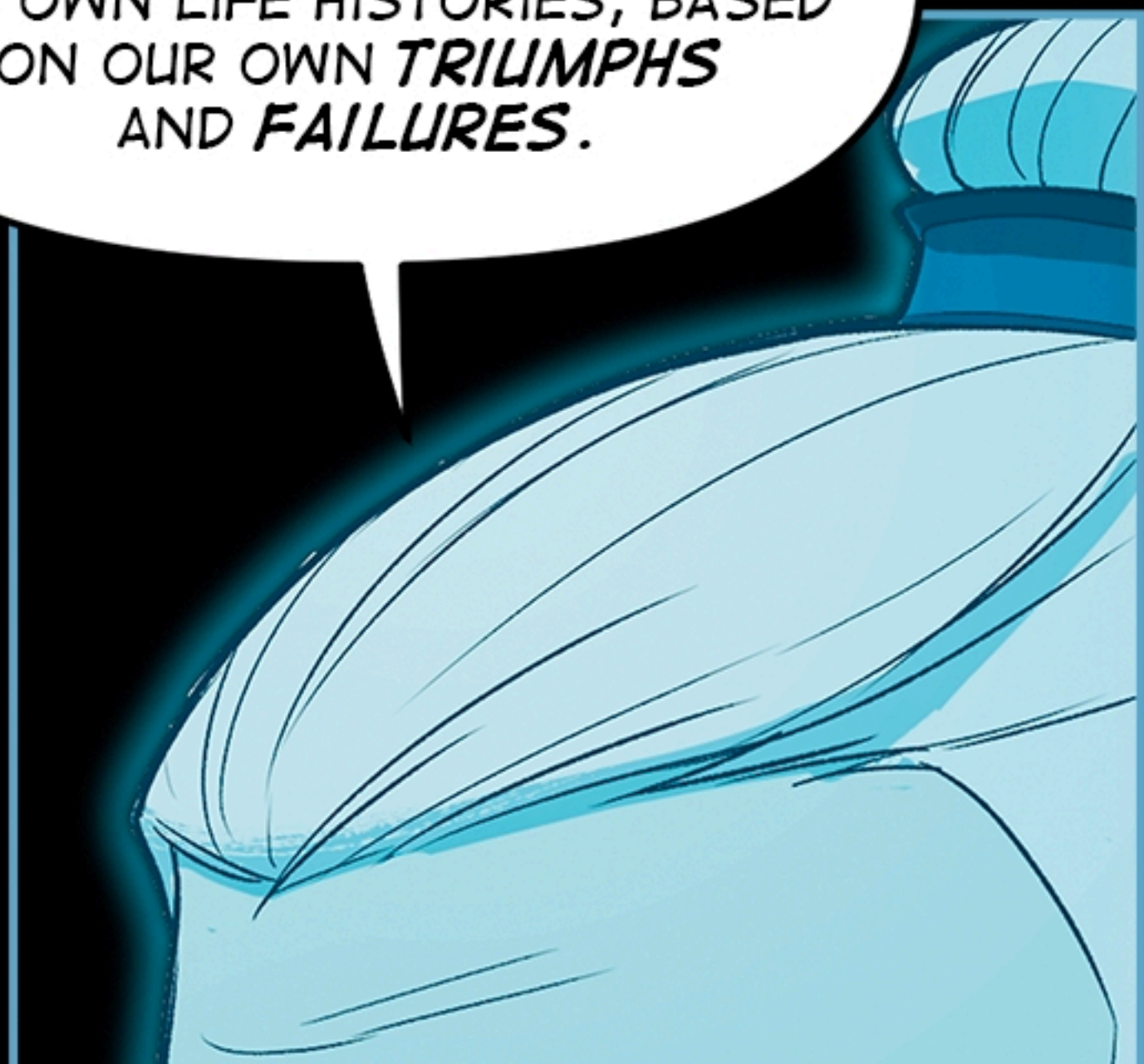






AANG, YOUR PAST
LIVES CAN ONLY ADVISE
YOU FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF
OUR OWN LIFE HISTORIES, BASED
ON OUR OWN *TRIUMPHS*
AND *FAILURES*.





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.





HEY, AVATAR
KYOSHI!



HOW YA
DOIN', AVATAR
KURLUK?



*AVATAR
YANGCHEN.*





I NEED TO
KNOW THE TERMS OF
YOUR AGREEMENT WITH
GENERAL OLD IRON.

