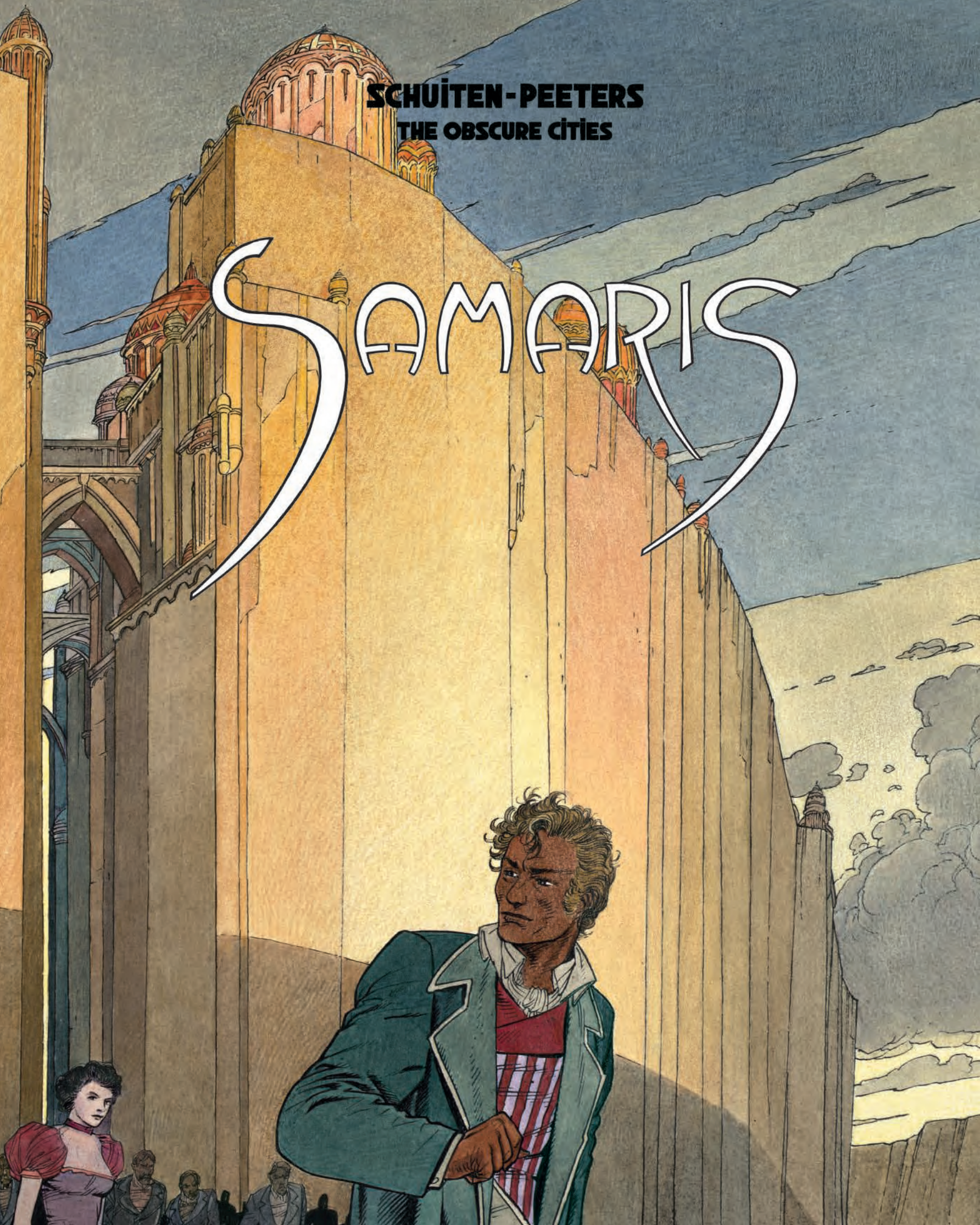


SCHUITEN-PEETERS
THE OBSCURE CITIES

SAMARIS



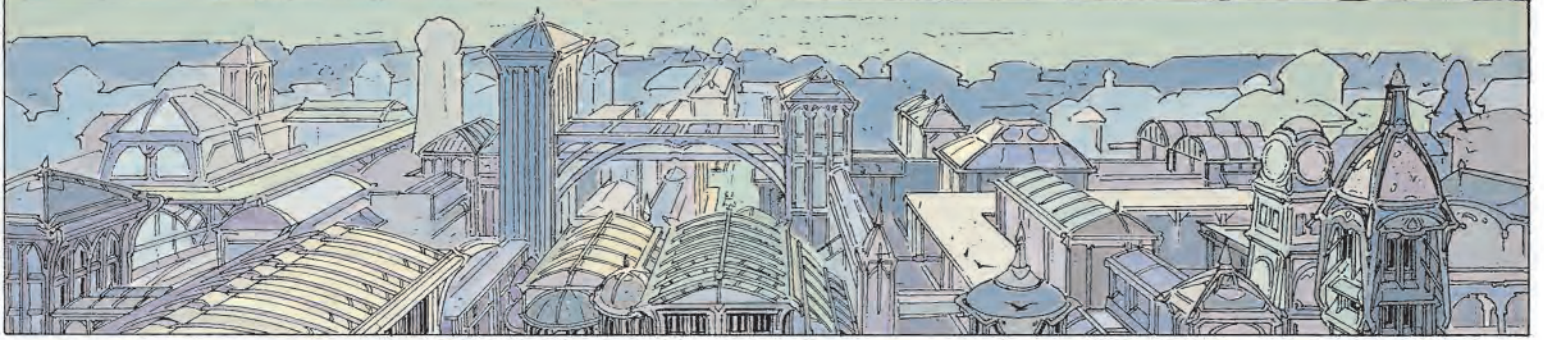
SAMARIS

AND
