



SIMON M. ATANA S.

SCRIPT  
PANEL LAYOUT  
COVER

PENCILS  
INK

TRANSLATION  
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

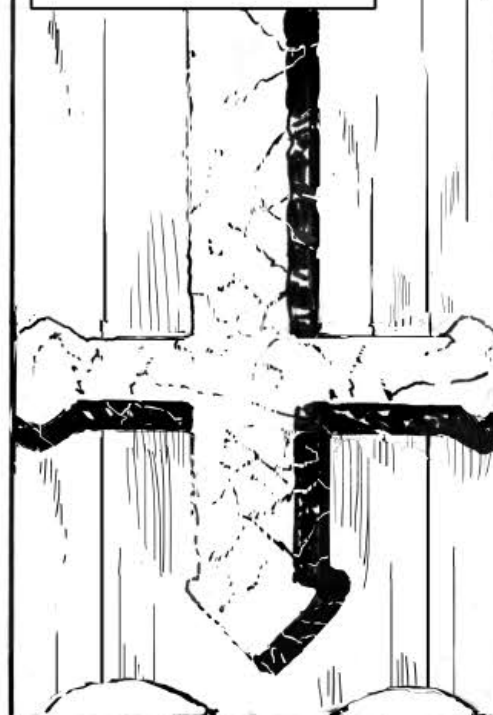
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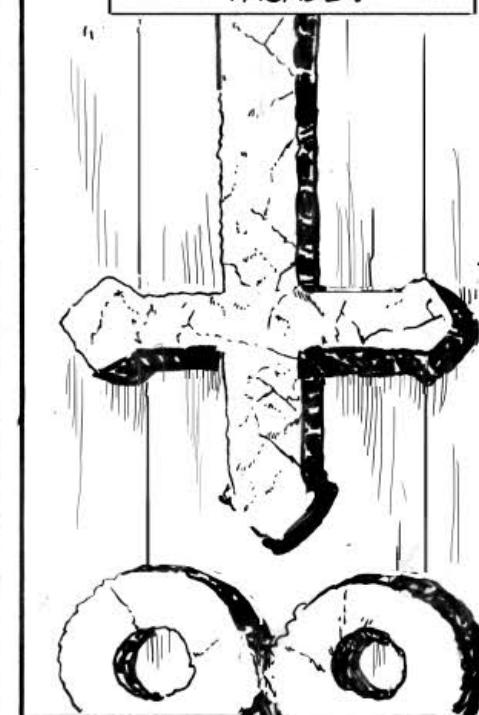
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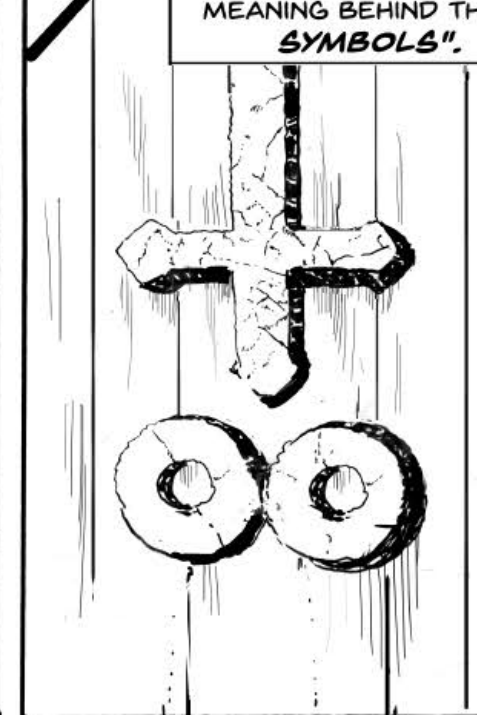
"CEDRIC SAUNIÈRE CAME FROM A LINEAGE THAT CONTROLLED THIS **CHURCH** FOR CENTURIES".



"HE WAS TO BE THE NEXT PRIEST... SOME TIME AFTER TAKING OFFICE, HE MADE **CHANGES** TO THE FACADE".



"HE REVERSED THE CRUCIFIX, POSSIBLY AS A SIGN OF PROTEST. IT WAS THE TIME OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION... BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE MEANING BEHIND THESE **SYMBOLS**".



ISN'T IT EXCITING?\*



I GUESS. BUT...

\*THEY'RE ACTUALLY SPEAKING IN ENGLISH.

...THE CROSS AND THOSE TWO CIRCLES UNDERNEATH... DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE THE DRAWING OF A **DICK**?







HEY.

YOU KNOW  
ANYTHING ABOUT  
THESE WORDS?

YEAH. THEY SPREAD  
DURING THE **FRENCH  
REVOLUTION**, SOME  
JACOBIN GROUPS USED  
IT. IT MEANS "REVENGE  
ME, LORD".

IT'S AN ANCIENT **TEM-  
PLAR MOTTO**. THE HOLY  
INQUISITION, AT THE BEHEST OF  
THE FRENCH MONARCHY, EXECUT-  
ED JACQUES DE MOLAY, THE LAST  
TEMPLAR LEADER. HE SHOUTED  
THESE WORDS AS THEY  
BURNED HIM ALIVE.

SOME MASONIC LODGES,  
ALLIES OF THE TEMPLARS,  
ADOPTED THE MOTTO... AS A  
SECRET PACT OF VENGEANCE,  
I GUESS. THAT'S WHY SAUNIÈRE  
IS SUSPECTED OF BEING A  
**MASON**.

WHY WAS HE  
KILLED? DE MOLAY,  
I MEAN.

PFFT. WHO KNOWS.  
IT'S ALL LEGENDS...  
MAYBE THE TEMPLARS  
DEFIED THE KINGS AND  
THE CHURCH, I  
GUESS?

THERE ARE MANY STORIES  
OF TEMPLARS HAVING **SE-  
CRET KNOWLEDGE** OR  
TECHNOLOGY, MYSTERIES DES-  
CENDED FROM JESUS OR  
THINGS LIKE THAT. I DON'T  
KNOW. THE MIDDLE AGES, MAN.  
SNEEZING WAS BLASPHEMY.

SHOULD WE  
GO IN?



SAUNIÈRE  
WAS THE  
PRIEST OF  
THIS...?

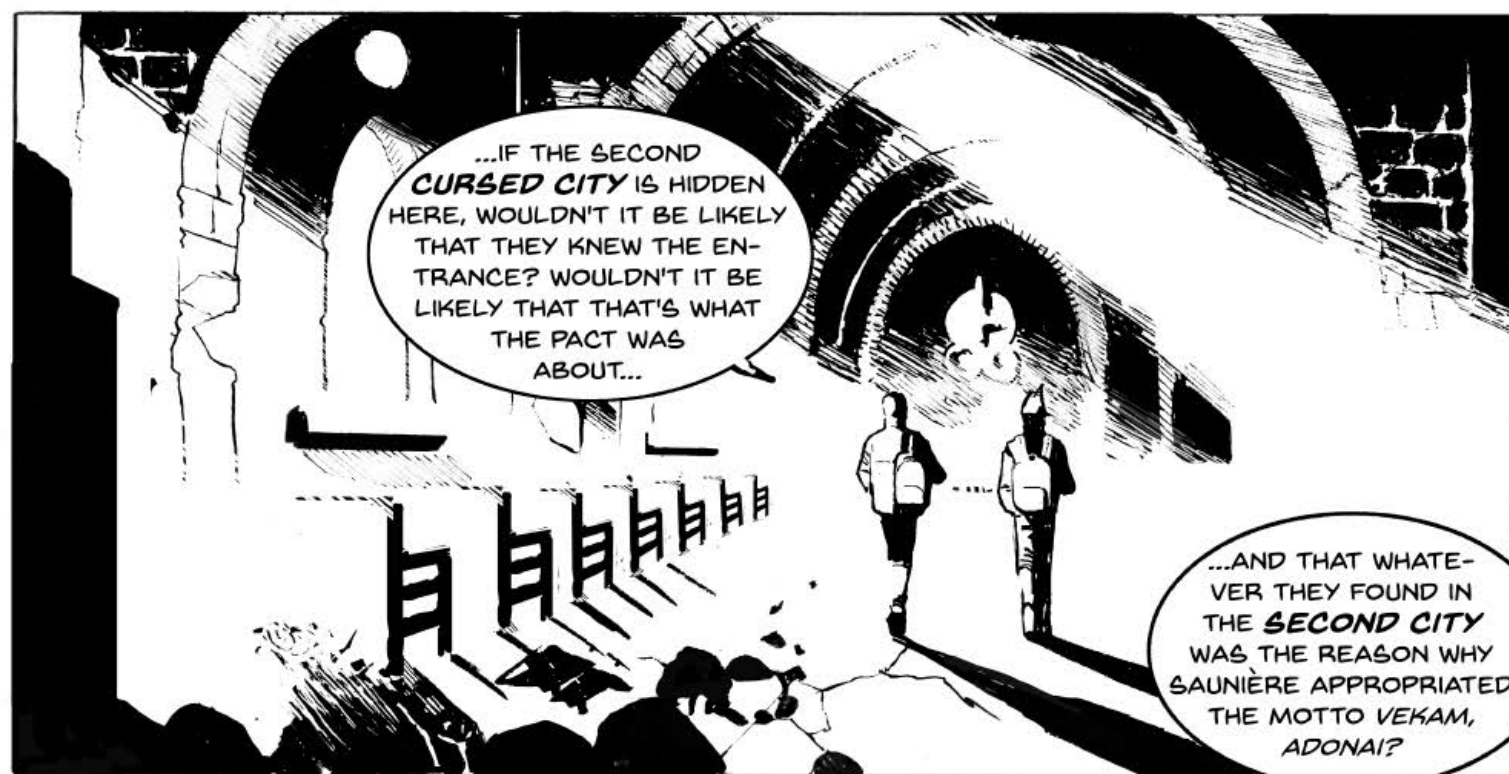
THEY HAD A PACT  
WITH THE FRENCH  
CROWN AND THE  
CHURCH. SEE THOSE  
**FLEURS-DE-  
LIS**?

YES. HIS  
FAMILY ALWAYS  
ASSIGNED ONE  
OF THEIR OWN  
TO BE THE NEW  
PRIEST.

THEY'RE SAID  
TO BE A **SECRET  
SYMBOL** OF  
THAT PACT.

A PACT BET-  
WEEN THE CROWN,  
THE CHURCH AND THE  
SAUNIÈRES? FOR  
WHAT PURPOSE?

