





NATURE
HATES YOU!



SO, UH...
YOU GUYS
AREN'T FIGHTING
ANYMORE?

WE'VE
ARRIVED AT AN
UNDERSTANDING.





ARE YOU
LOUTS COMING
OR NOT?



DURING TRAINING
TODAY, MASTER KUNYO
SAID I WAS HOLDING MY
ARMS TOO FAR APART FOR
ONE OF MY FORMS.



I TOLD HIM
THAT'S HOW YOU
GET THE BIGGEST FIRE
BLAST! HE DIDN'T
CARE.

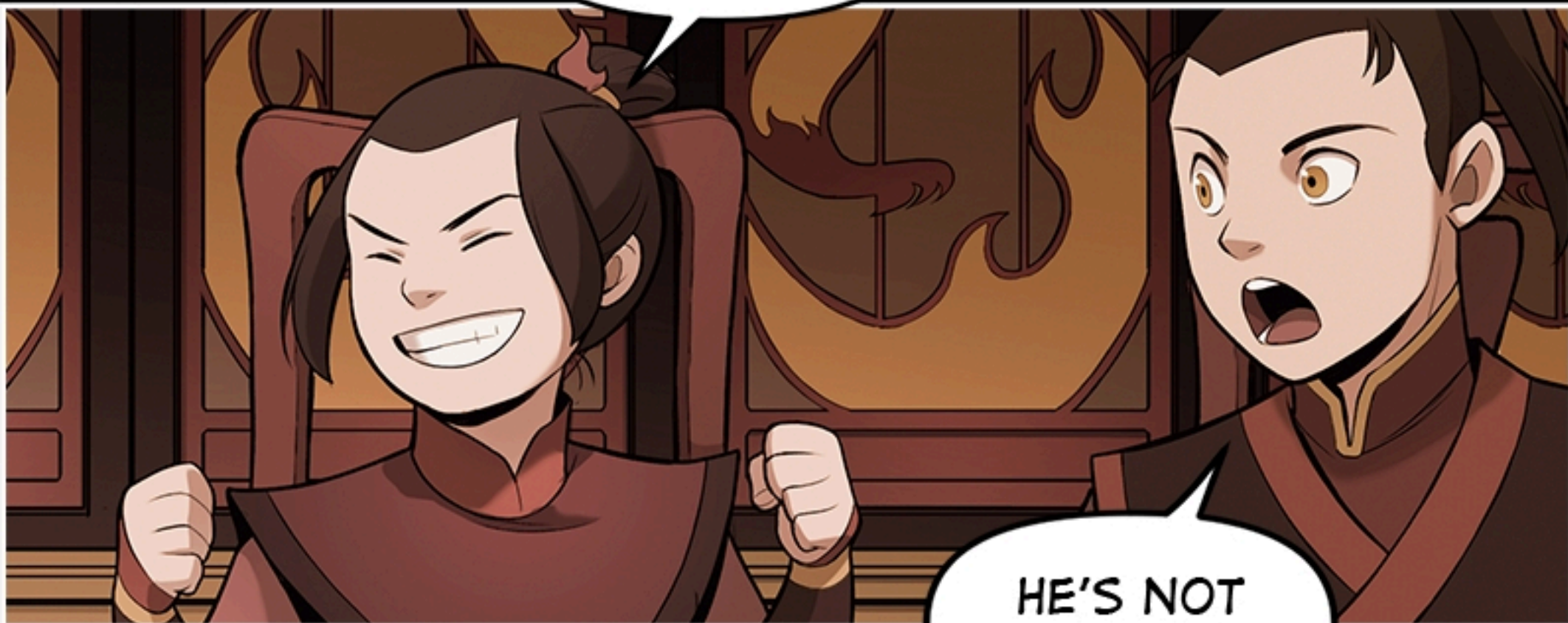
HE WANTED ME
TO DO THE FORM
THE WAY HE DOES IT.
THE DUMB WAY.

SO WHEN
HE HAD HIS BACK
TURNED, I SET HIS
PANTS ON FIRE!



HM. YOUR TEACHER
SOUNDS LIKE A FOOL.
I'LL HAVE HIM SENT
TO THE COLONIES.

SERVES HIM
RIGHT! WHAT
A DUMMY!



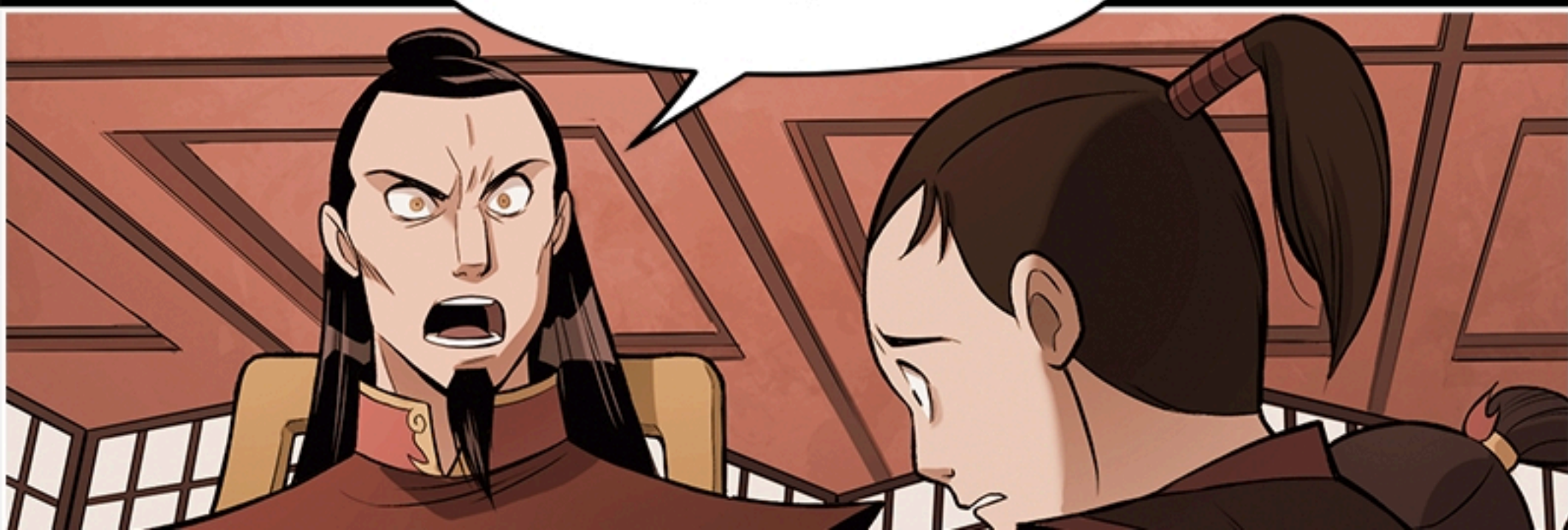
HE'S NOT
A DUMMY!

HE JUST
THINKS THAT
PROPER FIREBENDING
HAS TO START--



ZUKO! HOW
DARE YOU LECTURE
YOUR SISTER ON
FIREBENDING?!

DESPITE BEING
A YEAR YOUNGER,
HOW MANY MORE FORMS
HAS SHE MASTERED
THAN YOU?





FOURTEEN.

WHEN YOU WERE
BORN, WE WEREN'T
SURE IF YOU WERE
A BENDER AT ALL.

YOU DIDN'T
HAVE THAT ***SPARK***
IN YOUR EYES.



I PLANNED TO
CAST YOU FROM
THE PALACE.

HOW
EMBARRASSING
FOR A PRINCE OF THE
FIRE NATION TO HAVE
A ***NONBENDER*** AS

A NONBENDER AS
HIS FIRSTBORN!

LUCKY FOR YOU,
YOUR MOTHER AND
THE FIRE SAGES PLEADED
WITH ME TO GIVE
YOU A CHANCE.

AZULA, ON
THE OTHER HAND,
NEVER NEEDED THAT
KIND OF LUCK.

SHE WAS
BORN **LUCKY**.
YOU WERE LUCKY
TO BE **BORN**.

OZAI! WHAT A
TERRIBLE THING
TO SAY!

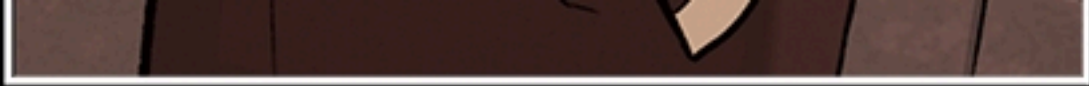


YOUR HIGHNESS!
FORGIVE ME, BUT A
YUYAN ARCHER REQUESTS
AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU!



FIRE
PRINCE OZAI!



