

THE ARCHMAGE

RETURNS AFTER.

4000

YEARS

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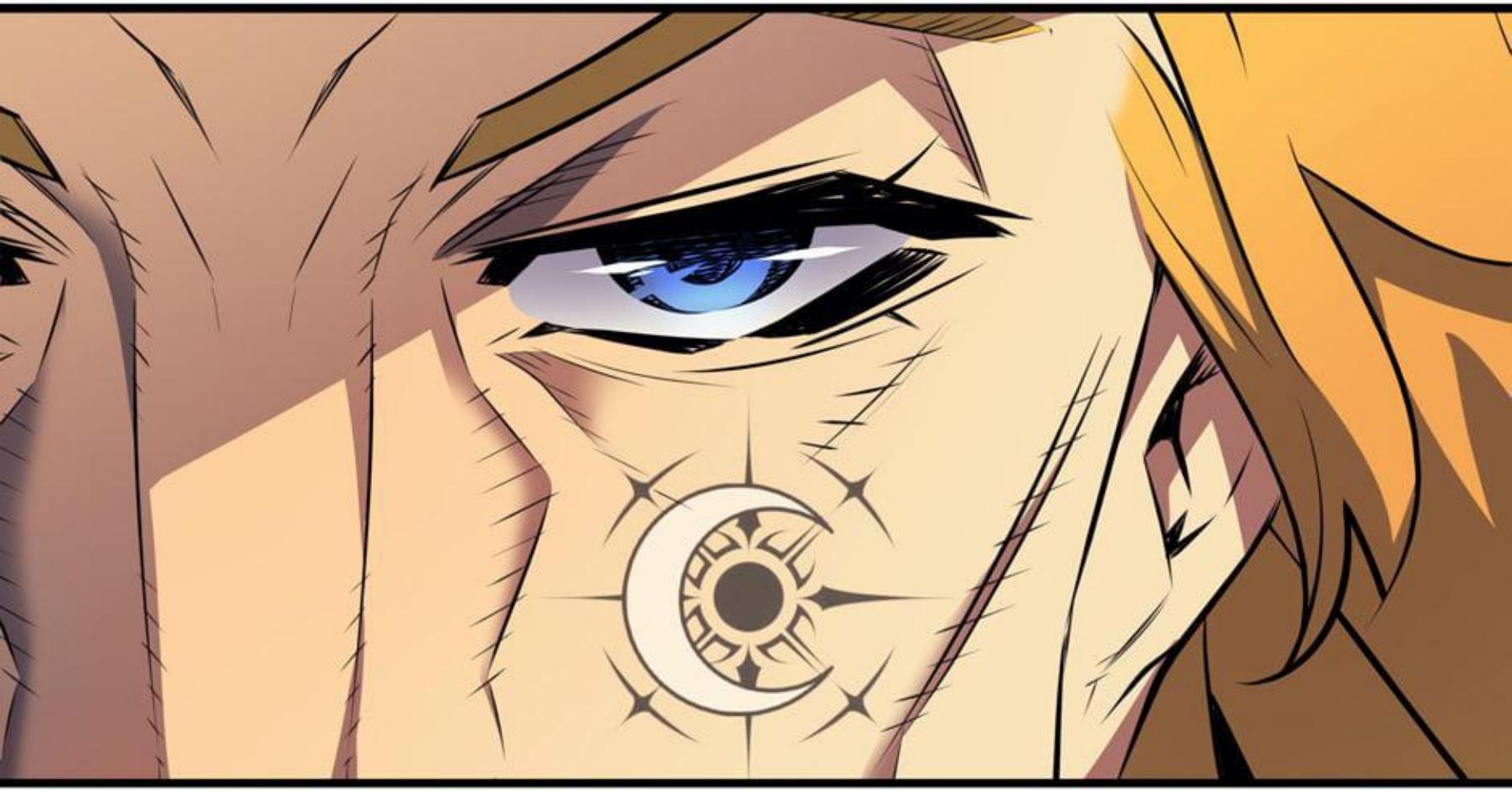
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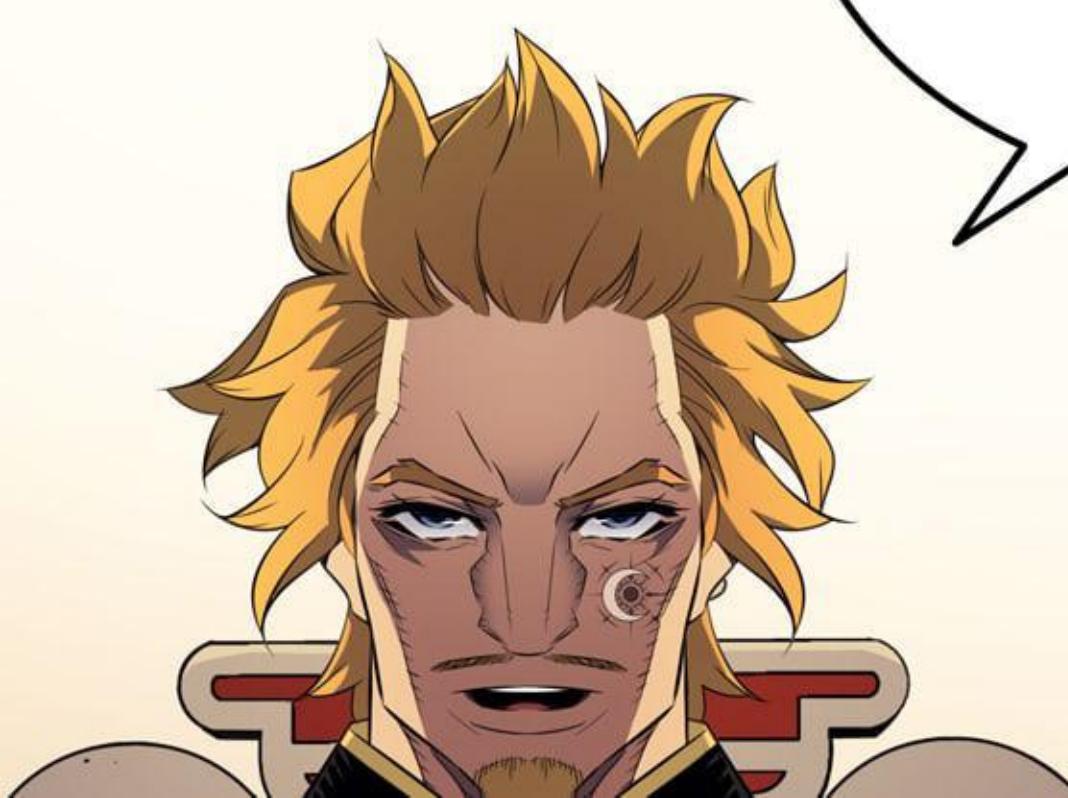


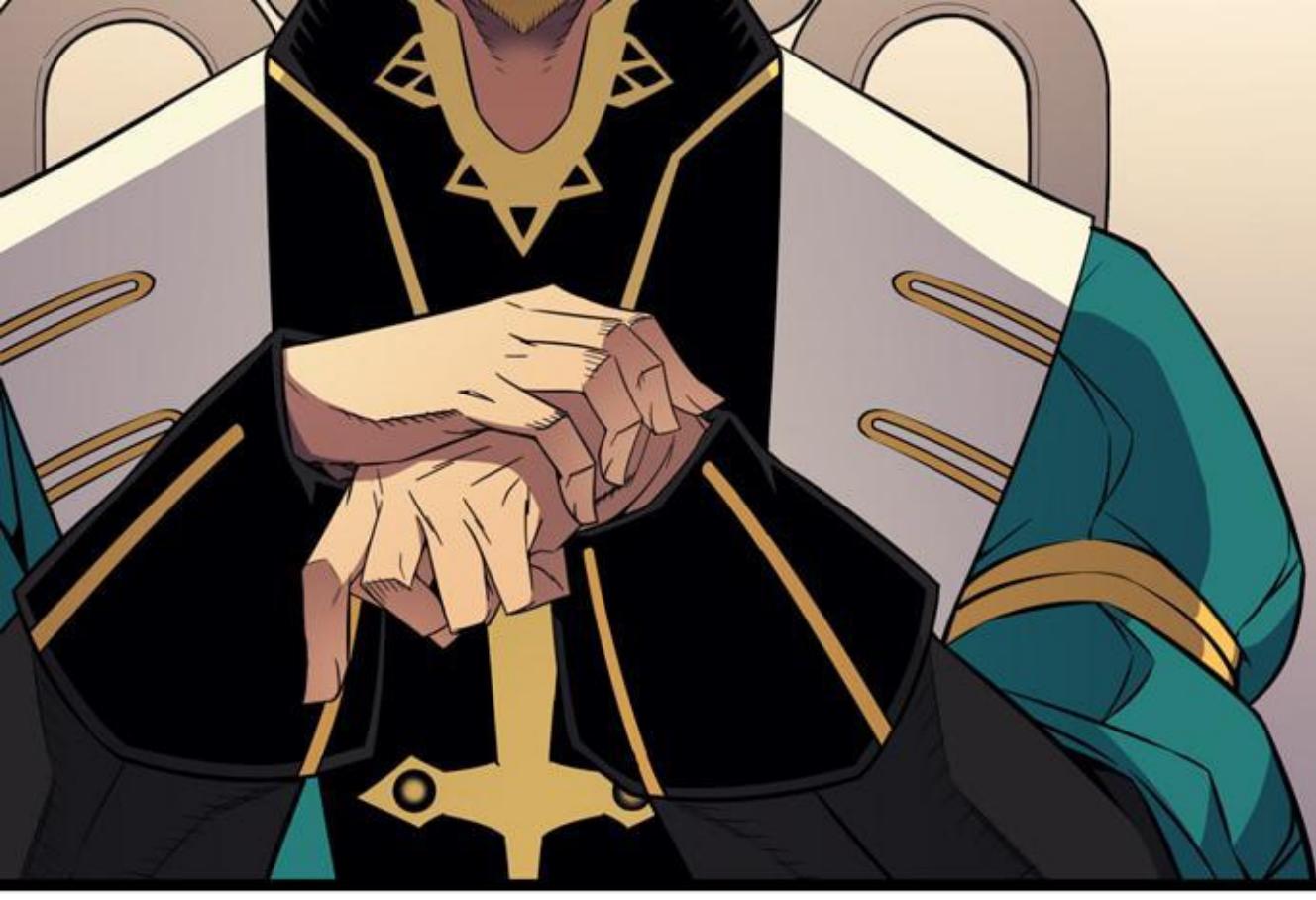
HUH?