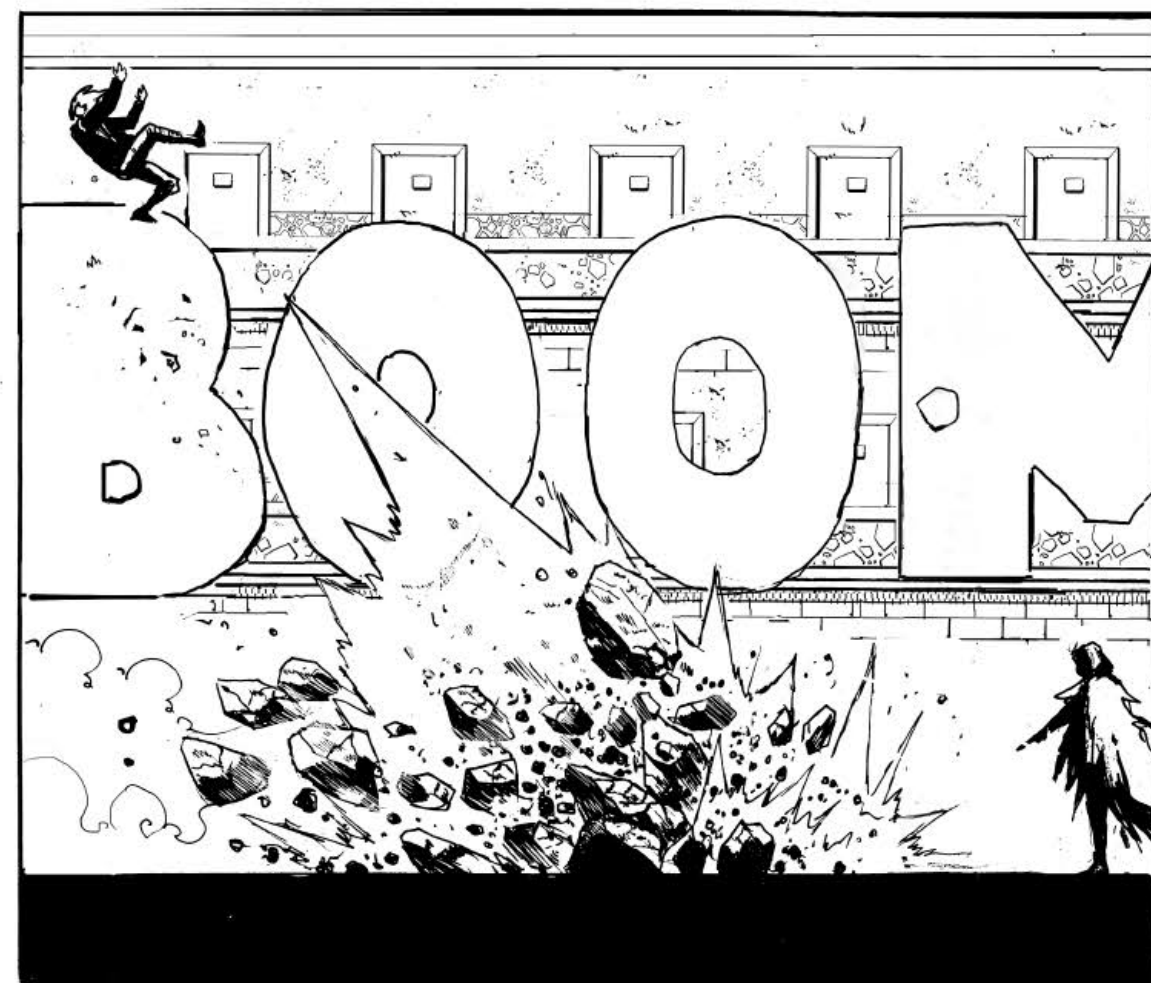
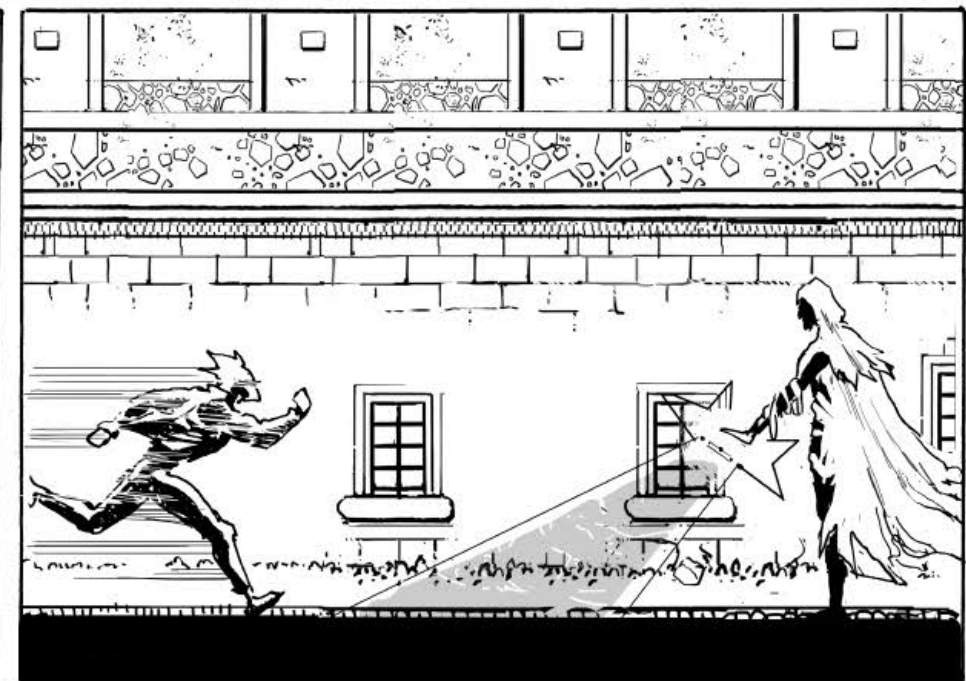
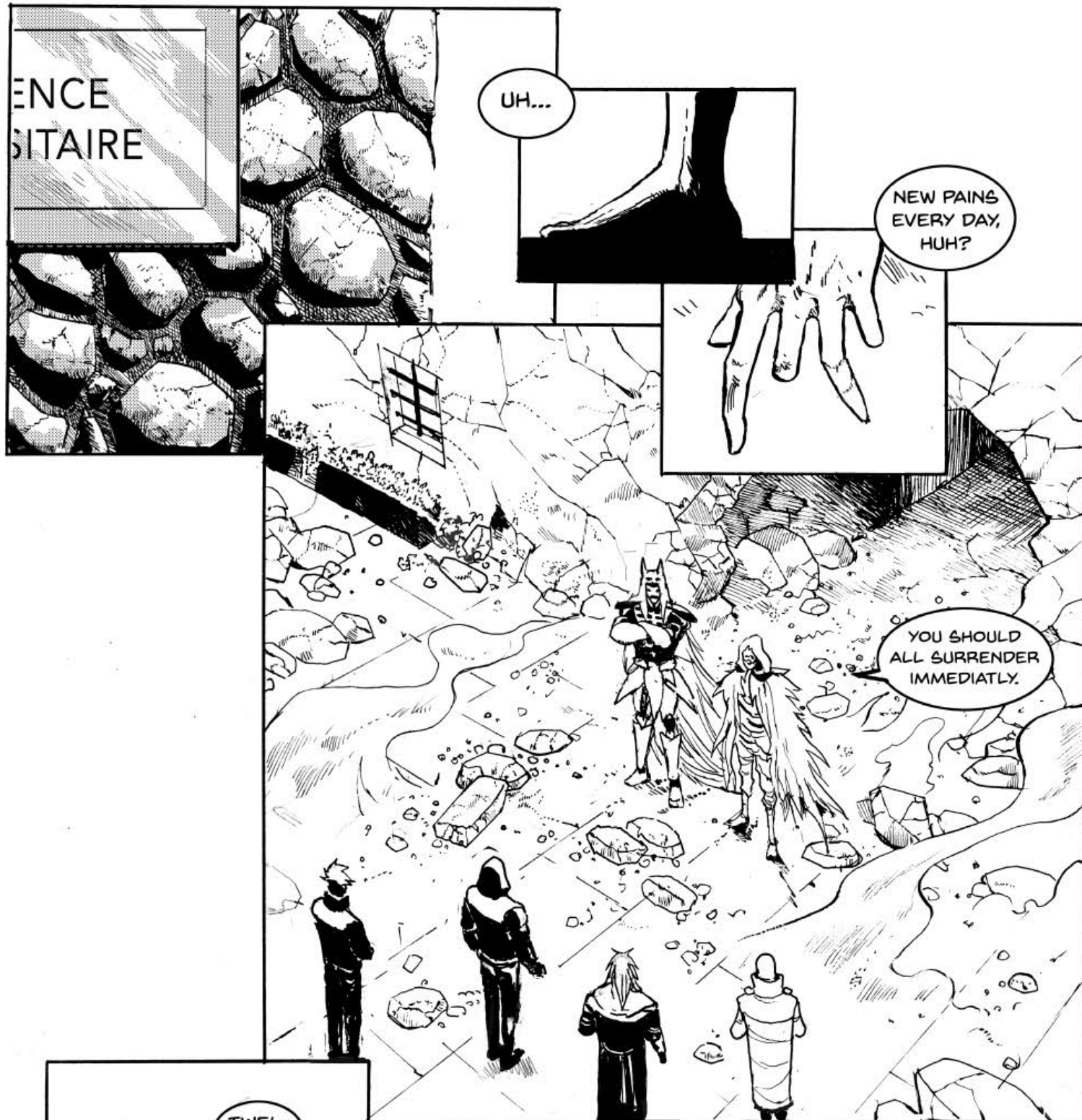
THAT'S THE  
**MYSTERY**,  
ISN'T IT? BUT,  
THINK ABOUT  
IT...



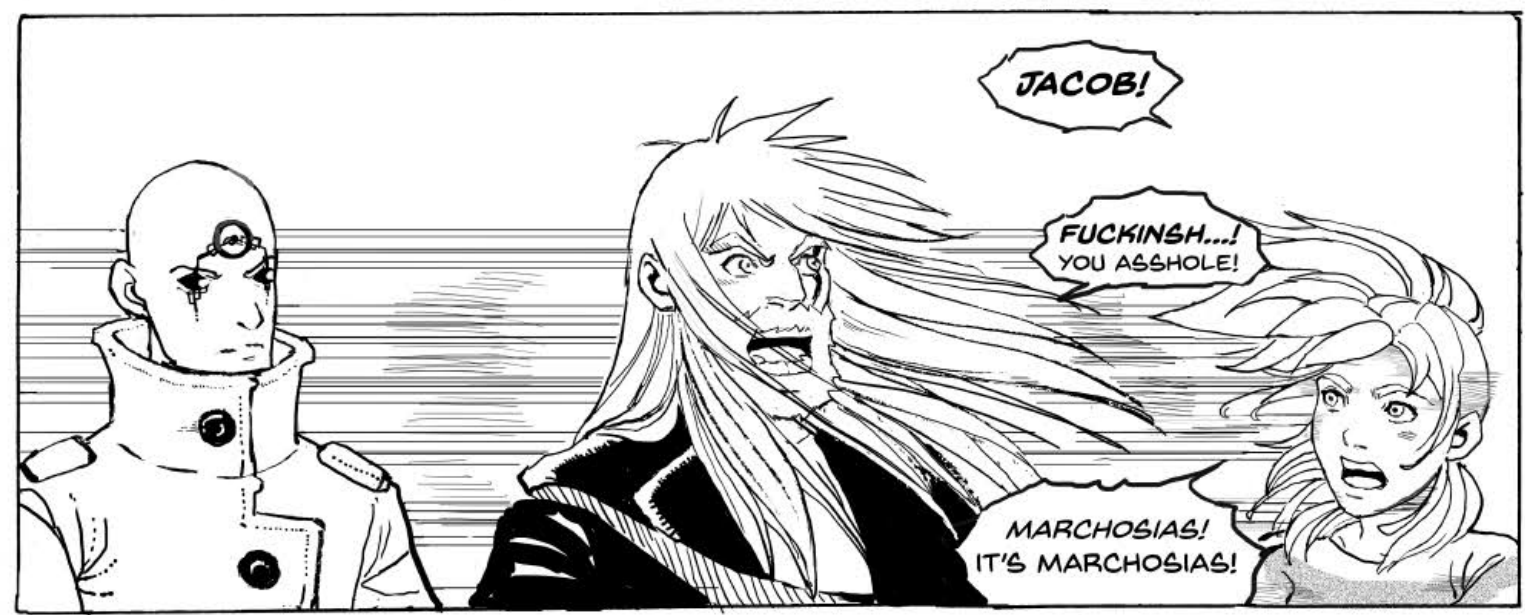
...IF THE SECOND  
**CURSED CITY** IS HIDDEN  
HERE, WOULDN'T IT BE LIKELY  
THAT THEY KNEW THE EN-  
TRANCE? WOULDN'T IT BE  
LIKELY THAT THAT'S WHAT  
THE PACT WAS  
ABOUT...

