

BASED ON THE BESTSELLING VIDEO GAME



Aodhan comes from a lineage that includes some of Azeroth's most heroic paladins and warriors, but the whip-smart young man is not built for physical combat. He's thin, bookish, and he desperately wants to be a mage. After his controlling father forbids him to practice magic, Aodhan flees to study the arcane arts in the city of Dalaran.

Yet Aodhan's dream of becoming a powerful spellcaster is violently interrupted when a host of blue dragons lays siege to Dalaran. Although far from home, the young mage finds help from a relative who has been close by all along: Crevan, his magic-wielding uncle. The cunning older mage, after escaping from Dalaran's prison, takes the impressionable Aodhan under his wing, and together they work to prevent the city's destruction. But there is a darker secret behind Dalaran's dire situation, and Aodhan might be the only one who can end the schemes that threaten the city, becoming the hero his family never thought he could be.

Written by acclaimed author Richard A. Knaak (*World of Warcraft: Shadow Wing*) and drawn by fan favorite Ryo Kawakami (*Warcraft: Legends*), *World of Warcraft: Mage* is an action-packed tale of temptation, power, and heroics that will leave World of Warcraft fans spellbound!

U.S.A. \$12.95 FANTASY

ISBN-13: 978-1-945683-62-6

5 1295



781945 683626

For more great Blizzard merchandise, visit:



GEAR.BLIZZARD.COM



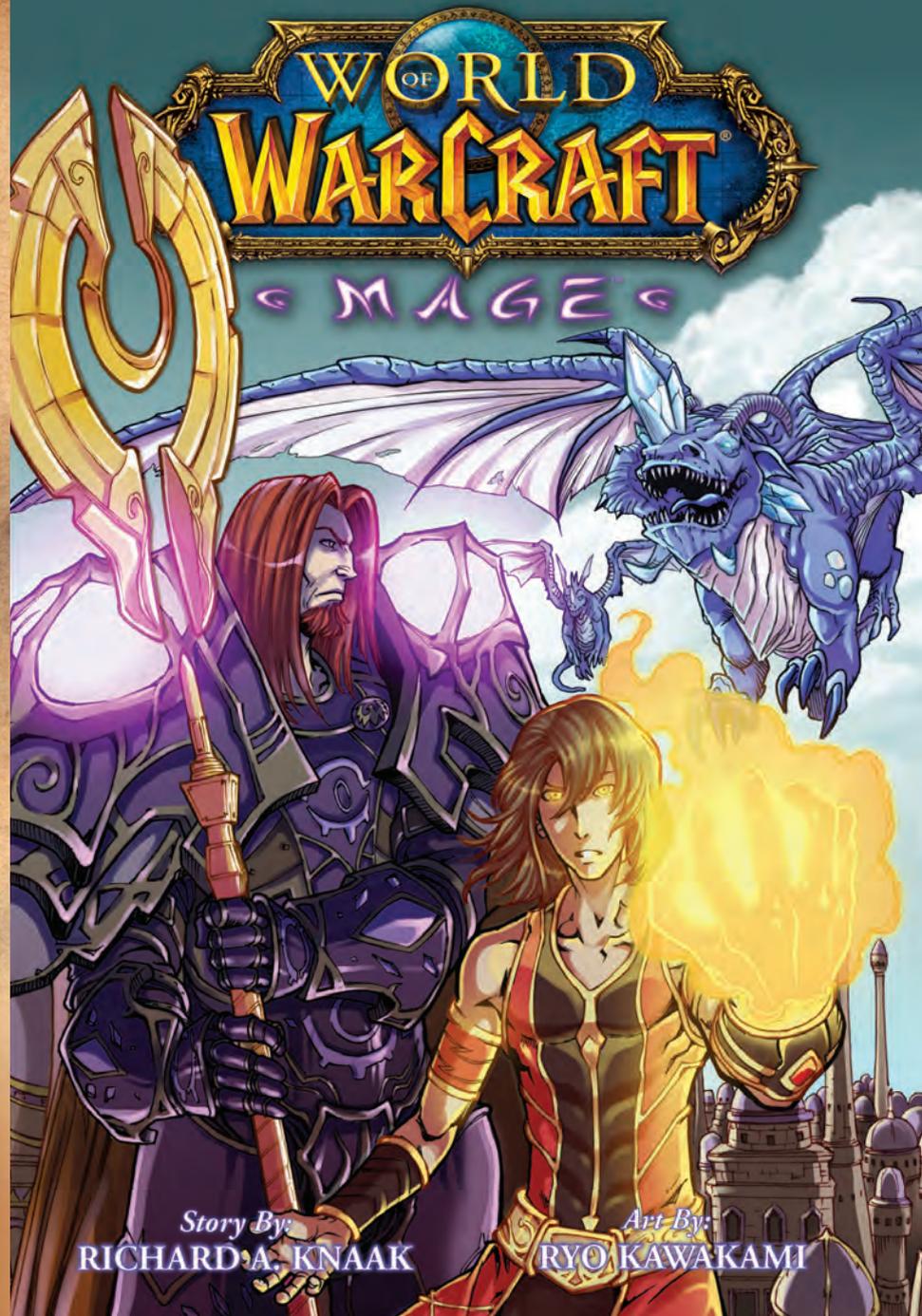
© 2020 Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.
PRINTED IN CHINA

BLIZZARD
ENTERTAINMENT

WORLD
WARCRAFT

MAGE

RICHARD A. KNAAK • RYO KAWAKAMI





World Of Warcraft: Mage

Story by: Richard A. Knaak

Art by: Ryo Kawakami

Interior Designs, Retouch & Lettering - Michael Paolilli
Creative Consultant - Michael Paolilli
Cover Designer - Louis Csontos
Cover Artist - Rocio Zucchi

Editors - Troy Lewter & Paul Morrissey
Print Production Manager - Lucas Rivera
Managing Editor - Vy Nguyen
Senior Designer - Louis Csontos
Art Director - Al-Insan Lashley
Director of Sales and Manufacturing - Allyson De Simone
Associate Publisher - Marco F. Pavia
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
C.E.O. and Chief Creative Officer - Stu Levy

BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT

Senior Vice President,
Story and Franchise Development - Lydia Bottegoni
Director, Creative Development - David Seeholzer
Lead Editor, Publishing - Paul Morrissey
Senior Editor - Cate Gary
Copy Editor - Allison Irons
Producer - Brianne M Loftis
Vice President, Global Consumer Products - Matt Beecher
Senior Manager, Global Licensing - Byron Parnell
Special Thanks - Sean Copeland, Evelyn Fredericksen,
Phillip Hillenbrand, Christi Kugler,
Alix Nicholaeff, Justin Parker



© 2020 Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. Warcraft, World of Warcraft and Blizzard Entertainment are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., in the U.S. and/or other countries. All other trademarks referenced herein are the properties of their respective owners.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 978-1-945683-62-6

First TOKYOPOP printing: June 2010.
First Blizzard Books printing: March 2020.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China



STORY BY
RICHARD A. KNAAK

ART BY
RYO KAWAKAMI



WORLD OF WARCRAFT

IMAGES

CHAPTER ONE 5

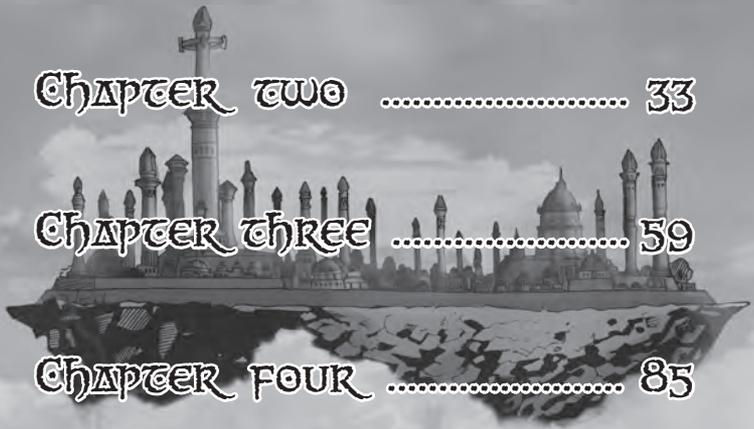
CHAPTER TWO 33

CHAPTER THREE 59

CHAPTER FOUR 85

CHAPTER FIVE 111

CHAPTER SIX 137



CHAPTER ONE

CITY IN THE SKY





There were few sights that could match the sinister glory of Chill Northrend...

...but the vast, flying city of Dalakan, realm of the magi, was surely one of them.

The spellcasters had managed the unbelievable, raising up their home from its literal roots in an impressive feat that had taken the combined efforts of all residing within its great walls.



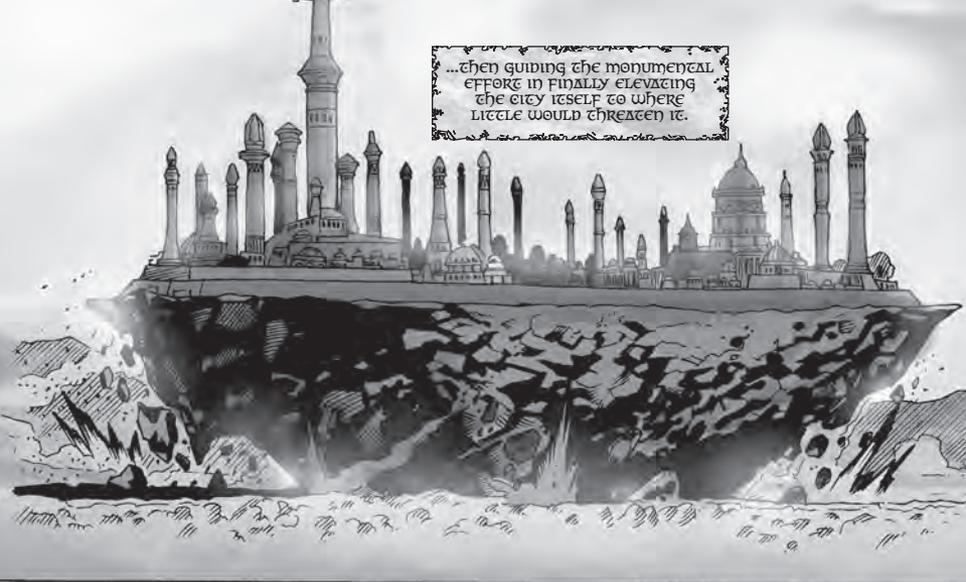
It was a feat made more impressive by the fact that first they had been forced to rebuild Dalaran...



It fell to the once-reviled mage, Rhonin, to lead his kind back from the brink, and to begin quickly the restoration of Dalaran.



And it was Rhonin who led the magi in recreating and enhancing Dalaran's defenses...



...then guiding the monumental effort in finally elevating the city itself to where little would threaten it.

Or so the magi thought...



BE READY... I SENSE SOMETHING... WE'RE NOT ALONE HERE...

The magic of Dalaran was needed in cold Northrend to face a sinister threat... the dread undead forces of the Lich King.



But though the magi intended to do what they could for that struggle, they had a desperate fight of their own.



The Lord of magic—the great Dragon Aspect Malygos—had deemed all those not under his reign unfit to wield the arcane arts.



And Dalaran, most of all, represented defiance to the Blue Dragon's decree.



THEY'VE COME...

NEARLY ALL OF THOSE TRAINED IN THE CALLING HAD BEEN GIVEN SOME TASH, SOME ROLE, IN THE STRUGGLE AHEAD...

NEARLY ALL...

AODHAN! MAINTAIN YOUR CONCENTRATION AND DO NOT RUSH!

PATIENCE IS ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF SUCCESSFUL CONJURING! CAST THE PRESENCE OF MIND SPELL FIRST, THEN THE PYROBLAST... AND FOCUS!



YES, MASTER SIMEON...



KRAK!

THIS TIME I'LL GET IT!



FWZZZT



AAAAH!

BAM

BAM

BAM

BAM



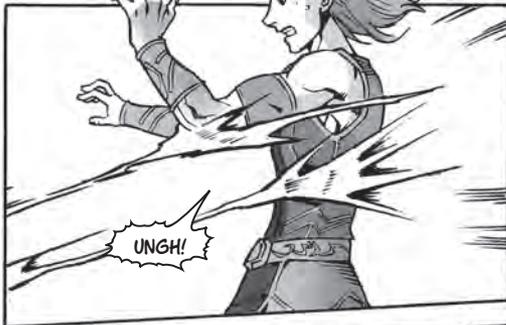
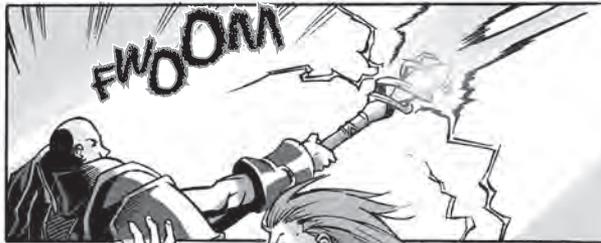
FWOOOSH



YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED AT ALL TIMES, AODHAN!



I--I'M TRYING, MASTER SIMEON!



THAT'S NOT FAIR! YOU DON'T PUT ANY OF THE OTHERS THROUGH SO MUCH!

HE'S RIGHT, MASTER SIMEON! WHY IS HE--

SILENCE, BRON! THIS DOES NOT CONCERN ANY OF YOU! AODHAN, BATTLE OFFERS A THOUSAND TIMES MORE DISTRACTION, ALL OF THEM DEADLY...



YOU ARE TOO EAGER, AODHAN! UNTIL YOU LEARN TO CURB THAT EAGERNESS AND REPLACE IT WITH DEDICATION, YOU CANNOT ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

I MUST MARK THIS TEST AS A FAILURE. YOU COULD PROVE MORE DANGER THAN HELP TO YOUR BROTHER! THINK ABOUT THAT!



A FAILURE? BUT MY SKILLS ARE BETTER THAN ANYONE AT THIS LEVEL! WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO DO MORE?



WHEN MY UNCLE WAS TRAINING--

I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER ENOUGH, AODHAN! THE TEST IS A FAILURE...



YOU WILL GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO REDEEM YOURSELF WHEN--

MASTER SIMEON! THERE'S DANGER!

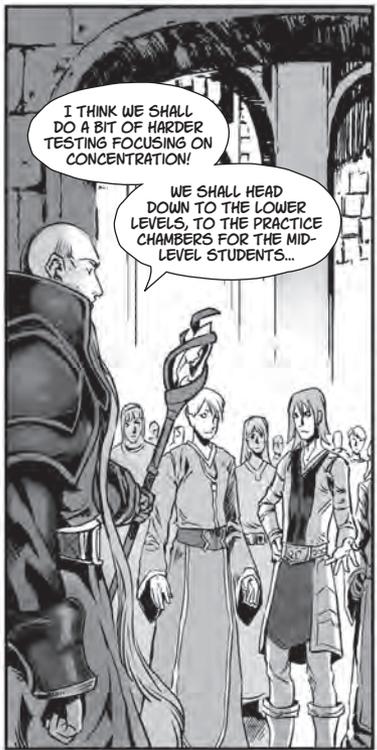


GUIDE YOUR STUDENTS INTO THE LOWER LEVELS AND TELL THEM IT'S FOR MORE INTENSIVE TESTING! THEY'LL BE SAFER THERE!

YES, ARCHMAGE RHONIN!

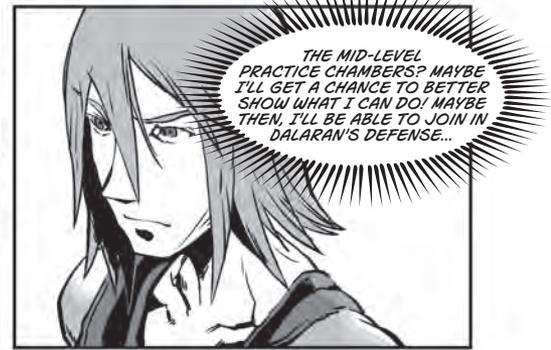


I CAN ALREADY SENSE THEIR SPELLS! BE READY TO THROW EVERYTHING YOU CAN! LET NO ONE SLACK!

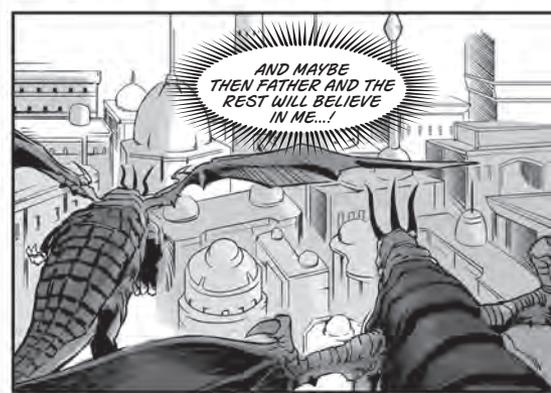


I THINK WE SHALL DO A BIT OF HARDER TESTING FOCUSING ON CONCENTRATION!

WE SHALL HEAD DOWN TO THE LOWER LEVELS, TO THE PRACTICE CHAMBERS FOR THE MID-LEVEL STUDENTS...



THE MID-LEVEL PRACTICE CHAMBERS? MAYBE I'LL GET A CHANCE TO BETTER SHOW WHAT I CAN DO! MAYBE THEN, I'LL BE ABLE TO JOIN IN DALARAM'S DEFENSE...



AND MAYBE THEN FATHER AND THE REST WILL BELIEVE IN ME...!



STAVRI! YOU'RE LINKED TO THE INSTRUCTORS... MAKE SURE THAT THEY KEEP THEIR CHARGES CALM AND IN PLACE...WE MAY NEED EVEN THEIR ABILITIES...

DO YOU THINK IT WILL COME TO THAT, ARCHMAGE RHONIN?



"I PRAY IT WON'T..."

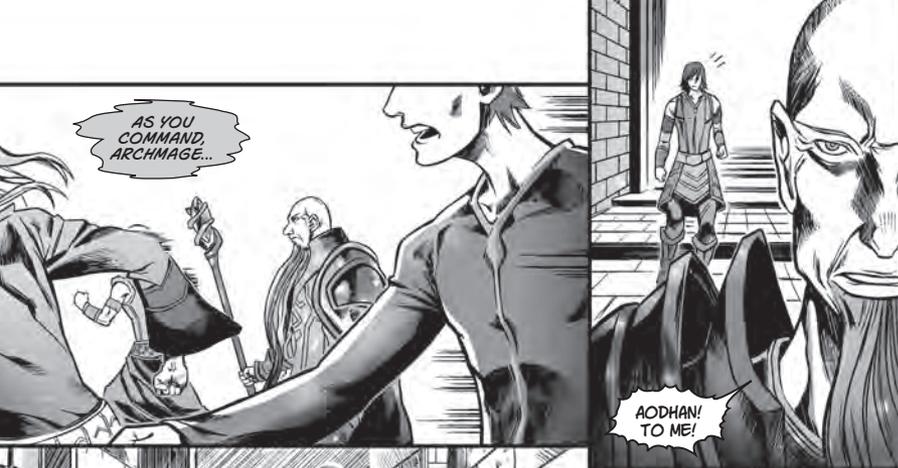


SIMEON...CONTINUE WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS. BUT SEND AODHAN TO THE VIOLET HOLD! I HAVE A TASK FOR HIM...

THE VIOLET HOLD, ARCHMAGE RHONIN? IS THAT NOT A MOST DANGEROUS PLACE...ESPECIALLY FOR HIM?

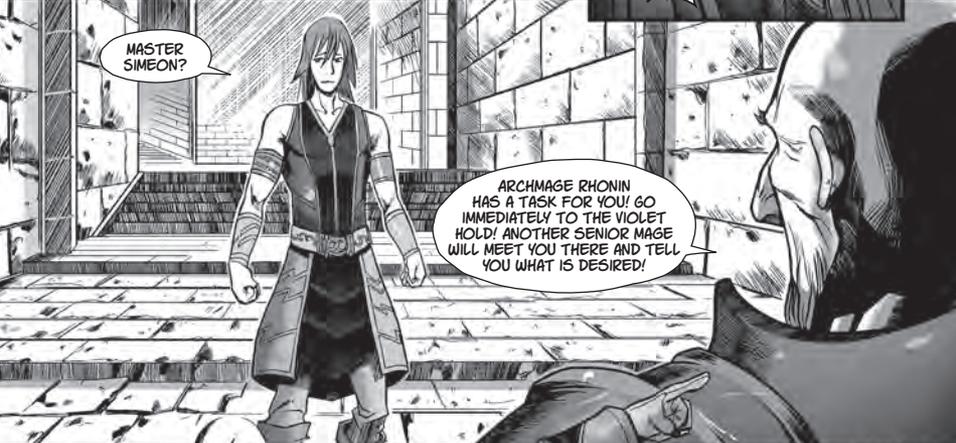


THE TASK WILL KEEP HIM FROM THE MAIN PART OF THE HOLD...NOW HURRY! SOMEONE WILL MEET HIM THERE...



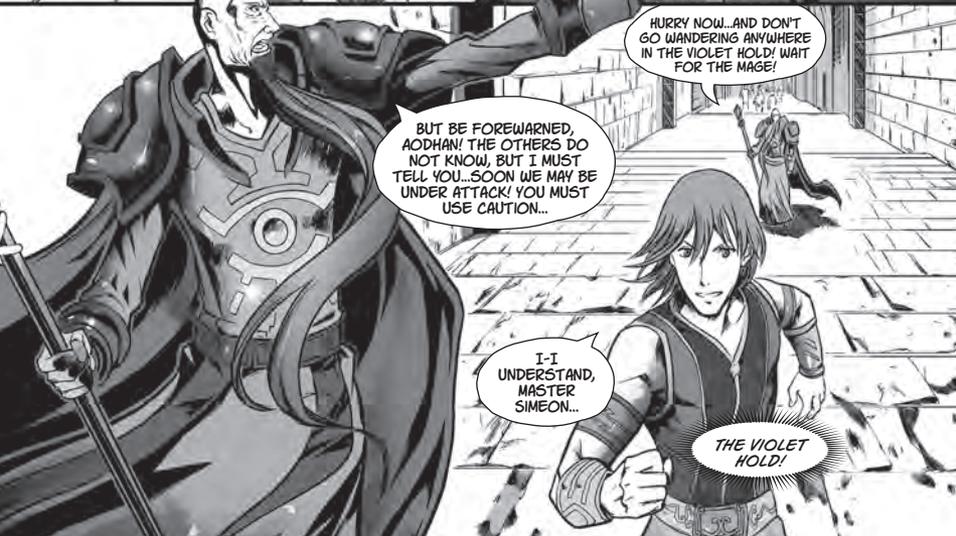
AS YOU COMMAND, ARCHMAGE...

AODHAN!
TO ME!



MASTER SIMEON?

ARCHMAGE RHONIN HAS A TASK FOR YOU! GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE VIOLET HOLD! ANOTHER SENIOR MAGE WILL MEET YOU THERE AND TELL YOU WHAT IS DESIRED!



HURRY NOW... AND DON'T GO WANDERING ANYWHERE IN THE VIOLET HOLD! WAIT FOR THE MAGE!

BUT BE FOREWARNED, AODHAN! THE OTHERS DO NOT KNOW, BUT I MUST TELL YOU... SOON WE MAY BE UNDER ATTACK! YOU MUST USE CAUTION...

I-I UNDERSTAND, MASTER SIMEON...

THE VIOLET HOLD!



WHAT COULD THEY WANT OF ME THERE, OF ALL PLACES?



THEY MUST BE DOING IT! LIKELY IT'S TO KEEP US UNABLE TO COORDINATE! CLEVER!

ARCHMAGE! I COULD NOT REACH ANY OF THE INSTRUCTORS! SOMETHING BLOCKED MY SPELL!



THAT MEANS THEY'RE ABOUT TO STRIKE! PREPARE TO CAST COUNTERSPELLS!

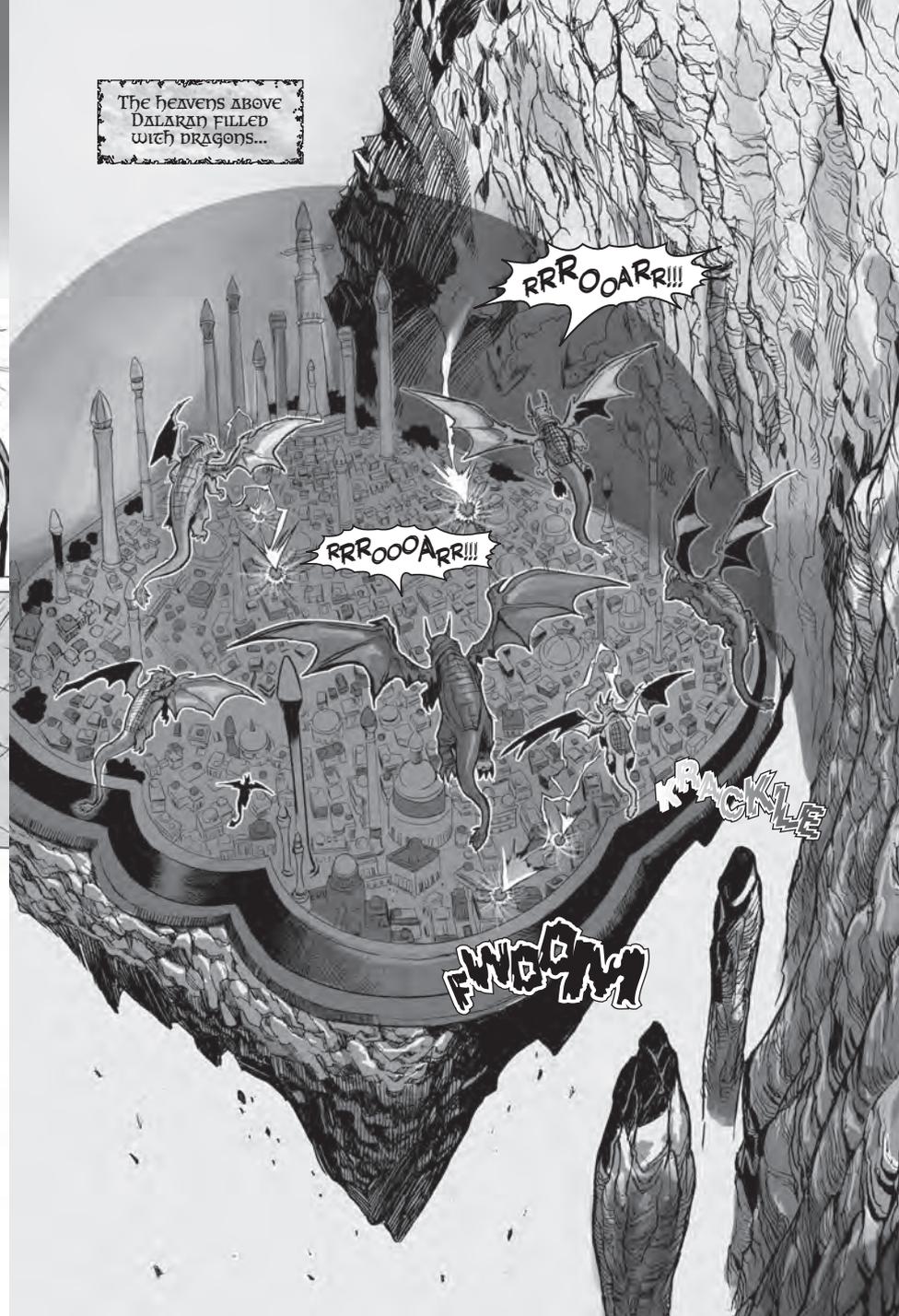


THERE IT IS!

THIS IS IT--HERE'S MY CHANCE!



