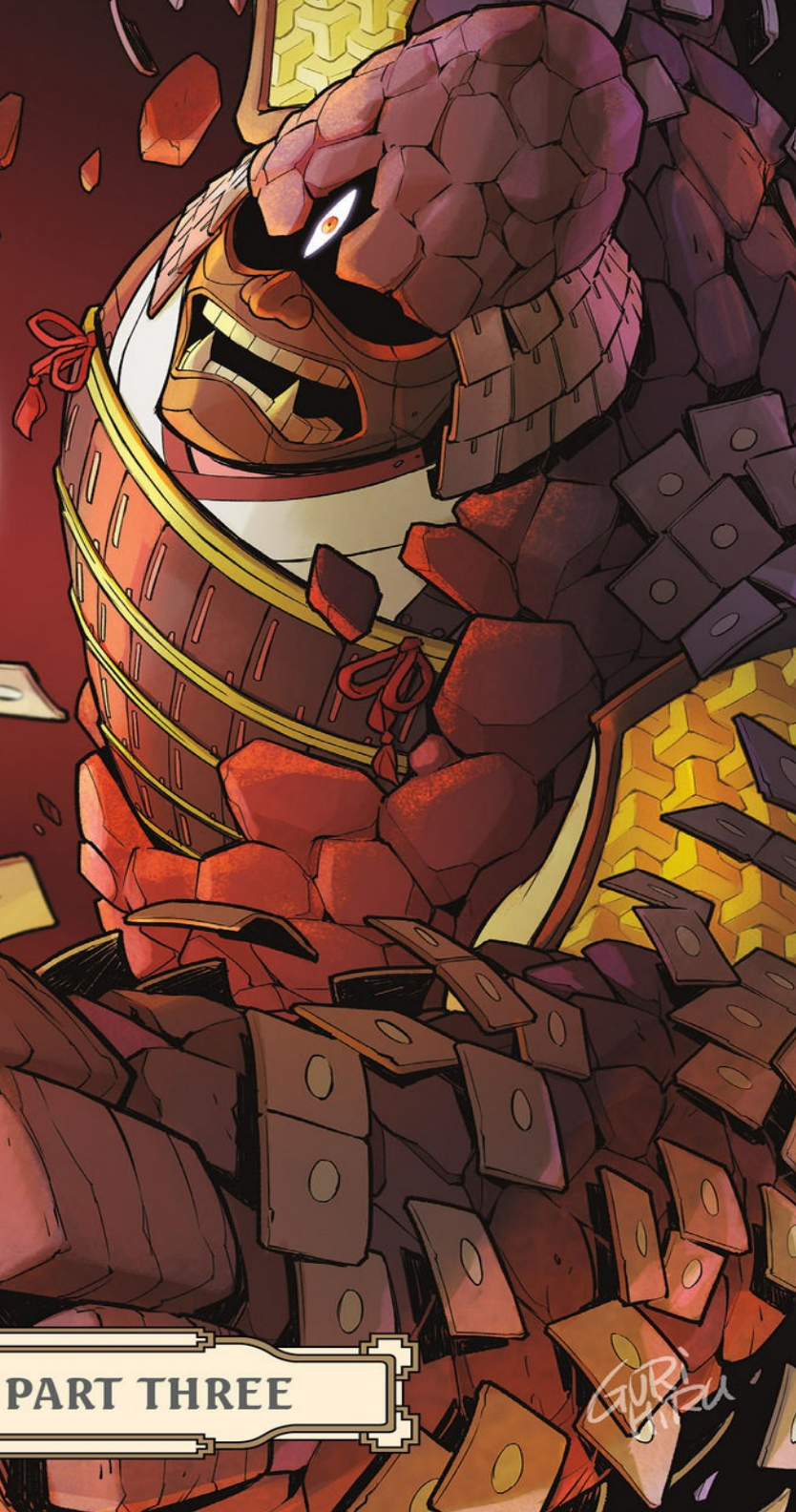


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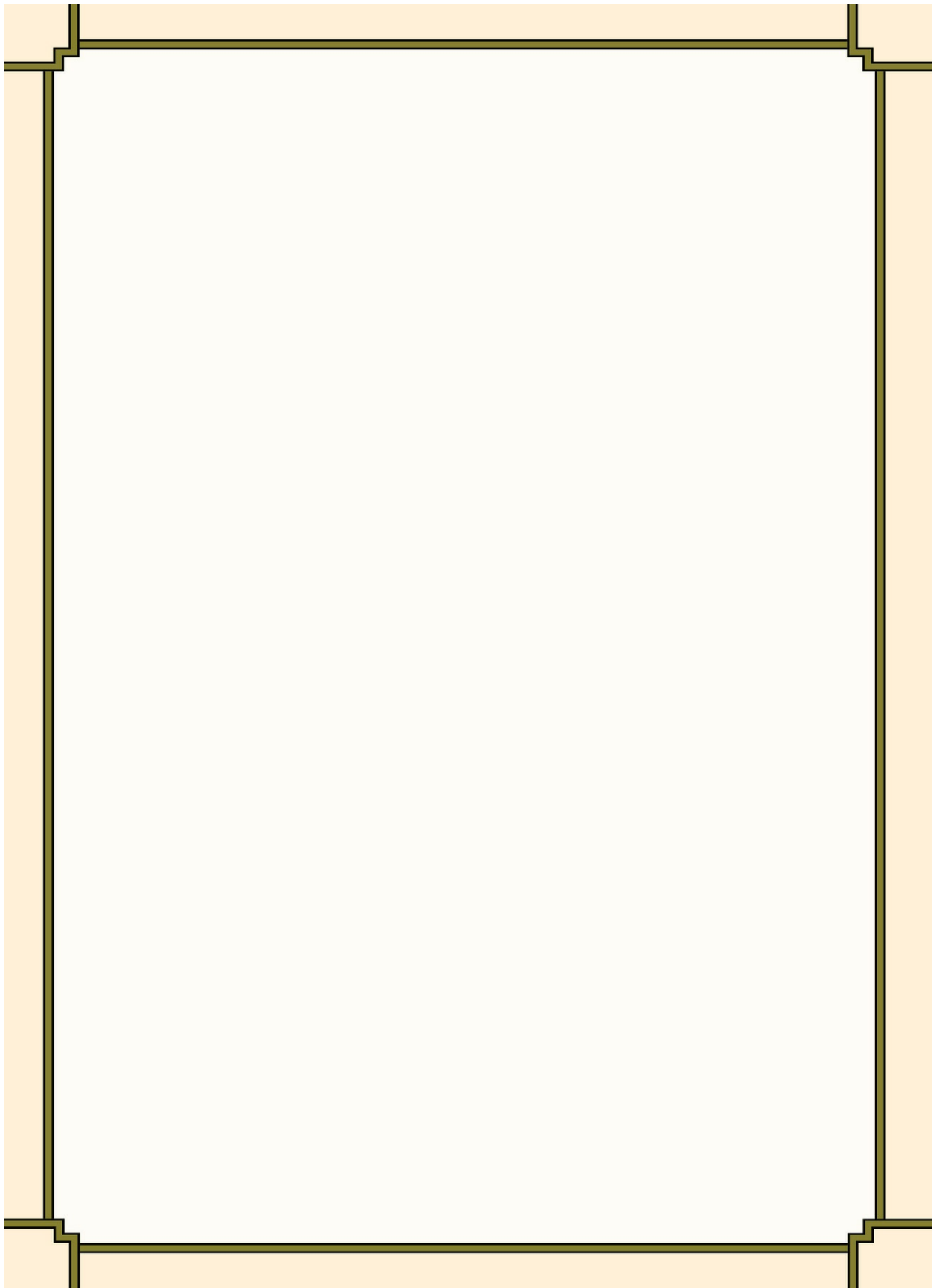
AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER™



THE RIFT · PART THREE

GIYU



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Created by

Bryan Konietzko

Michael Dante DiMartino



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THE RIFT · PART THREE

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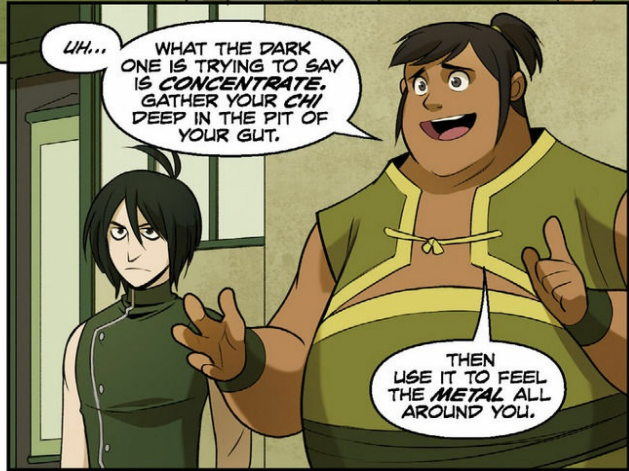
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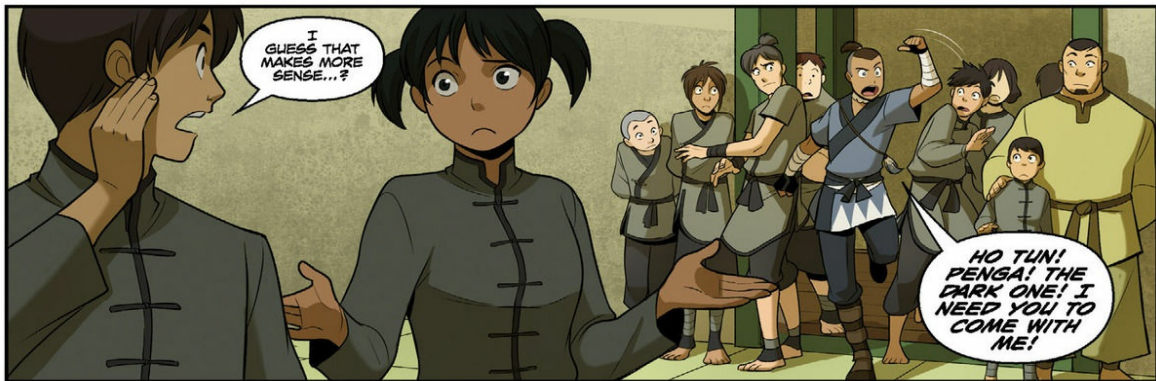
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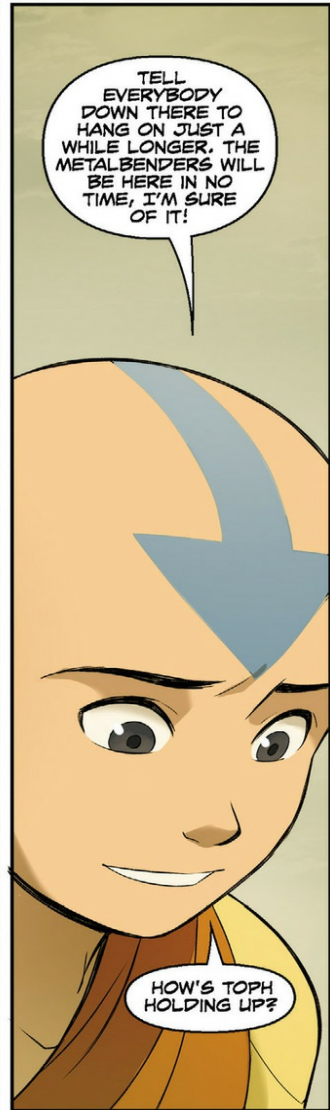
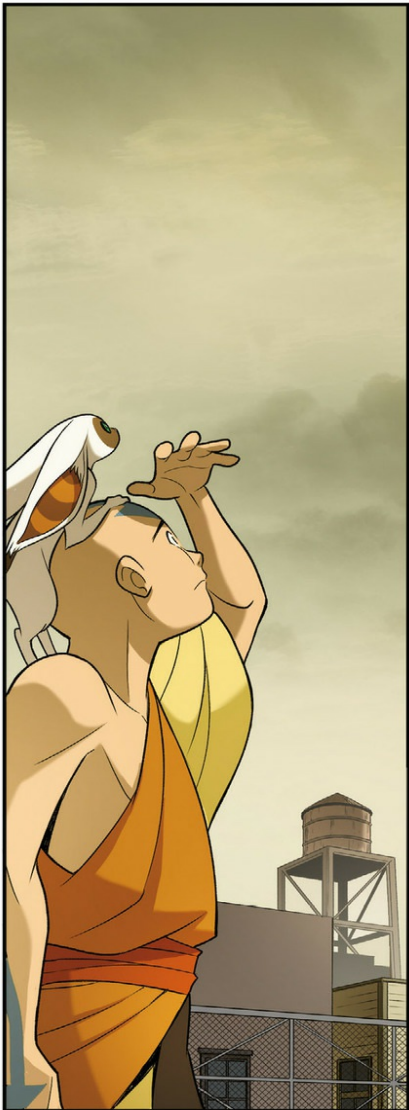
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DON'T SPEAK. JUST DRINK.

