



I HAVE
A MESSAGE
FOR YOUR
FATHER.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS ISSUE
TAKES PLACE AFTER THE EVENTS
OF DEATHSTROKE 20.



TANGHALI PASS, RHAPASTAN.

RHAPASTAN
DOESN'T
WANT ME.

THE LAND ITSELF HEAVED
UP A SANDSTORM JUST AS
I CROSSED THE BORDER.

IT GATHERED UP ALL THE
BITS OF BROKEN BONE
AND RUSTED METAL FROM
ITS BATTLEFIELDS AND
THREW THEM IN MY PATH.

THE GRAINS STRIKE OVER AND
OVER, ERASING EVERY SOUND
BUT THEIR INCESSANT PECKING.

AS IF THE ECHOES OF EVERY
SHOT FIRED IN THIS COUNTRY
WERE CAUGHT UP BY THE WIND,
HELD ALOFT FOR CENTURIES,
THEN BROUGHT DOWN ON ME.

LIKE THE MARCHING
BOOTS OF A MILLION
FORGOTTEN FIGHTERS.

THE FLEEING FOOTSTEPS
OF THE NEWLY ORPHANED.

THE TICKING OF A THOUSAND
CLOCKS, EACH OFF BY
A FRACTION OF A SECOND.

EACH COUNTING
DOWN TO SOMETHING.

RHAPASTAN KNOWS
WHY I'M COMING.

KNOWS WHAT I'M
BRINGING WITH ME.

WELCOME
TO RHAPASTAN.
ENJOYING OUR
FINE WEATHER?



MORE THAN THE HOSPITALITY.

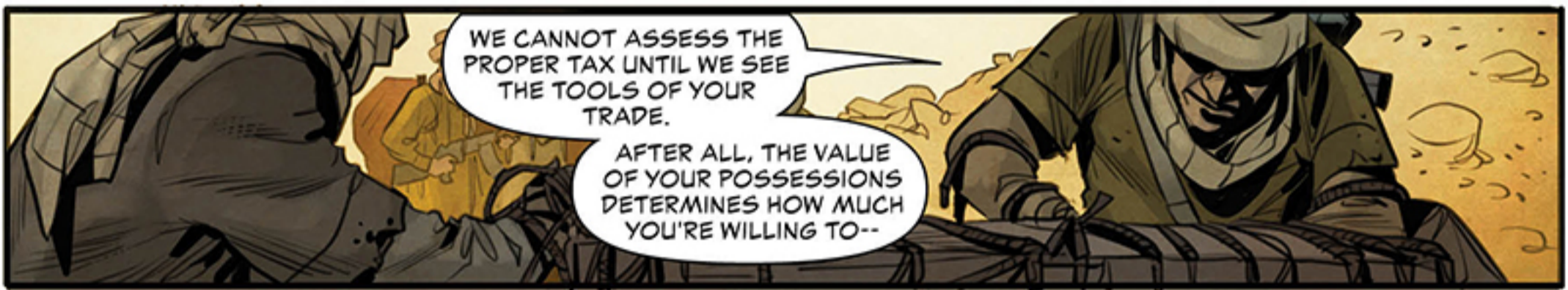
YOU SPEAK OUR TONGUE WELL FOR A TOURIST.



NOT A TOURIST. HERE FOR A JOB.

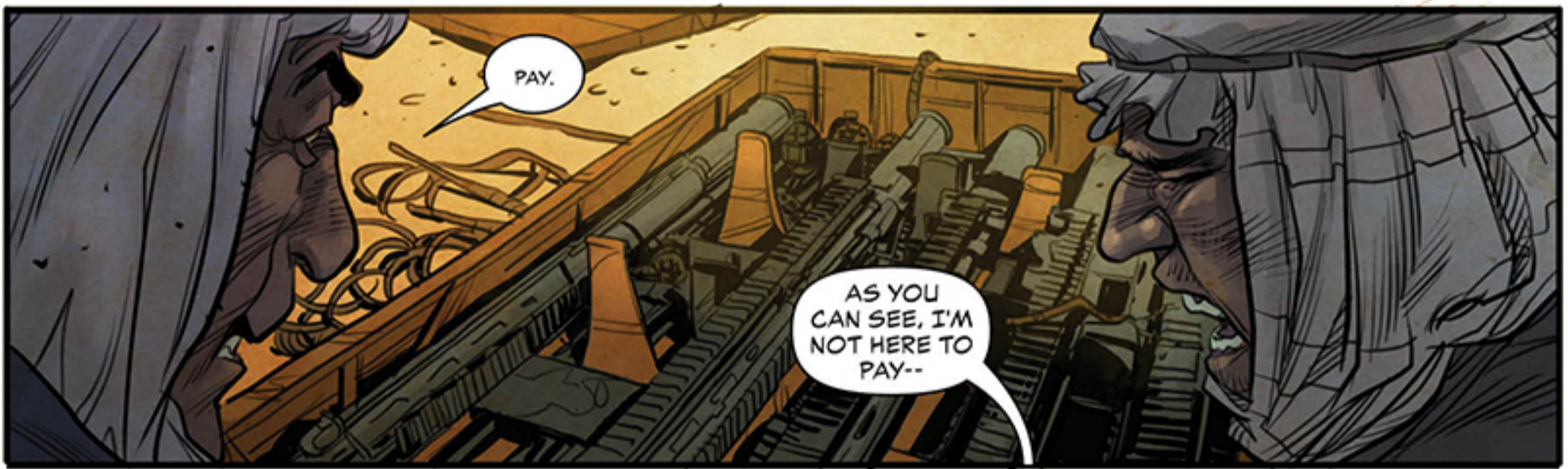
AH, BUT THERE IS A TAX ON FOREIGN WORKERS COMING THROUGH THE PASS, YOU KNOW.

