
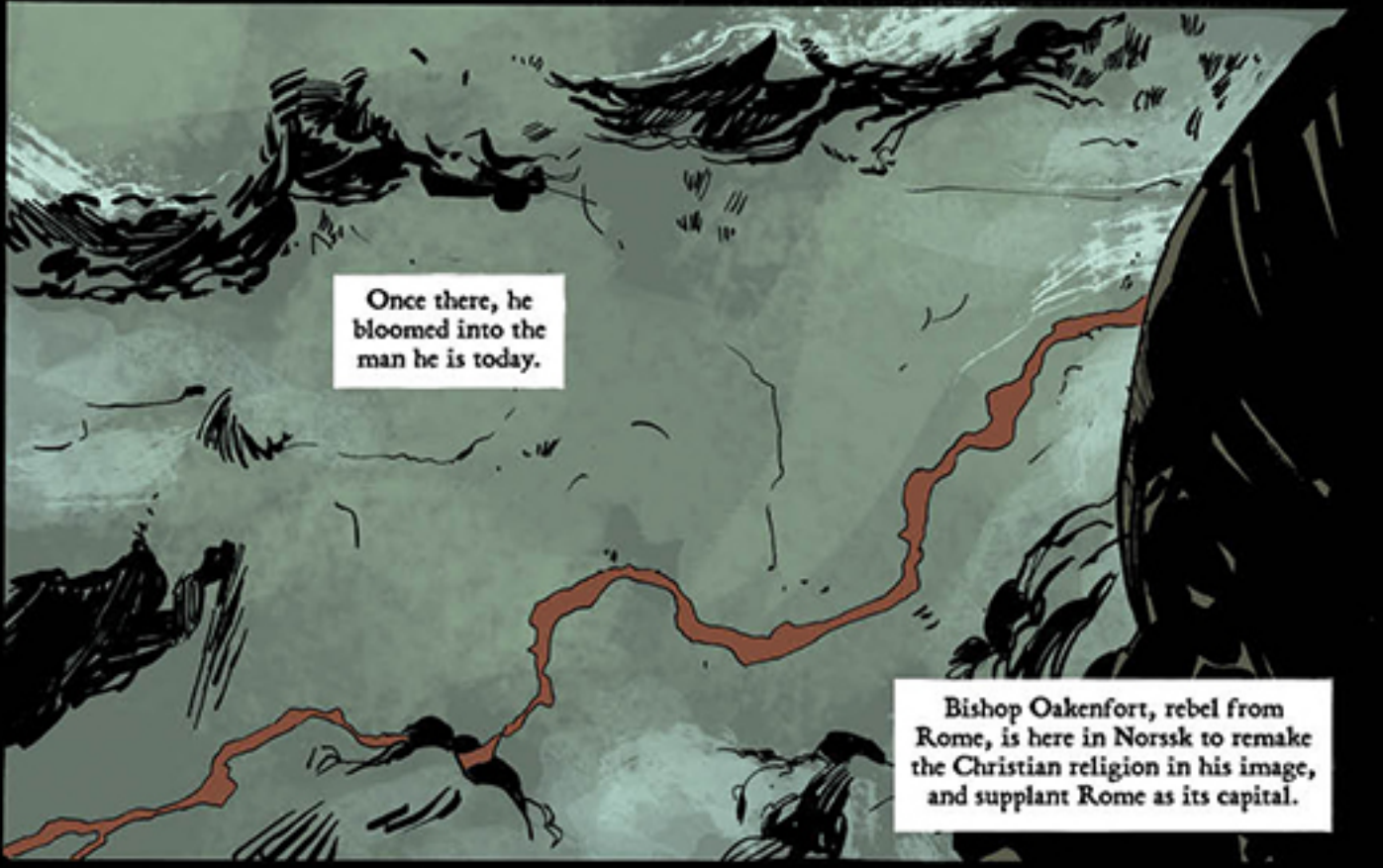


Oakenfort's one of those irredeemable bastards, it seems, the sort that probably should have been drowned as a small child, once he started torturing the other bairns in the village.



Instead, he was sent to live with monks to be straightened out by the grace of their god, their nailed, bleeding Christ.



Once there, he bloomed into the man he is today.

