

The Origin of Elves

# OMPO-TANKO

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APPROVED  
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AUTHORITY



CHIRP CHIRP

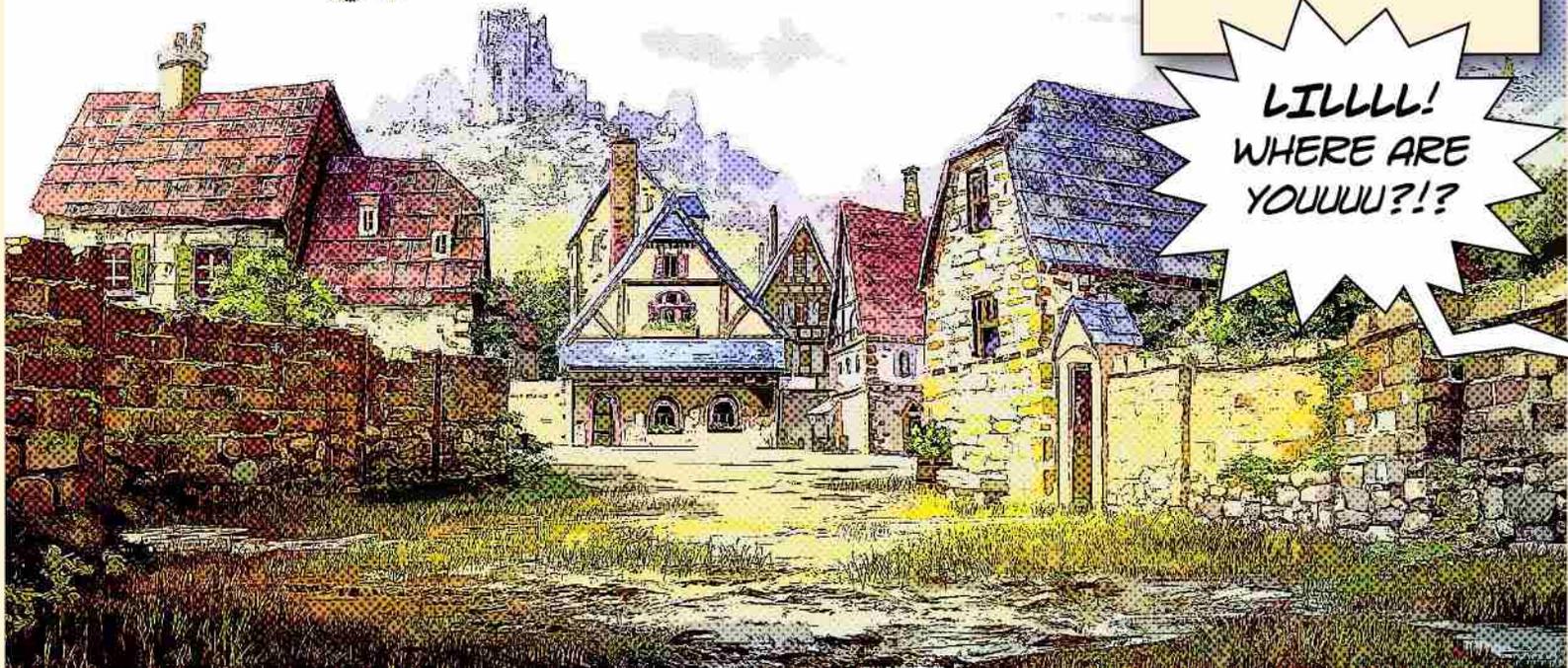
SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTHERN  
FOOTHILLS OF THE SWORD MOUNTAINS  
JUST SOUTH OF NEVERWINTER WOOD,

SITS THE PEACEFUL  
FRONTIER TOWN OF —

# Phandalin

A PEACEFUL TOWN. OH,  
SO VERY PEACE-

LILLLL!  
WHERE ARE  
YOUUUU?!?



A HOME FOR MANY YOUNG ADVENTURERS—

THERE YOU ARE!!!

C'MON, YOU KNOW WE CAN'T BE LATE!

I PROMISED SISTER GARAELE WE'D BE THERE...

...AND SHE PROMISED TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT THE ELVES.

TODAY NIB ADDLESPUR IS FINALLY GOING TO GET SOME ANSWERS!!!

CHIRP  
CHIRP  
CHIRP

# SHRINE OF LUCK

HURRY UP LIL! THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED!

...AND SOMETIMES THE LADY SMILES, AND SOMETIMES SHE LAUGHS OUT LOUD,

...BUT TYMORA ALWAYS FAVORS THE BOLD.

NOW IF THERE ARE NO OTHER QUESTIONS, REMEMBER A COPPER TO THE LADY RETURNS TENFOLD IN GOLD!

I HAVE A QUESTION!!!

YES, DEAR NIB, WHAT SONG WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SING NEXT?

THE ONE ABOUT YOU! I WANT TO KNOW, WHERE DO ELVES COME FROM?





WELL, UM, NIB, THAT IS A... COMPLICATED SONG TO SING, I MEAN, ESPECIALLY FOR SOMEONE YOUR AGE TO UNDERSTAND I..

EW! NO NO THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!

I WANT A HISTORY CHECK, NOT A NATURE CHECK!



OOHHH YES OF COURSE! THE HISTORY OF THE ELVES!

WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY TELL YOU ABOUT OUR PAST THAT YOU HAVEN'T READ BY NOW?



OUR HISTORIES ARE WELL DOCUMENTED AND I KNOW YOU'VE STUDIED ALL OF THEM.

SO IS IT TRUE? ARE ELVES NOT FROM THIS WORLD?

NOW WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT?



IN THIS OLD CRUSTY BOOK! IT SAYS THAT ELVES 'CROSSED INTO OUR WORLD FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION' CALLED 'THE PLANE OF FAERIE'.



IT SAYS THE FIRST ELVES WERE CALLED 'ELADRIN', AND BUILT A GREAT KINGDOM ONLY TO ABANDON IT TO THE FEYWILD.



SISTER GARAELE, WHAT IS..

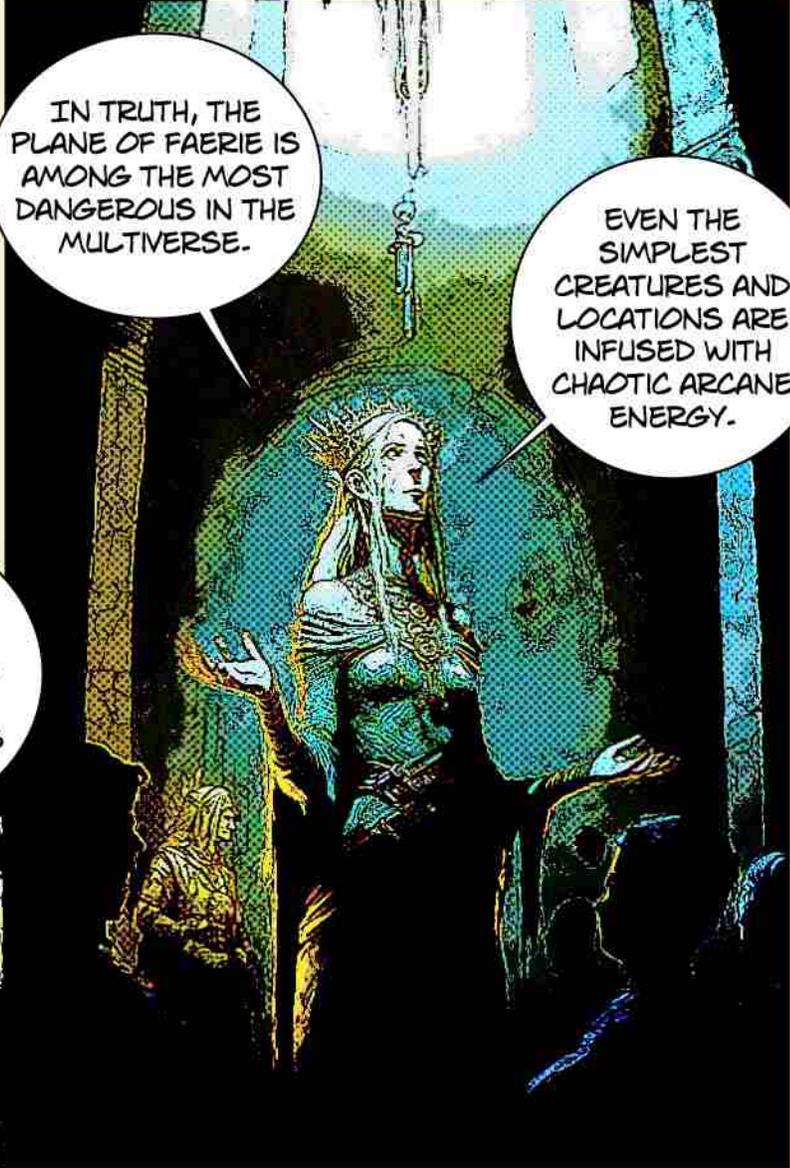
# The

IT SOUNDS  
COOL.



