

KATARA!
THEY'RE HERE!
TOPH'S STUDENTS
ARE HERE!



THAT'S
WONDERFUL! I'LL
GO TELL TOPH!

METALBENDERS!
ARE WE GLAD TO
SEE YOU GUYS!



SIFU TOPH AND
A BUNCH OF OTHER
PEOPLE ARE BURIED
UNDERGROUND, IN A
COLLAPSED MINE!

I CAN'T DIG
THEM OUT BECAUSE
THEY'RE UNDER THESE
**GIANT IRON ORE
DEPOSITS!**

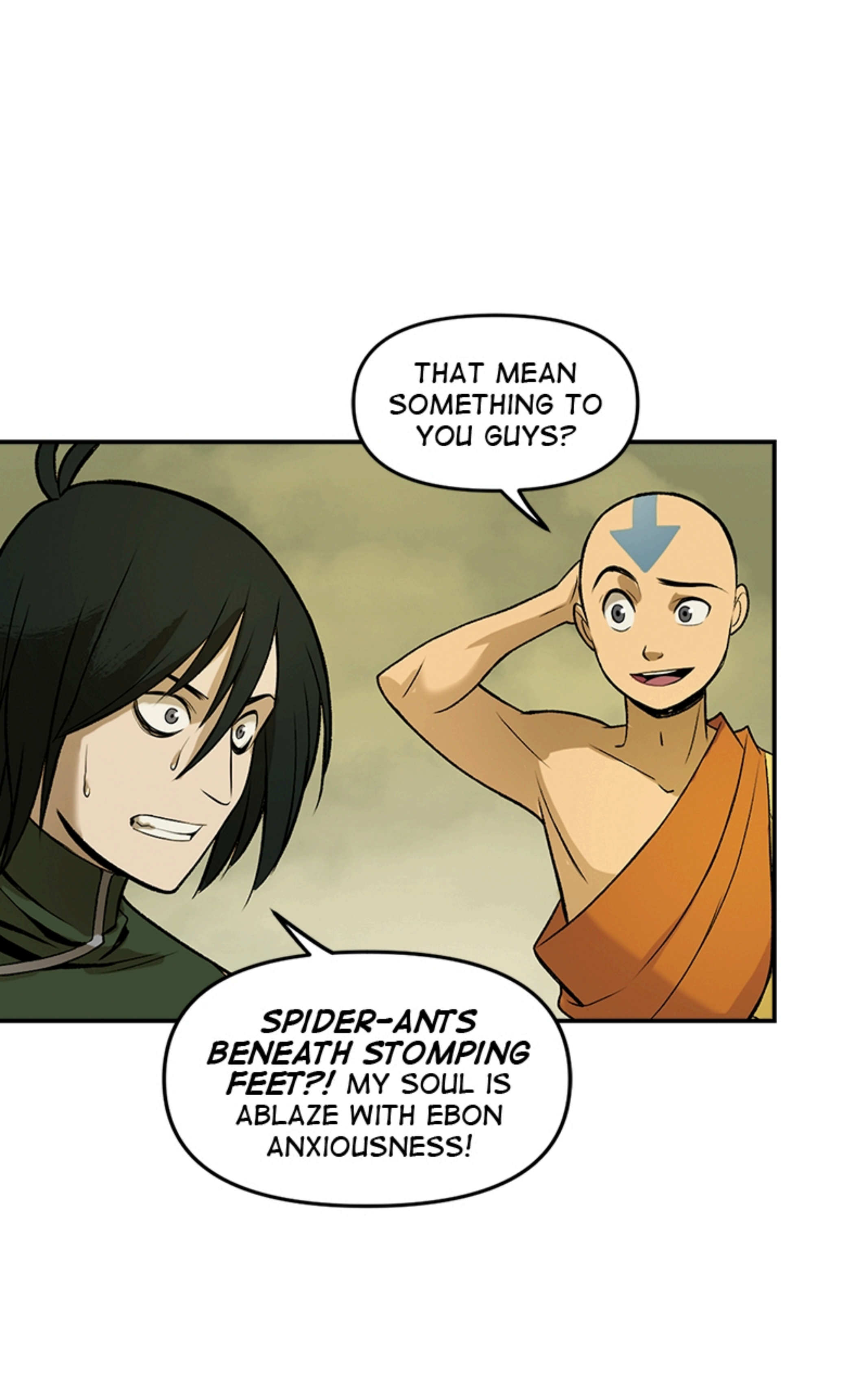


SO YOU
WANT US TO DIG
THEM OUT WITH OUR
METALBENDING?

THAT'S
THE PLAN!

AANG! TOPH SAYS
TO TELL HER STUDENTS
THAT THIS IS JUST LIKE
***SPIDER-ANTS BENEATH
STOMPING FEET,***
ONLY FLIPPED!