...AND THAT WHATE-  
VER THEY FOUND IN  
THE **SECOND CITY**  
WAS THE REASON WHY  
SAUNIÈRE APPROPRIATED  
THE MOTTO **VEKAM,  
ADONAI**?



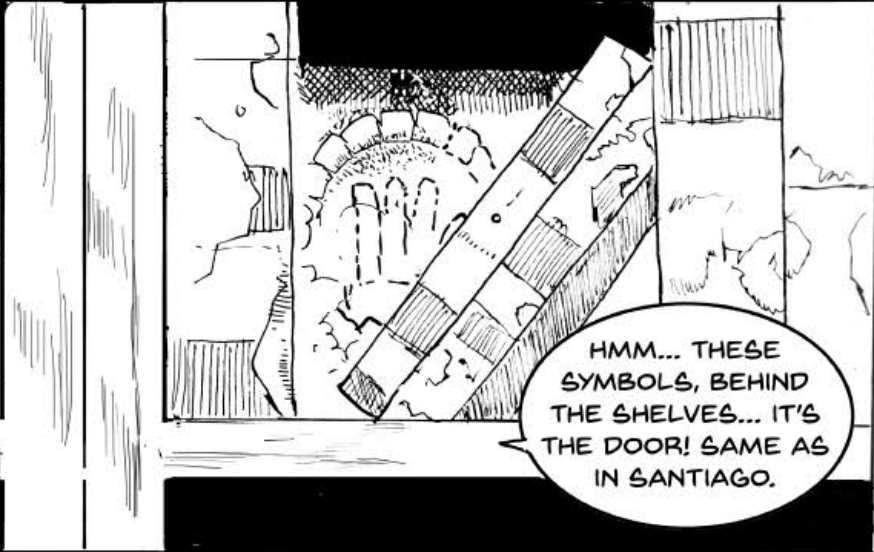








"WE HAVE THE  
WORD TO GET OUT  
OF HERE!"

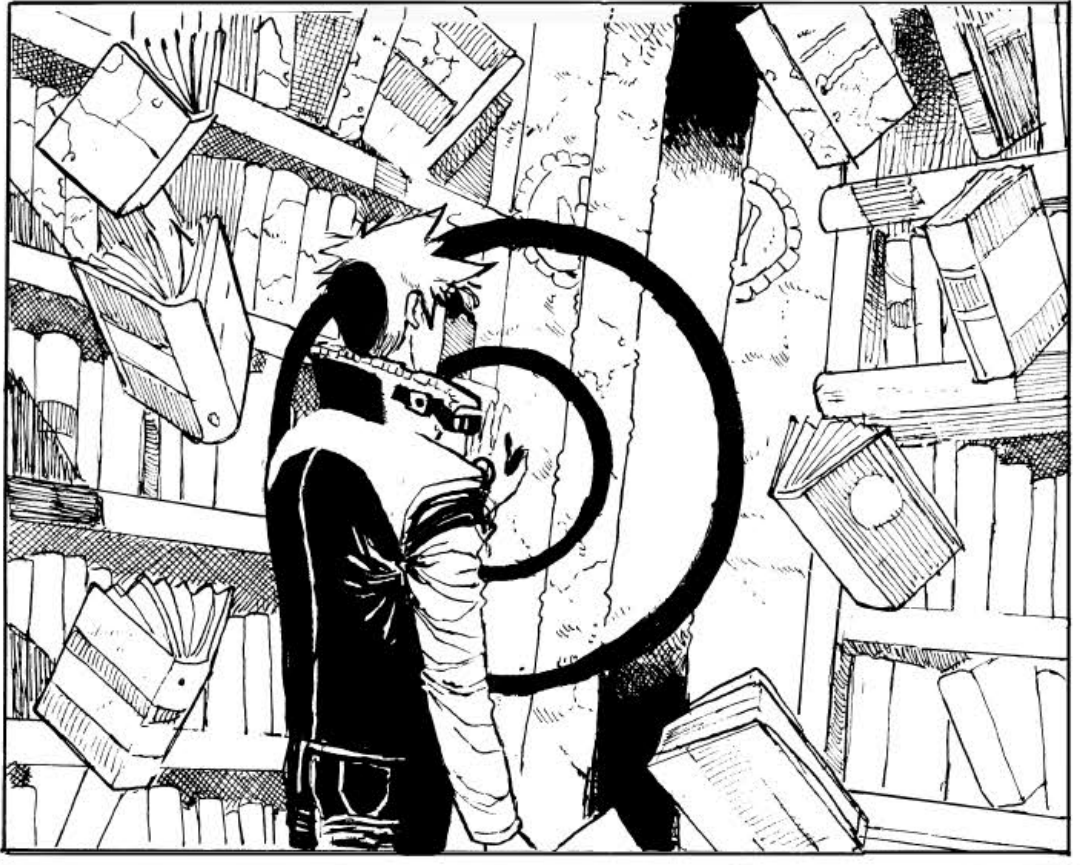


HMM... THESE  
SYMBOLS, BEHIND  
THE SHELVES... IT'S  
THE DOOR! SAME AS  
IN SANTIAGO.



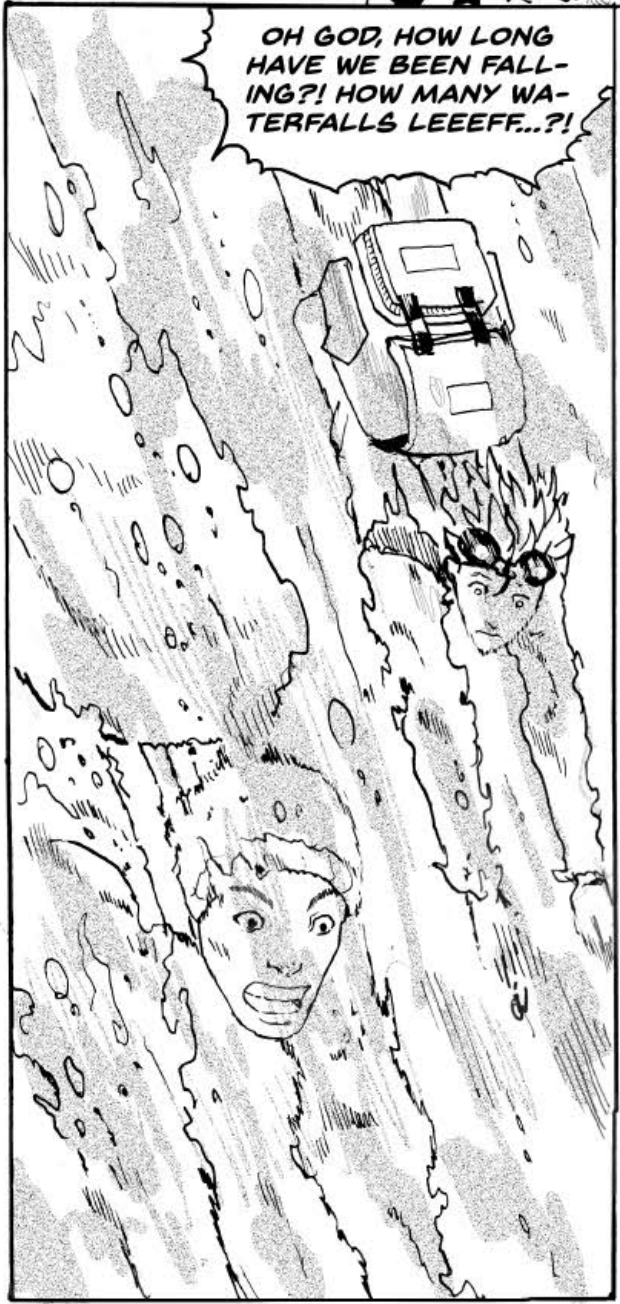
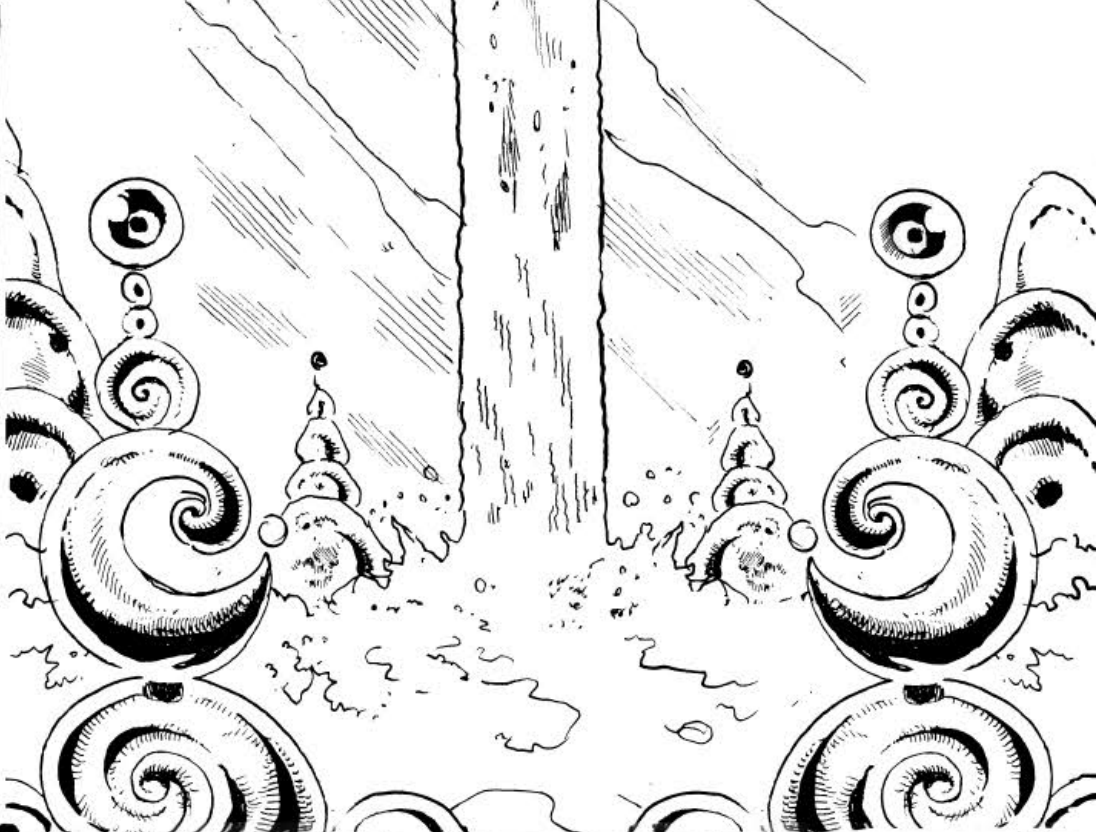
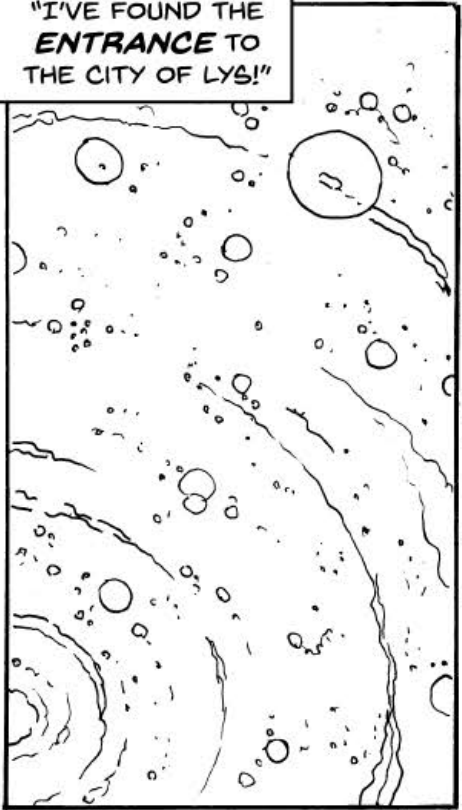
THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH FOR  
THE ENCOUR-  
AGEMENT,  
CHURCH...

