

THE ARCHMAGE
RETURNS AFTER.
40000
YEARS

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~ 51 ~

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THEY SAY THAT
SKINNY-LOOKING
GUY FOUGHT WITH THE
DARK ELF ON EQUAL
FOOTING.

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

I ALWAYS KNEW
HE WAS A WEIRDO,
BUT HE'S EVEN WEIRDER
THAN MY WILDEST
DREAMS!

WHISPER

BUT WHAT'S
A MANA FIST
PRACTITIONER LIKE
HIM DOING HERE AT
THE ENTRANCE
EXAMS?

WHISPER

FREI,
ISABEL!



OH!

CAMIL AND
LIAMSON!



WAIT,
YOU GUYS
ARE HERE FOR
THE EXAMS
TOO?

WE HEARD
YOU APPLIED FOR
IT SO WE CAME AS
SPECTATORS
TODAY.

THIS GUY
WAS SO BORED
HE TAGGED
ALONG.

OH, SAME
WITH HER!





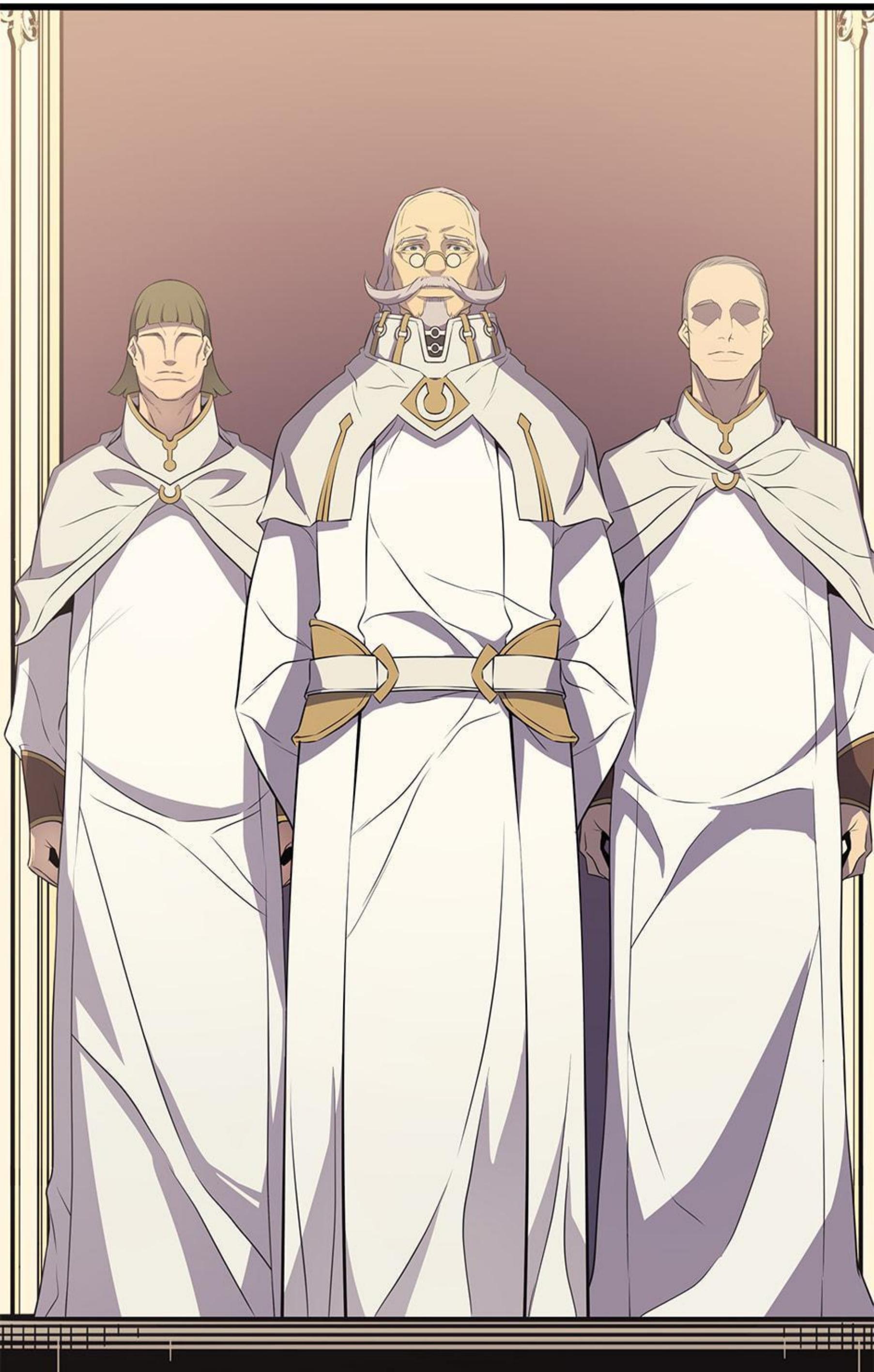
FREI, FIGHT ME
AFTER YOU'RE DONE
HERE, OKAY?



HAHA...
YOU MEAN
SPAR AGAIN,
RIGHT?

CLACK







THEY ARE
THE FLOOR
MASTERS OF
THIS MAGIC
TOWER.

TAKE NOTE OF
THE GUY IN THE MIDDLE.
HIS NAME IS MIKEL AND
HE'S THE REAL DEAL IN
THIS MAGIC TOWER.



I TRUST WE
WON'T NEED TO WASTE
NEEDLESS TIME ON THE
INTRODUCTIONS?

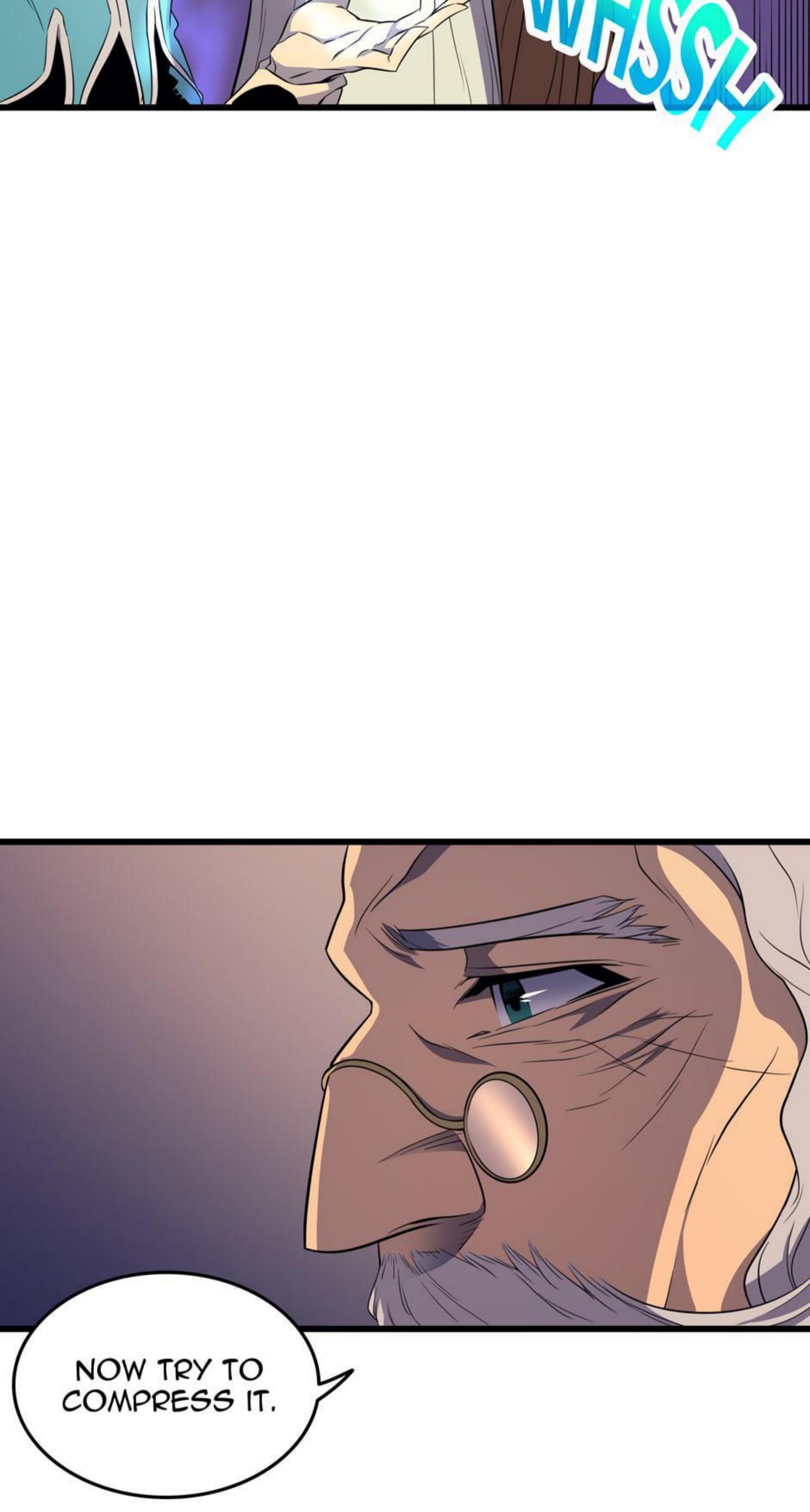
IF SO, WE WILL
PROCEED WITH
THE FIRST EXAMS
IMMEDIATELY.

CREATE AN
ENERGY BALL.

