THE ARCHMAGE RETURNS AFTER 4000 YEARS

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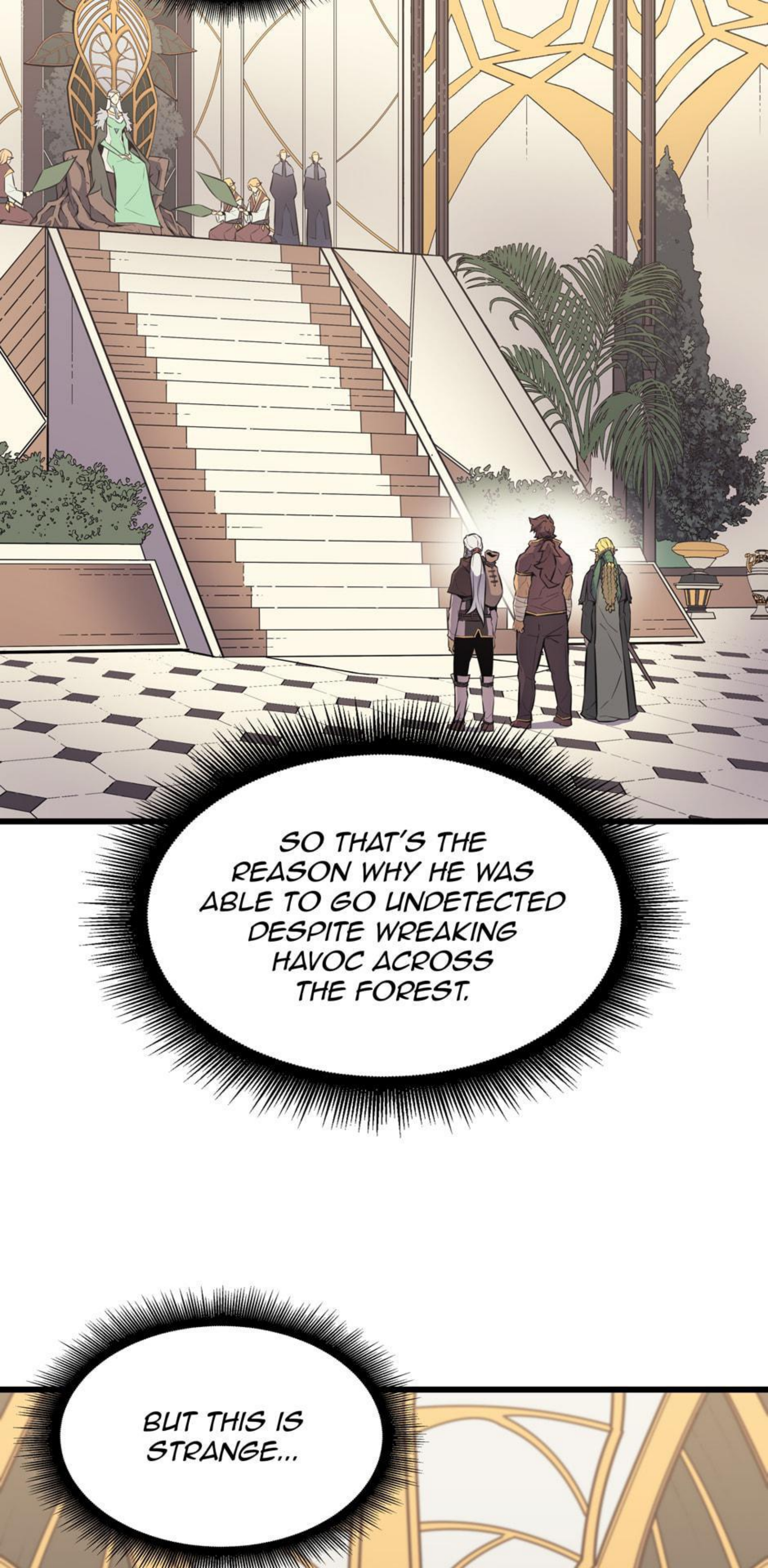
THE QUEEN OF ALL ELVES.

FRIEDICKWOOD...

THAT'S THE SAME NAME OYDIN BEARS. TO THINK THE APOSTLE WOULD BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE QUEEN...

I SEE...


SO THAT'S THE REASON WHY HE WAS ABLE TO GO UNDETECTED DESPITE WREAKING HAVOC ACROSS THE FOREST.
BUT THIS IS STRANGE...

SHE'S NOT A HIGH ELF. IF MEMORY SERVES CORRECTLY, ALL THE PAST QUEENS THAT I WAS AWARE OF WERE HIGH ELVES.

ELDEST DAUGHTER OF ANARIL, SIACKS GREETS YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

AS I MENTIONED IN MY REPORTS, THESE MEN ARE MY COMPANIONS WHO ASSISTED ME DURING MY MISSION.
I IMPLORE HER MAJESTY TO GRANT THEM THE RIGHT TO STAY WITHIN THE FOREST UNTIL WE SET OUT FOR OUR NEXT DESTINATION.

HER MAJESTY IS WELL-VERSED IN THE LANGUAGE OF HUMANS.
PLEASE, INTRODUCE YOURSELVES BEFORE HER MAJESTY...

HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO STAND THERE PETRIFIED, YOU BIG OAF?!!

I-IS SHE EVEN HUMAN...?!

OH, RIGHT... SHE'S AN ELF.

PEARLY, SMOOTH SKIN WITH THE GRACE OF A MAJESTIC BUTTERFLY...

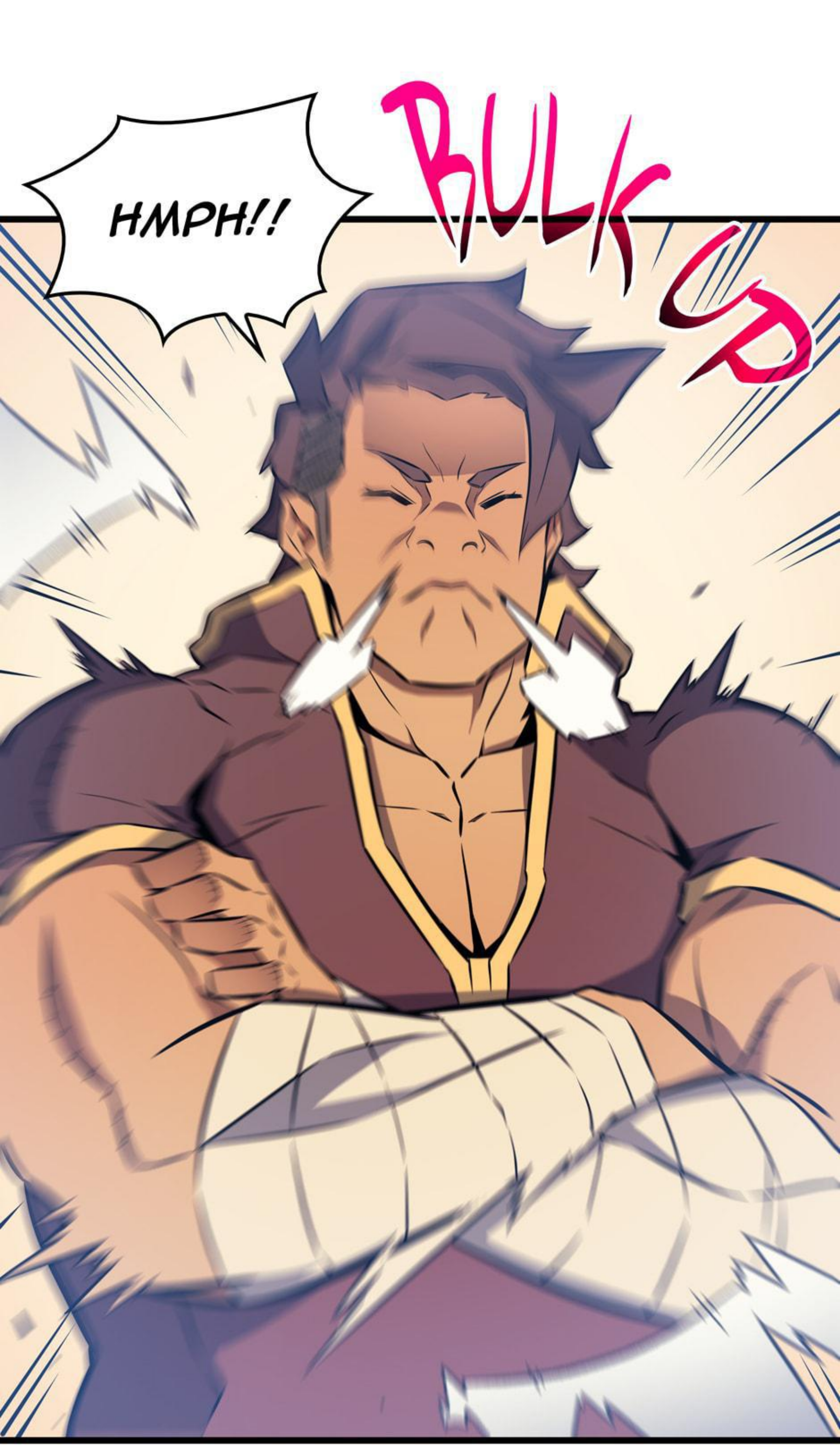
SHE TALKS IN AN ELEGANT VOICE THAT MAKES MY TITANIC KNEES TREMBLE...! THE WORD BEAUTIFUL DOESN'T DO JUSTICE TO HER UNPARALLELED BEAUTY...!

EVEN SIACKS IS AN UGLY GOBLIN IN COMPARISON...
?

PSST! IVAN! INTRODUCE YOURSELF!
O-OH, RIGHT...!