...BUT I HAVE  
NO CHOICE BUT  
TO DISCOVER  
THE TEMPO OF  
THE WORLD.

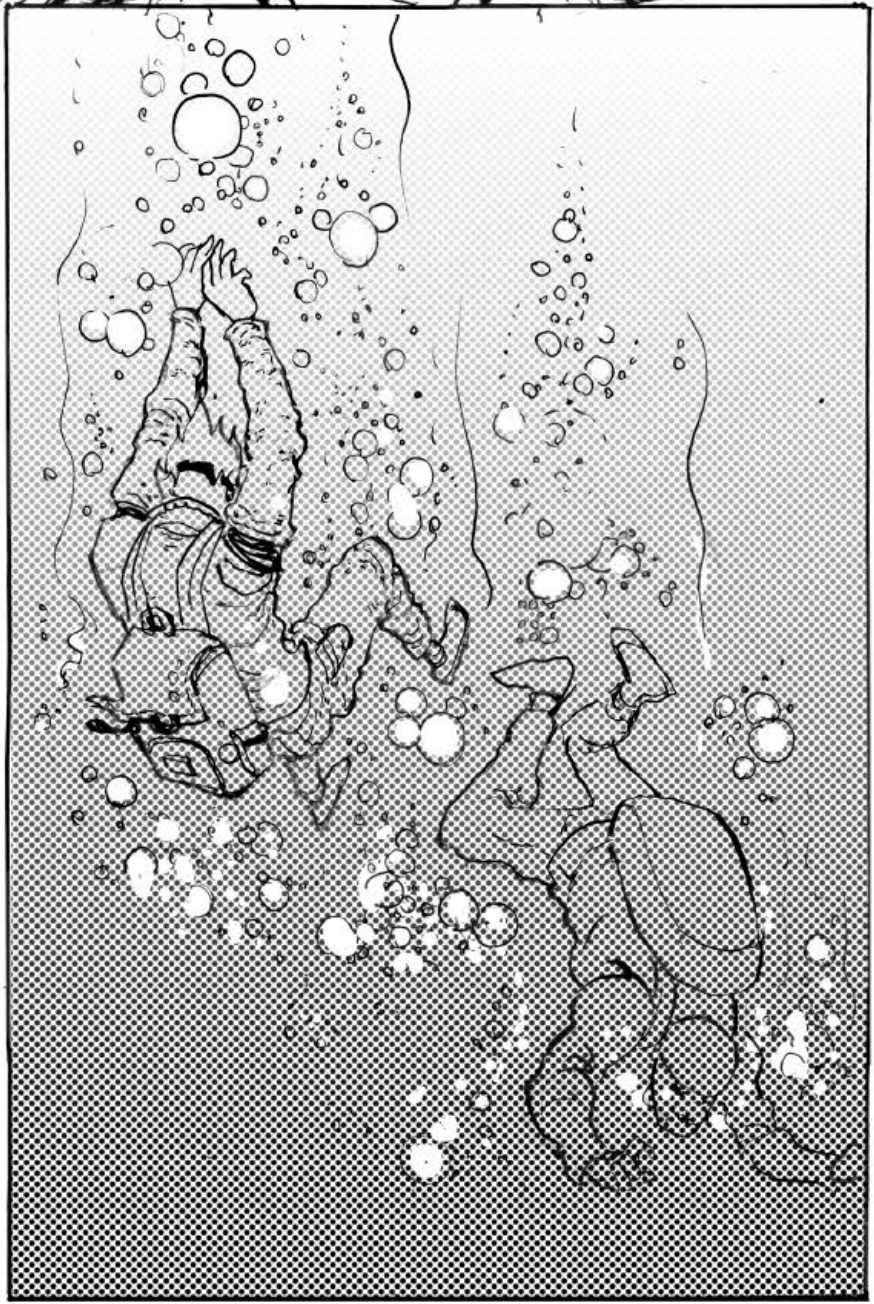


GREG!

"I'VE FOUND THE  
**ENTRANCE**  
TO  
THE CITY OF LYS!"



OH GOD, HOW LONG  
HAVE WE BEEN FALL-  
ING?! HOW MANY WA-  
TERFALLS LEEFF...?!



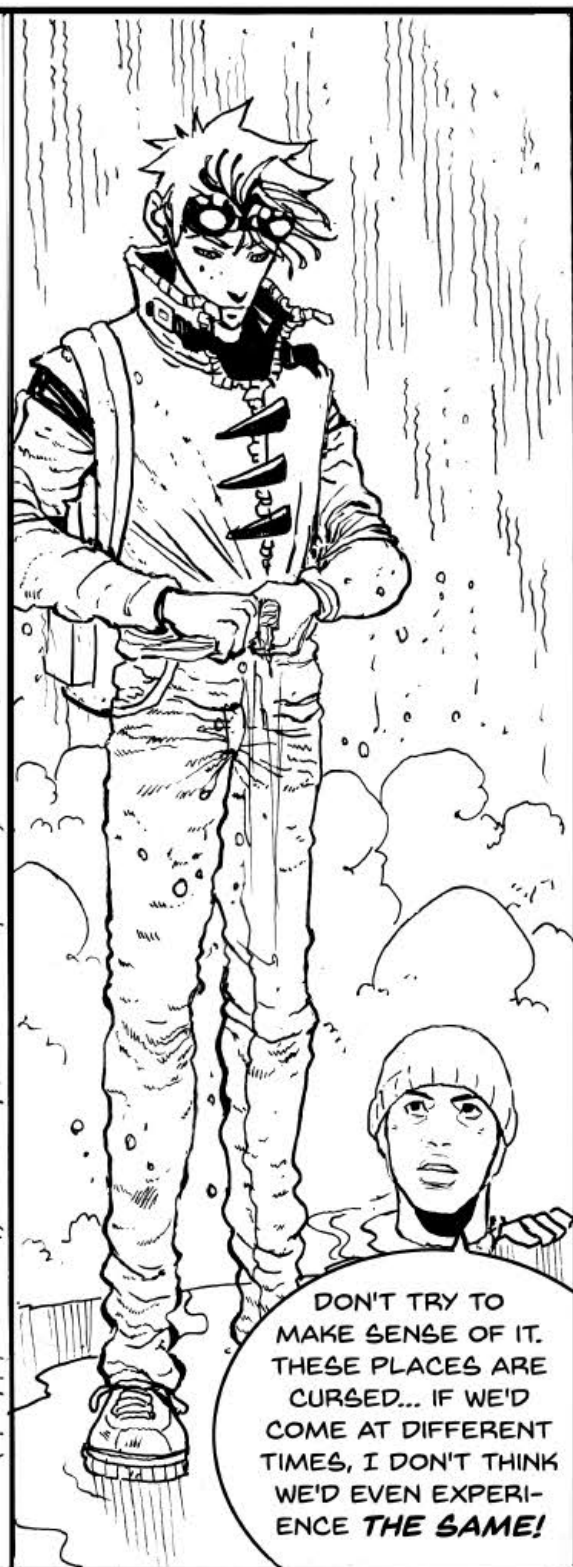




HUF...

AGH! IS...?  
IS THIS...?

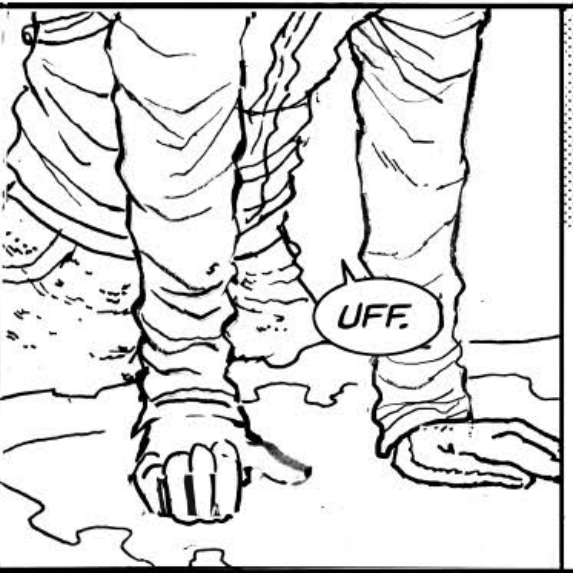
...THE CITY  
OF LYS? WE  
WERE IN A  
CHURCH!



