



IN THE YEAR 4001, after a thousand years without a murder, New Japan has descended into chaos. The half-human, half-robot warrior Rai rebelled against the totalitarian rule of the omniscient and omnipresent Father and picked up many allies along the way: Spylocke, an anti-Father fugitive seemingly part of a thousands-year-old legacy; Lula Lee, a teenage girl with a secret map of New Japan; Grace, Lula's Positronic (PT) companion; Karana, the Geomancer of 4001; Izak, a space vampire from an alien race subjected to brutal experiments by Father; and Momo, a free-willed PT who fell in love with Rai.



Tipped off to Rai and his allies' plans, Father builds a new champion—Rai XI, or X-Eye, as New Japan comes to know him. X-Eye swiftly and brutally defeats his predecessor and casts Rai out of New Japan. Without Rai to lead them, the rebellion crumbles. Lula, Grace, and Karana go on the run in Japan's unknown sectors, Momo and Izak hide out in the sewers, and Spylocke is captured and tortured.



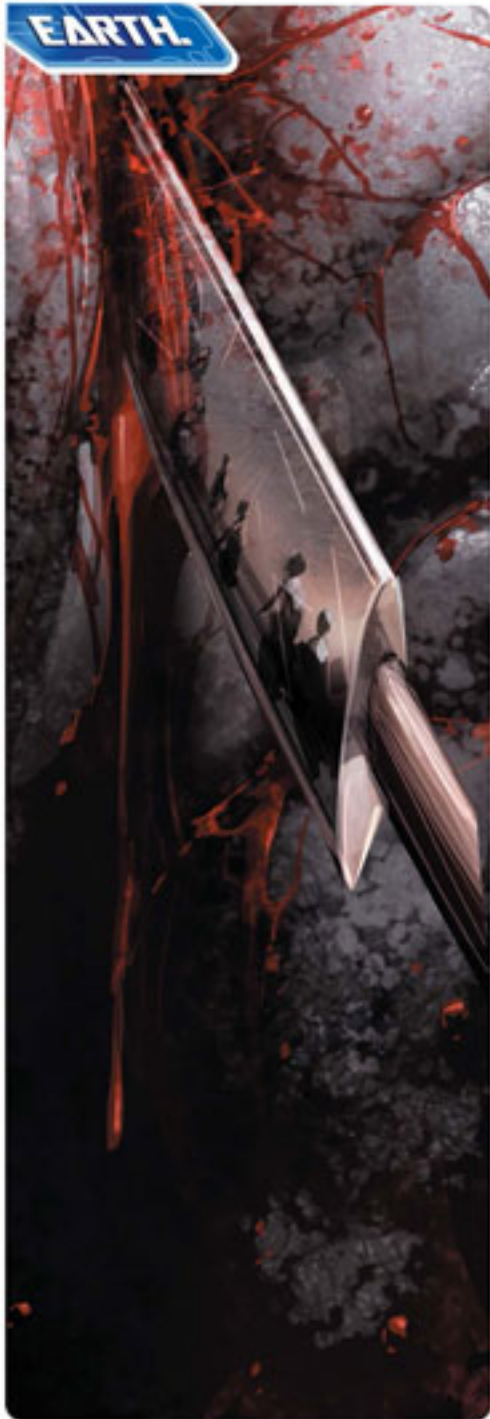
Meanwhile, a weak and powerless Rai crash lands into Earth's ocean and is eaten by a giant sea monster. Even though he manages to escape this certain death, aggressive natives attack Rai as soon as he reaches land deciding to shoot first and ask questions later...



