INVISIBLE CITIES

THE LIGHT / THE CONTRACT / THE FALL



An ATEM campaign in 110 illustrated sequences

Complete English comic edition · 2026

Dante and the Thirty Cantos



Seaway to Hell



The Great Khan and Marco Polo



A Great Khan who already rules the known world, yet still receives near-mythical figures such as Marco Polo—whom some call "Marco the Great", others "Marco the Magician".

An astrological chart instead of a passport: they know things about you without needing any records.

The invisible cities are there. A veil of shadow has fallen over them.

The Monastery on the Volcano



Joteniem by Night



Marcos Street is named after one of the town's founders: Marcos the Magician—a necromancer in the darker legends.

The Giant's Thumb Tavern



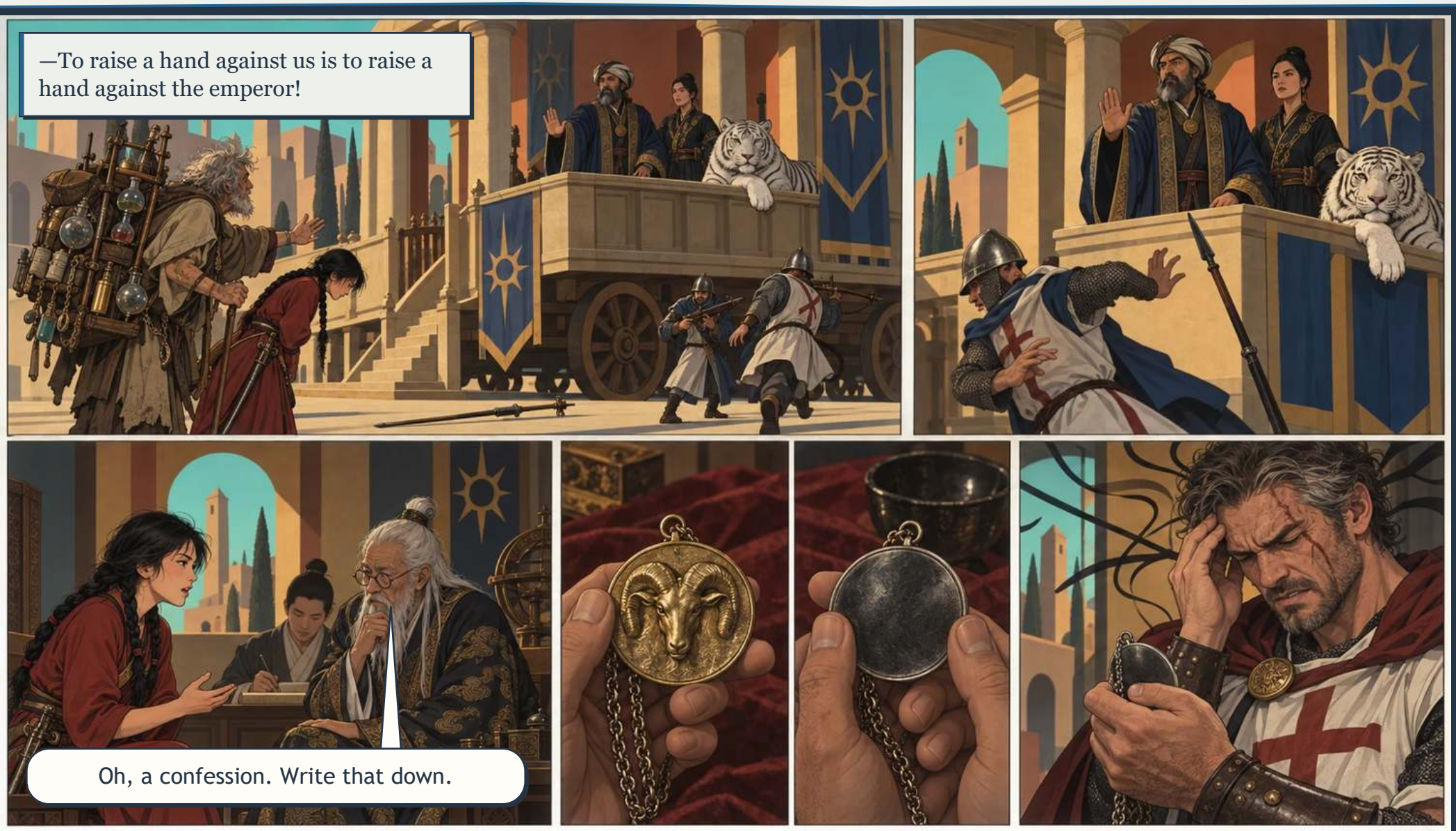
The Great Khan's Emissaries



The Diomirra Card

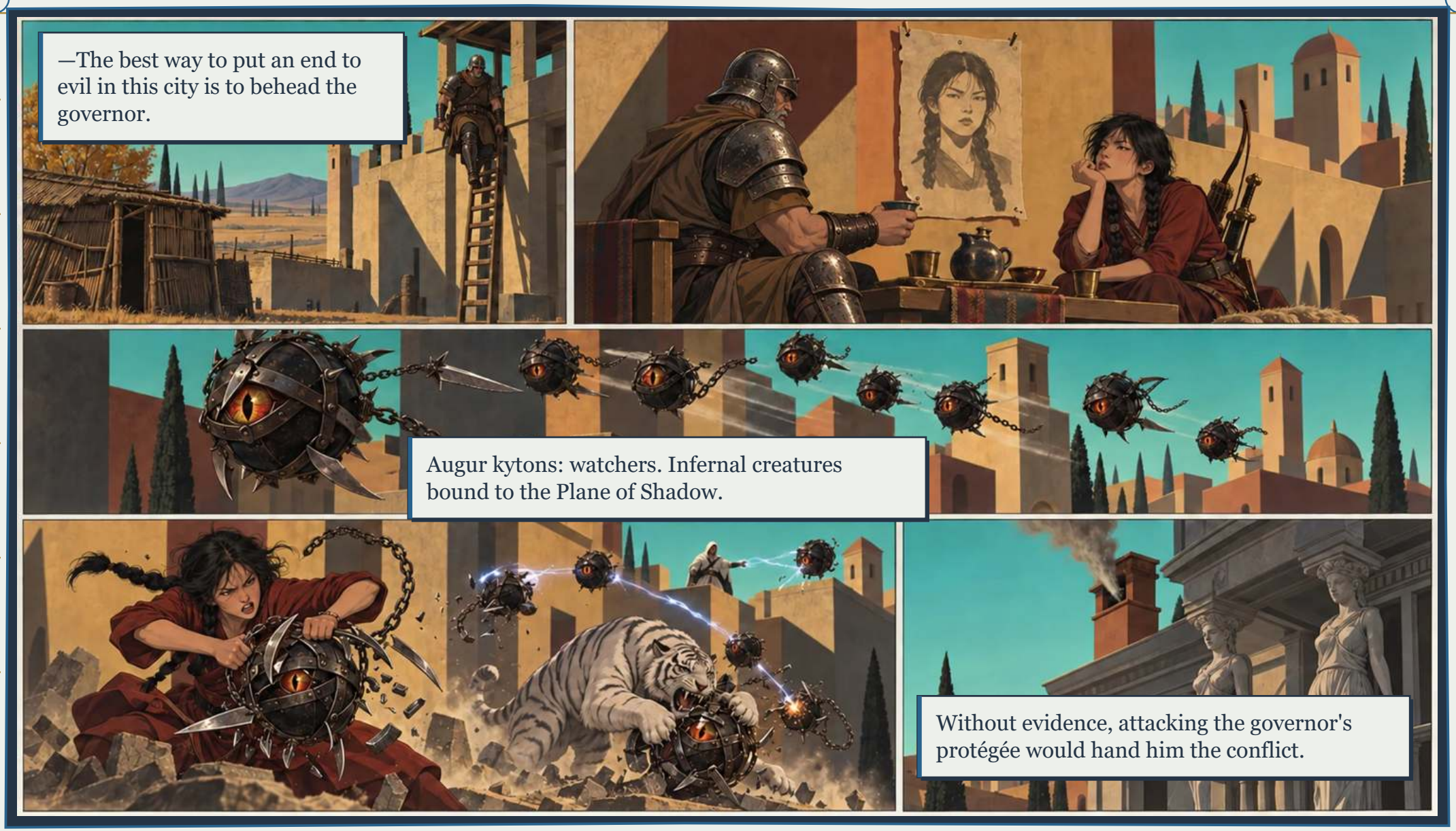


The Fugitive and the Two-Sided Amulet



Places that secretly pay tribute to the shadow while pretending to worship Ares or some other permitted god.

The Half-Wall and the Augur Kytons



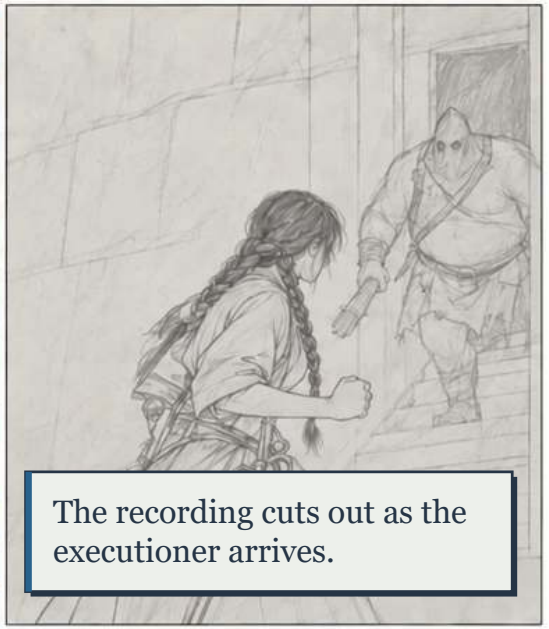
The Grey Marble Quarry











The Lead Rooster







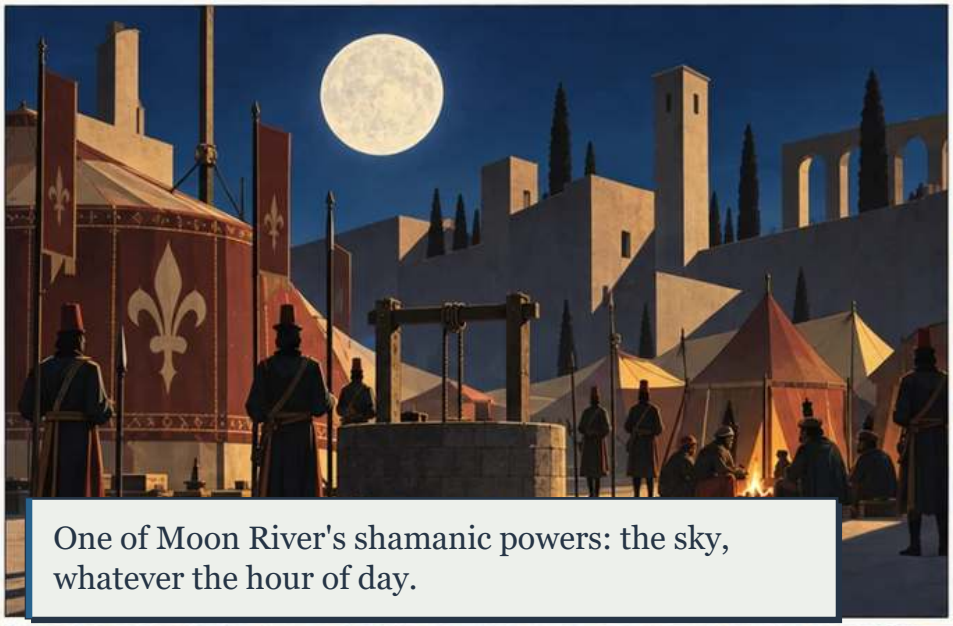






The city has been turned from gold to lead. That is the mystery of its invisibility.

The Stars on Moon River's Back



One of Moon River's shamanic powers: the sky, whatever the hour of day.





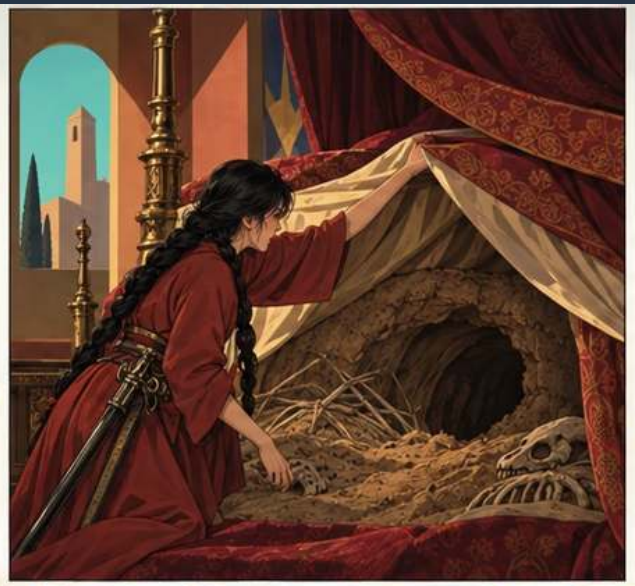
Betrayal and forbidden love—an improper relationship that will affect the sovereign.



—The governor is lost. I think he's the most dangerous one we're dealing with.

The Lamia



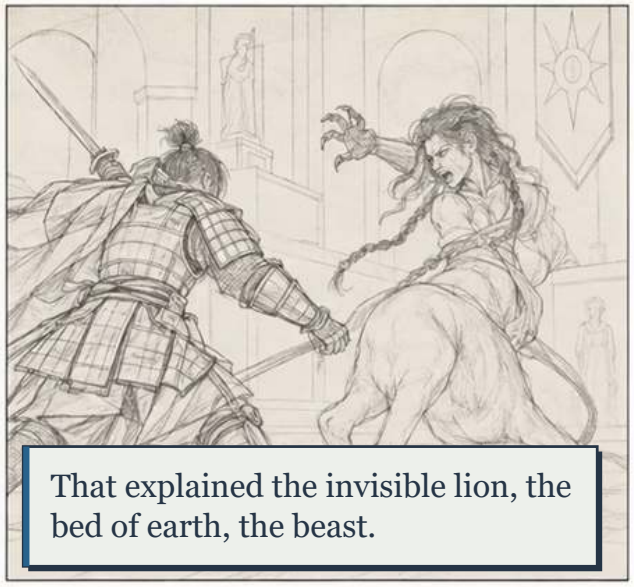




The spell failed: the governor is not a humanoid.



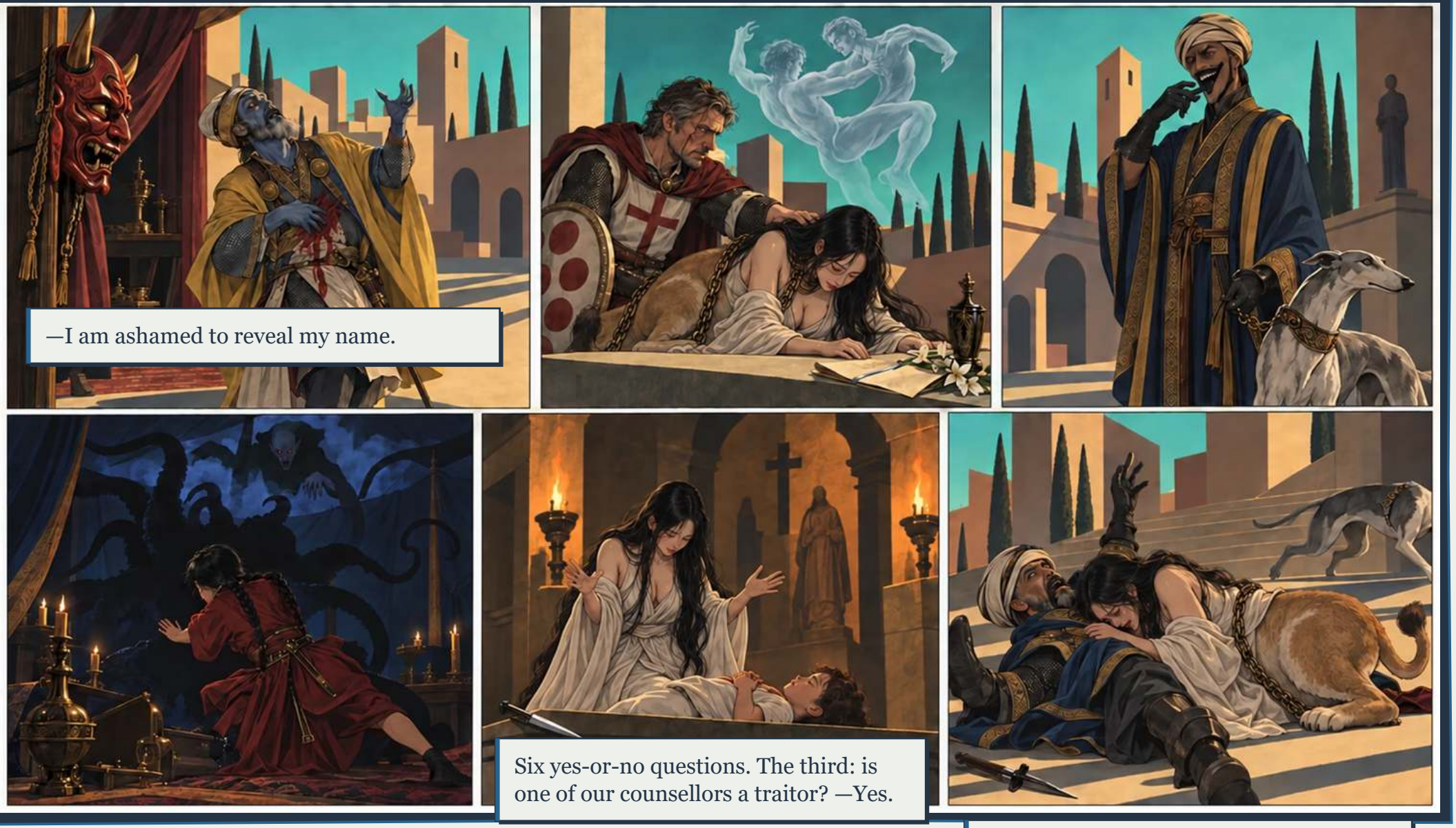




That explained the invisible lion, the bed of earth, the beast.

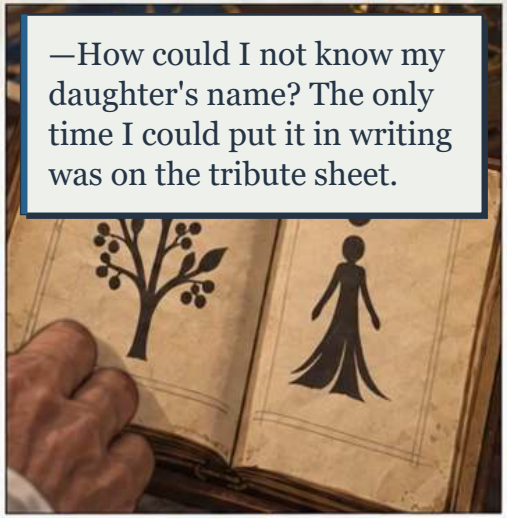
—Light and darkness must be in balance, and you have come where you were not called.

The Oni Mask and the Assassin from Leng



Let Mirra Be Mirra





—How could I not know my daughter's name? The only time I could put it in writing was on the tribute sheet.







I wish for Mirra to be released from her condition as tribute; for her to be free of the shadows; and for Mirra to be Mirra.

Mirra, let her be Mirra: they told me nothing else.

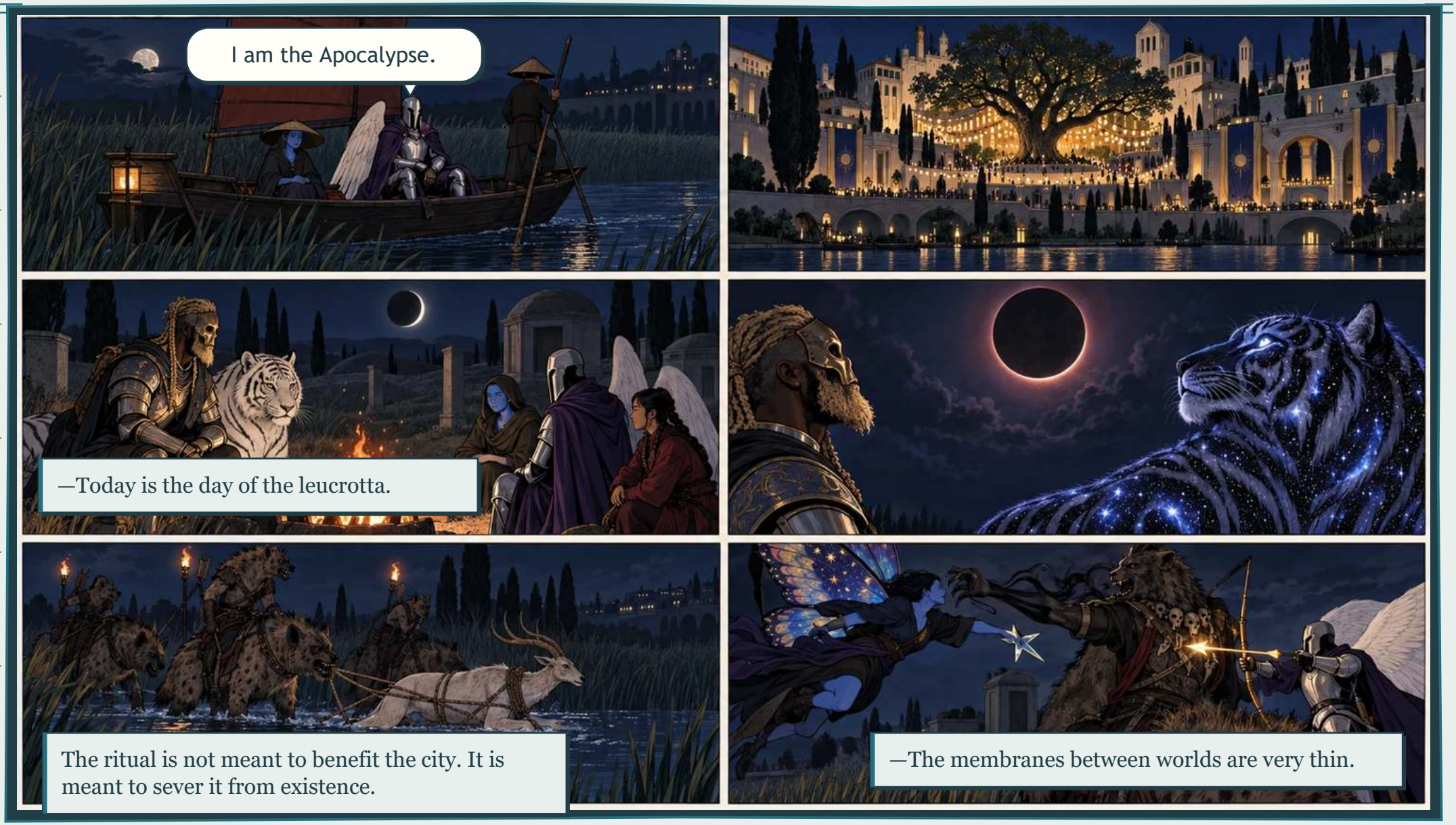
Leaving Diomirra



—Then we're in the frying pan. —Better the frying pan than the fire. Better still if we can get hold of the handle.

