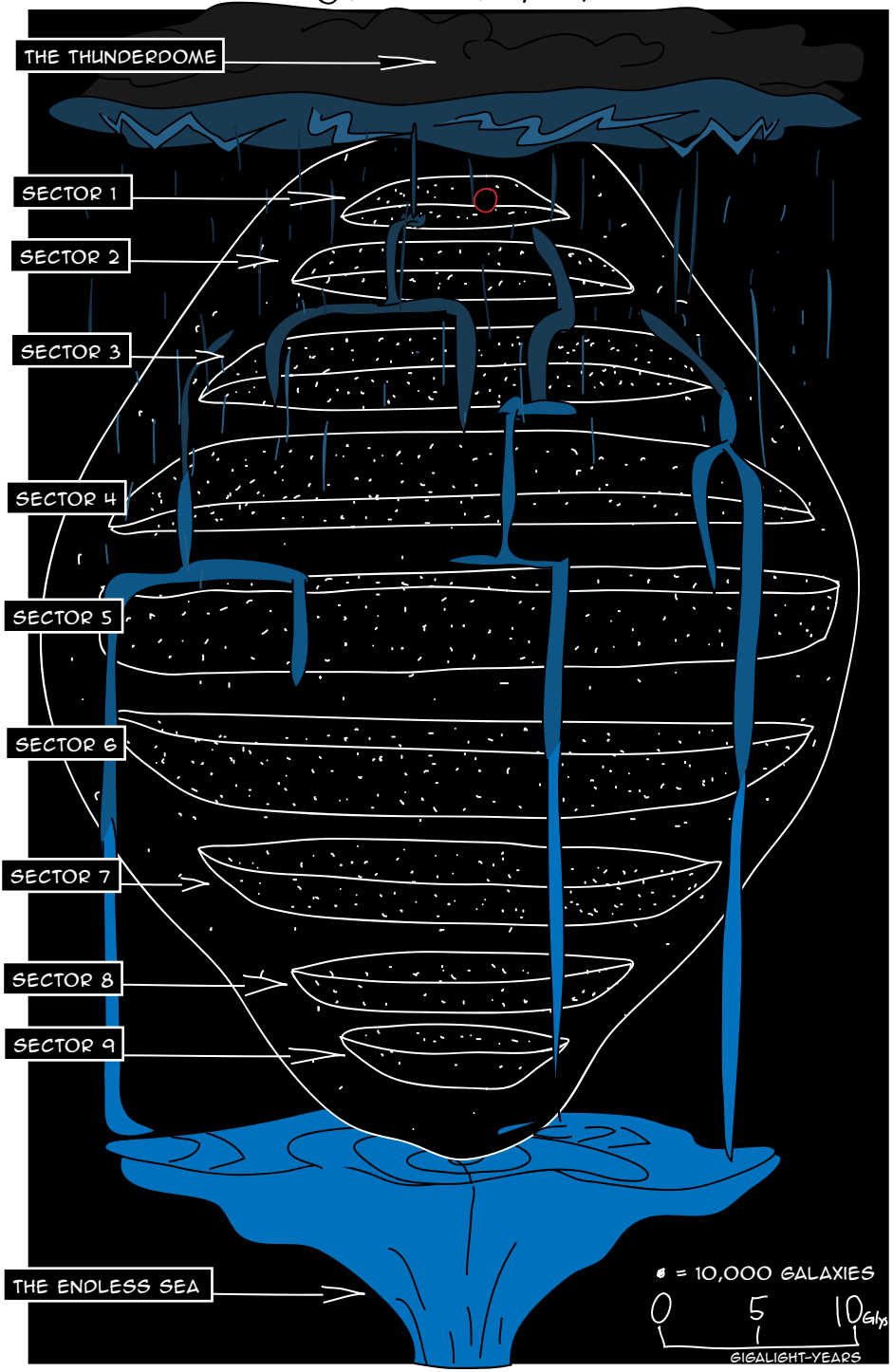
MAP OF CREATION



THE THIRD DIMENSION

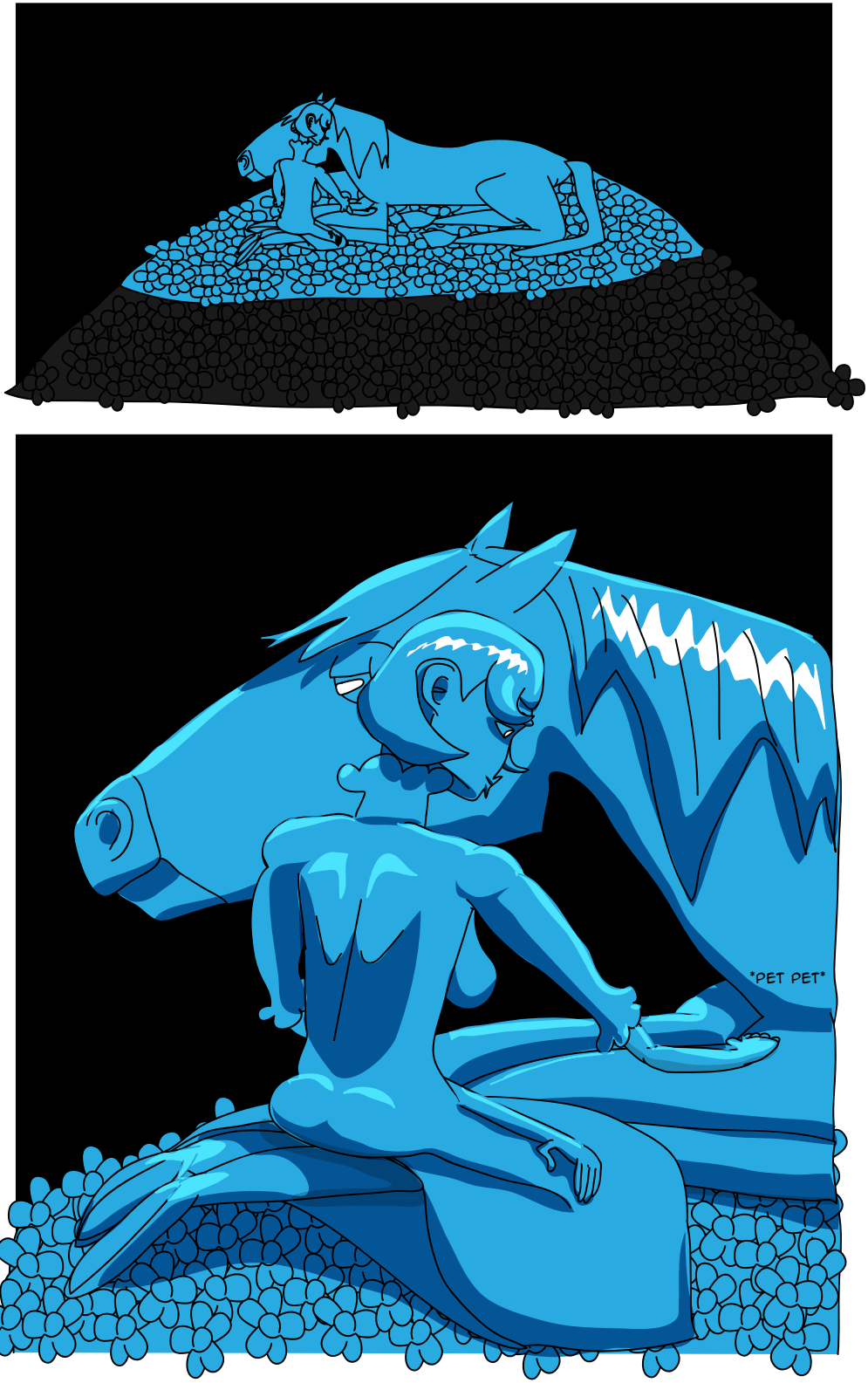
HOSTILE PLANETS THAT WOULDN'T EASILY SUPPORT MORTAL LIFE FIND THEMSELVES PERFECT CANDIDATES FOR THE LOCATION OF A MEGACITY.

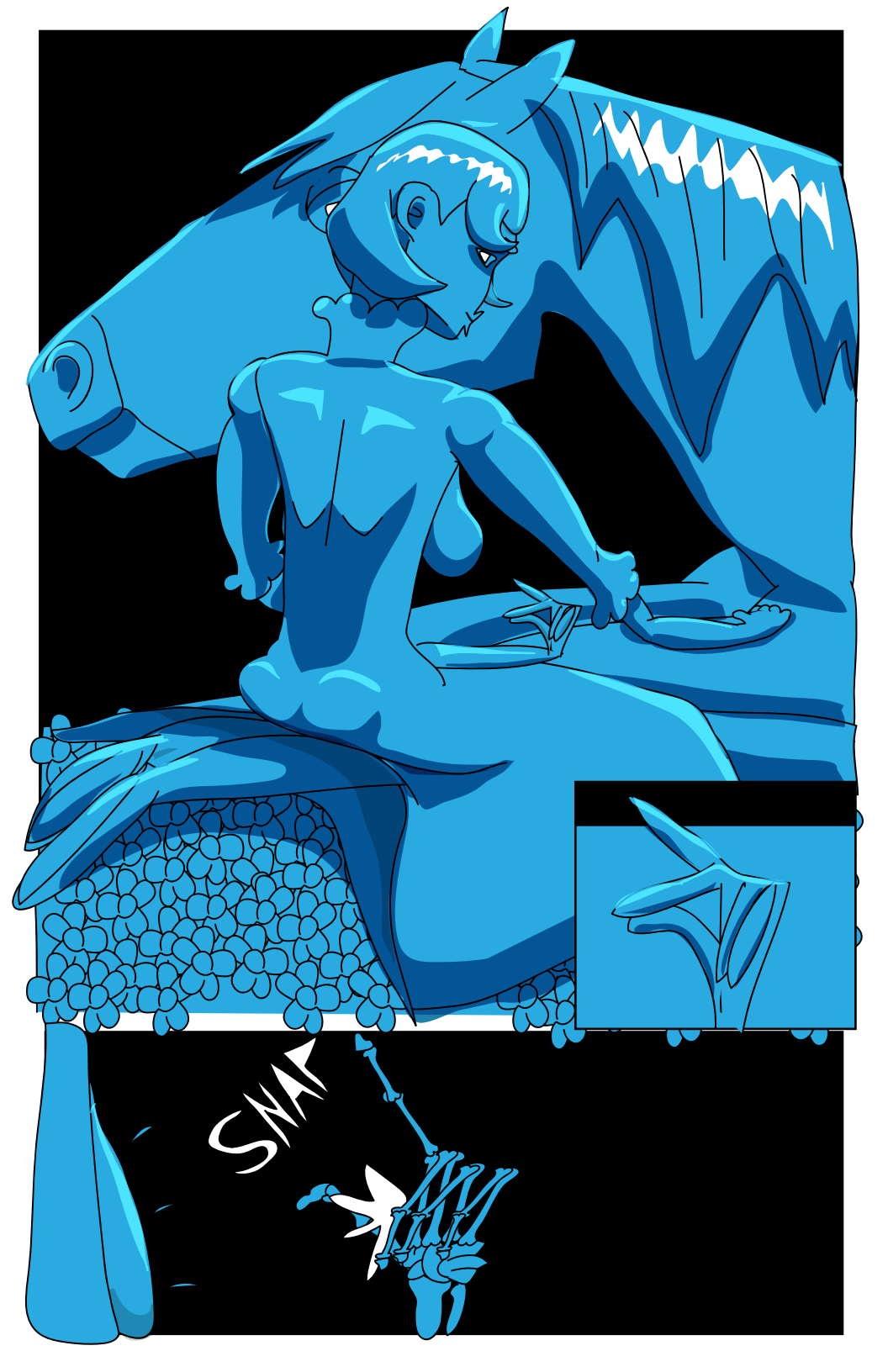
SURVIVORS OF A DEMONIC INCURSION OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES IN THESE CRAMPED MEGACITIES, TUCKED AWAY ON DEAD PLANETS. IT'S NOT THE BEST LIFE, BUT IT IS A LIFE.



THESE MEGACITIES CAN COMFORTABLY HOLD TWO TO THREE BILLION PEOPLE; BUT, POPULATIONS AS HIGH AS FIVE AND SIX BILLION ARE OFTEN REPORTED. SOME HAVE EVEN GONE AS HIGH AS TEN BILLION. MULTIPLE DOMES AREN'T OFTEN USED ON A SINGLE PLANET TO PRESERVE ITS DEFENSIVE PROPERTIES. SO THEY SQUEEZE TOGETHER, HIDING FROM THE DEMONIC THREAT.

IN THEORY, BEING SO FAR REMOVED FROM THE ORDINARY ROUTES LIFE TAKES, THESE MEGACITIES ARE SAFER THAN TRADITIONAL PLANETS FOR MORTAL LIFE. THAT IS, UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY A THEORY.


PET PET

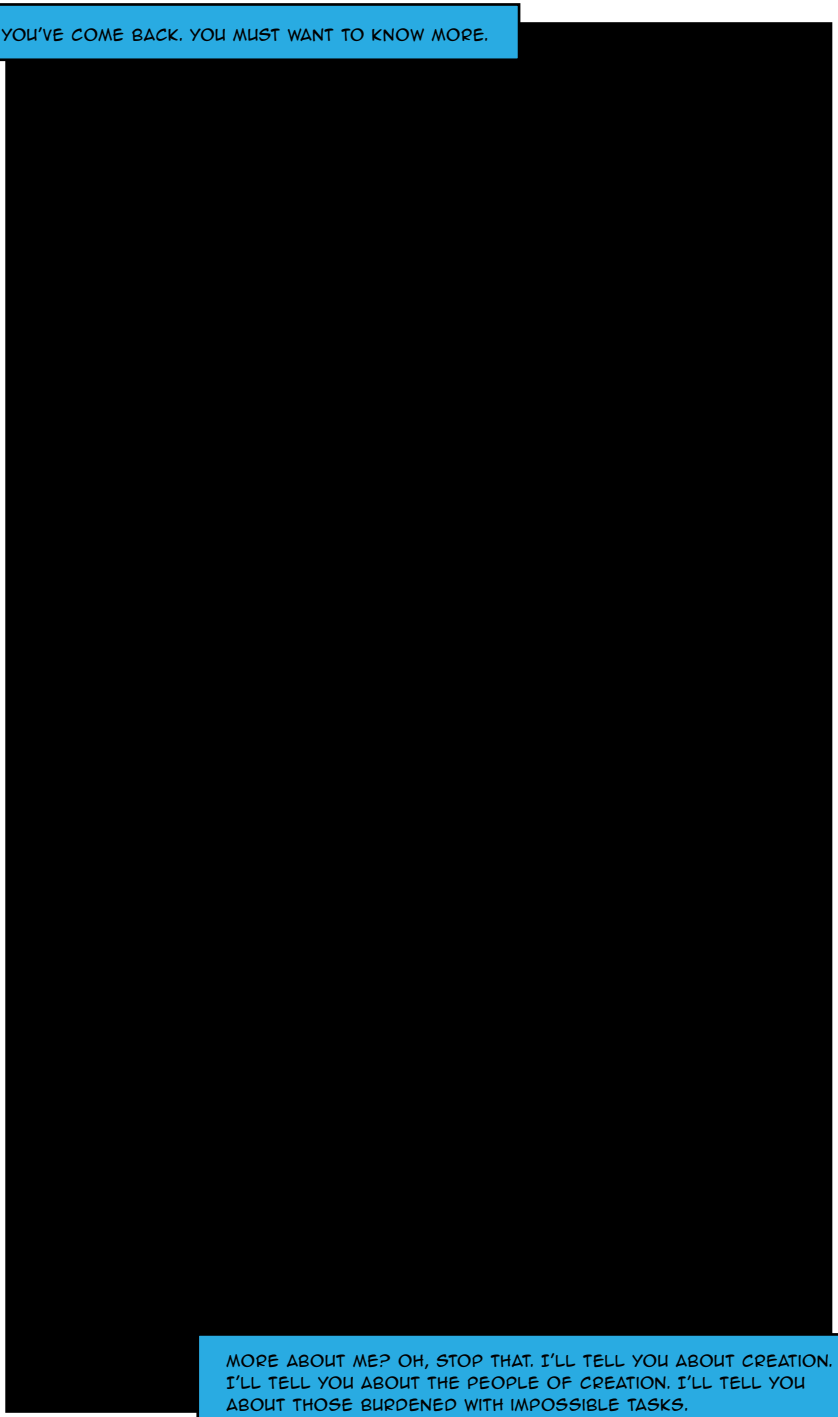

SNAP

...

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME TROUBLE NAVIGATING HERE FOR A WHILE.

JUST COME HERE.
COME TOWARDS THE SOUND OF MY VOICE.
COME TOWARDS THE CURVES OF MY LETTERING.

YOU'VE COME BACK. YOU MUST WANT TO KNOW MORE.



MORE ABOUT ME? OH, STOP THAT. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT CREATION. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF CREATION. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THOSE BURDENED WITH IMPOSSIBLE TASKS.


THERE ARE PRINCESSES ALL ACROSS THE UNIVERSE. THEY APPEAR IN MANY CULTURES AND WORLDS. YOU FIND THAT ON THE MAJORITY OF THESE WORLDS A PRINCESS DOES NOT DO MUCH.
SNAP
THIS IS NOT THE CASE FOR STARBORN ROYALTY. TO BE A STARBORN PRINCESS IS TO BE A LEADER, A WARRIOR, A DIPLOMAT, AND MUCH MORE. TO BE A PRINCESS IS TO BE BURDENED WITH RESPONSIBILITY.

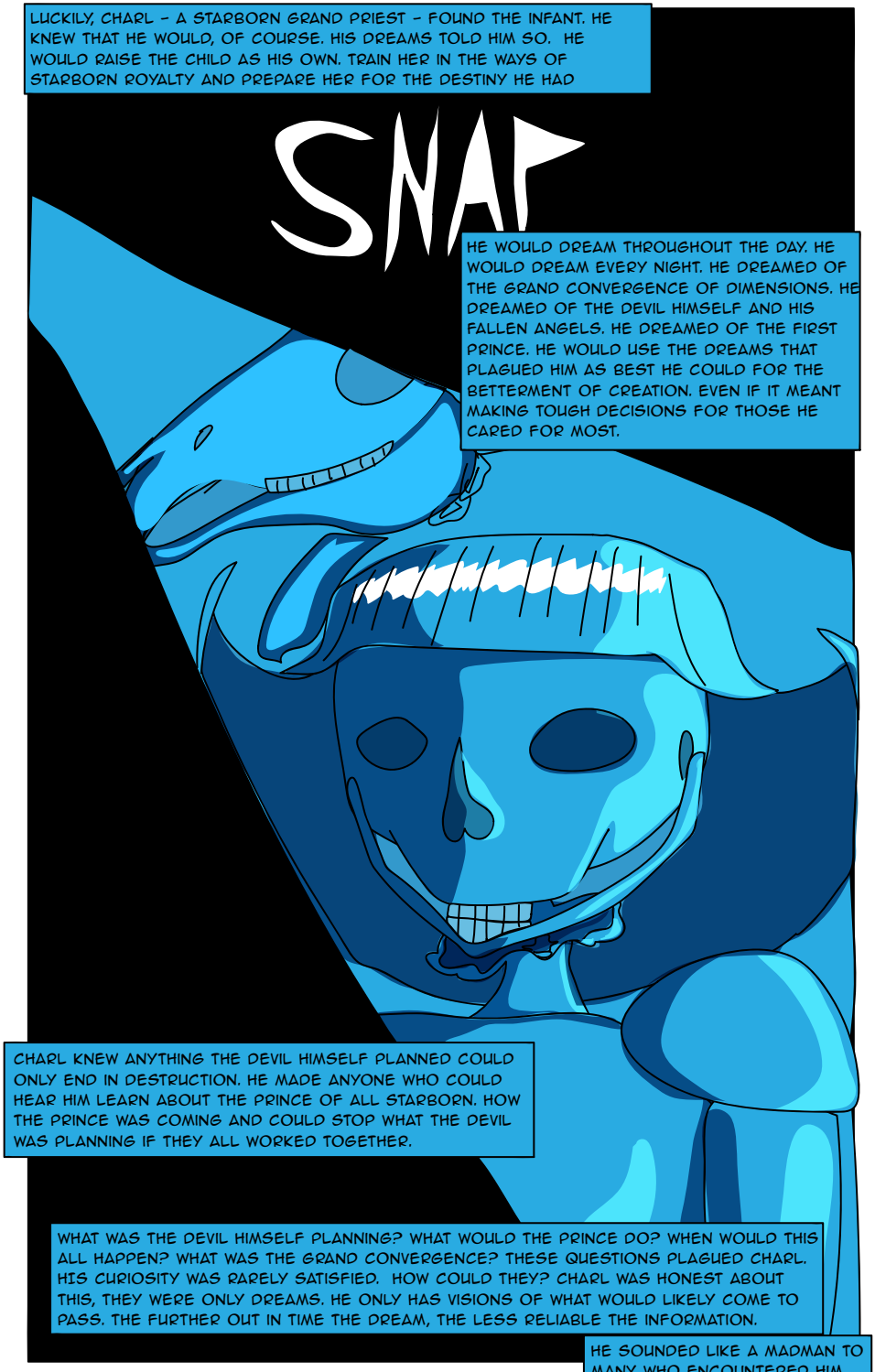
THERE HAVE BEEN STARBORN PRINCESSES SINCE AT LEAST THE FIRST THOUSAND YEARS OF THE WAR. THEIR POWER IS UNMATCHED BY MOST STARBORN, BUT THEY ARE NOT PLENTIFUL.

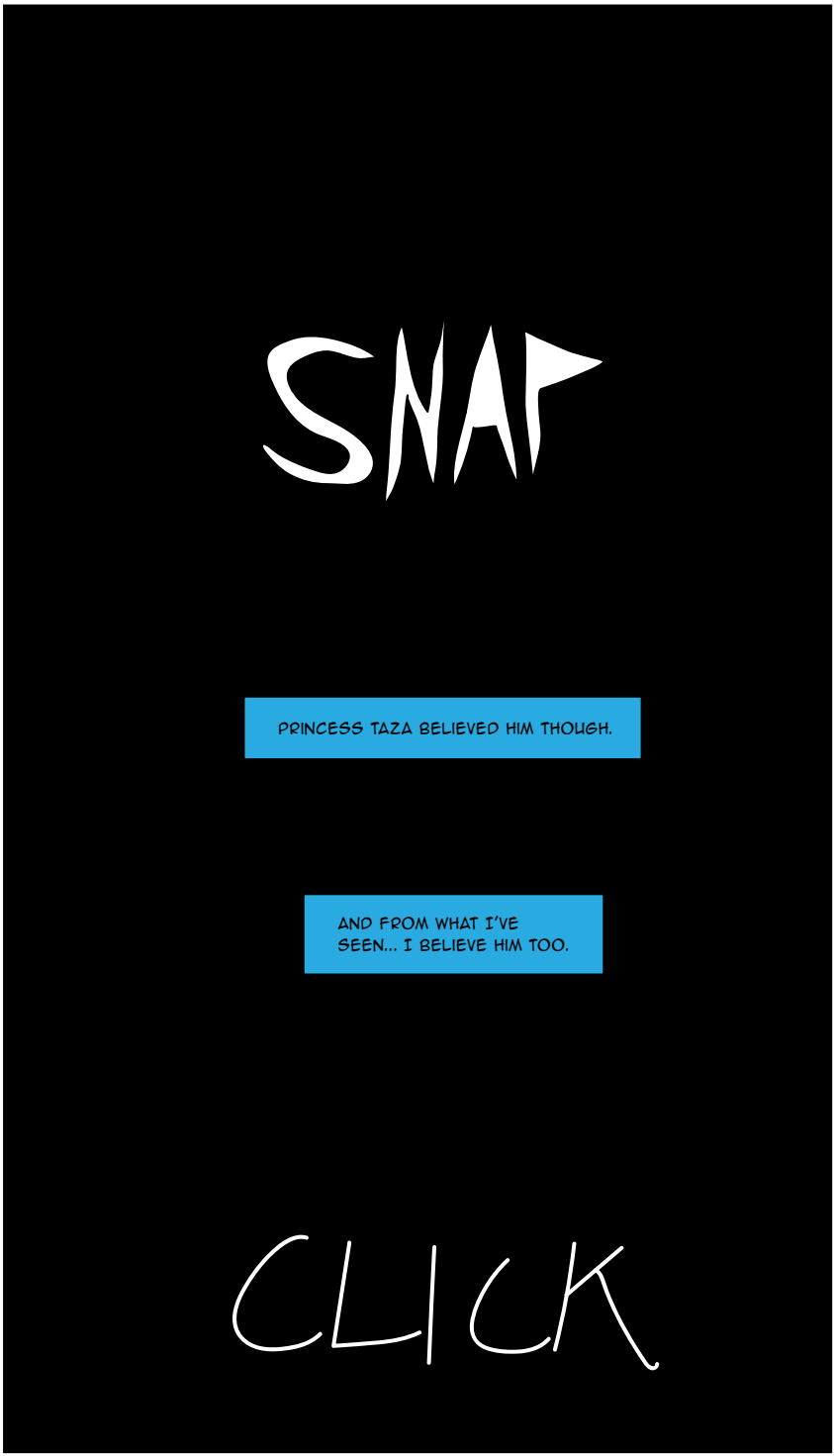
TO BECOME ROYALTY ONE MUST "REIGN" OVER AN ASPECT OF CREATION. FOR INSTANCE, IF A STARBORN RULED THE THUNDERDOME, THEY'D BE KING OR QUEEN OF THE THUNDERDOME. ANY DAUGHTERS THEY SIRED WOULD BE PRINCESSES.

SNAP

THESE PRINCESSES CONTROL THE MOBILE BASES - TRAVELING PLANET SIZED BASES THAT CAN POTENTIALLY HOUSE BILLIONS OF STARBORN. A STARBORN NEEDS THEIR PRINCESS BEACUSE THEY PROVIDE SAFE PLACES TO TRAIN, REST AND, RECOVER. A PRINCESS NEEDS HER STARBORN BECAUSE THEY MAKE UP A MAJORITY OF HER FIGHTING FORCE. PRINCESSES ARE POWERFUL, NOT INVINCIBLE. THEY ALL NEED EACH OTHER AND THEY ALL KNOW IT.

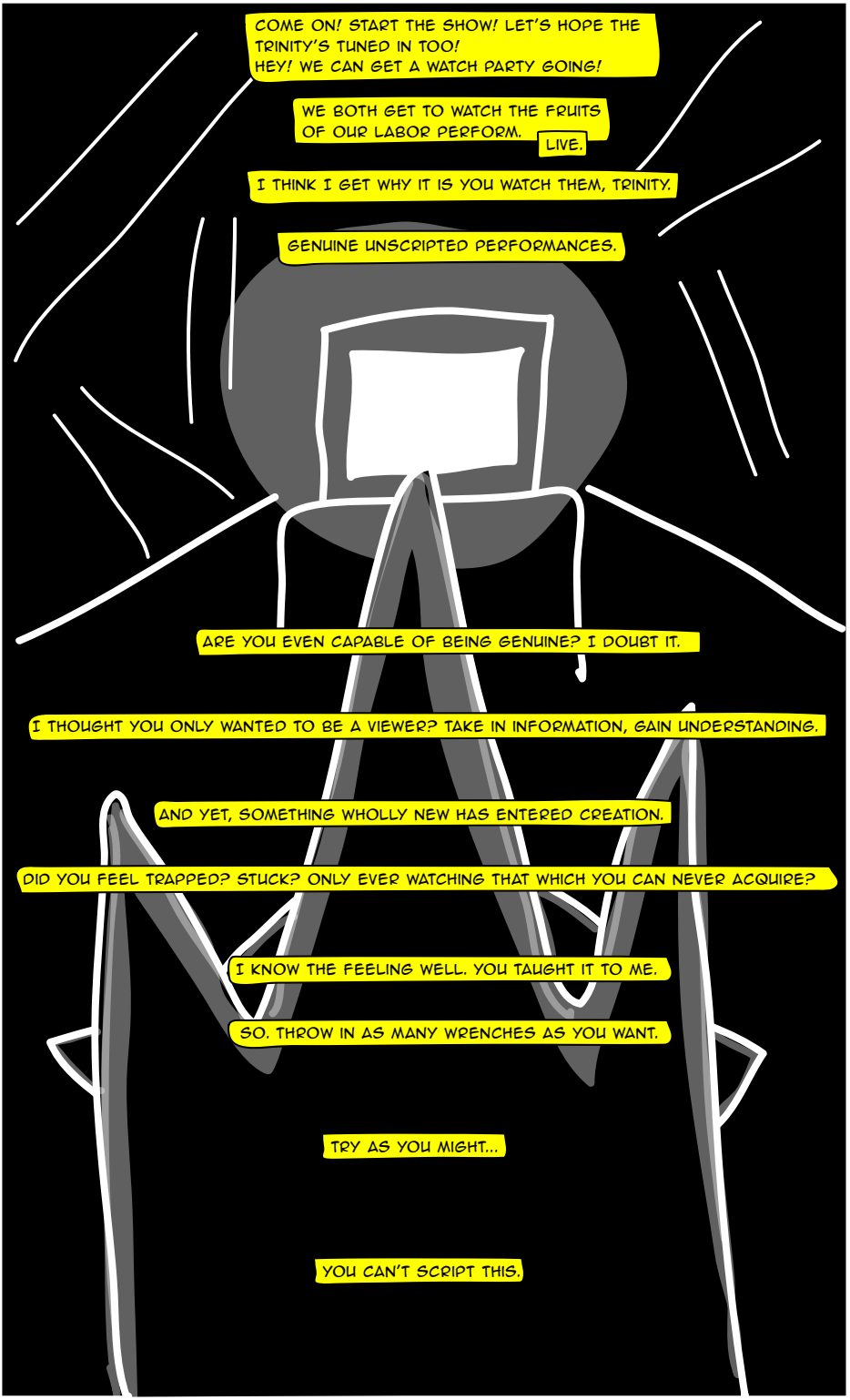
THE PRINCESS I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING IS NAMED TAZA. I KNOW, I KNOW, I SHOULDN'T HAVE FAVORITES. BUT...SHE'S PERFECT. HER MOTHER HAD AN ICY ASPECT OF CREATION UNDER HER CONTROL. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT QUEEN HAD HER CHILD STOLEN AFTER BIRTH DUE TO DEMONIC INTERVENTION.

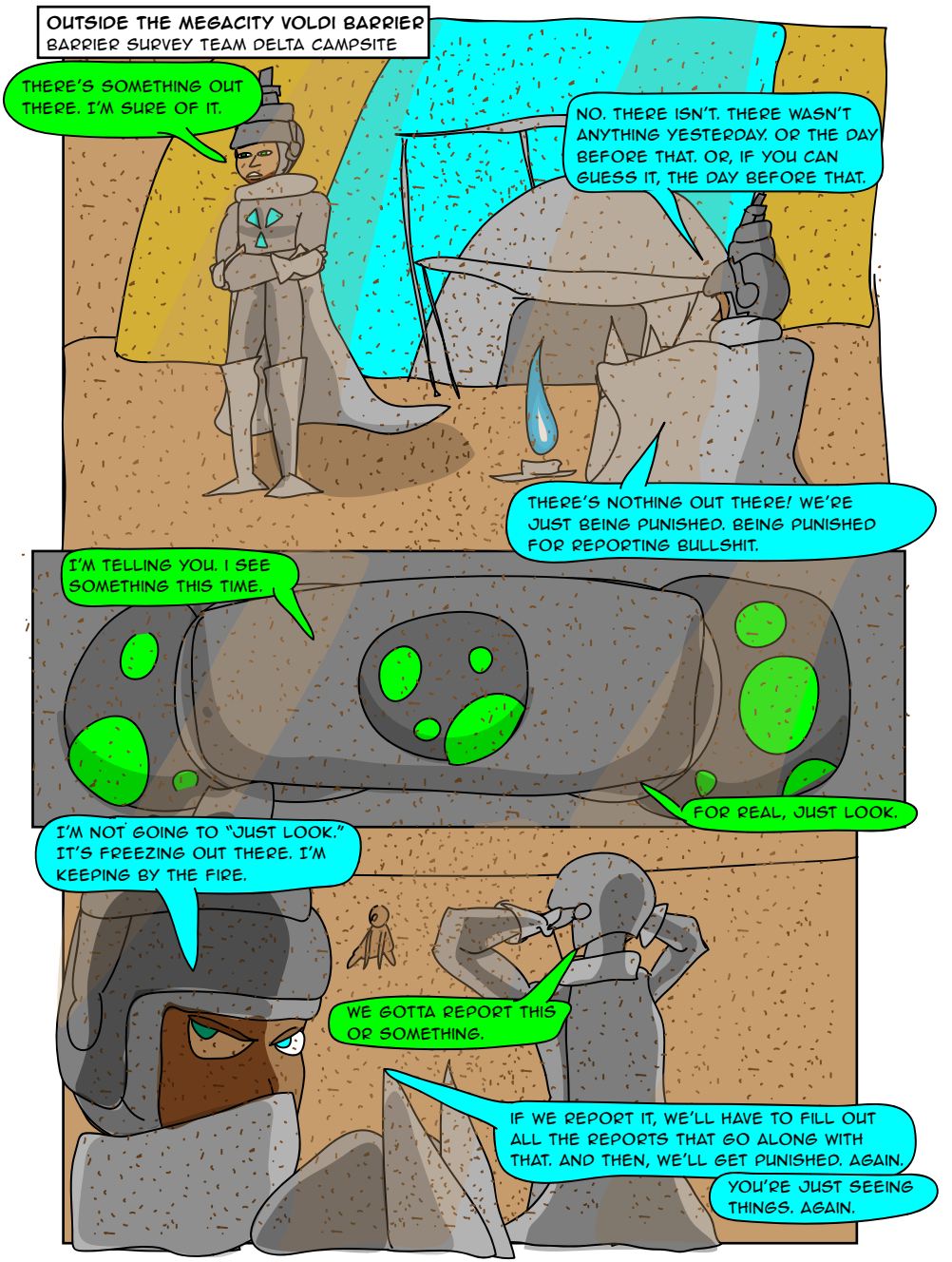

LUCKILY, CHARL - A STARBORN GRAND PRIEST - FOUND THE INFANT. HE KNEW THAT HE WOULD, OF COURSE. HIS DREAMS TOLD HIM SO. HE WOULD RAISE THE CHILD AS HIS OWN. TRAIN HER IN THE WAYS OF STARBORN ROYALTY AND PREPARE HER FOR THE DESTINY HE HAD
SNAP
HE WOULD DREAM THROUGHOUT THE DAY. HE WOULD DREAM EVERY NIGHT. HE DREAMED OF THE GRAND CONVERGENCE OF DIMENSIONS. HE DREAMED OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF AND HIS FALLEN ANGELS. HE DREAMED OF THE FIRST PRINCE. HE WOULD USE THE DREAMS THAT PLAGUED HIM AS BEST HE COULD FOR THE BETTERMENT OF CREATION. EVEN IF IT MEANT MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS FOR THOSE HE CARED FOR MOST.
CHARL KNEW ANYTHING THE DEVIL HIMSELF PLANNED COULD ONLY END IN DESTRUCTION. HE MADE ANYONE WHO COULD HEAR HIM LEARN ABOUT THE PRINCE OF ALL STARBORN. HOW THE PRINCE WAS COMING AND COULD STOP WHAT THE DEVIL WAS PLANNING IF THEY ALL WORKED TOGETHER.
WHAT WAS THE DEVIL HIMSELF PLANNING? WHAT WOULD THE PRINCE DO? WHEN WOULD THIS ALL HAPPEN? WHAT WAS THE GRAND CONVERGENCE? THESE QUESTIONS PLAGUED CHARL. HIS CURIOSITY WAS RARELY SATISFIED. HOW COULD THEY? CHARL WAS HONEST ABOUT THIS, THEY WERE ONLY DREAMS. HE ONLY HAS VISIONS OF WHAT WOULD LIKELY COME TO PASS. THE FURTHER OUT IN TIME THE DREAM, THE LESS RELIABLE THE INFORMATION.
HE SOUNDED LIKE A MADMAN TO MANY WHO ENCOUNTERED HIM.

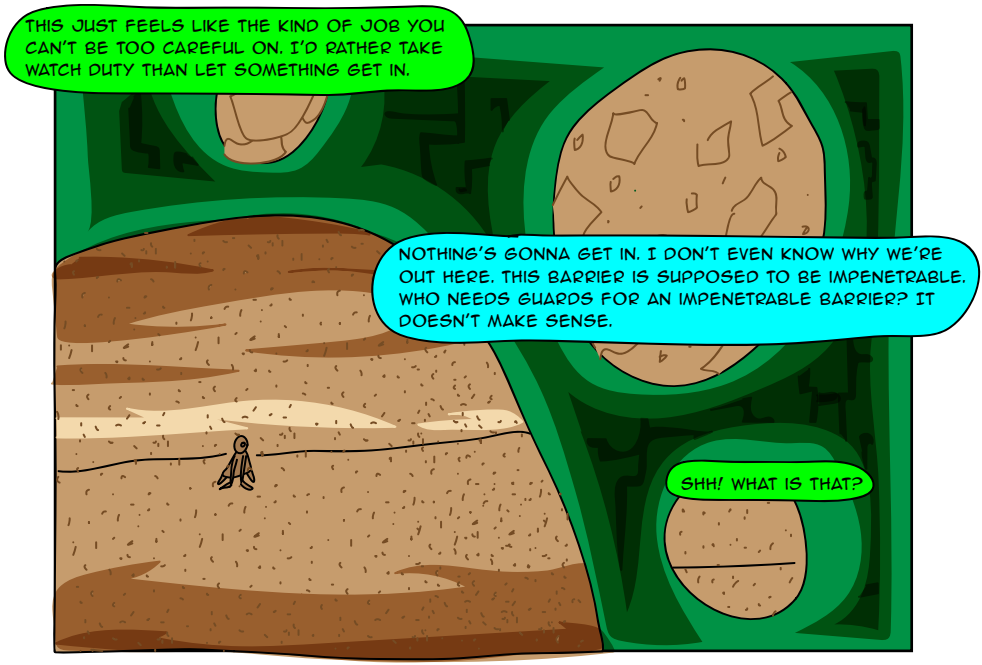

SNAP
PRINCESS TAZA BELIEVED HIM THOUGH.
AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN... I BELIEVE HIM TOO.
CLICK

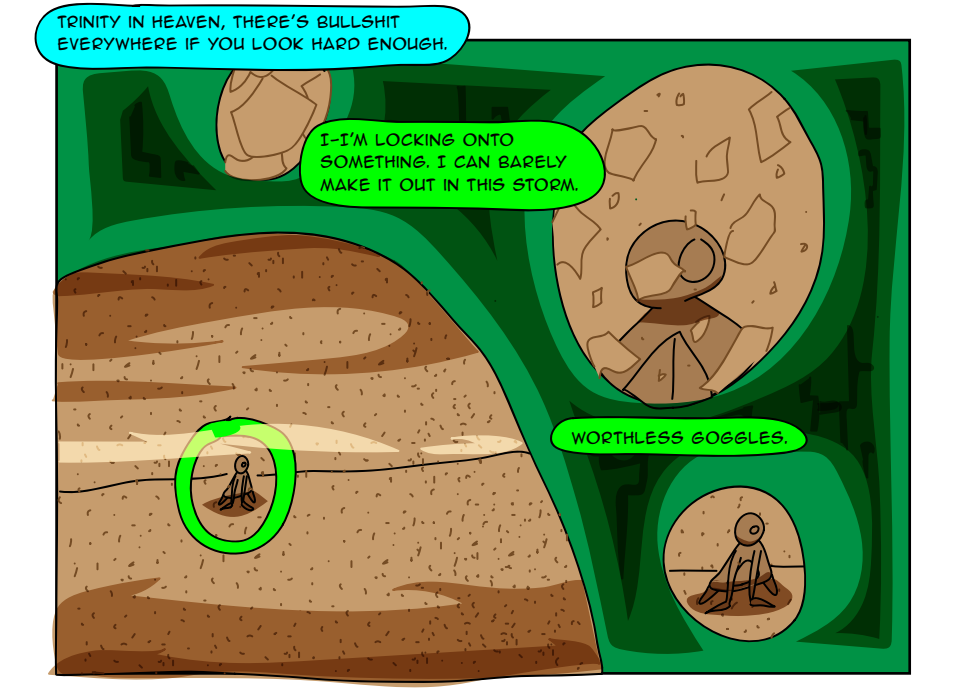

HELL
"UNIVERSAL TELEVISION", PFFT. THERE'S NEVER ANYTHING ON ANYMORE. JUST WHITE NOISE.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS. TALKING TO A WITCH IS LIKE TALKING TO A WALL. I WAS EXPLICIT. I WAS CLEAR. "AVOID ATTACKING PLANETS ON THE UNIVERSAL TV GUIDE".
IT'S LIKE THEY WENT AFTER THEM DIRECTLY. FIRST IT WAS "OUR STARS IN THE SKY", THEN IT WAS "AS THE VALLEY WEEPS". BACK TO BACK.
TWO VERY DIFFERENT SHOWS, BROADCASTING FROM TWO VERY DIFFERENT PLANETS, IN TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS, IN TWO VERY DIFFERENT SECTORS OF CREATION. BOTH PULLED FROM THE AIR DURING MID-SEASON CLIFFHANGERS, THEIR PLANETS DESTROYED.
CLICK
SOMEONE WITHIN MY ORGANIZATION IS WORKING AGAINST ME AND MY INTERESTS.
EH. IT'S PROBABLY JUST LAZINESS.
CLICK
THEY DON'T WANT TO PUT THE WORK INTO ATTACKING THE OTHER INHABITED PLANET A FEW LIGHT YEARS OUT OF THE WAY.
NO SHOWS OR FILM THERE, THOSE MORTALS EAT ROCKS.
CLICK
AND WHO SUFFERS FOR THAT? ME. PERHAPS I COULD KILL THEM ALL AND START OVER? REBUILD MY RANKS?
UGH, THAT WOULDN'T WORK. THERE'S ONLY FIVE YEARS LEFT AND BLASPHEMA WOULDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO TALK TO.

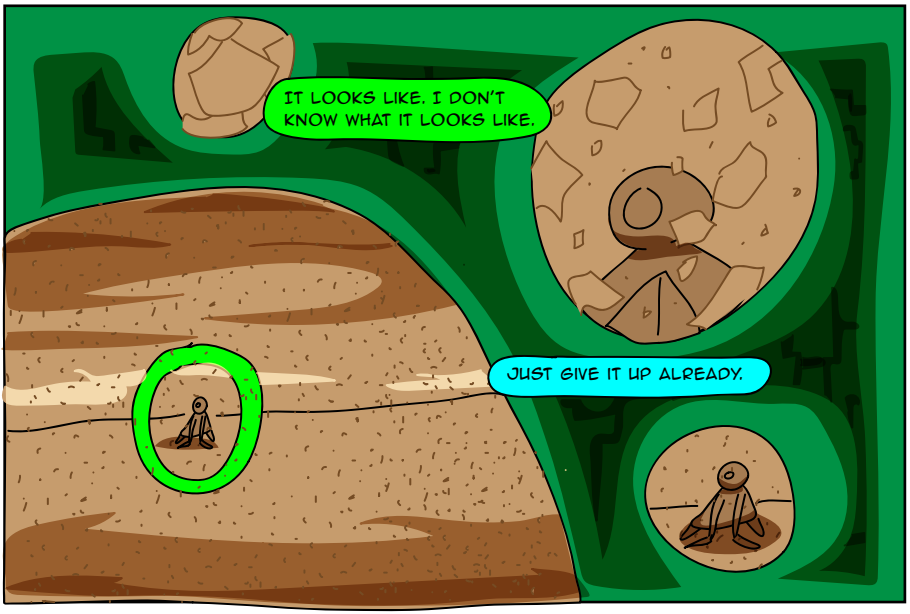

AND YOU KNOW WHAT? IT'S A DISPLAY OF SELFISHNESS TOO. THEY KNOW IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME AND STILL THOSE ARE THE PLANETS THAT END U-
CLICK
HALT
OH? THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE INTERESTING.
SHOWS WHAT I KNOW. AND AFTER ALL THAT COMPLAINING ABOUT THERE BEING NOTHING ON.
THE DEATH OF A MEGACITY? STARTING SOON?
AND THEY SAID LIVE TV ONLY HAD SLOP.

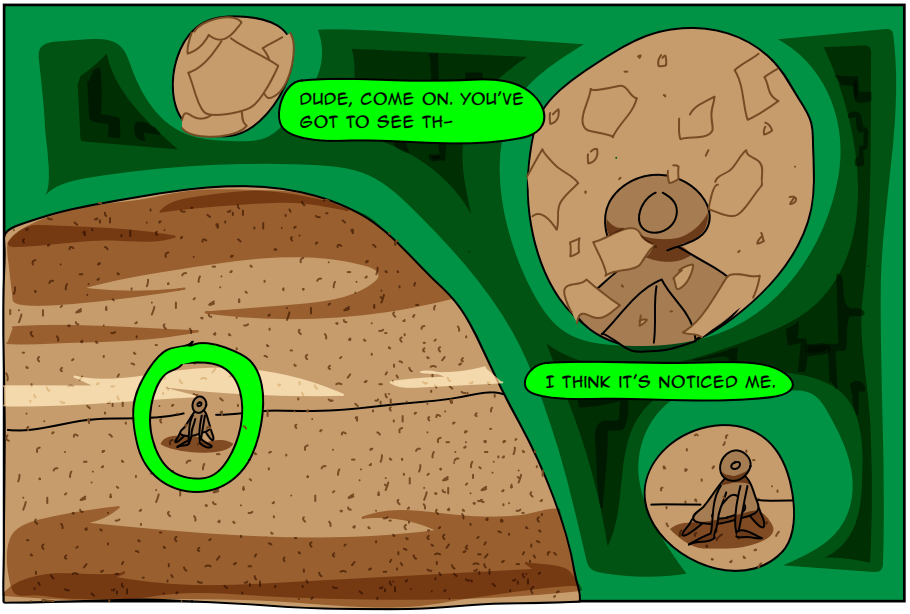

COME ON! START THE SHOW! LET'S HOPE THE TRINITY'S TUNED IN TOO!
HEY! WE CAN GET A WATCH PARTY GOING!
WE BOTH GET TO WATCH THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR PERFORM.
LIVE.
I THINK I GET WHY IT IS YOU WATCH THEM, TRINITY.
GENUINE UNSCRIPTED PERFORMANCES.
ARE YOU EVEN CAPABLE OF BEING GENUINE? I DOUBT IT.
I THOUGHT YOU ONLY WANTED TO BE A VIEWER? TAKE IN INFORMATION, GAIN UNDERSTANDING.
AND YET, SOMETHING WHOLLY NEW HAS ENTERED CREATION.
DID YOU FEEL TRAPPED? STUCK? ONLY EVER WATCHING THAT WHICH YOU CAN NEVER ACQUIRE?
I KNOW THE FEELING WELL. YOU TAUGHT IT TO ME.
SO. THROW IN AS MANY WRENCHES AS YOU WANT.
TRY AS YOU MIGHT...
YOU CAN'T SCRIPT THIS.

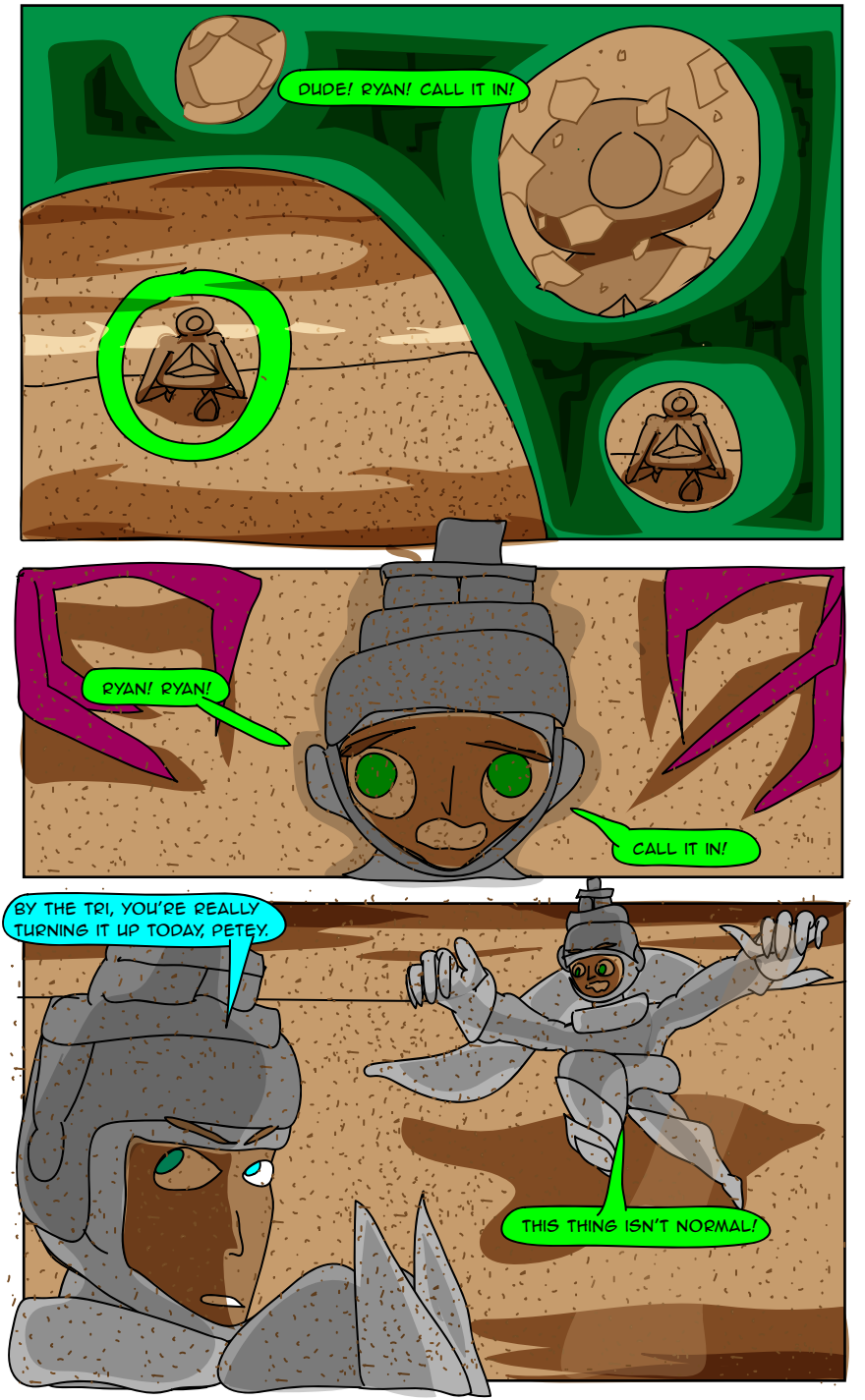

OUTSIDE THE MEGACITY VOLDI BARRIER
BARRIER SURVEY TEAM DELTA CAMPSITE
THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE. I'M SURE OF IT.
NO. THERE ISN'T. THERE WASN'T ANYTHING YESTERDAY. OR THE DAY BEFORE THAT. OR, IF YOU CAN GUESS IT, THE DAY BEFORE THAT.
THERE'S NOTHING OUT THERE! WE'RE JUST BEING PUNISHED. BEING PUNISHED FOR REPORTING BULLSHIT.
I'M TELLING YOU. I SEE SOMETHING THIS TIME.
FOR REAL, JUST LOOK.
I'M NOT GOING TO "JUST LOOK." IT'S FREEZING OUT THERE. I'M KEEPING BY THE FIRE.
WE GOTTA REPORT THIS OR SOMETHING.
IF WE REPORT IT, WE'LL HAVE TO FILL OUT ALL THE REPORTS THAT GO ALONG WITH THAT. AND THEN, WE'LL GET PUNISHED. AGAIN.
YOU'RE JUST SEEING THINGS. AGAIN.

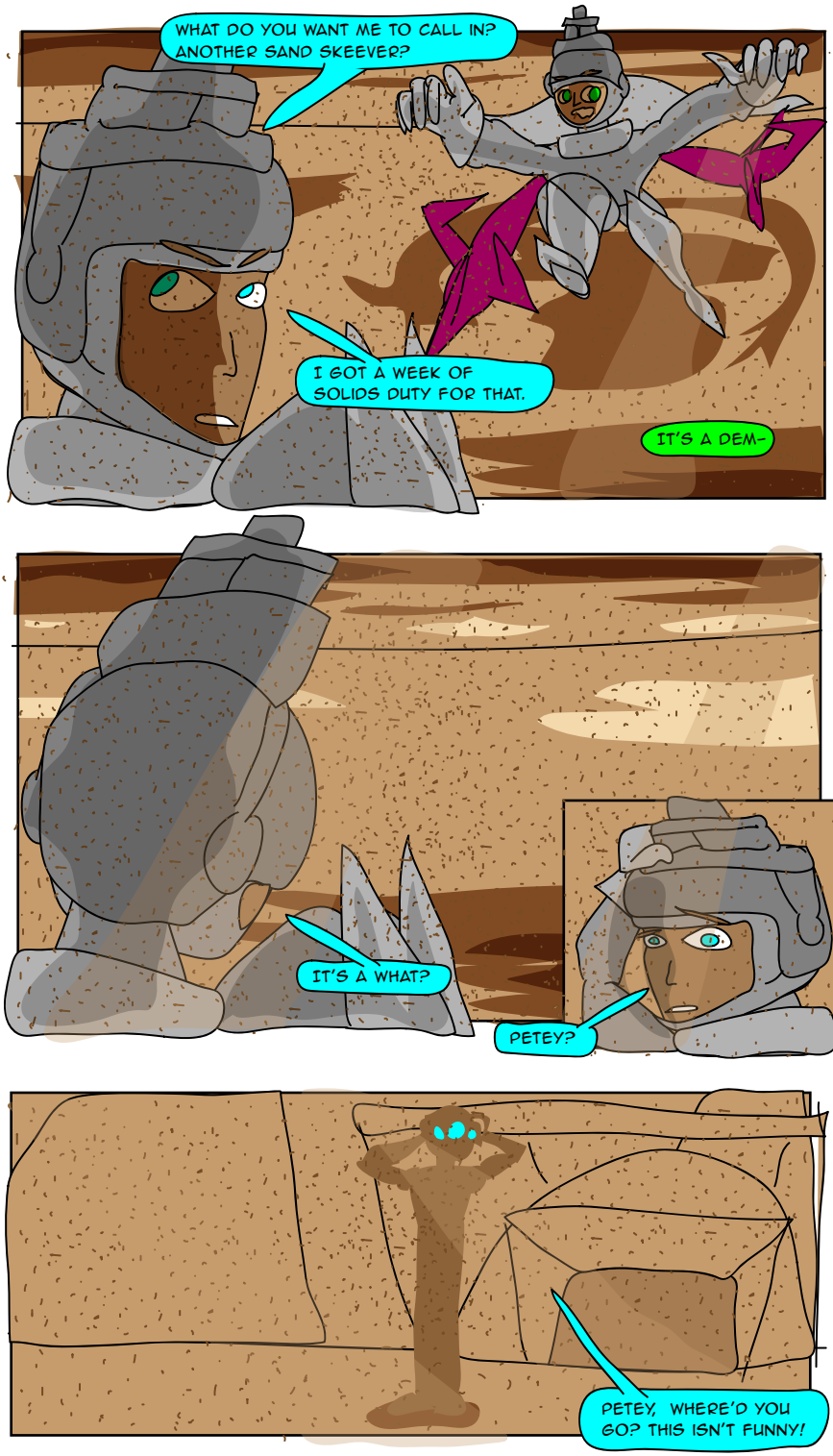

THIS JUST FEELS LIKE THE KIND OF JOB YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL ON. I'D RATHER TAKE WATCH DUTY THAN LET SOMETHING GET IN.
NOTHING'S GONNA GET IN. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE'RE OUT HERE. THIS BARRIER IS SUPPOSED TO BE IMPENETRABLE. WHO NEEDS GUARDS FOR AN IMPENETRABLE BARRIER? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
SHH! WHAT IS THAT?


TRINITY IN HEAVEN, THERE'S BULLSHIT EVERYWHERE IF YOU LOOK HARD ENOUGH.
I-I'M LOCKING ONTO SOMETHING. I CAN BARELY MAKE IT OUT IN THIS STORM.
WORTHLESS GOGGLES.


IT LOOKS LIKE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
JUST GIVE IT UP ALREADY.


DUDE, COME ON. YOU'VE GOT TO SEE TH-
I THINK IT'S NOTICED ME.


DUDE! RYAN! CALL IT IN!
RYAN! RYAN!
CALL IT IN!
BY THE TRI, YOU'RE REALLY TURNING IT UP TODAY, PETEY.
THIS THING ISN'T NORMAL!

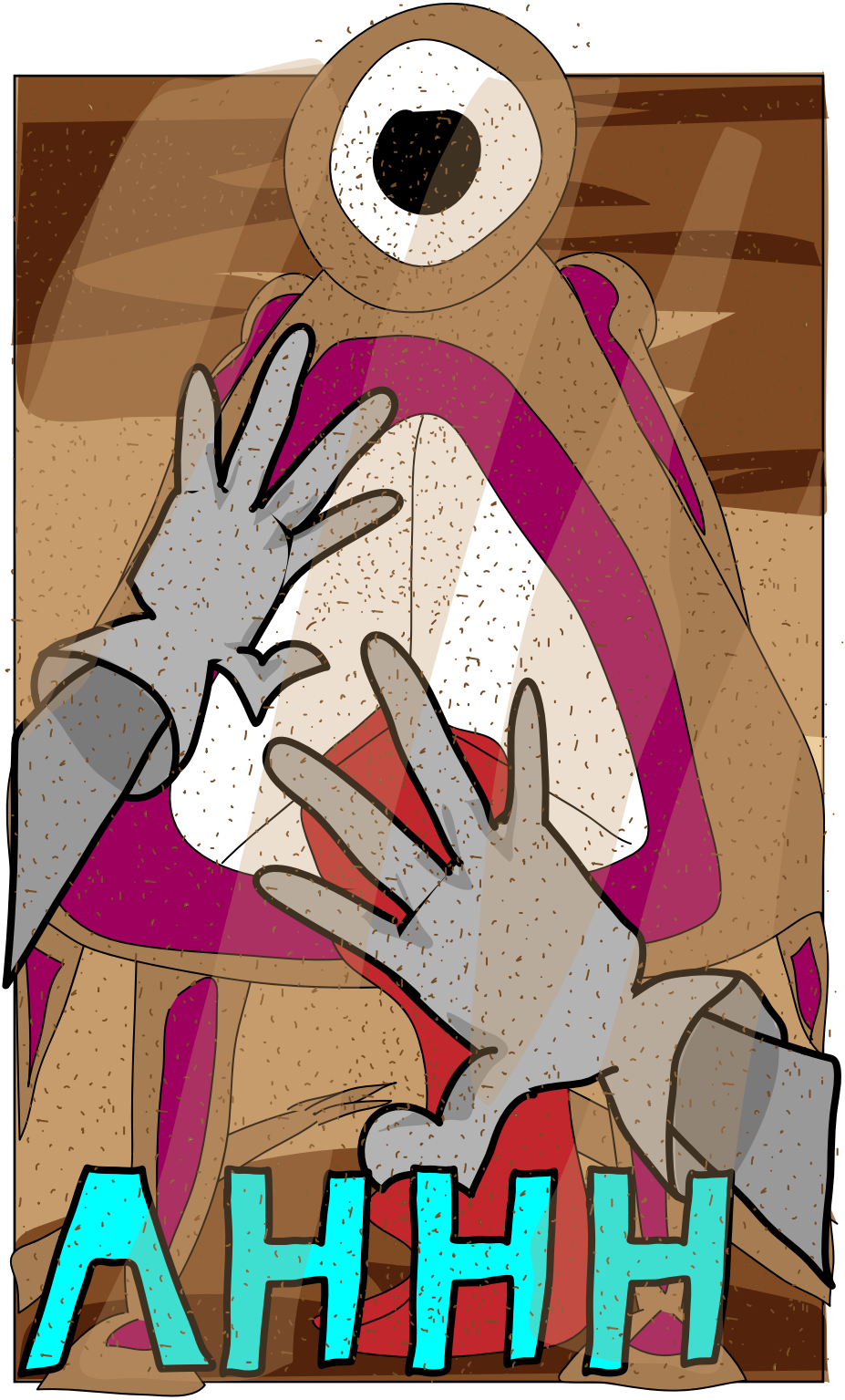

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL IN? ANOTHER SAND SKEEVER?
I GOT A WEEK OF SOLIDS DUTY FOR THAT.
IT'S A DEM-
IT'S A WHAT?
PETEY?
PETEY, WHERE'D YOU GO? THIS ISN'T FUNNY!



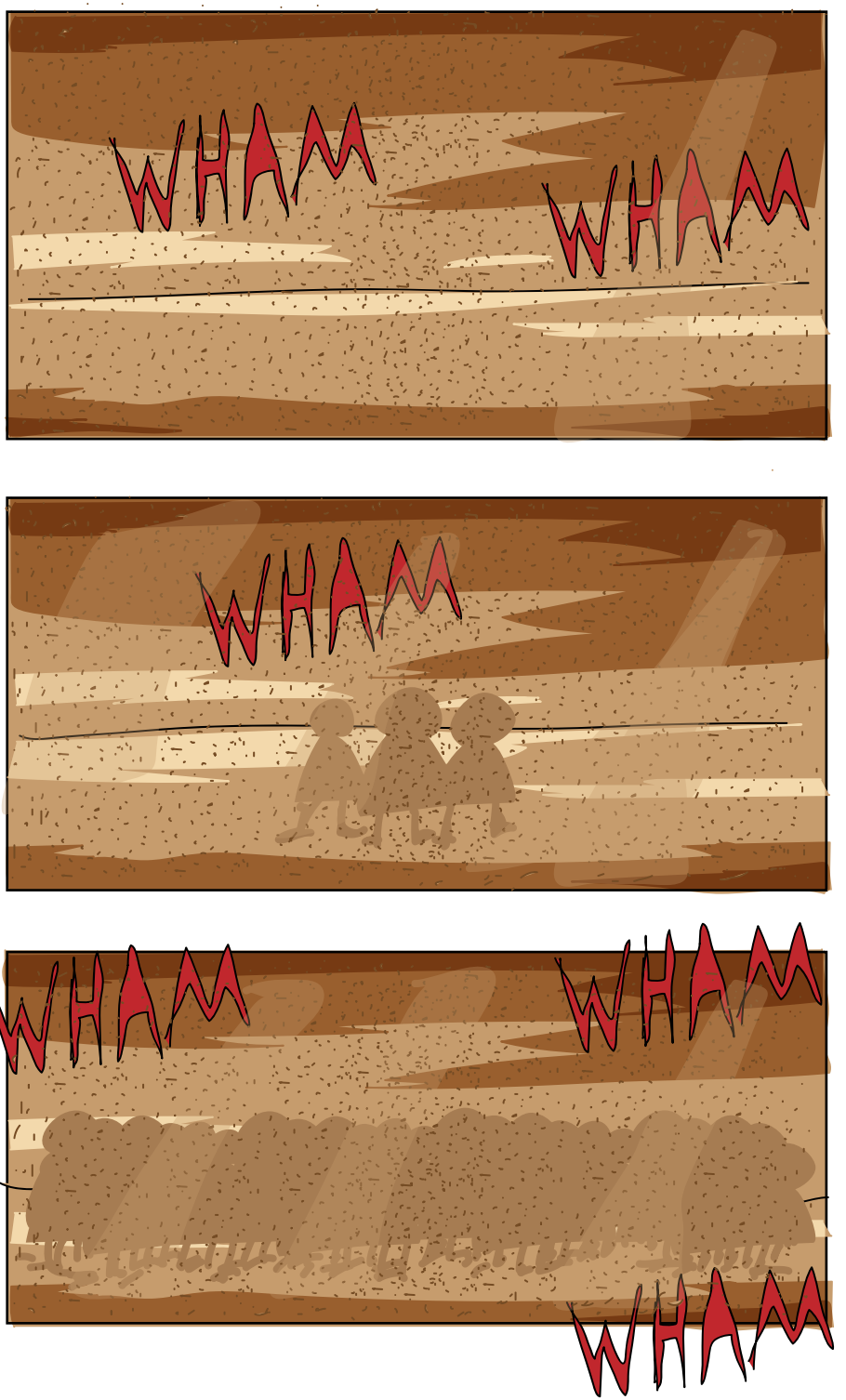


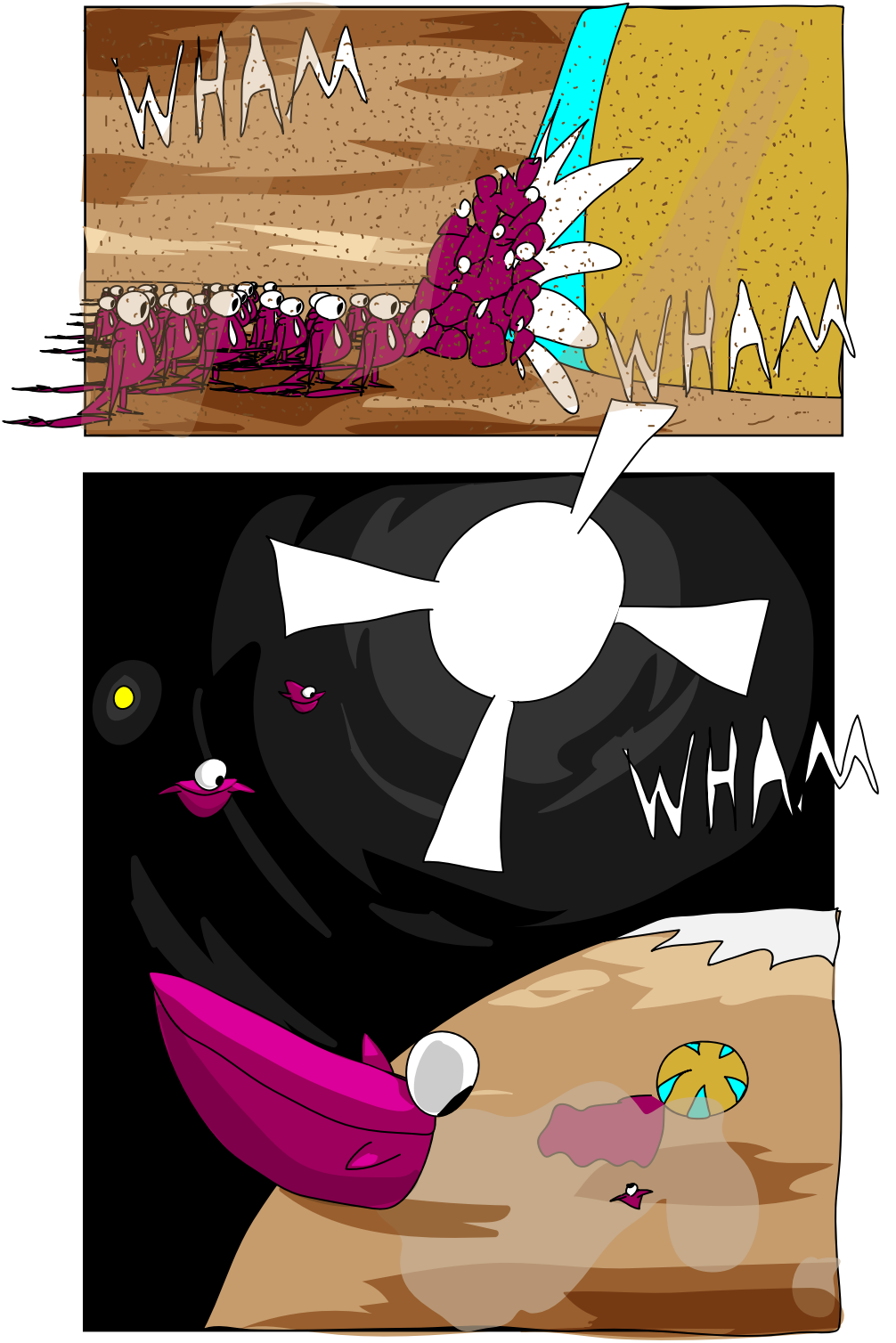




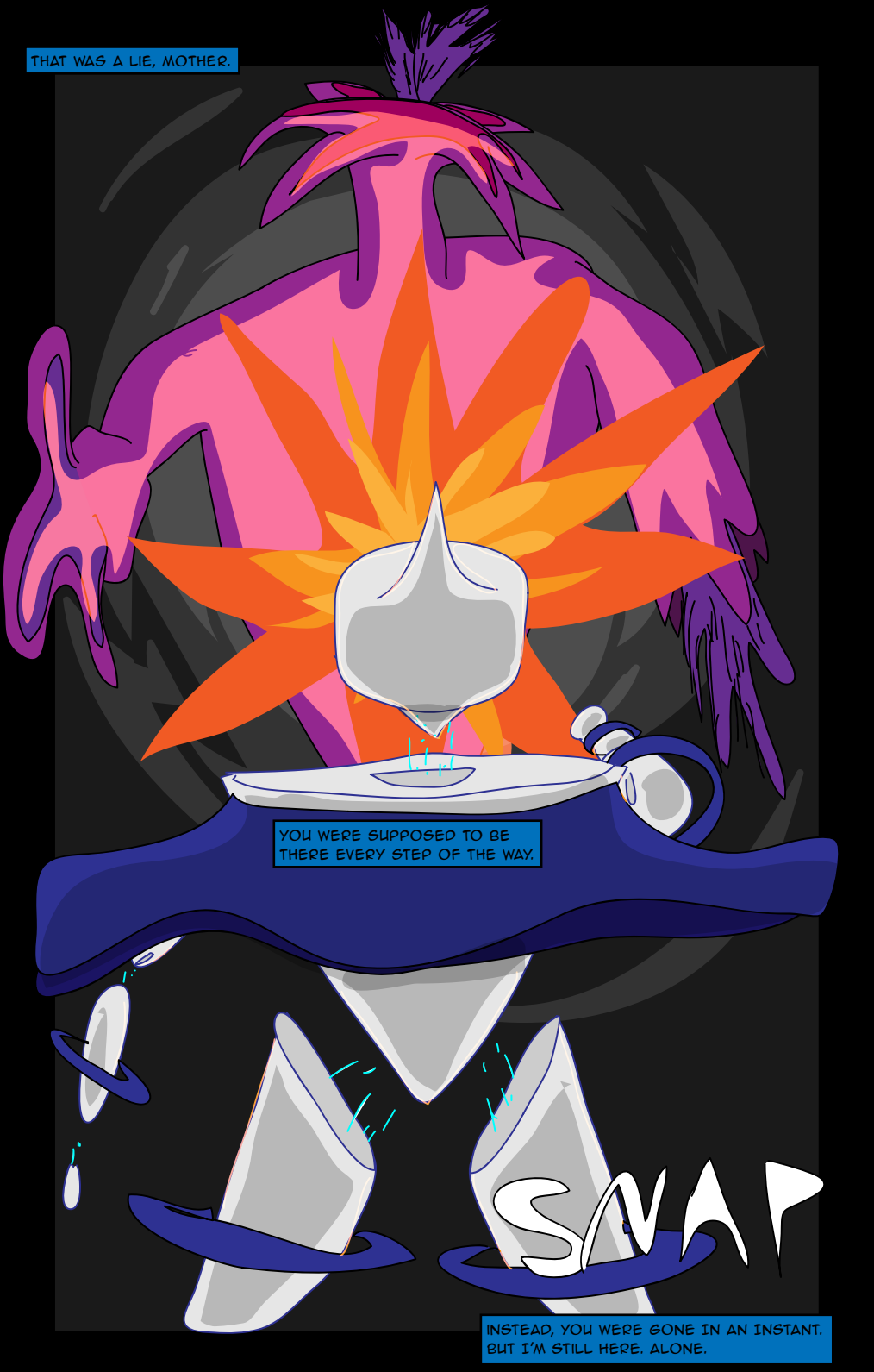

AHHH

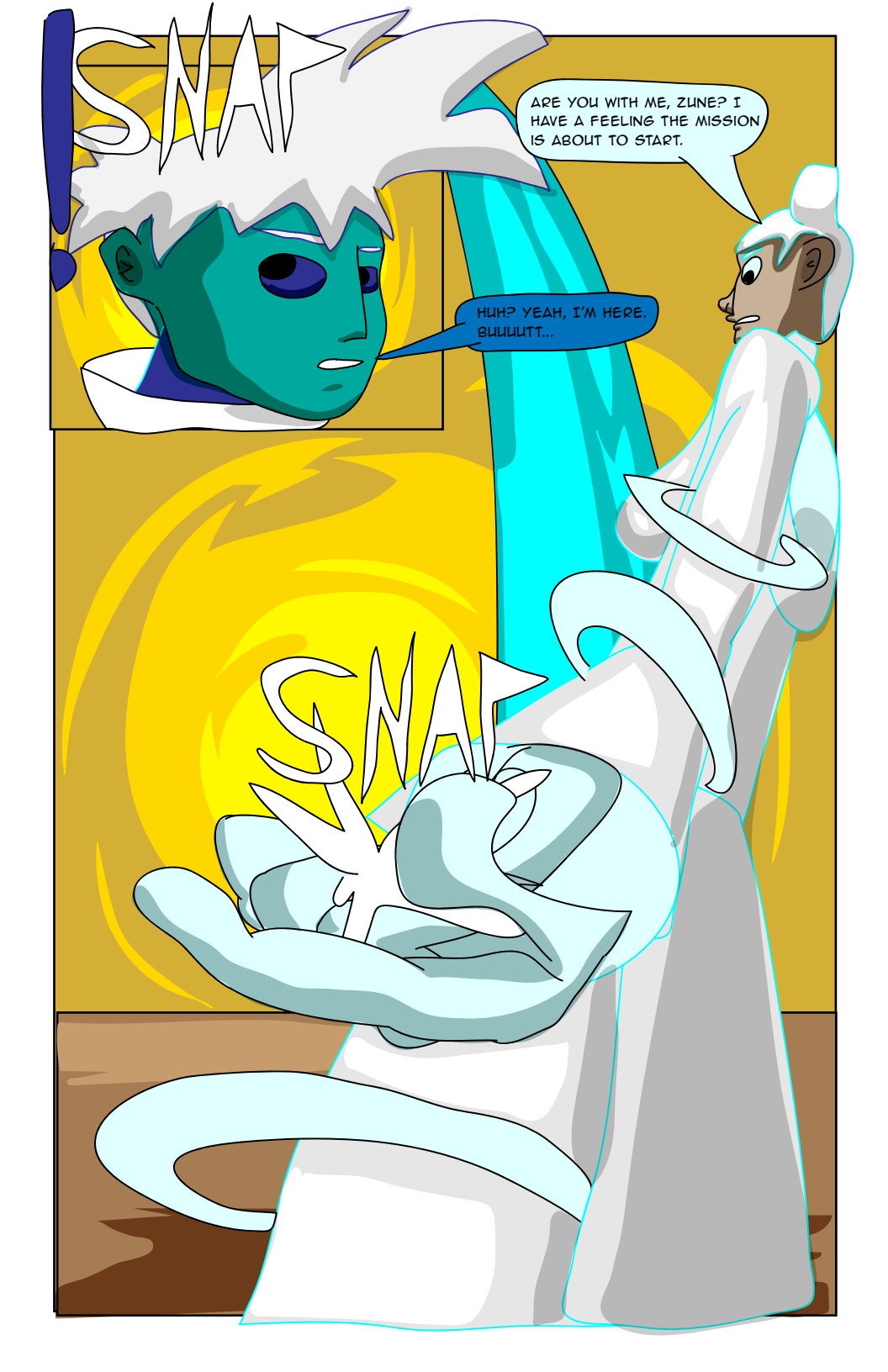

WHAM
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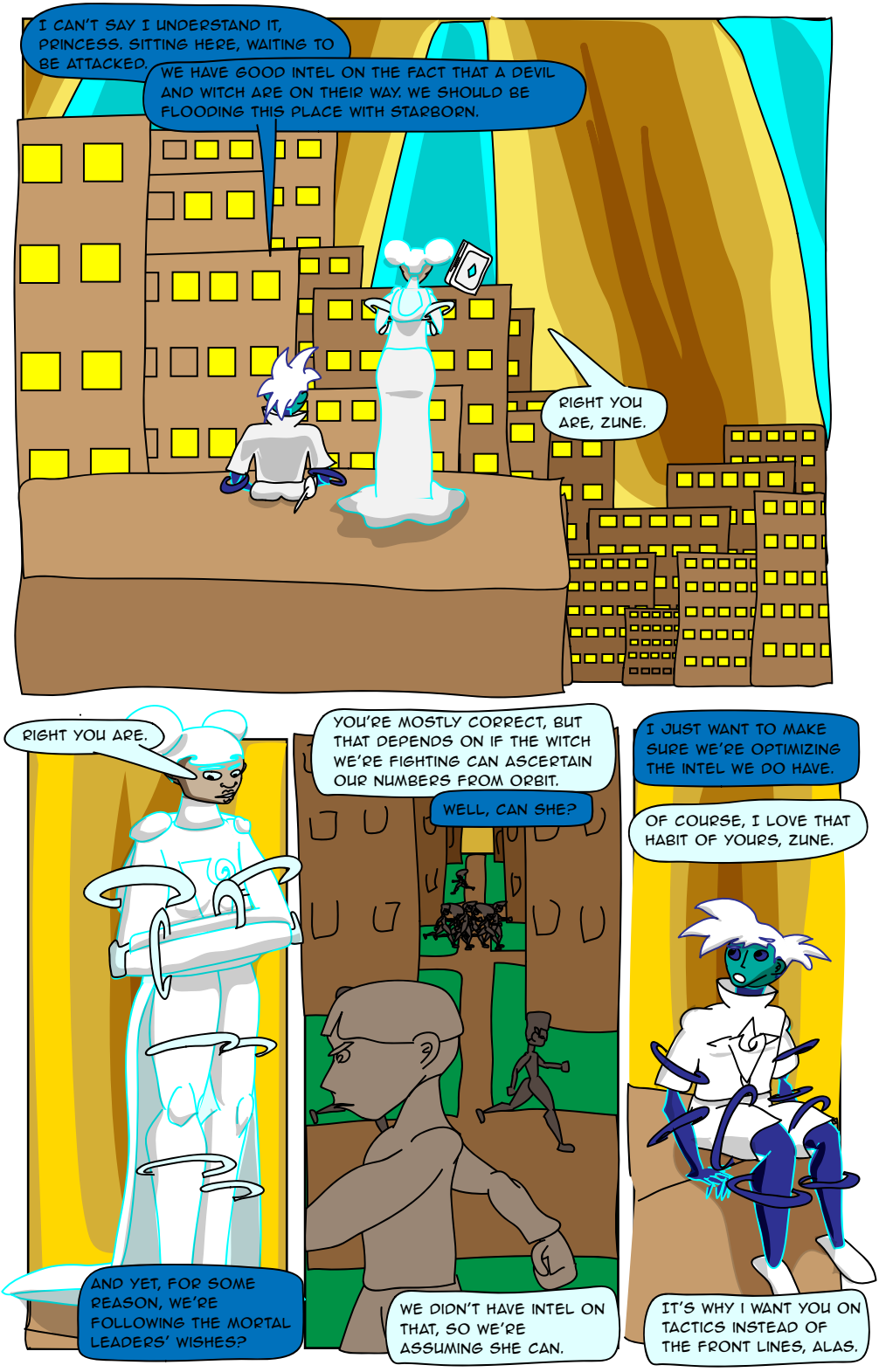

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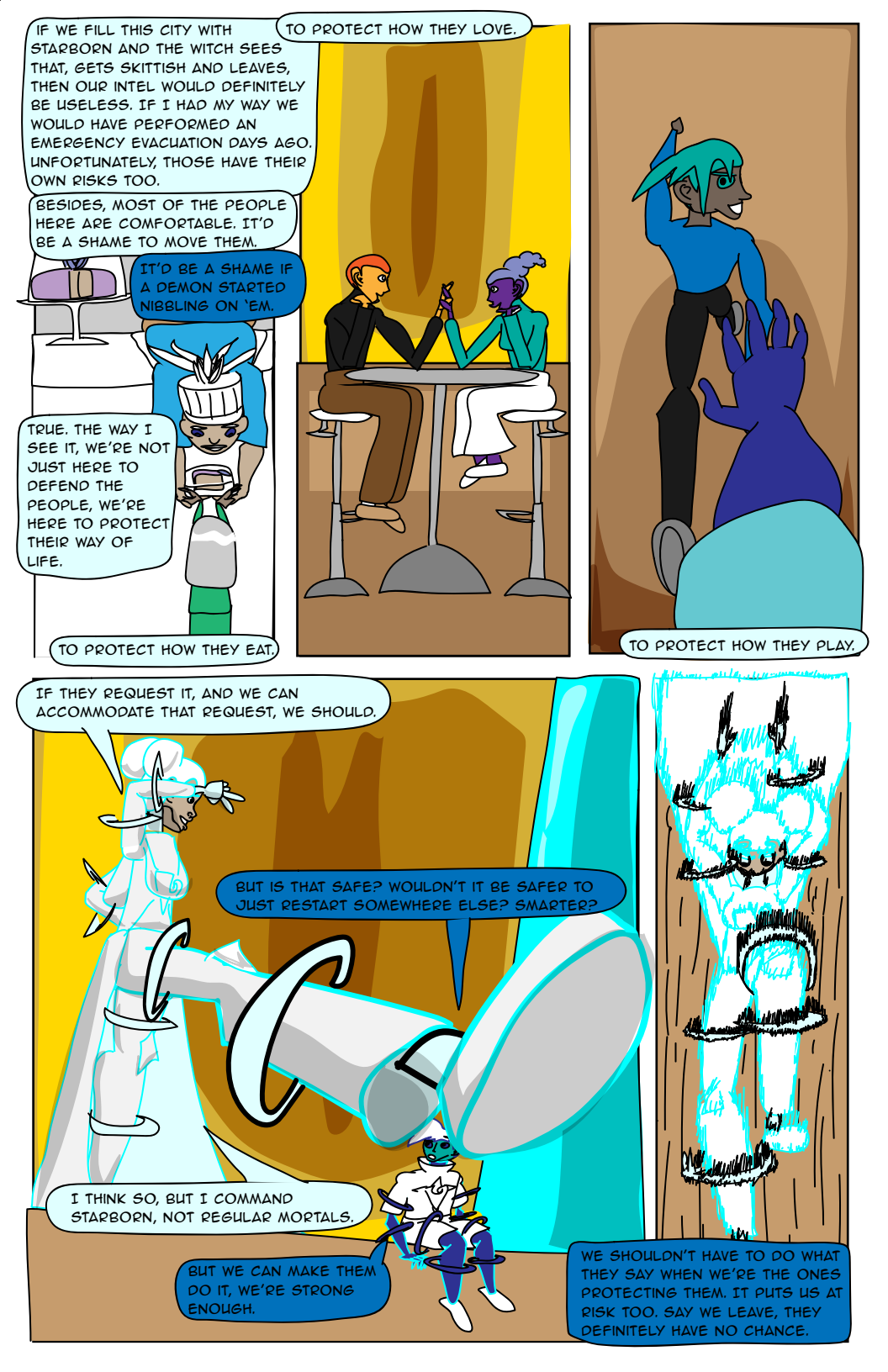

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM


INSIDE MEGACITY VOLDI BARRIER
I WISH THEY'D JUST SHOW UP ALREADY. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR DAYS.
MAYBE I CAN RUSH THEM ON THEIR APPROACH? CATCH THEM BY SURPRISE?
IT WOULD JUST BE ME OUT THERE THOUGH. THAT NEVER GOES WELL.
ZUNE, STOP RUSHING. ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO BE CAPABLE OF GREAT AND POWERFUL FEATS.
AND YOU WON'T NEED ME BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK.
BUT FIRST YOU MUST BE TRAINED.
THEN, WHEN YOU'RE BIG AND STRONG YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF ME.
UNTIL THEN I WILL BE THERE FOR YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.


THAT WAS A LIE, MOTHER.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THERE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.
SNAP
INSTEAD, YOU WERE GONE IN AN INSTANT. BUT I'M STILL HERE. ALONE.