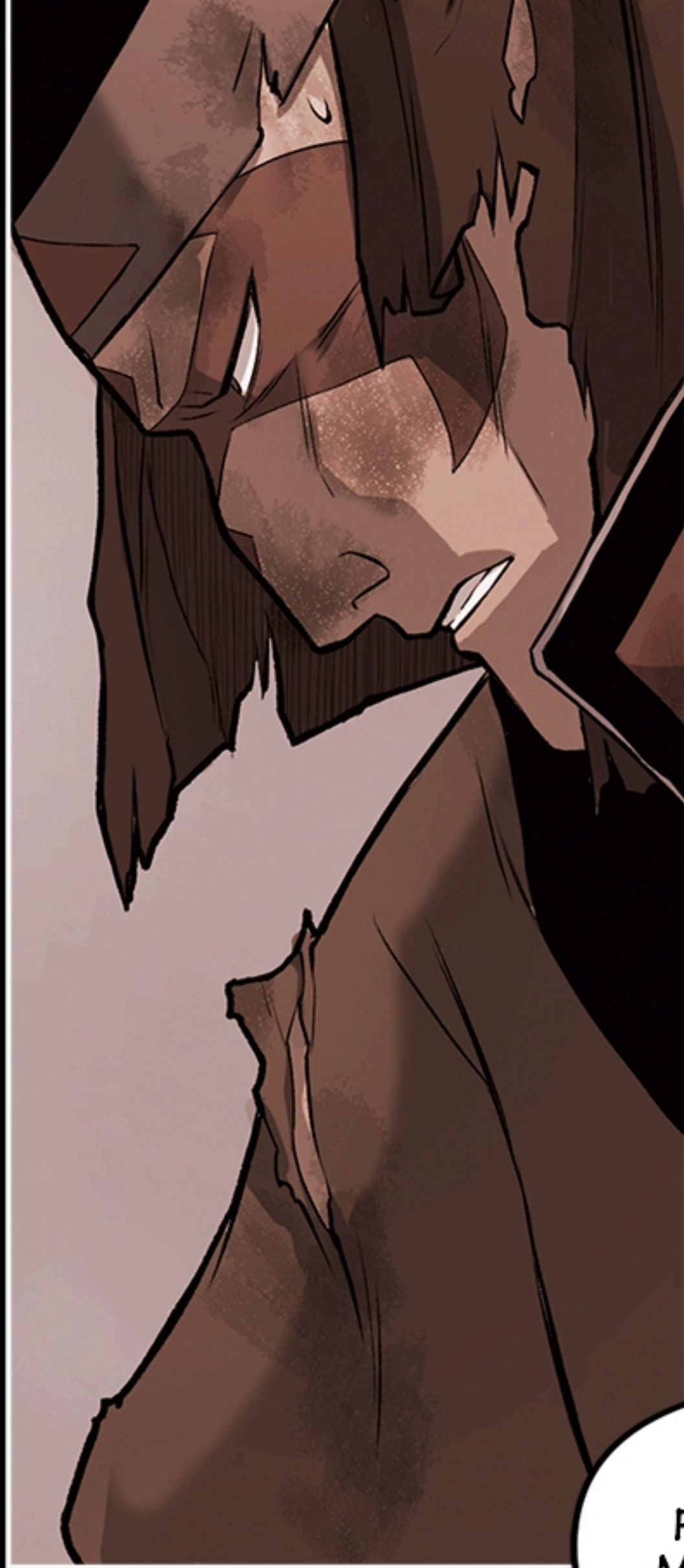


THE MAN NAMED
IKEM NO LONGER
LIVES IN HIRA'A.



THE LOCALS SAID
HE'D RUN OFF TO A
FOREST AT THE BOTTOM
OF A NEARBY VALLEY.

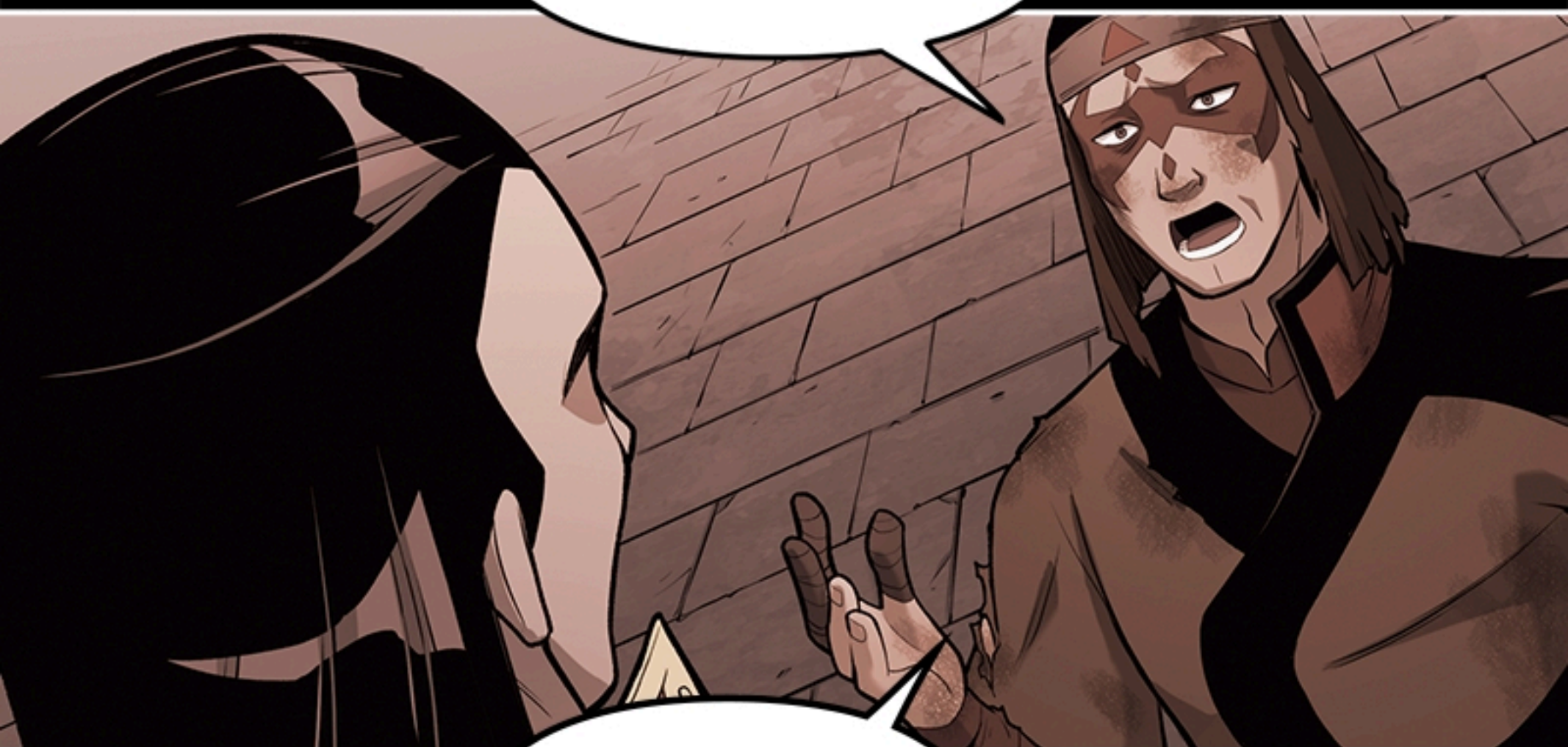




I SEARCHED THAT
FOREST FOR MANY
MONTHS, BUT NEVER
FOUND HIM.



THAT FOREST...
YOUR HIGHNESS,
I'VE NEVER BEEN
ANYWHERE LIKE IT!



THE TREES,
THE ANIMALS,
THE INSECTS...

THEY'RE ALL
OUT TO GET YOU!
A COMMONER COULD
NOT HAVE SURVIVED
FOR LONG!

I BELIEVE YOUR
HIGHNESS'S DESIRE
HAS ALREADY BEEN
FULFILLED.

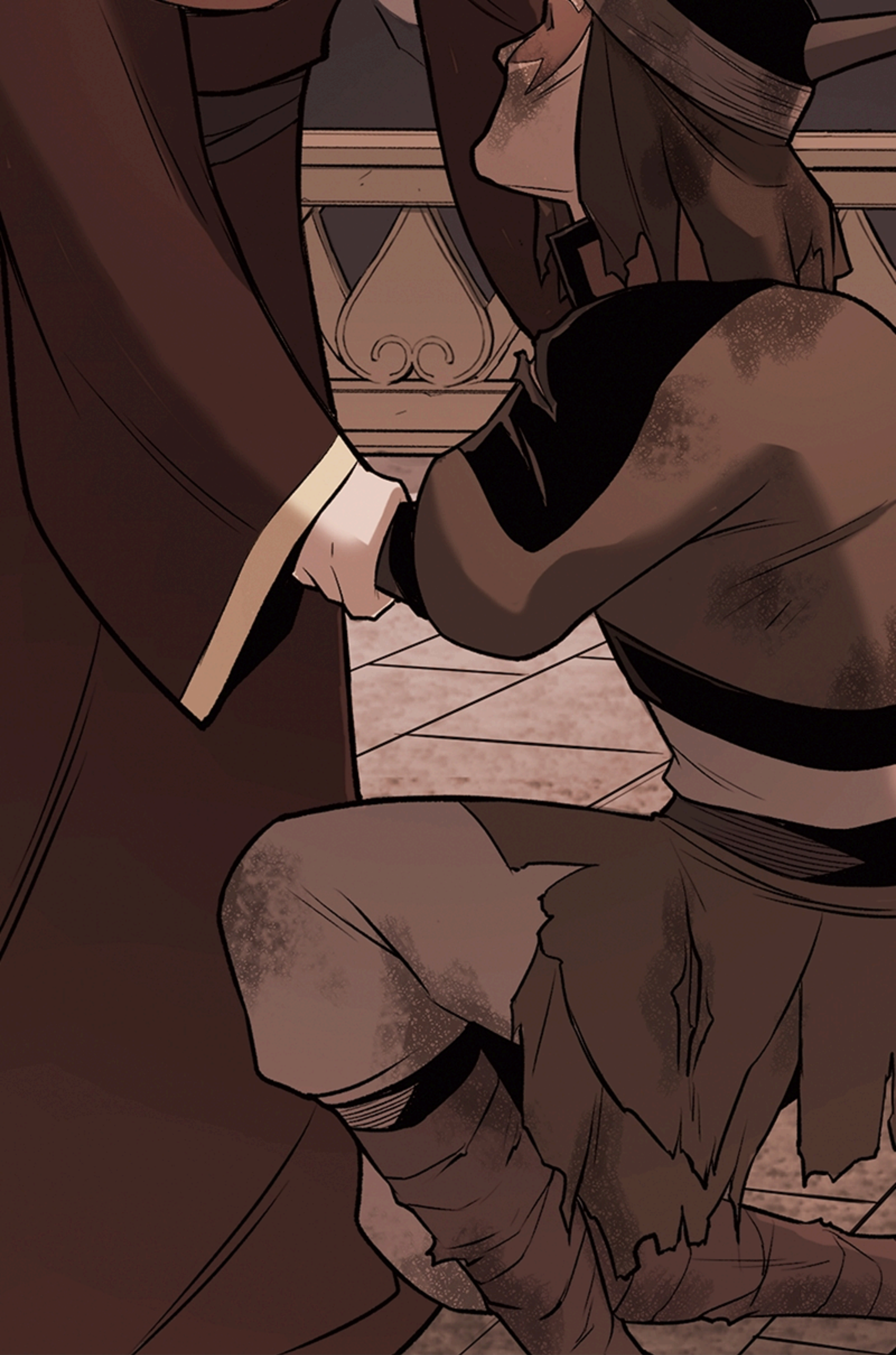
BUT THIS
IS ALL MERE
CONJECTURE! YOU BRING
ME NO ASSURANCE
OF HIS DEMISE!