GULP GULP



I'M SORRY... THAT'S THE LAST OF IT. I CAN CHECK IF ANY OF THE OTHERS HAVE --

SATORU...

STAY WITH ME... TALK TO ME.



REALLY? WON'T THAT MAKE IT HARDER FOR YOU TO CONCENTRATE?

ON WHAT... THIS? PSH... THIS IS NOTHING...

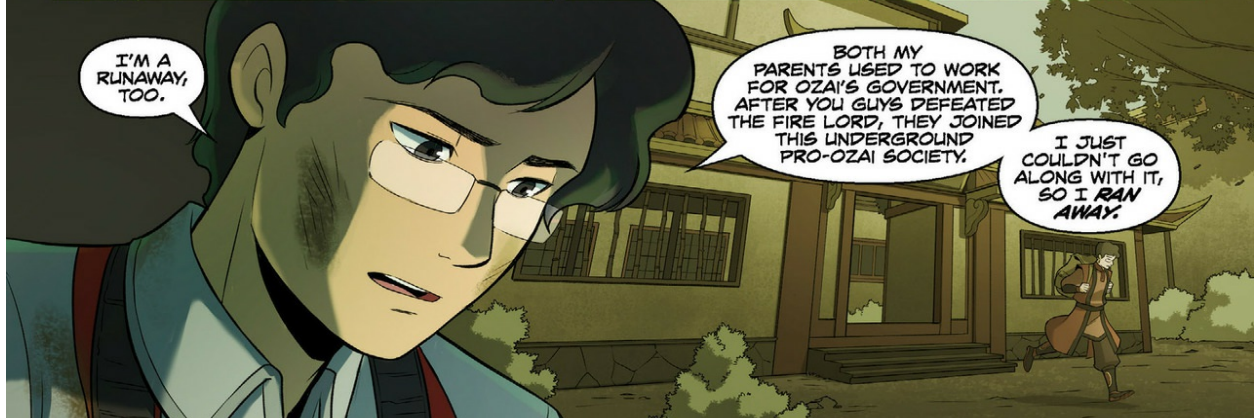
≡NG≡≡

BARELY... BREAKING... A SWEAT.



...
YOU... YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME, DIDN'T YOU?

POU



I'M A RUNAWAY, TOO.

BOTH MY PARENTS USED TO WORK FOR OZAI'S GOVERNMENT. AFTER YOU GUYS DEFEATED THE FIRE LORD, THEY JOINED THIS UNDERGROUND PRO-OZAI SOCIETY.

I JUST COULDN'T GO ALONG WITH IT, SO I RAN AWAY.



"I SPENT MONTHS ON THE STREETS OF BASSING SE'S LOWER RING, BEGGING FOR FOOD."



"WHEN MY UNCLE HEARD WHAT'D HAPPENED, HE CAME TO FIND ME. HE FED ME, HOUSED ME, GAVE ME A JOB."

"I ADMIRED HIM SO MUCH. UNLIKE MY PARENTS, HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT *POLITICS* AT ALL."



BUT NOW I REALIZE THAT'S BECAUSE HE ONLY CARES ABOUT *MONEY*.

I GUESS I WAS TOO SCARED OF GETTING THROWN BACK OUT ON THE STREETS TO SEE IT EARLIER.



YOU'RE RIGHT, TOPH. I'M A *SNIVELING FLUNKY*.

NHH... NO... YOU'RE *NOT*.



I WISH I WERE BRAVE LIKE YOU. YOU CONFRONTED YOUR DAD, EVEN AFTER ALL THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS HE SAID.

THERE REALLY IS NO END TO YOUR AMAZINGNESS, TOPH BEIFONG.

~AHHEHE~



EXCUSE US A MOMENT, SATORU.

OF COURSE.



YOUNG LADY...

...TOPH...



MY DAUGHTER. THIS IS NEITHER THE IDEAL TIME NOR PLACE, BUT I'M AFRAID --

PLEASE, HEAR ME OUT.

I'M...I'M SO...I'M...

==SIGH==



AFTER MASTER YU AND XIN FU GAVE UP THEIR SEARCH FOR YOU, THINGS FELL APART BETWEEN YOUR MOTHER AND ME. SHE BLAMED ME FOR LOSING YOU.

PERHAPS SHE WAS RIGHT.

SHE DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME, SO I LEFT GAOLING AND MADE A NEW LIFE FOR MYSELF HERE.



BUT NOW LOOK AT US, TRAPPED UNDERGROUND, NOT KNOWING WHETHER WE'LL LIVE OR DIE.

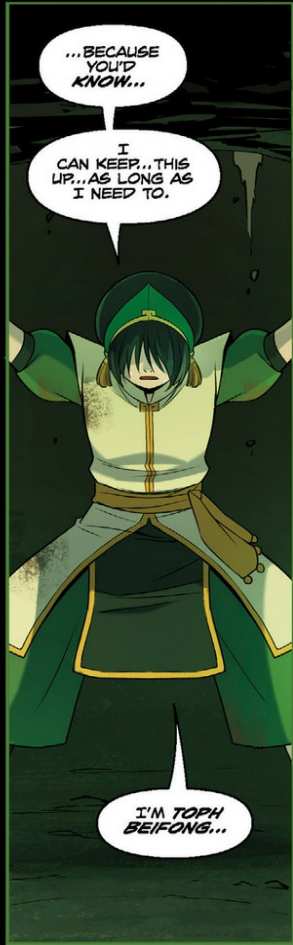
IN CASE THESE ARE OUR FINAL MOMENTS, TOPH, I NEED YOU TO KNOW --

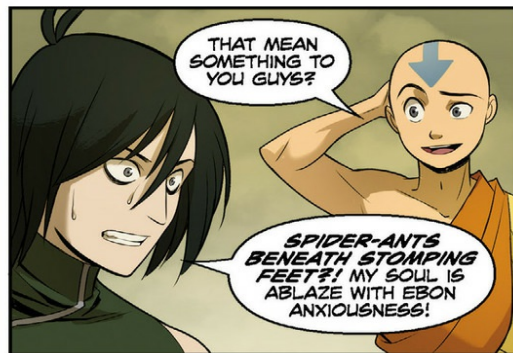
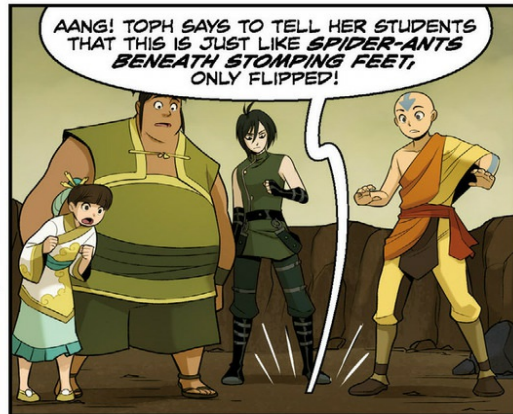
NOT A DAY HAS GONE BY WHEN I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF YOU.

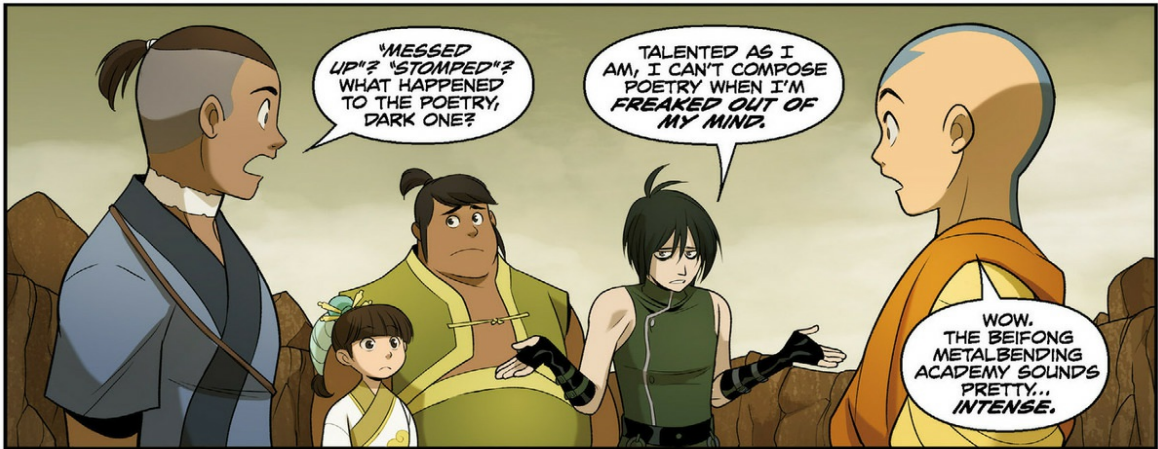


I LOVE YOU, MY DAUGHTER.

AND I'M SORRY, FOR EVERYTHING.







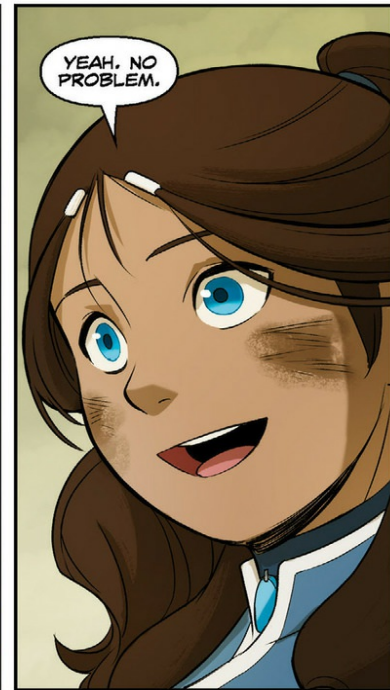




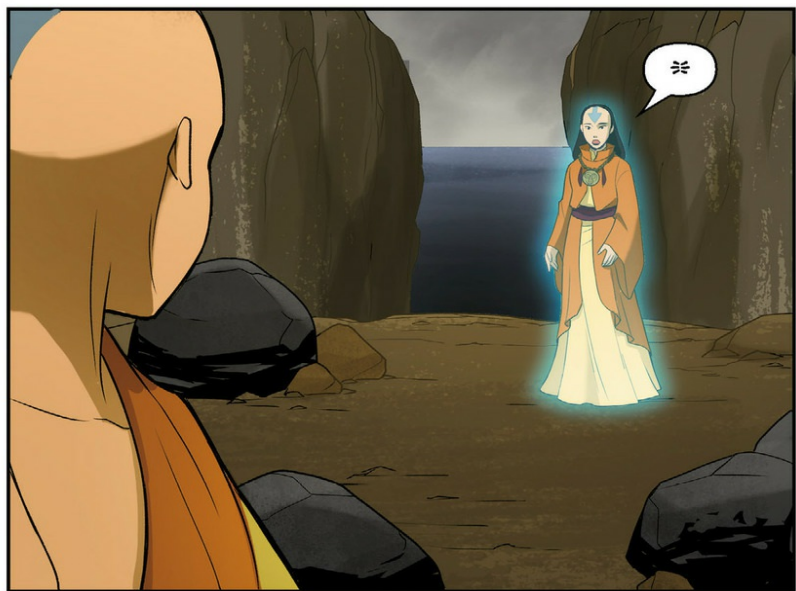
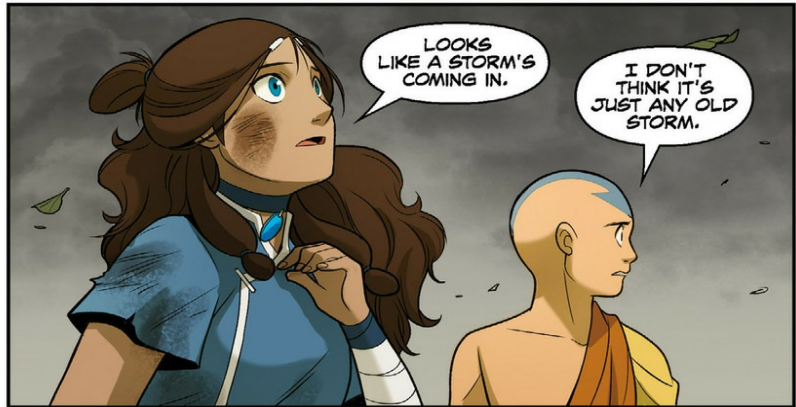


