

THE ARCHMAGE

RETURNS AFTER.

40000

YEARS

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~ 39 ~

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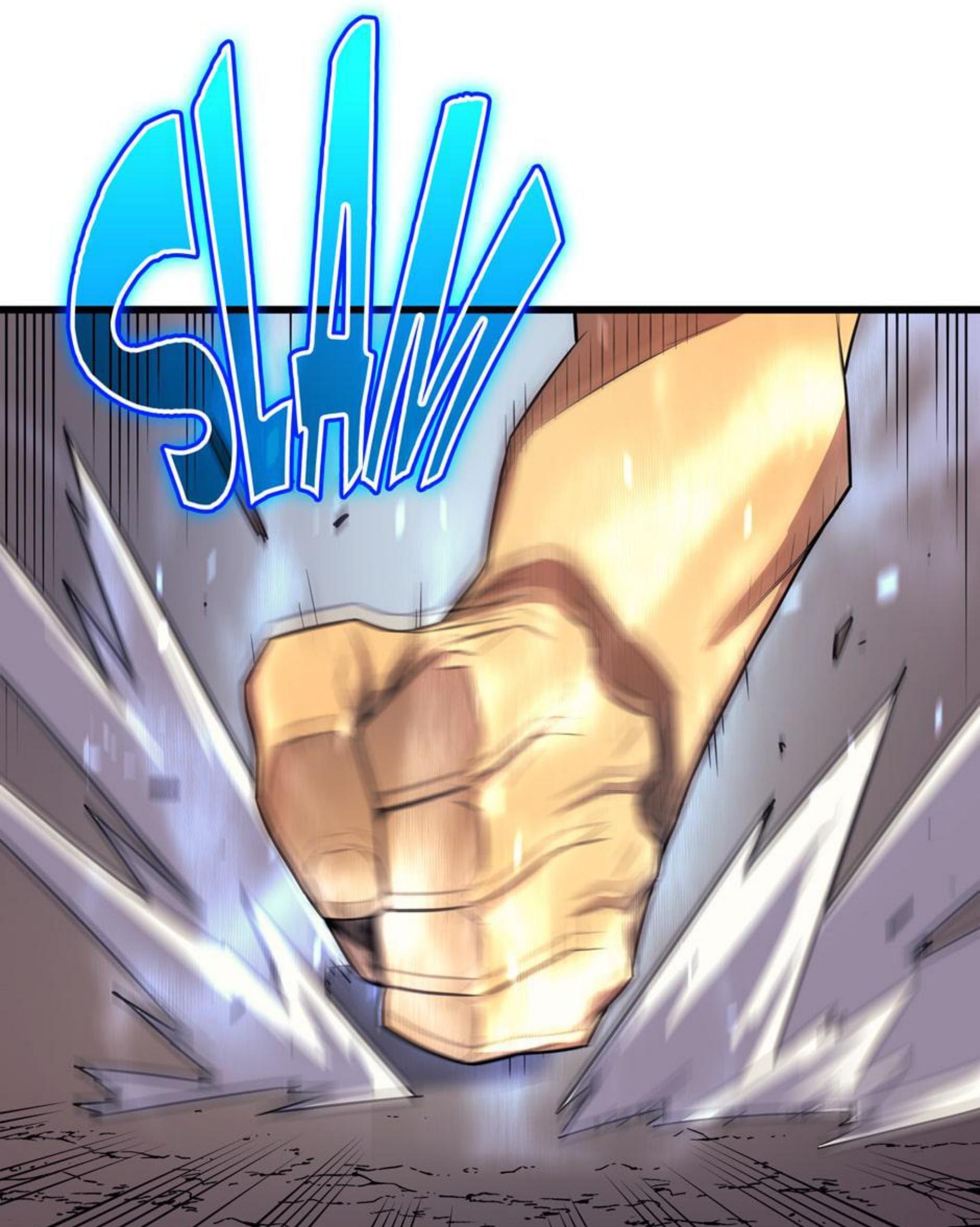
GAHHHHHH!!

