



WELL, LOOK
AT *THAT*!



YOU WERE
RIGHT, ZUKO! THE
MURAL KEEPS
GOING!

I'M *IMPRESSED*.

ANY OTHER *CRIMINAL
TALENTS* I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT?



STICK AROUND.
MAYBE YOU'LL
FIND OUT.

OH, LOOK, MORE
OF ZUKO'S *CRANKY*
ANCESTORS.

HA HA!

THEY DON'T
ALL LOOK CRANKY.
THIS GUY'S MORE..
STOIC.





HOW MANY
FIRE LORDS
WERE THERE?

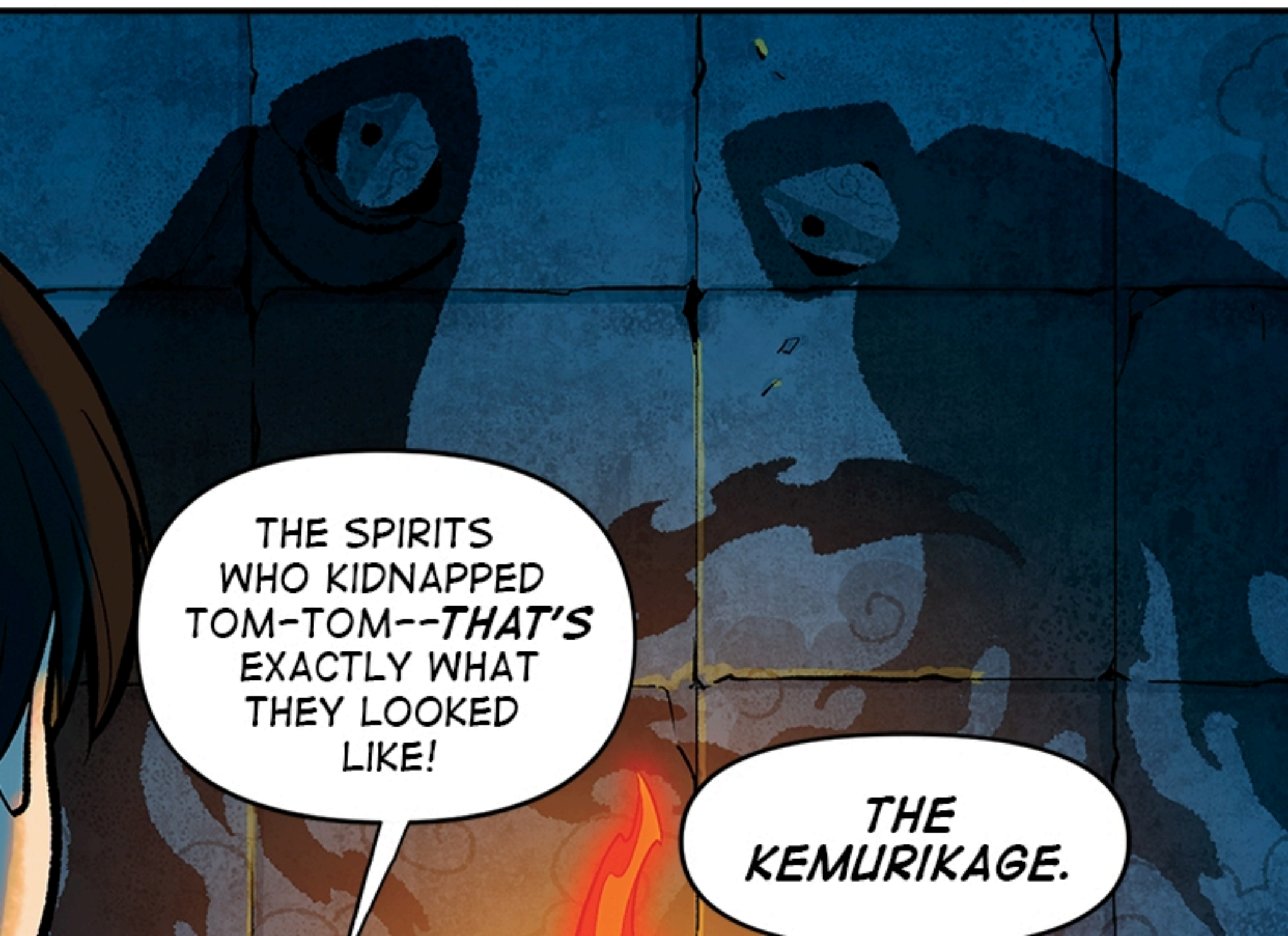
I'M NOT SURE. THE
HISTORY BOOKS I
STUDIED AS A KID ALL
BEGAN WITH SOZIN.



BUT I BET THIS
IS THE *FIRST ONE*,
THE ONE WHO UNITED
THE *FIRE ISLANDS*.



GUYS, I THINK I
FOUND WHAT WE'RE
LOOKING FOR.



THE SPIRITS
WHO KIDNAPPED
TOM-TOM--*THAT'S*
EXACTLY WHAT
THEY LOOKED
LIKE!

*THE
KEMURIKAGE.*





AND THIS
MUST BE THEIR
STORY.

CAN I
GET A LIGHT,
AANG?



