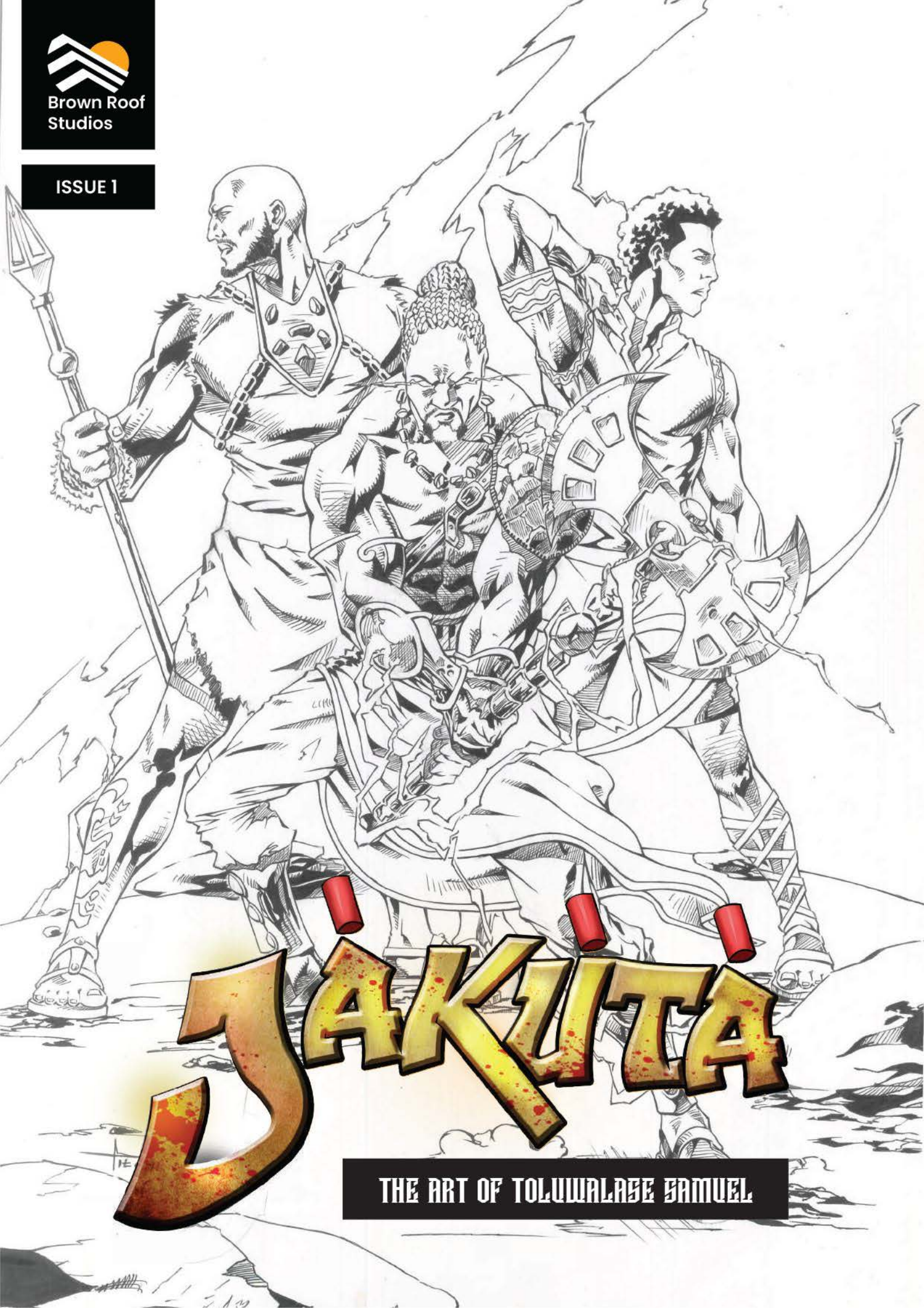
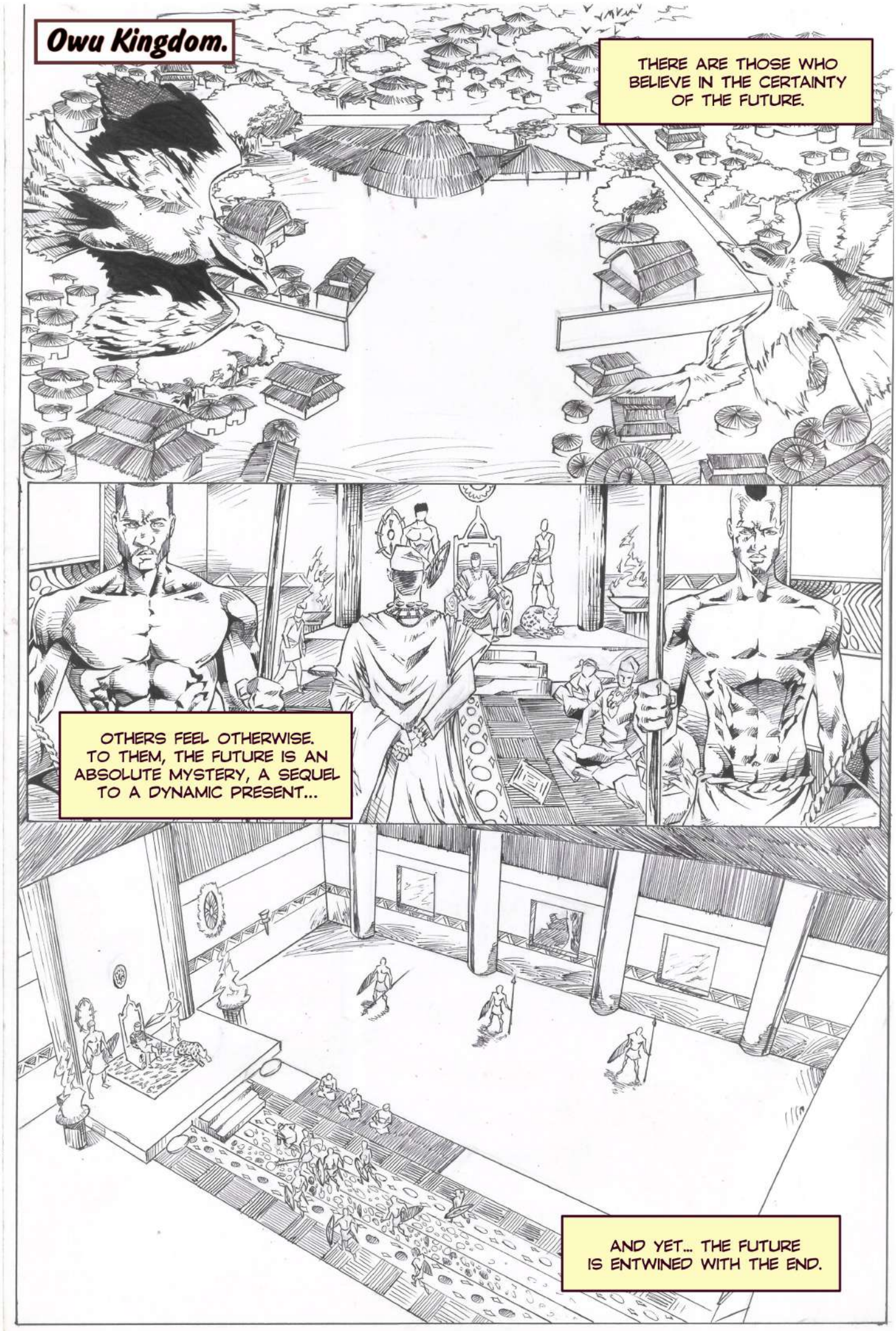
Brown Roof Studios