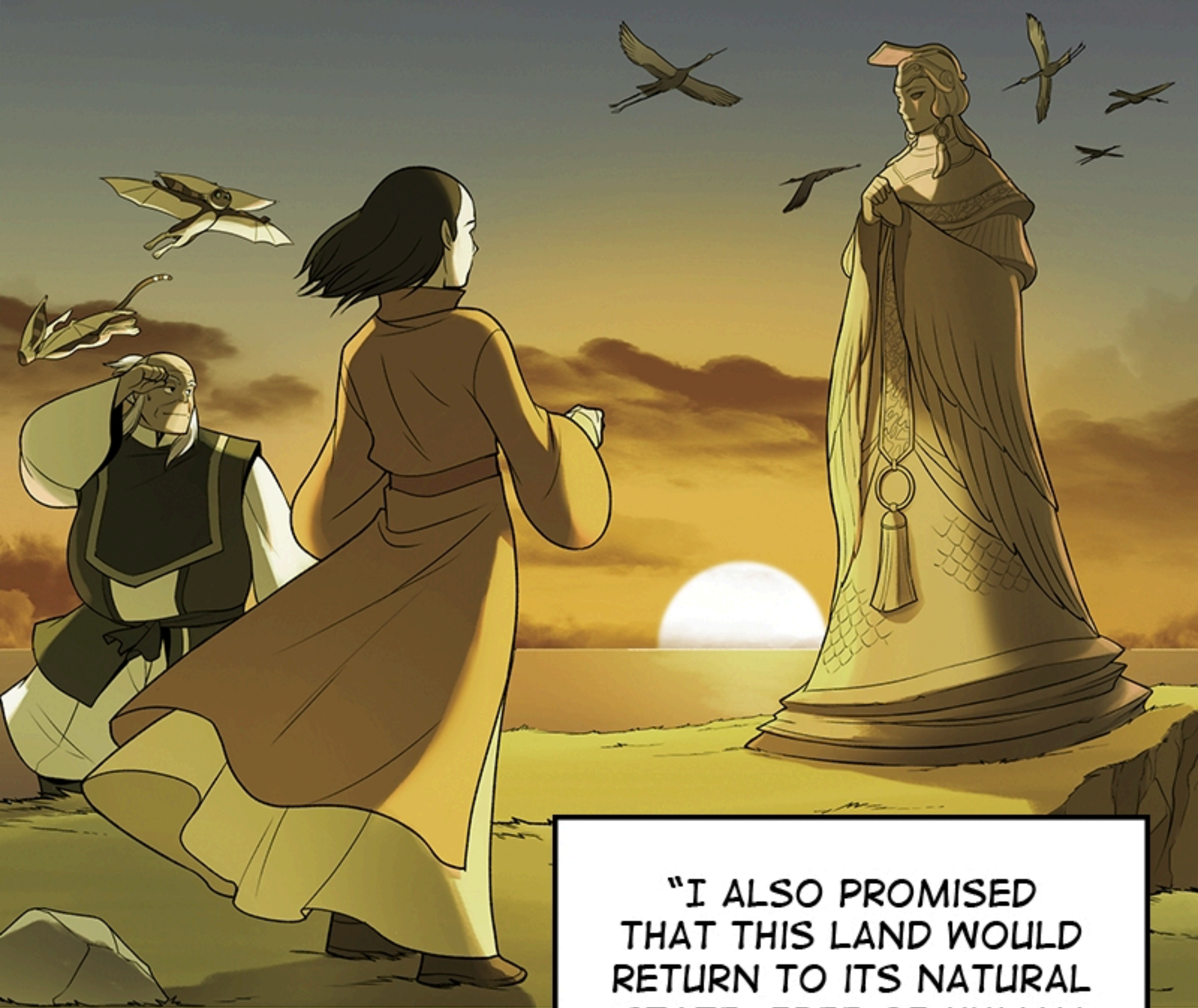
FINISH YOUR
STORY. PLEASE.



GENERAL OLD
IRON PROMISED TO
NEVER AGAIN TAKE UP
HIS ARMOR AGAINST
HUMANKIND.



"IN RETURN, I BUILT
A MEMORIAL FOR HIS
FRIEND LADY TIENHAI.



"I ALSO PROMISED
THAT THIS LAND WOULD
RETURN TO ITS NATURAL
STATE, FREE OF HUMAN
CIVILIZATION.



"IT WOULD BE A SIGN
THAT HUMANS ARE CAPABLE OF
PRESERVING AND ***PROTECTING***,
THAT BALANCE CAN BE ACHIEVED
BETWEEN THE SPIRIT AND
HUMAN WORLDS.

"ONCE A YEAR, I LED THE AIR
NOMADS HERE FOR A FESTIVAL.
BECAUSE THOSE LIVING IN THE
REGION KNEW THIS PLACE WAS
SACRED TO OUR PEOPLE, NO
ONE DARED DEFILE IT.





"AFTER MY DEATH, THIS TRADITION BECAME KNOWN AS ***YANGCHEN'S FESTIVAL***. THE AIR NOMADS KEPT IT FAITHFULLY UNTIL WE WERE WIPED OUT."

ALL THAT IRON THE METALBENDERS DUG UP, THAT WAS GENERAL OLD IRON'S ARMOR?

YES.



MY
PROMISE HAS
BEEN ***BROKEN.***

NOW, IT'S
ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE GENERAL
OLD IRON RETURNS.

BUT THERE'S
GOTTA BE A WAY TO
TURN HIM BACK! WHAT IF
WE PUT THINGS BACK TO
THE WAY THEY WERE?

WHAT IF WE BURY
THE ARMOR AGAIN, AND
RETURN THIS PLACE TO
ITS NATURAL STATE?





WOULDN'T
THAT, YOU KNOW,
UNBREAK YOUR PROMISE
TO GENERAL OLD IRON?