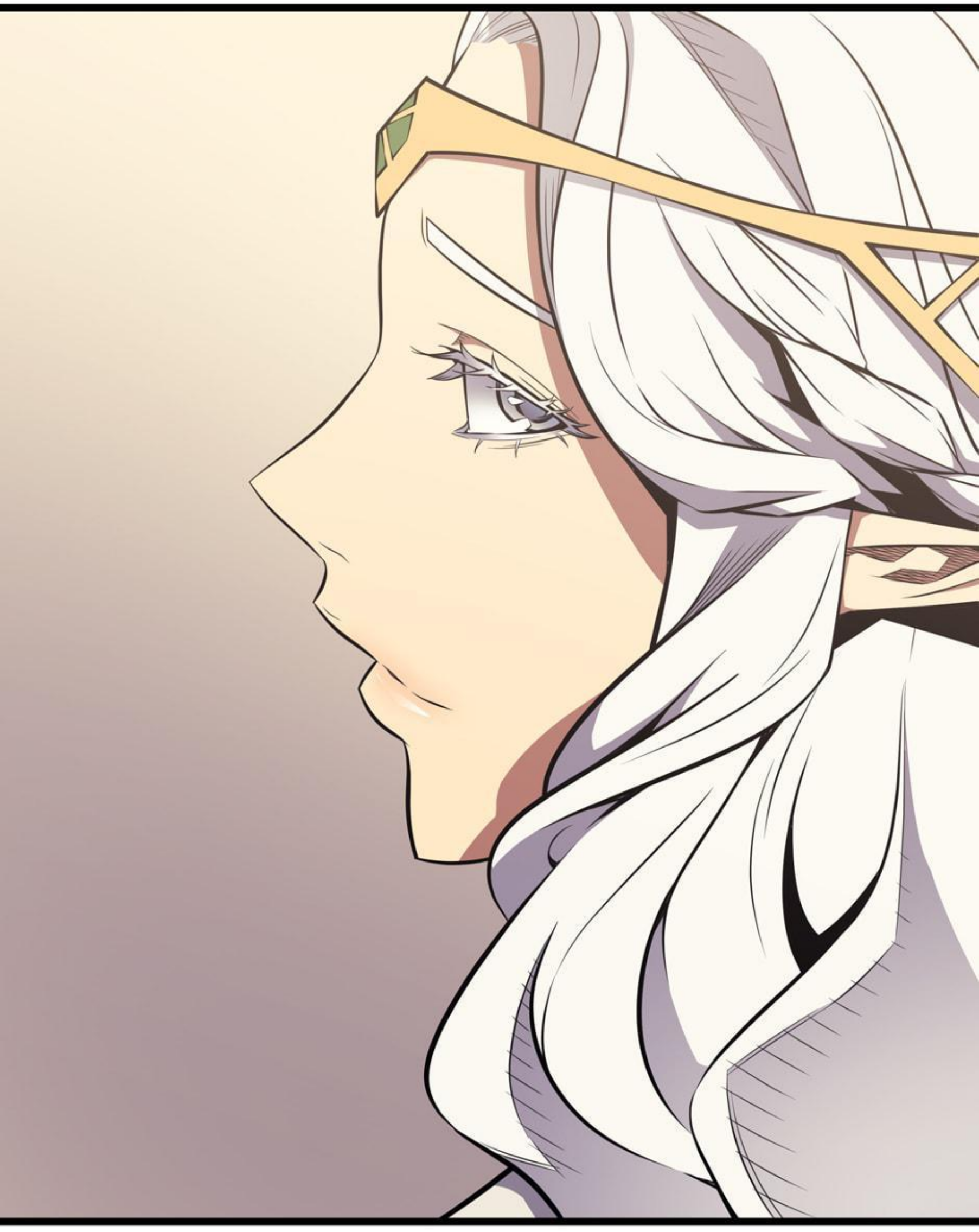
SHAKE
SHAKE
GAH...!
I FEEL MY HEART RACE WITH THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND SUNS WHEN I SEE HER! A DANGEROUSLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE MAY PETRIFY MY BODY AND MIND!

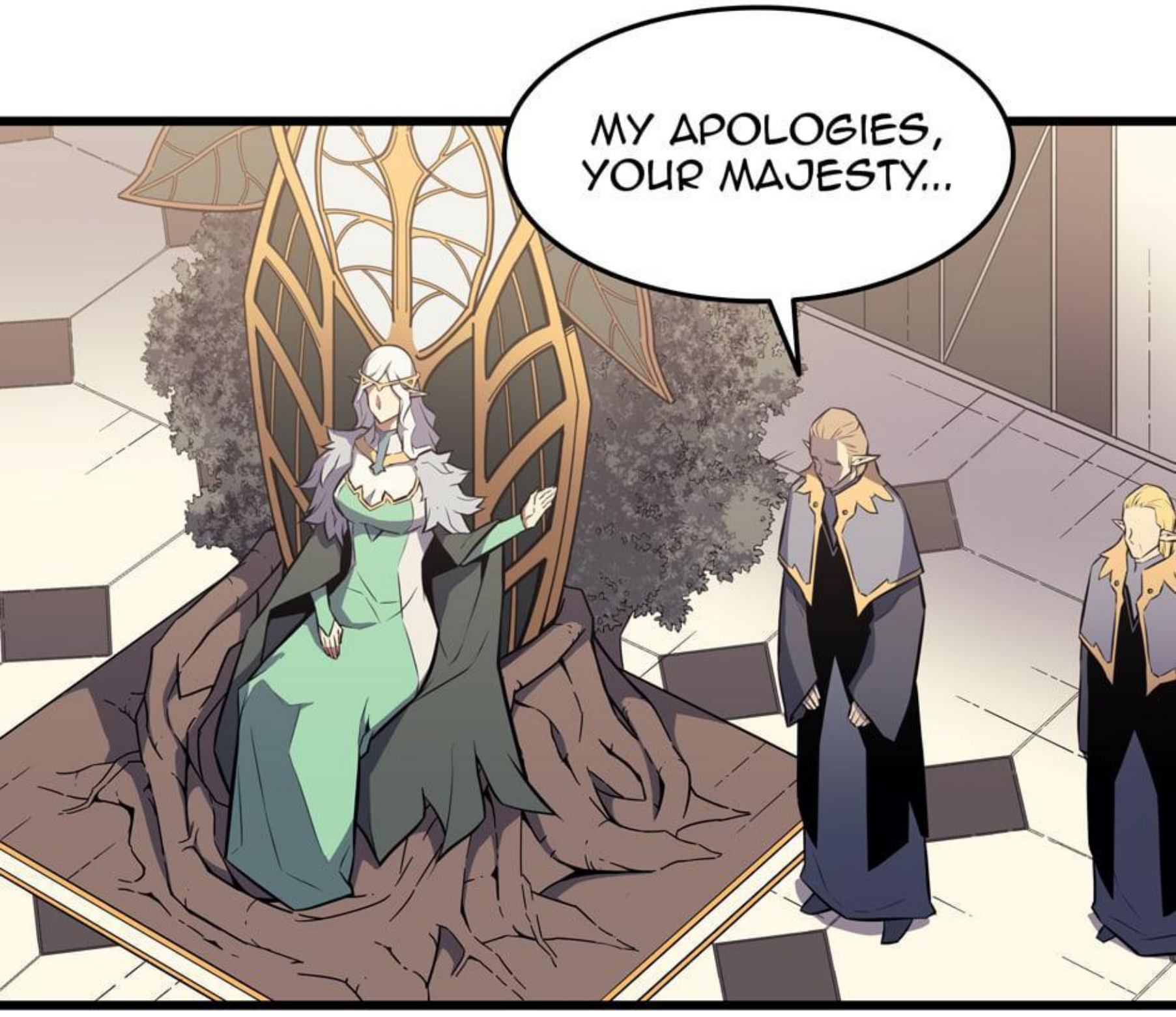
BUT I AM A TRUE WARRIOR WHO WALKS THE PATH OF MARTIAL ARTS...
THAT'S IT! I MUST STAND FIRM AS THOUGH I AM FACING AGAINST A BOULDER!!

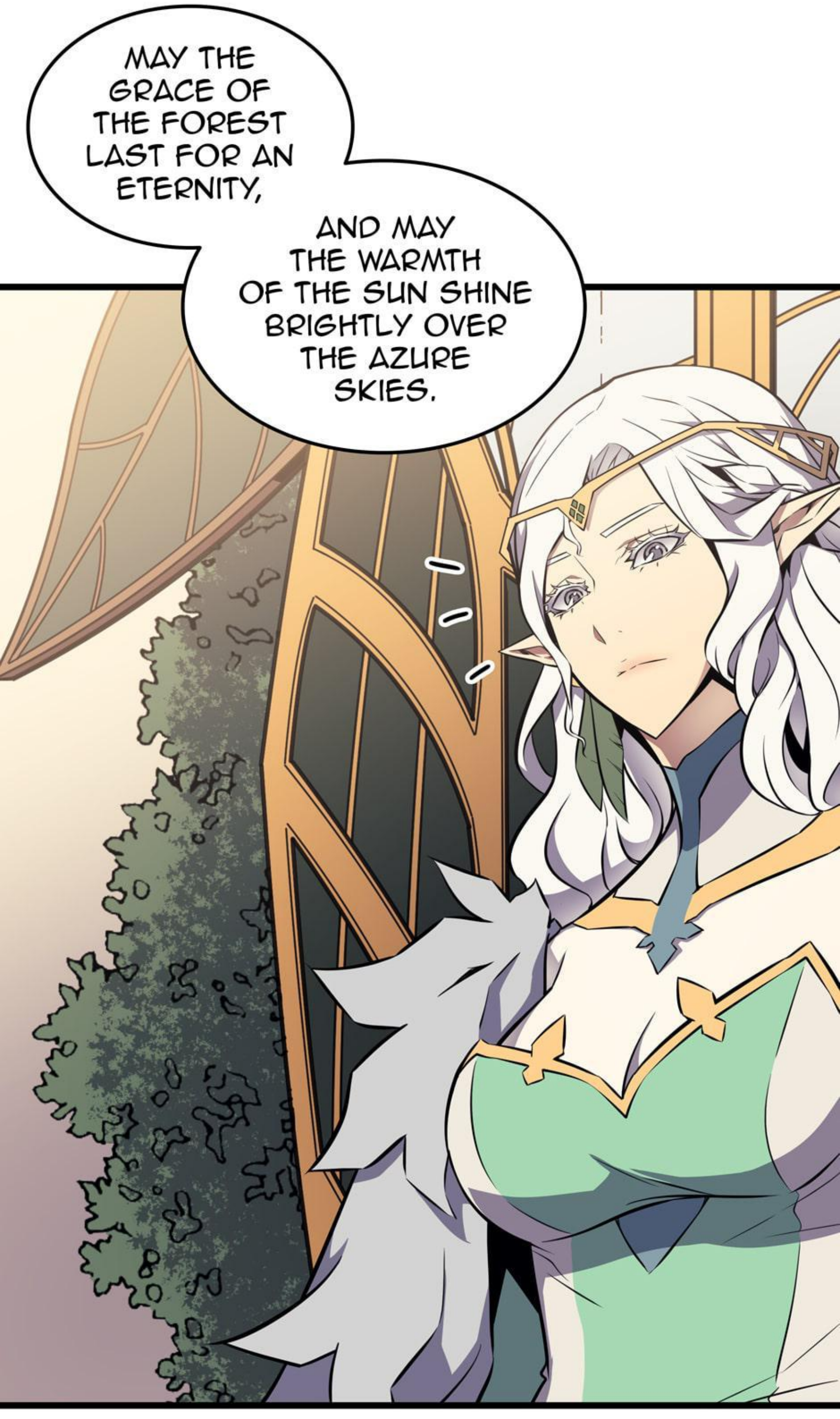

HMPH!!
BULKED

YOU DUMB, BARBARIC, MUSCLE-BRAINED OAF!!
HANG IN THERE...

