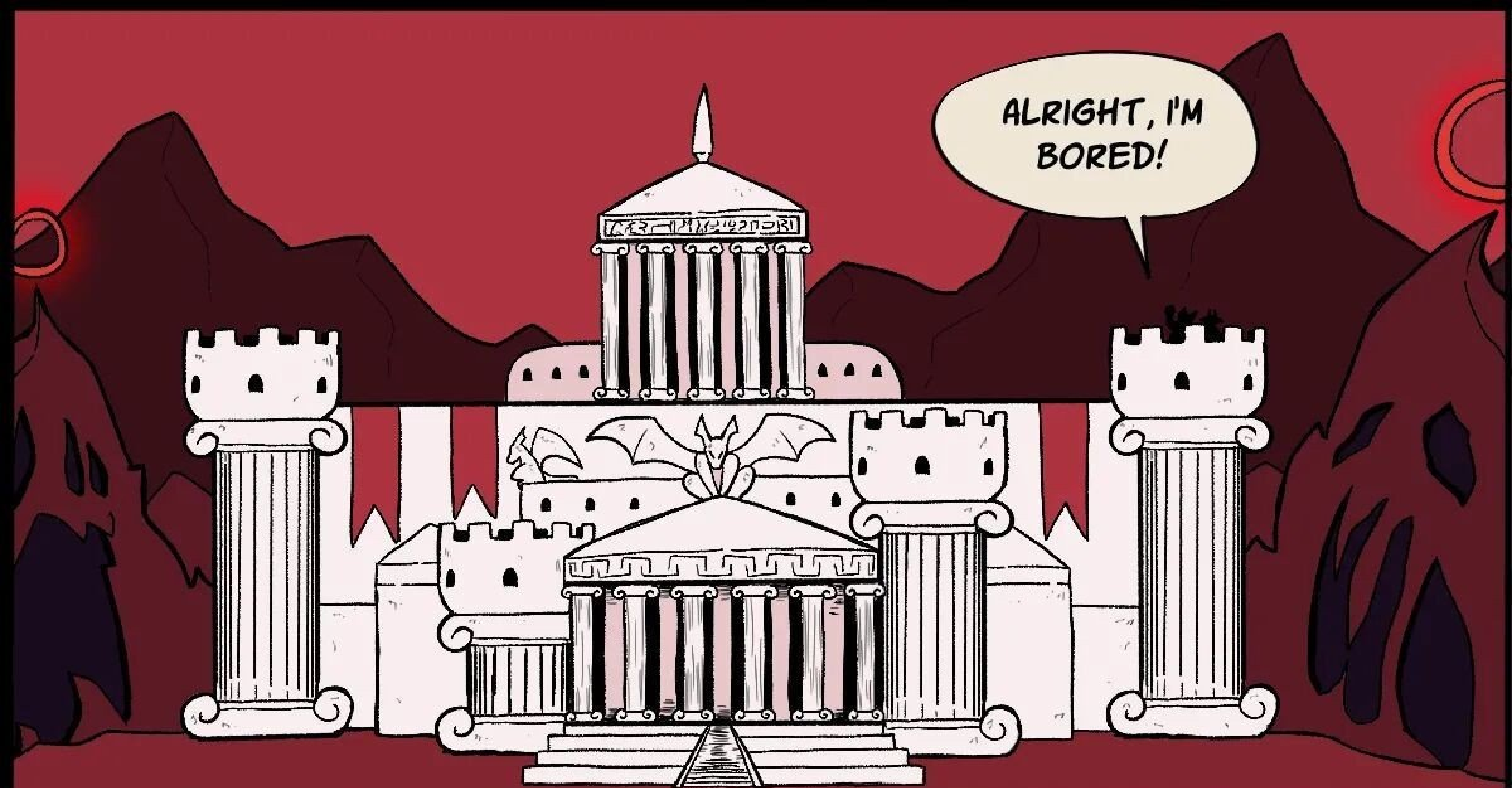






ALRIGHT, I'M BORED!



EVELAN! IT'S TIME WE FINALLY TAKE ACTION!

ACTION, MY LORD?



WE DEMONS SHOULD BE SPREADING FEAR AND CHAOS TO THE MORTAL PLANES, AS WE DID IN THE AGE OF WAR!

SHAYTAN HAD NO RIGHT TO TAKE AWAY OUR ABILITY TO TRAVEL!

WHAM



BEFORE YOU DO ANY MORE DAMAGE TO THE MASONRY...

THERE... MIGHT BE SOMETHING WE CAN TRY.

I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.

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SO! I JUST GOTTA GET A MORTAL
TO COME BACK TO HELL WITH ME
SO I CAN HAVE A CHANCE AT
PUMMELING SHAYTAN.

I WONDER WHAT MANNER
OF GREEDY OLD ARCANIST
OR POMPOUS NOBLE WILL
FIND MY BOOK NEXT?

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NOT ENOUGH REPUTATION?
NOT ENOUGH REPUTATION?!

FUCKING GUILD
PRICKS—

I'M VAURUK
THE FORMIDABLE!

I'M AN
OGRE-SLAYER!
A HERO OF
APHERREIN!

I'M A KALVAD
WARRIOR BAT!

I'VE GOT
BOUNTIES!

I'VE—
I'VE GOT
TITLES!

I'VE GOT...





SIX YEARS...



Strong?
Skilled?
Join the
HERO
GU

AND FOR
WHAT?



HRAAAAGH!!



IT'S NOT
FAIR!

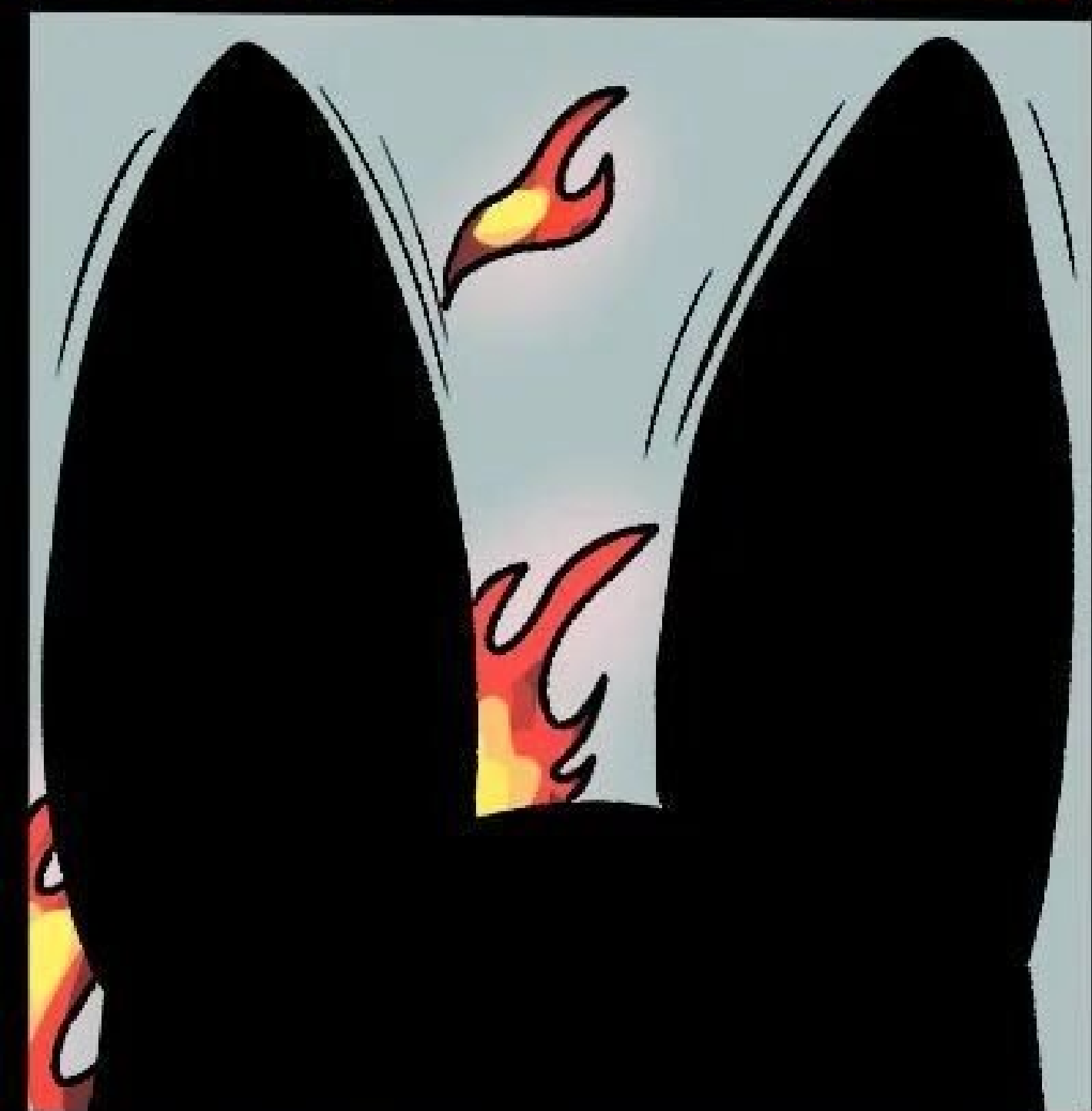


I'M GONNA
SHOW THOSE
BASTARDS.