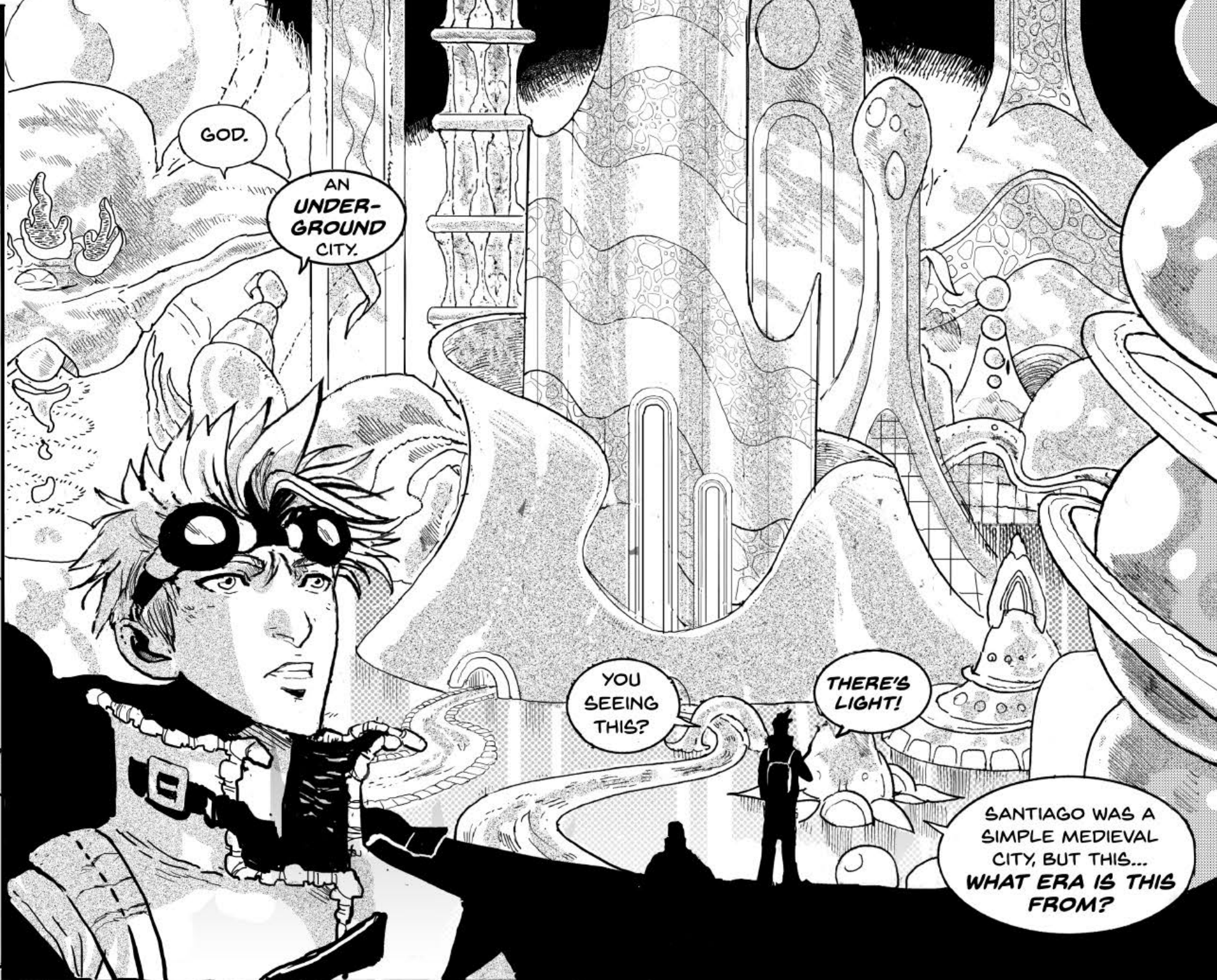
DON'T TRY TO  
MAKE SENSE OF IT.  
THESE PLACES ARE  
CURSED... IF WE'D  
COME AT DIFFERENT  
TIMES, I DON'T THINK  
WE'D EVEN EXPERI-  
ENCE *THE SAME!*



I TOLD  
YOU, MAN.



UFF.



GOD.

AN  
UNDER-  
GROUND  
CITY.

YOU  
SEEING  
THIS?

THERE'S  
LIGHT!

SANTIAGO WAS A  
SIMPLE MEDIEVAL  
CITY, BUT THIS...  
*WHAT ERA IS THIS  
FROM?*



TIME  
DOESN'T  
FLOW *NOR-*  
*MALLY.*



THERE ARE ACCOUNTS  
THAT CLAIM TO HAVE  
SPENT *MONTHS* IN  
ONE OF THESE  
CITIES...

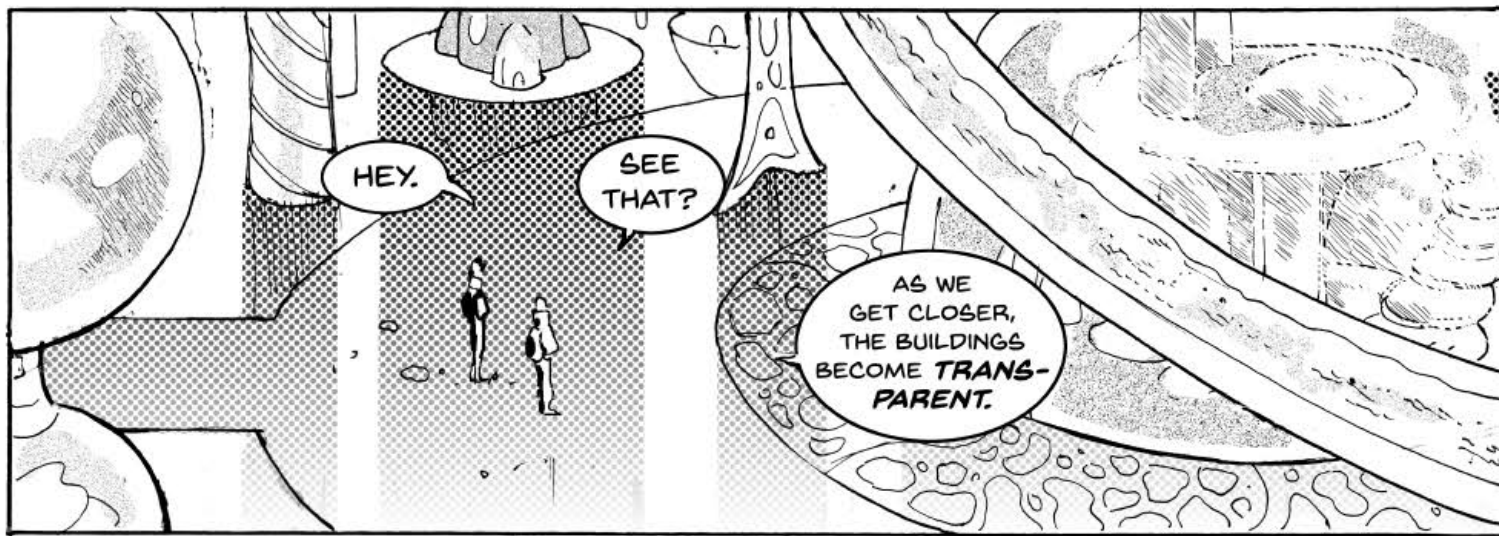
...BUT IT HAD  
ONLY BEEN  
*HOURS*, OUT  
THERE...



LET'S  
GO!







HEY.

SEE THAT?

AS WE GET CLOSER, THE BUILDINGS BECOME **TRANSPARENT**.



THE CLOSER THEY LIVED TO EACH OTHER, THE MORE THEY COULD SEE THE INTIMACY OF THEIR **NEIGHBORS**.

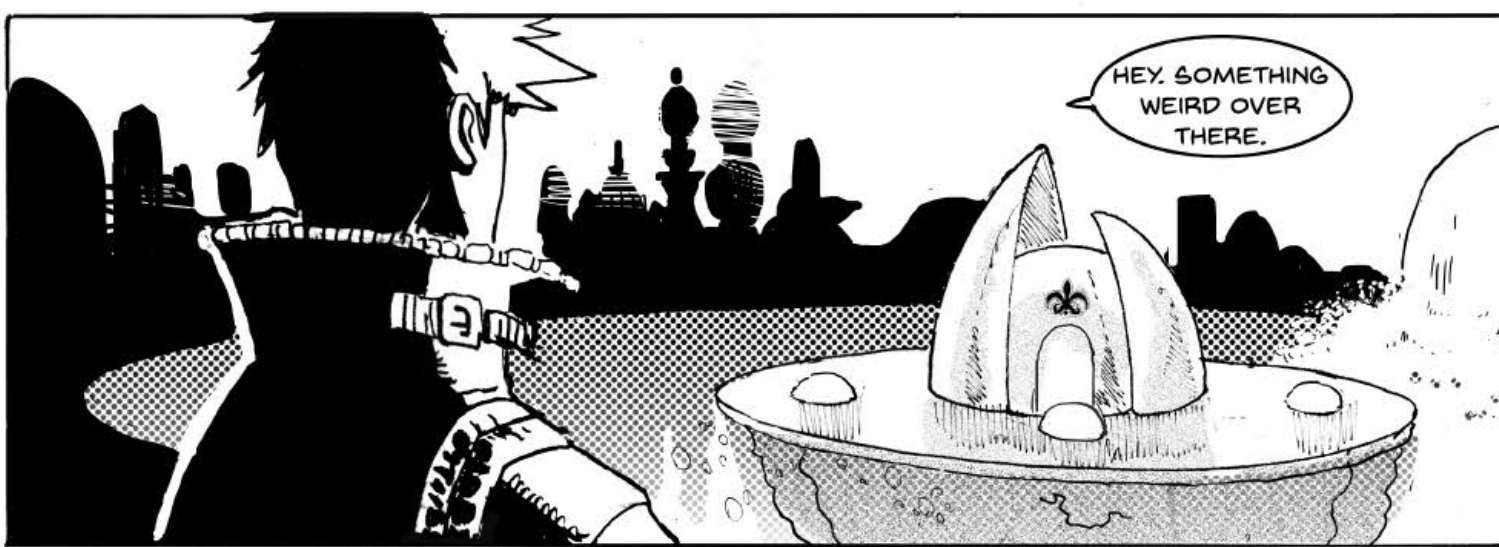
IT'S ALL EMPTY... I DON'T SEE ANYBODY.



