

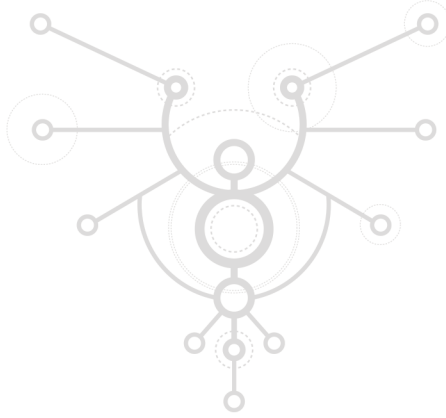
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HICKMAN / BODENHEIM

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THE DYING & THE DEAD™





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WRITER

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ARTIST

MICHAEL GARLAND

COLORS

RUS WOOTON

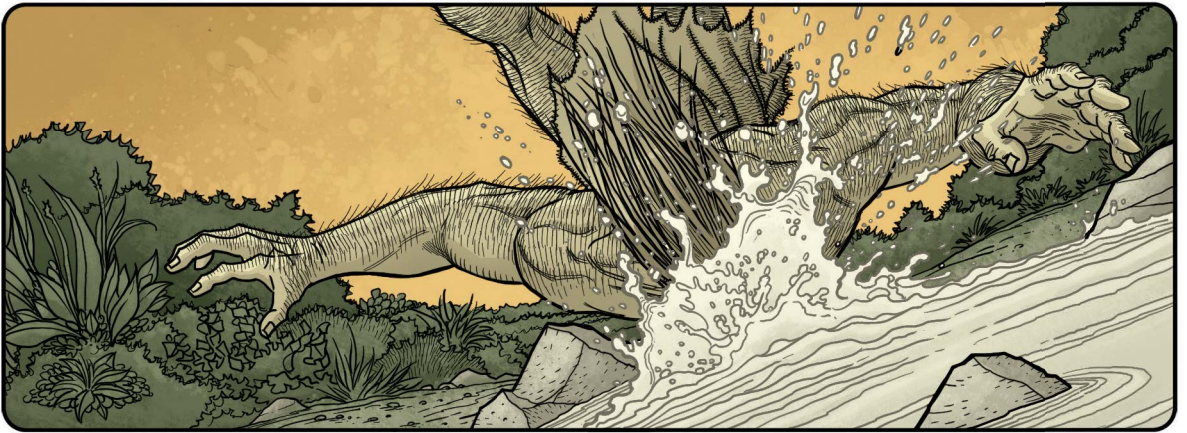
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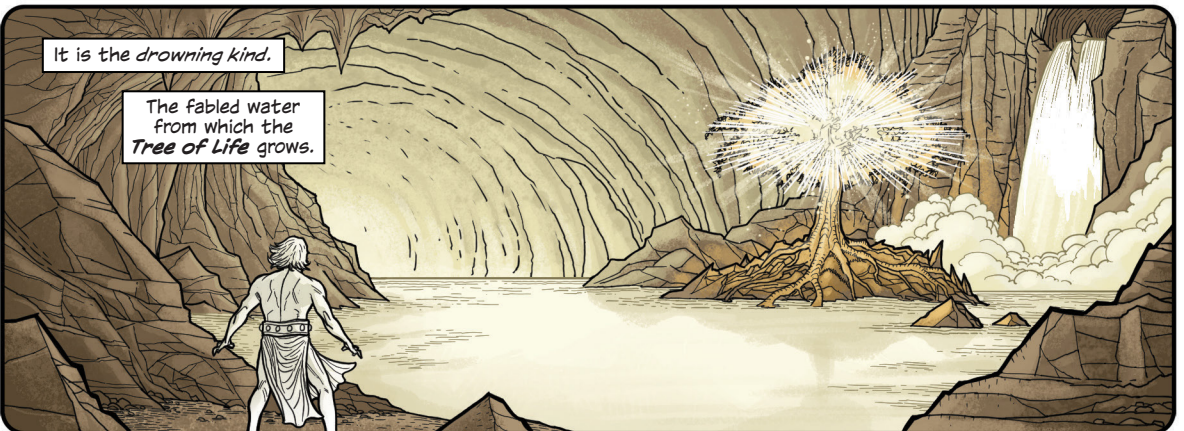