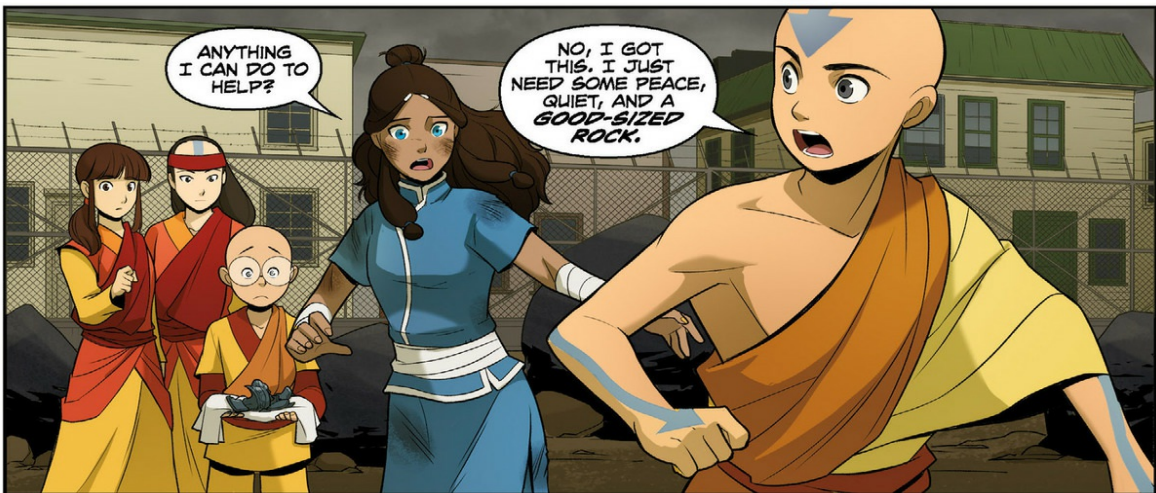
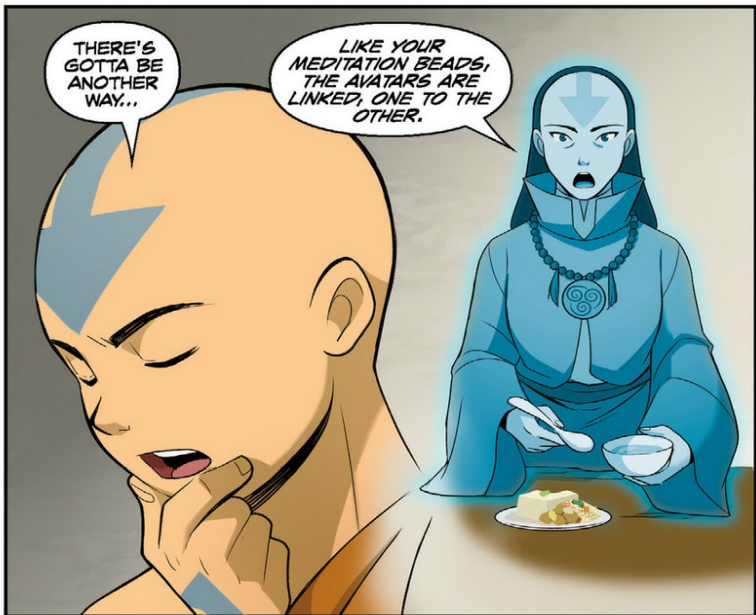
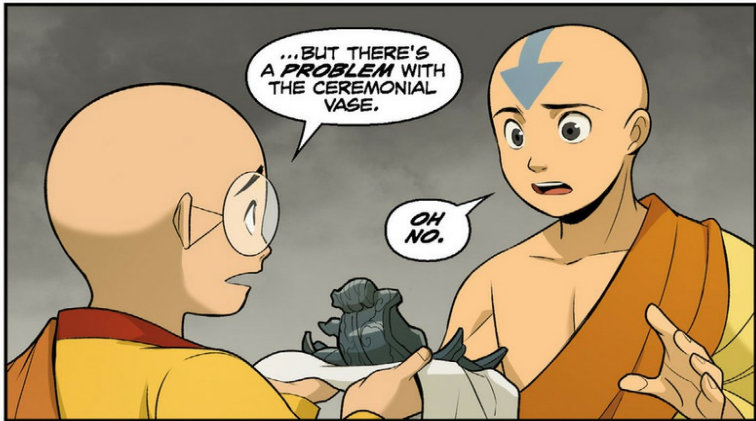




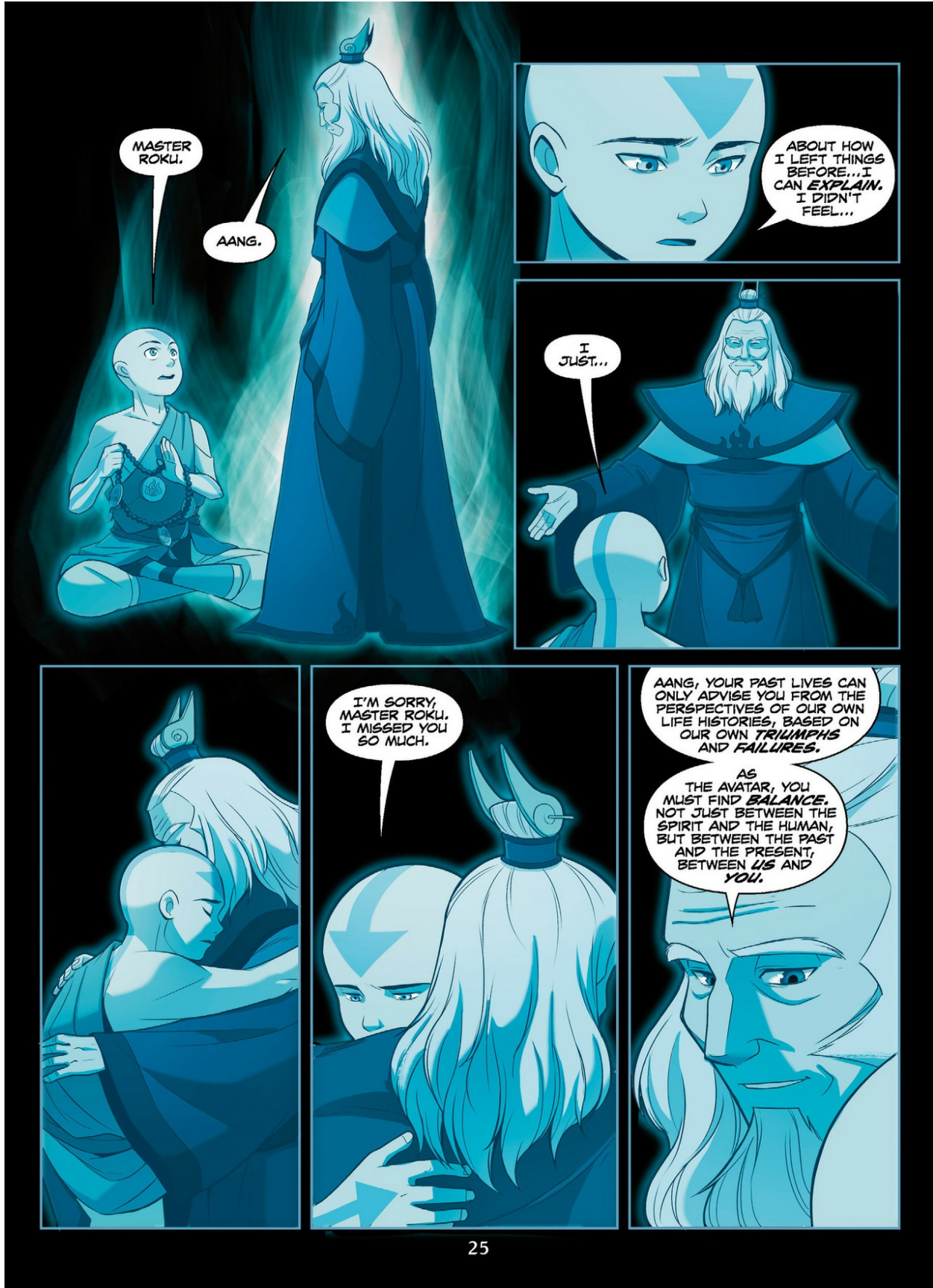












MASTER ROKU.

AANG.

ABOUT HOW I LEFT THINGS BEFORE... I CAN *EXPLAIN*. I DIDN'T FEEL...

I JUST...



I'M SORRY, MASTER ROKU. I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

AANG, YOUR PAST LIVES CAN ONLY ADVISE YOU FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF OUR OWN LIFE HISTORIES, BASED ON OUR OWN *TRiumPHS* AND *FAILURES*.
AS THE AVATAR, YOU MUST FIND *BALANCE*. NOT JUST BETWEEN THE SPIRIT AND THE HUMAN, BUT BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT, BETWEEN *US* AND *YOU*.



REMEMBER THIS AS YOU SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO YOUR CURRENT DILEMMA.



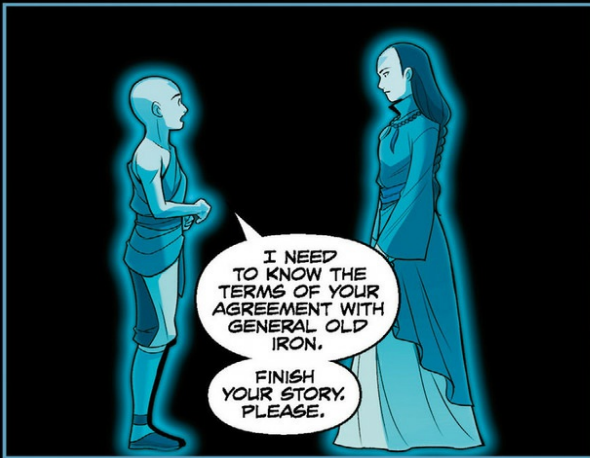
HEY, AVATAR KYOSHI!



HOW YA DOIN', AVATAR KURUK?