RAI

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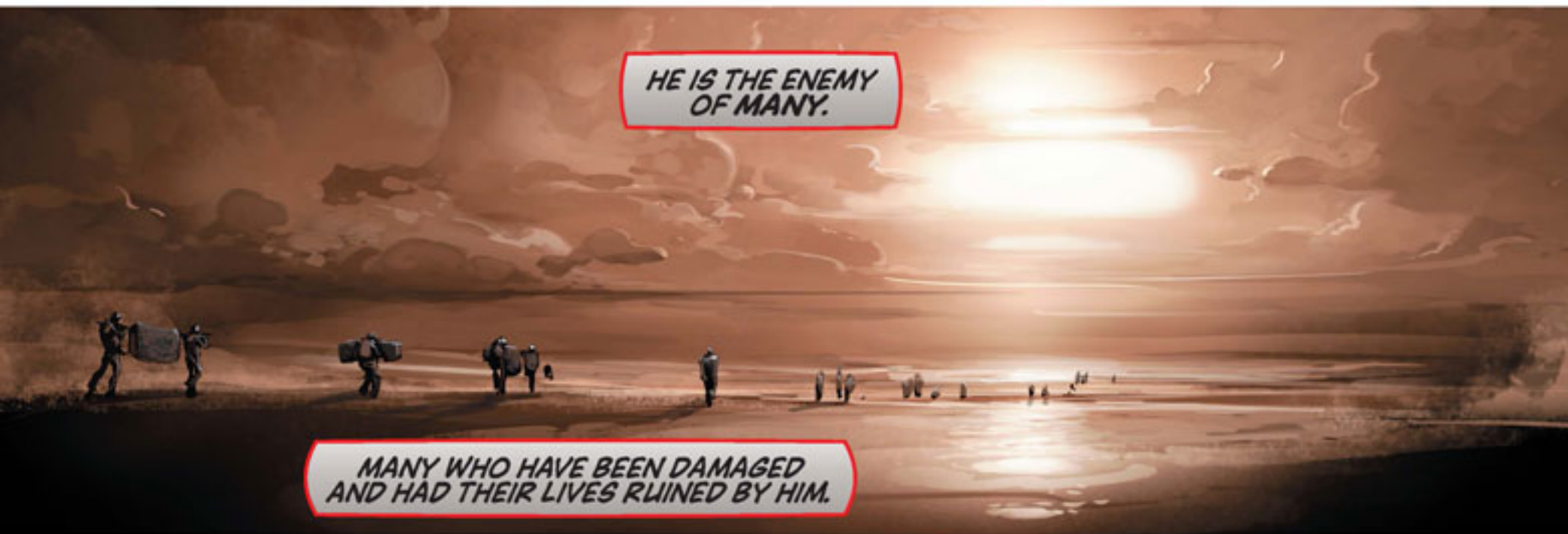
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*IN MY BRIEF TIME HERE, I'VE
ALREADY LEARNED MUCH.*



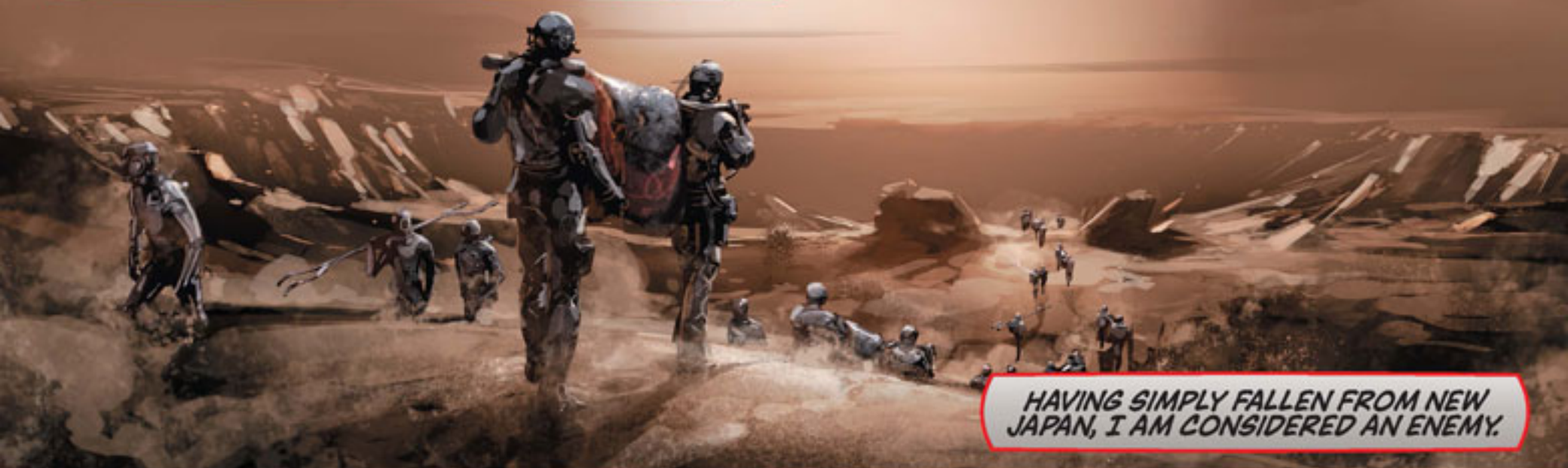
*I'VE LEARNED THAT FATHER IS
NOT JUST MY ENEMY.*



