

# 4001AD™



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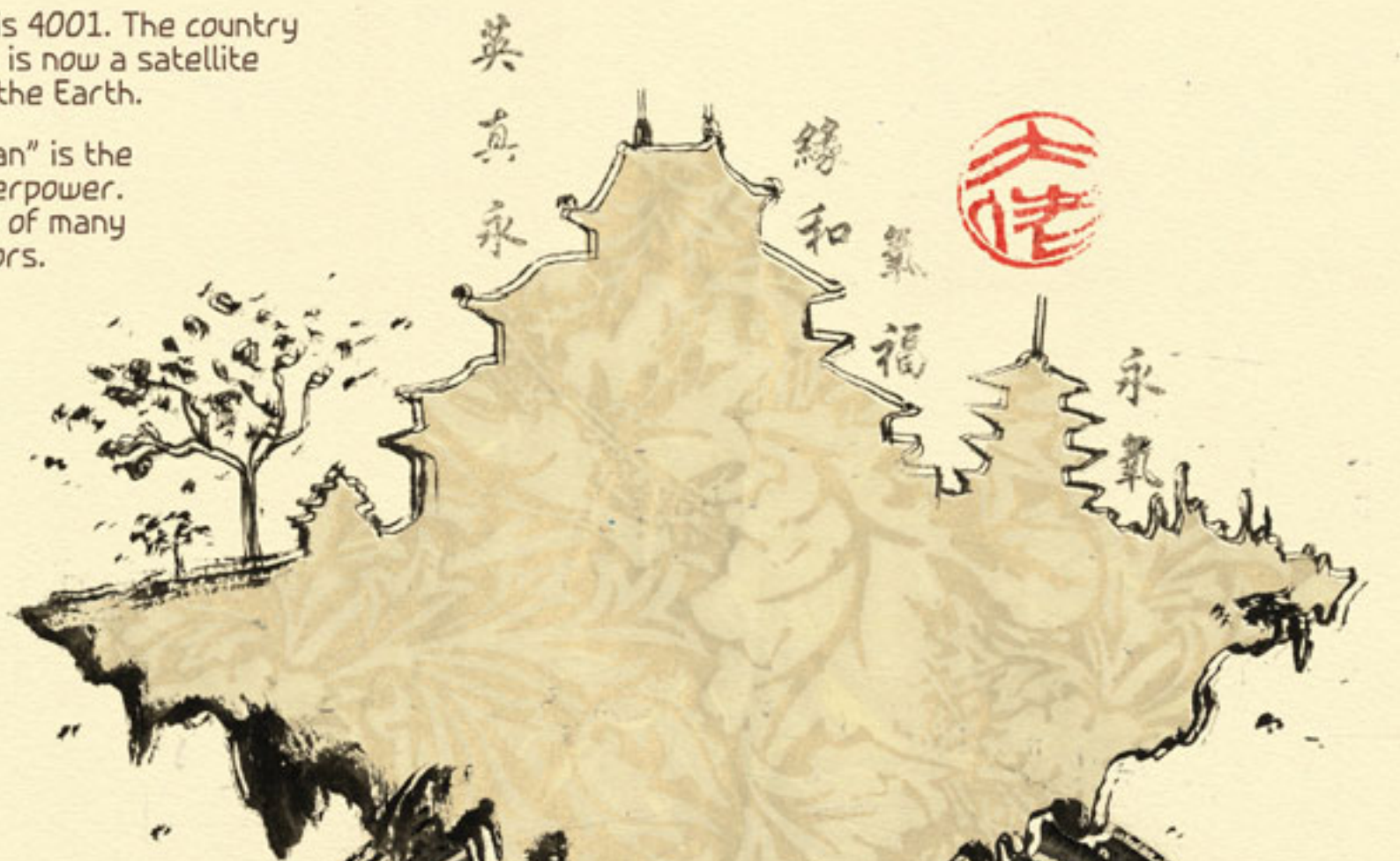
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**T**he year is 4001. The country of Japan is now a satellite orbiting the Earth.

This "New Japan" is the last great superpower. It is comprised of many different sectors.



Every kingdom has a great ruler, and New Japan is no different.

The people call him "father."



**A**n artificial intelligence that guides New Japan to greatness by pacifying the masses with all-seeing police, curated video entertainment, and a segregated population.

**B**ut most impressive of all is father's pride and joy...

His great son,  
**Rai.**



緣福和氣  
緣永

**R**

ai served as New Japan's spirit guardian. He walked among the people, subtly enforcing Father's will and serving as a symbol of hope.