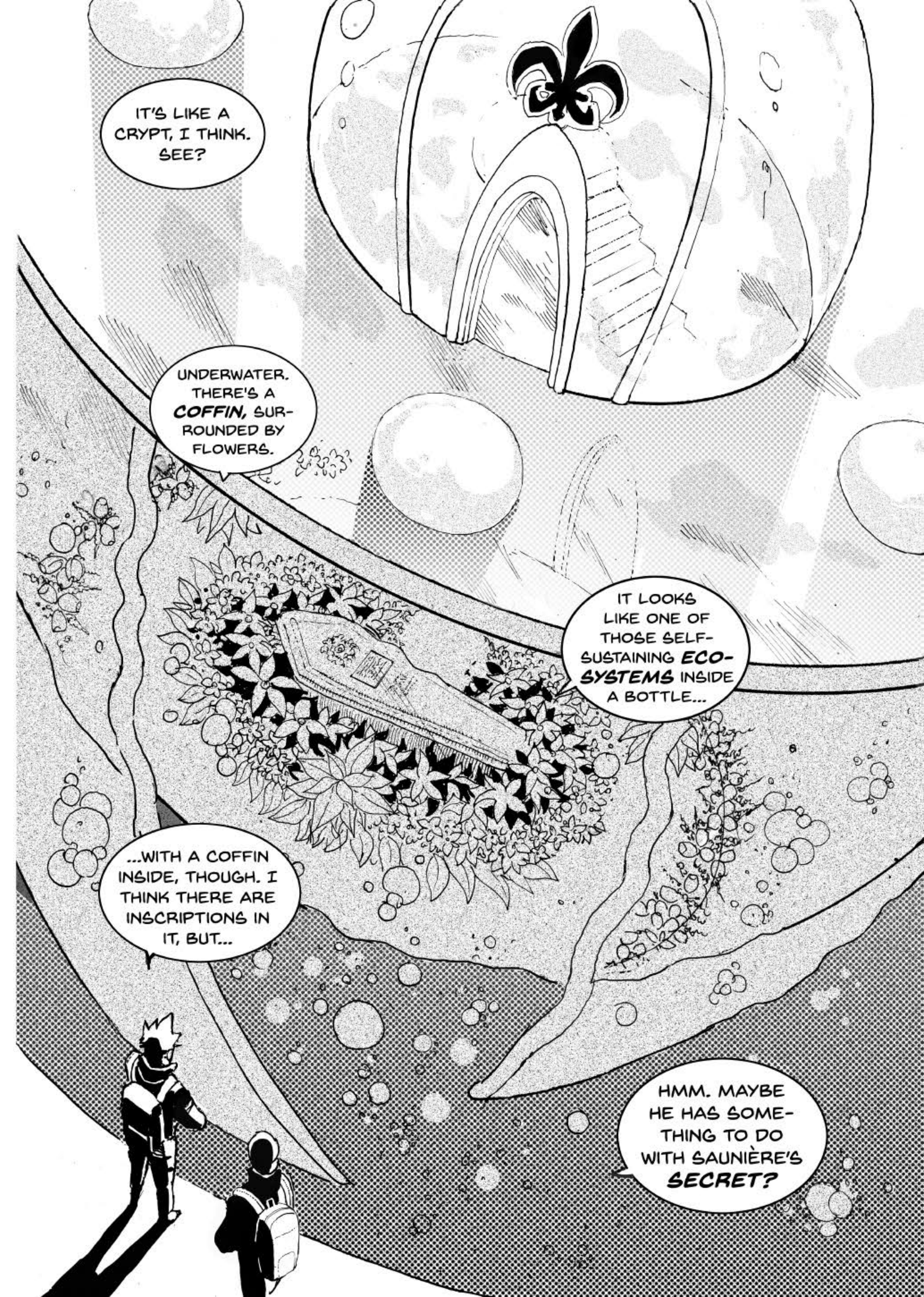
THIS IS A DOOR, BUT...

...THERE'S NO KEYHOLE.

HM?



HEY. SOMETHING WEIRD OVER THERE.



IT'S LIKE A CRYPT, I THINK. SEE?

UNDERWATER. THERE'S A **COFFIN**, SURROUNDED BY FLOWERS.

IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE SELF-SUSTAINING **ECO-SYSTEMS** INSIDE A BOTTLE...

...WITH A COFFIN INSIDE, THOUGH. I THINK THERE ARE INSCRIPTIONS IN IT, BUT...

HMM. MAYBE HE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SAUNIÈRE'S **SECRET**?





I'M GOING TO TRY GETTING IN. GREG, YOU INVESTIGATE THE SURROUNDINGS.

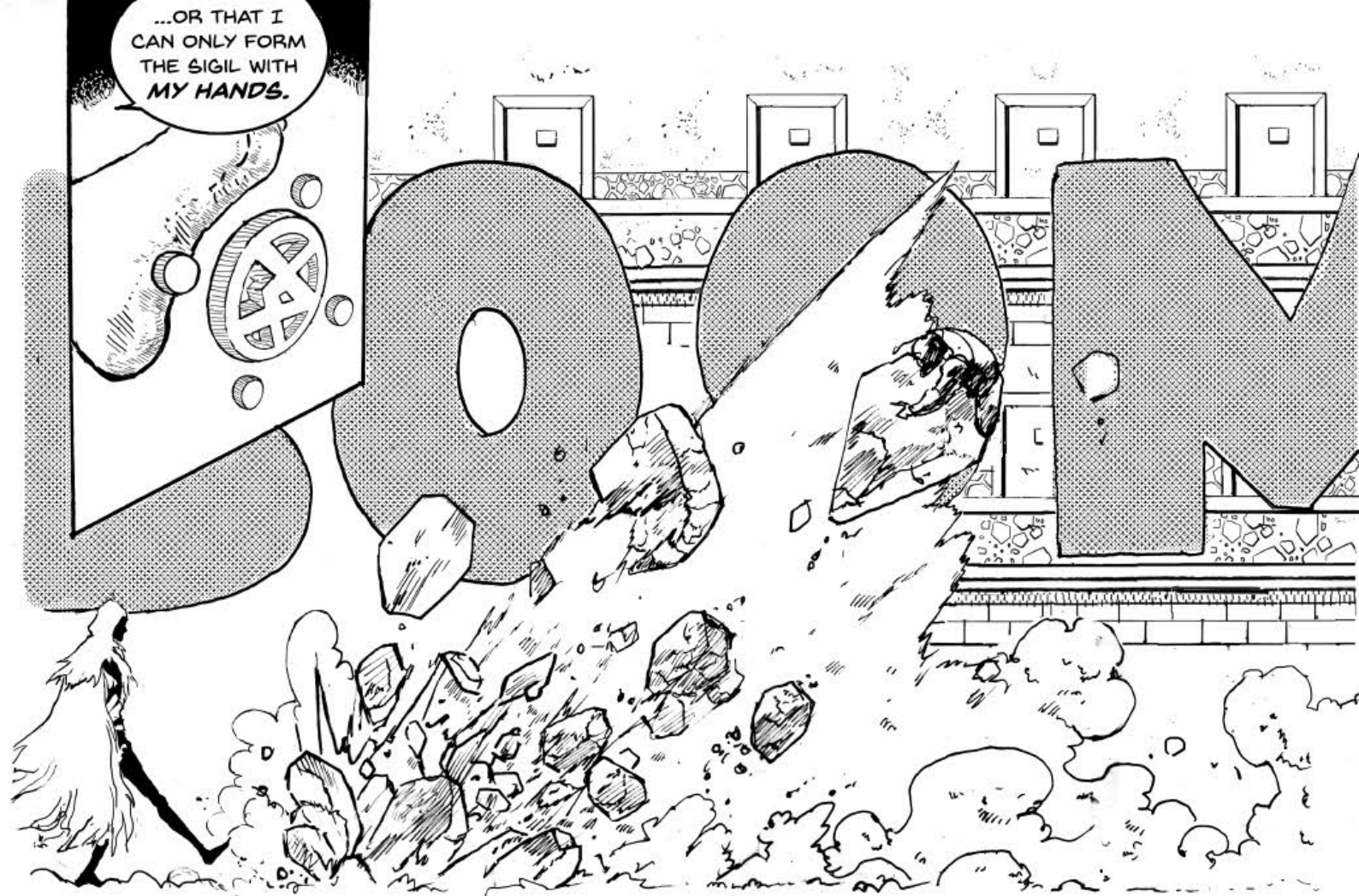
OKAY. IF YOU FIND A WAY TO OPEN THE DOORS, LET ME KNOW!

SECURITY.

"WE HAVE TWO INTRUDERS".

AH. YOU USE THE BLADES TO ATTACK THE **NERVES** IN MY BODY, TRYING TO DISABLE MY HANDS...

...YOU ASSUME THAT MY BODY IS **NORMAL**...

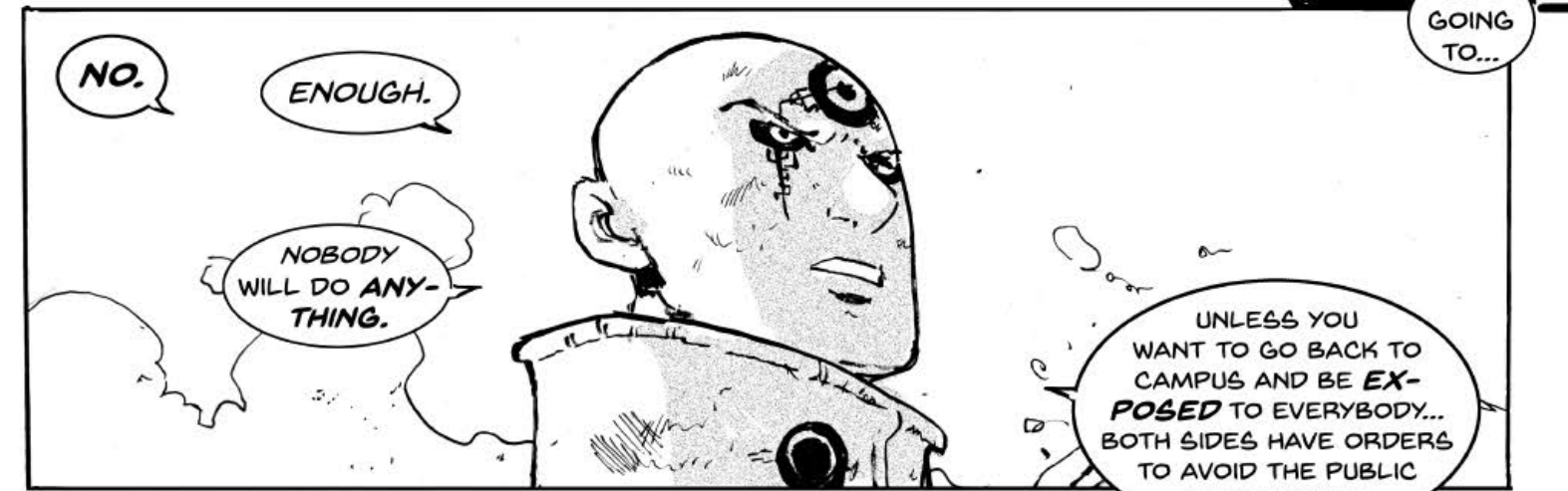


...OR THAT I CAN ONLY FORM THE SIGIL WITH MY HANDS.



THAT IT?

I'M GOING TO...



NO.

ENOUGH.

NOBODY WILL DO ANYTHING.

UNLESS YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO CAMPUS AND BE **EXPOSED** TO EVERYBODY... BOTH SIDES HAVE ORDERS TO AVOID THE PUBLIC LIGHT, RIGHT?





IF WE **BANISH** THE DEMON OF THIS GUY, WE GO BACK TO THE MATERIAL PLANE. ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE WITH THE FIGHT, WITH YOUR **ABSURD** POWERS, IN FRONT OF EVERYONE?

