

THE ARCHMAGE RETURNS AFTER 4000 YEARS

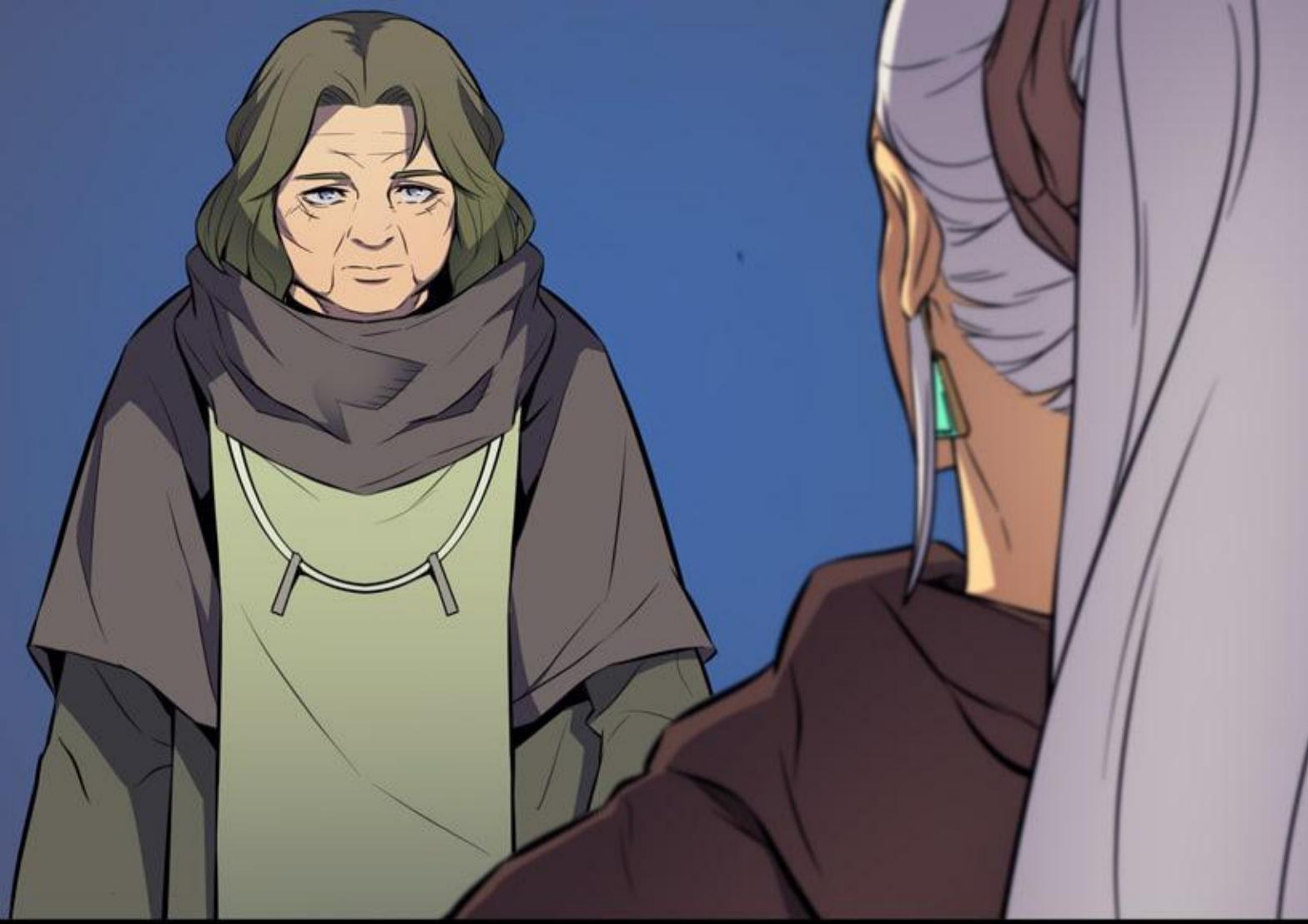
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~ 77 ~

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WHAT IS
THE MEANING
OF THIS?





YOU MENTIONED
THAT WE'RE ALL
RUNNING OUT
OF TIME?



W-WHAT
THE FUCK JUST
HAPPENED?!

GASP



I THOUGHT SHE
WAS AN OLD HAG, BUT
SHE'S A YOUNG ELF!
AND A PRETTY ONE
AT THAT!!

I SEEM TO
RECALL YOU
TELLING ME THAT
YOU TOOK ON THIS
COMMISSION IN ORDER
TO INVESTIGATE THE
UNDEAD, RIGHT?

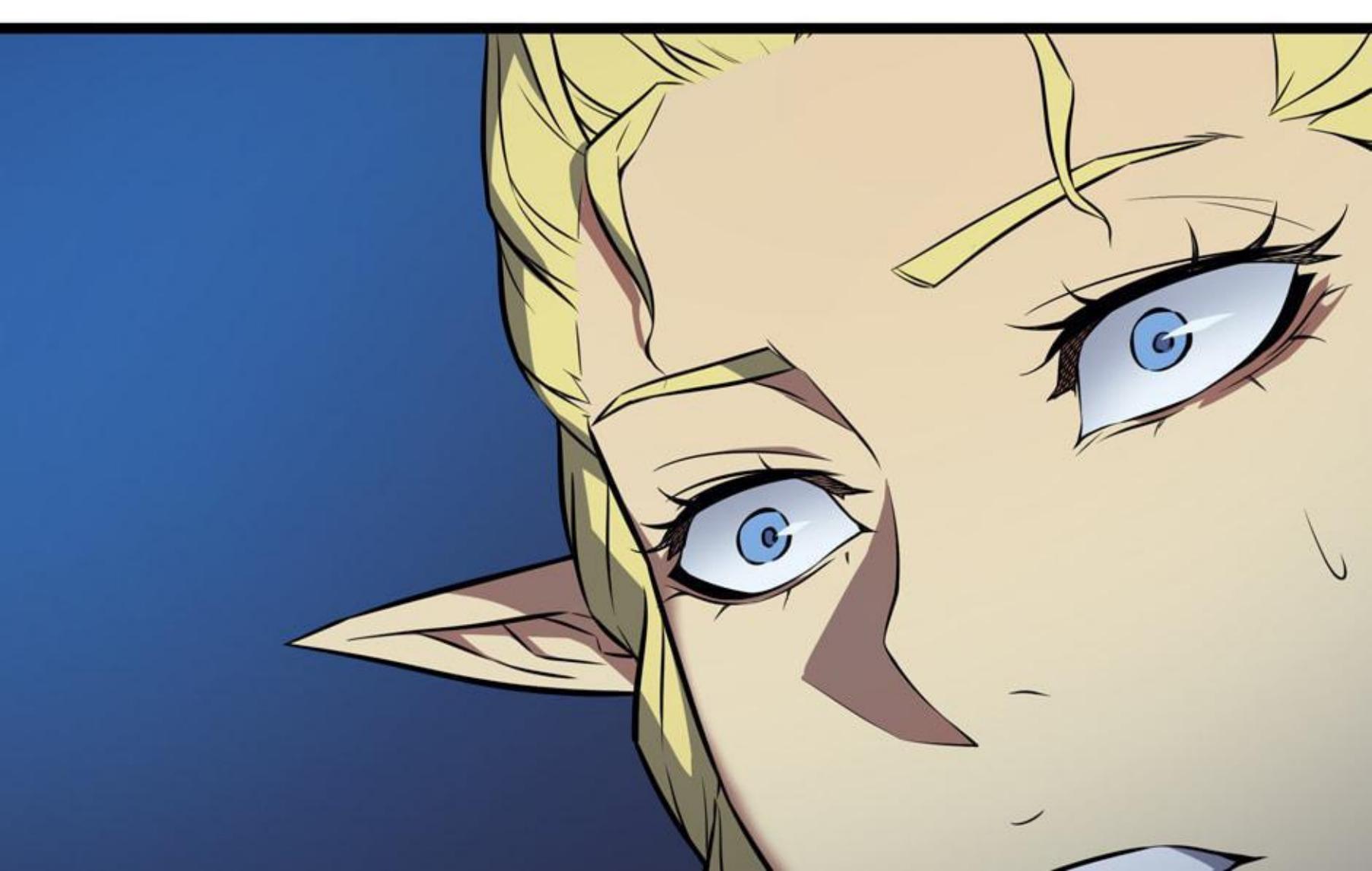
DO YOU KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
THE DEMIGODS?

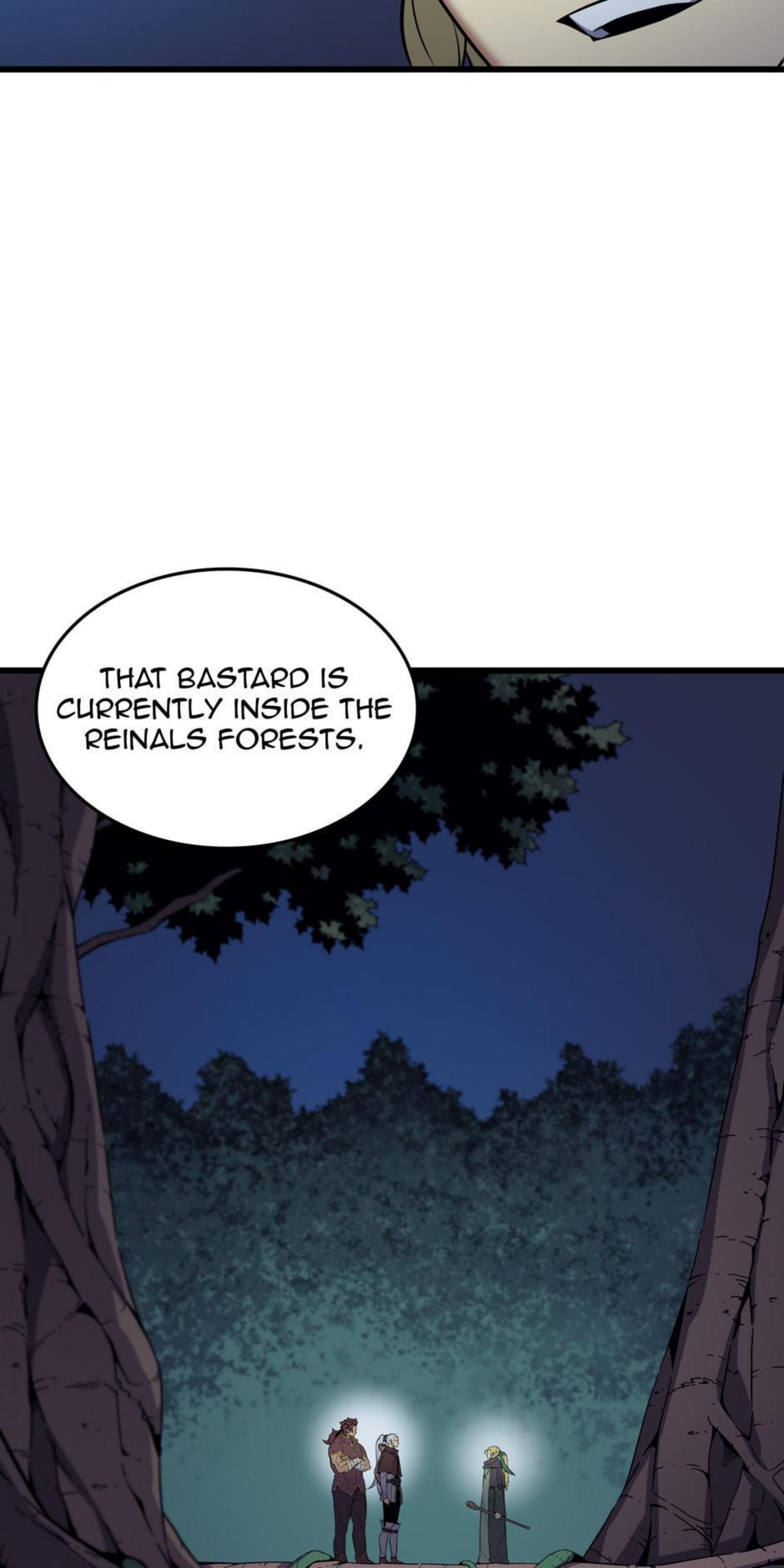
I KNOW OF THEIR
EXISTENCE AND
THAT THEY POSSESS
GOD-LIKE POWERS
BUT ASIDE FROM
THAT, NO...

WAIT...!

YOU MEAN
TO TELL ME THAT THE
NECROMANCER BEHIND
THE UNDEAD IN THIS
FOREST IS...!

IT'S VERY
LIKELY THAT HE'S
A SUBORDINATE OF
THE DEMIGODS.





THAT BASTARD IS
CURRENTLY INSIDE THE
REINALS FORESTS.



HE POSES
A GREAT DANGER
TO ALL UNLESS WE
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT HIM.

BUT THAT
CAN'T BE!

THE FOREST
WOULD NEVER ALLOW
ANY OUTSIDERS IN!
EVEN IF HE MANAGED
TO FORCEFULLY MAKE
HIS WAY INTO THE
SACRED GROUNDS...!