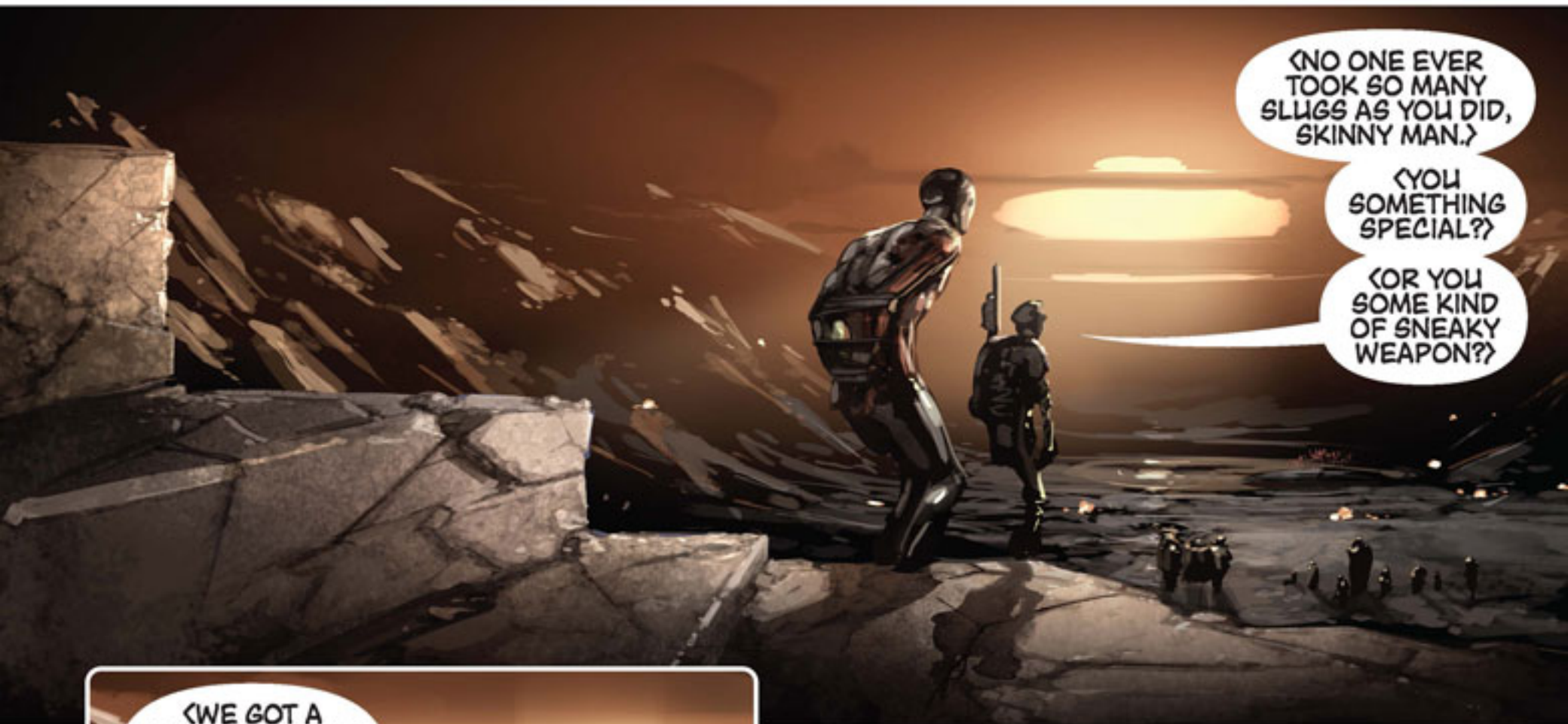
*HE IS THE ENEMY
OF MANY.*

*MANY WHO HAVE BEEN DAMAGED
AND HAD THEIR LIVES RUINED BY HIM.*

*RUINED BY NEW JAPAN'S SOLAR EXHAUST
DISCHARGES. ONE OF MANY WAYS FATHER IS KEEPING
EARTH FROM CLIMBING OUT OF THE DARK AGES.*



