

THE ARCHMAGE

RETURNS AFTER.

4000

YEARS

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~ 67 ~

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MASTER VENIAN,
YOU'LL CATCH A
COLD.



DO YOU
THINK...



FREI JOINED THE
BASILISKS TAILS?

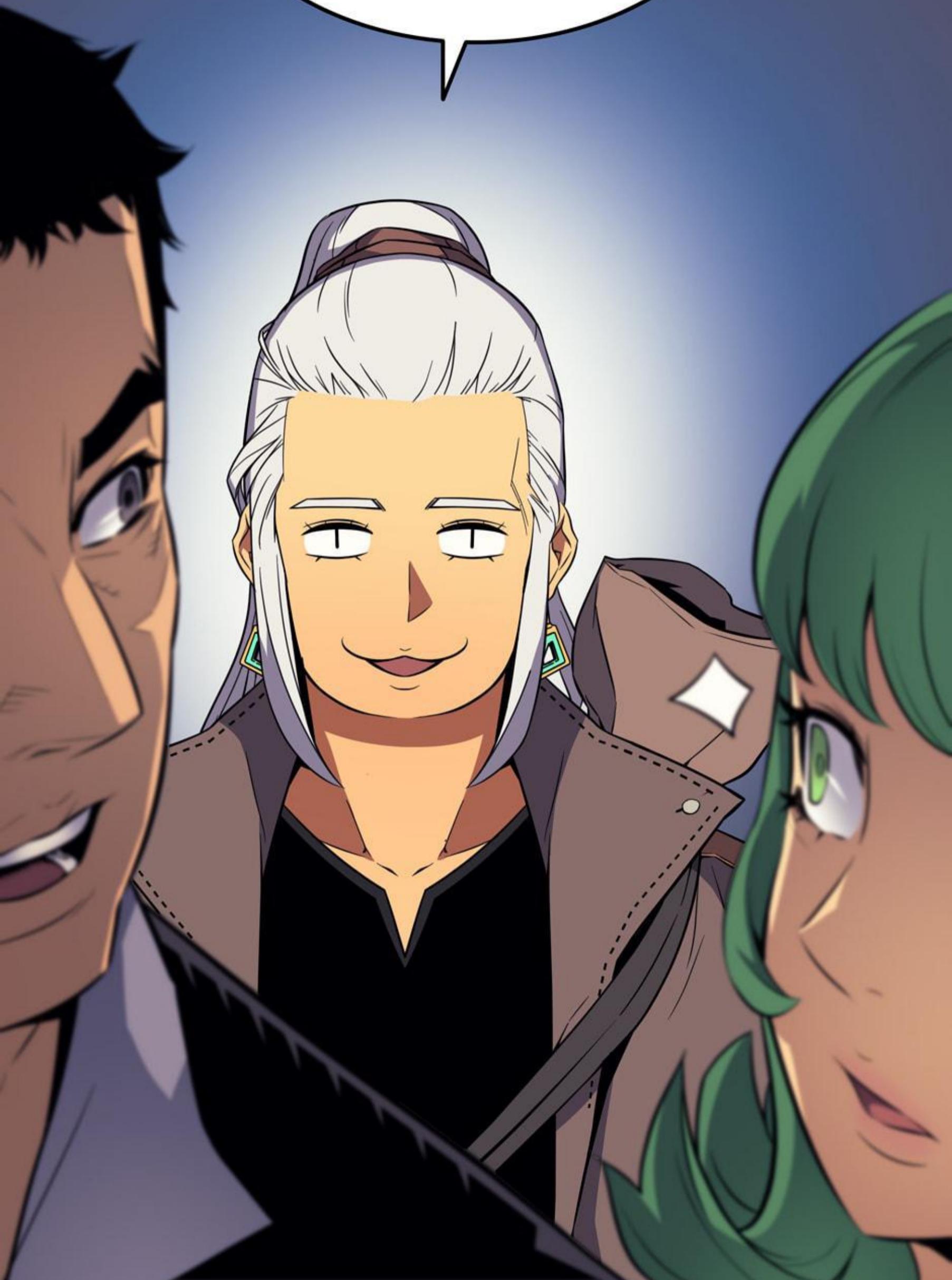
HAHA...
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT HIM.

I'M SURE
WE'LL HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET SOMEONE
GREATER NEXT
TIME.



OH... AM I

INTERRUPTING A
LOVEFEST?



HUH?! FREI!!!

DIDN'T YOU
LEAVE US?!

?

THERE'S
NO WAY I WOULD
DO THAT WITHOUT
TELLING YOU.

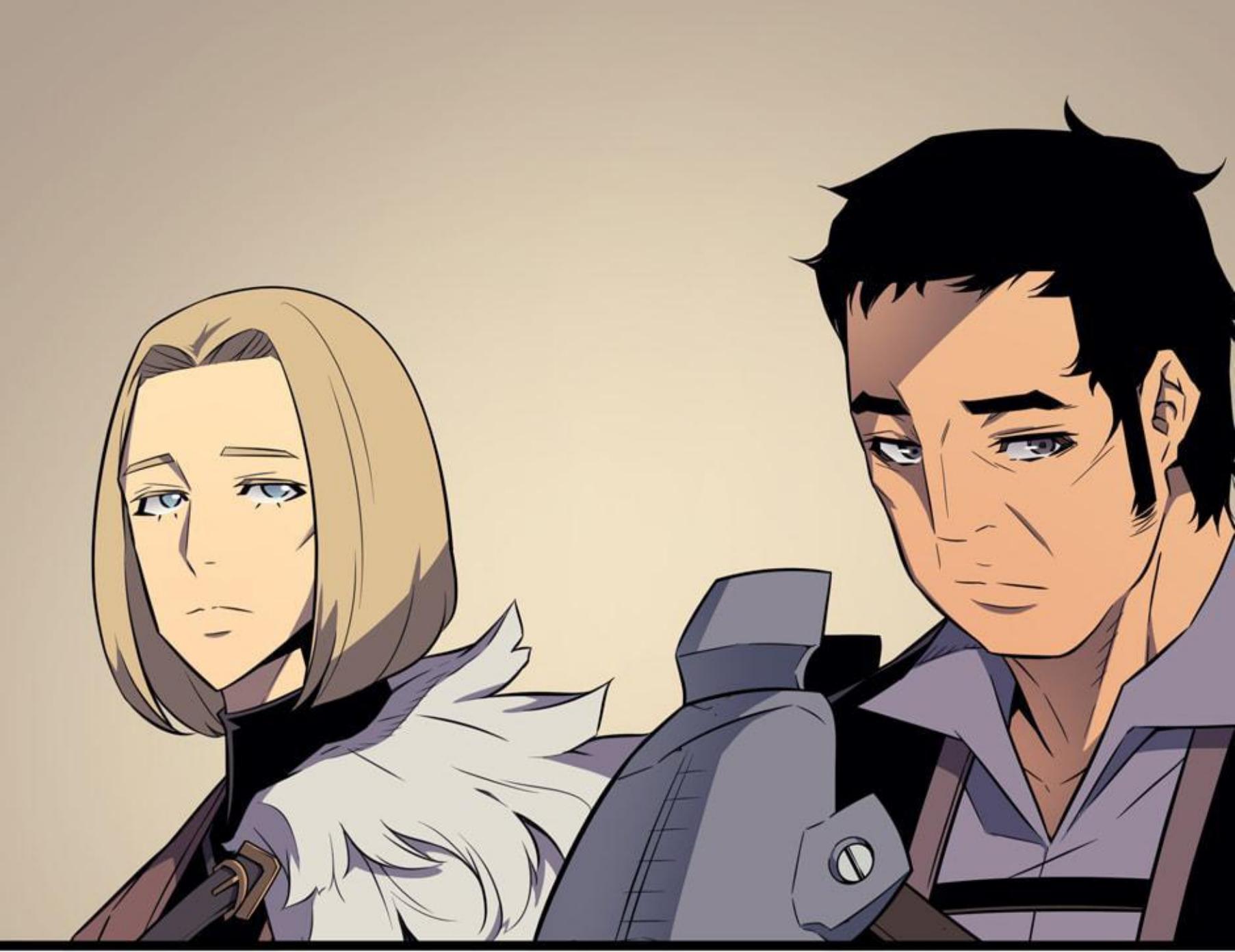


THEN... WHERE
HAVE YOU BEEN
ALL THIS TIME?

WELL...
I GUESS I WAS
JUST TAKING A
STROLL?

A STROLL?!