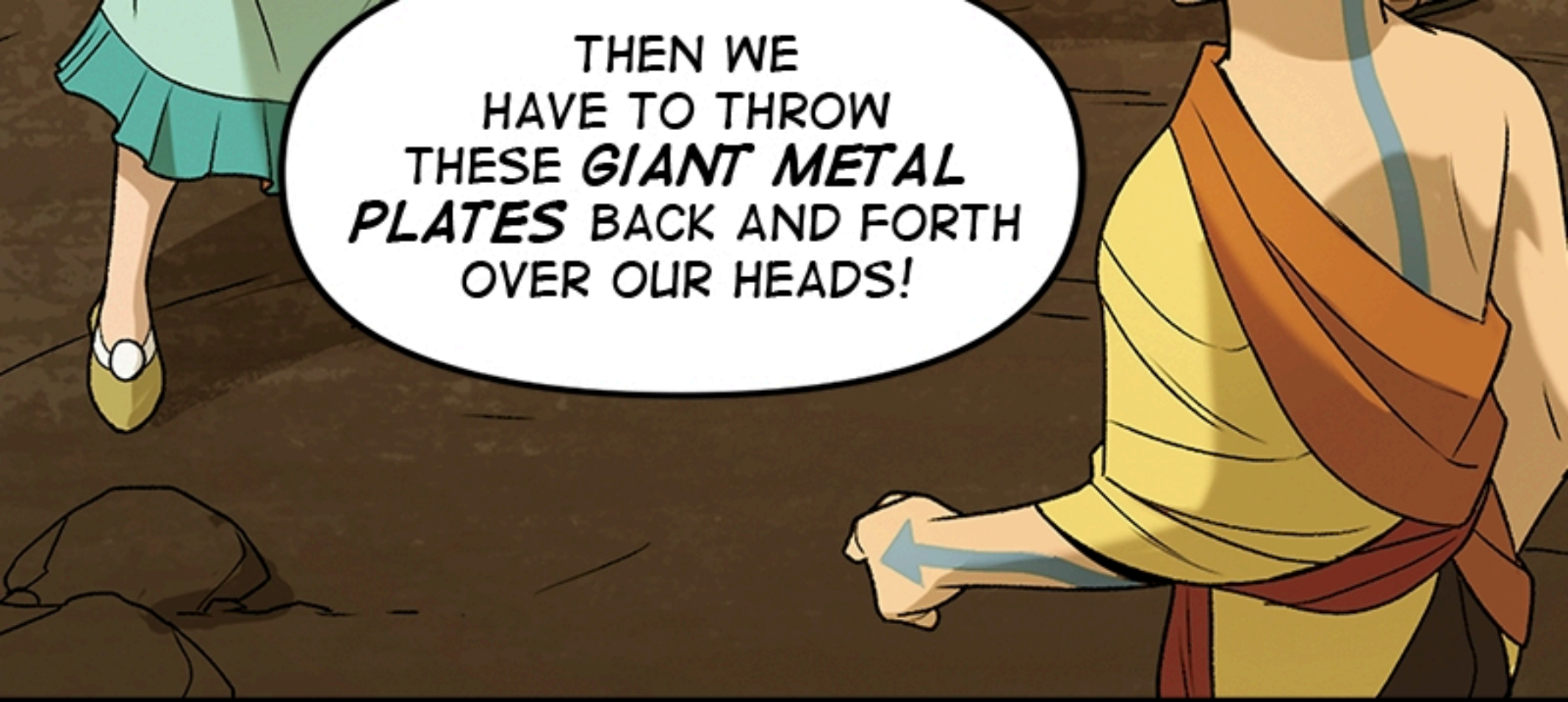


THAT MEAN
SOMETHING TO
YOU GUYS?

***SPIDER-ANTS
BENEATH STOMPING
FEET?! MY SOUL IS
ABLAZE WITH EBON
ANXIOUSNESS!***

IT'S AN *EXERCISE*
WHERE SIFU TOPH
BLINDFOLDS US AND
MAKES US STAND
IN A SAND PIT!





THEN WE
HAVE TO THROW
THESE *GIANT METAL
PLATES* BACK AND FORTH
OVER OUR HEADS!

AND I MEAN
GIANT. BIGGER
THAN HO TUN!

HEY!

WHEN
WE MESSED UP,
WE'D GET STOMPED
BY THE PLATES.



"MESSED UP"?

"STOMPED"? WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE
POETRY, THE DARK
ONE?

TALENTED AS I AM, I
CAN'T COMPOSE POETRY
WHEN I'M **FREAKED
OUT OF MY MIND.**



WOW. THE BEIFONG
METALBENDING ACADEMY
SOUNDS PRETTY...
INTENSE.

I-I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT THIS,
AVATAR AANG...



HO TUN, YOU'VE
GOT THIS! THIS
IS WHAT YOU'VE
TRAINED FOR!



YOUR GUT
FURNACES READY,
EVERYBODY?



I CAN
FEEL THE IRON

FEEL THE IRON
BENEATH US!

THERE'S
SO MUCH
OF IT!



ALL RIGHT
THEN, TEAM
BEIFONG! ***LET'S
METALBEND!***





KRK! KRK!

KEEP
GOING, KEEP
GOING!

KRK!





AAH!

WHAT MANNER OF
MONSTROSITY HAVE
WE UNCOVERED?!

LOOKS LIKE
THE MASK OF A
GIANT WARRIOR...A
GIANT ***SPIRIT!***





CREEEAK...

≡GASP!≡

CRUMBLE CRUMBLE





NGF!

THE DARK
ONE! HO TUN!
STAY FOCUSED!

I D-D-DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THIS...





I MEAN,
W-W-WE'RE
JUST A BUNCH OF
METALBENDING
NOVICES!

