

TELL ME, DO YOU EVER DREAM, CYMORIL?

DO YOU EVER HOPE THAT ALL THIS IS BUT REVERIE?

THAT OUR VERY LIVES ARE BUT A LONG PERFORMANCE FOR WHOSE DENOUEMENT DESTINY PERSUADES US TO WAIT?



SO MANY THINGS HAVE I LIVED THAT CANNOT BE REAL... SO MANY THINGS OUR MAGICKS WOULD NOT KNOW TO EXPLAIN...

I HAVE SOUGHT PEARLS IN THE SIGHING DESERT...

I HAVE VANQUISHED IMMORTAL SORCERERS ON PLANES ALREADY VANISHED FROM EXISTENCE...





WHO ARE YOU?!



YOU ARE IN NO WAY A CREATURE OF THE WOODS.



WHO SENT YOU?



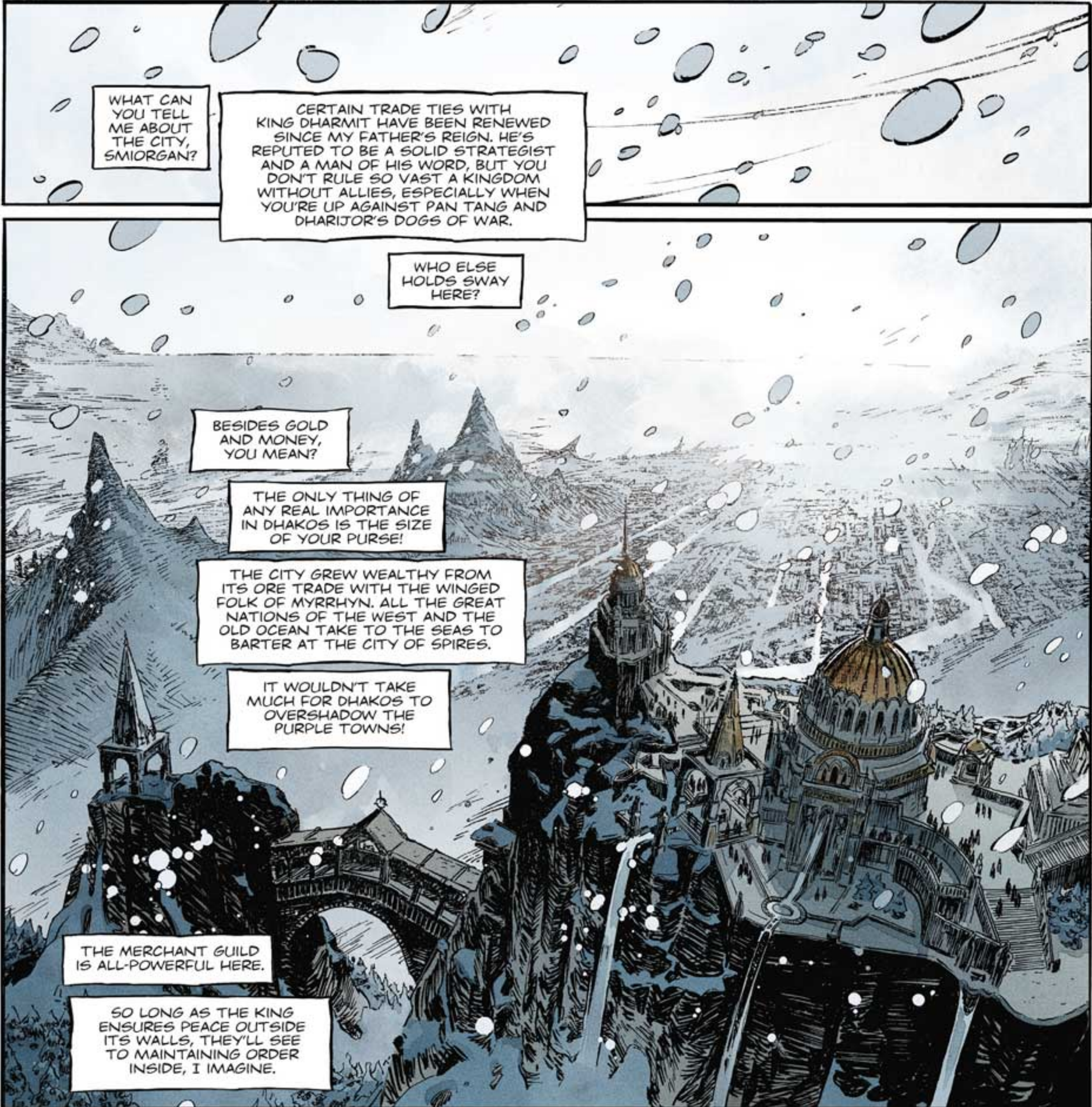
FEW SORCERERS HAVE THE POWER TO SUMMON AN ETHER-MESSENGER. WHAT IS YOUR MASTER'S NAME? WHAT DOES--

NO, WAIT! DON'T GO!



WAIT!





WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE CITY, SMIORGAN?

CERTAIN TRADE TIES WITH KING DHARMIT HAVE BEEN RENEWED SINCE MY FATHER'S REIGN. HE'S REPUTED TO BE A SOLID STRATEGIST AND A MAN OF HIS WORD, BUT YOU DON'T RULE SO VAST A KINGDOM WITHOUT ALLIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST PAN TANG AND DHARIJOR'S DOGS OF WAR.

WHO ELSE HOLDS SWAY HERE?

BESIDES GOLD AND MONEY, YOU MEAN?


THE ONLY THING OF ANY REAL IMPORTANCE IN DHAKOS IS THE SIZE OF YOUR PURSE!

THE CITY GREW WEALTHY FROM ITS ORE TRADE WITH THE WINGED FOLK OF MYRRHYN. ALL THE GREAT NATIONS OF THE WEST AND THE OLD OCEAN TAKE TO THE SEAS TO BARTER AT THE CITY OF SPIRES.

IT WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH FOR DHAKOS TO OVERSHADOW THE PURPLE TOWNS!

THE MERCHANT GUILD IS ALL-POWERFUL HERE.

SO LONG AS THE KING ENSURES PEACE OUTSIDE ITS WALLS, THEY'LL SEE TO MAINTAINING ORDER INSIDE, I IMAGINE.



I DON'T KNOW WHO THESE FESTIVITIES HONOR...

...BUT I DOUBT THOSE ARE MERE MERCHANTS' DRUMS.

