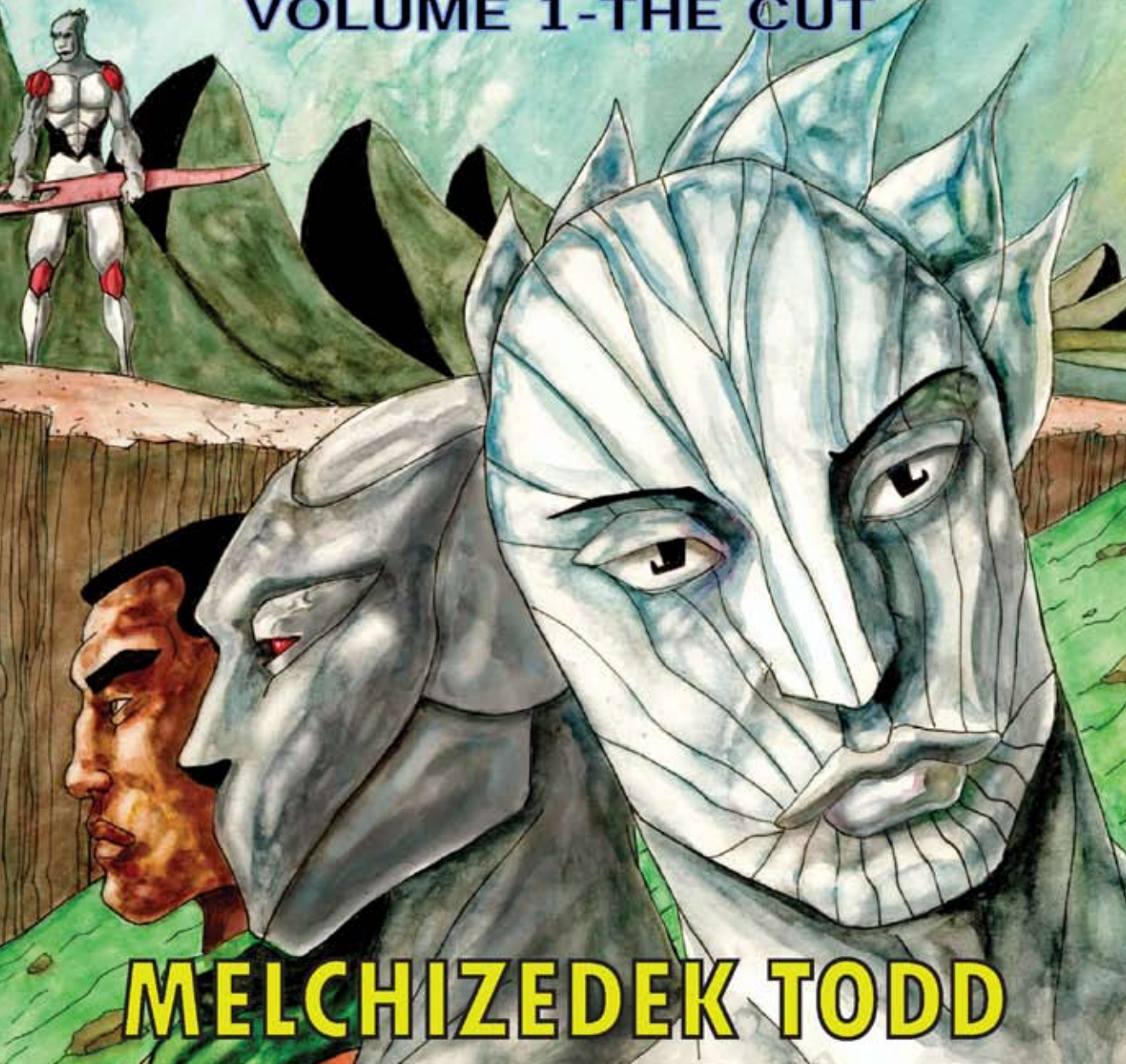


ALLEGORIES OF THE WAY

ANGELS AND SOULS

VOLUME 1-THE CUT



MELCHIZEDEK TODD

ALLEGORIES
OF THE
WAY
ANGELS AND SOULS
VOLUME 1-THE CUT

BY:

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First Edition

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ALLEGORIES OF THE WAY by Melchizedek Todd

This volume is dedicated to my late mother Ora Lee Todd and my best friend Bob Socolowsky. I know they are loving heaven.

Special thanks to Stan Murgolo for my computer and his software help.



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INTRODUCTION

“There’s no turning back,” that’s a statement that applies to many subjects. You can hear those four words in movies where the antagonist keeps fighting to the bitter end. Occasionally you’ll hear them used at sporting events. Perhaps you say them to yourself to boost confidence before a major challenge. And with the Christian life, the statement is most pertinent.

The reason is life is unpredictable. We dream, think, plan and begin goals and accomplishments, but often the unseen occurs. Things wind up different than we first hope. And without a supporting foundation, we are unable to change with the changes. That is why no matter what happens in life, you don’t leave your relationship with Jesus. Once you decide to walk with him, there can be no turning back.

The graphic novel you have now is an example to that life fact and the statement. Years ago, *Allegories of the Way* wasn’t allegories at all. My original concept was an epic story with only four characters. Later *Allegories* became short-stories with many characters, because I desired a faster sense of accomplishment. I drew and inked my stories to be colored. Things didn’t work out with my former colorist and I had to learn how to grey tone my art. The stories were suppose to be story driven, but as you read each volume you’ll see the stories become character driven. I changed my stories due to the fact that people who read my early comics wanted to know more about my characters.

Funny right, maybe not. You can probably list a number of things you had to adapt and change at work, school, home, marriage and so on. You plan, but something happens and you adapt and change and life goes on. Yet, disappointments, setbacks and delays

continue to show up. Frustration grabs you, but you must keep going.

After years and years of my own setbacks and such with Allegories, I did learn one major truth. That truth is God is faithful and He never turned His back on my dreams or me. It's not like I didn't question or become discouraged during this journey, because I often did. But God was there to tug me on and encourage.

As an introduction to this work, I want to share my goals concerning this labor of love. First, I hope you are entertained and sense I had fun writing and creating this work. I think that is very important for the viewer to feel that from my art. Next, I pray I succeeded in sharing a positive view concerning Jesus and Christianity. The negativity towards our faith needs to be countered. Lastly, I want you to be inspired to view setbacks and obstacles as stepping-stones, not roadblocks in life. I say that because if you are at the beginning, middle or close to the end with any endeavor or dream, remember there's no turning back.

JYSTUS



NARRATED BY THE
ANGEL JYSTUS: THIS TALE
IS CALLED ENDURANCE.

MINLOKO

SAU





SOME CALL IT LONG SUFFERING...

...LONG-SUFFERING....

....THAT'S A GOOD DEFINITION FOR IT....



IT'S WRITTEN, YOU SHOULD HAVE JOY WHEN YOU GO THROUGH LONG-SUFFERING



I TRULY DOUBT...



...THERE ARE RAINBOWS ON OUR FACES.

MY FELLOW ANGELS AND I ARE HELPING THIS MORTAL.....



WE'RE ATTEMPTING TO LEAD HIM TO A BETTER PLACE TO HEAL AND HAVE PEACE.....

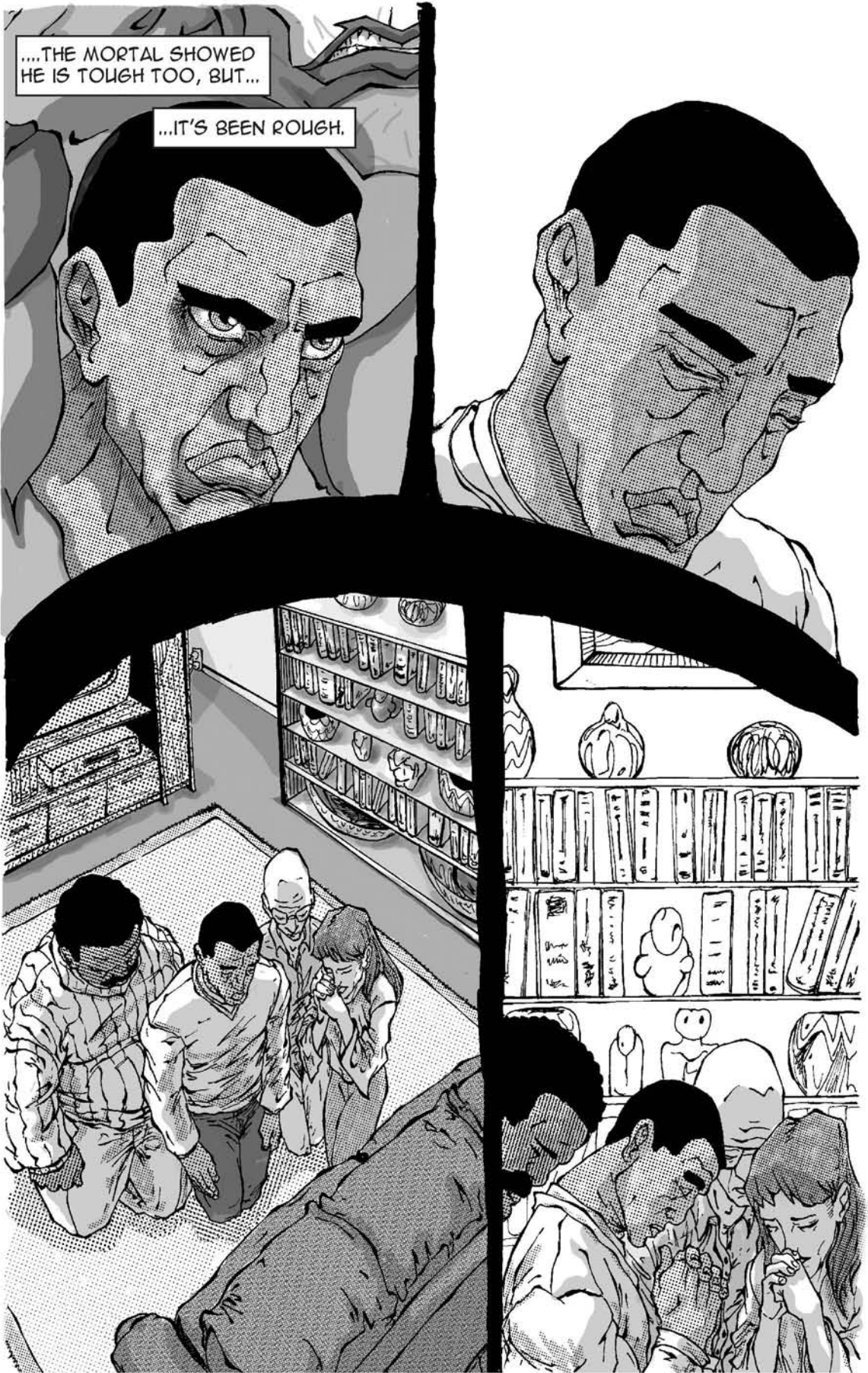


..IT'S BEEN ROUGH...

WE'RE TOUGH ANGELS. VETERANS...

...THE MORTAL SHOWED HE IS TOUGH TOO, BUT...

...IT'S BEEN ROUGH.



IT ALL BEGAN IN
A WASTELAND...

A WASTELAND
IN HIS SOUL...

A PLACE WHERE
HIS FORGOTTEN
ANGUISH ROAM.



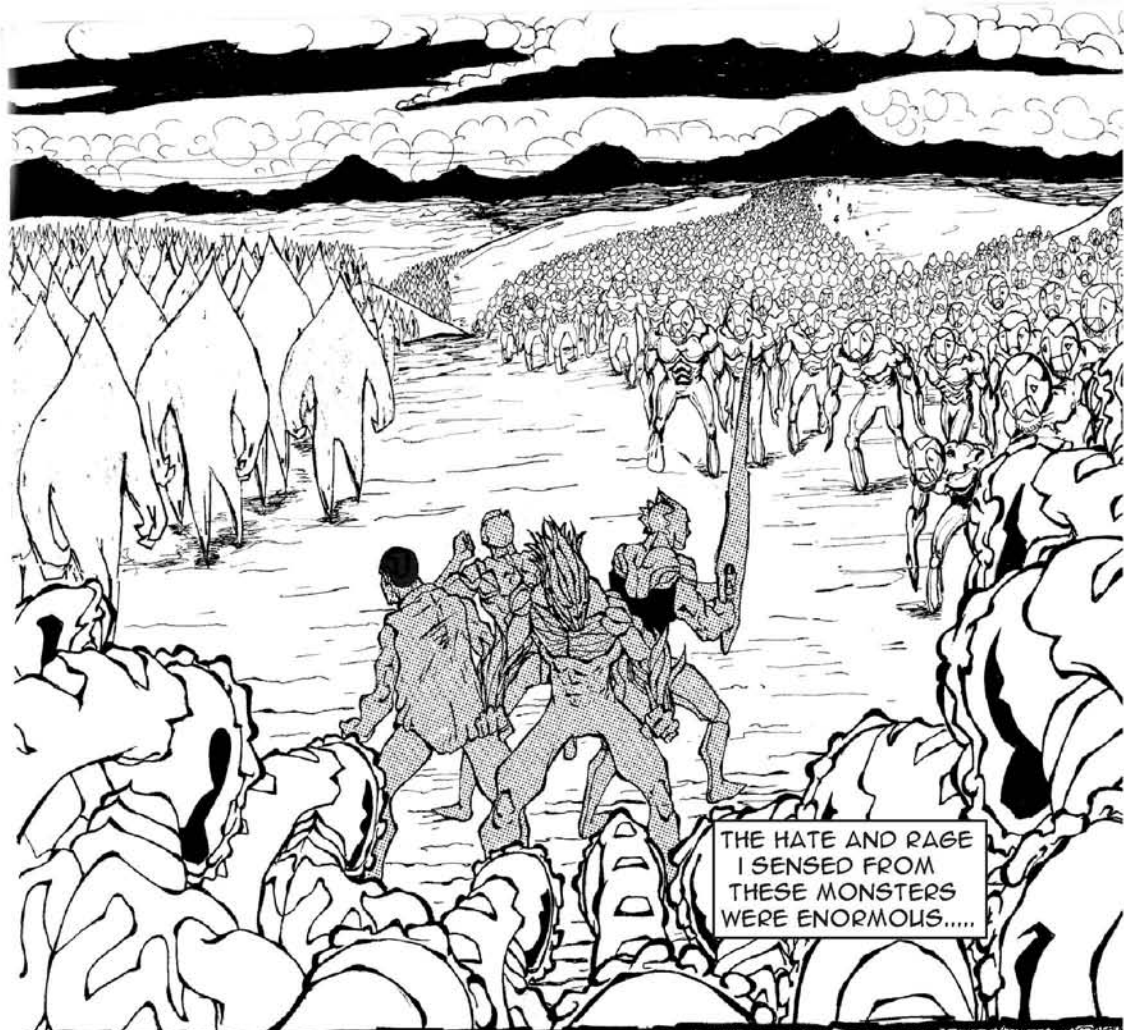
WASN'T
REALLY
A FIGHT.

EVEN THE MORTAL
BATTLED WITH US.

...YEA, WASN'T
REALLY A FIGHT.

THEN...IT ALL
GOT WORSE.





THE HATE AND RAGE
I SENSED FROM
THESE MONSTERS
WERE ENORMOUS.....



THEY WERE
TOO MUCH.

MINLOKO WAS
FIRST TO BE
INJURED.....



..AND SAL..



..HE BARELY
SURVIVED...



THE MORTAL
AND I FOUGHT
HARD TO GET
THROUGH.....



AMAZING..

GREAT COURAGE
FOR A WHIPPED
AND BEATEN
SOUL....



I WAS
IMPRESSED
BY HIS
STRENGTH.





AND HERE WE ARE NOW...

...ALMOST THERE.



SADLY, PAIN DOESN'T LEAVE NICE...



...PAIN CAN COME BACK SOMETIMES..

...WITH FRIENDS.

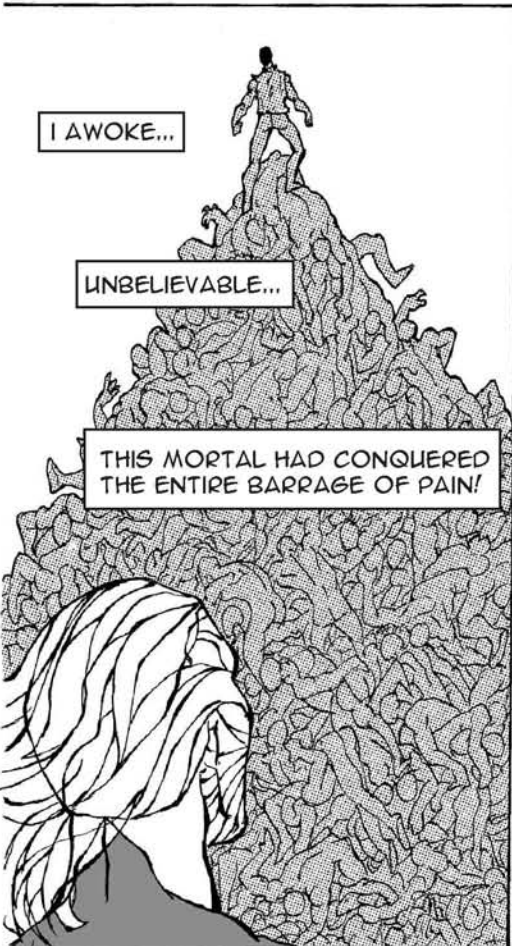
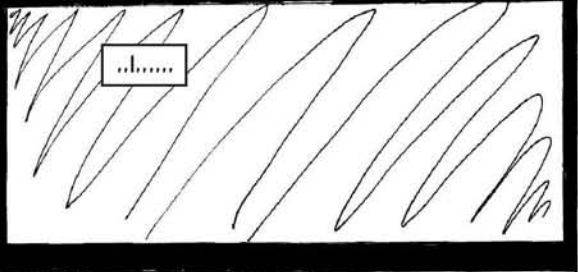
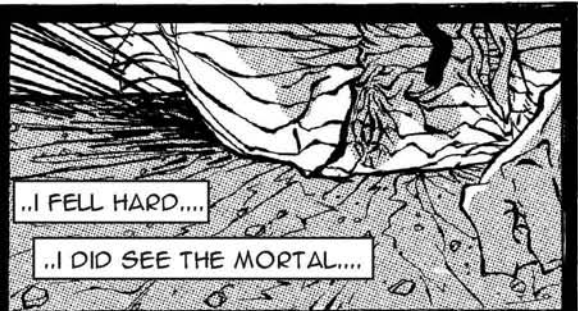
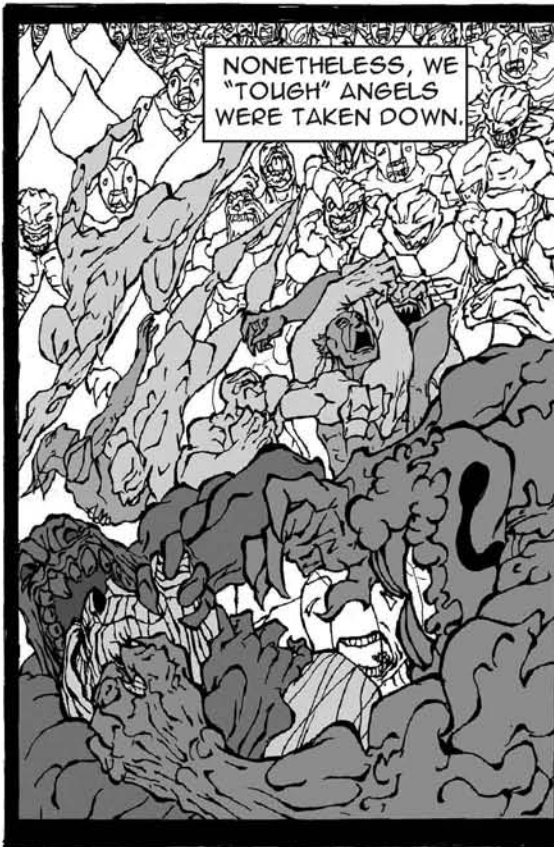


AT THIS POINT WE WERE WORN DOWN

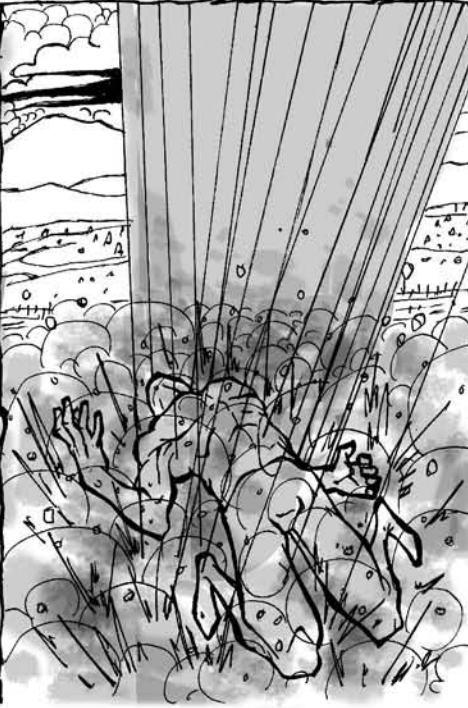
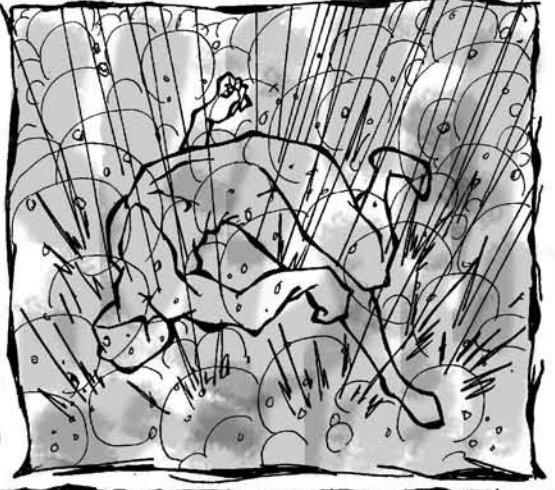
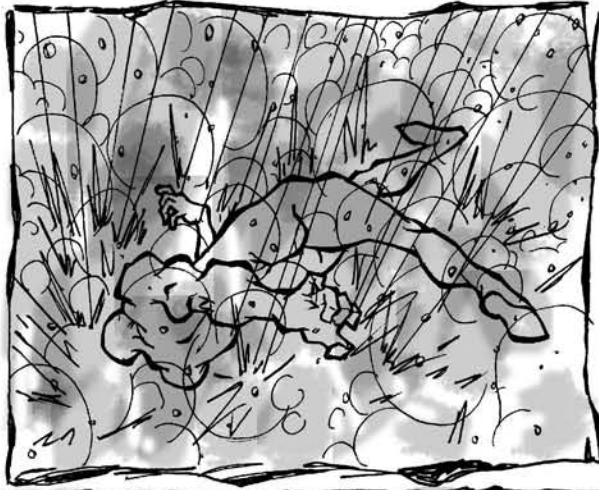
WE, THE ANGELS...

THE MORTAL...HE WAS RELENTLESS.

HE INSPIRED MYSELF, SAU AND MINLOKO.









UN NNGGH..



OUR CAPTAIN!
LORD JESUS!



WHA...
WHAT
ARE
YOU DOING?




BE STILL MY SON.
HAVE PEACE, I AM
HERE TO PROTECT
YOU. BE STILL.



NO.




YOU
CAN'T!




THIS IS MY BATTLE! MY PAIN! NO ONE CAN FIGHT THIS, BUT ME! YOU HEAR!

GET OUTTA MY WAY!!



NO. STOP RESISTING MY COMPLETE AID. TAKE THE FINAL STEP AND ASK ME INTO YOUR HEART. GIVE ME YOUR LIFE.

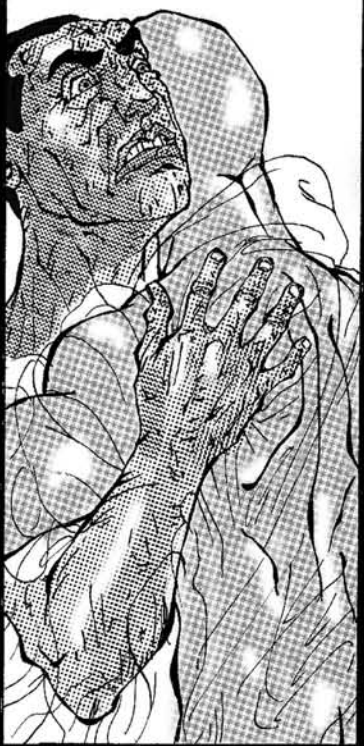
I WILL BE YOUR PROTECTOR AND WARRIOR. RECEIVE STRENGTH FROM ME.

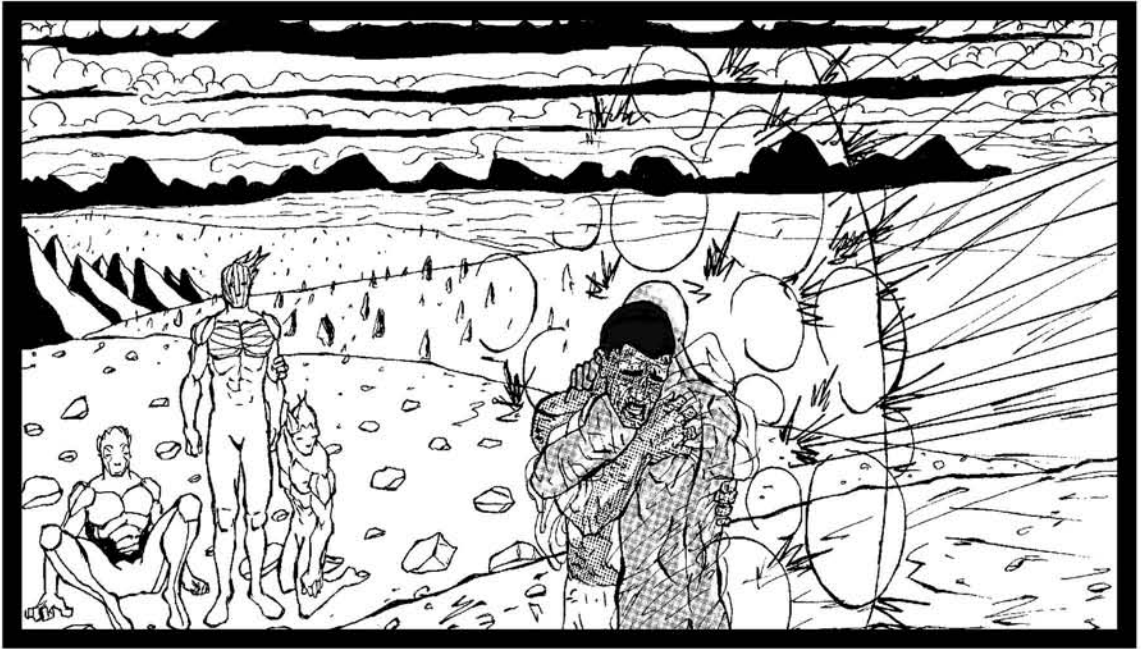


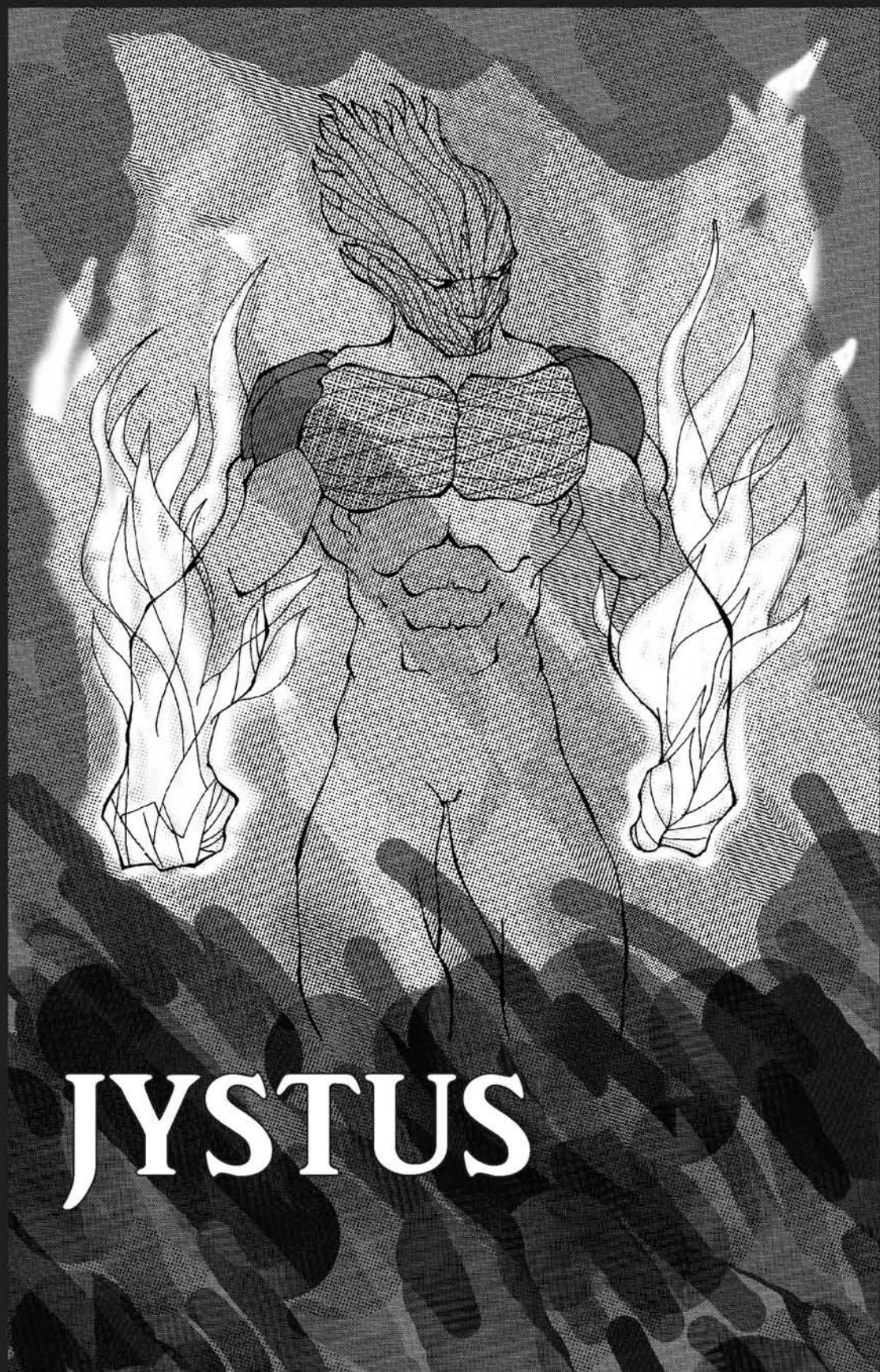
LET GO AND ALLOW ME TO FIGHT FOR YOU...MY CHILD, YOU ARE WEAK. ONLY I CAN WIN EVERY BATTLE.