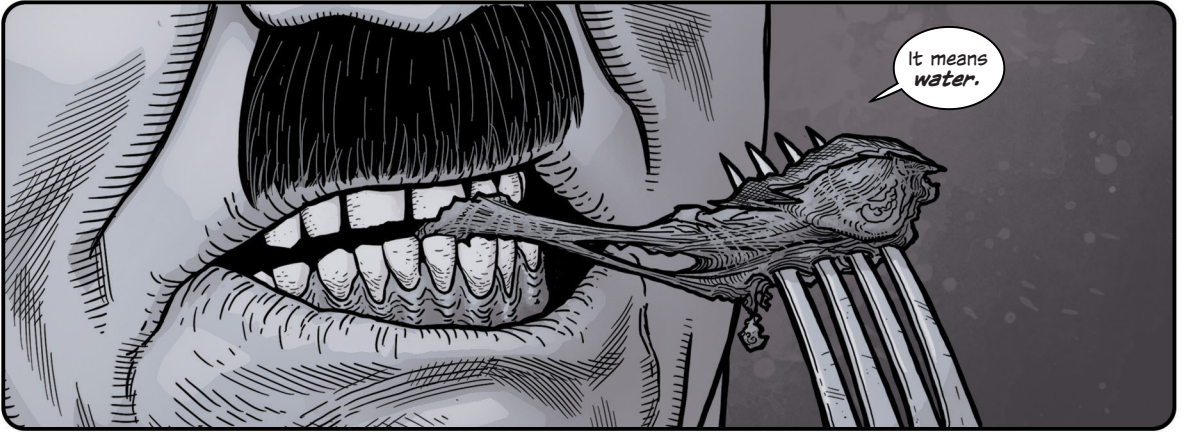
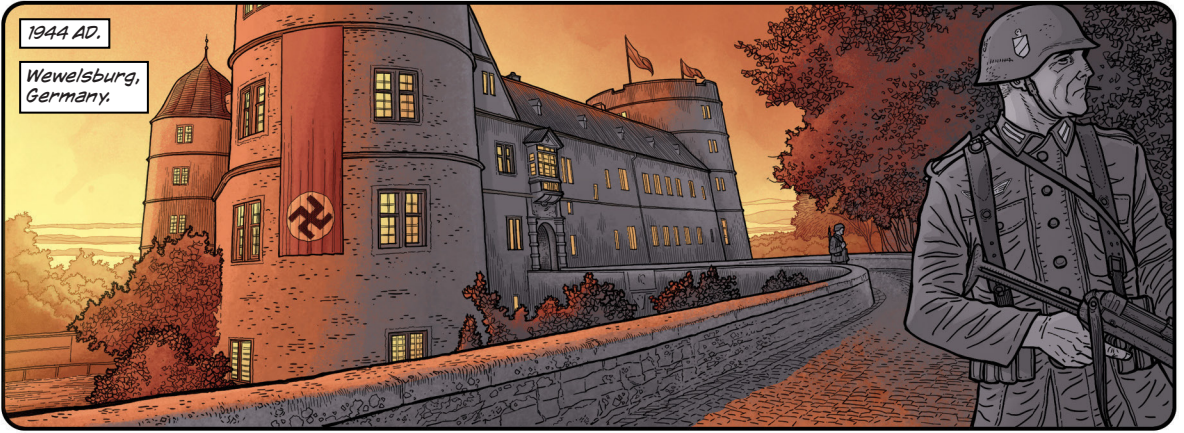
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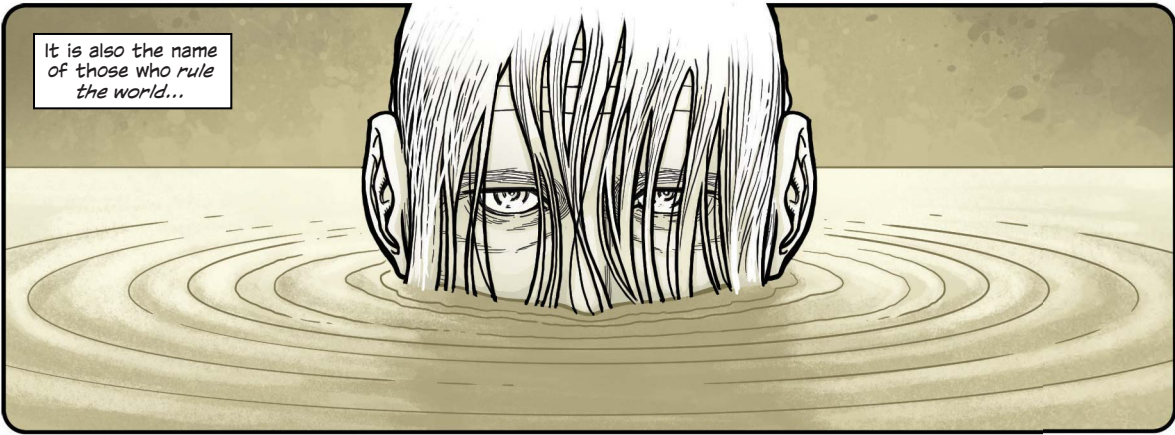












It is also the name of those who rule the world...



The secret masters of all mankind: *The immortal Baduri of the City.*

They are why we are here today. Because of them, and the question they make us ask ourselves:

Who are we?



You are a monster, Adolf.