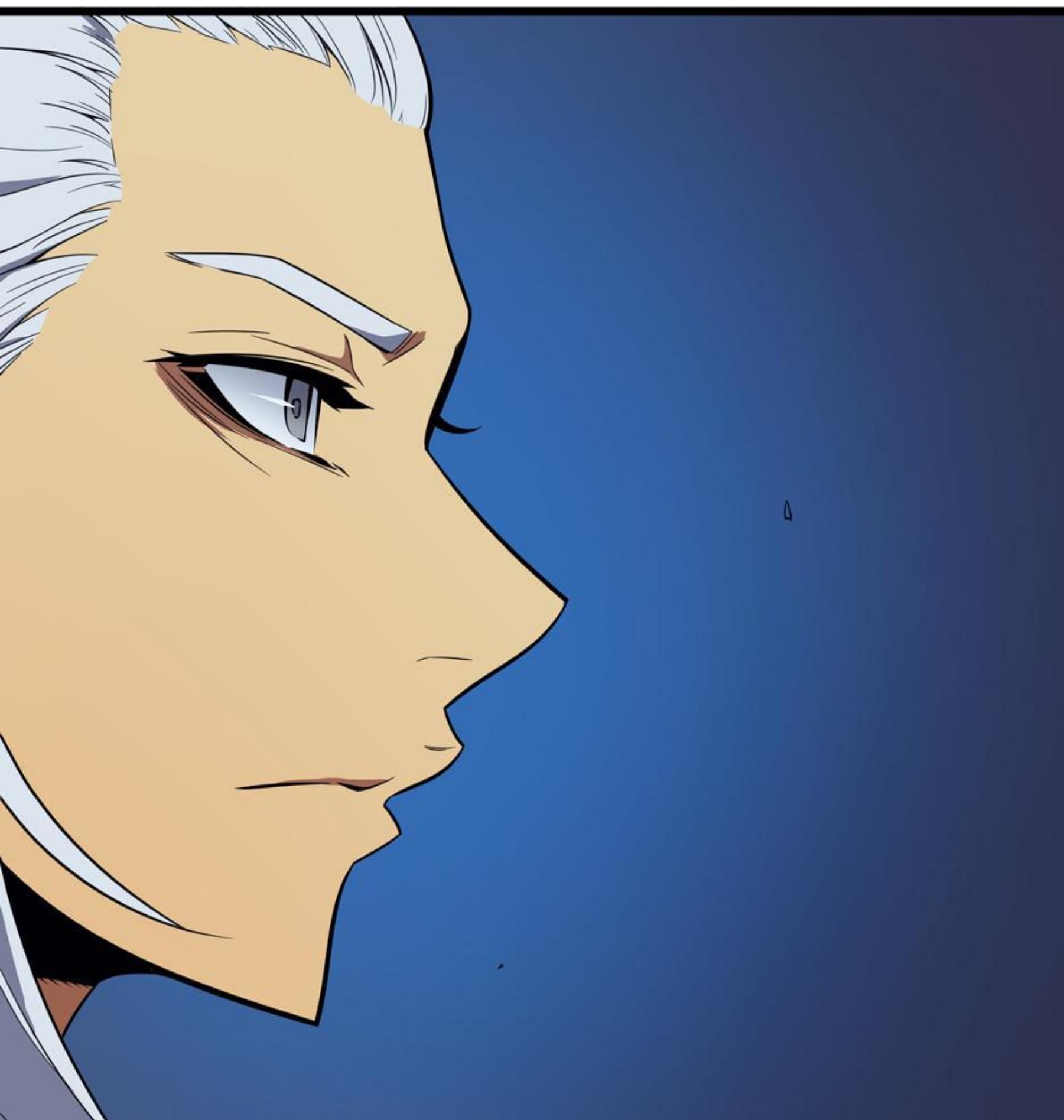
YOUR QUEEN
WOULD NOTICE HIM
IMMEDIATELY.



BUT OUR GUY
IS DIFFERENT.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



SHE'S A
HIGH ELF LIKE
OYDIN...



IT WOULDN'T
BE WISE TO REVEAL
THE IDENTITY OF THE
APOSTLE FOR
NOW...

IT'S UNFORTUNATE,
BUT WE DON'T HAVE
TIME TO DISCUSS
THE DETAILS.

TP

TP

THE ONLY THING
WE CAN TELL YOU WITH
CERTAINTY IS THAT ONLY
WE HAVE THE MEANS OF
TRACKING HIM DOWN.



FINE, I
UNDERSTAND...

BUT ANSWER
ME THIS.

HAA...

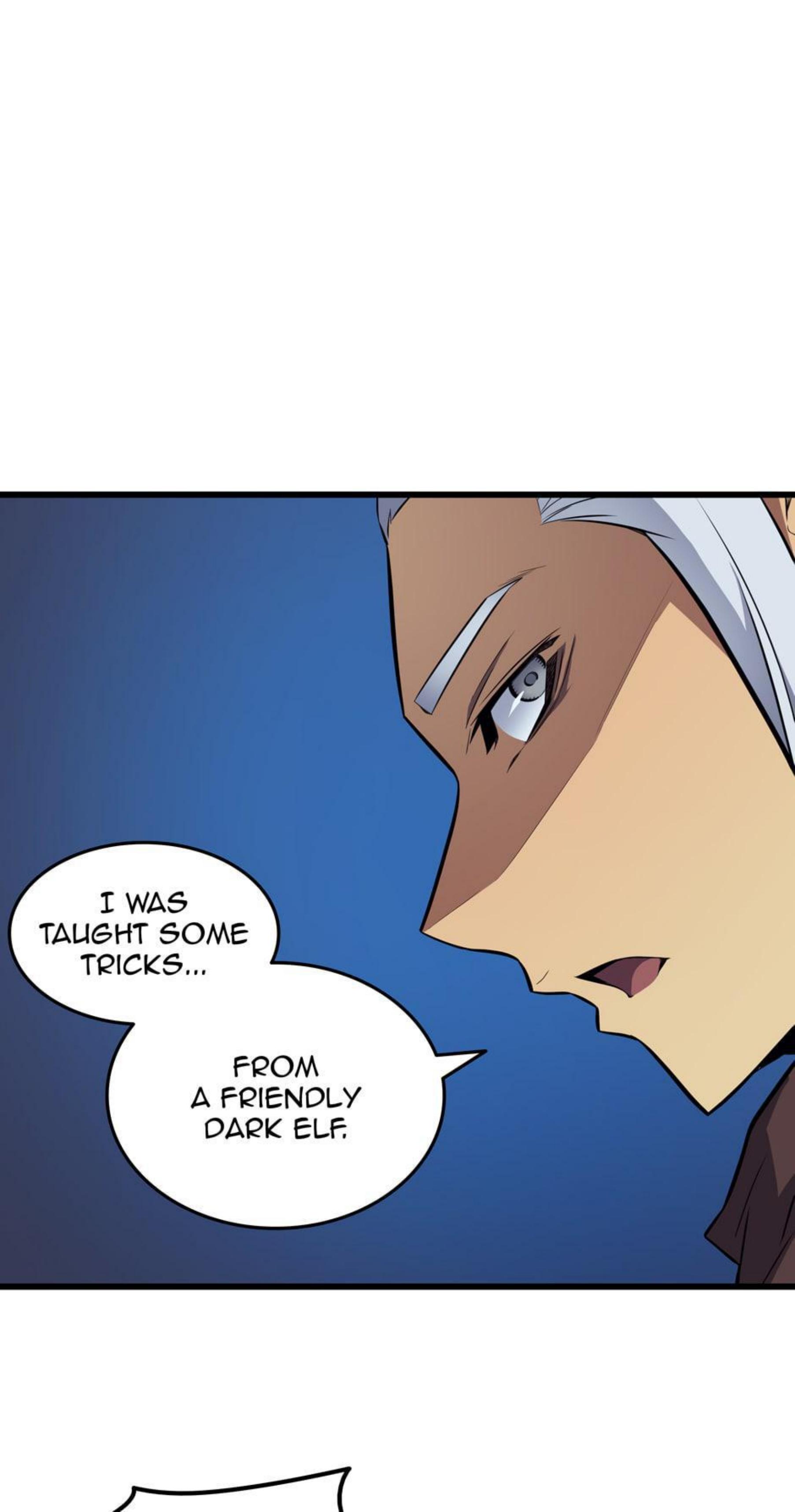




YOU MENTIONED
THAT YOU'RE NOT AN
ELEMENTAL SHAMAN,
DID YOU NOT?

WHOOSH

SO HOW IS IT
THAT YOU HAVE A
CONTRACT WITH AN
ELEMENTAL?



I WAS
TAUGHT SOME
TRICKS...

FROM
A FRIENDLY
DARK ELF.

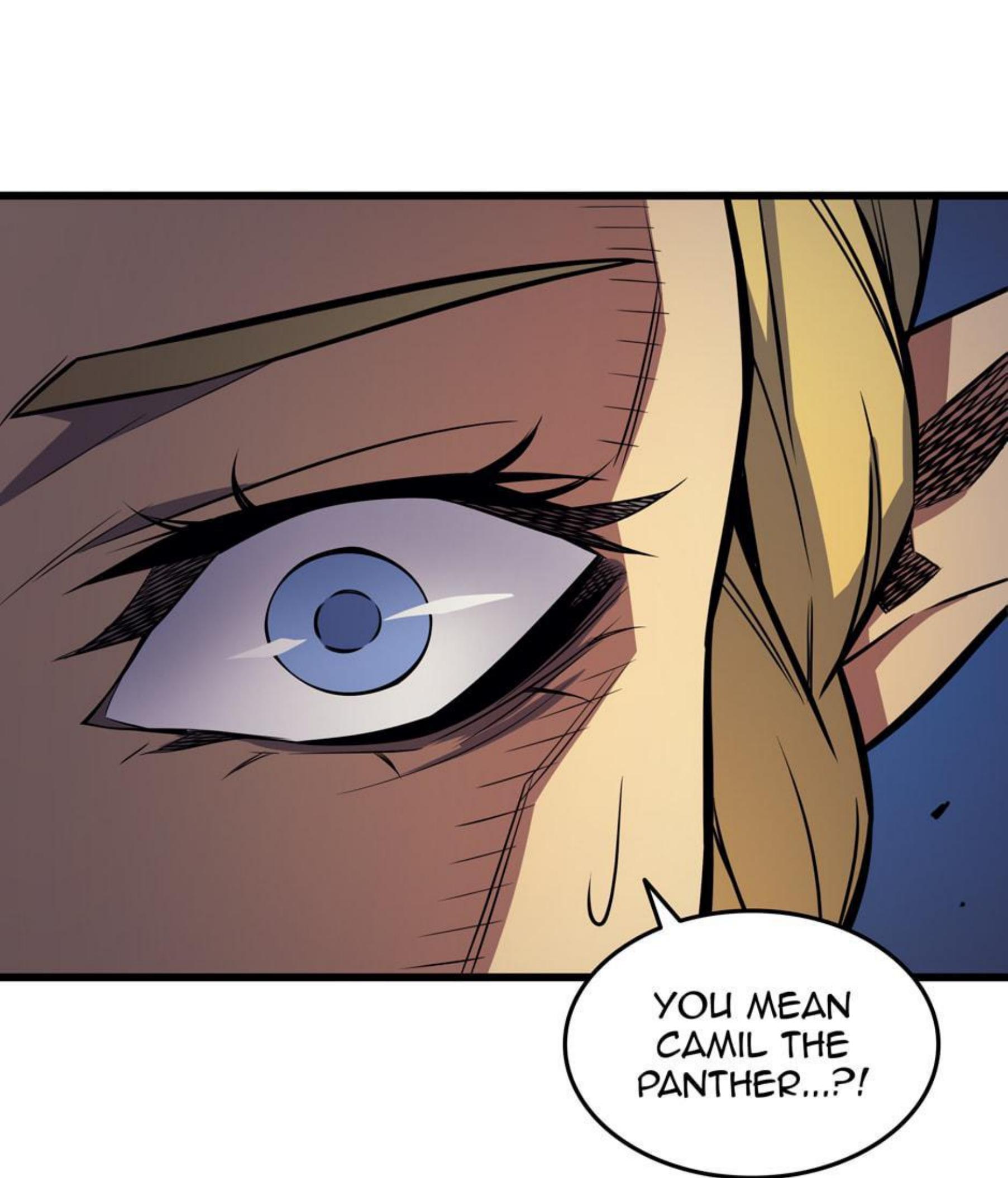
A DARK ELF
TAUGHT YOU!?

YOU MEAN TO
TELL ME THE DARK
ELVES, WHO ARE EVEN
MORE UNFRIENDLY AND
UNWELCOMING THAN US,
TAUGHT A HUMAN
THEIR TREASURED
TECHNIQUES?

ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT THAT?
I THOUGHT THEY WERE
PRETTY FRIENDLY IF
YOU ASK ME.



ESPECIALLY CAMIL.
SHE PERSONALLY TAUGHT
ME THE TRICKS. WHAT A
SWEETHEART!