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LET US DO BATTLE.

IF YOU CAN
STRIKE ME
ONCE, I SHALL
TEACH YOU ALL
A DEMON KNOWS
IN THE ART OF
COMBAT.



WELL THAT'S
MORE LIKE IT!

THIS TIME I
WON'T JUST HIT
YOU--I'LL KNOCK
YOUR CHUMP
ASS OUT!

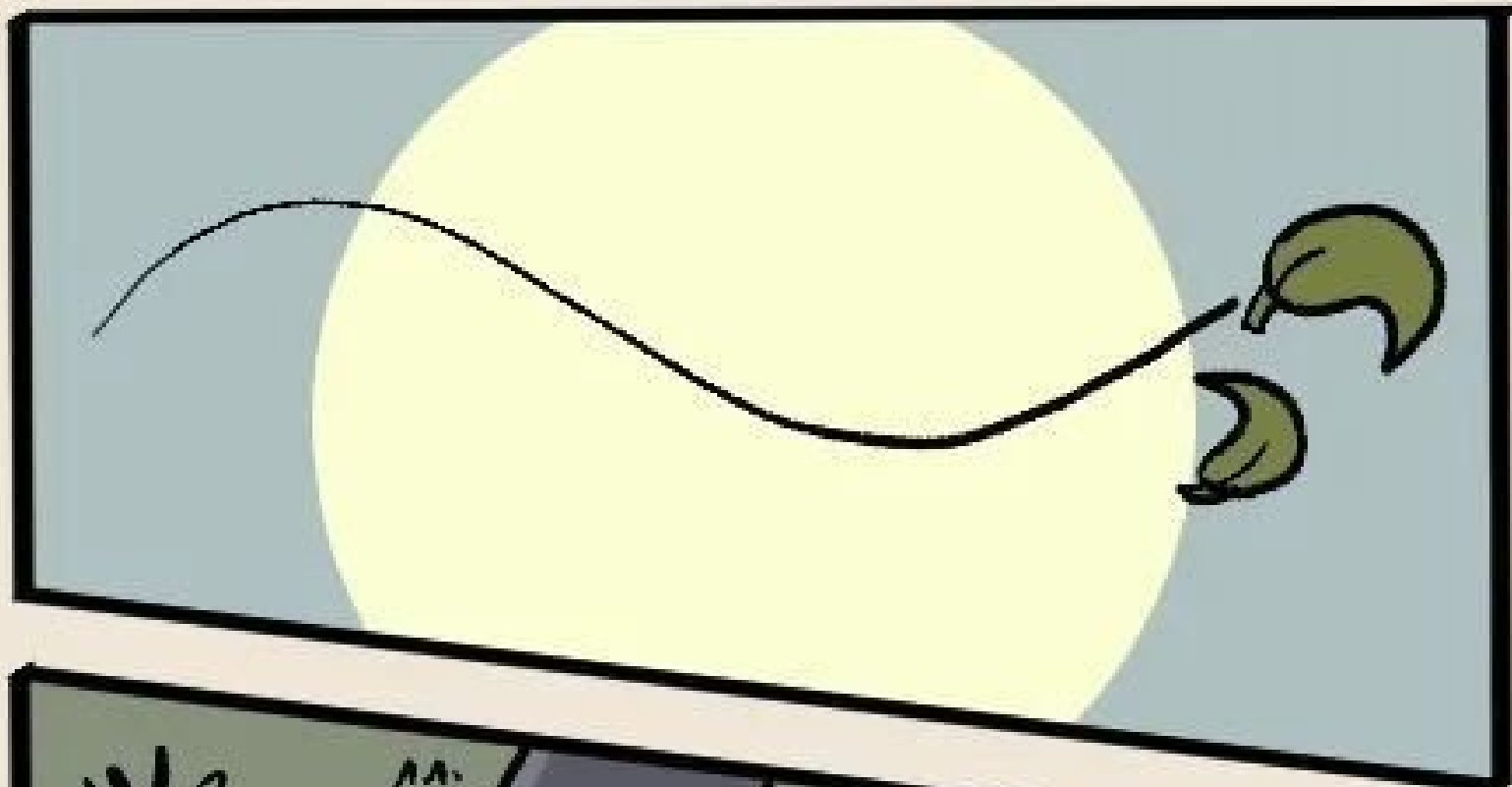
Smack!



THIS'LL BE A PIECE
OF CAKE. I'M FASTER,
SO I'LL JUST
WEAR HIM OUT!

ONE.

HIT.

















SHIT...
HE'S THE
REAL DEAL...

HAW HAW! YES, LET'S
SAY YOU FAIL TO HIT ME.

I THINK I'LL TAKE
SOMETHING FROM YOU
AS A TROPHY.

YOUR TAIL,
PERHAPS?



OR MAYBE
I'LL JUST
TEAR
THOSE
PRETTY
WINGS
OFF!



OR WHAT IF I...





"AIN'T SCARED,"
YOU SAY?

HHRG...
THIS IS BAD...

KRRK!



BUT... I'M NOT DONE.
NO WAY.

JUST NEED A PLAN...



HE'S COUNTERING
ALL MY ATTACKS
LIKE THEY'RE
NOTHING.



SO
MAYBE...



THERE!