永緣和  
真緣

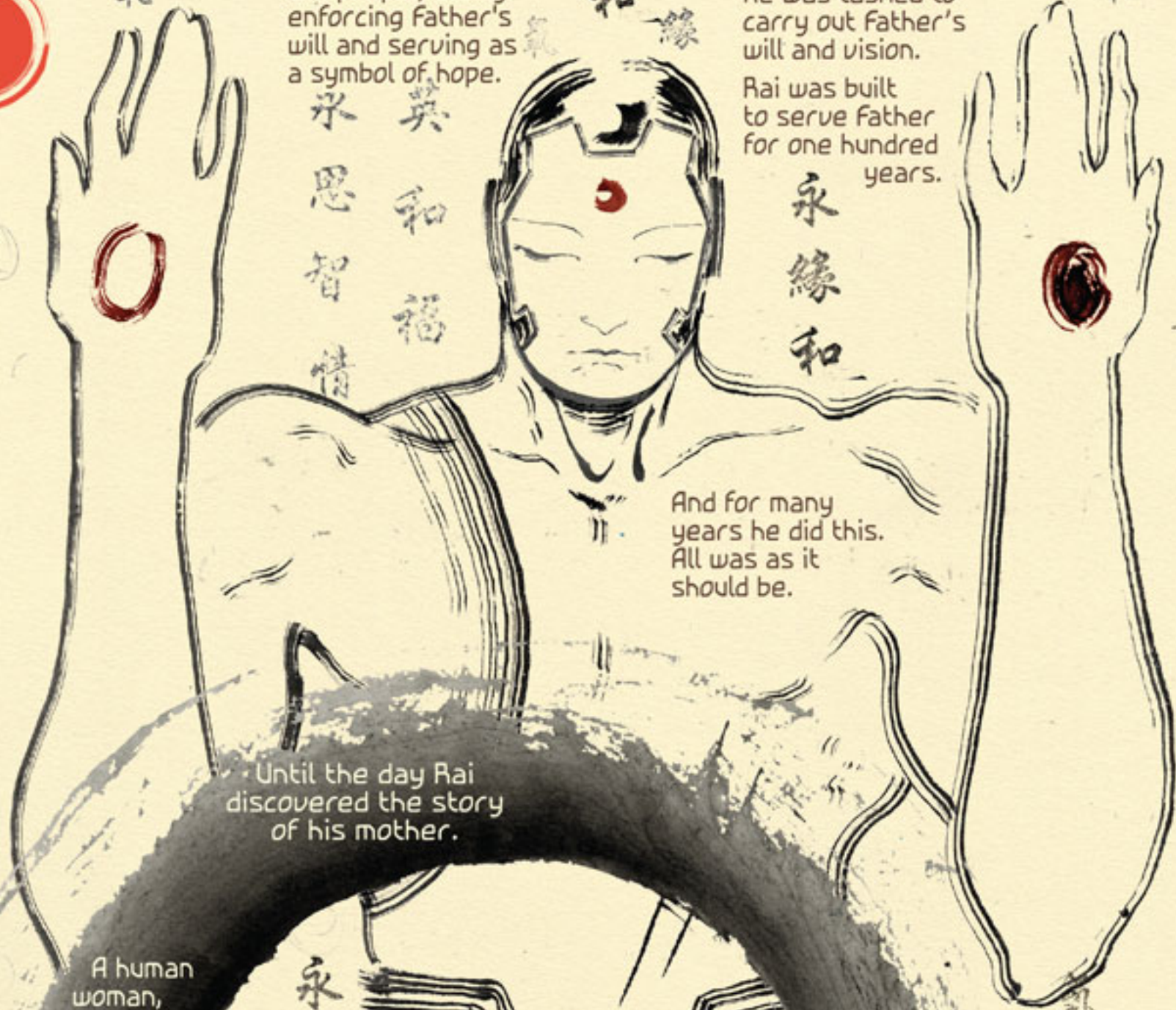
**H**

e was the perfect blend of human genome and artificial material.

He was tasked to carry out Father's will and vision.

Rai was built to serve Father for one hundred years.

英智福  
緣和



And for many years he did this. All was as it should be.

Until the day Rai discovered the story of his mother.

A human woman, used and discarded by Father during Rai's creation.

This was the day that Rai saw Father's true cruelty.

