

THE ARCHMAGE RETURNS AFTER **4000** YEARS

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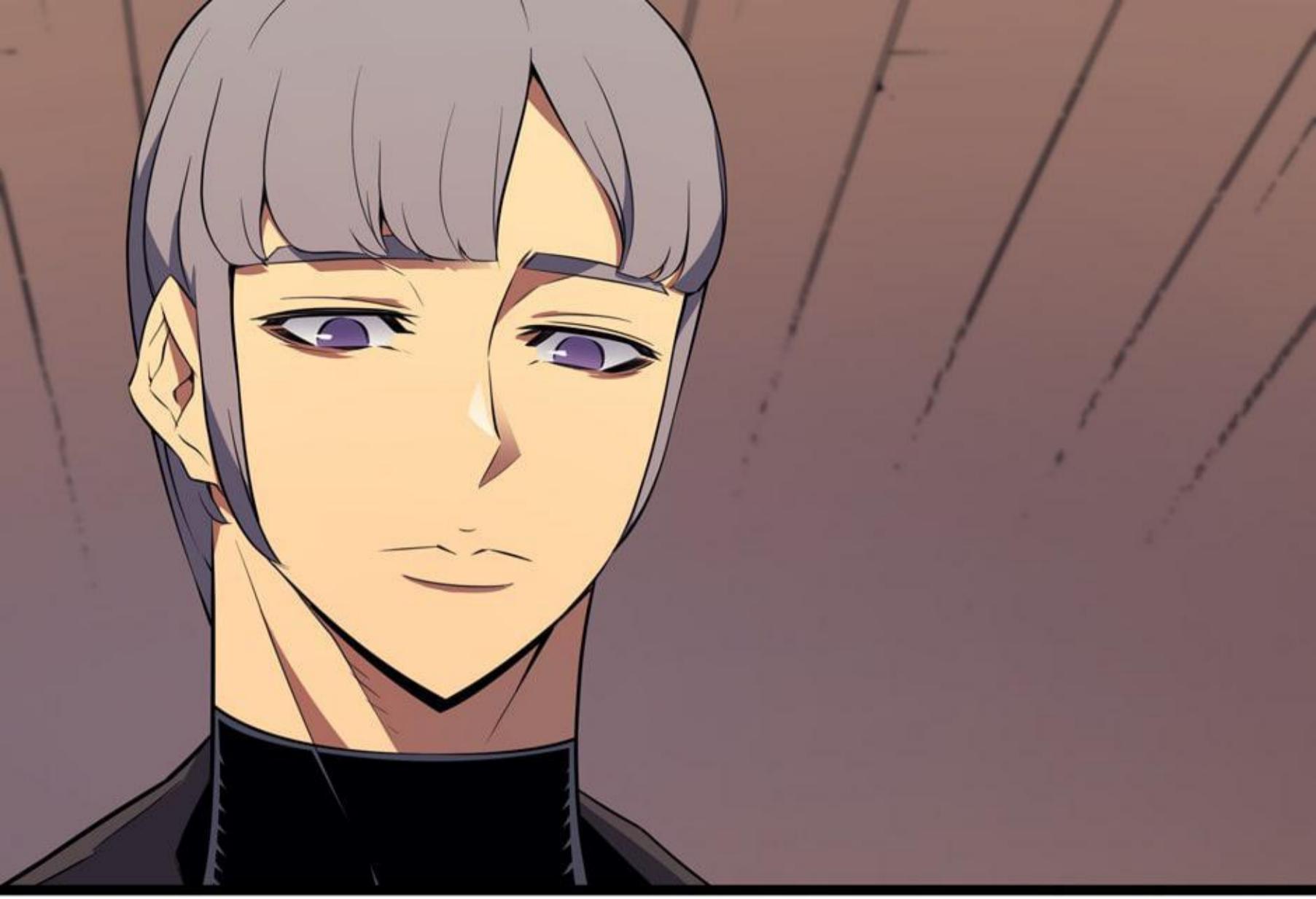
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IF I REMEMBER
CORRECTLY, YOU
DON'T EVEN TOE AT

DIDN'T EVEN TREAT
ME LIKE A HUMAN
BEING BEFORE.





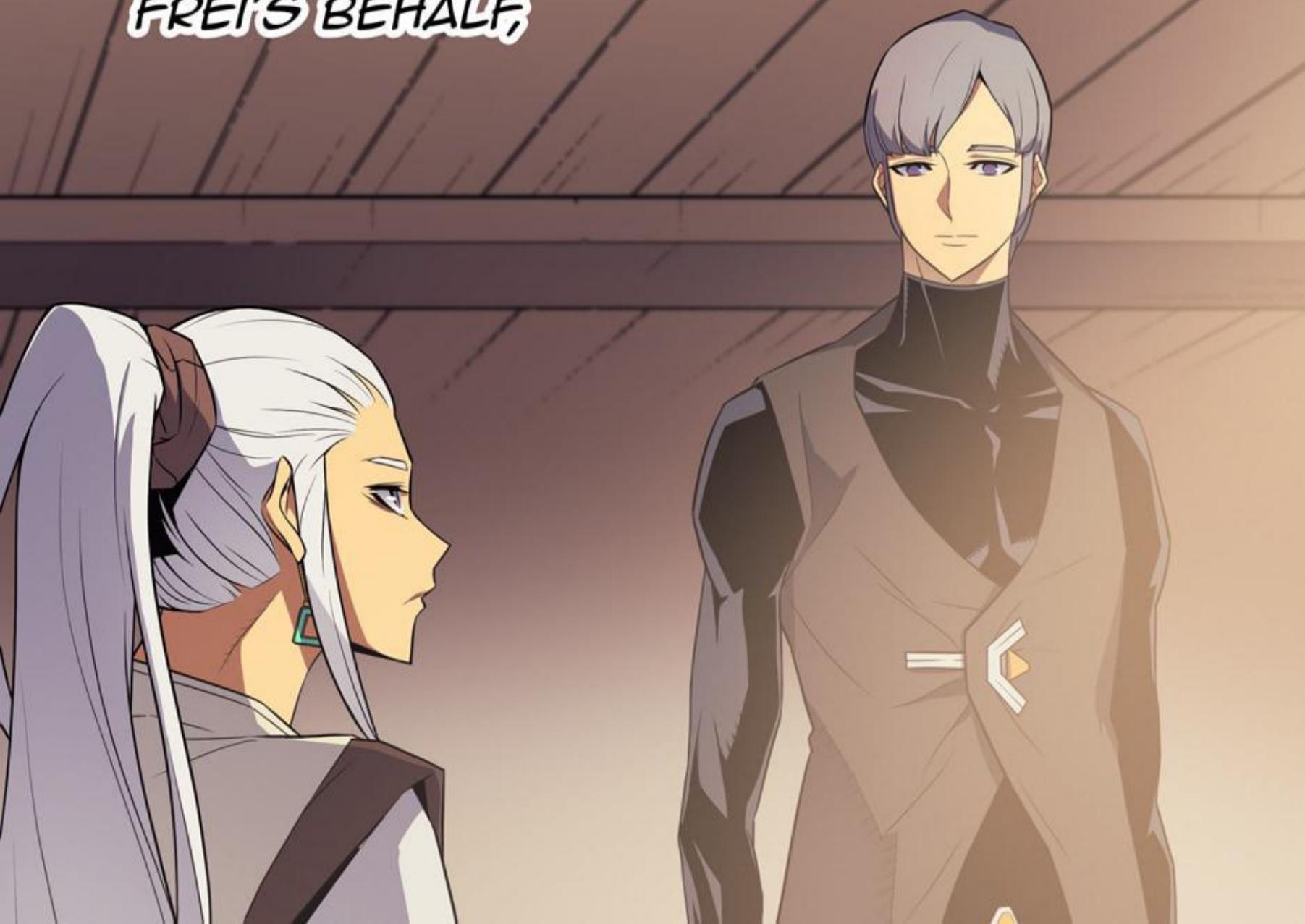
WHILE I HAVEN'T
INHERITED FREI'S
EMOTIONS OR TRAUMA,
I STILL RETAIN SOME
OF HIS MEMORIES.



THIS GUY IS ONE OF
THE PRIME REASONS
WHY FREI GAVE UP
ON HIS LIFE.



I HAVE NO PLANS
TO RESENT HIM ON
FREI'S BEHALF,





**BUT IT'S QUITE DISGUSTING
HOW HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS
FREI CHANGED NOW THAT HE'S
BECOME SOMEWHAT FAMOUS.**



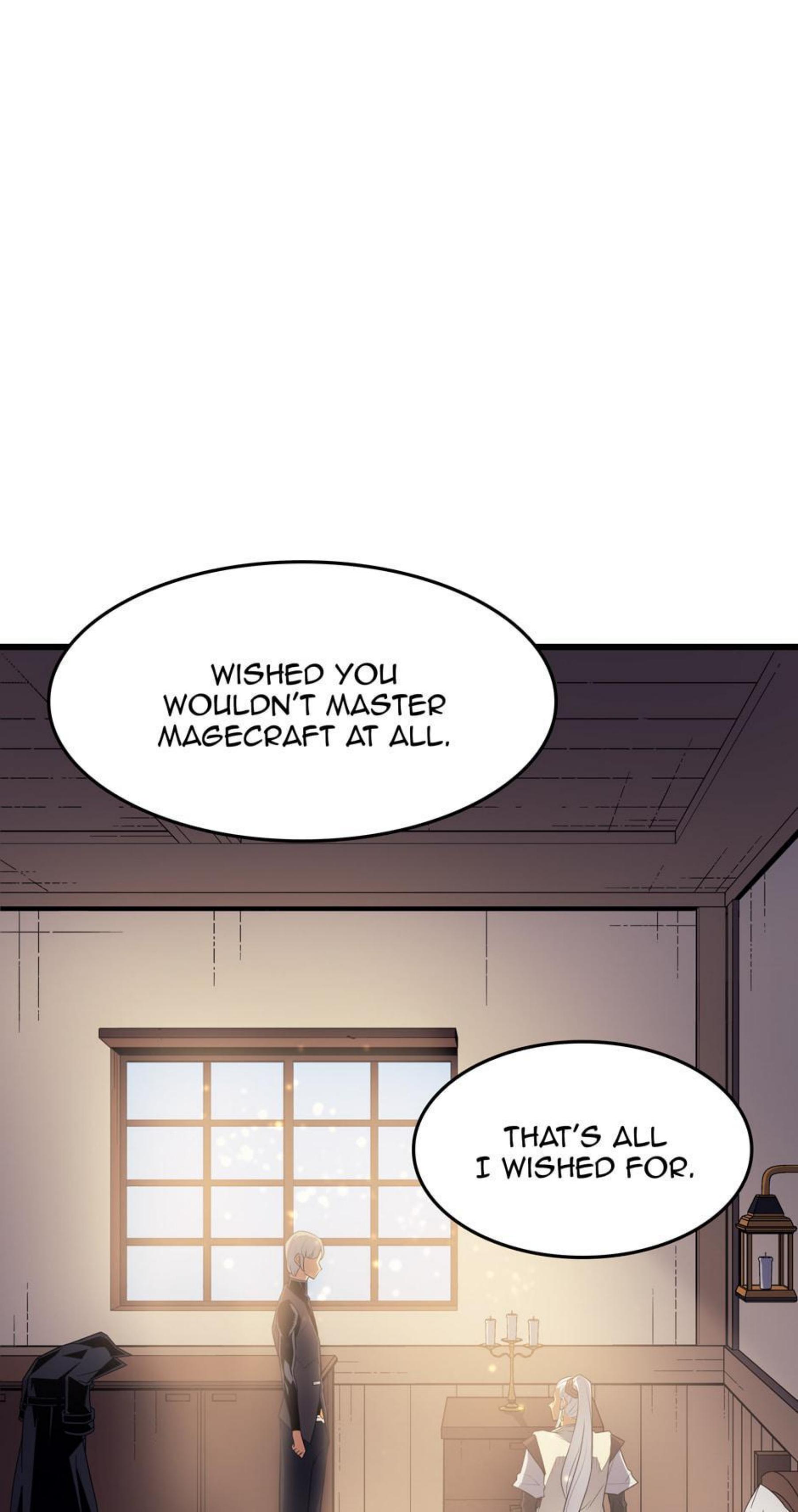
**IF YOU
ASK ME...**



I DON'T REGRET THE
ACTIONS I TOOK AGAINST
YOU IN THE PAST, NOR WILL
I REFLECT AND ASK FOR
FORGIVENESS.