Their destination: Isidora, the second city, on the shores of the lake of unfathomable depths.

The Leucrotta's Eclipse



Marta of the Chains



The Empty Sarcophagus



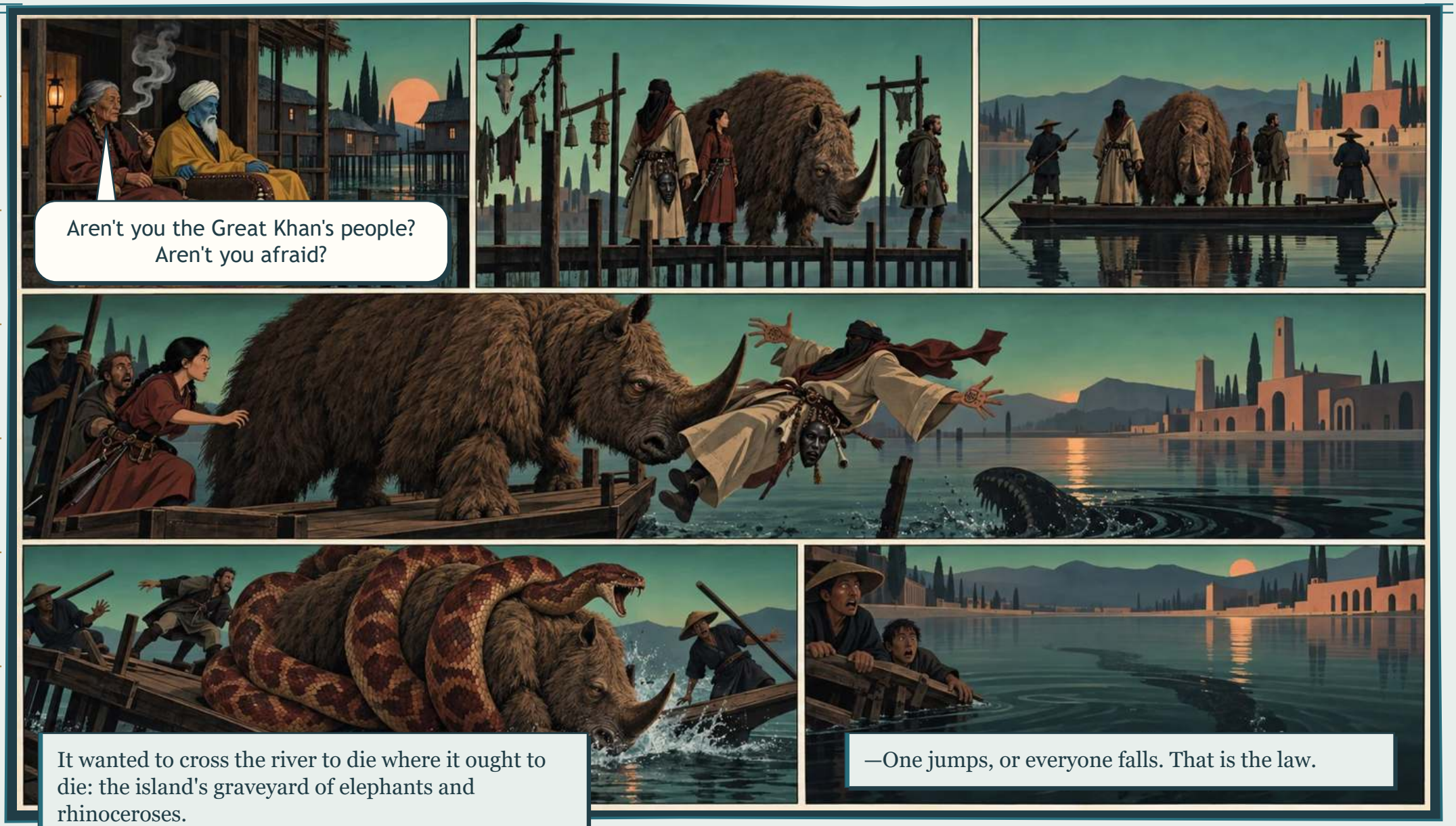
The Isidora Card



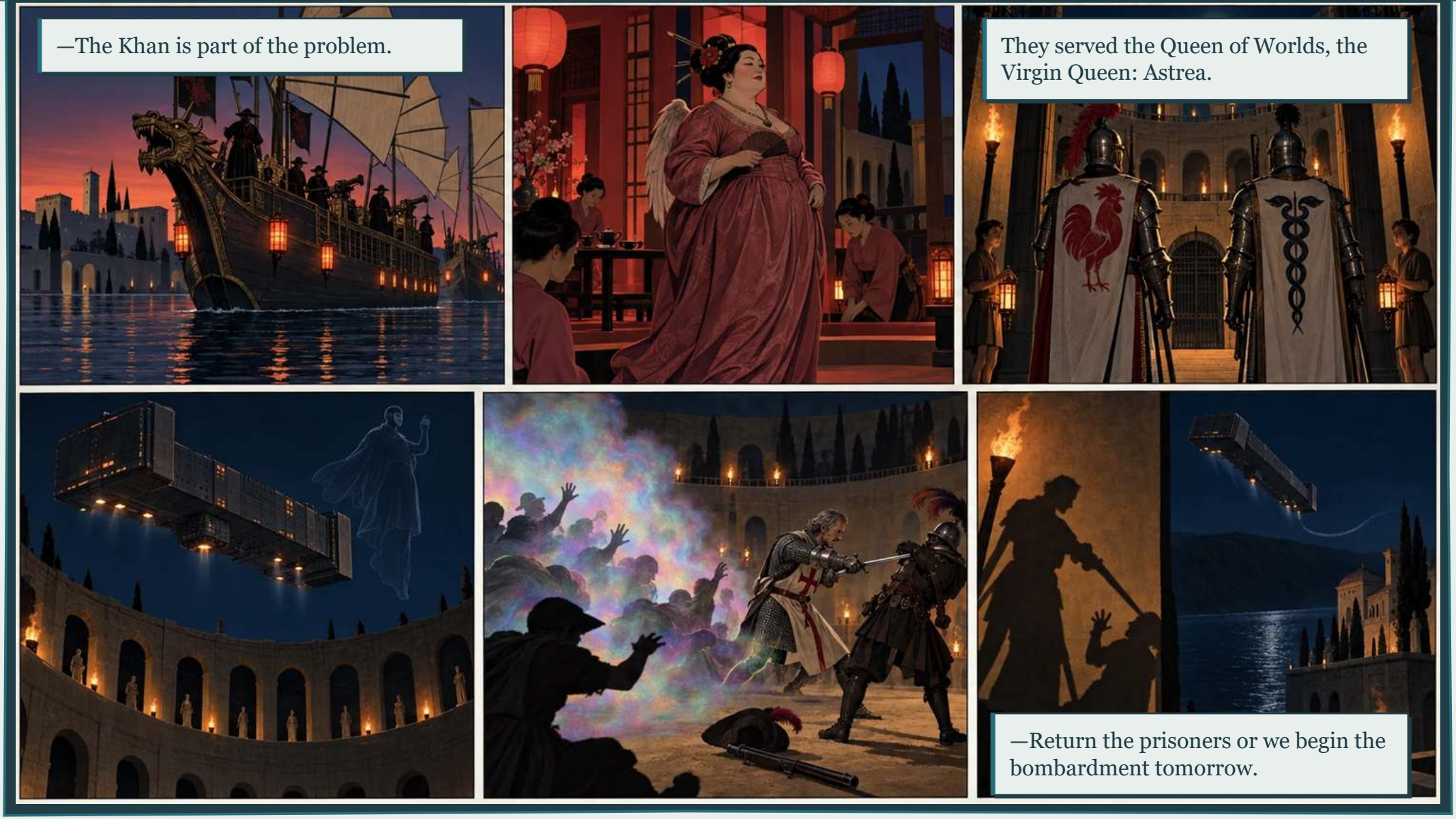
A man who has ridden long through wild country finds himself longing for a city. At last he reaches Isidora, the city he has dreamed of. There is one difference: in the dreamed city, he was young; by the time he reaches Isidora, he is old.

In the square, a low wall gives the old a place to watch youth go by. Desires have already become memories.

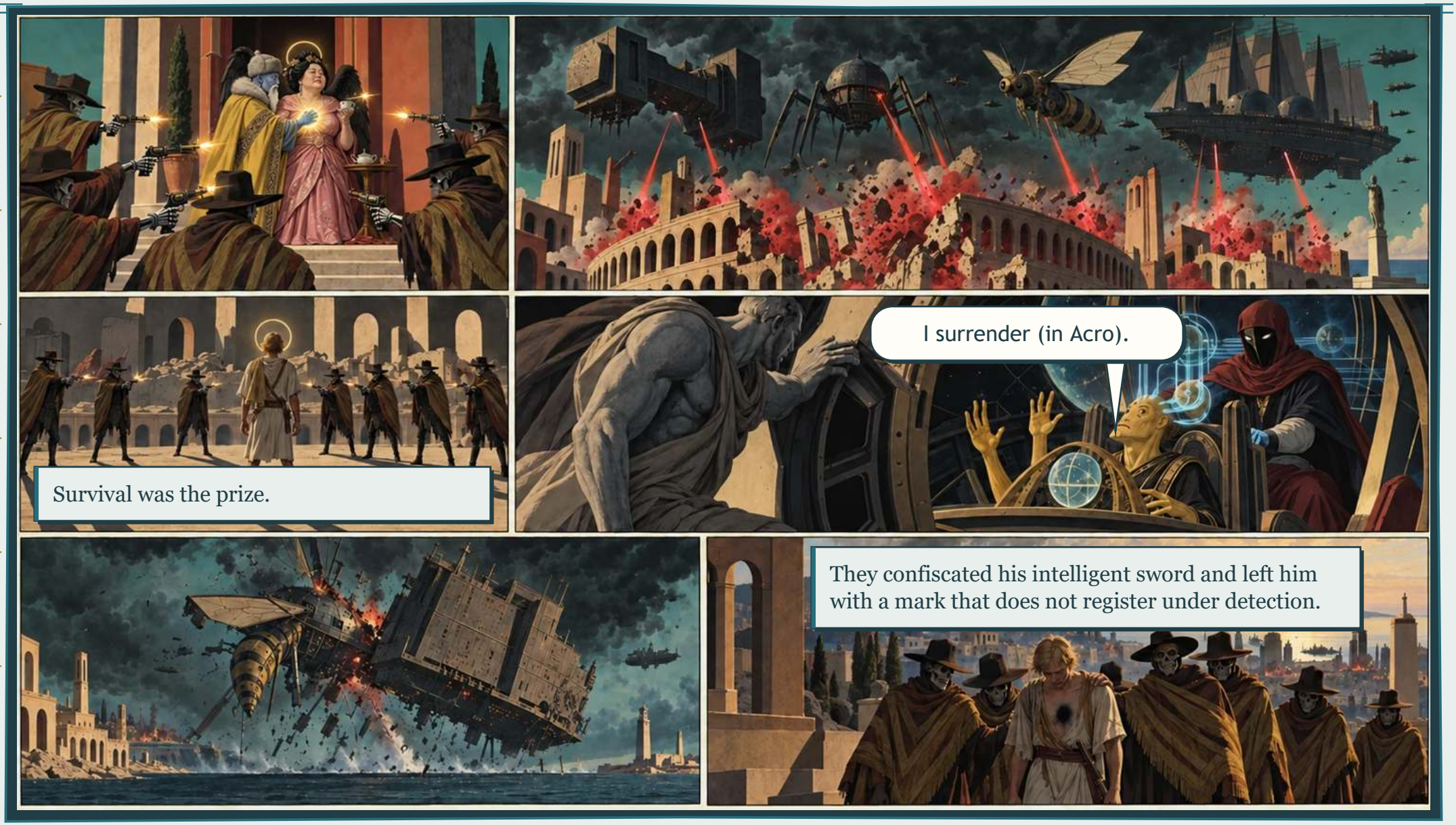
The Sacrifice on the Lake



The Arena at Midnight



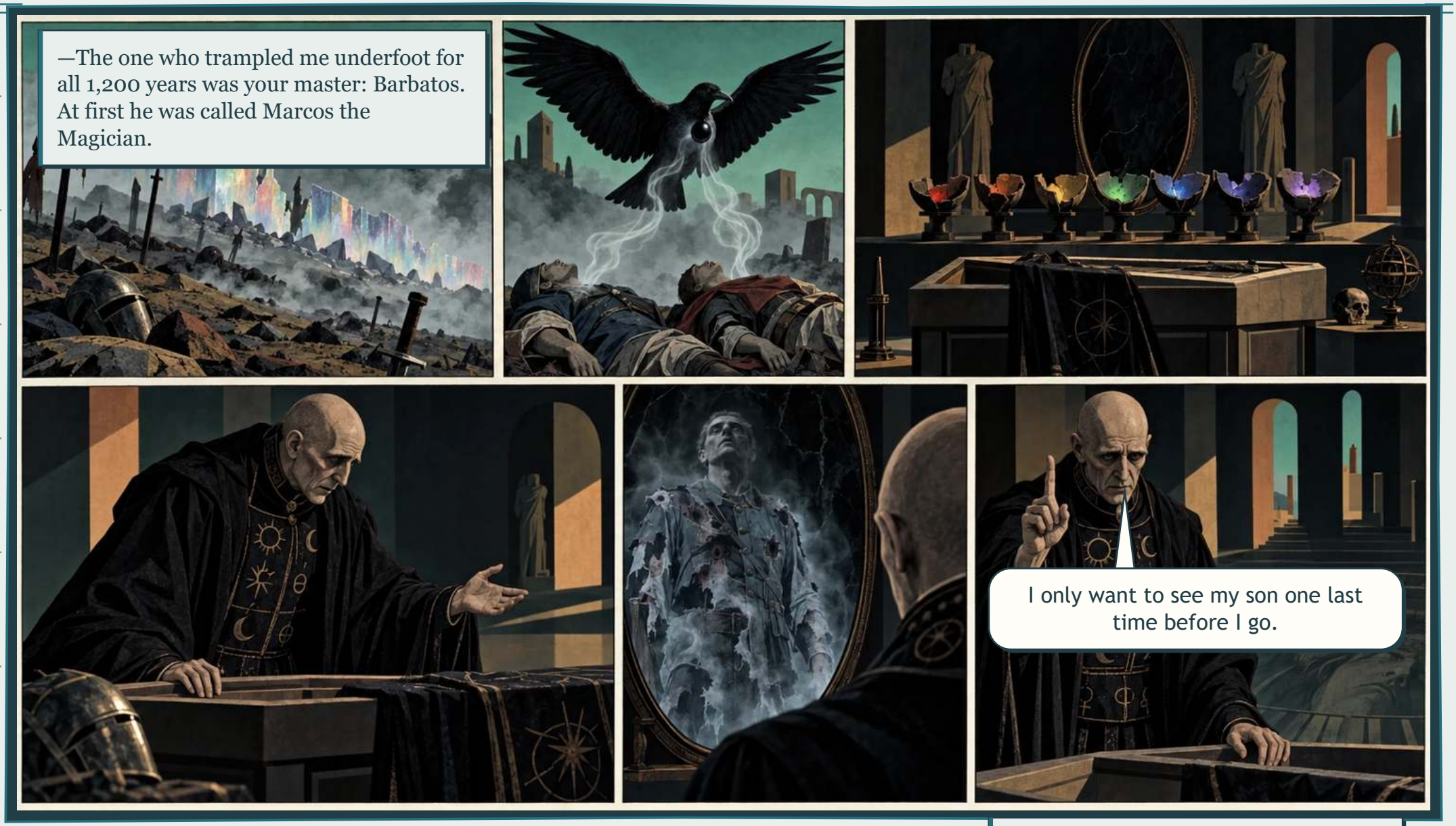
The Empire Strikes Back



Isidora under Siege



Kirios, the Lich Founder

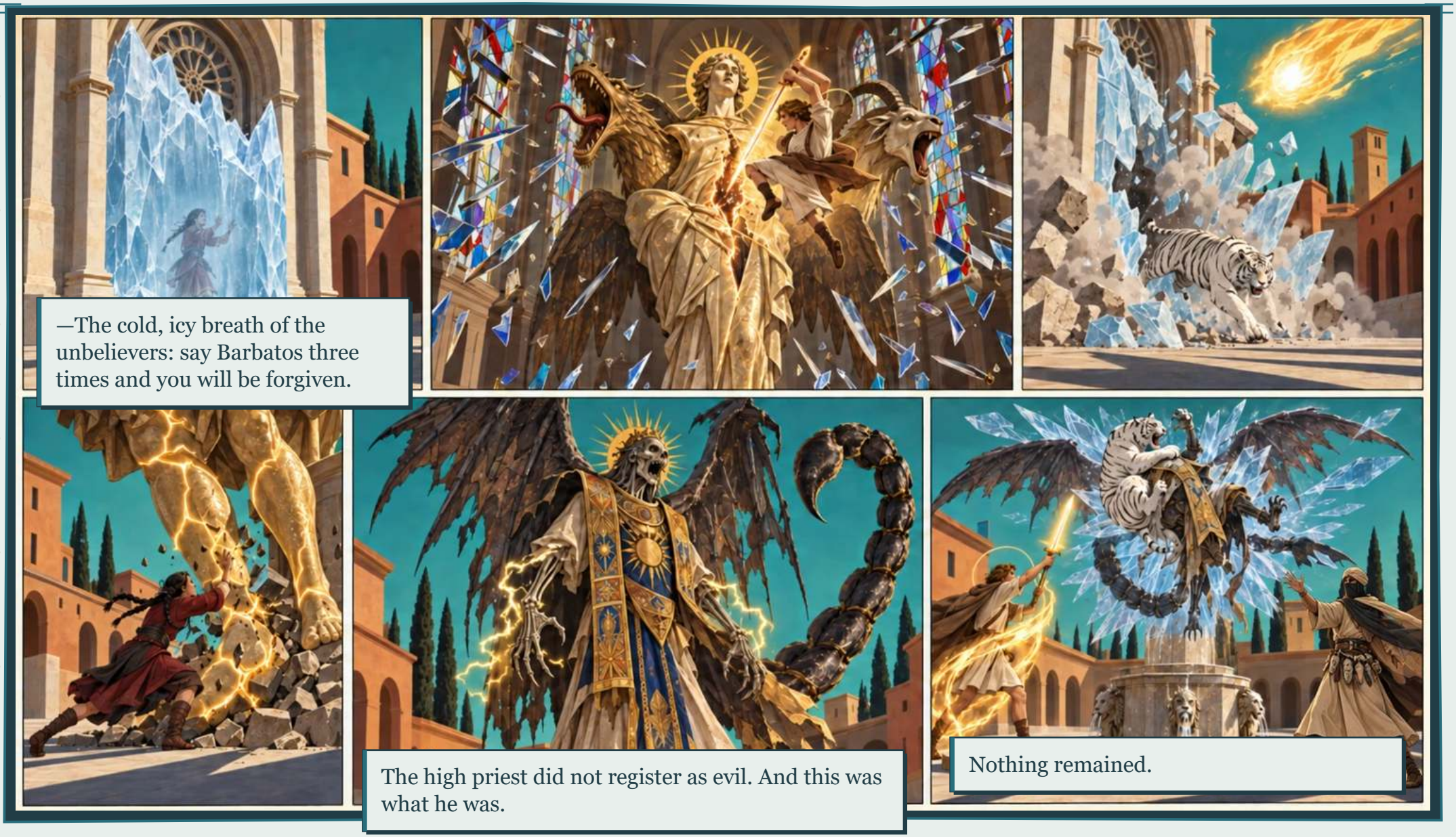


Below, an ancient warrior of absolute darkness sleeps. Soon he will rise.