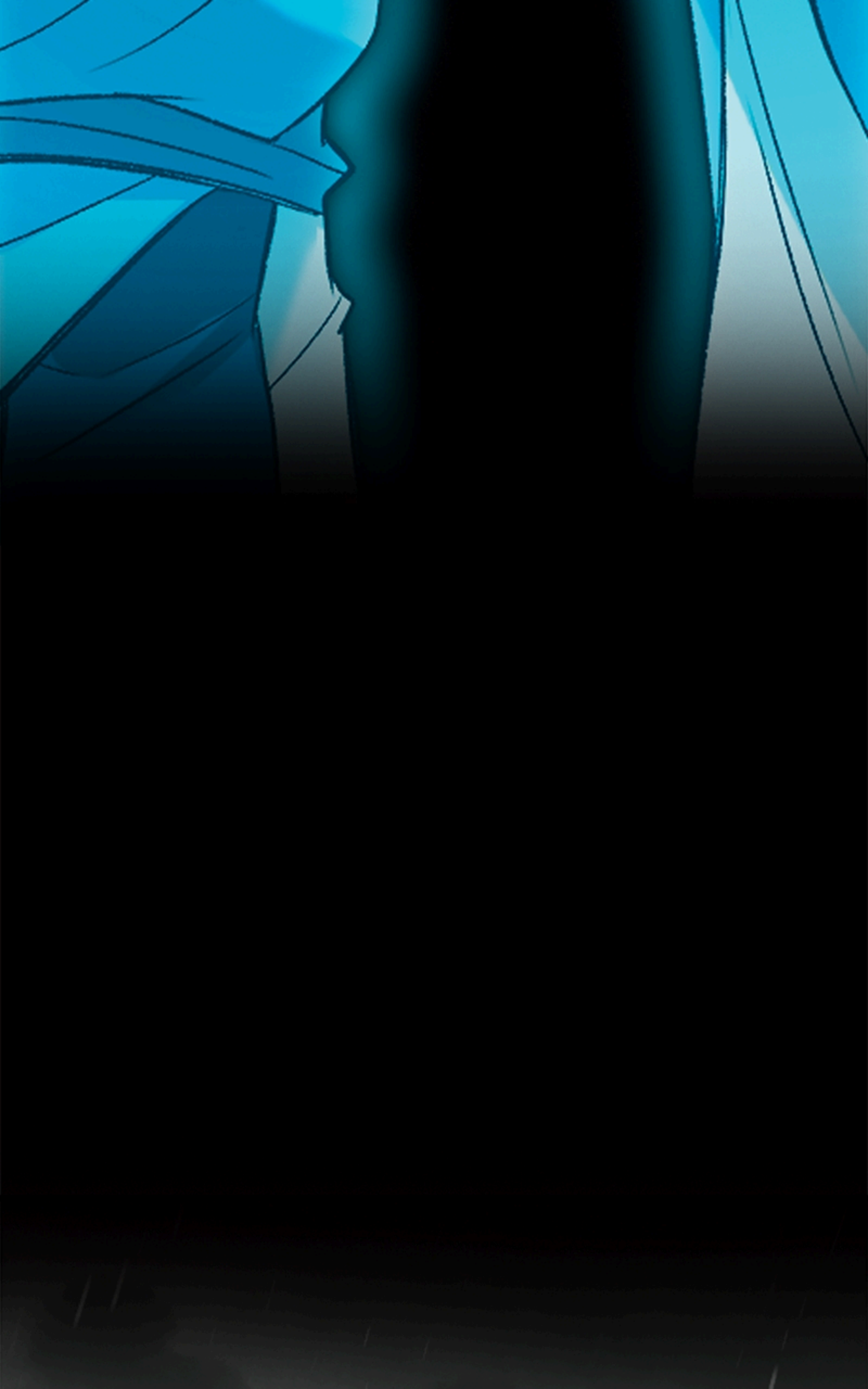


...

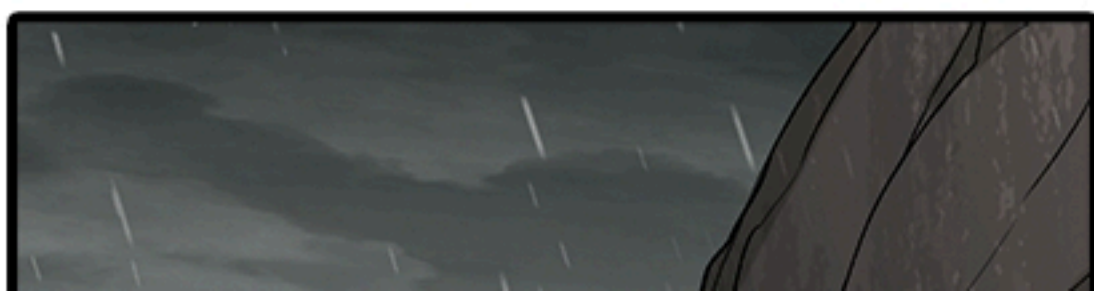
GO, AANG.
YOUR FRIENDS

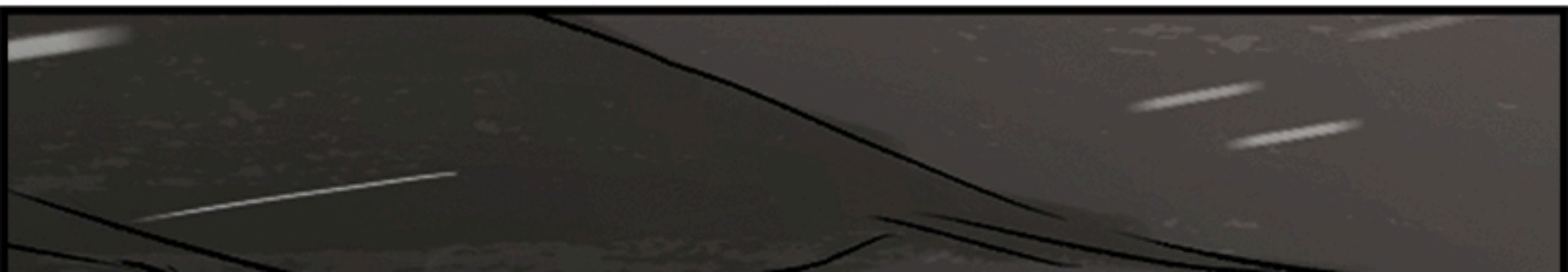
YOUR FRIENDS
NEED YOU.