I JUST...



WISHED YOU
WOULDN'T MASTER
MAGECRAFT AT ALL.

THAT'S ALL
I WISHED FOR.



WHAT DOES
THAT EVEN MEAN...?



WORD OF
ADVICE, DO NOT
MISPLACE YOUR
TRUST IN THE
CIRCLES.

TP



TP

WHAT...?!

CLACK

SLAM



...

HE LEFT
RIGHT AFTER
SAYING WHATEVER
HE WANTED.

LONG TIME
NO SEE...

YOUNG
MASTER.

ALEXANDRO...





HE'S THE BUTLER
OF BLAKE HOUSE.

I KNOW HEINZ GAVE
ME THAT HEADS-UP
BUT HE ARRIVED
SOONER THAN
I THOUGHT.

THE BLAKE HOUSE
IS CURRENTLY A
DANGEROUS
PLACE.

YOU MUST HAVE
HEARD THE RUMORS
ABOUT FATHER FROM
HONOR SHEPHERD,
RIGHT?





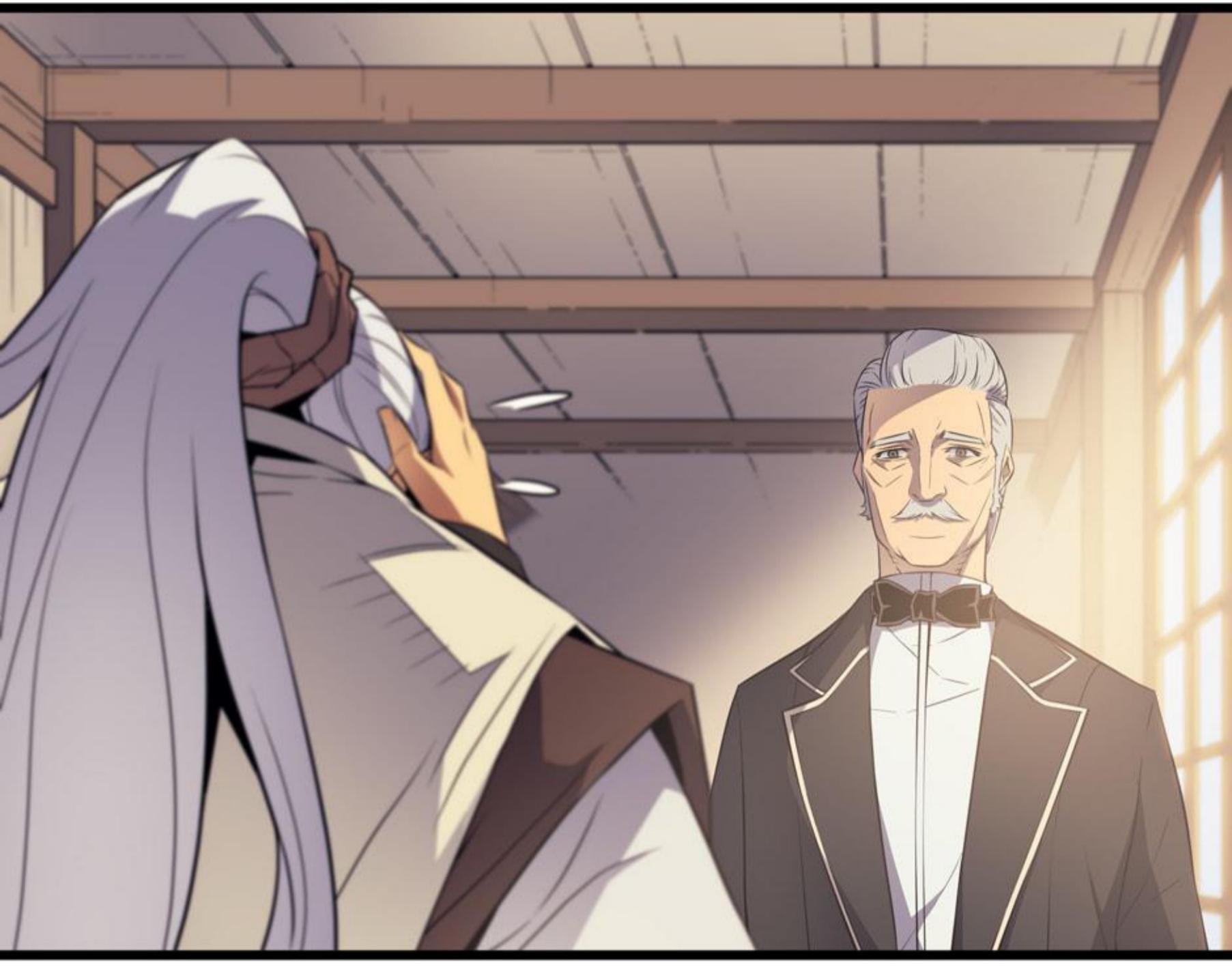
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AH...
ALEXANDRO!



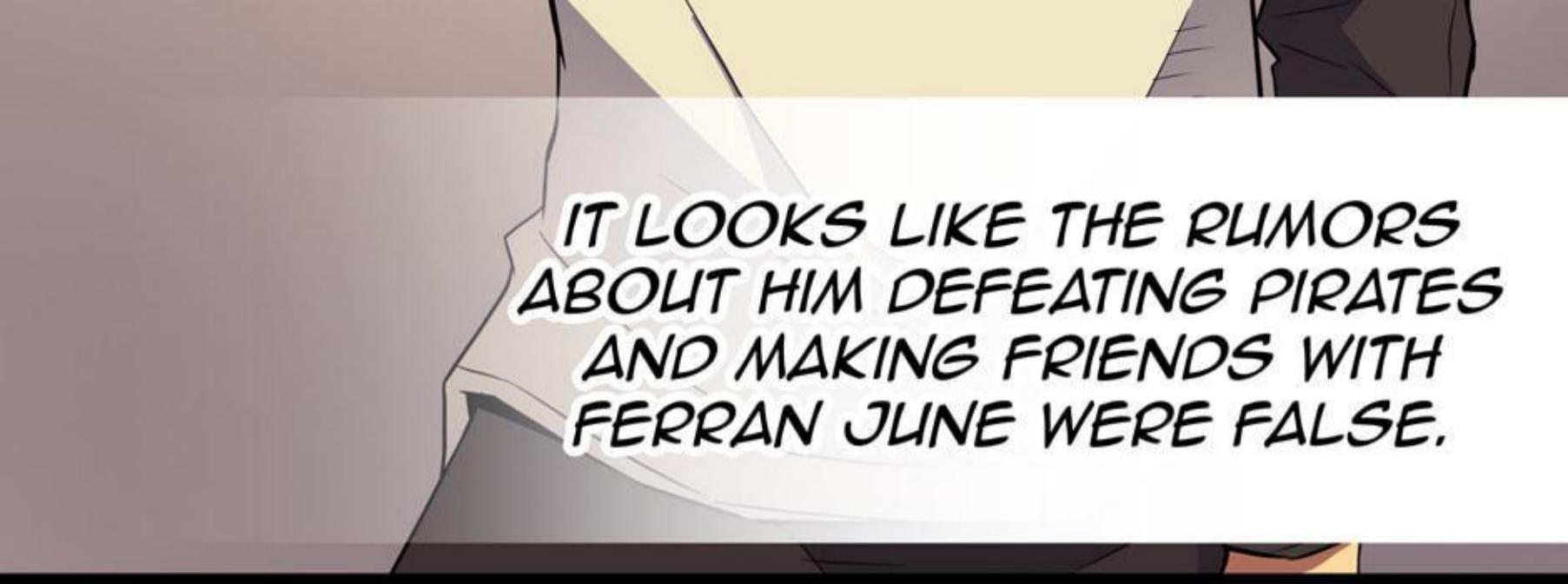
H-HOW DID
YOU KNOW I
WAS...





ASIDE FROM HIS HEIGHT,
HE HASN'T GROWN MUCH,
IF AT ALL...





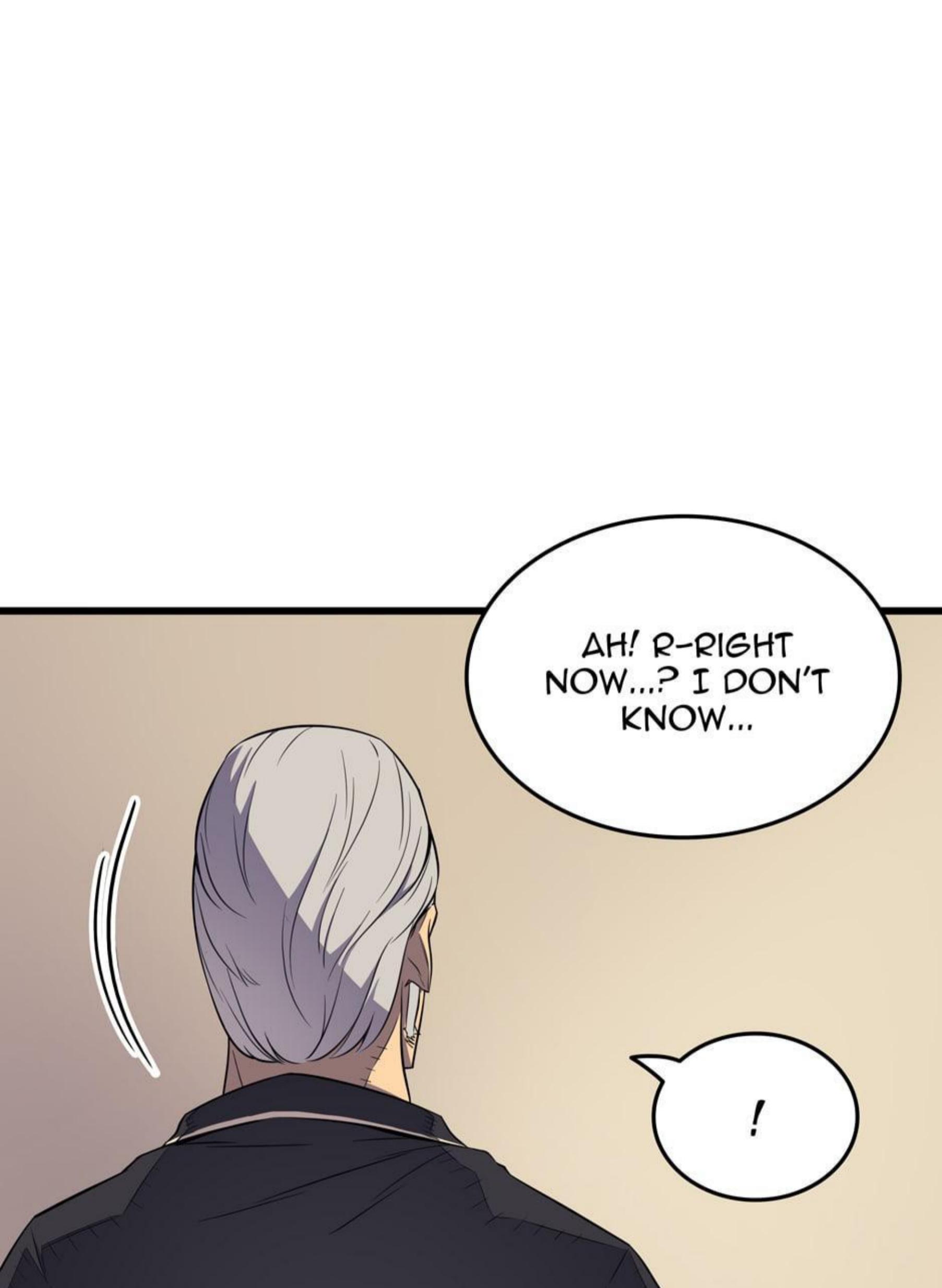
IT LOOKS LIKE THE RUMORS
ABOUT HIM DEFEATING PIRATES
AND MAKING FRIENDS WITH
FERRAN JUNE WERE FALSE.