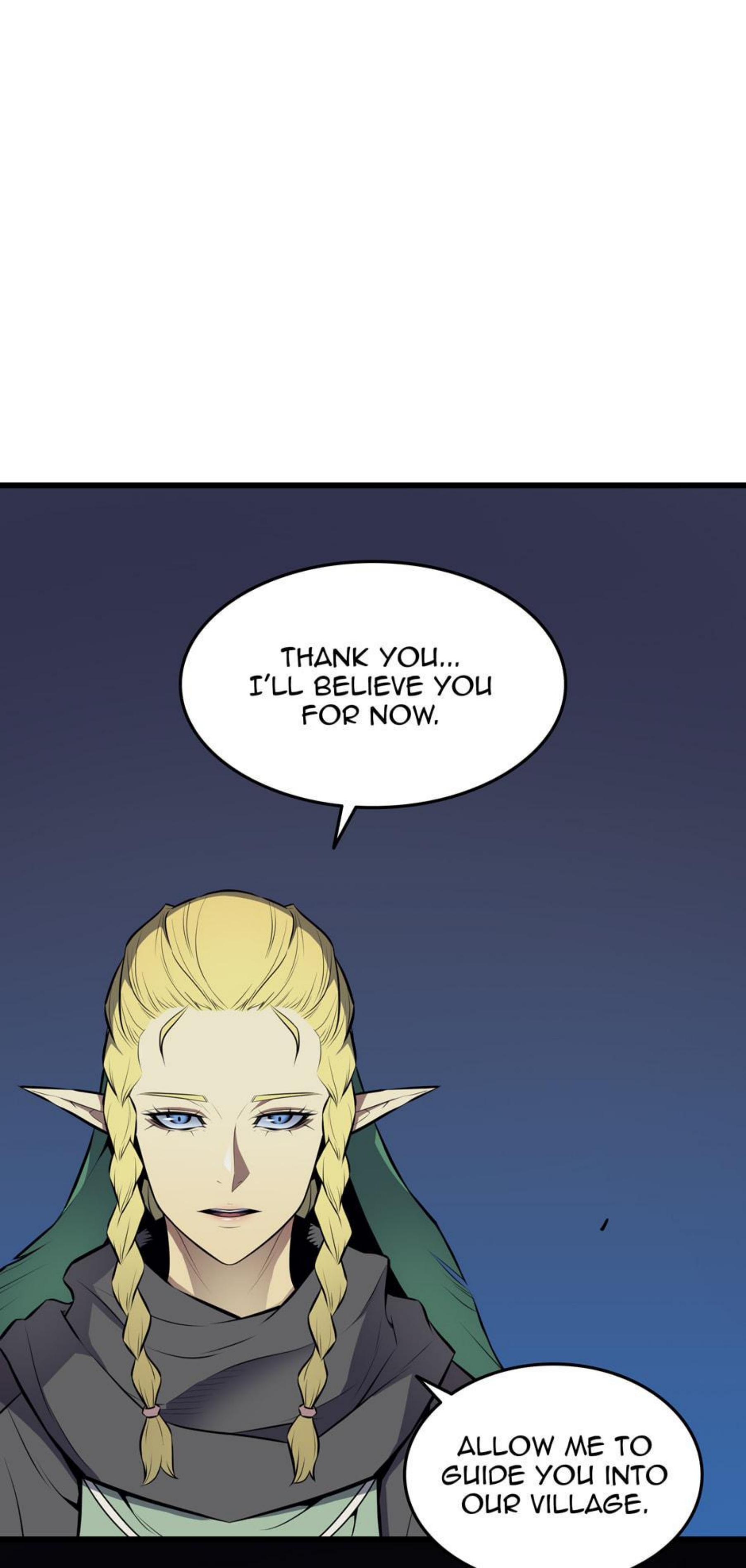


YOU MEAN
CAMIL THE
PANTHER...?!

THERE ISN'T AN
ELF IN THE FOREST
WHO HASN'T HEARD
OF THE PANTHER.



THAT RENOWNED
PANTHER BEFRIENDED
AND ACKNOWLEDGED
A HUMAN...?



THANK YOU...
I'LL BELIEVE YOU
FOR NOW.

ALLOW ME TO
GUIDE YOU INTO
OUR VILLAGE.

CRACKLE





WHAT CAUSES
YOU SUCH DISTRESS,
MASTER?



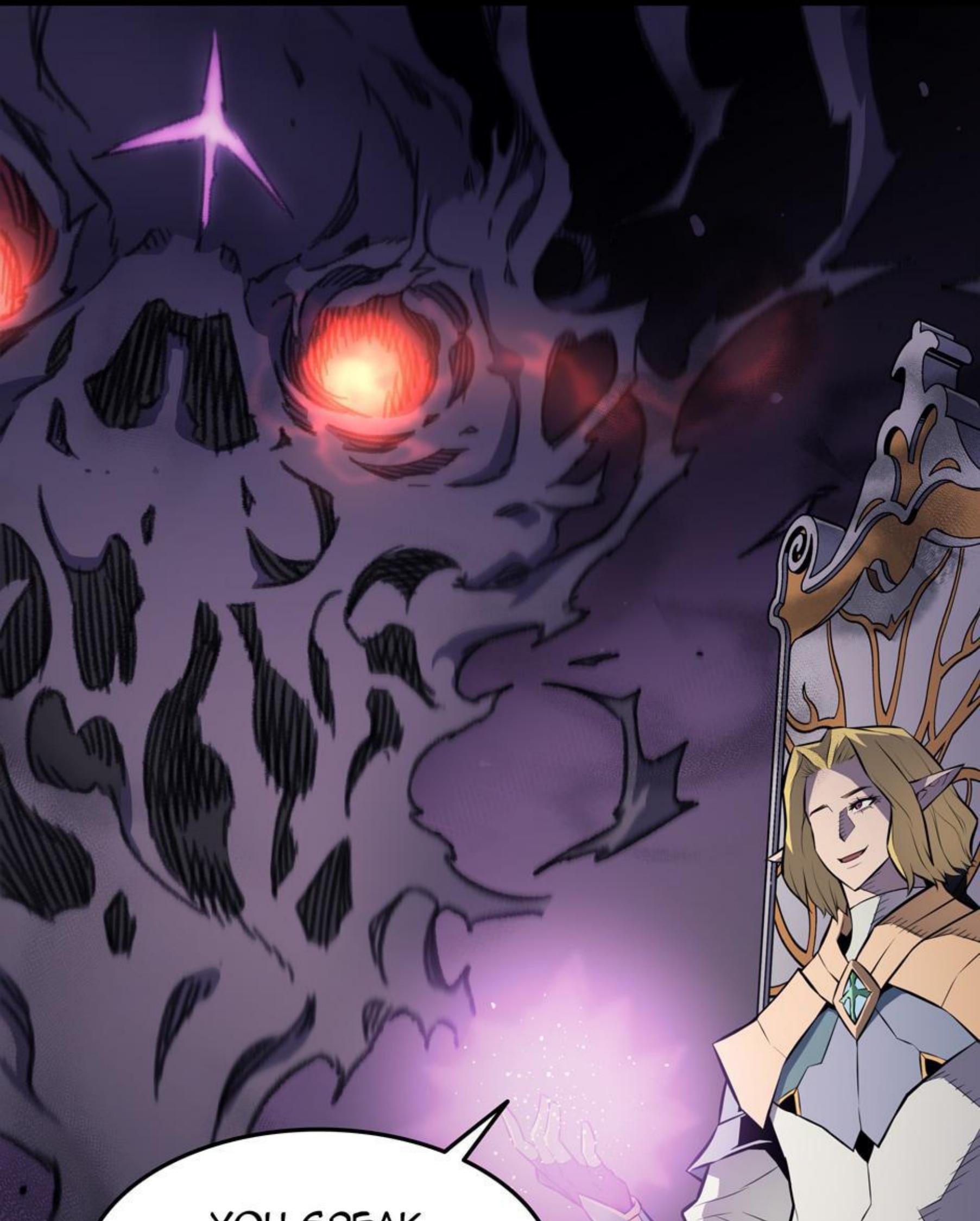
CRACK



The background of the entire panel is a dark, smoky atmosphere. In the center, there are two glowing red eyes with vertical stripes, looking directly forward. A bright, purple, starburst-like light source is positioned between the eyes, creating a dramatic focal point. The overall mood is mysterious and foreboding.

INDRA WAS KILLED!

AND THERE WERE
NO TRACES TO BE FOUND
THIS TIME, EITHER!



YOU SPEAK
OF THE TRAITOR
AMONGST YOUR

RANKS?