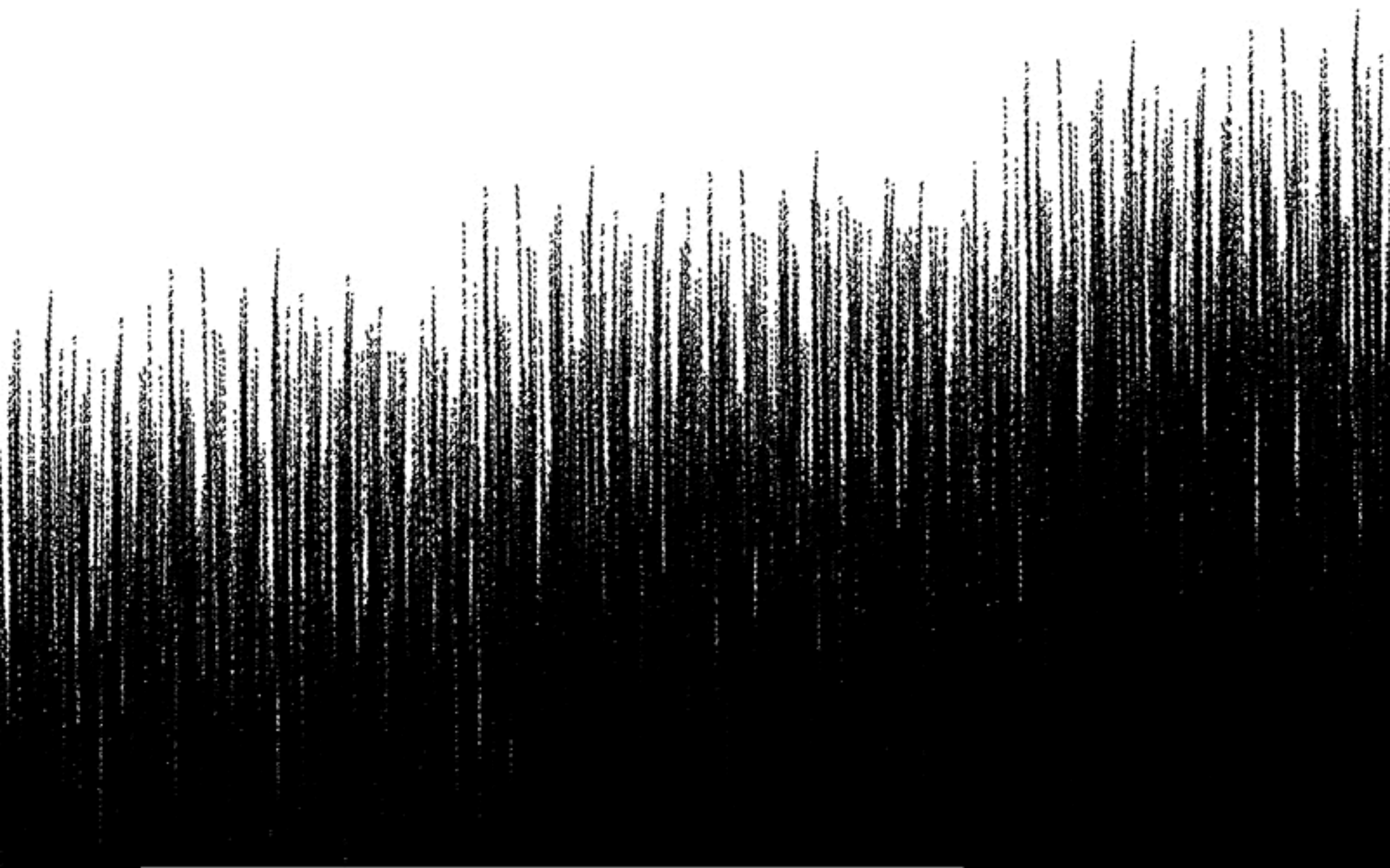
I GOT IT.





LONG AGO,
LONG BEFORE THE
FIRE NATION CAME INTO
EXISTENCE, **WARLORDS**
RULED THE **FIRE**
ISLANDS.





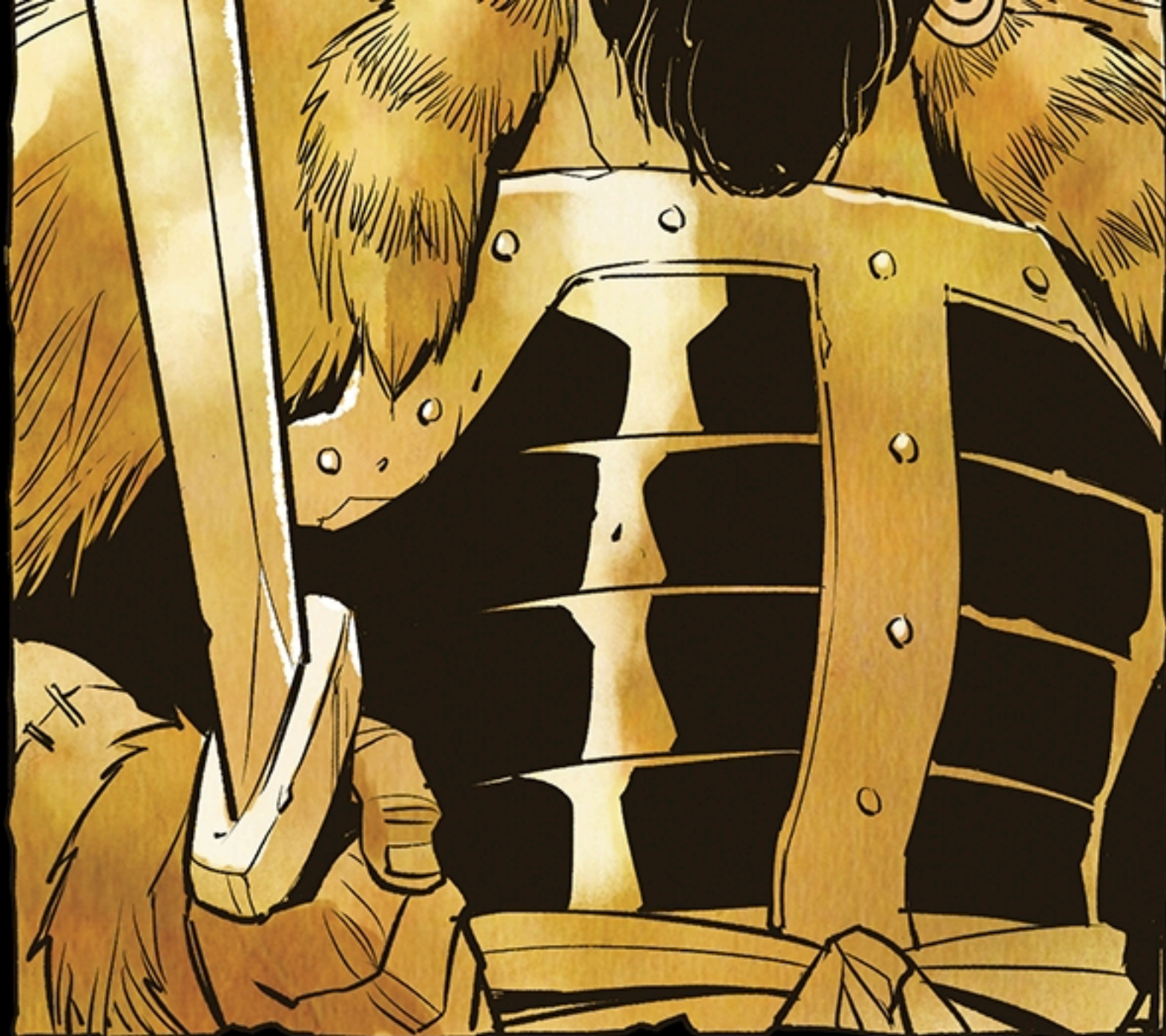
"THEY FOUGHT
ONE ANOTHER FOR
TERRITORY, AND OFTEN
THE COMMON PEOPLE WERE
CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE.