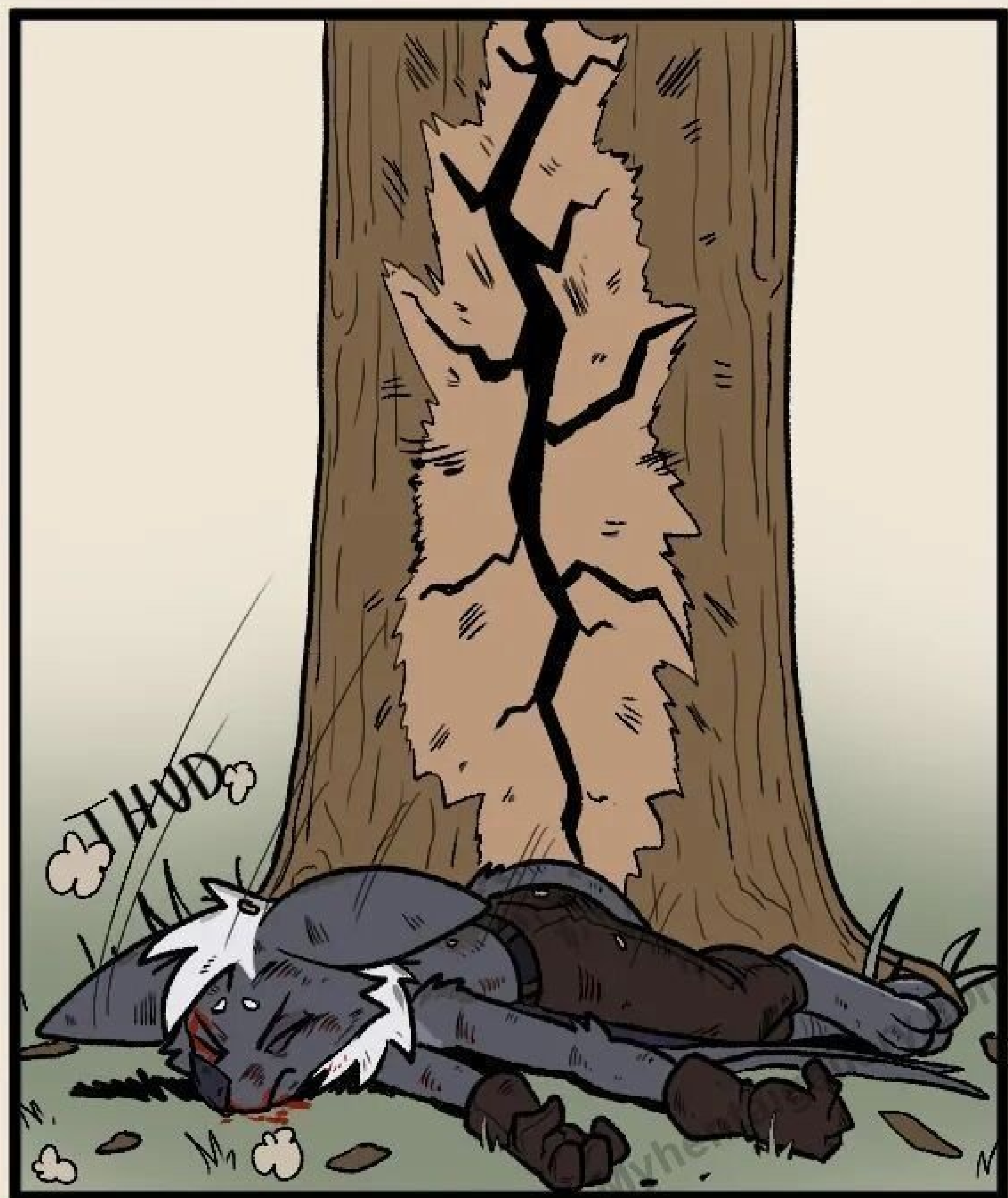
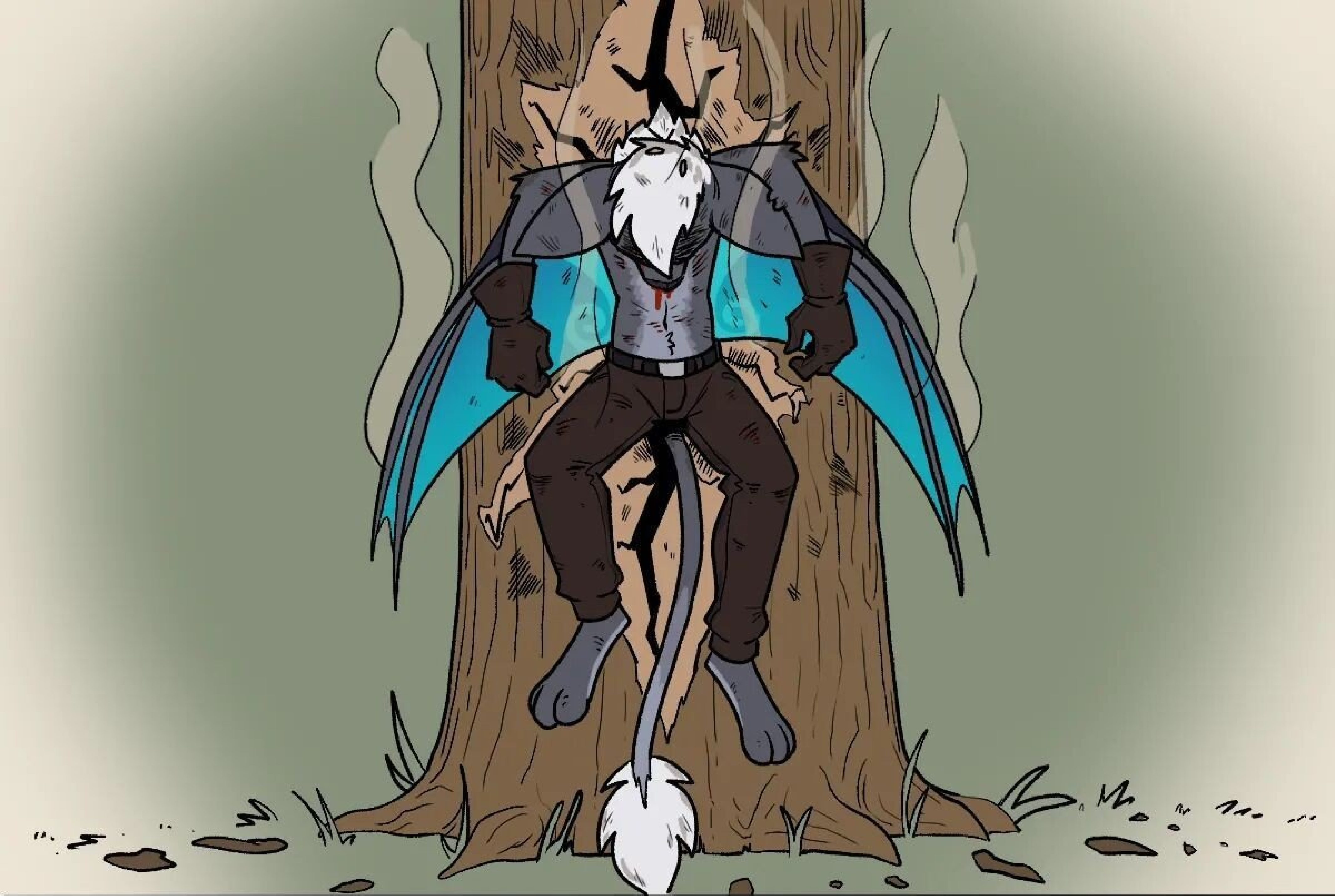
LET'S BE
DONE WITH
THIS FARCE.

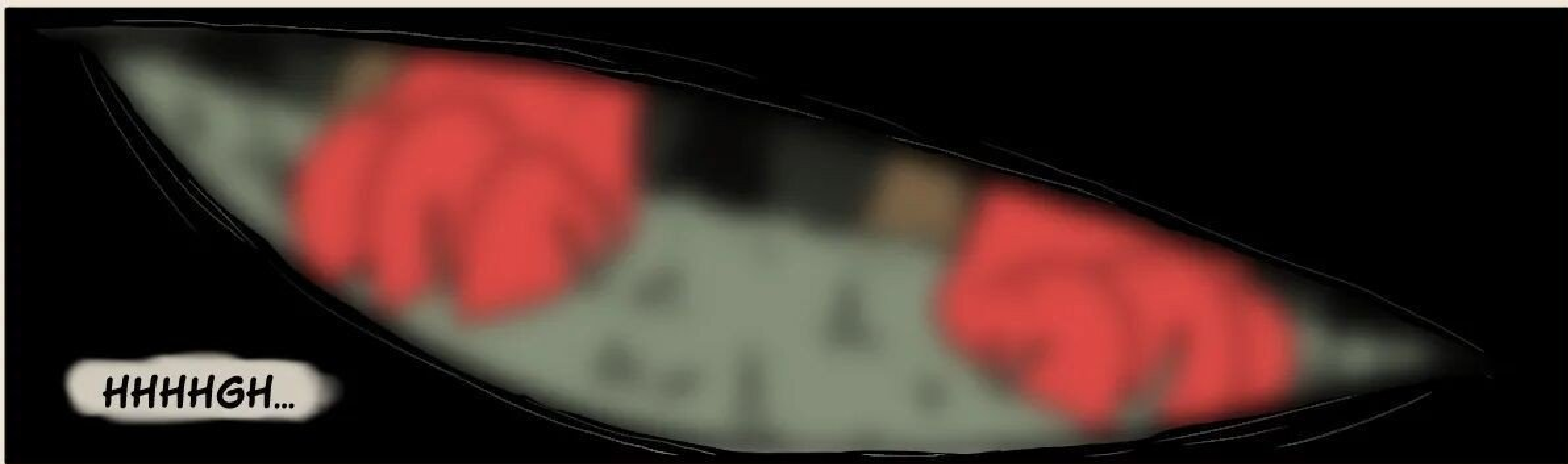












HHHHGH...



GET UP...

COME ON...



IT CAN'T END
LIKE THIS...

NOT AGAIN...

PLEASE...

GET UP,
YOU USELESS
PIECE OF--



--MMPH!



STAY.

DOWN.

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IT'S ABOUT TIME
YOU BOWED TO ME.

SINCE YOU PRESUME TO COMMAND
ME LIKE A DOG, YOU MUST HAVE NO
IDEA WHO YOU'VE SUMMONED.

LET ME ENLIGHTEN YOU.

I AM DOVAK, CHAMPION OF
HELL'S COLISEUM. YOUR HISTORY
WHISPERS OF THE ARMIES
I'VE SLAUGHTERED; THE LANDS
I'VE CONQUERED.

I AM THE THRILL
OF THE CONTEST.

I AM
DOMINATION.

I AM.

WAR.



SO TELL ME...

WHY WOULD I WASTE
MY VALUABLE TIME ON A
WHELP LIKE YOU?

LOOK AT YOU!



HAS THIS WORLD
TRULY GROWN SO
PATHETIC...

...THAT THIS IS
WHAT PASSES FOR
A WARRIOR?

YOU'RE WORTH
NO MORE THAN
THE DIRT YOU
WALLOW IN.



N... NO...



NO!

I AM!
I'M A WARRIOR!
I'LL-



GRIP

ULK!