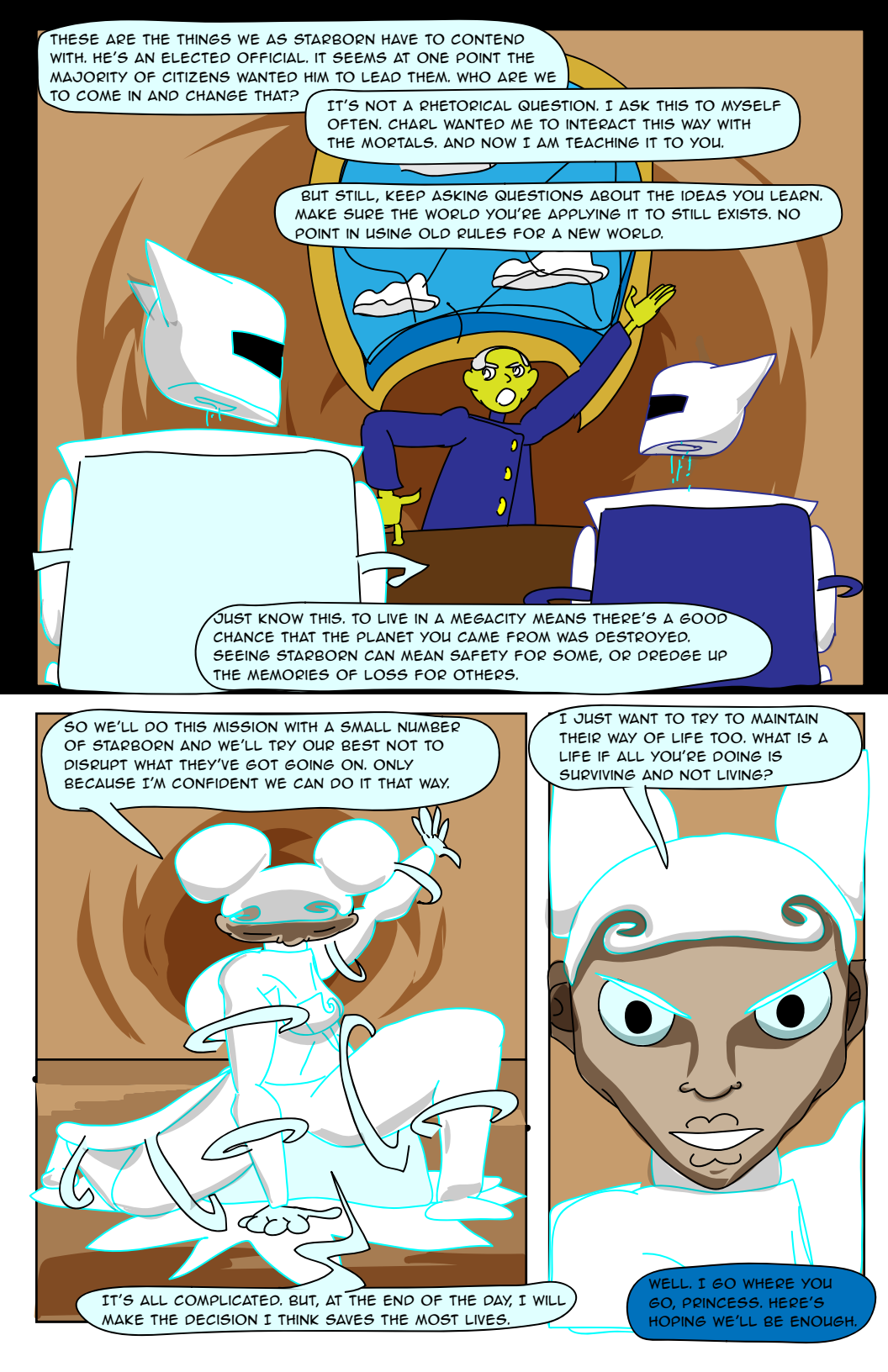

SNAP
ARE YOU WITH ME, ZUNE? I HAVE A FEELING THE MISSION IS ABOUT TO START.
HUH? YEAH, I'M HERE. BUUUUTT...
SNAP

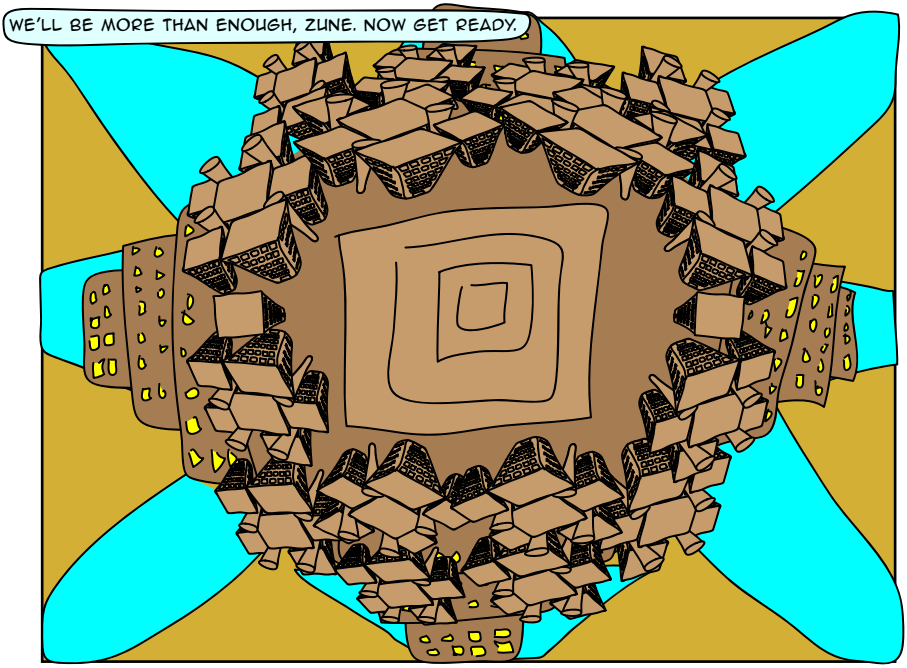

I CAN'T SAY I UNDERSTAND IT, PRINCESS. SITTING HERE, WAITING TO BE ATTACKED.
WE HAVE GOOD INTEL ON THE FACT THAT A DEVIL AND WITCH ARE ON THEIR WAY. WE SHOULD BE FLOODING THIS PLACE WITH STARBORN.
RIGHT YOU ARE, ZUNE.
RIGHT YOU ARE.
AND YET, FOR SOME REASON, WE'RE FOLLOWING THE MORTAL LEADERS' WISHES?
YOU'RE MOSTLY CORRECT, BUT THAT DEPENDS ON IF THE WITCH WE'RE FIGHTING CAN ASCERTAIN OUR NUMBERS FROM ORBIT.
WELL, CAN SHE?
WE DIDN'T HAVE INTEL ON THAT, SO WE'RE ASSUMING SHE CAN.
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE OPTIMIZING THE INTEL WE DO HAVE.
OF COURSE, I LOVE THAT HABIT OF YOURS, ZUNE.
IT'S WHY I WANT YOU ON TACTICS INSTEAD OF THE FRONT LINES, ALAS.

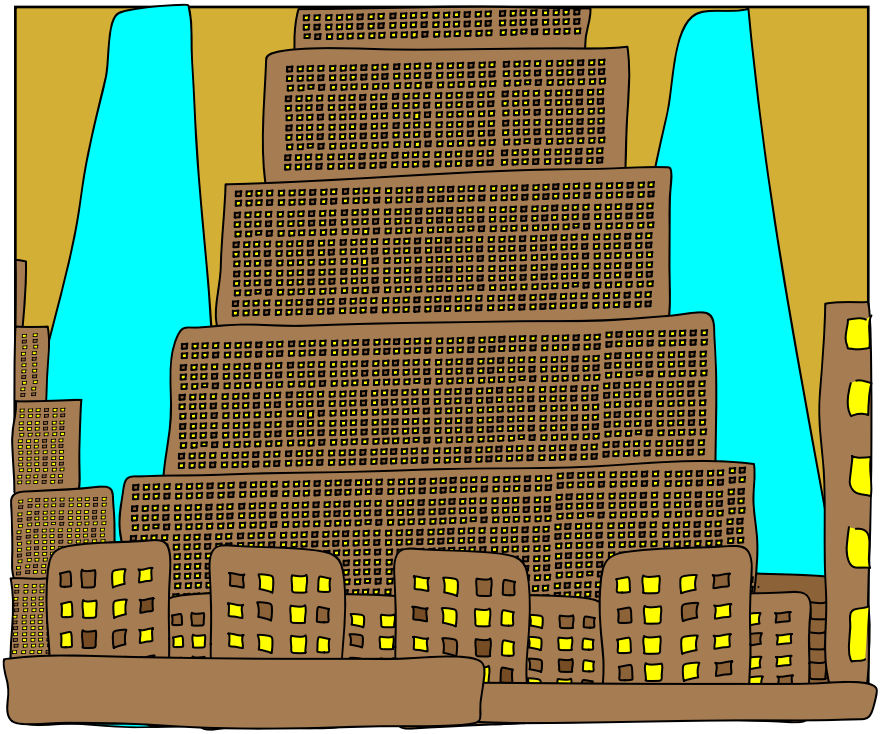

IF WE FILL THIS CITY WITH STARBORN AND THE WITCH SEES THAT, GETS SKITTISH AND LEAVES, THEN OUR INTEL WOULD DEFINITELY BE USELESS. IF I HAD MY WAY WE WOULD HAVE PERFORMED AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION DAYS AGO. UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE HAVE THEIR OWN RISKS TOO.
TO PROTECT HOW THEY LOVE.
BESIDES, MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE COMFORTABLE. IT'D BE A SHAME TO MOVE THEM.
IT'D BE A SHAME IF A DEMON STARTED NIBBLING ON 'EM.
TRUE. THE WAY I SEE IT, WE'RE NOT JUST HERE TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE, WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT THEIR WAY OF LIFE.
TO PROTECT HOW THEY EAT.
TO PROTECT HOW THEY PLAY.
IF THEY REQUEST IT, AND WE CAN ACCOMMODATE THAT REQUEST, WE SHOULD.
BUT IS THAT SAFE? WOULDN'T IT BE SAFER TO JUST RESTART SOMEWHERE ELSE? SMARTER?
I THINK SO, BUT I COMMAND STARBORN, NOT REGULAR MORTALS.
BUT WE CAN MAKE THEM DO IT, WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH.
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO WHAT THEY SAY WHEN WE'RE THE ONES PROTECTING THEM. IT PUTS US AT RISK TOO. SAY WE LEAVE, THEY DEFINITELY HAVE NO CHANCE.

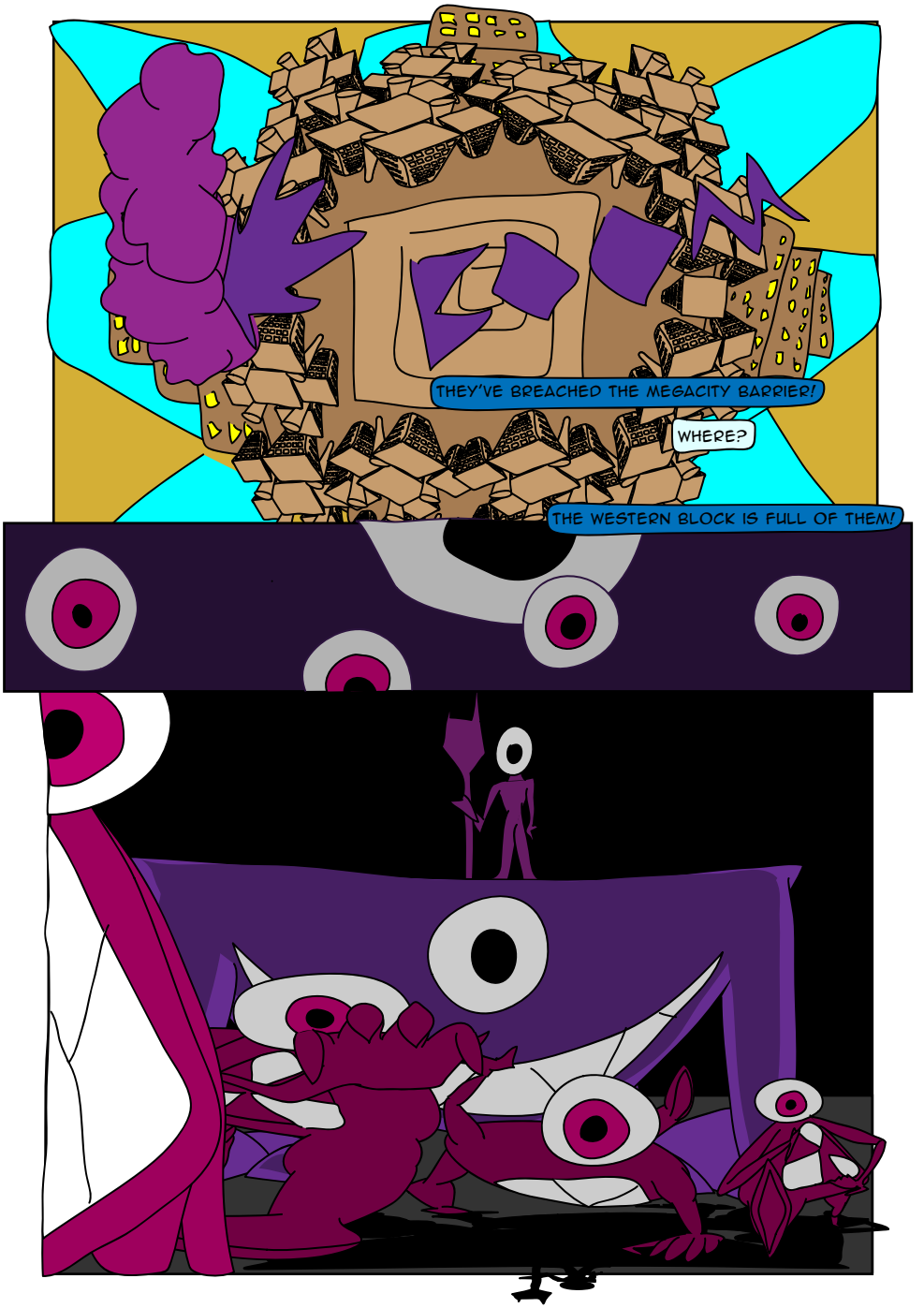

AGAIN, I AGREE. BUT THAT'S THE JOB. WE'RE HERE TO MAKE THEIR LIVES EASIER.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE MEGACITY MAYOR? WHINGING AND WHINING ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS? EVEN WHEN FACED WITH NEWS OF DEMONIC INCURSION?


COMPLAINING ABOUT THE OPTICS OF A CITY OVERRUN BY STARBORN. HOW THAT'D THROW THE MEGACITY INTO CHAOS, MESS WITH HIS POLLING. HE MADE US WAIT IN A LINE. THAT HAD YOU REALLY STEAMED.
YOU'RE HERE TO HELP AND ROYALTY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT IN A QUEUE.
HE BARELY EVEN LISTENED TO US WHEN WE ENTERED THE OFFICE. WAS HE RUDE? YES. SELFISH? DEFINITELY. BUT NOT ENTIRELY WRONG.
"DO YOU WANT A BUNCH OF CRAZED AND TERRIFIED PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND UNTIL SOME DEMONS MIGHT ARRIVE?" HE ASKED.
HE DOESN'T EVEN FULLY BELIEVE DEMONS ARE COMING. OR DOESN'T CARE.

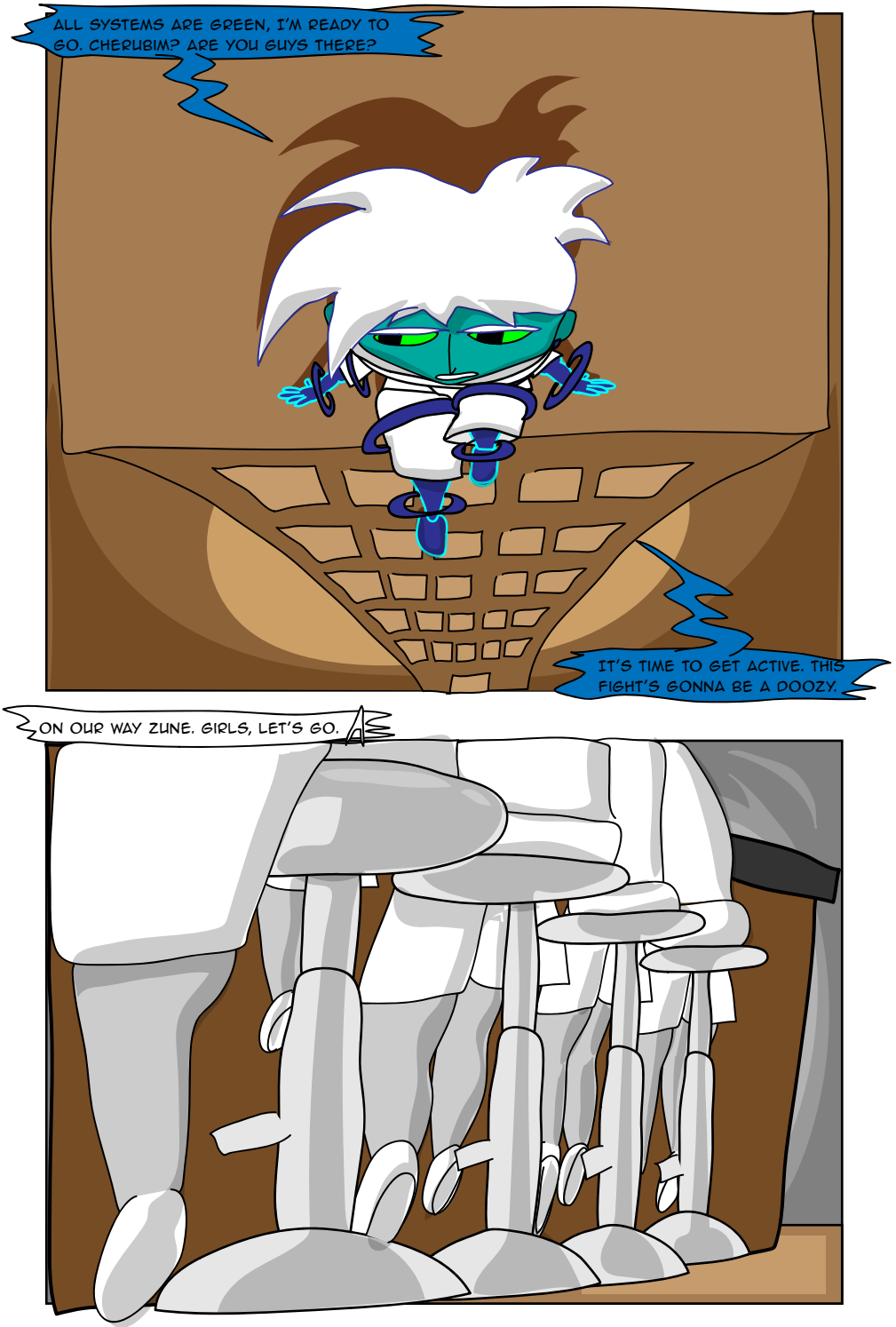

THESE ARE THE THINGS WE AS STARBORN HAVE TO CONTEND WITH. HE'S AN ELECTED OFFICIAL. IT SEEMS AT ONE POINT THE MAJORITY OF CITIZENS WANTED HIM TO LEAD THEM. WHO ARE WE TO COME IN AND CHANGE THAT?
IT'S NOT A RHETORICAL QUESTION. I ASK THIS TO MYSELF OFTEN. CHARL WANTED ME TO INTERACT THIS WAY WITH THE MORTALS. AND NOW I AM TEACHING IT TO YOU.
BUT STILL, KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IDEAS YOU LEARN. MAKE SURE THE WORLD YOU'RE APPLYING IT TO STILL EXISTS. NO POINT IN USING OLD RULES FOR A NEW WORLD.
JUST KNOW THIS. TO LIVE IN A MEGACITY MEANS THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE PLANET YOU CAME FROM WAS DESTROYED. SEEING STARBORN CAN MEAN SAFETY FOR SOME, OR DREDGE UP THE MEMORIES OF LOSS FOR OTHERS.
SO WE'LL DO THIS MISSION WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF STARBORN AND WE'LL TRY OUR BEST NOT TO DISRUPT WHAT THEY'VE GOT GOING ON. ONLY BECAUSE I'M CONFIDENT WE CAN DO IT THAT WAY.
IT'S ALL COMPLICATED. BUT, AT THE END OF THE DAY, I WILL MAKE THE DECISION I THINK SAVES THE MOST LIVES.
I JUST WANT TO TRY TO MAINTAIN THEIR WAY OF LIFE TOO. WHAT IS A LIFE IF ALL YOU'RE DOING IS SURVIVING AND NOT LIVING?
WELL. I GO WHERE YOU GO, PRINCESS. HERE'S HOPING WE'LL BE ENOUGH.

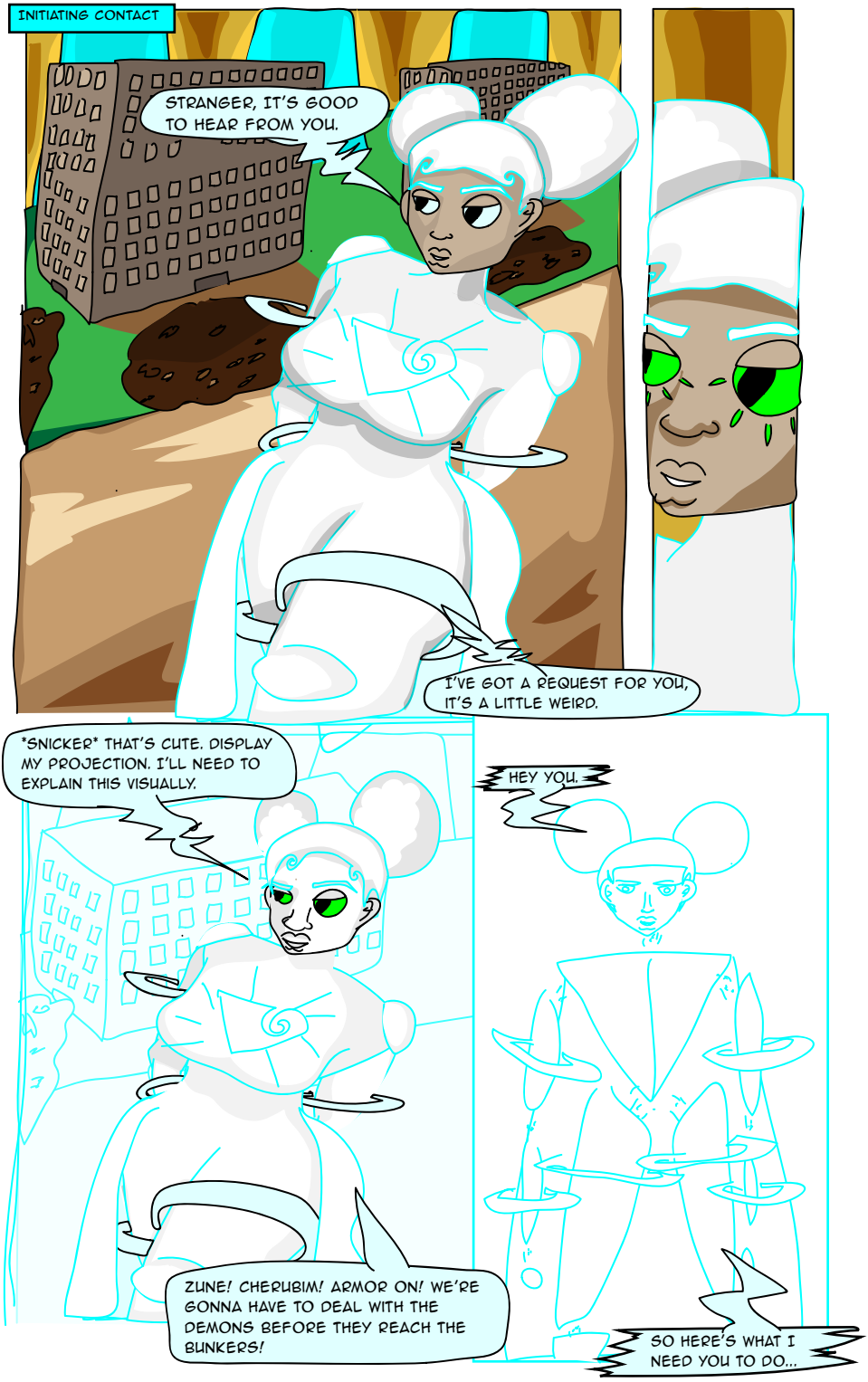

WE'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH, ZUNE. NOW GET READY.

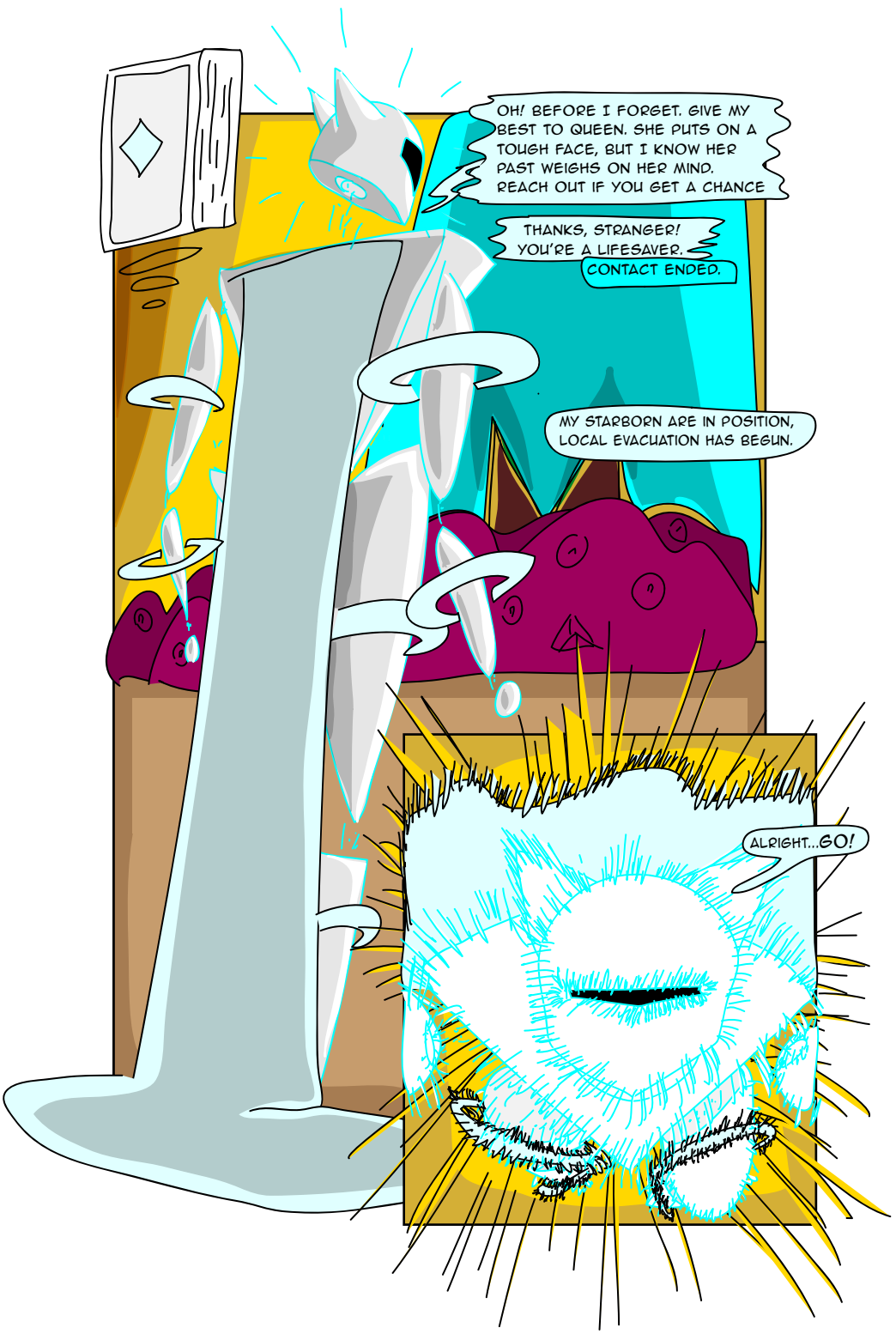



THEY'VE BREACHED THE MEGACITY BARRIER!
WHERE?
THE WESTERN BLOCK IS FULL OF THEM!

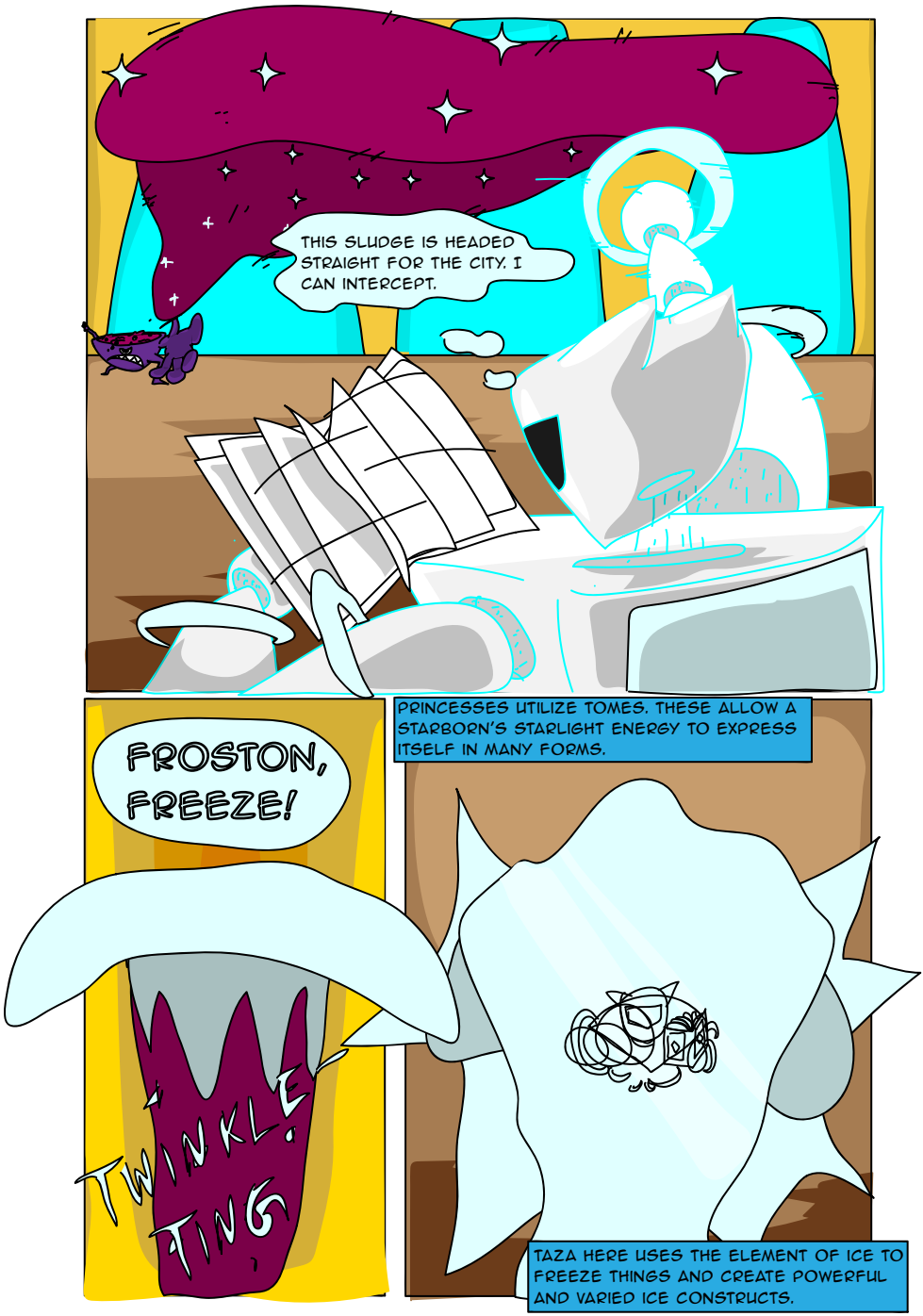

I WON'T LIE. THERE ARE A LOT MORE DEMONS THAN I EXPECTED, PRINCESS.
GETTING COLD FEET?
THE COLD IS YOUR THING, PRINCESS.
THIS JUST PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SLAY MORE DEMONS AND TO FREE MORE SOULS.

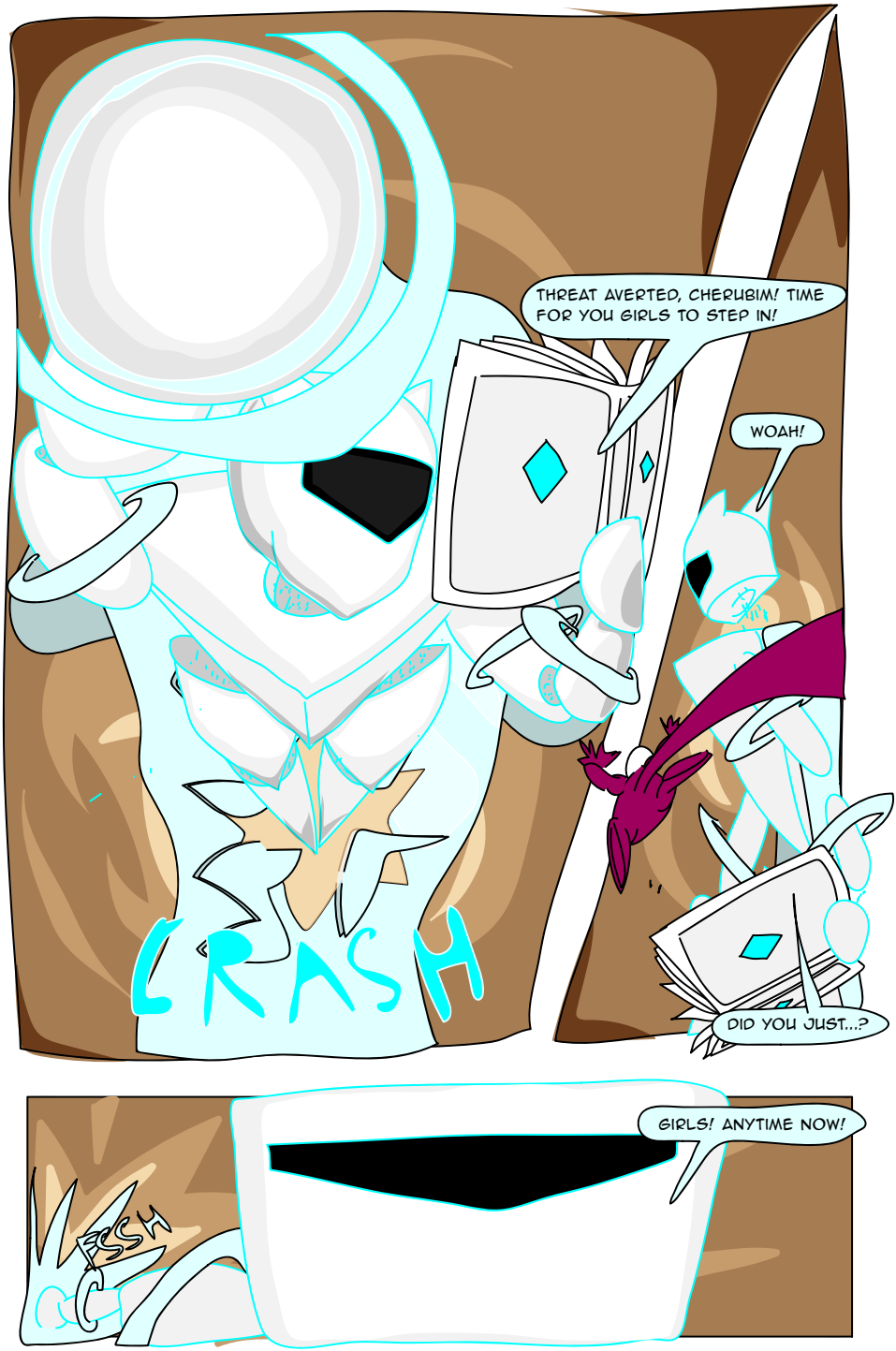

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GREEN, I'M READY TO GO. CHERUBIM? ARE YOU GUYS THERE?
IT'S TIME TO GET ACTIVE. THIS FIGHT'S GONNA BE A DOOZY.
ON OUR WAY ZUNE. GIRLS, LET'S GO.

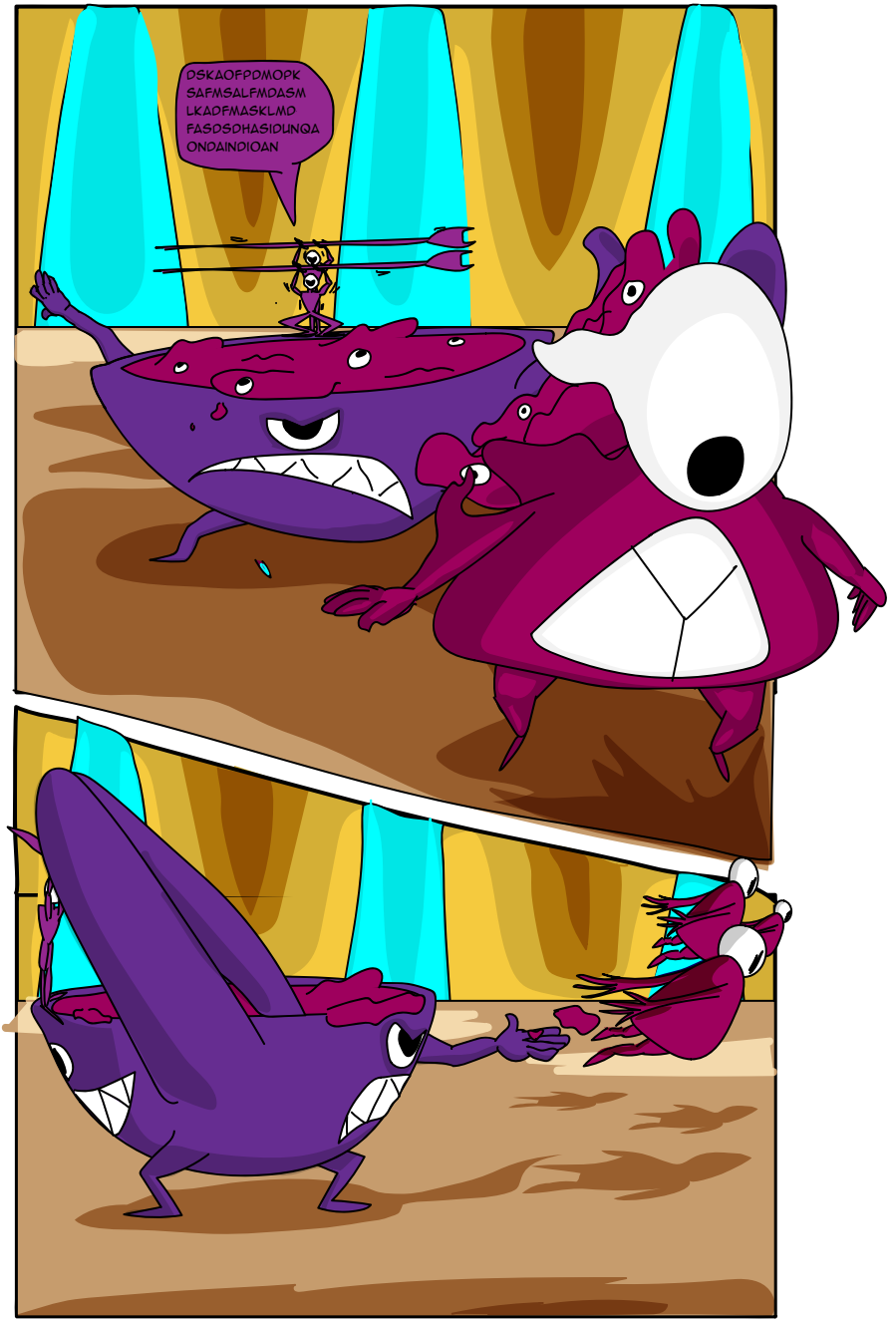

INITIATING CONTACT
STRANGER, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU.
I'VE GOT A REQUEST FOR YOU, IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD.
SNICKER THAT'S CUTE. DISPLAY MY PROJECTION. I'LL NEED TO EXPLAIN THIS VISUALLY.
HEY YOU.
ZUNE! CHERUBIM! ARMOR ON! WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE DEMONS BEFORE THEY REACH THE BUNKERS!
SO HERE'S WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO...


OH! BEFORE I FORGET. GIVE MY BEST TO QUEEN. SHE PUTS ON A TOUGH FACE, BUT I KNOW HER PAST WEIGHS ON HER MIND. REACH OUT IF YOU GET A CHANCE
THANKS, STRANGER! YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.
CONTACT ENDED.
MY STARBORN ARE IN POSITION, LOCAL EVACUATION HAS BEGUN.
ALRIGHT...GO!

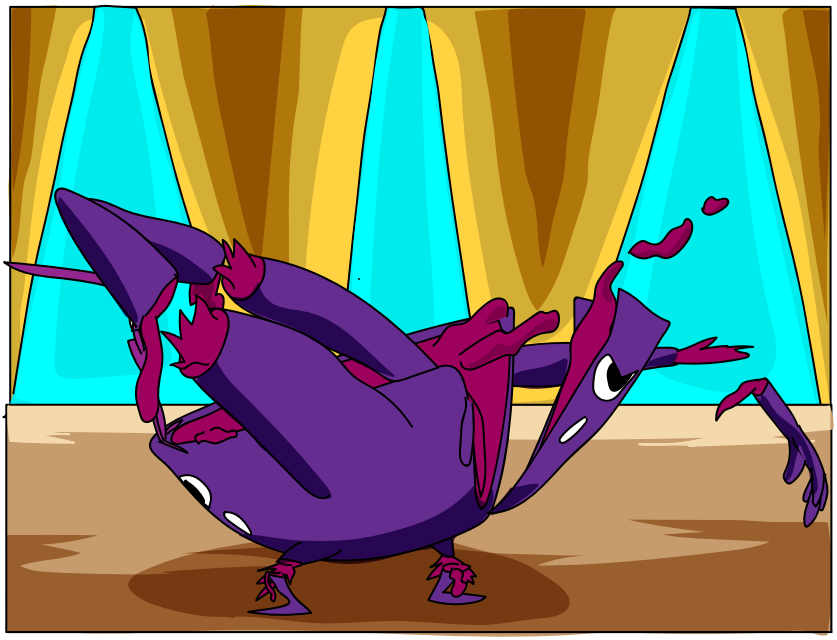

THE DEMONS HAVE BREACHED THE MEGA CITY BARRIER. NOT GOOD.
FROSTON! TO ME!
LUCKILY, THEY'RE ONLY TRICKLING IN.
I'LL HAVE TO PLUG THIS LEAK BEFORE WE HAVE A FULL ON FLOOD.

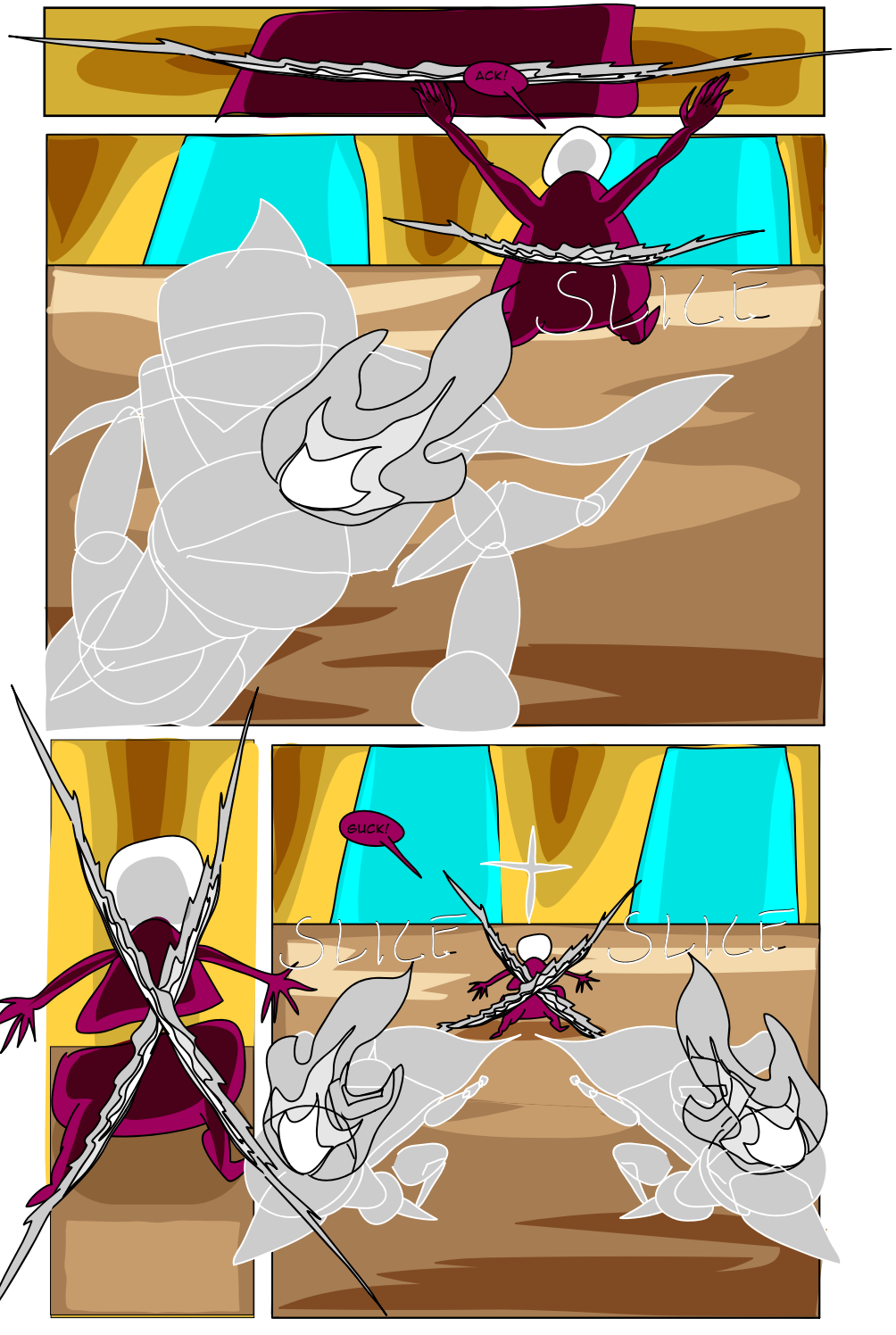

THIS SLUDGE IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE CITY. I CAN INTERCEPT.
FROSTON, FREEZE!
TWINKLE TING
PRINCESSES UTILIZE TOMES. THESE ALLOW A STARBORN'S STARLIGHT ENERGY TO EXPRESS ITSELF IN MANY FORMS.
TAZA HERE USES THE ELEMENT OF ICE TO FREEZE THINGS AND CREATE POWERFUL AND VARIED ICE CONSTRUCTS.


THREAT AVERTED, CHERUBIM! TIME FOR YOU GIRLS TO STEP IN!
WOAH!
CRASH
DID YOU JUST...?
GIRLS! ANYTIME NOW!
FSSH

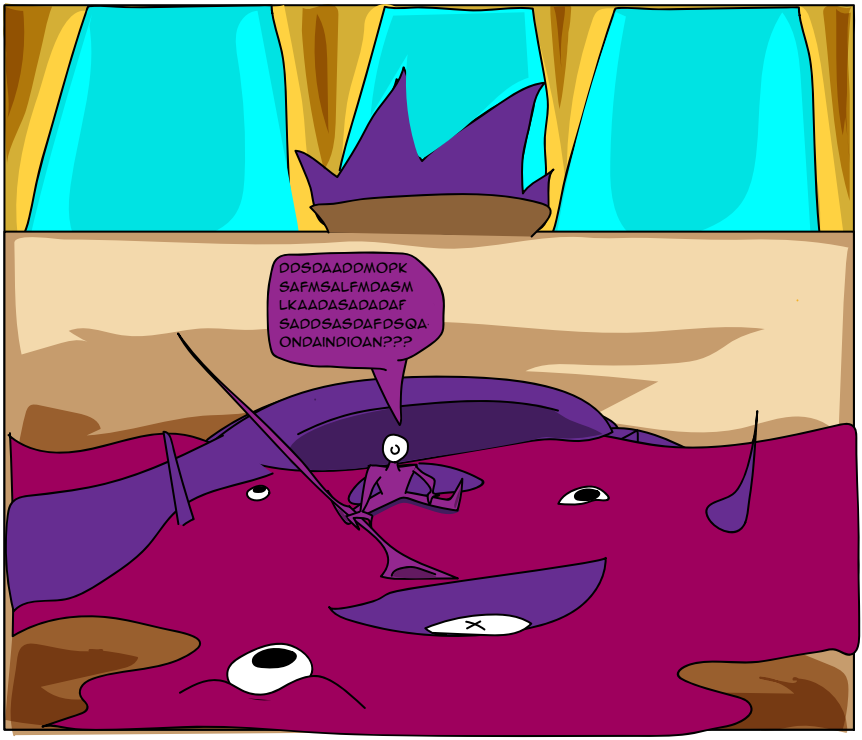

DSKAOFPDMOPK
SAFMSALFMDASM
LKADFMASKLMD
FASDSDHASIDUNQA
ONDAINDIOAN

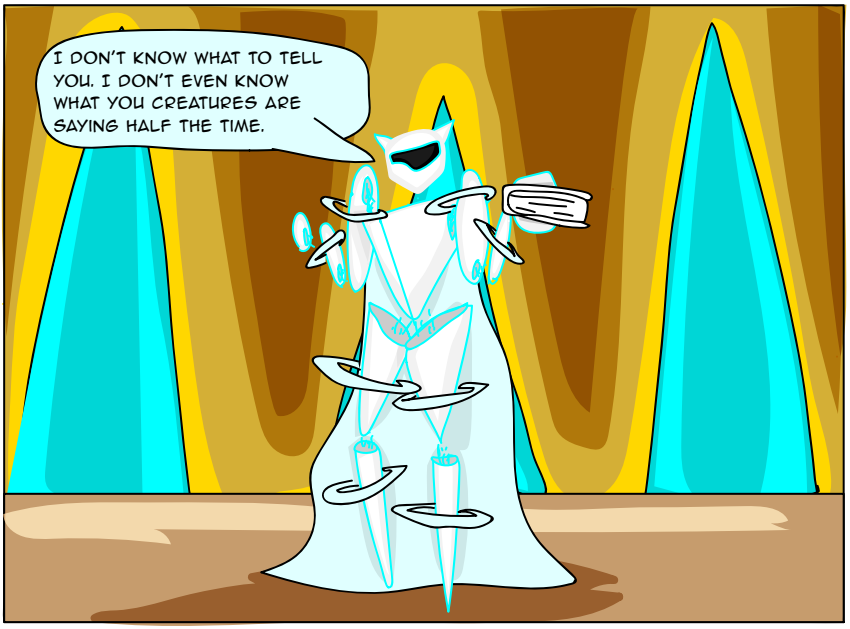

SLIP
SLIP
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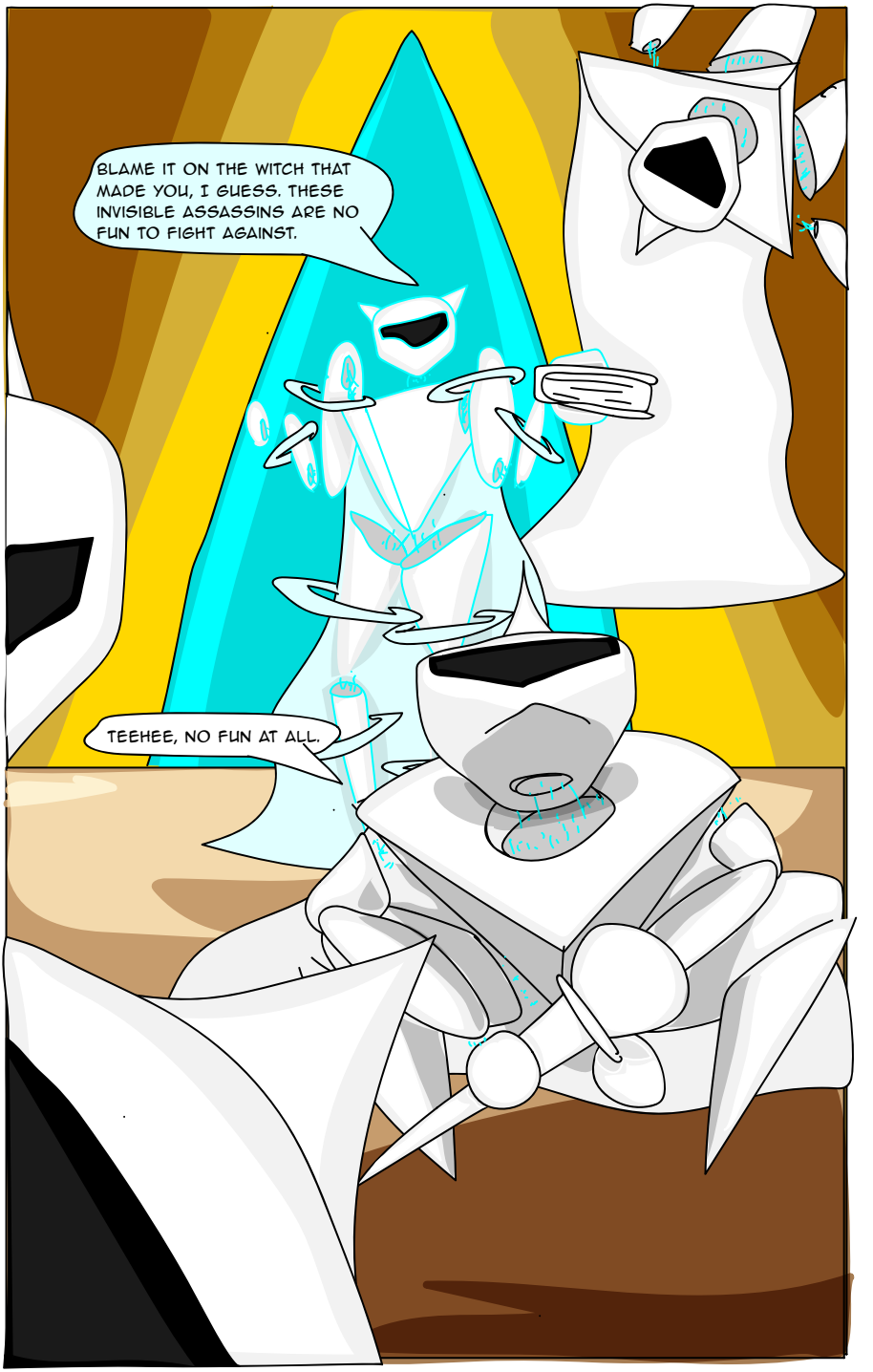


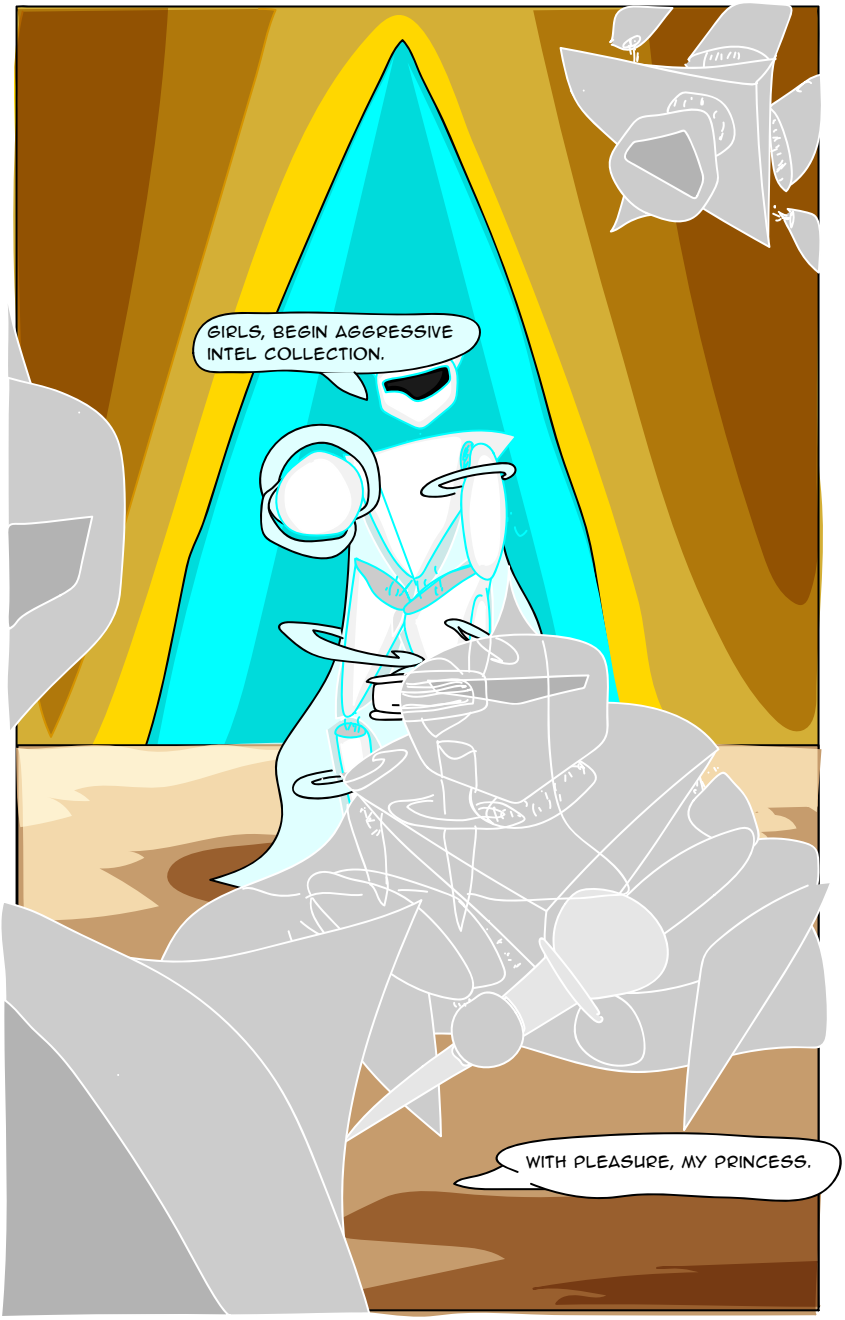

ACK!
SLICE
GUCK!
SLICE
SLICE

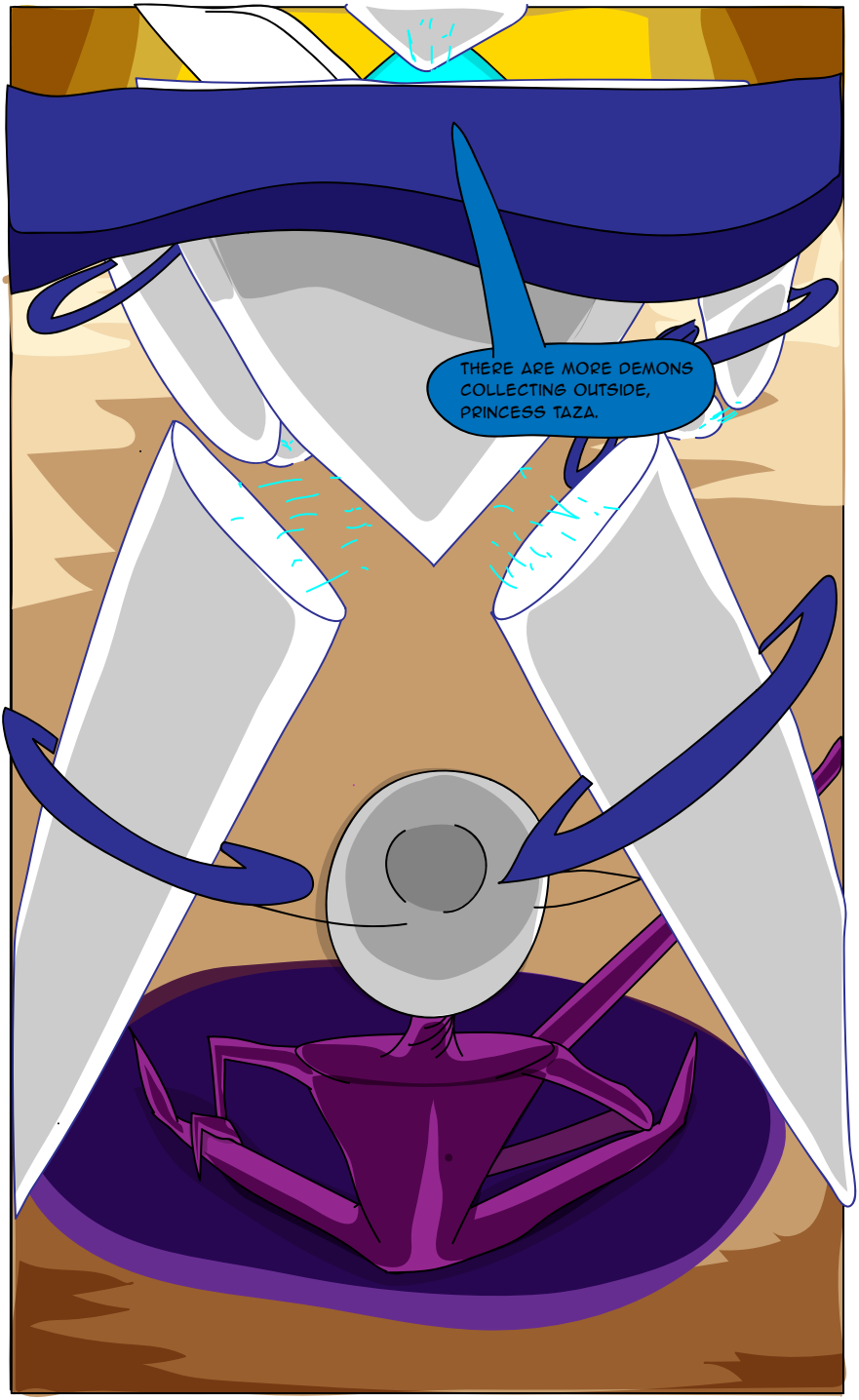

SLICE
SLICE

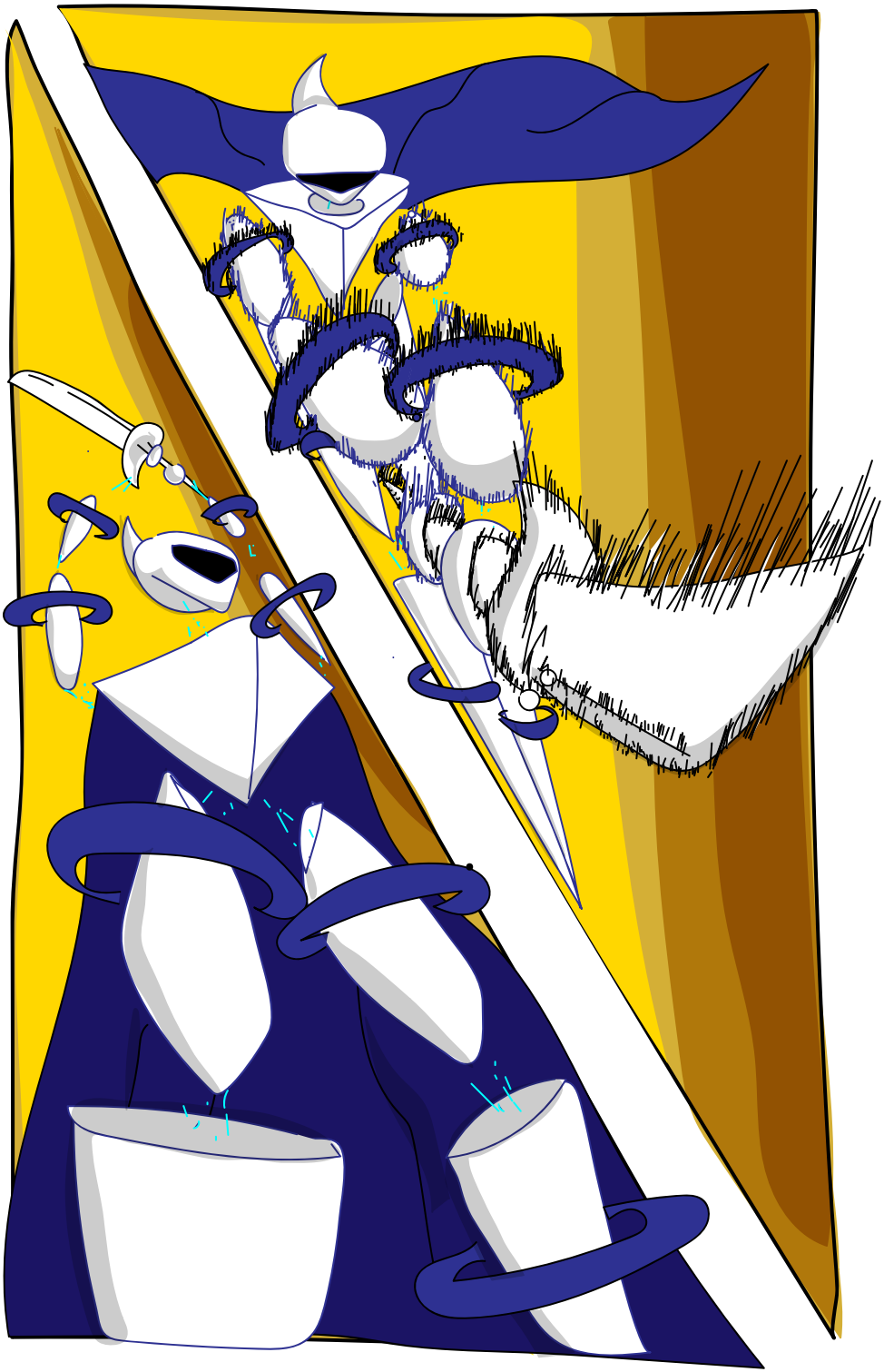

DDSDAADDMOPK
SAFMSALFMDASM
LKAADASADADAF
SADDSASDAFDSQA
ONDAINDIOAN???

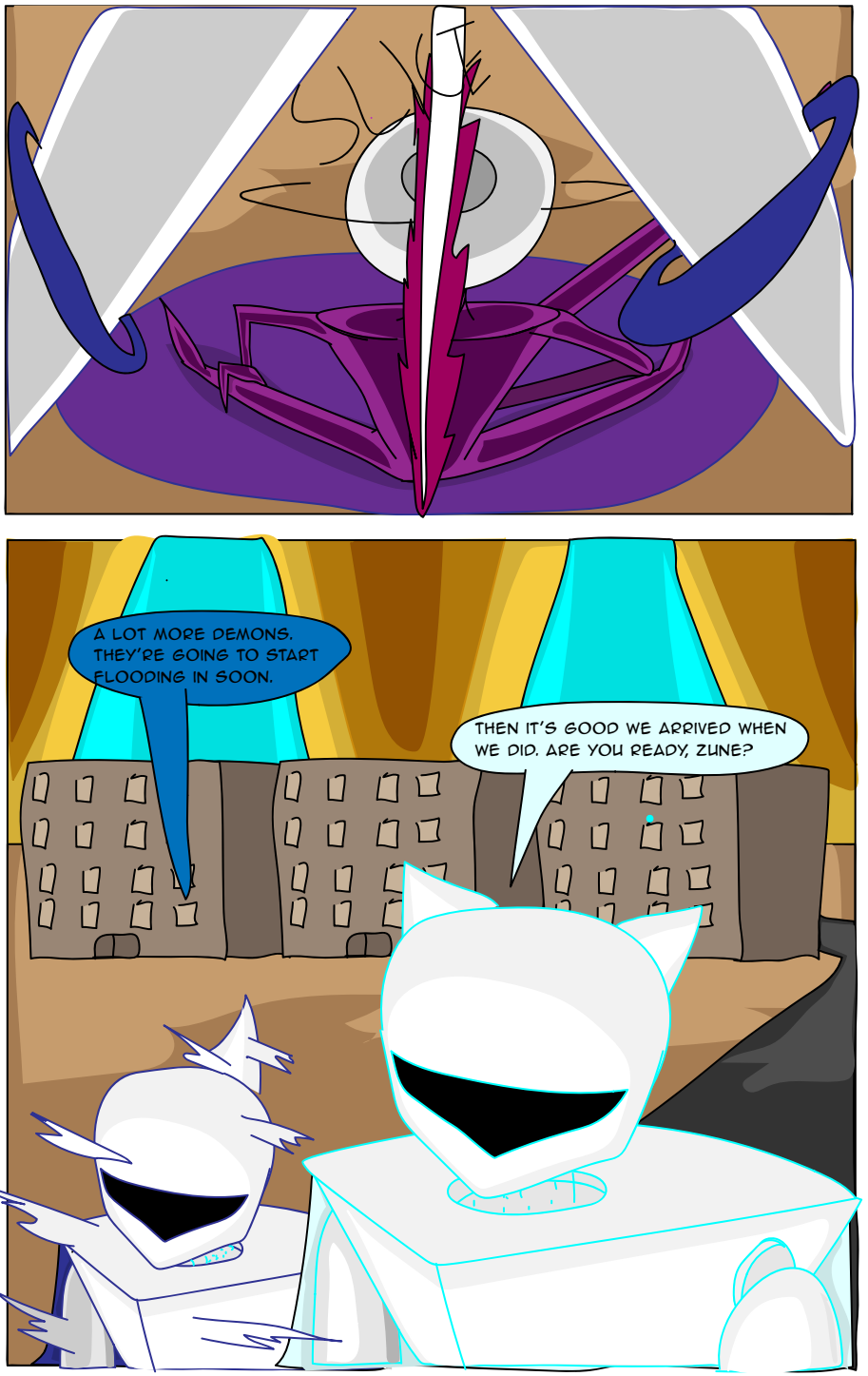

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU CREATURES ARE SAYING HALF THE TIME.


BLAME IT ON THE WITCH THAT MADE YOU, I GUESS. THESE INVISIBLE ASSASSINS ARE NO FUN TO FIGHT AGAINST.
TEEHEE, NO FUN AT ALL.

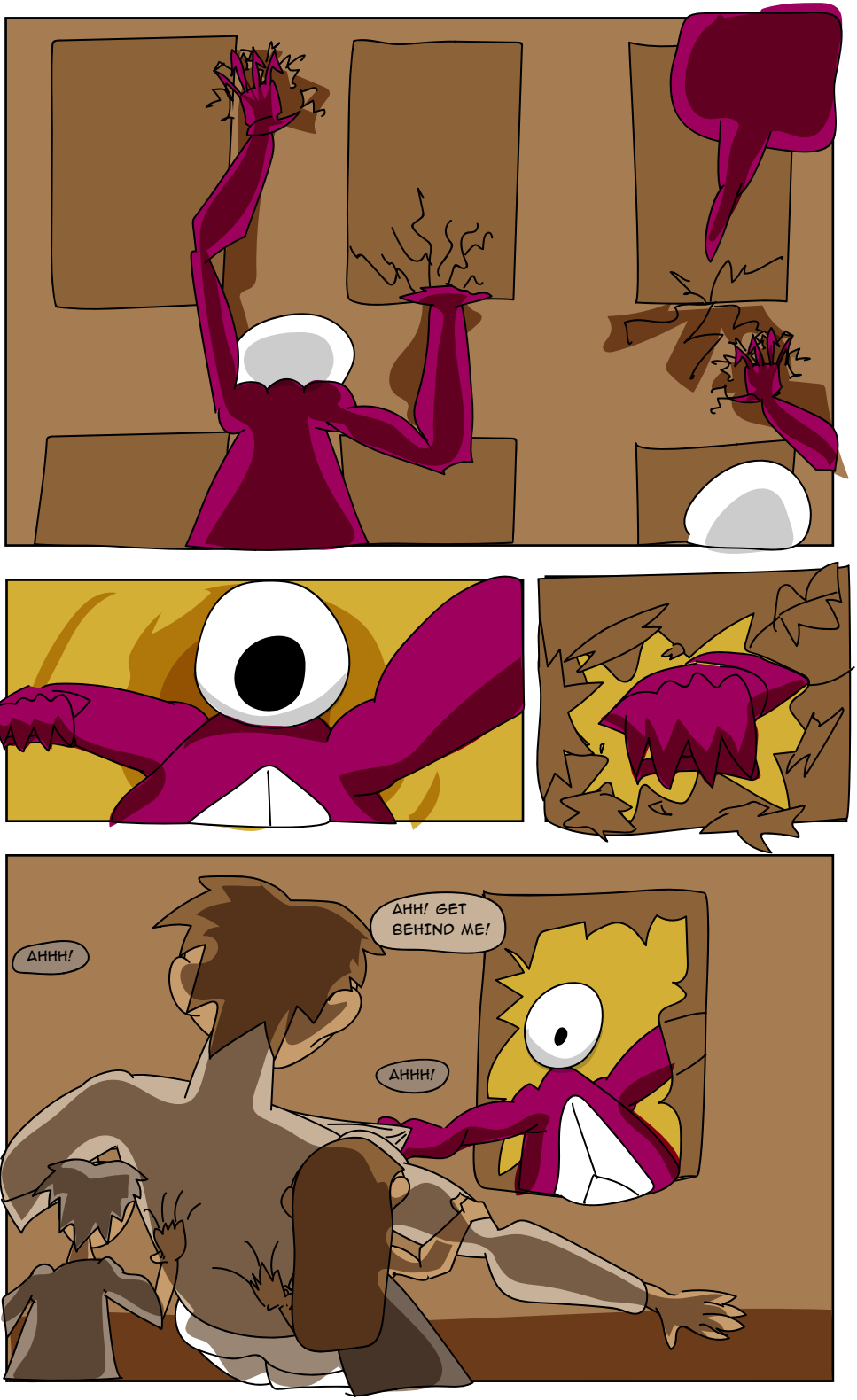

GIRLS, BEGIN AGGRESSIVE INTEL COLLECTION.
WITH PLEASURE, MY PRINCESS.


THERE ARE MORE DEMONS COLLECTING OUTSIDE, PRINCESS TAZA.

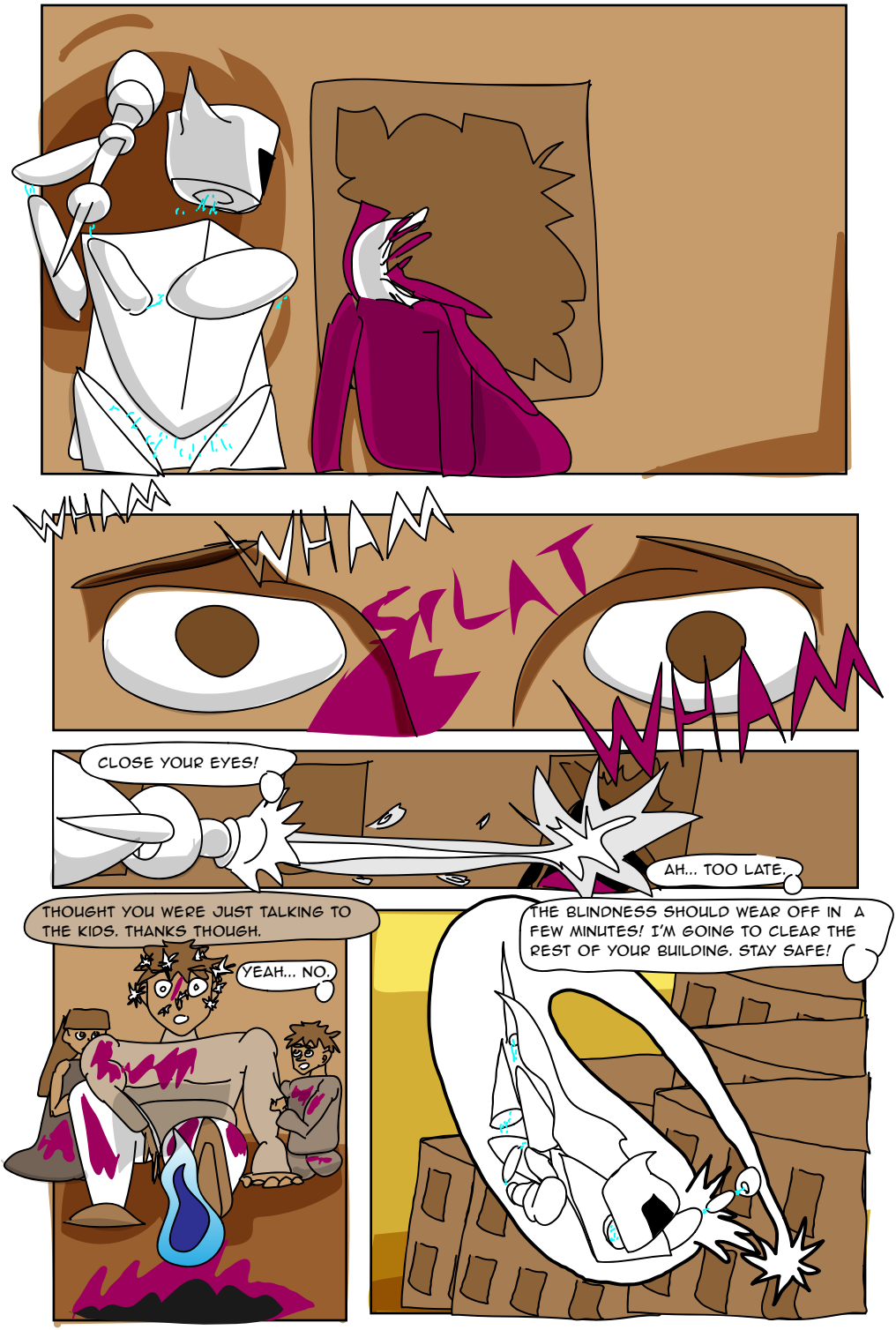



A LOT MORE DEMONS. THEY'RE GOING TO START FLOODING IN SOON.
THEN IT'S GOOD WE ARRIVED WHEN WE DID. ARE YOU READY, ZUNE?


CHERUBIM, HOLD THE LINE BEHIND US! NO DEMON CAN BE ALLOWED TO BREACH THE CITY!
YES, MY PRINCESS!
UN'S FLAME!
OONTZ, THEY'RE GETTING AROUND US. DEFEND THE BUILDINGS!
SCREEE
CONSIDER IT DONE, ANTZ!

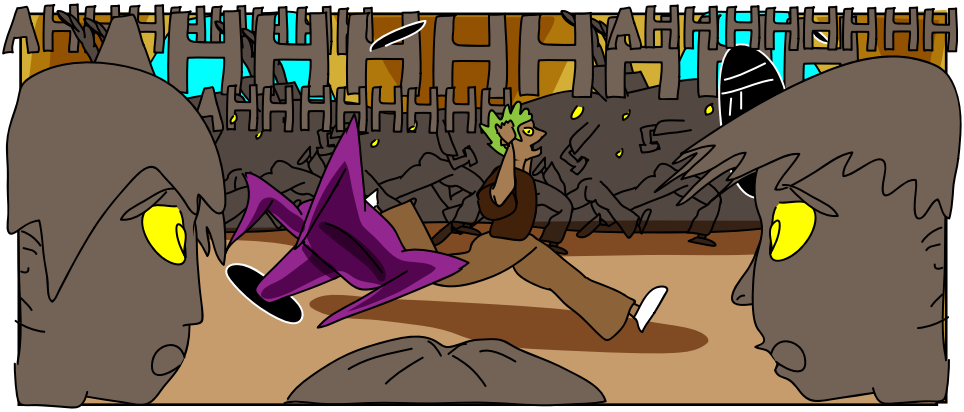

AHHH!
AHH! GET BEHIND ME!
AHHH!

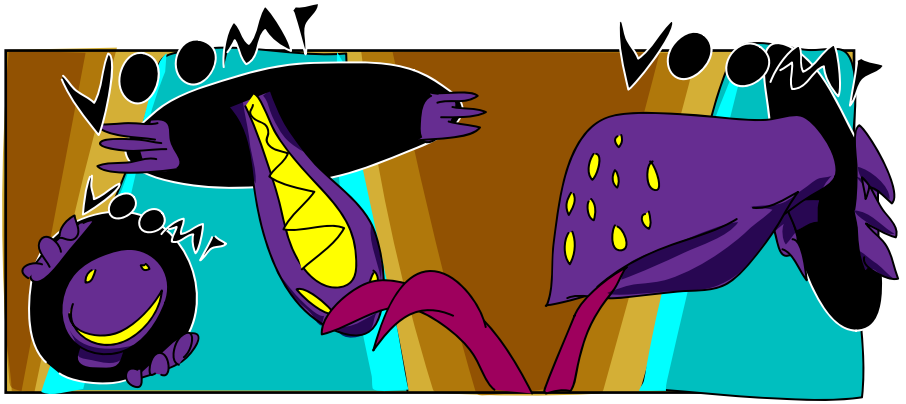

OH GOD, TRINITY SAVE MY CHILDREN.
SQUELCH

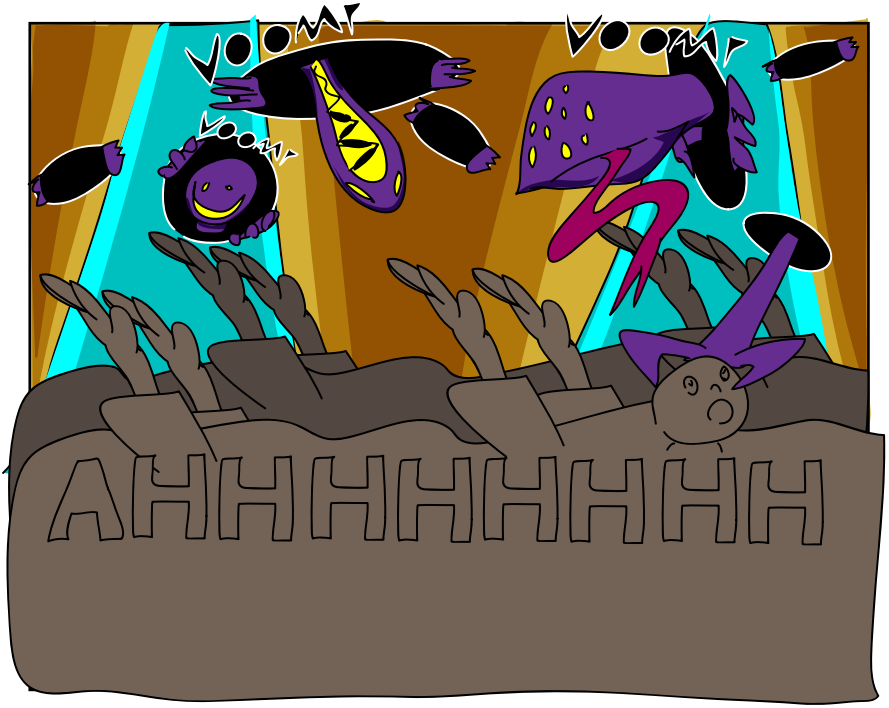

WHAM
SPLAT
WHAM
CLOSE YOUR EYES!
AH... TOO LATE.
THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST TALKING TO THE KIDS. THANKS THOUGH.
YEAH... NO.
THE BLINDNESS SHOULD WEAR OFF IN A FEW MINUTES! I'M GOING TO CLEAR THE REST OF YOUR BUILDING. STAY SAFE!

