

# TOASTY

Gallant Knight

EAST  
WEAVER  
FARRAR

LONG AGO, IN THE LAND OF GELDIA...

...THE KNIGHTS PROTECTED THE PEOPLE...

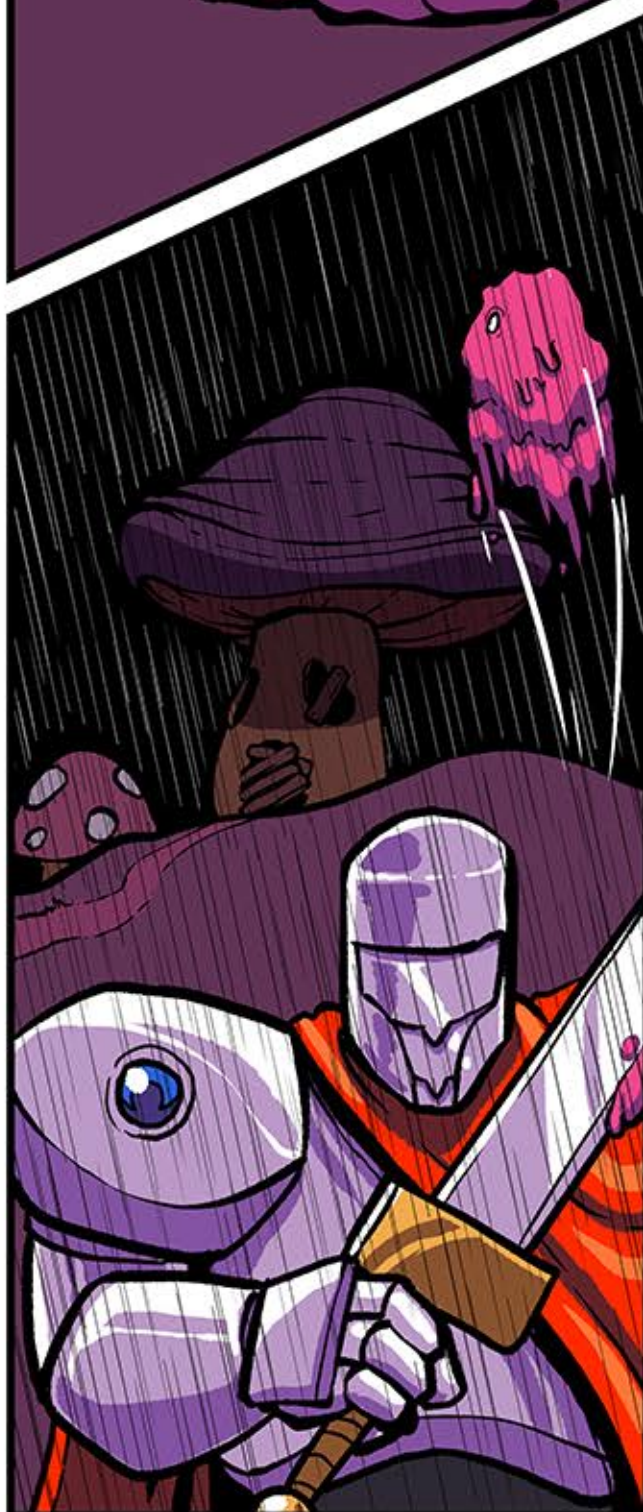
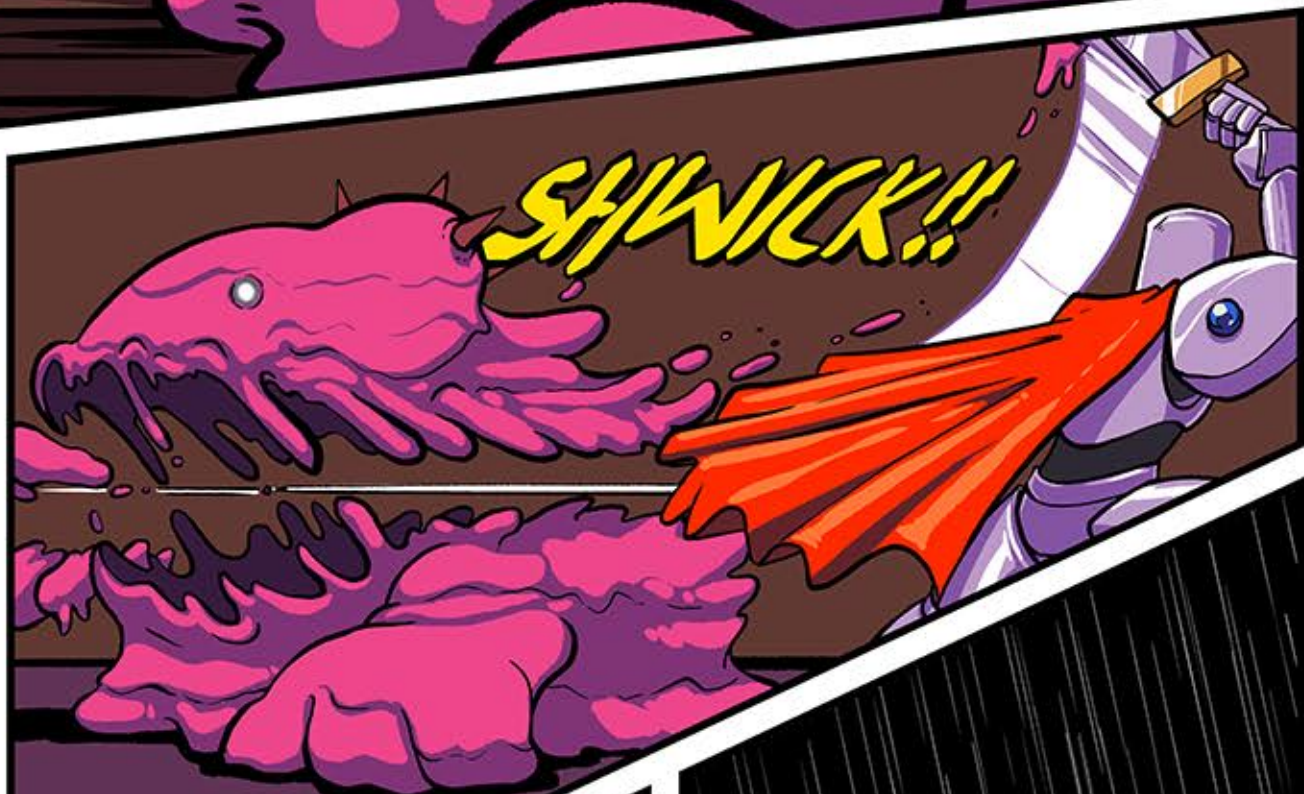
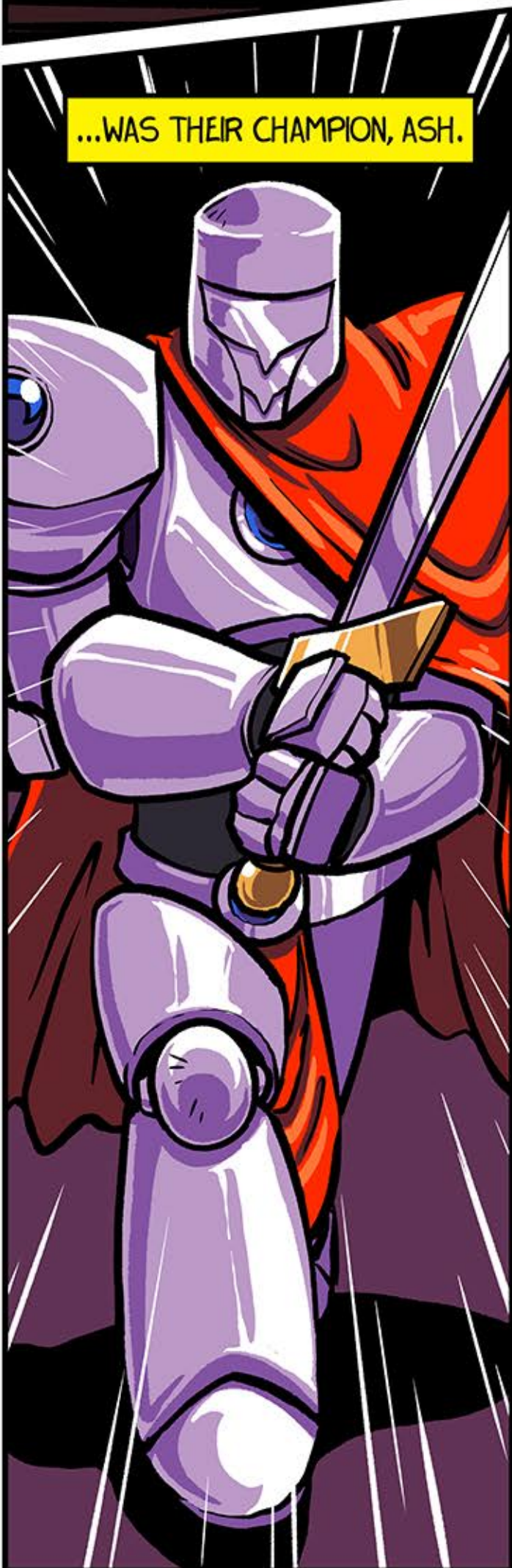
...FIGHTING GALLANTLY, FACING OFF AGAINST THE HORRORS PLAGUING VILLAGES IN THE NIGHT.

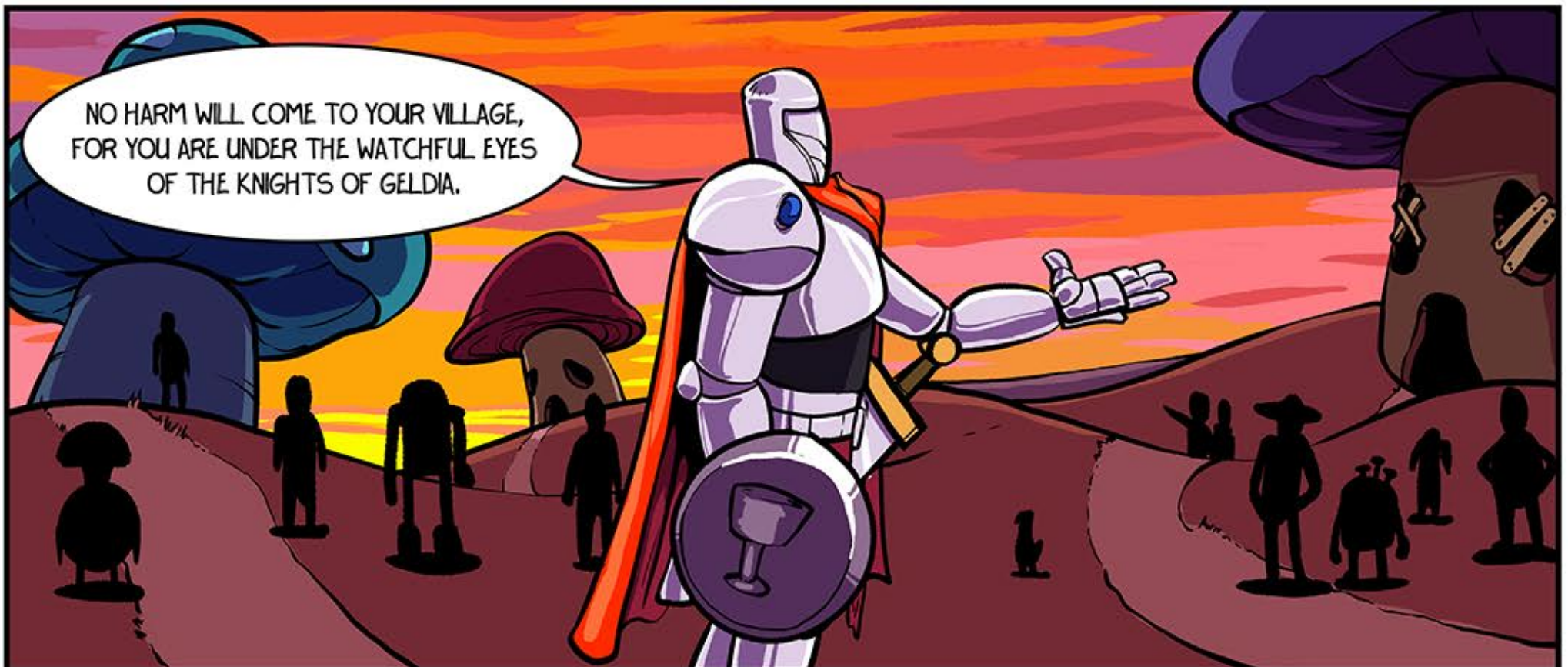
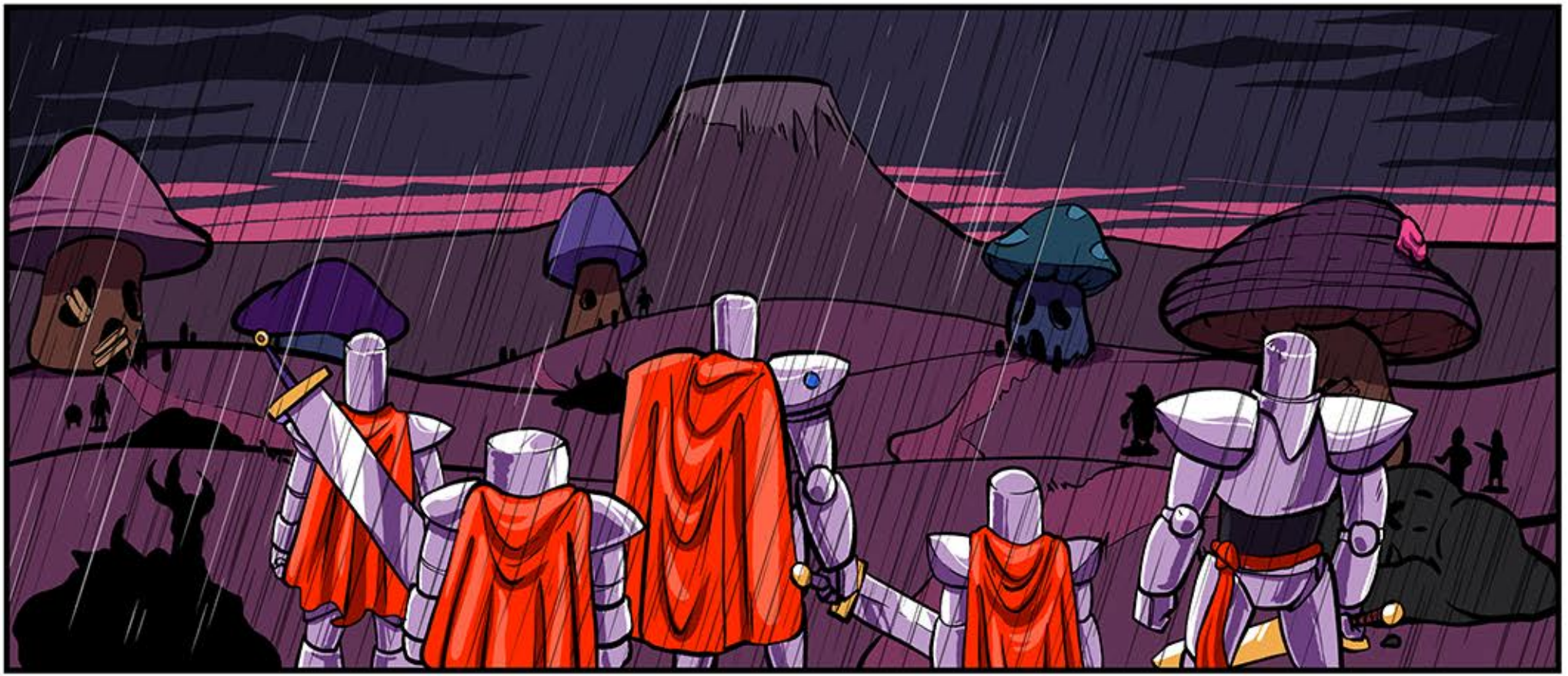
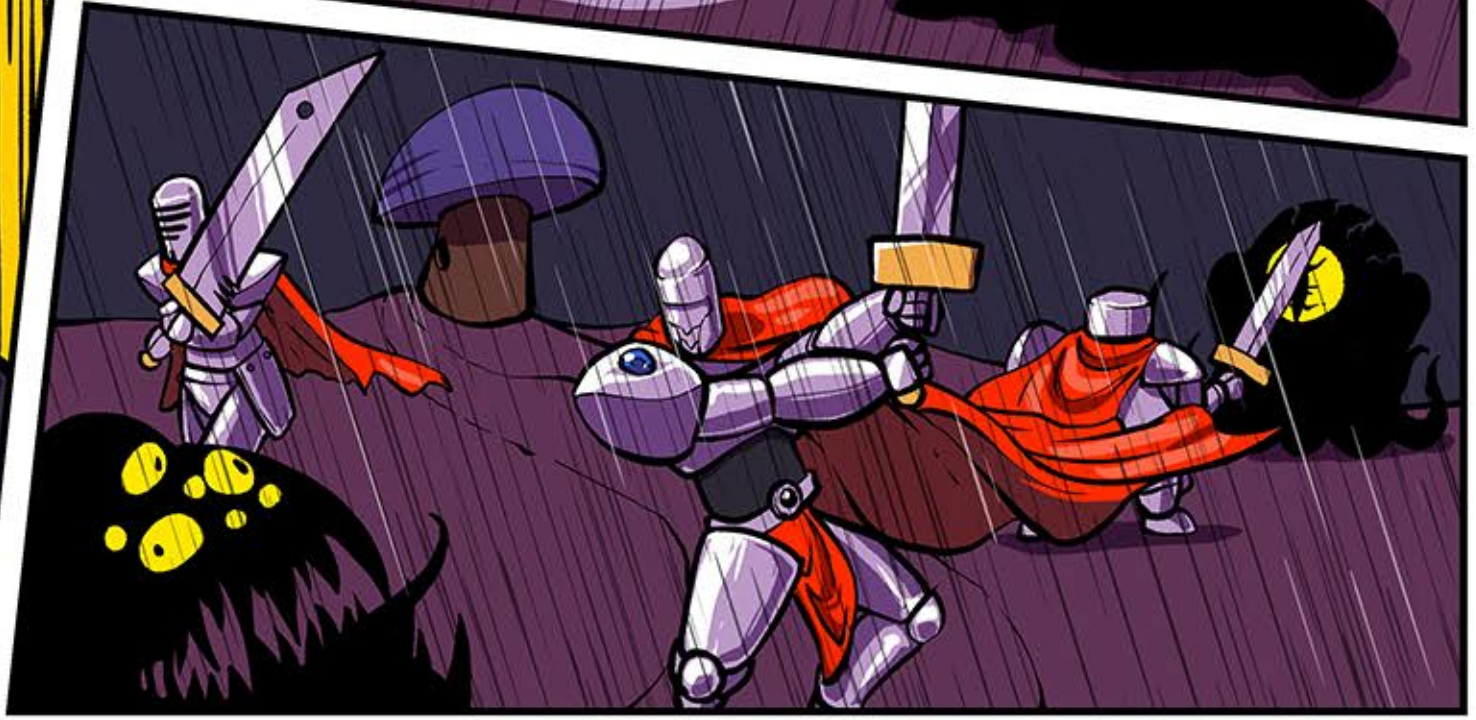
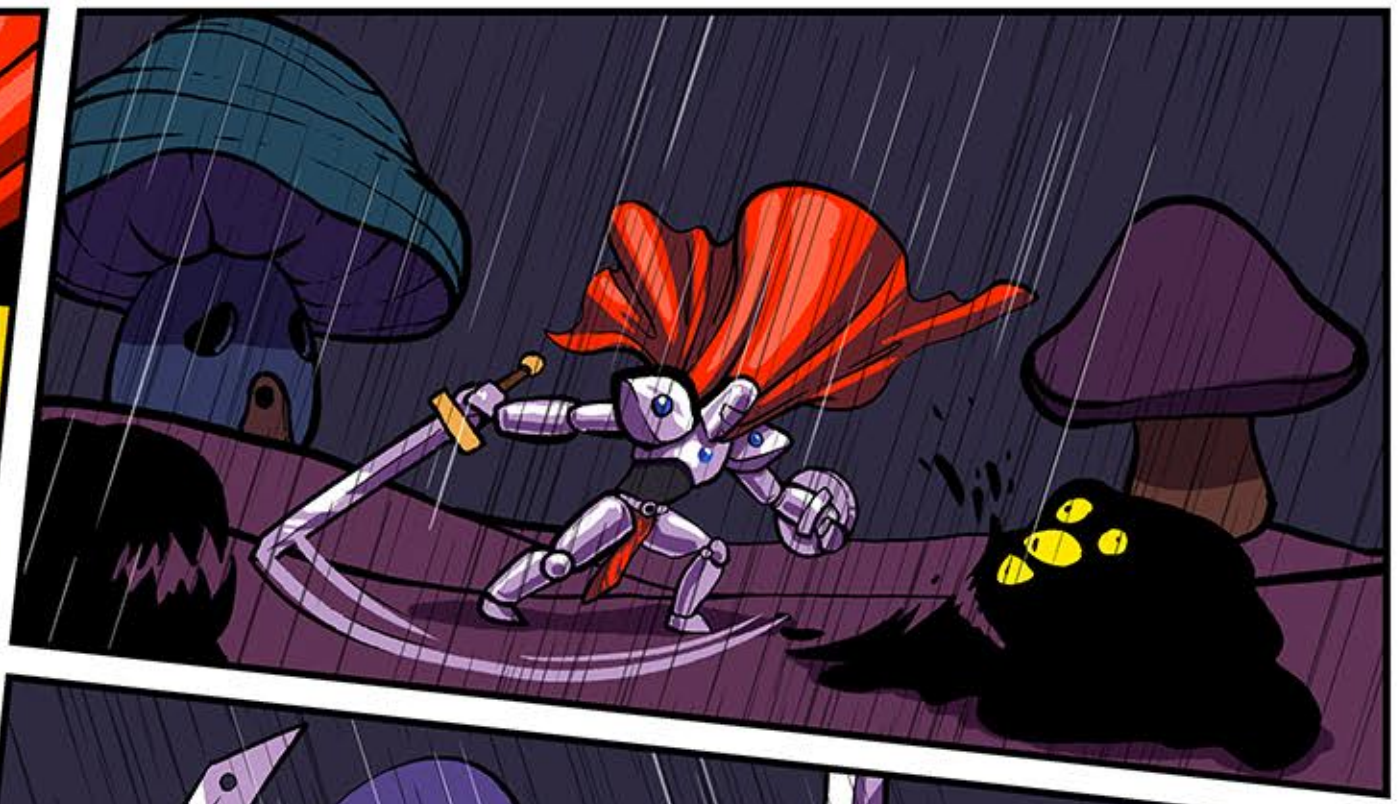
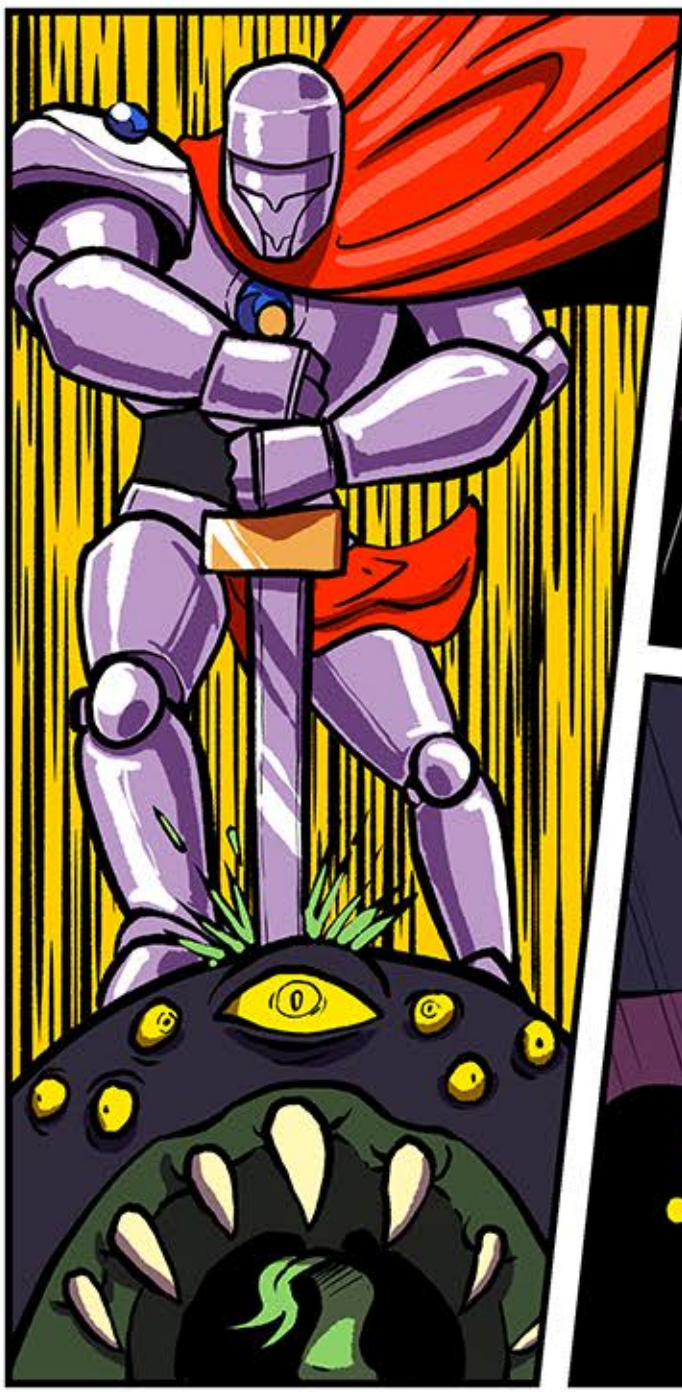


