



SIMON M.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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PENCILS
INK

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TIME TO
WAKE UP, COCK-
SUCKER.

WHAT THE
FUCK IS GOING
ON? HOW HAVE
I ENDED UP
HERE?



HOW HAVE I
ENDED UP HERE?

YOU
REALLY
DON'T WANT
TO COOPER-
ATE WITH
ME, HUH?



WHY AM I LETTING THE SONS OF
GENGHIS KHAN PUNCH THE CRAP
OUT OF ME?

IN ANY
CASE, NO, I
WON'T TELL
YOU.

YOU
KNOW
WHY?



REVEAL
LANARK'S
LOCATION.

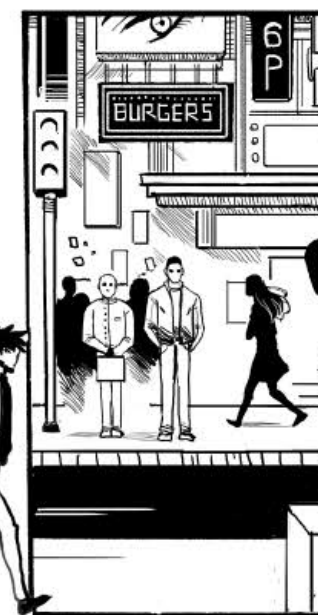
AFTERWARDS,
TURN YOURSELF
IN TO THE POLICE.
WHY LET MYSELF GET
BEATEN UP WHEN I CAN
USE MY POWER AND
GET WHAT I WANT?

MORE? OR
SAY US WHO
SENDS YOU?*

YOU
CARE THAT
MUCH ABOUT
LAN-
ARK?

H
DO
EV

IT'S
GETTING
HARDER,
PUTTING
MY MIND
IN OR-
DER.



BECAUSE
YOU THINK YOU
HAVE ME TIED UP,
WHEN IT'S JUST
THE OPPOSITE.

*THEY'RE ACTUALLY SPEAKING IN ENGLISH, OR TRYING.
(ALL THE DIALOGUE IN THIS EPISODE IS IN ENGLISH).

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA. THE COMMUNIST COUNTRY WHOSE CITIES SEEM SCIONS FROM THE BLADE RUNNER MOVIE. MONGOLIA KNEW SHE COULDN'T COMPETE WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA MILITARILY, SO THEY GATHERED A BUNCH OF NERDS FROM THEIR COUNTRY AND SOME FROM THEIR NEIGHBOURS AND GAVE THEM CARTE BLANCHE.

SO THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOUR ENGINEERS HAVE NO RESTRICTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO ETHICS... AND NO IDEA ABOUT AESTHETICS. A TRUE WONDER.

WHY AM I HERE? SHOULD BE AN EASY QUESTION, RIGHT?