THE COUNT
WISHES FOR YOU
TO RETURN TO THE
FAMILY ESTATE
AT ONCE.



I'VE COME
HERE TO ESCORT
YOU HOME.



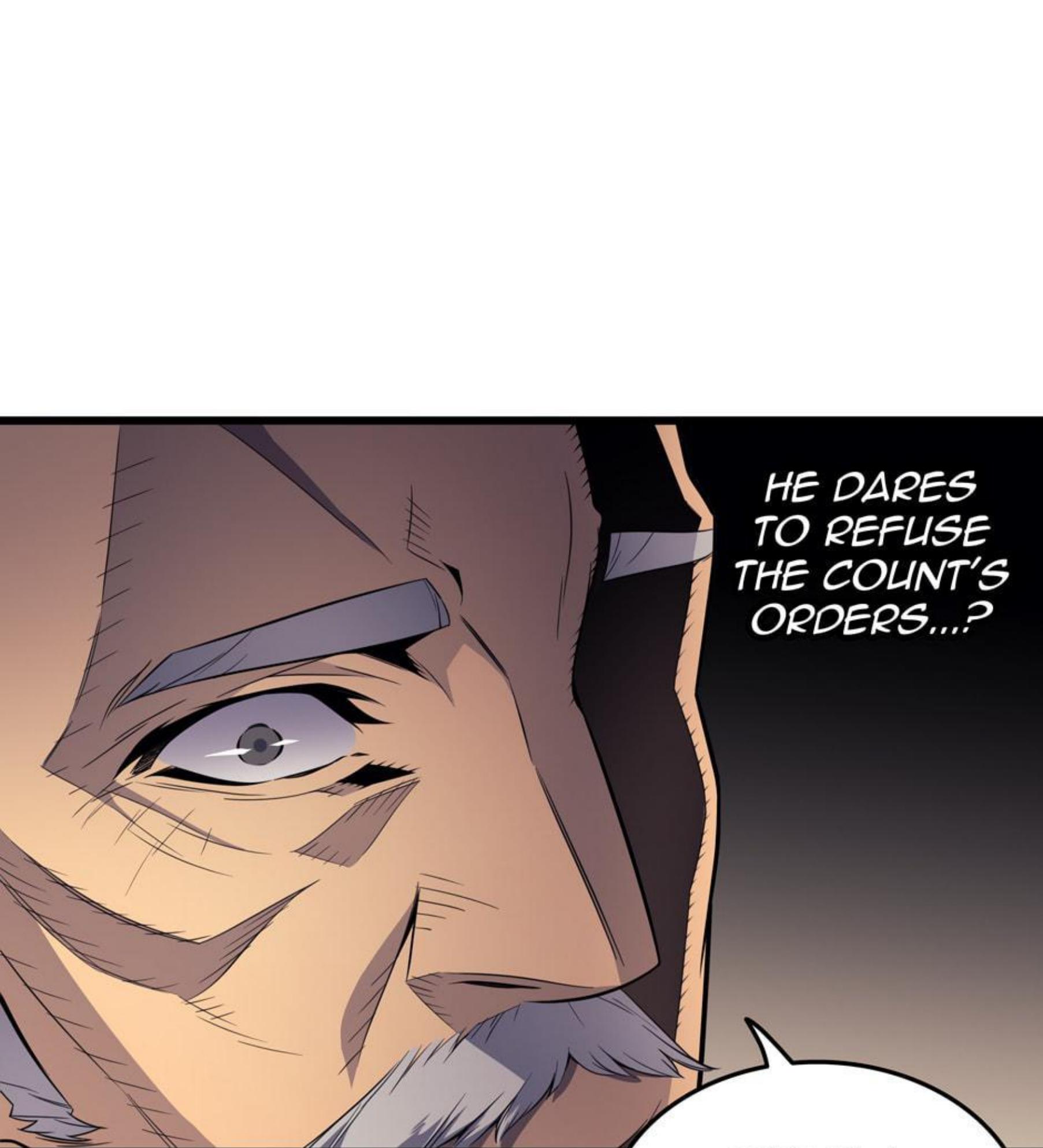
AH! R-RIGHT
NOW...? I DON'T
KNOW...

!



I, ERR...
HAVE SOMETHING
TO DO.

PLEASE TELL
FATHER I'M SORRY
AND THAT I'LL COME
TO VISIT HIM AT A
LATER DATE.



HE DARES
TO REFUSE
THE COUNT'S
ORDERS...?



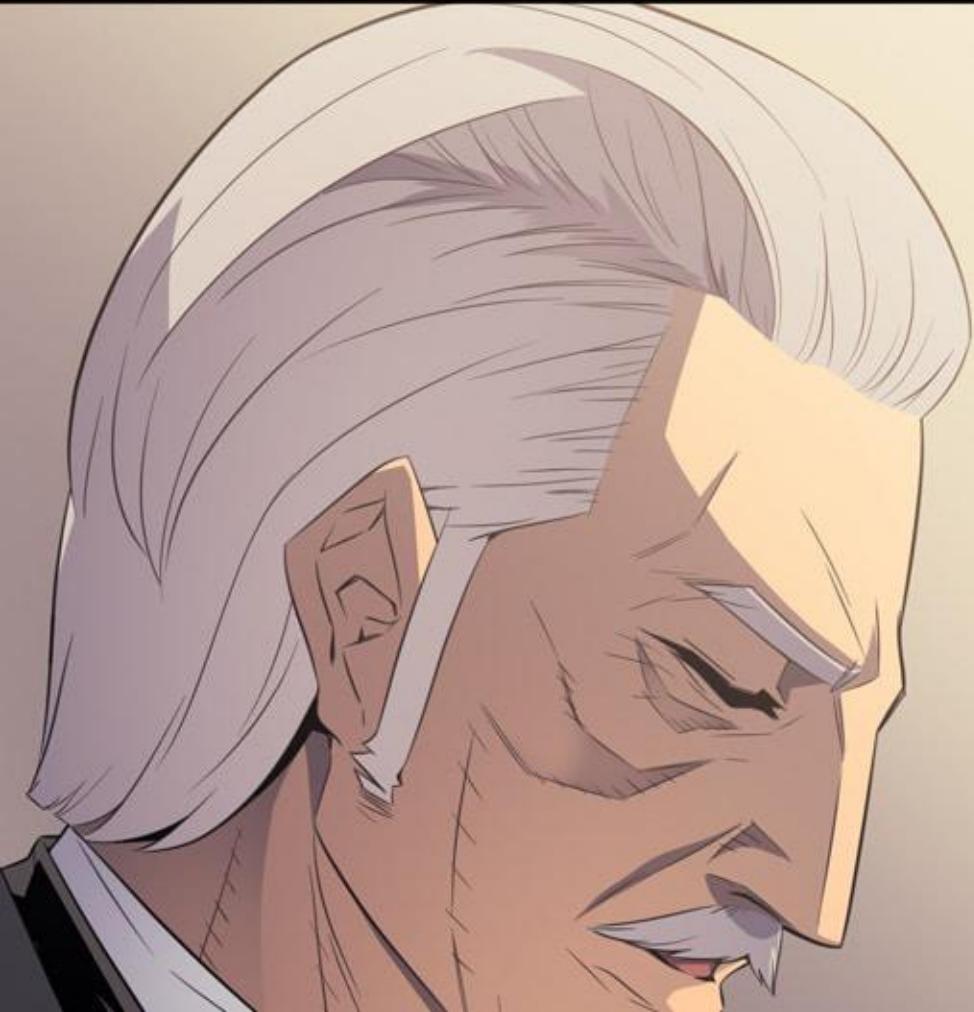
THIS IS A
DIRECT ORDER
FROM THE
COUNT...



Y-YEAH...
BUT THERE ARE
SOME THINGS I NEED
TO DO HERE TOO...

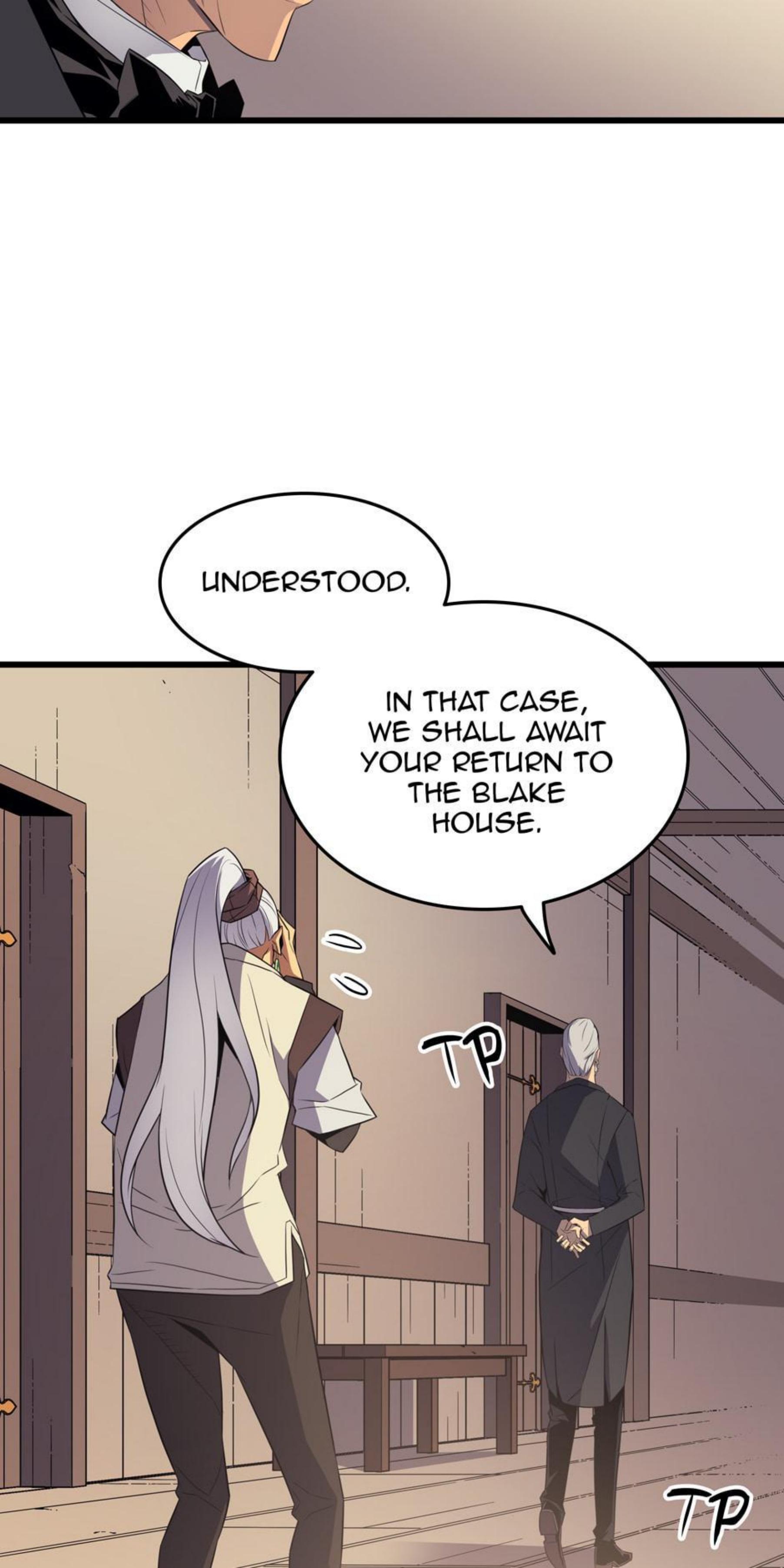


IT'S REALLY
IMPORTANT SO I
CAN'T DELAY IT...



PERHAPS HE DID
CHANGE A BIT...

PHEW...



UNDERSTOOD.

