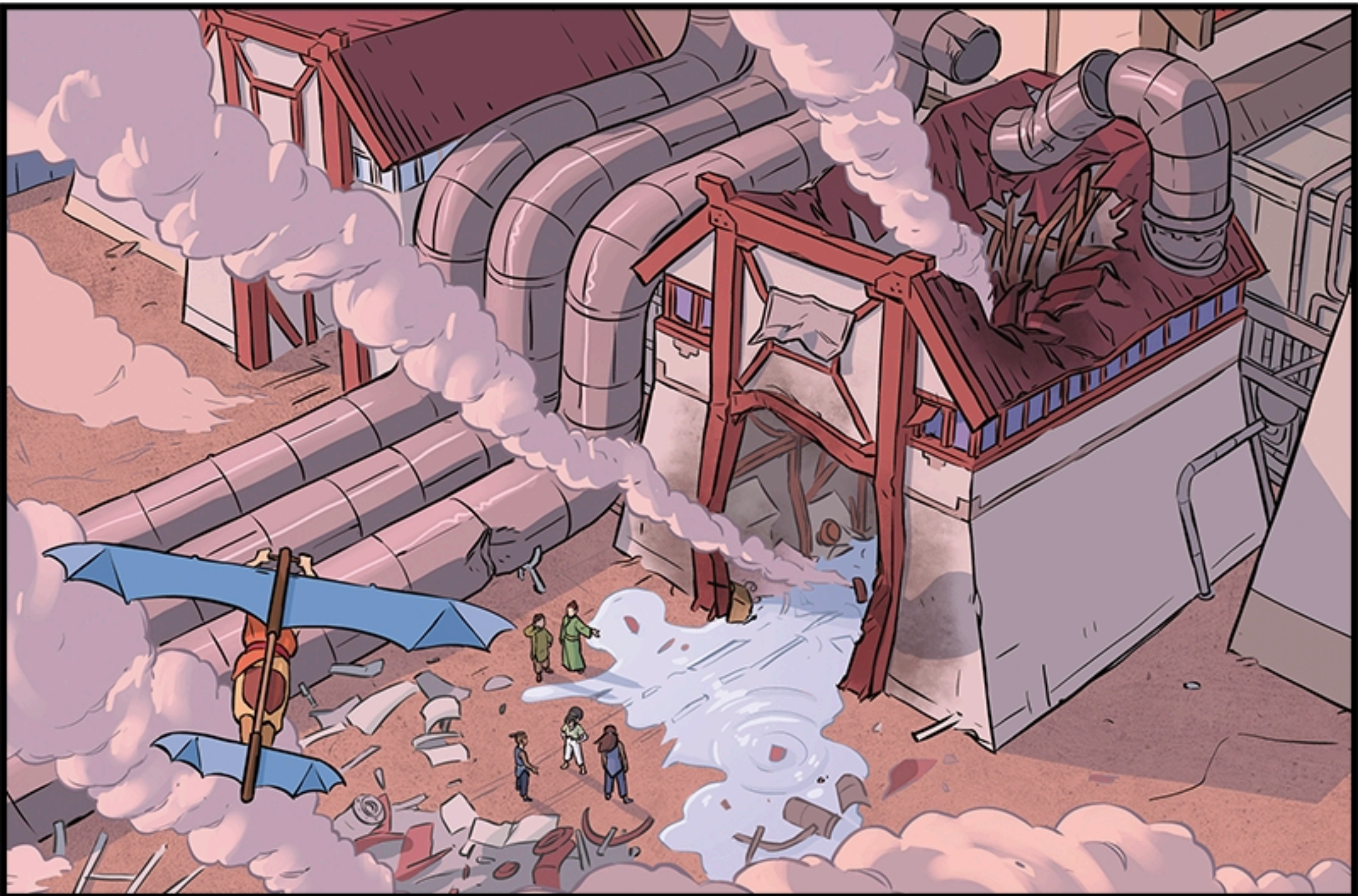
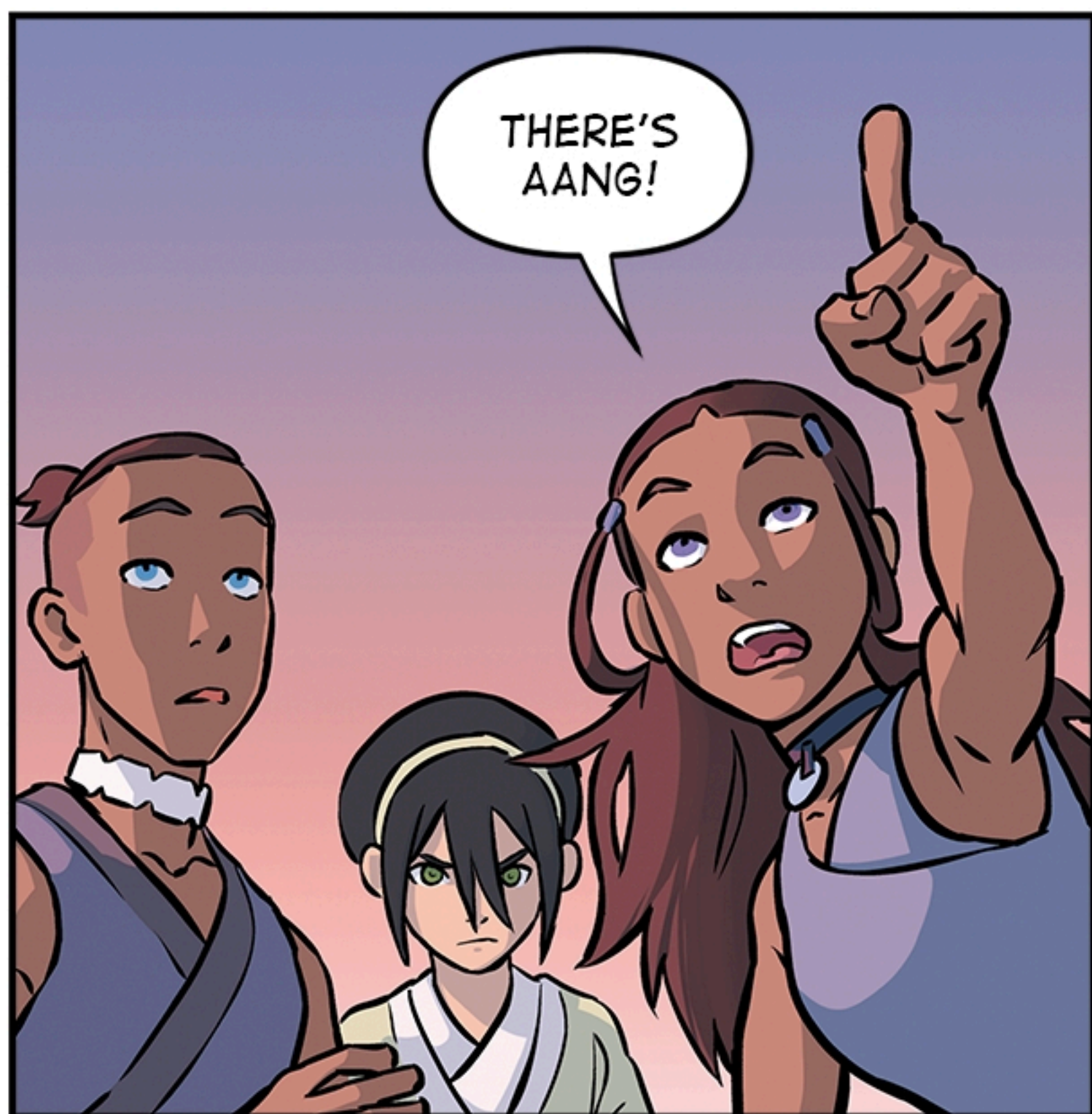








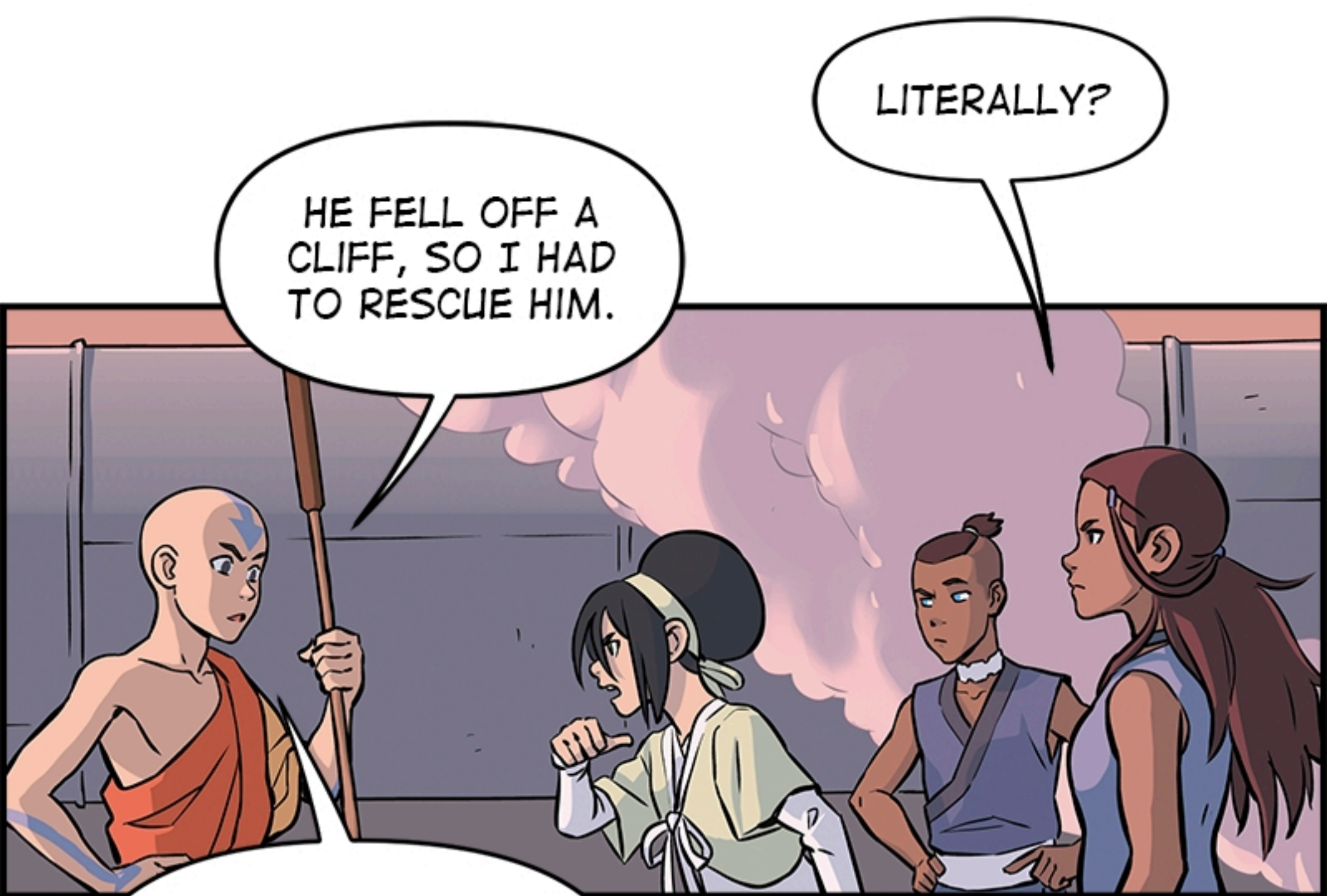




WELCOME BACK,  
TWINKLE TOES. TELL  
ME YOU CAUGHT THE GUY  
WHO EXPLODED MY  
DAD'S FACTORY.

I CAUGHT HIM,  
LITERALLY.





HE FELL OFF A  
CLIFF, SO I HAD  
TO RESCUE HIM.

LITERALLY?

HE WAS SO  
GRATEFUL HE GAVE  
UP WHO HIRED HIM TO  
ATTACK EARTHEN  
FIRE INDUSTRIES.