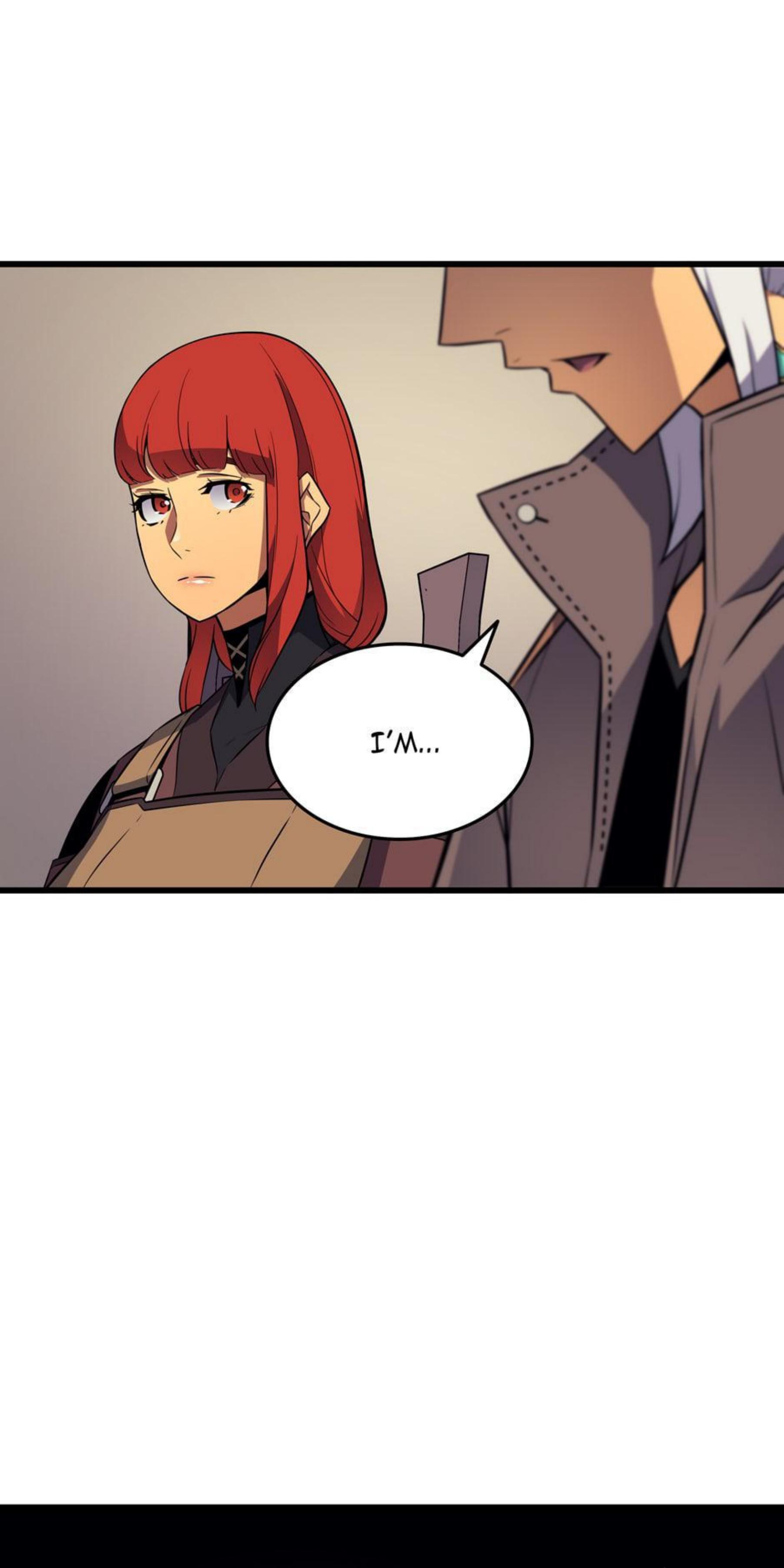






FREI...

YOU SAID YOU
HAD SOMETHING
IMPORTANT TO TELL
US. WHAT IS IT?



I'M...

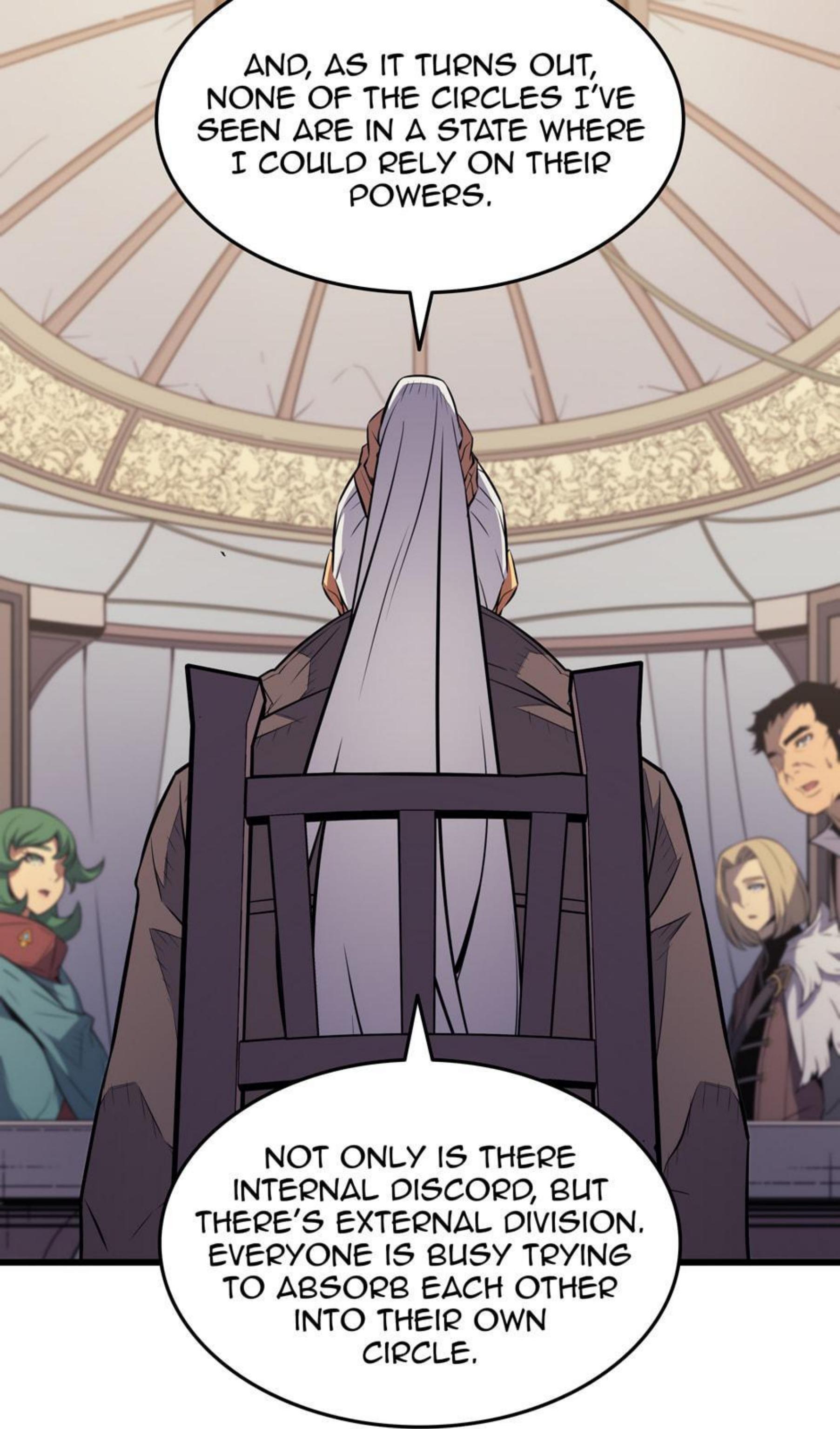


**PLANNING ON
ERASING ALL DEMIGODS
OFF THE FACE OF
OUR WORLD.**

!!

W-WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING...?!

BUT TO DO THAT,
I NEED POWER AND
INFLUENCE.



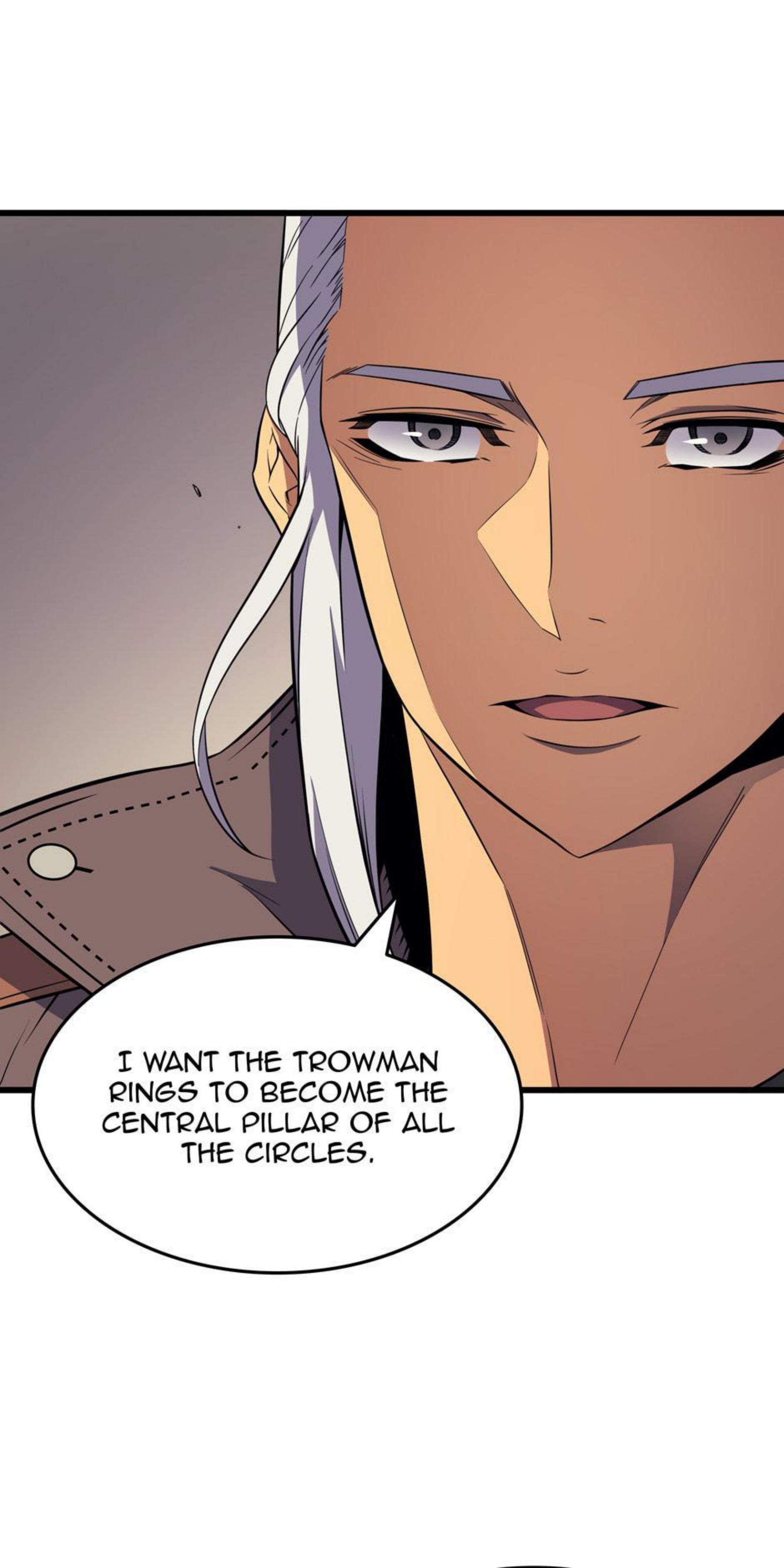
AND, AS IT TURNS OUT,
NONE OF THE CIRCLES I'VE
SEEN ARE IN A STATE WHERE
I COULD RELY ON THEIR
POWERS.