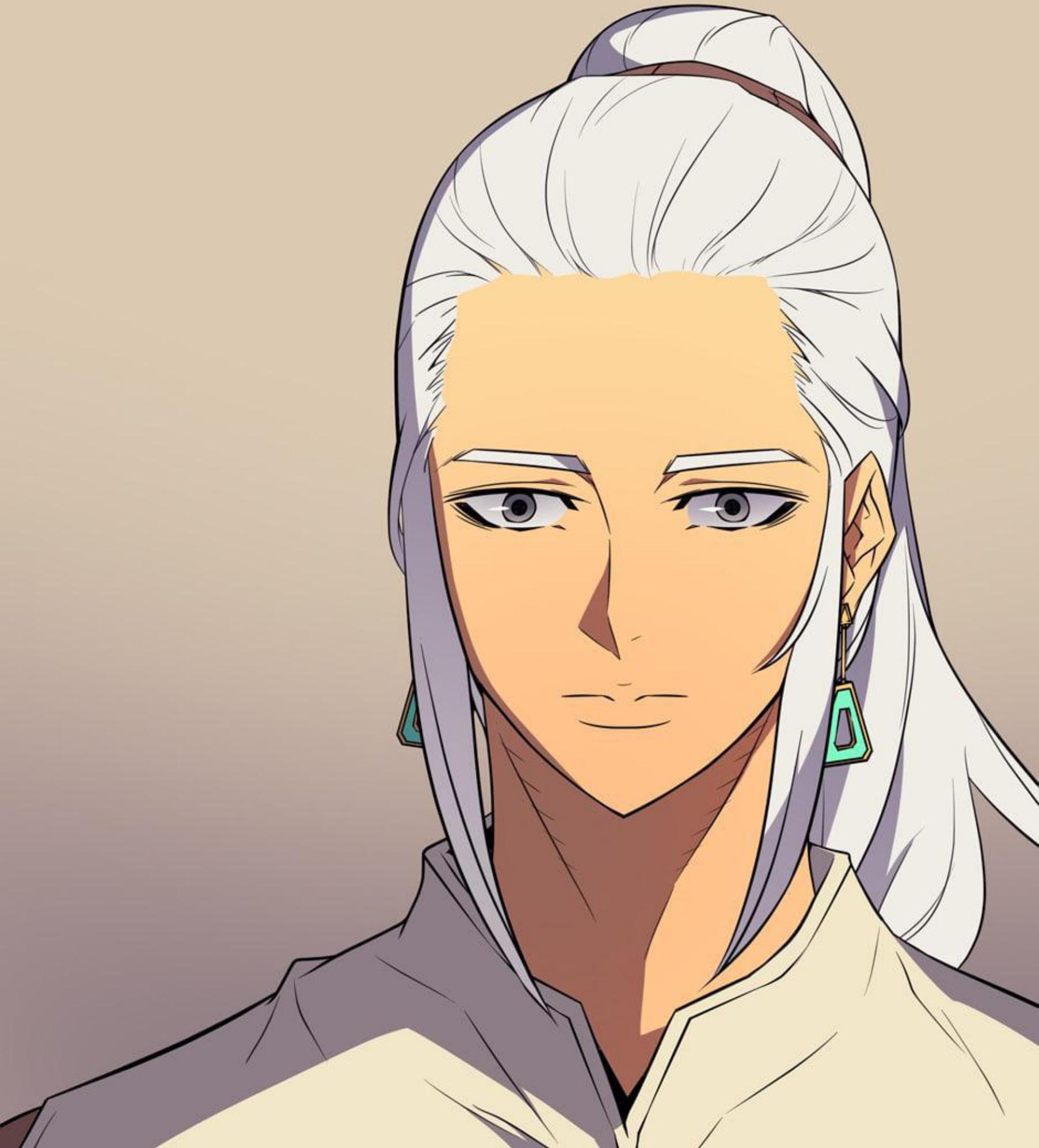
IN THAT CASE,
WE SHALL AWAIT
YOUR RETURN TO
THE BLAKE
HOUSE.

TP

TP







**THERE! THIS
WAS A PAIN IN
THE ASS TO MAKE,
BUT HERE IT IS!**



DADUN

THAT CRYSTAL
REALLY CONTAINED
SOME LIGHTNING!

IT'S THE MOST
TROUBLESONE TYPE
OF ATTRIBUTE TO
WORK WITH.

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA HOW MUCH
GOLD I SPENT TO GET
THE PROPER EQUIPMENT
AND GEAR TO
CRAFT THIS!



LET ME
COMPENSATE YOU
FOR THOSE EXPENSES
AND MORE FOR YOUR
TROUBLES...





FORGET IT, KID. WHY
WOULD I ACCEPT THAT
FROM A STUDENT?

BUT IF YOU
REALLY INSIST
ON PAYING ME
BACK...

SLAM

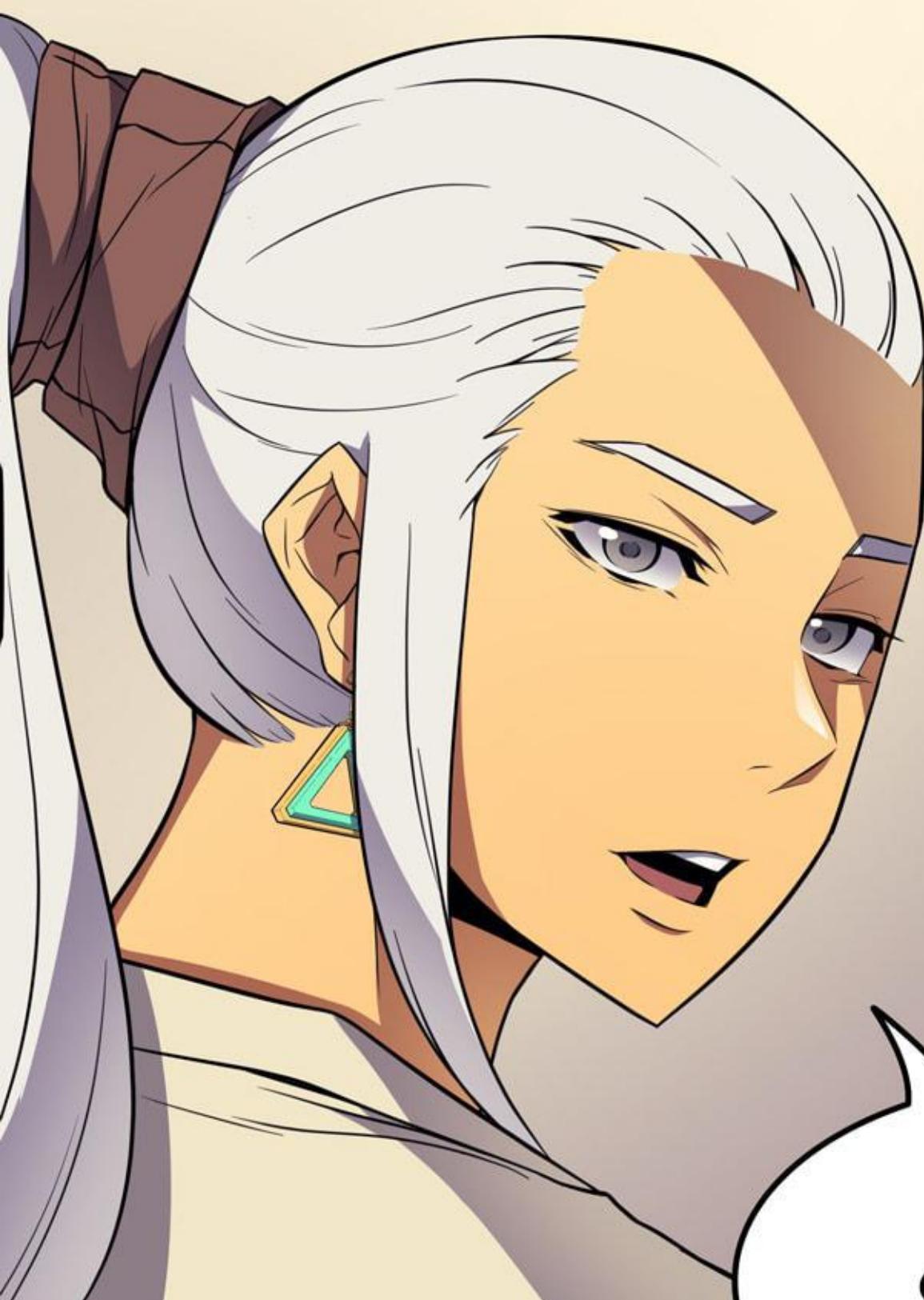
HOW ABOUT
BECOMING MY
ASSISTANT?!

I'LL CONSIDER
IT IN MY NEXT
LIFE.



THIS ONE IS
THE ELIXIR... WHAT'S
THE OTHER ONE?

ASSHOLE...



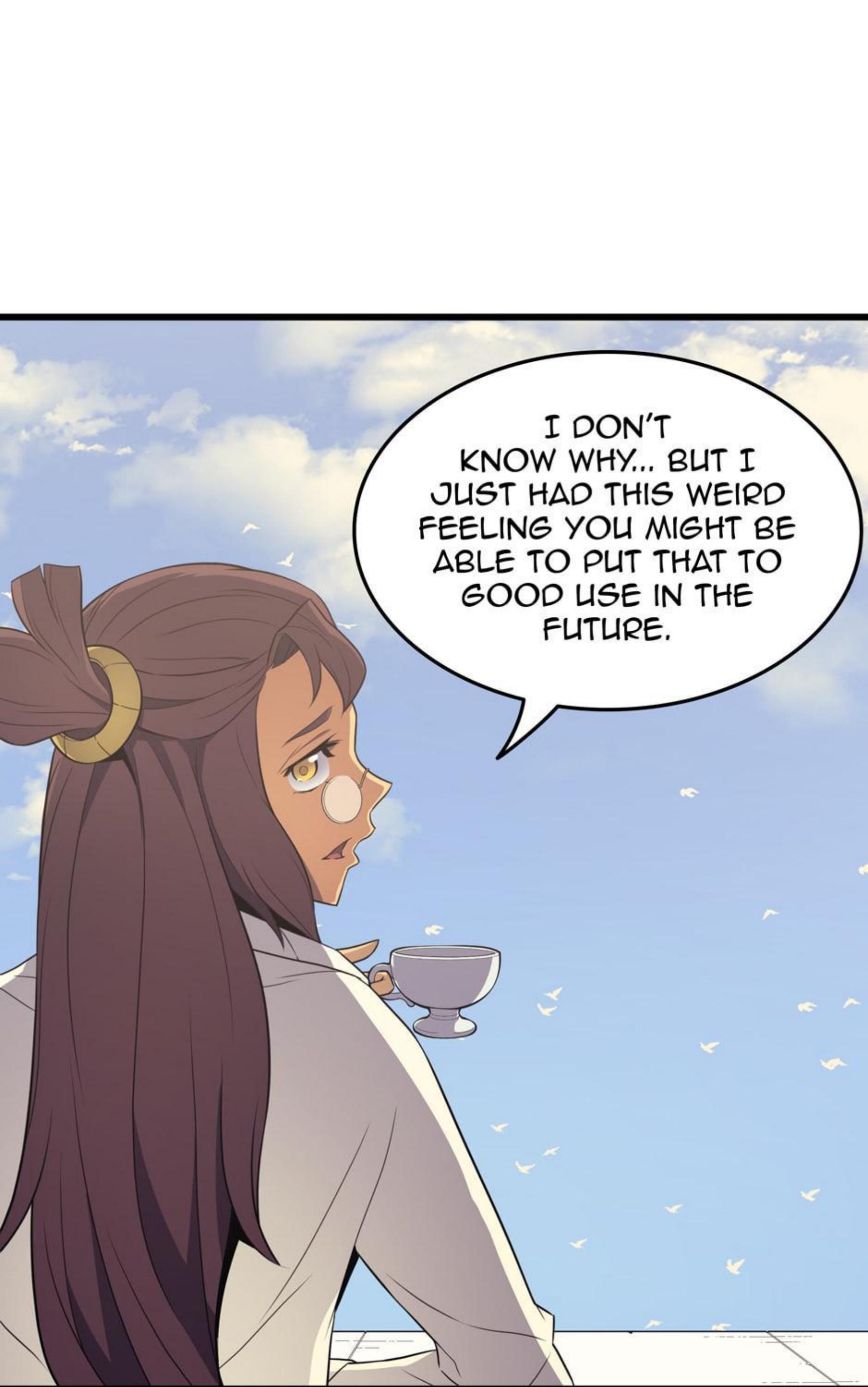
I GUESS
IT'S ACCURATE TO
SAY IT'S A CLUMP
OF LIGHTNING
ENERGY THAT WAS
EXTRACTED...?