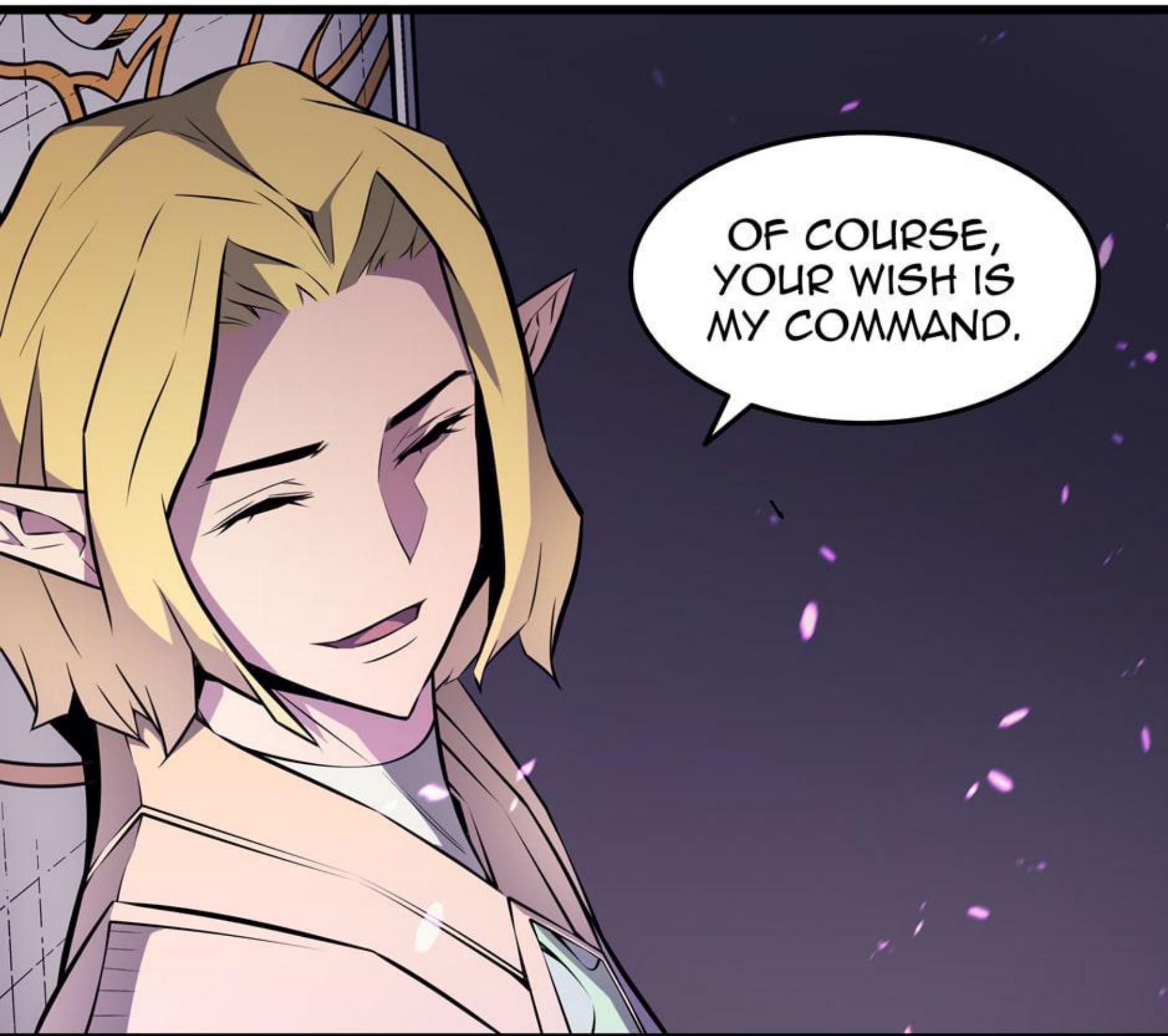


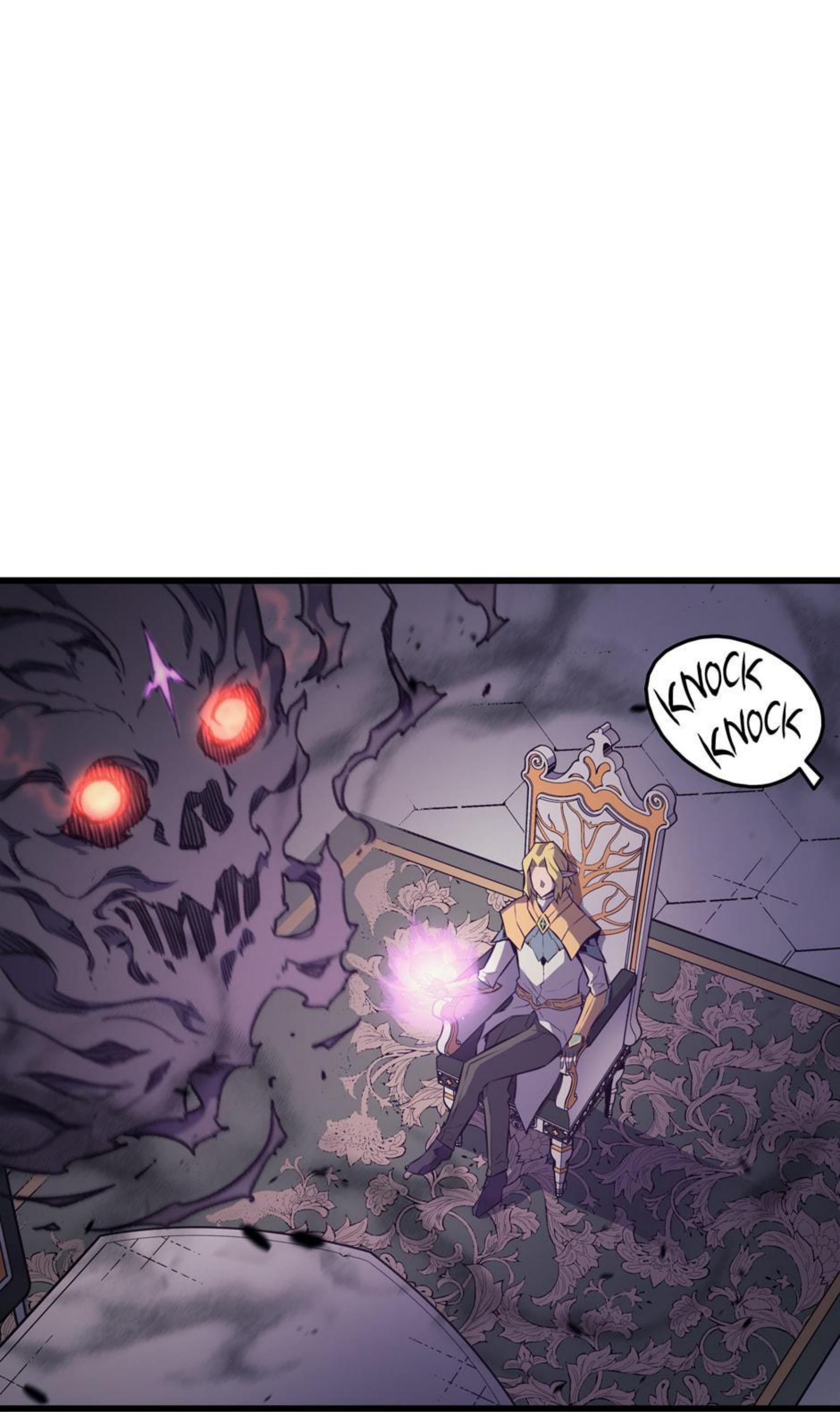
BE WARY OF YOUR
SURROUNDINGS UNTIL THE
NEXT GATHERING.



YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT
I MEAN, CORRECT?



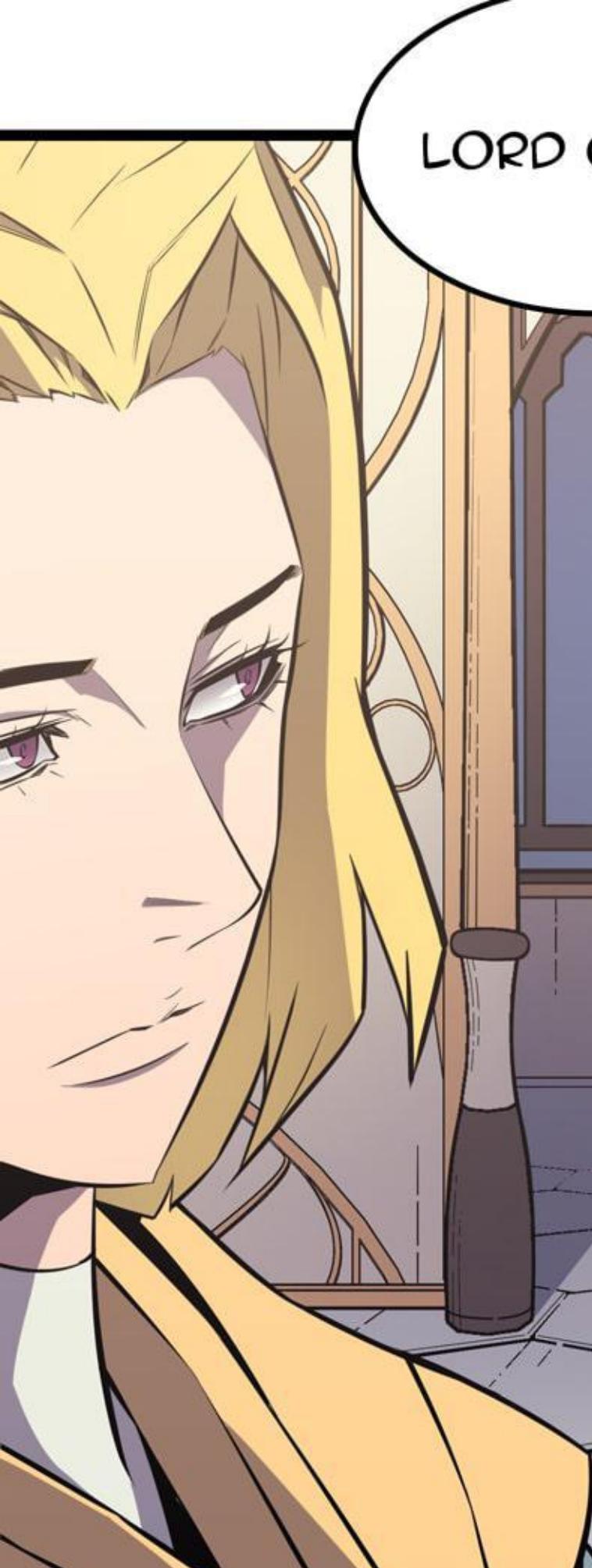


KNOCK
KNOCK

Pop

ENTER.

CLENCH



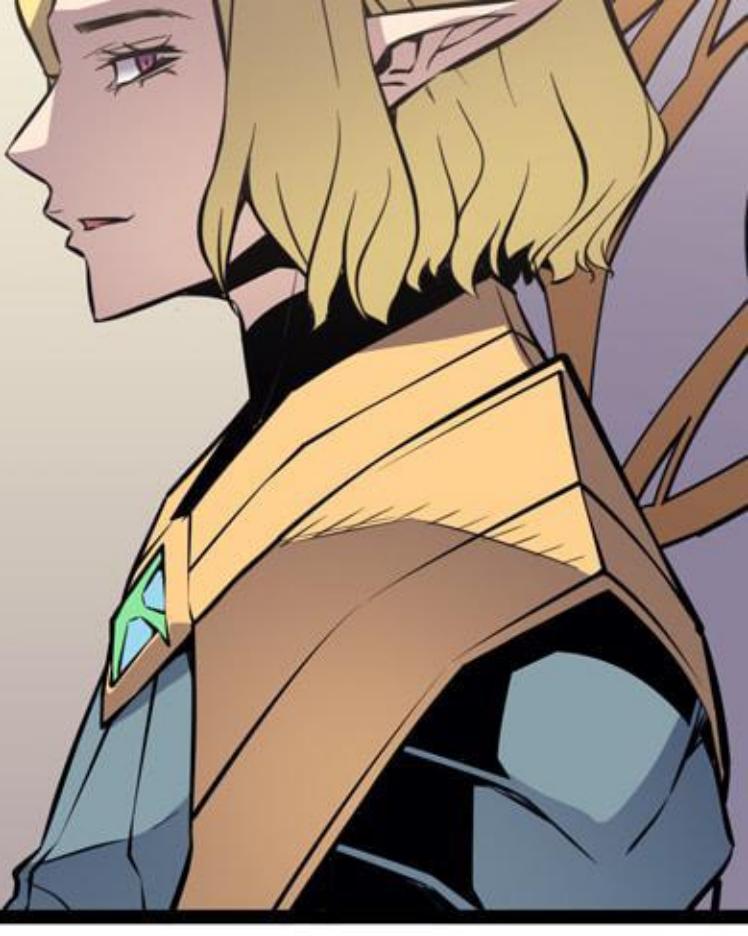
LORD OYDIN...



HER MAJESTY
REQUESTS YOUR
AUDIENCE.



INFORM
HER THAT I
WILL BE THERE
SHORTLY.

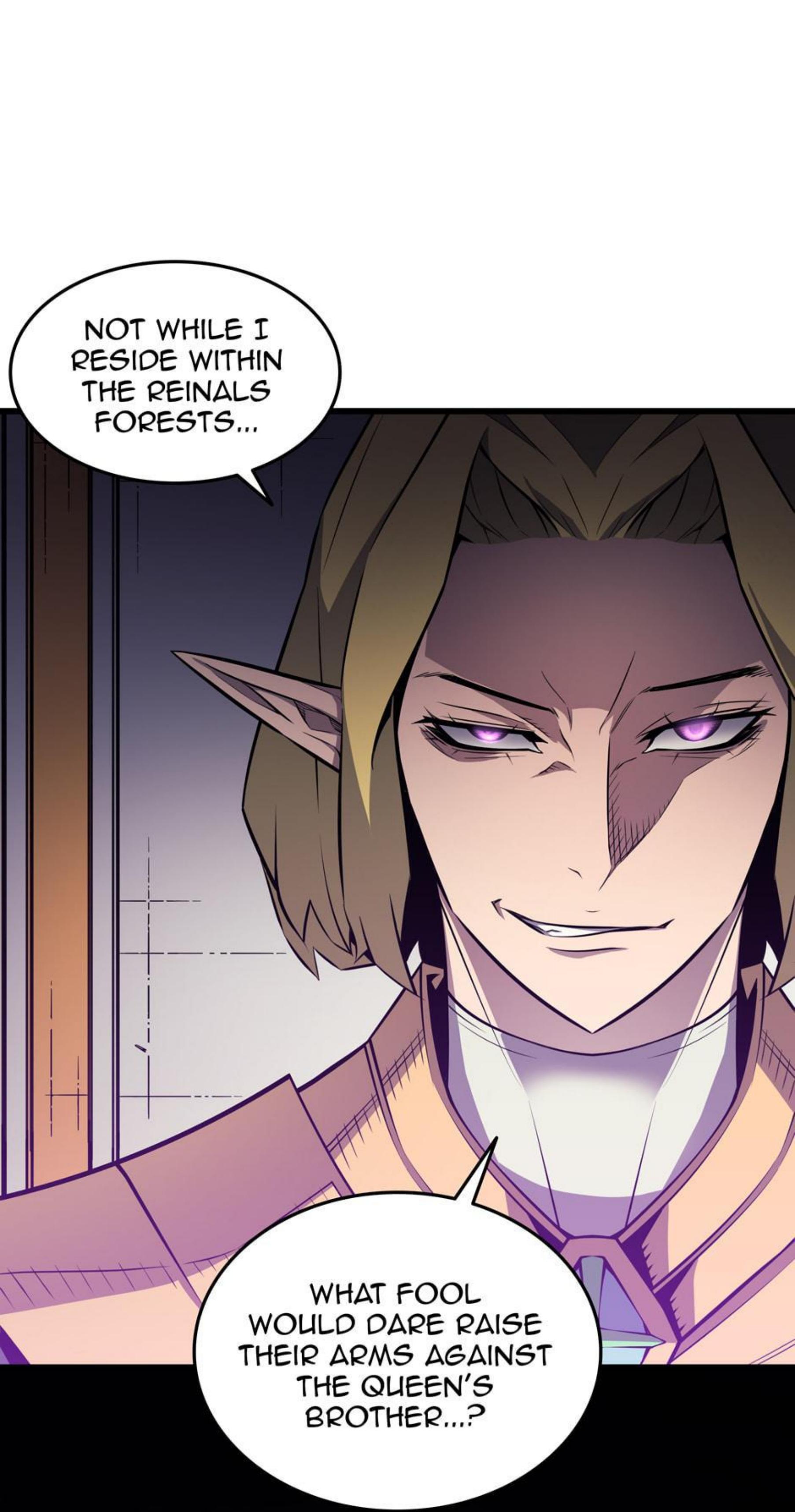


AS YOU
WISH, MILORD.

CLACK



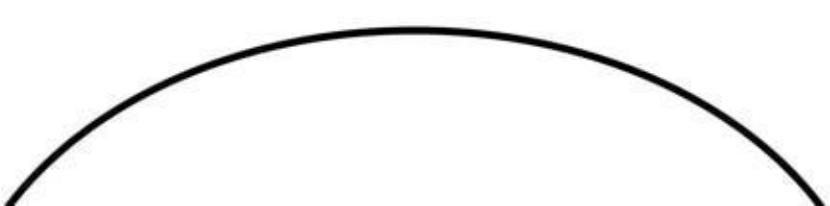
BE WARY
HE SAYS... WHAT
WOULD I NEED TO
BE WARY OF?



NOT WHILE I
RESIDE WITHIN
THE REINALS
FORESTS...

WHAT FOOL
WOULD DARE RAISE
THEIR ARMS AGAINST
THE QUEEN'S
BROTHER...?







