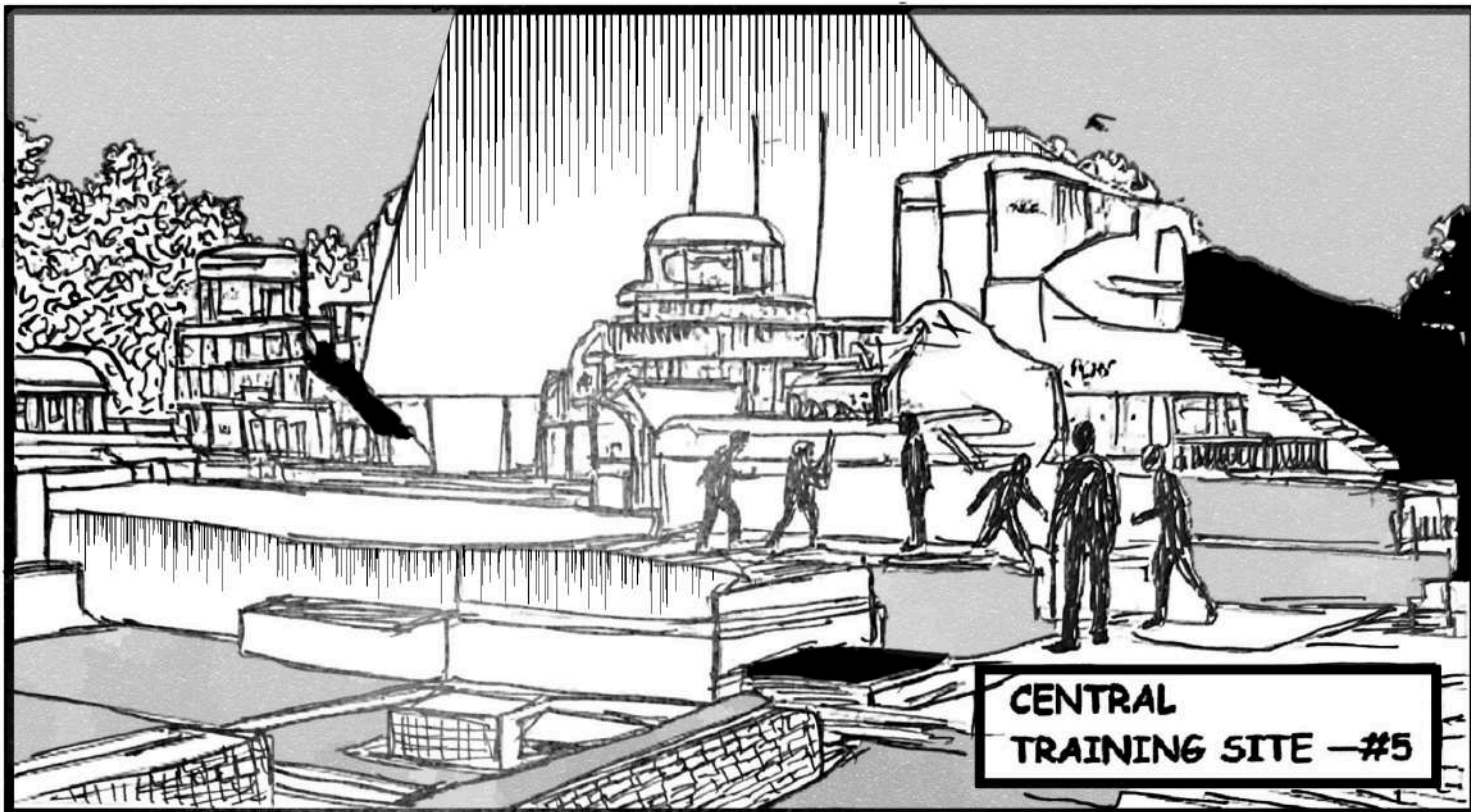


#005





CENTRAL
TRAINING SITE —#5



YOU ALRIGHT, KID...
GO PLAY WITH
THEM. WE'RE BACK ON
TRAINING AFTER AN
HOUR...!

FRANCIS FESTO
KIRIN ARMY—EX-COMMANDER
(BATCH 63)



I'M ALRIGHT,
COMMANDER...
I CAN'T STOP
THINKING
ABOUT THE
SOLDIERS WHO
DIED IN
KANTHA.



BARI, COME AND
PLAY WITH
US. WE'VE BEEN
LOSING FOR AN
HOUR NOW.



Ehhh?

TURN...



EHHH H

TURN...



HAHA... JONN .I'LL JOIN YOU IN A BIT. I'M JUST... NOT IN THE MOOD TO PLAY RIGHT NOW..



THAT WAS A MONTH AGO,BARI.DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. THEY DIED DOING WHAT THEY LOVED TO DO...



THERE'S
NOTHING WE CAN
DO ABOUT IT
ANYMORE.

WHAT!?



THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHAT THEY LOVED TO DO.IT'S ABOUT WHAT THE COUNCIL DID TO THEM.THEY ALL HAD FAMILIES.

WHAT ABOUT THEM?..WHAT DID YOU ALL DO FOR THEM?..



THERE WERE NINE VASUKI... WE LOST COMMANDER DEV.HE TOOK ONE OF THEM DOWN BY HIMSELF .THE OTHERS LIVED... BECAUSE OF HIM..



OTHERS LIVED..?



AND THE OTHER THREE SOLDIERS? THE ONES FROM THE VILLAGE THEY DIED IN THAT BATTLE TOO



THEIR FAMILIES WERE LEFT ABANDONED. WHAT DID THE COUNCIL DO FOR THEM? NOTHING....



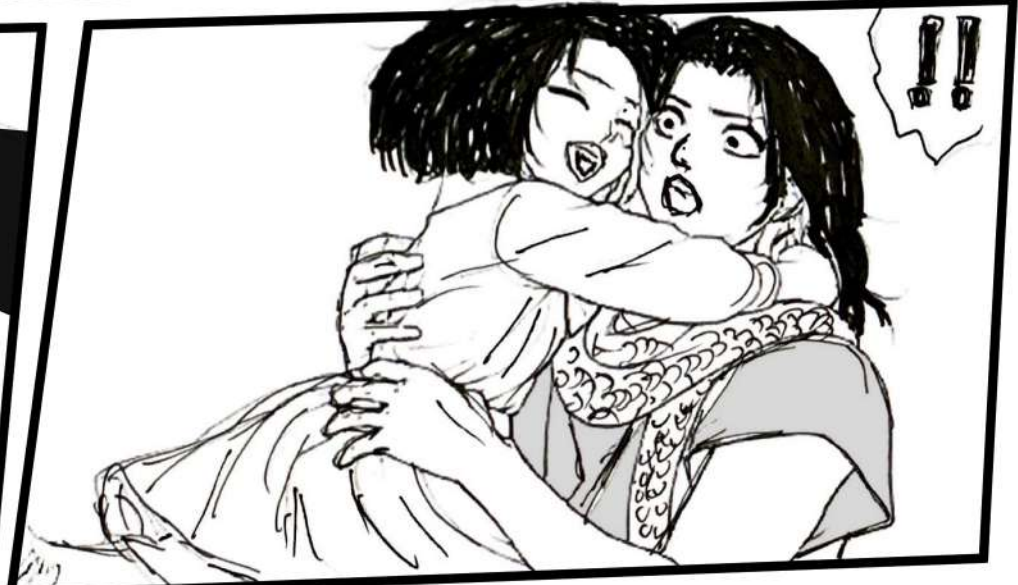
HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS?