Bishop Oakenfort, rebel from Rome, is here in Norssk to remake the Christian religion in his image, and supplant Rome as its capital.

There's a decent amount of dissent in the Christian faith, enough that Oakenfort was able to sway several of his peers, as well as assemble an army.

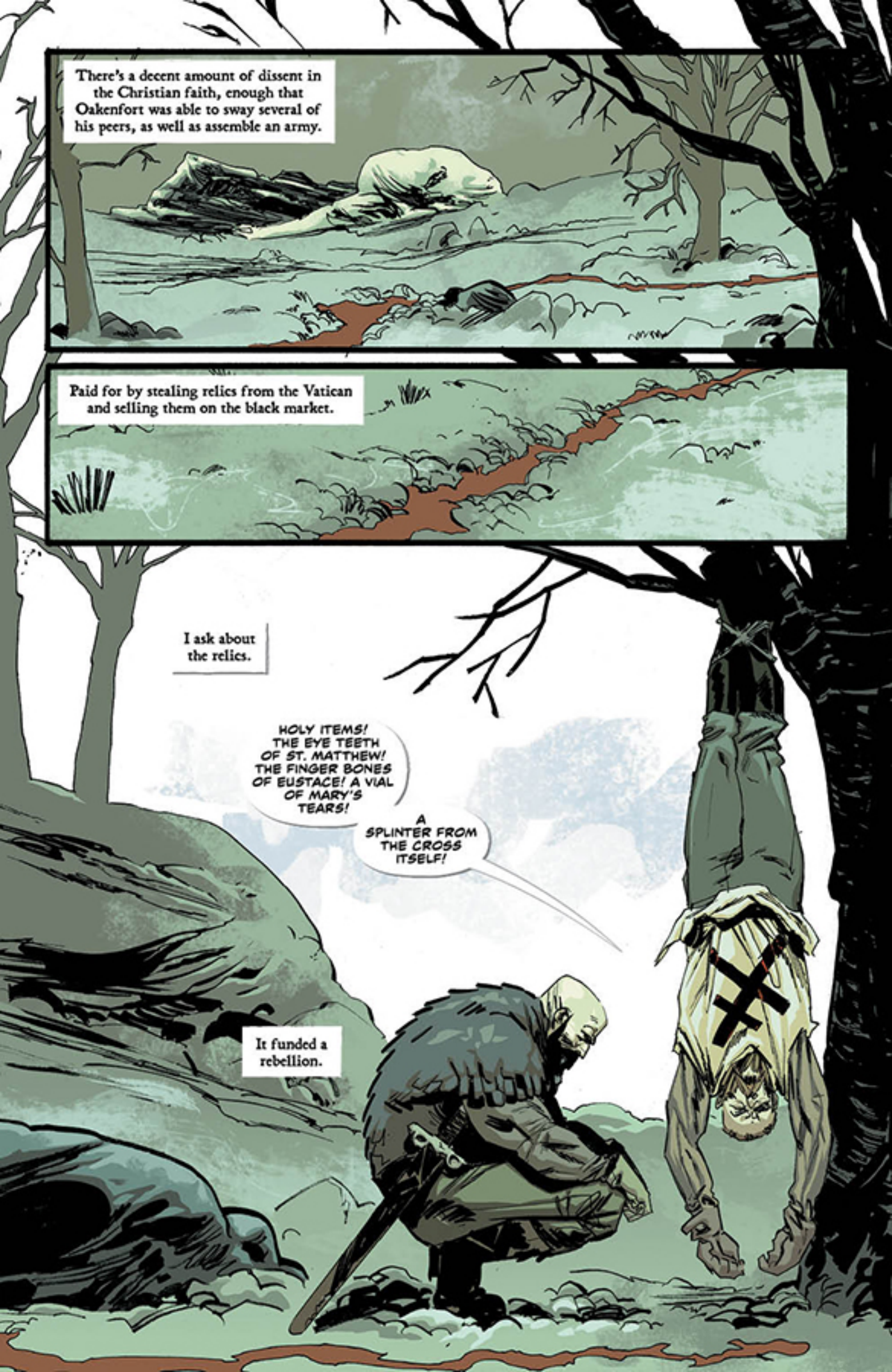
Paid for by stealing relics from the Vatican and selling them on the black market.

