



GENERALLY SPEAKING, THIS SHOULD BE THE PART OF THE STORY WHERE I URINATE ON MY ASS-HOLE FATHER'S GRAVE...

...BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT. I'M THE **NEW MAESTRO** NOW AND THE POSITION COMES WITH AN EXPECTATION THAT I ACT WITH GENTILITY AND APLOMB... IT DOES **NOW** ANYWAY.



ALSO, THERE'S LIKE, TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE WATCHING ME AND I'VE GOT A BASHFUL BLADDER.

SOMETIMES THINGS HAVE TO **DIE** TO MAKE WAY FOR SOMETHING **BETTER**. I'M COMMITTED TO THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THE FATES HAVE BESTOWED ON ME.

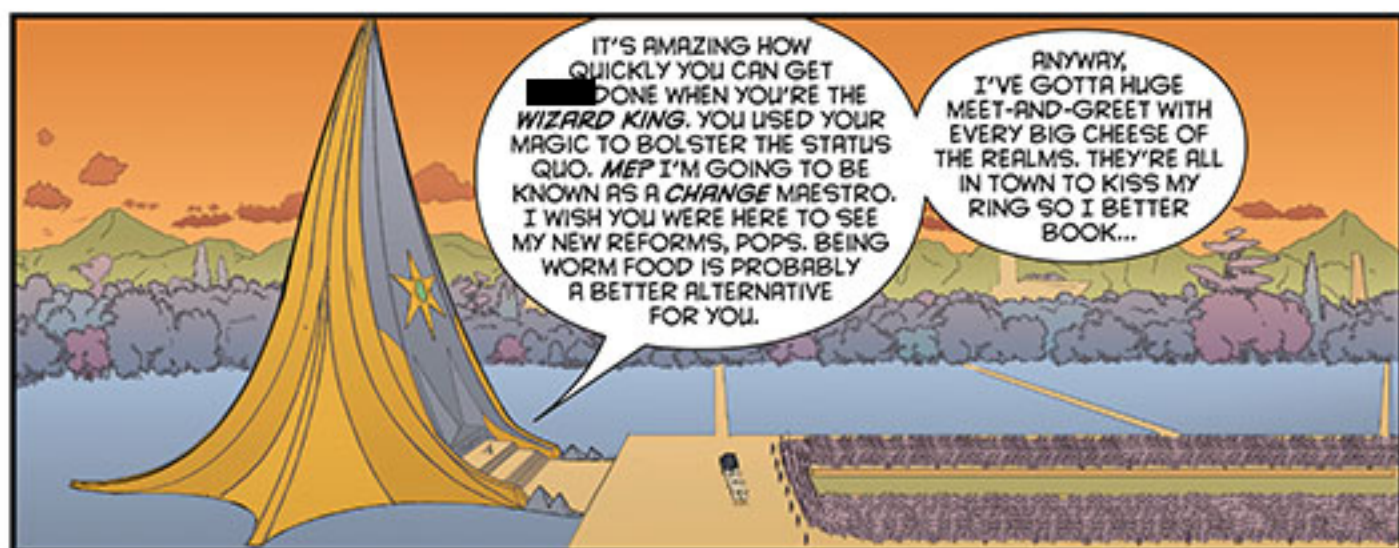
I'VE COME HERE TODAY, NOT TO GLOAT, BUT TO SAY A PROPER GOODBYE, TO ALL OF YOU.



MY HALF SIBLINGS AND STEPMOMS, JESUS CHRIST, THERE SURE WERE **A LOT** OF YOU. MOST OF WHOM I NEVER MET, AND THE ONES I DID, WELL, YOU WERE **DICKS**, MOSTLY.

THIS GIANT MEMORIAL I PUT TOGETHER FOR YOU IS PRETTY SWEET, RIGHT? IT'S NEXT TO THE **SHENDRAKIAN** PIGEON SANCTUARY SO EXPECT PLENTY OF VISITORS.

OFFICIALLY, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE GRIEVING, BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL ACTUALLY BE MOURNING ANY OF YOU. SORRY.



