



I-IS THAT--

--THE FERRYMAN OF THE DEAD.



...YOU LOOK DIFFERENT, CHARON.

THANK YOU, I'VE LOST SOME WEIGHT.



I MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN, WALLACE. BEHIND ME.

IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS, BUT NOT SO MANY THAT WE WOULD FORGET EACH OTHER, WARRIOR.

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY LITTLE JOKE... BUT I RUN INTO THE SAME SOUL MORE THAN ONCE SO RARELY THAT IT AFFECTED MY MOOD.



WE SEEK TO CROSS THE RIVER, FERRYMAN.



PASSAGE IS NOT FREE FOR ANY WHO WOULD CROSS THE STYX, NO MATTER THE DIRECTION. CAN YOU PAY MY FARE?



FINE.

THIS HAD BETTER BE ENOUGH.



Hm. A LITTLE LIGHT, I DARESAY, BUT...



IT WILL DO, WARRIOR. YOU MAY BOARD.



WALLACE,
WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?
WE NEED TO
GO.

I JUST--
WHAT ABOUT MY
FAMILY, SONJA?
I'M SURE I SAW
THEM. I KNOW I
COULD FIND THEM
AND BRING THEM
HOME...

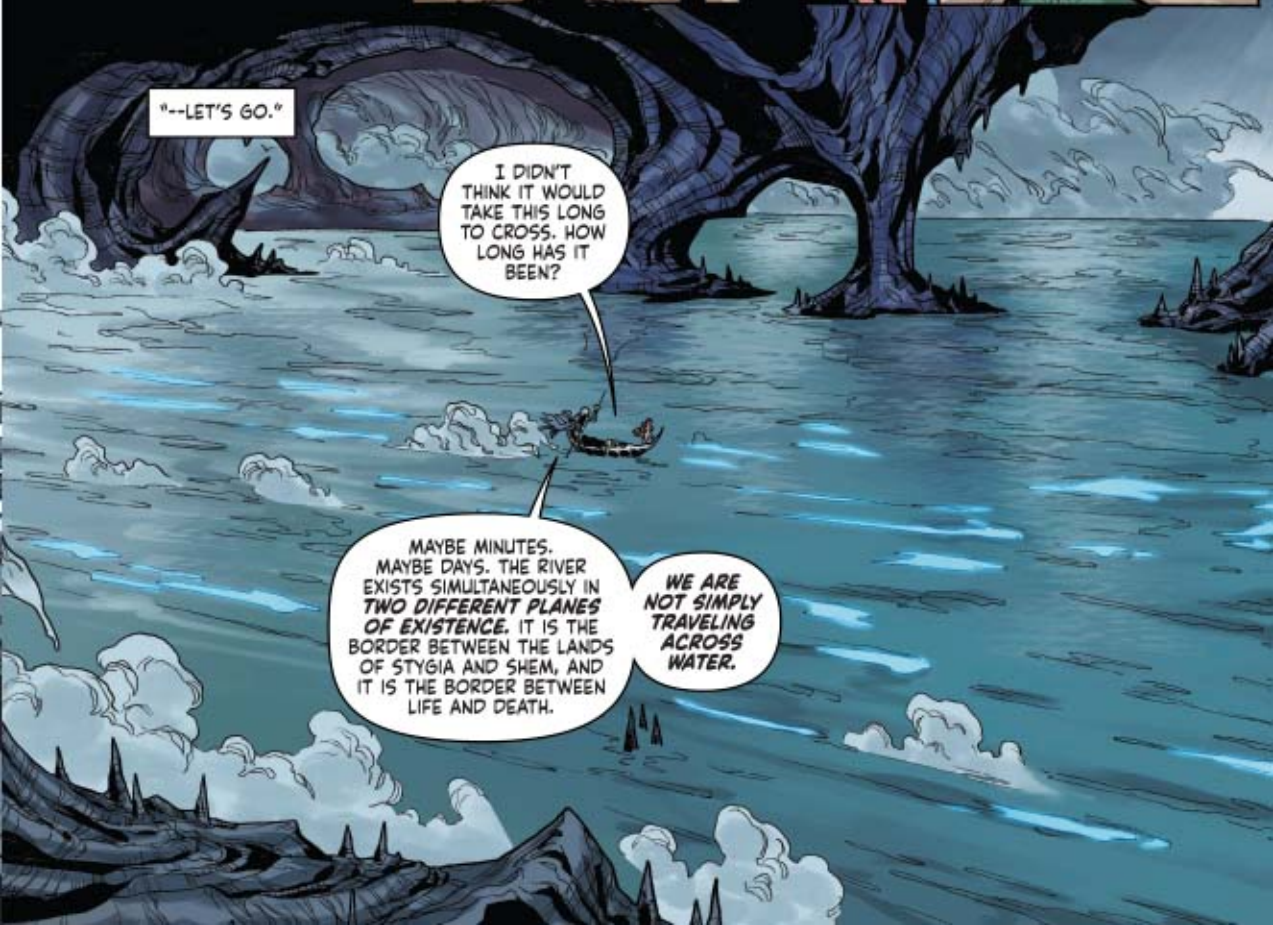
WALLACE,
NO.
IF YOU GO BACK
WANDERING, YOU WILL
BE AS LOST AS THEY...
AND THAT WOULD BE
A WASTE.

KULAN GATH IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
DEATHS OF SO MANY, AND
YOU COULD HELP ME TO
AVENGE THEM...

BUT ONLY IF
YOU RETURN TO
THE LAND OF
THE LIVING.



YOU'RE
RIGHT--



"--LET'S GO."

I DIDN'T
THINK IT WOULD
TAKE THIS LONG
TO CROSS. HOW
LONG HAS IT
BEEN?

MAYBE MINUTES.
MAYBE DAYS. THE RIVER
EXISTS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN
**TWO DIFFERENT PLANES
OF EXISTENCE.** IT IS THE
BORDER BETWEEN THE LANDS
OF STYGIA AND SHEM, AND
IT IS THE BORDER BETWEEN
LIFE AND DEATH.

**WE ARE
NOT SIMPLY
TRAVELING
ACROSS
WATER.**



INTERESTING. I HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED STYGIANS NAMED THE RIVER TO ADD TO THEIR REPUTATION, NOT THAT IT EXISTED IN MORE THAN ONE DIMEN--



--SHAAAH!



THOSE LOST TO THE RIVER ARE ESPECIALLY JEALOUS OF ANY WHO WOULD SEEK ESCAPE.

...N-NOTED.



CAREFUL--

SHWOKK



FEAR NOT, MAGE. WE'VE ALMOST REACHED THE OTHER SIDE. YOU'LL BE SAFE THEN.

...RELATIVELY.



ARE WE BACK THEN? IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING?

IT DOESN'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT. MIGHT WE HAVE BEEN DOUBLE CROSSED BY THE FERRYMAN?



NO--



--I KNOW THIS PLACE. WE ARE IN SHEM, BUT IT IS...GODS.



THIS TREE, IT WAS BARELY A SHRUB WHEN LAST I PASSED THROUGH HERE ONLY A FEW MONTHS BACK. HOW CAN THIS BE?



OUR METHOD OF RETURN WAS HARDLY PRECISE, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE TIME SPENT IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO ANOTHER DIMENSION. BUT IF YOU SAW THIS TREE BEFORE YOU CAME TO THE FUTURE, AND IT GREW THAT MUCH...WELL.

SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS COULD HAVE PASSED.