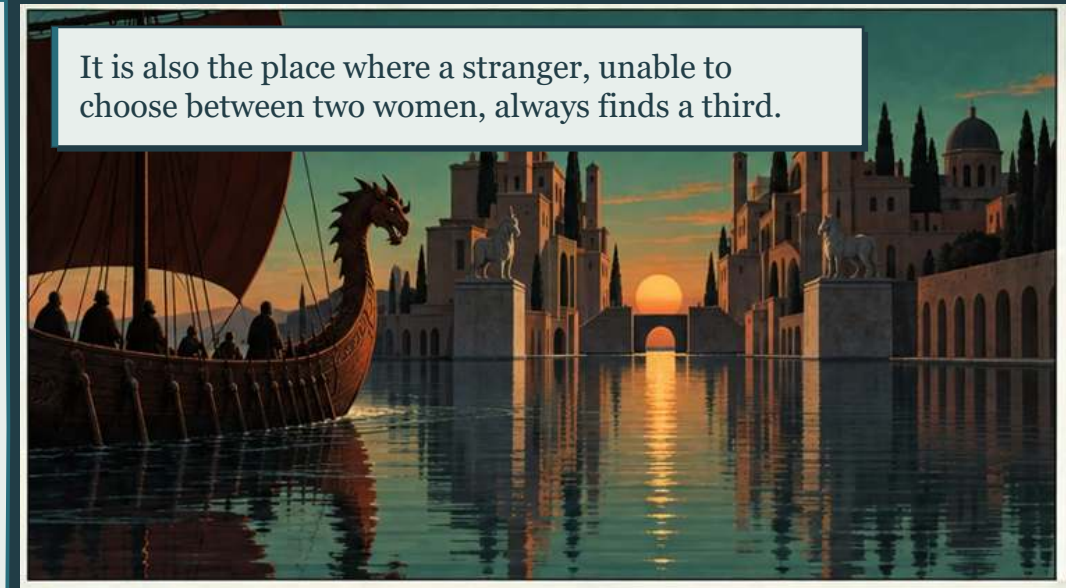
The Staff of Barbatos



The Battle of the Temple Square

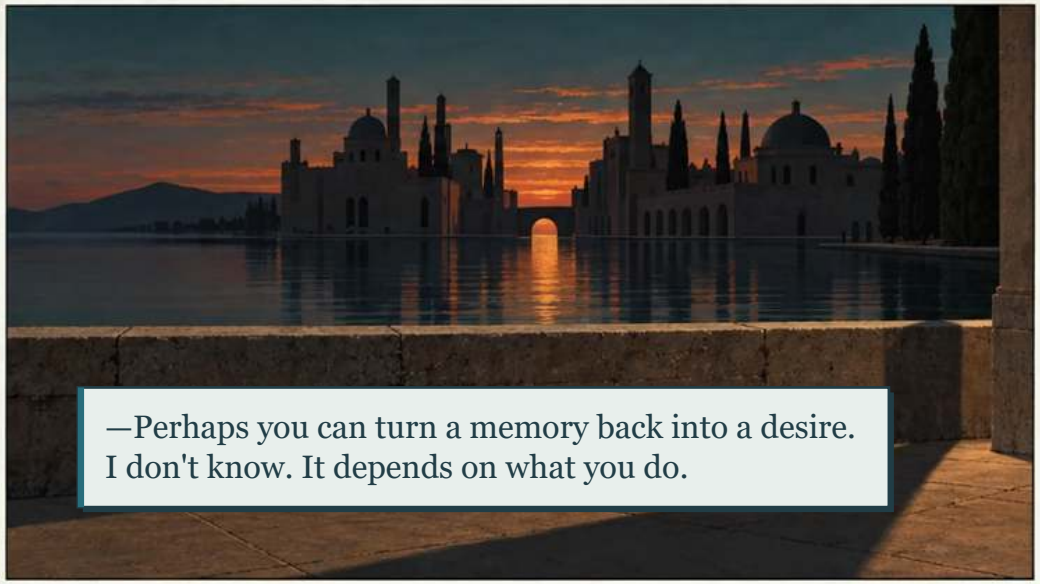


Desires Have Already Become Memories



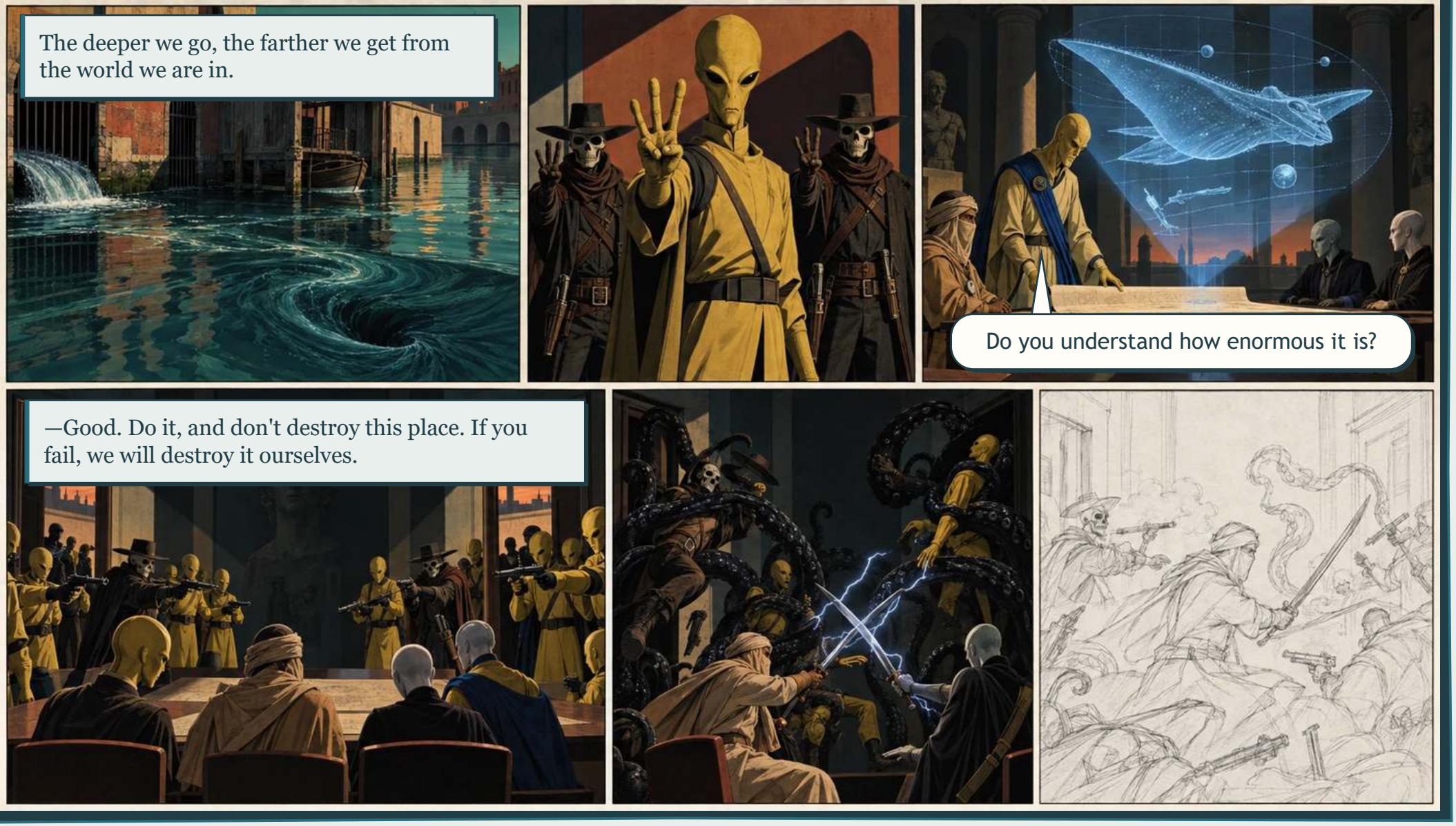






Desires have already become memories.

The House of the Black Rider



The Dorotea Card

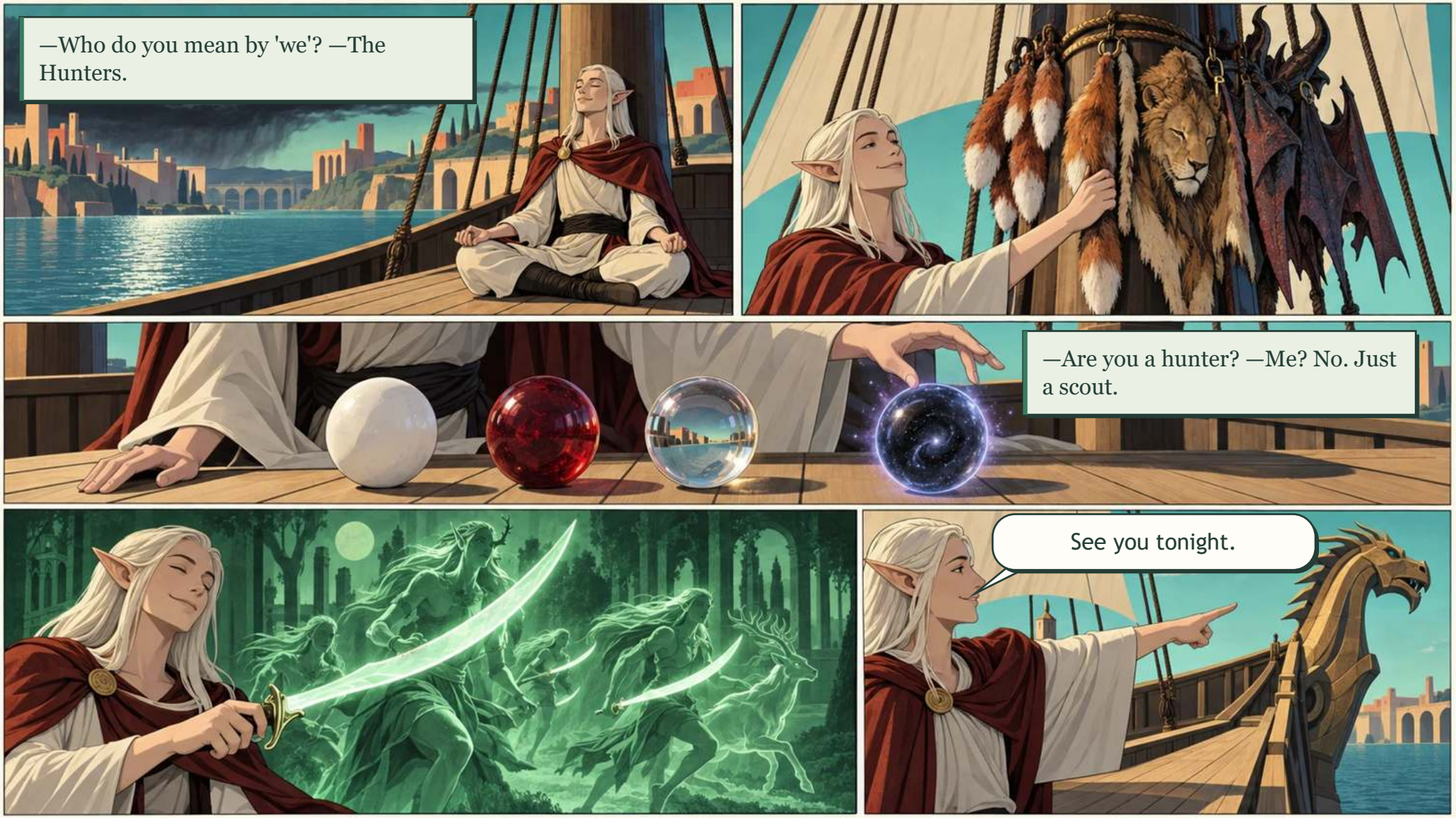


Years later, he understood that many paths had opened before him that morning, and this had been just one.

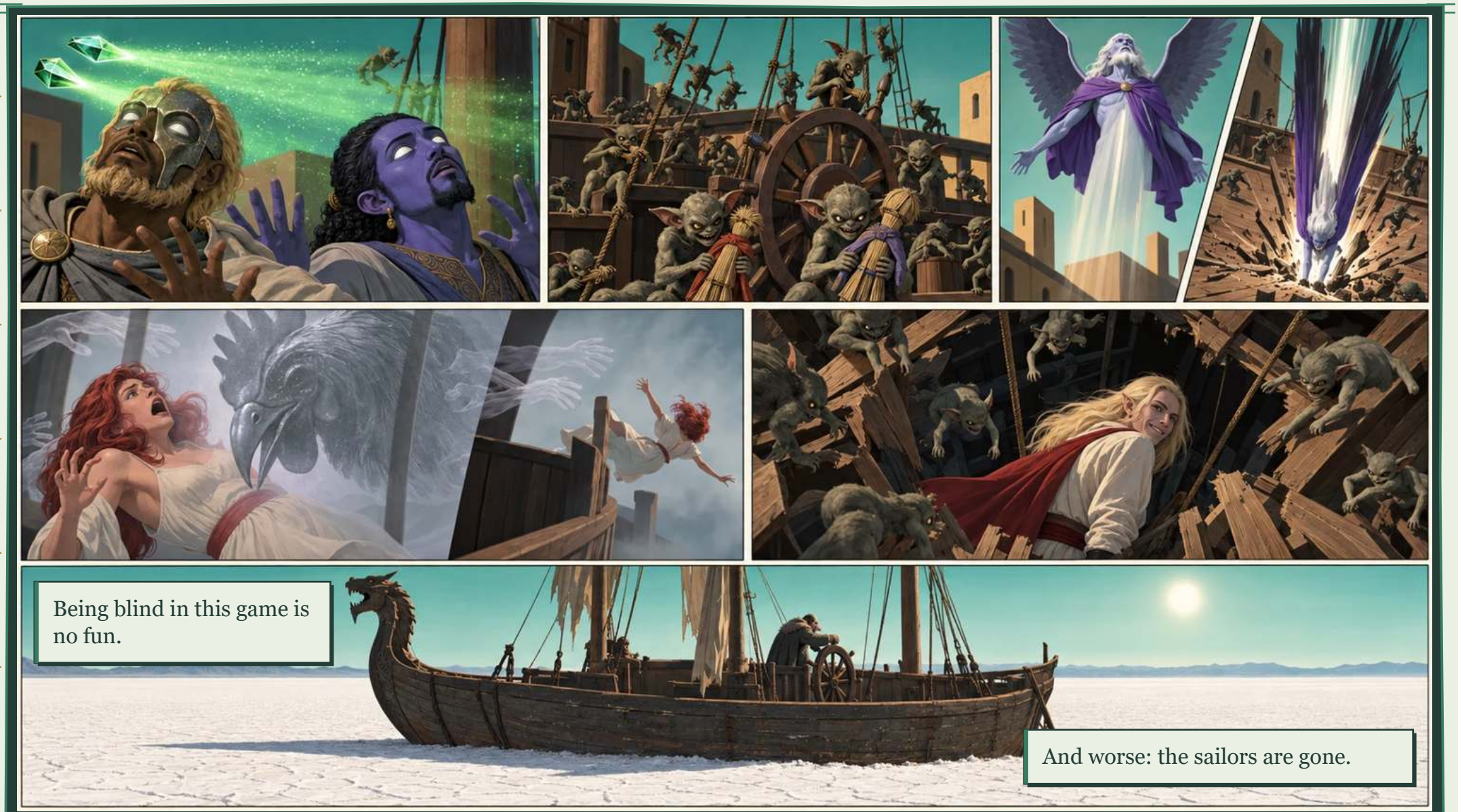
Bound for Dorotea



The Three Spheres

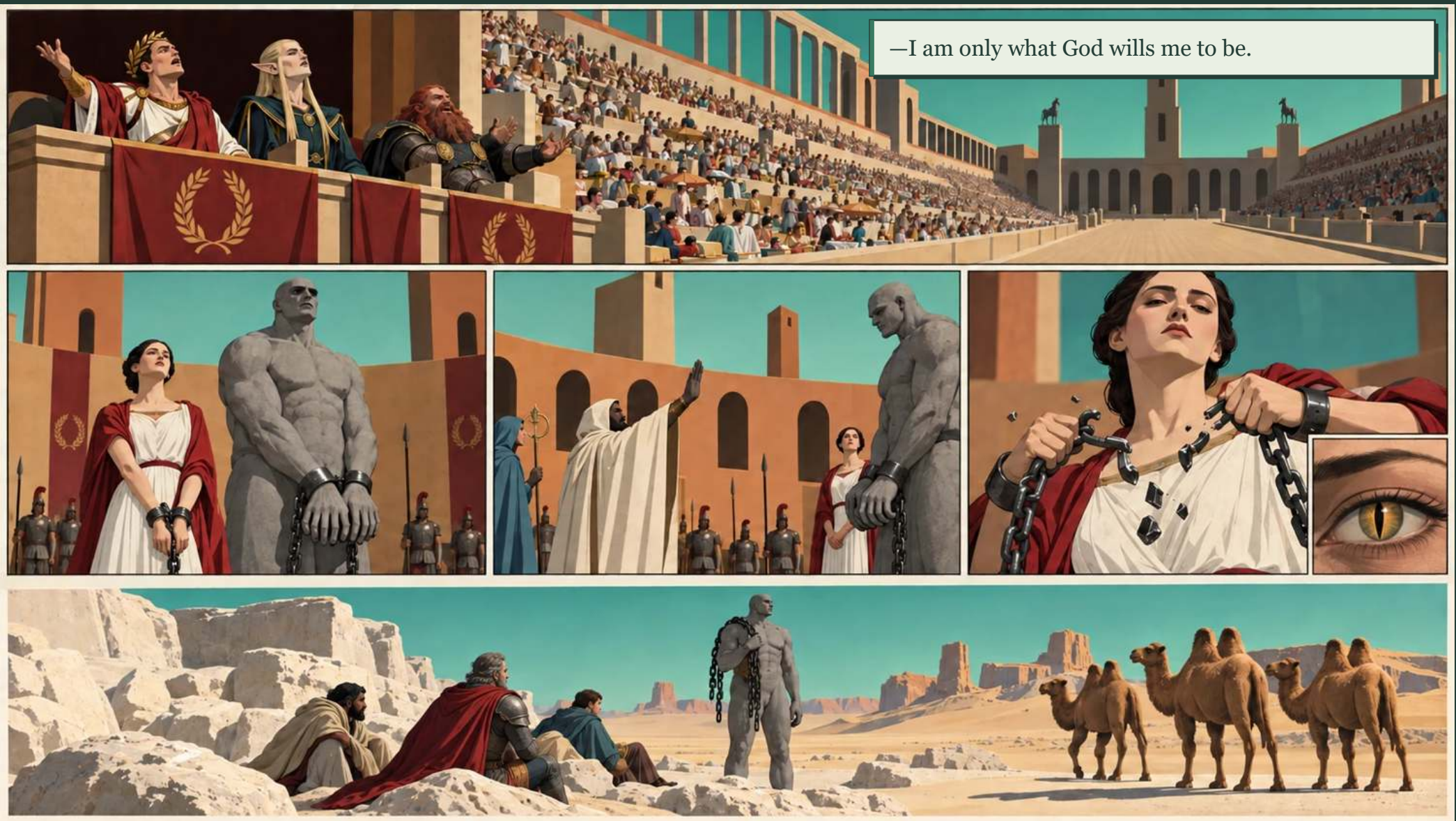


The White Plain



—How did they know I was casting if I don't use components? —Call it coincidence.

The Interrupted Execution



Urga of the Red Sunset



The Descent: Avernus



The Broken Golden Bough



Dis and the Birth



Barbatos TV



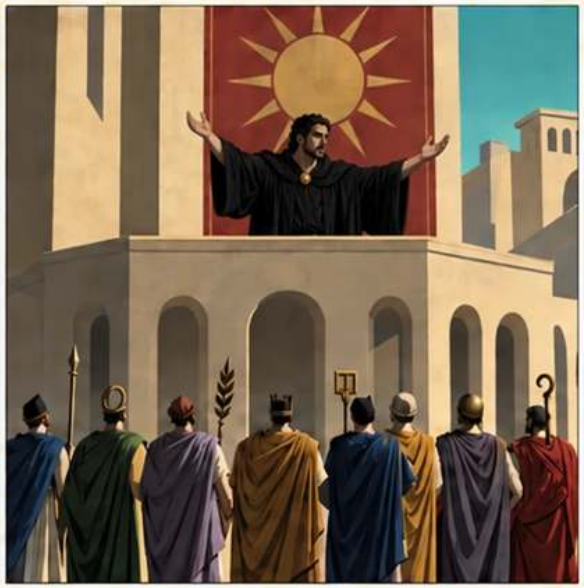
Day by day, like episodes of a series, the sphere showed what was happening to their companions.