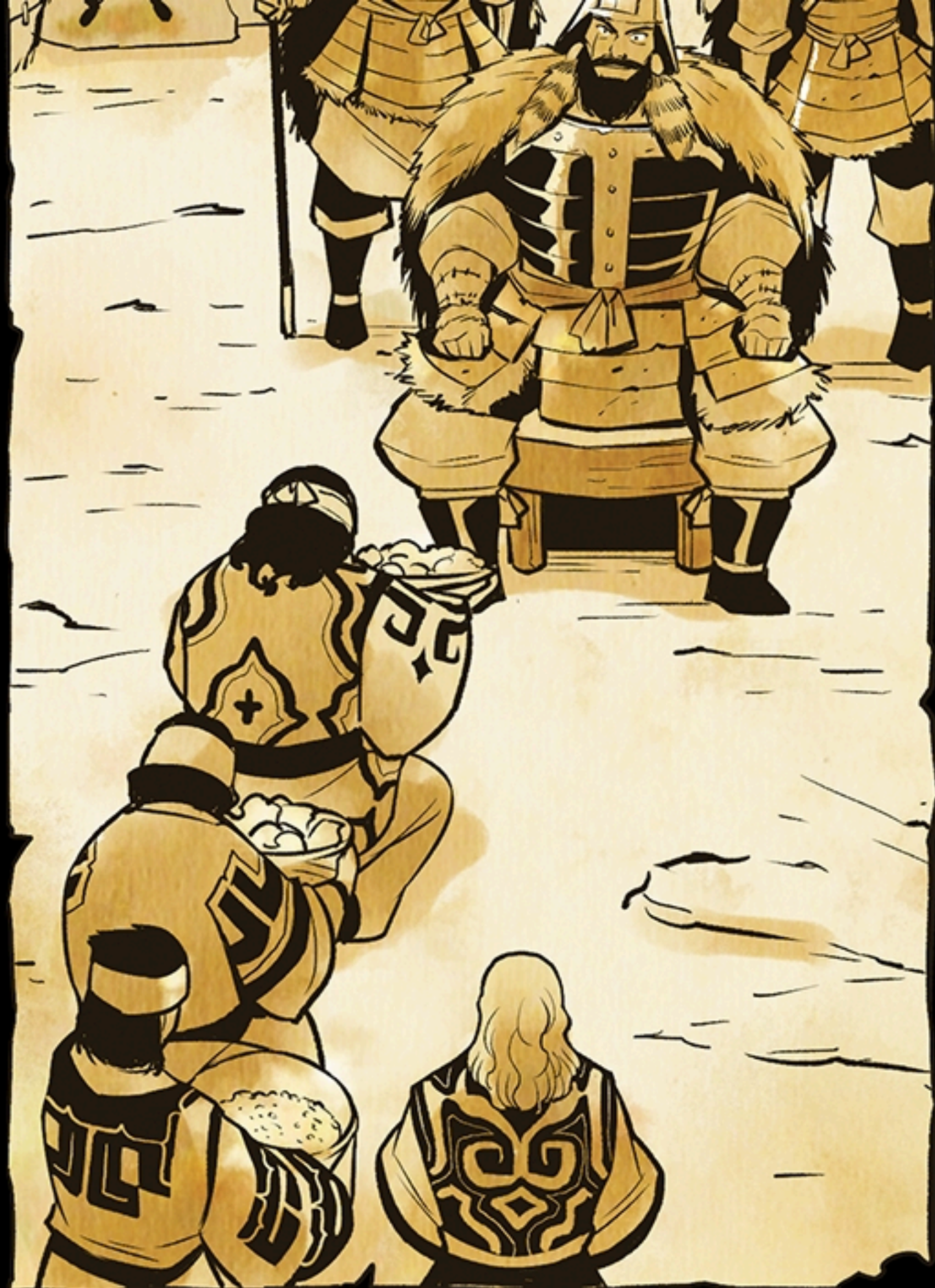
"ALL THE
WARLORDS WERE
CRUEL AND **RUTHLESS**,
BUT **WORST** OF THEM WAS
A BRUTE NAMED **TOZ**.





"FEAST OR FAMINE,
TOZ DEMANDED **ANNUAL
TRIBUTES** FROM ALL
THE VILLAGES IN
HIS TERRITORY.