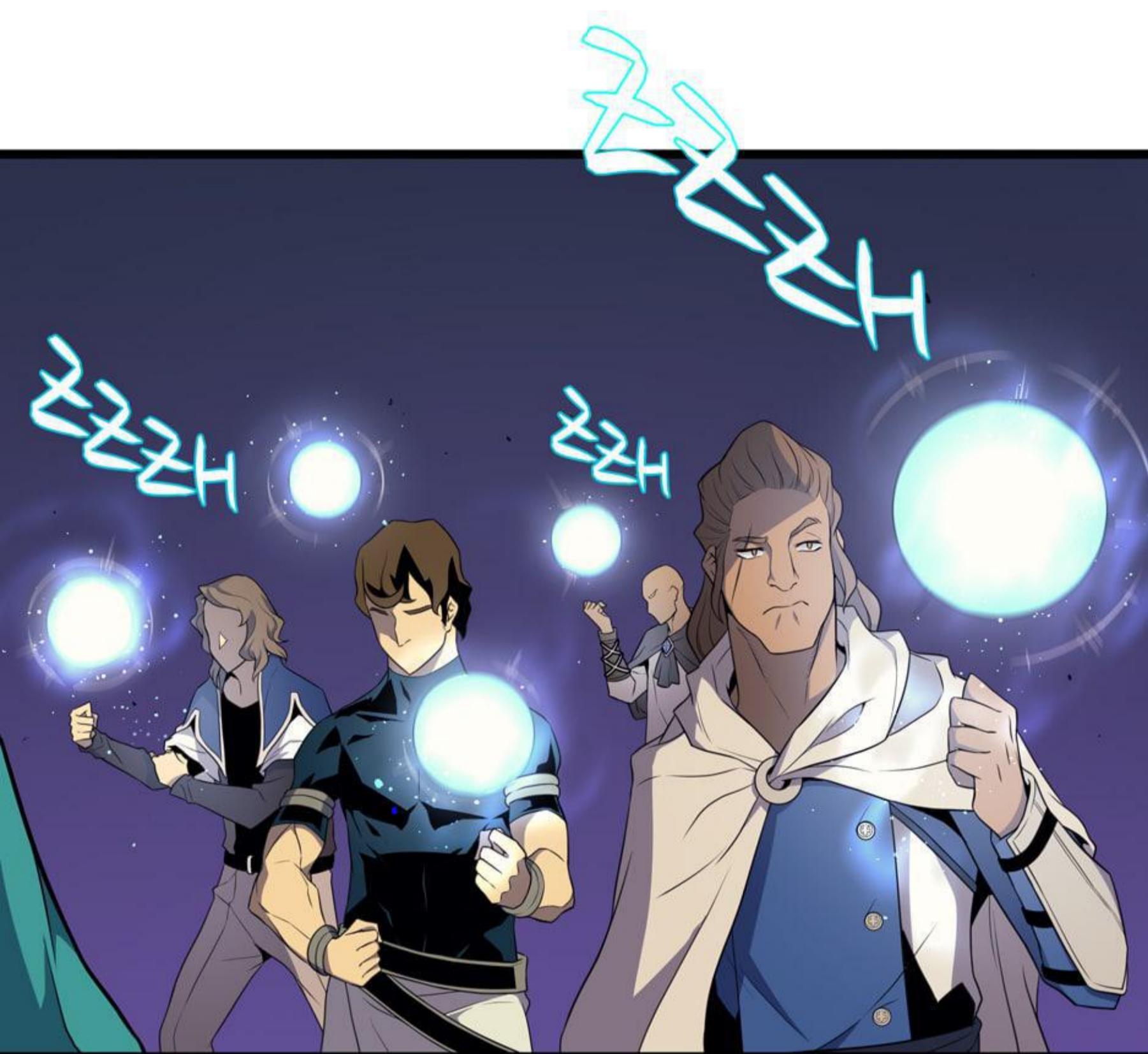
WHOOOSH



WHOSA

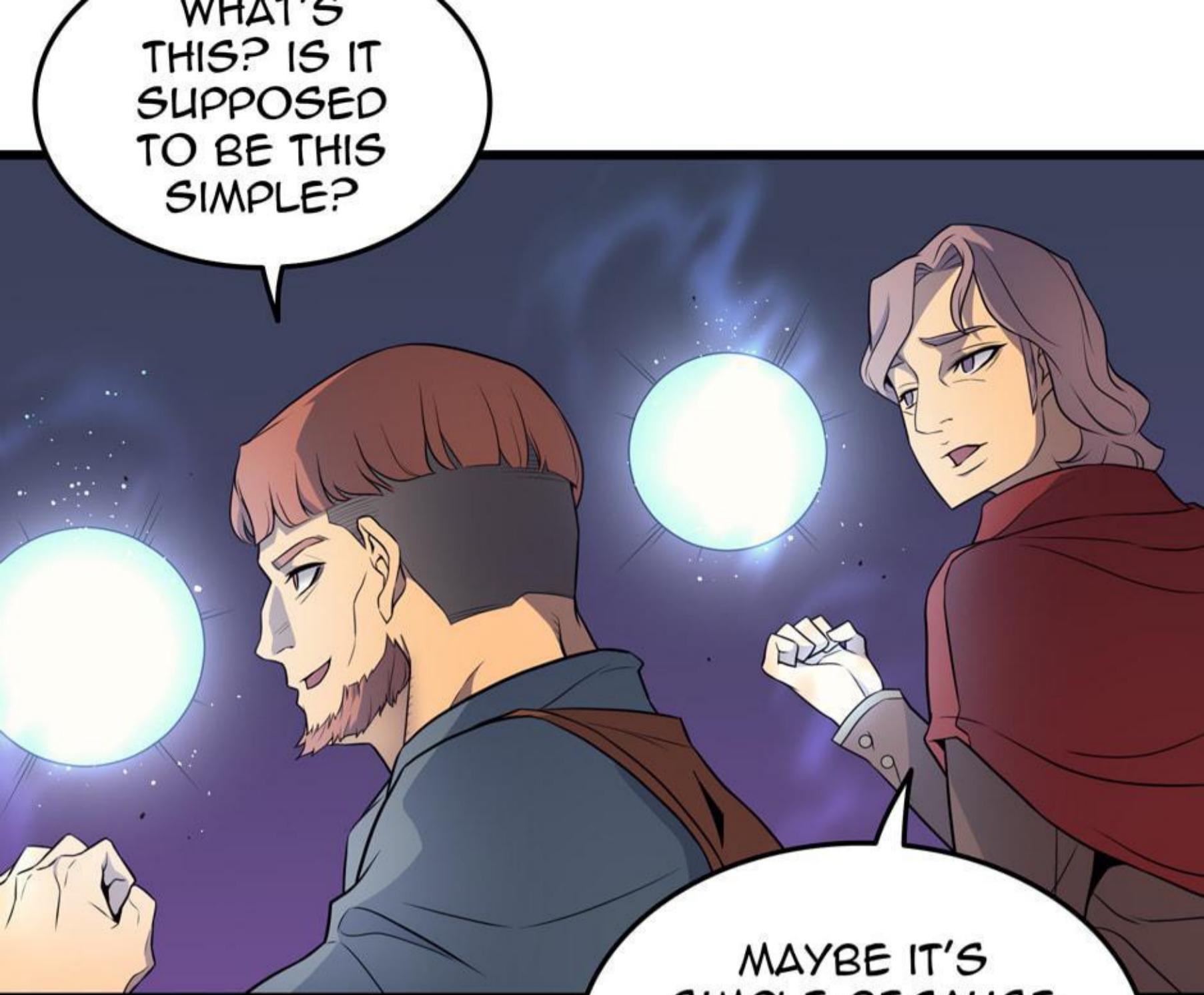


NOW TRY TO
COMPRESS IT.



WILLIE'S

WHAT'S THIS? IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS SIMPLE?

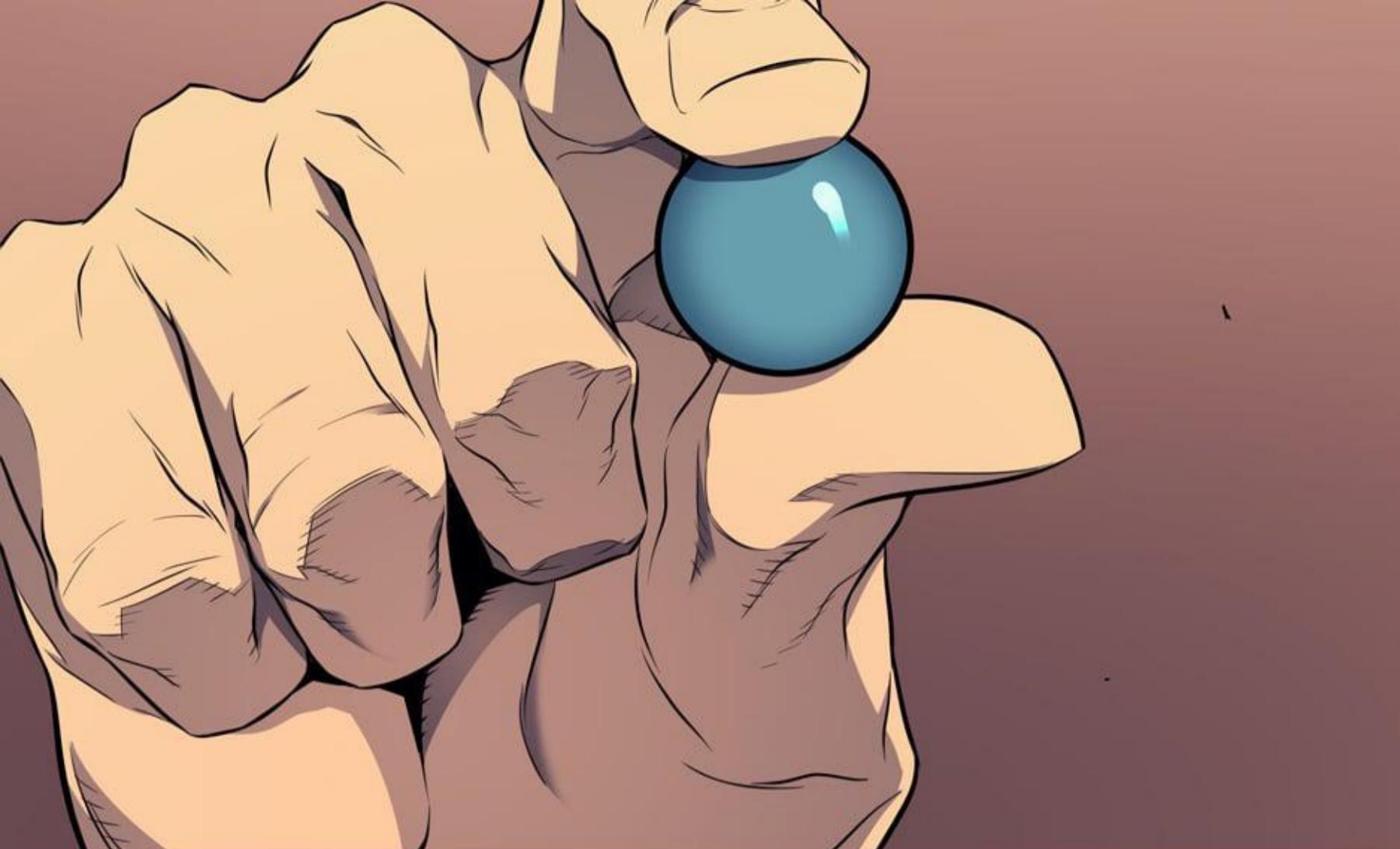


MAYBE IT'S SIMPLE BECAUSE IT'S THE FIRST ROUND OF EXAMS?