...AREN'T I RIGHT, COMMANDER FRANCIS?



.....I'M NOT PART OF THE COUNCIL, BARI





I CAME TO SEE YOU...!

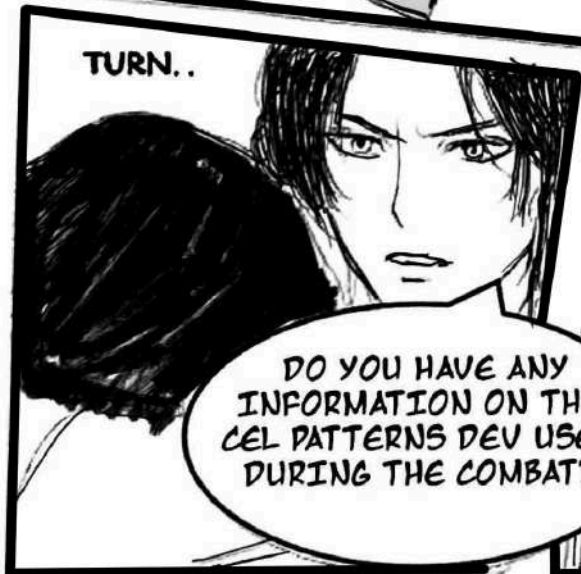
YOU CAN'T JUST SIT AT HOME, CAN YOU?

WHERE IS MOTHER?



THE FACT THAT THE THREE SOLDIERS DIED WAS KEPT CLASSIFIED. HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT IT? DID HE GO TO THE VILLAGE...OR WAS THERE SOME OTHER WAY?

SHE WENT TO THE CENTRAL.



TURN..

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE CEL PATTERNS DEV USED DURING THE COMBAT?



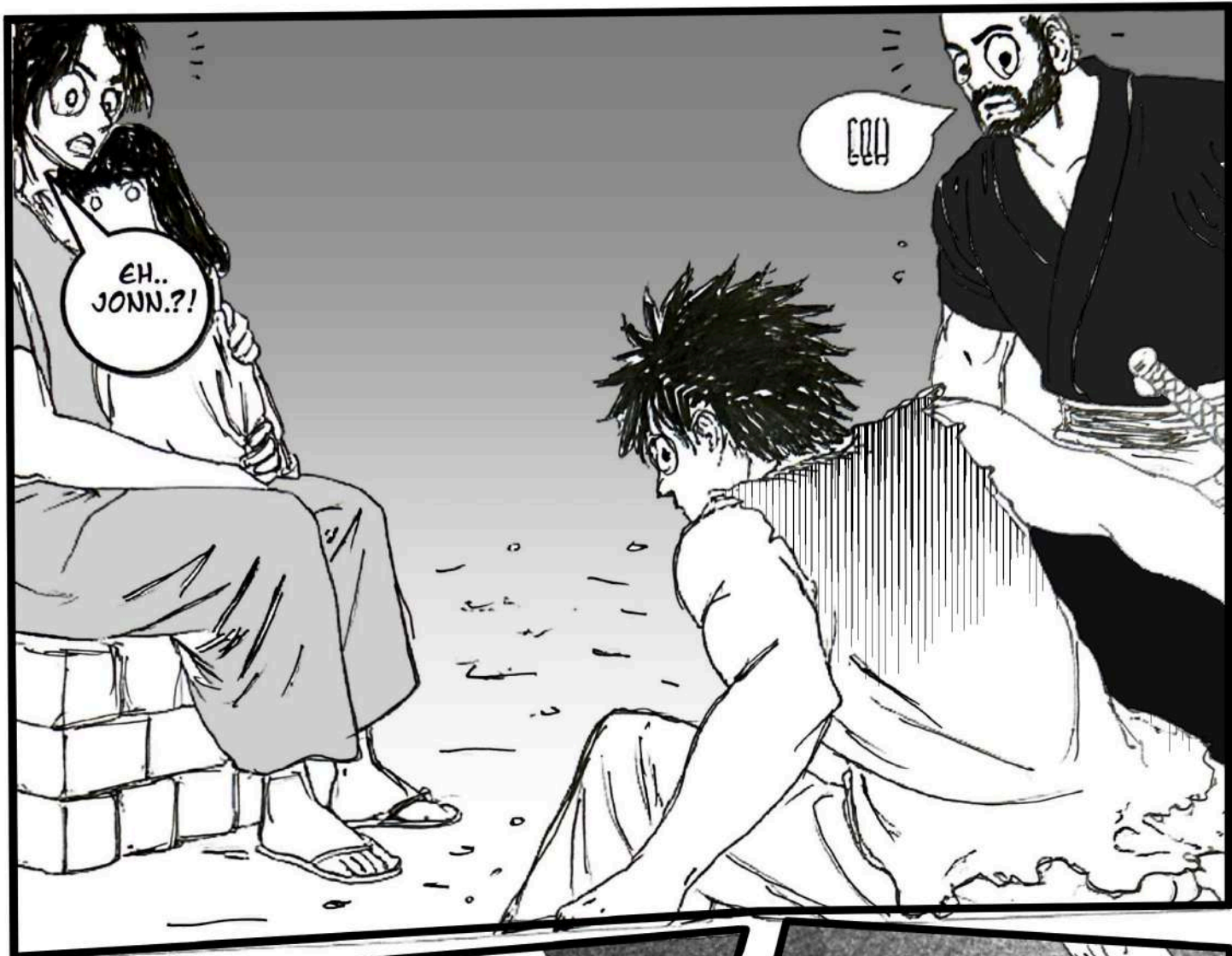
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW? YOU'RE NOT READY TO LEARN ABOUT CELL PATTERNS YET.

