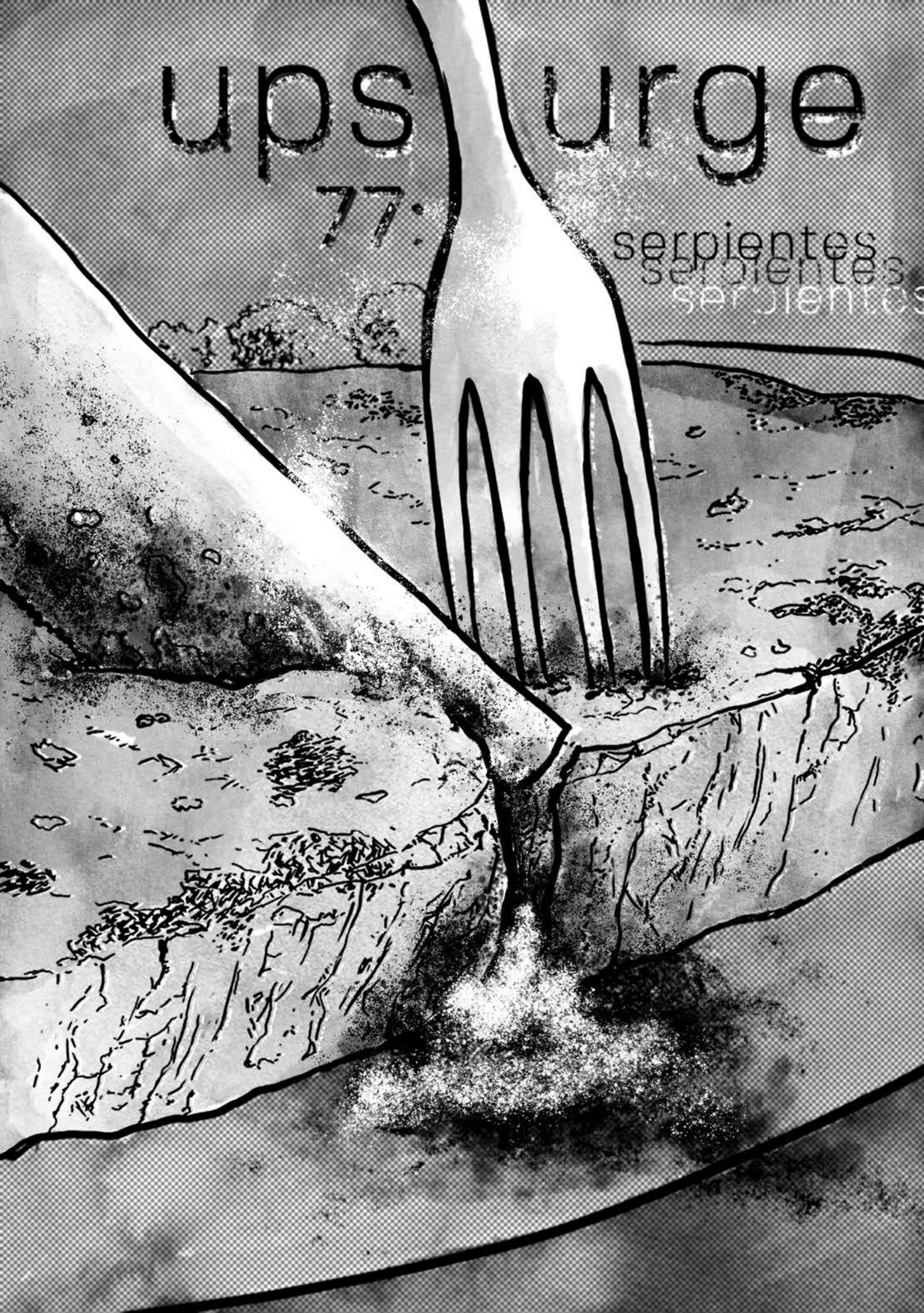

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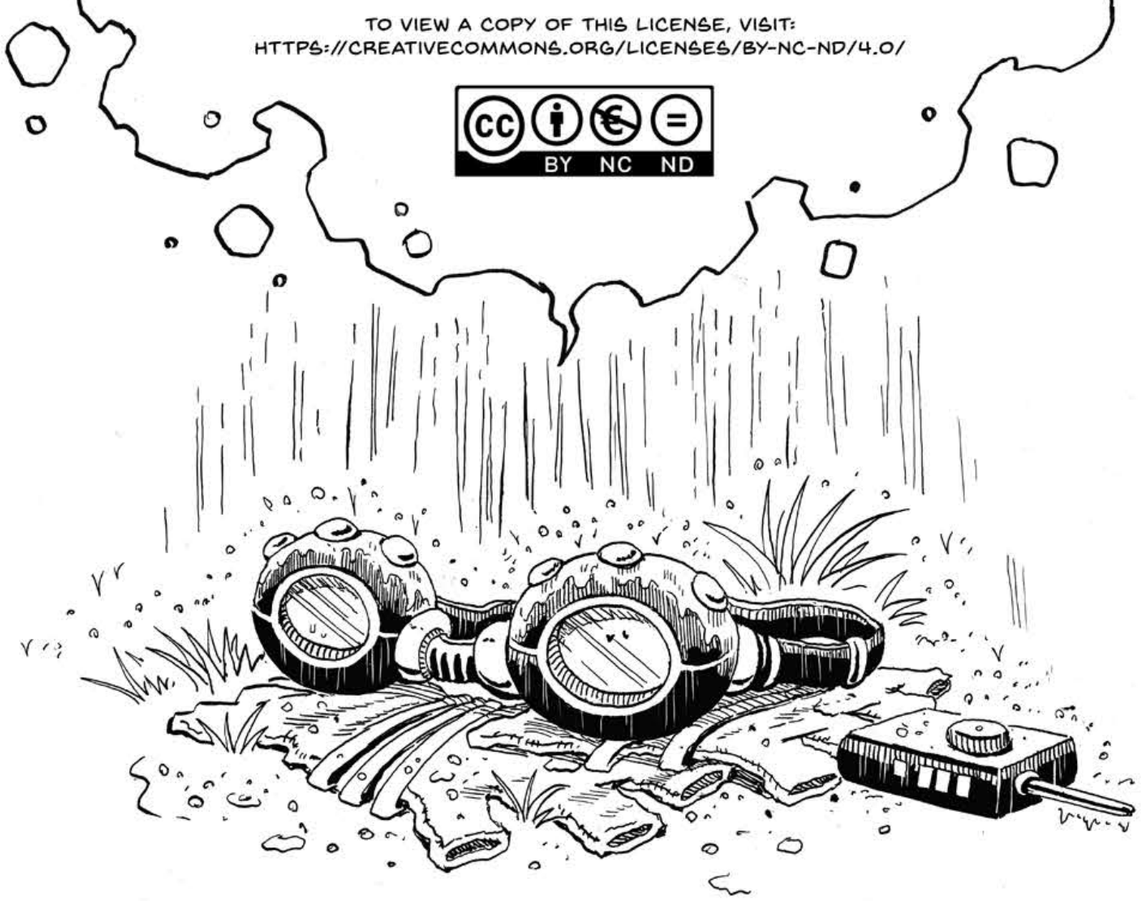
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PANEL LAYOUT