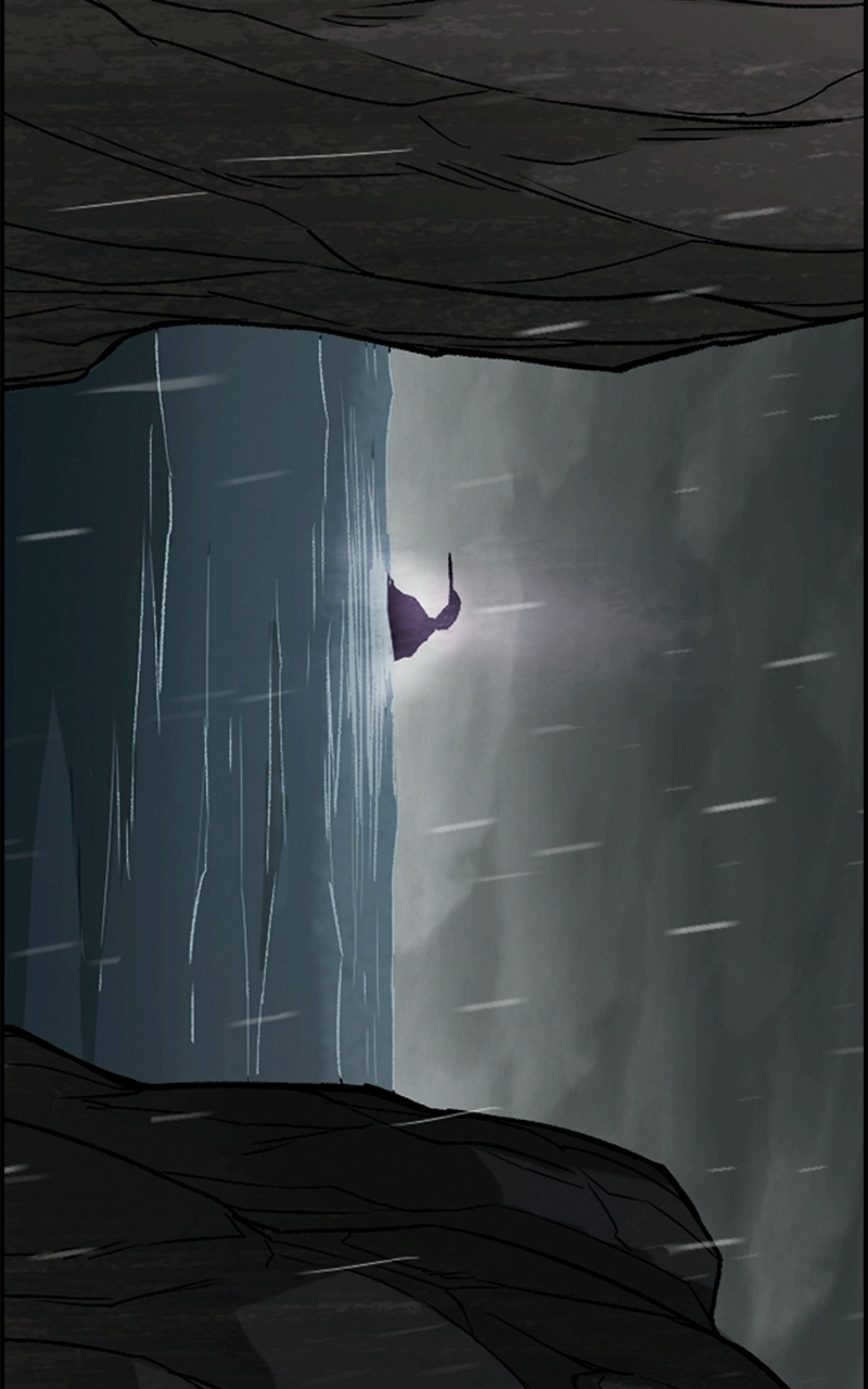




















AANG! WHAT'D
YANGCHEN SAY?

ALL THIS
IRON IS ACTUALLY
THE ARMOR OF AN
ANCIENT SPIRIT.

WE NEED TO
PUT IT BACK IN
THE GROUND.





THEN I'VE GOT TO
MAKE THIS PLACE LOOK
THE WAY IT DID BEFORE
THE HUMANS STARTED
BUILDING STUFF HERE.



YES.

BUT DOESN'T THAT
MEAN YOU'D HAVE TO
DESTROY THE REFINERY?
AND THE ENTIRE TOWN?



KATARA, CAN
YOU MAKE SURE
EVERYONE'S OUT OF
THE BUILDINGS?



I'LL GET TOPH'S
STUDENTS TO HELP
ME WITH--

WAIT A
MINUTE.





WASN'T
THERE A GIANT
IRON MASK?

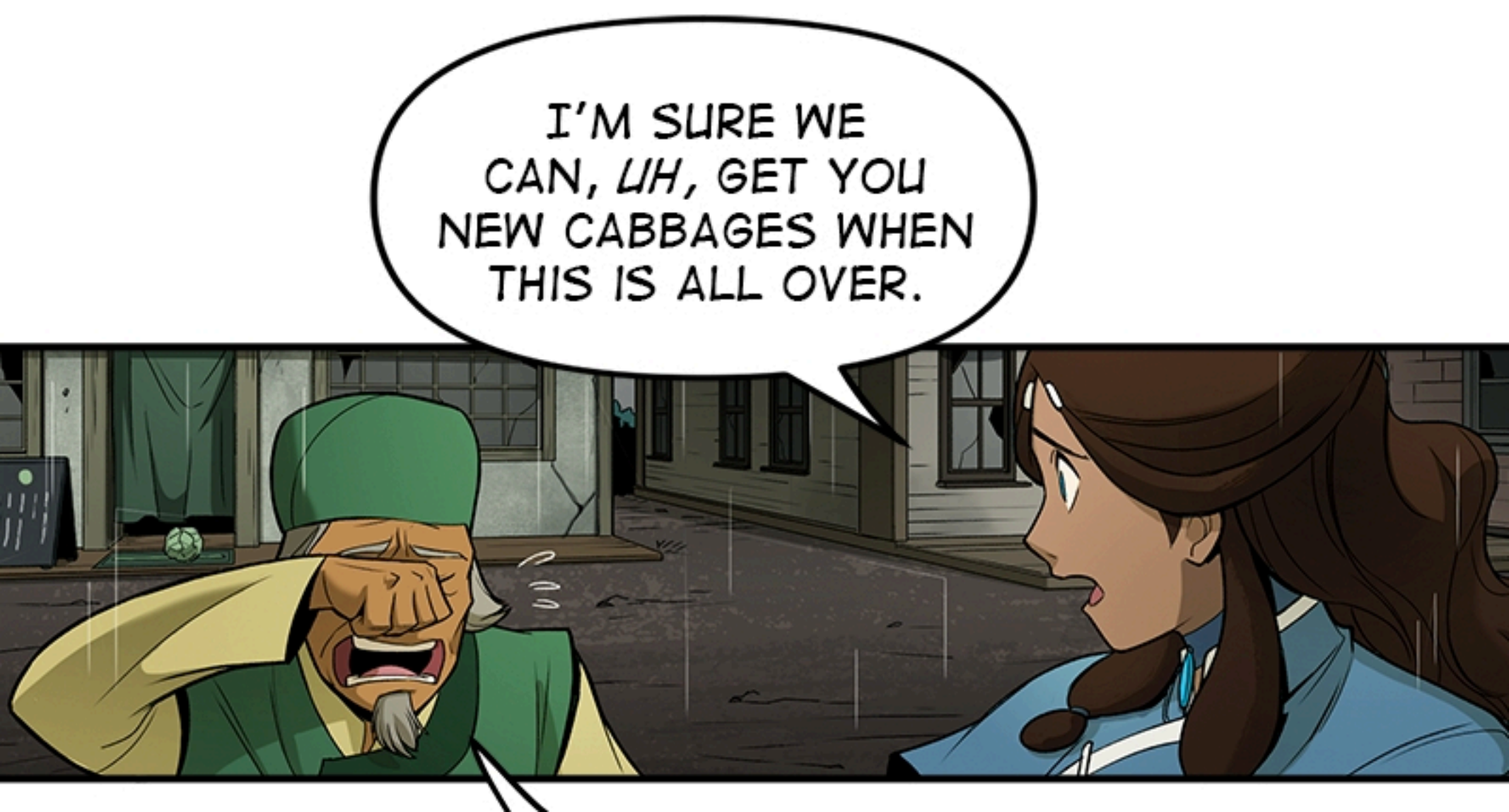
WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THE MASK?