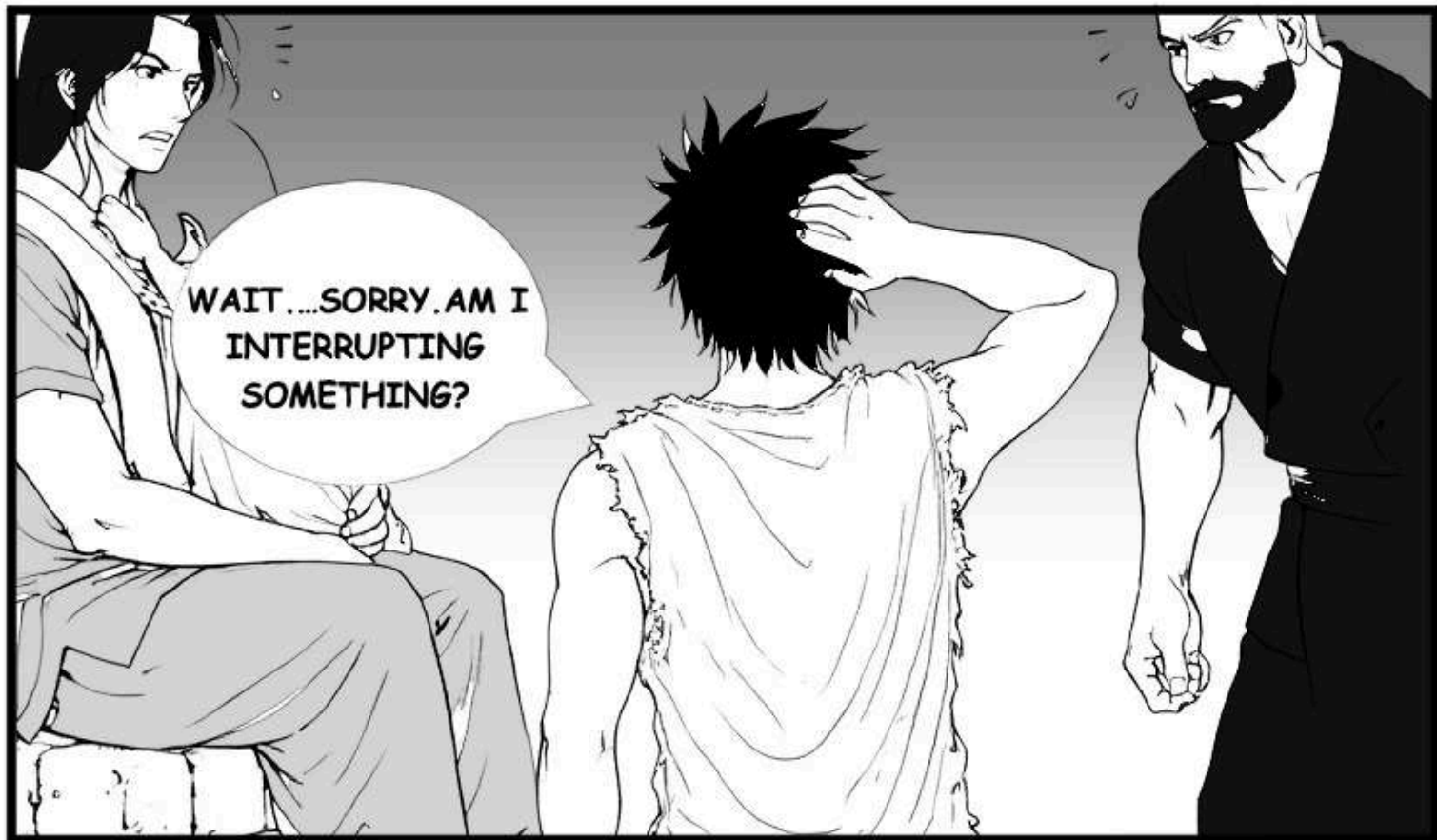


IF YOU SAY SO..



BARI... I JUST WON THE GAME WITHOUT YOU.





WAIT...SORRY. AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?



JONN, COULD YOU GIVE US A MOMENT?...

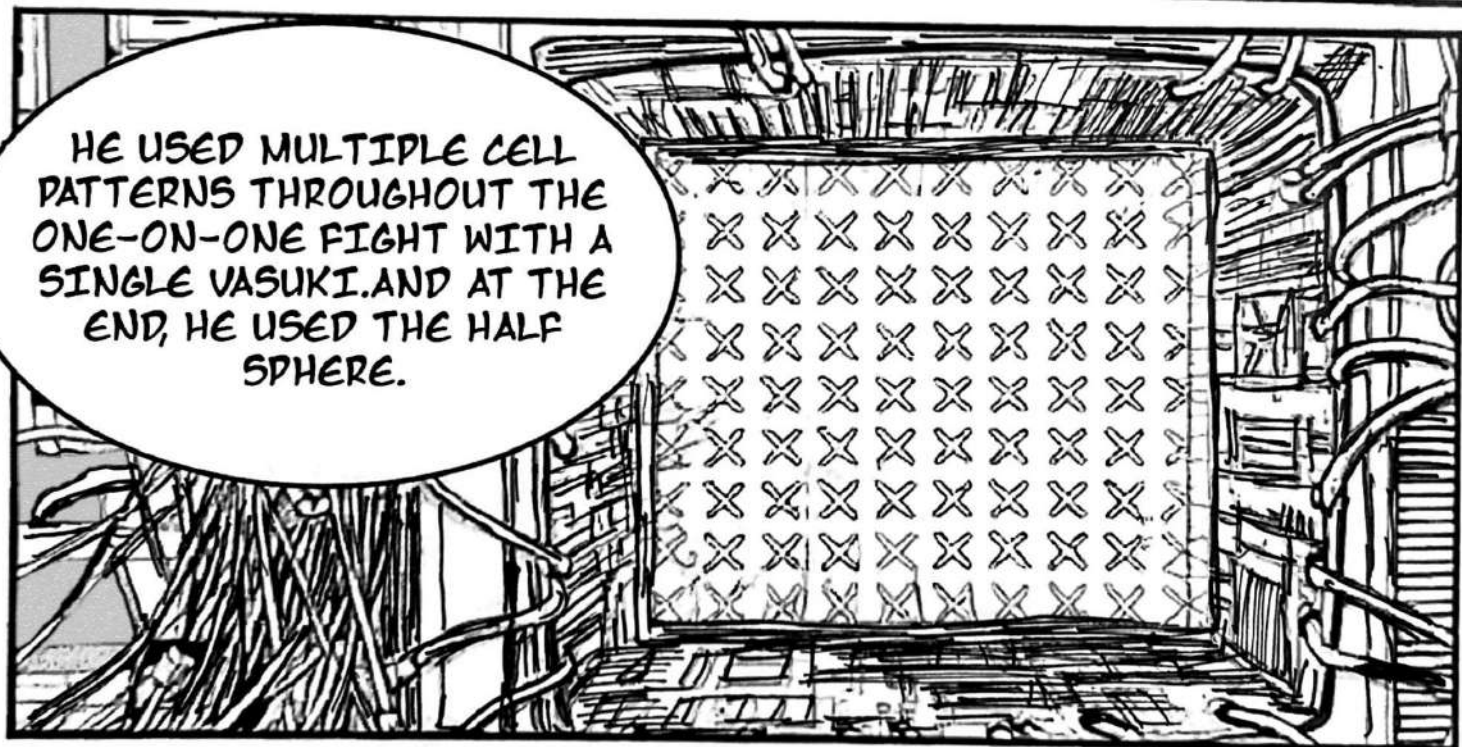
JONN!! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!



...IT'S ALRIGHT, JONN. I'LL GO..



WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT DEV'S PATTERNS, BARI. THIS IS ONLY WHAT THE OTHERS SAID — MOST OF HIS ATTACKS APPEARED TO BE ABSORBED EMISSION..