A CLUMP
OF ENERGY,
YOU SAY?

THERE'S NO
PROPER WAY OF
DESCRIBING IT
REALLY...

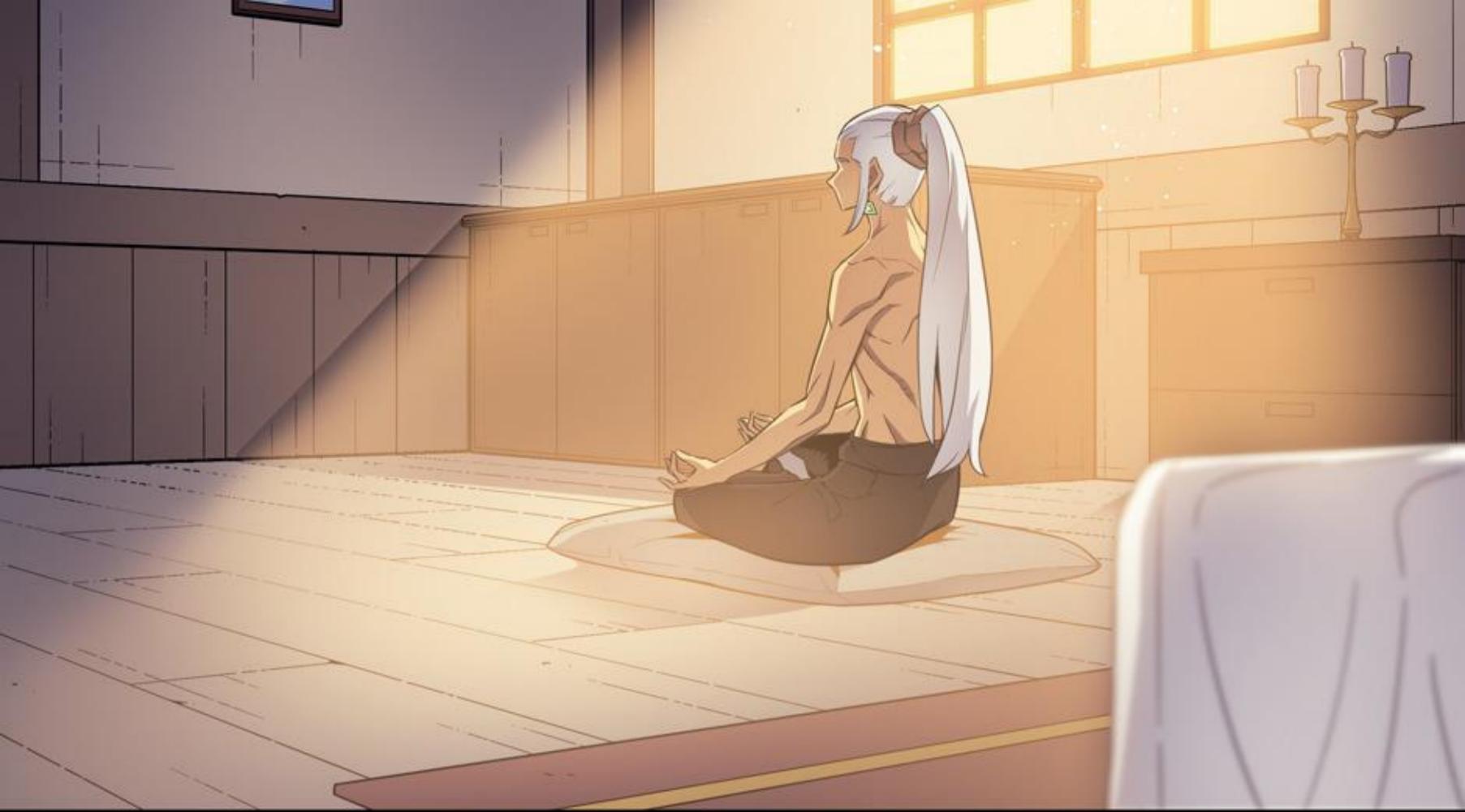


IN ANY CASE, DON'T
OPEN IT CARELESSLY!
I FORCEFULLY CONTAINED
IT ALL IN THERE SO IF YOU
OPEN IT, IT'LL BE A
HUGE DISASTER.



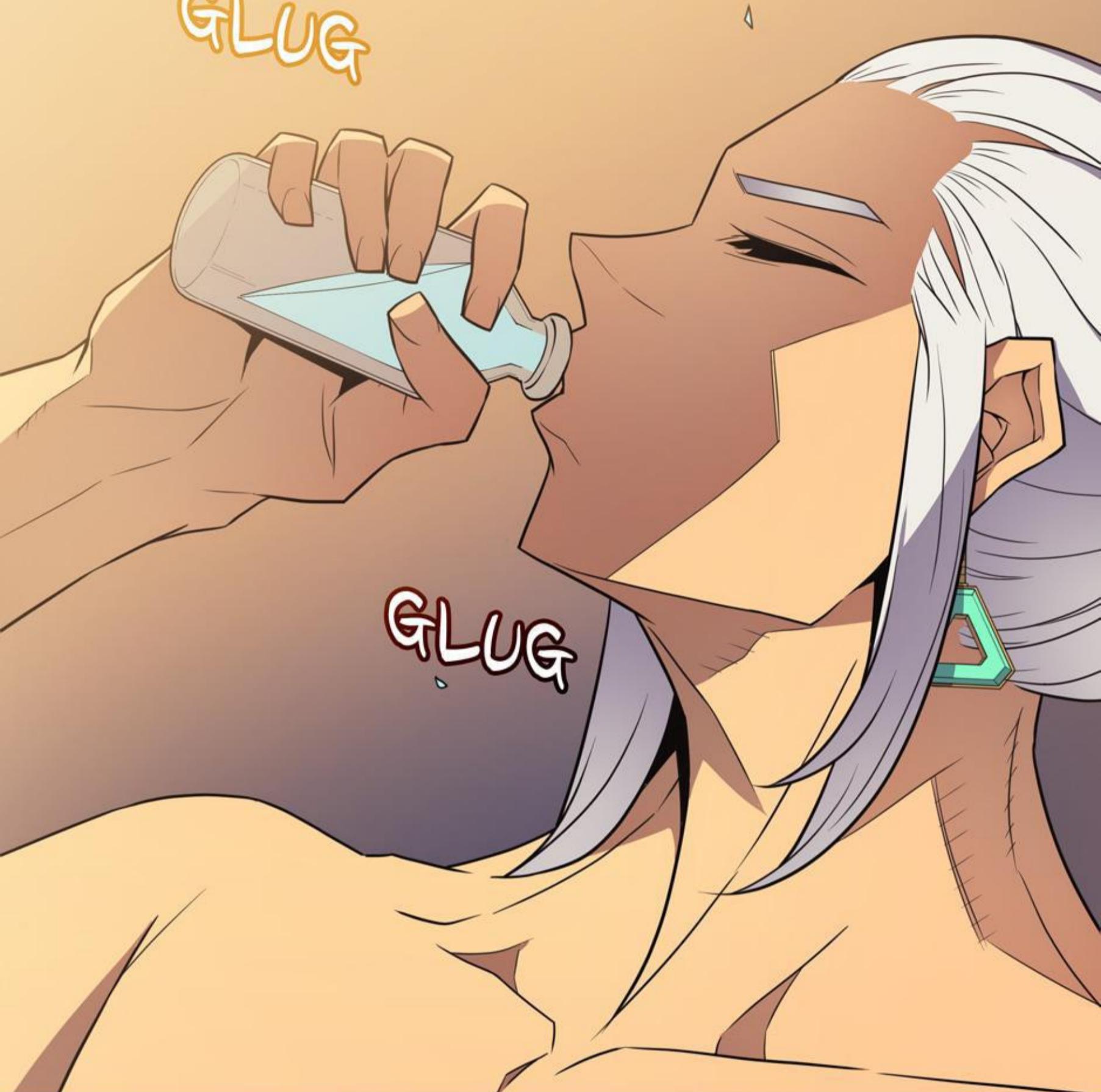
I DON'T
KNOW WHY... BUT I
JUST HAD THIS WEIRD
FEELING YOU MIGHT BE
ABLE TO PUT THAT TO
GOOD USE IN THE
FUTURE.