SATORU!

I SAW MY UNCLE
AND A COUPLE ROUGH
RHINOS DRAGGING THE
MASK DOWN TO
THE BEACH!

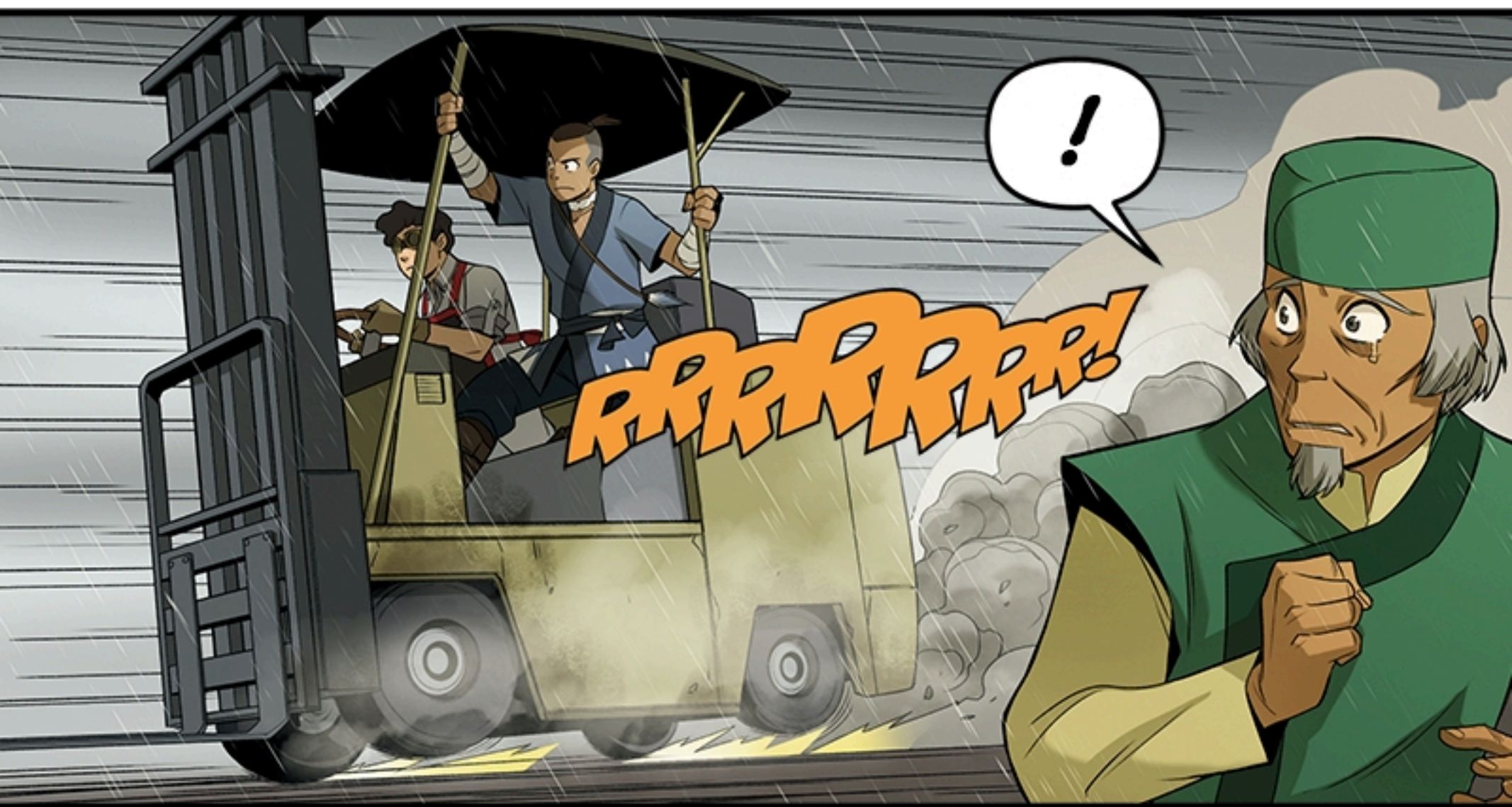






OH, IT WON'T
BE THE SAME!
IT'S *NEVER*
THE SAME!

MY POOR
CABBAGES!
OH MY--





OH MY
GOODNESS!