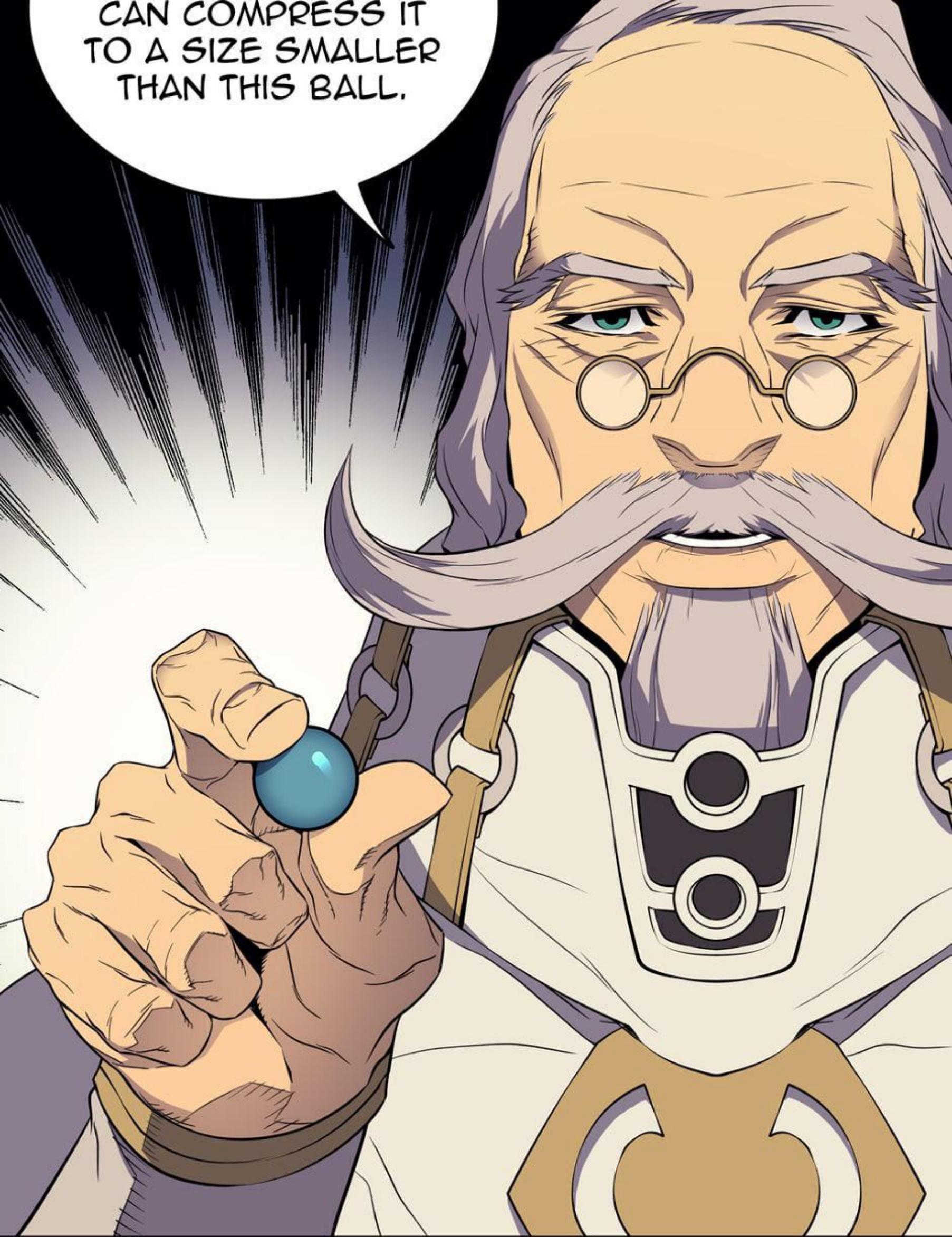
OH, RIGHT...





YOU WILL PASS
THIS EXAM IF YOU

CAN COMPRESS IT
TO A SIZE SMALLER
THAN THIS BALL.



WAIT...
WHAT?

THE SIZE
OF A TINY
MARBLE?!



YOU FAIL.

FAIL!



GNNNNGH!



FAIL!

SLUMP

GAH!

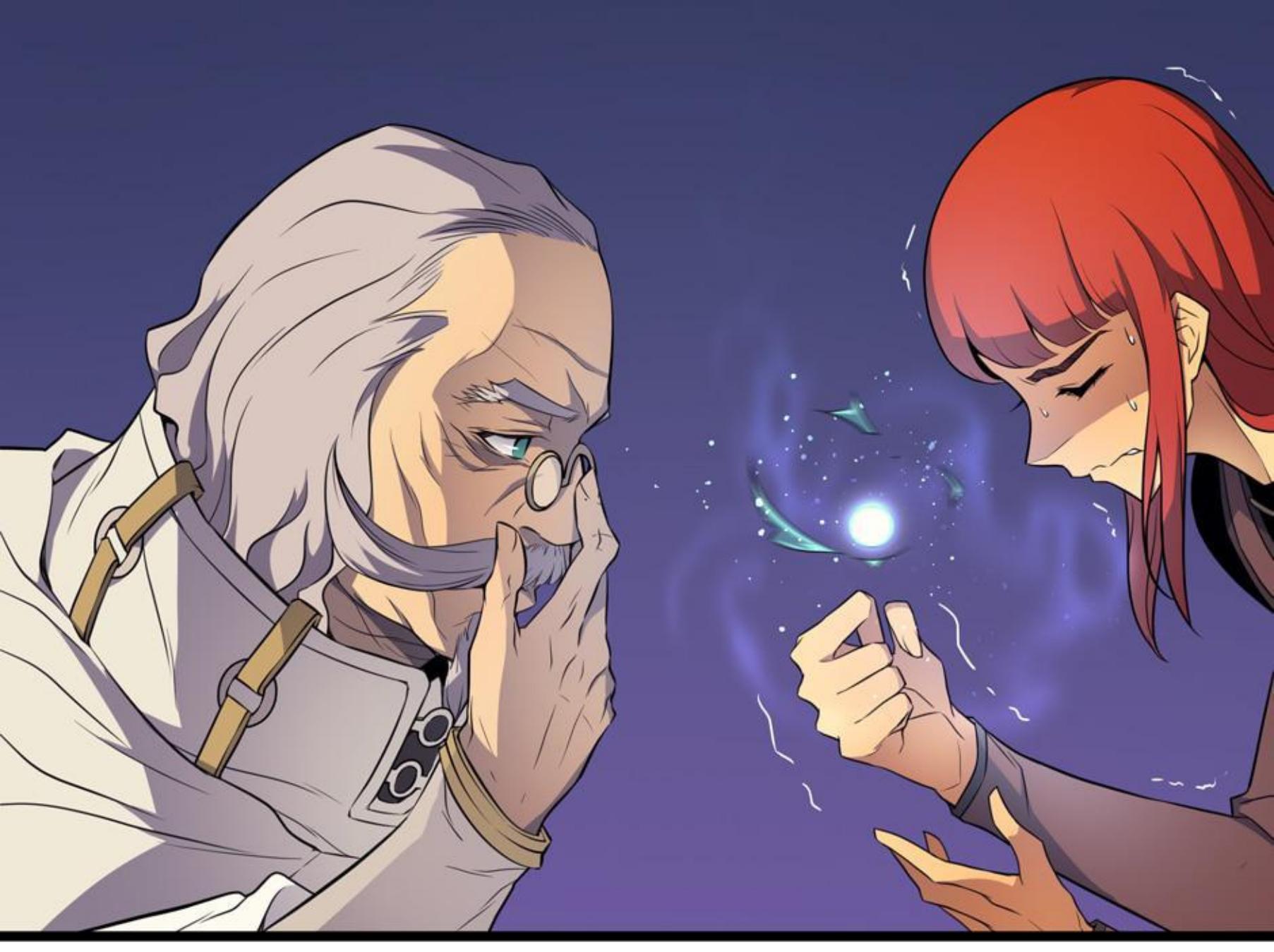
HAA...!
HAA!

HAA

HAA

THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

HOW CAN
WE MAKE IT
SMALLER THAN
A MARBLE...?!



GOOD ENOUGH,
YOU PASS.

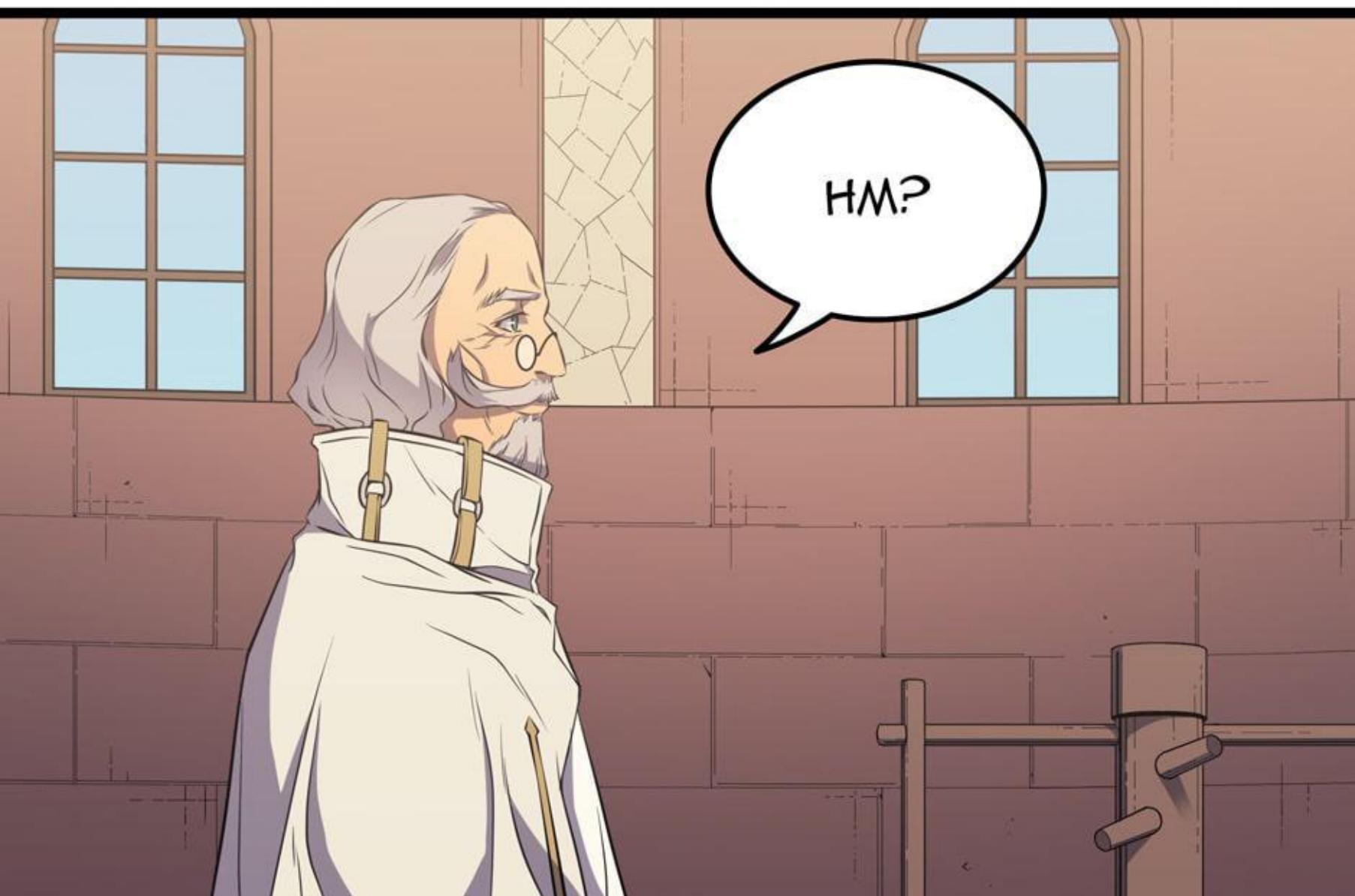
ХАА... ХАА...!

PLOP





I BARELY
MADE IT...!





OH...?!

QUITE
SPECTACULAR!

I SEE THAT
NEITHER OF YOU
WILL NEED TO PASS
ANY FURTHER
TESTS.