THE MYSTERIES OF
PÂHRY

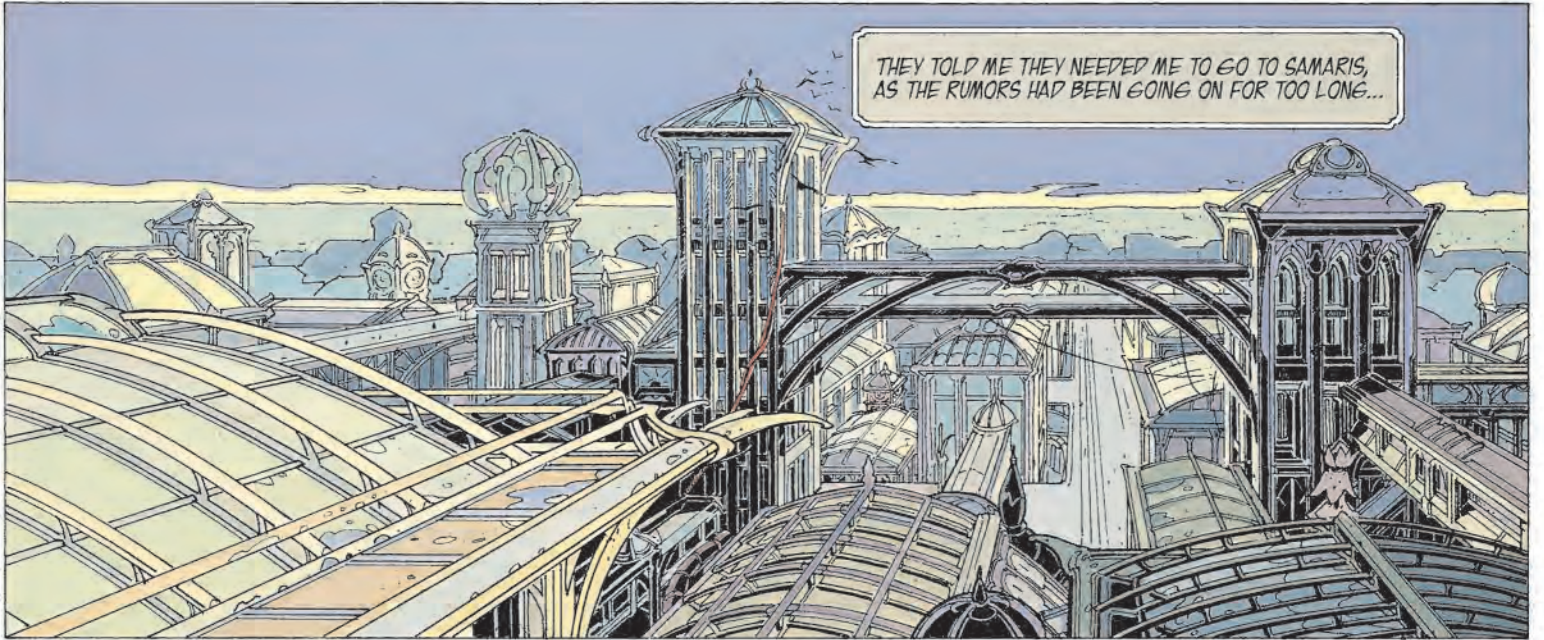
IDW



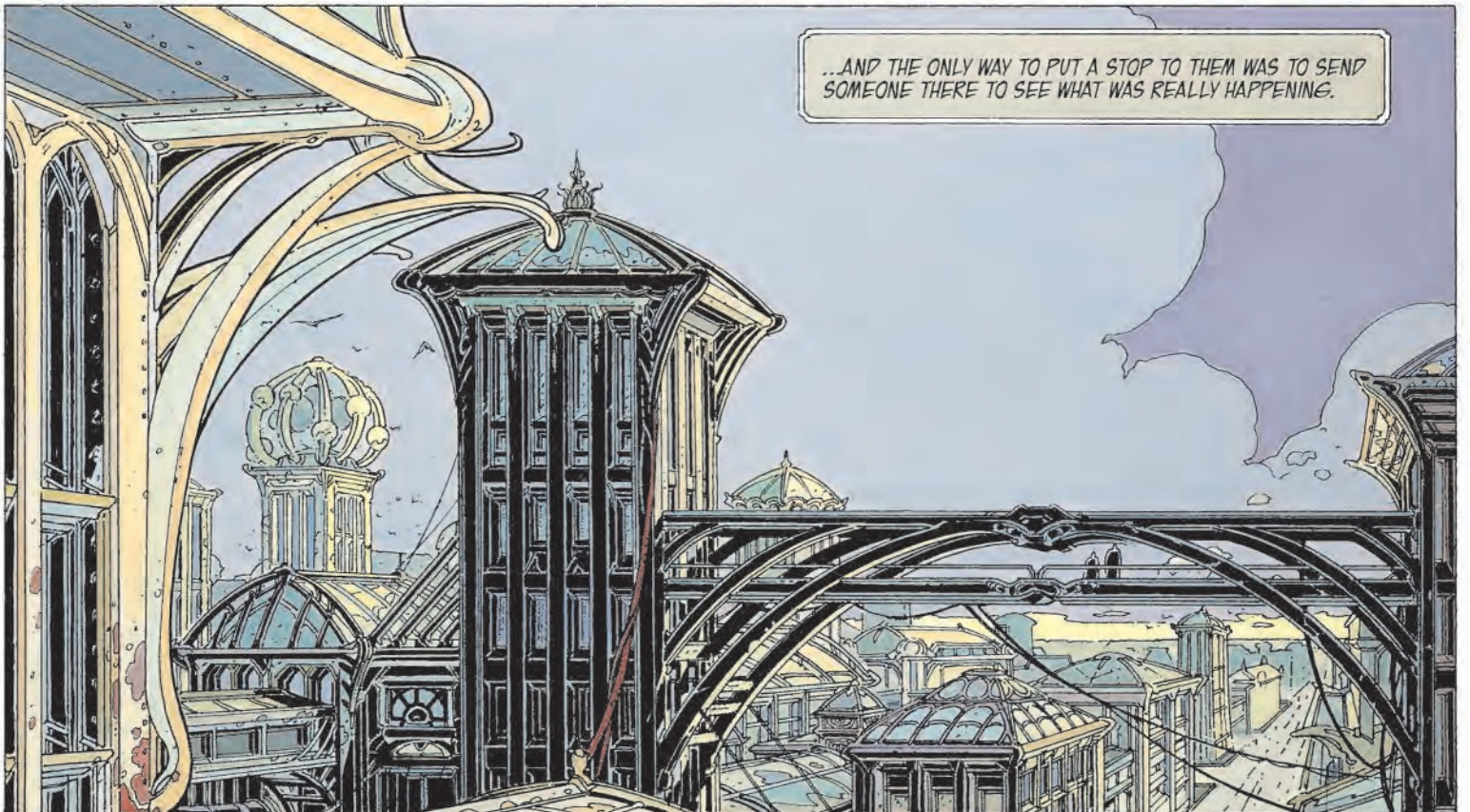
ONE MORNING THEY CAME
TO MY DOOR!