YOU WOULD FAIL, AGAIN AND AGAIN.

LET GO AND
ALLOW ME...



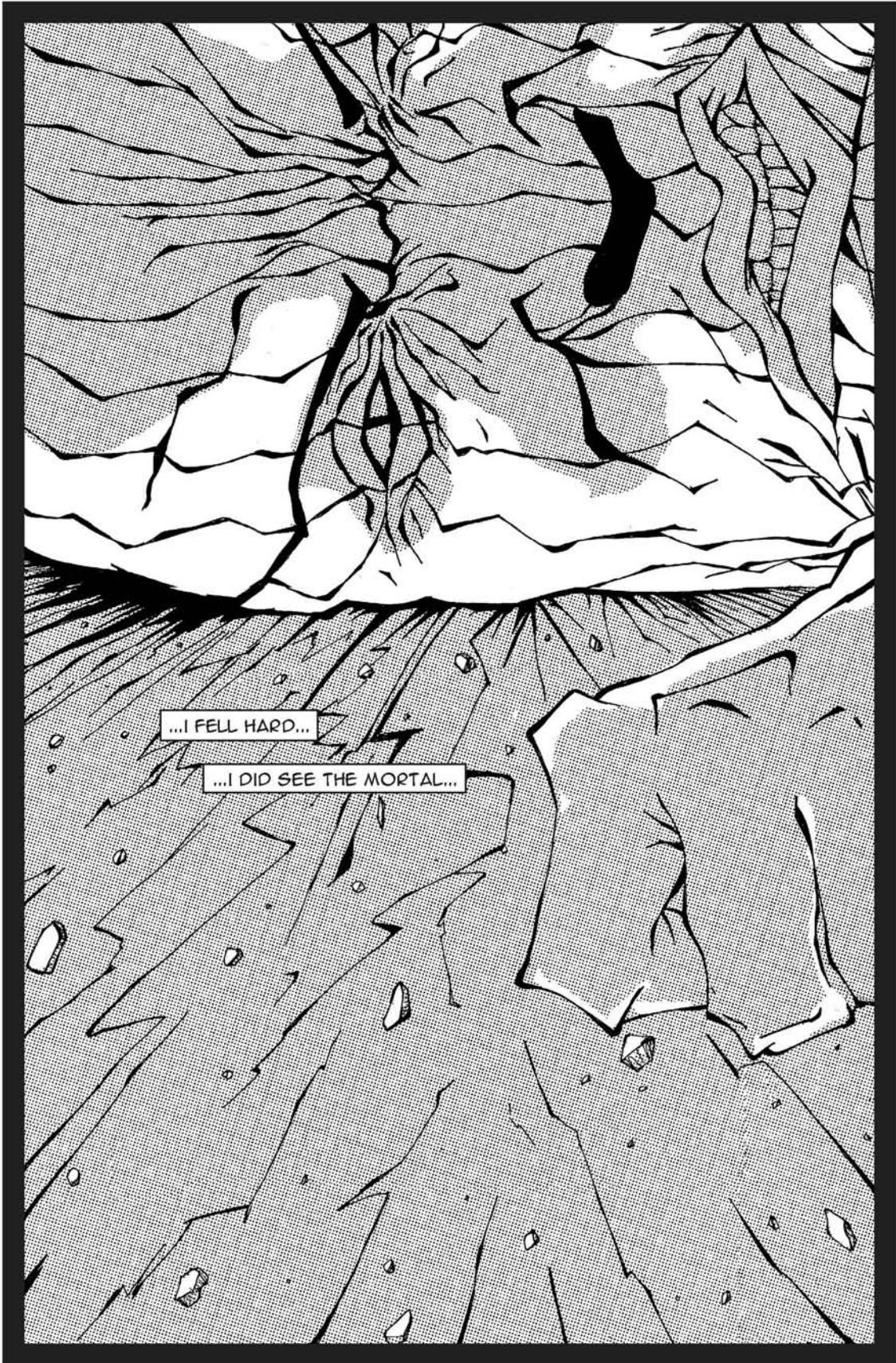




JYSTUS

ENDURANCE SUB-STORY:
JYSTUS' DREAM



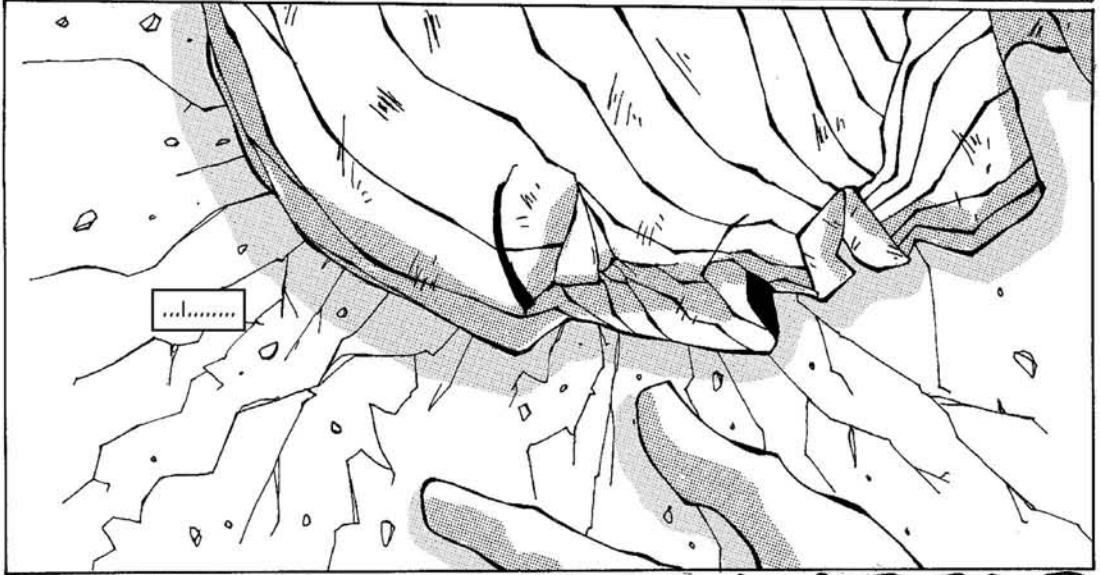


...I FELL HARD...

...I DID SEE THE MORTAL...



...FIGHTING ON...

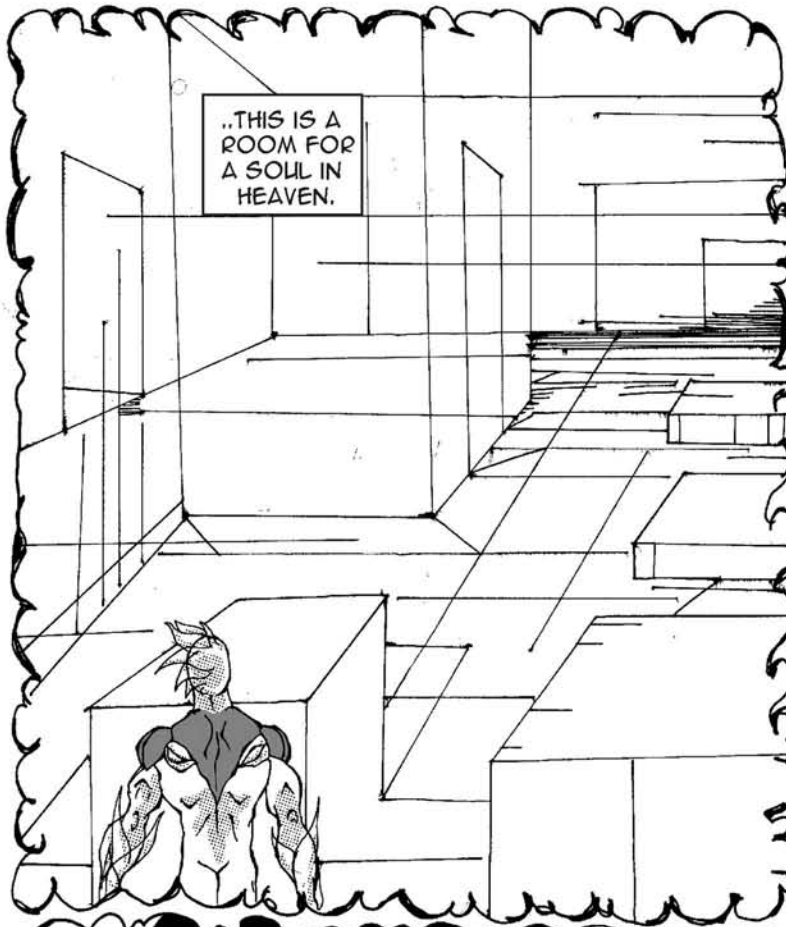


.....



.....

..I REMEMBER
THIS PLACE....



..THIS IS A ROOM FOR A SOUL IN HEAVEN.



MARCUS?..

...IS THIS YOUR ROOM?-IF YOU COME TO GOD?



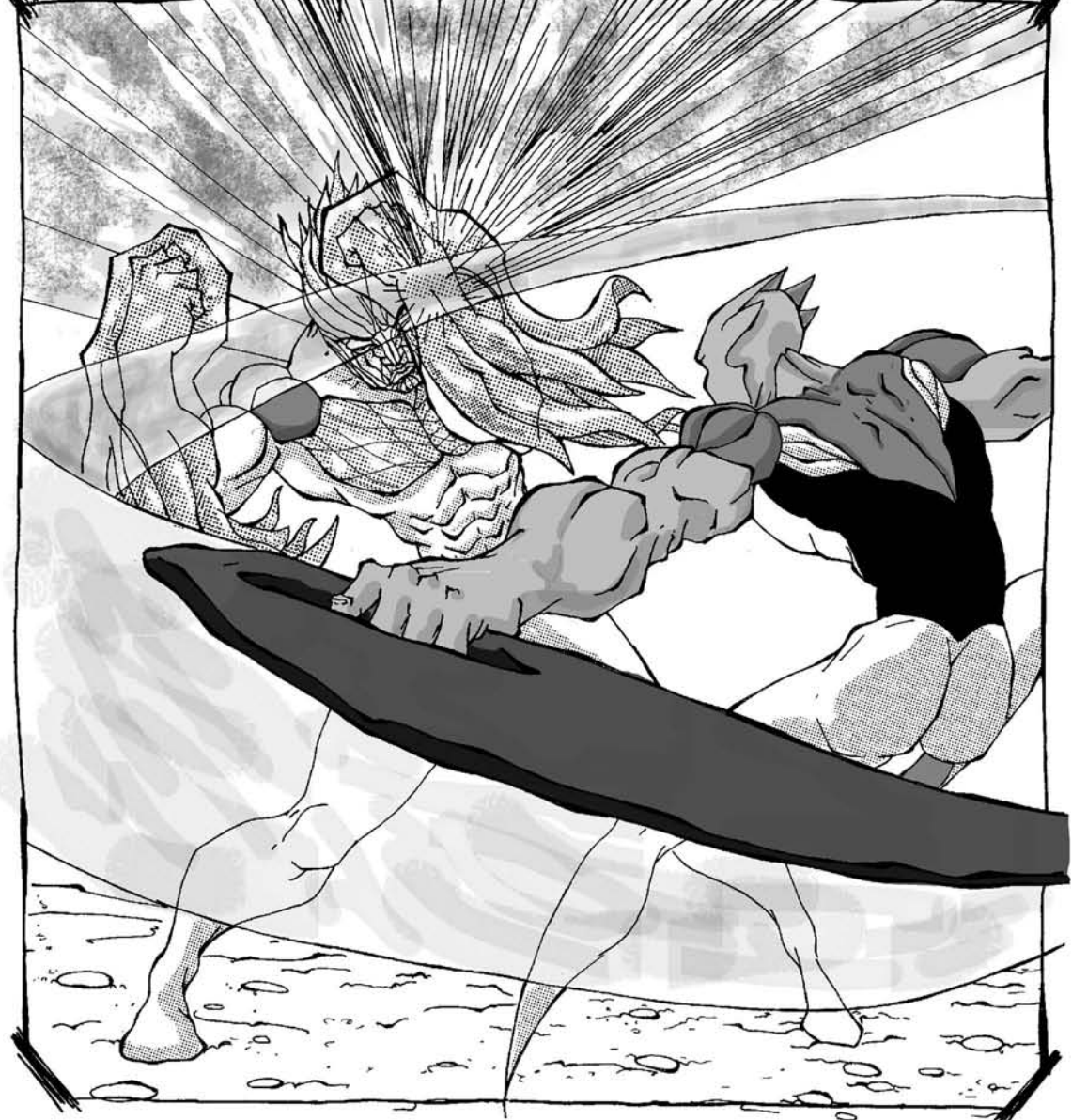
...SO MUCH ANGER AND HATE AT LIFE--AND THE GUILT....

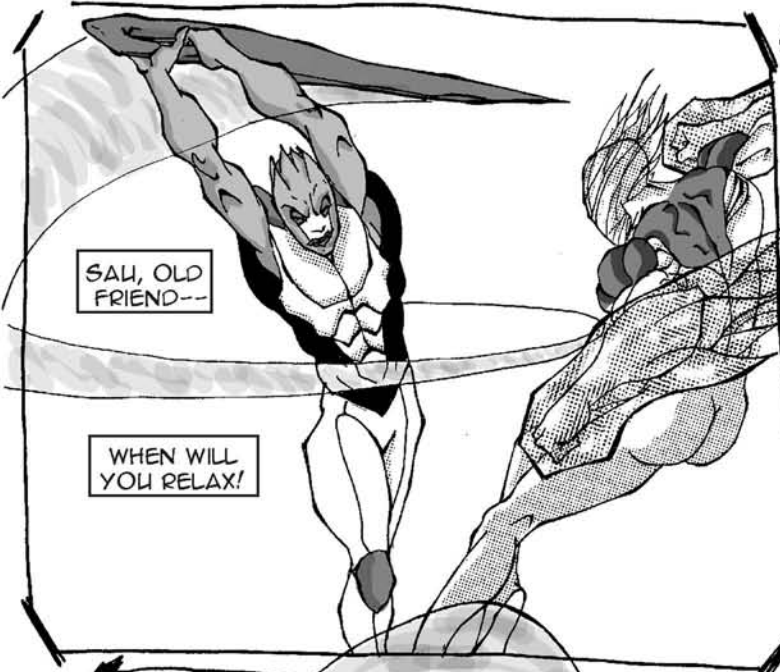
...YOUR WIFE AND SON ARE HERE. I WONDER IF YOU'LL SEE THEM AGAIN...



-MARCUS, DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR TWO SMALL DAUGHTERS. SHOWING LOVE IS NOT WEAKNESS...

JYSTUS..





SAU, OLD FRIEND--

WHEN WILL YOU RELAX!



YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY IN COMBAT MODE. HAVE PEACE FOR AWHILE.....



HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

ANGELS WERE NOT CREATED TO FIGHT AT FIRST...SAU...



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN THIS WAR IS DONE? WHEN THERE IS ONLY PEACE....



WAS TAP!

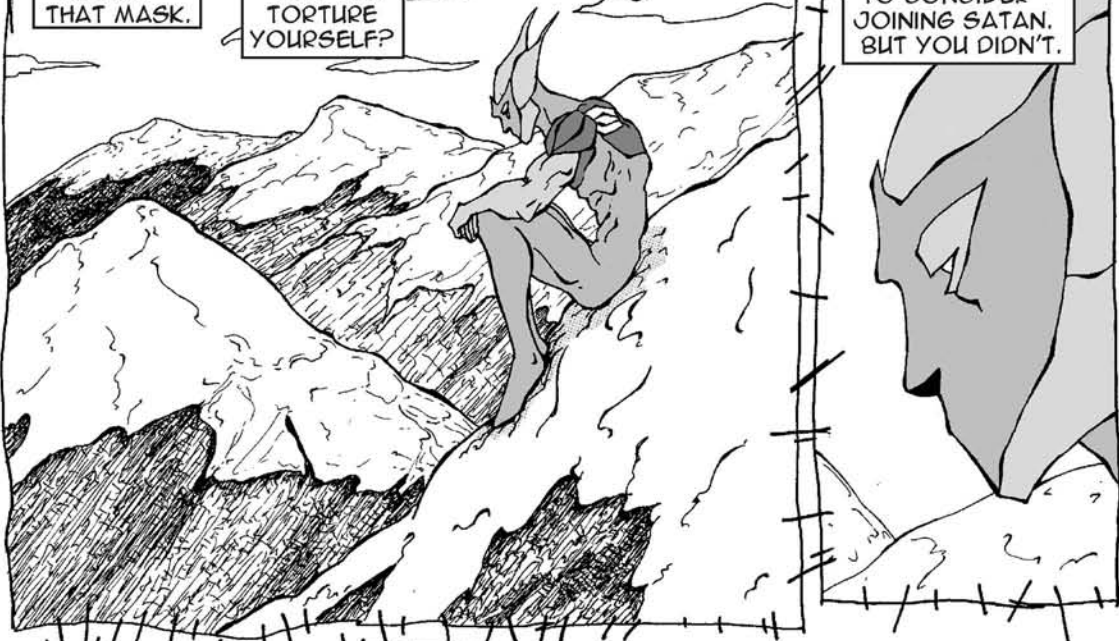
WILL YOU BE MORE RESTLESS THAN NOW?.....



..MINLOKO, I
KNOW WHY
YOU HIDE
BEHIND
THAT MASK.

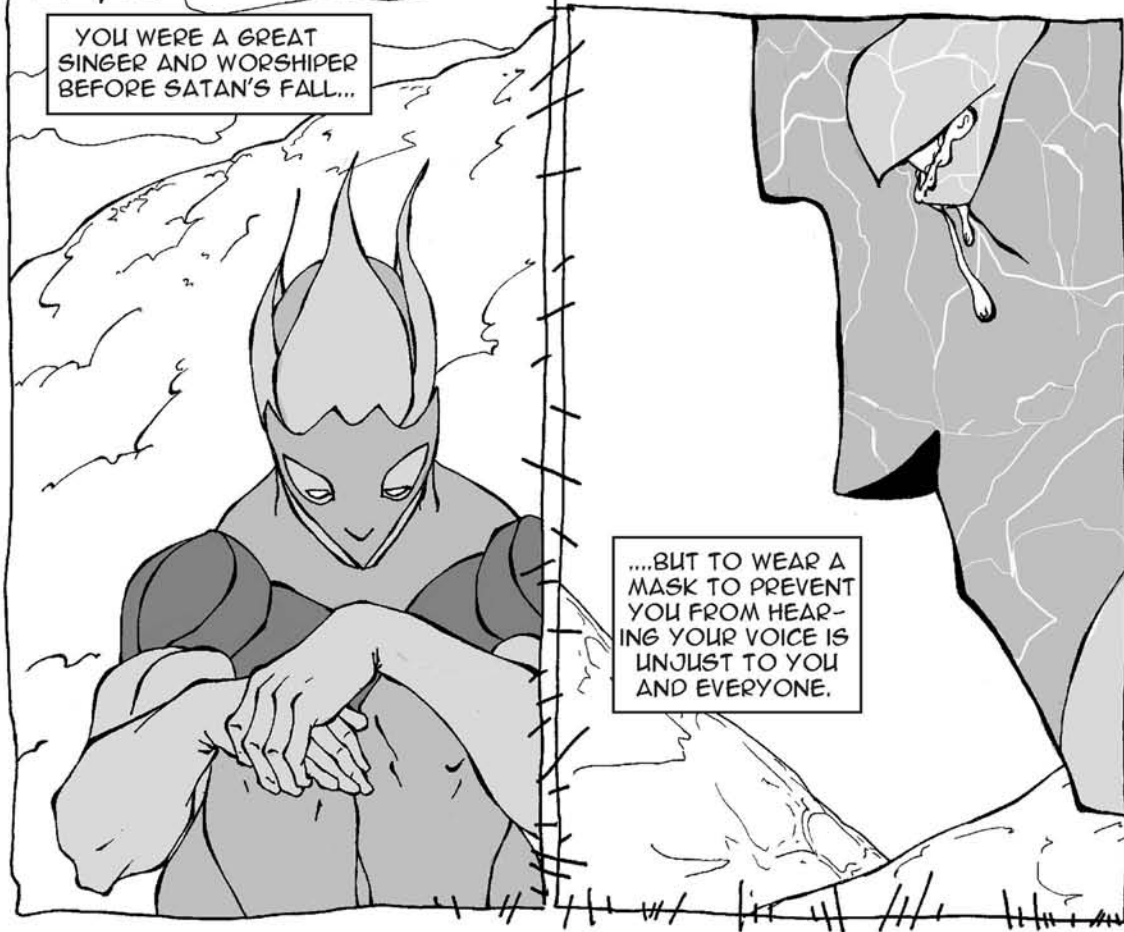
-BUT WHY
TORTURE
YOURSELF?

IT WAS NORMAL
TO CONSIDER
JOINING SATAN.
BUT YOU DIDN'T.



YOU WERE A GREAT
SINGER AND WORSHIPER
BEFORE SATAN'S FALL...

....BUT TO WEAR A
MASK TO PREVENT
YOU FROM HEAR-
ING YOUR VOICE IS
UNJUST TO YOU
AND EVERYONE.





REGARDING YOU
JYSTUS...WHAT
ABOUT YOU?...

.....

I AM A SIMPLE
SOLDIER- MADE
TO SERVE. HELP
SOULS AND-



YET, WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?...

THAT IS IN-
SIGNIFICANT
COMPARED
TO THE ENTIRE
PICTURE. I DO
MY TASKS.
I DO WHAT
MY LORD-



..WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

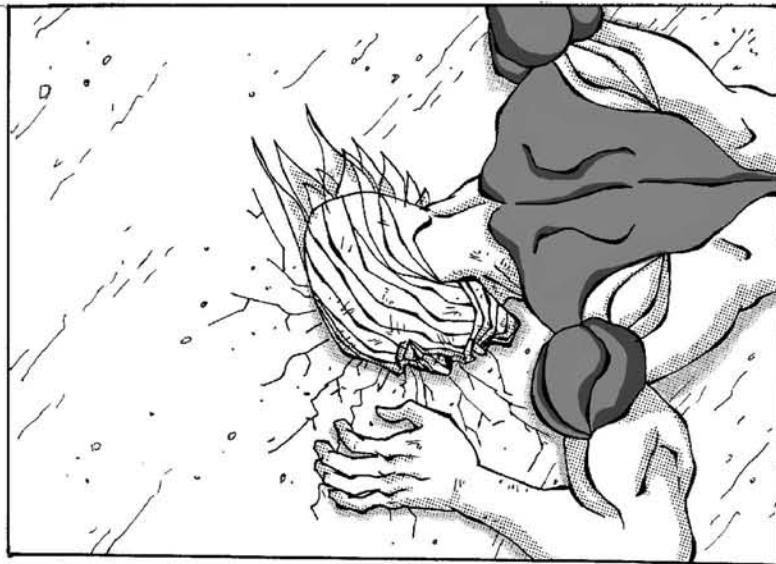
.....

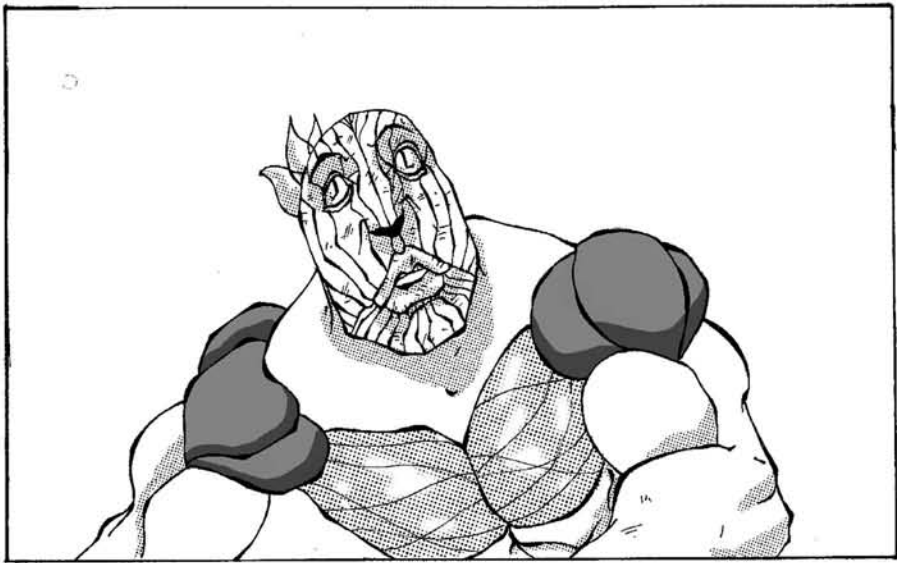


...WHAT DO
YOU WANT?



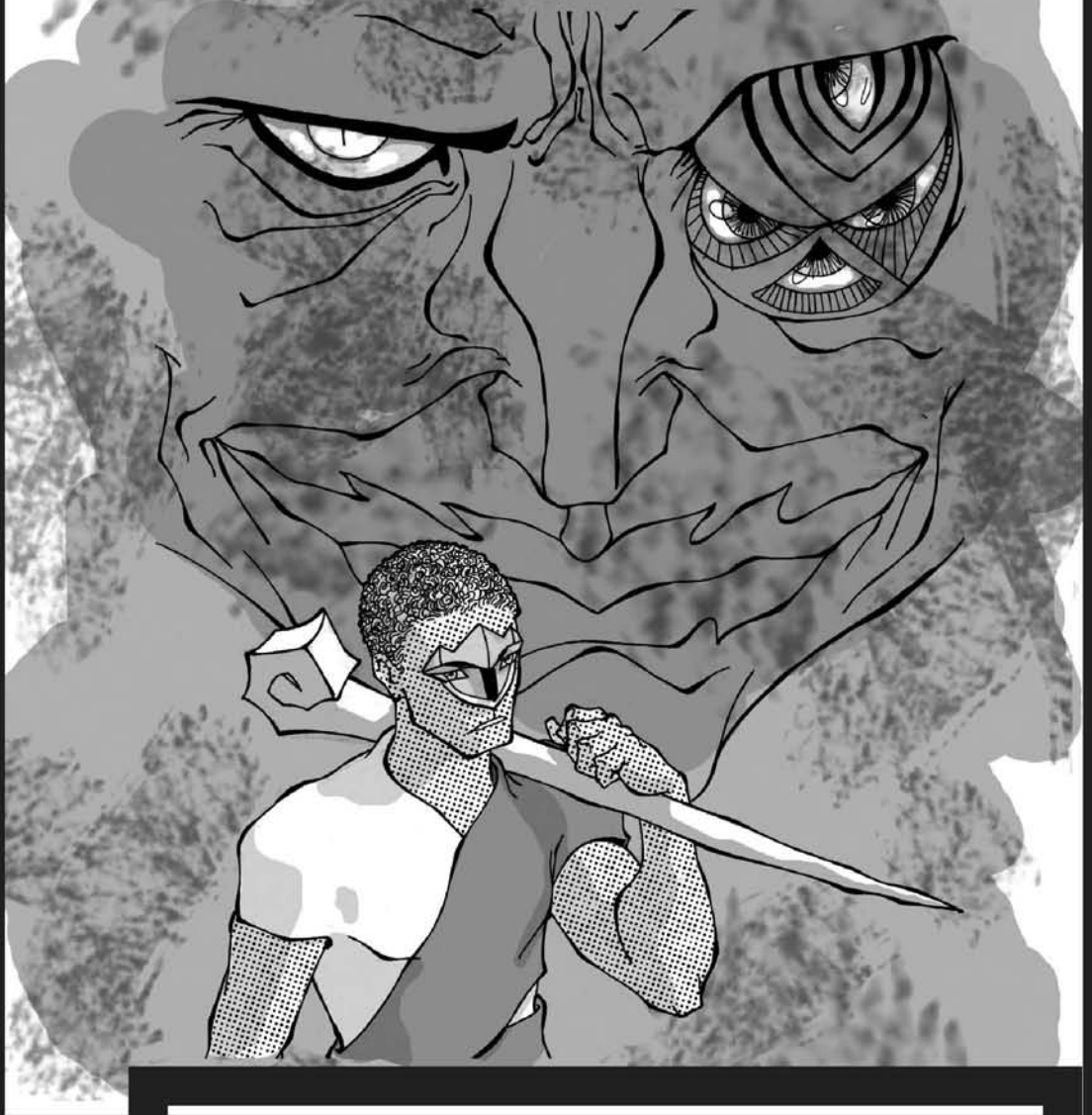
.....TO.....
REST...REFLECT...
.....ASK WHY?....