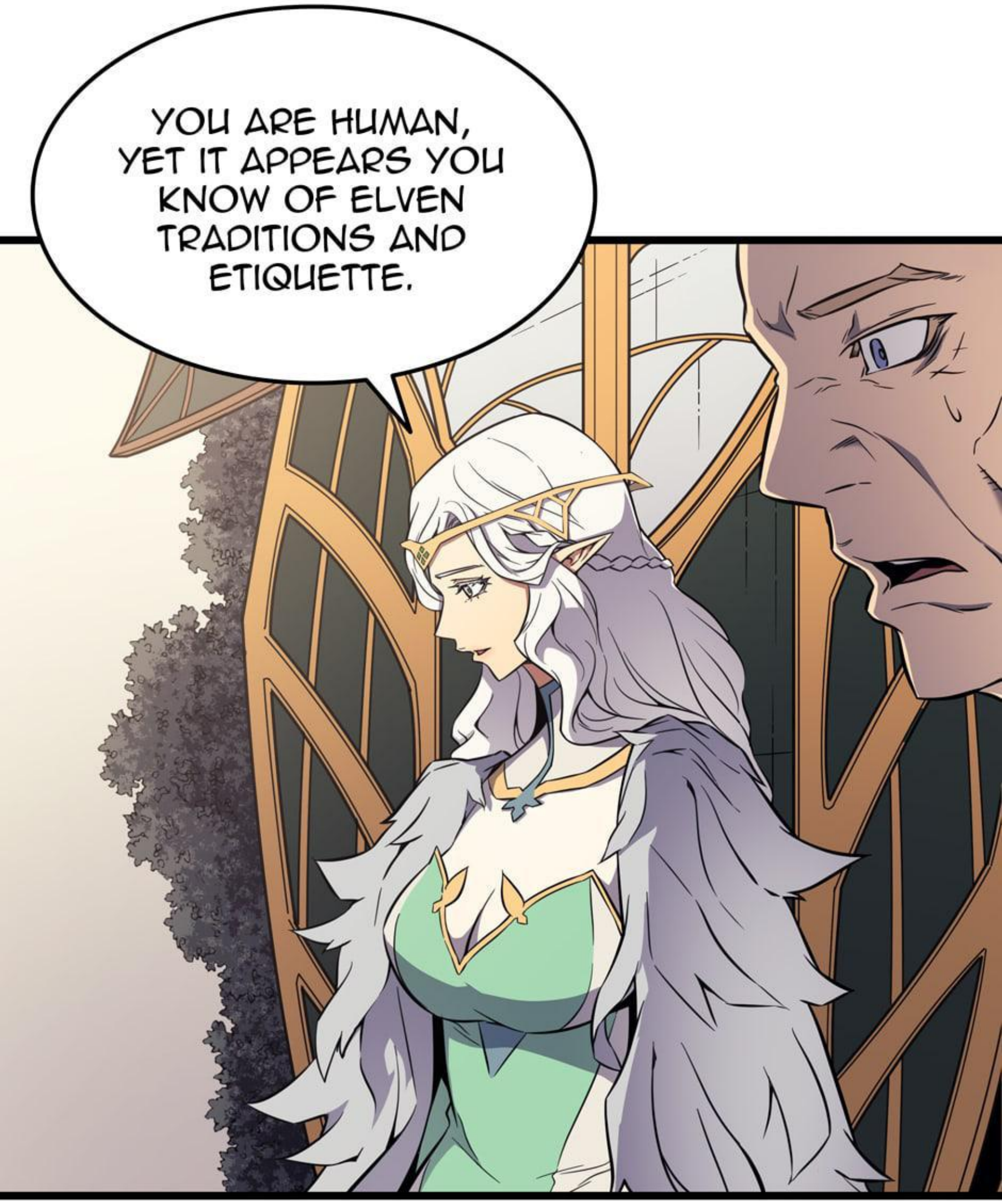
W-WHAT AUDACITY!!
DO YOU REALIZE WHO YOU ARE ADDRESSING?!

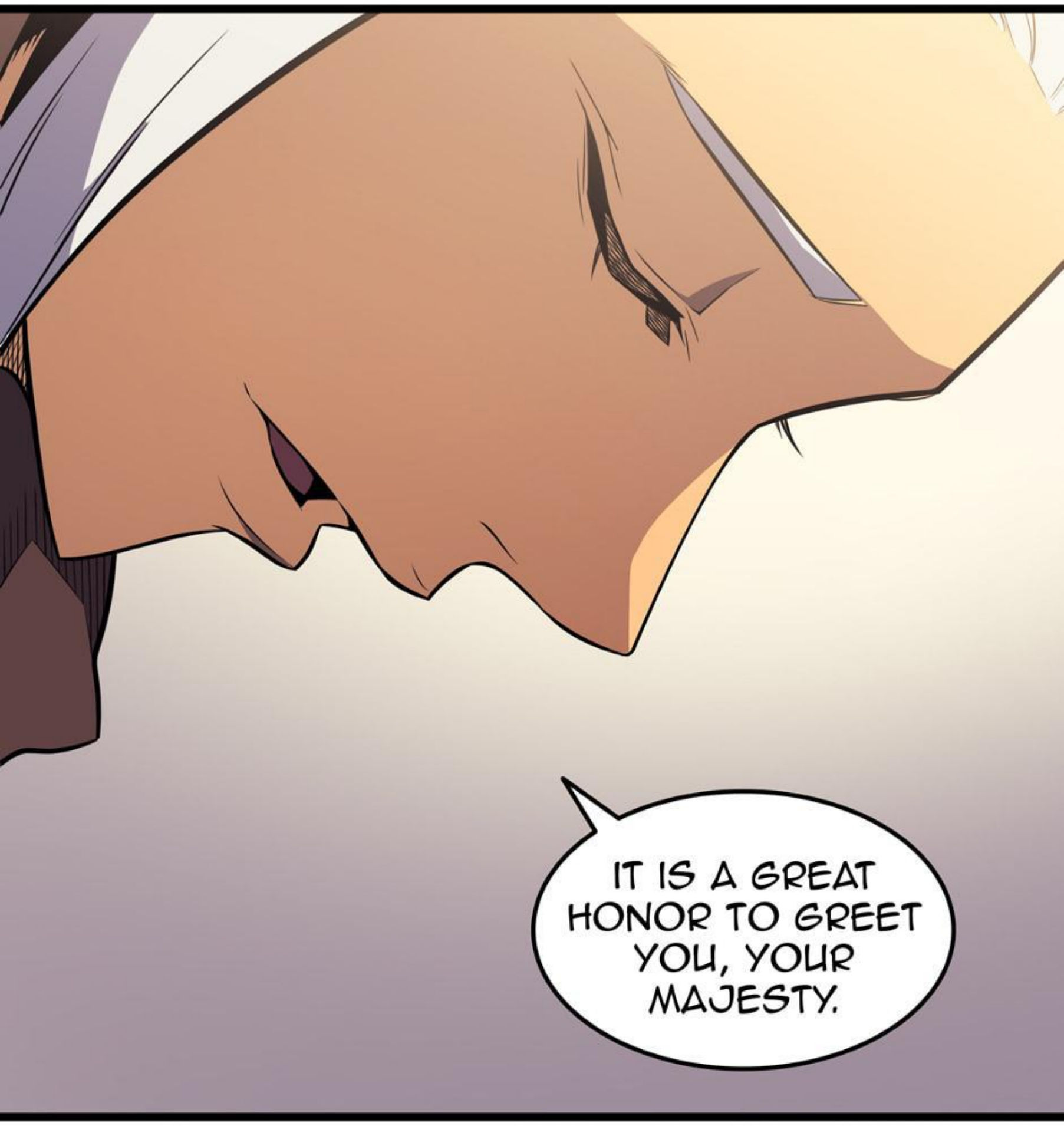



MY APOLOGIES, YOUR MAJESTY...


MAY THE GRACE OF THE FOREST LAST FOR AN ETERNITY,
AND MAY THE WARMTH OF THE SUN SHINE BRIGHTLY OVER THE AZURE SKIES.

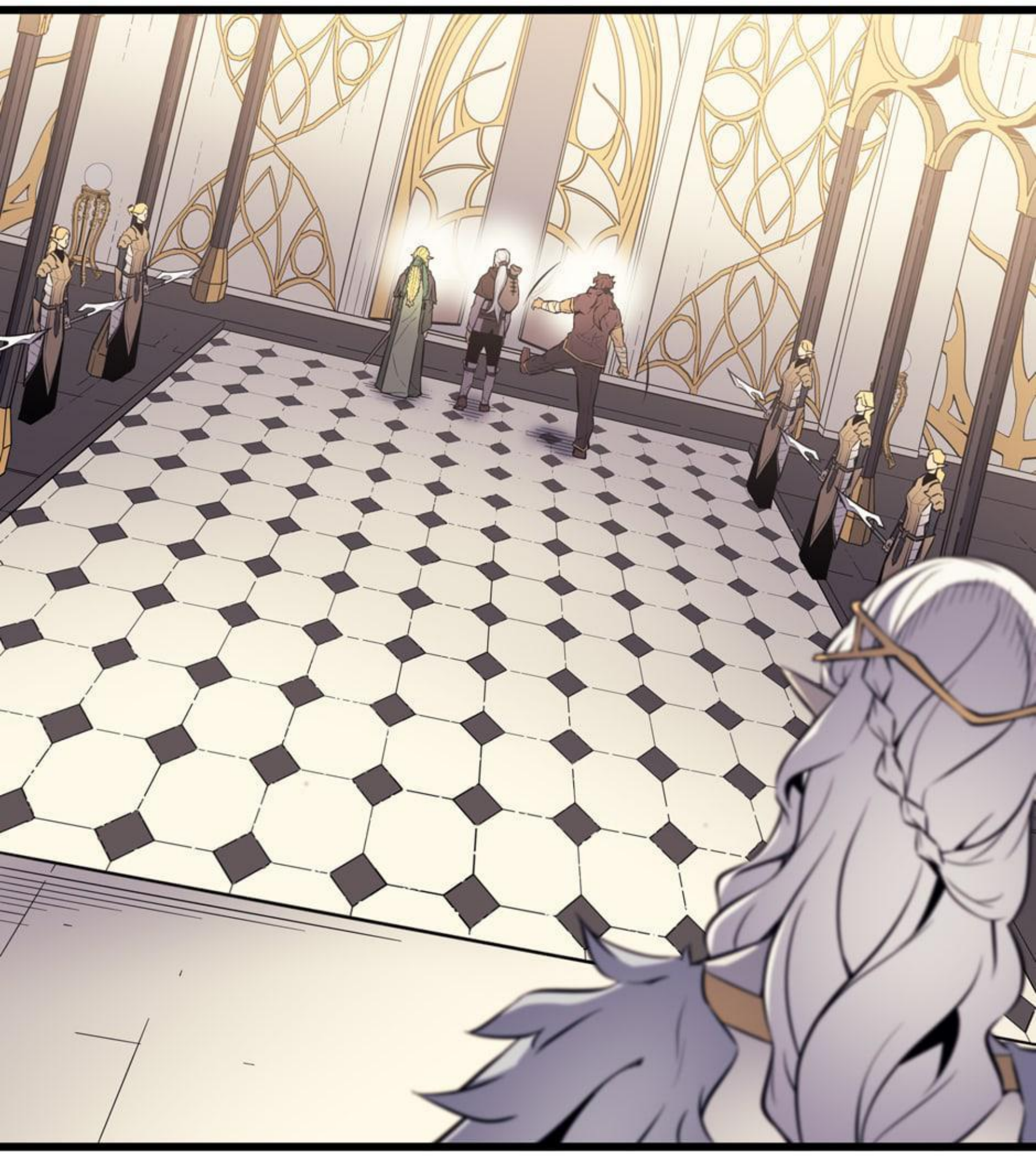
I AM THE MAGE, FREI. HAILING FROM THE CASTKAU EMPIRE, I OFFER MY GREETINGS TO HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.

