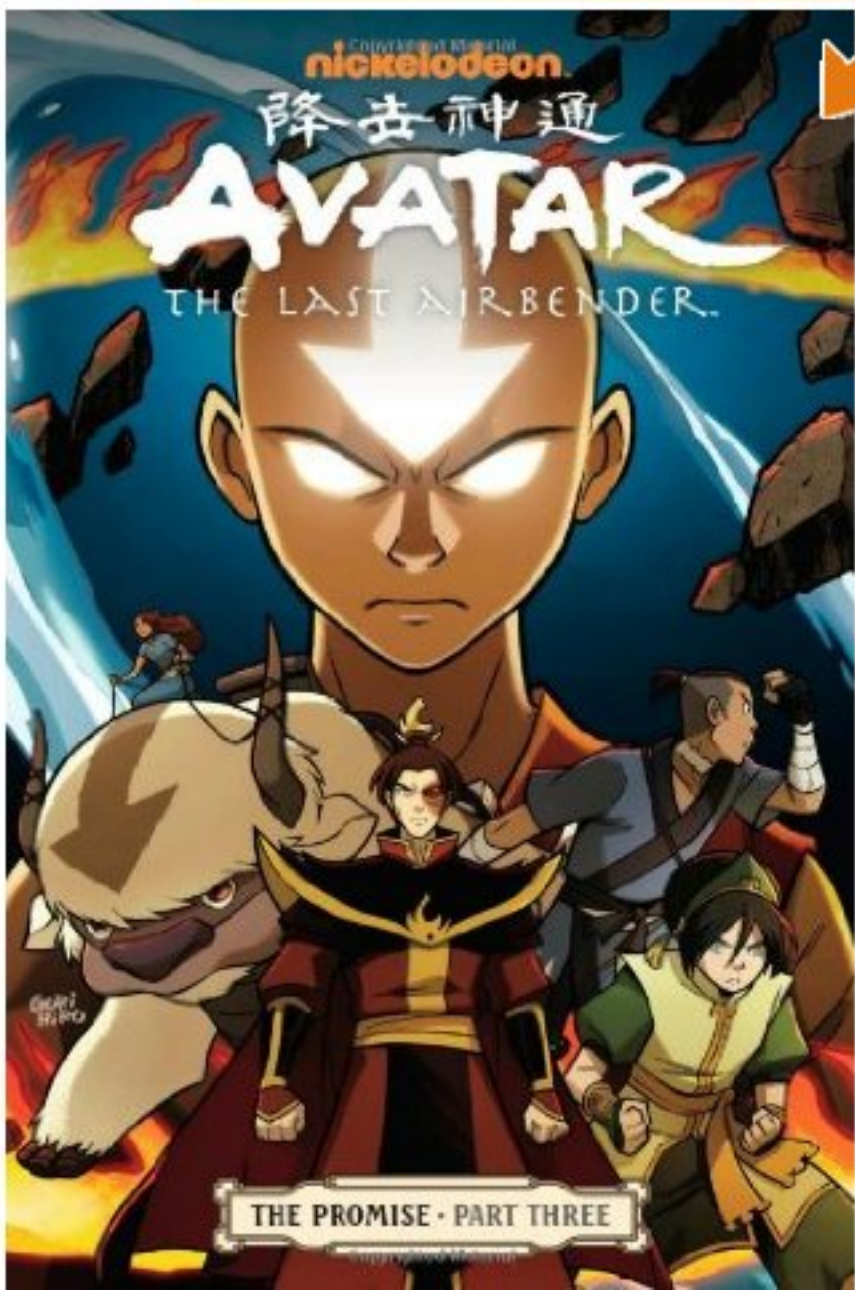
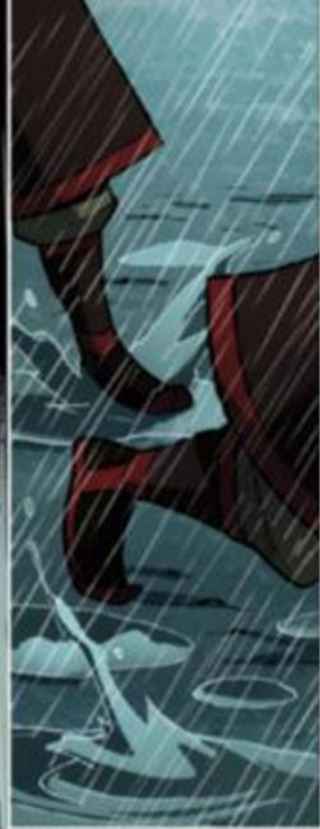



LOOK INSIDE!