WHO WAS IT?  
ME AND THEM ARE



ME AND THEM ARE  
GOING TO HAVE  
*WORDS.*

THE FIREBENDER  
SAID HE WAS HIRED  
BY TWO TEENAGE GIRLS,  
ONE OF WHOM WAS A  
SKILLED EARTHBENDER.

WHY WOULD  
AN EARTHBENDER  
HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST  
EARTHEN FIRE INDUSTRIES?  
MY PEOPLE SHOULD  
KNOW BETTER  
THAN THAT.







WAS THERE A  
REASON BEHIND  
THE ATTACK?

THE FIREBENDER  
DIDN'T KNOW. HE  
WASN'T GIVEN  
A REASON.







MY FACTORY WASN'T  
THE ONLY ONE TARGETED  
LAST NIGHT. SEVERAL OTHER  
BUSINESSES WERE SABOTAGED  
AS WELL. THIS SEEMS TO BE  
MORE THAN RANDOM  
VIOLENCE. IT FEELS  
COORDINATED.

THERE'S SOMETHING  
STRANGE GOING ON IN  
CRANEFISH TOWN. SOMETHING  
LURKING BENEATH THE SURFACE



LURKING BENEATH THE SURFACE,  
LIKE A CATGATOR WAITING  
TO LEAP OUT AND CLAIM  
ITS PREY.

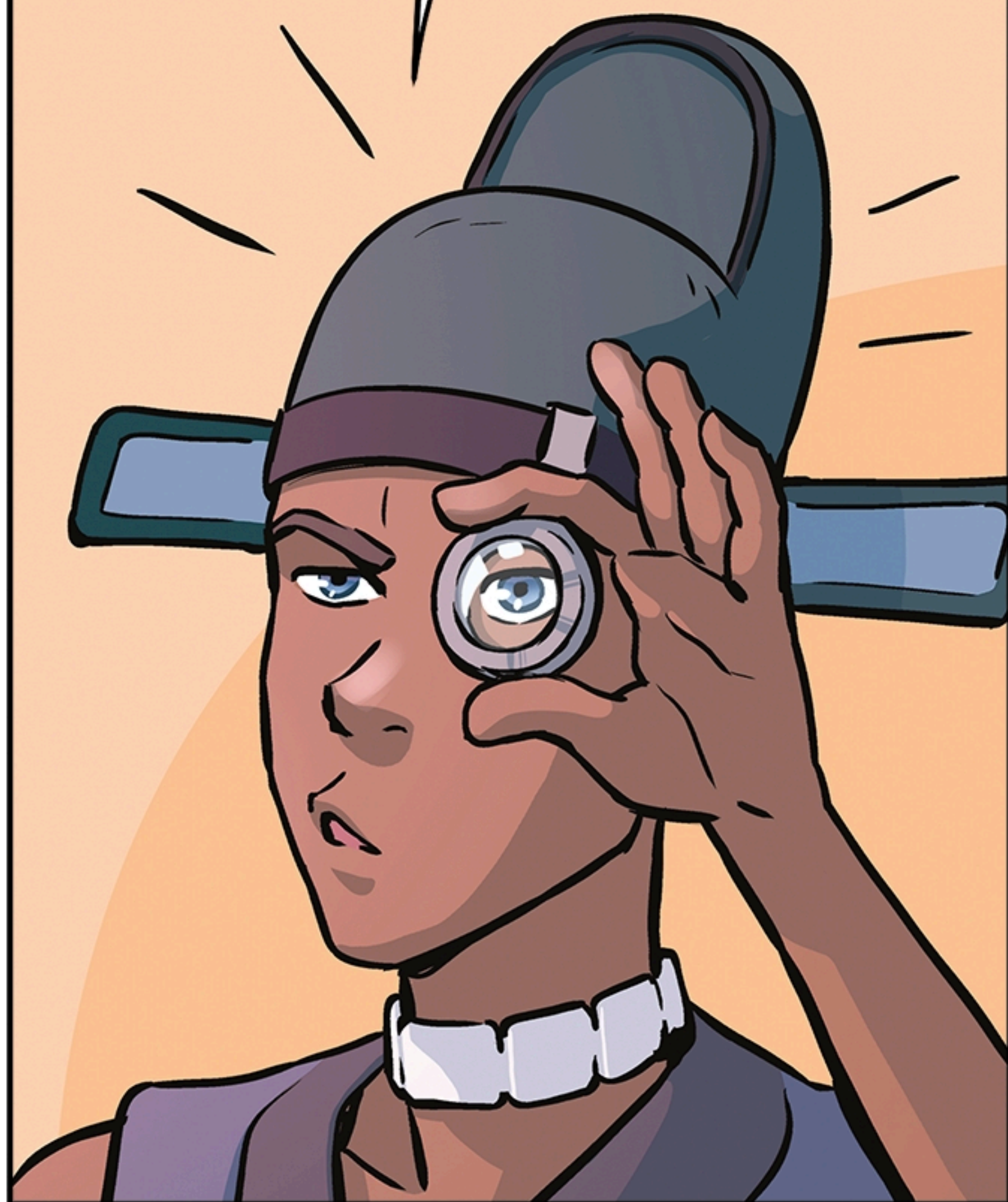








TIME  
FOR TEAM AVATAR  
INVESTIGATIONS TO DELVE  
INTO THESE MYSTERIOUS  
GOINGS-ON!







I CAN'T  
BELIEVE YOU  
STILL HAVE  
THAT HAT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE  
YOU EVER THOUGHT  
I'D GET RID OF THIS  
AMAZING HAT. DO YOU  
KNOW ME AT ALL?





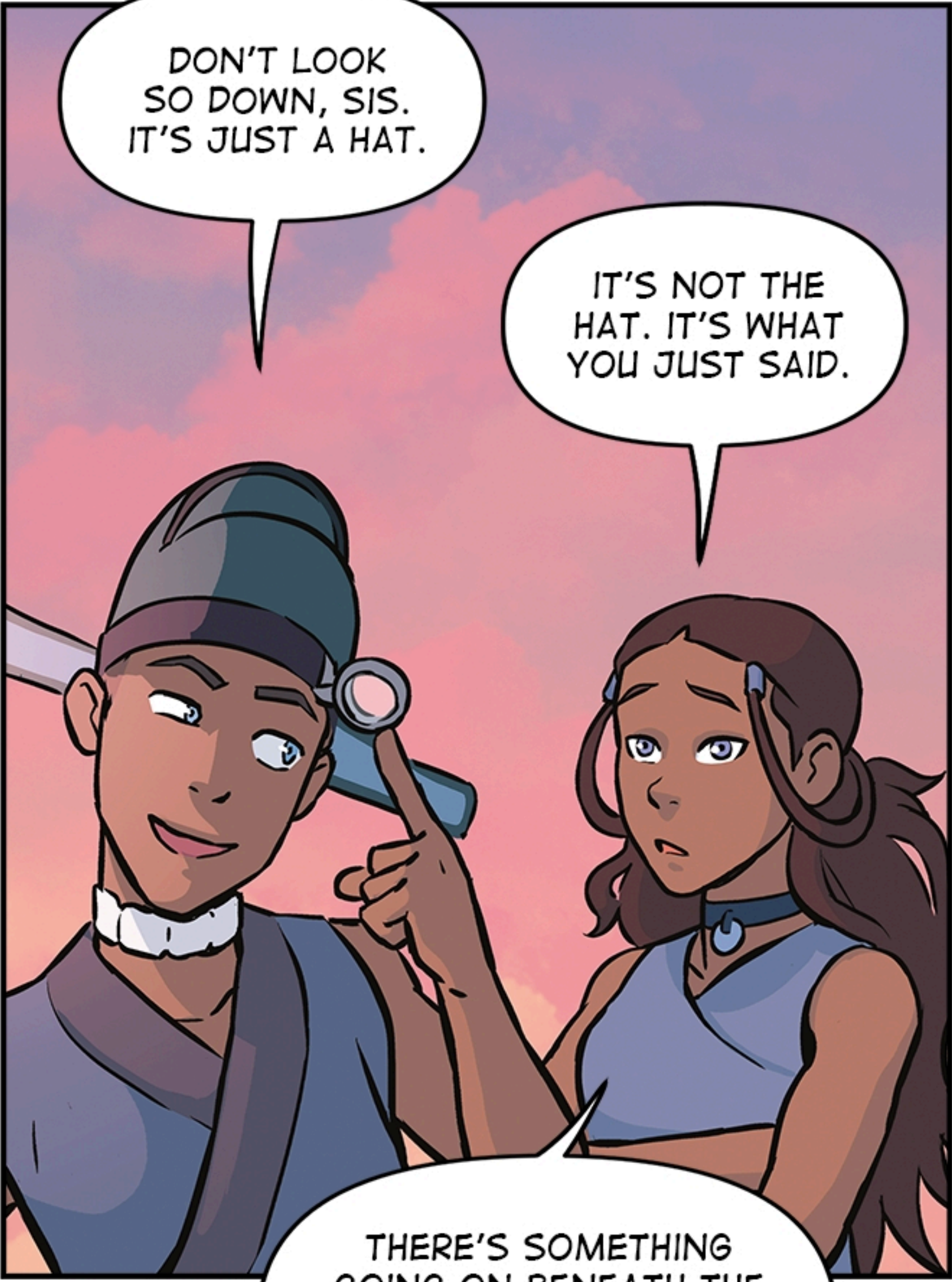
LAO, IF YOU GIVE  
US THE NAMES OF THE  
OTHER FACTORIES ATTACKED  
LAST NIGHT, WE'LL TRY AND  
FIND OUT WHO DID IT. THERE  
MIGHT BE A CONNECTION.

OF COURSE









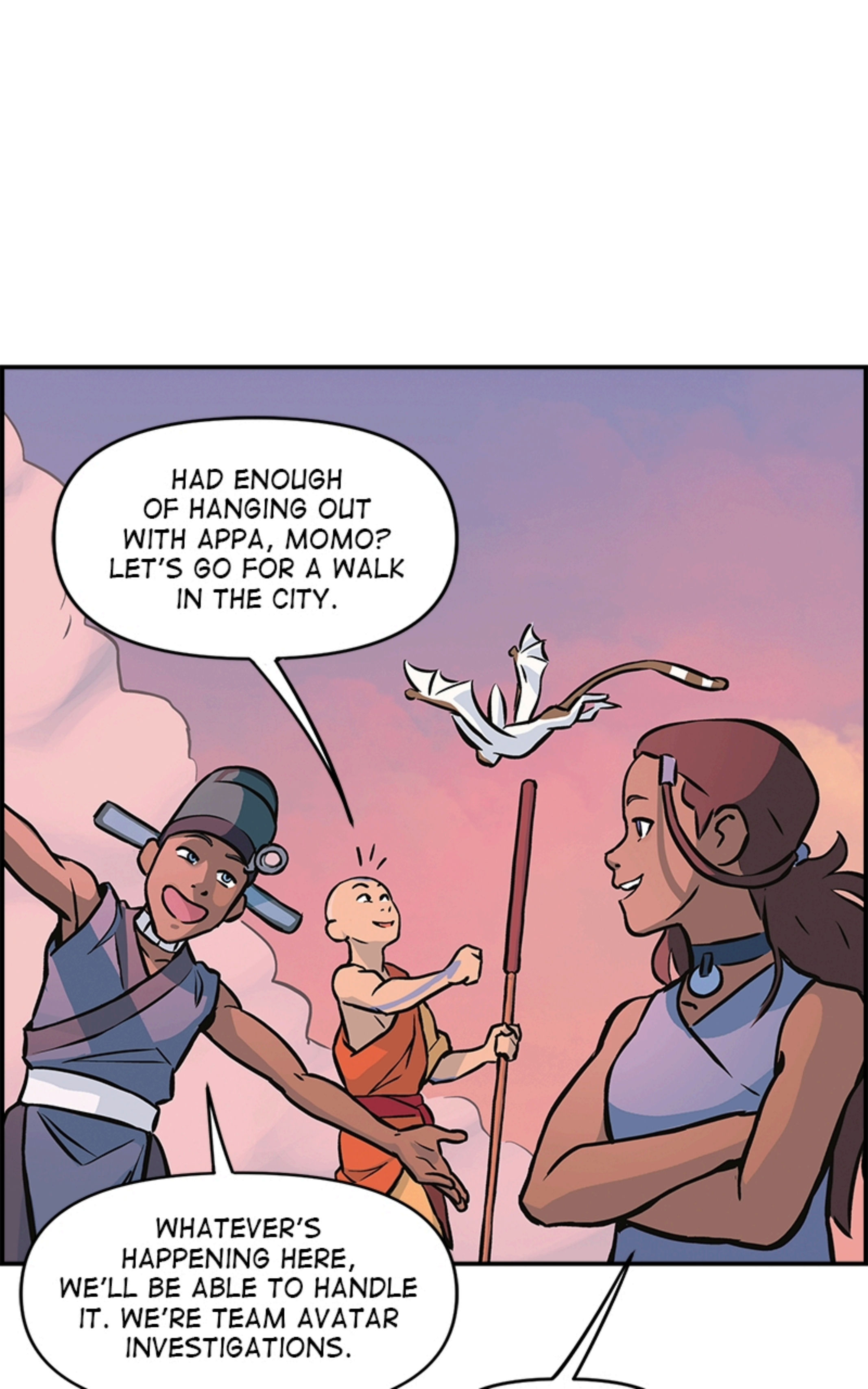
DON'T LOOK  
SO DOWN, SIS.  
IT'S JUST A HAT.