NOT ONLY IS THERE
INTERNAL DISCORD, BUT
THERE'S EXTERNAL DIVISION.
EVERYONE IS BUSY TRYING
TO ABSORB EACH OTHER
INTO THEIR OWN
CIRCLE.



I COMPLETELY
AGREE WITH YOU
THERE...

BUT THERE'S
NOTHING WE CAN
DO TO...



I WANT THE TROWMAN
RINGS TO BECOME THE
CENTRAL PILLAR OF ALL
THE CIRCLES.



THE TOP IN A
CHAIN OF COMMAND
THAT CAN ENCOMPASSES
ALL OTHERS, INCLUDING
THE THREE GREAT
CIRCLES.

....!

I-IF THAT WAS
POSSIBLE WE'D LOVE

POSSIBLE, WE'D LOVE
TO DO THAT, BUT...

WHAT I
DESIRE TO
HEAR FROM
YOU...!

SCAM

IS WHETHER
OR NOT...



**YOU HAVE
THE RESOLVE.**



WHAT
FOLLOWS WILL
BE AN AGONIZING,
PAINFUL JOURNEY.

IT WILL BE
HELLISH. QUITE
LITERALLY SO.

TO THE POINT THAT
YOU MIGHT EVEN MISS
THIS PEACEFUL LIFE
OF MISERY.



HOWEVER, IF YOU
ARE RESOLVED TO
ENDURE MUCH

HARDSHIP...

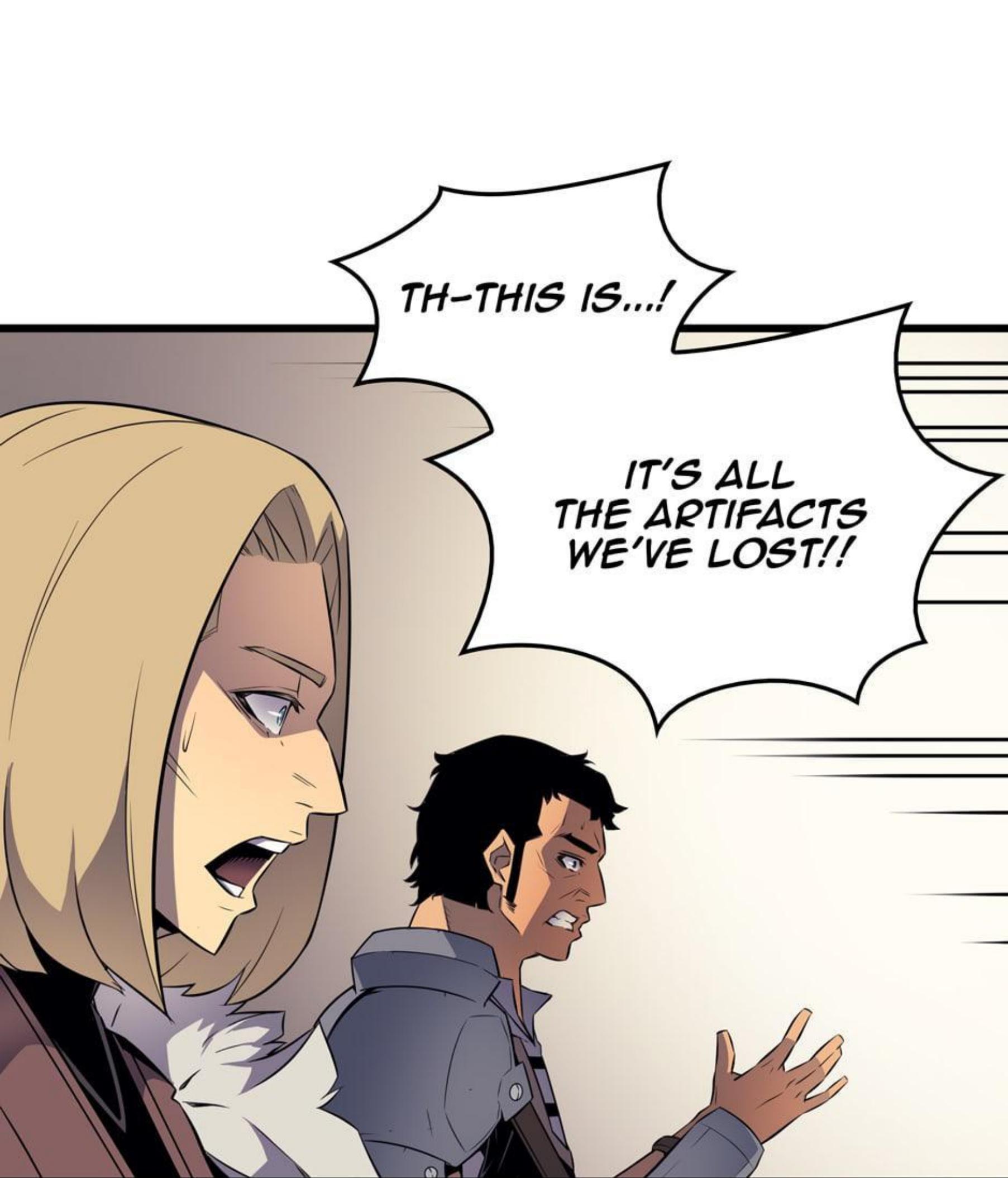
CHANK
THUD
TINK



I'LL MAKE
SURE THAT WE CAN
REACH THE PEAK OF
OUR MAXIMUM
POTENTIAL

POTENTIAL.





TH-THIS IS...!

IT'S ALL
THE ARTIFACTS
WE'VE LOST!!



IT CAN'T
BE...!



YOU'RE
SAYING **THIS** WAS THE
REASON YOU LEFT US
YESTERDAY...?!

FREI HAS ALREADY
GONE AND UNIFIED THE
SIX SMALL CIRCLES
IN THE AREA.

THEY'VE ALL
AGREED TO JOIN THE

TROWMAN RINGS.

U-UNBELIEVABLE...



YOU ACHIEVED
ALL THIS IN ONE
DAY...?!

SO ARE YOU
SAYING THAT YOU'LL
RETURN THE ARTIFACTS
IF WE AGREE TO JOIN
YOUR CAUSE?



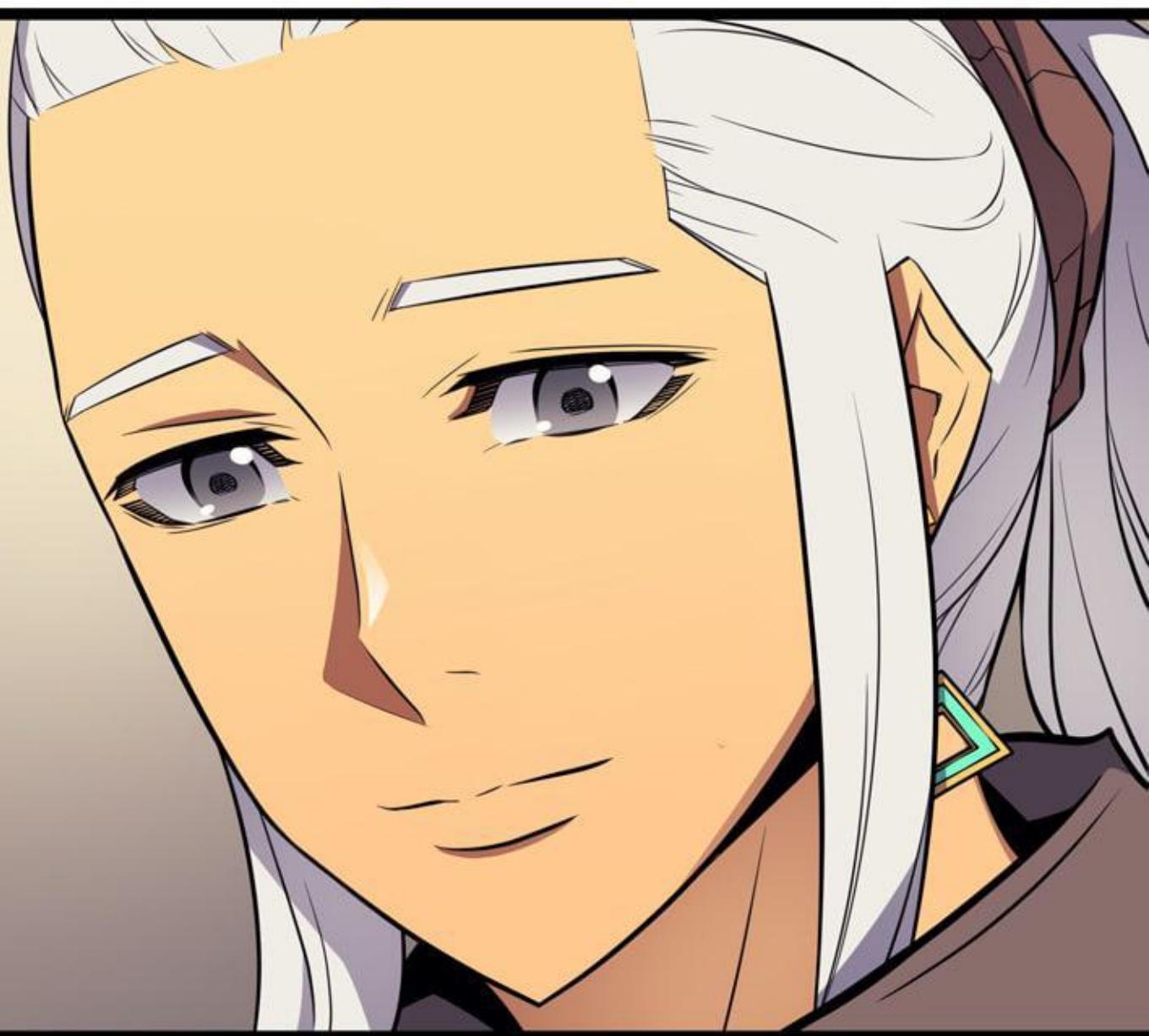
OH, COME ON...