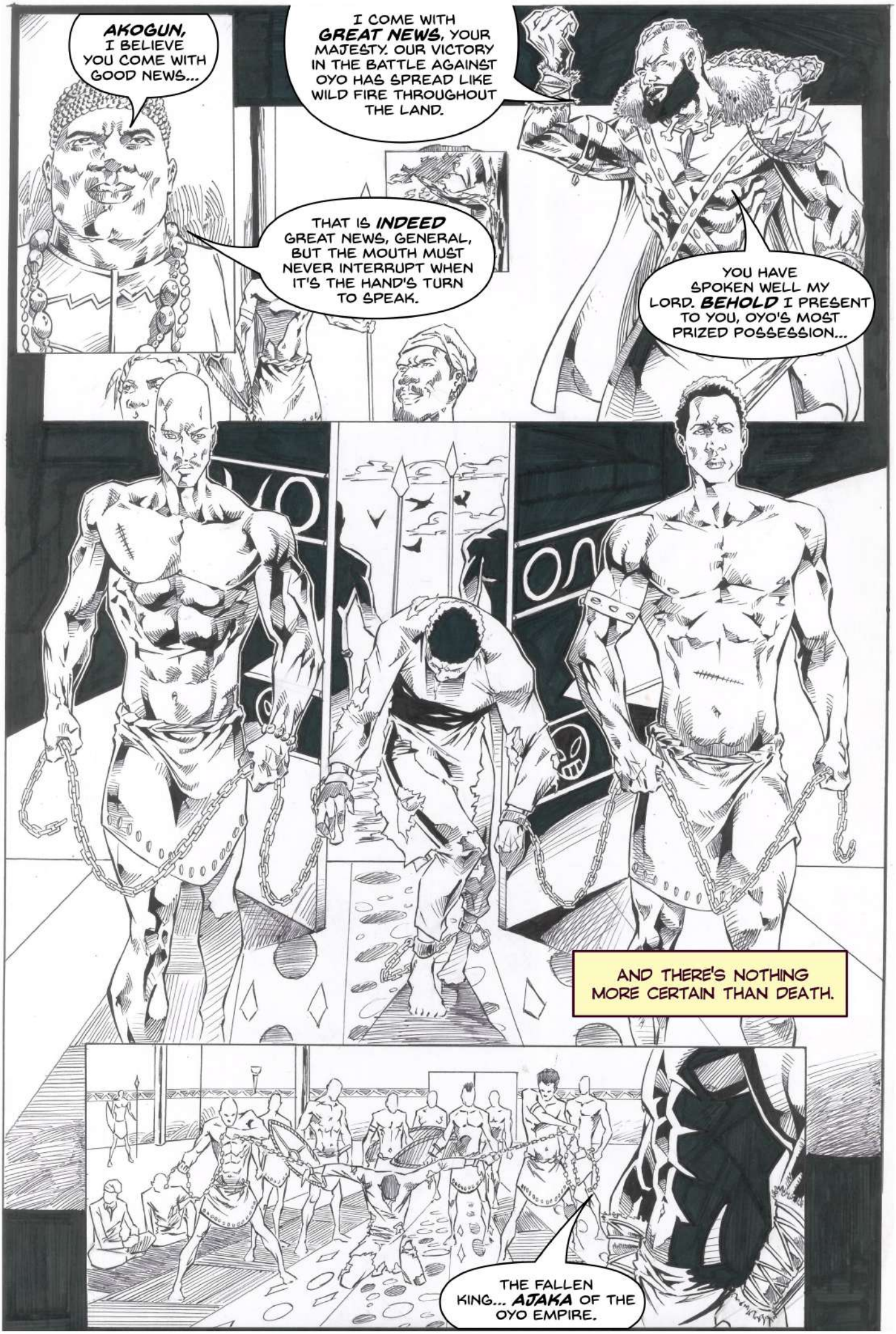
ISSUE 1

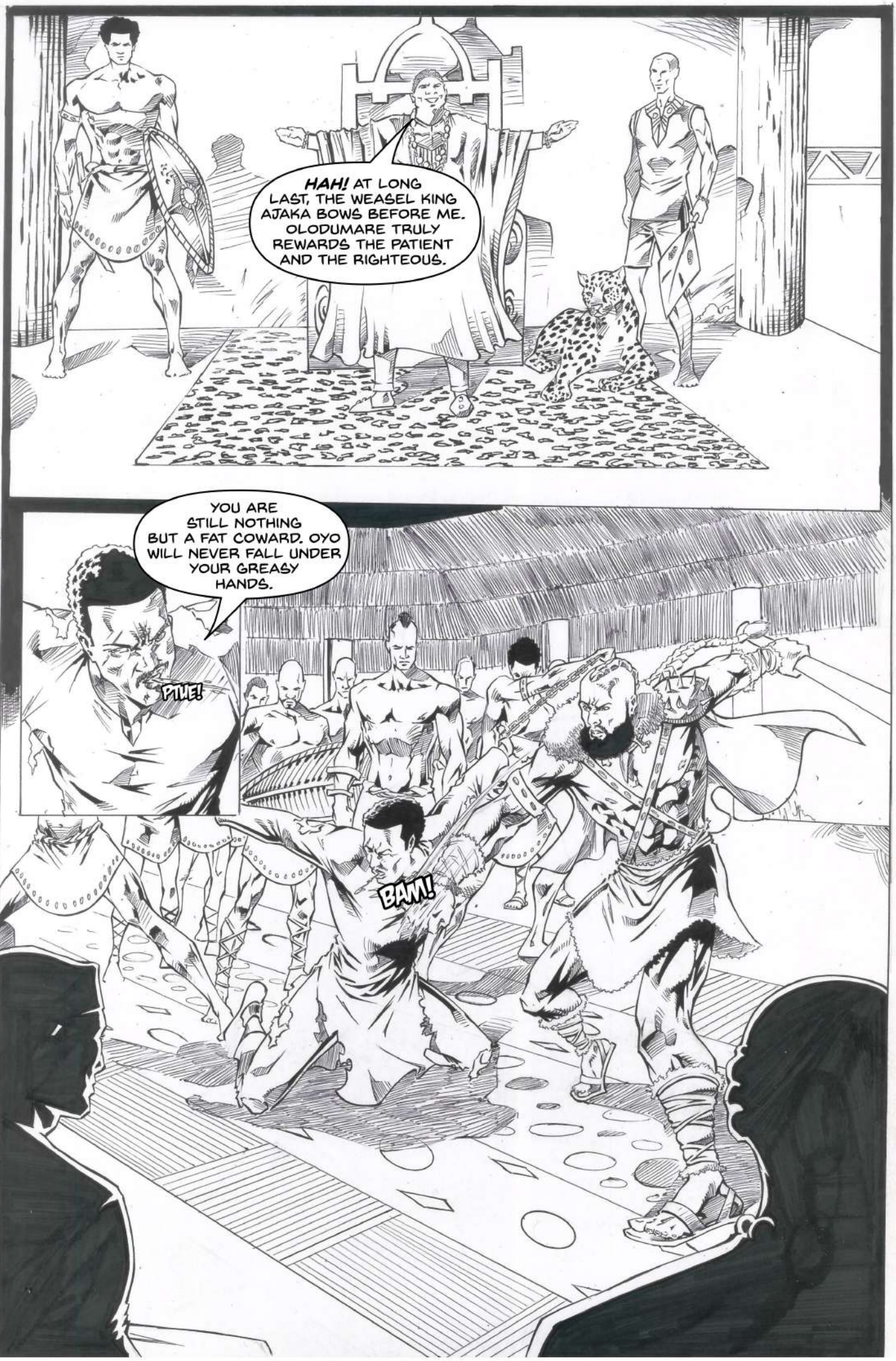


JAKITA

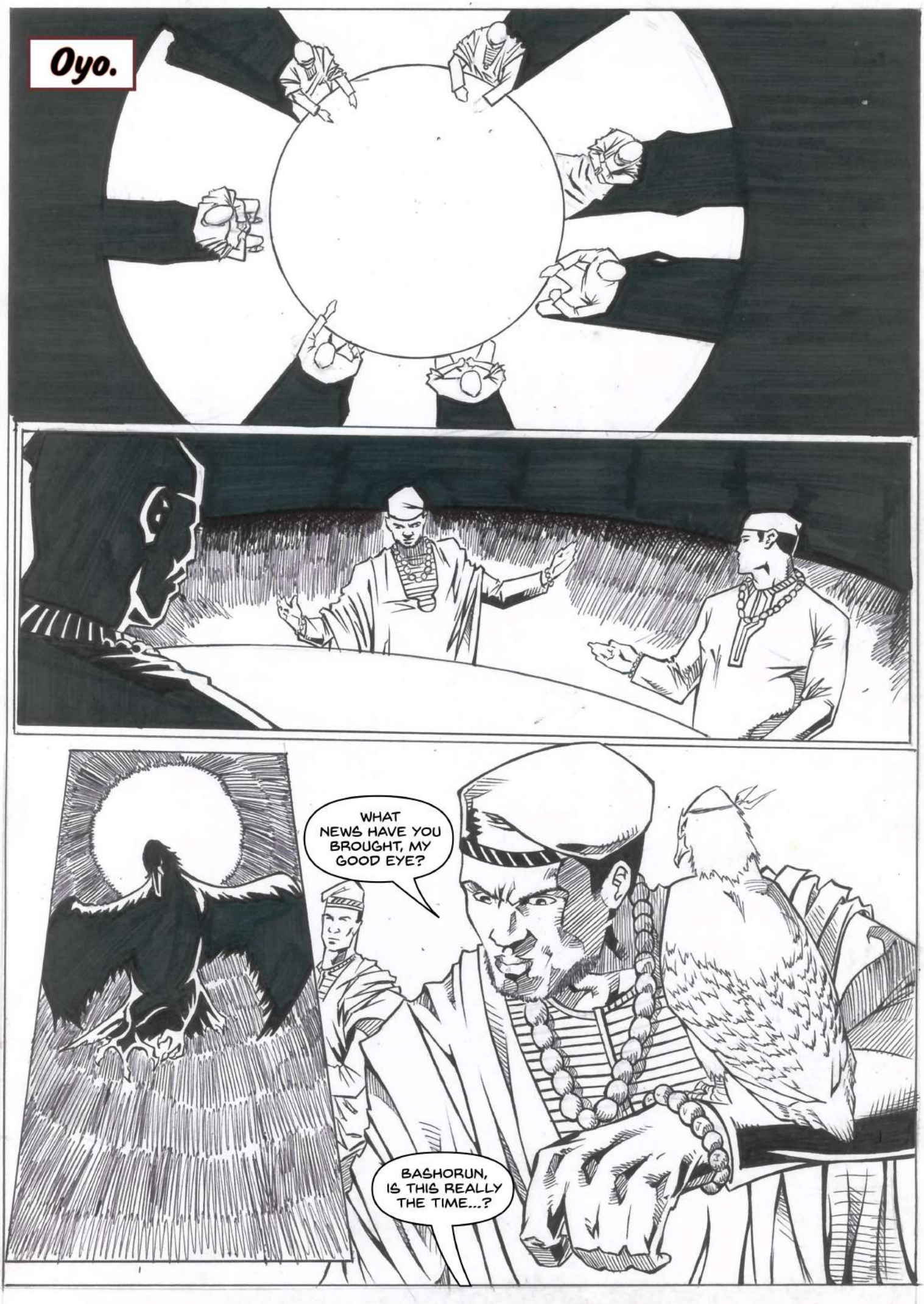
THE ART OF TOLUWALASE SAMUEL


Owu Kingdom.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE CERTAINTY OF THE FUTURE.
OTHERS FEEL OTHERWISE. TO THEM, THE FUTURE IS AN ABSOLUTE MYSTERY, A SEQUEL TO A DYNAMIC PRESENT...
AND YET... THE FUTURE IS ENTWINED WITH THE END.

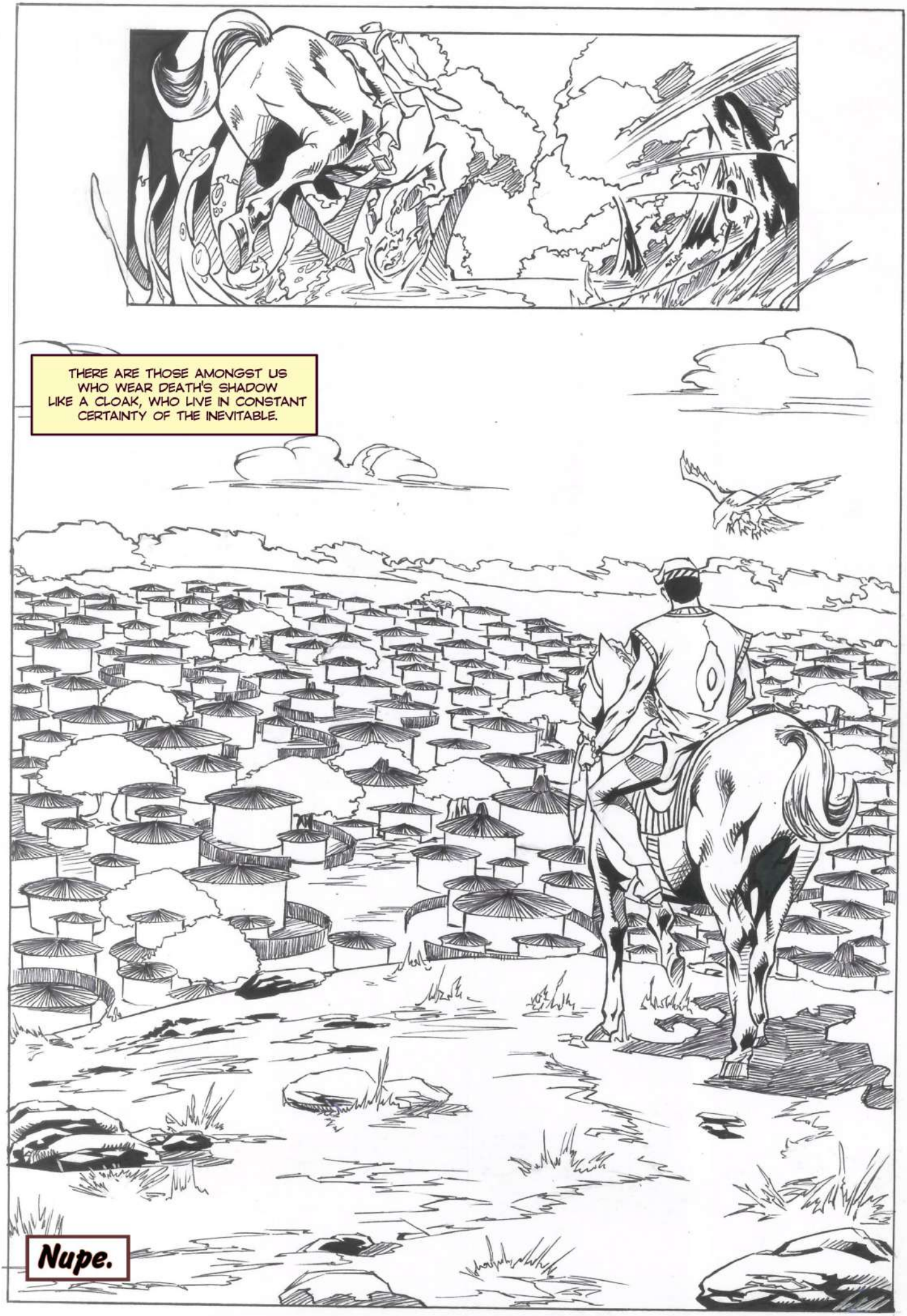

AKOGUN, I BELIEVE YOU COME WITH GOOD NEWS...
I COME WITH GREAT NEWS, YOUR MAJESTY. OUR VICTORY IN THE BATTLE AGAINST OYO HAS SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE THROUGHOUT THE LAND.
THAT IS INDEED GREAT NEWS, GENERAL, BUT THE MOUTH MUST NEVER INTERRUPT WHEN IT'S THE HAND'S TURN TO SPEAK.
YOU HAVE SPOKEN WELL MY LORD. BEHOLD I PRESENT TO YOU, OYO'S MOST PRIZED POSSESSION...
AND THERE'S NOTHING MORE CERTAIN THAN DEATH.
THE FALLEN KING... AJAKA OF THE OYO EMPIRE.