NO! RIGHT NOW,
OUTSIDE OF SIFU TOPH,
YOU'RE THE **THREE BEST**
METALBENDERS IN
THE ENTIRE WORLD!



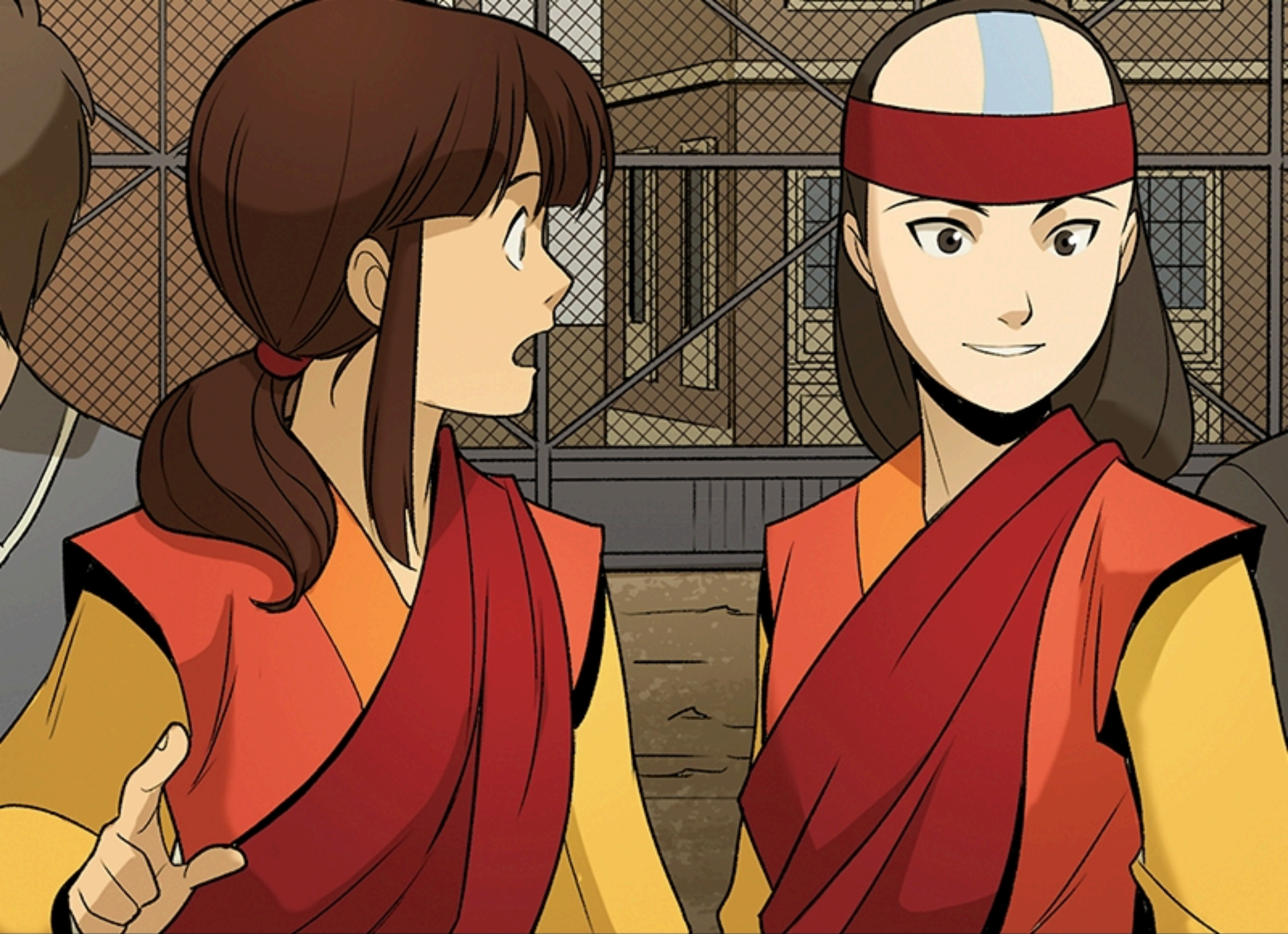


NO ONE
CAN DO THIS
BUT YOU!