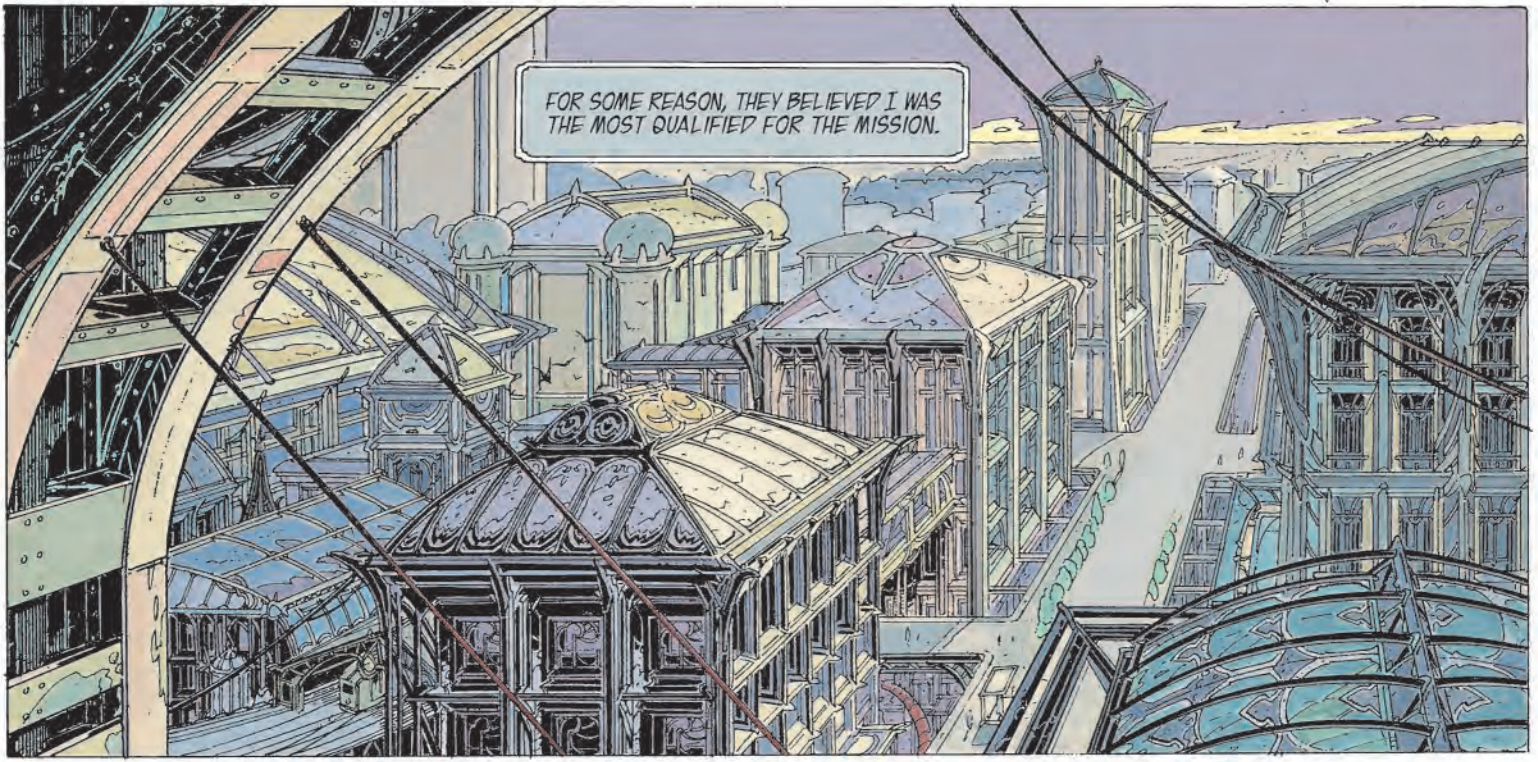


THEY TOLD ME THEY NEEDED ME TO GO TO SAMARIS,
AS THE RUMORS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR TOO LONG...