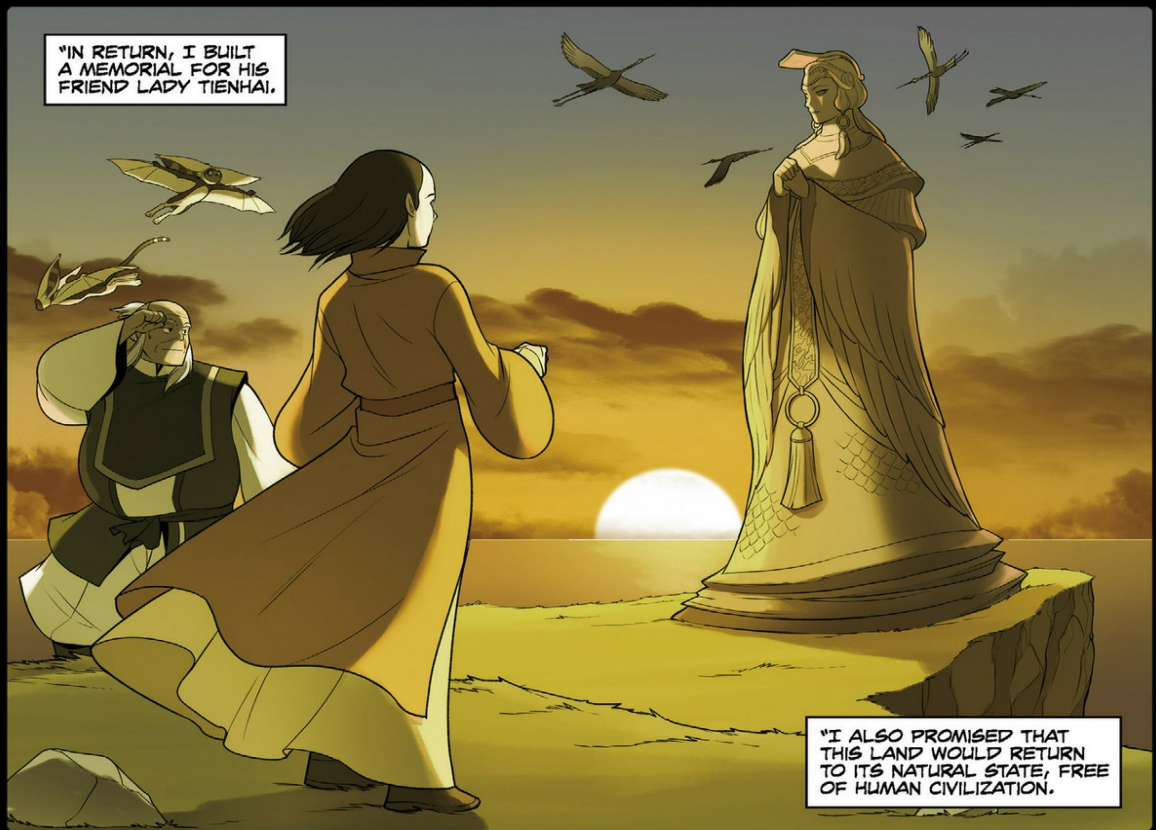
AVATAR YANGCHEN.



I NEED TO KNOW THE TERMS OF YOUR AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL OLD IRON.
FINISH YOUR STORY. PLEASE.



GENERAL OLD IRON PROMISED TO NEVER AGAIN TAKE UP HIS ARMOR AGAINST HUMANKIND.

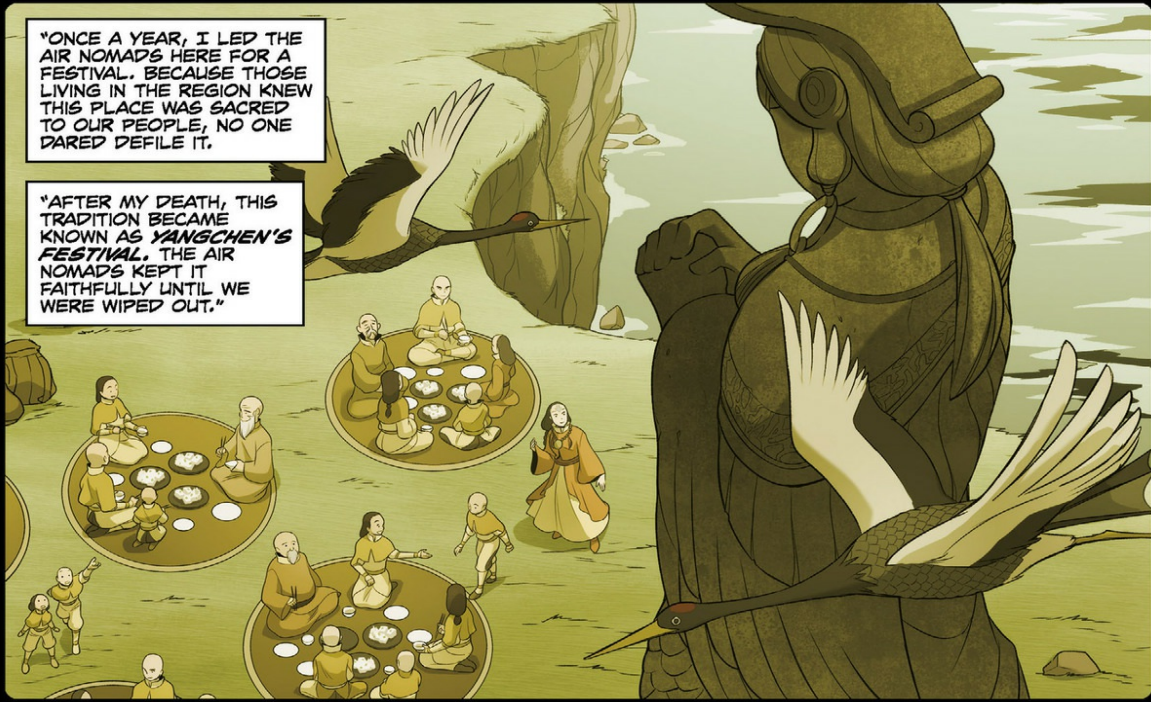


"IN RETURN, I BUILT A MEMORIAL FOR HIS FRIEND LADY TIENHAI.

"I ALSO PROMISED THAT THIS LAND WOULD RETURN TO ITS NATURAL STATE, FREE OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION.



"IT WOULD BE A SIGN THAT HUMANS ARE CAPABLE OF **PRESERVING** AND **PROTECTING**, THAT BALANCE CAN BE ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE SPIRIT AND HUMAN WORLDS.



"ONCE A YEAR, I LED THE AIR NOMADS HERE FOR A FESTIVAL. BECAUSE THOSE WHOSE LIVING IN THE REGION KNEW THIS PLACE WAS SACRED TO OUR PEOPLE, NO ONE DARED DEFILE IT."

"AFTER MY DEATH, THIS TRADITION BECAME KNOWN AS *YANGSHEN'S FESTIVAL*. THE AIR NOMADS KEPT IT FAITHFULLY UNTIL WE WERE WIPED OUT."

ALL THAT IRON THE METALBENDERS DUG UP, THAT WAS GENERAL OLD IRON'S ARMOR?

YES.

MY PROMISE HAS BEEN *BROKEN*. NOW, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE GENERAL OLD IRON RETURNS.

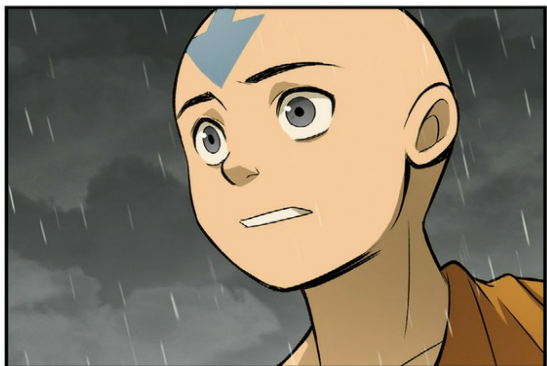
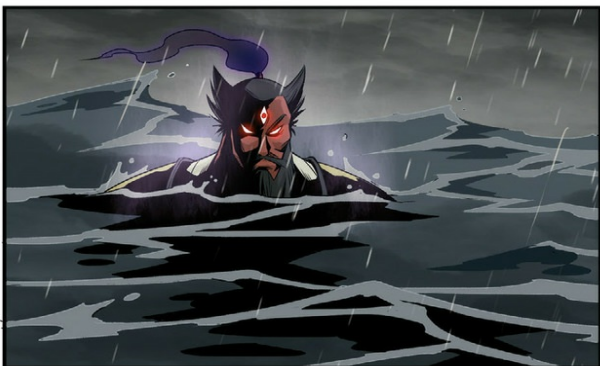
BUT THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO TURN HIM BACK! WHAT IF WE PUT THINGS BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE?

WHAT IF WE BURY THE ARMOR AGAIN, AND RETURN THIS PLACE TO ITS NATURAL STATE?

WOULDN'T THAT, YOU KNOW, *UNBREAK* YOUR PROMISE TO GENERAL OLD IRON?

...

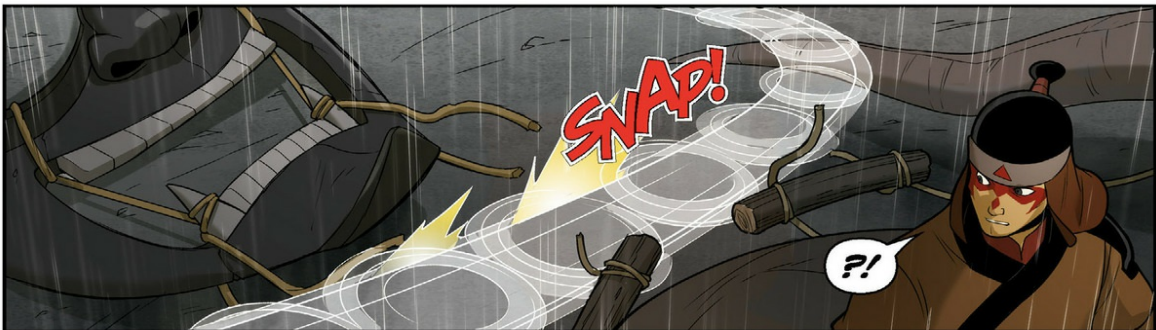
GO, AANG. YOUR FRIENDS NEED YOU.