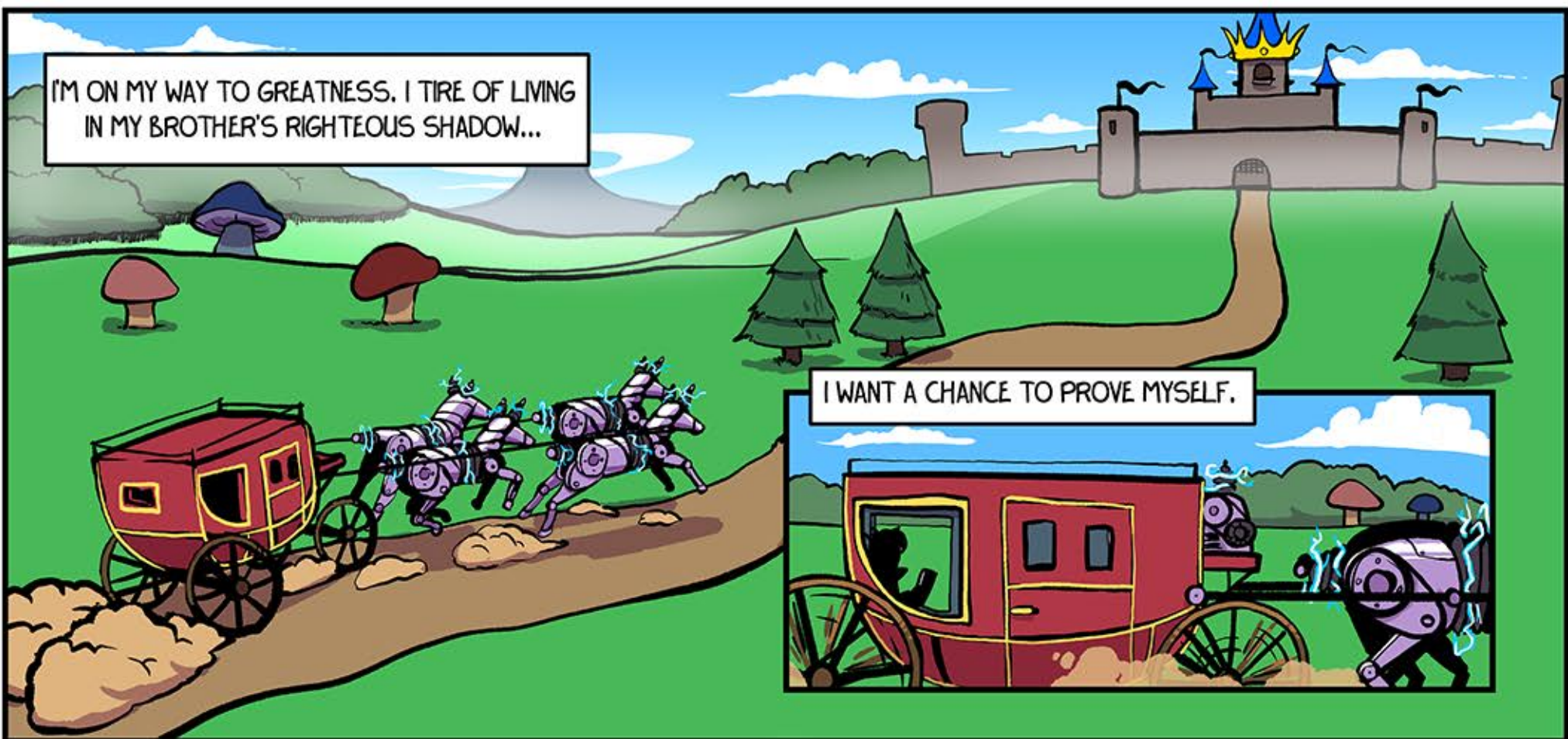
LEADING THE KNIGHTS OF GELDIA...

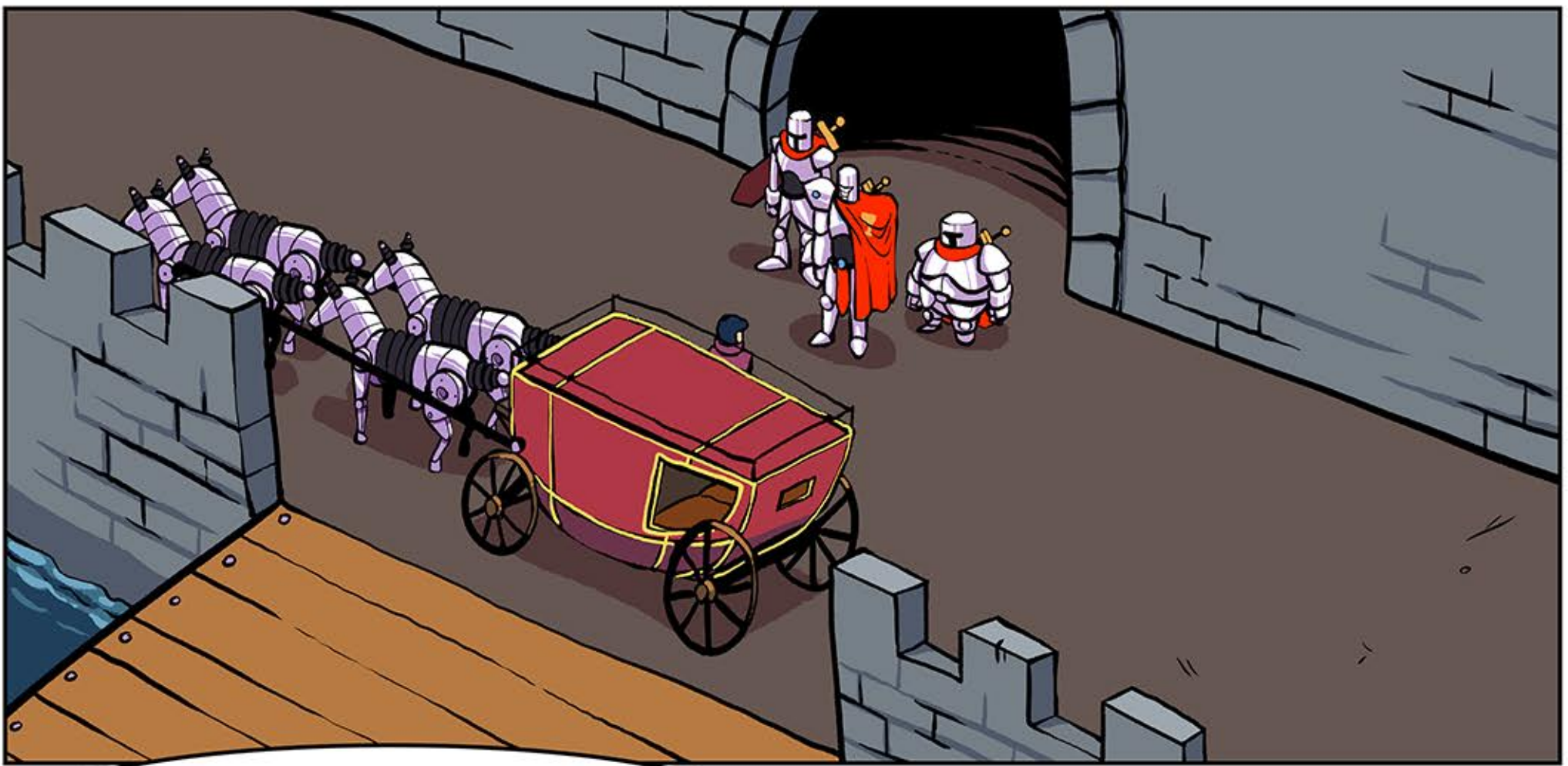


...WAS THEIR CHAMPION, ASH.







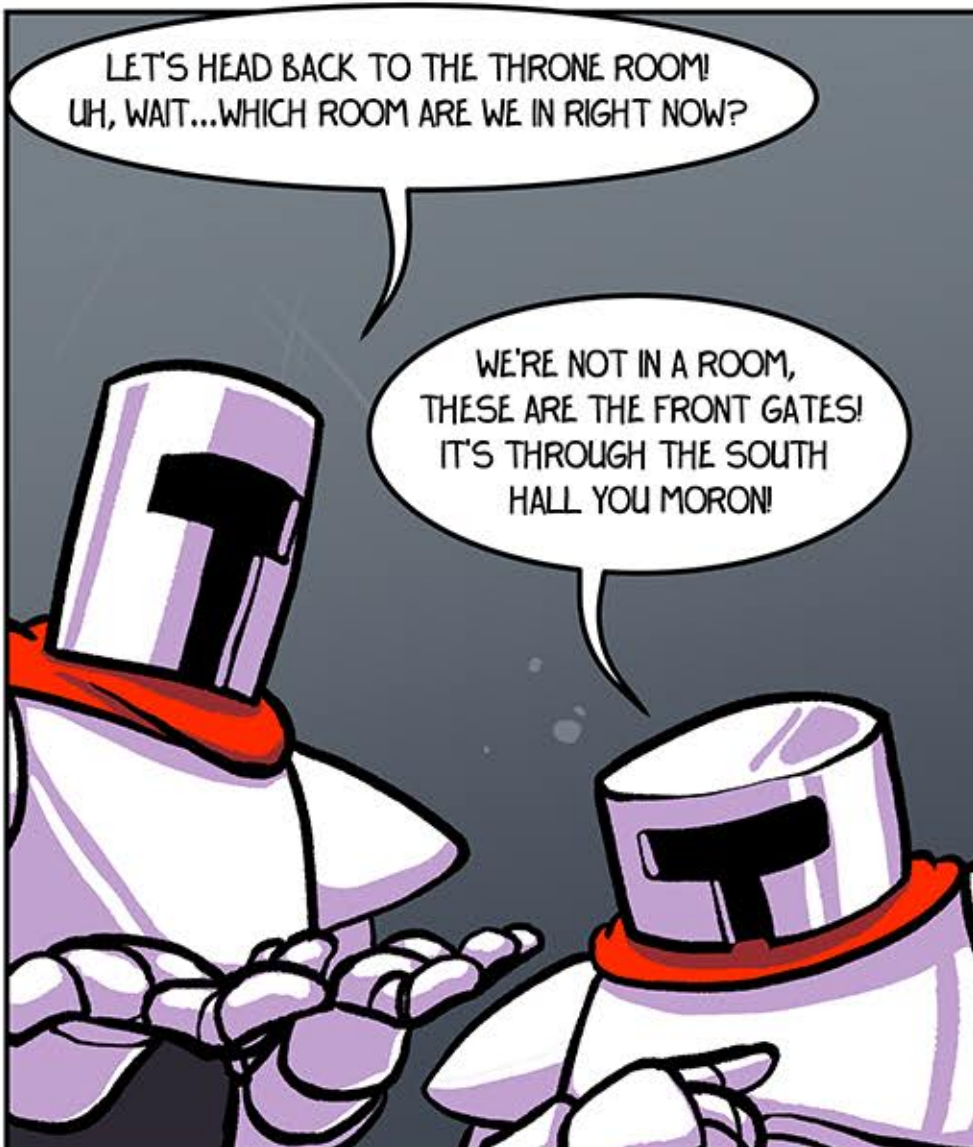


WELCOME WILL, THESE ARE MY COMRADES,  
WILSON AND ORBECK. WILSON, ORBECK, THIS IS MY BROTHER.  
HE'S AN ARTIFICER.