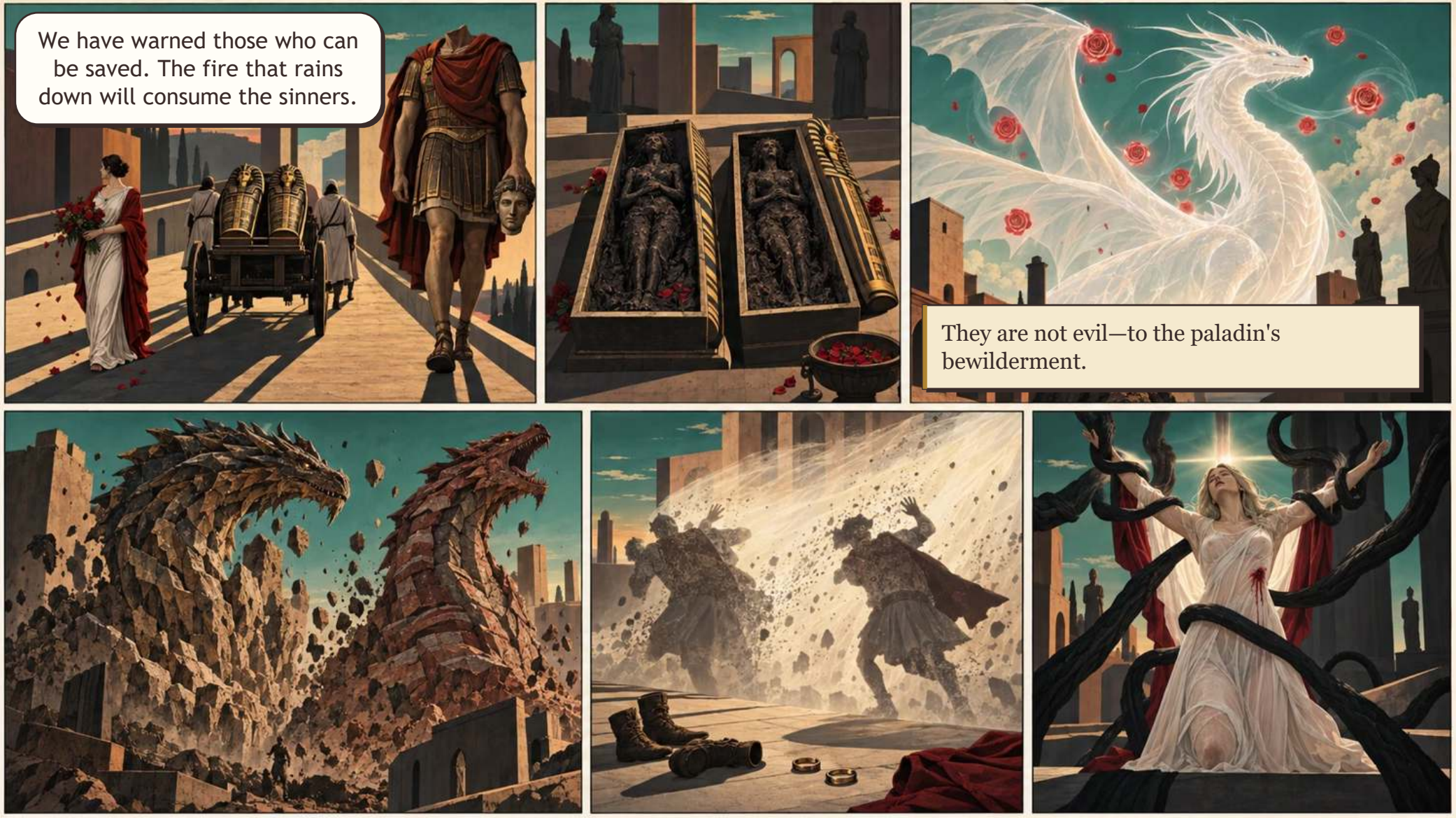
A thousand years ago, Saint Dorotea of Cappadocia and her sisters were burned by an executioner. The city is named Dorotea after the martyr.

On the seventh day I shall not rest.

The Golden Return



The Dragon Martyr



In this primeval Babylon, the first battle was being fought again: golden Marduk against the first dragon.

The Camel Driver's Wish



Dorotea is the city of unfulfilled desire; and once again, the wish they chose was memory.

From now on, you're a Freeman. Mind what you do.

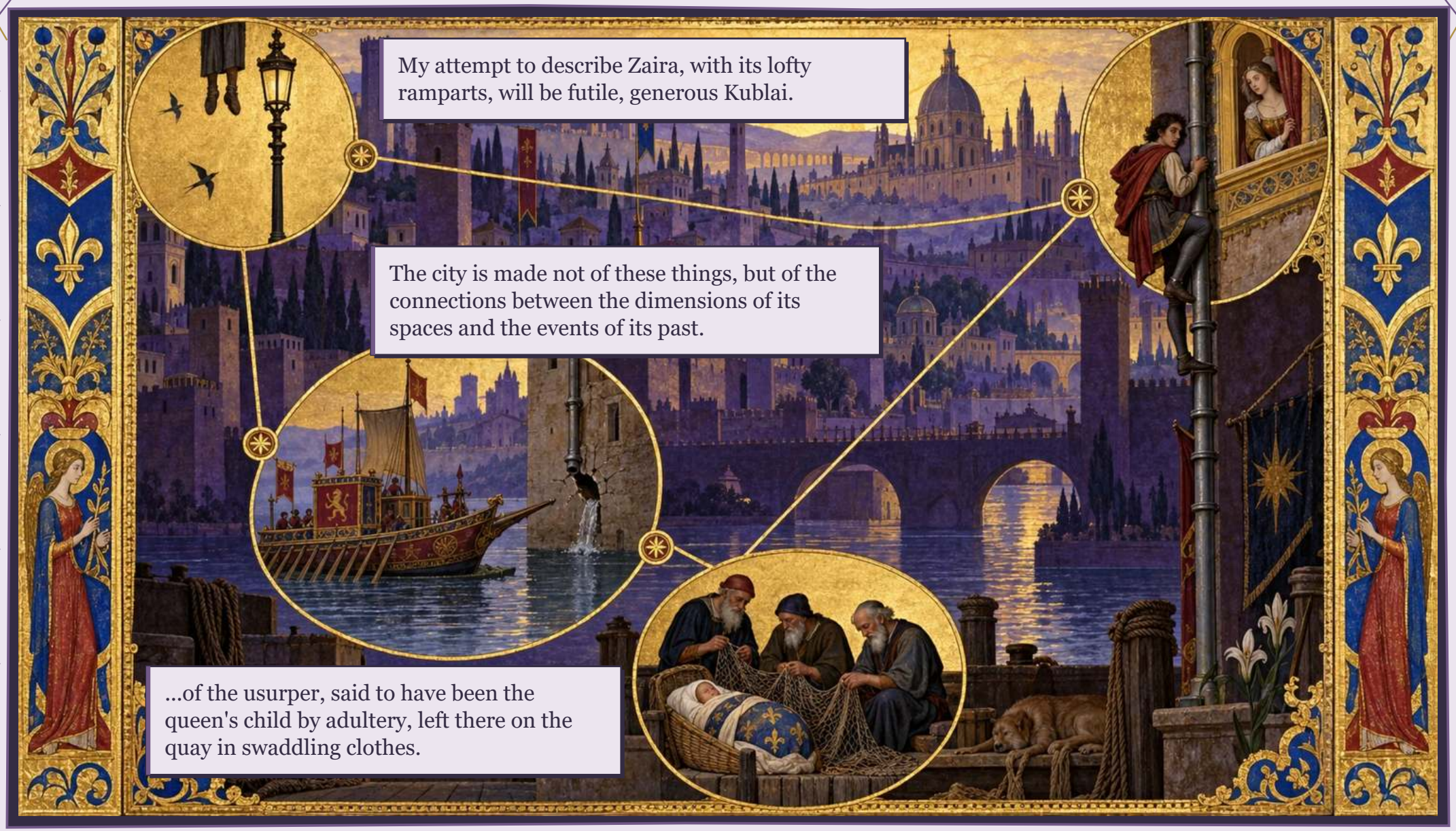
The city was redeemed without bloodshed, through the fulfilment of the first traveller's wish.

Farewell to the Counsellors



The chapter is called "Farewell to the Counsellors".

The Zaira Card



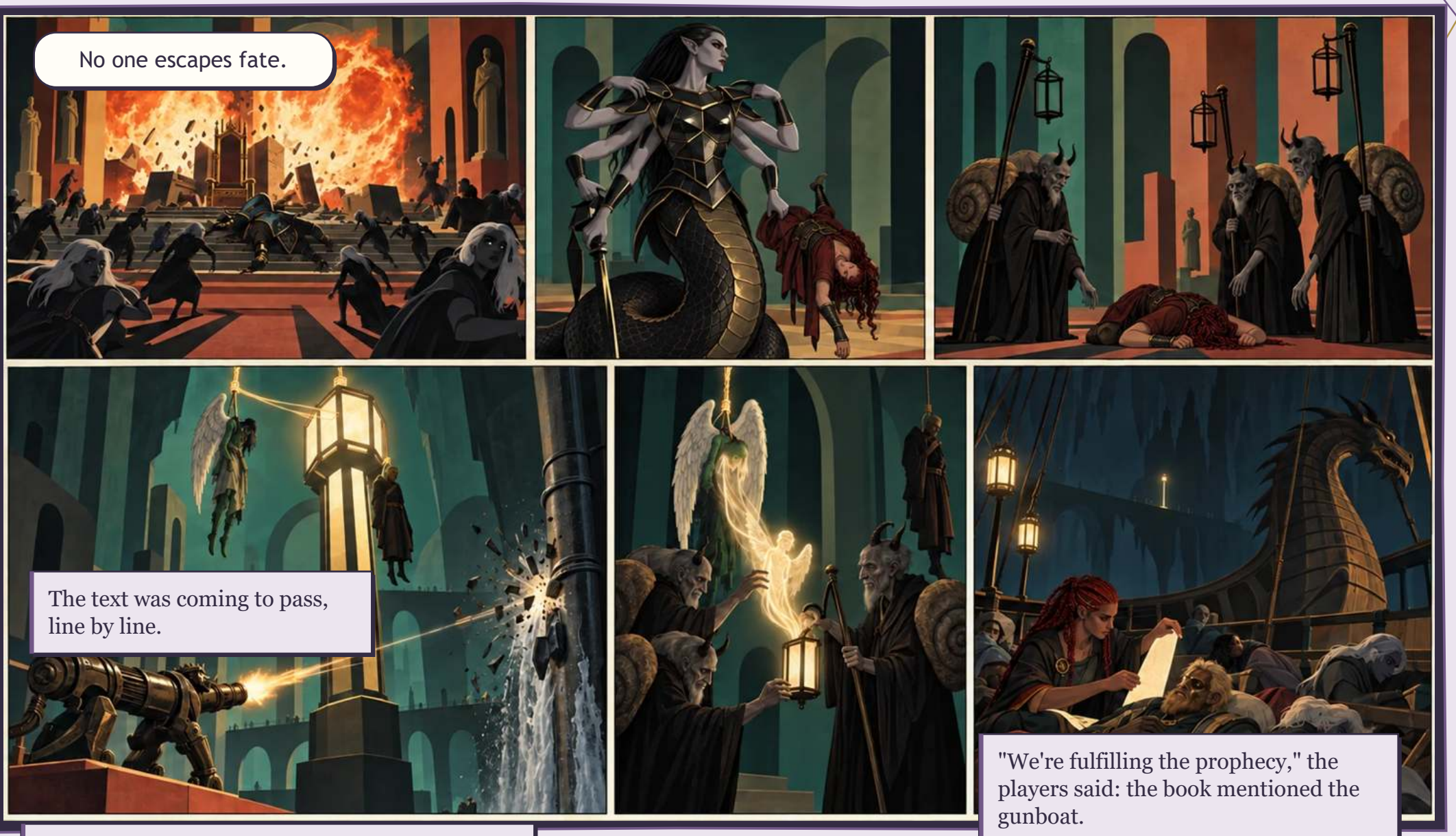
Sara's Throne



His father? Dead. He killed him.

The players were already naming him openly: Lord Soth, the lord of the knave.

The Prophecy Fulfilled



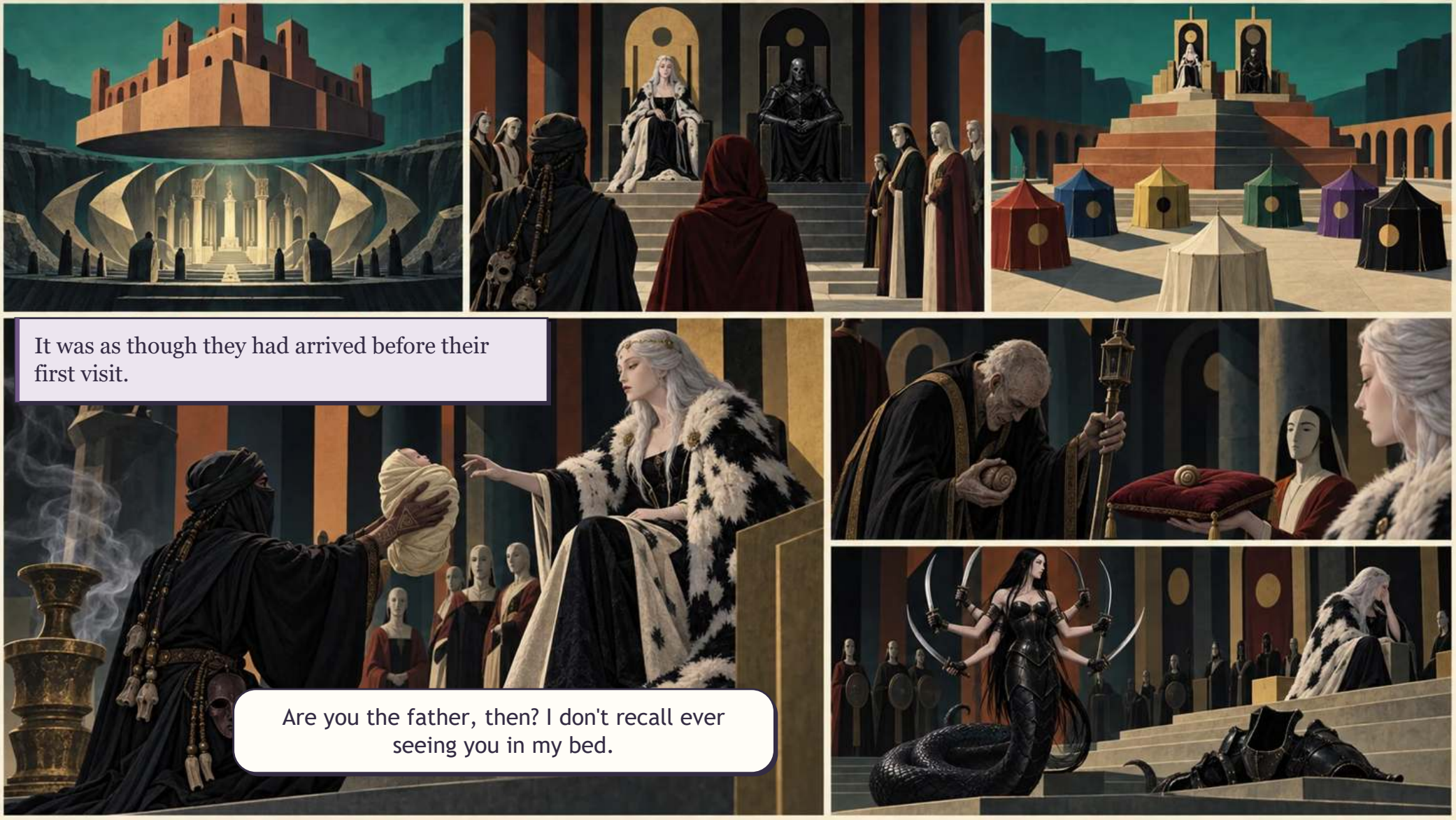
Coyote


We have no air traffic in the empire.
—What's that back there?
—The Prism Castle.
—Who's there? —Mine.
Now I belong to myself.
What matters is that you know it hasn't happened yet.

Gerión


Why did you kill my cambions?
Since you called me three times, I shall take three of you.
He took one who was worth three.

The City Without Memory



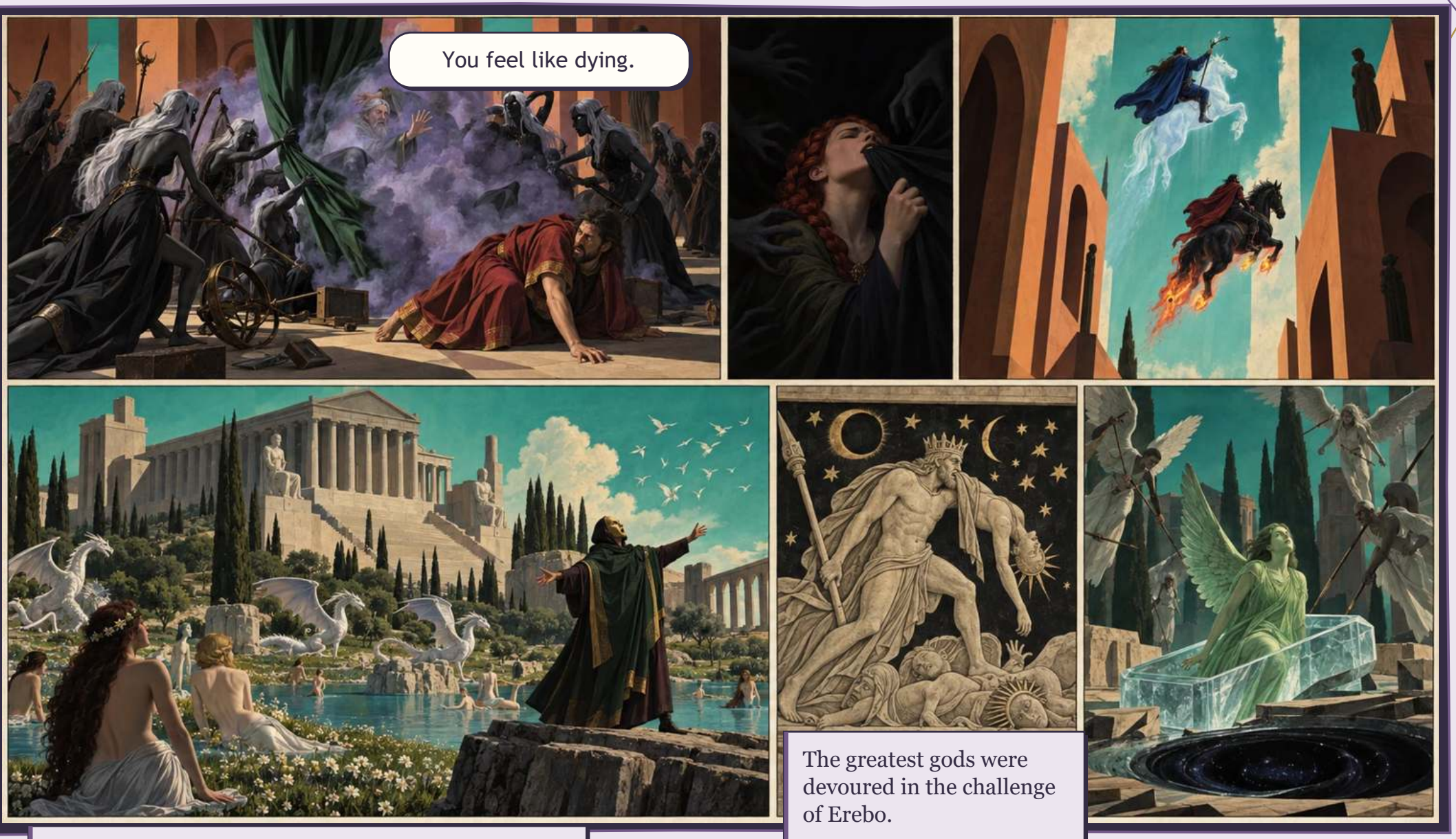
The Six Tents



Zarathustra



The Empty Olympus



The New Cycle





To win the gems as the home side is to serve the shadow. Last time we won five to one—and lost.





Nothing is worse than the mimetic rivalry of a worm that wants to be God.



The plan: lose on purpose.



The Mirror of the Crime



The canon says that everyone goes from darkness into light.

The Vote


The karmic one does not vote: he gives his gem to the newly reincarnated one. Let him choose; he has already passed the trial and been freed from the darkness.
"Break the cycle; become overmen." / "Come with us to destroy the worm."
And then the one who had been purified made his choice: —Oblivión.

Oblivión


You know what it's like when they drop the atomic bomb? A being of darkness, carrying a living sphere of annihilation within it.
Everyone below died.
The people are in a darkness that is not even cyclical. This is the end.

The Guillotine of Blackness



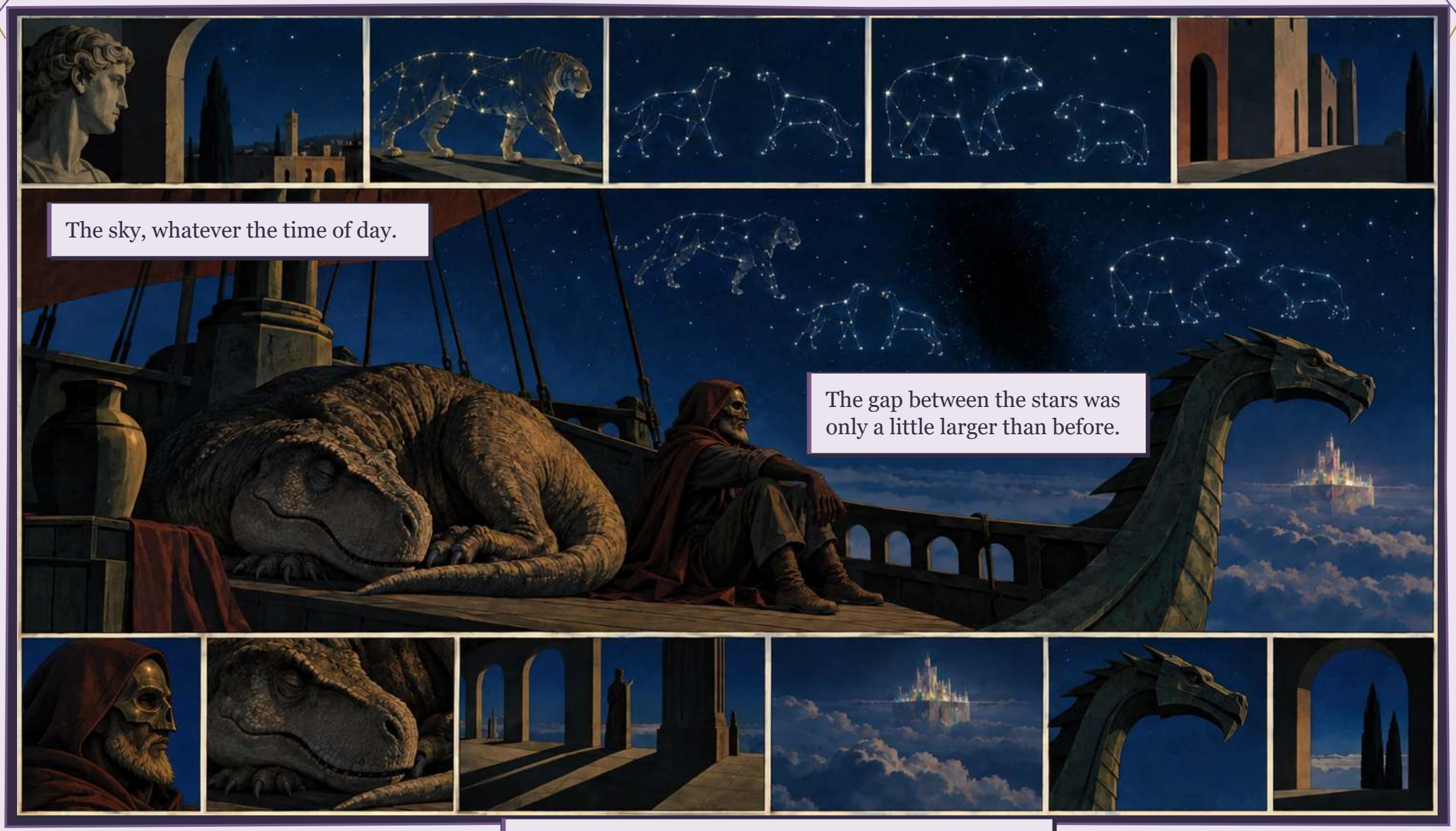
Whoever has gone from darkness into light is no longer in the shadow's grasp.

