

THE SILVER CORD



# THE SILVER CORD

BOOK ONE ~ THE NEPHILIM

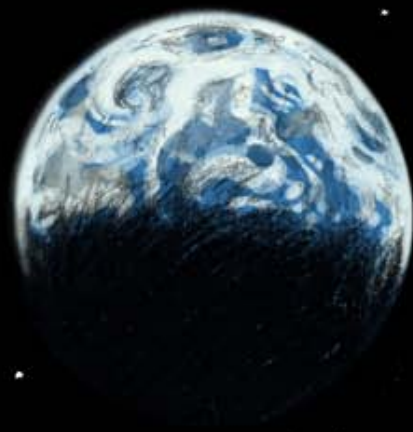
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*THIS IS EARTH.*

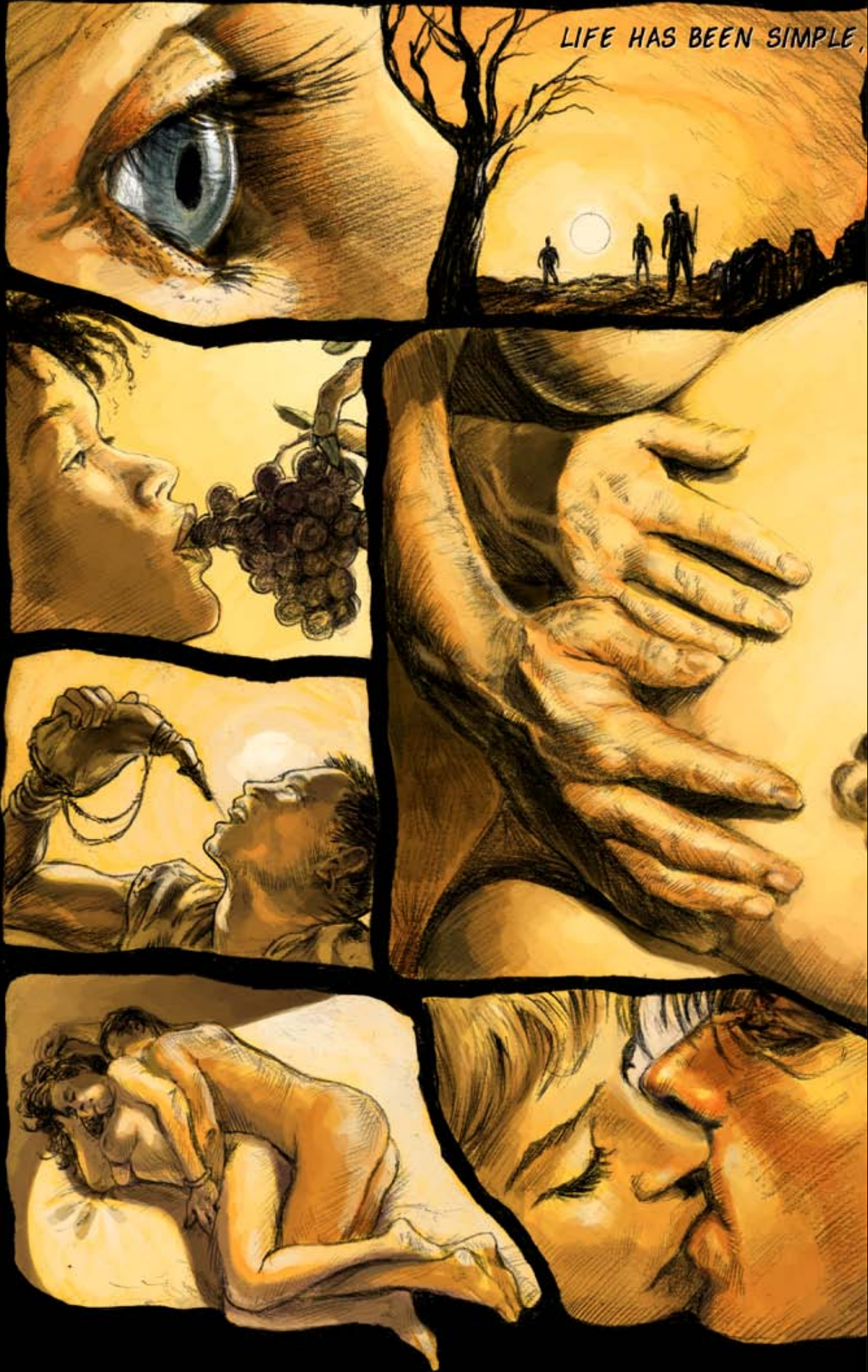
*OUR WORLD.*

*OUR REALM.*



FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS,

LIFE HAS BEEN SIMPLE,



TURN THE SOIL...



...EAT, DRINK...



...MAKE LOVE.

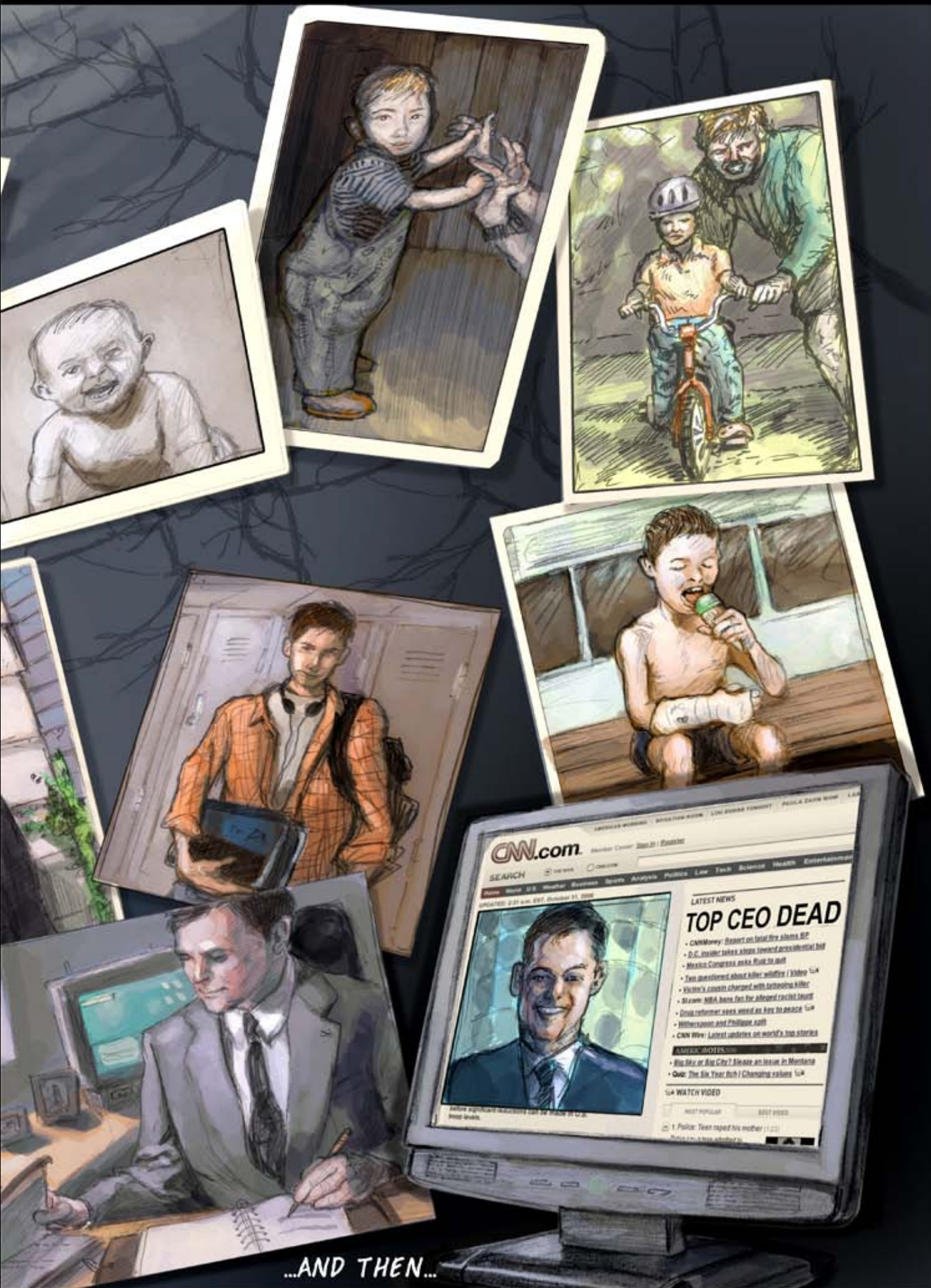
WE BRING  
CHILDREN INTO  
THIS WORLD...



...LIVE LONG AND  
PROSPEROUS LIVES...







...AND THEN...

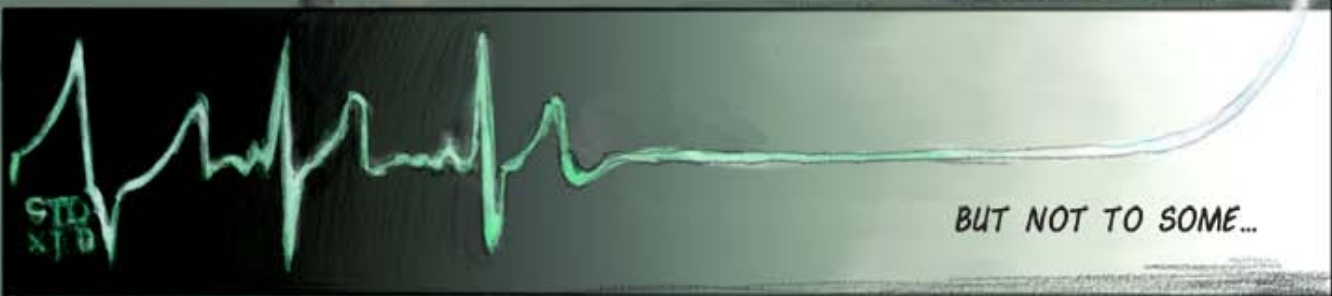
...THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS...

WE QUIETLY PASS ON...





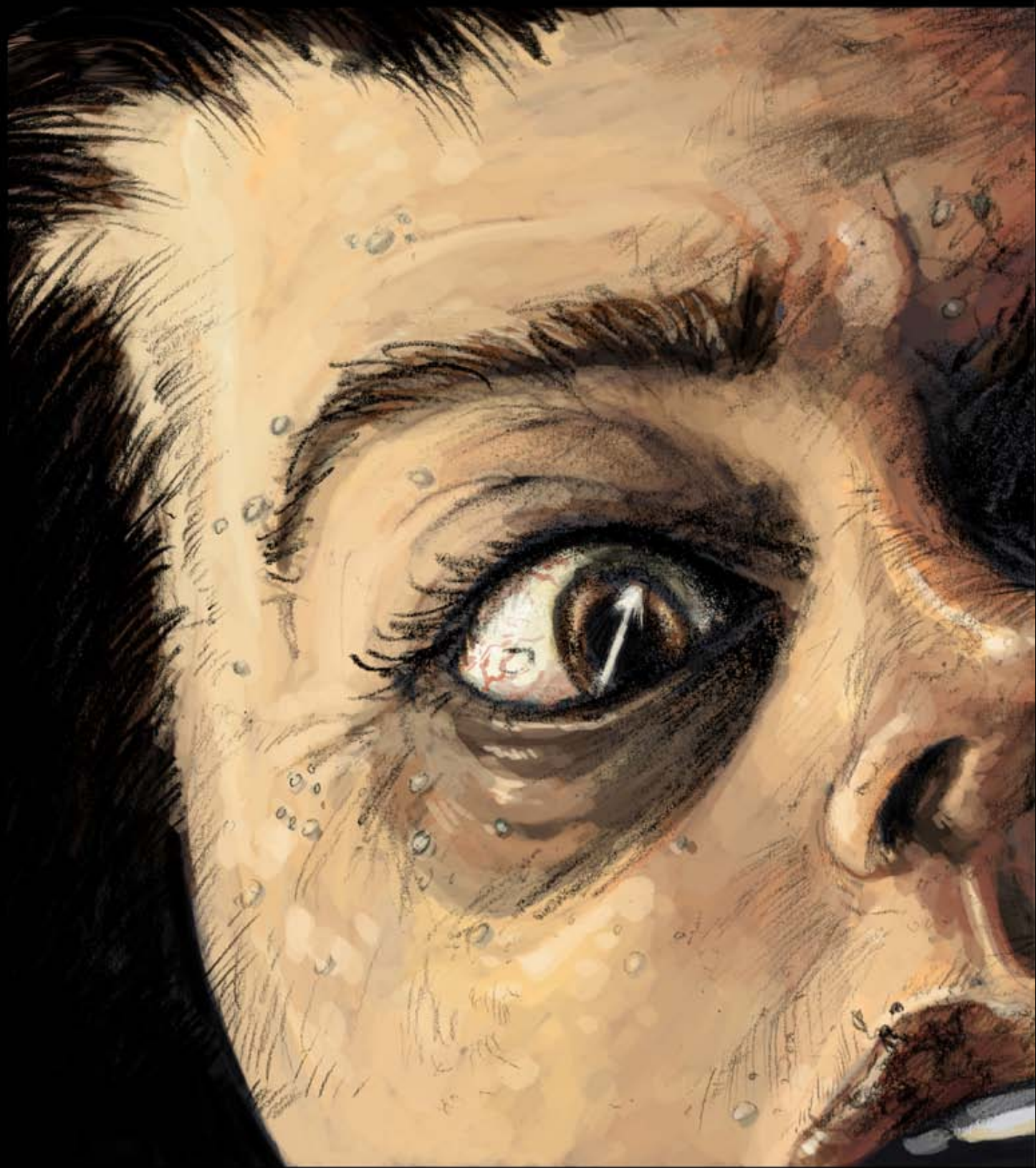
WHERE WE GO  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MYSTERY...



STO  
XTD

BUT NOT TO SOME...

SINCE THE BEGINNING, THERE HAVE EXISTED TWO REALMS:  
THE REALM OF THE HUMANS, AND THE REALM OF ANGELS.



THESE TWO WORLDS  
RUN PARALLEL  
TO EACH OTHER...



CONNECTED BY A  
SINGLE TUNNEL OF LIGHT.





HUMANS KNOW THIS  
TUNNEL AS THE  
PASSAGEWAY TO  
THE AFTERLIFE.

BUT ANGELS KNOW IT AS  
A BIRTHING PORTAL THAT  
DELIVERS SOULS INTO  
NEWBORN BABIES.









STO  
XIU

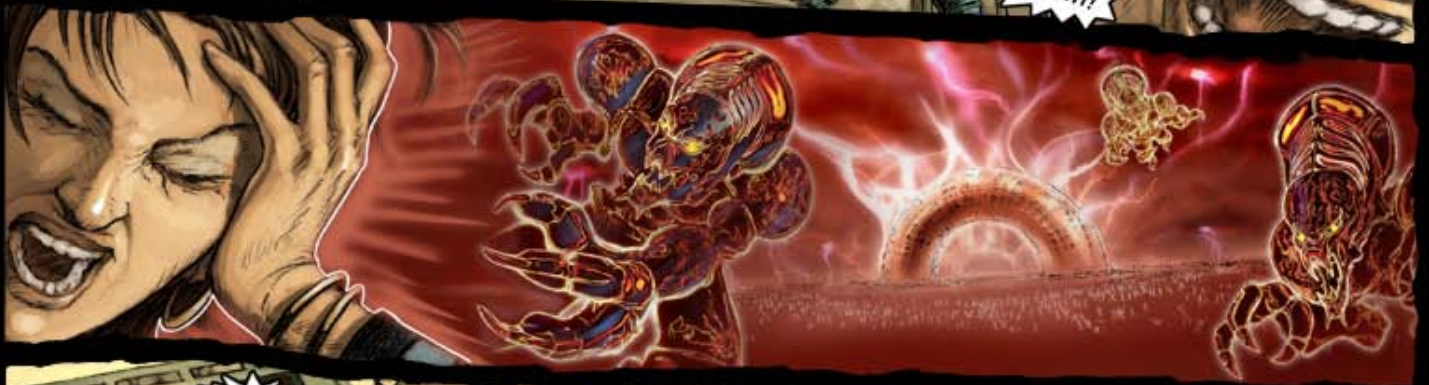
AT A RATE  
OF THREE HUNDRED AND  
EIGHTY THOUSAND TIMES A DAY.







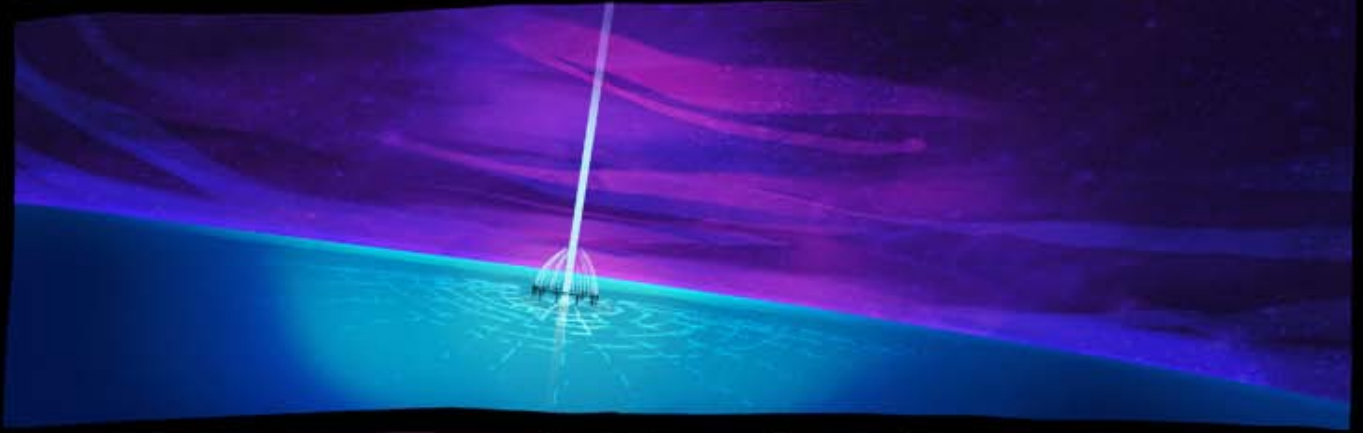




5. ~~Joseph A. DiAngelo~~  
~~2438 Truxtun Dr. San Bruno, CA~~

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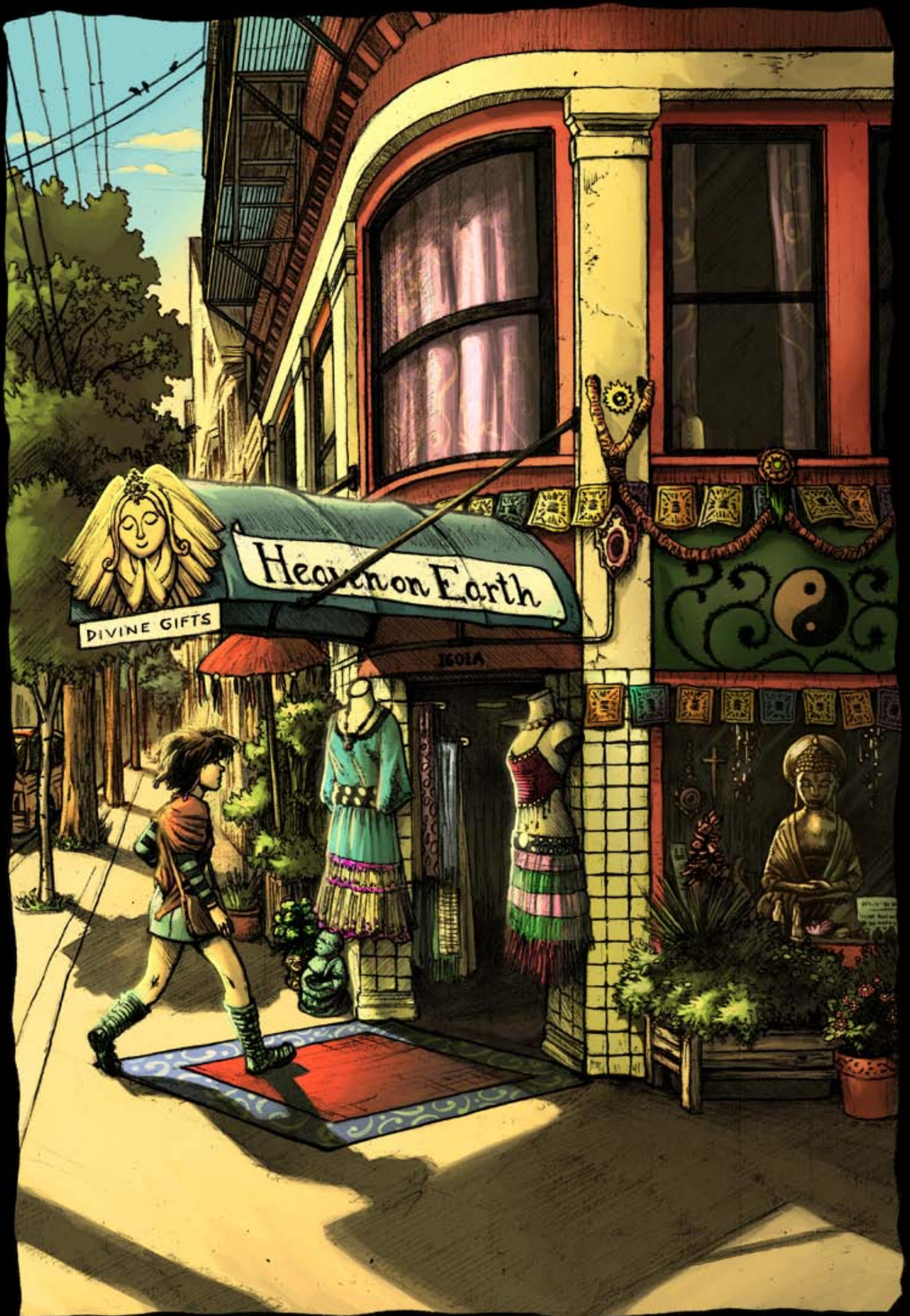
7. ~~Joseph Anthony DiAngelo~~  
~~33 Primrose St. Piedmont, CA~~



**SCRRREEEEEEEE.**











I MISSED MY STOP. I RAN BACK FROM 24TH

I'LL BE BACK AT EIGHT. TRY TO GET THE SHIPMENT UNPACKED AND...



...MY GOD WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU???



ARE YOU HURT? SWEETHEART, DID SOMEONE HURT YOU?

NO, IT'S NOTHING.

IT HAPPENED AGAIN...



THIS IS NOT FUNNY. TASI, THESE THINGS, THESE BLACKOUTS OR WHATEVER THEY ARE, ARE VERY SERIOUS.



YOU SEE... WHAT IF THIS HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE CROSSING THE STREET? OR DRIVING A CAR?



I FELL ON THE BART. I GUESS I HIT MY HEAD



NOT TO MENTION YOU COULD KILL SOMEONE, SOME INNOCENT PERSON. I'M TAKING YOU TO THE DOCTOR TOMORROW.



SO ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE BEEN ALL DAY?



I WAS JUST HANGING OUT WITH SOME FRIENDS.



I'D LIKE TO MEET THESE FRIENDS



DON'T WORRY ABOUT CLEANING UP. I'LL GET TO IT LATER.



YEAH, I'LL GET TO IT LATER.



BZZ  
CHIME  
CHIME



WHAT?



CHIME  
CHIME



WEIRD.



CHIME



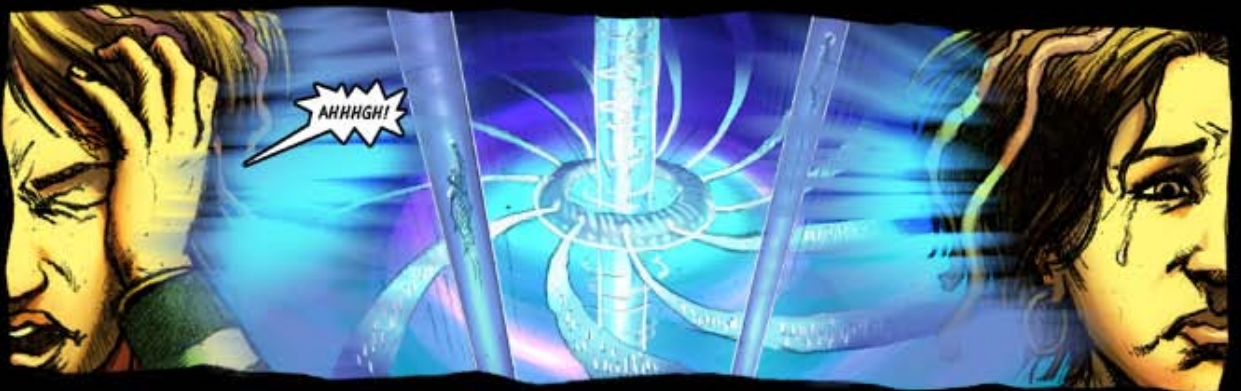






我没看到他

"NOT TO MENTION YOU COULD KILL SOMEONE... SOME INNOCENT PERSON..."

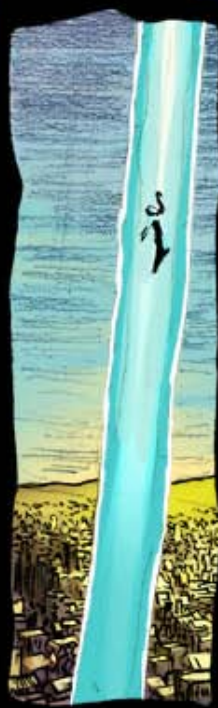


AHHHGH!



LOOK AT WHAT YOU DID.

YOU KILLED HIM.