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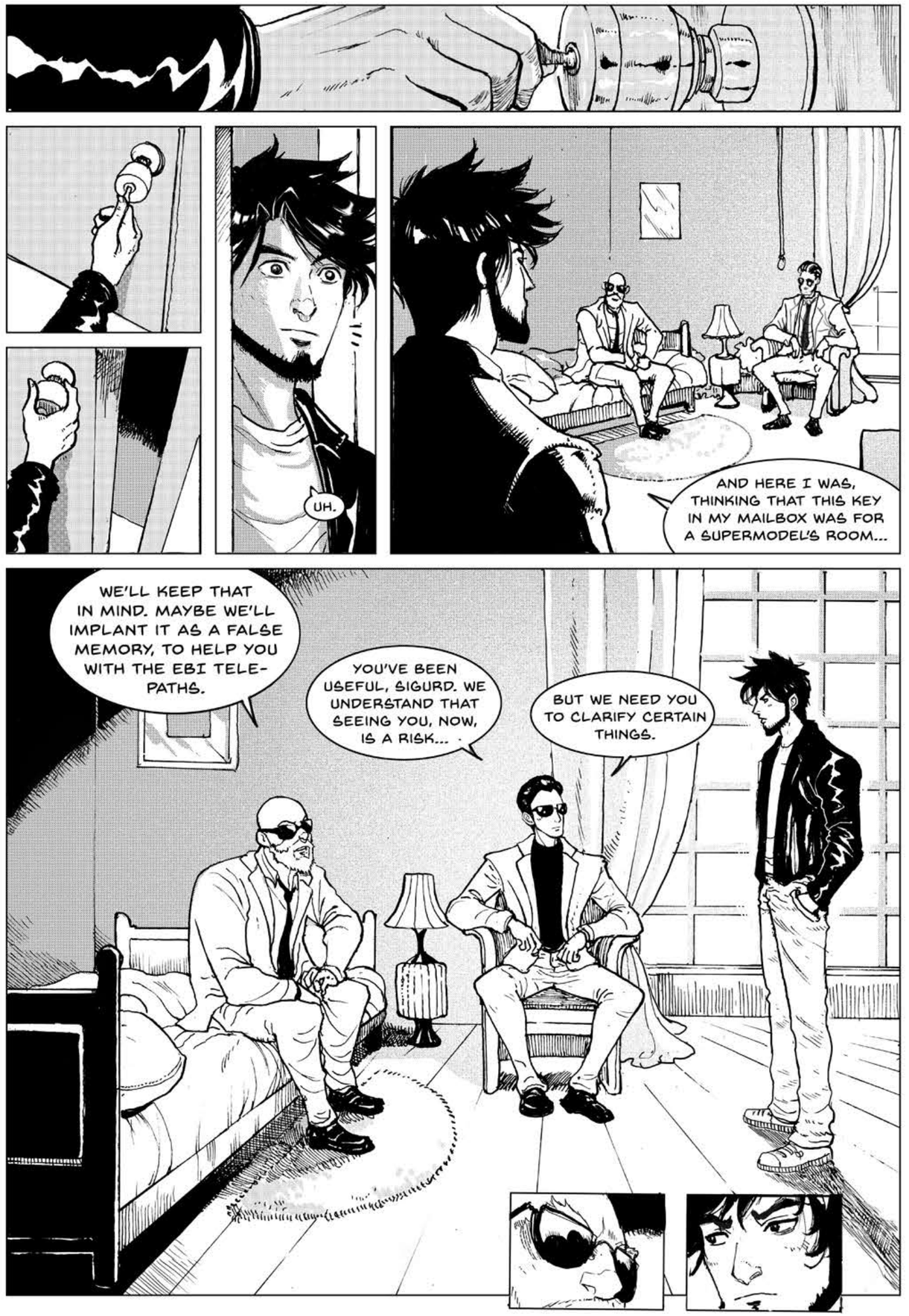
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AGENT... STEINER?