HAH! AT LONG LAST, THE WEASEL KING AJAKA BOWS BEFORE ME. OLODUMARE TRULY REWARDS THE PATIENT AND THE RIGHTEOUS.
YOU ARE STILL NOTHING BUT A FAT COWARD. OYO WILL NEVER FALL UNDER YOUR GREASY HANDS.
PTHE!
BAM!

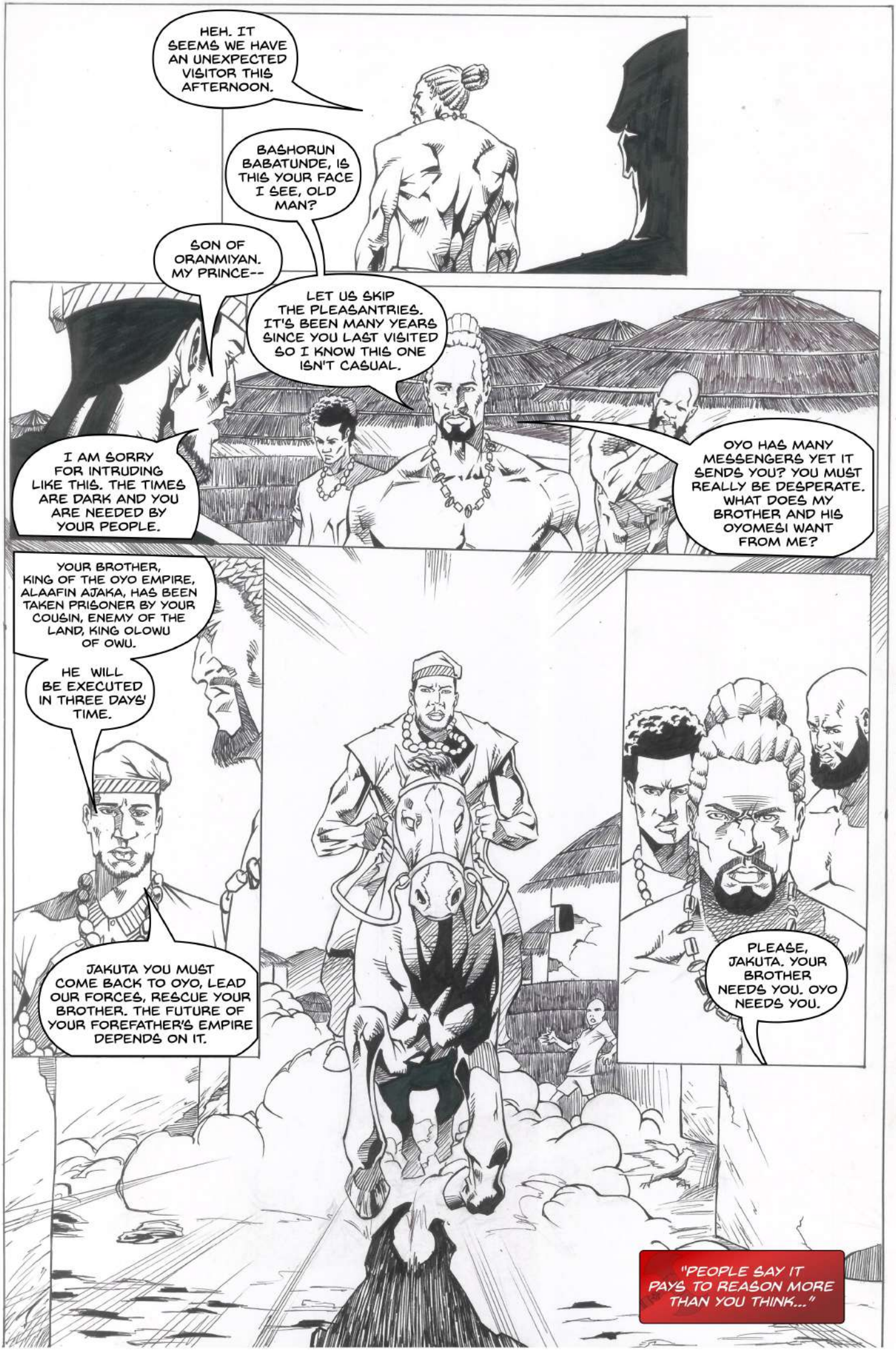
YES PLEASE, STRUGGLE, FIGHT, INSULT ME. IT'LL ONLY MAKE KILLING YOU THAT MUCH SWEETER, AJAKA. I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS DAY FOR A LONG LONG TIME.
GUARDS, GET THIS OYO FILTH OUT OF MY SIGHT.
HIS HEAD WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT TROPHY FOR MY COLLECTION.
SEND WORD TO OYO. TELL HER I, OLOWU OF OWU, AARE ALAMO RE RE, GRANDSON OF THE USURPER HIMSELF-- GIVES THEM THREE DAYS TO SURRENDER.
THREE DAYS! OR I EXECUTE THEIR KING.
JUST ASK THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ODUDUWA AND THEY'LL TELL YOU.
DEATH IS EMBROIDERED ON THE FABRIC OF OUR MYTHOLOGY.

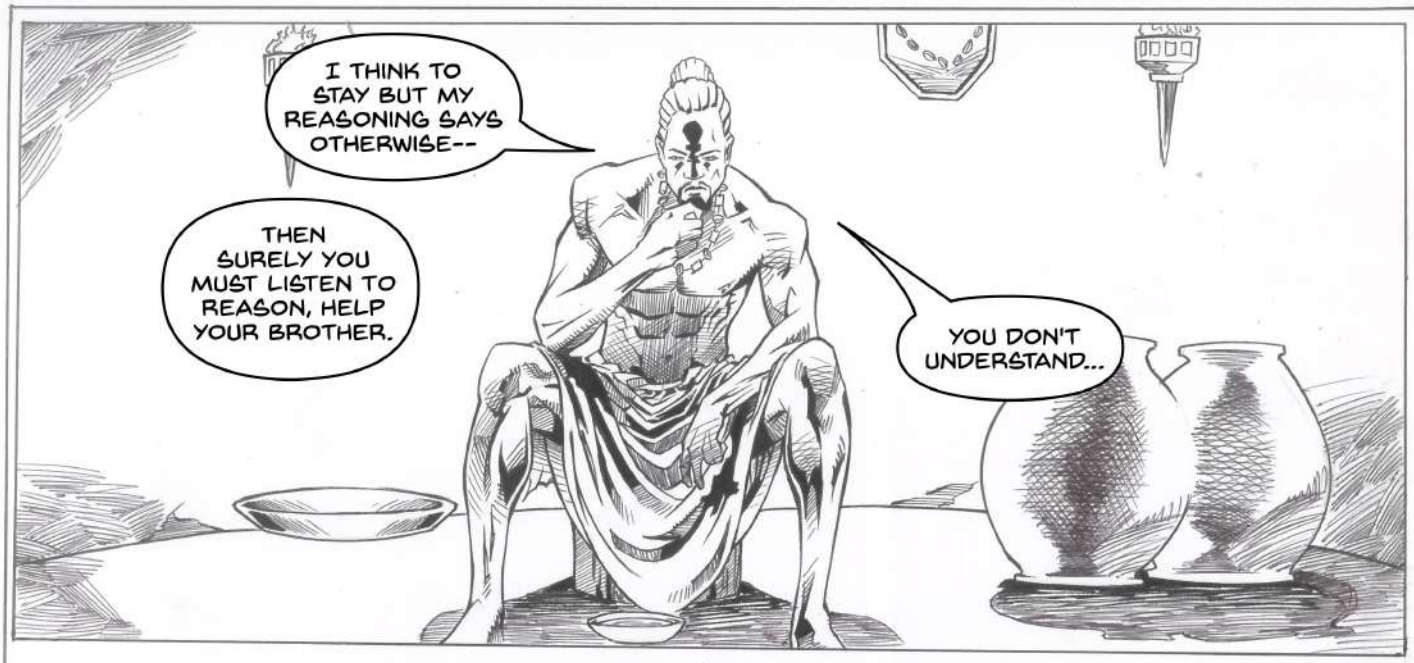

Oyo.
WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU BROUGHT, MY GOOD EYE?
BASHORUN, IS THIS REALLY THE TIME...?

