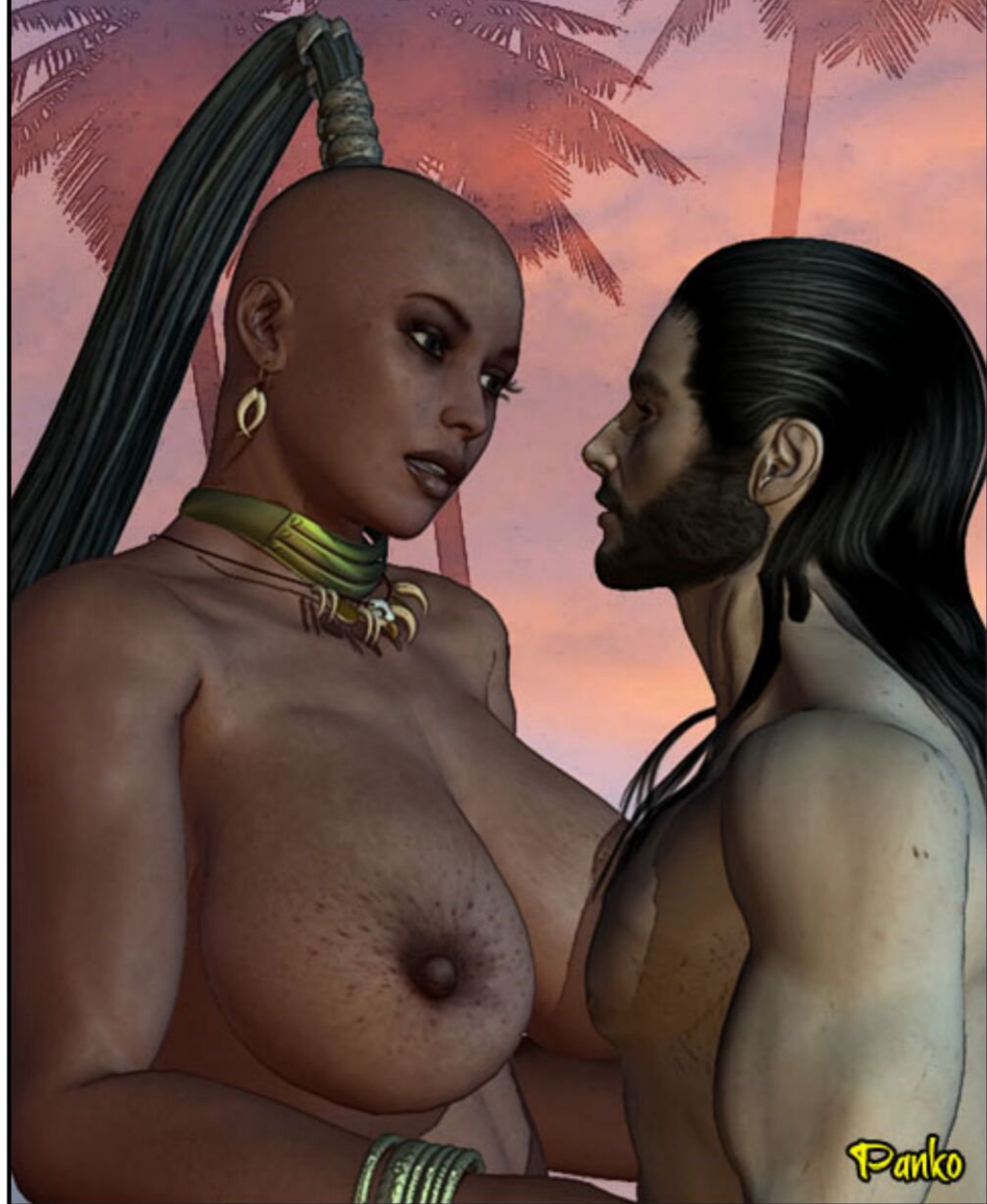


THE TRUE STORY OF ODYSSEUS, ONCE KING OF ITHACA
- BY HIMSELF -

----- BOOK 5 -----
IN THE LAND OF THE LAESTRYGONIANS







THE TRUE STORY
OF ODYSSEUS
ONCE KING OF ITHACA
- BY HIMSELF -

BOOK 1	.....	THE EVENTS IN TROY
BOOK 2	.....	IN THE LAND OF LOTUS-EATERS
BOOK 3	.....	ON THE ISLAND OF THE CYCLOPS
BOOK 4	.....	THE FLOATING ISLAND OF AEOLUS
BOOK 5	.....	IN THE LAND OF THE LAESTRYGONIANS
BOOK 6	.....	ON THE ISLAND OF CIRCE
BOOK 7	.....	IN THE UNDERWORLD
BOOK 8	.....	ON THE ISLAND OF THE SIRENS
BOOK 9	.....	SCYLLA AND CHARYBDE
BOOK 10	.....	ON THE ISLAND OF HELIOS
BOOK 11	.....	ON THE ISLAND OF CALYPSO
BOOK 12	.....	ON THE ISLAND OF THE PHAEACIANS
BOOK 13	THE RETURN TO ITHACA
BOOK 14	HELEN

SCRIPT AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY PANKO

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ΕΒΔΟΜΑΤΗ Δ' ΙΚΟΜΕΣΘΑ ΛΑΜΟΥ ΑΙΠΥ ΠΤΟΛΙΕΘΡΟΝ,
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ΗΠΥΕΙ ΕΙΣΕΛΑΩΝ, Ο ΔΕ Τ' ΕΞΕΛΑΩΝ ΥΠΑΚΟΥΕΙ.

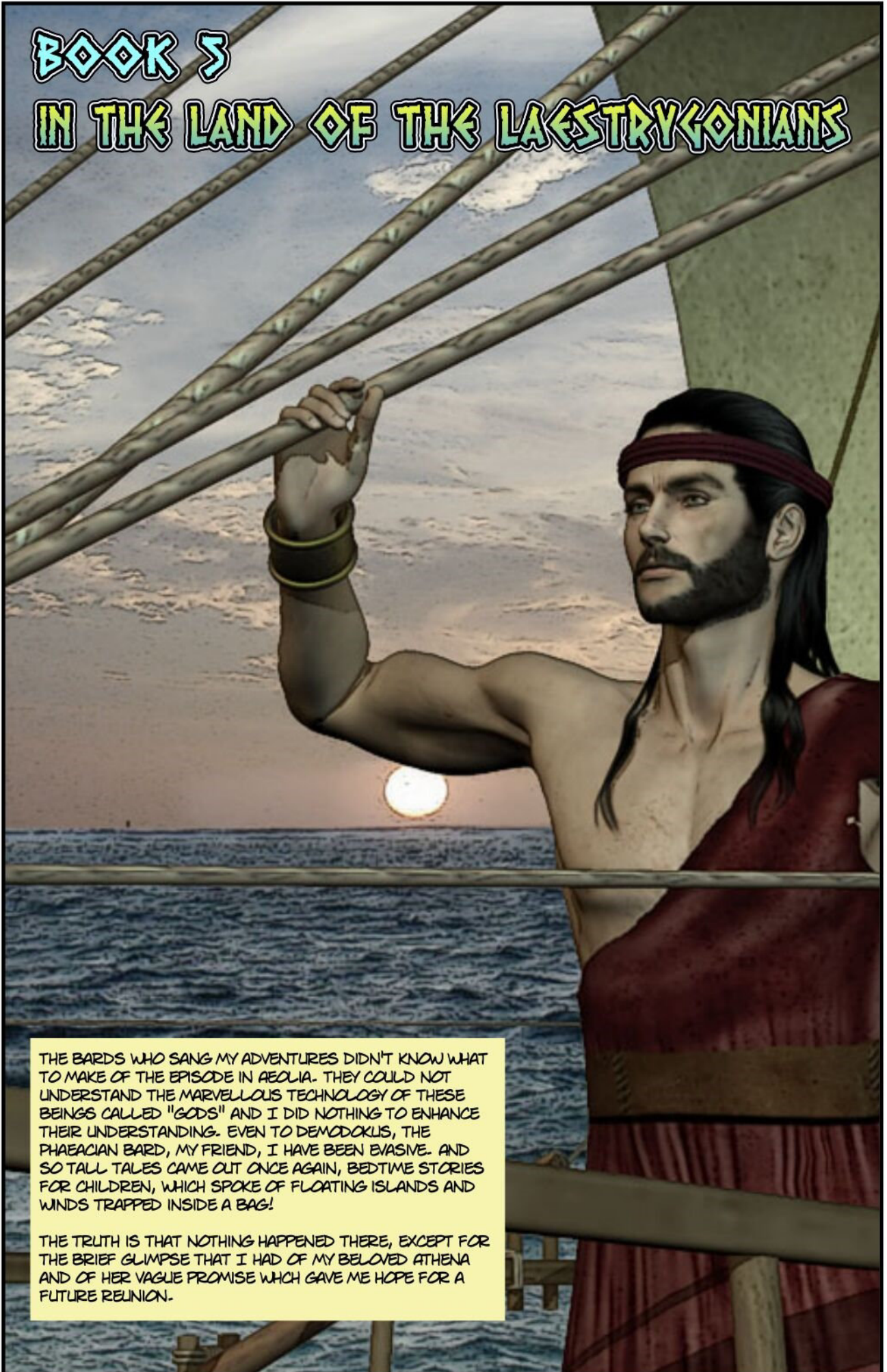
Homer, "The Odyssey", x 80-83

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P.O. Box 26
Hydra 18040
Greece
email: panflynn@otenet.gr



BOOK 3

IN THE LAND OF THE LAESTRYGONIANS



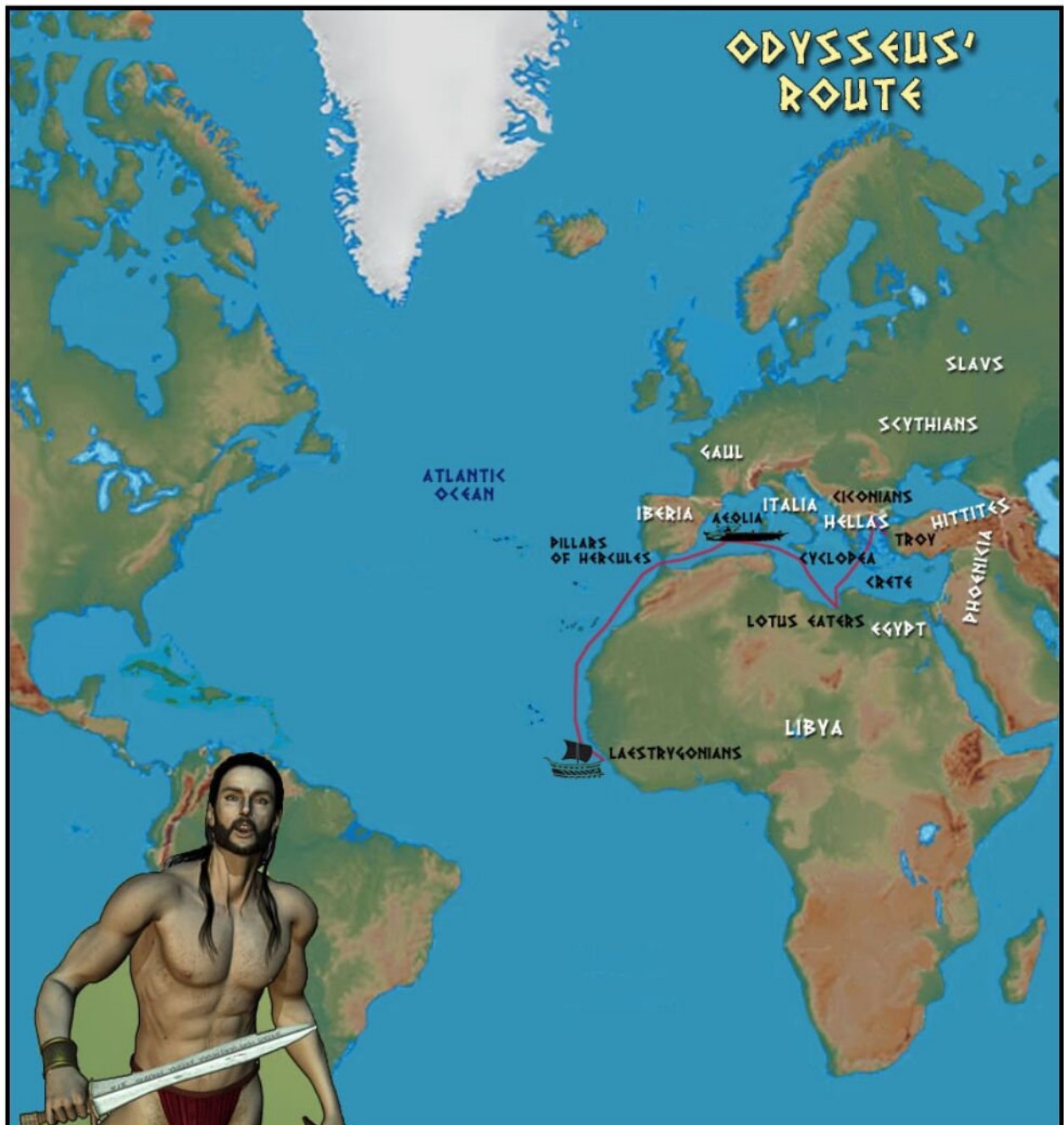
THE BARDS WHO SANG MY ADVENTURES DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THE EPISODE IN AEOLIA. THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE MARVELLOUS TECHNOLOGY OF THESE BEINGS CALLED "GODS" AND I DID NOTHING TO ENHANCE THEIR UNDERSTANDING. EVEN TO DEMODOKUS, THE PHAEACIAN BARD, MY FRIEND, I HAVE BEEN EVASIVE. AND SO TALL TALES CAME OUT ONCE AGAIN, BEDTIME STORIES FOR CHILDREN, WHICH SPOKE OF FLOATING ISLANDS AND WINDS TRAPPED INSIDE A BAG!