YOU'RE ONE OF THE AGENTS IN THE POEM TEAM, OFFICE SIDE, RIGHT.

OH, YOU.

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO MEET OUTSIDE...

AGENT...

FUCKIN' MONGOLIA, EH.

YEAH. A KINGDOM OF CIRCUITRY AND STEEL.

WOW, YOU'RE REALLY HERE.

WELCOME TO MONGOLIA! YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HAPPY I AM TO SEE YOU HERE, BROTHERS OF THE STAR.

THE CITY IN GENERAL, BUT THIS AREA IN PARTICULAR, CONTROLLED BY THE GANGS, BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF MY ASTRAL HOME. COME!

HEY! I GOT THEM! THE TRIO HAS COME.

I WAS RIGHT. I WAS ABLE TO LOCATE JACOB'S MIND EASIER THAN BEFORE.

AND THAT TRISOMY SUPPORT GROUP, THE CABALISTS, AREN'T IN THE KNOW? GREAT...

SO YOU'RE LANARK.

YOU DON'T HAVE A VERY GOOD REPUTATION AMONG THE CABALISTS.

NOTHING I COULDN'T EXPECT FROM A GROUP WHERE THE MAJORITY ARE AT RISK OF SHITTING THEMSELVES.

SIT.

ANYWAY. ABBADON SAID YOU HAD INFORMATION ABOUT "SAUNIÈRE'S THING". IS IT ABOUT THE VERSES?

THE TRUTH IS THAT WE'VE STUMBLED UPON THE MATTER BY SURPRISE, AND WE LACK SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION.

YES. IN FACT I'M NOT SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, SIGURD SAID THE CABALISTS WANTED TO HIGHLY RESTRICT WHO RECEIVED INFORMATION.

THEY WERE *FORCED* TO ASK FOR OUR HELP.

WE WERE NEAR THE THIRD CITY, WHERE THERE WAS ONE OF THE VERSES, WHEN IT ALL STARTED.

THAT'S WHAT THEY *TOLD* YOU, YES.

NUAU

GRG

LET'S FOCUS.

NO *PROLEGOMENA*, THEN. I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR SOME TIME TO... RECOVER PARTS OF MY PRE-INCARNATION SELF. BEFORE, MY KNOWLEDGE WAS... *ALWAYS AROUND*, LIKE GEOMETRIC CONSTELLATIONS AROUND MY MIND.

I SUPPOSE YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT YOUR CONCEPTION OF THE ASTRAL WORLD IS... *LACKING*. ESPECIALLY THE WORLD OF GODS AND DEMONS...

PARTLY, IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE LIMITED IN WHAT WE'RE ABLE TO SAY...

WHAT I DID NOT EXPECT IS THAT, WHEN I INCARNATED, I MYSELF WOULD BECOME SUBJECT TO THE SAME LIMITATIONS...

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN MEMORIES AND FICTIONS, WHEN IT COMES TO MY PREVIOUS LIFE...