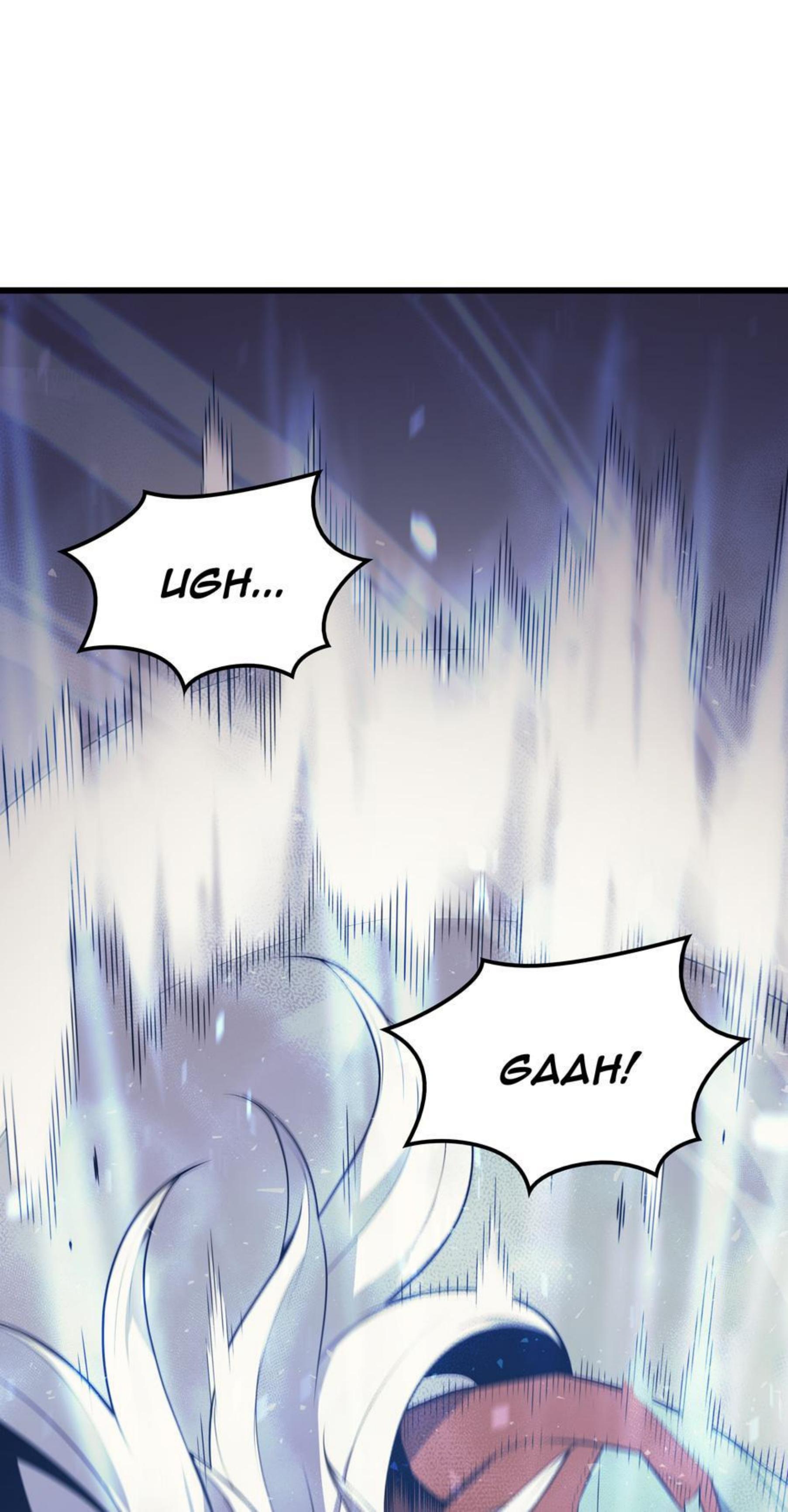
CRICK

CRICK

The image features a massive, three-dimensional text graphic in a bold, blue-outlined font. The text reads "WHASSSSSH!" in a stylized, jagged font. The letters are filled with a bright, glowing blue light that transitions into a dark blue gradient at the edges. Below the text, a character with white hair and a blue robe is surrounded by a circular, glowing energy field with a purple and blue hue. The background consists of dark, radial streaks of light, creating a sense of motion and energy.







UGH...

GAAH!



KWEEEEEH!