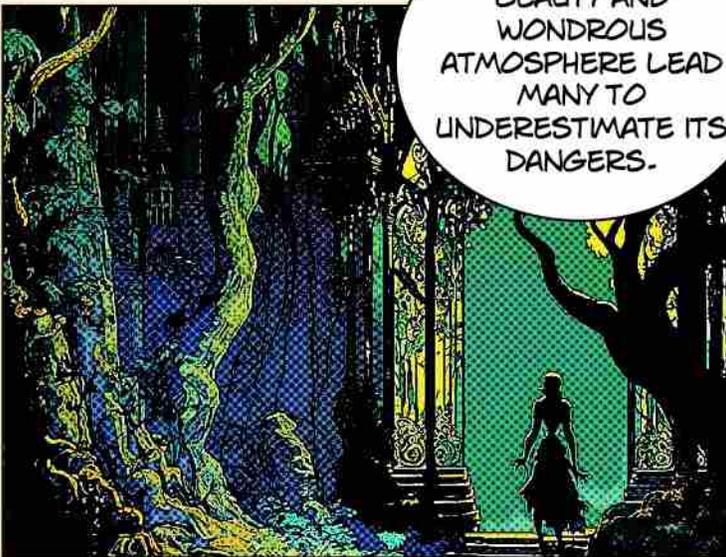


IT'S NO PLACE FOR A CHILD, DEAR NIB.

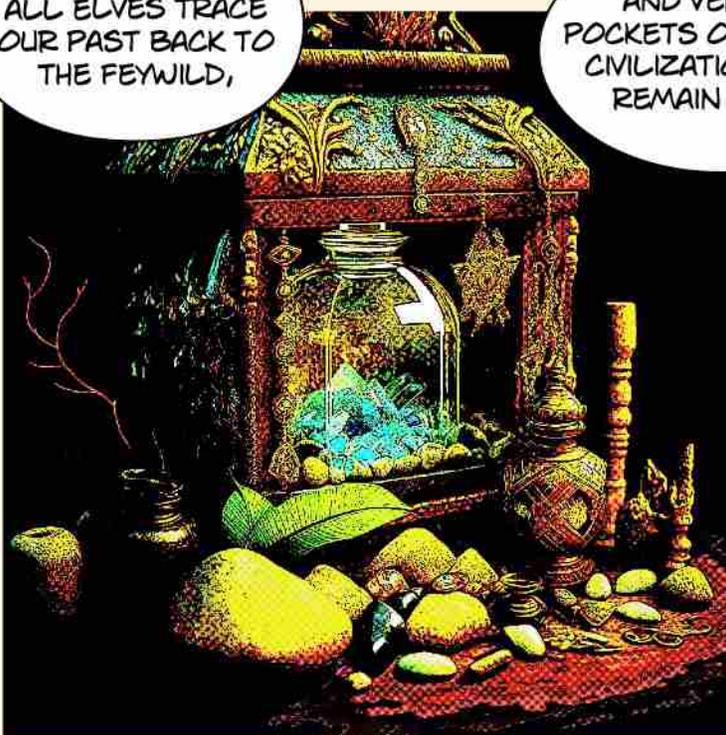


IN TRUTH, THE PLANE OF FAERIE IS AMONG THE MOST DANGEROUS IN THE MULTIVERSE.

EVEN THE SIMPLEST CREATURES AND LOCATIONS ARE INFUSED WITH CHAOTIC ARCANIC ENERGY.

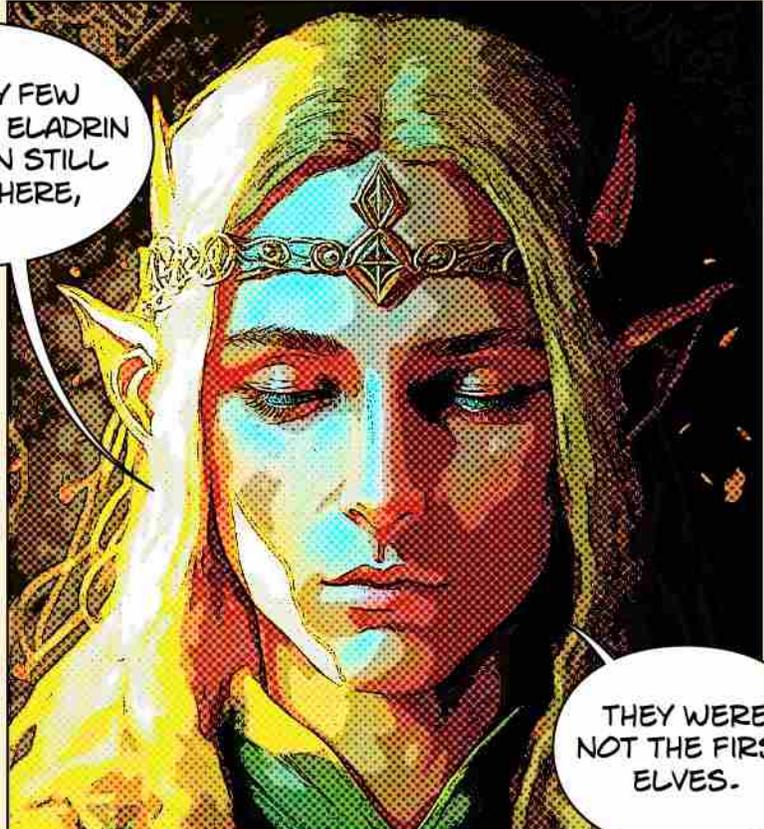


ITS STRIKING BEAUTY AND WONDROUS ATMOSPHERE LEAD MANY TO UNDERESTIMATE ITS DANGERS.

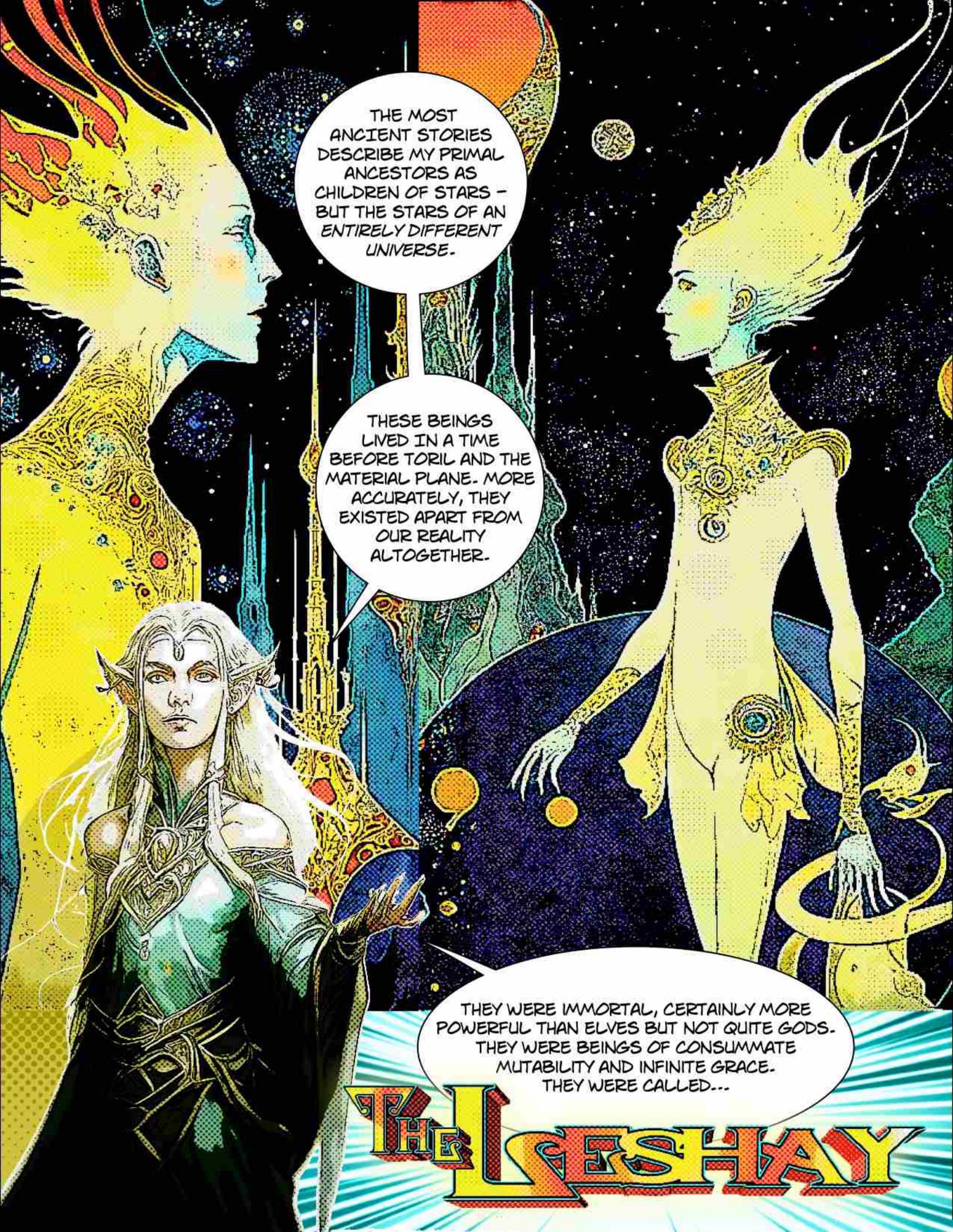


WHILE IT'S TRUE ALL ELVES TRACE OUR PAST BACK TO THE FEYWILD,

AND VERY FEW POCKETS OF ELADRIN CIVILIZATION STILL REMAIN THERE,



THEY WERE NOT THE FIRST ELVES.