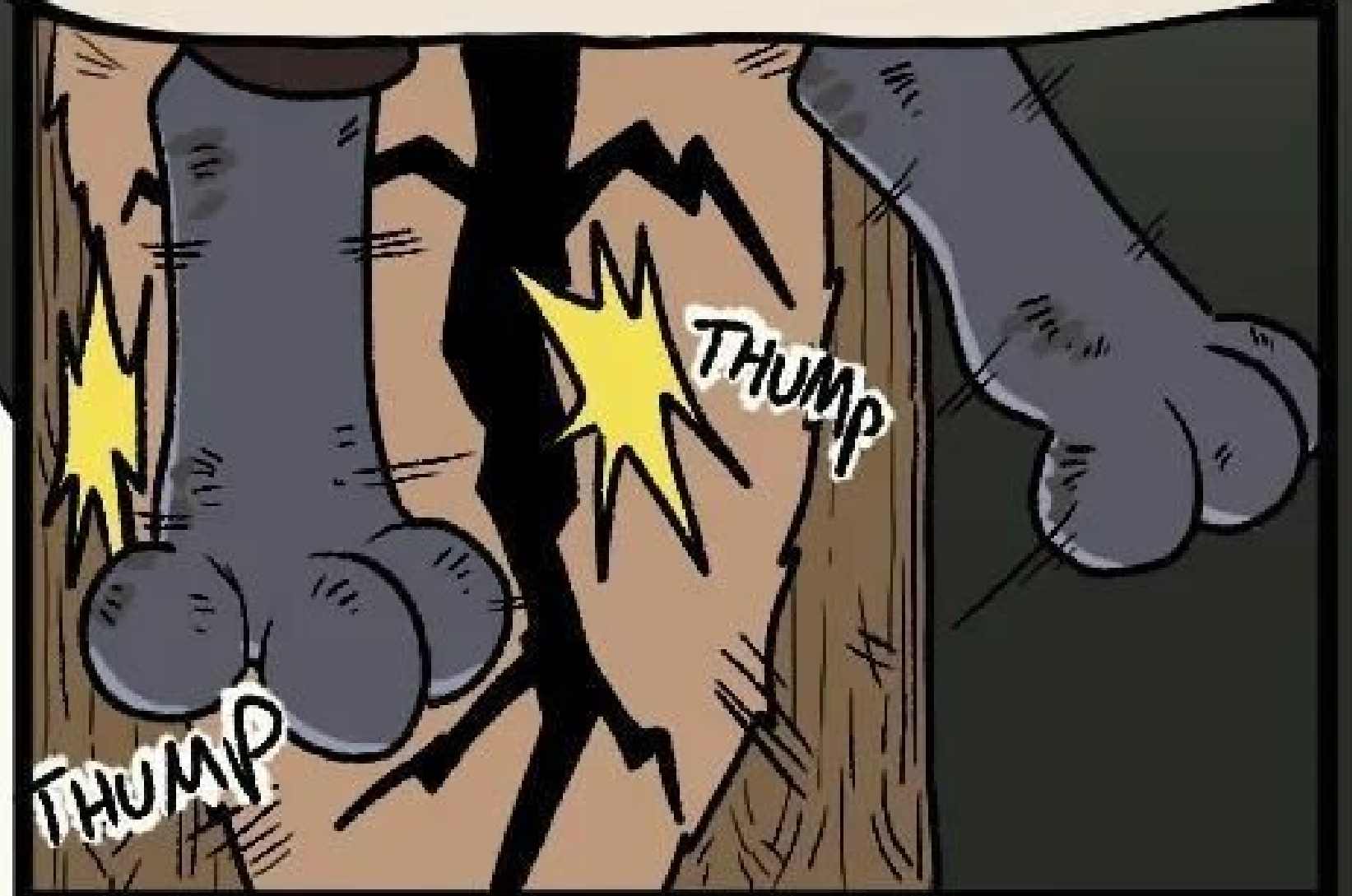


SLAM



AH, YES...

YOU WANTED TO BE A LEGEND,
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?



THUMP

THUMP

TO BE REMEMBERED?

I'LL GRANT YOU
YOUR WISH, MORTAL.

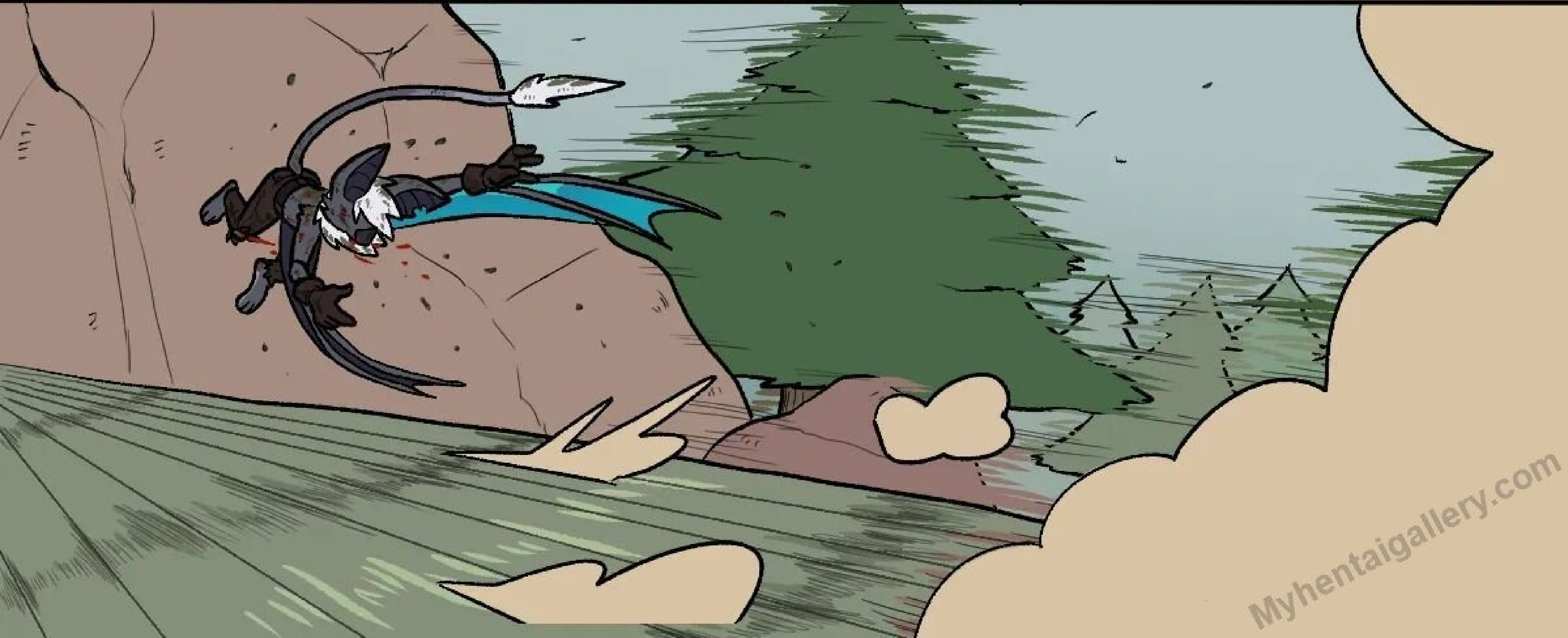
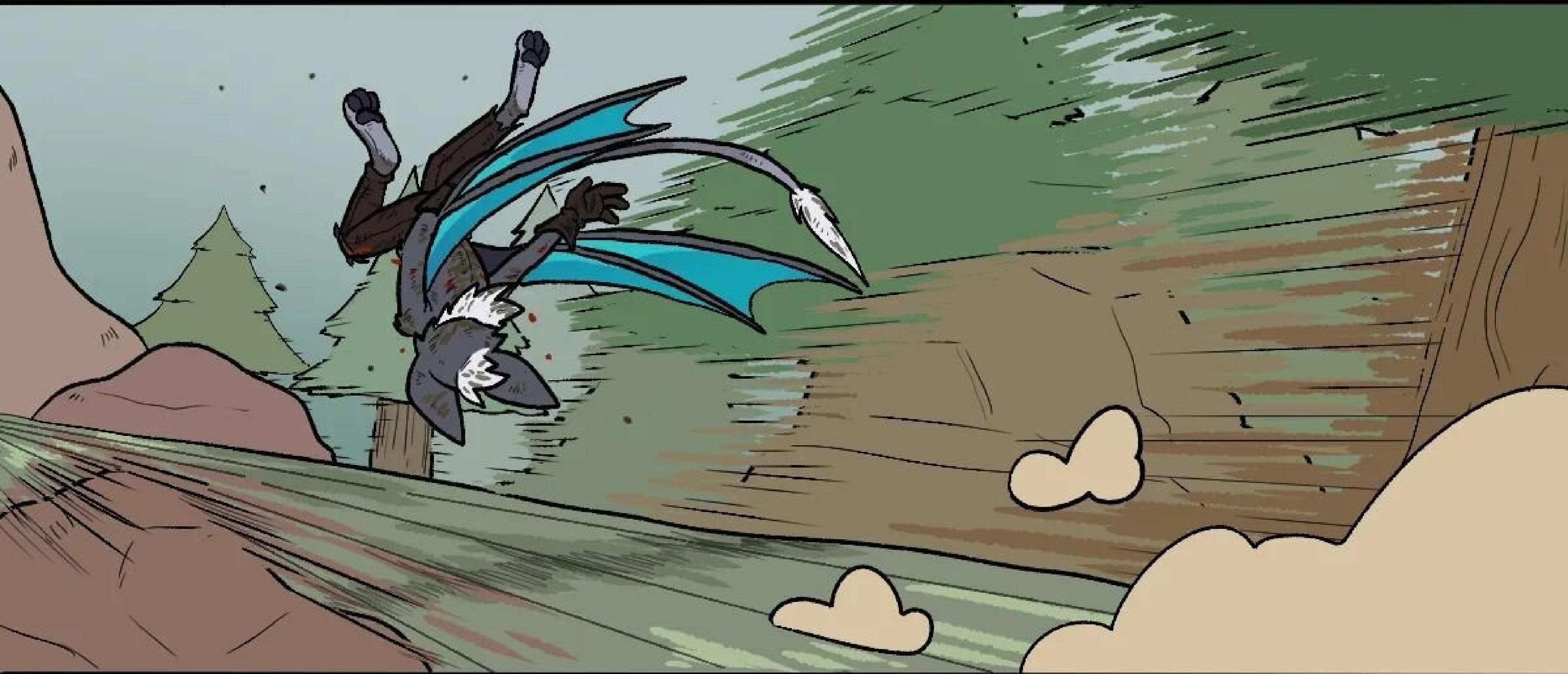
YOU WILL BE
REMEMBERED—