...I'M
SORRY, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

ON YOUR FEET,
VACHIR. GROVELING
IS UNBECOMING
OF YOU.





YOU WILL
RETURN TO THE
POHUI STRONGHOLD AND
GIVE YOUR RESIGNATION
TO COLONEL SHINU.



WH-WHAT...?

THE YUYAN ARCHERS
ARE AN ELITE FIGHTING
FORCE, THE *BEST*
OF THE *BEST*.

YOU
NO LONGER
BELONG.

PLEASE, YOUR
HIGHNESS, HAVE
MERCY! THAT
FOREST--!



IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM
TO HAVE SURVIVED,
I SWEAR!

IMPOSSIBLE!



LEAVE ME
WITH MY WIFE!

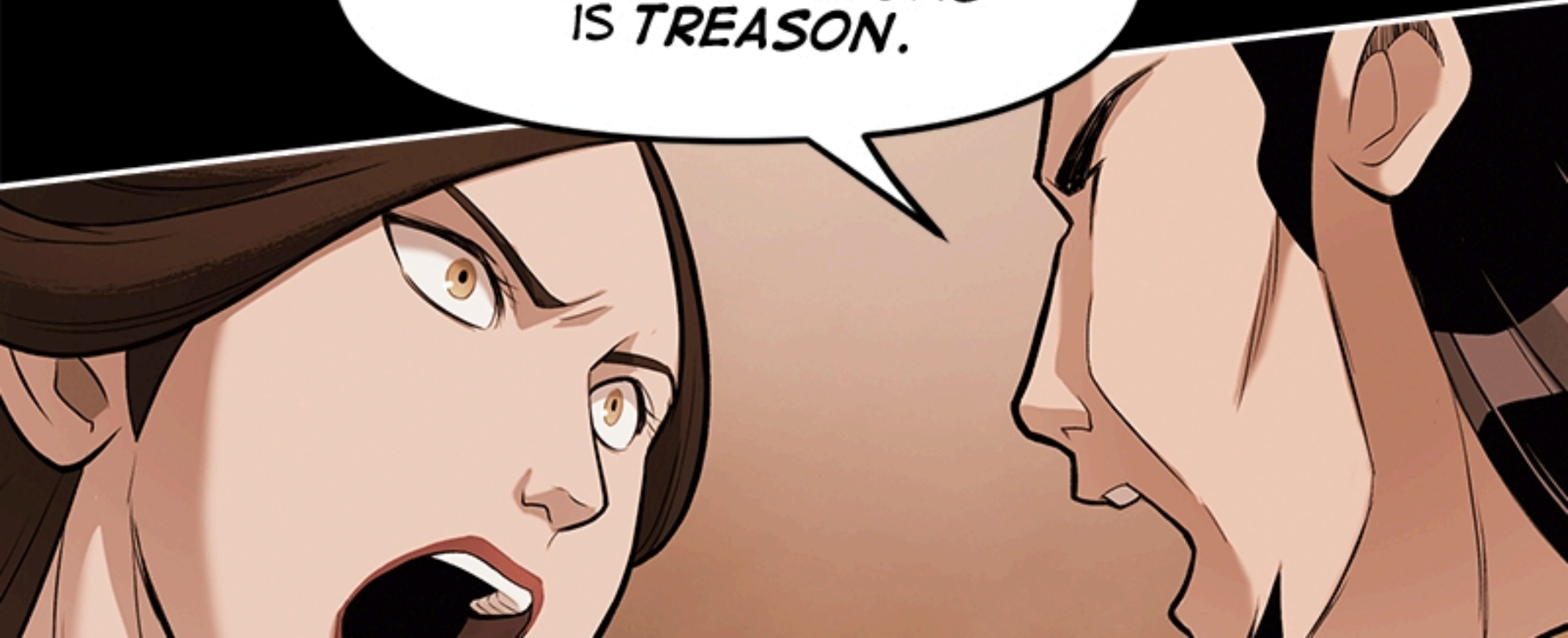
MY WORDS
ARE FOR HER
ALONE.

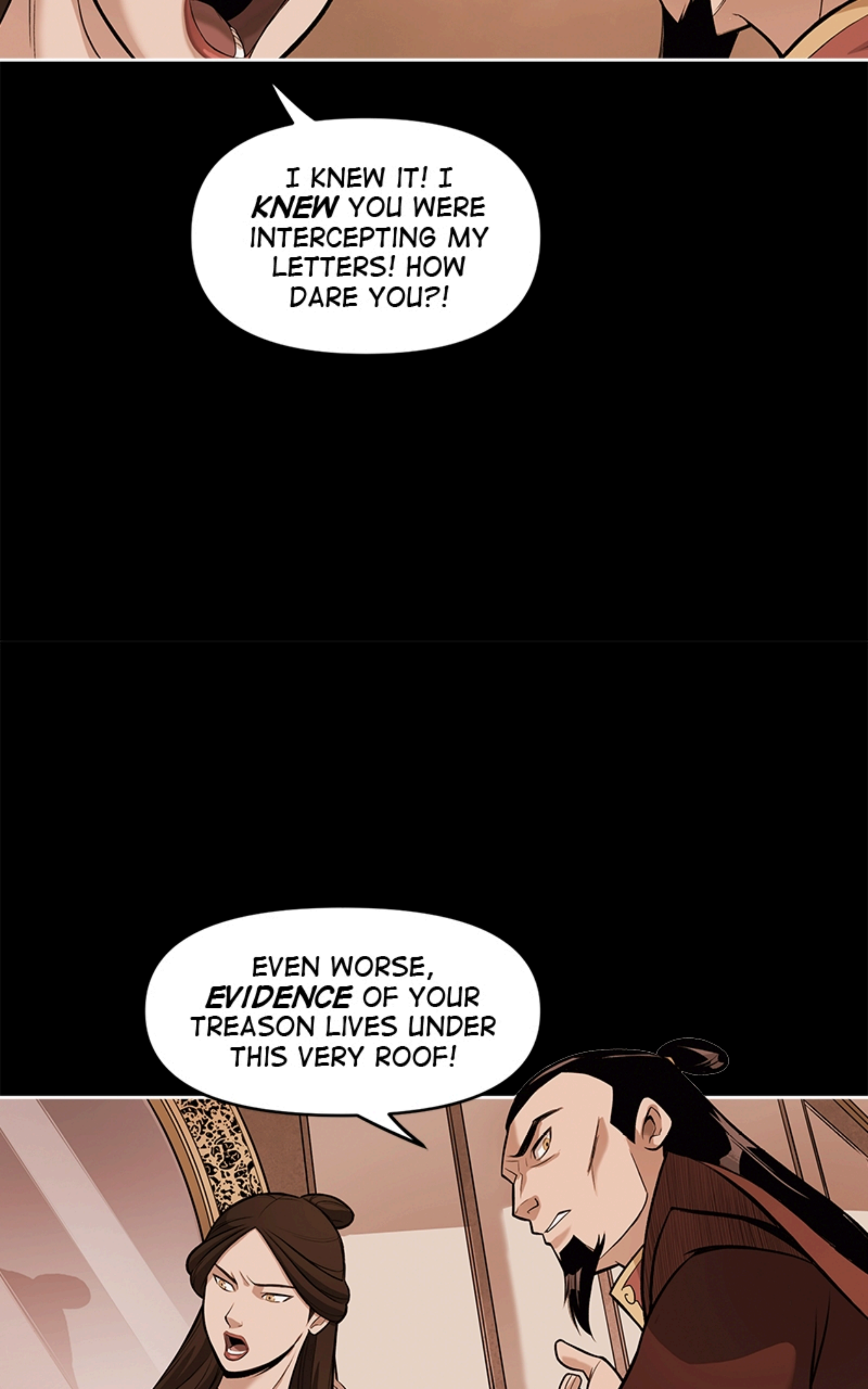
ON OUR
WEDDING DAY,
I TOLD YOU TO
FORGET YOUR
OLD LIFE!