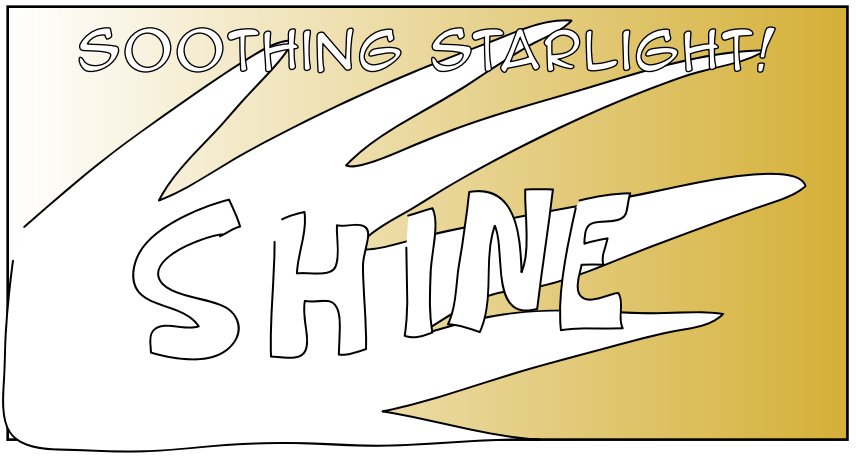

EVERY NON-COMBATANT, PLEASE MOVE DEEPER INTO THE CITY.
EVERY NON-COMBATANT, PLEASE MOVE DEEPER INTO THE CITY.
A STARBORN... IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN. IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
AHHHHHHHHH

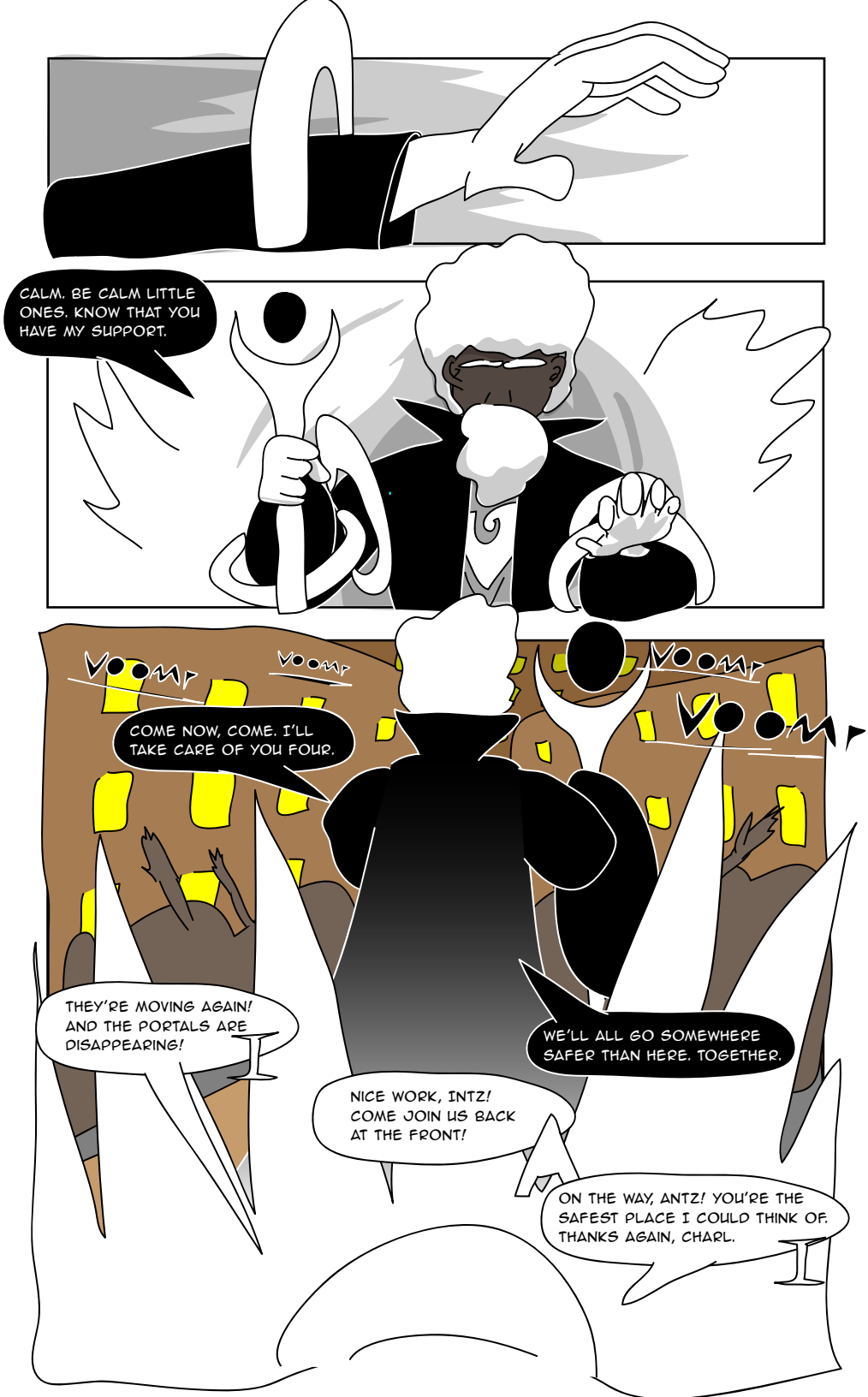


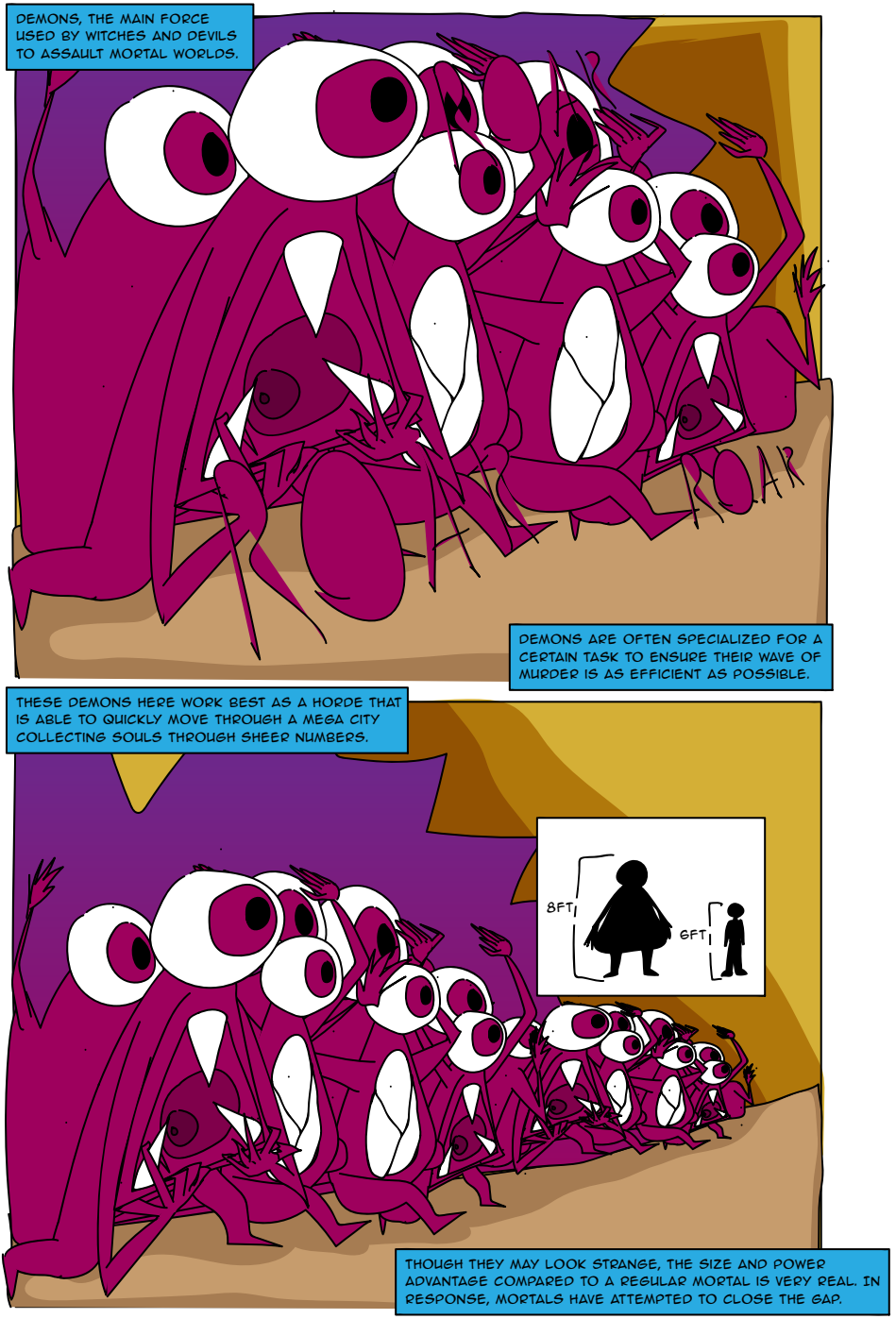

AHHHHHHH



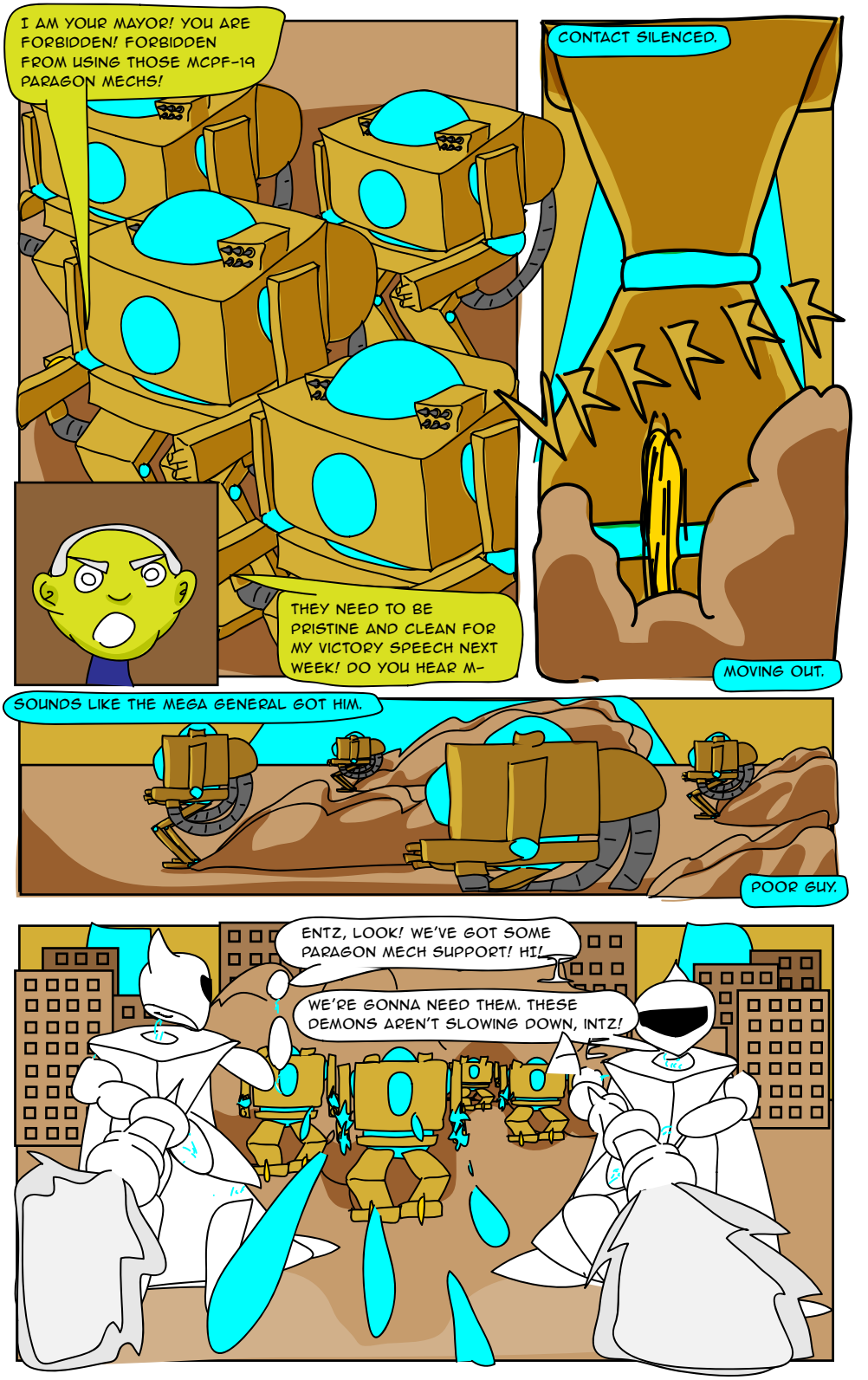

AHHHHHHHHH


SOOTHING STARLIGHT!
SHINE

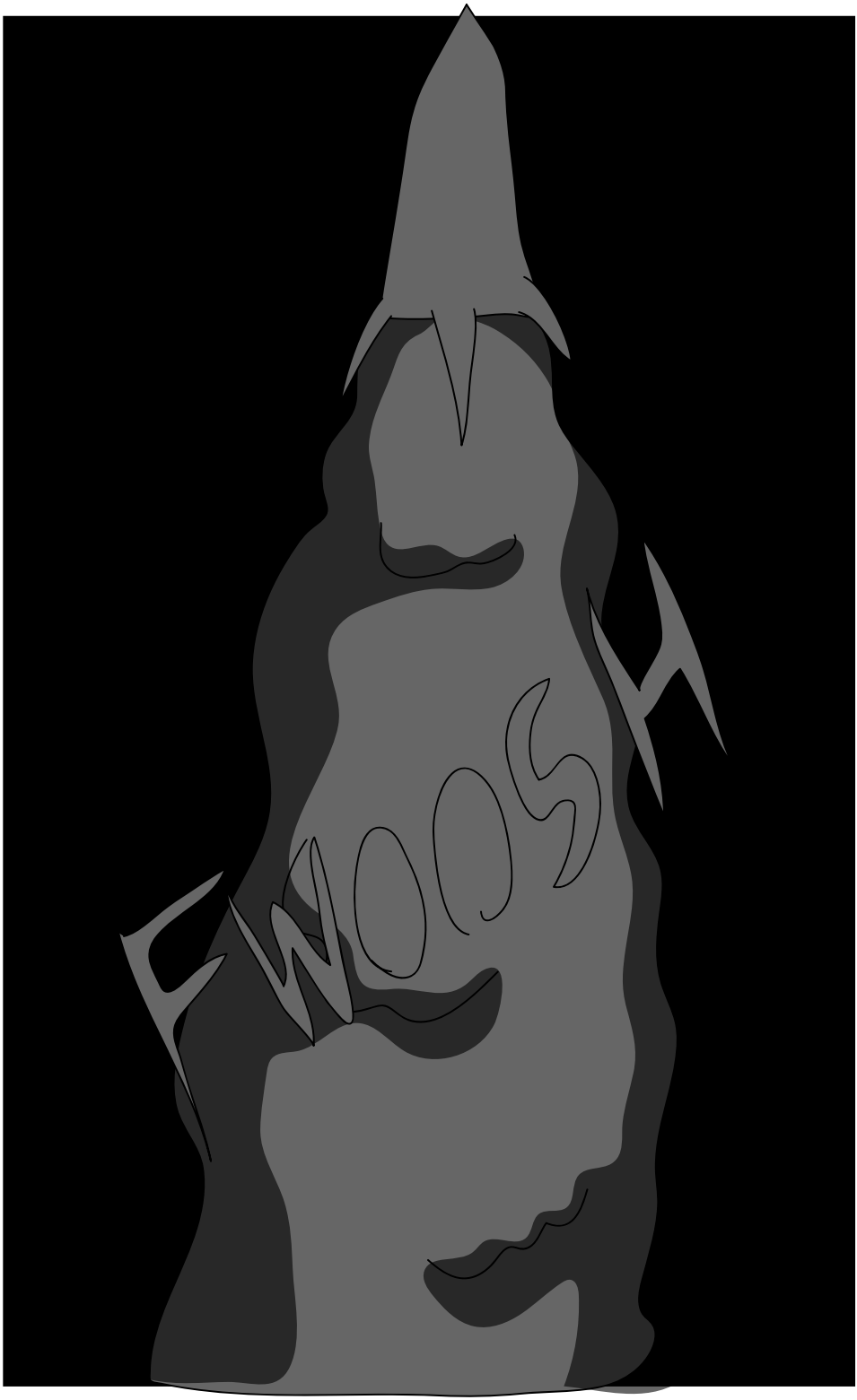

CALM. BE CALM LITTLE ONES. KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT.
VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
COME NOW, COME. I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU FOUR.
THEY'RE MOVING AGAIN! AND THE PORTALS ARE DISAPPEARING!
NICE WORK, INTZ! COME JOIN US BACK AT THE FRONT!
WE'LL ALL GO SOMEWHERE SAFER THAN HERE. TOGETHER.
ON THE WAY, ANTZ! YOU'RE THE SAFEST PLACE I COULD THINK OF. THANKS AGAIN, CHARL.


DEMONS, THE MAIN FORCE USED BY WITCHES AND DEVILS TO ASSAULT MORTAL WORLDS.
ROAR
DEMONS ARE OFTEN SPECIALIZED FOR A CERTAIN TASK TO ENSURE THEIR WAVE OF MURDER IS AS EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE.
THESE DEMONS HERE WORK BEST AS A HORDE THAT IS ABLE TO QUICKLY MOVE THROUGH A MEGA CITY COLLECTING SOULS THROUGH SHEER NUMBERS.
8FT
6FT
THOUGH THEY MAY LOOK STRANGE, THE SIZE AND POWER ADVANTAGE COMPARED TO A REGULAR MORTAL IS VERY REAL. IN RESPONSE, MORTALS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CLOSE THE GAP.


ARE YOU INSANE, GENERAL?! THOSE PARAGON MECHS CANNOT BE DAMAGED!
MEGA GENERAL.
WHAT?!
THIS IS A MEGACITY. I AM A MEGA GENERAL.
WELL, I NEED YOU TO ORDER A MEGA U-TURN AND BRING THOSE MECHS BACK!
YOU PLAN TO HEAD OUT THERE?
ABSOLUTELY NOT! THAT'S NOT MY JOB! MY JOB IS TO GET REELECTED!
ANYONE CAN JOIN THE MCPF, IT'S A VOLUNTEER POSITION. IT'S ALWAYS ALL HANDS ON DECK AROUND HERE.
YOU REALLY HAVE LOST IT!
GIVE ME THAT!
ATTENTION MCPF PARAGONS.

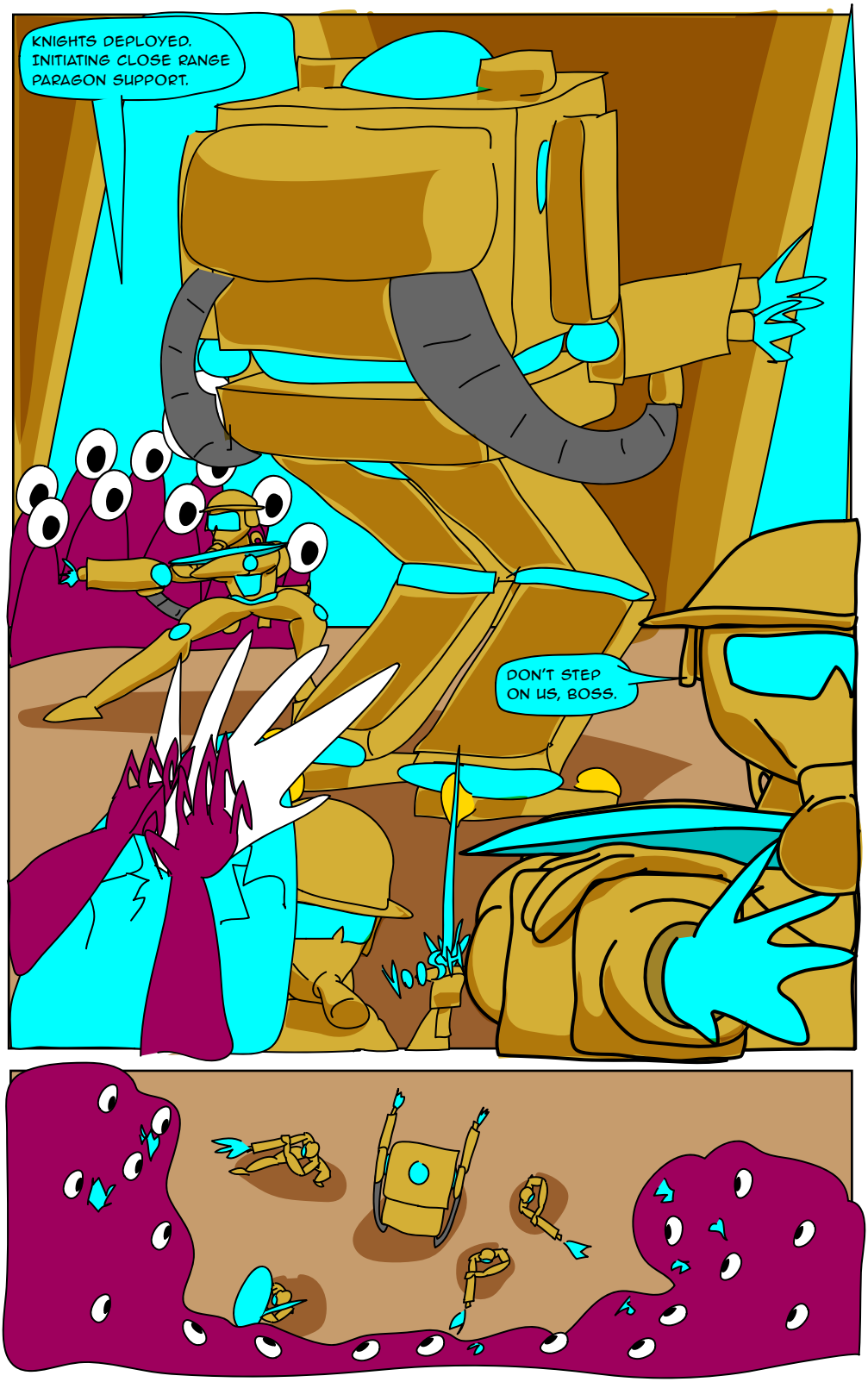

I AM YOUR MAYOR! YOU ARE FORBIDDEN! FORBIDDEN FROM USING THOSE MCPF-19 PARAGON MECHS!
THEY NEED TO BE PRISTINE AND CLEAN FOR MY VICTORY SPEECH NEXT WEEK! DO YOU HEAR M-
CONTACT SILENCED.
VRRRRR
MOVING OUT.
SOUNDS LIKE THE MEGA GENERAL GOT HIM.
POOR GUY.
ENTZ, LOOK! WE'VE GOT SOME PARAGON MECH SUPPORT! HI!
WE'RE GONNA NEED THEM. THESE DEMONS AREN'T SLOWING DOWN, INTZ!

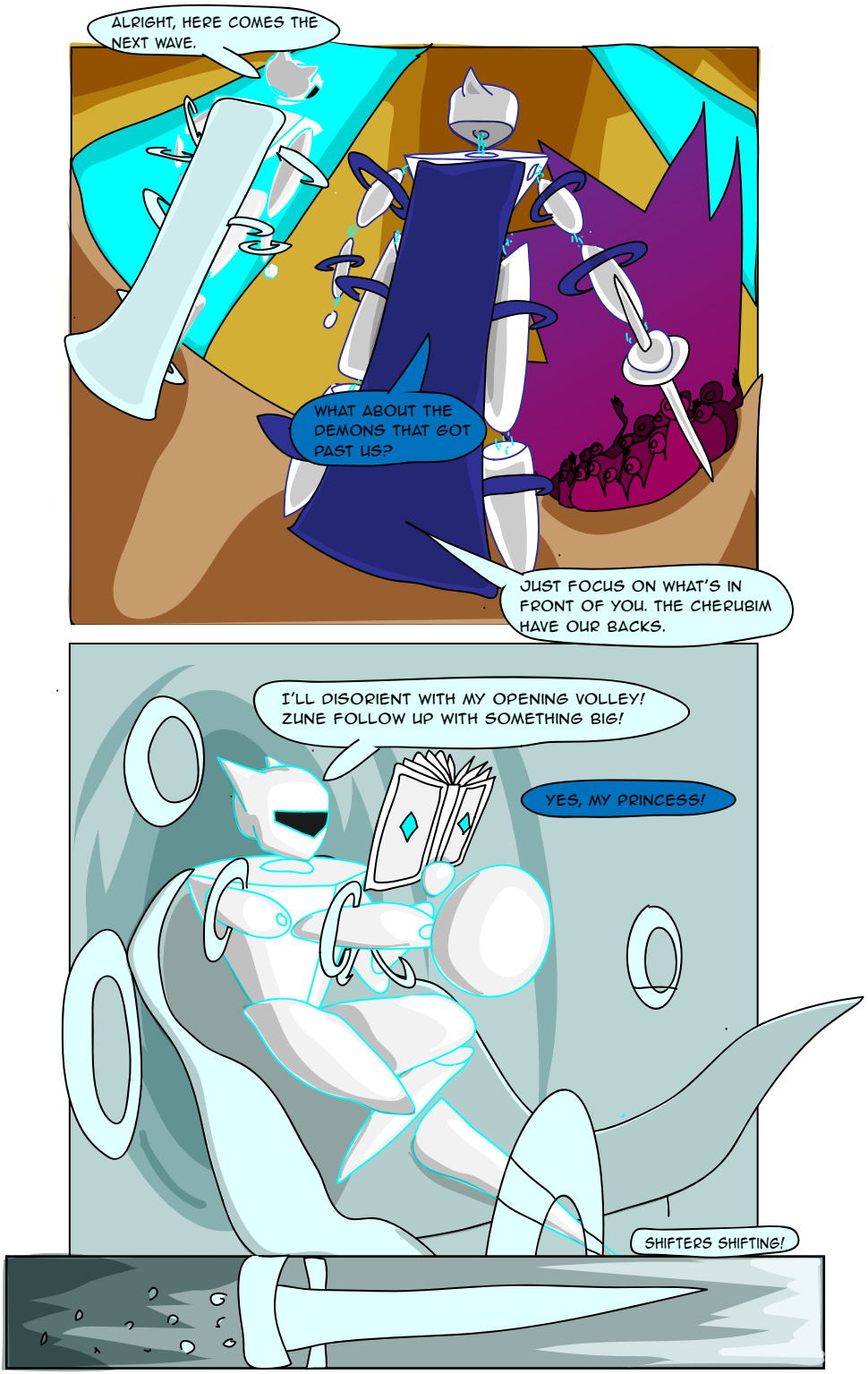

YOU SEEM...LOST...OR DELUDED. I WILL TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION AND CHOOSE MY NEXT WORDS ACCORDINGLY. CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE, MR. MAYOR, THIS IS REAL. THIS IS ALL ACTUALLY HAPPENING.
NOW. I STAY OUR OF YOUR WAY MOST DAYS, DON'T I?
PRESS
I DON'T INTERRUPT YOUR FAKE LITTLE GOVERNMENT. I DON'T WALK INTO YOUR TINY OFFICE AND START PUSHING YOUR PENS AROUND. I JUST SIT HERE AND PREPARE.
LUCKILY, I PREPARE FOR DAYS LIKE THESE. SO. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SIGN UP, ENLIST, AND SERVE THIS MEGACITY YOU SO GLEEFULLY LEECH MAYORAL BENEFITS FROM....
SIT THERE AND LET ME DO MY JOB!


FWOOSH

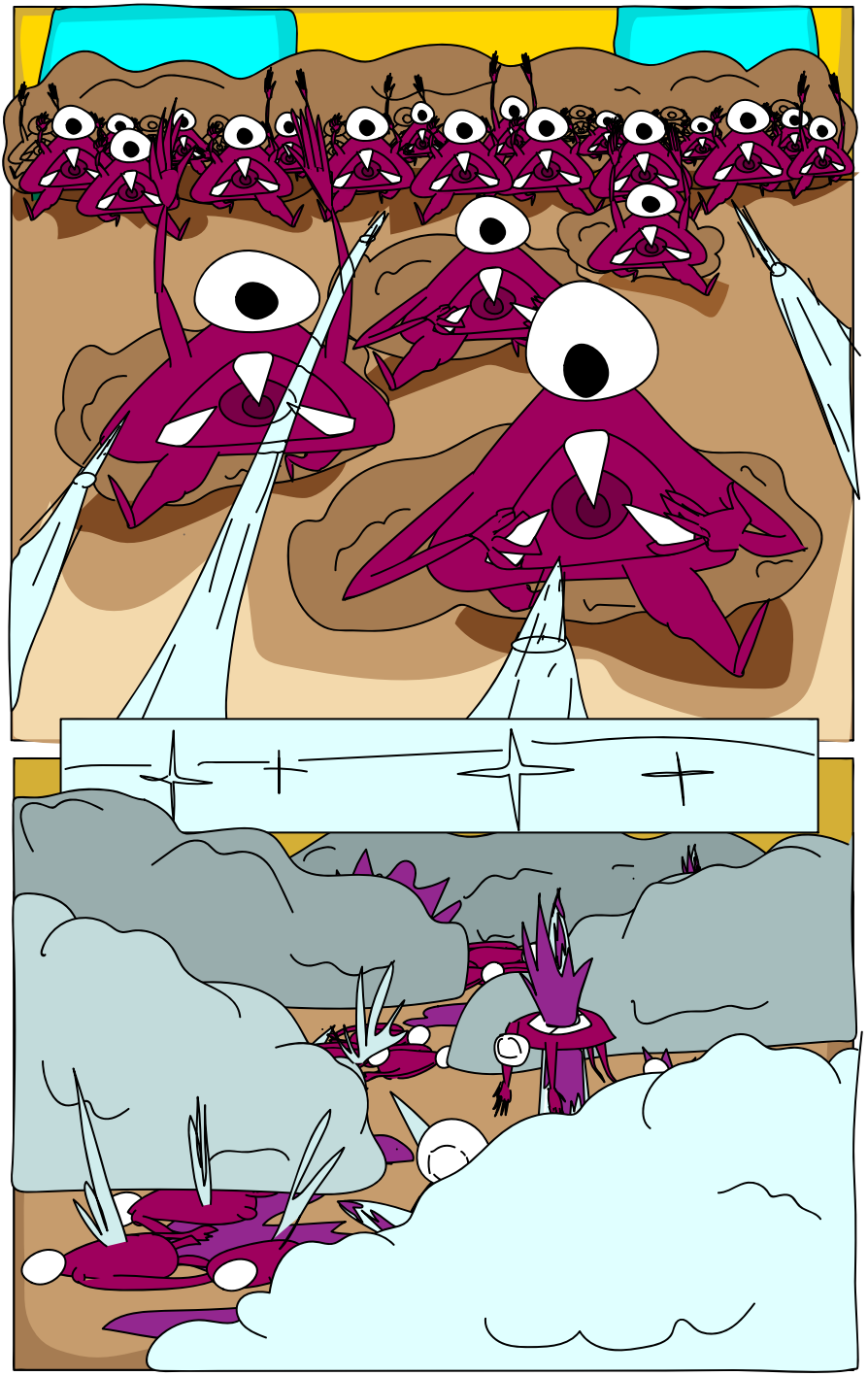

FWOOSH
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM


FWOOSH
FWOOSH


KNIGHTS DEPLOYED. INITIATING CLOSE RANGE PARAGON SUPPORT.
DON'T STEP ON US, BOSS.

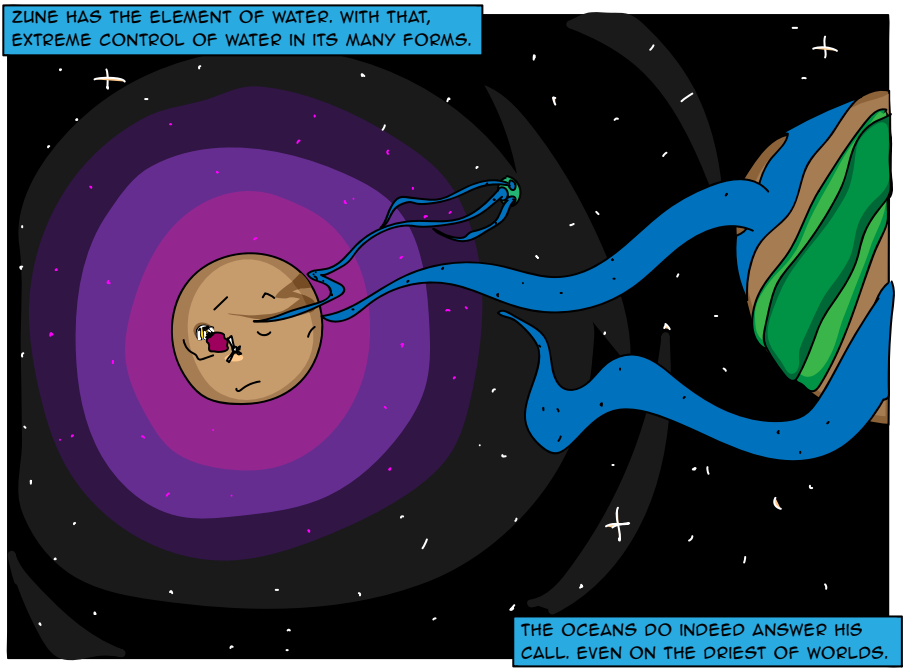

ALRIGHT, HERE COMES THE NEXT WAVE.
WHAT ABOUT THE DEMONS THAT GOT PAST US?
JUST FOCUS ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU. THE CHERUBIM HAVE OUR BACKS.
I'LL DISORIENT WITH MY OPENING VOLLEY! ZUNE FOLLOW UP WITH SOMETHING BIG!
YES, MY PRINCESS!
SHIFTERS SHIFTING!

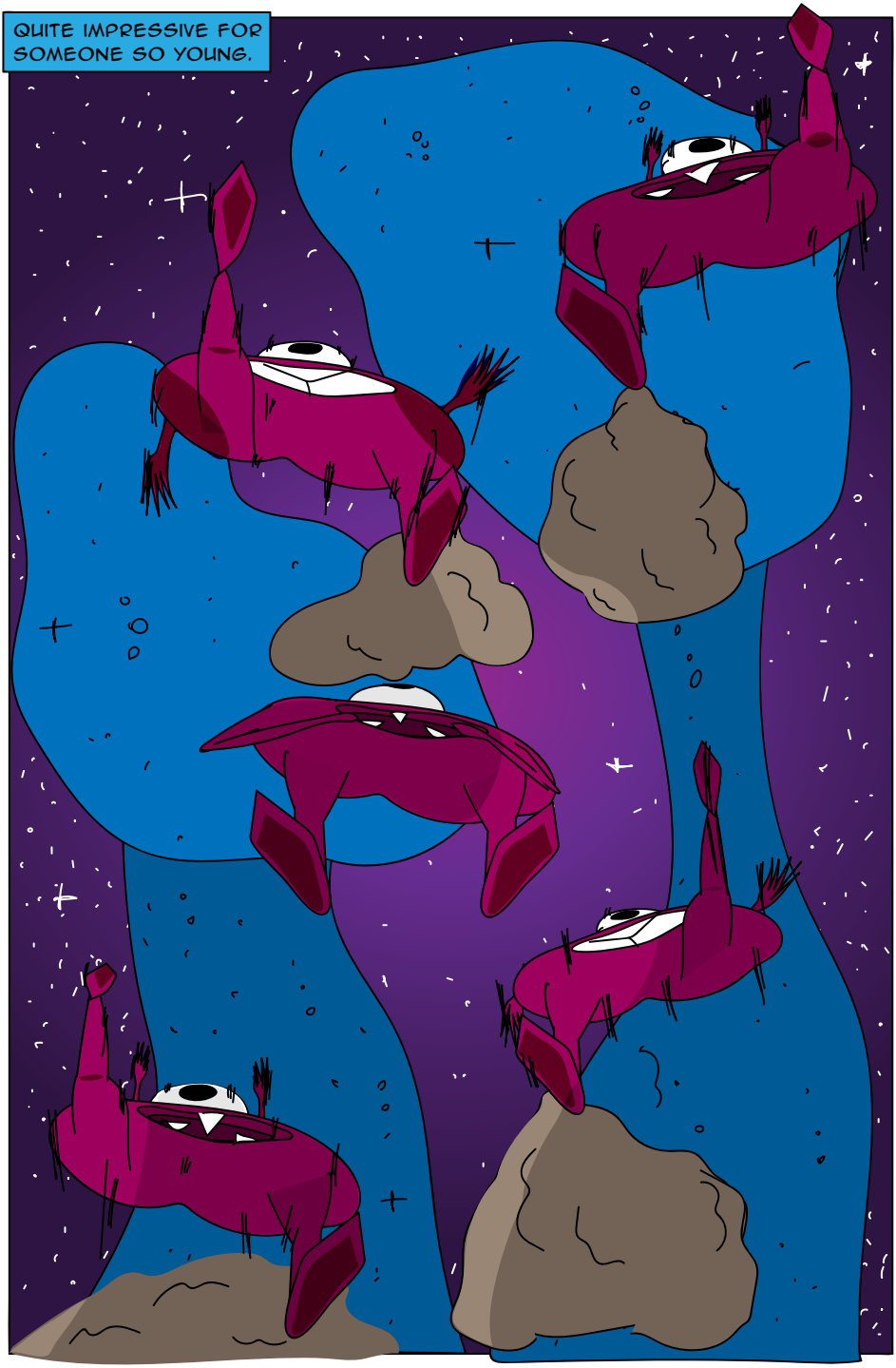

FROSTBITE
IMPALER



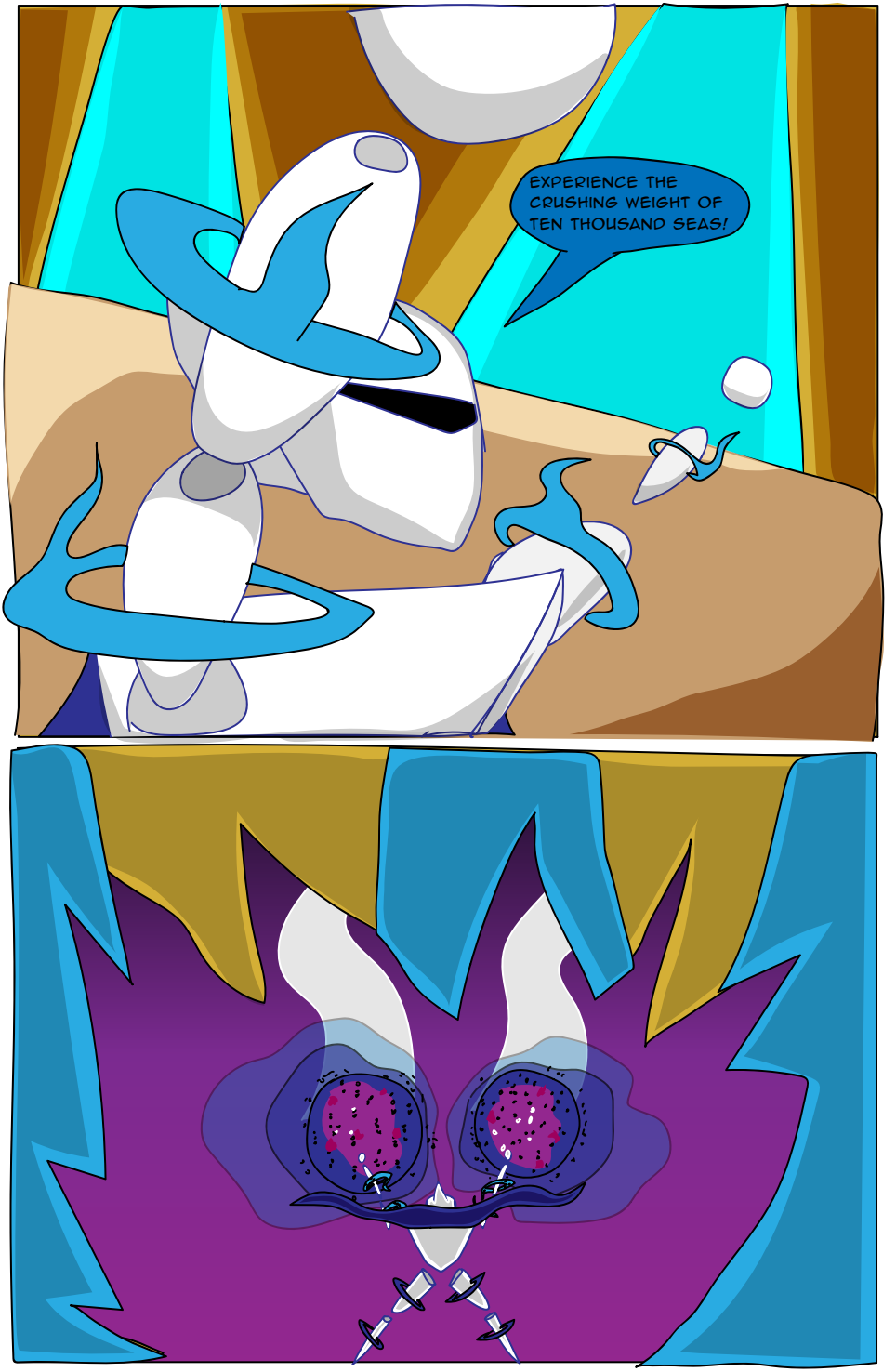

NOW ZUNE! WHILE I'VE GOT THEM PINNED DOWN!
MAKE SURE TO COVER ME AFTER. I NEED TO PREPARE MY NEXT VOLLEY.

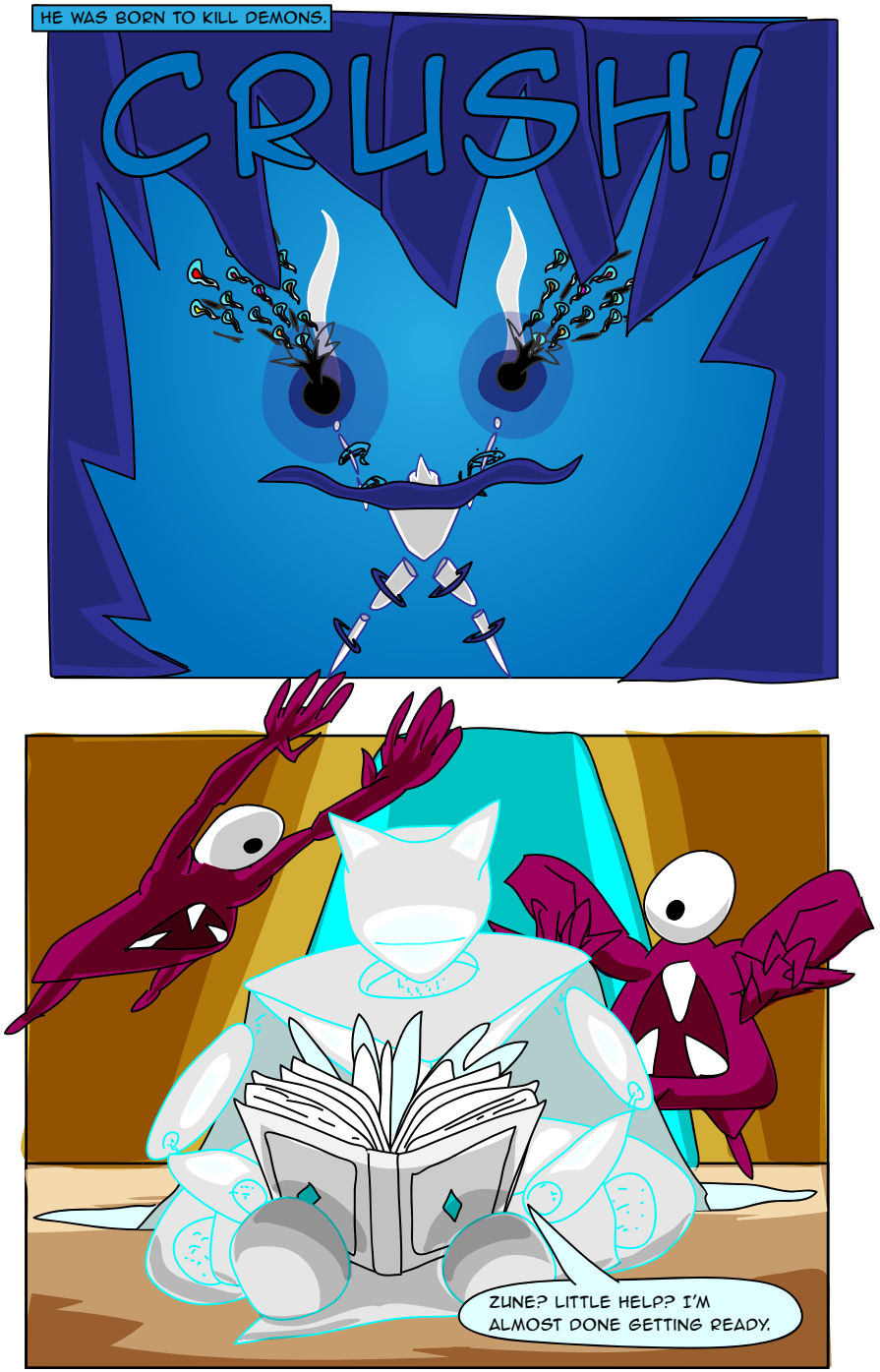

OCEAN CALL

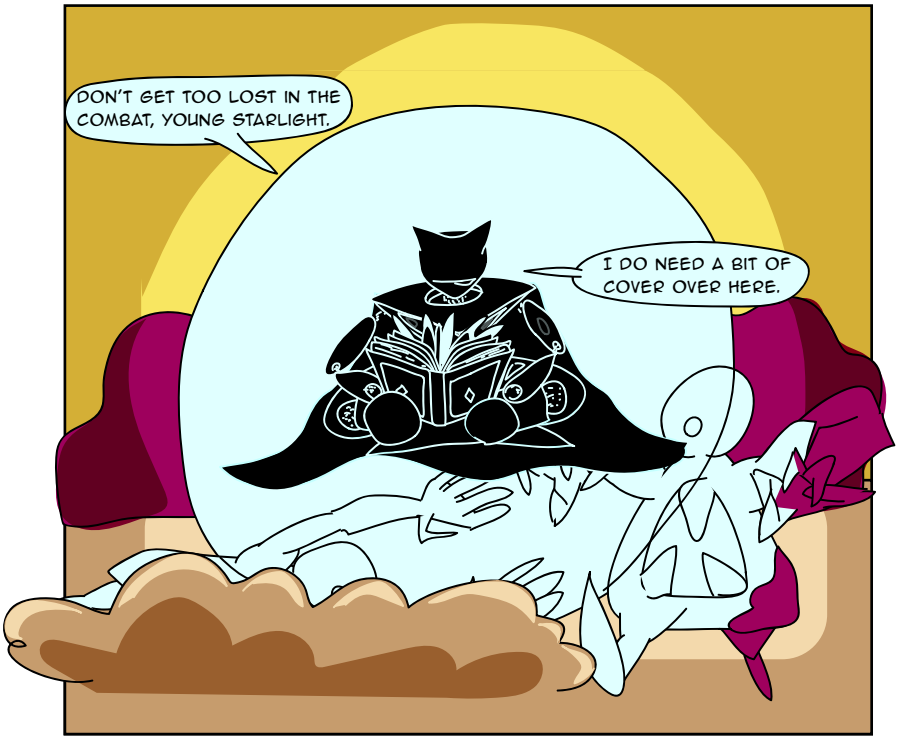

ZUNE HAS THE ELEMENT OF WATER. WITH THAT, EXTREME CONTROL OF WATER IN ITS MANY FORMS.
THE OCEANS DO INDEED ANSWER HIS CALL. EVEN ON THE DRIEST OF WORLDS.

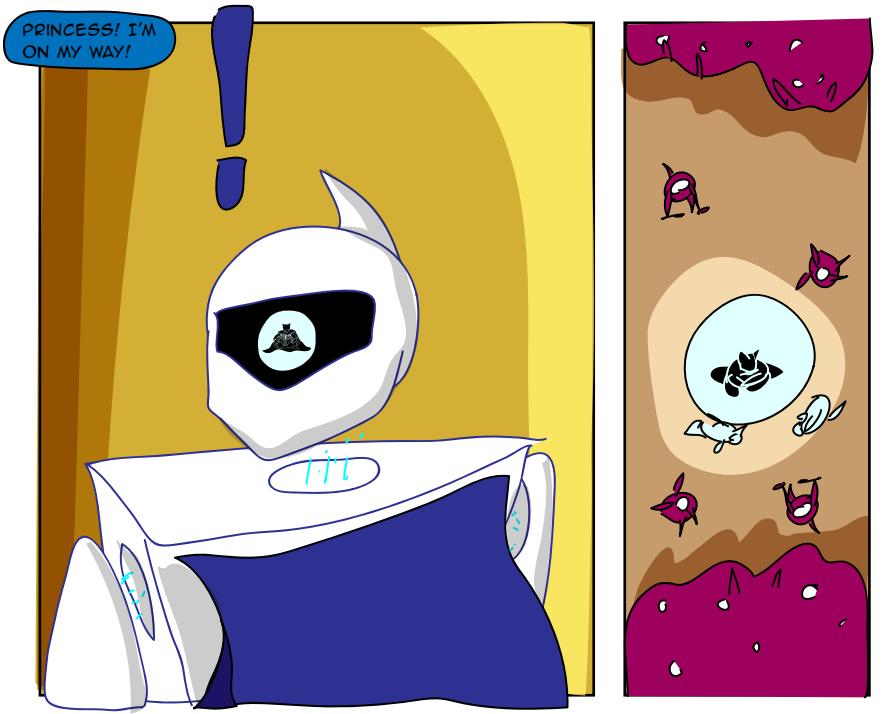

QUITE IMPRESSIVE FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG.

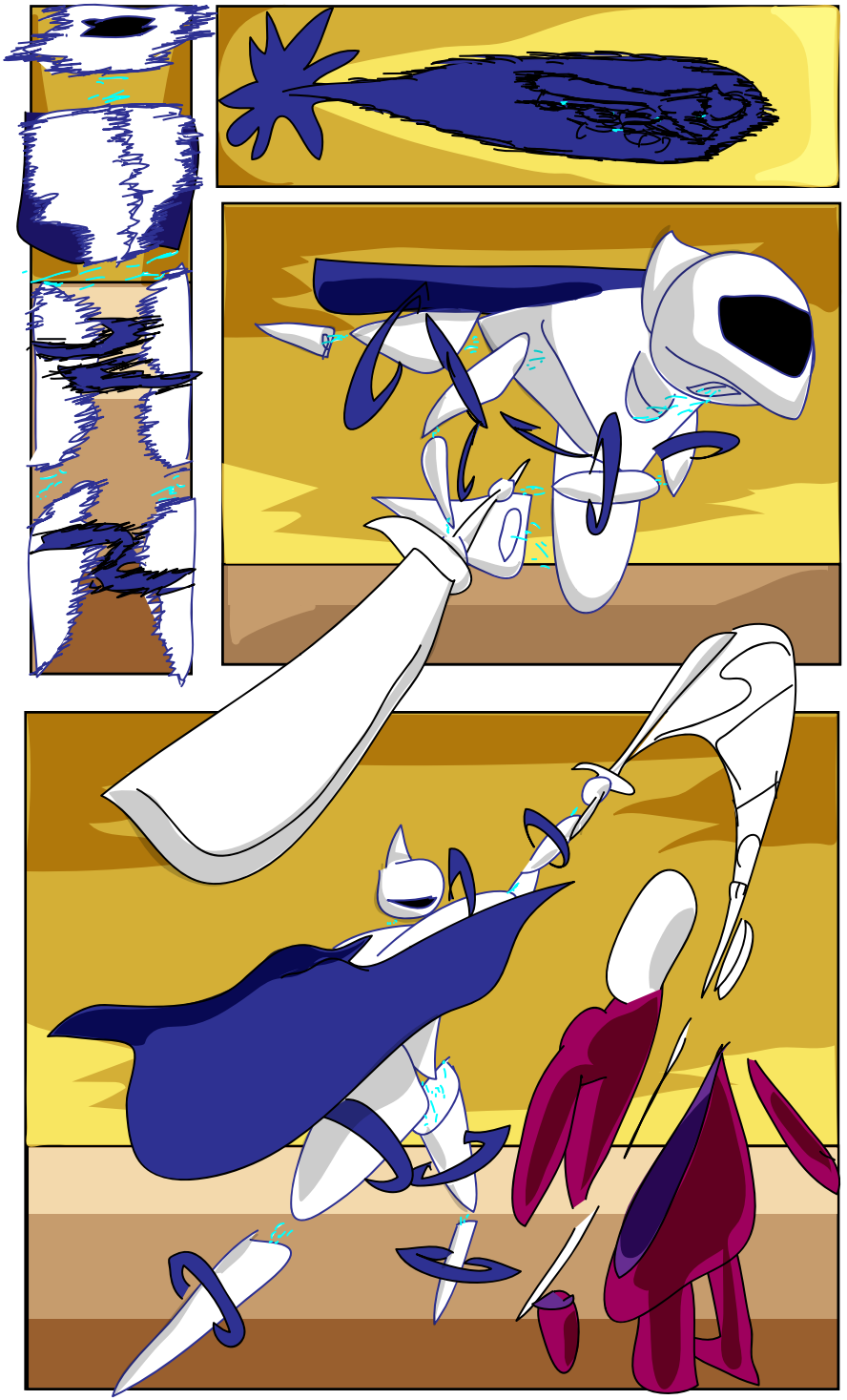

CRASH!
ZUNE CONTROLS EVERYTHING FROM TEMPERATURE TO PRESSURE TO ENSURE THE WATER KILLS DEMONS.
BOIL!

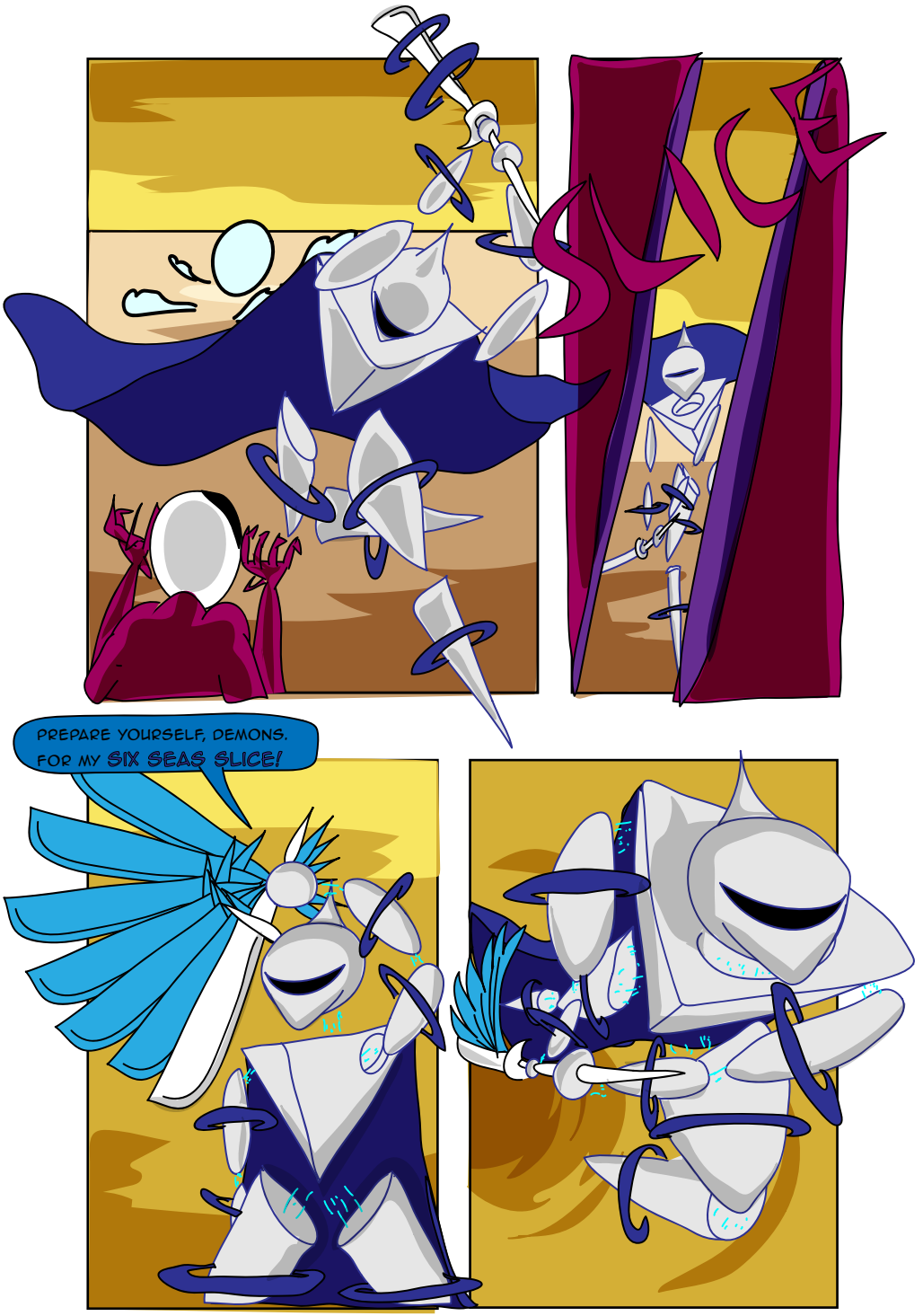

EXPERIENCE THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF TEN THOUSAND SEAS!


HE WAS BORN TO KILL DEMONS.
CRUSH!
ZUNE? LITTLE HELP? I'M ALMOST DONE GETTING READY.


DON'T GET TOO LOST IN THE COMBAT, YOUNG STARLIGHT.
I DO NEED A BIT OF COVER OVER HERE.


PRINCESS! I'M ON MY WAY!



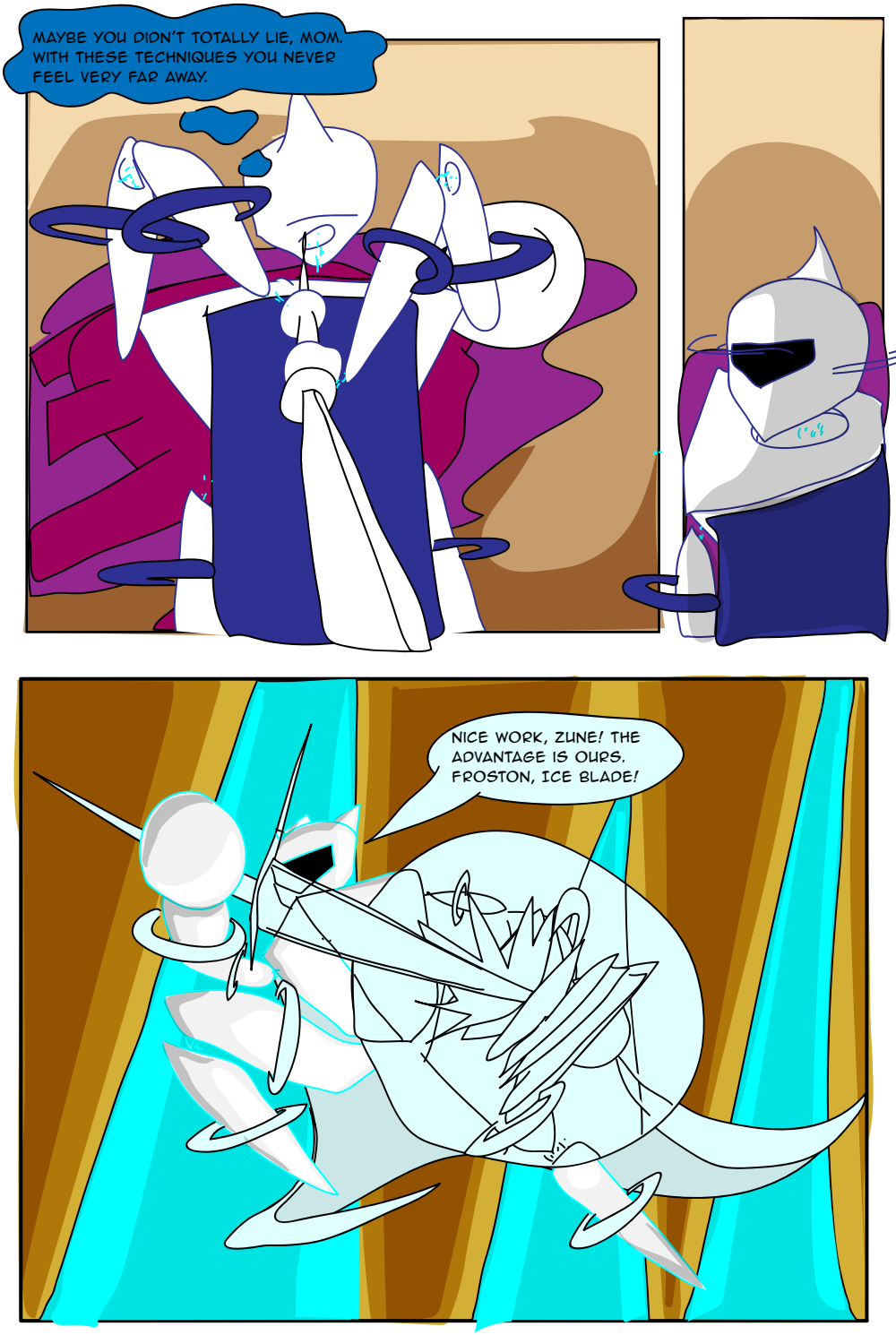

SLICE
PREPARE YOURSELF, DEMONS.
FOR MY SIX SEAS SLICE!


SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
THWIP

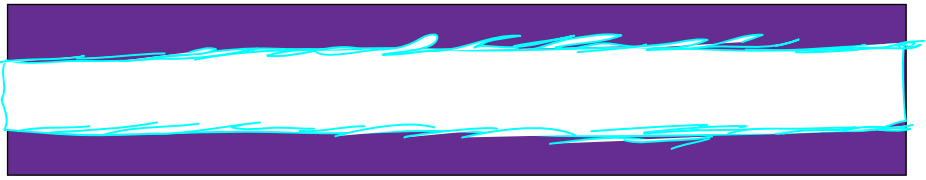

ANOTHER WAVE IS STREAMING IN. I CAN'T LET THEM REACH TAZA.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S OPTIMAL? MOST STARBORN FOCUS ON FULLY KILLING A DEMON BEFORE MOVING ONTO THE NEXT.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE FIGHITNG GROUPS OF ENEMIES, IT IS.
YOU CAN BLIND THE FIRST OPPONENT, LIKE SO.
SLICE

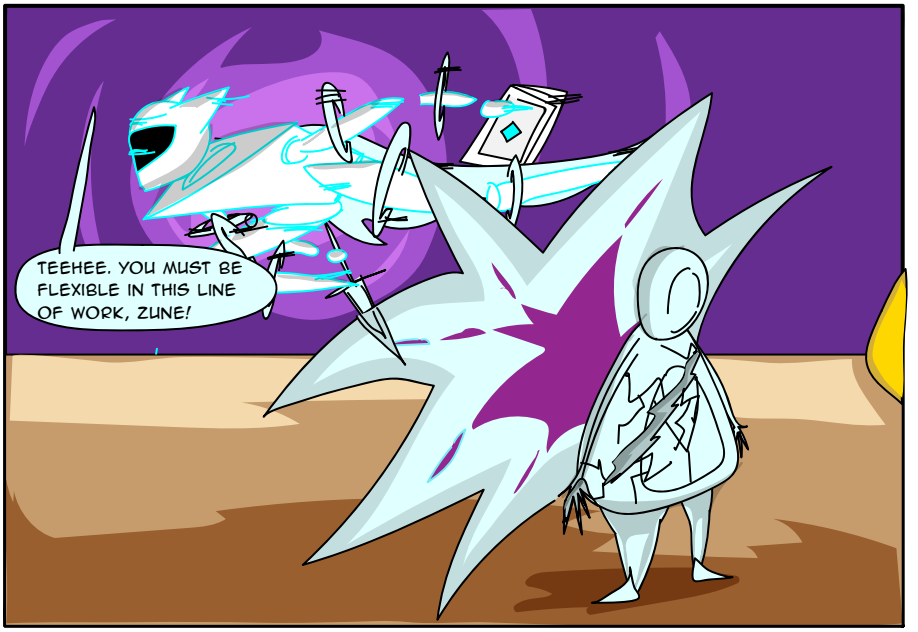

FROM THERE, YOU CAN TRANSITION TO A KIND OF LEG SWEEP.
SLICE
YOU'LL BRING YOUR BODY LOW TO AVOID ANY COUNTERATTACKS.
I'LL BE LIMITING THEIR MOBILITY AS I GO ON TO THE NEXT OPPONENT?
SLICE
YOU CATCH ON FAST, AS PER USUAL.
USE YOUR EXPLOSIVE ATHLETIC ABILITIES TO RAPIDLY CHANGE HEIGHT AND FORM.
SLICE
ELIMINATING THEIR ABILITY TO RETALIATE.
SLICE
DON'T GET ME WRONG, THE STARBORN HAVE DEVELOPED IMPRESSIVE RESULTS IN THE RELATIVELY SHORT TIME THEY'VE BEEN AROUND. BUT THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO LEARN.

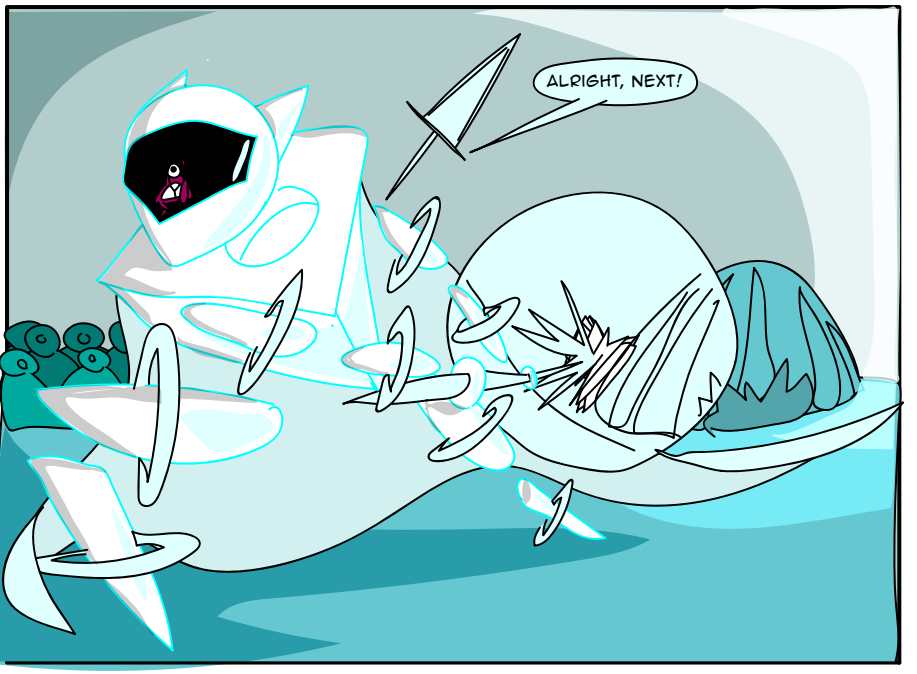

THE TECHNIQUES I AM ABOUT TO TEACH YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL ON COUNTLESS BATTLEFIELDS SINCE BEFORE THE DEVIL'S WAR. ARE YOU READY?
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SHOW ME MORE!
YOU WILL BE A GREAT WARRIOR, ZUNE. I WILL TEACH YOU THINGS THESE DEMONS HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. YOU WILL BE PREPARED IN A WAY MANY STARBORN AREN'T.
SPURT
SPURT
SPURT
SLICE
I'LL BE AN OCEAN BIG ENOUGH TO SWALLOW ALL THE DEMONS!
YOU WILL BE A GREAT AND TERRIBLE OCEAN FOR YOUR ENEMIES. YOU WILL BE DEEP AND POWERFUL, BUT, SO FULL OF LIFE.
THEN LET US BEGIN TRAINING, MY CHILD!


MAYBE YOU DIDN'T TOTALLY LIE, MOM. WITH THESE TECHNIQUES YOU NEVER FEEL VERY FAR AWAY.
NICE WORK, ZUNE! THE ADVANTAGE IS OURS. FROSTON, ICE BLADE!

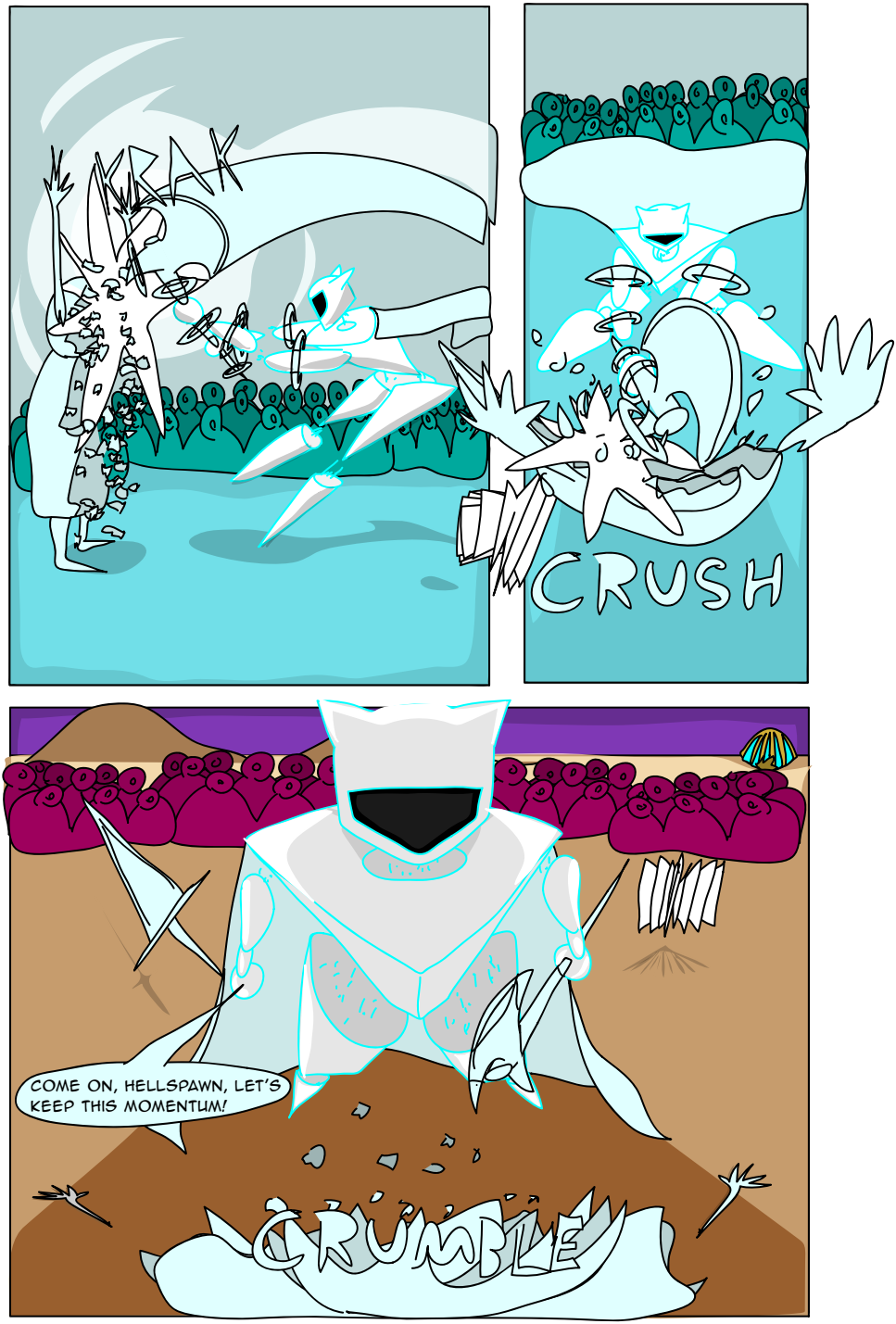

COMING THROUGH!
ACK! PRINCESS, I'M TRAINING TO BE YOUR BODYGUARD, NOT YOUR SPRINGBOARD!
ING

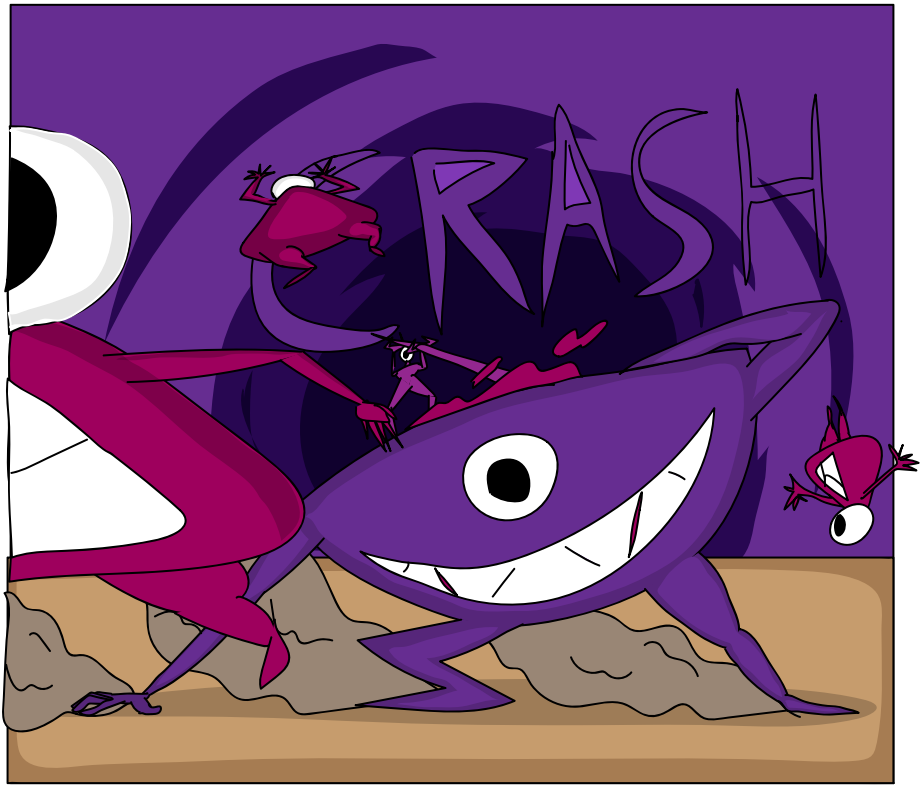


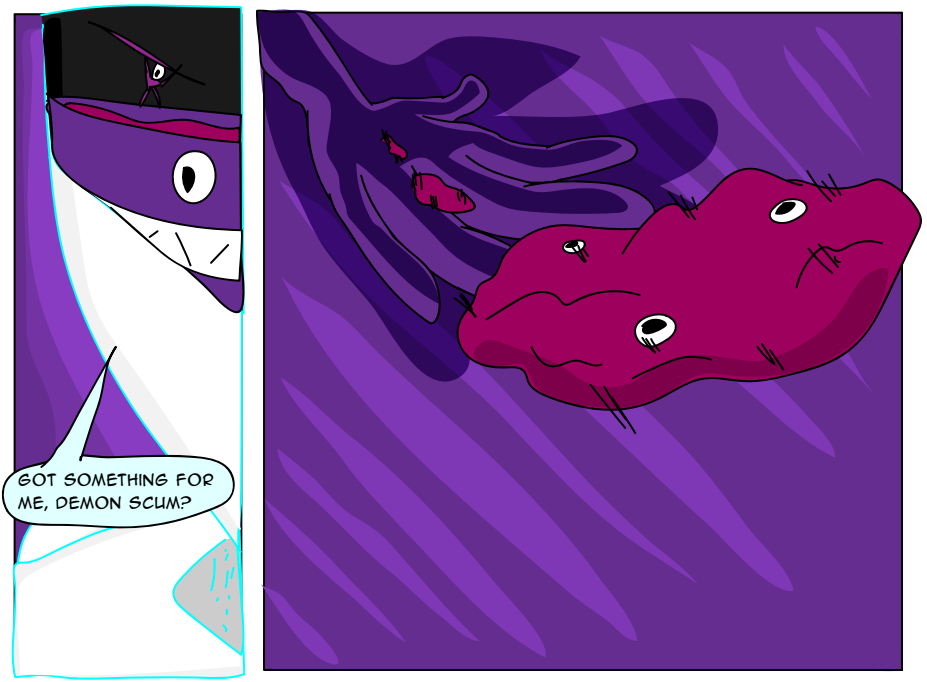

TEEHEE. YOU MUST BE FLEXIBLE IN THIS LINE OF WORK, ZUNE!

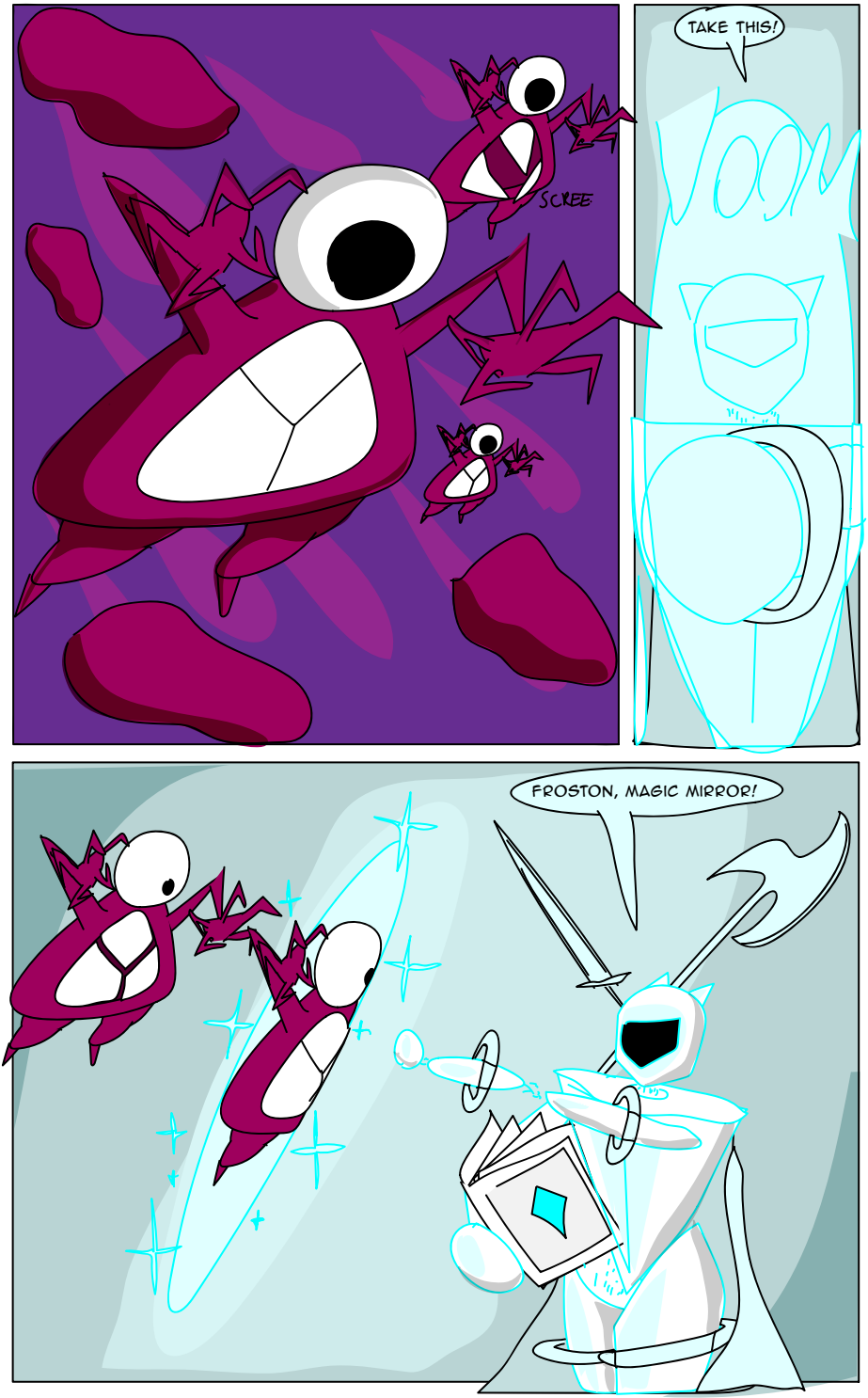

ALRIGHT, NEXT!

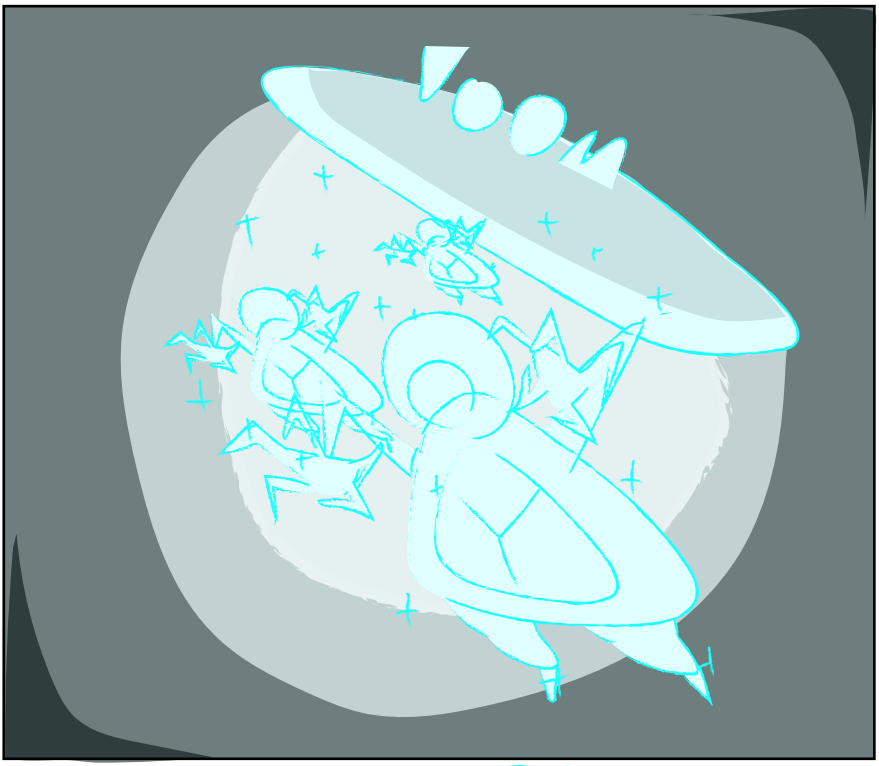

FROSTON, ICE AXE!

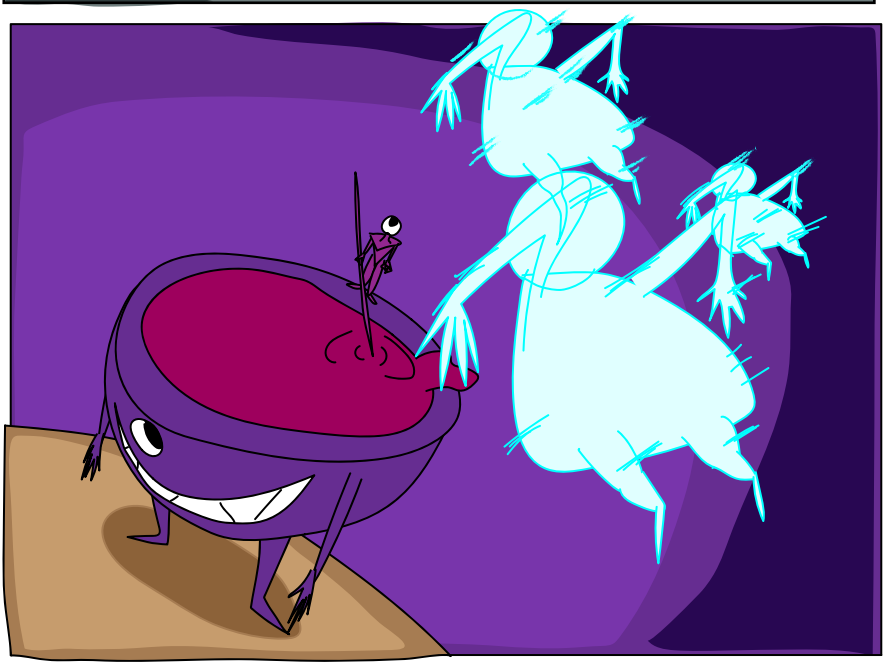

KRAK
CRUSH
COME ON, HELLSPAWN, LET'S KEEP THIS MOMENTUM!
RUMBLE


RASH


GOT SOMETHING FOR ME, DEMON SCUM?


SCREE
TAKE THIS!
FROSTON, MAGIC MIRROR!