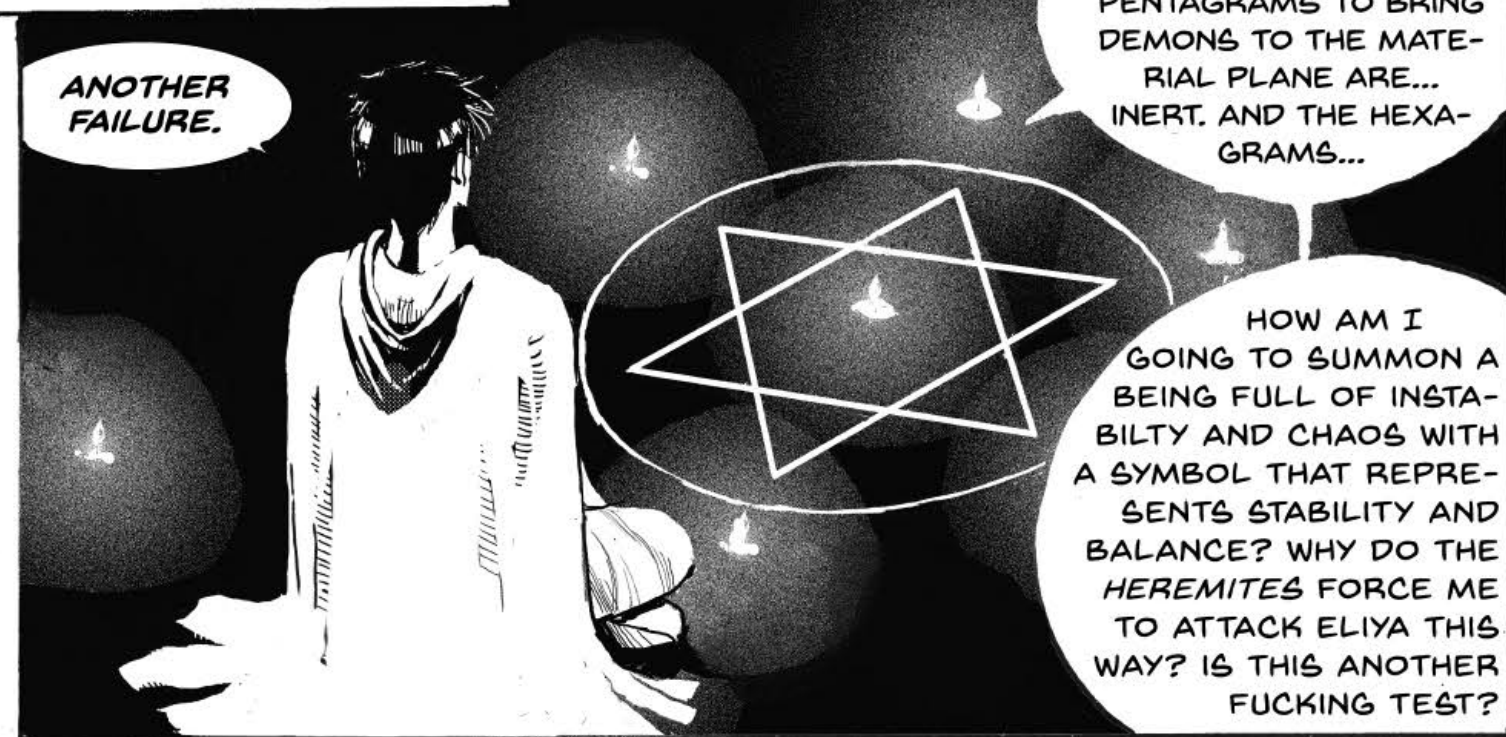


BUT I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF I'M TRULY EXPERIENCING THIS, OR REMEMBERING IT.

ANOTHER FAILURE.

THE EVOCATION IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE USUAL PENTAGRAMS TO BRING DEMONS TO THE MATERIAL PLANE ARE... INERT. AND THE HEXAGRAMS...

HOW AM I GOING TO SUMMON A BEING FULL OF INSTABILITY AND CHAOS WITH A SYMBOL THAT REPRESENTS STABILITY AND BALANCE? WHY DO THE HERMITES FORCE ME TO ATTACK ELIYA THIS WAY? IS THIS ANOTHER FUCKING TEST?



HOW LONG DID IT TAKE BEFORE I DID WHAT I SAID I WOULD NEVER DO?

YOU'LL FIND THE WAY, SIGURD.

YOU'LL FIND THE WAY TO BRING ABAD-DON.



HOW MANY TIMES DID I DO WHAT I SAID I WOULD NEVER DO?



FOCUS,
SIGURD.



LANARK. I'M
LOOKING FOR
LANARK.

THE EBI WANTS
HIM CAPTURED.
BUT I CAN'T DO IT
IMMEDIATELY...

LANARK?



WELL, IF
IT ISN'T THE GUY
WHO PUT SOME
SONS OF GENGHIS
KHAN IN PRISON!



HOW DID YOU
...THE CABALISTS, FOR EXAM-
PLE, WANT ME TO INVESTI-
GATE HIS DRUG, FOR ITS PO-
TENTIAL TO FREE THE MINDS
OF PEOPLE...
DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE
THEM TURN THEMSELVES
TO THE POLICE?



WHO ARE YOU,
BOY? WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?

HEH.

I'M THE OLD
HAY AND THE
SCYTHE THAT
REAPS IT.

AH... A SMAR-
TASS, HUH?

SSSSSSSSSSSS

HAHAHAHAHA!

I KNOW WHO
YOU ARE NOW, BOY.

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S
THIS GUY, GORGEOUS?

