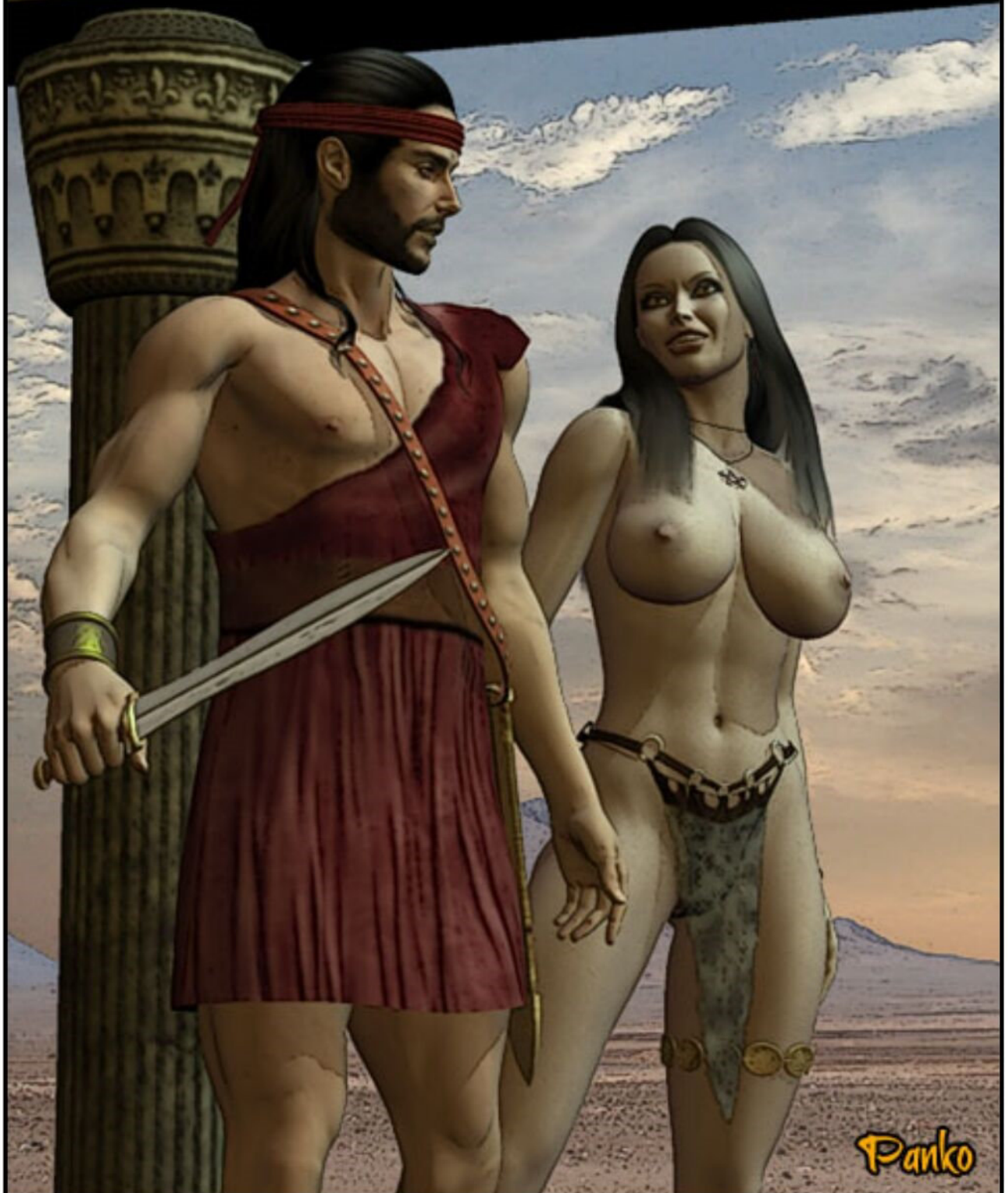


THE TRUE STORY OF ODYSSEUS, ONCE KING OF ITHACA  
- BY HIMSELF -

----- BOOK 6 -----  
ON THE ISLAND OF CIRCE







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 |
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| BOOK 13 | ..... | THE RETURN TO ITHACA              |
| BOOK 14 | ..... | HELEN                             |

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Homer, "The Odyssey", x 133-139

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P.O. Box 26

Hydra 18040

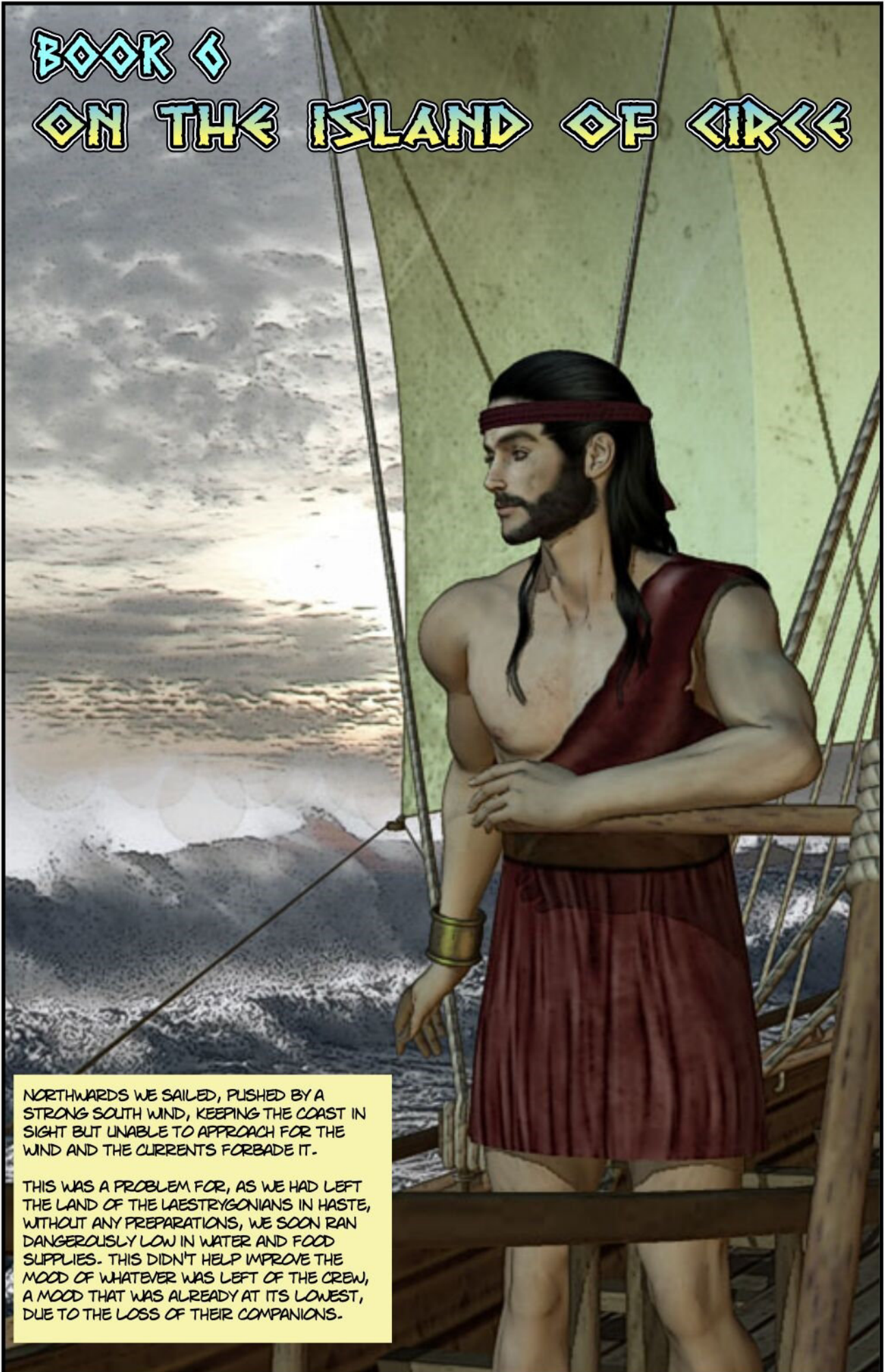
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email: panflynn@otenet.gr



# BOOK 6

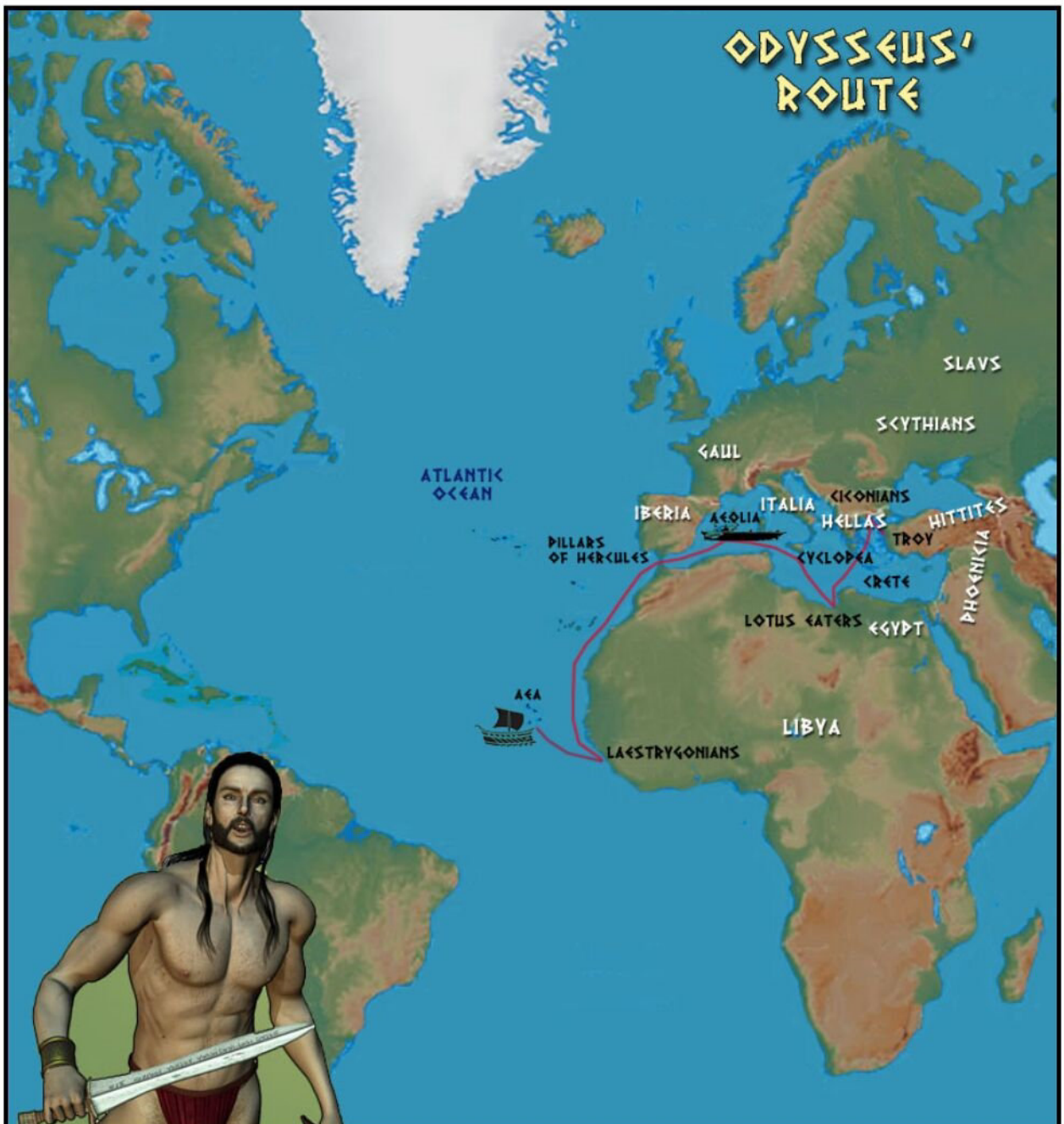
# ON THE ISLAND OF CIRCE



NORTHWARDS WE SAILED, PUSHED BY A STRONG SOUTH WIND, KEEPING THE COAST IN SIGHT BUT UNABLE TO APPROACH FOR THE WIND AND THE CURRENTS FORBADE IT.