The comic panel features two characters against a background of a sunset with pink and purple clouds. On the left, a male character with dark skin, wearing a blue tunic and a dark blue cap with a circular ornament, looks towards the right with a slight smile. On the right, a female character with dark skin and long dark hair tied in a ponytail, wearing a blue sleeveless top and a blue choker with a circular pendant, looks back at him with a concerned expression. Three speech bubbles are present: one from the male character at the top left, one from the female character at the top right, and a larger one from the male character at the bottom center.

IT'S NOT THE  
HAT. IT'S WHAT  
YOU JUST SAID.

THERE'S SOMETHING  
GOING ON BENEATH THE  
SURFACE OF CRANEFISH  
TOWN, BUT WE HAVEN'T  
SEEN IT YET.



A comic panel featuring three characters from the Avatar series. On the left, Aang is shown from the waist up, wearing his traditional blue and white Air Nomad robes and a blue hat with two horizontal bars. He has a wide, enthusiastic smile and his arms are outstretched towards the other two characters. In the center, Momo, the small flying monkey, is perched on Aang's arm, looking up at Katara with a happy expression. On the right, Katara is shown from the waist up, wearing her blue and white Water Tribe dress and a blue headband. She has a confident smile and her arms are crossed. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with pink and purple tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A large speech bubble from Aang is positioned above Momo, and a smaller speech bubble is at the bottom left.

HAD ENOUGH  
OF HANGING OUT  
WITH APPA, MOMO?  
LET'S GO FOR A WALK  
IN THE CITY.

WHATEVER'S  
HAPPENING HERE,  
WE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE  
IT. WE'RE TEAM AVATAR  
INVESTIGATIONS.



I HOPE SO.















FIVE FACTORIES  
WERE ATTACKED LAST  
NIGHT, ALL IN DIFFERENT  
PARTS OF THE CITY, ALL WITH  
DIFFERENT OWNERS. I THOUGHT IT  
MIGHT'VE BEEN A BUSINESS OWNER  
SABOTAGING HIS COMPETITORS,  
BUT NONE OF THE FACTORIES  
PRODUCE THE SAME  
THING.

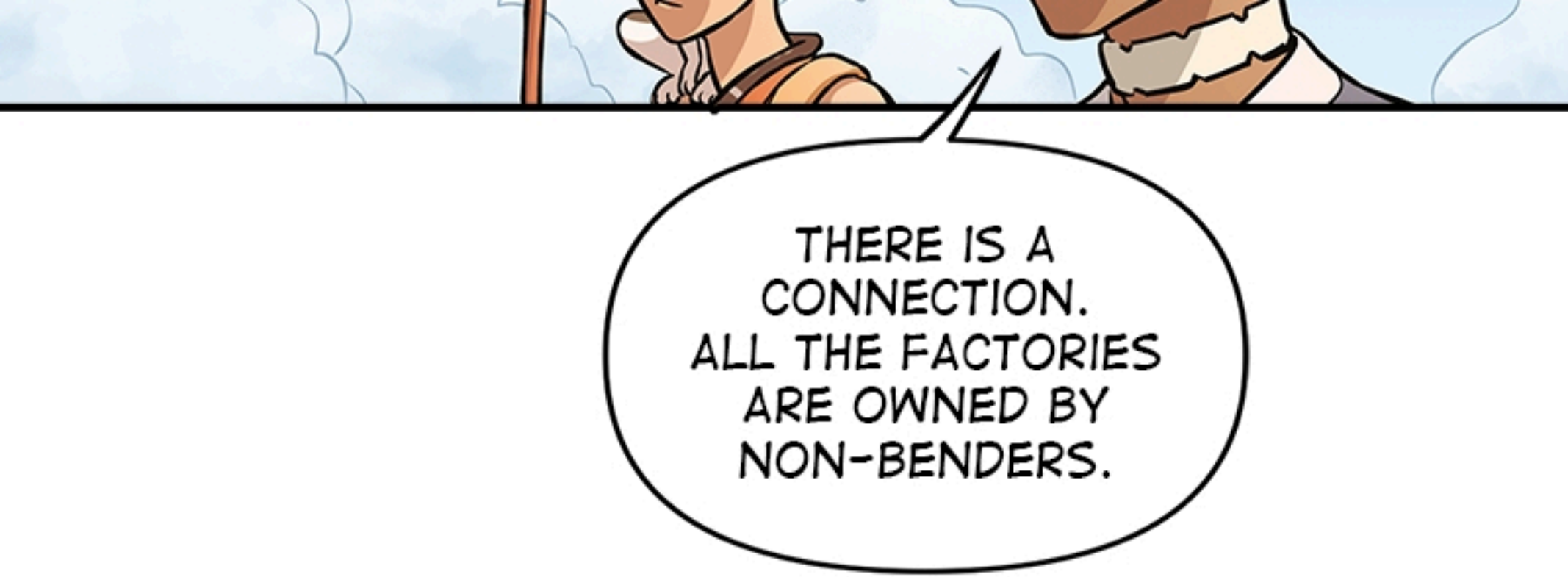




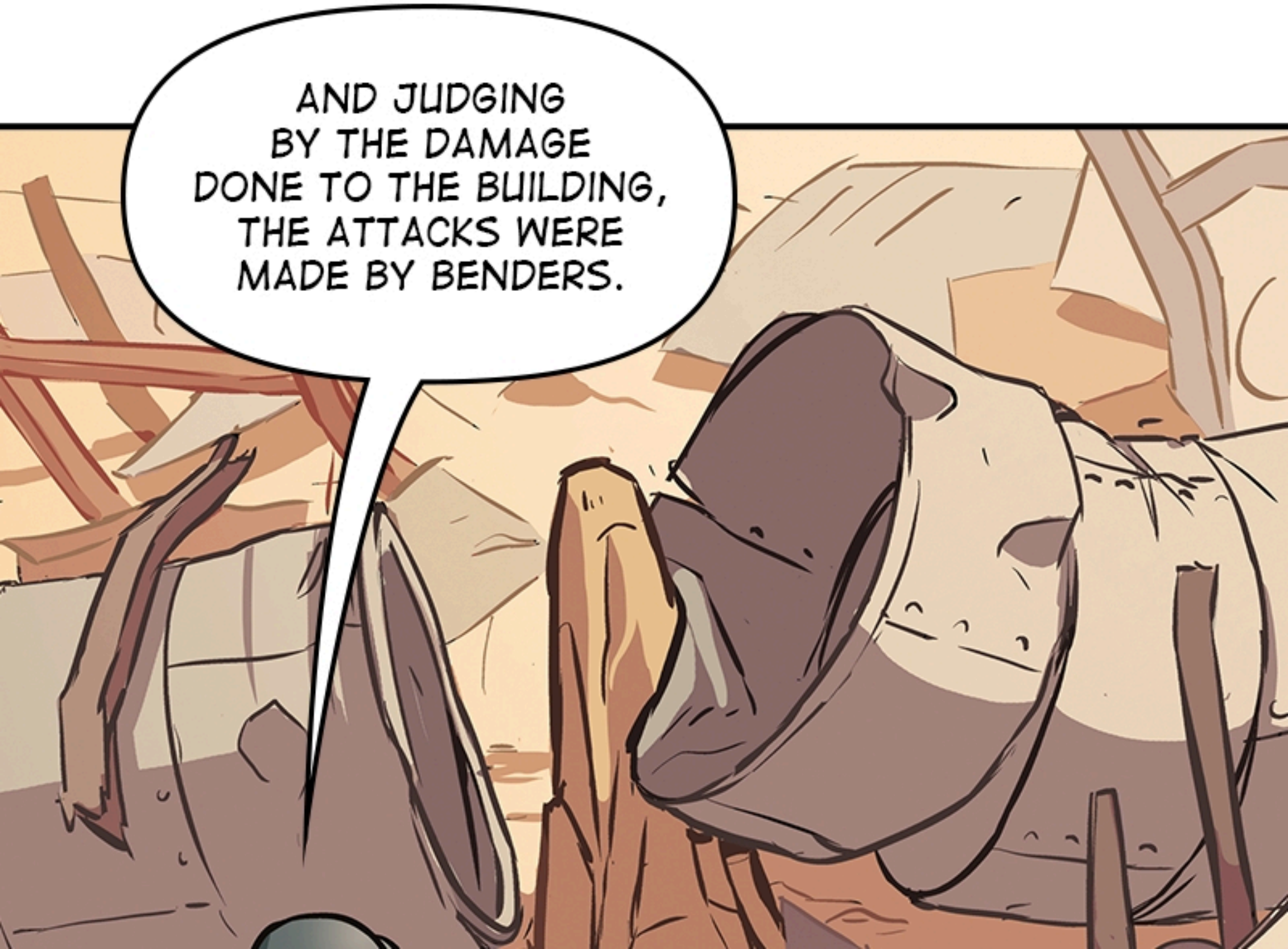
THERE  
DOESN'T SEEM  
TO BE A CONNECTION  
BETWEEN THEM.





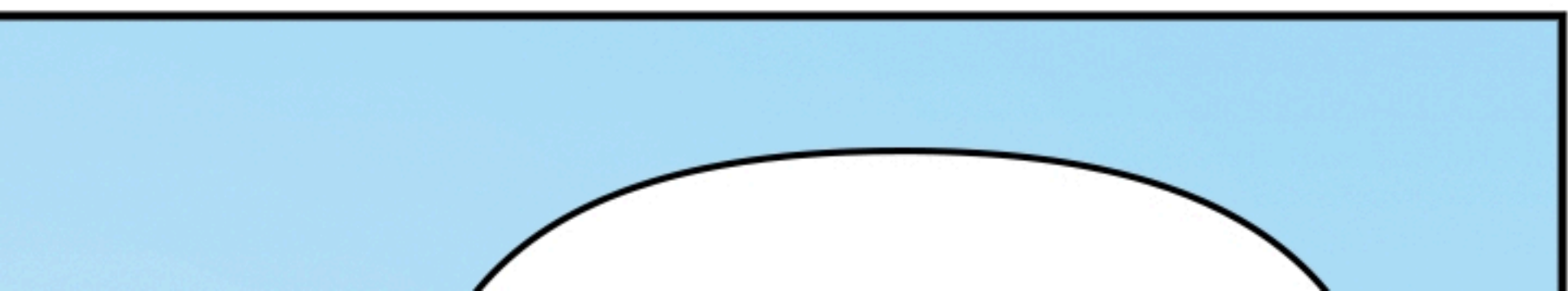


THERE IS A  
CONNECTION.  
ALL THE FACTORIES  
ARE OWNED BY  
NON-BENDERS.