HE'S A FAGGOT
OF CONSTIPATED
SPIRIT.

YOU KNOW
WHAT THAT MEANS,
GIRLS? IT MEANS THAT HE
HATES YOU FOR FEELING CON-
TENT ABOUT YOUR LIFE... ONLY
THE **TORTURED** AND AMBI-
TIOUS DESERVE RESPECT,
UNDERSTAND?

YOU READ ALL THAT INTO MY LOOK OF CONTEMPT? YOU SHOULD GIVE TAROT READINGS TO MENOPAUSAL WOMEN OR SOMETHING, YOU WOULD BE GOOD AT IT.

I DIDN'T READ IT; I SMELLED IT.

IT'S JUST THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE CONTENT BY BEING SIMPLE SERVANTS ARE QUITE REPUGNANT TO ME.

WHAT'S SERVILE ABOUT GETTING WHAT YOU WANT BY OFFERING YOUR TALENTS?

DON'T YOU DO THE SAME TOO? HUH? YOU FUCKING KILLER.

HE WANTS ME TO LOSE MY TEMPER.

HE'S SUCCEEDING.

THERE'S NO POINT IN RESISTING. YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS, BY NOW.

HEH.

HAS TO BE PRETTY BORING, GETTING EVERYTHING ON THE FIRST TRY, NO?

TURN AROUND, SIGURD.

YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME WITH THOSE GUYS? I'M SORRY, LANARK.

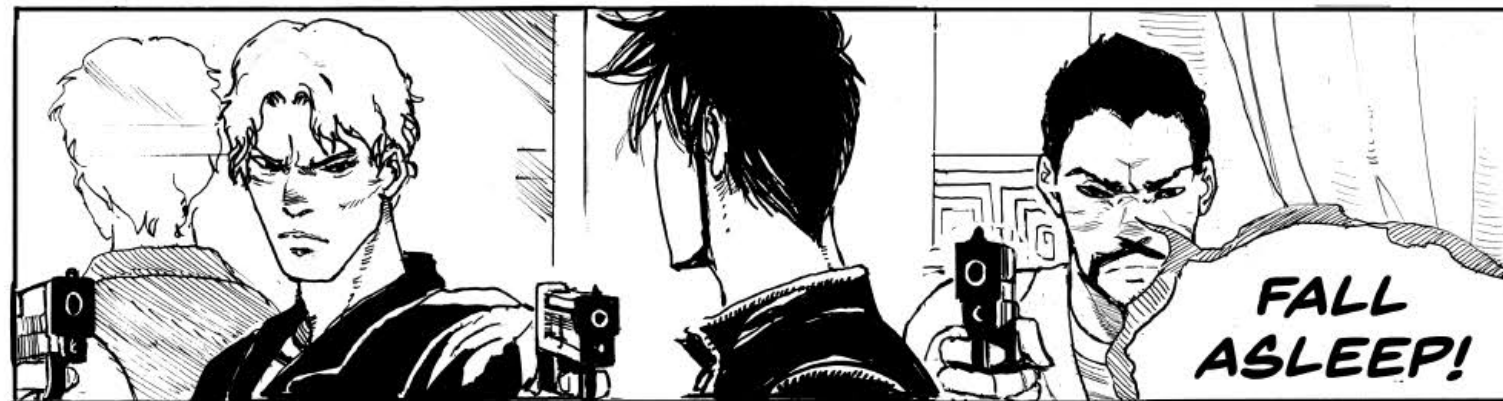
WE'LL TALK LATER... WHEN YOU WAKE UP.

FALL ASLEEP!



WHY DO THEY ALWAYS FORCE ME TO SUPPRESS THEIR WILL?

WHY CAN'T THEY DO WHAT I NEED WITHOUT HAVING TO USE MY HYPNOTIC VOICE ON THEM?





SIGH.

DON'T THEY SAY THAT GOOD THINGS ARE **HARD** TO GET?



AM I A GENIUS OR PEOPLE ARE EXTREMELY WEAK?



ANYWAY. LANARK. WHAT DO YOU SAY IF I TAKE YOU TO A QUIET PLACE WHILE YOU'RE KNOCKED OUT, AND I PREPARE EVERYTHING FOR YOUR INTERROGATION?



ANY **OB-
JECTIONS**, LAN...?