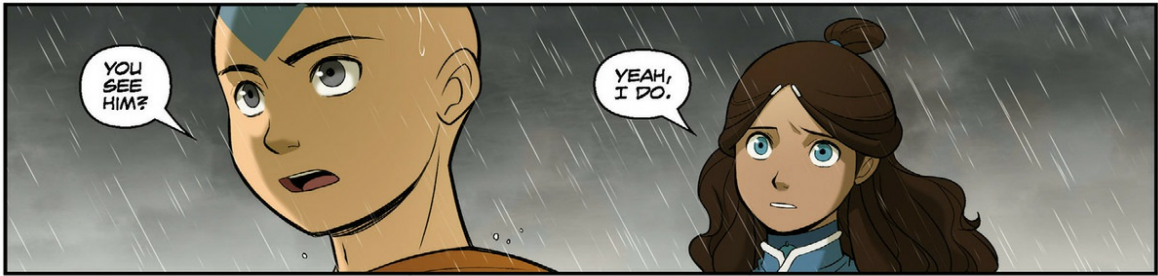


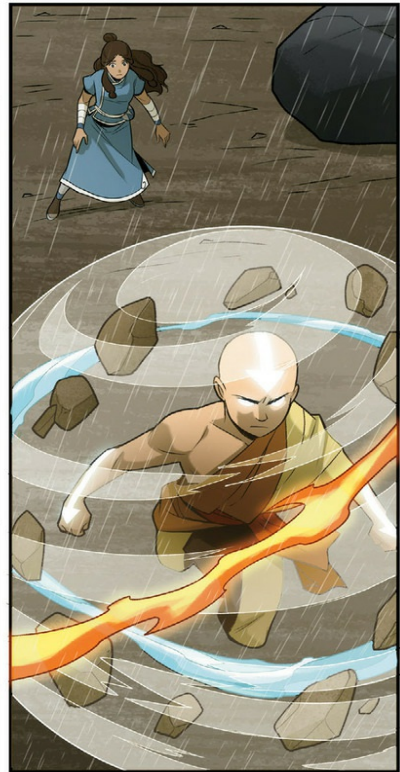


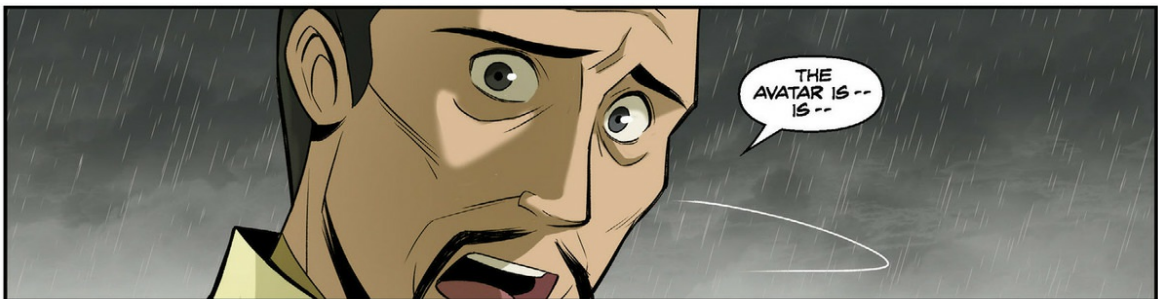
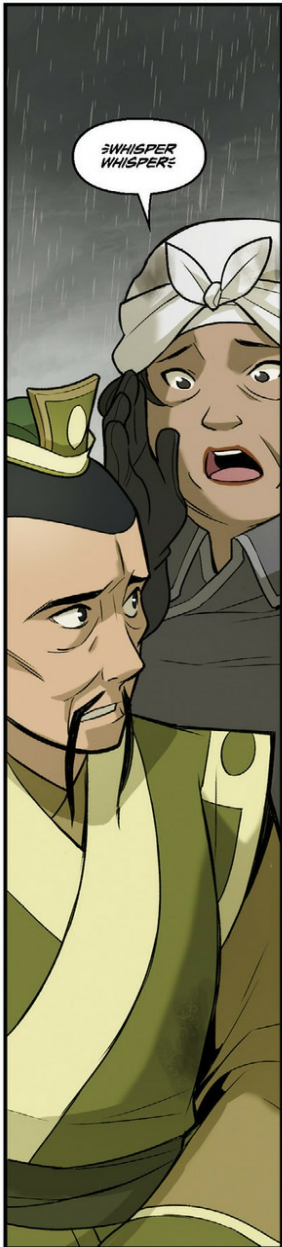












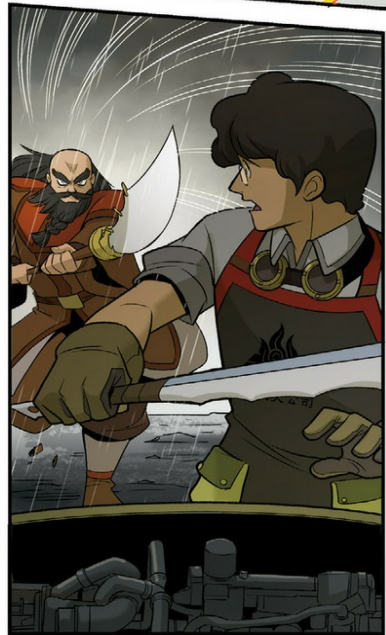
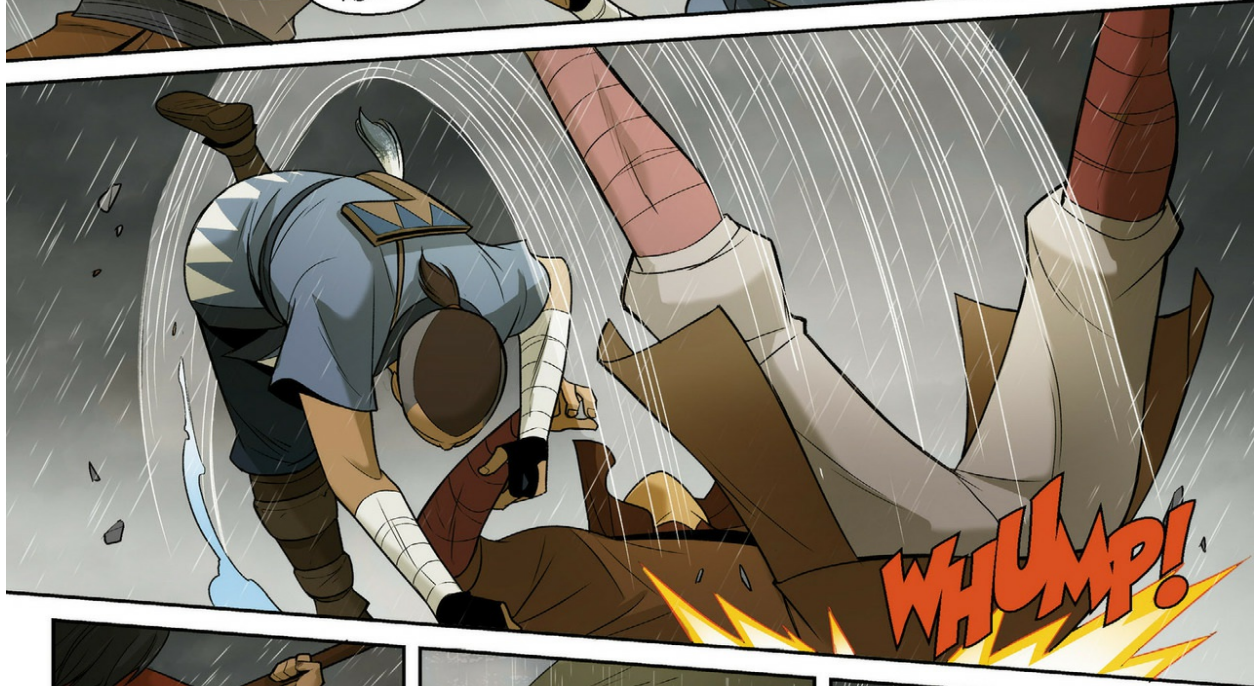
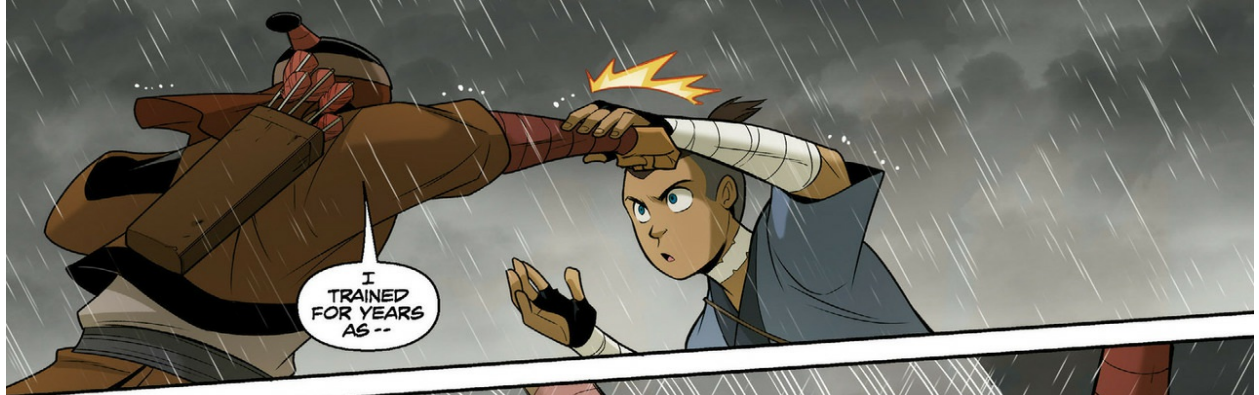








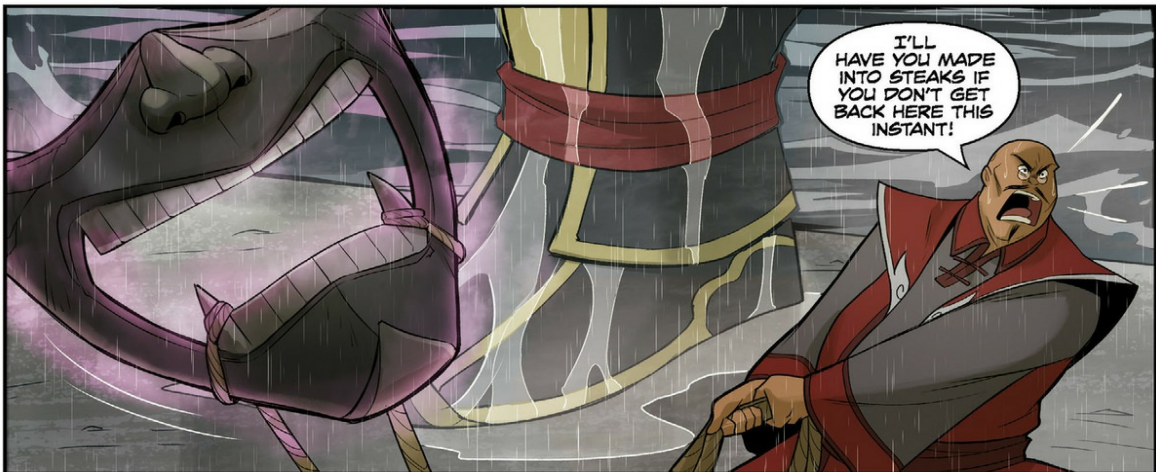
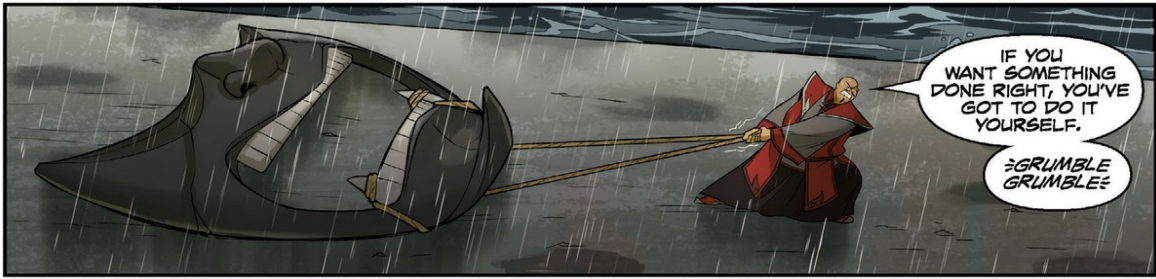








THAT
BIG.







SO THERE'S THIS GIANT, ANCIENT SPIRIT, RIGHT? NAMED **GENERAL OLD IRON**.

-- BUT THEN THE HUMANS CAME AND **BUILT ALL THIS STUFF** AND NOW HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO COME BACK BECAUSE, WELL --

AND **YANGCHEN**, WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, MADE A **DEAL** WITH THIS GENERAL GUY --

KKKKK!
KKKKK!
KKKKK!



TOPH, THERE'S JUST NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! YOU JUST GOTTA TRUST ME, OKAY? I HAVE TO MAKE THIS PLACE LOOK THE WAY IT USED TO!

WHY? SO YOU AND YOUR ACOLYTES CAN HAVE YOUR LITTLE PICNICS HERE AND ACT LIKE IT'S THE OLDEN TIMES AGAIN?!