THE MOST  
ANCIENT STORIES  
DESCRIBE MY PRIMAL  
ANCESTORS AS  
CHILDREN OF STARS -  
BUT THE STARS OF AN  
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT  
UNIVERSE.

THESE BEINGS  
LIVED IN A TIME  
BEFORE TORIL AND THE  
MATERIAL PLANE. MORE  
ACCURATELY, THEY  
EXISTED APART FROM  
OUR REALITY  
ALTOGETHER.

THEY WERE IMMORTAL, CERTAINLY MORE  
POWERFUL THAN ELVES BUT NOT QUITE GODS.  
THEY WERE BEINGS OF CONSUMMATE  
MUTABILITY AND INFINITE GRACE.  
THEY WERE CALLED...

THE  
LASHAY

THE LESHAY WERE UNLIKE ANY OTHER CREATURES. THEY COULD CHANGE THEIR FORM ON A WHIM.

A TEASING BREEZE



A FLOCK OF BIRDS



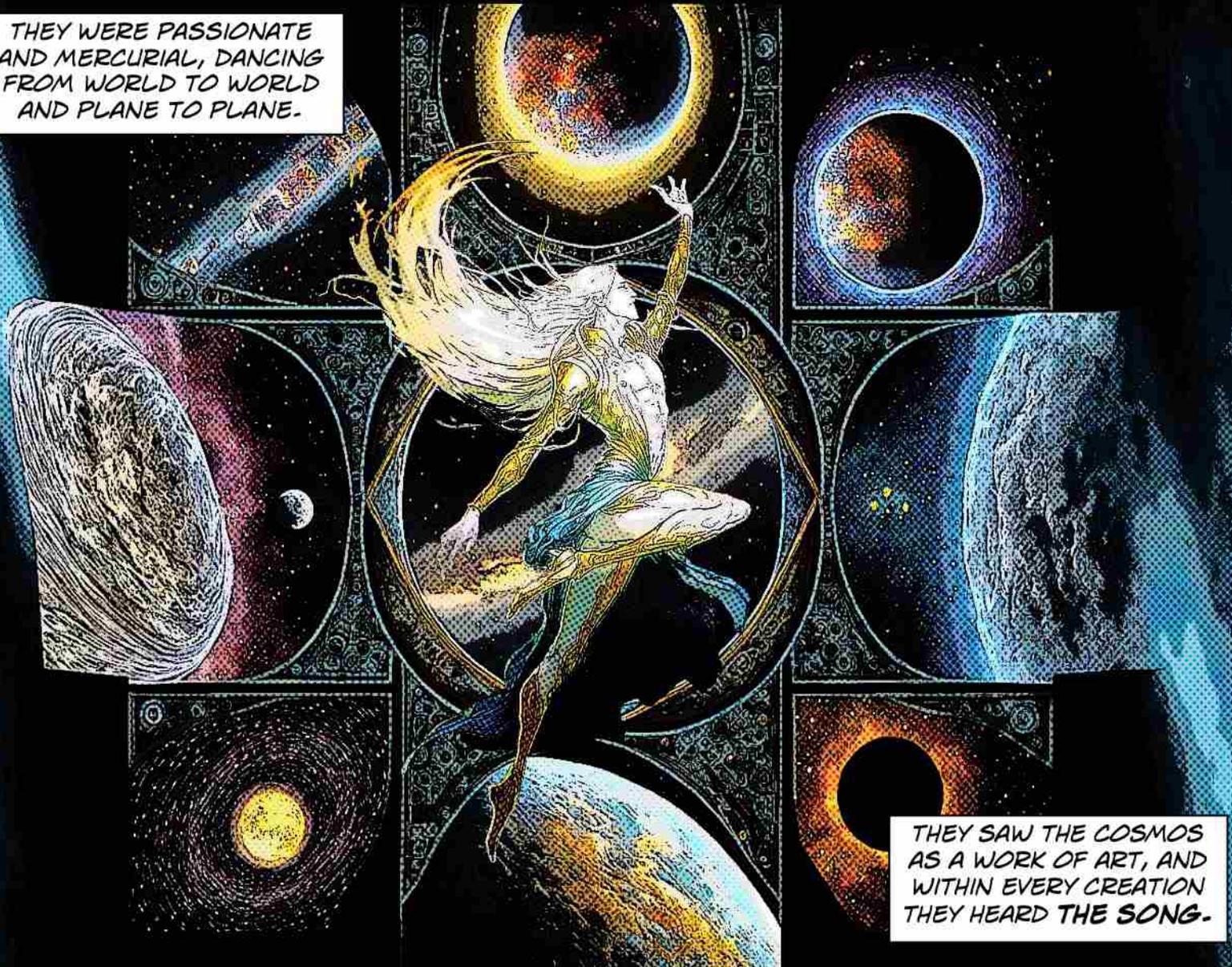
A CHUCKLING STREAM



A SWARM OF BEES



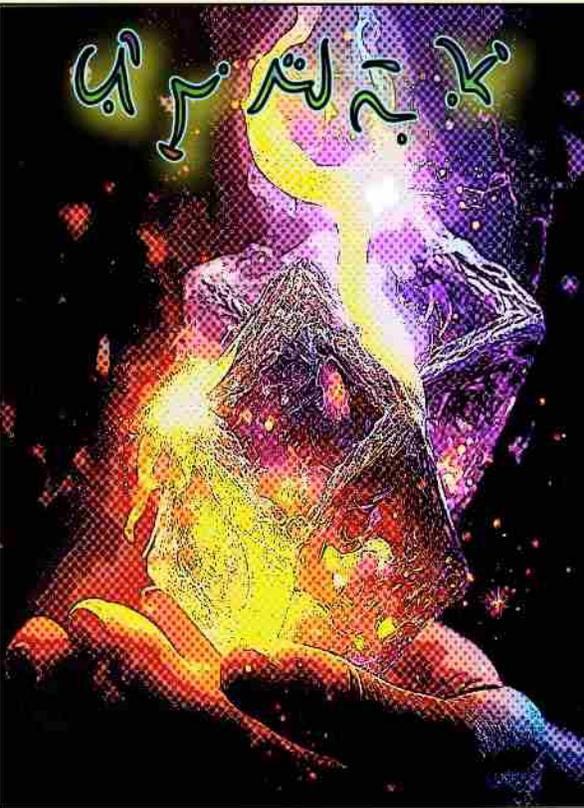
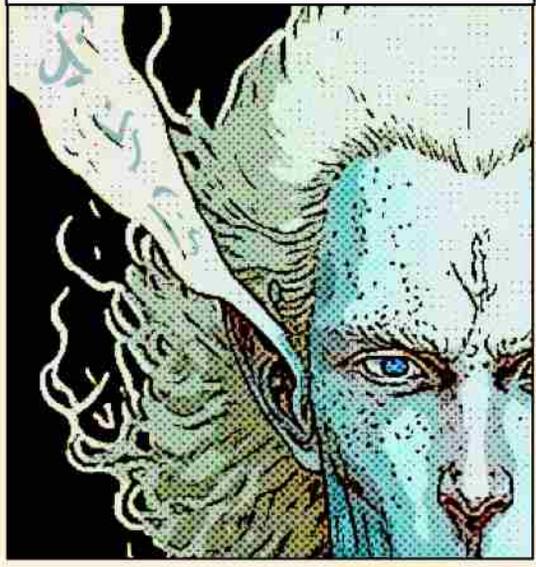
THEY WERE PASSIONATE  
AND MERCURIAL, DANCING  
FROM WORLD TO WORLD  
AND PLANE TO PLANE.



THEY SAW THE COSMOS  
AS A WORK OF ART, AND  
WITHIN EVERY CREATION  
THEY HEARD THE SONG.