WHO YOU ARE
IS NOW ENTIRELY
DEFINED BY YOUR
MARRIAGE TO *ME*.

ANY CONTACT WITH
YOUR PAST--ESPECIALLY
PAST INFATUATIONS--
IS *TREASON*.





I KNEW IT! I
KNEW YOU WERE
INTERCEPTING MY
LETTERS! HOW
DARE YOU?!

EVEN WORSE,
EVIDENCE OF YOUR
TREASON LIVES UNDER
THIS VERY ROOF!



OZAI, DON'T
BE A FOOL--!

BUT I AM A
MERCIFUL MAN.



I WILL ALLOW
THE CHILD TO LIVE,
DESPITE THE LOWLINESS
OF HIS TRUE HERITAGE.
IKEM, HOWEVER--

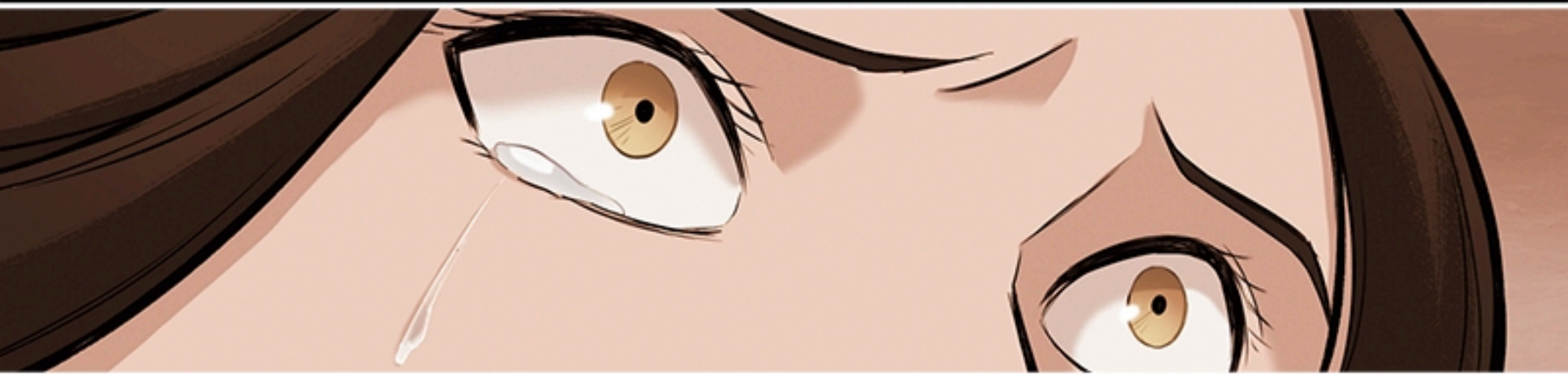
--IKEM RICHLY
DESERVED HIS
PUNISHMENT.



WHAT DID
YOU DO?!

*I WIPE THAT
TREACHEROUS DOG
FROM EXISTENCE.*









WE NEED TO HIDE
OUR IDENTITIES. WE'LL
GET MOBBED IF PEOPLE
FIGURE OUT WE'RE THE
AVATAR AND THE
FIRE LORD.

DON'T
WORRY. AFTER
HIDING FROM *YOU*
FOR ALL THOSE MONTHS,
WE'RE MASTERS OF
DISGUISE!

DISGUISE!



AANG, THAT
HEADBAND OF YOURS IS
CUTE, BUT AS A DISGUISE,
IT WORKED A LOT BETTER
WHEN YOU HAD HAIR.



SEE? A FAKE
BEARD MADE OF
SKY BISON FUR!
A CLASSIC!



GET AWAY
FROM ME! YOU
SMELL LIKE A WET
POSSUM-PIGEON!



ACHOO!

I THOUGHT HIRA'A
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
A SMALL TOWN. WHY
IS IT SO CROWDED?

LOOKS



LIKE THEY'RE
PERFORMING SOME
KIND OF PLAY!

I RECOGNIZE
THAT SCENE! IT'S THE
FINAL BATTLE IN *LOVE
AMONGST THE
DRAGONS*.

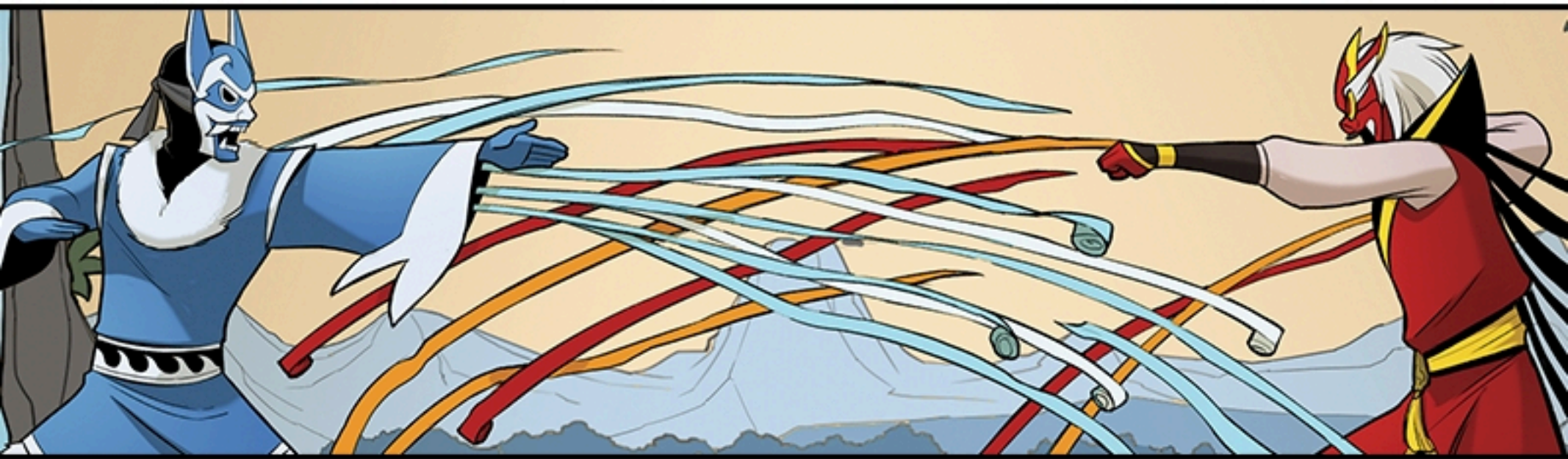
WRETCHED WATER
SPIRIT! NOW THAT I'VE
ESCAPED YOUR CURSE AND
REGAINED MY TRUE NATURE,
YOU SHALL PAY FOR
YOUR TRICKERY!



HAVE
YOU LEARNED

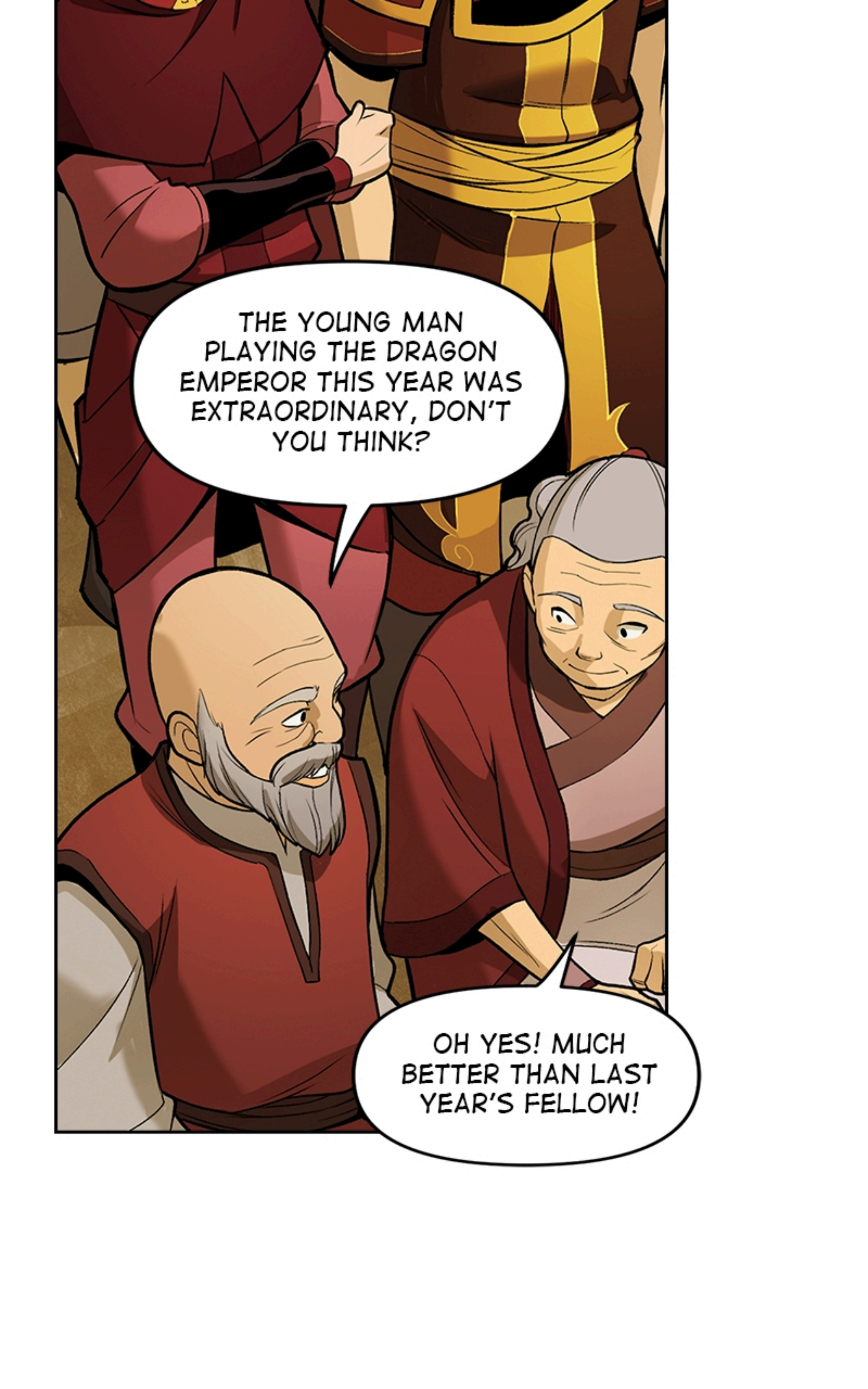
YOU LEARNED
NOTHING FROM YOUR
TIME AMONGST THE
MORTALS?