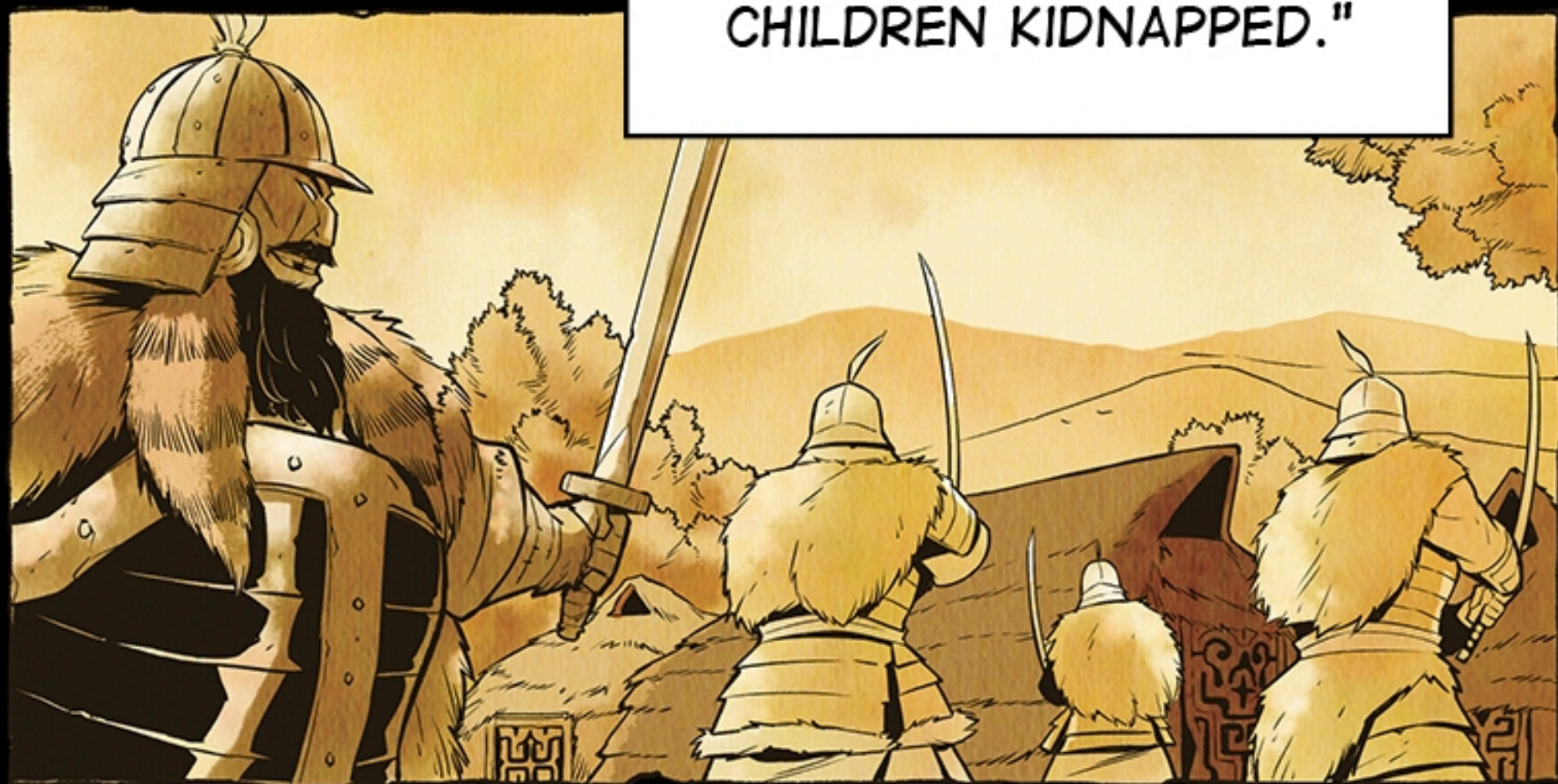


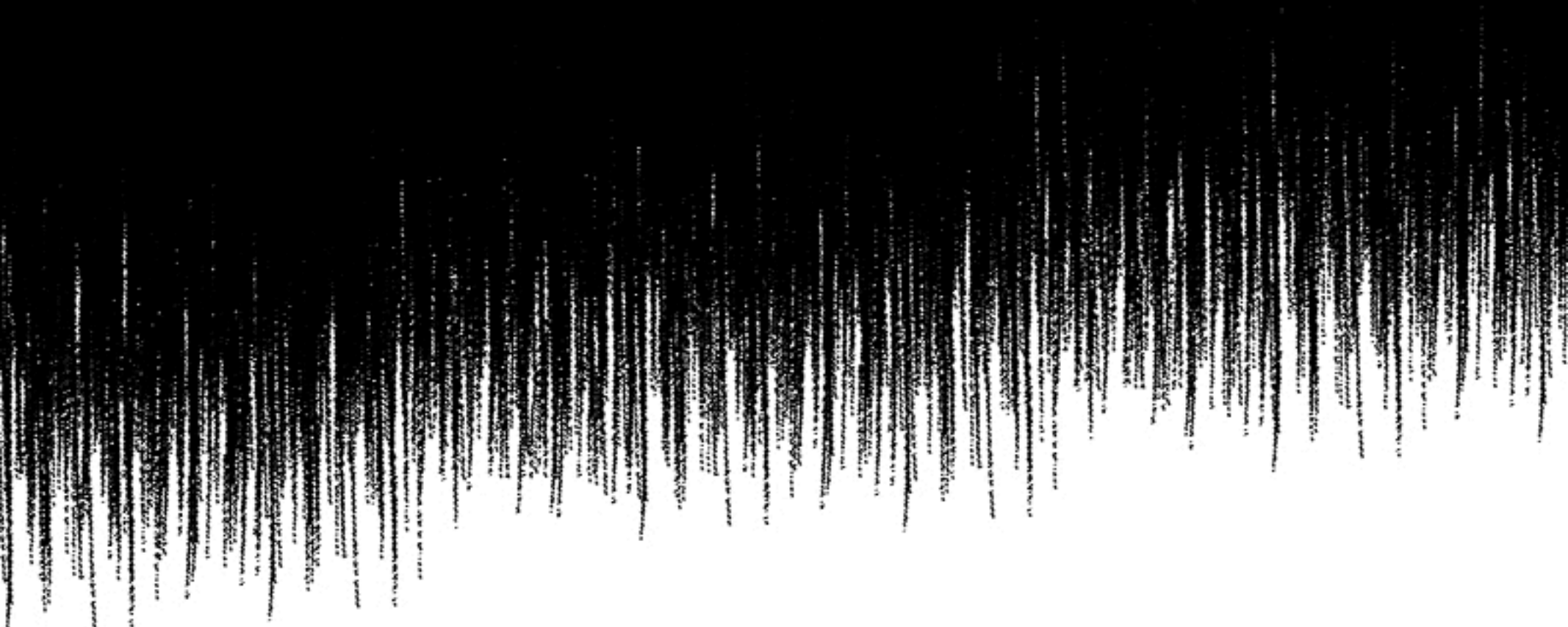


"ONE YEAR, A
VILLAGE DARED TO
REFUSE TOZ
HIS TRIBUTE.



"AND SO, TO TEACH
THEM A LESSON, TOZ
HAD ALL THE VILLAGE'S
CHILDREN KIDNAPPED."





THE *CHILDREN* WERE
NEVER SEEN AGAIN, AND
THE VILLAGE'S *MOTHERS*
DIED IN SADNESS.



HOW HORRIBLE!
WHERE WAS MY *PAST*
LIFE IN ALL THIS?!

MAYBE THIS
WAS BEFORE THE
FIRST AVATAR.