HE USED MULTIPLE CELL PATTERNS THROUGHOUT THE ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT WITH A SINGLE VASUKI. AND AT THE END, HE USED THE HALF SPHERE.



THE HALF SPHERE IS WHAT LED TO HIS DEATH. THE PATTERNS COLLAPSED AFTER HE EXCEEDED THE CEL UNITS HE WAS CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING..



THE VASUKI
POSSESSES EXTREME
MUSCULAR STRENGTH
AND SPEED ENOUGH TO
SWALLOW SEVERAL
HUMANS IN THE BLINK
OF AN EYE.

AMONG THE NINE
VASUKI, SIX WERE
KILLED BY OUR
SOLDIERS.
THE REMAINING
ONES ESCAPED. THE
DAMAGE THEY LEFT
BEHIND...IT WAS
DEVASTATING.

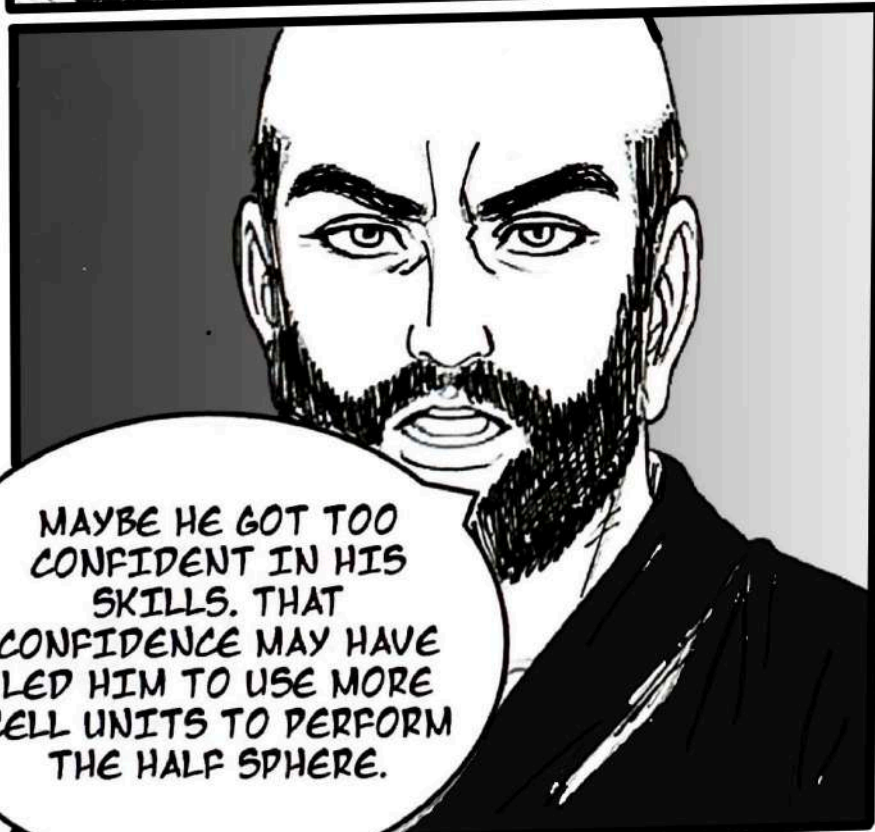


SO ONE OF THE SIX THAT WERE KILLED WAS FOUGHT SOLO BY DEV?



WHERE DO YOU THINK HE WENT WRONG?

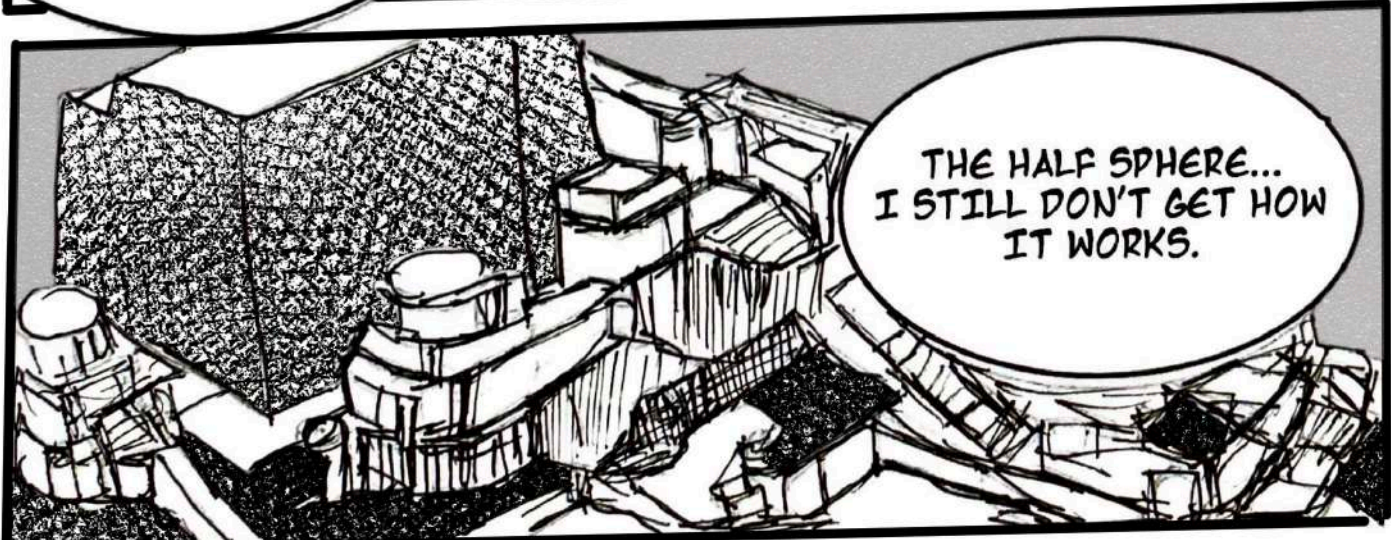
DEV... WAS TOO CARELESS WITH HIS ATTACKS..!