Zaira Is Over



Holy madness, guys. Zaira is over. It was hard, I know—but not all the cities were like that. Or perhaps they were.

The Starry Sky upon Its Back (End of Part I)



The Cecilia Card



The Sword That Falls from the Sky



A figure swept through the air high above, like an eagle. And a sword fell from the sky.







It was as though the falling sword had cut through part of the spell.



A long time has passed since Luca learnt that dialect: at least 190 years.

Florence, 1492



The Triple King





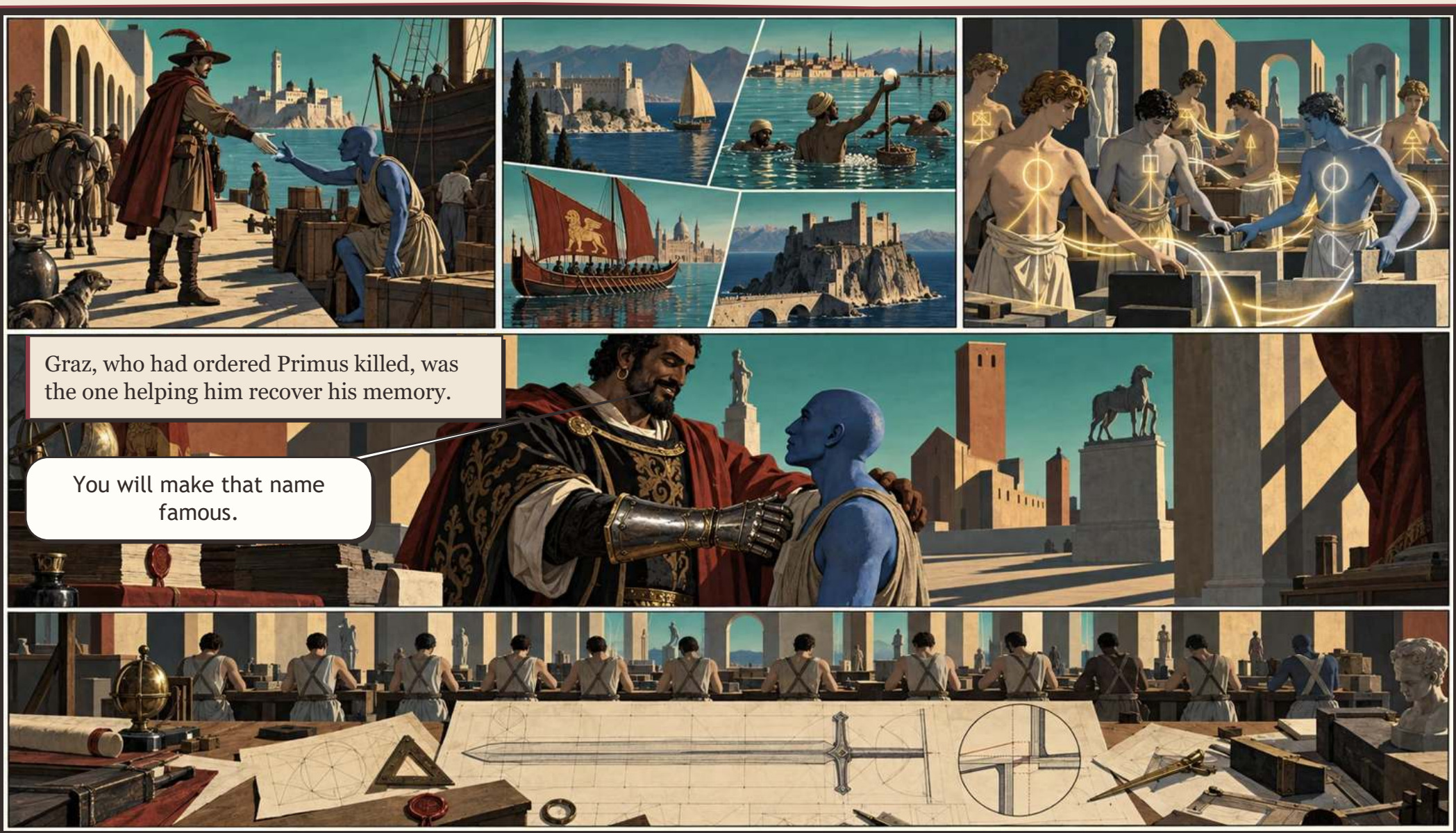






The serpent is many things. They call it the Triple King.

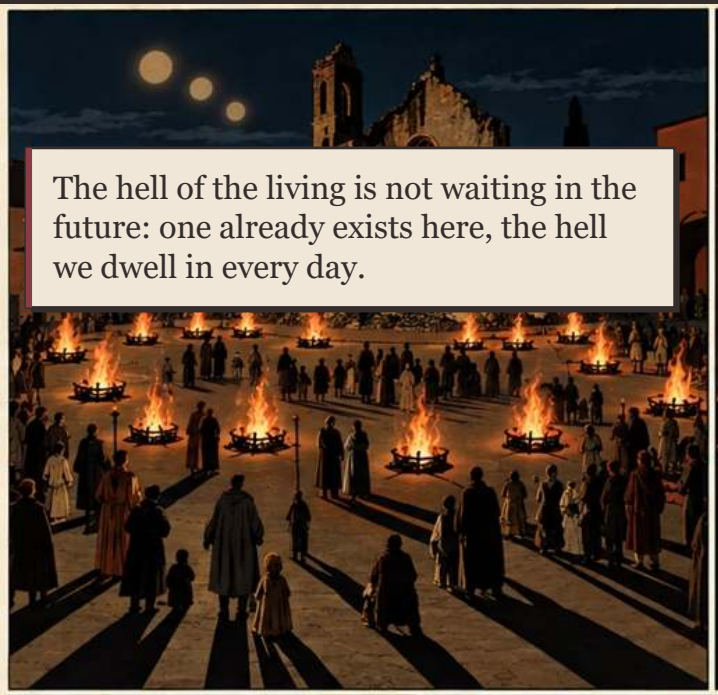
Leonardo


Graz, who had ordered Primus killed, was the one helping him recover his memory.
You will make that name famous.
Ludovico was as interested in being able to call off the assassination as in making it possible.

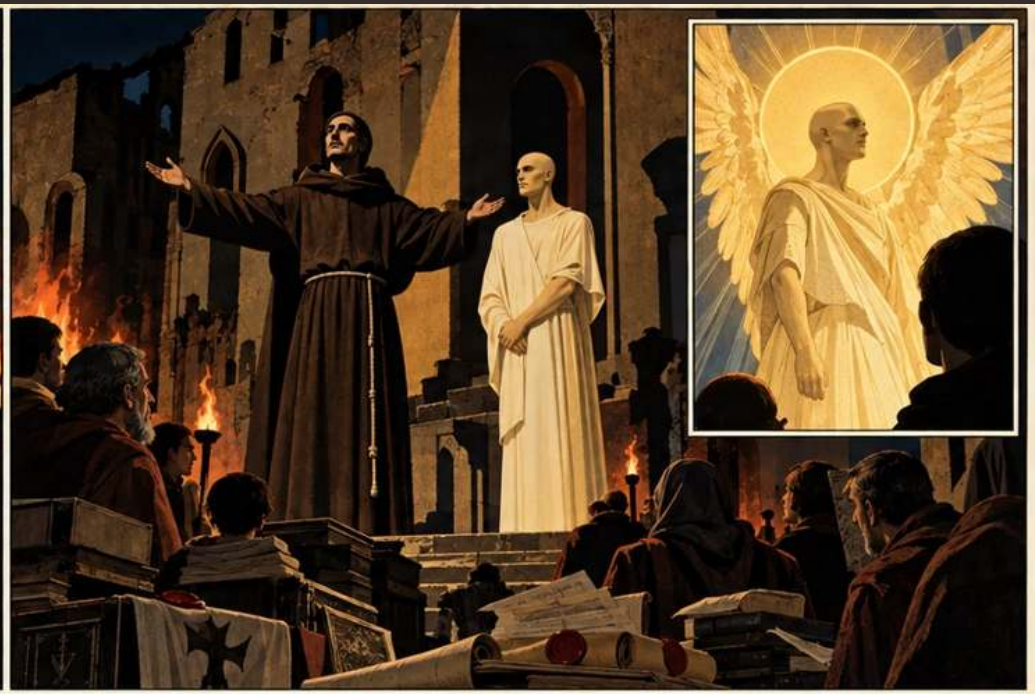
Nobis Krug

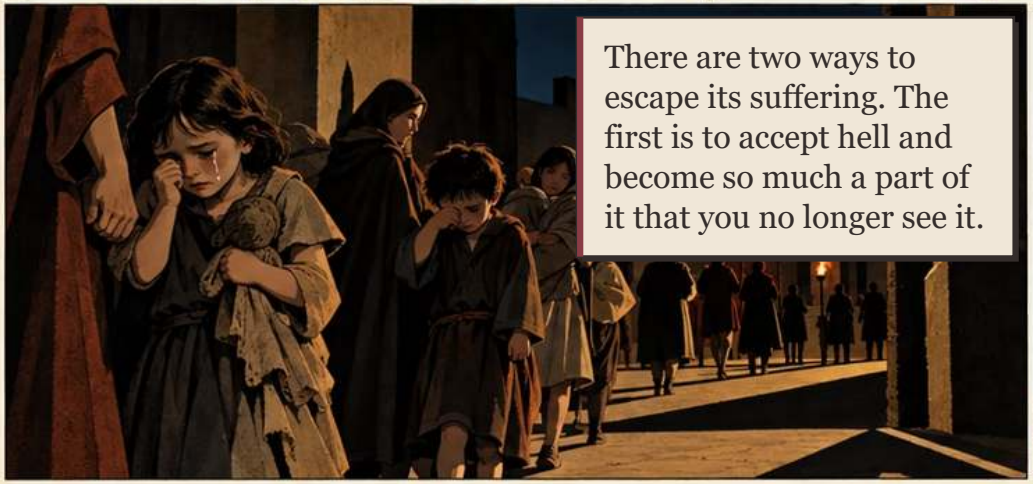

Some say the name is a denial of God; others say the opposite: the new God.
The medieval equivalent of a bar for assassins.
This man is the only guide we have.