BY THREATENING
ME, YOU INVITE
YOUR OWN DOOM!









THE YOUNG MAN
PLAYING THE DRAGON
EMPEROR THIS YEAR WAS
EXTRAORDINARY, DON'T
YOU THINK?

OH YES! MUCH
BETTER THAN LAST
YEAR'S FELLOW!

REMEMBER WHEN
MOTHER USED TO TAKE
US TO WATCH THE EMBER
ISLAND PLAYERS PERFORM
THIS PLAY?

AFTERWARDS ON
THE BEACH, YOU AND I
WOULD REENACT THIS
VERY SCENE.





I DON'T GET
WHY I ALWAYS
HAD TO BE THE DARK
WATER SPIRIT,
THOUGH.

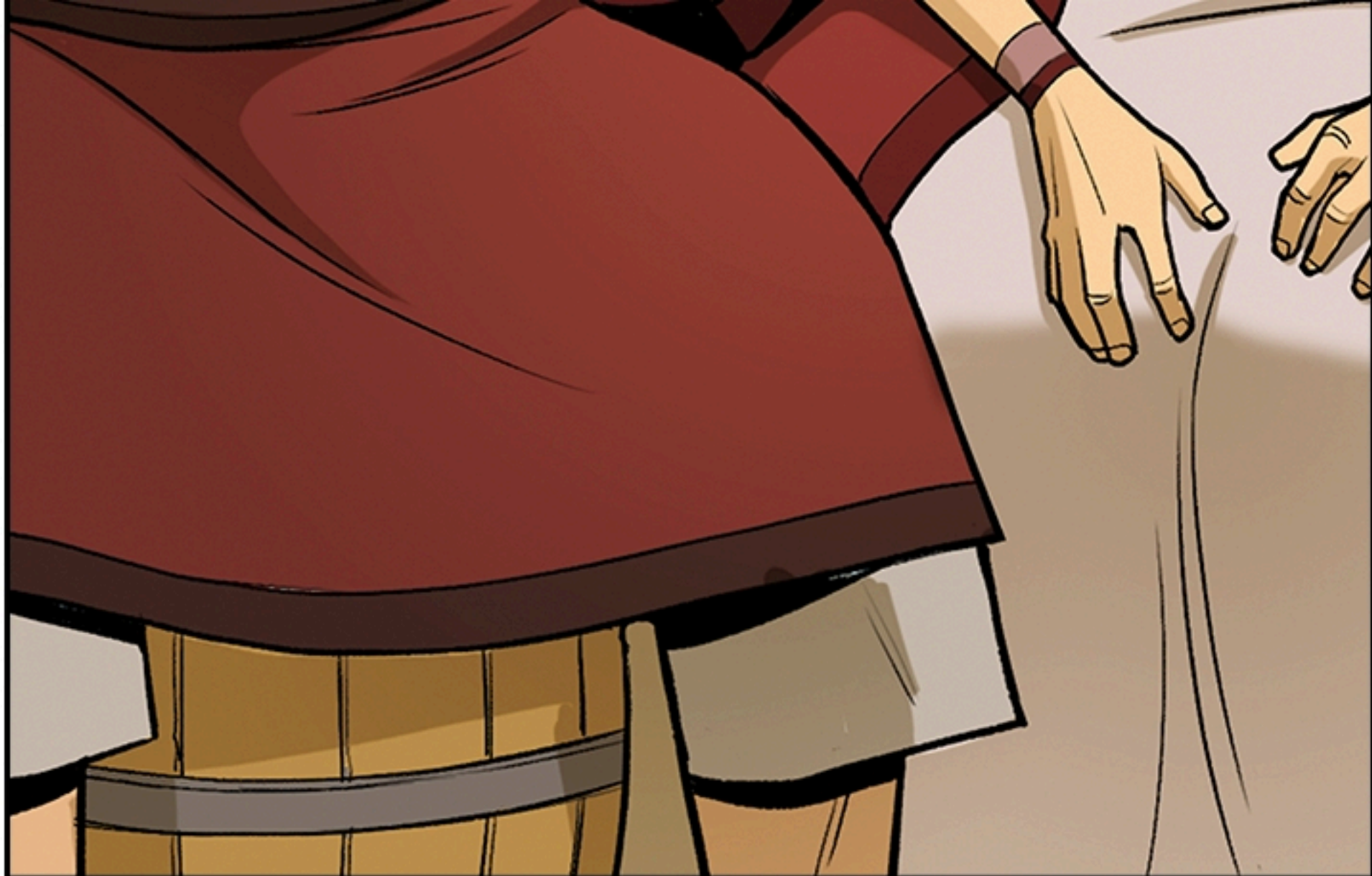
CLEARLY, I MADE
A BETTER DRAGON
EMPEROR.

SHHH! THE
BEST PART IS
COMING UP!



HOW DARE
YOU SHUSH ME!
DO YOU KNOW
WHO I--

AZULA!
PLEASE!



THOUGH I
WAS TRAPPED IN
THE BODY OF A MORTAL,
YOU WILLINGLY GAVE
ME YOUR HEART!

I CANNOT
HELP BUT GIVE
YOU MINE IN
RETURN!





ONLY WITH
YOUR GLORY HIDDEN
IN FALSE FORM COULD
YOU FINALLY RECOGNIZE
MY DEVOTION!

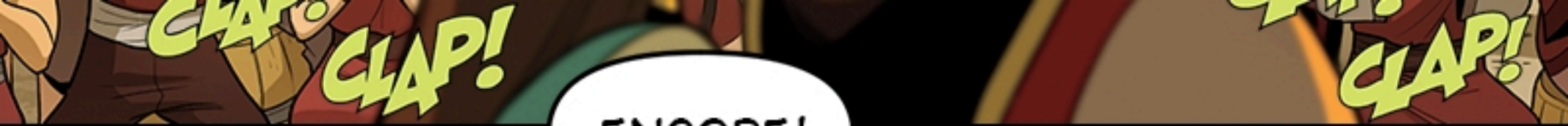


YAY!

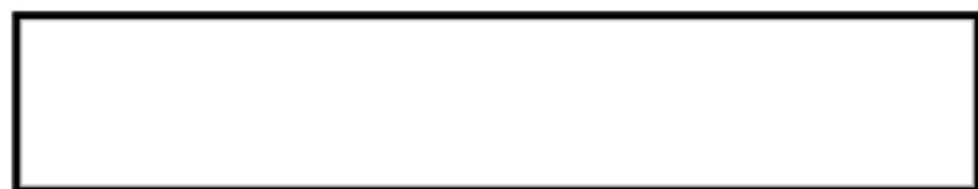
WOO-HOO!

CLAP!

CLAP!



ENCORE!