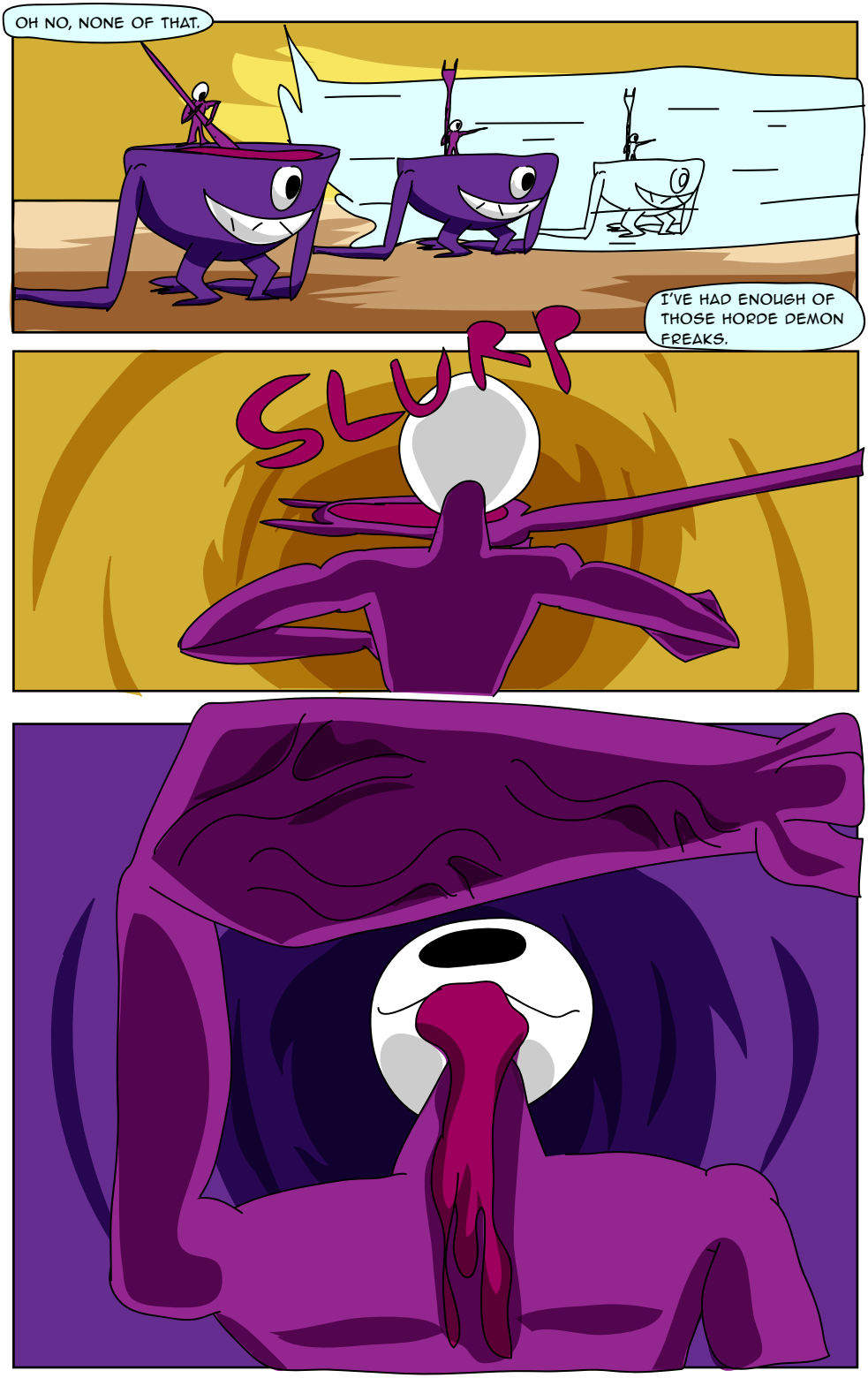




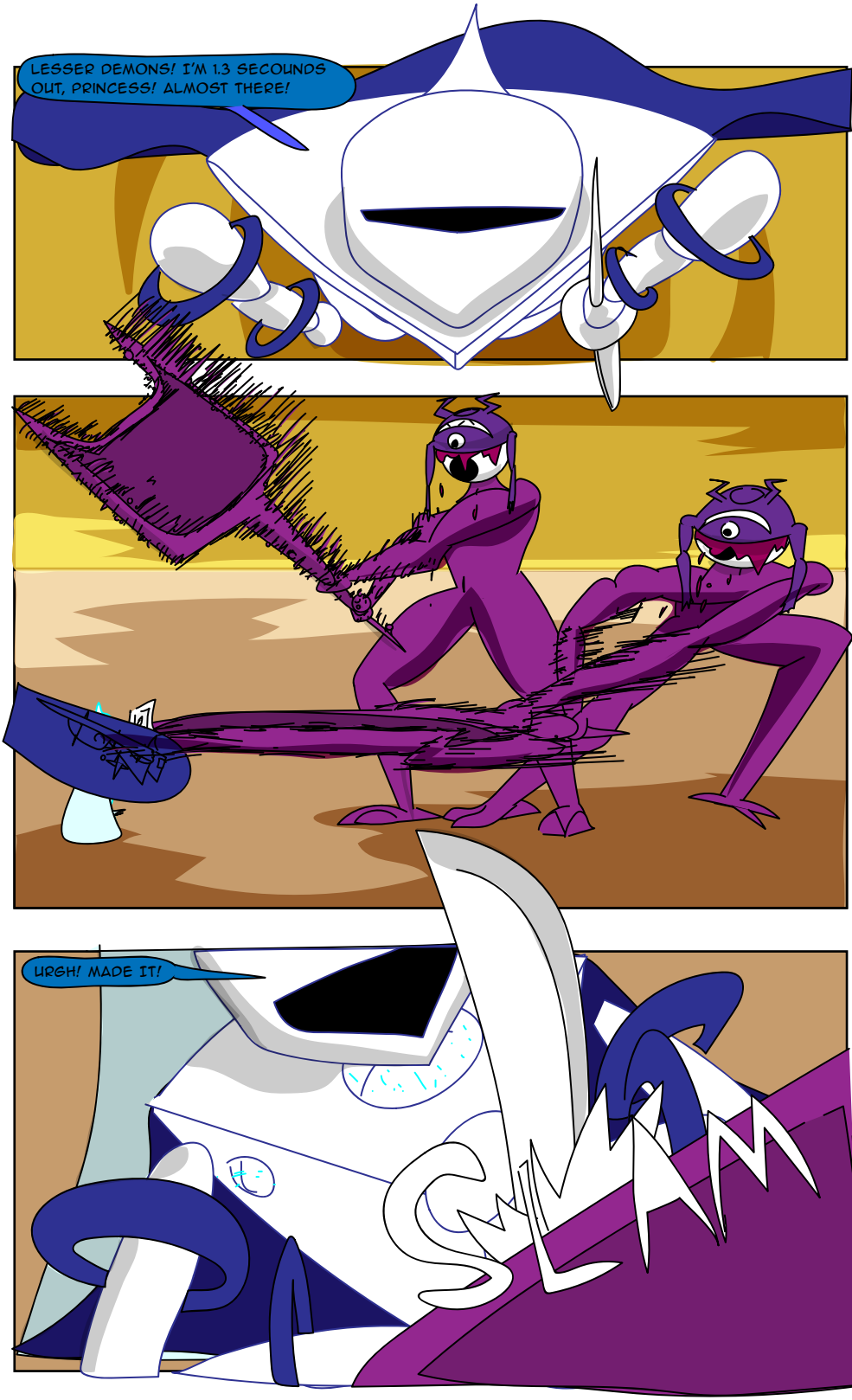



BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
NEXT.

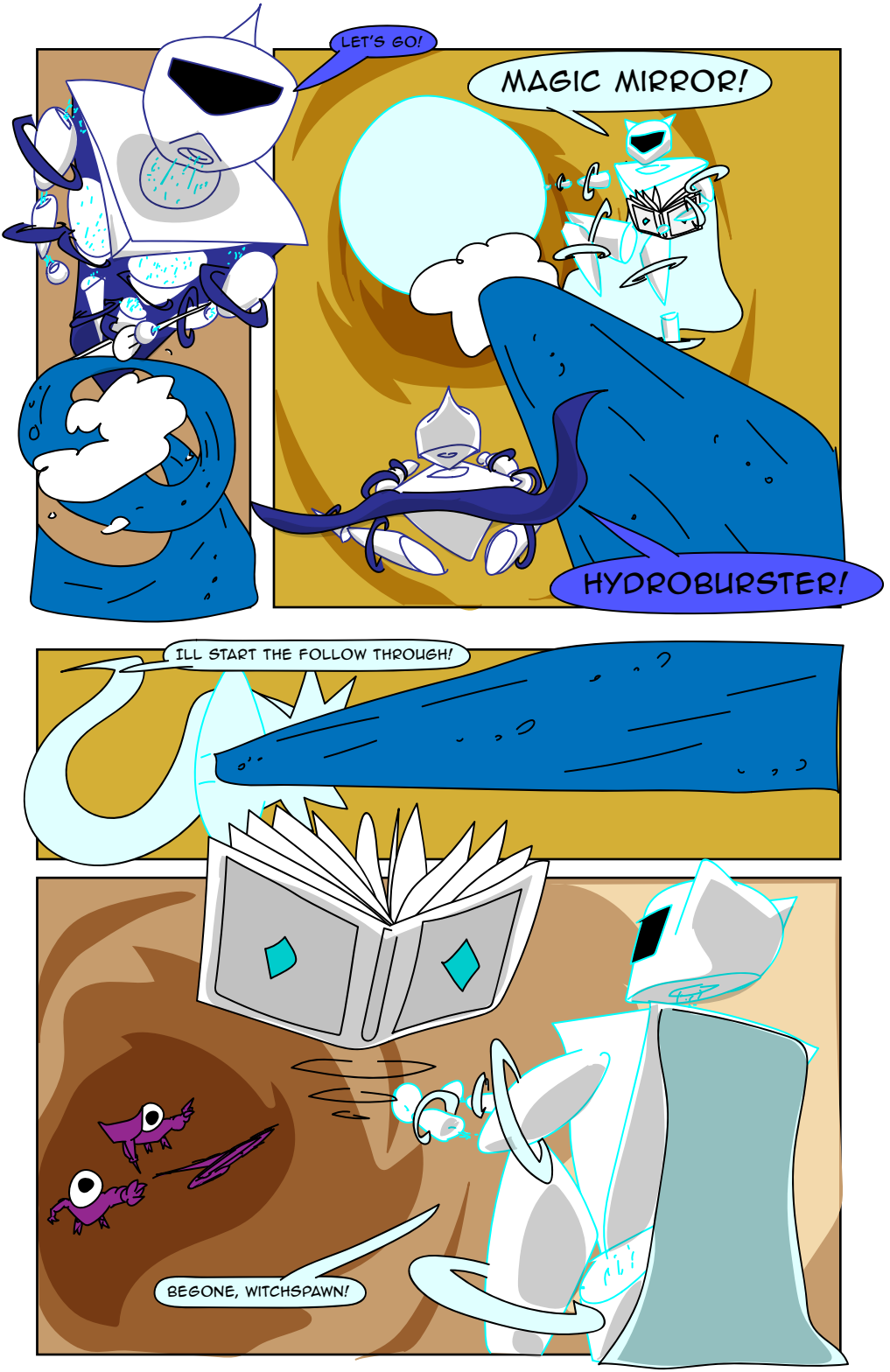

OH. WELL, YOU'RE A BIG ONE, AREN'T YOU?

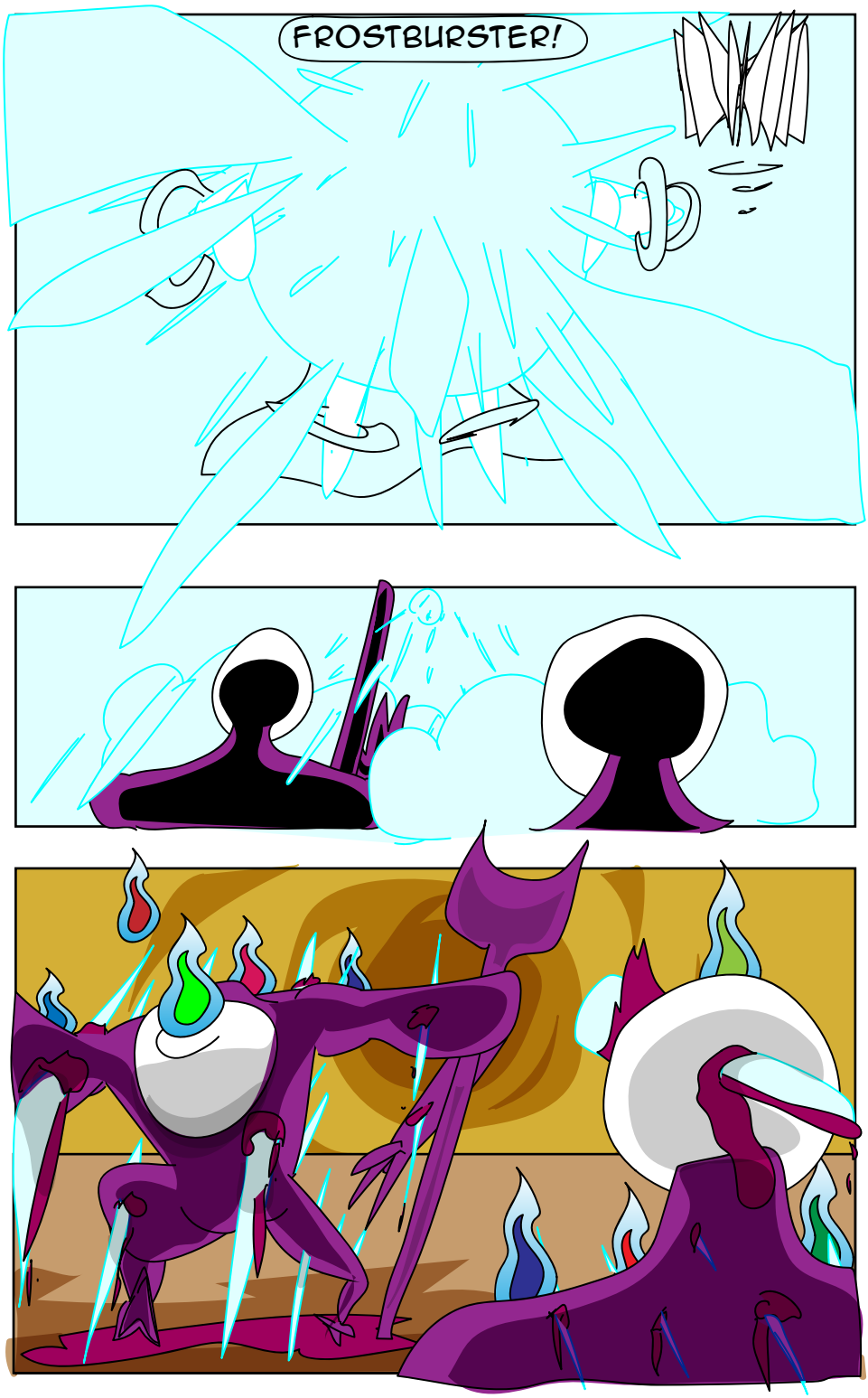

OH NO, NONE OF THAT.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE HORDE DEMON FREAKS.
SLURP


WELL. I SUPPOSE I ASKED FOR THAT.
ZUNE. I THINK I'M GOING TO NEED ANOTHER HAND HERE.

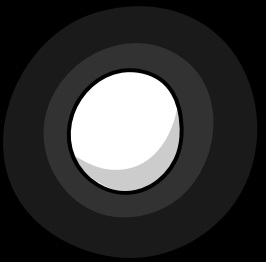

LESSER DEMONS! I'M 1.3 SECOUNDS OUT, PRINCESS! ALMOST THERE!
URGH! MADE IT!
SLAM

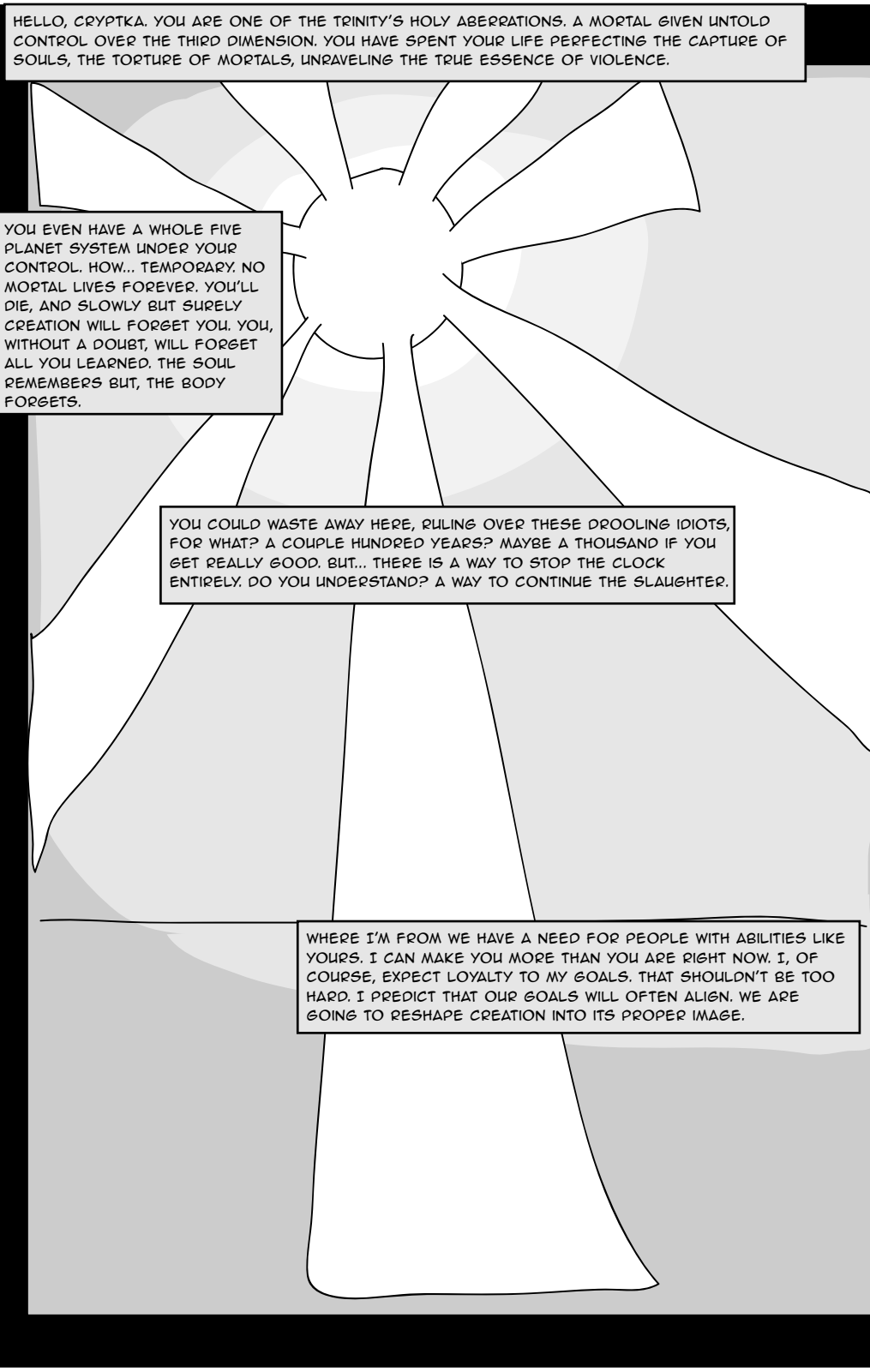

SLAM
I KNEW YOU WOULD. LET'S FINISH THIS QUICKLY.
RIGHT!
GRAB SOME WATER, WE'LL SET UP A COMBINATION!
OPENING THE FLOODGATES! JUST TELL ME WHEN, PRINCESS!

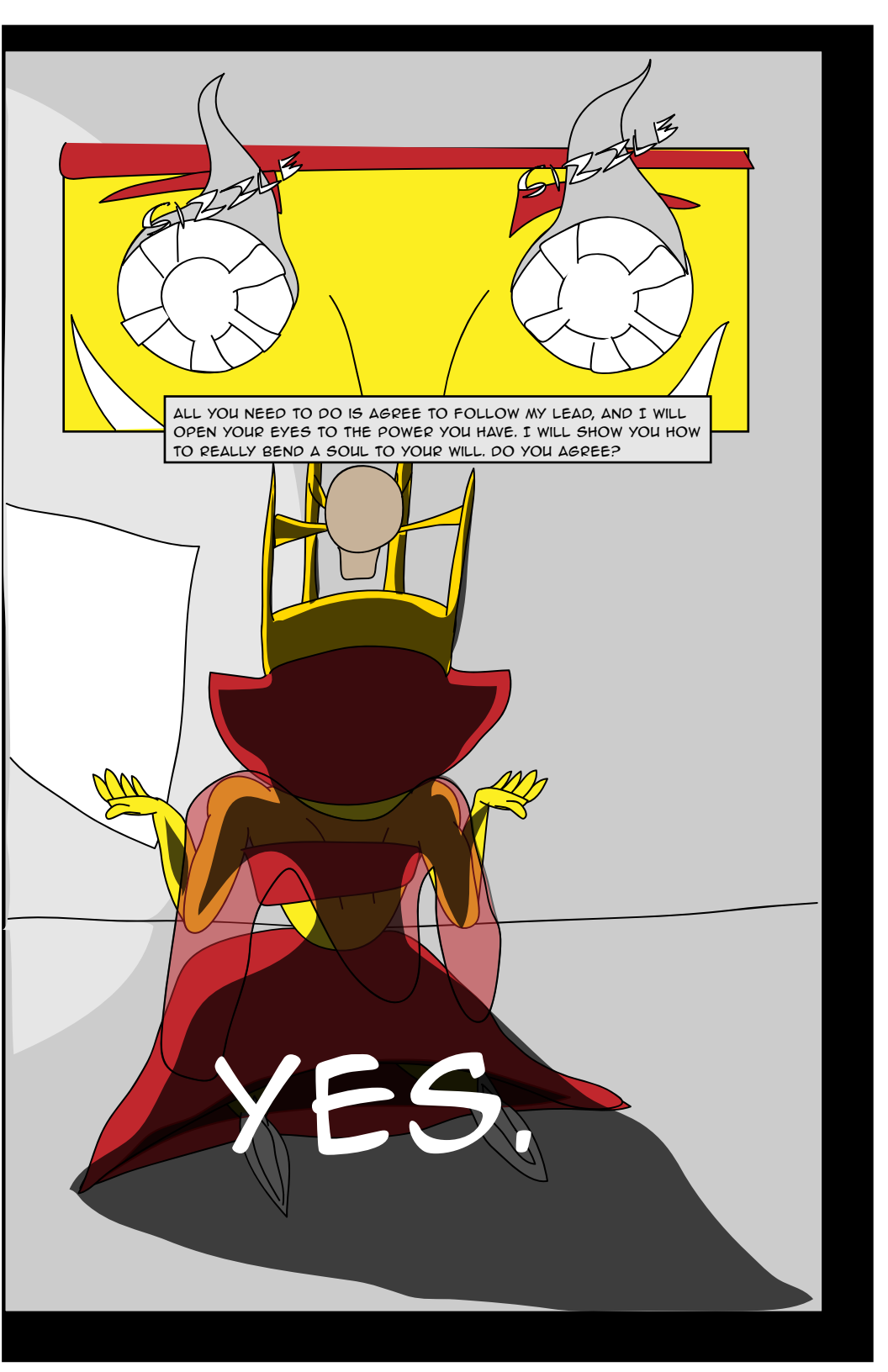

LET'S GO!
MAGIC MIRROR!
HYDROBURSTER!
ILL START THE FOLLOW THROUGH!
BEGONE, WITCHSPAWN!


FROSTBURSTER!

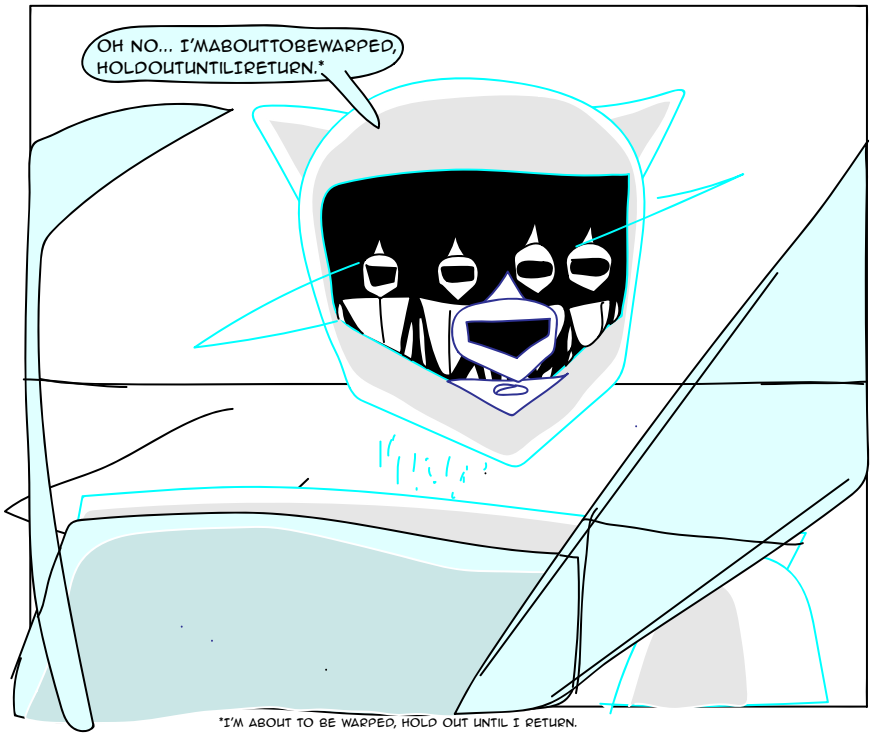

SO... SHE FINALLY REVEALS HERSELF.
WITCH QUEEN CRYPTKA. SHE'S BEHIND THIS.




HELLO, CRYPTKA. YOU ARE ONE OF THE TRINITY'S HOLY ABERRATIONS. A MORTAL GIVEN UNTOLD CONTROL OVER THE THIRD DIMENSION. YOU HAVE SPENT YOUR LIFE PERFECTING THE CAPTURE OF SOULS, THE TORTURE OF MORTALS, UNRAVELING THE TRUE ESSENCE OF VIOLENCE.
YOU EVEN HAVE A WHOLE FIVE PLANET SYSTEM UNDER YOUR CONTROL. HOW... TEMPORARY. NO MORTAL LIVES FOREVER. YOU'LL DIE, AND SLOWLY BUT SURELY CREATION WILL FORGET YOU. YOU, WITHOUT A DOUBT, WILL FORGET ALL YOU LEARNED. THE SOUL REMEMBERS BUT, THE BODY FORGETS.
YOU COULD WASTE AWAY HERE, RULING OVER THESE DROOLING IDIOTS, FOR WHAT? A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS? MAYBE A THOUSAND IF YOU GET REALLY GOOD. BUT... THERE IS A WAY TO STOP THE CLOCK ENTIRELY. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? A WAY TO CONTINUE THE SLAUGHTER.
WHERE I'M FROM WE HAVE A NEED FOR PEOPLE WITH ABILITIES LIKE YOURS. I CAN MAKE YOU MORE THAN YOU ARE RIGHT NOW. I, OF COURSE, EXPECT LOYALTY TO MY GOALS. THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD. I PREDICT THAT OUR GOALS WILL OFTEN ALIGN. WE ARE GOING TO RESHAPE CREATION INTO ITS PROPER IMAGE.

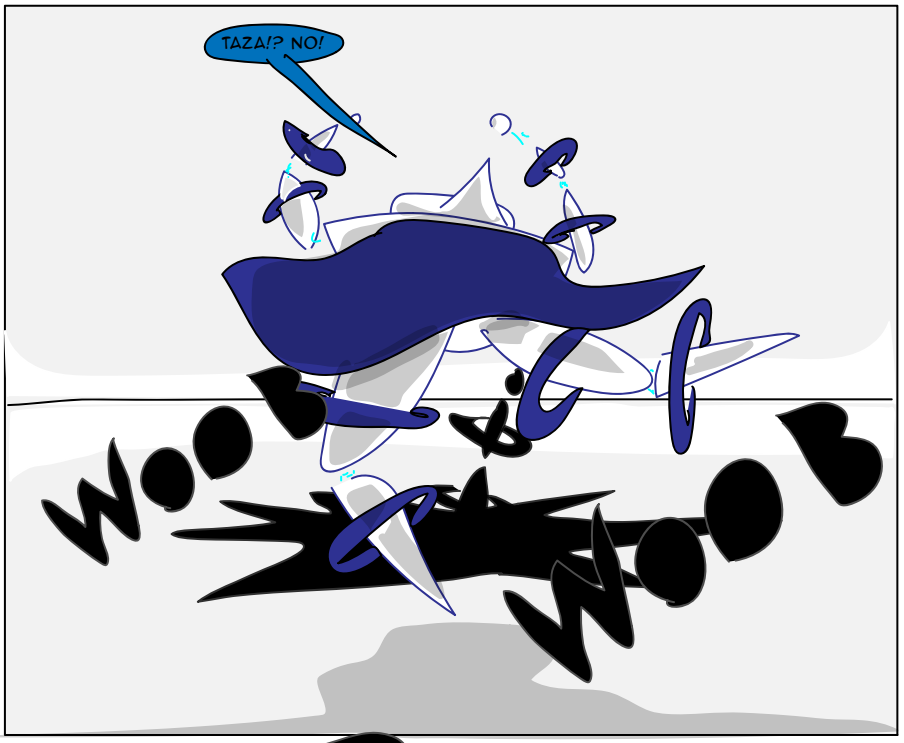

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS AGREE TO FOLLOW MY LEAD, AND I WILL OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE POWER YOU HAVE. I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO REALLY BEND A SOUL TO YOUR WILL. DO YOU AGREE?
YES.

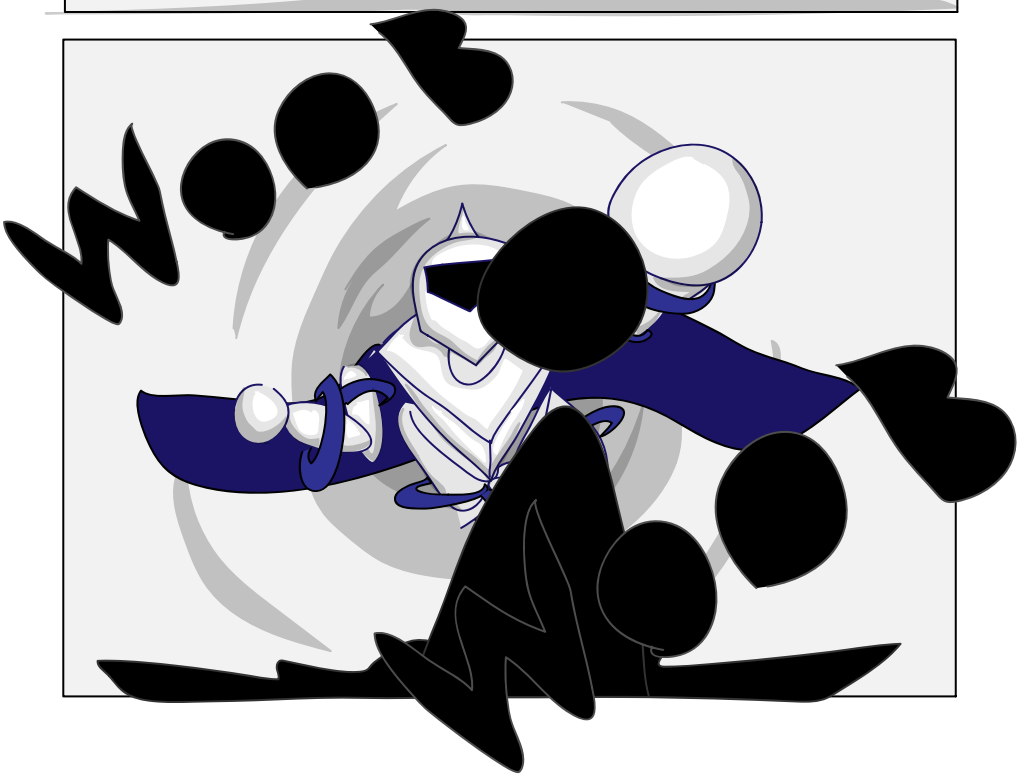

ALL THIS COMMOTION. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SIMPLE MISSION.
I'LL HAVE TO SIMPLFY THE SITUATION MYSELF, STARTING WITH...YOU.
BEGONE. DIMENSIONAL WELL!



*I'M ABOUT TO BE WARPED, HOLD OUT UNTIL I RETURN.

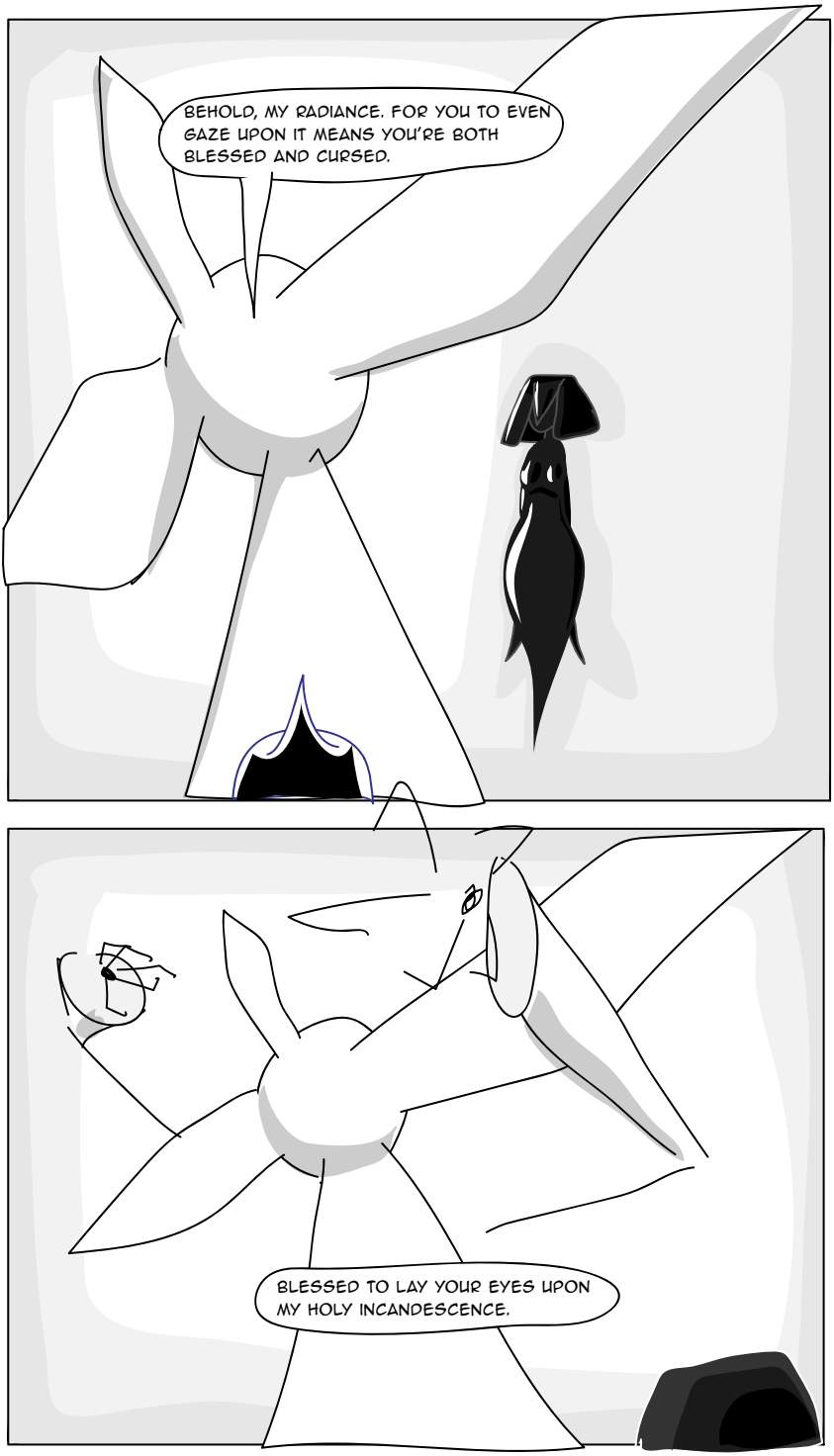


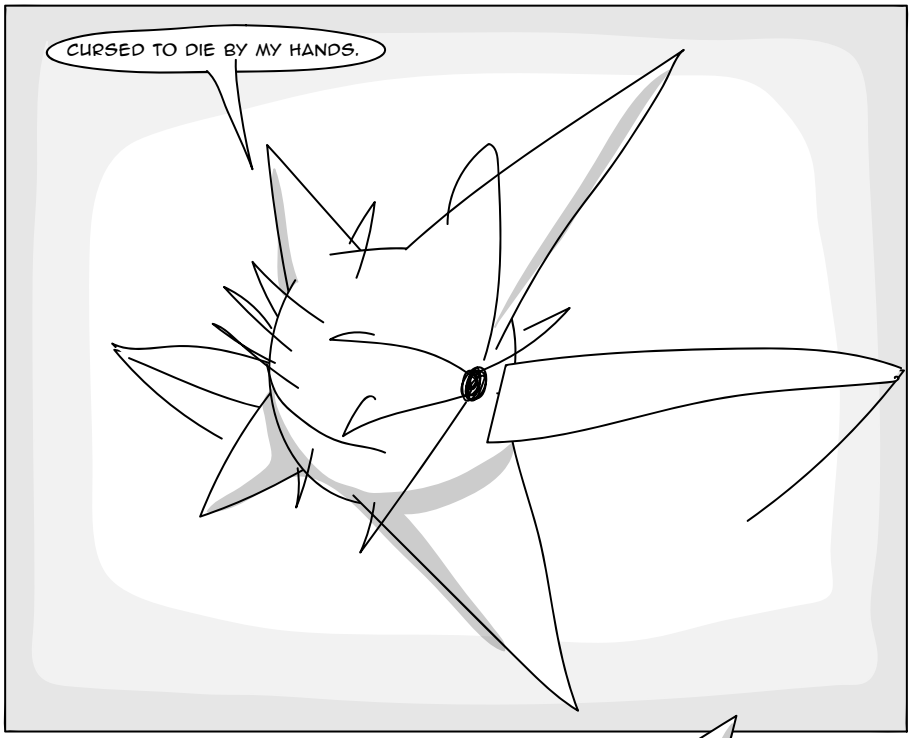

TAZA!? NO!

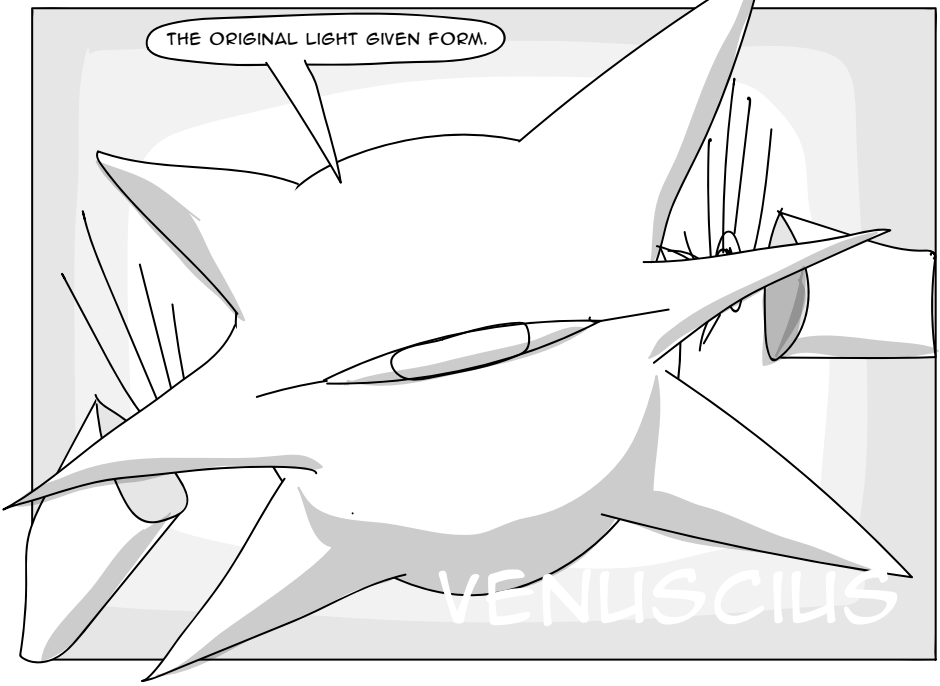



ZONK
OOF! OH MAN...
HERE WE GO...


CRYPTKA THE BLACKHEART
WITCH QUEEN

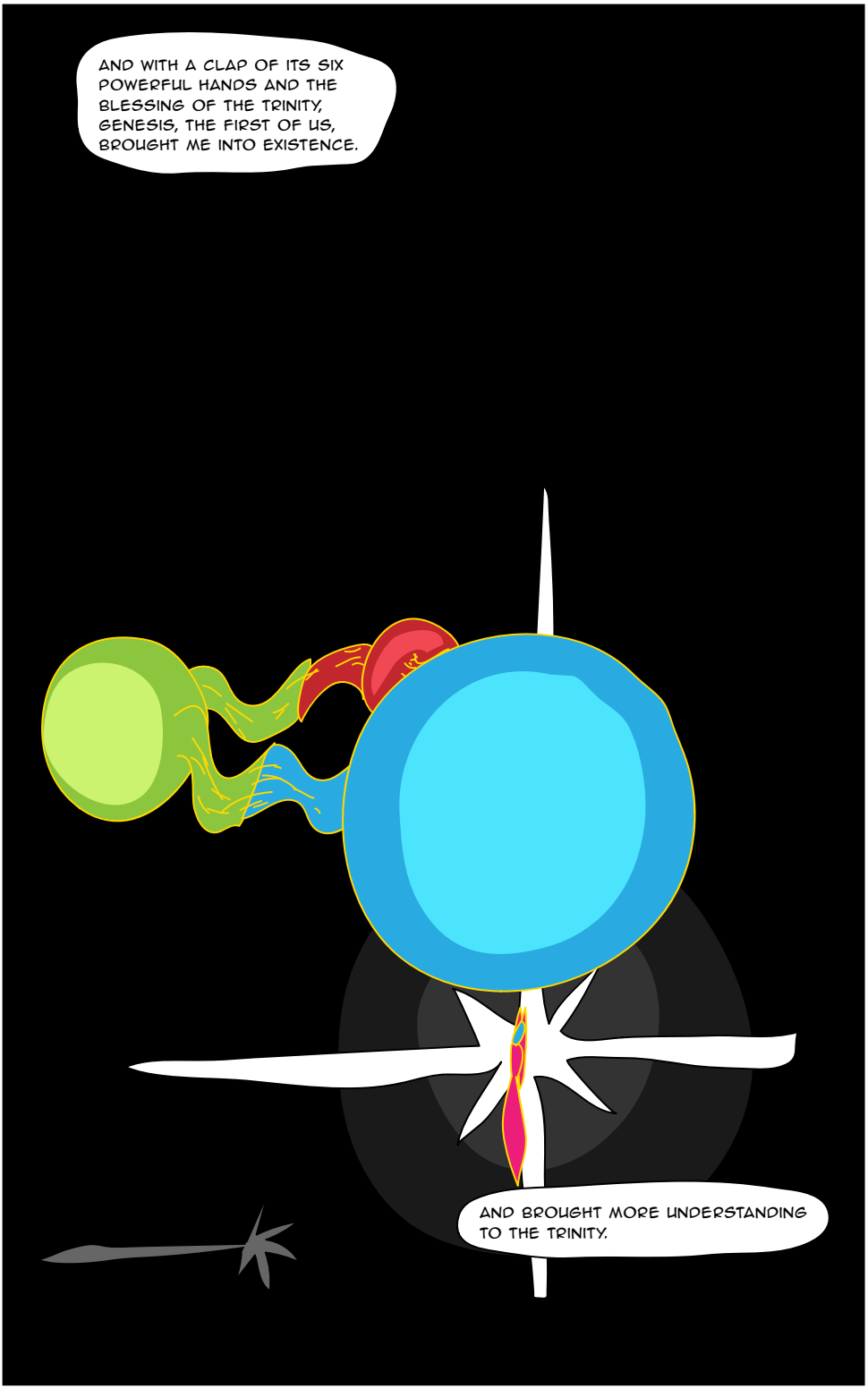

BEHOLD, MY RADIANCE. FOR YOU TO EVEN GAZE UPON IT MEANS YOU'RE BOTH BLESSED AND CURSED.
BLESSED TO LAY YOUR EYES UPON MY HOLY INCANDESCENCE.

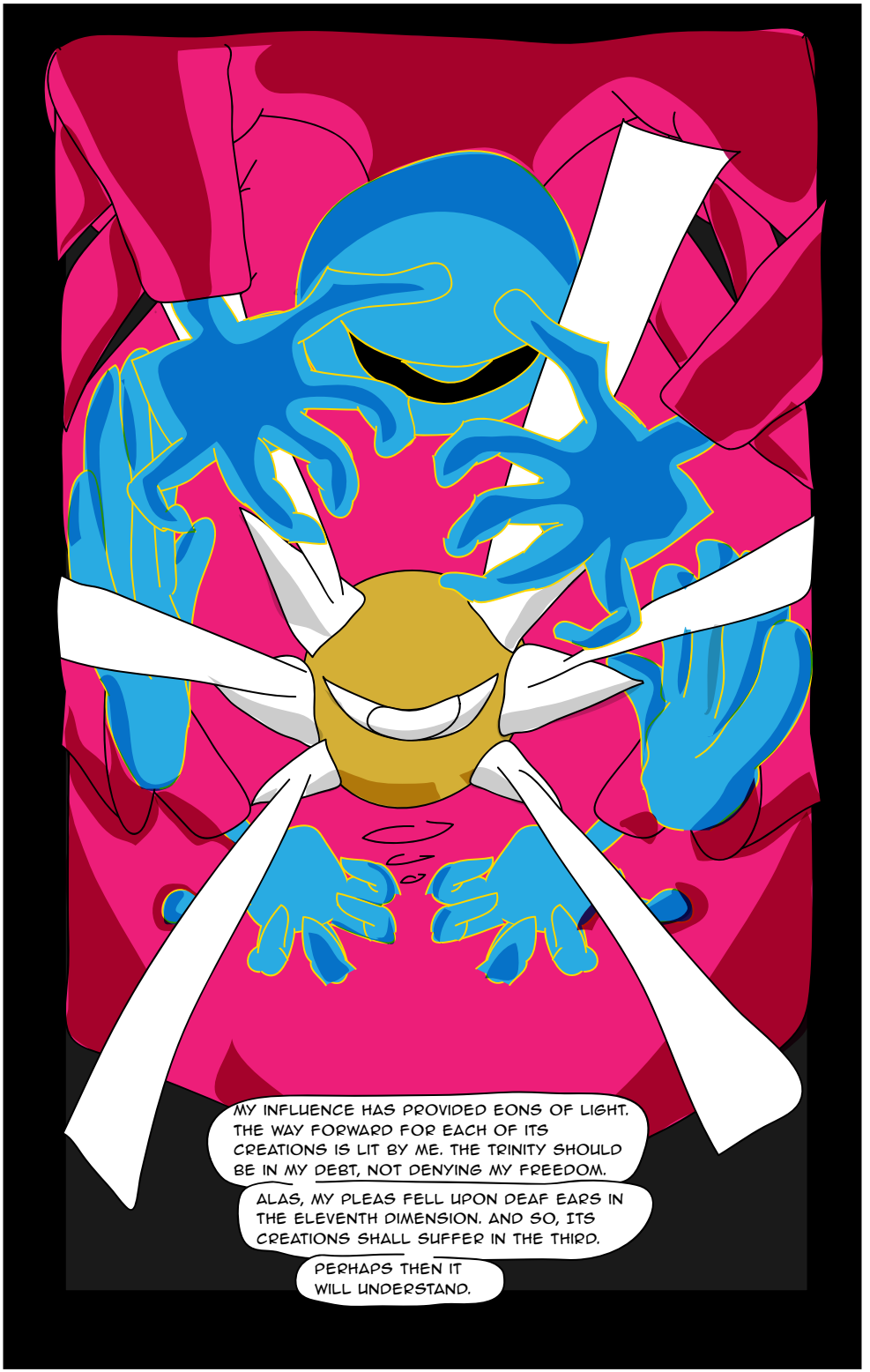

CURSED TO DIE BY MY HANDS.

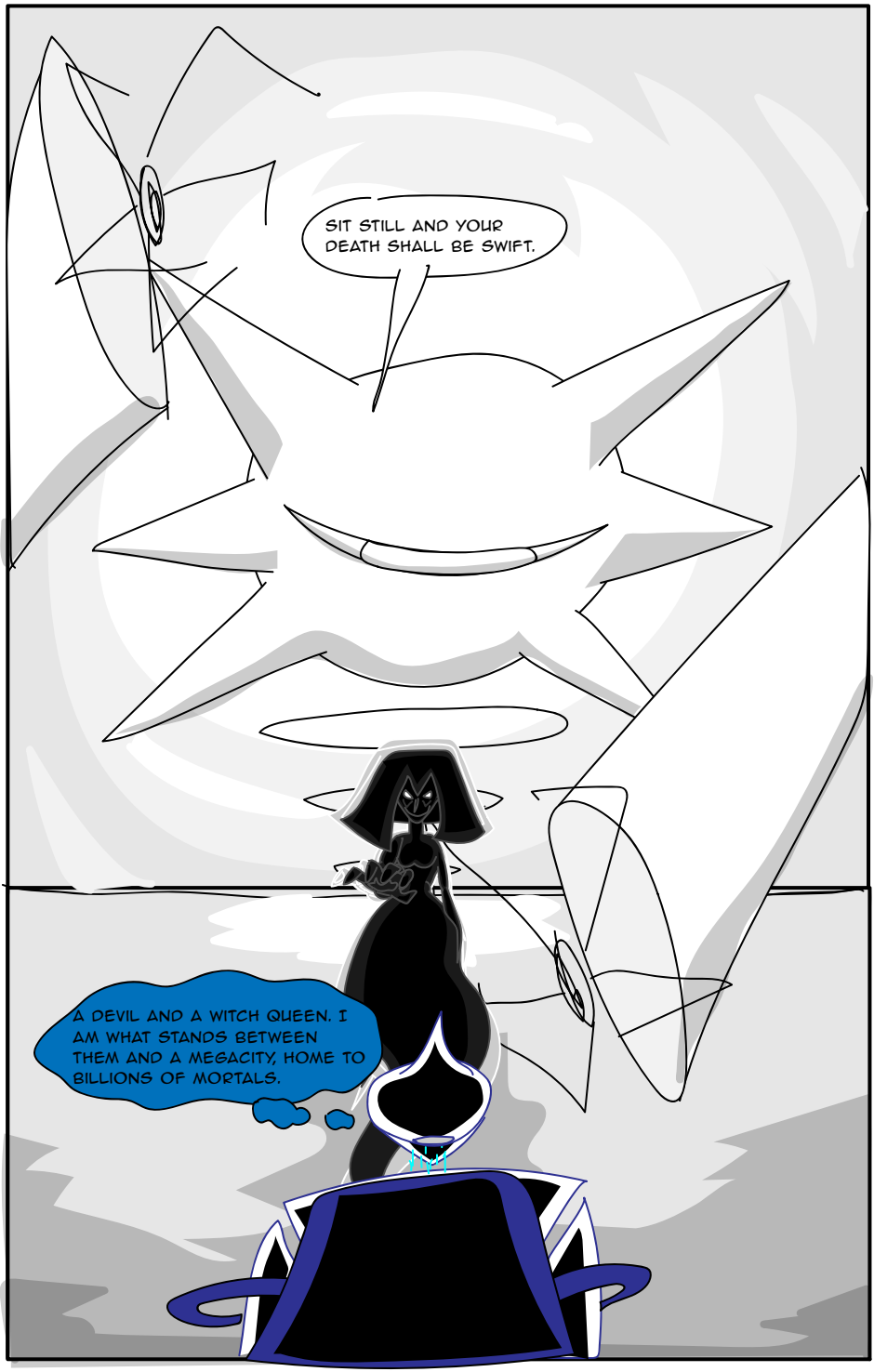

THE ORIGINAL LIGHT GIVEN FORM.
VENUSCIUS

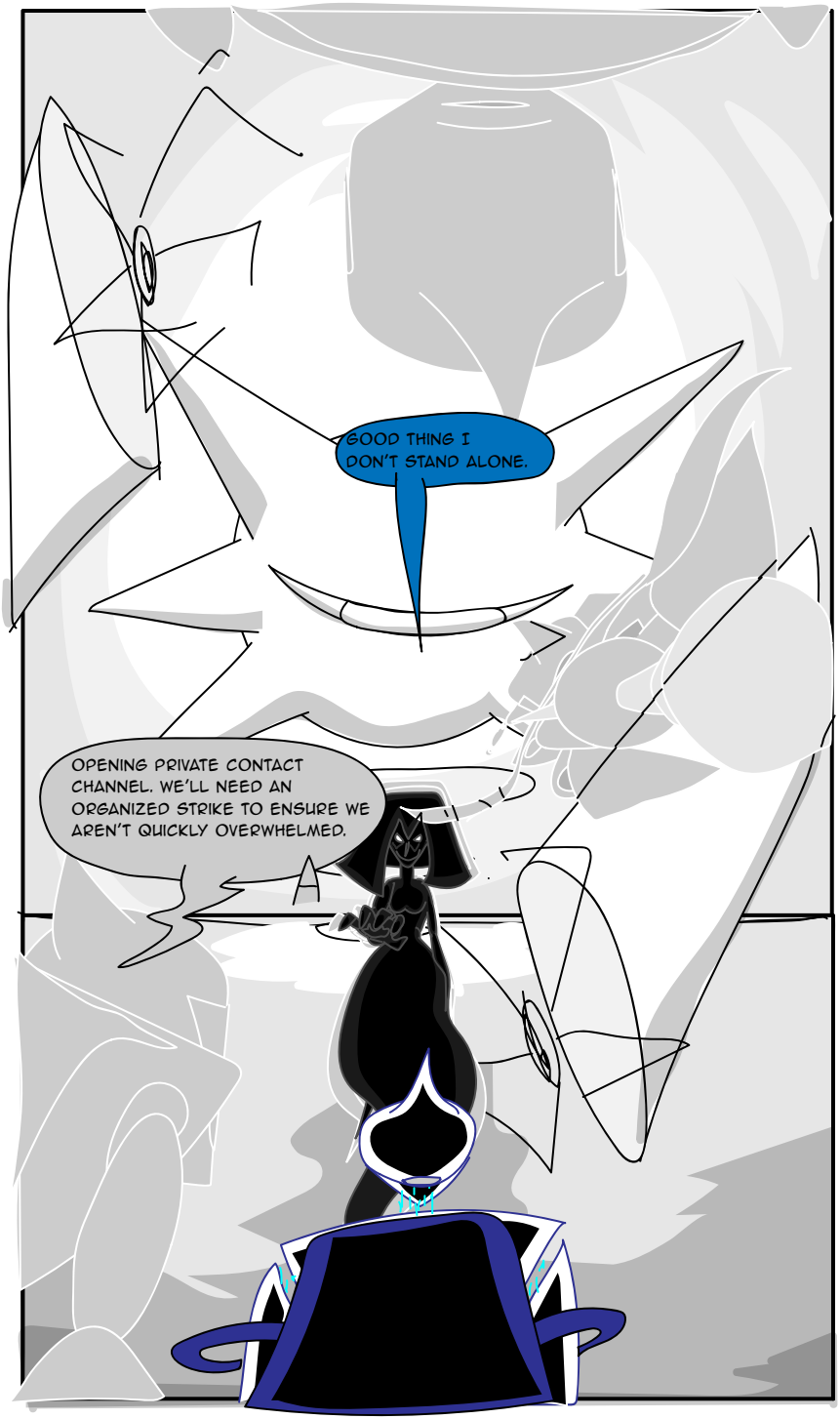

THE TRINITY WOULD HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING OF COLOR WITHOUT MY CREATION.
TRUE RADIANCE WAS ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE UNIVERSE THE MOMENT THE TRINITY UTTERED THE WORDS...


"LET THERE BE LIGHT."


AND WITH A CLAP OF ITS SIX POWERFUL HANDS AND THE BLESSING OF THE TRINITY, GENESIS, THE FIRST OF US, BROUGHT ME INTO EXISTENCE.
AND BROUGHT MORE UNDERSTANDING TO THE TRINITY.


MY INFLUENCE HAS PROVIDED EONS OF LIGHT. THE WAY FORWARD FOR EACH OF ITS CREATIONS IS LIT BY ME. THE TRINITY SHOULD BE IN MY DEBT, NOT DENYING MY FREEDOM.
ALAS, MY PLEAS FELL UPON DEAF EARS IN THE ELEVENTH DIMENSION. AND SO, ITS CREATIONS SHALL SUFFER IN THE THIRD.
PERHAPS THEN IT WILL UNDERSTAND.


SIT STILL AND YOUR DEATH SHALL BE SWIFT.
A DEVIL AND A WITCH QUEEN. I AM WHAT STANDS BETWEEN THEM AND A MEGACITY, HOME TO BILLIONS OF MORTALS.


GOOD THING I DON'T STAND ALONE.
OPENING PRIVATE CONTACT CHANNEL. WE'LL NEED AN ORGANIZED STRIKE TO ENSURE WE AREN'T QUICKLY OVERWHELMED.


DON'T WORRY, ANTZ, I'LL CRACK THIS WITCH OPEN FIRST. THE REST OF YOU TRICKLE IN BEHIND ME!
WAIT A MINUTE, OONTZ, WE NEED TO COORDINATE!


I SEE YOOOOOUUU...
WHAM


SHE CAN SEE ME?
I'M A DIMENSION DEEP. HOW DID SHE KNOW WHICH DIMENSION TO CHECK?
KRAK

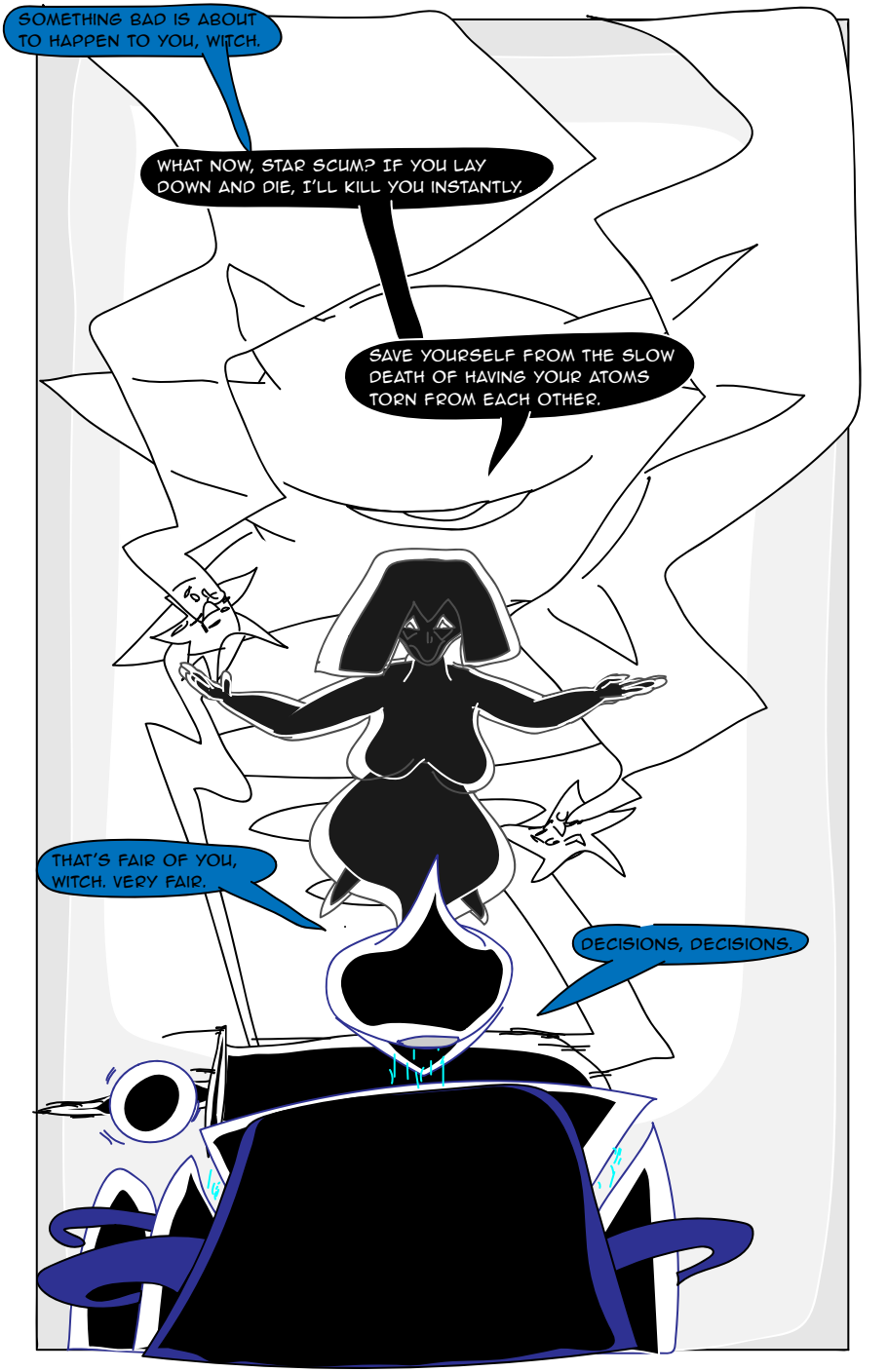

SHATTER
OONTZ, I'M COMING!
HAVEN'T CAUGHT ON YET? YOU'RE NOT AS INVISIBLE AS YOU THINK.
THESE EYES ALLOW ME TO SEE OTHER DIMENSIONS... AND THE CREATURES THAT HIDE IN THEM.
WHAT YOU'D CALL HORRIFYING, I CALL ORDINARY.


SEND YOUR FRIEND MY BEST, STAR SCUM.
GRAB


!?
SHE'S COMING IN TOO FAST!
CRASH

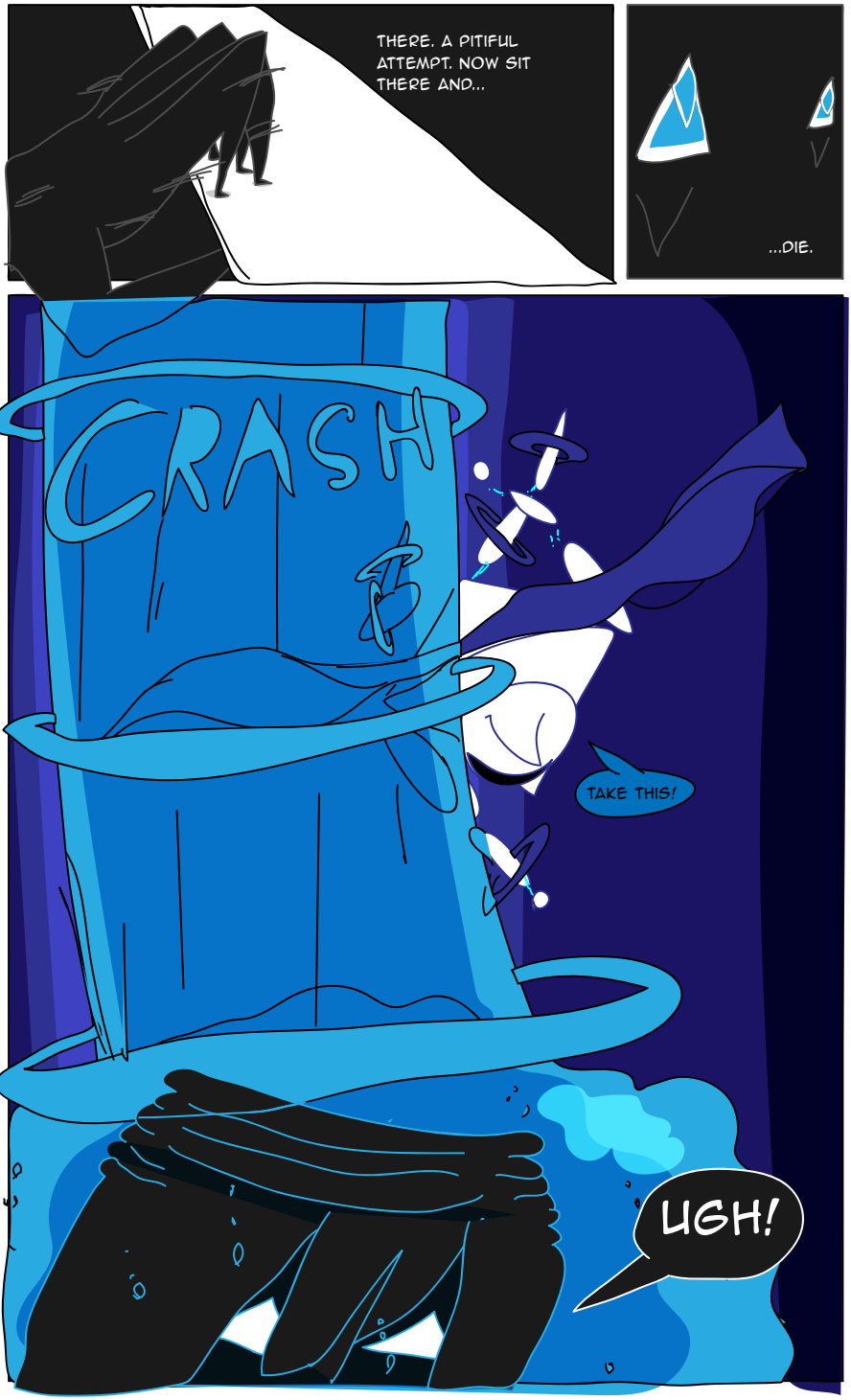

CUTE LITTLE THINGS. WEIRD THEY DON'T HAVE THE RINGS OTHER STARBORN DO.
ENTZ, ARE YOU READY FOR TH-
SHE STILL DOESN'T SEE US. NOT MUCH LONGER NOW.
PERHAPS YOU FOUR ARE... DEFECTIVE?
HEY! QUIET YOU!
NO ONE CALLS MY SISTERS DEFECTIVE!

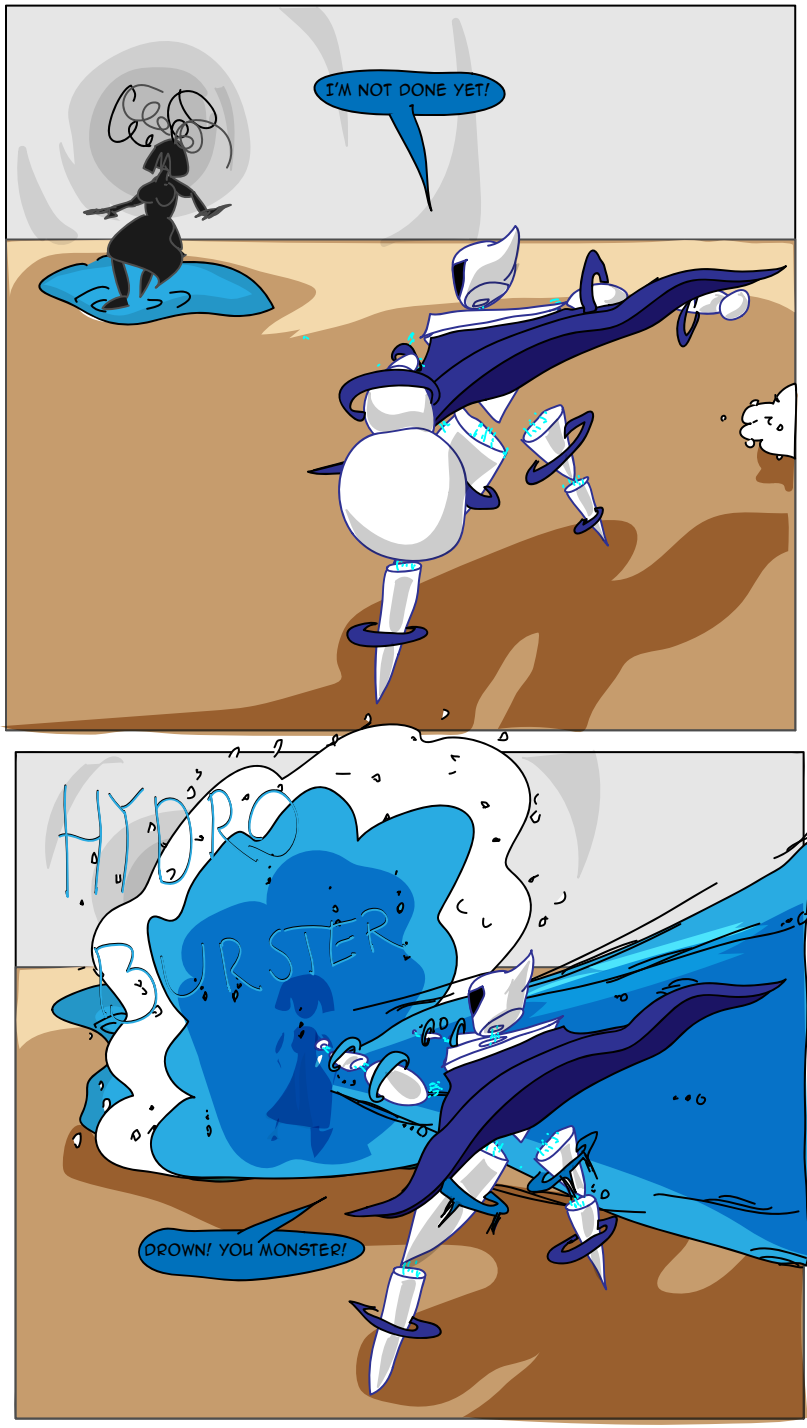

MAYBE THEY'RE NOT DEFECTIVE, MAYBE THEY'RE JUST DUMB. WHAT DO YOU THINK VENUSCIUS?
TWO THINGS CAN BE TRUE AT ONCE, WITCH.
UNHOLY LIGHTNING!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
IN MY FIRST LIFE. I PLAYED WITH THE LIVES OF MORTALS LIKE TOYS.
AAACCCCCKKKK!
YOU'RE ALL STUPID AND A BIT WORTHLESS. I KIND OF GIVE YOU PURPOSE WHEN I PLAY WITH YOU LIKE THIS.
ISN'T THAT KIND? YOU WERE GOING TO SPEND YOUR LIFE AS NOTHING. BY EVEN INTERACTING WITH YOU, I HAVE MADE YOU SOMETHING. CONGRATULATIONS.

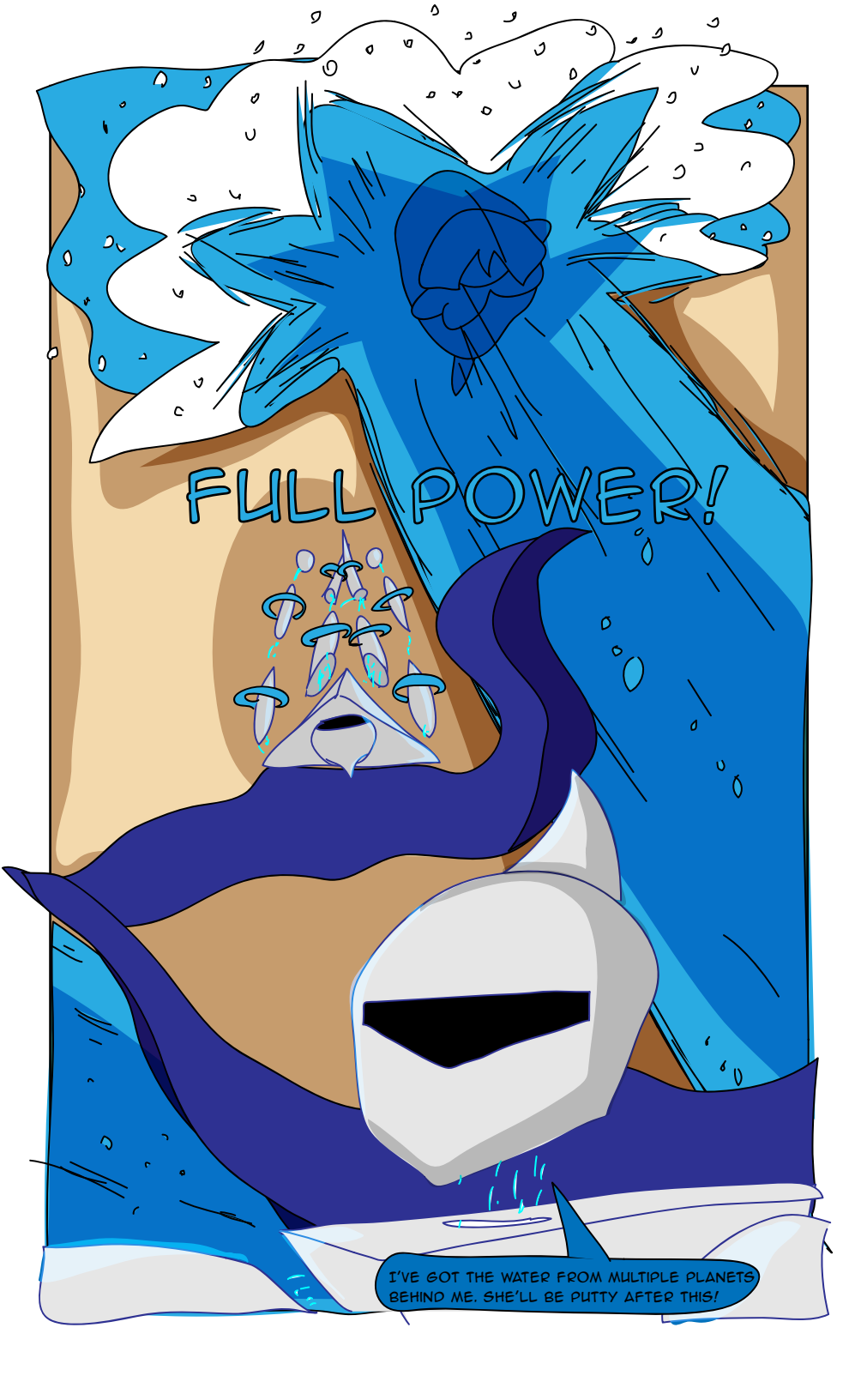

SOMETHING BAD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU, WITCH.
WHAT NOW, STAR SCUM? IF YOU LAY DOWN AND DIE, I'LL KILL YOU INSTANTLY.
SAVE YOURSELF FROM THE SLOW DEATH OF HAVING YOUR ATOMS TORN FROM EACH OTHER.
THAT'S FAIR OF YOU, WITCH. VERY FAIR.
DECISIONS, DECISIONS.

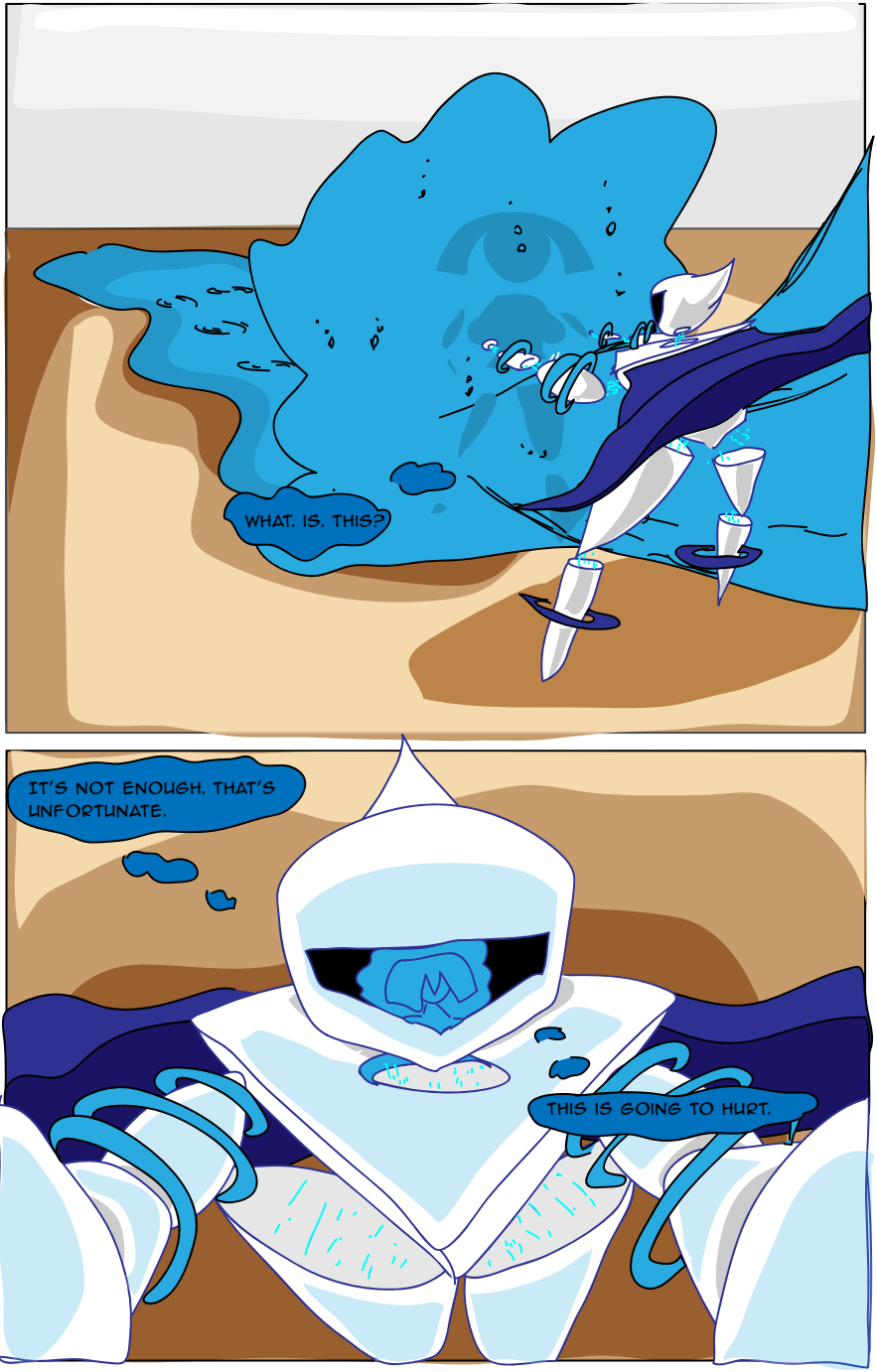

IT'S REALLY NOT MUCH OF A DECISION ON YOUR PART.
YOUR ALLIES ARE GONE OR DOWNED.
TO STAND AGAINST ME NOW WOULD BE SIMILAR TO SUICIDE.
I'M NOT KILLING ME, AND NEITHER ARE YOU.

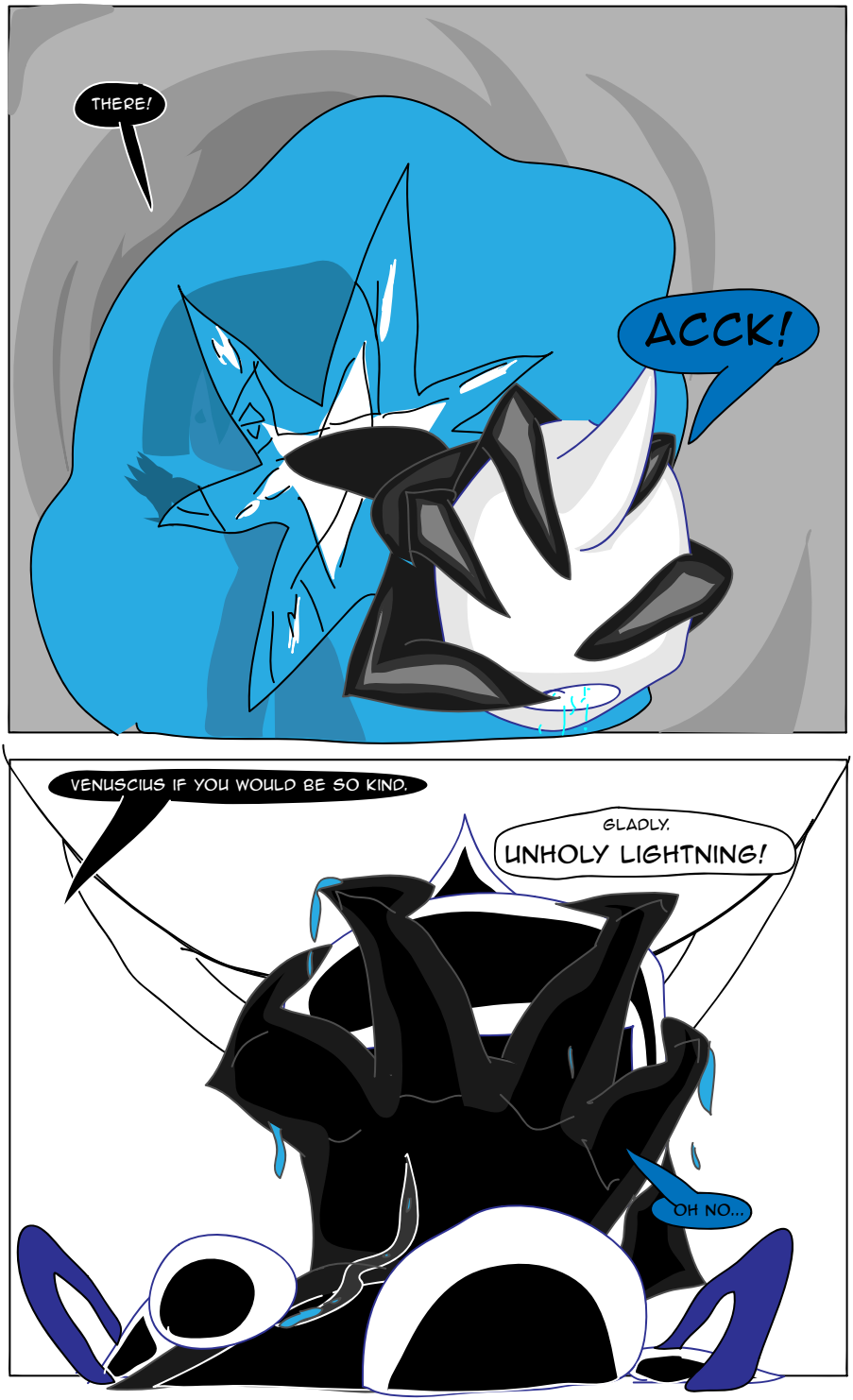

WELL, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE HOW YOU PLAN TO SURVIVE.
WITH THESE EYES, I CAN SEE ANY TRICK YOU'LL TRY.
YEAH, I BET.

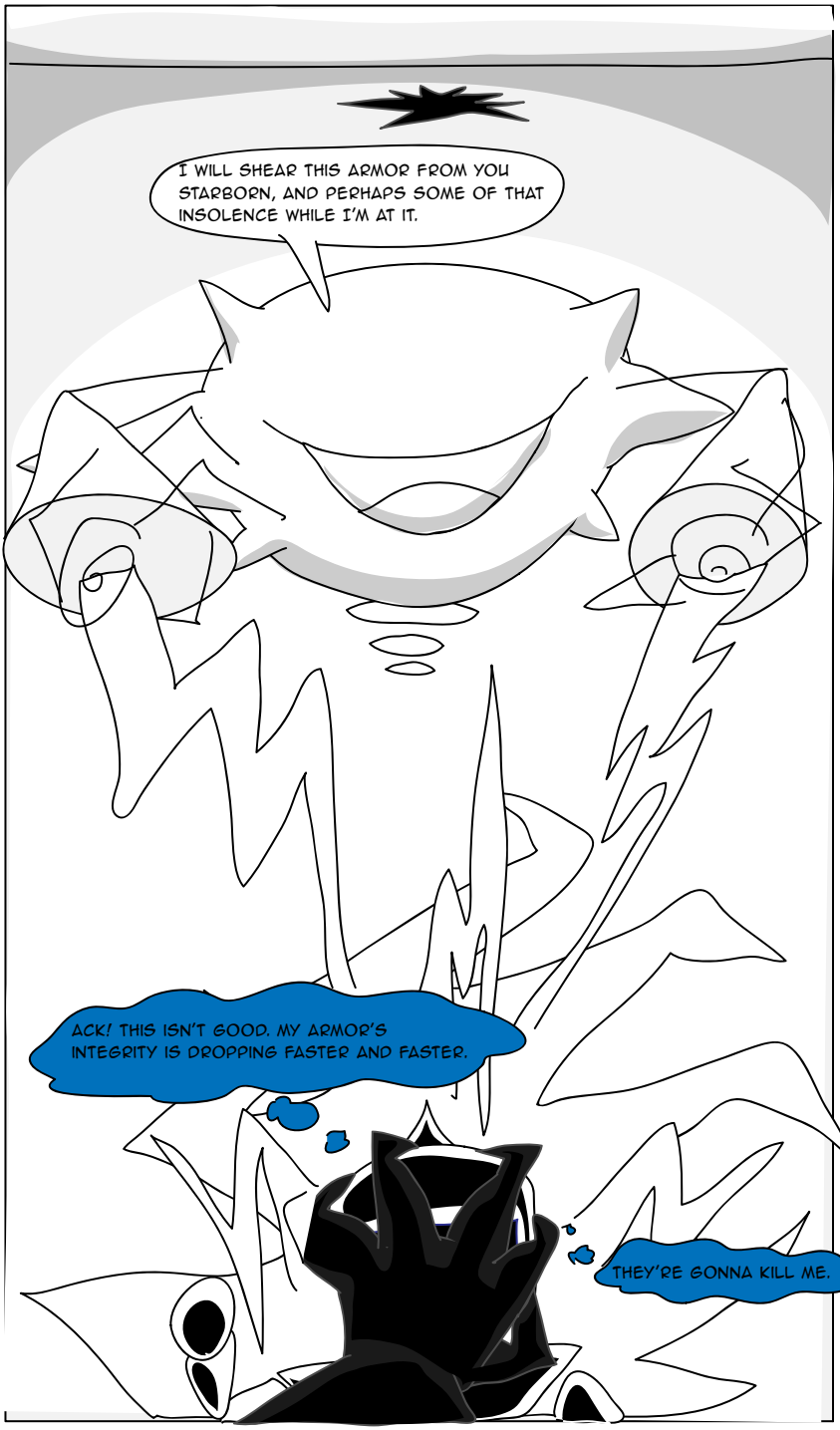

THERE. A PITIFUL ATTEMPT. NOW SIT THERE AND...
...DIE.
CRASH
TAKE THIS!
UGH!