A WHAT?

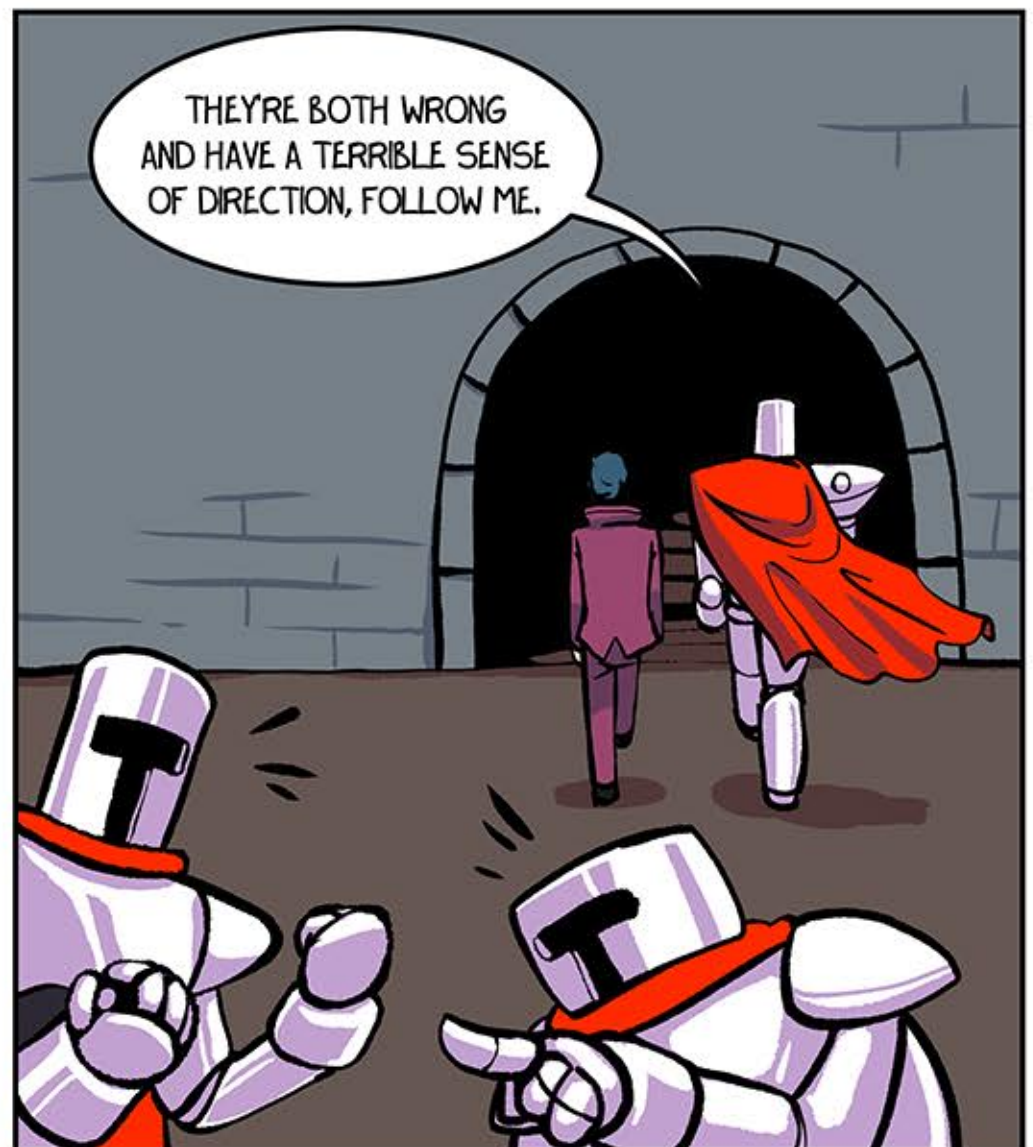
THAT MEANS HE'S A MAGICIAN,  
YOU IDIOT. YOU KNOW, LIKE CARD TRICKS?

ACTUALLY,  
I CONSIDER MYSELF SOMETHING  
OF AN ALCHEMIST.

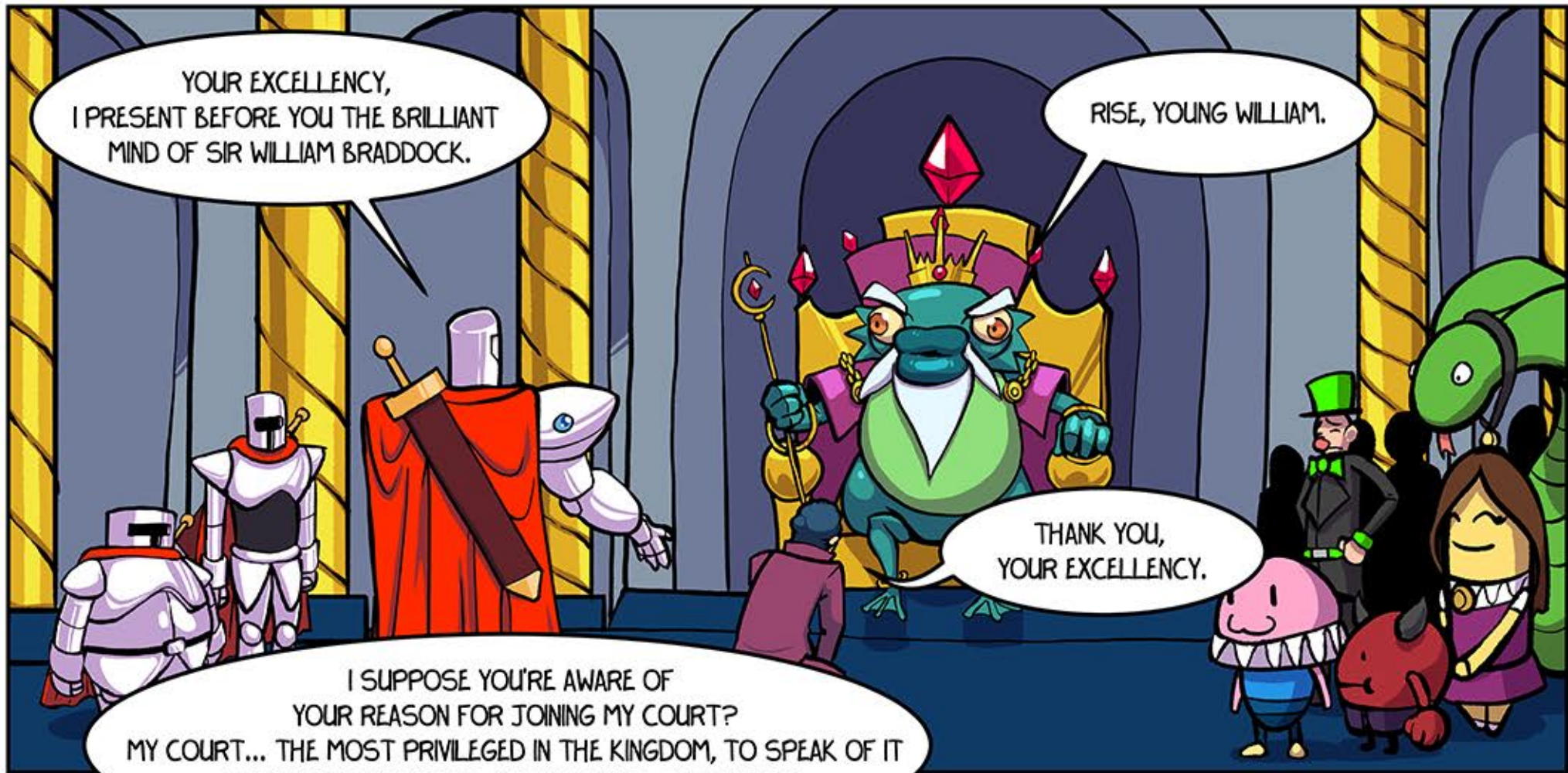


LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE THRONE ROOM!  
UH, WAIT...WHICH ROOM ARE WE IN RIGHT NOW?

WE'RE NOT IN A ROOM,  
THESE ARE THE FRONT GATES!  
IT'S THROUGH THE SOUTH  
HALL YOU MORON!



THEY'RE BOTH WRONG  
AND HAVE A TERRIBLE SENSE  
OF DIRECTION, FOLLOW ME.



YOUR EXCELLENCY,  
I PRESENT BEFORE YOU THE BRILLIANT  
MIND OF SIR WILLIAM BRADDOCK.

RISE, YOUNG WILLIAM.

THANK YOU,  
YOUR EXCELLENCY.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE AWARE OF  
YOUR REASON FOR JOINING MY COURT?  
MY COURT... THE MOST PRIVILEGED IN THE KINGDOM, TO SPEAK OF IT  
IS TO HOLD THE WORD OF THE GODS ON THY LIPS.  
YOU KNOW DO YOU NOT?



HA!

THIS IS NOT YOUR TRUE PURPOSE. ASH, HAVE YOU NOT  
DONE WELL TO ASCRIBE THE TRUE NATURE OF  
YOUR BROTHER'S PLACE IN MY GRACES?

I FEAR I DO NOT  
HAVE YOUR WAY WITH WORDS,  
MY KING

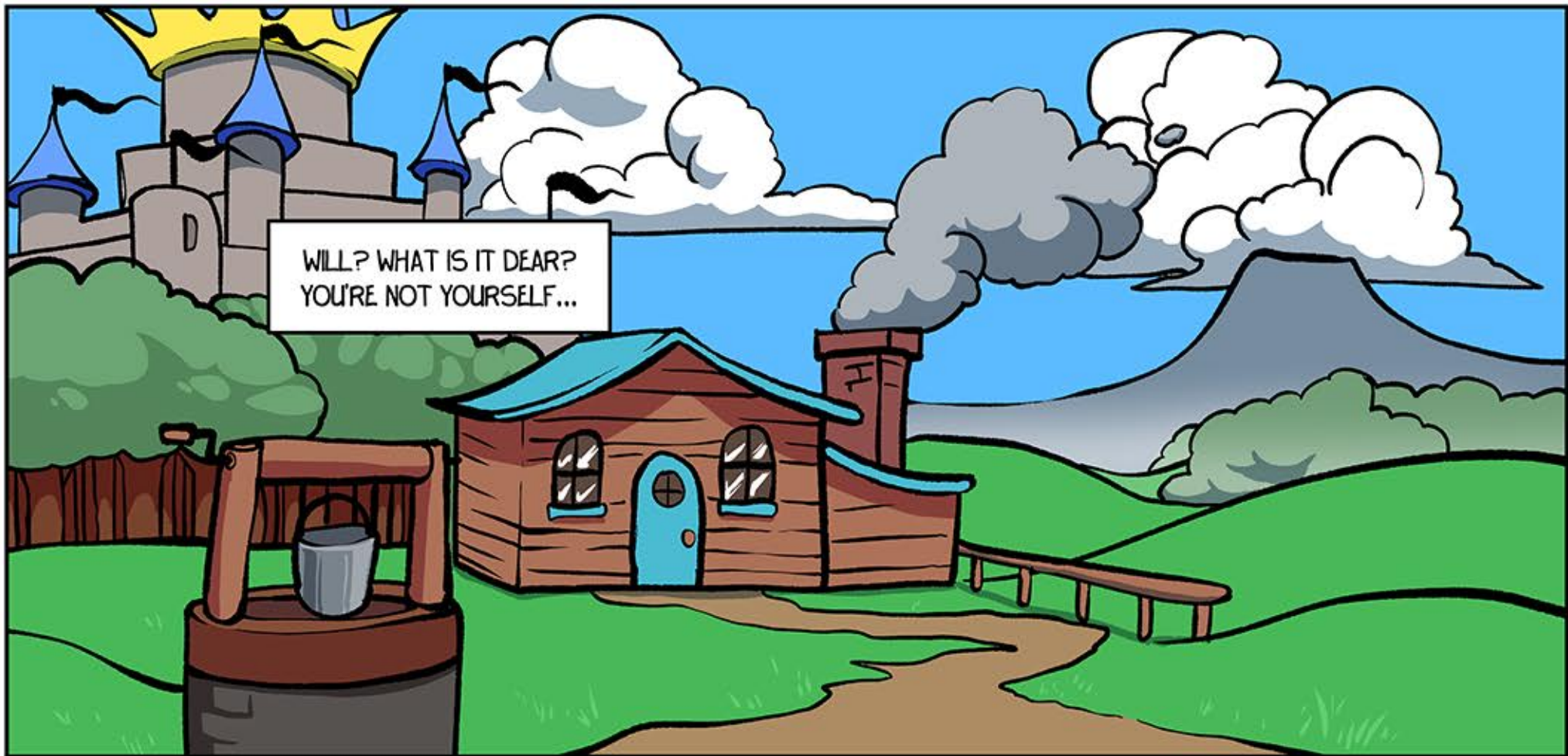
YES, AND FOR THAT I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.  
TO BE YOUR PRIME ARTIFCER, FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
THE KINGDOM AND IT'S PEOPL--



YOU ARE TO BE NOT JUST OF THE ARTIFCER'S ILK...  
YOU WILL FORGE THE ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION,  
A GREAT WEAPON TO PRY THE LAND FROM THE 'FELLOW'  
KINGDOMS WHICH SURROUND US.



AND SHOULD YOU DISAGREE IN THIS PURPOSE,  
IT IS YOUR HEAD, WILLIAM.



WILL? WHAT IS IT DEAR?  
YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF...

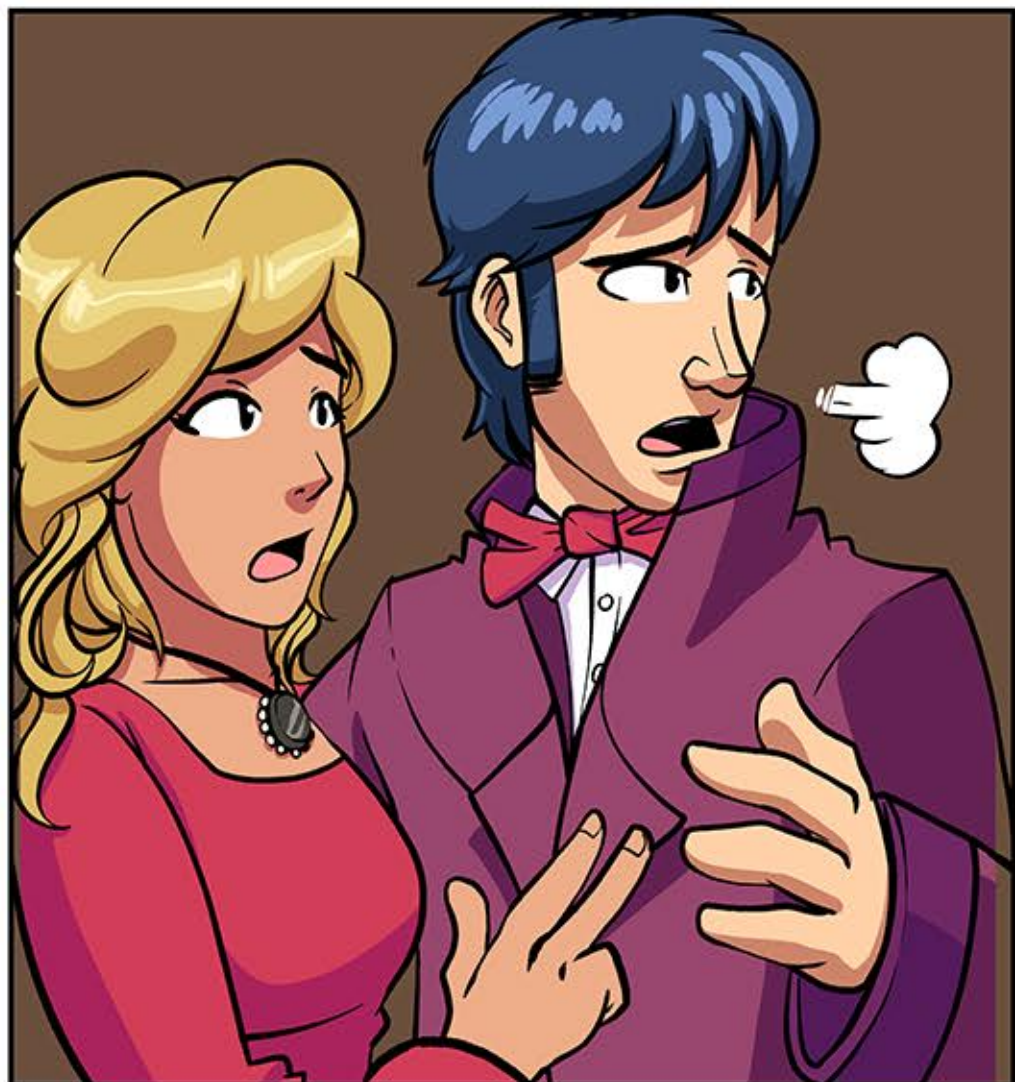


IT'S NOTHING... JUST, A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN I'D IMAGINED.  
THE KING'S PATRONAGE IS A RATHER IMPOSING ONE...