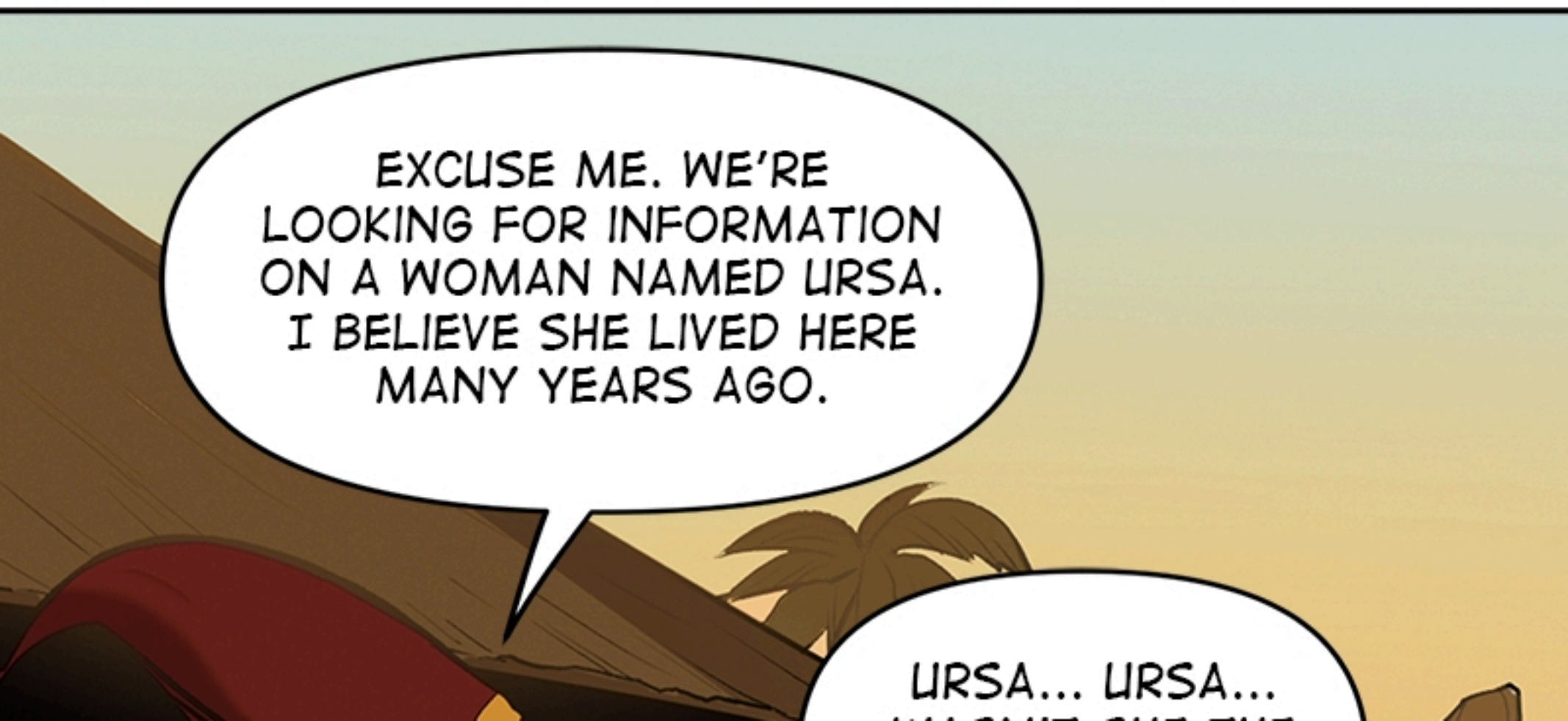


IT GETS
TO ME EVERY
TIME!

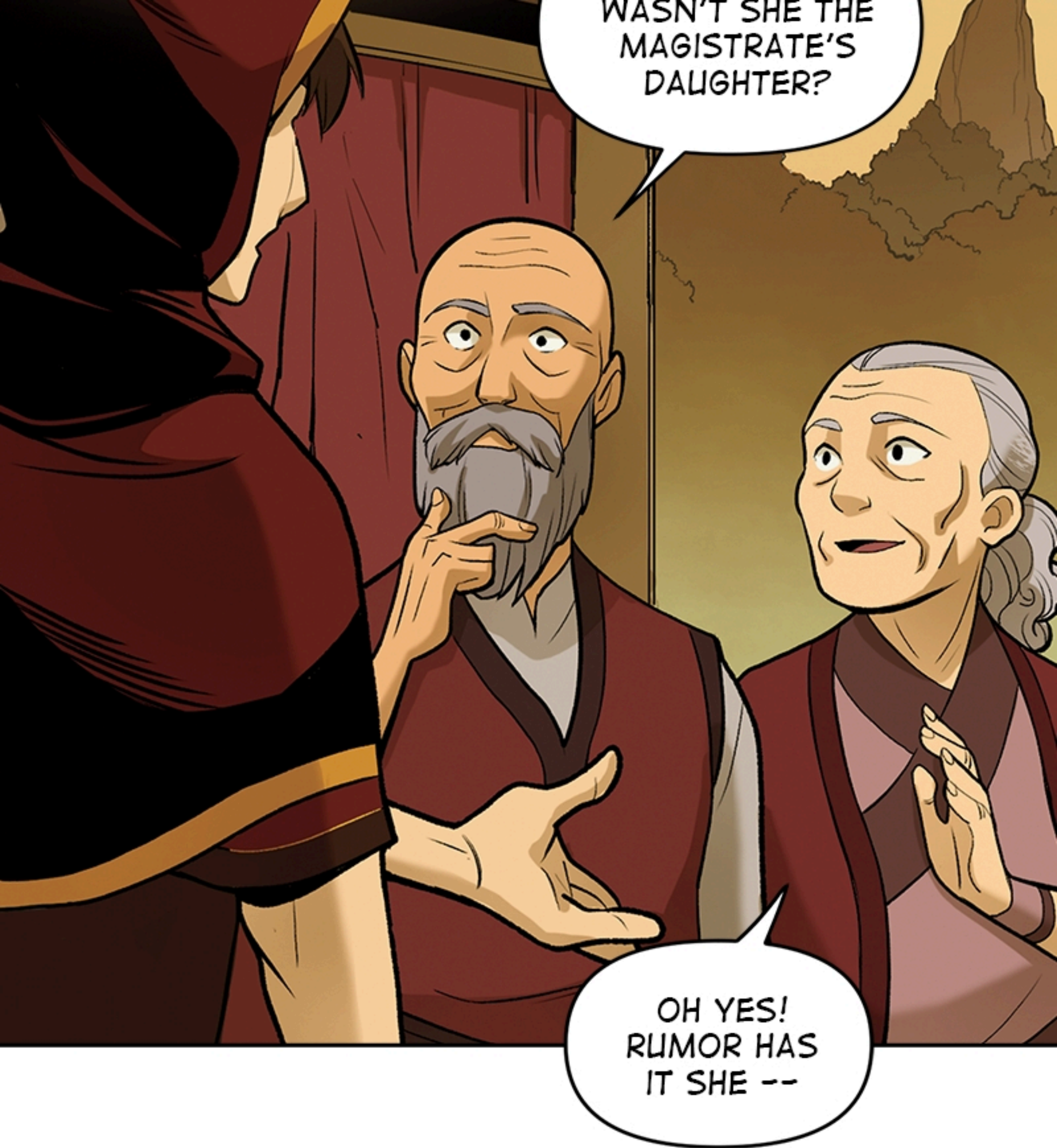
I AGREE! THE
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY
WAS TOP NOTCH!

EVERYBODY'S
LEAVING! WHAT
DO WE DO NOW?



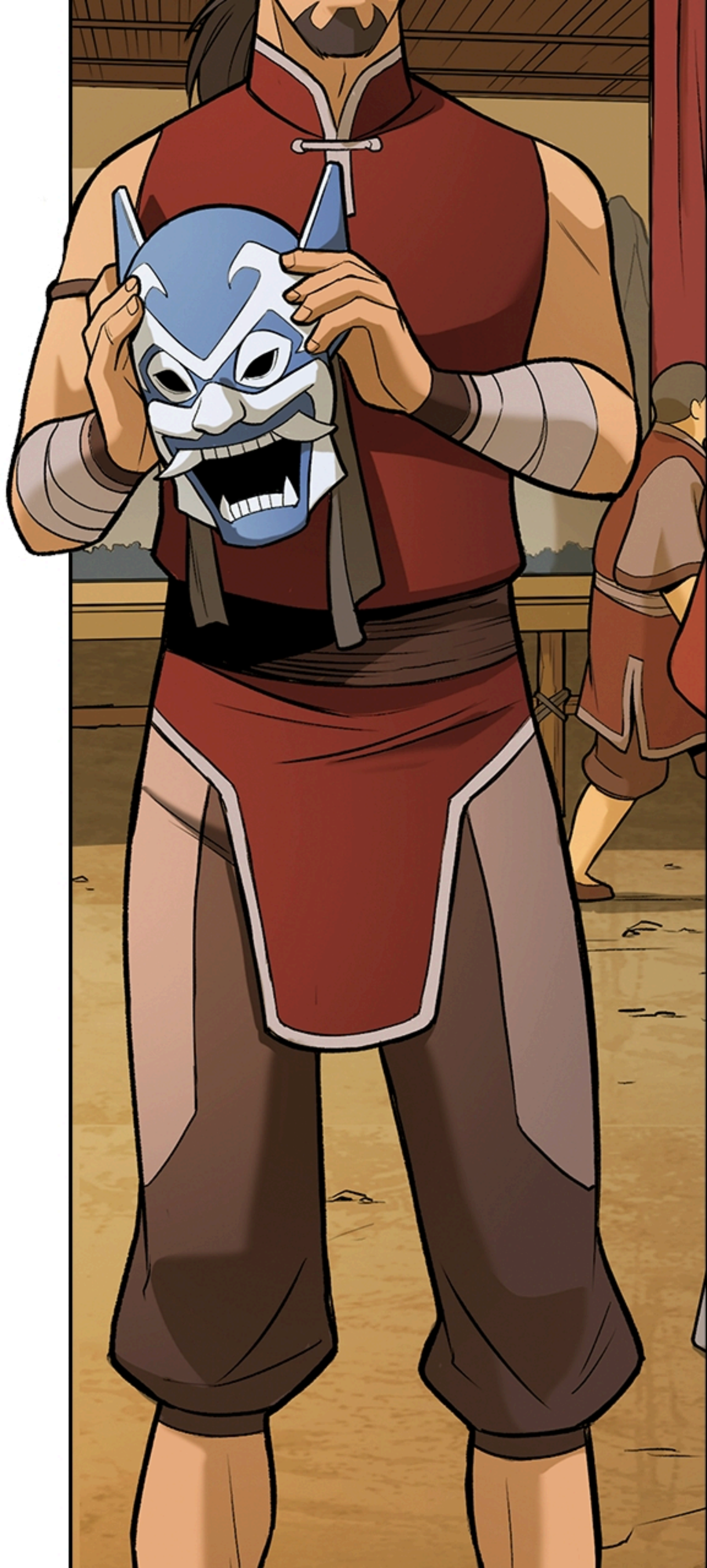


URSA... URSA...