A comic panel featuring an elderly man with a surprised expression, his eyes wide and mouth slightly open. He has grey hair and is wearing a green cap and a green jacket. The background shows a rainy street scene with buildings and a dark roofline. A speech bubble is positioned above his head, containing the text "OH MY GOODNESS!".



WHAT A
REMARKABLE
MACHINE!

A comic panel showing a speech bubble with the text "WHAT A REMARKABLE MACHINE!". The bubble is white with a black outline and a tail pointing towards the top right.



YOU'RE NOT
GONNA BE ABLE

GONNA BE ABLE
TO SET SAIL IN THIS
WEATHER, BOSS
MAN LOBAN!

CAN'T WE
WAIT TILL THE
STORM IS OVER?



IN BUSINESS,
WAITING IS THE
SAME AS **LOSING!** NOW
GET THAT IRON ONTO
THAT SHIP!





?!

THE AVATAR
NEEDS YOU TO
RETURN THAT
MASK.





UNCLE, YOUR
GREED ALMOST
GOT US KILLED IN
THAT MINE!

HAVEN'T
YOU LEARNED
YOUR LESSON?

I'D PLANNED
FOR YOU TO BE MY
SUCCESSOR, SATORU,
BUT I WAS WRONG
ABOUT YOU.

YOU JUST
DON'T HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES.



**ROUGH RHINOS,
TAKE CARE OF**

TAKE CARE OF
THOSE TWO!





EVERYONE'S
OUT OF THE
BUILDINGS?



EVERYONE'S
OUT

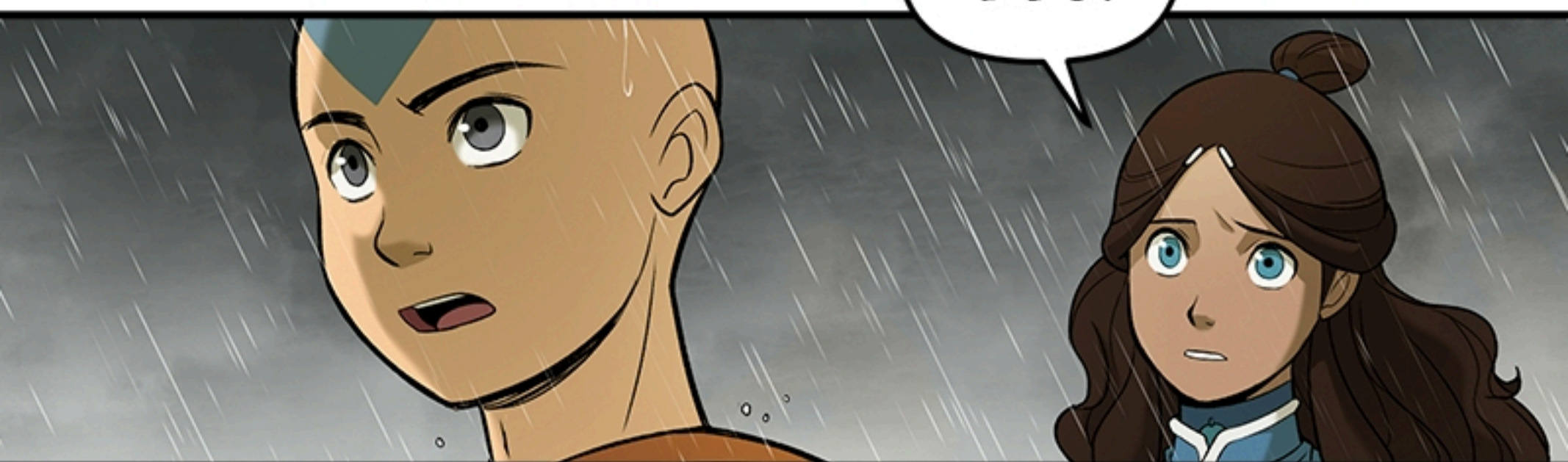
out.





YOU
SEE HIM?

YEAH,
I DO.



SO HE'LL TURN
BACK IF THIS PLACE
LOOKS THE WAY IT USED TO,
BEFORE THE TOWN AND THE
REFINERY WERE BUILT?