WELL, YEAH, BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT! I HAVE TO SHOW THAT WE HUMANS KNOW HOW TO **PRESERVE AND PROTECT!**

BY **DESTROYING EVERYTHING** THOSE PEOPLE **BUILT?!**

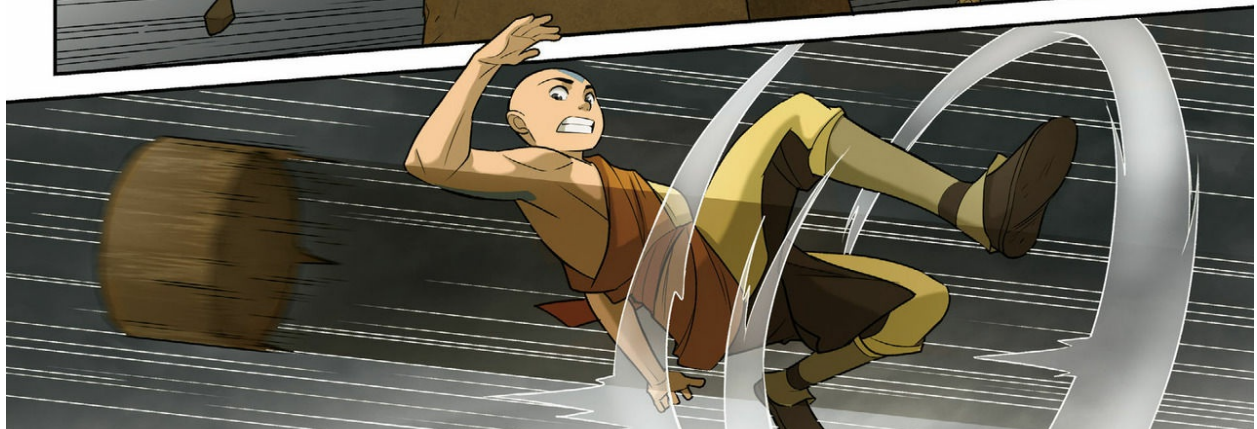
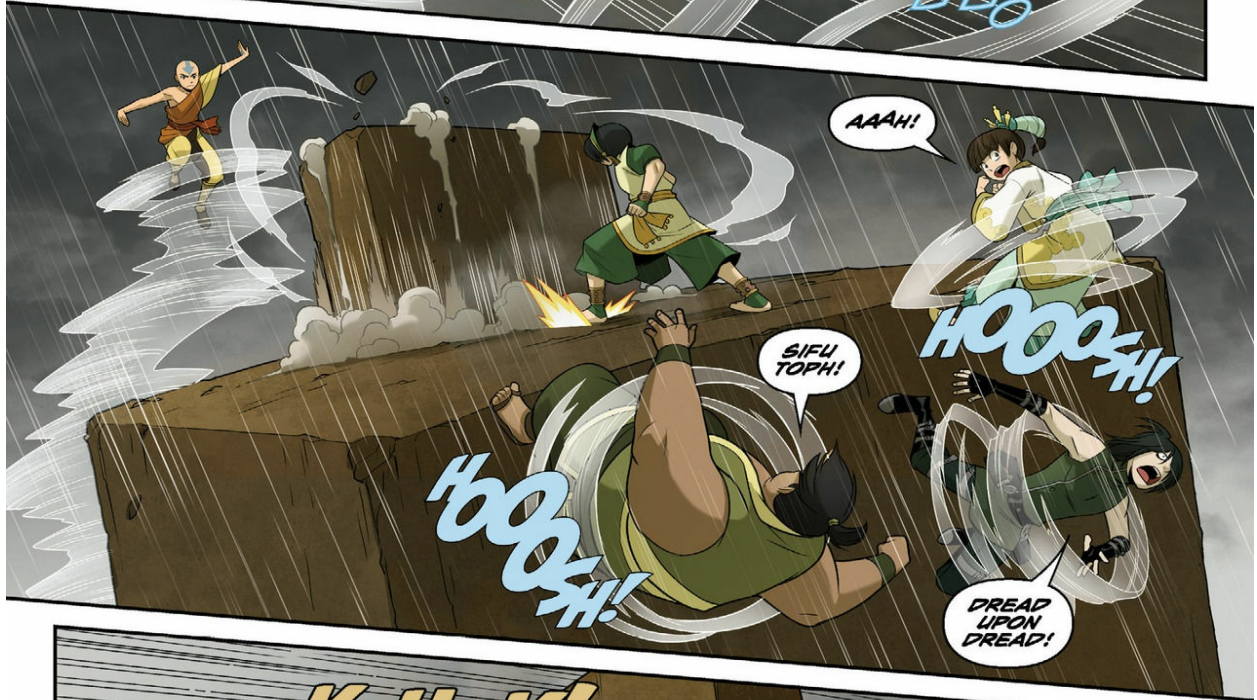


I TOLD YOU ALREADY, MY DAD'S REFINERY -- THAT'S THE **FUTURE**. I'M NOT LETTING YOU TEAR DOWN THE FUTURE!

TOPH, PLEASE! YOU GUYS GOTTA GET OUT OF THE WAY!

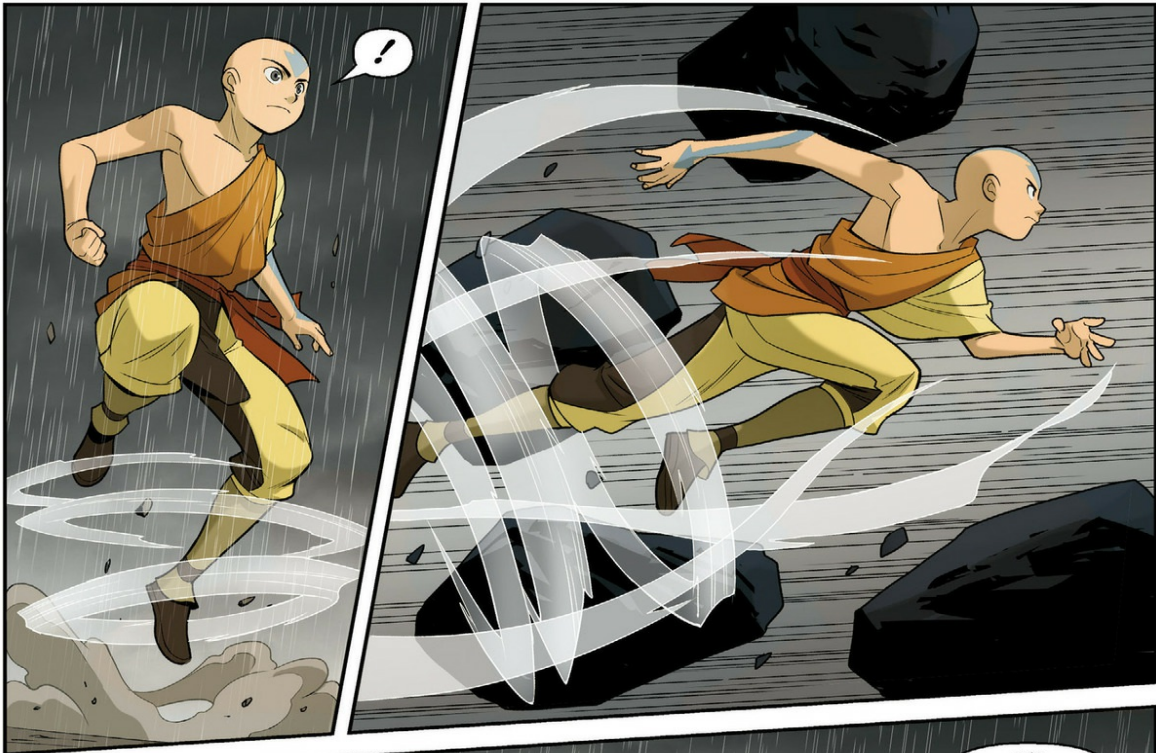


MAKE US.

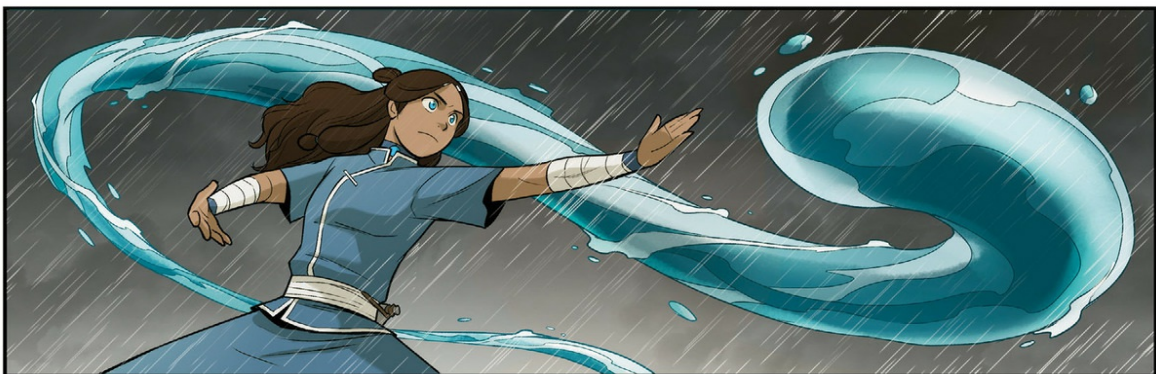














I'VE GOT YOU GUYS! NOW LET GO!



YOU HEARD MY SISTER! COME ON!

UNCLE! IT'S TIME TO LET GO!

I-I C-C-CAN'T!



YES, YOU CAN. JUST BREATHE OUT SLOWLY.

AND LET GO.

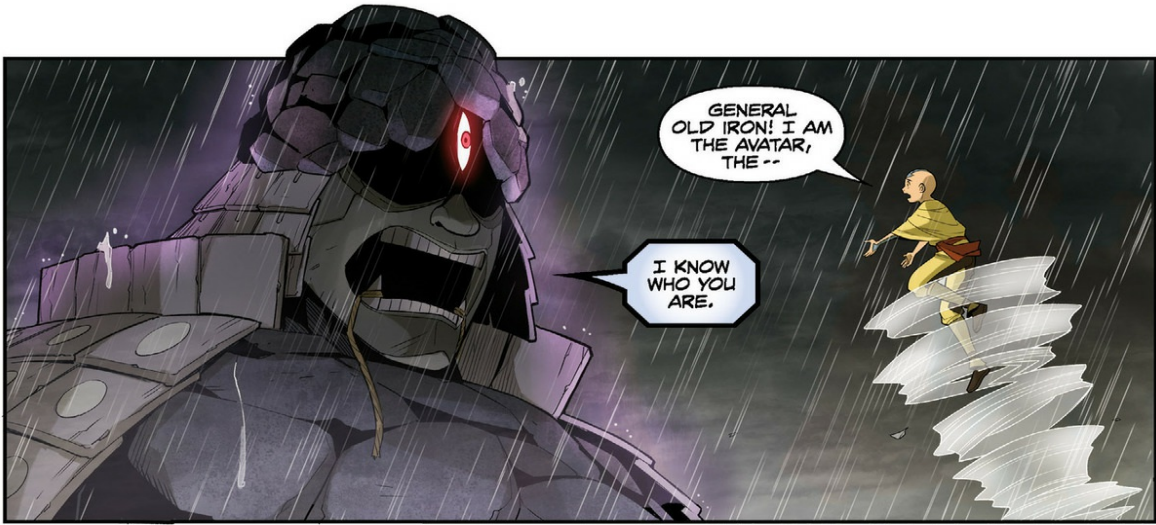


COUGH! COUGH!

YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK I LIKE WATER SLIDES ANY BETTER THAN DIRT SLIDES.

UNCLE, YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M ALIVE. THANKS TO YOU, MY NEPHEW.



GENERAL
OLD IRON! I AM
THE AVATAR,
THE --

I KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.



WELL, THEN YOU KNOW
IT'S MY JOB TO MAINTAIN
BALANCE BETWEEN THE
HUMANS AND THE SPIRITS.
GENERAL, I KNOW ABOUT
THE AGREEMENT THAT
YOU AND --



QUIET!
I WAS ONCE
TAKEN IN BY THE
CHITTING OF
ONE OF YOUR
PREDECESSORS.
NO MORE.

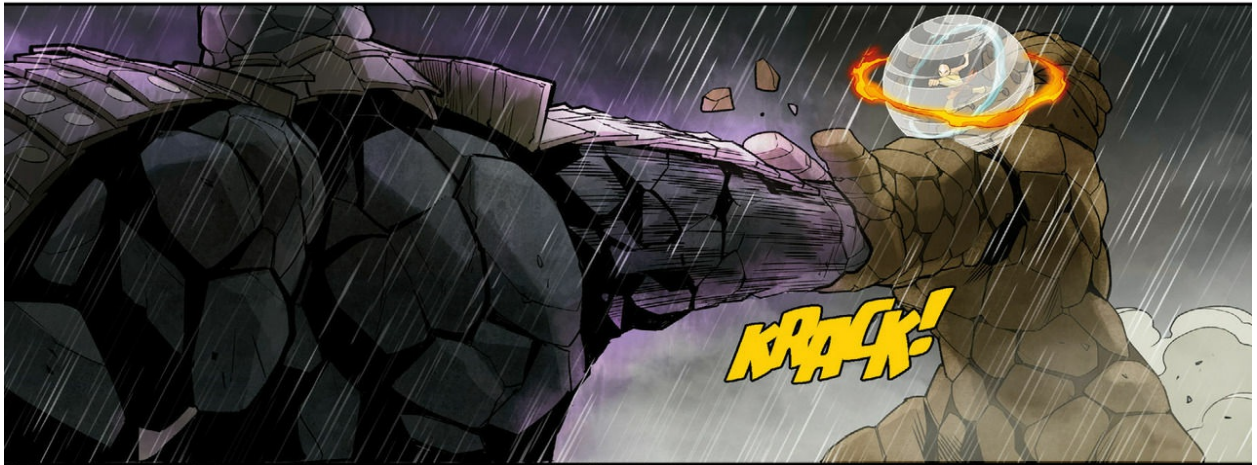
I'VE COME
TO DO WHAT
I SHOULD
HAVE DONE
LONG AGO --



**WIPE YOUR
KIND FROM
EXISTENCE!**

THOOM!