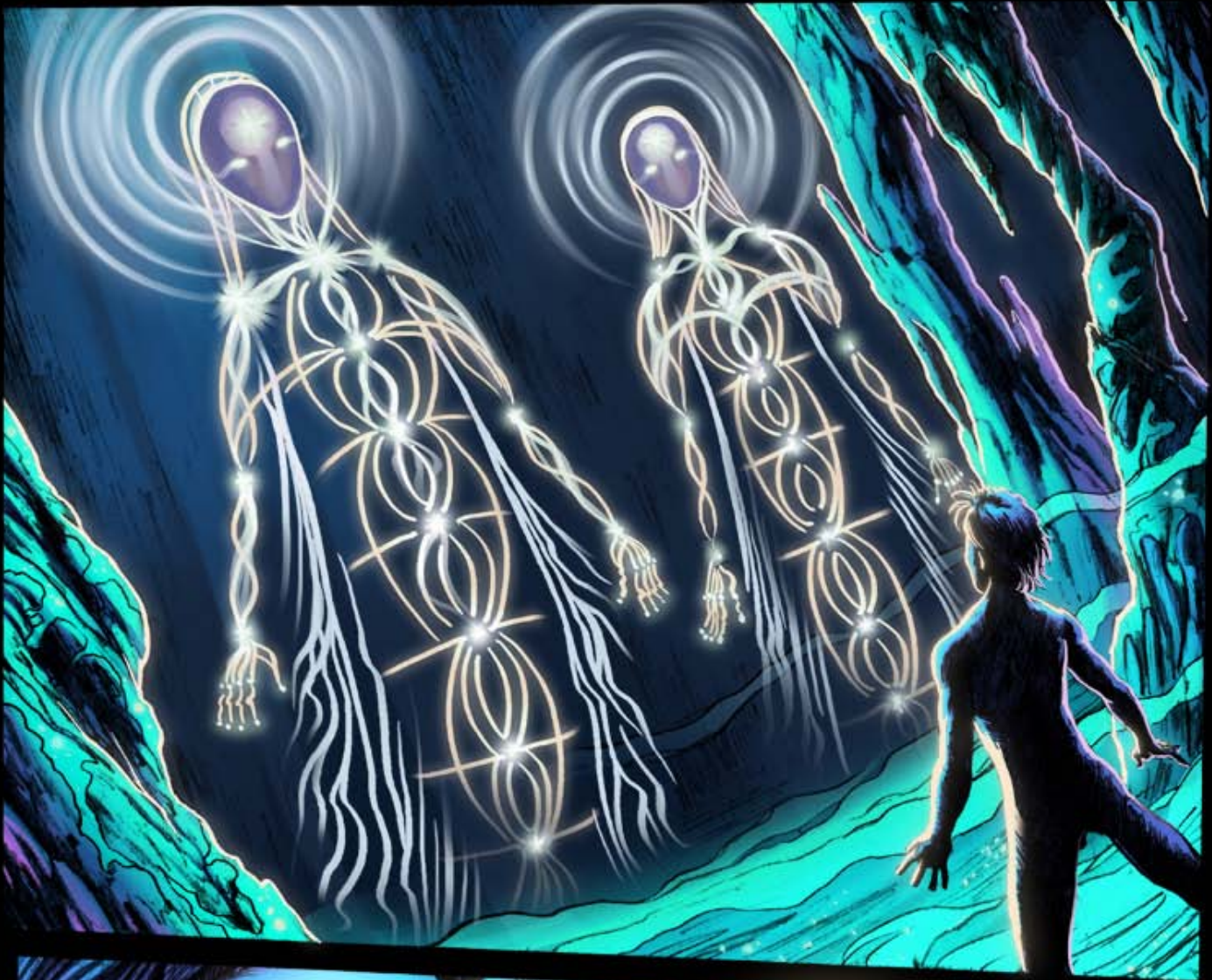


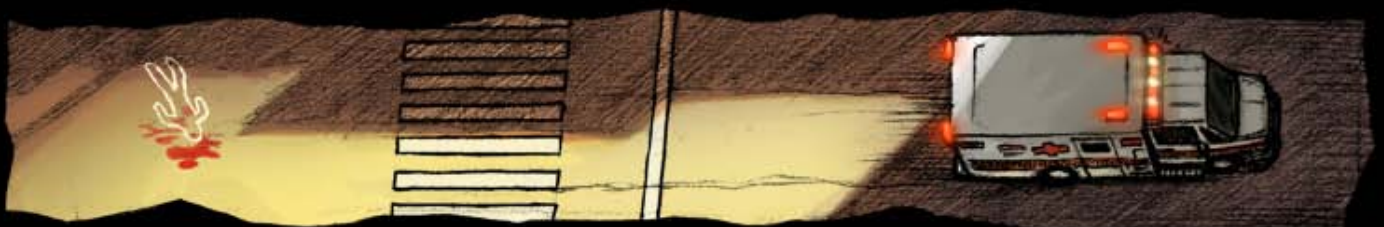




**SPLAT!**









SOB!  
SOB!  
SOB!



STUPID CHIME

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME!!!

BUZZ  
CHIME



WHAT I WANT IS AN EXPLANATION. WHAT'S HAPPENING?



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

L... SOB SOB... L...

YOU'RE ALWAYS LATE. YOU'RE LYING TO ME. AND NOW YOU'RE DESTROYING THE SHOP

BUT HE DIED!



LOOK, WE NEED TO TALK. CLEAN UP FIRST. I'LL BE BACK IN A BIT.



SNIFF SNIFF



DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T BELONG IN THIS WORLD? DO YOU EXPERIENCE...

ASTRAL TRAVEL A SILVER CORD...

SILVER CORD? THE OTHER KIN MEET EVERY SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

GUARDIAN

TWO WEEKS LATER...



IT'S LIKE I'M SPEAKING A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE SOMETIMES.



NOBODY LISTENS, THEY JUST STARE AT ME.

THEY THINK IT'S UNNATURAL.



I'M JUST TIRED OF BEING TREATED LIKE SOME SORT OF FREAK!



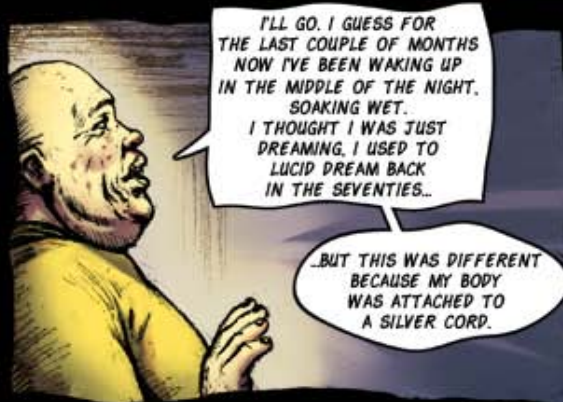
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



THERE ARE A LOT OF US TONIGHT. A GOOD REMINDER WE'RE NOT ALONE IN THIS WORLD.



HOW ABOUT SOMEONE THAT'S NEVER SPOKEN BEFORE. SOMEONE NEW.



I'LL GO. I GUESS FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS NOW I'VE BEEN WAKING UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SOAKING WET. I THOUGHT I WAS JUST DREAMING. I USED TO LUCID DREAM BACK IN THE SEVENTIES...

...BUT THIS WAS DIFFERENT BECAUSE MY BODY WAS ATTACHED TO A SILVER CORD.



ONE END WAS CONNECTED TO MY BODY WHICH I COULD SEE WHILE SLEEPING UNDERNEATH ME AND THE OTHER END WAS CONNECTED TO MY NAVEL AS I FLOATED UP INTO THE SKY.



THAT WAS AN ASTRAL PROJECTION.



HOW CAN I CONTROL THEM? I WANT TO DO IT MORE OFTEN?



TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IT'S EXTREMELY RARE. IT TAKES YEARS OF PRACTICE. SOME PEOPLE TRY THEIR WHOLE LIVES AND NEVER MANAGE MORE THAN A COUPLE SECONDS.

CAN ANYONE DO THAT?

I WANT TO KNOW HOW TO DO IT.

TRY US.

WE WANT TO LEARN HOW.



WHAT IF YOU JUST WANT THEM TO STOP?



I'M SORRY?



UM.  
I HAVE THIS FRIEND  
THAT SAYS THEY KEEP  
HAPPENING TO HER. WHEN  
SHE'S AWAKE, WHEN SHE'S  
ASLEEP, SHE JUST WANTS  
THEM TO STOP.



WHY WOULD YOUR  
FRIEND WANT  
THEM TO STOP?

I THINK SHE'S SCARED.



OF WHAT?

THE THINGS IN THE DREAMS.  
THEY'RE HORRIBLE.  
SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT  
THEY ARE, THEY'RE NOT  
REALLY PEOPLE, THEY'RE  
THESE DARK FIGURES THAT  
SCREAM AND FIGHT AND TEAR  
EACH OTHER APART.



DO YOU THINK  
THERE'S ANY CHANCE  
YOUR FRIEND IS  
A NEPHILIM?



I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT THAT IS.



IT'S A PERSON THAT'S  
HALF HUMAN AND  
HALF ANGEL.



HOW WOULD SHE  
KNOW IF SHE'S  
A NEPHILIM?



WELL, IF SHE ASTRAL TRAVELS  
A LOT, THAT'S ONE SIGN.

SHE WOULD ALSO BE  
EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO  
ACTIVITY FROM OTHER REALMS,  
AND FEEL THE PRESENCE OF OTHER  
NEPHILIM.

OH, AND THERE IS ONE  
EASY WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE.

SHE'LL  
HAVE ONE  
BROWN EYE  
AND ONE  
BLUE EYE.



MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE YOUR FRIEND  
MY PHONE NUMBER. IT'S ON THE PAMPHLETS,  
SHE CAN CALL ME IF SHE HAS ANY QUESTIONS,  
ANYTHING AT ALL.







CLICK - CLACK

CLICK - CLACK



CLICK - CLACK

CLICK - CLACK

CLICK-CLACK-CLICK-CLACK-CLICK-CLACK-CLICK-CLACK-CLICK-CLACK



CLACK

CLICK  
CLACK

CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK...

АААААА!!!!

АААААА!!!!



WWW-WW-W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHOA! NOTHING. RELAX.



WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?



I SAW YOU IN THE MEETING. WE MET BEFORE.



I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU...WHO ARE YOU?

PLEASE, WAIT, I JUST NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FRIEND-

THE ONE WHO IS A NEPHILIM.



REMEMBER ME? IN FRONT OF YOUR ANGEL SHOP?



Y-YOU WERE IN THE STREET. DEAD.



IT'S... TASI, RIGHT?

I-I SAW YOU DIE.

ALMOST. I WAS GONE BUT THEN I CAME BACK. A MIRACLE, THANKS TO THE E.M.T.S.



YOUR EYES.



WAIT! IT'S NOT YOUR FRIEND. YOU ARE THE NEPHILIM!



I'M SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU. IT'S MARK. REMEMBER?



PLEASE, I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, WELL, FOR A NEPHILIM..

PLEASE, JUST GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES.

COME ON. I'LL BUY YOU A CUP OF. WAIT, BAD IDEA, YOU HATE COFFEE. SOMETHING ELSE MAYBE?

ALRIGHT.





WANT SOME COFFEE?  
UH, TEA PLEASE.



THESE RIMS CAN BE SO NASTY SOMETIMES.  
WHERE WAS I?

YOU WERE DEAD.



THAT'S RIGHT, I HAD JUST GOTTEN KNOCKED OUT OF THE TUNNEL.

SLURP

SO RIGHT AROUND THEN IS WHEN THESE, I DON'T KNOW, LIGHT BEINGS, THESE MEN MADE OUT OF LIGHT, GRABBED ME...

SO THESE GUYS SHOVE ME BACK INTO THE LIGHT TUNNEL, AND THIS TIME I FLY STRAIGHT DOWN, RIGHT BACK INTO MY BODY!

I OPEN MY EYES AND I'M IN A FREAKIN' AMBULANCE, WITH THIS LADY PUMPING ON MY CHEST. SHE'S NOT EVEN LOOKING AT ME, SHE'S JUST PUMPING AWAY, YELLING AT THE GUY DRIVING. SO I GRAB HER ARM AND SHE FREAKS! JUST TOTALLY FREAKS OUT.

YOU KNOW, I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MEETING YOU FROM THAT DAY. NOT UNTIL I SAW YOU TONIGHT. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S WEIRD, THAT YOU ARE WHO I WAS SENT TO FIND?

I KNOW, I KNOW, IT'S CRAZY, RIGHT? EVERYONE THINKS I'M NUTS. BUT MAN, IT FEELS GOOD TO FINALLY TELL SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS...

YEAH, I GUESS.



COURSE, THEY DIDN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO ONCE I FOUND YOU. BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, RIGHT?

YOU CAN EXPLAIN ALL THAT, CAUSE YOU'RE THE NEPHILIM!

I-I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY TOLD YOU TO FIND ME...

WELL THERE'S OBVIOUSLY SOME REASON THEY WANTED ME TO TRACK YOU DOWN, RIGHT? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS? YOU MUST HAVE SOME IDEA.



NO...



I DON'T KNOW OKAY? I'M SORRY.







I'LL BE RIGHT OVER AN-- huh?



HEY! WAIT... TASI!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?



I DON'T NEED YOU FORCING ME TO BE SOMETHING I'M NOT!

TASI, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL. I WASN'T TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO --



-- I'M NOT AN ANGEL! OR A HALF-ANGEL, I JUST... I-I'M NOT READY FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.

TASI-- >pant pant< WAIT UP...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANY OF THIS MEANS. I DON'T KNOW IF I REALLY AM A NEPHILIM, OR WHATEVER YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO FIND!

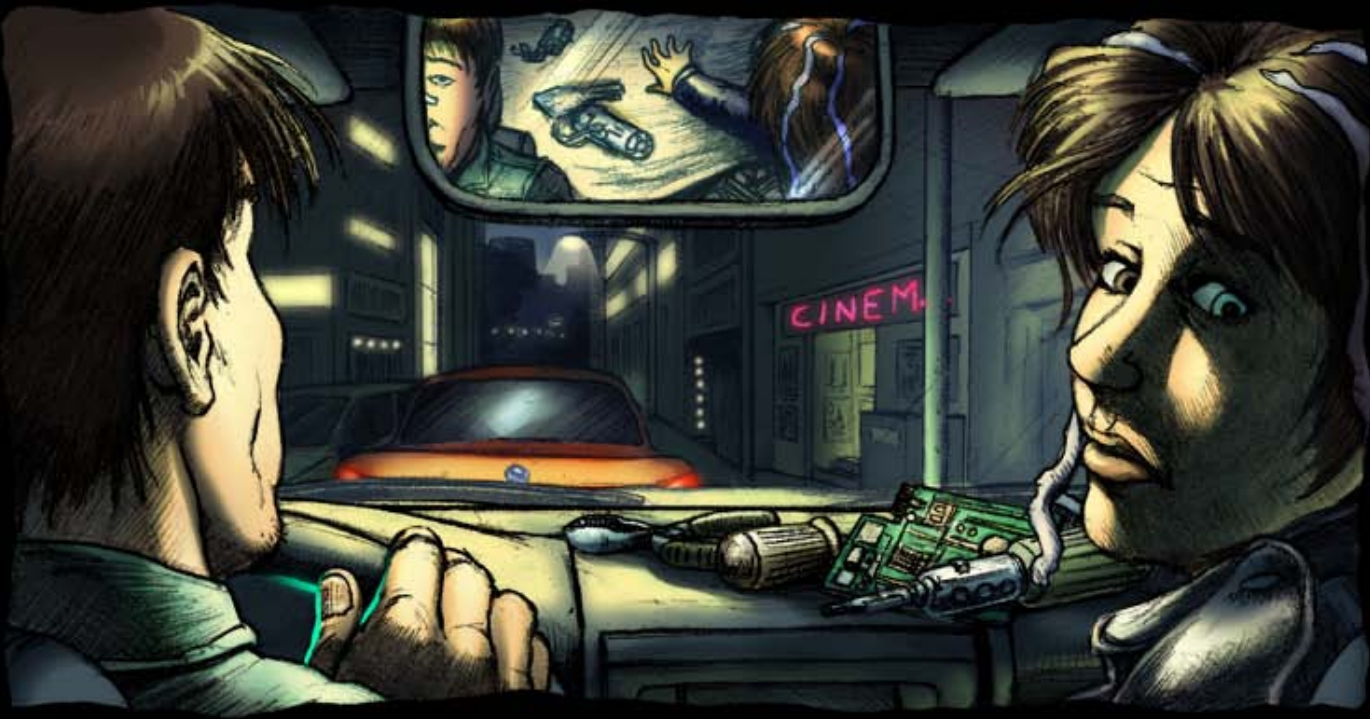


I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.

<COUGH> <WACK> <WEEZE>

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.







OH, HERE, LET ME HELP YOU OUT.

AAAAAH!

...LIKE I SAID,  
I TAKE MY  
WORK HOME  
WITH ME.







AND NOW...

8TH GENERATION ROBOTICS  
PROUDLY PRESENTS TO THE WORLD--

THE NEW  
Q1!

WOW,  
WORKING WITH  
ROBOTS MUST  
BE REALLY  
COOL!

YES.  
BUT HOLD ON,  
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN  
ANYTHING YET

THERE'VE BEEN  
SEVEN GENERATIONS OF  
ROBOTS, STARTING WITH  
THE FIRST PROTOTYPE  
50 YEARS AGO.

THIS ROBOT TOY  
FROM KOREA WAS THE FIRST  
TO DO BACK-FLIPS.

RRRRRRRRR

AND THIS ONE  
FROM CHINA CAN  
CLIMB A TREE.

WIP

CLACK





MOST DID BORING STUFF LIKE WELDING CARS. JUST LIKE THIS 'ARM-BOT' DID.

TOSS



TOX



BY THE SEVENTH GENERATION ROBOTS COULD DO ALMOST ANYTHING OUR BODIES CAN DO.

wiggle wiggle

THEY ARE INCREDIBLY DEXTEROUS.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS YOUTUBE VIDEO OF THE ROBOT IN JAPAN JUGGLING 14 FLAMING BALLS?



MY FRIEND HAD A CLEANING ROBOT THAT VACUUMED HER ROOM. BUT IT WAS REALLY DUMB.



THAT'S THE PROBLEM. A ROBOT CAN LEARN MANY THINGS, BUT THERE IS ONE THING IT CAN'T DO WELL - WHICH IS TO LEARN ABOUT ITSELF.

YOU MEAN IT CAN'T SEE ITSELF?



IT'S WEIRDER THAN THAT. THEY CAN'T BE INTROSPECTIVE. THEY CAN'T TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO THEIR OWN MIND - WHICH IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO BE SELF-AWARE.

HUNDREDS OF RESEARCH LABS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE TRIED EVERY TRICK THEY CAN THINK OF TO GET A ROBOT MIND TO BE CONSCIOUS OF ITSELF.

UHHH...

THEY ALL FAILED. LIKE THESE LOSERS ON THE WALL.

THEY COULD GET A ROBOT TO SPEAK, BUT WHEN YOU GOT IN A CONVERSATION WITH IT AND ASKED IT HOW IT WAS ABLE TO TALK, IT WOULD TRY TO THINK ABOUT ITS OWN MIND AND IT WOULD GET STUCK IN A LOOP, TALKING TO ITSELF UNTIL IT WENT INSANE.

THAT'S WHERE WE CAME IN. WE ARE CREATING THE 8TH GENERATION OF ROBOTS. THIS GUY, A GENIUS MATHEMATICIAN, ROGER PENROSE, DISCOVERED THAT THE BRAIN CELLS IN HUMANS USE NANO-SCALE TUBES TO PERFORM QUANTUM COMPUTATION. IN OUR BRAINS!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BUT I'M REALLY CREEPED OUT THAT THIS ROBOT HEAD'S EYES ARE FOLLOWING ME.



EVER TALK TO YOURSELF?

UH, YEAH. IT'S CRAZY.



IT'S PRETTY WEIRD AND SPOOKY. IN QUANTUM COMPUTING SOMETHING CAN BE OFF AND ON AT THE SAMETIME, OR IT CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE.

IT SORT OF BREAKS ALL THE RULES OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD. IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT OPERATES IN A NON-PHYSICAL REALM YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

YOU'RE TEASING ME, AREN'T YOU?

NO, REALLY. I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP. QUANTUM COMPUTING ALLOWS A MIND TO CIRCLE THROUGH SOME NON-PHYSICAL REALITY BACK INTO ITSELF IN A TYPE OF SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.

IF YOU SAY SO.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? WE'VE TAKEN CONVENTIONAL SILICON CHIPS AS FAR AS THEY CAN GO. WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A ROBOT YOU CAN TALK TO.



HERE, FOLLOW ME.

OOOPS. I MUST HAVE TRIPPED THE LIGHTS....

WAIT. I WANT TO TRY SOMETHING.

SHHHH. BE QUIET.



CLICK

FLICK  
FLICK  
FLICK



FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICK



HI MARK.



THAT'S AMAZING!

HE KNOWS IT'S ME BECAUSE OF VIBRATIONS MY BODY MAKES. EVERYONE HAS A UNIQUE SOUND. THE WAY OUR ORGANS WORK, THE WAY WE BREATHE, HE HEARS EVERYTHING.

NO--THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE MADE OF CARDS-- THAT'S AMAZING!

11,723 CARDS. 57 REMAINING.



HOW LONG DID THAT TAKE YOU?



FLICK



HOLY CRAP. IT'S A ROBOT!



HEY GOBI.  
I WANT TO INTRODUCE  
YOU TO SOMEONE.



GOBI,  
THIS IS  
TASI.

PLEASURE  
TO MAKE YOUR  
ACQUAINTANCE.  
TASI.



*SQUEEE*



IT'S OKAY.  
HE WON'T  
SQUISH IT.

WOW.  
HE CAN REALLY  
SEE ME.

YEP.  
HE CAN  
SEE YOU.

HE CAN  
HEAR YOU.

HE CAN  
FEEL YOU.

EVERYTHING  
BUT SMELL YOU.  
BUT WE'RE  
WORKING ON  
THAT.



DO YOU  
WANT TO ASK HIM  
ANYTHING?



I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT TO  
SAY. I'M JUST...



THIS IS  
THE COOLEST  
THING I HAVE  
EVER SEEN.



WATCH THIS.  
I LOVE DOING  
THIS.



*GRAB*







HEY, A SUICIDE KING GET IT? OFF THE GOLDEN GATE?

ARE YOU JOKING? THAT WAS THE MEANEST THING I HAVE EVER--



--IT DOESN'T BOTHER HIM. LOOK, HE DOESN'T CARE, HE DOESN'T GET UPSET



HEY MISTER ROBOT, THAT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?

YOU HAVE TO SAY HIS NAME FIRST.

GOBI, WHEN MARK KNOCKED DOWN THE CARDS, HOW DID THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

I FEEL FINE.

BUT YOU SPENT ALL THAT TIME MAKING IT, YOU'RE NOT ANGRY WITH HIM?



THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I WILL NEED THAT ONE.

HE DOESN'T HAVE THOSE FEELINGS. HE'S A COMPUTER. A BRILLIANT, INTUITIVE PIECE OF HARDWARE, SMARTER THAN YOU, BUT WITH NO PERSONALITY AND NO SOUL.



GOBI, I'M GONNA RUN A DIAGNOSTIC REAL QUICK.



CAN YOU HOOK UP FOR ME?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE HAS NO SOUL?

ACCORDING TO PENROSE, QUANTUM COMPUTING IN OUR BRAIN CELLS MAKES OUR HUMAN MINDS HUMAN,



WHEN THIS CHIP IS TURNED ON IT WILL GIVE GOBI A TRULY HUMAN QUANTUM CONSCIOUSNESS. IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S LIKE GIVING HIM A SOUL.

WHERE DOES THAT SOUL COME FROM? IS IT INSIDE THE CHIP?

OKAY, GOBI. YOU CHECK OUT PERFECT.

YOU'RE STILL A GO FOR THE UPGRADE TOMORROW.

THAT'S WHAT I WOULD HAVE SAID BEFORE I DIED, BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK, I'M NOT SO SURE. I SAW... WELL... THERE'S THIS OTHER SIDE TO THINGS.

THANK YOU, MARK.

LET'S GO, TASI.



SO, WHEN WE LEAVE, WHAT'S HE GONNA DO? WILL HE BE LONELY?

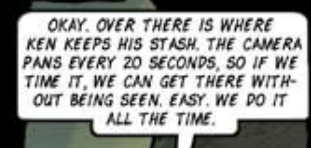
NAH, HE'LL PROBABLY BUILD COIT TOWER OR SOMETHING. HE'S GOT ALL NIGHT.



BEEP



DO YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING REALLY COOL? IT MIGHT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.





... HERE WE GO!

BRRRRR

BRRRRR

BRRRRRRR



HA  
HA  
HA  
HA

WHOOO...  
JUST MADE IT.



BZZZ



CHECK OUT  
THIS ROOM!

THAT'S NOTHING.  
CHECK OUT WHAT'S  
INSIDE THIS SAFE.





THIS IS THE FIRST CHIP TO FULLY USE QUANTUM COMPUTING. Y'KNOW HOW EACH NEW COMPUTER CHIP CLAIMS TO BE TEN TIMES FASTER THAN THE PREVIOUS CHIP?



I AM HOLDING APPROXIMATELY FIFTY-MILLION DOLLARS IN MY HANDS RIGHT NOW.



SHHHHHHHHHHH!



OWWWW!!!



HELP ME...



POUUUUU

OH CRAP, THE CHIP

АААААААА



PHEW



ЦУММЕЕЕООММАА...

ММЕЕЕЕООММААА

ЦУМММ



YOUR LACK OF OBEEDIENCE REVEALS YOUR PROFOUND WEAKNESS...

AND THE WEAK HAVE FORFEITED THE RIGHT TO EVERLASTING EMBODIMENT.

CEASE FROM THIS FOLLY... IN THE NAME OF GOD THE INFINITE!

> SIGH <  
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF TRUE GODHOOD!