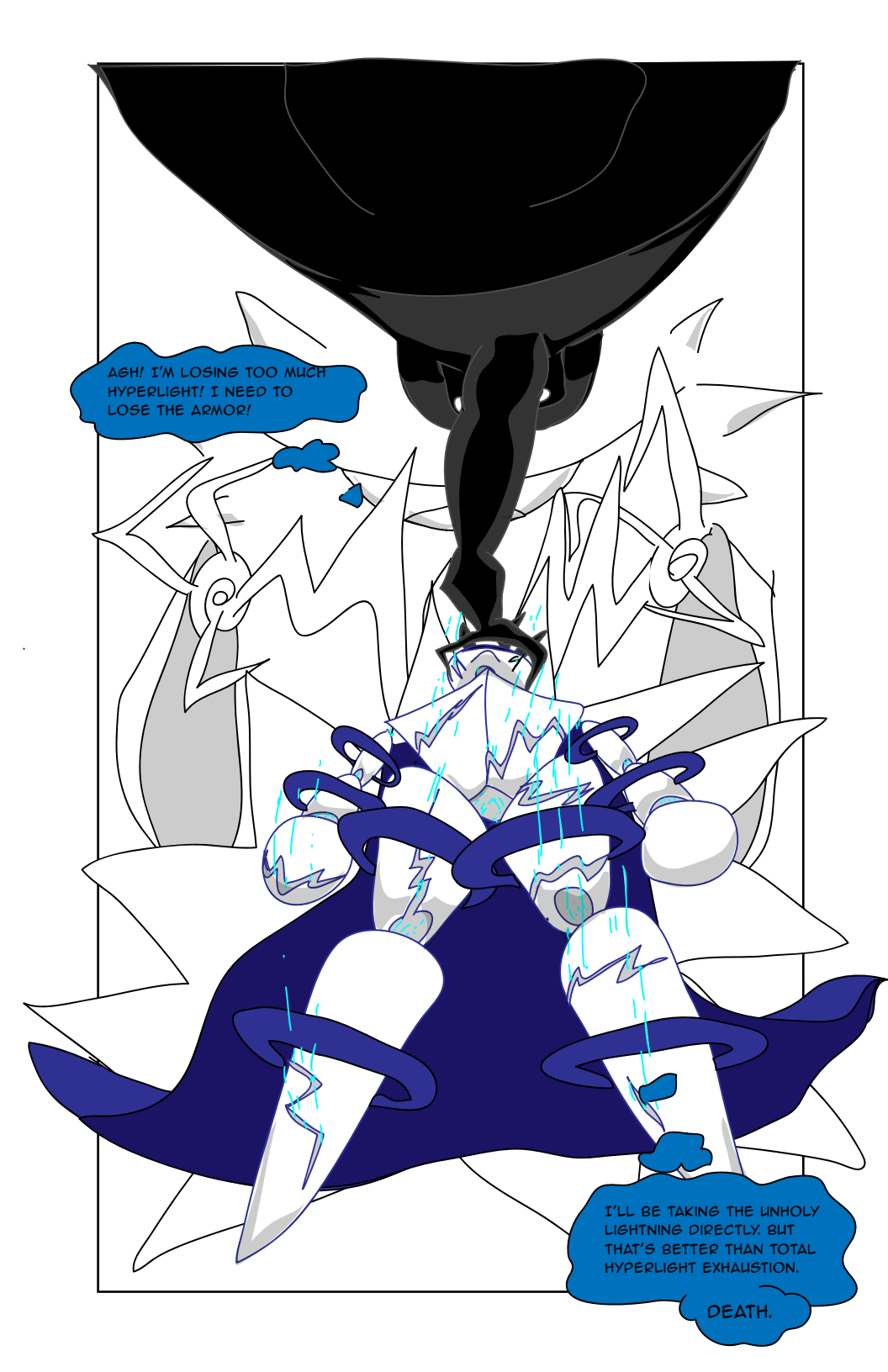

I'M NOT DONE YET!
HYDRO
BURSTER
DROWN! YOU MONSTER!

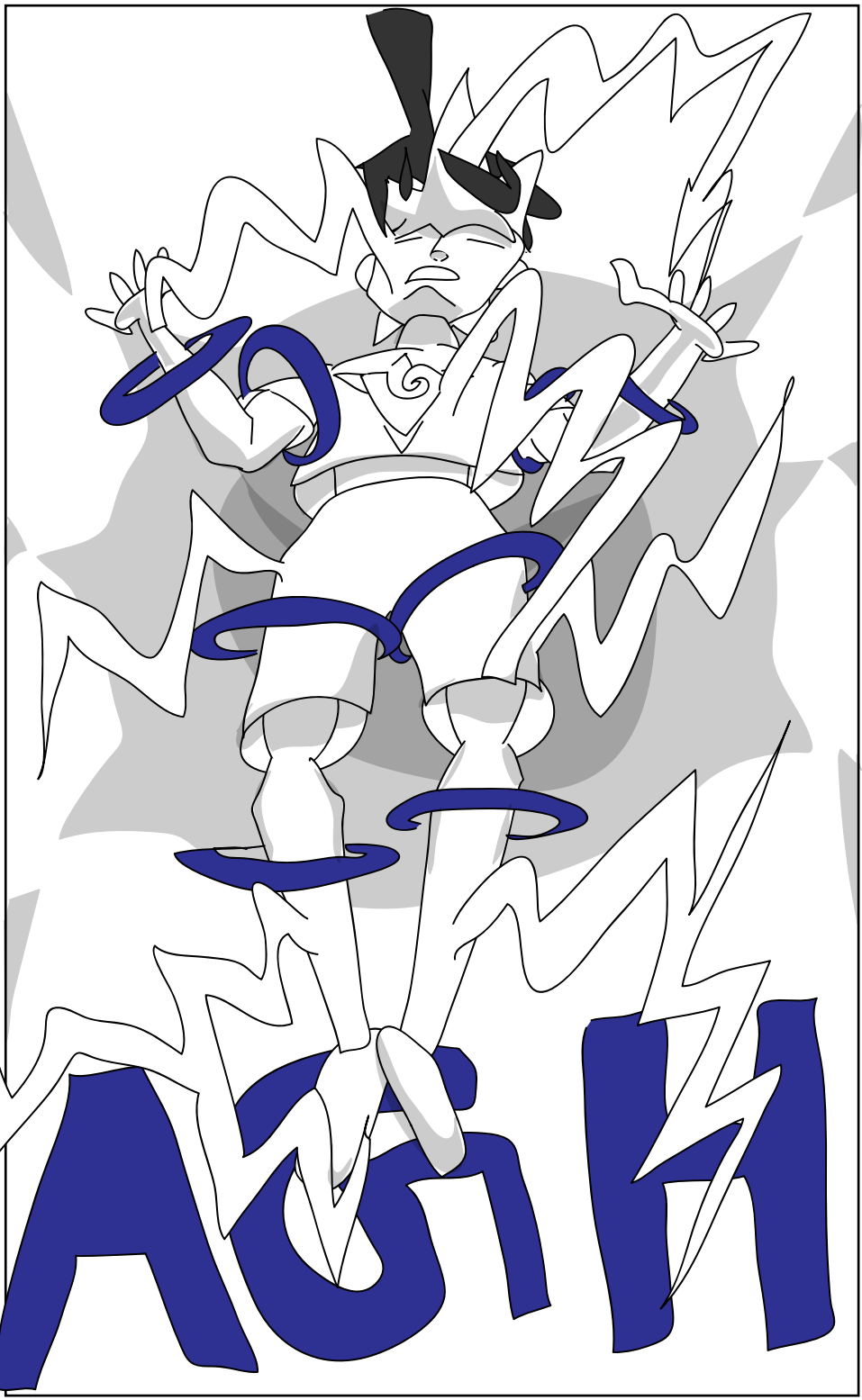

FULL POWER!
I'VE GOT THE WATER FROM MULTIPLE PLANETS BEHIND ME. SHE'LL BE PUTTY AFTER THIS!


WHAT. IS. THIS?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH. THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.
THIS IS GOING TO HURT.


THERE!
ACCK!
VENUSCIUS IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND.
GLADLY.
UNHOLY LIGHTNING!
OH NO...


I WILL SHEAR THIS ARMOR FROM YOU STARBORN, AND PERHAPS SOME OF THAT INSOLENCE WHILE I'M AT IT.
ACK! THIS ISN'T GOOD. MY ARMOR'S INTEGRITY IS DROPPING FASTER AND FASTER.
THEY'RE GONNA KILL ME.

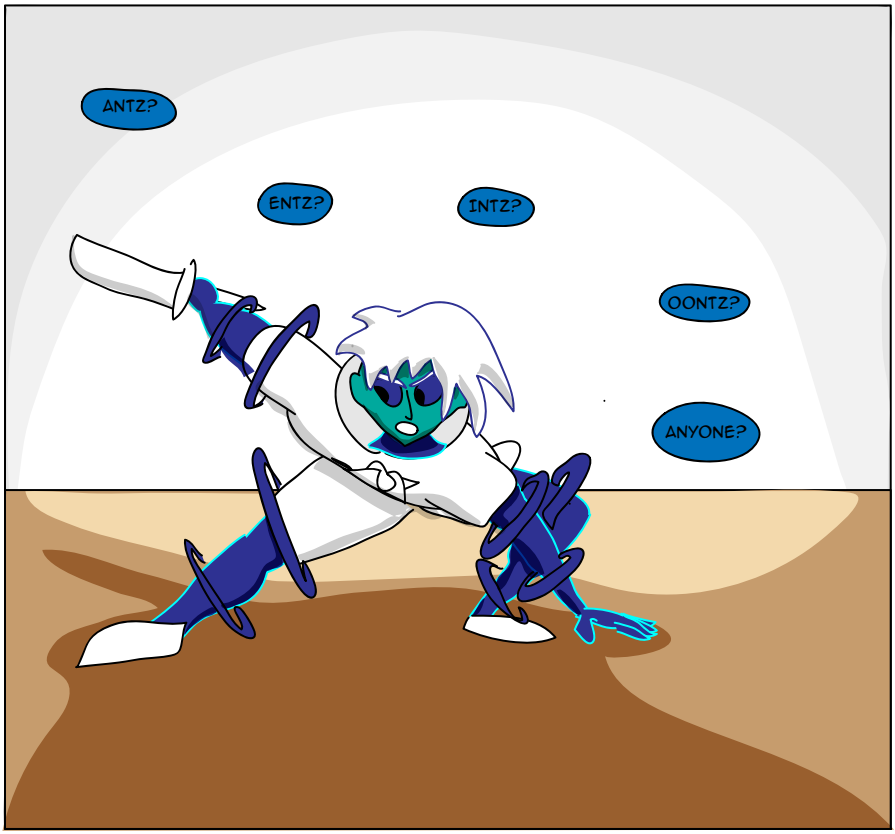

AGH! I'M LOSING TOO MUCH HYPERLIGHT! I NEED TO LOSE THE ARMOR!
I'LL BE TAKING THE UNHOLY LIGHTNING DIRECTLY. BUT THAT'S BETTER THAN TOTAL HYPERLIGHT EXHAUSTION.
DEATH.

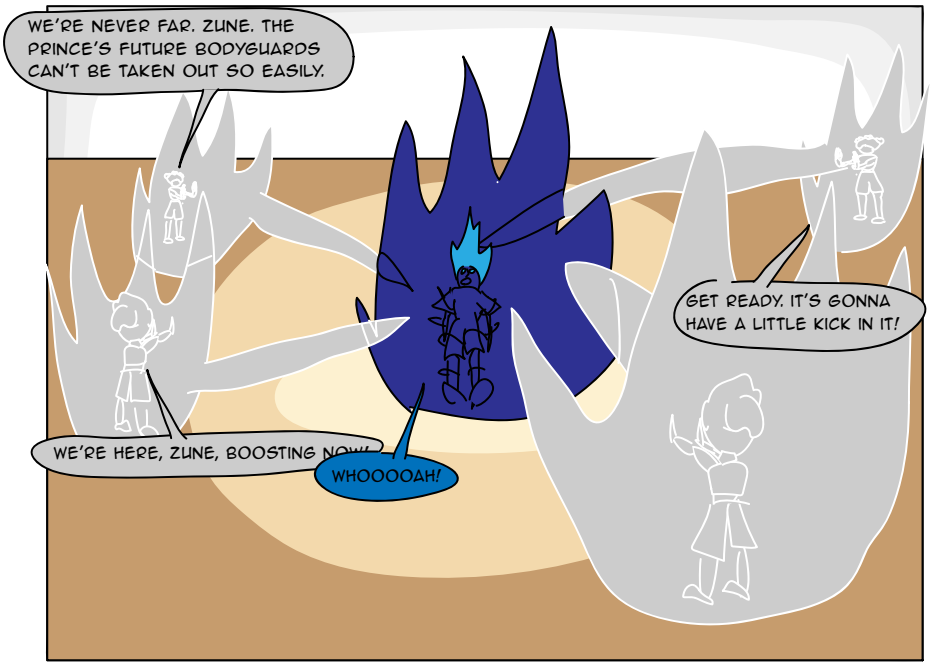

АСН


YOU CAN TRY TO KILL ME ALL YOU WANT!
SHATTER
I'M NOT GOING DOWN EASY! YONDI, TO ME!
YOU WANT TO KILL US? TRY IT! WATCH WHO SHOWS UP!

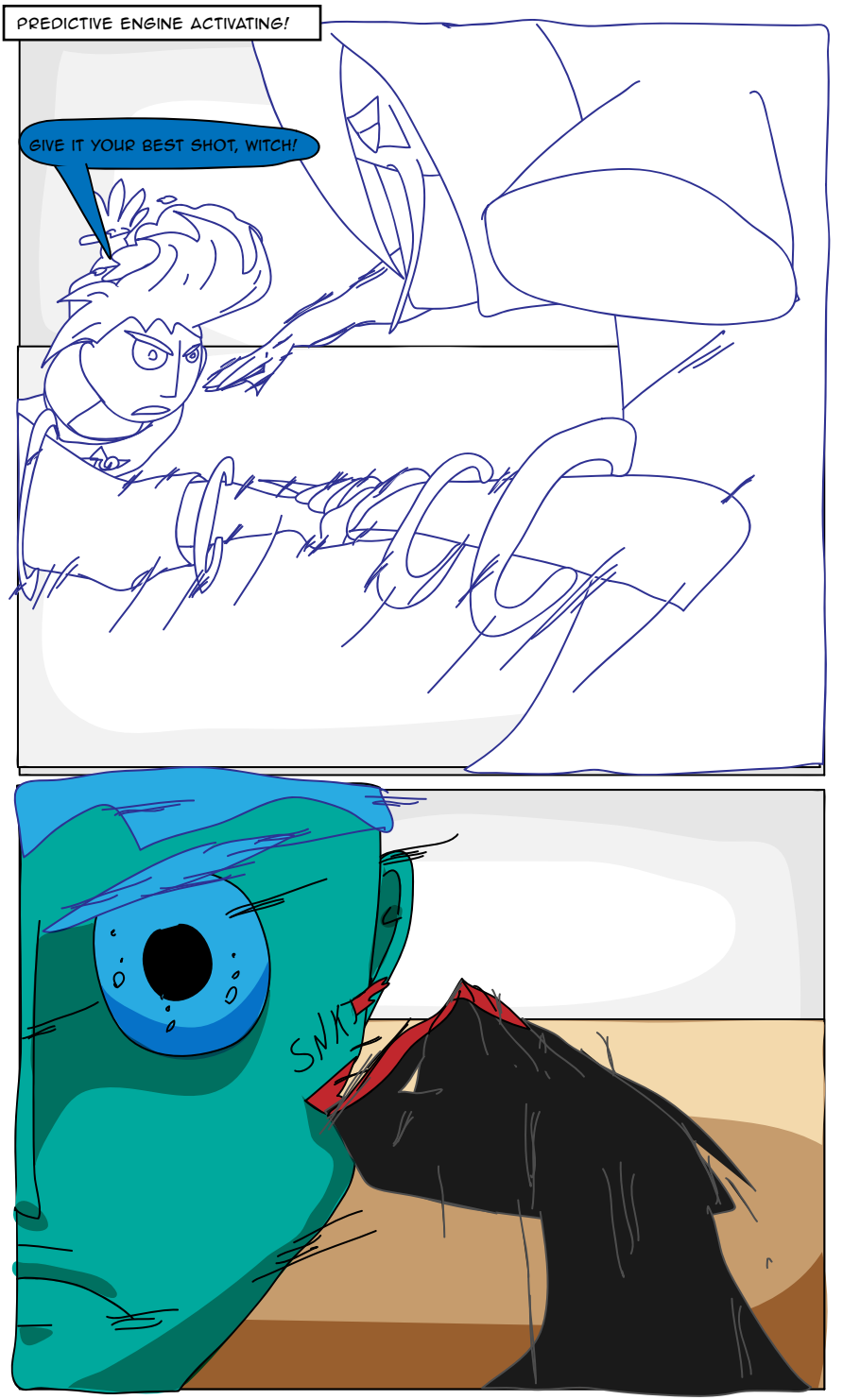

AGH! YOU! YOU!
I GOT HER HAND. I CAN CREATE AN ADVANTAGE WITH THIIS.
SLICE
CHERUBIM! I COULD USE SOME HELP WITH THIS ONE!


AGH. THAT'S EMBARASSING. GET UP GIRLS. WE'VE GOTTA DOLE OUT THIS PAYBACK.
THAT LIGHTNING HURTS! I STILL HAVEN'T FULLY RECOVERED.
ME NEITHER. THIS HAS A LINGERING EFFECT OF SOME KIND.
YEAH WE CAN'T TAKE MANY MORE HITS LIKE THAT. WE'LL HAVE TO GO ANOTHER LAYER DEEP INTO OUR INVISIBILITY.
AND GO!
YEAH! LET'S SEE THAT WITCH FIND US NOW

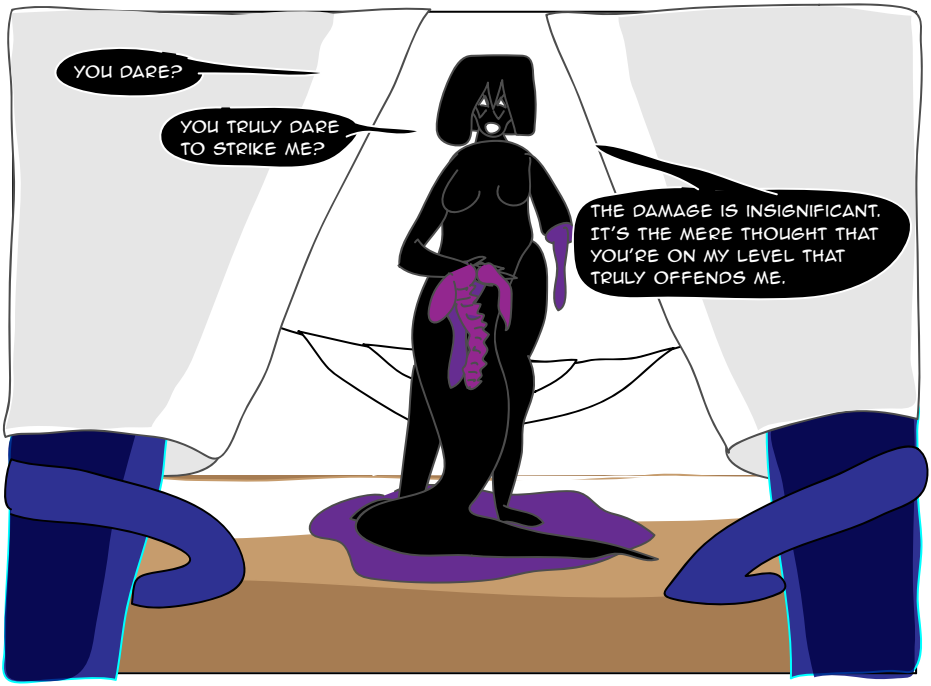

ANTZ?
ENTZ?
INTZ?
OONTZ?
ANYONE?

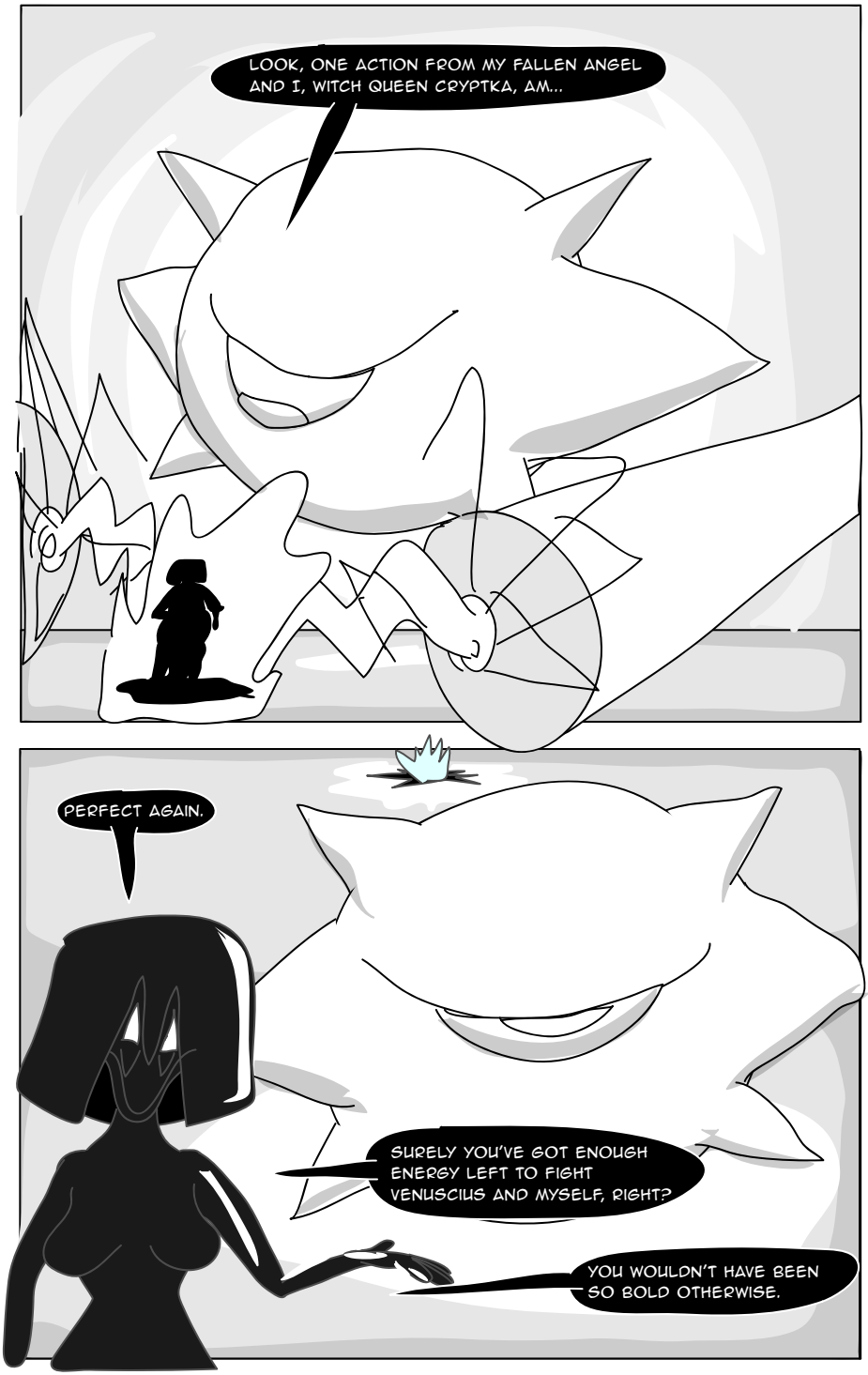

WE'RE NEVER FAR, ZUNE. THE PRINCE'S FUTURE BODYGUARDS CAN'T BE TAKEN OUT SO EASILY.
GET READY. IT'S GONNA HAVE A LITTLE KICK IN IT!
WE'RE HERE, ZUNE, BOOSTING NOW!
WHOOOOAH!


YOU WEREN'T KIDDING, ANTZ!
NOW THAT'S A KICK!
WHERE HAVE THOSE BRATS GONE?! I CAN'T SEE THEM.
YOU LITTLE MONSTER!
I'LL KILL EVERYTHING YOU LOVE!

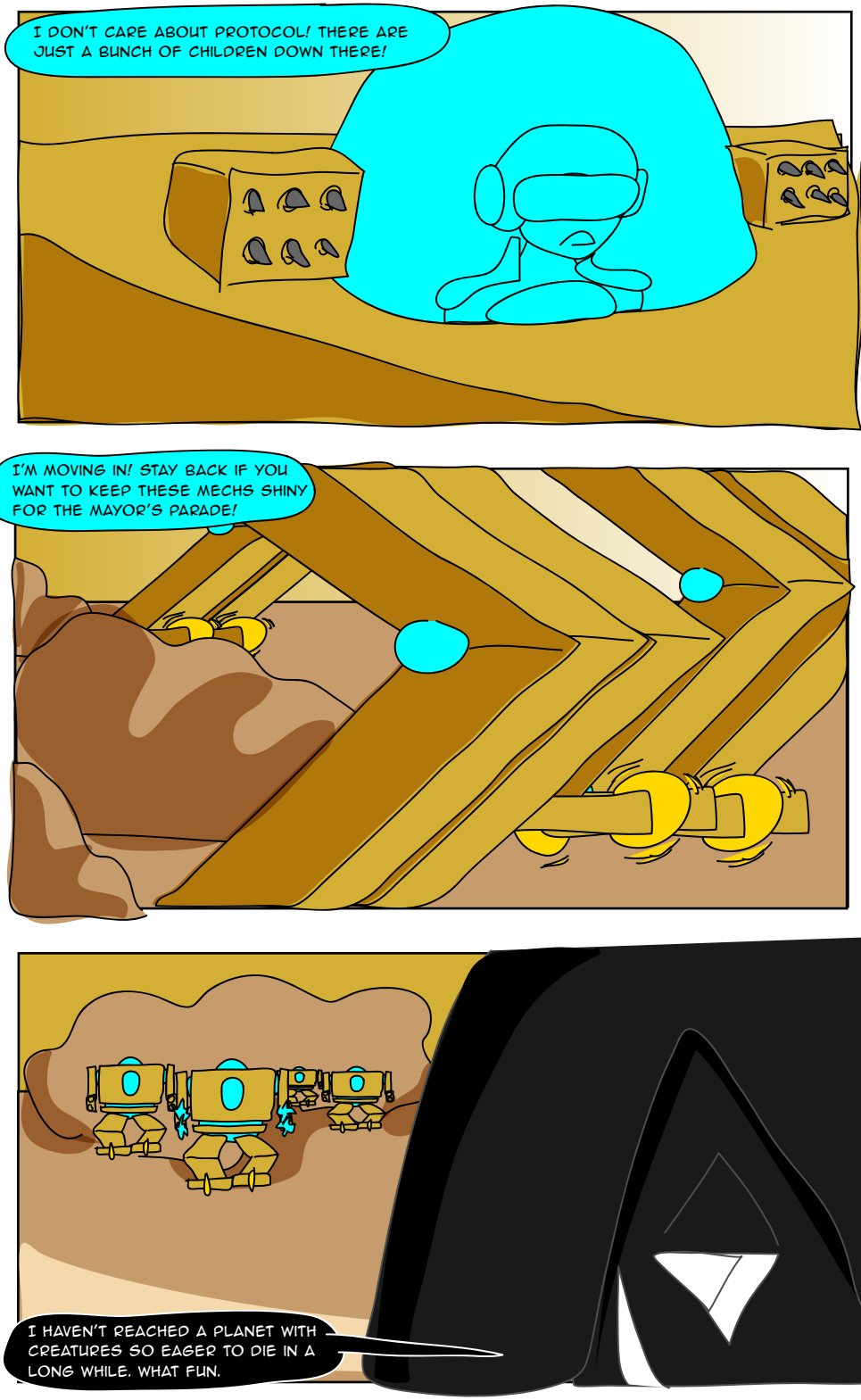

PREDICTIVE ENGINE ACTIVATING!
GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT, WITCH!
SNK

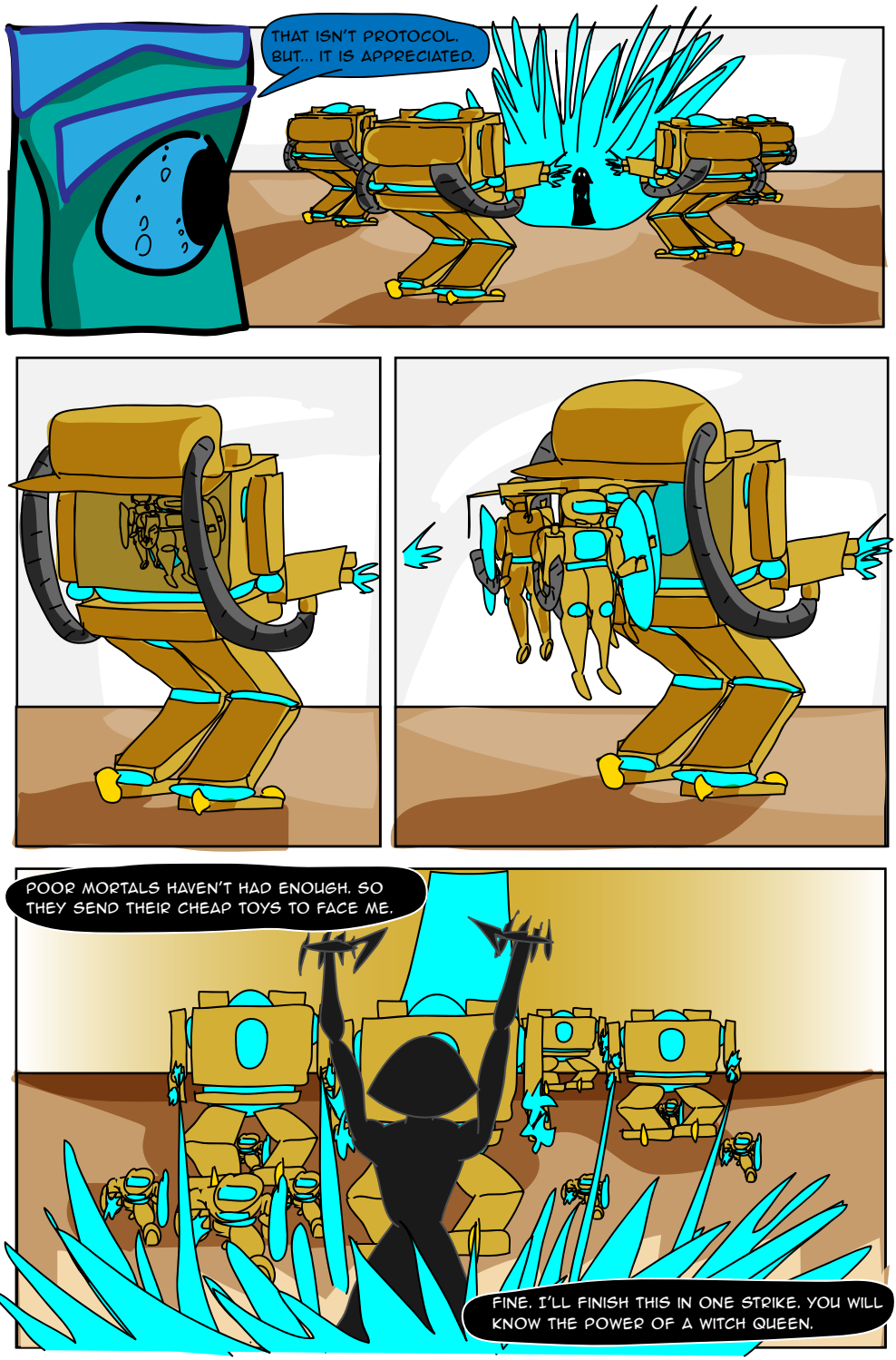

ACK!
SLICE


YOU DARE?
YOU TRULY DARE TO STRIKE ME?
THE DAMAGE IS INSIGNIFICANT. IT'S THE MERE THOUGHT THAT YOU'RE ON MY LEVEL THAT TRULY OFFENDS ME.

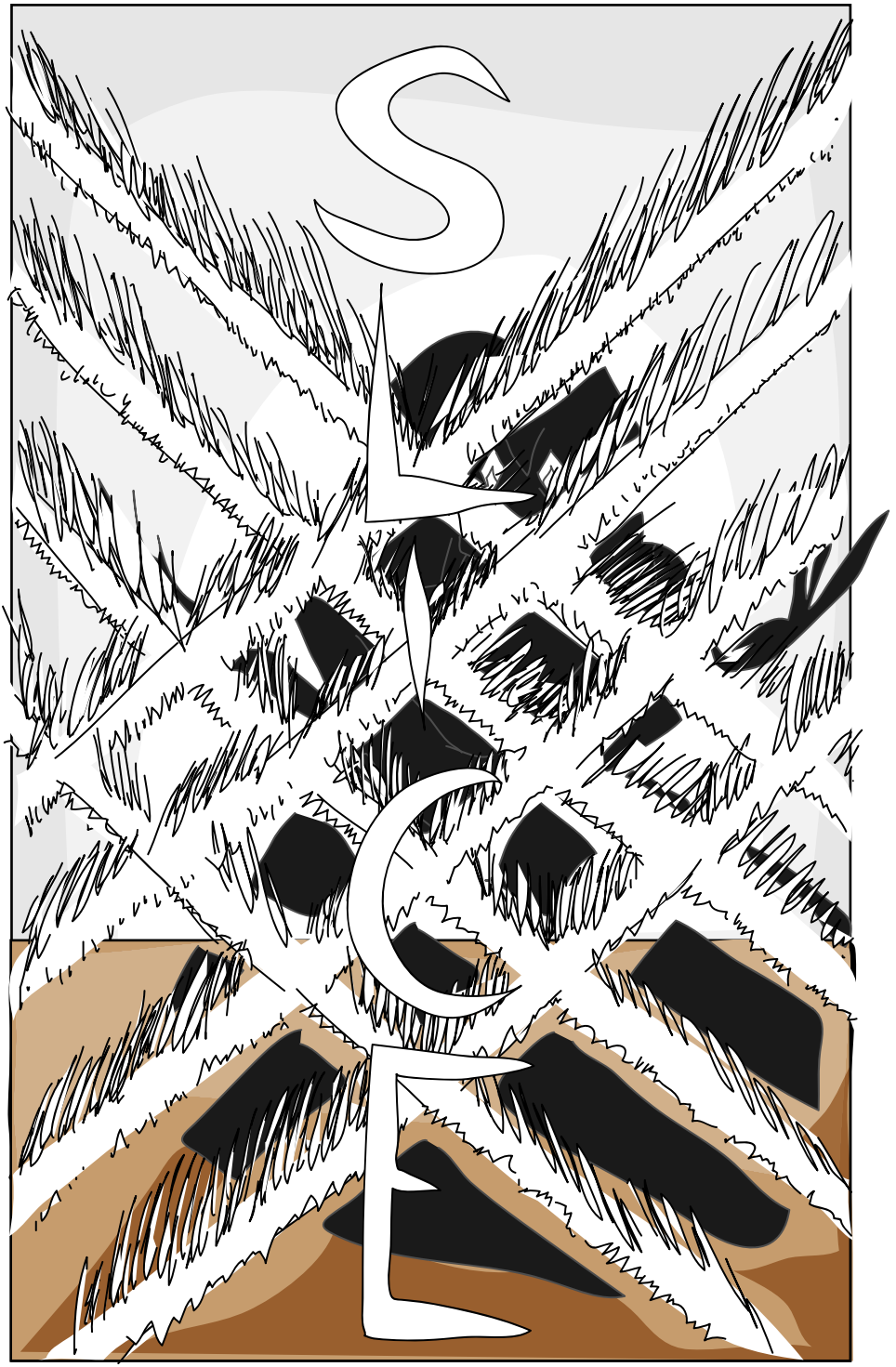

LOOK, ONE ACTION FROM MY FALLEN ANGEL AND I, WITCH QUEEN CRYPTKA, AM...
PERFECT AGAIN.
SURELY YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO FIGHT VENUSCIUS AND MYSELF, RIGHT?
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO BOLD OTHERWISE.

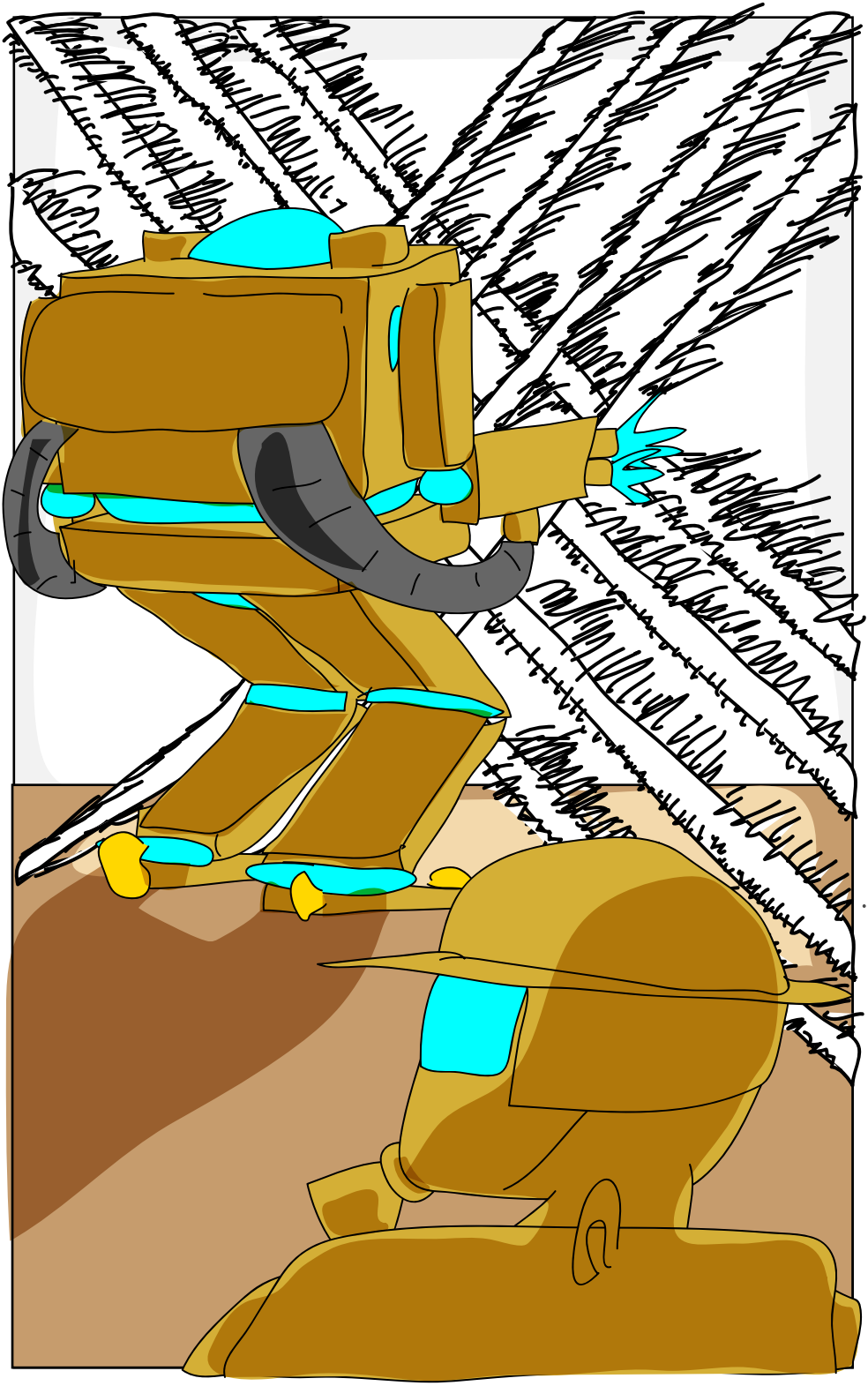

BOOST HIM!
KEEP ZUNE HEALED!
I'VE SEEN PERFECTION, AND THERE'S NOT A PERFECT THING ABOUT YOU.
MAINTAIN EVERGY LEVELS!
PUNCH HER FACE IN ZUNE!
LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU'VE GOT LEFT IN THE TANK.
I SAY NO MORE THAN TEN SECONDS.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT SHE MIGHT BE RIGHT. IF ONLY WE HAD SOME MORE TIME.

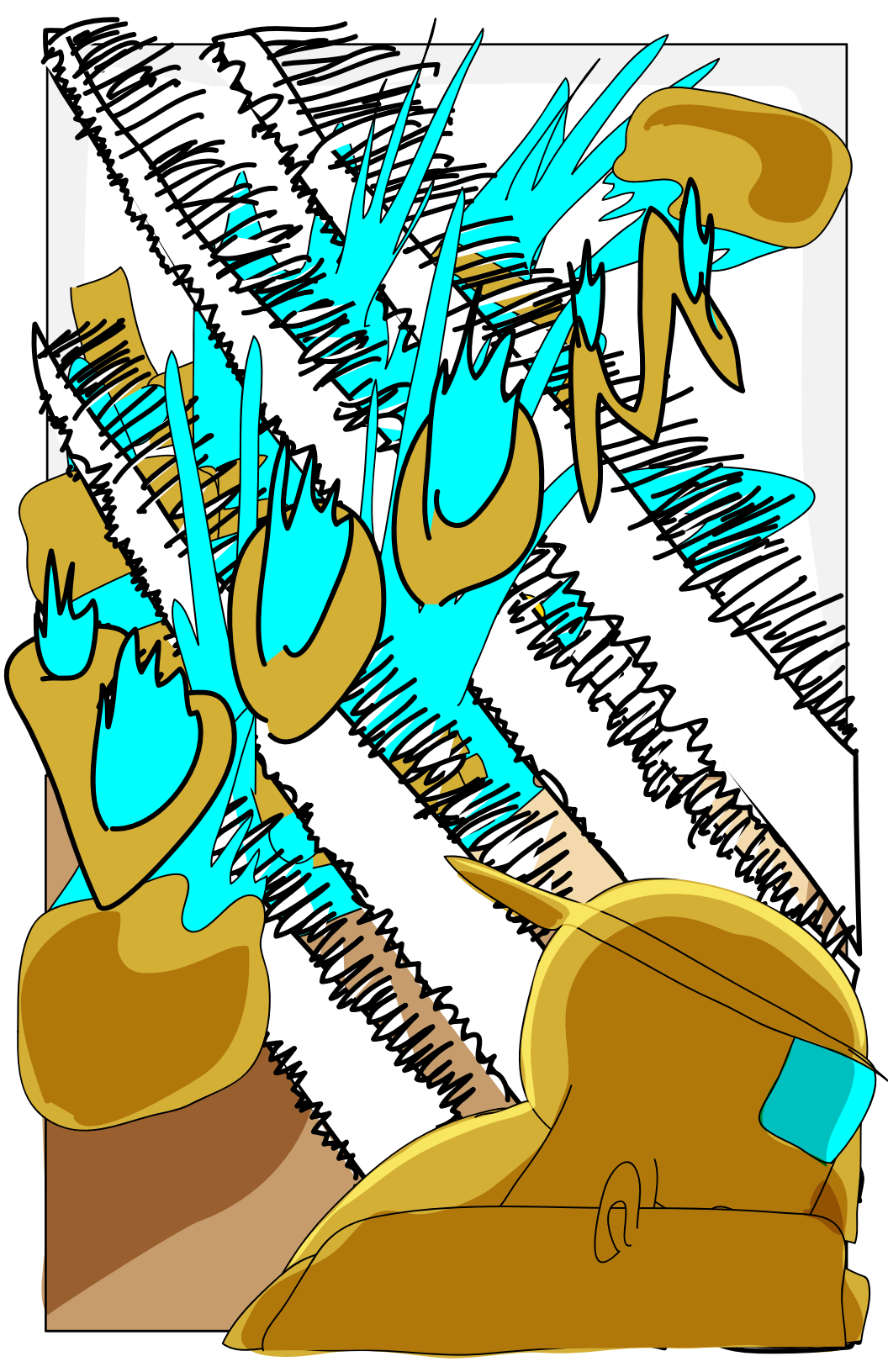

I DON'T CARE ABOUT PROTOCOL! THERE ARE JUST A BUNCH OF CHILDREN DOWN THERE!
I'M MOVING IN! STAY BACK IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THESE MECHS SHINY FOR THE MAYOR'S PARADE!
I HAVEN'T REACHED A PLANET WITH CREATURES SO EAGER TO DIE IN A LONG WHILE. WHAT FUN.

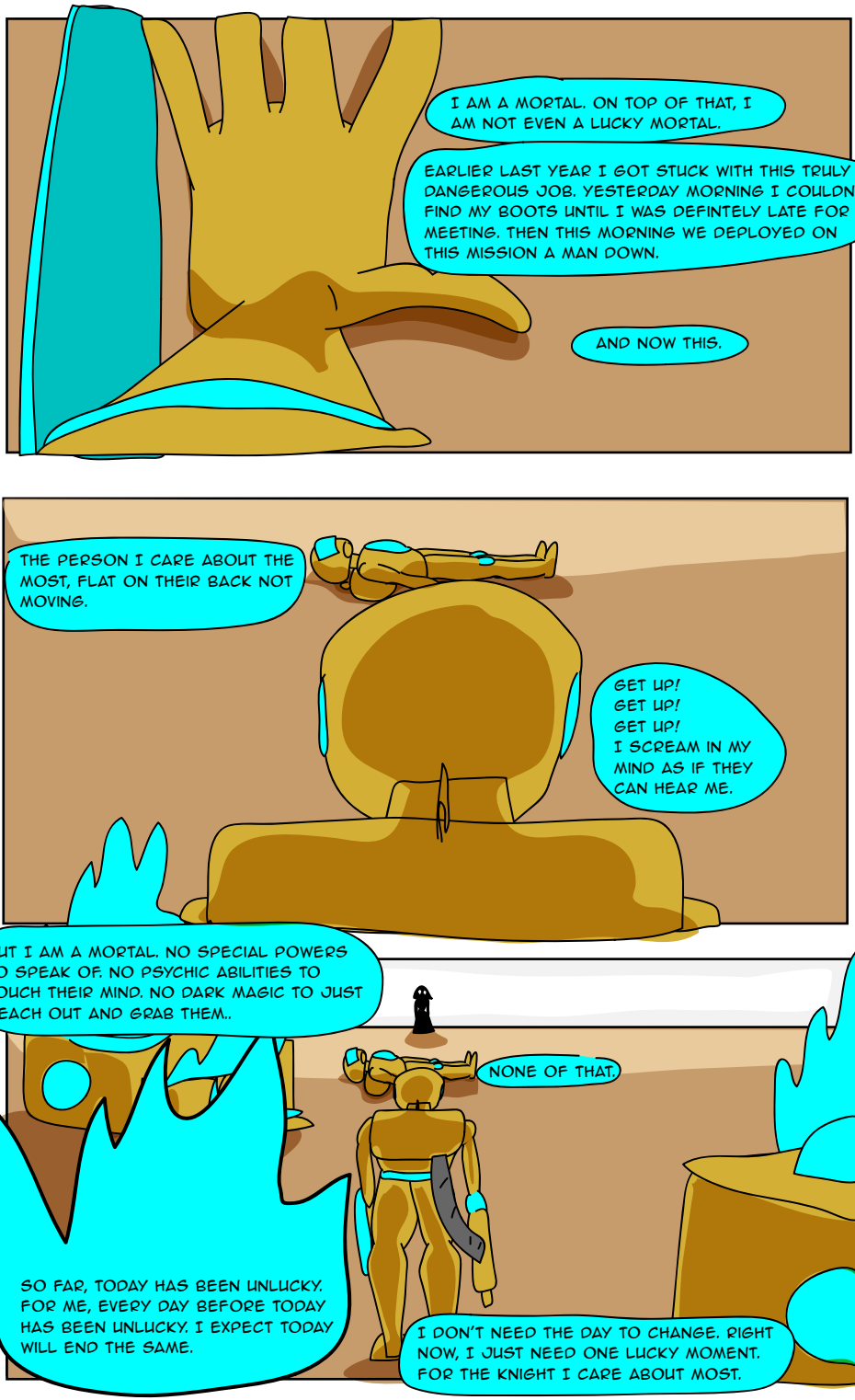

THAT ISN'T PROTOCOL. BUT... IT IS APPRECIATED.
POOR MORTALS HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH. SO THEY SEND THEIR CHEAP TOYS TO FACE ME.
FINE. I'LL FINISH THIS IN ONE STRIKE. YOU WILL KNOW THE POWER OF A WITCH QUEEN.


YOU WILL KNOW MY...
WRATH!

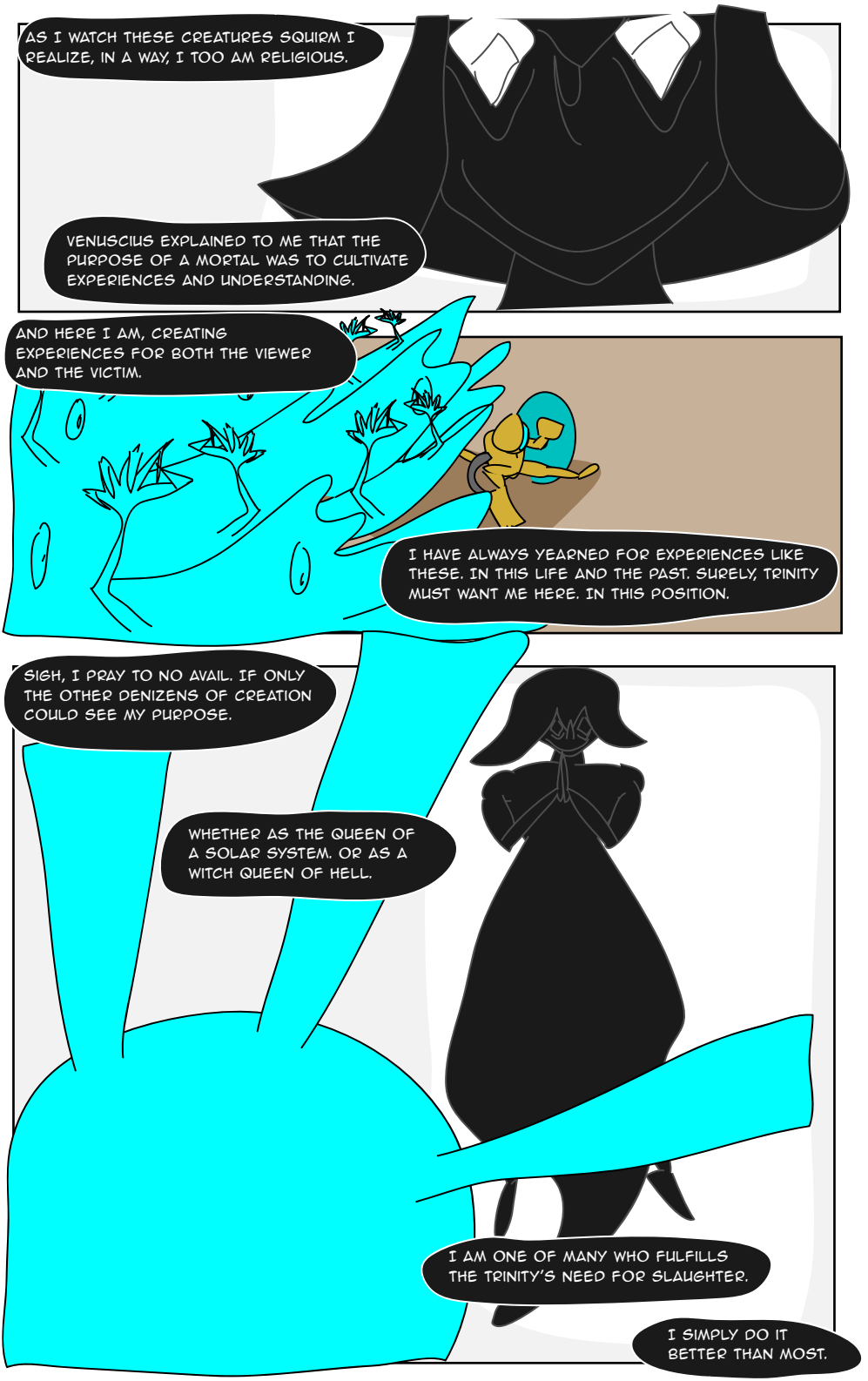

SLAM

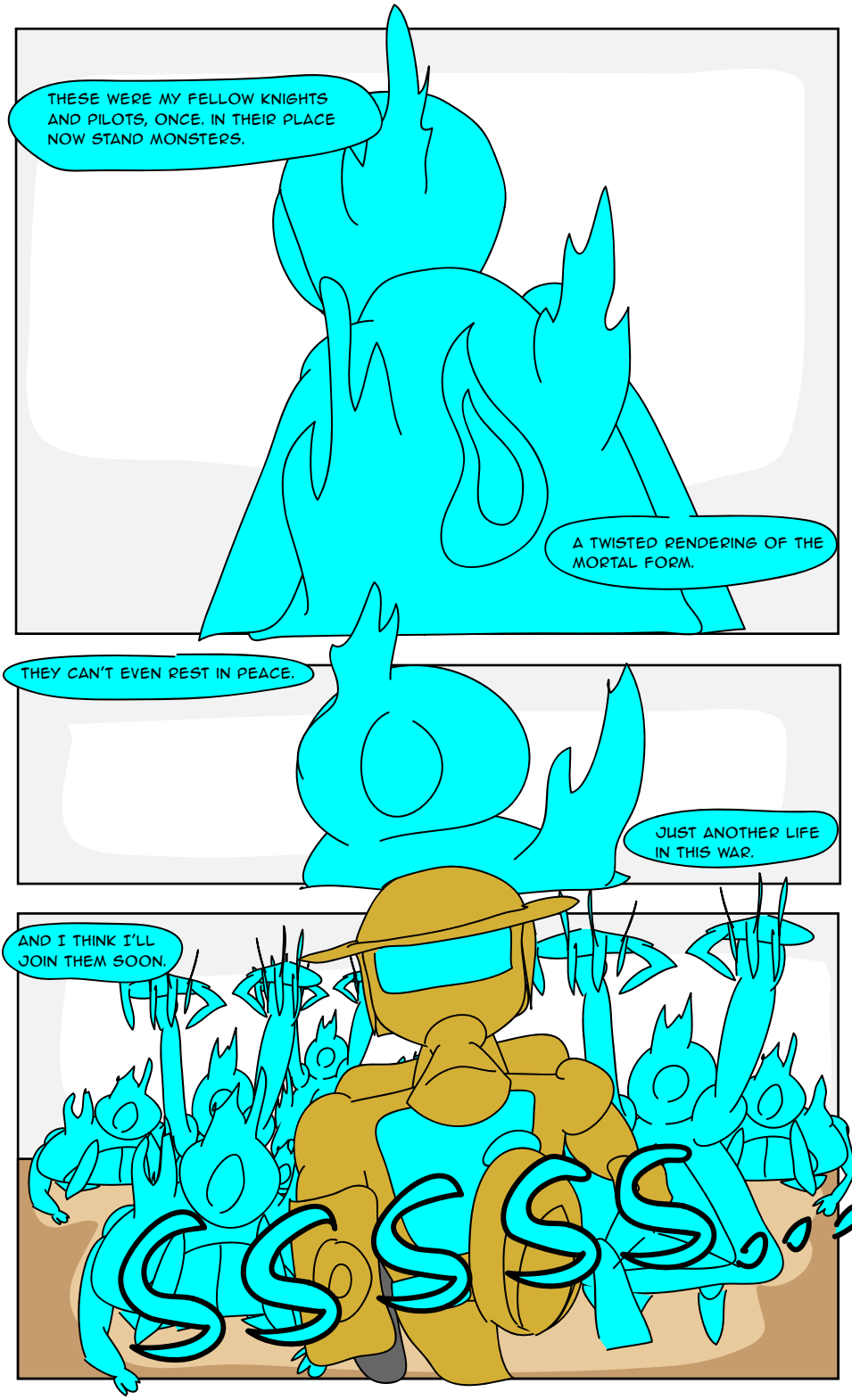


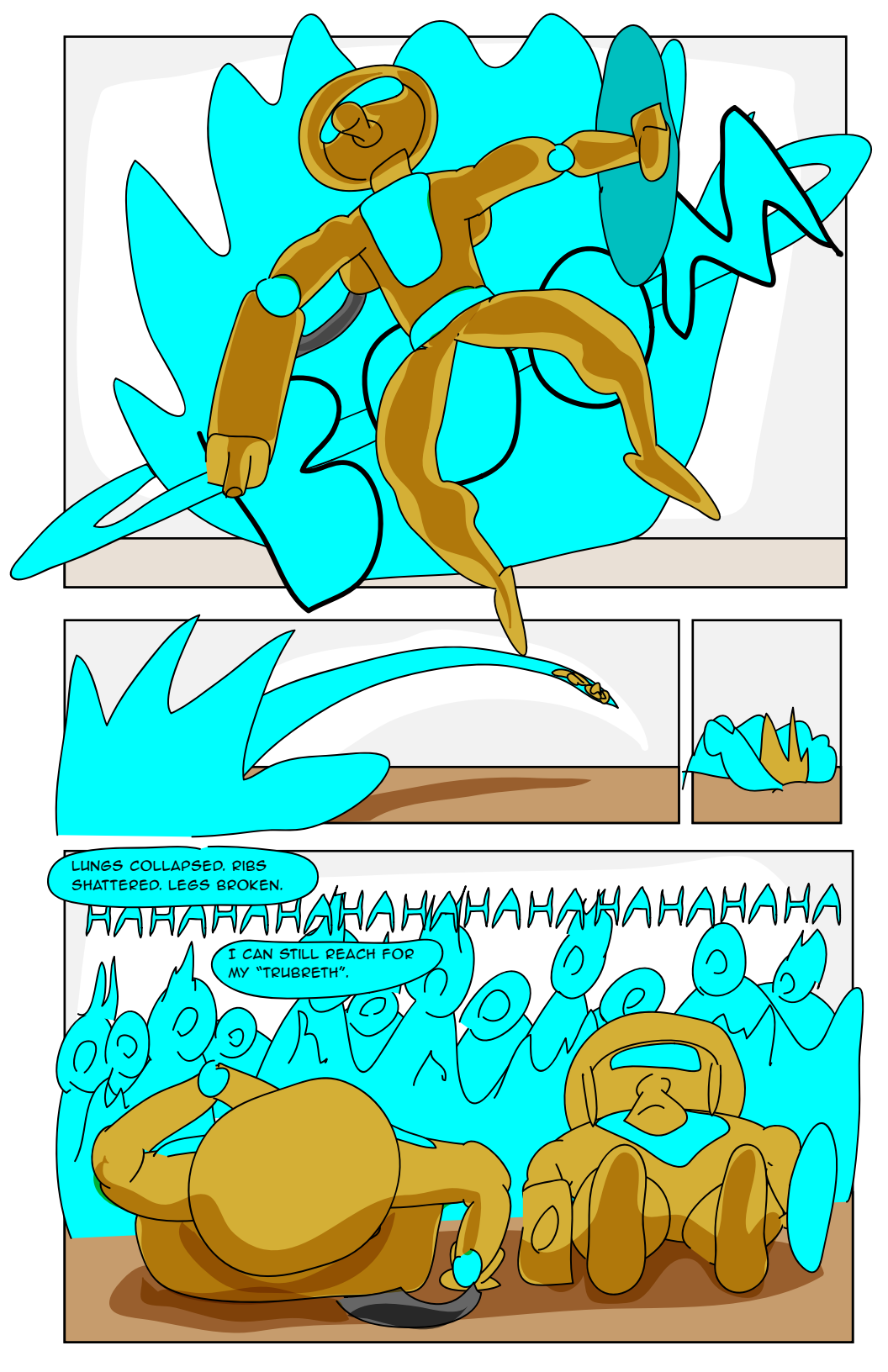


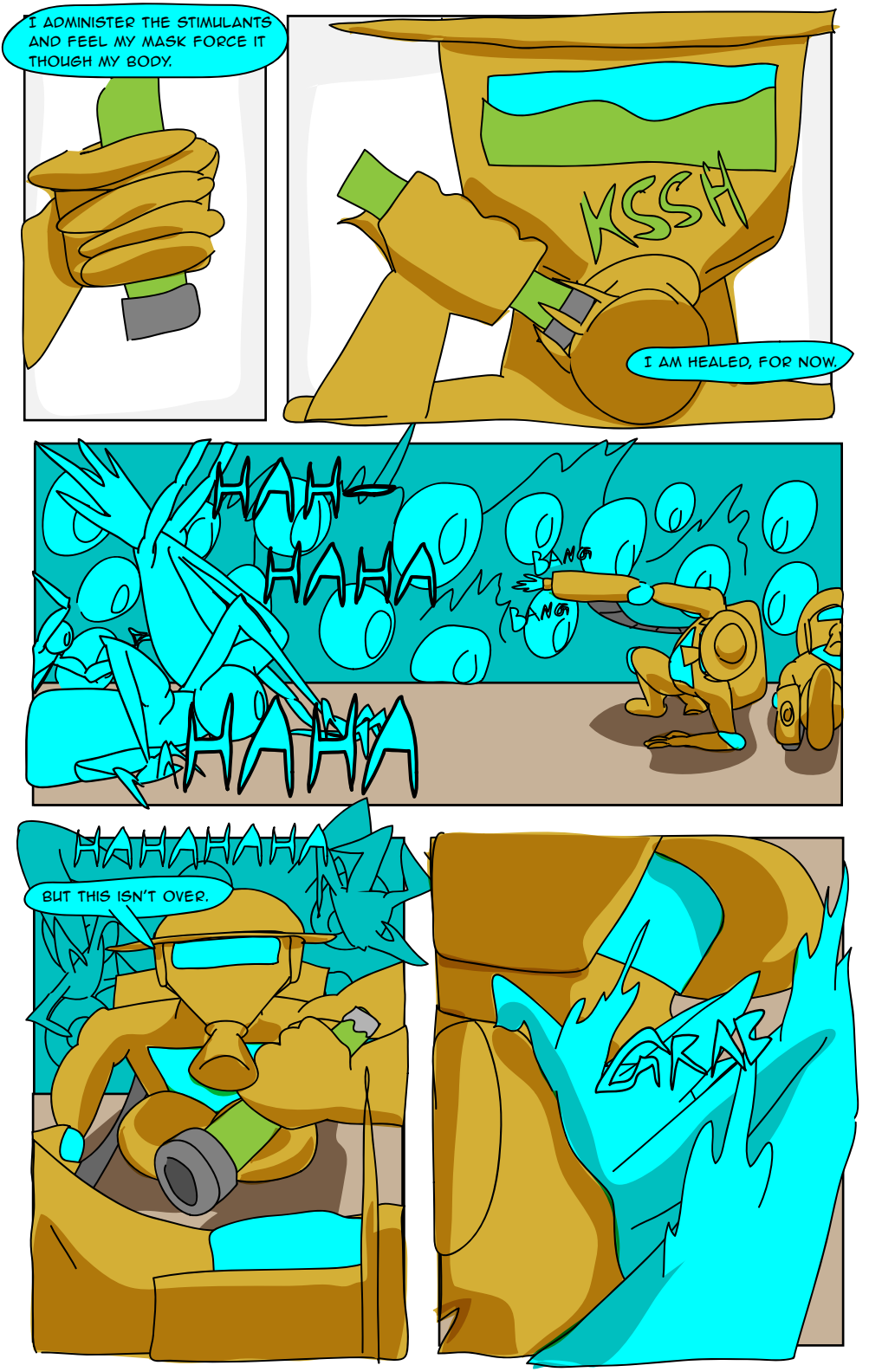

I AM A MORTAL. ON TOP OF THAT, I AM NOT EVEN A LUCKY MORTAL.
EARLIER LAST YEAR I GOT STUCK WITH THIS TRULY DANGEROUS JOB. YESTERDAY MORNING I COULDN'T FIND MY BOOTS UNTIL I WAS DEFINTELY LATE FOR A MEETING. THEN THIS MORNING WE DEPLOYED ON THIS MISSION A MAN DOWN.
AND NOW THIS.
THE PERSON I CARE ABOUT THE MOST, FLAT ON THEIR BACK NOT MOVING.
GET UP! GET UP! GET UP! I SCREAM IN MY MIND AS IF THEY CAN HEAR ME.
BUT I AM A MORTAL. NO SPECIAL POWERS TO SPEAK OF. NO PSYCHIC ABILITIES TO TOUCH THEIR MIND. NO DARK MAGIC TO JUST REACH OUT AND GRAB THEM..
NONE OF THAT.
SO FAR, TODAY HAS BEEN UNLUCKY. FOR ME, EVERY DAY BEFORE TODAY HAS BEEN UNLUCKY. I EXPECT TODAY WILL END THE SAME.
I DON'T NEED THE DAY TO CHANGE. RIGHT NOW, I JUST NEED ONE LUCKY MOMENT. FOR THE KNIGHT I CARE ABOUT MOST.

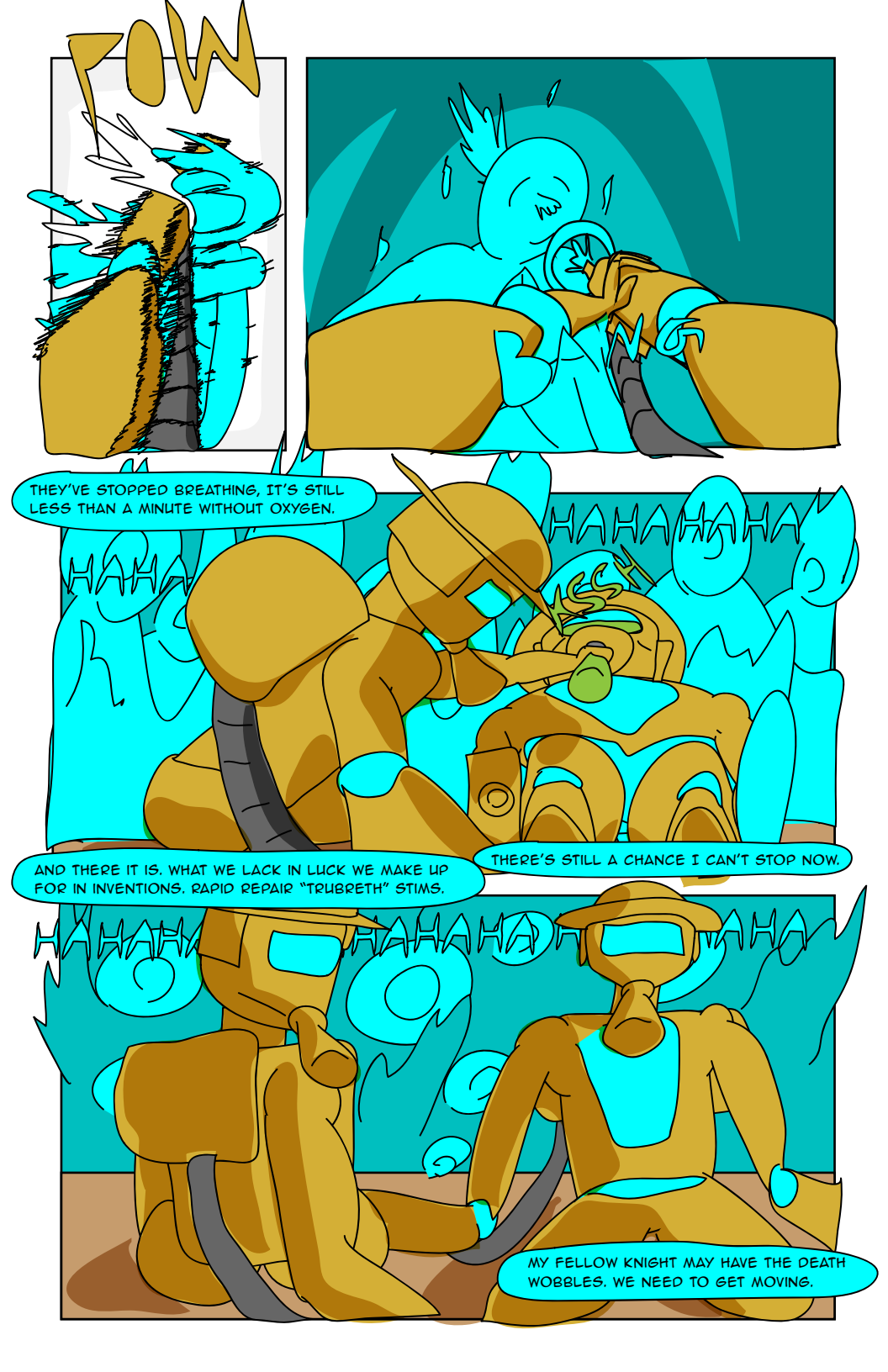

IN MY FIRST LIFE, WHEN I WAS ONE OF YOU THINGS, I RULED OVER YOU CREATURES. PLANET UPON PLANET UNDER MY COMMAND.
WHEN MY FIRST DEATH NEARED I WAS APPROACHED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT FATHER TIME. PUSH BACK THE CLOCK AND MAINTAIN MY RULE.
OF COURSE I TOOK IT, WHO WOULDN'T? MORE TIME TO EXPERIENCE LIFE AND ALL THAT COMES WITH IT. NOT EVERYONE IS FACED WITH SUCH AN OFFER. OF COURSE, NOT EVERY PERSON DESERVES IT.
I HEAR OVER THE RADIO REINFORCEMENTS ARE 2-3 MINUTES OUT.
THAT'D BE MUCH TOO LONG EVEN IF WE HAD EQUIPMENT EFFECTIVE AGAINST A WITCH QUEEN. BUT... WE ARE JUST MORTALS.
UNLUCKY ONES TOO.

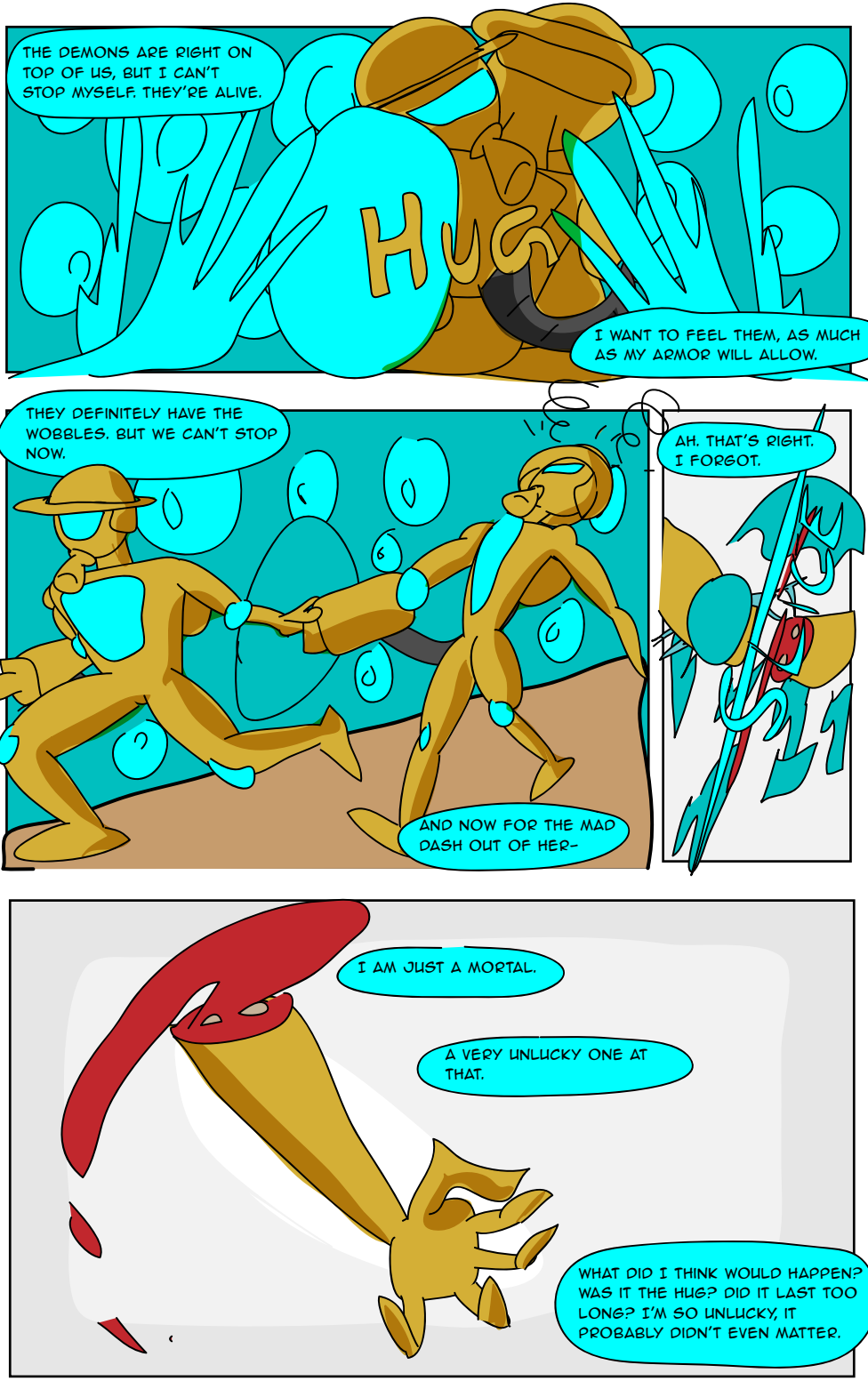

AS I WATCH THESE CREATURES SQUIRM I REALIZE, IN A WAY, I TOO AM RELIGIOUS.
VENUSCIUS EXPLAINED TO ME THAT THE PURPOSE OF A MORTAL WAS TO CULTIVATE EXPERIENCES AND UNDERSTANDING.
AND HERE I AM, CREATING EXPERIENCES FOR BOTH THE VIEWER AND THE VICTIM.
I HAVE ALWAYS YEARNED FOR EXPERIENCES LIKE THESE. IN THIS LIFE AND THE PAST. SURELY, TRINITY MUST WANT ME HERE. IN THIS POSITION.
SIGH, I PRAY TO NO AVAIL. IF ONLY THE OTHER DENIZENS OF CREATION COULD SEE MY PURPOSE.
WHETHER AS THE QUEEN OF A SOLAR SYSTEM. OR AS A WITCH QUEEN OF HELL.
I AM ONE OF MANY WHO FULFILLS THE TRINITY'S NEED FOR SLAUGHTER.
I SIMPLY DO IT BETTER THAN MOST.


THESE WERE MY FELLOW KNIGHTS AND PILOTS, ONCE. IN THEIR PLACE NOW STAND MONSTERS.
A TWISTED RENDERING OF THE MORTAL FORM.
THEY CAN'T EVEN REST IN PEACE.
JUST ANOTHER LIFE IN THIS WAR.
AND I THINK I'LL JOIN THEM SOON.

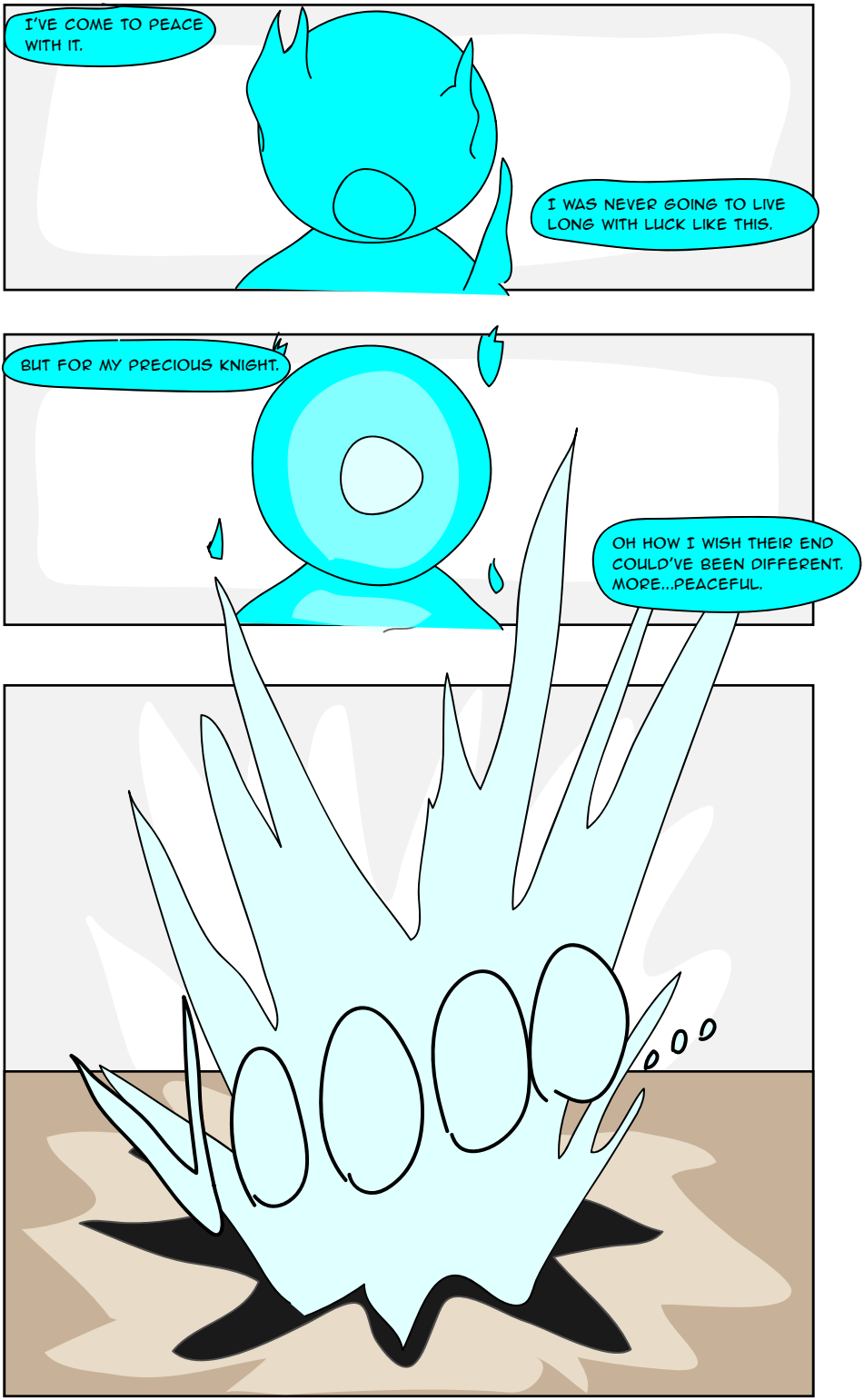

LUNGS COLLAPSED. RIBS SHATTERED. LEGS BROKEN.
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
I CAN STILL REACH FOR MY "TRUBRETH".


I ADMINISTER THE STIMULANTS AND FEEL MY MASK FORCE IT THOUGH MY BODY.
KSSH
I AM HEALED, FOR NOW.
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA
BANG
BANG
HAHAHAHAHA
BUT THIS ISN'T OVER.
GRAB

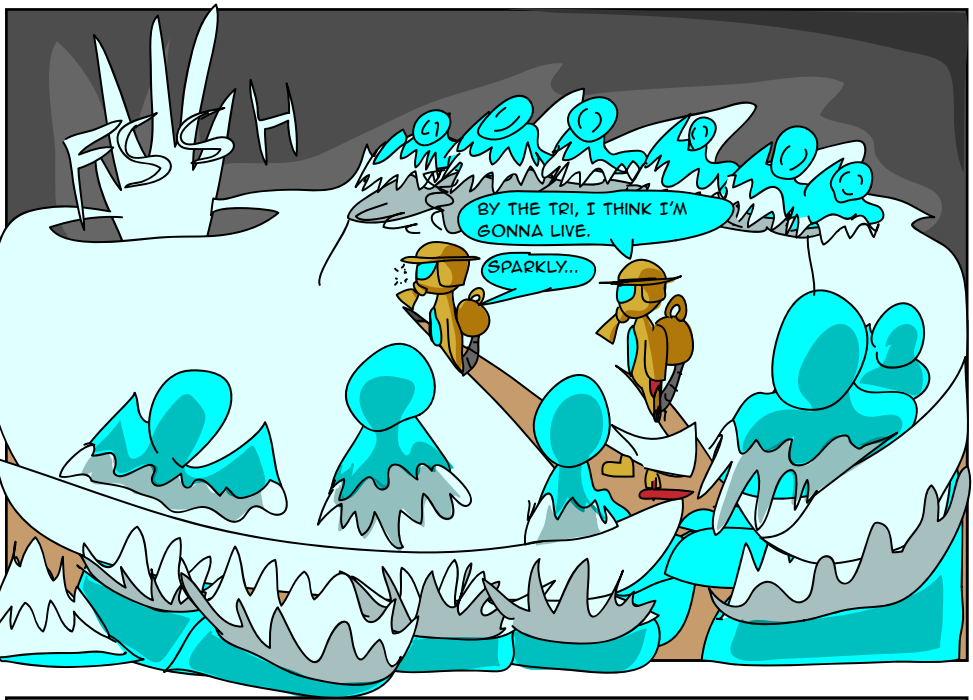

POW
THEY'VE STOPPED BREATHING, IT'S STILL LESS THAN A MINUTE WITHOUT OXYGEN.
HAHAHAHA
AND THERE IT IS. WHAT WE LACK IN LUCK WE MAKE UP FOR IN INVENTIONS. RAPID REPAIR "TRUBRETH" STIMS.
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE I CAN'T STOP NOW.
HAHAHAHA
MY FELLOW KNIGHT MAY HAVE THE DEATH WOBBLES. WE NEED TO GET MOVING.


THE DEMONS ARE RIGHT ON TOP OF US, BUT I CAN'T STOP MYSELF. THEY'RE ALIVE.
HUG
I WANT TO FEEL THEM, AS MUCH AS MY ARMOR WILL ALLOW.
THEY DEFINITELY HAVE THE WOBBLES. BUT WE CAN'T STOP NOW.
AH. THAT'S RIGHT. I FORGOT.
AND NOW FOR THE MAD DASH OUT OF HER-
I AM JUST A MORTAL.
A VERY UNLUCKY ONE AT THAT.
WHAT DID I THINK WOULD HAPPEN? WAS IT THE HUG? DID IT LAST TOO LONG? I'M SO UNLUCKY, IT PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN MATTER.

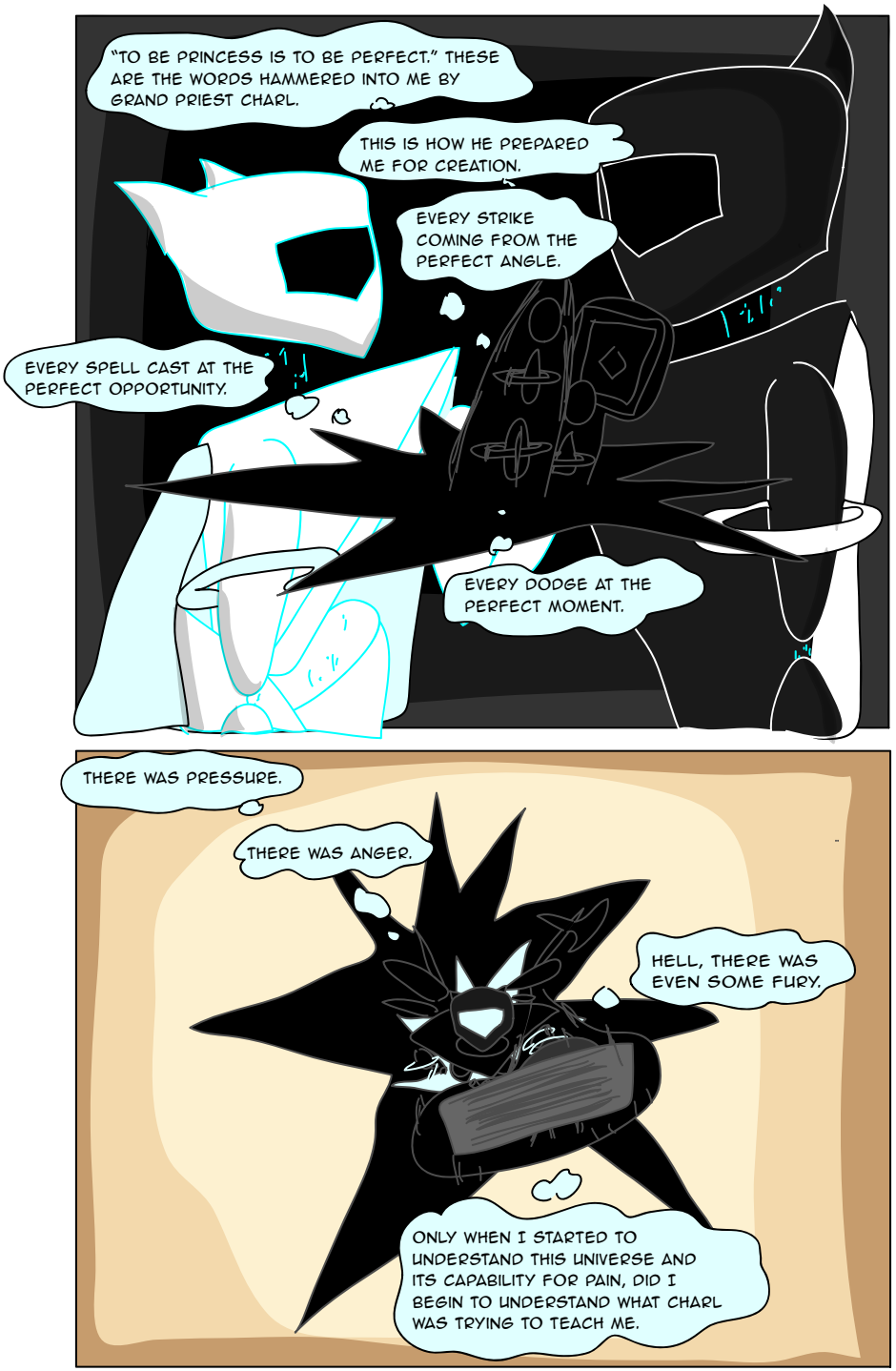

?
HUH. I GUESS I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVEN GET THIS FAR.
I WONDER IF DYING WILL HURT LIKE THIS. OR WILL IT FEEL DIFFERENT?
I WONDER WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO GET TURNED INTO A DEMON.
SSSSSS...
WILL IT HURT LIKE DEATH OR WILL IT FEEL DIFFERENT?

