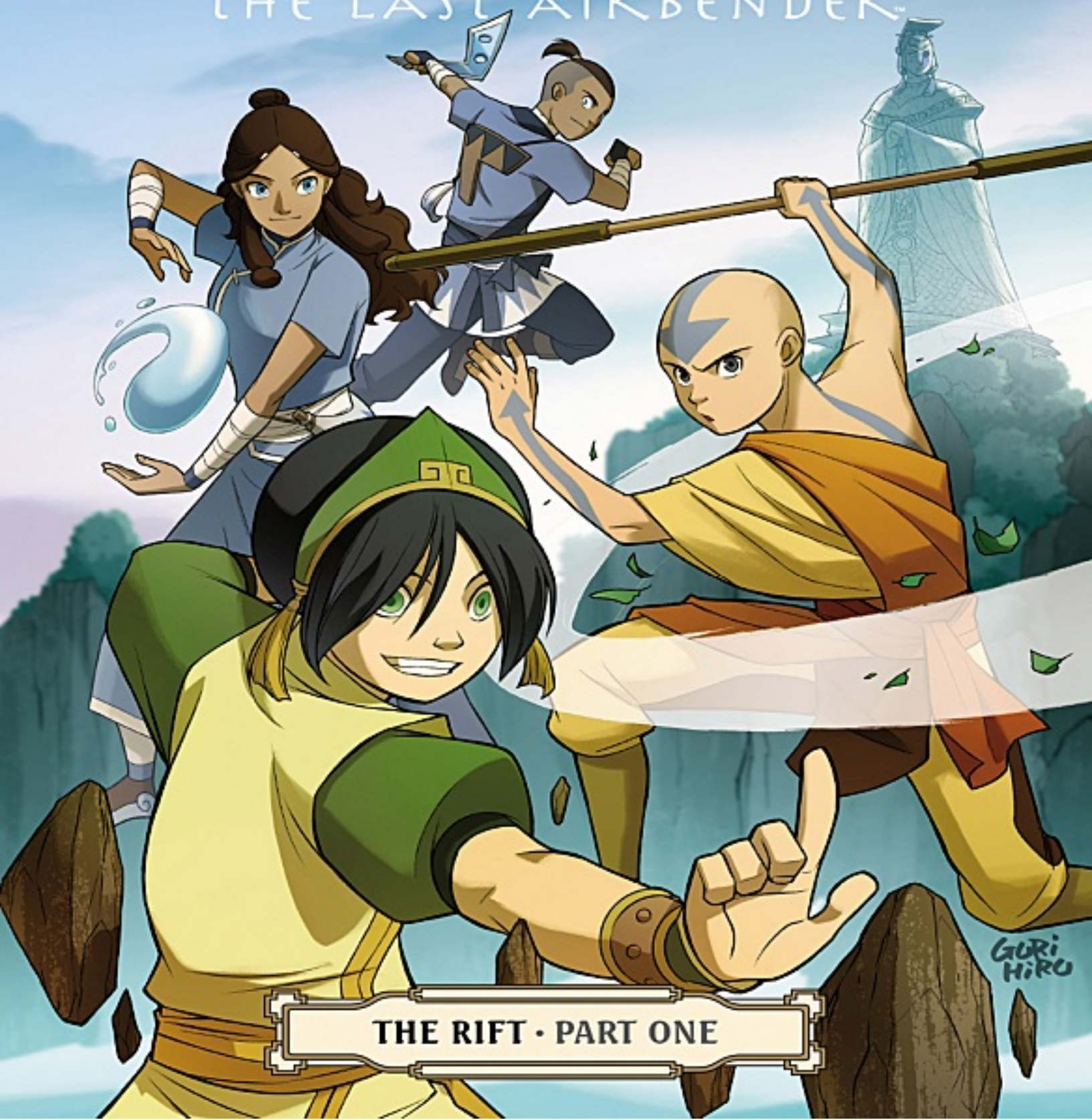


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# AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER™



THE RIFT • PART ONE

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AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER™

Created by  
Bryan Konietzko  
Michael Dante DiMartino



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# AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER

THE RIFT • PART ONE

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Nickelodeon Avatar: The Last Airbender™—The Rift Part 1

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YU DAO.



ZUKO WAS SUCH A BIG PART OF MAKING THIS HAPPEN. TOO BAD HE COULDN'T JOIN US TODAY!

URSA AND HER FAMILY ARE VISITING THE CAPITAL CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HER EXILE. FIRE LORD ZUKO NEEDS TO BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM.



HOW DID YOUR TENURE AS THE INTERIM FIRE LORD GO, IRON?

I HAD MUCH MORE FUN -- AND MORE TEA -- THAN I HAD EXPECTED! THE NATIONAL TEA APPRECIATION DAY WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS!

BUT IT ONLY MADE ME MISS MY LITTLE TEASHOP ALL THE MORE.

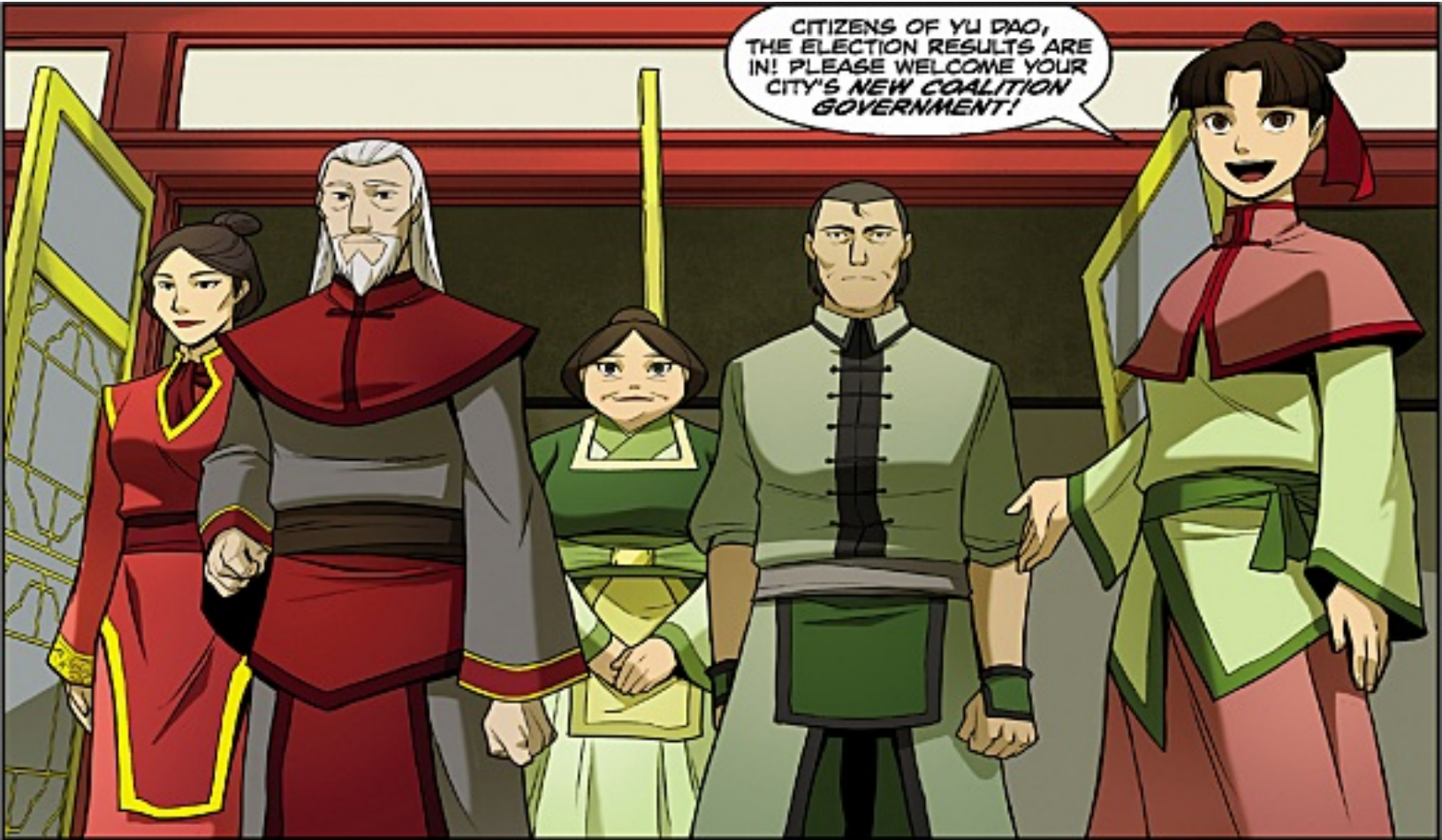


YOU'LL BE GOING HOME SOON, I HOPE?