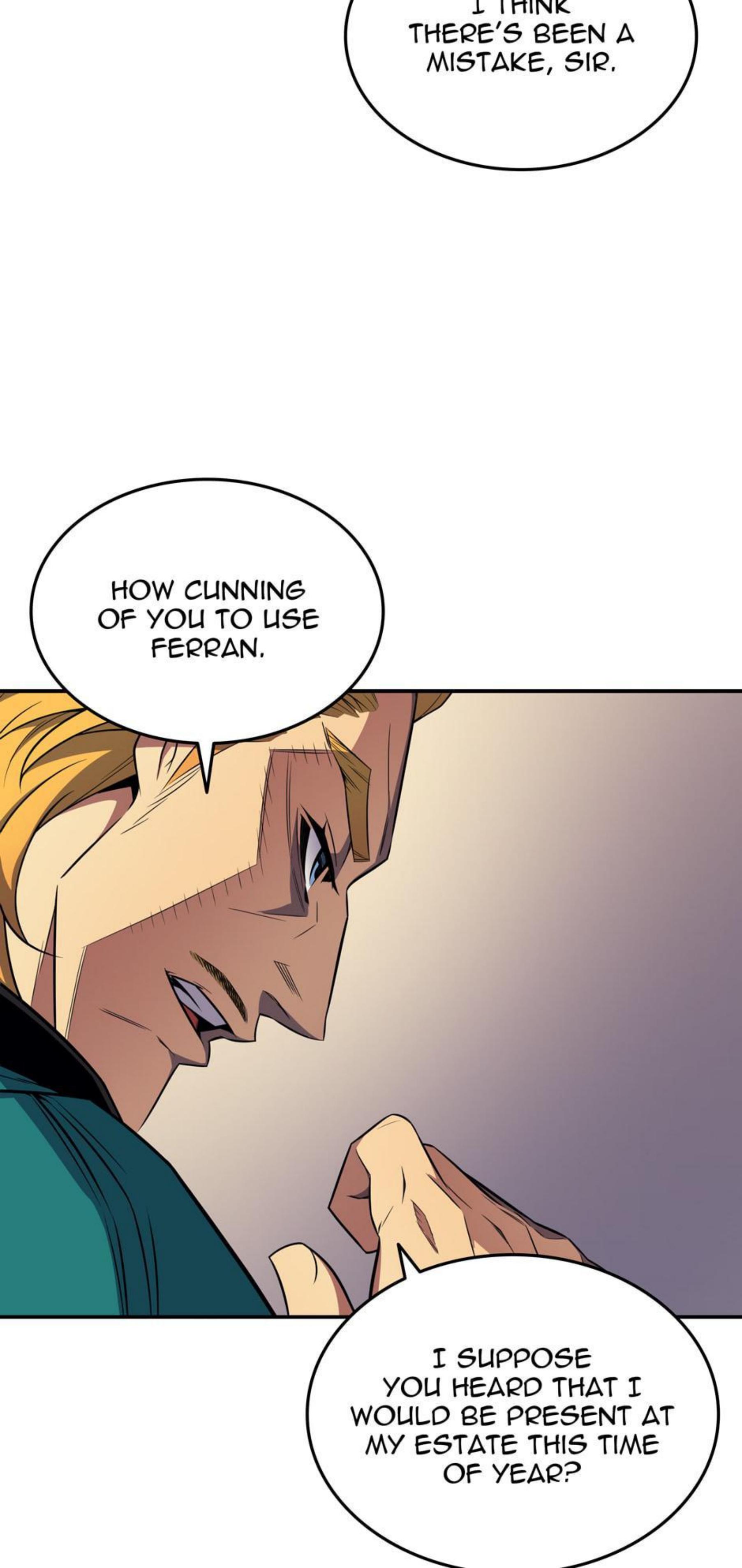
I'M ASKING
WHY A MEMBER OF
TROWMAN RINGS IS
PRESENT AT MY
ESTATE.





TROWMAN RINGS?





I THINK
THERE'S BEEN A
MISTAKE, SIR.

HOW CUNNING
OF YOU TO USE
FERRAN.

I SUPPOSE
YOU HEARD THAT I
WOULD BE PRESENT AT
MY ESTATE THIS TIME
OF YEAR?

BUT AREN'T YOU
QUITE ARROGANT
AND BRAZEN?

TO APPEAR IN
THESE HALLS WHILE
WEARING THOSE
BEFORE ME.

'THOSE'?

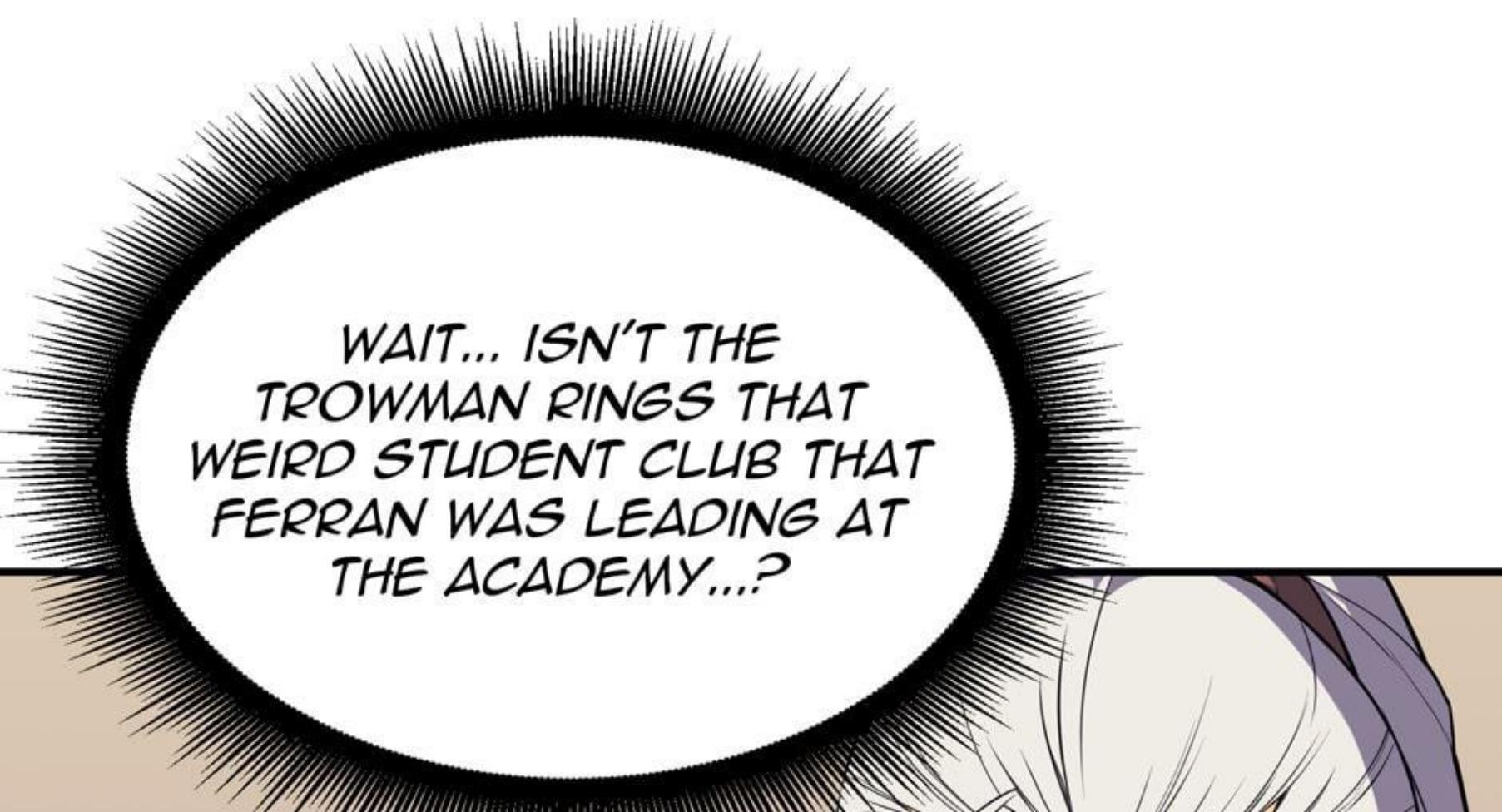
THE TYPHOON
EARRINGS.

!