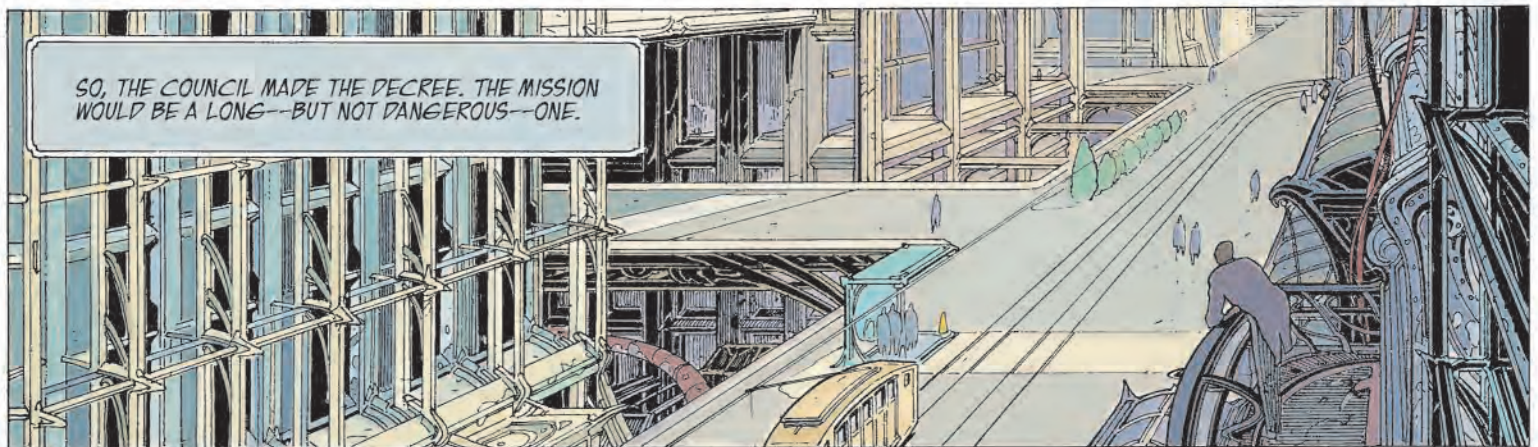


...AND THE ONLY WAY TO PUT A STOP TO THEM WAS TO SEND
SOMEONE THERE TO SEE WHAT WAS REALLY HAPPENING.

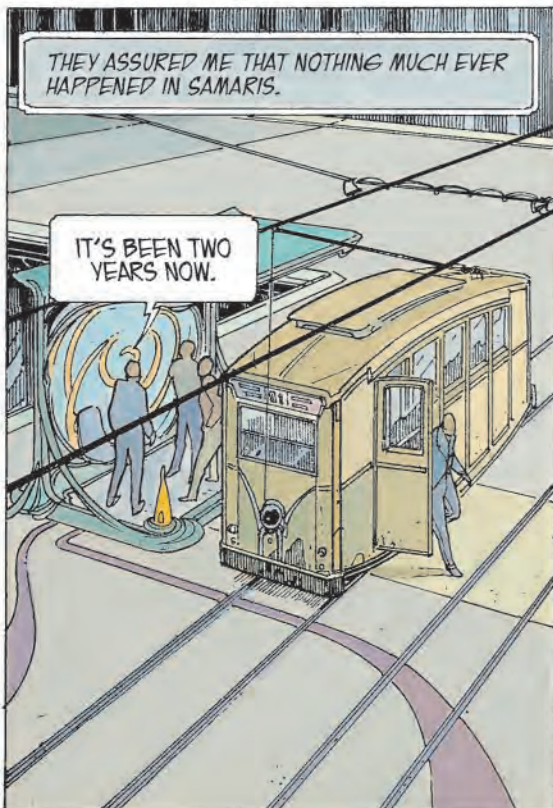




FOR SOME REASON, THEY BELIEVED I WAS THE MOST QUALIFIED FOR THE MISSION.

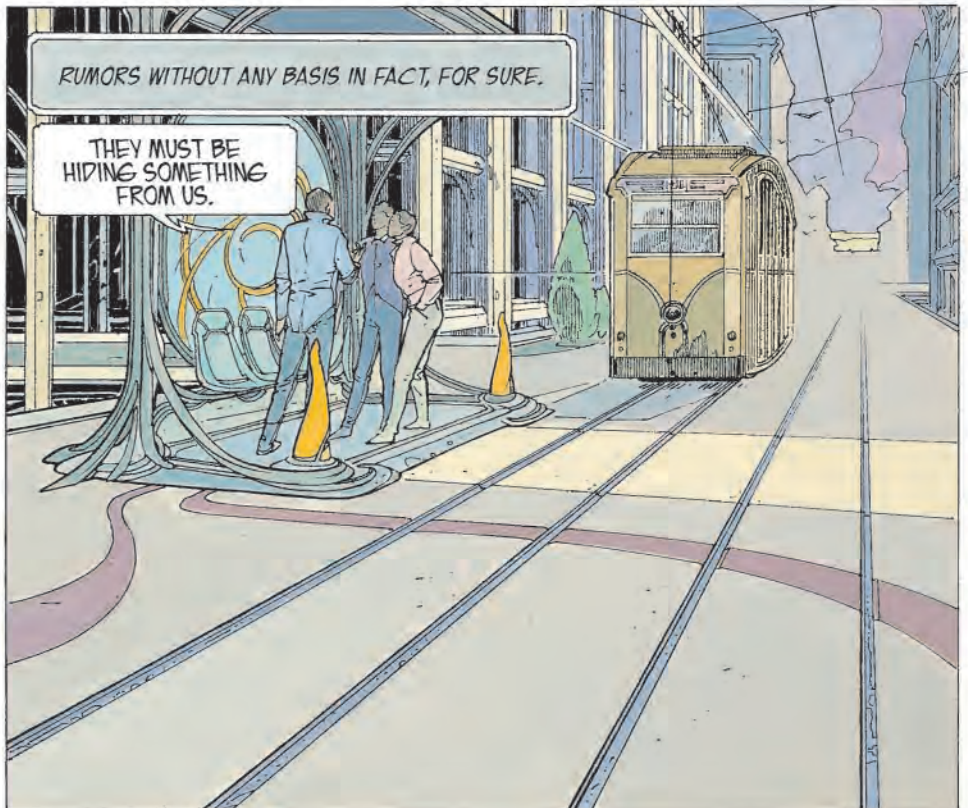


SO, THE COUNCIL MADE THE DECREE. THE MISSION WOULD BE A LONG--BUT NOT DANGEROUS--ONE.