THESE
ORIGINALLY
BELONGED TO
YOU GUYS IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

THIS IS JUST A
SMALL GIFT FOR YOUR
WARM HOSPITALITY.





IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU'LL ALL
NEED SOME TIME TO
THINK ABOUT THIS.





I'LL GIVE
YOU A DAY TO
DECIDE ON YOUR
ANSWER.

THAT'S
UNNECESSARY!



TIME IS OF THE
ESSENCE, BUT...

I'D LIKE
YOU TO ANSWER
ME THIS.



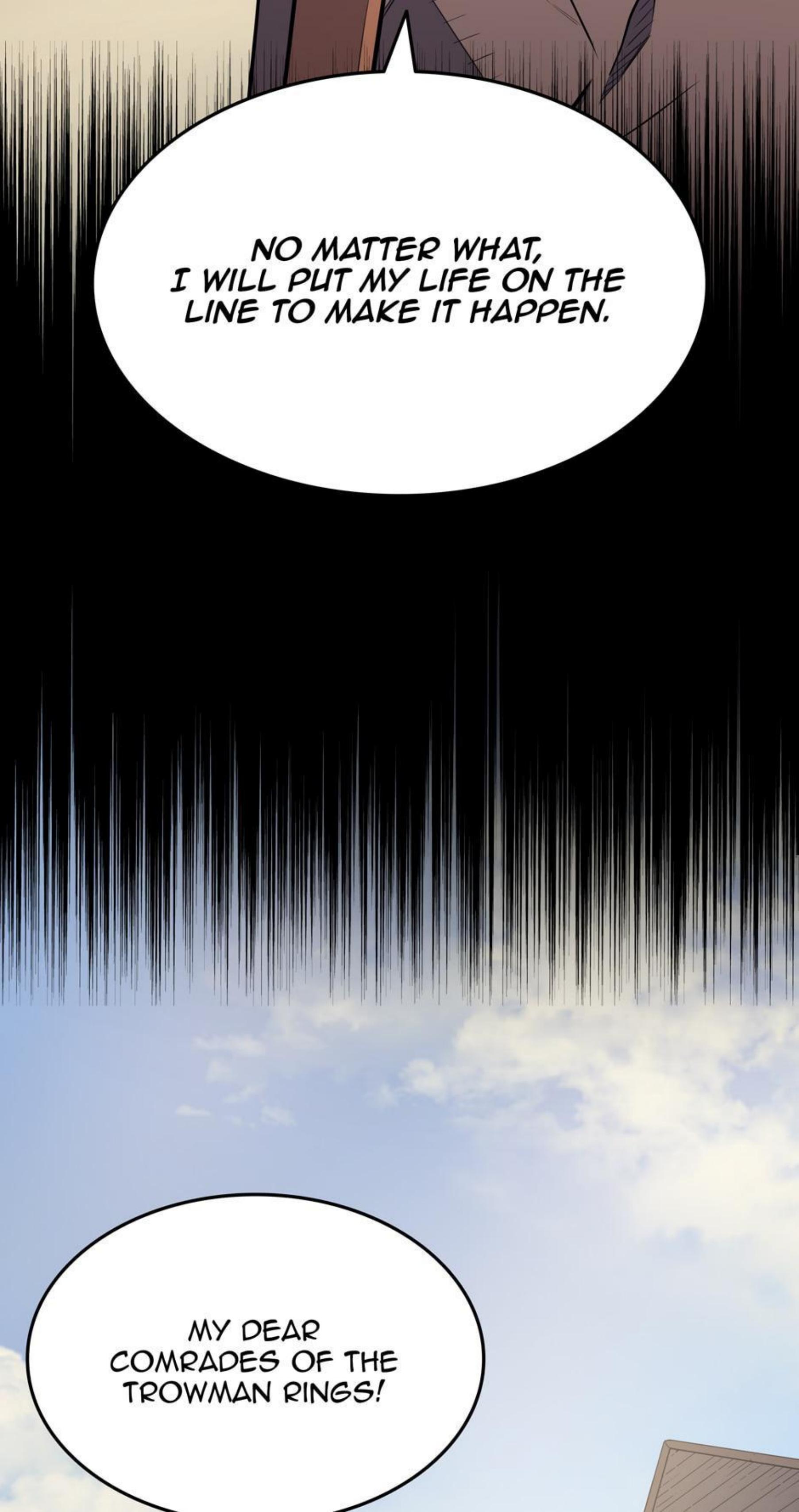
IS IT
REALLY...

...POSSIBLE
FOR US?

FOR THE TROWMAN
RINGS TO UNITE ALL
THE CIRCLES FOR A
COMMON GOAL...?

**YOU HAVE
MY WORD.**





**NO MATTER WHAT,
I WILL PUT MY LIFE ON THE
LINE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.**



**MY DEAR
COMRADES OF THE
TROWMAN RINGS!**



WE HAVE
AN IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT TO
MAKE TODAY!



I WONDER
WHAT THIS IS ALL
ABOUT...

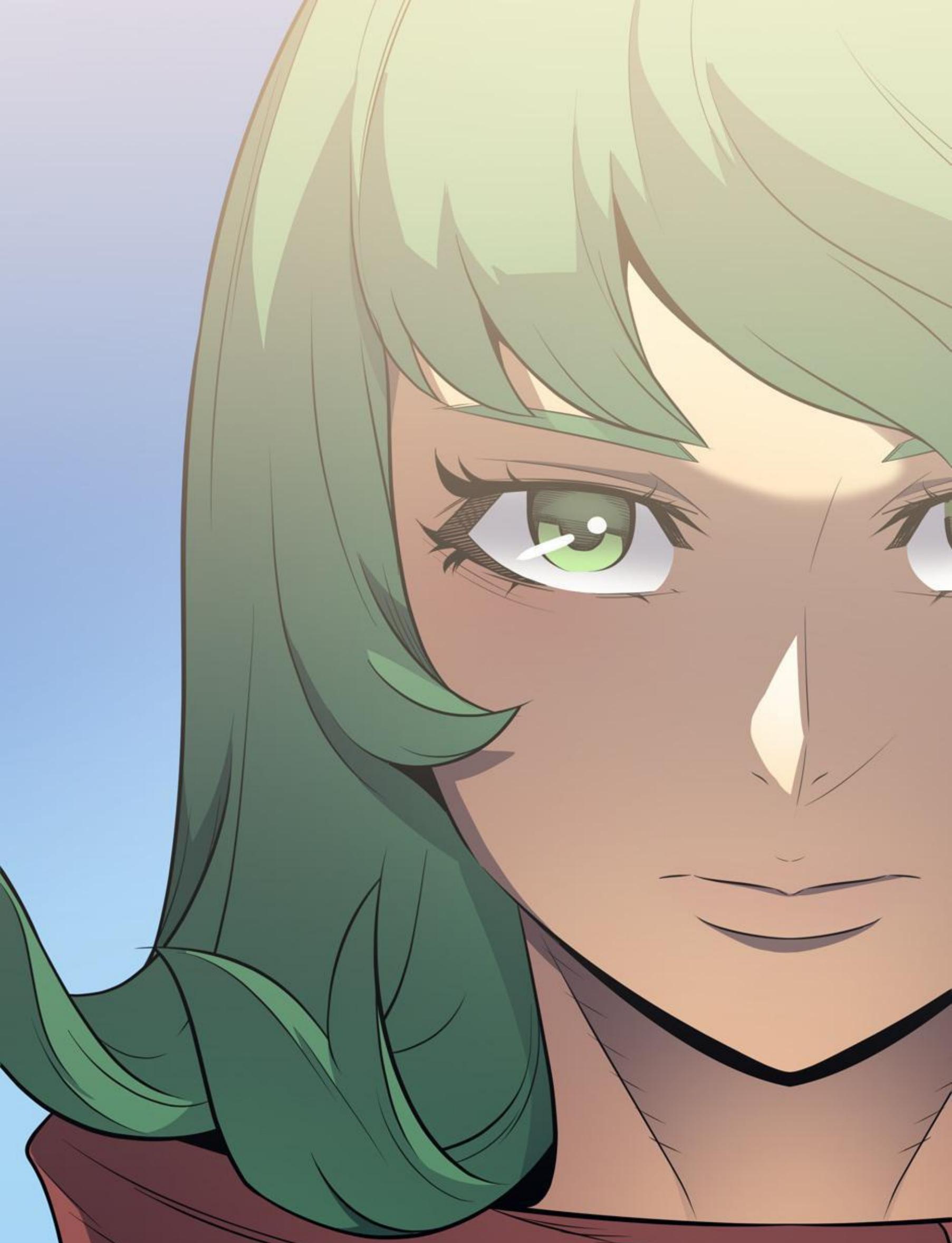
YAWN

WHY SO
EARLY IN THE
MORNING...?