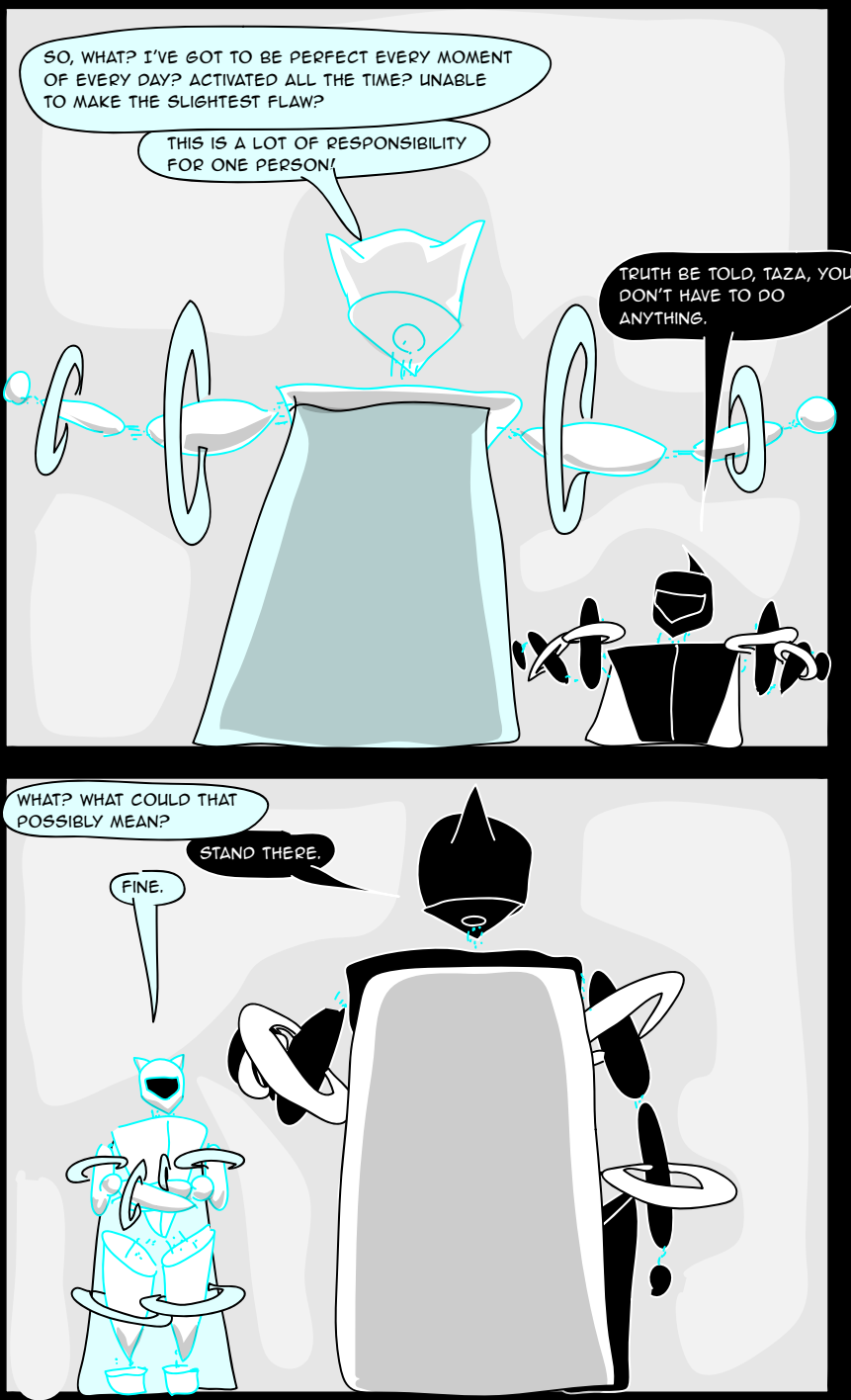

I'VE COME TO PEACE WITH IT.
I WAS NEVER GOING TO LIVE LONG WITH LUCK LIKE THIS.
BUT FOR MY PRECIOUS KNIGHT.
OH HOW I WISH THEIR END COULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT. MORE...PEACEFUL.

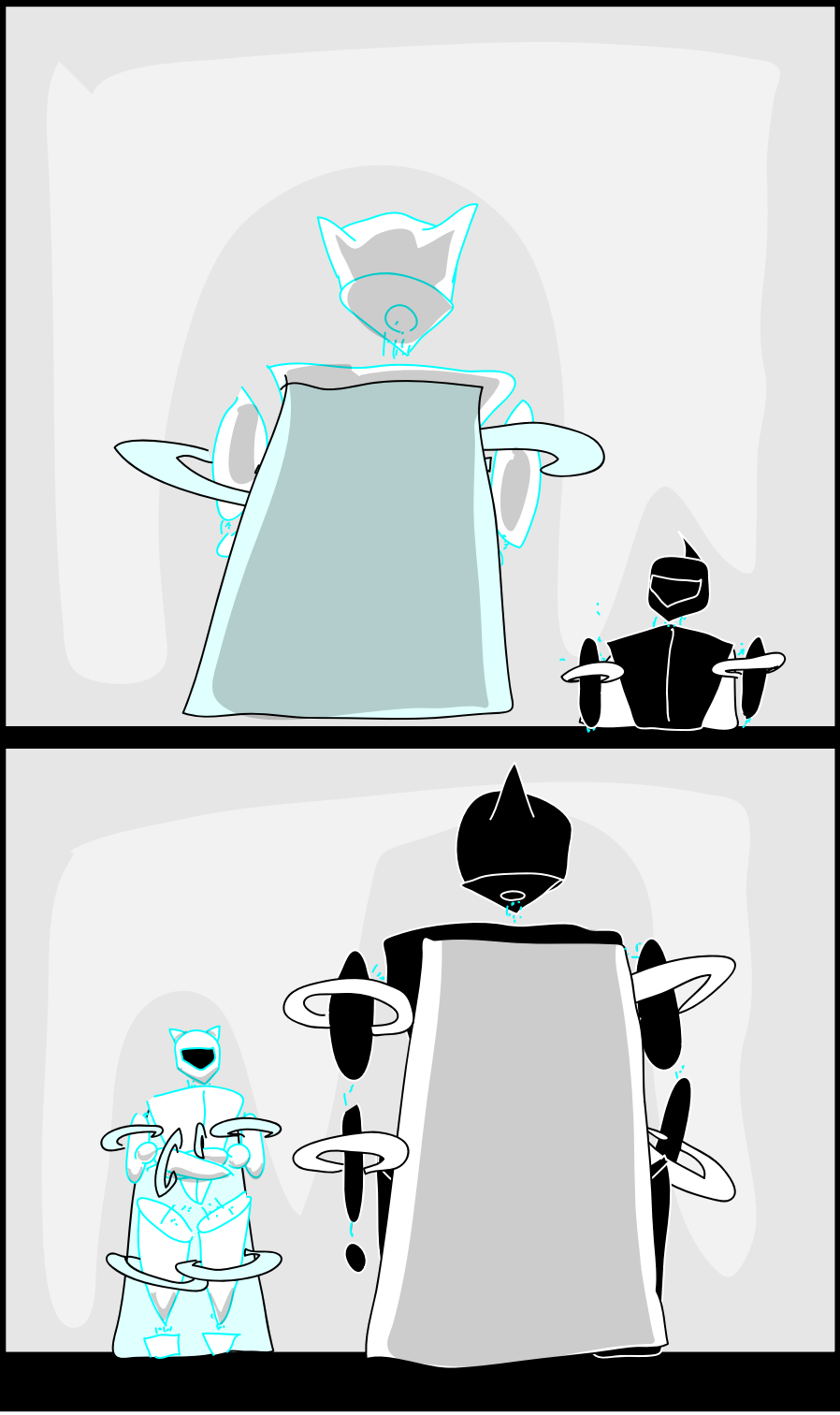

THE MEGA GENERAL COAT OF ARMS SUIT. HAS THE SITUATION TRULY DETERIOATED SO MUCH?
COULD THE STARBORN PRINCESS TRULY HAVE FAILED?
FLASH

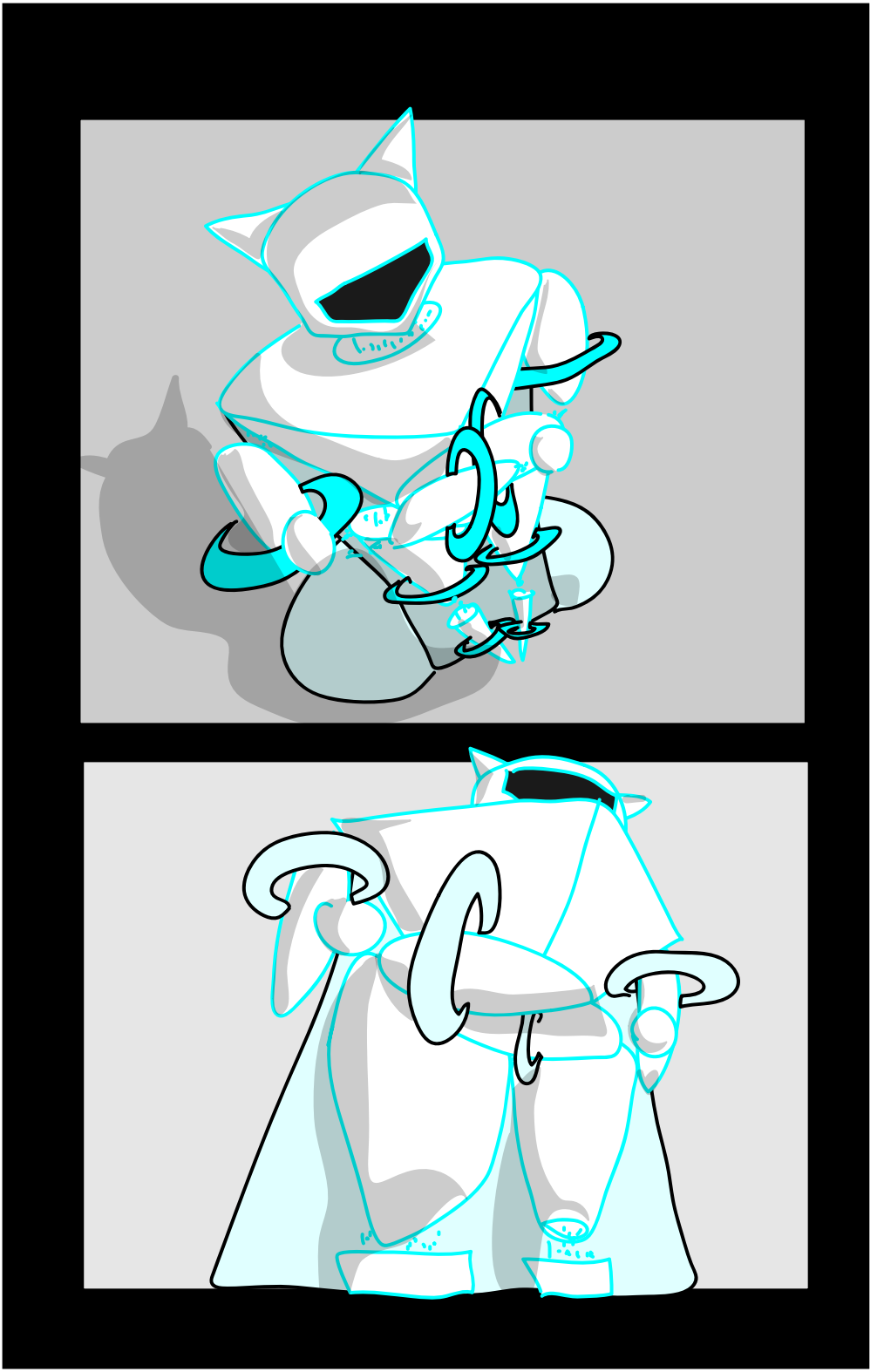

FISH
BY THE TRI, I THINK I'M GONNA LIVE.
SPARKLY...

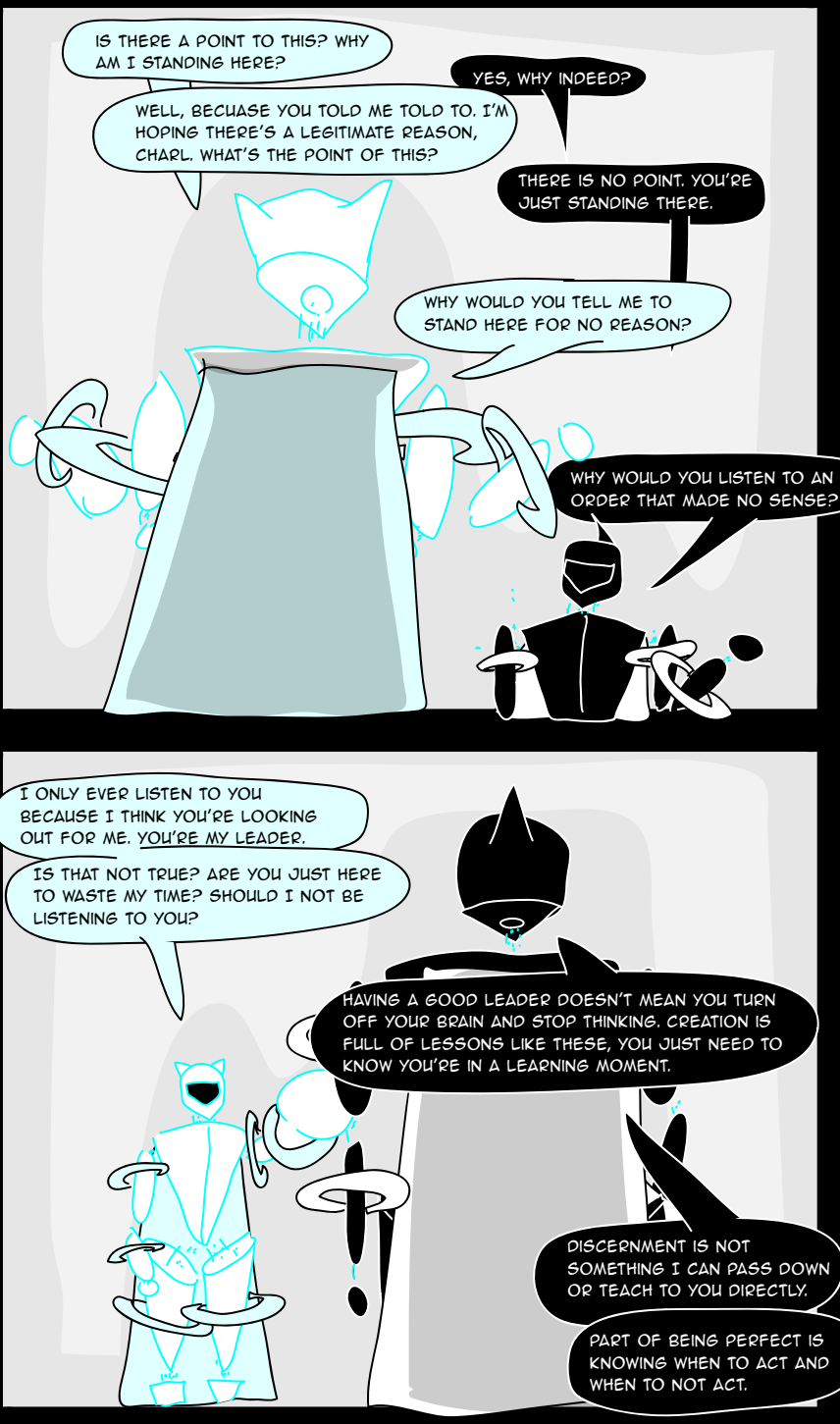

THIS ENDS NOW, WITCH.

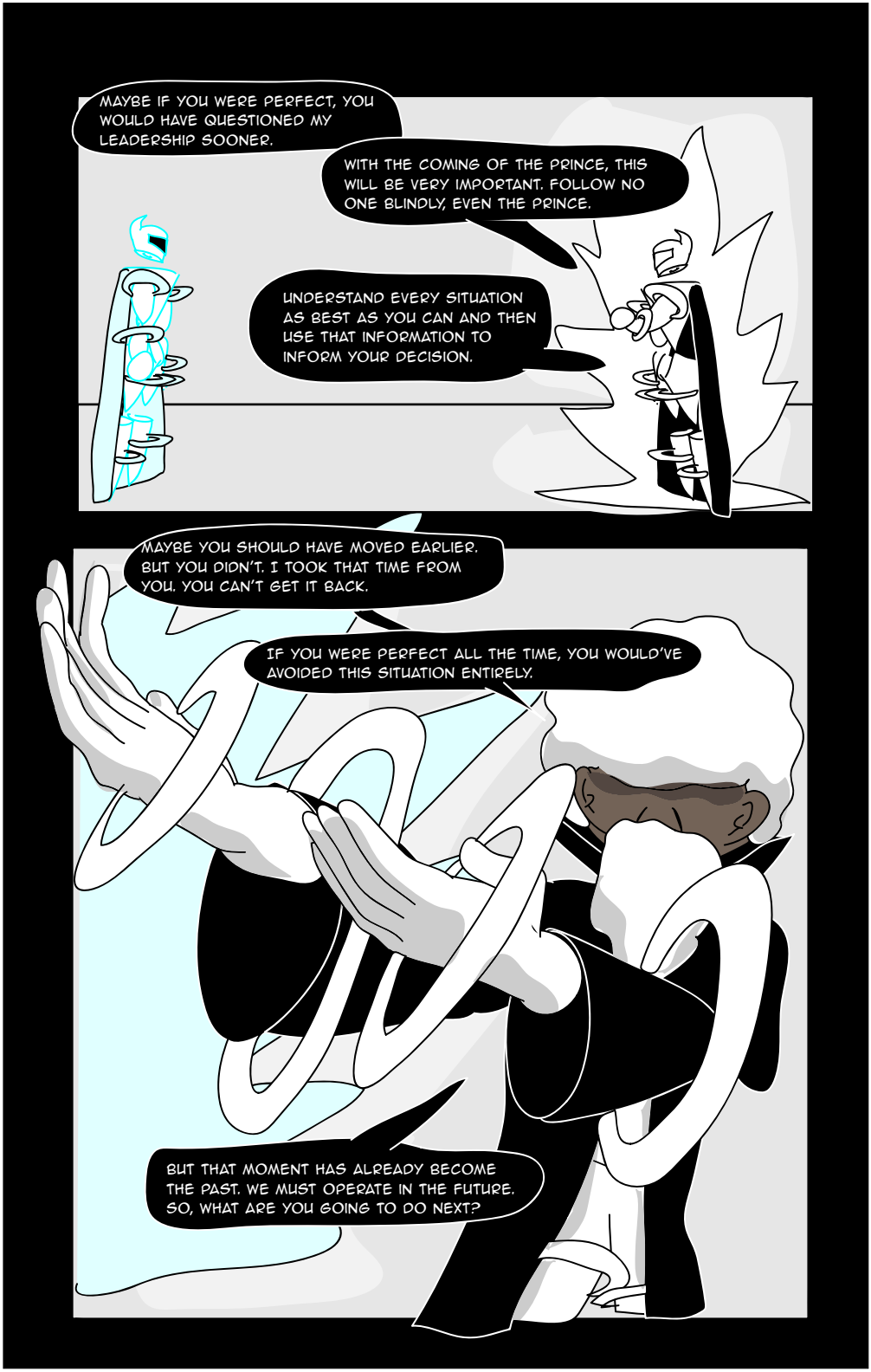

"TO BE PRINCESS IS TO BE PERFECT." THESE ARE THE WORDS HAMMERED INTO ME BY GRAND PRIEST CHARL.
THIS IS HOW HE PREPARED ME FOR CREATION.
EVERY STRIKE COMING FROM THE PERFECT ANGLE.
EVERY SPELL CAST AT THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY.
EVERY DODGE AT THE PERFECT MOMENT.
THERE WAS PRESSURE.
THERE WAS ANGER.
HELL, THERE WAS EVEN SOME FURY.
ONLY WHEN I STARTED TO UNDERSTAND THIS UNIVERSE AND ITS CAPABILITY FOR PAIN, DID I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT CHARL WAS TRYING TO TEACH ME.


SO, WHAT? I'VE GOT TO BE PERFECT EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY? ACTIVATED ALL THE TIME? UNABLE TO MAKE THE SLIGHTEST FLAW?
THIS IS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE PERSON!
TRUTH BE TOLD, TAZA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.
WHAT? WHAT COULD THAT POSSIBLY MEAN?
STAND THERE.
FINE.



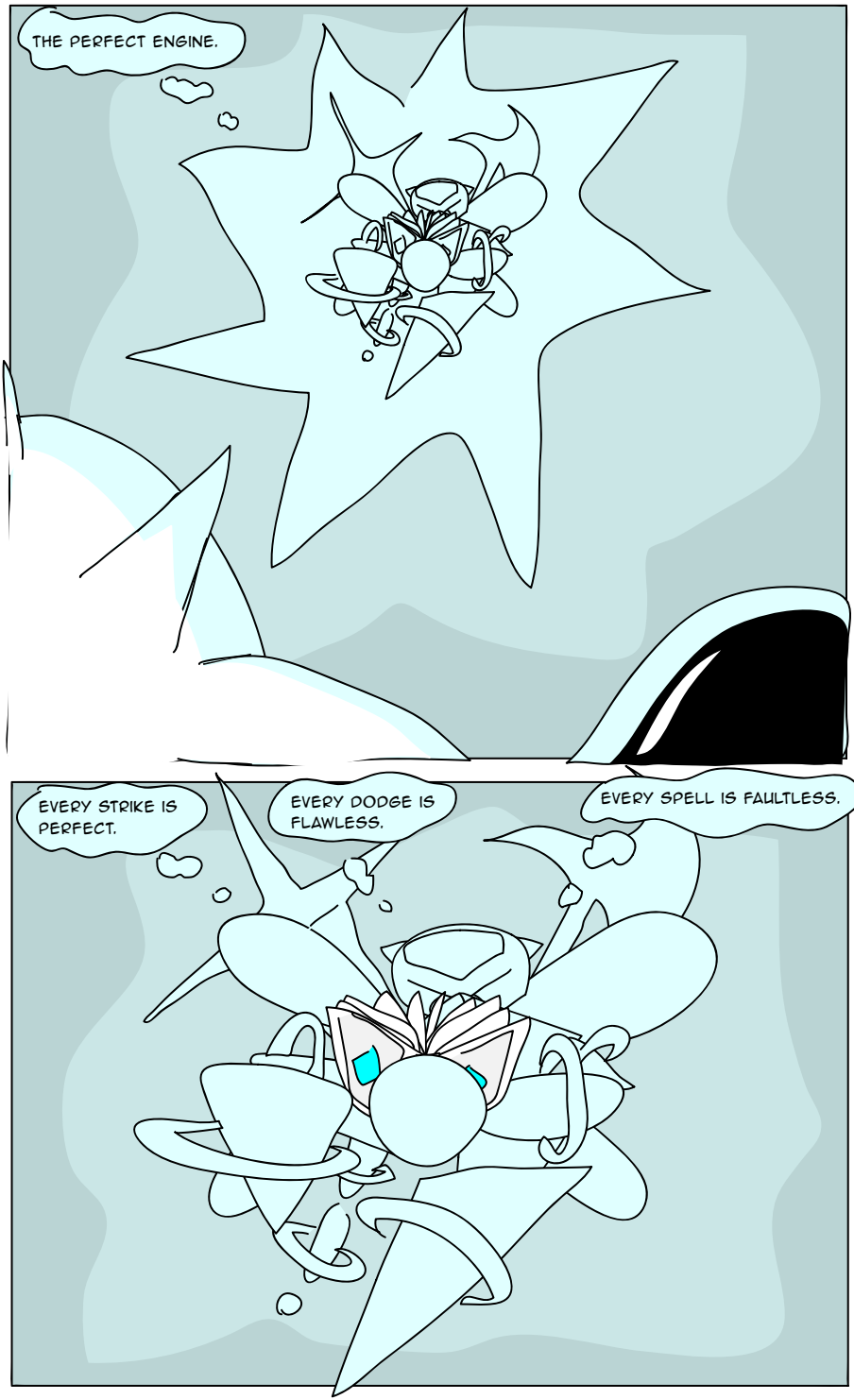


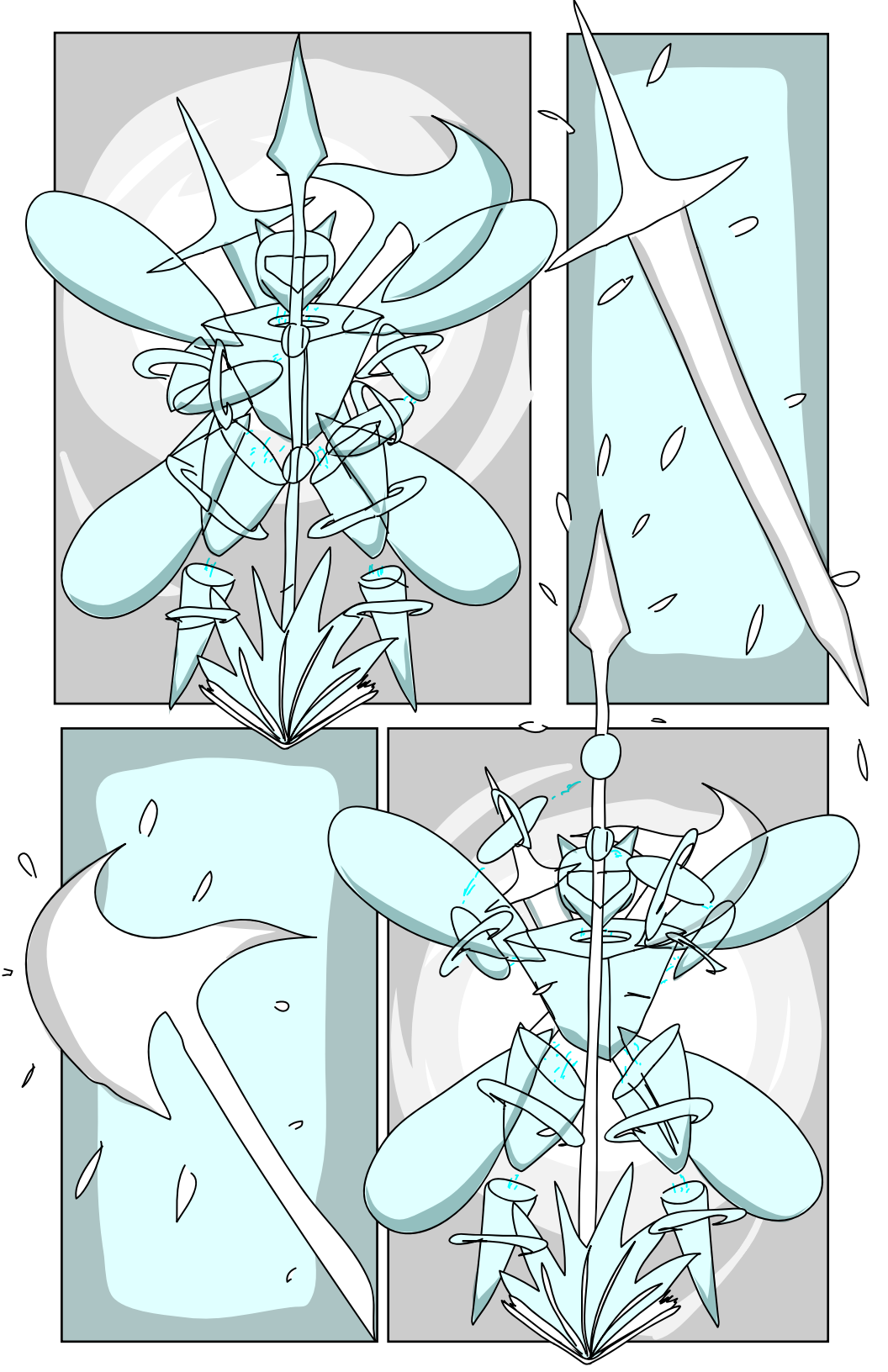

IS THERE A POINT TO THIS? WHY AM I STANDING HERE?
WELL, BECUASE YOU TOLD ME TOLD TO. I'M HOPING THERE'S A LEGITIMATE REASON, CHARL. WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS?
YES, WHY INDEED?
THERE IS NO POINT. YOU'RE JUST STANDING THERE.
WHY WOULD YOU TELL ME TO STAND HERE FOR NO REASON?
WHY WOULD YOU LISTEN TO AN ORDER THAT MADE NO SENSE?
I ONLY EVER LISTEN TO YOU BECAUSE I THINK YOU'RE LOOKING OUT FOR ME. YOU'RE MY LEADER.
IS THAT NOT TRUE? ARE YOU JUST HERE TO WASTE MY TIME? SHOULD I NOT BE LISTENING TO YOU?
HAVING A GOOD LEADER DOESN'T MEAN YOU TURN OFF YOUR BRAIN AND STOP THINKING. CREATION IS FULL OF LESSONS LIKE THESE, YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW YOU'RE IN A LEARNING MOMENT.
DISCERNMENT IS NOT SOMETHING I CAN PASS DOWN OR TEACH TO YOU DIRECTLY.
PART OF BEING PERFECT IS KNOWING WHEN TO ACT AND WHEN TO NOT ACT.

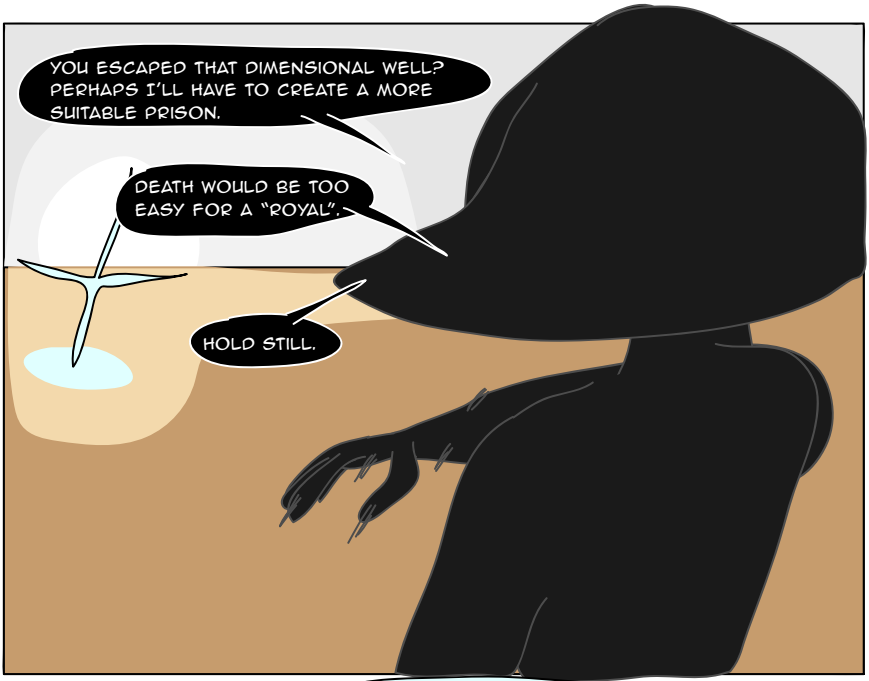

MAYBE IF YOU WERE PERFECT, YOU WOULD HAVE QUESTIONED MY LEADERSHIP SOONER.
WITH THE COMING OF THE PRINCE, THIS WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT. FOLLOW NO ONE BLINDLY, EVEN THE PRINCE.
UNDERSTAND EVERY SITUATION AS BEST AS YOU CAN AND THEN USE THAT INFORMATION TO INFORM YOUR DECISION.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE MOVED EARLIER. BUT YOU DIDN'T. I TOOK THAT TIME FROM YOU. YOU CAN'T GET IT BACK.
IF YOU WERE PERFECT ALL THE TIME, YOU WOULD'VE AVOIDED THIS SITUATION ENTIRELY.
BUT THAT MOMENT HAS ALREADY BECOME THE PAST. WE MUST OPERATE IN THE FUTURE. SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?

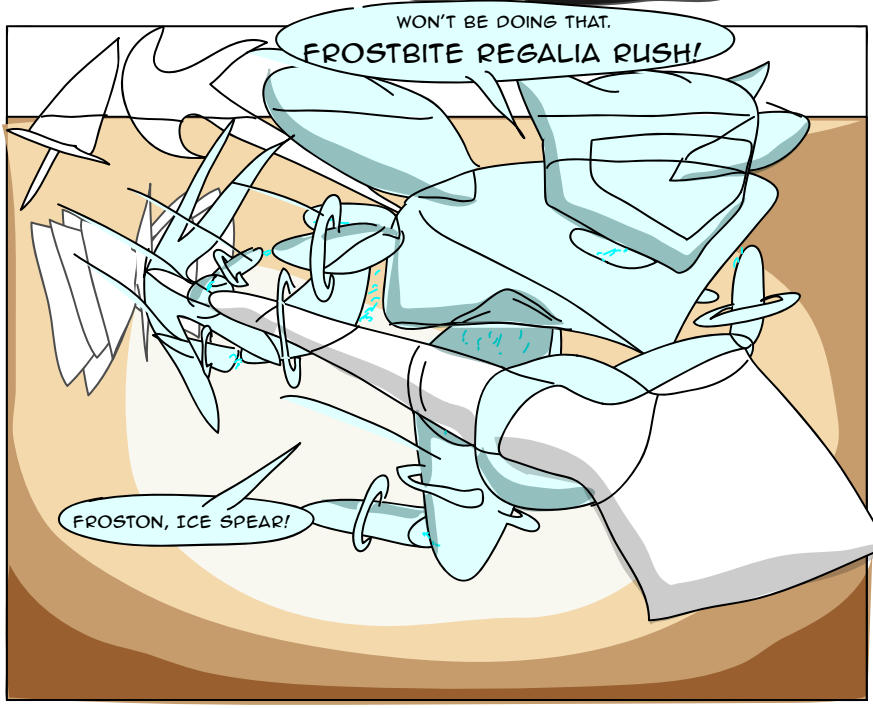

SIGH. I'M GOING TO TRAIN, I'M GOING TO FIGHT. I'M GOING TO BE PERFECT.


"NO WASTED MOTION, NO WASTED TIME, NO WASTE. EVERY ACTION MUST BE OPTIMIZED. PERFECTED."
"YOU NEED TO BE MORE THAN MY BEST AT ALL TIMES."
HE WAS RIGHT. HE OFTEN WAS. I HAD TO LEARN CREATION WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS.
LEARNING THIS, I TOOK WHAT CHARL TAUGHT ME... AND PERFECTED IT.
I CREATED...

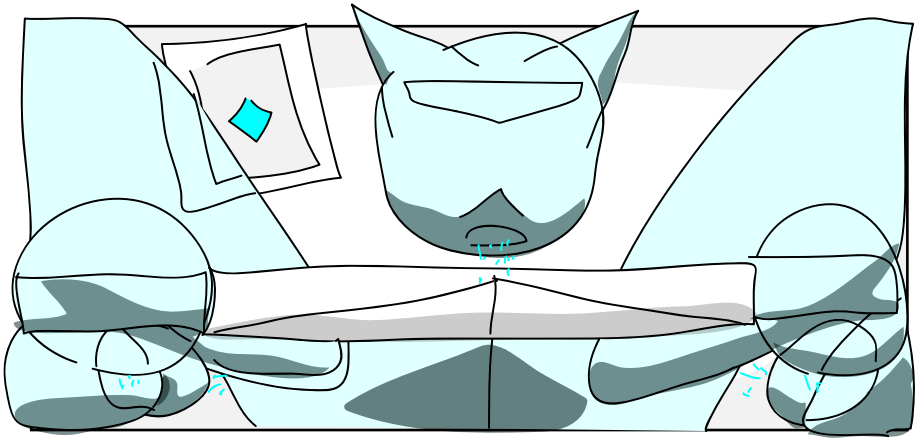

THE PERFECT ENGINE.
EVERY STRIKE IS PERFECT.
EVERY DODGE IS FLAWLESS.
EVERY SPELL IS FAULTLESS.

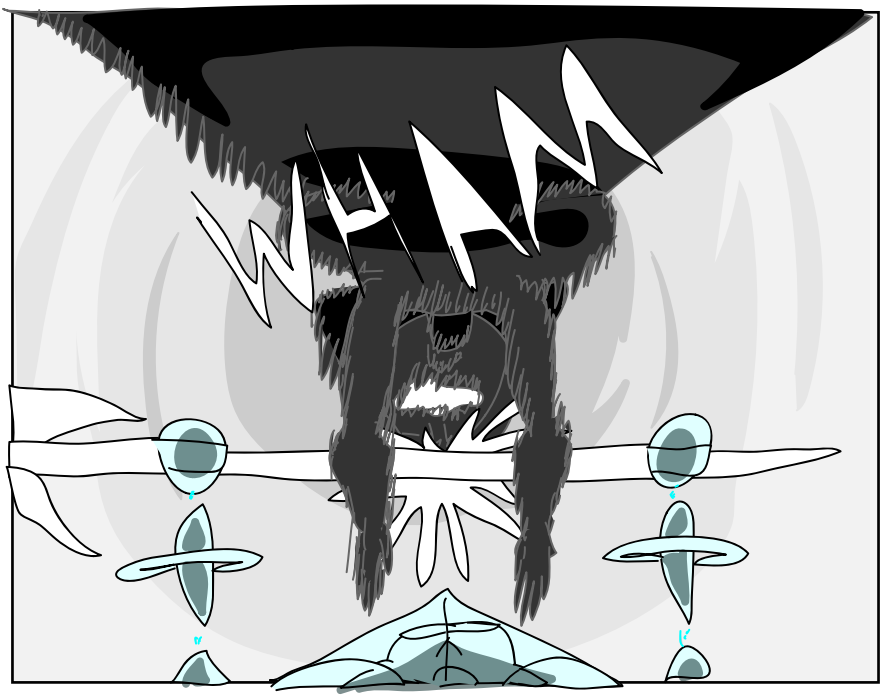


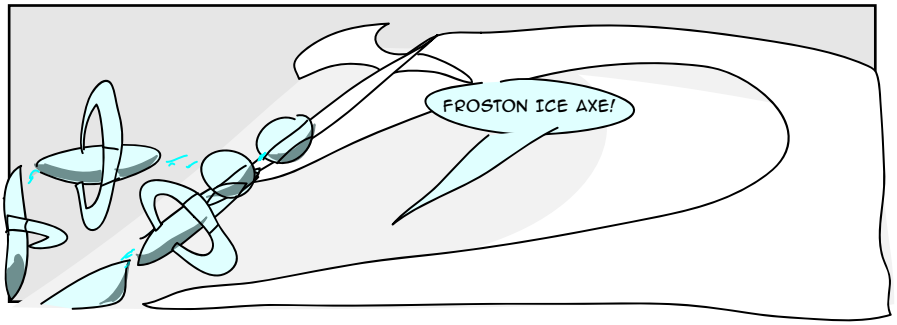

YOU ESCAPED THAT DIMENSIONAL WELL? PERHAPS I'LL HAVE TO CREATE A MORE SUITABLE PRISON.
DEATH WOULD BE TOO EASY FOR A "ROYAL".
HOLD STILL.

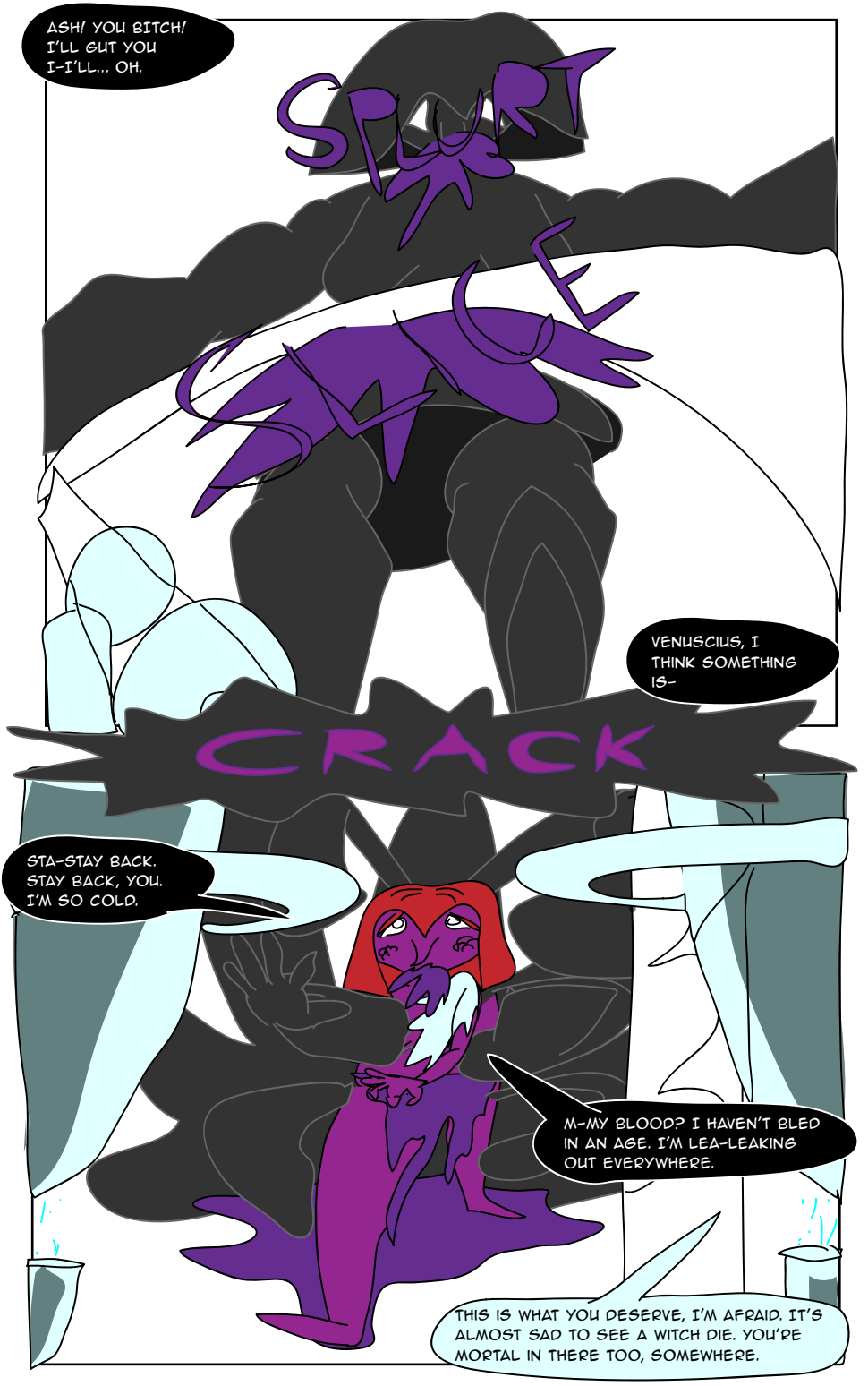

WON'T BE DOING THAT.
FROSTBITE REGALIA RUSH!
FROSTON, ICE SPEAR!

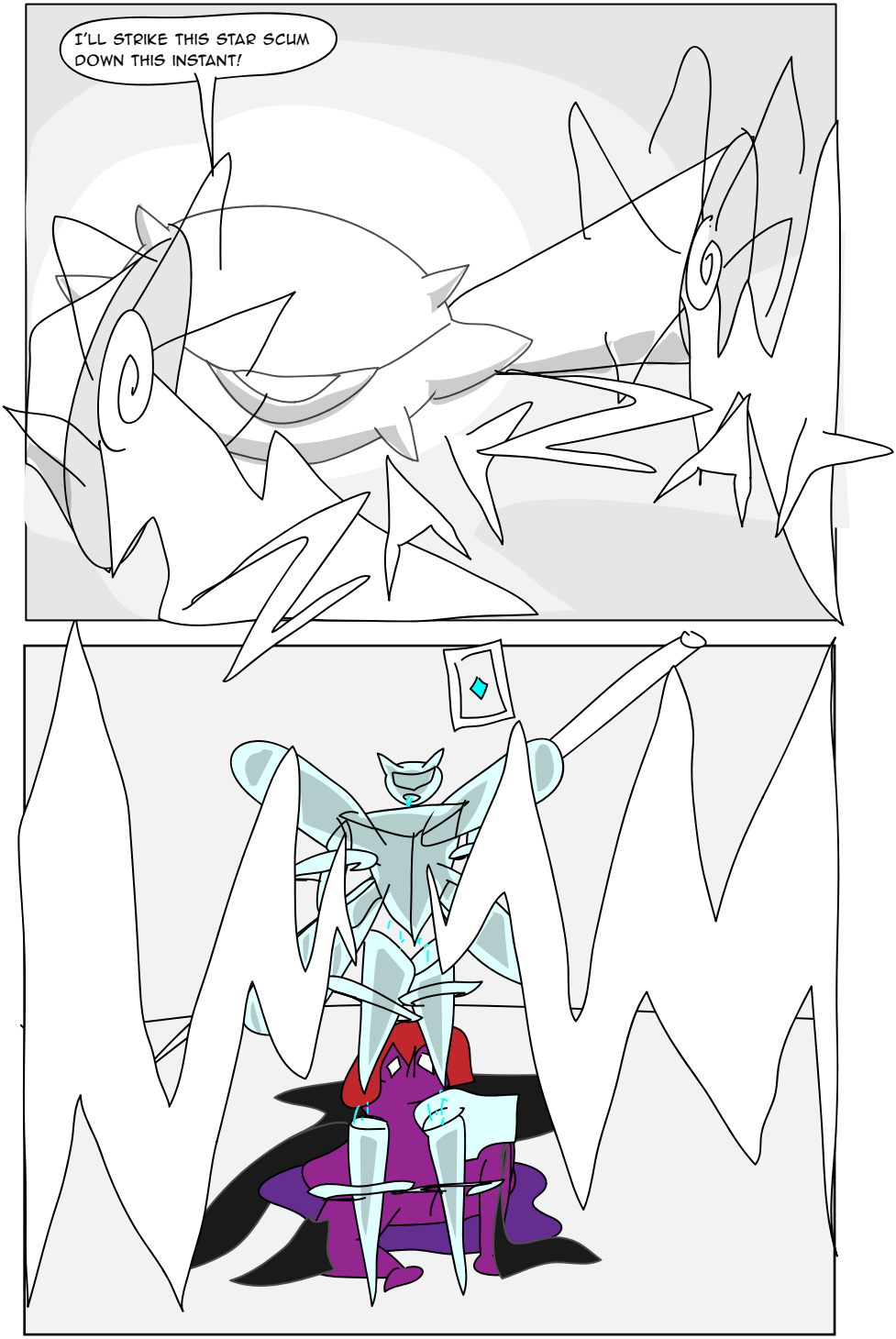

IMPACT!
ACK! IT'S SO COLD... VENUSCIUS!
FROSTON, ICE BLADE!

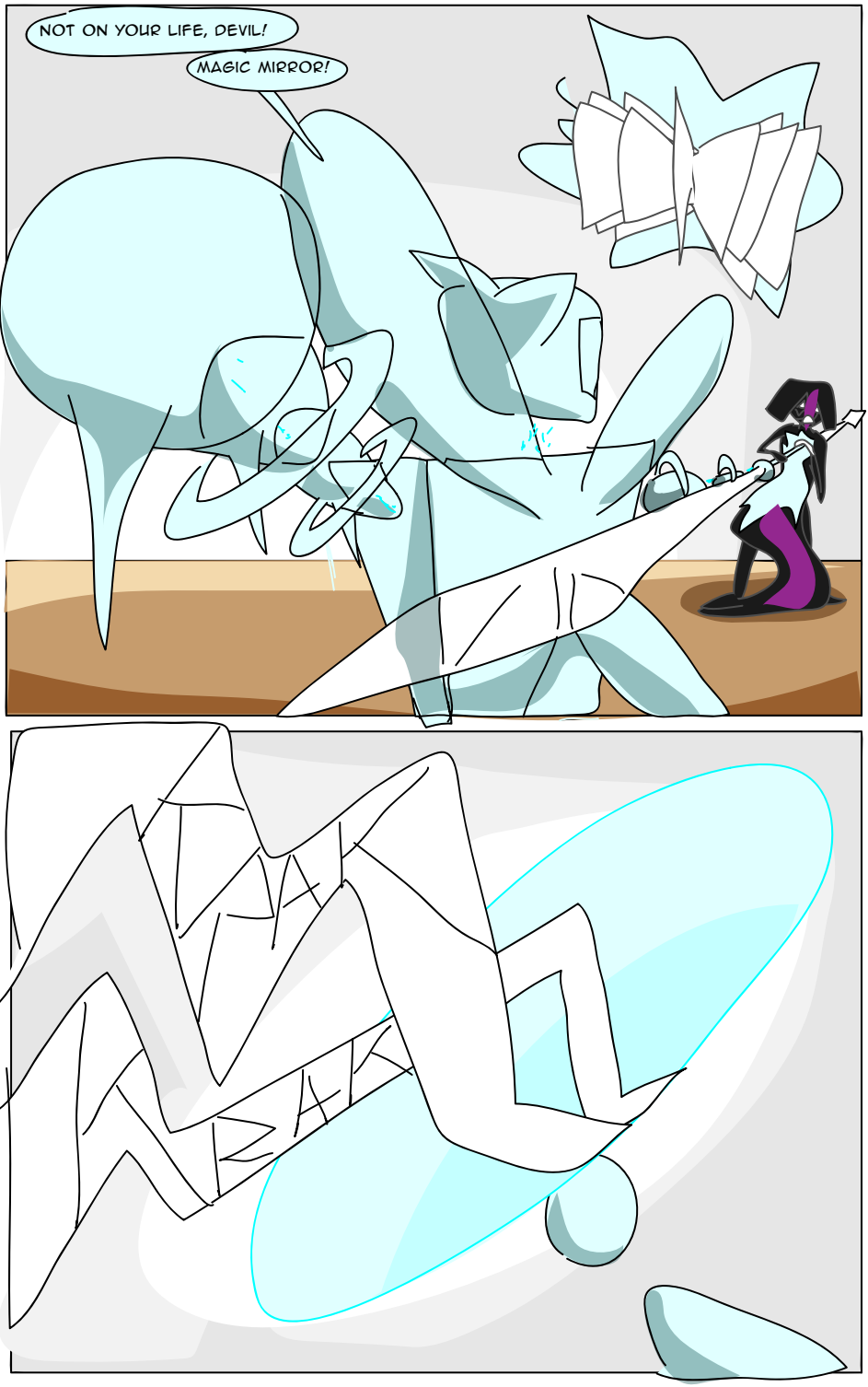


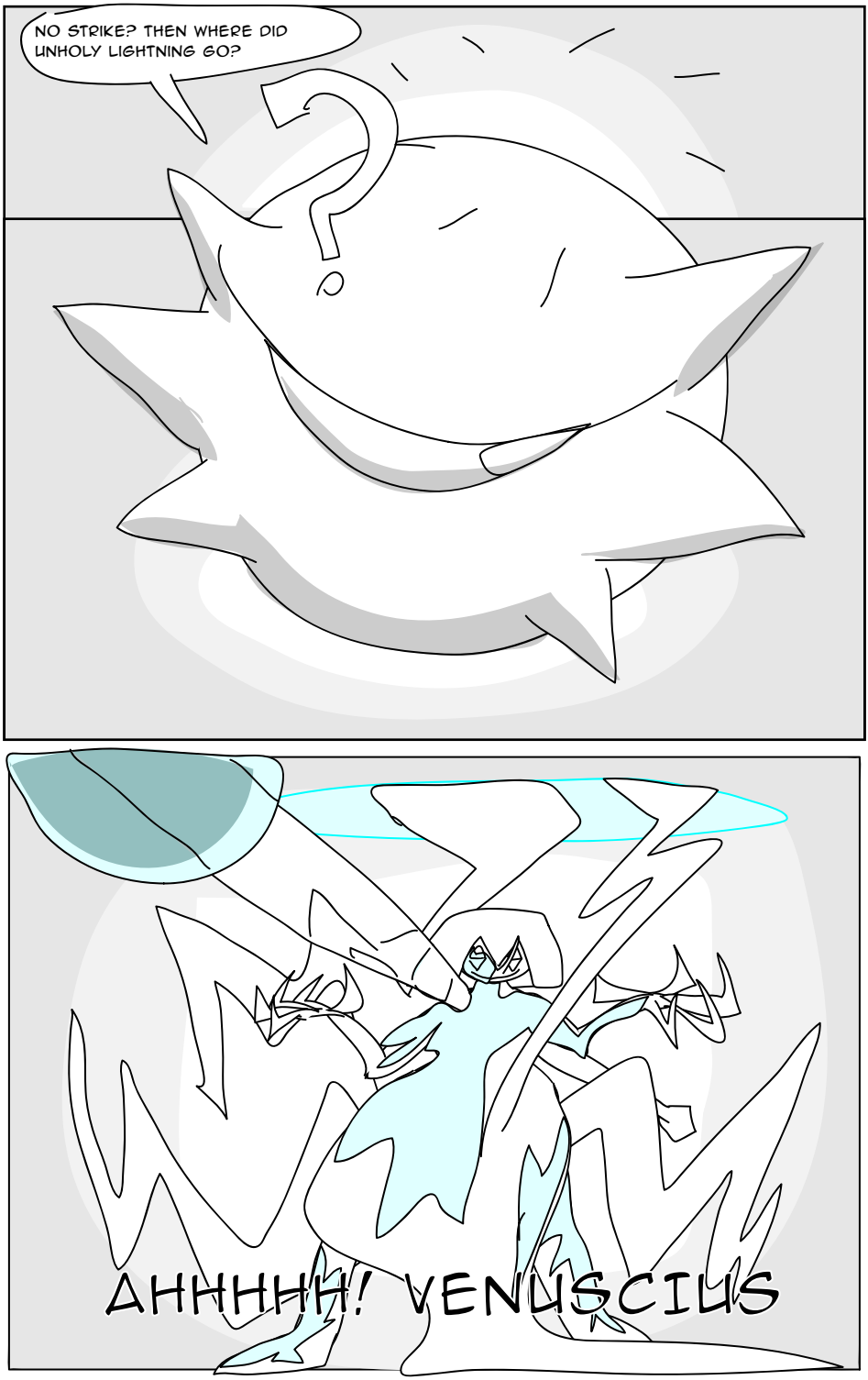

WHAM

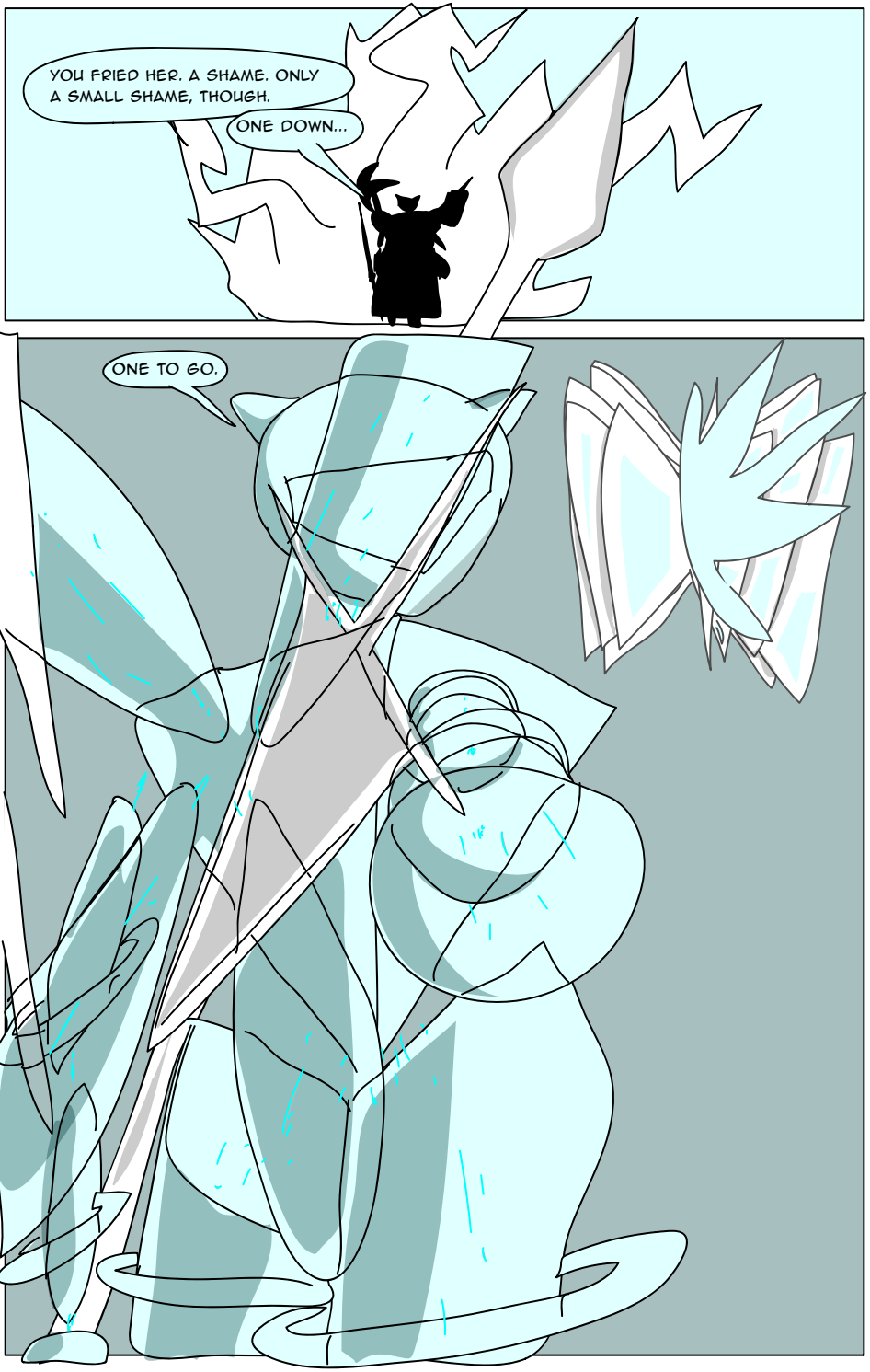

FROSTON ICE AXE!

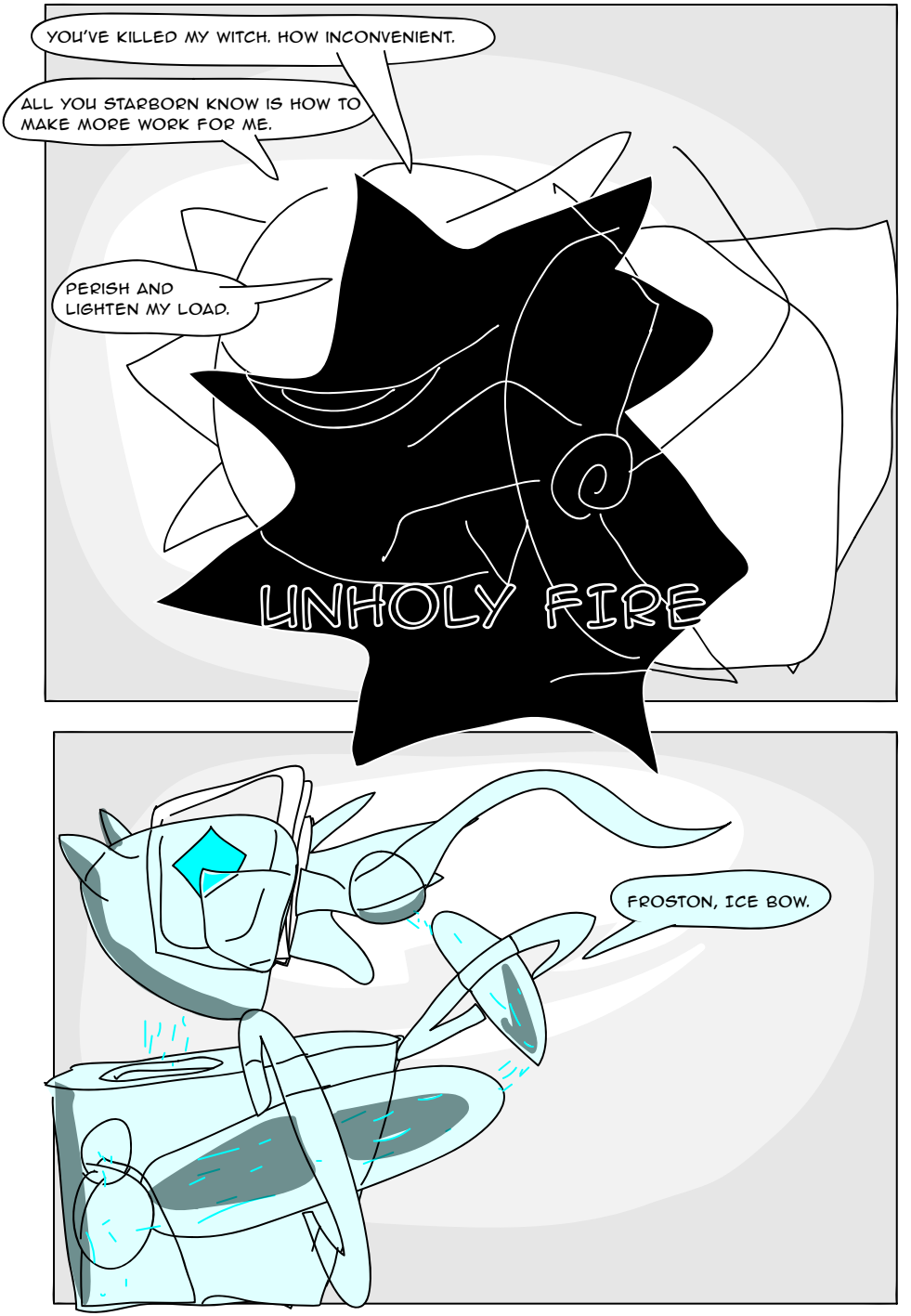

ASH! YOU BITCH! I'LL GUT YOU I-I'LL... OH.
SPLURT
VENUSCIUS, I THINK SOMETHING IS-
CRACK
STA-STAY BACK. STAY BACK, YOU. I'M SO COLD.
M-MY BLOOD? I HAVEN'T BLED IN AN AGE. I'M LEA-LEAKING OUT EVERYWHERE.
THIS IS WHAT YOU DESERVE, I'M AFRAID. IT'S ALMOST SAD TO SEE A WITCH DIE. YOU'RE MORTAL IN THERE TOO, SOMEWHERE.

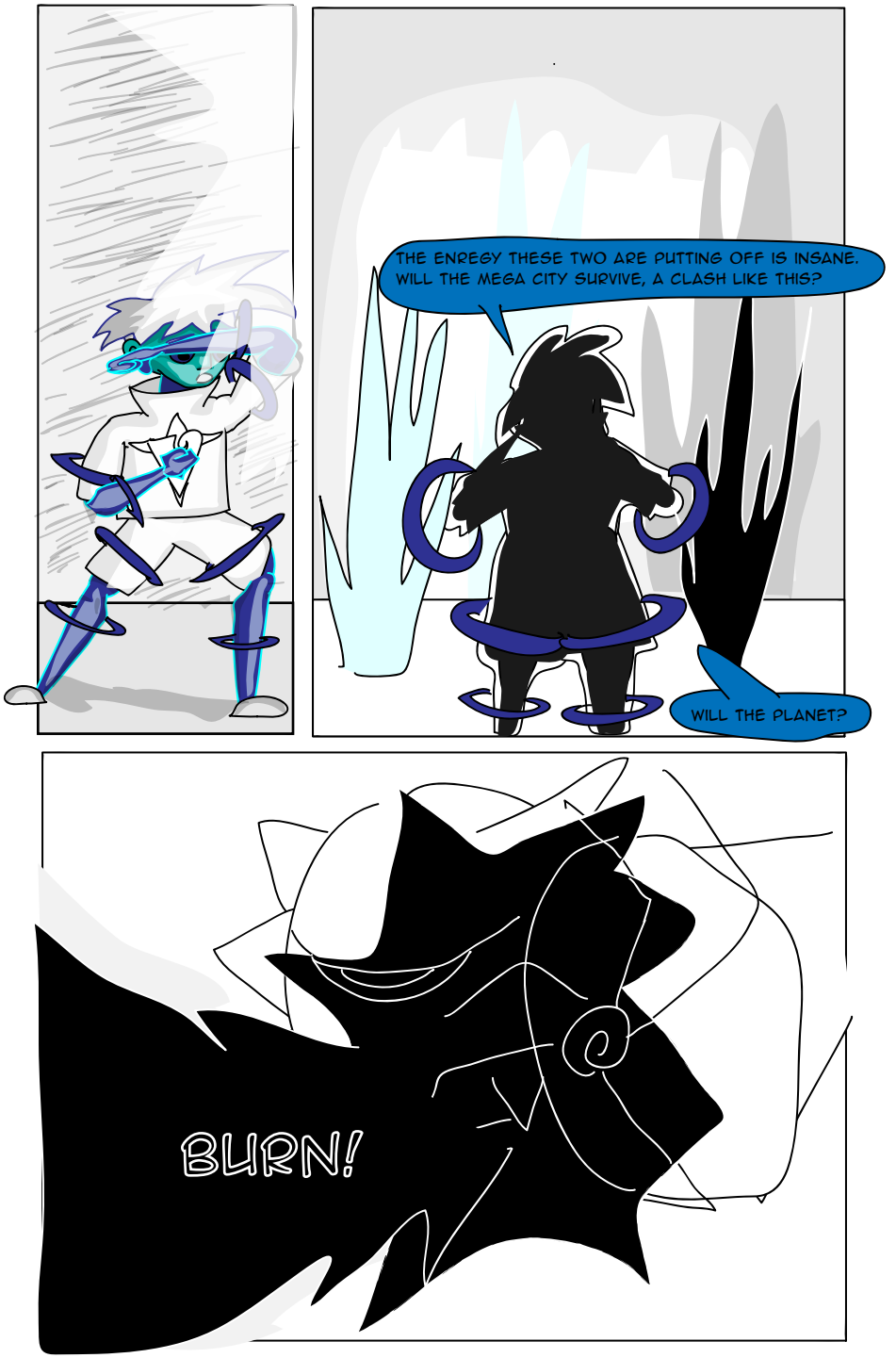

I'LL STRIKE THIS STAR SCUM DOWN THIS INSTANT!

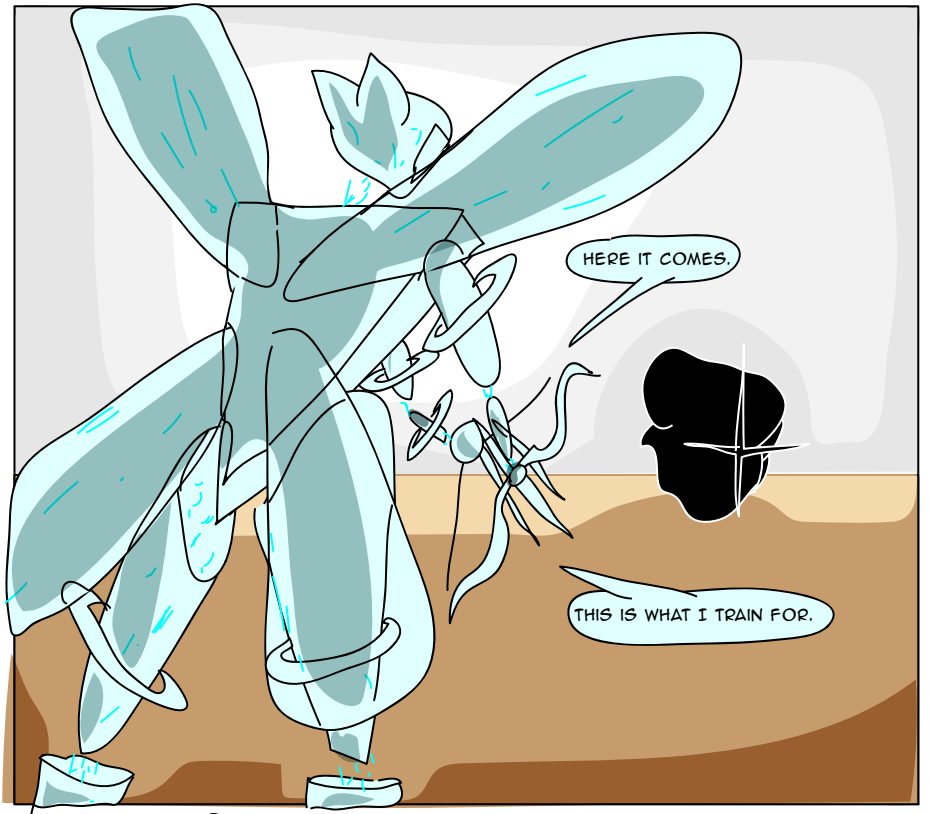

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, DEVIL!
MAGIC MIRROR!
CRACK

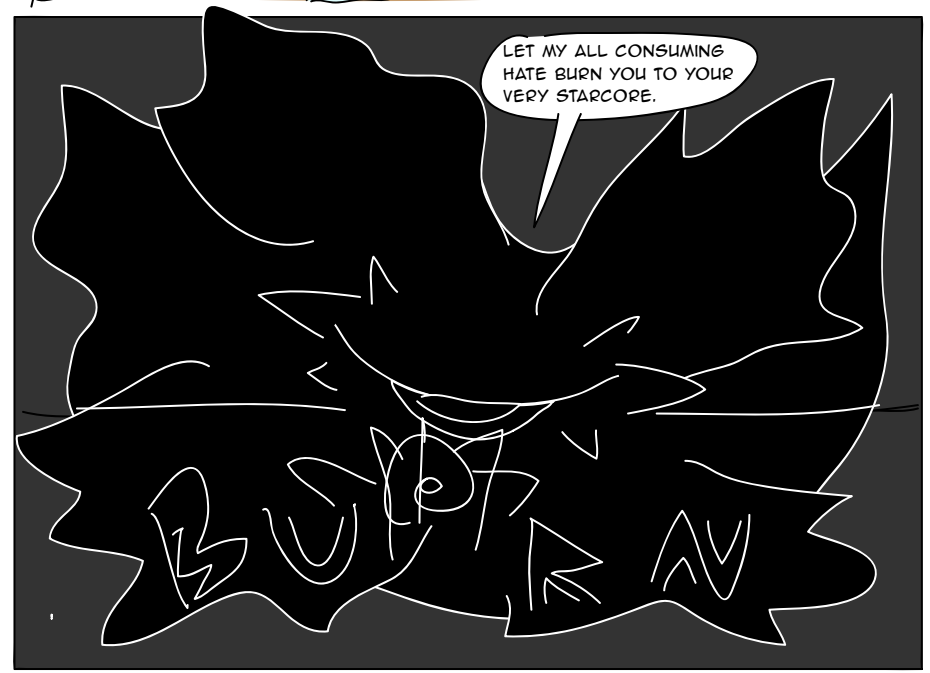

NO STRIKE? THEN WHERE DID UNHOLY LIGHTNING GO?
AHHHHH! VENUSCIUS

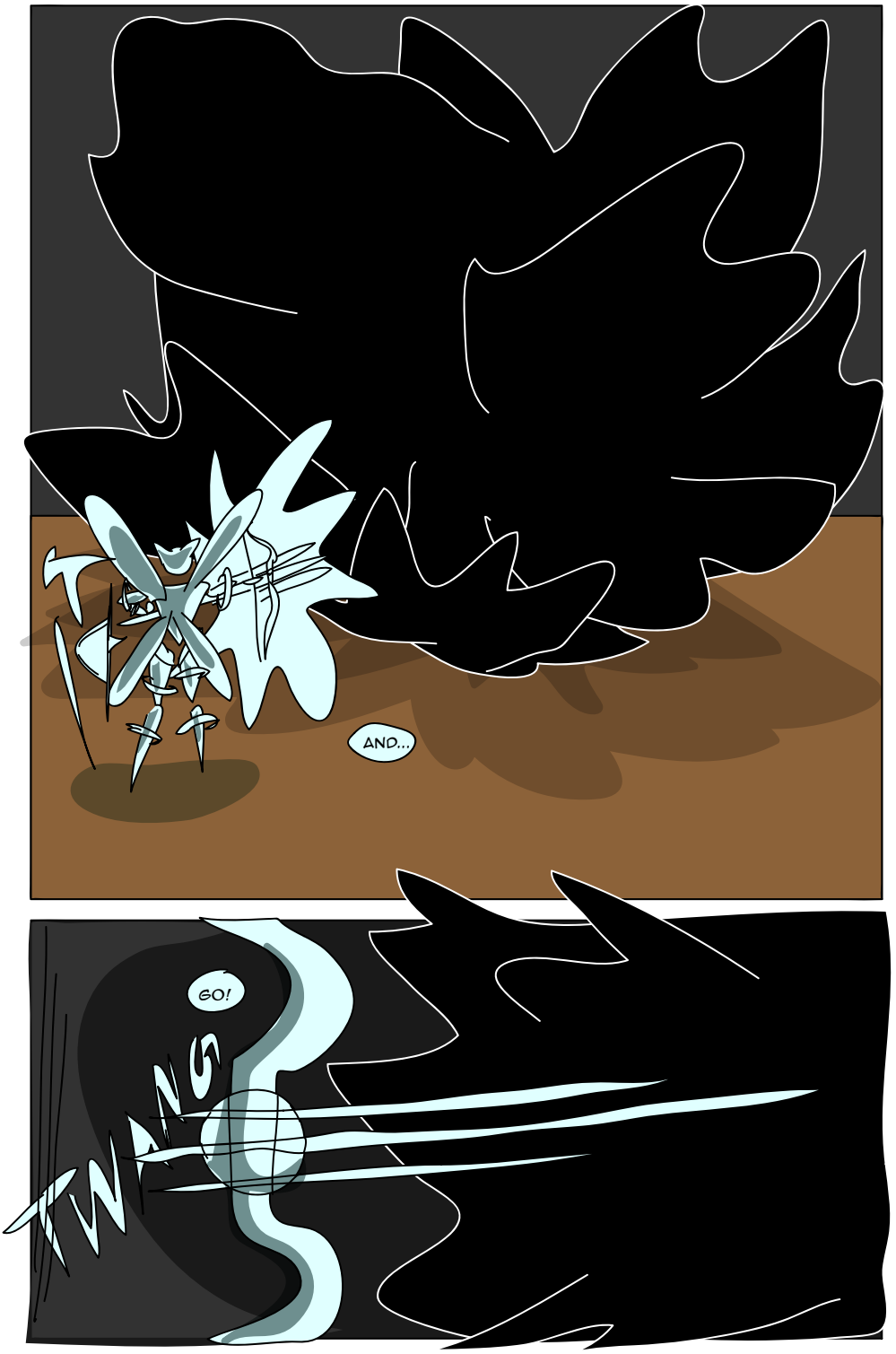

YOU FRIED HER. A SHAME. ONLY A SMALL SHAME, THOUGH.
ONE DOWN...
ONE TO GO.

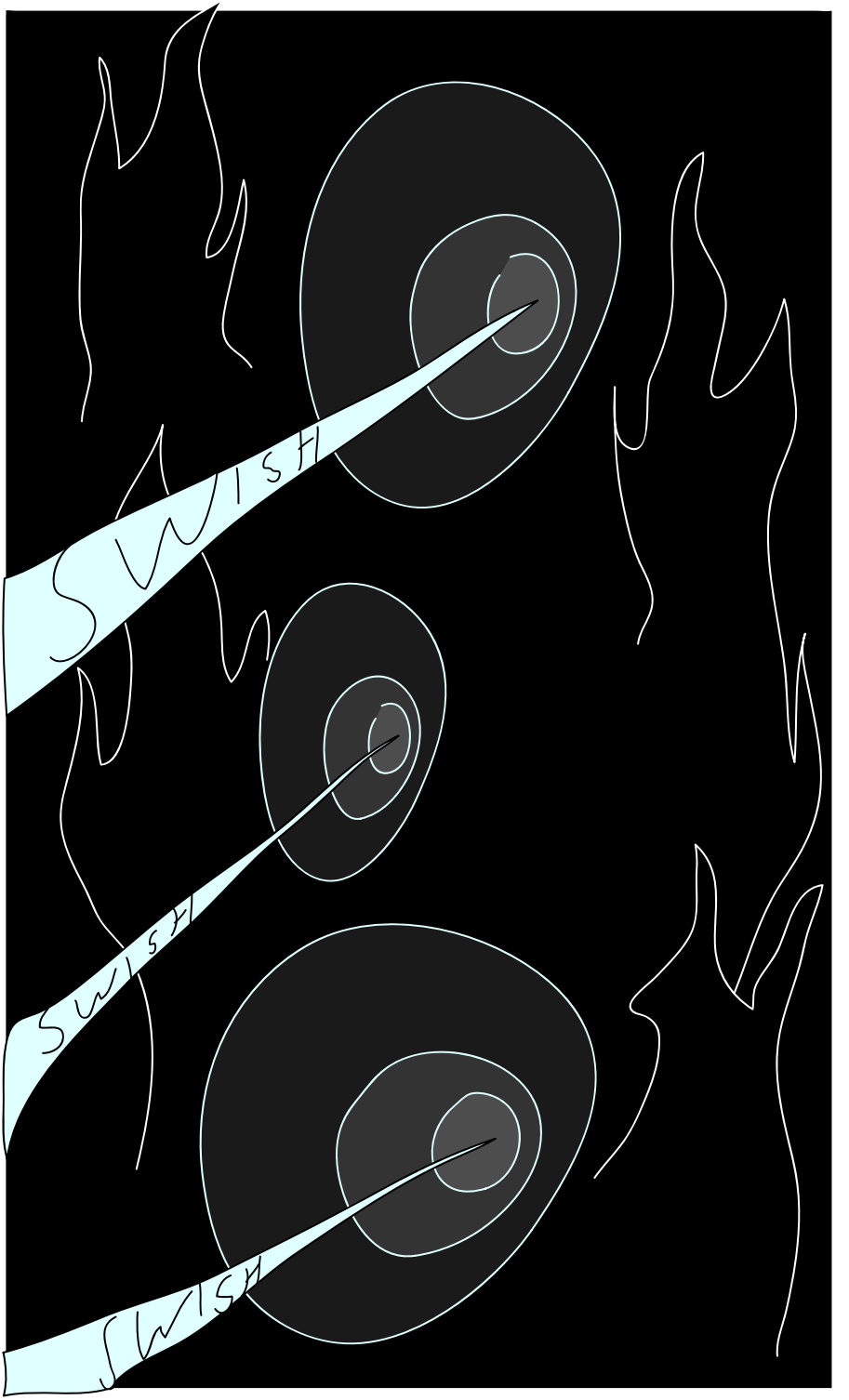

YOU'VE KILLED MY WITCH. HOW INCONVENIENT.
ALL YOU STARBORN KNOW IS HOW TO MAKE MORE WORK FOR ME.
PERISH AND LIGHTEN MY LOAD.
UNHOLY FIRE
FROSTON, ICE BOW.


THE ENREGY THESE TWO ARE PUTTING OFF IS INSANE. WILL THE MEGA CITY SURVIVE, A CLASH LIKE THIS?
WILL THE PLANET?
BURN!

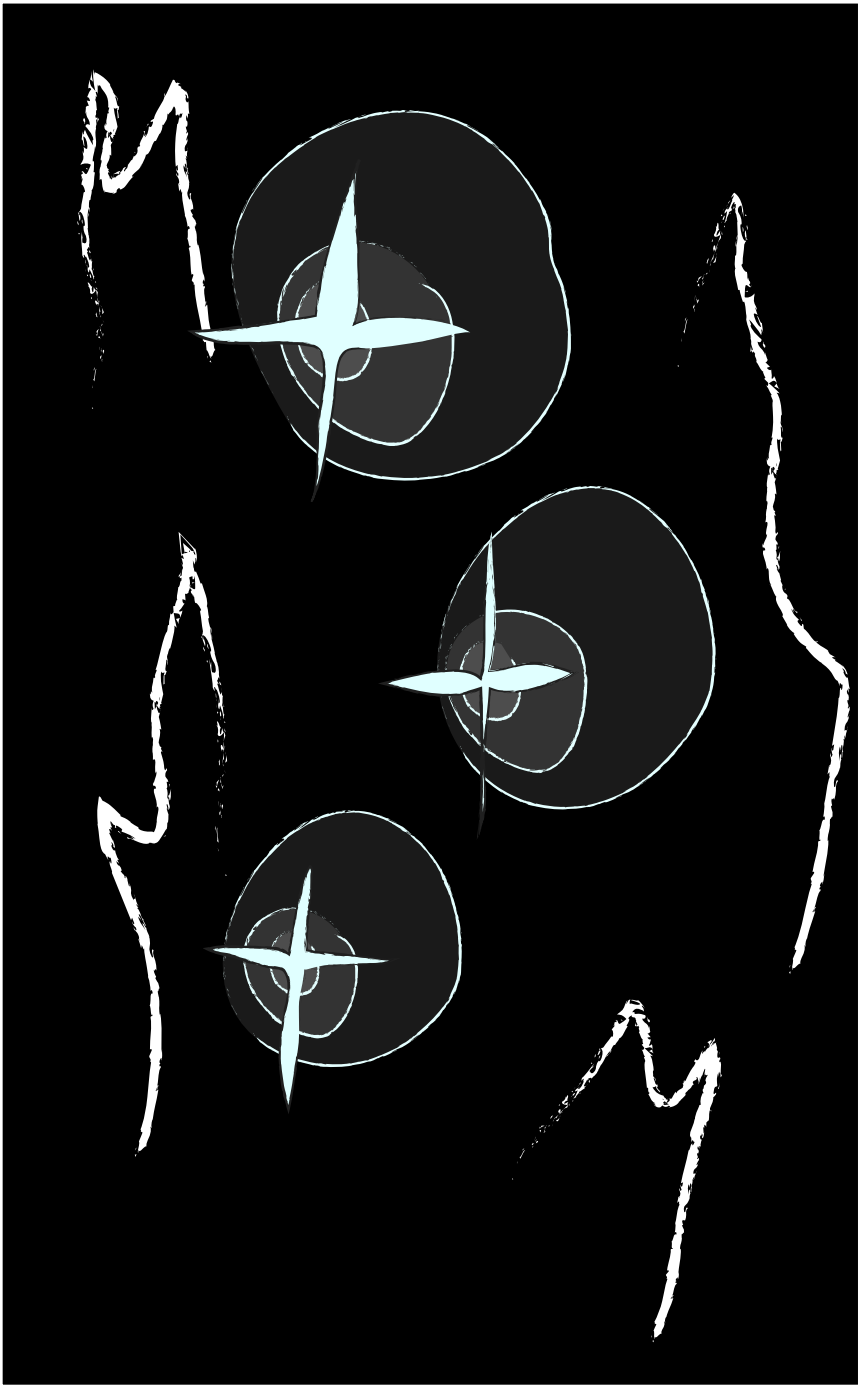

HERE IT COMES.
THIS IS WHAT I TRAIN FOR.