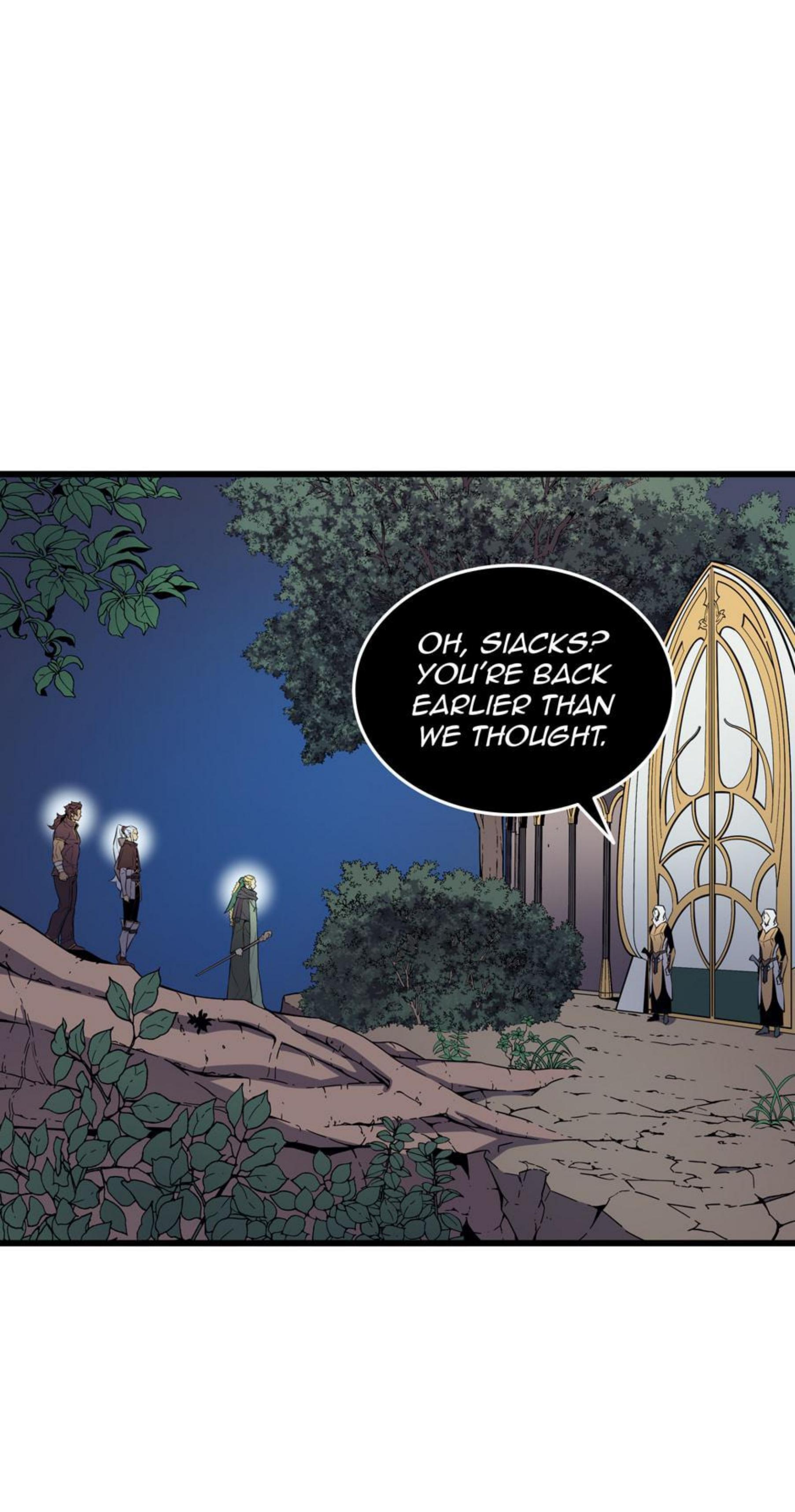
THAT'S THE
WORLD TREE? IT'S
FUCKING HUGE!

WE CALL
HER HRUHIRAL.



HRUNTING...
WHY? WHAT KIND OF
NAME IS THAT?

IT'S IN ELVISH.



OH, SIACKS?
YOU'RE BACK
EARLIER THAN
WE THOUGHT.



HEY, PIPPIN!
NOTHING HAPPENED
WHILE I WAS
GONE?

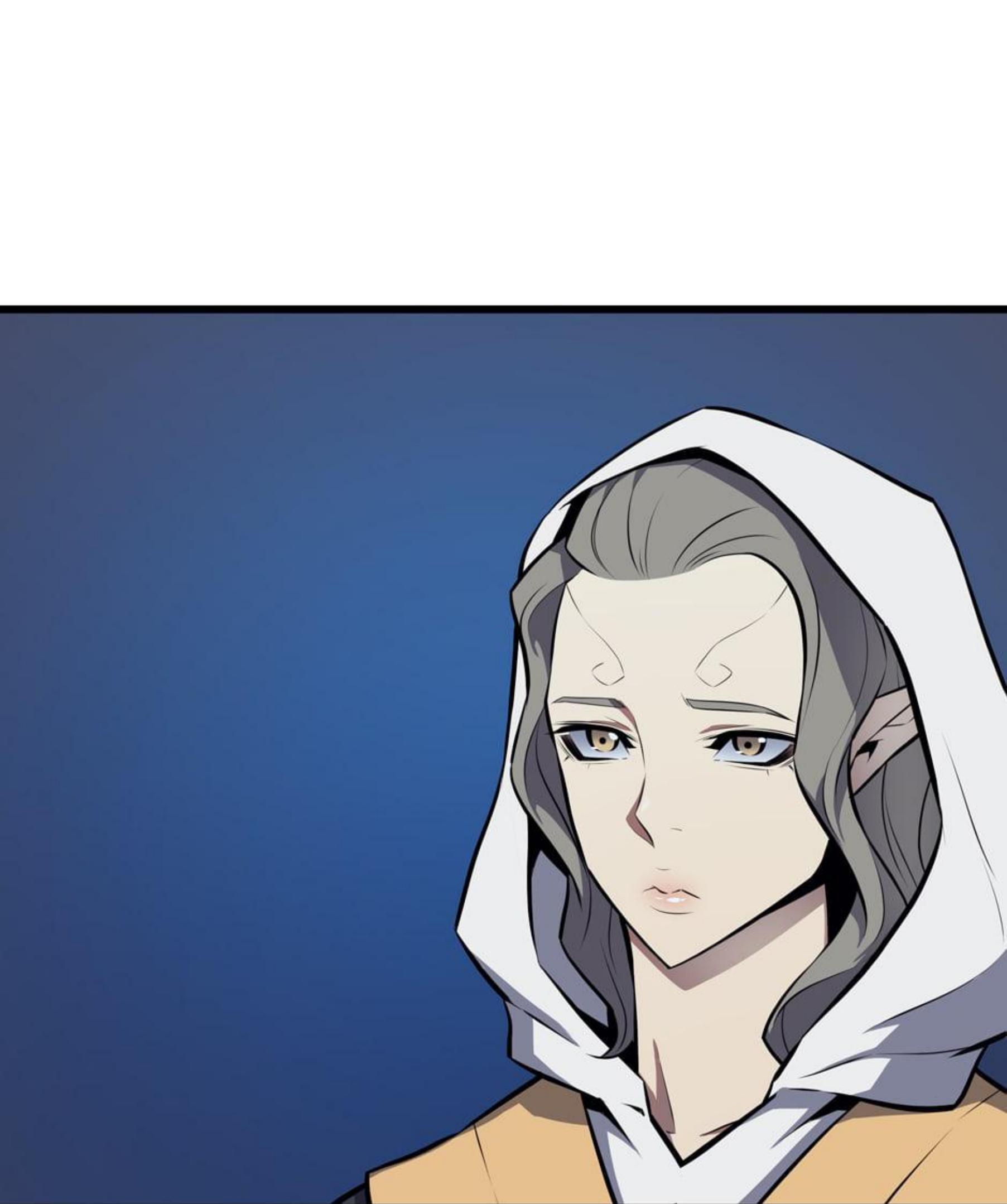
OF
COURSE
NOT!



WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
SLACKS?

WHAT ARE
THEY SAYING?

HAVE YOU FOUND
ANY LEADS ON THE
NECROMANCER?



BY THE
WAY, WHO ARE
THOSE TWO?
AREN'T THEY
HUMANS?

OH, RIGHT.
THEY'RE MY
COMPANIONS.



THEY'VE HELPED
ME WHILE I WAS
TRACKING DOWN
THE NECROMANCER.

THEY'RE
WELL-QUALIFIED
AND SKILLED SO
WE'RE WORKING
TOGETHER.



BE THAT AS IT
MAY, ALL OUTSIDERS
MUST GREET HER MAJESTY



FIRST AND RECEIVE FORMAL
PERMISSION FROM HER TO
STAY AS A TEMPORARY
RESIDENT HERE.

WHAT'S THIS
CHICK SAYING
TO ME?



WILL YOU BE
HEADING TO HRUHIRAL
IMMEDIATELY? I'LL INFORM
HER MAJESTY OF YOUR
ARRIVAL AND REQUEST
HER AUDIENCE FOR
YOUR GUESTS.



THANK YOU,
PIPPIN.

WHAT THE
HELL IS GOING
ON HERE...?



IT'S A RULE
AMONG OUR
SOCIETY THAT ALL
OUTSIDERS MUST GREET
HER MAJESTY, THE
QUEEN, FIRST.



WE WILL
GO AND GREET
HER AT ONCE.



OH SHEESH, IT
WAS PRETTY EASY
TO GET IN HERE
AFTER ALL.

TP

TP

TP

EH?

BUMP

TP



HUH? WHAT?
WHY DID YOU
STOP?

DID YOU
GET AN URGE
TO PEE REAL
QUICK?



LISTEN,
THIS WHOLE
FOREST IS LIKE
HER MAJESTY'S
HEART.

YOUR AUDIENCE
WITH HER WON'T
LAST LONG.

HMPH.

YEAH, AND?

GLANCE



I BEG YOUR
PARDON?!



I'M JUST
TRYING TO WARN
YOU TO WATCH YOUR
MANNERS BEFORE
HER MAJESTY,
ALRIGHT?!

OH, THAT'S
WHAT'S BUGGING
YOUR ASS...?

I MEAN, FINE,
I CAN COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND THAT YOU
FIND ME TACTLESS, BUT
THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY
MEAN I'M WITHOUT
PROPER MANNERS
AND ETIQUETTE.

HMPH!

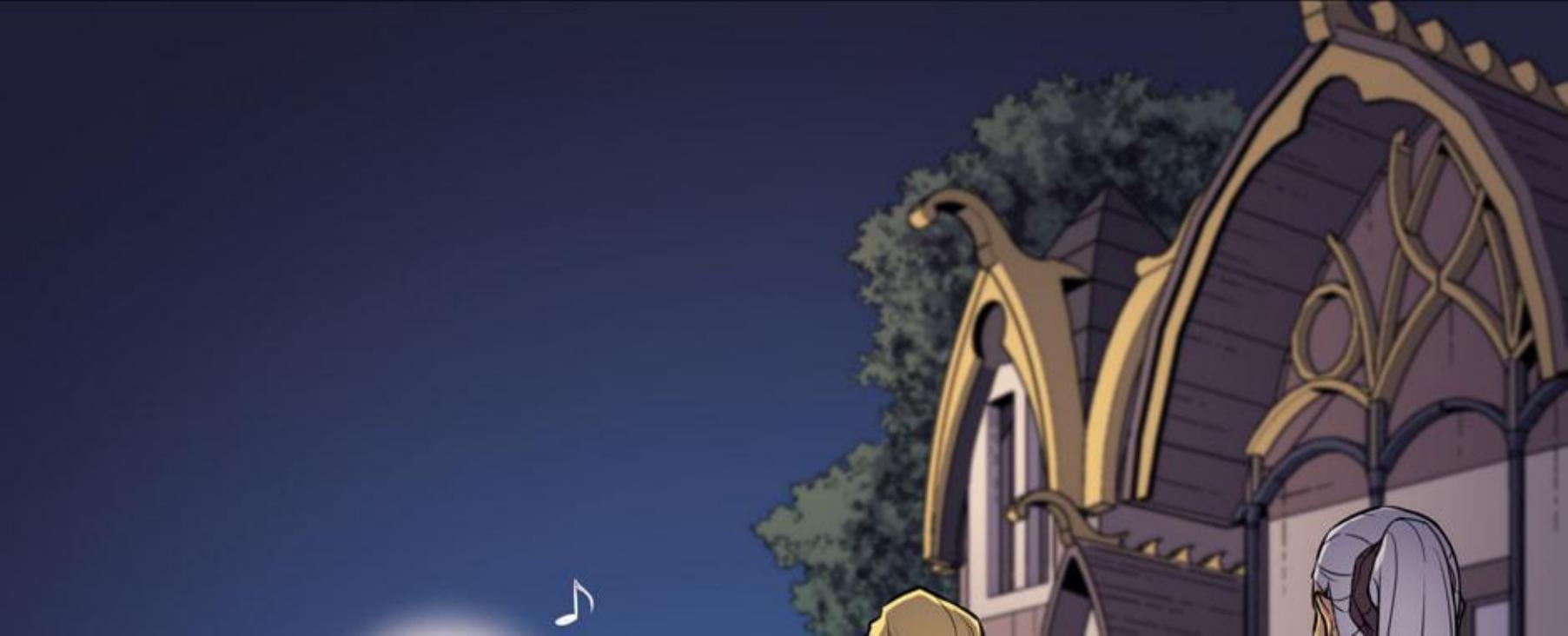
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? I CAN TELL

MEAN. I CAN TELL
YOU DON'T HAVE
MANNERS!