I WANT TO DO RIGHT BY BOTH OF YOU.




YOU'LL DO WELL ENOUGH.  
YOU ALWAYS DO AND YOU'VE MADE  
IT THIS FAR.





A man with dark hair, wearing a purple jacket and pants, and carrying a brown backpack, stands in a lush green forest. He is holding a green book and looking towards the right. A large, red mushroom with white spots is visible on the ground to his right. The forest has many trees and a path.

I NEEDED TIME ALONE TO CLEAR MY HEAD.  
I NEEDED TO IMMERSE MYSELF IN NATURE, FIND  
SOMETHING THAT STILL MADE SENSE TO ME...

A close-up of the man's face as he reads the green book. He has a thoughtful expression, with his hand resting on his chin. The background shows a blurred forest scene.

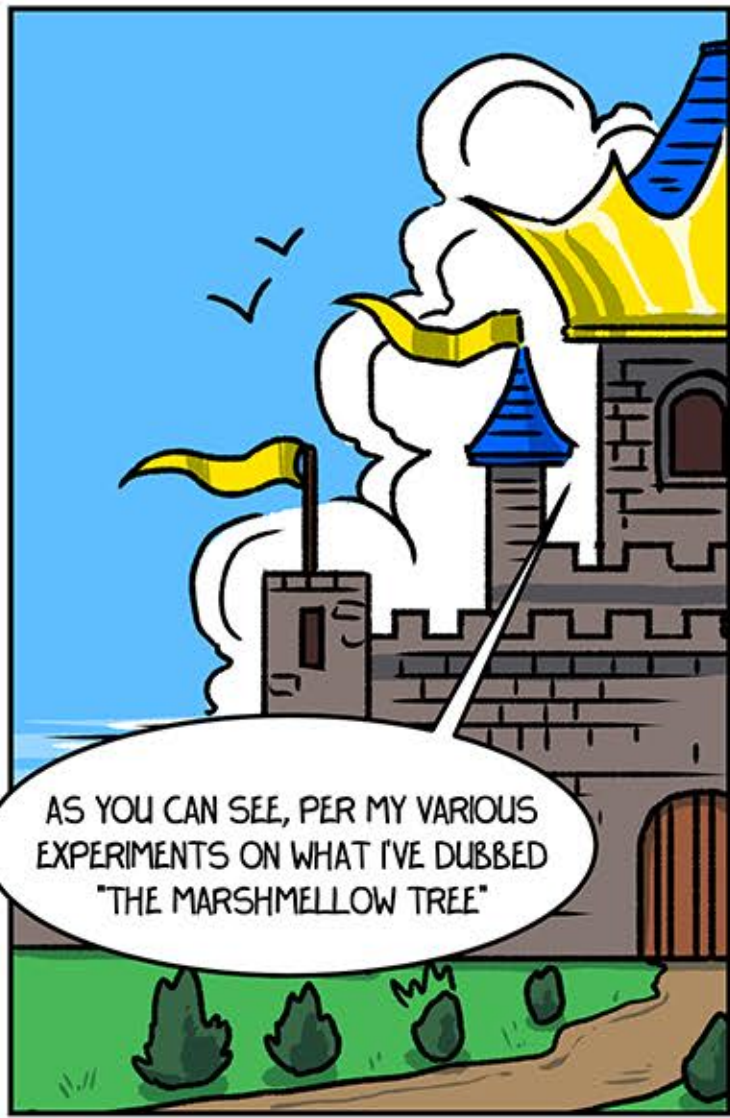
I THOUGHT THAT SCIENCE WOULD PROVIDE THAT COMFORT...  
THE COMFORT OF KNOWING SOMETHING ABOUT THE UNIVERSE.

The man is shown from the waist up, looking surprised with wide eyes and an open mouth. He is holding the green book. The background is a forest with a bright, glowing blue light source on the right side, creating a sense of mystery and discovery.

I WAS WRONG THOUGH...

The man is standing in a forest, looking towards a large, glowing blue tree in the center. The tree is surrounded by bright light rays, and the man's shadow is cast on the ground. The forest floor is covered in grass and rocks.

THAT DAY I DISCOVERED THAT THE UNKNOWN HAD FOUND ME.

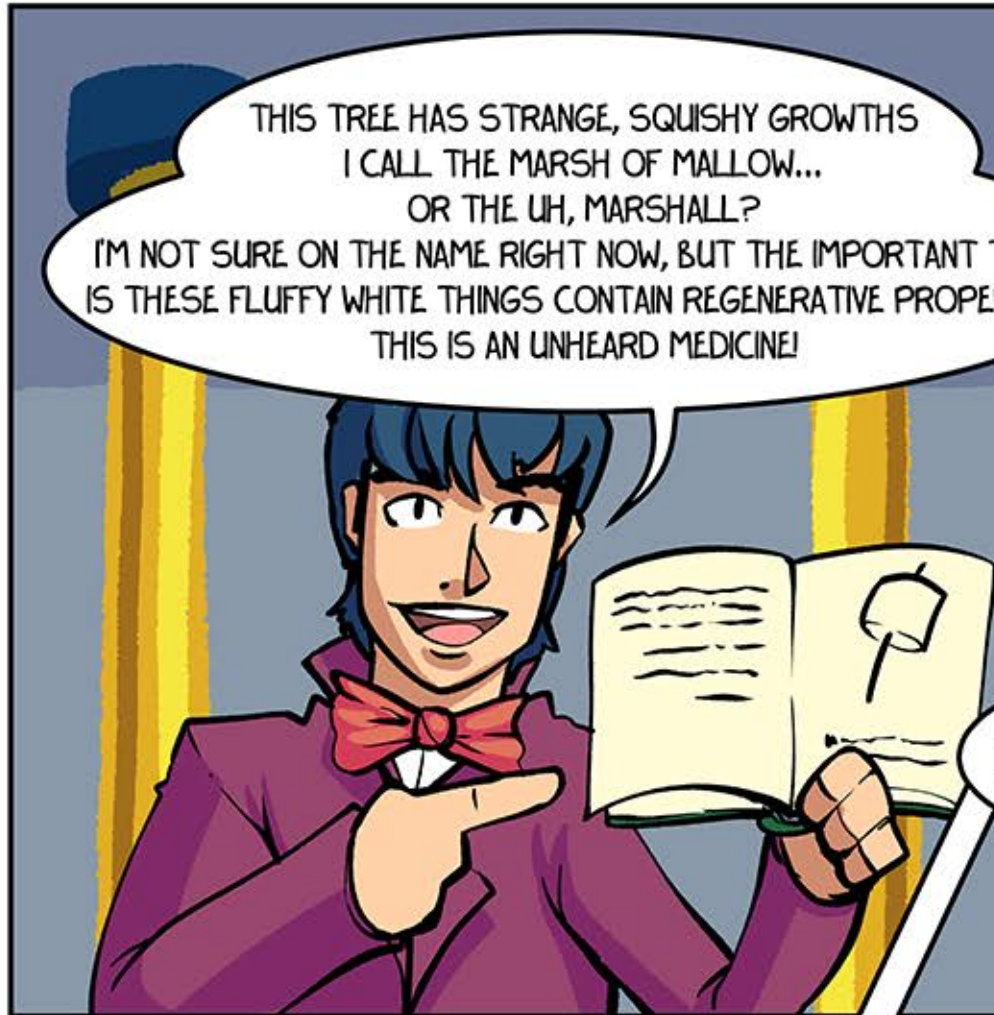


AS YOU CAN SEE, PER MY VARIOUS EXPERIMENTS ON WHAT I'VE DUBBED "THE MARSHMELLOW TREE"



A MARSH...WOT DO YOU CALL IT?!

AH YES...



THIS TREE HAS STRANGE, SQUISHY GROWTHS I CALL THE MARSH OF MALLOW... OR THE UH, MARSHALL? I'M NOT SURE ON THE NAME RIGHT NOW, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THESE FLUFFY WHITE THINGS CONTAIN REGENERATIVE PROPERTIES! THIS IS AN UNHEARD MEDICINE!

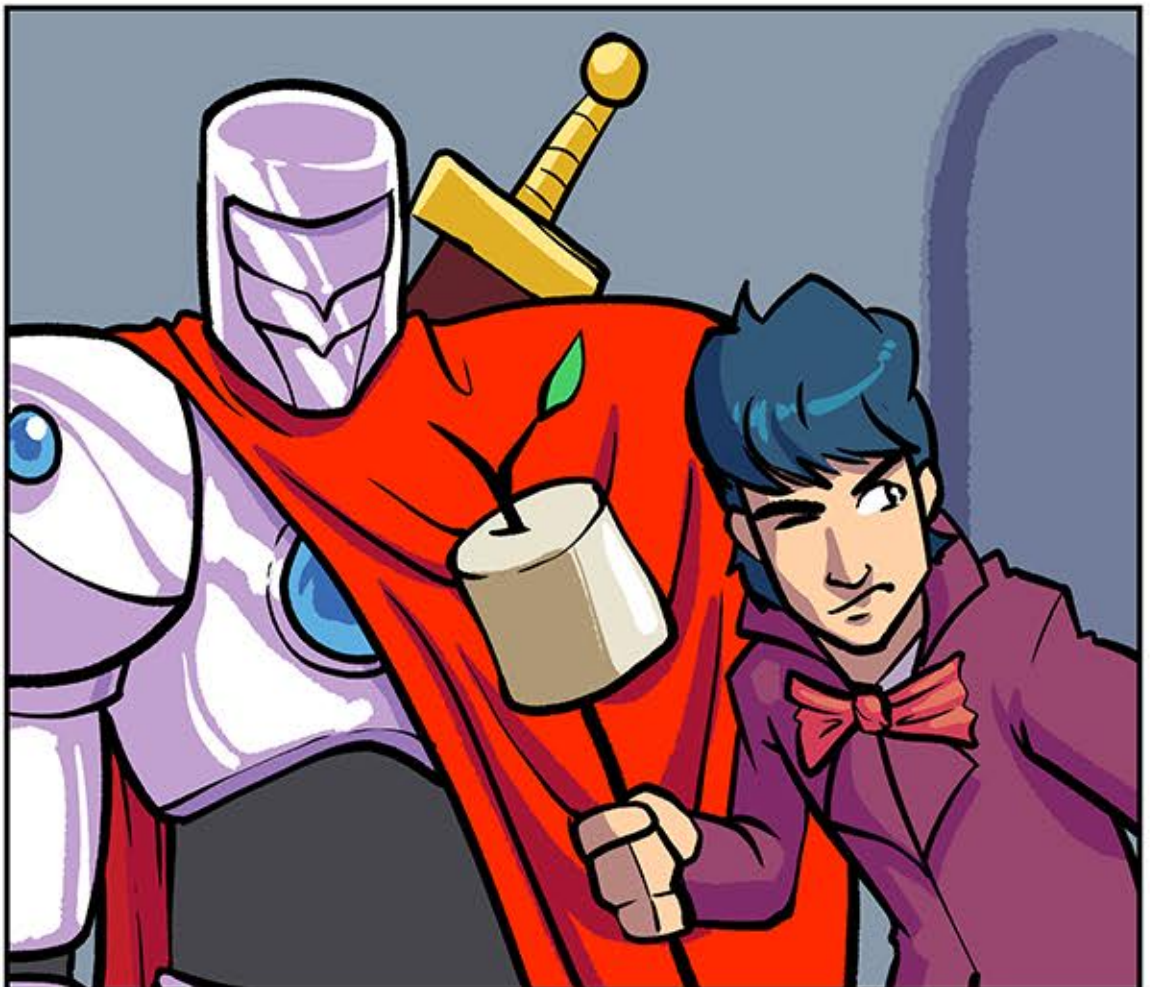


I CARE NOT FOR SUCH WHIMSY.

I'M CONCERNED WITH THE WAR MACHINE YOU ARE TO DELIVER. THAT IS WHAT YOUR TASK IS!



IF YOU DO NOT DELIVER MY WAR MACHINE, YOUR BROTHER WILL DELIVER YOUR HEAD!!

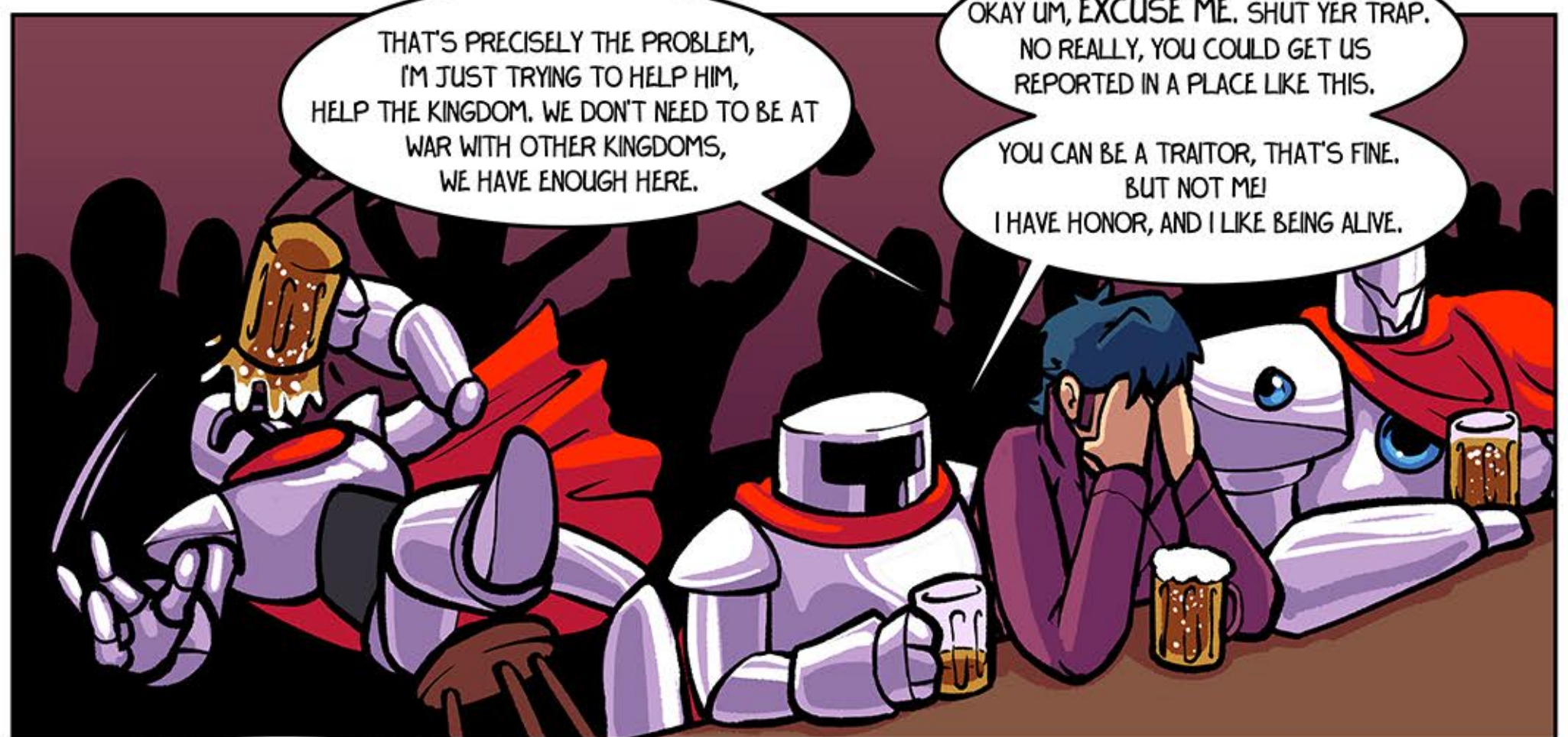




I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE PEOPLE IN THIS KINGDOM CAN FOLLOW SOMEONE SO STUBBORN--



HEY WATCH YOUR MOUTH SCIENCE MAN! THE KING DOESN'T TAKE KINDLY TO TRAITORS!



THAT'S PRECISELY THE PROBLEM, I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP HIM, HELP THE KINGDOM. WE DON'T NEED TO BE AT WAR WITH OTHER KINGDOMS, WE HAVE ENOUGH HERE.

OKAY UM, EXCUSE ME. SHUT YER TRAP. NO REALLY, YOU COULD GET US REPORTED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

YOU CAN BE A TRAITOR, THAT'S FINE. BUT NOT ME! I HAVE HONOR, AND I LIKE BEING ALIVE.



ASH, HOW CAN YOU FOLLOW HIS EVERY WORD? DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU HOW...ABSOLUTIST HE IS? WOULD YOU REALLY BRING HIM MY HEAD?

THUD  
AYE, I WOULD NOT. HOWEVER, I KNOW YOU'D NEVER BETRAY HIM. I HOPE YOU CAN FIND SOME COMFORT IN THAT, MY BROTHER.



FOR MONTHS I CONTINUED BUILDING THE INFERNAL MACHINE AS ORDERED BY THE KING, BUT IN MY SPARE TIME, AS FEW AS THOSE MOMENTS WERE...