AND JUDGING  
BY THE DAMAGE  
DONE TO THE BUILDING,  
THE ATTACKS WERE  
MADE BY BENDERS.







LAO DID TELL US  
THAT BENDERS WOULD  
SOMETIMES TARGET AND ROB  
NON-BENDERS IN THIS CITY,  
BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE  
BLOW UP A FACTORY?  
NOTHING WAS STOLEN.  
IT DOESN'T MAKE  
SENSE.



IT MAKES  
PERFECT SENSE TO  
ME, IF YOU THINK ABOUT  
WHAT'S *INSIDE* THE  
FACTORY.



WHAT'S  
INSIDE?

BENDERS DESTROYED  
A FACTORY FILLED WITH  
MACHINES THAT CAN DO WHAT



ONLY ***BENDERS*** USED  
TO BE ABLE TO DO.

MY SISTER IS  
A BENDER. SHE CAN  
DO THINGS THAT I COULD  
NEVER DO. I'M FINE WITH  
THAT, I'M GOOD AT  
OTHER STUFF.





LIKE  
WEARING  
THAT HAT?

LIKE  
BEING ***GREAT***  
AT WEARING  
THIS HAT.







BUT REMEMBER  
HOW WE JUST FINISHED  
FIGHTING A WAR WHERE A  
REALLY EVIL FIRE LORD TRIED  
TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD  
USING BENDING?

BENDING IS A  
SKILL THAT ONLY  
SOME PEOPLE HAVE.





AND SOME  
BENDERS USE THAT  
SKILL TO OPPRESS OTHER  
PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY  
NON-BENDERS.

AND NOW THERE  
ARE MACHINES THAT  
MAKE THINGS A LITTLE  
MORE EQUAL--









MORE THAN  
THREATENED. THEY  
MIGHT FEEL LIKE THEY  
WERE ABOUT TO LOSE  
EVERYTHING.

AND PEOPLE LIKE  
THAT MIGHT HIRE A  
MUSCLE-BOUND FIREBENDER  
TO BLOW UP A FACTORY.  
OR FIVE FACTORIES.









A comic book panel depicting a scene in a destroyed town. On the left, Aang, wearing his traditional orange robes and a white fox-like headpiece, stands with his hands on his hips, holding a long wooden staff. He is looking towards the other three characters. In the center, Toph Beifong, wearing a grey tank top and blue pants, stands with her back to the viewer, looking towards the right. To her right, Sokka, wearing a green tunic and a black headband, and Katara, wearing a blue and white dress, are walking towards the right. The background shows a landscape of rubble and damaged buildings under a blue sky. A large speech bubble from Aang contains the text: "GUYS, I WANT TO TALK TO THE BENDER-OWNED BUSINESSES OF CRANEFISH TOWN AND ASK THEM TO HELP THE NON-BENDER-OWNED BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEEN DAMAGED. TRY AND BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN BENDERS AND NON-BENDERS IN THIS CITY."

GUYS, I WANT TO TALK  
TO THE BENDER-OWNED  
BUSINESSES OF CRANEFISH  
TOWN AND ASK THEM TO HELP THE  
NON-BENDER-OWNED BUSINESSES  
THAT HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.  
TRY AND BRIDGE THE GAP  
BETWEEN BENDERS AND  
NON-BENDERS  
IN THIS CITY.

THE USUAL  
AVATAR THING?  
WHEREVER THERE'S



A GAP, YOU'LL  
BRIDGE IT.



EXACTLY. AND  
I THINK I KNOW  
THE PERSON TO  
START WITH.





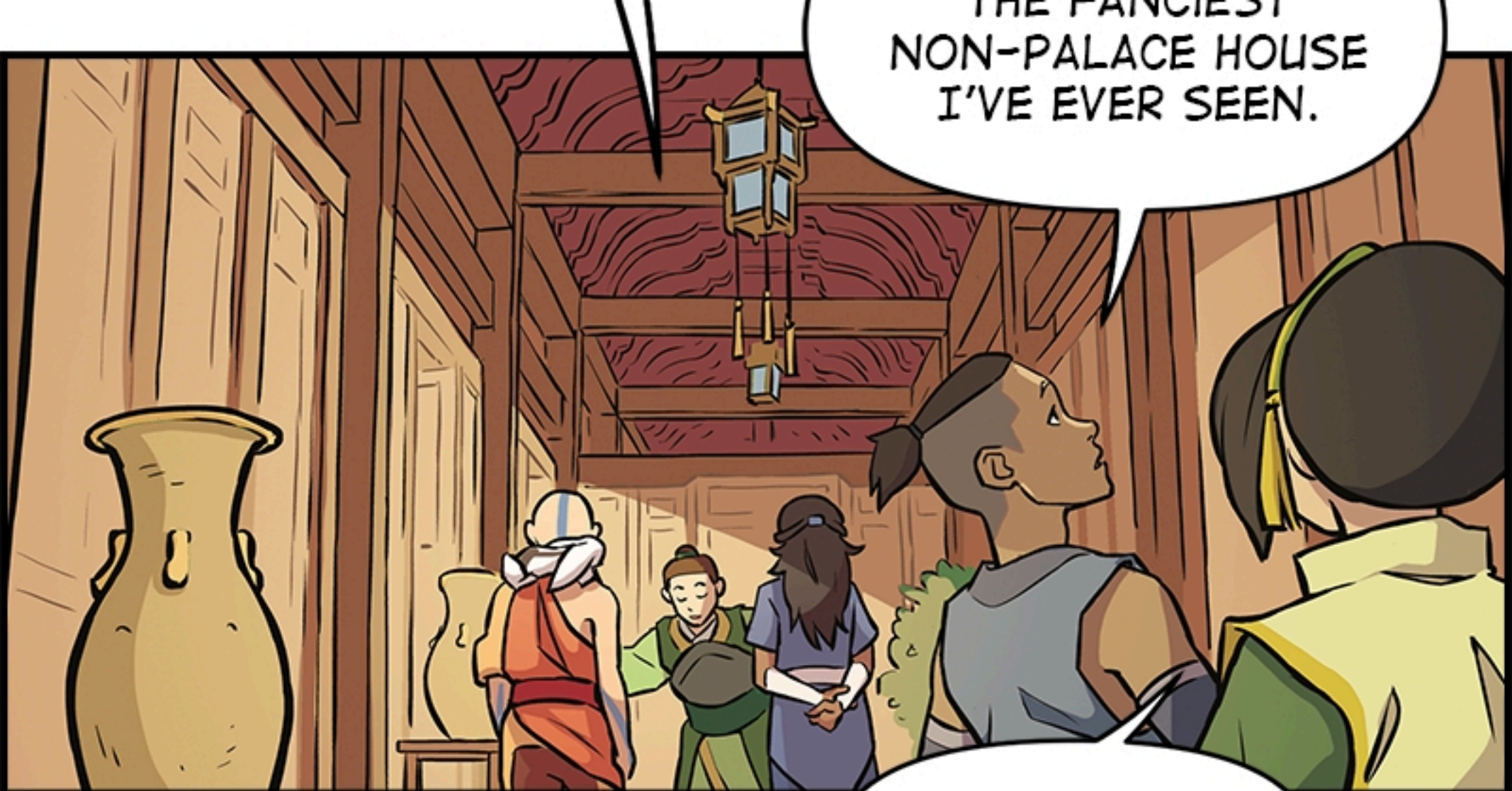




THIS WAY,  
AVATAR AANG.  
COUNCILWOMAN LILING  
WOULD BE DELIGHTED  
TO SEE YOU.

THIS IS  
THE FANCIEST





EH, I'VE LIVED  
IN FANCIER.

DO YOU REALLY THINK  
THIS COUNCILWOMAN WILL  
LISTEN TO YOU? SHE MIGHT  
NOT WANT TO HELP THE  
NON-BENDER-OWNED  
BUSINESSES. THEY'RE  
HER COMPETITORS.



HER COMPETITORS,  
AREN'T THEY?



COUNCILWOMAN LILING  
WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED  
ESTABLISHING A POLICE FORCE  
IN CRANEFISH TOWN, TO STOP  
THE VIOLENCE IN THE CITY.  
I THINK IT'S WORTH TRYING  
TO CONVINCE HER  
TO HELP.



I GUESS  
WE'LL SEE WHAT  
SHE SAYS.



AVATAR AANG!  
WELCOME TO MY  
HUMBLE HOME! I'M  
SO GLAD YOU  
CAME BY.





"HUMBLE"?  
HAS SHE SEEN  
THIS PLACE?

THANK YOU  
FOR SEEING ME,  
COUNCILWOMAN  
LILING.







PLEASE, CALL  
ME LILING. WE'RE  
ALL FRIENDS HERE.



YOU KNOW, I  
HEARD THE AREA  
CRANEFISH TOWN IS  
BUILT ON WAS SACRED  
TO THE AIRBENDERS.  
IS THAT TRUE?



YES! THERE  
WAS A FESTIVAL  
HERE, A LONG TIME AGO.  
IT HONORED ONE OF THE  
PREVIOUS AVATARS,  
YANGCHEN.

IS IT DIFFICULT  
FOR YOU TO SEE  
HOW MUCH THIS AREA  
HAS CHANGED? IT MUST BE  
VERY DIFFERENT FROM  
WHEN THE AIRBENDERS  
WERE HERE.







WELL, IT  
CAN BE.



I KNOW PROGRESS IS  
IMPORTANT, BUT I'D HOPED  
THIS CITY HAD PROGRESSED  
A LITTLE MORE...SLOWLY.  
OR AT LEAST WITH MORE  
RESPECT FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT.





I UNDERSTAND,  
AVATAR. I GREW UP IN  
A SMALL VILLAGE NOT FAR  
FROM HERE. WHEN I WAS  
A CHILD, THIS REGION  
WAS MOSTLY PRISTINE  
WILDERNESS.