LET US SEE WHAT LINE OF WORK YOU ARE IN.



WE CANNOT ASSESS THE PROPER TAX UNTIL WE SEE THE TOOLS OF YOUR TRADE.

AFTER ALL, THE VALUE OF YOUR POSSESSIONS DETERMINES HOW MUCH YOU'RE WILLING TO--



PAY.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT HERE TO PAY--



--I'M HERE TO EARN.

KLIK



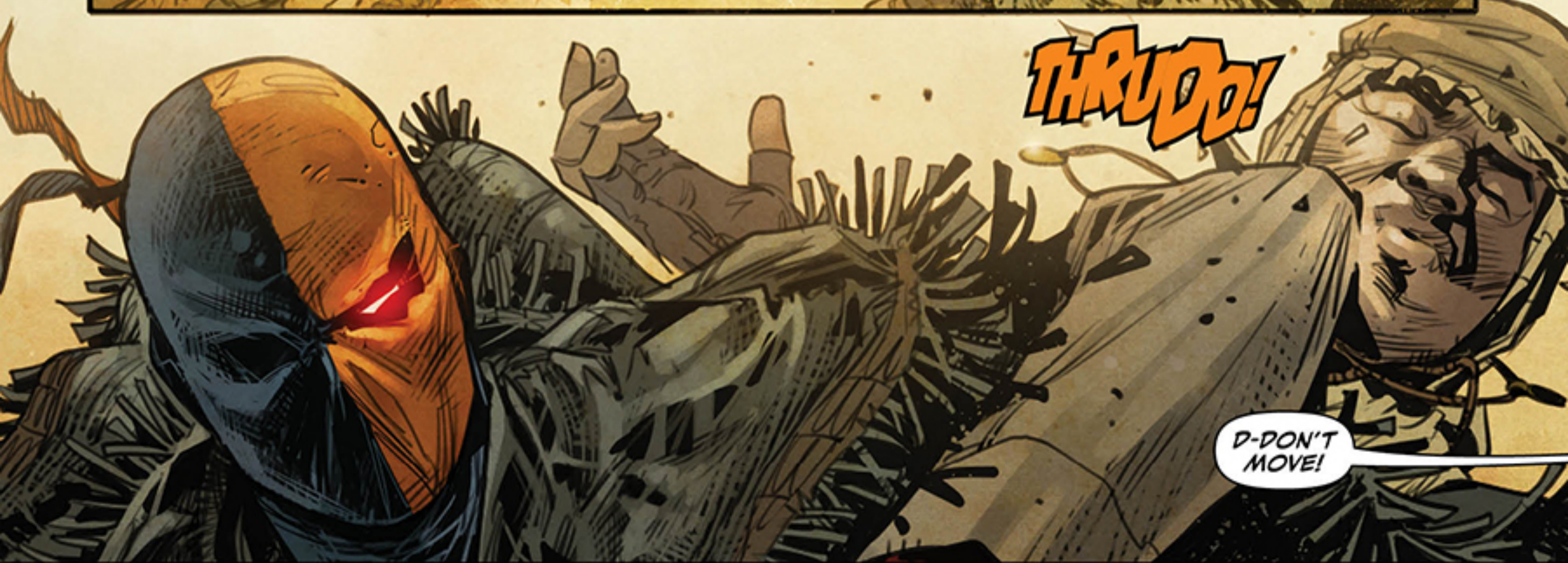
CHOKKA!
CHOKKA!
CHOKKA!



SKASH!



CHOKKA!
CHOKKA!
CHOKKA!



THRUDD!

D-DON'T
MOVE!



KID, IF YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME YOU WOULD HAVE TRIED IT IN THE PASS.

I--I WAS TOLD TO LEAD YOU INTO DANGER BEFORE I BROUGHT YOU TO LORD KIRMANI.

TO SEE IF YOU WERE ALL THEY SAID.



A LITTLE YOUNG FOR A RHAQQANI SOLDIER, AREN'T YOU?

I WILL BE THIRTEEN IN TWO MO--



CRACK!

YIIHH! MY FINGER!



KID, DON'T AIM A WEAPON AT ANYONE UNLESS YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT THEM.

PEOPLE TEND TO FORM LASTING GRUDGES ONCE YOU POINT A GUN AT THEM.



KEEP IT. PIECE OF GARBAGE COULDN'T SHOOT THROUGH THE WALL OF A TENT ANYWAY.



THE FINGER SHOULD HEAL IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS. LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO LEARN--

--EVERY ACTION HAS A PRICE.