THAT HURT.



A LOT.

HOW DID I FIX THE HEXAGRAM BLOCKAGE?

I **KNEW** THE NATURE OF THE OBSTACLE. THE HEXAGRAM SYMBOLIZES THE BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, FEMININE AND MASCULINE, ACTIVE AND RE-CEPTIVE; THE ETERNAL RETURN TO STABILITY.

WHO WOULD'VE KNOWN THAT ADAM, OF ALL PEOPLE, WOULD BE THE INSPIRATION TO FIND A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

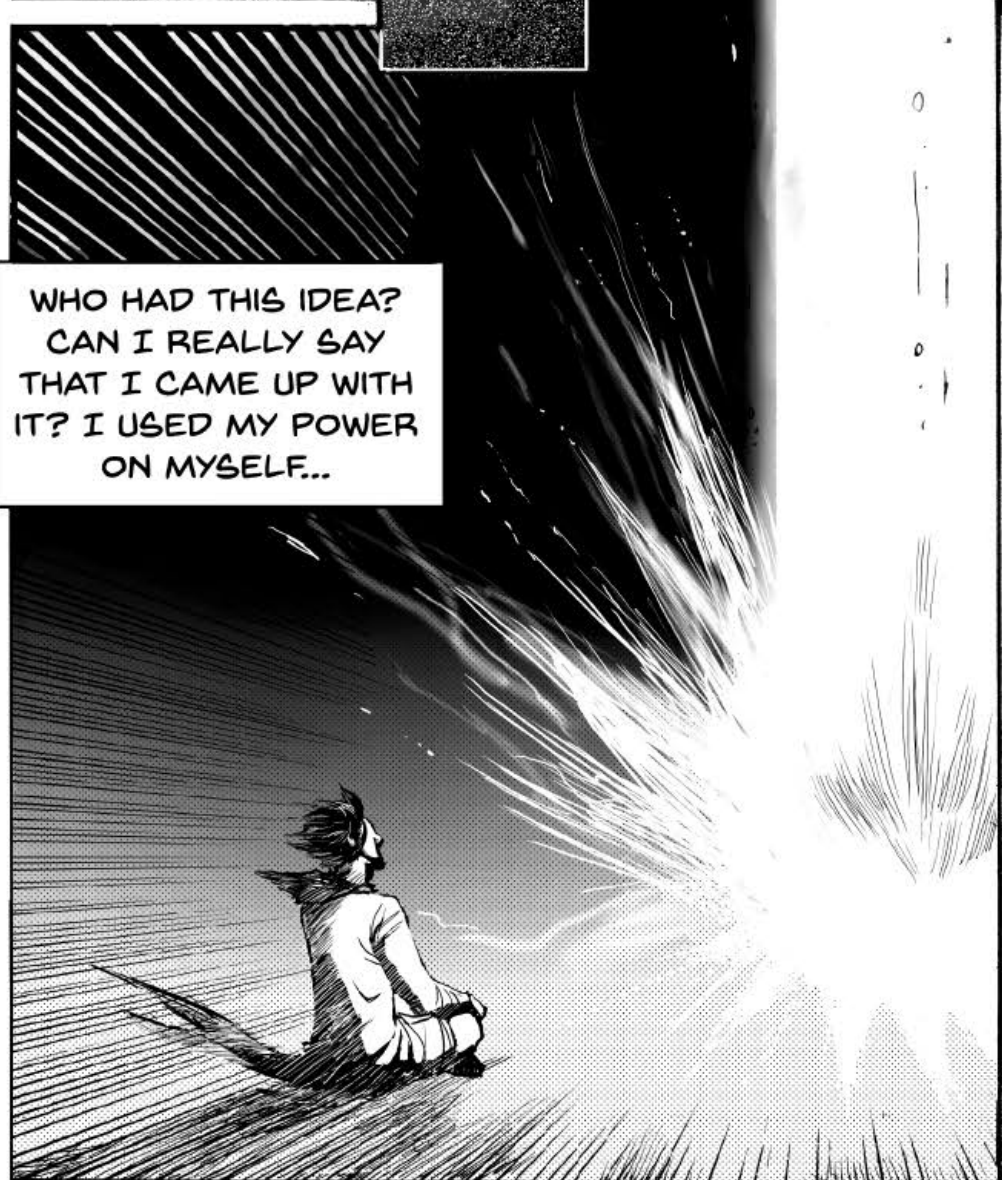
HOW CAN
A SYMBOL
OF HARMONY
BE COR-
RUPTED?