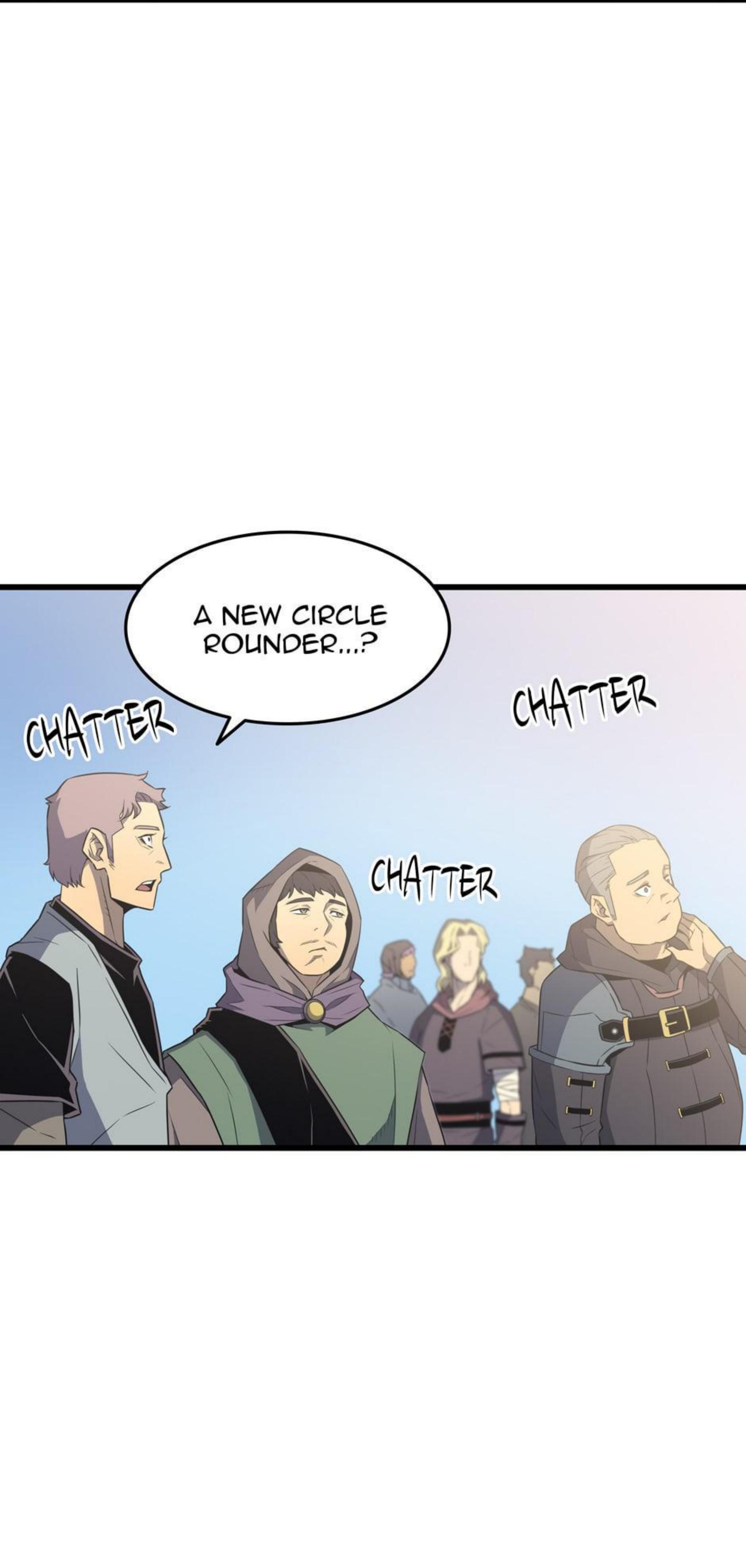
YOU DON'T THINK
WE'RE DISBANDING
TODAY?

HEY MAN! STOP
JINXING US!



**ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE YOU TO
THE NEW ROUNDER
OF OUR CIRCLE.**



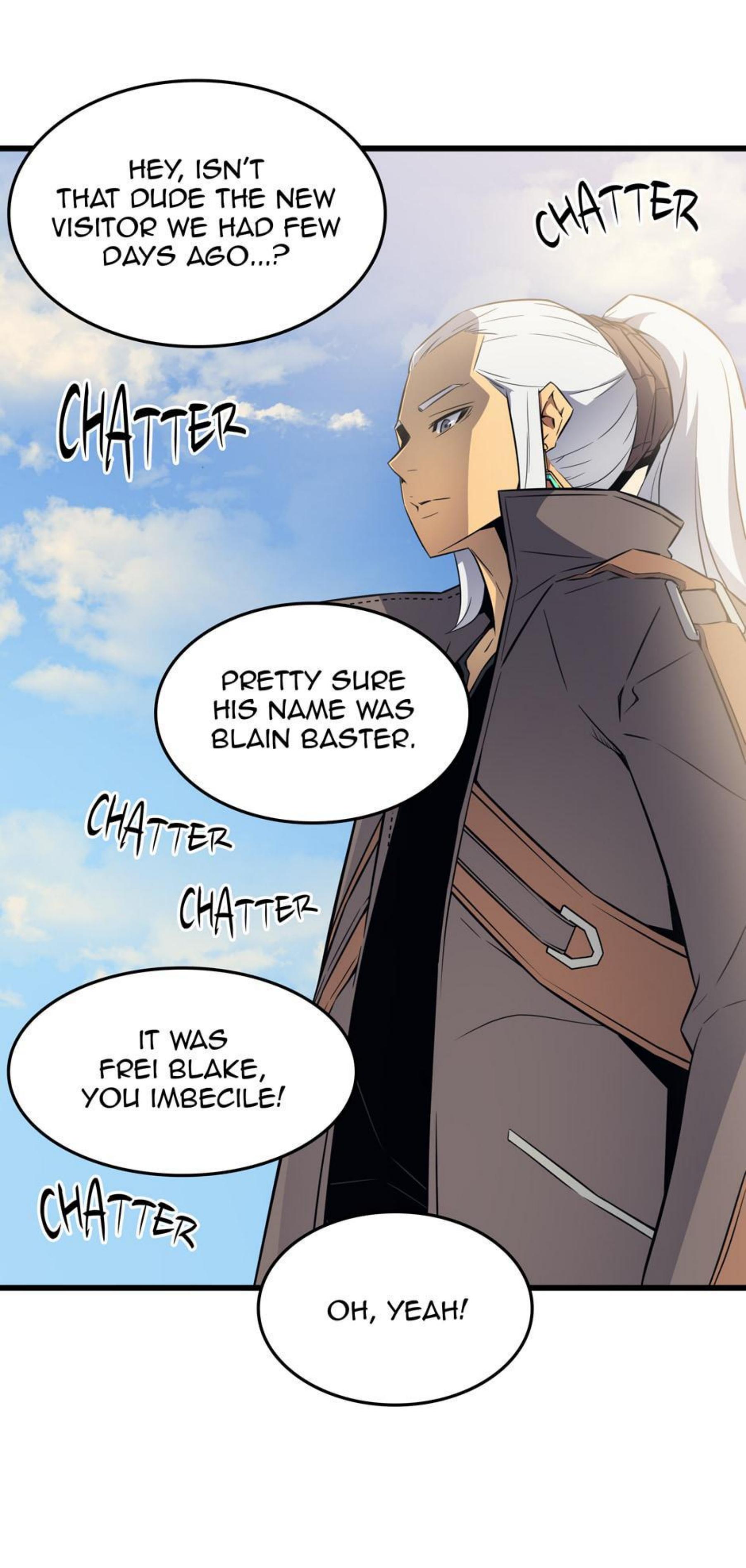


A NEW CIRCLE
ROUNDER...?

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER



HEY, ISN'T
THAT DUDE THE NEW
VISITOR WE HAD FEW
DAYS AGO...?

CHATTER

CHATTER

PRETTY SURE
HIS NAME WAS
BLAIN BASTER.

CHATTER

CHATTER

IT WAS
FREI BLAKE,
YOU IMBECILE!

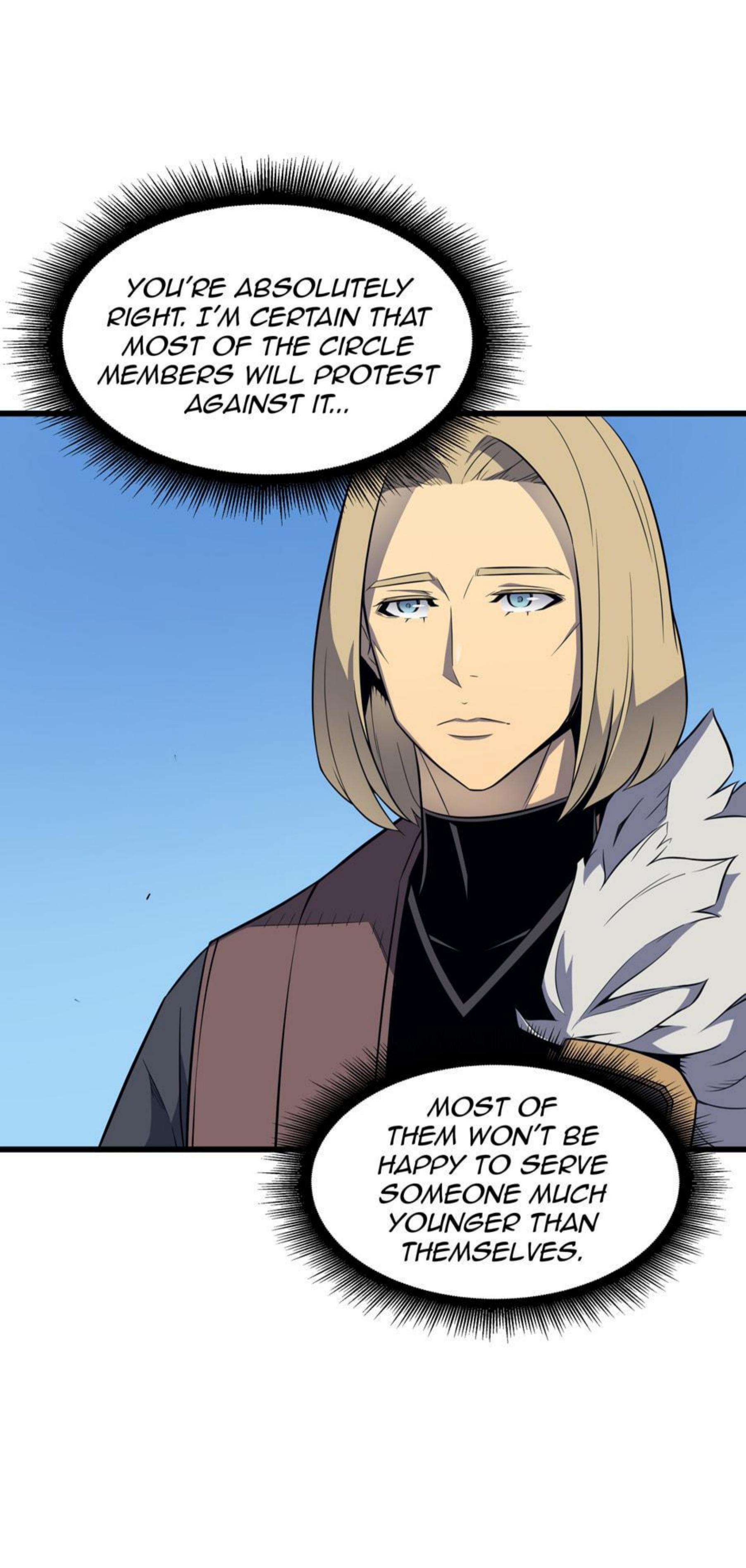
CHATTER

OH, YEAH!