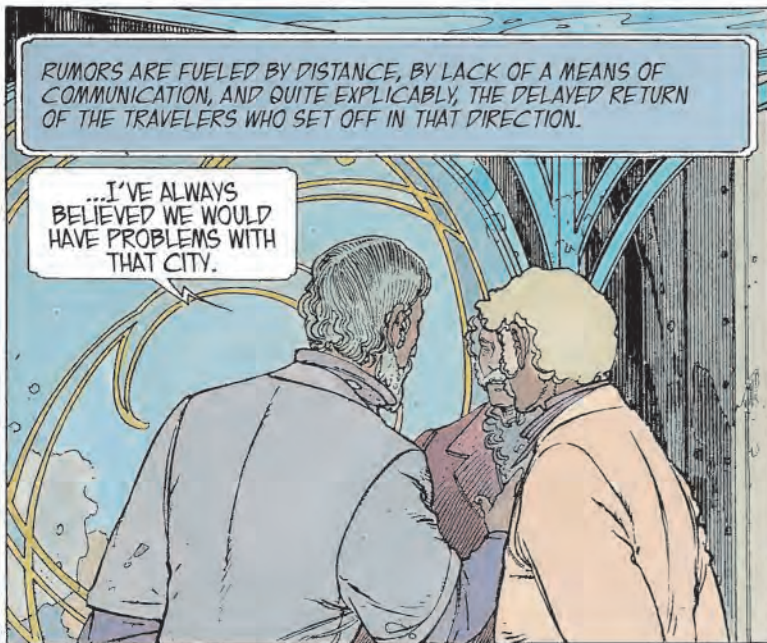
THEY ASSURED ME THAT NOTHING MUCH EVER HAPPENED IN SAMARIS.

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS NOW.



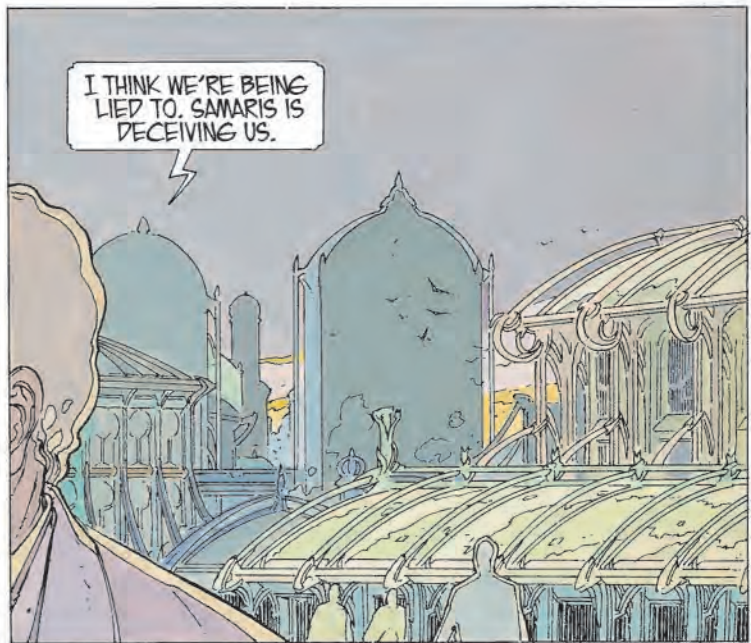
RUMORS WITHOUT ANY BASIS IN FACT, FOR SURE.

THEY MUST BE HIDING SOMETHING FROM US.