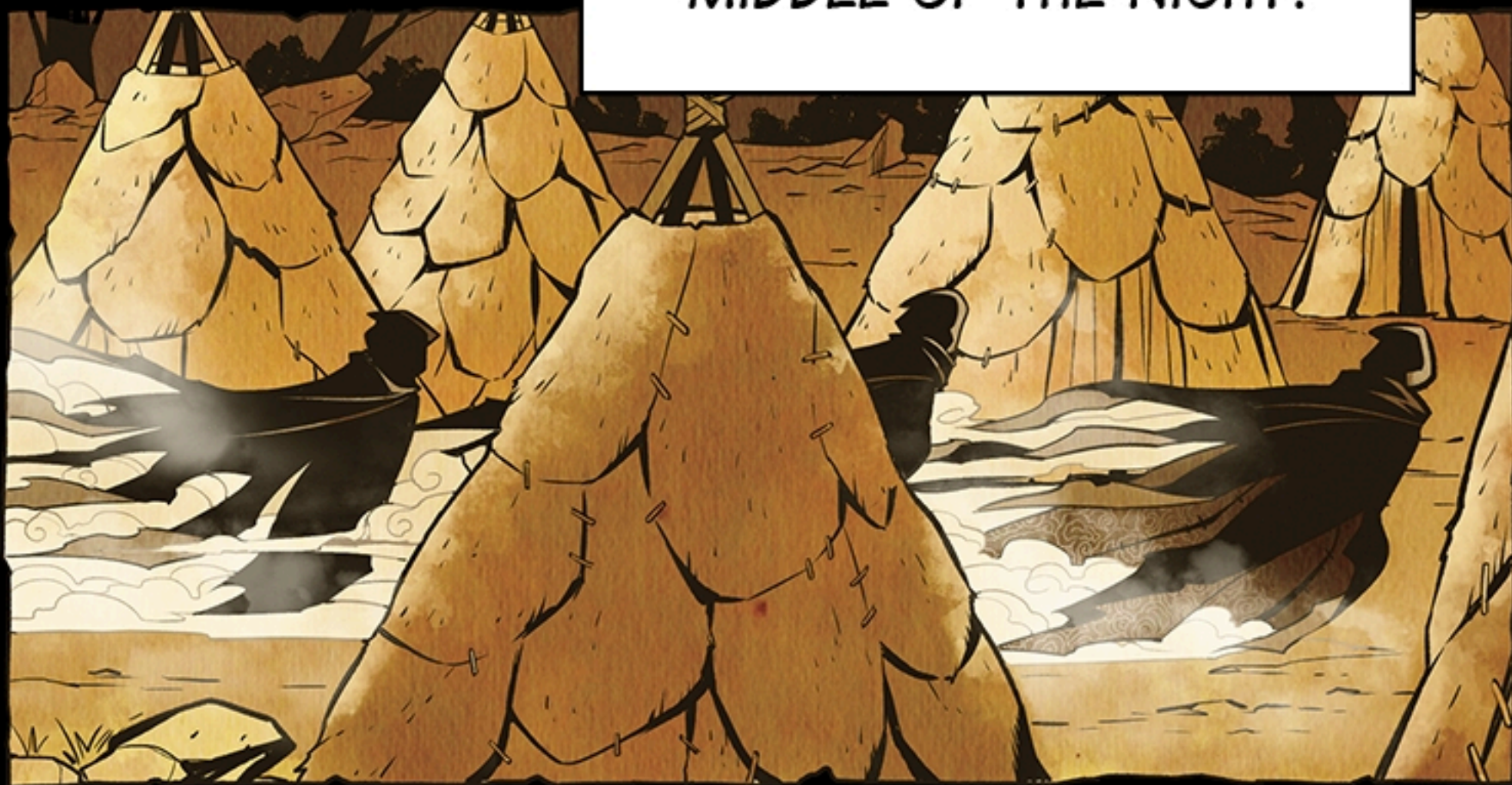
SHHH. I'M
NOT DONE.

"SOON AFTER THE
MOTHERS' DEATHS, ***DARK
SPIRITS*** BEGAN TO HAUNT
TOZ AND HIS MEN.



"EVERY SO OFTEN,

THEY WOULD DRIFT
INTO *THE WARLORD'S*
ENCAMPMENT IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.



"THE NEXT
MORNING, A *CHILD*
WOULD BE GONE.