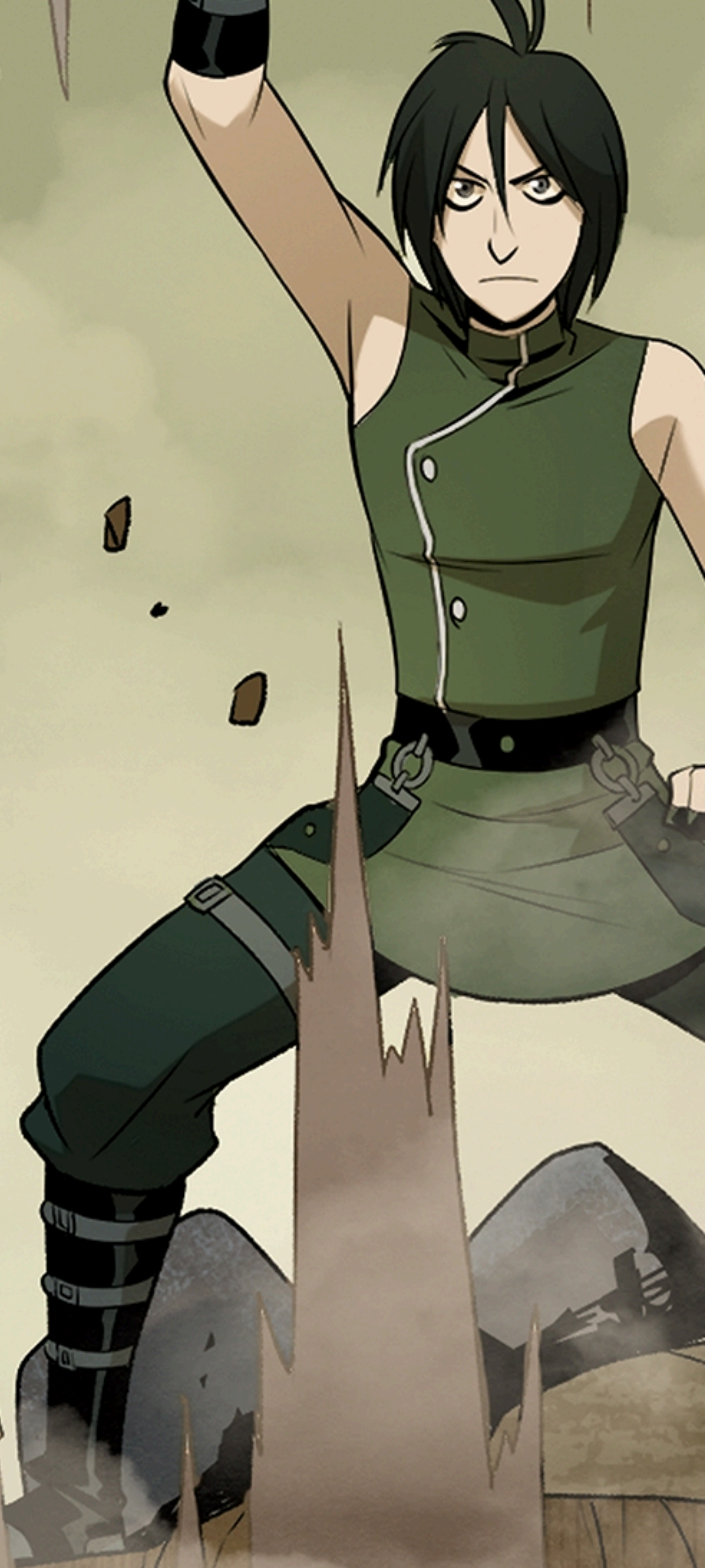
XING YING,
WHO ARE THOSE
GUYS?

TOPH'S
METALBENDING
STUDENTS. THEY'RE
PRETTY GREAT,
HUH?





YEAH. PRETTY
GREAT.



HEY! I CAN
FEEL THE SPACE
WHERE SIFU TOPH AND
THE OTHERS ARE!

AVATAR AANG,
WE NEED YOU FOR
THIS LAST PART!

AS WE PULL UP
THE LAST FEW PIECES
OF IRON, DON'T LET ANY OF
THE DIRT COLLAPSE BACK
INTO THE MINE!







COME ON...
GUYS... ALMOST
THERE...





RUMBLE!







⇒HUFF⇒

NOT...

⇒HUFF
HUFF⇒

NOT
BAD...



ANYBODY
HURT? I'VE GOT
PLENTY OF BANDAGES
AND SPLINTS!

SIFU
TOPH!

SWEETIE!

CLAP CH



I KNOW, I
KNOW. BUT THOSE
OOGIES ARE ***WELL
DESERVED.***



I'M SO GLAD
YOU'RE OUT
OF THERE.

ME TOO.



OH NO! IS
SHE--?

DREAD UPON
DREAD! LO, HOW THE
DARK FOG OF DESPAIR
ROLLS RELENTLESSLY
THROUGH MY HEART!

SHE'S JUST
EXHAUSTED.
SHE'LL BE FINE.

SHE LOOKS SO...
SMALL. **FRAGILE**,
ALMOST

ALMOST.



SSSH! ARE YOU
CRAZY?! YOU'LL GET
PUMMELED IF SHE HEARS
YOU TALKING LIKE
THAT!

STRANGER, KEEP
NOT YOUR IDENTITY
HIDDEN AWAY FROM US,
LIKE A SECRET TREASURE
IN AN ANCIENT CHEST!