IT'S AMAZING HOW QUICKLY YOU CAN GET **DONE** WHEN YOU'RE THE **WIZARD KING**. YOU USED YOUR MAGIC TO BOLSTER THE STATUS QUO. **MEP** I'M GOING TO BE KNOWN AS A **CHANGE MAESTRO**. I WISH YOU WERE HERE TO SEE MY NEW REFORMS, POPS. BEING WORM FOOD IS PROBABLY A BETTER ALTERNATIVE FOR YOU.

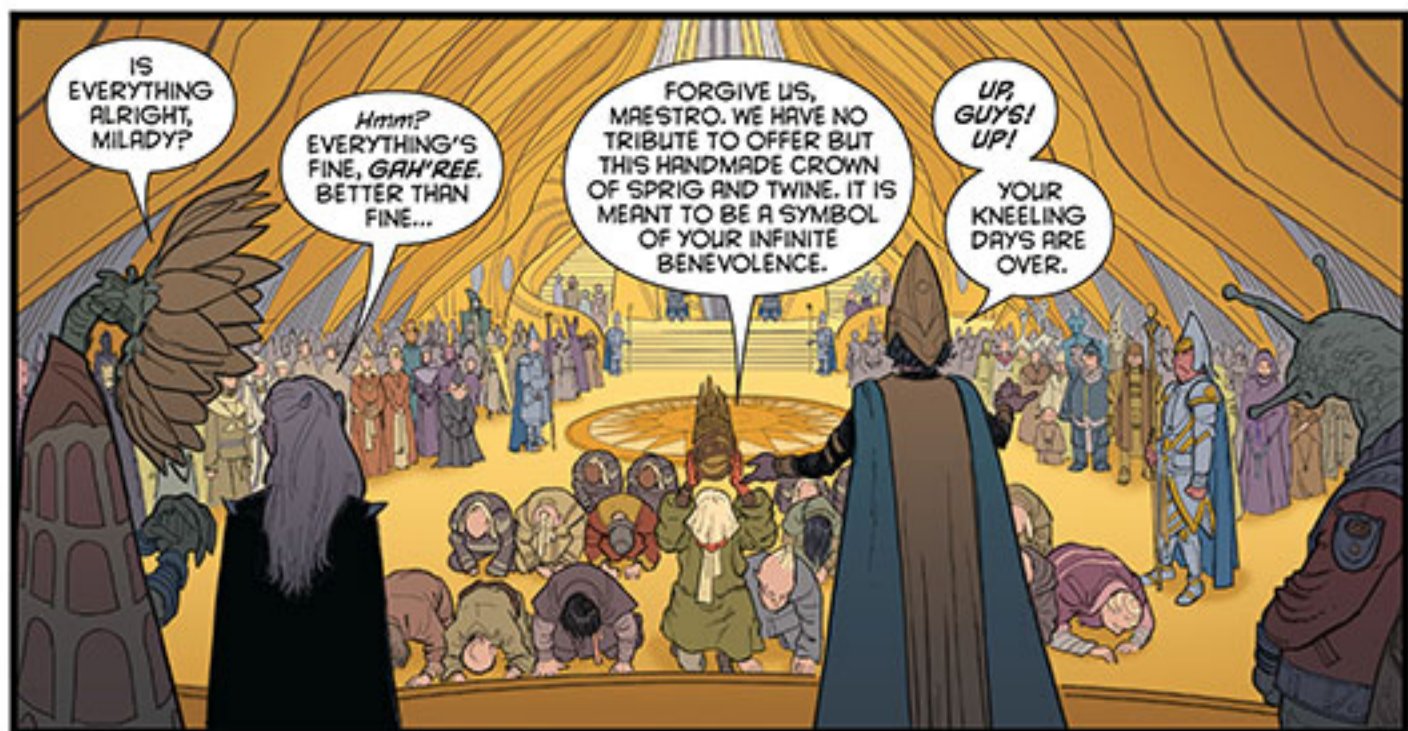
ANYWAY, I'VE GOTTA HUGE MEET-AND-GREET WITH EVERY BIG CHEESE OF THE REALMS. THEY'RE ALL IN TOWN TO KISS MY RING SO I BETTER **BOOK...**

"TIME TO BRING CIVILIZATION TO THE SAVAGES."