DON'T WORRY!
THE ART OF THE
GODFIST TEACHES
ONE TO TRAIN BOTH
THE MIND AND
THE BODY!!



I CAN ASSURE
YOU THAT I AM
THE EPITOME OF
ETIQUETTE!





I HAVE
A BAD FEELING
ABOUT THIS...





A MALEVOLENT
AURA OF MISFORTUNE
IS VIOLENTLY SWIRLING
AROUND HIM...



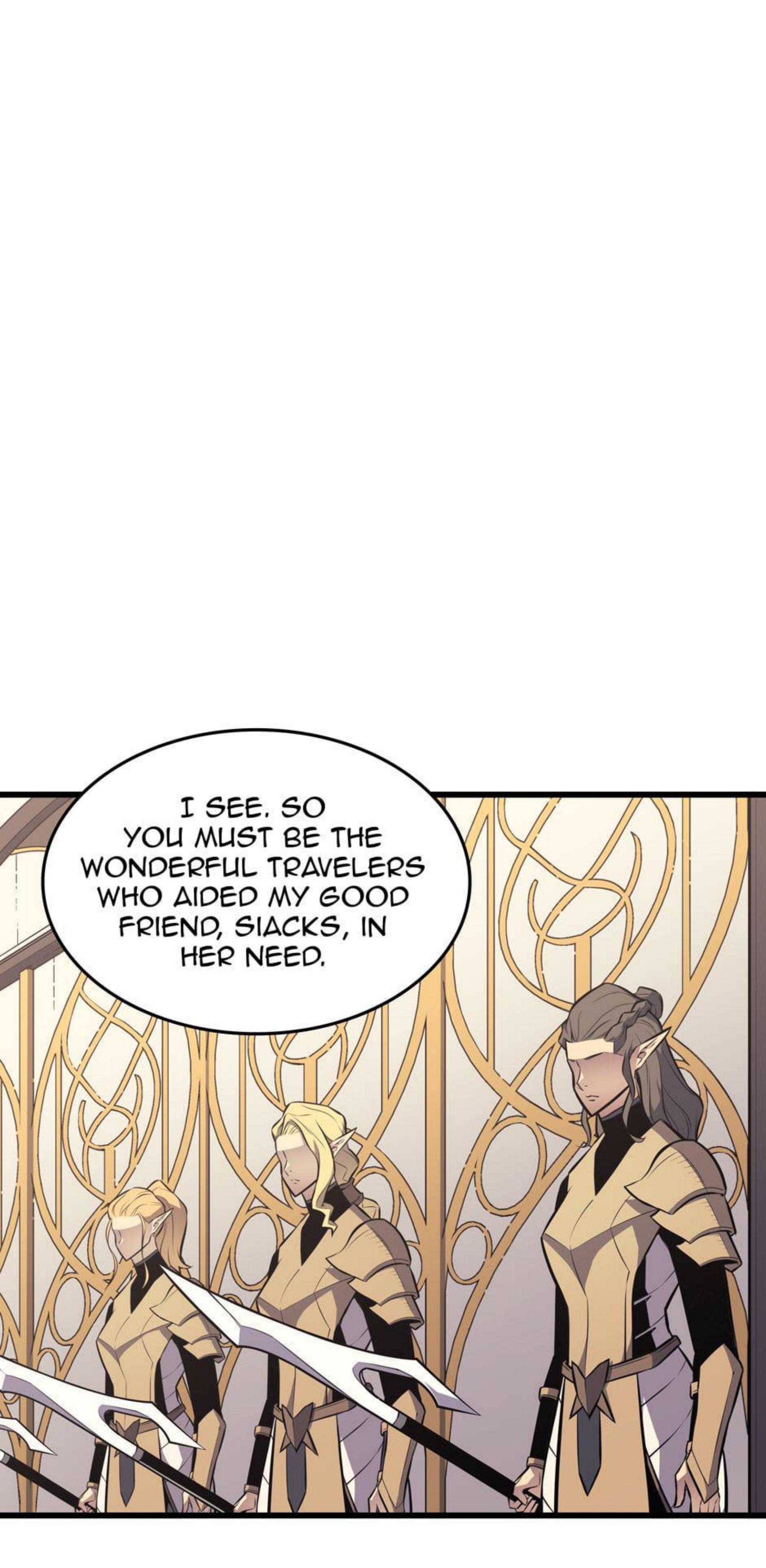
HAHA, DON'T
WORRY TOO MUCH
ABOUT HIM.

THAT GUY IS
A SPITTING IMAGE
OF KASAJIN DOWN
TO HIS BONES.

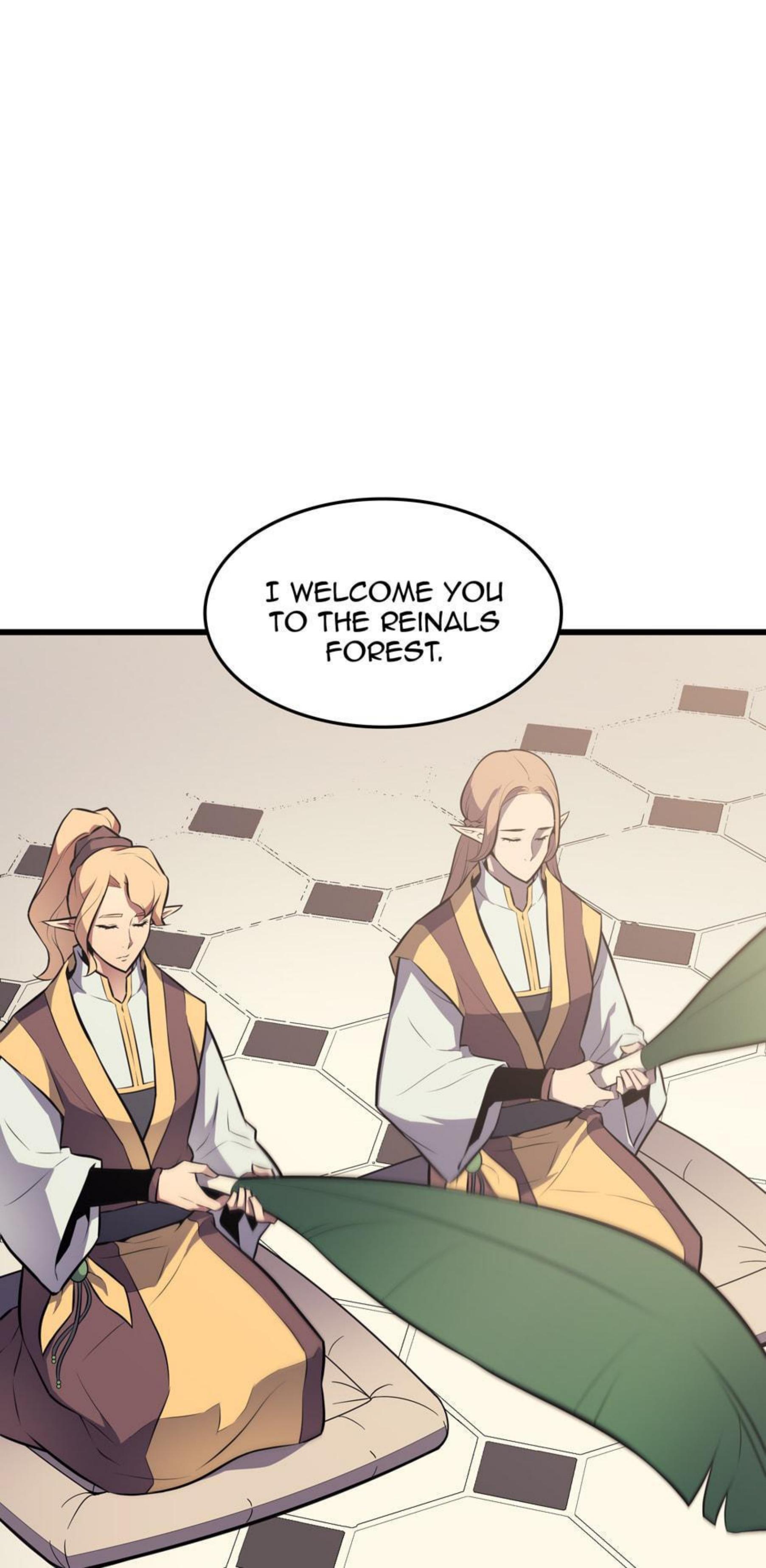
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN BY
THAT...?



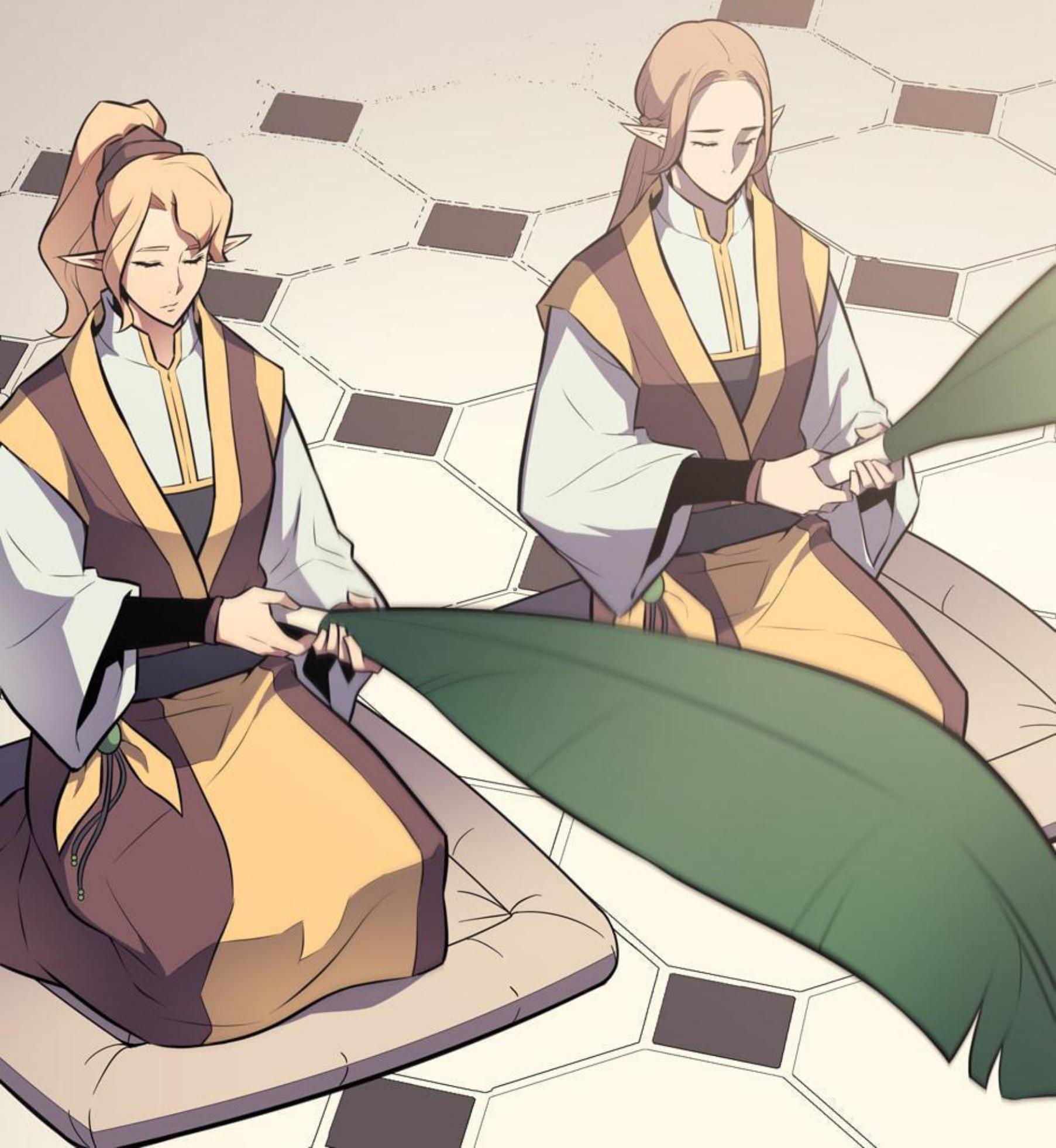
KASAJIN WOULD
OFTEN TELL ME HE
SEES WOMEN THE SAME
WAY HE SEES A STONE, AND YET
EVERY TIME HE STOOD BEFORE A
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, HE WOULD
INSTEAD BE PETRIFIED
LIKE A STATUE.