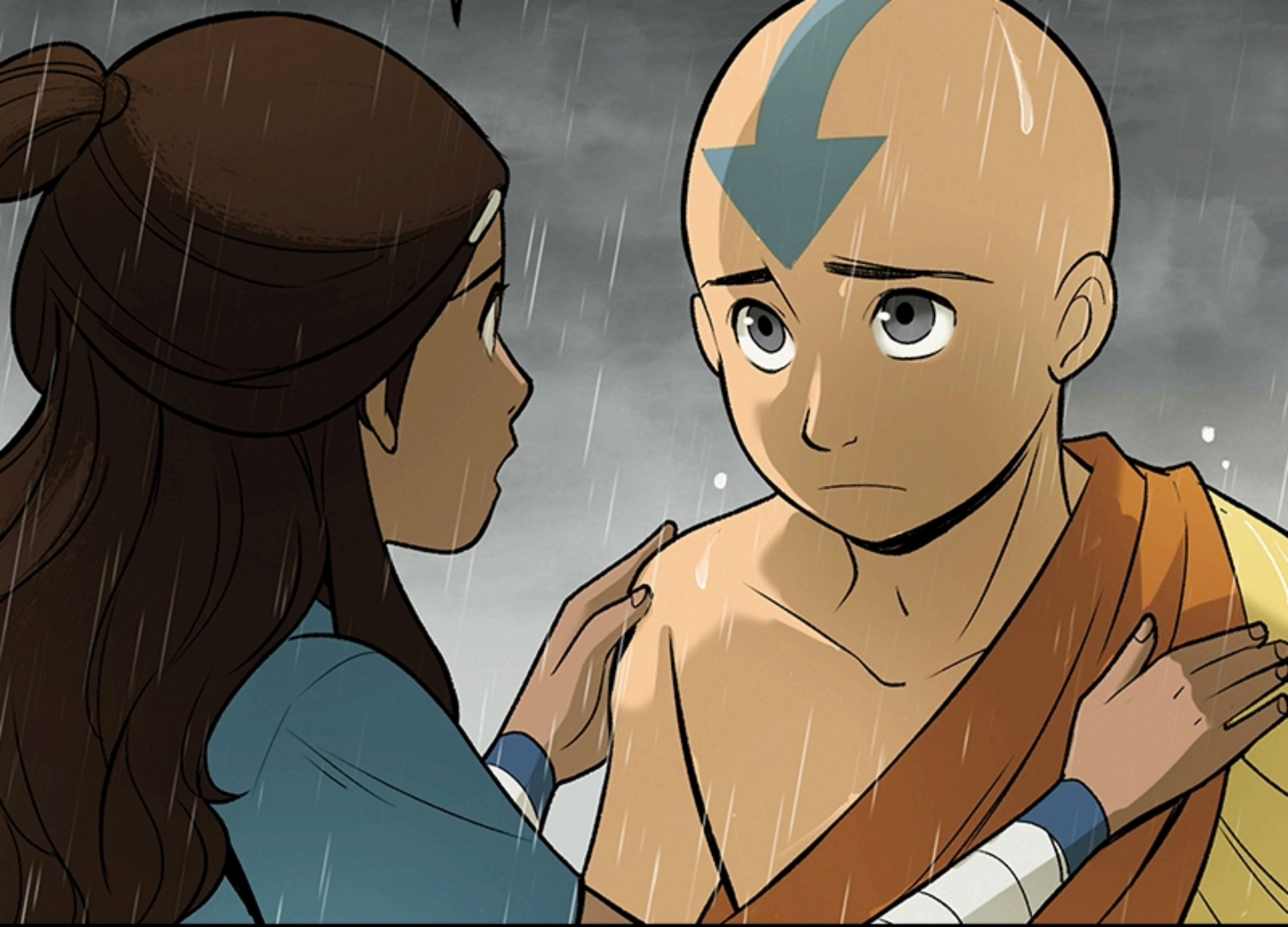


I HOPE



THEN YOU'VE
GOT TO HURRY,
AANG.

YOU CAN'T
WAIT FOR SOKKA
AND SATORU TO BRING
THE MASK BACK.



≡SIGH≡

I HATE
DESTROYING
THINGS.



YOU'LL MAKE

A comic book panel showing Aang and Katara in a dark, rainy environment. Aang, with his signature blue arrow tattoo on his forehead and arm, is wearing his orange and yellow robes and is gesturing with his right hand towards the rain. Katara, with her long dark hair in a braid and wearing her blue Water Tribe dress, stands with her back to the viewer, looking at Aang. The rain is depicted as numerous vertical lines falling around them. A large dark rock is on the left, and some smaller rocks are on the ground.

SURE FOLKS STAY
AWAY WHILE I
DO THIS?

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THEM, AANG.
I'LL HANDLE IT.