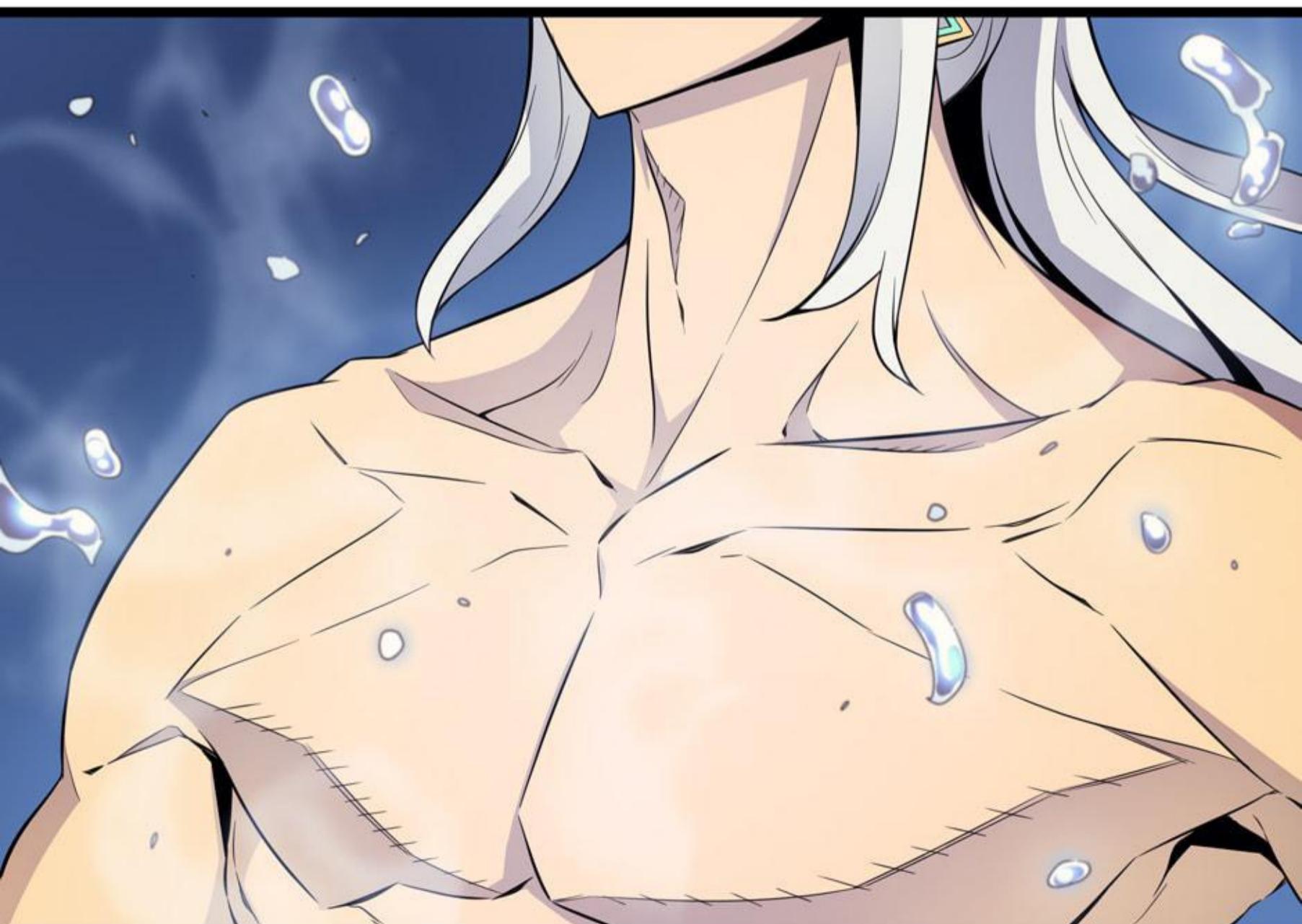
GLUG

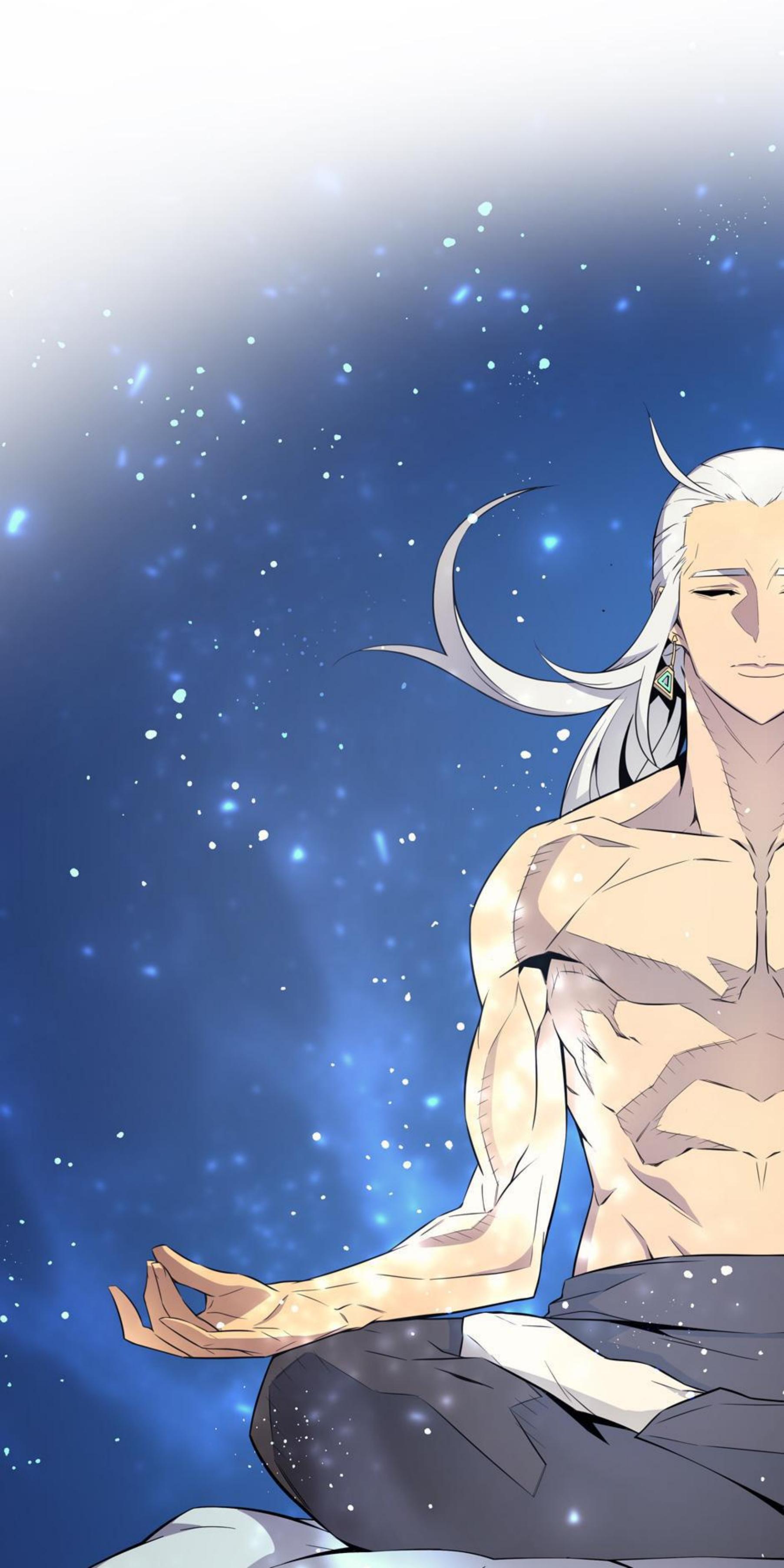
GLUG



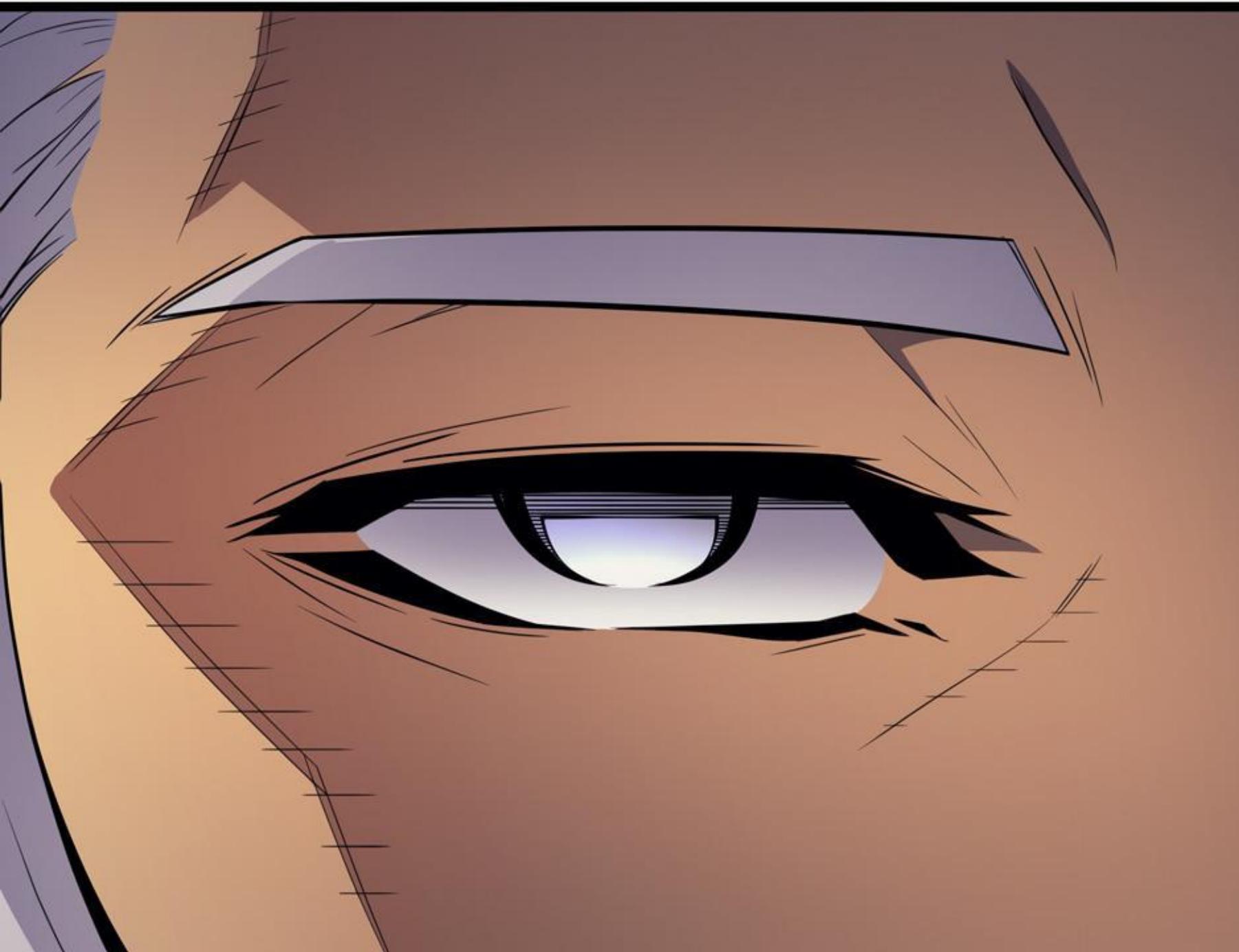
FWSK











IT'S BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS...



**I'M OVERFLOWING WITH ENERGY TO
THE POINT THAT I CAN USE MY ENTIRE
BODY AS A CONDUIT OF MY MANA.**





FREI,

YOU CALLED...?



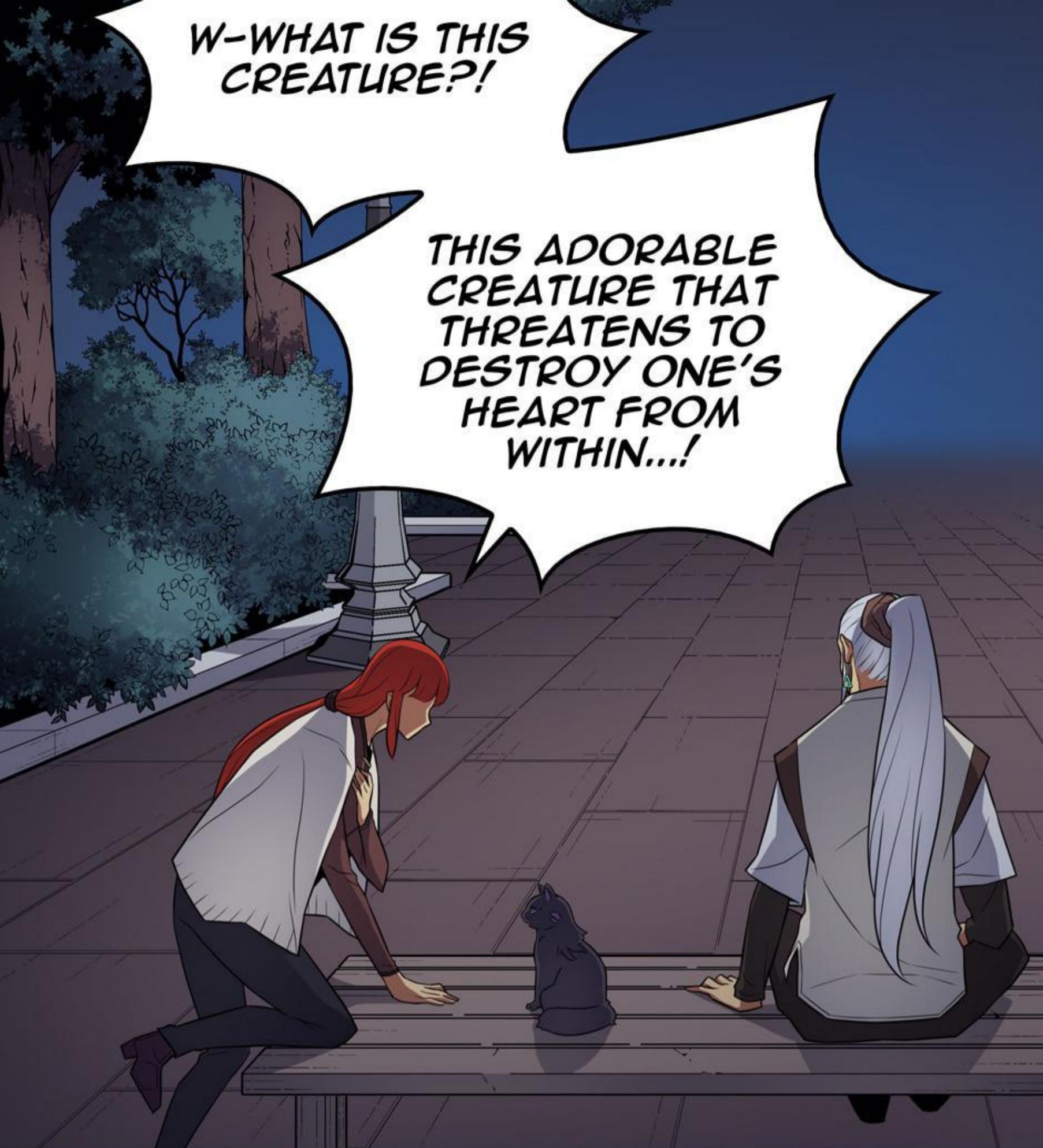
MEOW.

ACK!!

STAB

**W-WHAT IS THIS
CREATURE?!**

**THIS ADOORABLE
CREATURE THAT
THREATENS TO
DESTROY ONE'S
HEART FROM
WITHIN...!**



IT'S AN
ELEMENTAL
OF DARKNESS
CALLED THE
DARKMING.



ELEMENTAL
OF DARKNESS?!

IT HASN'T
EVEN BEEN THAT LONG

SINCE LADY CAMIL TAUGHT
US ELEMENTAL SUMMONING,
YET YOU MASTERED AND
CONTRACTED ONE
ALREADY?