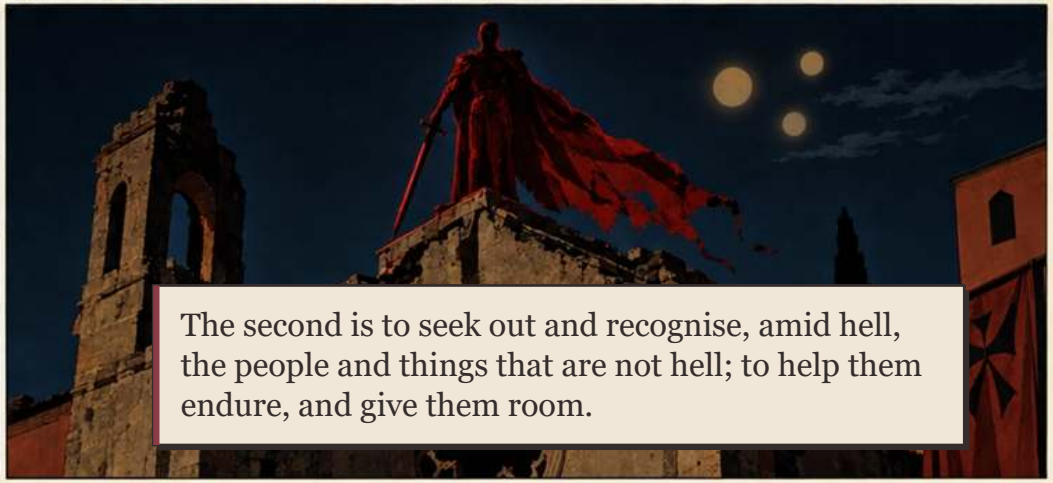
The Hell of the Living











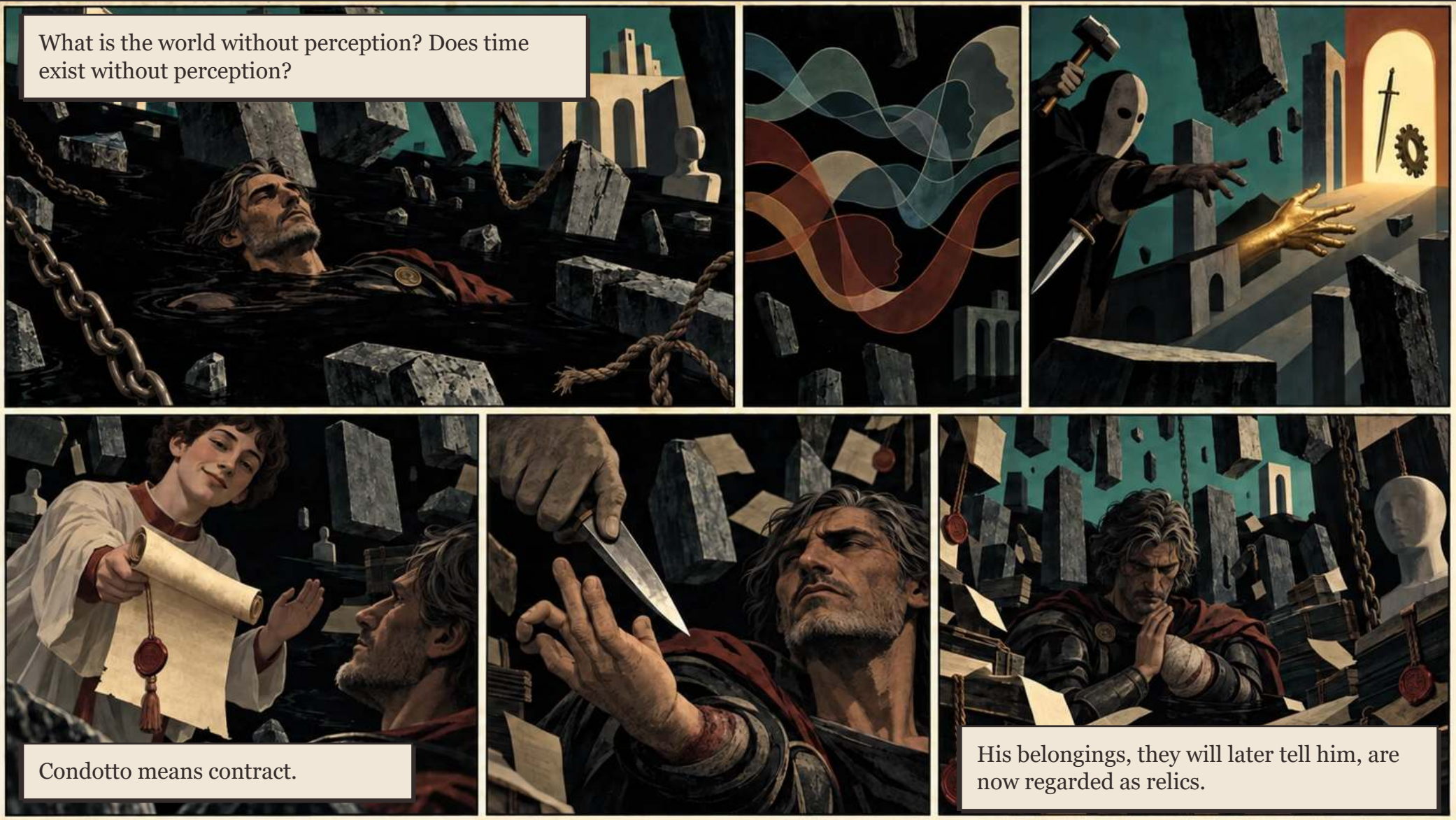
The Assassination Attempt



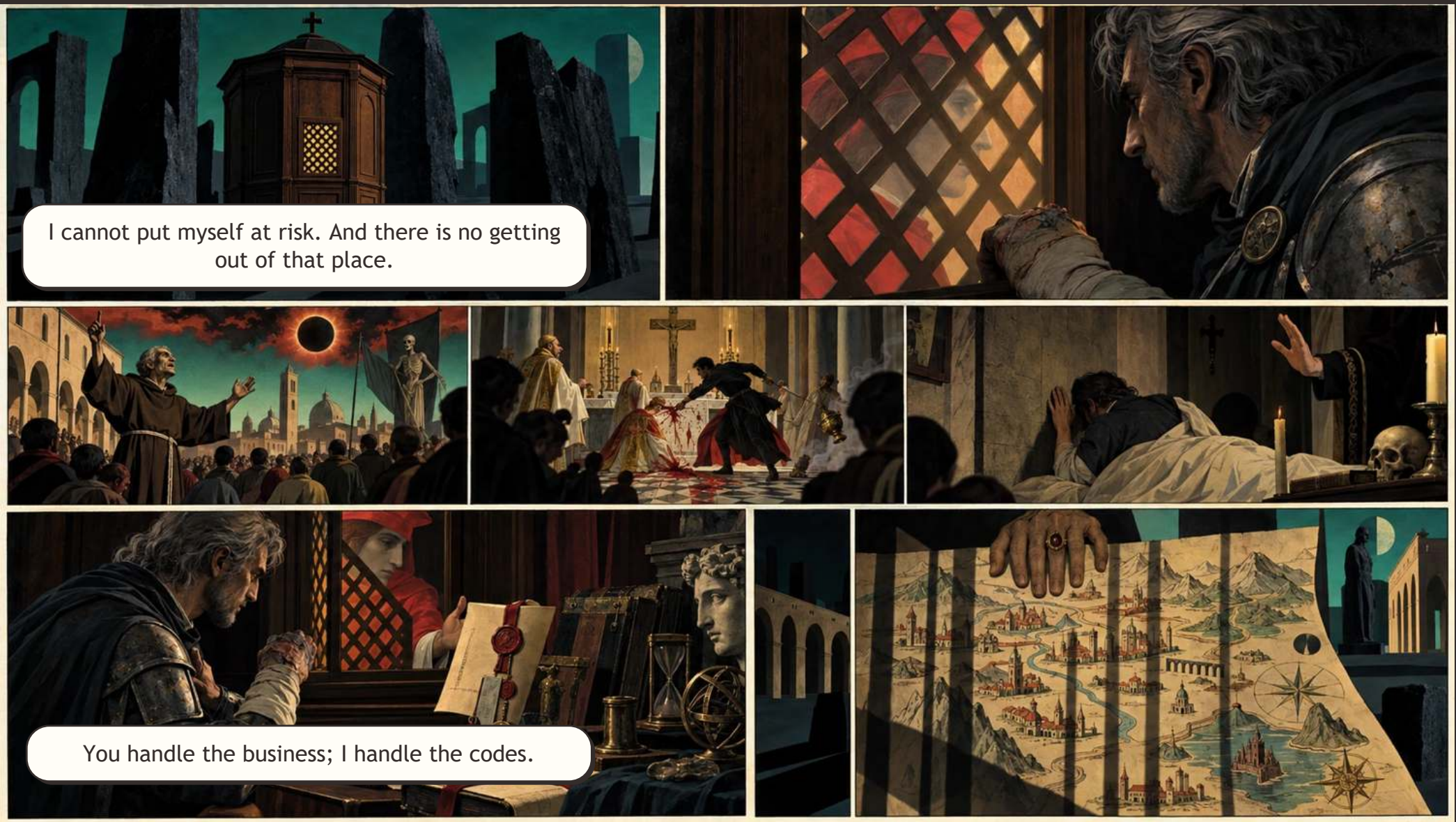
The Bitter Rose



The Condotto



Lorenzo's Confessional

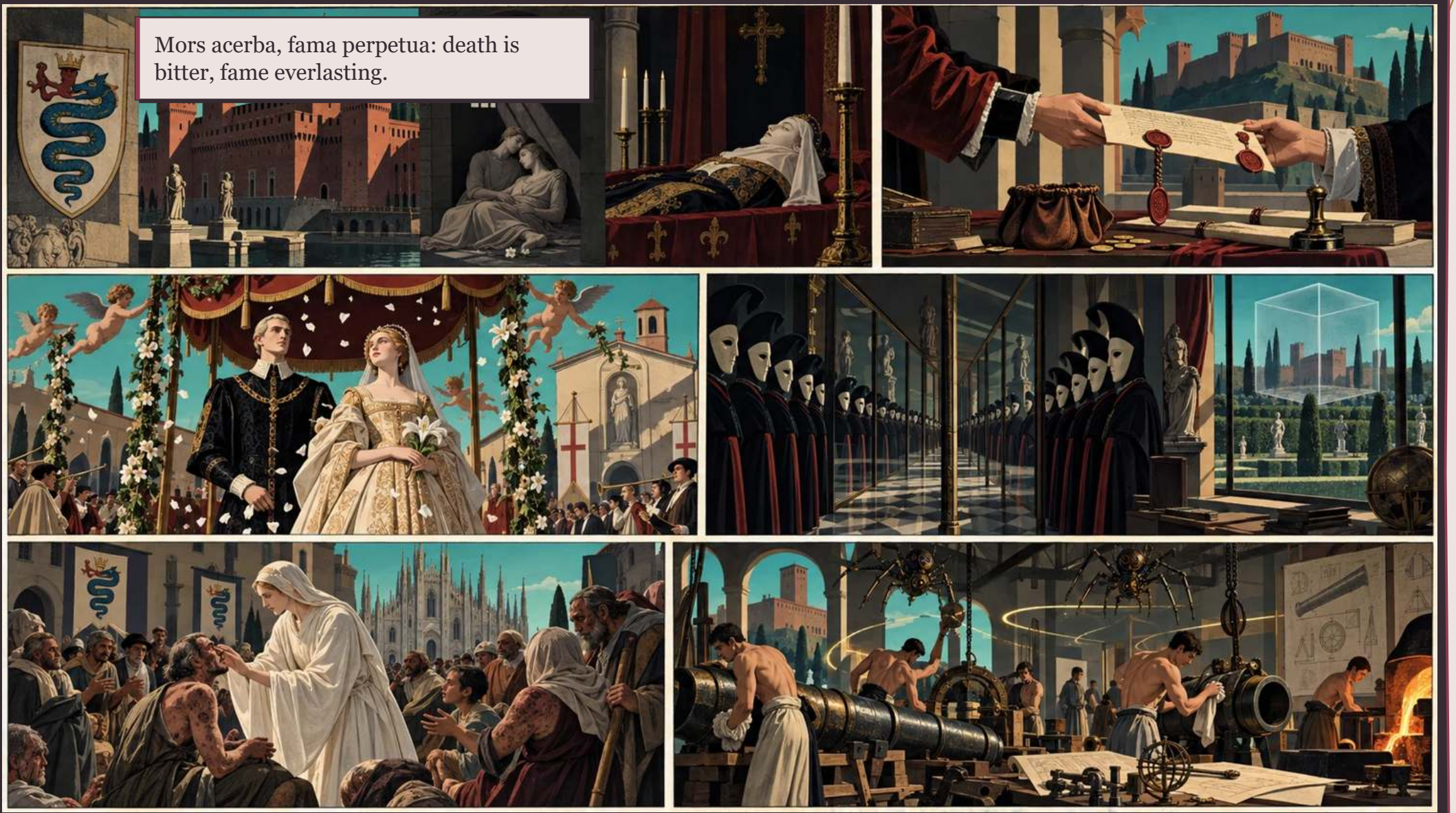


"Money can be recovered," Luca said. "Things can be recovered."

The Melania Card



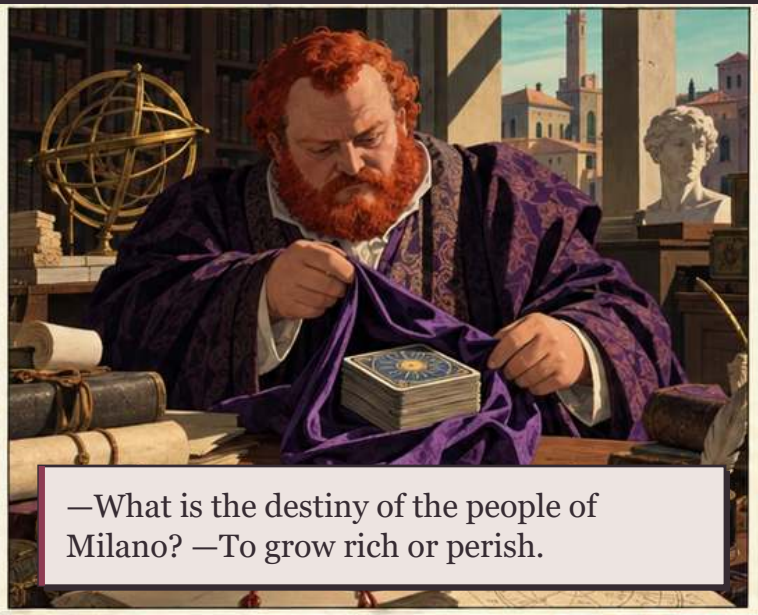
Imola


Mors acerba, fama perpetua: death is bitter, fame everlasting.
Can a vampire have children?
Some people's noses were falling off: "the French disease is coming".

The Deck of Triumphs



Judgement is the way out of cyclical time.



—What is the destiny of the people of Milano? —To grow rich or perish.





The other three were left with the crown, the sceptre and the scales.



War in the Cage







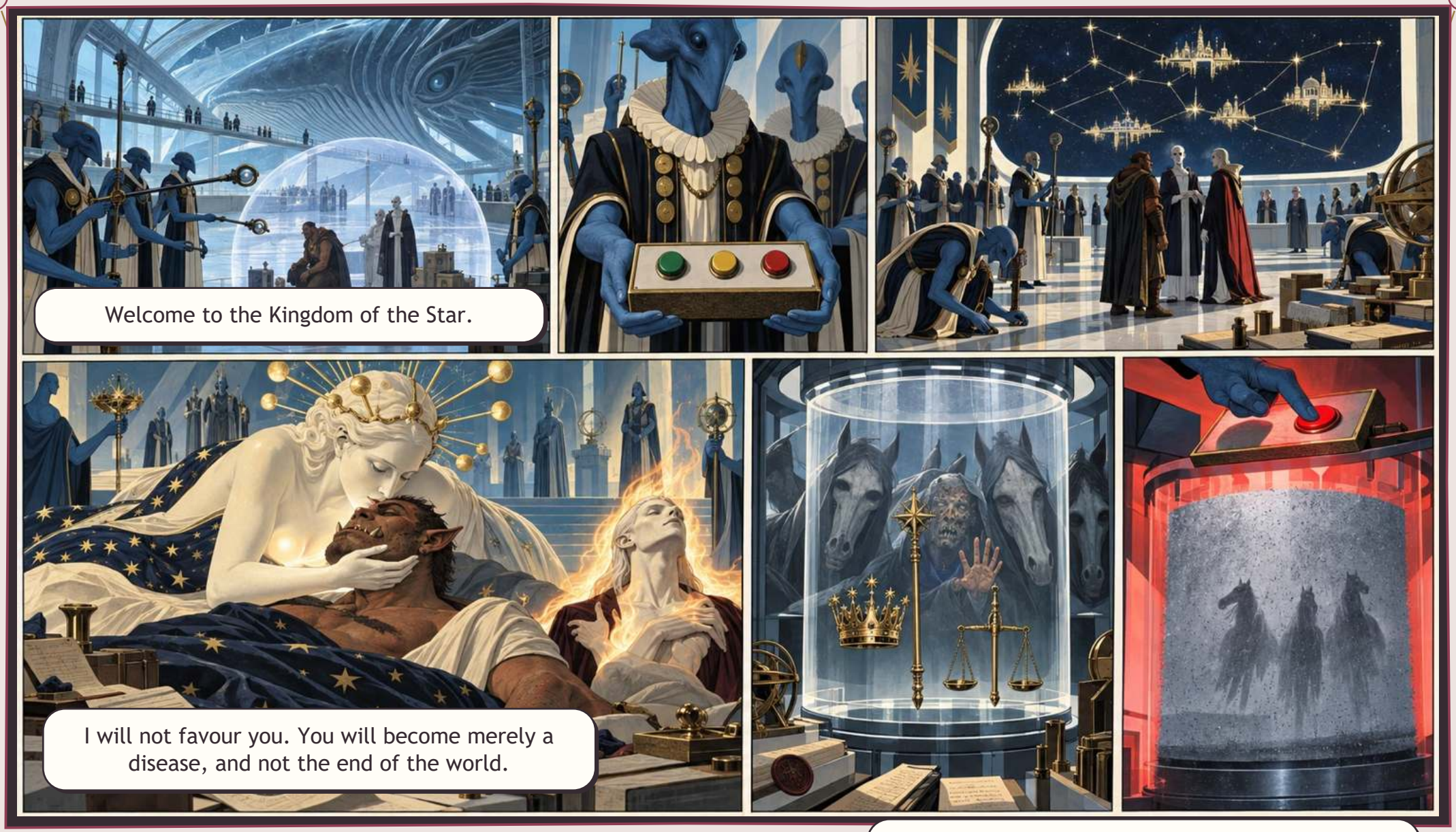




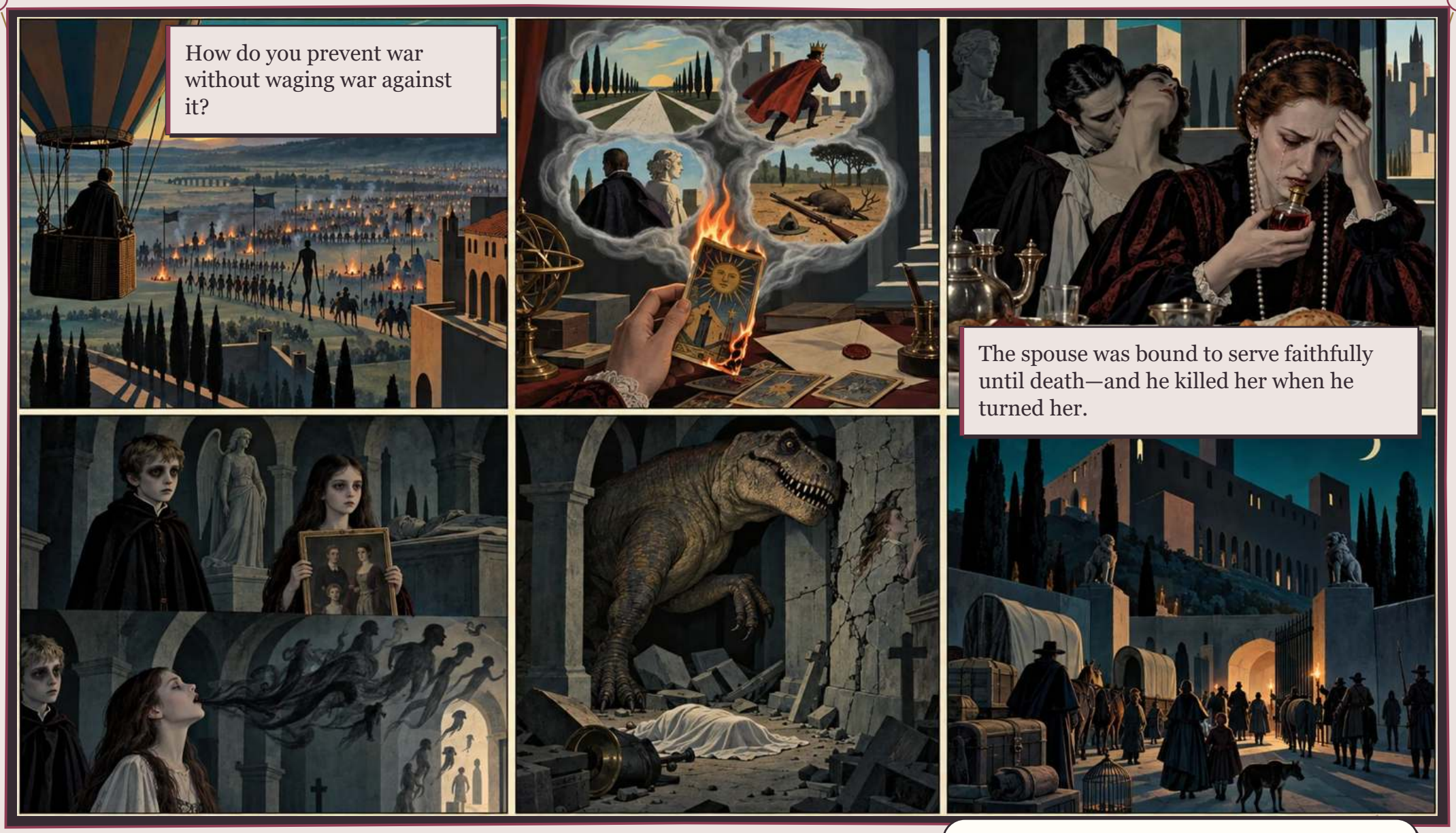
If you keep control of this castle, we will spare this stronghold.

The Apocalypse is in Italy.

The Kingdom of the Star



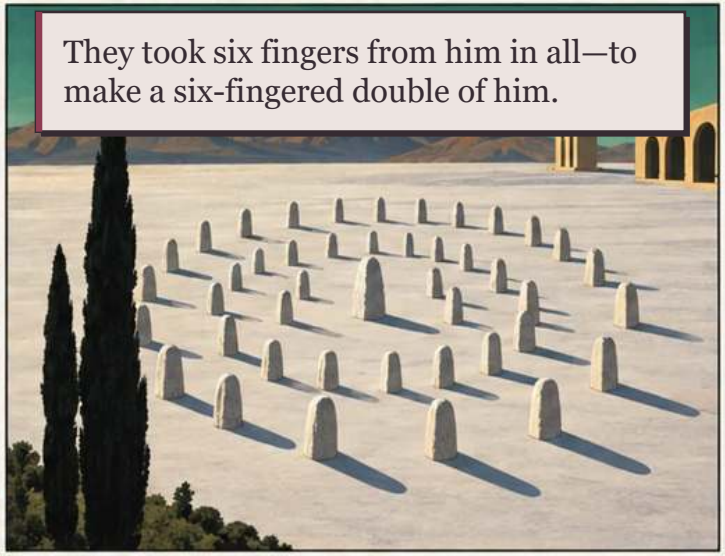
Caterina's Wrath



Luca's Rescue



They took six fingers from him in all—to make a six-fingered double of him.







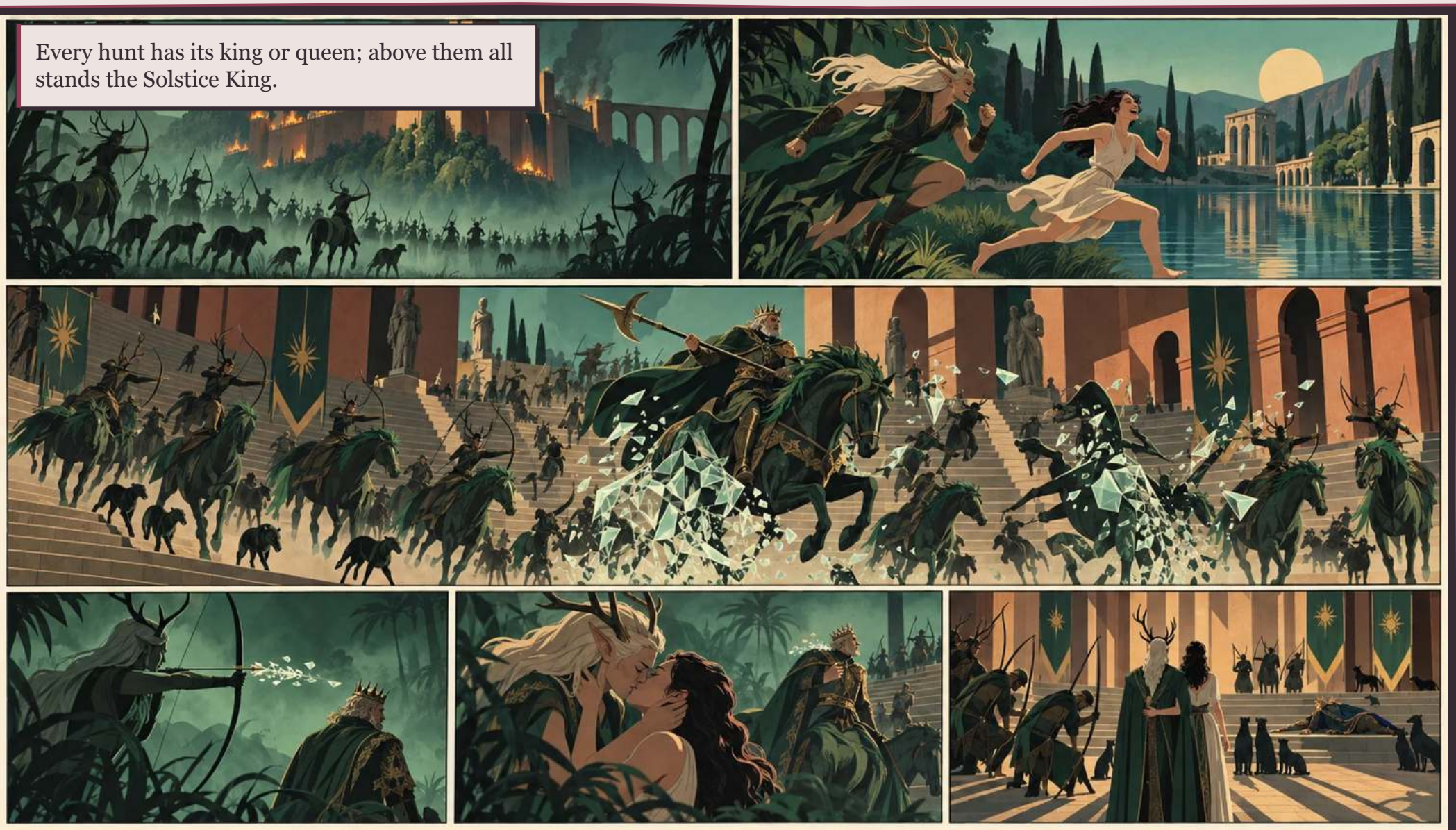
“Why do they hurt him?” “Because they hate him.”





You can get in here, but you cannot get out.

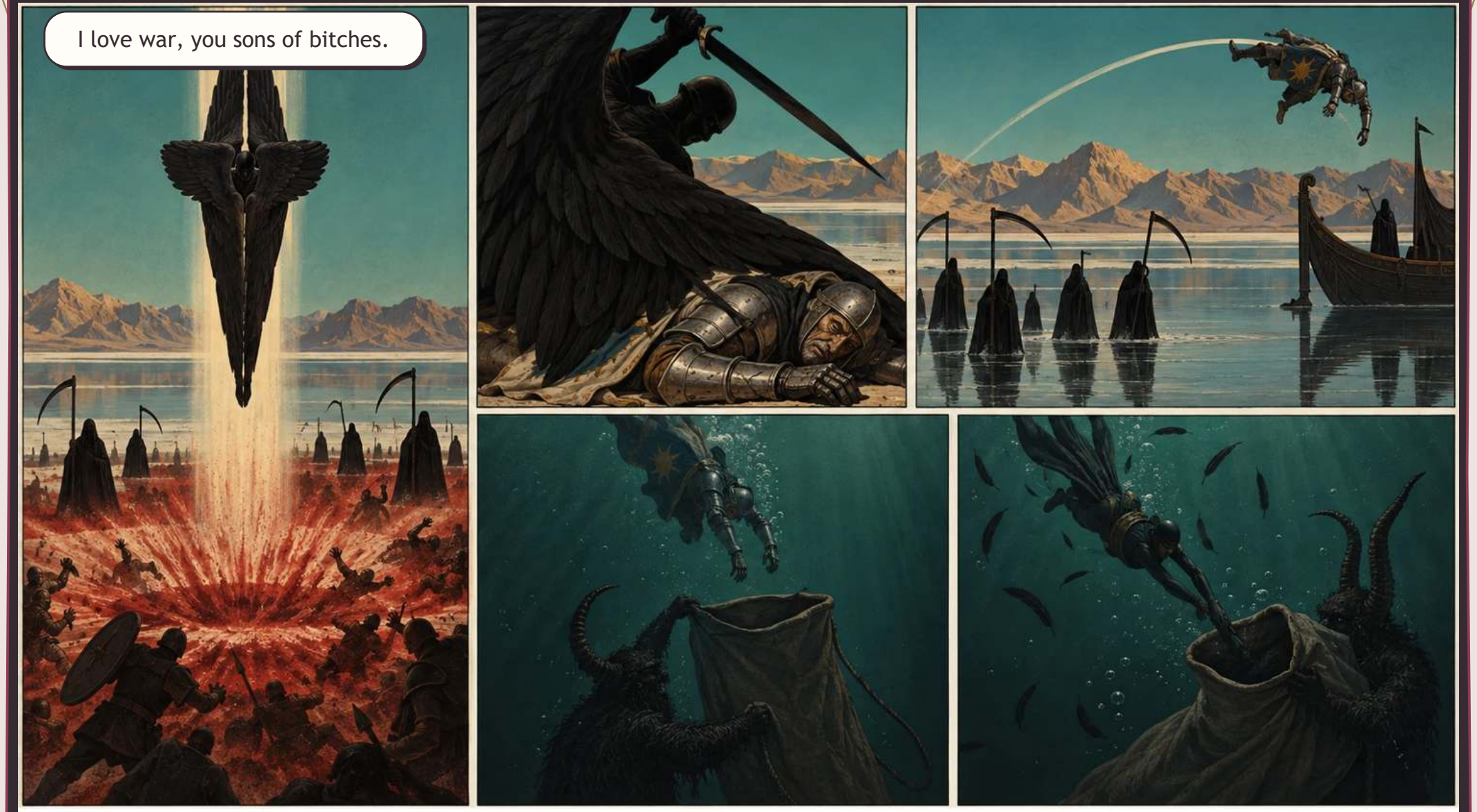
The Wedding Hunt



Krampus and Cato



Abaddon's Fall



His sword is not for unbelievers. It is there to show the faithful that even faith is not enough.