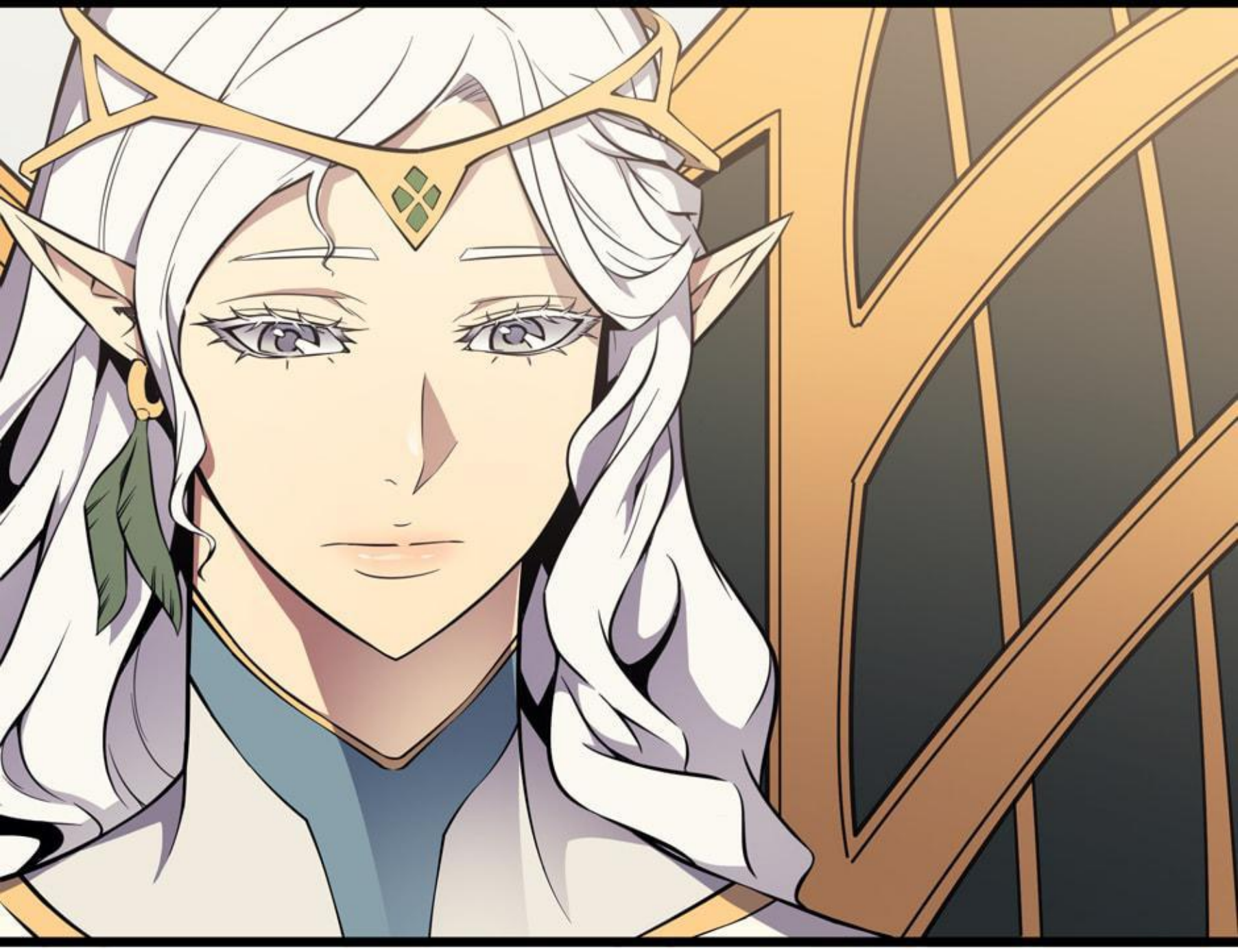

YOU ARE HUMAN, YET IT APPEARS YOU KNOW OF ELVEN TRADITIONS AND ETIQUETTE.


IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO GREET YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

I GIVE YOU MY PERMISSION TO STAY IN THE FOREST.
REST YOUR TIRED BODIES DURING YOUR STAY HERE AS HONORED GUESTS.

YOU MAY TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
AS YOU COMMAND, MY QUEEN.





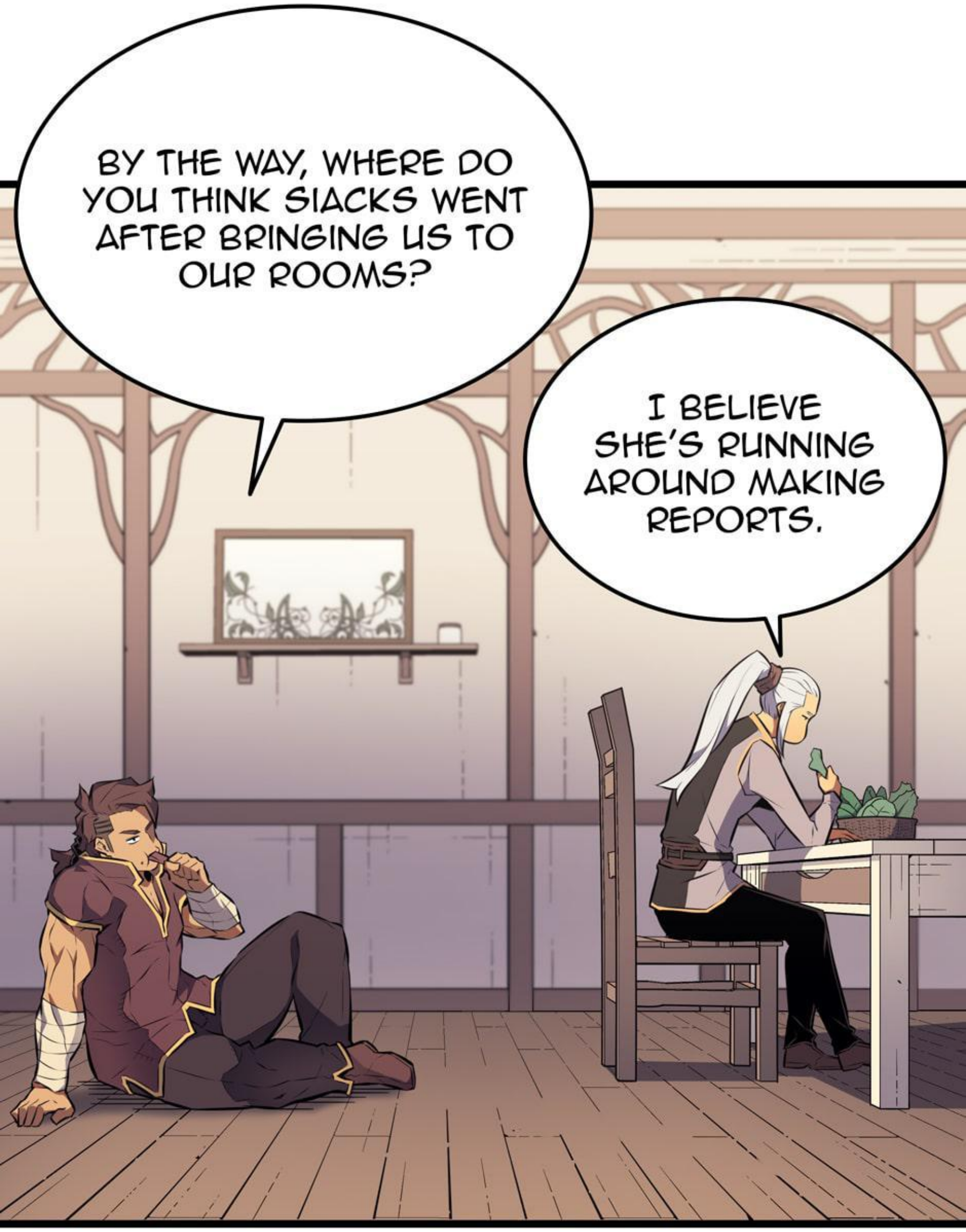
WHAT...
IS THIS?!

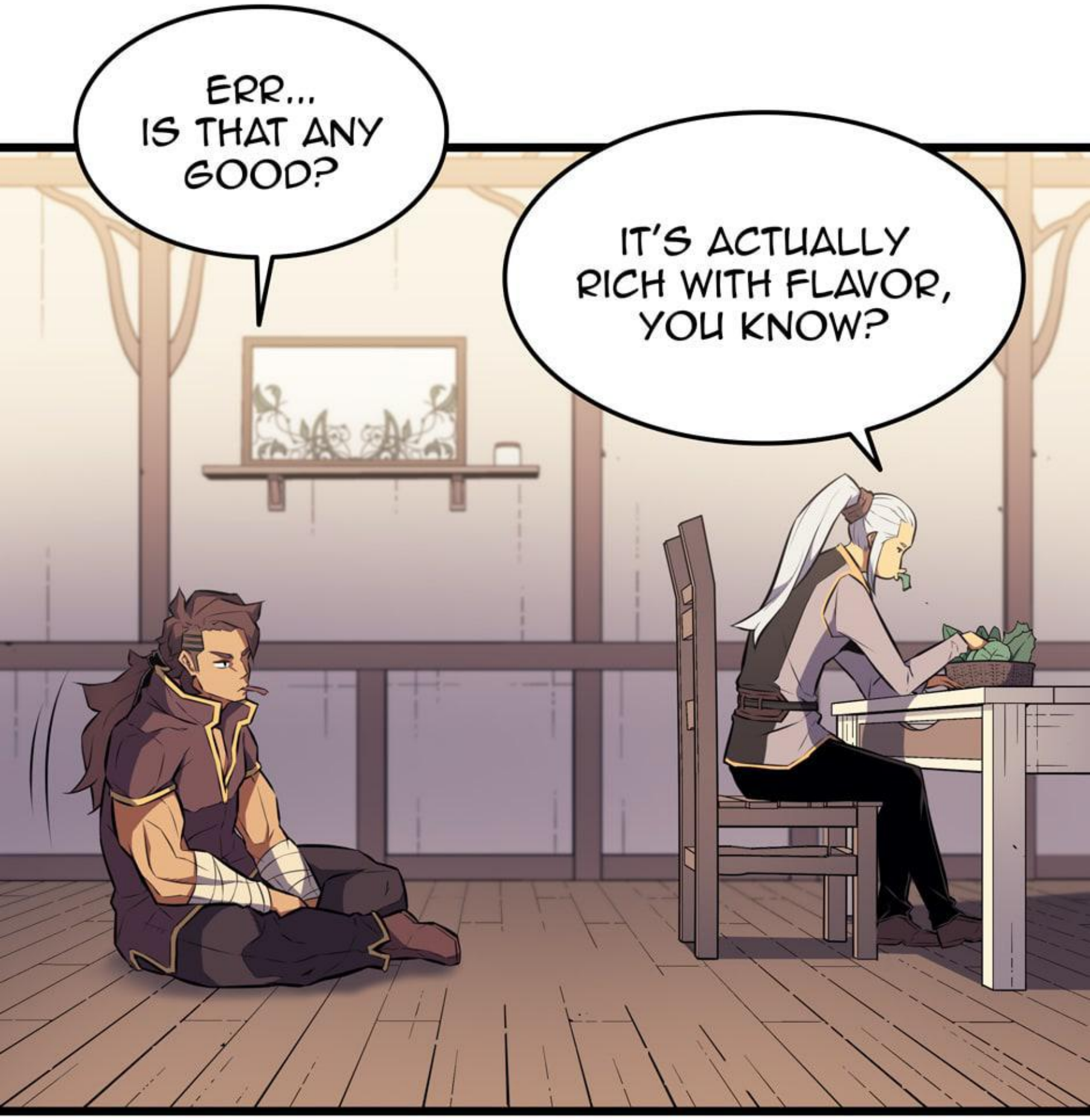
THIS IS OUR DINNER. SIACKS PREPARED IT FOR US.