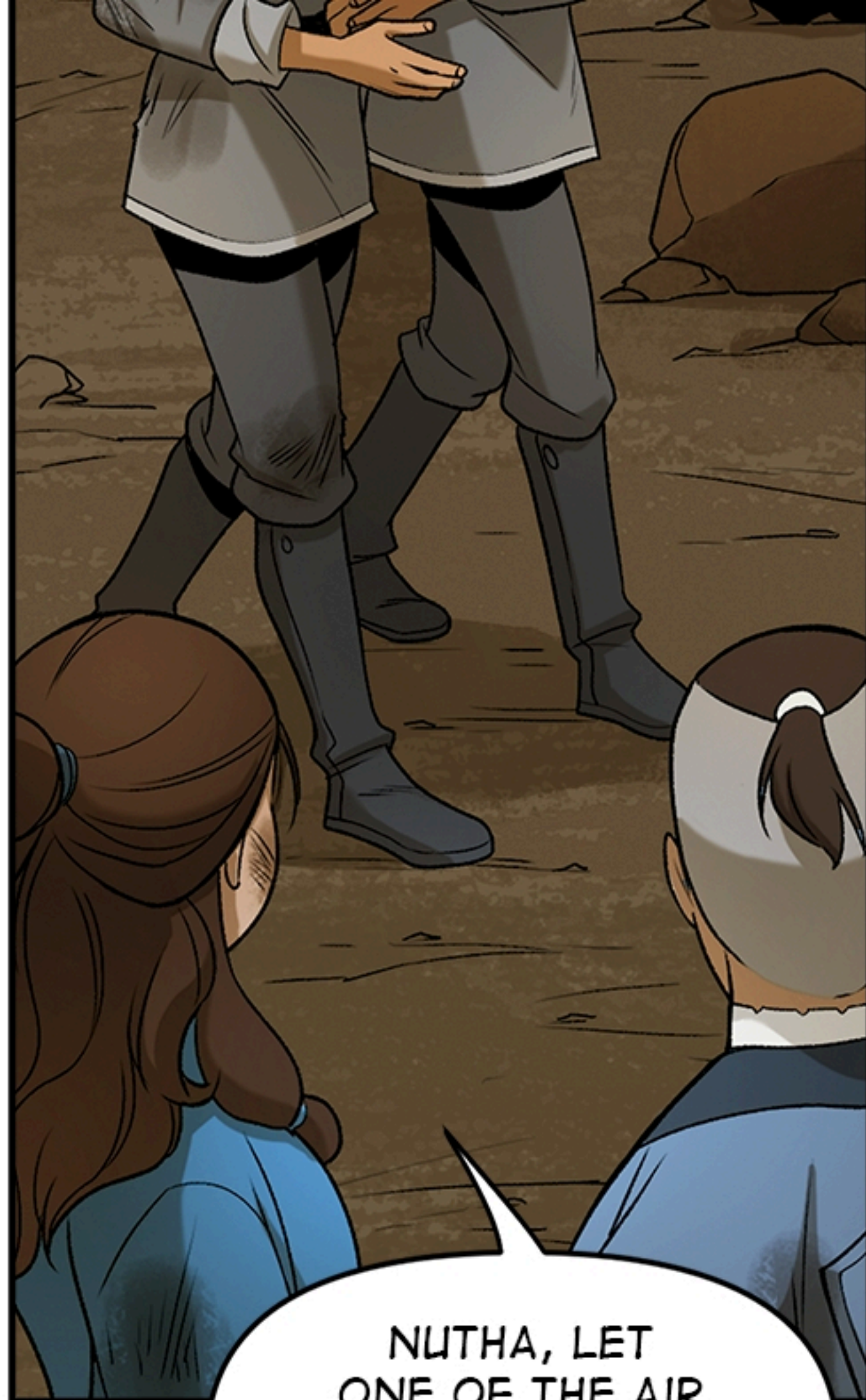
I'M... TOPH'S
FATHER.

SIFU TOPH
HAS A *DAD?*

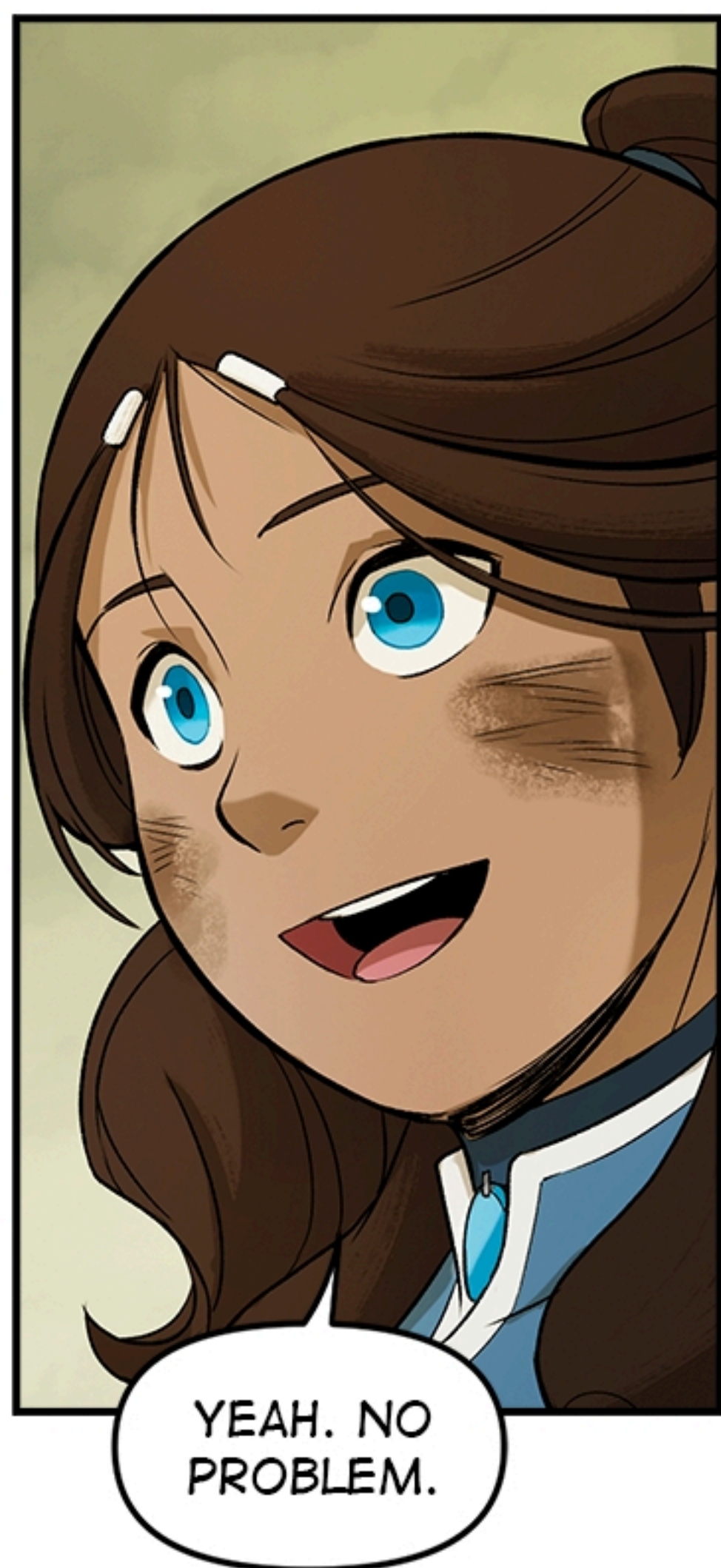
WHAT'D YOU
THINK, SHE POPPED
OUT OF A ROCK?