...UNBELIEVABLE...

WHEN YOU ACCEPT JESUS IN YOUR HEART A CONFLICT BEGINS. IT IS THE FIGHT
BETWEEN JESUS(HOLY SPIRIT) AND THE SINFUL FLESH YOU WERE
BORN WITH. THE FIGHTING IS ONGOING TILL YOU DIE....



SPIRIT vs FLESH



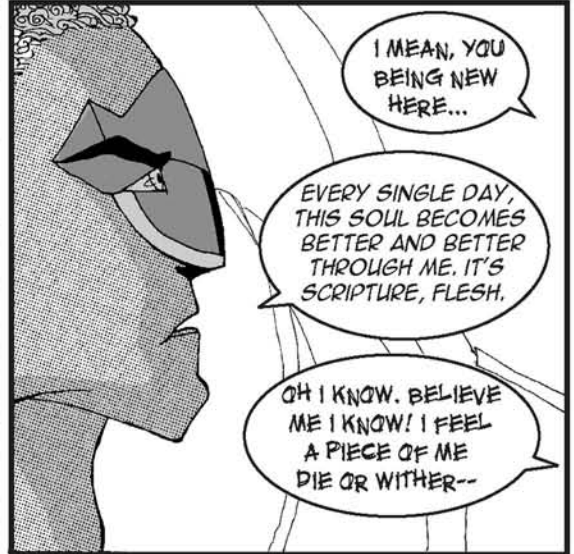
HELLO
FLESH.

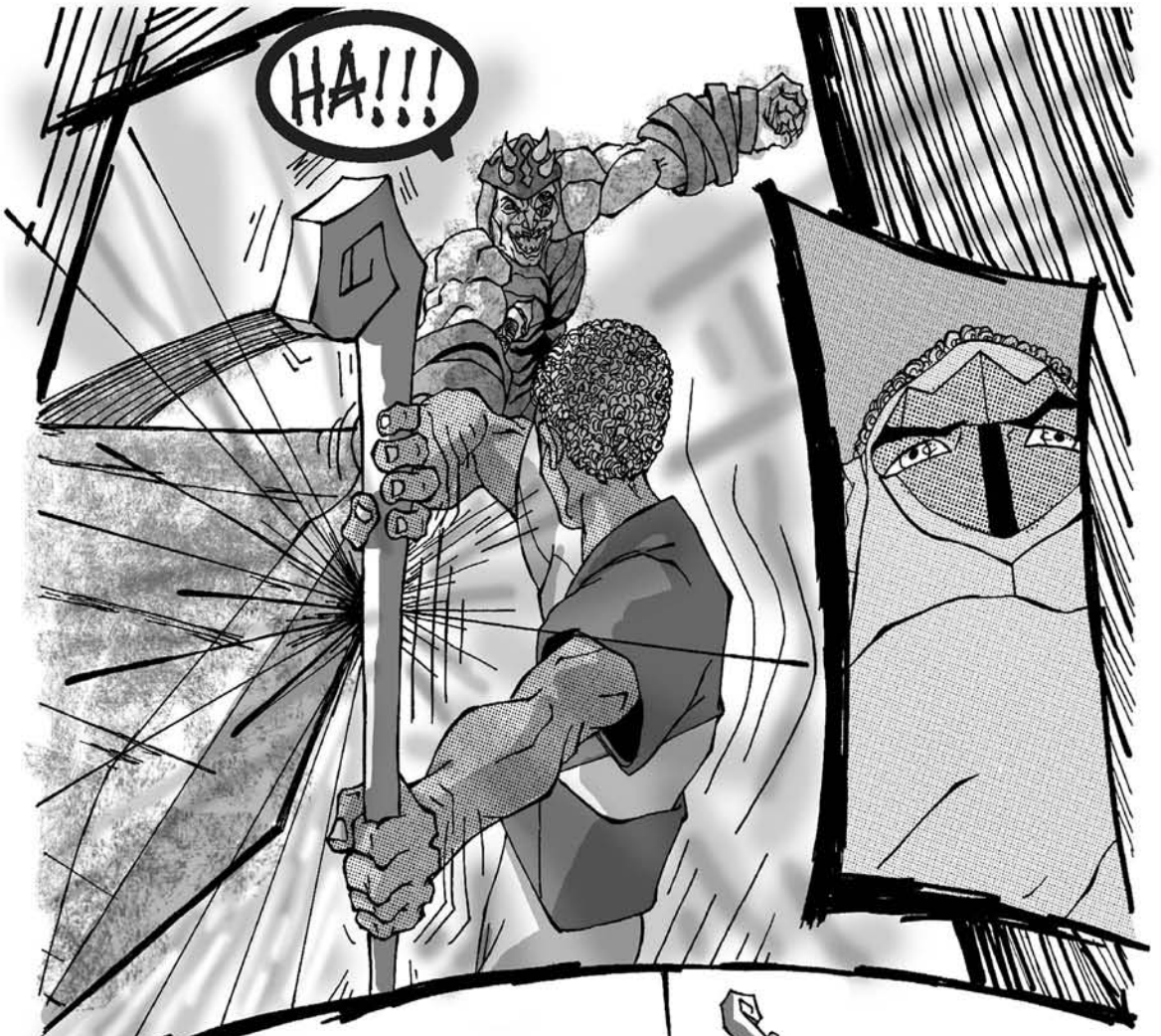
GOOD OL' HOLY
GHOST-HOLY SPIRIT--
HOLY ANNOYANCE.

WHEN'S THE
LAST TIME
WE TUSSELED?

A FEW
MOMENTS
AGO.

YEP. YEP...









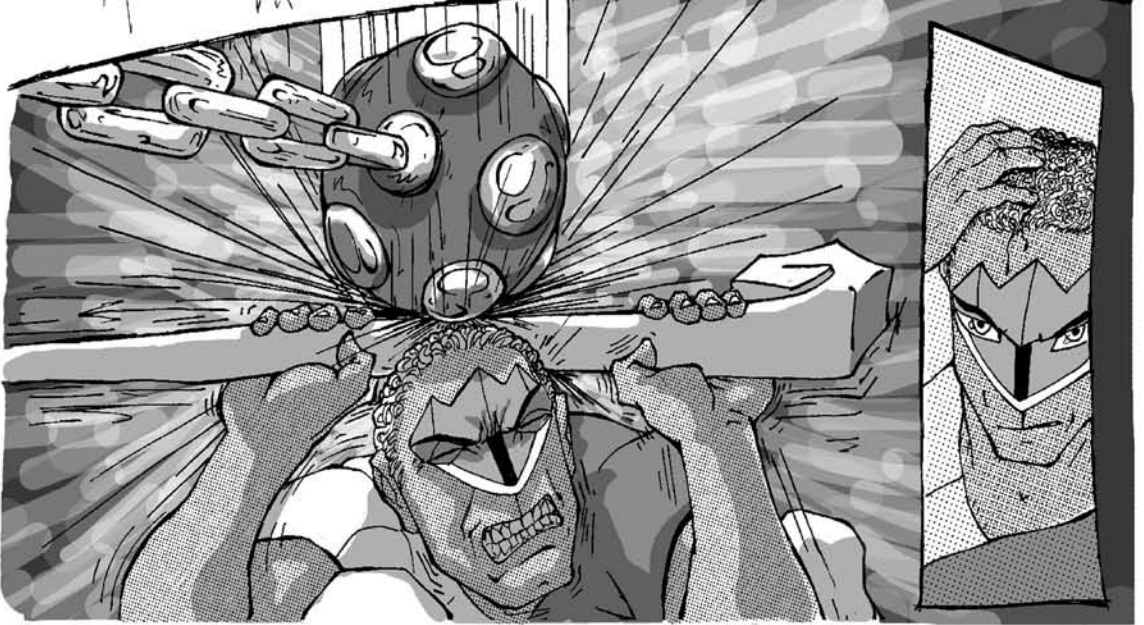
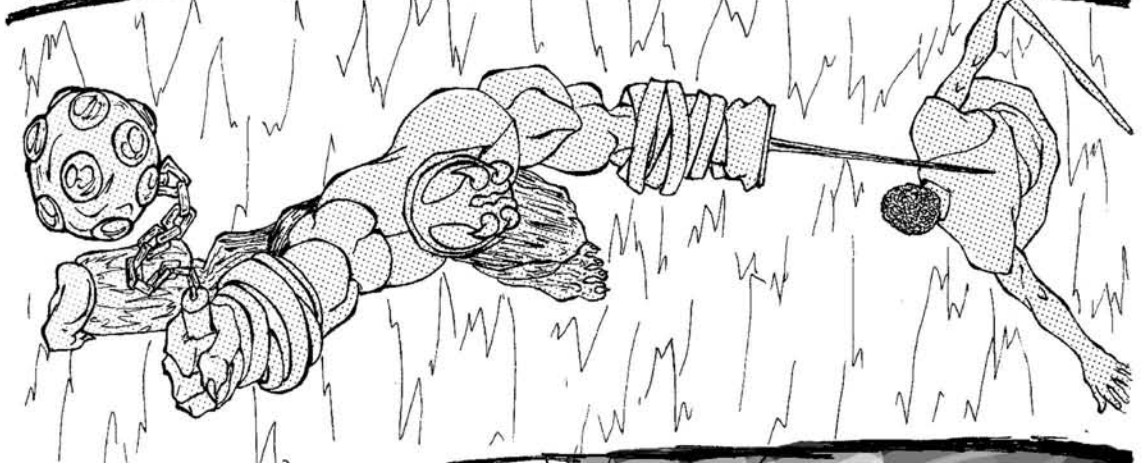
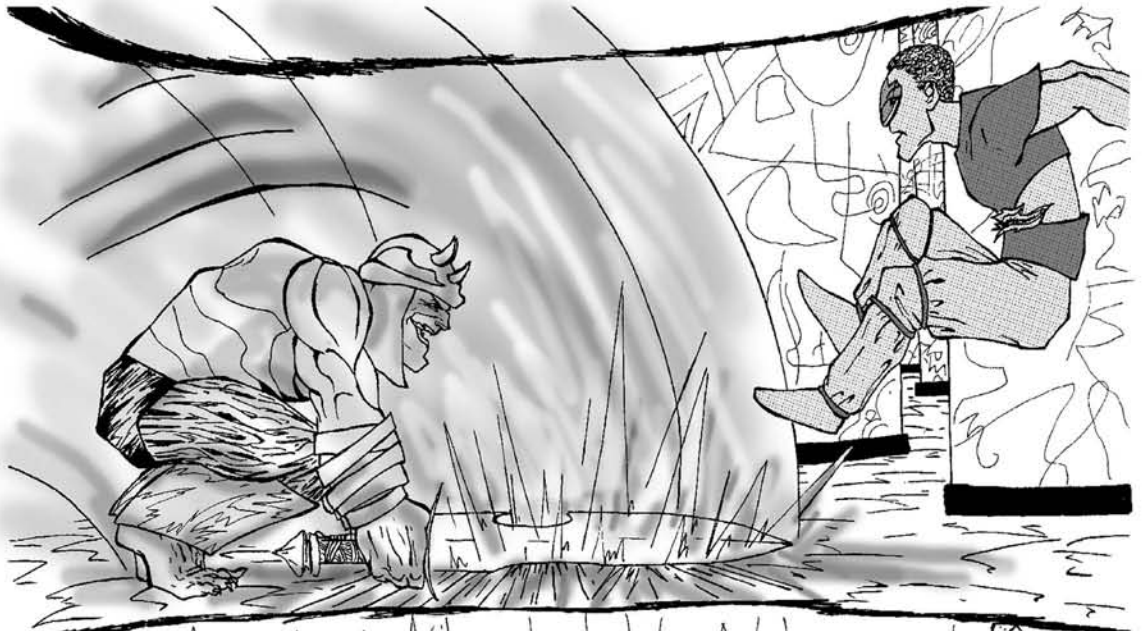
COME ON NOW PRINCE OF PEACE-
KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. YOU...
YOU THOUGHT MY DOMAIN WOULD
BE EASY TO TOPPLE?

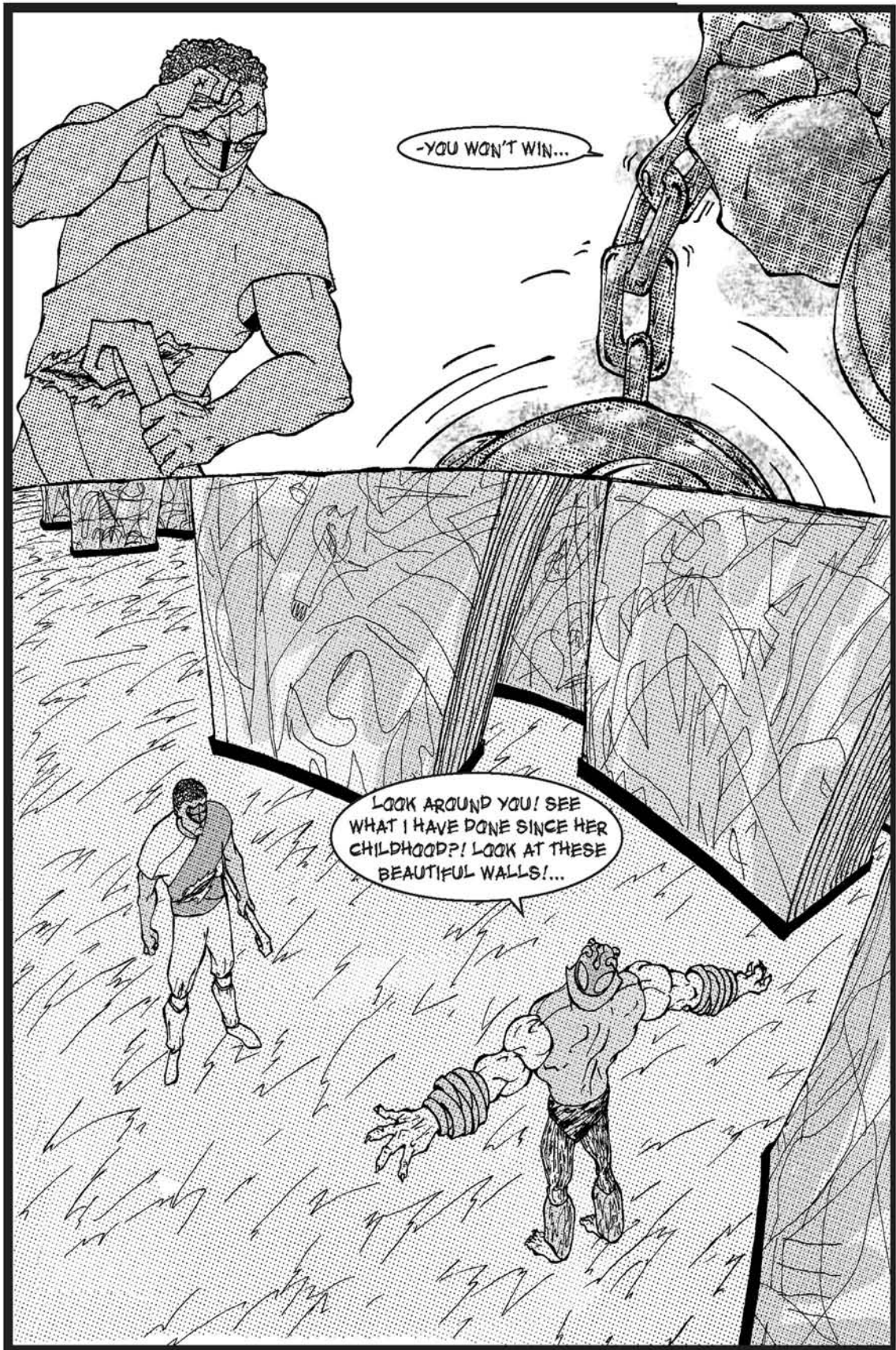
I'M CREATIVE LIKE YOU.
WE'RE SIMILAR. WE BOTH TAKE
CHAOS AND BRING ORDER TO IT.
ISN'T THAT WHAT CREATIVITY ALL
ABOUT? TAKING MANY DIFFERENT
PARTS FROM MADDENING SOURCES-
TWISTING, CHAOTIC SOURCES AND
LOGICALLY PUTTING THE PARTS
TOGETHER? MAKE SOME-
THING NEW...

WHAT YOU MAKE
IS DEVASTATION
FOR THIS SOUL.



YOU'RE CORRECT-HEH.
BUT I DO IT WITH SUCH
ARTISTIC FLARE!



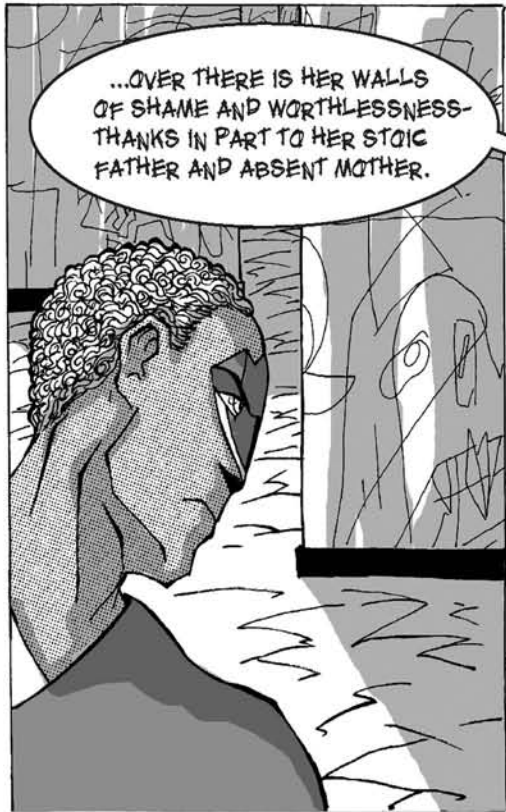


-YOU WON'T WIN...

LOOK AROUND YOU! SEE WHAT I HAVE DONE SINCE HER CHILDHOOD?! LOOK AT THESE BEAUTIFUL WALLS!...



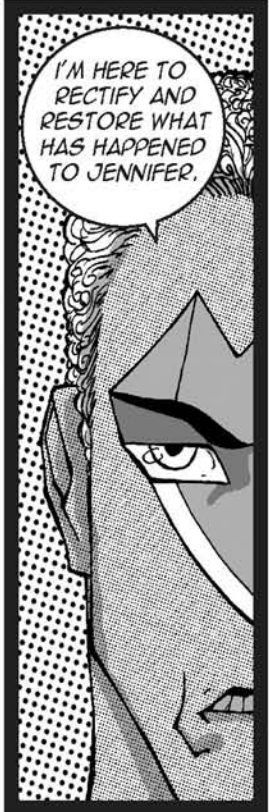
THESE--THESE WALLS HAS LAYERS AND LAYERS OF MISTRUST AND ENMITY. ALL DUE TO HER UNCLE'S PRECIOUS EVILS ON HER....



...OVER THERE IS HER WALLS OF SHAME AND WORTHLESSNESS-- THANKS IN PART TO HER STOIC FATHER AND ABSENT MOTHER.



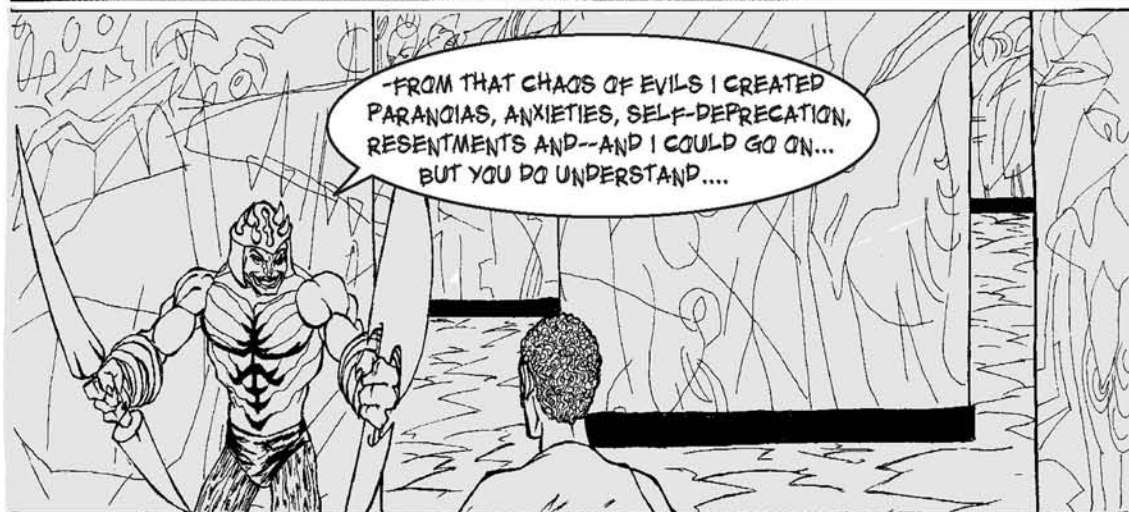
NOW I ADMIT--I-I CONFESS--"SAVIOR"... SATAN AND HIS CLAN HELPED IN MY DECISIONS TO CREATE MY EMPIRE-- BUT I HAD TO DO THE OVERTIME LABOR.



I'M HERE TO RECTIFY AND RESTORE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO JENNIFER.



RECTIFY? RESTORE? WHAT A FOOL! I WAS HERE BEFORE YOU! THE EVIL WAS ALREADY IN HER. BUT IT WAS THE EVIL THAT CAME FROM OUTSIDE IS WHAT SO SPECIAL.--ABANDONMENT. ABUSE. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL MISTREATMENT. UNLOVE. BROKEN TRUTHS. CONSTANT LIES. I GRASPED THOSE EVILS FROM HER EARLY YEARS TO NOW AND I CREATED GREATNESS--

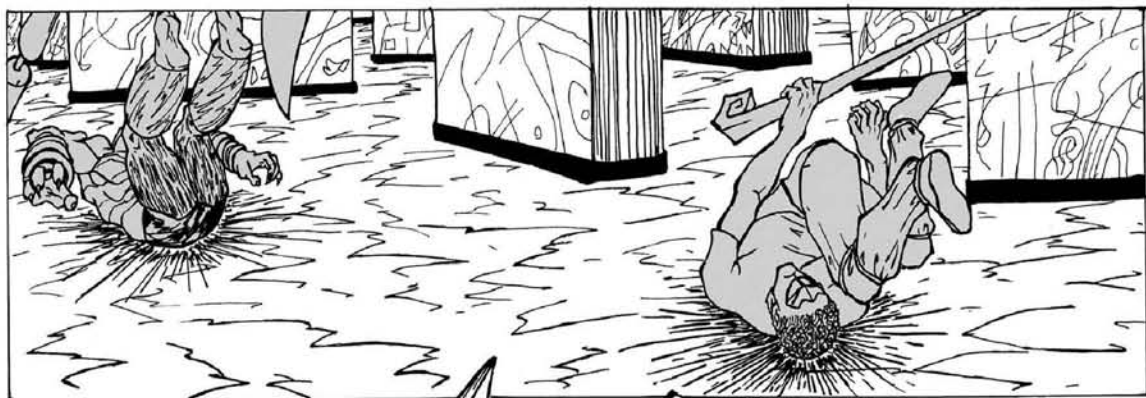


--FROM THAT CHAOS OF EVILS I CREATED PARANCIAS, ANXIETIES, SELF-DEPREICATION, RESENTMENTS AND--AND I COULD GO ON... BUT YOU DO UNDERSTAND....



...SHE IS MY MASTERPIECE!!!





YOU'VE GAINED SOME GROUND, BUT ALREADY SHE RESISTS YOU!! YOU'RE TRYING TO GO DEEPER AND DEEPER TO GET MORE AND MORE OF HER RELEASED FROM HER PAST--SHE'LL LEAVE YOU IF YOU GO ON!! SHE WILL FORGET YOU!!! SHE'S WEAK AND SCARED! HOW CAN SHE TRUST AN INVISIBLE GOD WHEN VISIBLE PEOPLE HAVE TREATED HER LIKE VOMIT!!! -AH YES, SHE HAS A FEW CHRISTIAN FRIENDS-BUT THEY WILL FAIL HER! AND IF THEY DON'T, I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO REMIND HER OF THOSE WHO HAVE HURT HER BEFORE. WHILE THE DEMONS OUTSIDE WHISPER LIES AND TEMPTS HER TO NEVER TRUST AND LOVE!--THERE ARE SO MANY SEEDS I HAVE PLANTED THAT WILL CAUSE HER TO HARM HERSELF AND THOSE SHE THINKS SHE LOVES!!! ALL YOU HAVE DONE AND WILL DO IS MINDLESS!! DO YOU HEAR ME "OH DEAR BLESSED JESUS"!



HAH! HAH! HAH! I WILL GROW STRONGER WHILE YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING BUT A SMALL DIM CORNER IN HER SOUL.

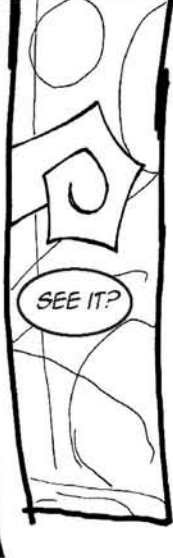
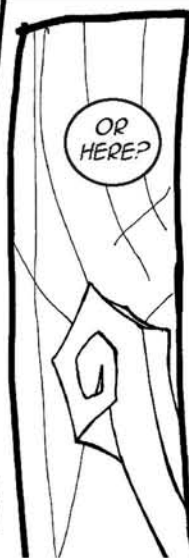
-YOU'LL BE HELPLESS WATCHING ME BREAK HER SLOWLY--DAY BY DAY--YEAR BY YEAR... SOON SHE'LL BE NOTHING BUT A WORTHLESS SLAB OF MEAT- WAITING TO BE SNUFFED OUT.



YOU TALK A LOT ABOUT SUBJECTS YOU KNOW VERY LITTLE OF....



THIS IS MY SOUL, HOLY SPIRIT. SHE AND I WAS BORN TOGETHER--CURSED.. AND WE WILL DIE TOGETHER CURSED. YOU'RE THE IGNORANT ONE--FOREIGNER!





OF COURSE YOU DON'T SEE THEM, FLESH. YOU ARE LIKE SATAN AND HIS ANGELS-BLUNDED BY YOUR OWN LIES AND WICKEDNESS.

YOUR POINT?



AMONG THESE WALLS, YOUR MASTERPIECES-ARE HUNDREDS OF TIMES I REVEALED MYSELF TO JENNIFER. FROM HER BIRTH TO THIS VERY PRESENT.

LIAR! HER PARENTS NEVER WORSHIPED YOU! SHE NEVER WENT TO CHURCH AS A CHILD!

SHE NEVER KNEW YOU!!

MY WORD SAYS NO ONE IS WITHOUT EXCUSE. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN NATURE, IN THE SKY, IN THE HEARTS OF MANKIND. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS PLACED IN EVERY SOUL I GIVE LIFE TO. BUT THERE ARE MORE WAYS I HAVE REVEALED MYSELF TO JENNIFER, FLESH.





THE FLOWERS SHE HAS SEEN AND ADORED IN THE SPRING REVEALED THE NATURE OF MY CREATIVE BEAUTY AND ORDER. A GENTLE SMILE FROM A STRANGER SHOWED HER HOPE THAT THERE WERE KIND PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. EVEN WATCHING PARENTS IN A PARK MADE HER KNOW IF ONLY A LITTLE THAT LOVE DOES EXIST. ALSO, T.V. THAT SHOWED FAMILIES AND FRIENDS THAT CARED ABOUT EACH OTHER MADE HER REALIZE THAT AFFECTION AND TRUST MUST BE REAL SOMEWHERE. FURTHERMORE, FICTIONAL CHARACTERS IN BOOKS SHE READ THAT NEVER GAVE UP ON OTHERS, CHALLENGES, AND THEMSELVES-REVEALED MY STABILITY AND CONSISTENCE WITH WANTING MY CHILDREN TO KNOW ME-IN KNOWING I WILL NEVER FORSAKE THEM OR BE UNFAITHFUL....