THE CROWN GIVES THANKS TO *CRAYVIN THE BLUE*, FIRST OF THE *MINDRAVIANS*, FOR ITS FEALTY AND GENEROUS GIFT OF *POOKANOU SKEAGLE* PELTS!

THANKS AGAIN! THOSE ARE LITERALLY THE *BEST SKEAGLE* PELTS I'VE EVER SEEN.

NEXT WE HAVE A DELEGATION FROM THE NEWLY FORMED *ALLIANCE OF FREED SLAVES* AND *HOMUNCULI* FROM *KANTRANIA*.



IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT, MILADY?

Hmm? EVERYTHING'S FINE, GAH'REE. BETTER THAN FINE...

FORGIVE US, MAESTRO. WE HAVE NO TRIBUTE TO OFFER BUT THIS HANDMADE CROWN OF SPRIG AND TWINE. IT IS MEANT TO BE A SYMBOL OF YOUR INFINITE BENEVOLENCE.

UP, GUYS! UP!

YOUR KNEELING DAYS ARE OVER.



...THEY'RE HAPPY TEARS. PROBABLY TOO EARLY FOR THAT BUT WHAT THE HELL, I'M TREATING MYSELF.



ALL OF YOU HAVE BEEN STEPPED ON FOR TOO LONG, SO MUCH HAS BEEN BUILT FROM YOUR SUFFERING. IT IS I WHO SHOULD BOW TO YOU. I HUMBLLY ACCEPT YOUR BEAUTIFUL GIFT.

MAY YOUR JUST REIGN LAST AN INFINITY, MAESTRO.



CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS HE DISSOLVES OUR COUNCIL AND NOW KNEELS BEFORE THE LOWEST SCUM!

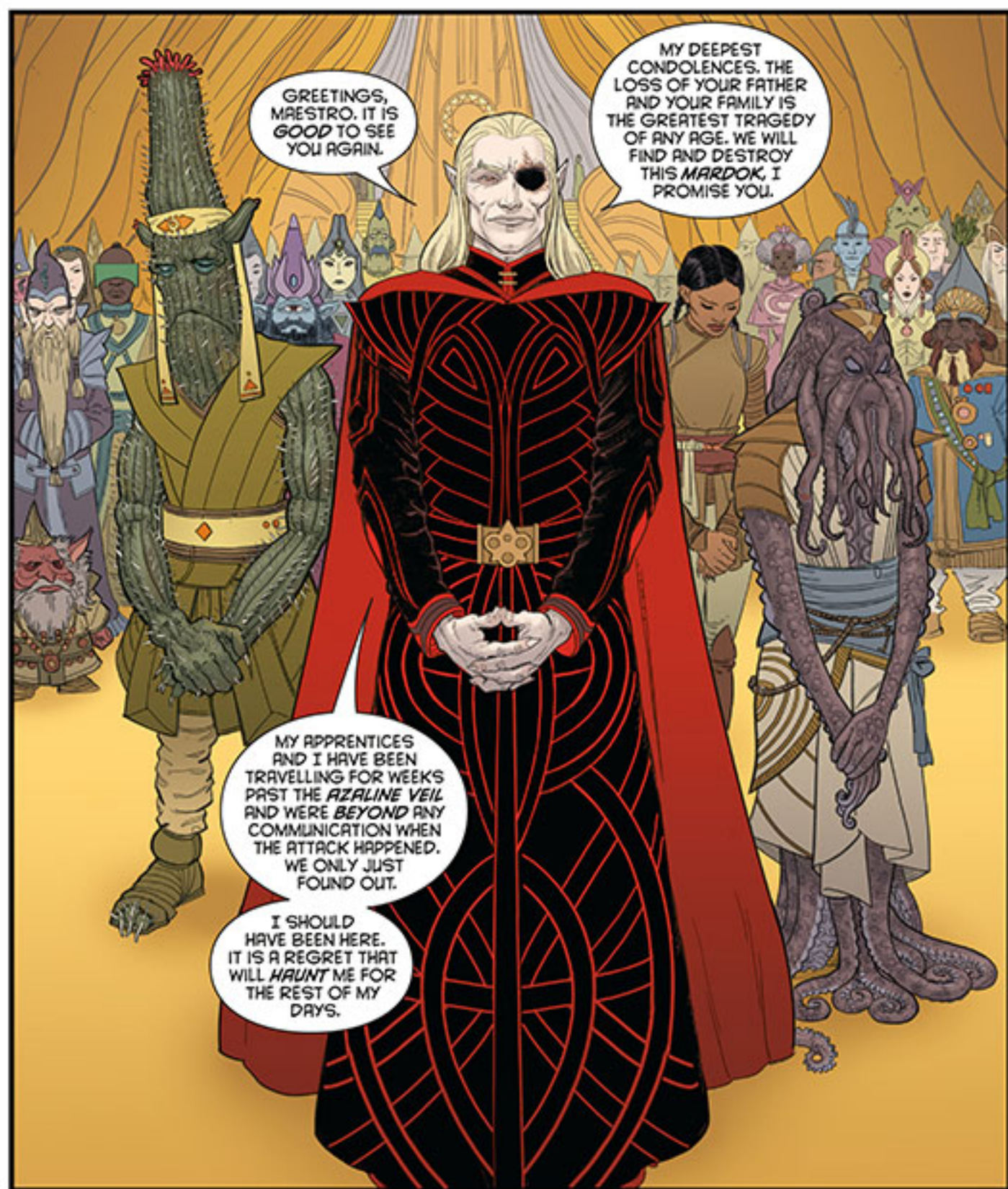
I'M MOVING TO KAHN'LA'DA.