YES, ARES TRIED TO SHOW ME... I DON'T KNOW WHAT. EVEN NOW I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

EXACTLY. I WARN YOU BECAUSE WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY ABOUT SAUNIÈRE'S POEM...

...IT'S FROM MY MEMORIES OF WHEN I WAS A DEMON, SO... *CAREFUL*.

THAT POEM-RITUAL... IS SAID TO BE ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX. IN PART, BECAUSE IT USES THREE-DIMENSIONAL LANGUAGE.

...BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE CONJURER IS OBLIGED TO USE ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE FOR THE VERSES, EVEN IF HE "EMBELLISHES" THEM, AND THEY MUST BE WORTHY OF A POEM. SO YOU CAN'T DO IT IF YOU HAVE LED A WORTHLESS LIFE...

FOR WHAT PURPOSE? WHAT DOES THE RITUAL DO?

IF YOU GET IT WRONG, NOTHING, IN THE BEST OF CASES.

BUT MOST LIKELY YOUR SPIRIT, UNABLE TO REACH THE LEVEL OF SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE POEM, WILL START ON A PATH OF ENTROPY THAT WILL END IN ***DEATH.***

IF YOU GET IT RIGHT... IF YOU GET IT RIGHT, YOU BECOME AN ***ABERRATION.***

A DEMI-GOD.

A... WHAT?

THAT'S... WHAT I SAW?

WHAT EMANATED FROM FREI... IT LOOKED LIKE SAUNIÈRE...

THERE YOU HAVE IT. WE'D HEARD RUMORS, BUT IF YOU SAW IT YOURSELVES, ALL THE BETTER. IF YOU'VE SEEN FREI EVOKING SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE HIM...

...THEN YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN THE CURRENT FORM OF SAUNIÈRE; AN ASPECT OF THE DEMIGOD.

BUT... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

WELL. AS I'VE SAID, MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD OF GODS AND DEMONS... IT'S *VERY FAR AWAY*, JACOB.

IT'S A CRUEL JOKE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY, BUT NONE OF THIS IS ***RELIABLE...***

THE... *TANGENCY* BETWEEN YOUR WORLD AND OURS... YOU SEE US AS GREAT IDEAS OR FEELINGS. A DEMIGOD...

THE AIM OF THAT POEM IS... TO MAKE THE LIFE OF A HUMAN SO POWERFUL A LEGEND THAT IT'S ALMOST ***COMPARABLE*** TO THAT OF A GOD.

YOU YOURSELVES HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS FEELING OF EXALTATION IN THE PRESENCE OF EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS; HIGH-LEVEL ARTISTS, SPORTSMEN, WOMEN OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY...

OR, ON THE OTHER END, SERIAL KILLERS, DICTATORS... THEY HAVE THIS AURA OF... *CARVING THEMSELVES INTO A MYTH.*

THE POEM... IS THAT CONCEPT TAKEN TO THE EXTREME.

SAUNIÈRE PERFORMED FEATS WORTHY OF A MAGIC POEM TO BECOME A LEGEND... A SEMI-DEITY.

SAUNIÈRE... I DON'T KNOW IF HE DIED IN THE NORMAL WAY OR... I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT PART WORKS. BUT AT SOME POINT, HIS CONSCIOUSNESS AND HIS SPIRIT BECAME SO SPIRITUALLY ***DENSE*** THAT IT TRANSCENDED THE MATERIAL WORLD.

THE HEREMITES ARE DISMANTLING THE VERSES, RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY DISMANTLE THEM? WHAT... WHAT IS SAUNIÈRE NOW?

HOW DO YOU... HOW DO YOU DISMANTLE A VERSE? I MEAN... OH... GOD. WHAT'S THE POINT OF BECOMING A DEMIGOD?

HA. WHAT A DELUGE. THE SIMPLEST ONE: WHAT I KNOW ABOUT DEMIGODS IS THAT, BEING AN INTERMEDIATE STEP BETWEEN DIVINITY AND MORTAL, THEY HAVE MORE EASE TO ENTER THIS PLANE AND ALTER IT...

WHAT HE CURRENTLY IS... WELL, HALF ONE OF US. SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO THE MATERIAL WORLD ANYMORE.

AS TO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE VERSES ARE DEACTIVATED. I... THIS IS JUST MY GUESS...

IF THEY ELIMINATE ALL THE VERSES, SAUNIÈRE WILL EITHER DISAPPEAR, OR HE'LL CHANGE IN SUCH A WAY THAT, AT LEAST ON THIS PLANE, IT'LL BE AS IF HE HAD DIED. I THINK THAT'S LIKELY.