THE TRUTH IS THAT NOTHING HAPPENED THERE, EXCEPT FOR THE BRIEF GLIMPSE THAT I HAD OF MY BELOVED ATHENA AND OF HER VAGUE PROMISE WHICH GAVE ME HOPE FOR A FUTURE REUNION.

THE WINDS PUSHED US FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM WHAT MOST OF US -THAT IS MOST OF THEM- CALLED "HOME!". WE HAD NO CONTROL OVER OUR SHIPS IN SUCH FIERCE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND SO WE COULD ONLY HOPE THAT THE OLD PLANKS WOULD HOLD TOGETHER FOR AS LONG AS IT WOULD TAKE TO REACH SOME HOSPITABLE LAND AND FEEL THE SOLID EARTH BENEATH OUR FEET ONCE AGAIN.

I KNEW -FOR HAMON, OUR PHOENICIAN CAPTAIN, TOLD ME- THAT IN THE DIRECTION WE WERE HEADING FOR ONLY DANGER AND HARDSHIPS AWAITED US. AT THIS SPEED RATE WE WERE SOON TO GO THROUGH THE PILLARS OF HERCULES, BEYOND WHICH STRETCHED THE VAST IMMENSITY OF THE GREAT OCEAN AND THE UNKNOWN. RUMOURS SPOKE OF A HUGE CONTINENT THAT ONCE EXISTED THERE -IN THE OLDEN DAYS- THAT SOME CALL ATLANTIS, WHICH HAD SUNK BENEATH THE WAVES FOR IT PROVOKED THE WRATH OF THE GODS. OTHER RUMOURS CLAIMED THAT A RICH LAND EXISTED BEYOND THE OCEAN, WHERE GOLD AND PRECIOUS STONES FLOWED IN THE RIVERS. WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH OF THIS IS TRUE AND HOW MUCH FIGMENTS OF IMAGINATION?

WHENEVER I QUESTION HAMON ABOUT IT HE BECOMES CAREFUL AND EVASIVE AND I KNOW THAT HE IS BOUND BY AN OATH OF SILENCE BY THE LAWS OF HIS PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING TO PROTECT THEIR SECRET TRADE ROUTES AND KEEP THEIR DISCOVERIES TO THEMSELVES. IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. WE HAD OUR CHANCE TO SAIL BACK HOME SAFELY AND WE BLEW IT AWAY.



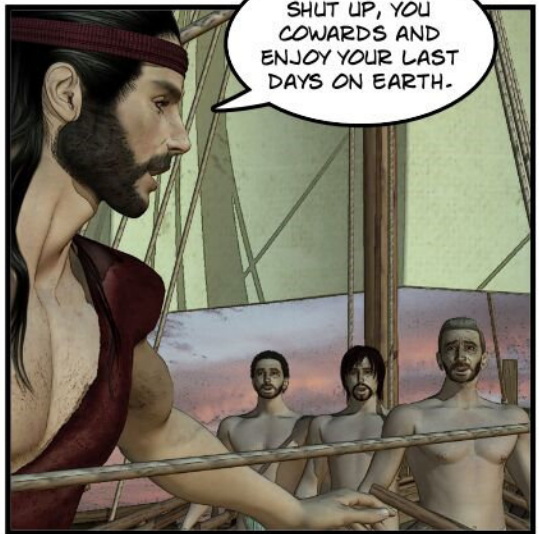


WE SAILED PAST THE PILLARS OF HERCULES AS THE SUN WAS SETTING ON THE WESTERN HORIZON.



THE END OF THE WORLD!

WE ARE LOST!... LOST!

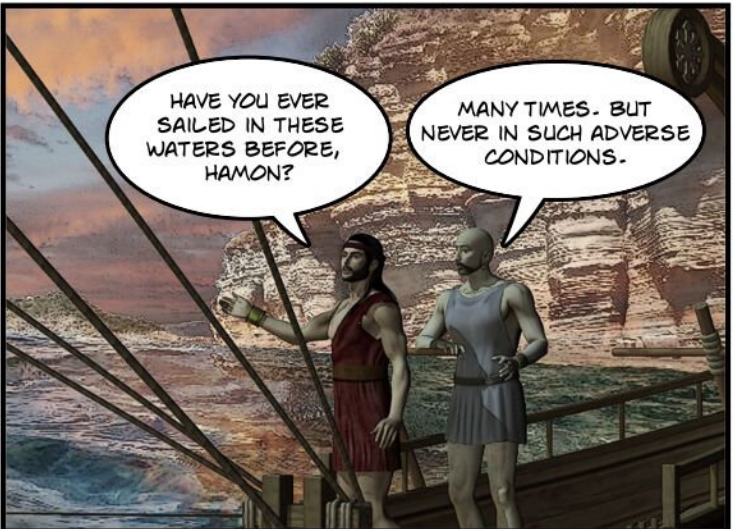


SHUT UP, YOU COWARDS AND ENJOY YOUR LAST DAYS ON EARTH.

HAMON, MY TRUSTED PHOENICIAN CAPTAIN AND FRIEND, WAS SMILING.



YOU HAVE A WAY TO BOOST UP THEIR HOPES, MY KING!



HAVE YOU EVER SAILED IN THESE WATERS BEFORE, HAMON?

MANY TIMES. BUT NEVER IN SUCH ADVERSE CONDITIONS.



TROUBLE WAS THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE SAILING CLOSE TO THE WOODEN SHORES OF THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE LIBYAN CONTINENT, DUE TO THE ADVERSE WINDS IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO LAND.



AT LONG LAST, AFTER MANY, MANY DAYS AT SEA, THE WIND SUDDENLY DROPPED AND WE COULD MAKE OUR WAY INTO A CALM AND PROTECTED BAY.



NEAR THE BEACH WE FOUND A FRESH WATER SPRING AND SO WE COULD REPLENISH OUR STOCK. THEN I SENT MY SECOND IN COMMAND, EURYLOCHUS, WITH TWO MEN TO EXPLORE THE VICINITY.

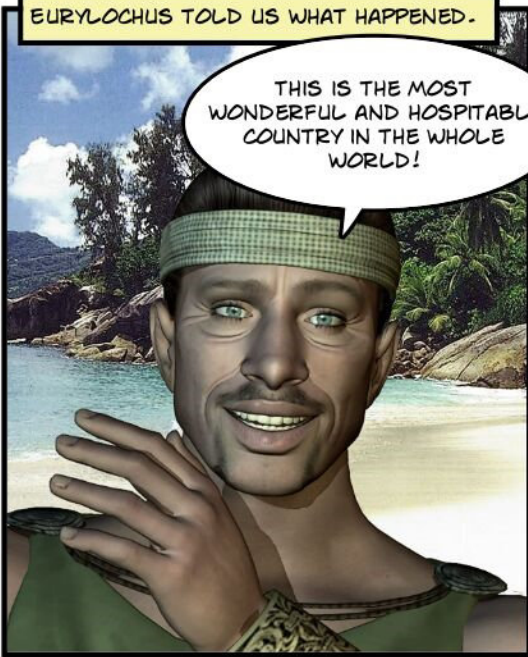


THEY RETURNED THREE HOURS LATER, ELATED AND MERRY.

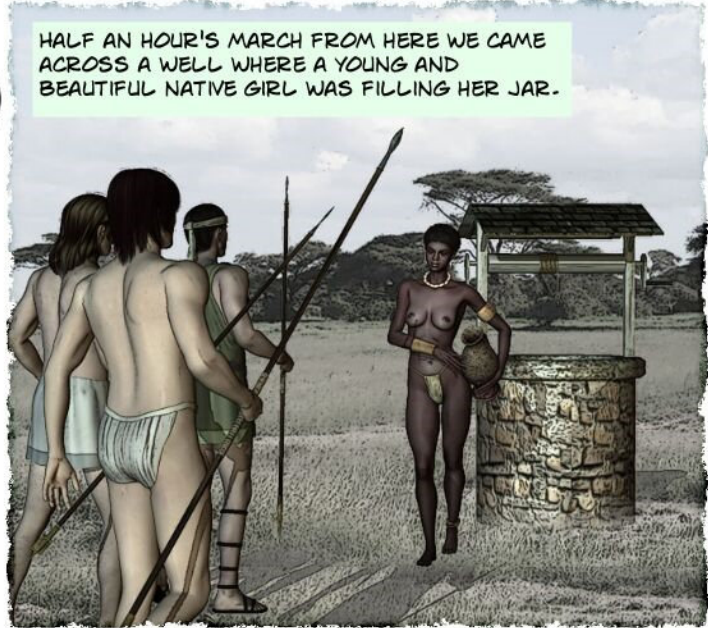


EURYLOCHUS TOLD US WHAT HAPPENED.

THIS IS THE MOST WONDERFUL AND HOSPITABLE COUNTRY IN THE WHOLE WORLD!



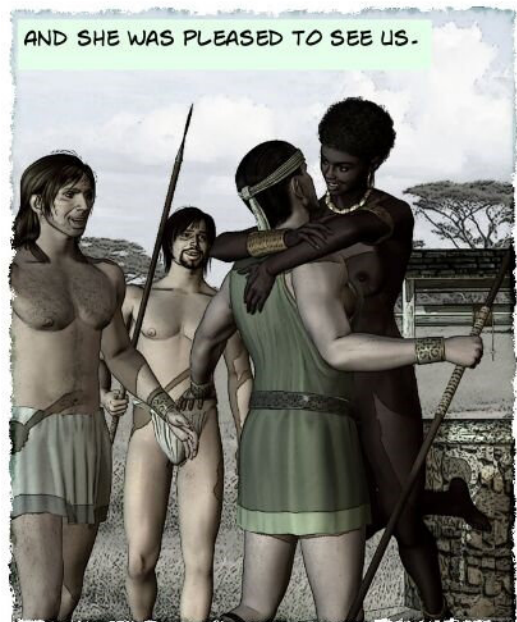
HALF AN HOUR'S MARCH FROM HERE WE CAME ACROSS A WELL WHERE A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL NATIVE GIRL WAS FILLING HER JAR.



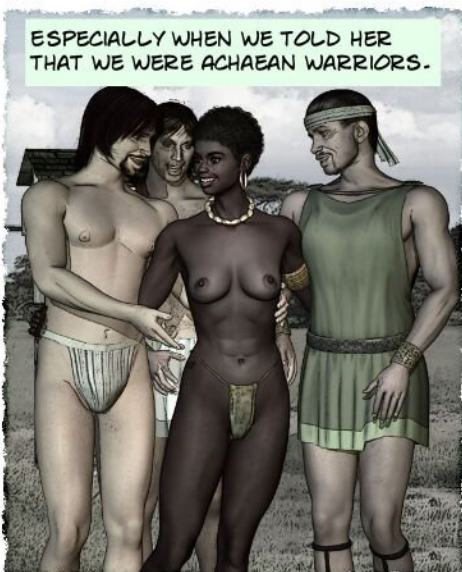
WE GREETED HER COURTEOUSLY...



AND SHE WAS PLEASED TO SEE US.



ESPECIALLY WHEN WE TOLD HER THAT WE WERE ACHAEAN WARRIORS.



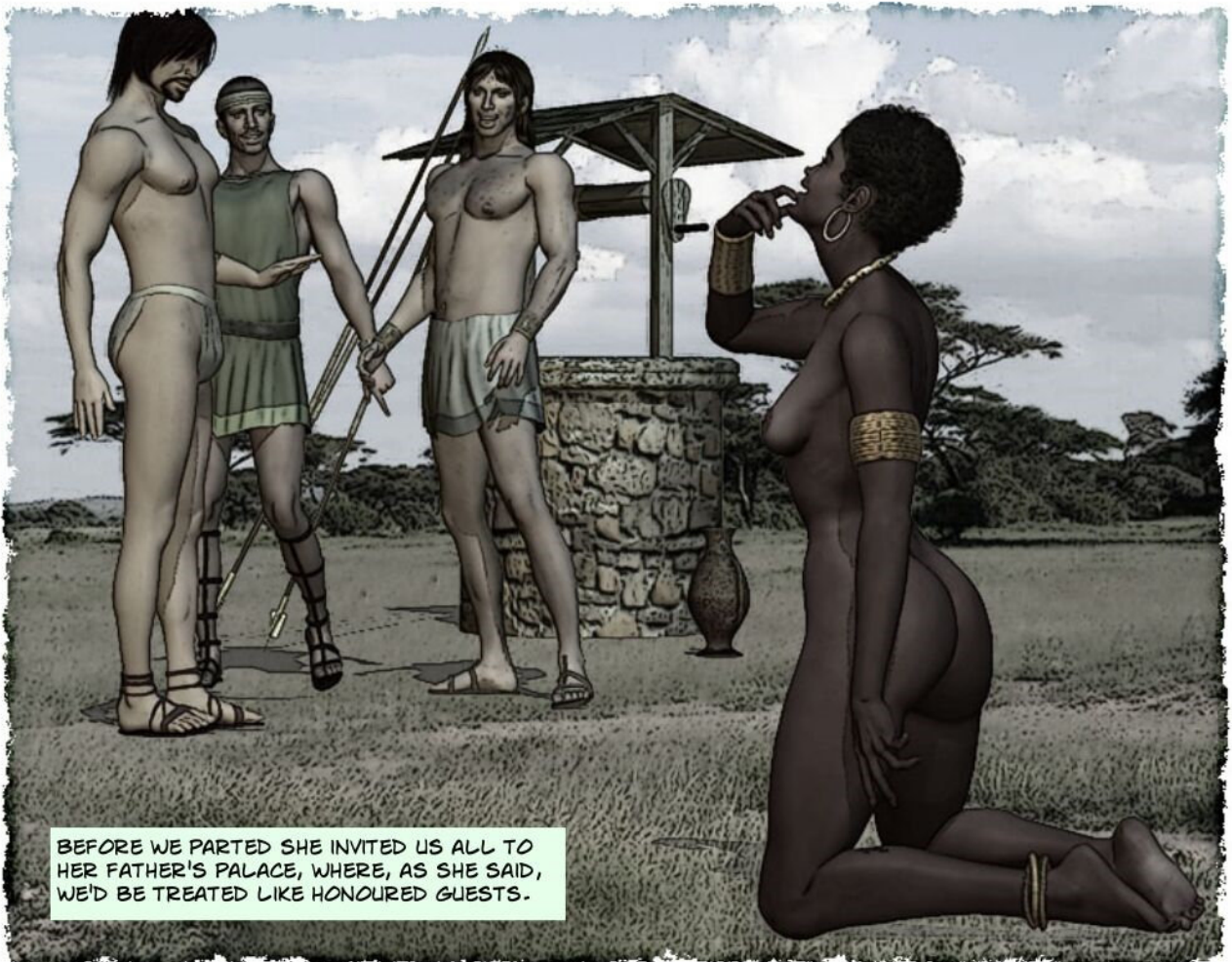
SO, WE HAD A FRIENDLY CHAT...