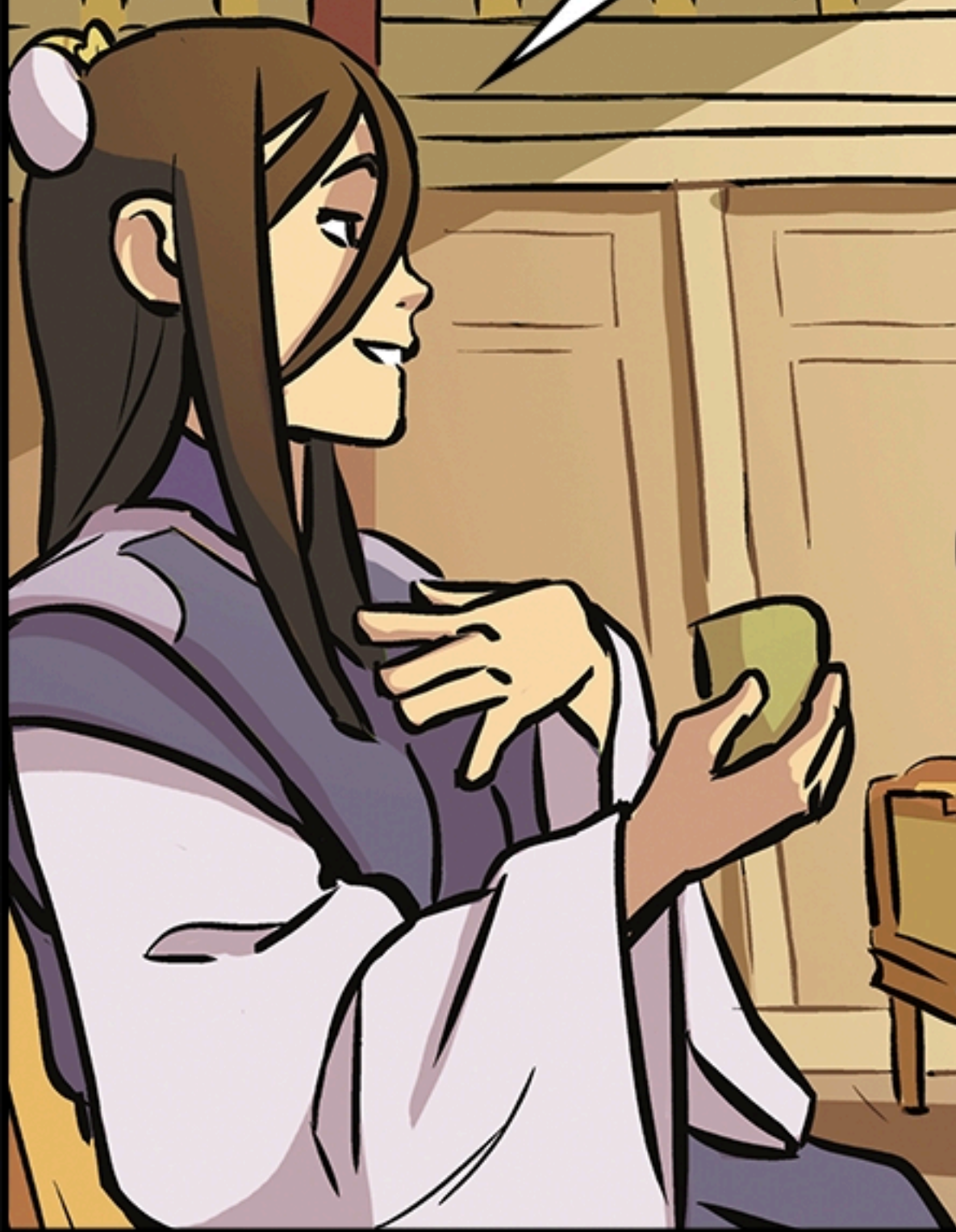






IT'S STRANGE HOW WE  
ALWAYS SEEM TO WANT TO  
RETURN TO THE SAFETY OF  
OUR CHILDHOOD HOMES, ISN'T IT?  
I SPENT MOST OF MY ADULT LIFE  
IN BA SING SE, BUT THE MOMENT  
THE WAR WAS OVER, I CAME  
BACK HERE AND STARTED  
MY BUSINESS.

RRRRRR







I ONLY WISH I  
COULD HAVE DONE  
MORE TO, WELL, *GUIDE*  
THIS CITY'S DEVELOPMENT.  
I REGRET THAT, AVATAR,  
I REALLY DO.

THAT WAS WHAT I  
WANTED TO TALK TO  
YOU ABOUT, THE FUTURE  
OF CRANEFISH TOWN.





ARE YOU  
PLANNING TO...  
**STAY** IN OUR HUMBLE  
TOWN, AVATAR? THAT  
IS A SURPRISE.

I'M NOT SURE YET,  
BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM  
I WANT TO HELP SOLVE,  
AND THAT MIGHT TAKE  
SOME TIME.

WHY DOES  
SHE KEEP CALLING  
THINGS HUMBLE WHEN  
THEY'RE REALLY  
NOT HUMBLE?



SHH!

LAST NIGHT,  
SEVERAL FACTORIES  
WERE SABOTAGED.

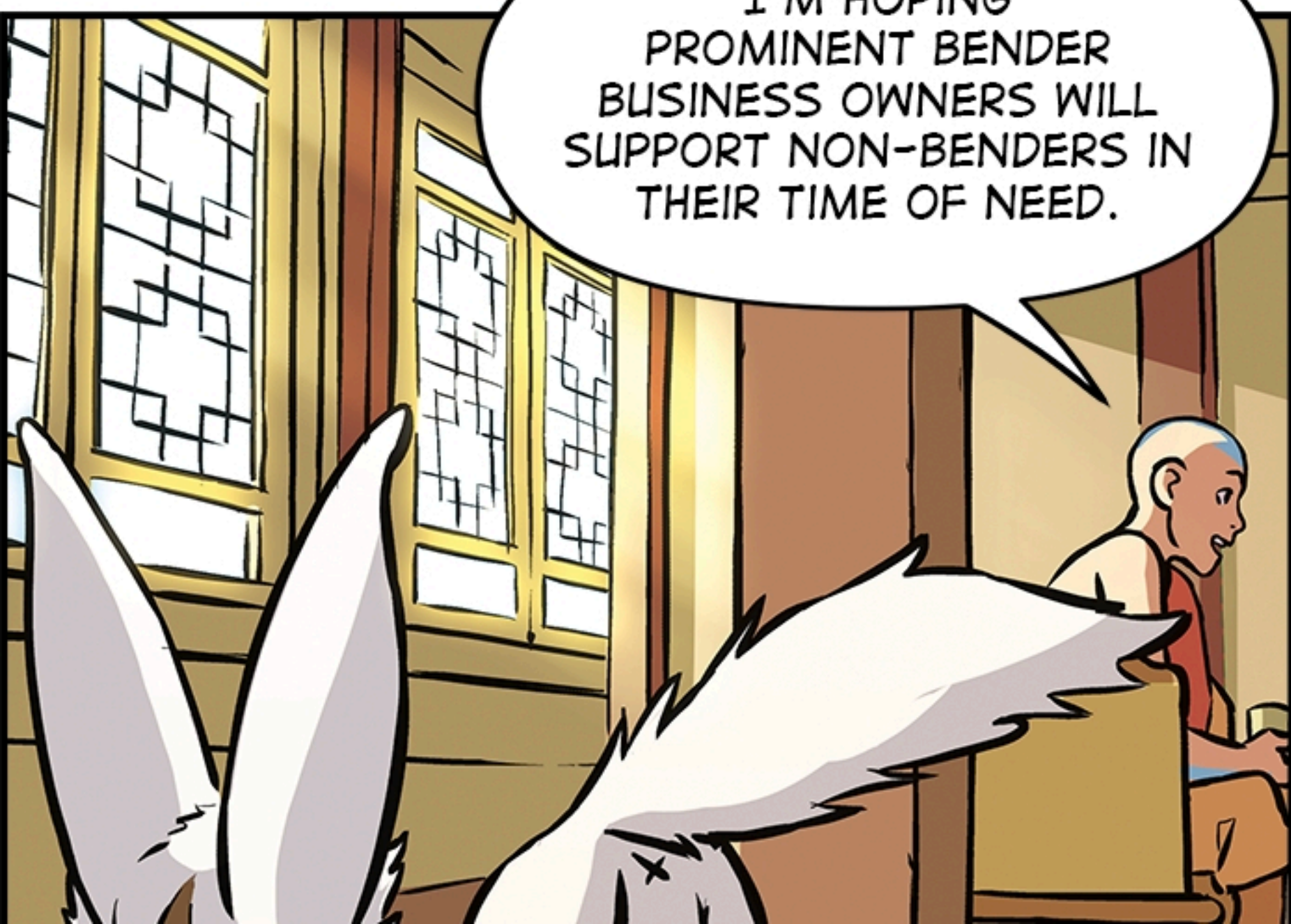
I KNOW, I  
HEARD. HOW  
HORRIBLE.

I SAW A LOT  
OF TENSION BETWEEN  
RENDERS AND NON-RENDERS



BENDERS AND NON-BENDERS  
WHEN I ARRIVED IN THE CITY  
YESTERDAY. LAST NIGHT'S  
ATTACKS MAY HAVE BEEN  
BENDERS TARGETING  
NON-BENDER-OWNED  
BUSINESSES.

I'M HOPING  
PROMINENT BENDER  
BUSINESS OWNERS WILL  
SUPPORT NON-BENDERS IN  
THEIR TIME OF NEED.





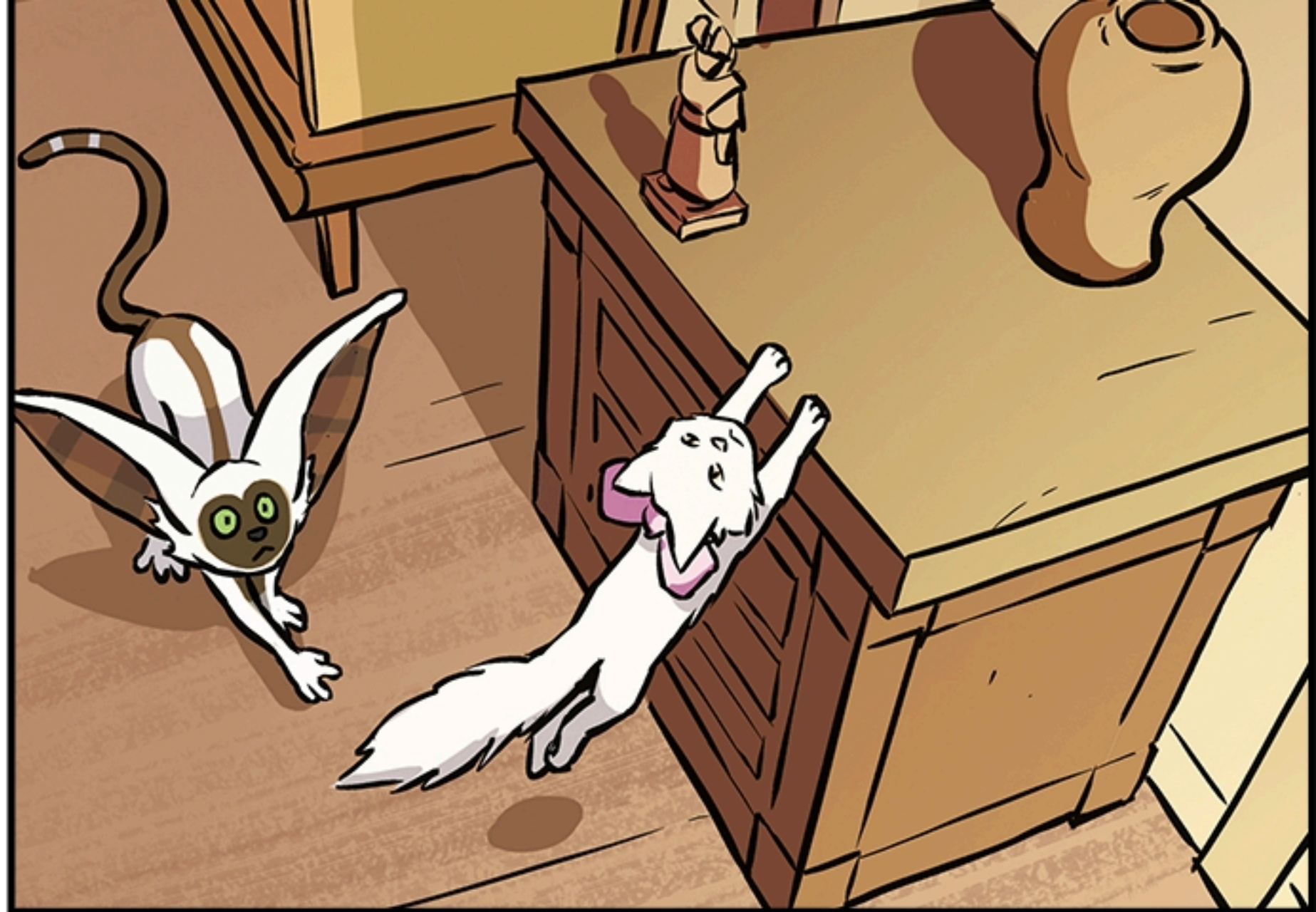


IT MAY GO A LONG  
WAY TOWARD EASING  
THE CONFLICT BETWEEN  
THE TWO GROUPS.

I'VE SEEN  
THIS CONFLICT  
FOR MYSELF AVATAR.  
IT'S VERY DISTURBING,  
AND IT HAS NO PLACE  
IN OUR CITY.