IF ALL BUT ONE IS DISMANTLED, SAUNIÈRE WILL PROBABLY BE SO LIMITED THAT IT WILL BE LIKE A ***PHANTASMAGORIA,*** A DISTANT ECHO OF AN ENTITY. IF LESS ARE DEACTIVATED? TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...I DON'T KNOW. PERHAPS I NEVER KNEW ENOUGH ABOUT THE RITUAL; PERHAPS THIS VOID SIMPLY MEANS THAT THE EFFECTS WOULD NOT BE VISIBLE TO US, SO I'M NO LONGER ABLE TO VISUALIZE IT.

...HOW MANY VERSES ARE THERE?

THE WAY THEY TALKED IN THE THIRD CITY, TWO MUST HAVE ALREADY...

USUALLY? SIX. AND THE RUMORS ARE THAT THEY CAUGHT THE FIRST THREE, NOT TWO.

BUT THIS IS MORE THE DOMAIN OF *MISTER SMOOTH SKIN*, SO ALL YOURS.

HH... YES.

WHAT HAPPENED IN ANDALUSIA? IF I UNDERSTOOD CORRECTLY, THERE WAS A VERSE THERE. THE HEREMITES BELIEVED SO, AT LEAST.

AND YET THEY INVESTIGATED FOR A WEEK AND FOUND NOTHING, NO TRACE.

AS USUAL, THE EBI DOESN'T CLARIFY ANYTHING...

...

AGENT. ANSWER.

...HE... WE CONCLUDED ROBBERY, I THINK. EVEN FREI DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE, BUT... I-IT WAS THE ONLY EXPLANATION.

...

WHAT?

THEFT? NOT DEACTIVATION?

Y-YES.

IS THAT... POSSIBLE?

IT'S... THE ONLY... EXPLANATION...

I-IT GAVE THE IMPRESSION... THAT FREI... CAN DETECT WHETHER A VERSE IS ACTIVE OR NOT...

RIGHT. THOSE VERSES... EVEN THOUGH NOBODY WANTS TO CONFIRM IT TO ME, SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THEY'RE LINKED TO THAT ENTITY OF FREI.

SO, DOES FREI KNOW ***WHERE*** THE STOLEN ONE IS?

HE S-SAID NO...

HA! RIGHT.

OKAY, NEXT QUESTION.

...THE VERSE...

...THE ONE YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR IN ANDALUSIA...

...THE EBI REALLY LOST IT. NO SWITCH, NO TRAP.

THERE'S SIMPLY A THIRD FACTION THAT TOOK IT.

CABALISTS? WE HAVEN'T HEARD...

NO. THEY DON'T KNOW WHO.

OH, THEY DON'T KNOW WHO? ARE THERE SUSPECTS AT LEAST?

NO, I'M SORRY. IT'S A BIT STRANGE. WE HAVE A TEAM DEDICATED TO THIS, BUT NOT EVEN A LIST OF SUS...

HH. CONVENIENT, DON'T YOU THINK?

REALLY, SIGURD? YOU HAD BEEN DOING WELL...

BELIEVE WHATEVER THE FUCK YOU WANT! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!

I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP YOU, EVEN WITH GABRIEL AROUND ME ALL FUCKING DAY!

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE, BUT IF I DID, I WOULDN'T TELL YOU RIGHT NOW EITHER! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M GOING TO GET ***CAUGHT?***

LET'S SEE HOW YOU MANAGE WITHOUT ME AS A TRIPLE AGENT!

WELL, NOW THAT YOU'VE LISTENED TO THE DEVIL INCARNATE...

...LET'S MOVE TO THE SECOND HALF OF THIS MEETING.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, WE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE HEREMITES WERE ROAMING AROUND THE OUTSKIRTS OF SEVILLE...

THE SOUTH OF YOUR COUNTRY, RIGHT? ANYWAY. IT WAS A TEAM WITH AN EXECUTIONER... ONE OF THOSE HEREMITES WITH A MASK.

THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER VERSE. BUT... SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENED.

THE TEAM SCOURED ALL OF SEVILLE AND SURROUNDINGS...

...AND NOTHING HAPPENED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NOTHING"?

NOTHING. THE TEAM WAS THERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS, AND THEY DIDN'T GET ANYTHING. MY SPIES CONFIRM IT. THEY KNEW THE VERSE WAS THERE, THEY KNEW THE AREA...

A SERIES OF CAVES...

...AND YET, THE VERSE WASN'T THERE. AND THE FUNNY THING IS... THE EBI MORONS ALSO DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

IT'S NOT A TRAP, THEY DIDN'T MOVE IT.

THERE'S A THIRD PARTY IN THIS, YOU UNDERSTAND?

SO... YOU.

SOMEONE WHO KNEW ABOUT THE VERSE AND HAD THE MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE IT VISIBLE AND MOVE IT.

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN YOU, WOULD IT?

WHAT?

I WISH.

SURE, I WAS JUST... SMELLING THE ANSWER... HMM.