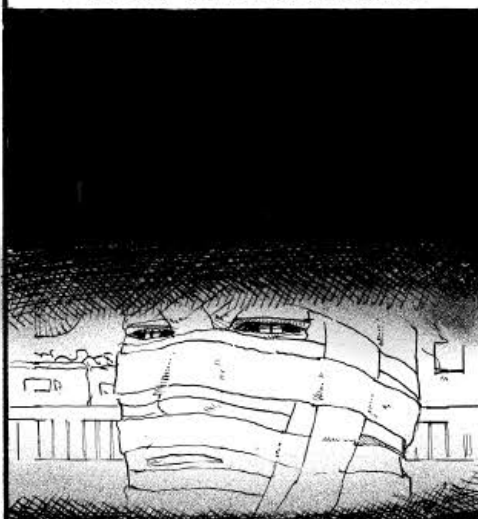
THAT'S WHERE I GOT
THE INSPIRATION FROM
ADAM. TO DEFEND THE
STABILITY OF A CORRUPT
SYSTEM SO THAT IMMEDIATE
PEACE CAN BE MAINTAINED
IS A SUBTLE FORM OF EVIL.

THERE'S NO
NEED TO CHANGE
THE HEXAGRAM,
JUST RECONTEX-
TUALIZE IT AS THE
SYMBOL OF
THOSE WHO
DEFEND AN OUT-
MODED WAY OF
LIFE. TO DO GOOD,
HERE, IS TO BE
DISRUPTIVE, TO
SHIT ON THE OLD
"WORKING IN A
PIZZA JOINT AND
BEING A GOOD
BOY WILL SET YOU
FREE" CRAP.
FUCK THAT.

WHO HAD THIS IDEA?
CAN I REALLY SAY
THAT I CAME UP WITH
IT? I USED MY POWER
ON MYSELF...



I OVERTAKE THE WILL OF
PEOPLE WITH IT, SO CAN I
REALLY SAY THAT I WAS
MYSELF WHEN I EVOKED
ABADDON, WHEN I TOLD HIM
ABOUT THE MISSION...?



COME ON,
MOTHER-
FUCKER.

TIME TO
WAKE
UP.



AM I
CAPABLE OF
THESE THINGS?



YOU MAY BE
FEELING A BIT
DISORIENTED.



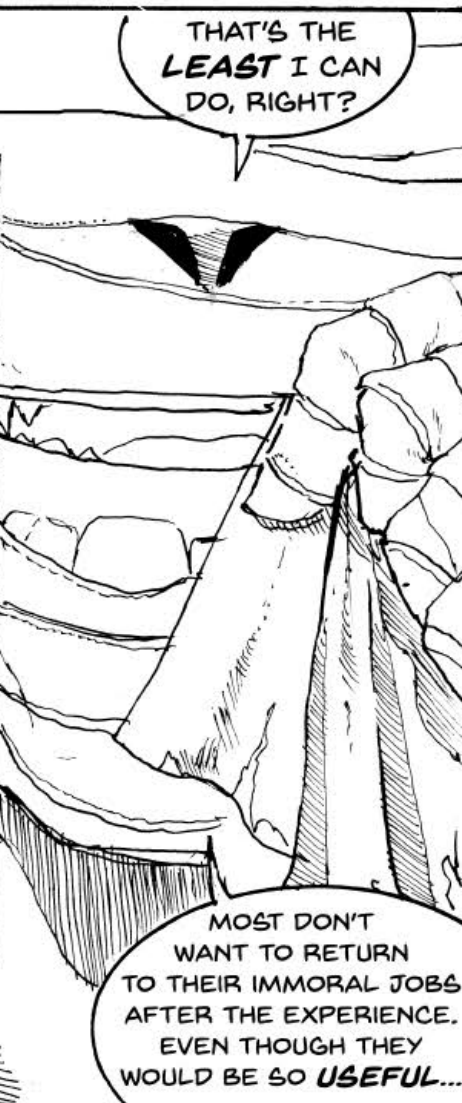
YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST
AGENT THAT *WANTS* IT,
YOU KNOW?