THIS WAS A PROBLEM FOR, AS WE HAD LEFT THE LAND OF THE LAESTRYGONIANS IN HASTE, WITHOUT ANY PREPARATIONS, WE SOON RAN DANGEROUSLY LOW IN WATER AND FOOD SUPPLIES. THIS DIDN'T HELP IMPROVE THE MOOD OF WHATEVER WAS LEFT OF THE CREW, A MOOD THAT WAS ALREADY AT ITS LOWEST, DUE TO THE LOSS OF THEIR COMPANIONS.

ONLY TWENTY THREE REMAINED ON THIS ONE SHIP, THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE ESCAPED OUT OF THE TWELVE THAT HAD SAILED FROM TROY, AND THUS WE COULD ONLY RELY ON THE WIND TO MOVE AS WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH HANDS TO MAN THE OARS. THEREFORE WE WERE, ONCE AGAIN, AT THE MERCY OF THE ELEMENTS -AND FATE.



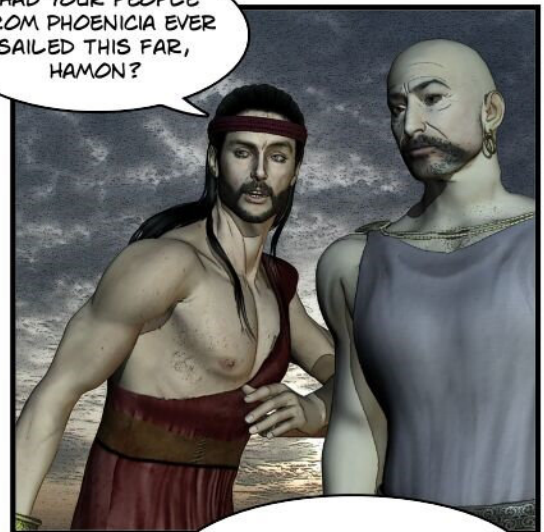
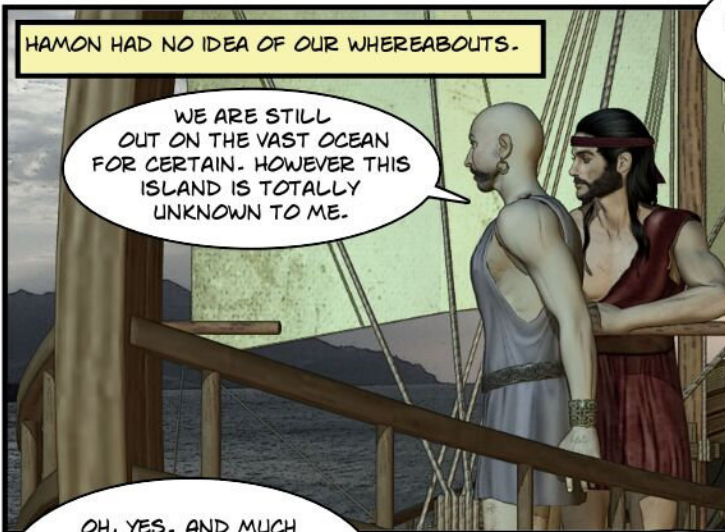
ON OUR SEVENTH DAY AT SEA WE FINALLY REACHED THE PEACEFUL WATERS OF A BAY SITUATED AT THE SOUTHERN PART OF A SUN SCORCHED ISLAND.



HAMON HAD NO IDEA OF OUR WHEREABOUTS.

WE ARE STILL OUT ON THE VAST OCEAN FOR CERTAIN. HOWEVER THIS ISLAND IS TOTALLY UNKNOWN TO ME.

HAD YOUR PEOPLE FROM PHOENICIA EVER SAILED THIS FAR, HAMON?



OH, YES. AND MUCH FURTHER. AS FAR AS THE LARGE CONTINENT THAT LIES AT THE OTHER END OF THE DEEP WATERS.

IS THERE A LAND BEYOND THE OCEAN?

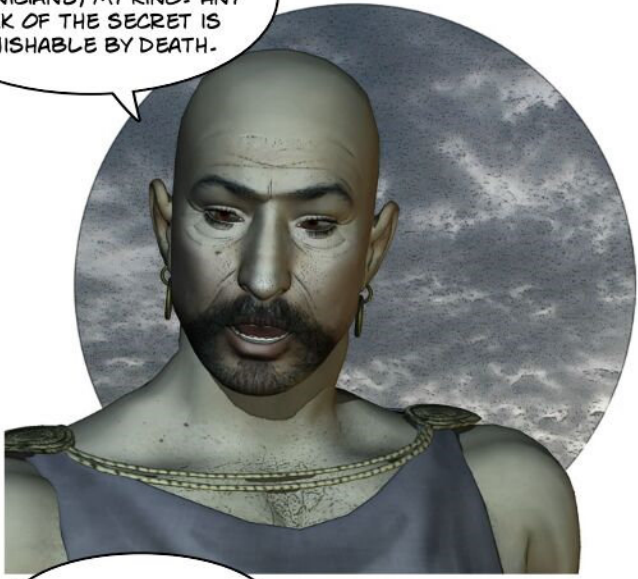
THERE IS. A RICH LAND, WITH WHICH MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TRADING FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.





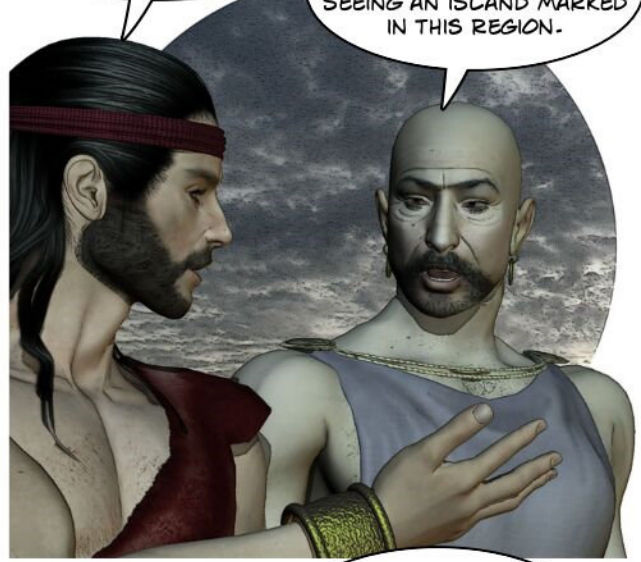
HOW COME WE OTHERS HAVE NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT?

SAILING ROUTES ARE A PROTECTED SECRET FOR US PHOENICIANS, MY KING. ANY LEAK OF THE SECRET IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.



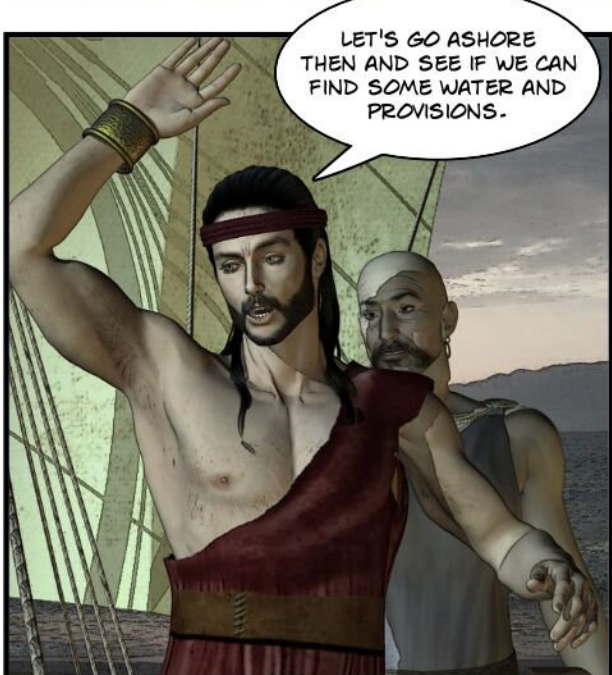
SURELY YOU MUST HAVE MAPS OF THIS PART OF THE WORLD?

WE DO. HOWEVER I CAN'T REMEMBER EVER SEEING AN ISLAND MARKED IN THIS REGION.

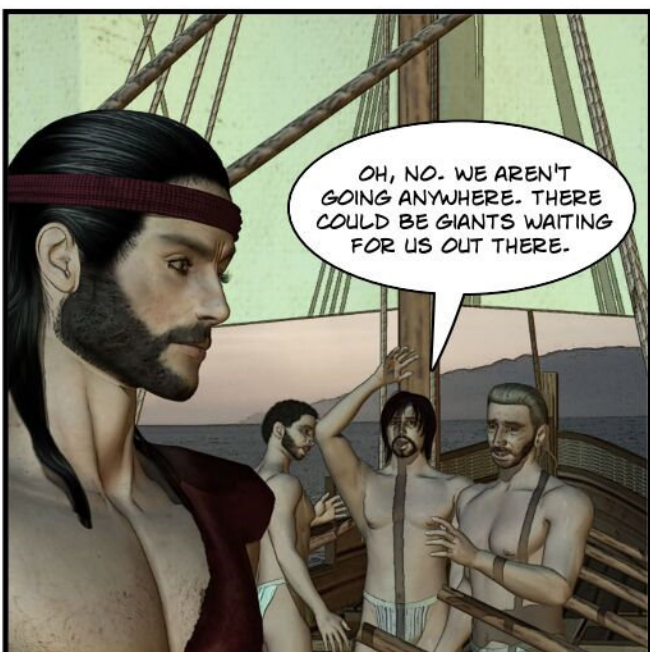


IT LOOKS QUITE DESERTED TO ME.

IT COULD BE.



LET'S GO ASHORE THEN AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOME WATER AND PROVISIONS.



OH, NO. WE AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE. THERE COULD BE GIANTS WAITING FOR US OUT THERE.



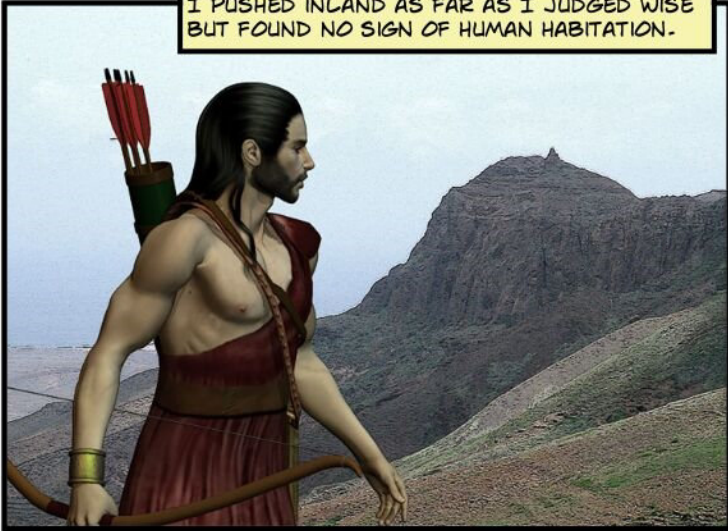


IF I WERE TO COMPOSE A POEM PRAISING THE BRAVERY OF MY COMPANIONS IT WOULD BE A VERY SHORT ONE. SO, I TOOK MY WEAPONS AND WENT ASHORE ALONE.

