

IT WAS TO THE SCHOLARS OF THE ASHIKAGA SHOGUNATE THAT HE FIRST WHISPERED OF THE BAKU.

TAPIR, PANDA, TIGER: A CHIMERA OF ELUSIVE THINGS, DIVINELY APPOINTED AN EATER OF DREAMS.

APPEAL TO BAKU-SAN AND-- IF THE LORD OF THE DREAMING PERMITS--IT MAY BRING EQUILIBRIUM TO YOUR SLEEP.

IT WAS NOT DEvised FOR THIS.

WHERE ARE THE DREAMKIN, ANATOLE? YOU THINK THE JUDGE'LL LET YOU ALL JUST WALK OUT ON YOUR JOBS?

BUT THEN, IT IS SAID THAT ALL THINGS THAT DERIVE FROM EQUILIBRIUM ARE VULNERABLE-- BY FORCE OR INDUCEMENT-- TO IMBALANCE--

--AND IT IS A TRUTH UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT STABILITY REQUIRES FAR MORE EFFORT TO RESTORE THAN TO DISRUPT.

YOU WANNA LOSE THE OTHER ARM? WHERE ARE THEY HIDING?!

~AHEM~

THERE IS AN IMBALANCE IN THIS WORLD. I WONDER-- I WORRY--IF IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE.

WAITING FOR DYING MOMENTUM TO EXPOSE IT. THE SPINNING TOP-- FALTERING.

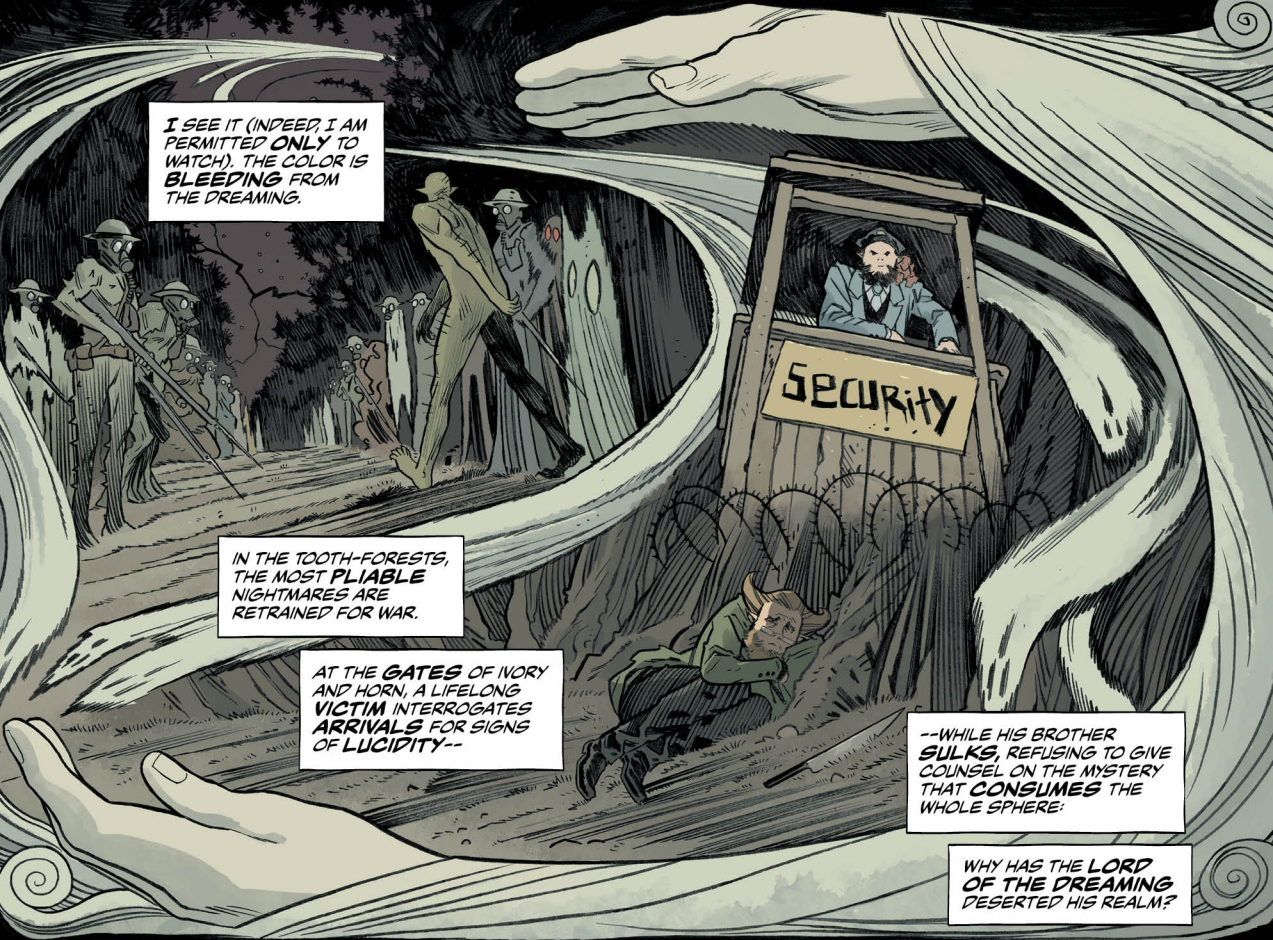
UH. F-FELLERS?