THERE IS MORE I CAN SHARE WITH YOU FLESH--ABUNDANTLY MORE.....YES, MUCH EVIL WAS INGRAINED IN HER FROM OTHERS AND SHE ALREADY WAS BORN WITH ONLY EVIL--BUT I HAD ALREADY BEGAN TO INGRAIN IN HER WHO I WAS BEFORE SHE FINALLY ASK ME IN HER SOUL. I, CHRIST, THE SOLE GOOD AND PERFECTION INSIDE JENNIFER. FOR I KNEW THE REVELATIONS OF ME FROM HER PAST WOULD BRING HER TO ME- AS WELL AS HELP HER IN THE PRESENT AND FUTURE IN DISMANTLING WHAT YOU AND SATAN HAVE CONSTRUCTED.-ONCE I CAME HERE-YOU HAD ALREADY LOST THIS WAR. IT IS OVER.

LIAR!!
YOU LYING
DQ--



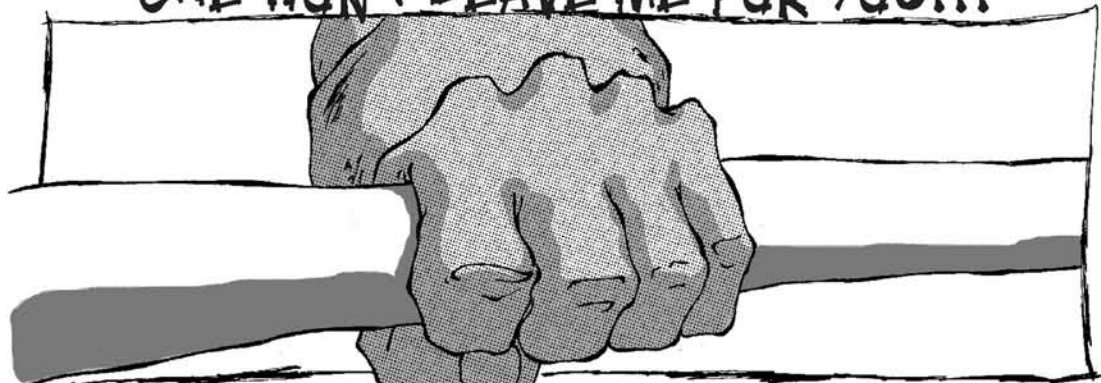


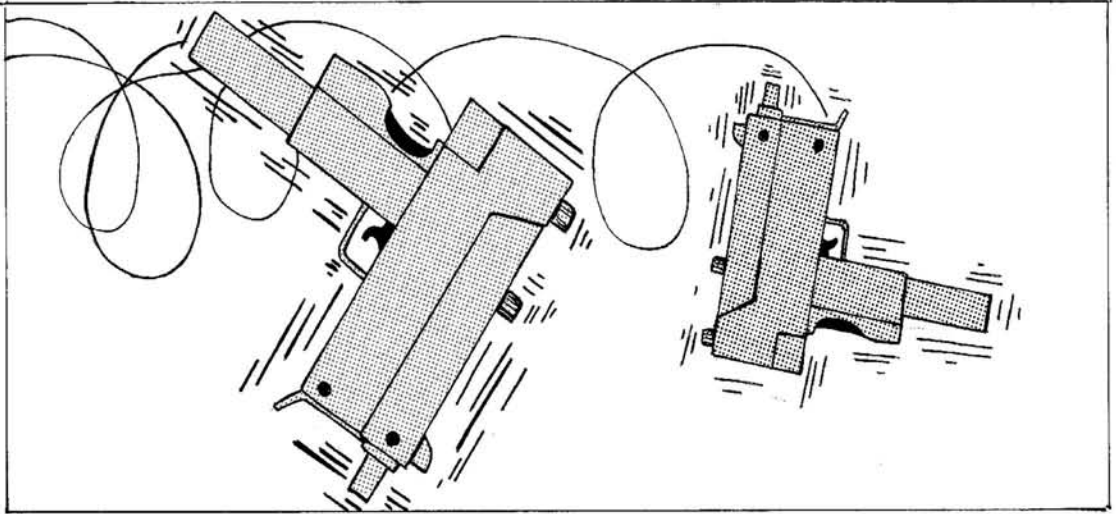


NOOOO!!!
YOU WON'T KILL ME!!! I-I WILL WIN!!! WILL WIN!!!
SHE'S UNDER MY CONTROL!!!



I-AM-GOD!!!
SHE WON'T LEAVE ME FOR YOU!!!





MILLIS



MYNLA



THE JYSTUS JOURNAL
[TRANSLATED]



ENTRY 5:

I ALWAYS THOUGHT SOULS RECORDED HISTORY WAS UNIQUE. ON ONE SIDE THAT INFORMATION MAY BE MEANINGLESS WHEN THE LORD RETURNS. THE OTHER SIDE IS LEARNING AND KNOWING THE PAST CAN BE A GIFT. MYSELF AND MOST ANGELS DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WRITTEN BIBLE, BUT IT'S IMPORTANCE AND POWER IS EVIDENT.

I ALSO HEARD IT IS A RECORDED HISTORY OF OUR CAPTAIN, LORD JESUS. WHEN THE WAR IS OVER, I MAY BE ABLE TO STUDY THE BIBLE. TALKING TO THE SOUL LAUREN HAS HELPED ME TO KNOW A LITTLE WHAT SOULS KNOW IN REGARD TO THE BIBLE. BUT MUCH OF IT CAN BE CONFUSING. LAUREN SAYS SHE KNOWS MORE NOW THAN BEFORE. AND SOME KNOWLEDGE SHE USE TO SEEK WAS NONSENSE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

HOWEVER, I DO THINK RECORDED HISTORY IS BENEFICIAL. BY WRITING MY HISTORY MAYBE IT WILL HELP ME KNOW ALL THAT IS AROUND MYSELF AND OTHERS.

ENTRY 136-137:

LAUREN ASKED ABOUT MARCUS AGAIN. THOUGH MARRIAGE DON'T EXIST IN HEAVEN, I KNOW SHE STILL CARES DEEPLY FOR HIM AND THEIR DAUGHTERS.

I TOLD HER HE IS FINE. HE ALMOST RECOVERED FROM THE WARFARE FOR HIS SOUL. SHE KNOWS HOW IMPRESSED I WAS BY HIS STRENGTH, BUT THAT SEEMED TO SADDEN HER. I DON'T KNOW WHY. IF ONLY LAUREN WOULD HAD SEEN SAU AFTERWARDS! TO HAVE A SOUL DEFEAT ENEMIES THAT HE COULDN'T! MORE TRAINING!

MINLOKO OF COURSE SEEMED UNCARING ABOUT THE MISSION. EVEN WITH THE MASK I CAN "SEE" HIS EMOTIONS. STRANGE, I VAGUELY REMEMBER MINLOKO'S FACE. LAUREN TOLD ME I SHOULD ORDER HIM TO TAKE THE MASK OFF SHE AND OTHERS HAVE ASKED MINLOKO TO SHOW HIS FACE. TO HEAR HIS NATURAL, BEAUTIFUL VOICE. HE JUST WALKS AWAY SILENT.

HOW LONG WAS IT SINCE I ASKED MINLOKO TO JOIN MY TEAM? AFTER ADAM'S FALL? I HAD DOUBTS HE WOULD JOIN. HE WAS OFFERED A HIGH POSITION AS A WORSHIP LEADER. BUT HE DECLINED

I REMEMBER AT FIRST SAU DISLIKED THE IDEA OF MINLOKO ON OUR SQUAD BUT I WASN'T LETTING THIS ANGEL BECOME NOTHING. YET, WHEN MINLOKO AGREED AND CAME ON THE FIRST MISSION WEARING THAT MASK--I KNEW I HAD A CHOICE TO MAKE--LET HIM HIDE AND STILL BE USEFUL TO OUR LORD. OR FORCE HIM TO TAKE THE MASK OFF MAYBE CAUSING MORE DAMAGE. I THOUGHT LETTING HIM HIDE WOULD GIVE HIM TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PAST. I THINK I MADE THE WRONG DECISION.

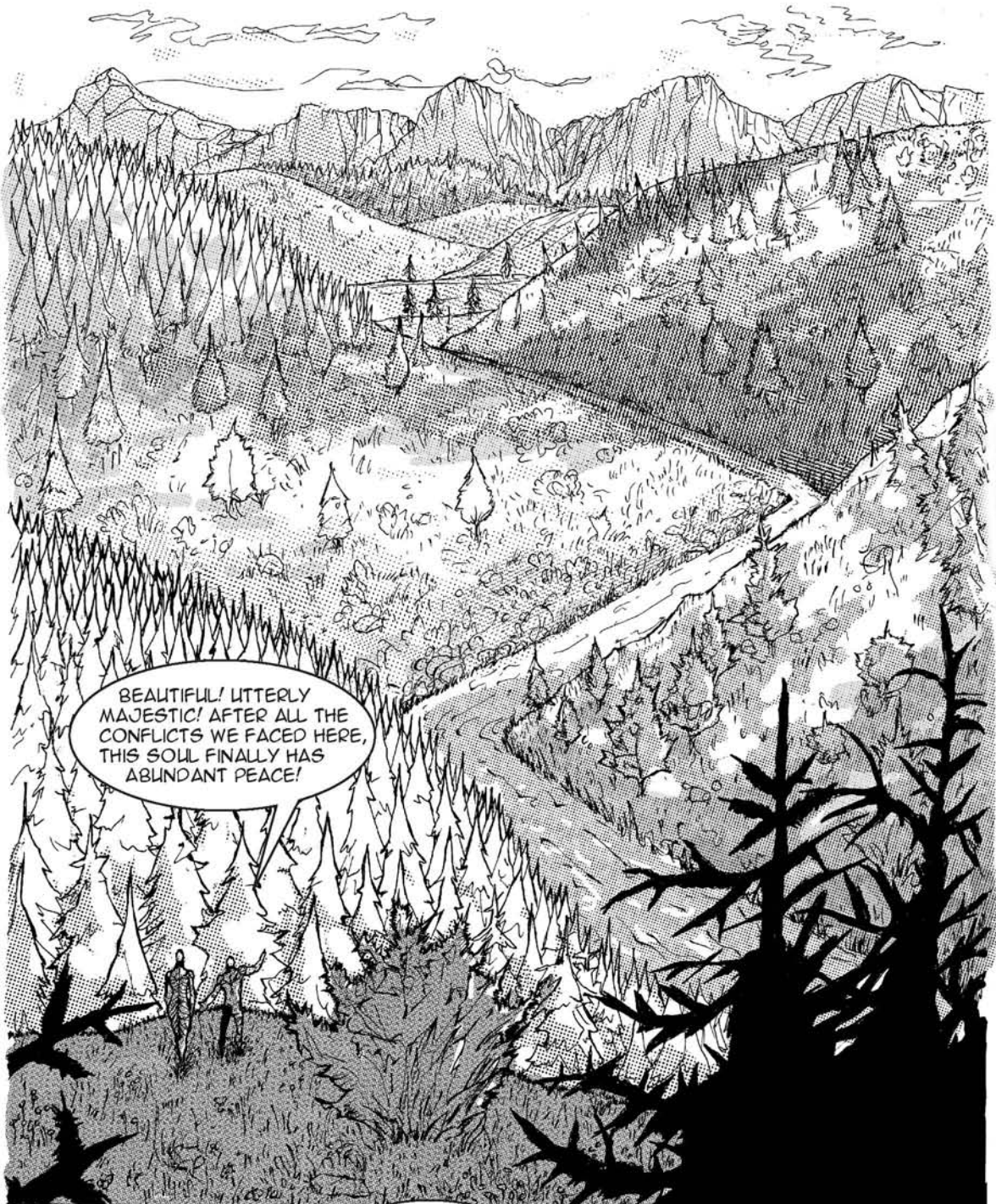


DORA



THE
MASSACRE





BEAUTIFUL! LITTERLY MAJESTIC! AFTER ALL THE CONFLICTS WE FACED HERE, THIS SOUL FINALLY HAS ABUNDANT PEACE!



WHAT AN UGLY DESERT IT WAS WHEN WE ARRIVED, AND NOW... WHAT A FANTASTIC CHANGE! DON'T YOU THINK, DORA?

YES. THIS IS A GOOD SUBSTITUTION.

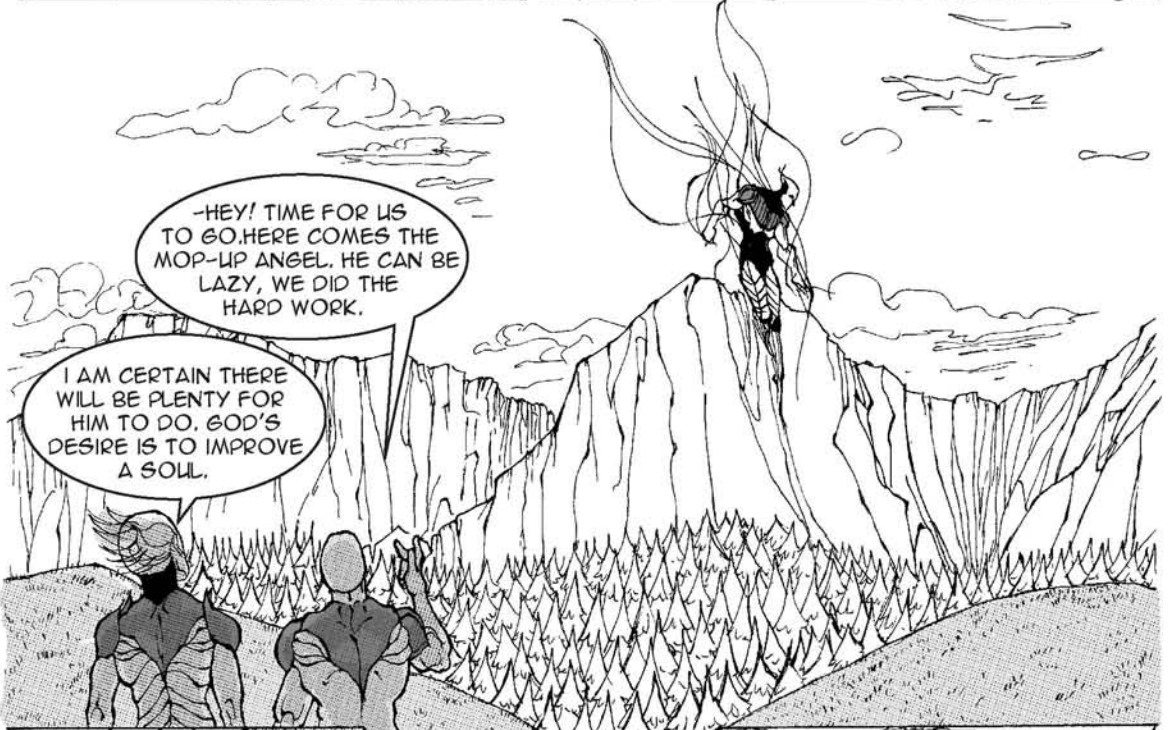


A GOOD SUBSTITUTION? THAT'S ALL YOU CAN SAY? WE WENT THROUGH MAJOR JUNK TO MAKE THIS PLACE DECENT. THE HIDDEN PAIN IN HERE WAS ODD.



THE LORD'S POWER IS ALWAYS WITH US AZOM THROUGH OUR DILIGENCE, GOD MADE THIS HAPPEN.

TRUE..BUT--WE...



-HEY! TIME FOR US TO GO. HERE COMES THE MOP-UP ANGEL. HE CAN BE LAZY, WE DID THE HARD WORK.

I AM CERTAIN THERE WILL BE PLENTY FOR HIM TO DO. GOD'S DESIRE IS TO IMPROVE A SOUL.



GOD'S LOVE IS UN-ENDING. YOU SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT, AZOM.



-ANYWAY, WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MISSION?

THE OUTER BATTLES. BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.



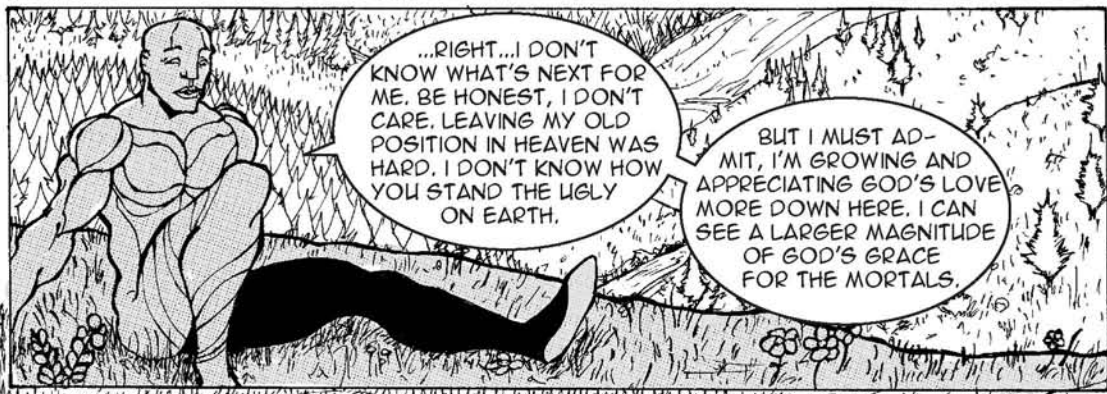
THE OUTER BATTLES! THAT REGION IS PRETTY HAZARDOUS, RIGHT? I HEAR THERE'S BEEN HUGE CASUALTIES ON OUR SIDE.



I ALSO HEAR THE MORTALS ARE WORSE NOW. THE DESTRUCTION AND CALAMITY...



EVERY PLACE IS DIFFICULT. WHEN SATAN REVOLTED, TIME BEGAN TO FLOW IN THAT DIRECTION.



...RIGHT...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S NEXT FOR ME. BE HONEST, I DON'T CARE. LEAVING MY OLD POSITION IN HEAVEN WAS HARD. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU STAND THE UGLY ON EARTH.

BUT I MUST ADMIT, I'M GROWING AND APPRECIATING GOD'S LOVE MORE DOWN HERE. I CAN SEE A LARGER MAGNITUDE OF GOD'S GRACE FOR THE MORTALS.



-MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AROUND DORA. RIGHT NOW I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS RARE BEAUTY.

BYE AZOM.

TEN MONTHS LATER ..

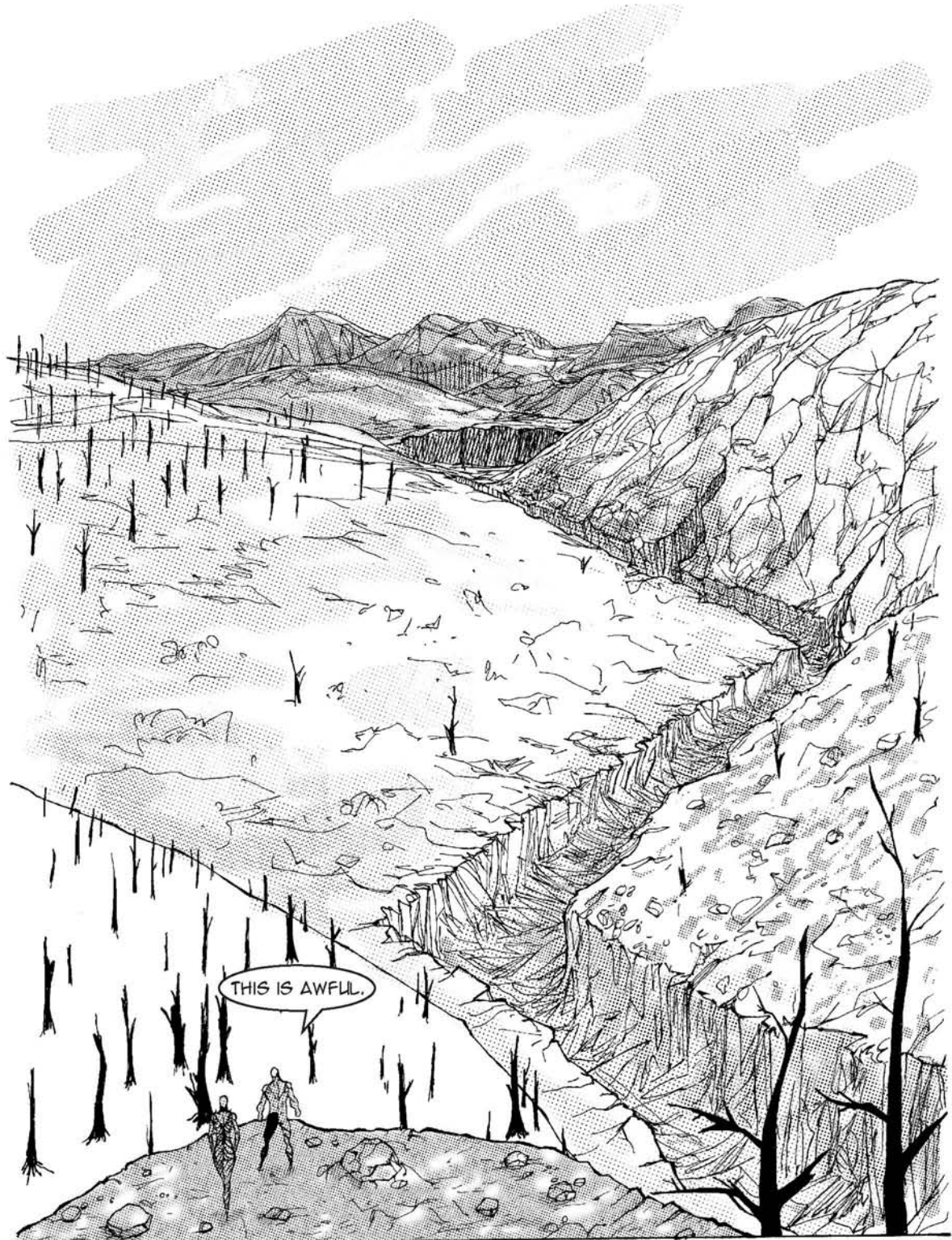
MY LIFE IS GOING CRAZY!!
LATELY ONE BAD THING AFTER THE
NEXT KEEP HAPPENING! LOST MY
JOB YESTERDAY FOR NO REASON! I
WALKED IN AND MY BOSS FIRED ME
WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION! IT
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

MY OLD FRIENDS
ARE DESERTING ME TOO!
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY
I GO TO CHURCH AND WHY
I'M TRYING TO CHANGE
MY LIFE!



I REMEMBER YOU
TOLD ME FOLLOWING
GOD IS HARD AT TIMES..
I NEVER THOUGHT...

...MY WIFE..NANCY...
SOMETHING IS WRONG..

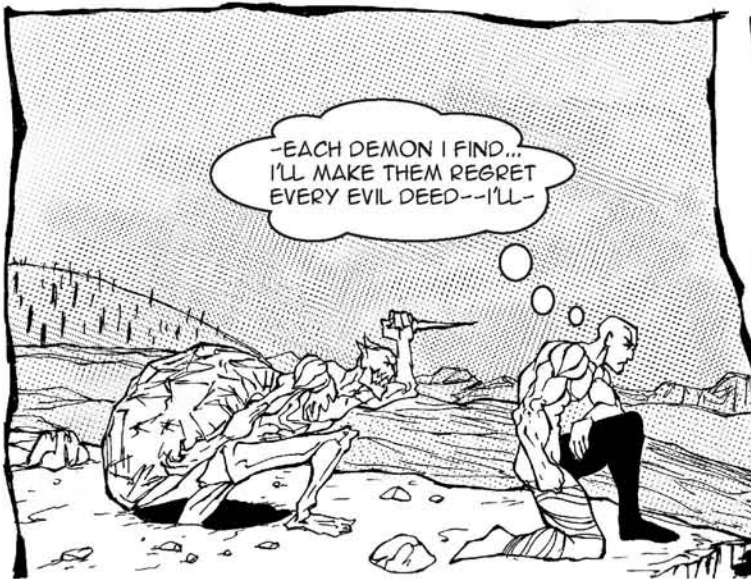
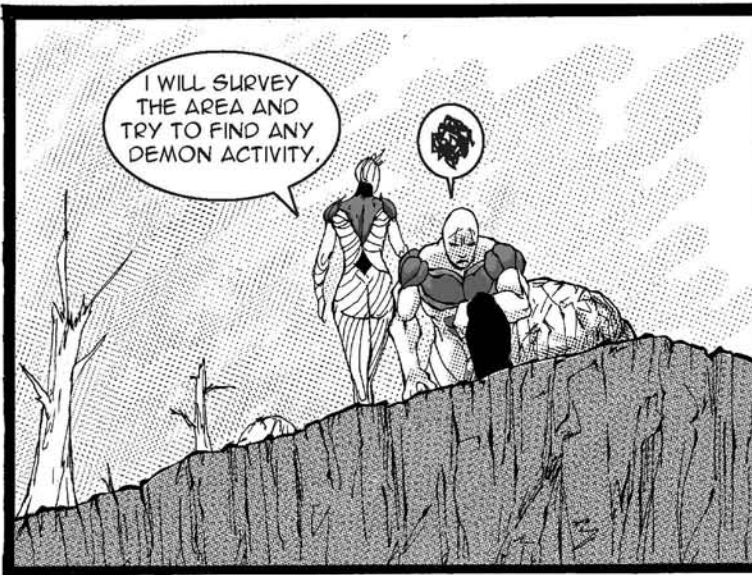


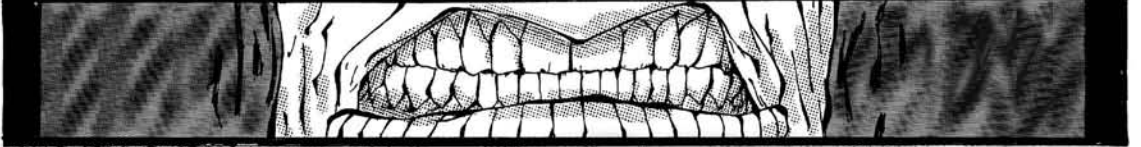
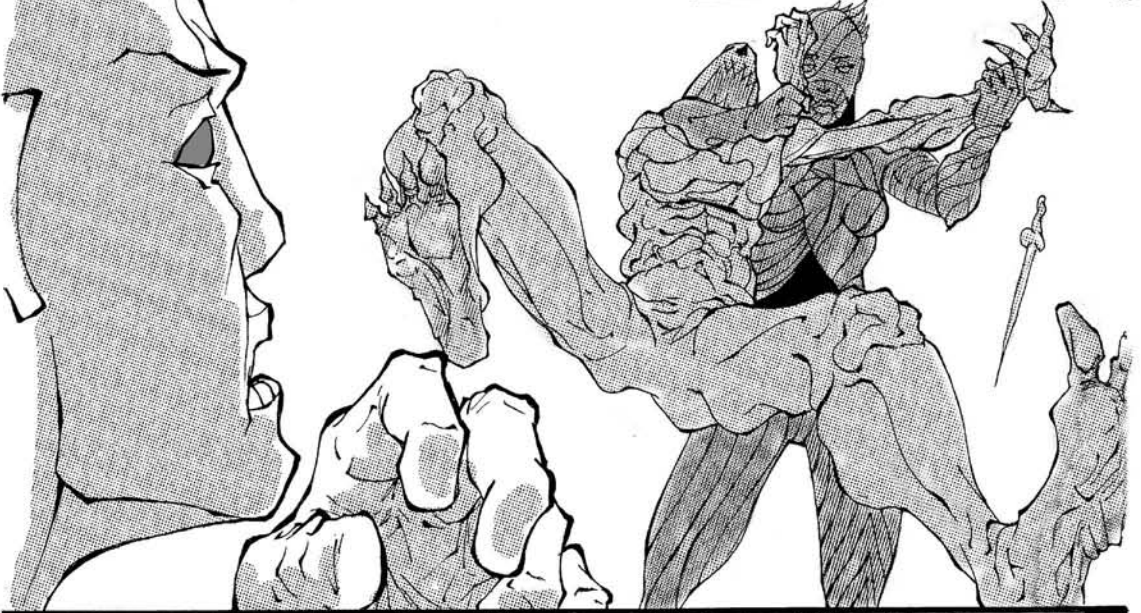
THIS IS AWFUL.



LITTERLY TERRIBLE.

I CAN'T EVEN SENSE THE ANGEL THAT TOOK OUR PLACE.