ONE MOMENT, I KNOW, DEEP IN MY HEART, THAT I MUST DEFEND MY PEOPLE.



BUT THEN THE NEXT, DOUBT CREEPS IN. MAYBE I'M SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE HARMONY RESTORATION MOVEMENT.

PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY OF THE THRONE, MY SON!



AANG, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S RIGHT WHEN HIS VOICE IS ALL I HEAR? YOU COULD HAVE SILENCED HIM FOREVER...PERHAPS THEN I COULD HAVE FOUND PEACE! BUT YOU DIDN'T, AND NOW I CAN'T!

I'M SORRY, ZUKO...



WHEN HE HAD A FIRM GRASP OF THE GOOD, YOUR FRIEND ASKED YOU FOR A PROMISE!

THE FIRE LORD'S WILL DETERMINES WHAT IS RIGHT! EMBRACE THIS TRUTH AND YOU'LL POSSESS THE PEACE THAT YOU DESIRE!



I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER STOP FEELING LOST.

NOW FULFILL YOUR PROMISE AND RESTORE THE WORLD TO HARMONY!



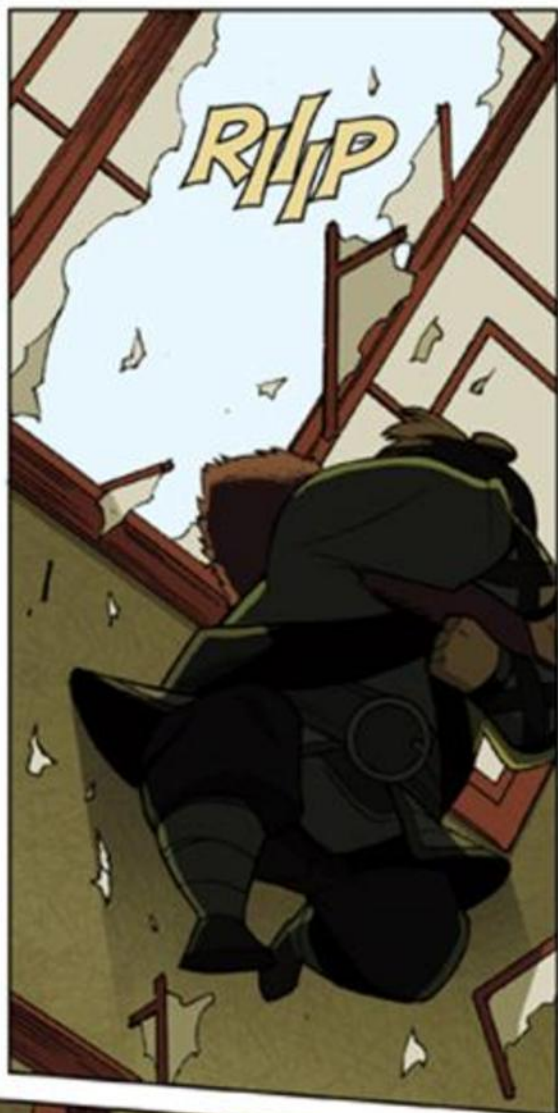
GO AHEAD, AANG! DO IT!















WAIT, I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE --!

MY NAME IS KORI MORISHITA! AND WE ARE THE YU DAO RESISTANCE!



YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE *RISHT NOW!* YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING!

AND, SNEERS, WEREN'T YOU HELPING LEAD THE PROTESTS OUTSIDE THE CITY JUST A FEW DAYS AGO?

I WAS CONFUSED, OKAY? SMELLERBEE WANTED ME TO HELP HER, SO I JUST KINDA...