I FEAR THE WORST HAS COME TO OUR DOORSTEP.
ALAAFIN AJAKA HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE OWUS. THE OLOWU HAS ANNOUNCED HIS MAJESTY'S EXECUTION. HE HAS GIVEN US THREE DAYS TO SURRENDER THE THRONE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HOW SURE ARE YOU THAT YOUR BIRD IS NOT BROKEN?
ANIMALS DON'T LIE, ASHIPA. WE HAVE BEEN DELIBERATING ON WHERE THE KING COULD BE AND NOW THE ANSWER HAS COME.
THEN IT IS TRUE, OYO HAS LOST ITS ALAAFIN. SOON THE VULTURES WILL COME TO PICK US OFF PIECE BY PIECE.
GODS FORBID! NOT IF WE HAVE A SAY IN IT.
BUT WHAT CAN WE POSSIBLY DO?
THERE IS ONE MAN WE CAN SEEK OUT FOR HELP... THE KING'S BROTHER.
JAKUTA.
HOW SURE ARE YOU THAT HE WILL COME?
THIS IS OUR BEST OPTION FOR NOW, IF HE DECLINES, THEN WE GATHER OUR HARDEST WARRIORS.
AND PRAY THAT THEY ARE ENOUGH AGAINST THE OLOWU'S FORCES.
I MUST HURRY TO NUPE TO INFORM JAKUTA MYSELF.
BASHORUN, YOU MUST CONVINCE HIM TO COME. FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAND.


THERE ARE THOSE AMONGST US WHO WEAR DEATH'S SHADOW LIKE A CLOAK, WHO LIVE IN CONSTANT CERTAINTY OF THE INEVITABLE.
Nupe.

TO THEM DEATH IS TRUER THAN ANY PORTENT, THAN ANY PROPHECY... THAN EVEN THE STRONGEST OF EDAS.
PAAHH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! USE YOUR WEIGHT FOR GODS SAKE.
GBONKA, ORE MI*, YOU'RE JUST BIG FOR NOTHING.
HAHA
KEEP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH TILL IT'S YOUR TURN, TIMI. THEN WE'LL SEE IF YOUR TONGUE IS QUICKER THAN MY FIST..
*MY FRIEND.
WHAAM!


HEH. IT SEEMS WE HAVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR THIS AFTERNOON.
BASHORUN BABATUNDE, IS THIS YOUR FACE I SEE, OLD MAN?
SON OF ORANMIYAN. MY PRINCE--
LET US SKIP THE PLEASANTRIES. IT'S BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE YOU LAST VISITED SO I KNOW THIS ONE ISN'T CASUAL.
I AM SORRY FOR INTRUDING LIKE THIS. THE TIMES ARE DARK AND YOU ARE NEEDED BY YOUR PEOPLE.
OYO HAS MANY MESSENGERS YET IT SENDS YOU? YOU MUST REALLY BE DESPERATE. WHAT DOES MY BROTHER AND HIS OYOMESI WANT FROM ME?
YOUR BROTHER, KING OF THE OYO EMPIRE, ALAAFIN AJAKA, HAS BEEN TAKEN PRISONER BY YOUR COUSIN, ENEMY OF THE LAND, KING OLOWU OF OWU.
HE WILL BE EXECUTED IN THREE DAYS' TIME.
JAKUTA YOU MUST COME BACK TO OYO, LEAD OUR FORCES, RESCUE YOUR BROTHER. THE FUTURE OF YOUR FOREFATHER'S EMPIRE DEPENDS ON IT.
PLEASE, JAKUTA. YOUR BROTHER NEEDS YOU. OYO NEEDS YOU.
"PEOPLE SAY IT PAYS TO REASON MORE THAN YOU THINK..."


I THINK TO STAY BUT MY REASONING SAYS OTHERWISE--
THEN SURELY YOU MUST LISTEN TO REASON, HELP YOUR BROTHER.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

"IF I HELP MY BROTHER BREAK HIS CHAINS, IF I RISE UP AGAINST HIS CAPTOR IN ANY WAY... AJAKA WOULD LOSE THE CROWN. HE WOULD CEASE TO BE KING. THAT IS THE LAW."
"AJAKA KNOWS THIS..."

I'M CERTAIN HE DOES NOT WANT MY HELP.
MAY NOT WANT IT BUT HE STILL NEEDS IT. UNLESS YOU WOULD LET HIM DIE?
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, WIFE.

YOU MEN AND YOUR PRIDE.
YOU WOULD STARE THE SUN DOWN IF IT CALLED YOU BLIND.

BROTHERS, I HAVE SPOKEN TO JAKUTA. HIS RESPONSE IS NOT ASSURING AND SO WE NEED TO PREPARE THE TROOPS FOR THE LAST HOUR.
OYO MUST FIGHT BACK, NO MATTER WHAT, IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE.
Back in Oyo.

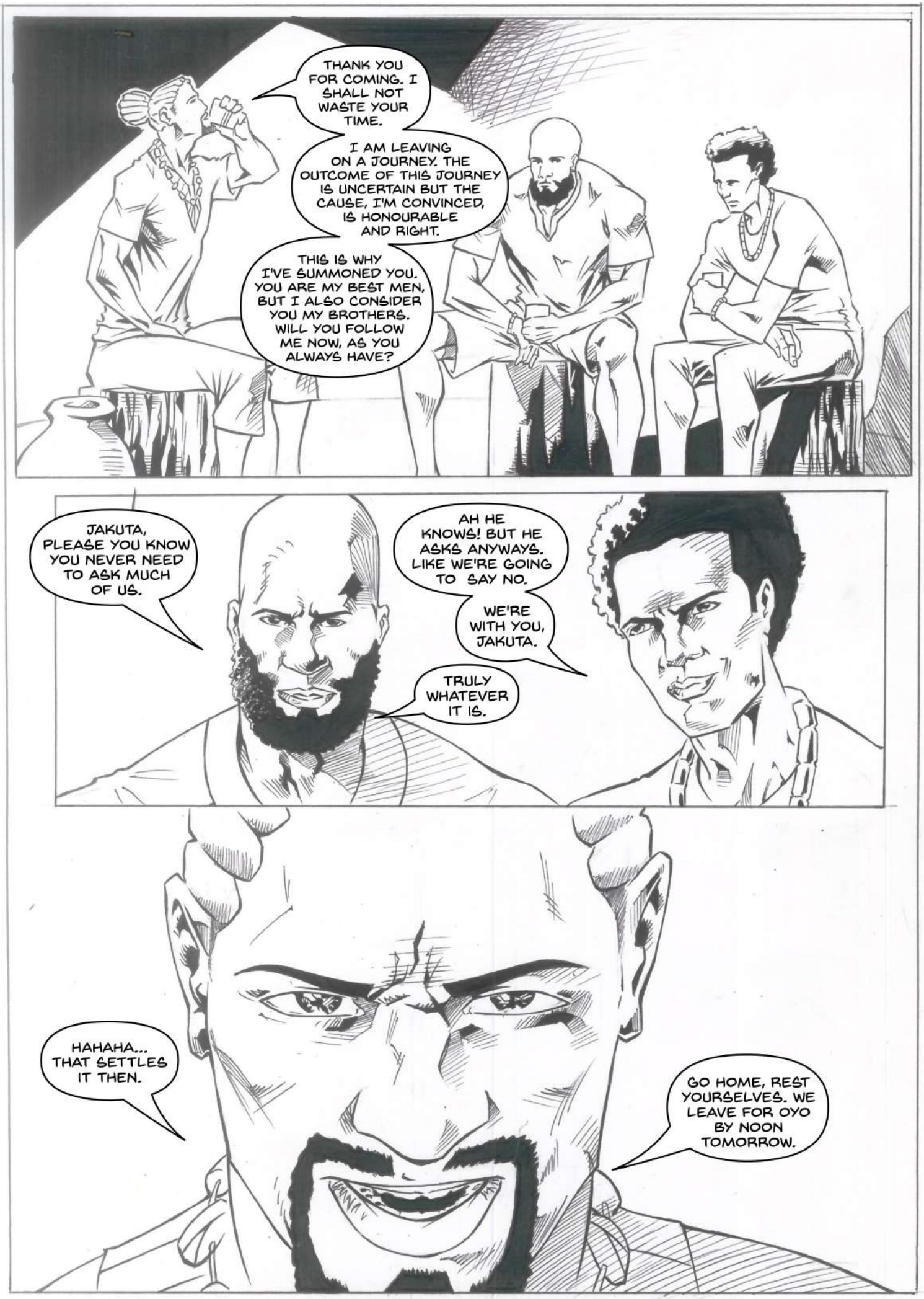
I KNOW THIS IS YOUR HOME, JAKUTA, AND IT HAS BEEN GOOD HERE, BUT YOUR BROTHER AND YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN JAKUTA. I KNOW YOUR HEART IS SPEAKING TO YOU.
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT TROUBLES ME, DEAR WIFE. A MAN'S HEART IS A CAPRICIOUS THING, AND I COULD NOT TELL YOU THAT IT WISHES TO SAVE AJAKA SOLELY BECAUSE WE ARE BROTHERS.
AFTER ALL, WHAT MAN WOULD NOT BE KING IF IT WERE OFFERED HIM?
WE MUST STAY STRONG TILL THE END.
OJU ONI TI WA*.
*WE WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.
PLUS, IF I'M BEING HONEST, MAYBE I'M STILL ANGRY. I WAS CAST OUT, OBA. EXILED BY MY OWN FATHER. WHERE WAS AJAKA THEN?