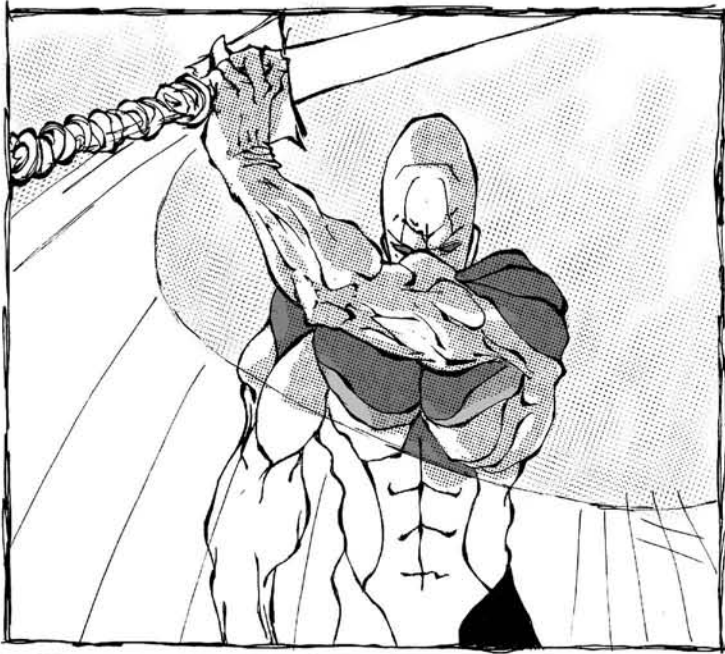


BEFORE I SEND YOU TO THE PIT...I WILL ASK ONLY ONCE....

....WHAT ARE YOUR NUMBERS AND WHAT IS THE MISSION?

..HEE. HEE. HEE. HEE.





DEMONIC FLTH.

...LET'S GO.



I THOUGHT SITUATIONS WOULD IMPROVE COUNSELOR, BUT THEY'RE NOT. LIFE IS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER...

MY CAR BROKE DOWN AGAIN! ANOTHER JOB BLOWN! MONEY IS GETTING TIGHT. MY WIFE'S INCOME WON'T CARRY US...



...I'M PRAYING AND PRAYING...



NO.

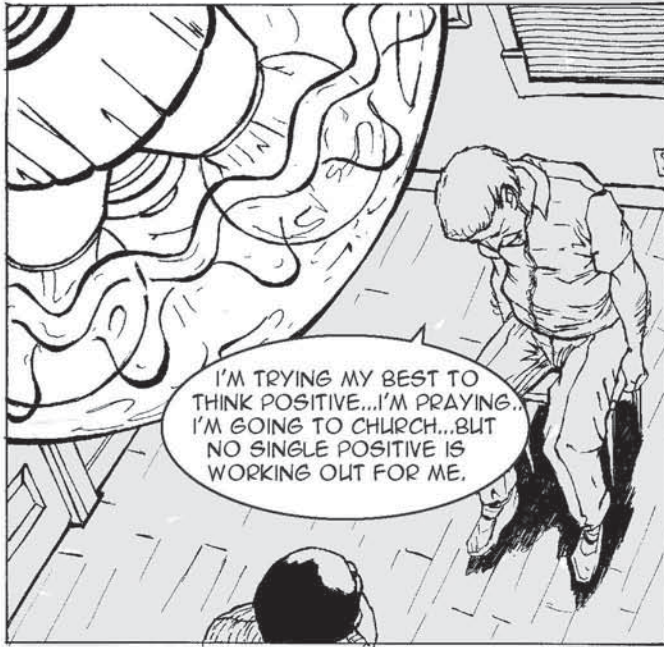
DO YOU REMEMBER THIS PLACE?! THERE WAS LIFE HERE! GROWING FLOWERS! TALL TREES! GREEN GRASS ALL AROUND!



THERE WAS LIFE HERE! PEACE WAS HERE! IT'S ALL GONE!...I CAN'T STAND THIS! DORA, CAN YOU DEAL WITH THIS...THIS TRAVESTY!!

.....?





I'M TRYING MY BEST TO THINK POSITIVE...I'M PRAYING.. I'M GOING TO CHURCH...BUT NO SINGLE POSITIVE IS WORKING OUT FOR ME.



INSIDE I FEEL LIKE TRASH...I FEEL LIKE A PATHETIC FAILURE.



DORA!.. THEY ROBBED IT! THOSE DEMONS TOOK IT ALL! THIS FOREST WAS HEALTHY! ALIVE!!!

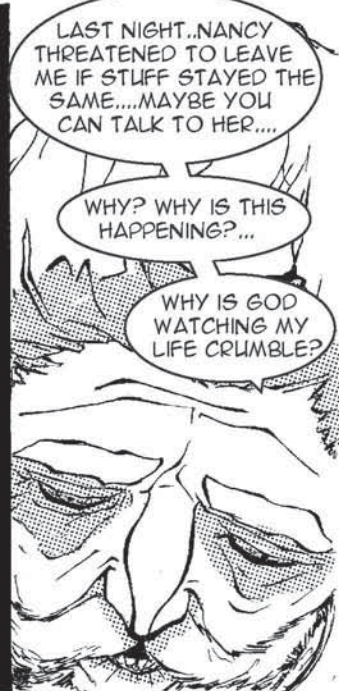
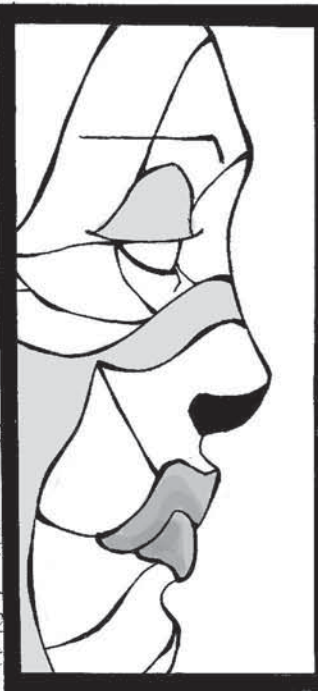


HOPE WAS HERE!



WE FOUGHT HARD TO MAKE THIS LAND BETTER! AND THOSE...DORA!! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? DO YOU SEE THIS?!

I SEE THE LAND AZOM.



LAST NIGHT..NANCY THREATENED TO LEAVE ME IF STUFF STAYED THE SAME...MAYBE YOU CAN TALK TO HER....

WHY? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?...

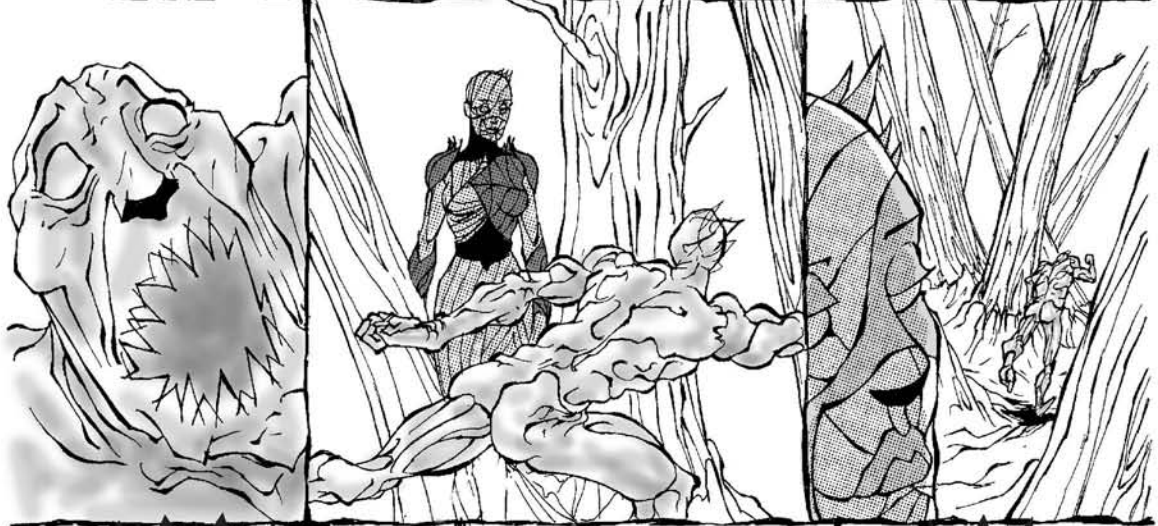
WHY IS GOD WATCHING MY LIFE CRUMBLE?





YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME DEMON!!

DEMON!!!



WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?! HUH, DORA!! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM! WHY DID YOU LET HIM GO?!!

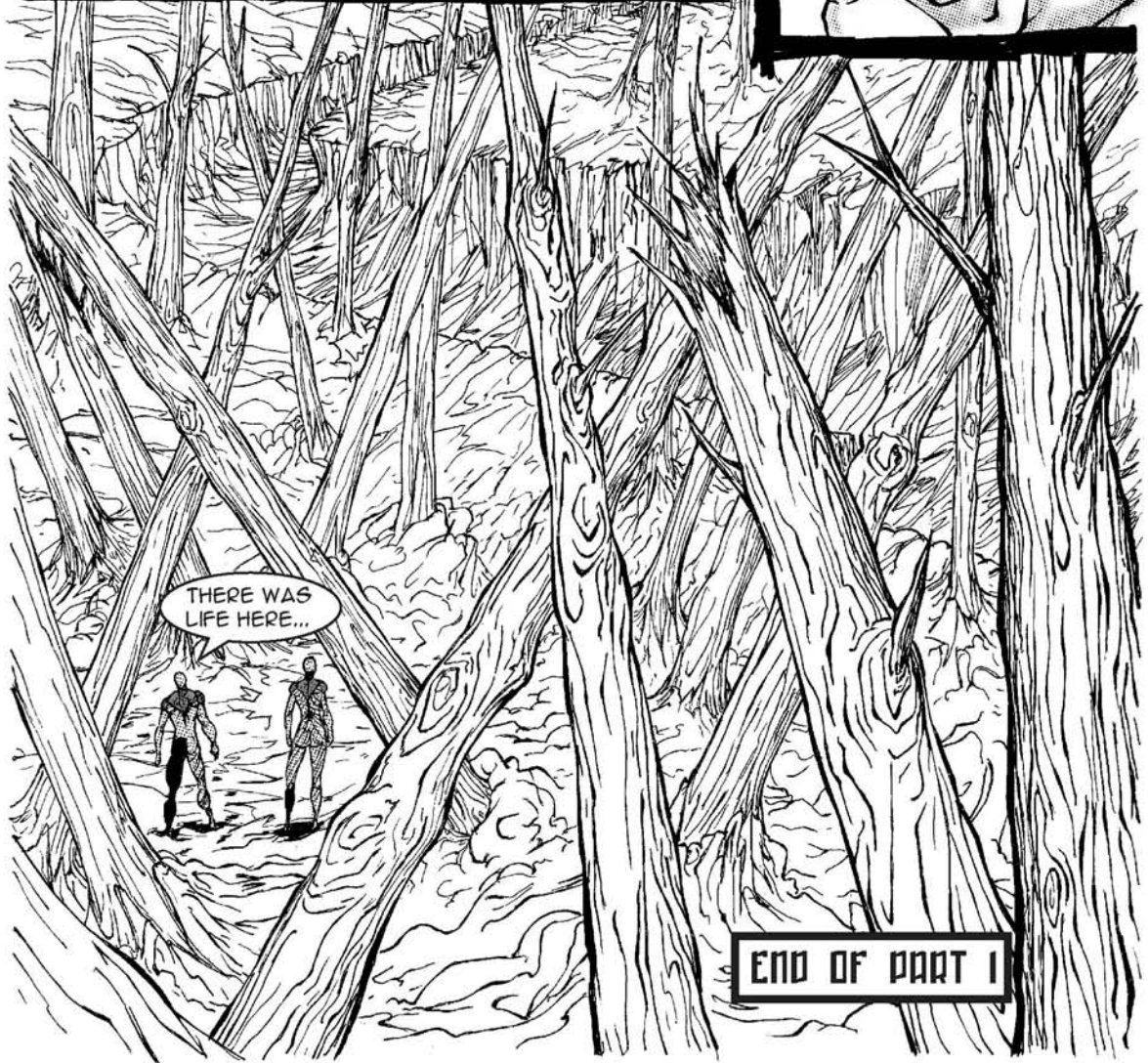
ARE YOU BLIND?! DON'T YOU SEE THE DESTRUCTION THEY CAUSED?! ALL OUR WORK IS GONE!!! THEY DESTROYED EVERYTHING!!!

DO YOU CARE! DO YOU!! BECAUSE YOU SURELY DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DO! I CARE ABOUT THIS SOUL! I CARE THAT THE LIFE HERE WAS KILLED! DO YOU!



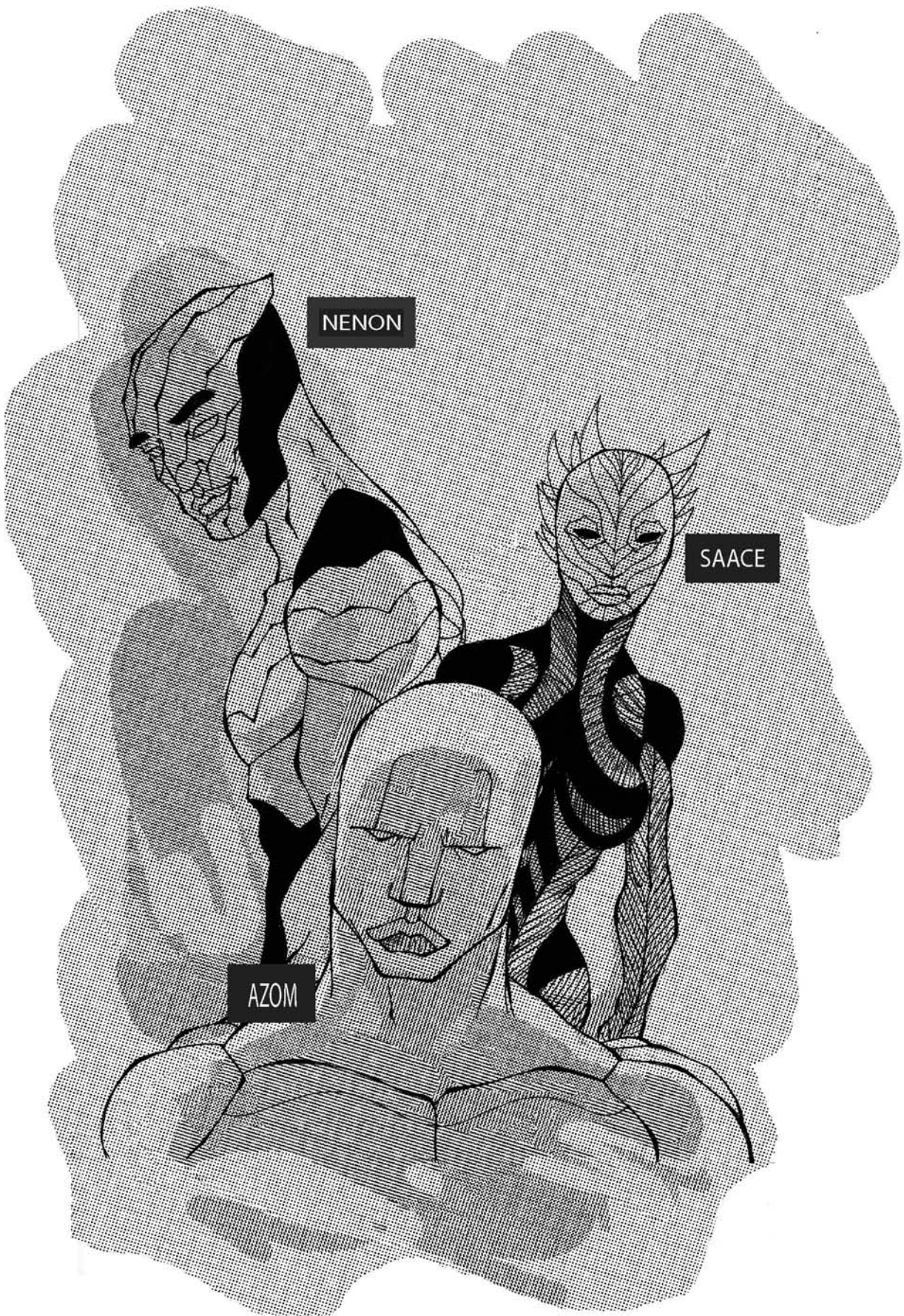


AZOM, I LET THE DEMON FLEE FOR A GOOD REASON- WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE LAND, MORE SO THAN THE DEMONS, THE PROBLEM IS WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE OTHER DEMONS ARE LOCATED. I WANTED TO SEE WHAT DIRECTION THE DEMON WOULD GO. HE WILL DEFINITELY HEAD BACK TO HIS BRETHREN DEMONS. MOST LIKELY TO THE DEMON IN CHARGE...THE DEMON RAN EAST. THEREFORE, WE CAN TRAVEL THROUGH THE HIGHER PLAINS AND HILLS EASTWARD AND SURVEY THE LAND IN A MORE EFFICIENT MANNER. WHICH MEANS WE WILL FIND THE REMAINING DEMONS SOONER THAN LATER.



THERE WAS LIFE HERE...

END OF PART I



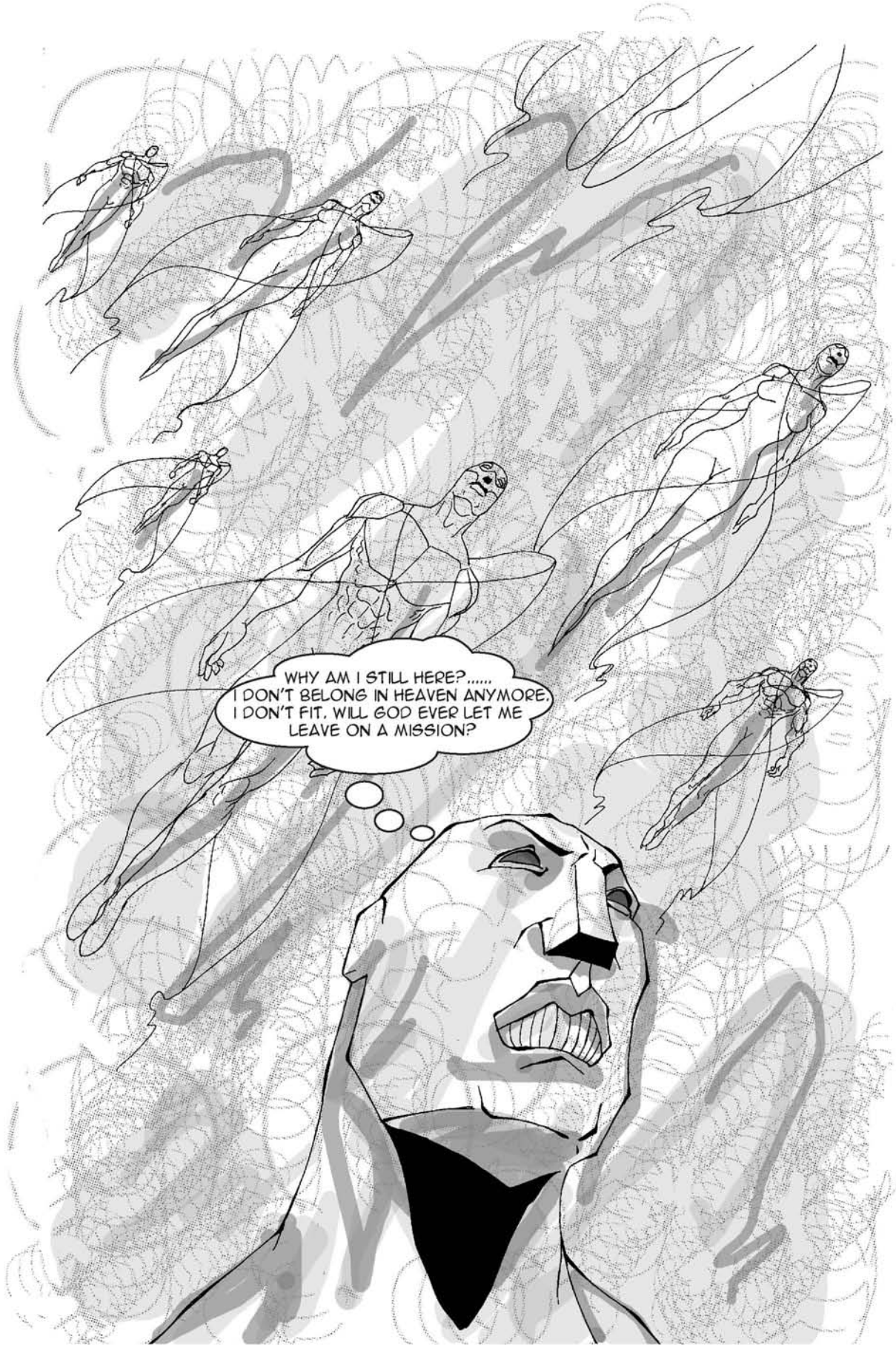
NENON

SAACE

AZOM

**BEFORE THE MASSACRE:
AZOM'S CHOICE**





WHY AM I STILL HERE?
I DON'T BELONG IN HEAVEN ANYMORE.
I DON'T FIT. WILL GOD EVER LET ME
LEAVE ON A MISSION?



AZOM.

AZOM.

MINLOKO!...



..IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

YES IT HAS. I'M RESTING AFTER AN ARDUOUS ASSIGNMENT.




YEA, I NEVER GET A CHANCE TO SEE YOU HERE.--HOW'S THE VISION BATTLES?



....



THEY ARE "GOING" --FINE...!..



-AZOM, I HAVE COMPLETED SO MANY MISSIONS-THEY SEEM TO ALL MESH TOGETHER NOW. I DON'T MEAN TO SAY THEY ARE ALL SIMILAR. IN FACT, THEY VARY MORE THAN YOU KNOW-BUT SOULS ARE SOULS. OUR LORD MADE THEM INDIVIDUALISTIC, BUT THEY ARE NOT AS UNIQUE IN MANY INTERNAL AREAS. THEY ARE MORE BASIC THAN THEY WOULD REALIZE OR AGREE WITH. -HOWEVER, NOW.....

.....I AM READY FOR MY NEXT MISSION. I FEEL I HAVE RESTED ENOUGH.



I'M STILL WAITING FOR MY FIRST MISSION. I'M TIRED OF BEING HERE! SOME ANGELS THINK I'M UNSOUND TO WANT TO LEAVE HEAVEN AND IT'S BEAUTY-- BUT I THINK THEY'RE JUST AFRAID.



AFRAID?



-AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN.
THE UNUSUAL, THE UNSAFE.
.....THEY'RE COWARDS.

YOU SHOULDN'T
SAY THAT AZOM.

THEY KNOW HOW I THINK. THERE'S
MORE THAN THIS! YOU CAN'T JUST
STAY IN THE WONDERFUL AND BLISS
EVERY MOMENT. HOW DO YOU GROW
AND IMPROVE HIDING IN HEAVEN!



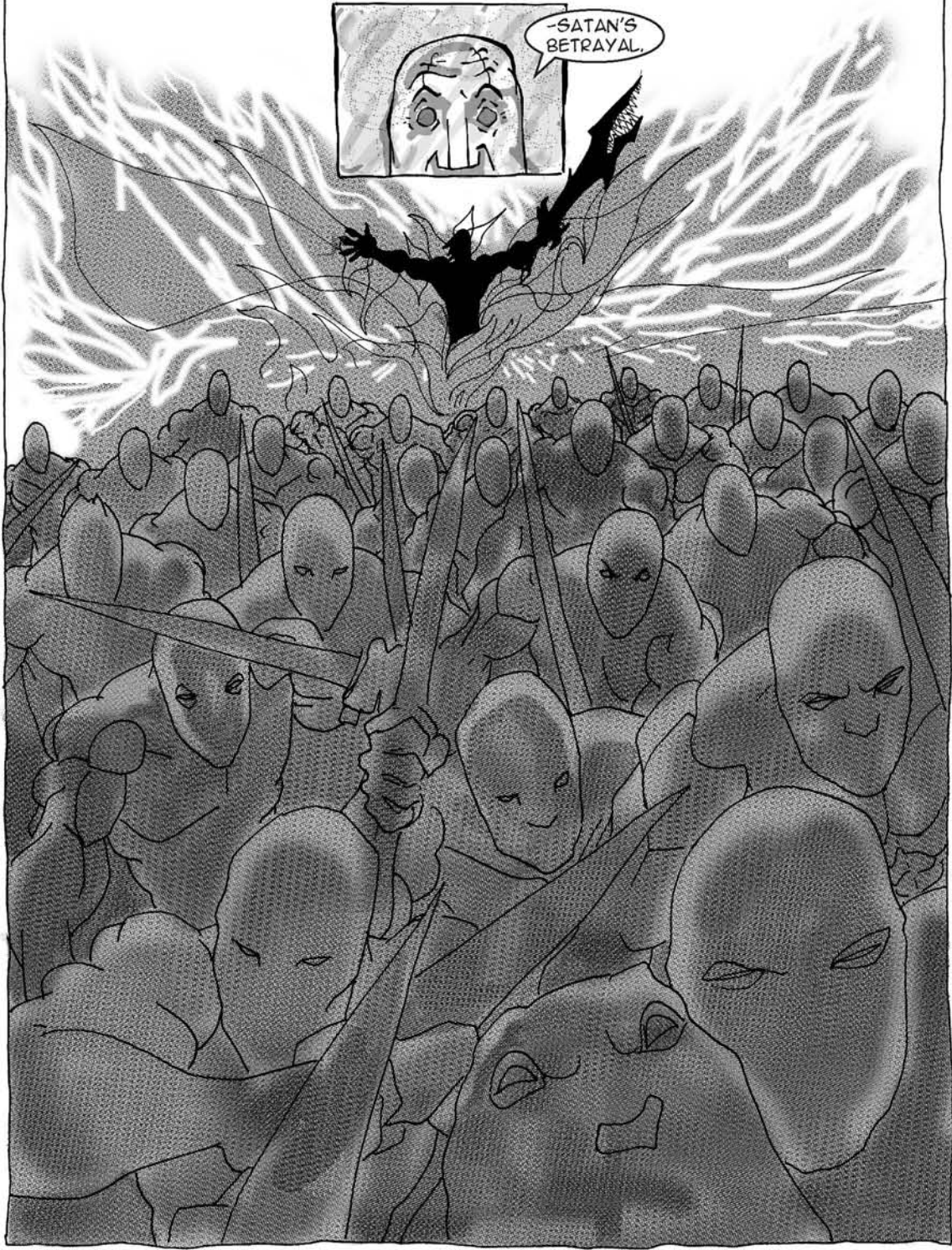
IS IT EASY
TO LEAVE
"PARADISE"?

NO! MINLOKO! NO!
IT'S HARD! EXTREMELY
HARD! I'VE NEVER BEEN USE
TO ANYTHING EXCEPT HEAVEN.
I'M NOT SAYING I DON'T HAVE
FEARS, BUT I JUST WANT MORE.
WE ALL SHOULD. I MEAN LOOK
AT YOU-WHEN YOU COME HERE
YOU DON'T STAY LONG.
YOU'RE READY TO GO.

YES...BUT MY LACK OF WANTING TO STAY HERE IS DUE TO.....MEMORIES.

MEMORIES? BAD MEMORIES? HERE IN HEAVEN? THE ONLY BAD MEMORIES ANY ANGEL CAN HAVE ABOUT HEAVEN IS-

-SATAN'S BETRAYAL.





MINLOKO...THAT WAS IN THE PAST. FAR, FAR BACK IN HEAVEN'S PAST...



YOU
IT WAS GOOD TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN AZOM, BUT I SEE SAH, -PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE ON MY NEXT MISSION.



YOU NEED TO LET THE PAST GO....

IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU.



IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU.....COWARD.



SALU, WHERE IS JYSTUS?

RESTING SOMEPLACE.

I'M READY TO LEAVE, ARE YOU?



I'VE BEEN READY! I CRAVE FOR BATTLE!

...BUT YOU KNOW JYSTUS. -HE FINDS A STRANGE VALUE IN WAITING.

VALUE? I'M SURE MANY WOULD NEVER PAY MUCH FOR IT'S PRICE.



-WOULDN'T PAY MUCH AT ALL...

END.

THE MASSACRE

PART II





EVERYWHERE WE GO
THERE IS--DEATH!

THOSE HILLS WERE
GLOWING WITH LIFE! THAT
PASTURE OF LAND SPARKLED
WITH INTENSE WONDERMENT!



AND OVER THERE
WERE TOWERING,
IMPRESSIVE TREES!

AZOM...



I REMEMBER
THERE--

..WE NEED TO
CONTINUE.

.....

...I'M
COMING.



COUNSELOR..I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WOULD LEAVE ME AGAIN! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?



IS GOD PUNISHING ME?.....



I'VE ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT YOUR WIFE ROBERT. SHE HASN'T RETURNED MY MESSAGES YET.

-GOD ISN'T PUNISHING YOU. HE LOVES YOU. HE IS WITH YOU IN YOUR TROUBLES.



IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE HE IS WITH ME....