YOU'RE NOT
THE FIRST AGENT THAT
ENDS UP WITH HIS VEINS
FULL OF IT, *EITHER*.

YOU'RE UNDER
THE EFFECTS
OF MY DRUG.

THAT'S THE
LEAST I CAN
DO, RIGHT?

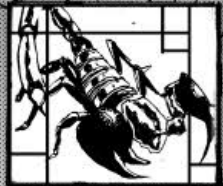


MOST DON'T
WANT TO RETURN
TO THEIR IMMORAL JOBS
AFTER THE EXPERIENCE.
EVEN THOUGH THEY
WOULD BE SO *USEFUL*...

SHOULD'VE BEEN STRIKING, HIS FACE.

WANT TO KNOW HOW IT'S MADE?

IT'S A POORER VERSION OF DMT. SECRETED BY MY **PINEAL GLAND**.



IT ALMOST MAKES UP FOR THIS FACE RUSSIA, MY BELOVED HOMETOWN, GAVE ME AFTER YEARS OF TORTURE AND EXPERIMENTS! IT WOULD BE QUITE UNFAIR IF YOU ALSO TOOK THAT FROM ME, NO?

BUT I'M IN NO CONDITION TO FIND IT STRIKING. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF NOW IS **NOW**.

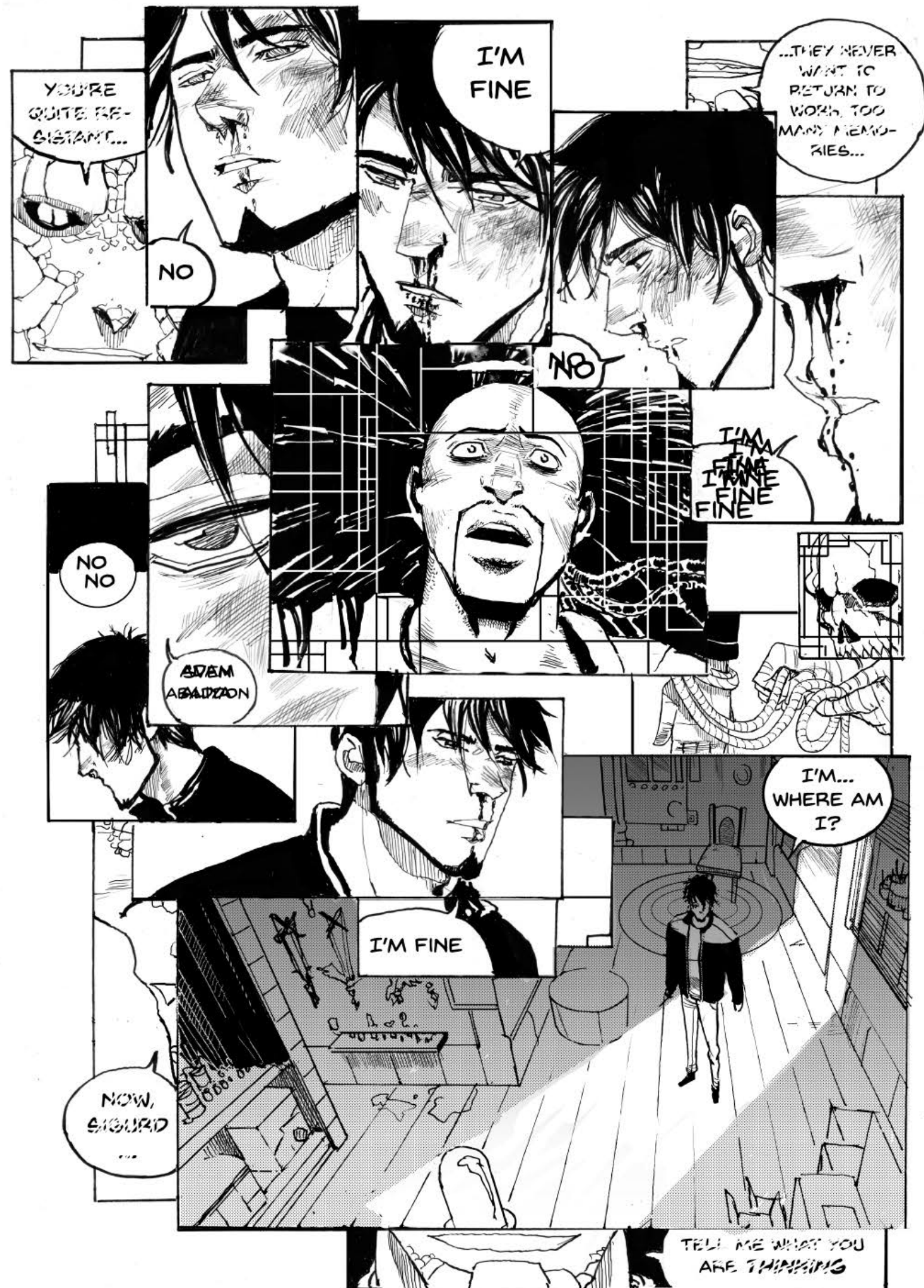
HOW ARE YOU DOING?