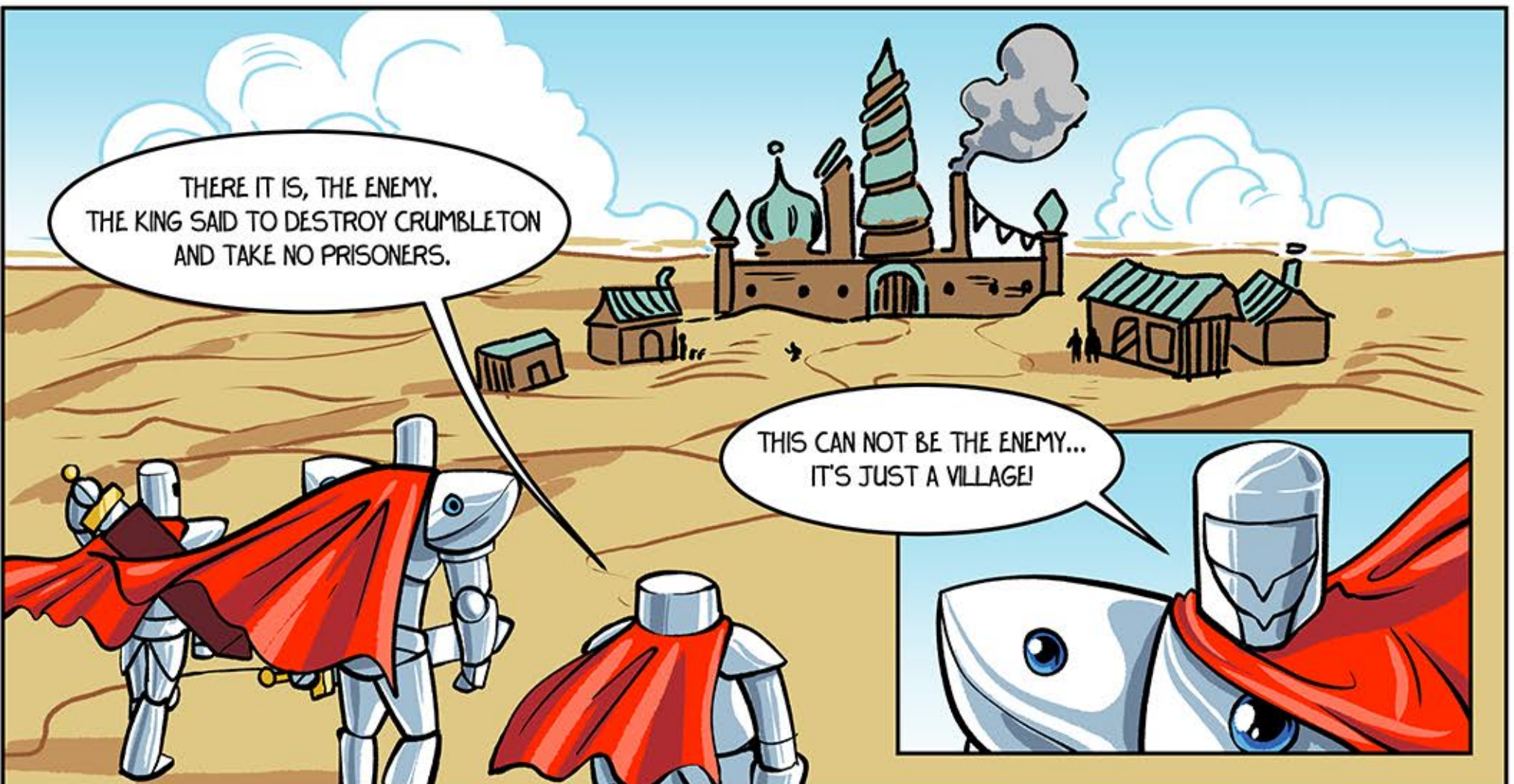
I SAW FIT TO BUSY MYSELF WITH RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTS REGARDING THE MARSHMALLOW TREE. THE MORE TIME I DEVOTED TO IT, THE MORE A NEW WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES OPENED UP.



I SHOULD HAVE LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

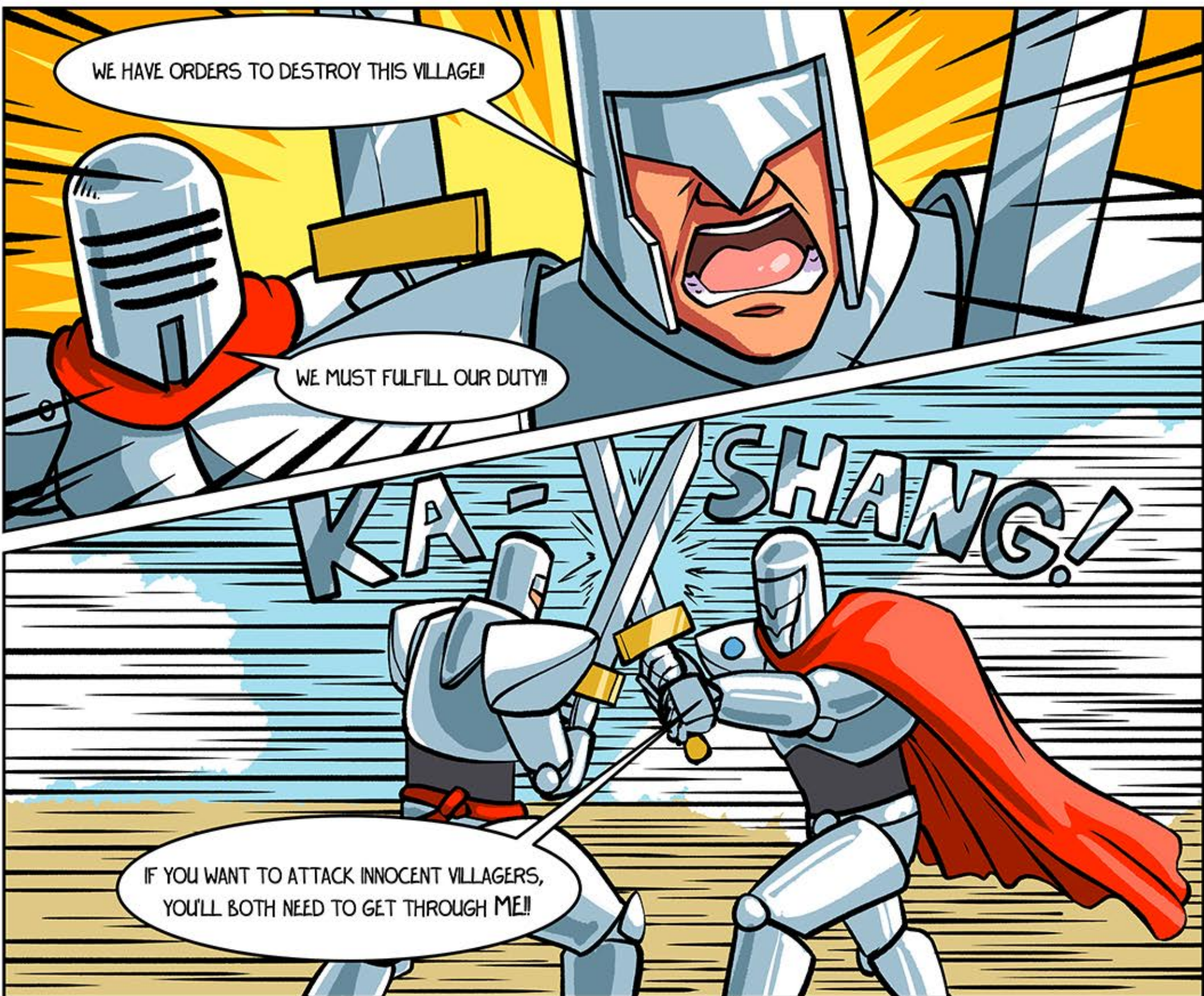
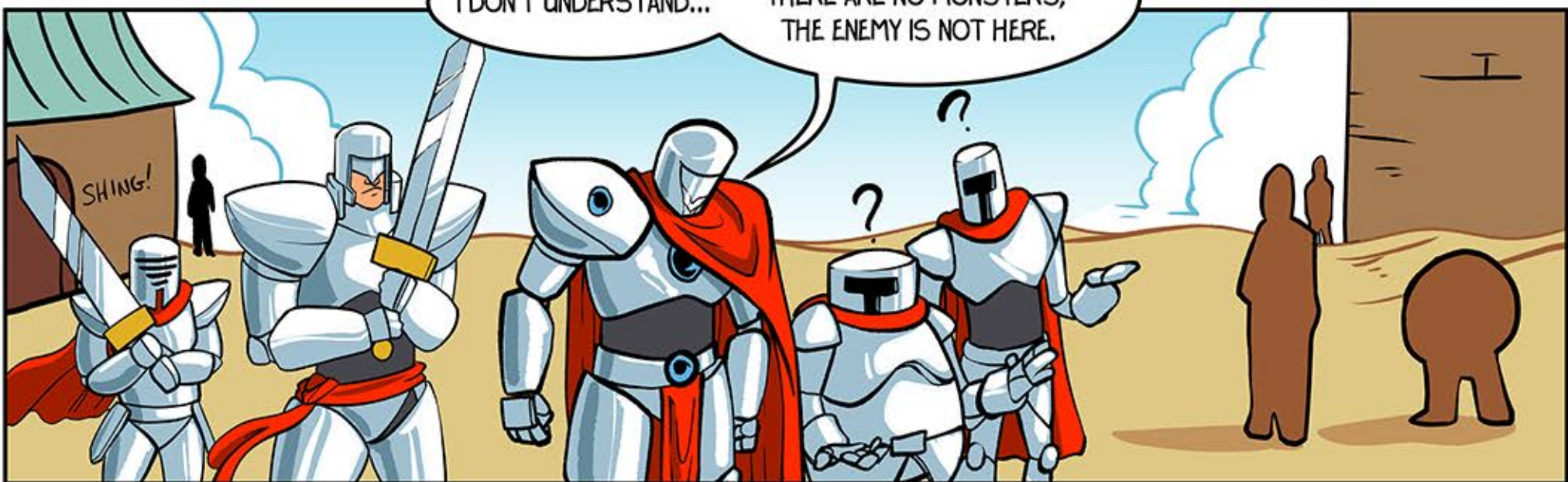


3 MONTHS LATER...





I DON'T UNDERSTAND... THIS IS A PEACEFUL VILLAGE. THERE ARE NO MONSTERS, THE ENEMY IS NOT HERE.

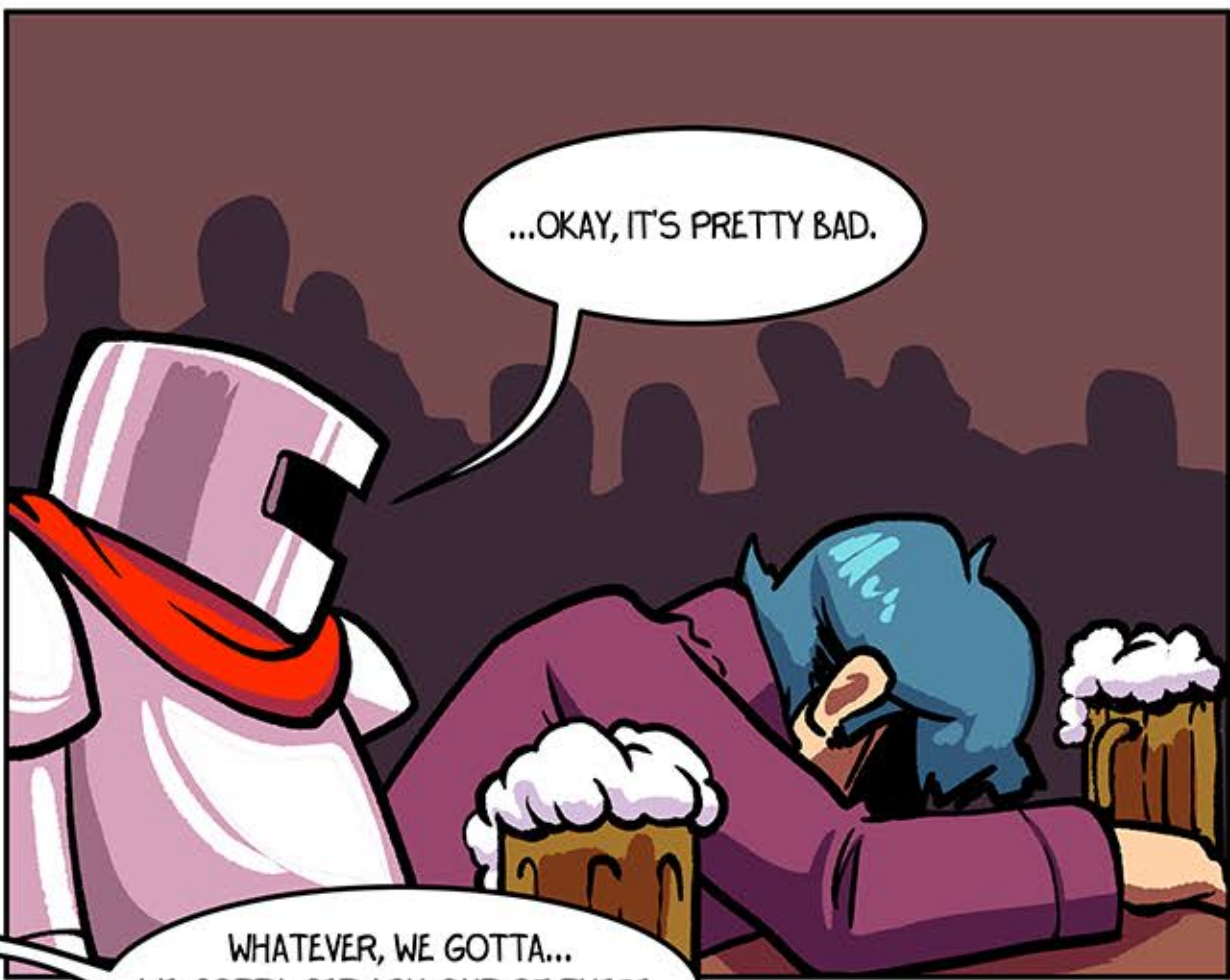


WE HAVE ORDERS TO DESTROY THIS VILLAGE!!

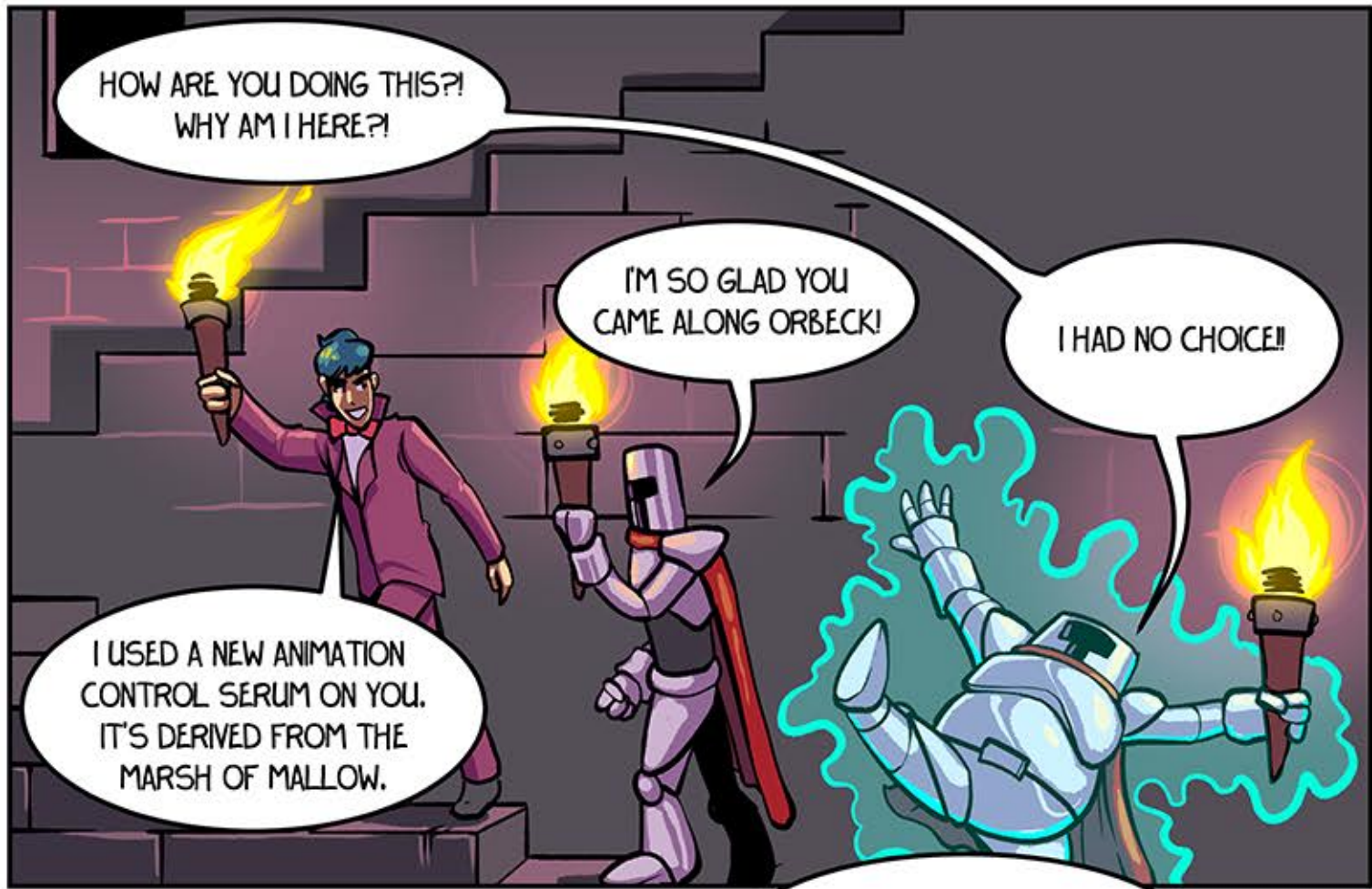
WE MUST FULFILL OUR DUTY!!