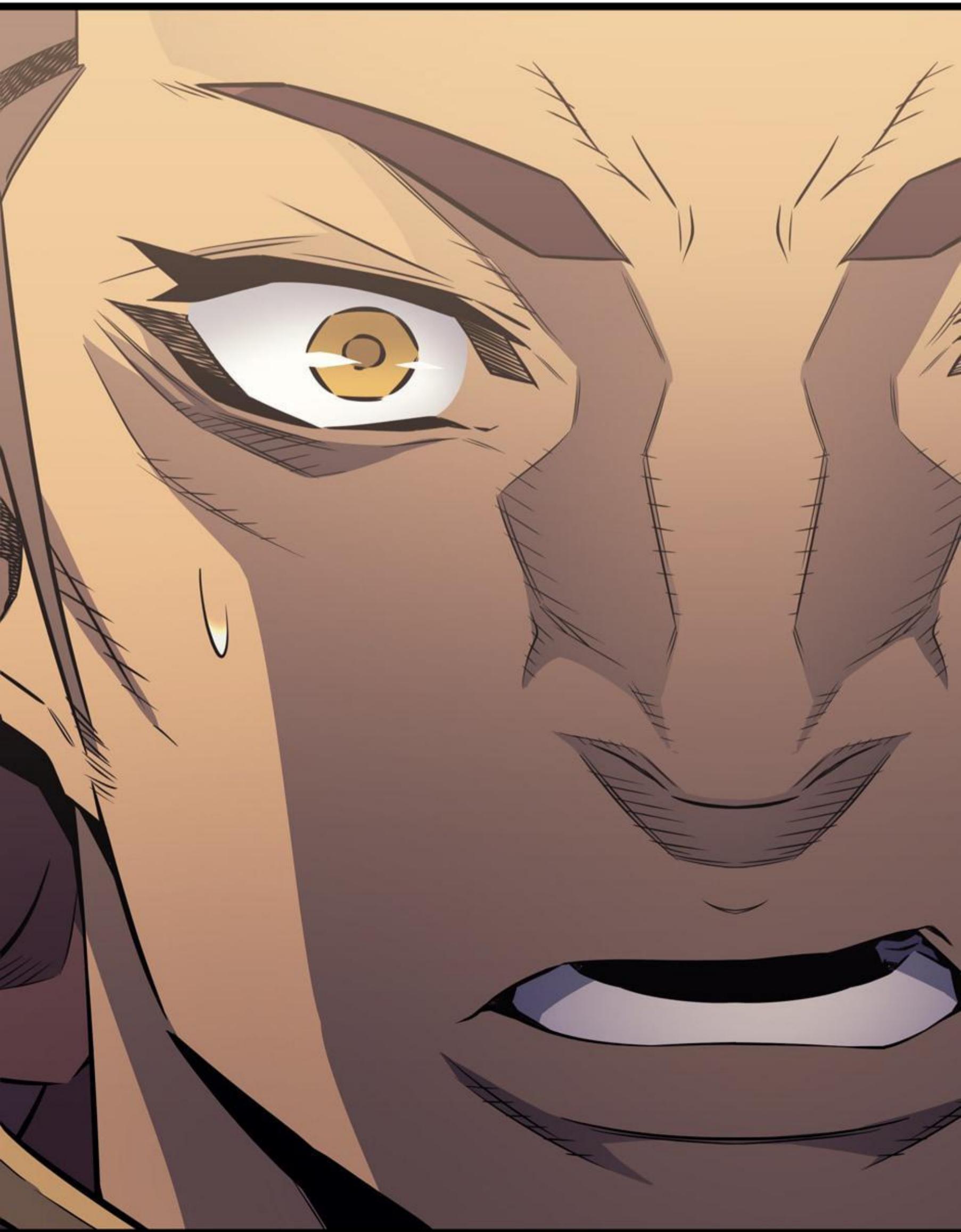


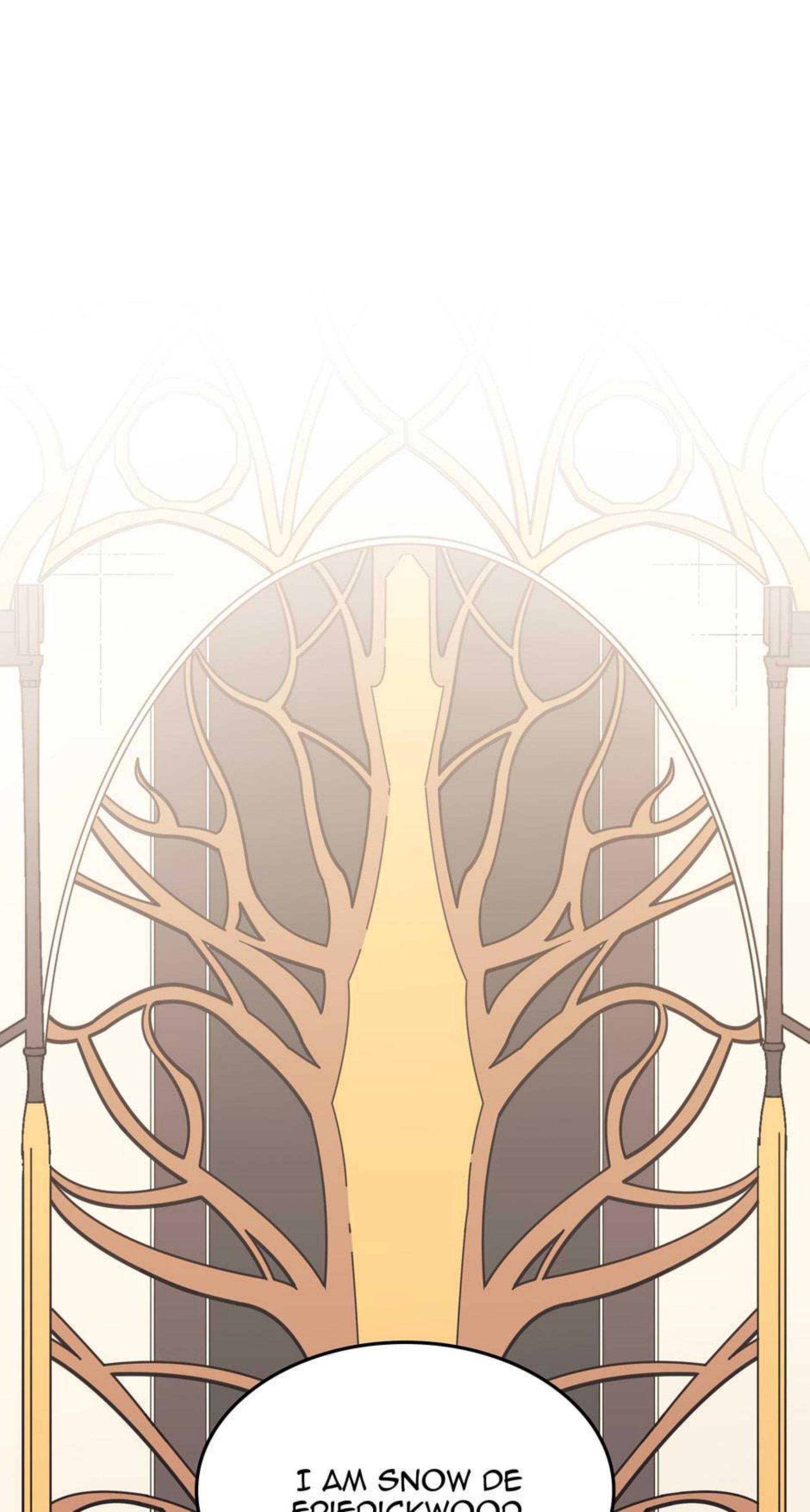
I SEE. SO
YOU MUST BE THE
WONDERFUL TRAVELERS
WHO AIDED MY GOOD
FRIEND, SIACKS, IN
HER NEED.



I WELCOME YOU
TO THE REINALS
FOREST.

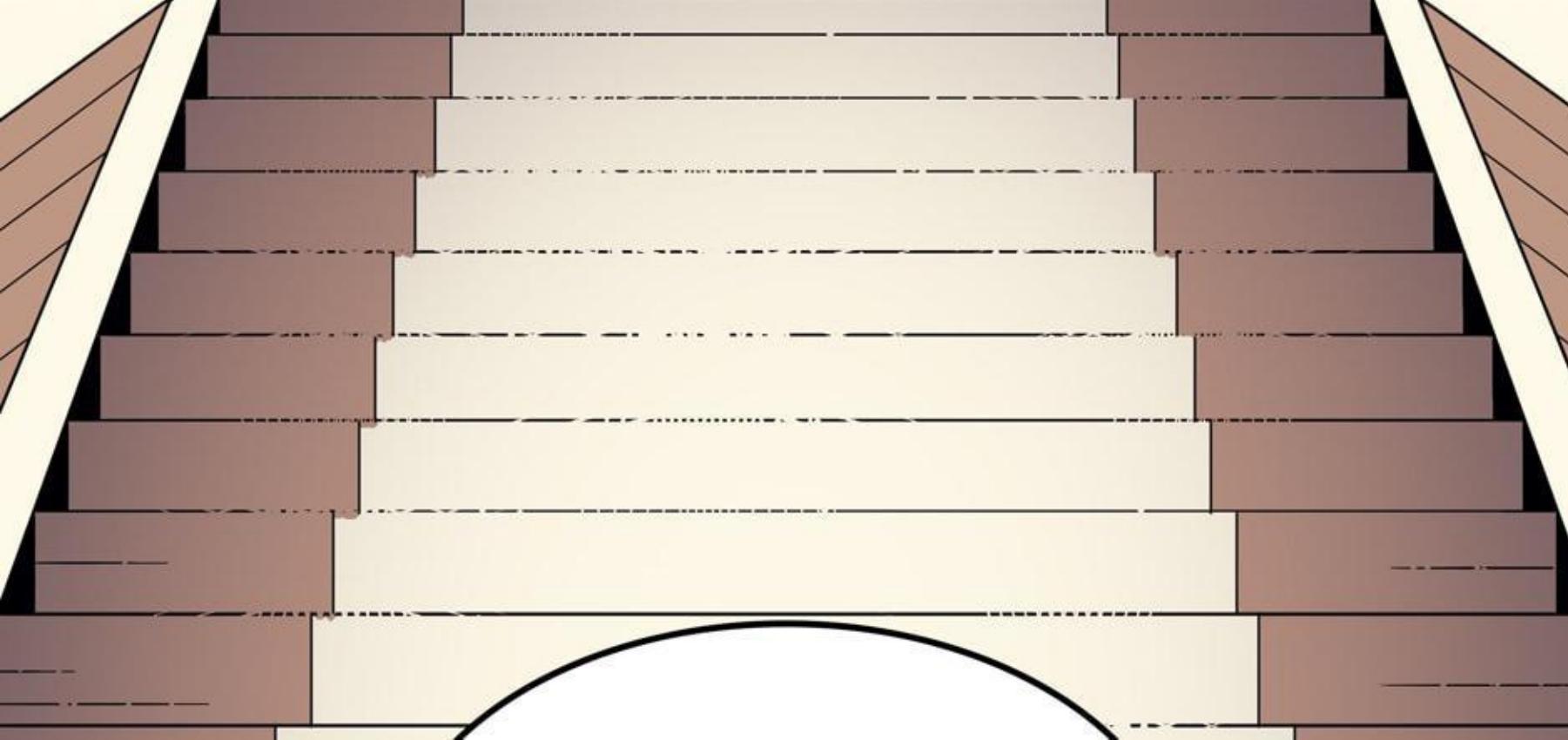
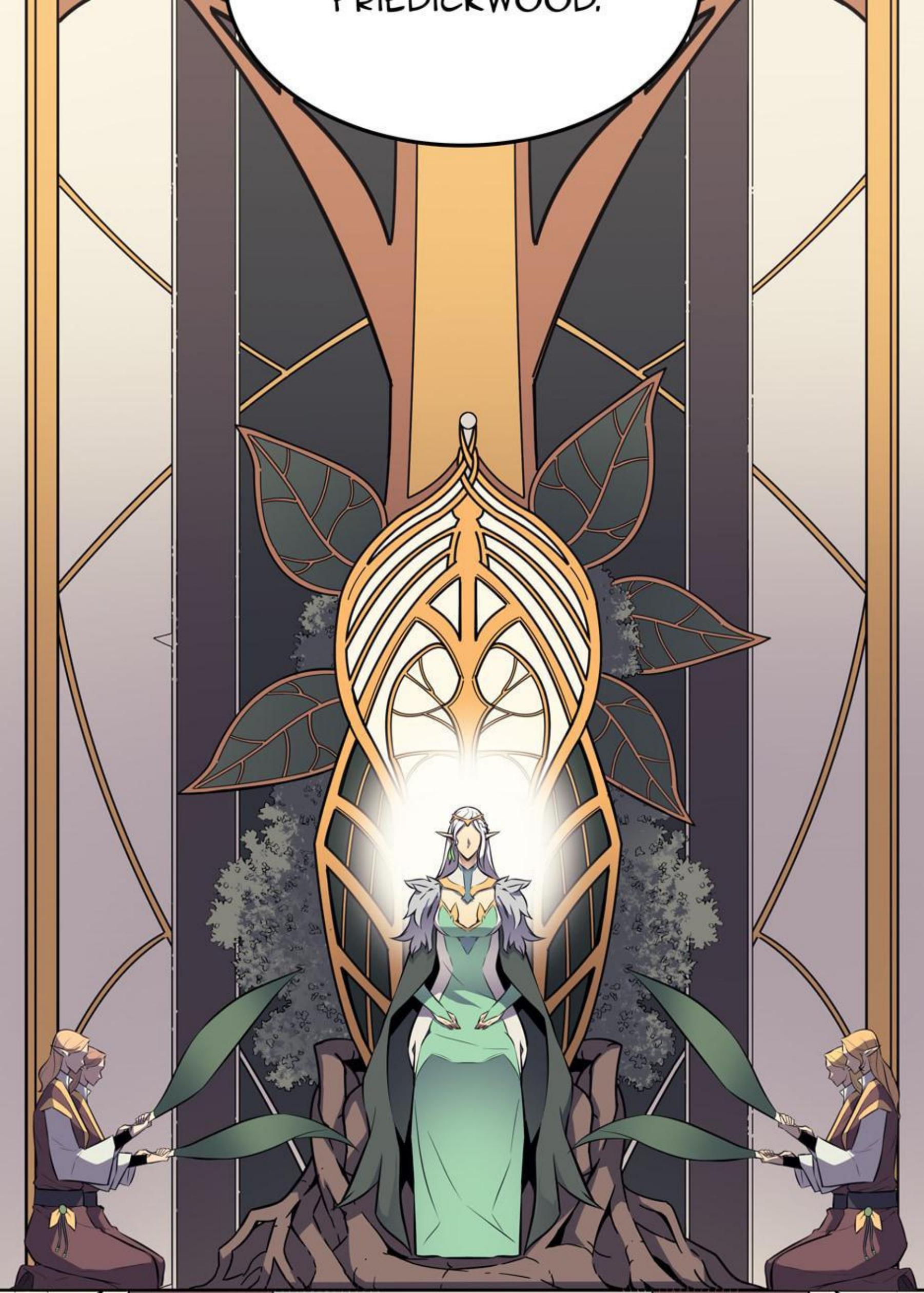