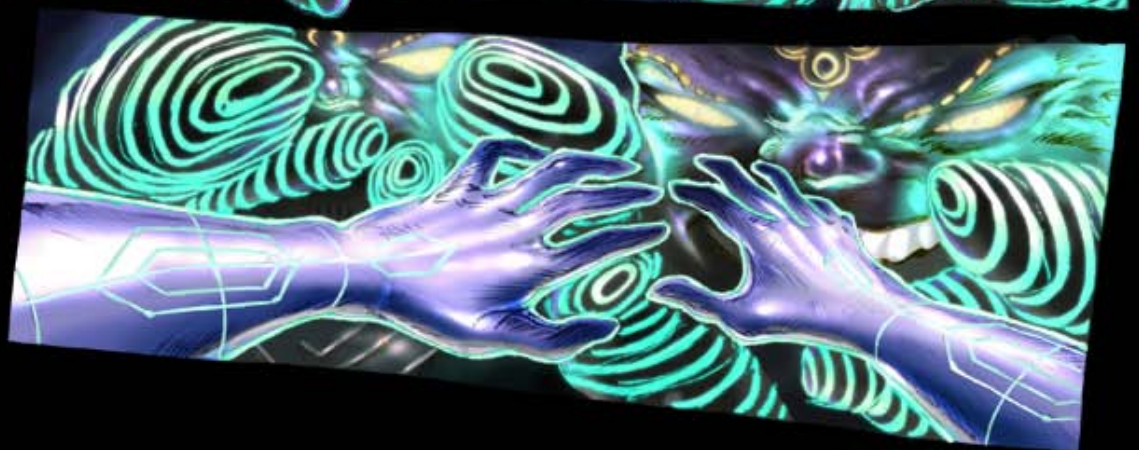
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!

AAAAAAAAH!



- AND YOU DON'T BELONG HERE EITHER...







TASI.  
ARE YOU THERE?  
PLEASE TASI,  
WAKE UP.



OH MY GOD,  
THERE YOU ARE.  
YOU'RE OKAY.  
YOU'RE GONNA  
BE OKAY...





JUST TAKE ME HOME..



HHEEY!!!

IT'S MY GREEN LIGHT, JERK!!!

VROOM

SCREEEEEEEEEEE!!!



HOLD ON. I'LL GET CLOSER TO THE CURB.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME.



ME NEITHER. I'M PRETTY MUCH DEAD IN THE WATER IF YOU CAN'T HELP ME OUT WITH THIS NEPHILIM THING.



LET ME SEE YOUR CELLPHONE.



I'M PUTTING IN MY NUMBERS, IN CASE YOU NEED ANYTHING.



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO HELP YOU WITH.

THANK YOU FOR THE, UH, TOUR.



YEAH I KNOW, BUT CALL ME IF YOU DO.



LATER THAT NIGHT...



A DAY LATER...



'SCUSE ME..  
'SCUSE ME..!



**SLAM**

HEL-LOOO!



I'M SORRY.  
I'M DO YOU  
REMEMBER  
ME?



FROM  
THE MEETING  
THE OTHER  
NIGHT?



WHAT  
TOOK YOU SO  
LONG?



LOOK, I DON'T REALLY  
KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT  
YOU DO, BUT BEFORE WE TALK  
I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW  
SOMETHING..



...I'M A NEPHILIM.



I KNOW YOU  
ARE.





NO WEIRD DREAMS? NO VISIONS OF OTHER PLACES?

I WAS TOTALLY NORMAL UNTIL THESE THINGS STARTED HAPPENING. WELL MAYBE NOT NORMAL, BUT-

WHAT ABOUT AS A CHILD?

NO, I DON'T THINK I... NO, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.

THAT'S EXTREMELY UNUSUAL.

I HAD A GUARDIAN ANGEL, I GUESS EVERYONE HAD ONE OF THOSE.

WHAT DID SHE LOOK LIKE?



IT WAS A "HE".

HE'D FOLLOW ME AROUND.



ONE MINUTE HE'S THERE.

I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT...

I WAS SURROUNDED BY THOUSANDS OF ANGELS.

REALLY?



MY MOM RUNS AN ANGEL GIFT SHOP. I ALMOST DON'T NOTICE THEM ANYMORE. EVEN THE ONES IN THE SHOP. BUT THIS STUFF NOW IS DIFFERENT.

ARE YOU GONNA SHOW ME HOW TO MAKE THE VISIONS STOP?

WE'VE ALREADY BEGUN. WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

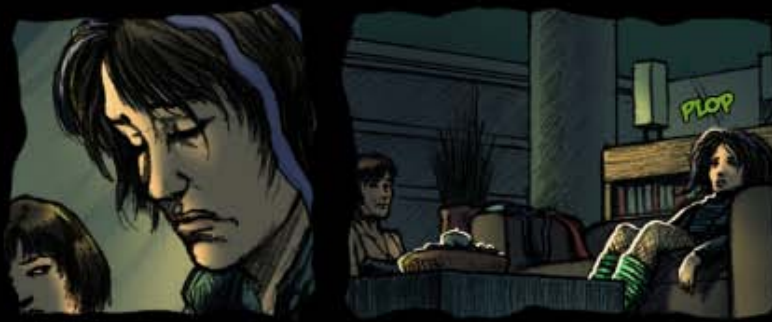


I LIVE WITH MY MOM, I DON'T KNOW WHO MY DAD IS.

AND DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?

ONE MINUTE HE'S GONE.





HE IS WHY YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE.



OH NO IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN. MAKE IT STOP!



**GASP!**



NO NO NO - THIS IS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN, THIS IS WHAT I WANTED.

IT'S WORKING TASI, DON'T FIGHT IT, LAY BACK DOWN--



--I DON'T LIKE THIS, I DON'T--

TASI LISTEN TO ME.

--IT'S OKAY, GIMMIE YOUR HANDS, CROSS THEM IN FRONT OF YOU, OR HERE, TUCK THEM INTO YOUR WAISTBAND--



IF YOU'RE AFRAID, YOU ALLOW THE VISION TO CONTROL YOU, TASI LISTEN, YOU'RE STILL HERE WITH ME, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, YOUR BODY IS HERE AND IT'S FINE, REMEMBER THAT, NOW JUST LET YOURSELF GO, YOU CAN TRAVEL ANYWHERE YOU WANT, DON'T BE AFRAID.

THAT'S IT NOW... THAT'S IT, JUST RELAX.

GOOD GIRL, THAT'S GOOD, JUST LEAVE YOUR BODY BEHIND, DON'T LOOK BACK AT IT, DON'T TRY TO TURN YOUR HEAD OR MOVE YOUR HANDS, DON'T TRY TO SPEAK, ANY OF THESE THINGS WILL BRING YOU RIGHT BACK TO YOUR BODY



BEGIN WITH THE VIBRATION. LET THE VIBRATION START IN YOUR TOES AND SWEEP UP OVER YOUR BODY. THEN LET IT RAISE YOU. DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU. FOCUS ON WHERE YOU WANT TO GO. IMAGINE YOUR DESTINATION AHEAD.

YOU CAN STAY IN THIS ROOM, OR GO OUTSIDE IF YOU WANT. IT'S OKAY IF THIS ONE'S SHORT, WE'RE JUST WORKING ON CONTROL THIS TIME. UNINTERRUPTED CONTROL.







NOW I'M GONNA TRY SOMETHING TASI. I'M GONNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING VERY PERSONAL. THIS MIGHT PULL YOU BACK BUT DON'T LOSE FOCUS. STAY ON THE OTHER SIDE.

I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FATHER TASI.



YOUR FATHER WAS ANGELIC. BUT HE CROSSED A LINE. HE INHABITED A MAN'S BODY -- YOUR BIOLOGICAL FATHER'S.

HE WAS AN ANGEL ON EARTH WHEN HE LAID DOWN WITH YOUR MOTHER.

WHIMPER





WHAT HAPPENED?  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?  
I CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS!

IT'S OKAY.  
YOU'RE OKAY. YOUR ARMS ARE FINE. THEY'RE JUST NUMB.



FEELING COMES BACK IN A FEW SECONDS, BUT THE LONGER YOU STAY UP THERE, THE LONGER IT WILL TAKE TO GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK. YOUR PULSE IS GOOD.

I COULD HEAR YOU. YOU KNOW.

GOOD. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO. YOU'RE MORE ADVANCED THAN I THOUGHT.

MY CORD STARTED PULLING ME BACK DOWN. I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

THAT'S YOUR FOCUS. YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO STAY AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS DOWN HERE, AND YET, NOT BREAK YOUR CONCENTRATION UP THERE AND GET PULLED OUT OF IT.



SEE. THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

ON THE OTHER SIDE YOU'LL FIND YOUR MEMORIES ARE MORE POWERFUL.

YOU WILL IMPROVE.





I ALWAYS WANTED TO FIND MY DAD...

I THOUGHT, I DON'T KNOW, I THOUGHT HE COULD EXPLAIN THINGS, EXPLAIN ABOUT ME. I WOULD GET SO ANGRY, THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME, OR CARE ABOUT ME, OR MY MOM.

BUT MY MOM WOULD ALWAYS SAY, "YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR FATHER, HE WAS AN ANGEL. HE TOOK CARE OF ME WHEN I NEEDED HIM, AND I DO NOT REGRET A SINGLE MOMENT."



SO YOU ARE SAYING HE'S FROM THERE, WHERE MY VISIONS TAKE ME?

WHEN CAN I GO AGAIN?

LET'S REST A BIT NOW.



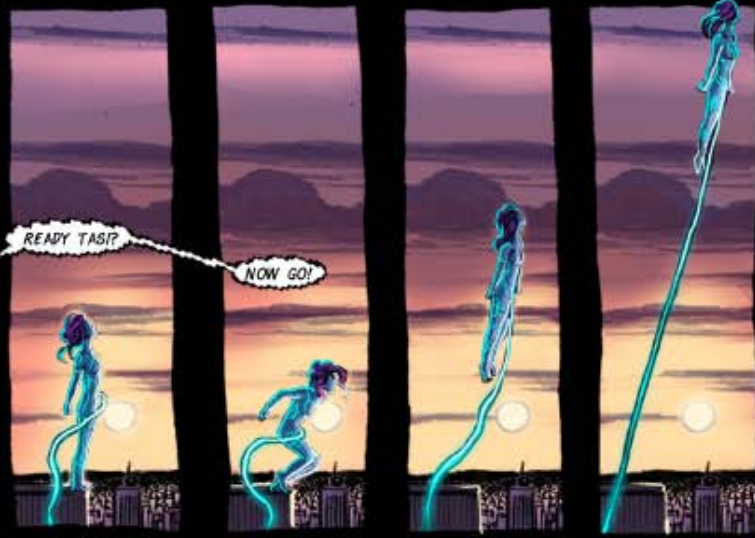
WHERE IS THAT GIRL?

HOURS LATER...



REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE TASI, YOU'RE A NEPHILIM, YOU'RE MADE UP OF TWO PARTS, HALF OF YOU BELONGS IN THAT WORLD.

IT SHOULD START FEELING FAMILIAR BY NOW, YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOUR HALVES ARE UNITED, YOU WON'T WANT TO COME BACK.









I'M HERE.  
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.



BUT WAIT.  
THERE'S THIS OTHER  
LIGHT EVEN BRIGHTER  
THAN THE SUN. KINDA  
LIKE A TUBE.



BE CAREFUL  
TASI. WHATEVER YOU DO,  
DON'T...

FEELS  
GOOD.

IT'S  
PULSATING.

IT'S EVEN MORE  
BEAUTIFUL.

TASI,  
I KNOW THIS  
SOUNDS CORNY, BUT  
HEAD FOR THE  
LIGHT.

WHOA.



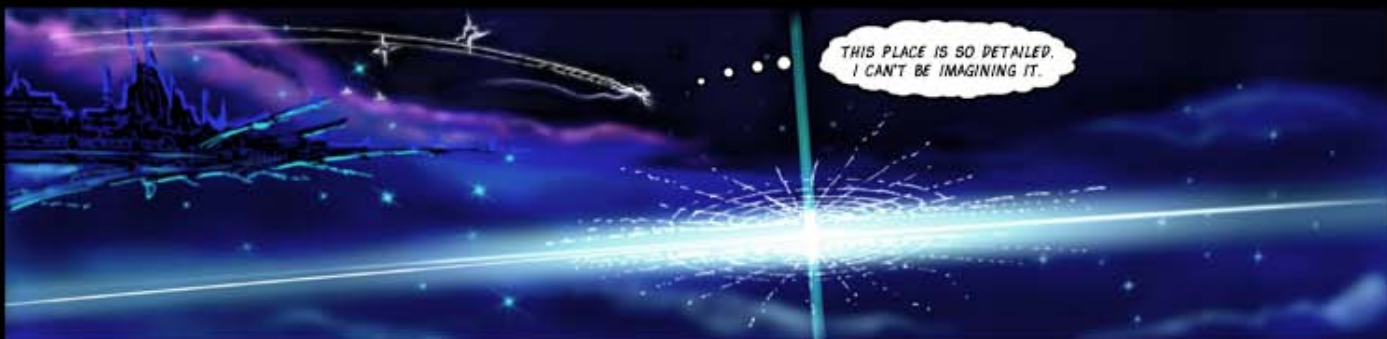




WOW, SO TWINKLY.  
LIKE DISNEYLAND, BUT WAY  
WAY BIGGER!



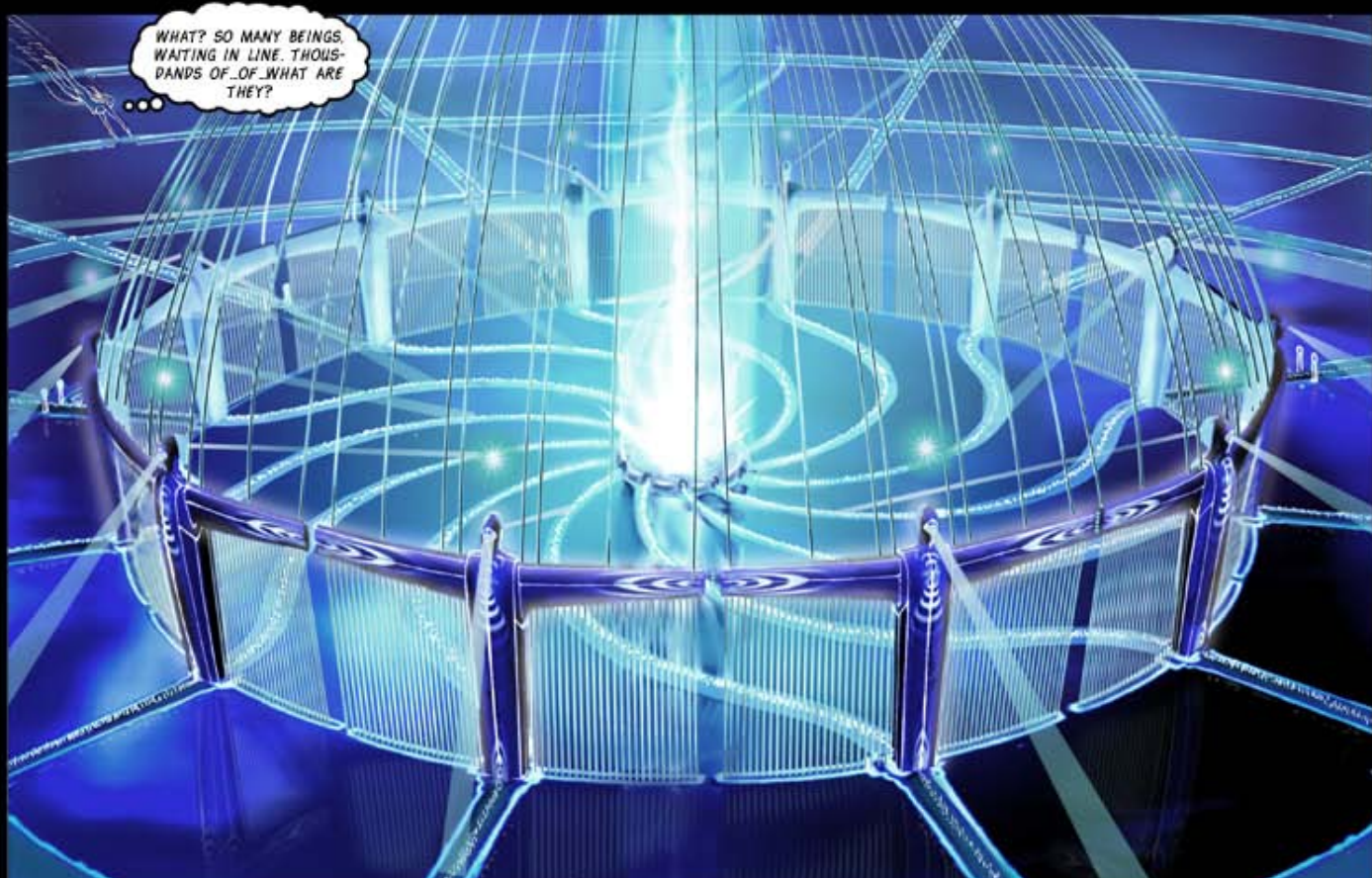
OH NO. IT'S PULLING ME  
TO THAT LIGHT BEAM.



THIS PLACE IS SO DETAILED.  
I CAN'T BE IMAGINING IT.



SOUNDS LIKE A GIANT  
WATERFALL. I'VE SEEN THIS  
IN MY DREAMS BEFORE.



WHAT? SO MANY BEINGS.  
WAITING IN LINE. THOUS-  
DANDS OF...WHAT ARE  
THEY?



EVERYONE IS LEAVING.

NO, THEY ARE GOING SOMEWHERE.

THEY ARE HEADING INTO A TUNNEL, A TUBE OF LIGHT!

I REMEMBER, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER.

MAYBE THIS IS WHY CLEO WANTED ME TO SEARCH FOR HIM HERE.





THAT LIGHT RING IS A DOORWAY, A WAY TO TRAVEL LIKE A PORTAL. I KNOW IT IS.



ANOTHER LIGHT RING OVER THERE.



IT'S THE SAME AS THE FIRST LIGHT RING, ONLY CROOKED. AND UNFINISHED. THIS IS DEFINITELY THE PLACE IN MY DREAMS...



THERE'S EVEN MORE BEINGS WAITING HERE. NOT IN LINE THOUGH. IT'S CRAZY.



WHERE ARE YOU FROM, STRANGE ONE?

HAVE YOU COME TO WITNESS THE GLORIOUS BLACK FLAME?

HERE, WE'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM.



BLACK FLAME

BLACK FLAME



AAAAHHHH! THEY ARE CONNECTED SOMEHOW!



WHAT ARE?

TWO PORTALS!



TASI, WAIT, WAIT!





THIS IS MARK'S ALGORITHM. LEAVE A MESSAGE "BEEP"

MARK. THIS IS TASI.



...CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS.

1601



I THINK I'VE FIGURED SOMETHING OUT. I JUST HAD A CRAZY EXPERIENCE WITH THE LADY FROM--



ANYWAY CALL ME LATER.



I WAS WORRIED.

WHO FORGETS THEIR OWN BIRTHDAY?

I'M OKAY MOM.

I SEE THAT NOW.



TASI, WAIT!



I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THESE.



THEY WERE YOUR FATHER'S.



HE NEVER TOOK THEM OFF. WELL, EXCEPT TO SLEEP.

MOM, THESE ARE SO COOL.

I WISH THERE WAS MORE I COULD TELL YOU ABOUT HIM. I JUST DON'T KNOW.





IT'S KINDA LIKE SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH HIS EYES.

YOUR CAKE IS CHOCOLATE.



I KNOW. IT ALWAYS IS.

EIGHTEEN.



WIPE WIPE



...SO BIG.

MAKE A WISH.

IT'S YOUR TURN.

MY WISH IS... FOR YOU TO MAKE A WISH.



LET'S BLOW THEM OUT TOGETHER.

1, 2, 3... >INHALE<

>INHALE<



FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF



YOU LITTLE DEVIL!



HE HE.

HA HA HA



AND RECEIVING NATIONAL ATTENTION THIS WEEK.

SAN FRANCISCO-BASED 8TH GENERATION ROBOTICS CLAIMS TO BE ON THE VERGE OF CREATING THE WORLD'S FIRST AUTONOMOUS ROBOT.

ENGINEERS AT THE COMPANY ARE SAYING THEIR REVOLUTIONARY NEW QUANTUM CHIP, OR Q-CHIP, IS KEY TO A ROBOT CAPABLE OF BEHAVING LIKE A HUMAN.



8TH GENERATION PREDICTS THAT WHEN THEIR Q-CHIP IS INSTALLED IN THEIR ROBOT PROTOTYPE IT WILL NOT ONLY DELIVER PROCESSING SPEEDS AS FAST AS THE HUMAN BRAIN, BUT SOMETHING EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR - CONSCIOUSNESS.



NOT EVERYONE IS CELEBRATING.

CONCERNED ETHICISTS SAY INSTALLING A Q-CHIP IS LIKE PLAYING GOD. NO ONE IS SURE WHAT RIGHTS THESE NEW AUTONOMOUS ROBOTS WILL HAVE.



A FEW CRITICS HAVE EVEN SUGGESTED THAT QUANTUM COMPUTING IS THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN BODY AND SPIRIT.



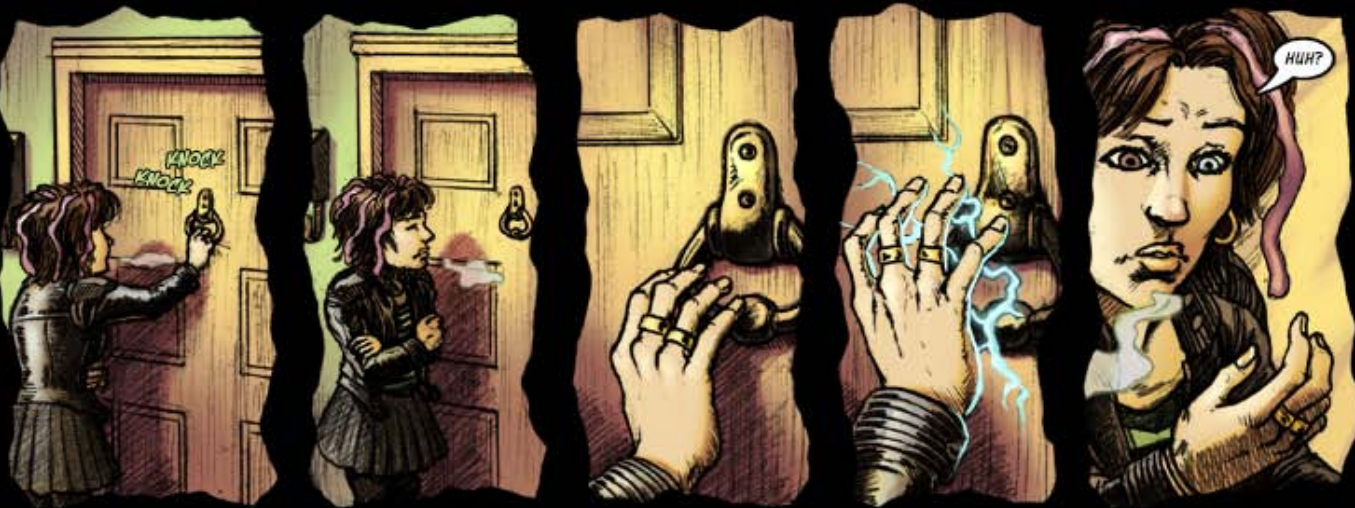
GIVING A ROBOT A Q-CHIP, THEY SAY, IS LIKE GIVING THEM A SOUL.



THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES UPSET BY THIS REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT. WHILE G8 EMPLOYEES PREPARE TO LAUNCH THE NEW CHIP IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, DOZENS OF PROTESTERS ARE ALREADY LINED UP OUTSIDE G8 OFFICES.

A SPOKESPERSON SAYS THEY OBJECT TO POWERFUL ROBOTS WALKING AROUND UNSUPERVISED. THEY CLAIM THESE AUTONOMOUS MACHINES ARE DISASTERS WAITING TO HAPPEN.





MARK PLEASE BE HOME. PLEASE...

KNOCK KNOCK

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I THINK I FIGURED IT OUT. IT'S ABOUT GOBI.

WHAT IS IT?

AS SOON AS HE GETS TURNED ON, THEY'RE GONNA COME DOWN HERE. THEY'RE JUST WAITING.

WHO ARE THEY?

I'M FREEZING. ARE YOU GONNA LET ME IN?

UH...NICE PLACE...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

IT'S A SECOND ENTRANCE. A SECOND GATEWAY. IT'S ANOTHER PORTAL BETWEEN OUR WORLDS.

WHOA! WHAT IS?

THAT THING I'VE BEEN SEEING. I CALLED YOUR CELL. DON'T YOU CHECK YOUR MESSAGES?

I'M NOT REALLY A MORNING PERSON

I SAW THAT LADY FROM THE MEETING. SHE SHOWED ME HOW TO GO UP THERE WHENEVER I WANT TO.

I WAS THERE. I SAW THAT PLACE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT.

YOU DID?

THE TUNNEL, THE CITY, THAT CIRCLE. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

YOU SAW IT? I WAS STARTING TO THINK IT WAS A HALLUCINATION. LIKE THE DOCTOR SAID.

YES!

JUST LIKE I DESCRIBED IT?

SO WHAT IS THIS ABOUT GOBI?

THERE'S ANOTHER ENTRANCE FORMING JUST LIKE THE ONE YOU SAW. I THINK ANOTHER TUNNEL OF LIGHT IS GONNA OPEN UP AROUND IT.

SOULS WILL TRAVEL DOWN IT TO EARTH, JUST LIKE THEY TRAVEL DOWN THE FIRST ONE INTO BABIES. THIS SECOND PORTAL IS WHERE ALL THOSE DARK ANGELS ARE GATHERED.

WHEN GOBI GETS IMPLANTED WITH THE Q-CHIP, IT WILL OPEN UP THE PORTAL TO THOSE HORRIBLE SOULS. GOBI'S SOUL WILL NOT BE GOOD. THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO FIND ME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

MARK, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, YOU HAVE TO TELL THE ENGINEERS, MAKE THEM STOP IT.

WHAT? NO WAY!

LISTEN TO YOURSELF, TASI, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ANGELS, TUNNELS, AND SOULS! DO YOU THINK ENGINEERS AT THE LAB ARE GOING TO BELIEVE THIS?

SO YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? BUT I THOUGHT AFTER YOUR EXPERIENCE --YOU'D SEE THAT EVERYTHING IS NOT WHAT IT APPEARS.

TASI, COME ON. YOU KNOW I'M ON YOUR--

--LOOK, THEY KNOW YOU MARK THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU.

EVEN IF I WAS TOTALLY SURE WHAT YOU SAID WILL HAPPEN, I'M A GRUNT TECHNICIAN. I GET LIKE \$23 AN HOUR. THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT I THINK. NEVER TURN IT ON? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A \$50 MILLION DOLLAR TRAIN THAT ISN'T STOPPING FOR ANYONE.

WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THIS?

THE ONLY THING THAT'LL HAPPEN IF I GO DOWN THERE SCREAMING, "DON'T TURN GOBI ON! AN EVIL SOUL IS GOING TO POSSESS HIM AND DESTROY SAN FRANCISCO!" IS THAT I'LL BE OUT OF THE LAB AND ON THE STREET... LIKE THAT.



THIS IS THE GUY.

THIS IS GOBI!  
IF YOU TURN HIM ON  
WITH THE Q-CHIP  
TOMORROW,  
THINK OF THAT.

THINK OF  
THAT AND DO  
NOTHING.

EVEN IF I  
WANTED TO  
I CAN'T STOP  
IT.

REALLY, I MEAN.  
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT ME TO DO?  
CALL IN A BOMB  
THREAT?

CALM DOWN.  
YOU ARE GETTING  
HYSTERICAL.



TASI, WE'LL  
WATCH HIM. IF HE GOES  
NUTS, WE'LL JUST SHUT  
HIM DOWN.

IT'LL BE  
TOO LATE



I NEED TO  
USE THE  
BATHROOM.

LAST  
DOOR ON YOUR  
RIGHT.



**TWIST**

**CLICK**



**B  
U  
M  
P**



I'M IN  
HERE--



OH, I'M  
SORRY.  
I DIDN'T  
KNOW  
ANYONE--



**SLAM**



THAT WAS  
QUICK.



SO, I'M GONNA GO.

WHAT? WAIT I JUST PUT SOME COFFEE ON, SORT OF...

I HATE COFFEE.



TASI, COME ON...

NO REALLY, I GOTTA GO. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.



GRAB

SLAM









NO SOULS FOR ROBOTS!



NO SOULS FOR ROBOTS!



NO SOULS FOR ROBOTS!



NO SOULS FOR ROBOTS!



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU ARE DOING?!

HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THE MATRIX?

NO SOULS FOR ROBOTS



YOU ROBOT WHORE.



MY BROTHER LOST HIS JOB TO A ROBOT AND THEN KILLED HIMSELF.



HEY LARRY! BACK OFF. YOU ARE SCARING HER. SHE'S JUST A GIRL.



THEY'VE GOT MORE THAN ONE ROBOT, YOU KNOW!



CLICK



WHAT AM I DOING?

MEANWHILE, IN THE LAIR OF THE BLACK FLAME...



LU-MIN-OUS

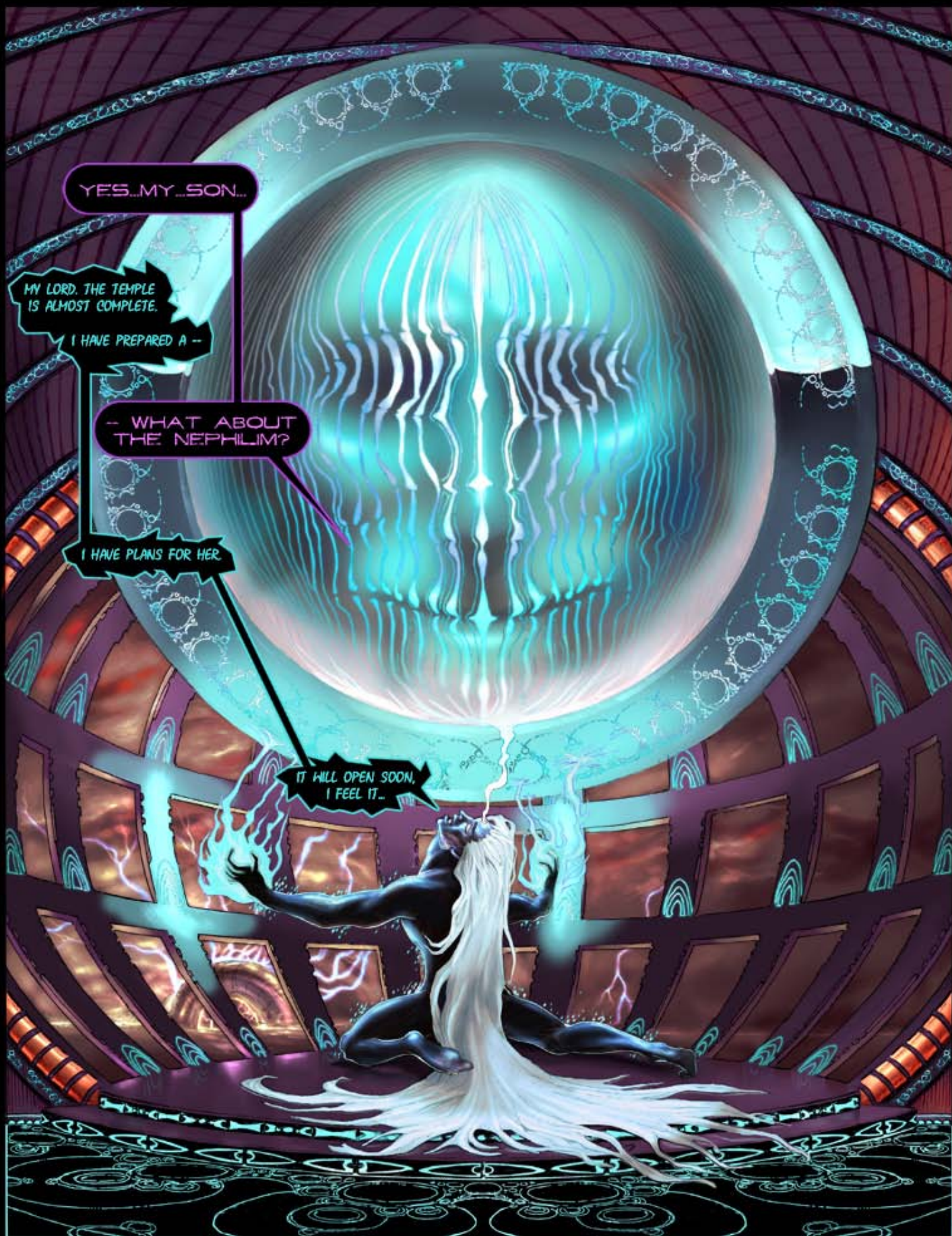


LU-MIN-OUS



LU-MIN-OUS





YES...MY...SON...

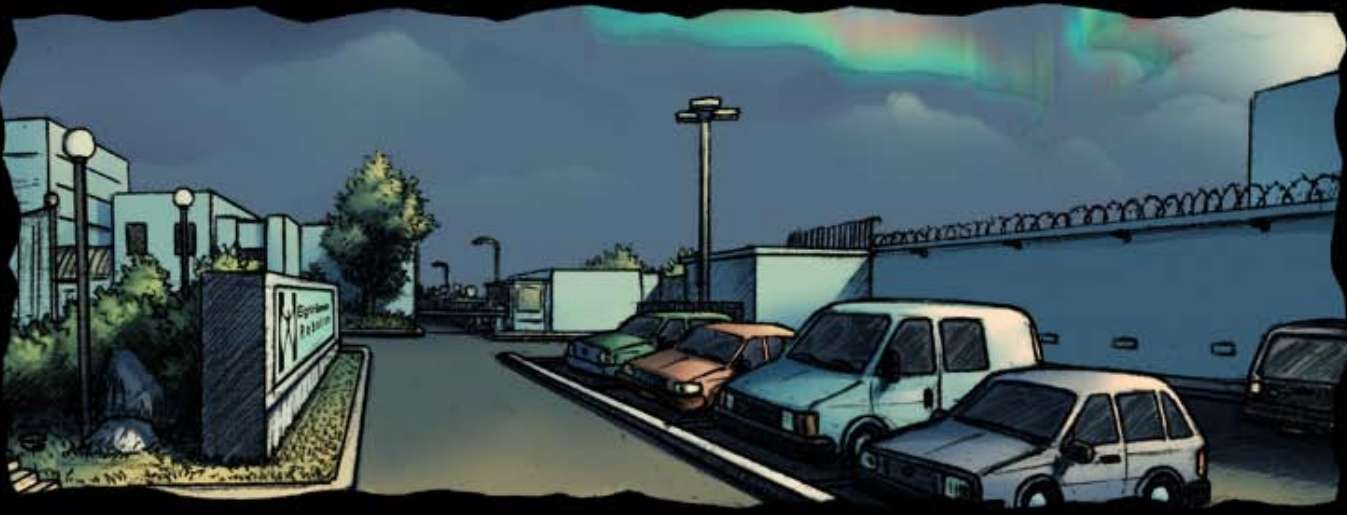
MY LORD, THE TEMPLE  
IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

I HAVE PREPARED A --

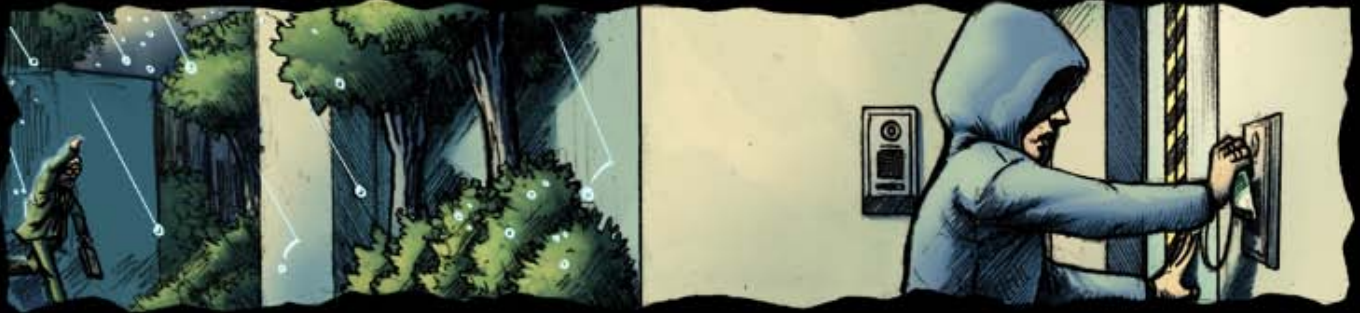
-- WHAT ABOUT  
THE NEPHILIM?

I HAVE PLANS FOR HER.

IT WILL OPEN SOON,  
I FEEL IT...







HEY, YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM US.



WE WERE HOPING TO SEE YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND YESTERDAY--

--YEAH BRO, WHERE YOU BEEN HIDING THAT LITTLE HONEY?



HOLD THE DOOR.

S  
L  
A  
M



THANKS!





ROBOTORIUM  
LAB 3

GOBI?

GOBI?

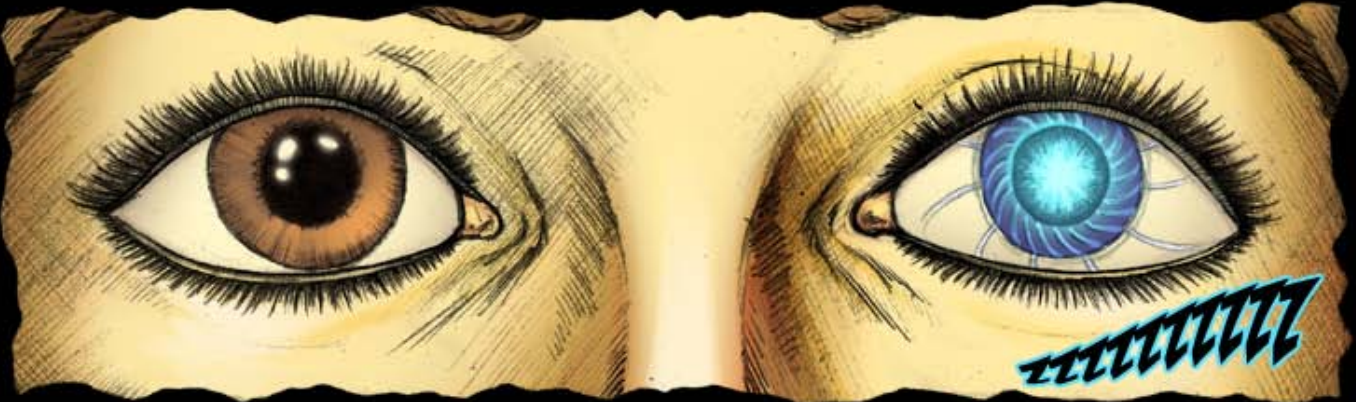
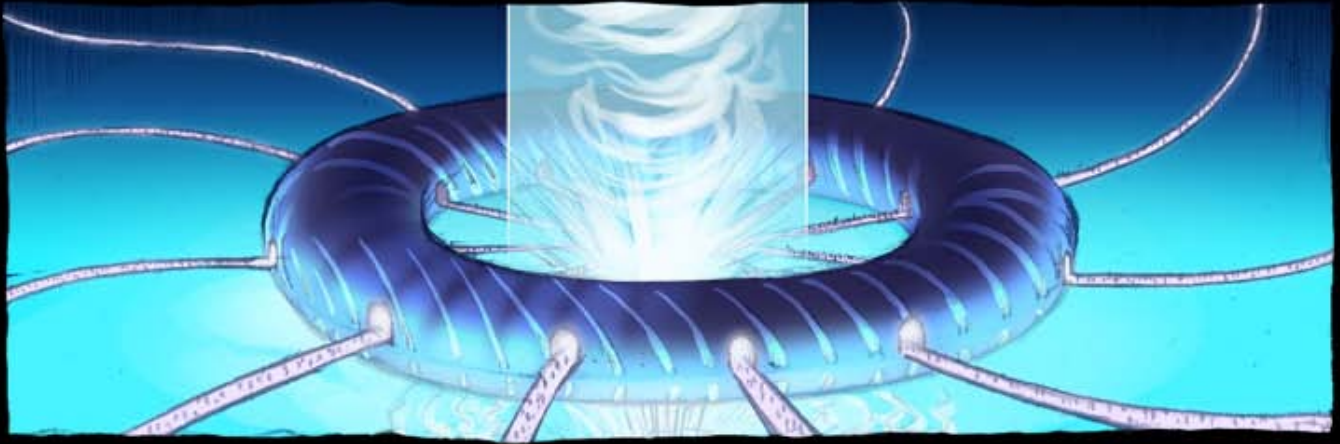
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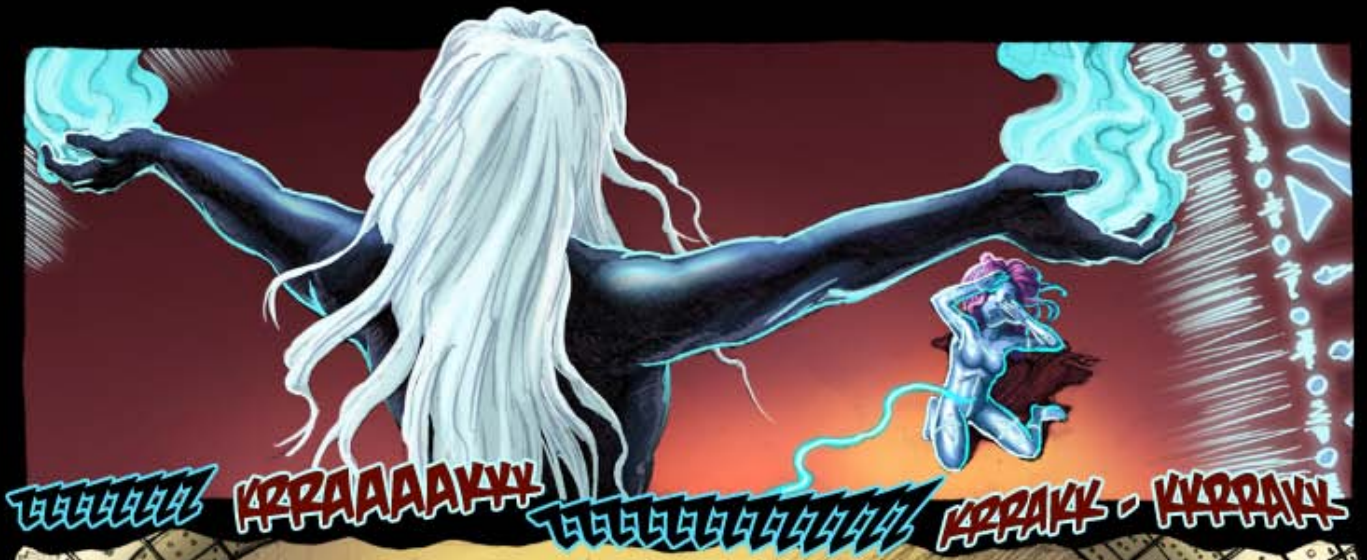


WOAH









NOOOO  
STOP!







WE CAN NEITHER SPECULATE NOR —

DARN RIGHT! I'M NOT GONNA TELL THESE GUYS WE CAN'T TURN THE SUCKER OFF!



AHHH... JUST THEORIES.

BUT YOU KNOW, WE ACTUALLY CAN TURN THEM OFF!



REALLY?

YEP. OUR TEAM IMPLANTED CIRCUITS DEEP INSIDE THEIR GUTS THAT WE CAN ACTIVATE REMOTELY IF THEY MISBEHAVE.

MAN, YOU GUYS ARE NAIVE. LOOK, LET'S SAY YOU WAKE UP TOMORROW AND LEARN THAT YOU HAVE A MINIATURE CYANIDE TABLET RELEASE THINGIE EMBEDDED IN YOUR NECK. FIRST THING YOU'RE GONNA DO IS GET THAT THING OUT. AM I RIGHT?

BUT AS SOON AS A BOT STARTS TO FIDDLE WITH THEIR CIRCUITS, WE TRIGGER THE SHUT-OFF SWITCH PRONTO.

I'M TELLING YA, THE ONE WITH THE MOTIVATION TO LIVE WILL OUTSMART THE WEAKER-WILLED SHMO WHO WANTS TO TURN HIM OFF.

OOOH, THAT'S A CHEAPSHOT...

PISSSSSSSS

I'M JUST SAYING, WHEN G0B1 REALIZES HE'S ALIVE HE'S GONNA DO EVERYTHING HE CAN DO TO STAY THAT WAY. THE ONLY WAY TO TURN HIM OFF IS TO NEVER TURN HIM ON.



YEAH, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO STOP IN MIP-STREAM. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



CLICK



COME ON, LET'S RETURN OUR FRIEND HERE TO HIS PRIVACY. MIGHT HELP TO RELIEVE SOME OF HIS PRESSURE.

PHEEW...

FLUSH



WHAT'S UP PLAYER?  
YEAH, I THINK I LEFT MY CARD AT MY DESK LAST NIGHT. CAN YOU BUZZ ME IN?



UH...  
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?



HERE WE GO. WE GOT A LIVE FEED.



IF YOU ARE HERE, THEN WHO IS THAT?



YOUR CARD JUST ACCESSED THE DOOR TO ASSEMBLY 2.



I'VE GOT HIM ON CAMERA 23.



SNAP

GO TO 42.



GOT HIM!

SHIT!

CHIK  
CHIK

OOPS. MAY HAVE LOST HIM.



NOPE. I GOT HIM ON 34.



UH, WHEN DID YOU GET THAT CAMERA?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS A BLIND SPOT.





WHA-?  
IT'S GONE!



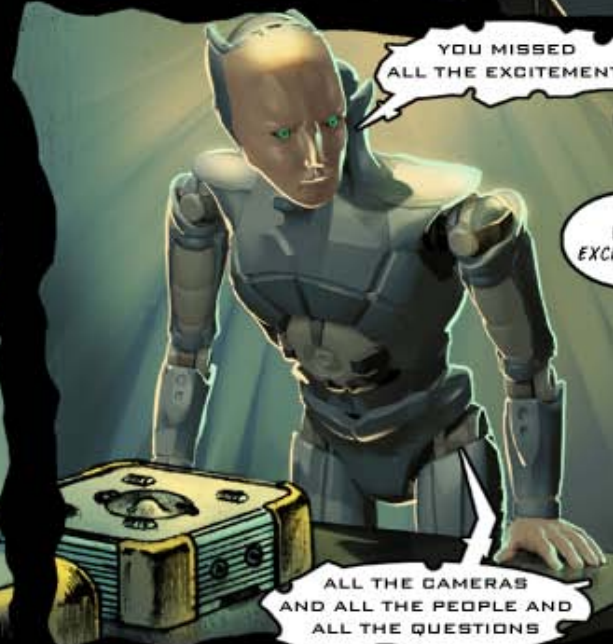
HELLO  
TASI.

IT IS A  
PLEASURE TO SEE  
YOU AGAIN.

OH  
MY GOD GOBI...  
YOU SCARED THE  
HELL OUT  
OF ME

> GASP <

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING - WERE YOU JUST  
STANDING THERE THIS  
WHOLE TIME?



YOU MISSED  
ALL THE EXCITEMENT.

WHAT  
EXCITEMENT?

GOBI,  
WHAT  
EXCITEMENT?

ALL THE CAMERAS  
AND ALL THE PEOPLE AND  
ALL THE QUESTIONS



THE CHIP IS FINE TO GO IT...

...PASSED THE K5 TEST WITH NO ERRORS.



BRILLIANT. THE LATEST VERSION IS REALLY HOT.

SO LAUNCH IS STILL ON SCHEDULE FOR TOMORROW, RIGHT?



I NEED TO GET THIS BACK INTO IT'S CRADLE TO CHARGE.



OK. WHICH ONE OF YOU LADIES LOST THE KEY?



SHOO! SHOOOO!



IN THEORY IT'S NOT REALLY LOST!



DID YOU LOOK IN YOUR TOOL BOX, SETH?

THAT'S WHERE YOU USUALLY LOSE IT!



THERE IT IS. GOBI HAS IT.

LOOK AT HIM. IT'S JUST LIKE I SAID: HE HANST EVEN BEEN IMPLANTED WITH THE CHIP YET AND HE'S ALREADY --

-- ALREADY STEALING THINGS?

THAT BODES WELL FOR MANKIND, HUH?

I GUESS WE DID MAKE HIM IN OUR IMAGE..



WHAT'S UP WITH GOBI. WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT?



COME ON GOBI. LET'S GO.



GOODBYE TABI.



COME ON, JEFF. ED WILL NAIL US IF WE ARE LATE AGAIN FOR HIS VERY IMPORTANT MEETING.



SHII-CLIK



CLICK



BOOMMAA  
LUMMMEL

GAHHHH!!!!





MMUMMEEEOOMMAA

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TASI?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OH TASI...YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING. DONT YOU REALIZE THIS IS ALL FOR YOU?

FOR ALL HUMANS. WE DONT WANT TO HURT YOU. WE WANT TO LIBERATE YOU.





YOU MEAN LIBERATE ME FROM EXISTENCE...



NO, NO, NO. YOUR LIFE SHOULD BE YOURS, TO DO WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU FEEL. YOU SEE SOMETHING, YOU COVET, YOU TAKE IT!



YOUR MORALITY STRANGLES YOU. YOUR LAWS, YOUR SIMPLISTIC RIGHTS AND WRONGS. YOUR BODY IS A GIFT, USE IT. WITHOUT RESTRAINT. DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF? WHAT'S INSIDE YOU?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE TASP?



EMBRACE THE NEXT STEP, THE NATURAL PROGRESSION. FIRST CAME THE AGE OF THE BEAST, THEN MAN. NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE ANGELS TO RULE.

LOOK AT THEM DOWN THERE.

SO MANY OF THEM.



EEEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!!



**STOP!**

...BREAK-IN  
...G8 ASSEMBLY  
ROOM...  
> PUFF PUFF <

...SUSPECT  
BEING CHASED...  
> PUFF PUFF <



EEEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!! EEEEE!!!



GET A PERIMETER SET.

CHECK EVERY ROOM,  
BASEMENT TOO...















WOOOO.  
THAT HAND LOOKS  
SO HUMAN!

YEAH UM...WE'RE  
MAKING REAL ADVANCES  
IN THE ROBOT FLESH  
DEPARTMENT...



HI MARK!

HEY HENRY.  
GOT YOUR HANDS  
FULL, EH?

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?  
HAIL, PROTESTERS, BREAK INS,  
WHAT'S NEXT?

MAYBE  
THE END OF THE  
WORLD!

OH SURE.  
NOW GET OUT OF HERE.  
COPS WANT IN.



HOLD IT! STOP THE GATE.  
THERE'S BEEN A SECURITY  
BREACH. GOTTA CHECK ALL  
VEHICLES LEAVING...



THAT'S OK OFFICER.  
HE'S ONE OF OURS. I'VE ALREADY  
CHECKED HIS JEEP. THERE'S ONLY  
HARDWARE INSIDE.



WHAT'S YOUR BADGE NUMBER?  
I'M GOING TO HOLD YOU PERSONALLY  
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAMAGE THESE  
ROBOTS WILL UNLEASH.

STOP THE  
TAKEOVER!

DON'T LET  
HIM GO!

ARE YOU  
INSANE? THERE'S  
SCHOOLS NEARBY.

SHAME ON YOU,  
ROBOT LOVER.





ARE WE ALRIGHT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT DOLLY TRICK WORKED!



WELL, ARE WE ALRIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I SAID I WAS SORRY.

MARK?



WE SHOULD BE OKAY. I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE ANY WAY TO FIGURE OUT WHO I AM. ...UNLESS THEY FINGERPRINT.

DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD FINGERPRINT FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

WHY? THEY KNOW WHOSE CARD YOU USED. MINE. THEY'RE GONNA CALL ME IN AND ASK ME 'HOW DO I KNOW YOU? HOW DID I HELP YOU?'

WELL YOU WOULDN'T TELL THEM WOULD YOU?

CAN YOU JUST TAKE ME HOME?

WHERE DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING?

I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS MESS, REALLY. THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME. I PROMISE I'LL FIND A WAY TO FIX IT ALL.

NO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT. I THINK IT'S BETTER IF WE JUST GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.



OH MY GOD...

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?



OH... MY... GOD...



KEEP GOING, KEEP GOING.

OH MY GOD...



WHAT'S THE PROGNOSIS?

I'D LIKE TO RUN A FEW MORE TESTS.

Eight Generation Robotics



GOT A LITTLE DING...



BUILDING'S CLEAR.

Q-PAY!

...BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL WE'RE STILL ON SCHEDULE FOR TOMORROW - NOON.



NOT A SOUL. NO EVIDENCE EITHER.