LOOK, I GREW UP HATING THE FIRE NATION! WHAT THOSE ASH MAKERS DID TO MY PARENTS -- THAT'S WHY I BECAME A FREEDOM FIGHTER!

BUT WHEN JET AND THE OTHER GUYS WENT TO BA SING SE, I CAME TO YU DAO TO LIVE WITH MY UNCLE.



THEN, WITHOUT EVEN MEANING TO, I FELL IN LOVE WITH AN ASH MAKER.

WAIT, YOU ARE GOING OUT WITH *YOU?*!



YEAH. I HID IT FROM OUR FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME, BUT I'M DONE WITH THAT. MY GIRLFRIEND IS FIRE NATION.

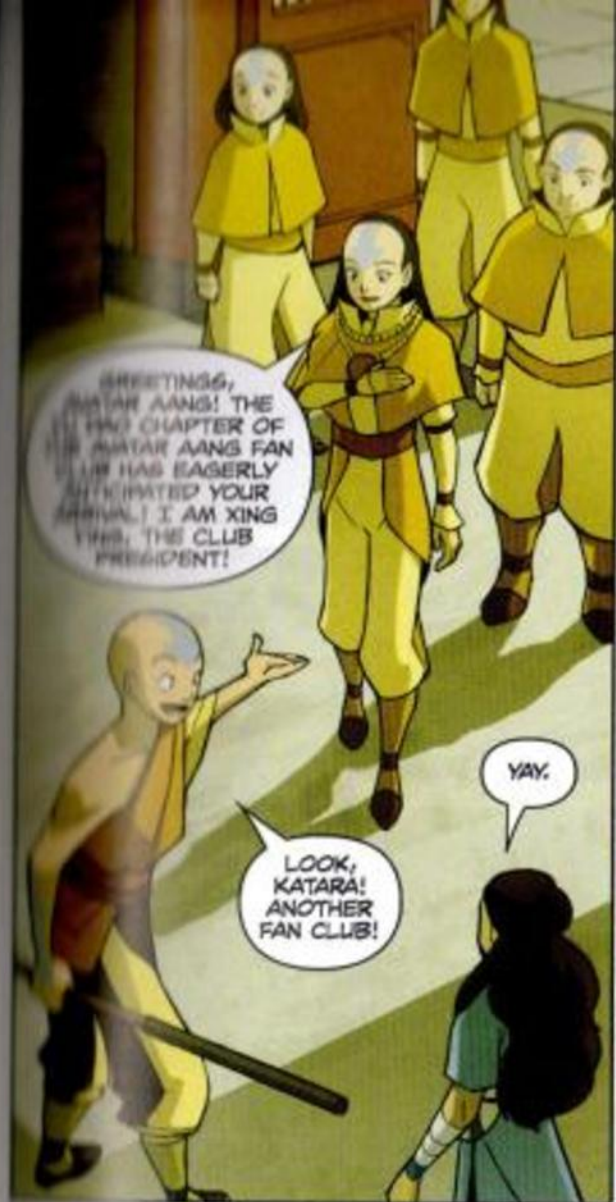
SO ARE ALL MY COUSINS ON MY MOM'S SIDE.

AND MY FAVORITE TEACHER.

MY STEPPFATHER.

THE GUY WHO SELLS ME MOCHI EVERY MORNING.








WAIT, WHAT?! BUT AIR NOMAD TATTOOS HAVE TO BE **EARNED** THROUGH YEARS AND YEARS OF AIRBENDING PRACTICE! THEY'RE NOT--



OH, WE KNOW, AVATAR AANG! FOR A FAN CLUB MEMBER TO RECEIVE HER TATTOOS, SHE MUST MASTER HUNDREDS OF AIRBENDER-LIKE FORMS!

'AIRBENDER-LIKE\*?!' THOSE TATTOOS ARE **SACRED** TO MY PEOPLE! THEY DESCRIBE WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE SEE THE WORLD! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TATTOO YOURSELVES LIKE THAT!




I ASSURE YOU THAT OUR MEMBERS GO THROUGH THE MOST RIGOROUS OF STUDY PROGRAMS! BY THE END, THEY--

AANG, I'M SURE IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE.