SHE TOLD US THAT SHE WAS THE KING'S DAUGHTER AND THAT WE WERE IN THE COUNTRY OF THE LAESTRYGONIANS.

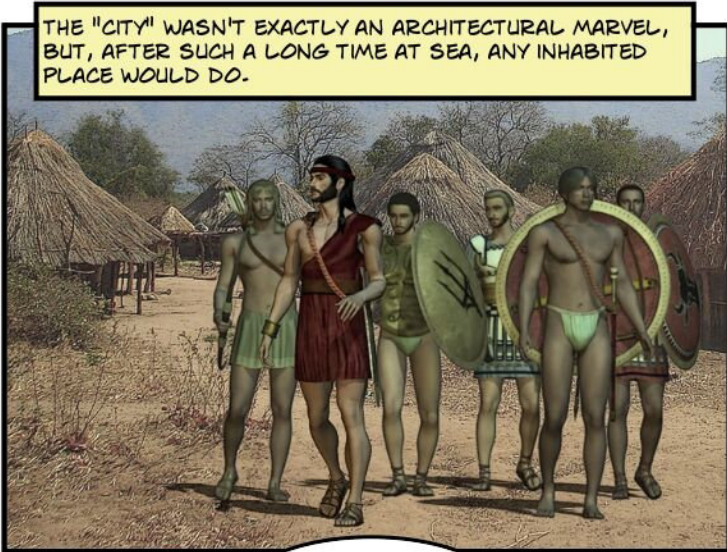


BEFORE WE PARTED SHE INVITED US ALL TO HER FATHER'S PALACE, WHERE, AS SHE SAID, WE'D BE TREATED LIKE HONOURED GUESTS.





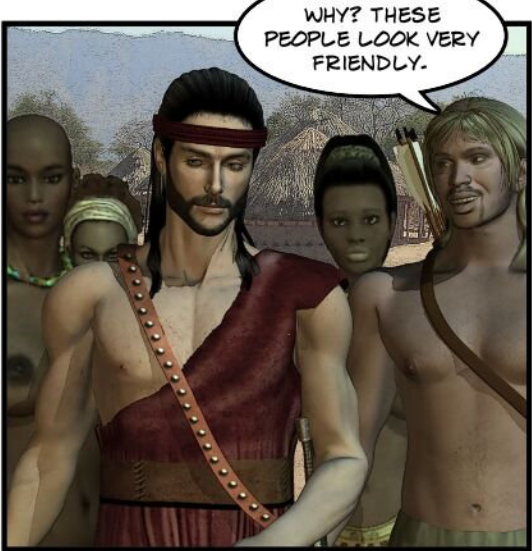
I COULD READ BETWEEN THE LINES OF EURYLOCHUS' STORY, BUT I DECIDED TO TAKE THE RISK. AND SO, IGNORING THE PROTEST OF THE CREW, WHO WANTED TO COME ALONG IN A MASS, I TOOK FIVE ARMED MEN WITH ME AND HEADED FOR THE CITY OF THE LAESTRYGONIAN KING.



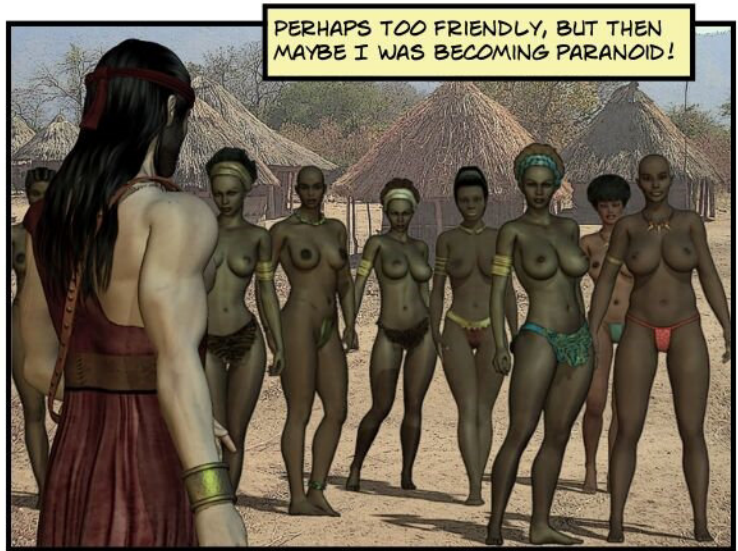
THE "CITY" WASN'T EXACTLY AN ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL, BUT, AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME AT SEA, ANY INHABITED PLACE WOULD DO.



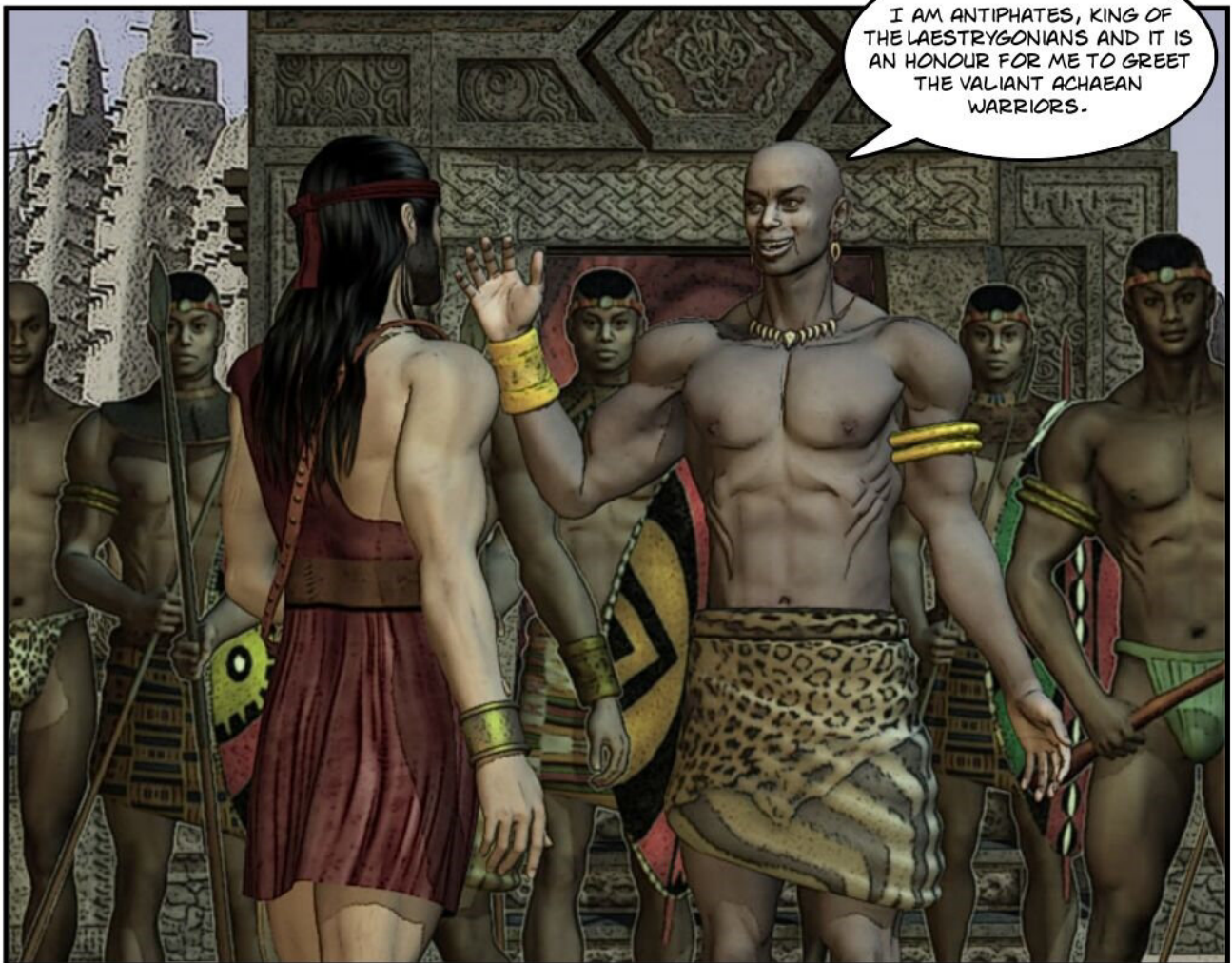
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.



WHY? THESE PEOPLE LOOK VERY FRIENDLY.



PERHAPS TOO FRIENDLY, BUT THEN MAYBE I WAS BECOMING PARANOID!



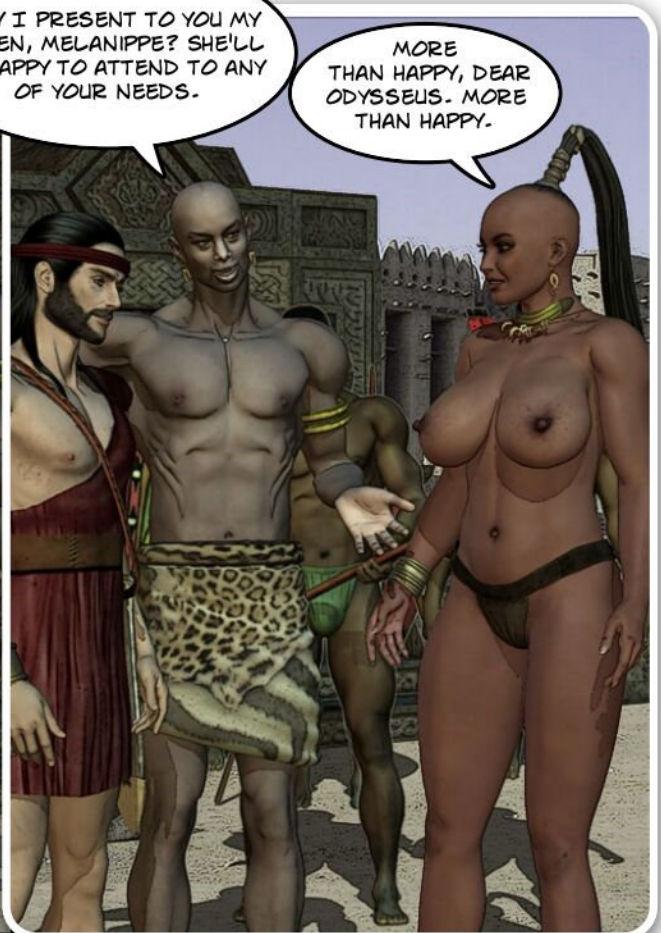


I AM ODYSSEUS, KING OF ITHACA, AND I THANK YOUR MAJESTY FOR THE WARM WELCOME.



NOT AT ALL, MY DEAR COLLEAGUE, NOT AT ALL. IT IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU HERE.

MAY I PRESENT TO YOU MY QUEEN, MELANIPPE? SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO ATTEND TO ANY OF YOUR NEEDS.



MORE THAN HAPPY, DEAR ODYSSEUS. MORE THAN HAPPY.

THEN THE KING ORDERED A RICH SUPPER TO BE SERVED AND THIS WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED, AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME ON A SAILOR'S DIET.



THESE PEOPLE WERE VERY TALL AND HANDSOME, ESPECIALLY THE WOMEN, AND APPEARED TO BE GOOD NATURED IF A LITTLE TOO PRIMITIVE FOR MY TASTE. HOWEVER I STILL KEPT MYSELF VIGILANT, FOR I HAD LEARNED -THE HARD WAY- FROM PAST EXPERIENCE.

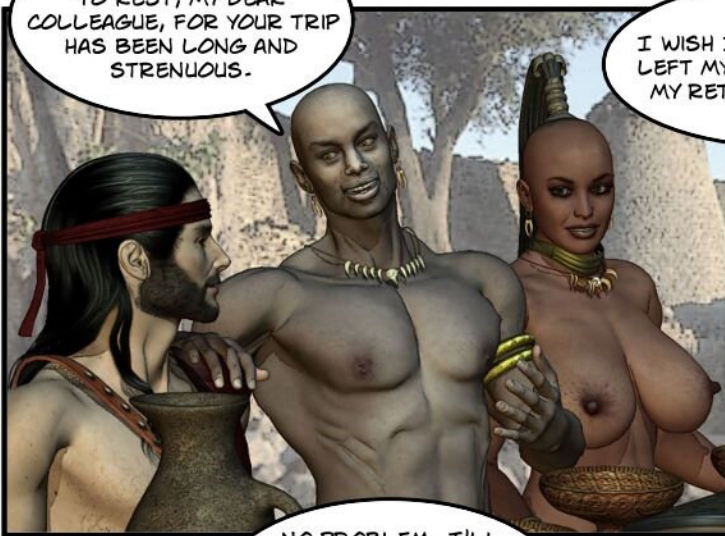


WE TALKED ABOUT PLEASANT THINGS AND THE KING EXTENDED HIS HOSPITALITY FOR AS LONG AS WE WISHED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.