The heavens above DALARAN FILLED WITH DRAGONS...



RRROOARR!!!

RRROOARR!!!

KRACKLE

FWOOSH



AT LAST, I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP DALARAN...



BUT--THERE'S NO ONE HERE--



AAAHH!!

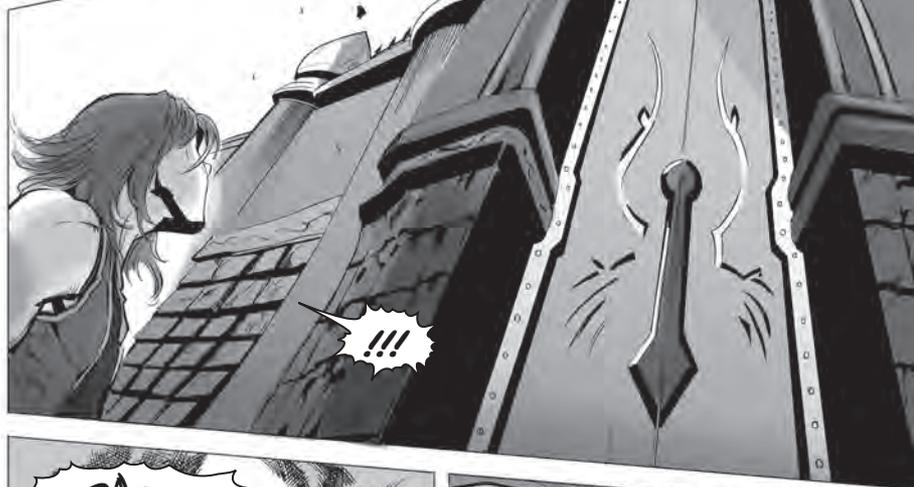
THWOOOM



THEY'RE TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH THE SHIELD SPELL!



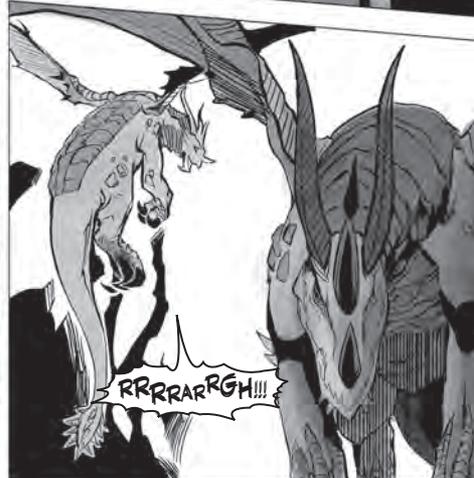
ZZZZTT



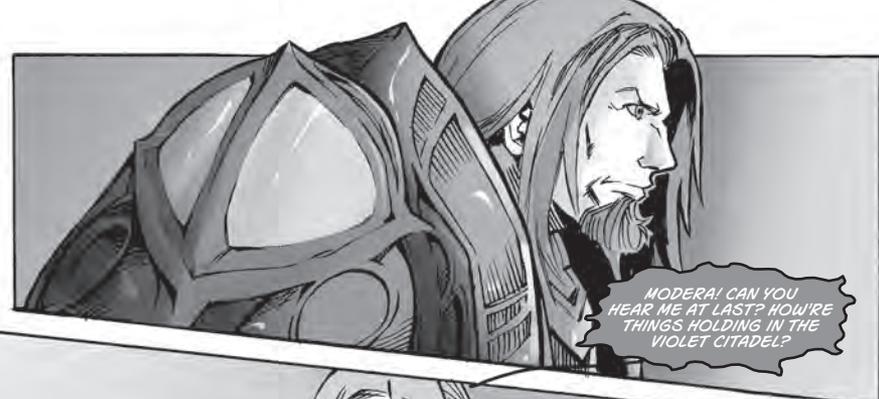
!!!



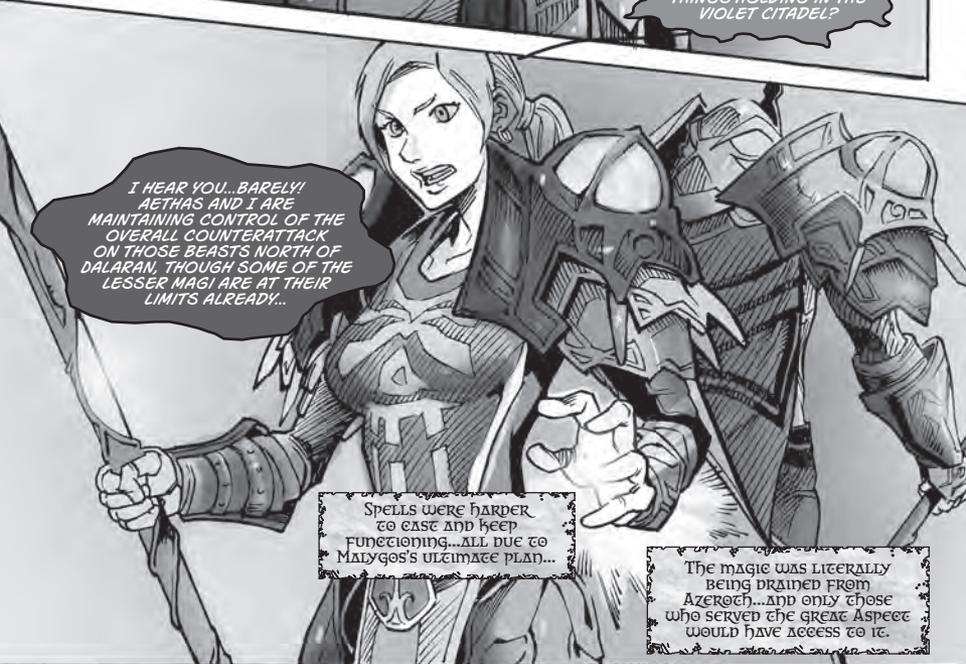
RRRARGH!!!



RRRRARGH!!!



MODERA! CAN YOU HEAR ME AT LAST? HOW'RE THINGS HOLDING IN THE VIOLET CITADEL?



I HEAR YOU... BARELY! AETHAS AND I ARE MAINTAINING CONTROL OF THE OVERALL COUNTERATTACK ON THOSE BEASTS NORTH OF DALARAN, THOUGH SOME OF THE LESSER MAGI ARE AT THEIR LIMITS ALREADY...

Spells were harder to cast and keep functioning... all due to Malygos's ultimate plan...

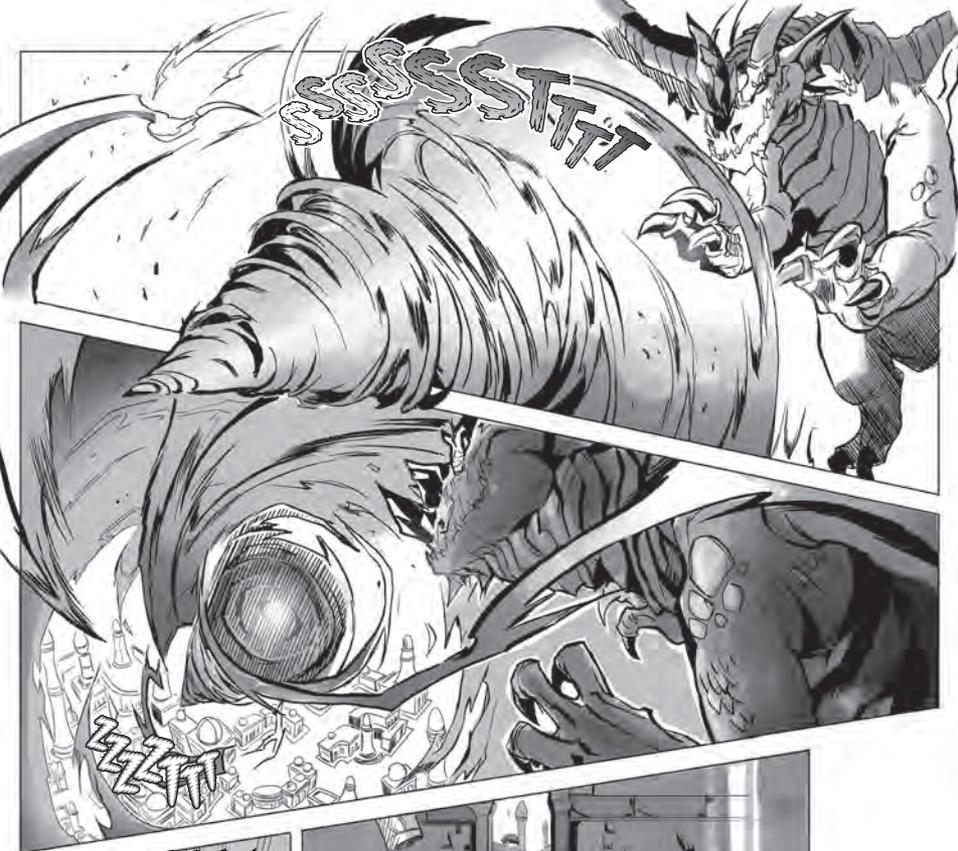
The magic was literally being drained from Azereth... and only those who served the great Aspect would have access to it.



WE WILL--HOLD, HUMAN! YOU DO YOUR PART...

It was a fair question to wonder which was more important to most...

Alliance or Horde, magi were, in the end, magi... and this was a struggle for their very calling... as well as their lives.





NOW IS THE TIME...



DON'T LET HER GET ALL THE WAY THROUGH! THROW EVERYTHING AT HER!!



QUICKLY! SURPRISE IS YOUR ONLY HOPE! SHE IS STILL NOT ALL THE WAY THROUGH!

A PYROBLAST! NOW!



AAAAWWW



SHE'S DISORIENTED! NOW'S OUR CHANCE! LET'S SEAL THE GAP WHILE SHE'S STILL HALF IN IT!



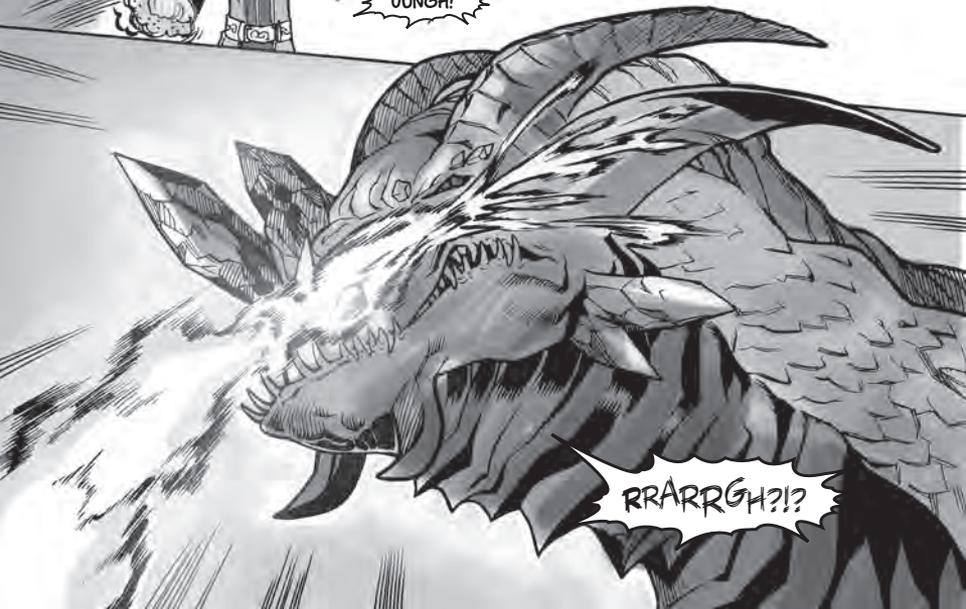
HISSSSS!!

FWOOSH!

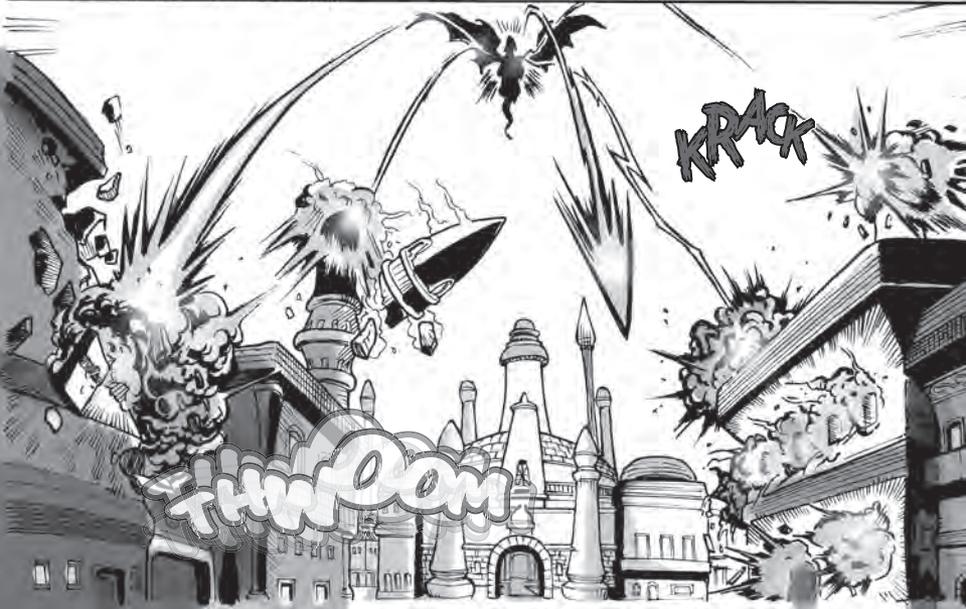


FWOOSH!

UUNGH!

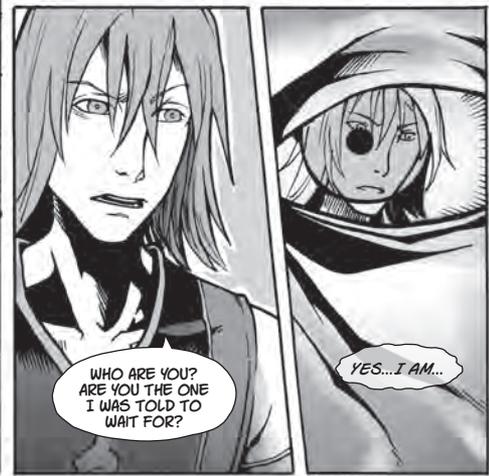
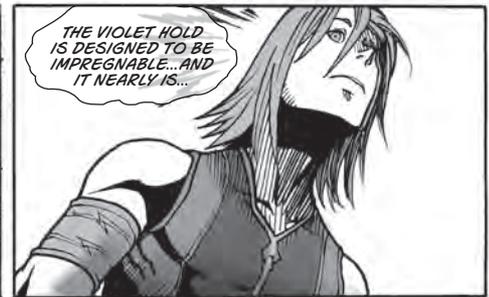
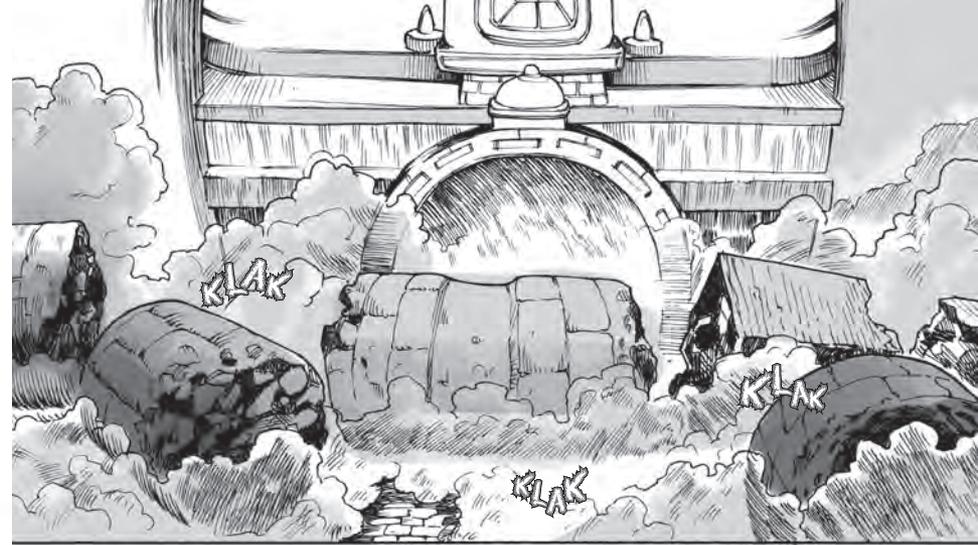
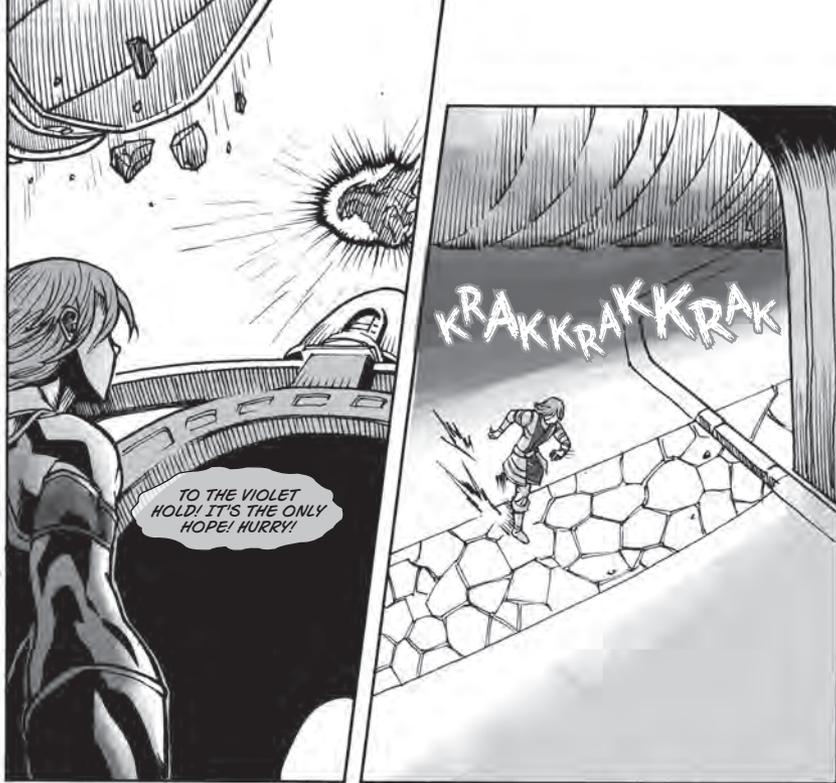


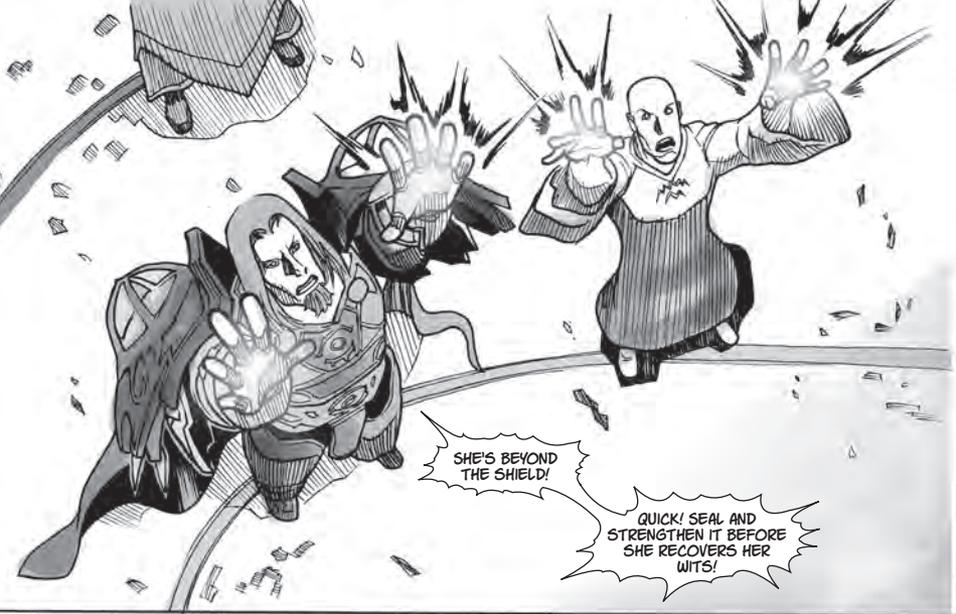
RRARRGH?!?



KRACK

THUD!





SHE'S BEYOND THE SHIELD!

QUICK! SEAL AND STRENGTHEN IT BEFORE SHE RECOVERS HER WITS!



WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE? WHY IS IT DARK?

THEY ARE NEEDED ELSEWHERE, AS IS THEIR POWER... YOU SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THEM...

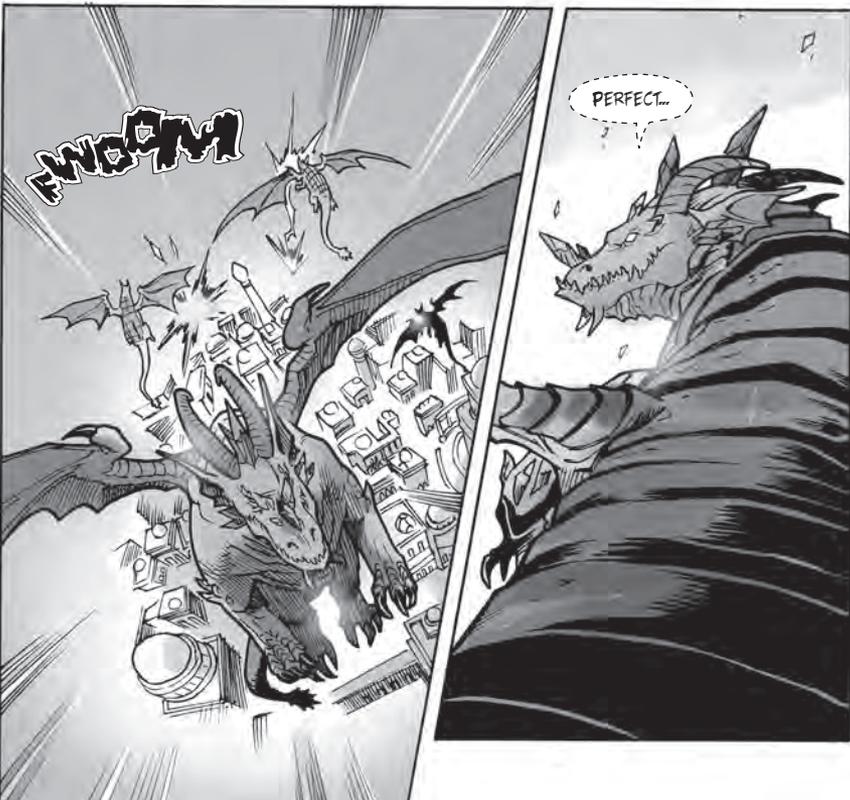


FOLLOW THE STEPS... AND TOUCH NOTHING UNLESS I SAY...



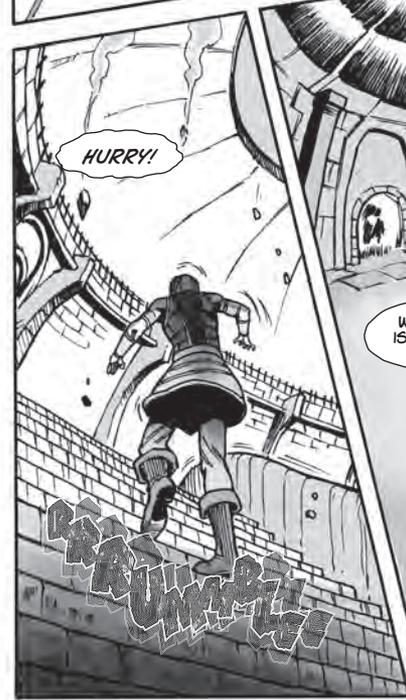
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

NO TIME FOR THAT! HURRY! YOU ARE NEARLY WHERE YOU NEED TO GO!



FWOOP!

PERFECT...



HURRY!

CRASH!



WHERE--WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IS THIS--



THIS IS PART OF THE PRISON!



One of the main purposes of the Violet Hold was to secure special prisoners...



Prisoners so powerful... and so dangerous... that even Aodhan knew that he should not be here.



Magical prisoners... human and otherwise...



NO...YES...

OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME...LET ME GUIDE YOU WITH A SPELL I HAVE KEPT TO MYSELF FOR ALL THIS TIME...



BUT I CAN'T-- I DON'T HAVE THE FOCUS, THE CONCENTRATION FOR THIS--



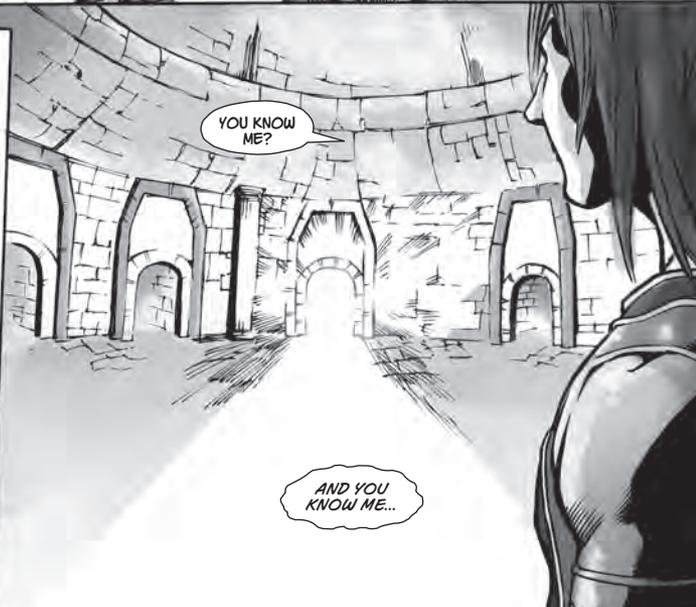
LIES THEY TOLD YOU...JUST LIKE THE LIES THEY TOLD ME...

Fwosh

AND THAT THEY NO DOUBT TOLD YOU ABOUT ME...



WAIT, AODHAN! DO NOT LEAVE ME!



YOU KNOW ME?

AND YOU KNOW ME...



I--I DID IT?

OF COURSE YOU DID! YOU HAVE THE INNATE POWER, THE INNATE APTITUDE! ALL YOU LACKED WERE INSTRUCTORS WHO TRUSTED YOU...



...JUST AS THEY FAILED TO TRUST ME.

BUT WE TRUST EACH OTHER, DO WE NOT, AODHAN? AFTER ALL, WHO CAN ONE BETTER TRUST...



...THAN
FAMILY.

CHAPTER TWO CREVAN

HERE'S TO MY
SON! A BOY ANY MAN'D
BE PROUD TO CALL
HIS OWN, EH?

HERE! HERE!



CLANK



HERE'S TO
KEDEHERN!

AND TO YOU,
BROGAN, FOR RAISING SUCH
A DETERMINED, DISCIPLINED
YOUNG MAN!

A gathering some ten
years earlier..