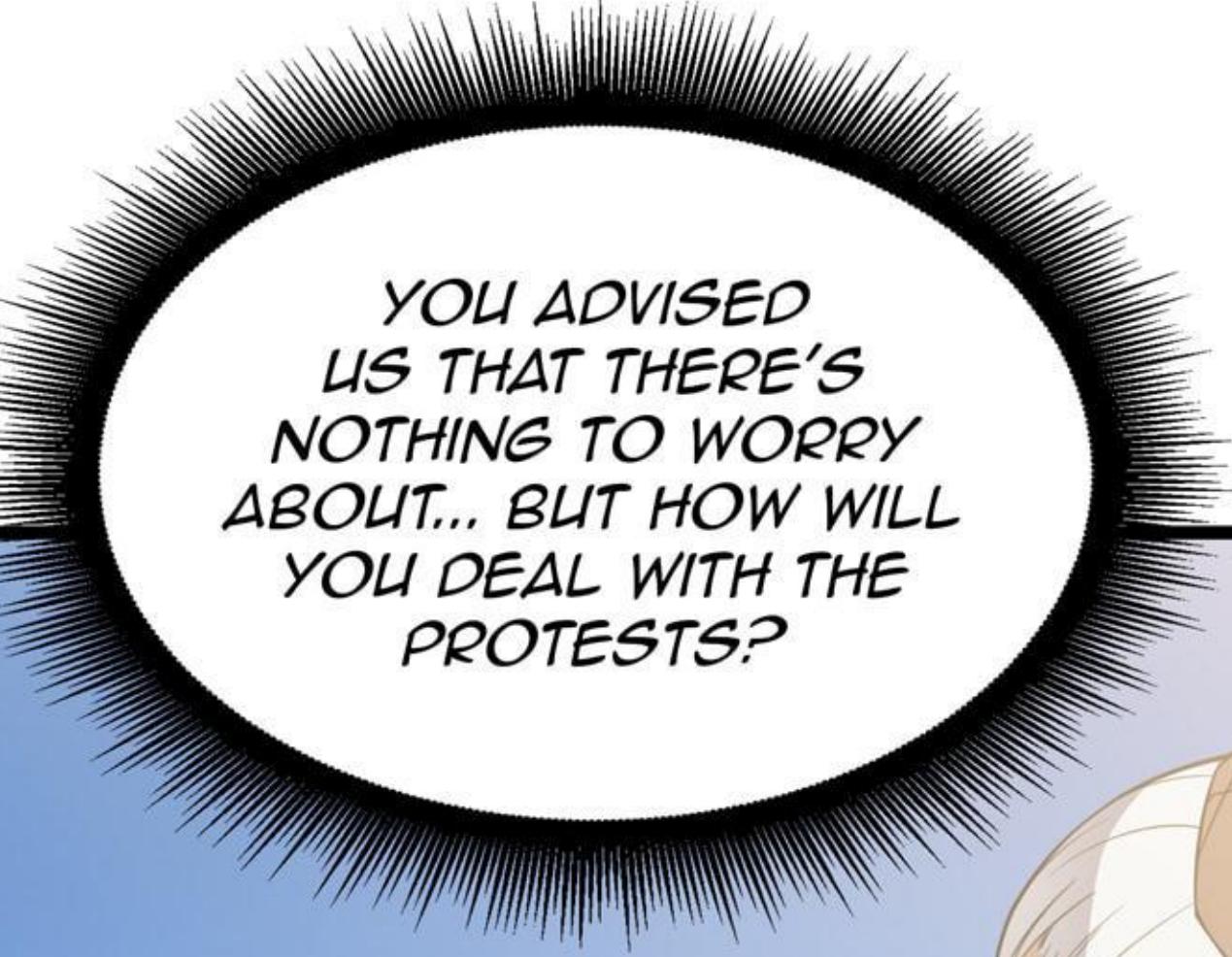
I AM FREI BLAKE,
YOUR NEWLY APPOINTED
CIRCLE ROUNDER.

I'M SURE THERE
ARE SOME AMONG YOU
THAT MIGHT BE SHOCKED
AND DISGRUNTLED BY THE
FACT A YOUNG NEWBIE
LIKE ME BECAME THE
NEW ROUNDER.



YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY
RIGHT. I'M CERTAIN THAT
MOST OF THE CIRCLE
MEMBERS WILL PROTEST
AGAINST IT...

MOST OF
THEM WON'T BE
HAPPY TO SERVE
SOMEONE MUCH
YOUNGER THAN
THEMSELVES.



YOU ADVISED
US THAT THERE'S
NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT... BUT HOW WILL
YOU DEAL WITH THE
PROTESTS?

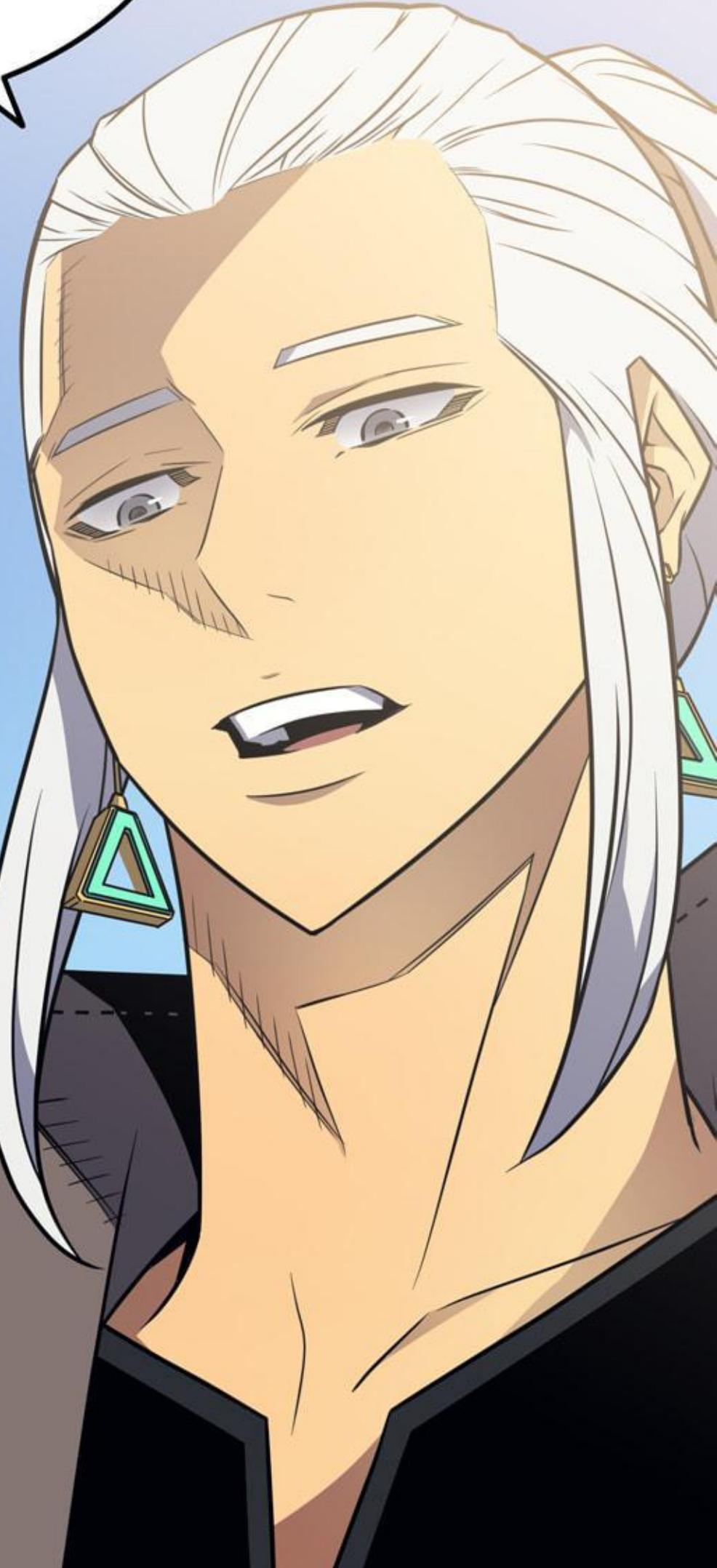


I'LL JUST
BE BLUNT.