Our friend, Hirohito, is a monster. I am a monster. Look around, there are only monsters here in this room.

Which is fitting, for it will take monsters to destroy monsters such as these.





I believe in what I can see. I have seen the Baduri. I know they are real.

After all... I've looked in the box.

But am I skeptical of artifacts from mythological stories? Of course I am.



Ah. Well... it is true that your piece is worthless on its own.

But when ours are joined with it -- much as we are here today -- it will be an axis around which the entire world spins.

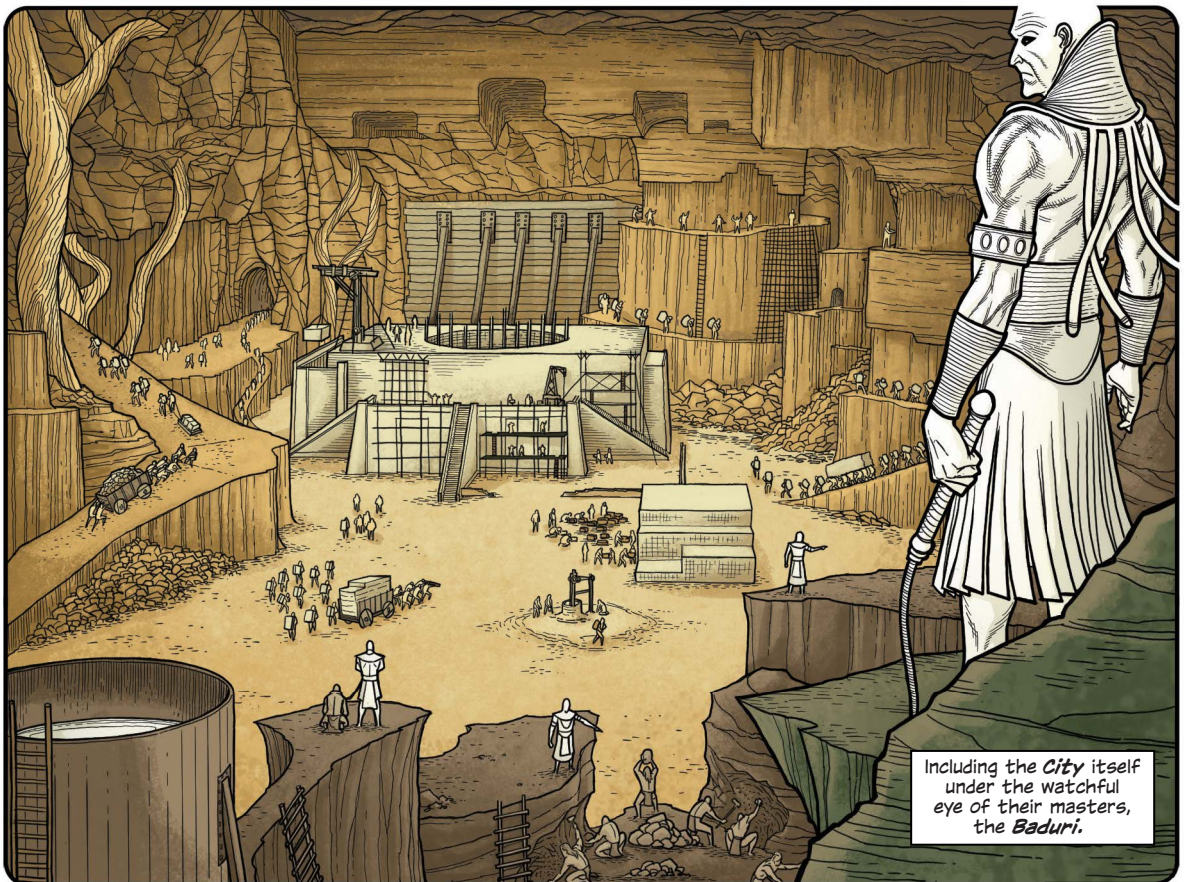


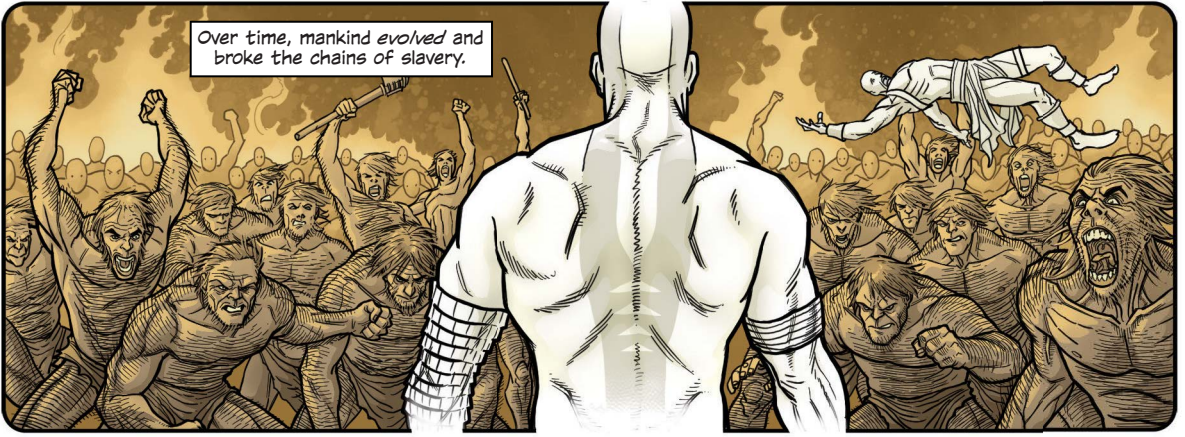
Oh...

And why is that?

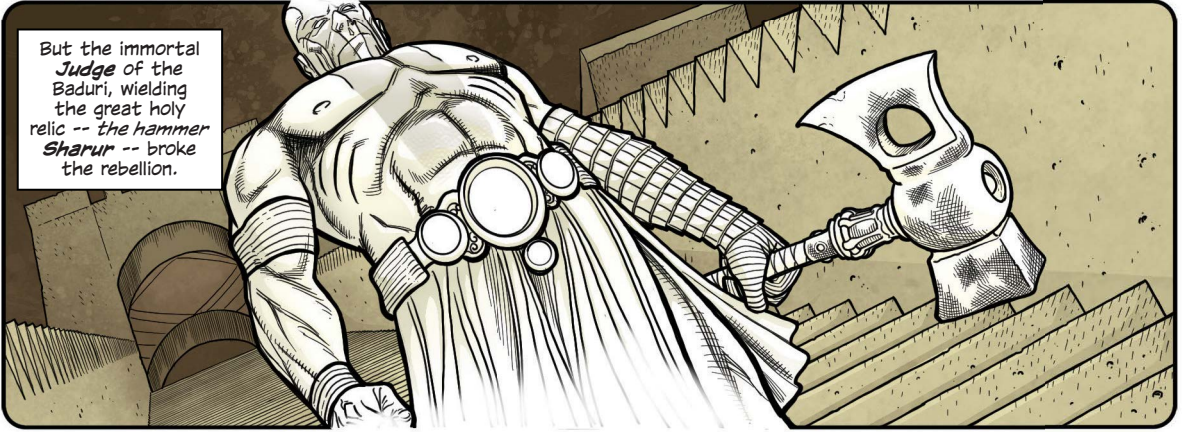


Because it has been before.

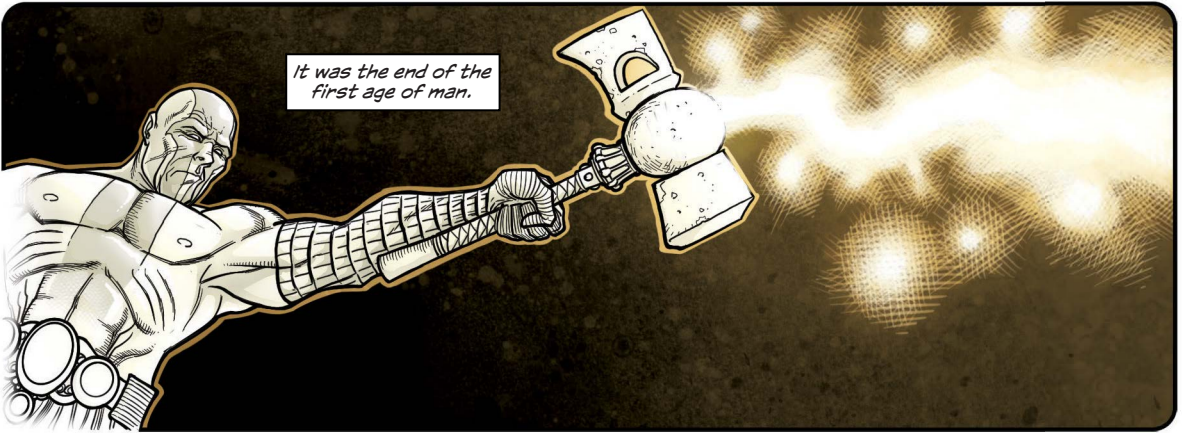




Over time, mankind evolved and broke the chains of slavery.



But the immortal Judge of the Baduri, wielding the great holy relic -- the hammer *Sharur* -- broke the rebellion.



It was the end of the first age of man.