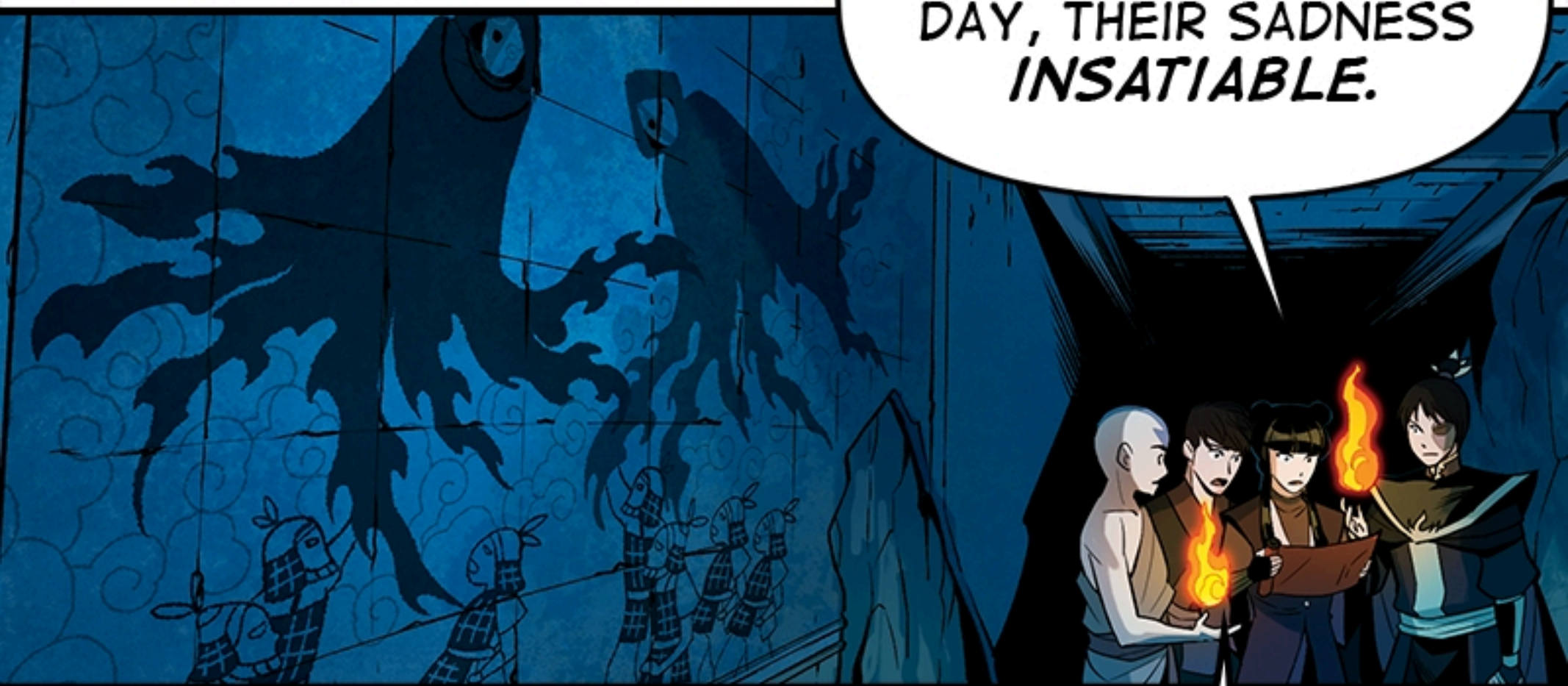


The illustration is a stylized, high-contrast scene in shades of brown and tan. At the top, a small portion of a man's head and shoulders is visible, looking down. The main scene shows a man with a large, dark beard and a feathered headdress, wearing a patterned tunic and leggings, standing in a desert. He is looking towards three conical teepees in the distance. To the left, a large, dark, gnarled tree trunk and its branches frame the scene. The ground is sandy and uneven, with some small rocks. The sky is a uniform light tan color. The overall style is reminiscent of a comic book or a graphic novel.

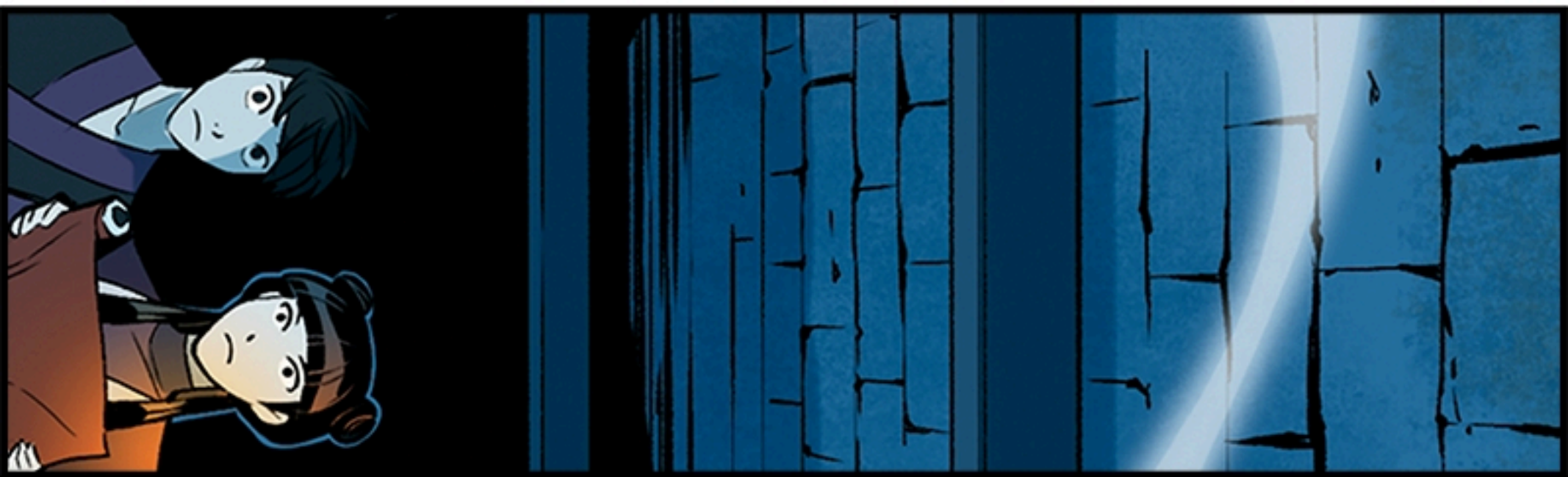
"OUT OF
FEAR, TOZ'S MEN
ABANDONED HIM. HIS
REGIME ***COLLAPSED.***"