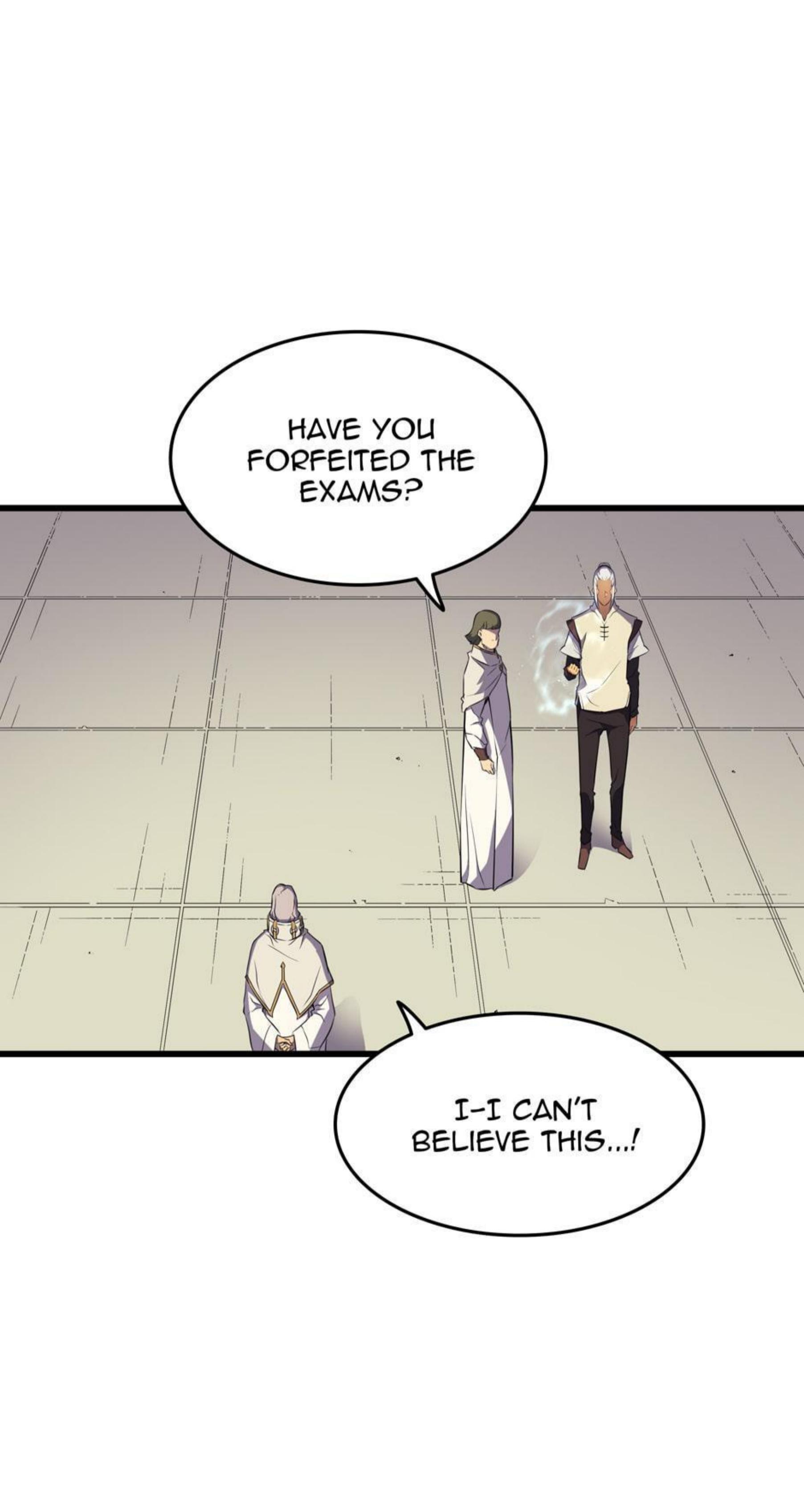


I GRANT
YOU ENTRY TO THE
MAGIC LIBRARY.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK YOU'RE
DOING, LAD?







HAVE YOU
FORFEITED THE
EXAMS?

I-I CAN'T
BELIEVE THIS...!



LORD MIKEL,
WHAT IS THE
MATTER?



IT LOOKS
LIKE THIS YOUNG
MAN HAS ALREADY
GIVEN UP...

DON'T RELY ON
YOUR EYES. TRY TO
FEEL WHAT'S HAPPENING
BY SENSING THE
MANA!



HE MANAGED TO
COMPRESS IT DOWN
TO A SIZE THAT CAN'T BE
PERCEIVED BY THE
HUMAN EYES!

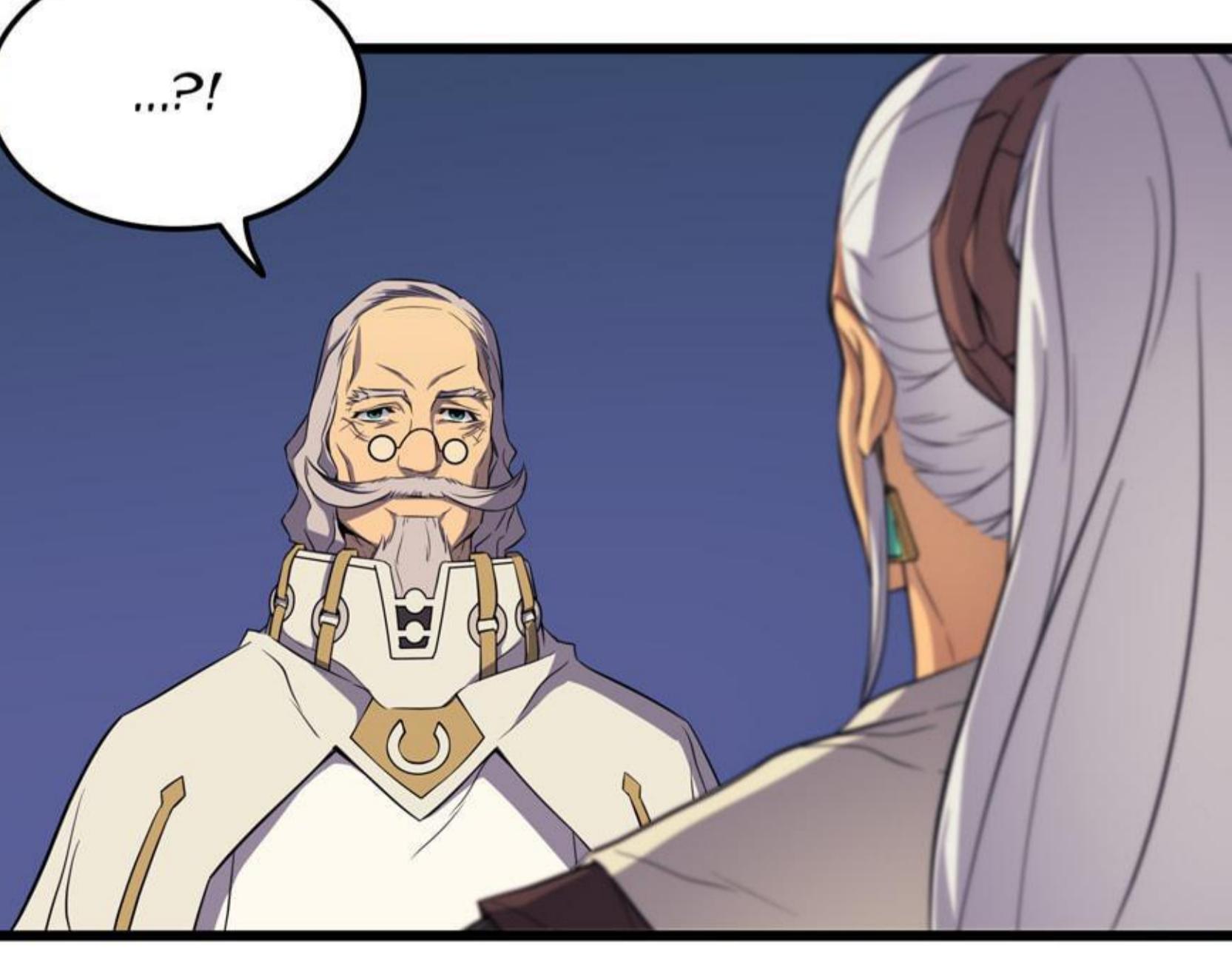


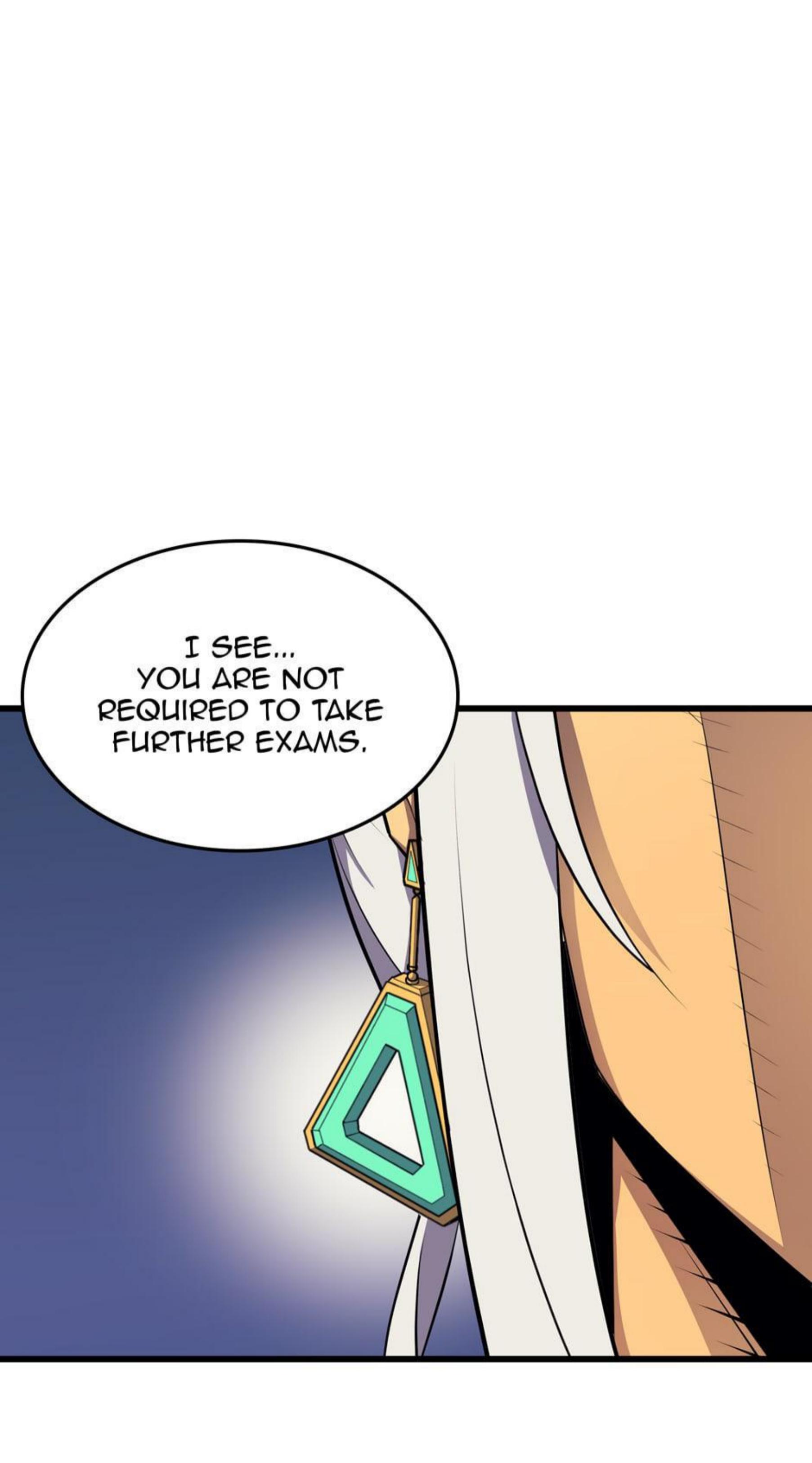


HE WHAT?!