IT'D
MAKE SENSE,
WOULDN'T IT?





NUTHA, LET
ONE OF THE AIR
ACOLYTES CHECK YOU
OVER, TO MAKE SURE
YOU'RE OKAY.



I THOUGHT
IT'D TAKE ***MONTHS***
TO DIG THAT IRON OUT
OF THE GROUND--



--BUT NOW IT'S
HERE, ALL AROUND US!
I'M SURROUNDED BY

I'M SURROUNDED BY
A *FORTUNE!*



KAHCHI! VACHIR!
GO FETCH YOUR
KOMODO RHINOS!



WE'RE GOING TO
HAUL AS MUCH OF THIS
IRON ORE AS WE CAN DOWN
TO THE BEACH, SO I CAN SHIP
IT TO MY PLANT IN THE
FIRE NATION!

IF I PROCESS
IT THERE, THAT
COWARD LAO WON'T
HAVE ANY CLAIM ON
THE PROFITS!





I BELIEVE MY
PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE EARTH KINGDOM
IS *OVER*.



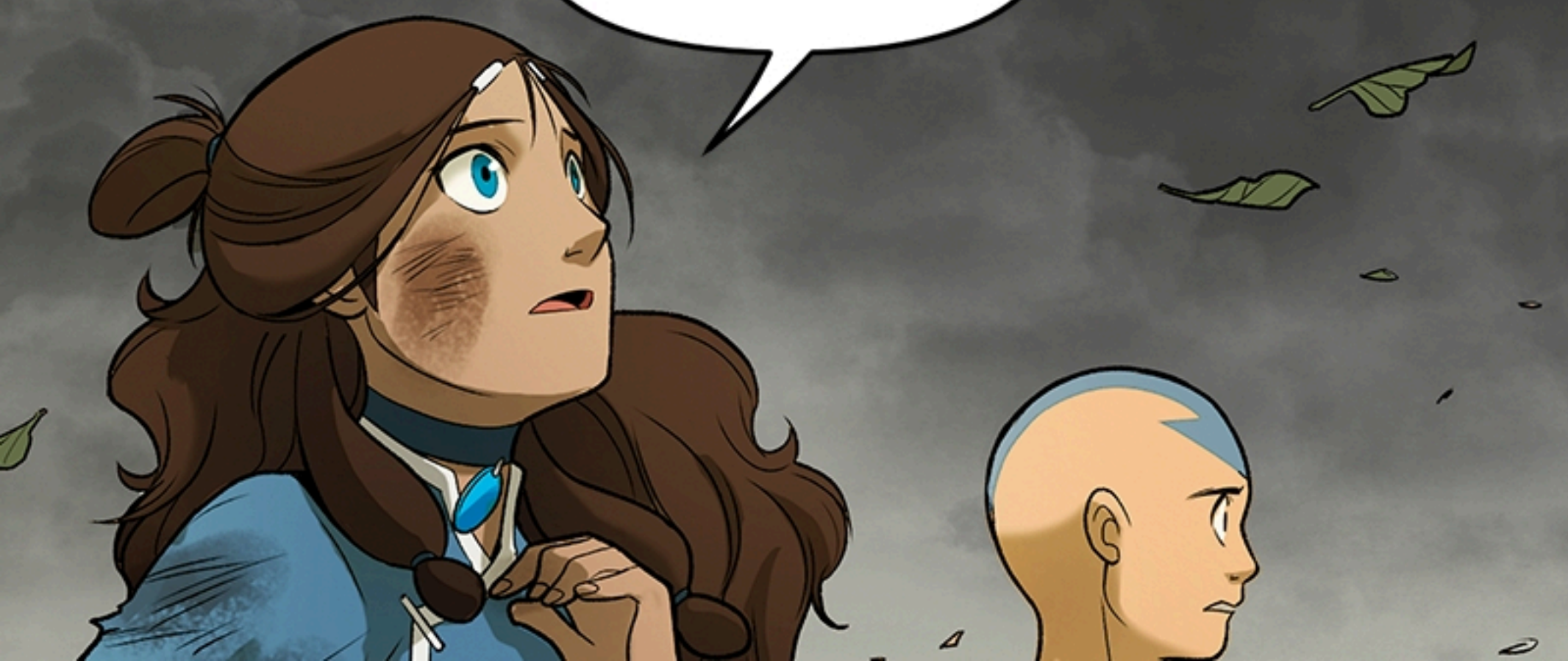


WHOOO...





LOOKS
LIKE A STORM'S
COMING IN.





I DON'T THINK
IT'S JUST ANY
OLD STORM.

⚡

AVATAR YANGCHEN!
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M
BACK TO NOT BEING ABLE
TO HEAR YOU AGAIN!

GIVE ME A
SECOND, I'LL FIND
THE ACOLYTES--



GUYS, I NEED
TO FINISH THE
**CEREMONIAL
MEAL!**

YOU STILL
HAVE THE FOOD AND
THE INCENSE AND THE
OTHER STUFF?







...BUT THERE'S A
PROBLEM WITH THE
CEREMONIAL VASE.

OH NO.

THERE'S
GOTTA BE
ANOTHER WAY...



*LIKE YOUR
MEDITATION BEADS,
THE AVATARS ARE LINKED,
ONE TO THE OTHER.*

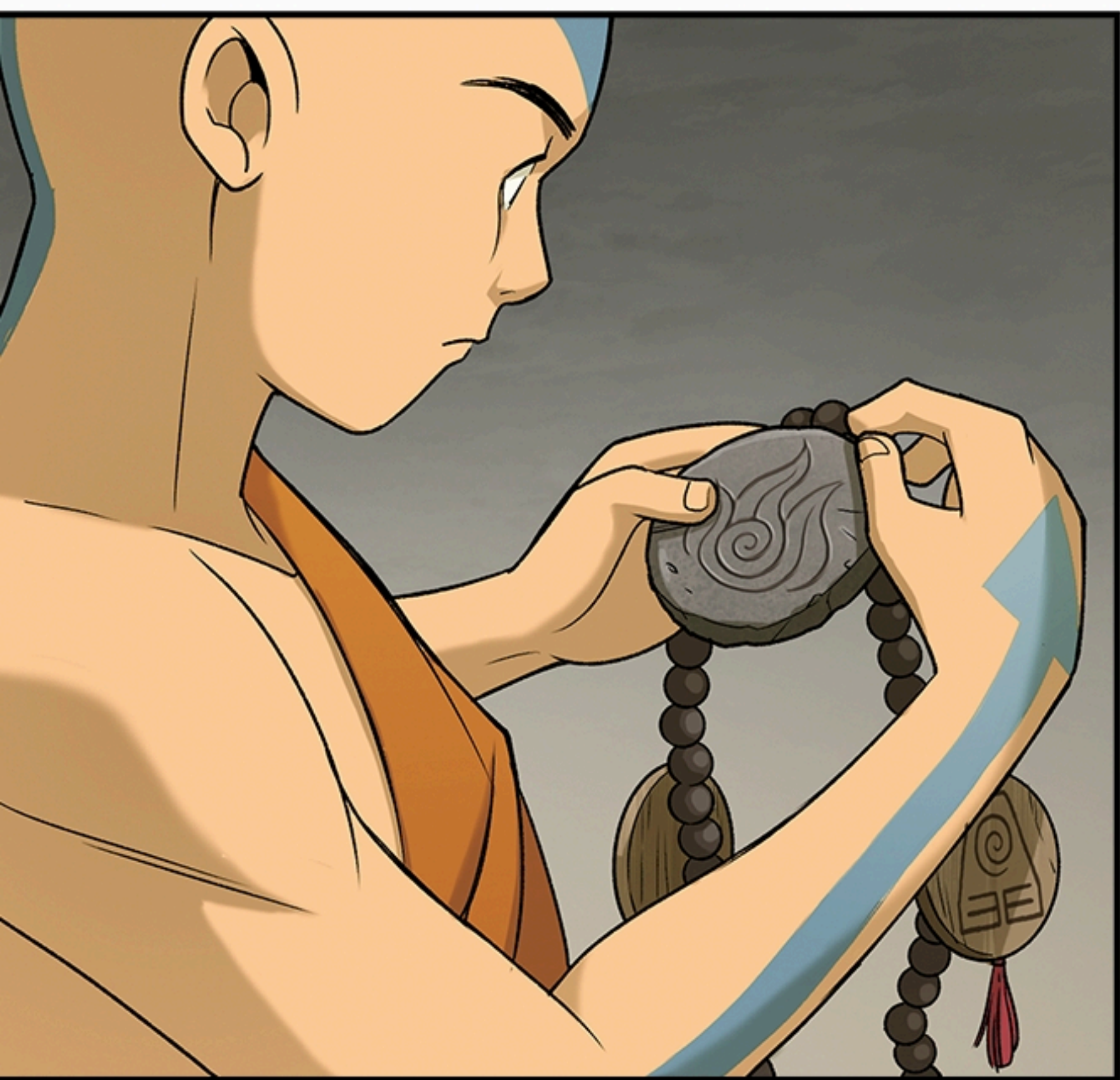
ANYTHING
I CAN DO
TO HELP?