FOR YOU TO TREAT OUR TATTOOS LIKE A PART OF SOME... **SOME COSTUME...**! MY CULTURE ISN'T A **GAME!**

BUT HOW COULD YOU STUDY AIR NOMAD PHILOSOPHY AT ALL AND STILL DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!




WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO THE CITY GATES. GENERAL HOW'S ARMY COULD SHOW UP AT ANY MOMENT. WHEN THEY DO, I'M GONNA TRY TO BUY YOU GUYS A LITTLE MORE TIME.

MAYBE THEY'LL LISTEN. MAYBE THEY WON'T. EITHER WAY, THE FIRE NATION COLONIALS HAVE GOT TO GO.


IT'S TIME WE **SEPARATE THE NATIONS** AND RESTORE HARMONY.



I'M TELLING YOU,  
MY ACTIONS MAKE SENSE!  
THE FIRE NATION CITIZENS OF YU  
DAO ARE *MY PEOPLE!* AS THE  
FIRE LORD, I HAVE A DUTY TO  
PROTECT THEM!



BUT IT  
GOES  
BEYOND  
THAT.



WHEN  
THE MAYOR'S WIFE  
INVITED ME TO STAY  
WITH THEM, I DIDN'T JUST  
WANT TO SEE WHAT YU DAO  
WAS LIKE. I GOT TO SEE  
WHAT THEIR *FAMILY*  
WAS LIKE.


THEY ATE  
TOGETHER, SITTING  
AT THE SAME TABLE.  
THEY TALKED AND  
LAUGHED AND WHEN  
THEY ARGUED, THEY  
DIDN'T CHALLENGE  
EACH OTHER TO  
AGNI KAIS.

THEY'RE SO...  
*NORMAL.*


YOU, OF ALL  
PEOPLE, KNOW  
MY OWN FAMILY  
IS *NOT.*

IN MY HEART,  
I KNOW WHAT I'M  
DOING IS *RIGHT.* I'M NOT  
DEFENDING A COLONY. I'M  
DEFENDING PEOPLE, AND  
I'M DEFENDING THEIR  
BONDS WITH ONE  
ANOTHER.


BUT THERE  
IS ONE FACT  
THAT MAKES  
ME DOUBT  
MYSELF.




LEADING AN  
ARMY TO YU DAO IS  
*EXACTLY* WHAT MY  
FATHER WOULD DO  
IF HE RETURNED TO  
THE THRONE.



FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKS AS IF I'M ACTING JUST LIKE HIM. DOES IT MATTER IF MY REASONS ARE DIFFERENT?



YOU WANTED A QUIET LIFE AFTER THE WAR. AND THAT'S THE ONE THING I CAN GIVE YOU, TO BEGIN REPAYING YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME. I CAN'T DISTURB YOU. I *WON'T*.

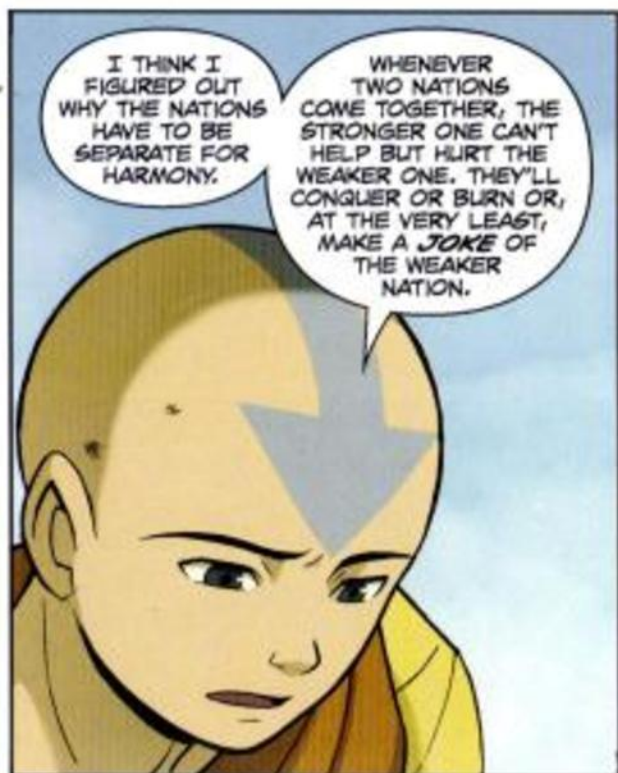


EVEN SO, I WISH YOU WERE HERE, UNCLE. I MISS YOU.