YOU WILL STAY HERE TO REST, MY DEAR COLLEAGUE, FOR YOUR TRIP HAS BEEN LONG AND STRENUOUS.

I WISH I COULD, BUT I'VE LEFT MY MEN WAITING FOR MY RETURN AT THE BAY.



NO PROBLEM. I'LL SEND THEM ALL THEY'LL NEED. FOOD, WINE, WOMEN... DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING!

YOU ARE TOO KIND, MAJESTY.

DON'T MENTION IT. JUST ENJOY.



I WASN'T IN THE LEAST SURPRISED WHEN, LATER THAT EVENING, I RECEIVED THE VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY'S SPOUSE IN MY PRIVATE QUARTERS.

HELLO YOU THERE, SAILOR!



FEELING LONELY? WANT SOME COMPANY?

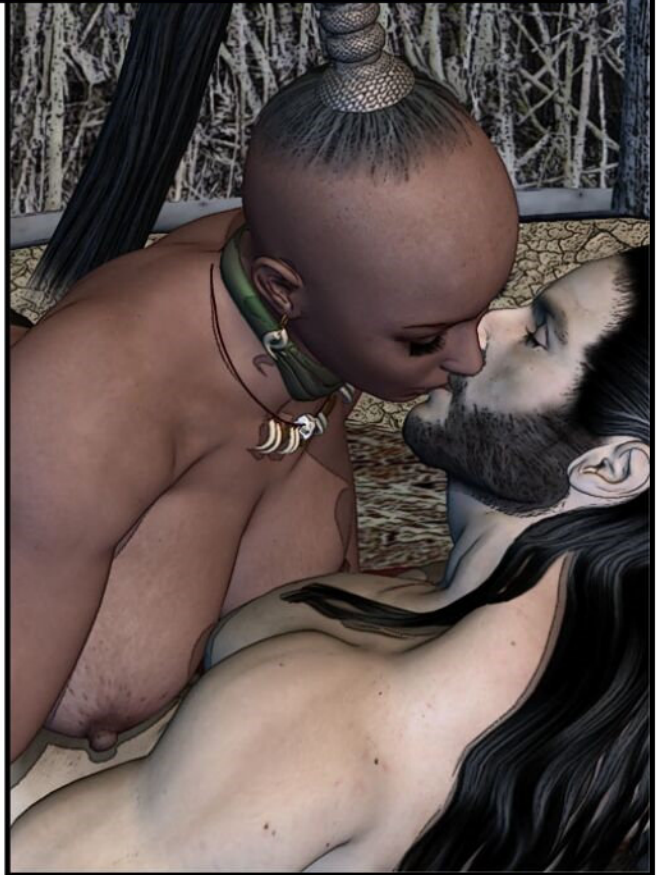
HUSH! LET MELANIPPE TAKE CARE OF YOU, MY WEARY TRAVELLER.



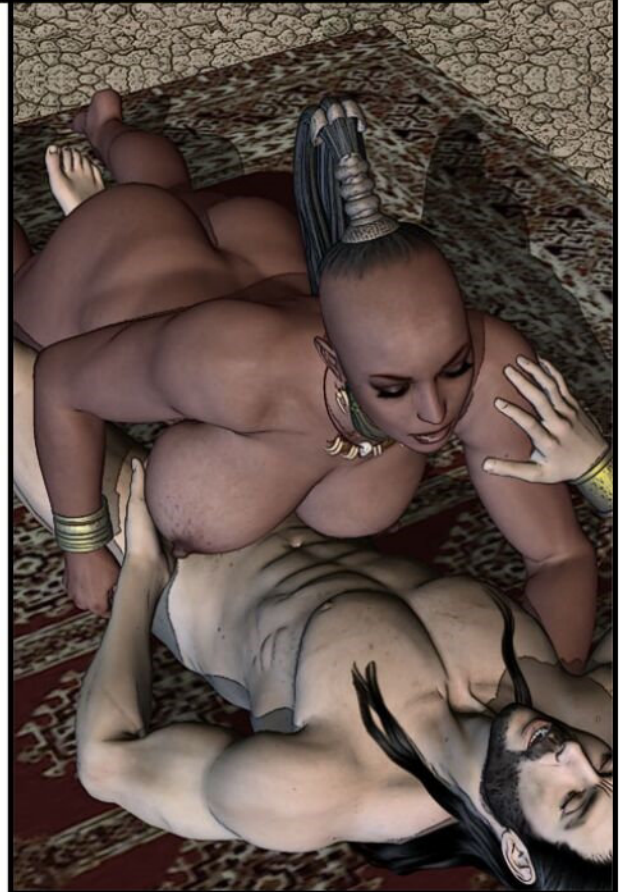
YOU FLATTER ME, YOUR MAJESTY, BUT...



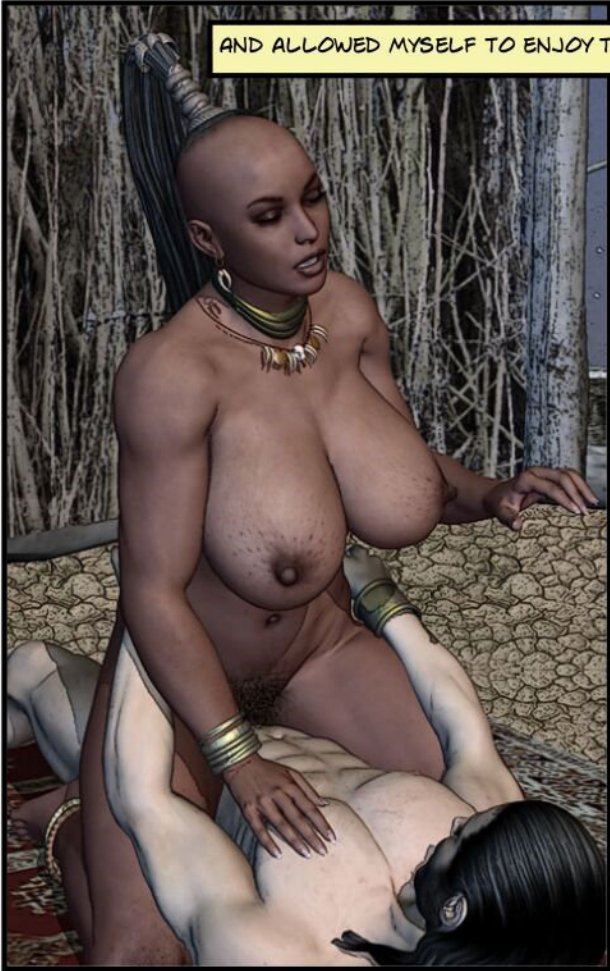
I DID NOT INTEND TO RESIST, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THIS IMPOSING WOMAN APPEALED TO MY SENSES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO OFFEND THE CUSTOMS AND WAYS OF AN UNKNOWN SOCIETY.



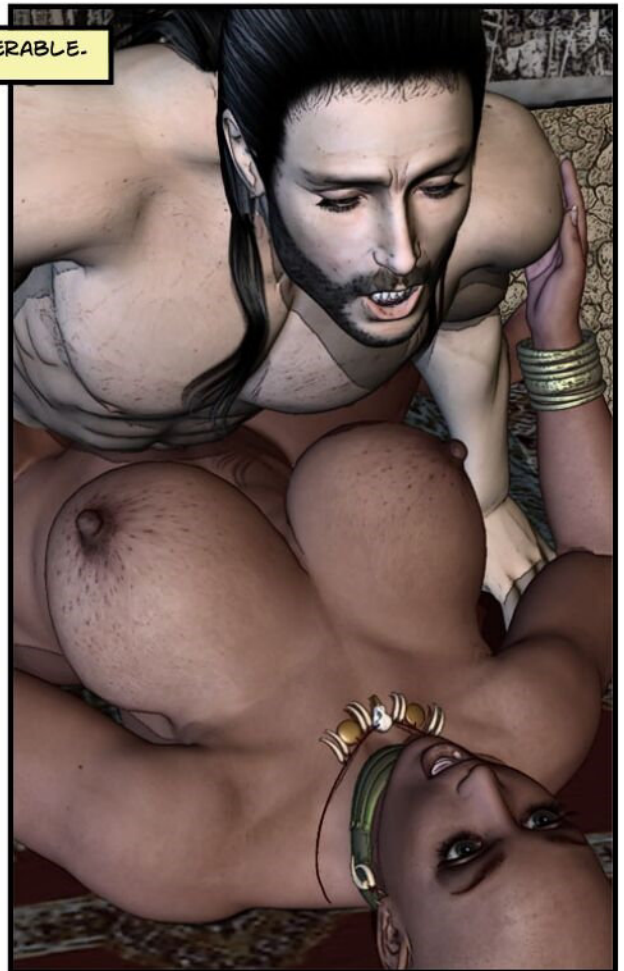
AND THUS I ALLOWED THE QUEEN TO WANTONLY OFFER HER HOSPITABLE FEELINGS...



AND ALLOWED MYSELF TO ENJOY THE DISPLAY OF HER SKILLS...



...WHICH, I MUST ADMIT, WERE CONSIDERABLE.





I HAVE NEVER HAD A WHITE MAN BEFORE AND I MUST ADMIT THAT THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN MOST FULFILLING.

THANK YOU, MAJESTY. IT HAS BEEN QUITE A THRILL FOR ME ALSO.



SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A GREAT TIME YOU AND ME!

AND THIS WAS EXACTLY MY FEELING.

I FIND THE LAESTRYGONIANS TO BE A FASCINATING PEOPLE. THEY ARE VERY TALL, MUCH TALLER THAN THE TALLEST AMONG US, BUT THEY ARE NOT GIANTS LIKE SO MANY BARDS WOULD CLAIM IN THE YEARS TO COME. THEIR WOMEN ARE WELL BUILT AND THEY SEEM TO MATURE VERY EARLY - MOST OF THEM BEAR CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE THIRTEEN! NOT AS HANDSOME AS SOME NUBIAN AND ETHIOPIAN TRIBES ARE REPUTED TO BE, BUT VERY STRONG AND AGILE, THEY ARE OF A STOCK THAT WOULD MAKE EXCELLENT WARRIORS.

THEY SPEAK A BARBARIAN WEST LIBYAN TONGUE, UGLY SOUNDING AND RATHER DIFFICULT FOR US TO LEARN, HOWEVER THE KING, QUEEN AND FEW OTHERS HAVE A FAIR GRASP OF GREEK, WHICH THEY LEARNED, FROM WHAT THEY TOLD US, FROM CORINTHIAN TRAVELLERS WHO HAPPENED TO VISIT THEIR COUNTRY AT SOME POINT IN THE PAST.

THEY DWELL IN HUTS OR IN THE OPEN AIR AND ONLY THE KING AND HIS FAMILY LIVE IN THE CRUMBLING "PALACE", A BUILDING CONSTRUCTED IN THE OLDER DAYS BY A NOW VANISHED NATION. CULTIVATION OF THE EARTH IS AN OCCUPATION UNKNOWN TO THEM. SOME CATTLE AND GOATS IS ALL THEY RAISE. TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR NEEDS THEY RAID NEIGHBOURING TRIBES AND STEAL THEIR CROPS. THEY BRING BACK PRISONERS. THEY KEEP THE MEN CAGED WITH THEIR ANIMALS AND USE THE WOMEN FOR THEIR OWN ENTERTAINMENT AND PLEASURE.