HOWEVER, THE
DARK SPIRITS--THE
KEMURIKAGE--

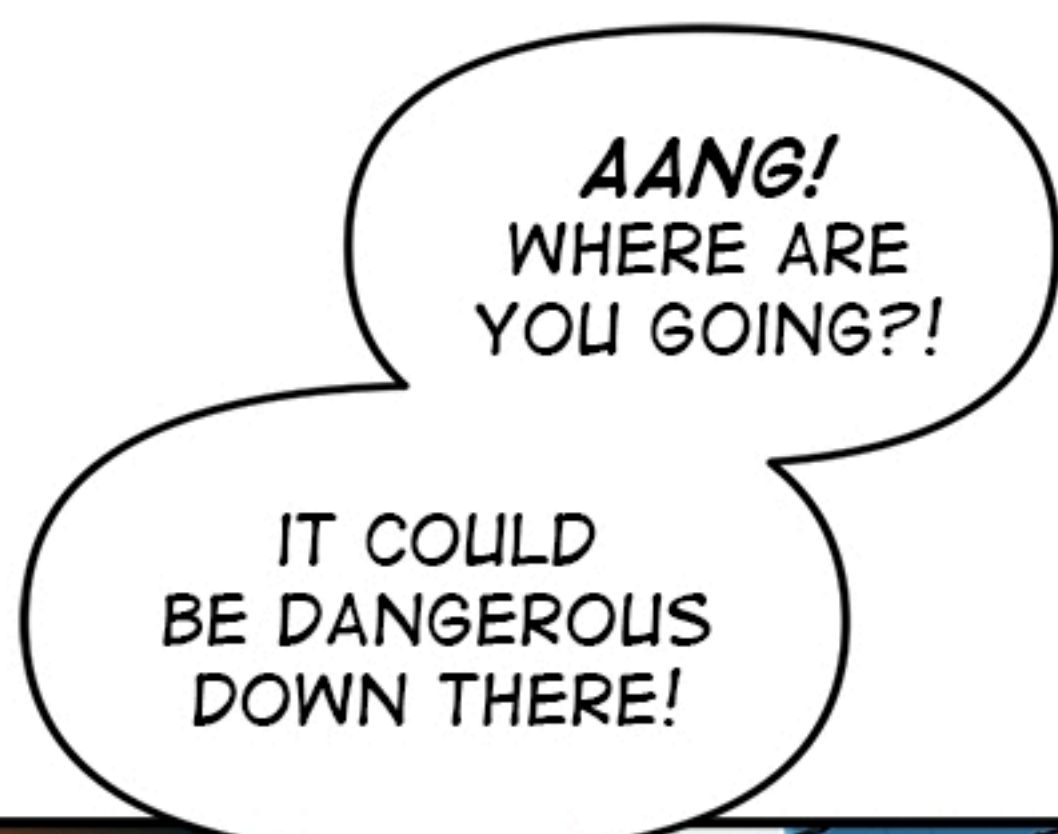
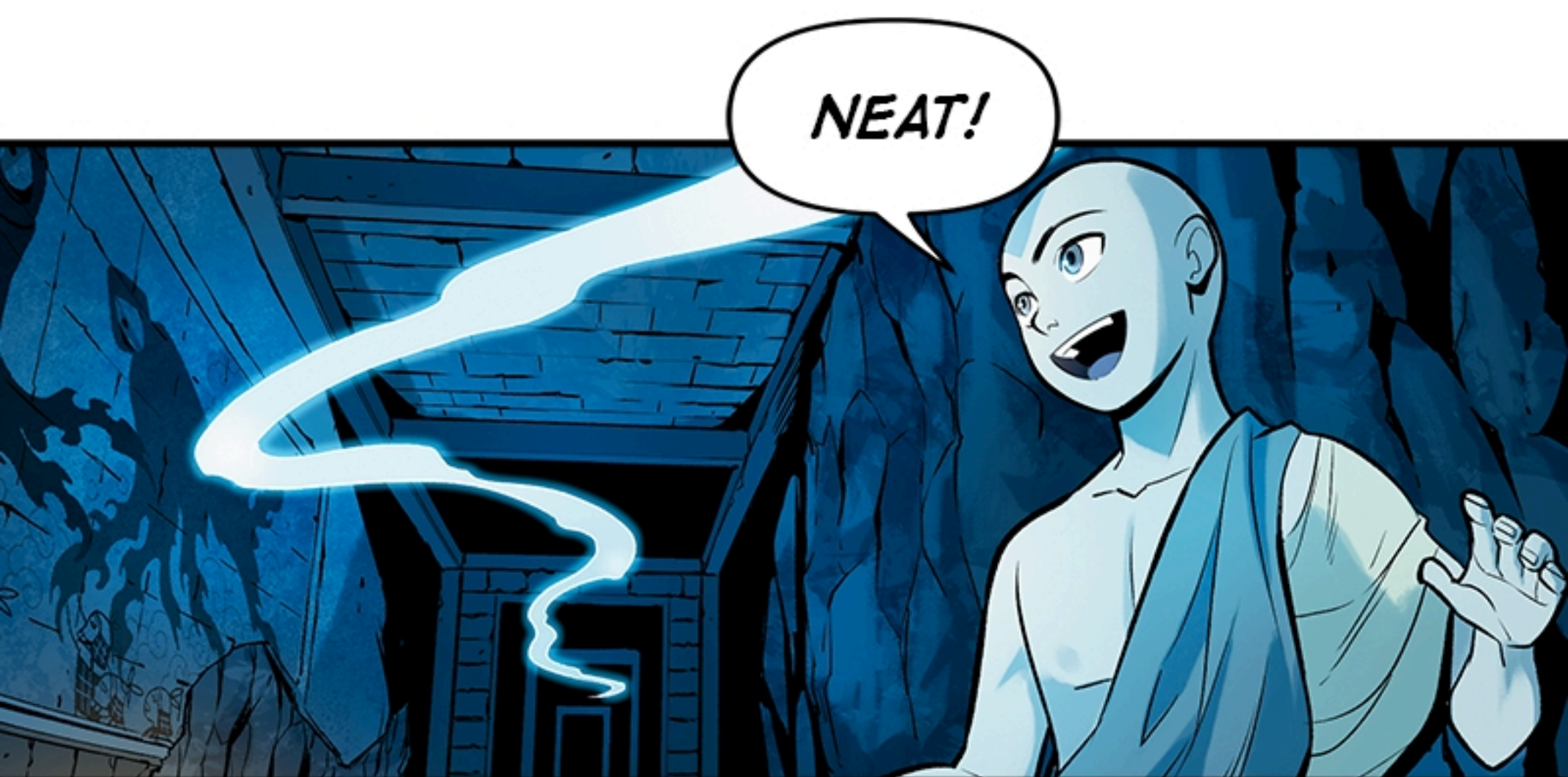
CONTINUE TO
APPEAR, EVEN TO THIS
DAY, THEIR SADNESS
INSATIABLE.



EEESH. MAYBE
SOZIN KEPT ANCIENT
FIRE NATION HISTORY
LOCKED AWAY BECAUSE
IT'S SO *DEPRESSING*.









BUT I THINK
IT WANTS ME
TO FOLLOW IT!

THIS KIND OF
THING HAPPEN
A LOT?



WITH THE
AVATAR?

*ALL THE
TIME.*



INTERESTING
FRIENDS YOU GOT
THERE, ZUKO.



YOU! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
OUT SO LATE?!





WHAT IN
TARNATION--?!

WE'RE DOING
OUR BEST TO KEEP
YOU ***SAFE***, SIR.





WHY, *CONSTABLE SLING*, MY GRANDSON
AND I WERE JUST CATCHIN'
UP ON WORK AT
OUR SHOP!

WHAT'S
THE MEANING
OF THIS?!

A comic panel with a dark blue background. On the left, a character with grey skin and blue hair is shown in profile, looking towards the right. On the right, a character with tan skin and grey hair is shown from the chest up, looking towards the left. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the grey-skinned character at the top and one from the tan-skinned character in the middle.

THE ENTIRE
CITY IS UNDER
CLURFEW.

NO CITIZEN
IS PERMITTED TO
BE OUT OF HIS HOME
AFTER *SUNDOWN!*



BY WHOSE
AUTHORITY?! FIRE

...
LORD ZUKO'S?!

BY THE
AUTHORITY OF
NECESSITY.



*A STRONG
NATION IS A
SAFE NATION!*

A STRONG

**A STRONG
NATION IS A
SAFE NATION!**



**AND WHO'S
THAT BLINCHA
RUFFIANS?**

**THE *SAFE*
NATION SOCIETY,
A VOLUNTEER**

A VOLUNTEER
MILITIA.