I'M HAPPY TO  
SUPPORT MY FELLOW  
CRANEFISH TOWN BUSINESS  
OWNERS, AS A GESTURE  
OF GOODWILL.











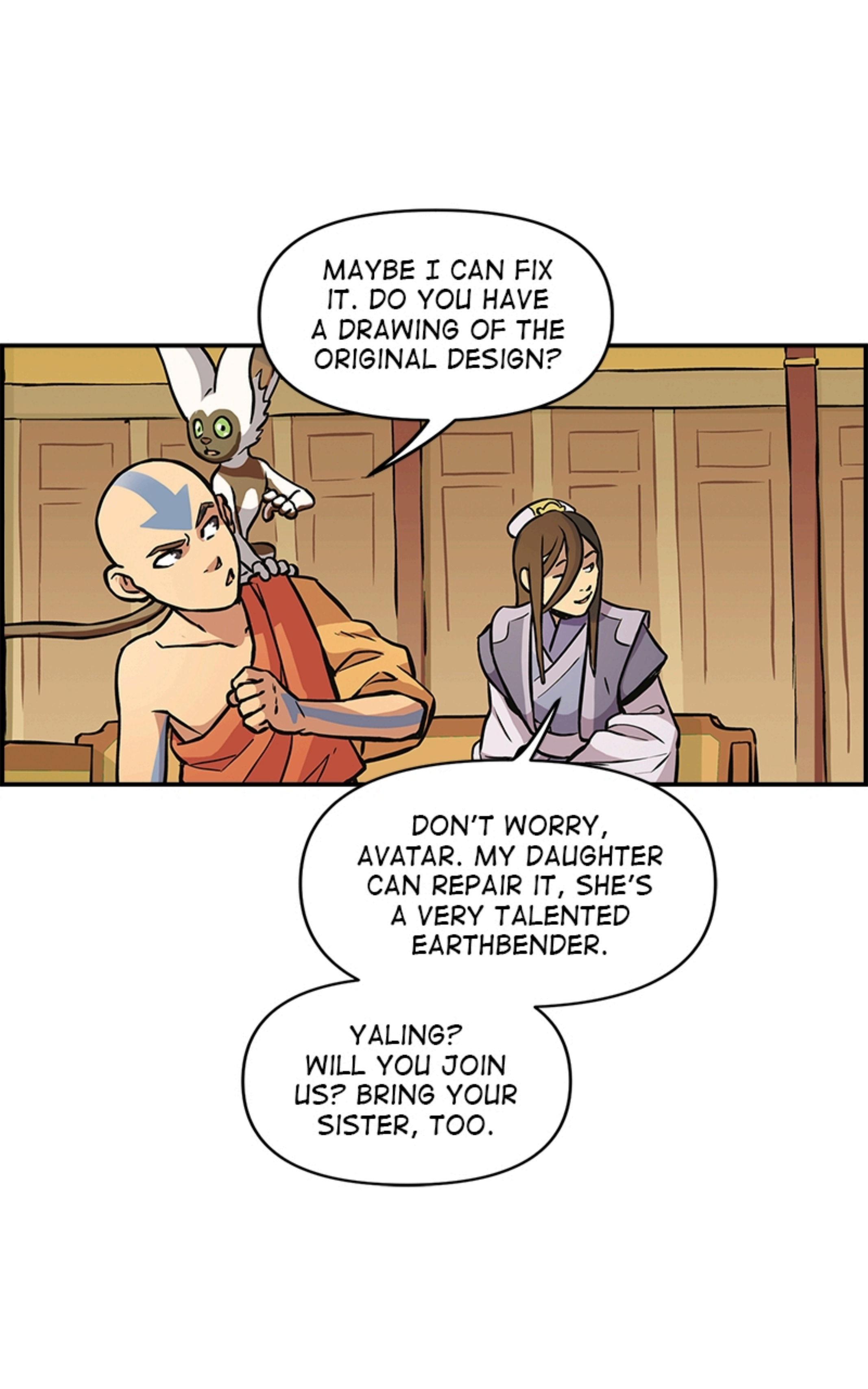




THAT'S  
GREAT--  
*MOMO!*







MAYBE I CAN FIX  
IT. DO YOU HAVE  
A DRAWING OF THE  
ORIGINAL DESIGN?

DON'T WORRY,  
AVATAR. MY DAUGHTER  
CAN REPAIR IT, SHE'S  
A VERY TALENTED  
EARTHBENDER.

YALING?  
WILL YOU JOIN  
US? BRING YOUR  
SISTER, TOO.







AVATAR, THESE  
ARE MY DAUGHTERS,  
YALING AND RU.

HI.

HELLO.

NICE TO MEET  
YOU. SORRY ABOUT  
THE STATUE.

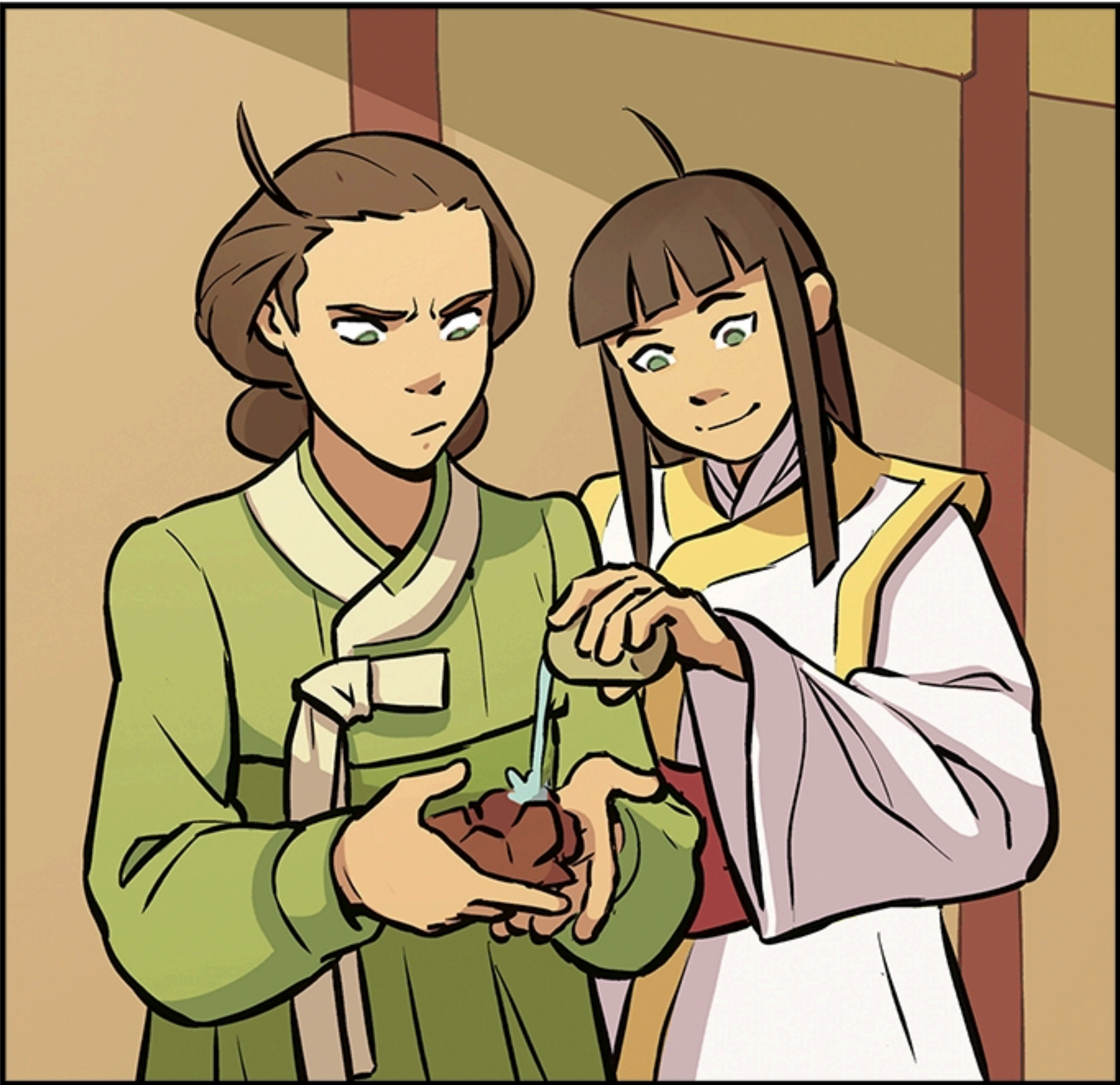




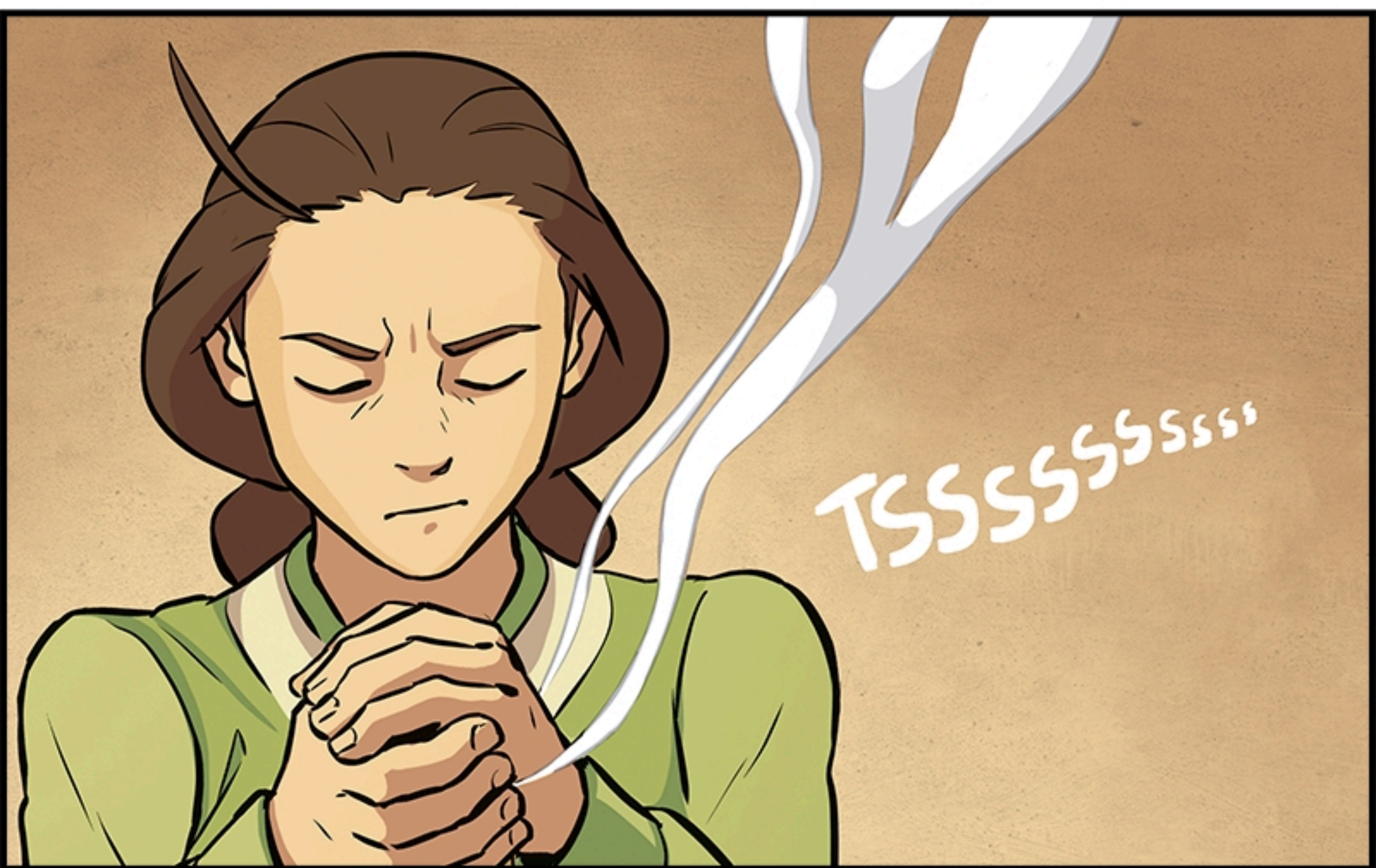
NO WORRIES,  
AVATAR.