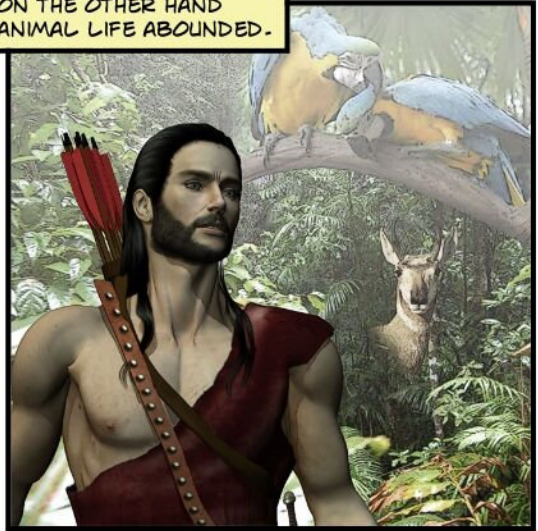


THIS WAS A TRULY WONDERFUL PLACE AND IT LOOKED PEACEFUL.

I PUSHED INLAND AS FAR AS I JUDGED WISE BUT FOUND NO SIGN OF HUMAN HABITATION.



ON THE OTHER HAND ANIMAL LIFE ABOUNDED.



SOON I CAME TO A SPRING OF CLEAR FRESH WATER AND DRANK AVIDLY.



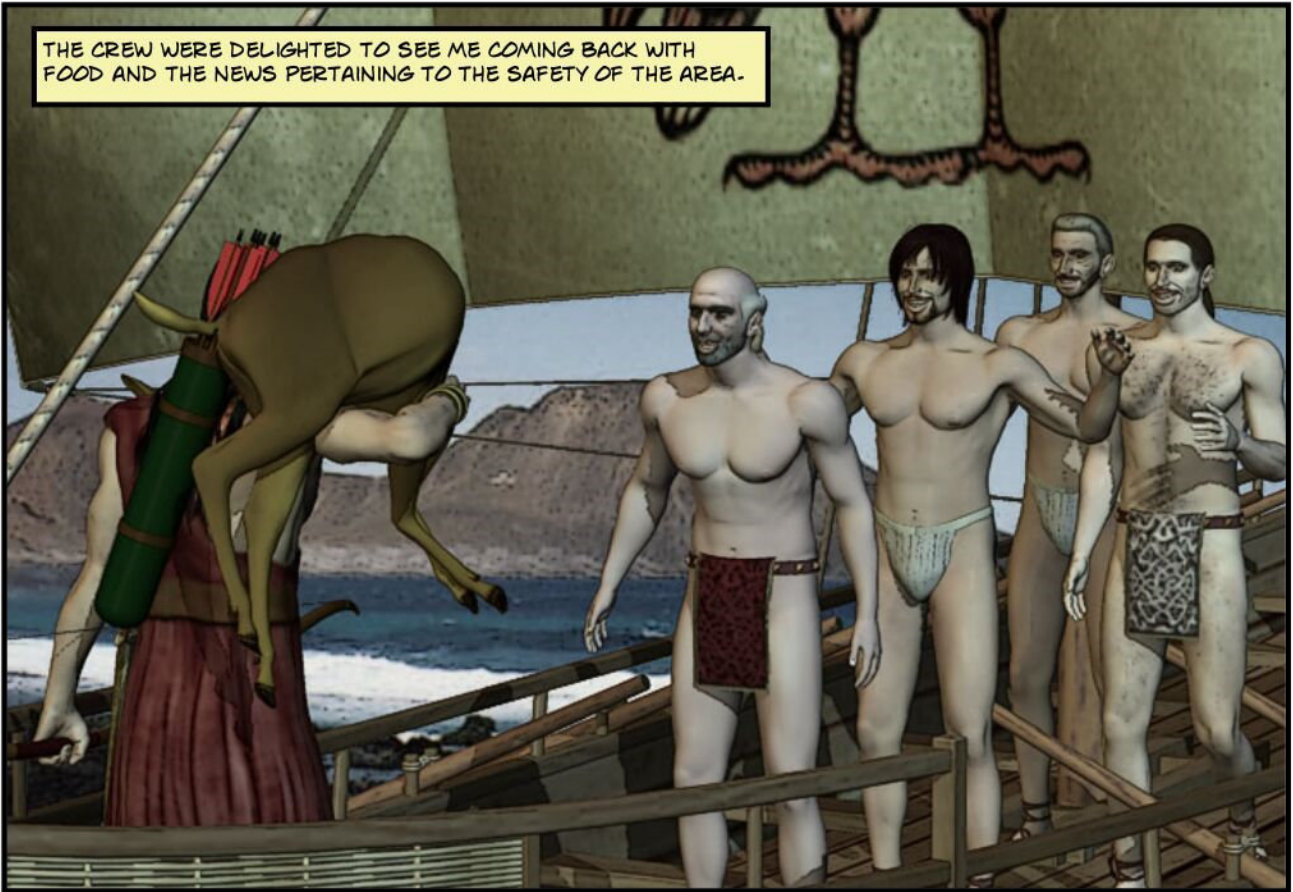
ACROSS THE WATER POND A DEER CAME FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.



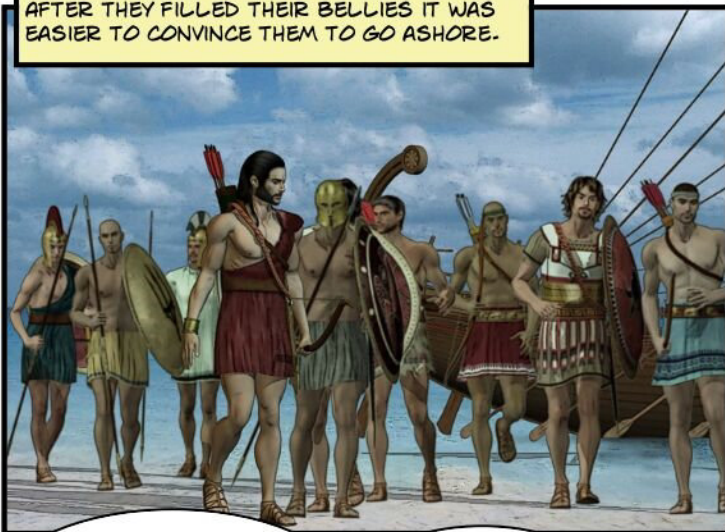
A QUICK FLYING ARROW BROUGHT HIS LIFE TO AN END.



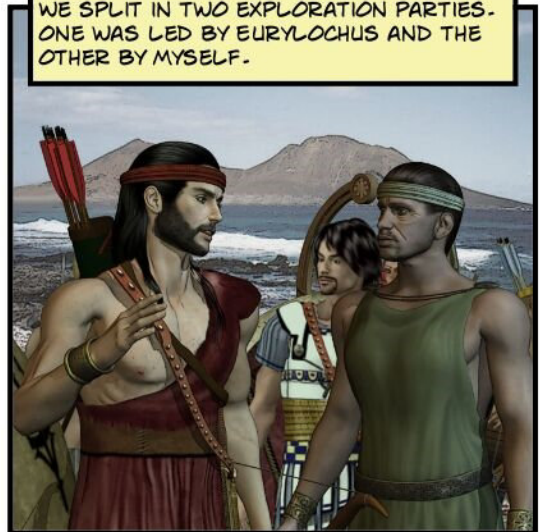
THE CREW WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE ME COMING BACK WITH FOOD AND THE NEWS PERTAINING TO THE SAFETY OF THE AREA.



AFTER THEY FILLED THEIR BELLIES IT WAS EASIER TO CONVINCE THEM TO GO ASHORE.



WE SPLIT IN TWO EXPLORATION PARTIES. ONE WAS LED BY EURYLOCHUS AND THE OTHER BY MYSELF.



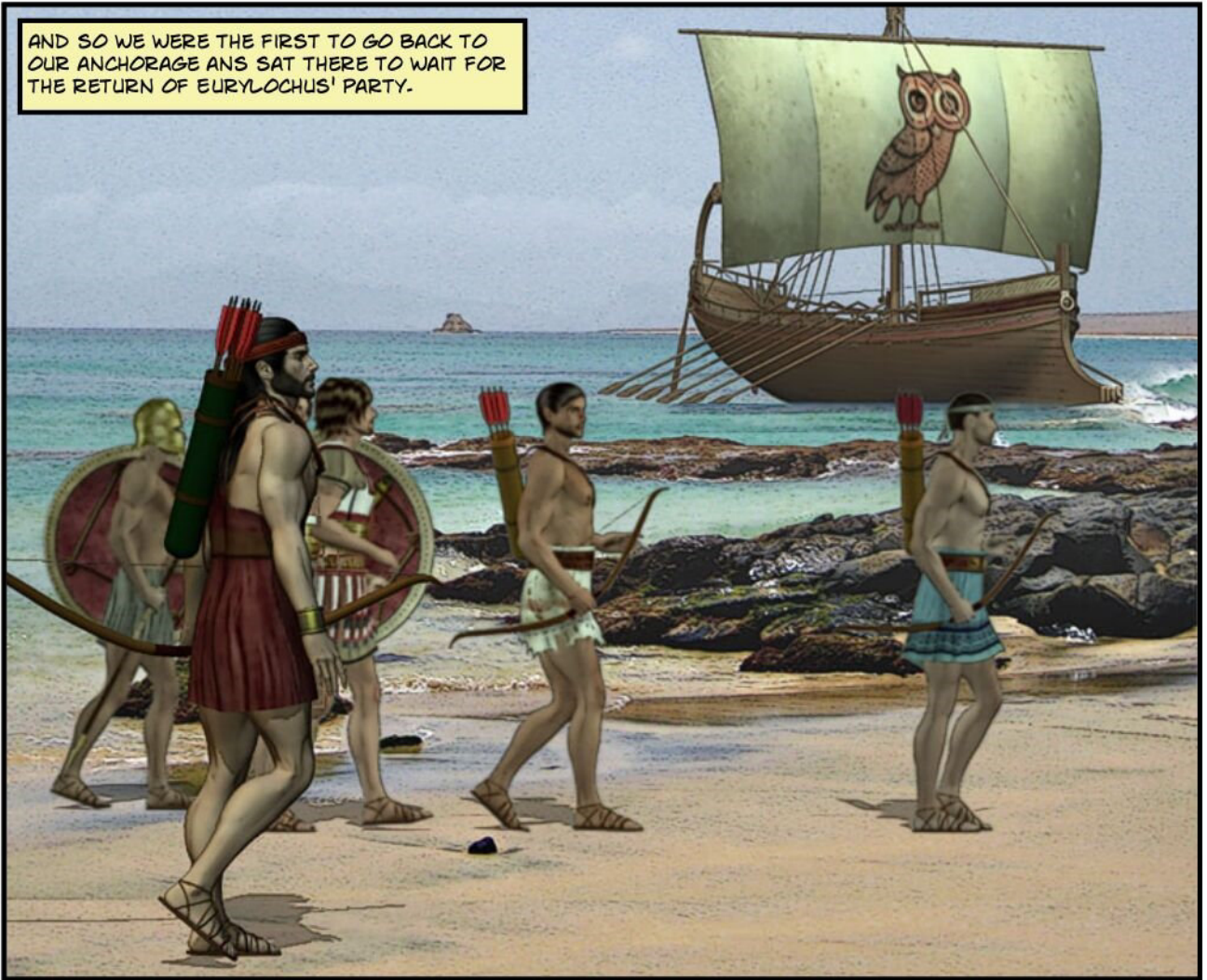
IF YOU HAPPEN TO MEET ANY PEOPLE DON'T DO ANYTHING BUT RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO THE SHIP.

WE'LL DO THAT, ODYSSEUS.

MY PARTY ENCOUNTERED NOTHING BUT TREES, BIRDS, MONKEYS AND AN OCCASIONAL GAZELLE QUICKLY SPRINTING AWAY AS WE APPROACHED.