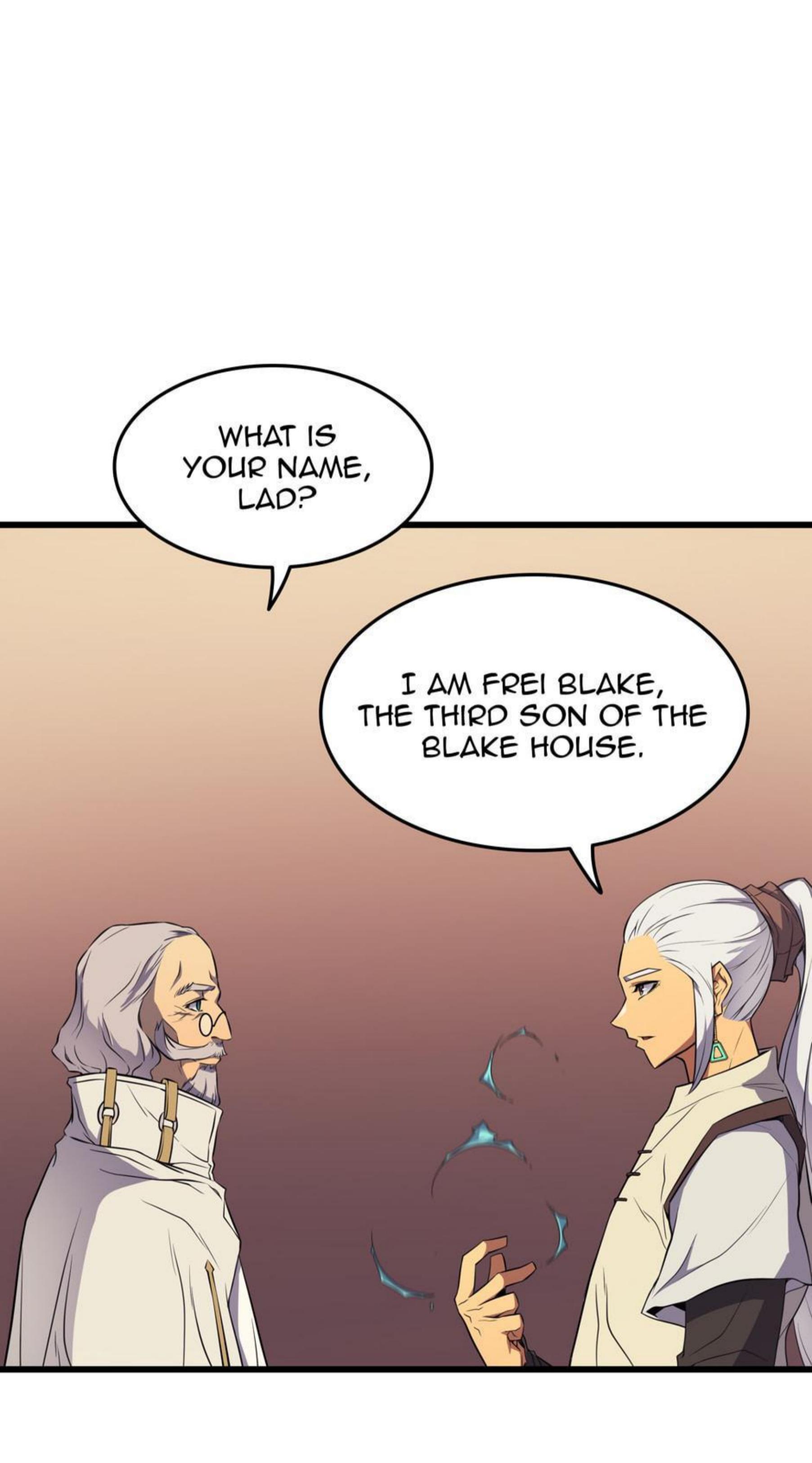


...?!



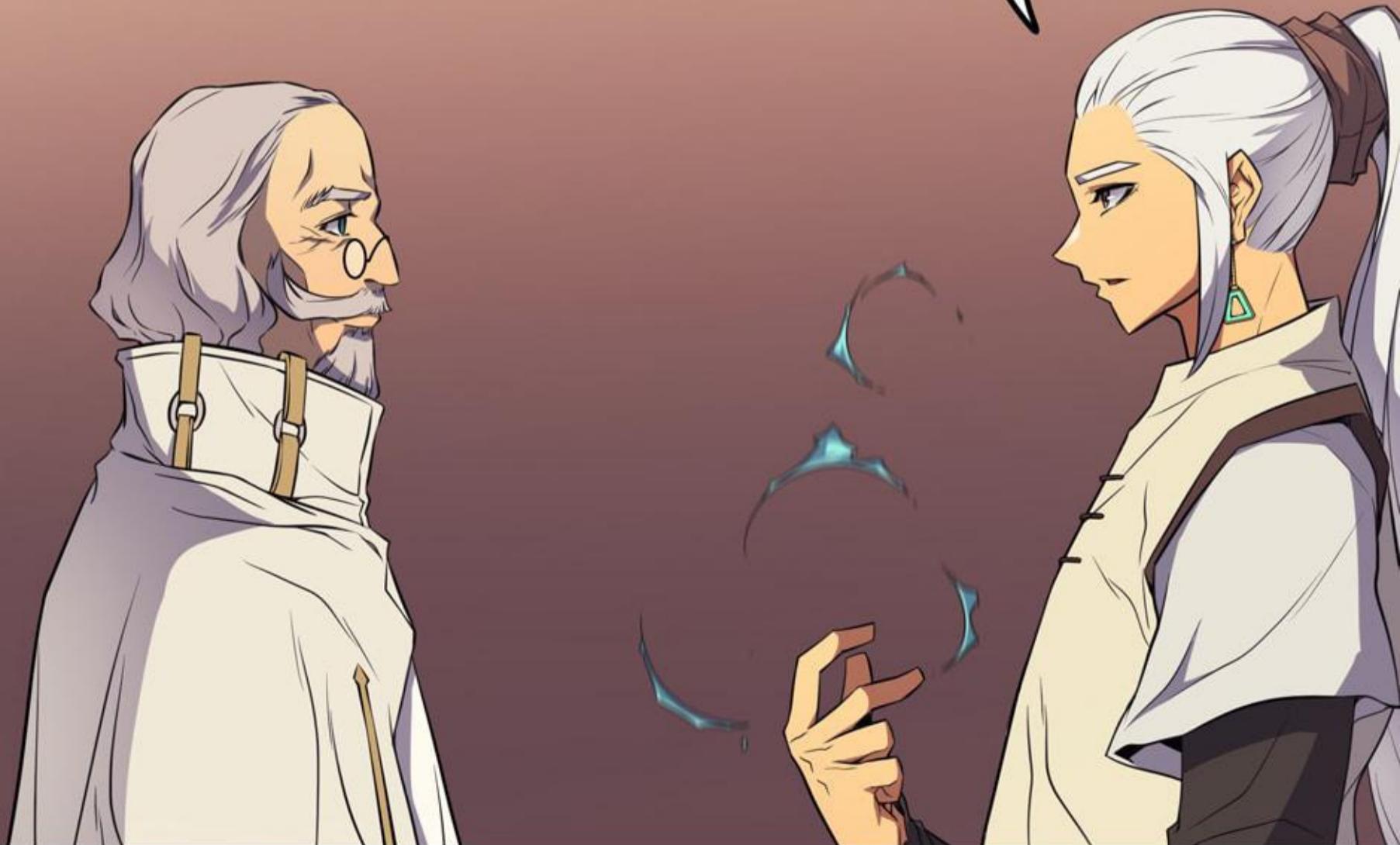


I SEE...
YOU ARE NOT
REQUIRED TO TAKE
FURTHER EXAMS.



WHAT IS
YOUR NAME,
LAD?

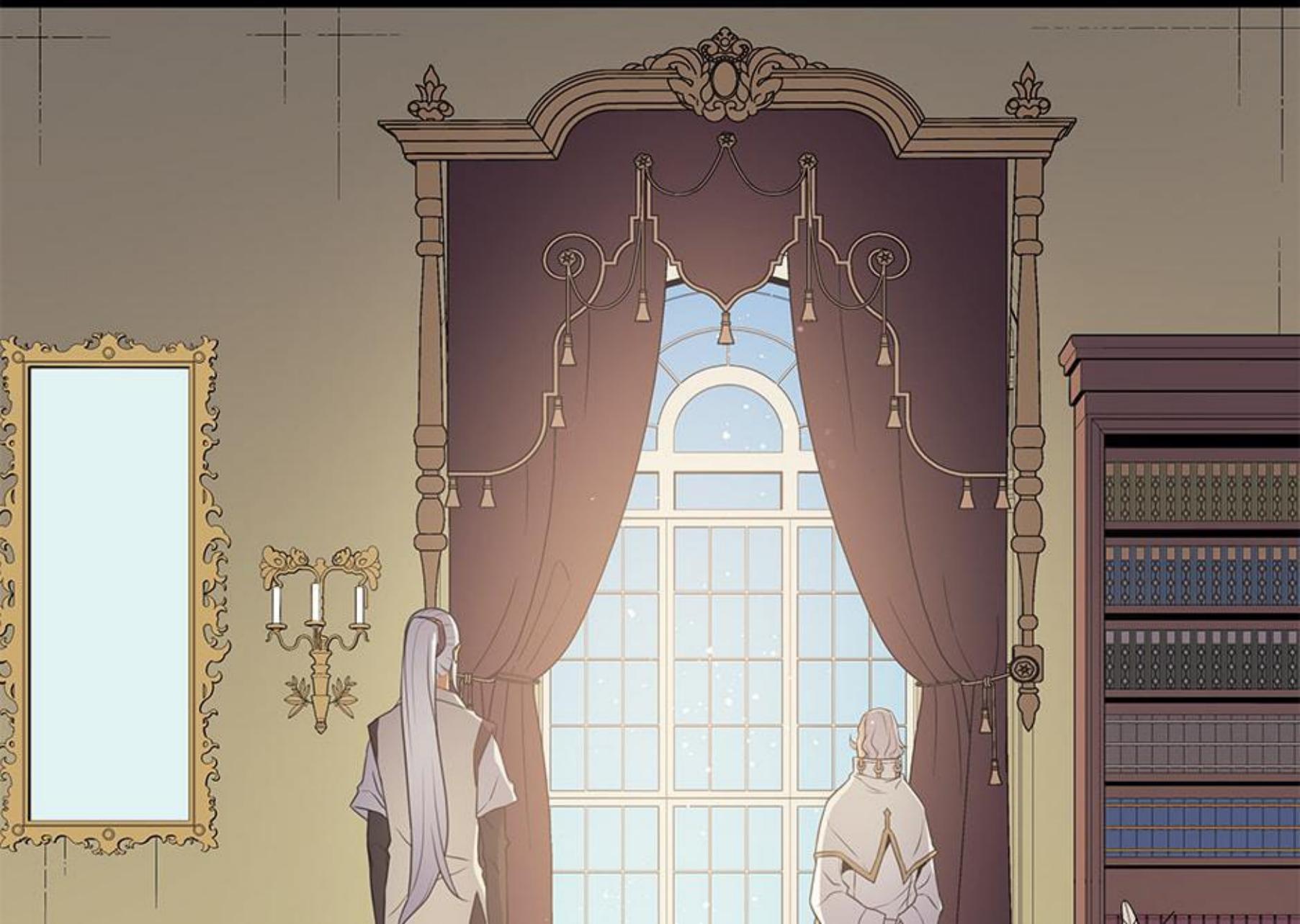
I AM FREI BLAKE,
THE THIRD SON OF THE
BLAKE HOUSE.





I GRANT YOU
ACCESS TO THE
MAGIC LIBRARY.
ALSO...

COULD WE
HAVE A WORD
IN PRIVATE?