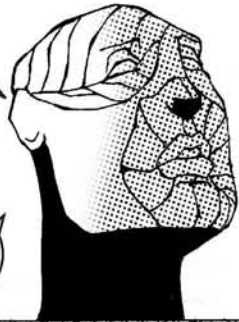


DORA, HOW WAS YOUR TOUR IN THE OUTER BATTLES?

THE SAME. WE ARE LOSING NUMEROUS ENCOUNTERS.

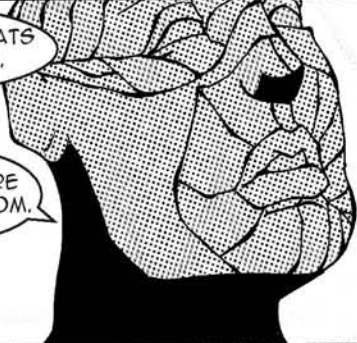
THAT'S DISCOURAGING.

NO. WE UNDERSTAND THE FINAL OUTCOME.



YES, WE WIN. GOD DEFEATS SATAN. PEACE FOREVER.

THE FUTURE IS SET AZOM.



YEA, YEA...BUT I DON'T KNOW SOMETIMES. THE STORIES I HEAR-SO MANY HAVE FALLEN..MANKIND IS AS MINDLESS AS EVER. SOME MOMENTS THE WAR SEEMS SENSELESS.

HAVE FAITH AZOM.



EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. YOU JUST DON'T CARE.

I CARE.



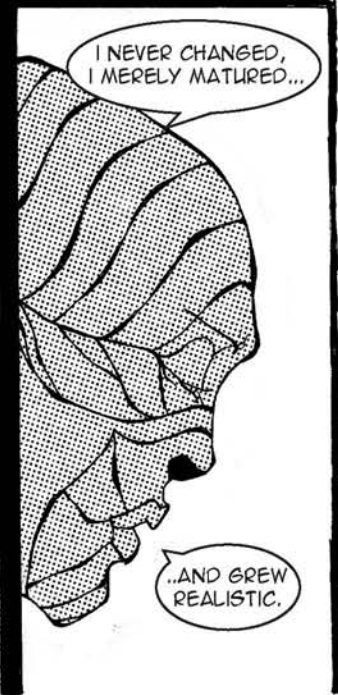
YOU'RE COLD DORA. YOU WERE COLD WHEN WE FIRST WORKED HERE AND YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT NOW.

NO ANGEL IS CREATED UNCARING... WHEN DID YOU CHANGE APATHETIC?



I NEVER CHANGED, I MERELY MATURED...

..AND GREW REALISTIC.



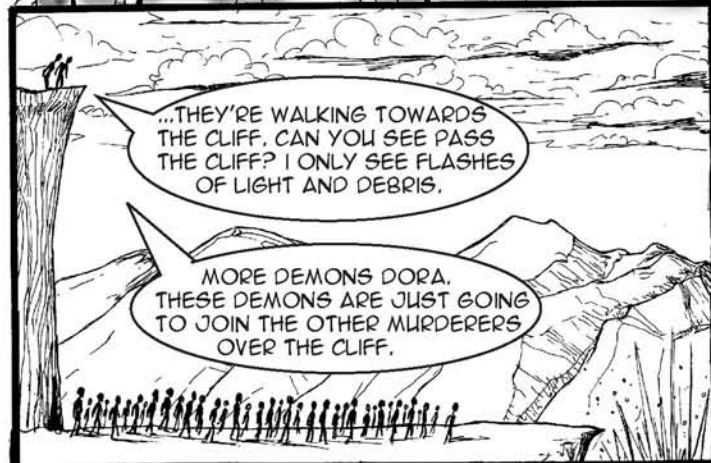


MY LIFE IS HOPELESS..MY WIFE LEFT ME, NO ONE FROM CHURCH WILL TALK TO ME, IF I FIND A GOOD JOB, THEY WON'T HIRE ME BECAUSE I WAS FIRED--GOD ISN'T ANSWERING MY PRAYERS...EACH MOVE I TAKE THERE'S A ROADBLOCK.... IT'S ALL USELESS....



DEMONS!!

QUITE A VAST NUMBER OF DEMONS AZOM. THIS MAY BE THE ENTIRE DEMON TOTAL..



...THEY'RE WALKING TOWARDS THE CLIFF. CAN YOU SEE PASS THE CLIFF? I ONLY SEE FLASHES OF LIGHT AND DEBRIS.

MORE DEMONS DORA. THESE DEMONS ARE JUST GOING TO JOIN THE OTHER MURDERERS OVER THE CLIFF.



THIS HAS TO STOP!

AZOM, WE NEED TO PLAN A--

NO DORA.

IT ENDS NOW!









AZOM.



AZOM.



COME AND SEE
WHAT IS BELOW
THE CLIFF.



ROBERT, I FINALLY
CONTACTED YOUR WIFE.
WE HAD A LENGTHY
CONVERSATION.



WHILE SPEAKING TO YOUR WIFE, I LEARNED SOMETHING VERY DISTRESSING, I BELIEVE YOU KNOW WHY YOUR LIFE HAS TURNED SOUR THESE PAST MONTHS. YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS...





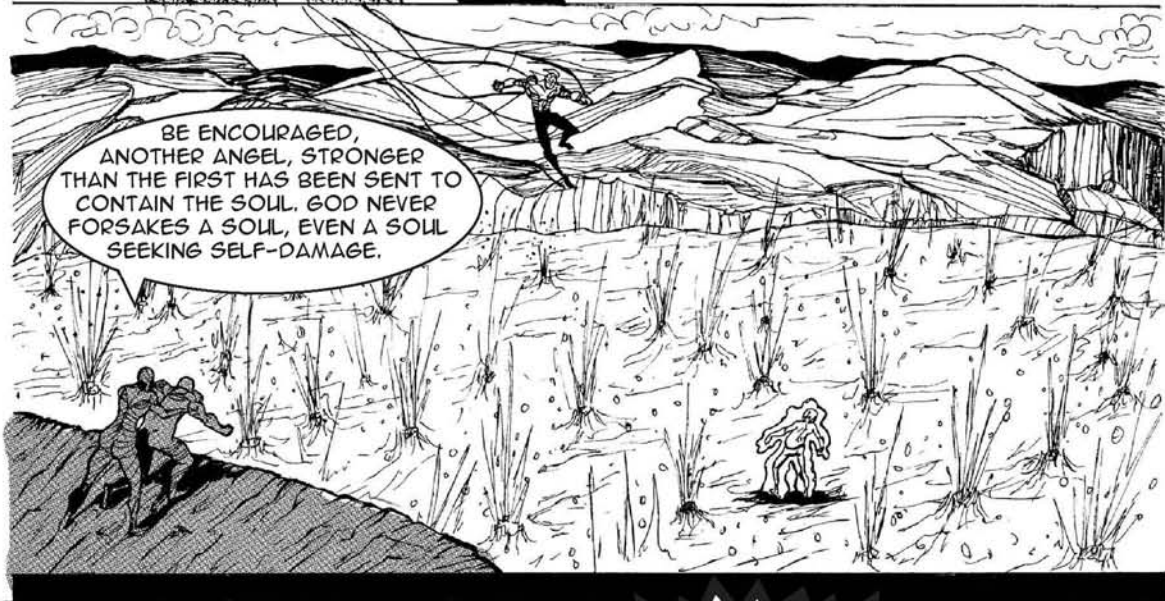
ROBERT, YOU'VE BEEN TELLING HALF TRUTHS FOR MONTHS. YOUR WIFE NANCY TOLD ME YOUR WORK PERFORMANCE LED TO YOU LOSING YOUR JOB. SHE SAID YOU STARTED TO SHUT HER OUT AND STOP SPEAKING TO HER ABOUT YOUR LIFE AND FEELINGS. PLUS, YOU QUIT GOING TO MARRIAGE COUNSELING AND CHURCH. I TALKED TO YOUR PASTOR AND FORMER BOSS AND THEY CONFIRMED EVERYTHING. ---YOU'VE RECEIVED SOME EMOTIONAL HEALING ROBERT, BUT YOU NEED TO GO DEEPER. AND THE BEST WAY TO HELP THE PROCESS IS HONESTY. YOU HAVE TO BE HONEST WITH ME, YOUR WIFE, YOUR FRIENDS, GOD, AND MOST IMPORTANT, YOURSELF.


---I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS INSIDE YOU HOLDING YOU CAPTIVE FROM FACING REALITY. MY GUESS IT HAS TO DO WITH PAST HURTS BEFORE YOU WERE MARRIED. REGARDLESS, YOU MUST DEAL WITH THE TRUE PROBLEMS INSIDE YOU. IF NOT, YOU'LL STAY ON THE SAME DISASTROUS ROADS YOU CREATED FOR YOURSELF. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU ROBERT. IF YOU WANT TO BE HELPED.




I ASSUME AFTER THE SOUL BEGAN HIS SELF-DESTRUCTION, HIS ACTIONS INVITED THE DEMONS IN.

NO... I WON'T LET HIM!





YOU DON'T CARE!
YOU SPOUT OUT ALL OF
THIS GOD LOVE, HAVE FAITH,
AND YOU DON'T CARE AN INCH
ABOUT ANY OF IT! YOU WALK
AROUND WITHOUT ANY
COMPASSION!



YOU DON'T CARE!
YOU DON'T CARE AT ALL!
EVEN DEMONS AS VILE AS
THEY ARE DO THEIR EVIL WITH
PASSION! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT
A HOLLOW TOOL GOD
WASTE TO USE!!



HOW DARE YOU
CONDEMN ME...



-HOW
DARE YOU
CONDEMN
ME!!!!




YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED
WHAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED!! YOU HAVE
NEVER WITNESSED MY HORRORS! YOU
HAVE NEVER SEEN THE COUNTLESS UPON
COUNTLESS OF WOUNDED ANGELS AND
SHATTERED SOULS DYING! YOU HAVE
NEVER HEARD THEIR SCREAMS!!!
YOU DARE-- HOW DARE YOU
CONDEMN ME!!!!!!



I HAVE
TRIED AND
TRIED TO
CHA--



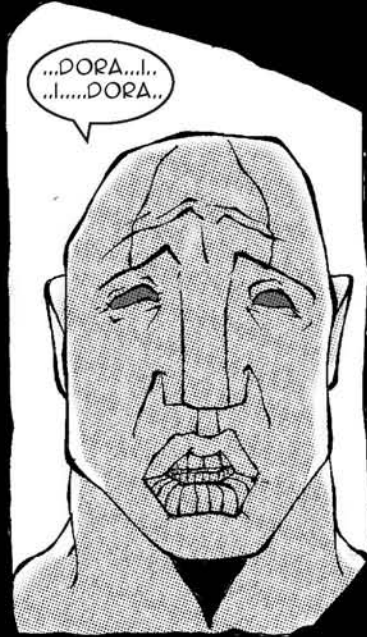
...I..DORA..



-THE HOPELESSNESS
AND GRIEF IS BEYOND OVER-
WHELMING...YOU CAN NEVER
UNDERSTAND!



LEAVE ME ALONE.



...DORA...!...DORA...



LEAVE ME ALONE!!!

....13 MONTHS LATER...



HELLO, MY NAME IS ROBERT.....
-TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE TONIGHT-BUT I REALIZED-I-I NEED TO DO GROUP THERAPY...THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN A LIVING HELL.....

MY WIFE AND I ARE SEPARATED... FIFTEEN MONTHS NEXT WEEK.

I MISS HER A LOT. WE'RE TALKING AND WORKING ON OUR ISSUES, BUT I WISH WE WERE TOGETHER.

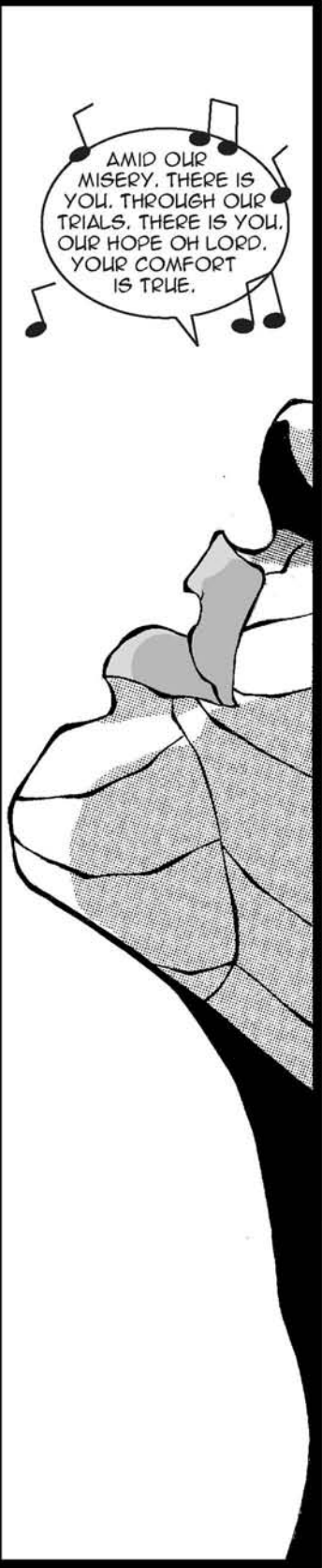
SOME NIGHTS I JUST HURT AND FEEL LONELY...IT'S HARD--



....THE GOOD THING IS I TALK TO GOD DURING THE LONELY TIMES. THE INNER EMOTIONS IN ME COME OUT-- THINGS I DON'T LIKE TO FEEL OR ACKNOWLEDGE-- BUT GOD IS GENTLE WITH ME AND PATIENT. I WANT TO GROW AND I AM GROWING....I..I..FEEL REAL..... THANKS FOR LISTENING.



HOLY ARE YOU,
LORD, YOUR
LOVE IS TRUE.



AMID OUR
MISERY, THERE IS
YOU. THROUGH OUR
TRIALS, THERE IS YOU.
OUR HOPE OH LORD,
YOUR COMFORT
IS TRUE.



WE WILL CONTINUE,
WE WILL CONTINUE,
I WILL CONTINUE,
FOR THERE IS YOU.

END.

NENON



NENON





THIS IS BECOMING TIREDSOME, NENON. HOW MANY CREATURES ARE IN THIS PLACE?

TOO MANY. DON'T FRET. WE'RE CLOSE TO THE SOUL.

WE CAN REST BELOW BEFORE ANOTHER ATTACK.

...UM...BEFORE WE ATTACK THEM OR BEFORE THEY ATTACK US?

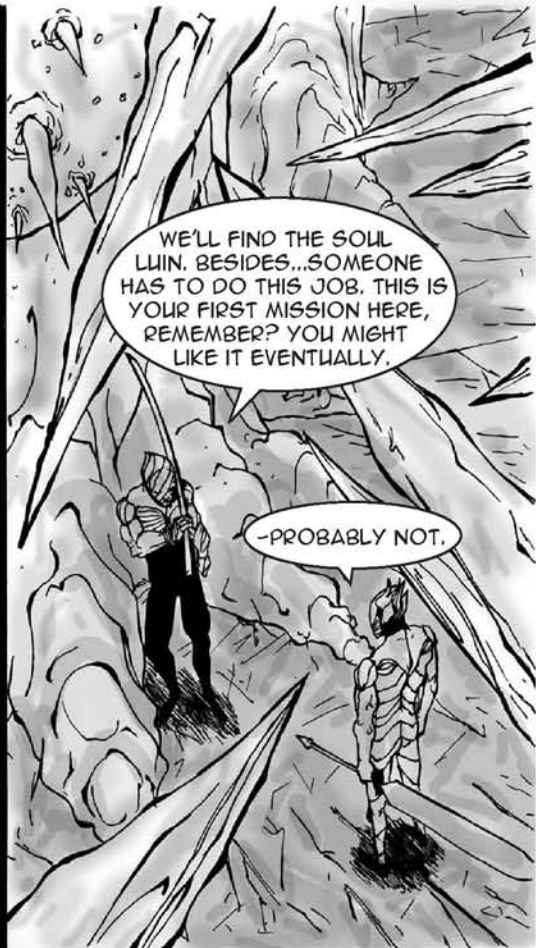
HEH. I HOPE BOTH.





NENON, I KEEP THINKING...DO YOU TRULY LIKE THIS ASSIGNMENT? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S MONOTONOUS?

WE FIGHT THEM. THEY FIGHT US. WE FIGHT THEM. THEY FIGHT US. WE FIGHT THEM. AND MAYBE WE FIND THE SOUL.



WE'LL FIND THE SOUL LUIN. BESIDES...SOMEONE HAS TO DO THIS JOB. THIS IS YOUR FIRST MISSION HERE, REMEMBER? YOU MIGHT LIKE IT EVENTUALLY.

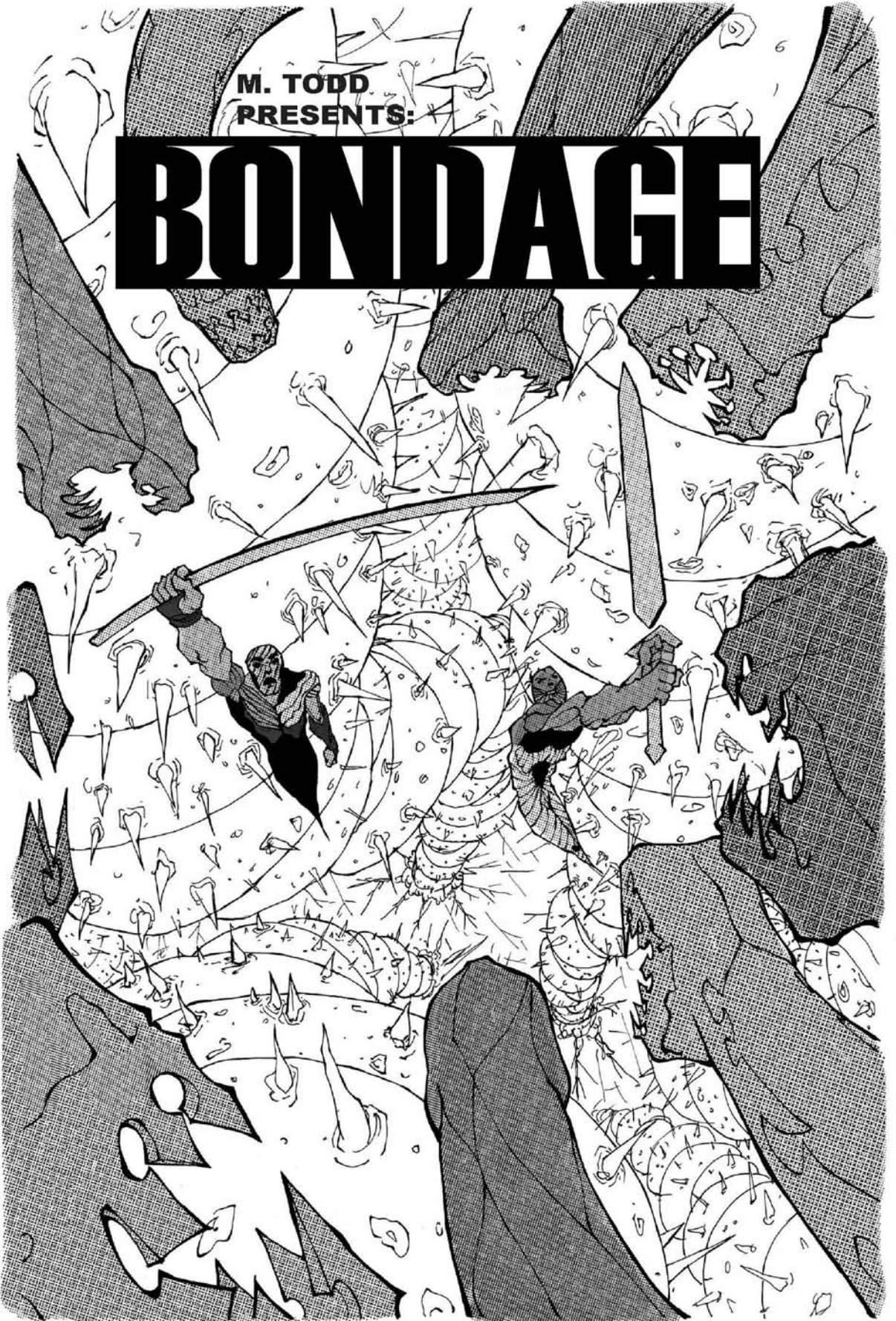
-PROBABLY NOT.

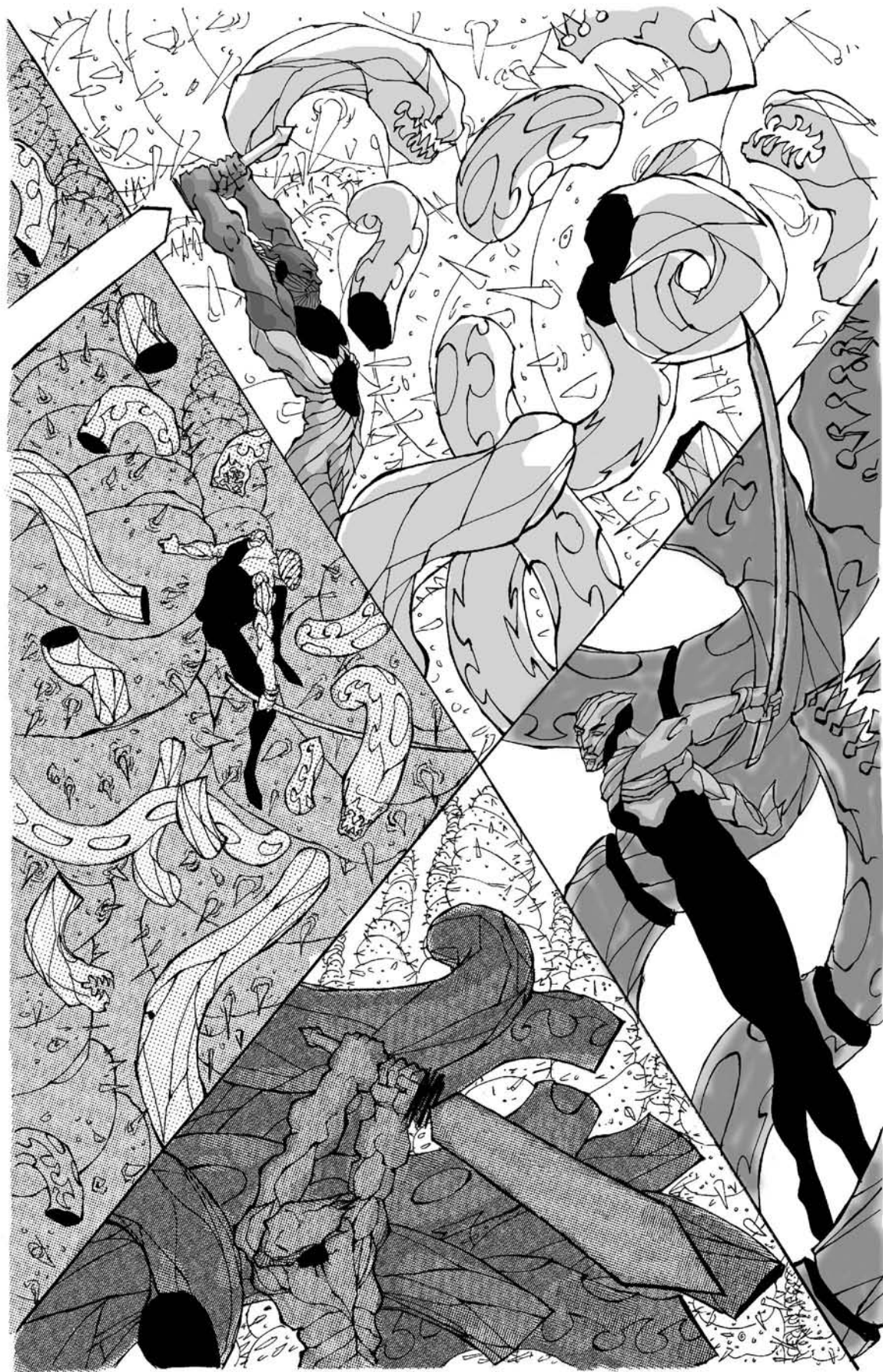


...WELL, ONCE YOU SEE A SOUL FREE, YOU...THEY FOUND US...

M. TODD
PRESENTS:

BONDAGE







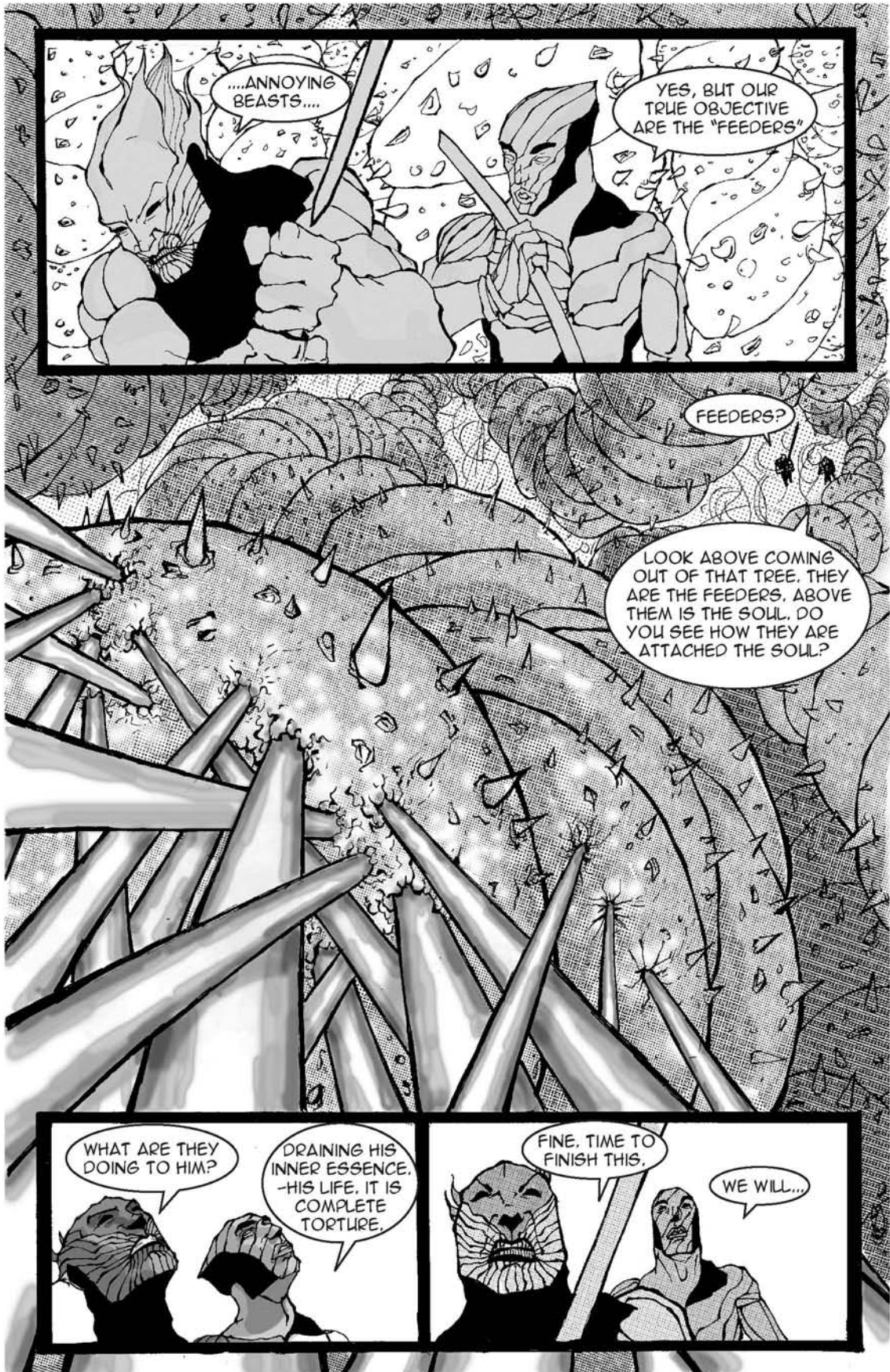
ARE WE GETTING ANYWHERE?!
DON'T YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED?!

RELAX LUIN, WE ARE
MOVING FORWARD. BIT BY
BIT. THIS IS ALWAYS A
SLOW PROCESS.



UH HUH, I
SEE WHY.





....ANNOYING BEASTS....

YES, BUT OUR TRUE OBJECTIVE ARE THE "FEEDERS"

FEEDERS?

LOOK ABOVE COMING OUT OF THAT TREE. THEY ARE THE FEEDERS. ABOVE THEM IS THE SOUL. DO YOU SEE HOW THEY ARE ATTACHED THE SOUL?

WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO HIM?

DRAINING HIS INNER ESSENCE. -HIS LIFE. IT IS COMPLETE TORTURE.

FINE. TIME TO FINISH THIS.

WE WILL...