SEE? GOOD  
AGAIN!





WOW! THAT'S  
FANTASTIC  
EARTHBENDING.

AS NEW.

EH.  
S'OKAY.

YOU THINK  
YOU'RE A BETTER  
EARTHBENDER  
THAN ME?





NAH. I  
KNOW I'M  
BETTER.

CAREFUL WITH  
THAT! IT'S MADE FROM  
A VERY RARE PIECE  
OF METEORITE--

I KNOW.













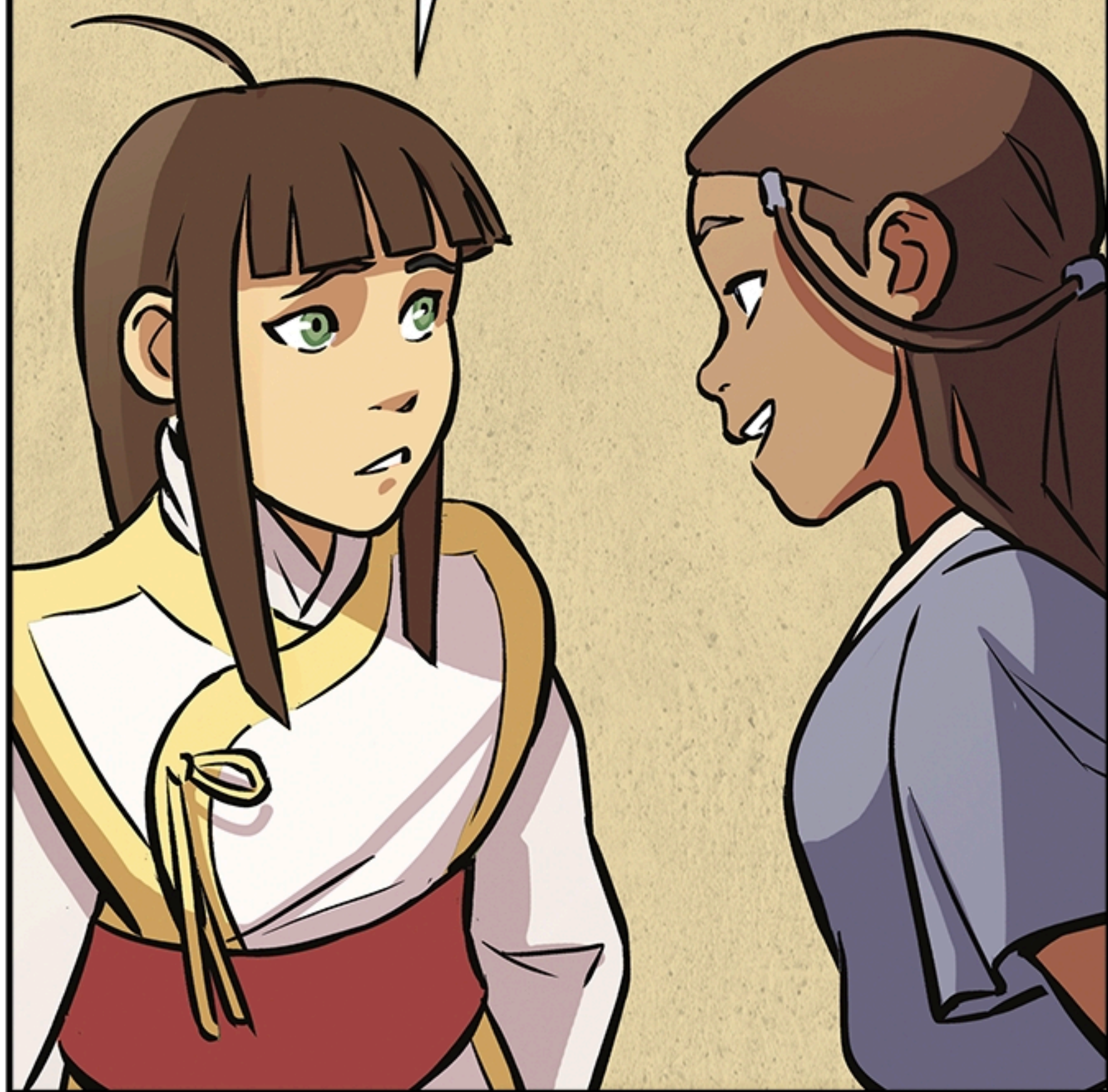
YOU--YOU CAN  
*METALBEND?*





UM, ARE YOU  
AN EARTHBENDER  
TOO, RU?

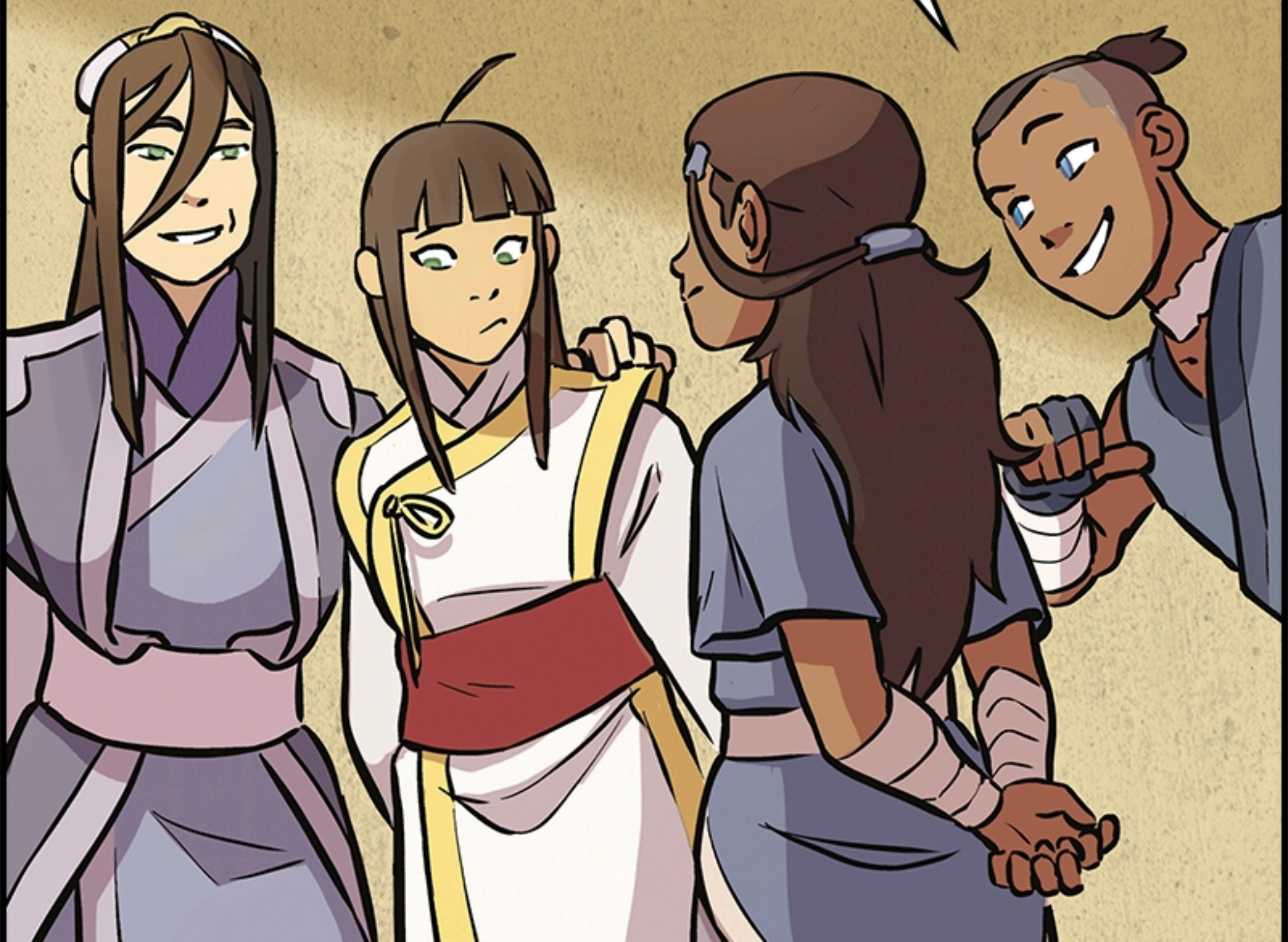
I'M NOT  
ANY KIND OF  
BENDER.





RU HAS OTHER  
TALENTS.

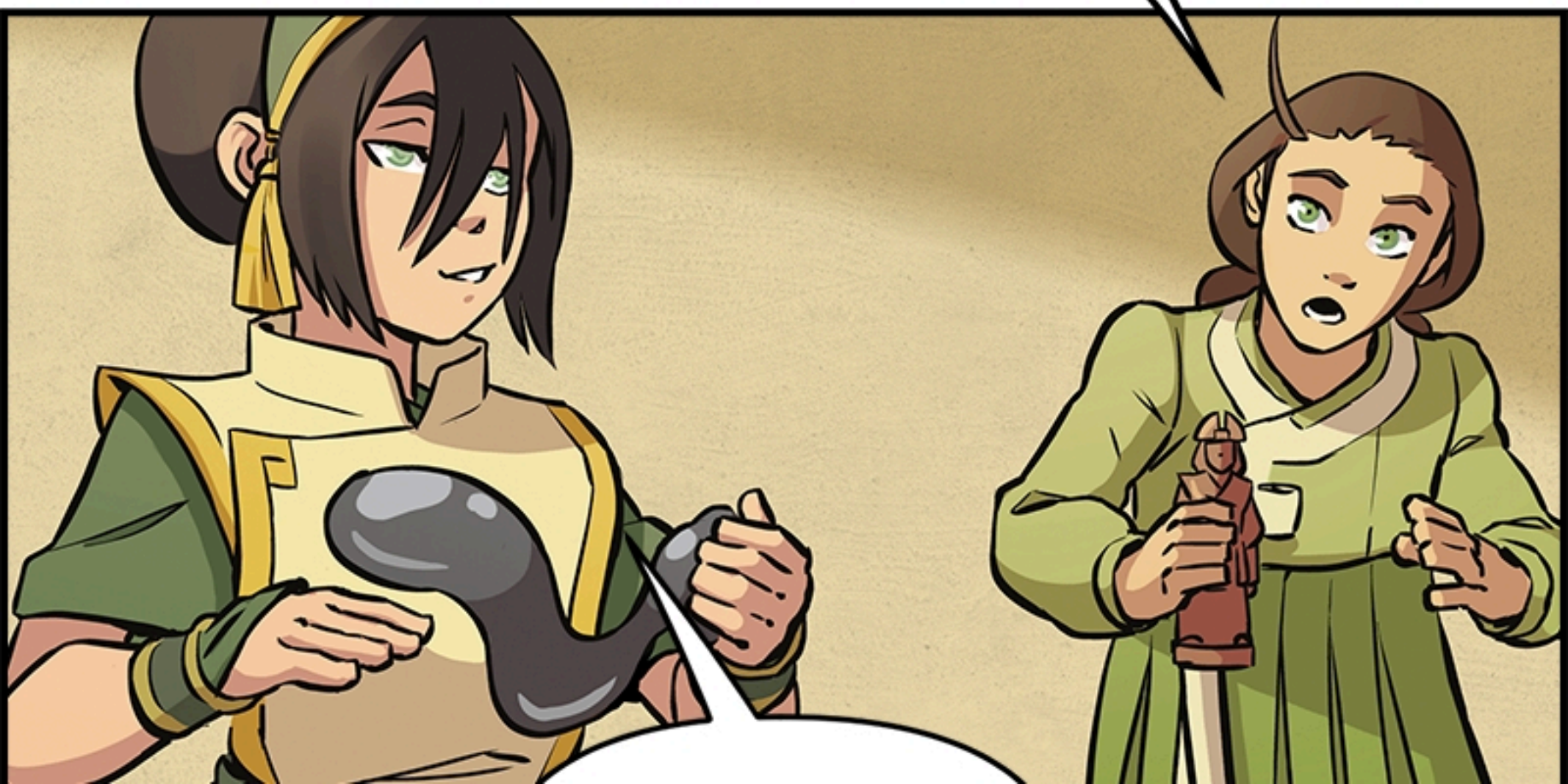
LIKE ME! THERE'S  
NO WAY KATARA CAN  
WATERBEND A BOOMERANG.  
THAT REQUIRES PURE  
NON-BENDER  
SKILL.