EXCUSE ME.







MY NAME IS
NOREN. I'M THE
DIRECTOR OF THE HIRA'A
ACTING TROUPE. URSA
WAS ONCE A MEMBER.







WE SHOULD
FIND A QUIET PLACE
TO TALK, AWAY FROM
THE CROWDS.

YOU'RE ALL
WELCOME TO COME
TO MY HOME. WE'LL
SHARE SOME TEA AND I'LL
TELL YOU EVERYTHING
I KNOW.

IT WOULD
BE AN HONOR.
THANK YOU.









IT IS. BUT YOU
TWO ARE A LITTLE
YOUNG TO BE THINKING
ABOUT MARRIAGE,
AREN'T YOU?

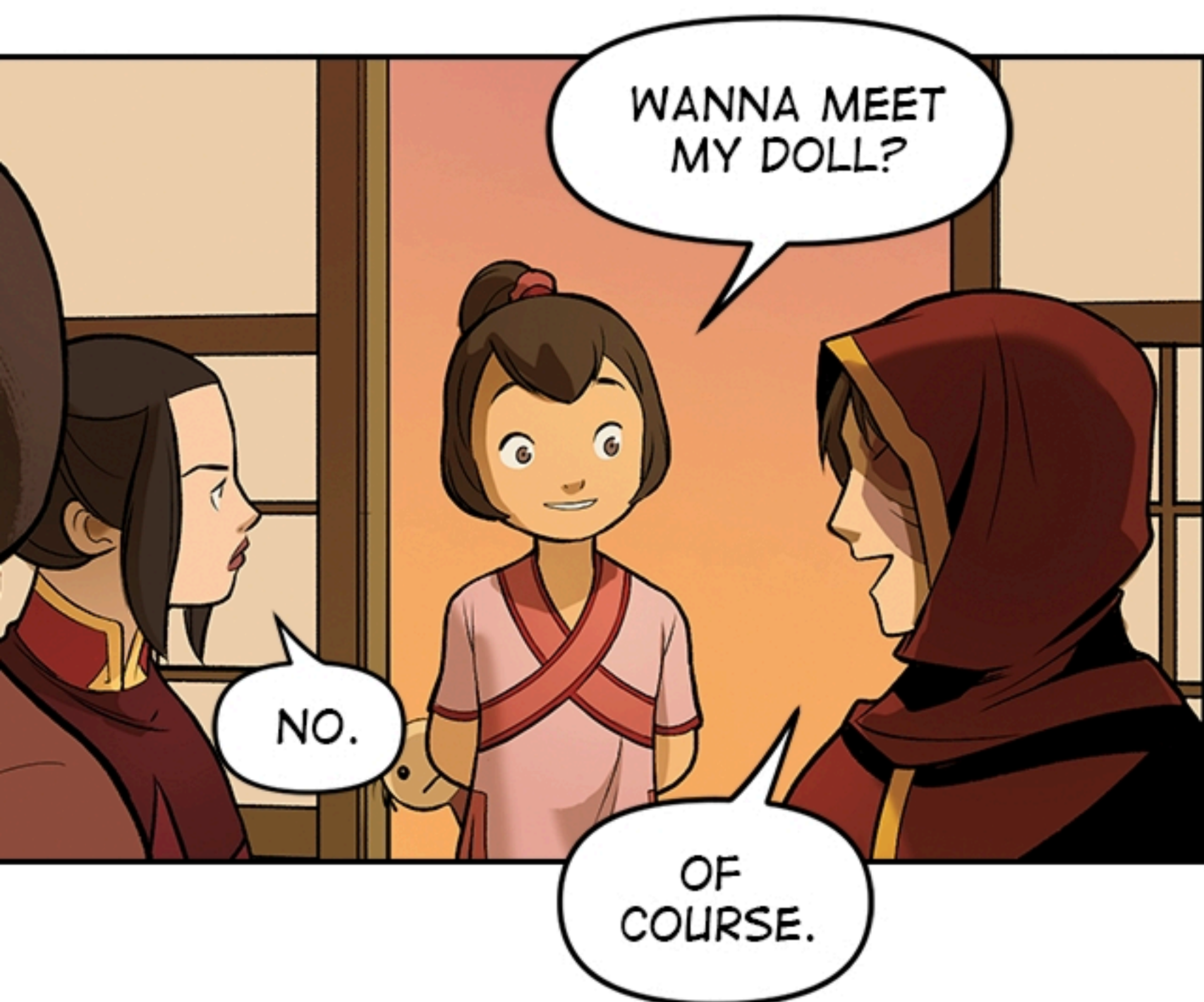


OH--
WE'RE--!

WELL--
UH...!

YOU KNOW WHAT?
I TAKE THAT BACK. LOVE
LEADS WHERE LOVE LEADS,
REGARDLESS OF AGE.

NOREN AND I
FOUND EACH OTHER
PRETTY LATE IN LIFE.
YOUNG LOVERS LIKE
YOU ARE LUCKY.





THIS IS
KIYI!

I THOUGHT
YOUR NAME
WAS KIYI.

IT'S SUCH A
GOOD NAME, I
USED IT TWICE!

A comic panel featuring two characters and a doll. On the left, a character with brown hair and a pink top looks down with a sad expression. On the right, a character with long brown hair, yellow eyes, and a red hood looks on with a neutral expression. In the foreground, a small doll with a round face, button eyes, and a tuft of hair is visible. A large, light brown rectangular shape is in the background.

WELL, LITTLE
KIYI HAS A VERY...
INTERESTING...
HAIRCUT.

I WANTED TO
MAKE HER PRETTIER,
BUT IT DIDN'T TURN
OUT VERY GOOD.

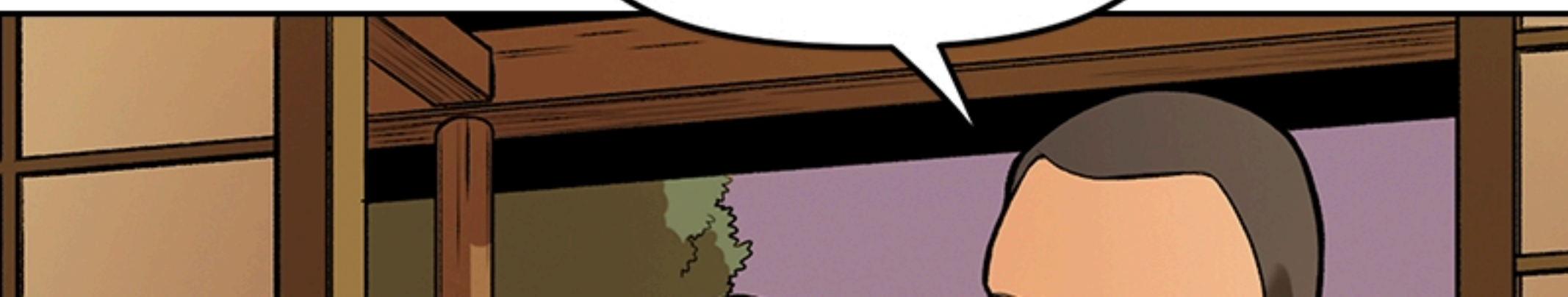


MY SISTER
DID STUFF LIKE
THAT WHEN SHE
WAS LITTLE.

THAT'S RIGHT.
ONLY I DIDN'T GIVE
MY DOLLS *HAIRCUTS*, I
GAVE THEM *HEADCUTS*!

WOULD
YOU LIKE ME
TO SHOW YOU?

NO!





MIND IF
I JOIN THE
CONVERSATION,
DEAR?

JUST SHARING
SOME ADVICE ABOUT
LIFE AND LOVE.

AH! WELL
YOU **ARE** HIRA'A'S
FOREMOST EXPERT ON
THOSE SUBJECTS!

ACCORDING
TO **YOU**.

I MUST ADMIT, I
WAS A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS
WHEN YOU ALL STARTED

WHEN YOU ALL STARTED
ASKING ABOUT URSA.

BUT SOKKA
TELLS ME YOU'RE
DRAMA HISTORIANS!



HOW
WONDERFUL!

IT'S ABOUT
TIME THE HIRA'A
ACTING TROUPE GOT A
LITTLE RECOGNITION!



"DRAMA
HISTORIANS"?
REALLY?

A comic panel featuring two characters. On the left, a young man with brown skin, blue eyes, and a small ponytail is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. He is wearing a red tunic with a dark brown collar and has his right hand raised to his ear, as if he is listening intently or has just heard something surprising. On the right, a young woman with brown skin and long brown hair is looking at him with a slightly skeptical or questioning expression. She is also wearing a red tunic. The background is a simple, light brown wall.

GREAT COVER
STORY, RIGHT?

I JUST OPENED
MY MOUTH, AND
THERE IT WAS!



URSA, THE WOMAN
YOU ASKED ABOUT, WAS
PROBABLY THE TROUPE'S
MOST FAMOUS MEMBER--
BUT NOT FOR HER ACTING.