LET MY ALL CONSUMING HATE BURN YOU TO YOUR VERY STARCORE.
BURN

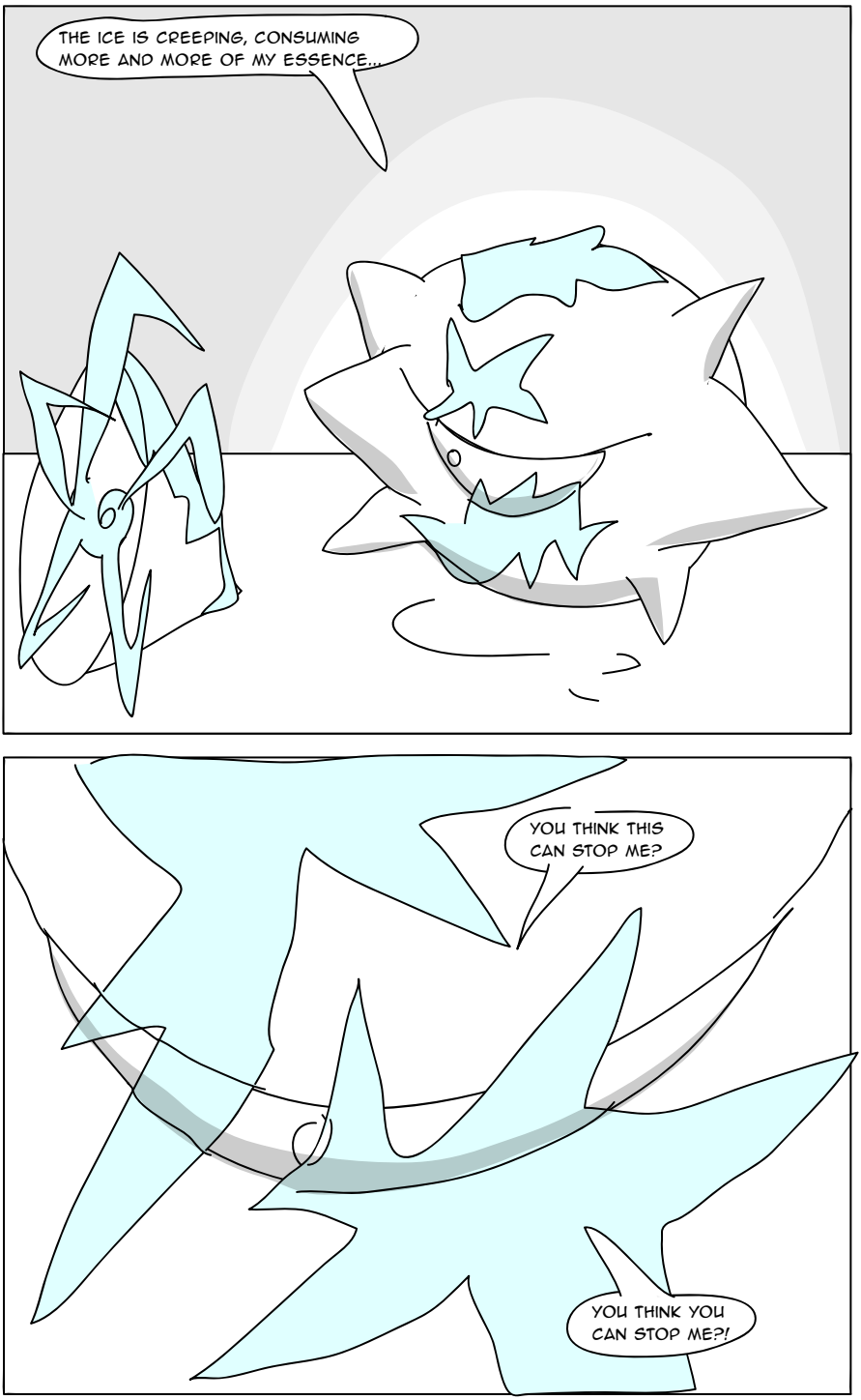

AND...
GO!
TWANG

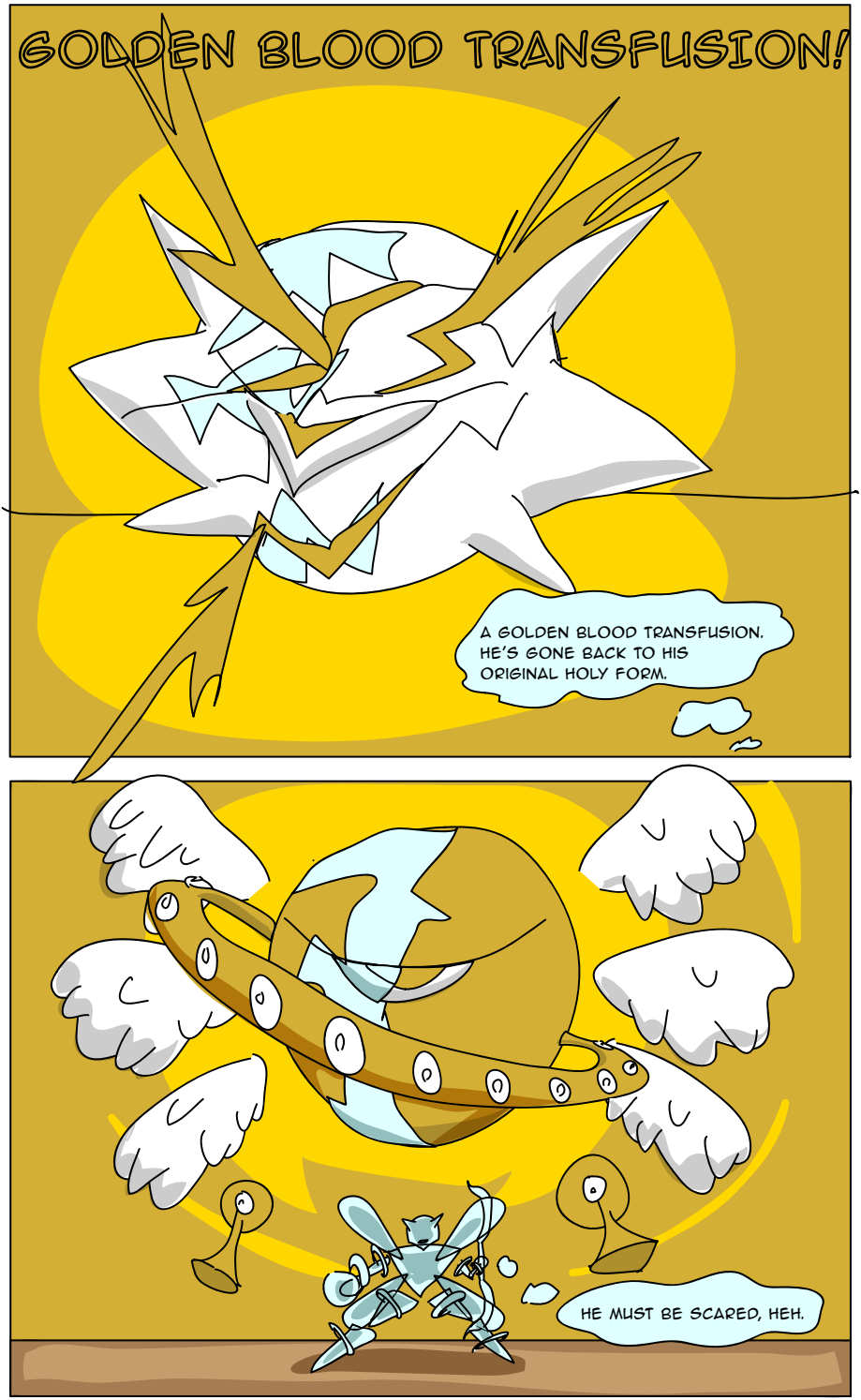

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

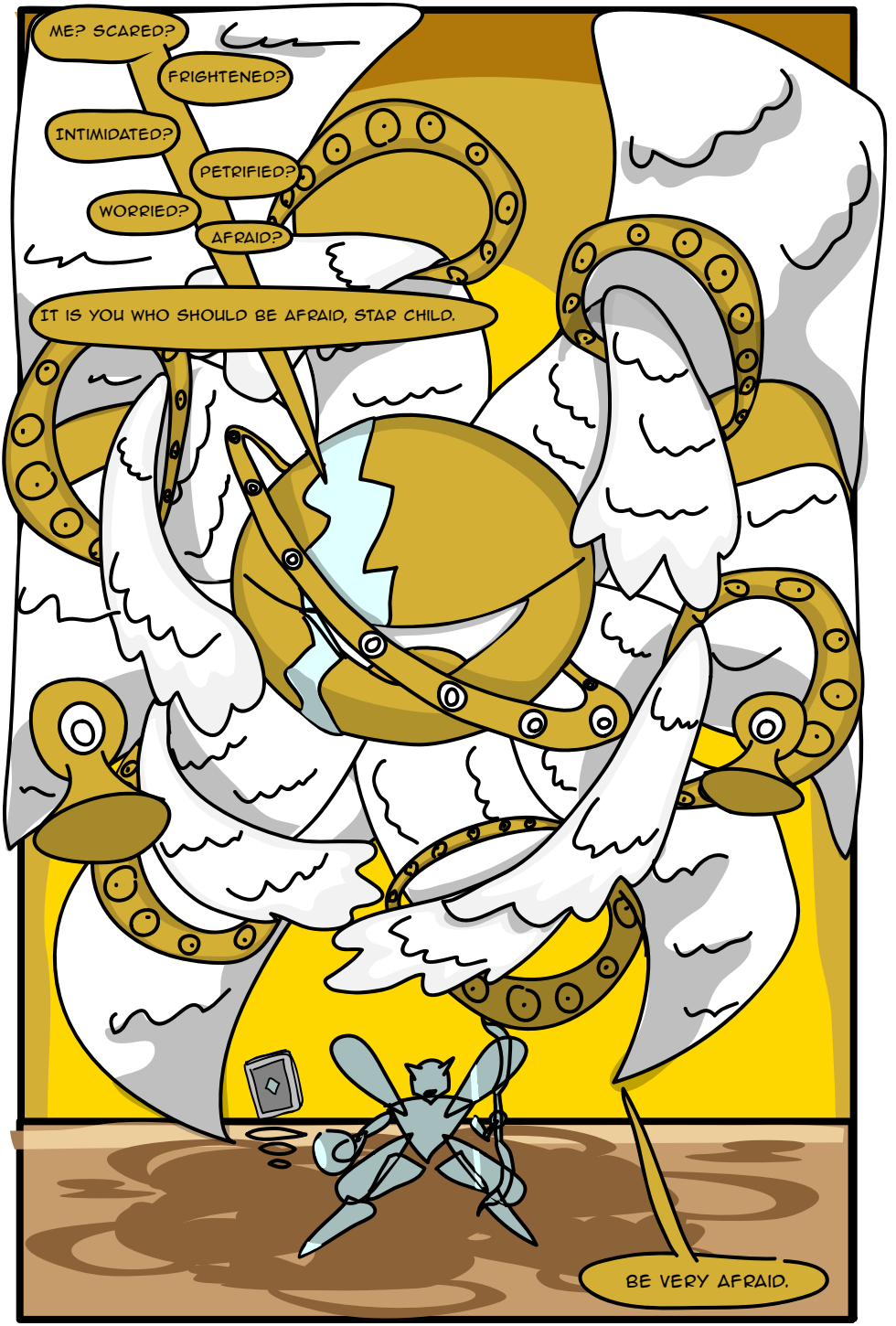

HEAT SHIELD!

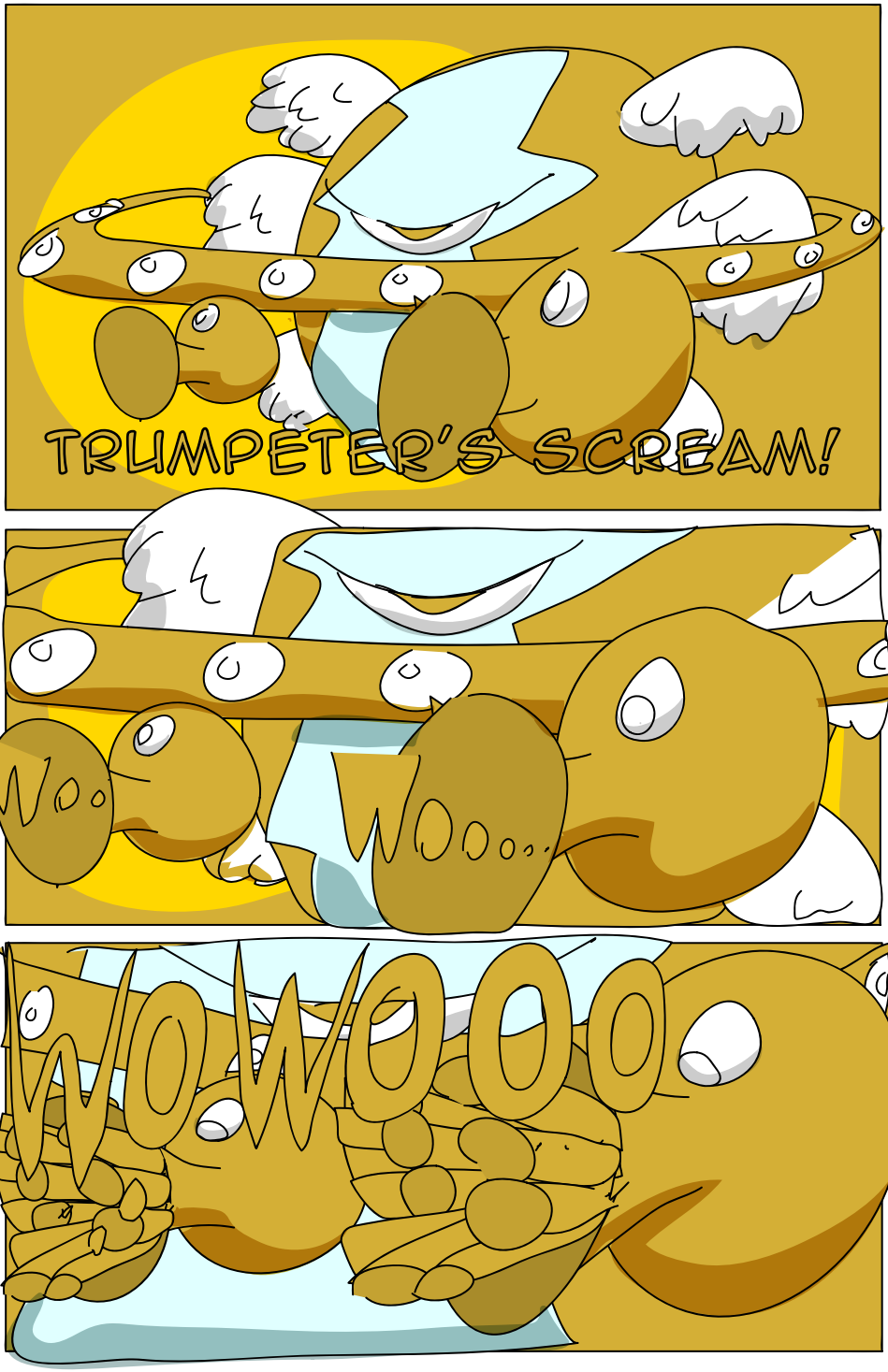



ACK! OOF! UGH! WHAT? H-HOW!

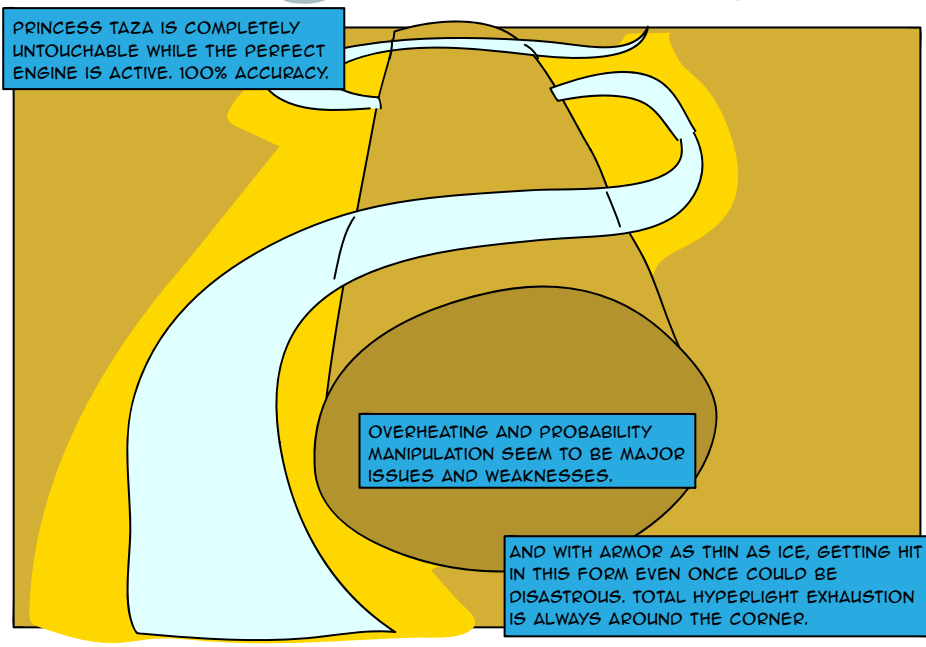

THE ICE IS CREEPING, CONSUMING MORE AND MORE OF MY ESSENCE...
YOU THINK THIS CAN STOP ME?
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?!


GOLDEN BLOOD TRANSFUSION!
A GOLDEN BLOOD TRANSFUSION. HE'S GONE BACK TO HIS ORIGINAL HOLY FORM.
HE MUST BE SCARED, HEH.

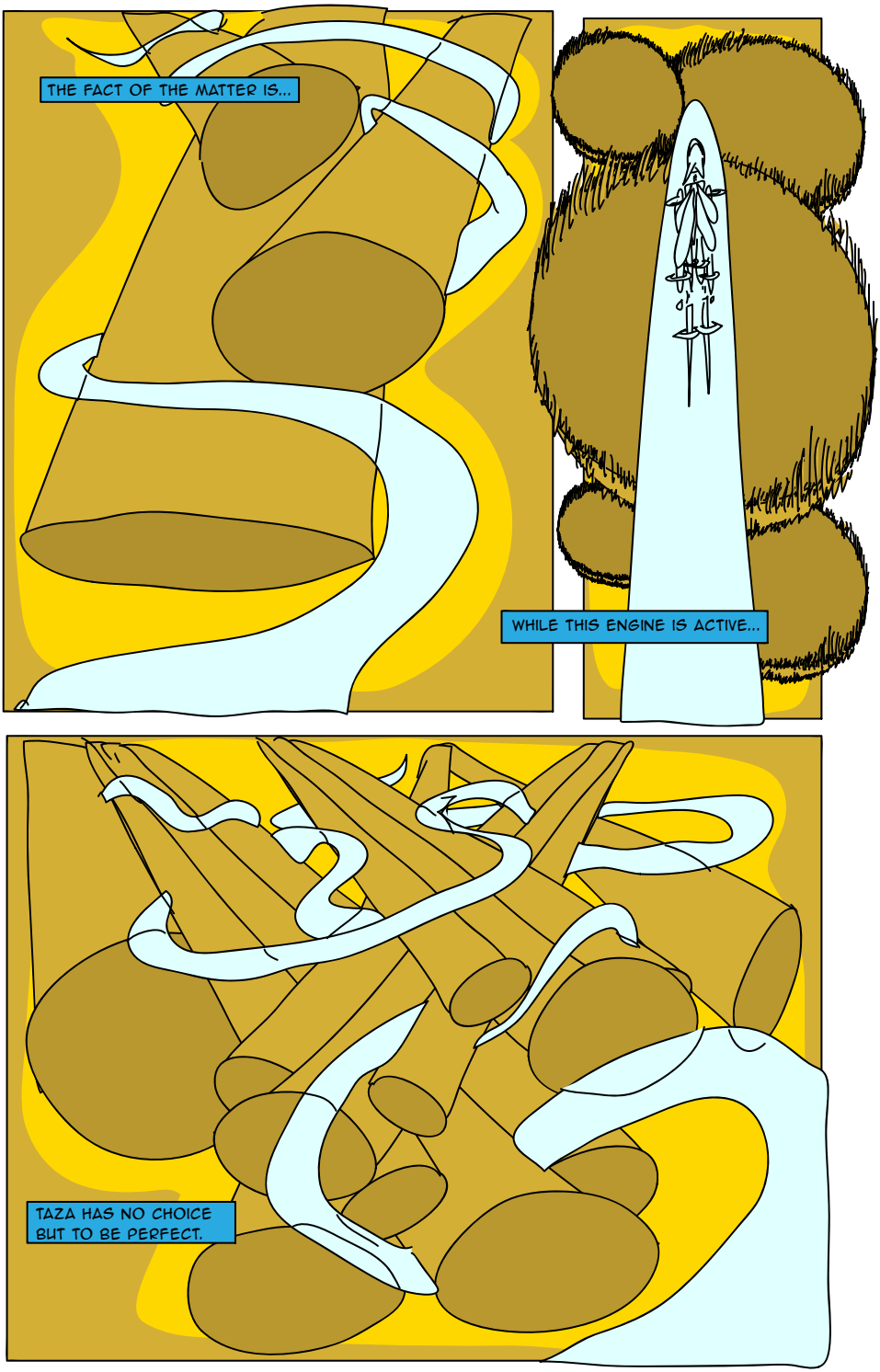

ME? SCARED?
FRIGHTENED?
INTIMIDATED?
PETRIFIED?
WORRIED?
AFRAID?
IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD BE AFRAID, STAR CHILD.
BE VERY AFRAID.

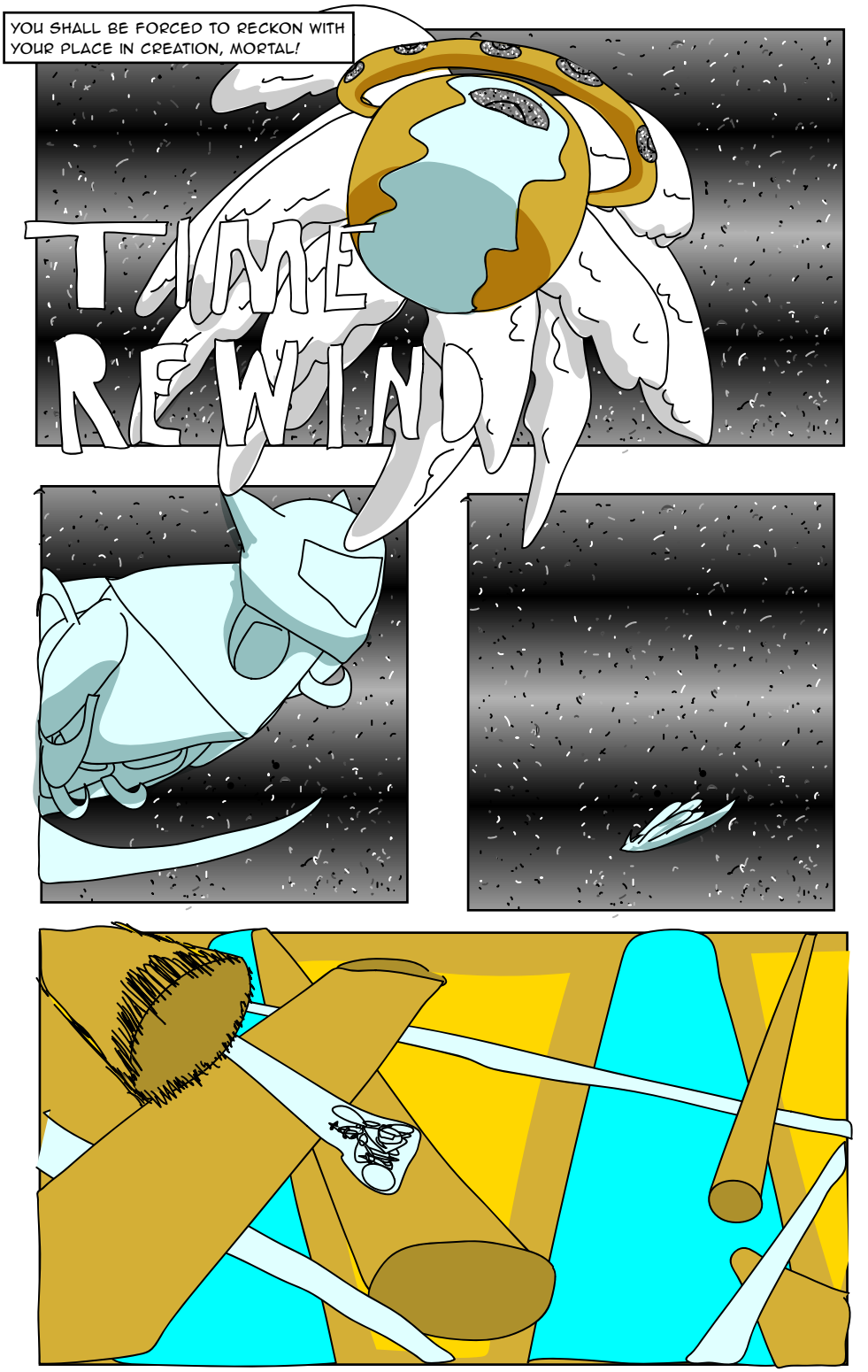

TRUMPETER'S SCREAM!
Woo
Wooo..
WOWOOO

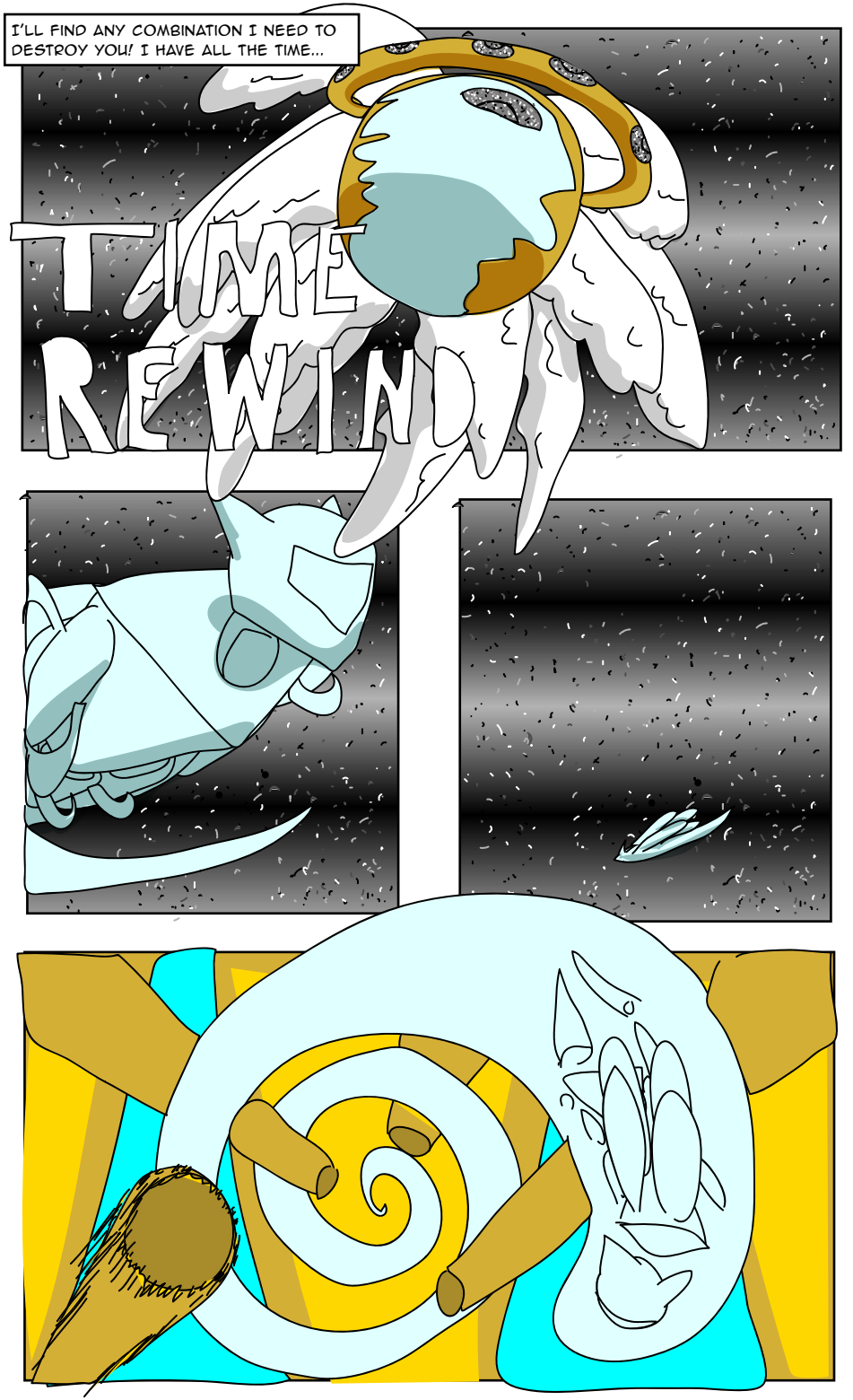

THESE COUNTLESS ATTACKS SPEW FORTH LIKE THEY'RE IN AN INFINITE LOOP. I'LL NEED TO ACCESS PRINCE STRANGER'S FOURTH DIMENSIONAL DATA.
PROCESSING...COMPLETE.
WHOA. NICE WORK, STRANGER. ALRIGHT, NOW IT'S JUST ME AND THE PERFECT ENGINE.

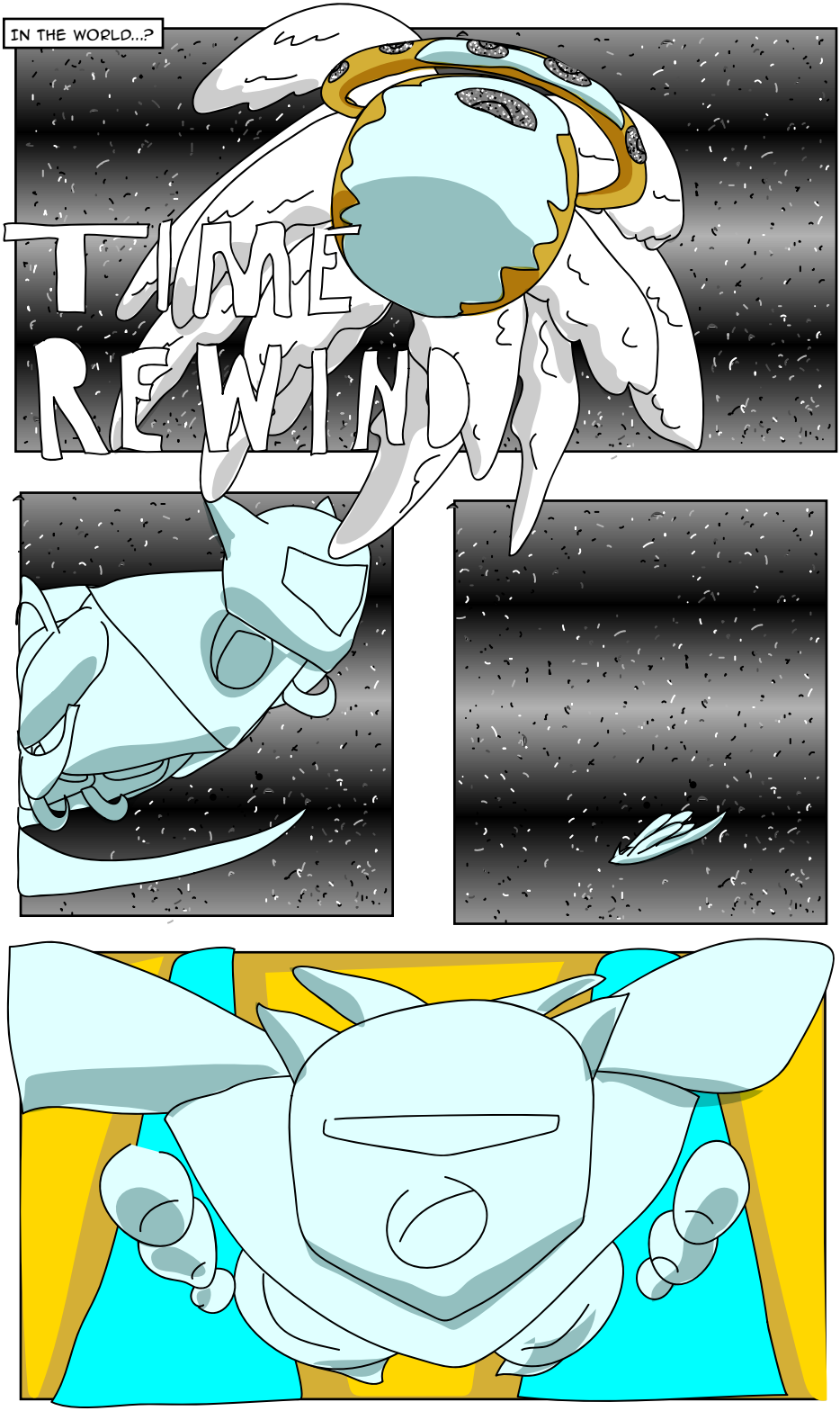

PRINCESS TAZA IS COMPLETELY UNTOUCHABLE WHILE THE PERFECT ENGINE IS ACTIVE. 100% ACCURACY.
OVERHEATING AND PROBABILITY MANIPULATION SEEM TO BE MAJOR ISSUES AND WEAKNESSES.
AND WITH ARMOR AS THIN AS ICE, GETTING HIT IN THIS FORM EVEN ONCE COULD BE DISASTROUS. TOTAL HYPERLIGHT EXHAUSTION IS ALWAYS AROUND THE CORNER.

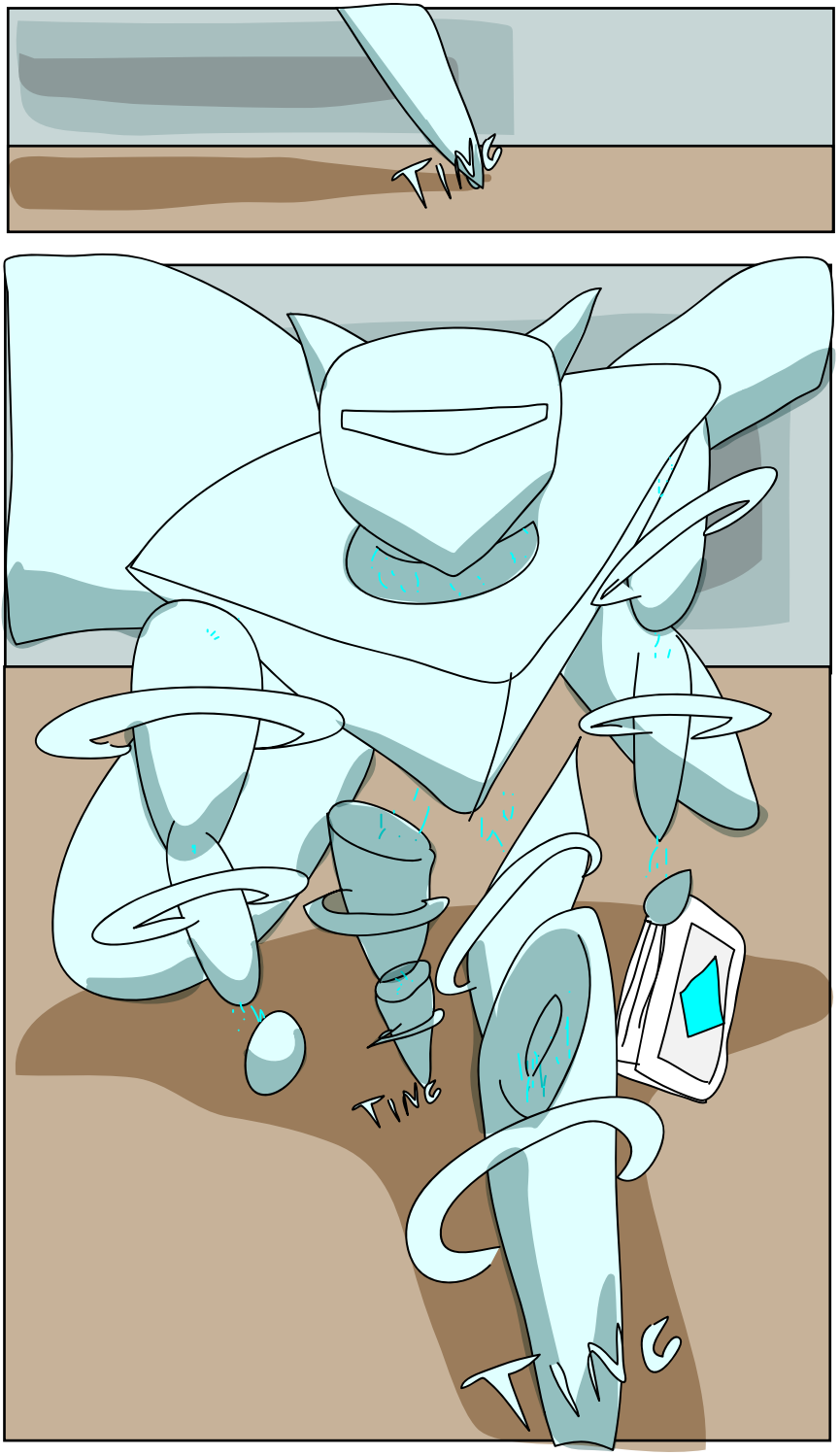

SHIFTERS SHIFTING!
CLANG
Dvak

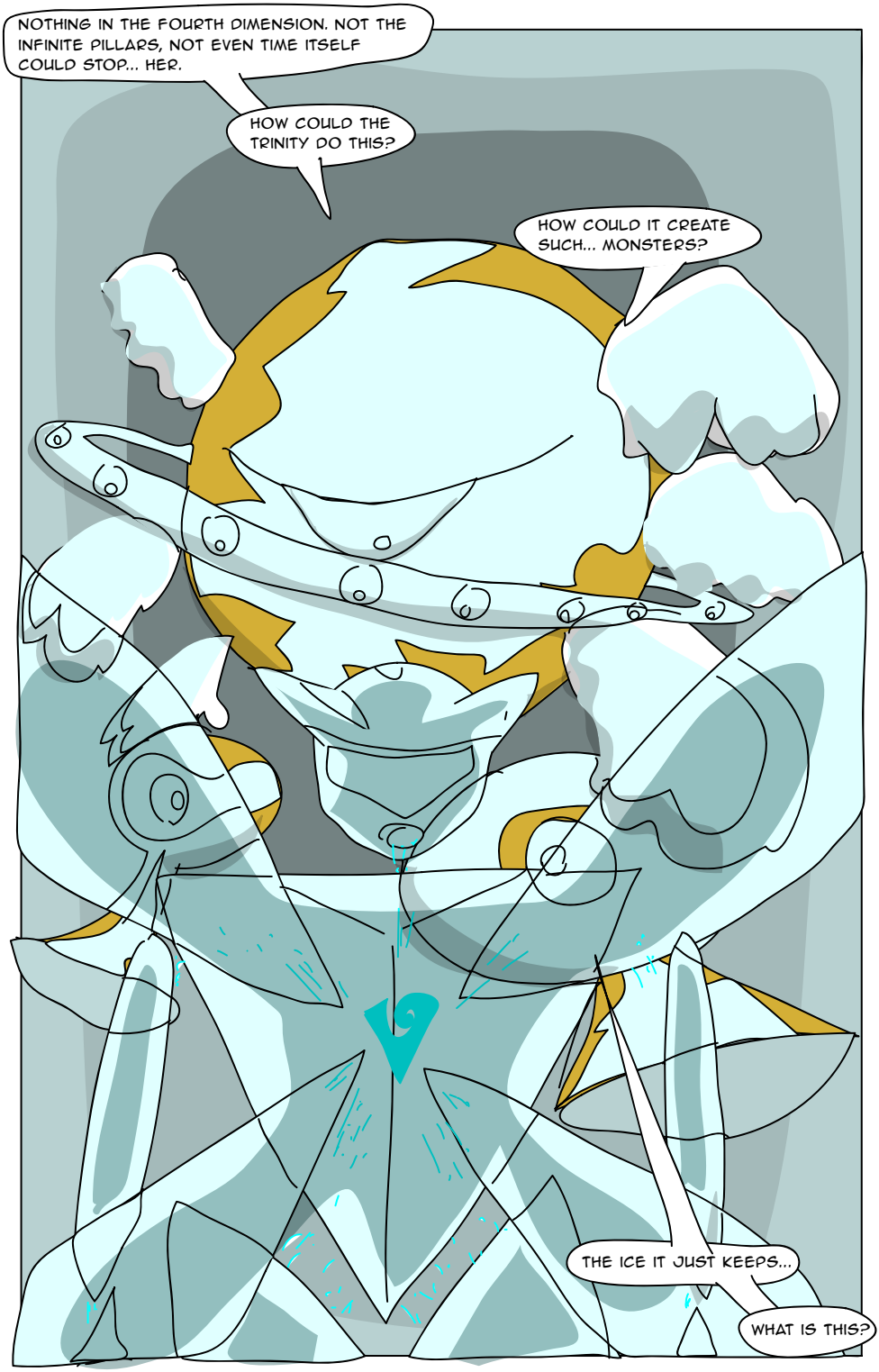

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS...
WHILE THIS ENGINE IS ACTIVE...
TAZA HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BE PERFECT.

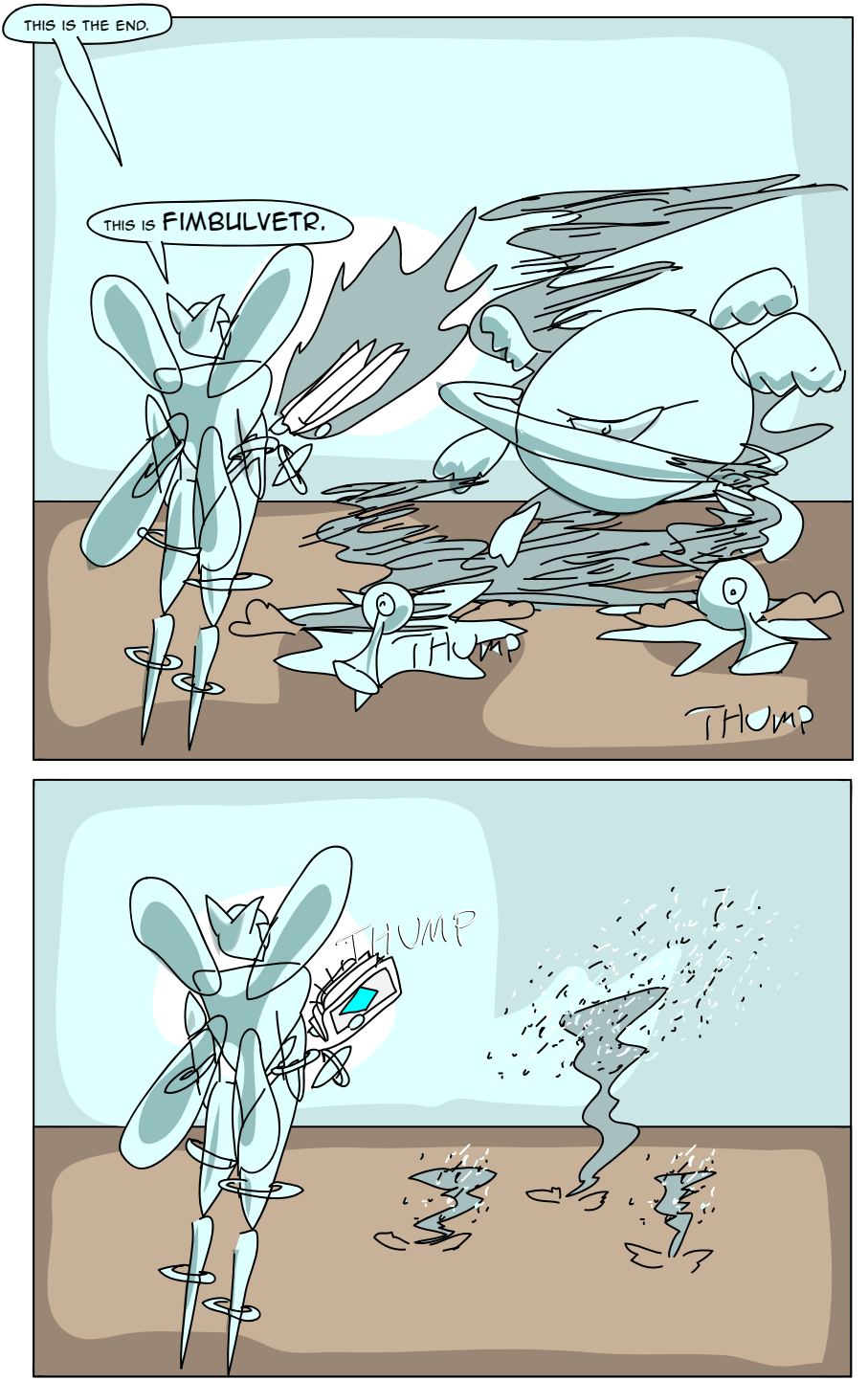

YOU SHALL BE FORCED TO RECKON WITH YOUR PLACE IN CREATION, MORTAL!
TIME REWIND


I'LL FIND ANY COMBINATION I NEED TO DESTROY YOU! I HAVE ALL THE TIME...
TIME REWIND


IN THE WORLD...?
TIME
REWIND

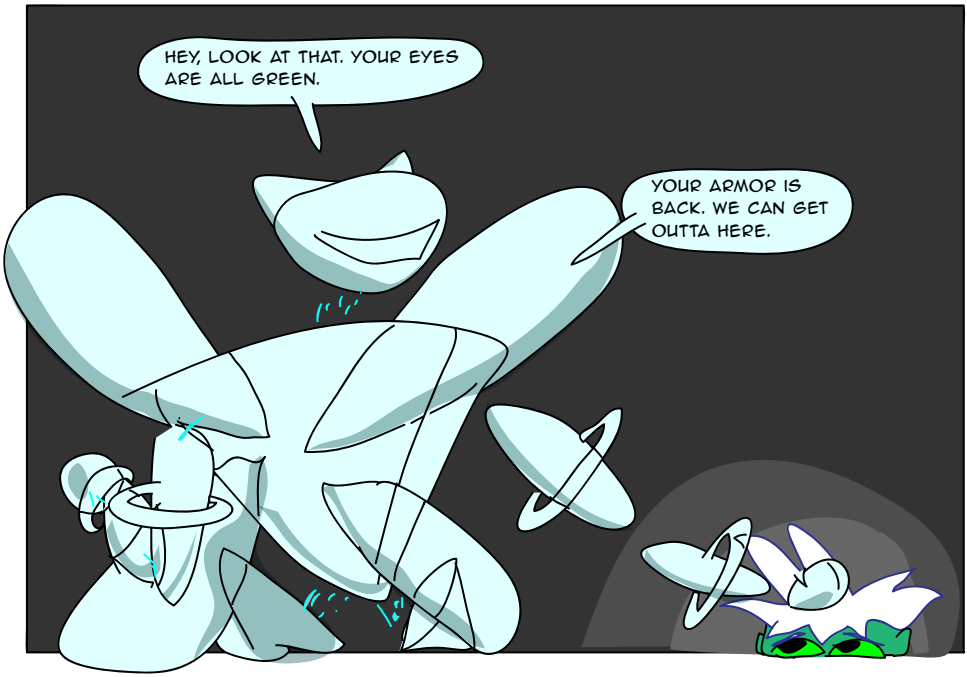

TING
TING
TING


NOTHING IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION. NOT THE INFINITE PILLARS, NOT EVEN TIME ITSELF COULD STOP... HER.
HOW COULD THE TRINITY DO THIS?
HOW COULD IT CREATE SUCH... MONSTERS?
THE ICE IT JUST KEEPS...
WHAT IS THIS?


THIS IS THE END.
THIS IS FIMBULVETR.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


I TRIED TO HOLD OUT AS LONG AS I COULD, TAZA. THEY WERE JUST TOO STRONG.
AND THE MCPF. THEY HAD TO SACRAFICE A TON TO SAVE US. WE COULDN'T SAVE ALL THE MORTALS.
YOU'RE PUTTING ALL THIS TIME INTO TRAINING US AND WE STILL CAN'T HANDLE THESE MISSIONS ALONE.
ENOUGH OF THAT, ZUNE. YOU ALL DID GREAT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TAKEN OUT LIKE THAT. YOU DID WELL TO HOLD OUT LIKE YOU DID.
YOU'RE IN TRAINING TO BECOME MY BODY GUARD. YOU'RE STILL LEARNING. YOU'RE STILL MY RESPONSIBILITY.
IN TIME YOU TOO WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE OUT WITCHES AND DEVILS. ALL OF YOU.

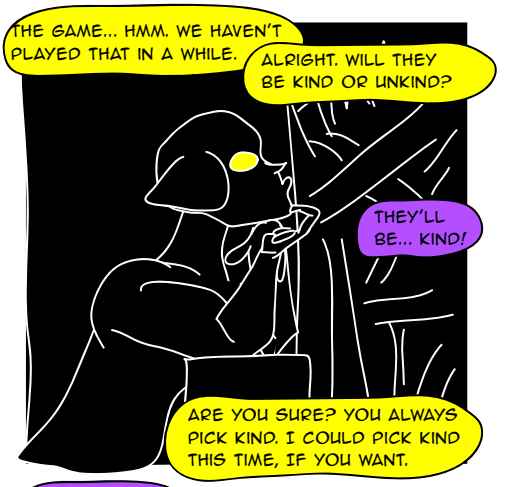

UNTIL THEN JUST WORK TO SURVIVE AND LEARN WHAT YOU CAN. YOU'RE PROGRESSING PERFECTLY.


HEY, LOOK AT THAT. YOUR EYES ARE ALL GREEN.
YOUR ARMOR IS BACK. WE CAN GET OUTTA HERE.

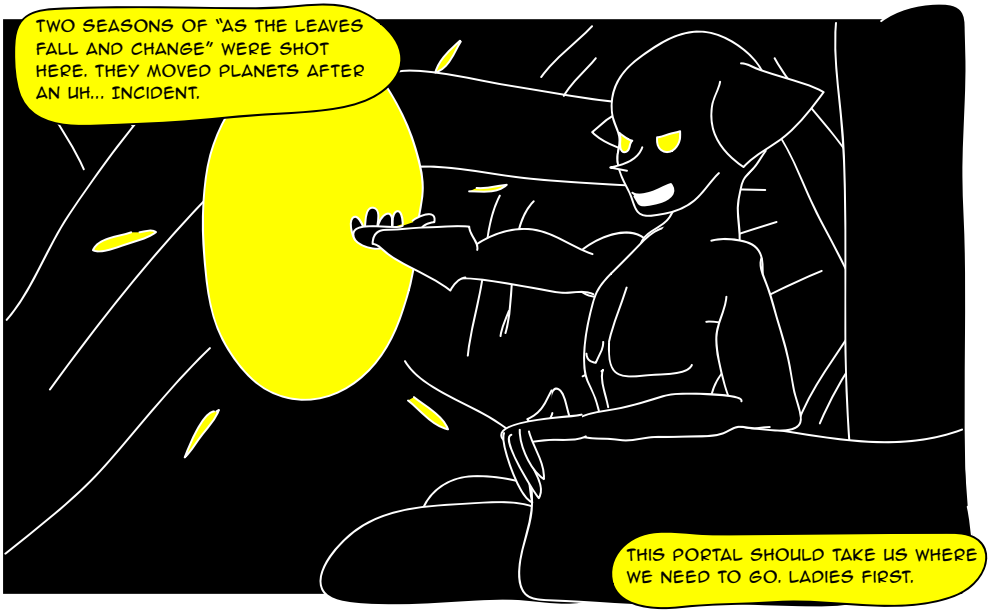

OH. THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, GIRLS. VERY SOLID WORK TODAY. OONTZ, TRY TO BE A BIT SAFER WHEN THE SITUATION CHANGES.
WAHOO!
WE DID IT!
HEH, OF COURSE, PRINCESS. I'LL BE SURE NOT TO JUMP THE GUN NEXT TIME.
YOU FOUR ARE YOUNGER THAN ZUNE AND KEEPING UP. KEEP IT UP.
ALRIGHT LET'S GO. WE'VE GOT A ROYAL DINNER TO ATTEND.
GROAN
YEAH. YEAH. THESE EVENTS ALWAYS SUCK. BUT WE NEED TO RALLY MORE ROYAL STARBORN AND THEIR WARRIORS.
UNTIL OUR ARMY IS LARGE OR POWERFUL ENOUGH, THESE EVENTS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE FIGHTING.


WELL, THAT'S OVER WITH.
WHAT A WASTE. PRINCESS TAZA, YOU WASTED MY TIME.
COULDN'T EVEN GET SOME DECENT CARNAGE.
HOW WILL THE TRINITY LEARN ITS LESSON IF THE STARBORN KEEP BAILING IT OUT?
LUCIFER. DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
A MOMENT? FOR YOU?
FOR YOU, I HAVE A LIFETIME. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MY LOVE?

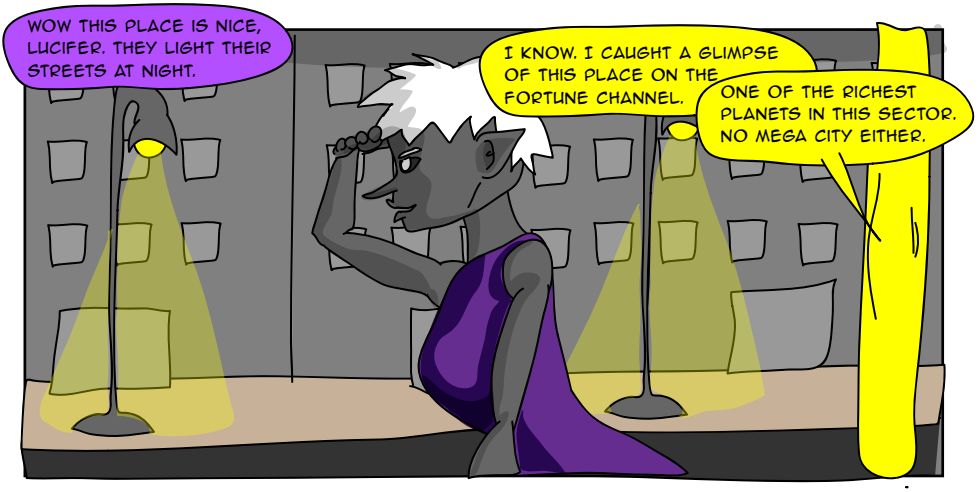

I'VE BEEN FEELING NOSTALGIC. I'D LIKE TO PLAY "THE GAME".

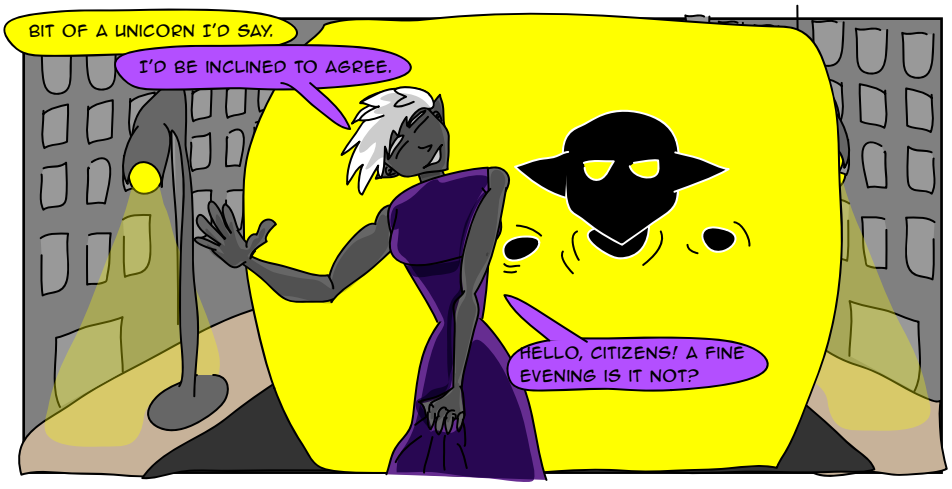

THE GAME... HMM. WE HAVEN'T PLAYED THAT IN A WHILE.
ALRIGHT. WILL THEY BE KIND OR UNKIND?
THEY'LL BE... KIND!
ARE YOU SURE? YOU ALWAYS PICK KIND. I COULD PICK KIND THIS TIME, IF YOU WANT.

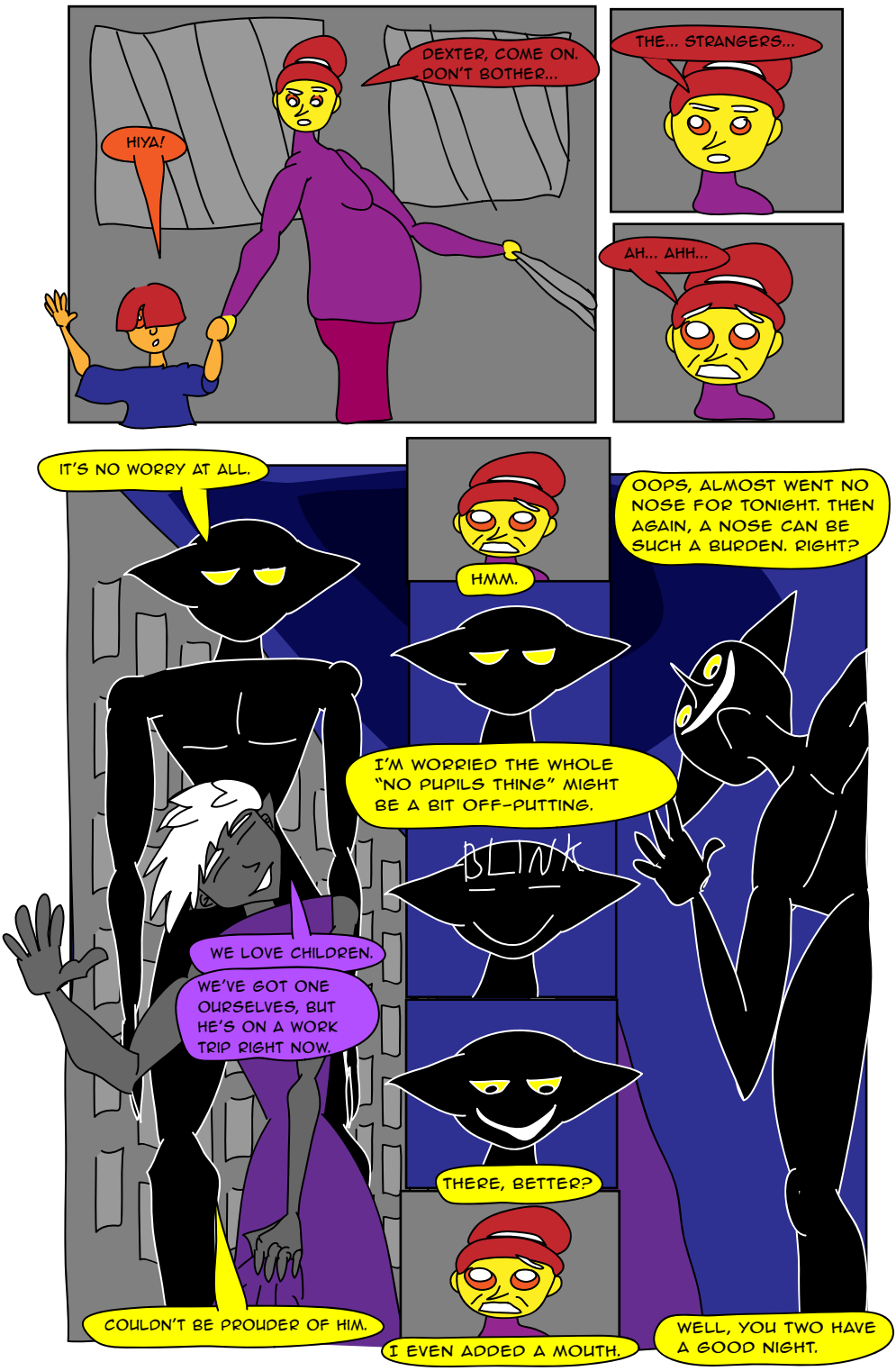

NO, I LIKE THE CHALLENGE.
WELL, ALRIGHT. I'LL BE TEAM UNKIND. AND I'VE GOT THE PERFECT PLACE IN MIND.


TWO SEASONS OF "AS THE LEAVES FALL AND CHANGE" WERE SHOT HERE. THEY MOVED PLANETS AFTER AN UH... INCIDENT.
THIS PORTAL SHOULD TAKE US WHERE WE NEED TO GO. LADIES FIRST.

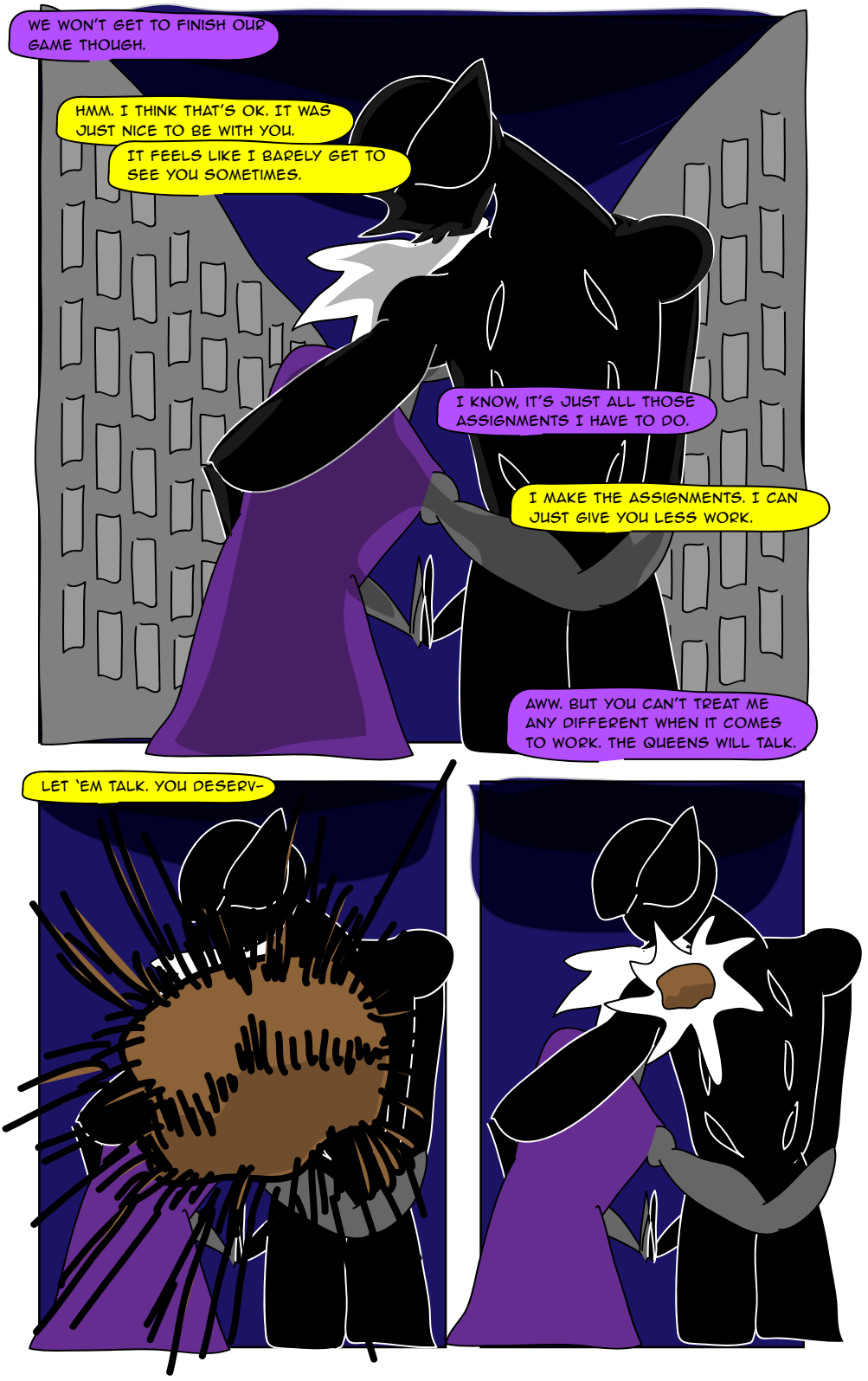



WOW THIS PLACE IS NICE, LUCIFER. THEY LIGHT THEIR STREETS AT NIGHT.
I KNOW. I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THIS PLACE ON THE FORTUNE CHANNEL.
ONE OF THE RICHEST PLANETS IN THIS SECTOR. NO MEGA CITY EITHER.

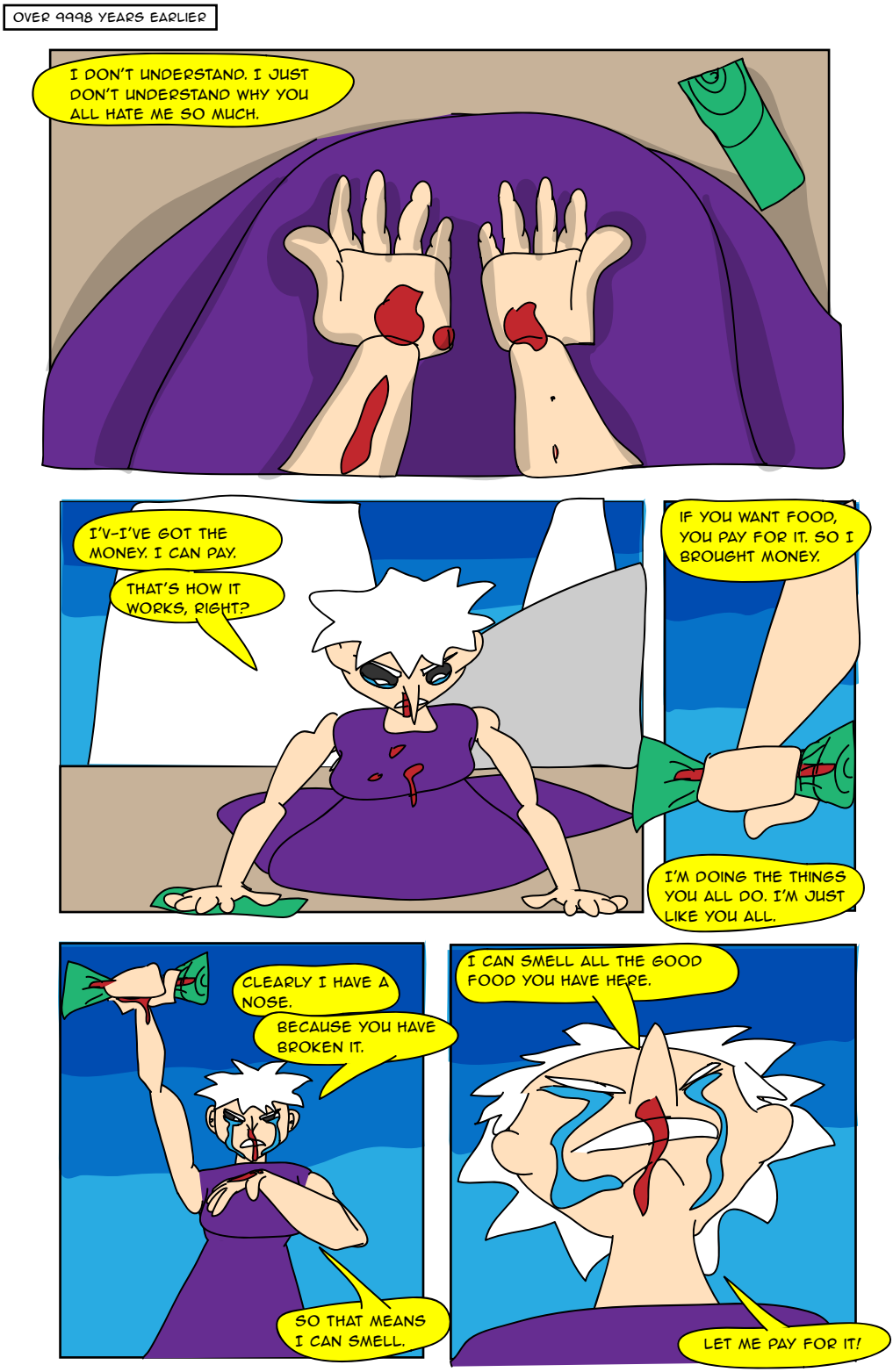

BIT OF A UNICORN I'D SAY.
I'D BE INCLINED TO AGREE.
HELLO, CITIZENS! A FINE EVENING IS IT NOT?

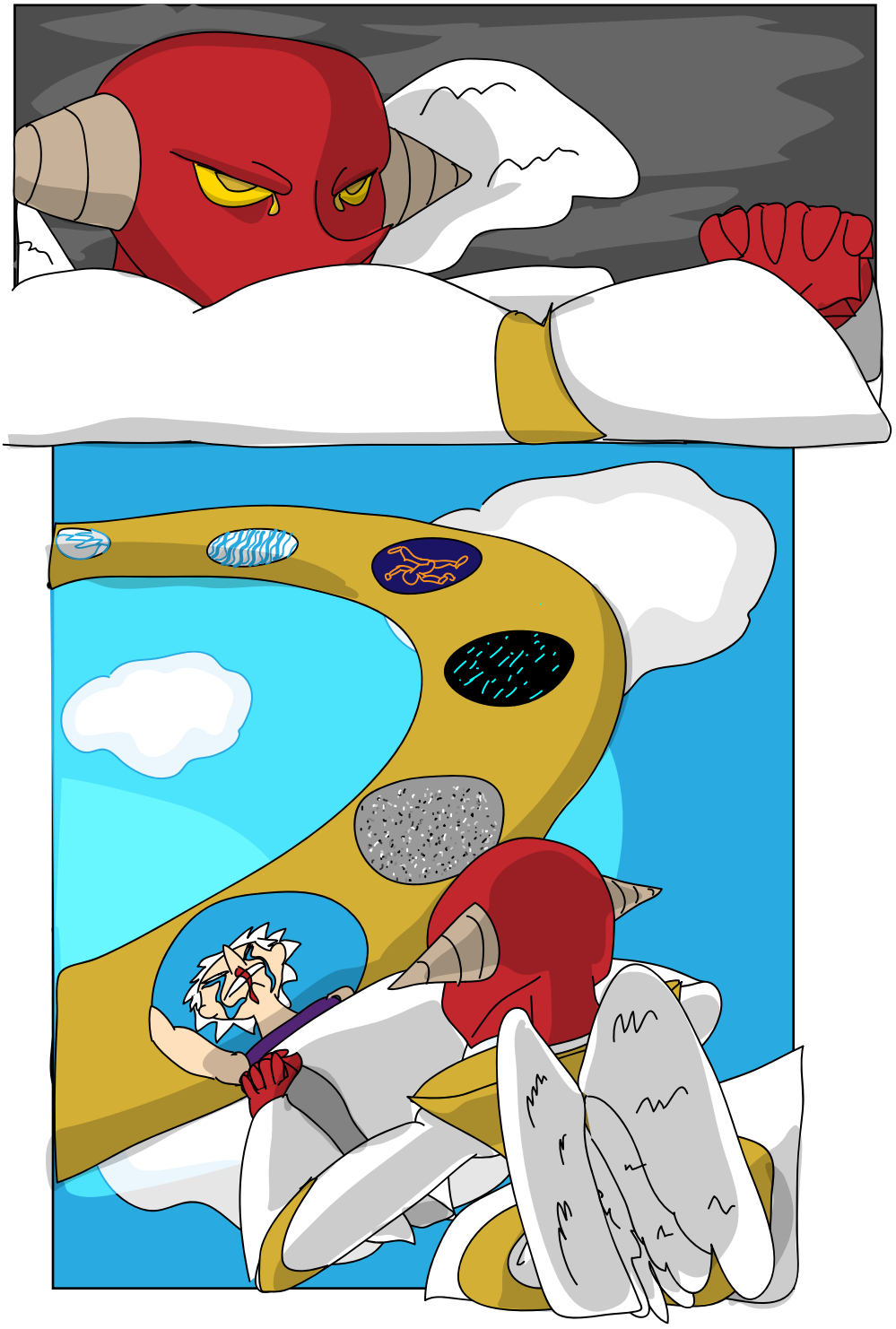

DEXTER, COME ON. DON'T BOTHER...
HIYA!
THE... STRANGERS...
AH... AHH...
IT'S NO WORRY AT ALL.
HMM.
OOPS, ALMOST WENT NO NOSE FOR TONIGHT. THEN AGAIN, A NOSE CAN BE SUCH A BURDEN. RIGHT?
I'M WORRIED THE WHOLE "NO PUPILS THING" MIGHT BE A BIT OFF-PUTTING.
BLINK
WE LOVE CHILDREN.
WE'VE GOT ONE OURSELVES, BUT HE'S ON A WORK TRIP RIGHT NOW.
THERE, BETTER?
COULDN'T BE PROUDER OF HIM.
I EVEN ADDED A MOUTH.
WELL, YOU TWO HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.

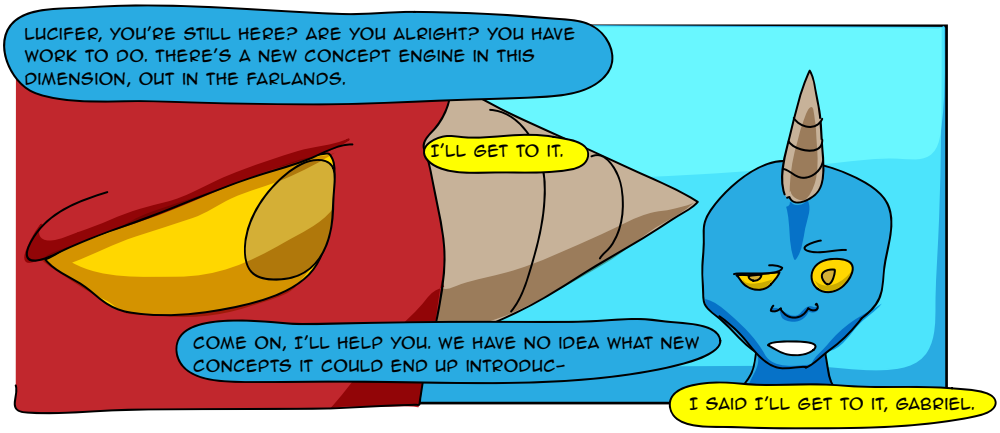

AH! AHHH! AHHH!
HMM...
HMPH.
WELL SOME MORTALS ARE JUST SKITTISH. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE UNKIND.
COME, LET US CONTINUE OUR NIGHTTIME TRYST.
YES! LET'S!
A COUPLE HOURS LATER
THE TOWN HAS BASICALLY CLEARED OUT.
I GUESS MOST PEOPLE ARE HEADED OFF TO BED.

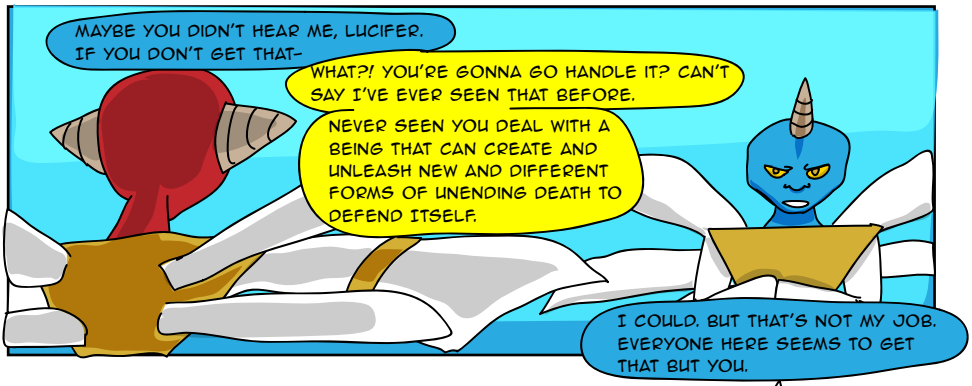

WE WON'T GET TO FINISH OUR GAME THOUGH.
HMM. I THINK THAT'S OK. IT WAS JUST NICE TO BE WITH YOU.
IT FEELS LIKE I BARELY GET TO SEE YOU SOMETIMES.
I KNOW, IT'S JUST ALL THOSE ASSIGNMENTS I HAVE TO DO.
I MAKE THE ASSIGNMENTS. I CAN JUST GIVE YOU LESS WORK.
AWW. BUT YOU CAN'T TREAT ME ANY DIFFERENT WHEN IT COMES TO WORK. THE QUEENS WILL TALK.
LET 'EM TALK. YOU DESERV-

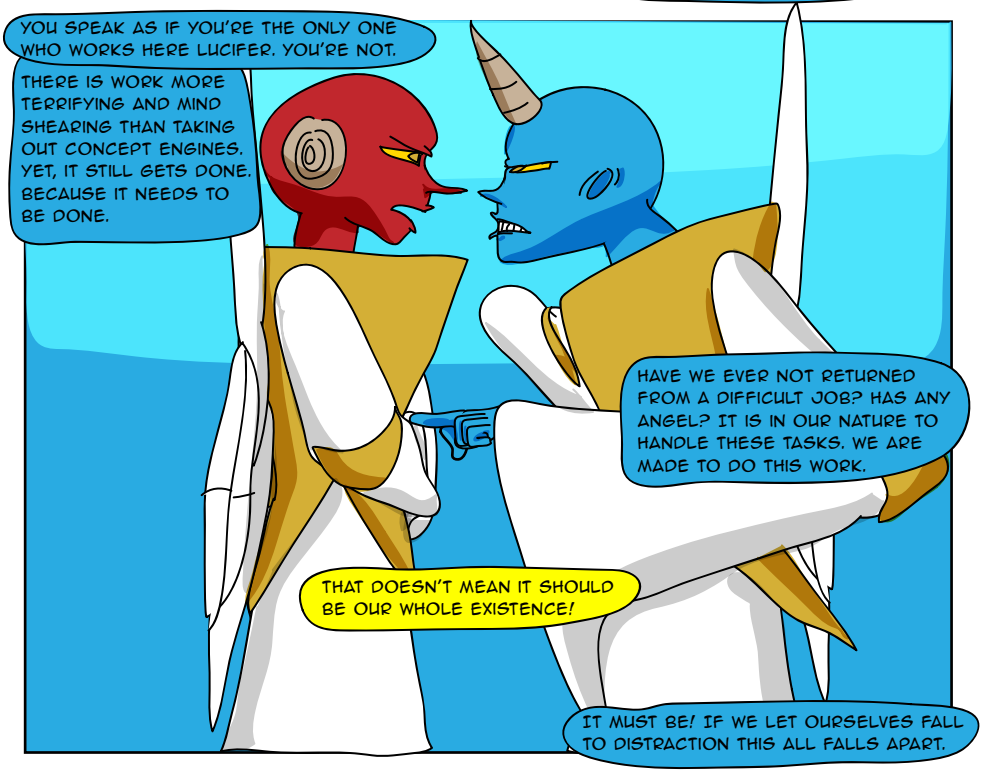

WHAT IN THE...?
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
WITCH!
WITCH!
GET OUT OF HERE!
WITCH! DEVIL SCUM!
BEGONE FROM THIS PLACE!
WITCH!
LEAVE!
WITCH!
JUST WHAT IS ALL THAT COMMOTI-
GONG
I'VE BEEN... ATTACKED.
HOW UNKIND.
UNDER ATTACK. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN UNDER ATTACK?

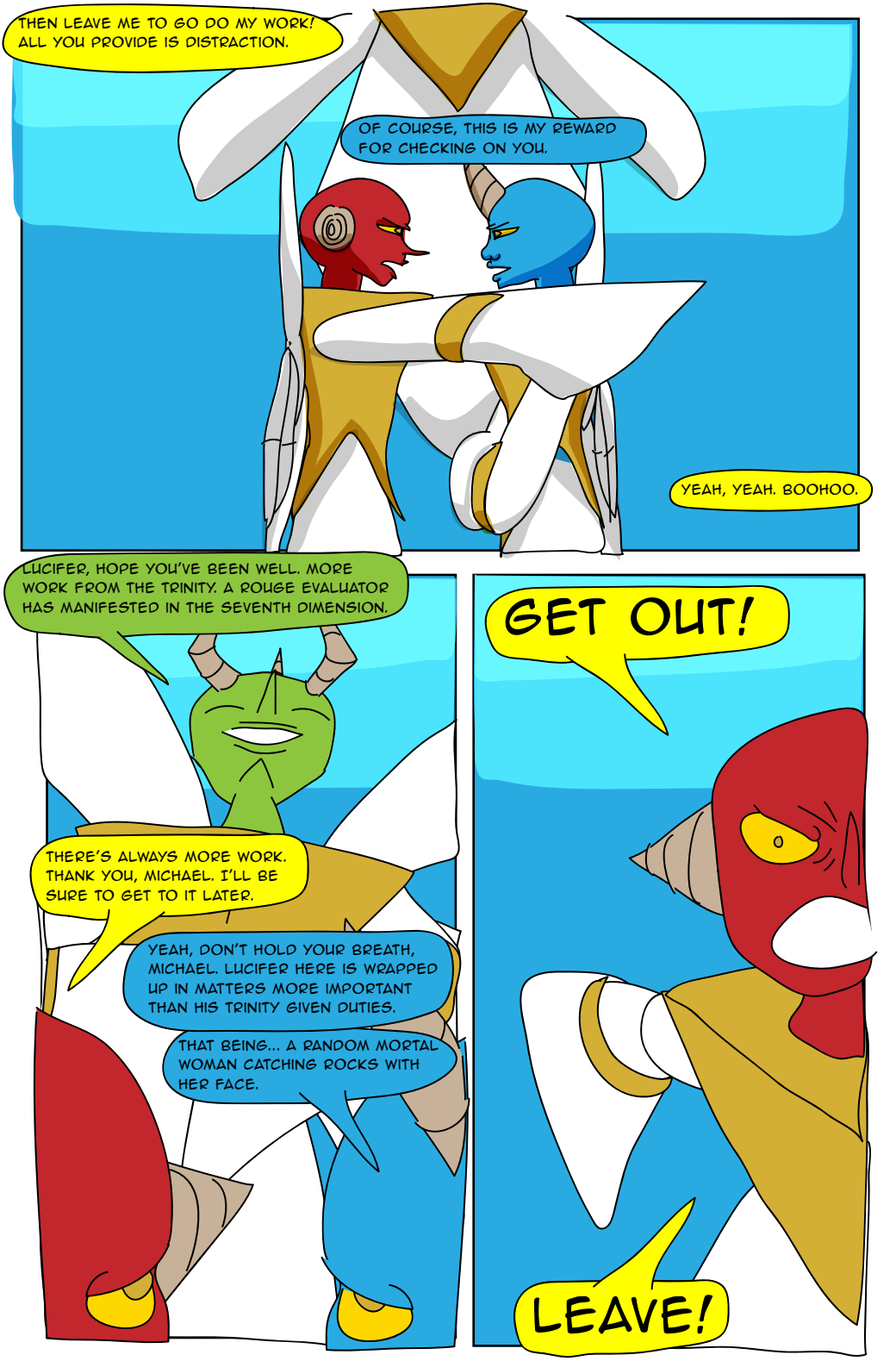

OVER 9998 YEARS EARLIER
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ALL HATE ME SO MUCH.
I'V-I'VE GOT THE MONEY. I CAN PAY.
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, RIGHT?
IF YOU WANT FOOD, YOU PAY FOR IT. SO I BROUGHT MONEY.
I'M DOING THE THINGS YOU ALL DO. I'M JUST LIKE YOU ALL.
CLEARLY I HAVE A NOSE.
BECAUSE YOU HAVE BROKEN IT.
SO THAT MEANS I CAN SMELL.
I CAN SMELL ALL THE GOOD FOOD YOU HAVE HERE.
LET ME PAY FOR IT!