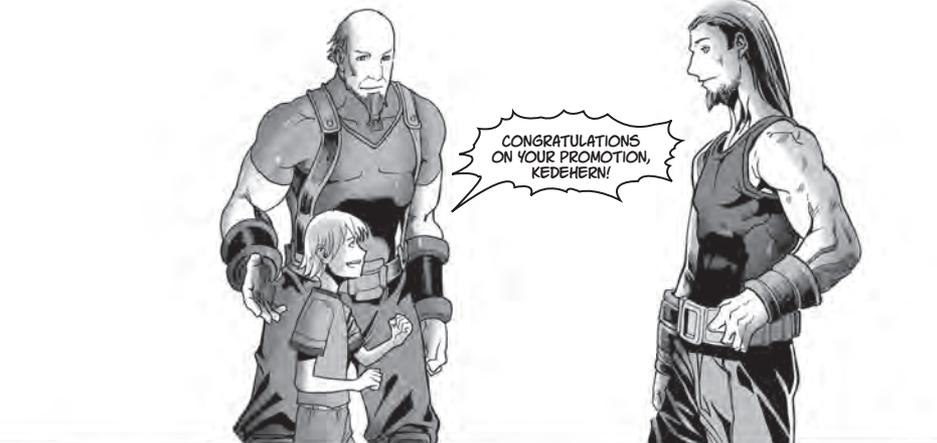


YOU'LL MAKE A FINE CAPTAIN OF THE SILVER HAND! A CREDIT TO OUR HOUSE AND TO ALL STORMWIND!

I'LL DO MY BEST, FATHER!



OH, YOU'LL DO JUST THAT, SON! YOU'VE GOT A SKILL IN BATTLE I'M NOT ASHAMED TO SAY SURPASSES MY OWN WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION, KEDEHERN!



AND HERE'S THE NEXT TO TAKE UP YOUR MANTLE, BROGAN!



I'LL TRY!

YOU'D BEST GET A LITTLE MORE MEAT ON YOUR BONES IF YOU EVER HOPE TO JOIN ME, LITTLE BROTHER!



ALL RIGHT, THEN, AODHAN! OFF WITH YOU! BE A GOOD BOY!

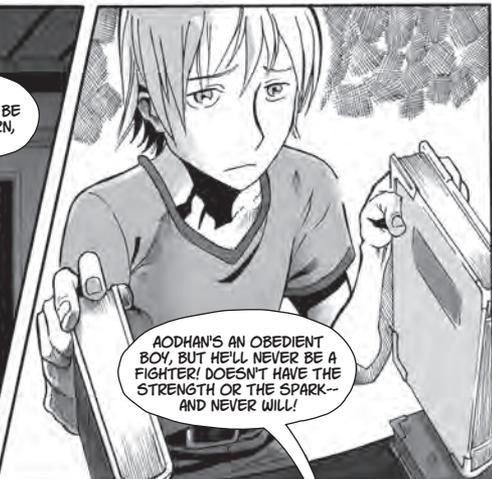
YES, FATHER!



AODHAN, BOY! COME! CONGRATULATE YOUR BROTHER BEFORE HE DEPARTS!



THINK HE'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE ANOTHER KEDEHERN, BROGAN?



AODHAN'S AN OBEDIENT BOY, BUT HE'LL NEVER BE A FIGHTER! DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH OR THE SPARK-- AND NEVER WILL!



A FARMER'S LIFE, THAT'S WHAT'S BEST FOR HIM... KEEP HIM SAFE...

GOOD THING HE'S NOT LIKE YOUR OWN BROTHER, EH, BROGAN?

CREVAN MADE HIS CHOICE...

HE'S BLOOD AND HE'S WELCOME HERE, BUT ONLY SO LONG AS HE MINDS HIMSELF...



AND THAT MEANS NO SPELLS!

SHHH.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T MY FAVORITE KIN! HOW ARE YOU, AODHAN?



LIKELY A LITTLE OUT OF SORTS, FROM WHAT I JUST OVERHEARD...



LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF, DEAR NEPHEW...

IT'S TRUE YOU'LL NEVER WIELD A SWORD LIKE THOSE TWO, BUT I'VE ALWAYS SENSED IN YOU SOMETHING BETTER.



THE ABILITY TO WIELD A WEAPON FOR GOOD THAT'S FAR MORE VERSATILE...AND FAR MORE CIVILIZED.

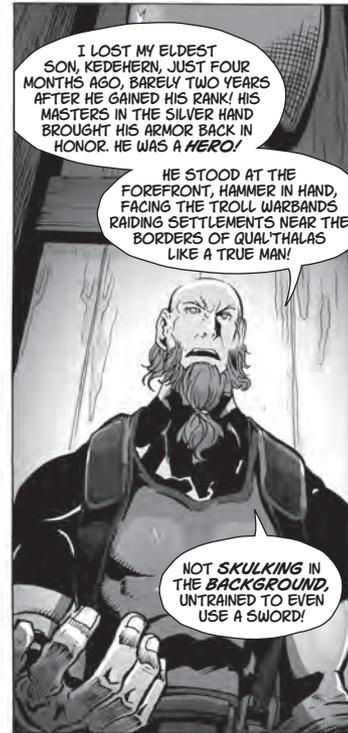
WE'LL TALK MORE LATER... BUT FIRST I MUST GIVE MY CONGRATULATIONS TO MY OTHER NEPHEW... ASSUMING THEY MEAN ANYTHING TO HIM.

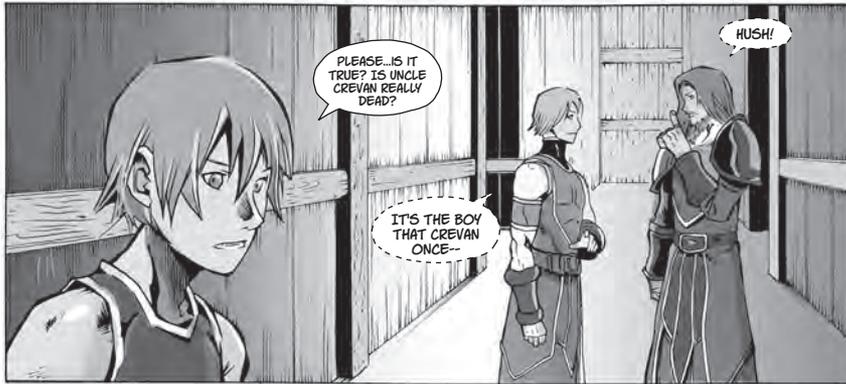


MAG! BAH! ONE MAY BE YOUR BROTHER, BROGAN, BUT YOU CAN'T DENY THAT THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF COWARDS AND DECEIVERS--



YAAAAH!

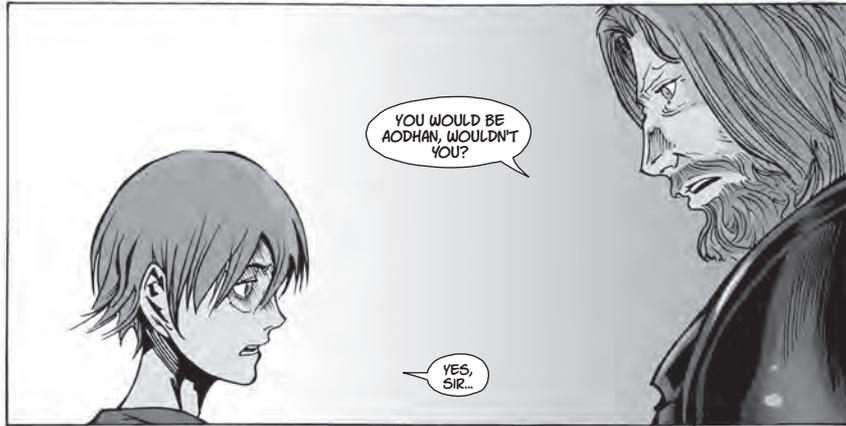




PLEASE, IS IT TRUE? IS UNCLE CREVAN REALLY DEAD?

HUSH!

IT'S THE BOY THAT CREVAN ONCE--



YOU WOULD BE AODHAN, WOULDN'T YOU?

YES, SIR...



YOUR UNCLE... HE SPOKE OFTEN OF YOU... AND WHAT HE SAID IMPRESSED US.

YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW OFTEN I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW I WAS ALIVE, AODHAN...



UNCLE CREVAN!

I SOMETIMES DREAMED THAT YOU WERE ALIVE! THAT YOU CAME BACK AND PROVED TO FATHER THAT YOU WERE AS GREAT A HERO AS HE OR--OR KEDEHERN!



I WANTED TO RETURN, AT LEAST TO HELP GUIDE YOU, BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT THE MAGI OF DALARAN HAD THE SENSE TO RECRUIT YOU, AS I'D HOPED...



BUT WHY ARE YOU IN HERE? WHAT HAPPENED? THIS IS WHERE THEY USUALLY HOLD--

CRIMINALS AND THREATS? IT'S ALL RIGHT, AODHAN. THAT'S GENERALLY WHAT YOU FIND HERE... BUT THERE'S ALSO ONE OTHER KIND OF PRISONER THEY KEEP...

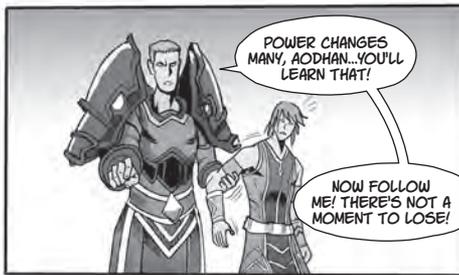


THOSE WHO WON'T ALWAYS OBEY THE RULES... EVEN WHEN OBEYING MEANS CATASTROPHE.



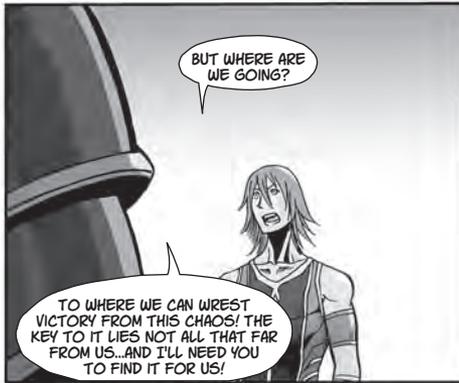
BUT... IT'S ALWAYS BEEN SAID THAT ARCHMAGE RHONIN BECAME LEADER *BECAUSE* HE NEVER FOLLOWED THE RULES--

THWACK!



POWER CHANGES MANY, AODHAN... YOU'LL LEARN THAT!

NOW FOLLOW ME! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!



BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO WHERE WE CAN WREST VICTORY FROM THIS CHAOS! THE KEY TO IT LIES NOT ALL THAT FAR FROM US... AND I'LL NEED YOU TO FIND IT FOR US!



I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND!



I'LL EXPLAIN AS BEST I CAN AS WE RUN... AND RUN WE *MUST*, NEPHEW!

YOU SEE, I'VE KNOWN THAT THIS MOMENT WAS LONG IN COMING...



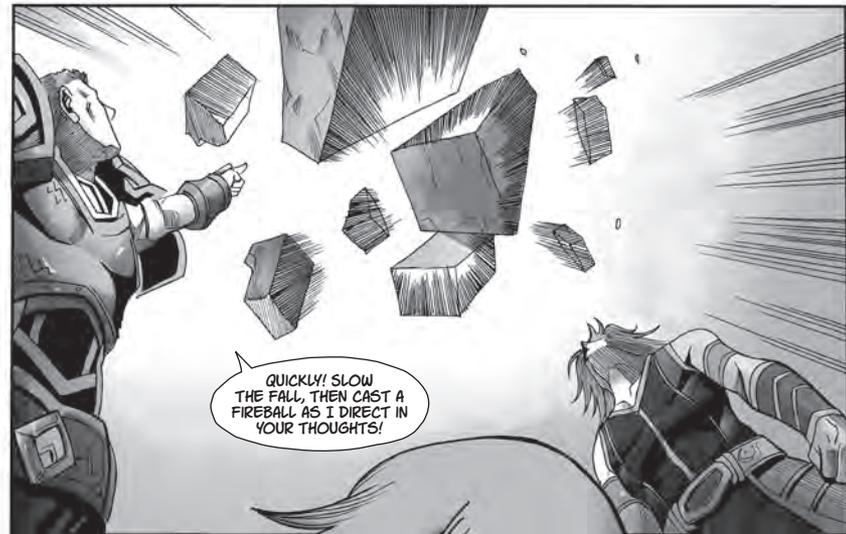
AND, MORE RECENTLY, I EVEN REALIZED THAT MY BEST HOPE FOR SUCCESS REVOLVED AROUND YOUR WELCOME PRESENCE IN DALARAN...

FWOOSH!



YOU KEEP TALKING LIKE YOU NEED ME TO DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT! WHY? YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST MAGI! I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT YOUR GREAT SPELLS...

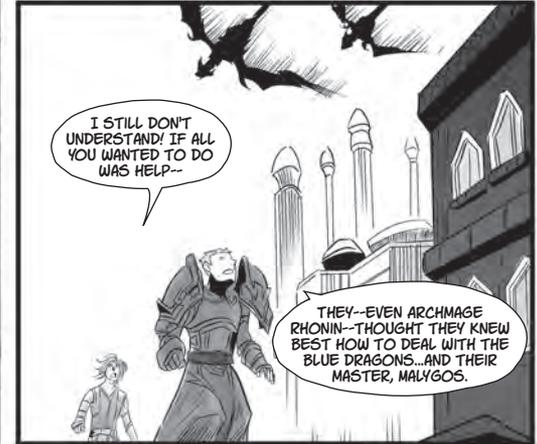
IT'S ALL TOO SIMPLE, NEPHEW! THEY--



QUICKLY! SLOW THE FALL, THEN CAST A FIREBALL AS I DIRECT IN YOUR THOUGHTS!



HURRY!!





YOU DID THAT?



YES... I DID THAT.



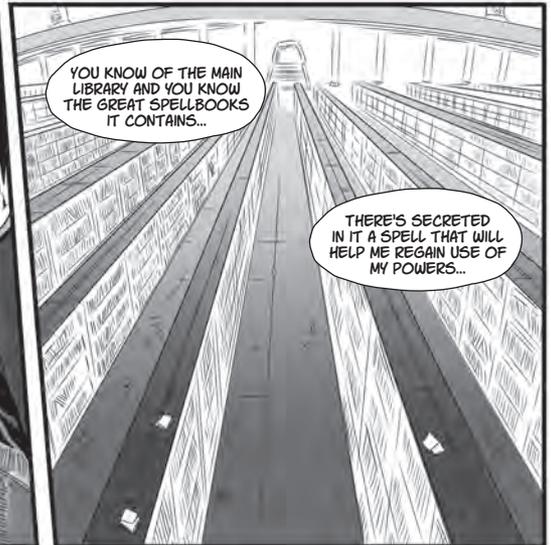
THERE... THERE LIES OUR DESTINATION...



BUT THAT'S WHERE ARCHMAGE RHONIN AND THE OTHERS ARE! THEY'LL PUT YOU BACK IN YOUR CELL!



AND THAT, DEAR NEPHEW, IS WHERE YOU COME IN...



YOU KNOW OF THE MAIN LIBRARY AND YOU KNOW THE GREAT SPELLBOOKS IT CONTAINS...

THERE'S SECRETED IN IT A SPELL THAT WILL HELP ME REGAIN USE OF MY POWERS...



BUT THE LIBRARY'S SO HUGE! HOW'LL WE FIND IT QUICKLY?

"WE" WON'T. YOU WILL.

AS I DID FROM MY CELL, I WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE LIBRARY! THEY WON'T SENSE THAT, WHEREAS IF I PHYSICALLY ENTER, THEY'LL KNOW IMMEDIATELY...!



YOU'RE NOT GOING WITH ME? AND THAT DOESN'T--

HURRY! THE DRAGONS ARE ATTACKING AGAIN! THE MAGI ON GUARD DUTY WILL BE NEEDED TO HELP IN DALARAN'S DEFENSES!

WE CAN USE THAT DISTRACTION TO HELP YOU BETTER SLIP PAST!



I'LL BE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY...



I PROMISE...

WHAT'RE THEY UP TO NOW?



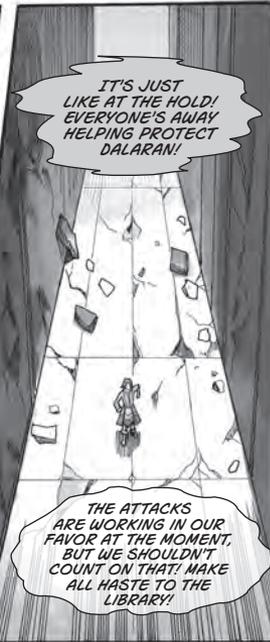
YOU KNOW YOUR TARGETS! STRIKE AT WILL!



IF THERE'S A METHOD TO THIS MADNESS, I'D LIKE TO KNOW! THEY'VE GONE FROM ALL OF THEM FOCUSING ON ONE SPOT, TO WEAKER ATTACKS ALL OVER!



KEEP THE DEFENSE SPELLS STRONG! WATCH FOR AN OPENING FOR A COUNTERATTACK!

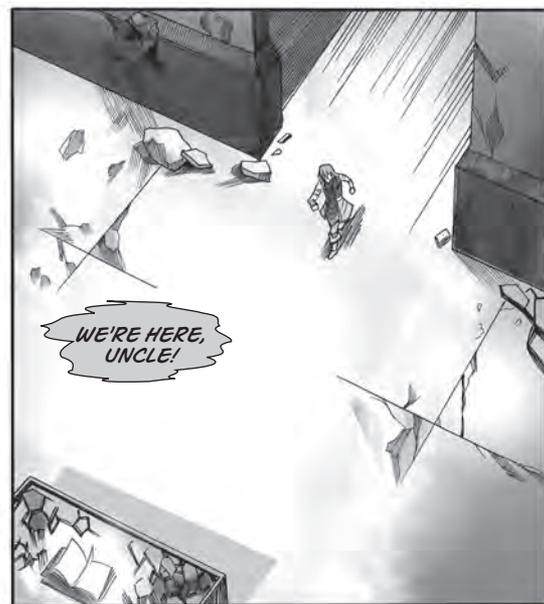


IT'S JUST LIKE AT THE HOLD! EVERYONE'S ALWAYS HELPING PROTECT DALARAN!

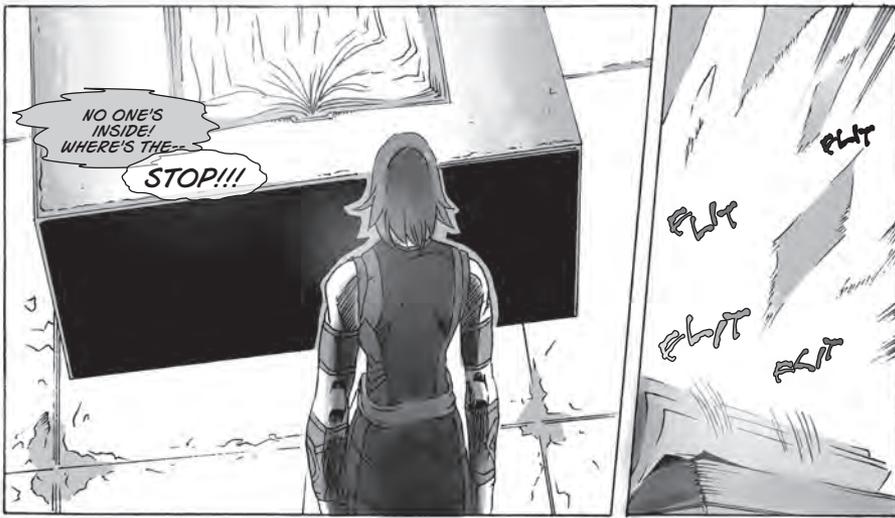
THE ATTACKS ARE WORKING IN OUR FAVOR AT THE MOMENT, BUT WE SHOULDN'T COUNT ON THAT! MAKE ALL HASTE TO THE LIBRARY!



THE ATTACK IS GETTING WORSE AGAIN!



WE'RE HERE, UNCLE!



NO ONE'S INSIDE!
WHERE'S THE--
STOP!!!

PLT
PLT
PLT



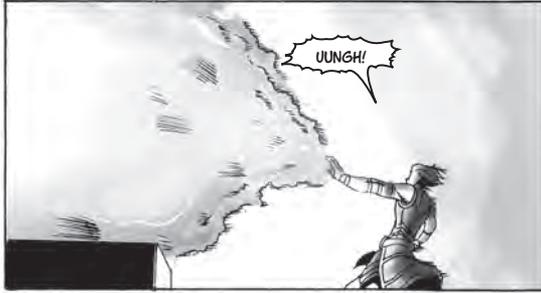
THWAK



QUICKLY FOCUS THE ENERGY WITHIN YOU, THEN RELEASE IT! IT'S YOUR BEST CHANCE!

BUT I DON'T KNOW--

CAST AS YOU SEE IN YOUR MIND!



UUNGH!



POW
POW
POW
POW
POW



FOLLOW MY LEAD...
CAST AS I SHOW YOU...
YOU CAN DO IT...

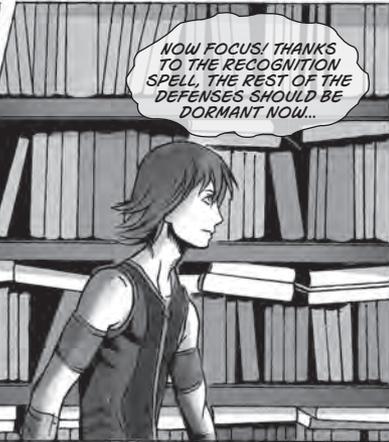


NOTHING HAPPENED!

YES...YOU CAST A RECOGNITION SPELL TAUGHT TO HIGHER-RANKED MAGI! THE LIBRARY NOW BELIEVES YOU ARE PERMITTED INSIDE...



THE BOOK WAS A PART OF THE LIBRARY'S GENERAL DEFENSES...



NOW FOCUS! THANKS TO THE RECOGNITION SPELL, THE REST OF THE DEFENSES SHOULD BE DORMANT NOW...



BUT WHICH ONE COULD IT BE? THERE'RE SO MANY!



THIS ONE IS MOVING ON ITS OWN! IS THIS IT?

NUMBERS DO NOT MATTER, NEPHEW... IN HERE, WHAT YOU DESIRE CAN BE FOUND SWIFTLY, IF YOU KNOW HOW TO LOOK...



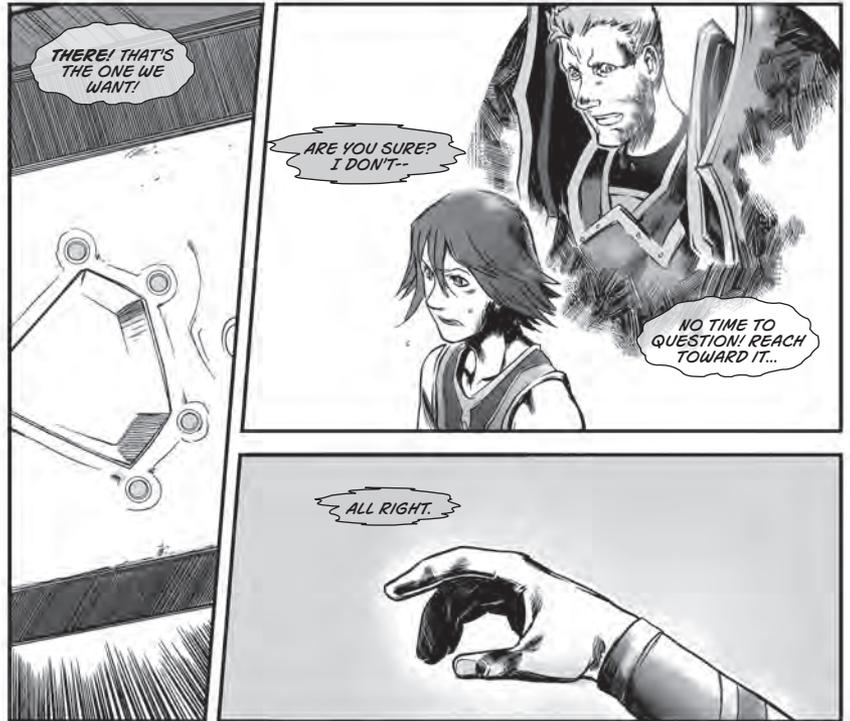
NO! LEAVE IT AND ANY OTHERS LIKE IT YOU COME ACROSS...



THE ONE WE SEEK REQUIRES A BIT MORE CONCENTRATION TO LOCATE... OPEN YOUR MIND MORE TO ME...



SEE BEYOND THE OBVIOUS... SEEK BEYOND THE VISIBLE...



THERE! THAT'S THE ONE WE WANT!

ARE YOU SURE? I DON'T--



NO TIME TO QUESTION! REACH TOWARD IT...



ALL RIGHT.

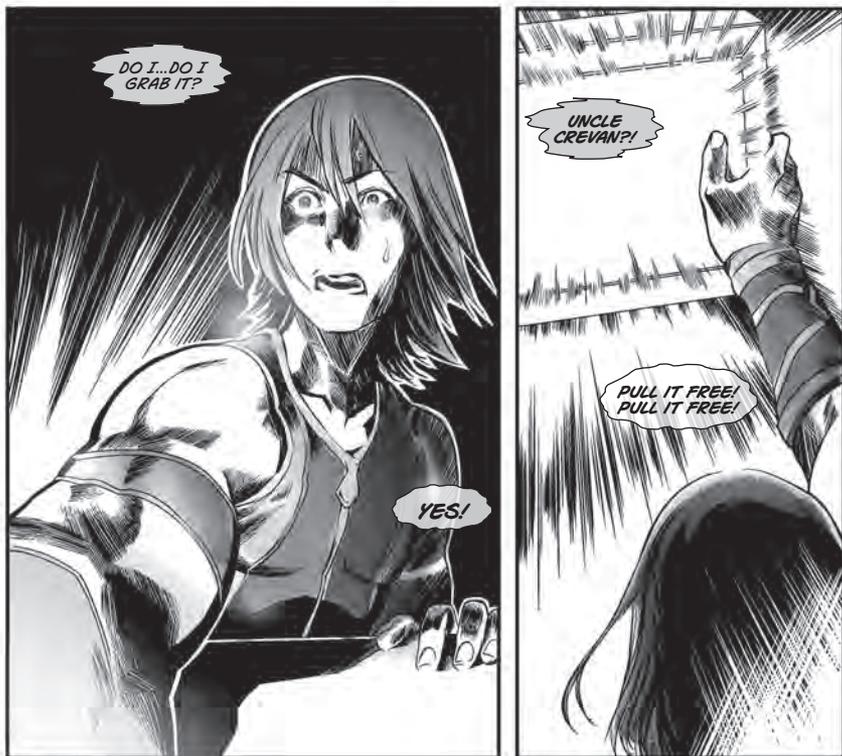


THE OTHER BOOKS! THEY'RE ILLUSIONS!

OF COURSE! DO YOU FEEL THE BARRIER YET?

YES... I FEEL IT!