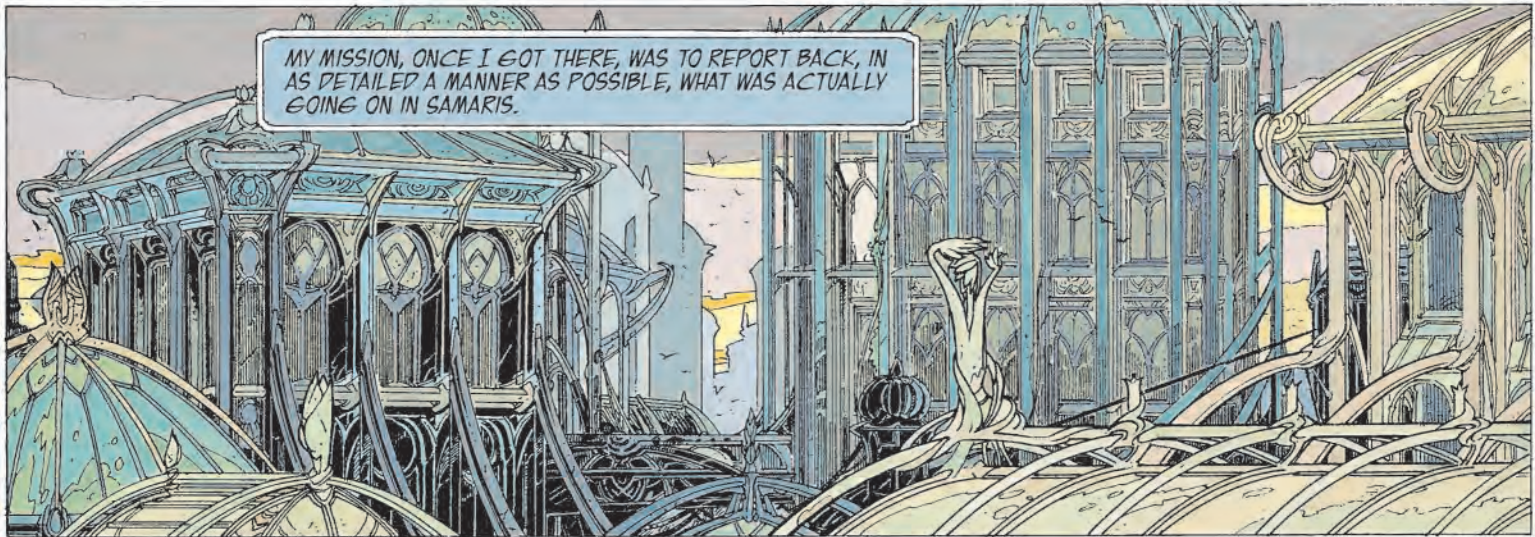


RUMORS ARE FUELED BY DISTANCE, BY LACK OF A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, AND QUITE EXPLICITLY, THE DELAYED RETURN OF THE TRAVELERS WHO SET OFF IN THAT DIRECTION.

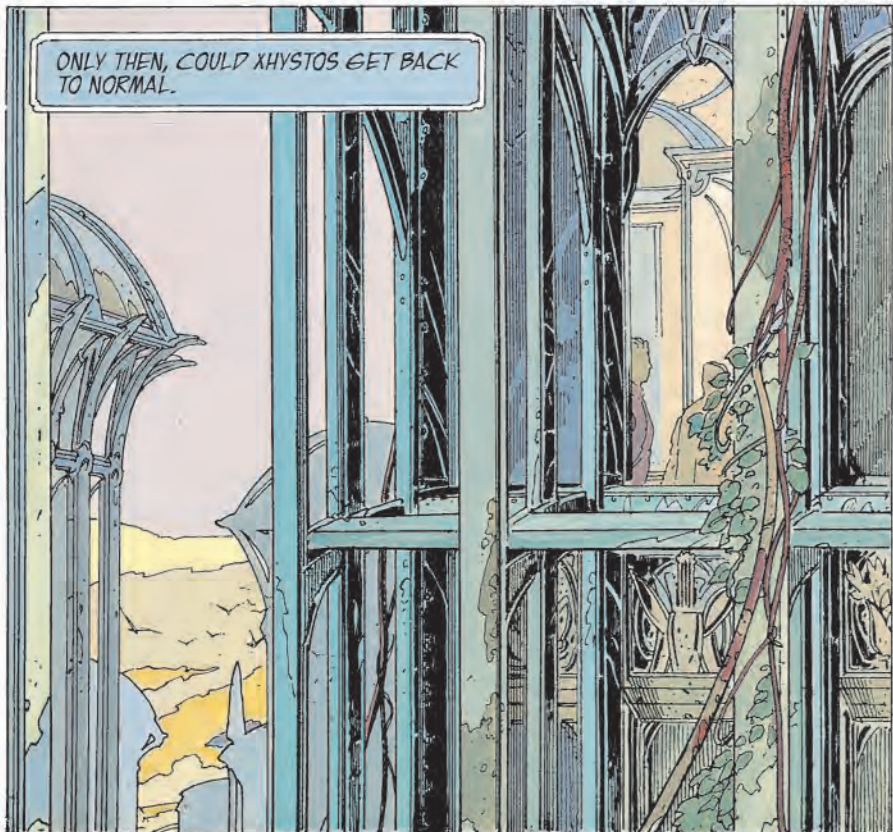
...I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED WE WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THAT CITY.



I THINK WE'RE BEING LIED TO. SAMARIS IS DECEIVING US.



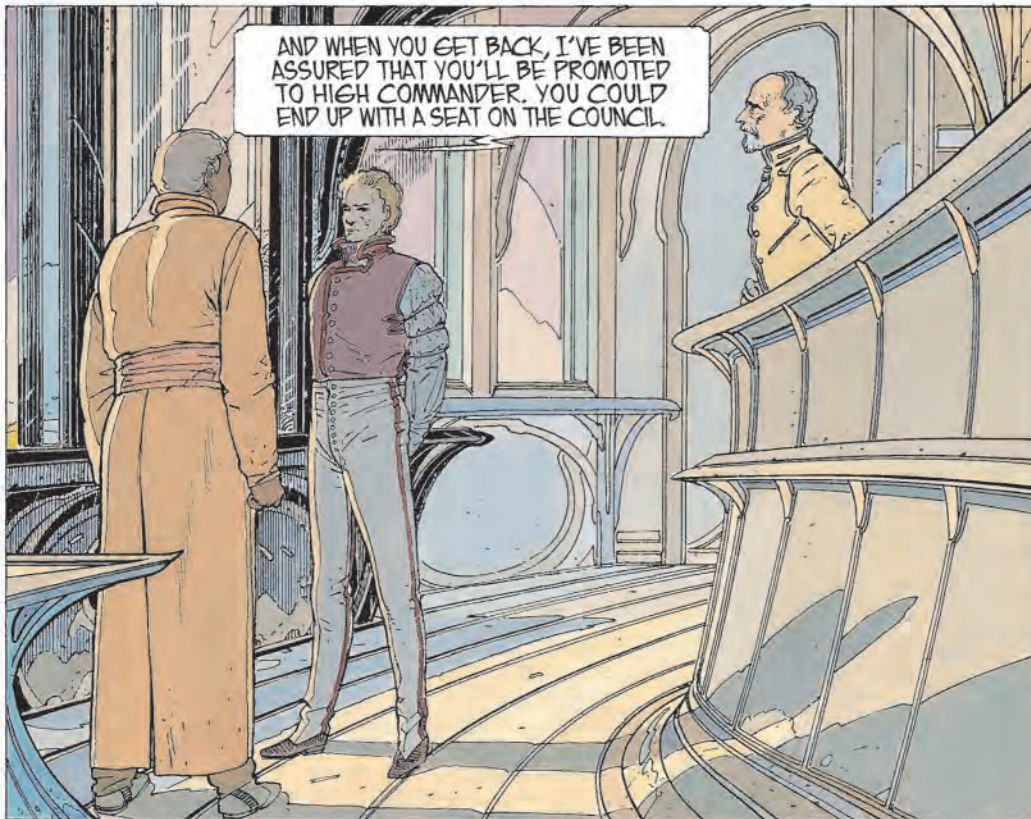
MY MISSION, ONCE I GOT THERE, WAS TO REPORT BACK, IN AS DETAILED A MANNER AS POSSIBLE, WHAT WAS ACTUALLY GOING ON IN SAMARIS.