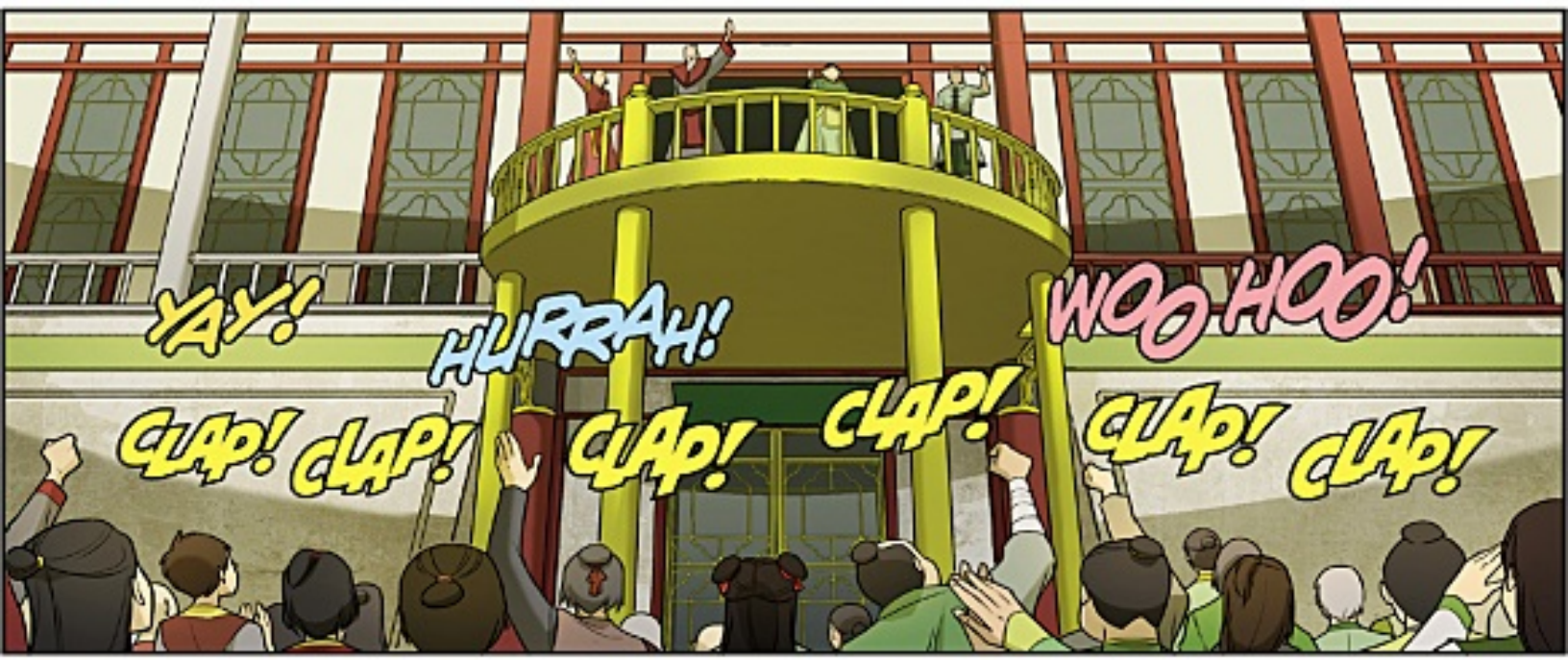
OH YES! ATTENDING THIS IS MY LAST BIT OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS! AFTERWARDS, IT'S BACK TO BA SING SE FOR ME!



LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE READY TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT!



CITIZENS OF YU DAO,  
THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE  
IN! PLEASE WELCOME YOUR  
CITY'S NEW COALITION  
GOVERNMENT!



YAY!

HURRAH!

WOO HOO!

CLAP! CLAP!

CLAP!

CLAP!

CLAP! CLAP!



FIRE NATION  
ALONGSIDE EARTH  
KINGDOM... YOU  
REALLY THINK  
THOSE PEOPLE  
WILL GET ALONG  
WELL ENOUGH TO  
GOVERN THIS  
PLACE, TWINKLE  
TOES?

THEY'VE  
GOT TO. YU DAO'S  
THE EXAMPLE. THE  
REMAINING COLONIES  
ARE ALL TRYING TO  
SET UP THE SAME  
SYSTEM.



LATER.

AH, MY FAVORITE PART OF ANY CELEBRATION -- THE BANQUET!



?



HEY, XING YING, IS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS COMING LATE?

NO. EVERYONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE IS ALREADY HERE.









I'VE GOT SO MANY LILY LIVERS -- ER, *STUDENTS* -- THESE DAYS, I HAD TO MAKE A BUNCH OF EARTH TENTS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL JUST TO HOUSE 'EM ALL. I WANNA EXPAND THE BUILDING, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.

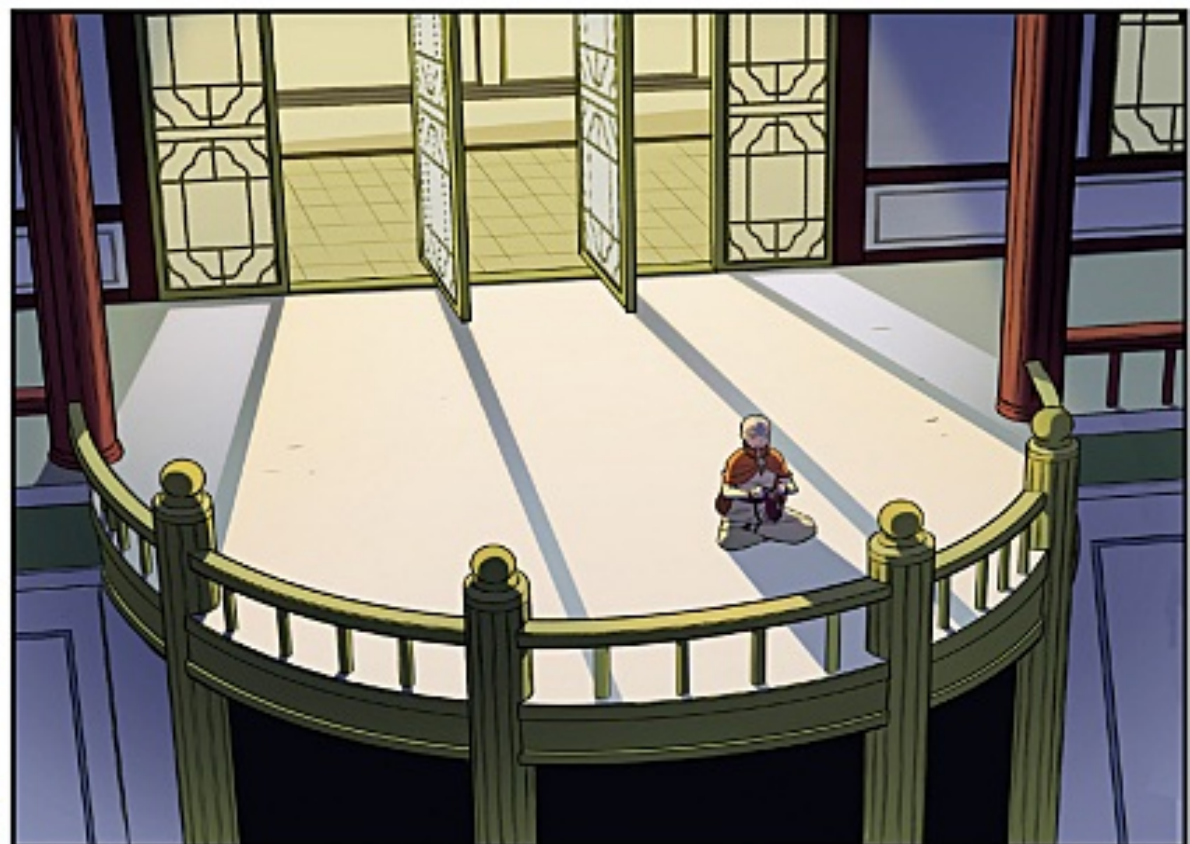
WHY DON'T YOU CHARGE TUITION? WITH ALL THOSE STUDENTS, YOU'D BE RICHER THAN THE EARTH KING!