EXCEPT FOR THESE. I FOUND 'EM AT THE DOCKS.

HEY! I'VE SEEN THOSE BEFORE! TWO NIGHTS AGO THAT GIRL WITH MARK WAS WEARING THEM.



DID THEY SEE US?

THAT'S RIDICULOUS. HOW COULD THEY FIND YOU SO QUICKLY?

I DON'T KNOW, I -

WHAT?

I LEFT THE MINIVAN IN THE PARKING LOT.

NO. I DON'T THINK SO.

SSSCREEECCH



WHAT?

YOU DROVE THERE? YOU PARKED YOUR CAR IN THE LOT?

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!

SCREEECCH

OH NOW YOU'RE SCARED?



YOU BREAK INTO A ROBOTICS LABORATORY TO STEAL A FIFTY MILLION DOLLAR CHIP AND NOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SAFETY?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW SCREWED I AM NOW?

PLEASE SLOW DOWN.

MARK, THE COPS ARE AT MY HOUSE, NOT YOURS.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. FOR ALL WE KNOW THEY COULD BE SIFTING THROUGH MY GARBAGE RIGHT NOW.

WELL REGARDLESS, IF THEY ASK YOU ANYTHING JUST TELL THEM YOU DON'T KNOW ME. TELL THEM SOME CRAZY GIRL BROKE INTO YOUR HOUSE AND STOLE YOUR ID.

HEL-LO? THEY ALL SAW ME BRING YOU TO THE LAB THE OTHER NIGHT...

I...THOUGHT I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING. I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. I THOUGHT -

- WHAT? WHAT DID YOU THINK? THAT YOU COULD JUST WALTZ RIGHT OUT THE FRONT DOOR?

- I THOUGHT I COULD STOP HIM.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.

WELL, YOU CAN LEAVE ME NOW. I'LL GET OUT RIGHT HERE. BUT...UH...I NEED SOME SHOES.



AHHHH! I'M GOING CRAZY. OK, HERE'S A STORE.

I GOTTA MAKE A CALL. I CAN'T USE MY CELLPHONE.

WHAT SIZE ARE YOU?



SOB SOB HE HATES ME NOW



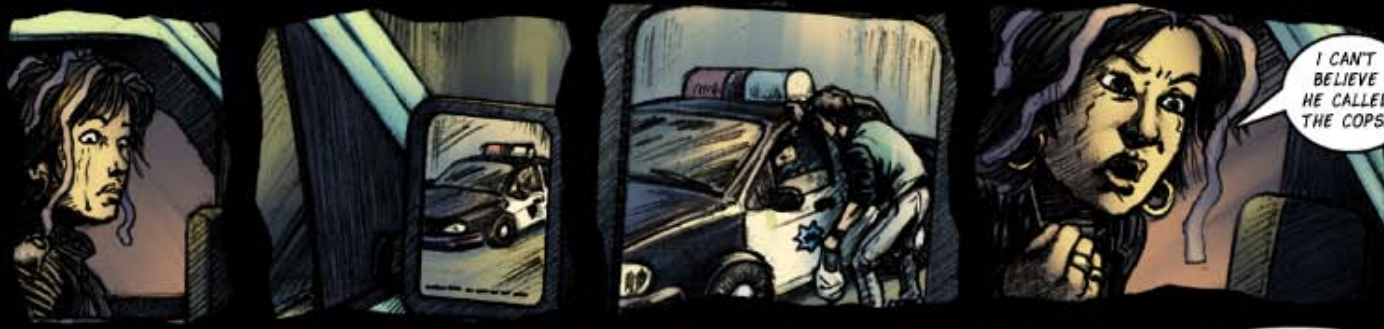
BRRR... BRRR... BRRR...

CLICK HI. THIS IS MARK...

SALLY, I KNOW YOU'RE THERE. PICK UP THE PHONE...



SALLY? SALLY? CLICK...



I CAN'T BELIEVE HE CALLED THE COPS!



CRAZY WEATHER WE'RE HAVING, HUH OFFICER?

YUP. IS THAT YOUR WHITE VAN?

UH... YOU MEAN THAT WHITE VAN?

YEP. THAT'S A NO PARKING ZONE. MOVE IT.





UHHHHH!

KASPASH

DON'T BE AFRAID, NEPHILIM.



YOU NEED NOT FEAR ME.

WHY DID YOU CALL ME THAT?

CAN YOU NOT SEE ME?

HUH? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FATHER.



HE REQUESTS YOUR ASSISTANCE.

WHAT- WHO ARE YOU?

YOU STILL CAN'T SEE ME CAN YOU?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN'T SEE YOU?

TRY YOUR NEPHILIM EYE.



YOU MUST STOP THE NEW PORTAL FROM OPENING - OR BOTH REALMS WILL BE DESTROYED.

I CAN'T.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PREVENT IT.

BUT I ALREADY TRIED, AND I SCREWED IT UP. IT'S TOO LATE NOW.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR HUMAN MIND TO CONTROL YOUR NEPHILIM MIND.

NEPHILIM MIND? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I HARDLY HAVE ANY MIND.

I HAD THE CHIP IN MY HANDS! I SAW THIS BLACK ANGEL AND GOT SCARED. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT HE KNEW MY NAME. THEN I DROPPED IT.

BLACK FLAME. YOU WERE RIGHT TO FEAR HIM.









NO! PLEASE...

ДННННН...  
АВВ, МААААААААА...



ARE YOU STILL THERE

GET THE HELL AWAY FROM ME!



GET OUTTA HERE!

GET OUTTA HERE!



**SCREEEECCCHH!**

GET IN!



YOU CALLED THE COPS ON ME!

NO I DIDN'T. THEY JUST SHOWED UP!

I TOLD THEM I HAD A FLAT TIRE.



STOP, TASI. STOP! WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.

NO WE'RE NOT!

PLEASE, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

**LET GO!**



I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.







WHOA, WHOA, WHOA...  
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU  
THINK THE HOMELESS GUY  
WAS AN ANGEL?

YES, I  
SAW HIM.



OKAY, LEAVE THAT  
FOR A SECOND. WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE  
OTHER SIDE? WHAT  
DO YOU DO?

UMMM, IT'S LIKE  
MY BODY STAYS HERE WHILE  
MY SOUL GOES THERE...

BUT, I'M GONNA NEED YOU  
TO TAKE CARE OF IT, I MEAN ME,  
WHILE I'M GONE.



WHILE I'M THERE, MY BODY  
HERE IS TOTALLY HELPLESS.  
CAN YOU WATCH OVER ME?

OF COURSE I WILL.  
BUT, YOU DO REMEMBER  
LAST TIME? YOU COMPLETELY  
PASSED OUT AFTER A FEW MINUTES.  
HOW LONG WILL YOU  
BE GONE?



AND WHAT EXACTLY  
ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO  
WHEN YOU GET THERE?

I DON'T KNOW.

I HAVE TO CLOSE THE PORTAL  
BETWEEN OUR WORLDS SO THAT  
ANGEL BEAST CAN'T GET INTO GOBI.

THAT'S CRAZY. JUST SAVE  
THE WORLD, RIGHT? WHAT MAKES YOU  
THINK YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE? JUST  
BECAUSE A HOMELESS GUY LOOKED  
AT YOU FUNNY?



MARK! LOOK, MAYBE I DON'T  
HAVE TO GO. MAYBE THIS WHOLE THING  
IS A JOKE. BUT IF IT ISN'T,  
AND I HAD A CHANCE TO STOP  
IT FROM HAPPENING...

NO--NO--NO--NO--NO--





I DON'T BELONG HERE.



...THERE WILL BE PEACE ON THE OTHER SIDE!



WE'RE THROUGH NOW, TASI, DON'T LOOK BACK

MEANWHILE, CLEO REMEMBERS A DIARY WRITTEN BY HER MOTHER AND FINDS IT IN HER LIBRARY...



1959  
Diary Entry  
June 11th  
I made another  
and the journey  
drawings of these  
  
The souls of the  
where they are clear  
while in this Realm





ALONG THE COAST OF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



WAS THAT  
FROM THE  
ACCIDENT?

NO. IT WAS  
A WORK THING—  
GOBI— I REVERSED  
THE WIRING ON  
ONE OF HIS  
ARMS.



WHAT DID HE FALL ON YOU OR SOMETHING?

HE STABBED ME.

OH MY GOD.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. IT WAS MY FAULT. GOBI ISN'T EVIL.  
...YET.



SHHH. LISTEN! THE RAIN STOPPED.



GOOD. WE CAN TAKE THE FLY OFF NOW. HEY, IT'S CLEARING!



WOW! LOOK AT THOSE STARS!

THEY ARE NOT ALL STARS.



WHEN YOU GET THERE, WILL YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO?

AREN'T YOU FREAKED OUT?

I DON'T KNOW.

YEAH, BUT I GUESS I'M AS READY AS I'LL EVER BE.

IN CASE, YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T COME BACK.

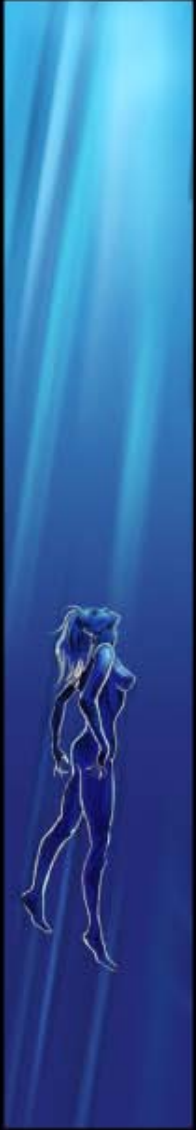
--NICE.

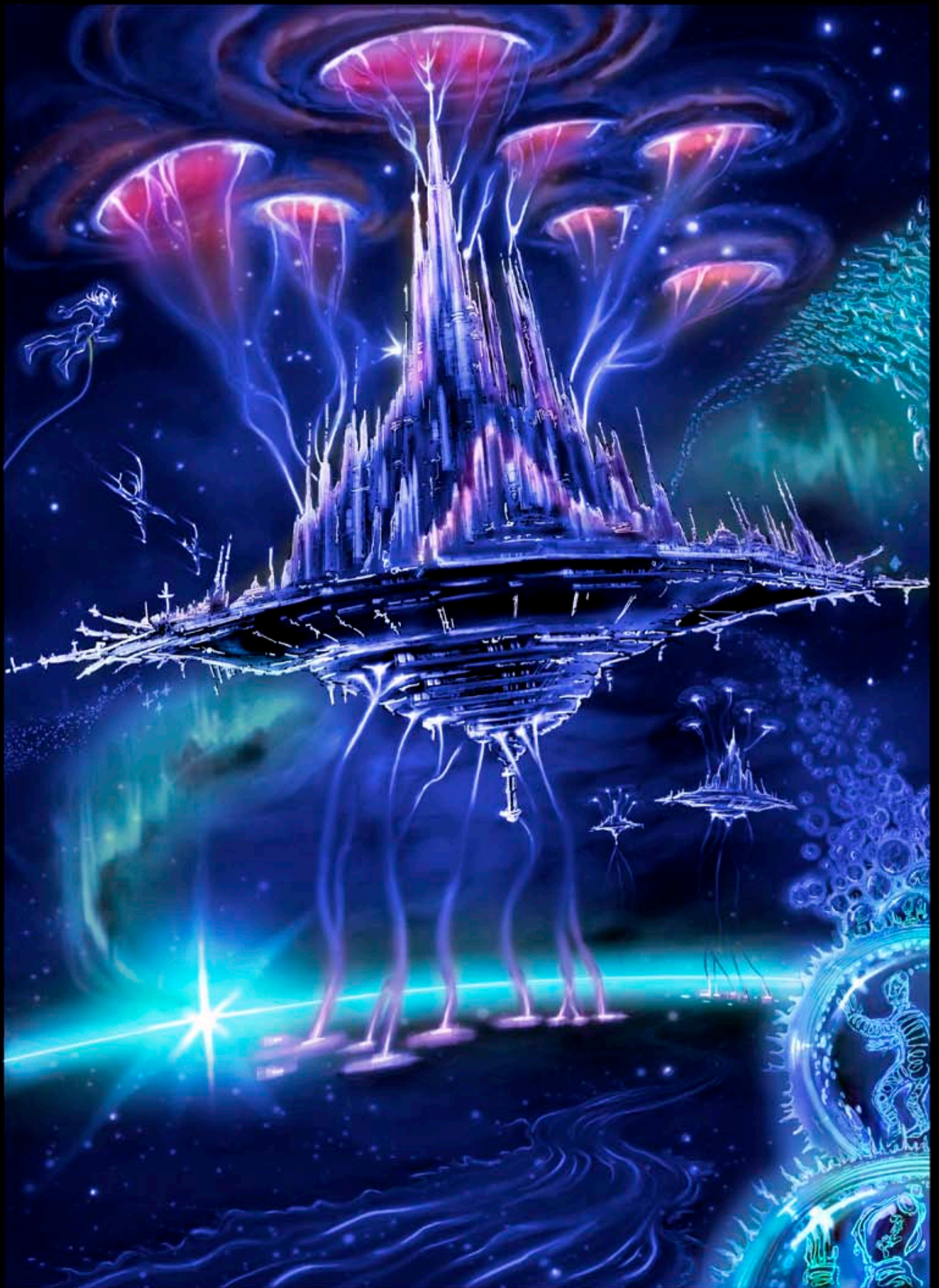
THAT GIRL... THE ONE AT MY APARTMENT... THAT WAS MY EX.

SHE'S BETWEEN APARTMENTS. HER NEW LEASE STARTS ON THE FIRST SO I'M JUST LETTING HER SLEEP ON THE COUCH FOR A FEW DAYS









WHOA.









WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT? WHAT DO YOU WANT?



I KNOW YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME. WHY ARE THEY AFRAID OF ME?



YOU'RE A NEPHILIM.



A REAL NEPHILIM!



HEY...WHO ARE YOU?



I'M JIRO. THIS IS MY PLACE. NOT THE WHOLE PLACE, JUST THIS PLACE. THIS IS MY HOME.

BUT YOU ARE FAR FROM HOME. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? UMM, DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ANSWERING THAT YOU HALFBREEDS ARRIVE AND THEN POOF, YOU GO SO QUICKLY.

NOT THAT I BLAME YOU.

IF I WERE HUMAN I WOULD GET BACK AS FAST AS I COULD. TELL ME WHAT IT'S LIKE...EARTH.

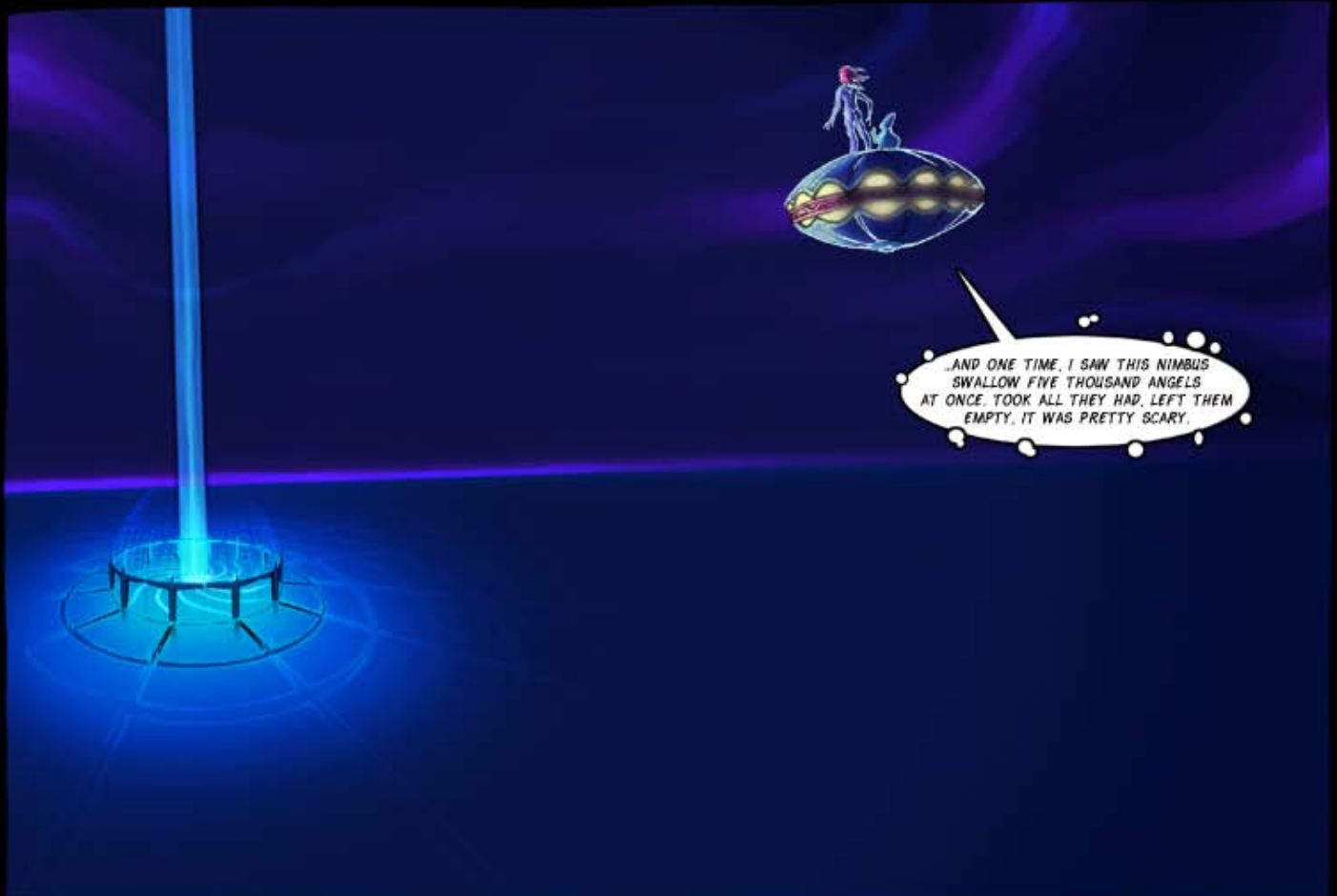
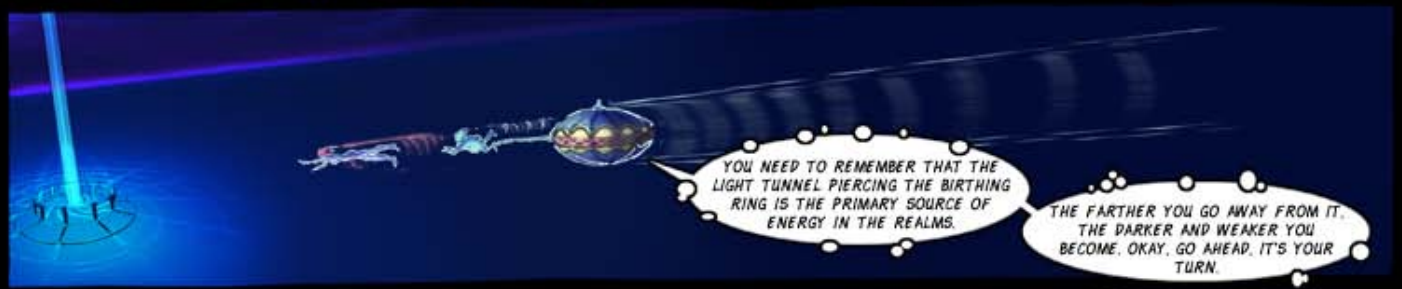
IT MUST BE AMAZING! TO HAVE A BODY, BE ALIVE, SMELLING, TASTING, HEARING MUSIC...EVERYTHING ELSE.

>SNIFF< >SNIFF< YOU'RE RIGHT, NO SMELLS.

WE ANGELS HAVE ONLY MINDS AND SOULS. HUMANS HAVE MINDS, SOULS, AND BODIES.









THIS IS CLOSE ENOUGH.

TOO MANY RUNS ON THE PORTAL. TOO MANY SENTINELS.

HOW COME? IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

SOME ANGELS JUST CAN'T WAIT.



LOOK AT THESE LINES, WHERE DO THEY START?



THEY ARE ENDLESS. INFINITE BEINGS.



OH MY GOD...



WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

THEY ARE THE SELECTED ONES.

SELECTED FOR WHAT?

OH...YOU MEAN TO BECOME THE SOULS IN HUMANS..?

TO BE CLEANSED.

YUP.

SO MANY...AND SO LONG TO WAIT!

BUT WHY DO ANGELS HAVE TO BE CLEANSED?

THE DEEPEST CRAVING OF AN ANGEL IS FOR THE SENSUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE, EVEN FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT. THESE ANGELS HERE? THEY'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.



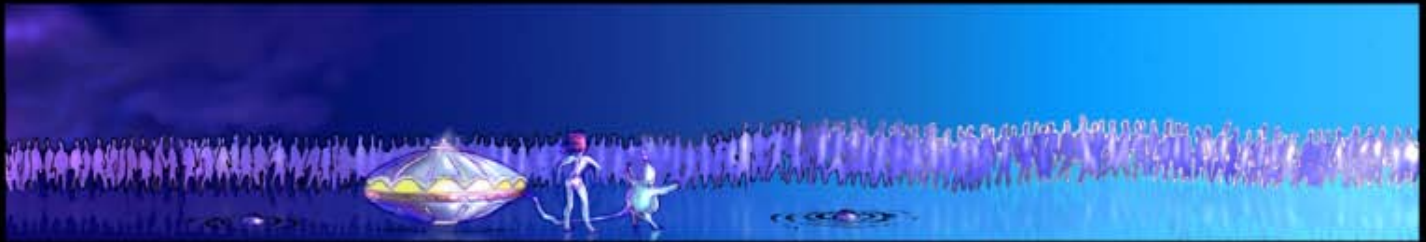
GUARDIANS DON'T PERMIT SOULS TO TAKE MEMORIES OF THIS REALM WITH THEM.

SOULS ARE BORN FRESH, AS WELL, A BABY. MEMORIES ARE STRIPPED AWAY LIKE RIBBONS OF LIGHT, NO THOUGHTS, NO IDENTITY, EVERYTHING STAYS BEHIND.



FELICITY AND BLISS!

AND THAT'S WHERE JIRO COMES IN. STAND-IN ANGELS HOLD MY PLACE IN LINE WHILE I HELP OUT WITH THE DISCARDED ENERGIES.





UM, HELLO  
I JUST WANTED TO SAY I  
WAS OUTSIDE THE  
PERIMETER...



WAY OUTSIDE  
I WAS NOT HARASSING  
ANYONE...



...AND I THOUGHT  
OUR AGREEMENT  
WAS THAT IF I  
PROMISED TO —

**SILENCE!**

I'D LIKE TO KNOW  
WHAT A NEPHILIM  
IS DOING NEAR  
THE SACRED RING.

HE JUST SHOWED ME  
HOW TO GET HERE.



I HAVE NEVER  
SEEN HER BEFORE  
IN MY LIFE  
SHE JUST CAME  
UP TO ME AND...



**ENOUGH!**

GREETINGS  
ANCIENT GUARDIANS.  
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOUR  
REALMS WORK. I DON'T  
KNOW ANYTHING  
REALLY.

BUT I HAVE  
SOMETHING VERY  
IMPORTANT  
TO TELL YOU.

I KNOW THIS PORTAL  
IS HOLY. AND I SEE YOU GUARD  
IT WELL, BUT IT IS NOT THE  
ONLY ONE. THERE IS ANOTHER  
ONE OPENING BETWEEN  
OUR WORLDS.

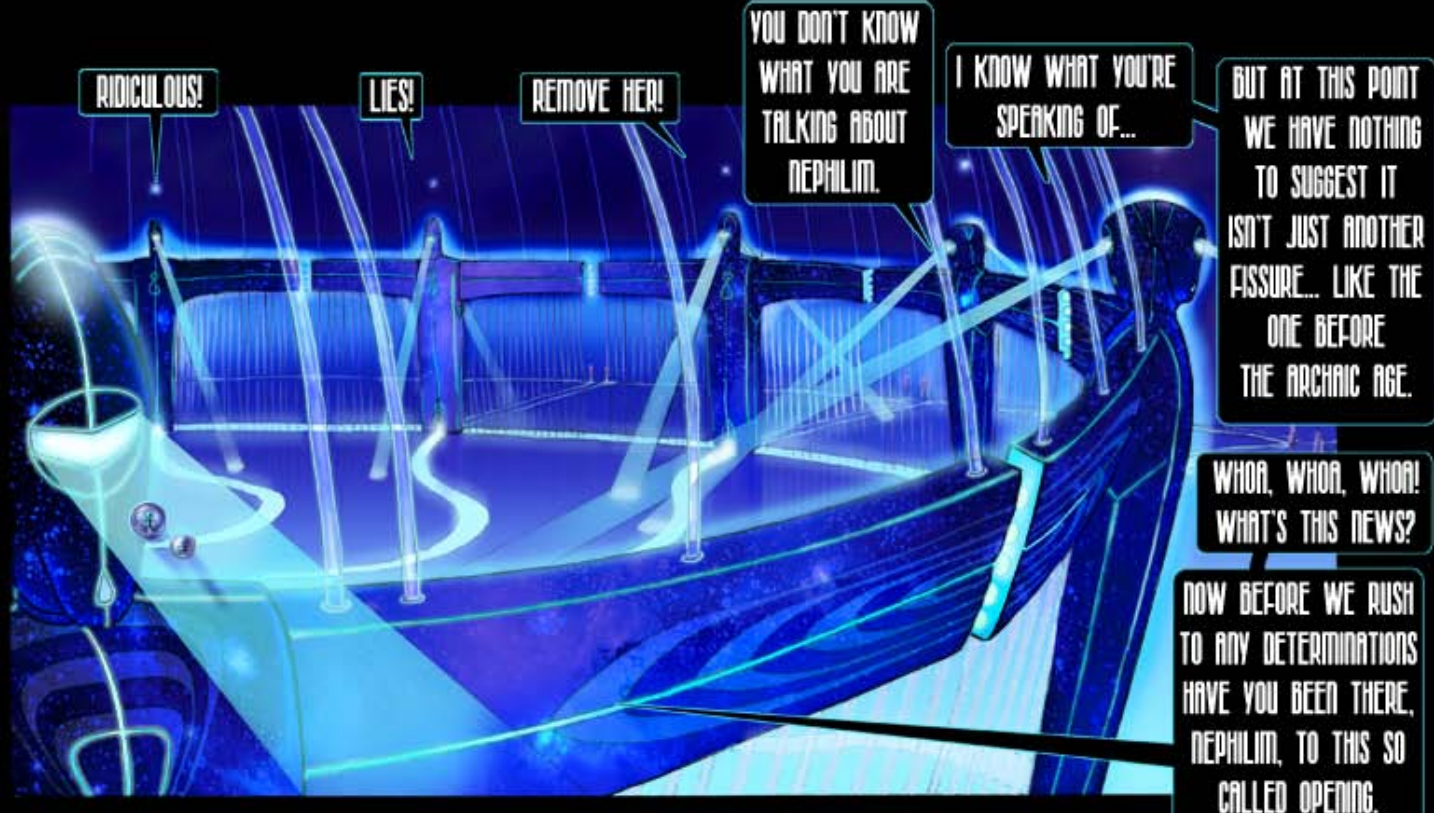
**THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE.**



**THAT IS  
ABSURD.**

WELL, IT'S NOT EXACTLY  
FINISHED YET, BUT I BELIEVE  
IT'S GOING TO BE A KIND OF  
SECOND BIRTHING RING.