I'M QUITE
IMRESSED
WITH YOUR
SKILLS!

NOW TELL
ME, HOW DID YOU
COME TO THE 3RD
MAGIC TOWER?

DUKE SHEPHERD
RECOMMENDED I
COME HERE.

OHO...

HONOR
SHEPHERD,
YOU SAY.

THEN I
SUPPOSE
THERE'S NO
POINT IN BEATING
AROUND THE
BUSH.



I BELIEVE YOU'VE
MOST LIKELY REACHED
THE 5TH TIER AT THE
BARE MINIMUM... AM
I CORRECT?

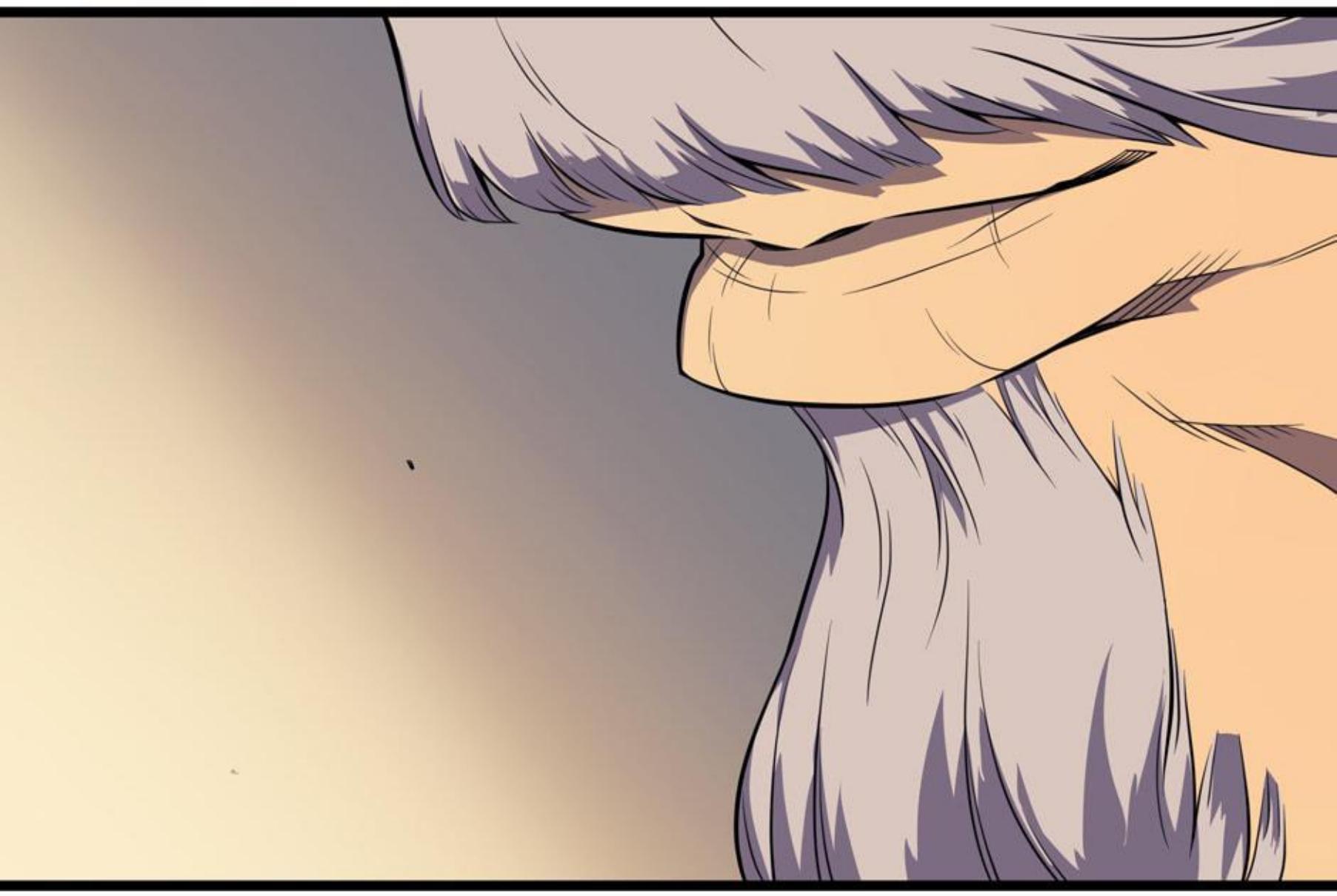
I WON'T DENY IT.

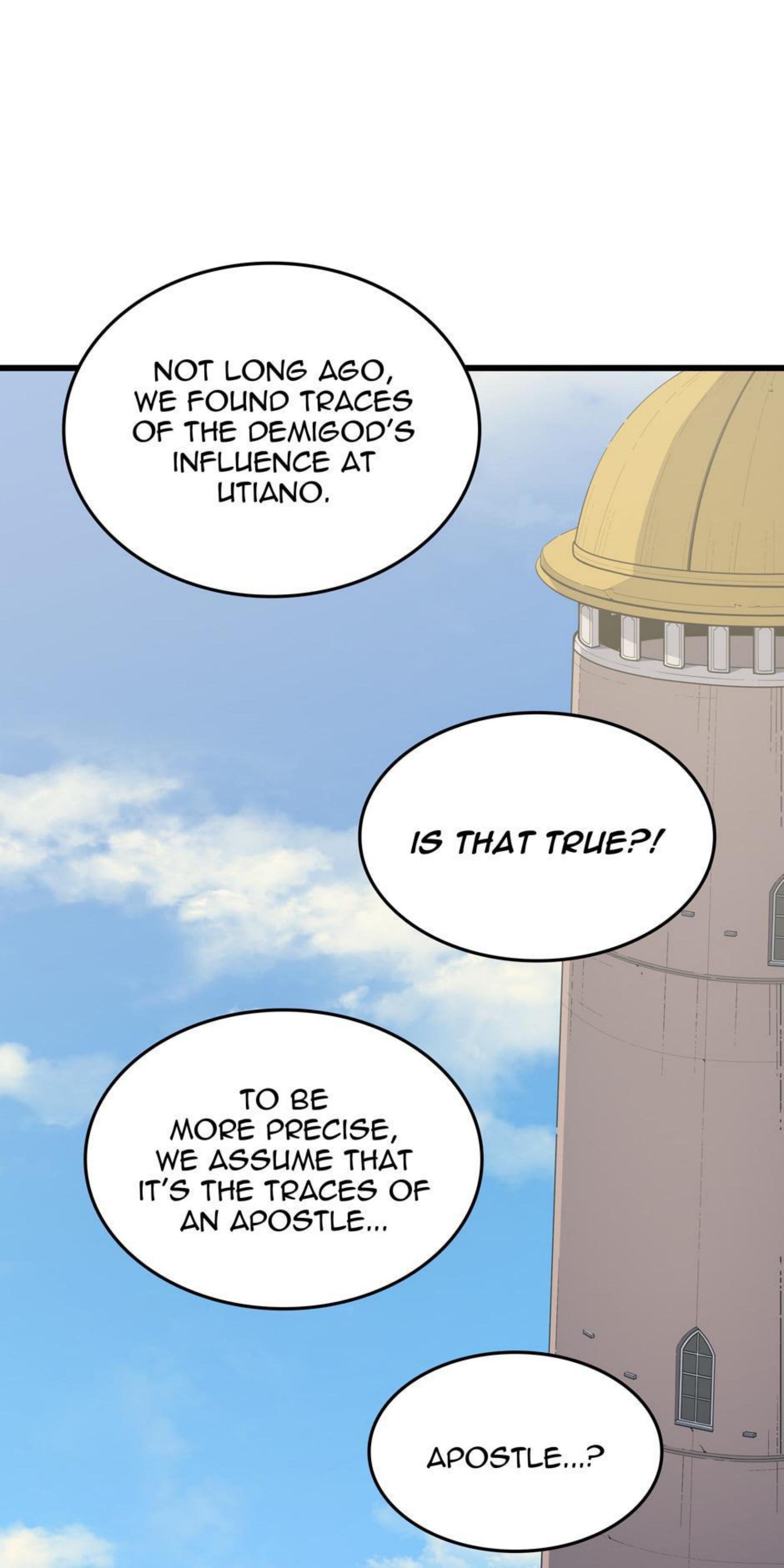
I'VE ALMOST REACHED
TIER 7 BUT... THERE'S NO
REASON FOR ME TO
TELL HIM THAT.



AND PRAY,
TELL ME, YOUNG
MAN, DO YOU KNOW
OF THE EXISTENCE
OF DEMIGOD?

I'M AWARE OF
IT TO A CERTAIN
EXTENT.





NOT LONG AGO,
WE FOUND TRACES
OF THE DEMIGOD'S
INFLUENCE AT
UTIANO.

IS THAT TRUE?!

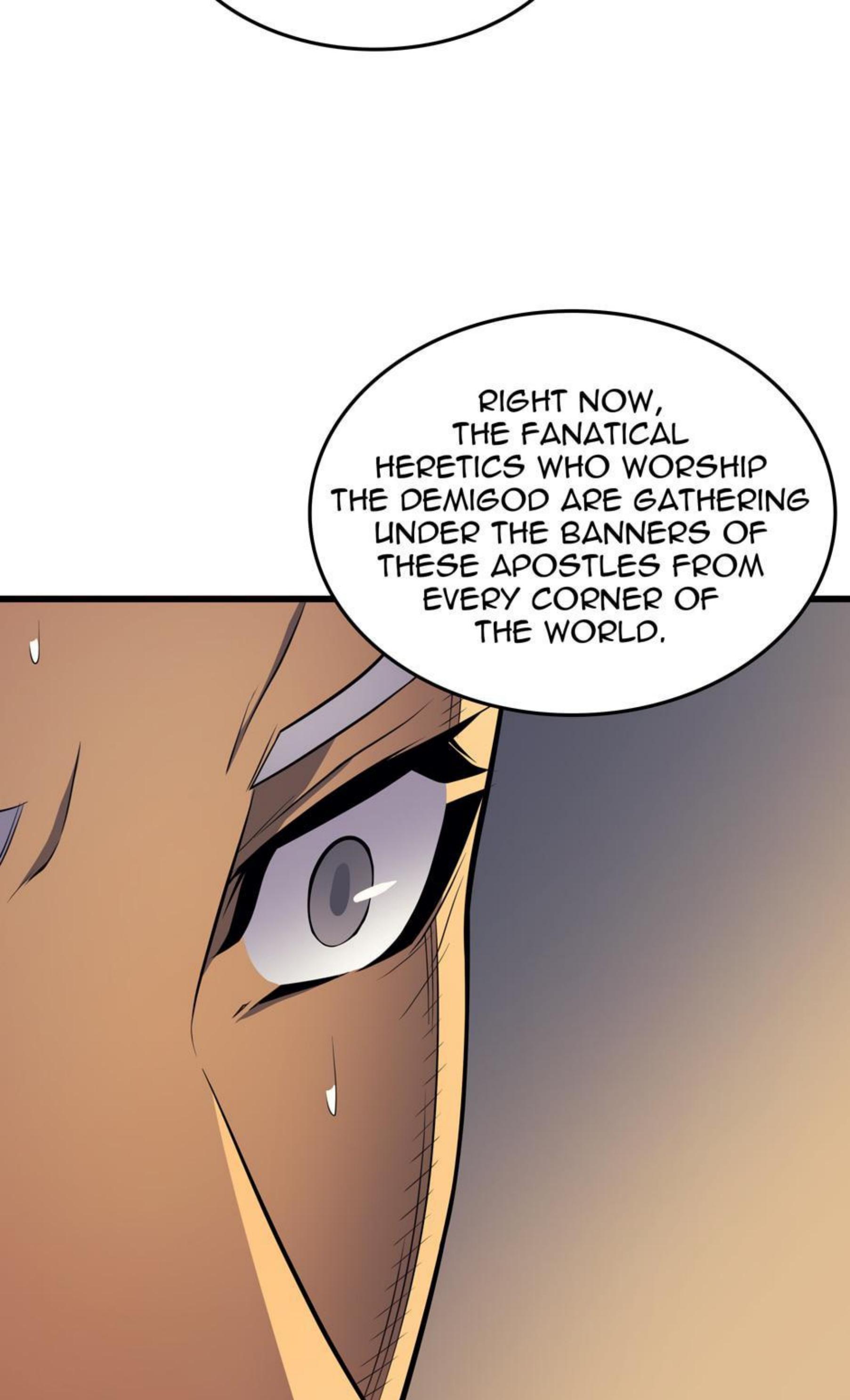
TO BE
MORE PRECISE,
WE ASSUME THAT
IT'S THE TRACES OF
AN APOSTLE...