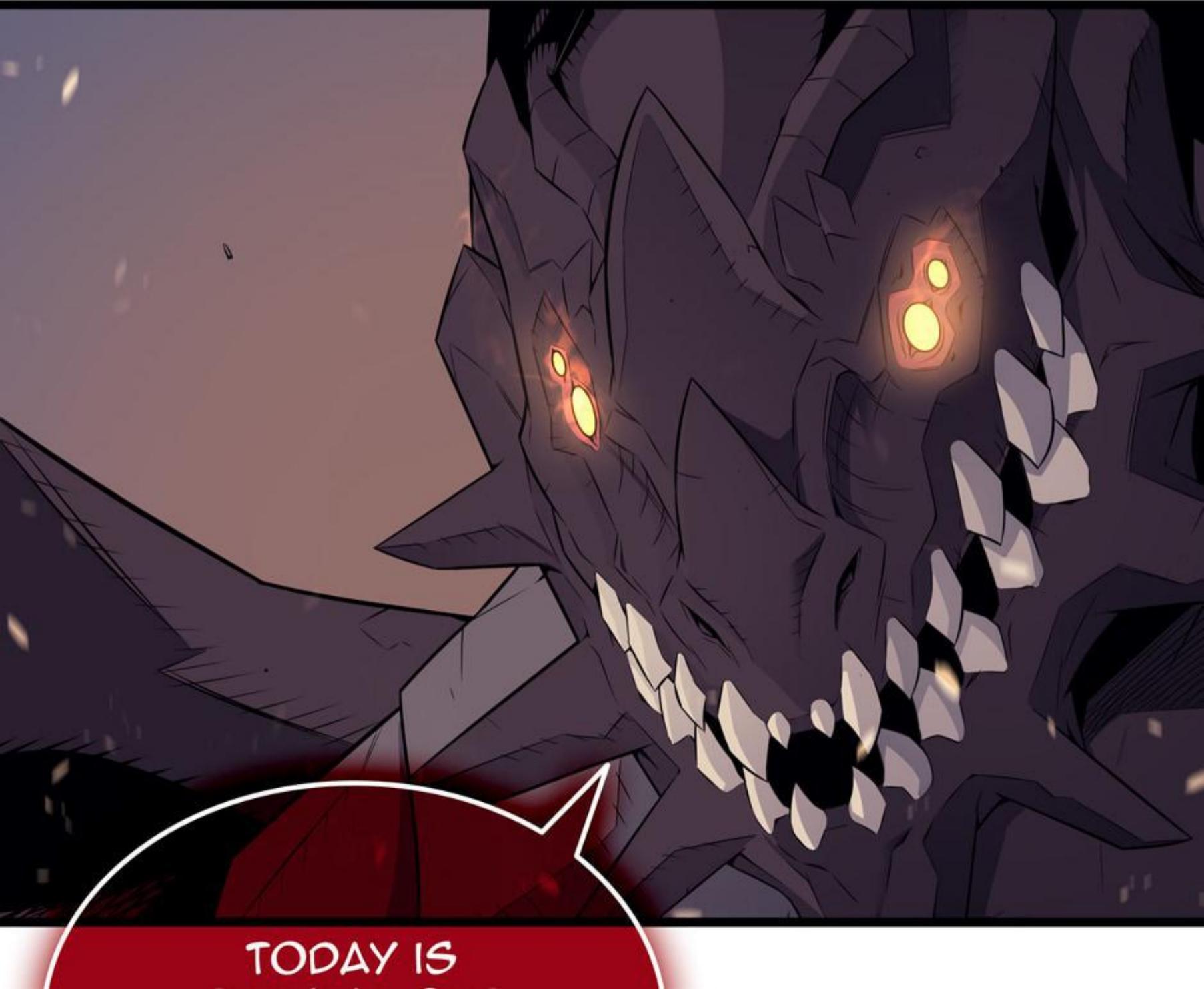


HAHAHA!
I THOUGHT I
RECOGNIZED
YOU...





YOU'RE THE
DIVINE BEAST THAT
GOT AWAY FROM
ME LAST TIME!



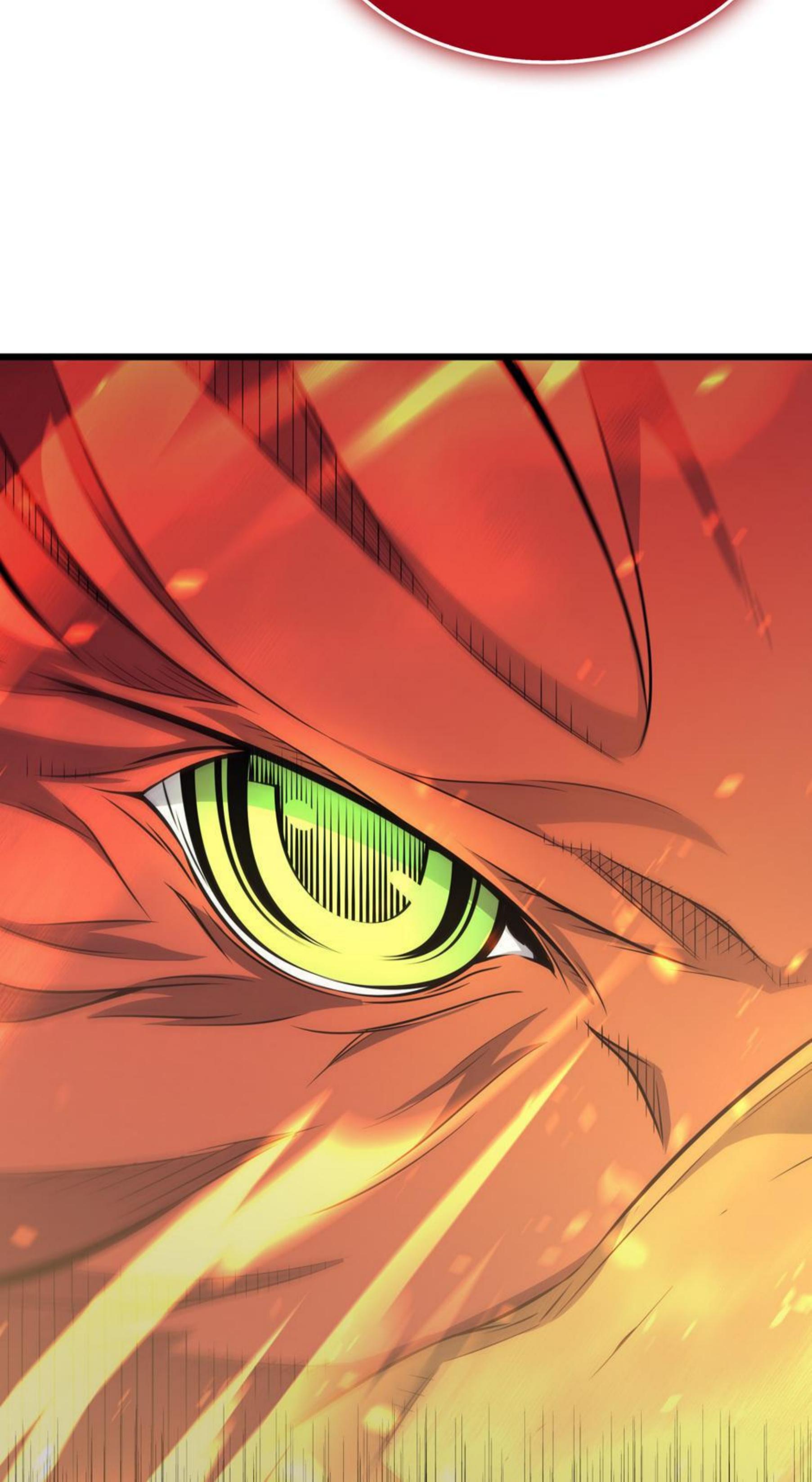
TODAY IS



TURNING OUT
TO BE A GREAT
DAY FOR ME.

THE FOOL
THAT MANAGED
TO RUN AWAY WAS
PRETTY GOOD,

BUT YOUR
NEVERENDING LIFE
FORCE WILL PROVIDE THE
BEST NUTRIENTS
FOR ME!





A PHOENIX, HUH...?



AN ODD
CREATURE
HAS ENTERED
MY DOMAIN.

KWEH.