ARE YOU SHITTING ME?! EVEN GOATS DINE BETTER THAN THIS!!
DID YOU REALLY EXPECT THE ELVES WOULD SERVE US STEAK?

CALM DOWN AND STUFF YOUR FACE WITH THIS INSTEAD.
MEAT JERKY?!!

YOU'RE PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING, AREN'T YOU?! THIS IS WHY I LIKE GUYS LIKE YOU!


BY THE WAY, WHERE DO YOU THINK SIACKS WENT AFTER BRINGING US TO OUR ROOMS?
I BELIEVE SHE'S RUNNING AROUND MAKING REPORTS.

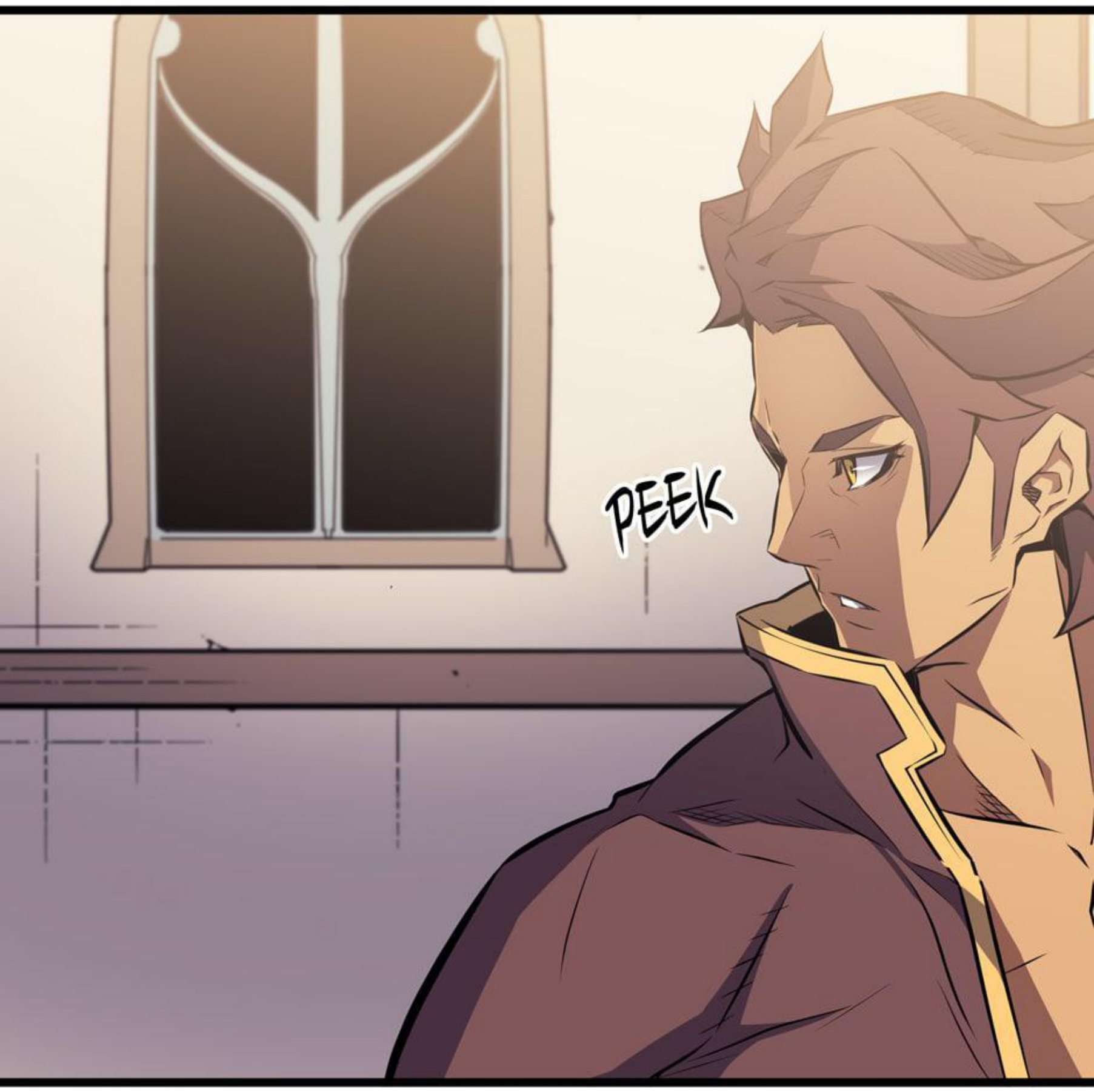

ERR... IS THAT ANY GOOD?
IT'S ACTUALLY RICH WITH FLAVOR, YOU KNOW?

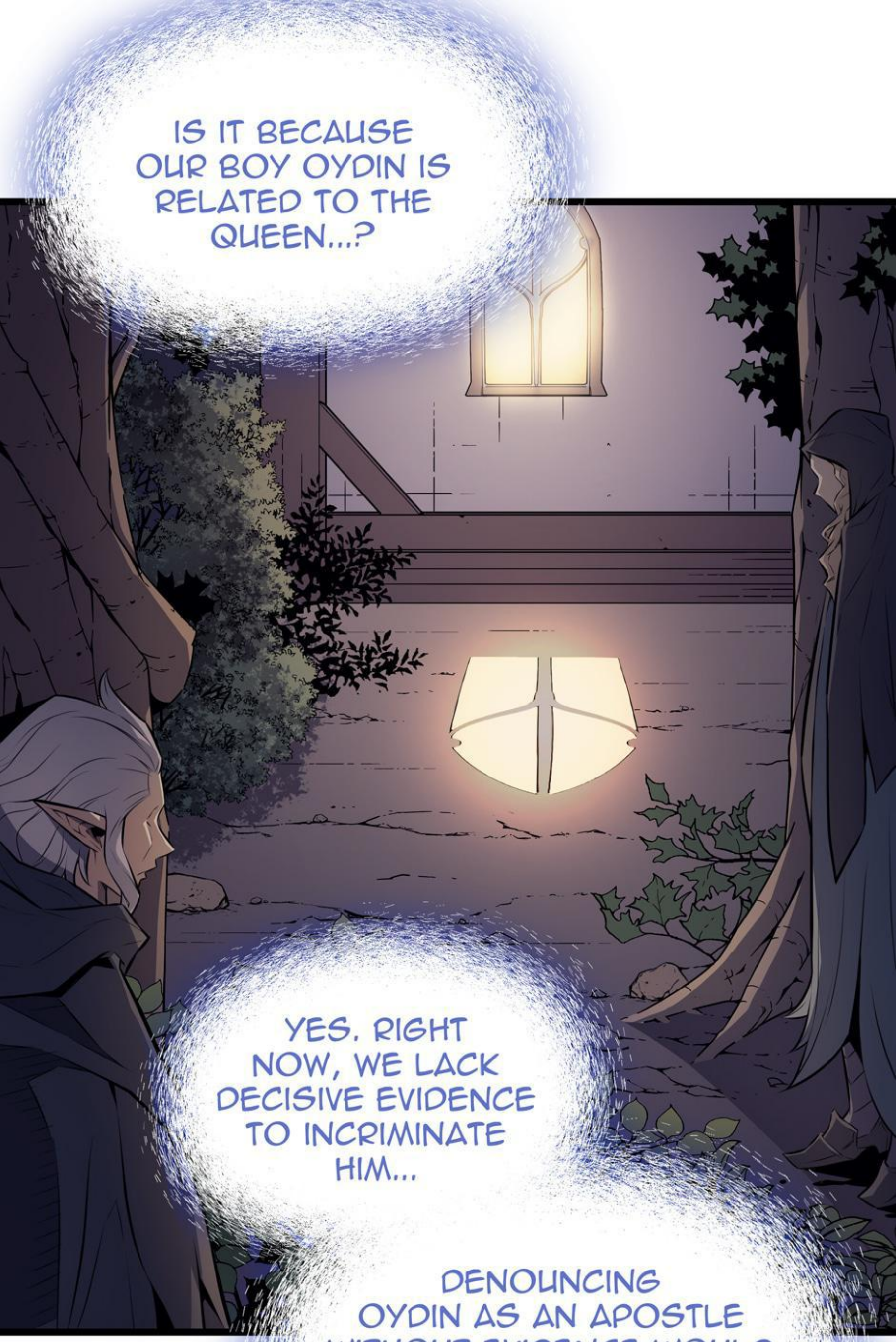
OUR SITUATION ISN'T LOOKING GOOD.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY IT OUT LOUD...? THIS IS JUST DUMB.

UGH, YOU'RE SO FREAKING DENSE! THEY'VE ASSIGNED SENTINELS TO KEEP WATCH OVER US!

THE ELVES HAVE MUCH BETTER HEARING THAN HUMANS!


PEEK


IS IT BECAUSE OUR BOY OYDIN IS RELATED TO THE QUEEN...?
YES. RIGHT NOW, WE LACK DECISIVE EVIDENCE TO INCRIMINATE HIM...
DENOUNCING OYDIN AS AN APOSTLE WITHOUT EVIDENCE WOULD INSTEAD ALLOW THEM TO BRAND US AS CONSPIRATORS.

WE'D BE TURNING THE ENTIRE VILLAGE AGAINST US.
ACCORDING TO RICKY, AN APOSTLE WOULD REQUIRE A SPECIFIC MEDIUM IN ORDER TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE APOCALYPSE.

MEDIUM?
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
UGH... WAS THIS JERKY MADE FROM WHALE MEAT? WHY IS THIS THING SO TOUGH TO CHEW?