I MEAN IT!



HIS PARTY HAS ARRIVED, SIRE.

FINALLY! PLEASE BRING THEM IN, FONDO.



GREETINGS, MAESTRO. IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES. THE LOSS OF YOUR FATHER AND YOUR FAMILY IS THE GREATEST TRAGEDY OF ANY AGE. WE WILL FIND AND DESTROY THIS MARDOK, I PROMISE YOU.

MY APPRENTICES AND I HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING FOR WEEKS PAST THE AZALINE VEIL AND WERE BEYOND ANY COMMUNICATION WHEN THE ATTACK HAPPENED. WE ONLY JUST FOUND OUT.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE. IT IS A REGRET THAT WILL HAUNT ME FOR THE REST OF MY DAYS.



Heh...
YEAH.

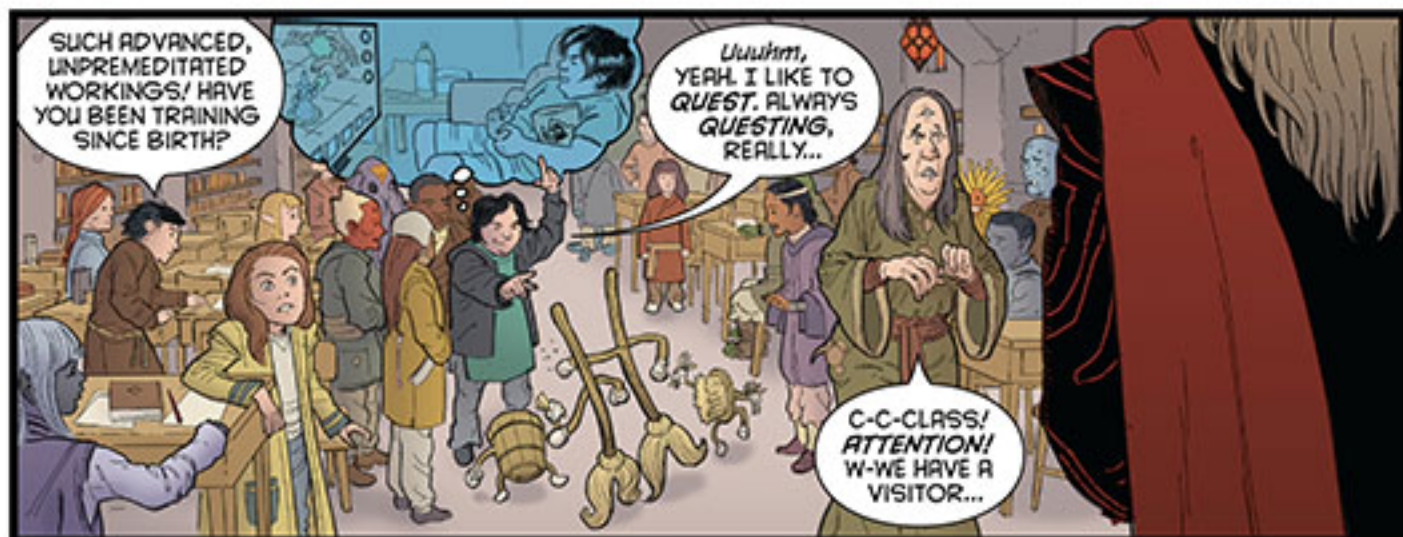
WELL, I'M SURE YOU HAD A PRODUCTIVE CAMPING TRIP. I'M JUST SOOO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN TOO, LORD RYGOL.