It was no gesture of contempt. It was a play.

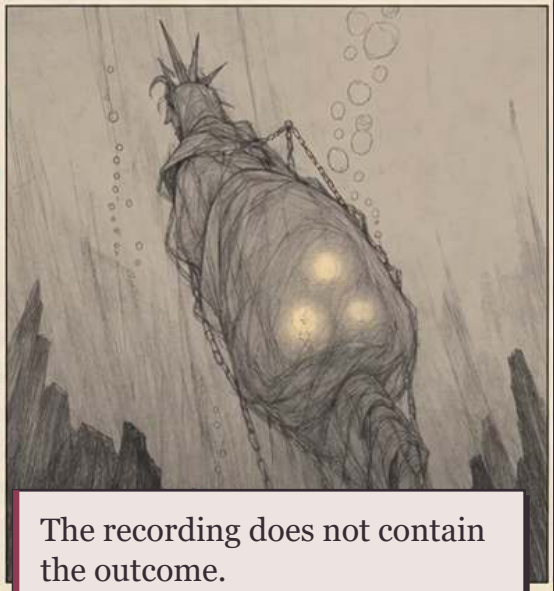
Inside the Sack











The Exarchs' Four Thrones

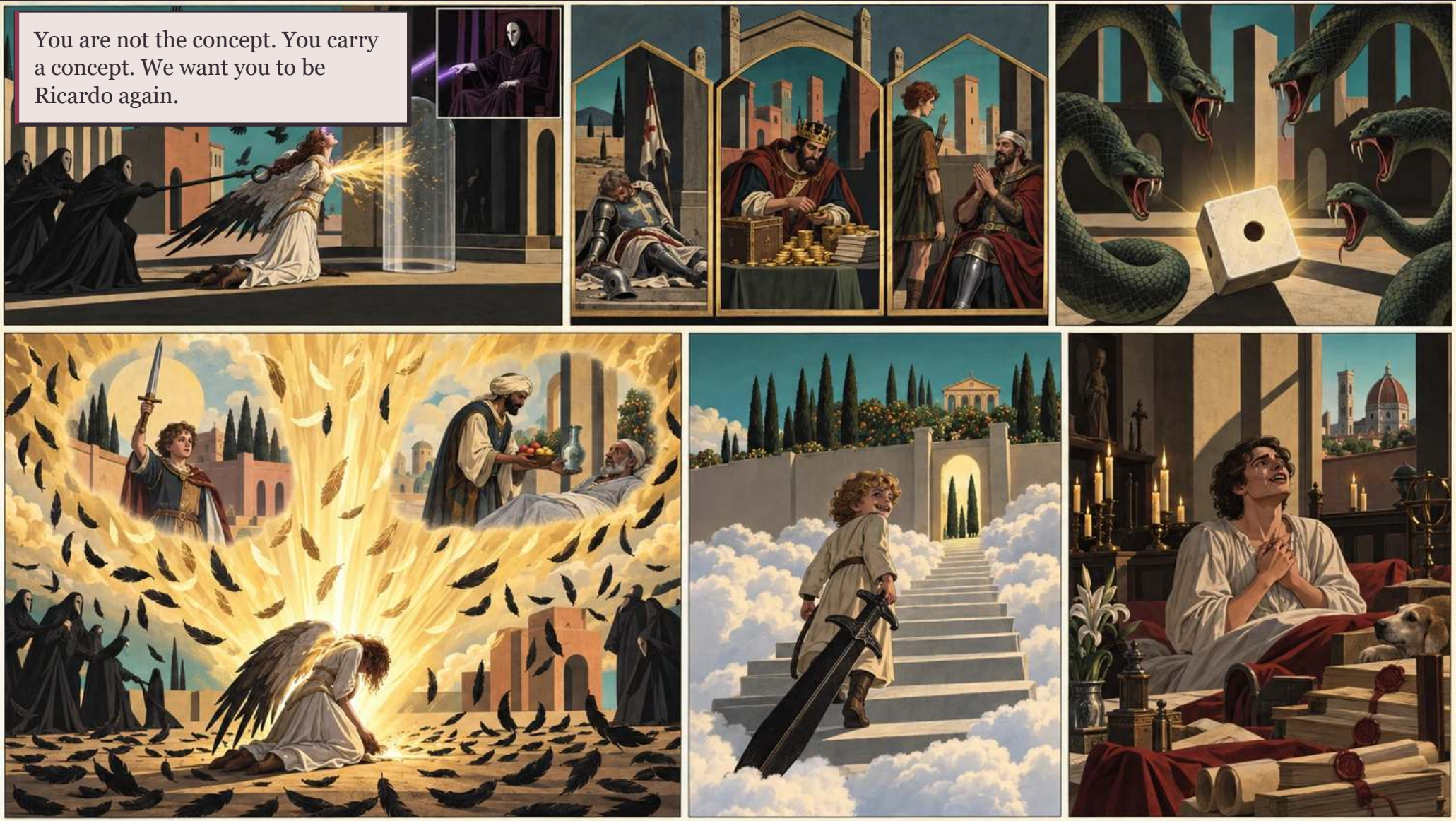


Ancient, terrible figures had sat upon those thrones. A council of exarchs had even decided the extinction of the cosmos there.

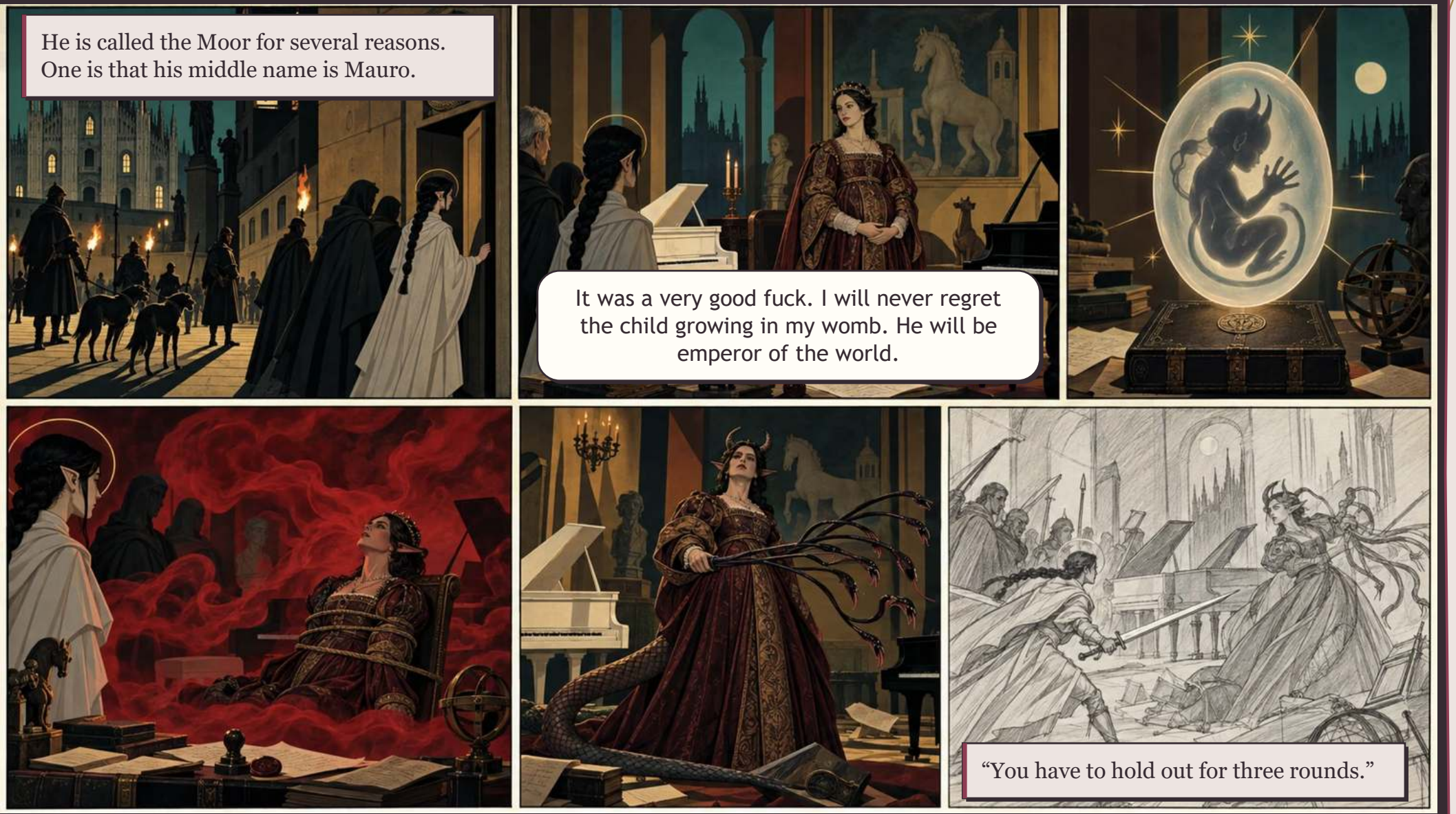
Go on, set this son of a bitch free, if you want the artefacts that badly.

While they were inside, more than two years passed in the world.

War Repents


You are not the concept. You carry a concept. We want you to be Ricardo again.
The sword can only be destroyed through sublimation: displayed in an empty, walled garden atop a mountain in the sky, carried there by an elevated and repentant fiend.
I repent!

The Wish Trap



The Bersabea Card



Bersabea is mistaken about what both cities are made of.

A city that ceases to be grasping, calculating and self-serving only when it defecates.

The key was to let go.

The Theocratic Republic



The war vanished. The French king died after a game of tennis: he struck his head on a lintel. Caterina won the match.











It is the rebirth of the gods, and that rebirth is Egyptian. That is what is in Rome.

“Who do you really want to bring down?”
“Barbatos.”

Sunday Mass



To prove it, I renounce my family name.

The demon failed its saving throw by one point.

When you go to the heavens, look for Alfredito. He needs guidance.

They have changed history.

The Vacant Seat of War











You are only a Horseman when the other Horsemen recognise you. And there is a fifth: something behind them that can also appoint one.

The sword went up. They will probably bring its bearer down—and the sword will begin its ascent again.

Not even thousands of years will stop it from being what it is.

Daemon Customs



The dead god's skull cannot pass. An artefact like that could buy the jury.

Later, they crossed on the carpet. As it passed the mountain's boundary, it stopped flying.

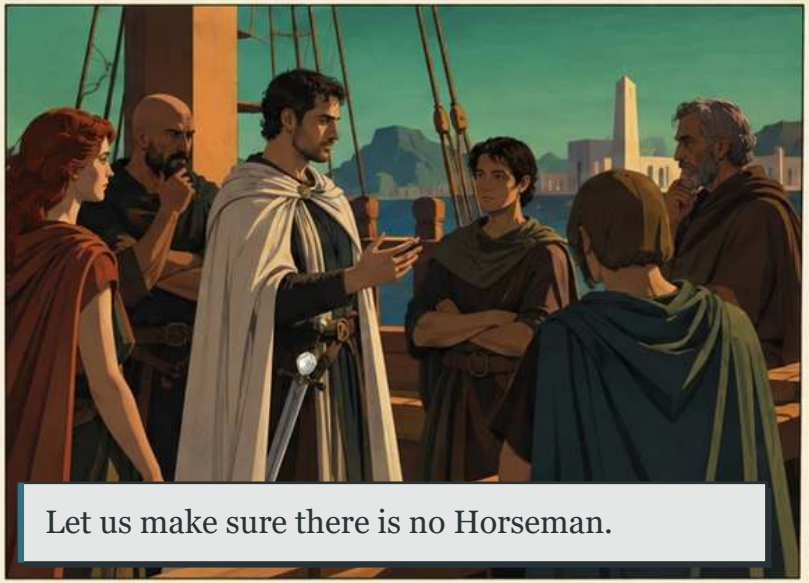
The Penitent of Wrath



The Reunion



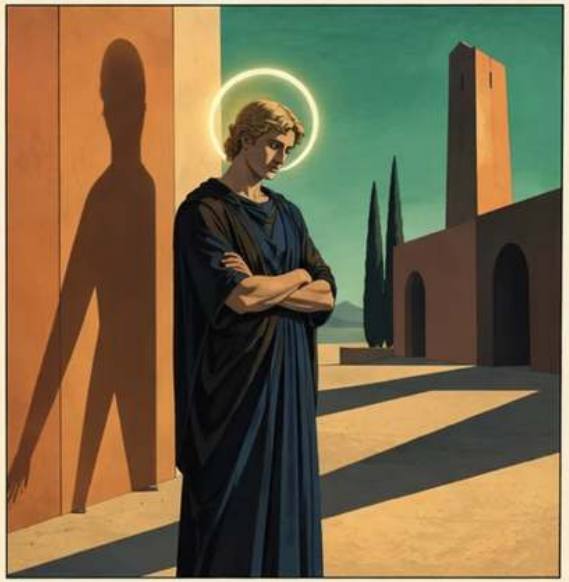




Let us make sure there is no Horseman.



The mountain forgives what the world will not.



Neither of them looked at the shadow.

The Fall of the Web of Religion



“Now We Are the Ones Who Make Reality”



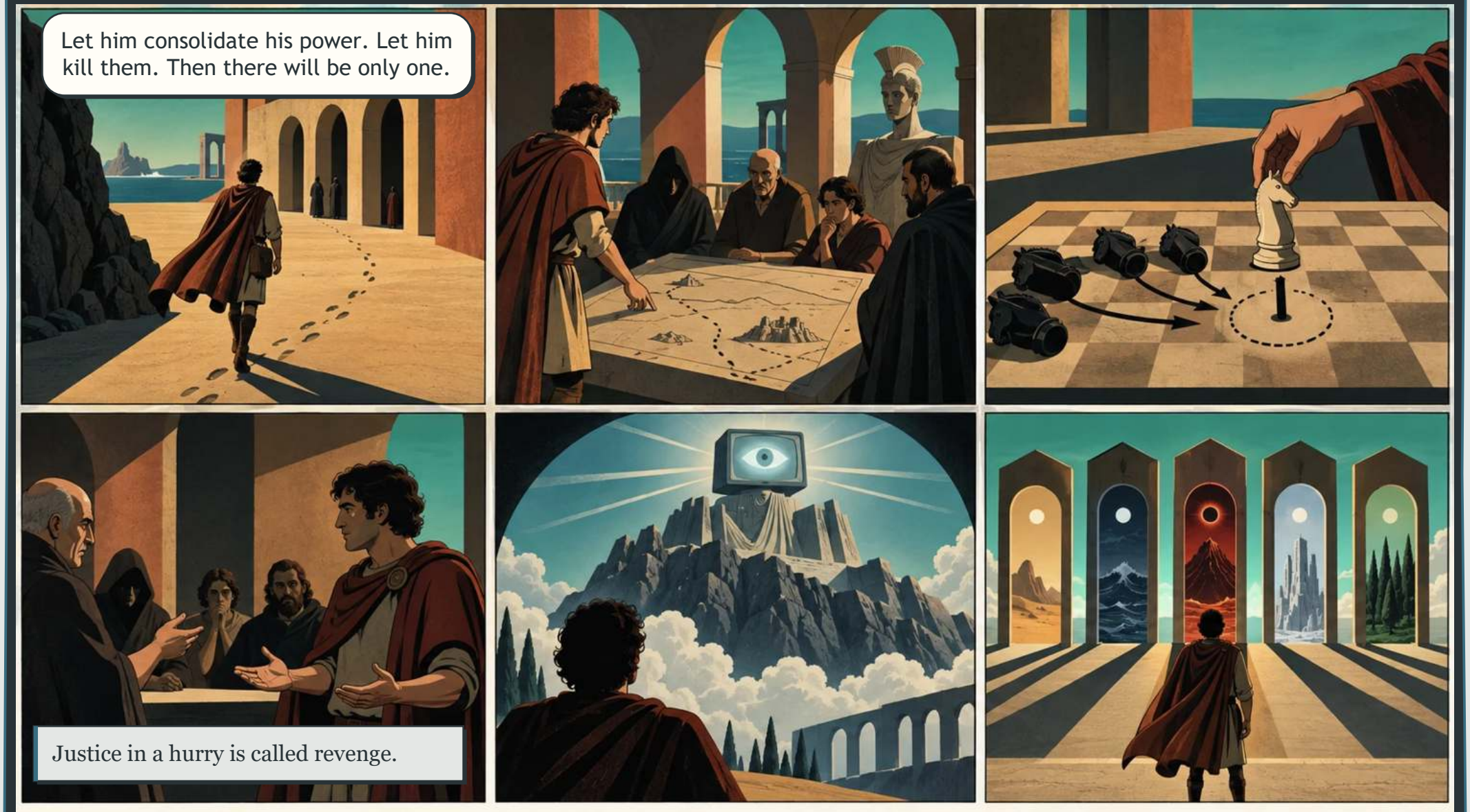
Campino's Death ★



Campino's Letter



Luca's Plan

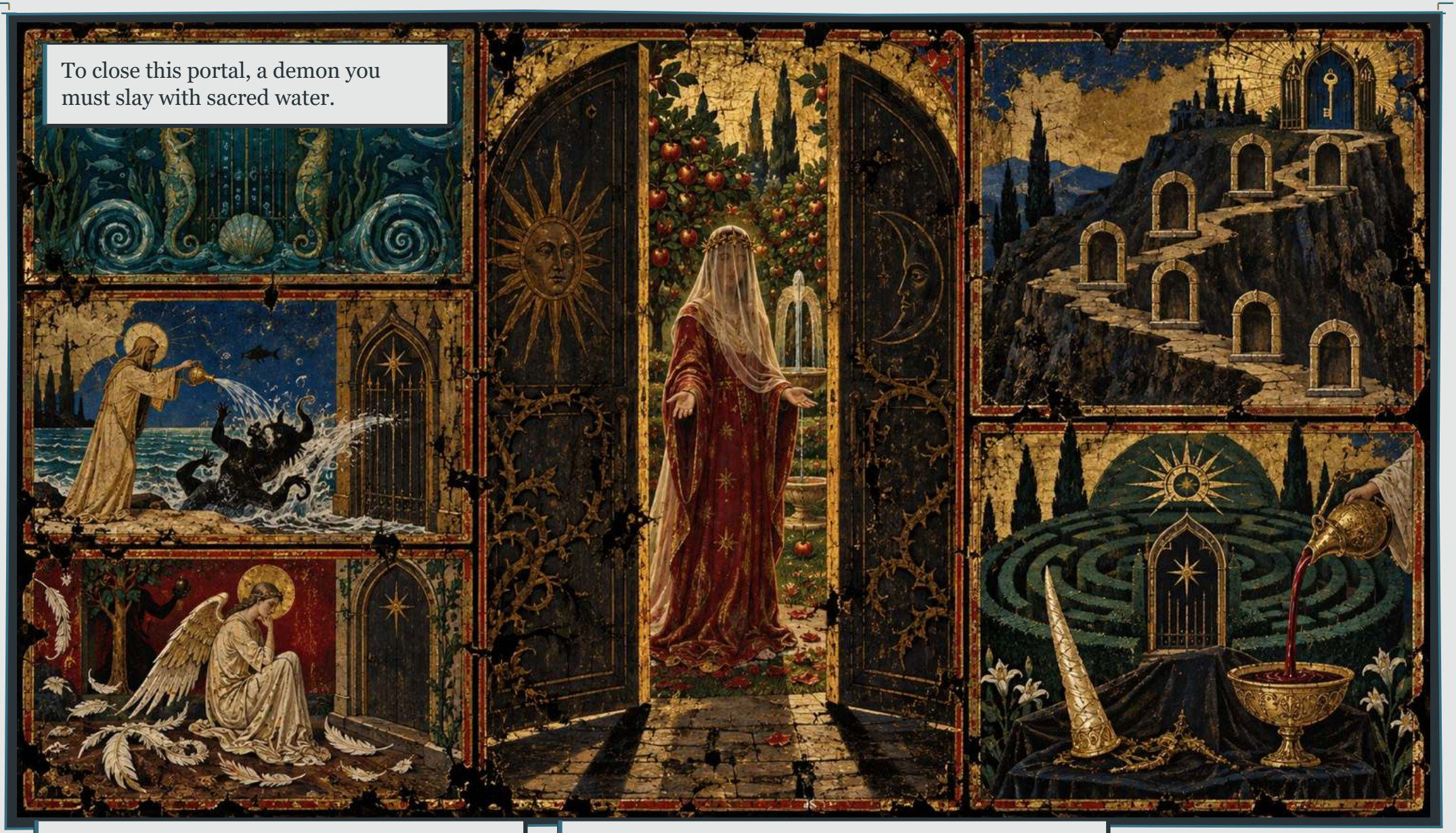


The television god says nothing. He shows. And what he shows is enough.