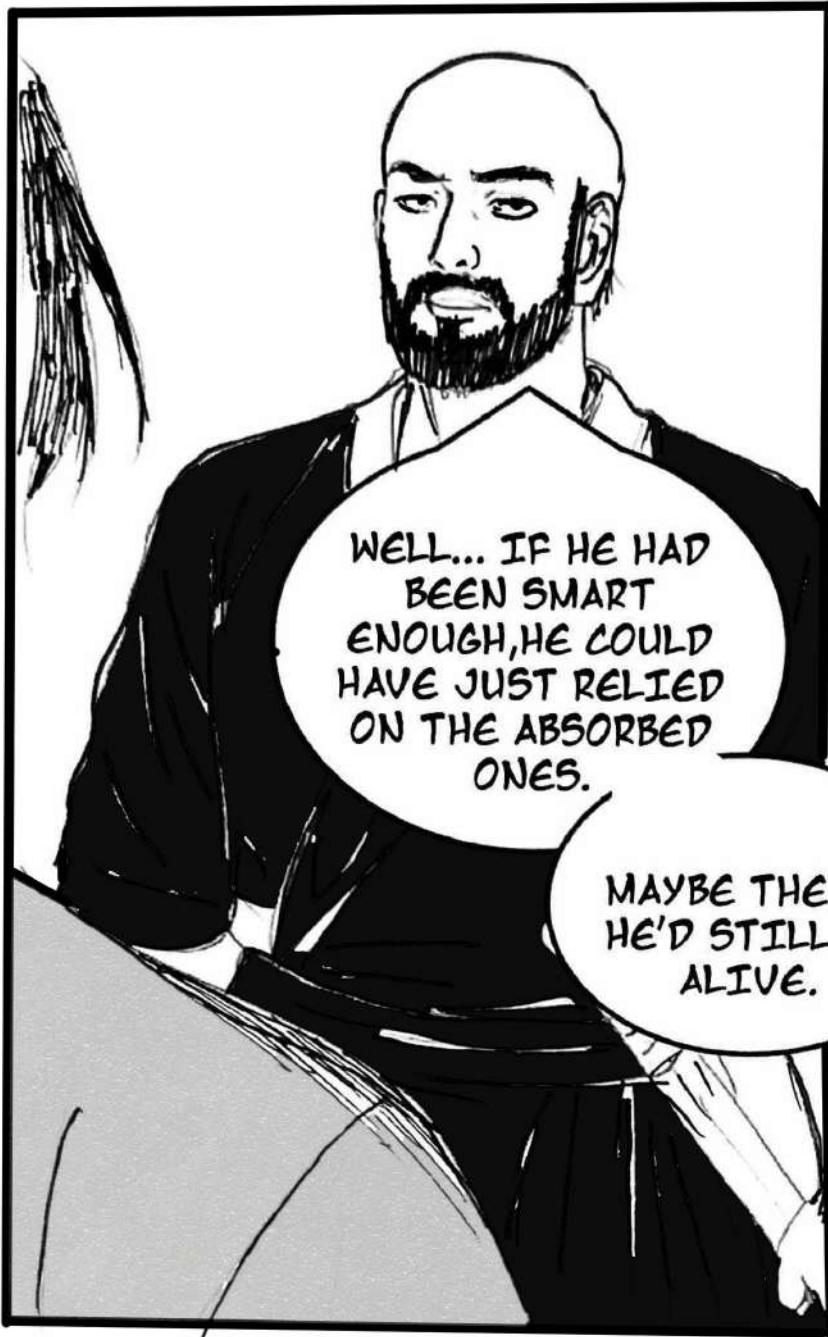
MAYBE HE GOT TOO CONFIDENT IN HIS SKILLS. THAT CONFIDENCE MAY HAVE LED HIM TO USE MORE CELL UNITS TO PERFORM THE HALF SPHERE.



WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT..?



THE HALF SPHERE... I STILL DON'T GET HOW IT WORKS.



WELL... IF HE HAD BEEN SMART ENOUGH, HE COULD HAVE JUST RELIED ON THE ABSORBED ONES.

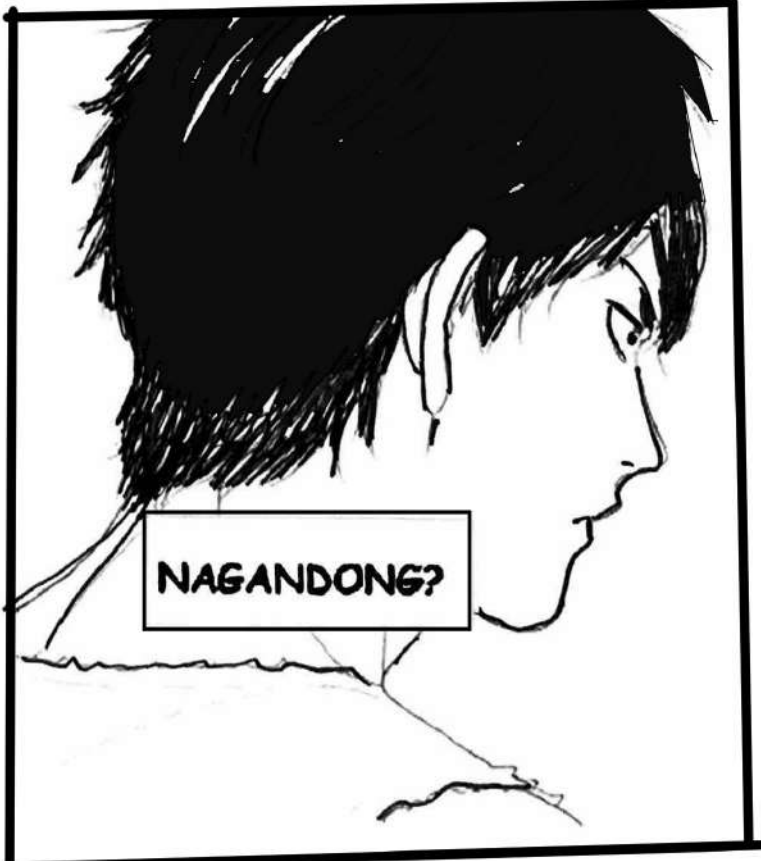
MAYBE THEN... HE'D STILL BE ALIVE.



...YOU'VE USED IT TOO. HAVEN'T YOU, COMMANDER?



I MEAN THE NAGANDONG INCIDENT..



NAGANDONG?



JUST LIKE THE ELEPHANTS... THEY WOULD GO TO ANY EXTENT TO SAVE THEIR FAMILY, COMMANDER. I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME TO PROTECT EVERYONE. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

HOW DID YOU USE THE HALF SPHERE WITHOUT TRIGGERING A CELL PATTERN COLLAPSE, OR— AS YOU PUT IT—A BACKFIRE?

IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS
HYPOTHETICAL.
IT'S NOT LIKE SOMEDAY I
WON'T FACE A SITUATION
LIKE THAT. BECAUSE I
WILL.

AND WHEN THAT MOMENT
COMES—WHEN EVERY
OPTION IS STRIPPED
AWAY—I MIGHT HAVE TO
USE THE HALF-SPHERE.