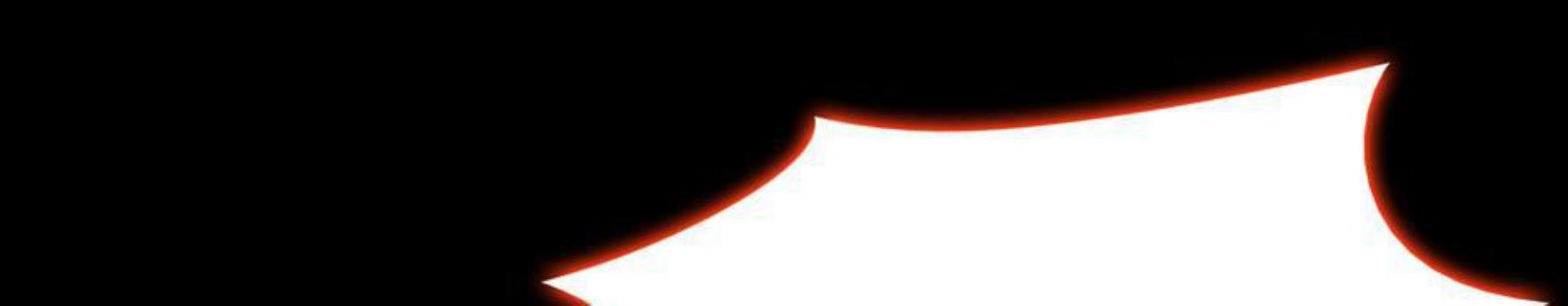
KWEH.