FIRE LORD ZUKO! WE'VE LANDED IN THE SHORES OF THE EARTH KINGDOM!





YOU ONCE TOLD ME THAT SEPARATION IS AN ILLUSION. GURU UTHIK TAUGHT YOU THAT THE FOUR NATIONS ARE REALLY ONE AND THE SAME.

BUT I DON'T WANT THEM TO BE THE SAME, KATARA! I LOVE BEING AN AIR NOMAD! I LOVE OUR PHILOSOPHY, OUR TEMPLES, OUR HOLIDAYS, OUR FOOD -- EVERYTHING THAT MAKES US DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD!

AND NOW THAT I'M THE LAST ONE LEFT, IT'S UP TO ME TO PRESERVE OUR WAY OF LIFE!

HOW, AANG? ARE YOU GONNA LIVE BY YOURSELF, LIKE SOME KIND OF HERMIT? DEVOTE YOUR WHOLE LIFE TO COLLECTING AND PRESERVING A BUNCH OF RELICS?

I DON'T KNOW...

...BUT I DO KNOW THIS: AIR NOMAD CULTURE CAN'T SURVIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THE NATIONS INVADE EACH OTHER, CORRUPT EACH OTHER. I HAVE TO SEE THE HARMONY RESTORATION MOVEMENT THROUGH TO THE END.

EVEN IF IT MEANS FULFILLING YOUR PROMISE TO ZUKO?

YES.

BUT YOU'D BE ACTING AGAINST AIR NOMAD PHILOSOPHY! ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PRESERVE?

AARGH! IT'S A CONTRADICTION, I KNOW!

THAT'S WHY MY HEAD HURTS.





SOMEONE WAY PRETTIER AND A LOT LESS HAIRY!



LIM, CAN I JUST SAY, 'OOOSIE\*?

smoochie smoochie



GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOPH!

HEY, SUKI!

HOW'D YOU EVEN KNOW WE WERE HERE?!



A GROUP OF US ARE SERVING AS KO'S PALACE GUARDS.

WE JUST RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FROM A FIREBENDING INSTRUCTOR ABOUT A "DIRT GIRL" AND A "SNOW SAVAGE" TAKING OVER HIS SCHOOL.

KUNYO.



YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?!

SO ARE YOU! COME ON, I NEED YOU BOTH!



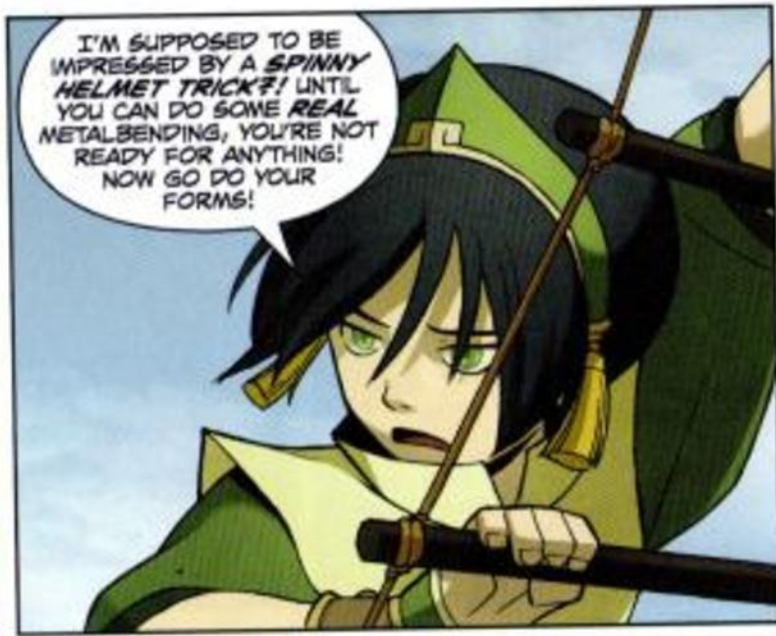
SIFU  
TOPH?! N-NOT  
AGAIN!