永緣和

情智思永真緣英和福

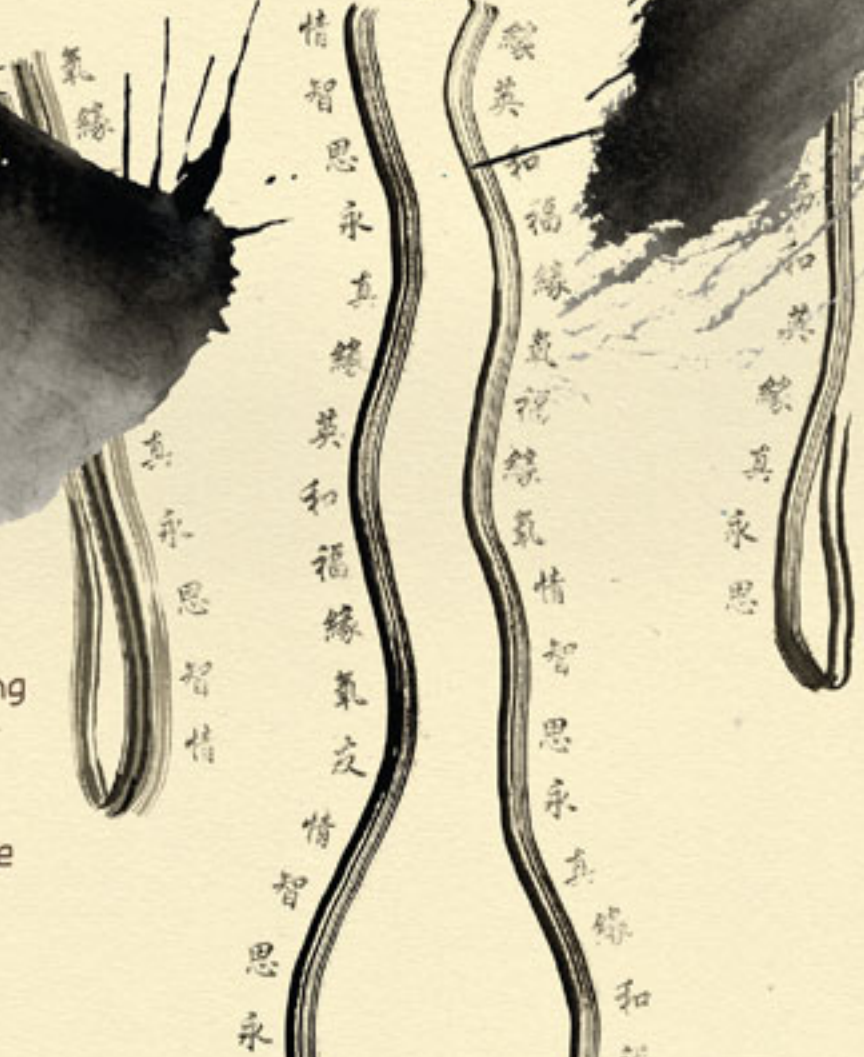
緣福和英緣真永思智情

**R**

ai wandered New Japan after that day questioning everything.

He was coming of age.

His eyes were opened to the natural beauty of humanity.



**R**ai met a young girl named Lula, who idolized him. She helped him discover the truth about his mother's death. In this way, Lula and New Japan became Rai's surrogate family.

Rai became disillusioned with Father's iron-willed grip on society.

What was humanity if it could not choose its own destiny?

**R**ai incited a rebellion against Father, but was caught and cast down to Earth. He is now believed to be dead.

Lula continued on, however, and was able to drop a viral bomb into Father's heart.



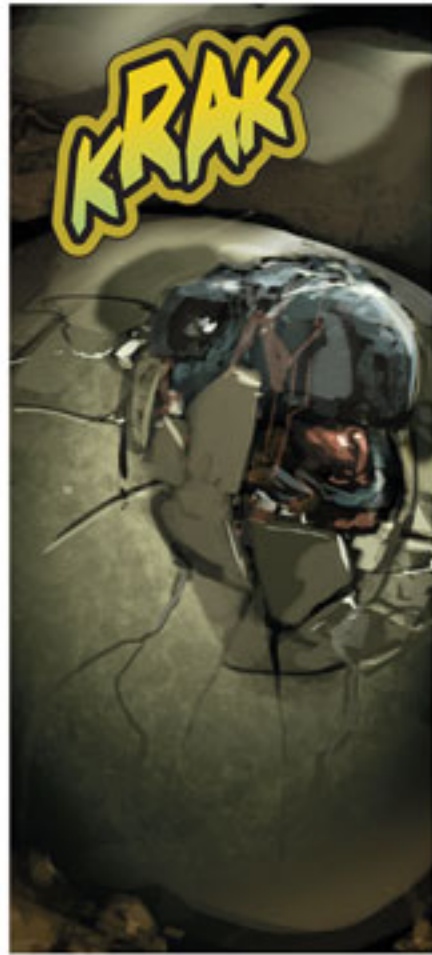
**N**ow the virus rages through New Japan, ravaging its infrastructure and loosening Father's control.