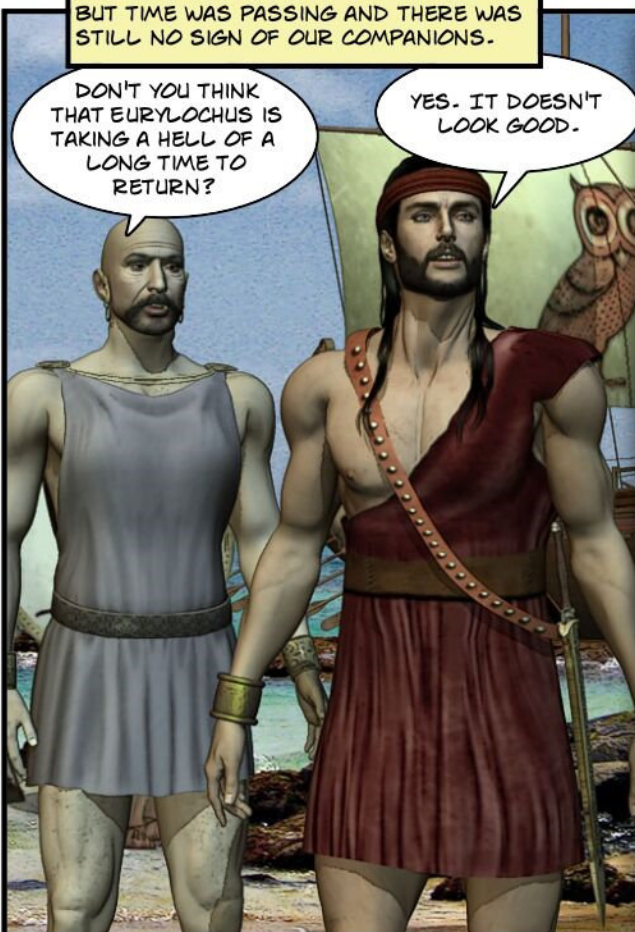
AND SO WE WERE THE FIRST TO GO BACK TO OUR ANCHORAGE AND SAT THERE TO WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF EURYLOCHUS' PARTY.



BUT TIME WAS PASSING AND THERE WAS STILL NO SIGN OF OUR COMPANIONS.

DON'T YOU THINK THAT EURYLOCHUS IS TAKING A HELL OF A LONG TIME TO RETURN?

YES. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.



AS NIGHT WAS FALLING EURYLOCHUS FINALLY APPEARED. HE WAS ALONE!





AFTER HE CALMED DOWN A LITTLE, EURYLOCHUS BEGAN TO TELL US HIS STORY.



WE PUSHED INLAND, FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM THE COAST UNTIL WE CAME TO A TRULY WONDROUS PLACE.



A MAGNIFICENT PALACE ARISING IN THE MIDST OF THE WILDERNESS. LIONS AND PANTHERS WERE GOING ABOUT THE GARDENS PEACEFULLY, LIKE TAME CATS.



SUDDENLY, A FABULOUS WOMAN APPEARED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PALACE.

A WOMAN AS BEAUTIFUL AS A GODDESS!



SHE ADDRESSED US IN A GENTLE, VELVET-LIKE, HYPNOTIC VOICE.

WELCOME TO MY ISLAND STRANGERS. PLEASE TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.





I INTRODUCED OURSELVES AND SHE INVITED US INTO HER ABODE FOR FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS.



I TRIED TO DISSUADE THE MEN, FEARING A TRAP, BUT IN VAIN.

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THIS DELICIOUS MORSEL!

OH BOY, OH BOY! AREN'T WE GOING TO HAVE FUN!



AND SO I STAYED OUTSIDE, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO.



I SAT THERE AND FOR HOURS I COULD HEAR THEIR MERRY SHOUTS AND LAUGHTER.



APPARENTLY OUR HOSTESS WAS GIVING A REAL BANQUET IN THEIR HONOUR.



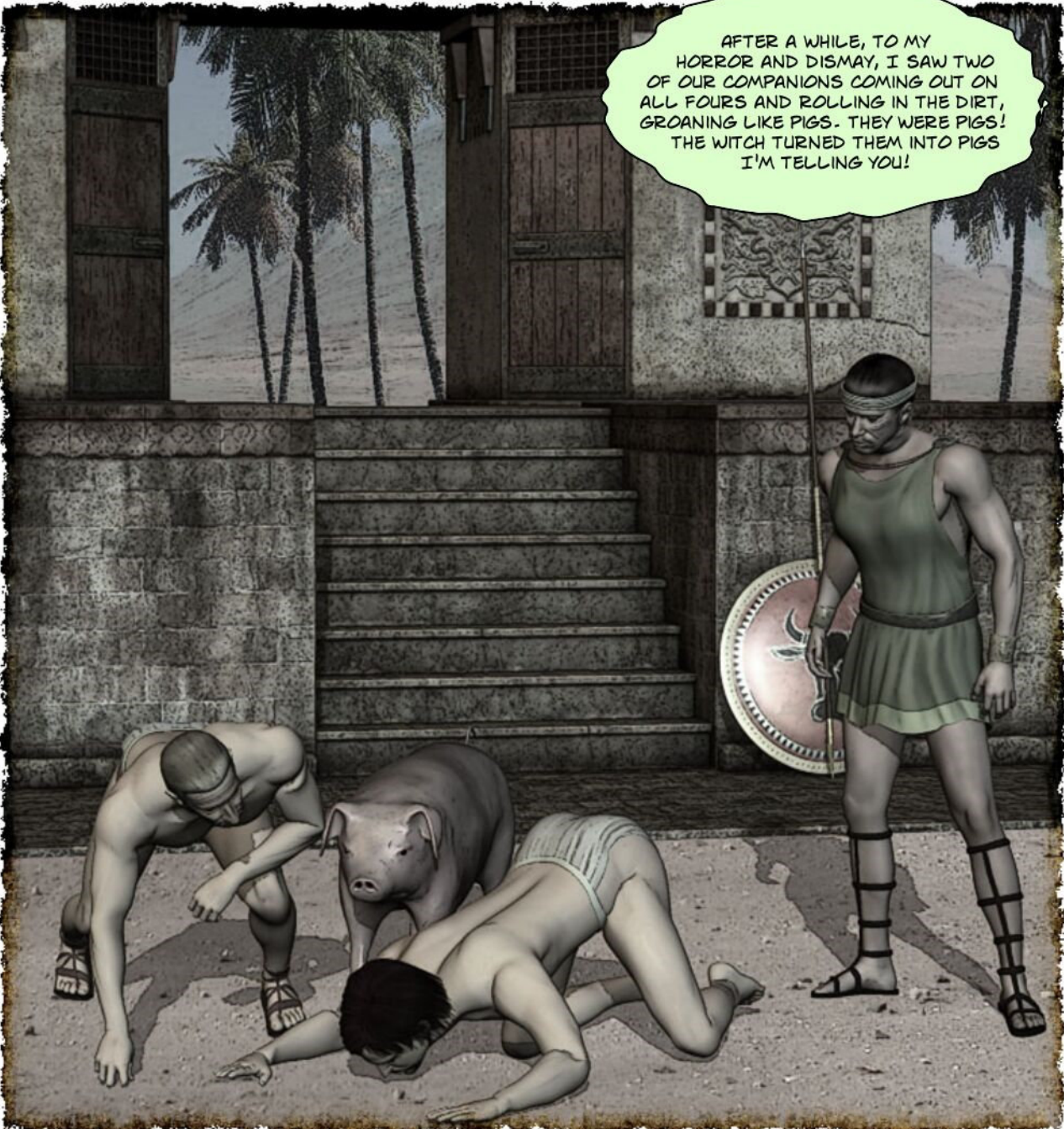
I STOOD THERE  
WONDERING WHETHER MY  
SUSPICIONS WERE  
UNJUSTIFIED AFTER ALL.

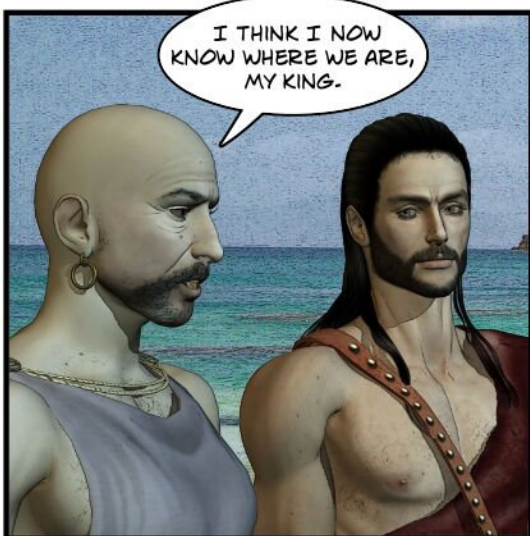
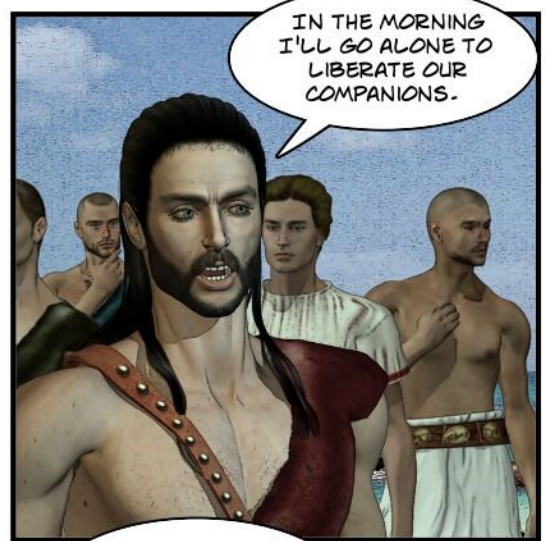
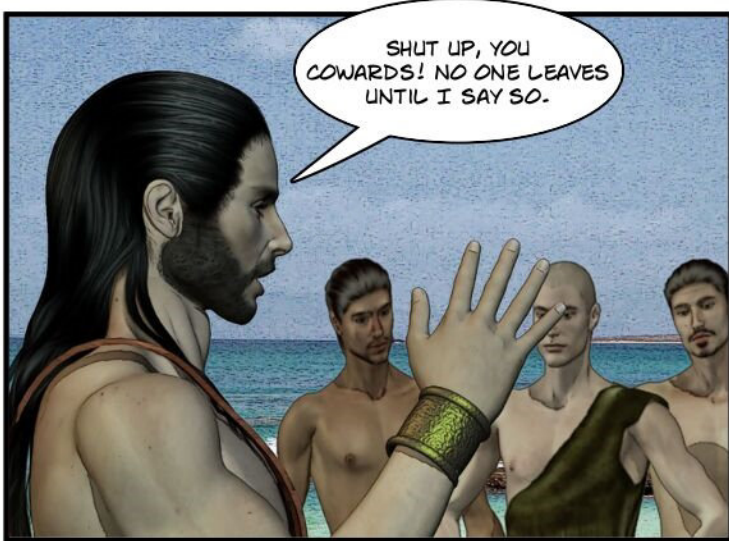


THEN, SUDDENLY, THE  
LAUGHTER STOPPED AND  
PIG-LIKE GROANS  
REPLACED THEM.



AFTER A WHILE, TO MY  
HORROR AND DISMAY, I SAW TWO  
OF OUR COMPANIONS COMING OUT ON  
ALL FOURS AND ROLLING IN THE DIRT,  
GROANING LIKE PIGS. THEY WERE PIGS!  
THE WITCH TURNED THEM INTO PIGS  
I'M TELLING YOU!