WHEN OYDIN TRIES TO CONTACT NOZDOG, THE RESULTING TRANSMISSION WOULD THEORETICALLY RELEASE A SMALL AMOUNT OF DIVINE POWER.
TRACKING DOWN THAT ENERGY WILL MOST LIKELY LEAD US TO THE MEDIUM.

ALL I'M HEARING FROM YOU IS THAT WE SHOULD LAY LOW UNTIL THE ELF BOY IS IN THE MOOD TO CALL HIS DEMIGOD?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'LL CALL HIM WHILE WE'RE IN THE VILLAGE?

HMM... I PREDICT HE'LL CALL EITHER

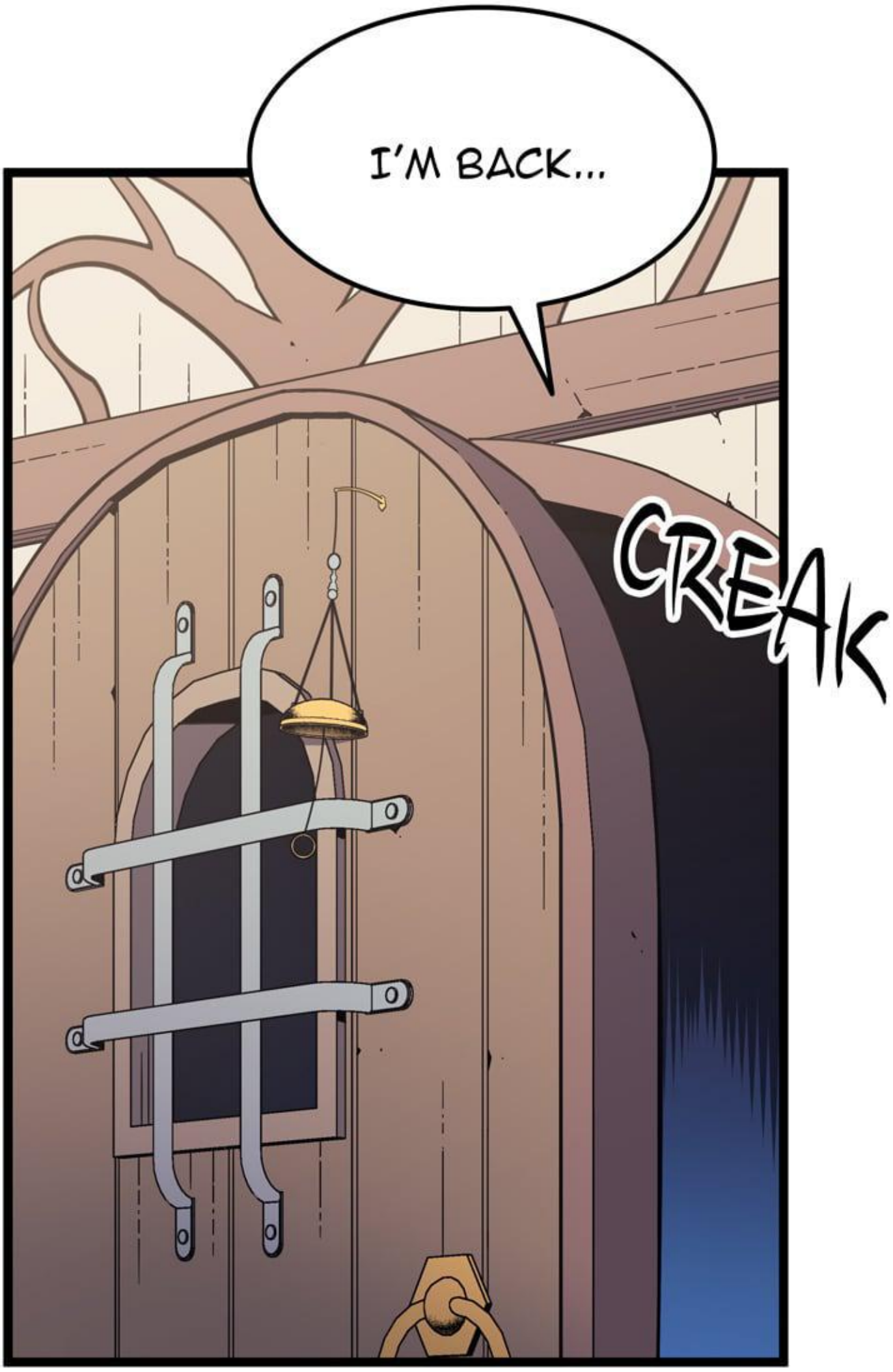
TONIGHT OR TOMORROW.

WHAT? HOW CAN YOU TELL?

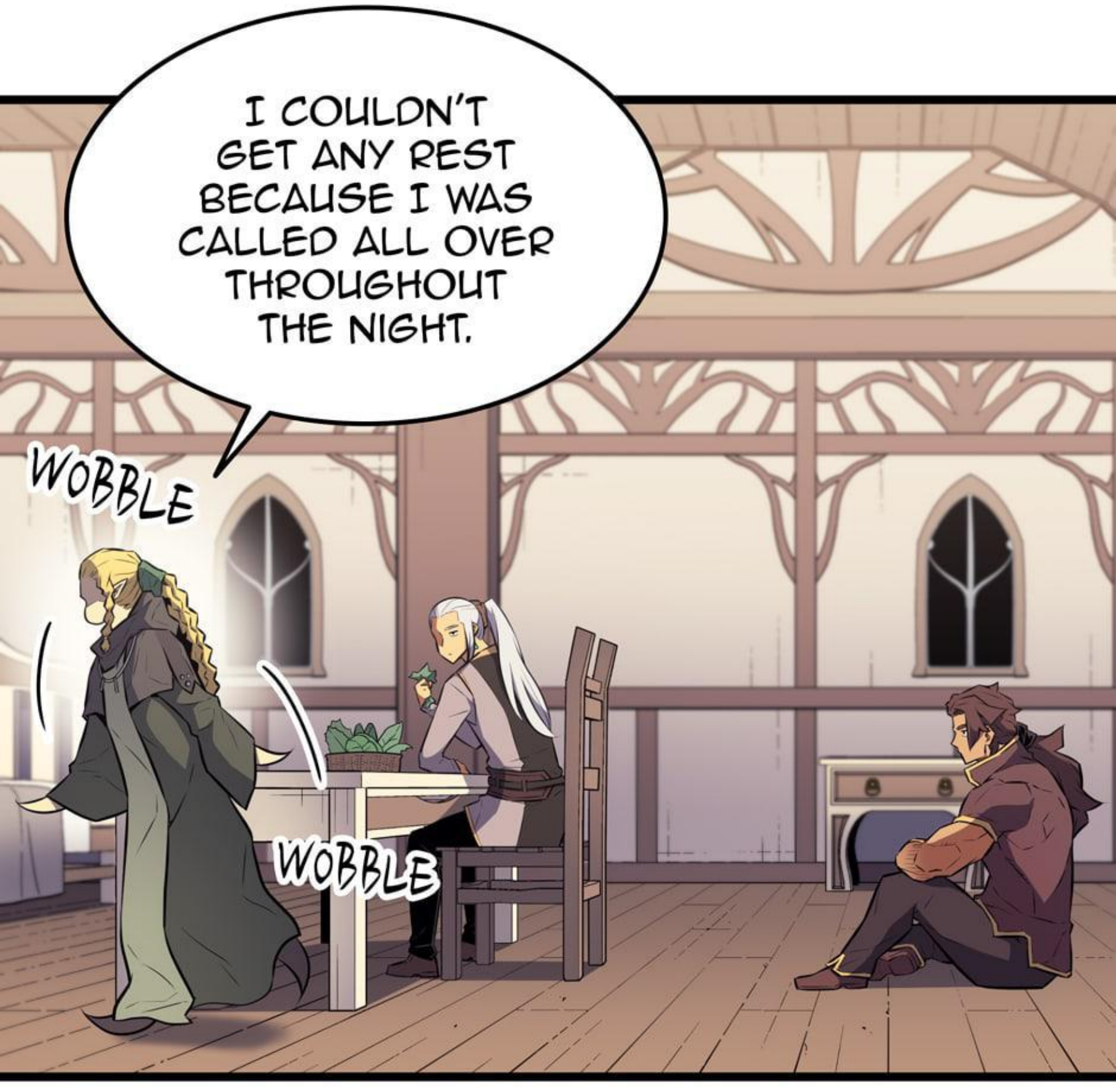
BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE YOU TRASHED ALL THE UNDEAD AROUND THIS REGION.

OYDIN WILL HAVE BECOME ADDICTED TO SENSELESS MURDER.

HOW LONG DO YOU SUPPOSE A BLOOD-THIRSTY BEAST LIKE HIM WILL LAST IN A SECLUDED VILLAGE OF VEGAN ELVES?


I'M BACK...
CREAK

SIACKS...?
YOU LOOK LIKE A MESS, WHAT HAPPENED?