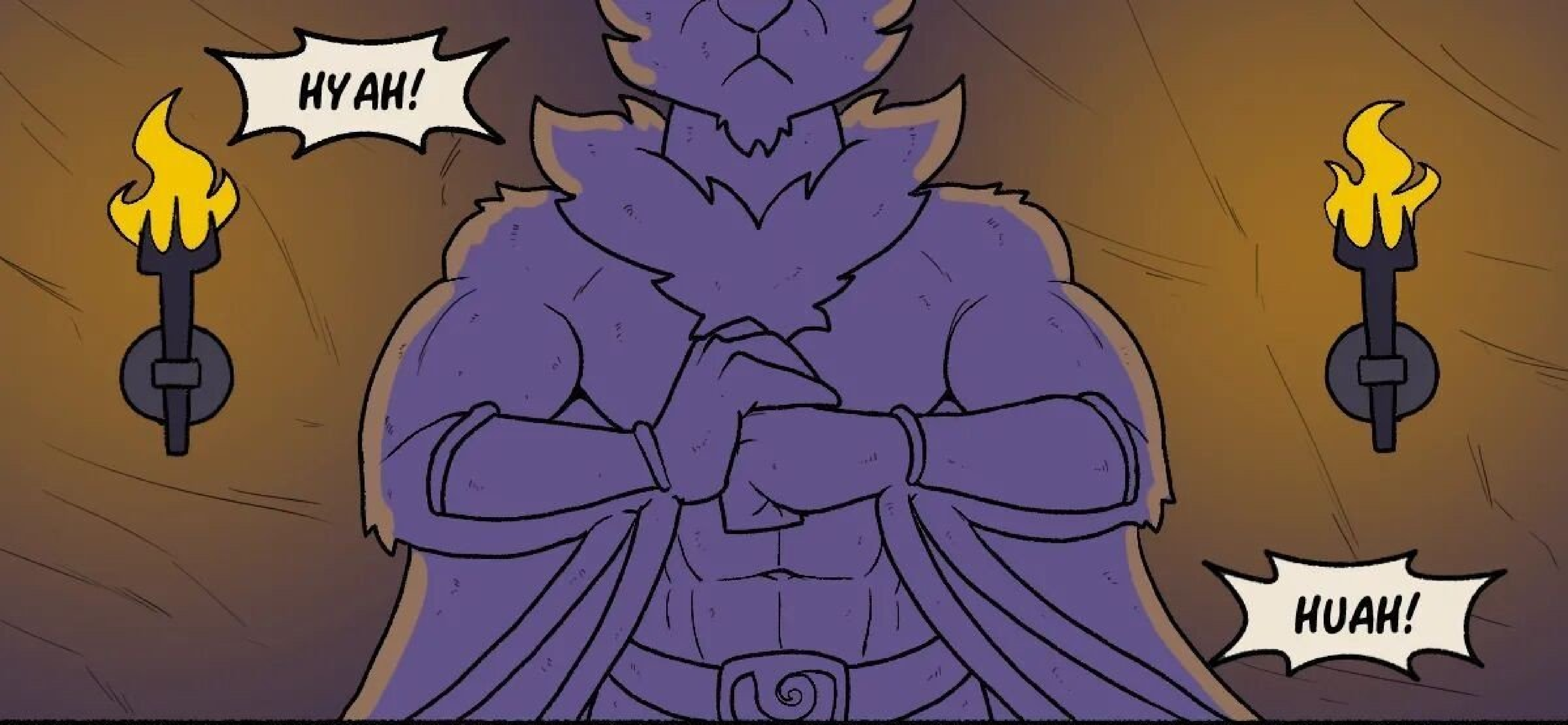
AS THE GREEDY LITTLE BAT
WITH A GREEDY LITTLE WISH
WHO TRIFLED WITH POWER
FAR BEYOND HIS RECKONING.













AH!
A LITTLE MORE WEIGHT
ON THE BACK FOOT.
THAT'S IT.











ANYWAY...

LET'S CLEAN UP
THIS MESS.

GAH!

THESE AREN'T
FOR WEAKLINGS.

GIVE... GIVE THAT BA--

PIPE DOWN,
PIPSQUEAK!

BWGH!

THUNK

SINCE YOU
WANTED TO
BE IN THE
ARMORY SO
BAD....

I'LL BE A NICE
GUY AND HELP
YOU OUT.



THERE!

ENJOY
YOUR
STAY!



THUNK



ARE YOU DONE,
FEN?

MASTER TORRIX
IS EXPECTING US.



DID YOU SEE
THAT RIGHT
HOOK?

I TOTALLY FLOORED
THAT SUCKER, HAHA!

VAU...
I'M SORRY, VAU.

BUT...



THIS IS JUST HOW IT IS.
YOU'RE NOT MADE FOR THIS.



YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH,
AND YOU NEVER WILL BE.

PLEASE, FOR YOUR OWN
GOOD, ACCEPT THAT.





HE'S...

...STILL HERE.



SMUG BASTARD THINKS...

...HE CAN PUSH ME AROUND?

SLAM

LECTURE ME?

SLIDE

GRIP

NO.