The Fountain of Wisdom



The Chants of the Five Portals



Failure at the First Portal



D-Day

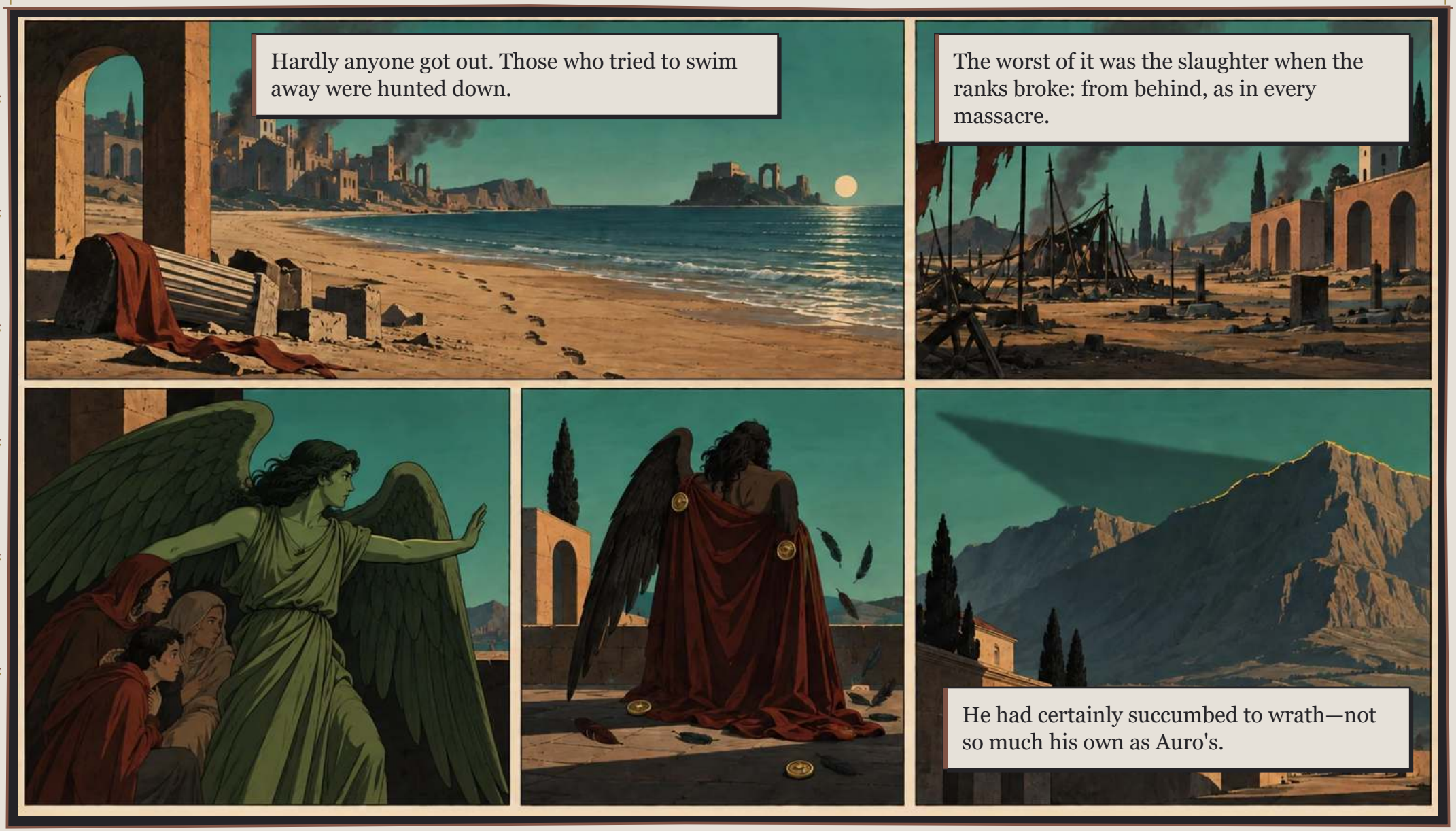


Fish leapt dead into the air, as though the invaders had brought the exterminating angel with them.

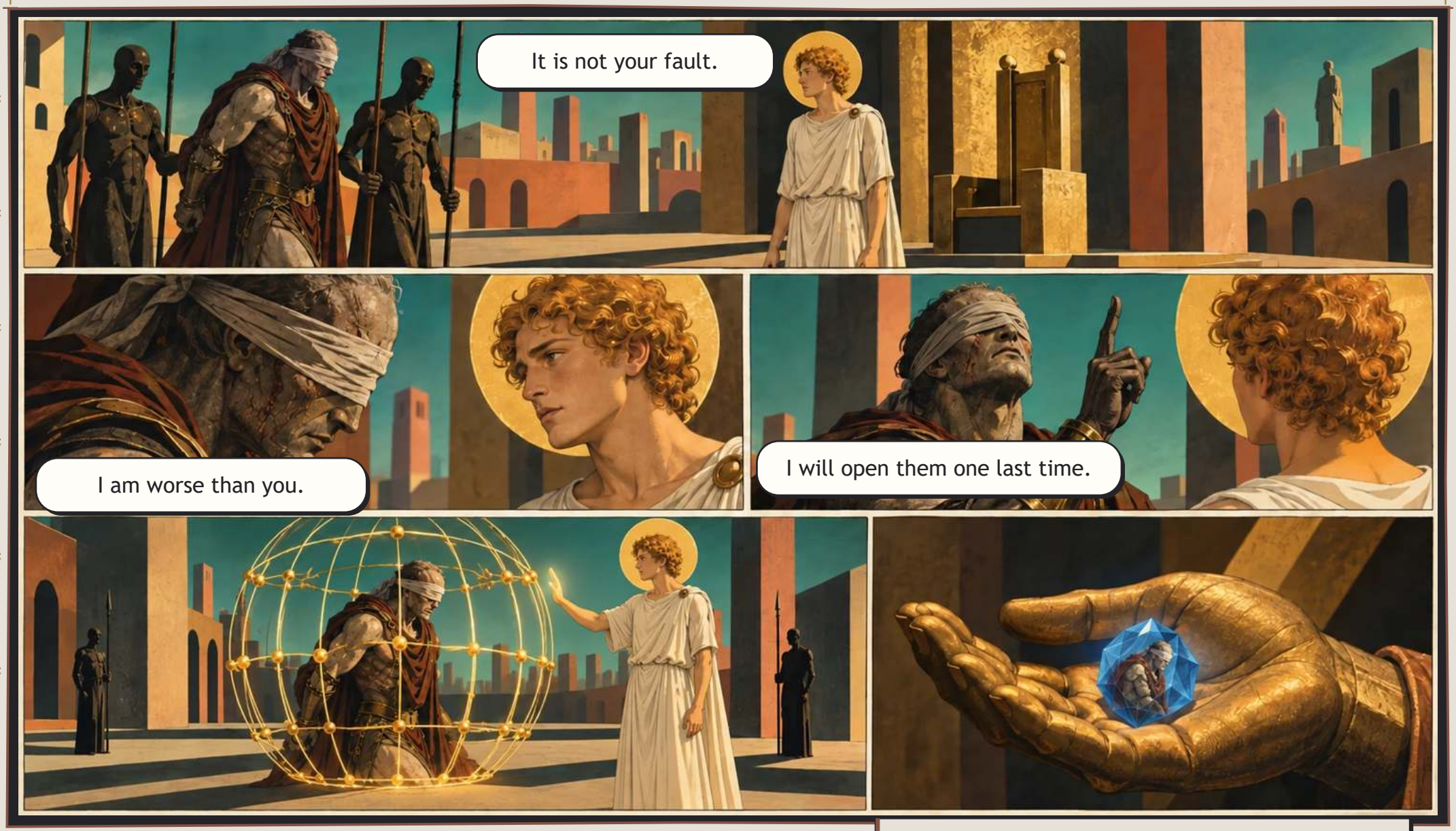
Redeem yourself. I love you.

The recording cuts off in the midst of battle. The outcome is known from the following day.

The Massacre (Ellipsis)

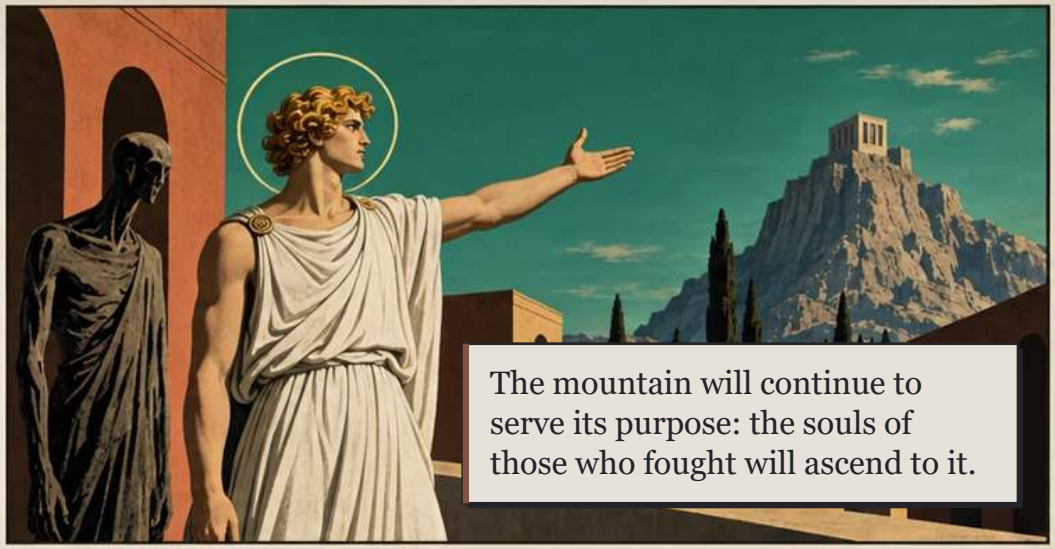


The Angel's Gem



Auro neither killed him nor put him to sleep.

The Horseman's Valhalla

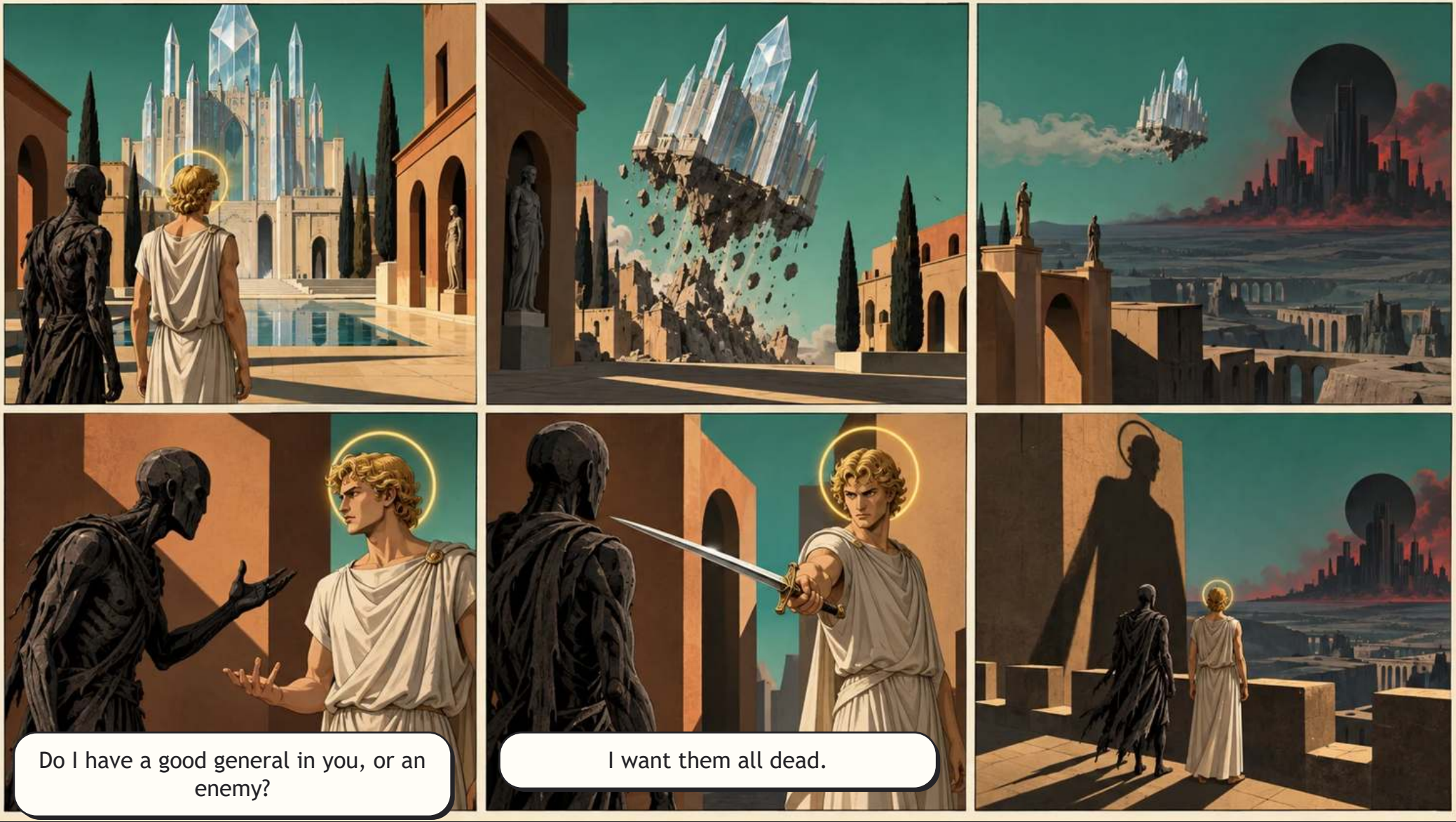






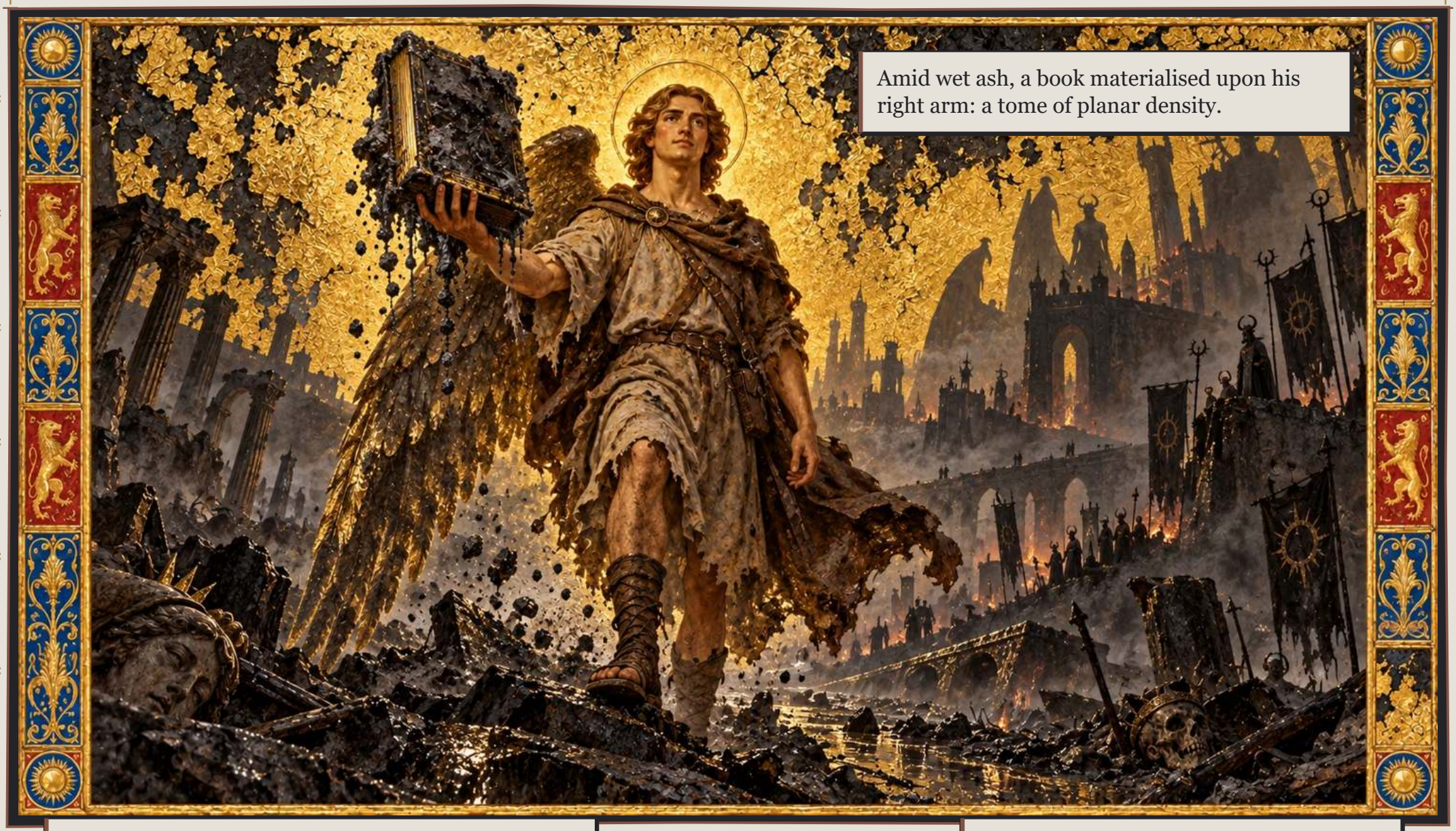


The Uprooted Tooth



This is not the first time the castle has travelled. It has a bad habit of ending up on the lower planes. Perhaps this is its first journey to Abaddon.

The Book upon the Wing



Amid wet ash, a book materialised upon his right arm: a tome of planar density.

The writings describing what lies inside this terrible book have yet to be exchanged.

Everything they said came to pass.

What Auro Left Behind



The Megacampaign Record











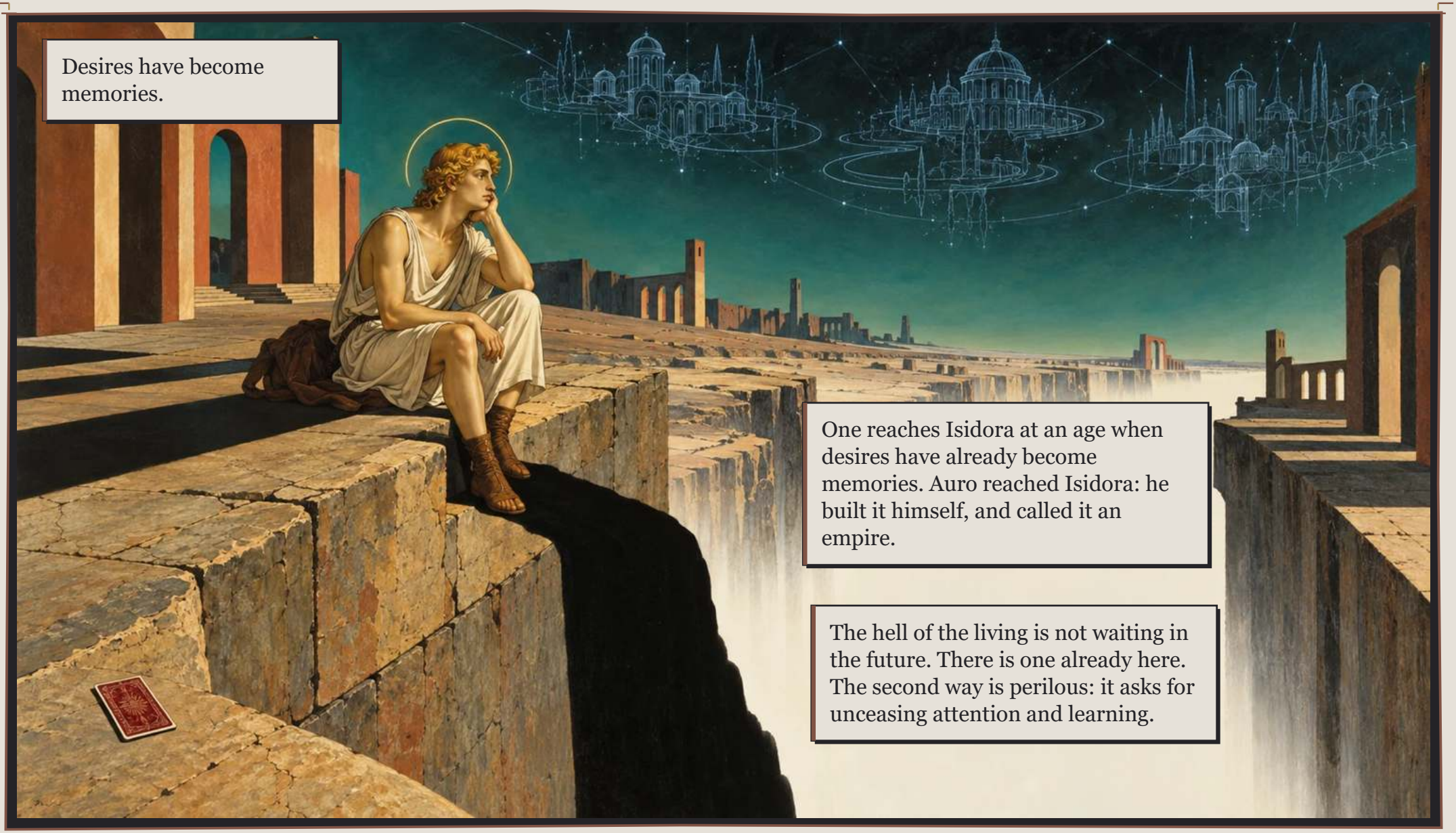
“Did the campaign end?” “No. It is the world being explored. Many things are only becoming clear now.”

Time is not the only thing that exists.

The Erebo Plan



The Low Wall of Abaddon





INVISIBLE CITIES

An adaptation of the ATEM role-playing campaign.

Original campaign and archive: Marcos Cabobianco and the participating players.

English adaptation, lettering and page design assisted by AI; original AI illustrations retained.

The story preserves recorded gaps. The final coda is editorial, not a newly played ending.

Sources, translation notes and known visual discrepancies are available in the annotated reader.