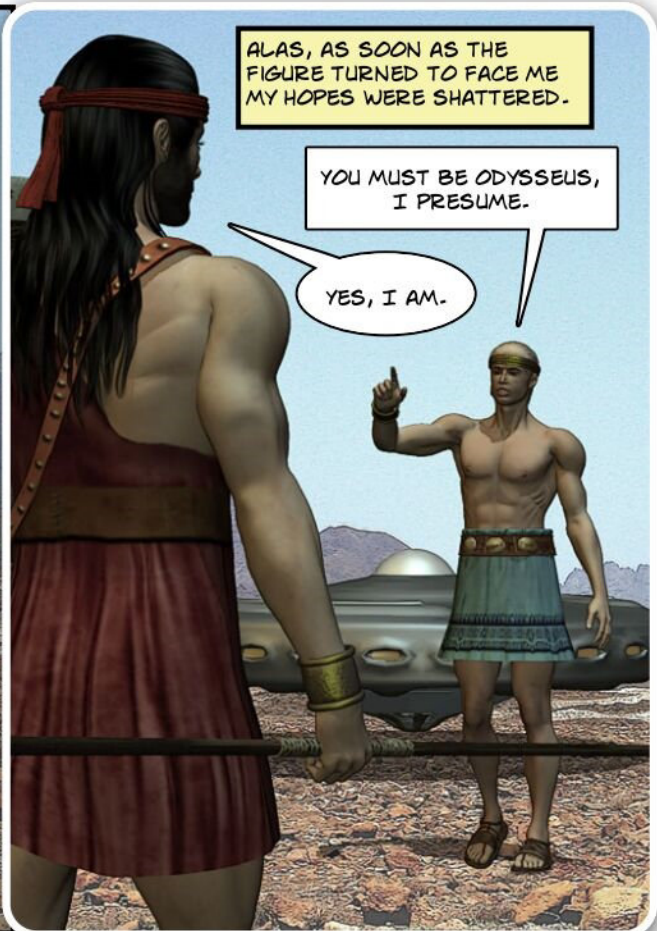




WITCH OR GODDESS IT MATTERED LITTLE TO ME. SO, WITH THE FIRST LIGHT OF THE DAY I ARMED MYSELF AND HEADED IN THE DIRECTION EURYLOCHUS INDICATED.



AN HOUR LATER AT A FLAT ROCKY PLATEAU I CAME UPON A SCENERY THAT MADE MY HEART BEAT WILDLY IN MY CHEST.



ALAS, AS SOON AS THE FIGURE TURNED TO FACE ME MY HOPES WERE SHATTERED.

YOU MUST BE ODYSSEUS, I PRESUME.

YES, I AM.



DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

CERTAINLY NOT ANYONE I CARE TO SEE.



BUT WHAT IF I TELL YOU THAT I'M COMING ON HER BEHALF?

ATHENA?



BY THE WAY YOU SPEAK HER NAME I CAN UNDERSTAND A LOT.

THEN YOU'D BETTER MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.



FOR THE MOMENT YOU ARE MY BUSINESS, ODYSSEUS, THANKS TO MY SISTER.



HOW COME?

NEVER MIND THAT. LET'S GET TO THE POINT.



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU ARE DEALING WITH HERE?

ROUGHLY. I KNOW THAT ONE OF YOUR CROWD HAS BEEN PLAYING DIRTY TRICKS ON MY COMPANIONS.



AND YOU INTEND TO DEAL WITH HER SINGLE HANDED?

IF YOU DON'T MIND.



I DON'T, BUT MY SISTER APPARENTLY DOES. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

WHY DIDN'T SHE COME HERSELF THEN?



AH, LISTEN, BOY. I DON'T CARE TO GET INVOLVED IN A STUPID LOVE-BIRDS' QUARREL. I'M JUST DOING HER A FAVOUR.

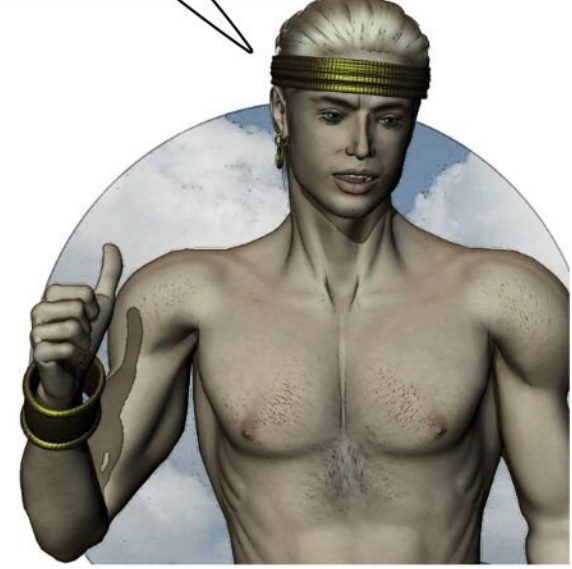


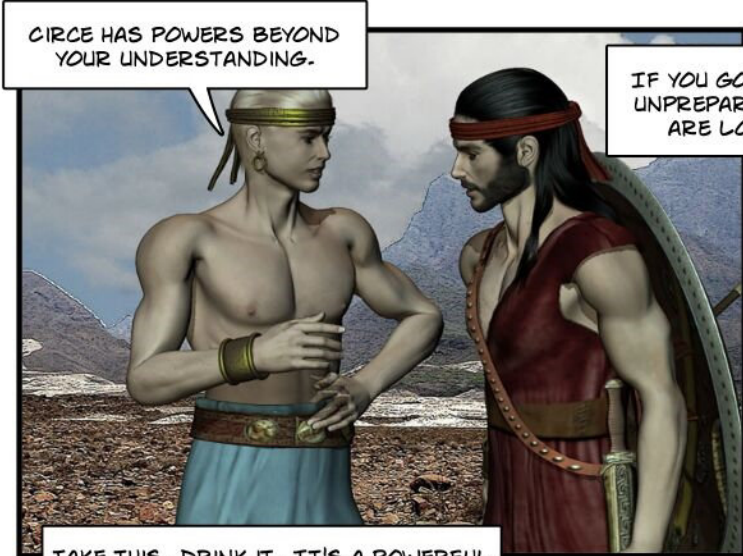
YOU SAID... "LOVE-BIRDS"?



HAHAHA! YOU LIKED THAT, HUH?

BUT WE HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO DISCUS AT PRESENT. CIRCE FOR EXAMPLE.





IF YOU GO THERE UNPREPARED YOU ARE LOST.



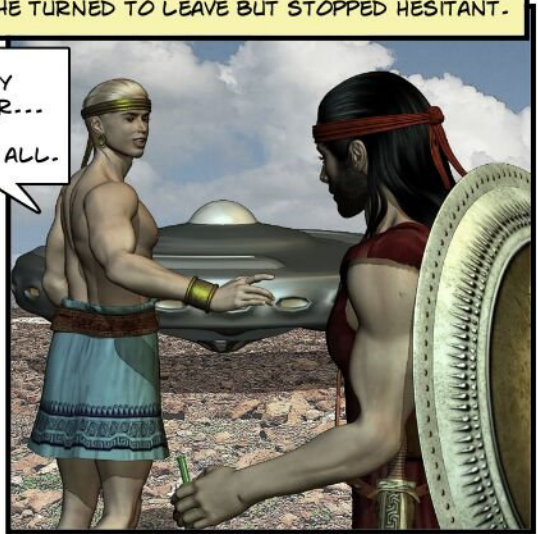
TAKE THIS. DRINK IT. IT'S A POWERFUL ANTIDOTE WHICH WILL MAKE YOU IMMUNE TO CIRCE'S POTIONS.

HE TURNED TO LEAVE BUT STOPPED HESITANT.



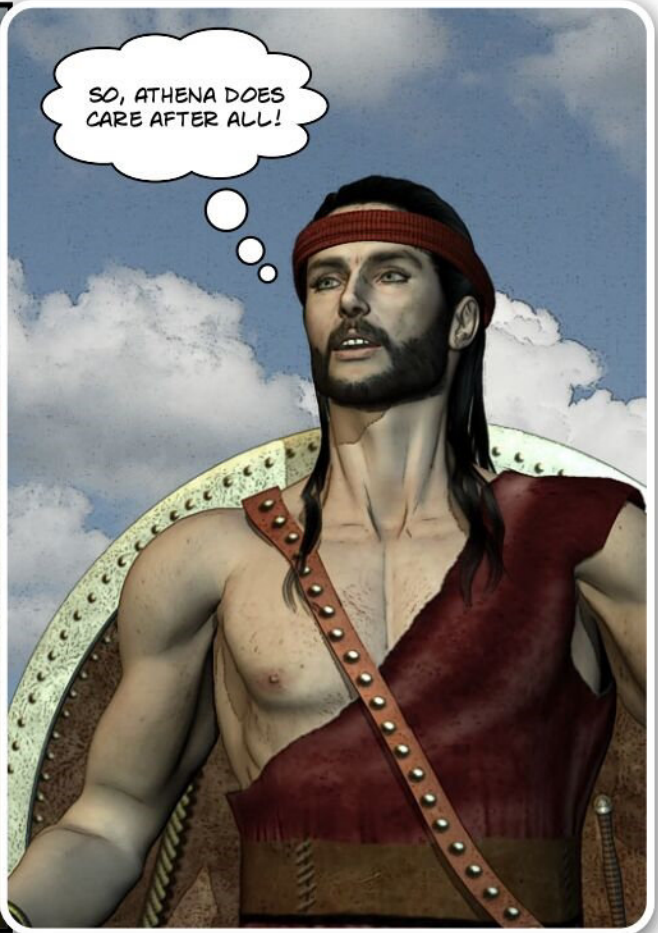
IF YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGE FOR HER... I'M THE GODS' MESSENGER AFTER ALL.

AFTER THAT IT'S UP TO YOU.





I DRANK THE POTION HERMES HAD GIVEN ME AS HIS CRAFT ROSE SILENTLY UP IN THE SKY.



SO, ATHENA DOES CARE AFTER ALL!



WITH MY MORALE UPLIFTED I PUSHED FORWARD UNTIL I CAME TO CIRCE'S WONDROUS PALACE.

IT WAS JUST AS EURYLOCHUS HAD DESCRIBED IT. MAGNIFICENT AND OTHERWORLDLY!



NOW, NOW, PUSSYCAT... DON'T BE SILLY.