APOSTLE...?



THEY ARE
THE SELECT CHOSEN
OF THE DEMIGOD WHO
WIELD DIVINE POWERS
IN THEIR NAME.

THEY SEEMED TO
CALL THEMSELVES
'THE APOSTLES.'



RIGHT NOW,
THE FANATICAL
HERETICS WHO WORSHIP
THE DEMIGOD ARE GATHERING
UNDER THE BANNERS OF
THESE APOSTLES FROM
EVERY CORNER OF
THE WORLD.



THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME I'M HEARING
OF SUCH THINGS.
4,000 YEARS AGO,
THERE WERE NO
SUCH SERVANTS...

AND WHAT
IS IT THAT YOU
WOULD LIKE TO
ASK OF ME?

LUTIANO
IS UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF
HONOR LUKESS
AND MYSELF.



OH... YOU
PROBABLY DON'T
KNOW THIS,

TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
'HONOR' IS A TITLE
RESERVED FOR THE
EXECUTIVES OF
THE CIRCLE.

AT THIS RATE, IT
WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
A NUMBER OF TOWNS
COME UNDER SIEGE.

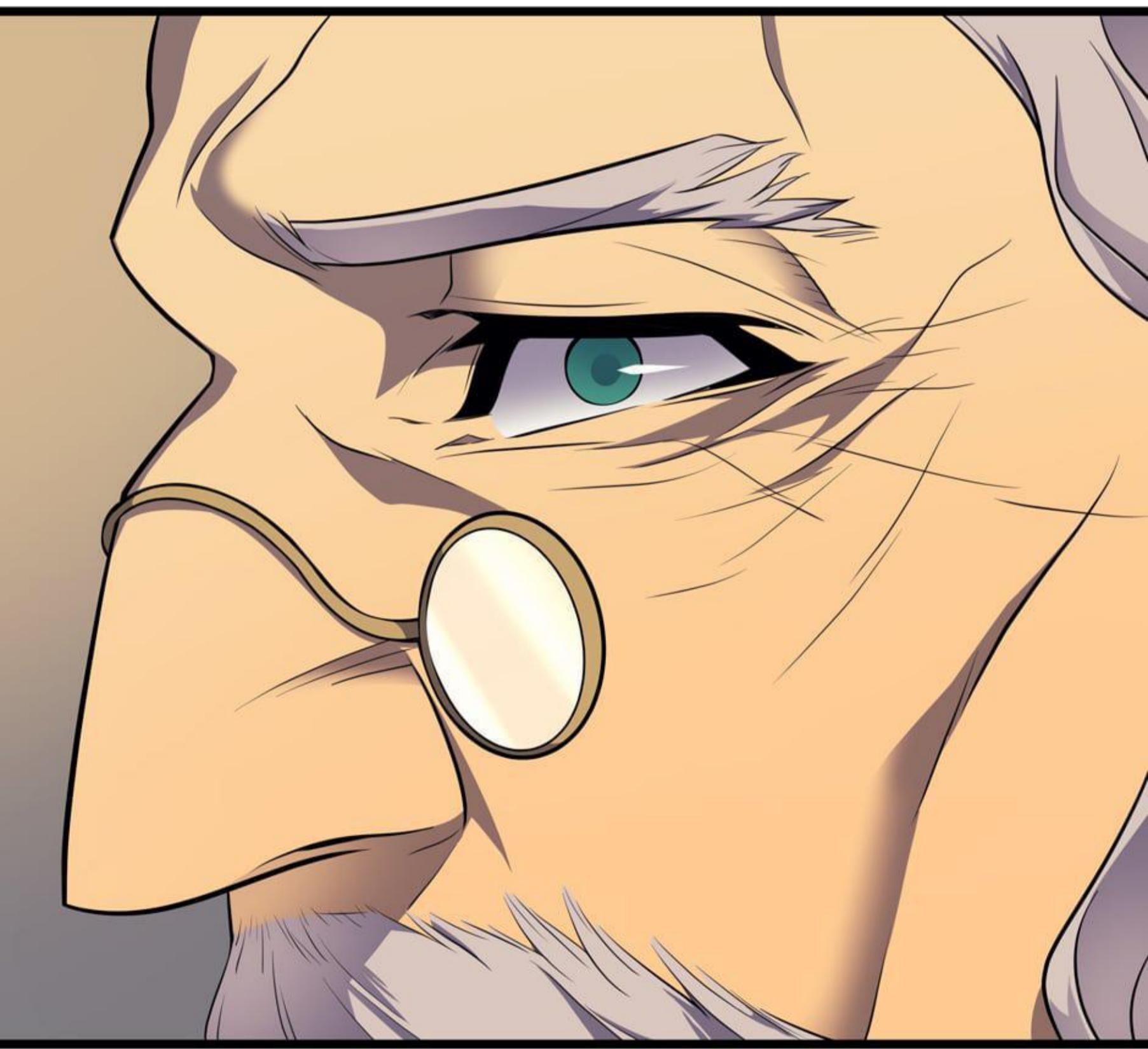


WE MUST SOON
RALLY OUR FORCES
AND INVESTIGATE
BEFORE ALL
IS LOST.

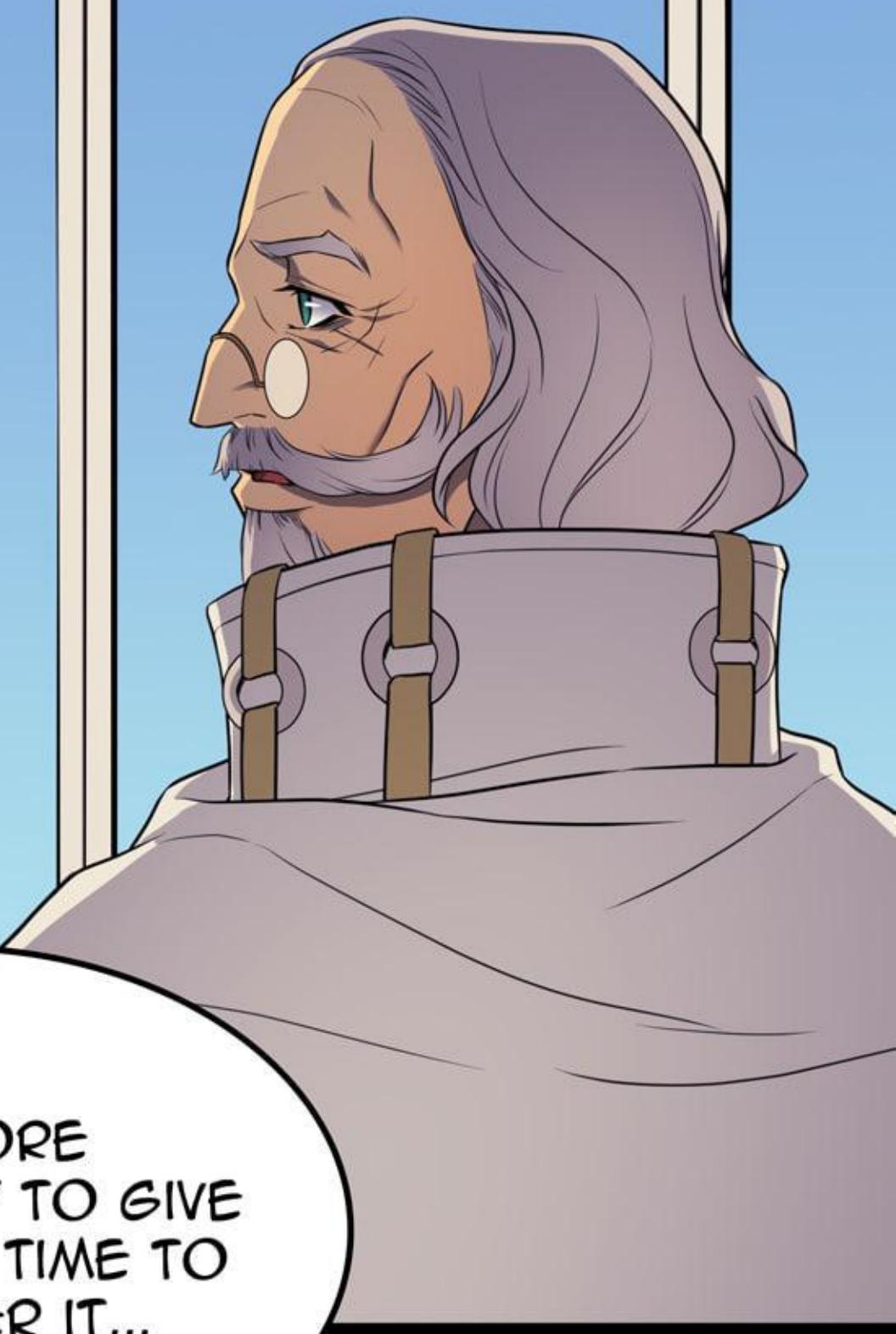


HENCE WHY
I MUST ASK YOU,
WON'T YOU PLEASE
JOIN US DURING THE
INVESTIGATION?

SOUNDS
GOOD TO ME.