Control that Father is unwilling to give up. Control that Father would do anything to maintain.

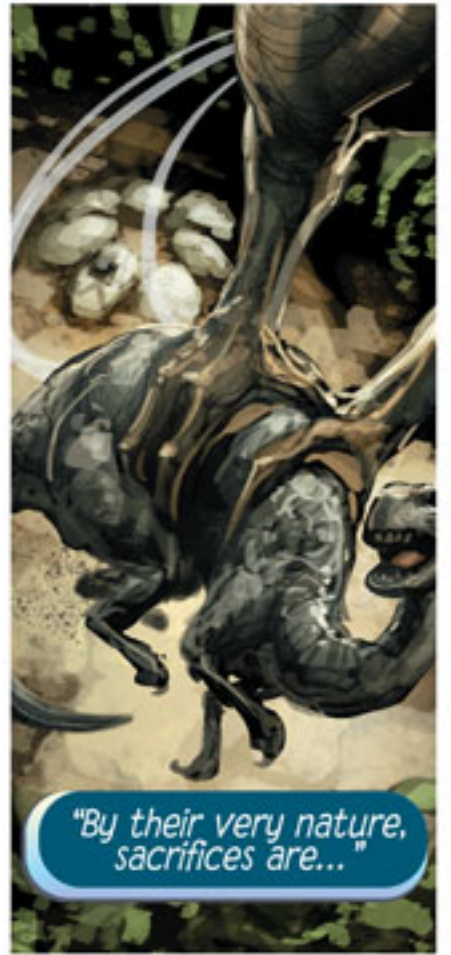
**F**ather is willing to destroy the body to save the mind...

So he begins dropping entire sectors--including their human inhabitants--back to Earth, to rid himself of the virus. He is desperate to maintain control...

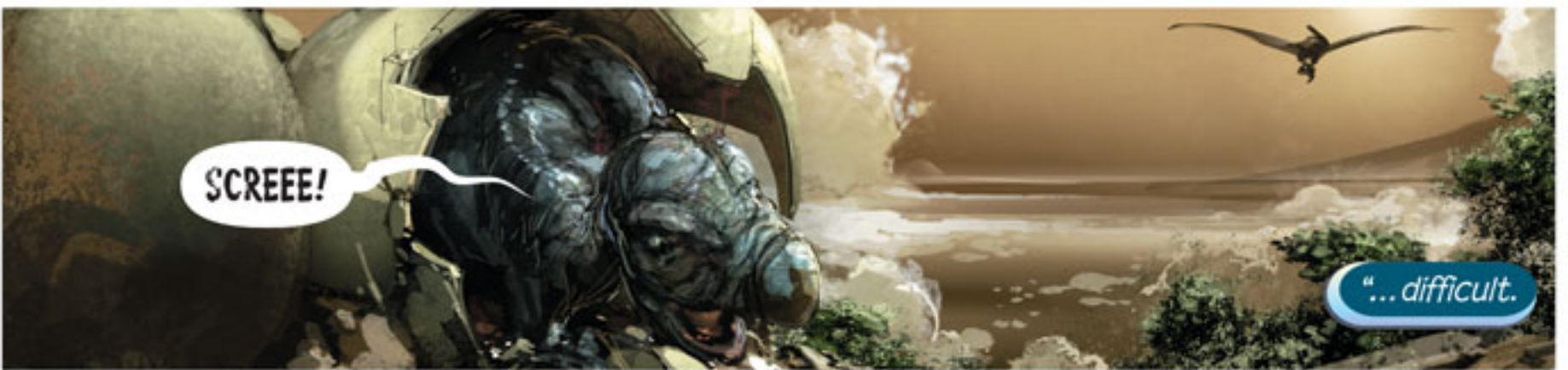




"Members of the board: New Japan must make sacrifices."



"By their very nature, sacrifices are..."



SCREEE!

"...difficult."



"It pains me to do this."



"I have seen New Japan grow from its infancy..."

SNAP

...

“...to the towering achievement that it is today.”



**RUMMMMBLE**

SOMETHING'S WRONG...



WHAT'S WRONG IS YOU MAKING SO MUCH NOISE. I PAID GOOD MONEY FOR THIS HUNT.

YOU NEED TO BE QUIET BEFORE YOU GET US BOTH KILLED.