IT REALLY TAKES ME BACK...



...OKAY, OKAY, I'LL DO ONE MORE.

I CALL THIS LITTLE DITTY *INSOUCIANT CUSTODIAL ANIMATION*. NO APPLAUSE UNTIL THE END, PLEASE.



SUCH ADVANCED, UNPREMEDITATED WORKINGS! HAVE YOU BEEN TRAINING SINCE BIRTH?

Uuuhm, yeah. I like to *quest*. Always *questing*, really...

C-C-CLASS! ATTENTION! W-WE HAVE A VISITOR...



APOLOGIES FOR INTERRUPTING, BUT I HAD TO MEET OUR PRINCE. HELLO, WILLIAM. I'M SEETHRUM RY GOL. I'M HEADMASTER HERE AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF YOUR FATHER'S HIGH COUNCIL.

I HEAR THAT YOU'RE QUITE THE ADEPT, AND YET, YOU'RE FROM A *MAGICLESS, MUNDANE* WORLD... SUCH ASTOUNDING PROGRESS! *INCREDIBLE!*

WHAT'S YOUR SECRET, MY PRINCE?

H-Hi...



SECRET? IF THERE IS ONE, I THINK IT'S ABOUT BEING PASSIONATELY CURIOUS AND HAVING A WILLINGNESS TO PUT IN THE WORK, Y'KNOW?



WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

A DINGUS FROM YOUR HOME WORLD, YES? I ACCOMPANIED YOUR FATHER ON A VISIT THERE. I THOUGHT IT AN ACRID, FILTHY PLACE BUT I WAS AMAZED BY WHAT YOUR PEOPLE BUILT, AND WITHOUT MAGIC.

SUCH IMAGINATION AND INGENUITY.

GAH!



I SEE YOU'VE BROKEN INTO THE ARCHIVE AND USED THE DEVICE TO CAPTURE IMAGES FROM SOME RATHER ADVANCED SPELL BOOKS. I SUPPOSE TEACHING YOURSELF THESE SPELLS IS AT LEAST... SOMETHING.

-gulp-



AH ■■■■■ GUYS! MEA CULPA! Heh heh...

THAT IS SOOOO WEIRD. THIS KIND OF THING IS ROUTINE BACK HOME!

REALLY, THIS IS JUST A BIG CULTURAL MISUNDERSTANDING. IT'S KIND OF HILARIOUS IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, AM I RIGHT?

ADEPT! Pfa!

DECEIVER!

...FOOLS OF US ALL!



I FEAR WE'VE BEEN REMISS IN ASSIMILATING YOU TO OUR WAYS, BECAUSE OF THIS I'VE DECIDED ON LENIENCY.

DOES THAT SOUND FAIR, WILLIAM?



THANK YOU, Mr. RY GOL.

I'M VERY SORRY. I'M UP FOR DETENTION OR ANY KIND OF PUNISHMENT BUT I DOUBT IT'LL BE WORSE THAN THE HUMILIATION.