ONLY THEN, COULD XHYSTOS GET BACK TO NORMAL.



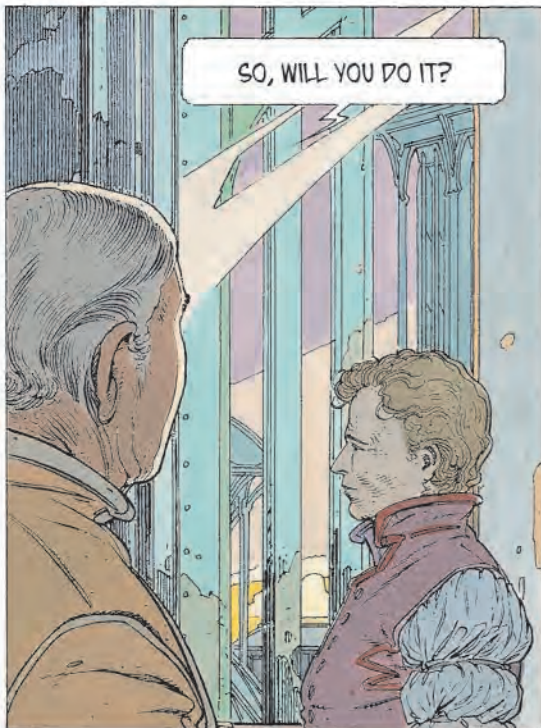
THIS MISSION WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU. 20,000 PAZ HALF UP FRONT.



AND WHEN YOU GET BACK, I'VE BEEN ASSURED THAT YOU'LL BE PROMOTED TO HIGH COMMANDER. YOU COULD END UP WITH A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL.



I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY AT THE TIME. THEIR PROPOSAL HAD CAUGHT ME COMPLETELY OFF GUARD.



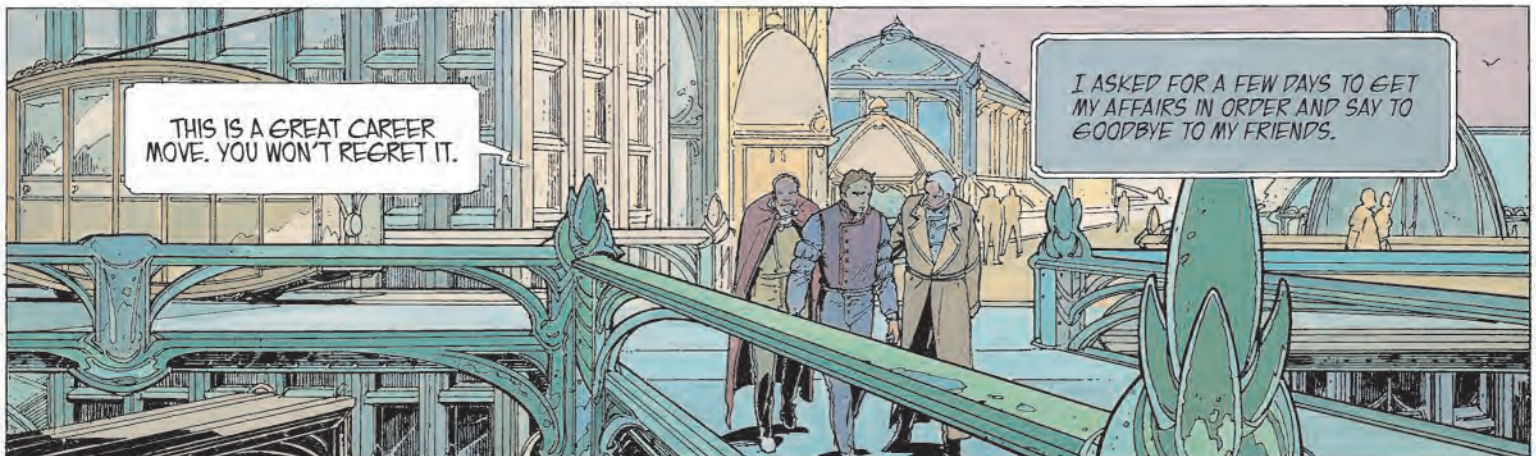
SO, WILL YOU DO IT?



IF IT WERE ME, I WOULDN'T HESITATE AN INSTANT.