IF YOU WANT TO ATTACK INNOCENT VILLAGERS, YOU'LL BOTH NEED TO GET THROUGH ME!!







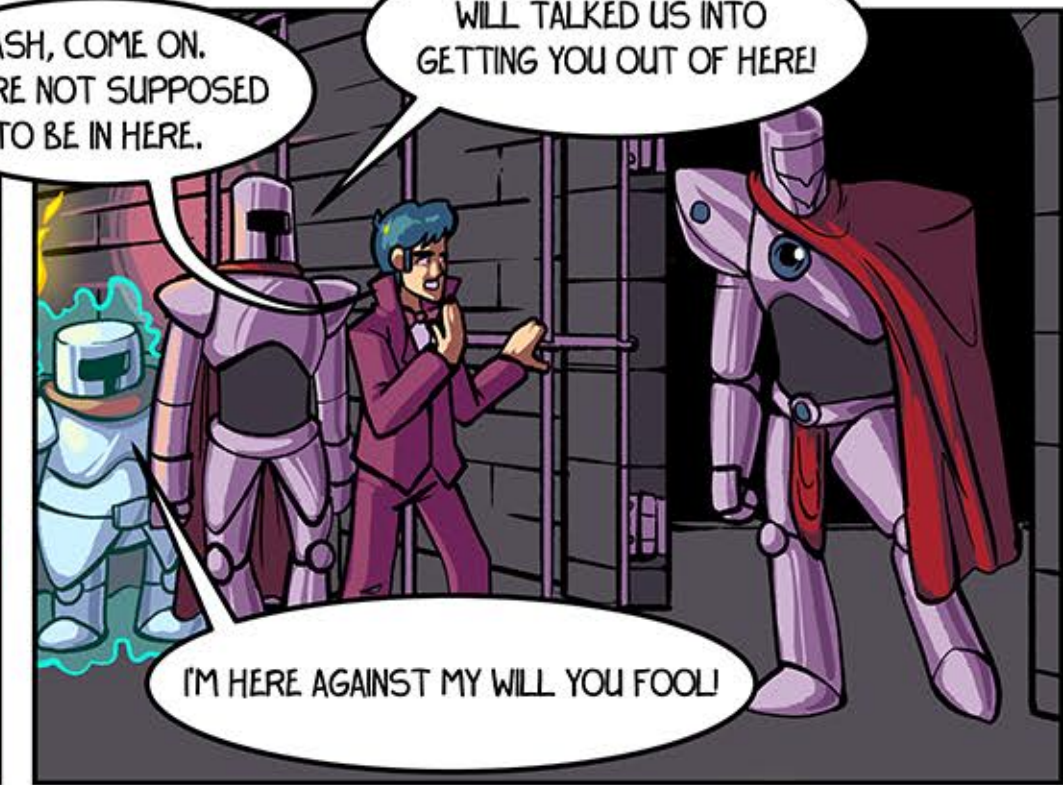


HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?! WHY AM I HERE?!

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME ALONG ORBECK!

I HAD NO CHOICE!!

I USED A NEW ANIMATION CONTROL SERUM ON YOU. IT'S DERIVED FROM THE MARSH OF MALLOW.

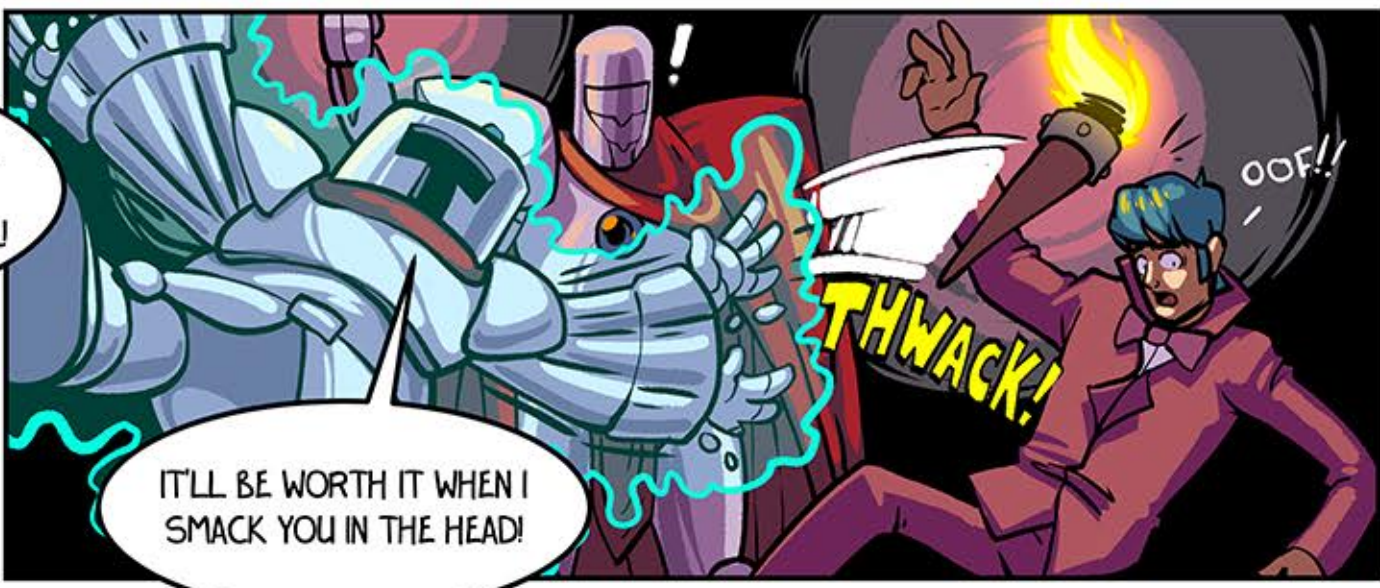


THERE'S ASH! LET'S GO...

ASH, COME ON. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE.

WILL TALKED US INTO GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE!

I'M HERE AGAINST MY WILL YOU FOOL!



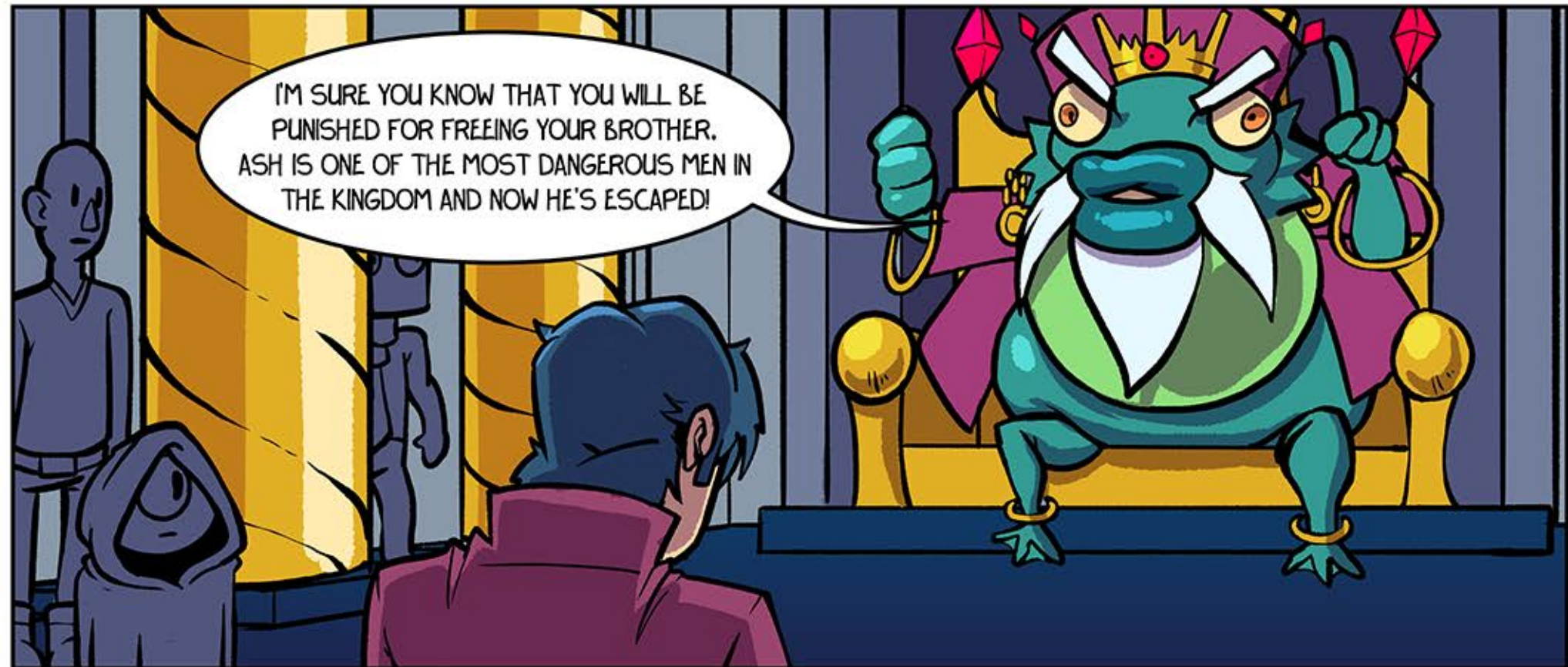
IT'LL BE WORTH IT TOMORROW ORBECK WHEN WE'RE FAR AWAY FROM HERE AND YOU'RE BACK UNDER YOUR OWN CONTROL!

IT'LL BE WORTH IT WHEN I SMACK YOU IN THE HEAD!

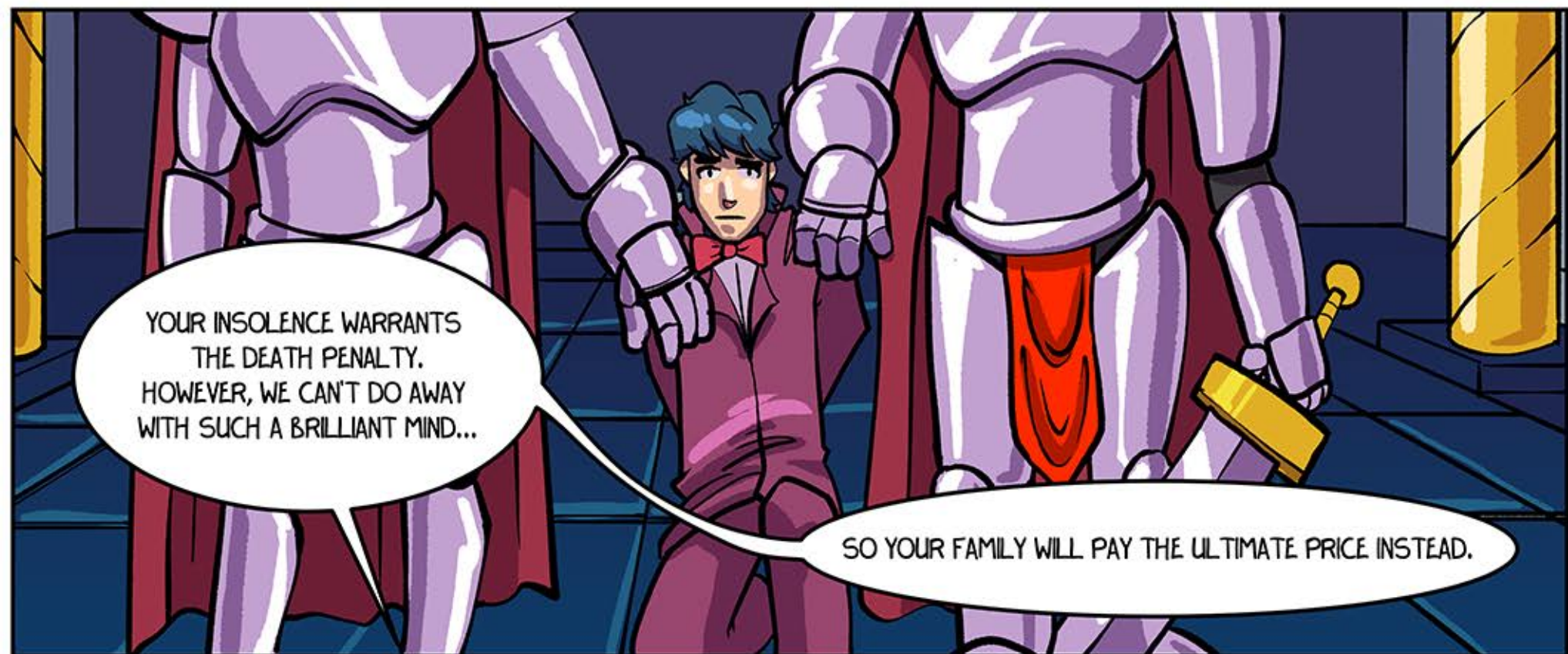


AAHHHHH!!

\*MRRRFFFF!!



I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR FREEING YOUR BROTHER. ASH IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN IN THE KINGDOM AND NOW HE'S ESCAPED!



YOUR INSOLENT WARRANTS THE DEATH PENALTY. HOWEVER, WE CAN'T DO AWAY WITH SUCH A BRILLIANT MIND...

SO YOUR FAMILY WILL PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE INSTEAD.



WHAT!?  
YOU CAN'T!!!

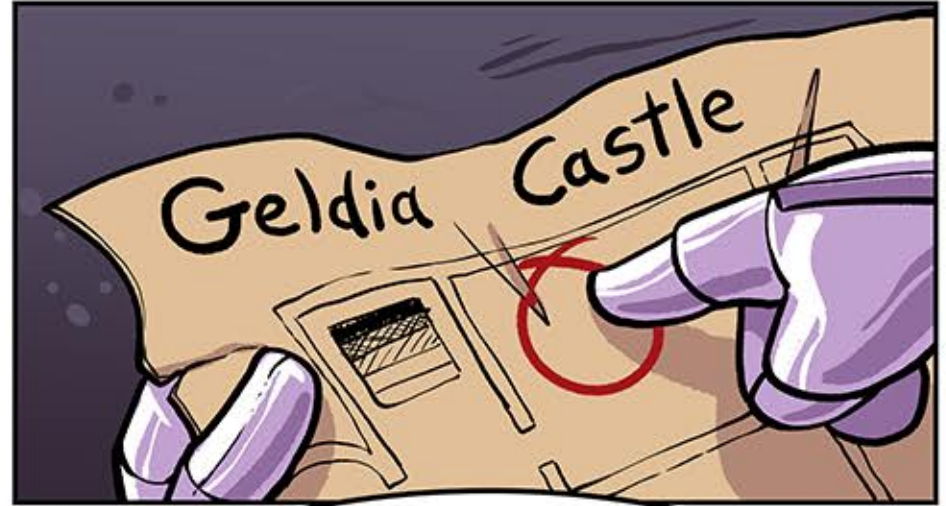
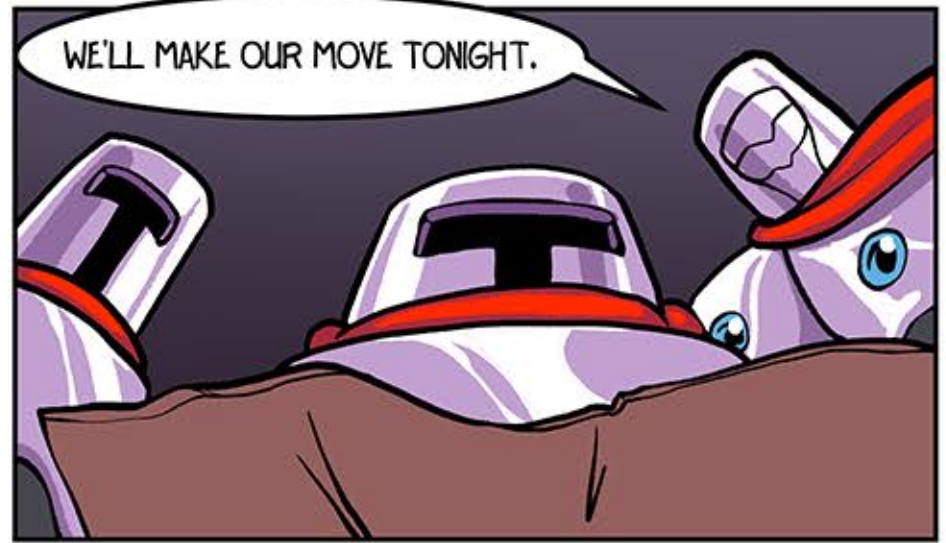


IT IS ALREADY DONE. RETURN TO YOUR WORKSHOP. YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE UNTIL THE WEAPON IS FINISHED.

ONE YEAR LATER...



WE'LL MAKE OUR MOVE TONIGHT.