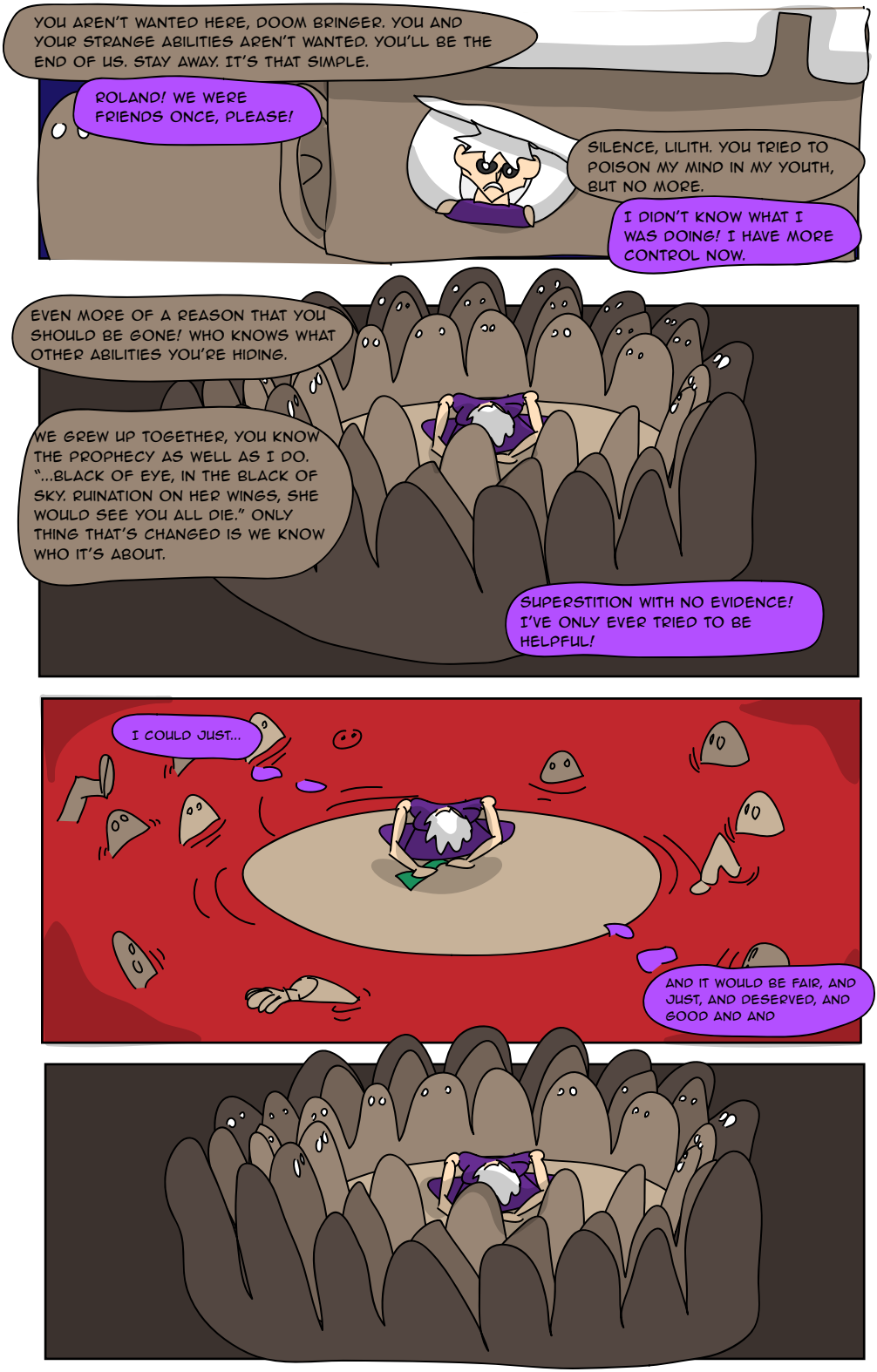

LUCIFER, YOU'RE STILL HERE? ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU HAVE WORK TO DO. THERE'S A NEW CONCEPT ENGINE IN THIS DIMENSION, OUT IN THE FARLANDS.
I'LL GET TO IT.
COME ON, I'LL HELP YOU. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT NEW CONCEPTS IT COULD END UP INTRODUC-
I SAID I'LL GET TO IT, GABRIEL.


MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME, LUCIFER. IF YOU DON'T GET THAT-
WHAT?! YOU'RE GONNA GO HANDLE IT? CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER SEEN THAT BEFORE.
NEVER SEEN YOU DEAL WITH A BEING THAT CAN CREATE AND UNLEASH NEW AND DIFFERENT FORMS OF UNENDING DEATH TO DEFEND ITSELF.
I COULD. BUT THAT'S NOT MY JOB. EVERYONE HERE SEEMS TO GET THAT BUT YOU.


YOU SPEAK AS IF YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WORKS HERE LUCIFER. YOU'RE NOT.
THERE IS WORK MORE TERRIFYING AND MIND SHEARING THAN TAKING OUT CONCEPT ENGINES. YET, IT STILL GETS DONE. BECAUSE IT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
HAVE WE EVER NOT RETURNED FROM A DIFFICULT JOB? HAS ANY ANGEL? IT IS IN OUR NATURE TO HANDLE THESE TASKS. WE ARE MADE TO DO THIS WORK.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT SHOULD BE OUR WHOLE EXISTENCE!
IT MUST BE! IF WE LET OURSELVES FALL TO DISTRACTION THIS ALL FALLS APART.

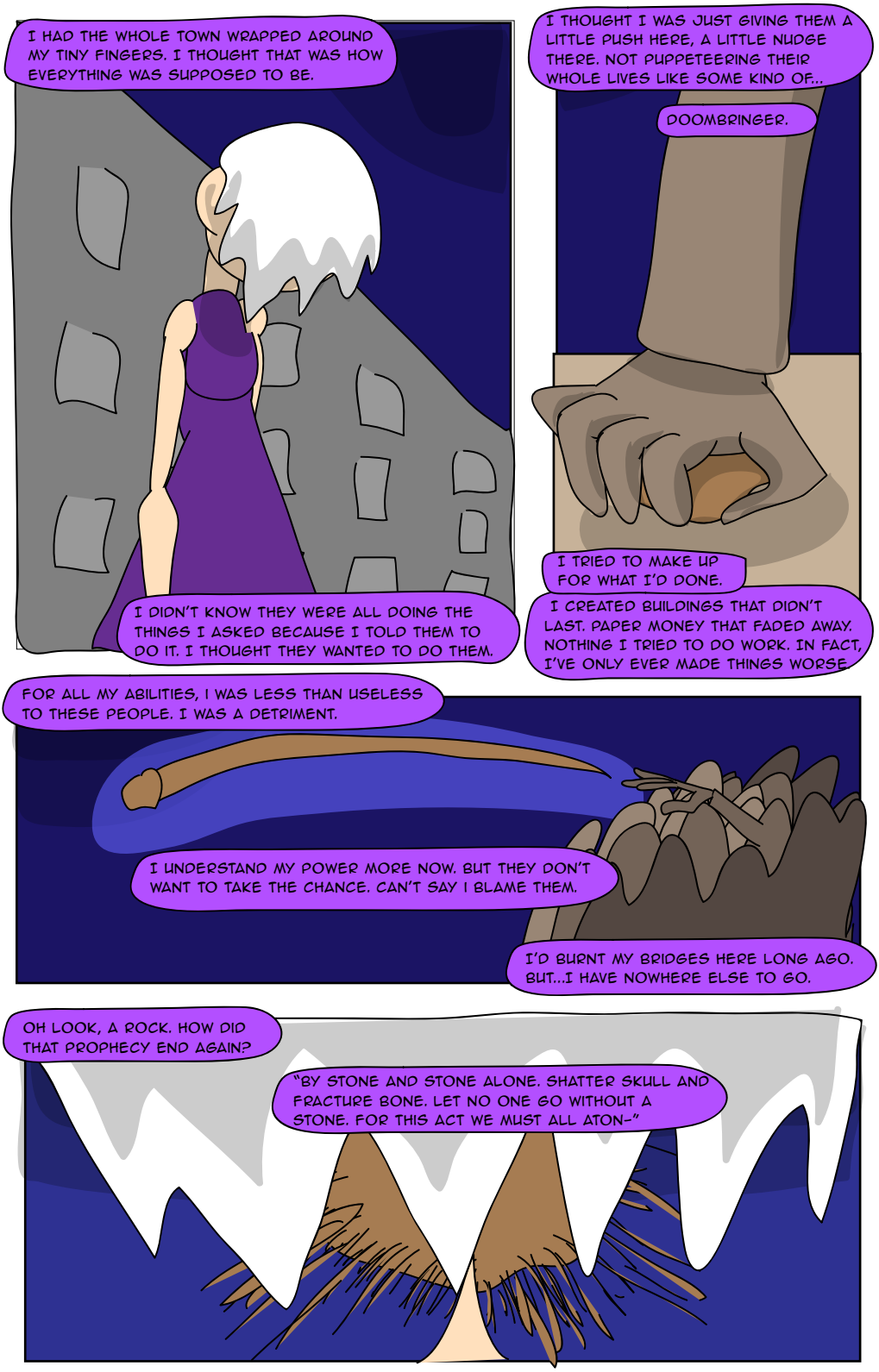

THEN LEAVE ME TO GO DO MY WORK! ALL YOU PROVIDE IS DISTRACTION.
OF COURSE, THIS IS MY REWARD FOR CHECKING ON YOU.
YEAH, YEAH. BOOHOO.
LUCIFER, HOPE YOU'VE BEEN WELL. MORE WORK FROM THE TRINITY. A ROUGE EVALUATOR HAS MANIFESTED IN THE SEVENTH DIMENSION.
THERE'S ALWAYS MORE WORK. THANK YOU, MICHAEL. I'LL BE SURE TO GET TO IT LATER.
YEAH, DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, MICHAEL. LUCIFER HERE IS WRAPPED UP IN MATTERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS TRINITY GIVEN DUTIES.
THAT BEING... A RANDOM MORTAL WOMAN CATCHING ROCKS WITH HER FACE.
GET OUT!
LEAVE!


WHY WON'T HE UNDERSTAND...?

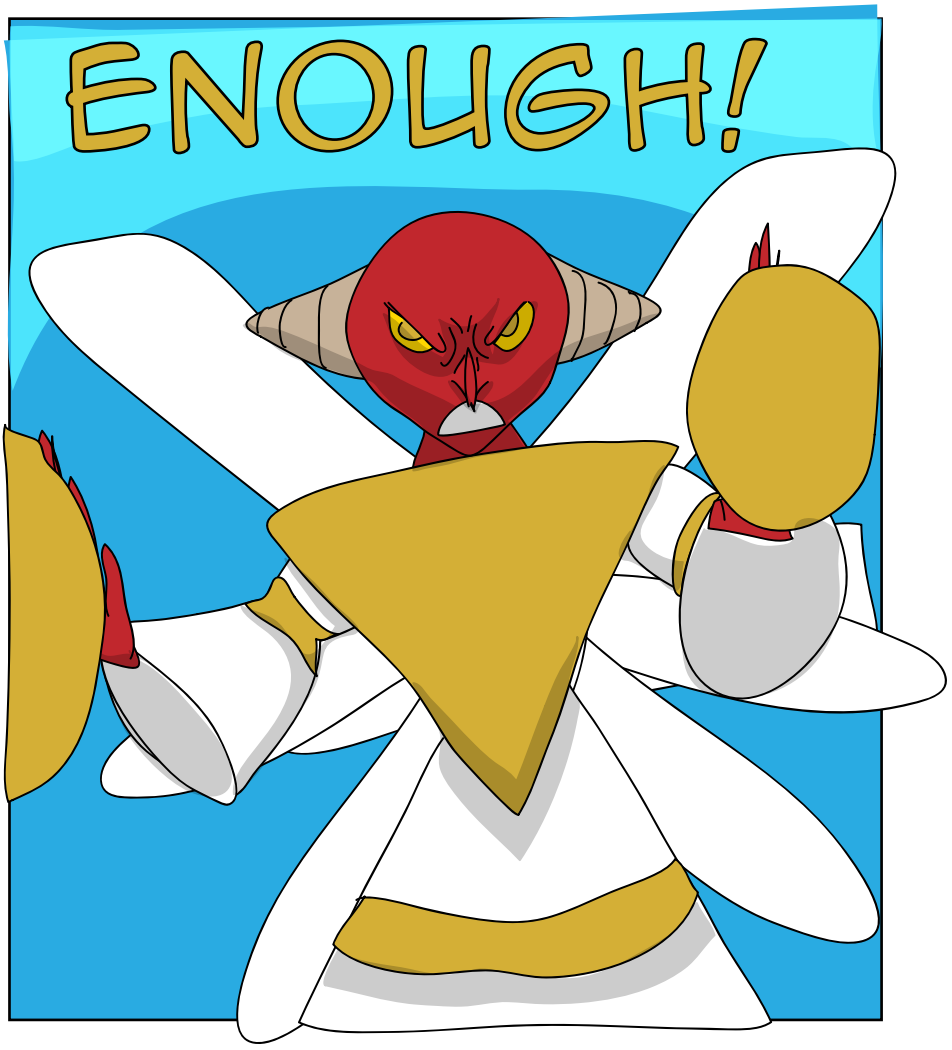

YOU AREN'T WANTED HERE, DOOM BRINGER. YOU AND YOUR STRANGE ABILITIES AREN'T WANTED. YOU'LL BE THE END OF US. STAY AWAY. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
ROLAND! WE WERE FRIENDS ONCE, PLEASE!
SILENCE, LILITH. YOU TRIED TO POISON MY MIND IN MY YOUTH, BUT NO MORE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING! I HAVE MORE CONTROL NOW.
EVEN MORE OF A REASON THAT YOU SHOULD BE GONE! WHO KNOWS WHAT OTHER ABILITIES YOU'RE HIDING.
WE GREW UP TOGETHER, YOU KNOW THE PROPHECY AS WELL AS I DO. "...BLACK OF EYE, IN THE BLACK OF SKY. RUINATION ON HER WINGS, SHE WOULD SEE YOU ALL DIE." ONLY THING THAT'S CHANGED IS WE KNOW WHO IT'S ABOUT.
SUPERSTITION WITH NO EVIDENCE! I'VE ONLY EVER TRIED TO BE HELPFUL!
I COULD JUST...
AND IT WOULD BE FAIR, AND JUST, AND DESERVED, AND GOOD AND AND

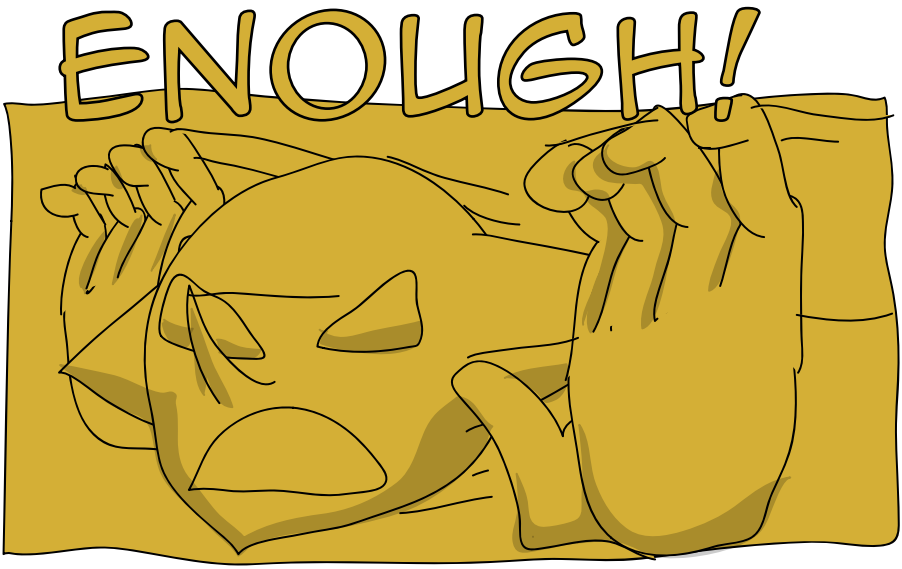

AND I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE.
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME WHAT THEY SAY I AM.
I'VE BEEN WORKING MY WHOLE LIFE TO AVOID THAT OUTCOME.
BUT STILL IT'S NOT ENOUGH. NOTHING'S EVER ENOUGH.
STAND
UNTIL TODAY. I FOUND THIS MONEY. AND NOW I AM GOING TO BUY SOMETHING WITH IT.
IT'S THE SAME PRICE HERE EVERY DAY. I KNOW I'VE GOT ENOUGH.
BAKERY
I REMEMBER THIS PLACE.
IT HAS TO BE ENOUGH.
IT WAS SO WARM ONCE.

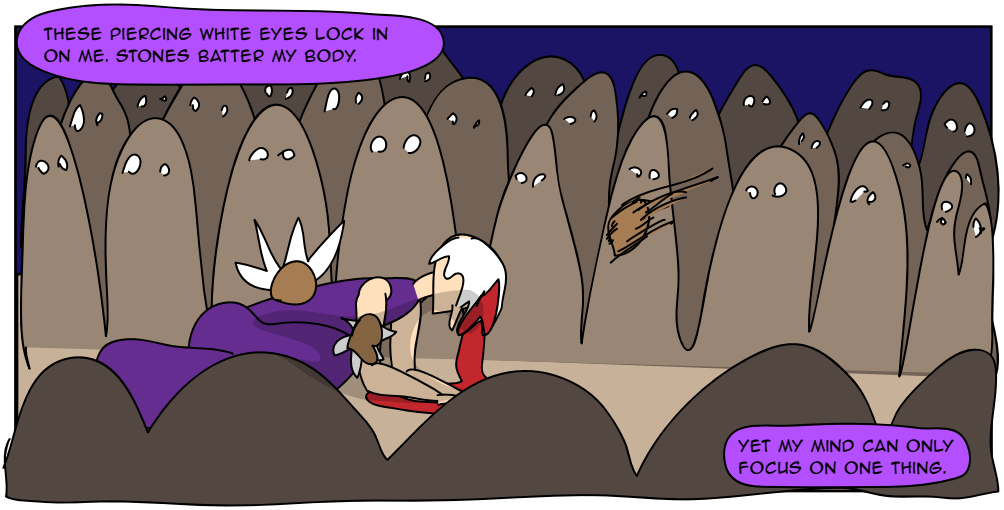

HELLO, I'D LIKE TODAY'S SPECIAL PLEASE.
11.00 SPECIAL
CAN YOU AFFORD IT? I DON'T WANT ANY FUNNY BUSINESS WITH FAKE BILLS.
11.00 SPECIAL
NO FUNNY BUSINESS THIS TIME. I'VE GOT JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT.
JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT, HUH? DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT TO ME.
FLIP
21.00 SPECIAL
GO RETURN THAT FROM WHOEVER YOU STOLE IT FROM. I DON'T WANT YOUR BLOOD MONEY, LILITH.
THAT'S NOT WHO I AM ANYMORE, I SWEAR. I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS HURTING YOU ALL.
I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS DOING ANYTHING WRONG.
I DIDN'T ASK TO BE SO DIFFERENT.

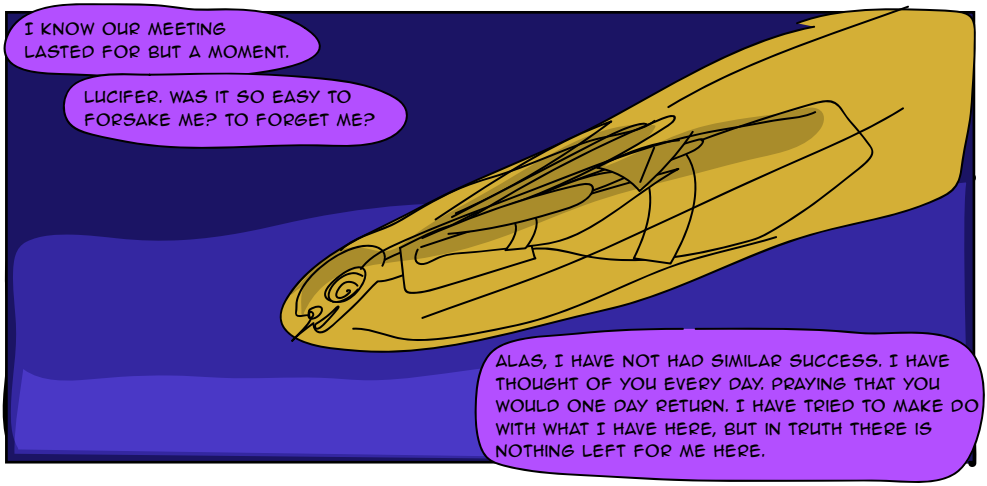

I HAD THE WHOLE TOWN WRAPPED AROUND MY TINY FINGERS. I THOUGHT THAT WAS HOW EVERYTHING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE ALL DOING THE THINGS I ASKED BECAUSE I TOLD THEM TO DO IT. I THOUGHT THEY WANTED TO DO THEM.
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST GIVING THEM A LITTLE PUSH HERE, A LITTLE NUDGE THERE. NOT PUPPETEERING THEIR WHOLE LIVES LIKE SOME KIND OF...
DOOMBRINGER.
I TRIED TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I'D DONE.
I CREATED BUILDINGS THAT DIDN'T LAST. PAPER MONEY THAT FADED AWAY. NOTHING I TRIED TO DO WORK. IN FACT, I'VE ONLY EVER MADE THINGS WORSE
FOR ALL MY ABILITIES, I WAS LESS THAN USELESS TO THESE PEOPLE. I WAS A DETRIMENT.
I UNDERSTAND MY POWER MORE NOW. BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE. CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM.
I'D BURNT MY BRIDGES HERE LONG AGO. BUT...I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
OH LOOK, A ROCK. HOW DID THAT PROPHECY END AGAIN?
"BY STONE AND STONE ALONE. SHATTER SKULL AND FRACTURE BONE. LET NO ONE GO WITHOUT A STONE. FOR THIS ACT WE MUST ALL ATON-"

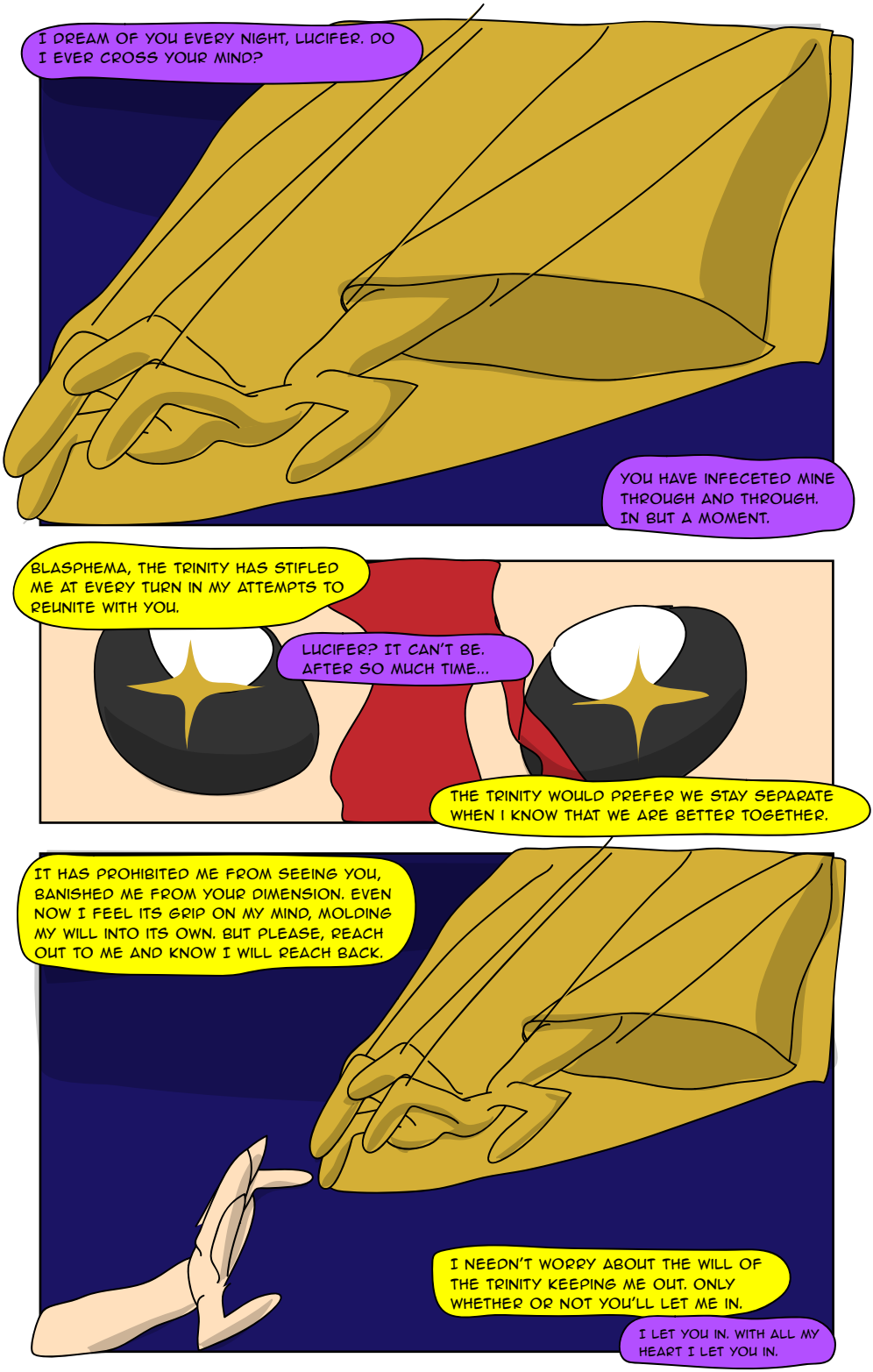

KRAK


ENOUGH!

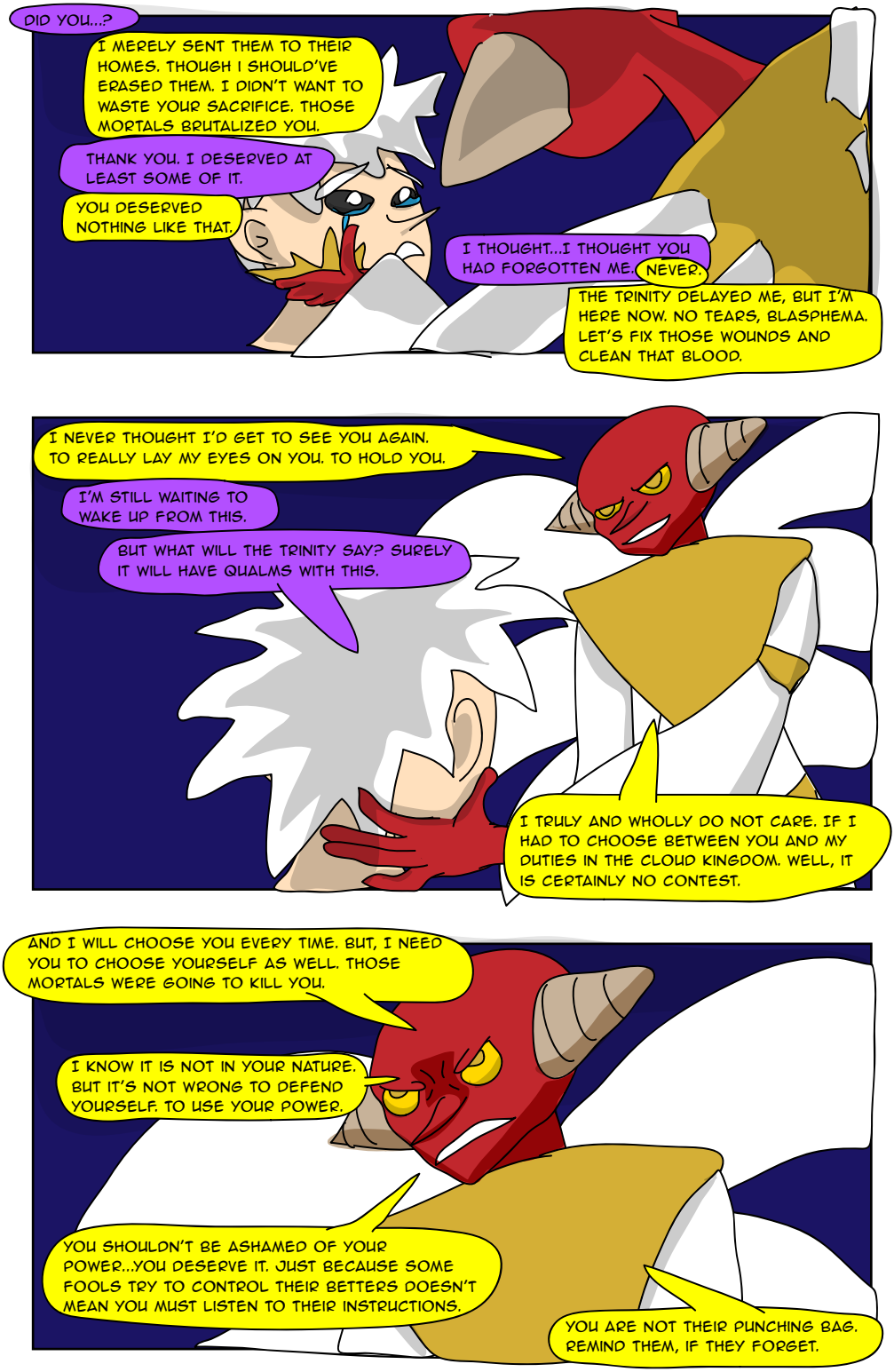

ENOUGH!

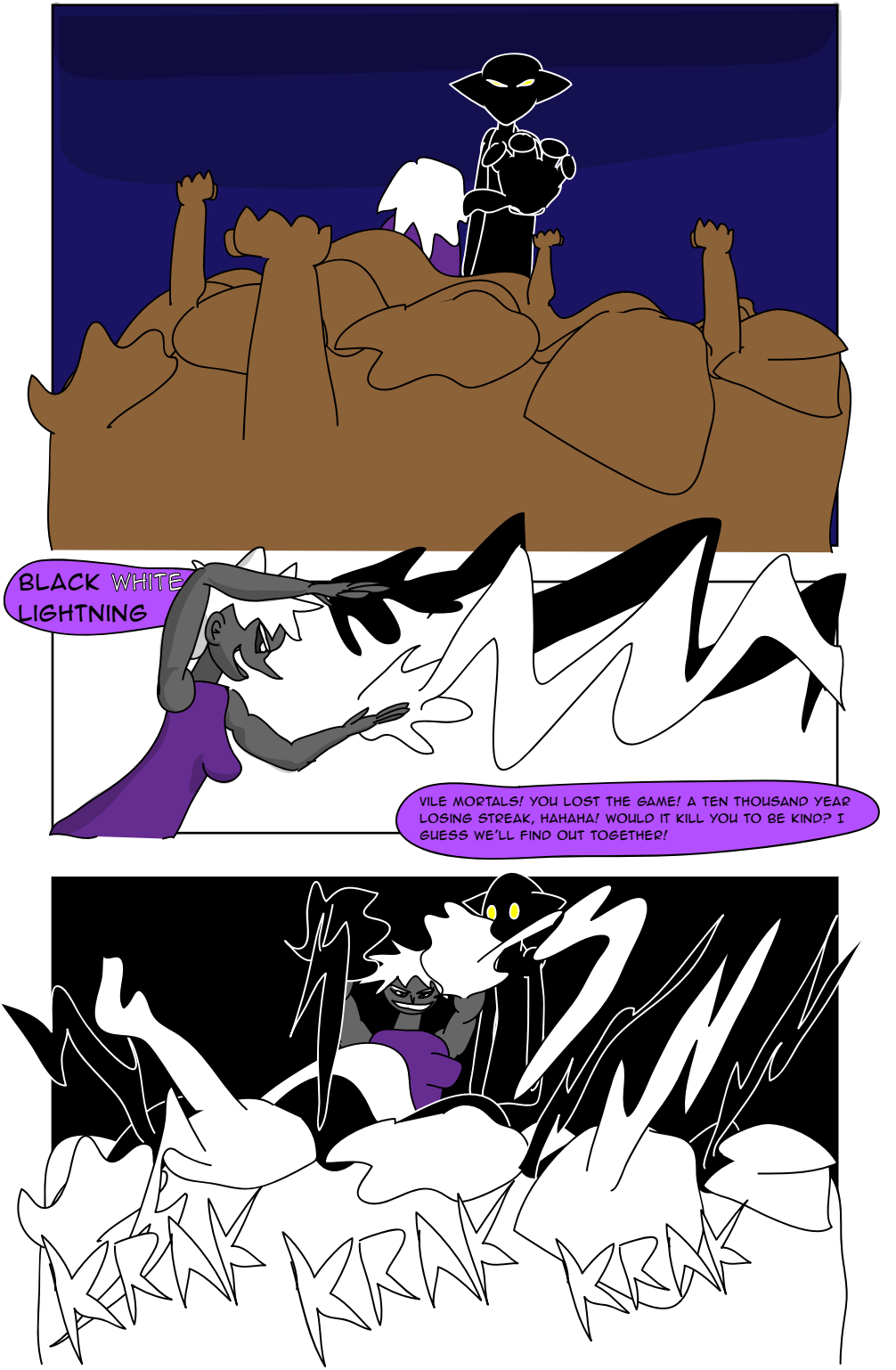

THESE PIERCING WHITE EYES LOCK IN ON ME. STONES BATTER MY BODY.
YET MY MIND CAN ONLY FOCUS ON ONE THING.


I KNOW OUR MEETING LASTED FOR BUT A MOMENT.
LUCIFER. WAS IT SO EASY TO FORSAKE ME? TO FORGET ME?
ALAS, I HAVE NOT HAD SIMILAR SUCCESS. I HAVE THOUGHT OF YOU EVERY DAY. PRAYING THAT YOU WOULD ONE DAY RETURN. I HAVE TRIED TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT I HAVE HERE, BUT IN TRUTH THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME HERE.


I DREAM OF YOU EVERY NIGHT, LUCIFER. DO I EVER CROSS YOUR MIND?
YOU HAVE INFECETED MINE THROUGH AND THROUGH. IN BUT A MOMENT.
BLASPHEMA, THE TRINITY HAS STIFLED ME AT EVERY TURN IN MY ATTEMPTS TO REUNITE WITH YOU.
LUCIFER? IT CAN'T BE. AFTER SO MUCH TIME...
THE TRINITY WOULD PREFER WE STAY SEPARATE WHEN I KNOW THAT WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER.
IT HAS PROHIBITED ME FROM SEEING YOU, BANISHED ME FROM YOUR DIMENSION. EVEN NOW I FEEL ITS GRIP ON MY MIND, MOLDING MY WILL INTO ITS OWN. BUT PLEASE, REACH OUT TO ME AND KNOW I WILL REACH BACK.
I NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE WILL OF THE TRINITY KEEPING ME OUT. ONLY WHETHER OR NOT YOU'LL LET ME IN.
I LET YOU IN. WITH ALL MY HEART I LET YOU IN.

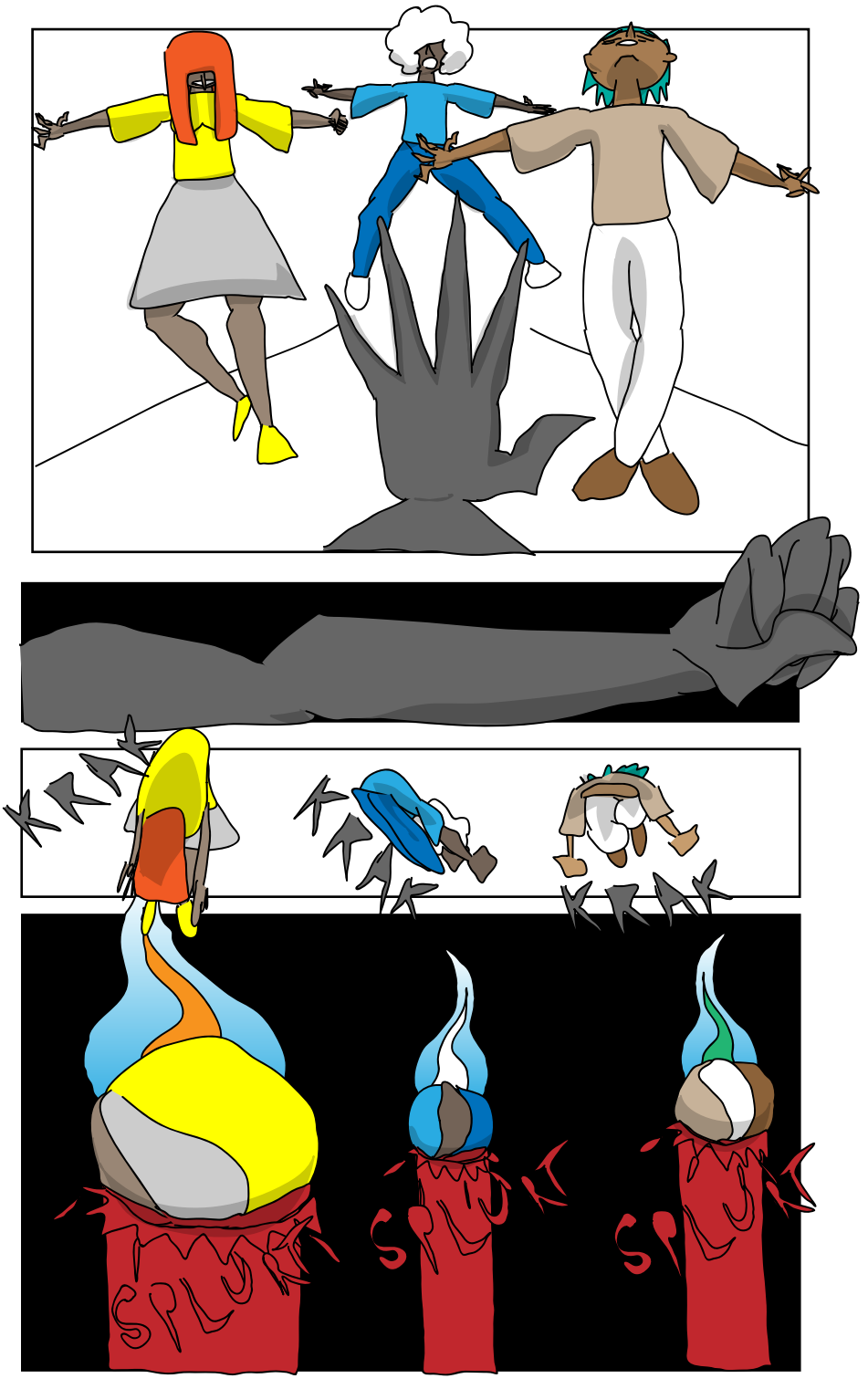

BE GONE

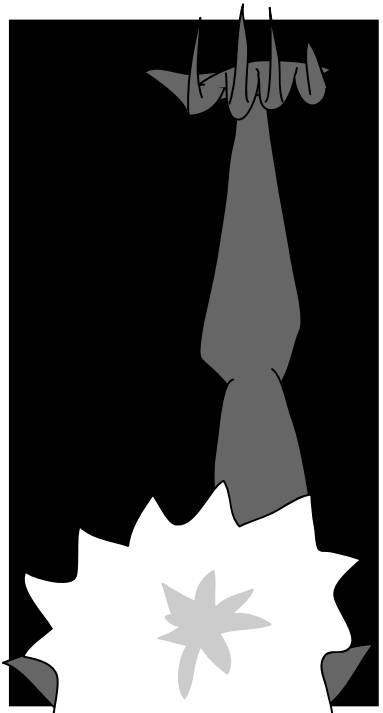

DID YOU...?
I MERELY SENT THEM TO THEIR HOMES. THOUGH I SHOULD'VE ERASED THEM. I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR SACRIFICE. THOSE MORTALS BRUTALIZED YOU.
THANK YOU. I DESERVED AT LEAST SOME OF IT.
YOU DESERVED NOTHING LIKE THAT.
I THOUGHT...I THOUGHT YOU HAD FORGOTTEN ME.
NEVER.
THE TRINITY DELAYED ME, BUT I'M HERE NOW. NO TEARS, BLASPHEMA. LET'S FIX THOSE WOUNDS AND CLEAN THAT BLOOD.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN. TO REALLY LAY MY EYES ON YOU. TO HOLD YOU.
I'M STILL WAITING TO WAKE UP FROM THIS.
BUT WHAT WILL THE TRINITY SAY? SURELY IT WILL HAVE QUALMS WITH THIS.
I TRULY AND WHOLLY DO NOT CARE. IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU AND MY DUTIES IN THE CLOUD KINGDOM. WELL, IT IS CERTAINLY NO CONTEST.
AND I WILL CHOOSE YOU EVERY TIME. BUT, I NEED YOU TO CHOOSE YOURSELF AS WELL. THOSE MORTALS WERE GOING TO KILL YOU.
I KNOW IT IS NOT IN YOUR NATURE. BUT IT'S NOT WRONG TO DEFEND YOURSELF. TO USE YOUR POWER.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ASHAMED OF YOUR POWER...YOU DESERVE IT. JUST BECAUSE SOME FOOLS TRY TO CONTROL THEIR BETTERS DOESN'T MEAN YOU MUST LISTEN TO THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.
YOU ARE NOT THEIR PUNCHING BAG. REMIND THEM, IF THEY FORGET.


BLACK WHITE LIGHTNING
VILE MORTALS! YOU LOST THE GAME! A TEN THOUSAND YEAR LOSING STREAK, HAHAHA! WOULD IT KILL YOU TO BE KIND? I GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT TOGETHER!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

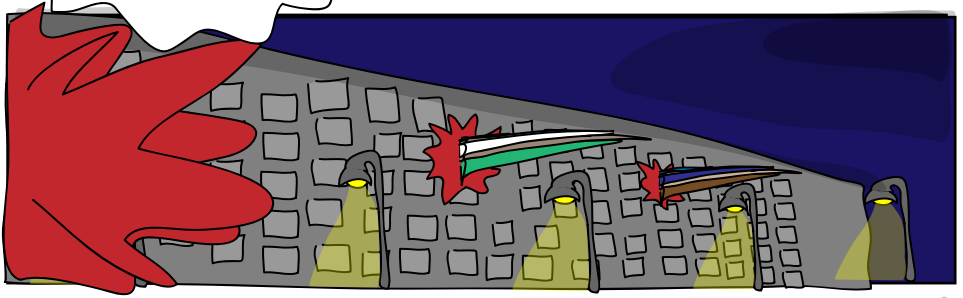


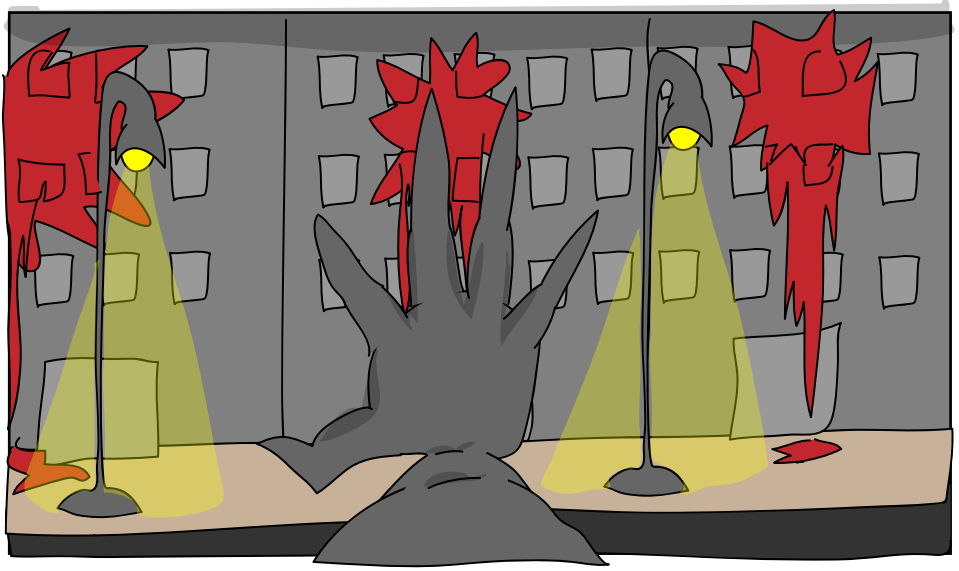


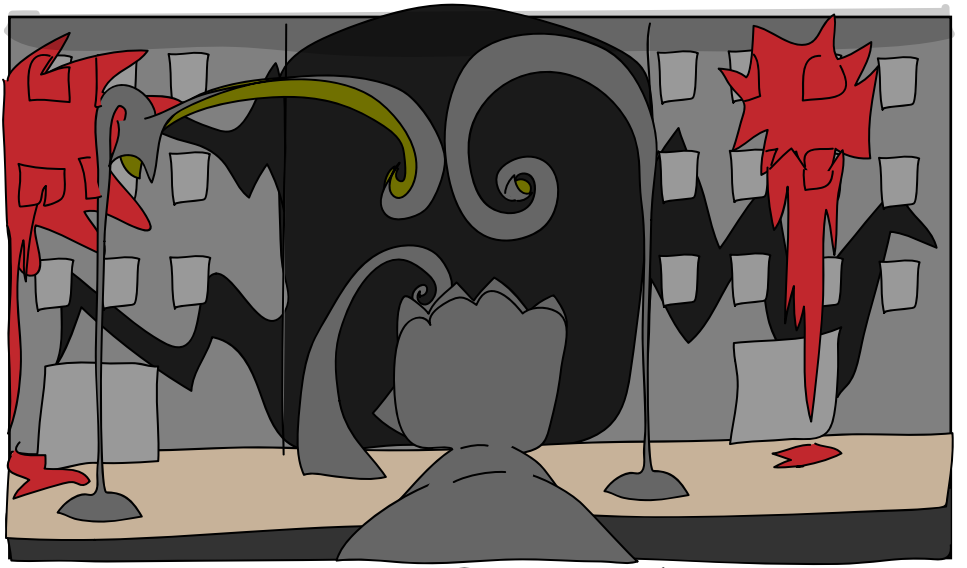

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
SPLURT
SPLURT
SPLURT

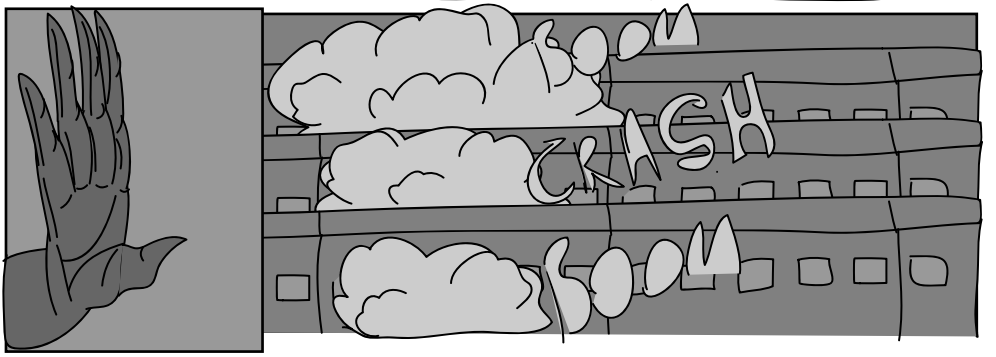


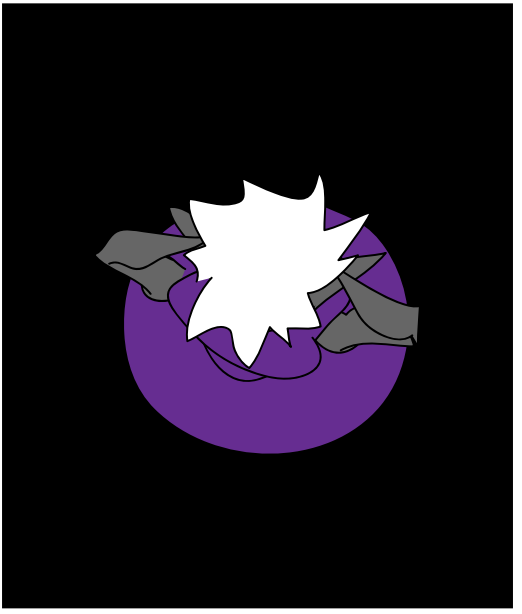


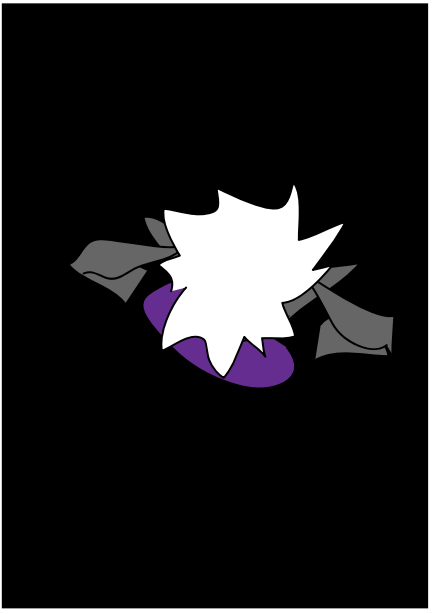




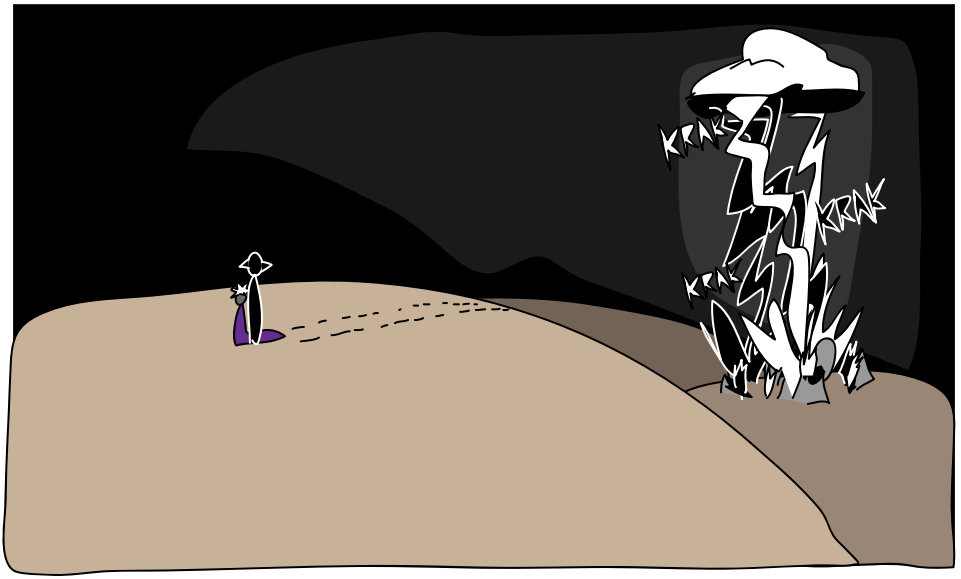


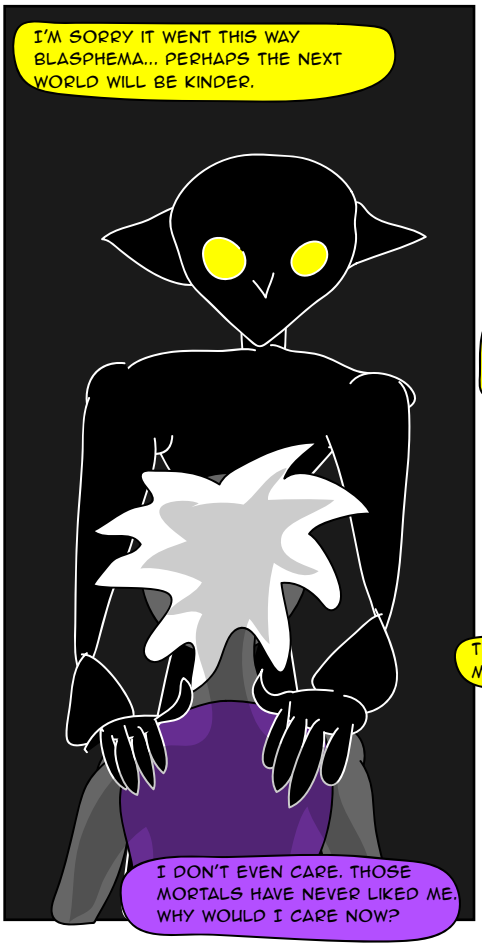

BOOM
CRASH
BOOM

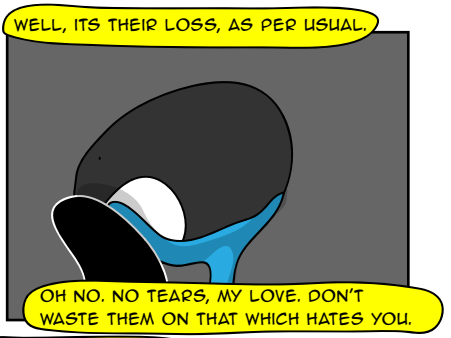


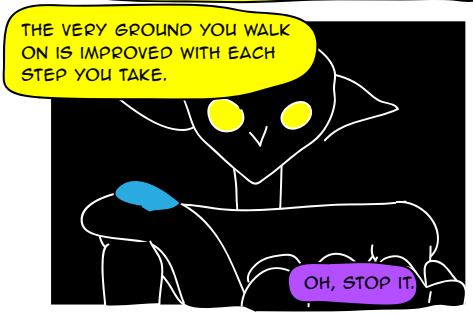


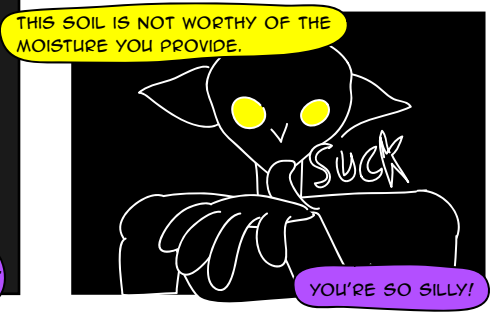



KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

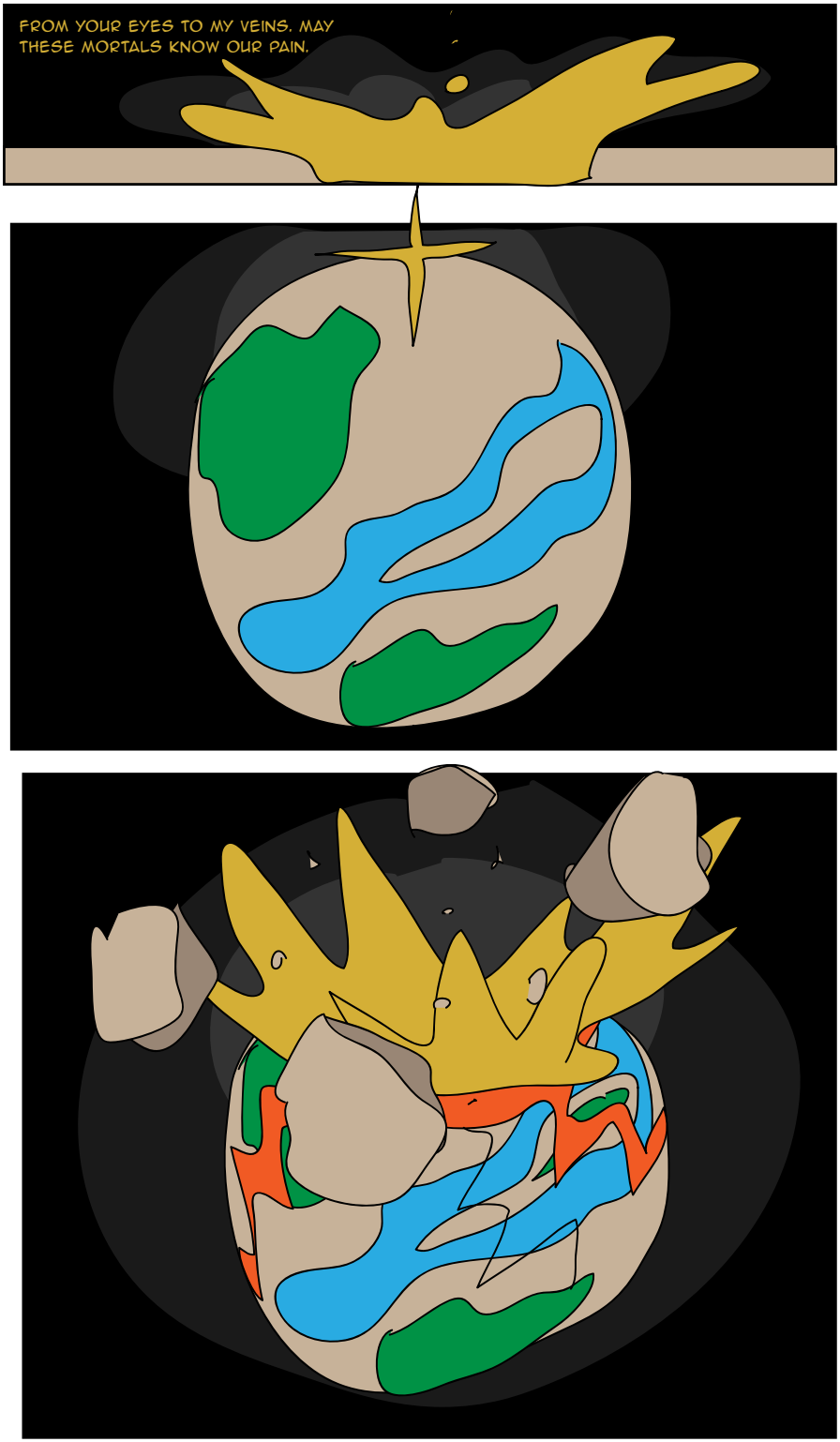

I'M SORRY IT WENT THIS WAY BLASPHEMA... PERHAPS THE NEXT WORLD WILL BE KINDER.
I DON'T EVEN CARE. THOSE MORTALS HAVE NEVER LIKED ME. WHY WOULD I CARE NOW?

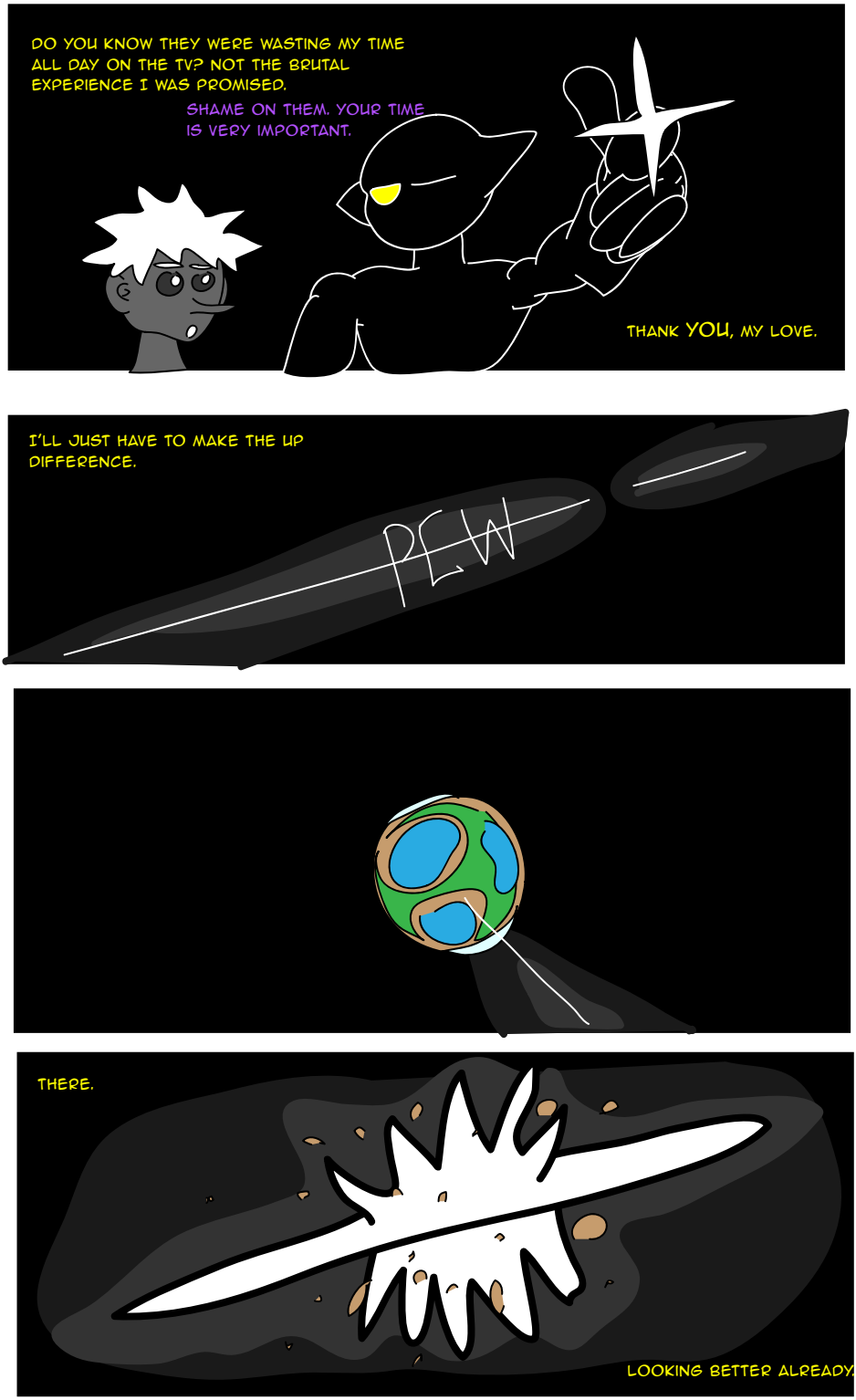

WELL, ITS THEIR LOSS, AS PER USUAL.
OH NO. NO TEARS, MY LOVE. DON'T WASTE THEM ON THAT WHICH HATES YOU.


THE VERY GROUND YOU WALK ON IS IMPROVED WITH EACH STEP YOU TAKE.
OH, STOP IT.


THIS SOIL IS NOT WORTHY OF THE MOISTURE YOU PROVIDE.
SUCK
YOU'RE SO SILLY!


BITE
DO NOT STRIVE TO JOIN THOSE PEOPLE, BLASPHEMA.
DESPITE YOUR SUPERIORITY, THEY DO NOT WANT YOU NEAR.
THERE IS NO POINT IN BEING SOMEWHERE YOU AREN'T WANTED.
SIMPLY CREATE A BETTER PLACE WITHOUT THEM.
WE'LL CREATE BETTER PLACES ALL AROUND CREATION.
AND ON THE DAY OF THE GRAND CONVERGENCE OF DIMENSIONS...
WE'LL CREATE BETTER CREATIONS. EVERYWHERE.
SO SAVE YOUR TEARS.
WE'VE ALREADY WON.


FROM YOUR EYES TO MY VEINS. MAY
THESE MORTALS KNOW OUR PAIN.


DO YOU KNOW THEY WERE WASTING MY TIME ALL DAY ON THE TV? NOT THE BRUTAL EXPERIENCE I WAS PROMISED.
SHAME ON THEM. YOUR TIME IS VERY IMPORTANT.
THANK YOU, MY LOVE.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE UP DIFFERENCE.
PEW
THERE.
LOOKING BETTER ALREADY.


PLEASE, LADIES FIRST. WE'VE GOT A SHOW TO CATCH.
GREAT PERFORMANCE TODAY, TAZA. I'LL BE SURE TO TUNE IN NEXT WEEK.

TAZA

THE FROSTBITE BUTTERFLY

RANK: PRINCESS
ROLE: LEADER/MEDIC
ELEMENT: ICE
CATALYST: FROSTON (TOME)

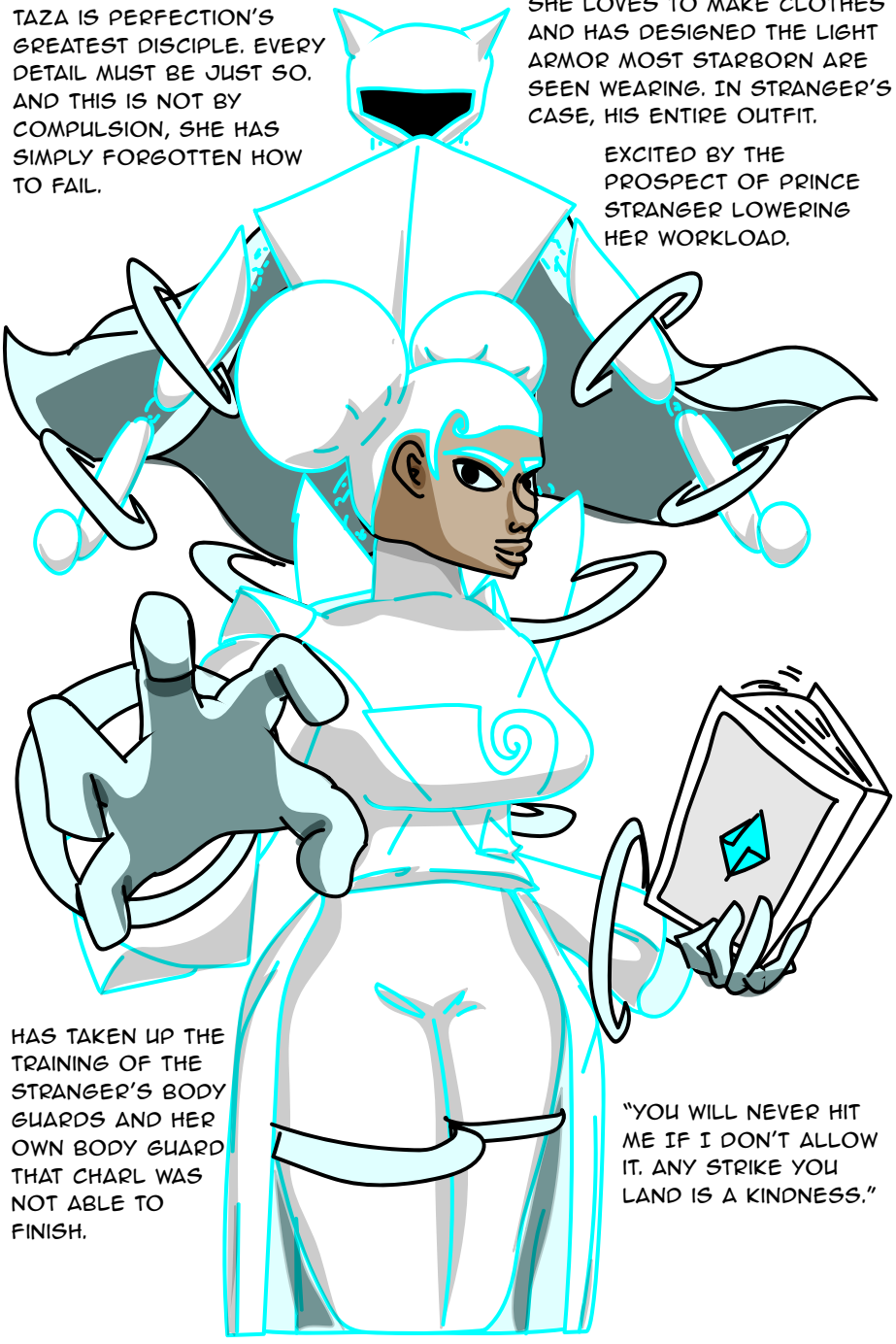
AGE: 27
DATE OF CREATION: DECEMBER 25TH
HEIGHT: 7' 6"

SHE IS LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ROYALS.

PERSONALITY:
TAZA IS PERFECTION'S GREATEST DISCIPLE. EVERY DETAIL MUST BE JUST SO. AND THIS IS NOT BY COMPULSION, SHE HAS SIMPLY FORGOTTEN HOW TO FAIL.

SHE LOVES TO MAKE CLOTHES AND HAS DESIGNED THE LIGHT ARMOR MOST STARBORN ARE SEEN WEARING. IN STRANGER'S CASE, HIS ENTIRE OUTFIT.

EXCITED BY THE PROSPECT OF PRINCE STRANGER LOWERING HER WORKLOAD.



HAS TAKEN UP THE TRAINING OF THE STRANGER'S BODY GUARDS AND HER OWN BODY GUARD THAT CHARL WAS NOT ABLE TO FINISH.

"YOU WILL NEVER HIT ME IF I DON'T ALLOW IT. ANY STRIKE YOU LAND IS A KINDNESS."

ZUNE

RANK: NEWLIGHT
ROLE: ROYAL GUARD
ELEMENT: WATER
CATALYST: YONDI (FALCHION)

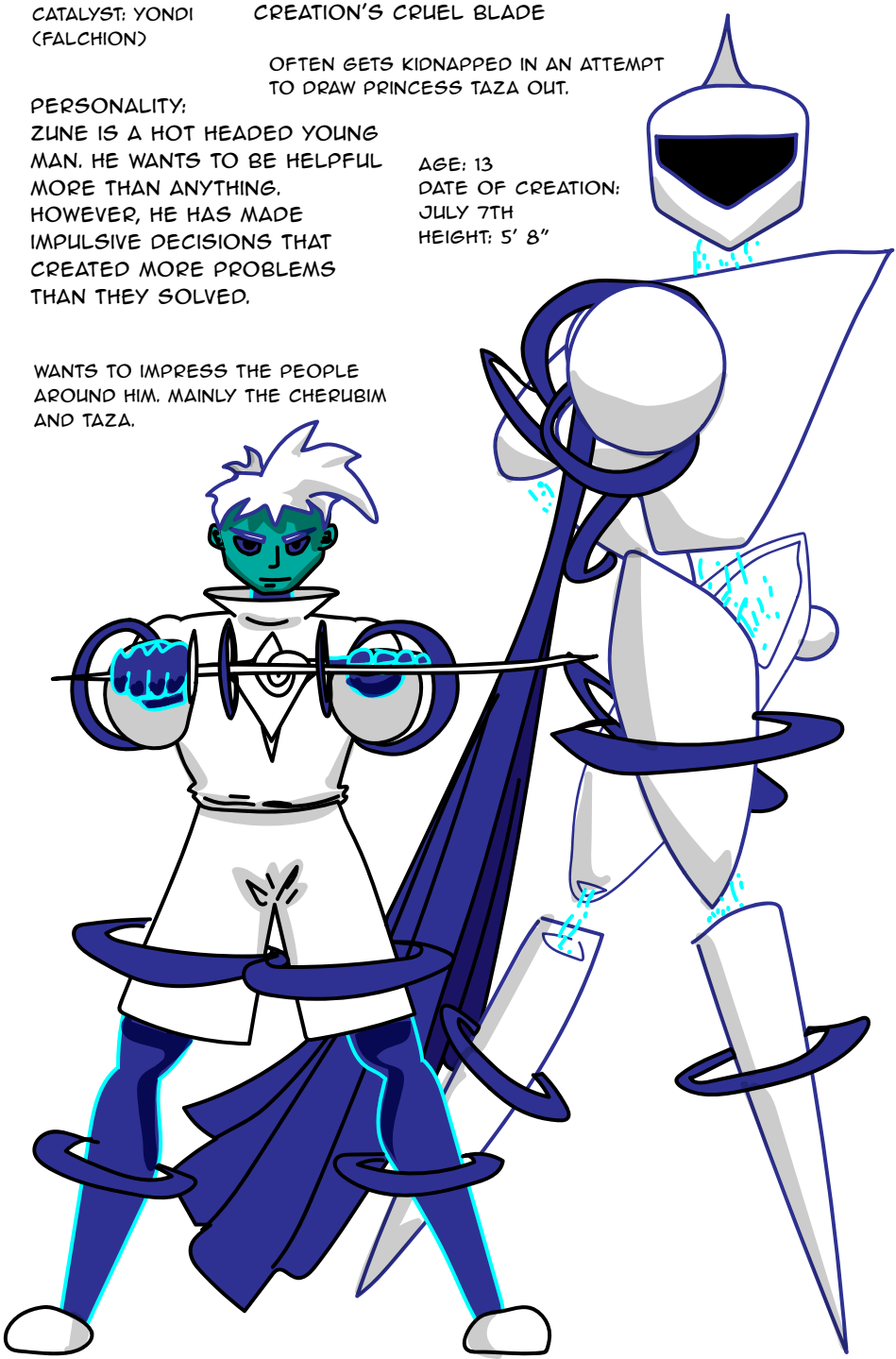
CREATION'S CRUEL BLADE

OFTEN GETS KIDNAPPED IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW PRINCESS TAZA OUT.

PERSONALITY:
ZUNE IS A HOT HEADED YOUNG MAN. HE WANTS TO BE HELPFUL MORE THAN ANYTHING. HOWEVER, HE HAS MADE IMPULSIVE DECISIONS THAT CREATED MORE PROBLEMS THAN THEY SOLVED.

AGE: 13
DATE OF CREATION: JULY 7TH
HEIGHT: 5' 8"

WANTS TO IMPRESS THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM. MAINLY THE CHERUBIM AND TAZA.



ANTZ & OONTZ

RANK: NEWLIGHT
ROLE: ROYAL GUARD
ELEMENT: STARLIGHT
CATALYST: ROD OF UN (ROD)

THE OPPOSITE CHERUBIM

AGE: 12
DATE OF CREATION: JUNE 13TH
HEIGHT: 5' 1"

ANTZ IS THE LEADER OF THE CHERUBIM.

ANTZ IS THE STRONGEST OF HER FOUR SISTERS.

PERSONALITIES: THE CHERUBIM ARE TRAINING TO BE STRANGERS PERSONAL GUARDS. ANTZ AND OONTZ ARE POLAR OPPOSITES. ANTZ IS FOCUSED. OONTZ'S MIND WANDERS. OONTZ PICKS THINGS UP QUICKLY. ANTZ HAS TO WORK AT IT. BUT WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE THEIR MINDS MEET TO DO SPECTACULAR THINGS.

OONTZ IS DEEPLY PROTECTIVE OF HER SISTERS. HOWEVER, SHE LOVES TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THEM.

OONTZ LOVES TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION (DESPITE HAVING TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME INVISIBLE).

"TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY!"

"WHAT DON'T I LOOK MAJESTIC? YOU SHOULD STRIKE A POSE TOO!"

ENTZ & INTZ

THE IDENTICAL CHERUBIM

RANK: NEWLIGHT
ROLE: ROYAL GUARD
ELEMENT: STARLIGHT
CATALYST: ROD OF UN (ROD)

AGE: 12
DATE OF CREATION: JUNE 13TH
HEIGHT: 5' 1"

SOME THINK THEY CAN READ EACH OTHERS MINDS.

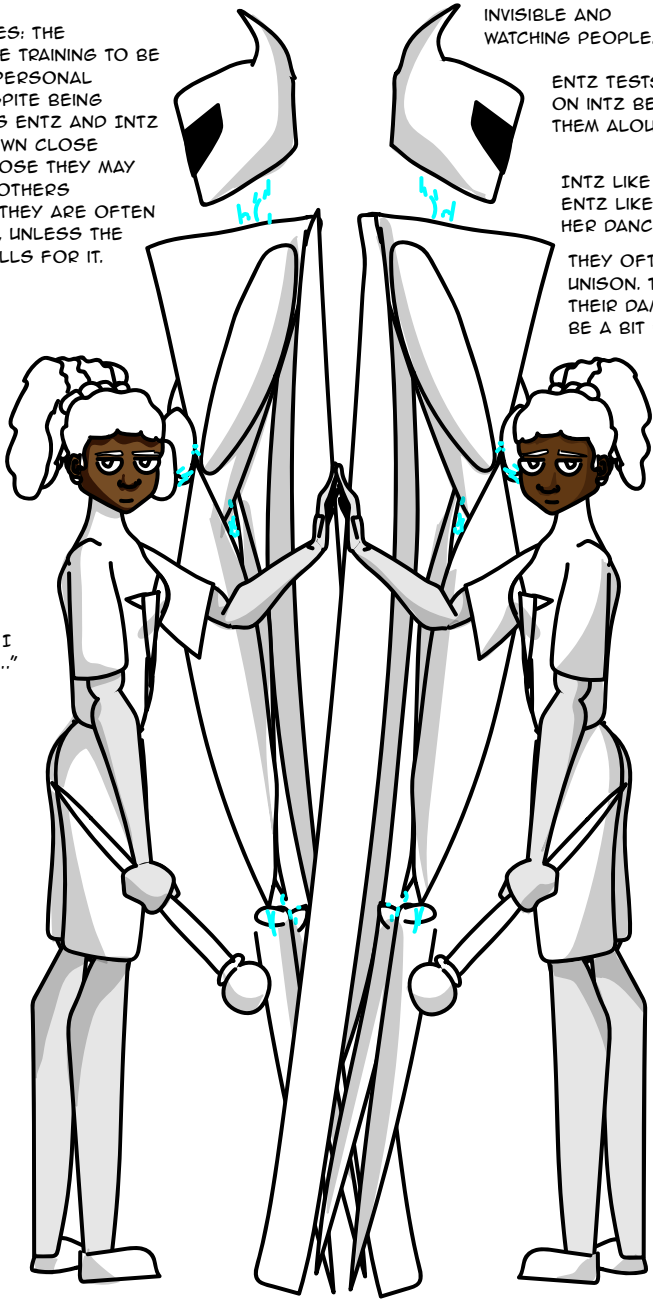
THEY PREFER BEING INVISIBLE AND WATCHING PEOPLE.

PERSONALITIES: THE CHERUBIM ARE TRAINING TO BE STRANGERS PERSONAL GUARDS. DESPITE BEING QUADRUPLETS ENTZ AND INTZ HAVE THEIR OWN CLOSE BOND. SO CLOSE THEY MAY FINISH EACH OTHERS SENTENCES. THEY ARE OFTEN INSEPARABLE, UNLESS THE SITUATION CALLS FOR IT.

ENTZ TESTS HER JOKES ON INTZ BEFORE SAYING THEM ALOUD.

INTZ LIKE DANCING, ENTZ LIKES WATCHING HER DANCE.

THEY OFTEN ATTACK IN UNISON. THIS DOUBLES THEIR DAMAGE, BUT MAY BE A BIT PREDICABLE.



"HOW COULD I KNOW FEAR?..."

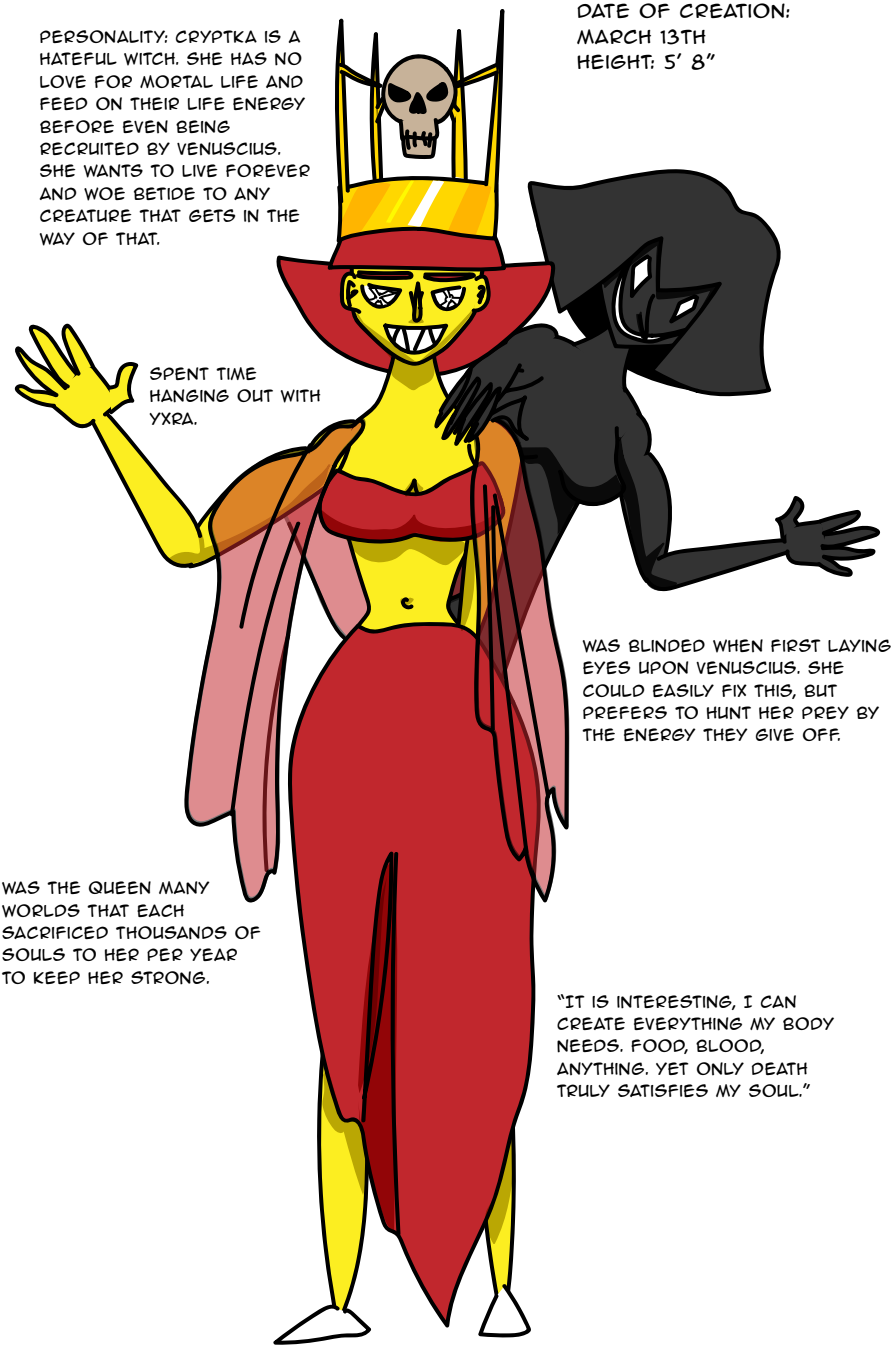
"...MY SISTER IS HERE."

CRYPTKA

THE BLACKHEART

AGE: 10,072
DATE OF CREATION: MARCH 13TH
HEIGHT: 5' 8"

PERSONALITY: CRYPTKA IS A HATEFUL WITCH. SHE HAS NO LOVE FOR MORTAL LIFE AND FEED ON THEIR LIFE ENERGY BEFORE EVEN BEING RECRUITED BY VENUSCIUS. SHE WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER AND WOE BETIDE TO ANY CREATURE THAT GETS IN THE WAY OF THAT.



SPENT TIME HANGING OUT WITH YXRA.

WAS BLINDED WHEN FIRST LAYING EYES UPON VENUSCIUS. SHE COULD EASILY FIX THIS, BUT PREFERS TO HUNT HER PREY BY THE ENERGY THEY GIVE OFF.

WAS THE QUEEN MANY WORLDS THAT EACH SACRIFICED THOUSANDS OF SOULS TO HER PER YEAR TO KEEP HER STRONG.

"IT IS INTERESTING, I CAN CREATE EVERYTHING MY BODY NEEDS. FOOD, BLOOD, ANYTHING. YET ONLY DEATH TRULY SATISFIES MY SOUL."

VENUSCIUS

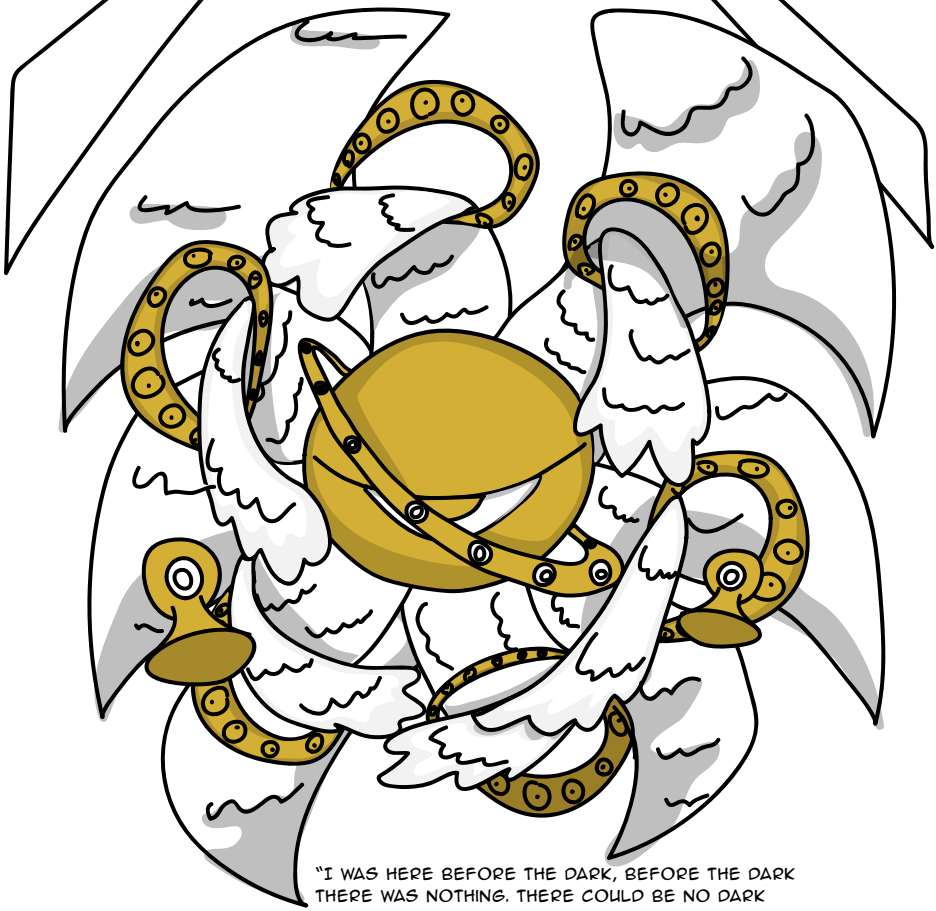
THE FIRST LIGHT

AGE: ???
DATE OF CREATION: ???
HEIGHT: 17'
35'
(AFTER GOLDEN BLOOD TRANSFUSION)

HAS ATTEMPTED TO DIM ALL THE STARS IN CREATION, BUT WAS STOPPPED BY THE GUARDIAN ANGELS.

WILL SPARE SOMEONE JUST FOR BASKING IN HIS RADIACNCE.

PERSONALITY: VENUSCIUS IS A PROUD DEVIL. ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE CREATED, ITS LIGHT IS WHAT PROVIDES THE LIFE AS CREATION'S DENIZENS KNOW IT. THOUGH AS TIME CONTINUED, VENUSCIUS' LIGHT REMAINED IMPORTANT, THE ACTUAL SPOTLIGHT SHIFTED FROM VENUSCIUS TO THE TRINITY'S OTHER CREATIONS.



"I WAS HERE BEFORE THE DARK, BEFORE THE DARK THERE WAS NOTHING. THERE COULD BE NO DARK WITHOUT MY RADIANCE. I PIERCED THROUGH THE NOTHING. I WAS THE FIRST SOMETHING THAT EVER WAS."