I ask about the relics.

HOLY ITEMS!  
THE EYE TEETH  
OF ST. MATTHEW!  
THE FINGER BONES  
OF EUSTACE! A VIAL  
OF MARY'S  
TEARS!

A  
SPLINTER FROM  
THE CROSS  
ITSELF!

It funded a rebellion.





WHERE DID ALL THAT BLOOD COME FROM? WHERE IS MY FRIEND?



THAT WOMAN HAS HIM. I ADMIT, IT'S A LOT OF BLOOD. UNNERVING, EH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT? BEING DEFEATED BY A WOMAN?



YOU.

YOU'RE JUST GETTING SPIT ON YOURSELF.

FFT!



NORMALLY, WITH ALL THIS BLOOD, I'D BE WORRYING ABOUT WOLVES. BUT AROUND HERE, IT'S THE FOXES YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON.

LITTLE SAVAGE BASTARDS. THEY TYPICALLY GO FOR CARRION, JUST WORRY IT DOWN TO THE BONES.

SOON, THEY'LL SHOW UP HERE, SMELLING THIS STINK OF BLOOD, AND FIND YOU, HELPLESS.

THERE'RE MORE RELICS COMING IN.



MORE  
FINGER BONES?  
A LOCK OF HAIR?  
A DROP OF  
CHRIST'S PISS,  
MAYBE?

BETTER.

THAT'S NOT  
SAYING MUCH,  
CONSIDERING THAT  
I FIND IT ALL TO  
BE A BUNCH OF  
CRAP.

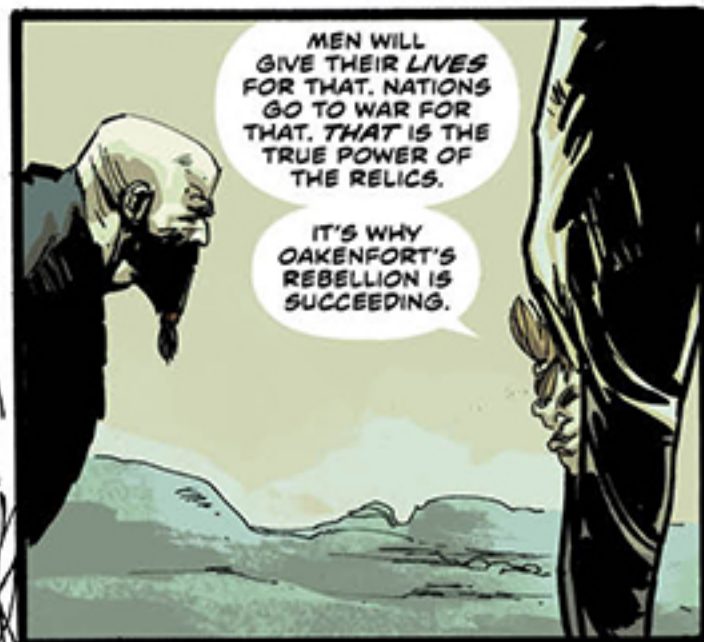
I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU.



WE ALL  
KNOW ABOUT  
YOU, THE FAMOUS  
PAGAN WARRIOR  
WHO WORKS WITH  
THE CHRISTIANS.  
YOU'RE KNOWN,  
MAGNUS THE  
BLACK.