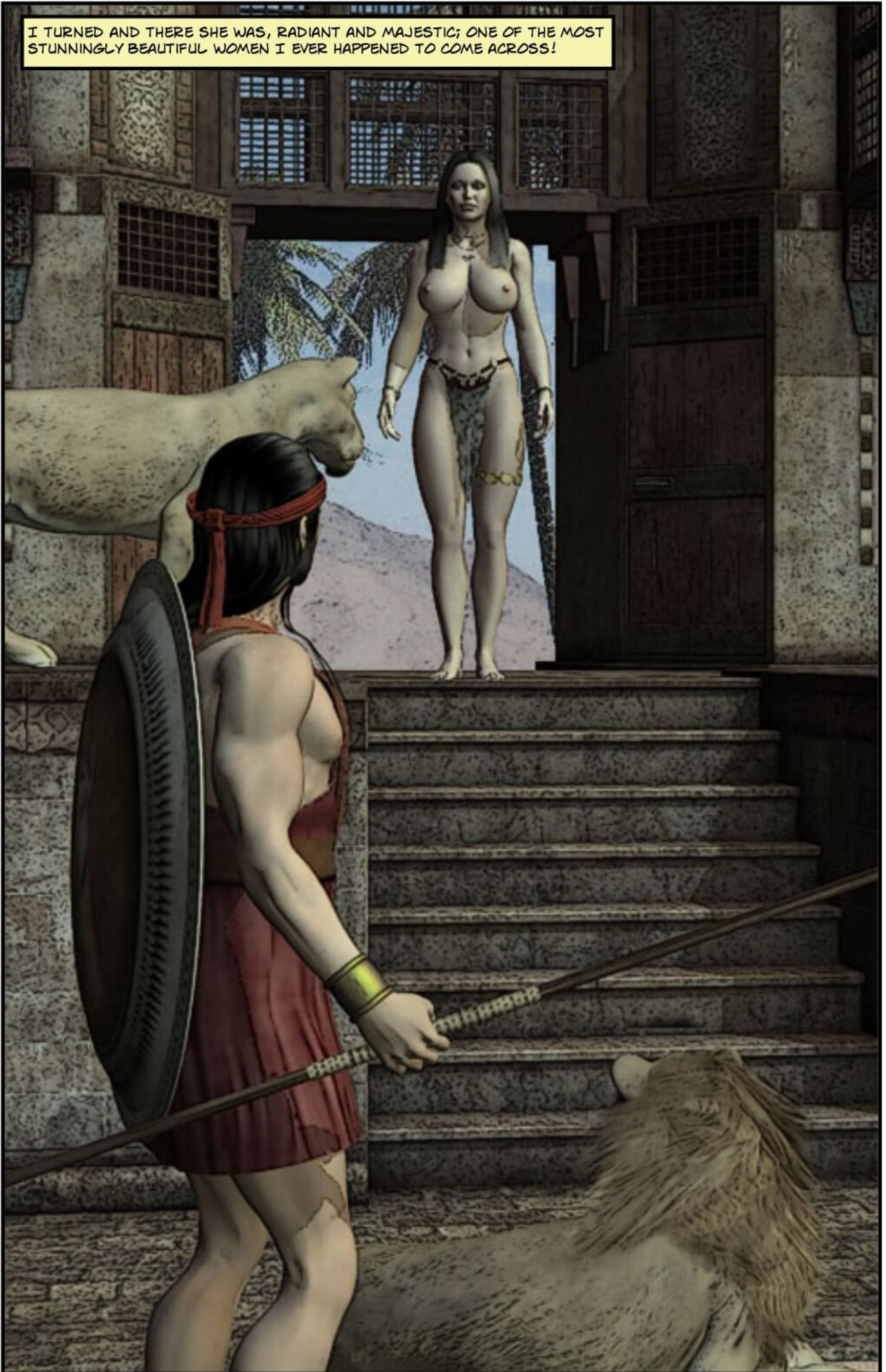


I SEE THAT MY CATS DON'T SCARE YOU.





I TURNED AND THERE SHE WAS, RADIANT AND MAJESTIC; ONE OF THE MOST STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN I EVER HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS!







I DRUNK DEEPLY WHILE SHE WAS WATCHING ME FROM THE CORNER OF HER EYE, LIKE A BIRD OF PREY.



SHE WENT TO FETCH THE URN, VISIBLY PUZZLED.



I DIDN'T GIVE HER THE TIME TO REACT.



SHE PROTESTED CLAIMING HER INNOCENCE, BUT SEEING THAT I WAS DETERMINED SHE BROUGHT ME TO THE BACK COURTYARD OF HER PALACE.



HERE, SEE? THEY ARE FINE.

SHE GAVE SOME ORDERS TO HER SERVANTS AND SHE TURNED TO ME.



AND THEY'LL BE EVEN BETTER WHEN YOU BRING THEM BACK TO THEIR SENSES.

IF YOU INSIST...



YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR SEEKING SOME DIVERTISSEMENT TO BREAK MY LONELINESS, CAN YOU, ODYSSEUS?



YOU MUST BE EITHER VERY CYNICAL OR QUITE HEARTLESS, CIRCE.

I'M NEITHER AND IF YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU, ODYSSEUS.



TURNING INNOCENT PEOPLE INTO MINDLESS WRECKS IS PROOF ENOUGH OF YOUR CHARACTER.

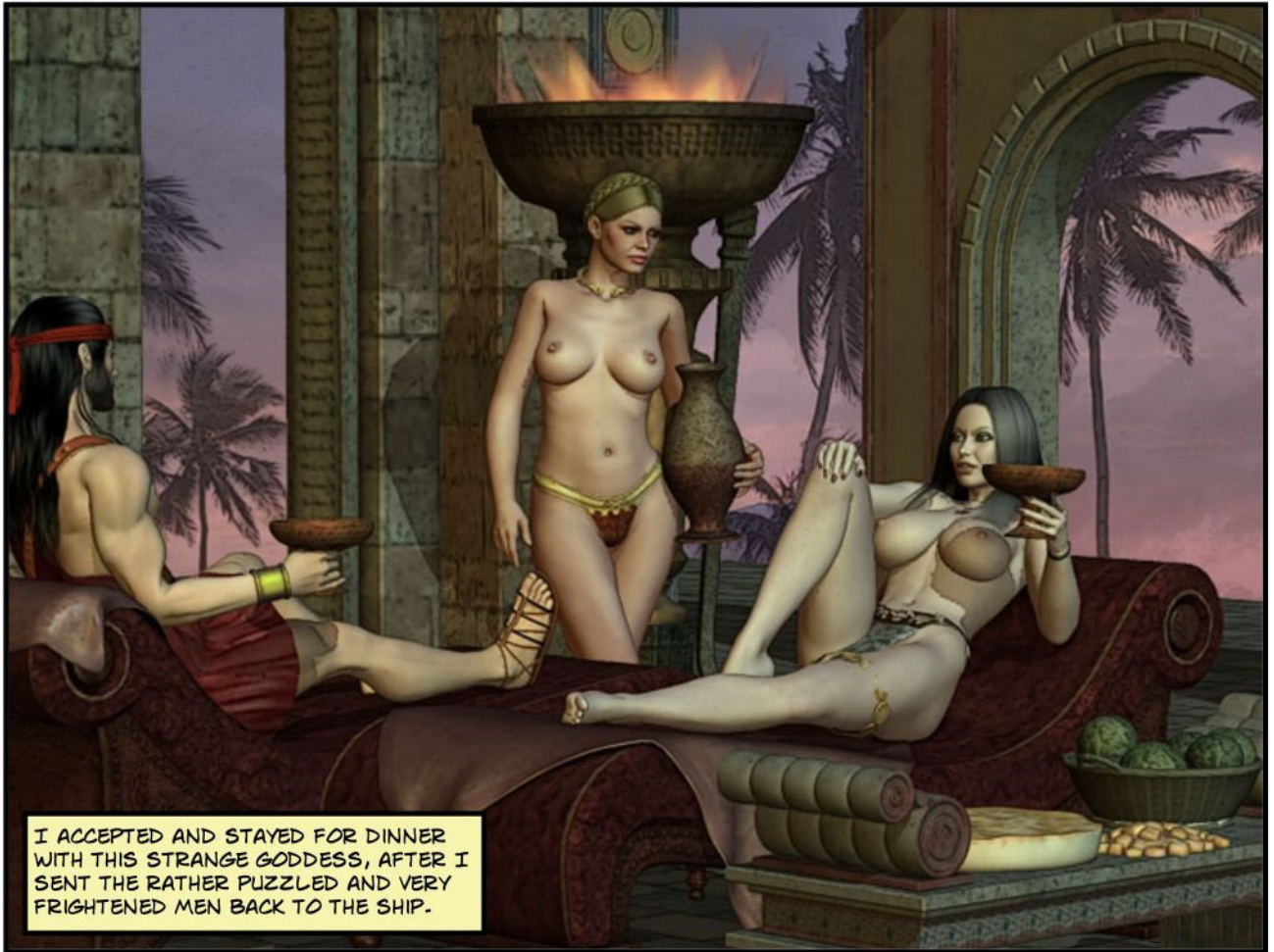
MY POTIONS DO NOTHING BUT BRING OUT THE TRUE NATURE OF HUMANS, YOU KNOW.



YES, I SAW THAT.



YOU HOWEVER SEEM TO BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THEM, ODYSSEUS. PLEASE, STAY FOR SUPPER.





I'M NOT RUTHLESS, ODYSSEUS. JUST LONELY.

SAVE IT, CIRCE, FOR I'M ONLY TOO WELL ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR KIND.



THESE ARE BITTER WORDS, ODYSSEUS.

I TOLD YOU... I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE.

MAYBE NOT ALL OF US ARE ALIKE.



MAYBE YOU'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PROVE YOU WRONG.





CIRCE WAS RIGHT. SHE PROVED TO BE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON TO THE ONE MY PRECONCEIVED, YET VERY JUSTIFIED, OPINION LED ME ORIGINALLY TO BELIEVE.

SHE WAS TENDER AND CONSIDERATE AND LOVING. SHE TURNED OUT TO BE VERY INTELLIGENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE IN SO MANY OF THE THINGS THAT AROUSED MY CURIOSITY. IN A WAY SHE WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO HESTIA AND LISTENING TO WHAT SHE HAD TO SAY PROVED NOT ONLY TO BE A PLEASURE BUT ALSO A SOURCE OF PRECIOUS INFORMATION THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE ACQUIRED OTHERWISE.

OH, SHE WAS A STRANGE WOMAN, WITH DARK MOODS THAT WOULD TAKE HOLD OF HER WITHOUT WARNING AND WHEN THIS HAPPENED NOTHING AND NO ONE COULD BREAK THROUGH THE FOG TO BRING HER OUT INTO THE LIGHT AGAIN.

SOON I REALISED THAT SHE WAS REGULARLY TAKING DRUGS OF HER OWN FABRICATION WHICH SHE ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO LET ME TASTE. MAYBE THE MOODS AND SUDDEN CHANGES HAD TO DO WITH THIS HABIT OF HERS.

SHE TOLD ME THAT LIVING ALONE ON THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN HER OWN CHOICE AND DECISION, HOWEVER I CAME TO SUSPECT THAT FOR SOME REASON SHE HAD BEEN BANNED FROM OLYMPUS, OR WHEREVER HER KIN FOLK RESIDED. THIS DIDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE AS MANY A TIME, WHILE I WAS WITH HER, GODS CAME TO PAY HER A VISIT. HERA ESPECIALLY WAS A FREQUENT GUEST -THAT'S WHERE I MADE HER ACQUAINTANCE.



FROM ODYSSEUS'  
NOTEBOOK



PERHAPS THE BIG SHOTS UP THERE BECAME AT SOME POINT UNEASY WITH HER MASTERY OF POTIONS AND FILTERS AND WISHED TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE SOME DAY SHE WOULD CONFIDE HER SECRET TO ME -IF THERE WAS ONE.

WHEN I ASKED HER ONCE HOW COULD SHE BEAR SUCH A LONELY LIFE SHE WAS EVASIVE.

"I HAVE MY SERVANT GIRLS WHO TAKE CARE OF MY NEEDS", SHE REPLIED. "AND NOW I HAVE YOU". SHE ADDED. "WOULD YOU STAY?"

"YES", I REPLIED. "I'LL STAY AS LONG AS I'M ALLOWED TO".

AND WHILE I WAS SAYING THIS I WAS TRUTHFUL, FOR IN FACT I HAD NO WHERE TO GO AND NO ONE TO WAIT FOR ME -NO ONE THAT MATTERED THAT IS.

STILL... IN THE BACK OF MY MIND... DEEP, DEEP DOWN, A SPARKLE OF HOPE EXISTED... MAYBE, SOME DAY... MAYBE...



YES, THIS WAS A TIME OF WINE AND ROSES ON THE ISLAND OF AEA AND AS THE DAYS BECAME WEEKS AND THE WEEKS MONTHS I BEGAN WONDERING WHETHER THE HORRORS I HAD LIVED IN TROY AND AFTERWARDS WEREN'T JUST TRICKS OF MY IMAGINATION.