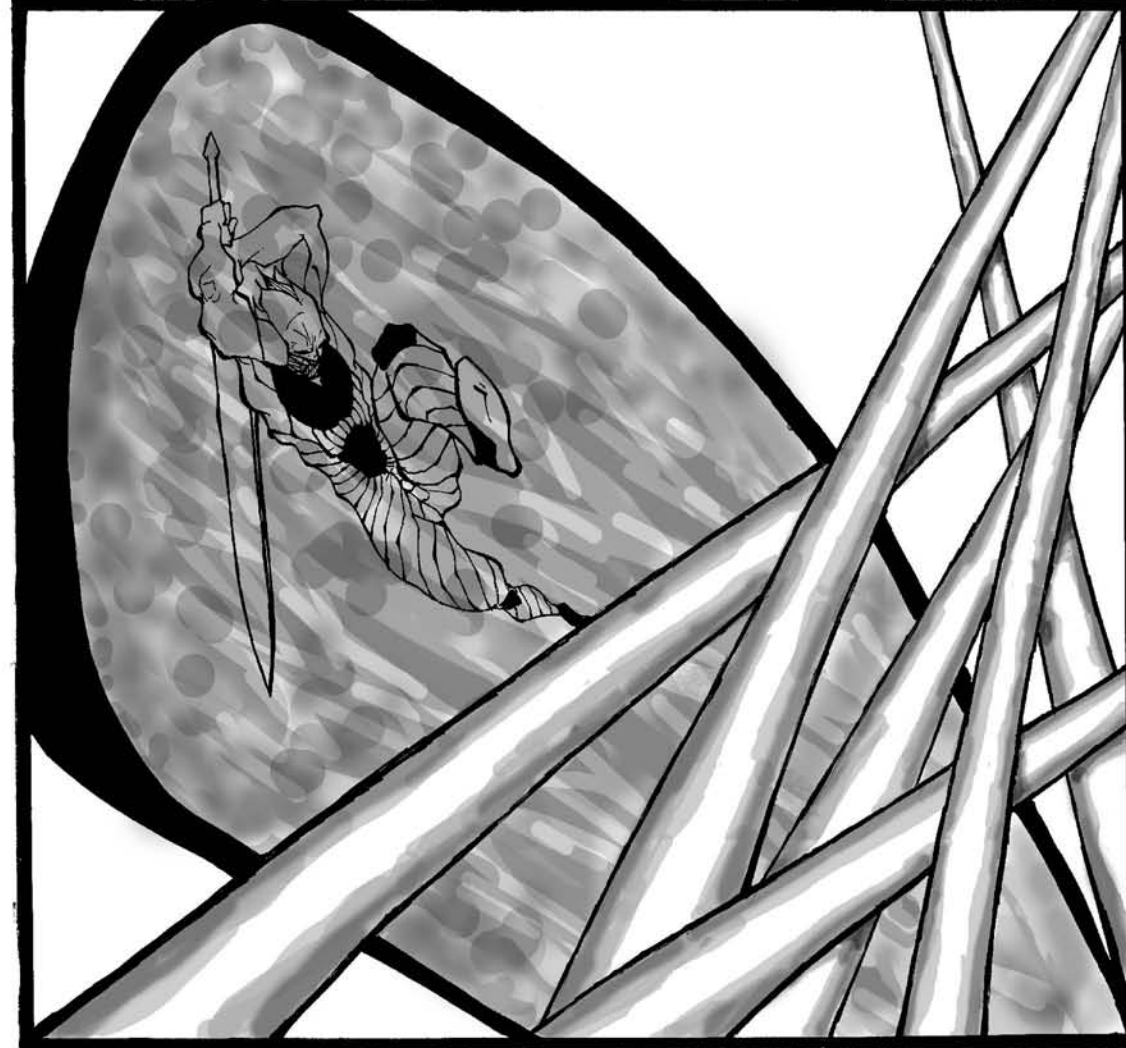
...BUT WE CAN'T RUSH IN.
THE FEEDERS HAVE GUARDS.

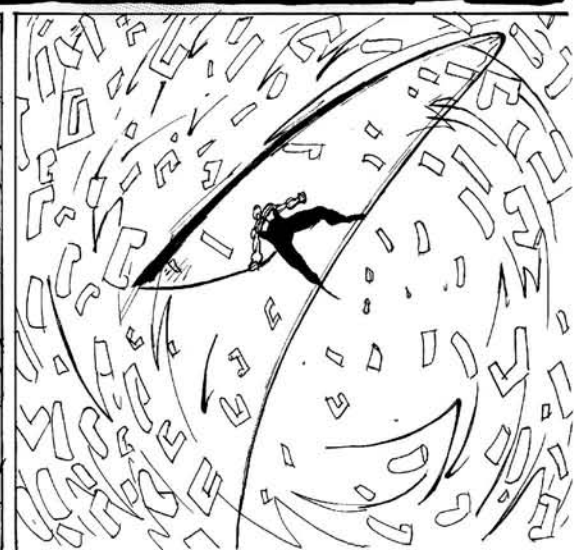
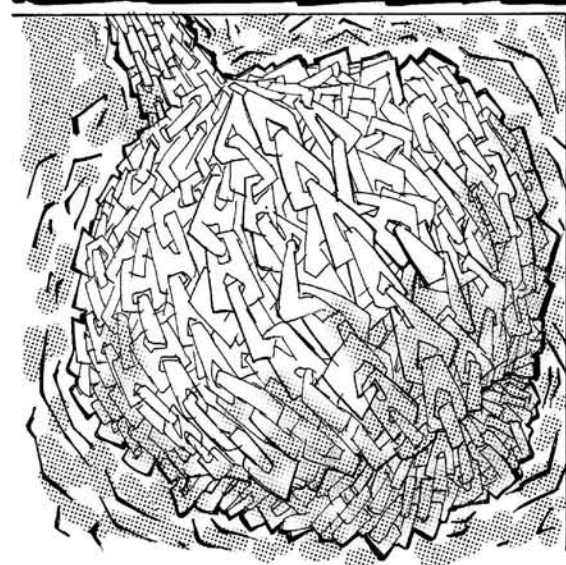
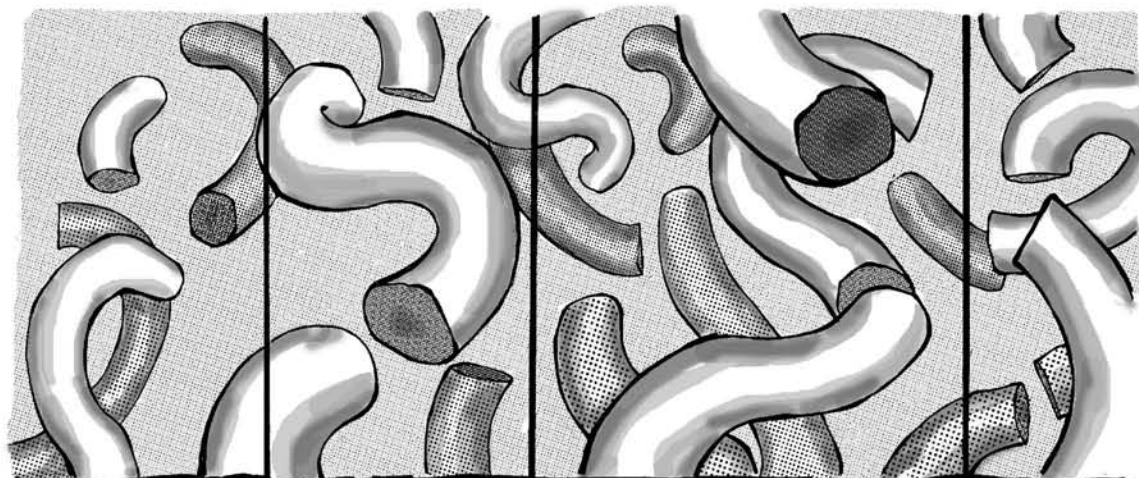
GUARDS?
WHERE?

THEY ARE THERE,
TRUST ME. WE'LL
GO IN FAST. I'LL
LEAD, LUIN.

HERE THEY
COME. I'LL
HANDLE THESE
GUARDS. YOU
GO AFTER THE
FEEDERS.









NENON! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?



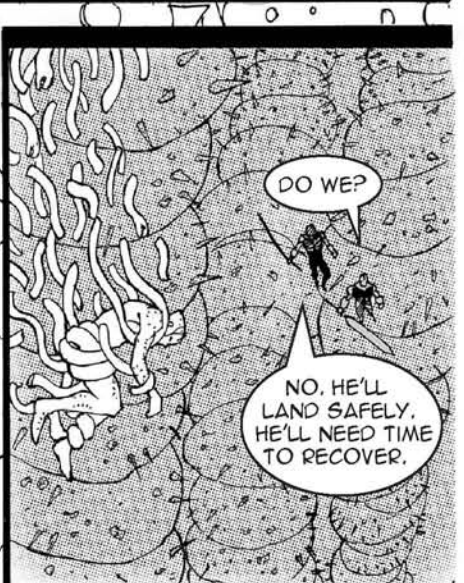
OF COURSE, THANKS TO YOU, WITH THE FEEDERS DEAD, THE GUARDS BECAME WEAK. WELL DONE LUIN, WELL DONE.



LOOK! THE SOUL! MARVELOUS! -WONDERFUL!

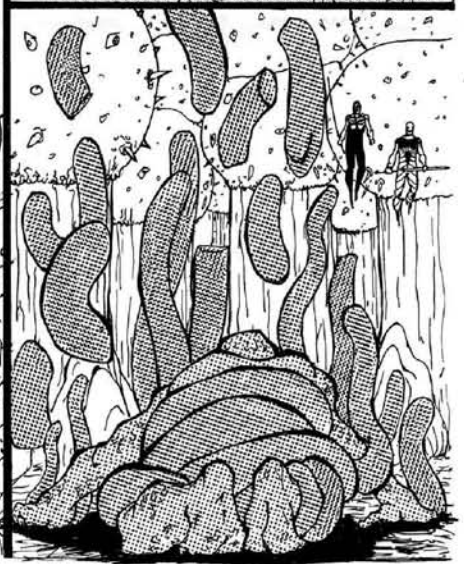


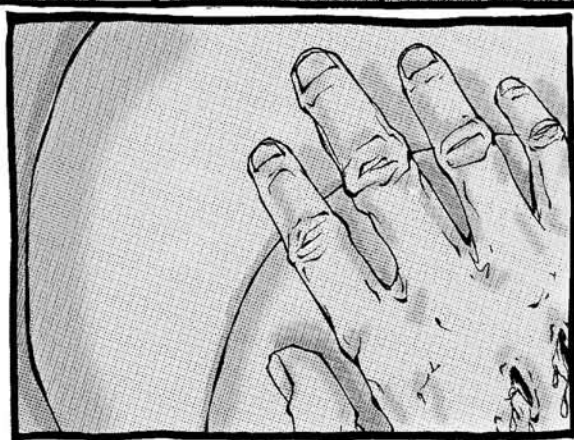
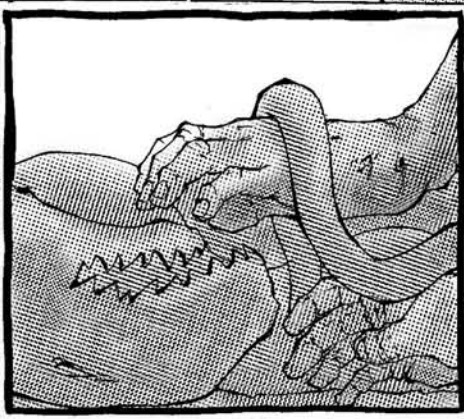
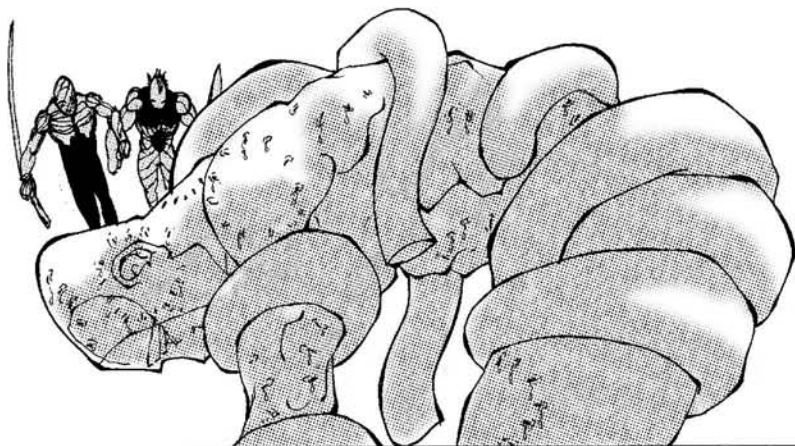
HE IS FREE FROM HIS TORMENTORS! GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW LONG THEY HELD HIM. KILLING HIM.

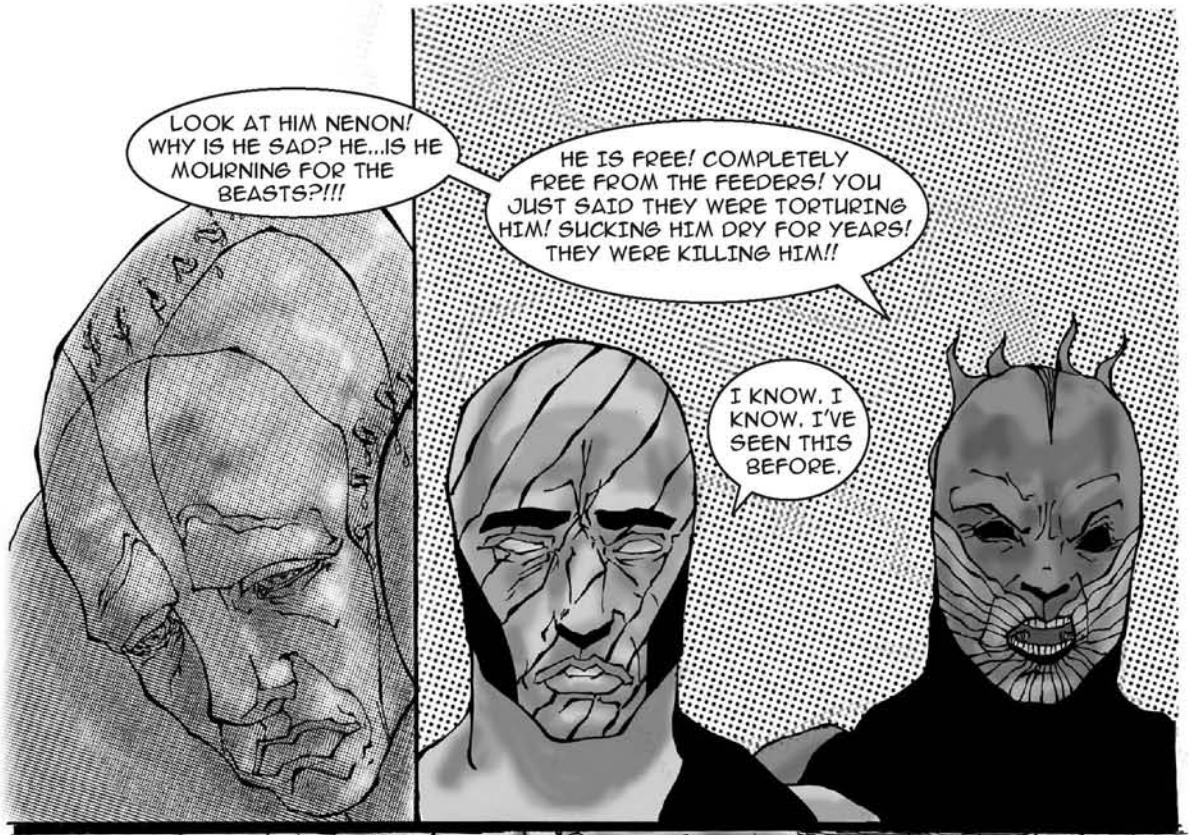


DO WEP?

NO. HE'LL LAND SAFELY. HE'LL NEED TIME TO RECOVER.







LOOK AT HIM NENON!
WHY IS HE SAD? HE...IS HE
MOURNING FOR THE
BEASTS?!!!

HE IS FREE! COMPLETELY
FREE FROM THE FEEDERS! YOU
JUST SAID THEY WERE TORTURING
HIM! SUCKING HIM DRY FOR YEARS!
THEY WERE KILLING HIM!!

I KNOW, I
KNOW, I'VE
SEEN THIS
BEFORE.



SOON HE'LL APPRECIATE
HIS NEW FREEDOM....BUT YOU
HAVE TO UNDERSTAND.....

.....NO MATTER HOW HORRIBLE
THE FEEDERS WERE TO THE SOUL....
THEY BECAME A PART OF HIM.....

....THEY BECAME
HIS FRIENDS.

END.

THE CLOUD IS OMINOUSLY
THICK- AS IT HUNGERS
TO PULL ME INSIDE A
VILE, MURDEROUS VOID.

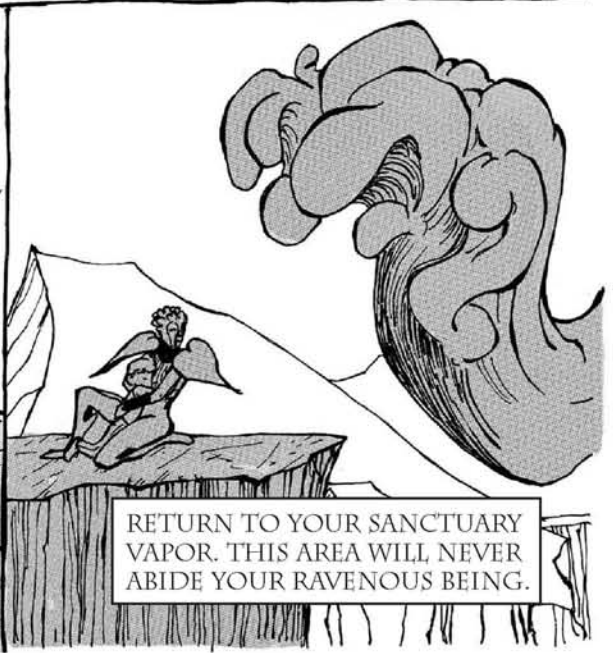
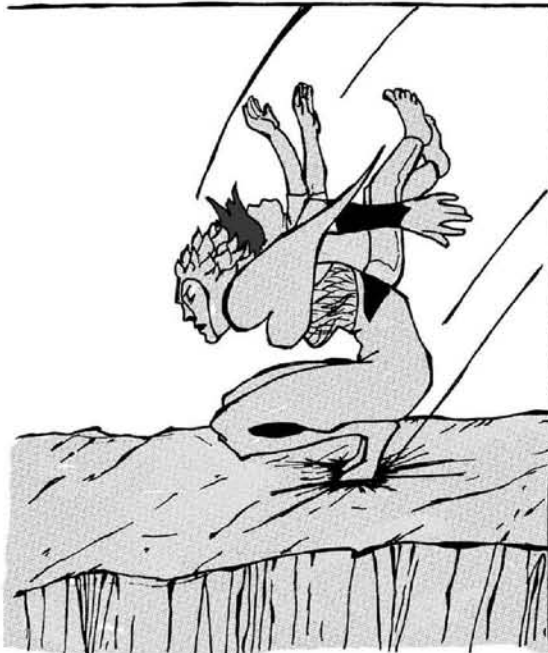
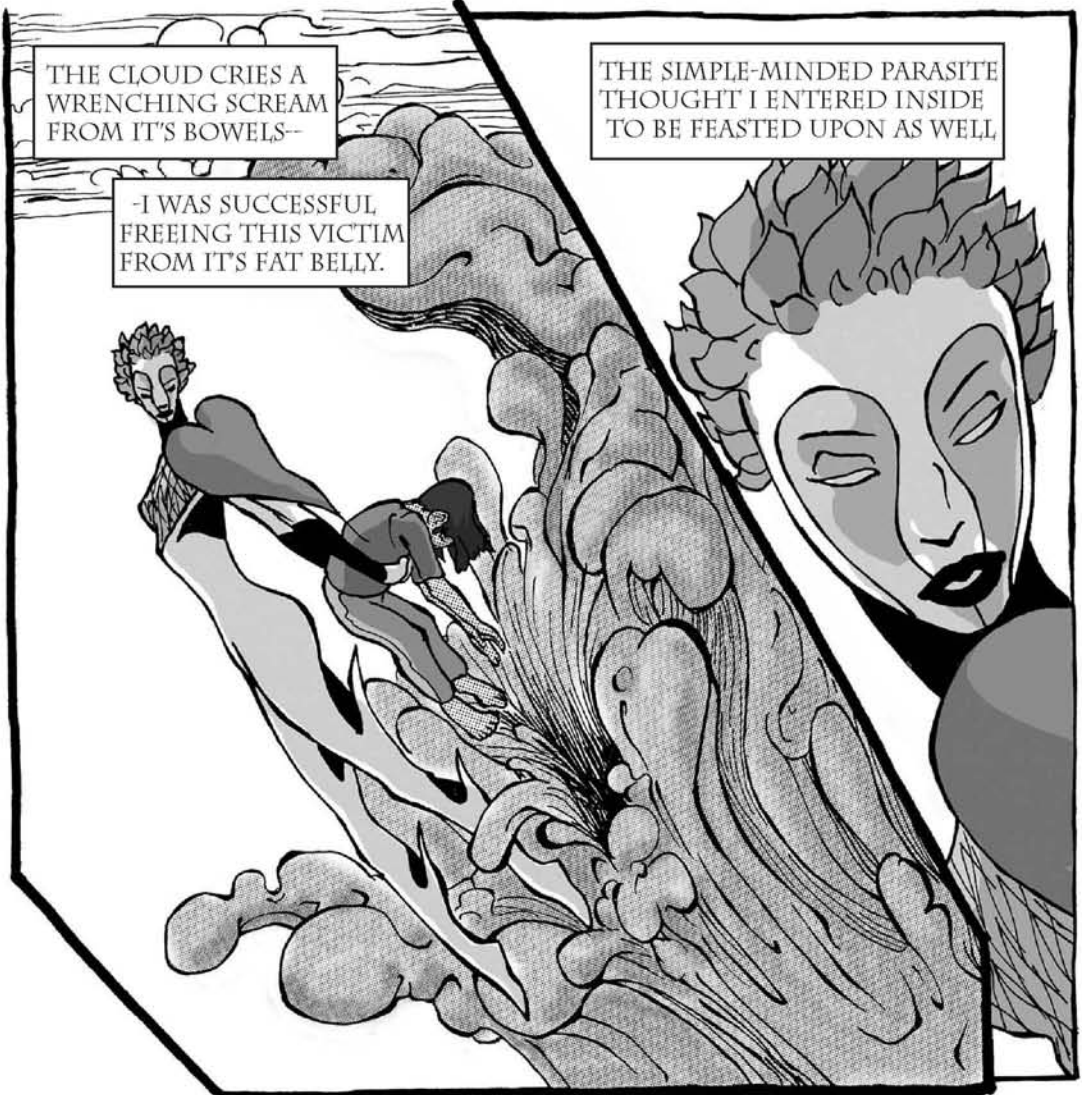
-ASCENDING
LIKE REVERSE
LIGHTNING,
I WILL BE AN
ELUSIVE PREY.



THE CLOUD CRIES A
WRENCHING SCREAM
FROM IT'S BOWELS--

THE SIMPLE-MINDED PARASITE
THOUGHT I ENTERED INSIDE
TO BE FEASTED UPON AS WELL,

-I WAS SUCCESSFUL,
FREEING THIS VICTIM
FROM IT'S FAT BELLY.



RETURN TO YOUR SANCTUARY
VAPOR. THIS AREA WILL NEVER
ABIDE YOUR RAVENOUS BEING.

THE SOUL IS YOUNG AND OBVIOUSLY
NESCIENT. SHE HAS CHRIST INSIDE-
SO SHE IS NO LONGER A DECAYING
VESSEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS
IS THE BEGINNING TO AN ARDUOUS,
BUT REWARDING LONG JOURNEY.




WITH THIS EXCITED
EXPRESSION, SHE
TELLS ME SHE IS
READY TO MOVE.



I CONCLUDE, THIS SOUL, LACKS
THE SLIGHTEST CONCEPT TO
THE "HIDDEN ADVENTURES"
THAT WILL SOON UNFOLD.



-THE PUREST TRUTH IS-
THE HARDEST PATHS MAY
BECOME NECESSARY FOR A
SOUL TO FLOURISH. MANY
STUBBORN SOULS WOULD
DISAGREE WITH ME-AND
DIE IN THEIR OWN PAIN.



-EACH RANCID REGION TO THIS SOUL, WAS ONE NIGHTMARE AFTER THE NEXT....

OFTEN I TELL HER TO CLOSE HER EYES. SHE CAN WAIT TO EXPERIENCE SOME TERRORS WHEN SHE IS MUCH OLDER.

I TELL HER SHE IS VERY BRAVE. I TELL HER GOD WILL CARRY HER. I WONDER IF SHE SENSE SOME DOUBT IN MY VOICE.



FURTHER ON, I BEG TO
GOD HOW MUCH MORE
CAN THIS WEAK SOUL BARE?

"YOU ARE
BRAVE. GOD
WILL CARRY
YOU."



"GOD WILL
CARRY YOU."



"GOD WILL
CARRY YOU."

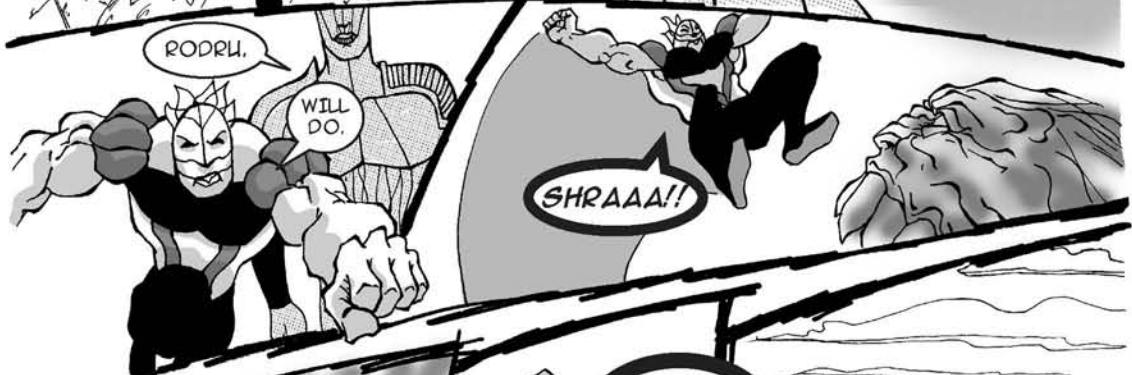
M. TODD
PRESENTS:

I, HURT.





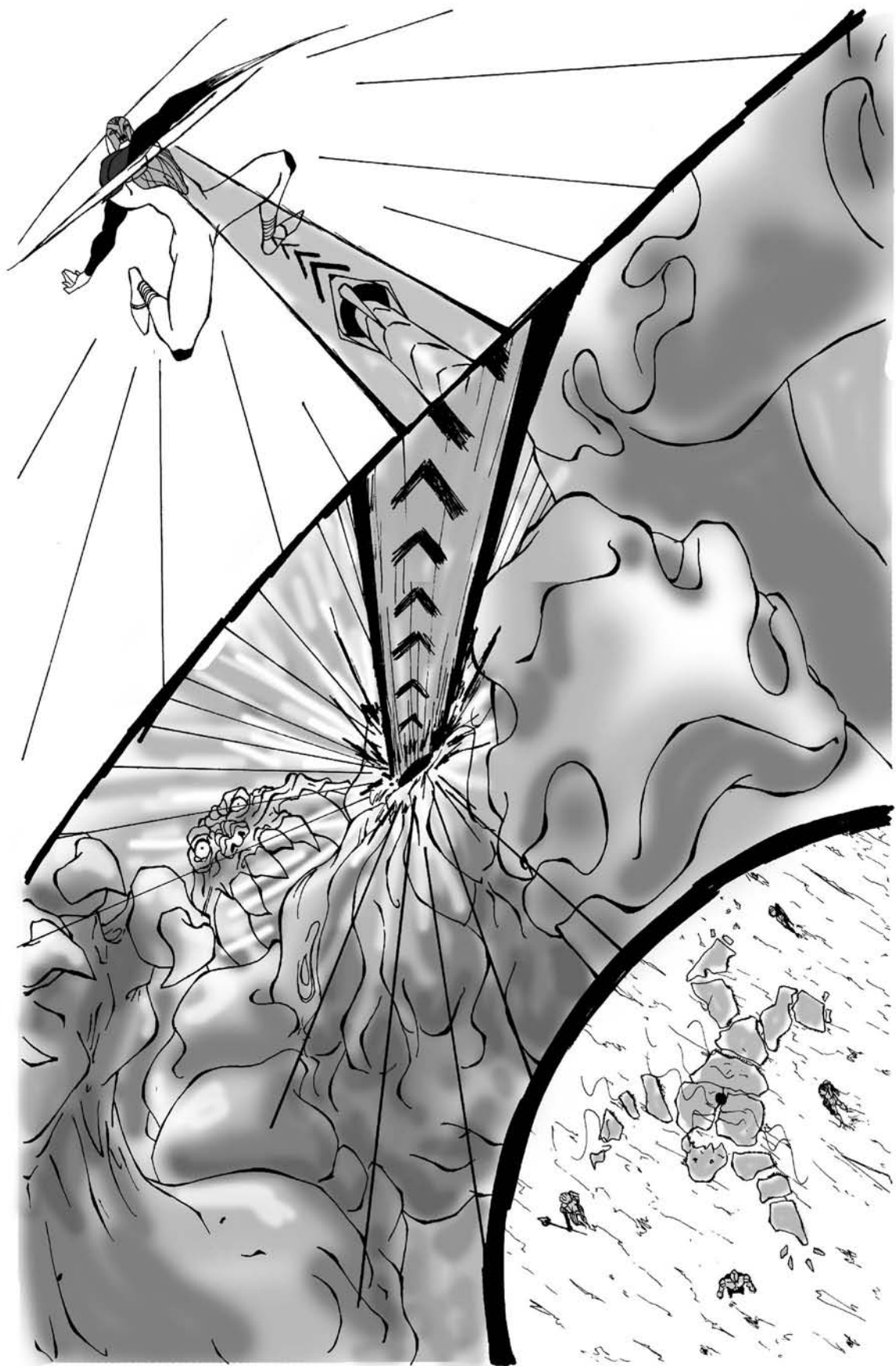






BRISTIL, UNBALANCE IT!