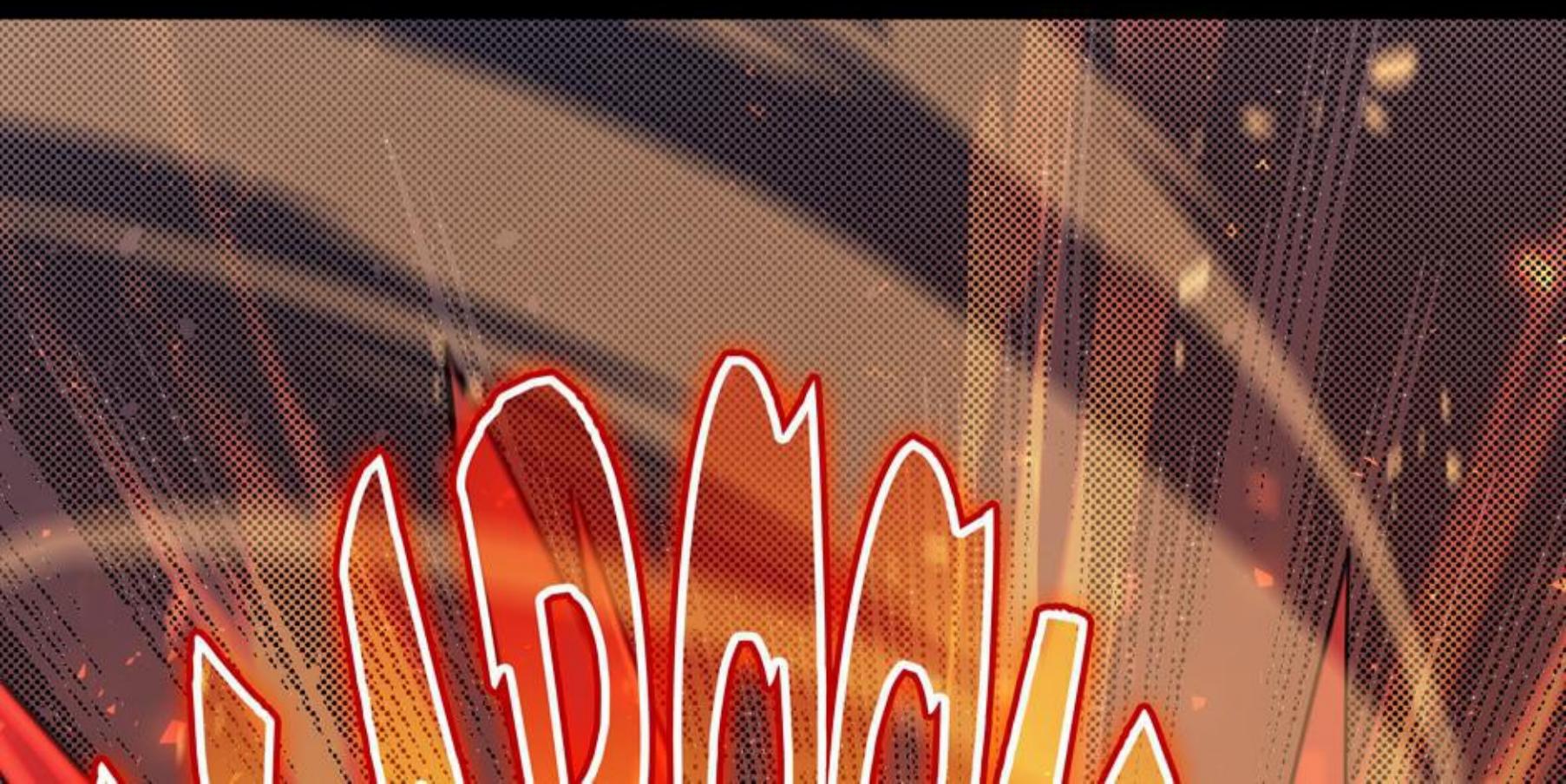
**GIVE UP
AND BECOME MY
NOURISHMENT!**



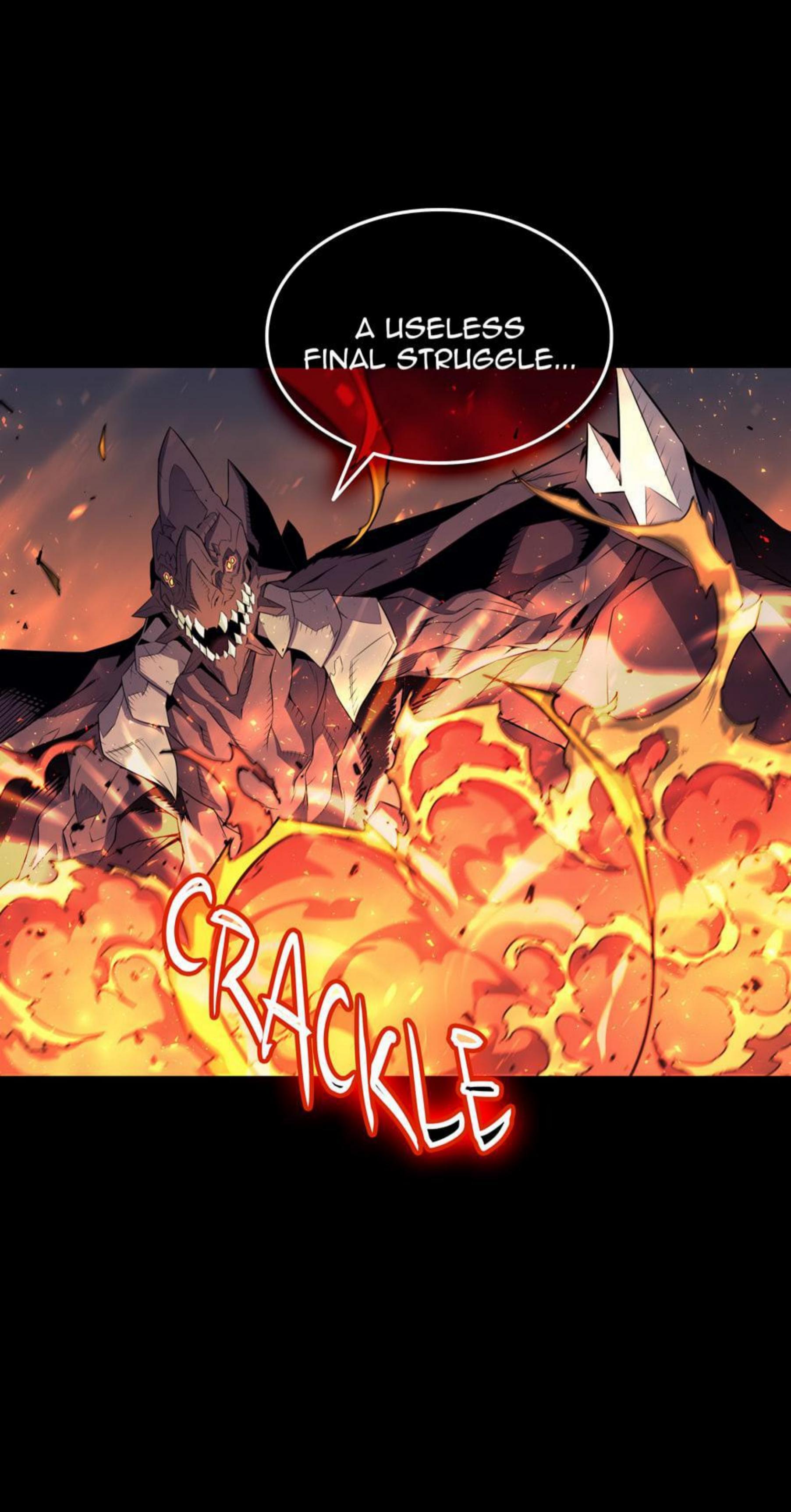
KWEH...



KWEEEEEH!!







A USELESS
FINAL STRUGGLE...

CRACKLE

TCH...

SO IT GOT AWAY.



WELL,
NO MATTER.

THERE'S
NO NEED TO
BE HASTY.

AS LONG AS
YOU'RE IN MT. ESPANIA,
WE'LL RUN INTO EACH
OTHER AGAIN...

FLAP

FLAP

CRASH

CRASH

CRASH





KWEH.



KWEH.



SEEMS YOU
WERE FIGHTING
AGAINST A TERRIBLE
OPPONENT.





KWEH.

KWEH.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

I BELIEVE
I CAN HELP
YOU.





I'M REMINDED
OF A DISTANT
PAST.



YOU REMIND
ME OF AN OLD
FRIEND OF
MINE.





AN
OLD
FRIEND
OF MINE
WAS A
PHOENIX
JUST
LIKE
YOU.
AN

OLD
FRIEND

FRIEND...