P-
T-
O-
O



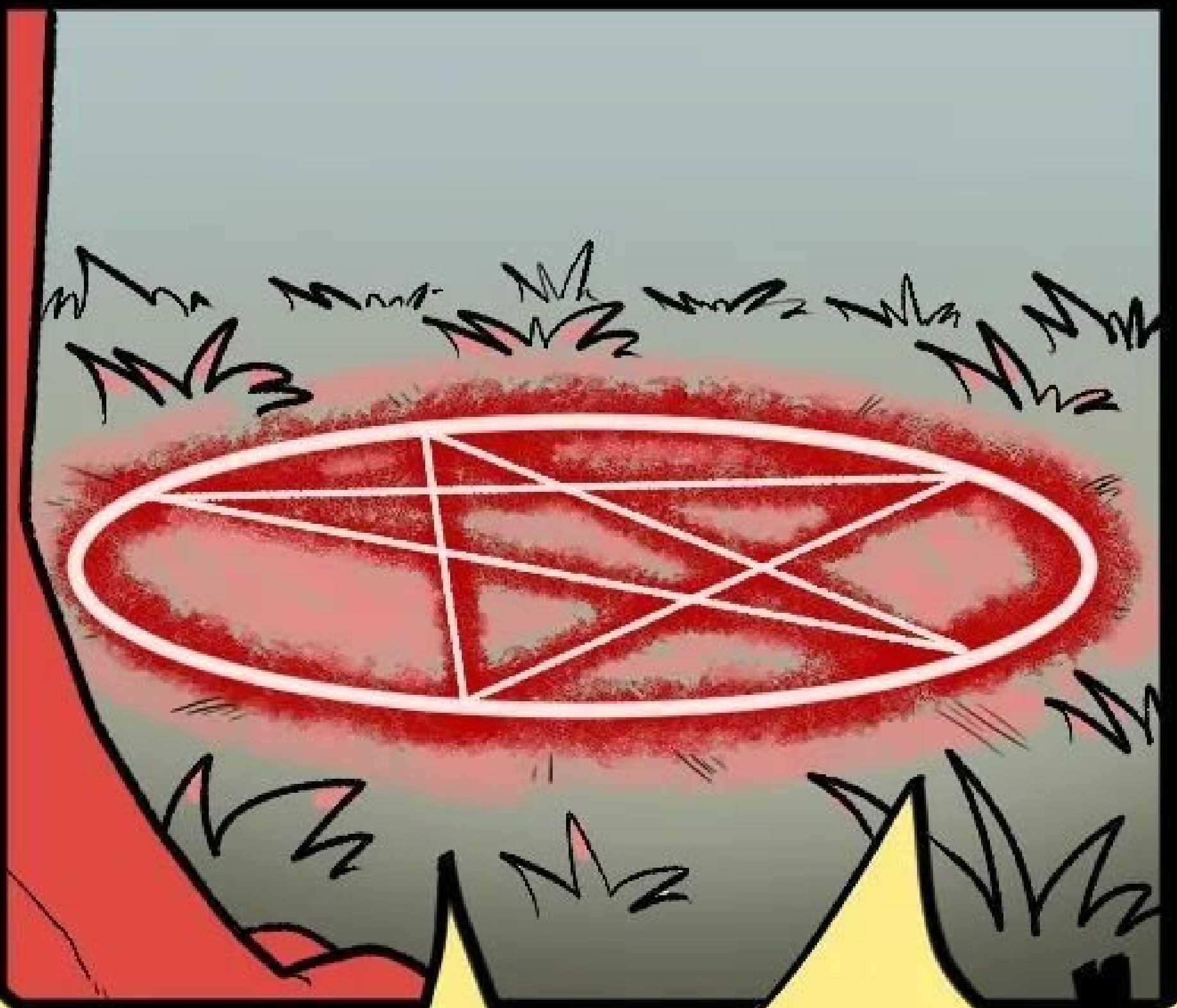
**I'M DONE
LOSING.**





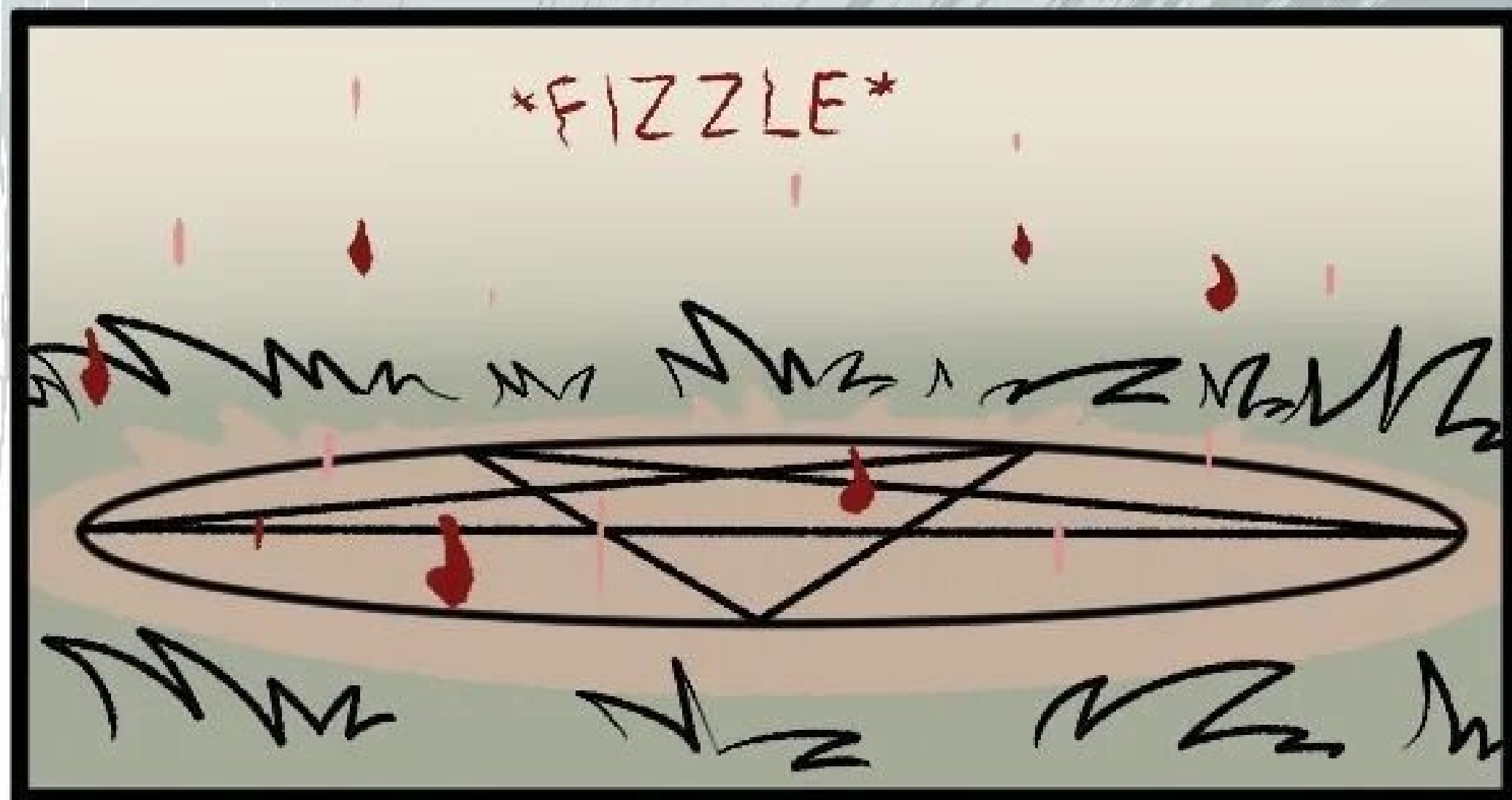


RISE, EVELAN!
I HAVE FOUND--



DONAK!





FOOL!

FWAP

YOU'D
SQUANDER
YOUR SURPRISE
JUST TO--











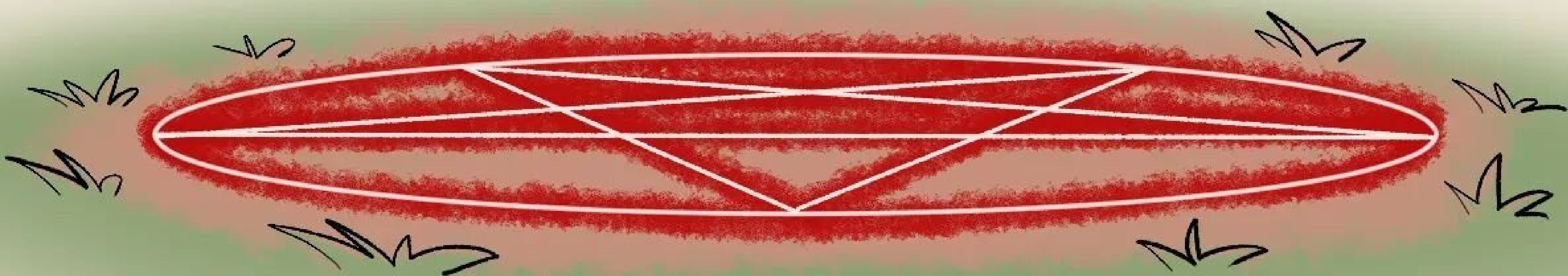














MY LORD.



I JEST NOT, EVELAN.
THIS BROKEN BAT HAS
PASSED MY TEST.
HE IS THE PERFECT
CANDIDATE!



SURELY YOU JEST,
MY LORD.

THIS?



NOT TO
CAST DOUBT
ON YOUR
JUDGEMENT...



...BUT HAVE
YOU MADE THIS
DECISION WITH
YOUR HEAD,
OR PERHAPS
SOME OTHER
APPENDAGE?





AND HALF DEAD BY
THE LOOKS OF IT.