NO, I GOT
THIS. I JUST NEED
SOME PEACE, QUIET, AND
A *GOOD-SIZED ROCK*.









MASTER
ROKU.

AANG.





ABOUT HOW
I LEFT THINGS
BEFORE...

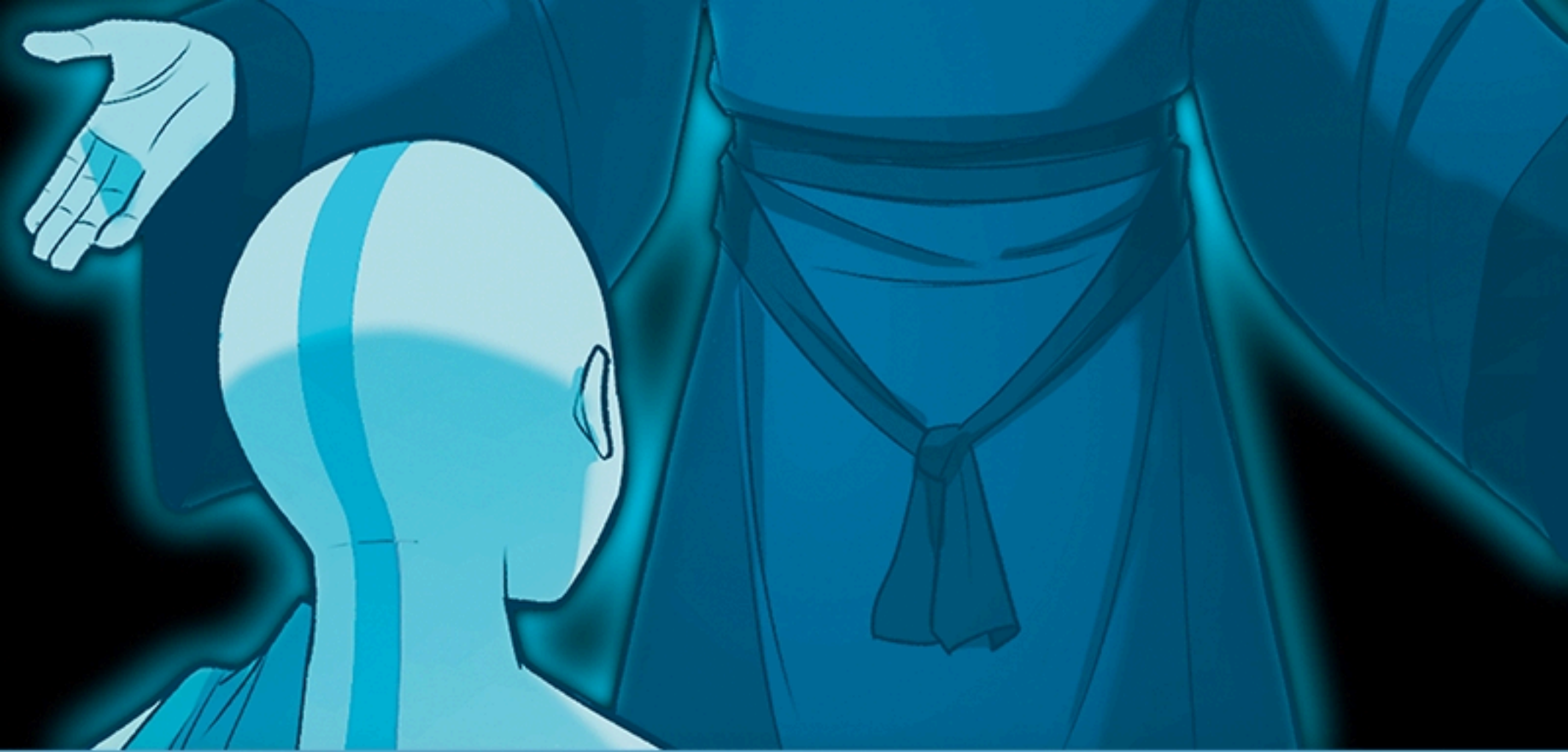




...I CAN
EXPLAIN. I
DIDN'T FEEL...

I JUST...







I'M SORRY,
MASTER ROKU.
I MISSED YOU
SO MUCH.



AANG, YOUR PAST
LIVES CAN ONLY ADVISE
YOU FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF
OUR OWN LIFE HISTORIES, BASED
ON OUR OWN *TRIUMPHS*
AND *FAILURES*.





AS THE AVATAR, YOU
MUST FIND ***BALANCE***. NOT
JUST BETWEEN THE SPIRIT
AND THE HUMAN, BUT BETWEEN
THE PAST AND THE PRESENT,
BETWEEN ***US*** AND ***YOU***.



REMEMBER THIS
AS YOU SEARCH FOR
A SOLUTION TO YOUR
CURRENT DILEMMA.



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AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDERTM

THE RIFT

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Originally Published by
DARK HORSE BOOKS

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