THE *BEIFONG METALBENDING ACADEMY* ISN'T THAT KIND OF SCHOOL. I DON'T WANT IT TO BE A BUSINESS. WE'RE DOING SOMETHING NEW, YOU KNOW? SOMETHING *IMPORTANT*.

I MEAN, I DIDN'T CHARGE AANG TUITION. I'M NOT ABOUT TO START NOW.

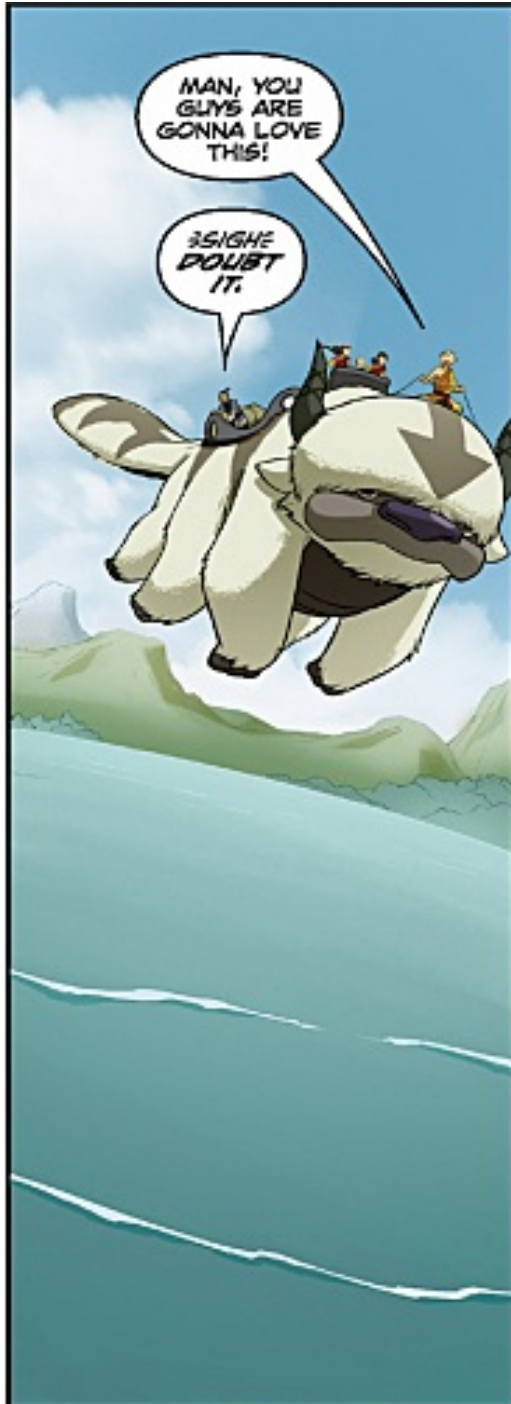
SPEAKING OF AANG, HAS ANYONE SEEN HIM?

NOPE. BUT WHEN YOU FIND HIM, TELL HIM HE'S GOT TO RECONSIDER THAT VEGETARIAN THING. HIS MOUTH WILL THANK HIM!









MAN, YOU GUYS ARE GONNA LOVE THIS!

3SIGHE DOUBT IT.



OH, CHEER UP, SOKKA. I'LL HELP YOU SHOP FOR A NEW PURSE WHEN WE GET BACK.

NOT A PURSE, A BAG!

A MANLY, MANLY BAG. TO CARRY MY MANLY, MANLY THINGS.

WE'LL BE SURE TO FIND ONE THAT MATCHES YOUR MANLY, MANLY BELT.



TODAY'S ONE OF THE HIGHEST HOLIDAYS ON THE AIR NOMAD CALENDAR: **YANGCHEN'S FESTIVAL!** IT'S ALSO ONE OF THE **FUNNEST!**

IT HASN'T BEEN CELEBRATED IN OVER A **HUNDRED YEARS!** AND WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, IT MIGHT'VE BEEN COMPLETELY LOST TO HISTORY IF YANGCHEN HERSELF HADN'T REMINDED ME LAST NIGHT.

AVATAR AANG, PLEASE TELL US MORE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

AND WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?



THOSE ACOLYTE KIDS ARE SUPER NICE AND ALL, BUT DON'T THEY SEEM AWFULLY..

EAGER?

YEAH.



WE'RE GOING TO A CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE OCEAN, WHERE THERE'S THIS **GIANT STATUE** OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN! THAT'S WHERE **YANGCHEN'S FESTIVAL** BEGINS!

"WE'LL GATHER TOGETHER AND BOW FOUR TIMES, AS A SIGN OF RESPECT."



"THEN WE'LL WALK DOWN THE CLIFF TO A SECLUDED MEADOW, PLAYING TRADITIONAL AIR NOMAD MUSIC ALONG THE WAY!"



"OH GOOD!  
I BROUGHT MY  
CYMBALS!"





"WHEN WE GET TO THE MEADOW, WE'LL EAT A CEREMONIAL AIR NOWAD MEAL!"



LET ME GUESS: TOFU, VEGGIES, AND NOT A LOT OF SALT.

YEP!

SPECTACULAR.



"AFTERWARDS, WE CAN VISIT AN ISLAND JUST OFF THE COAST, WHERE MONK GYATSO USED TO TAKE ME AND THE OTHER KIDS TO FLY KITES.

"THE WINDS THERE ARE PERFECT!"





SHE'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I'D IMAGINED!

WOW!



HELLO THERE, MR. CRANEFISH! HAPPY YANGCHEN'S FESTIVAL!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE!



KWAAAA! KWAAAA!

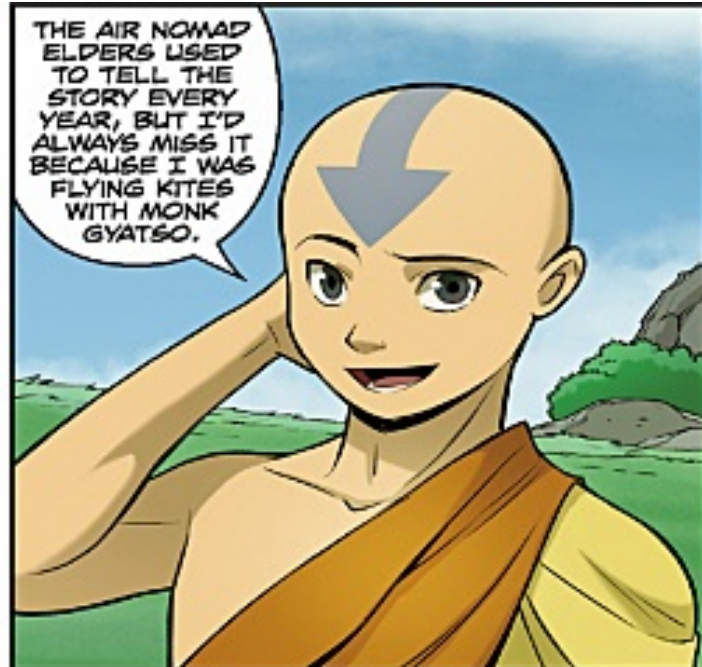
THEY'RE PRETTY COMMON AROUND HERE.