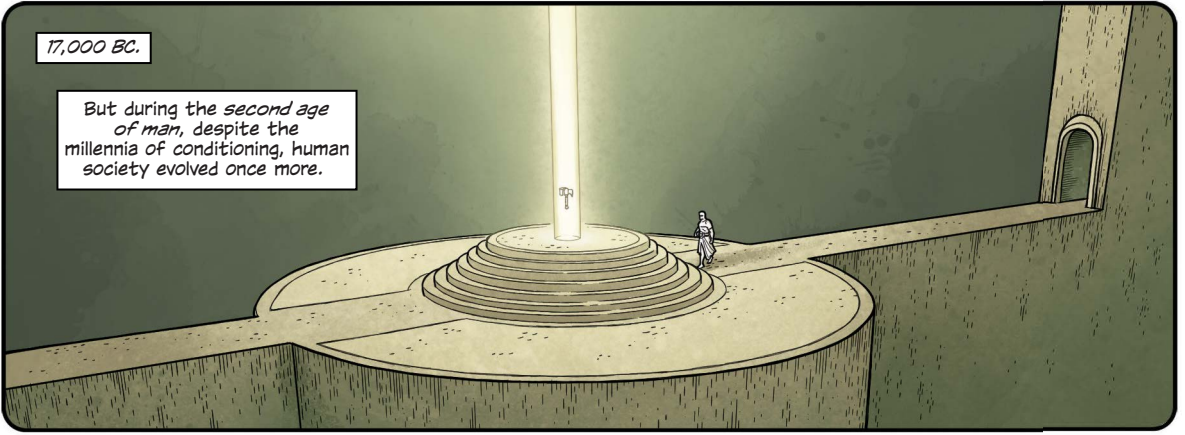


The Baduri culled humanity to a more manageable number.

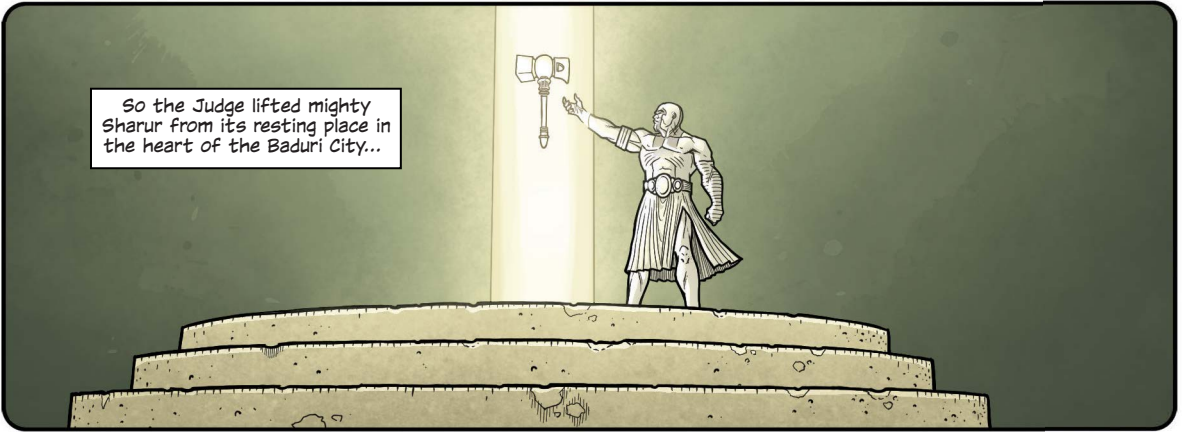
The strong were removed, and the weak reconditioned to love the chain.

17,000 BC.

But during the *second age of man*, despite the millennia of conditioning, human society evolved once more.



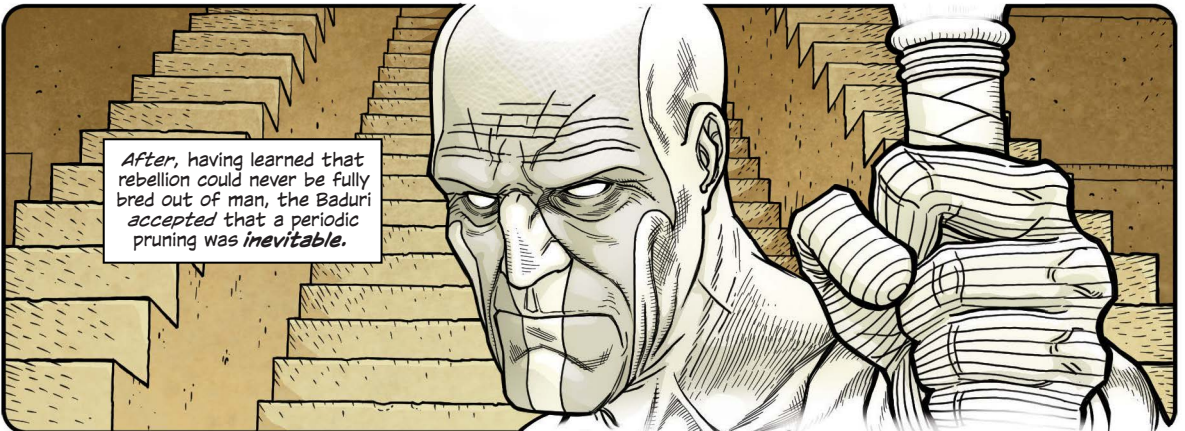
So the Judge lifted mighty Sharur from its resting place in the heart of the Baduri City...