THAT SAID...

HERE'S THE THING. SOME OF OUR GANGS... WE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SOME **GYPSY CLANS.**

SOME OF WHICH ARE STILL IN TOUCH WITH CLANS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WHICH ARE IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE IN SPAIN...

WE'VE DONE INTENSIVE INFO SCRAPING. ANY REMOTELY PARANORMAL OR OCCULT ELEMENTS THAT THE SPANISH CLANS COULD REMEMBER...

THE GOOD THING ABOUT HAVING A GROUP THAT DOESN'T INTEGRATE IS THAT ITS ORAL TRANSMISSION IS MORE USEFUL THAN WHATEVER CRAP THE BASIC COLLEGE GRADUATE CAN REGURGITATE.

THIS IS SOMETHING I SEE MORE AND MORE, THANKS TO THE INTERNET: THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE WITHOUT A SINGLE ORIGINAL THOUGHT WHO THINK THEY HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY IS...

IN A WAY. THERE ARE MULTIPLE SOURCES THAT SPEAK OF SO-CALLED "BLACK MAGES".

BLACK OF SKIN, NOT IN THE MAGIC THEY PRACTICE.

YOU FOUND SOMETHING.

AFRICANS. THEY FORMED... CULTS? IN SOUTHERN SPAIN.

IN THE... "PAST".

NOT THE "PAST", 1700 MINIMUM, IF NOT BEFORE. SAUNIÈRE SEEMS TO BE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED AT THAT TIME, ACCORDING TO WHAT I SAW IN THAT CITY.

IF WE ARE TO BELIEVE THOSE *COMIC PAGES*, THE GUY HAD THE VISION TO UNITE THE EUROPEAN MAGES, BUT HE MENTIONED SOUTHERN SPAIN AS SOMETHING HE WANTED TO INVESTIGATE.

STANDS TO REASON THAT IF THERE WAS A VERSE IN THAT PLACE, THE CONTENTS ARE PROBABLY RELATED TO THE AREA.

PERHAPS EVEN *NEED* TO STAY THERE TO BE AT FULL POWER. WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THEY HID THEM, BUT NOT TAKE THEM TO AN EBI...

NOT ONLY THAT. IF THE POEM ONLY HAS SIX VERSES, IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT FINDING THAT ONE WOULD TELL US WHERE THE OTHERS ARE.

THIS VERSE COULD BE ***CRUCIAL*** TO GET AN ADVANTAGE OVER EVERYONE ELSE.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE, AFTER ALL. BACK TO WHAT I WAS SAYING BEFORE YOU INTERRUPTED ME: THERE ARE MANY TESTIMONIES THAT SAY THIS CULT CONTINUED...

TO THE POINT THAT SAUNIÈRE MAY HAVE ***ENCOUNTERED*** THEM.

WE'VE COMPILED ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT THAT MAGES' CULT IN SOUTHERN SPAIN... MY THEORY IS THAT WHOEVER STOLE THE VERSE IS RELATED TO THEM, OR WANTED SOMETHING FROM THEIR LEGACY.

HERE YOU HAVE A MAP WITH ALL THE RELEVANT PLACES, THE ONES WHERE THE HEREMITES WERE...

...AND THOSE GATHERED FROM THE GYPSY CLANS.

IF YOU DON'T FIND USEFUL INFORMATION IN THE AREA WHERE THE VERSE WAS STOLEN, YOU CAN TRACK THESE DOWN.

WE KNOW TWO RELEVANT THINGS ABOUT THAT GROUP.

THE GYPSIES HAVE A FEW LEGENDS ABOUT THESE MAGES...

IN MOST OF THEM, APPEARS IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THE IDEA OF A RITE OF INITIATION, A BIT LIKE WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF ELEUSIS...

...A GROUP THAT LIVES NEAR SEVILLE SAYS THAT, IN THIS RITE, THE BLACK MAGES REVEALED THE "SECRET ORIGIN" OF MAGIC.

...WHAT? MAGIC... IS NOTHING BUT AN EXTERNALIZATION OF SPIRITUAL POWER. HOW CAN IT HAVE AN ***ORIGIN?***

THE OTHER THING... IF YOU LOOK AT THE MAPS, YOU WILL SEE THAT, IN REALITY, MOST OF THE SUPPOSED BASES OF THE CULT ARE AROUND THE GUADALQUIVIR RIVER...

MANY WERE IN THE WOODS ADJACENT TO THE RIVER, OR DIRECTLY ON THE ANDALUSIAN COAST.

OBVIOUSLY, COMING FROM AFRICA, IT MAKES SENSE THAT THEY WOULD SETTLE THERE, BUT RUMOR HAS IT THAT THEY WERE INTERESTED IN BEING NEAR THE COAST TO ATTACK SLAVE SHIPS...