BEAUTIFUL BUT NOISY!



HUH, I THOUGHT IT'D BE A STATUE OF YANGCHEN, BUT THIS LADY DOESN'T HAVE AN ARROW ON HER FOREHEAD. WHO IS IT?

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE.





**THAT'S  
JUST HOW  
IT'S DONE.**



**BUT  
WHY DO I HAVE  
TO BOW TO THAT  
GIANT SLAB OF  
ROCK?**

**YOUNG  
LADY, THAT'S  
JUST HOW  
IT'S DONE.**



**BUT WHY DO I  
HAVE TO WEAR  
THIS SCRATCHY,  
SCRATCHY  
DRESS?**

**YOUNG  
LADY, THAT'S  
JUST HOW  
IT'S DONE.**



**BUT WHY DO I  
HAVE TO TAKE  
SUCH SMALL  
SIPS?**

**YOUNG  
LADY, THAT'S  
JUST HOW  
IT'S DONE.**



FATHER,  
I WANNA GO  
PLAY WITH  
THOSE KIDS!



I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND WHY  
I HAVE TO SPEND  
EVERY SINGLE  
DAY LOCKED UP IN  
THIS HOUSE!



IT  
GETS SO...  
SO...LONELY  
IN HERE.



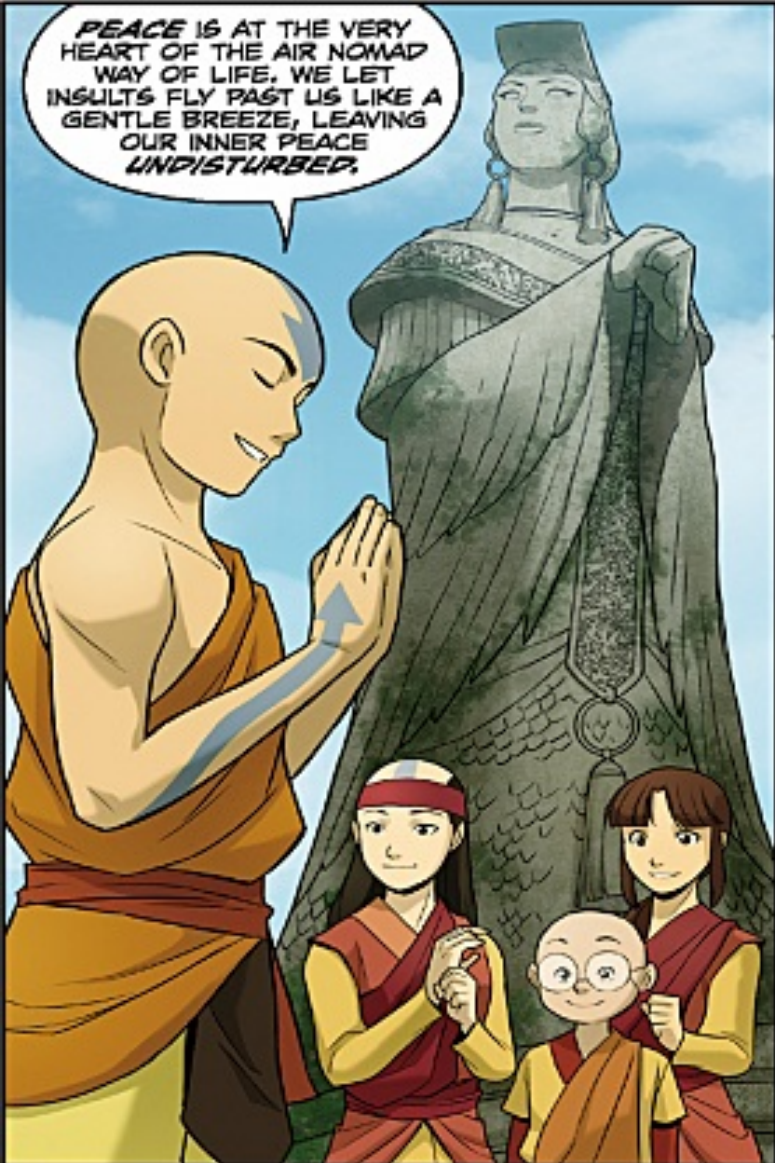
I'M  
SORRY, MY  
DAUGHTER.

BUT THIS  
IS JUST HOW  
IT'S DONE.





HEH HEH!  
DON'T MIND HER,  
AIR ACOLYTES! IN  
FACT, THIS IS A  
PERFECT LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITY!



PEACE IS AT THE VERY  
HEART OF THE AIR NOMAD  
WAY OF LIFE. WE LET  
INSULTS FLY PAST US LIKE A  
GENTLE BREEZE, LEAVING  
OUR INNER PEACE  
UNDISTURBED.



COME. THOSE  
OF US WHO ARE  
NOT STUBBORN  
DUNDERHEADS  
WILL NOW DO  
OUR BOWS.

HARLIMPH!  
BE MY  
GUEST!

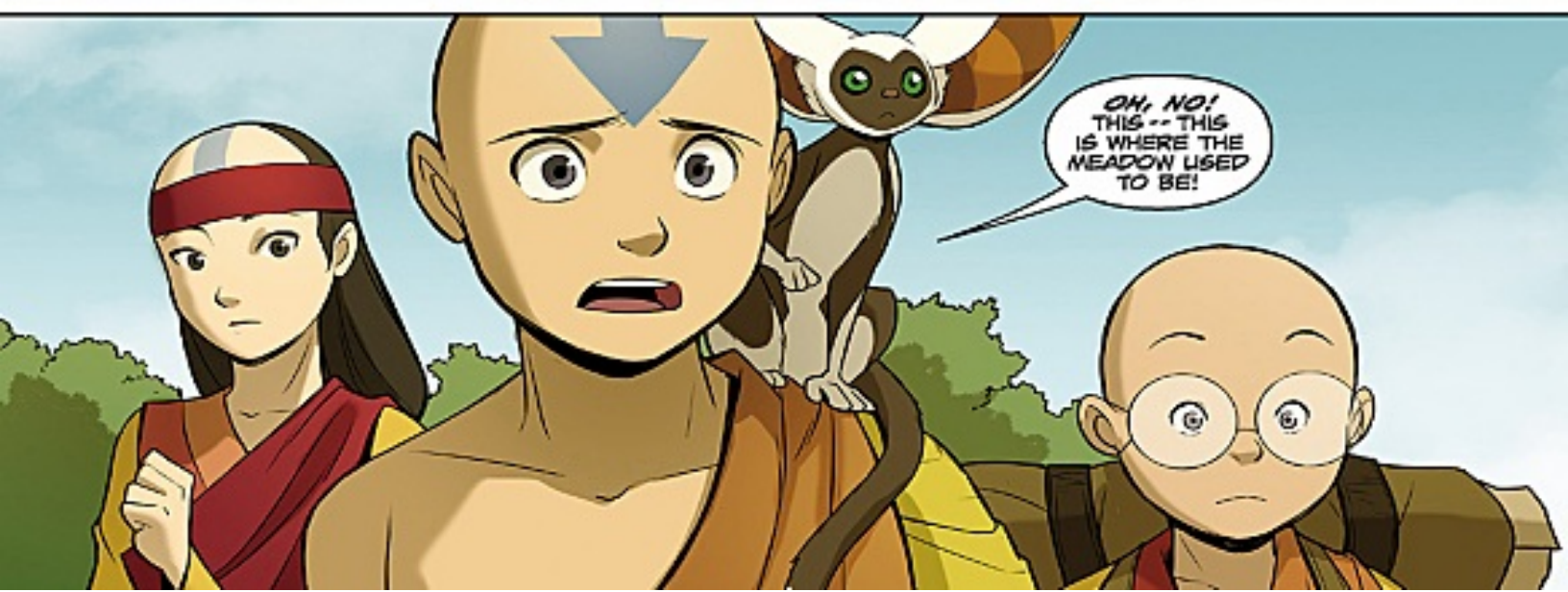
















NIYOK?