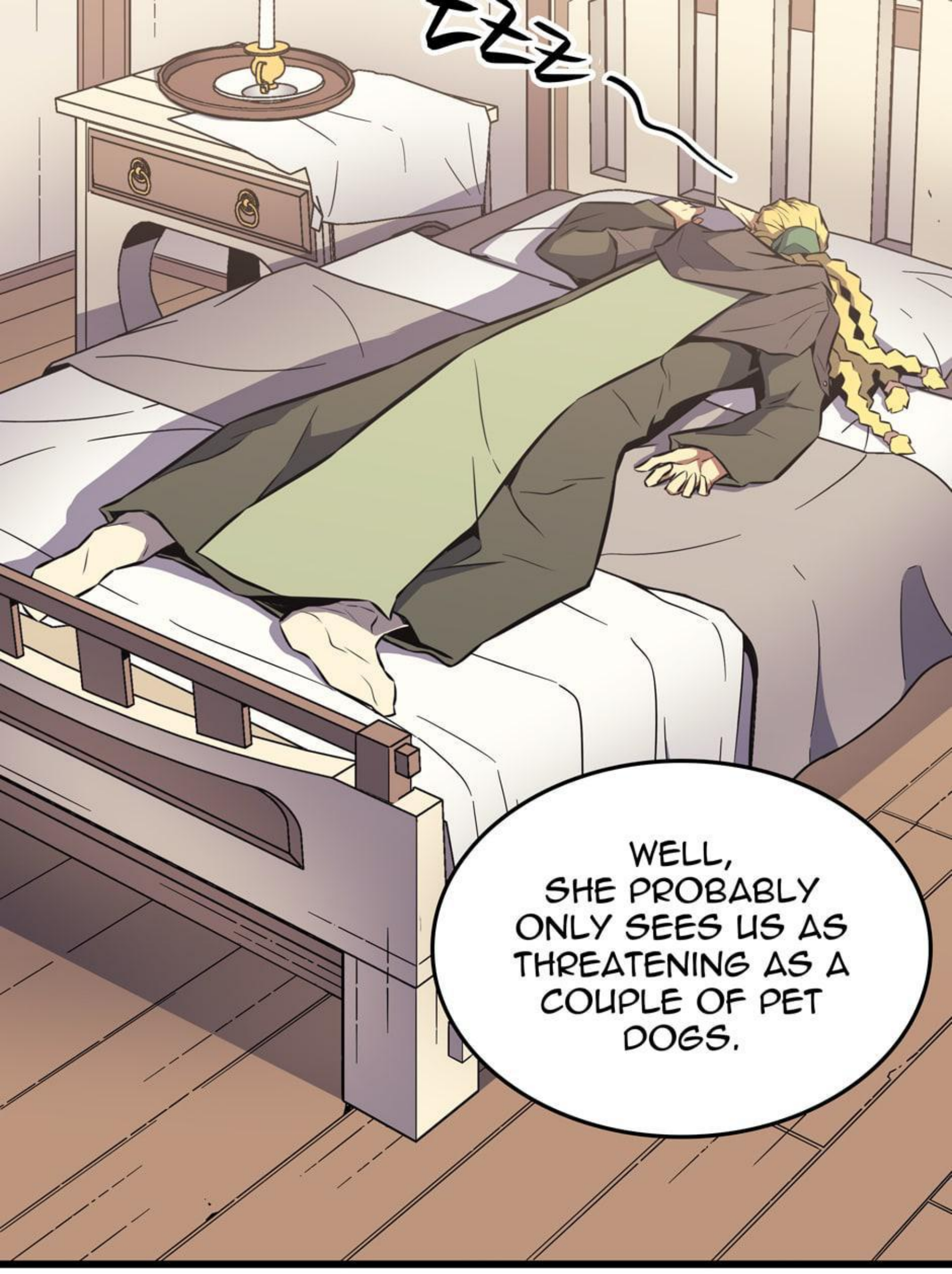

I COULDN'T GET ANY REST BECAUSE I WAS CALLED ALL OVER THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

DON'T WAKE ME UP, OKAY?

PLOP

...

ISN'T SHE LEAVING HERSELF TOO DEFENSELESS CONSIDERING SHE INVITED TWO GUYS INTO HER HOME?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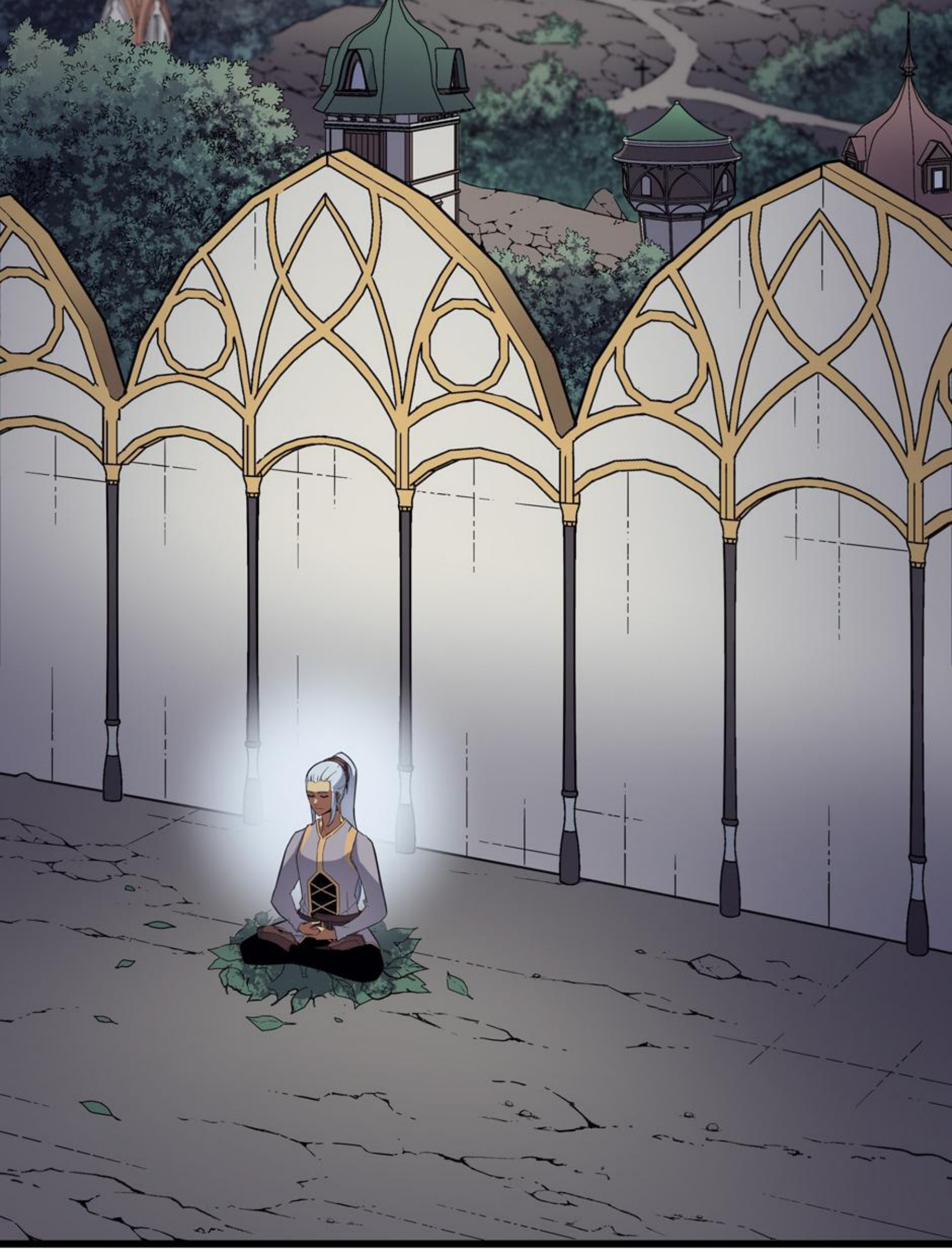
WELL, SHE PROBABLY ONLY SEES US AS THREATENING AS A COUPLE OF PET DOGS.

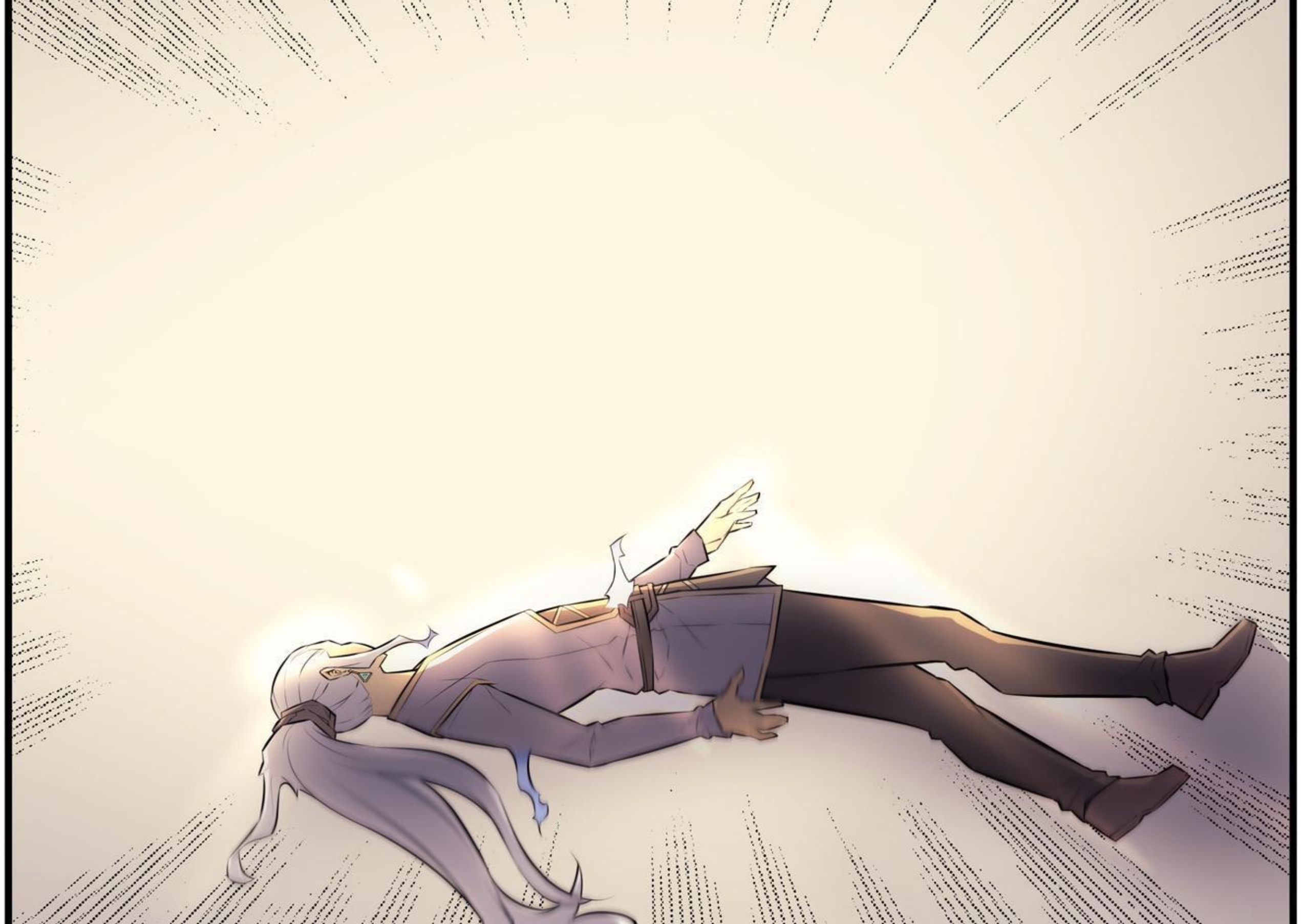
IN ANY CASE, I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO SO I'M GOING TO STEP OUTSIDE FOR A BIT.
DRRK
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? WE'RE BOTH DONE EATING SO IT'S TIME TO SPAR AND SWEAT IT ALL OUT!

IVAN, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.

THERE'S A FRIEND I'D LIKE TO PASS A MESSAGE TO.

A MESSAGE?
TO WHOM?