KRACK! KRACK!

AANG WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANYWHERE WITH THAT GIANT SPIRIT BECAUSE OF ITS IRON ARMOR!

WE'RE GONNA PEEL IT OFF SCALE BY SCALE TO GIVE THE AVATAR A FIGHTING CHANCE!



THIS'LL BE JUST LIKE FOREST BOWING TO THE EAST WIND!

AW, I HATE FOREST BOWING TO THE EAST WIND ALMOST AS MUCH AS SPIDER-ANTS BENEATH STOMPING FEET!

TAKE YOUR STANCES, STEADY AND STRONG! THEN FOLLOW MY LEAD!



?!

KRAACK



IT'S WORKING!
KEEP IT UP!



WHAT IS THIS?!

TOPH?



AANG!
YOU GOT A CLEAR SHOT NOW, RIGHT IN HIS CHEST! GO BACK INTO THE AVATAR STATE AND GIVE HIM EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!



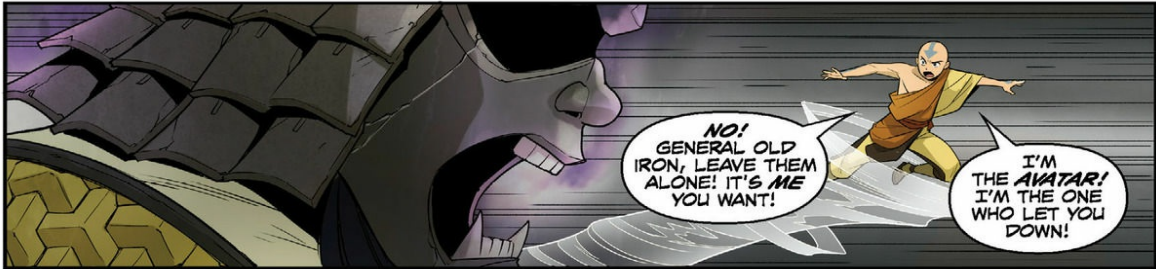
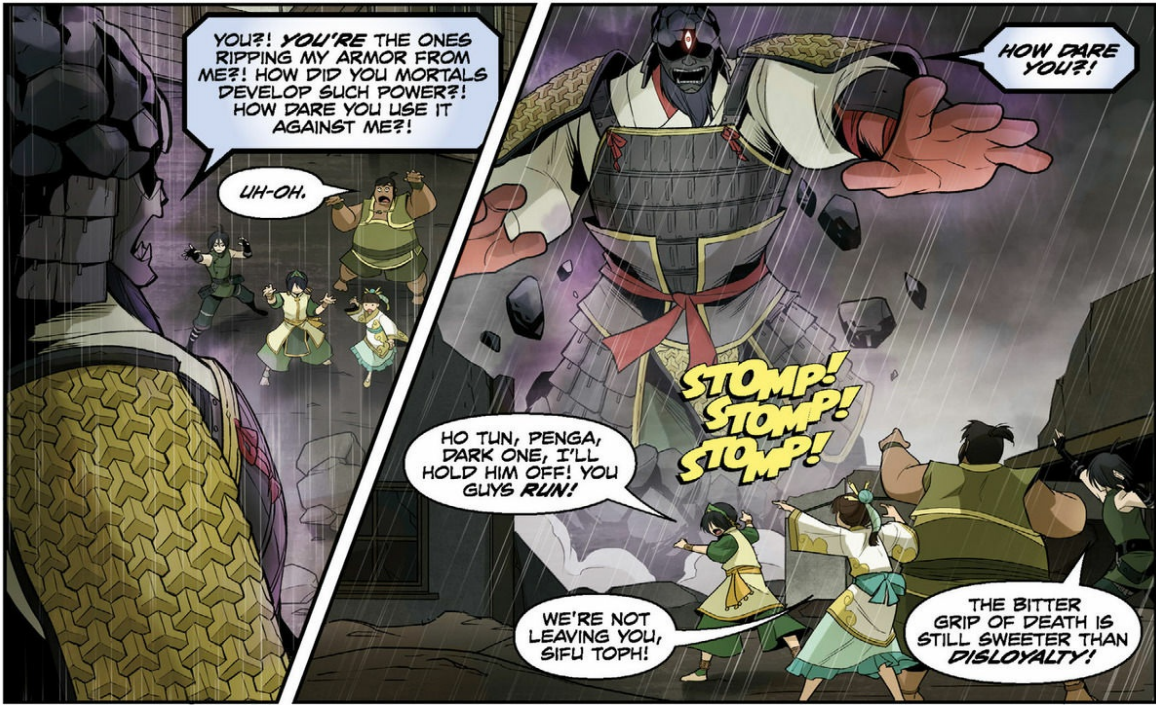
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?!

NO, TOPH! WITHOUT HIS ARMOR, A SHOT LIKE THAT MIGHT BE TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO TAKE! I CAN'T RISK IT!



ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR GOURD, TWINKLE TOES?! HE'S ABOUT TO CRUSH YOU! DO IT!

DO IT NOW!





KROOOOM!

STAY AWAY FROM MY FRIEND!



!GASP!
GENERAL OLD IRON!



OH NO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO --

TOO LATE...

TOO LATE... FOR MY KIND...



LONG AGO, I WAS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU HUMANS. NOW, LOOK AT ME, AND LOOK AT YOU.

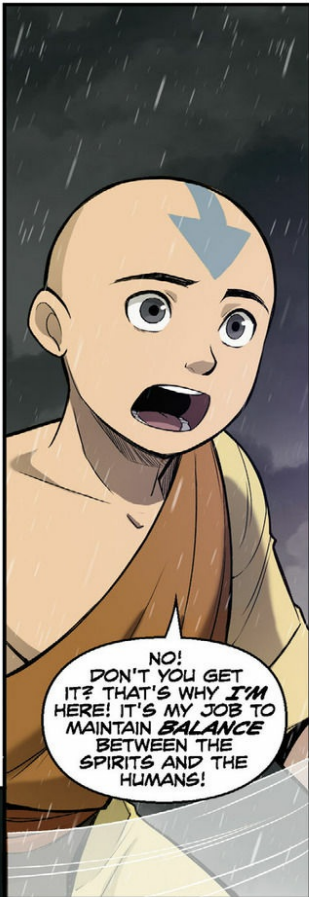


LADY TIENHAI REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT, BUT I WAS RIGHT. I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG.

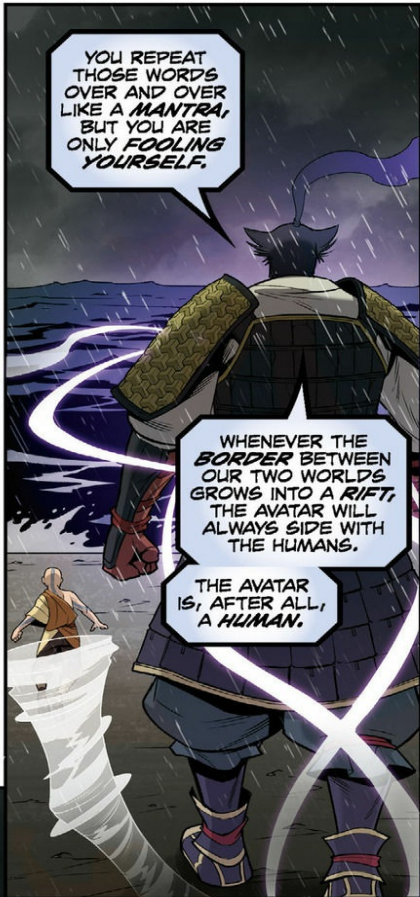
MY GIRLFRIEND IS A HEALER, ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD! LET HER LOOK AT YOUR WOUND --



MY AGREEMENT WITH YOUR PREDECESSOR ONLY STAYED OFF THE INEVITABLE. THERE IS NO LONGER A PLACE FOR SPIRITS IN THIS WORLD.



NO!
DON'T YOU GET IT? THAT'S WHY I'M
HERE! IT'S MY JOB TO
MAINTAIN *BALANCE*
BETWEEN THE
SPIRITS AND THE
HUMANS!



YOU REPEAT
THOSE WORDS
OVER AND OVER
LIKE A *MANTRA*,
BUT YOU ARE
ONLY *FOOLING*
YOURSELF.

WHENEVER THE
BORDER BETWEEN
OUR TWO WORLDS
GROWS INTO A *RIFT*,
THE AVATAR WILL
ALWAYS SIDE WITH
THE HUMANS.

THE AVATAR
IS, AFTER ALL,
A *HUMAN*.



IT
DOESN'T HAVE
TO BE LIKE THAT,
GENERAL! STAY! I'LL
PROVE TO YOU THAT
BALANCE IS
POSSIBLE!

AT THE CORE OF HUMAN
NATURE IS THE *WILL TO*
DOMINATE. LOOK INTO YOUR
OWN HEART AND YOU'LL SEE
THAT IT'S TRUE.

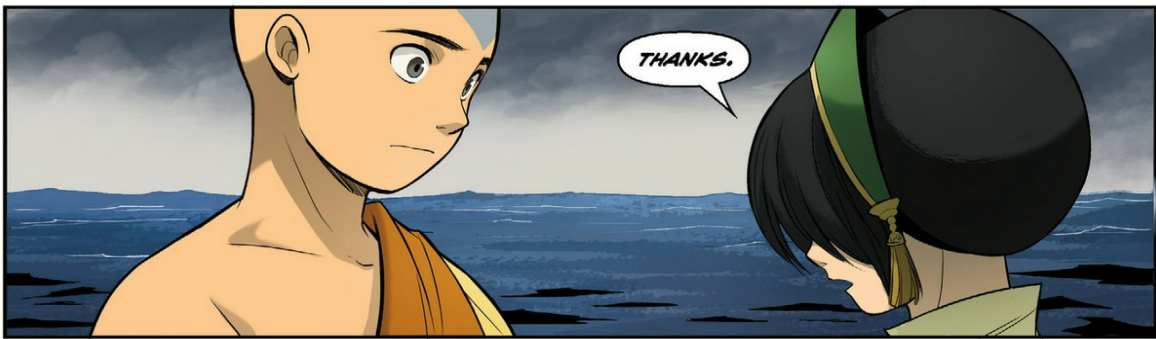
THERE CAN BE NO
BALANCE BETWEEN THE
SPIRIT WORLD AND THE
HUMAN ONE.



I PAY
HOMAGE TO
YOU, YOUNG
HUMAN.

FOR YOU HAVE
VANQUISHED
ME.





