP THAT
IN MIND.





WHAT IS IT?



DID YOU
COME HERE
TO SCOUT ME
AS WELL?

THERE ARE
TOO MANY PRYING
EYES HERE...

COME WITH ME.

AH, I WOULD
APPRECIATE IT IF YOU
COULD GIVE US SOME
PRIVACY, MASTER
VENIAN.



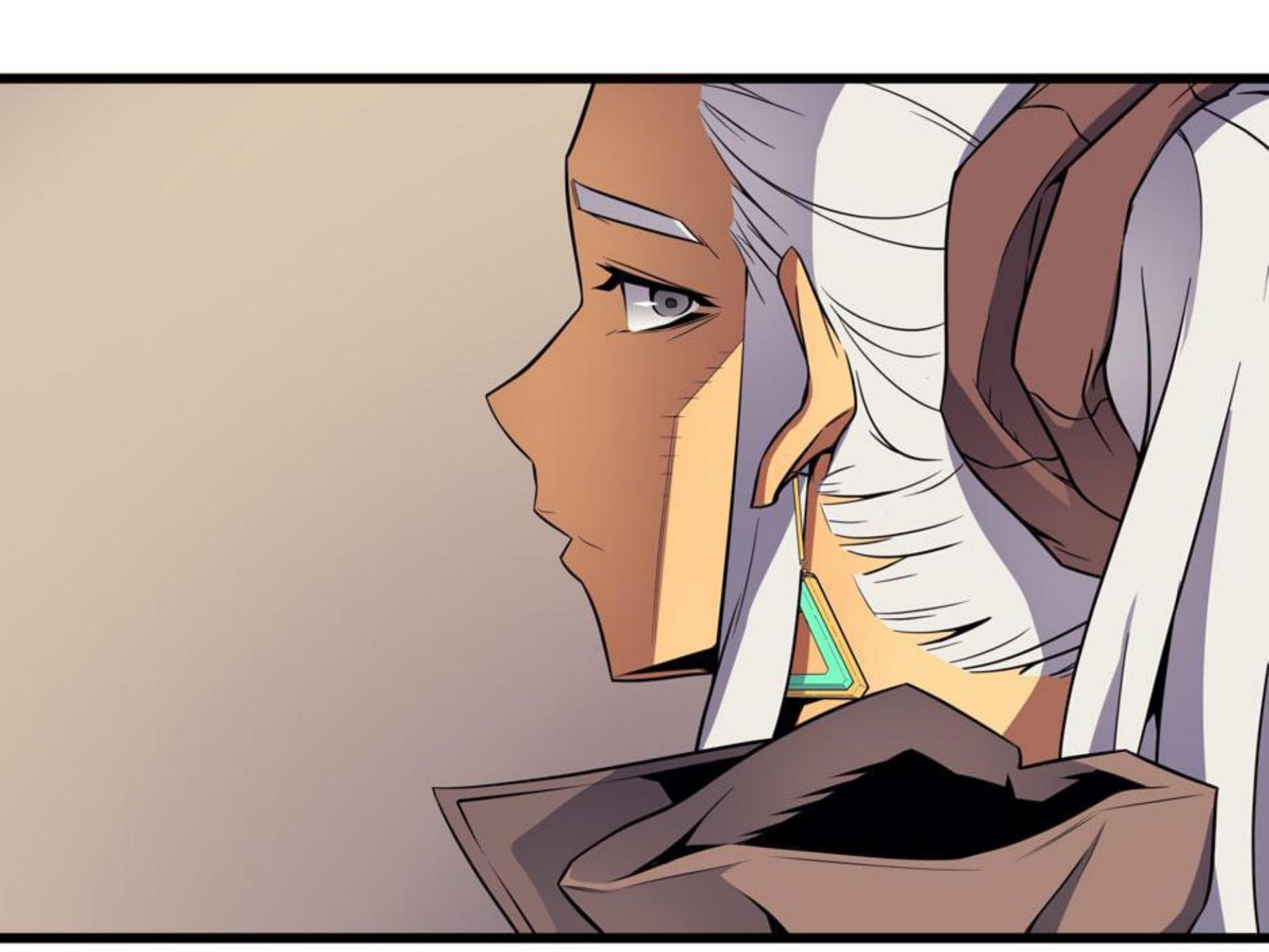


UHHHH... FREI?





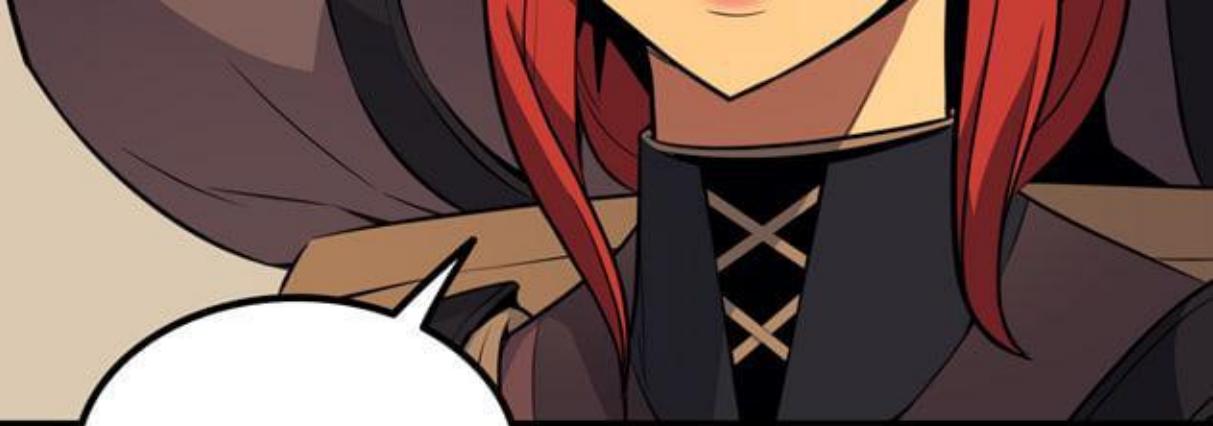
PLEASE BE
CAREFUL...



ISABEL,
YOU STAY HERE
AS WELL.

I'LL BE
RIGHT BACK.





OKAY.



MASTER VENIAN.



YES...?



STAY RIGHT THERE.

I'LL BE
BACK SHORTLY.



OKAY.



I'LL WAIT
FOR YOU HERE.







Quite the shady
spot for you to
recruit someone,
isn't it?



HMPH,
INSOLENT
BRAT!

WHO IN THEIR RIGHT
MIND WOULD RECRUIT
A FRAUD LIKE YOU?

HAHAHA...

THEN MIGHT I
ASK WHY YOU'VE
BROUGHT ME
OUT HERE...?



SSK

A GREENHORN
WHELP LIKE YOU
DEFEATED AN
APOSTLE?



I'LL BE THE
JUDGE OF THOSE
RIDICULOUS
CLAIMS.





**SHOW ME
WHAT YOU GOT,
BOY!**