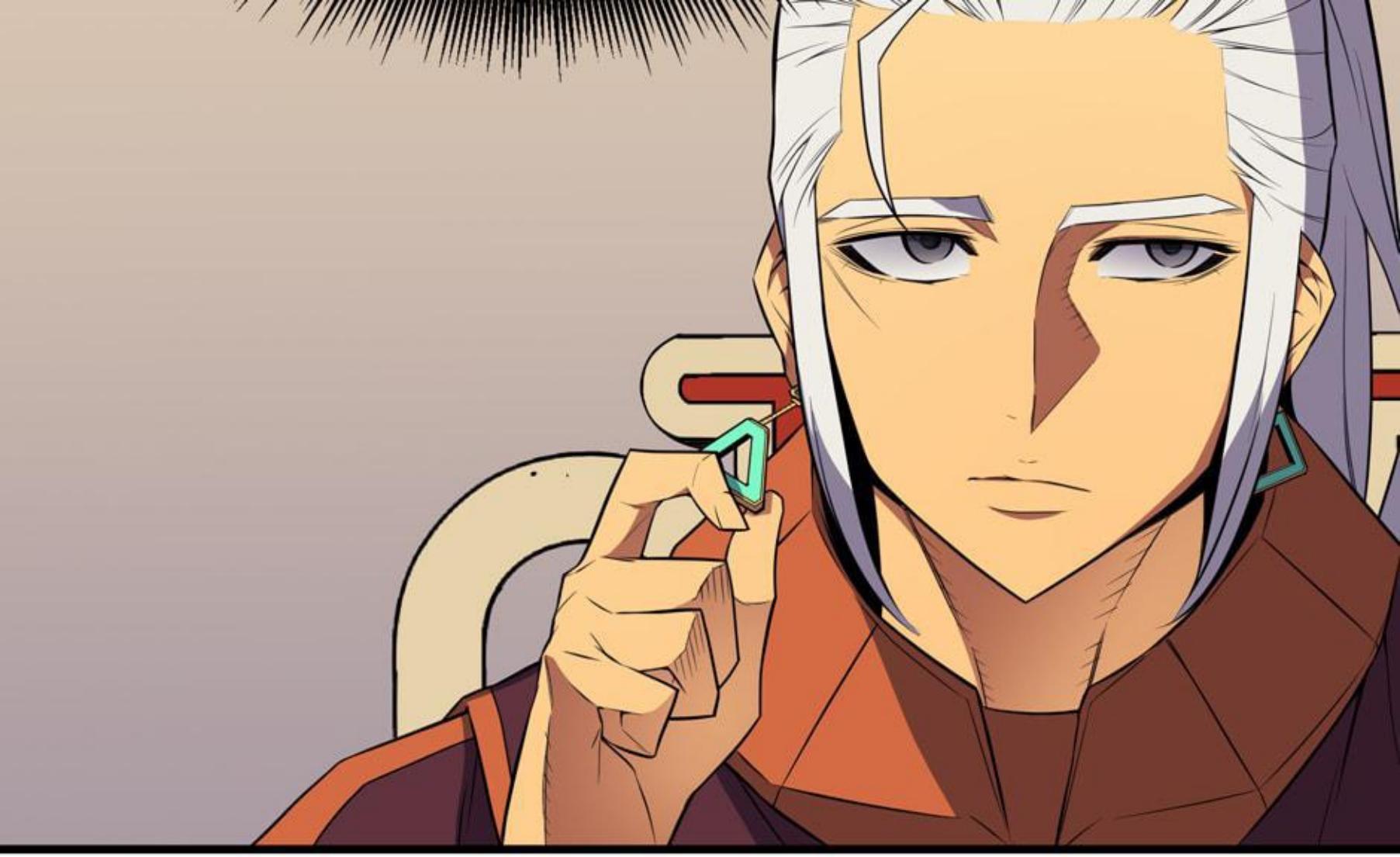




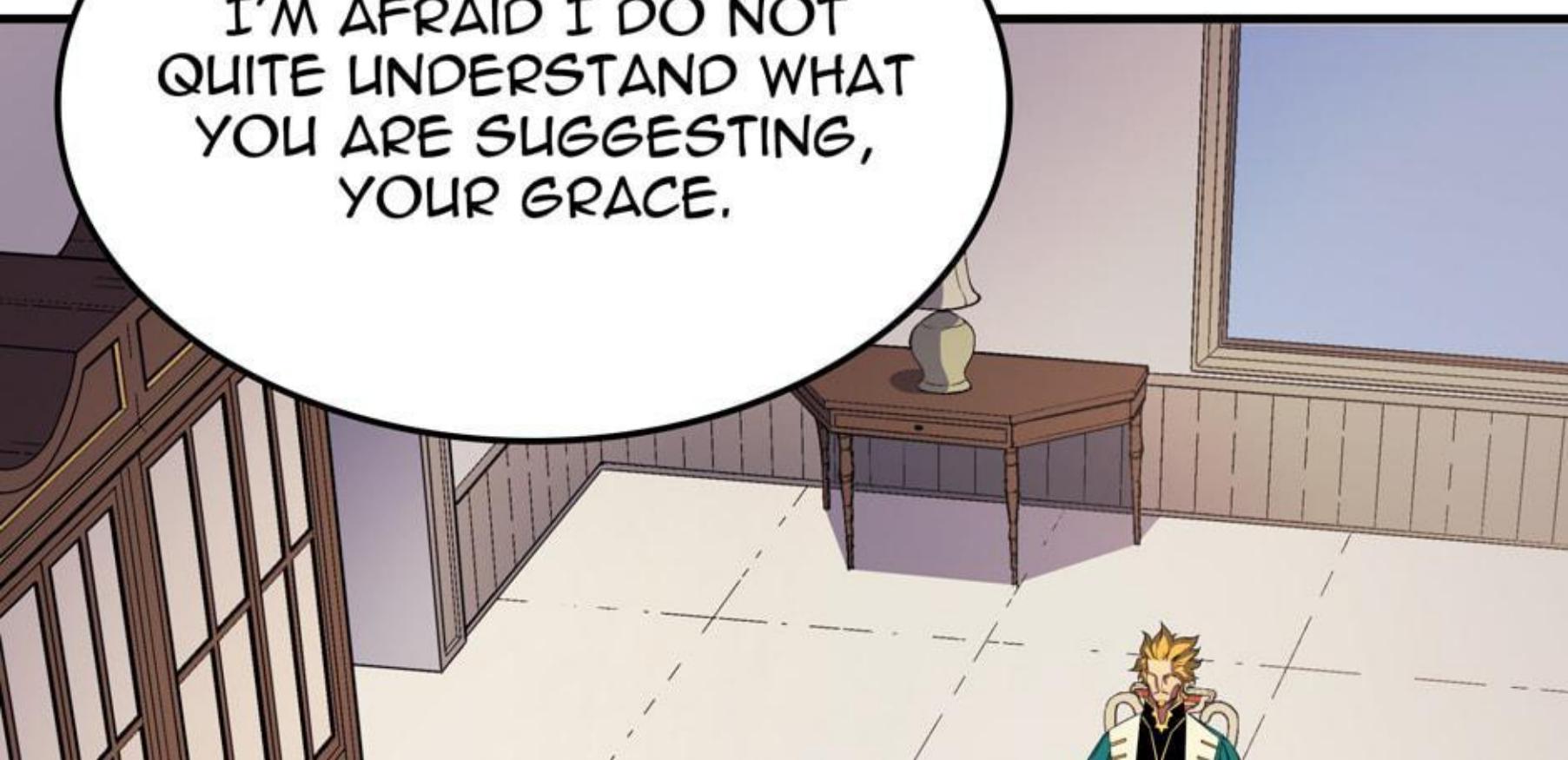
OH...



WAIT... ISN'T THE
TROWMAN RINGS THAT
WEIRD STUDENT CLUB THAT
FERRAN WAS LEADING AT
THE ACADEMY...?



I'M AFRAID I DO NOT
QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT
YOU ARE SUGGESTING,
YOUR GRACE.





I RECENTLY
OBTAINED THESE
EARRINGS WHEN I
TRAVELED TO THE TOP
OF MT. ESPANIA.



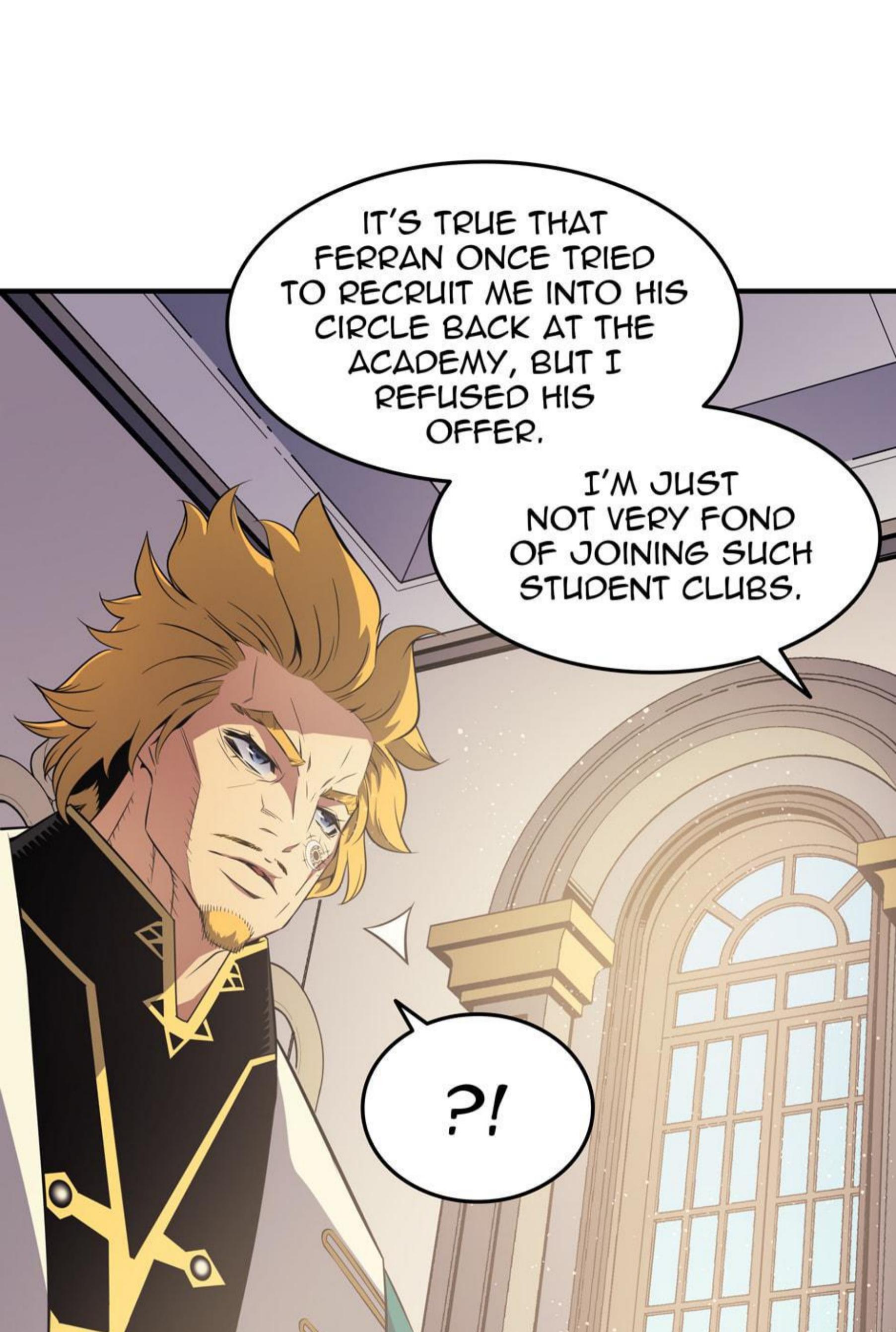
SO YOU'RE
DENYING THAT YOU
ARE A MEMBER OF



THE TROWMAN
RINGS?



THAT'S
CORRECT.



IT'S TRUE THAT
FERRAN ONCE TRIED
TO RECRUIT ME INTO HIS
CIRCLE BACK AT THE
ACADEMY, BUT I
REFUSED HIS
OFFER.

I'M JUST
NOT VERY FOND
OF JOINING SUCH
STUDENT CLUBS.

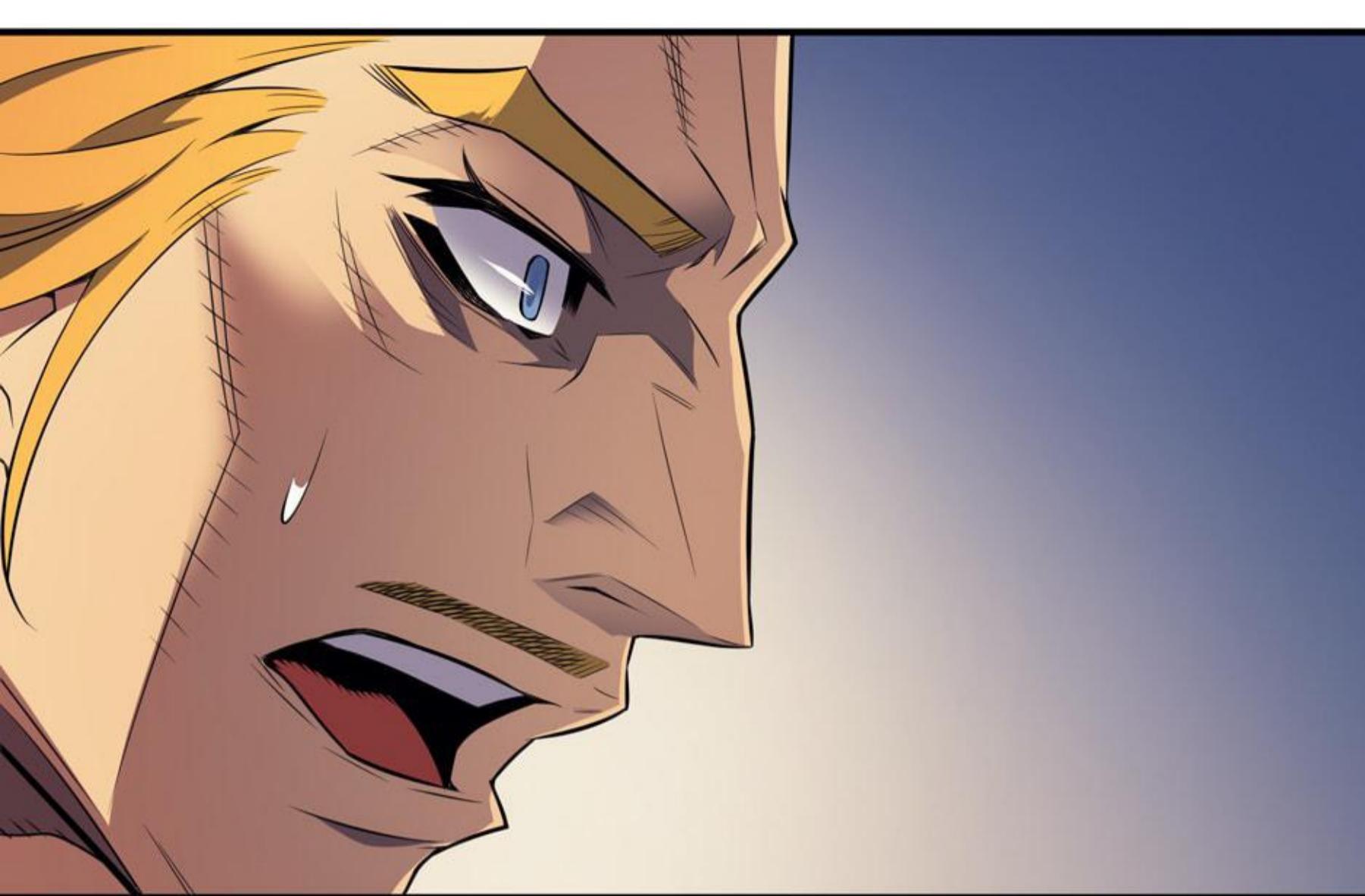
?!