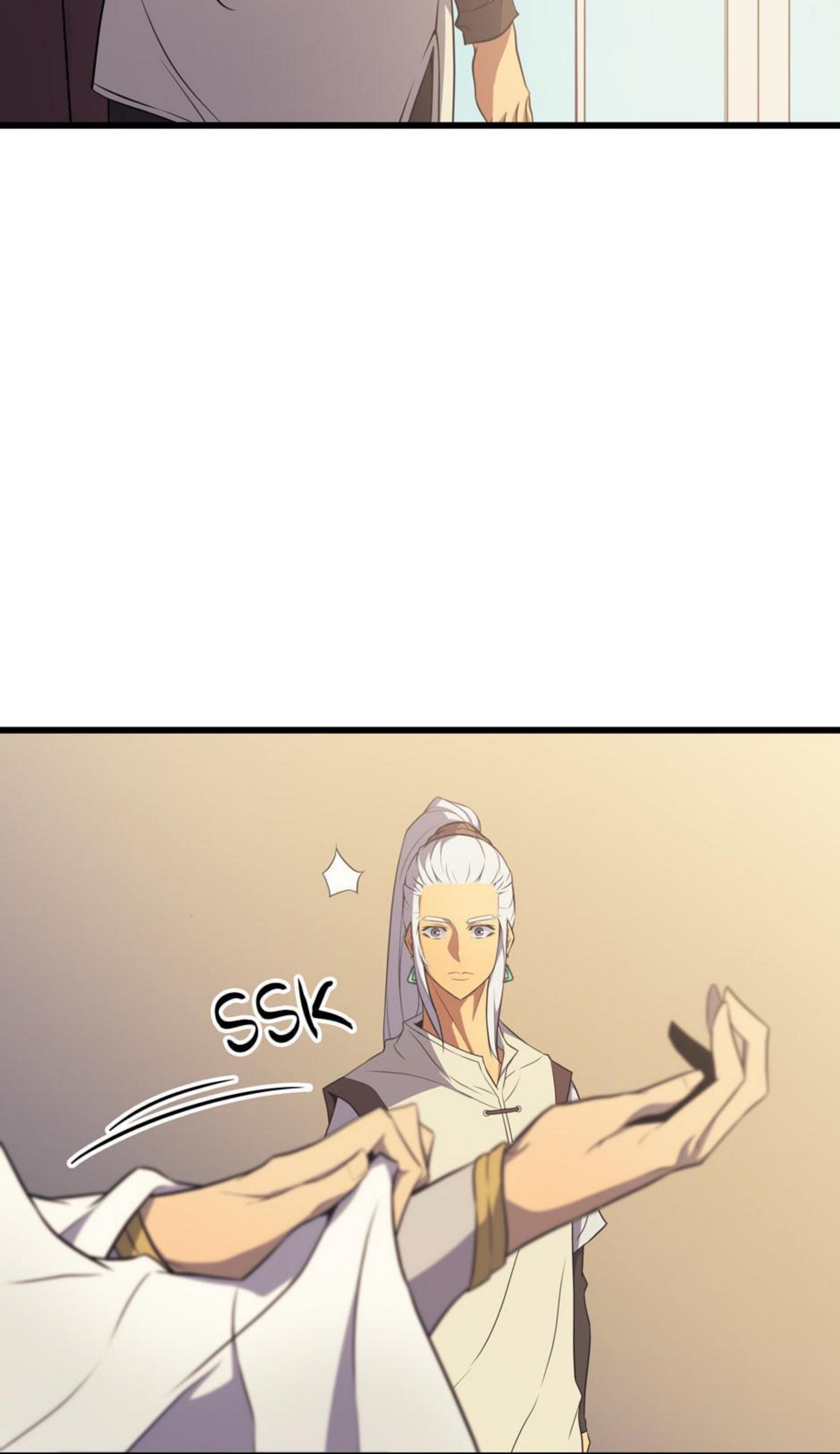
IT WILL BE A
DANGEROUS
MISSION...

I'M MORE
THAN HAPPY TO GIVE
YOU SOME TIME TO
CONSIDER IT...



THEN LET
ME ASK YOU
ONE THING.

WHY ME?

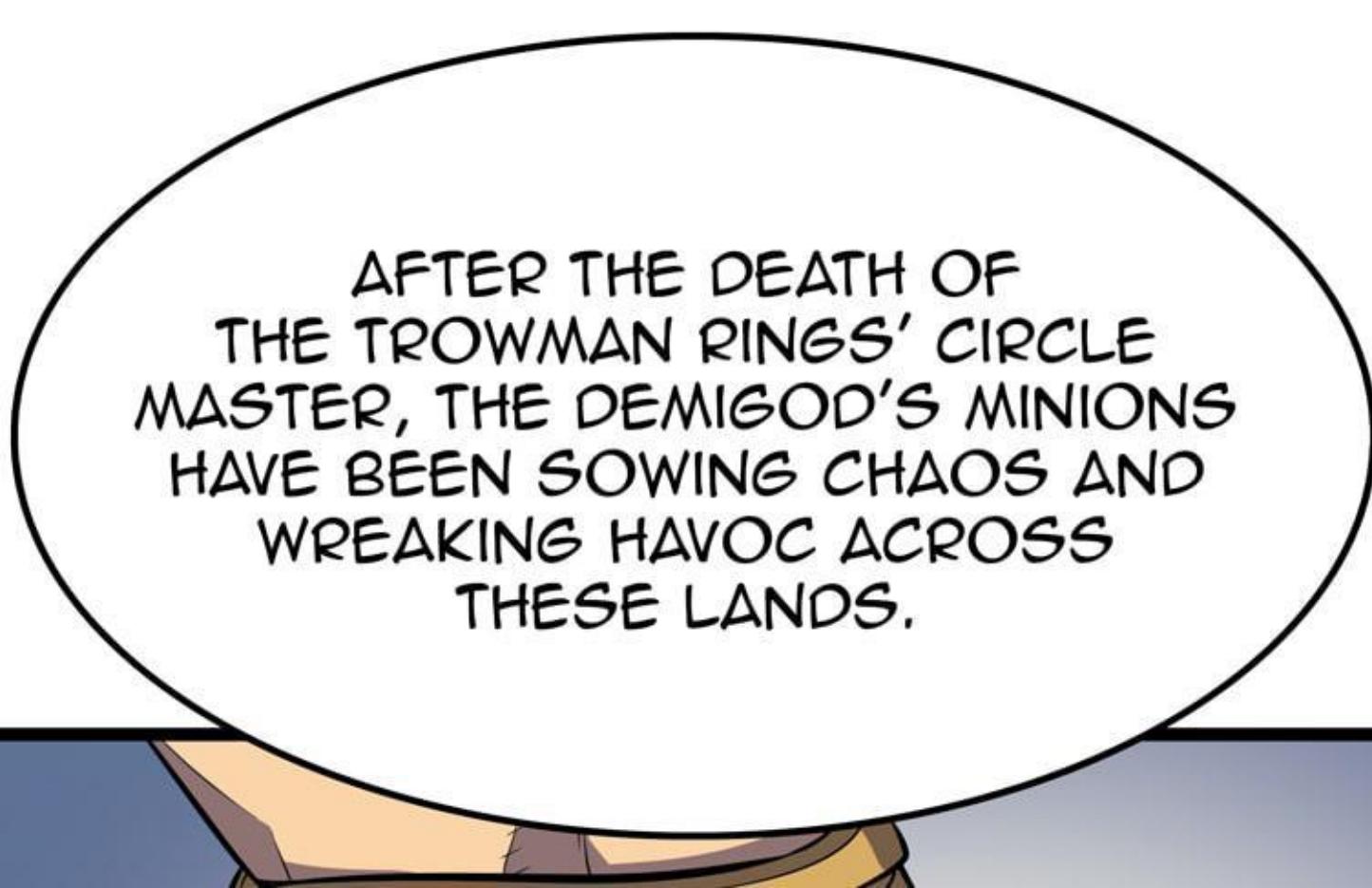


THAT'S...





I SEE...
SO YOU WERE
A MEMBER OF THE
PEACEFOUNDER
ARMLETS.



AFTER THE DEATH OF
THE TROWMAN RINGS' CIRCLE
MASTER, THE DEMIGOD'S MINIONS
HAVE BEEN SOWING CHAOS AND
WREAKING HAVOC ACROSS
THESE LANDS.



THE CIRCLES
MUST NOW MOVE
COVERTLY WITH
MORE CAUTION.

THE DARK ELVES
SUMMONED HERE AT THE
TOWER ARE ACTUALLY OUR

REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE
BLACK FANGS FOR THIS
OPERATION...

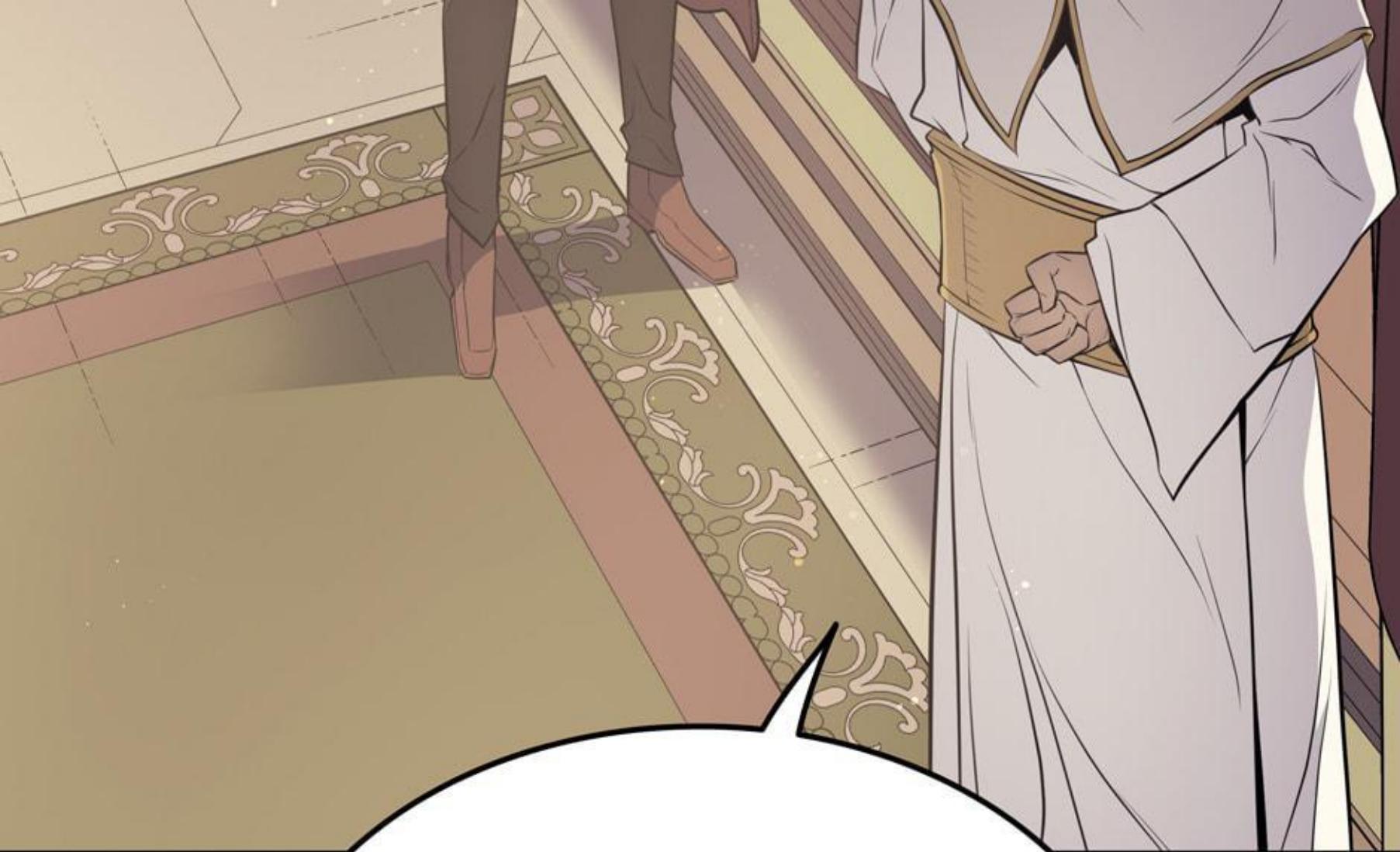


PERHAPS IT'S DUE TO
MY OLD AGE BUT I'VE
GOTTEN QUITE ANXIOUS
AND DISTRUSTFUL OF
OTHERS REGARDING
THESE MATTERS...



AND THEN YOU
CAME ALONG...





**THE YOUNG
MAN WEARING THE
TYphoon EARRINGS.**