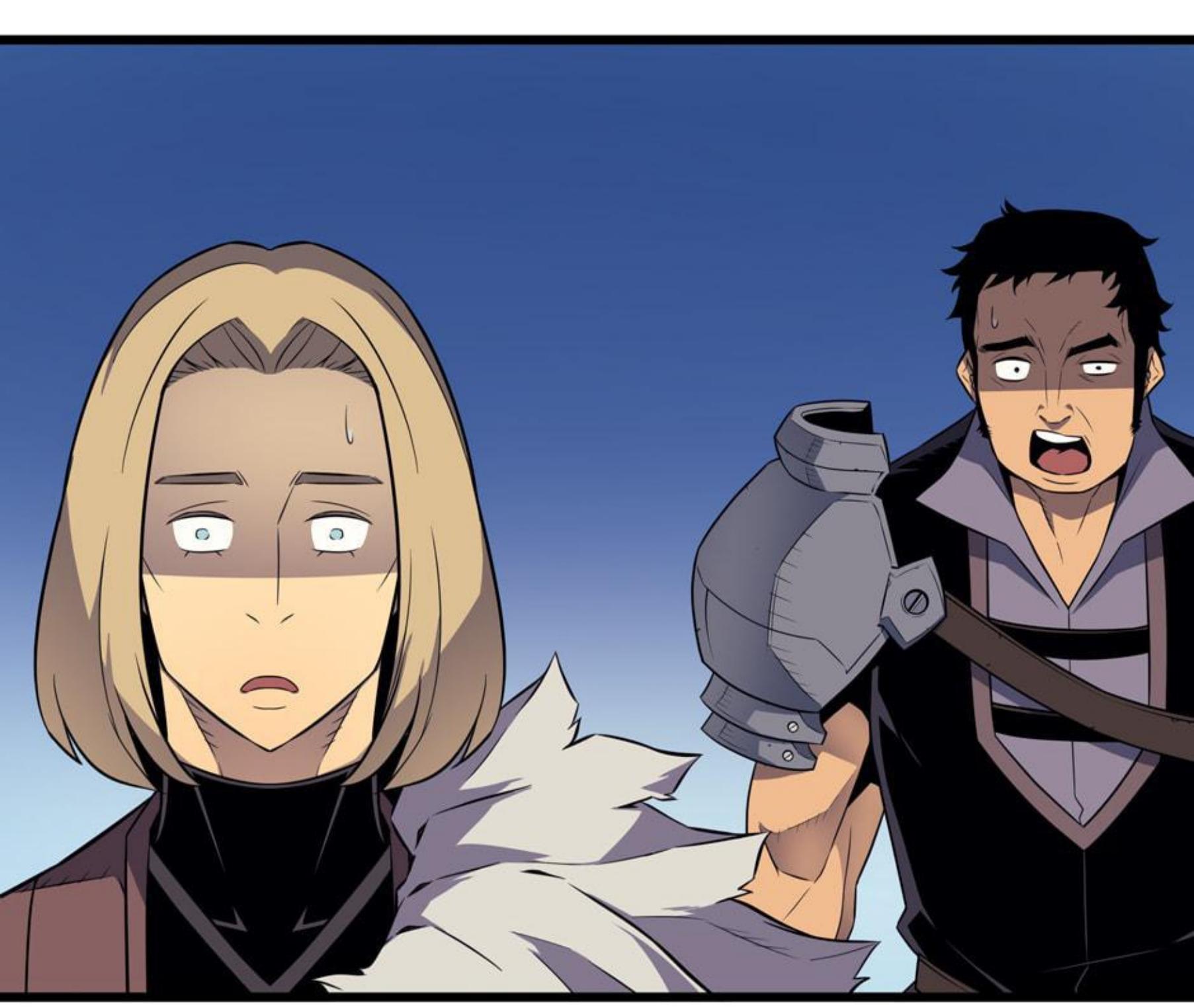


**NONE OF YOU
PRESENT HAS ANY
RIGHT TO OBJECT
TO MY RULE.**

BADUN



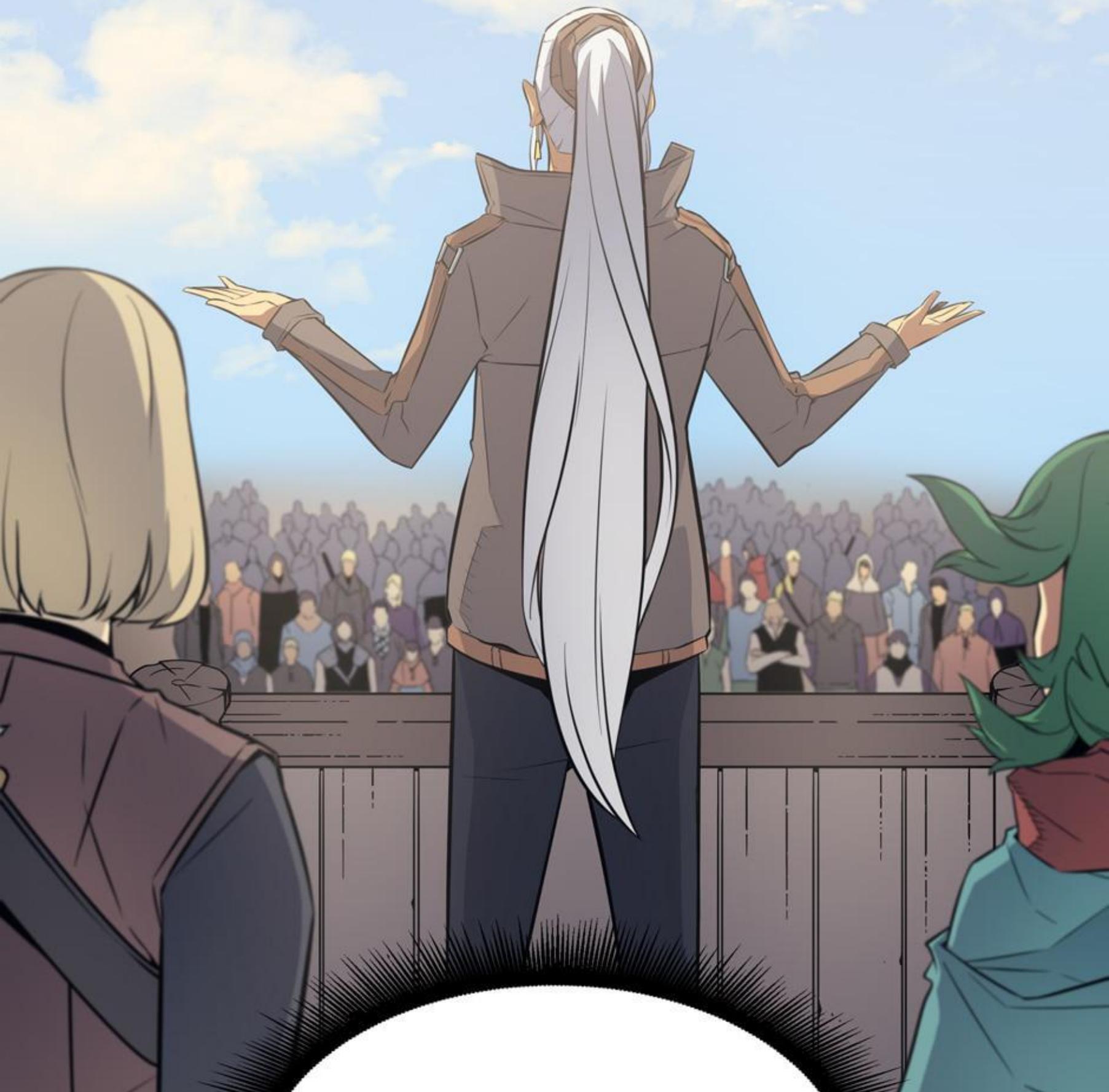




HONESTLY,
HOW INSUFFERABLY
UNQUALIFIED CAN YOU
ALL BE IF THE CIRCLE
EXECUTIVES HAD TO
APPOINT A NEWBIE LIKE
ME TO BE THE
ROUNDER?

ALL OF YOU
REALLY SUCK

REALLY NEED TO
REFLECT ON THAT,
YOU KNOW?



F-FREI...?!

WHAT THE FUCK
IS THIS ASSHOLE
SAYIN'...?!

WHY DID
MASTER VENIAN
APPOINT SOMEONE
LIKE HIM?





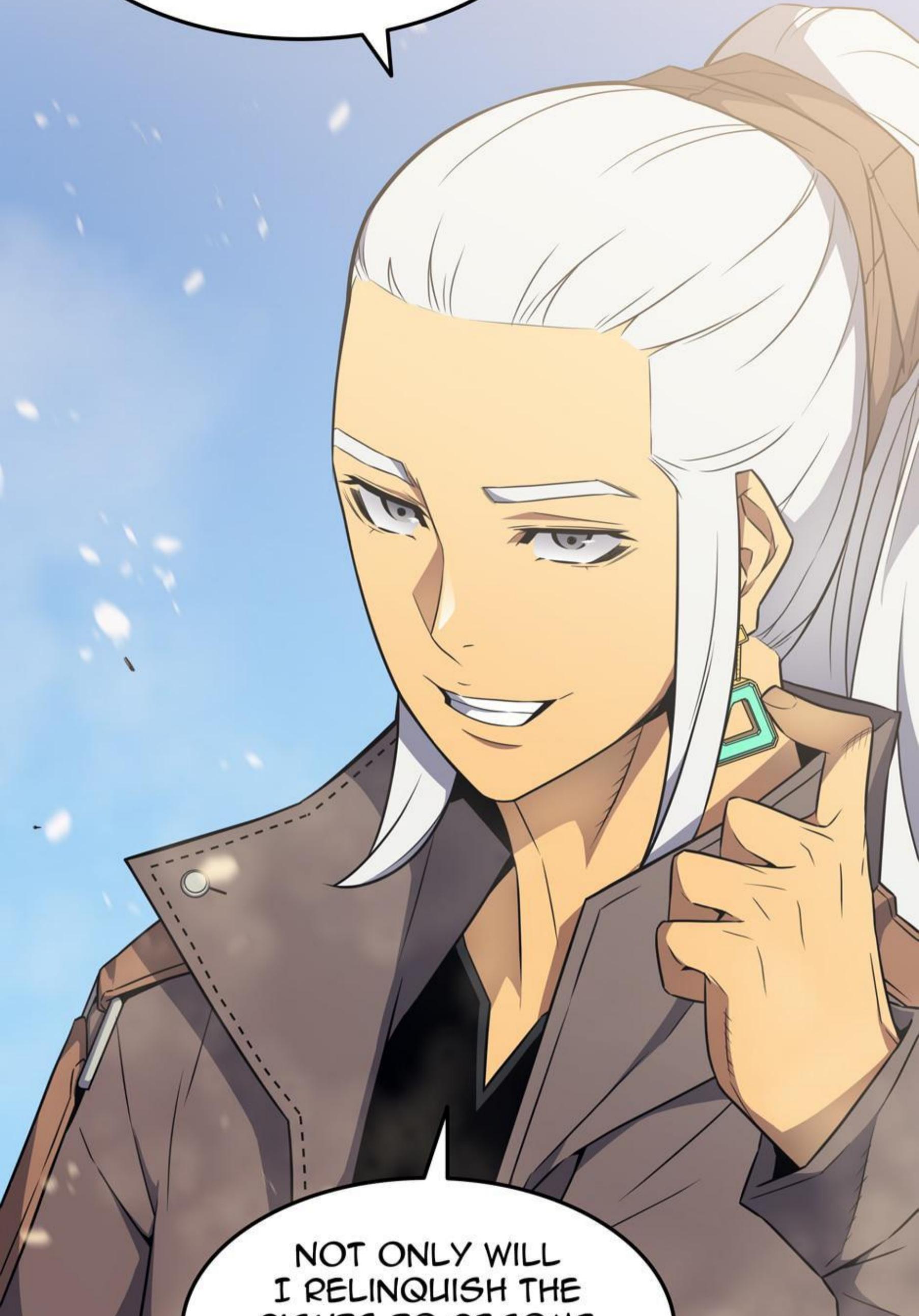
COME AT
ME IF YOU GOT
A PROBLEM
WITH THAT.