SO... THE CULT WANTED REVENGE?

WHAT DID THEY HOPE TO ACHIEVE, STOP THE SLAVE TRADE?

THAT'S WHAT WE HOPE YOU WILL DISCOVER.

WHY? WHY WOULD WE COOPERATE WITH YOU?

YOU THINK WE'RE STUPID?

WHO KNOWS WHAT FUCKING AGENDA YOU HAVE? *YOU WORK WITH SIGURD!*

THE SNAKEFACE, AT LEAST! AND YOU... MOTHERFUCKER, YOU KILLED ELIYA! YOU FUCKED UP MY LIFE, AND HERE YOU ARE, TALKING ABOUT THIS SHIT LIKE IT'S NOTHING! *WHO THE FUCK YOU THINK YOU ARE...?*

HAHAHA! HOW QUAINT. HOW HAVE I RUINED YOUR LIFE, IF YOU ARE NOW SO MUCH MORE THAN YOU EVER WERE...?

I SAVED YOUR FRIEND. A LIFE CANCELS A DEATH, NO?

YOU *LAUGH?* YOU **LAUGH?!**

YEAH, 'CAUSE I BELIEVE ELIYA IS YOUR ONLY MURDER!

AND HOW DID YOU INCARNATE, HUH? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? HOW CAN A *CLUSTER OF IDEAS* INCARNATE, BECOME HUMAN, AND KILL...?! WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT YOUR WORLD AND OURS ...!!?

WHAT ARE YOUR FUCKING INTENTIONS? WHY DO YOU WANT TO HELP US, *HOW DOES IT BENEFIT YOU?!*

CALM DOWN, KID, YOU'RE GOING TO CHOKE, WITH SO MANY WORDS IN YOUR THROAT. IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT? INVESTIGATE ME? WE CAN PLAY THAT GAME, IF YOU WANT...

...THOUGHT YOU'D BE TOO BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS TO OBSESS OVER THE LITTLE THINGS OF THE PAST.

...

ADAM. YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL.

GO OUTSIDE.

WE PROMISED PEACE. DO YOU WANT TO BREAK THE PROMISE?

GO TO THE PLATFORM. *NOW.*

FUCK IT.

HEY!

ADAM!

SLAM

DON'T WORRY. HE'LL **COOPERATE.**

I KNOW.

NOBODY COMPLAINS SO MUCH ABOUT SOMETHING THEY KNOW THEY'RE ***NOT*** GOING TO DO.

JUST ANOTHER SLUT ACTING ALL DIGNIFIED BEFORE SPREADING HER LEGS.

THAT'S ALL THE INFORMATION THAT AGENT SIGURD HERNÁNDEZ GAVE ME. HONESTLY, ALL DUE RESPECT, I CONSIDER ADVISABLE TO KILL HIM.

DON'T ASK ME HOW, BUT EVERY ANSWER HE GAVE ME REEKED OF BETRAYAL.

STAND UP, FERNANDO. ARE YOU A ROOKIE? AN EXECUTIONER IS UNWORTHY OF THIS DEFERENCE. AS FOR SIGURD... YOU BELITTLE HIS SKILL. I THINK YOU DON'T HAVE THE PROPER VISION TO JUDGE HIS ACTIONS.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WE HAVE CAREFULLY OBSERVED THE FACTS. IN THE CITY OF HEROES, A GROUP ADJACENT TO THE CABALISTS APPEARED.

THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION, BUT, WHEN PRIEST LIVION AND SIGURD MET, HE CONFIRMED HE'S BEEN USING A RUSSIAN AGENT TO INFORM THE CABALISTS...

...AND USE THEM TO HINDER THE EBI, AS WELL AS LEAKING INFORMATION THAT MIGHT REACH US.

AND YOU BELIEVE HIM? SEEMS TO ME A VERY CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO SOW CHAOS...

AGENT HERNÁNDEZ IS IN A VERY COMPROMISED SITUATION. THAT GABRIEL... HE SEEMS TO BE A VERY DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL.

ALSO, THE EBI APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT SIGURD'S UNDER THEIR TELEPATHIC CONTROL. HE CAN'T GIVE HIMSELF AWAY WITH OBVIOUS MOVES.

...IN ANY CASE, THAT'S NOT WHY WE KEEP HIM IN OUR RANKS.

NO? WHAT IS IT, THEN?

HE LOOKS LIKE A ***SNAKE*** TO ME.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHOSE DISSOCIATION FROM THEMSELVES IS SO GREAT, WHAT THEY SAY OUT LOUD IS ENTIRELY IRRELEVANT.

SIGURD IS OUR MOST LOYAL MEMBER, EVEN WHEN HE ISN'T.

LANARK SEEMS TO BE INVESTIGATING THE THEFT OF THE VERSE.