**BOSS MAN
LAO! BOSS
MAN LAO!**

**KEEP YOUR
VOICE DOWN! MY
DAUGHTER NEEDS
HER REST!**



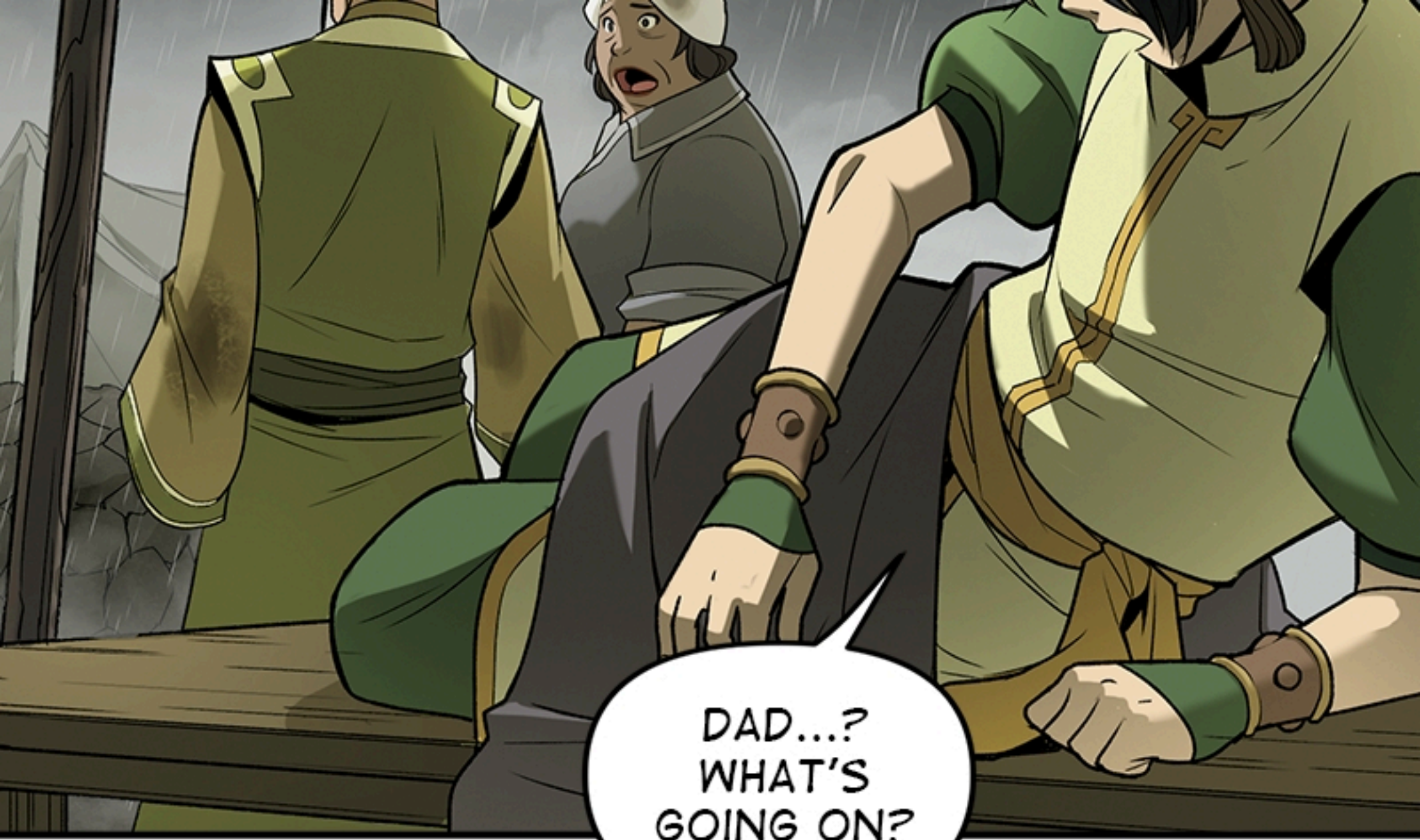


HE
CAN'T BE!

LOOK!







IT'S NOTHING
FOR YOU TO WORRY
ABOUT, MY DAUGHTER.

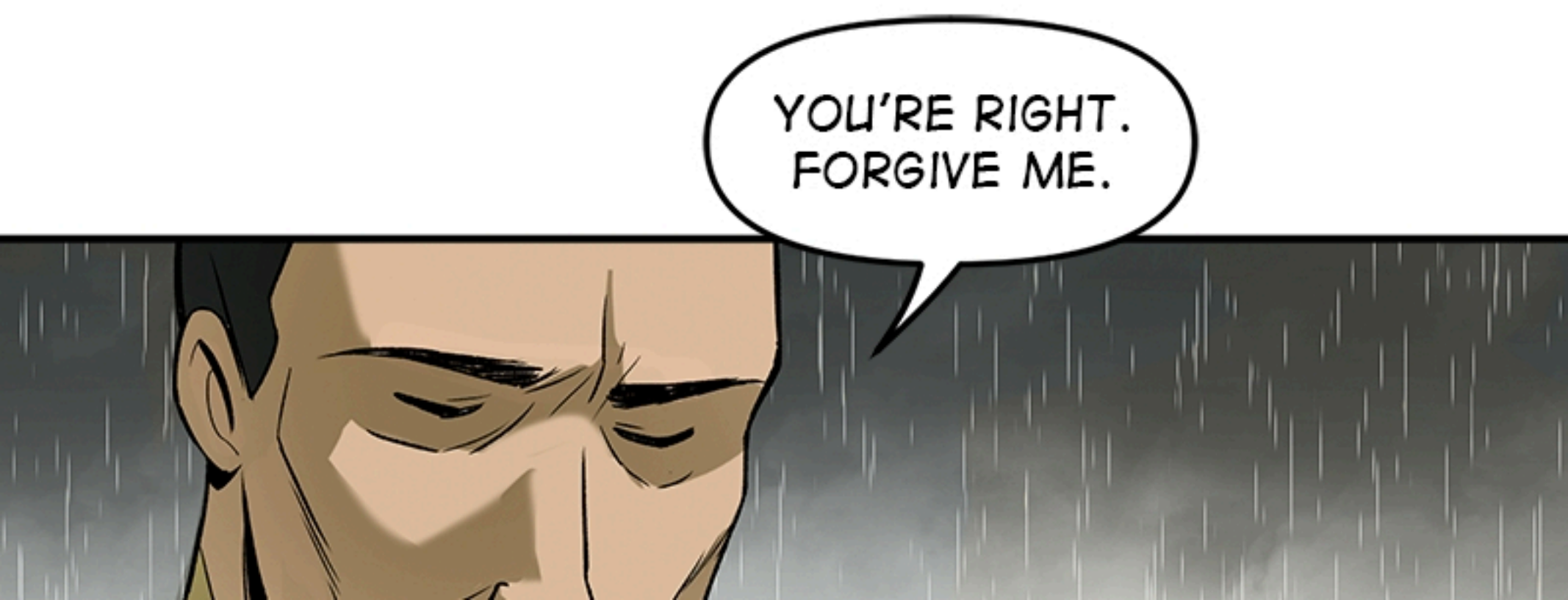
REST. WHAT
MATTERS IS THAT
YOU'RE *SAFE*.





DAD, STOP
TREATING ME LIKE
SOME HOTHOUSE
FLOWER!





ONE OF MY
EMPLOYEES JUST
INFORMED ME THAT
THE AVATAR IS ABOUT TO
DESTROY MY REFINERY.



WHAT?!
WHY?



I DON'T
KNOW. LOSING
THAT REFINERY WOULD
RUIN ME, BUT IT'S MORE
THAN JUST THAT.

WE WANTED
TO DO SOMETHING
NEW. SOMETHING
IMPORTANT.



THE EARTHEN
FIRE REFINERY ISN'T
JUST A BUSINESS--
IT'S A ***SYMBOL***.

IT'S A JOINT
PROJECT BETWEEN NATIONS,
YOU UNDERSTAND? IT CAN
ONLY EXIST IN A WORLD
AT ***PEACE***.

SO PLEASE, TOPH
BEIFONG. YOU'RE THE
GREATEST EARTHBENDER
OF ALL TIME.

HELP ME.





COME ON,
YOU LILY LIVERS!
LET'S HELP THE
MAN OUT!





nickelodeonTM



AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDERTM

THE RIFT

Created by
BRYAN KONIETZKO
MICHAEL DANTE DIMARTINO

Script
GENE LUEN YANG

Art
GURIHIRU

Lettering
MICHAEL HEISLER

Publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

Designer
SARAH TERRY

Editor
RACHEL ROBERTS

Assistant Editor
JENNY BLENK

Digital Art Technician
SAMANTHA HUMMER

Reformatting and Typesetting
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

Reformat Copyediting
KATHLEEN TOWNSEND

Originally Published by
DARK HORSE BOOKS

© 2024 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved.



nickelodeonTM