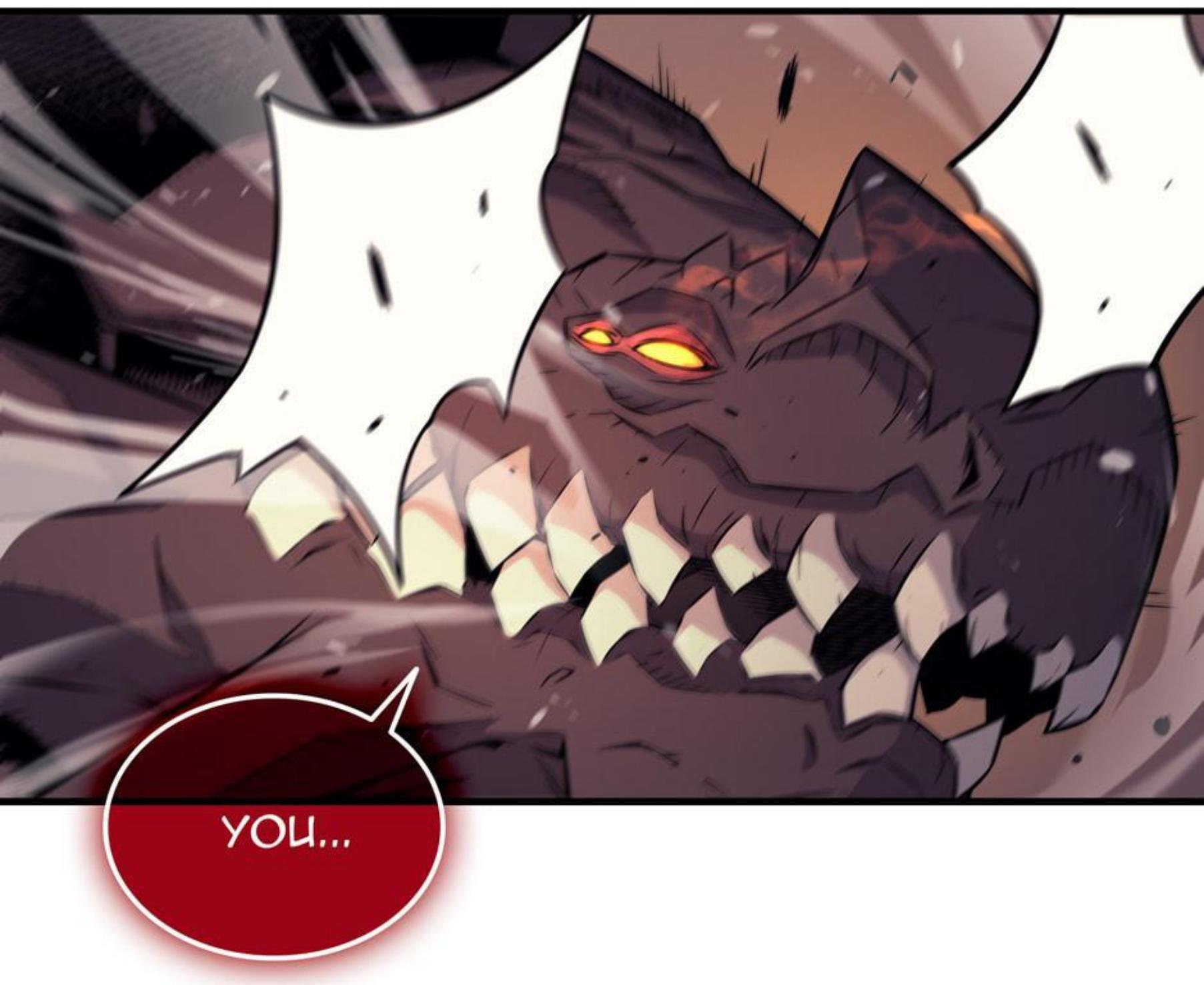




KWEEEEEH!!

SNIKE

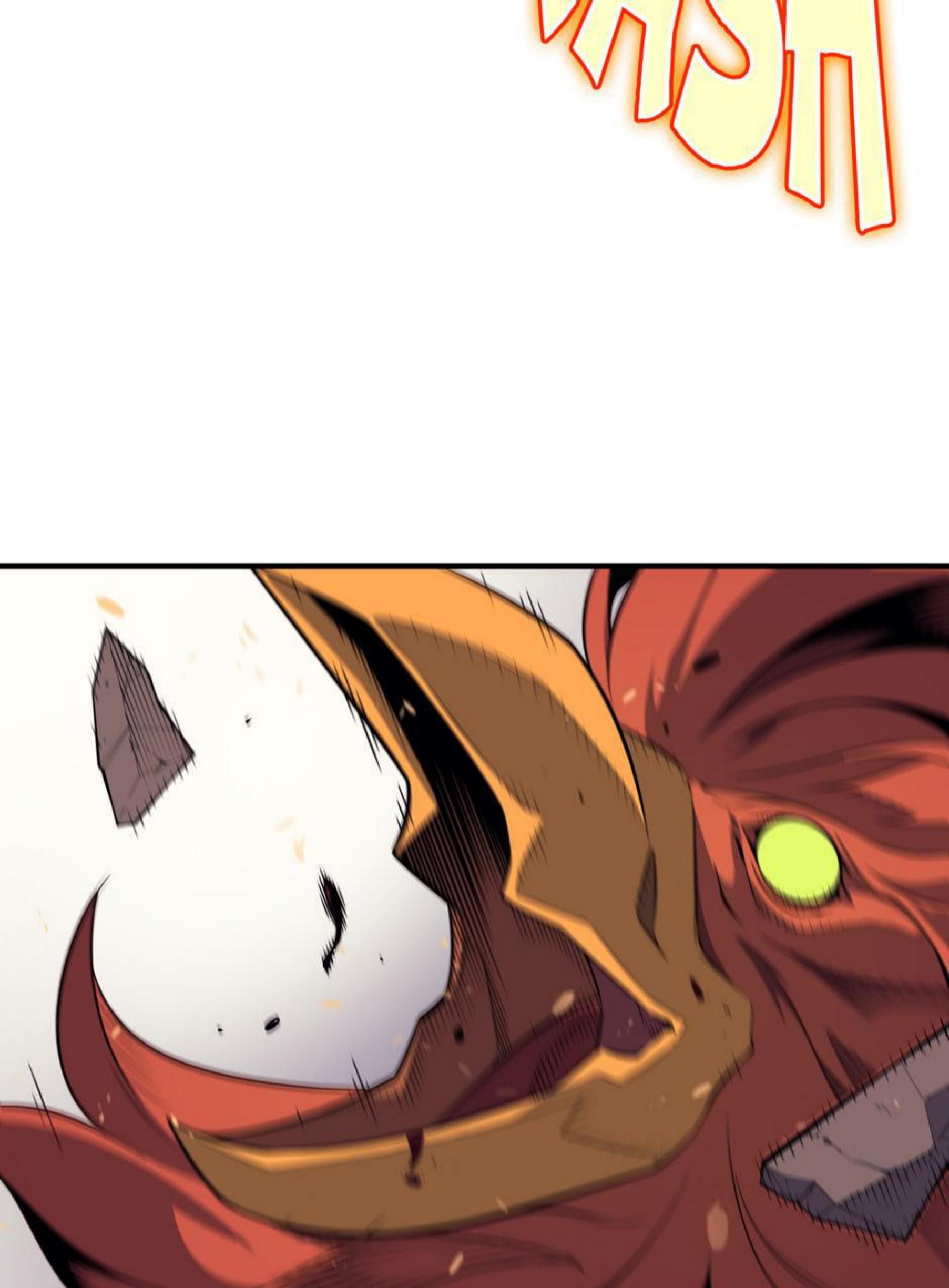
SHE!