HOWEVER, WE
SHOULDN'T DECIDE OUR
DIFFERENCES THROUGH
USELESS WORDS WHEN
FISTS CAN DO THE
TALKING FASTER.

IF THERE'S
ANYONE HERE
THAT CAN MANAGE
TO GRAZE MY
SILENCE.

CLOTHES...



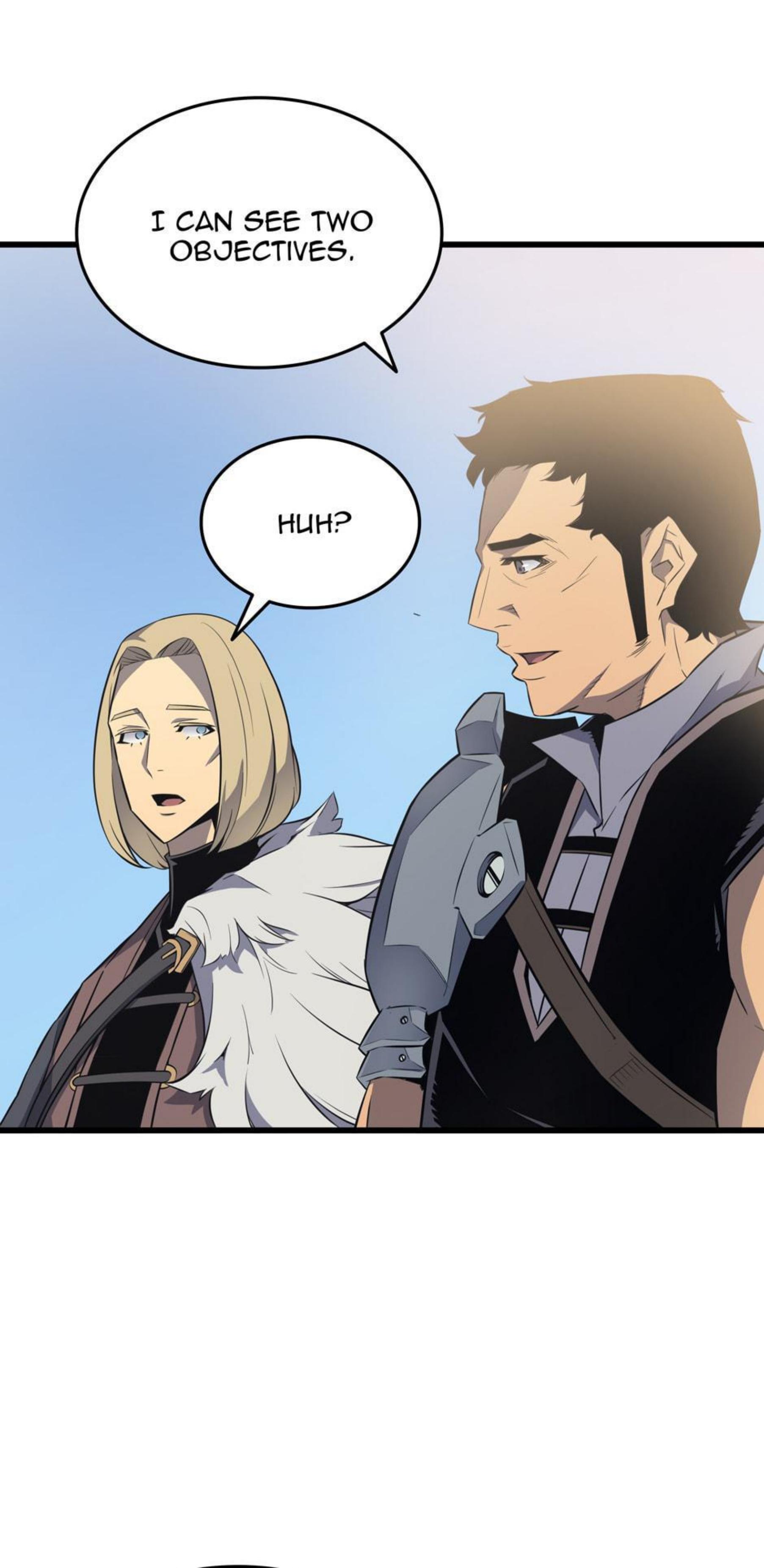
NOT ONLY WILL
I RELINQUISH THE
RIGHTS TO BECOME
THE NEXT ROUNDER TO
THAT INDIVIDUAL...

BUT I'LL
ALSO GIFT YOU
WITH THE TYPHOON
EARRINGS CRAFTED BY
LUCAS TROWMAN
HIMSELF!



FREI...

WHAT ARE YOU
PLANNING TO DO...?



I CAN SEE TWO OBJECTIVES.

HUH?



FIRST, HE'S
PLANNING ON TESTING
THE ABILITIES OF THE
CIRCLE MEMBERS.

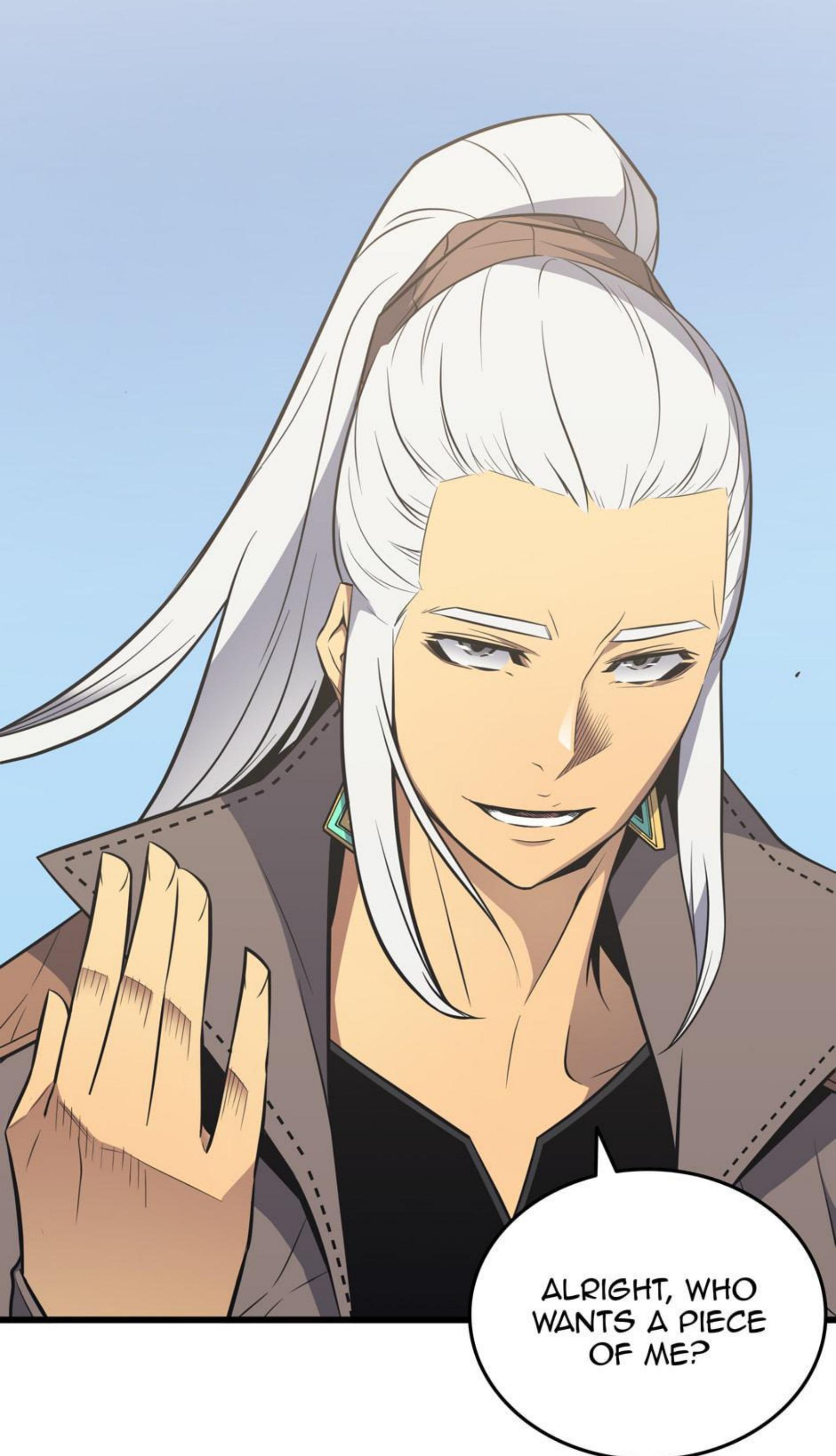
BUT IT'S NOT
NECESSARY FOR HIM
TO PROVOKE THEM
LIKE THIS.

AND
SECOND...

I THINK
FREI IS TRYING TO
GATHER ALL OF THEIR
DISSATISFACTION AND
FOCUS IT ON HIM
ALONE.



HE'S BEING
CONSIDERATE OF
ME, WHO HAD TO MAKE
A SEEMINGLY RASH AND
UNCONVENTIONAL DECISION.
BY DOING THIS, HE'S
PROTECTING ME FROM
THEIR FRUSTRATIONS.



ALRIGHT, WHO
WANTS A PIECE
OF ME?



I AM
FIO GUNTAR,
A MAGE.

BEGIN.



AREN'T YOU
GOING TO CHANGE
YOUR STANCE?



NAH, I'M
GOOD.

IF YOU'RE
STRONGER THAN I
THINK, I'LL TAKE MY
HANDS OUT OF MY
POCKETS.

GRI

**YOUR
ARROGANCE
WILL BE YOUR
DOWNFALL!!**

CRACKLE





FIREBALL!

POW