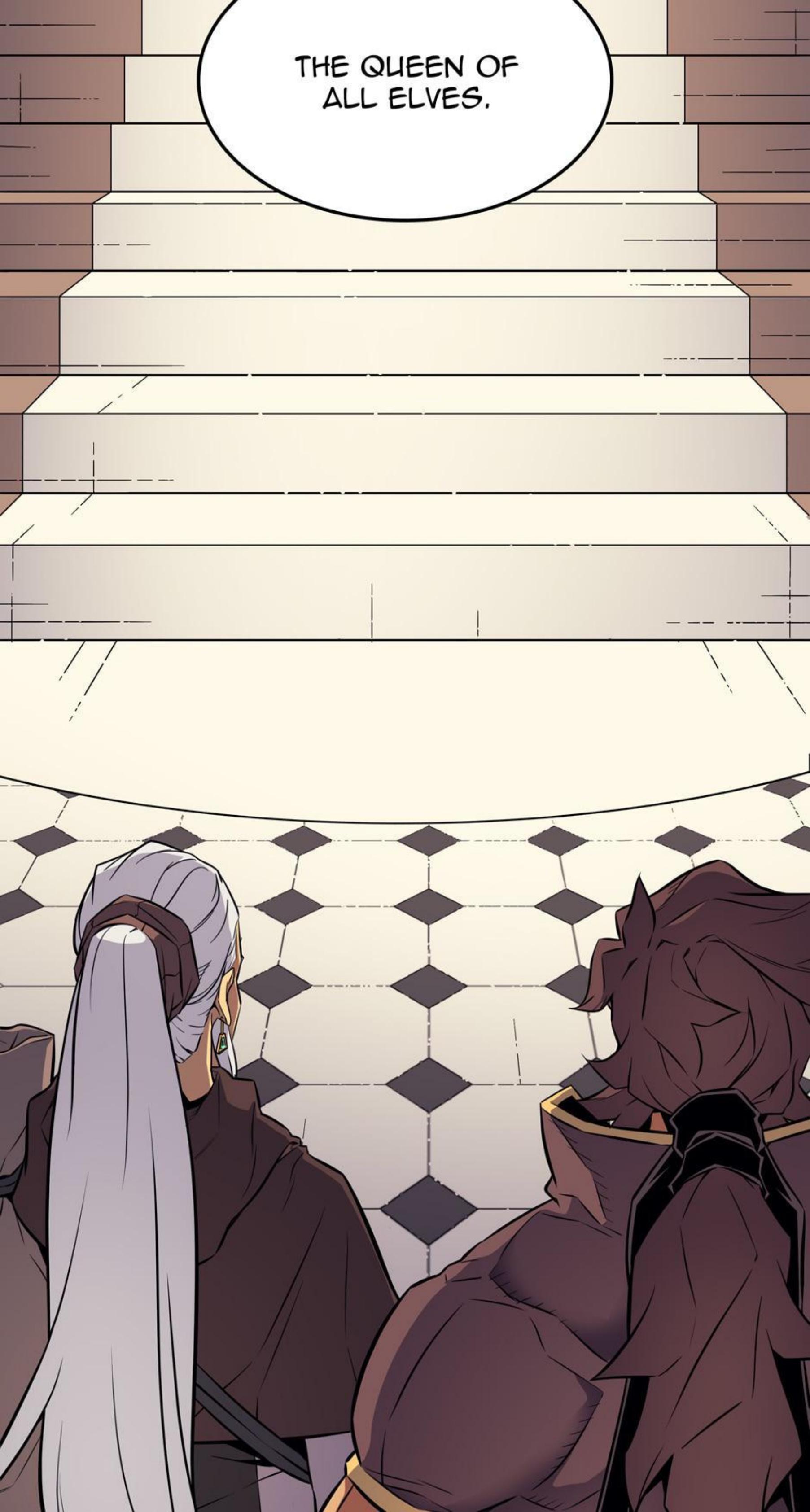
I AM SNOW DE
FRIEDICKWOOD

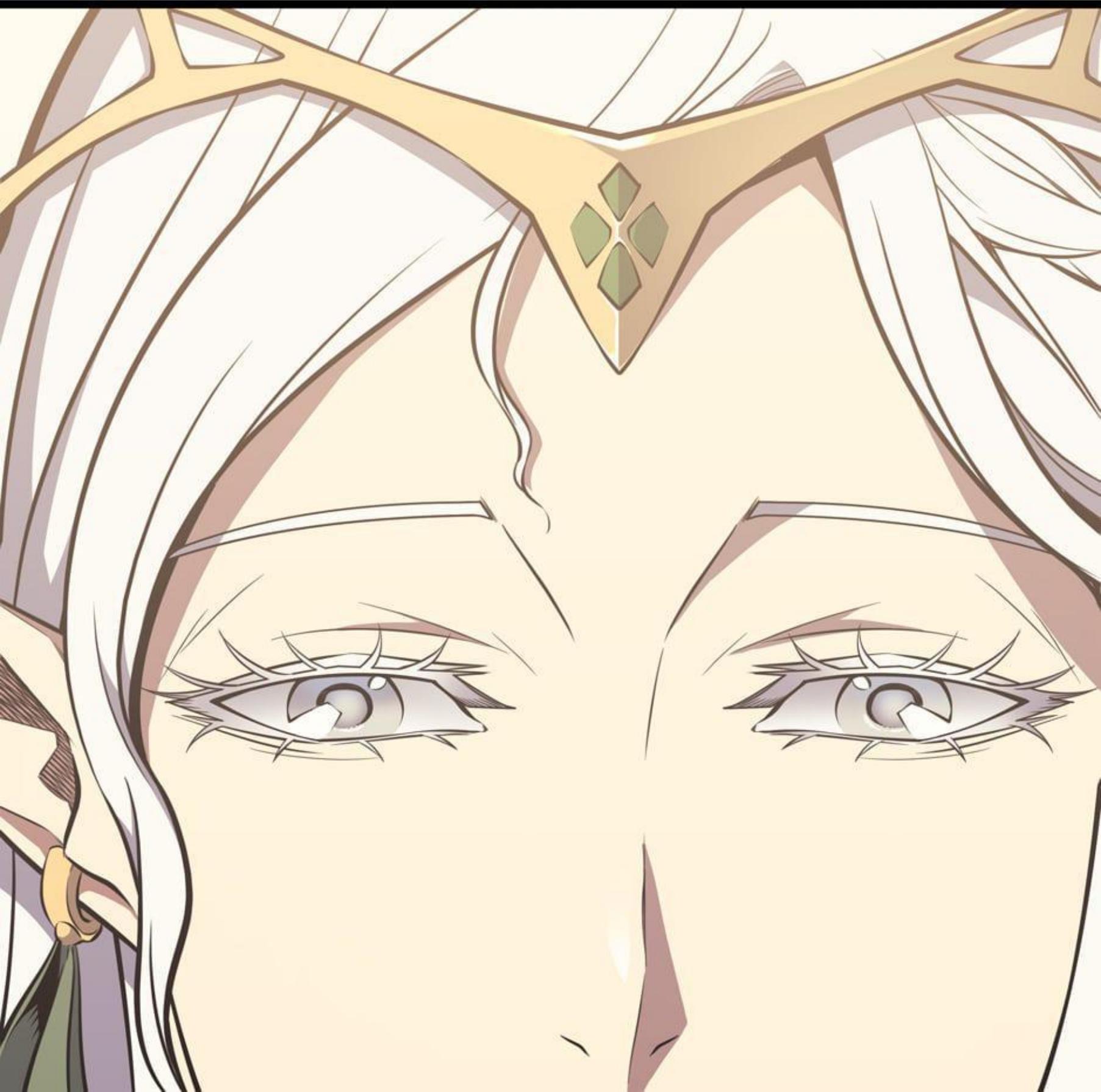
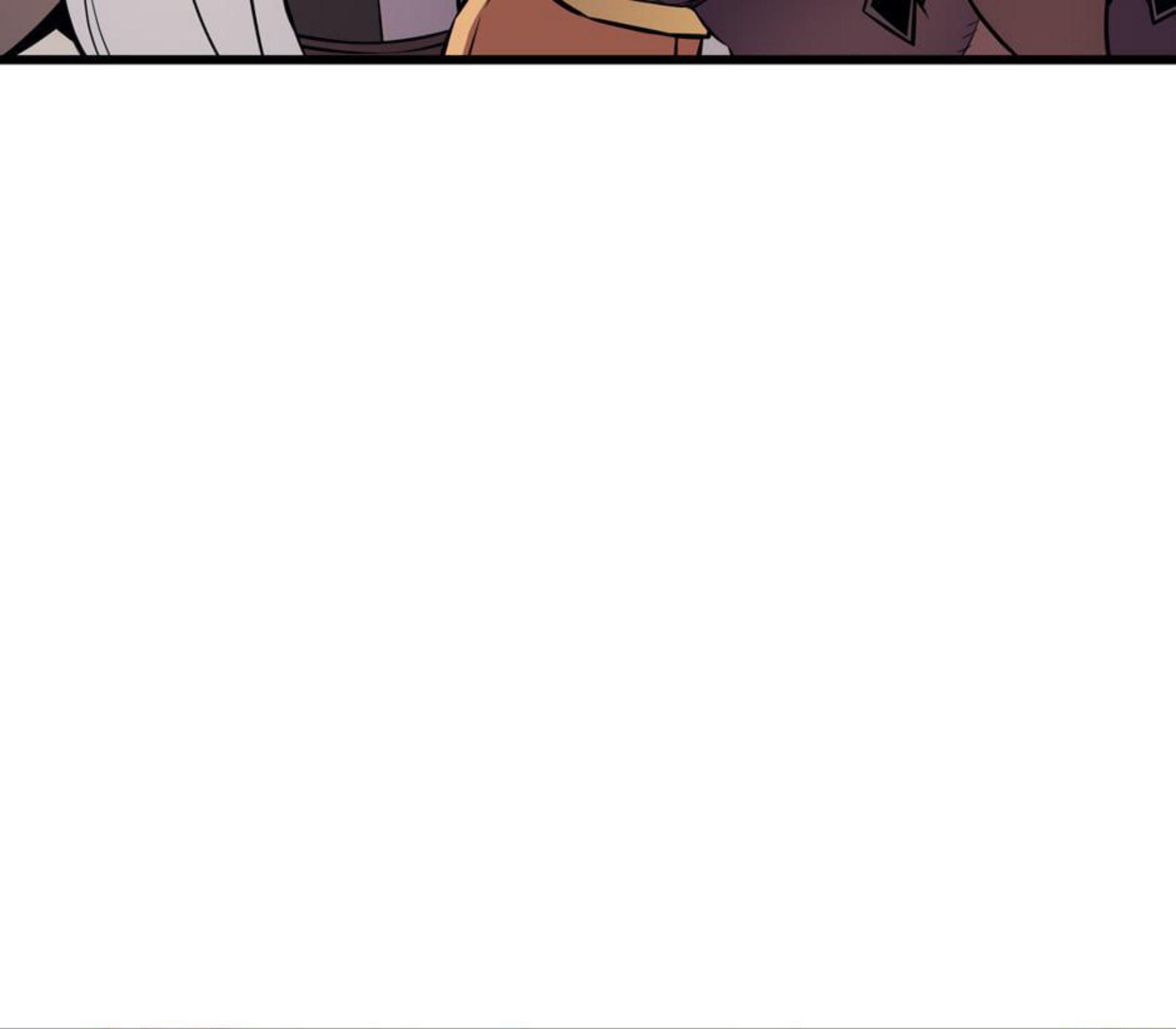
FRIEDICKWOOD.





THE QUEEN OF
ALL ELVES.







GAH...!





SEE? HE'S
COMPLETELY
TURNED TO
STONE.

...