SHHH

DAMN INSECT!!

CRACK





CRACK

CRACK

SHIT...

CRACK

SHIT...

SHIT...!

CRACK



I EXPECTED AS MUCH,

BUT TO THINK THE
BURDEN WOULD BE
THIS OVERWHELMING...

SCHEIZER...

*I'M SORRY, IT LOOKS LIKE
I WASTED THIS SECOND
CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK.*



EVERYTHING IS
A DIRECT RESULT
OF MY PRIDE AND
OVERCONFIDENCE...

I'M SORRY,
EVERYONE...

I NO LONGER LACK
THE LIFE FORCE TO DIGEST
ANY MORE OF THIS POWER
THAT'S OVERFLOWING
FROM WITHIN ME.

BUT WAS IT REALLY
MY LIFE FORCE THAT
I WAS LACKING?



**WAS I LACKING
RESOLVE?**

OR MAYBE...

...?

MY LIFE FORCE...
I'M REGAINING
IT SLOWLY,
BIT BY BIT...?

WHAT IS THIS...?
THIS WARMTH ENVELOPING ME...?

RRRRRRRNNNNNHHHHH



STAY AS
YOU ARE.

YOU HAVEN'T
RECOVERED ENOUGH
LIFE FORCE TO
MOVE.



ISABEL...?
HOW DID YOU...?

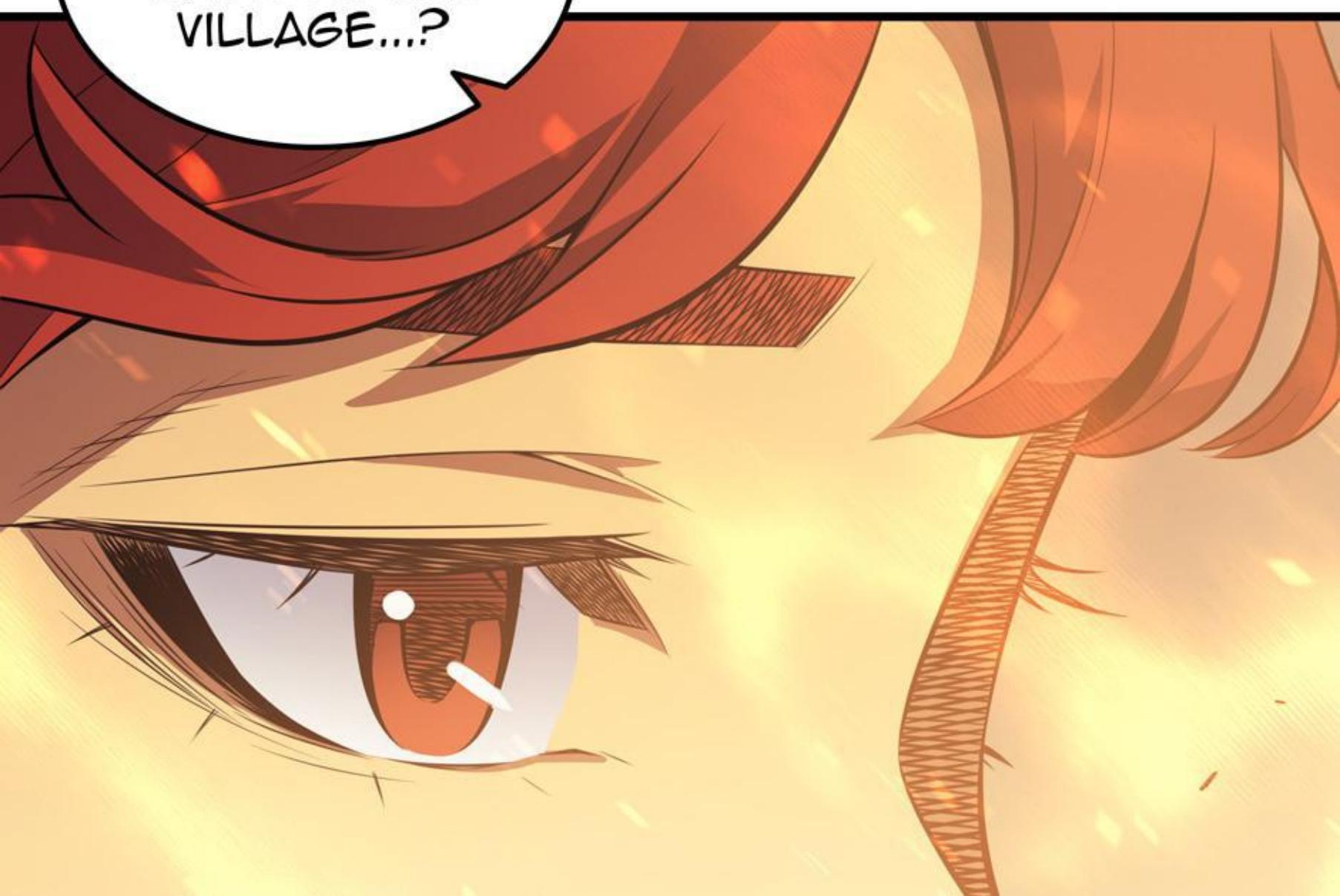
VRRRN



DIDN'T YOU
MENTION THAT YOU'D
NEED FOOD AND WATER
TO COMPLETELY ABSORB
THE POWERS RESIDING
INSIDE THE FROZEN
RIVER?