IT'S...AMAZING.  
YOUR CONTROL OVER  
THE METAL IS  
PERFECT!





YEAH,  
METALBENDING  
IS PRETTY COOL.  
THAT'S WHY I  
INVENTED IT.

HEY, Y'KNOW  
WHAT ELSE IS COOL?  
I WENT UP TO THAT CLIFF  
THE OTHER DAY, WHAT'S IT  
CALLED? LADY TIENHAI'S  
CLIFF? YOU EVER BEEN  
UP THERE?







ME? NAH,  
NEVER BEEN  
UP THERE.





A close-up of a hand holding a small, dark, cylindrical object. The hand is wearing a green sleeve.

OOH, MAKE  
IT CHANGE  
SHAPE AGAIN.

A young woman with short brown hair and green eyes, wearing a yellow and green outfit, is holding a dark, cylindrical object. She is smiling and looking at the object. The object has a green band around its middle. The word "SNAP" is written in a stylized, white font with a black outline, indicating a sound effect.

SURE,  
HAPPY TO.

SNAP

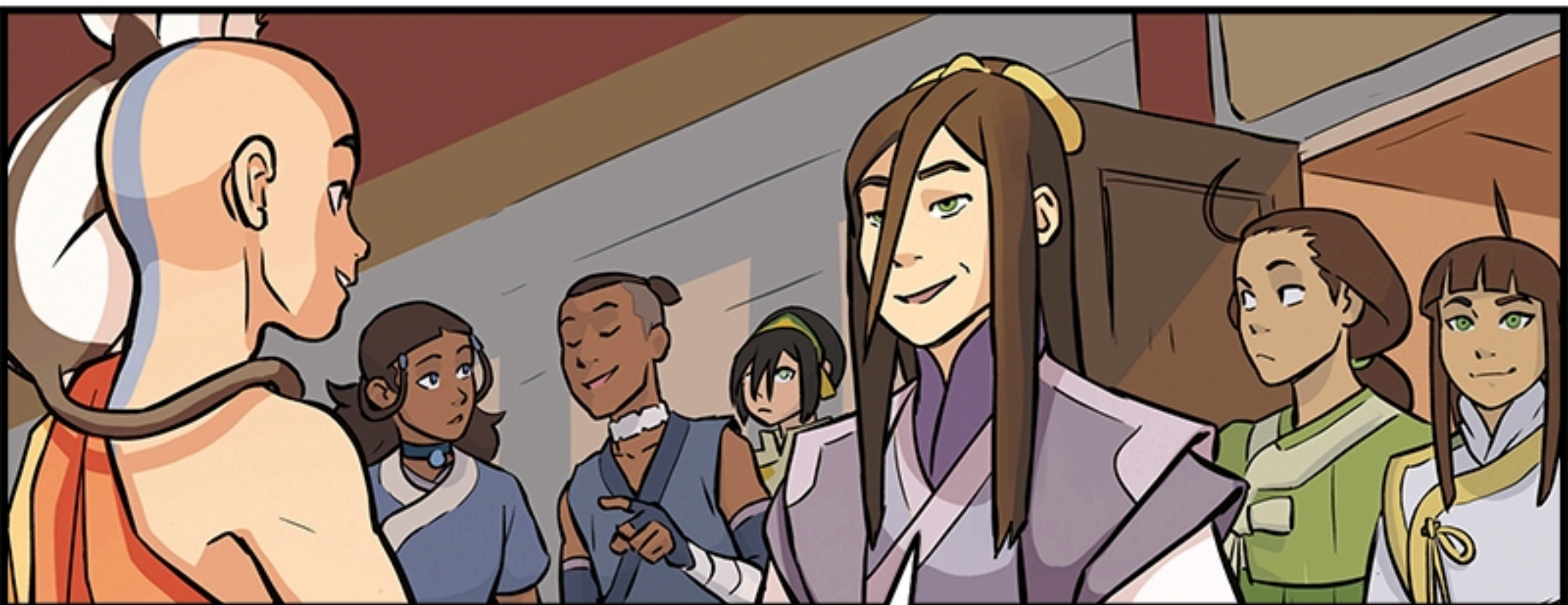


I'LL SEND  
OUT SUPPLIES AND  
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT  
TO HELP REBUILD THE DAMAGED  
FACTORIES AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE.





AND I'LL  
PUT IN A GOOD WORD  
FOR YOUR BUSINESS WITH  
FIRE LORD ZUKO. I'M SURE  
HE'LL BE GRATEFUL  
FOR YOUR HELP.



THANK YOU,  
AVATAR. BUT JUST

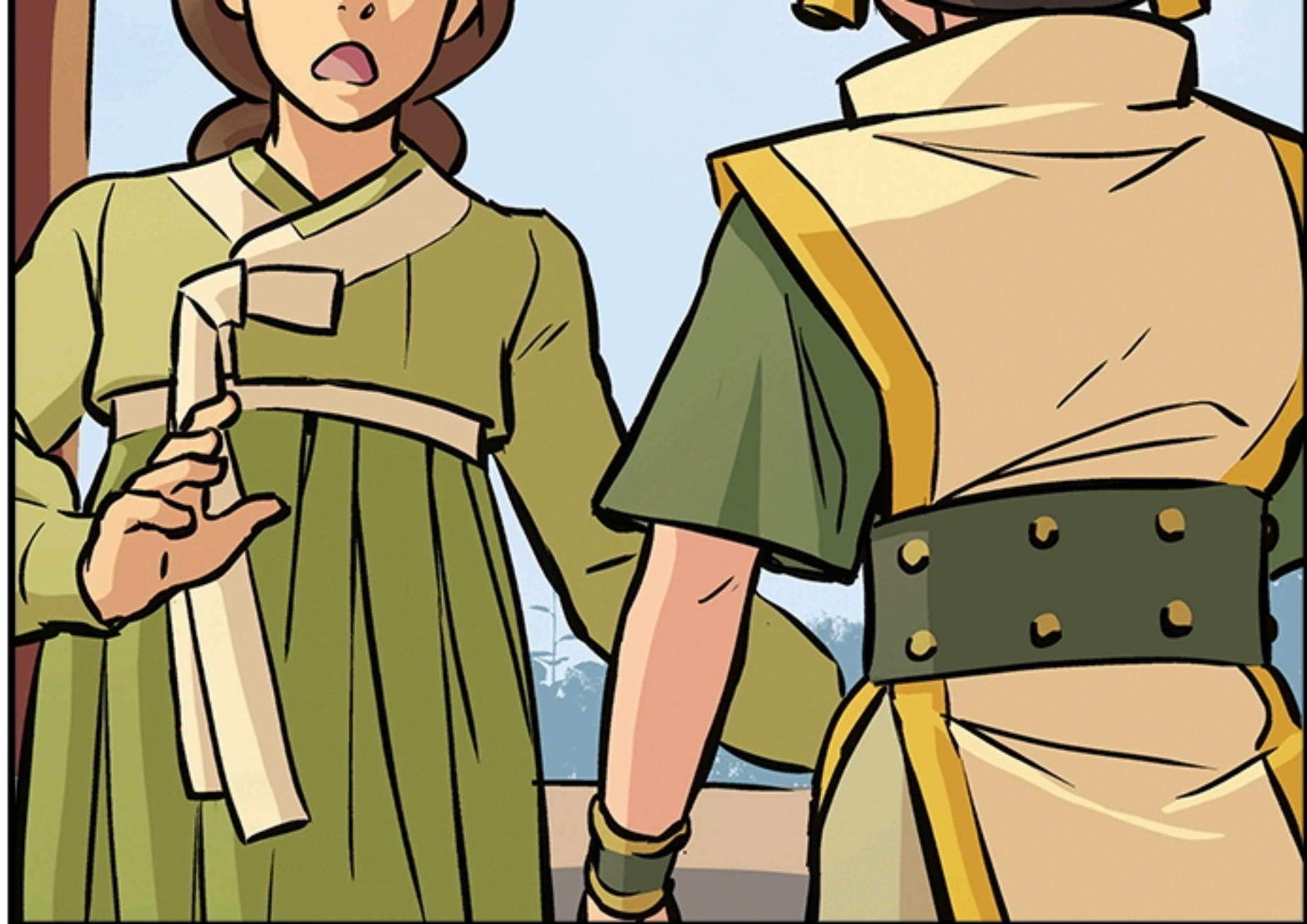


AVATAR, BUT JUST  
HELPING MY NEIGHBORS  
IS REWARD ENOUGH.

A comic panel showing two characters, Toph and Aang, looking up at a large, red-tiled roof. Toph is on the left, with her head tilted back and eyes wide. Aang is on the right, seen from the back of his head. The background is a blue sky with white clouds. A speech bubble from Toph says "TOPH, WAIT!".

TOPH,  
WAIT!







A comic panel featuring two characters, Katara and Aang, in a traditional East Asian architectural setting. Katara, on the left, is a young woman with long brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a green tunic with a white collar and a green skirt. She is looking towards Aang with a hopeful expression. Aang, on the right, is a young man with dark hair, wearing a tan tunic with a green sash and a green headband with a yellow tassel. He is looking back at Katara. The background shows a wooden structure with a dark red roof and a blue sky with light clouds. Three speech bubbles are present: one from Katara at the top left, one from Aang at the top right, and one from Katara at the bottom center.

I REALLY  
WANT TO LEARN  
METALBENDING. WILL  
YOU TEACH ME?

IT'S A  
TOUGH SKILL  
TO MASTER. NOT  
EVEN THE AVATAR  
CAN DO IT.

I KNOW I CAN  
LEARN WITH YOUR HELP.  
ONLY THE GREATEST  
EARTHBENDER OF ALL  
TIME COULD MENTOR ME.



TIME COULD INVENT  
METALBENDING.

I'M GLAD  
YOU THINK SO.

I DO! PLEASE  
TEACH ME,  
SIFU TOPH.







YEAH,  
OKAY. BUT ONLY  
BECAUSE I LIKE BEING  
CALLED SIFU.

MEET ME  
TOMORROW MORNING  
ON THE BEACH BY THE  
DOCKS. WE'LL START  
TRAINING THEN.





YALING,  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING?







WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN, WHAT  
AM I DOING?



YOU REALLY  
THINK IT'S SMART  
TO HANG AROUND THE  
AVATAR'S FRIENDS?





LIGHTEN UP, RU.  
TOPH'S A BENDER,  
SHE'LL COME AROUND TO  
OUR SIDE EVENTUALLY.







I JUST DON'T  
THINK IT'S A  
GOOD IDEA...

I DON'T CARE  
WHAT YOU THINK.  
I WANT TO LEARN  
METALBENDING, AND  
THIS IS HOW I GET  
TO DO THAT.







DON'T TELL MOM  
I'M MEETING TOPH.  
SHE'S GOT ENOUGH TO  
WORRY ABOUT WITH THE  
RALLY TOMORROW  
NIGHT.





WHATEVER YOU  
SAY, YALING.





**nickelodeon**<sup>™</sup>



**AVATAR**

THE LAST AIRBENDER<sup>™</sup>



# IMBALANCE

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