STAND CLEAR!





SHE IS LONG GONE NOW-

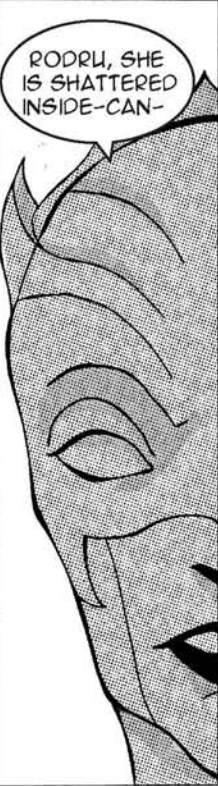
PERHAPS..

I WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE HER TO STOP RUNNING FROM US. WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

SHE'S AFRAID. YOU KNOW SOULS, THE-



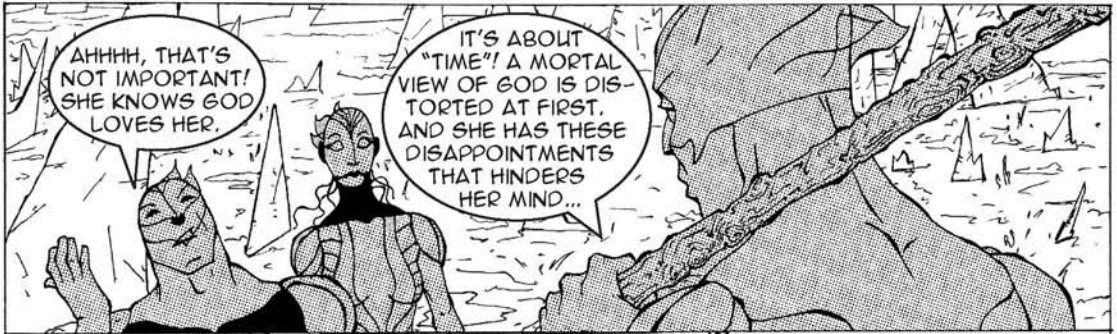
AFRAID OF WHAT, ENNA! GOD LOVES HER! HE WANTS TO SHOW HE CARES!



RODRU, SHE IS SHATTERED INSIDE-CAN-



CAN YOU SEE?





CLOSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE FOR ME.

you won't get it!

WILL IT HAPPEN? ACTUALLY HAPPEN?

Pathetic! you're Pathetic.

KILL YOU.

OR IS THIS-- ANOTHER JOKE?

ANOTHER TEST OR QUEST?

whine and whine like a LITTLE DUMB BRAT!



AAHHH!!!

I ALWAYS HAVE TO WAIT.

NEVER GET THERE.

GOD HATES YOU.

I'M HERE FOR YOU.

YOU CONFUSE ME GOD.

YOU SHAME ME.

GOD NEVER HELPS. LETS YOU DOWN.

WHY CRY? NO ONE CARES!

THINGS WILL ONLY WORSEN.

WORTHLESS.

WENCH!

END YOURSELF.

IDIOT!

TARRY FOR CRUMBS.



SHE'LL ONLY HARM HERSELF IF SHE KEEPS RUNNING.

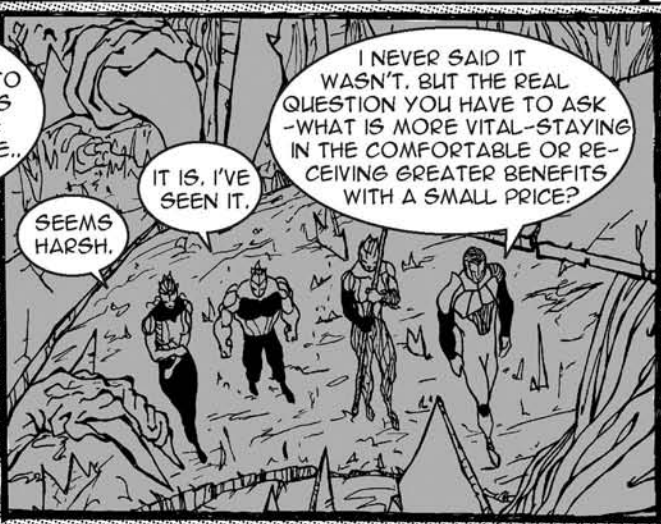
WE WILL FIND HER FIRST.

INJURY MAY BE A NECESSITY.



YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAID?

SOME SOULS, IF NOT ALL, MAY NEED TO BE MADE INTO PIECES FOR GOD TO REMAKE BETTER THAN BEFORE.



I NEVER SAID IT WASN'T. BUT THE REAL QUESTION YOU HAVE TO ASK -WHAT IS MORE VITAL-STAYING IN THE COMFORTABLE OR RECEIVING GREATER BENEFITS WITH A SMALL PRICE?

IT IS, I'VE SEEN IT.

SEEMS HARSH.



MALCEN...



GOD KNOWS BEST. HE DOES EVERYTHING WITH LOVE, WISDOM, AND GOOD FOR THE BLIND.



-THERE SHE IS. I THOUGHT SHE WOULDN'T GET FAR. ESPECIALLY-



-WITH THE PARASITE DEMONS ON HER.

SHE'S COVERED ALL OVER!

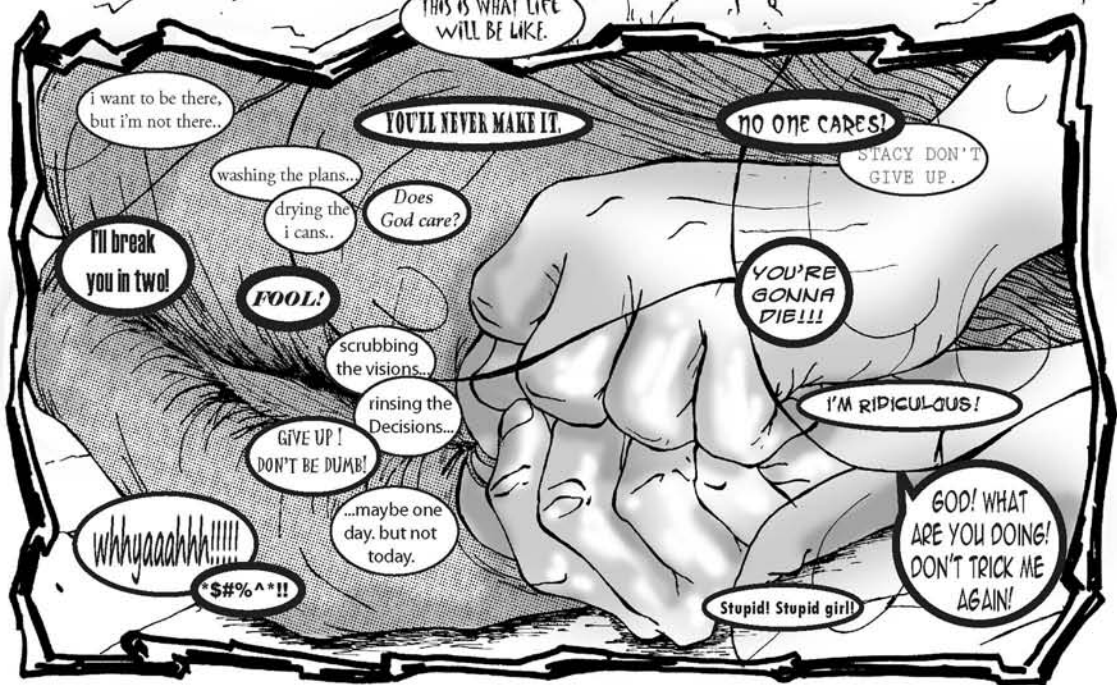


MALCEN?

WE'LL BE PATIENT. SHE HAS TO FOLLOW HERSELF OR JESUS.



THIS IS WHAT LIFE WILL BE LIKE.



i want to be there, but i'm not there.

YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT.

NO ONE CARES!

STACY DON'T GIVE UP.

washing the plans... drying the i cans..

Does God care?

I'll break you in two!

FOOL!

YOU'RE GONNA DIE!!!

scrubbing the visions...

rinsing the Decisions...

I'M RIDICULOUS!

GIVE UP! DON'T BE DUMB!

...maybe one day, but not today.

GOD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING! DON'T TRICK ME AGAIN!

whyyaaahhh!!!!!!

\$%^&!!

Stupid! Stupid girl!



!!TRICK!! HE WON'T-

WHAT IS WRONG WITH HER?

THE DEMONS ARE RACKING HER! SHE NEEDS RESCUE!

--NO, I SENSE WE MUST NOT INTERFERE!..OUR LORD IS ABOUT TO ACT.....



STACY REMEMBER ME.

FAILURE!!

REMEMBER MY JOY.

AAAaahhhhh!!!!

YOU CAN'T DO A THING RIGHT!

YOU'LL LOSE!!

KILL YOURSELF!



DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I HELD YOU AFTER THE DIVORCE.

SLUT!!

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FRIENDS I SENT TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE ALONE.

GOD WILL KILL YOU!!

YOU'RE NOTHING!

RAPE YOU!

SHUT-UP! SHUT-UP! GOD HATES YOU!

FOOL!!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I HEALED YOU?



RRWAAAAHH!!!!

KILL YOU!

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.

ADULTERESS!

NO ONE LOVES YOU!!

EVERYONE YOU LOVE WILL DIE!!

STUPID WOMAN!

YOU ONLY DESERVE HELL!



DO YOU REMEMBER THE STRENGTH I GAVE YOU TO LOVE YOUR CHILDREN.

WHORE!!

YOU'RE DIRTY!

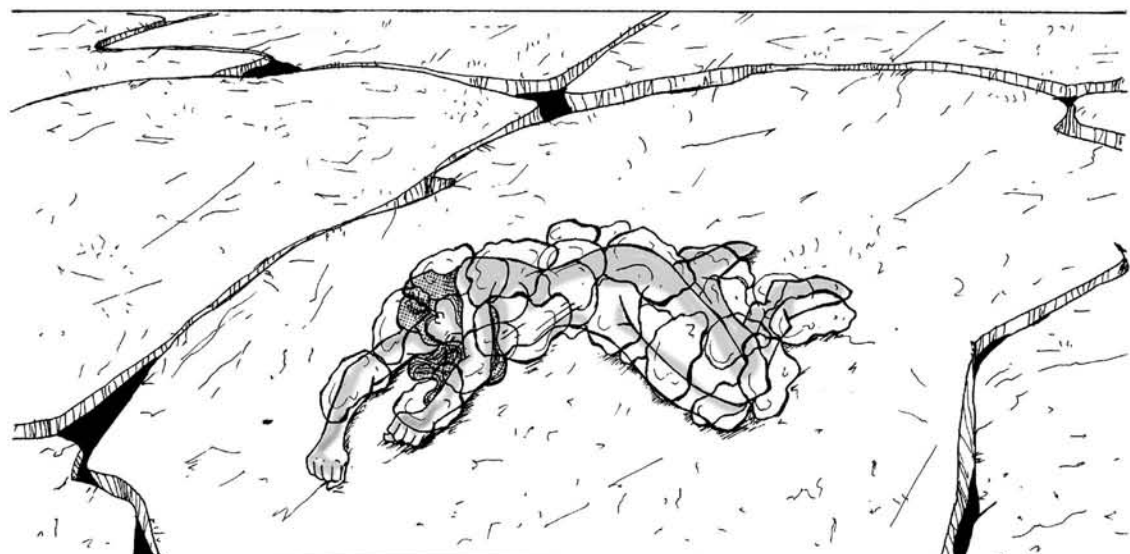
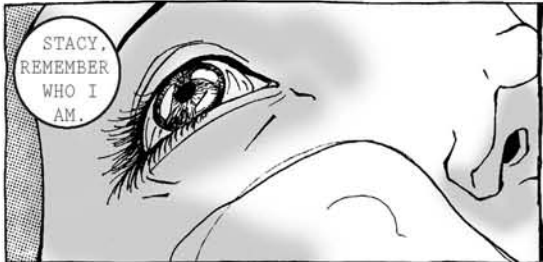
USELESS LIFE!

Dummy!

WE WILL VIOLATE YOU!

REMEMBER MY PEACE.

I LOVE YOU.





THE JYSTUS JOURNAL [TRANSLATED]



ENTRY 107

THE LAST MISSION WAS GOOD. WE RESCUED A CHILD SOUL FROM MINOR DEMONS. SO YOUNG WAS THIS SOUL CHILD BEING HOUNDED BY DARK SOLDIERS. BUT AGE DOESN'T MATTER TO SATAN'S HATE OF MANKIND.

MINLOKO WAS AGAIN ELSEWHERE WITH HIS THOUGHTS DURING THE MISSION. HE PERFORMED FINE. BUT THE LAST NUMBER OF MISSIONS I CAN TELL HIS MIND IS NOT THERE. I KNOW I CAN GO INTO DEEP THOUGHT, BUT NOT IN BATTLE. I ASKED MINLOKO IF THERE WAS A PROBLEM. HE JUST SAID HE IS FOCUSING ON FUTURE INTENTS. WHAT?--I CAN'T COMPLAIN, HE WORKS AS HARD AS ANY ANGEL, BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TO JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS HELPING SOULS.

SAU WAS EXCELLENT. A FEW OF THE DEMONS DIDN'T KNOW SAU'S SPEED--THEY WERE SENT TO THE PIT FASTER THAN THEY FELL FROM HEAVEN.

IF SAU WOULD RELAX MORE HE'D BE A GREATER FIGHTER. WHEN WE SPAR I USUALLY BEST HIM. SAU MAY THINK I'M A BETTER FIGHTER, BUT I'M NOT. I JUST RELAX MORE, MAKES ME REACT AND THINK QUICKER-- I BECOME LESS TIRED. PERHAPS MY PAST TRAINING DOES HELP.

MY HOPE FOR THE SOUL CHILD IS HE STAYS WITH OUR LORD. I HAVE SEEN HOW EASY IT IS FOR SOULS TO START CORRECTLY, BUT END IN RUIN. I'VE SEEN IT WITH ANGELS TOO.

ENTRY 304

THIS WILL BE A SHORT ENTRY--MINLOKO AND SAU ARE RESTLESS. THEY WANT TO GO ON OUR NEXT MISSION. I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO LAUREN FOR A PERIOD, BUT SHE IS BUSY WITH HER POSITION IN HEAVEN.

THERE IS A BATCH OF NEW ANGELS ABOUT TO ENTER THE SOUL FIELDS. SERVE HOW I SERVE. THEY'VE BEEN TRAINING THESE NEW ANGELS FOR SOME TIME. I WONDER WHAT LAUREN WOULD THINK IF SHE KNEW ABOUT HEAVEN'S FIRST COMBAT TRAINING AREA. WE NOW HAVE ONE LARGE LOCATION TO TRAIN ALL ANGELS, BUT MY WARFARE TRAINING BEGAN HERE. MOST ANGELS DON'T KNOW THAT HISTORY OF HEAVEN. AND IT'S BEST THEY NEVER KNOW.

HOW ALLEGORIES FIRST APPEARED.....



YES, THIS PAGE AND THE NEXT TWO ARE SOME OF THE ORIGINAL PANELS FROM THE FIRST STORY *ENDURANCE*. YOU CAN SEE HOW I CHANGED MY STYLE ALMOST DRAMATICALLY COMPARED TO THE CURRENT STYLE.

WHY THE CHANGE? SPEED IS THE ANSWER. THIS OLD VERSION INVOLVED MORE DETAIL THAN I WANTED. SO MY STYLE BECAME LINEAR WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THE COLORS WOULD BRING OUT DETAILS. AS YOU KNOW *ALLEGORIES* WAS NEVER COLORED. AT LEAST NOT YET.

SECONDLY, ANOTHER REASON CAME BY ME DRAWING THE PAGES THE WRONG SIZE. BACK THEN I DIDN'T HAVE A COMPUTER WHERE I COULD JUST SCAN THE PAGES AND CHANGE THE PANEL SIZES.

I PREFER THE NEW STYLE BECAUSE OF THE FLUID ABSTRACT LOOK. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS OLD VERSION WHERE SOME OF THE LINE WORK DOESN'T LOOK SO BAD. ESPECIALLY IF YOU COVER ONE EYE AND BLINK REAL FAST WITH THE OTHER.



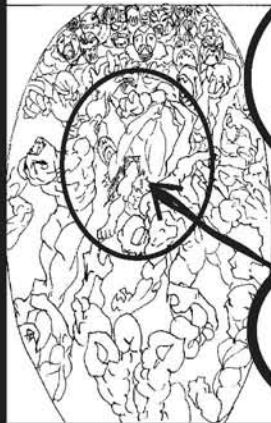
THE FOUR PEOPLE PRAYING WERE MEANT TO HAD SUPPER. I THOUGHT THE TABLE WITH FOOD SCRAPS AND DRINK WOULD MAKE THEM SEEM CASUAL LIKE FRIENDS FROM A BIBLE STUDY.

THE PANEL WAS NEVER FINISHED AND IF THEY ATE BEFORE THE PRAYER IN THE FINAL VERSION REMAINS A MYSTERY TO THIS VERY DAY.....

GASP! WHAT WOULD
FRIGHTEN OUR HEROES? A
TELEMARKETER? THE I.R.S.?
MINT-COOKIE SELLING GIRL
SCOUTS?!! WHAT COULD IT BE?!!!



WHEN JYSTUS FELL
AND WAS ABOUT TO
PASS OUT THIS WAS
SUPPOSE TO BE THE
LAST THING HE SAW.
I DIDN'T LIKE THIS SHOT
OR THE "EYE VIEW".



CAN YOU SEE
MARCUS IN HIS
WILD FIGHTING
POSE? STILL
LOOKS COOL
TO ME.

NO ONE CAN
ESCAPE SAU'S
SHRINKING HAND
AND FOOT!

THIS FIGHT SCENE
SHOWCASED THE ANGELS
ABILITIES AND POWERS.



HEY MARUS, I THINK
YOU ACTUALLY MISSED.
BUT YOUR ARMPIT ODOR
KNOCKED THE BEAST BACK.

GRIT THOSE TEETH
JYSTUS, YOU KNOW
WHAT'S COMING!





MARCUS-
KING OF THE HILL
OF HIS PAIN. IT'S
A POWERFUL,
MELODRAMATIC
SCENE.

SING! SING A SONG!
SING OUT LOOOUUUUDD!!
SING OUT LOOONNGG!!

YES, YOU ARE
BEING MOONED.
I'M SORRY.



MY CHILD, I
CREATED YOU AND I
LOVE YOU, BUT MAN
YOU NEED A TIC TAC.

THE INTERESTING
THING IS THE INK STYLE
ON JESUS WAS A PRE-
CURSOR TO MY CURRENT
INK STYLE.

THIS WAS FUN-TAKE CARE!

END?

CHARACTER SKETCHES WITH COMMENTARY

DORA AND JYSTUS




MY ANGELIC ADAM AND EVE. MY FIRST COMIC ANGEL CREATIONS. ALLEGORIES OF THE WAY BEGAN AS AN EPIC STORY STARRING JYSTUS AND DORA. JYSTUS WAS DEALING WITH DEPRESSION AND DORA WAS THE STOIC ANGEL LIKE IN THE MASSACRE. THEIR YEAR LONG MISSION WAS TO HELP A NEW CHRISTIAN IN HER WALK WITH CHRIST AS THEY DEALT WITH THEIR ISSUES.



DORA HAD FLOWING SHORT HAIR.



IN THE EPIC STORY, JYSTUS WAS MORE LIKE THE ANGEL LUIN FROM THE BONDAGE TALE.



THE STYLIZED FEATHERS ON JYSTUS FACE BECAME LESS DETAILED THAN THESE PREVIOUS PICS.

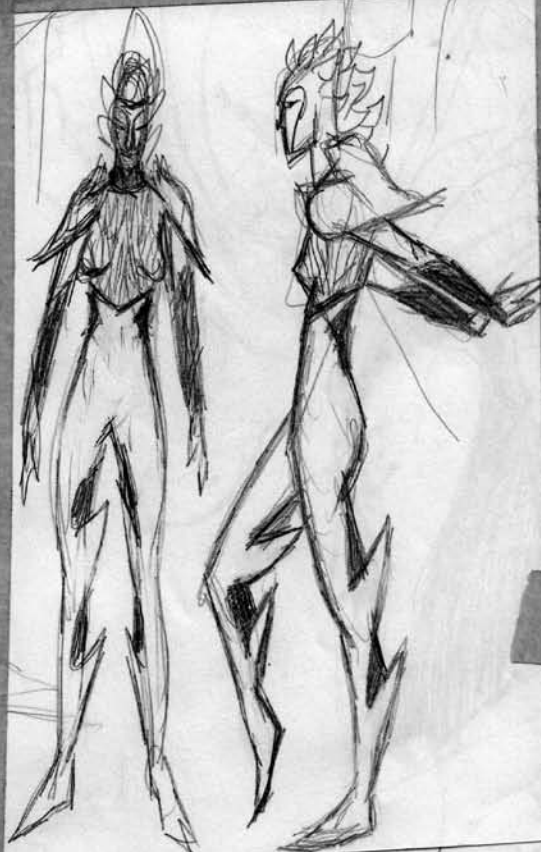


THE "ARM BOW" WAS TAKEN FROM JYSTUS AND USED FOR A WATER-COLOR PAINTING.

MYNLA



HER DESIGN WAS COOL TO DO. HEART SHOULDER PADS AND LEG FINS MADE HER LOOK SLEEK. AND IT WORKS WITH HER DIALOGUE. HER FACE SOMETIMES MAKE ME THINK OF A CLOWN DESIGN. GOTTA HAVE SOME CONTRAST, EH?

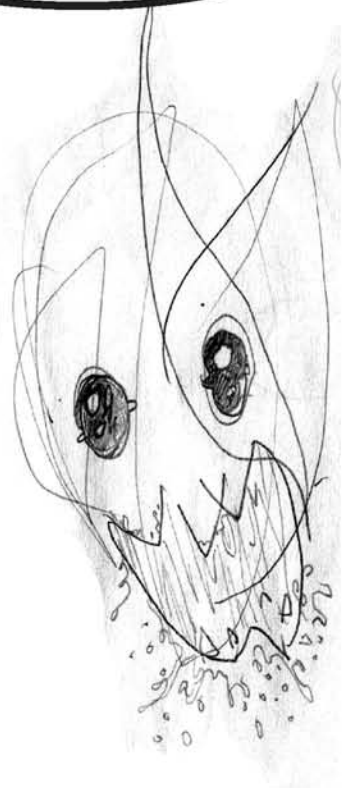


DEMONS

THESE EARLY SKETCHES FOR THE STORY *THE MASSACRE* PRETTY MUCH SHOWS THE IDEA BEHIND MY DEMON DESIGNS. THEY HAVE A DISTORTED JUMBLED ANATOMY. I BASED THIS FROM THE SCRIPTURE ABOUT SATAN BEING HURLED DOWN TO EARTH LIKE LIGHTNING (LUKE 10:18). I FIGURED HIS BODY WOULD BE MANGLED BY THE IMPACT.



THE STYLIZED FLOWING FEATHERS FROM THE HEAD GIVE HINT TO THEIR ORIGINAL ANGELIC HERITAGE.



MALCEN

YOWZERS! MALCEN TOOK SOME TIME TO DEVELOP AS YOU CAN SEE. HIS DESIGN WAS MEANT FOR MANY ANGELS IN A BRIGADE.

Captain

Private

Sgt

FEMALE VERSION

THE SPACE BOOTS HAD TO GO.



FLESHMONSTER

FROM THE
STORY I, HURT, THE
FIRST DESIGN WAS
WAY TOO COMPLEX. NICE
TO STARE AT, BUT HARD
TO TRANSLATE TO MY
COMIC BOOK.

ARM

THE FACE

LIKE RAGE
AND MUST
GET ALSO
SOMEONE
SMILING
INSIDE

LEGS



BRISTIL

Big
eyes

BRISTIL FACE DESIGN
IS LOOSELY BASED
ON THAT FAMOUS
CHARACTER THAT
HANGS OUT WITH
RATS WITH WINGS.

SHE WOULD BE SECOND IN
COMMAND ON MALCEN'S SQUAD.
SHE'S MORE HARDENED AND TO
THE POINT, A SERIOUS CHARACTER.
I TOOK THAT ALSO FROM THAT
FAMOUS BILLIONAIRE DETECTIVE.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST-

ENNA



INSPIRATION ON A NAPKIN. THE "YOUNG" ANGEL WENT THROUGH SOME CHANGES, BUT THIS FIRST SKETCH STILL DOMINATES HER CURRENT LOOK.

FINAL THOUGHTS: HEY, WHERE'S MINLOKO AND SALU? I WISH I KNEW! I CAN'T FIND ANY EARLY DRAWINGS OF THOSE TWO. THEY WERE THE FIRST ANGELS SOMEONE COMMENTED ON WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT. I GUESS I JUST DESIGNED THEM AND THAT WAS IT UNTIL I WENT BACK AND DEVELOPED THEIR PAST. THEY WERE JUST BACK UPS FOR JYSTUS AT FIRST. NOW THEY PLAY MAJOR ROLES IN THE SERIES.

-MELCHIZEDEK

We live in spiritual darkness: places filled with uncertainty, injustice, pain and the list can go on. My life had many uncertain roads. I wasn't sure what life was about. I wasn't sure how I fit in this world. In fact this world frightened me. There was no certainty in my life.

Even now one can say there is no certainty in this world. We see and hear about how terrible the economy is. Money is tight. The future looks bleak. We can't be certain when the weather will go crazy and kill thousands. You can't even trust your neighbors and those in authority at this time. One may say we are sure there isn't anything certain except more darkness.

But that would be a lie. Giving my life to Christ led me to be certain about my future. Jeremiah 29:11- For I know the plans I have for you, says The Lord, They are plans for good and not harm, to give you a future and hope.

I am certain God will be with me no matter what disasters are around me. Isaiah 41:10- I fear not, for God is with me: He will strengthen me: He will help me: He will uphold me with His victorious right hand.

I am certain I can have peace when the world crumbles around me. Psalm 34:4- I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears.

I am certain I am loved and cared for. 1 Peter 5:7- Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

I am certain I can trust in The Lord. Proverbs 3:5-6-Trust in The Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.

I am certain I know who I am. Ephesians 2:10- For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Give your life to Christ. Thank Jesus that your sins have been forgiven and ask Jesus to enter your

. He will! The God of all creation will dwell in you and give you peace. Does that mean you'll live happily ever after and you won't have anymore problems? No, it means you will have an advocate, a Father, and a best friend who will comfort you and direct your life. That is, If you let him.

Find a God-loving church to help you grow and learn the Bible. Don't forget church is filled with people with problems too, so have patience with them. But mainly put your trust in Jesus. If you just prayed that Jesus would enter your heart, never give up on knowing God and growing with him. It won't always be easy, but will be worth it! For those who have known The Lord and stepped away, go back to Him. He is waiting with open arms to forgive and forget. Yes, The Lord forgets your sins as well as forgives them! Only you, your flesh and Satan will accuse you of your past, but The Lord will not! God Bless!



LEEWAY

As the fight between good and evil plays out on the stage of men's souls, Jystus, Sau, and Minloko are quickly discovering just what it takes to gather the souls of men. These three, along with numerous other heavenly spirits, must battle through the inner depths of men where harsh lands and the wicked claws of enemies await them. And with each seeming victory comes the revelation that their battles are often never complete.

Are the dark forces which wage war for men's lives a ploy of the enemy, or a product of our own being?

Follow the tales of Angels and Souls in this "Director's Cut" first volume of the graphically ingenious and engaging novel, *Allegories of the Way!*

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