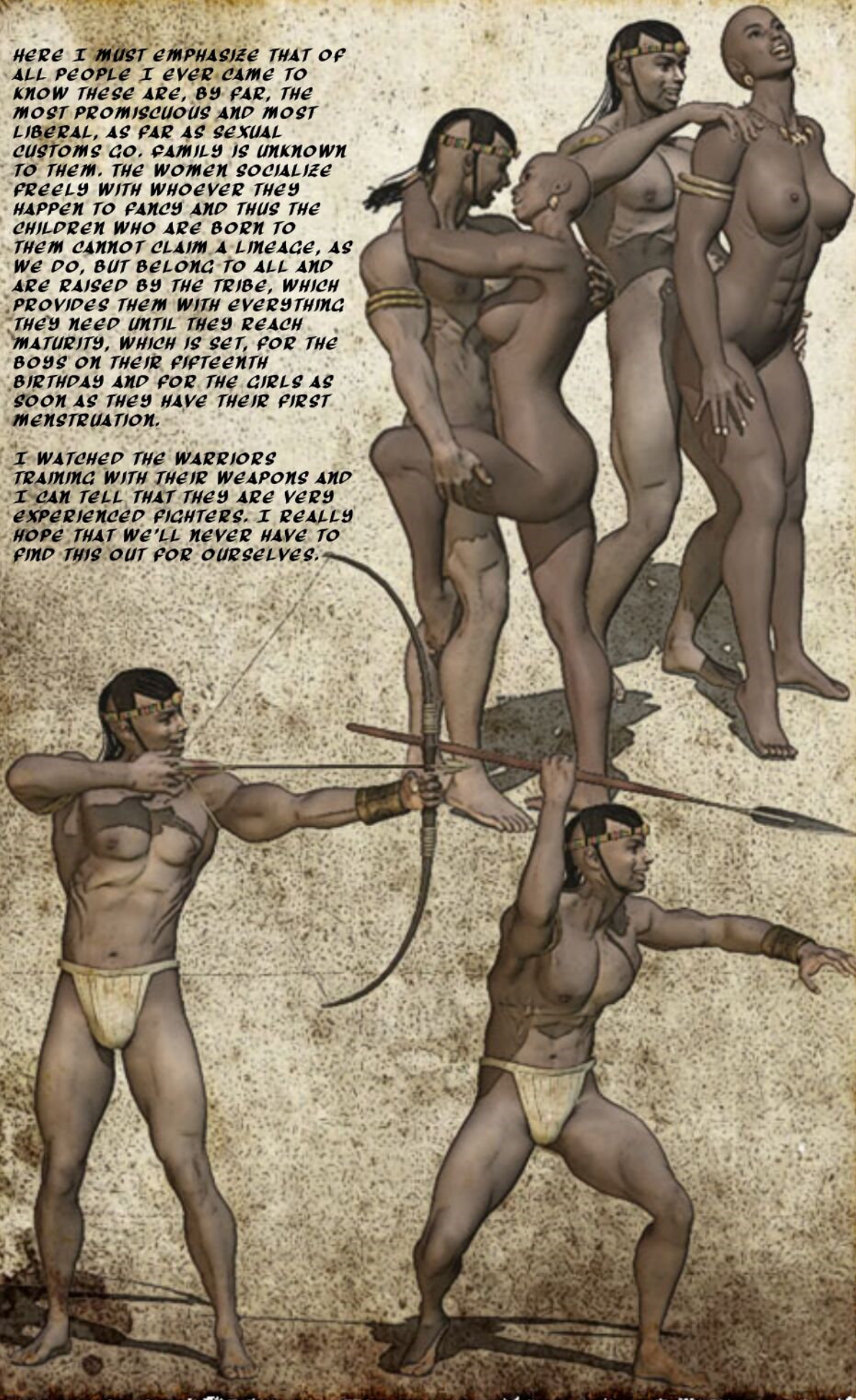


FROM ODYSSEUS' NOTEBOOK



HERE I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT OF ALL PEOPLE I EVER CAME TO KNOW THESE ARE, BY FAR, THE MOST PROMISCUOUS AND MOST LIBERAL, AS FAR AS SEXUAL CUSTOMS GO. FAMILY IS UNKNOWN TO THEM. THE WOMEN SOCIALIZE FREELY WITH WHOEVER THEY HAPPEN TO FANCY AND THUS THE CHILDREN WHO ARE BORN TO THEM CANNOT CLAIM A LINEAGE, AS WE DO, BUT BELONG TO ALL AND ARE RAISED BY THE TRIBE, WHICH PROVIDES THEM WITH EVERYTHING THEY NEED UNTIL THEY REACH MATURITY, WHICH IS SET, FOR THE BOYS ON THEIR FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY AND FOR THE GIRLS AS SOON AS THEY HAVE THEIR FIRST MENSTRUATION.

I WATCHED THE WARRIORS TRAINING WITH THEIR WEAPONS AND I CAN TELL THAT THEY ARE VERY EXPERIENCED FIGHTERS. I REALLY HOPE THAT WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO FIND THIS OUT FOR OURSELVES.



LIFE IN THE LAESTRYGONIAN "CITY" WAS MOST PLEASANT FOR US, THE EASY GOING ATTITUDE OF THESE PEOPLE MAKING OUR DAYS HERE MOST ENTERTAINING.



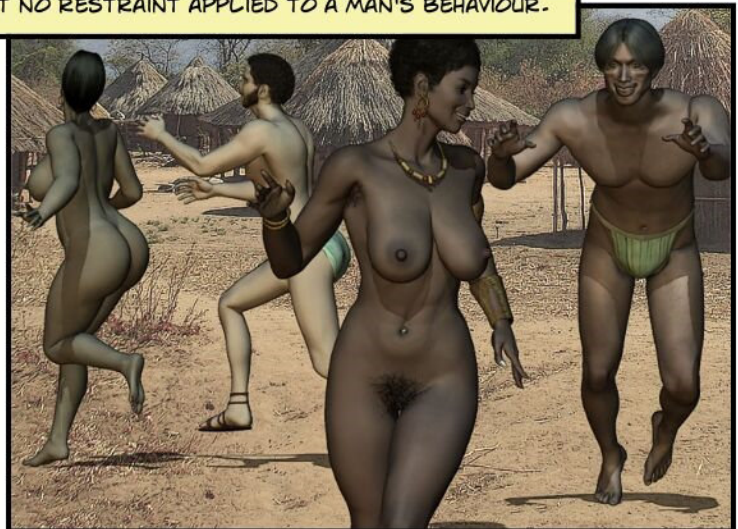
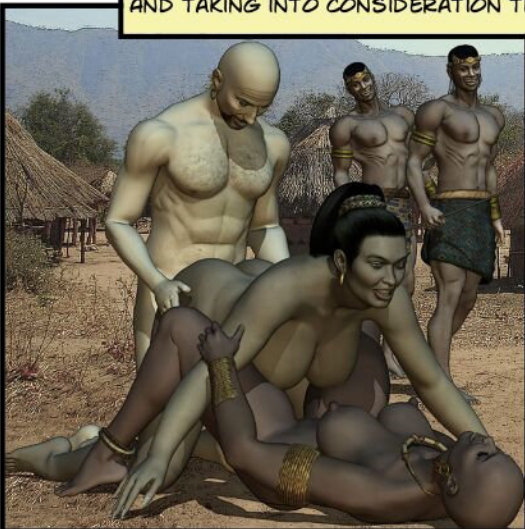
I CAN'T BLAME HIM, AS THE TEMPTATIONS HERE WERE NUMEROUS.



EVEN HAMON, USUALLY SO RESERVED, SEEMED TO ENJOY THE WARM HOSPITALITY SO GENEROUSLY OFFERED BY OUR HOSTS.



AND TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT NO RESTRAINT APPLIED TO A MAN'S BEHAVIOUR.



ON THE OTHER HAND, "QUEEN" MELANIPPE WAS BECOMING, AS I NOTICED, MORE AND MORE ATTACHED TO ME. THIS WASN'T SUCH A BAD THING, NOT ONLY BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN, I ENJOYED THE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THIS PRIMITIVE WOMAN, BUT ALSO BECAUSE I HOPED THAT, IN CASE THINGS TURNED SOUR, IT WOULD BE AN ASSET TO HAVE HER ON MY SIDE.



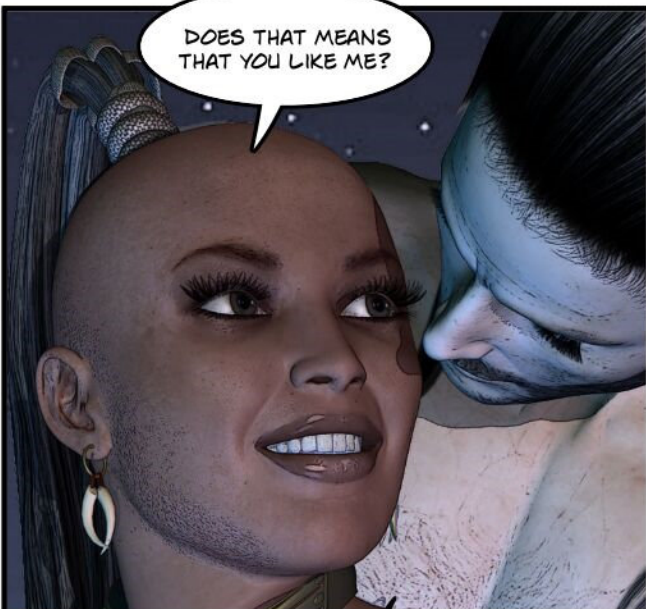
OH, ODYSSEUS! YOU ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE MEN I HAD UNTIL NOW!



YOU ARE QUITE DIFFERENT YOURSELF, MELANIPPE



DOES THAT MEANS THAT YOU LIKE ME?

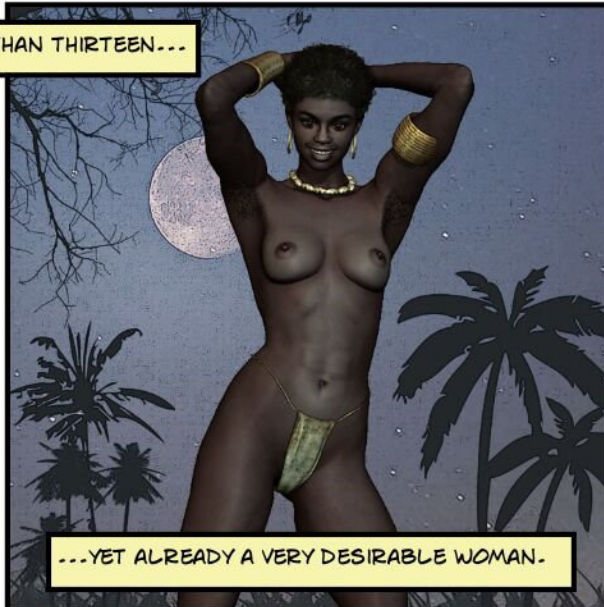


OF COURSE I DO. CAN'T YOU TELL?



HOWEVER IT WASN'T FROM MELANIPPE THAT I GOT THE HINT THAT OPENED MY EYES. SAGBA WAS THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE KING.

A GIRL NO MORE THAN THIRTEEN...



...YET ALREADY A VERY DESIRABLE WOMAN.

SHE GOT INTO THE HABIT OF VISITING ME IN MY HUT AT NIGHT WHENEVER HER MOTHER WAS BUSY ELSEWHERE.



ONE SUCH NIGHT THE YOUNG GIRL DROPPED A WORD THAT SOUNDED ALL KINDS OF ALARMS IN MY HEAD.



WHAT A PITY I WILL LOSE YOU SOON, ODYSSEUS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO LEAVE YET.





YOU SHOULD BE. YOU SHOULD. THIS IS A BAD PLACE FOR YOU.



EXPLAIN YOURSELF, LITTLE ONE.



I CAN'T. I WILL BE PUNISHED IF I DO.



UNLESS OF COURSE YOU PROMISE TO TAKE ME ALONG WITH YOU...



I PROMISE THEN.



YOU MUST GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE FULL MOON.



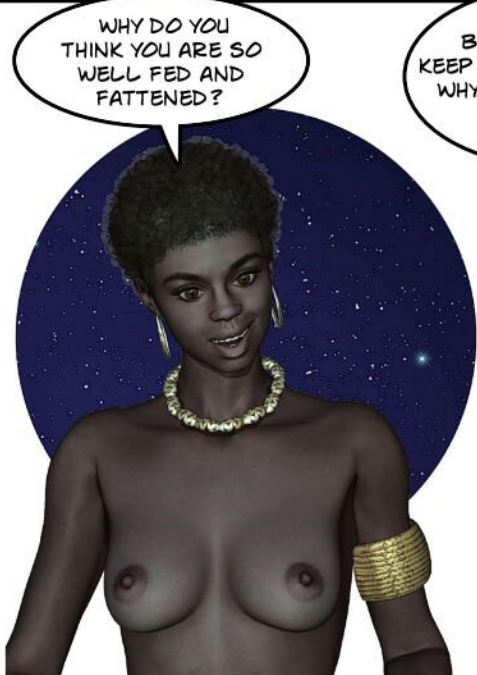
WHY?

BECAUSE IT IS AT THIS TIME THAT MY PEOPLE SACRIFICE TO THE GODS.



AND YOU AND YOUR MEN WILL BE THE SACRIFICIAL OFFER. AFTER WHICH YOU'LL BE COOKED AND EATEN ON A BIG FEAST FOR THE ENTIRE TRIBE TO TAKE PART.

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU EAT HUMANS?

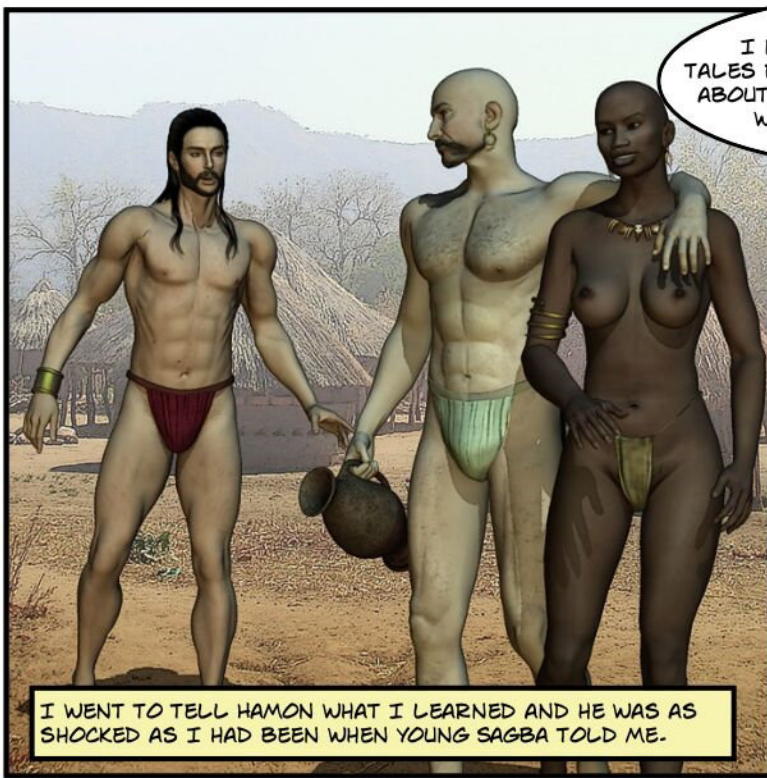


WHY DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SO WELL FED AND FATTENED?

BUT WHY DID YOU KEEP US FOR SO LONG? WHY DIDN'T YOU SLAY US BEFORE?