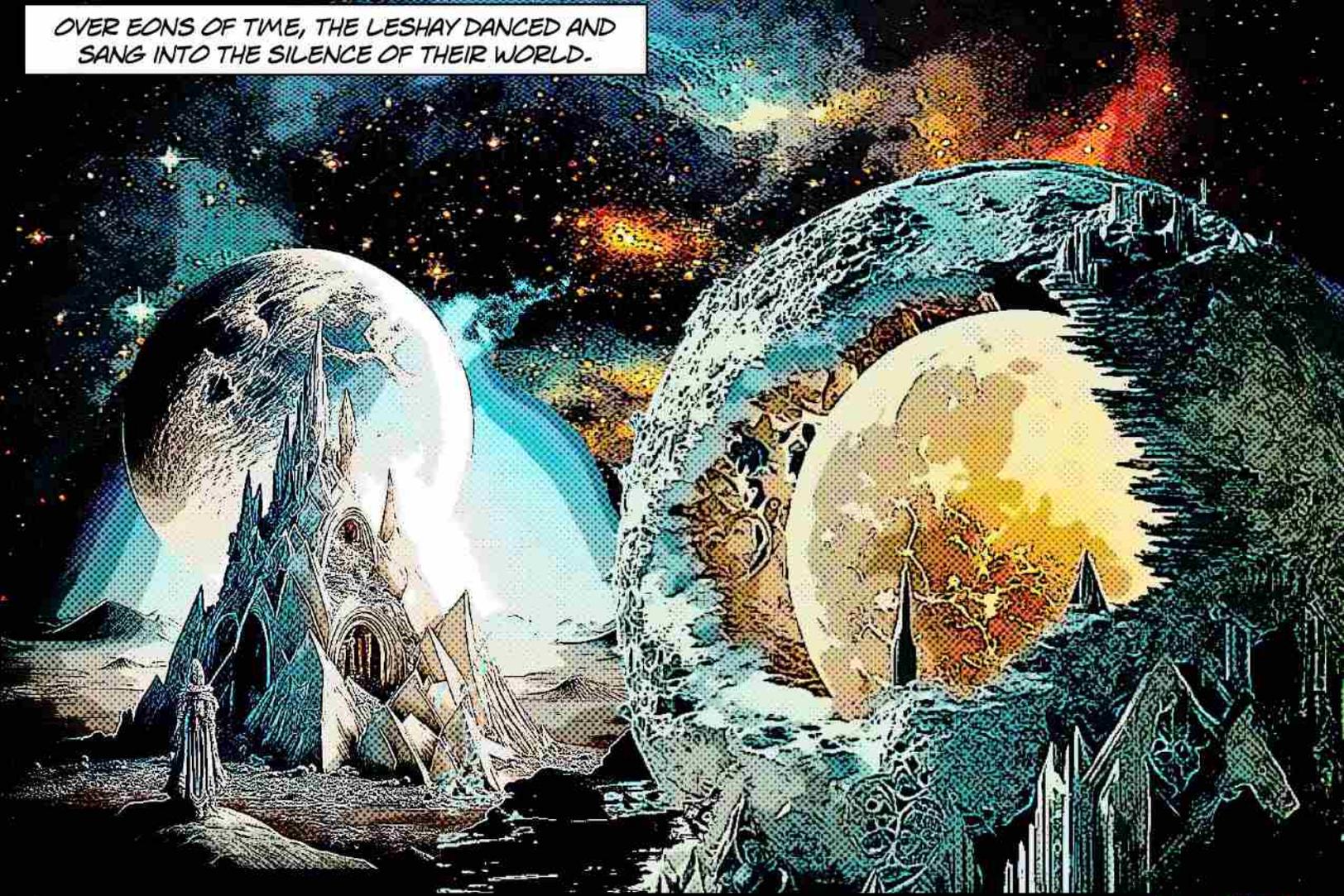
THE SONG OF CREATION. ITS MUSIC AWOKED THE FIRST DAWN.

THE LESHAY HEARD IT CALL TO THEM, AND IN TIME, THEY LEARNED TO SING IT TOO.



THEY TAUGHT THE MELODIES TO OTHERS, AND SOON EVEN THE STONES AND THE TREES HAD A VOICE.

OVER EONS OF TIME, THE LESHAY DANCED AND SANG INTO THE SILENCE OF THEIR WORLD.



THERE ARE FAR REALMS, HOWEVER, THAT ARE BETTER LEFT IN DARKNESS. IN THEIR CARELESS EXUBERANCE, THE LESHAY WANDERED INTO A CORRUPTED PLANE THAT WARPED LIGHT AND SOUND. THEY LOST CONTROL OVER THE SONG, AND A COSMIC HORROR SPRANG FROM THE DISSONANCE AND DISTORTION.



# THE MASTER



THE LESHAY NAMED THEM  
'NILSHAI'.



THE 'CALLERS OF THE VOID'

THE NILSHAI CONSUMED MAGIC.  
EVERY ATTEMPT TO STOP THEM  
ONLY FED INTO THEIR POWER.



THEY WERE EMPTY  
REFLECTIONS OF  
THEIR CREATORS.



THEIR SCREAM WAS THE  
SOUND OF DEATH...





...AND THEIR SONG...



...WAS CORRUPTION.



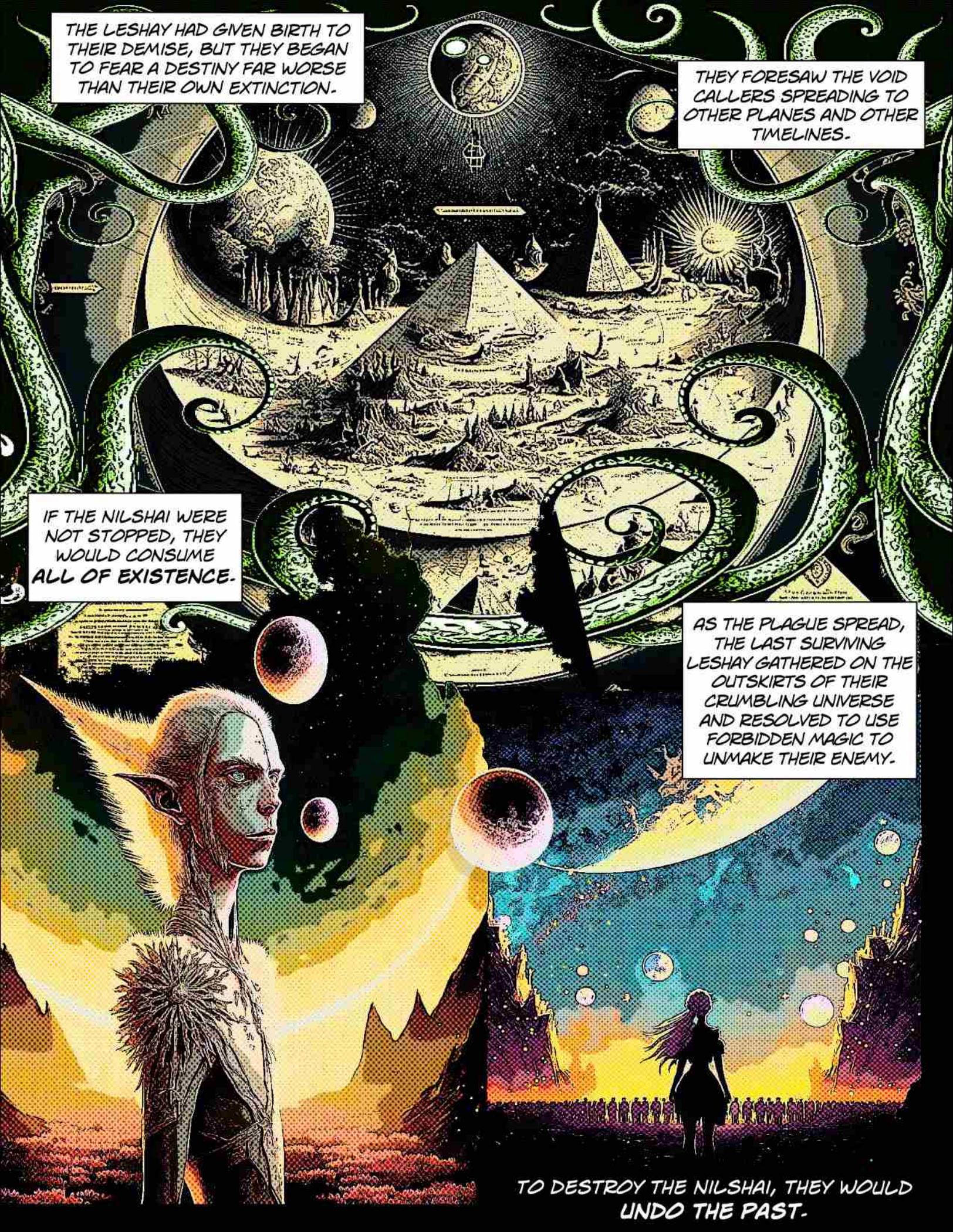
THE LESHAY HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO THEIR DEMISE, BUT THEY BEGAN TO FEAR A DESTINY FAR WORSE THAN THEIR OWN EXTINCTION.

THEY FORESAW THE VOID CALLERS SPREADING TO OTHER PLANES AND OTHER TIMELINES.

IF THE NILSHAI WERE NOT STOPPED, THEY WOULD CONSUME ALL OF EXISTENCE.

AS THE PLAGUE SPREAD, THE LAST SURVIVING LESHAY GATHERED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THEIR CRUMBLING UNIVERSE AND RESOLVED TO USE FORBIDDEN MAGIC TO UNMAKE THEIR ENEMY.

TO DESTROY THE NILSHAI, THEY WOULD UNDO THE PAST.



THE GREAT SPELL, KNOWN AS 'DUNAMIS', OPENED A PASSAGEWAY THROUGH SPACE-TIME.