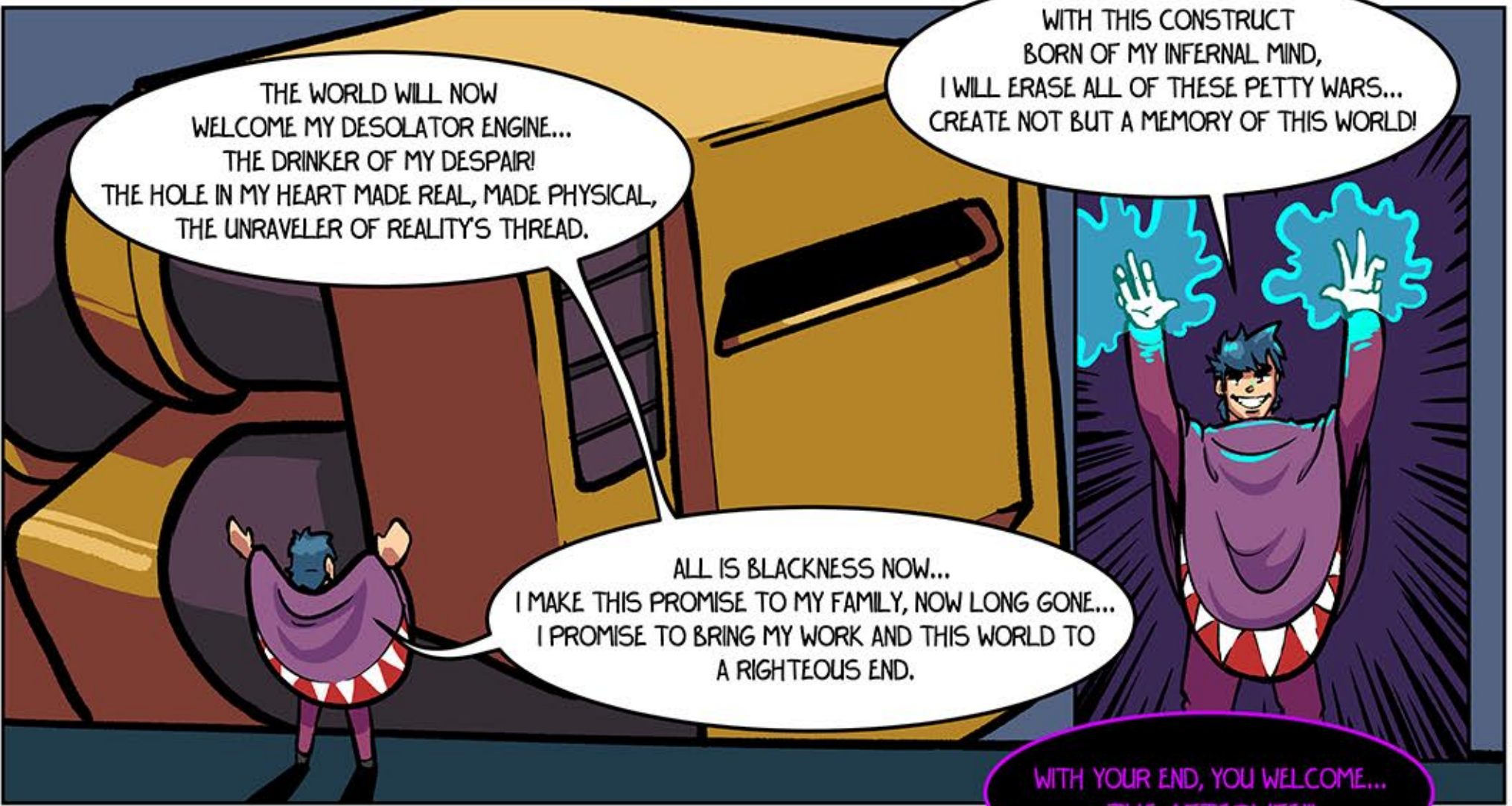


THE WORLD WILL NOW WELCOME MY DESOLATOR ENGINE... THE DRINKER OF MY DESPAIR! THE HOLE IN MY HEART MADE REAL, MADE PHYSICAL, THE UNRAVELER OF REALITY'S THREAD.

WITH THIS CONSTRUCT BORN OF MY INFERNAL MIND, I WILL ERASE ALL OF THESE PETTY WARS... CREATE NOT BUT A MEMORY OF THIS WORLD!

ALL IS BLACKNESS NOW... I MAKE THIS PROMISE TO MY FAMILY, NOW LONG GONE... I PROMISE TO BRING MY WORK AND THIS WORLD TO A RIGHTEOUS END.

WITH YOUR END, YOU WELCOME... THE AFTERLIFE!!!



VOOOOOMMM!

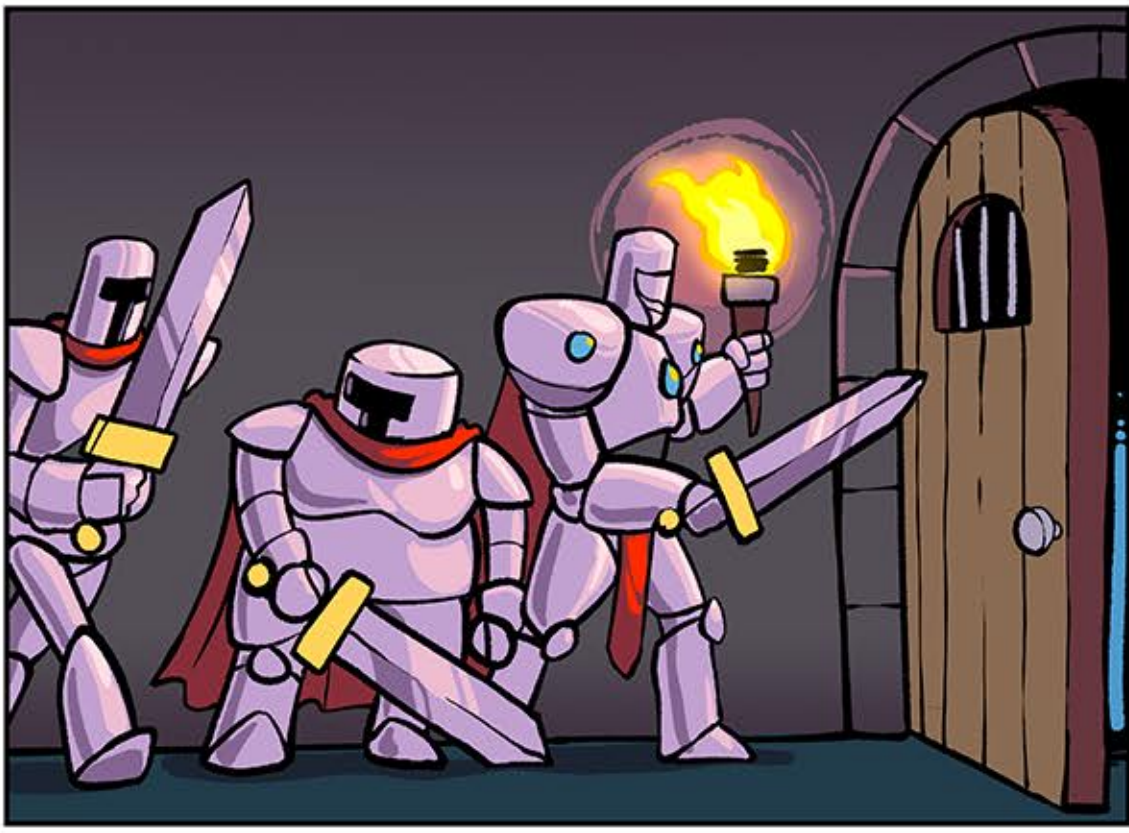
IT IS DONE!!

YOU MEDDLE WITH A FORCE YOU DO NOT COMPREHEND, PITIFUL MAN!!

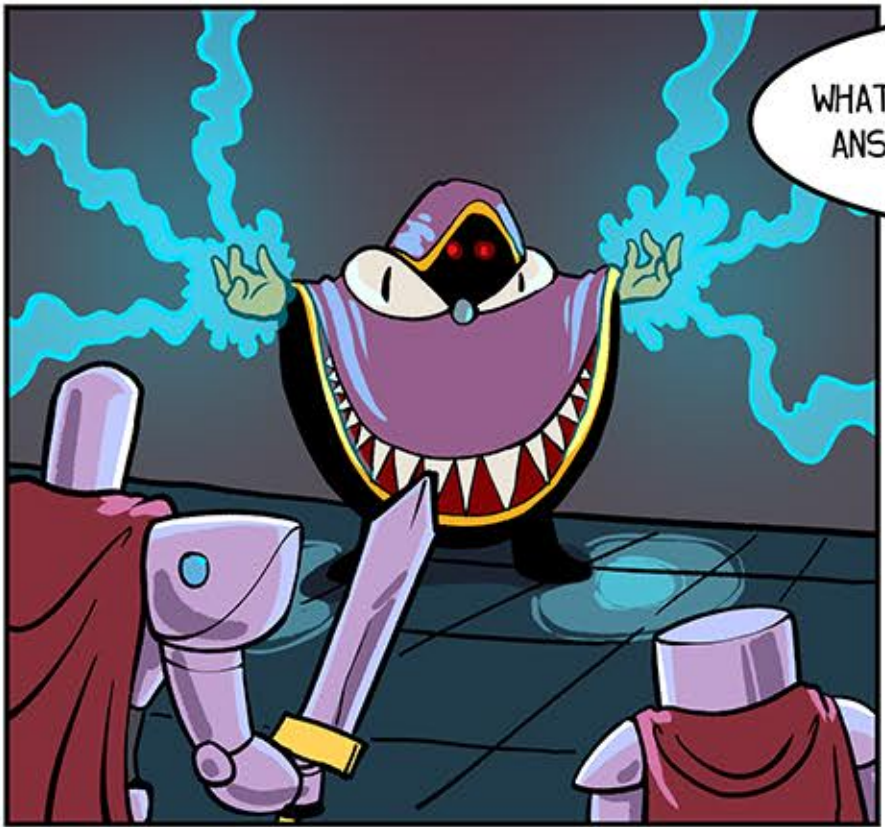
!!!?

YOU ARE THE VESSEL, THE HARBINGER OF THE END.

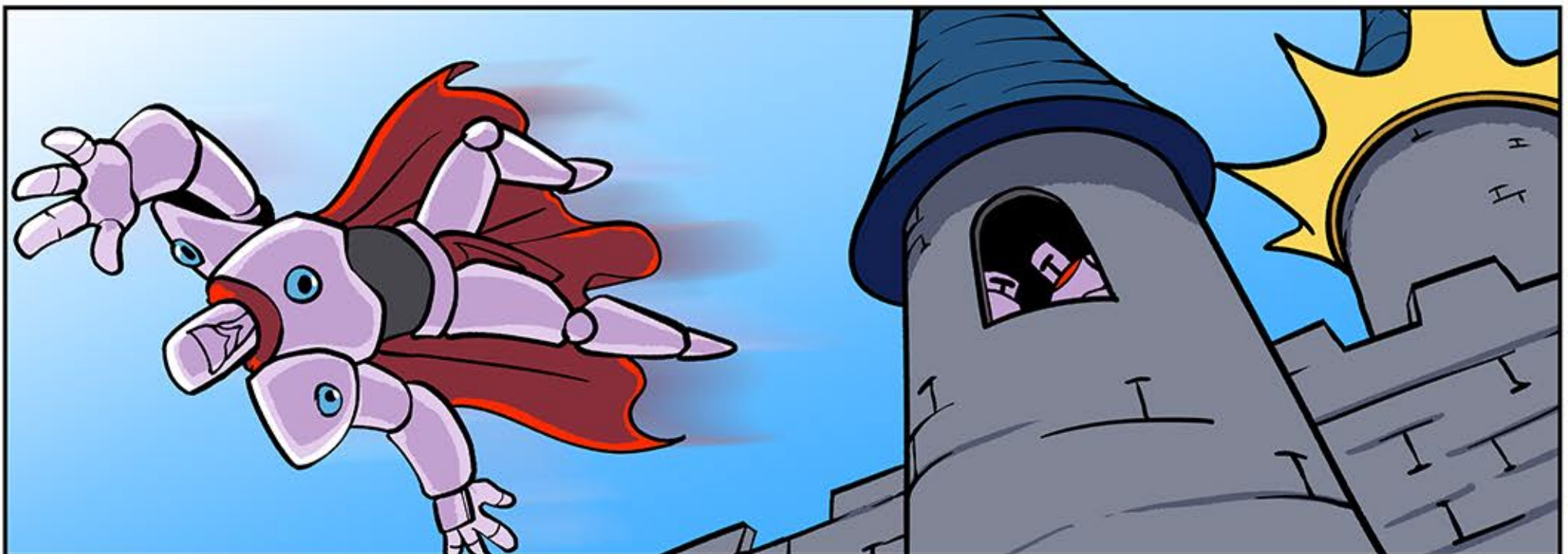


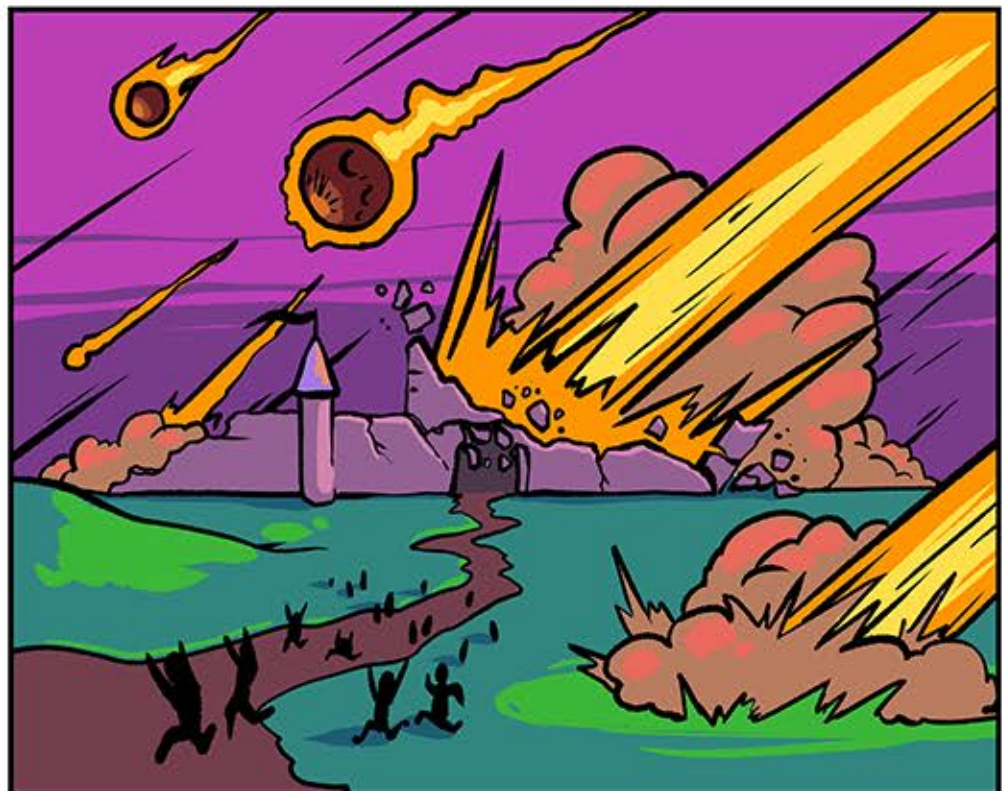
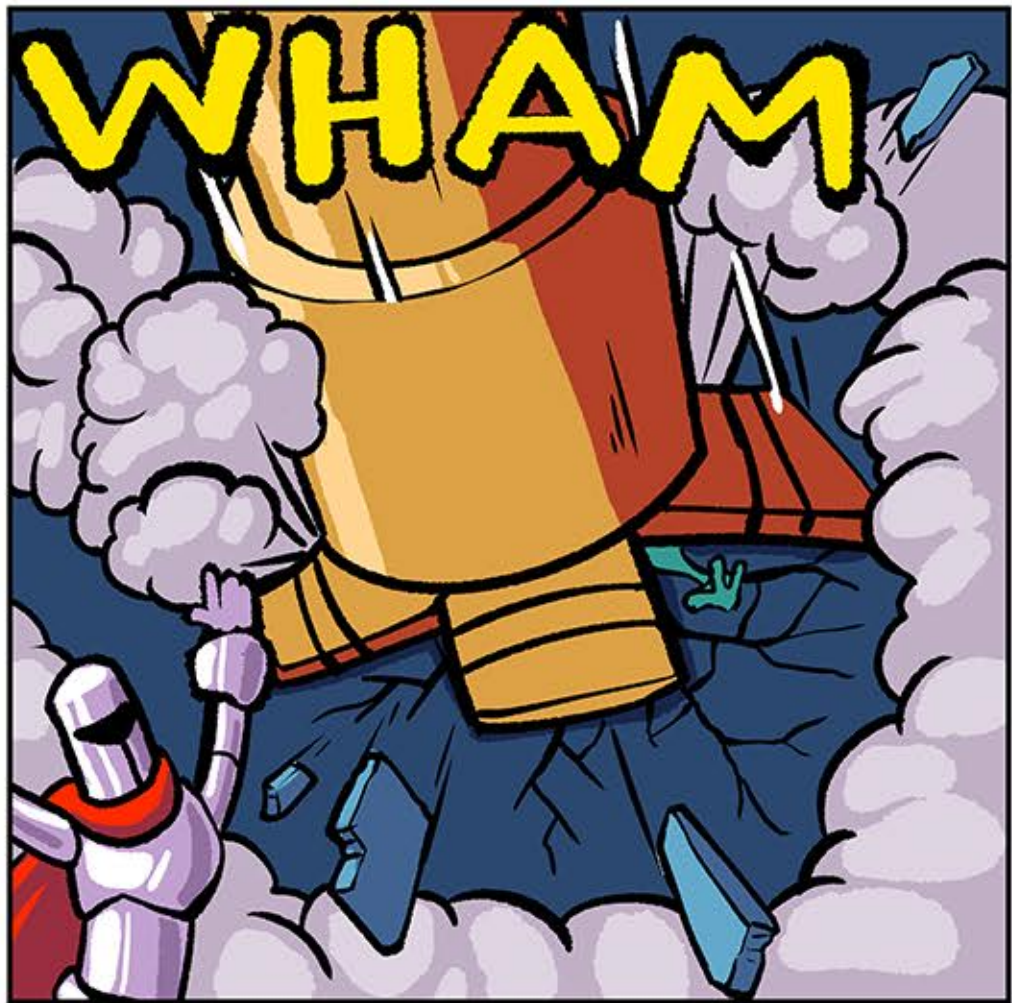