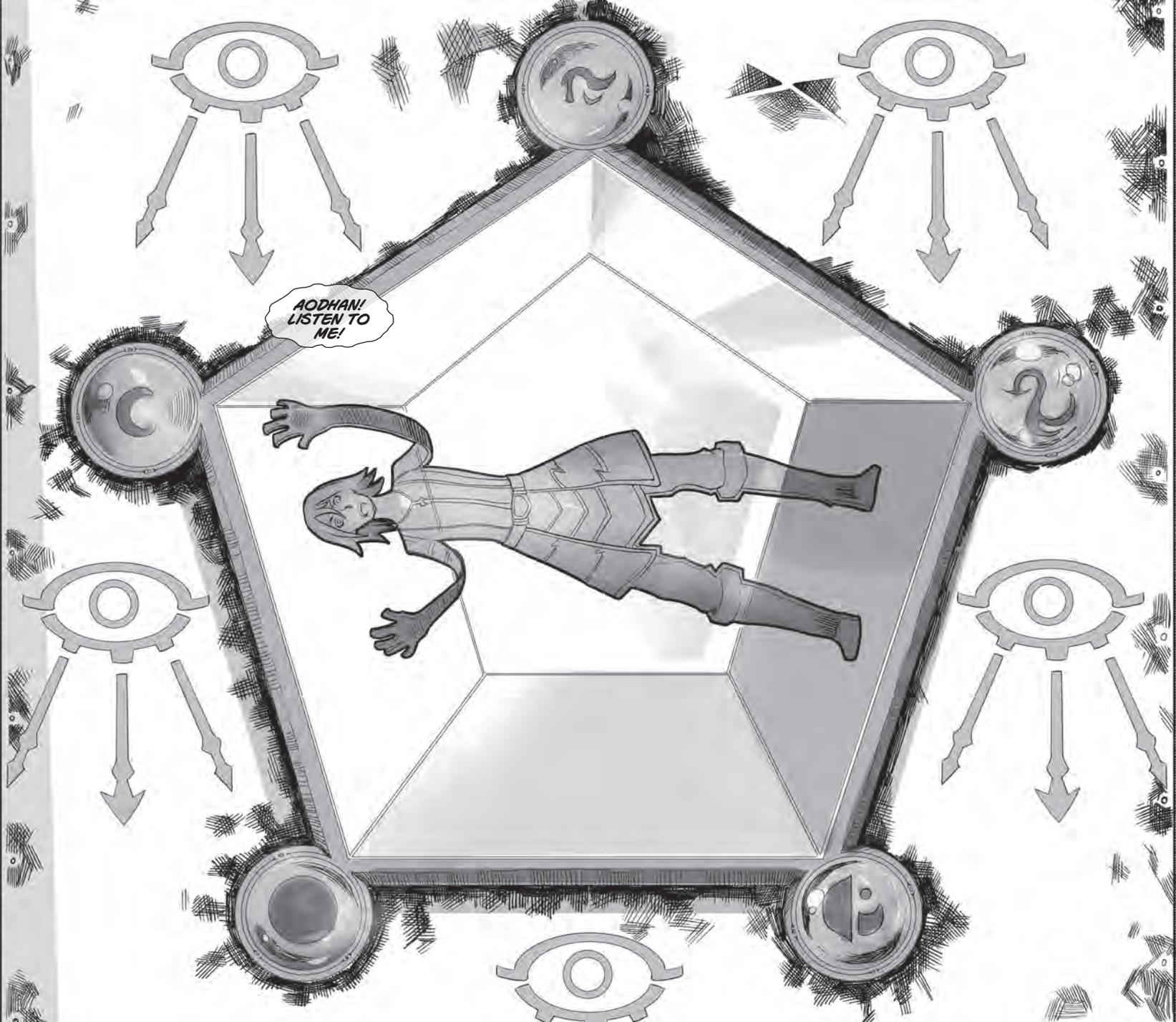






CHAPTER THREE SPELLBOOK





AODHAN!
LISTEN TO
ME!



UNCLE CREVAN!!
I CAN BARELY MOVE
AND I CAN'T SPEAK! WH-
WHERE AM I?!



IN A VERY CUNNING TRAP!
YOU'RE IN THE COVER OF THE
VERY BOOK WE SEEK! CLEARLY
SET TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY
OF THE LIBRARY'S OTHER
DEFENSES...

IN A--
BOOK?!



YES...POETIC,
DON'T YOU THINK? BUT
MORE THE CRYSTAL ON THE
COVER, TO BE FAIR!

HOWEVER, THROUGH
YOUR MIND AND EYES, I SEE
WHAT THEY'VE DONE...AND
HOW TO DEAL WITH IT...



THERE'S A KEY IN
THE RUNES JUST IN CASE
ONE OF THE KIRIN TOR RUNS
AFOUL OF THEIR OWN
LITTLE CREATION!

REACH FOR
THAT ONE WITH THE
CRESCENT MOON
ABOVE IT...



I-I DID IT!
BUT...NOTHING'S
HAPPENING!

OF COURSE NOT!
THE KEY WOULD BE FAR
MORE COMPLEX THAN SIMPLY
TOUCHING A SINGLE RUNE...
NOW...IF THIS SPELL IS
AS I SUSPECT...



YOU MUST REACH
ANOTHER RUNE TO
YOUR FAR LEFT.

ALL...THE
WAY...THERE?

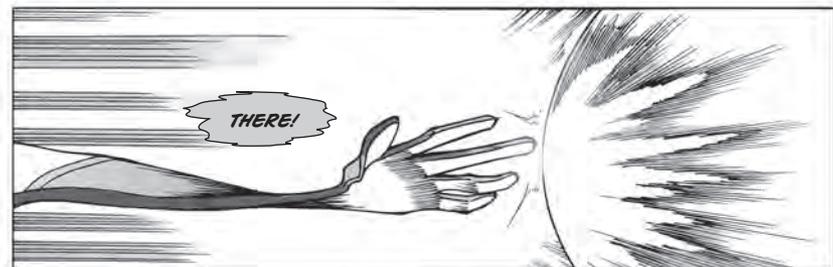


IT'S THE ONLY
HOPE YOU HAVE OF
FREEING YOURSELF,
NEPHEW...!



IT'S--TOO
FAR!

YOU HAVE NO
CHOICE!



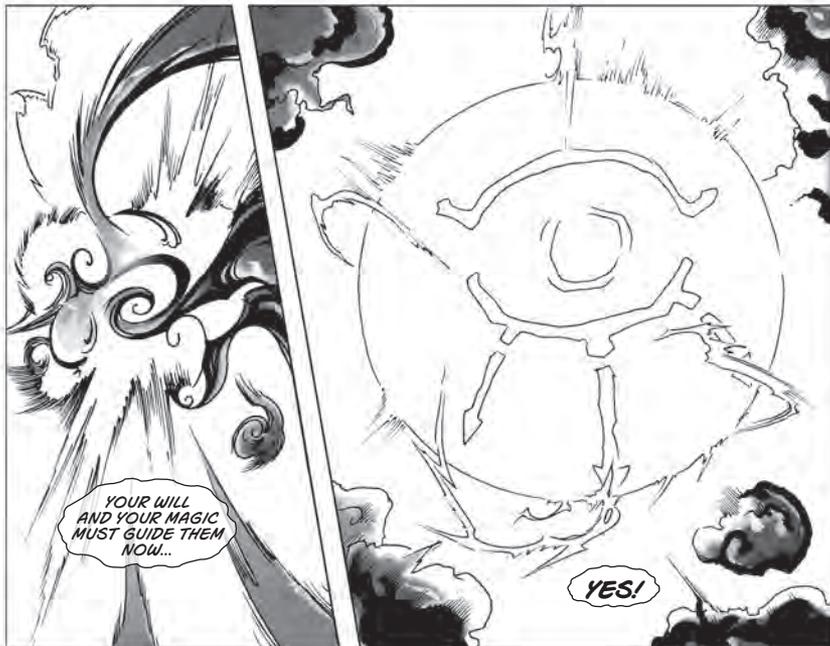
THERE!



WE ARE NOT DONE YET... BUT THESE TWO RUNES SHOW ME THAT THE KEY IS AS I BELIEVED IT...

SEE THEM NOW IN YOUR MIND...

CONCENTRATE ON THEM...TURN THEM ABOUT...



YOUR WILL AND YOUR MAGIC MUST GUIDE THEM NOW...

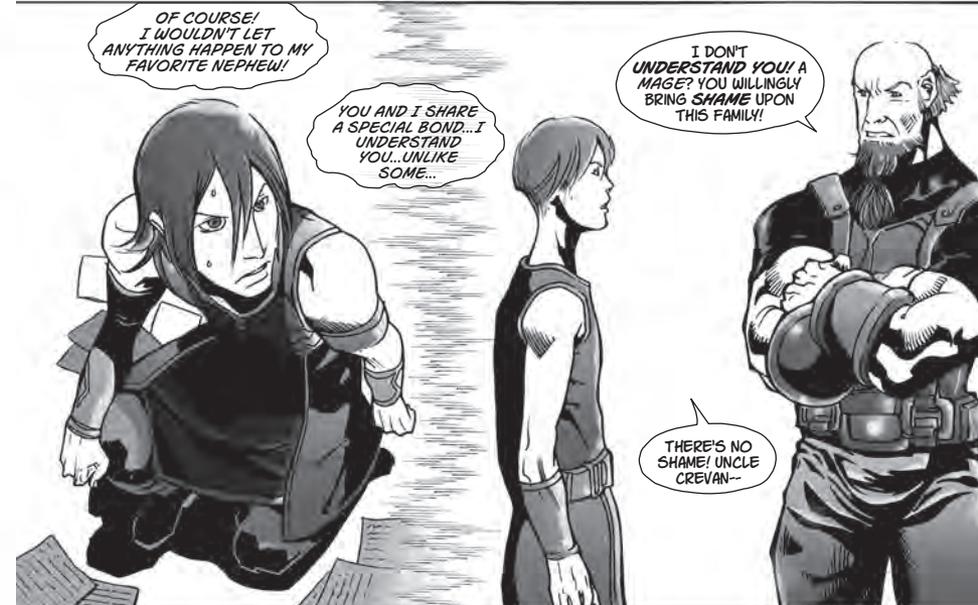
YES!



THWOOSH!



I'M FREE!



OF COURSE! I WOULDN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO MY FAVORITE NEPHEW!

YOU AND I SHARE A SPECIAL BOND...I UNDERSTAND YOU...UNLIKE SOME...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU A MAGE? YOU WILLINGLY BRING SHAME UPON THIS FAMILY!

THERE'S NO SHAME! UNCLE CREVAN-



YOUR UNCLE WAS ALWAYS RECKLESS AND FOOLHARDY! HE PLAYED WITH FIRE TOO MUCH AND CARED TOO LITTLE HOW THE REST OF US LOOKED BECAUSE OF HIM!

HE TURNED HIS BACK ON GENERATIONS OF A RENOWNED WARRIOR TRADITION! MAGI ARE HONORLESS AND **COWARDLY** FIGHTERS WHO WILL NOT FACE A FOE HEAD-TO-HEAD! THE HOUSE OF FALAMAR WAS WELL RID OF HIM WHEN HE LEFT!



AND NOW IT SEEMS THAT EVEN **DEAD** HE CONTINUES TO BE A BLIGHT UPON THIS LINE! I WARNED HIM TO STAY AWAY FROM YOU!



BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW YOUR UNCLE'S DUBIOUS PATH... YOU WILL NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED THE BLOOD OF FALAMAR...

YOUR MEMORY, LIKE CREVAN'S, WILL BE FOREVER SHUNNED... AND YOUR VERY EXISTENCE FORGOTTEN...

"FORGOTTEN..."

AODHAN?? CAN YOU STILL SEE THE BOOK?

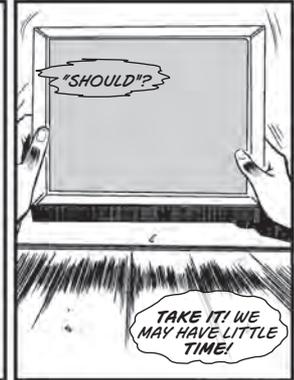


UNCLE CREVAN WAS A **GOOD** MAN! HE DIED A **HERO**, JUST LIKE KEDEHERN!



YES... I SEE IT... BUT...

HAVE NO FEAR... IT SHOULD BE SAFE TO TOUCH NOW!



"SHOULD"?

TAKE IT! WE MAY HAVE LITTLE TIME!



SMACK

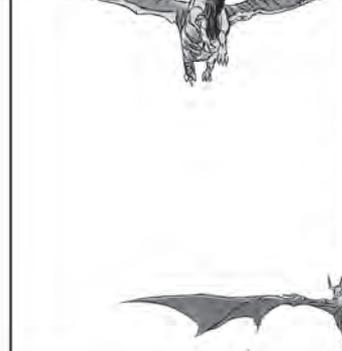
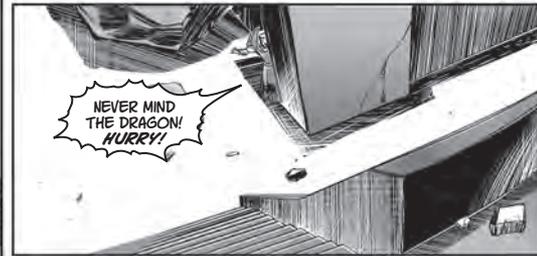
NEVER **DISHONOR** YOUR BROTHER'S MEMORY LIKE THAT AGAIN!

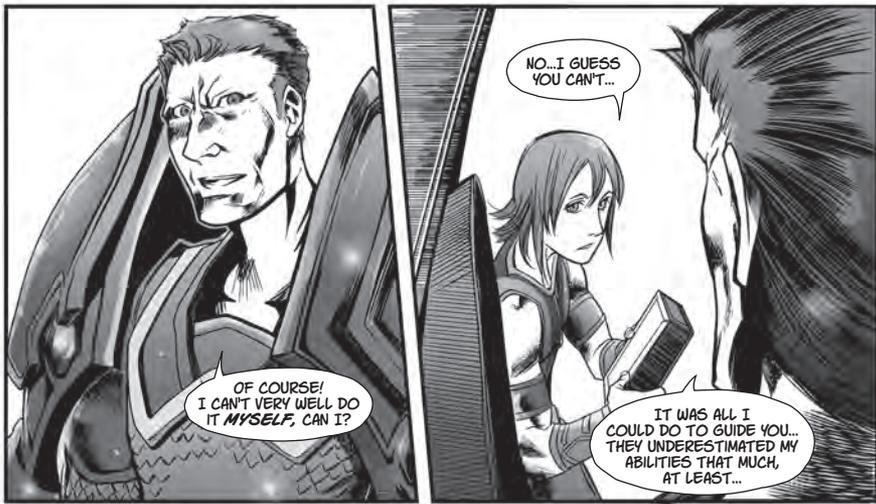


KEDEHERN WILL FOREVER HAVE A PLACE AMONG THE GREAT FIGHTERS THE HOUSE OF FALAMAR HAS BRED...



I'VE GOT IT!!





OF COURSE!
I CAN'T VERY WELL DO
IT *MYSELF*, CAN I?

NO...I GUESS
YOU CAN'T...

IT WAS ALL I
COULD DO TO GUIDE YOU...
THEY UNDERESTIMATED MY
ABILITIES THAT MUCH,
AT LEAST...



FINDOM

WE'D BEST GET
ON WITH IT! THE DRAGONS
ARE DOING THEIR BEST
TO BREAK THROUGH THE
DEFENSES!



WHAT DO I
NEED TO DO?

OPEN IT TO
THE VERY FIRST
PAGE...

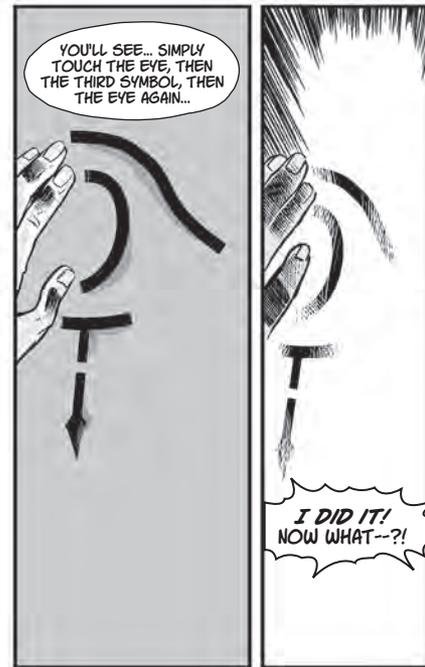


WHAT DO
THEY MEAN? I'VE
NOT LEARNED
THESE...



AND NEVER WOULD
YOUR INSTRUCTORS TEACH THEM
TO YOU! THIS IS THE WORK OF ARGAEUS
THE CRAFTER, DEAD FOR CENTURIES
NOW! SOME SAY HE LEARNED THIS
UNIQUE SPELL LANGUAGE FROM
MALYGOS HIMSELF...

BUT YOU NEEDN'T CONCERN
YOURSELF WITH DRY HISTORY.
SIMPLY KNOW THAT ARGAEUS PUT
TOGETHER THIS TOME SO THAT
ANY SPELL IN IT MAY BE UTILIZED
BY ANY MAGE...

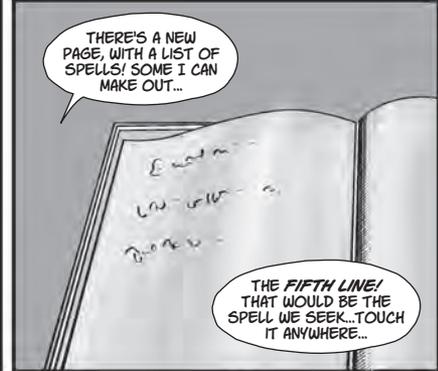


YOU'LL SEE... SIMPLY
TOUCH THE EYE, THEN
THE THIRD SYMBOL, THEN
THE EYE AGAIN...

I DID IT!
NOW WHAT--?!

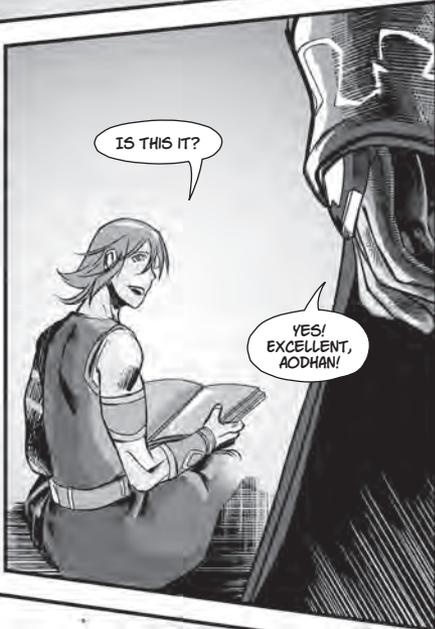
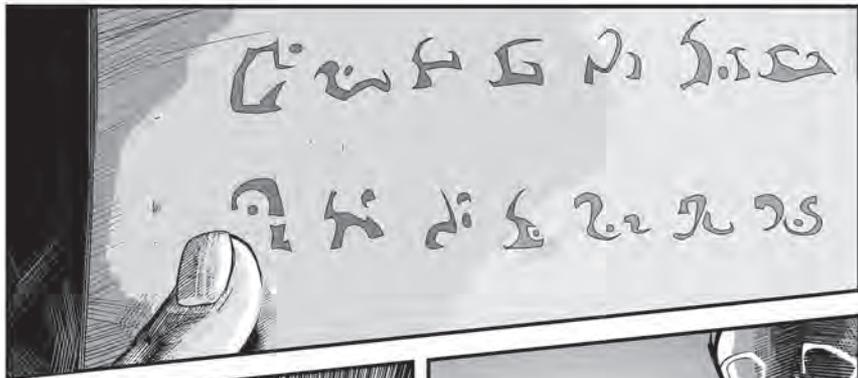


THE TOP
PAGES ARE
FADING AWAY!



THERE'S A NEW
PAGE, WITH A LIST OF
SPELLS! SOME I CAN
MAKE OUT...

THE **FIFTH LINE!**
THAT WOULD BE THE
SPELL WE SEEK...TOUCH
IT ANYWHERE...



IS THIS IT?

YES!
EXCELLENT,
AODHAN!



NOW, IN YOUR MIND
PICTURE THE IMAGE OF
THE PAGE...AND THE SPELL
WRITTEN IN IT...

IF THE SPELL
FADES AWAY, THEN YOU'VE
MEMORIZED IT! IT WON'T BE
VISIBLE AGAIN UNTIL THE BOOK
IS NEXT OPENED...ANOTHER
OF ARGALEUS'S MANY UNIQUE
TOUCHES...



IT'S VANISHING,
UNCLE...

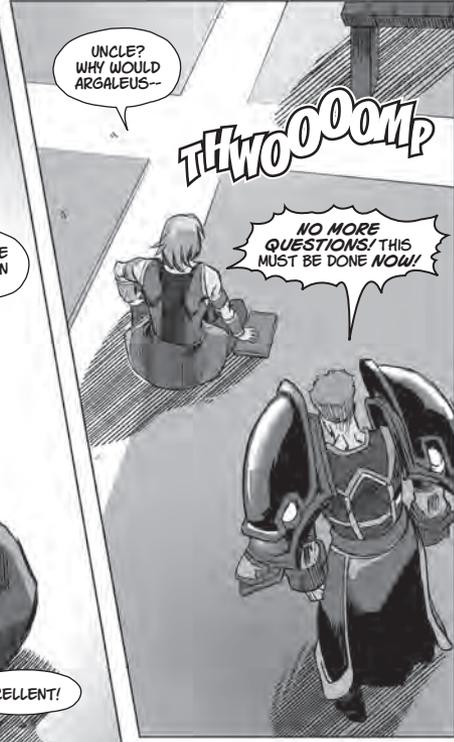


HOLD THE IMAGE
IN YOUR **MIND!** SHUT THE BOOK
QUICKLY, THEN SET IT DOWN...
BE PREPARED...YOU'LL HAVE TO
CAST THE SPELL IMMEDIATELY
AFTER OR RISK LOSING IT...



I STILL HAVE
THE IMAGE IN
MIND...

EXCELLENT!



UNCLE?
WHY WOULD
ARGALEUS--

THWOOMP

**NO MORE
QUESTIONS! THIS
MUST BE DONE NOW!**



CONCENTRATE...
LET YOUR POWER FOCUS
ON THE IMAGE IN
YOUR MIND...



YES... THAT'S IT...
I KNEW YOU HAD
THE ABILITY...!



YOU'RE FAR MORE
LIKE *ME* THAN YOU
EVER WERE LIKE YOUR
FATHER...



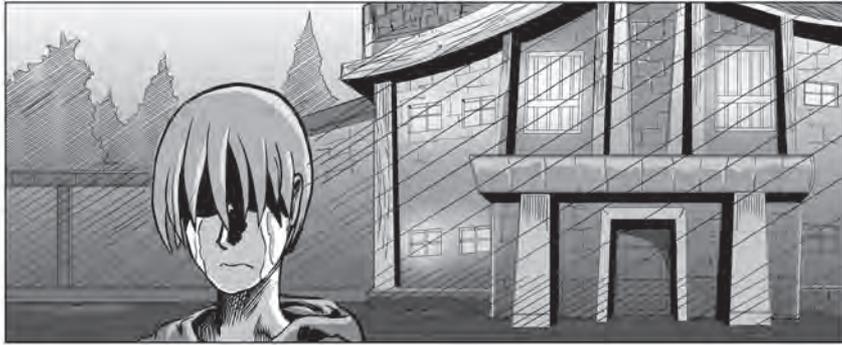
"FAR MORE..."

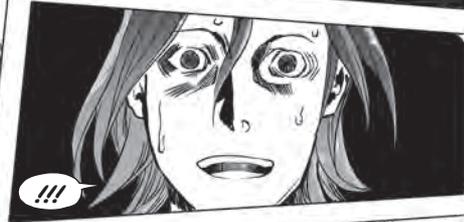
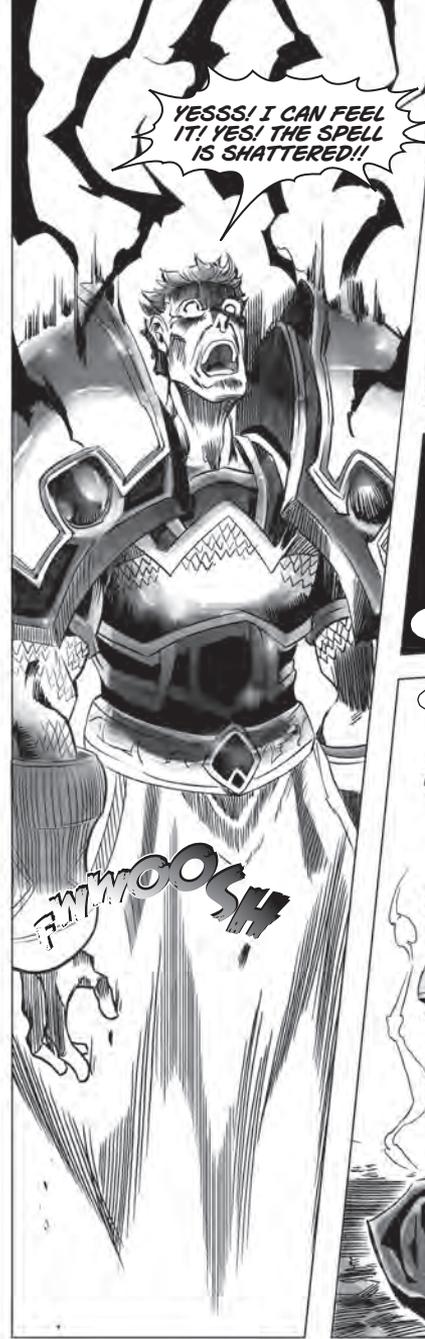


FATHER?
I'M LEAVING FOR
DALARAN NOW...



SLAM







EXACTLY



BUT WHAT CAN WE DO HERE?

WHAT *MUST* BE DONE TO PUT AN END TO THIS...



BUT WE'RE HEADING BACK--



--TO THE CELLS!



OF COURSE! I NOW HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED! I HAVE MY FREEDOM, MY POWER...



I HAVE THE SPELLBOOK OF ARGAEUS...



AND, YOU OF COURSE... AODHAN... I COULDN'T DO ALL THIS WITHOUT YOU.

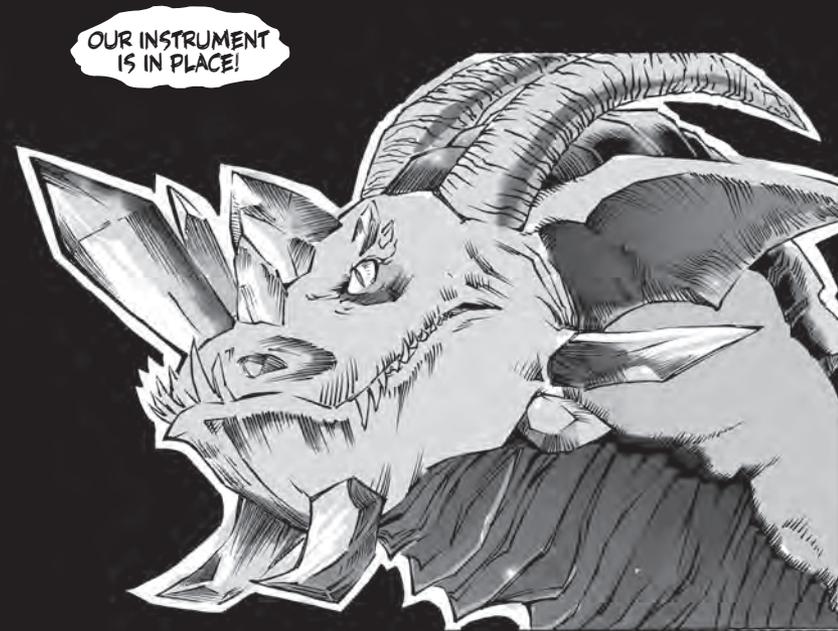


YOU WERE THE KEY, THE MOMENT YOU LET THE MAGIC CALL YOU AS IT HAD ME... THE MOMENT YOU CHOSE TO BECOME A MAGE...

AND YOU STILL ARE THE KEY...