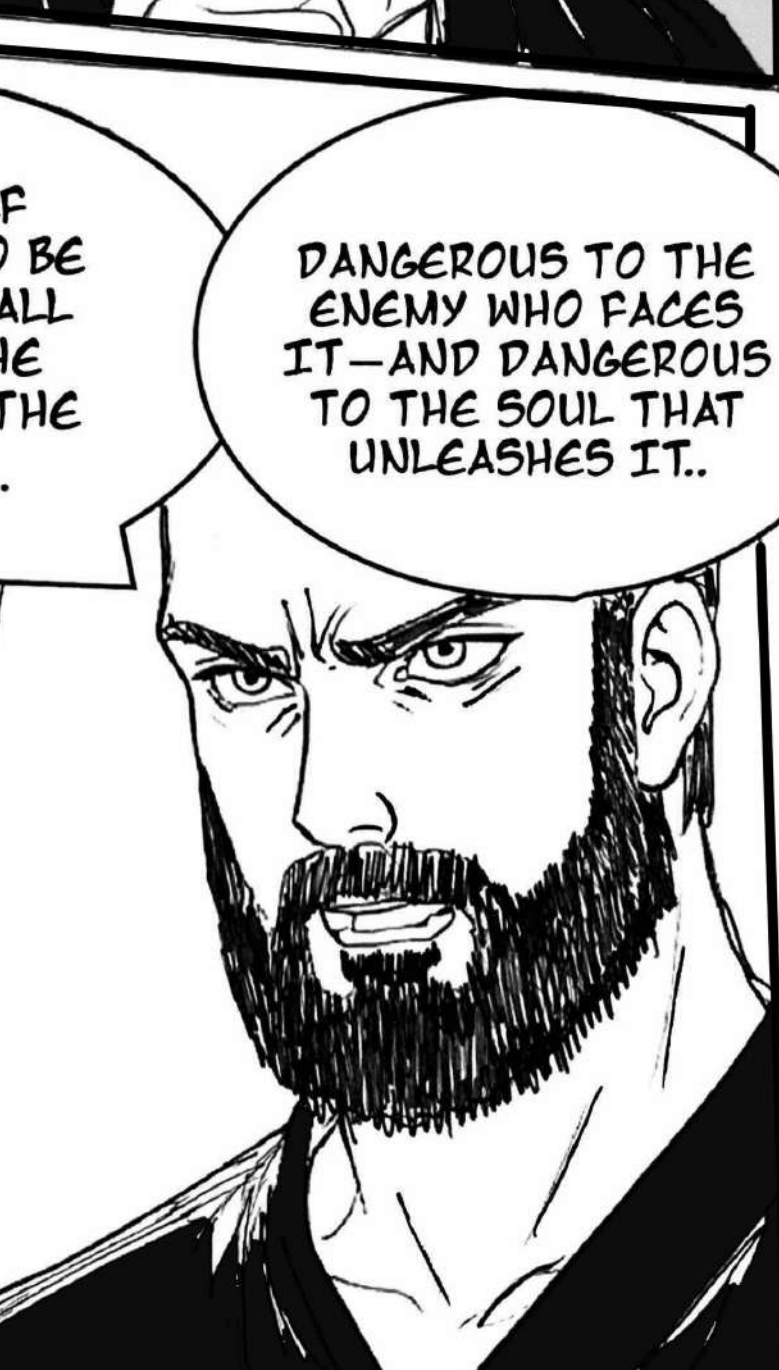




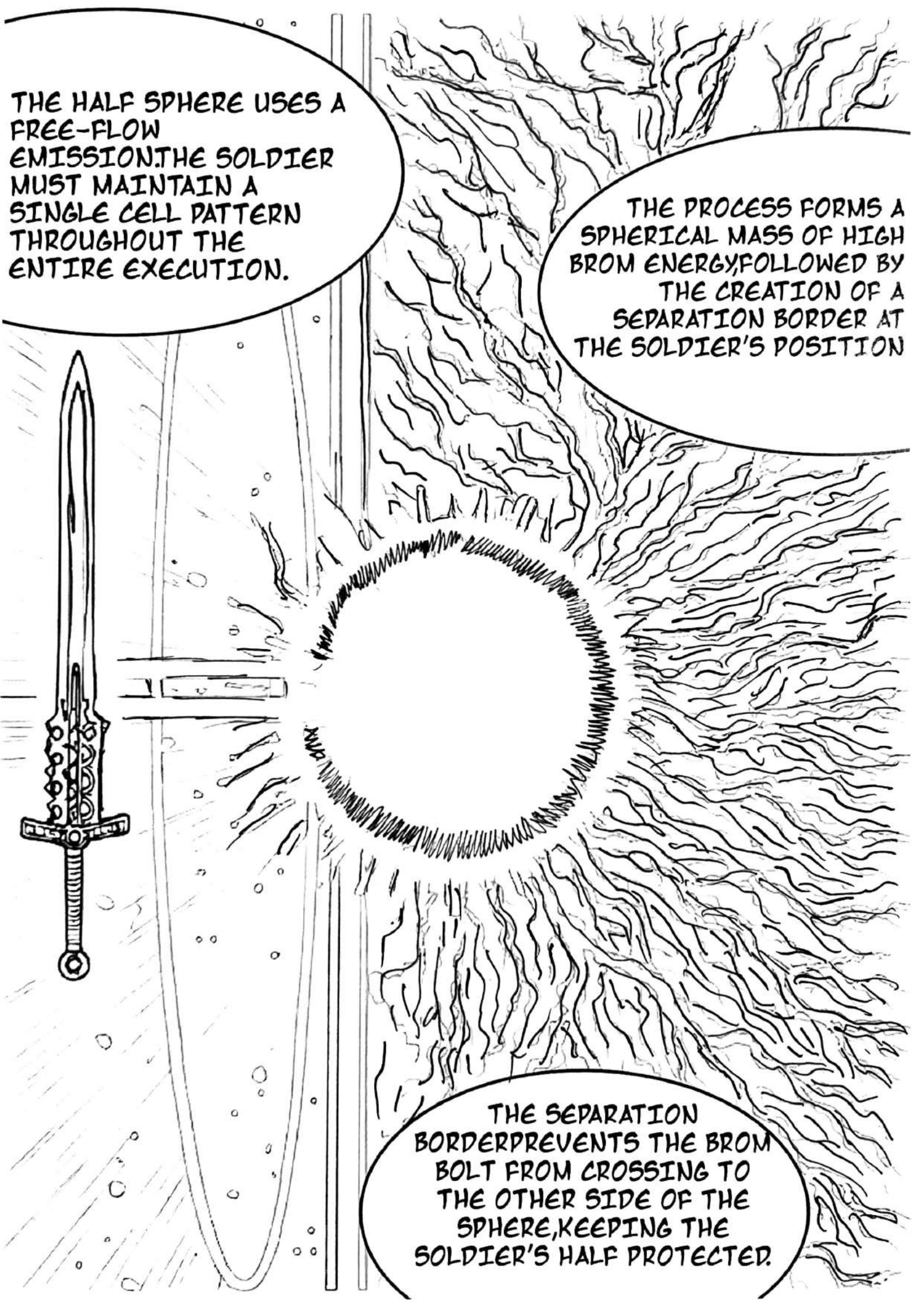
SO TELL ME...
HOW DID YOU
SURVIVE IT?



THE KIRIN'S HALF
SPHERE IS SAID TO BE
THE PINNACLE OF ALL
KIRIN FORMS—THE
STRONGEST... AND THE
MOST POWERFUL.