WH-WHAT...
NO!!

I'M NOT TALKING
ABOUT THE CLUB
FERRAN LEADS IN
THE ACADEMY...

SLAM





I-I SEE...

PLOP



SO YOU
REALLY HAVE
NOTHING TO DO
WITH THEM...

IT SEEMS IT
WAS SIMPLY A HUGE
MISUNDERSTANDING.

YOU MAY
LET DOWN YOUR
GUARD.



I'LL DO JUST
THAT IF YOU WILL
DO THE SAME,
YOUR GRACE.





OHO...?

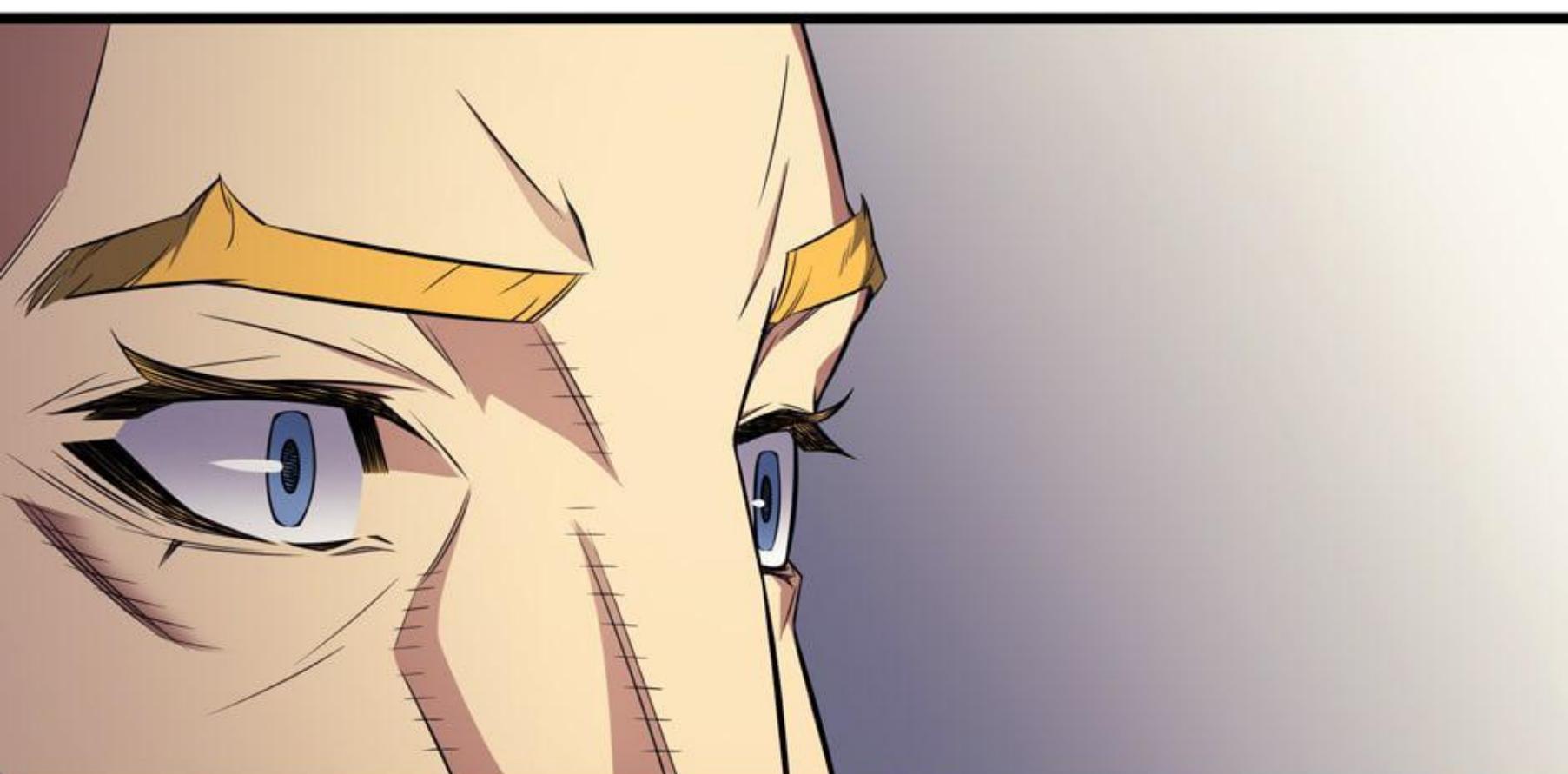
QUITE
DARING, ARE
YOU NOT?



AND JUST
WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU ARE
RIGHT NOW...?



MY FRIEND'S
HOUSE.

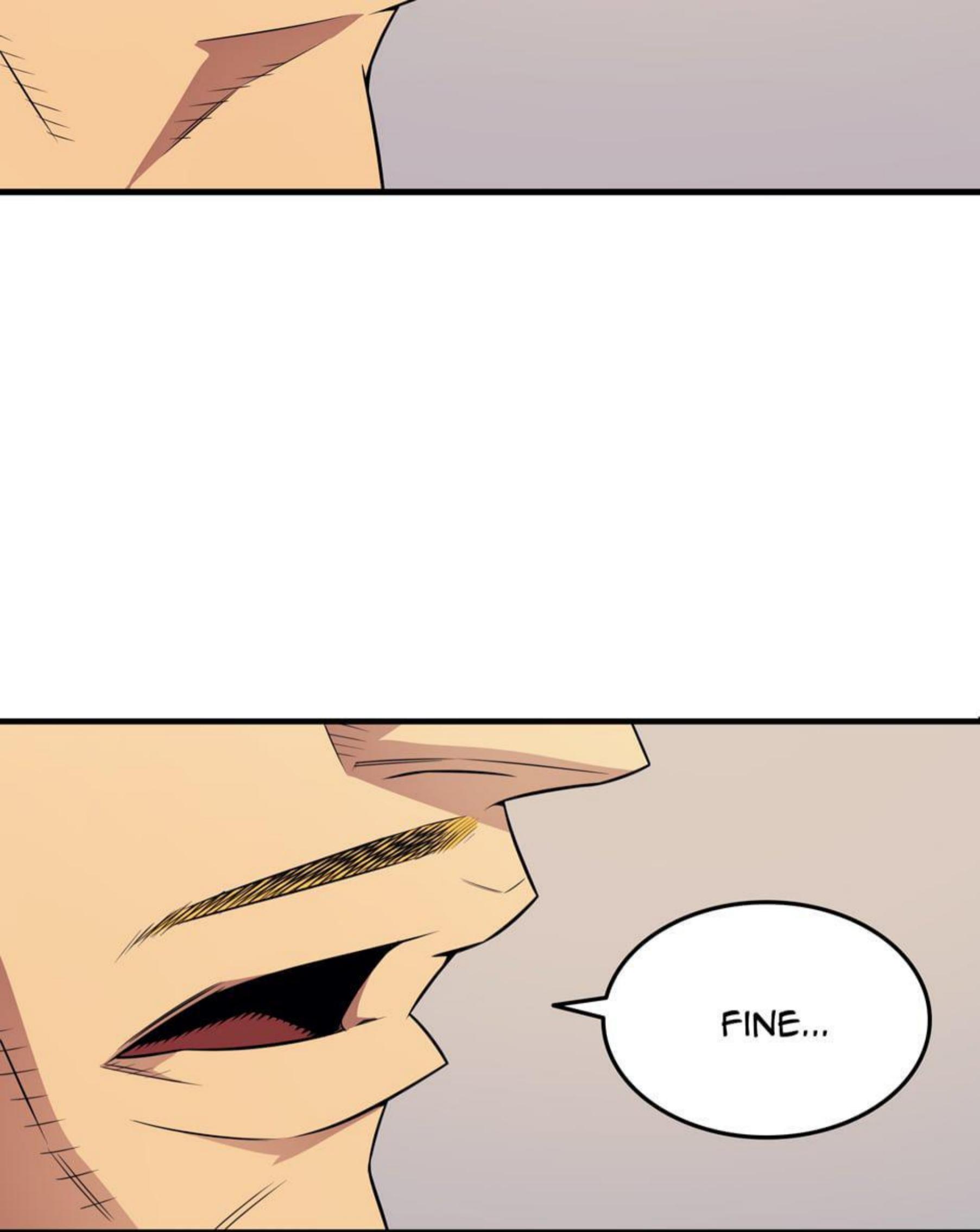




I'M REALLY
HERE VISITING
A FRIEND.

WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT, YOUR
GRACE, I HADN'T THE
SLIGHTEST INTENTION
TO MEET YOU.





FINE...

I DON'T FULLY
TRUST YOU JUST
YET. GIVE ME ONE

YET, BUT LET ME GIVE
YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE
DOUBT AND REFRESH
MY OPINION
OF YOU.



BUT FIRST,
YOU WILL NEED
TO TELL ME YOUR
BACKGROUND.

BECAUSE,
SO LONG AS YOU WEAR

SO LONG AS YOU WEAR
THOSE EARRINGS, I CAN'T IN
GOOD CONSCIENCE BELIEVE
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO
DO WITH THEM.





SO I ASK YOU THIS,
WHO DO YOU BELIEVE
IS THE TRUE MASTER
OF THIS CONTINENT
CURRENTLY?