I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU LEFT HOME!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN THE EARTH KINGDOM?



泥土火公司

WE CAME TO WORK AT THAT REFINERY.

"WE"?



NIYOK!

IS THAT NUTHA?

YEP, THAT'S MY SISTER.



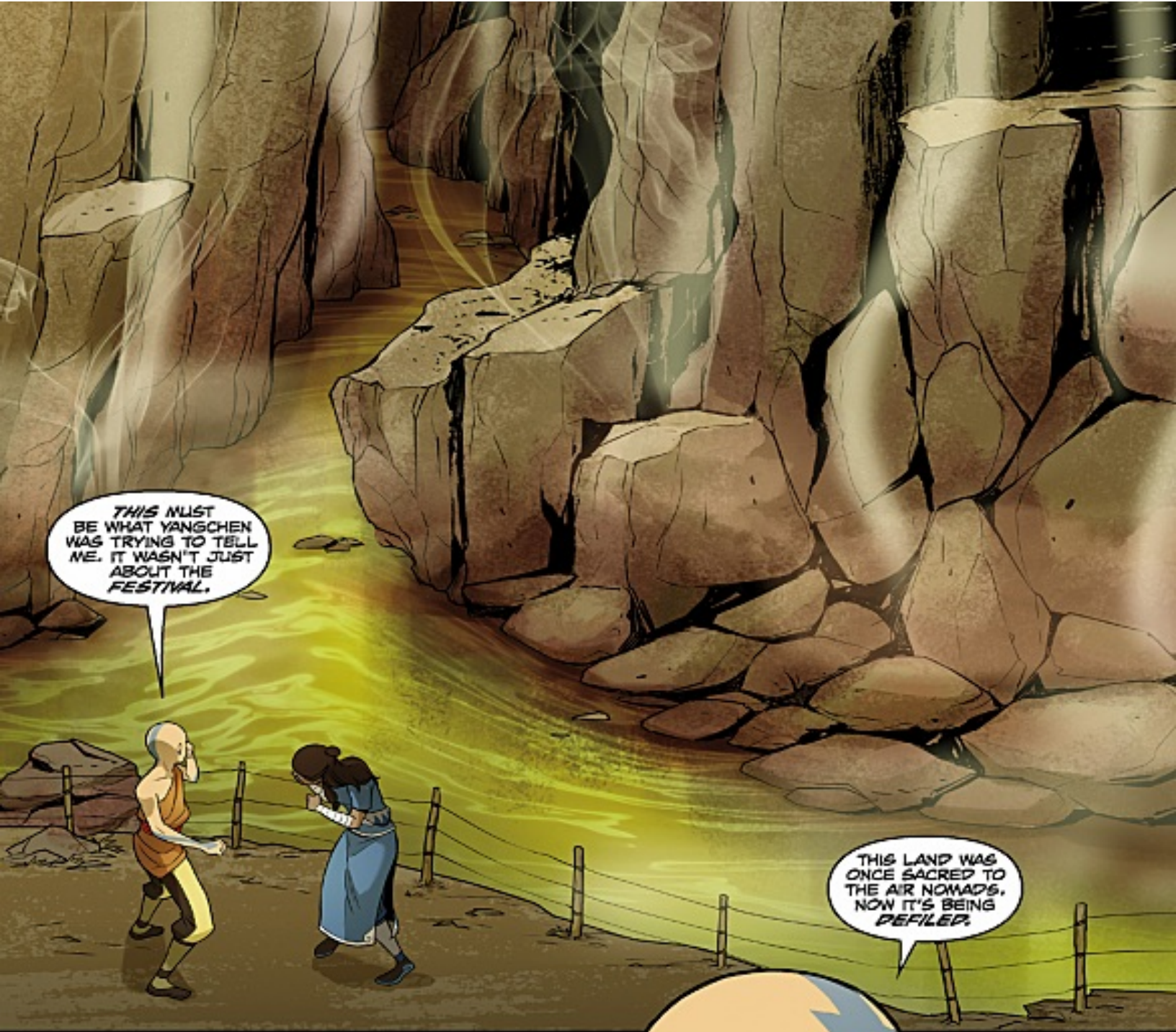
NUTHA! IT'S ME! KATARA!





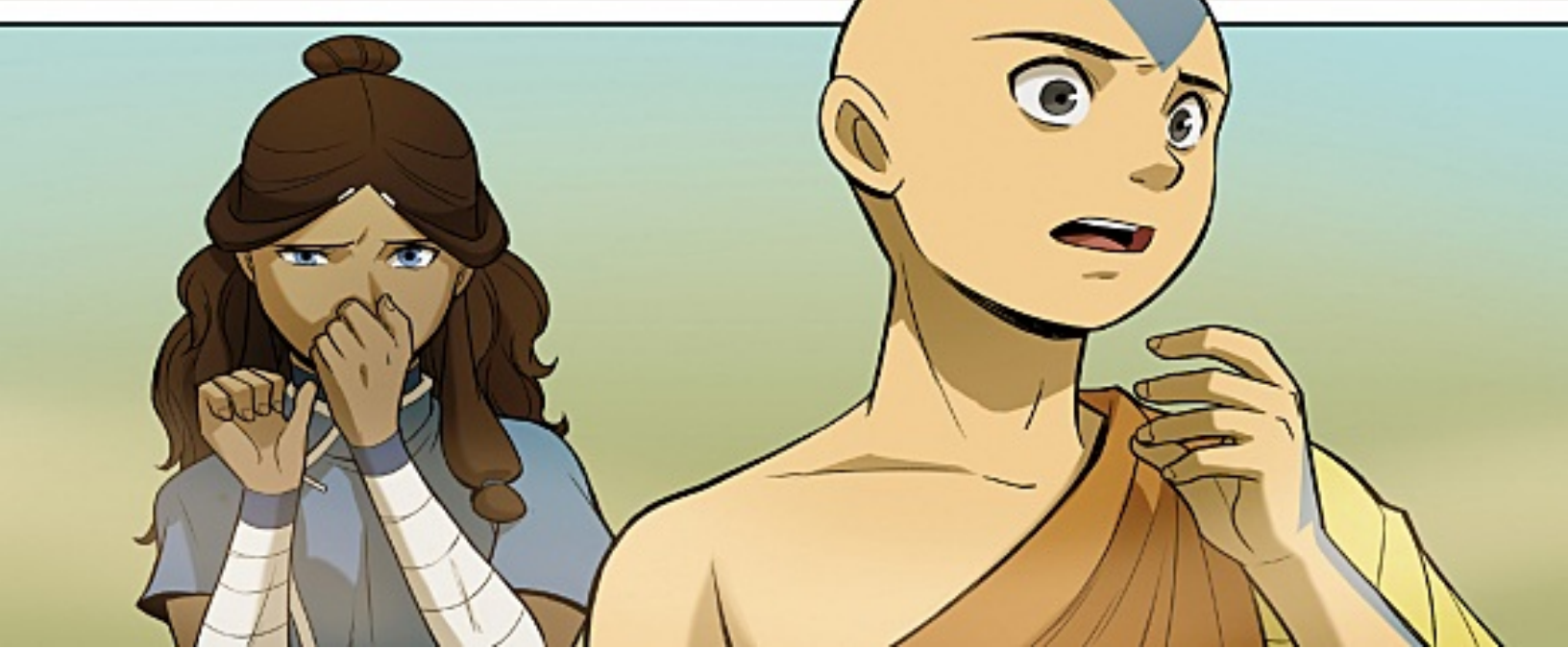






THIS MUST BE WHAT YANGCHEN WAS TRYING TO TELL ME. IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT THE FESTIVAL.