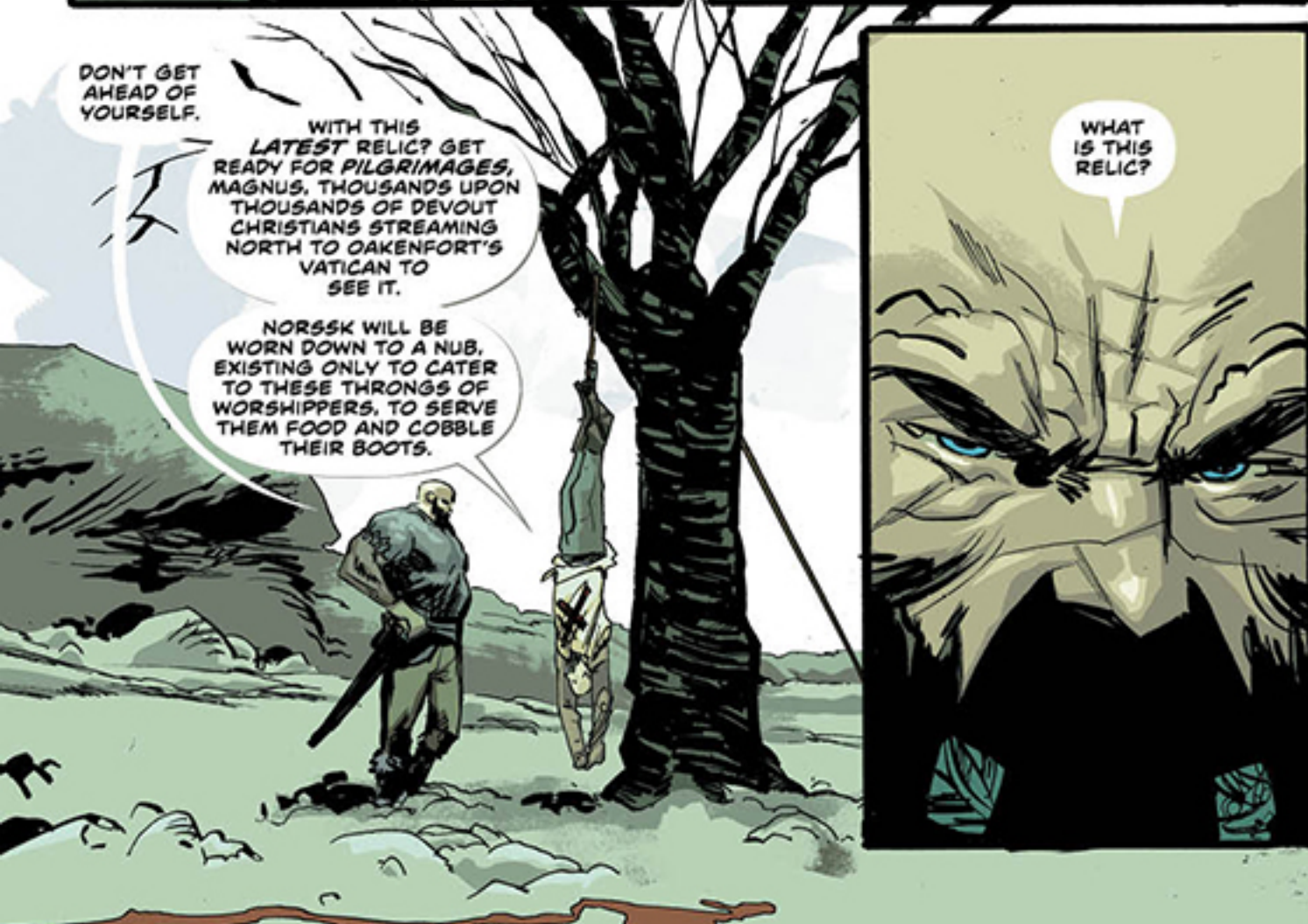
YOU KNOW  
FULL WELL THAT IT  
DOES NOT MATTER  
IF A RELIC IS REAL  
BECAUSE, SHIT, NO  
ONE CAN PROVE THE  
PROVENANCE OF  
ANY OF IT.

BUT  
BELIEF?  
FAITH?



MEN WILL  
GIVE THEIR LIVES  
FOR THAT. NATIONS  
GO TO WAR FOR  
THAT. THAT IS THE  
TRUE POWER OF  
THE RELICS.

IT'S WHY  
OAKENFORT'S  
REBELLION IS  
SUCCEEDING.



DON'T GET  
AHEAD OF  
YOURSELF.

WITH THIS  
LATEST RELIC? GET  
READY FOR PILGRIMAGES,  
MAGNUS, THOUSANDS UPON  
THOUSANDS OF DEVOUT  
CHRISTIANS STREAMING  
NORTH TO OAKENFORT'S  
VATICAN TO  
SEE IT.

NORSSK WILL BE  
WORN DOWN TO A NUB,  
EXISTING ONLY TO CATER  
TO THESE THROGS OF  
WORSHIPPERS, TO SERVE  
THEM FOOD AND COBBLE  
THEIR BOOTS.

WHAT  
IS THIS  
RELIC?