WAIT...
DID YOU GO
BACK TO THE
VILLAGE...?





EARLIER YOU
SAID THAT YOU ARE
ALL ALONE NOW.

I FINALLY KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE...

**NOW THAT I REALLY AM
ALONE IN THIS WORLD.**



I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT IT
IS THAT YOU ARE TRYING
TO ACCOMPLISH IN
THIS WORLD,

BUT I HAVE
FAITH IN YOU.



YOU ARE THE
ONLY ONE I HAVE
FAITH IN...



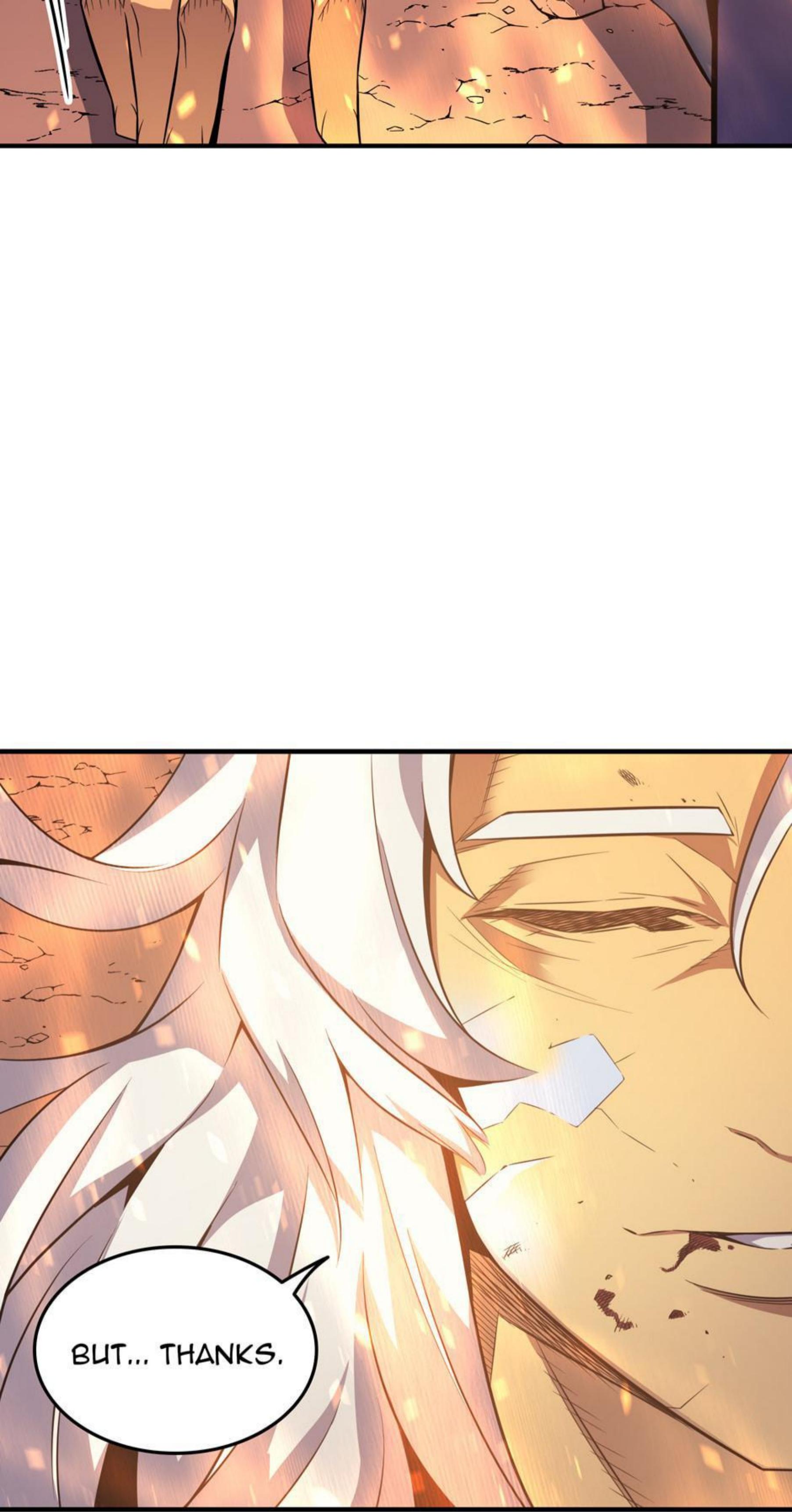
WHICH IS WHY
I'D LIKE YOU TO NO
LONGER BELIEVE THAT
YOU ARE ALL ALONE
IN THIS WORLD.



HEH...

THAT'S RICH
COMING FROM
YOU...

FLINCH



BUT... THANKS.

SCHEIZER...

**I FIGURED OUT WHAT IT
IS THAT I WAS MISSING.**





**THE THING I
WAS LACKING...**





**IT WASN'T RESOLVE
OR DETERMINATION!**



THE THING I WAS LACKING...

WISSSSY

**WAS TRUST IN
MY COMPANIONS!**