IT DID NOT GO AS PLANNED.



IN LESS THAN AN INSTANT,  
THE NILSHAI VANISHED...

...ALONG WITH ALL OF ETERNITY.



THE CHILDREN OF THE STARS WERE LOST TO  
TIME, SCATTERED ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE.

BUT AS THE LADY  
OF LUCK WOULD HAVE IT,

CHAOS  
CALLED OUT TO THEM IN  
THE DARKNESS...



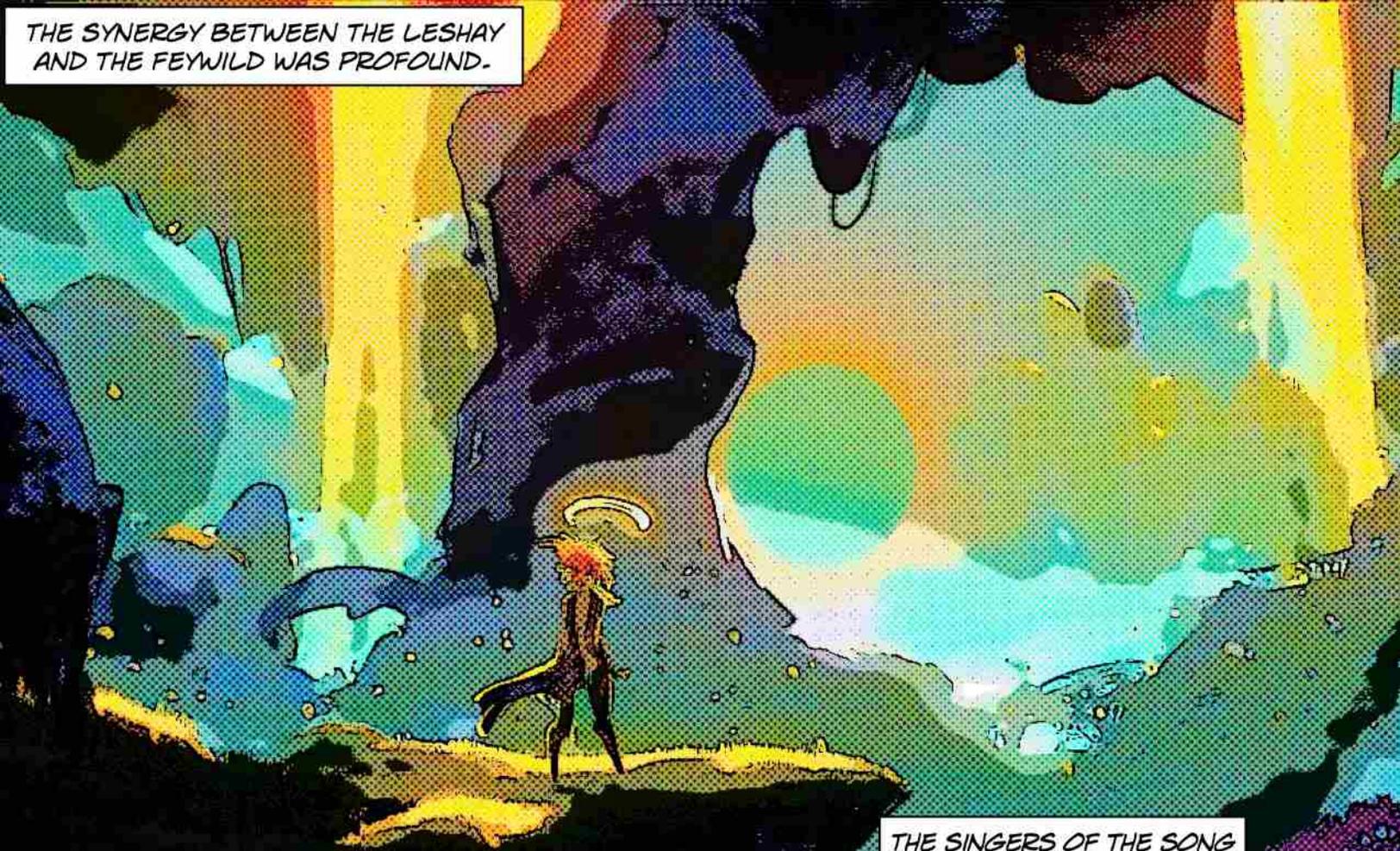
THEIR SOULS WERE SHATTERED, BUT THEY WERE ALIVE,  
SURROUNDED BY A DANGEROUS AND UNKNOWN WILDERNESS.

THE VIBRANT PLANE EFFECTS ALL NEW-COMERS WITH ITS' POWERFUL INFLUENCE, AND THE LESHAY WERE NO EXCEPTION. THEY FELT THEIR SENSES AND EMOTIONS - BOTH GOOD AND BAD - HEIGHTENED BEYOND THEIR CONTROL.



WHEN THEIR EMOTIONS INTENSIFIED THEY COULD EVEN EFFECT THEIR SURROUNDINGS. A STRONG FEELING COULD UNINTENTIONALLY CHANGE THE WEATHER, EVEN ALTER THE LANDSCAPE ITSELF.

THE SYNERGY BETWEEN THE LESHAY  
AND THE FEYWILD WAS PROFOUND.



THE SINGERS OF THE SONG  
BECAME ATTUNED TO THE  
COLORS OF CHAOS.



THE FIRST YEARS WERE SPENT IN  
UNBRIDLED BEAUTY AND TURMOIL.

THERE WAS A GREAT DIVISION DURING THAT PERIOD. UNTEMPERED MOODS AND UNEXPLAINABLE CONFUSION ESCALATED INTO HOSTILITIES AND ESTRANGEMENTS. MEMORIES STARTED TO FADE AND TWIST AND DECEIVE. MANY WERE OVERCOME BY THE ELATION OF WANDERLUST. MANY RETREATED INTO THEIR OWN INNER DARKNESS.

THE ONES WHO ADAPTED WELL AND MAINTAINED THEIR REASONING UNITED TOGETHER AS THE SELDARINE -

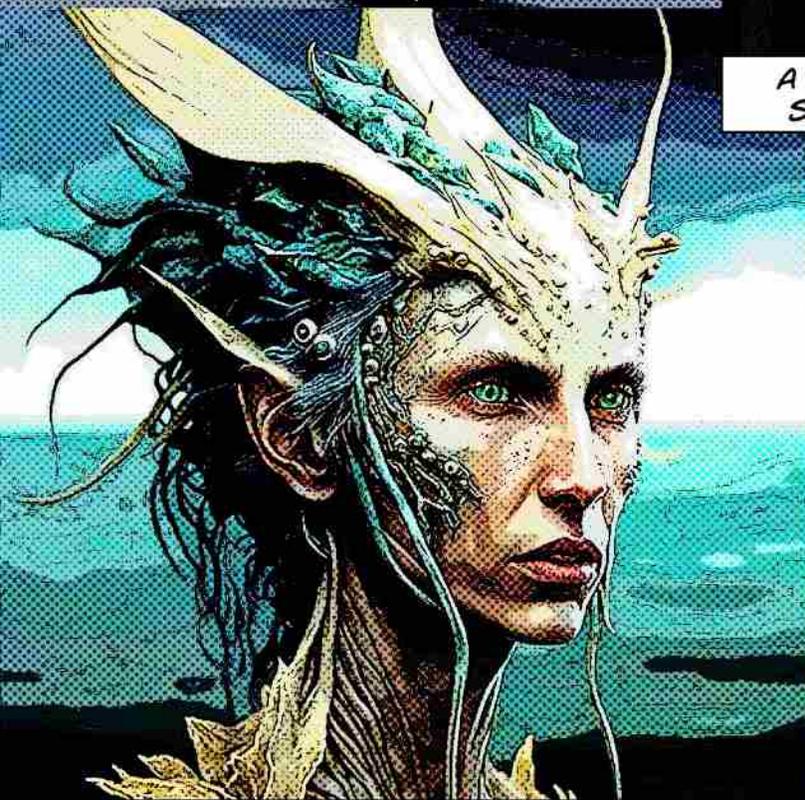


"THE FELLOWSHIP OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE WOOD."

GROUPS SPLINTERED INTO SMALLER FACTIONS. A FEW DISAPPEARRED INTO THE FROZEN LANDS.