YOU SEEM FINE... DON'T WORRY, I'LL DOUBLE YOUR **DOSE**.

CONTRARY TO HUMAN ANATOMY, MY GLAND HAS A SMALL HOLE IN MY FOREHEAD.

MAKES FOR VERY EASY EXTRACTIONS, HONESTLY.

FEEL ANYTHING? SOMETHING LIKE... DISTORTED TIME? MEMORIES BOTH NEW AND OLD MIXING WITH THE PRESENT? DOESN'T MAKE YOU **REEVALUATE** ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE?



IS
YOUR HEAD
CLEARING UP...
SIGURD?

WH-
WHAT... HAVE
YOU...?

I'VE INTERRO-
GATED YOU.
NOTHING EX-
HAUSTIVE, DON'T
WORRY.

YOU'VE GOT
BALLS, BOY. MOST
PEOPLE WOULD BE
ON THE FLOOR,
CRYING AT THE
HORRORS OF
THEIR LIFE...

WHAT HAVE
YOU WHEELED
OUT OF ME?
HOW DO YOU
KNOW MY NAME?

I KNOW YOU COME FOR THE GAUNTLET
I STOLE FROM THE BASE WHERE THEY
MADE ME A DRAGON.

THE HEREMITES WANT
IT, RIGHT? THE CABALISTS
WANT MY DRUG, THE HEREMITES
WANT MY GAUNTLET, AND THE EBI
WANTS ME TO STOP REPROGRAM-
MING MINDS OF ITS SOLDIERS.

AND I KNOW ONLY ONE OF
THESE ORGANIZATIONS
CAUSES ABSOLUTE
FEAR IN YOU.

NO.

YES, SIGURD.
YOU TALKED ABOUT YOUR
NIGHTMARES... ABOUT YOUR...
"ACCESS TEST", IF YOU WANT TO
CALL IT THAT. IT HAD TO BE A
HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE.

I WAS TEMPTED TO
PUT **THE GAUNTLET**
ON RIGHT THERE.

HOW LONG
WERE YOU
IN THE
BLACK
ROOM,
KID?

MONTHS,
RIGHT?

IT FELT LIKE
MONTHS, AT LEAST.
THE MIND... IS QUITE
MALLEABLE.