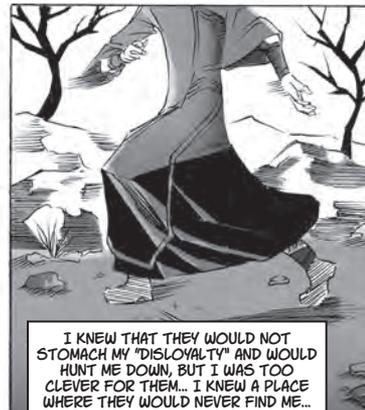
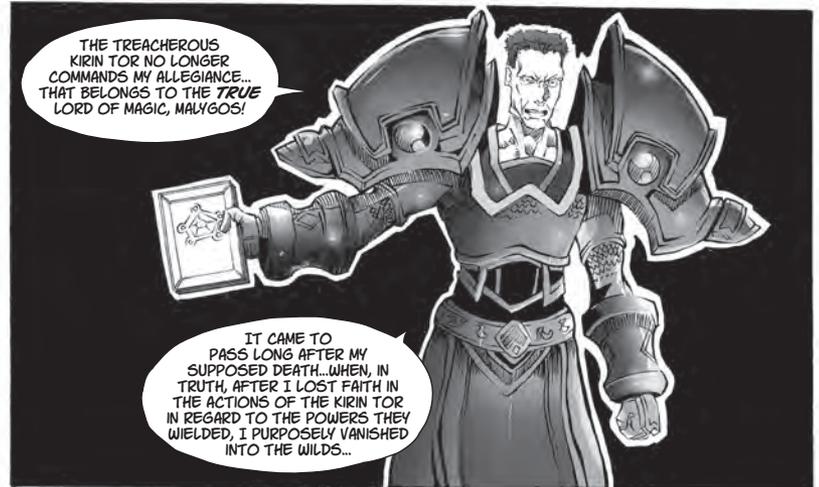
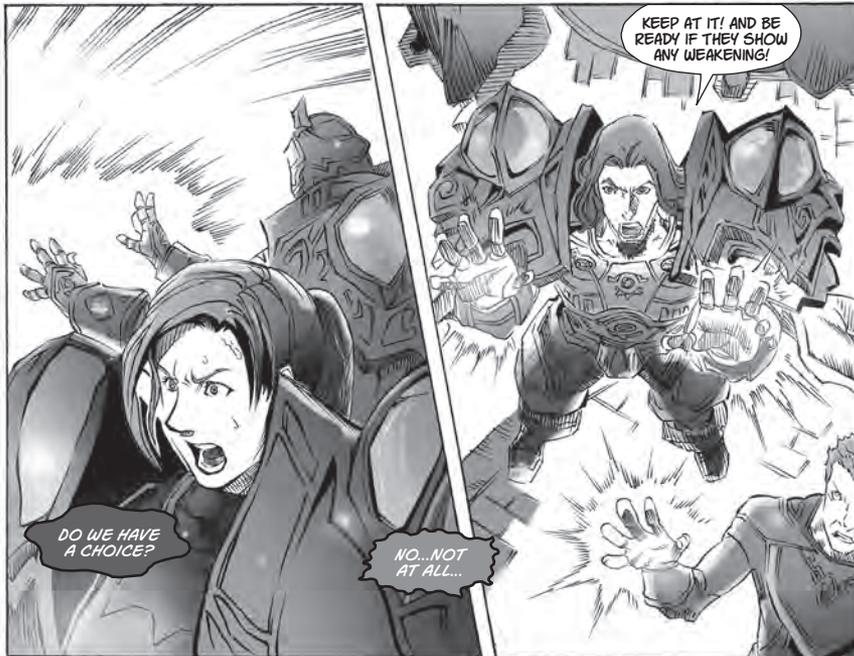
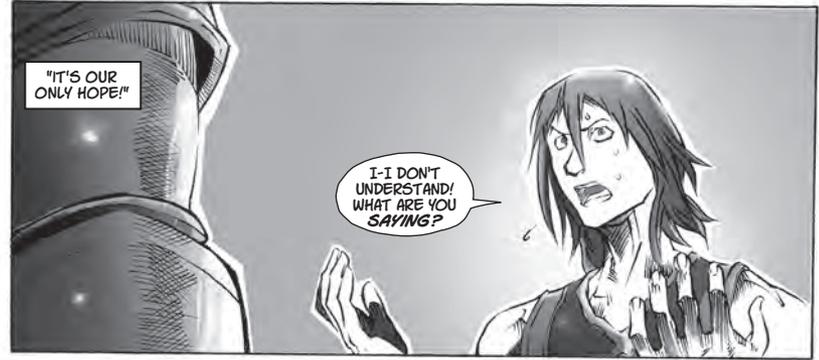
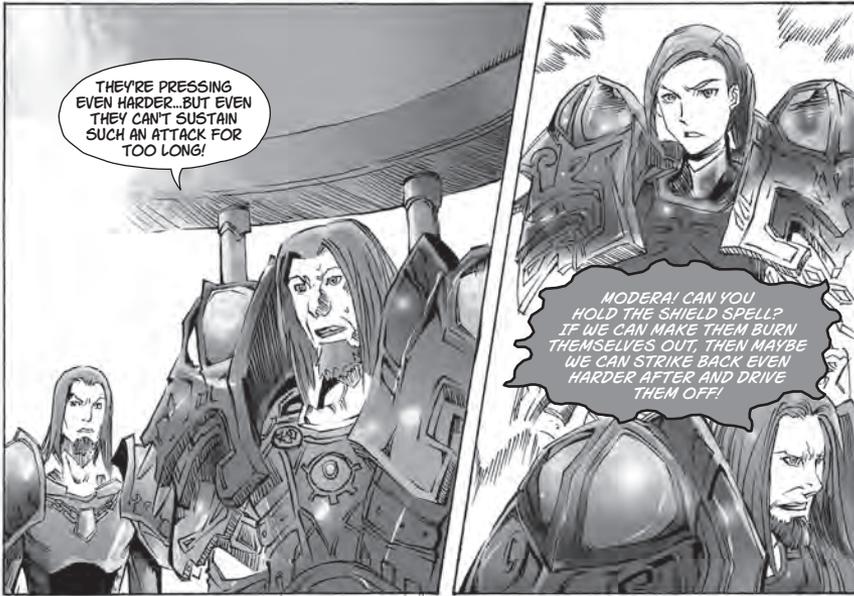
CHAPTER FOUR BY BLOOD BETRAYED

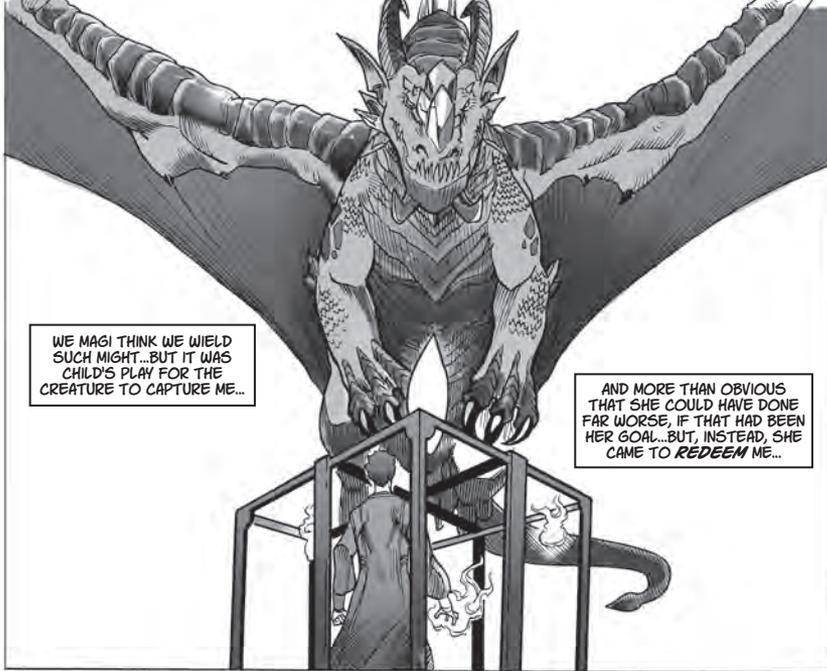




PRESS THE
ATTACK! THROW ALL
POWER INTO IT!!

SHUN
GODD
GODD



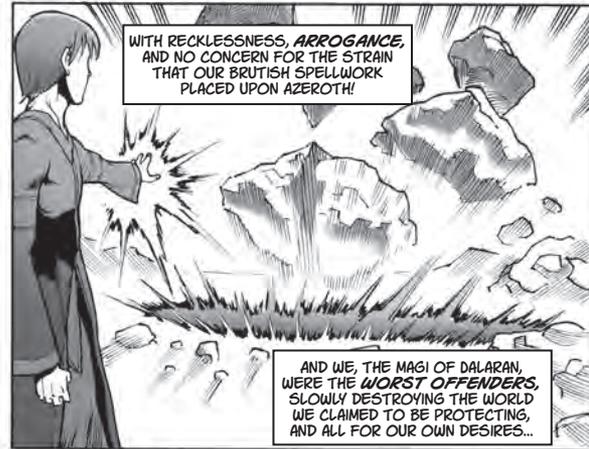


WE MAGI THINK WE WIELD SUCH MIGHT...BUT IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY FOR THE CREATURE TO CAPTURE ME...

AND MORE THAN OBVIOUS THAT SHE COULD HAVE DONE FAR WORSE, IF THAT HAD BEEN HER GOAL...BUT, INSTEAD, SHE CAME TO *REDEEM* ME...



AND THEN SHE SHOWED ME HOW WE ARCANISTERS ACTUALLY TREATED MAGIC...

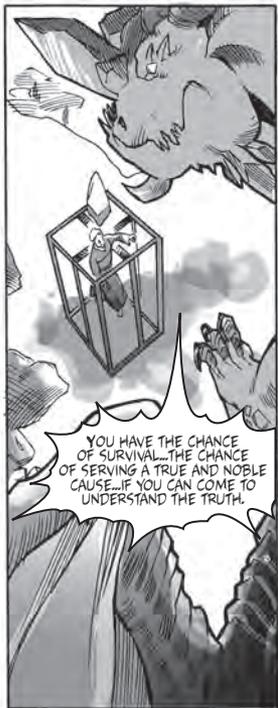


WITH RECKLESSNESS, *ARROGANCE*, AND NO CONCERN FOR THE STRAIN THAT OUR BRUTISH SPELLWORK PLACED UPON AZEROTH!

AND WE, THE MAGI OF DALARAN, WERE THE *WORST OFFENDERS*, SLOWLY DESTROYING THE WORLD WE CLAIMED TO BE PROTECTING, AND ALL FOR OUR OWN DESIRES...



NO! YOU KNOW THAT'S A *LIE!* YOU ALWAYS SAID YOURSELF THAT THE MAGI WORKED TO *PROTECT* AZEROTH FROM ALL DANGERS! YOU ENCOURAGED ME TO FOLLOW YOU...



YOU HAVE THE CHANCE OF SURVIVAL...THE CHANCE OF SERVING A TRUE AND NOBLE CAUSE...IF YOU CAN COME TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH.



LET ME SHOW YOU THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CARELESSLY PLAYING WITH MAGIC...AND ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDING IT...



I SAW WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A BLUE DRAGON... TO BE MAGIC INCARNATE AND WIELD IT WITH CARE, WITH CAUTION...WITH KNOWLEDGE...

AND TO WIELD IT WITH DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF HOW EVERY SPELL AFFECTS OUR WORLD...



AND I STILL DO! THINK OF IT, AODHAN! THIS IS WHAT WE BOTH ALWAYS DREAMED OF...WIELDING MAGIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL AZEROTH... TO BE *HEROES!*

AND TO MAKE AMENDS FOR ALL THE DANGER OUR KIND'S UNCHECKED ABUSE OF MAGIC HAS DONE OVER THE MILLENNIA...CATASTROPHES SUCH AS THE HIGHBORNE NIGHT ELVES CREATING THE PATH TO AZEROTH FOR THE DEMONS OF THE BURNING LEGION...OR THE OPENING OF THE DARK PORTAL BY MEDIVH THAT ALLOWED THE HORDE TO INVADE...

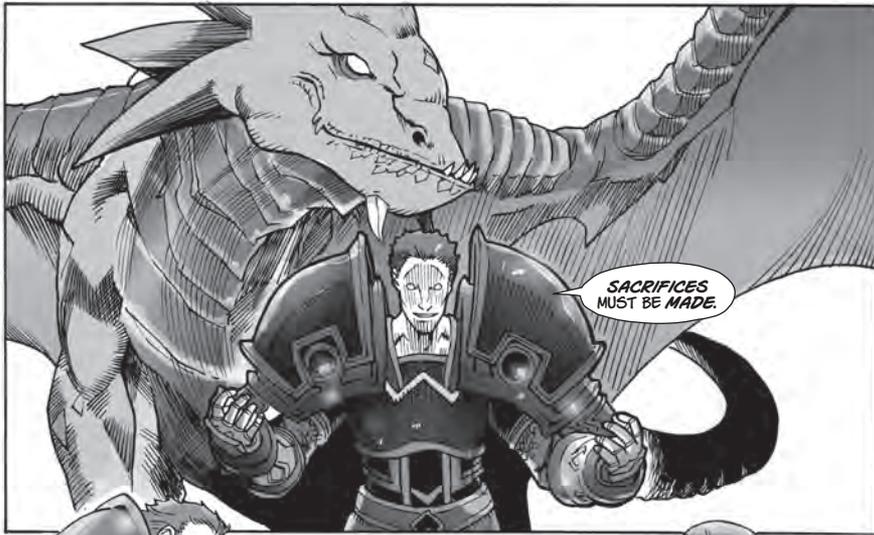
YOU CAN BECOME AS ME...YOU CAN STILL *FOLLOW* IN MY FOOTSTEPS...



NO! THIS IS *WRONG!* PEOPLE ARE *DYING* BECAUSE OF WHAT THE BLUE DRAGONS ARE DOING!



YOU SOUND JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER... HOW *DISAPPOINTING.* I THOUGHT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND...



SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.



I WILLINGLY GAVE MYSELF INTO THE SERVICE OF THE LORD OF MAGIC... BECAME A MAGE HUNTER, KNOWING THAT...



...MANY I KNEW, MANY I CARED FOR, WOULD HAVE TO *PERISH.*



BUT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY. *EVERY* SACRIFICE WOULD BE NECESSARY, IF ONLY TO ACHIEVE OUR ULTIMATE GOAL...

...THE UTTER *DESTRUCTION* OF DALARAN!



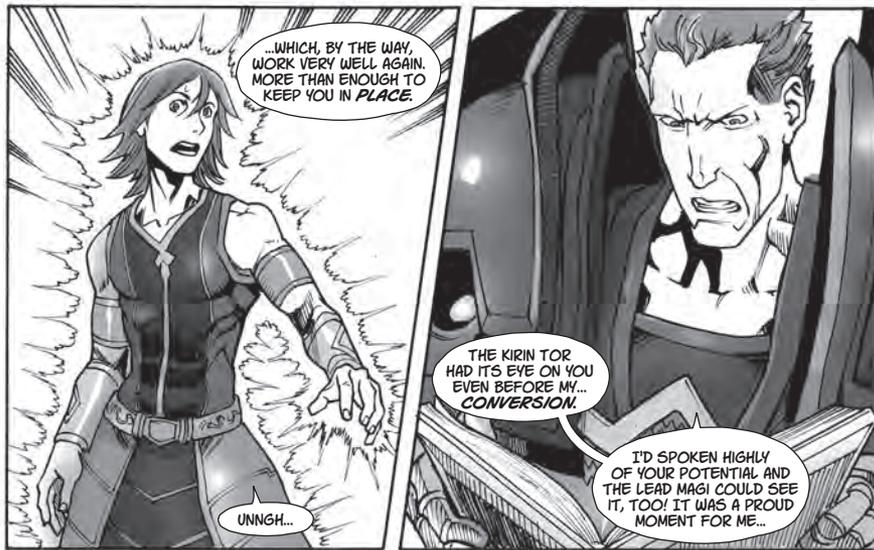
BUT YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

OH, YES, NEPHEW, I CAN...AND *MUST.* AND I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.



MY CAPTURE WAS PLANNED. MY IMPRISONMENT WAS PLANNED.

THE KIRIN TOR WAS EVEN EXPECTED TO MUTE MY POWERS...



...WHICH, BY THE WAY, WORK VERY WELL AGAIN. MORE THAN ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU IN PLACE.

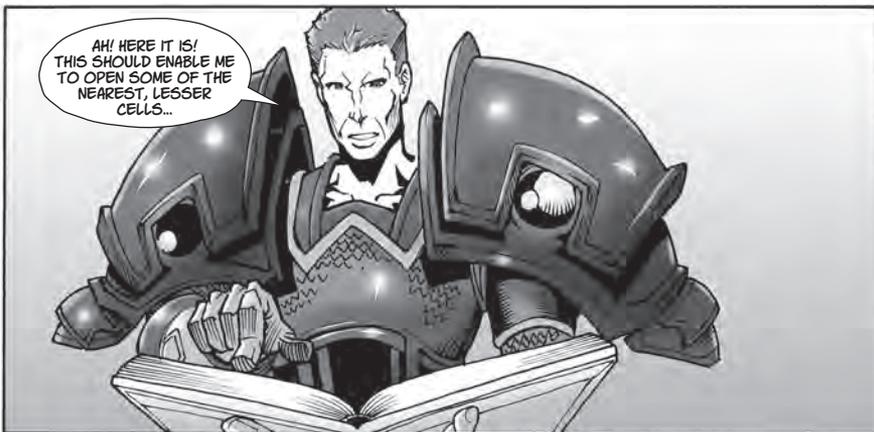
UNNGH...

THE KIRIN TOR HAD ITS EYE ON YOU EVEN BEFORE MY... **CONVERSION.**

I'D SPOKEN HIGHLY OF YOUR POTENTIAL AND THE LEAD MAGI COULD SEE IT, TOO! IT WAS A PROUD MOMENT FOR ME...



THEY'D ALREADY INTENDED TO TEST YOU. AND IN THAT CAME THE **FINAL PIECE** OF MY PLAN!

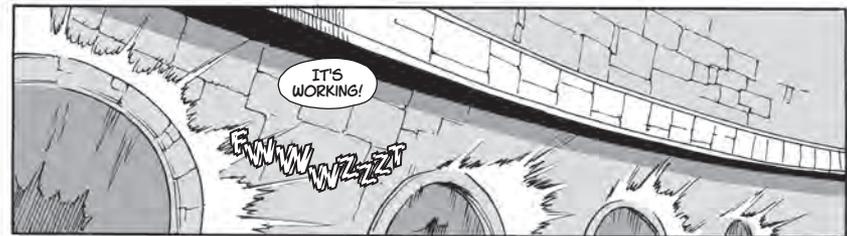


AH! HERE IT IS! THIS SHOULD ENABLE ME TO OPEN SOME OF THE NEAREST, LESSER CELLS...



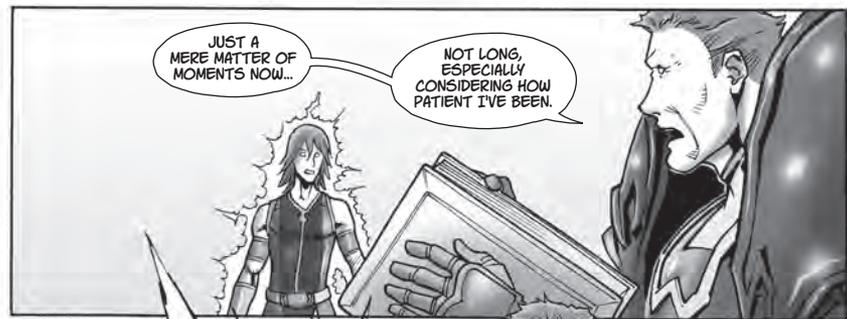
YES...

FZZZZZZZZT



IT'S WORKING!

FZZZZZZZZT



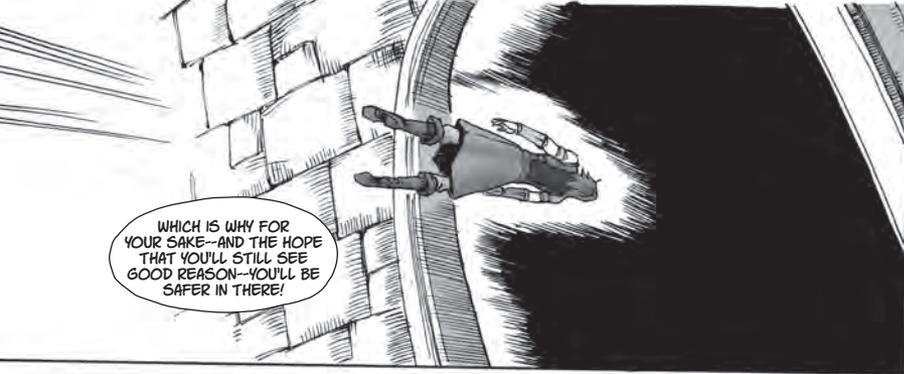
JUST A MERE MATTER OF MOMENTS NOW...

NOT LONG, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HOW PATIENT I'VE BEEN.

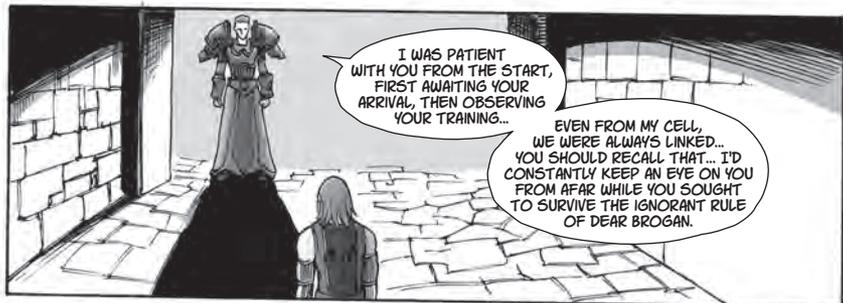


I LET MYSELF BE CAPTURED, KNOWING THAT YOU WERE ALREADY BEING GROOMED TO BE TRAINED AS A MAGE. AFTER ALL, I'D WORKED HARD TO INSTILL THAT DESIRE IN YOU, THOUGH ORIGINALLY FOR A MORE **PERSONAL REASON.**

YOU WERE AND STILL ARE MY FAVORITE NEPHEW...THE **SON** I NEVER HAD...



WHICH IS WHY FOR YOUR SAKE--AND THE HOPE THAT YOU'LL STILL SEE GOOD REASON--YOU'LL BE SAFER IN THERE!



I WAS PATIENT WITH YOU FROM THE START, FIRST AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL, THEN OBSERVING YOUR TRAINING...

EVEN FROM MY CELL, WE WERE ALWAYS LINKED... YOU SHOULD RECALL THAT... I'D CONSTANTLY KEEP AN EYE ON YOU FROM AFAR WHILE YOU SOUGHT TO SURVIVE THE IGNORANT RULE OF DEAR BROGAN.



AND THAT WAS ONE ABILITY, ONE SPELL, THAT MY MASTER AND I WORKED TO GUARANTEE EVEN THE KIRIN TOR WOULD NOT FIND!

I HAD UTTER FAITH THAT YOU AND YOUR GROWING SKILLS WOULD BE MY KEY TO SUCCESS WHEN THE TIME CAME! ALL I HAD TO DO WAS THEN AWAIT THE COMMAND.



THAT CAME ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MAGI'S SUCCESS IN RAISING DALARAN.

THEN, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO CONTACT YOU IN ORDER TO GAIN MY FREEDOM, THEN USE YOUR ABILITIES TO PROCURE THE SPELL BOOK I NEEDED...

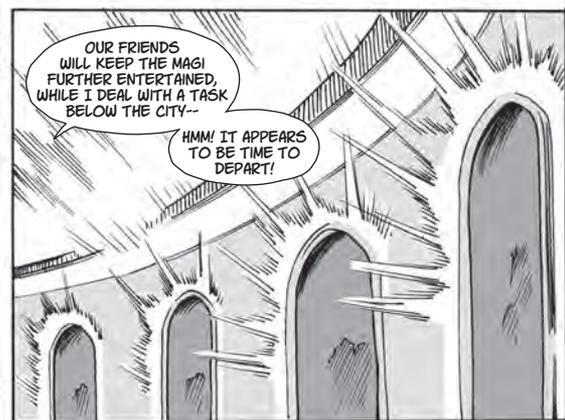


AND NOW, THE VERY SPELL THE KIRIN TOR USED TO *SAVE* ITS KINGDOM WILL ALLOW ME TO *DESTROY* IT.



YES, YOU ARE MY NEPHEW...AND I'LL MAKE YOU SEE THE TRUTH YET.

BUT FOR NOW, I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU HERE! YOU SHOULD BE SAFE FROM WHAT'S COMING. I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU...I PROMISE.

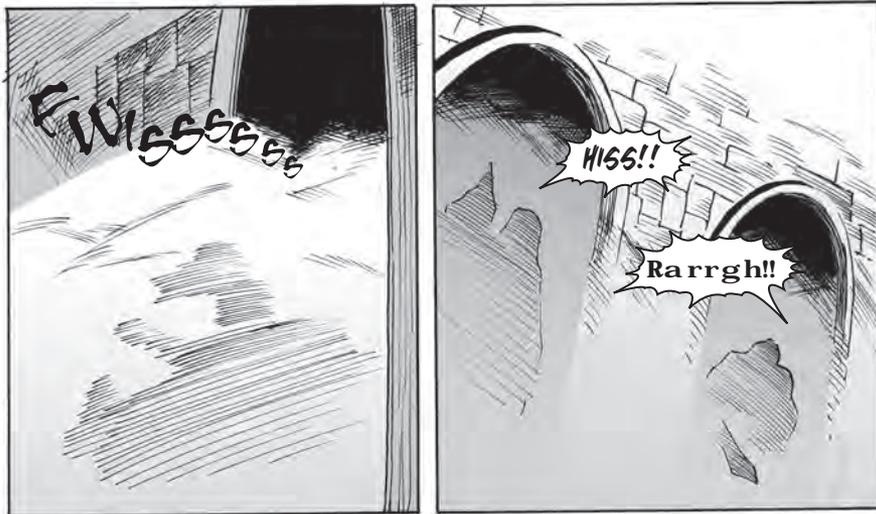


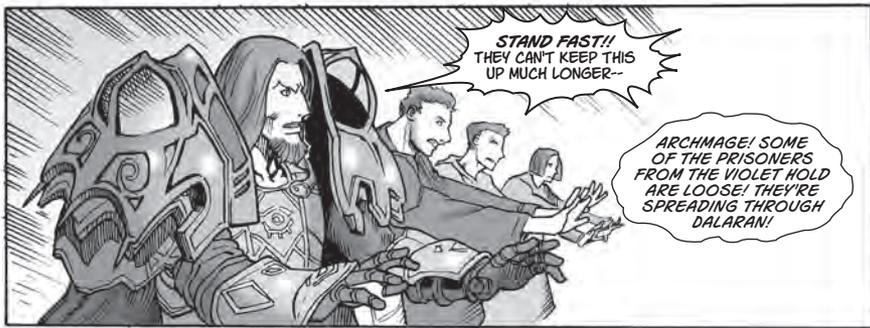
OUR FRIENDS WILL KEEP THE MAGI FURTHER ENTERTAINED, WHILE I DEAL WITH A TASK BELOW THE CITY--

HMM! IT APPEARS TO BE TIME TO DEPART!



DO WISH ME LUCK.





STAND FAST!!
THEY CAN'T KEEP THIS
UP MUCH LONGER--

ARCHMAGE! SOME
OF THE PRISONERS
FROM THE VIOLET HOLD
ARE LOOSE! THEY'RE
SPREADING THROUGH
DALARAN!