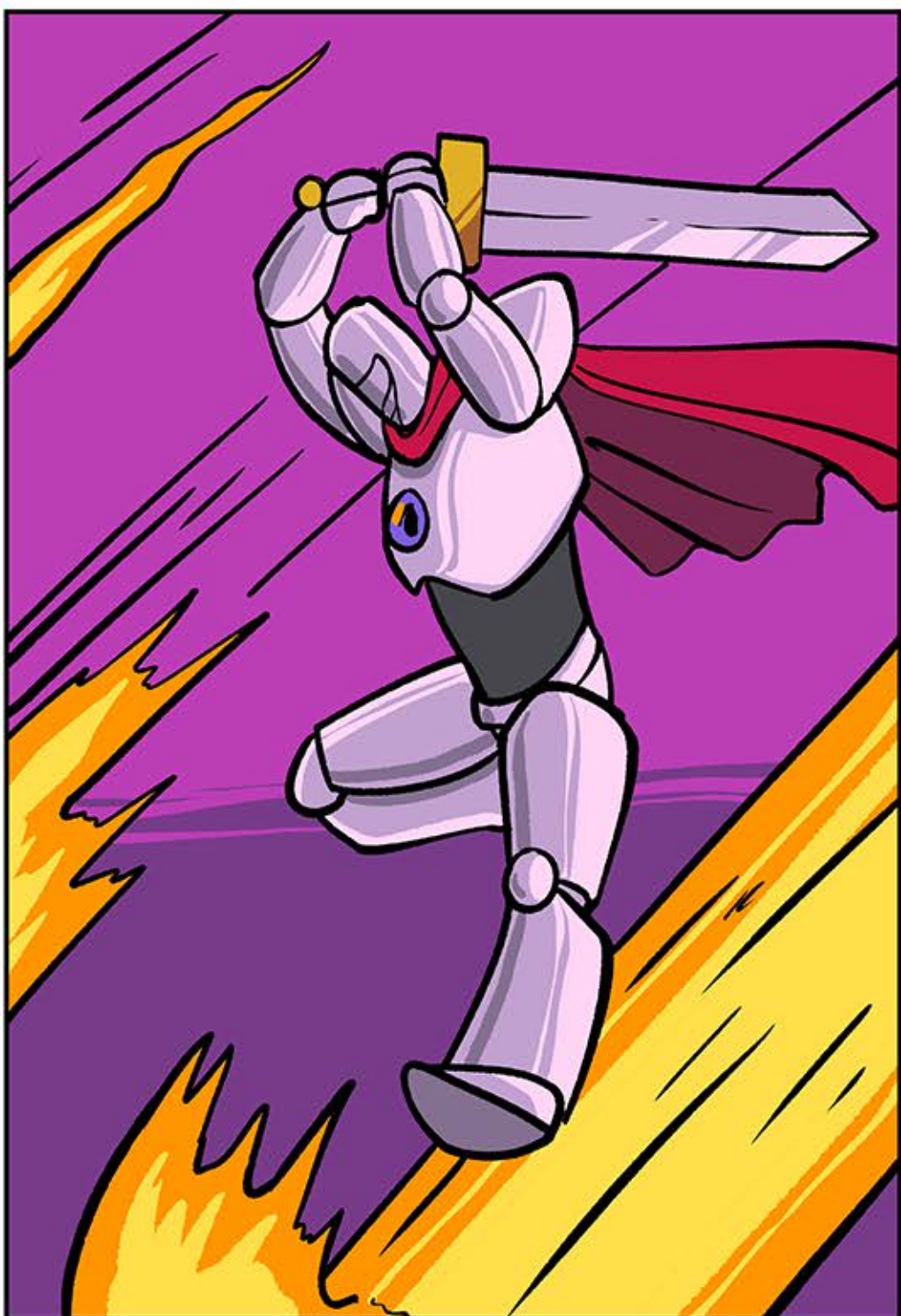
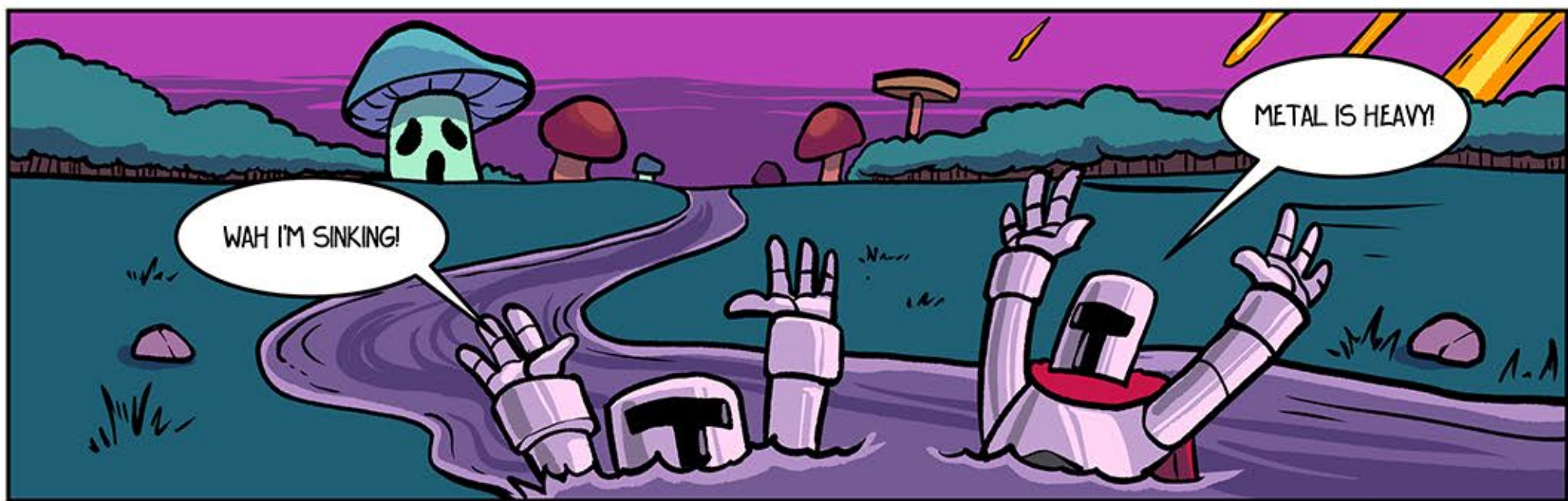
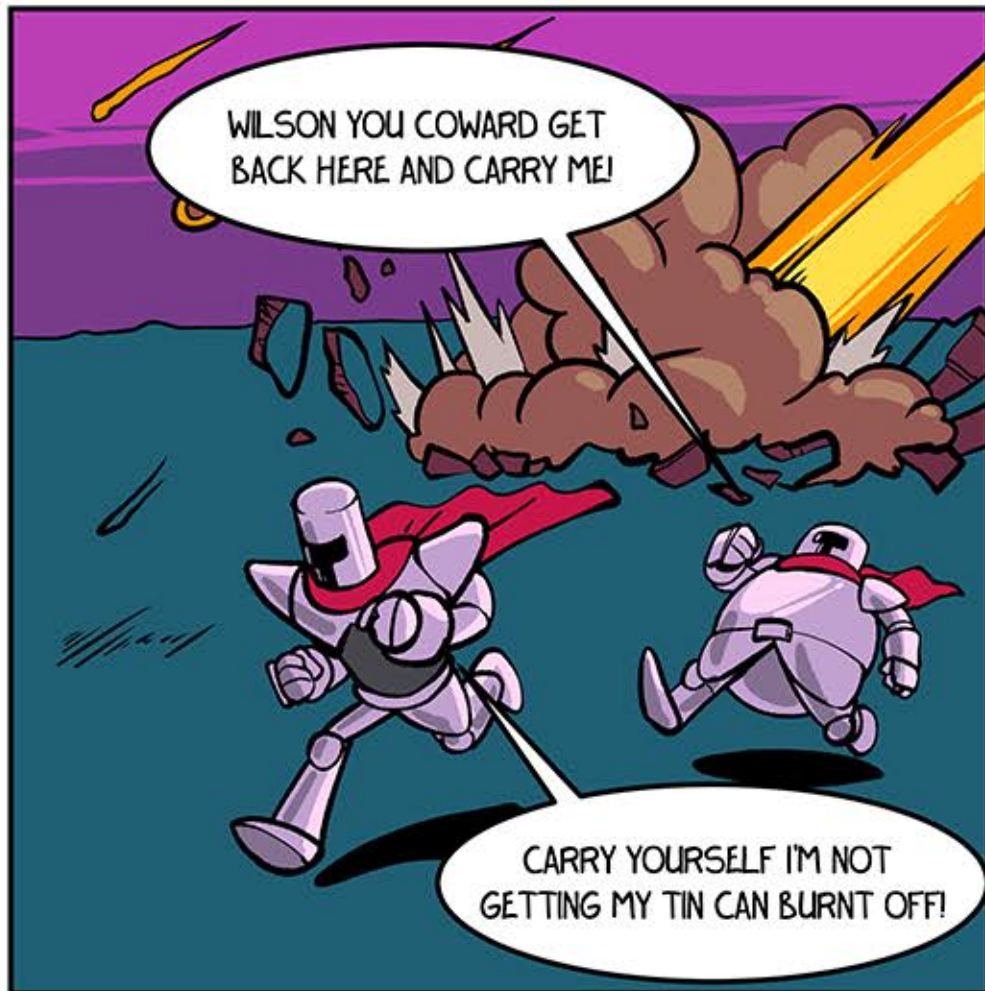
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?



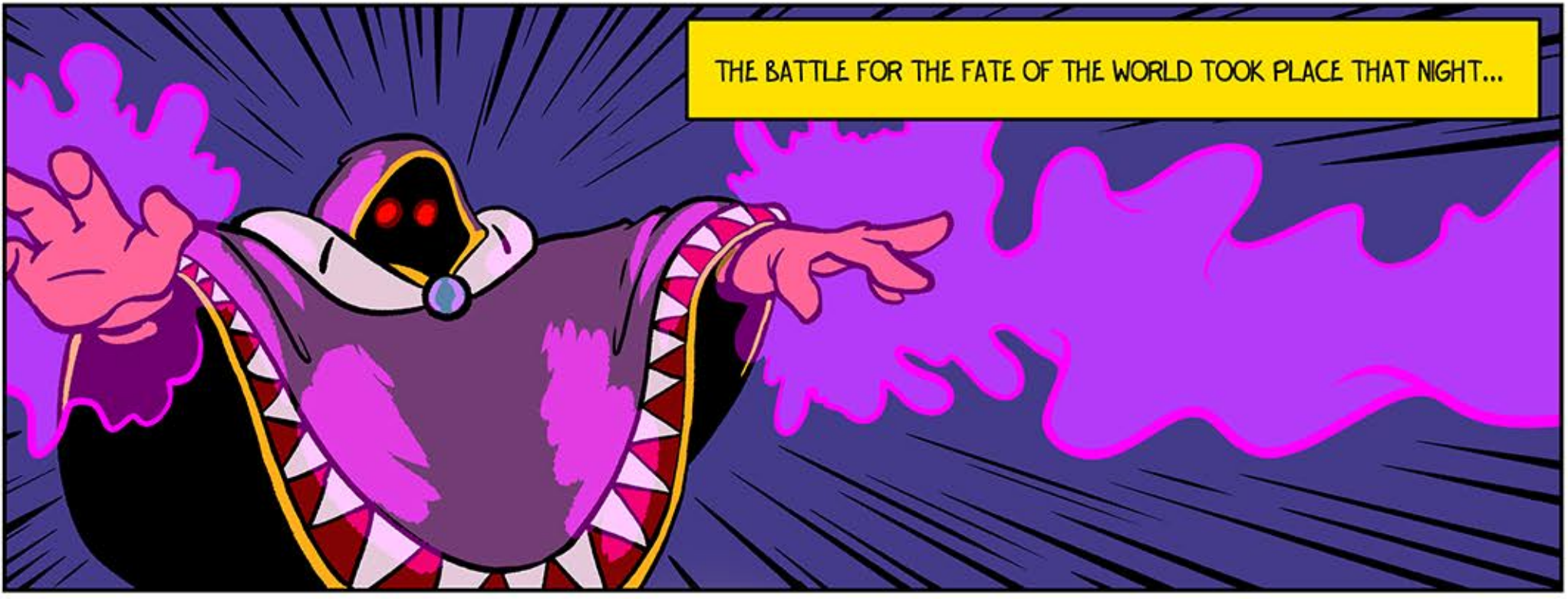
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH WILLI?  
ANSWER FOR YOUR CRIMES!



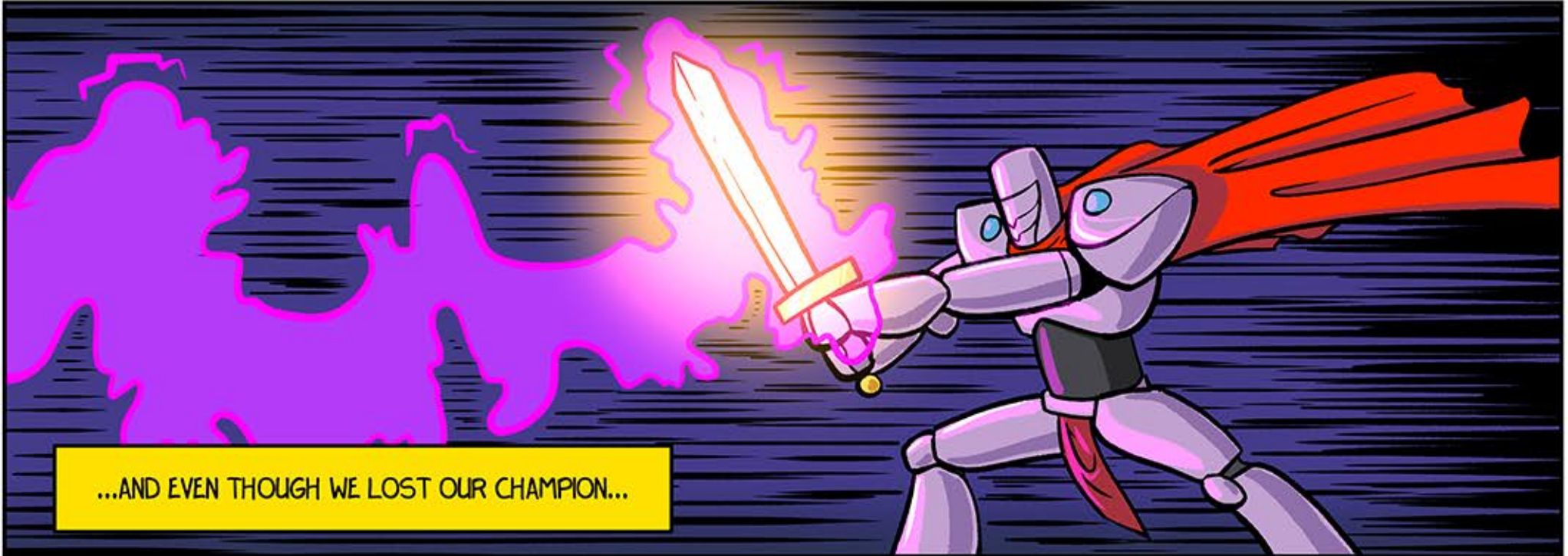




THE BATTLE FOR THE FATE OF THE WORLD TOOK PLACE THAT NIGHT...



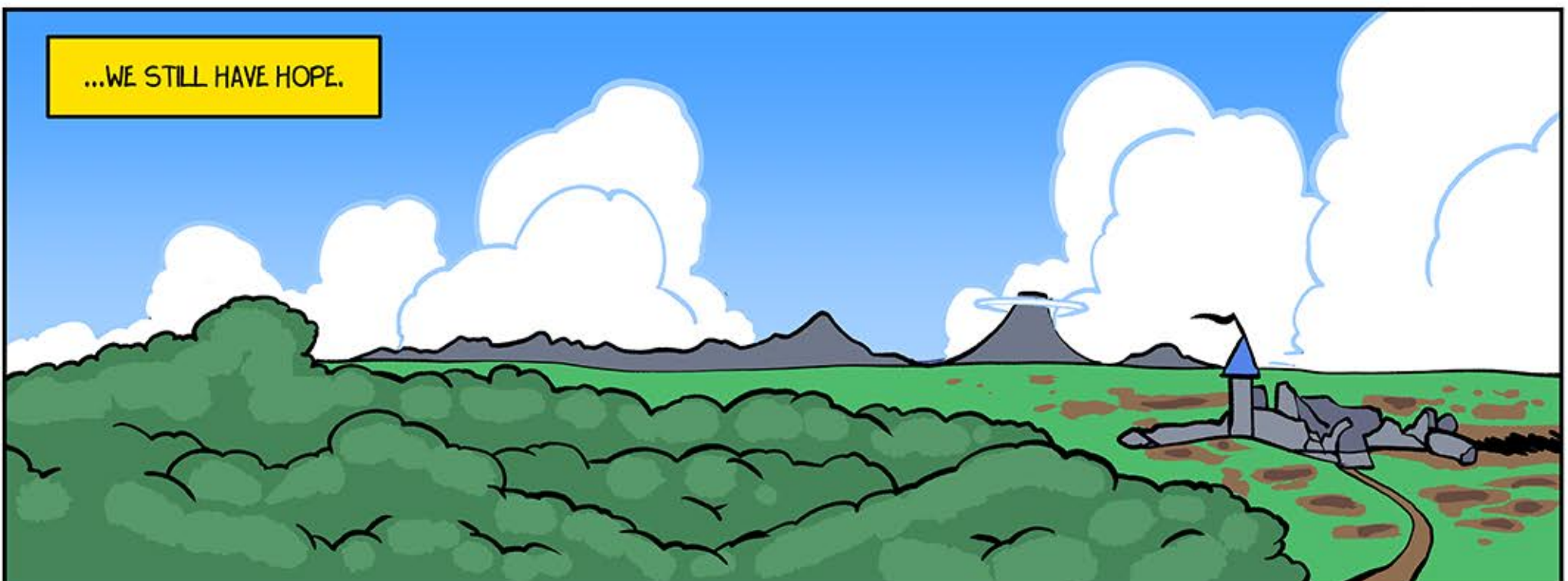
...AND EVEN THOUGH WE LOST OUR CHAMPION...



FWOOOOOOOOOOOM



...WE STILL HAVE HOPE.





TO BE CONTINUED...