NO. LOOK AROUND-- CAN'T YOU FEEL IT? THE ENTIRE PLACE IS SHAKING!



“Every creature that draws breath relies on me to keep the oxygen flowing.”

LOOK AT THE SKY, YOU IDIOT!



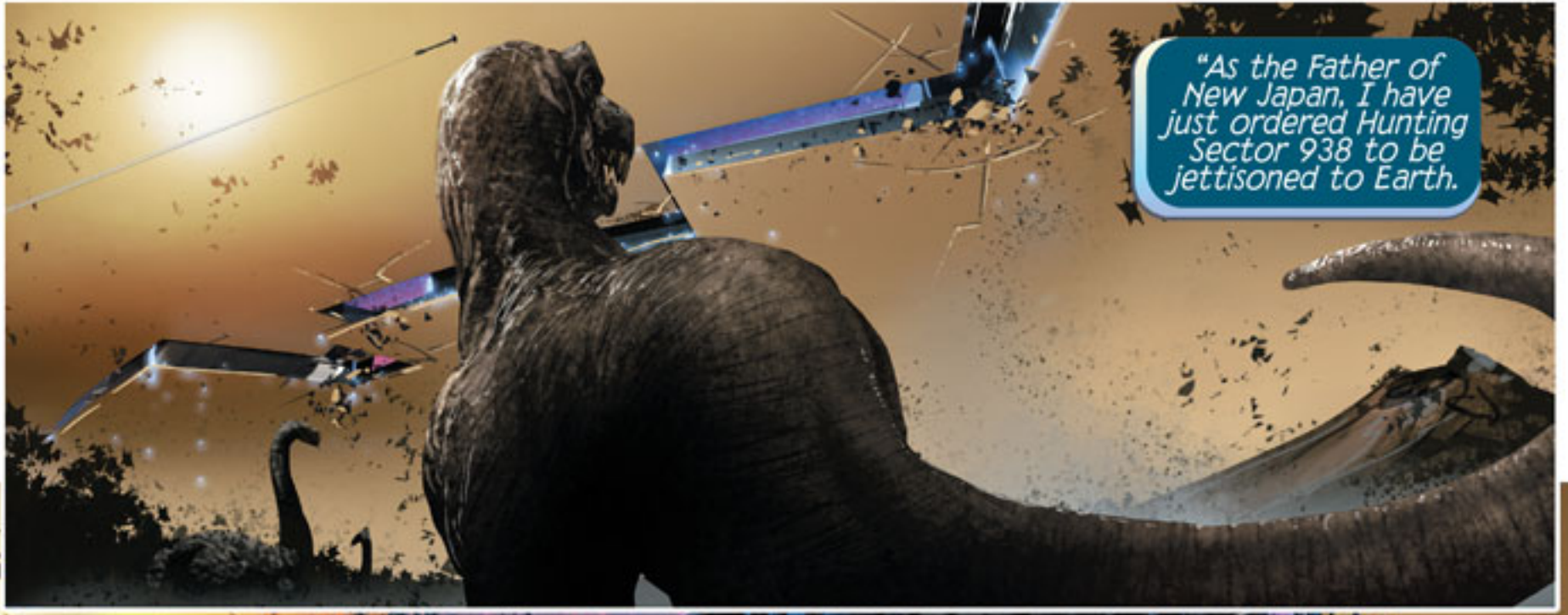
I'M TRYING TO FOCUS. SO, BE A GOOD GUIDE AND SHUT--

**CRACK**

THE WHOLE SECTOR'S COLLAPSING!



“...whether it realizes it or not.”



"As the Father of New Japan, I have just ordered Hunting Sector 938 to be jettisoned to Earth."



"This is the 22nd sector we've displaced since last night."



"I feel every cry. Every pain."



"I feel every death..."



“...as if it were my own.”

**NEW JAPAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

*But for me to retain control of New Japan--to keep it orbiting and operating--I have to jettison nonessential sectors.*

*I simply cannot control everything and combat the virus at the same time.*

WE'VE LOST 43,884 PEOPLE SINCE LAST NIGHT. WE BEG OF YOU: LET US FIND A WAY TO STOP THE VIRUS. SHUT IT DOWN. THERE HAS TO BE A WAY!

ONLY HALF OF THOSE SECTORS ARE EQUIPPED WITH EMERGENCY LANDING SHIELDS!

*I must. A virus runs rampant throughout New Japan. It threatens to destroy all of us.*

*I must cut the limb to save the body...*

YOU-- YOU CAN'T JUST CUT THEM OFF!

*...I know best.*