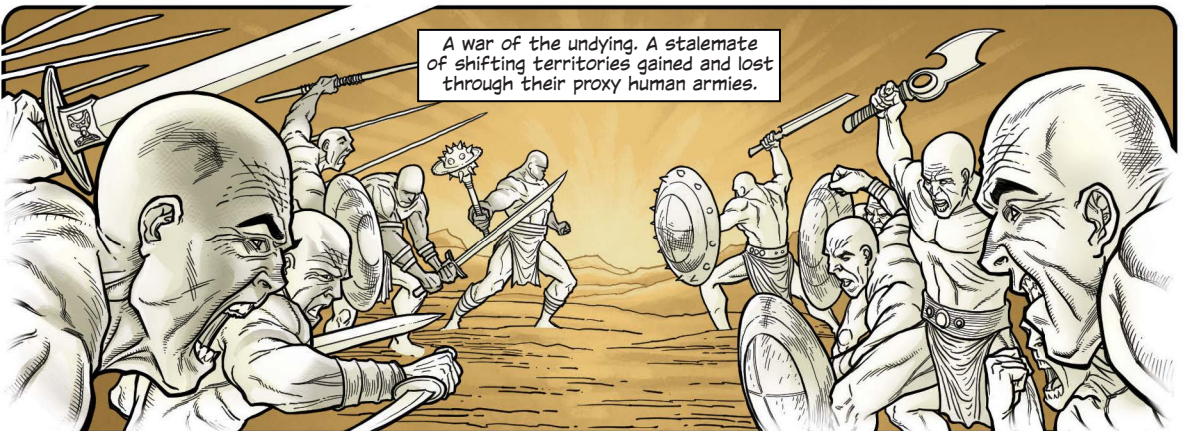


And broke the backs of the upright, and humbled the few who remained.

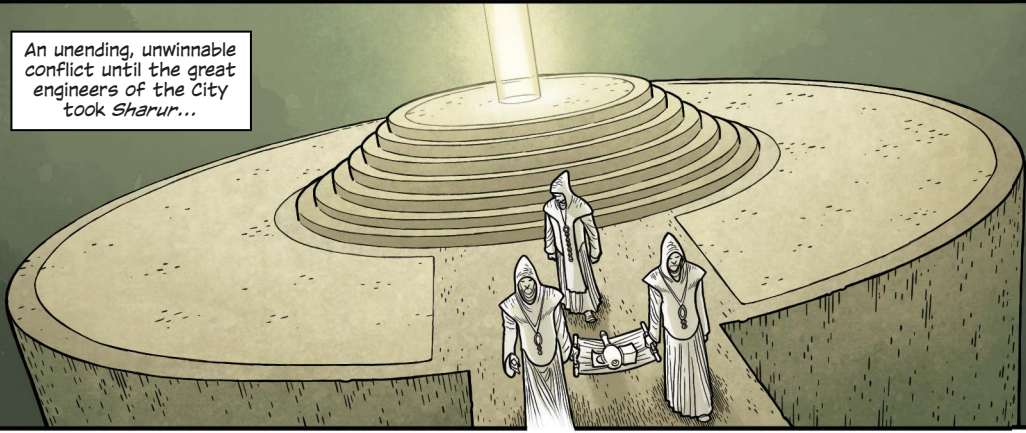


After, having learned that rebellion could never be fully bred out of man, the Baduri accepted that a periodic pruning was *inevitable*.