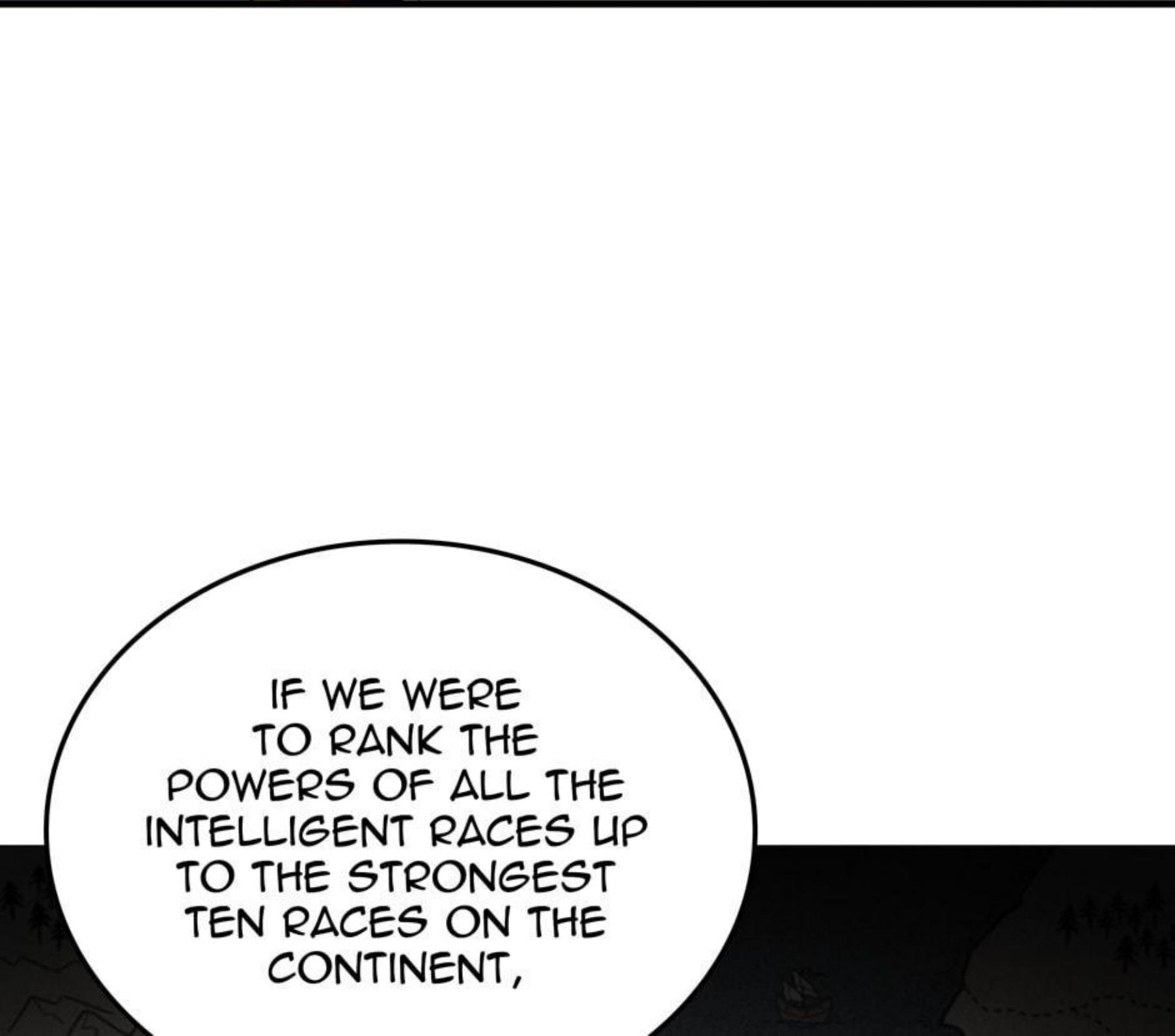


IT'S MORE
THAN LIKELY THAT
AMONGST ALL THE
NATIONS FOUNDED BY
HUMANS, THE CASTKAL
EMPIRE IS THE GREATEST
AMONG THEM ALL.

EVEN IF THEY
ARE REGARDED
AS THE GREATEST OF
THE HUMAN NATIONS,
THEY OCCUPY A MERE
ONE-TENTH OF THE
CONTINENT.



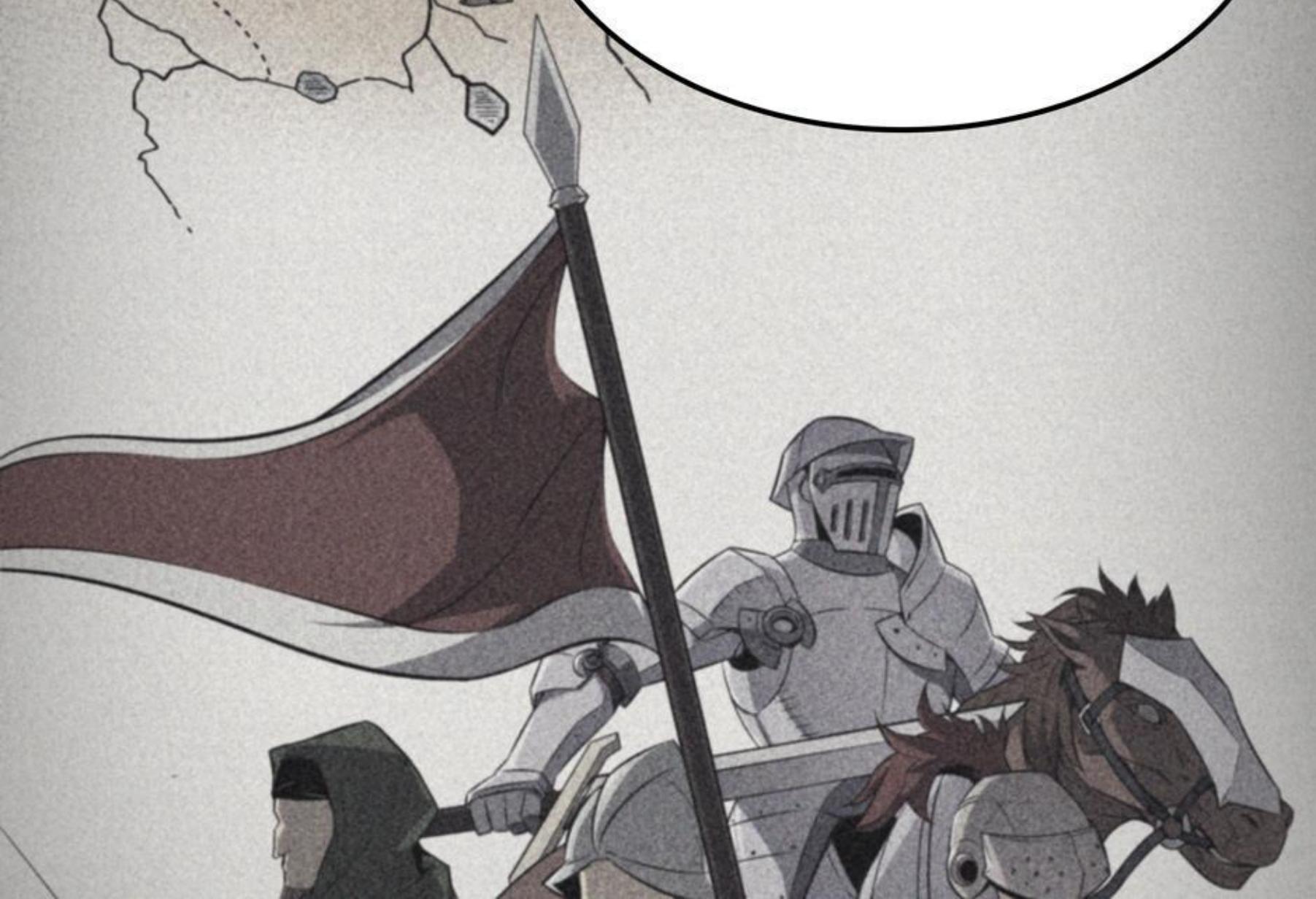
THIS IS
AS YOU SAY.



IF WE WERE
TO RANK THE
POWERS OF ALL THE
INTELLIGENT RACES UP
TO THE STRONGEST
TEN RACES ON THE
CONTINENT,



I WOULD SAY THE
HUMANS ARE AMONG
THE TOP THREE AT
BEST.





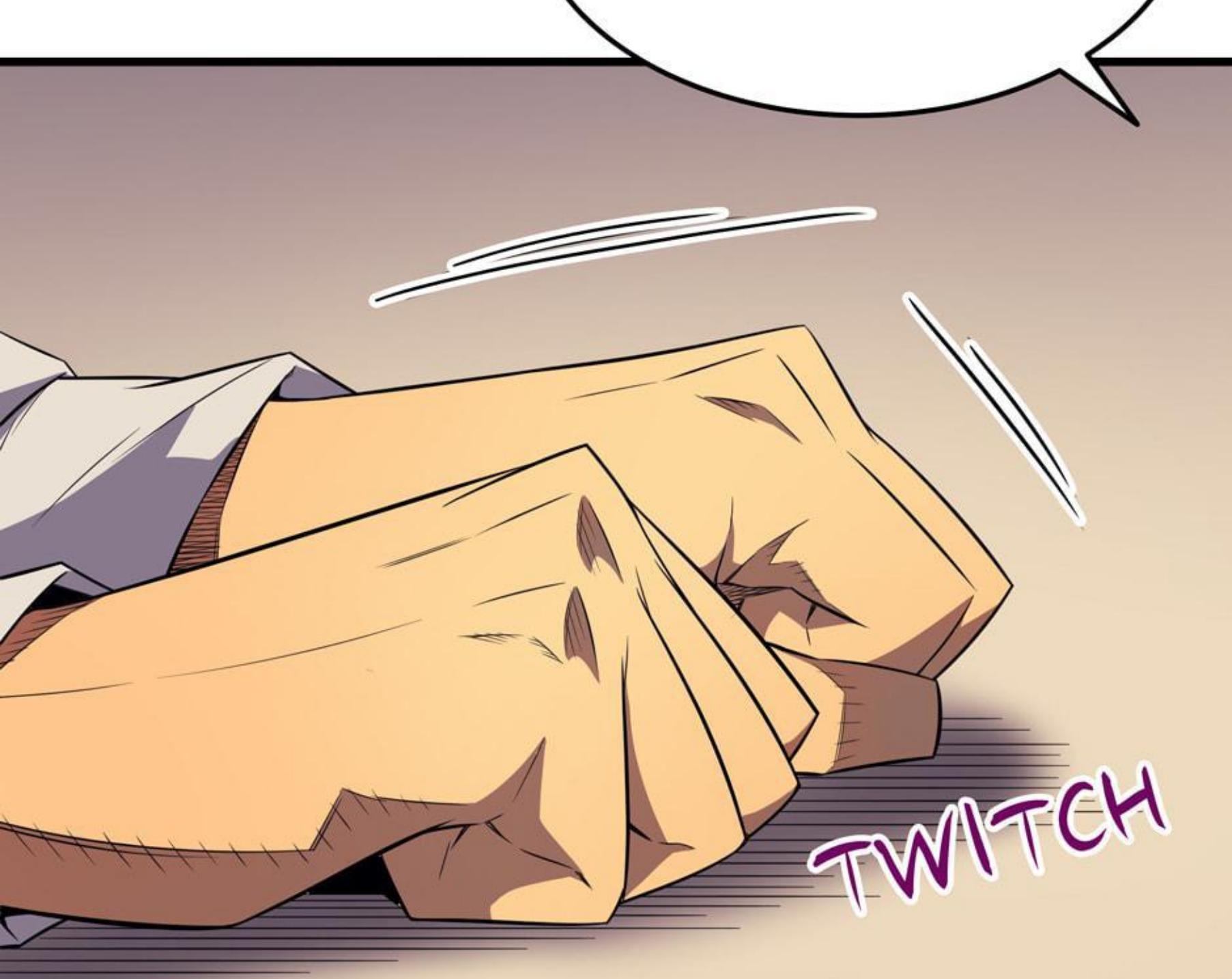
AND WITH THIS
ALONE IT'S HARD TO
CLAIM THAT HUMANS ARE
THE MASTERS OF THIS
CONTINENT.



A TRUE MASTER
OF THIS CONTINENT
EXISTS ELSEWHERE.



THE TRANSCENDENTAL
BEING THAT CONTROLS
THE CONTINENT FROM
THE SHADOWS...



ANOTHER TRUE
MASTER EXISTS IN
THIS WORLD.