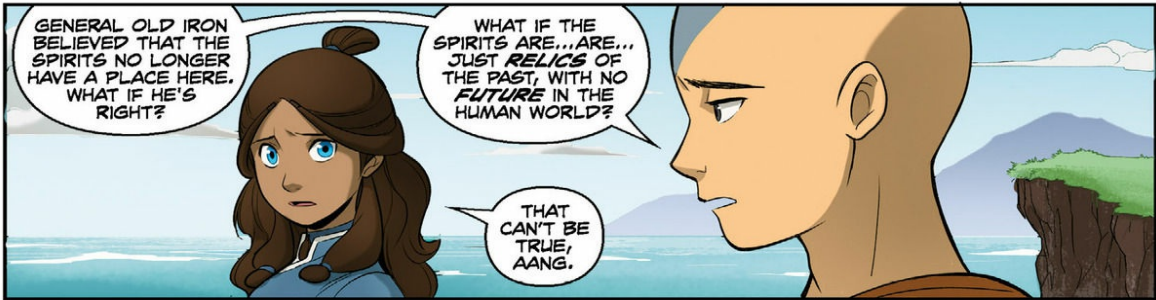






HOW
AWFUL! WHAT
HAPPENED?

ALL THOSE
EARTHQUAKES,
MAYBE? I'M
NOT SURE.



GENERAL OLD IRON
BELIEVED THAT THE
SPIRITS NO LONGER
HAVE A PLACE HERE.
WHAT IF HE'S
RIGHT?

WHAT IF THE
SPIRITS ARE...ARE...
JUST *RELIQS* OF
THE PAST, WITH NO
FUTURE IN THE
HUMAN WORLD?

THAT
CAN'T BE
TRUE,
AANG.



I BELIEVE IN
THE *AVATAR*.
I BELIEVE IN
YOU.

YOU'RE BETWEEN
THE SPIRITS AND
US. IF YOU HAVE
A PART IN OUR
WORLD'S FUTURE,
THEN THE SPIRITS
MUST HAVE ONE,
TOO.



MAYBE YOU
OUGHT TO TALK
TO ONE OF YOUR
PAST LIVES
ABOUT IT.

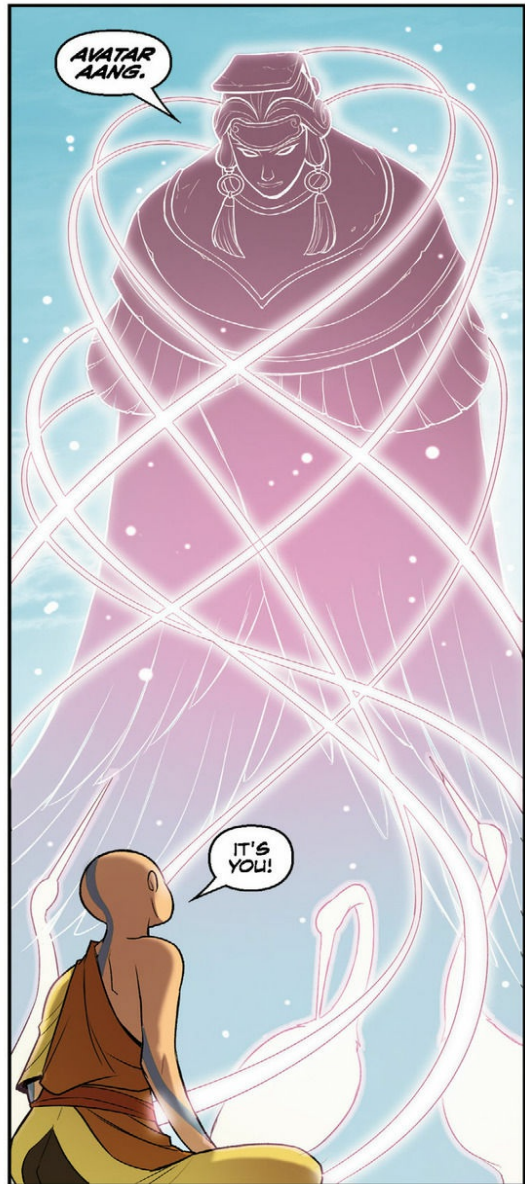
I DON'T KNOW...WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT THE
FUTURE, AND THEY'RE
MY *PAST LIVES*.

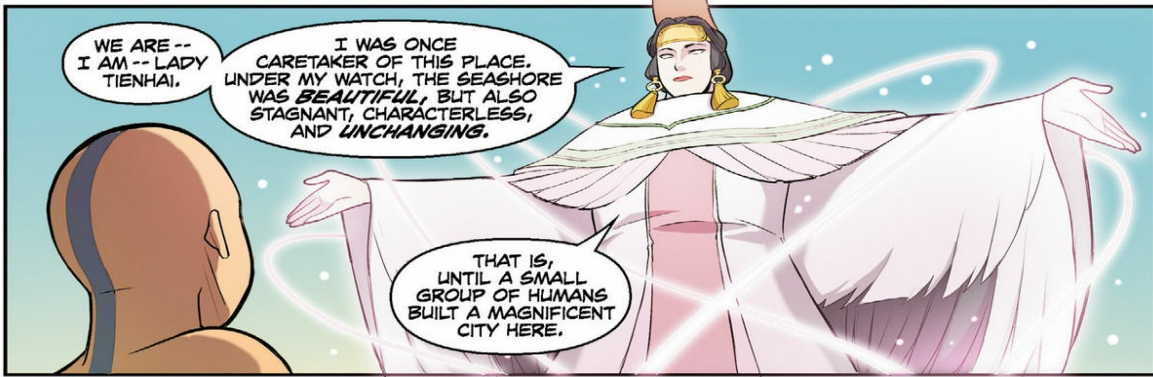
I DON'T
THINK THE PAST
AND THE FUTURE ARE
SEPARATE. THEY'RE
CONNECTED, YOU
KNOW? BY *TODAY*.
BY *US*.



FIND ME IF
YOU NEED ME,
SWEETIE.

I
WILL.





WE ARE --
I AM -- LADY
TIENHAI.

I WAS ONCE
CARETAKER OF THIS PLACE.
UNDER MY WATCH, THE SEASHORE
WAS *BEAUTIFUL*, BUT ALSO
STAGNANT, CHARACTERLESS,
AND *UNCHANGING*.

THAT IS,
UNTIL A SMALL
GROUP OF HUMANS
BUILT A MAGNIFICENT
CITY HERE.



"AFTER MY FRIEND GENERAL OLD
IRON LEFT ME, I BEGAN A NEW
TRADITION. ONCE A YEAR, I
WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A
HUMAN FOR A NIGHT AND STROLL
THROUGH THE CITY'S STREETS.

"I MARVELED AT
EVERYTHING THE
HUMANS CREATED.



"ON ONE OF THESE VISITS, I MET THE
CITY'S PRECOCIOUS YOUNG *PRINCE*. HIS
CURIOSITY WAS ENDLESS, AND SO WAS HIS
ENERGY. HE MADE THE MOST *BEAUTIFUL
THINGS* -- MACHINES AND BOOKS,
SCULPTURES AND BUILDING DESIGNS.

"I WANTED TO ALWAYS BE NEAR
HIM. I WILLINGLY ACCEPTED MY
HUMAN FORM AS *PERMANENT*,
EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT THAT
I WOULD EVENTUALLY
EXPERIENCE A HUMAN DEATH.



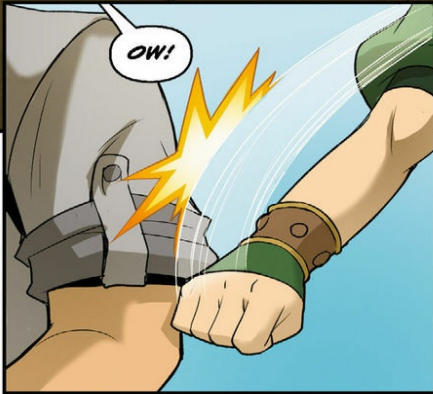
"WE MARRIED.

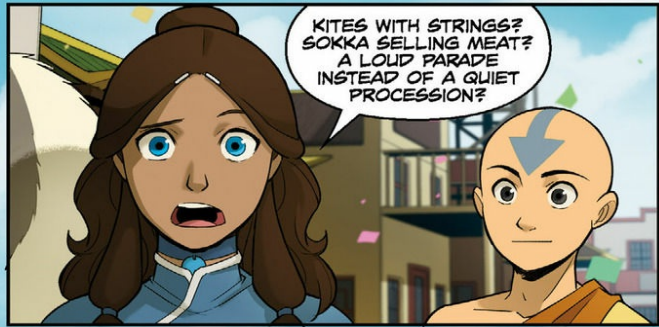
"MY PRINCE EVENTUALLY
BECAME *KING*, AND WE
LIVED IN HAPPINESS FOR
MANY YEARS.



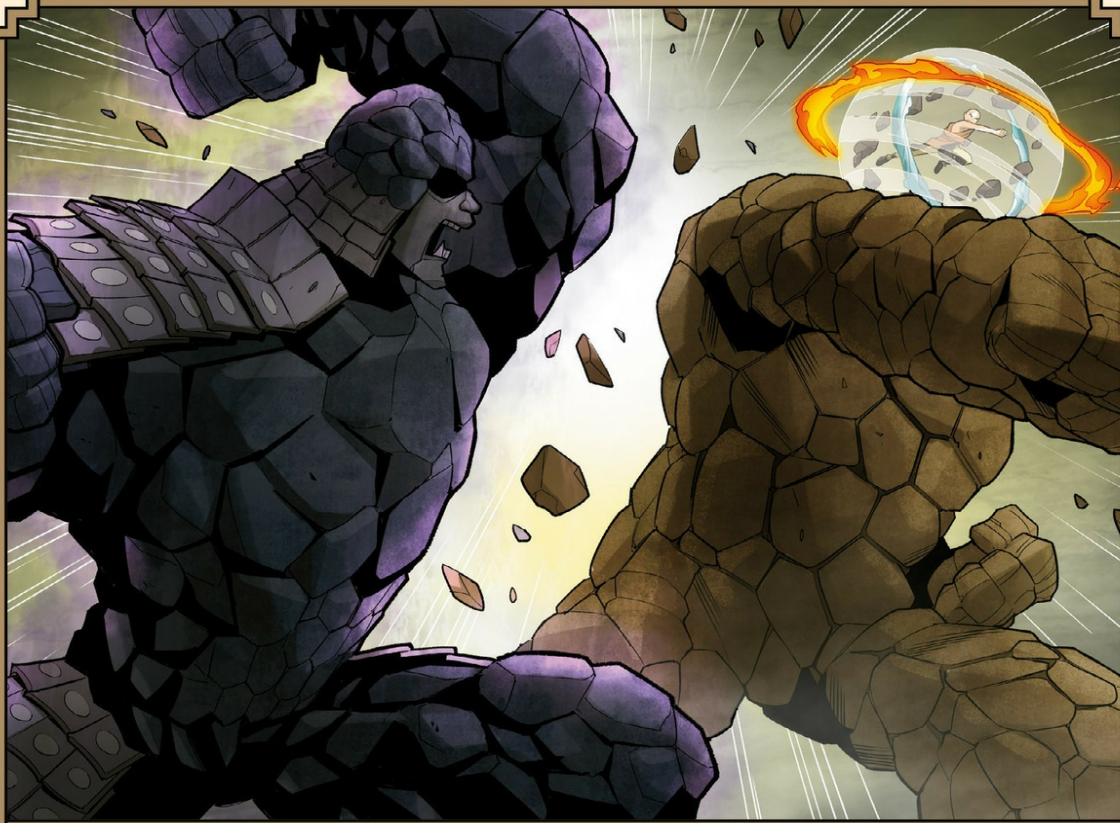
"WHEN I DIED,
HOWEVER, THE KING
BLAMED HIMSELF.
HE BELIEVED HE
HAD SEDUCED ME
INTO GIVING UP MY
ORIGINAL, IMMORTAL
FORM."











The spirits are restless!

As Avatar Aang and his friends confront an ancient spirit determined to destroy a town on land sacred to the Air Nomads, Toph and Aang find themselves on opposing sides in a battle of gigantic proportions. If Toph and Aang don't put aside their differences, there's more at stake than just their friendship!

Writer Gene Luen Yang and artists Gurihiru, the team behind bestsellers *The Promise* and *The Search*, helm this thrilling conclusion to the *Avatar: The Last Airbender—The Rift* saga! Developed in close collaboration with *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *The Legend of Korra* creators Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, this is the definitive continuation of the beloved TV series!



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