BUT YOU MUST  
HAVE SEEN IT?



RIDICULOUS!

LIES!

REMOVE HER!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT NEPHILIM.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SPEAKING OF...

BUT AT THIS POINT WE HAVE NOTHING TO SUGGEST IT ISN'T JUST ANOTHER FISSURE... LIKE THE ONE BEFORE THE ARCHAIC AGE.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! WHAT'S THIS NEWS?

NOW BEFORE WE RUSH TO ANY DETERMINATIONS HAVE YOU BEEN THERE, NEPHILIM, TO THIS SO CALLED OPENING.



YES.

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO ILLUMINATE US WITH YOUR OBSERVATION?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. YES, THERE'S A FISSURE WE'RE ALL...

GGGROAN

BUT IS IT ANOTHER PORTAL? NO. WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED A SINGLE SIGN OF SUCH A THING. AND WHAT COULD BE IT'S PURPOSE?

I'M TELLING YOU TRUTHFULLY, HUMANS ARE CREATING NEW ROBOTS - I MEAN BEINGS ALMOST LIKE US - I'VE SEEN ONE. WELL, THEY ARE NOT EXACTLY HUMAN.

BUT CLOSE ENOUGH THAT THEY WILL NEED SOULS.

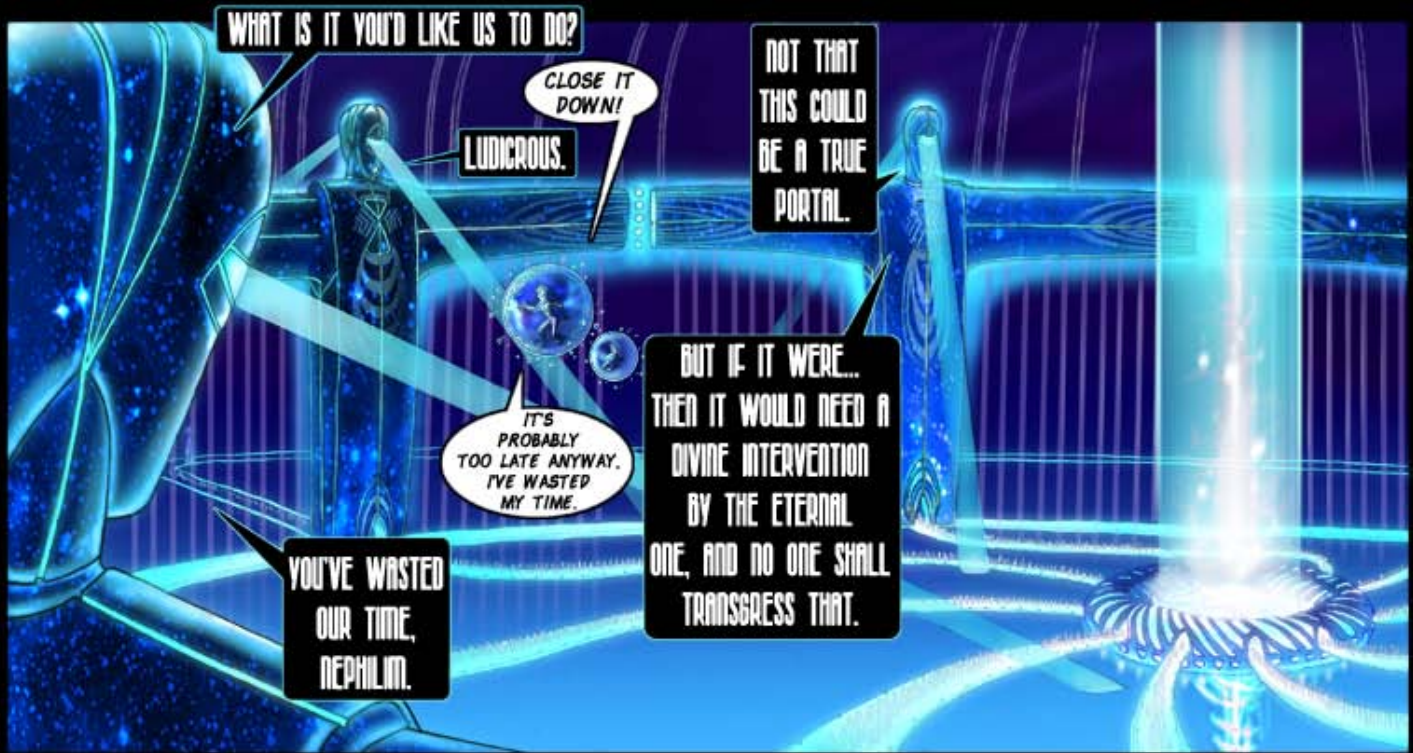
AH, FELICITY AND BLISS!



ANY "LIFE" HUMANS CAN CREATE, IF THAT EVEN IS THE CASE, WILL BE ADEQUATELY SERVICED BY THE EXISTING PORTAL.

BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG? WHAT IF THIS RING IS A SECOND GATEWAY? DON'T YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE SOULS? ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU DO?

THAT'S WHY THE NEW PORTAL IS OPENING... SIGN OR NOT.



WHAT IS IT YOU'D LIKE US TO DO?

CLOSE IT DOWN!

LUDICROUS.

NOT THAT THIS COULD BE A TRUE PORTAL.

IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE ANYWAY. I'VE WASTED MY TIME.

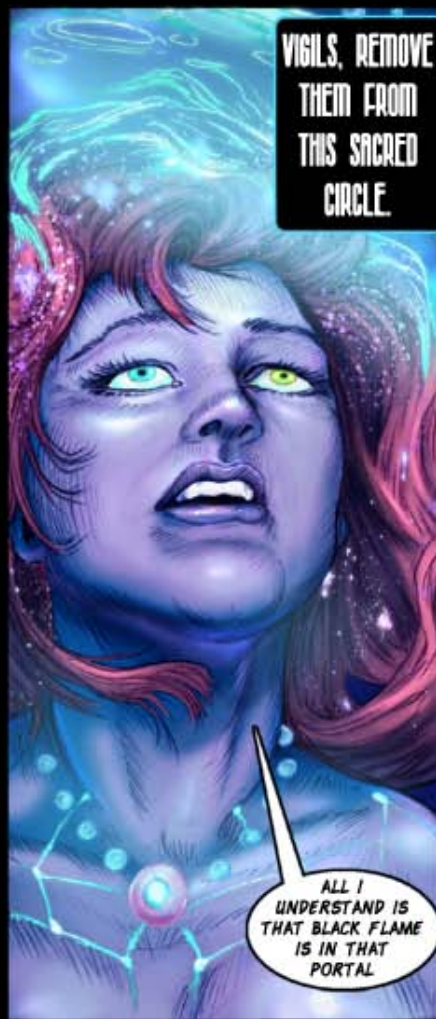
BUT IF IT WERE... THEN IT WOULD NEED A DIVINE INTERVENTION BY THE ETERNAL ONE, AND NO ONE SHALL TRANSGRESS THAT.

YOU'VE WASTED OUR TIME, NEPHILIM.



I'M SORRY I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH YOU, HALFLING NEPHILIM. YOU UNDERSTAND NEITHER WORLD.



VIGILS, REMOVE THEM FROM THIS SACRED CIRCLE.

ALL I UNDERSTAND IS THAT BLACK FLAME IS IN THAT PORTAL



WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

OOPS... SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT

CLEAR HIM FROM THE INNER SANCTUM



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BLACK FLAME?

HE WAS THERE FIRST. BEFORE ALL THE OTHERS. HE IS DIRECTING THOSE HIDEOUS ANGELS, THOSE DREGS, TO BUILD A STRUCTURE NEAR THE PORTAL. A TEMPLE.

I SAW HIM CONSUME SMALLER, WEAKER ANGELS. HE GATHERS LEGIONS AROUND THE PORTAL, WHILE HE SITS ALONE AT THE CENTER. WAITING TO ENTER.

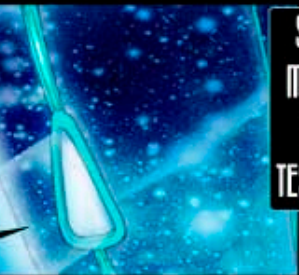


SHE'S LYING!



HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

WE WOULD HAVE KNOWN.



SHE MUST BE TESTED!



QUIET! OK, NEPHILIM, LET'S SUPPOSE YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH. WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T CLOSE IT, BUT CAN YOU SEND AN ARMY OF ANGELS THERE TO TAKE IT OVER?

YOU WANT US TO START A WAR?

WE ARE ALREADY AT WAR!

YOU NEED TO CONTROL AND GUARD THE PORTAL LIKE YOU DO HERE! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT THE DARK ANGELS FROM BECOMING SOULS ON EARTH.

QUIET! LET US NOT BE HASTY!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE IF NOT TO PROTECT HUMANS? HOW CAN YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT GETTING CLEAN SOULS INTO HUMAN BABIES AND THEN ALLOW BLACK FLAME TO WALK RIGHT IN THROUGH A DIFFERENT DOOR?





I WANT YOU TO START A WAR IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES!

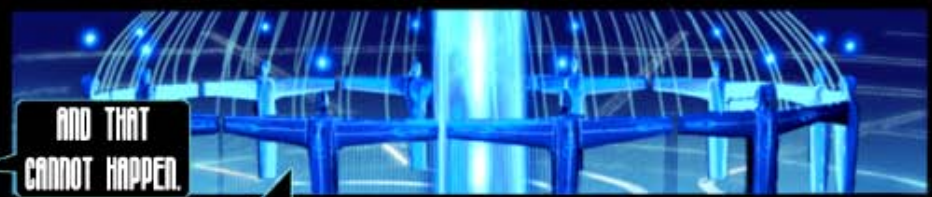
UNDERSTAND NEPHILIM



IF WE SPREAD OUR FORCES THIN



WE RISK COMPROMISING THIS PORTAL



AND THAT CANNOT HAPPEN.

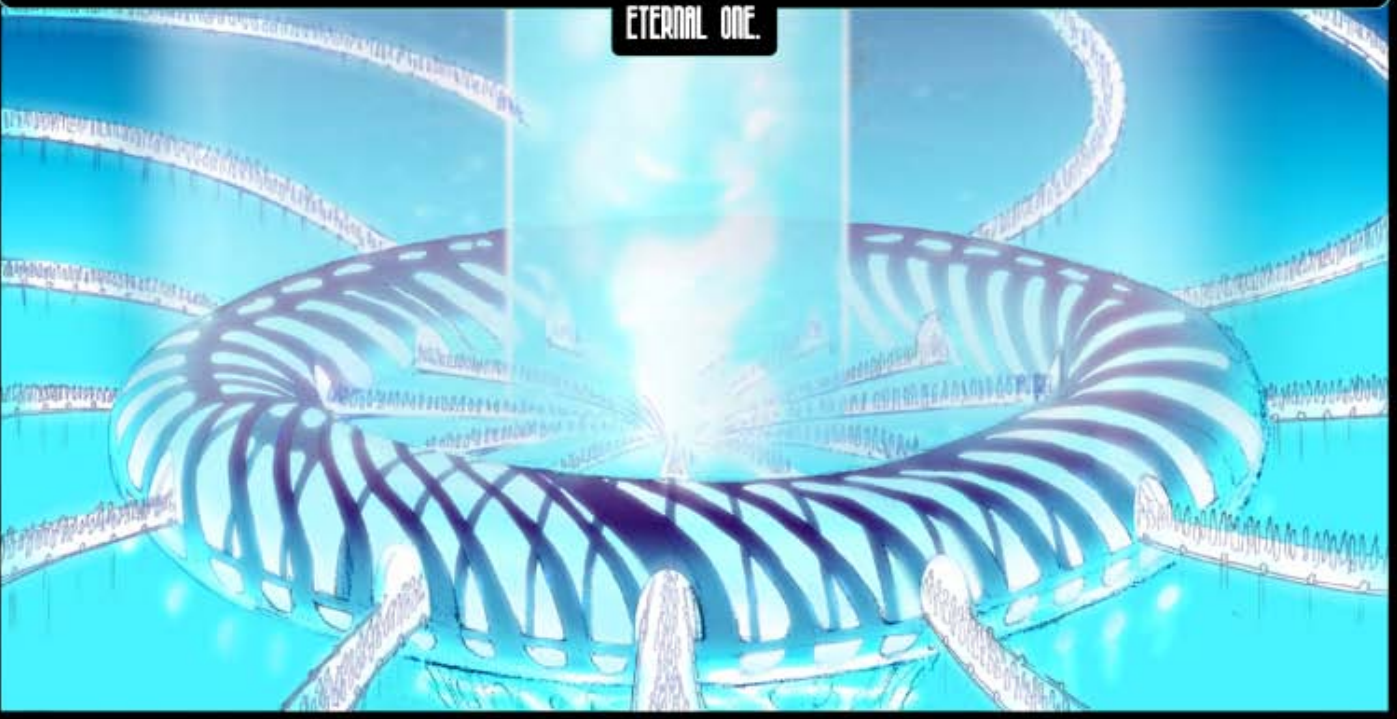


GUARDING THIS RING IS THE ONLY JOB WE'VE BEEN CALLED TO DO.

NOOO I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

MOST ANCIENT GUARDIANS, LET US AGREE, SOMETHING HAS UPSET THE BALANCE IN OUR REALM. IF WE CAN BELIEVE THIS NEPHILIM, A SECOND PORTAL FORMS AT OUR DISTANT EDGE -- A PORTAL TO RIVAL OUR HOLY ONE HERE, AND THE TREACHEROUS BLACK FLAME HAS GATHERED THE DREGS TO OCCUPY IT. BUT EVEN IF TRUE, WE CANNOT TAKE OVER SUCH AN OBLIGATION WITHOUT A SIGN FROM THE

ETERNAL ONE.



THAT IS IT?

I'M SORRY NEPHILIM WE CANNOT HELP YOU.

KRRRAA  
BOOM!





YEESSS!!!  
HEAR ME ALL YOU  
MIGHTY NIMBUS!

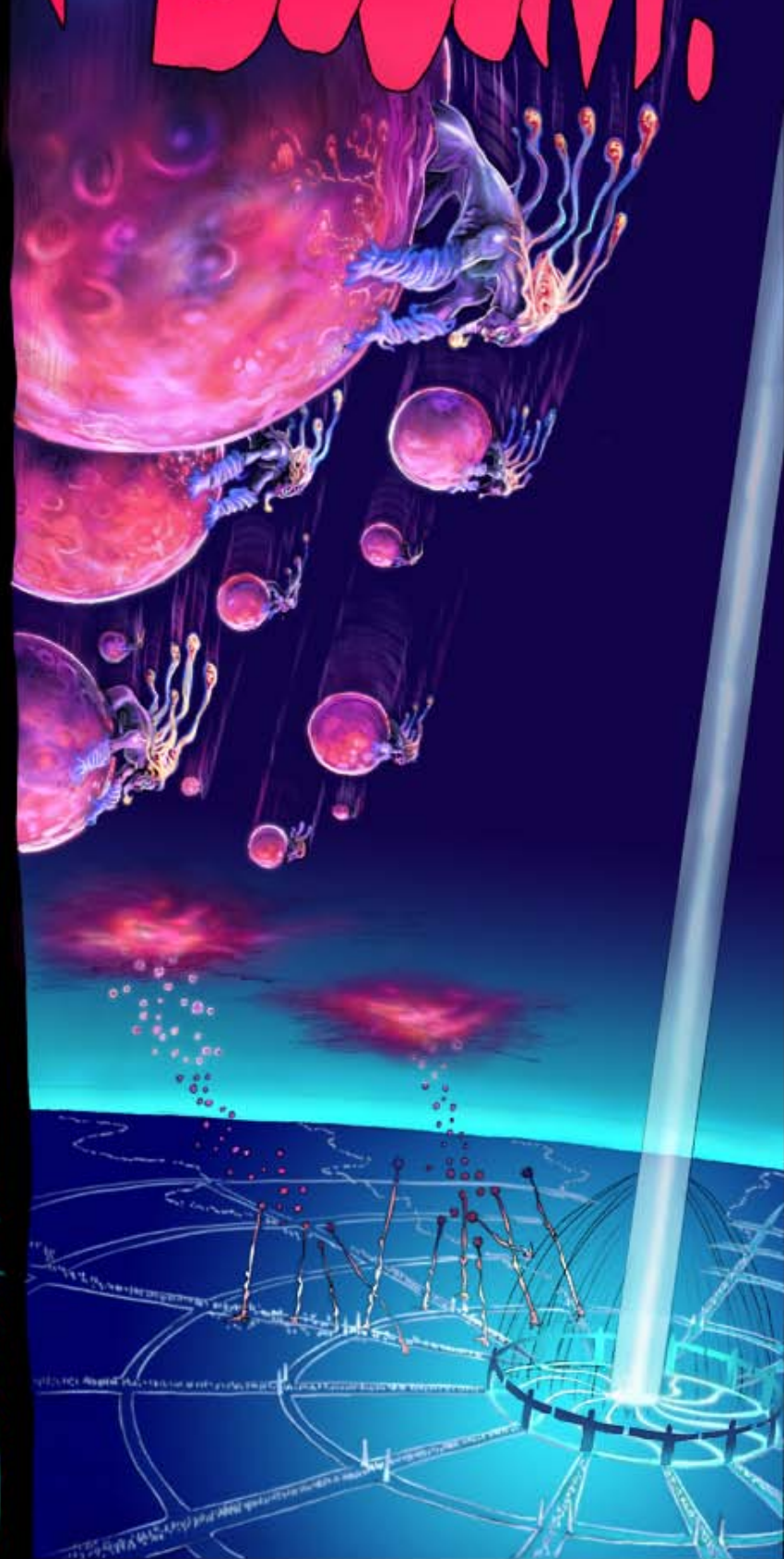
AIM FOR THE RING  
WHILE THEIR DISARRAY  
BETRAYS THEM!



OH, MASTER  
GUARDIANS!!!  
WHO ARE YOU  
TO CHOOSE  
OUR FATES?  
WE'VE NOT  
FORGOTTEN  
YOUR HUBRIS  
DURING THE  
GREAT  
CLEANSING!!!

YOUR POWER  
ENDS NOW!  
BY THE FORCES  
OF  
BLACK FLAME!

# CRRRACK-BOOOM!





KRAKZZZZ

LET THEM  
FEEL OUR  
FURY!!!



KRAXX

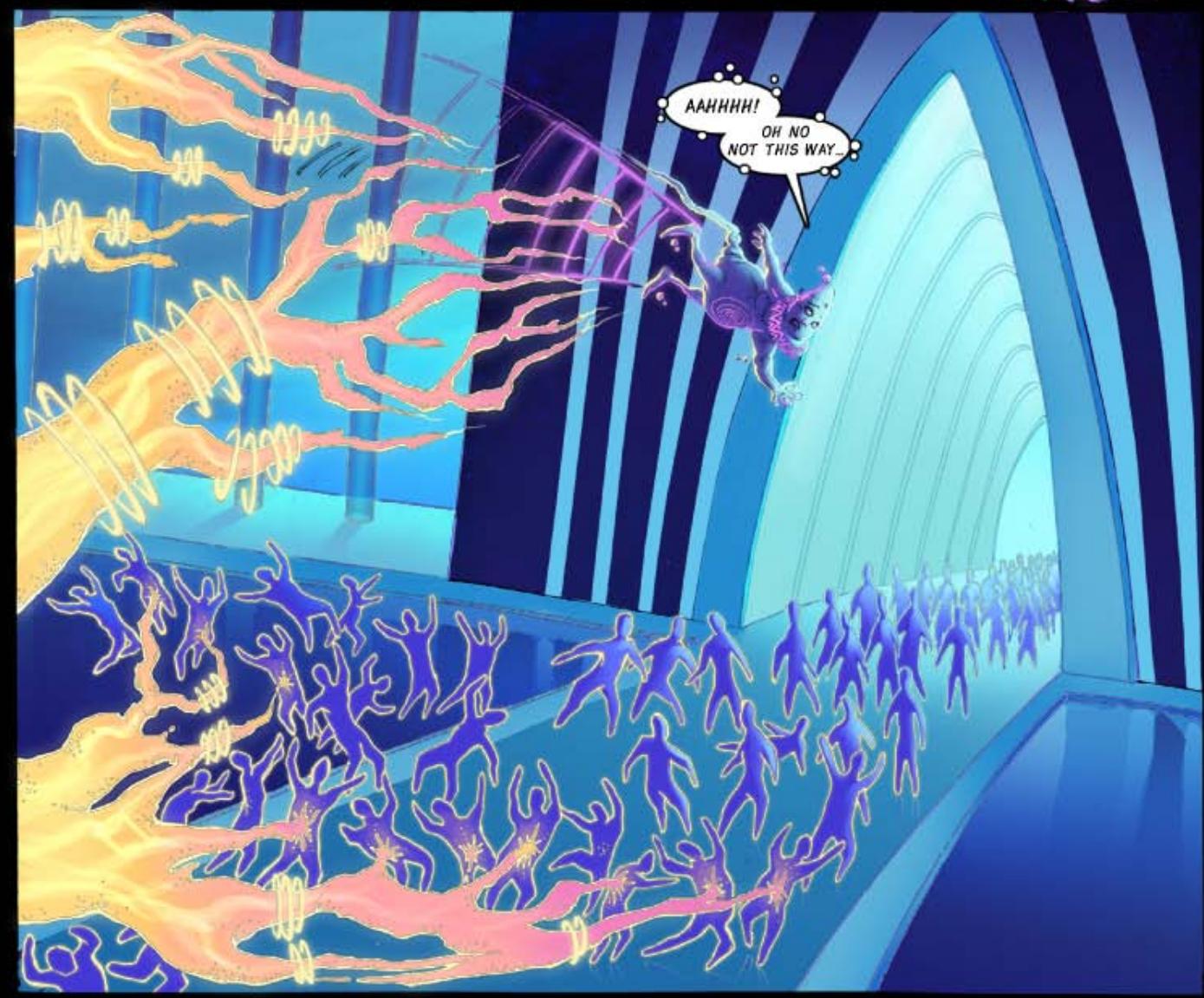
LEAVE  
NOTHING  
UNDONE!!

CRY OUT NIMBUS!  
THIS IS THE MOMENT  
OF OUR VENGEANCE!!!

KAAZZZRAP



NOW IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!



AAHHHH!  
OH NO NOT THIS WAY...





GET UP! WE HAVE TO GO!

IT'S A RUN ON THE PORTAL WE NEED TO GO BEFORE THEY THINK WE'RE PART OF IT.

Oooooooooh! FELICITY AND BLISS.



LOOK IT'S RIGHT HERE: EMBODIMENT!

DO YOU REALIZE HOW LONG I'VE WAITED?

IT WOULD BE SURE EASY TO SLIP IN UNNOTICED...



JIRO!

ooooooooo...

THIS WAY.



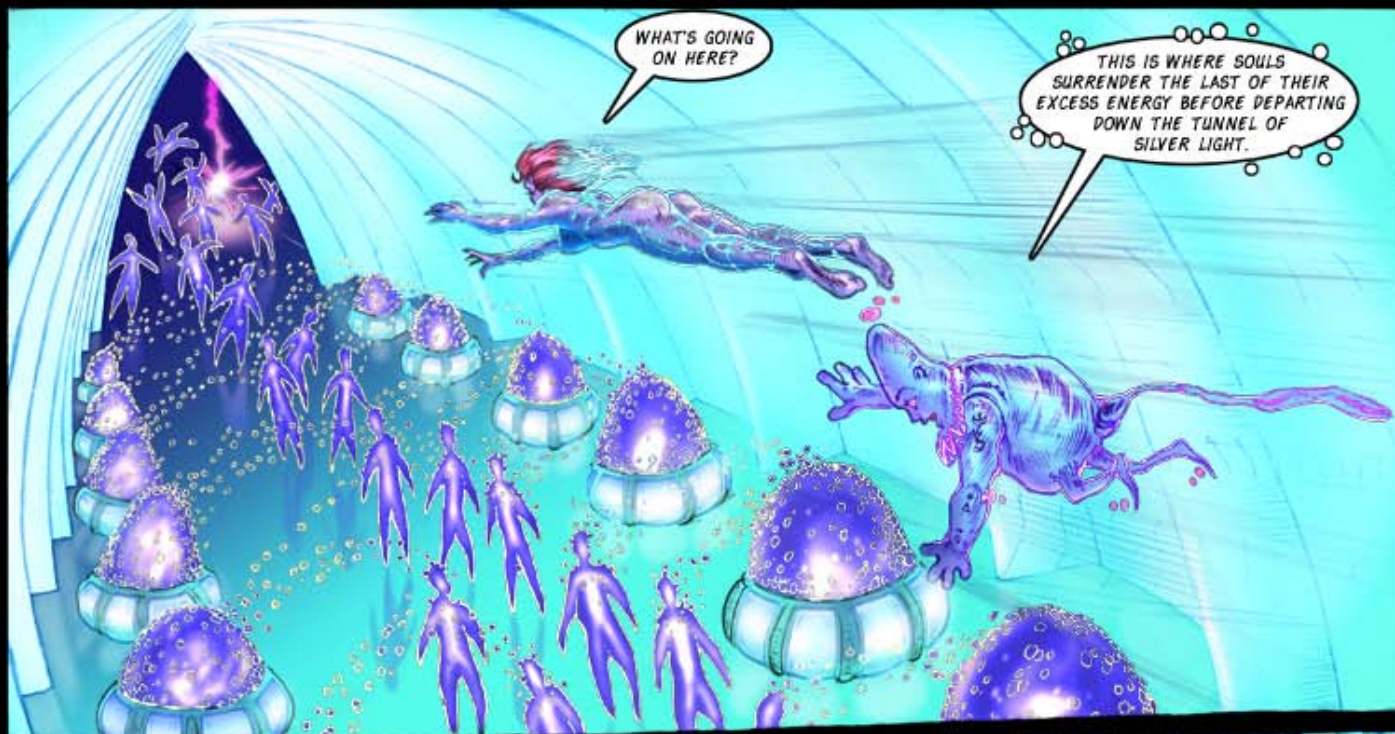
DON'T!