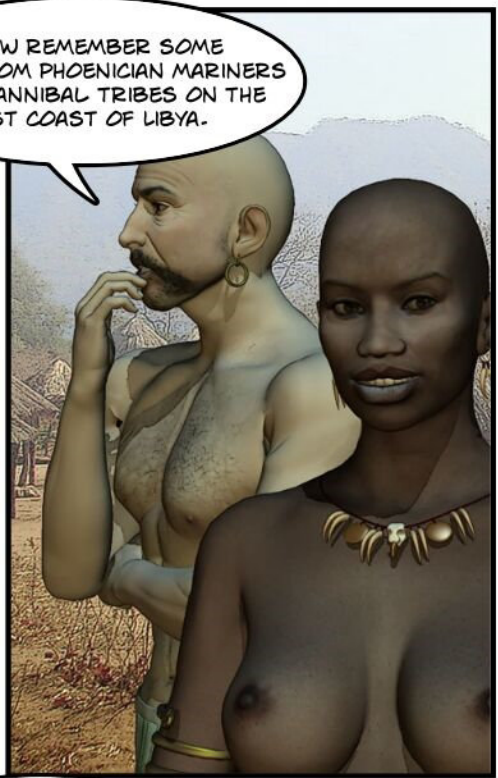


WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR WOMEN BEAR YOUR CHILDREN. THIS IS GOOD FOR THE TRIBE FOR IT STRENGTHENS THE BLOOD.



I NOW REMEMBER SOME TALES FROM PHOENICIAN MARINERS ABOUT CANNIBAL TRIBES ON THE WEST COAST OF LIBYA.

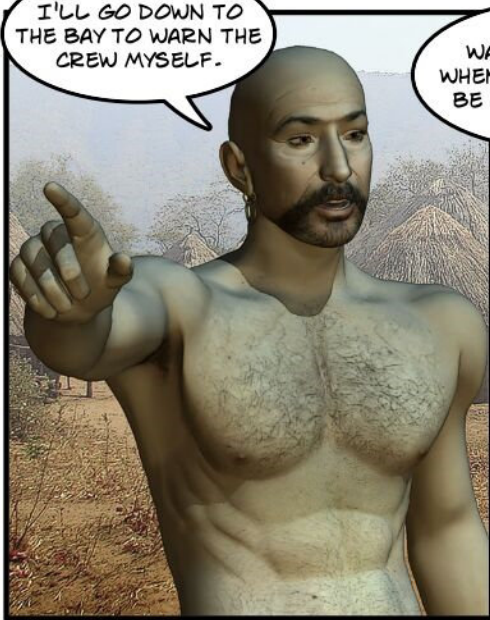
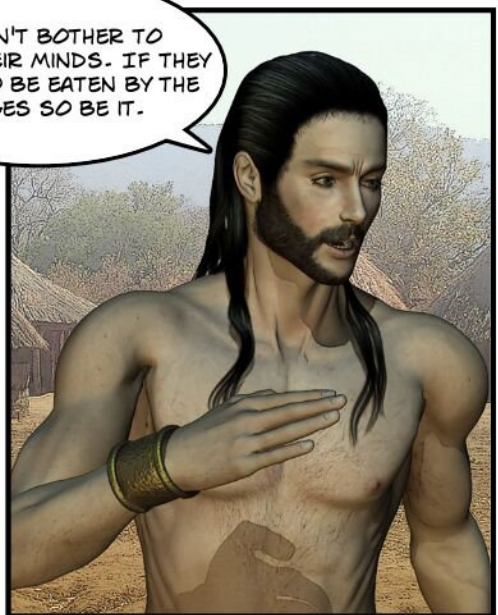
I WENT TO TELL HAMON WHAT I LEARNED AND HE WAS AS SHOCKED AS I HAD BEEN WHEN YOUNG SAGBA TOLD ME.



WE MUST ACT SWIFTLY, HAMON. FIRST WARN THE MEN...

THEY WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT I'LL TRY.

WE WON'T BOTHER TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS. IF THEY PREFER TO BE EATEN BY THE SAVAGES SO BE IT.



I'LL GO DOWN TO THE BAY TO WARN THE CREW MYSELF.

WASTE NO TIME. WHEN WILL THE MOON BE GETTING FULL?



IN TWO DAYS FROM NOW, MY KING.

AS HAMON FEARED I HAD GREAT TROUBLE CONVINCING THOSE OF THE MEN WHO WERE STAYING IN THE VILLAGE OF THE DANGER WE FACED.



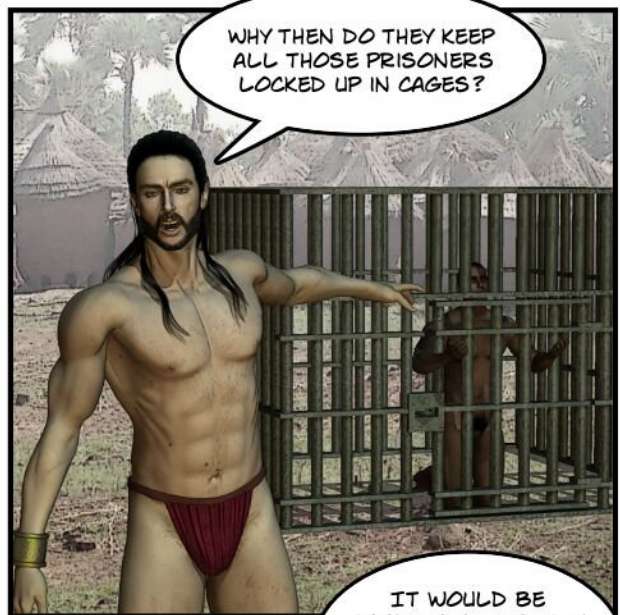
NO WAY!
THESE PEOPLE
LIKE US!

THEY ARE A
PEACEFUL LOT.

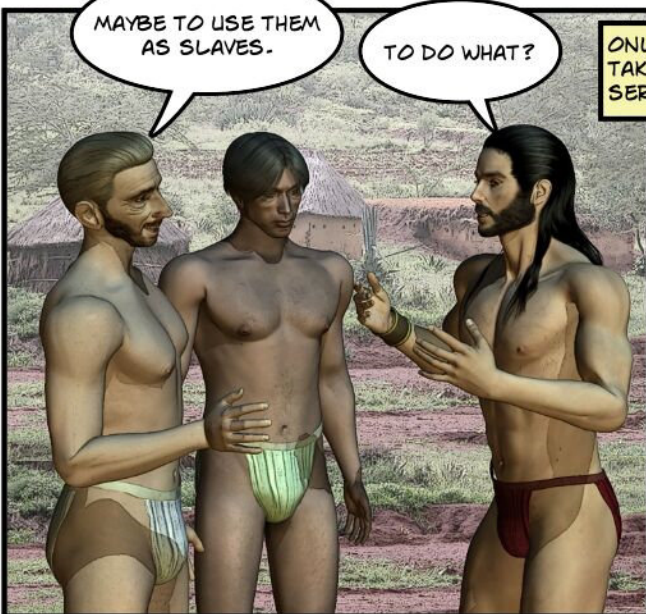


AND THEIR
WOMEN!... SO
HOSPITABLE!

THEY CAN'T BE
CANNIBALS.



WHY THEN DO THEY KEEP
ALL THOSE PRISONERS
LOCKED UP IN CAGES?



MAYBE TO USE THEM
AS SLAVES.

TO DO WHAT?

ONLY EURYLOCHUS SEEMED TO
TAKE THE WARNING SOMEWHAT
SERIOUSLY.



IT WOULD BE
GOOD TO SLEEP WITH
OUR SWORD UNDER THE
PILLOW THOUGH.
JUST IN CASE.

HAMON'S REPORT WAS DEPRESSING.

THEY JUST LAUGHED AT ME. THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ME.

IS OUR SHIP READY TO SAIL AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE?

YES, MY KING.

THEN BE ALERT AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL.



THAT SAME NIGHT I HAD ANOTHER SURPRISE COMING FROM MELANIPPE THIS TIME.

THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU, BUT YOU MUST GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU'LL DO AS I SAY.

YOU HAVE IT.





YOU ARE IN GRAVE DANGER HERE. YOU MUST BE READY TO LEAVE WHEN I TELL YOU.

ARE YOUR PEOPLE PLANNING TO KILL US?



YES, ON THE NIGHT THE MOON IS FULL.



SHE EXPLAINED HER PLAN TO ME.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THIS THERE WILL BE A BIG CELEBRATION IN WHICH THEY ALL GET DEAD DRUNK. THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO MAKE A DASH FOR YOUR SHIPS.



AND YOU'D WANT ME TO TAKE YOU ALONG WITH ME, I PRESUME?

I'M NOT SO STUPID. HERE I'M QUEEN, BUT IN YOUR WORLD I'D BE A SLAVE. NO, ODYSSEUS, I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO THIS.



JUST BE READY TO FLEE WHEN I GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL.

!?



I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS, MELANIPPE

OH, YOU WILL... AS SOON AS YOU ARE SAFE, AWAY FROM HERE. BUT I DON'T CARE. JUST MAKE LOVE TO ME AS ONLY YOU KNOW HOW.



AND THERE, UNDER THE PALE LIGHT OF THE LARGE LIBYAN MOON, I APPLIED MYSELF TO EXPRESSING MY GRATITUDE TO THE CANNIBAL QUEEN, WHO WANTED TO SAVE MY LIFE.

THE NEXT MORNING I INFORMED HAMON AND EURYLOCHUS OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. THEY PROMISED TO GET THE MEN READY.



MAY THE GODS HELP US!

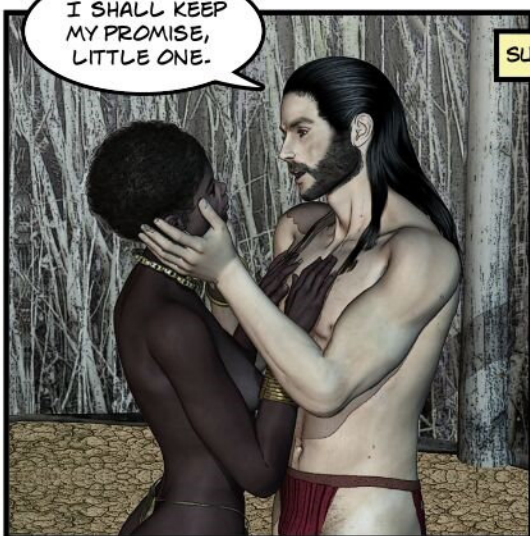
DON'T COUNT ON THEM, EURYLOCHUS. COUNT ONLY ON WHAT WE CAN DO OURSELVES.

LATER, YOUNG SAGBA CONFIRMED HER MOTHER'S WORDS.



BE READY TONIGHT, ODYSSEUS. THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE.

AND REMEMBER... YOU PROMISED ME.



I SHALL KEEP MY PROMISE, LITTLE ONE.

SUDDENLY...



WHAT PROMISE IS THAT?





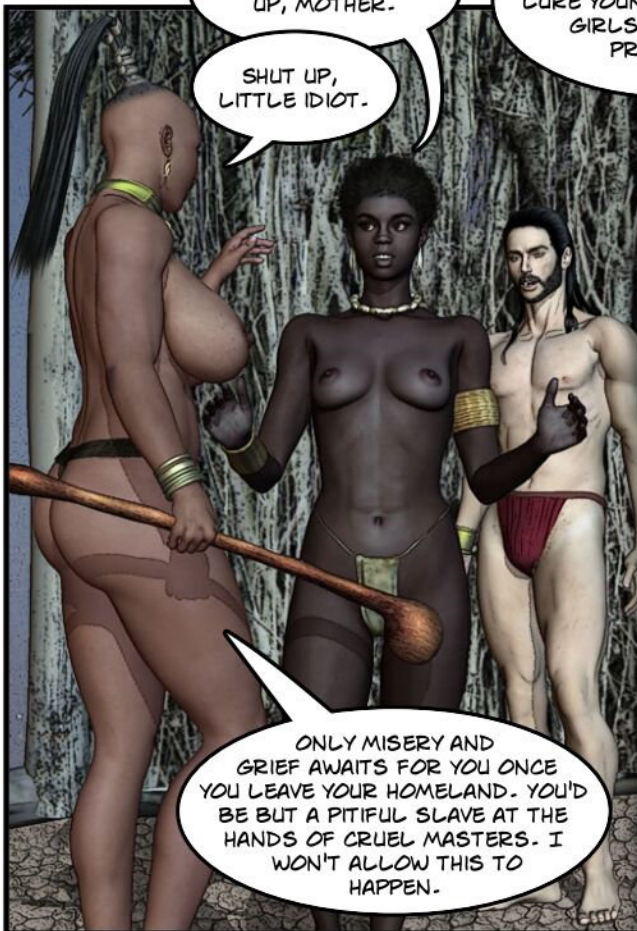
MOTHER!

STUPID GIRL!
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
GETTING YOURSELF
INTO.

I'VE MADE MY MIND
UP, MOTHER.

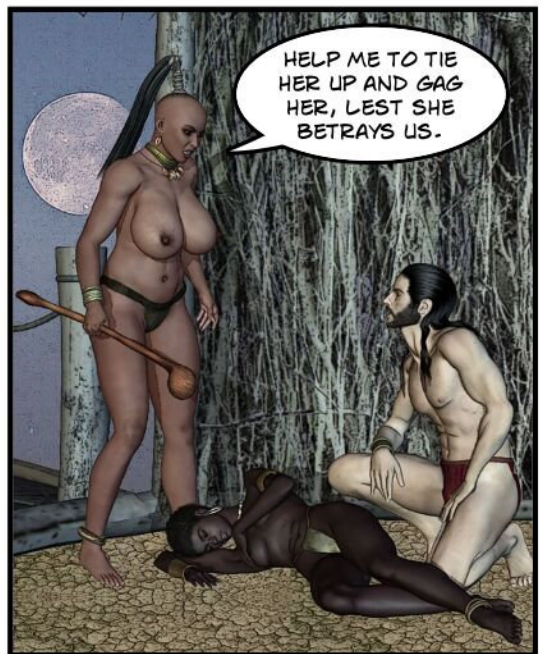
AND YOU, ODYSSEUS?
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO
LURE YOUNG AND IGNORANT
GIRLS WITH EMPTY
PROMISES?