THEY'RE FREE?
WHO IS THIS? WHO
IS THIS?!

IT'S TRUE!
THIS CAN'T BE A
COINCIDENCE! THIS MUST
BE WHY THE BLUE DRAGONS
HAVE THROWN EVERYTHING
THEY'VE
GOT AGAINST US!

ALL MAGI NEAR THE
HOLD! THE PRISONERS
HAVE ESCAPED!!

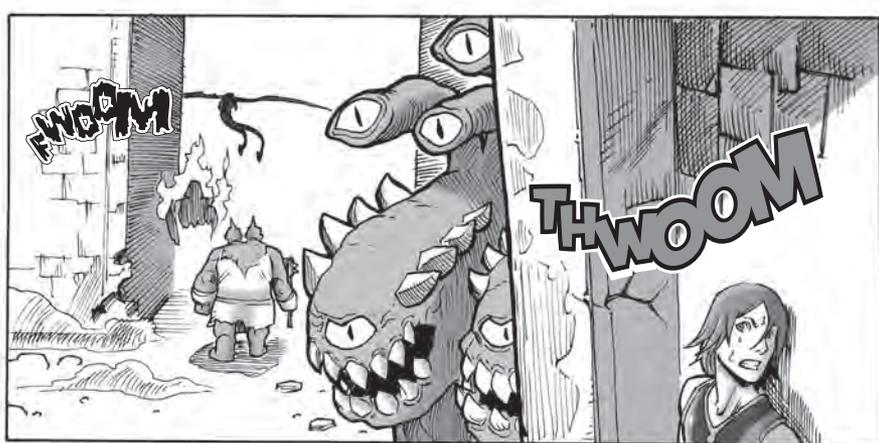


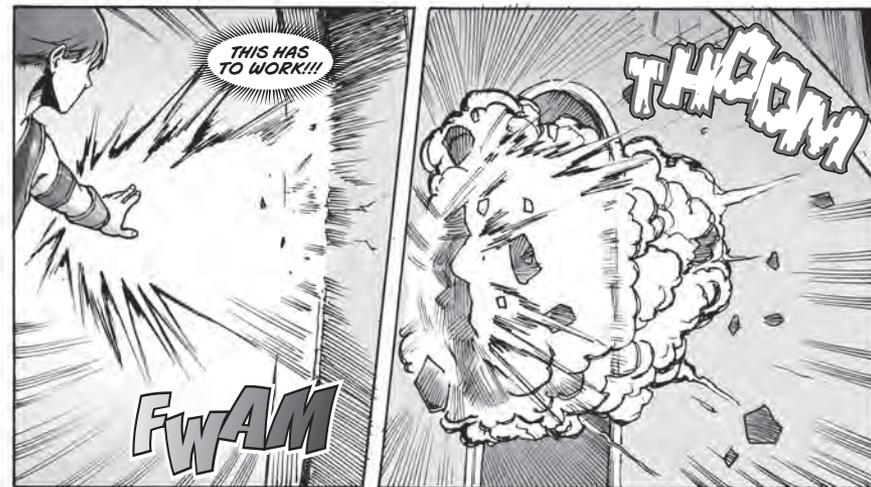
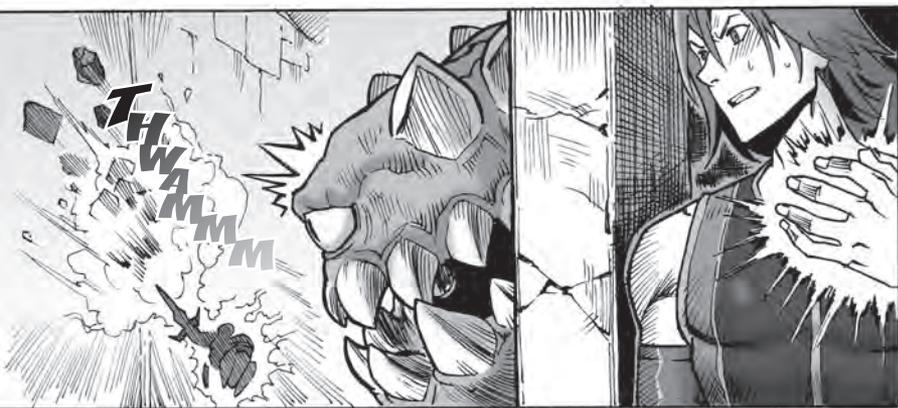
TURN YOUR
FOCUS TO THEM!
I'LL JOIN YOUR
EFFORTS...

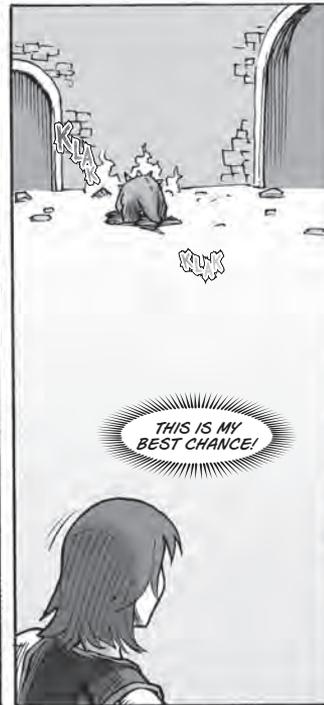
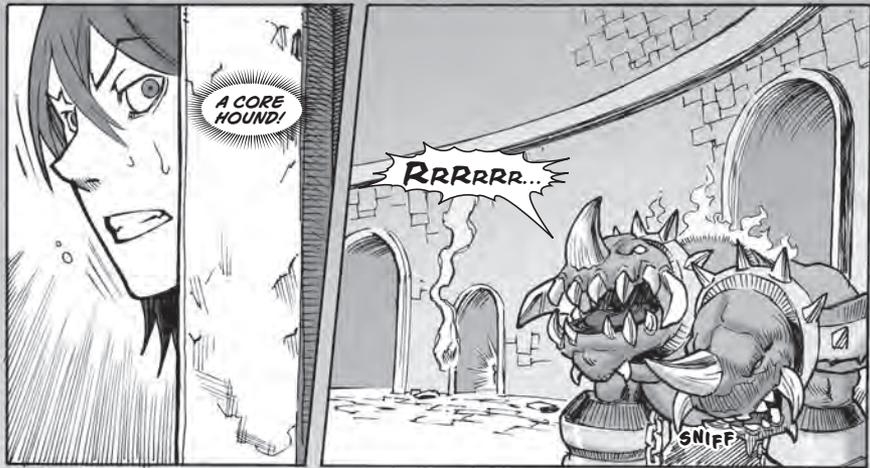


BE
WARY!

AND REMAIN
IGNORANT OF THE **TRUE**
THREAT BELOW...UNTIL
IT'S FAR TOO LATE...





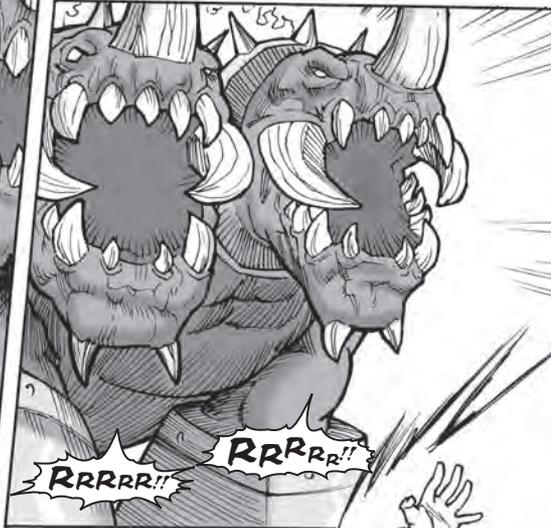




RRRRRR!!!



IT'S TOO SWIFT--
AND FIRE WON'T HAVE
ANY EFFECT ON IT!
I'VE GOT TO THINK OF
SOMETHING ELSE!



RRRRR!! **RRRRR!!**



IF I
CAN JUST
SLOW IT...



FWOOSH



RRRRR!

RRRRR!!

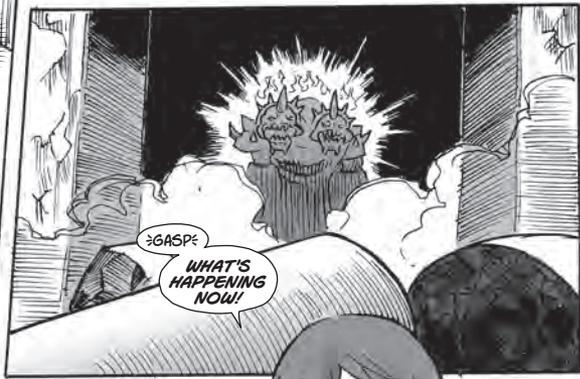
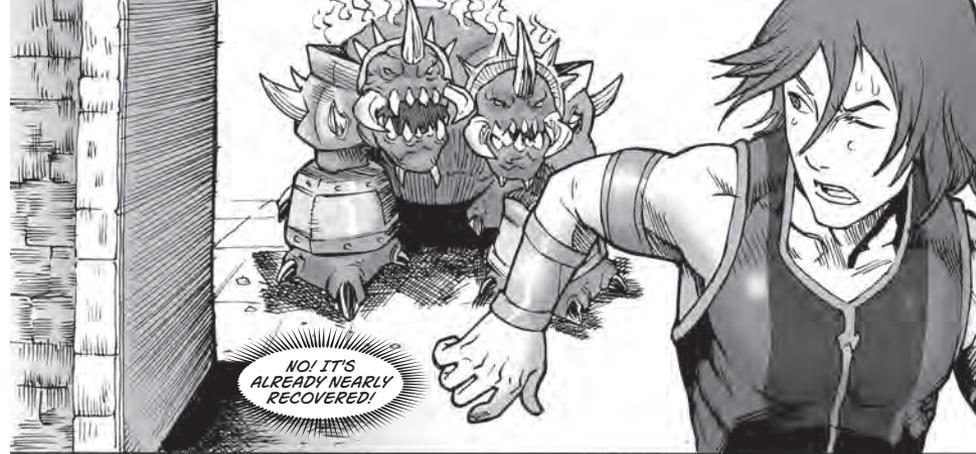
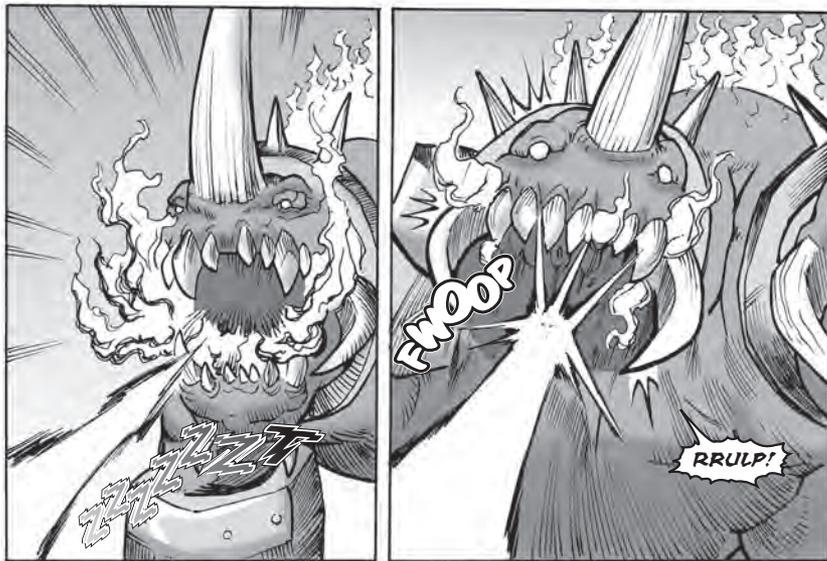
MY SPELL'S NOT
STRONG ENOUGH! IT'S
STILL COMING!



FHISS



PLEASE LET
THIS WORK!!



Aodhan ALREADY knew the TERRIBLE FORCES ASSAILING DALARAN, BUT UNTIL THE REVELATION OF HIS UNELE'S BETRAYAL, THERE HAD BEEN THAT PART OF HIM THAT HAD TRUSTED THAT THE MAGI WOULD PREVAIL.

Now, though, he saw those forces in a new and more monstrous light...he saw that it was very possible—even very likely—that DALARAN would FALL.

AND, WORSE OF ALL, THAT HE HAD HELPED BRING THAT DESTRUCTION DOWN UPON THE REALM...

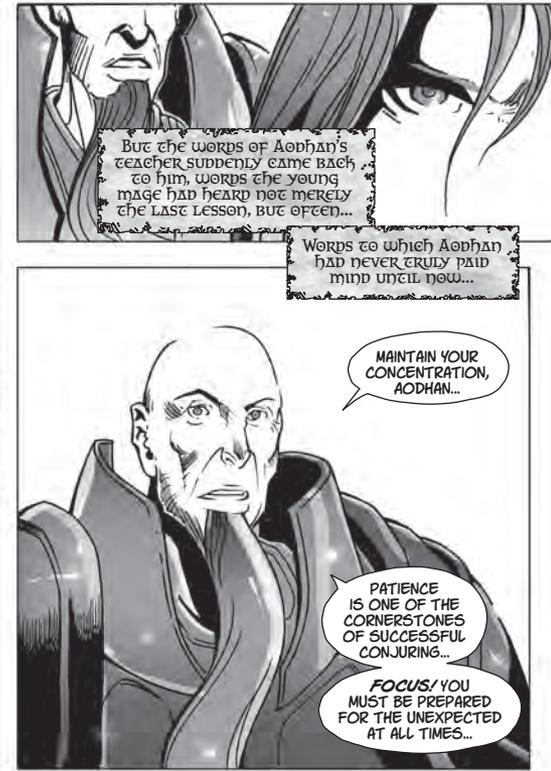
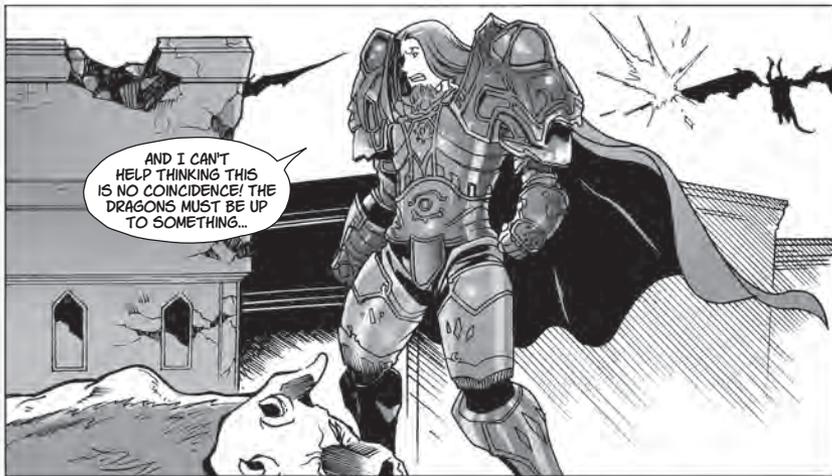
CHAPTER FIVE DECISION & DISASTER



Rrrraarr!



CAPTURE THEM IF YOU CAN--BUT STOP THEM ONE WAY OR ANOTHER QUICKLY! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE DISTRACTED BY THIS FOR LONG!



But the words of Aodhan's teacher suddenly came back to him, words the young mage had heard not merely the last lesson, but often...

Words to which Aodhan had never truly paid mind until now...

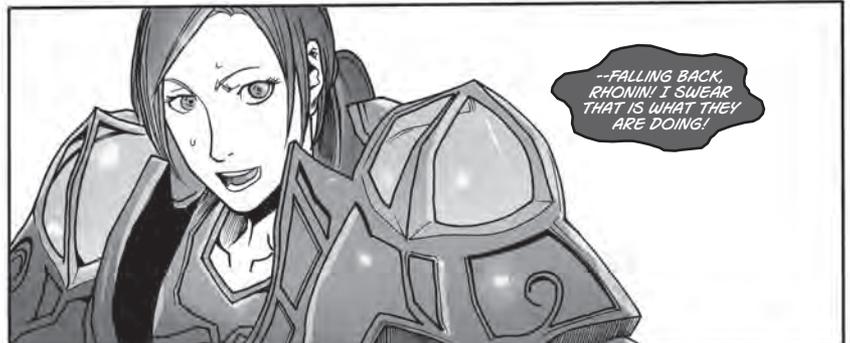
PATIENCE IS ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF SUCCESSFUL CONJURING...
FOCUS! YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED AT ALL TIMES...

"PATIENCE...
FOCUS..."



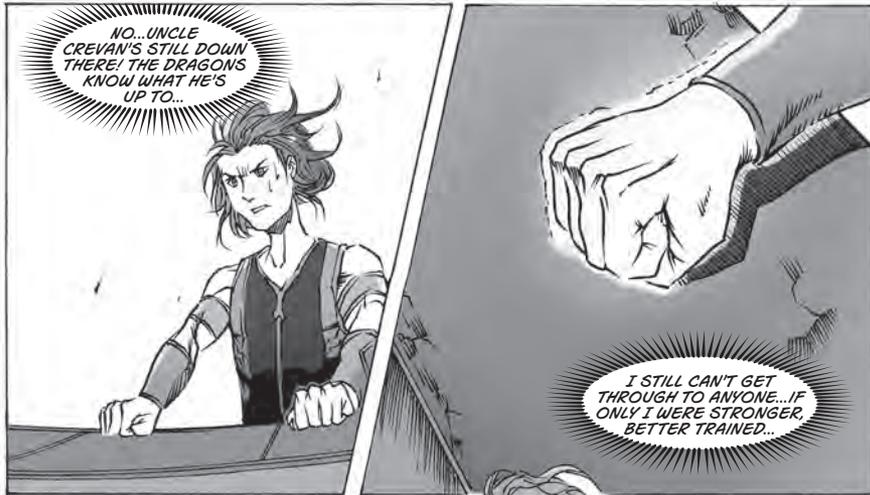
PATIENCE AND FOCUS... BUT IT'S ONE THING TO TEACH AND ANOTHER TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS!

BUT--I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!





THEY'RE MOVING FARTHER BACK! DOES THAT MEAN DALARAN'S SAFE?



NO...UNCLE CREVAN'S STILL DOWN THERE! THE DRAGONS KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO...

I STILL CAN'T GET THROUGH TO ANYONE...IF ONLY I WERE STRONGER, BETTER TRAINED...



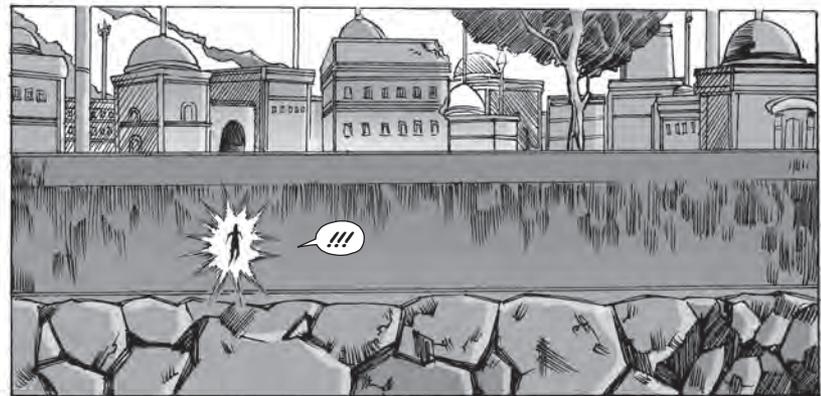
I'VE NO CHOICE. I HAVE TO DO IT. I CAN DO IT.



I JUST HAVE TO FOCUS...



ULP!

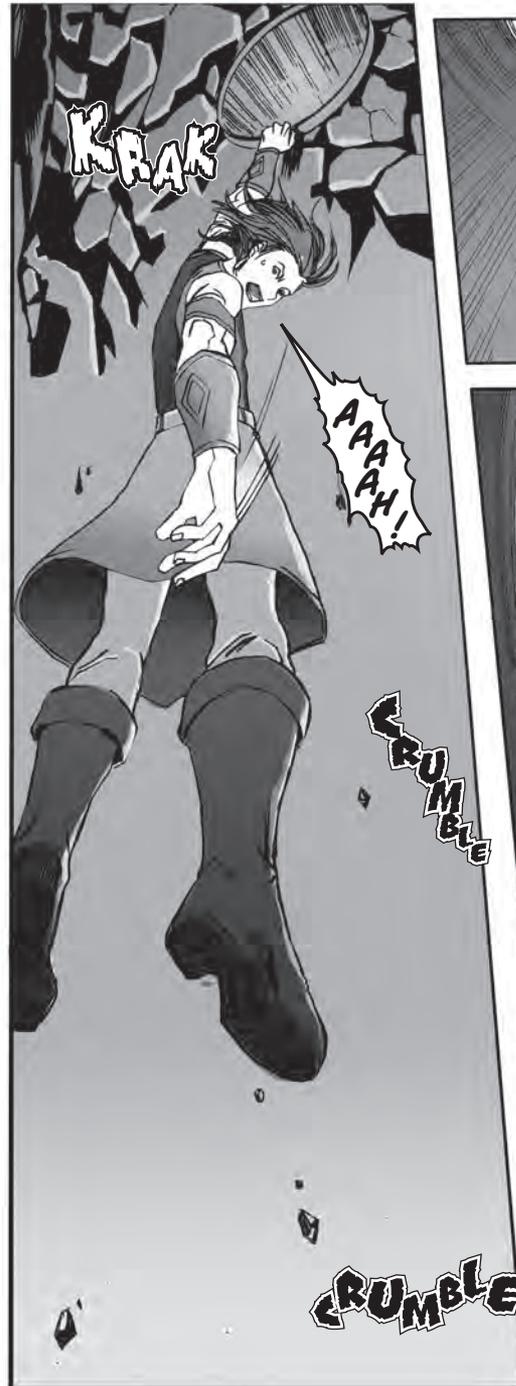


!!!



THERE'RE LOTS OF OLD TUNNELS BENEATH DALARAN...THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF OPENINGS BENEATH THE CITY...

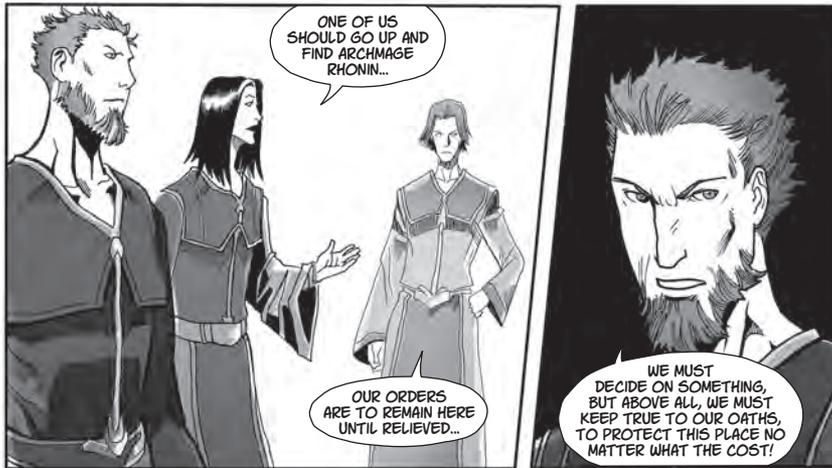
THE SHIELD SPELL KEEPS THINGS OUTSIDE FROM GETTING CLOSE ENOUGH TO USE THEM...





"...UNLESS I CAN FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TO STOP HIM!"

I STILL CAN'T CONTACT ANYONE ABOVE!



ONE OF US SHOULD GO UP AND FIND ARCHMAGE RHONIN...

OUR ORDERS ARE TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL RELIEVED...

WE MUST DECIDE ON SOMETHING, BUT ABOVE ALL, WE MUST KEEP TRUE TO OUR OATHS, TO PROTECT THIS PLACE NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!



AND YOU WOULD DO IT, TOO...



WHICH IS WHY YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.

F
W
W
W
W
S
S
S
T



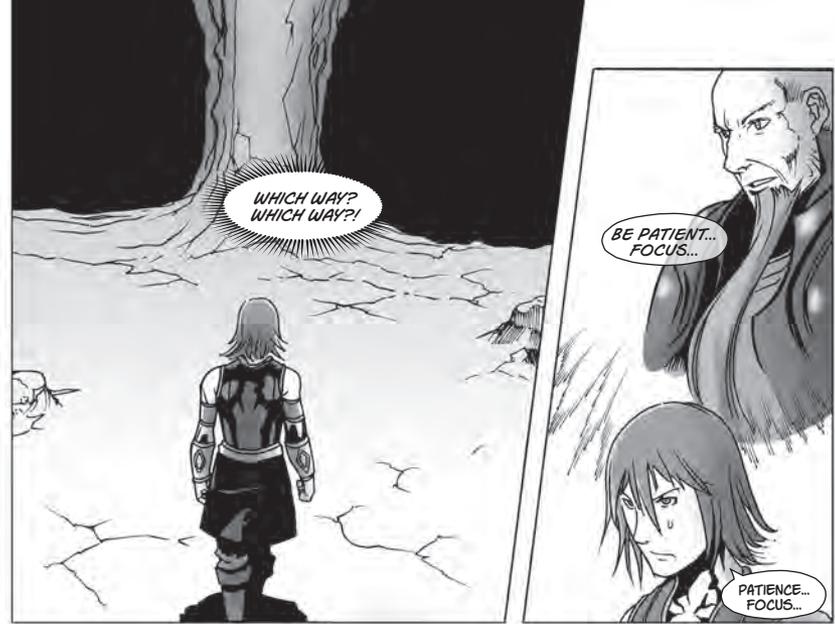
I REALLY AM SORRY...BUT YOU WOULD'VE DIED SOON ENOUGH ONCE DALARAN FELL, ANYWAY.

SOMETHING VERY, VERY IMMINENT.

SUCH A WASTEFUL, ARROGANT DISPLAY OF POWER.



THE SOONER IT'S DESTROYED, THE BETTER! BUT FIRST, THE NEXT STEP IN KEEPING THE KIRIN TOR OCCUPIED...



WHICH WAY? WHICH WAY?!

BE PATIENT... FOCUS...

PATIENCE... FOCUS...



THIS WAY! HE'S GOT TO BE THIS WAY..

CREVAN...I KNOW HE'S CLOSE...I CAN FEEL HIM...



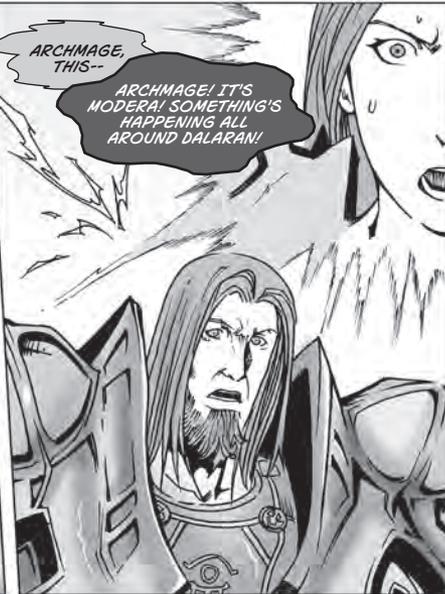
MAYBE... MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TO REACH ARCHMAGE RHONIN AGAIN! IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT... MAYBE HE'LL HEAR ME IF I FOCUS HARDER YET!



ARCHMAGE RHONIN!
ARCHMAGE RHONIN!



WHO IS THAT?
I CAN BARELY HEAR YOU!



ARCHMAGE,
THIS--
ARCHMAGE! IT'S MODERA! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING ALL AROUND DALARAN!



THERE ARE DIMENSIONAL RIFTS OPENING UP EVERYWHERE!