TWITCH



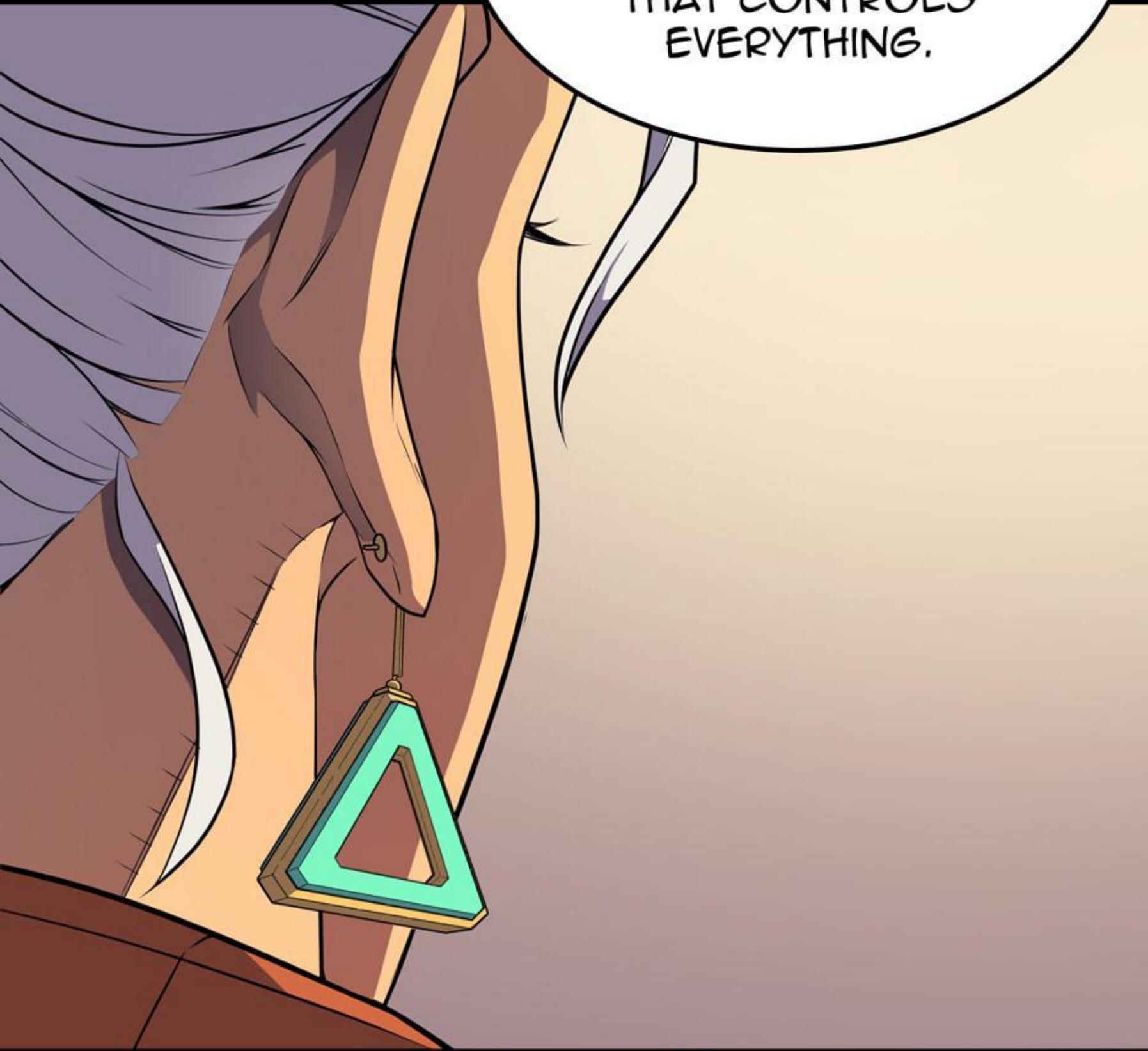
DEMIGOD.

BAD/UX

WHAT...?!



THEY ARE SAID TO
BE DIVINE BEINGS
THAT TRANSCEND
HUMANITY.



IT CAN BE SAID
THAT THEY ARE THE TRUE
MASTERS OF THIS WORLD,
THE APEX PREDATOR
THAT CONTROLS
EVERYTHING.

THIS MAY
SOUND LIKE THE

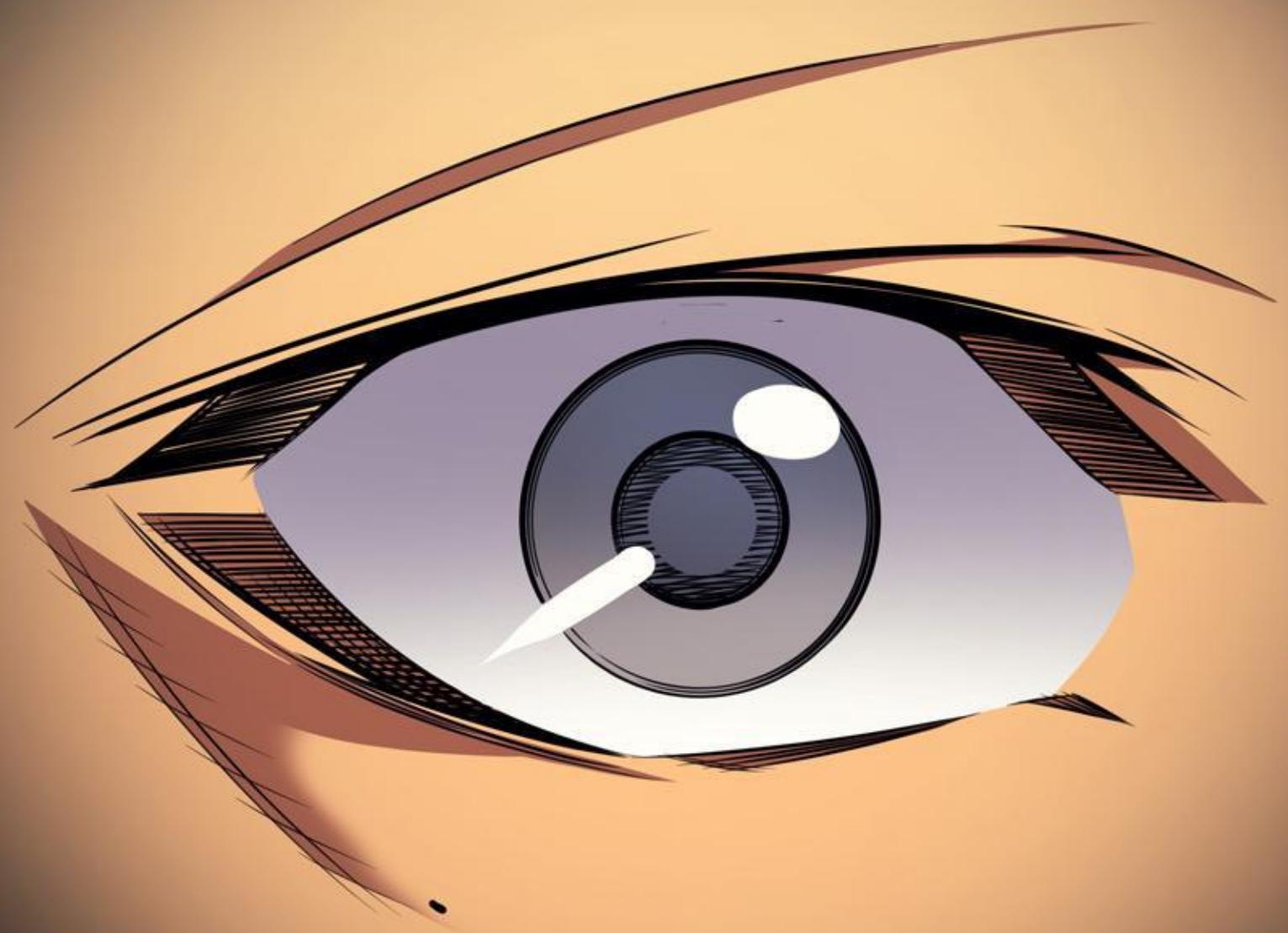
FOOLISH CONSPIRACY
THEORIES OF AN
OLD MAN,

BUT I
ASSURE YOU,
THERE ARE SUCH
MYTHICAL BEINGS
BEHIND THE SCENES
IN THE WORLD
WE LIVE IN...

HMM?

WHY ARE
YOU SMILING...?





THERE WERE ONLY FIVE OF US BEFORE.





**THE ONLY ONES WHO DARED
TO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE
LINE TO OPPOSE DEMIGOD.**

**4,000 YEARS
HAVE PASSED
SINCE THEN...**

**I HONESTLY BELIEVED
THAT THIS WORLD WAS
ALREADY COMPLETELY
TAKEN OVER BY
DEMIGOD...**

**I BELIEVED
EVERYONE LIVING
IN THIS ERA HAD
NO IDEA ABOUT THE
TWISTED BALANCE
AND RULE OF LAW
THAT EXISTS ON
THIS WORLD.**



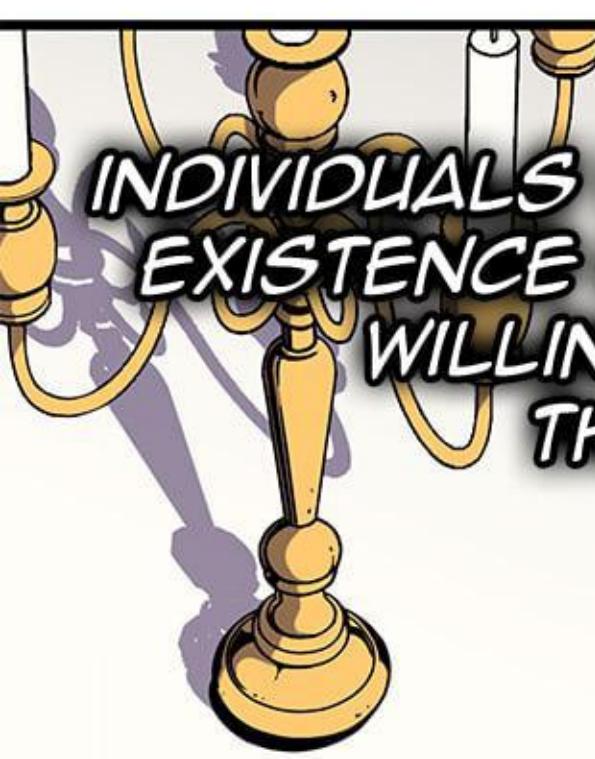
BUT TO THINK THAT THERE WERE STILL
PEOPLE LIKE US IN THIS WORLD...



FREI...?

IS SOMETHING
THE MATTER?

SLOWLY BUT SURELY THEY MUST
HAVE BEEN INCREASING THEIR NUMBERS...



INDIVIDUALS WHO CAME TO REALIZE THE EXISTENCE OF DEMIGODS YET THOSE WILLING TO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR INFLUENCE...



THESE PEOPLE MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING IN ALL CORNERS OF THIS WORLD, WAITING FOR THE MOST OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO STRIKE.



I ASK YOU
AGAIN, LAD... WHY
ARE YOU SMILING
LIKE THAT?

WHY, YOU ASK?
HOW COULD I NOT?