THIS LAND WAS ONCE SACRED TO THE AIR NOMADS. NOW IT'S BEING DEFILED.





HEY! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED BACK HERE! THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY!

DON'T YOU PEOPLE KNOW WHAT FENCES ARE FOR?!



SIR, I NEED TO TALK TO WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE OF THE REFINERY.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TO MAKE DEMANDS LIKE THAT, KID?

I'M THE AVATAR.



ONCE YOU CROSS THAT FENCE, ALL YOU ARE IS A TRESPASSER.



GUARDS, LET'S GET 'EM OUTTA HERE!















TOPH BEIFONG!



IT'S REALLY YOU!

YEAH?



I'VE DIED AND GONE INTO THE HEAVENS! I'VE ADMIRED YOU FOR SO LONG, MS. BEIFONG! FIRST, YOU SAVE THE WORLD --

!! WITH AVATAR AANG'S HELP OF COURSE !!

?!



-- AND THEN YOU DISCOVER A BRAND-NEW KIND OF BENDING THAT NOT EVEN THE AVATAR CAN DO!

HA HA, THAT'S RIGHT, HE CAN'T.

!!!





MS. BEIFONG --

NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL. YOU CAN CALL ME TOPH.

TOPH, WELCOME TO THE EARTHEN FIRE REFINERY!



YEARS AGO, MY UNCLE DISCOVERED THAT THIS AREA IS PARTICULARLY RICH WITH NATURAL RESOURCES.

BUT HE WASN'T ALLOWED TO DEVELOP IT BECAUSE... WELL... BECAUSE OF POLITICAL REASONS.



MY UNCLE ISN'T A VERY POLITICAL GUY, BUT HE IS FIRE NATION AND THIS LAND IS EARTH KINGDOM.

ACTUALLY, SATORU, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.



THIS LAND MAY BE A PART OF THE EARTH KINGDOM CONTINENT, BUT HISTORICALLY THE AIR NOMADS HAVE ALWAYS --




AFTER YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ENDED THE WAR, TOPH, MY UNCLE WAS ABLE TO FIND AN EARTH KINGDOM BUSINESS PARTNER. A COUPLE MONTHS LATER, THEY OPENED THIS PLACE!



WE'RE THE FIRST JOINT BUSINESS VENTURE BETWEEN THE EARTH KINGDOM AND THE FIRE NATION!

BUT, AS I WAS SAYING--



HERE, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU'RE FROM, AS LONG AS YOU'RE WILLING TO WORK HARD.

SATORU, IF I COULD JUST HAVE A MOMENT--



PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COME HERE --







THAT WAS  
ACTUALLY OUR  
FIRST, *OLDER*  
PRODUCTION  
LINE.



HERE'S OUR  
BRAND-NEW ONE,  
WHICH CAME INTO  
OPERATION ABOUT  
A MONTH AGO!

OKAY,  
MY MIND HAS  
OFFICIALLY BEEN  
*BLOWN*.



THIS PRODUCTION LINE DOES THE SAME THING AS THE OLD ONE, ONLY WE'VE REPLACED ALL THE BENDING WITH MACHINES.

I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY MACHINES IN ALL MY LIFE! NOT EVEN IN THE MACHINIST'S WORKSHOP AT THE NORTHERN AIR TEMPLE!

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO REPLACE BENDING WITH MACHINES?



WELL, NOT EVERYBODY'S A BENDER, WITH MACHINES, EVEN NONBENDERS CAN PERFORM TASKS THAT REQUIRE A LOT OF POWER.

POOM!  
POOM!  
POOM!



PLUS, HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO TRAIN A BENDER BEFORE HE'S READY TO WORK FOR US? YEARS?

WE CAN TRAIN AN EMPLOYEE TO USE ONE OF THESE MACHINES IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

KRAKATA  
KRAKATA-  
KRAKATA-



BENDING JUST SEEMS SO MUCH MORE... ELEGANT.



THAT MAY BE TRUE. SO FAR THE BENDER LINE HAS BEEN MORE EFFICIENT.

BUT WE'RE FIGURING OUT WAYS TO IMPROVE THIS NEW LINE EVERY DAY.



WHAT IS THAT?

THE FORKLIFT?



MIND IF I GIVE IT A SPIN?

SOKKA, DON'T BOTHER HIM! HE'S TRYING TO WORK!



YOU KNOW, THE BIGGEST DEPOSIT OF CRYSTALS OUTSIDE OF BA SING SE IS RIGHT HERE, BENEATH OUR FEET!





OOPS. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

NO, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. I'M STILL TINKERING WITH THE DESIGN.



HE'S JUST BEING NICE, YOU KNOW. IT IS YOUR FAULT.

I KNOW.

YOU BUILT THIS?

YEAH.



STSK TSKE  
3SIGHE



I'M REALLY SORRY, BUT I'M GONNA NEED SOME TIME TO GET THIS UP AND RUNNING AGAIN.

I'LL ASK ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES TO FINISH THE TOUR WITH YOU. THEY CAN SHOW YOU THE NEXT BUILDING, WHERE THE CRYSTALS ARE GRADED AND CUT.



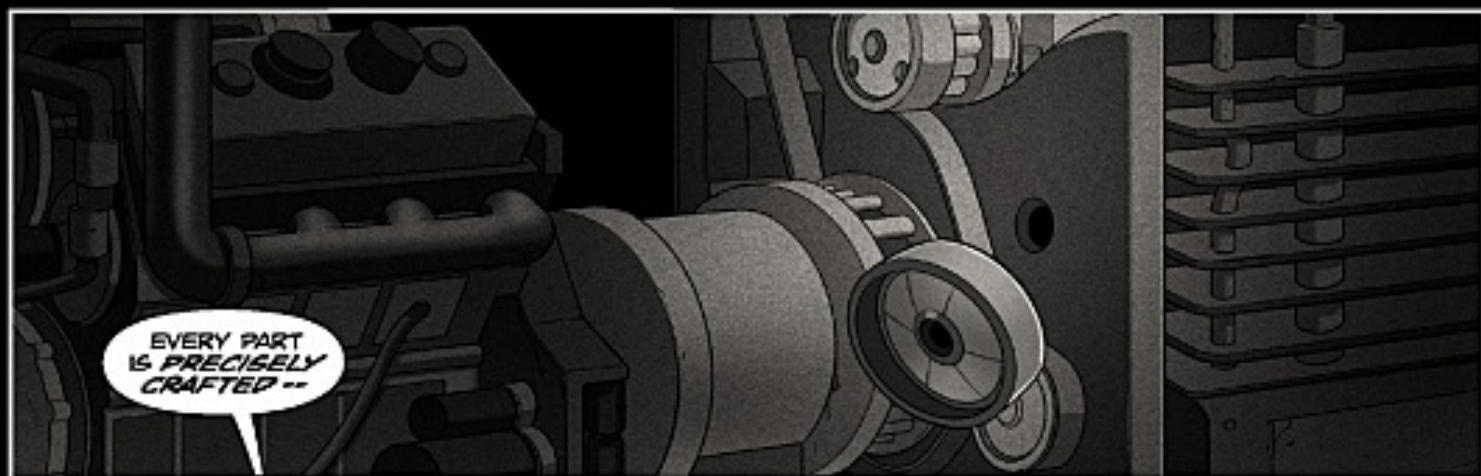
STEP ASIDE.