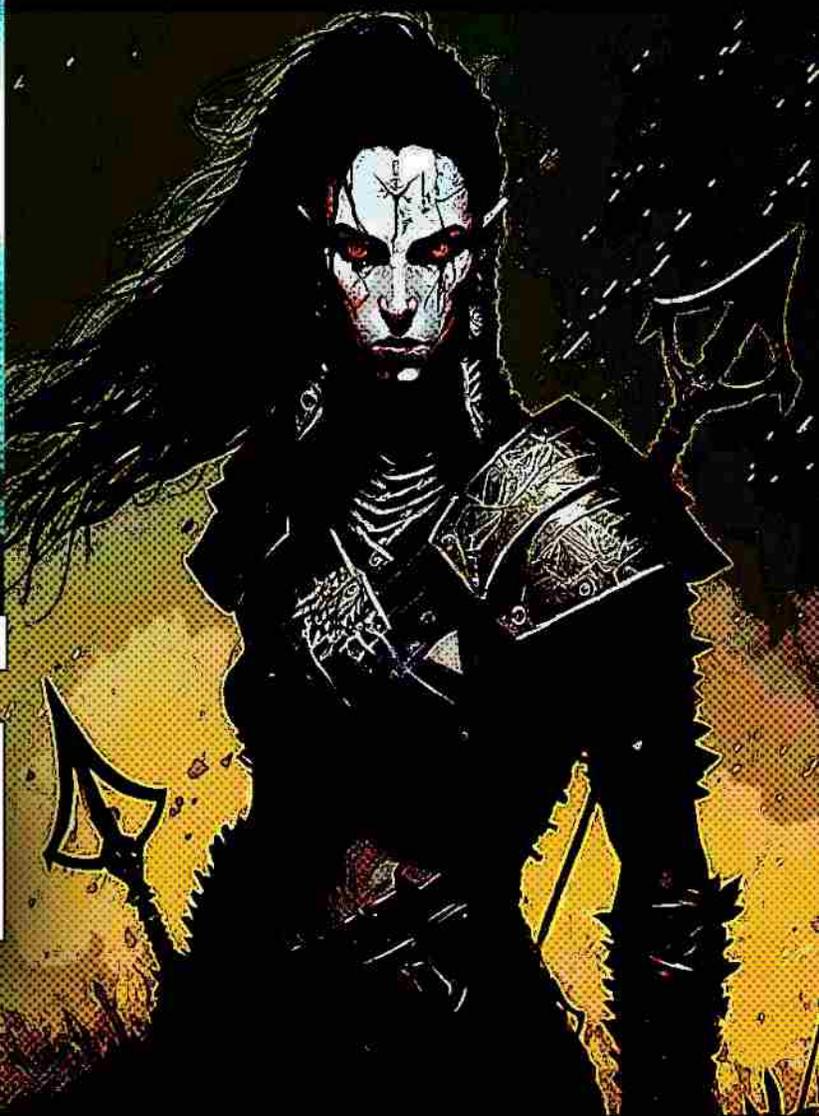


A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM WENT INTO CAVES THAT STRETCHED DEEP BENEATH THE SURFACE WORLD.



SOME SWAM OUT INTO THE ENDLESS WATERS

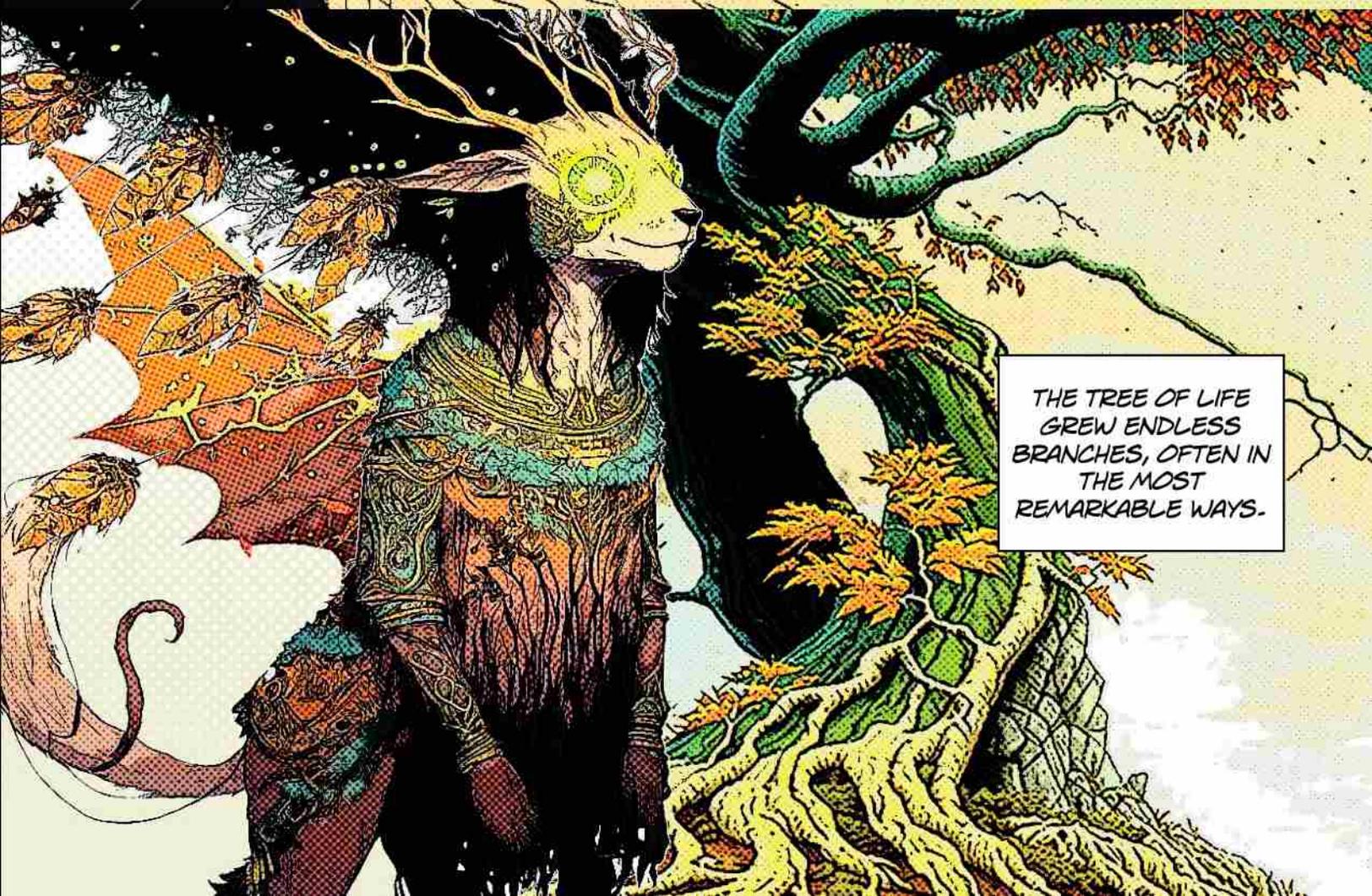
THE TRULY HOLLOW ONES, WHO HAD FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING EXCEPT THEIR PAIN AND MELANCHOLY, VENTURED BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE FEYWILD AND FOUNDED A KINGDOM OF GLOOM IN THE PLANE OF SHADOWS.





OVER THE CENTURIES  
SOME OF THE LESHAY  
SETTLED INTO MORE  
STABLE FORMS AND  
BECAME OTHER FEY  
CREATURES. SOME  
MERGED WITH THE  
PLANTS AND  
SUPERNATURAL  
LANDSCAPE.

WHILE OTHERS DEVELOPED FROM  
THEIR AFFINITY WITH WILD ANIMALS.



THE TREE OF LIFE  
GREW ENDLESS  
BRANCHES, OFTEN IN  
THE MOST  
REMARKABLE WAYS.



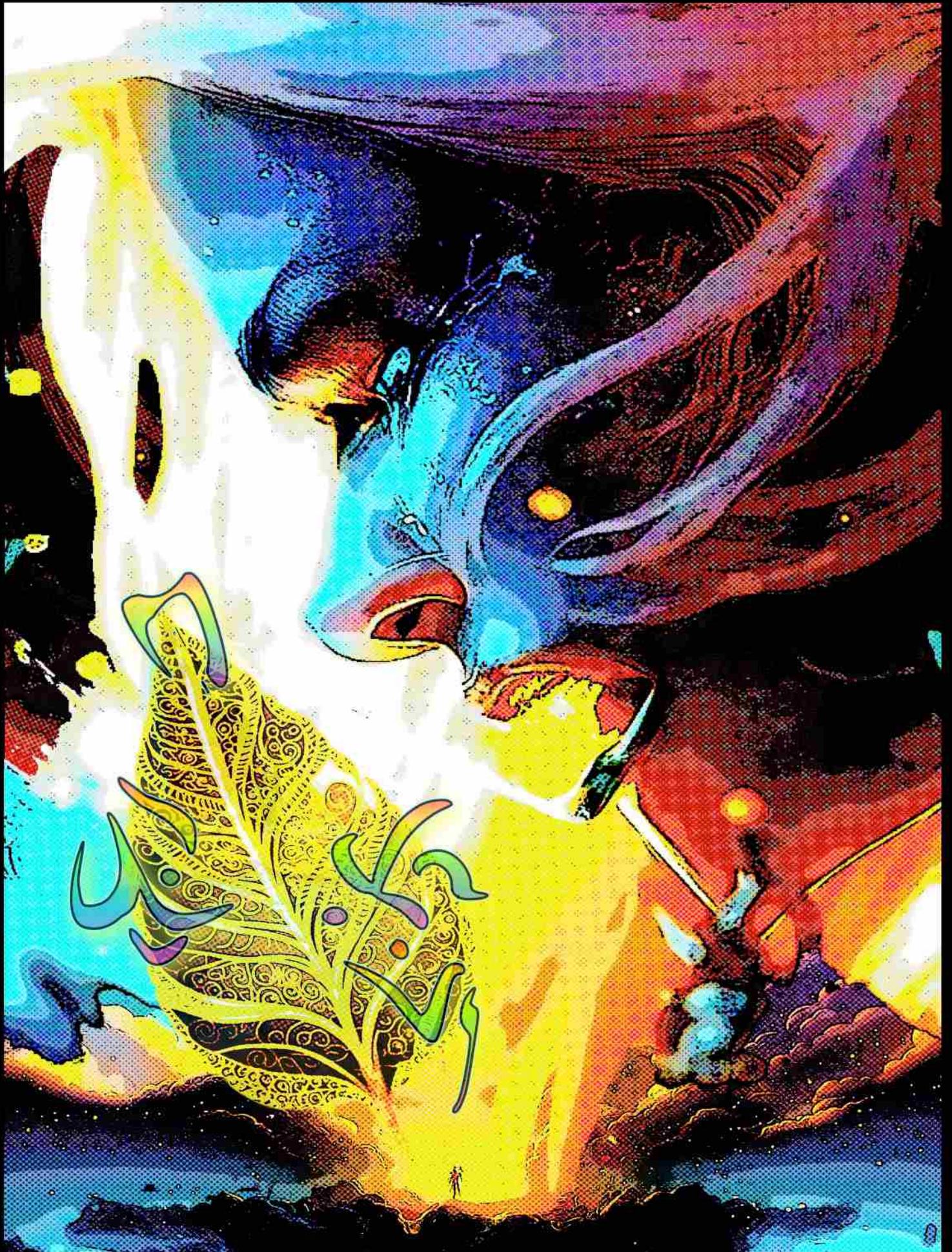
THE CHILDREN OF THE SELDARINE WERE DIFFERENT THAN THEIR PARENTS. THEIR BODIES WOULD SLOWLY GROW AND CHANGE OVER TIME BUT OTHERWISE THEY WERE FIXED TO A SINGULAR FORM.

MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THEY WERE MORTAL AND COULD PERISH FROM ILLNESS, DISEASE, AND OLD AGE.



DESPITE THEIR IMMORTALITY THE LESHAY COULD STILL BE KILLED, AND OVER TIME THEIR NUMBERS DWINDLED. THEY HAD SAVED EXISTENCE, SURVIVED A CATAclySM, ADAPTED TO CHAOS, AND WITNESSED THEIR PROGENY GROW STRONGER WITH EVERY GENERATION. THEY RECOGNIZED THEIR TIME WAS AT AN END, AND WELCOMED IT WITH GRACE AND DIGNITY.

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE LAST LESHAY CAST THEIR SOUL INTO A FALLEN LEAF.

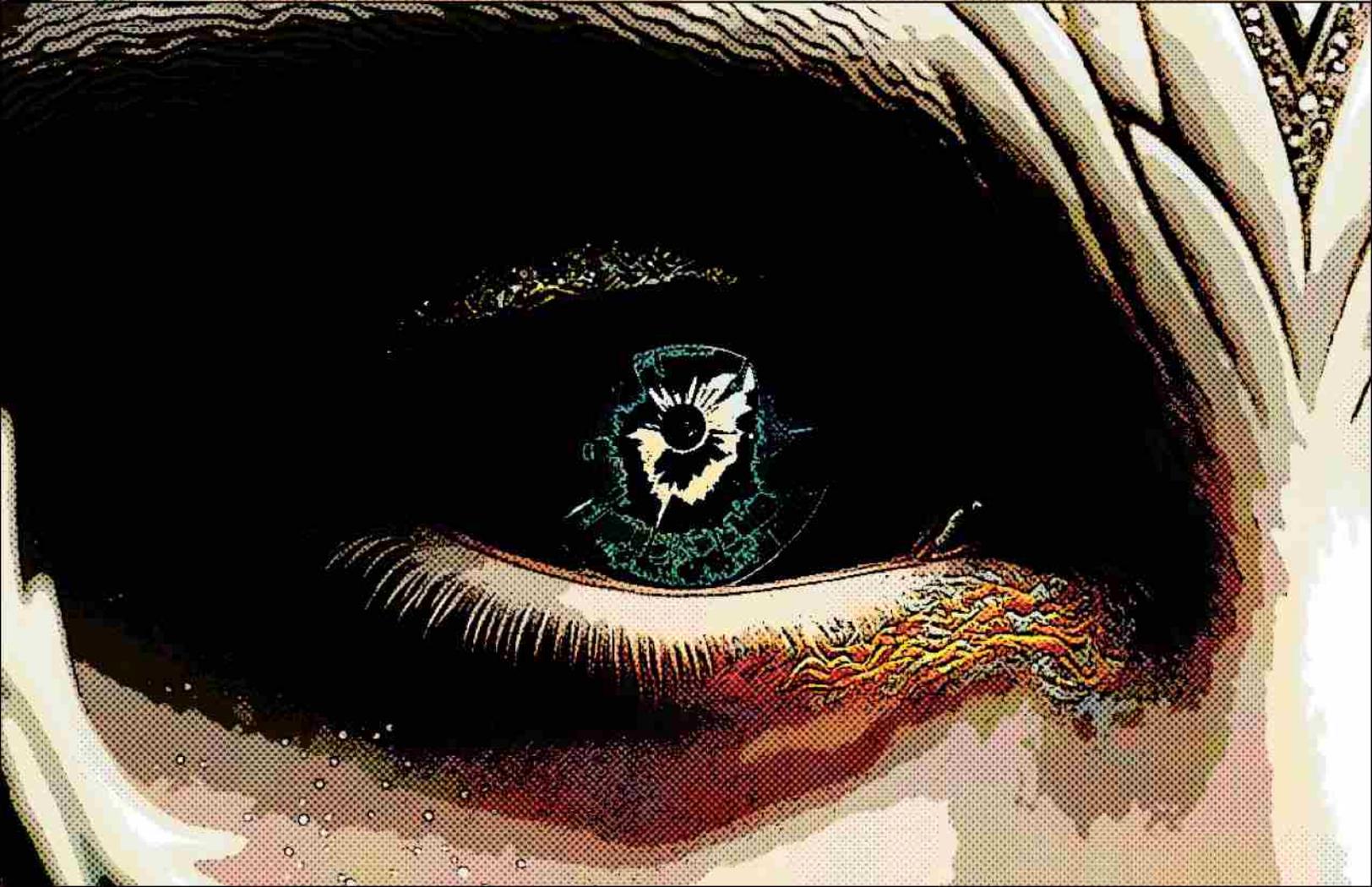
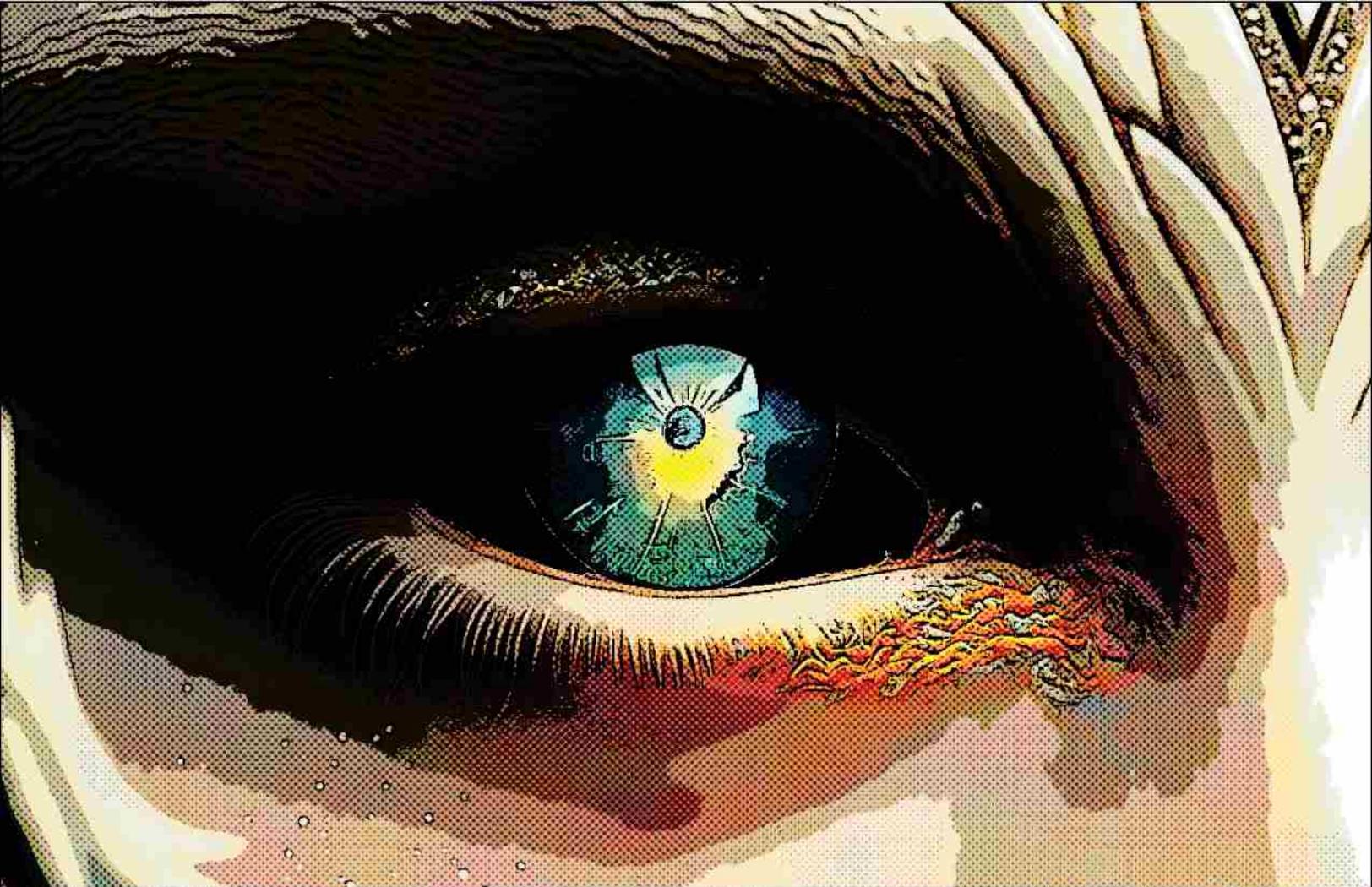