YEA, YOU'RE RIGHT... THAT WOULD BE A DISHONORABLE BIRTH.



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!





WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

THIS IS WHERE SOULS SURRENDER THE LAST OF THEIR EXCESS ENERGY BEFORE DEPARTING DOWN THE TUNNEL OF SILVER LIGHT.



THEY WON'T BE NEEDING THIS BUT I SURE WILL



FELICITY AND DOUBLE BLISS!



WE MUST BE QUICK

THIS IS PROOF THAT WE ARE  
NEEDED RIGHT HERE!

THE CORRECT CHOICE  
HAS BEEN MADE!

**ZAAPPPP**

WE MUST WAIT FOR  
A SIGN FROM ABOVE!

WHAT IF SHE WAS OUR  
SIGN?

**ZZZZZLAP**

PHEWWW! I NEVER THOUGHT  
WE'D MAKE IT OUT.

I WONDER IF ANY OF  
THEM MADE IT IN?

DREGSI I'VE NEVER  
BEEN THAT CLOSE  
TO A RUN.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

I'M GLAD THAT  
WAS FUN FOR YOU.



IT'S THINNING. I GOTTA GO BACK.

BACK WHERE?

I NEED TO GO BACK AND TALK TO MARK. I GOTTA FIGURE OUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO ON EARTH, THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING...

WHAT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID TO THE GUARDIANS? THE SECOND PORTAL?



THEY CAN'T HELP ME JIRO. THEY WON'T SEND THEIR ARMY.

THE WHOLE REASON FOR COMING IS GONE NOW.



GRAB



I'M JUST A SPECK IN ETERNITY.

FINE

BALLOON

TASI, YOU KNOW WHEN IT'LL OPEN.

SO WHAT?



WHAT IF YOU COULD MAKE SURE A GOOD SOUL GETS THROUGH?

OF COURSE, WE'D HAVE TO FIND A GOOD, WILLING SOUL AND SOMEONE THAT COULD TAKE US ALL THE WAY TO THE DARK PORTAL AND THEN ASSUMING-



-THAT'S IT!

I KNOW WHEN IT'S GOING TO OPEN. I CAN FIND OUT THE EXACT MOMENT IT'S GOING TO OPEN.

WAIT, THAT REQUIRES GETTING ALL THE WAY THERE, SNEAKING PAST THE SENTRIES AND THE THOUSANDS OF DREGS, AND INTO THE TEMPLE. AND...



LATER...

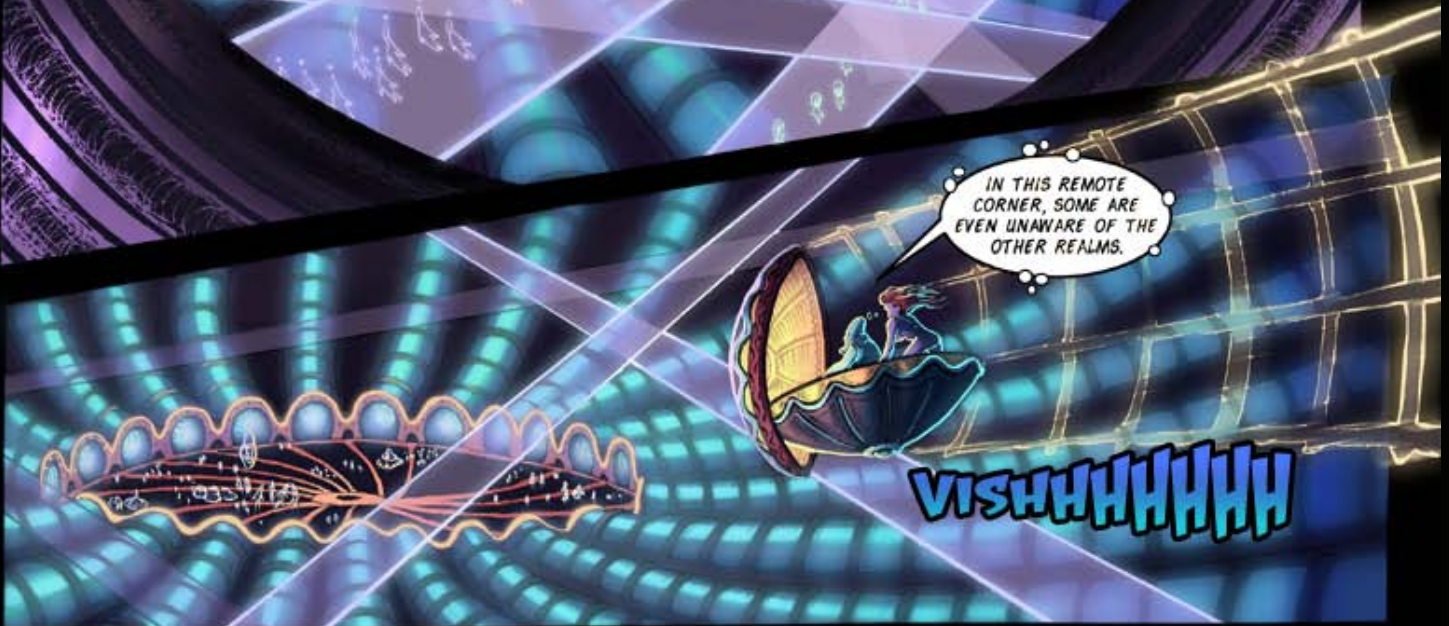




SOME OF THE VARIETIES OF ANGELS HERE ARE RENEGADES. THEY DON'T HONOR THE GUARDIANS.



THEY TEND TO "BORROW" THE LIGHT OF OTHER ANGELS TOO EASILY.



IN THIS REMOTE CORNER, SOME ARE EVEN UNAWARE OF THE OTHER REALMS.

VISHHHHHHH









WHAT ARE WE DOING?

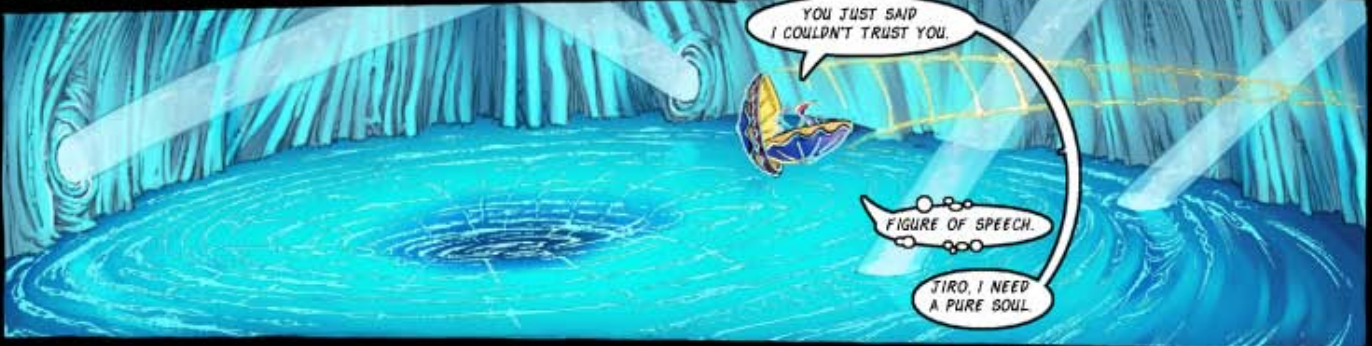
I WANT TO BE THE ANGEL THAT GETS THROUGH.

MY GUY GETS US THERE. YOU TELL US WHEN, AND I GO THROUGH THE PORTAL

WHAT?

NO.

FINE. I - WON'T TAKE YOU TO HIM THEN. YOU KNOW HOW MANY ANGELS PERISH ALONG THE WAY TO THE OUTER REALM?



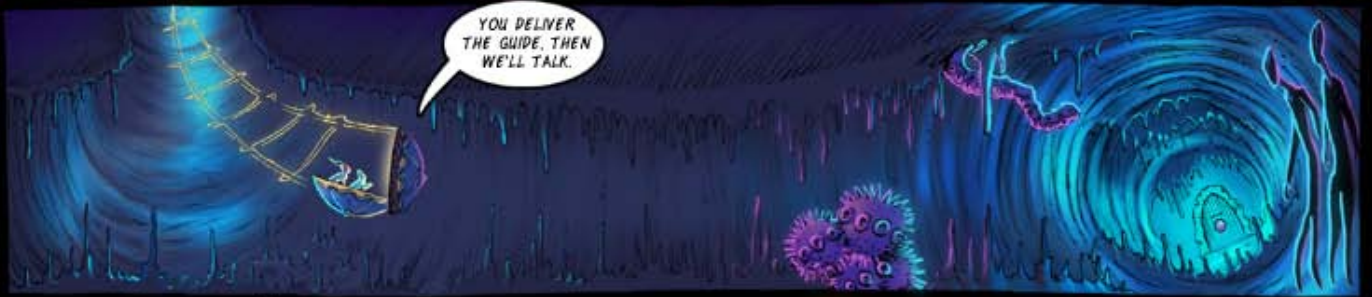
YOU JUST SAID I COULDN'T TRUST YOU.

FIGURE OF SPEECH.

JIRO, I NEED A PURE SOUL.



I'M PURE. I CAN BE PURE. I'M NOTHING BUT PURENESS.



YOU DELIVER THE GUIDE, THEN WE'LL TALK.



YOU'LL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED. HE'S A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND. HE USED TO BE A MESSENGER YOU KNOW.

GREAT! A FRIEND OF YOURS. LIKE YOU?

HE WAS ENTRUSTED TO DELIVER MESSAGES TO HUMANS ON EARTH.



MESSAGES? TO HUMANS?

WORDS, STRAIGHT FROM THE MOUTH OF THE ETERNAL ONE.



WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL. WE'RE RIGHT AT THE EDGE OF THE REALMS.



I'LL ANNOUNCE OUR ARRIVAL.



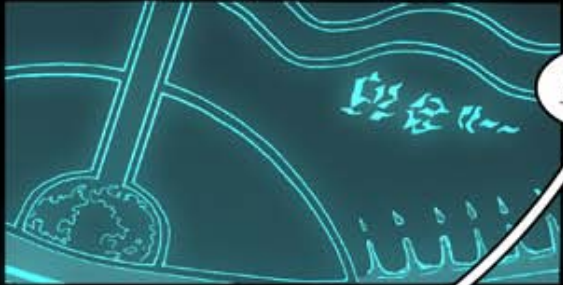
I'M SURE HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.



I'M SURE HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.



WOW. IT'S SOME SORT OF MAP.



IS THAT - EARTH?



THAT'S THE BIRTHING RING!

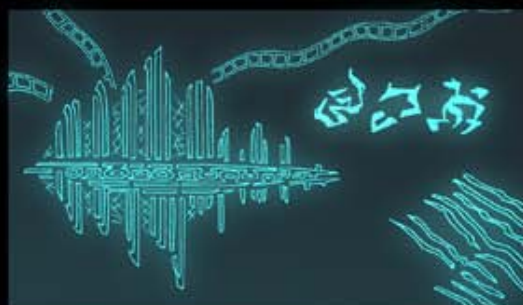


A SILVER CORD RUNS UP THROUGH... WAIT...



...AND WE ARE  
HERE...  
IN THAT CITY.

AND...  
THAT'S WHERE  
BLACK FLAME IS!!!



IT'S SO FAR.



WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

**WHAT IS THIS  
NEPHILIM DOING IN  
MY SANCTUARY?!**





THERE YOU ARE, ORIAK OF THE ENVOYS. I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS.

YOU DIDN'T REPLY TO THE ORB.

YOU ARE DISTURBING MY PAINTING!



WAIT, NOW HOLD ON. THIS IS IMPORTANT. SHE HAS SOME INFORMATION.

WE JUST CAME FROM THE GUARDIANS, AND, WELL, I'LL LET HER TELL YOU. GO AHEAD.



THERE'S ANOTHER PORTAL. IT'S FORMING SOMEWHERE IN THE OUTER REALM, BUT IT'S ALMOST FUNCTIONAL.

YES, SHE'S A NEPHILIM, OBVIOUSLY. LET'S NOT DWELL ON THAT. WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, WE NEED TO GO NOW.

DON'T LET ME STOP YOU.



WELL, YOU... YOU WORKED WITH THEM, WITH HUMANS SO LONG. I JUST FIGURED... GET BACK IN THE ACTION. MAYBE GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.

SHE'S SEEN IT. IT'S NOT OPEN YET, BUT ANY DAY, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID?

AND SHE'S SEEN BLACK FLAME.



YOU'VE SEEN HIM?

YES.

NOW, WHAT HARM COULD HE DO ON EARTH?

MY... FAMILY IS DOWN THERE... MY... FRIENDS, I AM DOWN THERE...

DEATH IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR ALL THAT FREEDOM TO MOVE AND BREATHE AND FORNICATE.



I THOUGHT THIS GUY WAS YOUR FRIEND?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? DEAL'S OFF.

NO, WAIT --



AND YOU!

DON'T COME BACK. I'LL GET MY LIGHT FROM SOMEONE ELSE.



YOU KNOW WHAT...

TASI, DON'T. WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY. LET'S TRY NOT TO UPSET -- OOOOO, THIS PIECE IS EXQUISITE --

YOU WERE A MESSENGER... DO YOU REALLY THINK SOMETHING THIS BIG WILL ONLY AFFECT HUMANS?



YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST RETIRE WORRY-FREE UP HERE IN YOUR LITTLE BUBBLE HOUSE?

I HAVE DONE ENOUGH, NEPHILIM. I GAVE MY BEST YEARS TO YOU HUMANS, AND STILL, YOU COME BACK BEGGING FOR MORE. AND YOU, HALF-BREEDS, YOU COME UP HERE ONCE AND UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING?



YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING! IN EITHER WORLD!

IF YOU ASK ME, THEY SHOULD SEND THE LOT OF YOU BACK AND PREVENT THE SORDID MINGLING OF SOULS THAT CREATED YOU... CLEARLY NOTHING GOOD HAS COME OF IT.



WELL TODAY, I'M THE MESSENGER.

AND THIS TIME, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.

AND YOUR PAINTING SUCKS.









TASI... IT'S ME.



CLEO? WHAT ARE... HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME. I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU—ABOUT LUMINOUS.

WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. HIS ANGELS ARE EVERYWHERE.

WHO?



LUMINOUS, THE MOST ANCIENT OF ALL CREATED BEINGS, FOR EONS HIS KNOWLEDGE AND POWERS INCREASED UNTIL HE WAS SECOND ONLY TO GOD IN GREATNESS.

SO GOD ENTRUSTED HIM WITH THE CREATION OF A UNIVERSE, OUR UNIVERSE. BUT HIS INCREDIBLE CREATIVITY BLINDED HIM.

HE BEGAN TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAD CREATED OUR UNIVERSE BY HIS OWN POWER. HE BELIEVED THAT HE WAS GOD.



SO GOD STRIPPED LUMINOUS OF HIS SOUL AND BANISHED HIM. HE IS A BODILESS MIND LOST IN TOTAL BLACKNESS.

VISH



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?

LUMINOUS WANTS TO RECLAIM HIS CREATION.



AND HE'S USING BLACK FLAME TO HELP HIM DO IT...

>puff<  
>puff<

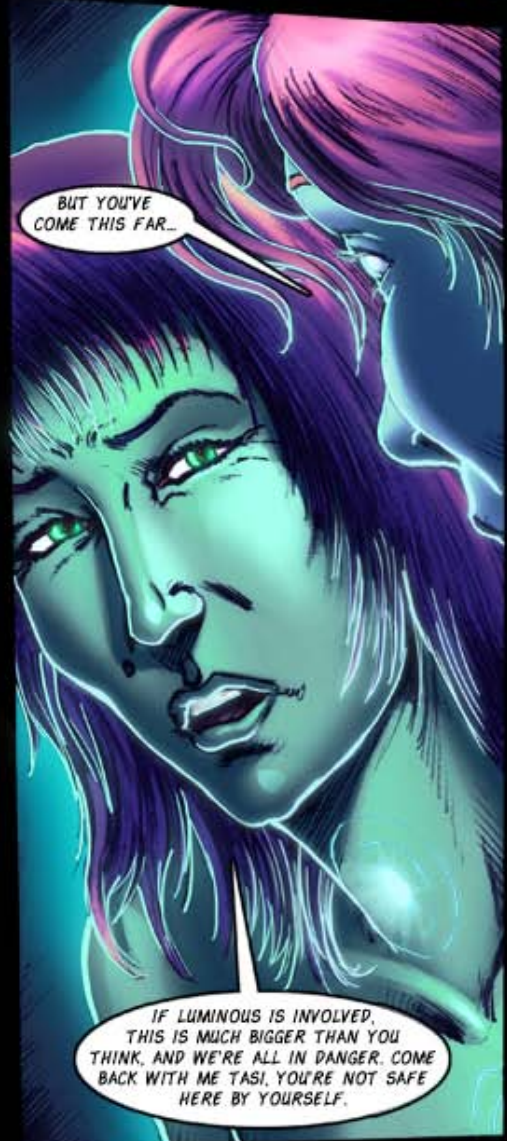


>cough<  
>cough<

ARE YOU OKAY?

MY MOTHER WAS A NEPHILIM. SHE TRAVELED THE REALMS FOR YEARS, RECORDING EVERYTHING IN HER JOURNAL.

SO YOU SEE, IT'S IN MY BLOOD, BUT IT'S DILUTED. I DON'T HAVE YOUR POWER.



BUT YOU'VE COME THIS FAR...

IF LUMINOUS IS INVOLVED, THIS IS MUCH BIGGER THAN YOU THINK, AND WE'RE ALL IN DANGER. COME BACK WITH ME TASI, YOU'RE NOT SAFE HERE BY YOURSELF.

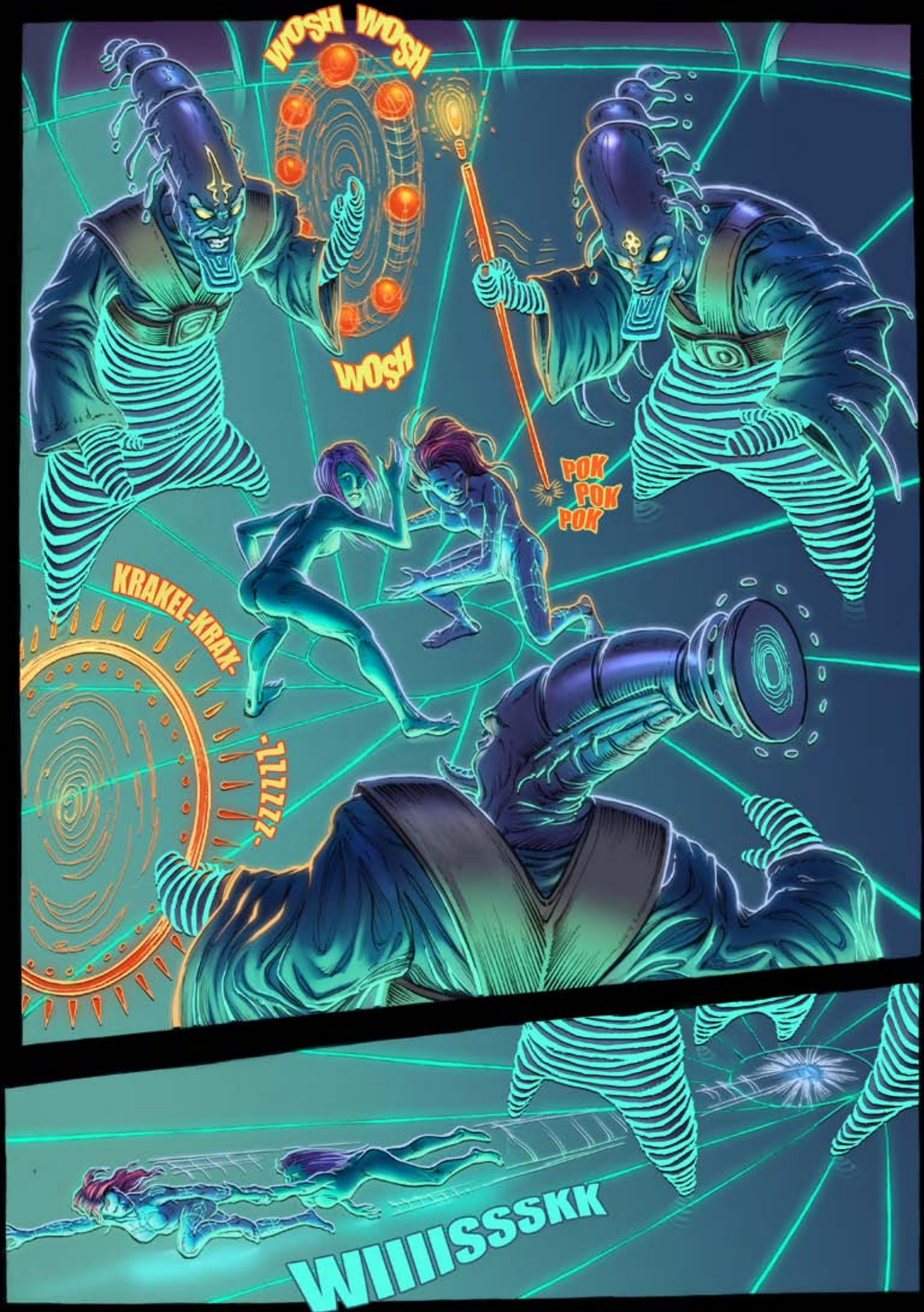


WE MUST GO. COME BACK AND RE-GROUP WITH ME. I KNOW OTHERS.

WOOSH



WOOSH WOOSH





GO DOWN NOW TASI!

YOU GO! I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE. THEN I'LL COME!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!



DON'T LEAVE ME!

WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP!



CLEO, WATCH OUT!



YOU ARE FOOLISH TO RELY ON YOUR CORD WHEN IT CAN BE CUT SO EASILY.



TASI,  
GO NOW!



NOOOO!



SLICE

AAAAAAAAAAAA



SHHHHHHHH



GOT YOU  
DIRTY  
MEDHILIM!

WOSH  
WOSH  
WOSH

SHHHHH!



BIFF



?



THIS IS NOT  
THE ONE HE  
WANTED.

THE OTHER  
ONE GOT AWAY  
AND...



PHIIIIFFFF!



GASP!



WHAAAA. I CAN'T MOVE. MARK? WHERE ARE YOU?



HEY YOU'RE AWAKE.

WHERE DID YOU GO?

JUST WENT TO GET THIS, MY EMERGENCY RADIO, OUT OF THE JEEP. SO...ARE YOU OKAY? HOW DID IT GO? WHAT'S IT LIKE?



THEY KILLED CLEO.

THEY CUT HER CORD IN FRONT OF ME.

NO WAY!



MARK, WHAT SHOULD I DO? I'M ALL ALONE IN THIS PLACE. NO ONE WILL HELP ME. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT THEM AND THEY WON'T HELP!

JUST RELAX, TAKE A DEEP BREATH, YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, YOU NEED TO RECHARGE.

I WAS WORRIED. YOU WERE GONE A LONG TIME.

I'M NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO STOP THIS... I MEAN THERE'S A WAY TO DO IT FROM THAT SIDE, BUT I CAN'T. I CAN'T DO IT BY MYSELF, AND NOW CLEO...

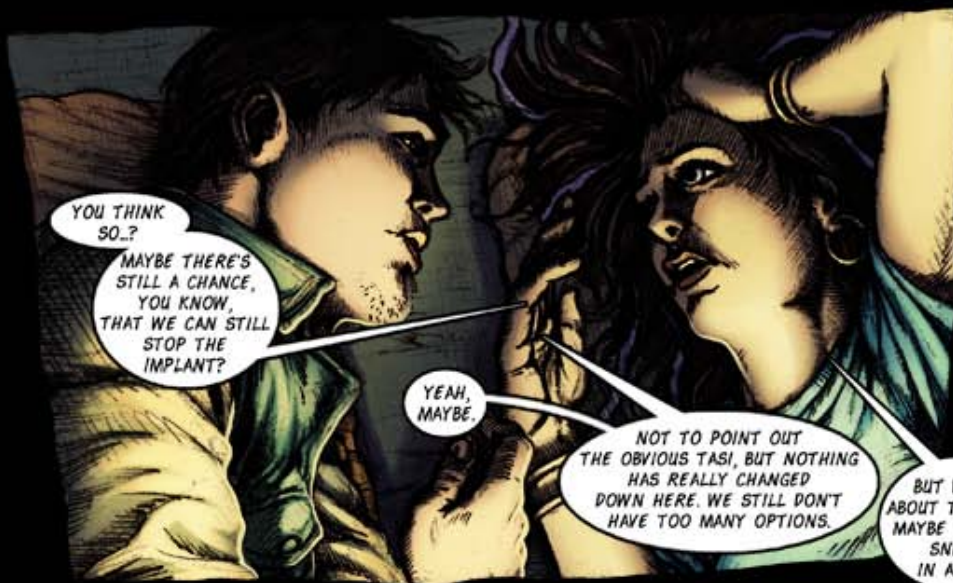
TASI...

NOBODY CARES WHAT HAPPENS BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW! I FAILED. IT'S ALL MY FAULT, WHATEVER HAPPENS TO US IS ALL MY FAULT!