SHUT UP,
LITTLE IDIOT.

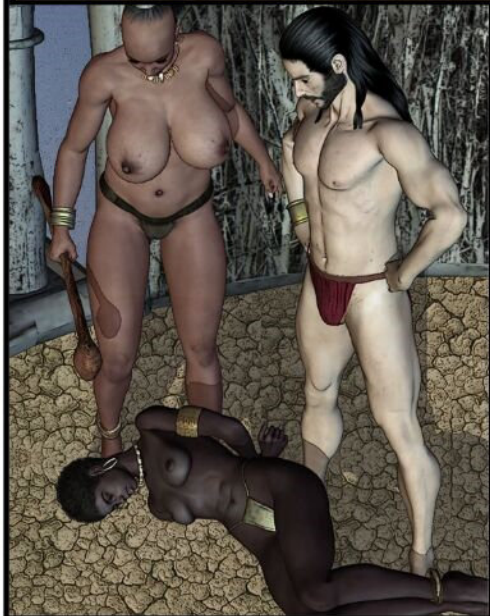


ONLY MISERY AND
GRIEF AWAITS FOR YOU ONCE
YOU LEAVE YOUR HOMELAND. YOU'D
BE BUT A PITIFUL SLAVE AT THE
HANDS OF CRUEL MASTERS. I
WON'T ALLOW THIS TO
HAPPEN.

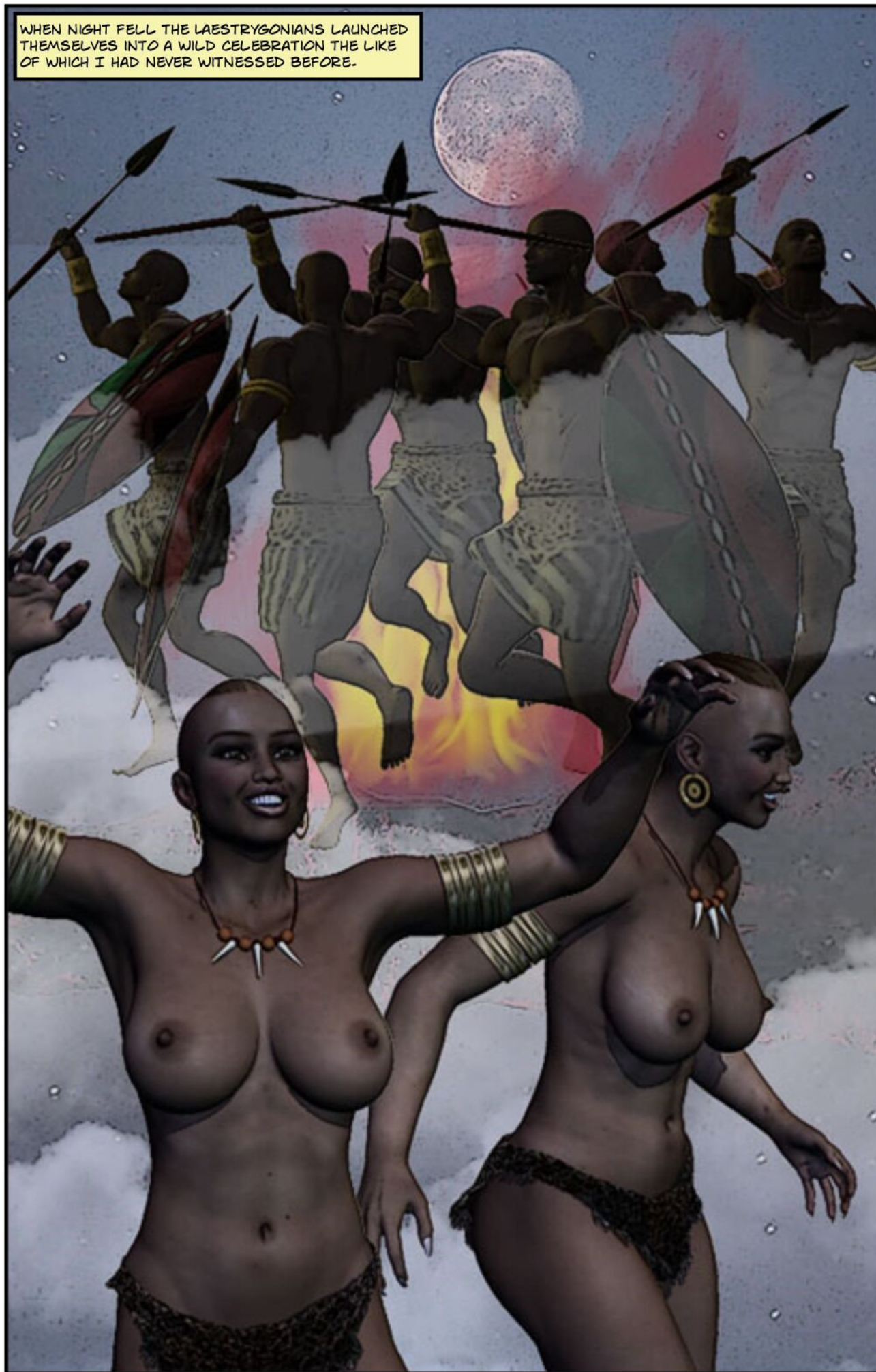




AND SO I DID, IN SPITE OF THE REGRET FOR NOT BEEN ABLE TO KEEP MY WORD TO HER.



WHEN NIGHT FELL THE LAESTRYGONIANS LAUNCHED THEMSELVES INTO A WILD CELEBRATION THE LIKE OF WHICH I HAD NEVER WITNESSED BEFORE.



A STRANGE, UTTERLY IMMORAL DANCE STARTED. FIRST THE WARRIORS DANCED THEIR WAY TO THE LINE OF WOMEN WHO WERE SWAYING LANGUOROUSLY TO THE RHYTHM OF THE DRUMS...



EXHIBITING THEIR PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES IN AN UNPRETENDING AND SHAMELESS ACT.



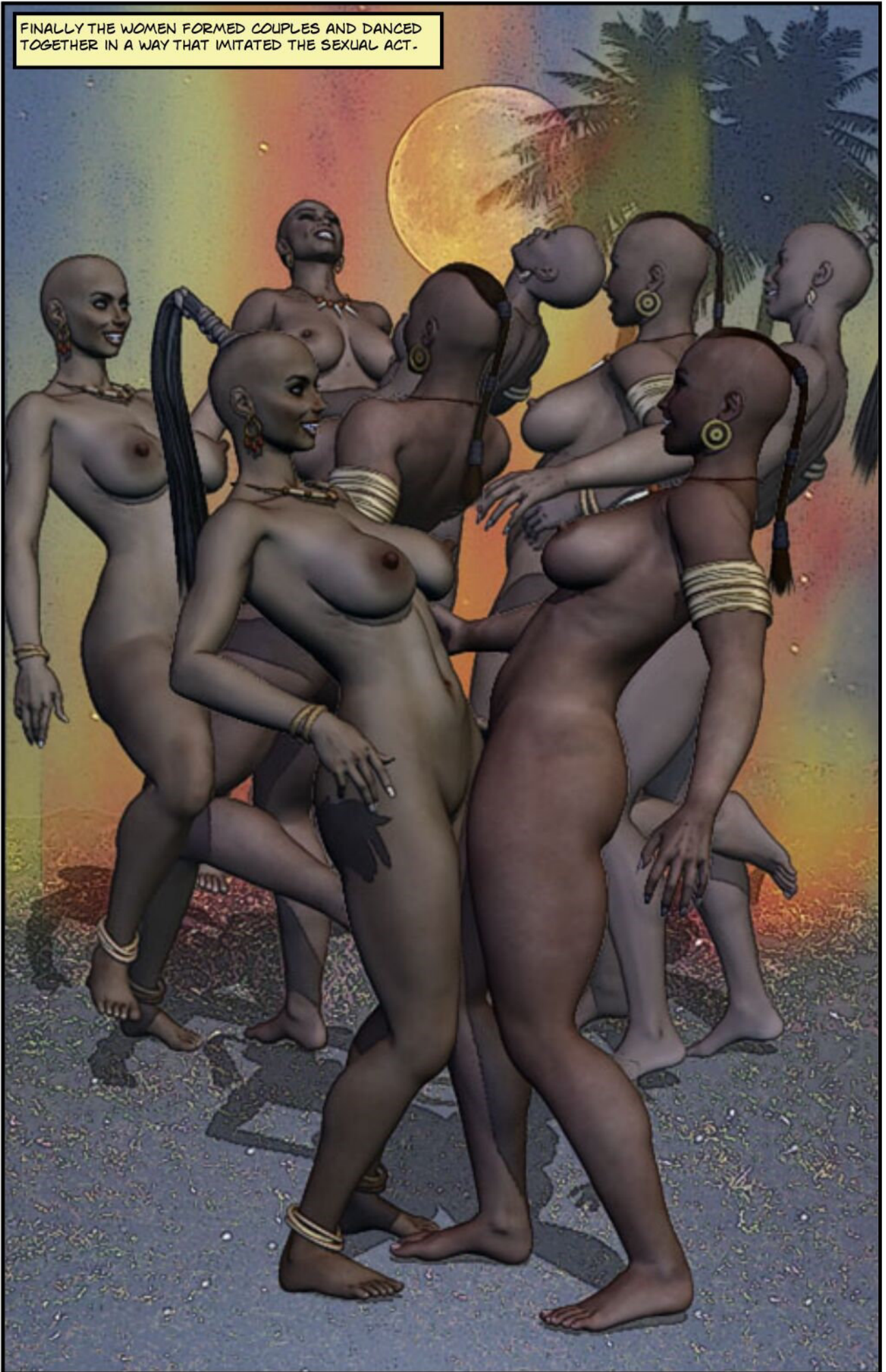


THEN THE WARRIORS MADE A LINE AND IT WAS THE TURN OF THE WOMEN TO APPROACH THEM DANCING IN AN INCREDIBLY OBSCENE WAY...

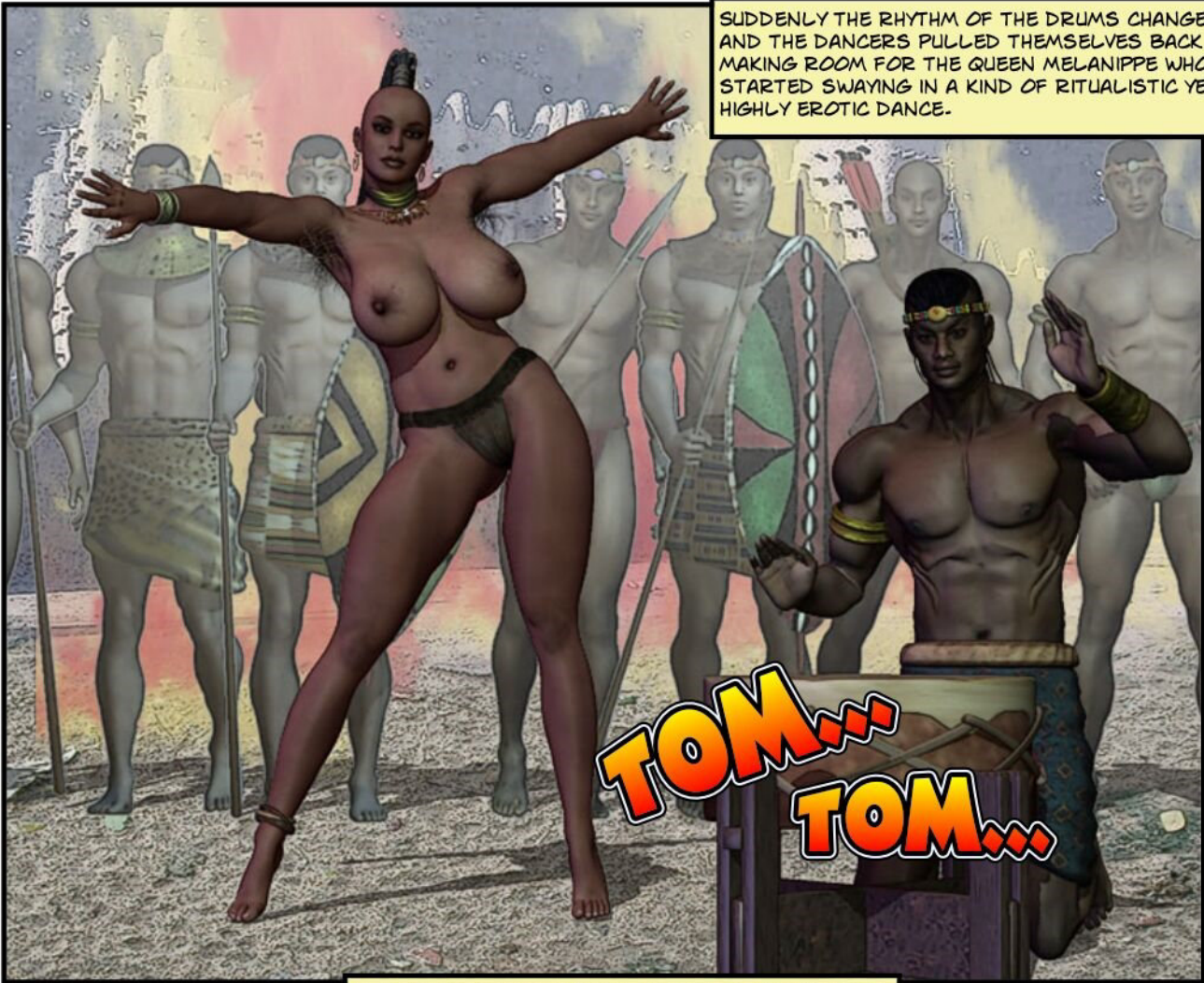


...AND SHOWING THEM THEIR OWN ATTRIBUTES, TEASING THEM AS THEY WENT IN A WAY THAT WOULD MAKE OUR OWN PROSTITUTES BLUSH WITH SHAME.