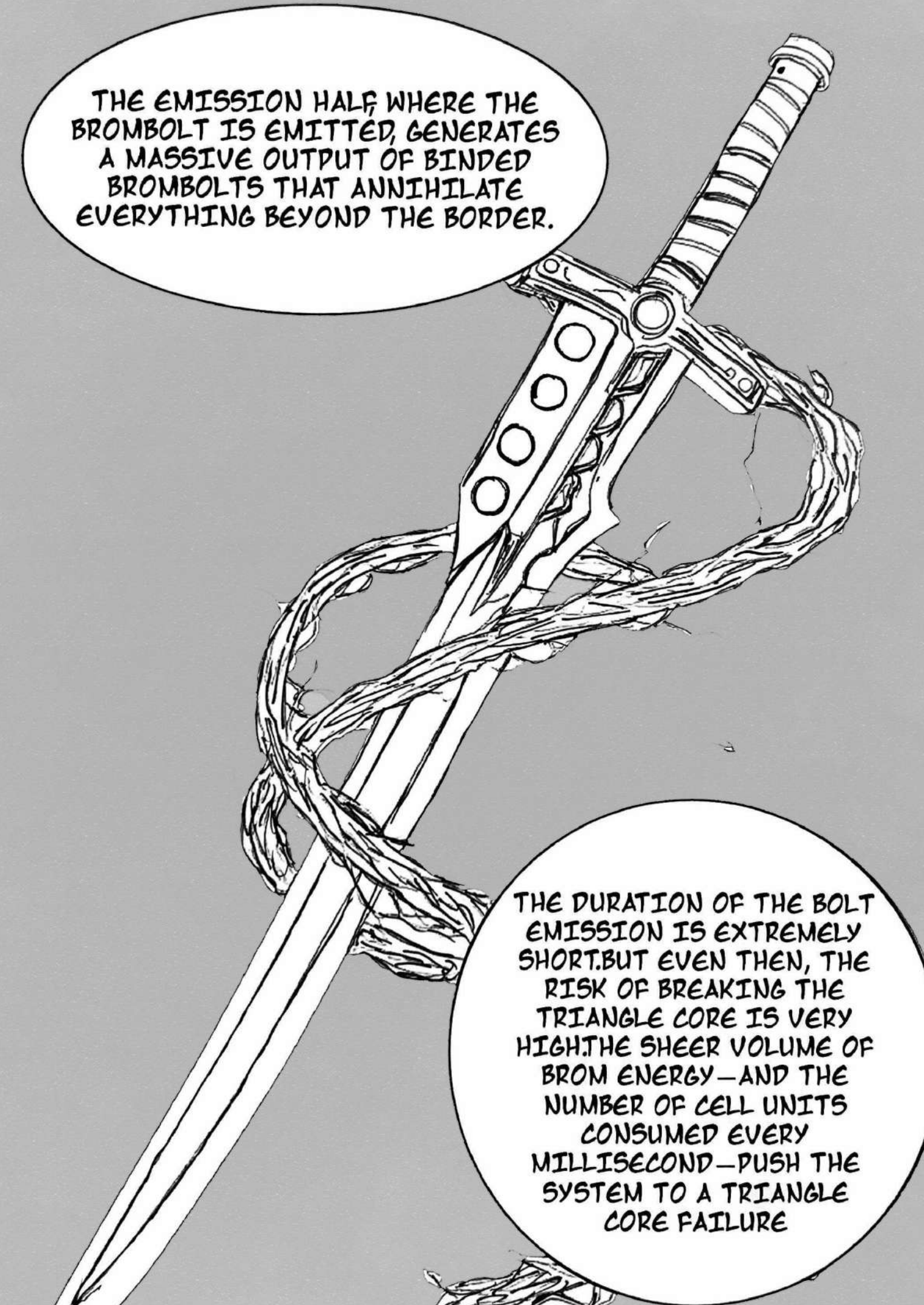
DANGEROUS TO THE
ENEMY WHO FACES
IT—AND DANGEROUS
TO THE SOUL THAT
UNLEASHES IT..



THE HALF SPHERE USES A FREE-FLOW EMISSION. THE SOLDIER MUST MAINTAIN A SINGLE CELL PATTERN THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE EXECUTION.

THE PROCESS FORMS A SPHERICAL MASS OF HIGH BROM ENERGY, FOLLOWED BY THE CREATION OF A SEPARATION BORDER AT THE SOLDIER'S POSITION

THE SEPARATION BORDER PREVENTS THE BROM BOLT FROM CROSSING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SPHERE, KEEPING THE SOLDIER'S HALF PROTECTED.



THE EMISSION HALF, WHERE THE BROMBOLT IS EMITTED, GENERATES A MASSIVE OUTPUT OF BINED BROMBOLTS THAT ANNIHILATE EVERYTHING BEYOND THE BORDER.

THE DURATION OF THE BOLT EMISSION IS EXTREMELY SHORT. BUT EVEN THEN, THE RISK OF BREAKING THE TRIANGLE CORE IS VERY HIGH. THE SHEER VOLUME OF BROM ENERGY—AND THE NUMBER OF CELL UNITS CONSUMED EVERY MILLISECOND—PUSH THE SYSTEM TO A TRIANGLE CORE FAILURE



SO IF THE TRIANGLE CORE IS COMPROMISED, THE OUTCOME IS A FULL FALLOUT ..



THAT'S WHAT KILLED DEV. THE CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE VERY LOW..



I'VE HEARD SOLDIERS GET BANNED... IF THEY SURVIVE.

YEAH. THEY GET BANNED FOR SIX MONTHS. BANNED FROM USING KIRIN—AND THE KIRIN SWORD IS TAKEN FROM THEM.