*HAVING SIMPLY FALLEN FROM NEW
JAPAN, I AM CONSIDERED AN ENEMY.*



<NO ONE EVER TOOK SO MANY SLUGS AS YOU DID, SKINNY MAN.>

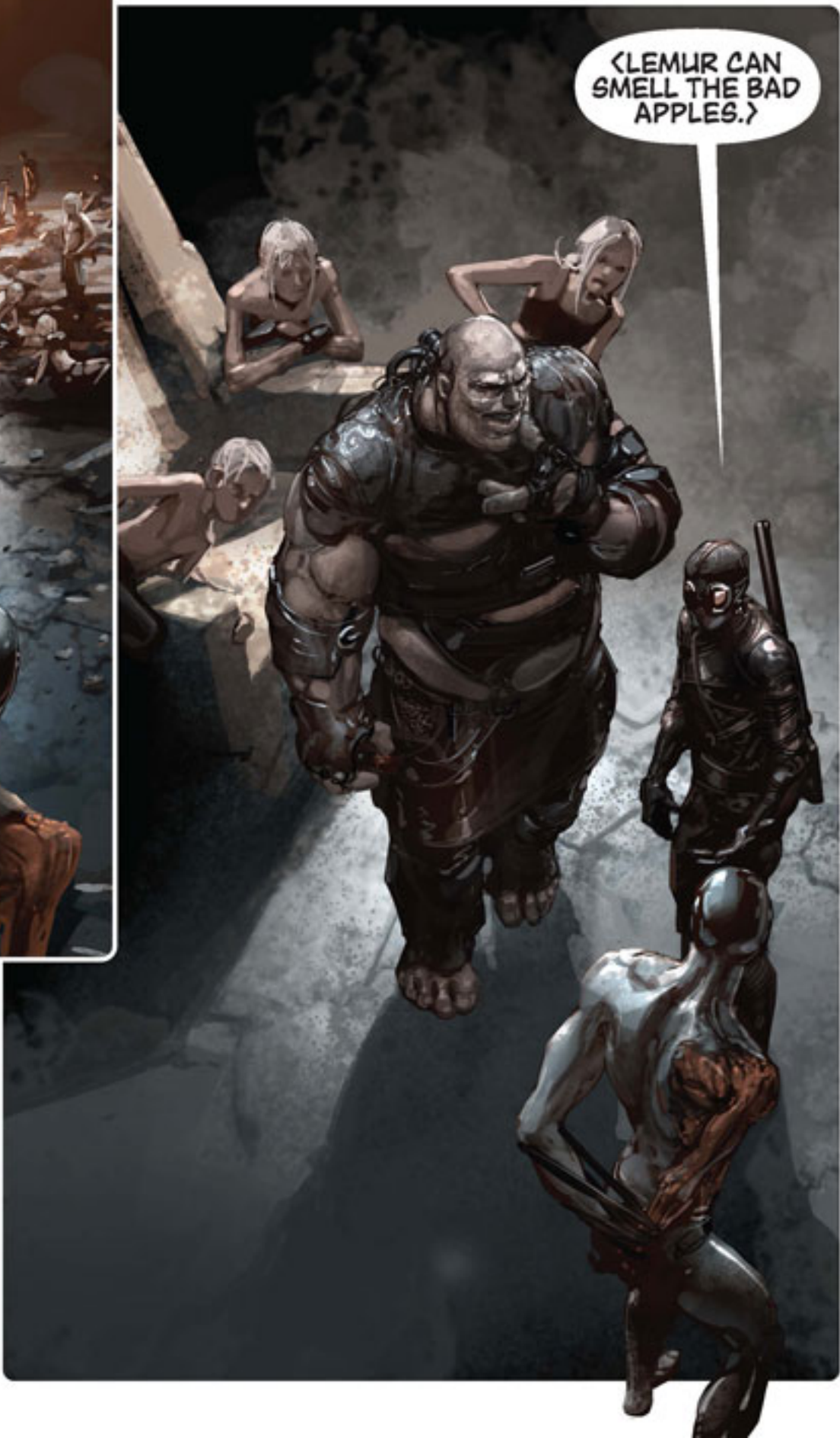
<YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL?>

<OR YOU SOME KIND OF SNEAKY WEAPON?>



<WE GOT A TESTER. LEMUR WILL TEST YOU. HE CAN SMELL A BAD APPLE.>

<YOU A BAD APPLE, FRIEND? LEMUR WILL KNOW.>



<LEMUR CAN SMELL THE BAD APPLES.>



≈sniff
sniff≈



I WAS TAUGHT EARTH WAS
A WASTELAND. A HELL.

≈sniff...
sniff...
sniff...≈



≈sniff≈

BUT
INSTEAD
I FOUND
PEOPLE
WARY...



≈sniff≈

...PEOPLE CAUTIOUS
OUT OF NECESSITY...