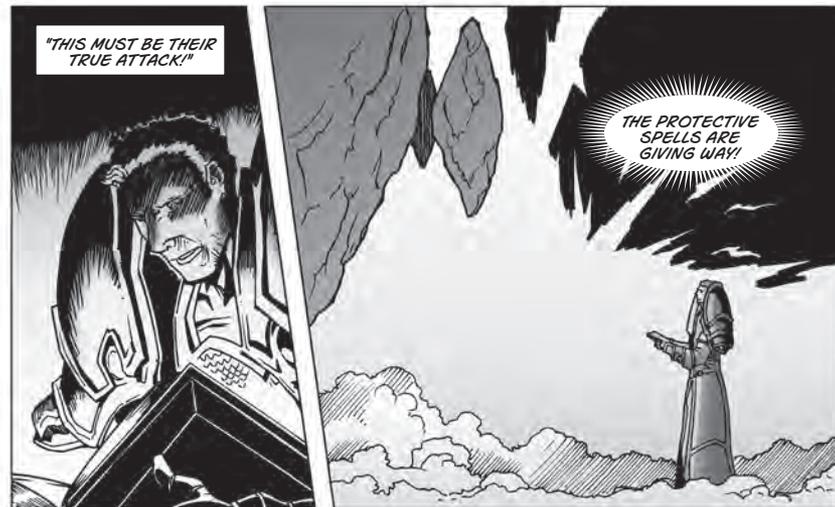
THE DRAGONS COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS! THE SHIELD SPELL'S TOO STRONG! THIS COULD ONLY HAPPEN FROM WITHIN!



MODERA! STRENGTHEN THE SHIELD SPELL! SOMETHING'S COMING THROUGH!



TOO LATE! MAGE SLAYERS!





THE TIME OF RECKONING IS AT HAND!



SOMETHING'S HAPPENING ABOVE!



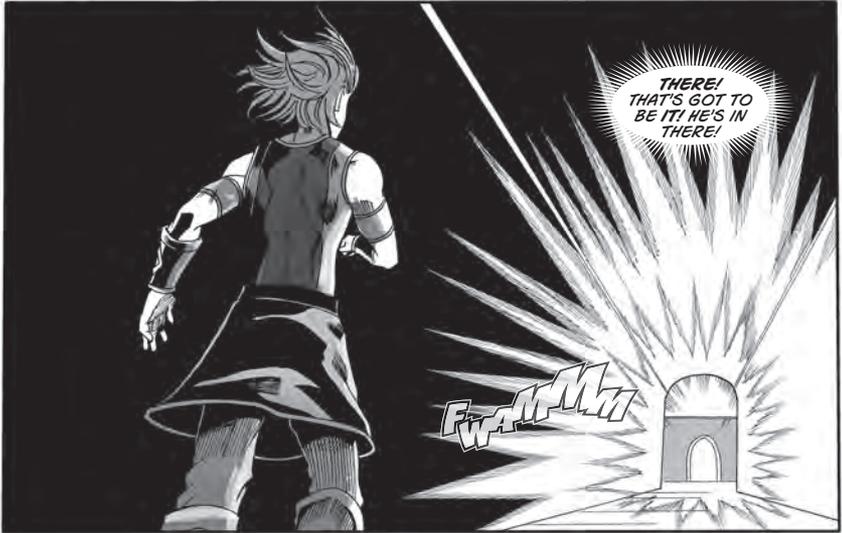
COULD IT HAVE TO DO WITH CREVAN? I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE!



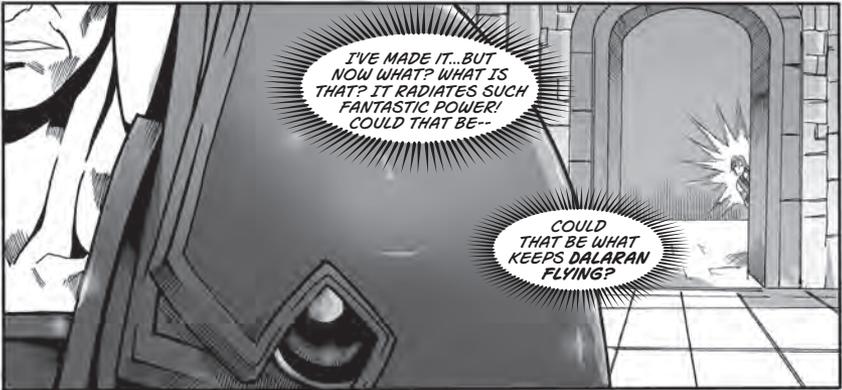
GIVE THEM NO RESPIRE! THEY MUST HAVE NO OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER THEIR FATAL ERROR!



OUR AGENT IS NEAR COMPLETION OF HIS EFFORTS...

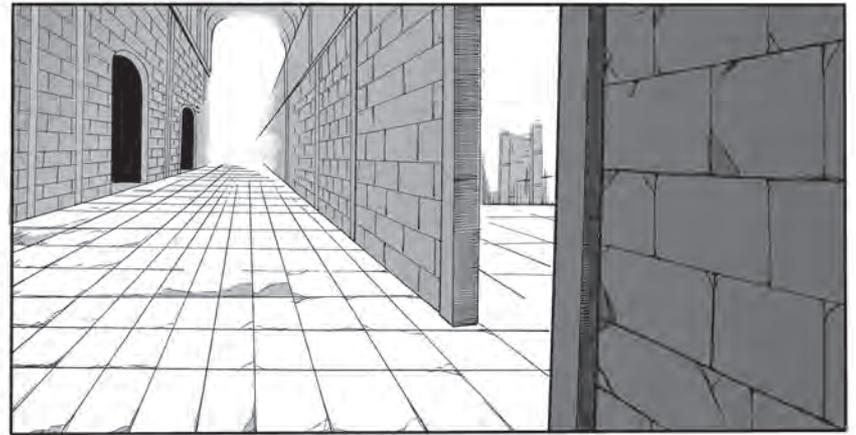
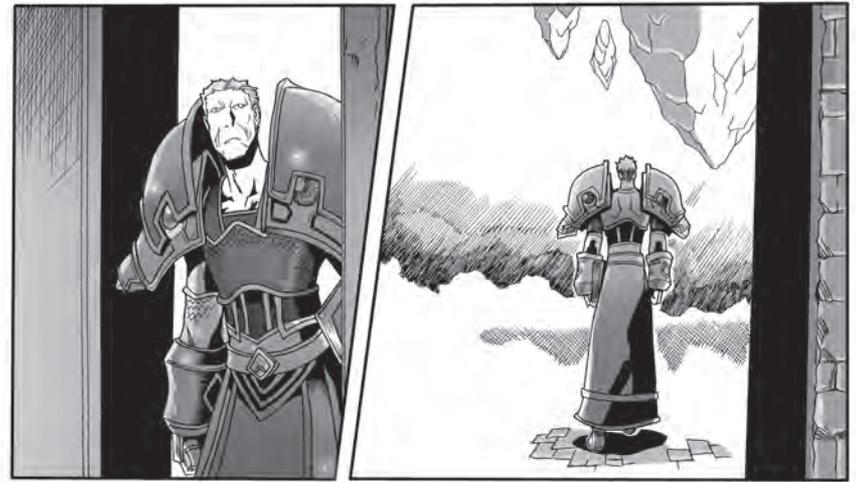
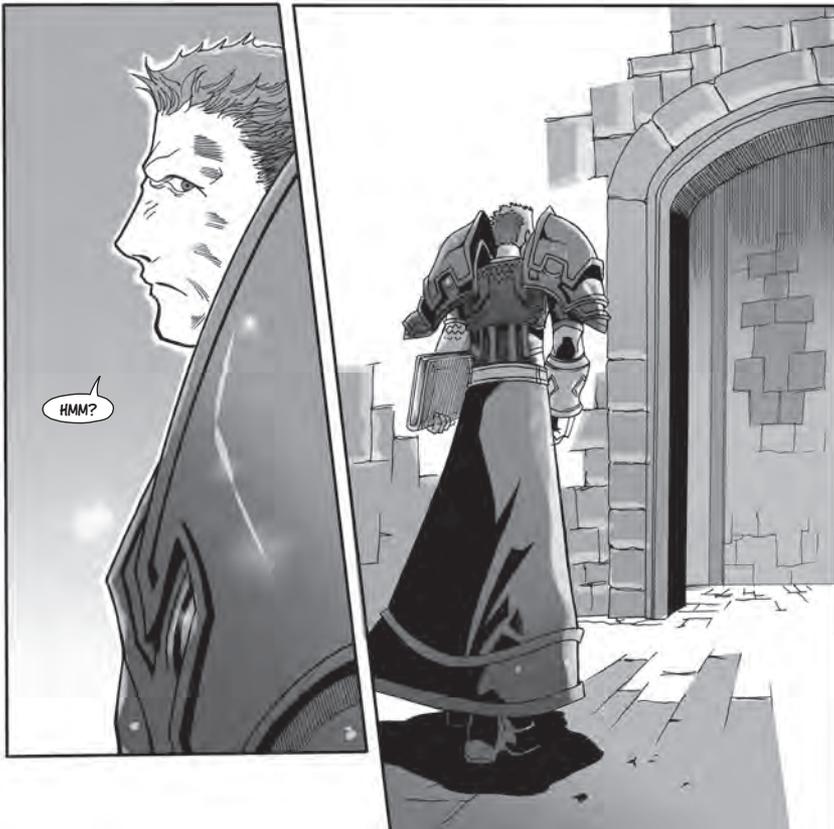
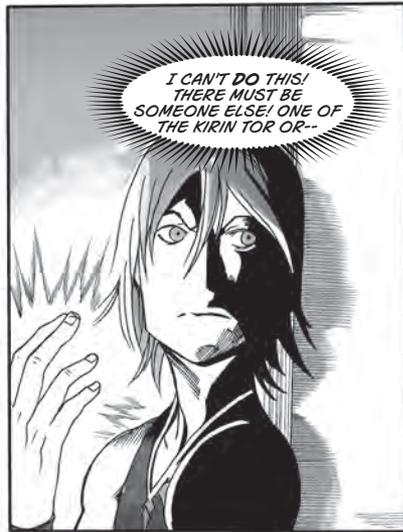


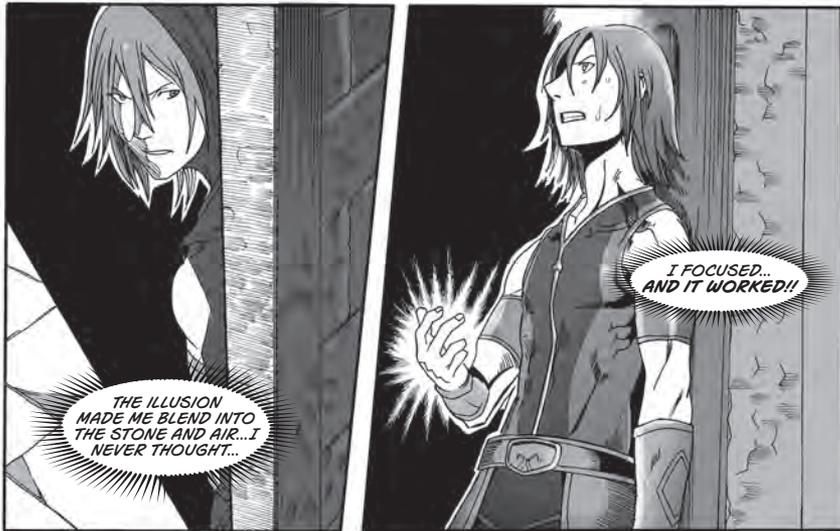
THERE! THAT'S GOT TO BE IT! HE'S IN THERE!



I'VE MADE IT... BUT NOW WHAT? WHAT IS THAT? IT RADIATES SUCH FANTASTIC POWER! COULD THAT BE--

COULD THAT BE WHAT KEEPS DALARAN FLYING?





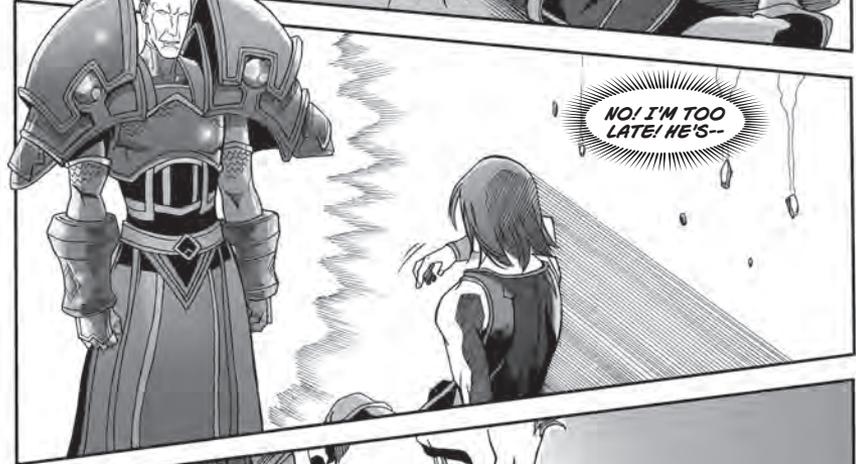
THE ILLUSION MADE ME BLEND INTO THE STONE AND AIR... I NEVER THOUGHT...

I FOCUSED... AND IT WORKED!!



UNNGH!

RRRRUMBLE



NO! I'M TOO LATE! HE'S--



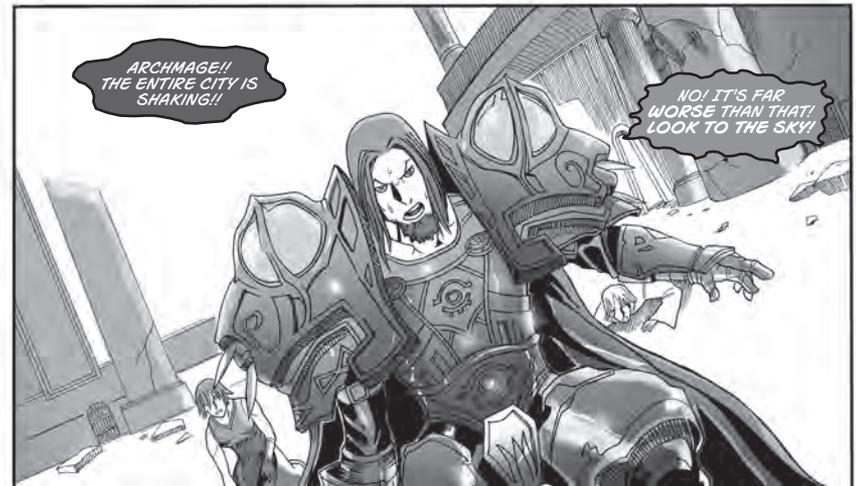
THE END OF THE KIRIN TOR IS AT HAND! THE BLIGHT THAT IS DALARAN IS NO MORE!



IF HE'LL JUST KEEP--



RRRRUMBLE



ARCHMAGE!! THE ENTIRE CITY IS SHAKING!!

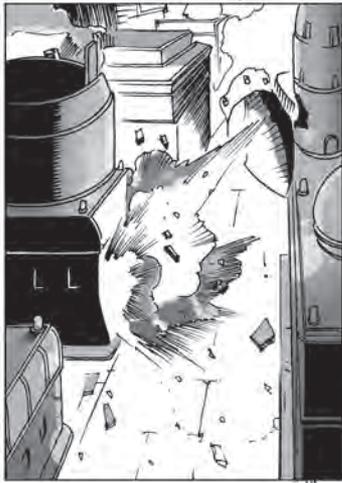
NO! IT'S FAR WORSE THAN THAT! LOOK TO THE SKY!



CHAPTER SIX

FATAL PATH





FWOON



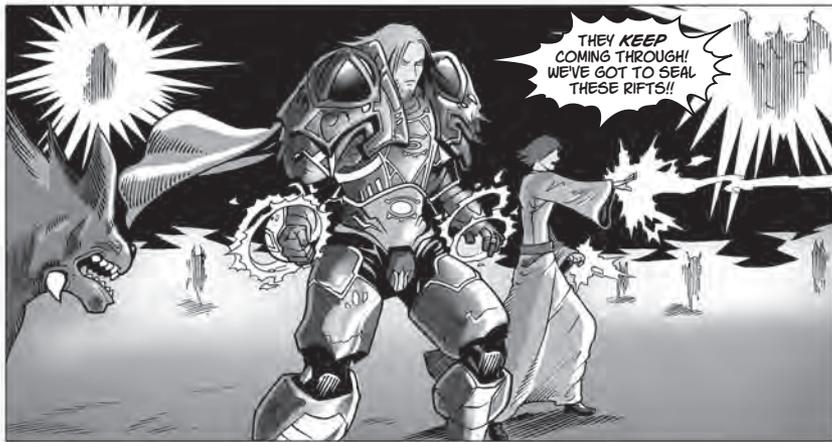
GGGG

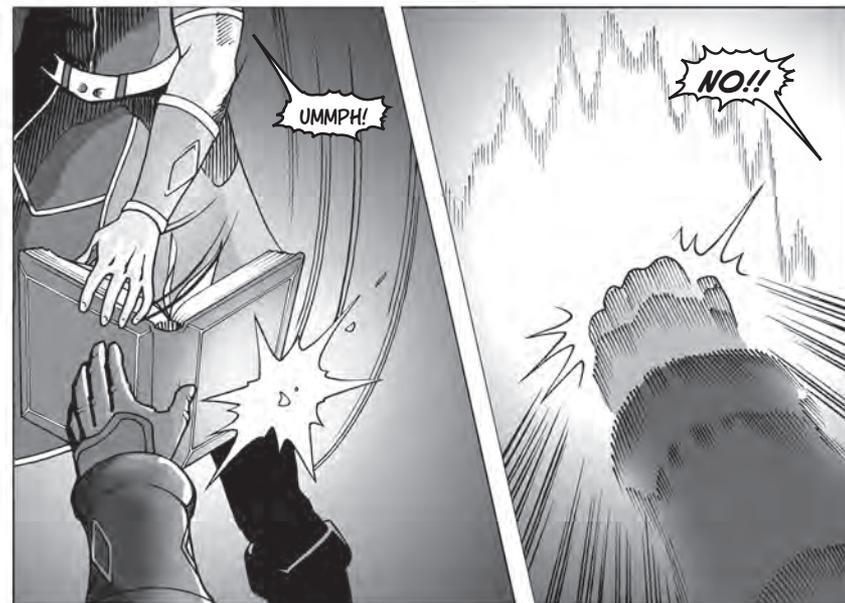
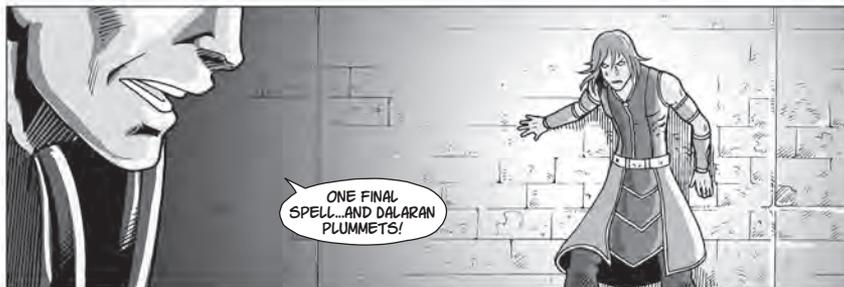


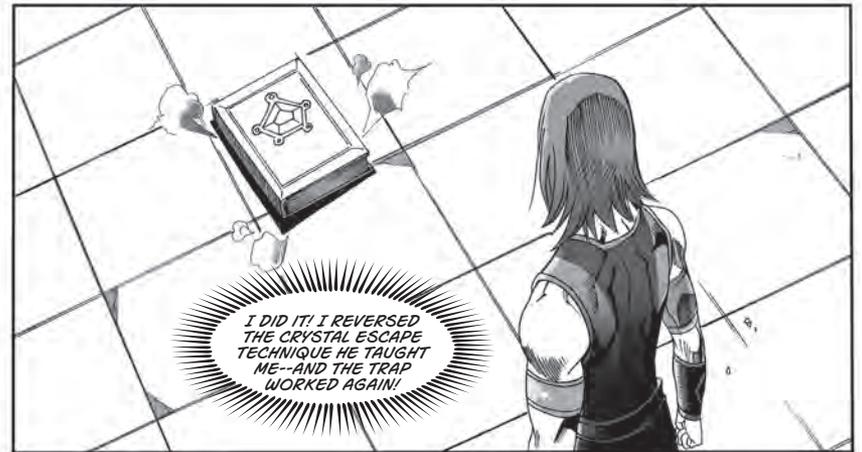
KRAAAAK

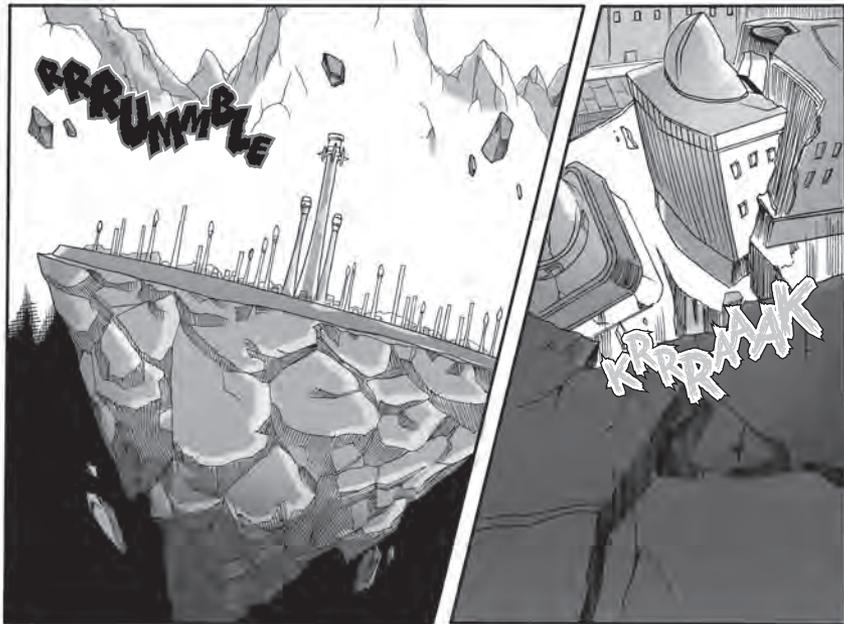
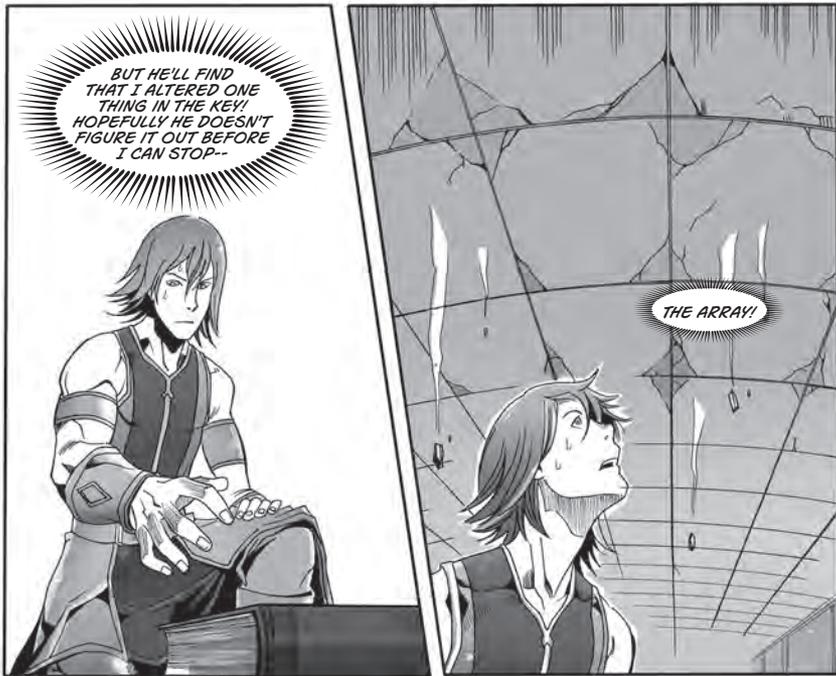


WATCH OUT!









NOT QUITE CERTAIN WHAT TO DO, NEPHEW?



MY LORD MALYGOS WOULD EXPECT ME TO ELIMINATE ANY INTERFERENCE... ANY.



BUT AFTER THOSE TRICKS, MY FAITH IN YOUR ABILITIES IS STRONGER THAN EVER...AS IS MY BELIEF I CAN MAKE YOU SEE THE LIGHT AND JOIN US.

WITH ME TO GUIDE YOU, YOU COULD RISE SWIFTLY AMONG MALYGOS'S SERVANTS! YOU WOULD LEARN HOW TO CAST SPELLS OF MAGNITUDES OF WHICH YOU'VE NEVER DREAMED...



UNGH!

CONSIDER YOURSELF FORTUNATE, NEPHEW.



YOUR TALENT SHOWS THAT BLINK SPELL SHOULD'VE BEEN WELL BEYOND YOUR ABILITIES. YOU ALSO DID QUITE WELL CHANGING THE TRAP SPELL...THOUGH I'VE ESCAPED BETTER.



YOUR BROTHER'S EXPLOITS WOULD BE AS NOTHING TO YOURS! YOU'D EASILY EVEN SURPASS YOUR ARROGANT FATHER...

MY ESCAPE FROM DALARAN CAN BE USED BY TWO AS WELL AS ONE.

I...I...



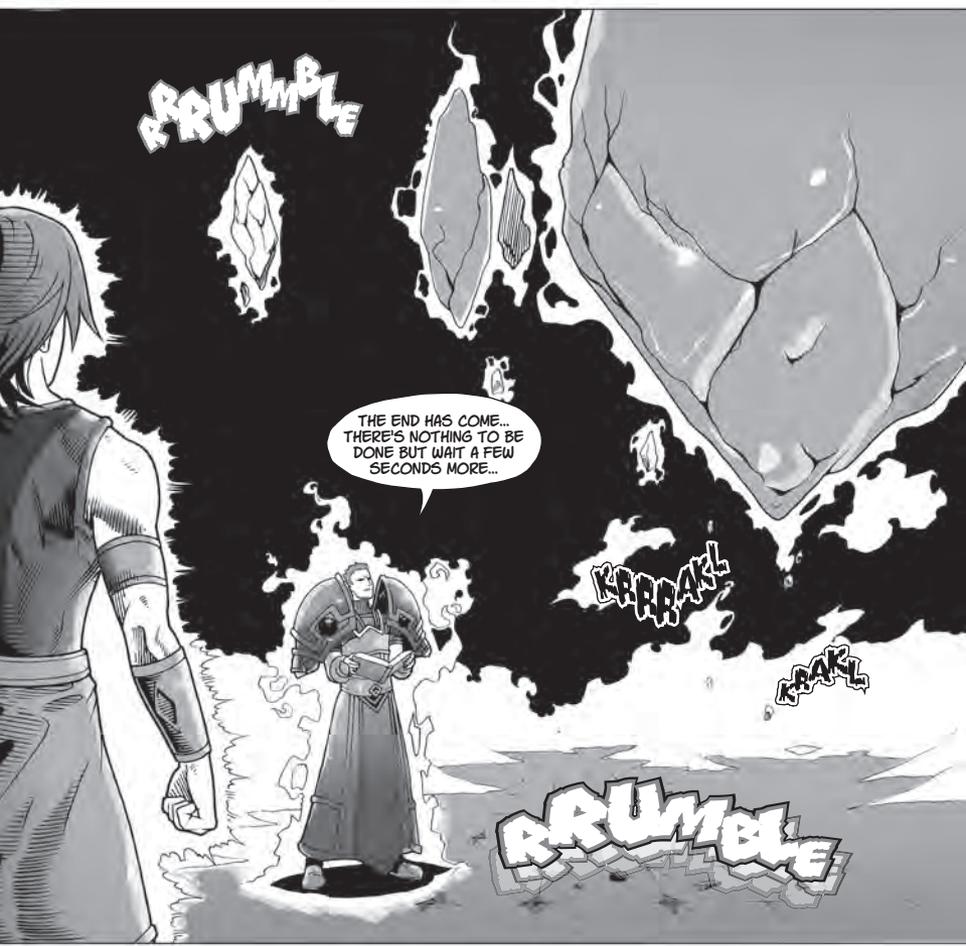
SO MUCH POWER... I COULD DO SO MUCH WITH IT... FATHER WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO LOOK DOWN ON ME--



NO! TH-IS IS ALL WRONG! THIS GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING WE LEARNED!