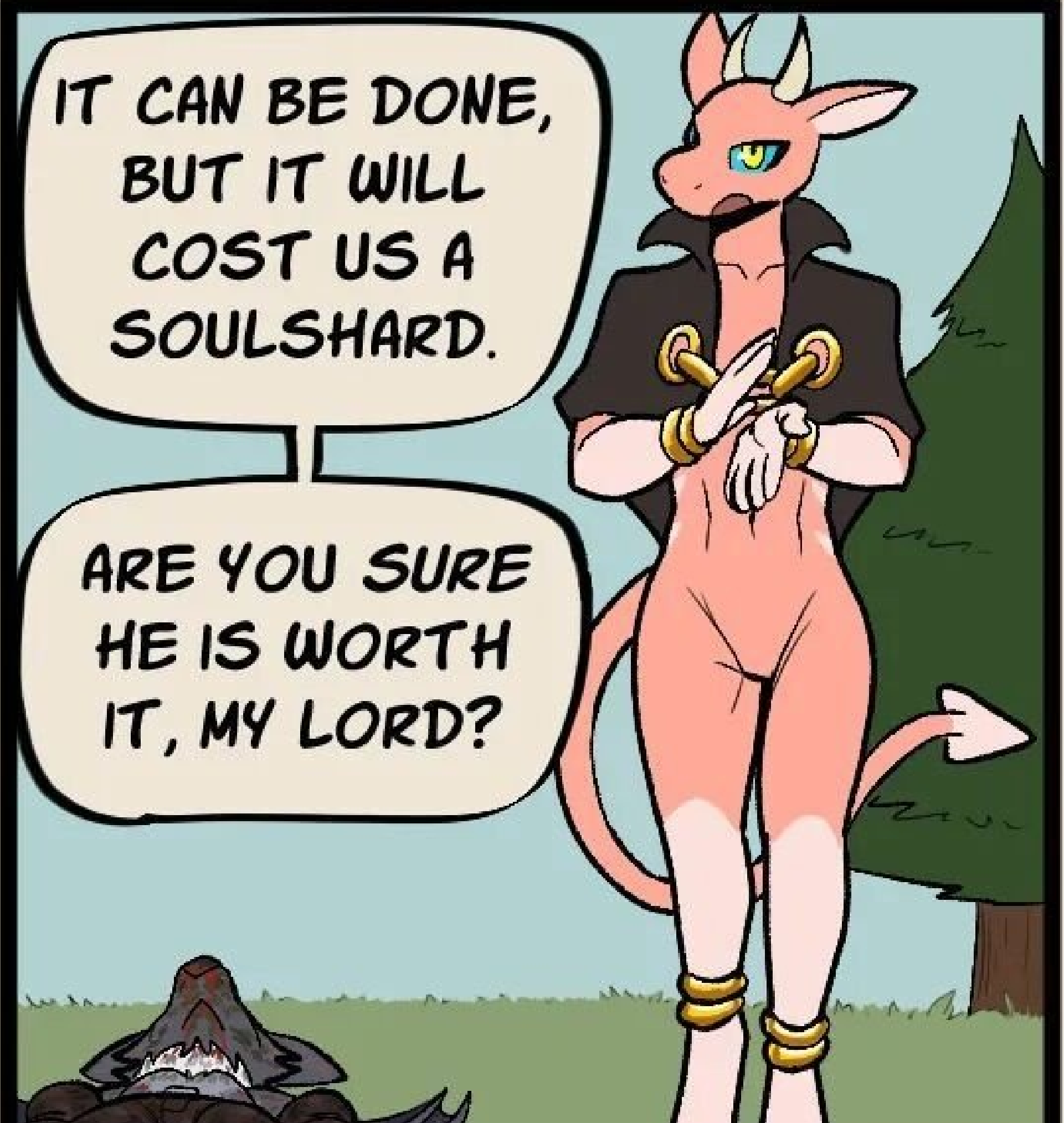
CONCUSSION,
BROKEN RIBS,
INTERNAL
BLEEDING...

WITHOUT
TREATMENT,
HE MAY SUCCUMB
TO HIS INJURIES
BEFORE LONG.



PERHAPS I HAD
A LITTLE MORE
FUN THAN WAS
NECESSARY.

YOU CAN
HEAL HIM,
THOUGH,
RIGHT?



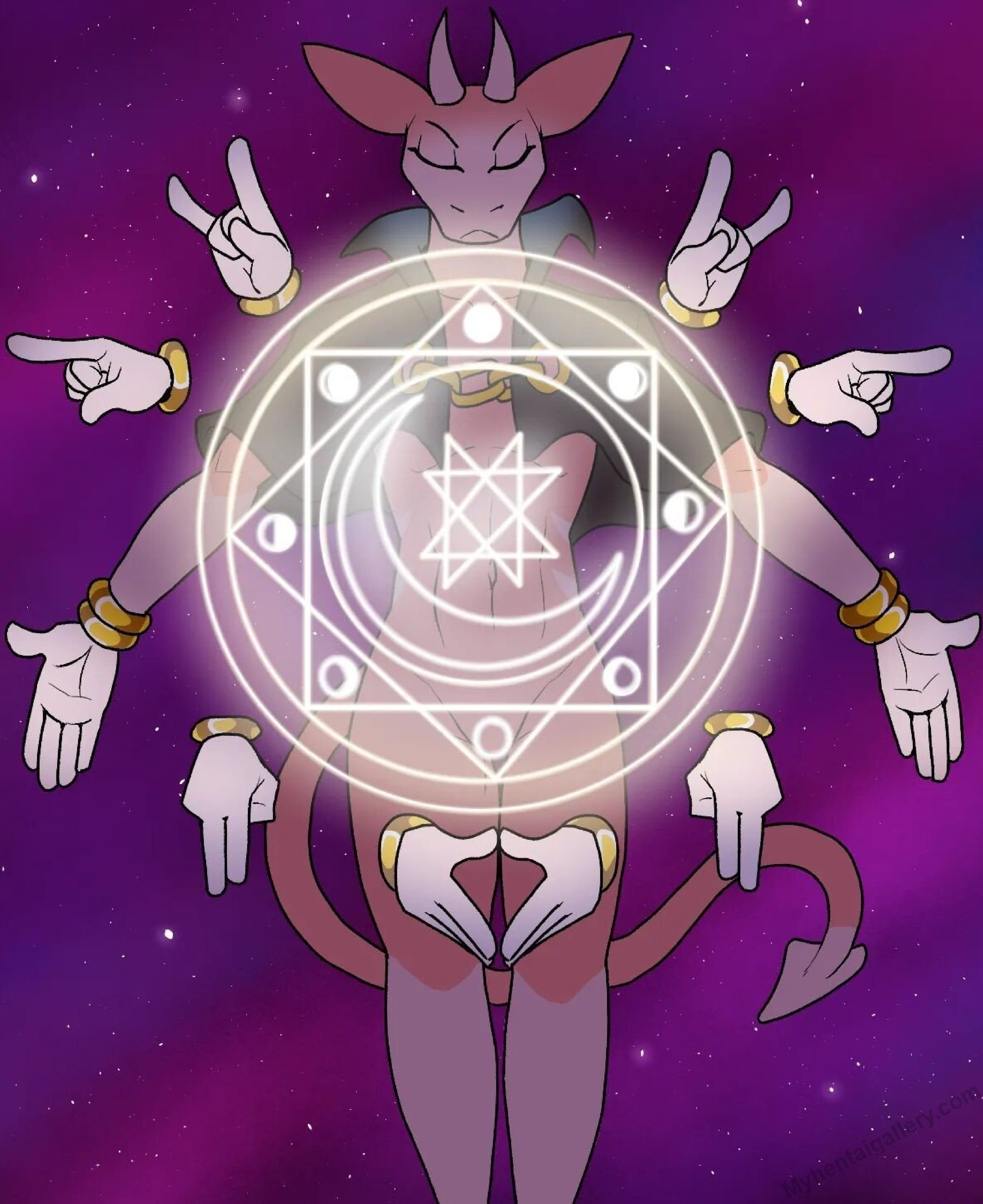
IT CAN BE DONE,
BUT IT WILL
COST US A
SOULSHARD.

ARE YOU SURE
HE IS WORTH
IT, MY LORD?



DO IT.









...IT IS DONE.

HE WILL
WAKE BEFORE
LONG, WITH THE
CUSTOMARY HUNGER
AND FATIGUE.

GOOD!

NO TIME TO WASTE, THEN.
RETURN TO HELL AND MAKE
PREPARATIONS.

OUR NEW CHAMPION
MUST BE WELCOMED!



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YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL CHOOSE TO COME WITH YOU?

AFTER YOU BEAT HIM TO DEATH'S DOOR?



HM!



LOOK AT THESE PARCHMENTS, EVELAN.

CRUMPLED DREAMS, AMONG WHICH HE ALONE CHALLENGED A DEMON OF WAR TO BATTLE. I MAY HAVE BEAT HIM TO DEATH'S DOOR, BUT HE WAS READY TO MEET ME THERE.

DO YOU THINK SOMEONE LIKE THAT WOULD TURN BACK NOW?









HAW HAW HAW!

BE AT EASE.
STOW YOUR FISTS.



YOU WON.



I...



...WON?







YOU'RE
SOMETHING SPECIAL,
AREN'T YOU?



YOU BET!

US KALVAD
BATS ARE
TOUGH!

AND I'M THE
TOUGHEST!



AND NOW THAT
I WON, YOU'RE GONNA
TEACH ME!

I WANNA KNOW HOW
YOU MOVED LIKE THAT.

HOW TO PUNCH
SOMEONE THROUGH
A TREE.

I WANT YOU
TO MAKE ME
UNSTOPPABLE!



ON MY HONOR
AS LORD OF
MY REALM--

I SHALL
UPHOLD OUR
BARGAIN AND
BECOME YOUR
TEACHER.