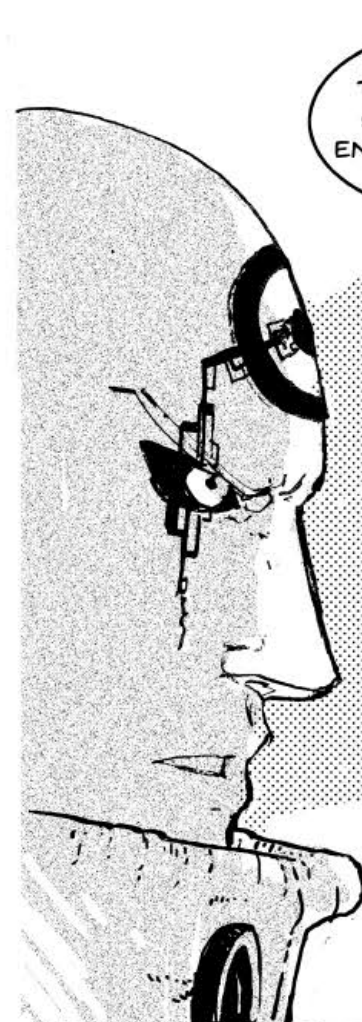


...WHAT?

NO...



BALDIE IS RIGHT. SO FAR YOU'VE BEEN CAREFUL TO STAY HIDDEN...



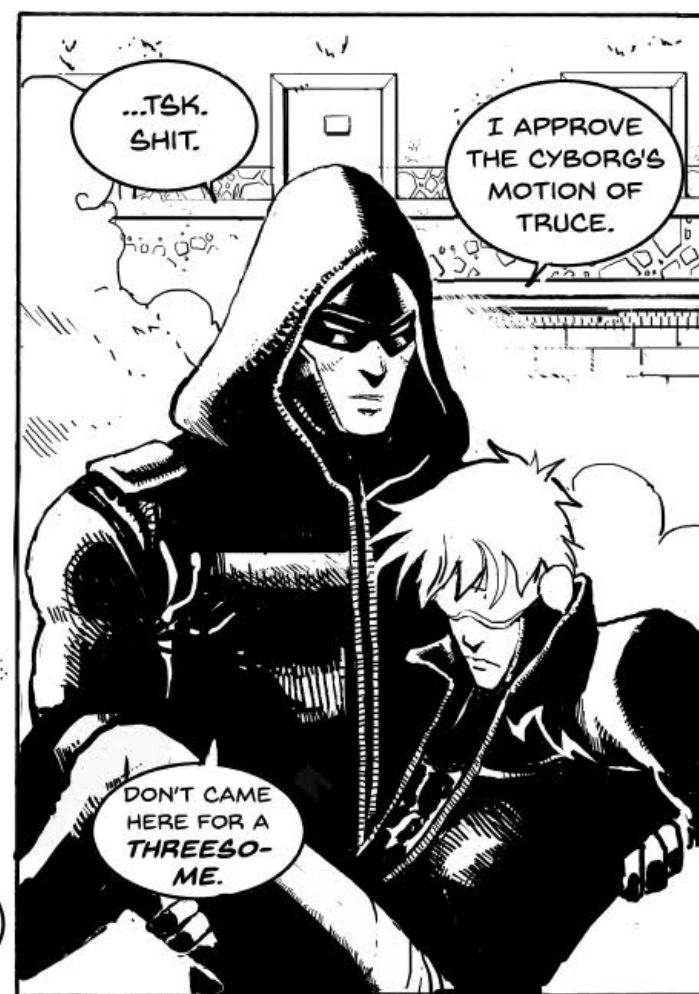
HMM. ALL THE MORE REASON FOR US TO END THIS **QUIETLY**, THEN.

SO?

FIGHT OR RETREAT?



RETREAT? JACOB, YOU LOST YOUR GODDAMN MIND?



DON'T CAME HERE FOR A **THREESO-ME**.

I APPROVE THE CYBORG'S MOTION OF TRUCE.



THAT'S RIGHT. SO, WHAT'S IT GONNA BE? YOU WANT TO KEEP FIGHTING?

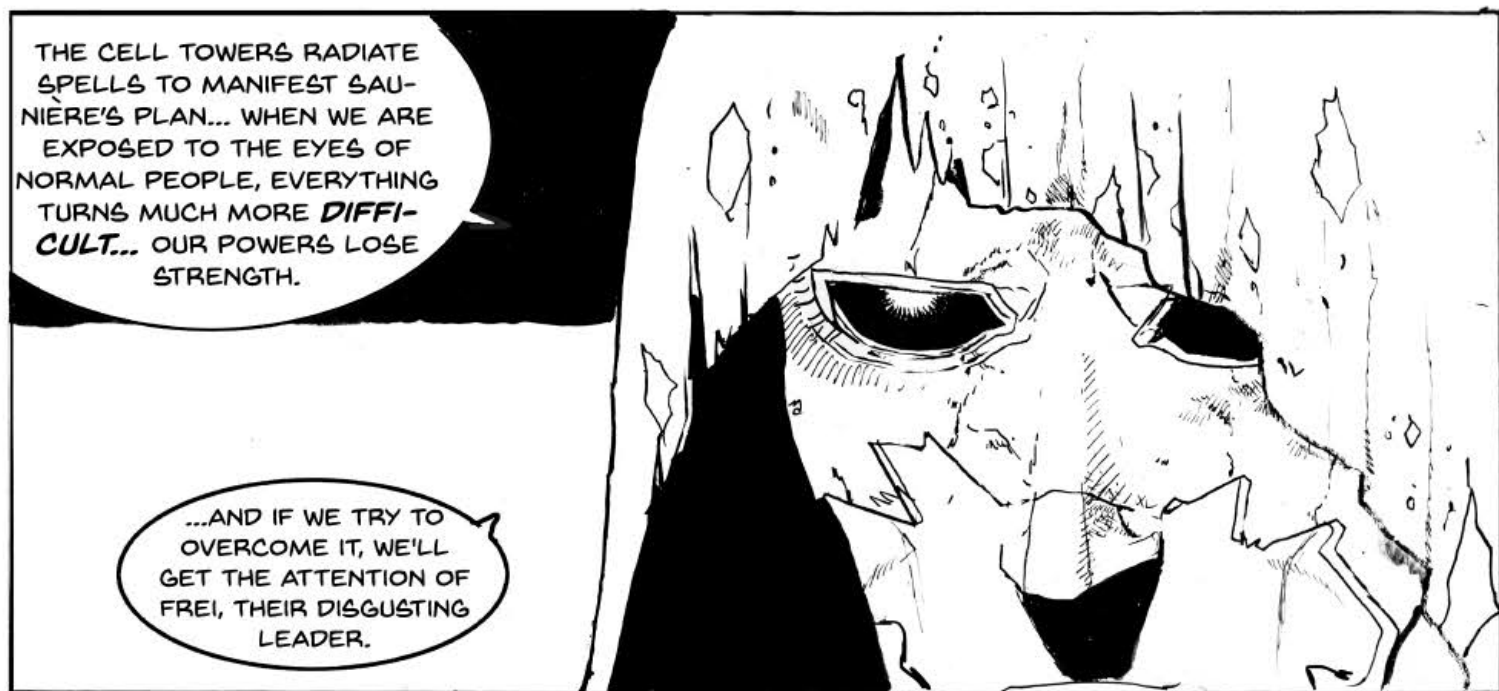
OR CAN WE DECLARE A **TRUCE**?



WALTER; YOU FUCKING MORON.

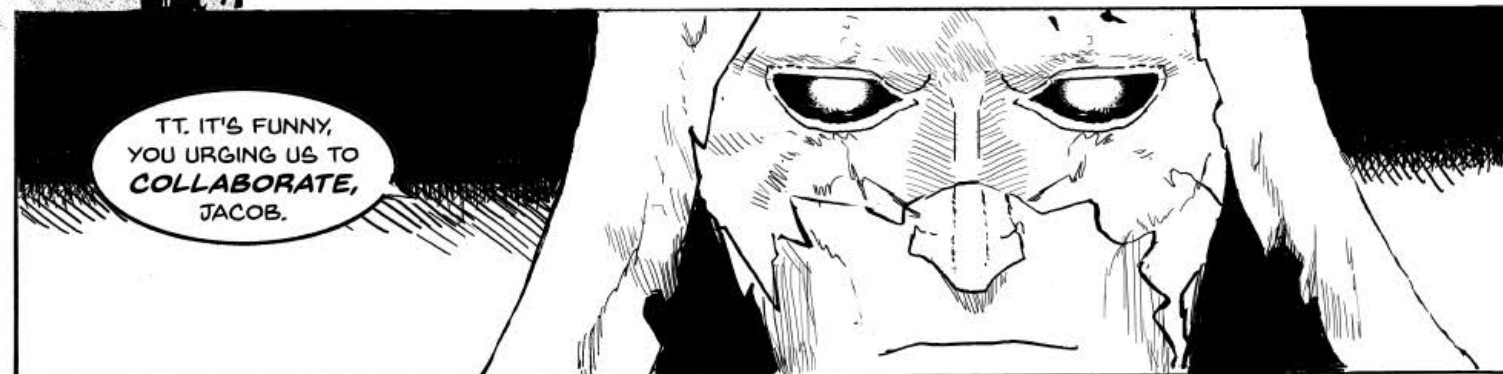
SO WHAT? WE CAN **KILL THEM ALL!**

THINGS DON'T WORK LIKE IN AMERICA.



THE CELL TOWERS RADIATE SPELLS TO MANIFEST SAU-NIÈRE'S PLAN... WHEN WE ARE EXPOSED TO THE EYES OF NORMAL PEOPLE, EVERYTHING TURNS MUCH MORE **DIFFICULT**... OUR POWERS LOSE STRENGTH.

...AND IF WE TRY TO OVERCOME IT, WE'LL GET THE ATTENTION OF FREI, THEIR DISGUSTING LEADER.



TT. IT'S FUNNY, YOU URGING US TO **COLLABORATE**, JACOB.



YOU'VE BEEN **WORKING** WITH US ALL THIS TIME.

IN FACT, WE WANTED TO **CONTACT** YOU...



"...TO INFORM YOU OF YOUR NEXT MISSION".

CITY OF LYS. HOW DO I OPEN THESE **DOORS**?



THE GATE, LIKE ALL OF ME, IS **EMPATHIC** TECHNOLOGY, ADAM. YOU HAVE TO ESTABLISH AN EMOTIONAL CONNECTION WITH IT...

HELLO?  
ANYBODY  
THERE?

WHAT?

...AND THEN  
YOU HAVE TO  
FEEL **OPENNESS**  
INSIDE IN ORDER  
TO OPEN IT.

SERIOUSLY?  
SERIOUSLY?  
WHA...? O-  
OKAY.

WHAT?

AD...  
ADAM!

HELP!

THOSE LET-  
TERS... THEY DON'T  
LOOK LIKE ANY LAN-  
GUAGE I KNOW...