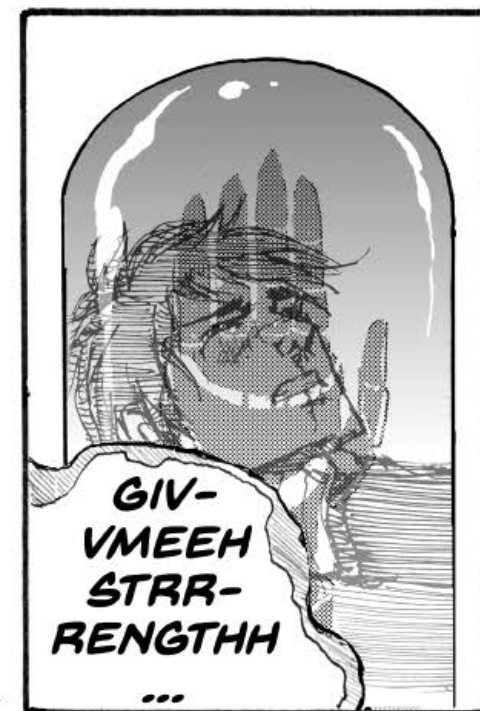
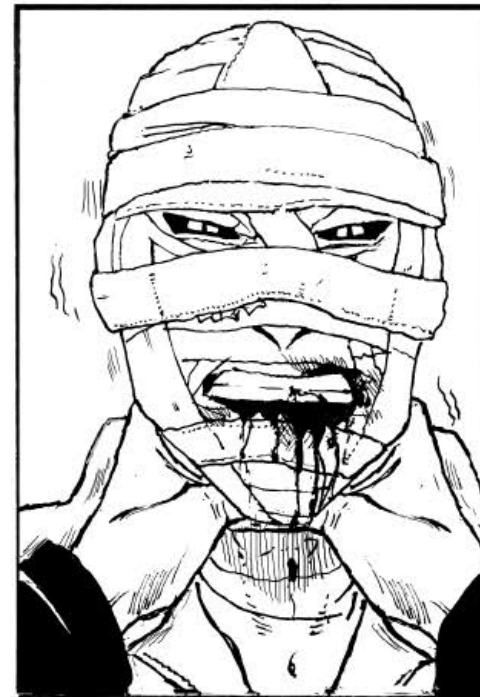
"EVERY DAY, A
BOWL OF FOOD, A
BOWL OF WATER..."

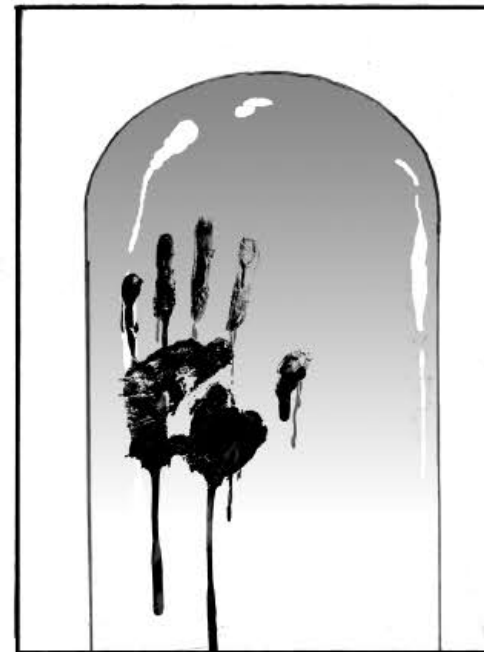
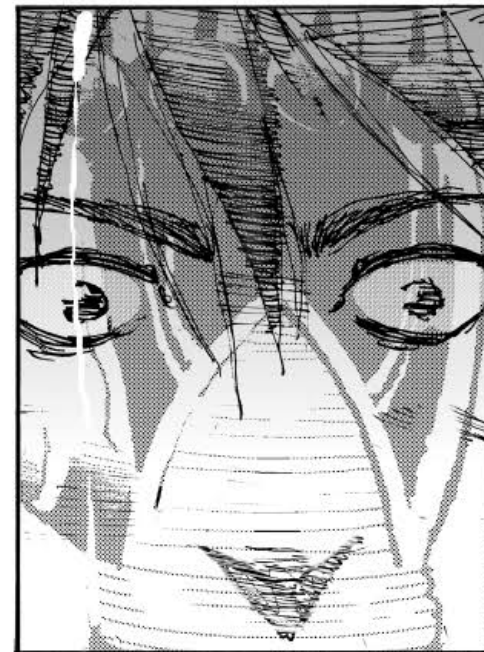
"...AND A SCORPION".

HOW MANY
SCORPIONS
LIVED WITH
YOU, BY THE
END?

WHAT THE
FUCK DO YOU
WANT OF ME?

BUT I DON'T USE SHORTCUTS.
I DON'T MIND CONFRONTING
THE WORST LIFE HAS TO
OFFER. I'M NOT ADAM.





...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:

OUR PATREON -> **PATREON.COM/UPSURGE**

OUR FACEBOOK -> **FACEBOOK.COM/UP-SURGECOMIC**

THROW SOME PEANUTS TO THE APE -> **TWITTER.COM/SIMONOGATARI**