RETURN TO
HELL WITH ME,
AND YOUR TRAINING
SHALL BEGIN
AT ONCE.



IT WILL BE GRUELING.
HARDER THAN ANYTHING
YOU'VE EVER KNOWN.

BUT WHEN YOU RETURN...





HAW HAW HAW!
EXCELLENT!

THEN HENCEFORTH,
YOU SHALL BE MY PUPIL--

--A STUDENT IN
THE NOBLE ART OF
WAR, AND CHAMPION
OF DOVAK!



THE NAME'S
VAURUK.

WHEN DO
WE START?



HAW!

WELL, VAURUK,
I NEED ONLY OPEN
ANOTHER PORTAL.

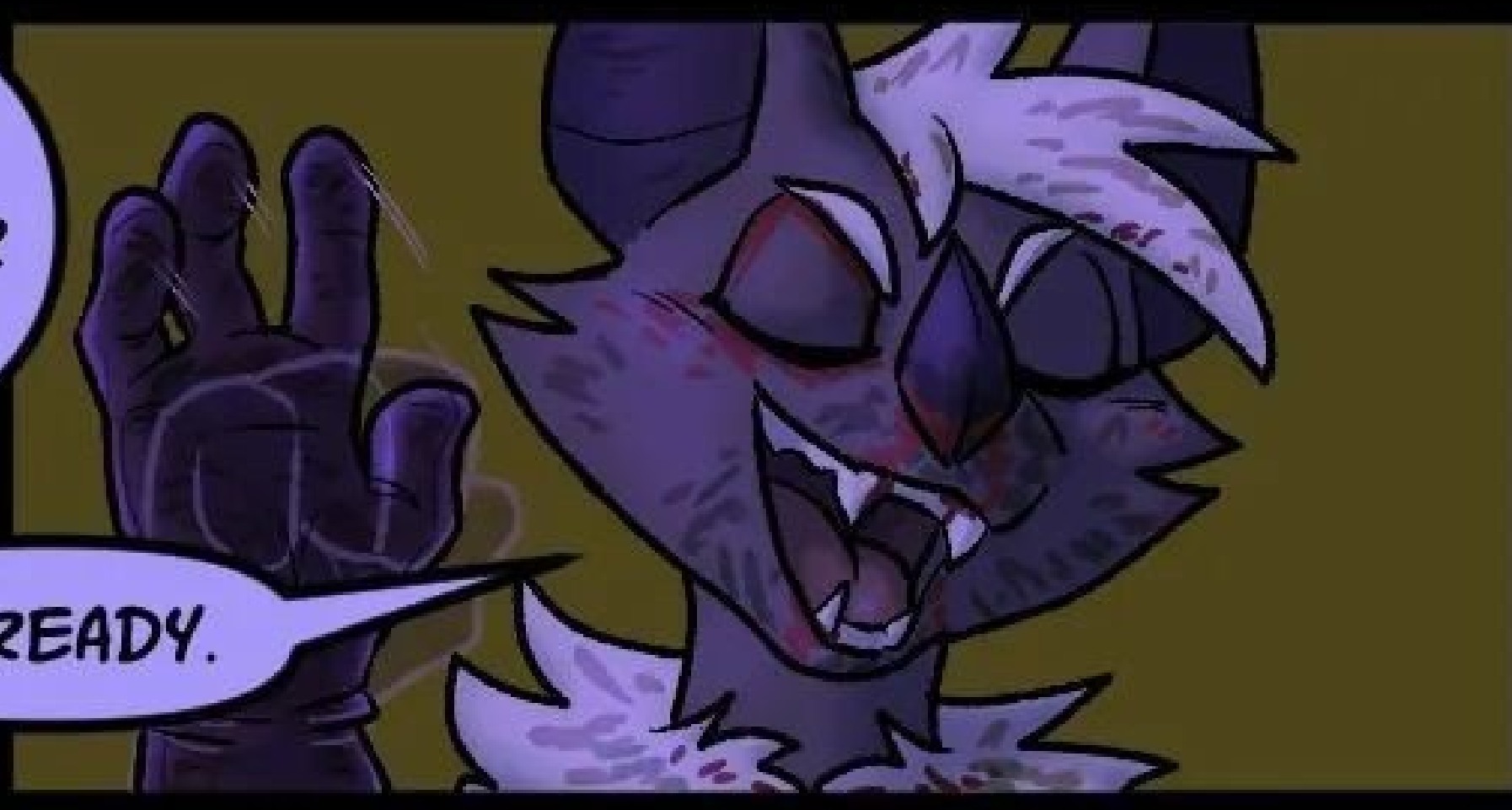
I COULD TAKE US
THERE RIGHT NOW.



THOUGH
WE COULD
DELAY...

YOU MUST WANT
TO REST, PACK YOUR
BELONGINGS; SAY YOUR
TEARFUL GOODBYES
TO--

NAH!



I'M READY.



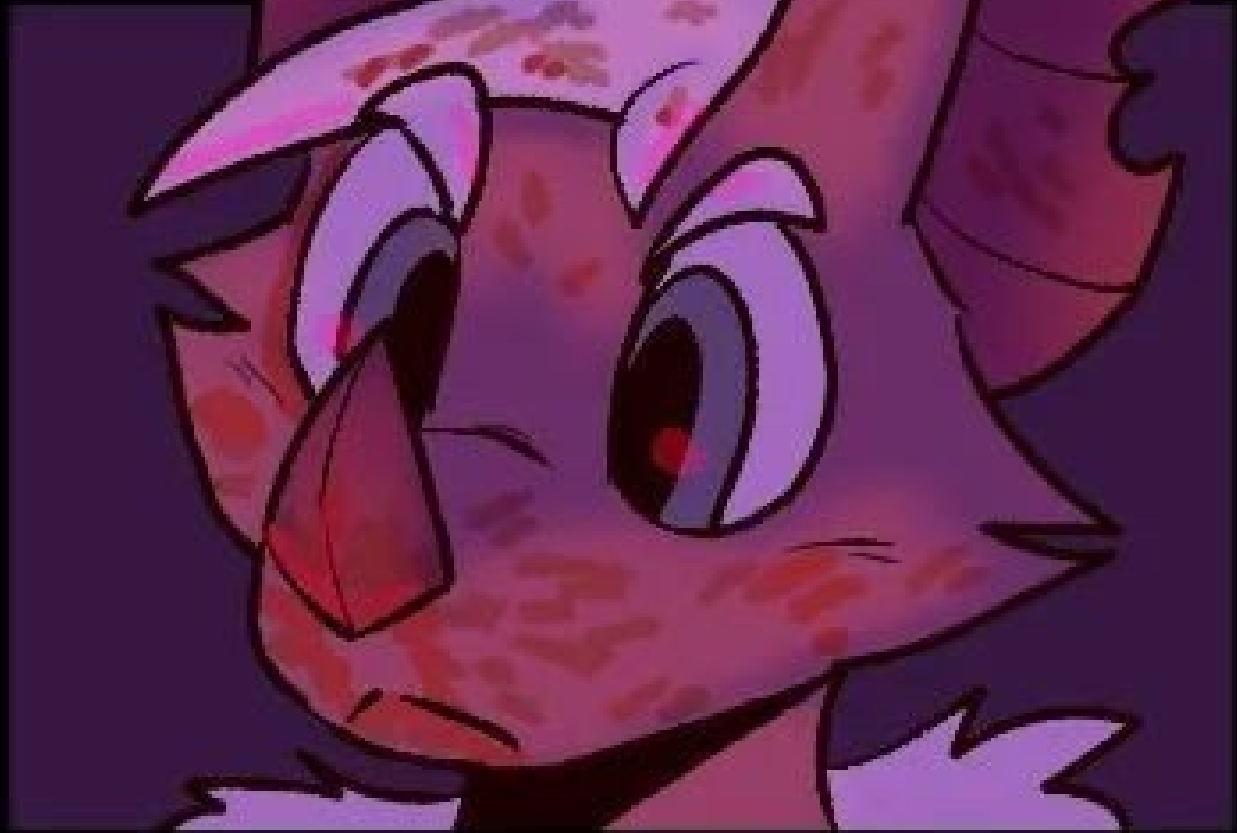
I'VE GOT
EVERYTHING
I NEED...



...RIGHT HERE!



NOW, STAND BACK!
THIS WILL ONLY TAKE
A MOMENT.



IT IS DONE.

TAKE MY HAND,
BAT.

ENTER HELL, AND
BE FORGED ANEW
IN ITS FIRE.



THIS IS IT...

FINALLY--FINALLY, I
HAVE MY CHANCE.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S COMING...

...OR WHAT GAMES
THIS GUY MIGHT
BE PLAYING.

BUT IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

I JUST HAVE TO
MAKE IT THROUGH.



THEN
EVERYONE'LL
SEE.



LET'S GO.



THE END OF CHAPTER 1