I WON'T LET YOU HAVE THE BOOK! I-- I'LL STOP YOU Y-YET!!





THE END HAS COME...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE
DONE BUT WAIT A FEW
SECONDS MORE...



CREVAN!!
STOP THIS
MADNESS!!

NO...YOU CAN'T
BE HERE!



SURRENDER
THE BOOK AND
GIVE YOURSELF UP,
CREVAN.



I SEE YOU'RE FREE,
AODHAN...WELL, YOUR ABILITIES
CONTINUE TO IMPRESS ME,
NEPHEW, IF NO LONGER
YOUR INGENUITY...



WELL-CAST ILLUSIONS, BUT THAT'S ALL THEY CAN BE! RHONIN AND THE OTHERS ARE FAR TOO BUSY AT THE MOMENT TO HAVE COME HERE! I'VE MADE CERTAIN OF THAT...



IN FACT... IT'S ALL TOO IMPRESS--



FOCUS WAS ALWAYS YOUR PROBLEM.



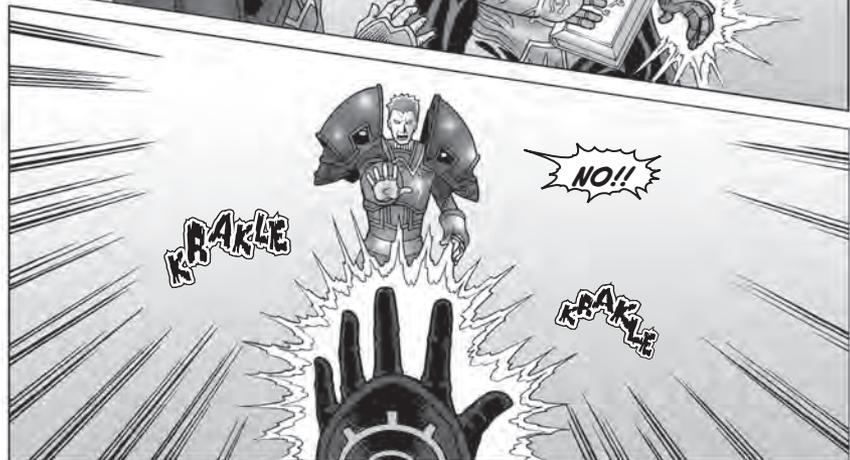
IMPRESSIVE THAT YOU COULD RECREATE THEM AT ALL...



?!



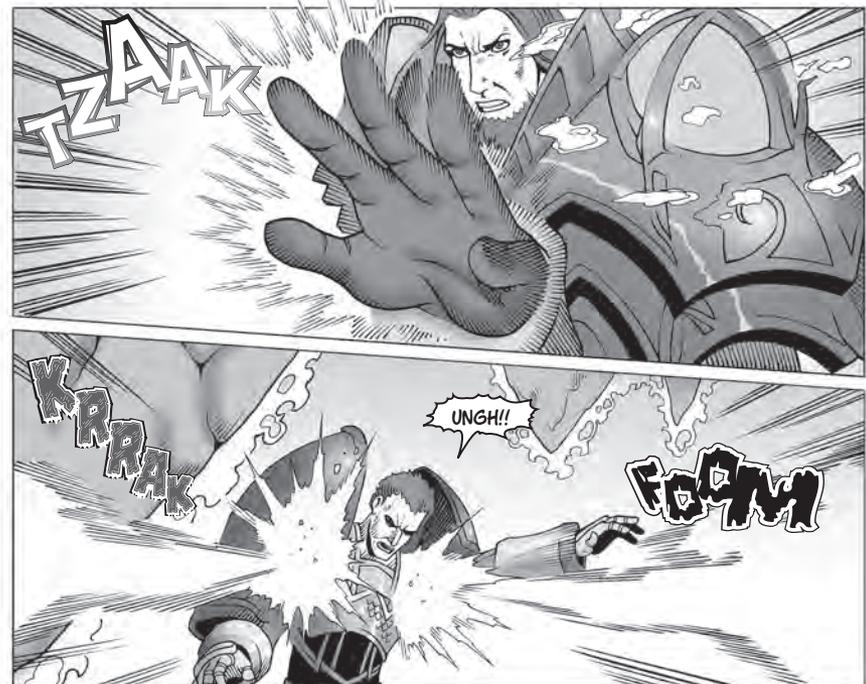
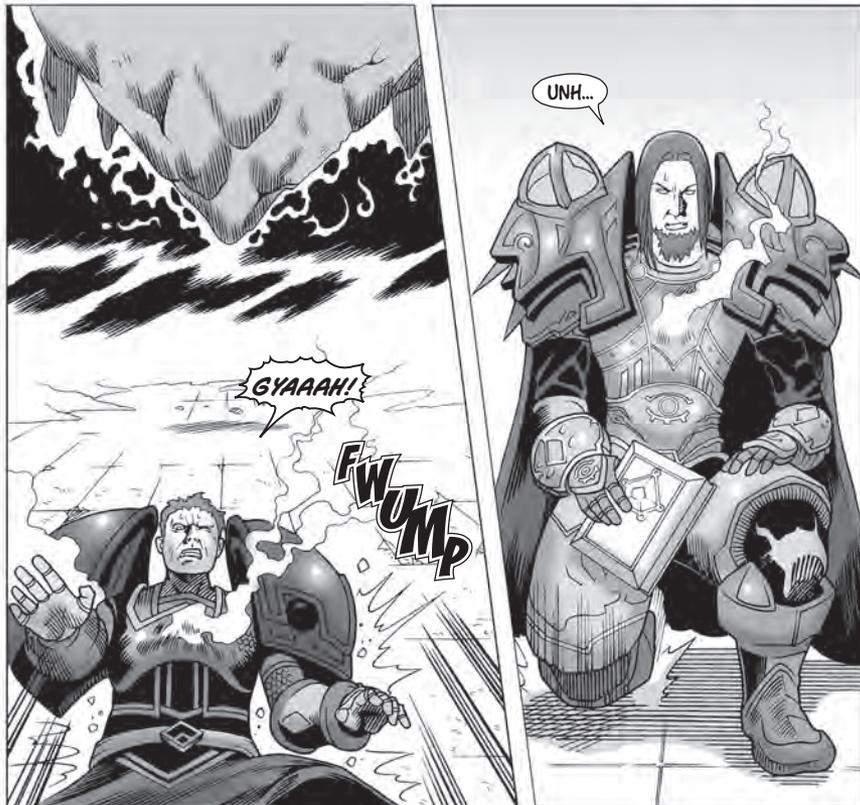
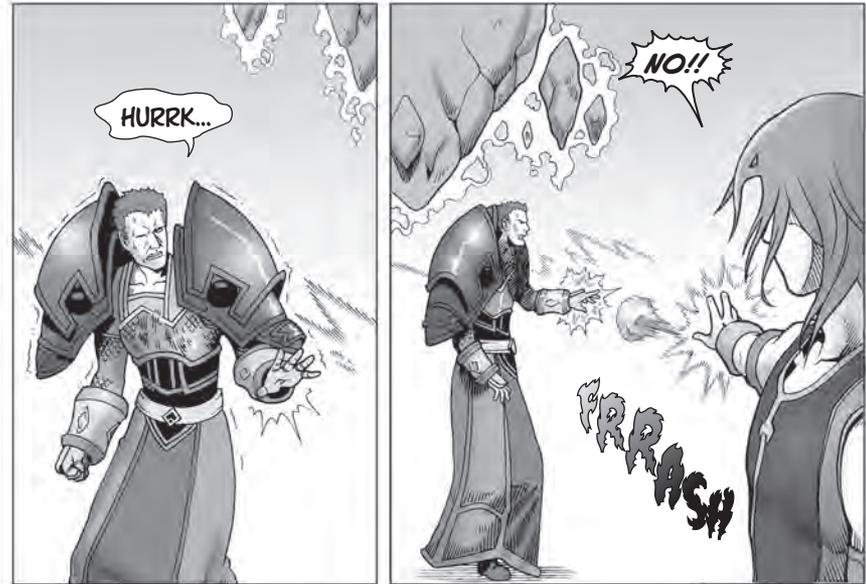
...AND EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE THAT YOU ESCAPED THE SLOW SPELL I CAST.



NO!!

KRAKLE

KRAKLE





MASTER SIMEON!

A MOMENT, AODHAN...

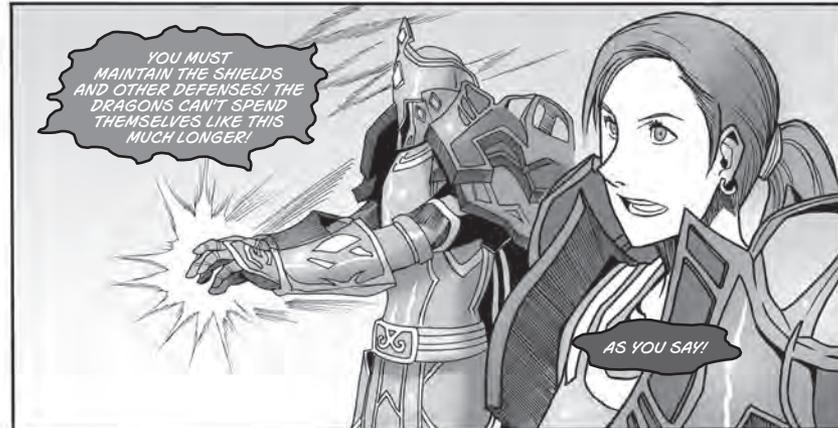


ARCHMAGE RHONIM!
THE ARRAY IS SECURE AND
FUNCTIONING! THE SPELL
THE MAGE HUNTER CAST
TO OPEN THE RIFTS IS
ALSO NO MORE!

PRAISE BE!!



MODERA! DALARAN
IS STABLE AND THE
RIFTS ARE GONE! WE'LL
BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH
THE INTRUDERS!



YOU MUST
MAINTAIN THE SHIELDS
AND OTHER DEFENSES!
THE DRAGONS CAN'T SPEND
THEMSELVES LIKE THIS
MUCH LONGER!

AS YOU SAY!



DALARAN'S RIGHTED
ITSELF! OUR AGENT HAS
FAILED! THE MAGI HAVE
EVEN STRENGTHENED
THE SHIELDS!



THE RIFTS
ARE SEALED,
TOO!

WE ONLY
WASTE OUR
ENERGIES AND RISK
OURSELVES!!



THERE IS
NO OTHER
CHOICE!

BACK TO
OUR LORD!



THERE WILL
COME ANOTHER
DAY...

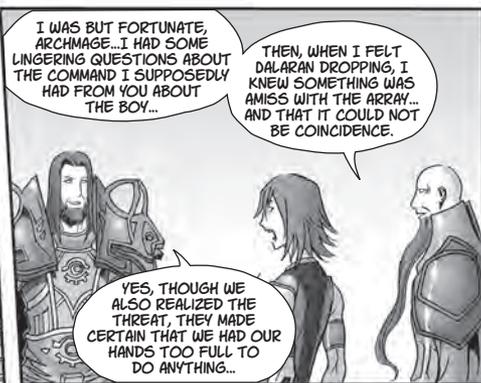


...AND THEN
DALARAN WILL
INDEED FALL!



WE'VE DONE IT. WE'VE FENDED THEM OFF... AT LEAST UNTIL **NEXT TIME.**

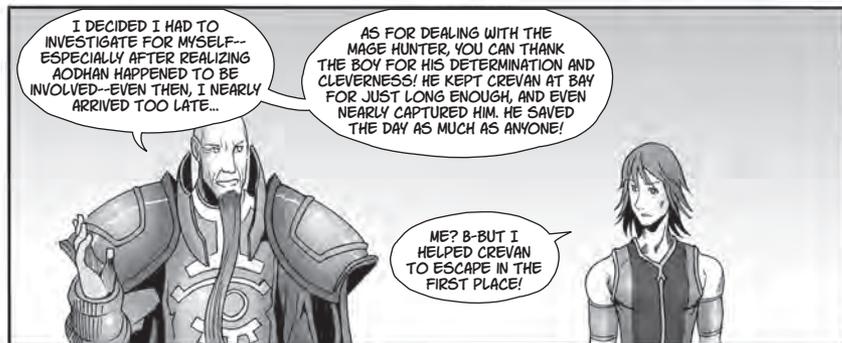
BUT WE'VE YOU TO THANK MOST OF ALL, MASTER SIMEON...



I WAS BUT FORTUNATE, ARCHMAGE... I HAD SOME LINGERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COMMAND I SUPPOSEDLY HAD FROM YOU ABOUT THE BOY...

THEN, WHEN I FELT DALARAN DROPPING, I KNEW SOMETHING WAS AMISS WITH THE ARRAY... AND THAT IT COULD NOT BE COINCIDENCE.

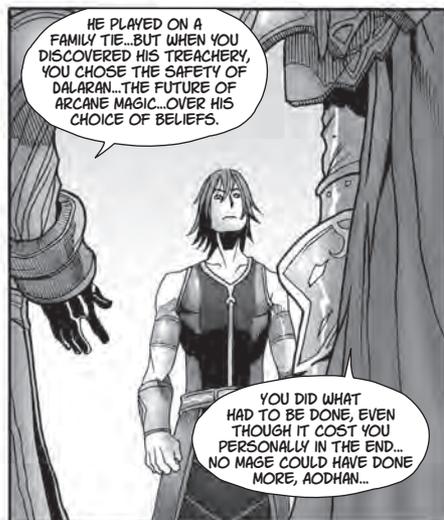
YES, THOUGH WE ALSO REALIZED THE THREAT, THEY MADE CERTAIN THAT WE HAD OUR HANDS TOO FULL TO DO ANYTHING...



I DECIDED I HAD TO INVESTIGATE FOR MYSELF-- ESPECIALLY AFTER REALIZING AODHAN HAPPENED TO BE INVOLVED-- EVEN THEN, I NEARLY ARRIVED TOO LATE...

AS FOR DEALING WITH THE MAGE HUNTER, YOU CAN THANK THE BOY FOR HIS DETERMINATION AND CLEVERNESS! HE KEPT CREVAN AT BAY FOR JUST LONG ENOUGH, AND EVEN NEARLY CAPTURED HIM. HE SAVED THE DAY AS MUCH AS ANYONE!

ME? B-BUT I HELPED CREVAN TO ESCAPE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

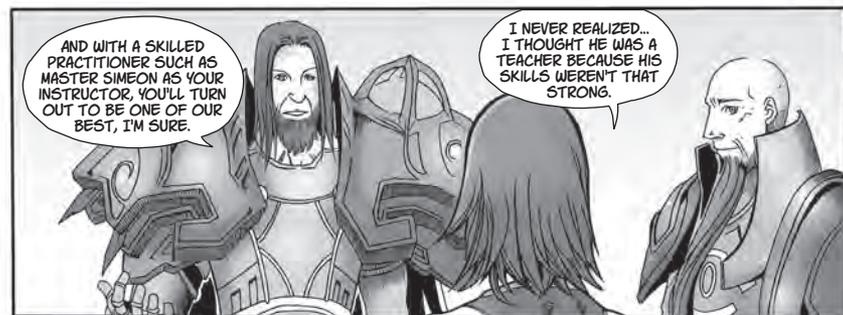


HE PLAYED ON A FAMILY TIE... BUT WHEN YOU DISCOVERED HIS TREACHERY, YOU CHOSE THE SAFETY OF DALARAN... THE FUTURE OF ARCANE MAGIC... OVER HIS CHOICE OF BELIEFS.

YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE, EVEN THOUGH IT COST YOU PERSONALLY IN THE END... NO MAGE COULD HAVE DONE MORE, AODHAN...

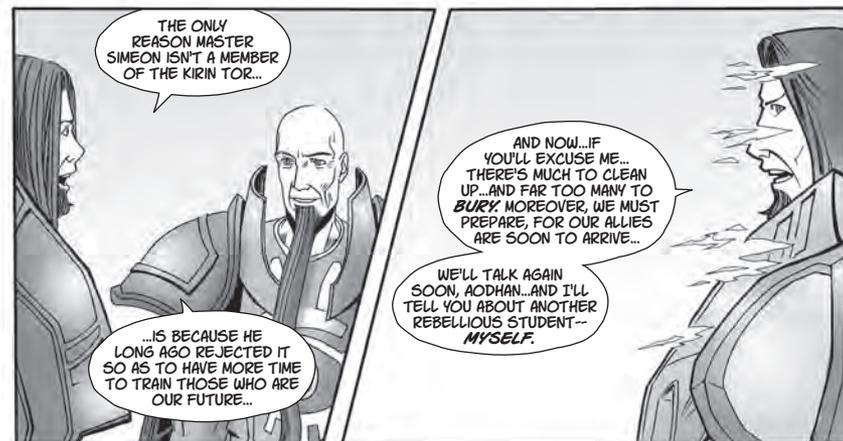


YOU CHOSE TO DEFEND THE PATH THAT ALLOWS ANYONE WILLING TO STRUGGLE AND CONTINUE TO STUDY HARD THE CHANCE TO WIELD THE WONDERS OF ARCANE MAGIC, ESPECIALLY IN DEFENSE OF AZEROTH AGAINST THE MANY THREATS CONFRONTING IT.



AND WITH A SKILLED PRACTITIONER SUCH AS YOUR INSTRUCTOR, YOU'LL TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF OUR BEST, I'M SURE.

I NEVER REALIZED... I THOUGHT HE WAS A TEACHER BECAUSE HIS SKILLS WEREN'T THAT STRONG.



THE ONLY REASON MASTER SIMEON ISN'T A MEMBER OF THE KIRIN TOR...

AND NOW... IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... THERE'S MUCH TO CLEAN UP... AND FAR TOO MANY TO BURY. MOREOVER, WE MUST PREPARE, FOR OUR ALLIES ARE SOON TO ARRIVE...

WE'LL TALK AGAIN SOON, AODHAN... AND I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT ANOTHER REBELLIOUS STUDENT-- **MYSELF.**

...IS BECAUSE HE LONG AGO REJECTED IT SO AS TO HAVE MORE TIME TO TRAIN THOSE WHO ARE OUR FUTURE...

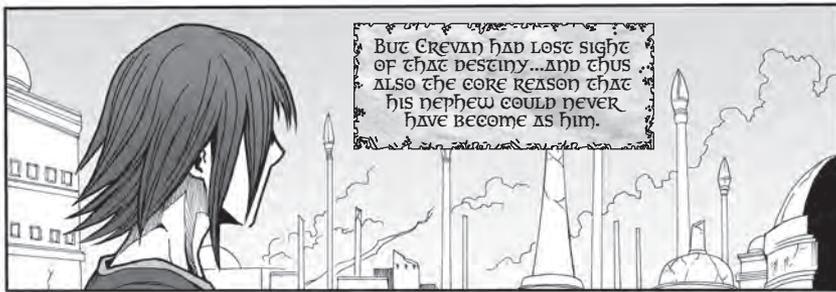


YOU HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF! YOUR UNCLE WAS POWERFUL, BUT HE FAILED TO GAIN THE WISDOM NEEDED TO PROPERLY **WIELD** THAT POWER. YOU DID NOT LET THAT TRAIT GUIDE YOU AS HE DID.

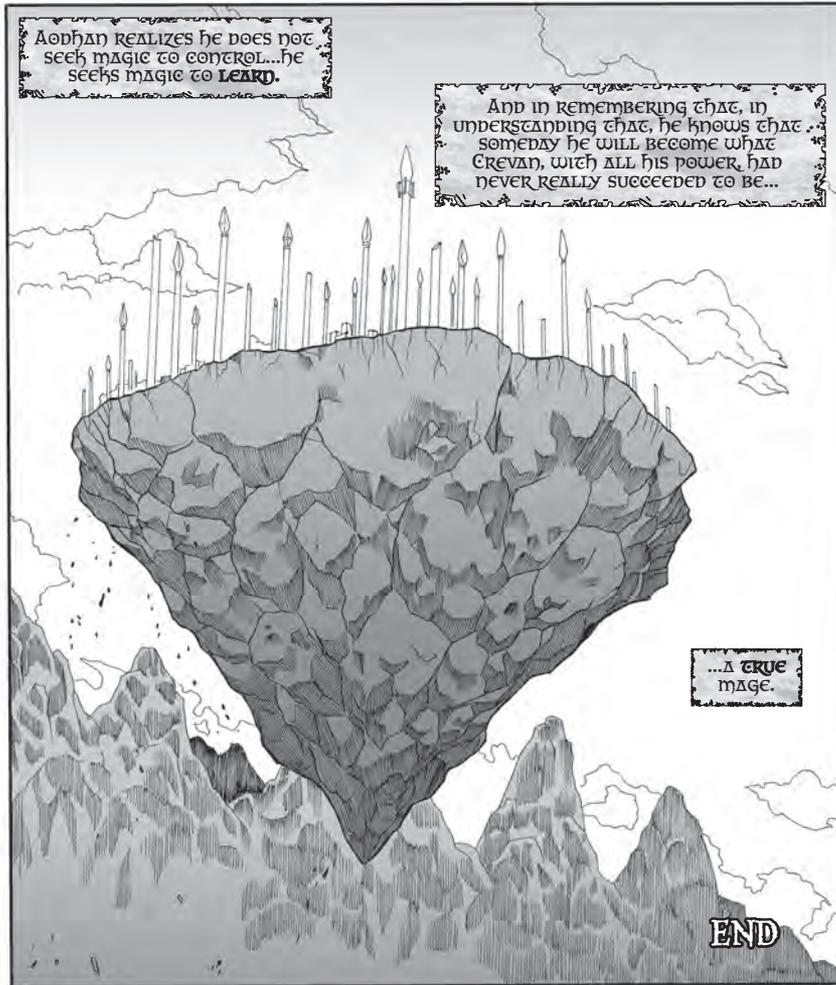
I KNOW... I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THAT, MASTER SIMEON. I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO BE PATIENT, TO LEARN...

THEN, SHALL WE BEGIN BY SEEING WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP DALARAN RECOVER?

His uncle remains in Aodhan's thoughts as he follows, the young mage recalling the man who inspired him to choose this destiny.



BUT CREVAN HAD LOST SIGHT OF THAT DESTINY...AND THUS ALSO THE CORE REASON THAT HIS NEPHEW COULD NEVER HAVE BECOME AS HIM.



AODHAN REALIZES HE DOES NOT SEEK MAGIC TO CONTROL...HE SEEKS MAGIC TO LEARN.

AND IN REMEMBERING THAT, IN UNDERSTANDING THAT, HE KNOWS THAT SOMEDAY HE WILL BECOME WHAT CREVAN, WITH ALL HIS POWER, HAD NEVER REALLY SUCCEEDED TO BE...

...A TRUE MAGE.

END



SPECIAL THANKS

On behalf of TOKYOPOP and Blizzard, we hope you enjoyed the time you spent in Dalaran and with *World of Warcraft: Mage*. If you liked this class-based *Warcraft* manga, there's more on the horizon! *World of Warcraft: Shaman* will be throwing its totems down in October 2010! Keep your eyes peeled for a sneak peek at *World of Warcraft: Shaman* inside the pages of this very book!

Of course, we wouldn't be able to bring you all of this pulse-pounding, class-based action without the excellent publishing team at Blizzard. Their attention to detail and the amount of care they have for the *Warcraft* world never ceases to amaze. Many thanks to Jason Bischoff, Joshua Horst, James Waugh, Micky Neilson, Evelyn Fredericksen, Samwise Didier, Cameron Dayton, Tommy Newcomer and Chris Metzen!

In many ways, Ryo--our peerless Mage artist--reminds us of our book's protagonist, Aodhan. He's quiet and unassuming. But, like the bookish Aodhan, Ryo rose to the challenge and became a legendary hero! Ryo delivered page after page of pencils at a breathtaking speed, never sacrificing quality. He tackled a near-impossible deadline and saved the day!

As Ryo's pages were coming in hot, Matias Timarchi and the fine folks at Altercomics Studios added inks and tones to Ryo's line art. Like Ryo, they worked tirelessly against a loudly clicking tock...and emerged victorious! So, here's hearty thank you to inkers Roberto Viacava, Nahuel Sagarnaga Cozman, Ariel Iacci, Gaston Zubeldia, Perla Pilucki, Fernando Melek, Matias Montenegro, and toners Gabriel Peralta, Marcelo Blanco and Gonzalo Duarte. You guys all rock!

He's no stranger to the *World of Warcraft*, and by now, he should be no stranger to praise--the peerless Richard A. Knaak. As always, Richard enters Azeroth and emerges with a compelling story and fascinating characters. Thanks for the fantastic work, Richard!

We'd like to take a moment to thank TOKYOPOP's secret *World of Warcraft* weapon...and his name is Michael Paolilli. Michael is incredibly talented. He can letter a book, he can make art fixes and he has an encyclopedic knowledge of the *Warcraft* universe. Thanks for being not just the heart of production, but the spine, the ribs, the fingers, toes...

Lastly, we want to express our gratitude to all of the fans. Without you, these books wouldn't exist. So, do us a favor and buy a ton of copies so we can keep making awesome *Warcraft* stories. After all, we're doing it for you!

- Paul Morrissey and Troy Lewter
Editors

CREATOR BIO'S

RICHARD A. KNAAK



Richard A. Knaak is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling fantasy author of 40 novels and over a dozen short stories, including most recently the national bestseller, *World of Warcraft: Stormrage*. He is also well known for such favorites as *The Legend of Huma & The Minotaur Wars* for *Dragonlance*, the *War of the Ancients* trilogy for *Warcraft*, and his own *Dragonrealm* series. In addition to the TOKYOPOP series *Warcraft: The Sunwell Trilogy*, he is the author of its sequel series, *World of Warcraft: Shadow Wing*, as well as five short stories featured in *Warcraft: Legends* Volumes 1-5. He also recently released *The Gargoyle King*, the third in his *Ogre Titans* saga for *Dragonlance* and *Legends of the Dragonrealm*, which combines the first three novels of his world. A second volume will be released in October. To find out more about Richard's projects, visit his website at www.richardaknaak.com.

RYO KAWAKAMI

Born in Miyako Island, Japan, Ryo lived in Okinawa Island until 1990, after which he and his family moved to the United States. Ryo currently resides in Greenville, N.C., where he studied Fine Art for two years at Coastal Community College. Ryo was runner-up artist in TOKYOPOP's *Rising Stars of Manga* Volume 6 for the short story "Little Miss Witch Hater," and his first full volume manga work, *Orange Crows*, was also published by TOKYOPOP (available in stores now). Ryo was the artist for the short manga stories "Blood Runs Thicker" and "A Cleansing Fire," two short manga stories featured in *Warcraft: Legends* Volumes 4 and 5.