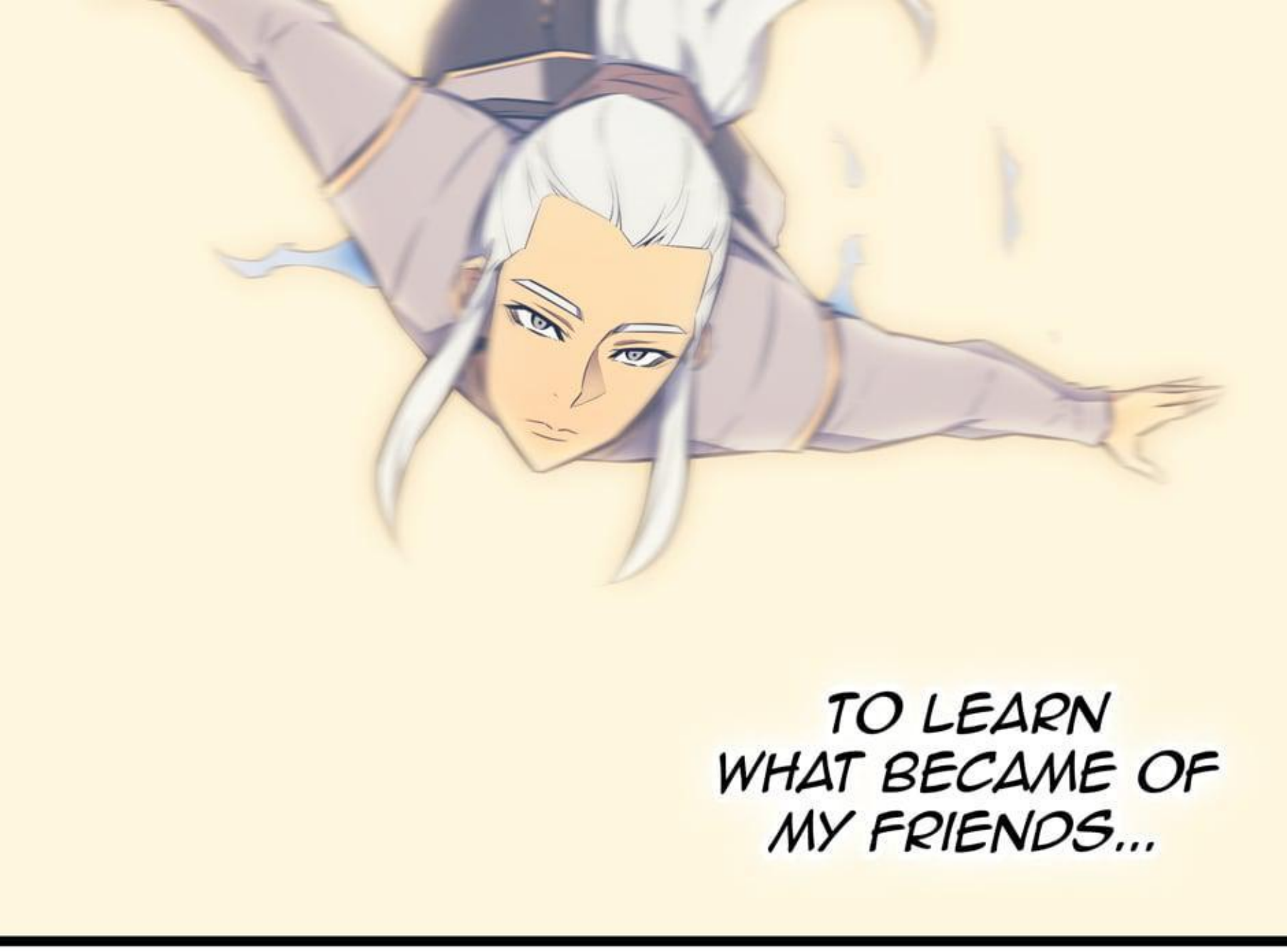




HRUHIRAL, THE WORLD TREE
THAT SUSTAINS THE GREAT
REINALS FOREST...

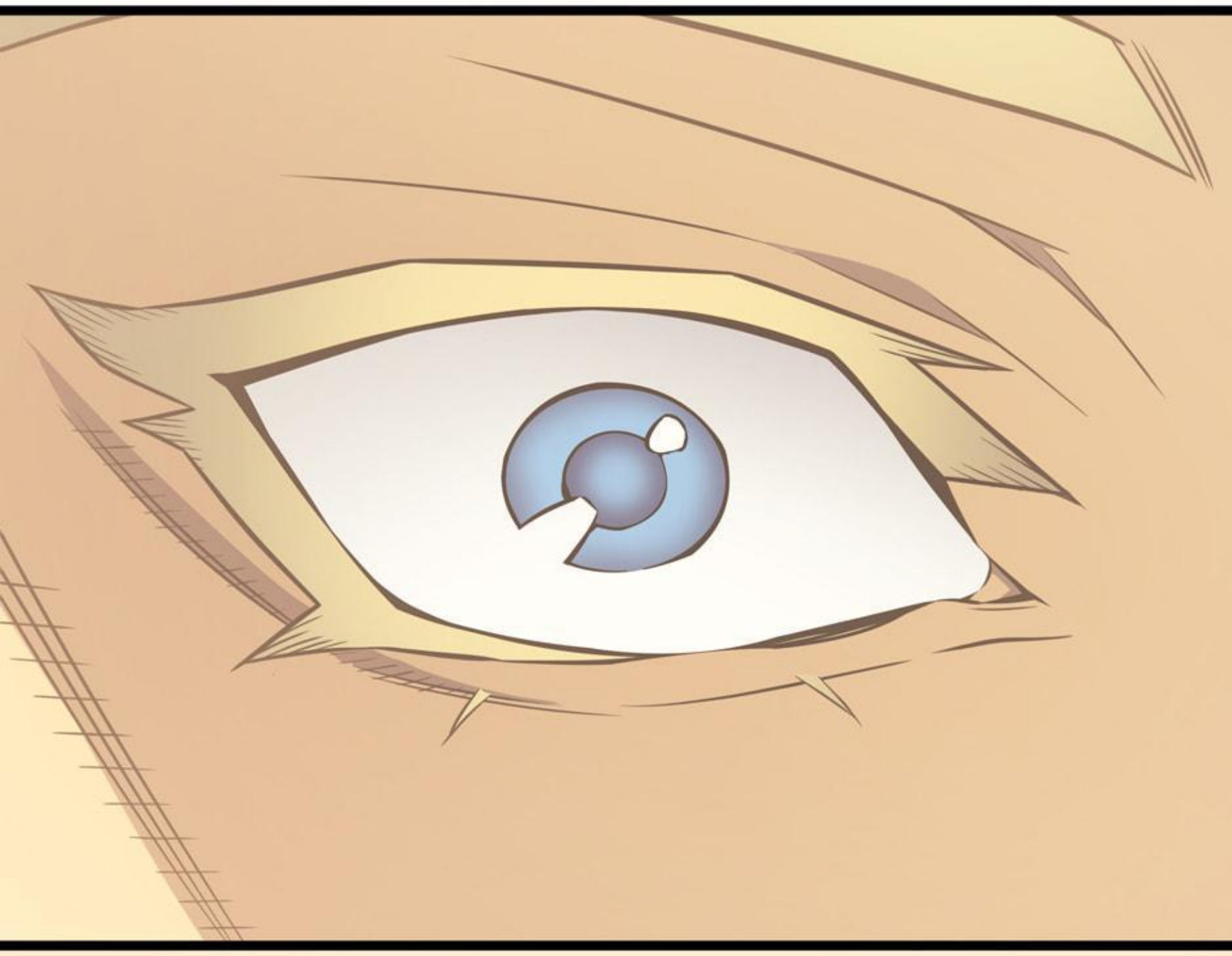
I'M SURE SHE KNOWS SOMETHING...

INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED 4,000 YEARS AGO...



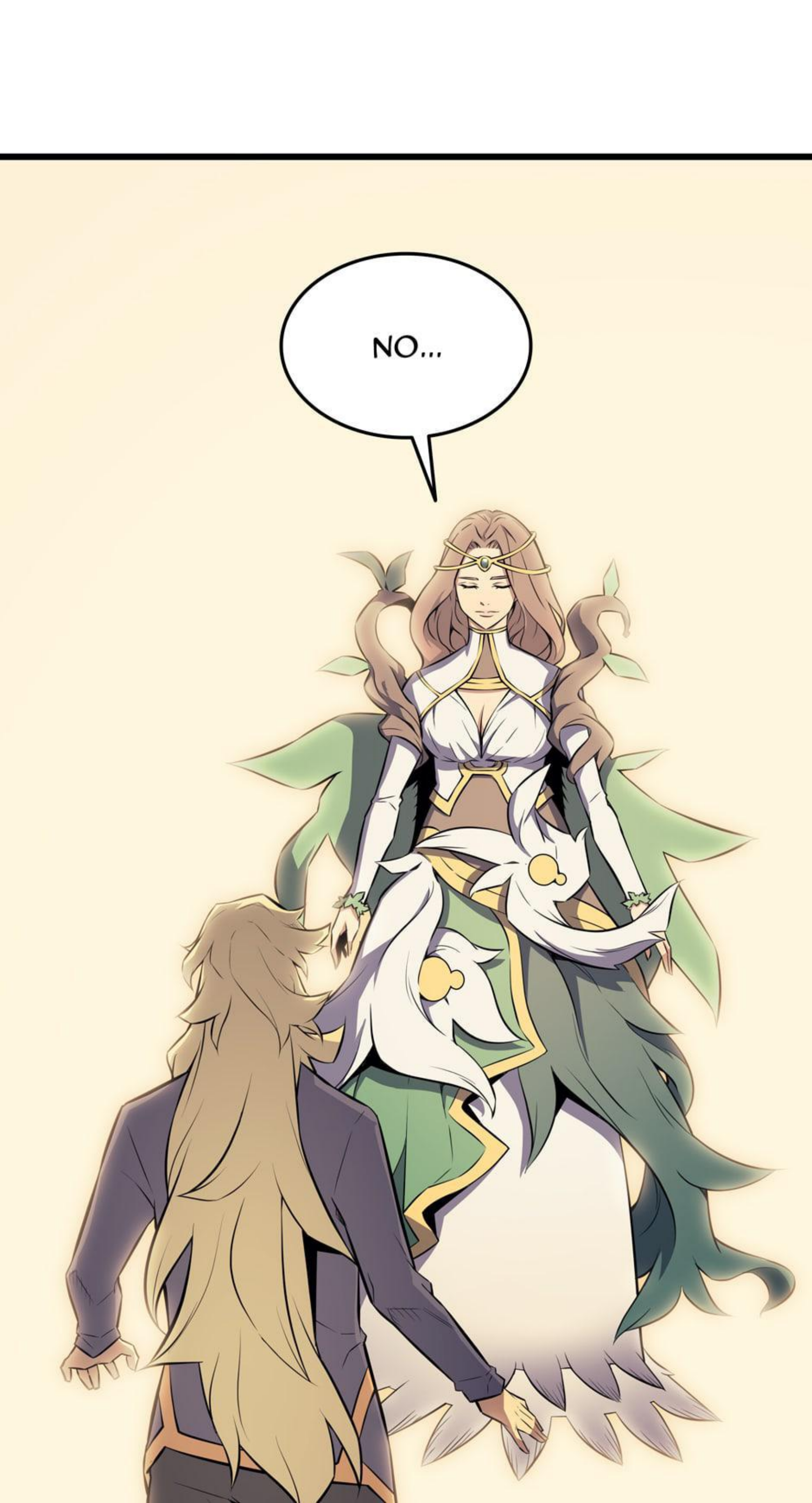
THE MISSING PIECES

OF ALL THE THINGS
I'M OVERLOOKING.



NOW THAT I'VE ENTERED THE SPIRIT WORLD, I'VE RETURNED TO MY ORIGINAL APPEARANCE.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU,
FREI.


NO...

SHOULD I CALL YOU LUCAS INSTEAD?