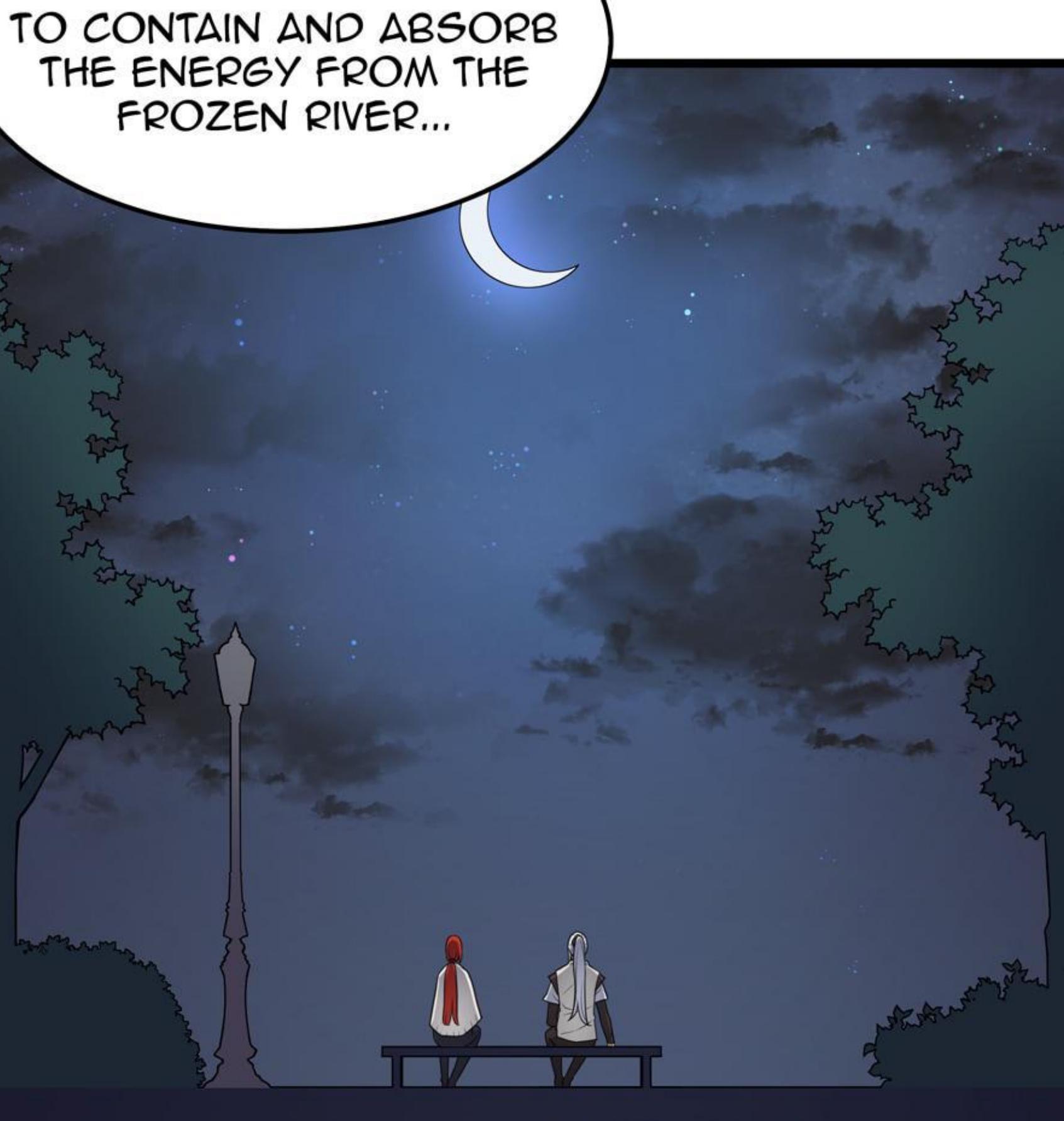
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
I HAD NO IDEA AN ELEMENTAL
OF DARKNESS COULD
BE SO CUTE...!



I MUST MAKE
A CONTRACT WITH
ONE RIGHT AWAY
AS WELL!

I FINALLY MANAGED

TO CONTAIN AND ABSORB
THE ENERGY FROM THE
FROZEN RIVER...



AND ALSO
LEARNED MUCH
ABOUT DEMIGOD.

YOU ALSO
MANAGED TO
MASTER ELEMENTAL
SUMMONING.



WHAT WILL
YOU DO NEXT?

I THINK IT'S
ABOUT TIME WE LEFT
THIS PLACE.





I SEE...

I'LL MAKE
PREPARATIONS
FOR OUR JOURNEY
RIGHT AWAY.

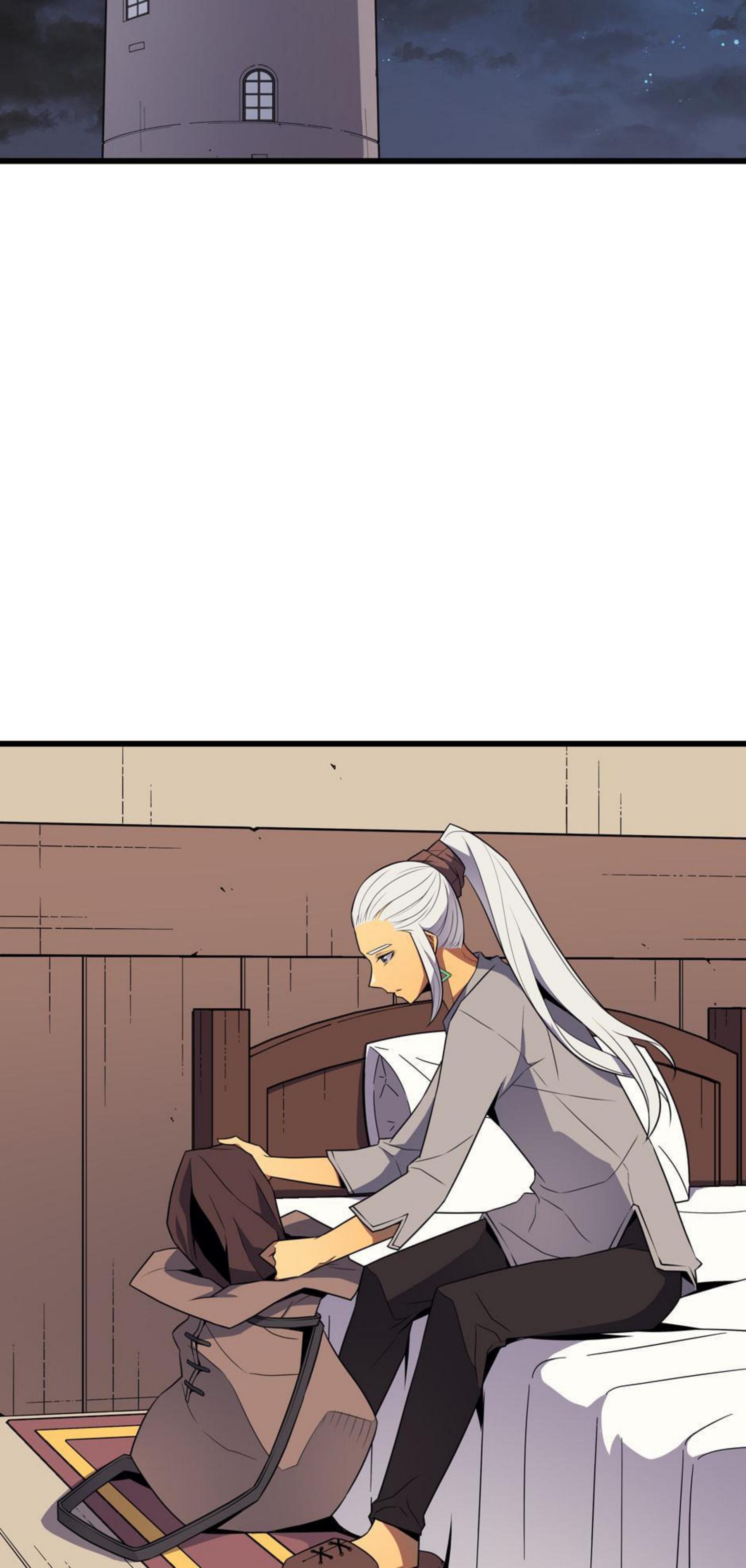


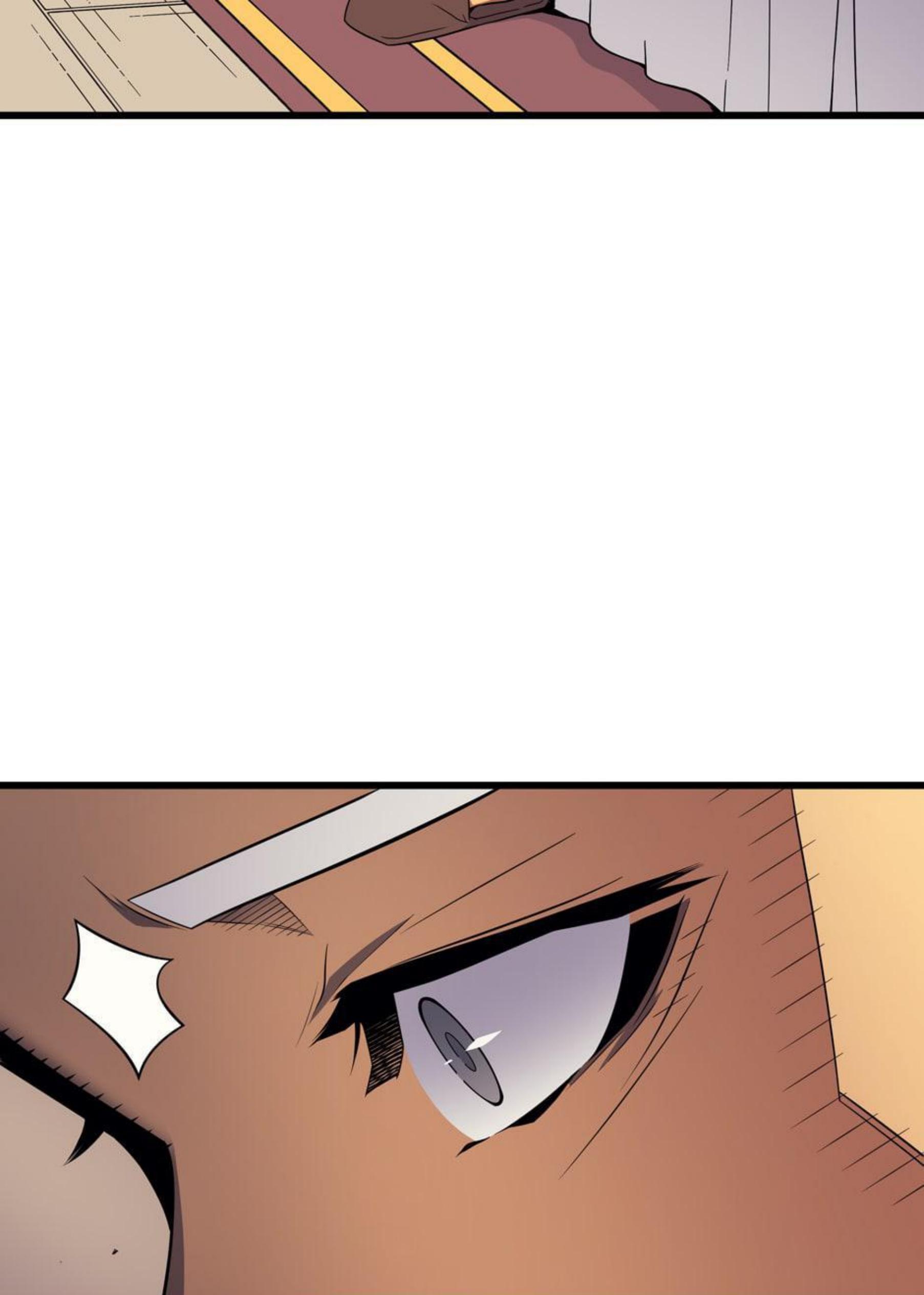
DO YOU PLAN
ON JOINING ONE OF
THE CIRCLES?