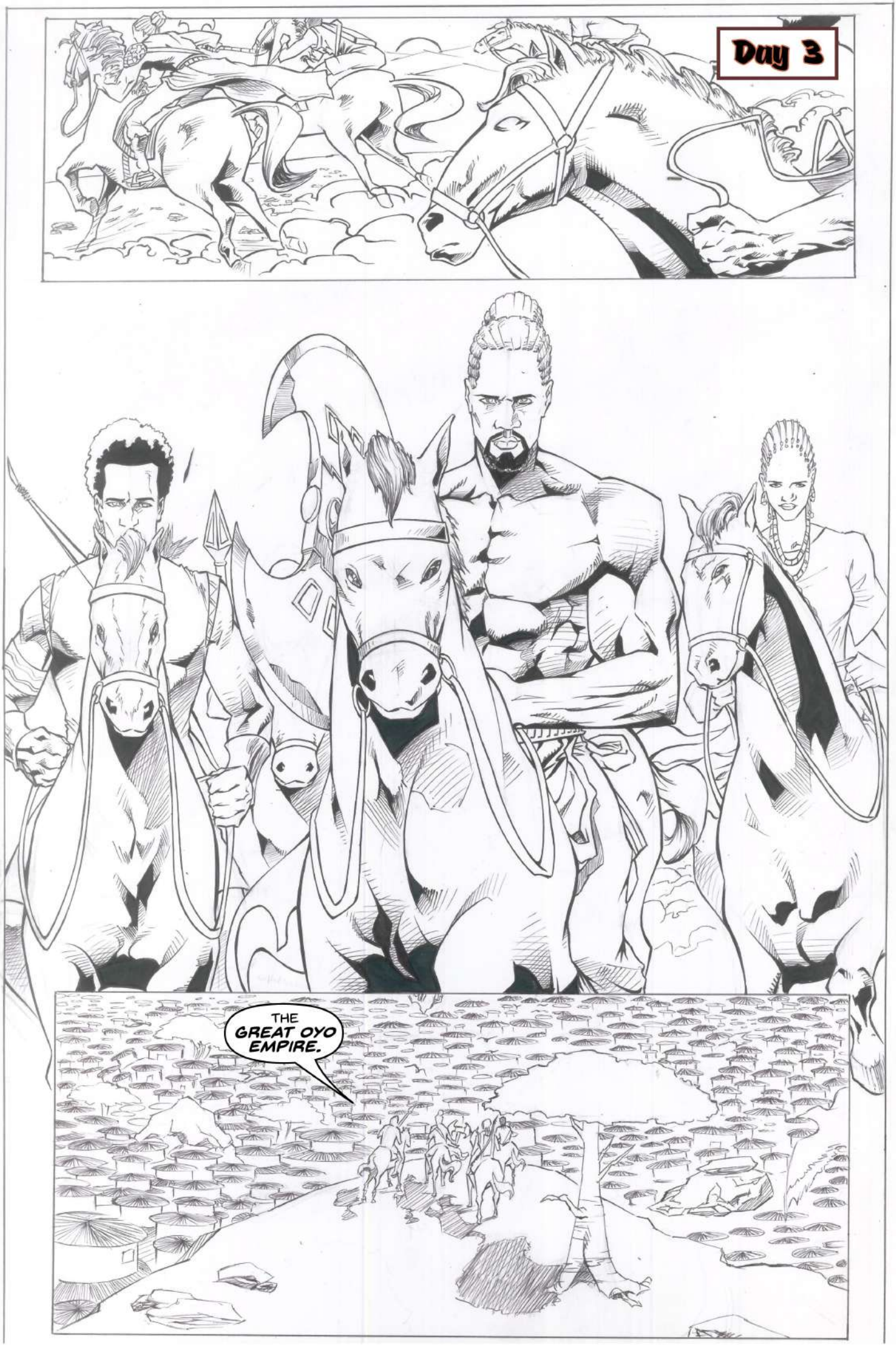
SO WHY THEN DO WE FEAR DEATH? WHY CHOOSE UNCERTAINTY OVER WHAT IS CERTAIN?
SO THIS IS YOUR END, EH AJAKA? THIS IS HOW YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED? CHAINED UP LIKE AN ANIMAL.
YOU. A WHOLE KING!
OH GODS. I'M NOT READY.. I-- I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
PLEASE OLODUMARE-- PLEASE. HELP ME. PLEASE DON'T LET ME DIE IN THIS PLACE.
POOR POOR AJAKA
LITTLE CRYING AJAKA. ALWAYS CRYING FOR HELP...
WHO'S THERE? WHO SAID THAT?! SHOW YOUR FACE!
I DARE YOU!

ESPECIALLY WHEN THE UNKNOWN...
DARE ME?
HEH.
OMODE O M'EWURO L'OOGUN, O N PEE L'EFO*
*THE NAIVE CHILD WHO MISTAKES CHARMS FOR ORDINARY LEAVES.
LITTLE KING... CRYING IN THE DARK.
LITTLE WEAKLING...
YOU.
CAN BE EVEN MORE TERRIFYING.
DARE ME?

Day 1
SHKIINN!
I SEE YOU'VE MADE A DECISION.
YOUR SMILE, OBA. IT IS THE SUN ITSELF. I'LL GLADLY GO BLIND LOOKING AT IT.
SWEET TALKER.
YOU'VE MADE AN HONORABLE CHOICE, JAKUTA. I'LL GET TIMI AND GBONKA. I KNOW YOU NEED THEM.
AM I NOT A LUCKY MAN TO HAVE SUCH A WIFE?
YES YOU ARE.

Day 2
THEY'RE HERE, HUSBAND. TIMI AND GBONKA HAVE ARRIVED.
GOOD. TELL THEM I'LL BE RIGHT OUT.
GOOD DAY, JAKUTA.
MY BROTHERS, RISE...


THANK YOU FOR COMING. I SHALL NOT WASTE YOUR TIME.
I AM LEAVING ON A JOURNEY. THE OUTCOME OF THIS JOURNEY IS UNCERTAIN BUT THE CAUSE, I'M CONVINCED, IS HONOURABLE AND RIGHT.
THIS IS WHY I'VE SUMMONED YOU. YOU ARE MY BEST MEN, BUT I ALSO CONSIDER YOU MY BROTHERS. WILL YOU FOLLOW ME NOW, AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE?
JAKUTA, PLEASE YOU KNOW YOU NEVER NEED TO ASK MUCH OF US.
AH HE KNOWS! BUT HE ASKS ANYWAYS. LIKE WE'RE GOING TO SAY NO.
WE'RE WITH YOU, JAKUTA.
TRULY WHATEVER IT IS.
HAHAHA... THAT SETTLES IT THEN.
GO HOME, REST YOURSELVES. WE LEAVE FOR OYO BY NOON TOMORROW.