FINALLY THE WOMEN FORMED COUPLES AND DANCED TOGETHER IN A WAY THAT IMITATED THE SEXUAL ACT.



SUDDENLY THE RHYTHM OF THE DRUMS CHANGED AND THE DANCERS PULLED THEMSELVES BACK MAKING ROOM FOR THE QUEEN MELANIPPE WHO STARTED SWAYING IN A KIND OF RITUALISTIC YET HIGHLY EROTIC DANCE.



**TOM...
TOM...**

IT CERTAINLY HAD TO DO WITH RITES OF FERTILITY, AS UNDERSTOOD BY THESE SAVAGE PEOPLE.



**TOM-TOM
TOM**

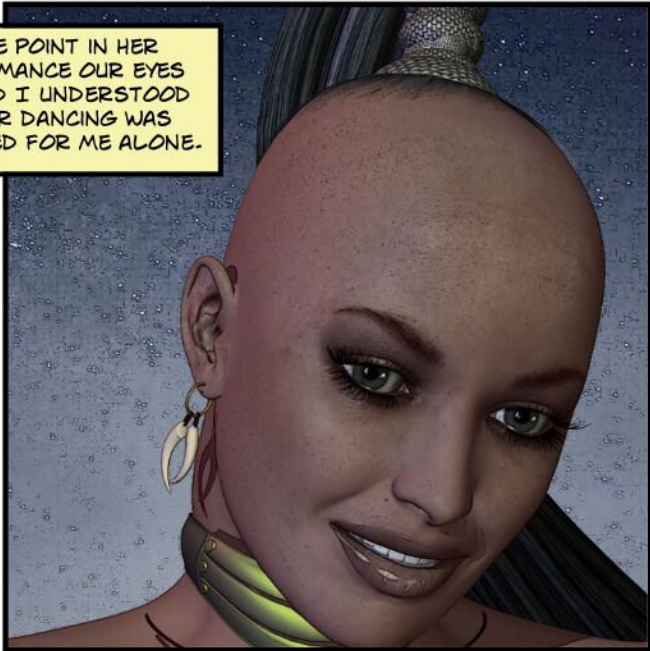
THERE WAS SOMETHING HYPNOTIC IN THE MOVEMENTS OF THE DANCING QUEEN.



ALSO EXTREMELY EROTIC AND PROVOCATIVE.



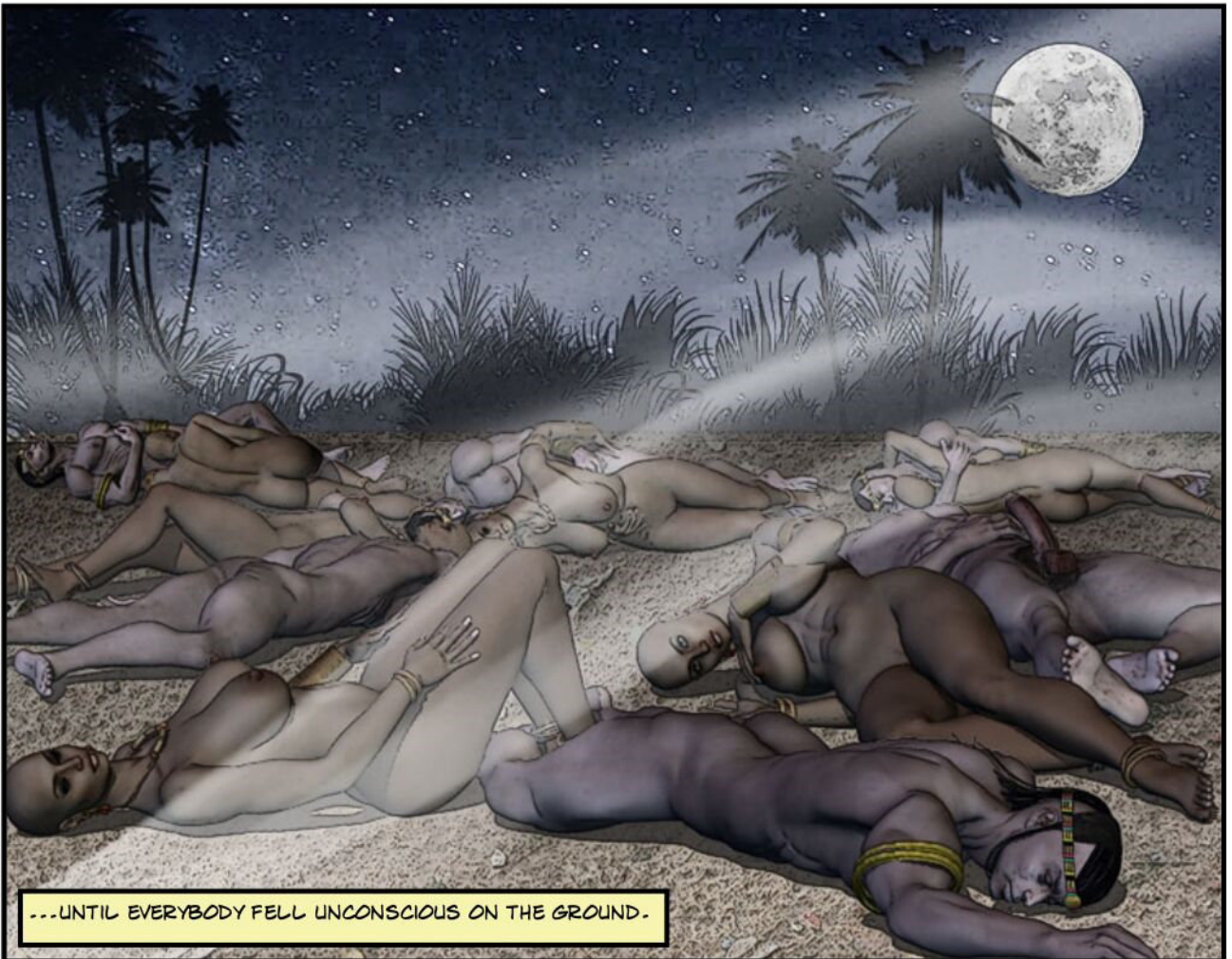
AT SOME POINT IN HER PERFORMANCE OUR EYES MET AND I UNDERSTOOD THAT HER DANCING WAS INTENDED FOR ME ALONE.



THERE WAS A SAVAGE BEAUTY IN THIS DANCE AND I FELT REGRET WHEN IT CAME TO AN END.

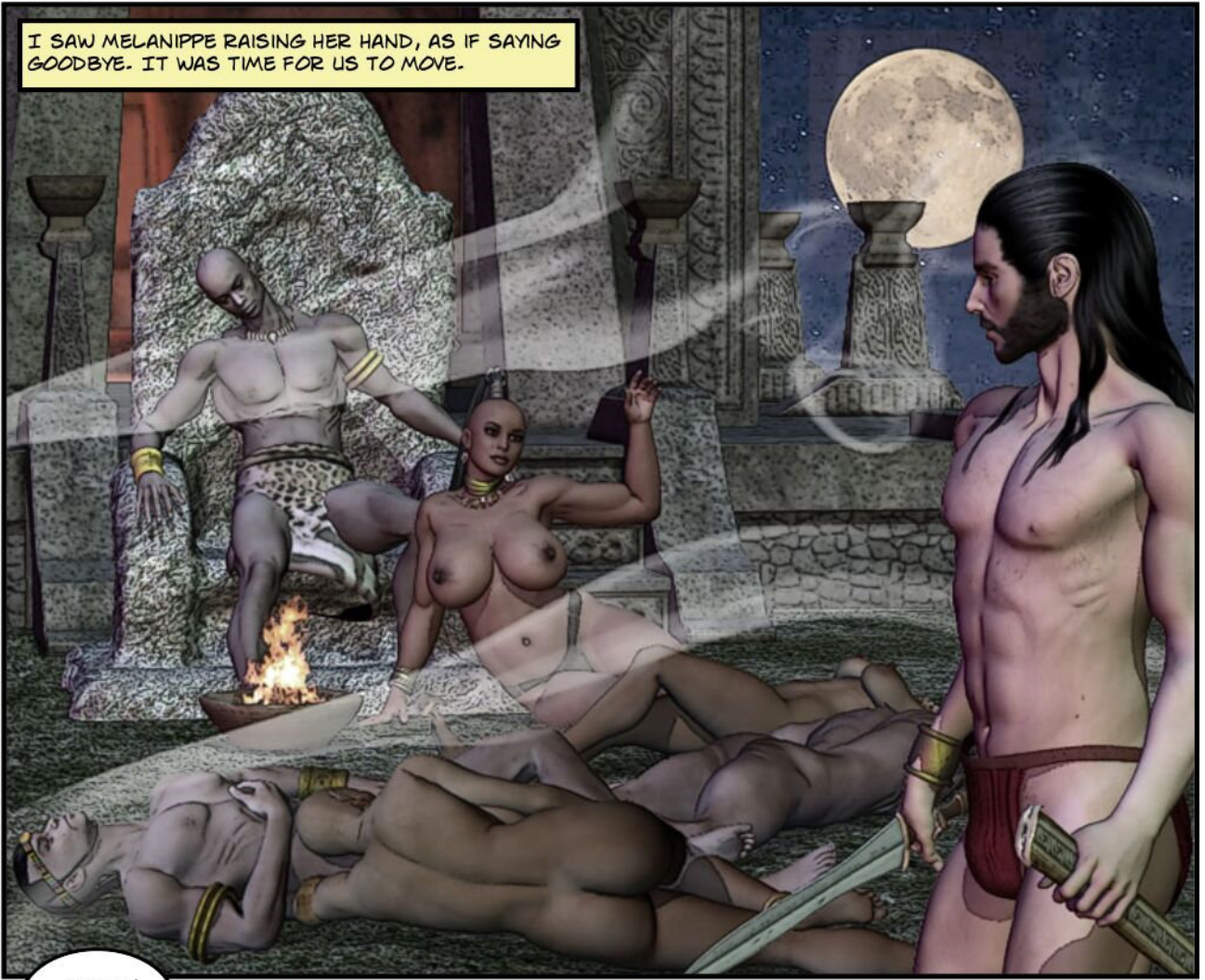


DRINKING AND RAMPANT
FORNICATING FOLLOWED
THE ORGIASTIC DANCING...

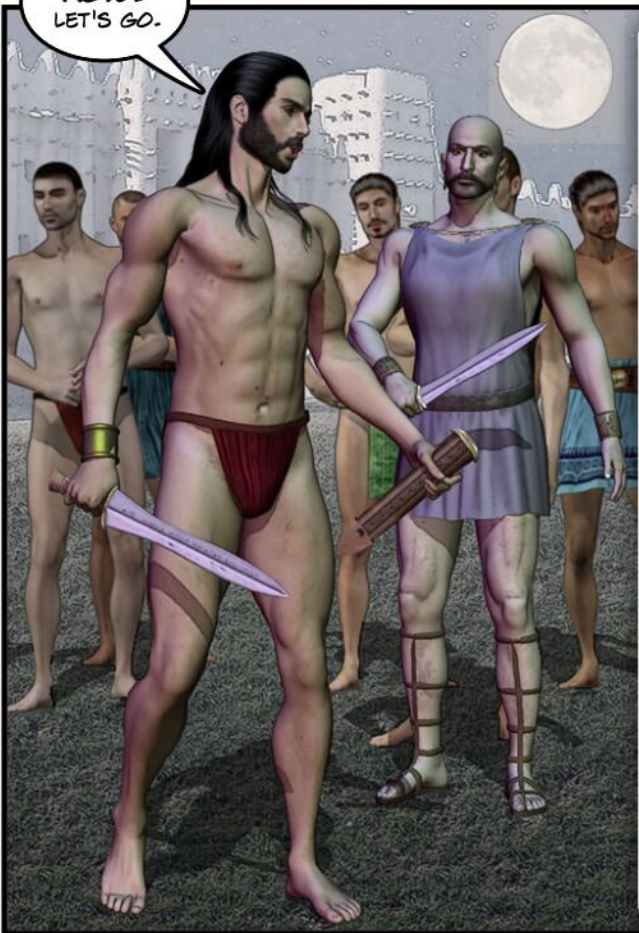


...UNTIL EVERYBODY FELL UNCONSCIOUS ON THE GROUND.

I SAW MELANIPPE RAISING HER HAND, AS IF SAYING GOODBYE. IT WAS TIME FOR US TO MOVE.



NOW!
LET'S GO.



IT WAS EASY TO DISPOSE
OF THE SENTRIES.

ARGHHH...

WE RUSHED TO THE BAY AND TRIED TO SHAKE UP OUR DRUNK COMPANIONS.

GET UP!... WE MUST SAIL...

GO TO HELL, ODYSSEUS.

LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU STUPID BASTARD...

YOU WANT TO LEAVE, LEAVE. WE AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT ODYSSEUS. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

LET THEM BE. GET ON THE SHIP.

THEY'LL BE SLAUGHTERED BY THE SAVAGES...

THEY'VE BEEN WARNED. LET'S GET MOVING.



AND SO WE SAILED ON MY SHIP ALONE, LEAVING THE REST OF OUR COMPANIONS ON THE ACCURSED SHORES OF THE LAND OF THE LAESTRYGONIANS. I KNEW THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE ANY OF THEM AGAIN, BUT, STRANGELY, I COULD FEEL NO REGRET, NOR ANY KIND OF SORROW.