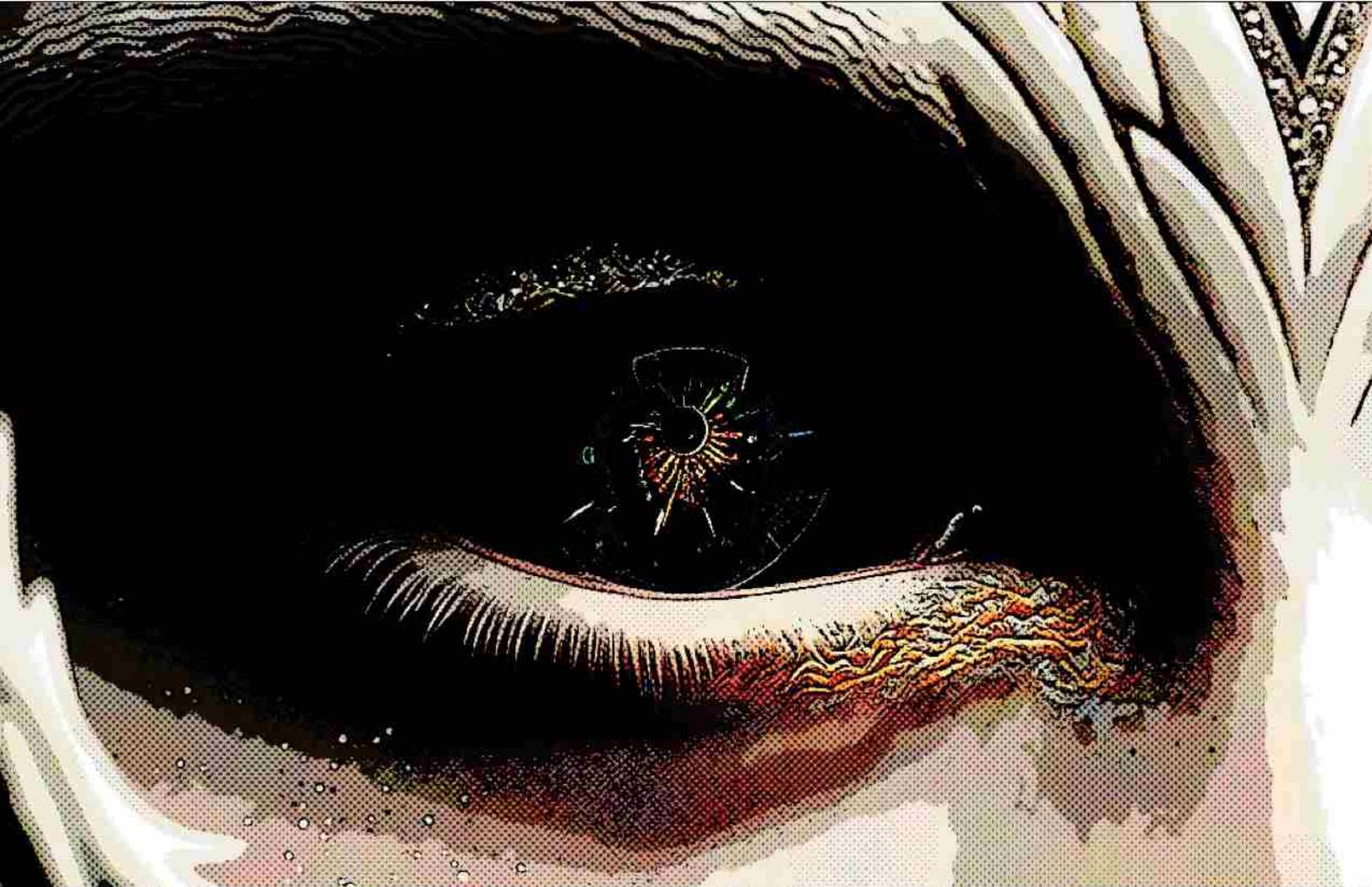
THE LEAF WOULD ACCUMULATE THE EXPERIENCES OF ALL WHO POSSESSED IT. EVERY TIME IT CHANGED HANDS, ITS POWER WOULD INCREASE. THE NEW HOLDER WOULD INHERIT THE PAST, WOULD BE CROWNED WITH WISDOM, ARMED WITH KNOWLEDGE, AND GIVEN THE POWER TO SHAPE THE WORLD AS THEY SO WISHED.

THE OBJECT CAME TO BE CALLED

### THE LORE LEAF.







IT WAS THEIR FINAL GIFT - THEIR SOUL IMBUED  
IN A TOKEN OF LOVE THAT WOULD NEVER DIE -  
BUT LIKE THE LESHAY, THIS FINAL OFFERING TOO  
WOULD SLOWLY FADE INTO MEMORY AND LIE.



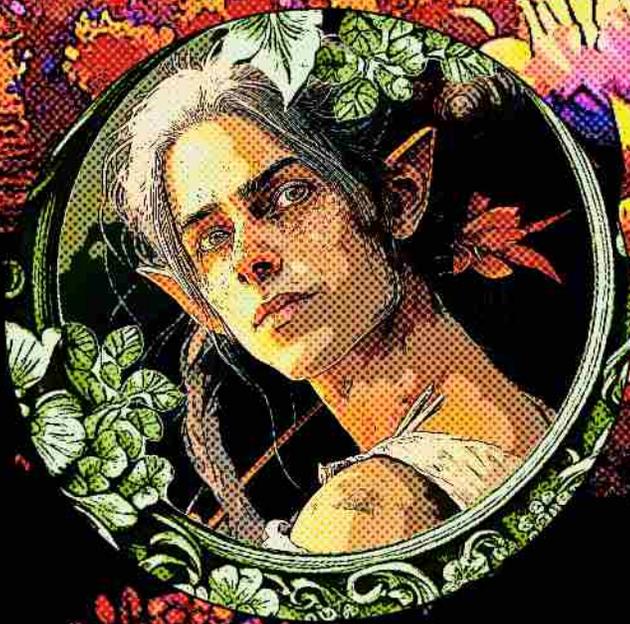
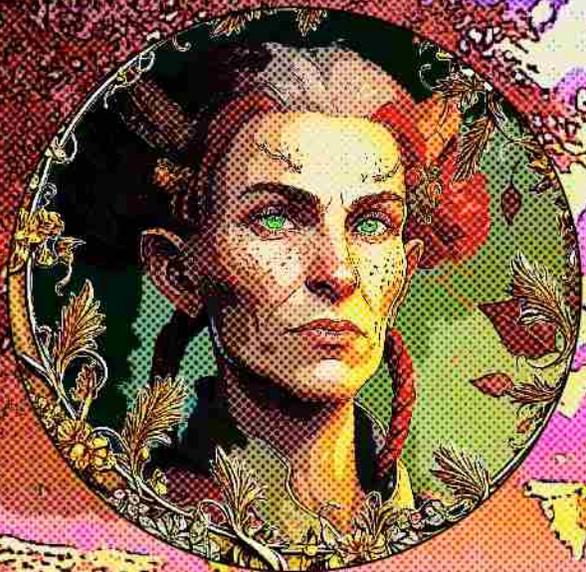


THE CHILDREN OF THE SELDARINE OFTEN WEPT AS THEY REALIZED WHAT THEY HAD LOST, THEIR SORROW MADE MORE INTENSE BY THE INFLUENCE OF THE FEYWILD.

BUT IT WAS ALSO WHEN THEIR SOULS DEEPENED. THEY COULD FEEL TIME, AND IT GAVE MEANING TO THE PASSING SEASONS.

IN THE REALM OF PERPETUAL TWILIGHT,

A NEW DAWN WAS RISING.



To be continued...