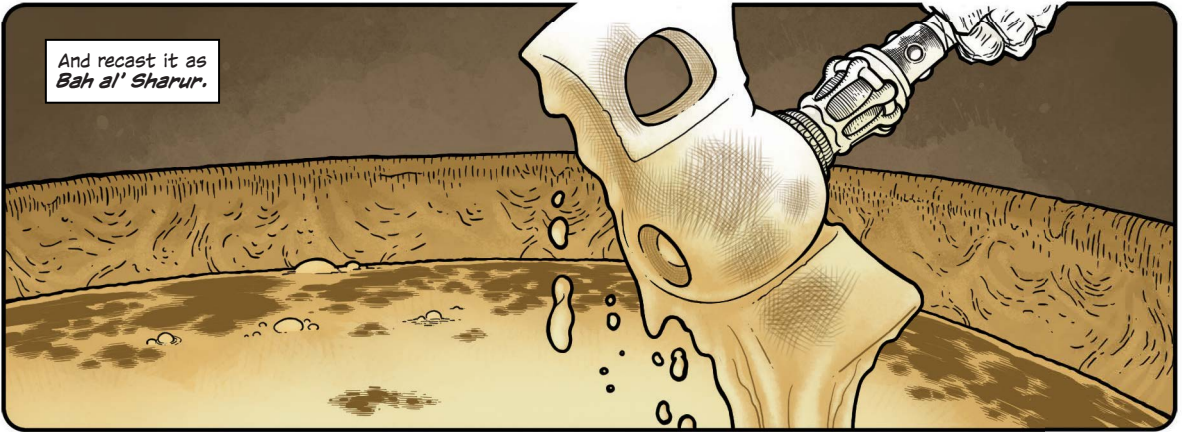




An unending, unwinnable conflict until the great engineers of the City took Sharur...



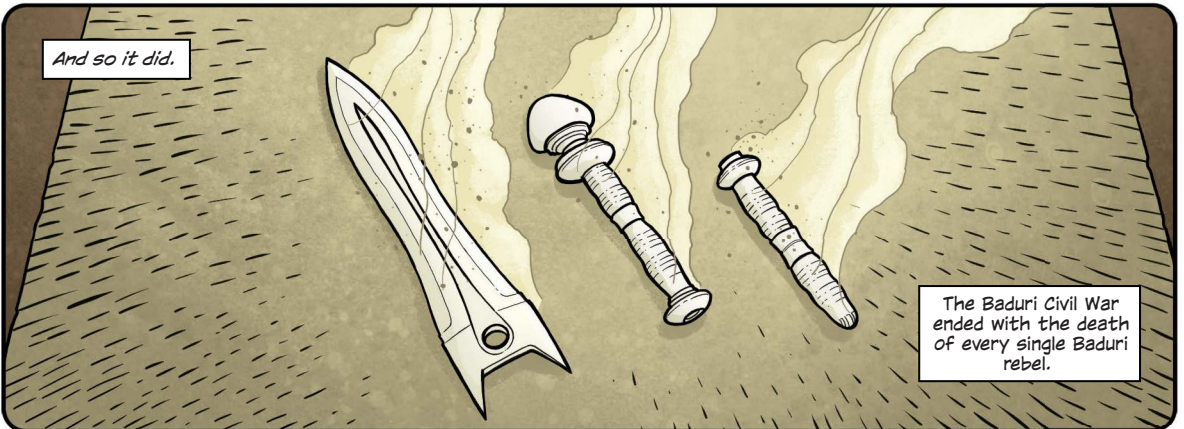
And recast it as Bah al' Sharur.



A weapon that could kill their own.



And so it did.



The Baduri Civil War ended with the death of every single Baduri rebel.



Then the weapon was disassembled and scattered to the far corners of the Earth. Never to be reassembled again.



Until now.



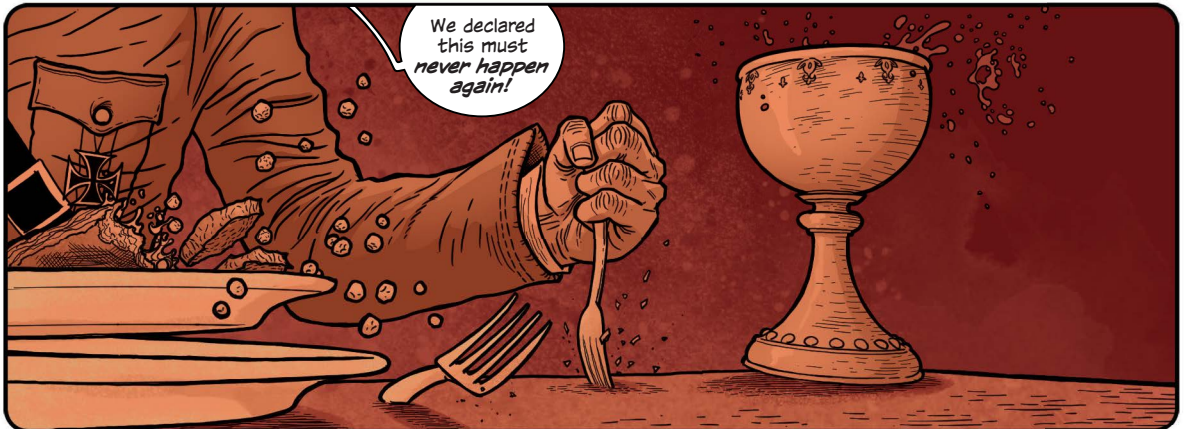
And why is that? You expect me to believe that we are the first to know this story?