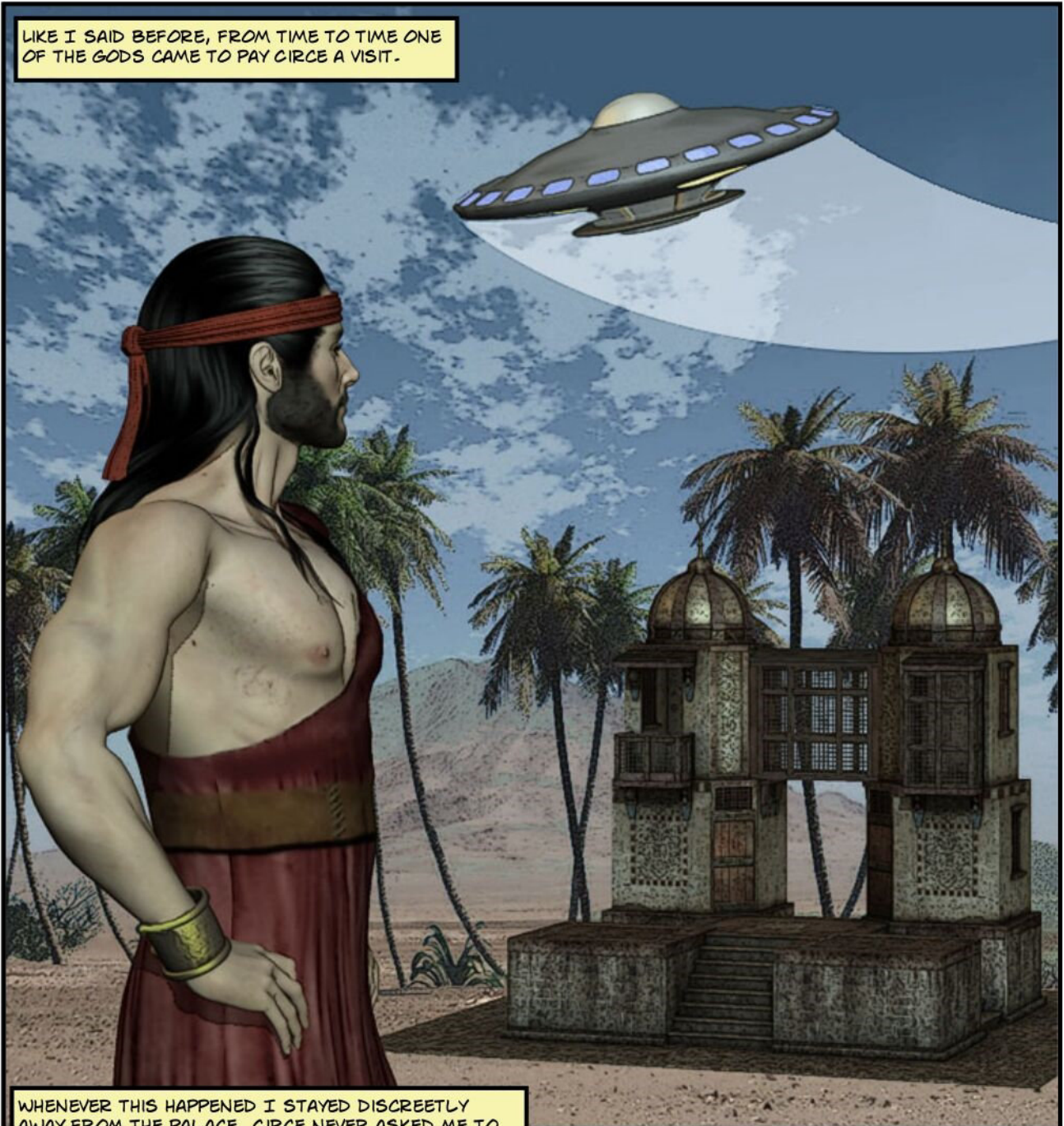
AREN'T YOU SOMETIMES HOMESICK FOR YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN, ODYSSEUS?

ALL THIS SEEMS TO BELONG TO A DIFFERENT LIFETIME, CIRCE. A DIFFERENT, DISTANT REALITY.

I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT. I AM YOUR REALITY NOW.



LIKE I SAID BEFORE, FROM TIME TO TIME ONE OF THE GODS CAME TO PAY CIRCE A VISIT.



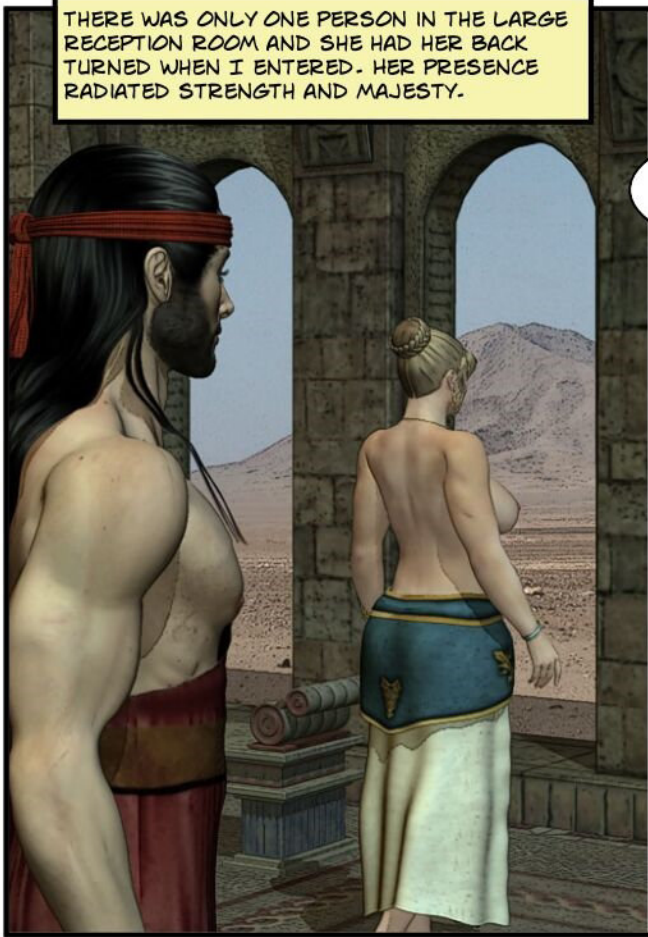
WHENEVER THIS HAPPENED I STAYED DISCREETLY AWAY FROM THE PALACE. CIRCE NEVER ASKED ME TO DO SO BUT SOMEHOW I SENSED THAT THIS WAS THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TO TAKE.

ON ONE OCCASION THOUGH IT WAS DIFFERENT.



MASTER, MASTER!  
YOUR PRESENCE IS  
REQUIRED AT THE  
PALACE.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE LARGE RECEPTION ROOM AND SHE HAD HER BACK TURNED WHEN I ENTERED. HER PRESENCE RADIATED STRENGTH AND MAJESTY.



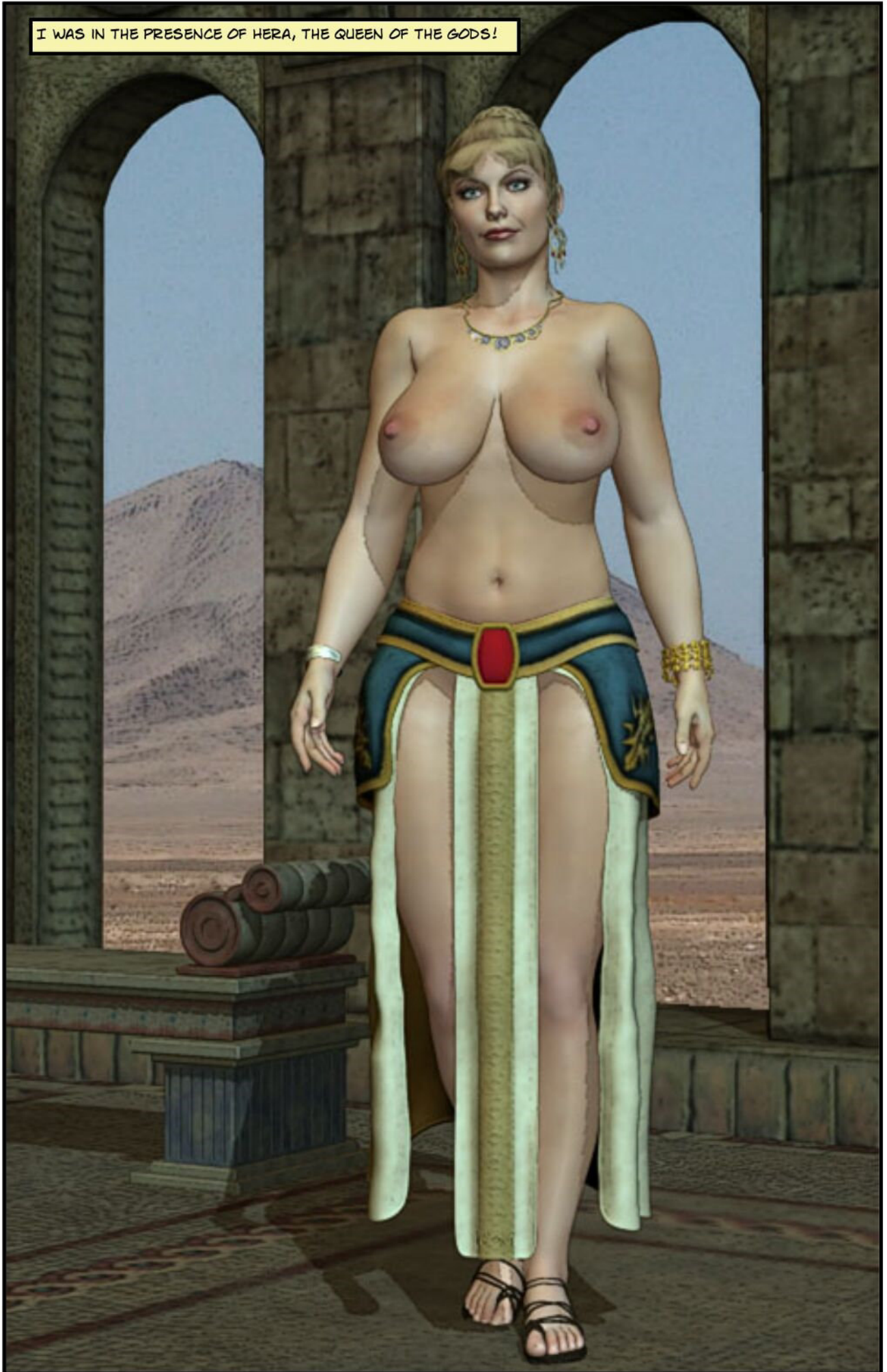
YOU SENT FOR ME, MY LADY?



AS SHE TURNED I HAD BY BREATH KNOCKED OUT OF MY CHEST.



I WAS IN THE PRESENCE OF HERA, THE QUEEN OF THE GODS!



INSTINCTIVELY I DROPPED ON ONE KNEE AND BOWED MY HEAD IN FRONT OF THIS MAGNIFICENT AND TERRIBLE GODDESS.



SPARE ME THIS, WILL YOU? GET UP, MY BOY. GET UP.

SHE EYED ME WITH UNEMBARRASSED CURIOSITY.



SO... THIS IS THE FAMOUS -OR SHALL I SAY INFAMOUS- ODYSSEUS OF ITHACA?



AT YOUR SERVICE, MY LADY.



WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT... COME HERE, SIT WITH ME FOR A MOMENT.



I TAKE IT THAT YOU KNOW WHO I AM?



YES, MY LADY.

AND I PRESUME THAT YOU MUST HAVE HEARD ALL SORTS OF HORRIBLE THINGS ABOUT ME -HENCE YOUR TERROR.



WHO WOULD GIVE CRED TO IDLE TALK WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A RADIANT MAGNIFICENCE? AS FOR THE OTHER THING, I SHOULD RESPECTFULLY POINT OUT THAT MY LADY HAS MISTAKEN MY JUSTIFIED AWE FOR TERROR.