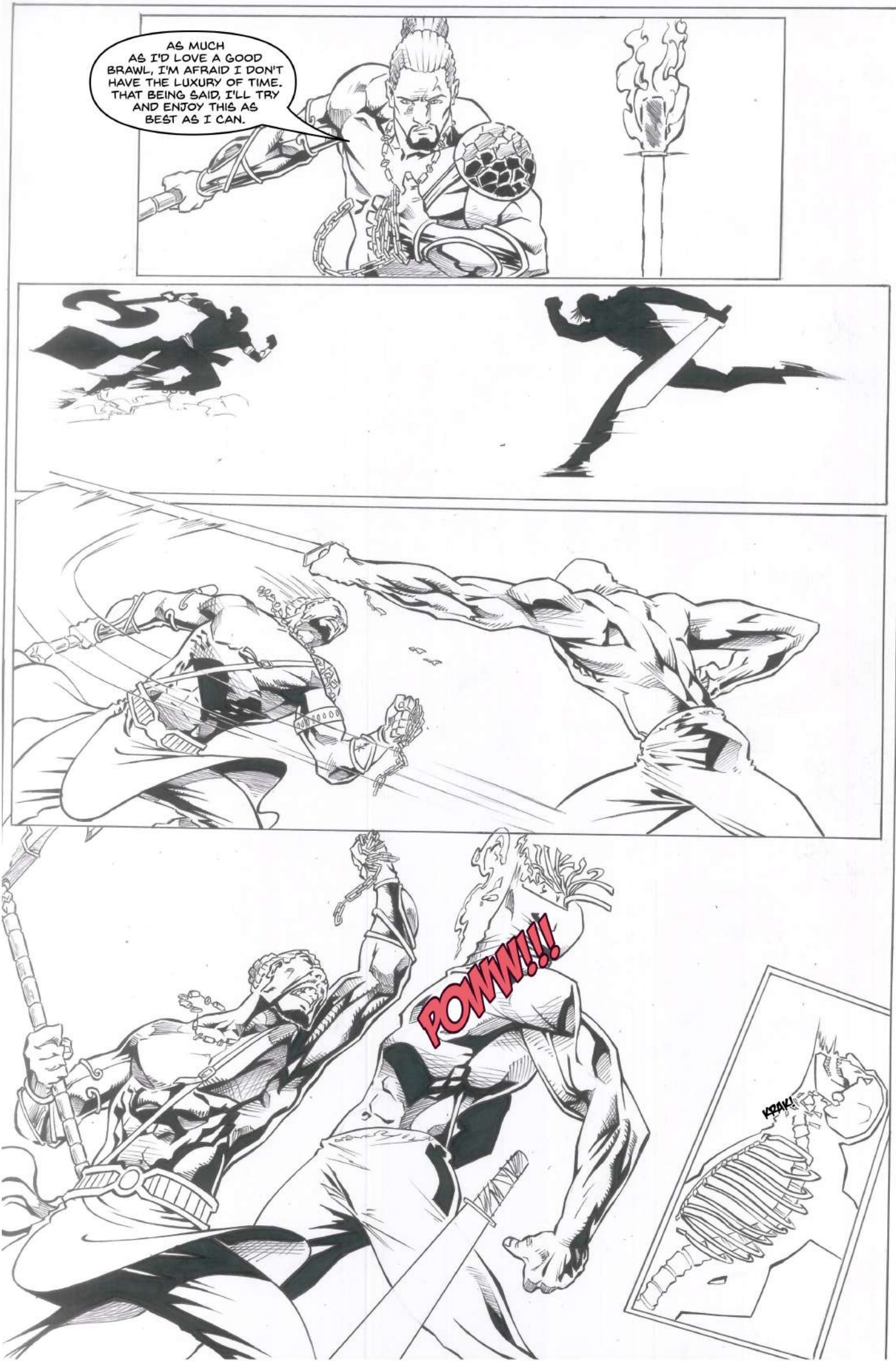

Day 3
THE GREAT OYO EMPIRE.

"AGEMO TI BIMO."*
"ONLY SHE KNOWS WHAT'S COMING... ONLY THE SEA KNOWS."
*THE MASQUERADE HATH CONCEIVED.
"ONLY THE SEA KNOWS..."
O MA SE O.*
DID I TELL YOU? HE'S BEEN GOING ON LIKE THAT SINCE I CAME IN.
*SUCH A SHAME.
THE MEN ON THE LAST SHIFT SAID THEY FOUND HIM TALKING TO HIMSELF...
I'M TELLING YOU, THE WAY HE'S CHAINED UP LIKE THAT, IT ISN'T RIGHT AT ALL. THAT MAN IS STILL A KING.
LIKE ONE OF THOSE CRAZY PEOPLE KORO KEEPS TIED UP AT HIS SHRINE.
THREE DAYS AND HE'S ALREADY CRACKED LIKE AN EGG. I KNOW WHORES THAT LAST LONGER. THIS ONE ISN'T KING OF ANYTHING.
AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM ISN'T IT? THESE MEN WHO LEAD US ARE NOT MEN AT ALL, ARE THEY?
WE HUNT FOR THEM, FARM FOR THEM, FIGHT FOR THEM... THEY DO NOTHING AND YET REAP EVERYTHING.
THEY'RE LIKE CHILDREN. ALL THEY DO IS SIT IN THEIR SHINNY PALACES, EATING AND SHITING AND SPAWNING INCOMPETENT BASTARDS WHO CAN'T TELL CUTLASS FROM SWORD.
"OUR OLD KINGS CONQUERED ARMIES, FOUGHT GODS!"
"WHICH GODS CAN THESE ONES' FIGHT? THEY'D DEFECATE THEMSELVES IF THEY EVER SAW ONE."
ONLY THE SEA KNOWS. ONLY THE SEA...

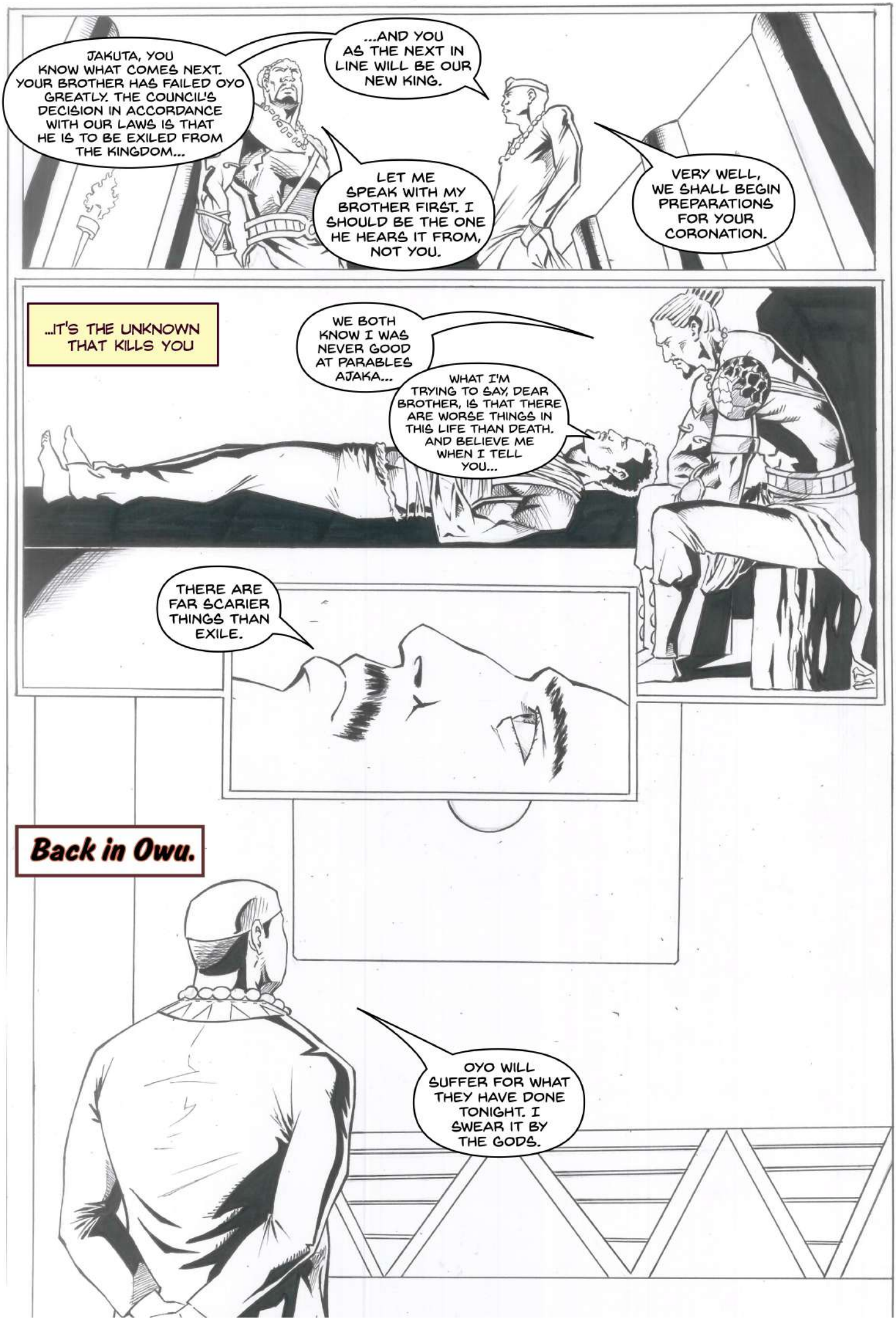
I WILL LEAD THE TROOPS AND RESCUE MY BROTHER.
AT LAST, OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.
THE TIME IS SHORT, PREPARE THE TROOPS NOW AND HURRY.
OYO IS NOT DOOMED AFTER ALL...
OYA O* GREAT ALAAFIN AJAKA. IT IS TIME.
*READY YOURSELF.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE SCARY THAN THE UNKNOWN...
THERE'S NOTHING MORE CERTAIN THAN DEATH.