YEARS AGO, SHE
WAS...WELL...***TAKEN***
TO THE CAPITAL CITY ON
SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL
BUSINESS.

WE'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO TALK
ABOUT HER ANYMORE, BUT

ABOUT HER ANYMORE, BUT
PEOPLE CAN'T HELP
SPECULATING.

SUPPOSEDLY SHE
MARRIED INTO THE
ROYAL FAMILY.

THIS ALL HAPPENED
BEFORE I CAME TO TOWN,
BUT EVEN I'VE HEARD
THE RUMORS.





WHAT
ABOUT...
IKEM?



IKEM...MY, YOU'VE
REALLY DONE YOUR
RESEARCH! IKEM WAS
AN ACTOR, TOO.

URSA'S
BOYFRIEND.

...FRIEND,
I BELIEVE.

HE DISAPPEARED
SHORTLY AFTER
URSA LEFT.

FOLKS SAY
THAT HE RAN OFF
TO *FORGETFUL
VALLEY*.

FORGETFUL
VALLEY?





A FOREST
AT THE BOTTOM
OF A CANYON, JUST
OUTSIDE OF TOWN.

THE HEARTBROKEN
GO THERE TO FORGET
THEIR LIVES.

YOU KNOW, I VAGUELY
REMEMBER HEARING THAT
URSA CAME BACK TO TOWN
YEARS LATER, LOOKING
FOR IKEM.

THEY SAY SHE
WENT AFTER HIM TO
FORGETFUL VALLEY.





THAT CAN'T
BE TRUE! NO ONE'S
SEEN OR HEARD FROM URSA
SINCE SHE WAS TAKEN
TO THE CAPITAL CITY!

≡SIGH≡ WELL,
IF IT *IS* TRUE,
IT'S AWFULLY
ROMANTIC!



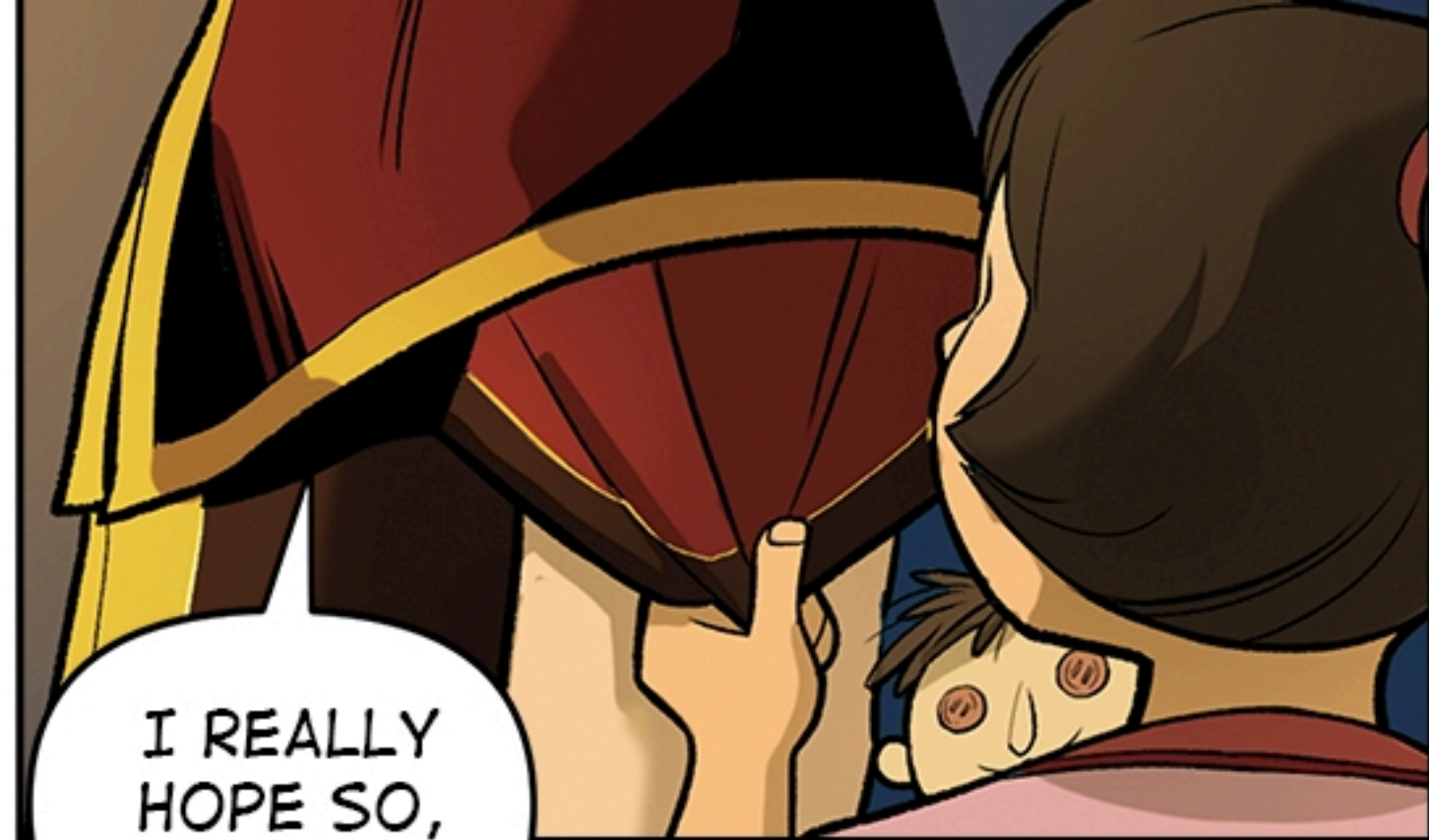


ROMANTIC OR
TRAGIC? FORGETFUL
VALLEY IS A DARK,
DANGEROUS PLACE.

NO ONE WHO
ENTERS EVER
RETURNS.

NOREN AND
NORIKO, YOU'VE BEEN





I REALLY
HOPE SO,
KIYI.

LIGH. MORE THAN
ONCE TONIGHT I WAS
TEMPTED TO BURN THAT
WHOLE PLACE DOWN!





BUT I
RESISTED FOR
YOU, ZUZU. I HOPE
YOU APPRECIATE IT.

HOW COULD
YOU EVEN *THINK*
THAT ABOUT SUCH A
LOVELY FAMILY?!

OH, *PLEASE*.
THEIR CHARADE
DISGUSTED ME.

NOBODY'S
THAT HAPPY!

AANG
AND I ARE
THAT HAPPY!

HEY,
ZUKO?

BECAUSE
YOU TWO ARE

YOU TWO ARE
IDIOTS.

I'M SORRY I
BLEW UP AT YOU
THIS MORNING.

IT'S HARD
FOR *ME* TO WRAP
MY HEAD AROUND
ALL THIS--

I CAN'T
IMAGINE WHAT
IT'S LIKE FOR
YOU.

A comic panel featuring two characters. On the left is a character with a shaved head and a blue stripe, wearing a dark headband with a yellow emblem. On the right is a character with dark hair and a dark hood. They are both looking towards the right. There are four speech bubbles in the panel.

EVEN SO, I DON'T
THINK WE SHOULD
TRY TO FIND IKEM.

THIS IS GONNA
SOUND HARSH, BUT
IT'S BEST IF HE STAYS
LOST TO HISTORY.

WE'LL BURN
THE LETTER WHEN
WE GET A CHANCE
AND--

I DON'T
HAVE THE LETTER
ANYMORE. AZULA
TOOK IT BACK.



AND YOU
LET HER?!

WE NEED TO
FOCUS ON THE TASK
AT HAND, AND THAT'S
LOOKING FOR MY
MOTHER.

WE'LL FIGURE
EVERYTHING ELSE OUT
LATER, INCLUDING
WHERE--

AND *WHO*--
I'M SUPPOSED
TO BE.





WHAT DO
YOU **MEAN**, "WHO
YOU'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE"?!

ZUKO, LISTEN
TO ME! WHEN PEOPLE
COME TO YOUR THRONE
ROOM AND BOW, THEY'RE
NOT BOWING TO **YOU**.





THEY'RE BOWING TO
WHAT YOU REPRESENT:
A NEW ERA OF **LOVE**
AND **PEACE!**

SO IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHO YOUR
REAL DAD IS.

YOU **HAVE**
TO STAY FIRE
LORD!



YOU'RE
NOT FIRE LORD
FOR YOU--

YOU'RE
FIRE LORD FOR
ALL OF US!

HOW MUCH
LONGER DO YOU
EXPECT TO KEEP THIS
CREW TOGETHER,



ZUKO?

!!!!

!!!!

I GIVE IT ANOTHER
TWO MINUTES TOPS
BEFORE SOMETHING'S
EITHER ON FIRE OR
ENCASED IN ICE.

ONE MORE PLACE
TO VISIT AND THEN
WE'RE DONE.





nickelodeon™



AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER™



Created by
BRYAN KONIETZKO
MICHAEL DANTE DIMARTINO

Script
GENE LUEN YANG

Art
GURIHIRU

Lettering
MICHAEL HEISLER

Publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

Designer
SARAH TERRY

Editors
RACHEL ROBERTS
DAVE MARSHALL

Assistant Editors
JENNY BLENK
SHANTEL LAROCQUE
IAN TUCKER
AARON WALKER

Digital Art Technician
SAMANTHA HUMMER

Reformatting and Typesetting
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

Reformat Copyediting
KATHLEEN TOWNSEND

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