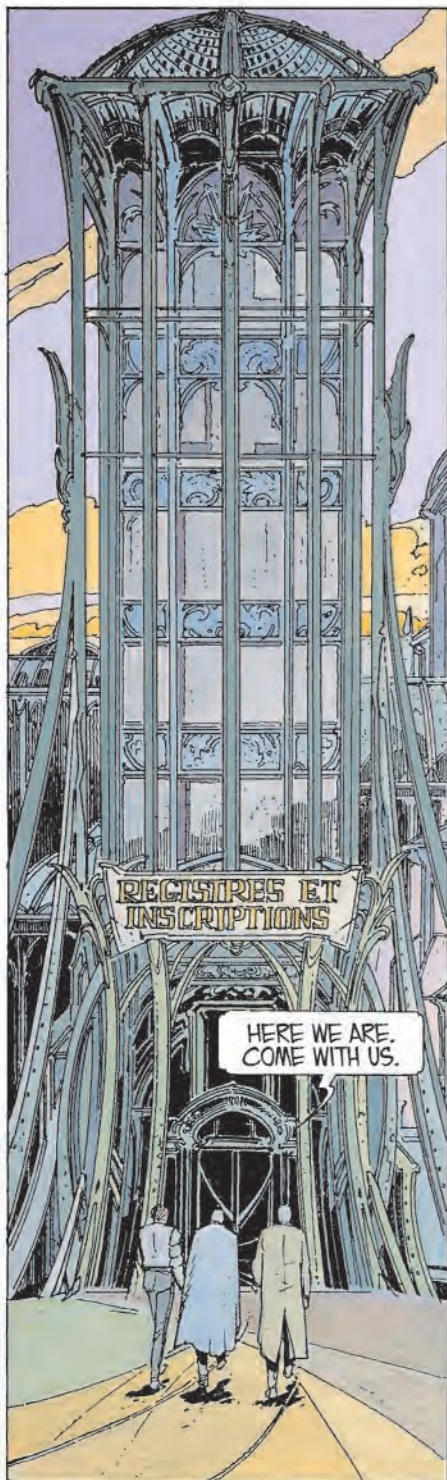


THERE ARE SOME DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO SIGN. COME WITH US TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE.



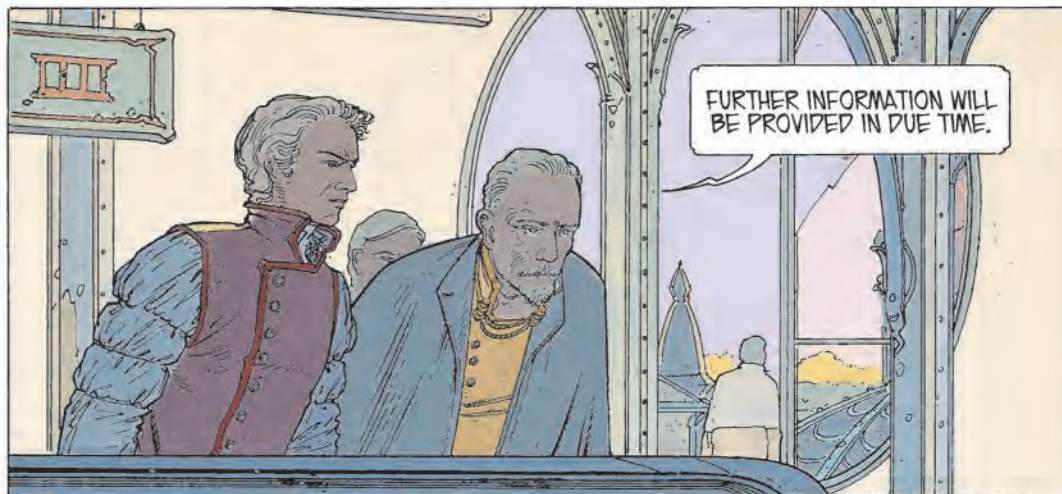
THIS IS A GREAT CAREER MOVE. YOU WON'T REGRET IT.

I ASKED FOR A FEW DAYS TO GET MY AFFAIRS IN ORDER AND SAY TO GOODBYE TO MY FRIENDS.



REGISTRES ET INSCRIPTIONS

HERE WE ARE, COME WITH US.



FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN DUE TIME.

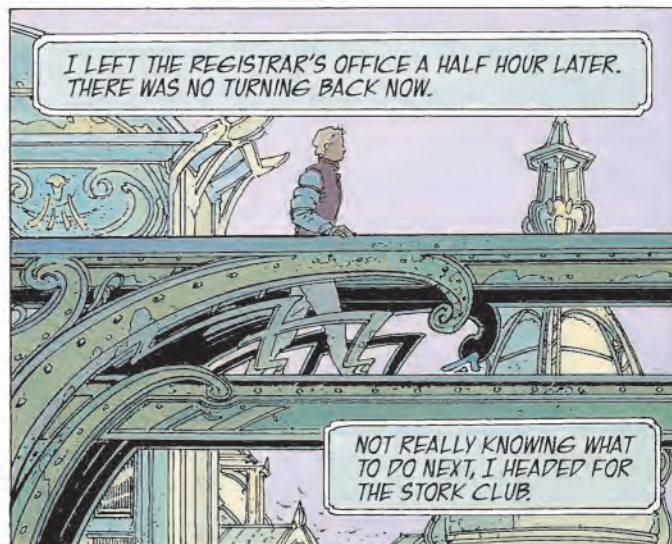


EVERYTHING'S BEEN ARRANGED.

WE JUST HAVE A FEW MORE FORMALITIES TO COVER.



CLAC



I LEFT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE A HALF HOUR LATER. THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK NOW.

NOT REALLY KNOWING WHAT TO DO NEXT, I HEADED FOR THE STORK CLUB.