...BUT A PEOPLE
NOT UNCARING.

<NEW BOY IS
GOOD BOY!>

OOF!



<THAT
SQUARES IT,
STRANGER.
LEMUR AIN'T
NEVER WRONG.
NEVER.>

(JUST NOT A LOT OF FRIENDLY IN THE WORLD. BUT I RECKON THAT SHARK YOU KILLED BACK THERE WILL FEED OUR TOWN FOR A YEAR ONCE WE FINISHING CUTTIN' IT UP.)

THANK YOU.

I'LL BE DAMNED. YOU SPEAK GARANAMESE?

I... I CAN PICK UP LANGUAGES QUICKLY.

THAT TREE? IT...IT REMINDS ME OF WHERE I CAME FROM.

FAITH TREE? WELL... THAT'S A LONG STORY, FRIEND.

THING WANTS TO LIVE, NO MATTER WHAT. NOTHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN THAT NEXT BREATH. THAT NEXT SWALLOW OF WATER. THAT TREE FOUND A CRACK AND PUT A ROOT INTO SOME DEAD EARTH. DESPERATE TO KEEP ON LIVIN'. AND IT FOUND A WAY.

OUR LEGENDS SAY THIS PLACE WAS RUINED BY THE *ALWAYS RISING SUN*. THE PLACE WE SAW YOU FALL FROM. IT BURNS THE EARTH. DESTROYS ENTIRE VILLAGES.

BEST I CAN TELL... OUR ANCESTORS FIGURED THE CHANCES OF IT BURNING A HOLE IN THE SAME SPOT TWICE AIN'T TOO LIKELY. SO WE'RE SAFE.

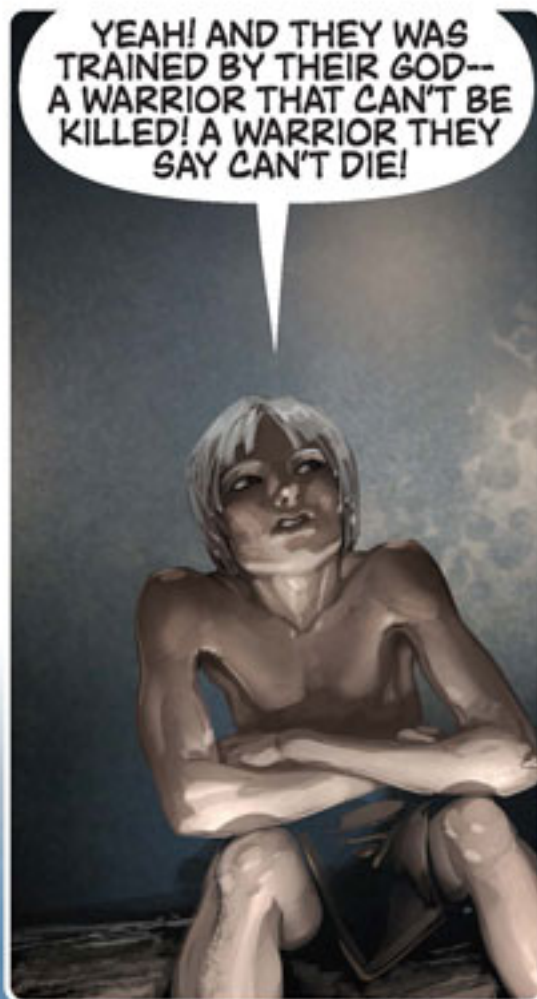
OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HERE FOR GENERATIONS. AS LONG AS ANY OF US CAN REMEMBER.



I WANT TO STOP THE... "ALWAYS RISING SUN" FROM RUINING YOUR LANDS. BUT I AM INJURED... WEAK. I WILL NEED THE STRONGEST WARRIORS EARTH HAS TO OFFER.



WE DON'T TRAVEL TOO FAR, STRANGER. BUT THERE'S AN ISLAND NOT FAR FROM HERE. ISLAND FULL OF WARRIORS.



YEAH! AND THEY WAS TRAINED BY THEIR GOD-- A WARRIOR THAT CAN'T BE KILLED! A WARRIOR THEY SAY CAN'T DIE!



WELL, THAT'S A START. HOW DO I FIND THIS ISLAND?



ISLAND DON'T LIKE STRANGERS.

LEMUR HELP SKINNY BROTHER. LEMUR SHOW YOU ISLAND. TOO SCARY TO GO ON YOUR OWN.