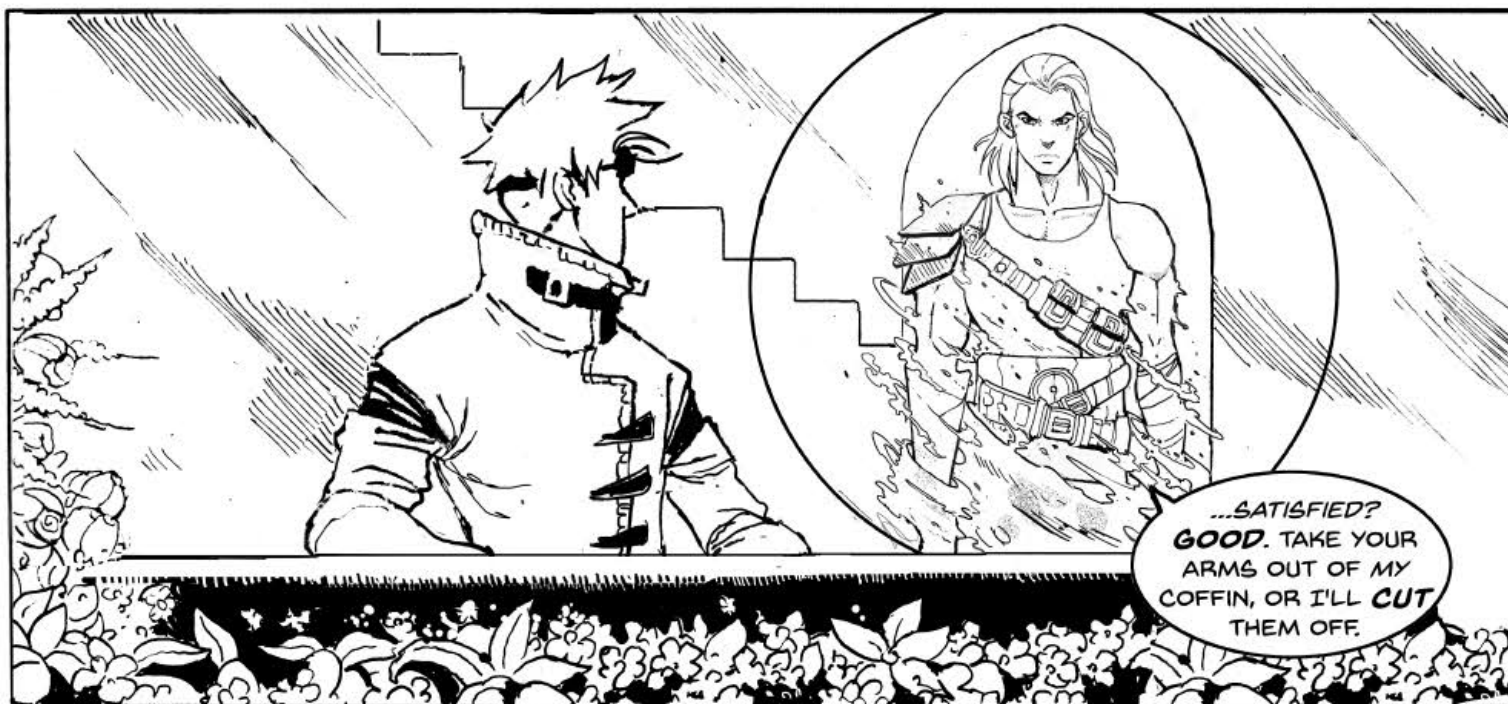
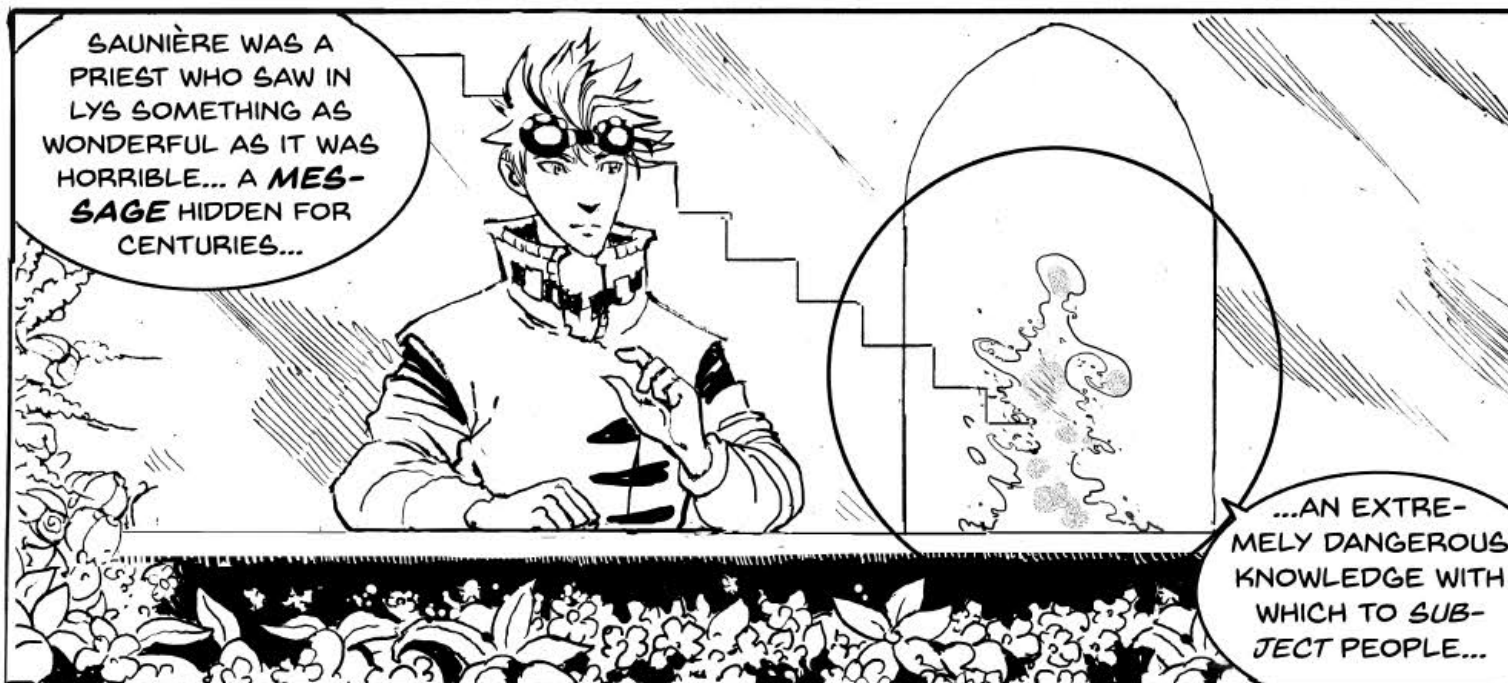
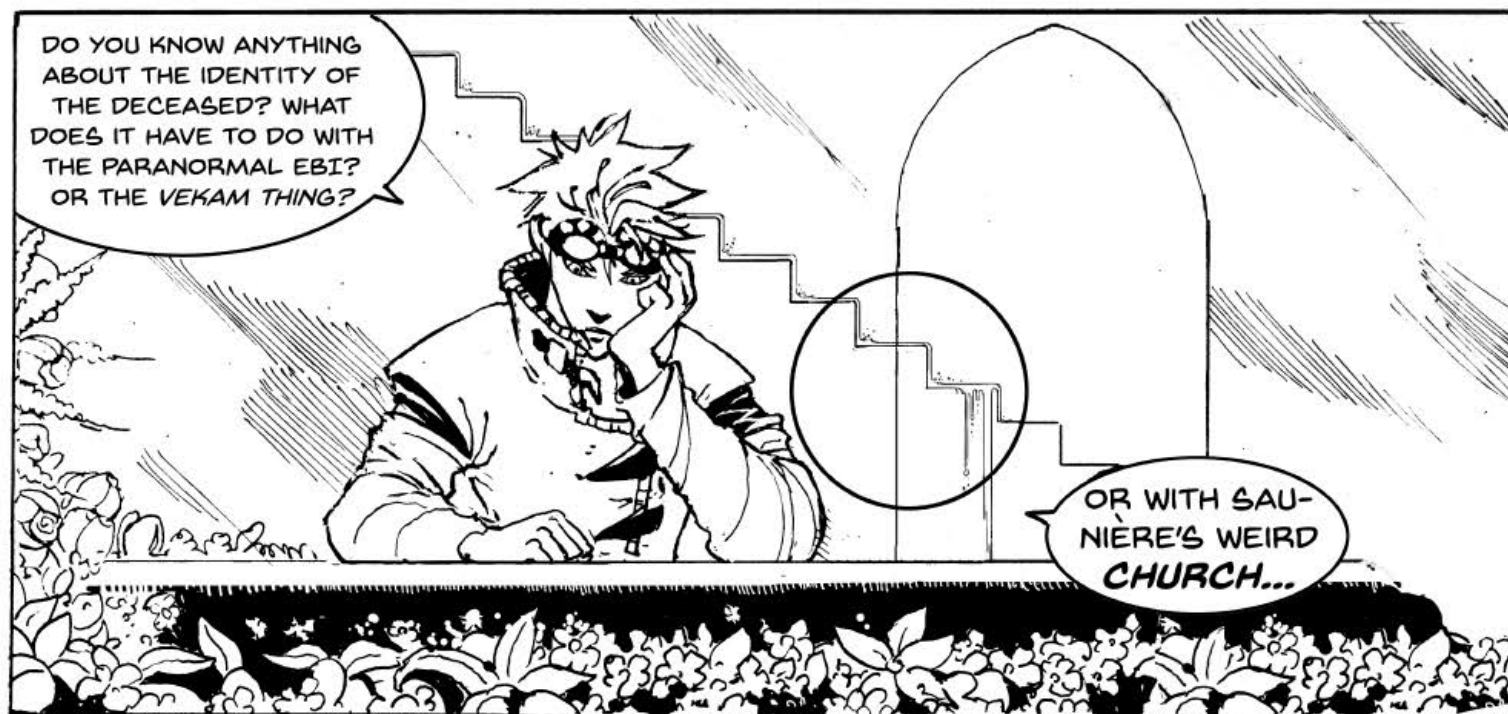
CITY, HOW  
OLD ARE  
YOU?

WOW.

THAT QUESTION IS  
**IMPOSSIBLE.**  
OUR TIME IS NOT  
YOUR TIME.

WHAT?





## ...TO BE CONTINUED

UPSURGE IS AN ALMOST MONTHLY (40 DAYS) SERIES THAT STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO REACH THE INTENDED ENDING. HOWEVER, WE CAN'T KEEP DOING IT FOR "FREE" INDEFINITELY. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING US WHILE ALSO GETTING **EARLY ACCESS** TO AN ISSUE, **PREVIEWS** OF FUTURE EPISODES, OR **VIDEOS** AND TEXTS ABOUT OUR CREATIVE PROCESS, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING US THROUGH PATREON AT THE 3\$ PLEDGE LEVEL (LINK BELOW). IF WE HAVE ENOUGH HELP, WE'LL TURN UPSURGE INTO A **MONTHLY** SERIES. THANK YOU!

### LINKS:

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