OH, MERVYN, FAITHFUL FIXER WHO TRIED SO HARD TO RIGHT THE WOBBLE--

YOU, UH, YOU BETTER JUST STOP ALLA THAT. R-RIGHT NOW.

--STILL REFUSING TO SEE THAT HE'S ONLY MADE IT WORSE.



I SEE IT (INDEED, I AM PERMITTED ONLY TO WATCH). THE COLOR IS BLEEDING FROM THE DREAMING.

IN THE TOOTH-FORESTS, THE MOST PLIABLE NIGHTMARES ARE RETRAINED FOR WAR.

AT THE GATES OF IVORY AND HORN, A LIFELONG VICTIM INTERROGATES ARRIVALS FOR SIGNS OF LUCIDITY--

--WHILE HIS BROTHER SULKS, REFUSING TO GIVE COUNSEL ON THE MYSTERY THAT CONSUMES THE WHOLE SPHERE:

WHY HAS THE LORD OF THE DREAMING DESERTED HIS REALM?



YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE, MERVY! LOOK WHAT YOUR DAMN JUDGE IS DOING TO THIS PLACE!

STEP ASIDE, OR GO DOWN WITH HIM.



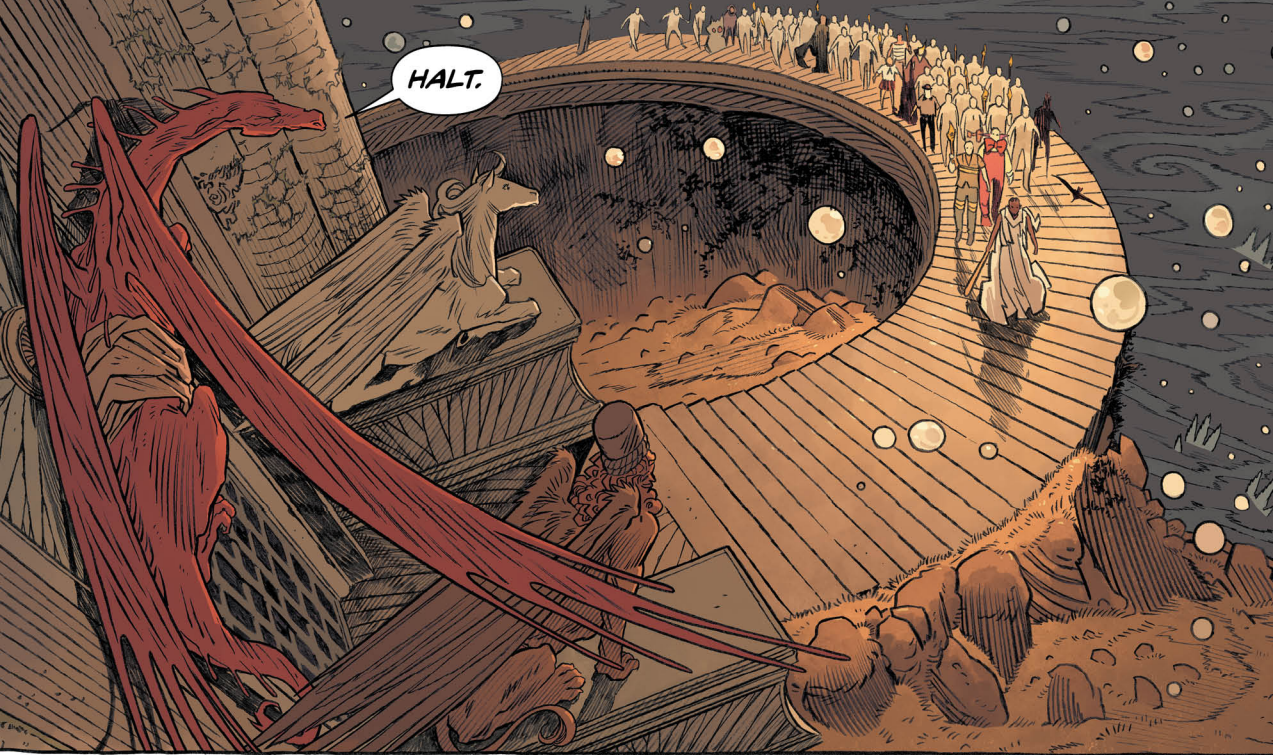
WE JUST--LOOK, WE NEED A STRONG HAND ONNA WHEEL! YA CAN'T EXPECT IT TO BE EASY! IT'S JUST TILL THE BOSS COMES HOME! STAND DOWN!