**BECAUSE THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME I'VE ENCONTERED IT UPON
RETURNING TO THIS WORLD...**



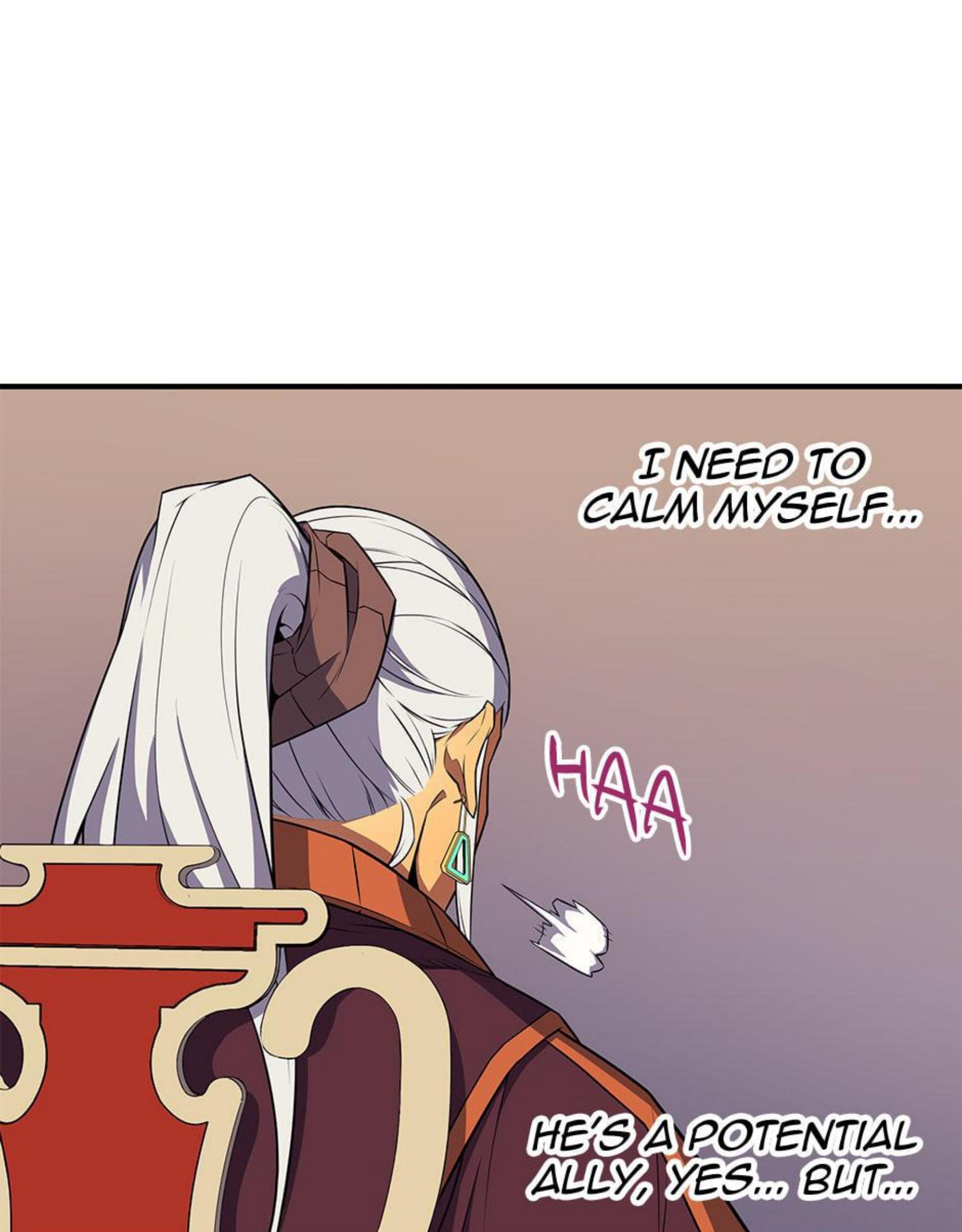
A RAY OF HOPE!

WERE YOU
PLAYING GAMES?

BY ANY CHANCE...
AWARE OF THE
DEMIGOD?

YES,
THOUGH LIMITED IN
KNOWLEDGE.

HOW?



I NEED TO
CALM MYSELF...

HAA

HE'S A POTENTIAL
ALLY, YES... BUT...

I NEED TO REMAIN CALM AND BE WARY PRECISELY BECAUSE HE'S A POTENTIAL ALLY.



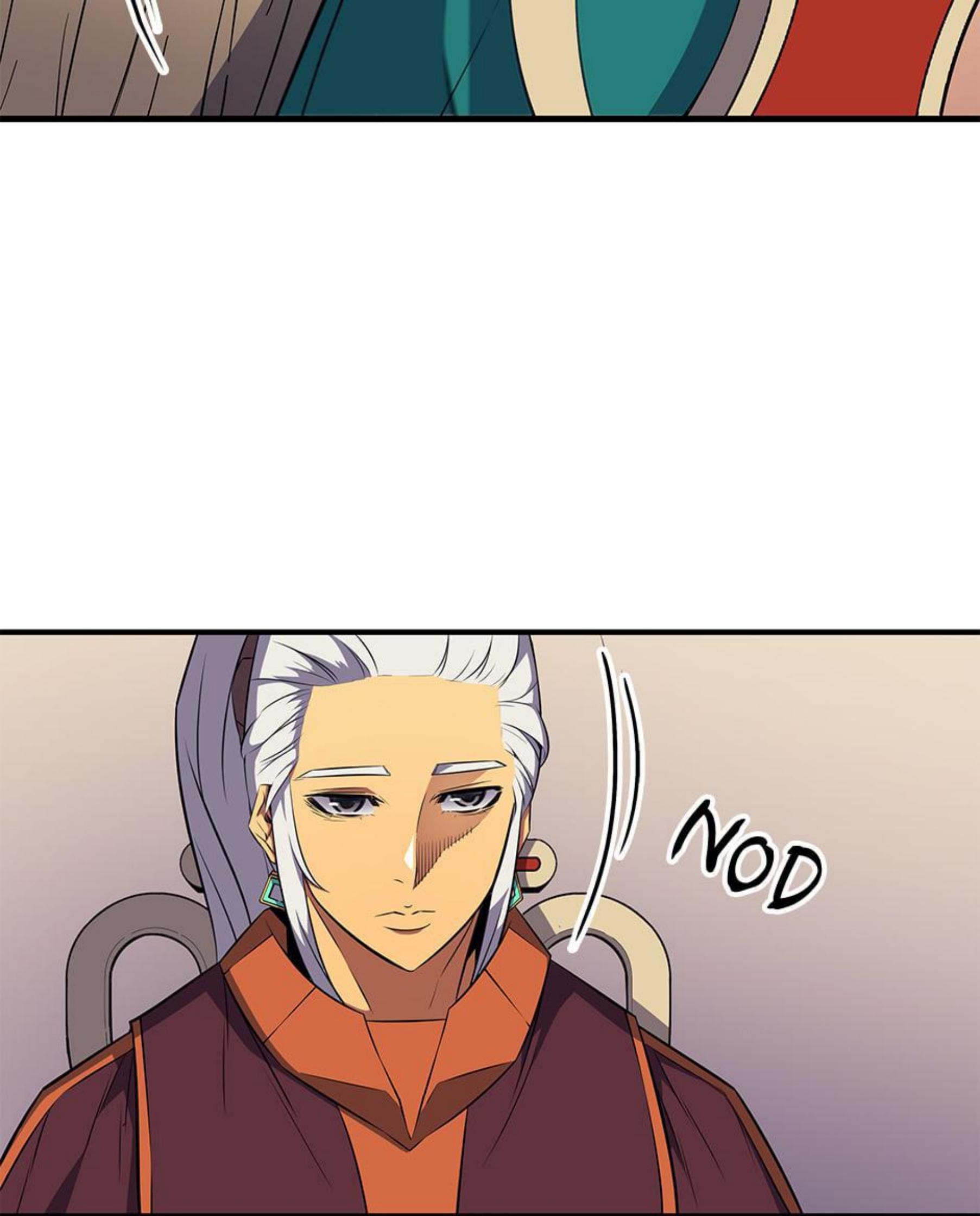
I READ
SCHEIZER'S
NOTES WHEN I
OBTAINED THESE
EARRINGS.

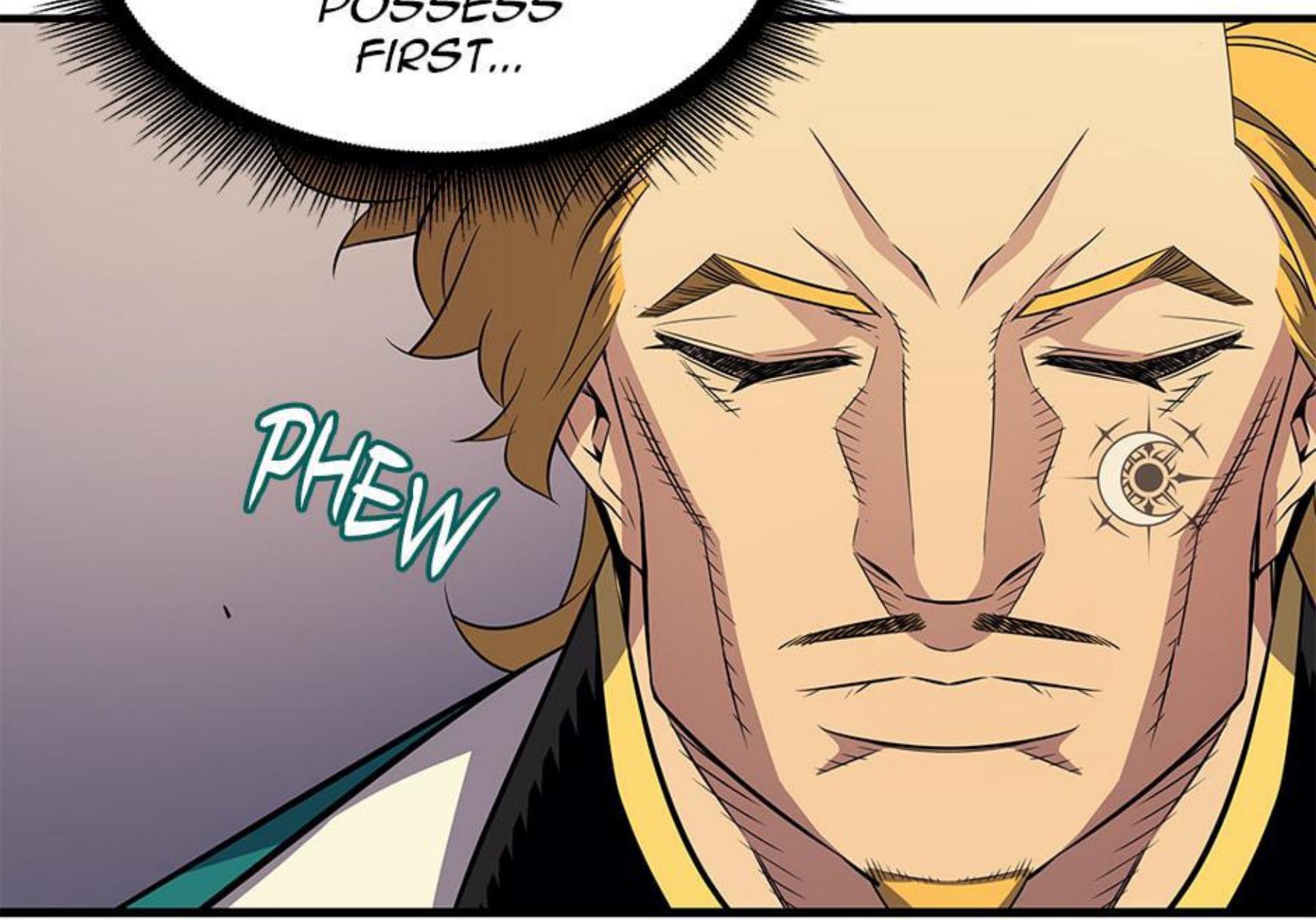
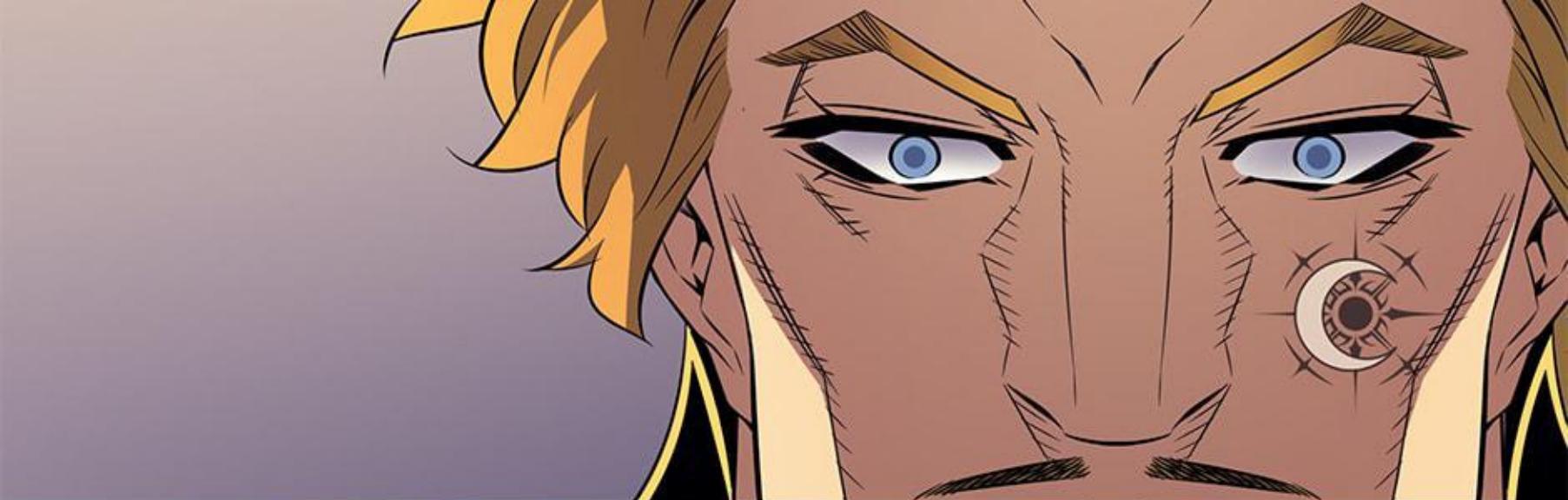
SCHEIZER'S
NOTES?!