IF SO,
WHICH ONE WILL
YOU JOIN?

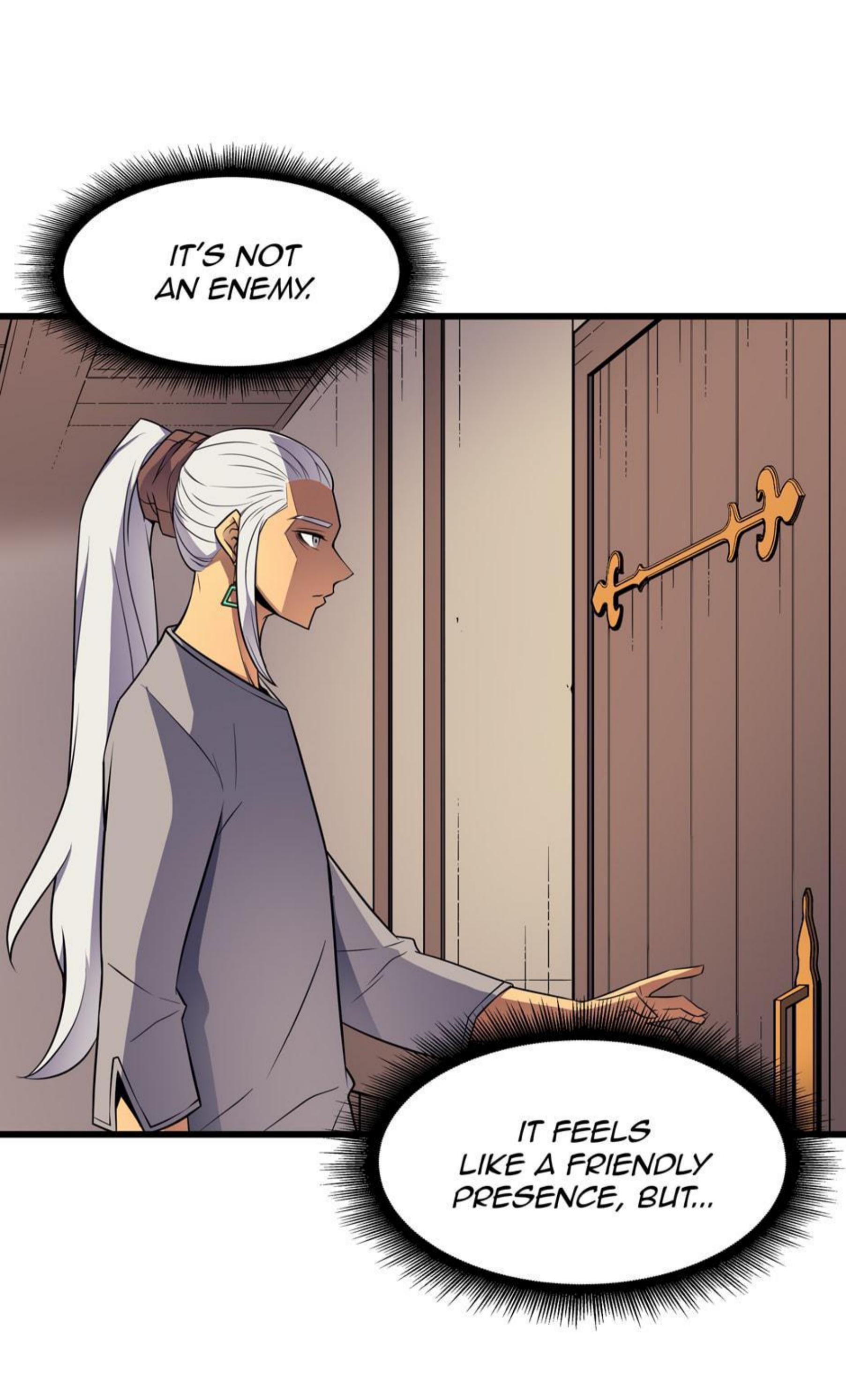








WHAT'S THIS...?
THERE'S SOMEONE
BEHIND THE DOOR...



IT'S NOT
AN ENEMY.

IT FEELS
LIKE A FRIENDLY
PRESENCE, BUT...

Clu

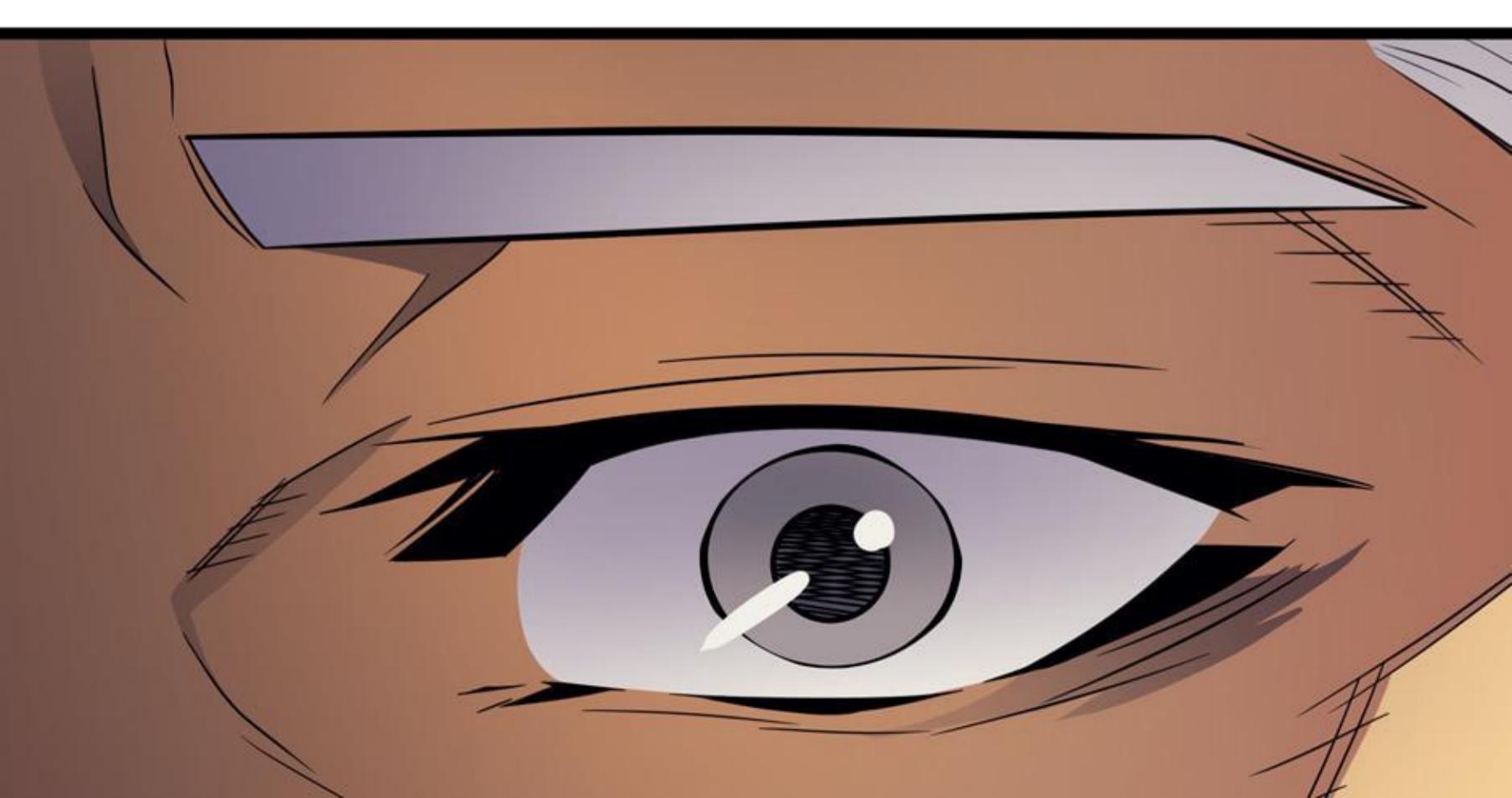
CLACK

AH!

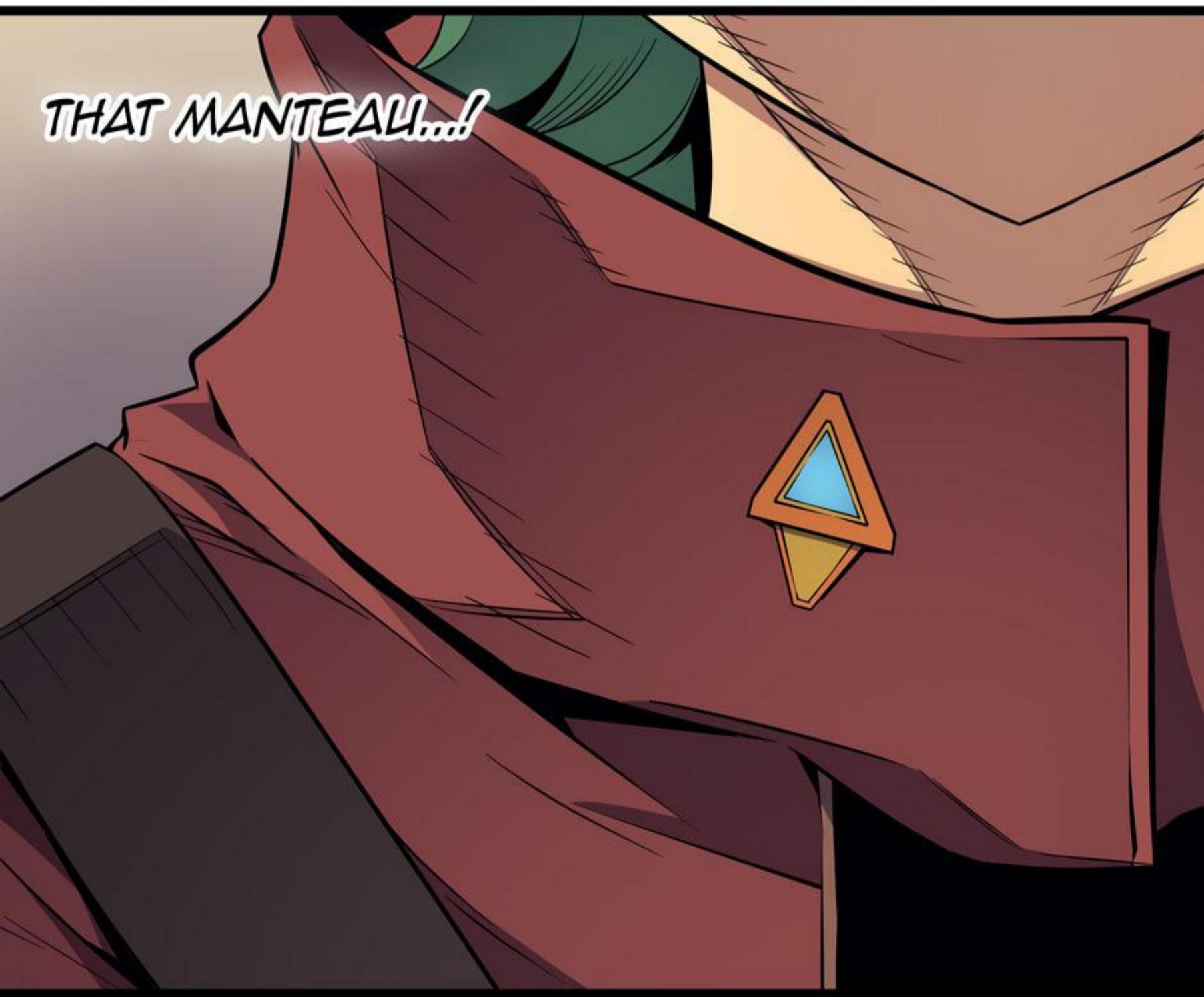
AH...
H-HELLO
THERE.



YOU MUST
BE SIR FREI
BLAKE...?



THAT MANTEAU...





I APOLOGIZE
FOR SHOWING UP
UNANNOUNCED AND
OUT OF THE BLUE.

MY NAME IS
VENIAN ARGENTO.

I AM THE
CIRCLE MASTER OF
THE TROWMAN RINGS.