AND HERE'S THE PROBLEM WITH A SYSTEM THAT HAS TILTED OFF ITS AXIS:

IMBALANCE BREEDS ITSELF.



STRING HIM UP.



HALT.



GUYS--
C'MON, ENOUGH'S
ENOUGH. WE
GOTTA SEE THE
JUDGE.

HE IS IN
THE LIBRARY. HE
DOES NOT WISH TO
BE DISTURBED.
DO YOU INTEND HIM
HARM?



I MEAN--
IF WE DID...?
WOULD YOU
STOP US...?

THE
USURPER IS
NOT YOUR LORD,
GUARDIANS. HE
DOESN'T EVEN
HAVE THE HELM
ANYMORE. YOU
DO NOT OWE
HIM YOUR
LOYALTY.



OF COURSE, LIBRARIES--
LIKE WORLDS-- ARE PRONE TO
PRECARIOUS STABILITY.



IT'S THERE, AFTER
ALL, THAT THE
FEARSOME GRAVITIES
OF FACT AND FICTION
TEETER ON THE
READER'S MIND--

YOUR
HONOUR?
THE MAJOR
ARCANA,
THEY'RE--

--THEY'RE
COMIN' FOR ME.
I KNOW.

--WAITING ONLY FOR
KNOWLEDGE TO
BECOME APPLICATION.



LET
THEM COME.

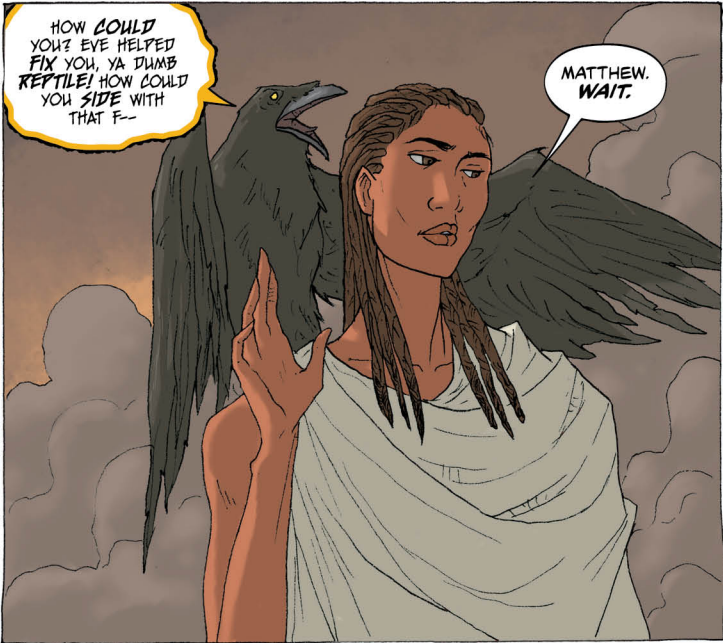
IMBALANCE
BREEDS ITSELF.



WE HAVE WARNED HIM OF YOUR ARRIVAL.

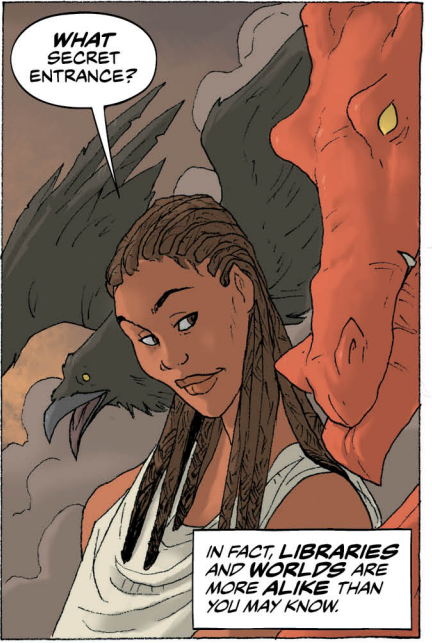
YOU--YOU BASTARDS!

WE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW OF THE **SECRET ENTRANCE**, AND WILL THEREFORE STORM THE **MAIN GATE**.



HOW COULD YOU? EVE HELPED FIX YOU, YA DUMB REPTILE! HOW COULD YOU **SIDE WITH THAT F--**

MATTHEW. WAIT.



WHAT SECRET ENTRANCE?

IN FACT, **LIBRARIES AND WORLDS ARE MORE ALIKE** THAN YOU MAY KNOW.



IT IS NO **SMALL THING** TO ENTER EITHER.



ONE MUST HAVE A GOAL--AND, IF POSSIBLE, A **GUIDE--**

~YAAAHN~

--AND ONE MUST KEEP ONE'S **SYMPATHIES FOR THE CUSTODIANS OF SUCH PLACES.**