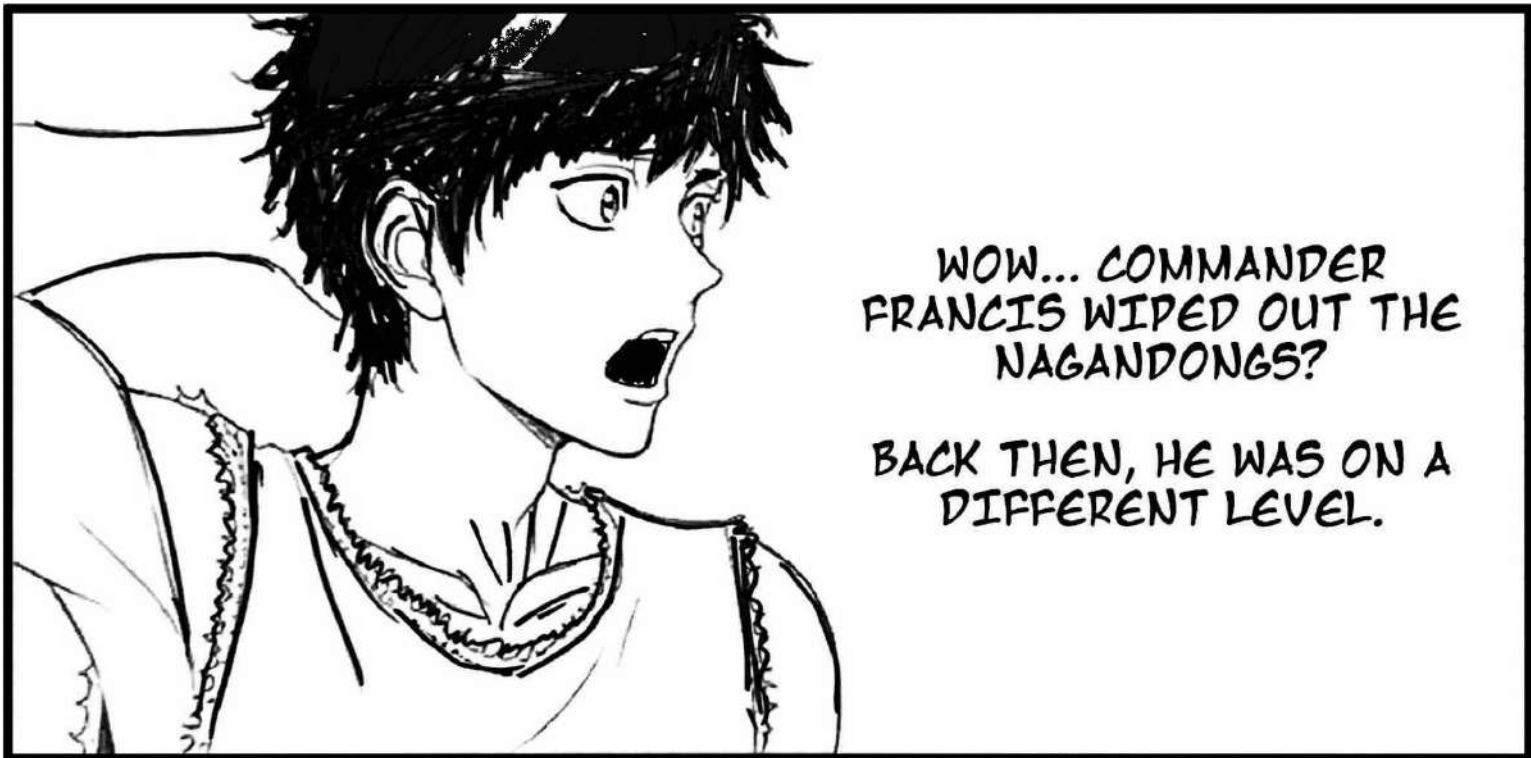


BARI..HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NAGANDONG?

⋮



MY MOTHER...SHE
TOLD ME ABOUT
IT.




WOW... COMMANDER
FRANCIS WIPED OUT THE
NAGANDONGS?

BACK THEN, HE WAS ON A
DIFFERENT LEVEL.



I JUST
WANTED TO
PROTECT
OUR
PEOPLE...



THEY CAME OUT
OF NOWHERE...
SCREAMS. FIRE.
BLOOD.

BY THE TIME I GOT THERE, IT HAD
ALREADY FED ON MANY.

THE NAGANDONGS DON'T
MOVE IN GROUPS. THEY STICK
TO THEIR OWN TERRITORY.

BUT THAT DAY, IT WASN'T
JUST ONE. MORE THAN
TEN EMERGED—ALL FROM
DIFFERENT NORTH
CELESTIAN
TERRITORIES.



I KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED WITH
YOUR WIFE...
FRANCIS




BARI...WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



GLENITCH

HOW DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT MY
WIFE, BARI?!





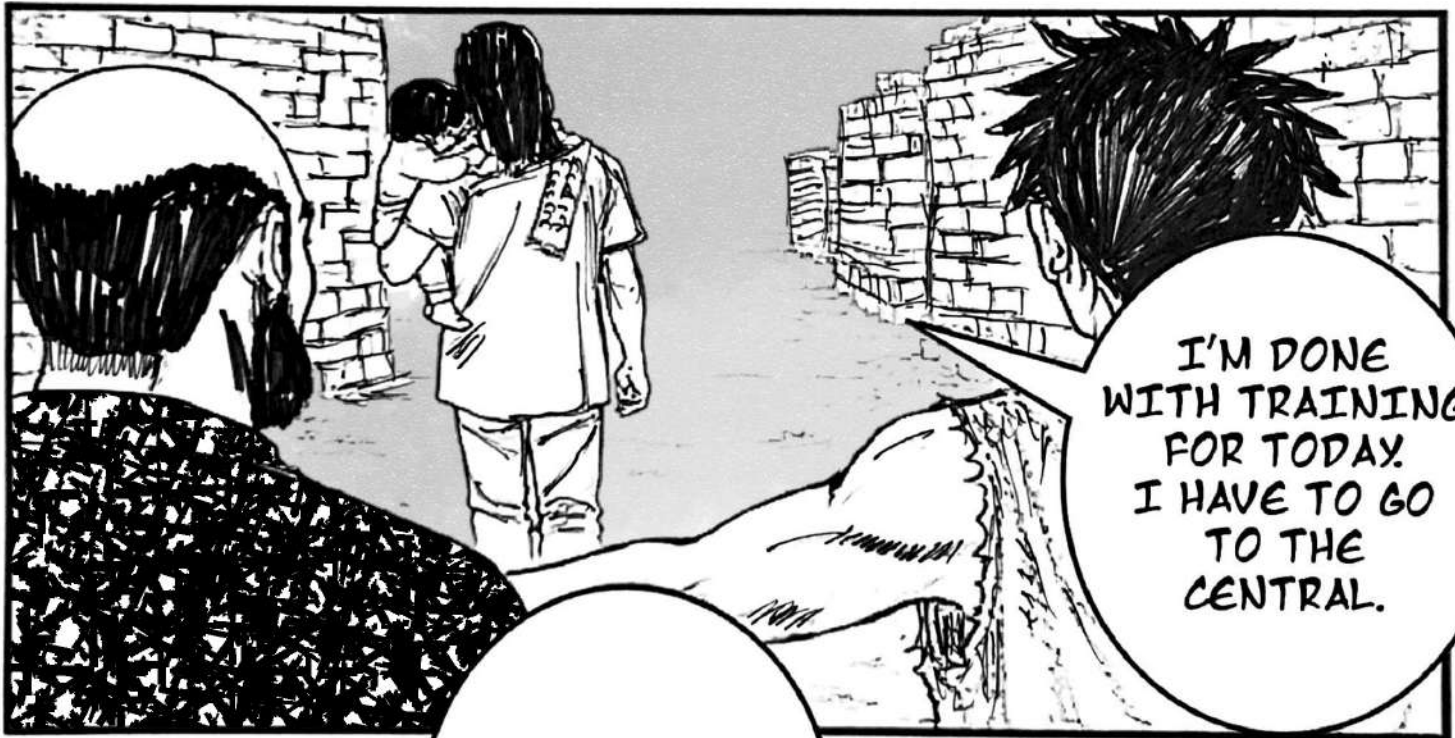
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR WIFE. I KNOW
WHAT YOU DID FOR OUR
PEOPLE.

AND I KNOW...HOW
MUCH YOU CARED FOR
HER..

...



BARI...
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?



I'M DONE
WITH TRAINING
FOR TODAY.
I HAVE TO GO
TO THE
CENTRAL.

WHAT WAS HE
SAYING? WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR WIFE?"





STEP

SHALL WE GO
AND MEET
MAMMA?

HAHA... YOU
LOOK SO
ADORABLE!

STEP

TO BE CONTINUED