MY *POLICE FORCE*
ISN'T BIG ENOUGH TO
HANDLE EVERYTHING THAT
NEEDS TO BE DONE, SO
THEY'RE PITCHING IN.

THE CAPITAL CITY
IS UNDER SIEGE BY
DARK SPIRITS!

NOW GET
HOME BEFORE
WE ARREST YOU FOR
YOUR OWN GOOD!



DARK
SPIRITS...?

SOUNDS
LIKE A LOAD OF
HOOEY T'ME!



LISTEN, I BEEN
ROUND THE BLOCK
MORE TIMES THAN
THE TWO A'YOU *PLUT*
TOGETHER! SO
UNLESS TEE

UNLESS I

AIYEEE!



*MY BABY!
MY BABY!*



**MASTER UKANO!
CONSTABLE!**

UP THERE!





WE BEST
BE GETTIN'
HOME NOW.



YEP.

*WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING FOR,
SAFE NATION
SOCIETY?!*

ATTACK!









WHERE ARE
YOU LEADING US,
LITTLE WISP
OF SMOKE?



PROBABLY
SOMEWHERE *DARK*
AND *DANK*.



KIND OF
LIKE WHERE WE
ARE *NOW?*

OH, IT'LL
BE *WORSE.*

YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE PRETTY
CLUTE WHEN YOU'RE
PESSIMISTIC.

I'VE BEEN
TOLD.





HEY,
SMOKE! CAN
YOU WAIT--





NO, DON'T
GO--

*OH, MONKEY
FEATHERS!*



I BET THIS
IS ANOTHER
LOCK.

KEI LO, YOU
THINK MAYBE
YOU COULD---



NO PROBLEM,
AVATAR AANG.



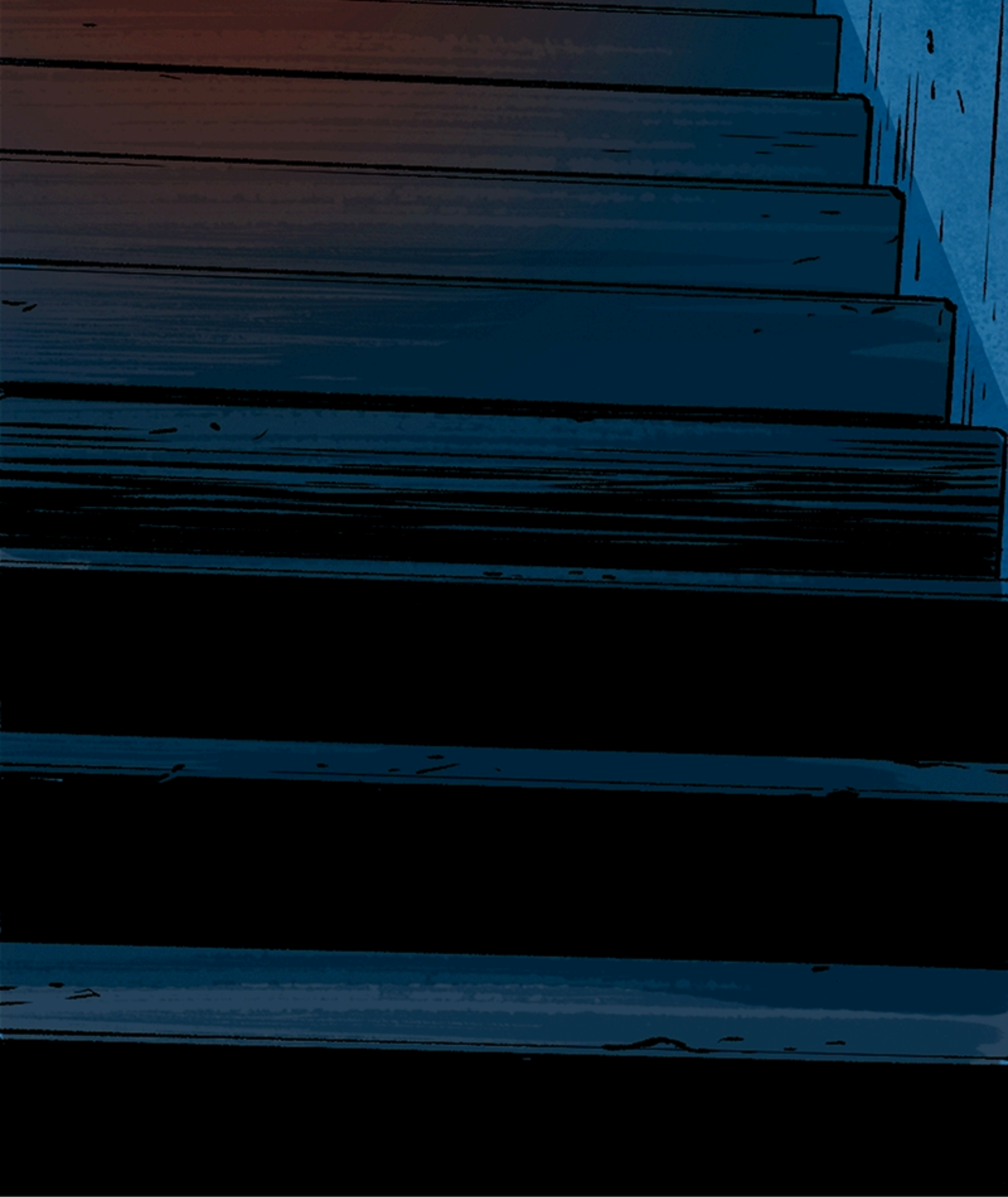






LOOKS LIKE
A *CRYPT*!

I'M *NOT*
GOING IN
THERE.



KEI LO, MAYBE
YOU COULD COME
ALONG, IN CASE THERE'S
SOMETHING ELSE
TO UNLOCK?

...

SURE.







THIS ENOUGH
LIGHT? BECAUSE IF
THE FLAME ISN'T BIG
ENOUGH, I COULD--

IT'S *FINE*,
ZUKO. THE LESS WE
SEE OF THIS PLACE,
THE BETTER.

OH. OKAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

KEI LO
SEEMS NICE.

YEAH,
HE IS.



IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU
HAPPY.



OR AT LEAST
HAPPY-ISH.

BUT I
HAVE TO BE
HONEST...



I *MISS*
YOU, MAI.





nickelodeonTM



AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER™

SMOKE AND SHADOW

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