EUROPEAN PHILATELIC MUSEUM

I IMAGINE HE STILL HAS CONTROL OVER SIGURD'S MIND, AND THAT'S HOW HE STARTED SNIFFING AROUND.

I THOUGHT THAT AFTER RUSHKOFF'S SCRUBBING, SIGURD WAS FREE OF SUCH MANIPULATIONS.

YES. BUT RUSHKOFF ALREADY WARNED ME... SIGURD'S MIND IS A BIT ***PECULIAR.***

THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I HAVEN'T CONSIDERED USING SAUNIÈRE'S WILL ON HIM, APART FROM THE FACT THAT THE HEREMITES WOULD KILL HIM AS SOON AS THEY DETECTED IT...

HHM. I'VE NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE BOY, BUT I'M NOT ABLE TO DISCERN WHAT IT IS.

YES. FROM WHAT RUSHKOFF IDENTIFIED, THERE'S A PART OF HIM SEGMENTED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IS... WELL, LET'S LEAVE IT AS ***ANOMALOUS.***

IT ALLOWS... HE'S CAPABLE OF BELIEVING HIS OWN LIES.

SO WHAT DO WE DO? DO WE LEAVE IT ALONE?

YES.

OBVIOUSLY, IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER WITH ONLY THE HEREMITES ON IT...

...BUT THE MORE INFORMATION IS RELEASED, THE MORE LEGITIMATE IT WILL ALL LOOK. HH.

I KNOW YOU'RE EXPECTING TO CAPTURE A PRIEST WITH ALL THIS, BUT... I'M AFRAID WE'RE OPENING THE GAME TO TOO MANY PEOPLE.

SO WHAT WOULD YOU DO? LEAVE THOSE MONSTERS IN OUR ATTIC?

...

ADAM! THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

THIS IS PERFECT! WE'VE GOT A LOT OF INFORMATION WITHOUT HAVING TO RISK ANYTHING!

WHAT?

HAVE YOU SEEN ***WHO*** IS GIVING IT TO US?

AND YOU KNOW THAT SIGURD IS BEHIND ALL THIS.

RIN SAID HE'S UNDER SNAKEFACE'S CONTROL, BUT I'M TELLING YOU, THAT FUCKER IS PLAYING THEM! AND US!

EVEN IF THAT WERE SO, *WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

SHIT, IS THIS THE WORLD YOU WANT? CAN'T WE JUST HAVE ONE *CLEAN CASE,* NO BULLSHIT, NO ASSHOLES HELPING?

WE WEREN'T EVEN ***WORKING*** ON THIS, WE WERE INVESTIGATING THE SHADOWGENE STUFF WHEN WE STUMBLED UPON THIS SHIT BY CHANCE!

OKAY, BUT ISN'T THIS OUR OPPORTUNITY? DIDN'T WE WANT TO GET BACK AT THE EBI, AT THE HEREMITES, AT ALL THESE CORRUPT PEOPLE?

JUST BECAUSE IT COMES FROM THESE CUNTS, DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T DO SOMETHING ***GOOD*** WITH IT!

PFFT. SO WHAT DO WE DO IF WE FIND A VERSE? WE DESTROY IT? YOU THINK THE HEREMITES WON'T USE THAT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE?

OR THESE TWO, YOU THINK THEY GIVE US THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT EXPECTING TO BENEFIT FROM IT?

CHRIST, ADAM! WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING?

THAT EVERY OPPORTUNITY SHOULD COME WITH A *PINK RIBBON?*

SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE YOU USE THE IDEA OF PERFECTION TO BELITTLE WHAT WE HAVE! IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO ***WIN!***

WIN?! WIN WHAT?!

I DON'T KNOW, *WIN! ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS!*

WE CAN USE OUR POWER TO-TO GET REVENGE OR FIX SOMETHING! WHY DOESN'T IT SEEM TO GIVE YOU THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF PRIDE OR HAPPINESS?

















...TO BE CONTINUED

SEE YOU IN ABOUT ~~40~~ 50 DAYS (IDEALLY; SOME ISSUES IT'S 60 OR, UHM, MORE). WE KEEP THE RELEASE DATE UPDATED ON THE FACEBOOK FIXED POST. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING US SO WE CAN GET ISSUES OUT FASTER AND GET ***DRAWINGS/SKETCHES*** OF FUTURE ISSUES, ***EARLY ACCESS*** TO A WORK-IN-PROGRESS VERSION OF THE NEXT ISSUE, OR ***VIDEOS*** SHOWING HOW WE DRAW A PAGE, PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US THROUGH PATREON (LINK BELOW). IF WE GET ENOUGH HELP, WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE UPSURGE A MONTHLY SERIES. THANKS!

ah I wish...

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