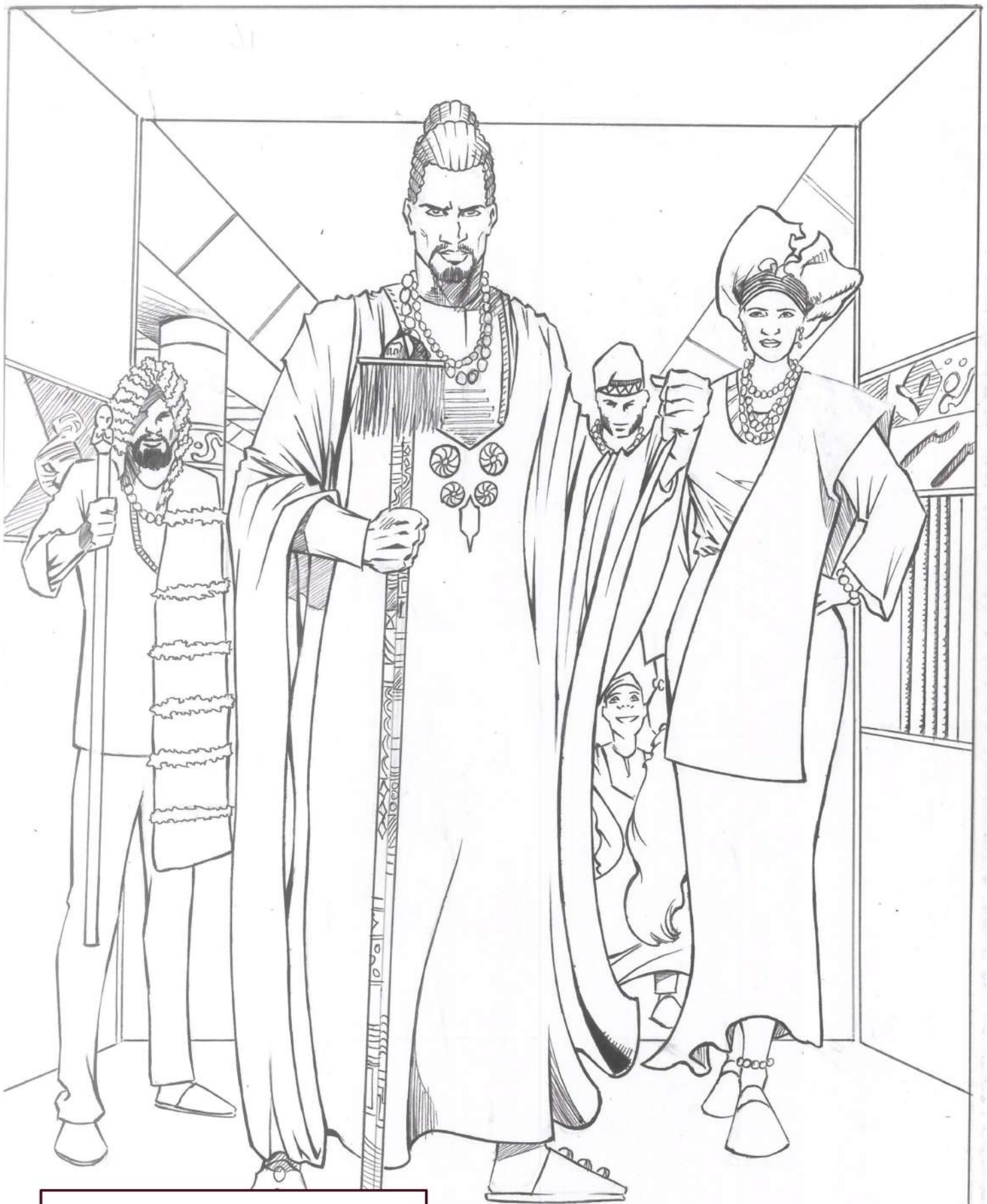
SOUND THE ALARM! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
RAAHHH!!!
HOLD THEM BACK. TIMI CLEAR US A PATH TO THE PRISON CELLS.
SWISH!
WE MUST FIND THE ALAAFIN BEFORE THEY CALL IN REINFORCEMENTS.
SHKKIIINNNNNN...

SOMEBODY TELL THE GENERAL!
HE'S A BIG ONE.
I CAN SEE THAT.
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HIM?
NO. GET ALAAFIN AJAKA AND RETURN TO OYO, I WILL CATCH UP.
FWWIIIP!!!
AARRRGHH!!!


AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE A GOOD BRAWL, I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME. THAT BEING SAID, I'LL TRY AND ENJOY THIS AS BEST AS I CAN.
POWW!!!
KRAK!

SORRY BUT THE OYO EMPIRE WILL NOT BE FALLING TODAY... OR ANYTIME SOON.
YOU CAN TELL YOUR KING THAT JAKUTA SAID SO.
Oyo.
DEATH TAKES YOU BUT...


JAKUTA, YOU KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT. YOUR BROTHER HAS FAILED OYO GREATLY. THE COUNCIL'S DECISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LAWS IS THAT HE IS TO BE EXILED FROM THE KINGDOM...
...AND YOU AS THE NEXT IN LINE WILL BE OUR NEW KING.
LET ME SPEAK WITH MY BROTHER FIRST. I SHOULD BE THE ONE HE HEARS IT FROM, NOT YOU.
VERY WELL, WE SHALL BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR CORONATION.
...IT'S THE UNKNOWN THAT KILLS YOU
WE BOTH KNOW I WAS NEVER GOOD AT PARABLES AJAKA...
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY, DEAR BROTHER, IS THAT THERE ARE WORSE THINGS IN THIS LIFE THAN DEATH. AND BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU...
THERE ARE FAR SCARIER THINGS THAN EXILE.
Back in Owu.
OYO WILL SUFFER FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TONIGHT. I SWEAR IT BY THE GODS.



AND SO, THE 3RD ALAAFIN OF THE OYO EMPIRE RISES. SOME CALL HIM ***JAKUTA*** OTHERS CALL HIM OBAKOSO. HIS NAME IS SET TO ECHO THUNDER AT ITS CALL. AND SOON ALL WILL COME TO KNOW HIM AS ***"SANGO".***

THE END.