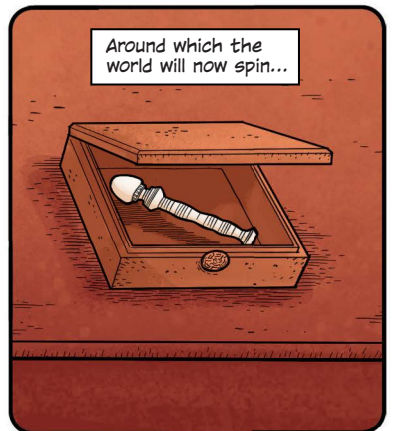
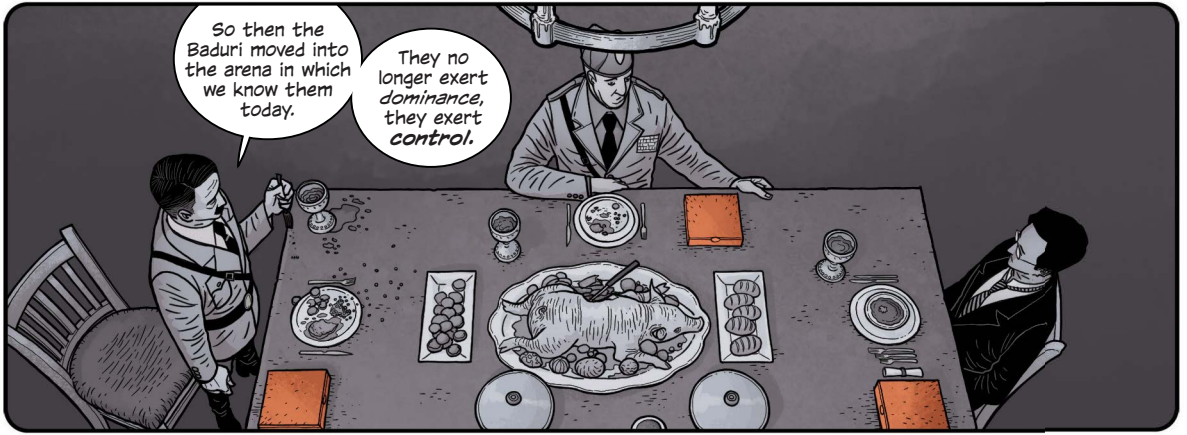
The first to find the pieces?



This world has a long history of monsters.

We are not that special.















Some would say I am honor bound to obey my father. For he is god, and I am just his grateful bastard.

But can I trust the two of you with a secret?

In my heart I am heretic. I worship the idea of a life without a monster for a master.



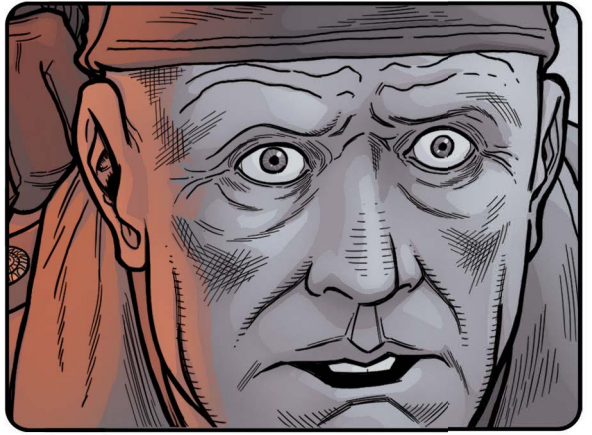
Tell me, do you hide that same hope in your hearts?



There will be no more running, General.

There is nowhere left to run.

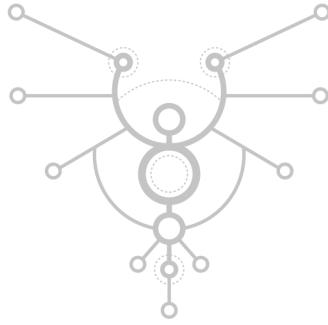
Why have you done this, Hirohito?





And I would trade anything to do so...





Okay. That was a comic. We're really sorry for the long wait, Ryan and I sincerely hope you liked it.

We both love this book very much and are taking a lot of care in making sure that it's just as good on the page as it is in our heads and, unfortunately, that's led to some complications.

First off, we produced too many over-sized issues with the lead time we had. In fact, because we chose to make the first issue sixty pages, we pretty much ate up all of our lead time in a single issue. It was a glorious, glorious thing, but a schedule-killer in retrospect.

This has led to us being late enough that we need to cancel existing orders and resolicit the book for the dates it will actually be in stores. So we'll be doing that. We'll be back on a monthly basis in 2016, and as soon as we have a firm release date, you'll be the first to know.

Your patience while we straighten things out is appreciated, and obviously, we apologize for this inconvenience. We also promise that when *The Dying and The Dead* returns it'll be something special and more than worth the wait.

Thanks for your continued support and all the best.

JH

HICKMAN • DRAGOTTA • MARTIN

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