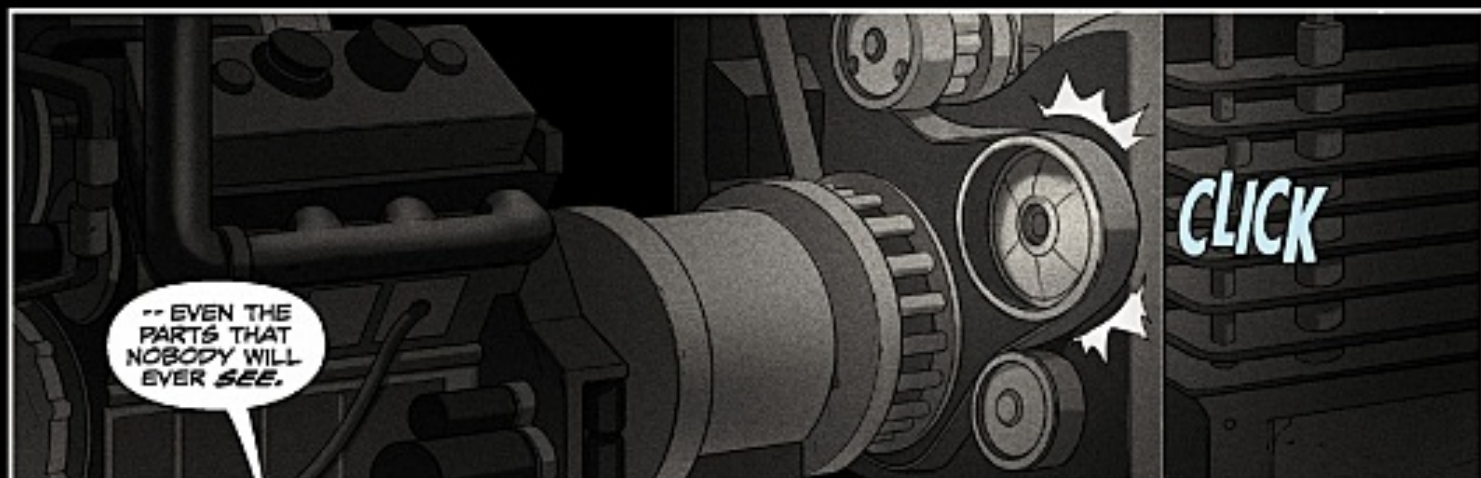
SATORU...  
THIS ENGINE...



...I CAN  
FEEL IT.

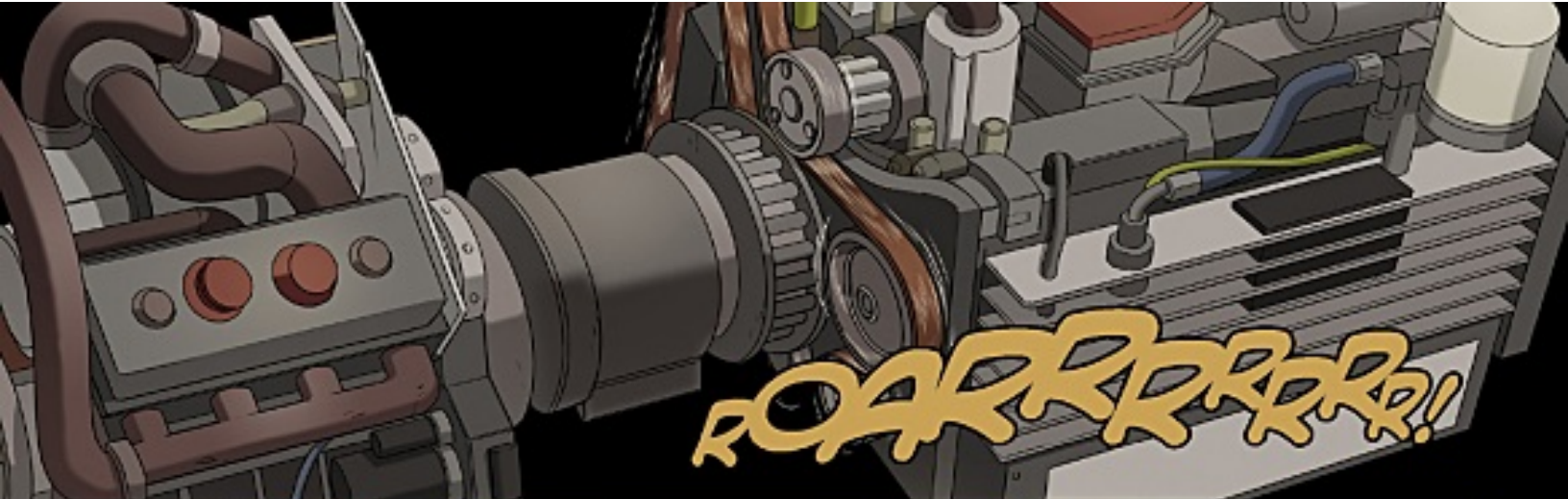


EVERY PART  
IS *PRECISELY*  
CRAFTED --



-- EVEN THE  
PARTS THAT  
NOBODY WILL  
EVER *SEE*.

**CLICK**



WHAT IF YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS CAME HERE EVERY NOW AND THEN, TO HELP OUT WITH THE MACHINES?

THAT'S WHERE MY UNCLE AND HIS BUSINESS PARTNER ARE RIGHT NOW, MEETING WITH THE CITY'S NEW GOVERNMENT! THEY WANT TO BUILD A RAILROAD --

OF COURSE, WE'D PAY YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS FOR YOUR TIME.

NO, THEY'RE STUDENTS, NOT EMPLOYEES. BUT YOU *COULD* SPONSOR A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR US.

THE BEIFONG METALBENDING ACADEMY ISN'T FAR FROM HERE. WE'RE JUST OUTSIDE OF YU DAO.

-- TO CONNECT THERE TO HERE.

I THINK MY UNCLE WOULD BE OPEN TO THAT. IT WOULD BE LIKE A...A *PARTNERSHIP* BETWEEN THE REFINERY AND THE SCHOOL.

SATORU, I WOULD LOVE TO BE IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU -- I MEAN, THE REFINERY.











NO ONE'S BEEN HERE FOR A HUNDRED YEARS! IF SATORU AND HIS UNCLE CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO MAKE THIS PLACE USEFUL, I SAY **GOOD FOR THEM!**



BUT YANGCHEN'S BEEN TRYING TO WARN ME... SHE JUST GAVE ME A **VISION**. I THINK **SOMETHING BAD** IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

LIKE WHAT?



I'M... I'M NOT SURE... I CAN'T HEAR HER FOR SOME REASON. AND THE VISION WASN'T ALL THAT CLEAR.

HERE WE GO AGAIN! MORE STUFF THAT'S SO IMPORTANT, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE **DETAILS!**



BUT DON'T YOU SEE? SOMETHING **BAD'S ALREADY** HAPPENING!

AANG'S RIGHT. JUST LOOK AT THE RIVER! THAT'S NOT WHAT A RIVER SHOULD LOOK LIKE!



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, KATARA, BUT I CAN TELL YOU FOR A FACT, THAT'S NOT THE REFINERY'S FAULT.

IT HAS TO BE THE REFINERY'S FAULT! NOTHING ELSE AROUND HERE COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!



MY UNCLE THINKS IT MIGHT BE A NATURAL PHENOMENON.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

I'M WITH AANG. NATURE MIGHT BE GROSS SOMETIMES, BUT IT'S NEVER THAT KIND OF GROSS.



ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY! BACK OFF!



SATORU...



SAY IT AGAIN, ABOUT THE RIVER.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE RIVER --



BELIEVE ME,  
TOPH, I KNOW WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A  
CRUSH ON SOMEONE.  
IT CAN BLIND --



YEESH. SORRY.  
WHAT I'M TRYING TO  
SAY IS, SOMETIMES YOU  
CAN LIKE SOMEBODY SO  
MUCH THAT IT AFFECTS  
YOUR PERCEPTION  
OF THEM.