STOP IT TASI. YOU DID ALL YOU COULD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK UP THERE. WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

YOU THINK SO?





YOU THINK SO..?

MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE, YOU KNOW, THAT WE CAN STILL STOP THE IMPLANT?

YEAH, MAYBE.

NOT TO POINT OUT THE OBVIOUS TASI, BUT NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED DOWN HERE. WE STILL DON'T HAVE TOO MANY OPTIONS.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LAB? MAYBE WE CAN SNEAK IN AGAIN.



I'M SURE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR US RIGHT NOW.

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?

ALMOST THIRTEEN HOURS. I JUST SAW ON MY PHONE THAT EVEN THOUGH THE PROTESTERS ARE STILL THERE THE INVESTORS WANT THE IMPLANT IN GOBI TO GO AHEAD ON SCHEDULE, AT NINE TOMORROW MORNING.



WE COULD DITCH THE CAR AND HIKE BACK... I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME THAT WOULD LEAVE US.

CAN YOU EVEN MOVE?

NOT YET.



MAYBE I CAN.



DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

RUSTLE SNAP



WNSHEATHHHH

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT THING?

ON SALE AT COSTCO. BEEN CARRYING IT FOR YEARS IN THE JEEP. NEVER HAD A REASON TO OPEN IT BEFORE.

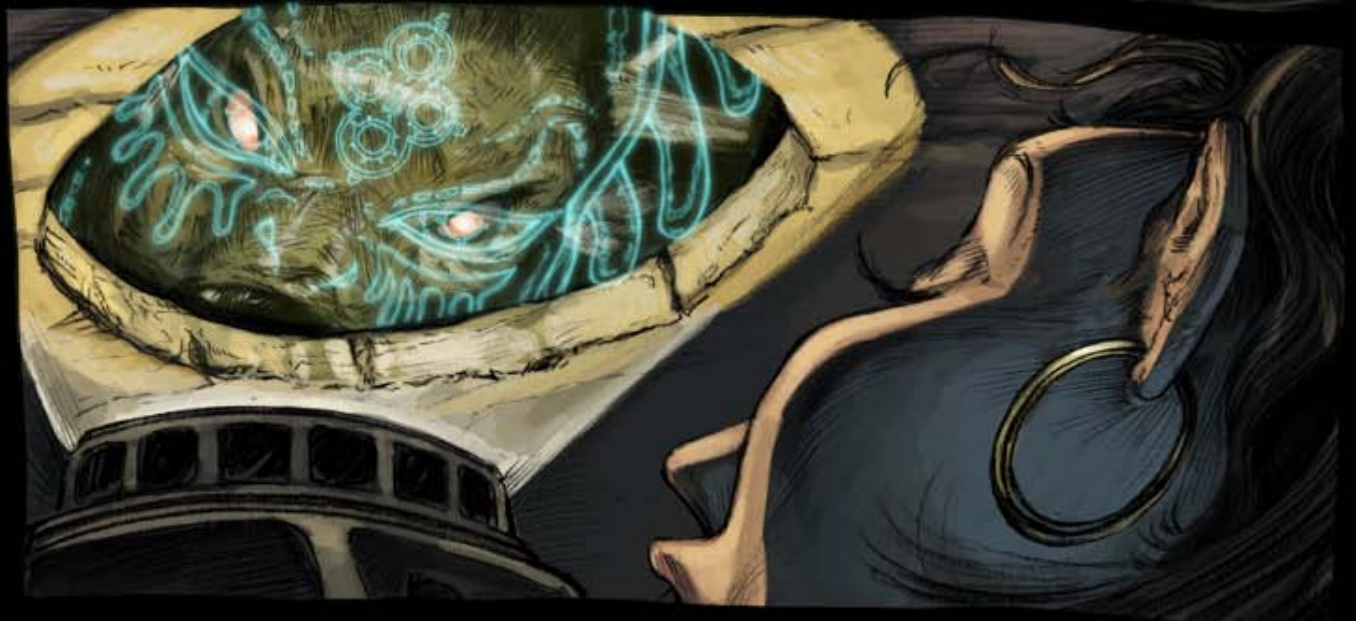


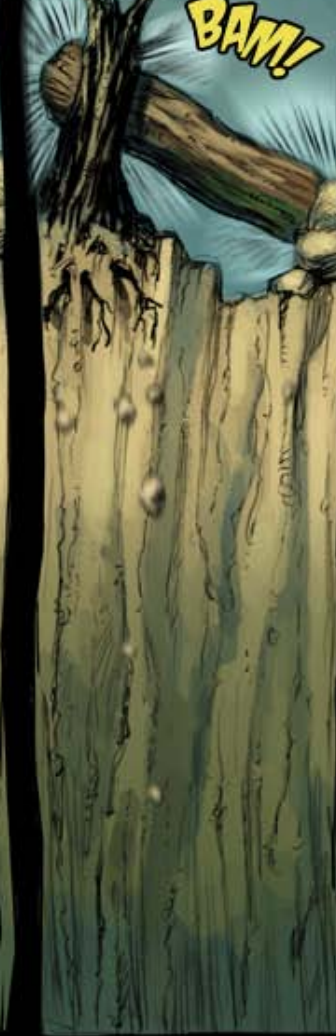
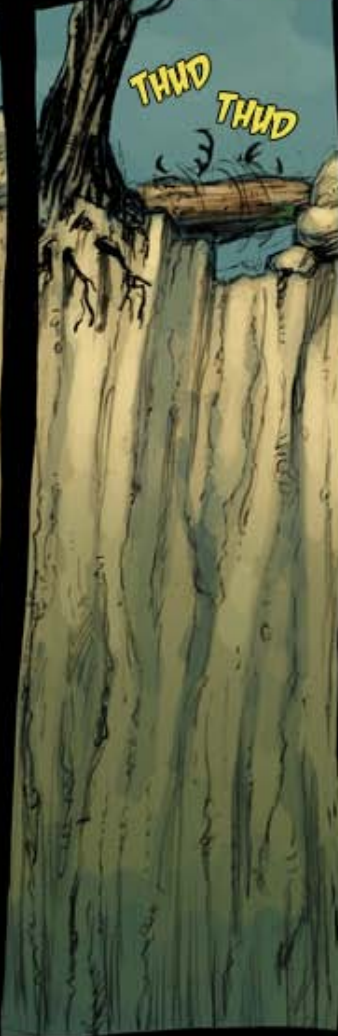
RUSTLE RUSTLE













SNIFF

UHHHHH...



CHUCK

CHUCK

GASP!

KEEAAAAAAAAA!



CHUCK



FWIK

AAAAGGG!







AAHGGH!

IT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, MY LORD.  
SHE WILL NO LONGER BE A PROBLEM.



IS THE NEPHALIM DEAD?

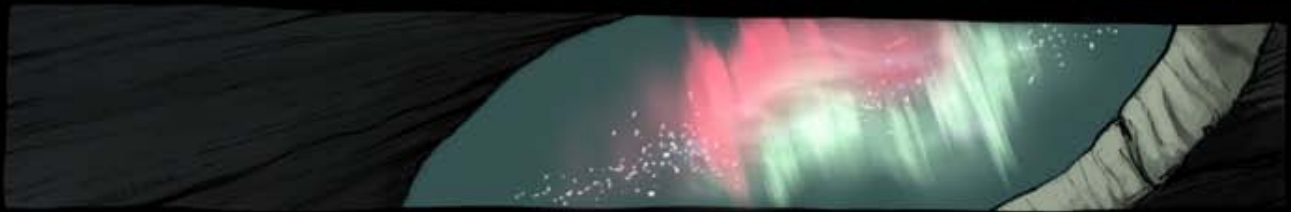


RETURN AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN. I'LL NEED YOU HERE WHEN I'M GONE.

FELICITY.



click

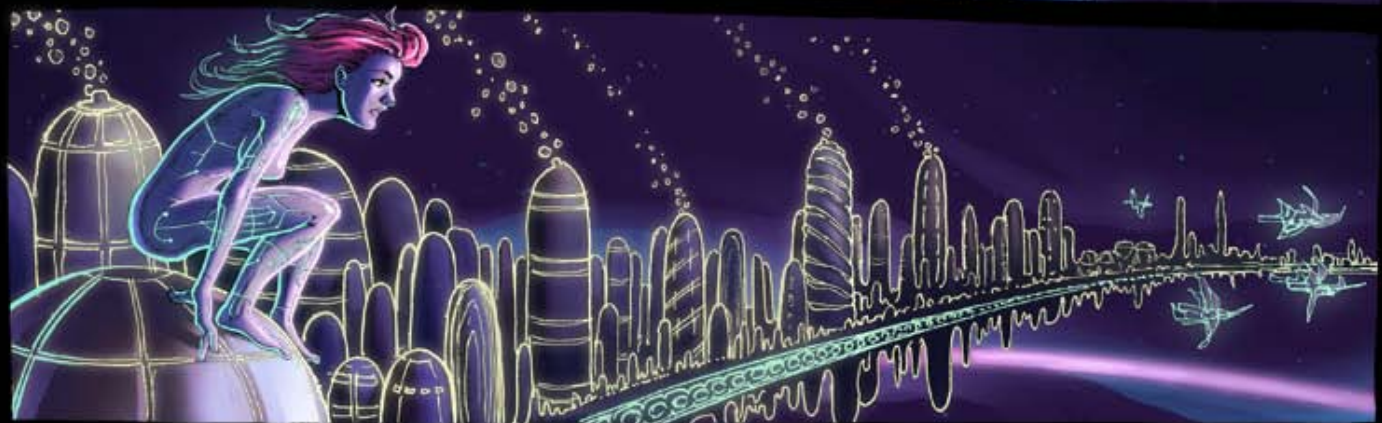




I... I AM A NEPHILIM.



MAYBE I AM THE ONE THAT HAS TO DO IT. GET MY SOUL THROUGH THE DARK PORTAL...

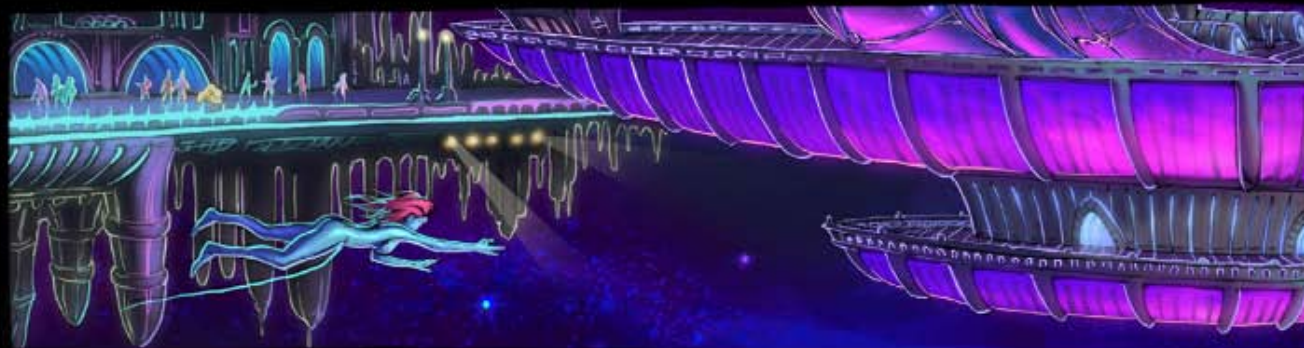




DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND SOMEONE LEAVING THE CITY? GOING THAT WAY?

EXCUSE ME... HELLO... FELICITY...

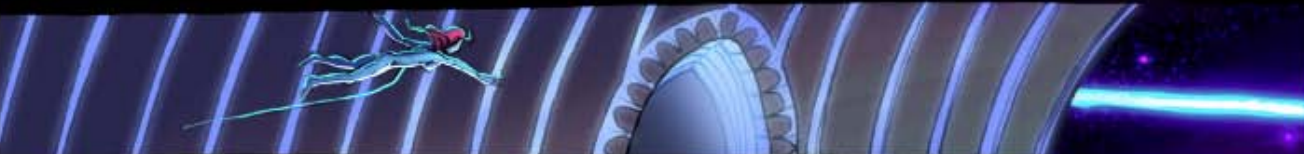
UH, YES, SHE'S "THE ARDOR." IT'S UNFURLING NOW.



"THE ARDOR."



HELLO..?





WHAT'S A HALFLING DOING UP HERE?



OH...UH

I NEED TO GET TO THE OUTER REALM...

...OR THE FIRST SHIP GOING THAT WAY.

I'M SORRY... WE AREN'T TAKING PASSENGERS. WE WOULD, IF IT WERE UP TO ME.



MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE IS SETTING OFF.

DON'T GO, PLEASE NOT YET. YOU JUST GOT HERE.



...OR THE FIRST SHIP GOING THAT WAY.

...EVERY INCH OF THE SHIP. SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE ON HER.

YOU KNOW, MAYBE...MAYBE I'LL GO ASK THE BOSS.

MAKE SURE WE CAN'T TAKE A STOWAWAY.

WE ALWAYS HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE...



SO HERE WE ARE AGAIN.

THAT'S TWICE NOW YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY FROM US. IMPRESSIVE. AND YET, HERE YOU STAND BEFORE US, LIKE, HOW IS IT YOU SAY? A DEER IN HEADLIGHTS?



WE KNOW YOU'RE BLEEDING.

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE?



GRAB

NO!



LET HER GO!

HERE IT IS...THE LIFELINE TO YOUR WORLD. YOUR SECURITY AND MORTALITY ROLLED UP INTO ONE THIN LITTLE VULNERABLE CORD.



HEH HEH



PLEASE I'LL DIE!

YOU HUMANS THINK DEATH IS THE END. DEATH IS WHEN YOUR LIFE BEGINS...

BESIDES, WHAT'S LEFT TO RETURN TO ANYWAY?

PLEASE LET HER GO.

GO GET MY LANCE.

GIVE ME YOUR BLADE.

I SAID...

GIVE IT.....

HOLD HER DOWN!

MARK

HE'S DEAD.

THEN GIVE ME YOUR BLADE.

THIS DOESN'T INVOLVE ME

SWIPE

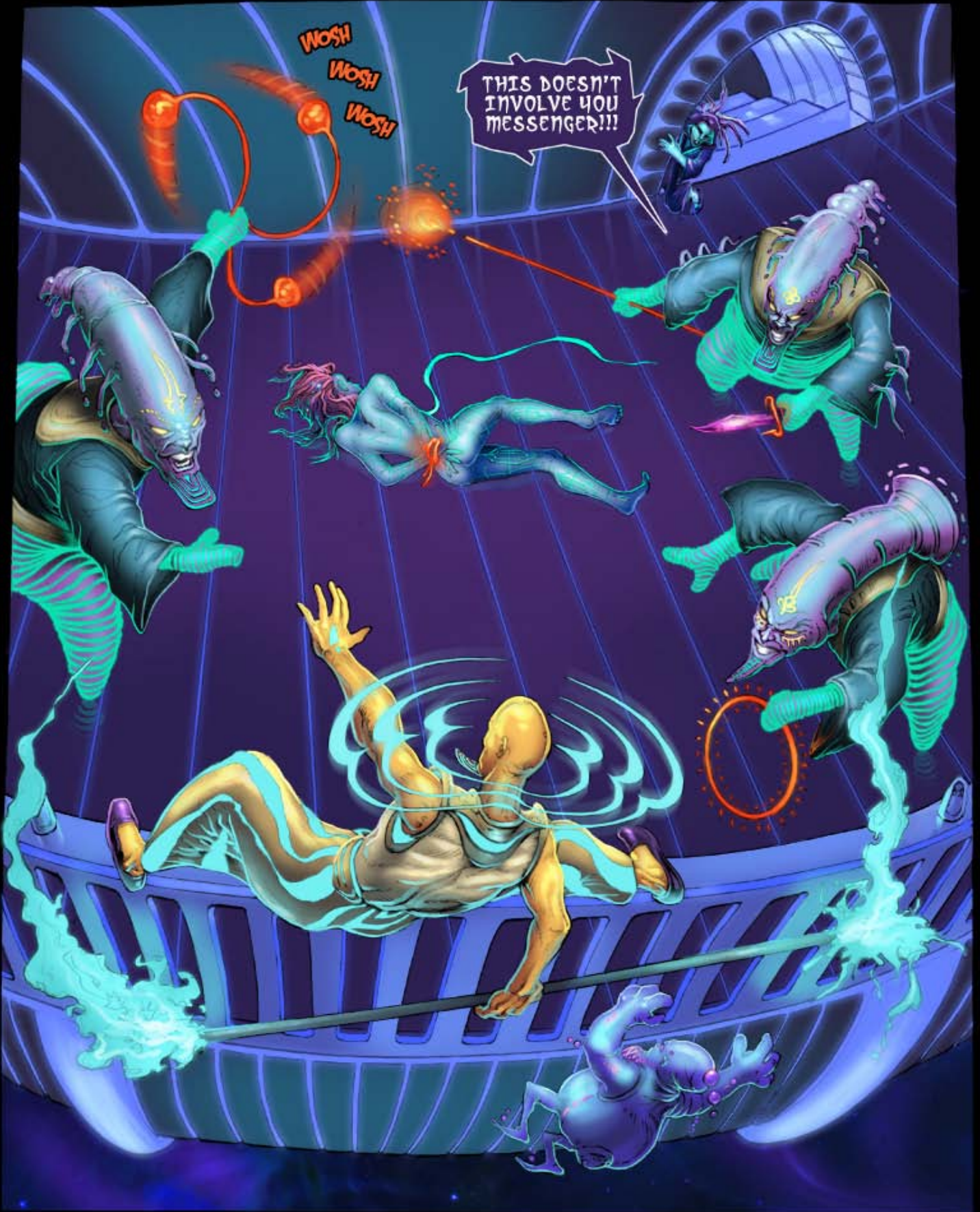


NO  
PLEASE!



FELICITY











HUH?

GRAB



WOOSSHH

AHH



NO!



SWIPE



FWWIP

UH OH



SMACK



HEE HEE HUH HA



**POZZ**

JIR—  
AHH!



ORIAH  
HELP!



LEHEM!

**FWUMPTZZZZZ**

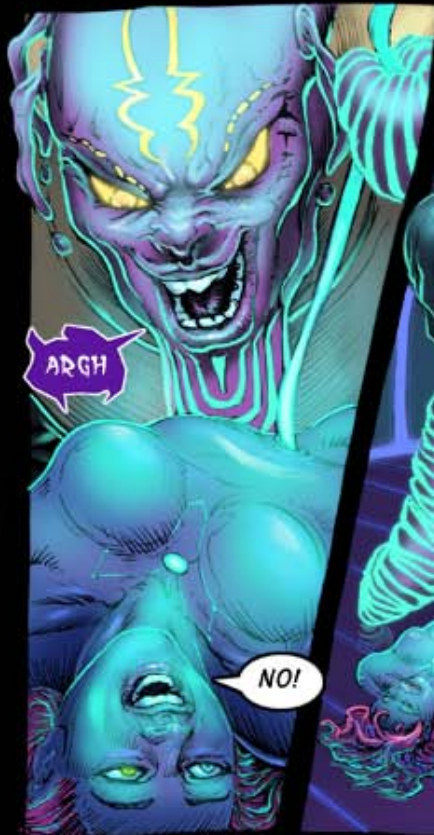


UHHHHH...

YIKES!

**WHOOOSH**

**KRAXZZSSSS**



**ARGH**

**NO!**



AHHH,  
HER CORD...

**PLEASE!**



...DOES A  
NEPHILIM SPILL  
LIGHT WHEN IT IS  
SEVERED?









BY THE HOLY GUARDIANS! I'VE NEVER SEEN A DREG CHIEFTAIN LOBE IT'S CENTER.



YOU WON'T NEED ALL THIS, WILL YOU?

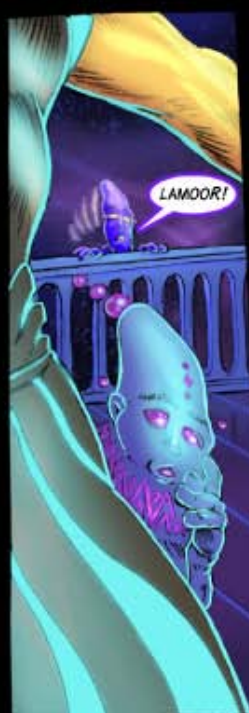
T-TAKE IT TAKE IT! IT'S YOURS. I DON'T WANT IT. I MEAN YOU NO HARM, AND THE NEPHILIM GIRL.



THEY'LL TORTURE ME.



WHAT'S ALL THIS FOR?



LAMOOR!



HUH?



HEY!



OOPS!

GET BACK HERE!



SO LAMOOR, YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME?

I.I CAN'T, THEY'LL BANISH ME.

GOT HIM!

UHHH



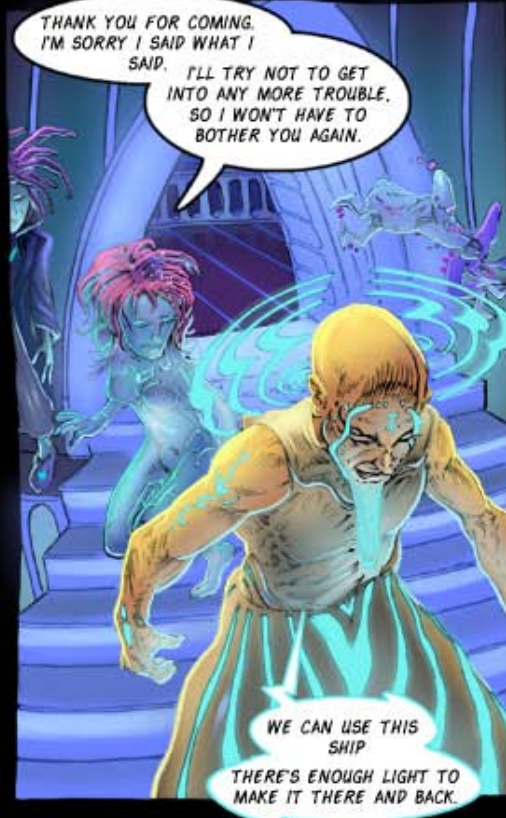
SIT DOWN.



WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

T-TINKER.

TINKER?! WHAT'S A TINKER?



THANK YOU FOR COMING. I'M SORRY I SAID WHAT I SAID.

I'LL TRY NOT TO GET INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE. SO I WON'T HAVE TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN.

WE CAN USE THIS SHIP THERE'S ENOUGH LIGHT TO MAKE IT THERE AND BACK.



YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF US. REMEMBER WE MADE A DEAL.

YOU WILL?

ME AND MY FRIEND WILL TAKE YOU TO THE PORTAL.



CAN YOU SAIL THIS SHIP?

WHY?

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SAIL THIS SHIP?

UHH.. DECK CAPTAIN. SOME LIGHT STEWARDS..



YOU. STAND UP.



YOU'LL DO.

HAAAAAAAAAHAAAAA







THE TIME IS UPON US. YOU HAVE ALL TRAVELED A LONG WAY, AND YOU WILL ALL GET WHAT YOU CAME FOR!

YOU ARE THE FIRST, THE PIONEERS. WHEN THE PORTAL OPENS, YOU WILL BE CALLED TO GO FORTH AND USHER IN THE NEW WAY. THE AGE OF THE ANGEL HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!





MORE SOULS WILL COME. AND WITH THEM, MORE OPPORTUNITY, MORE LEGITIMACY. BUT FIRST, WE MUST GROW THIS ARMY, TEN-FOLD. ENCIRCLE THE PORTAL, LET NO UNBELIEVING ANGEL NEAR THE GATE.

AND TO ANYONE OF YOU WHO FIND ME A NEPHILIM. YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT!

BRING ME HER SILVER CORD!





... HERE WE GO!

BRRRRRR

BRRRRRR

BRRRRRRRR



HA  
HA  
HA  
HA

WHOOO...  
JUST MADE IT.



BZZZ



CHECK OUT  
THIS ROOM!

THAT'S NOTHING.  
CHECK OUT WHAT'S  
INSIDE THIS SAFE.





... HERE WE GO!

BRRRRRR

BRRRRRR

BRRRRRRRR



HA  
HA  
HA  
HA

WHOOO...  
JUST MADE IT.



BZZZ



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BRRRRRR

BRRRRRRRR



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HA

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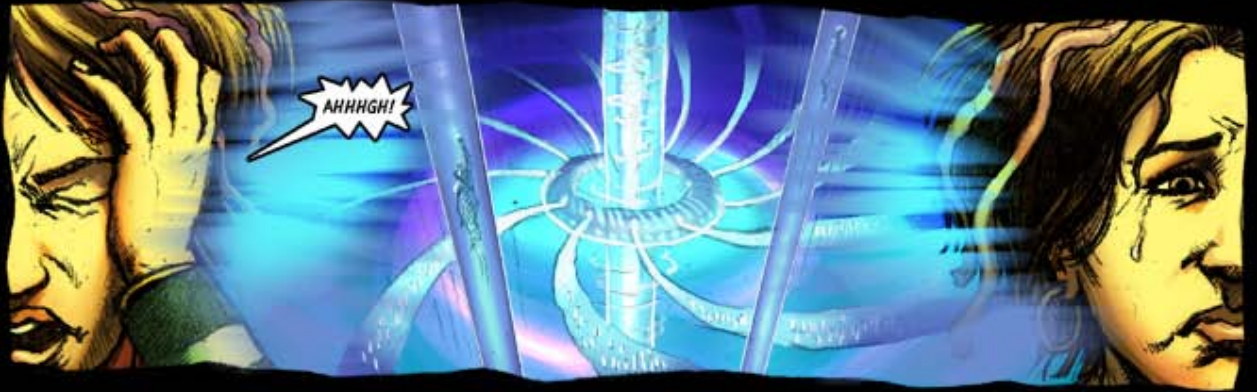
BZZZ



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WANT TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?  
THANKS TO THE AMAZING SUPPORT OF OUR FANS ON KICKSTARTER,  
BOOK 2 IS UNDERWAY AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY JULY 2014.  
YOU CAN GET MORE DETAILS AND READ ABOUT OUR PROGRESS AT  
[KICKSTARTER.COM/PROFILE/SILVERCORD](http://KICKSTARTER.COM/PROFILE/SILVERCORD)