THE QUEEN OF THE GODS BROKE INTO HEARTY LAUGHTER.



IT'S NOT WITHOUT REASON YOU ARE CALLED "THE CRAFTY ONE"! YOU ARE GOOD. VERY GOOD. I LIKE YOU.



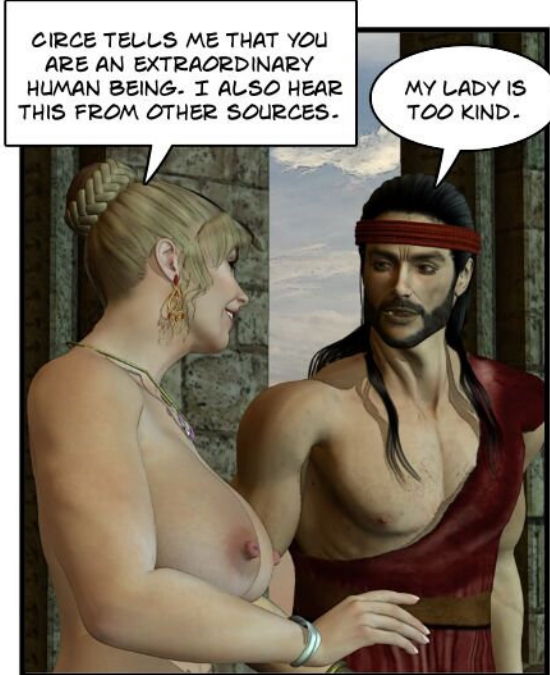
SO, YOU AREN'T AFRAID OF ME?

NOT IN THE LEAST, MY LADY. ONLY OVERWHELMED BY ADMIRATION.



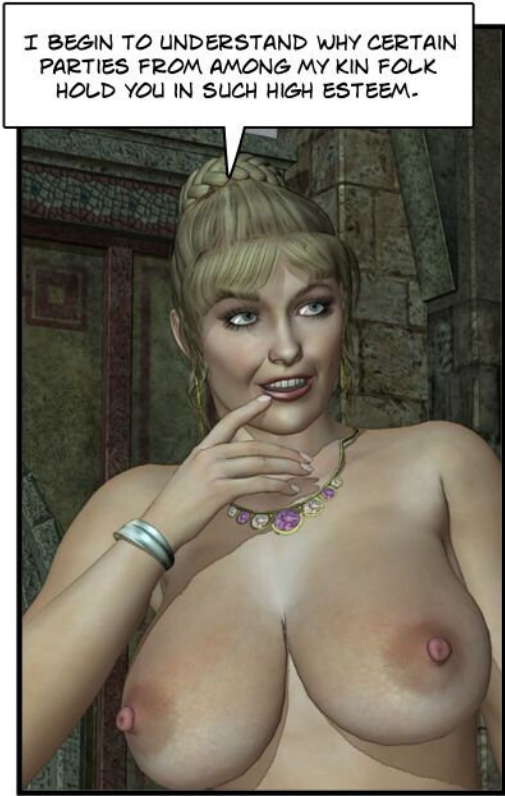
GOOD. THIS WAY OUR CONVERSATION WILL BE MADE EASIER.







YOU SAY "YES" IN SPITE OF THE WARNING ABOUT THE DANGER? WHAT A STRANGE MAN INDEED!



I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY CERTAIN PARTIES FROM AMONG MY KIN FOLK HOLD YOU IN SUCH HIGH ESTEEM.



MY HEART MISSED A BEAT. SO, HERA KNEW!

JUST TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO, MY LADY.



WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK YOU IS SOMETHING THAT ONLY A HUMAN CAN DO. AN EXCEPTIONALLY RESOURCEFUL AND INTELLIGENT HUMAN.



I'M NEITHER, BUT YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT I'LL DO MY BEST.



I WANT YOU TO GO DOWN TO TARTARUS AND COME BACK, ODYSSEUS.

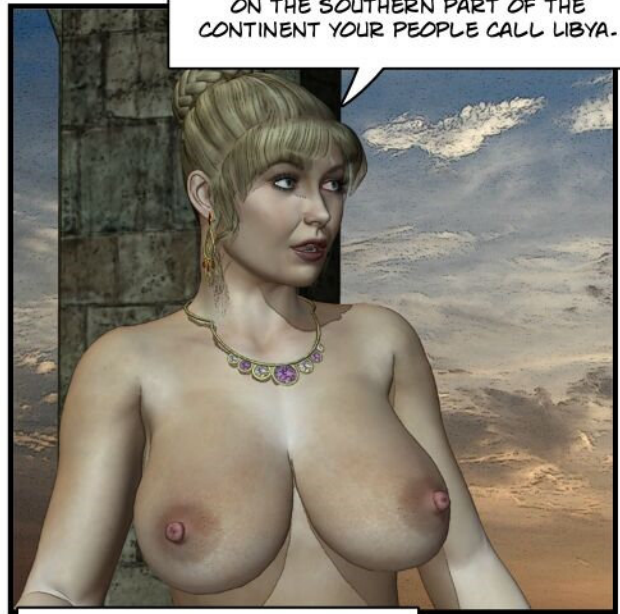
SEEING MY EXPRESSION THE QUEEN OF THE GODS BURST INTO LAUGHTER.

DON'T TELL ME THAT A MAN OF YOUR INTELLIGENCE BELIEVES THAT TARTARUS IS A PLACE WHERE DEAD PEOPLE GO!



I CAN'T BLAME YOU. WELL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION TARTARUS IS A PHYSICAL PLACE, HERE ON EARTH, AND IS SITUATED ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CONTINENT YOUR PEOPLE CALL LIBYA.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE ANY MORE, MY LADY.



AN AREA CONTROLLED BY HADES, THE TRICKIEST AND MOST AMBITIOUS OF MY HUSBAND'S BROTHERS.



UNFORTUNATELY IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT ONE FINDS MOST OF THE GOLD THAT WE, "GODS", NEED FOR OUR OWN REASONS. AND HADES IS IN CONTROL.





IN FACT HADES IS IN CONTROL OF LOTS OF THINGS AND THIS IS NOT GOOD FOR US, GODS, AS IT ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU, HUMANS.



BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THE DAY WHEN HADES TAKES OVER.

SO, THERE IS STRIFE AMONG THE GODS JUST LIKE THERE IS AMONG US HUMANS, MY LADY...?

ALAS, IT IS TRUE. AND THE BALANCE IS SO FRAGILE THAT AN ACCIDENTAL SPARKLE CAN SET THE WHOLE PLANET ABLAZE.



WE CAME THIS CLOSE WHEN A DEPOT OF OUR WEAPONS BLEW SKY HIGH IN CYCLOPEA. BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU?

WAS THIS A HINT, A COVERT THREAT, A CLEVER WAY TO LET ME KNOW THAT SHE KNEW OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS AFFAIR?

I WOULDN'T KNOW, MY LADY.

RIGHT!





IN BRIEF, I NEED A MAN, A BOLD MAN, TO SAIL DOWN THERE AND GET A SET OF DISKS FROM HADES' HEADQUARTERS.

TO STEAL THEM, MY LADY?



NO. TO COPY THEM WITHOUT HADES REALISING IT. LET ME EXPLAIN.

HADES IS AWAY ON A TRIP AT THIS MOMENT AND HIS MISTRESS, PERSEPHONE, THAT ABOMINATION, IS LEFT THERE ALONE TO HOLD THE FORT.

YOUR TASK CONSISTS IN PERSUADING PERSEPHONE TO COPY THE DISKS WE NEED AND HAND THEM OVER TO YOU.



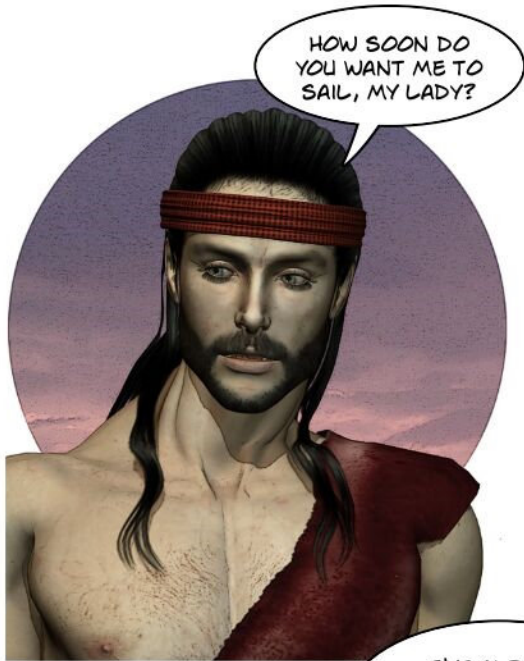
HOW, MY LADY?

THAT'S WHY A MAN OF YOUR RESOURCES AND SEDUCTIVE TALENTS IS NEEDED. CIRCE IS ALSO PREPARING A MIND CONTROL POTION.

WHAT IF I FAIL?

IF YOU FAIL, YOU DIE. AND HADES COULD NEVER BLAME US FOR THIS OPERATION.





HOW SOON DO YOU WANT ME TO SAIL, MY LADY?



YOU ACCEPT THEN?

I SAID I'D DO IT, DIDN'T I?



THERE WILL BE NO GAIN FOR YOU IN THIS, YOU KNOW. ONLY DEADLY DANGER.

I'VE ALREADY RECEIVED MY REWARD, MY LADY, BY MEETING YOU IN PERSON.

ODYSSEUS, YOU REALLY ARE TOO MUCH! I LIKE YOU. I LIKE YOU A LOT!



ONE LAST WORD OF WARNING THOUGH. PERSEPHONE, UNDER HER DULL DEMEANOUR IS A VERY DANGEROUS PERSON.



NOTHING LIKE SOME OF THE GODDESSES YOU MAY HAVE CROSSED PATHS WITH IN THE PAST.



CIRCE WILL GIVE YOU MAPS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR VOYAGE, PLUS ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED.

THANK YOU, MY LADY.



LISTEN... I'M STAYING HERE TONIGHT. I WISH YOU TO STAY WITH ME.

MY LADY!?



OH, I SEE... THE STORIES ABOUT ZEUS'S JEALOUS, ANORGASMIC, YET FAITHFUL SPOUSE. WAKE UP, ODYSSEUS. I ALSO AM A WOMAN. AND A RATHER CURIOUS ONE I MUST ADMIT.



SLEEPING WITH THE QUEEN OF THE GODS HAS BEEN AN EXPERIENCE BEYOND MY WILDEST FANTASIES.

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લેણુ લેન હુર!



AFTERWARDS, WHILE WE WERE RECOVERING FROM OUR INTENSE LOVE-MAKING...

OR DIE TRYING...  
RIGHT, MY LADY?

I NOW KNOW THAT IF ANYONE CAN PULL THIS ONE OFF THIS WOULD BE YOU.



I SHOULD HOPE NOT. FARE YOU WELL THEN, MY BARBARIC HUMAN KING AND PLEASE TRY TO COME BACK IN ONE PIECE.



HAMON COULDN'T BELIEVE HIS EARS WHEN I GAVE HIM THE ORDER TO PREPARE THE SHIP FOR SAILING TO TARTARUS.

ODYSSEUS! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?

YOU COULD SAY THAT, HAMON. GET READY.



CIRCE CAME DOWN TO THE BEACH TO SAY GOODBYE.

WILL YOU COME BACK, ODYSSEUS?

I MOST CERTAINLY WILL TRY MY BEST, BELOVED.

WILL YOU COME BACK TO ME?



AS WE SAILED SOUTH A THREE CRAFT FLYING SHIELDS FORMATION FLEW ABOVE OUR MAST, AS IF WISHING US LUCK.



END OF BOOK 6