KIND  
OF LIKE HOW  
YOUR PERCEPTION  
IS AFFECTED BY YOUR  
FUDDY-DUDDY  
TRADITIONS?



WHAT -- ?!

LOOK  
AROUND,  
AANG!











WHOA. THAT WAS WAY BIGGER THAN THE FIRST ONE!

YOU GUYS OKAY?

YEAH. BUT CAN SOMEBODY GIVE ME A HAND, PLEASE?



TOPH, AVATAR AANG, I'M SORRY, BUT MAYBE YOU GUYS SHOULD LEAVE...

SATORU, AT LEAST LET US HELP YOU CLEAN UP.

NO, JUST GO. PLEASE! MY UNCLE WILL BE BACK AT ANY MOMENT!



HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU PEOPLE, THOSE EARTHQUAKES HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

IT DOESN'T MATTER, ALL RIGHT? RIGHT NOW, THIS REFINERY'S MY RESPONSIBILITY! I CAN'T HAVE MY UNCLE SEE --



HELP!  
HELP!



ONE OF THE MACHINES HAS GONE CRAZY!

POOM!  
CRASH!  
POOM!



WATCH OUT!



WE NEED TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE!

GO ON! OUT THAT WAY!



SOMEONE'S TRAPPED UNDERNEATH!

HELP ME!

POOM!  
POOM!



I'LL GET HIM! TOPH--

THERE'S A CORD THAT CONNECTS IT TO ITS POWER SOURCE! YOU NEED TO UNPLUG IT!







THE ROUGH RHINOS?! COLONEL MONGKE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



THE OWNERS OF THE EARTHEN FIRE REFINERY HIRED US AS THEIR *PERSONAL SECURITY DETAIL*, TO PROTECT THEM FROM RABBLE-ROUSERS LIKE YOU!

WHAT'S ALL THIS RUCKUS?! WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?!

THEY'RE MY GUESTS, AND THEY'RE JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE! UNCLE LOBAN, I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!



SATORU! YOU CAN START BY EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MACHINE THAT COST US TEN THOUSAND BAN!



Fffssss...

Ploopy!



YOU COULDN'T JUST UNPLUG IT?!



WHAT'D I TELL YOU, LAO?! SATORU IS TOO SCATTERBRAINED TO SHOULDER ANY REAL RESPONSIBILITY!

FORGIVE ME, UNCLE! I'LL GET IT ALL SORTED OUT, I PROMISE!

ONE OF US SHOULD HAVE STAYED BEHIND TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING LIKE THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN!

LAO...?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.



FATHER.



**COMING IN JULY**

Toph faces off against her own past in . . .

**THE RIFT • PART TWO**



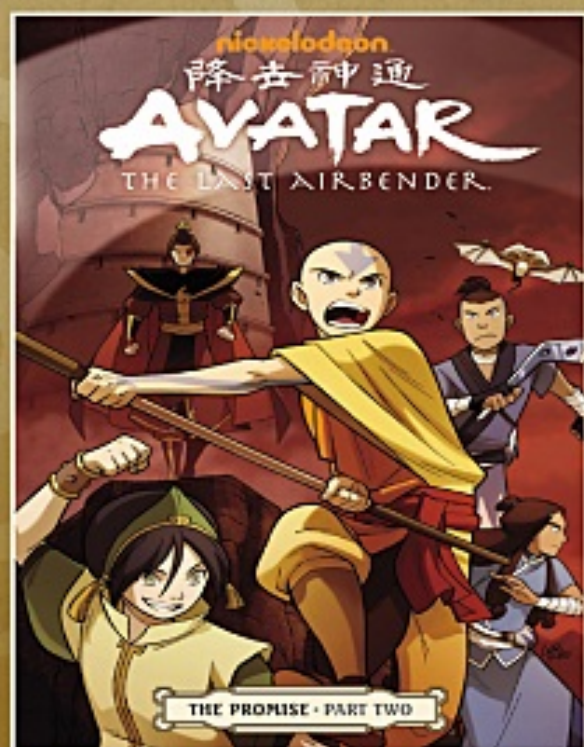
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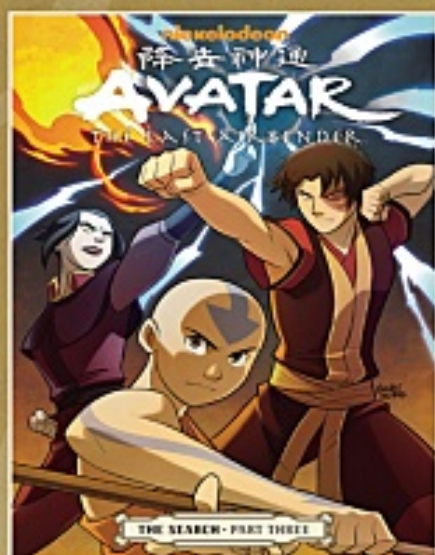
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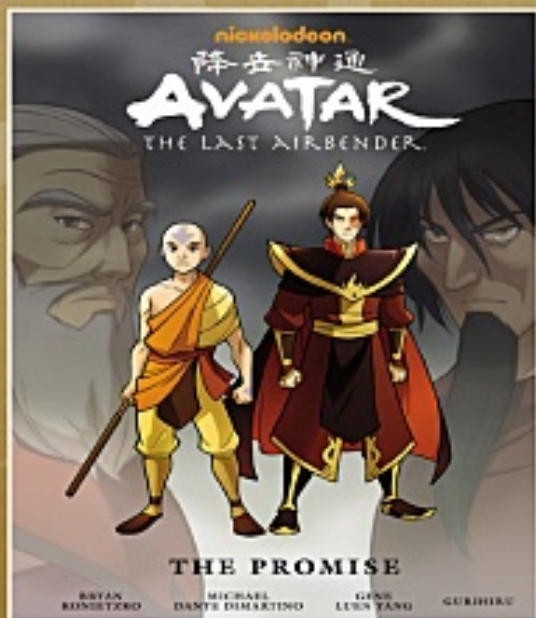
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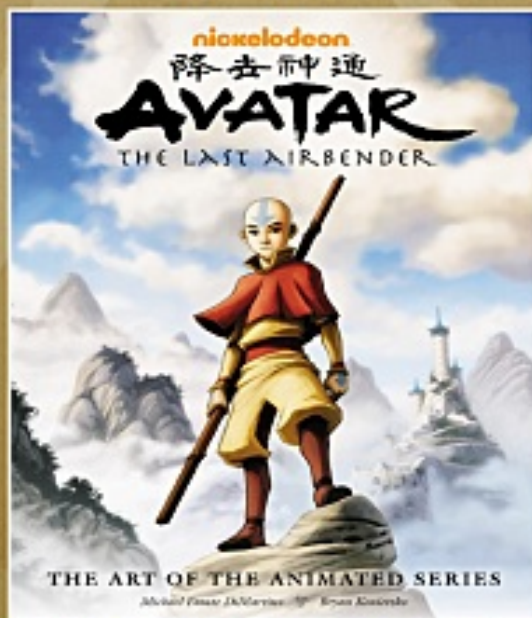
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### Sacred Land Defiled!

Avatar Aang asks his friends to help him honor Yangchen's Festival—one of the highest Air Nomad holidays, which hasn't been celebrated in over one hundred years. But cryptic visits from the spirit of Avatar Yangchen herself lead Aang to discover a jointly owned Fire Nation and Earth Kingdom refinery—operating on land sacred to the Airbenders! Is this simply a case of corporate greed or is something more mysterious happening?

Writer Gene Luen Yang worked closely with *Avatar: The Last Airbender* creators Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko on this follow up to the best-selling series, *The Promise* and *The Search*. Artists Gurihiru also return for this ultimate continuation of *Avatar* and the perfect companion to *Legend of Korra*!

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