IS THAT
TRUE?!

SPRING







SO HE'S
TELLING ME TO
GIVE HIM ALL THE
INFORMATION I
POSSESS
FIRST...

PHEW



AS YOU
MAY SUSPECT,
THE INFORMATION WE
HAVE ON THE DEMIGOD
IS SCARCE AND
LIMITED.

NOT ONLY
DO WE NOT
KNOW HOW MANY
THERE ARE,

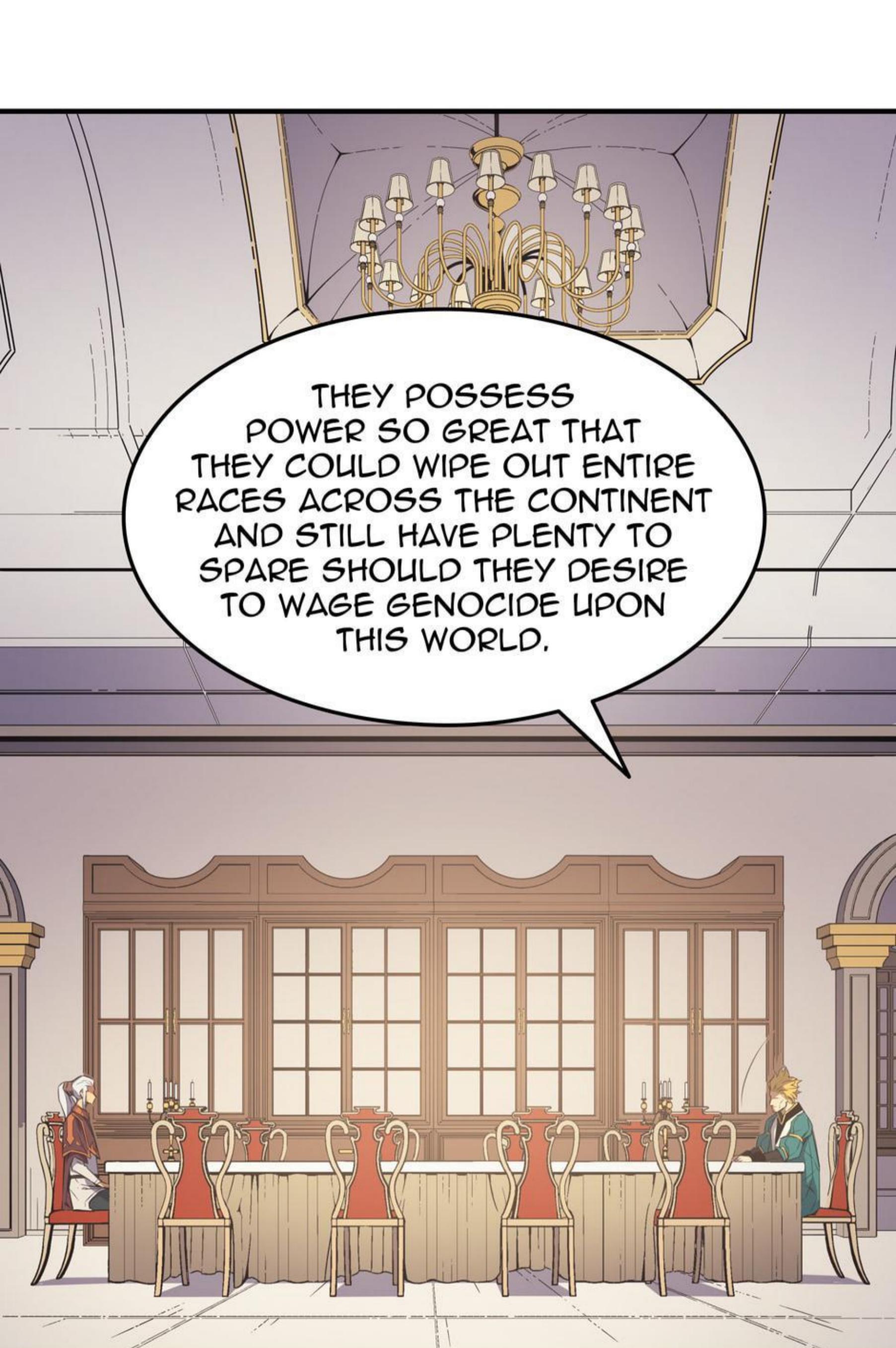
BUT WE
DON'T KNOW WHAT
THEIR ULTIMATE
GOAL IS,



NOR DO
WE UNDERSTAND
WHY THEY PREFER
TO ACT UNDER THE
SHADOWS...

WE HAVEN'T
MANAGED TO
UNRAVEL A SINGLE
MYSTERY ABOUT
THEM...

BUT ONE THING
IS CERTAIN...



THEY POSSESS
POWER SO GREAT THAT
THEY COULD WIPE OUT ENTIRE
RACES ACROSS THE CONTINENT
AND STILL HAVE PLENTY TO
SPARE SHOULD THEY DESIRE
TO WAGE GENOCIDE UPON
THIS WORLD.



WE'VE OBSERVED
THEIR PAST ATTEMPTS
TO DO JUST THAT A FEW
TIMES THROUGHOUT
HISTORY.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE
KNOWS THE MOST
IMPORTANT STUFF,
SO THIS WILL MAKE
IT EASIER FOR US
TO COME TO AN
UNDERSTANDING...



**I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THEY ARE
NOT GREAT IN NUMBERS...**

**AT MOST THERE ARE LIKELY
LESS THAN A HUNDRED OF THEM.**

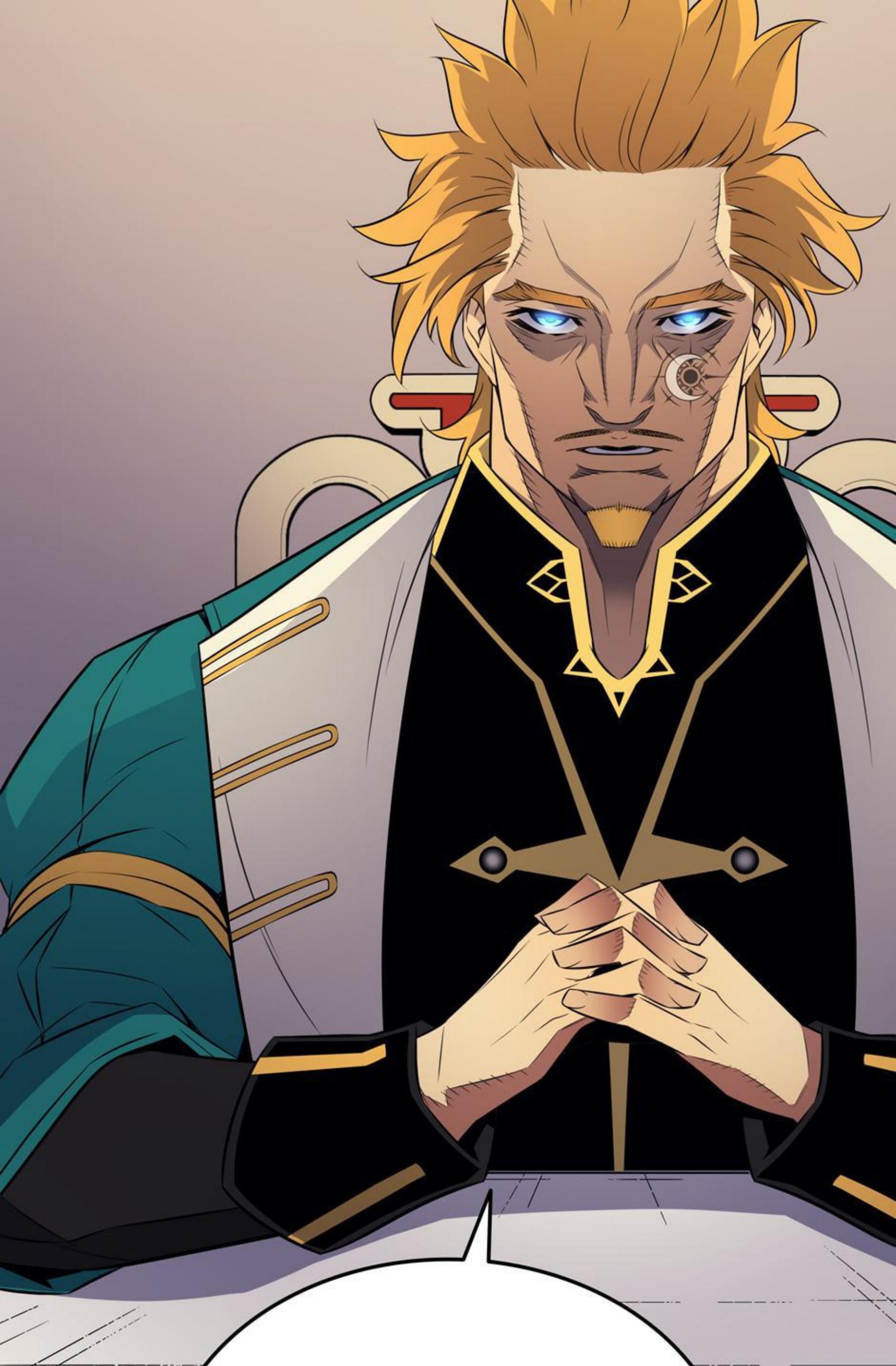
THAT MAY BE SO...
BUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF
THEM POSSESSES POWERS
EQUAL TO GOD... NO...



**EVERY SINGLE
ONE OF THEM ARE LIKE
NATURAL DISASTERS THAT CAN
*DESTROY THIS WORLD.***

4,000 YEARS AGO...





THERE WERE
FIVE HEROES THAT
DARED TO FIGHT THE
ONES WE CALL THE

DEMIGOD.