GET  
TO PRACTICE,  
LILY LIVERS!  
I'LL BE BACK  
SOON!

I WANNA  
GO WITH YOU!  
I'M READY!



WATCH, I CAN  
MAKE THIS HELMET  
SPIN ROUND AND  
ROUND!



I'M SUPPOSED TO BE  
IMPRESSED BY A *SPINNY  
HELMET TRICK?! UNTIL  
YOU CAN DO SOME REAL  
METALBENDING, YOU'RE NOT  
READY FOR ANYTHING!  
NOW GO DO YOUR  
FORMS!*



OH, CRUEL  
ABANDONMENT!  
MY BONES TURN TO  
DUST BENEATH THE  
GAZE OF YOUR  
EVER-MOCKING  
SMILE!

HEY,  
THE DARK ONE?  
I THINK YOU'RE, UH,  
TAKING THIS "SOUL  
OF A POET" THING  
TOO SERIOUSLY.  
NO OFFENSE.

I  
LIKED YOU  
BETTER WHEN  
YOU HATED  
PEOPLE.



I'M SORRY TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR STUDENTS, TOPH.



NOT A PROBLEM, BELIEVE ME.

WE BOTH NEEDED A BREAK FROM THE DARK ONE'S NEWFOUND "TALENT."



IF I HAVE TO HEAR ABOUT "THE CLOUDY TEARDROPS OF HIS HEART" ONE MORE TIME --!

SO WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, SUKI?



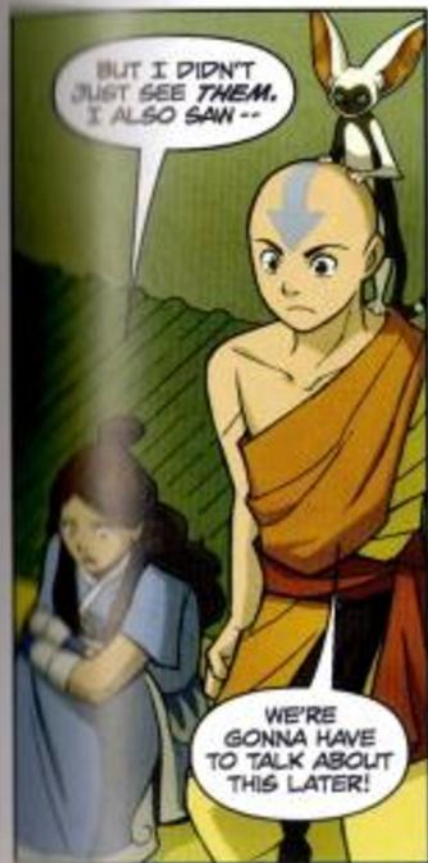
SEE FOR YOURSELF.

OH, NO.

WHAT? WHAT?



ZUKO!







NO!

GO GO GO!

SLAM

TWIP

KROOOM

YOU'RE NOT GETTING TO THOSE GATES AGAIN!



SIFU TOPH WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD!

HURRY, AANG! THE BIG PIECES ARE GONNA CRUSH PEOPLE!







...SO WHEN HE FOUND OUT THE EARTH KING HAD SENT HIS ARMY TO REMOVE THE COLONIALS FROM YU DAO, ZUKO DECIDED TO LEAD HIS OWN ARMY THERE TO DEFEND THEM!

AN EARTH KINGDOM ARMY FIGHTING A FIRE NATION ARMY? SOUNDS LIKE THE BEGINNING OF AN ALL-OUT WAR!

THAT'S WHY I WENT TO GET YOU GUYS! WE HAVE TO STOP ZUKO'S ARMY BEFORE THEY REACH THE CITY GATES!



YOU THINK THE THREE OF US CAN STOP AN ENTIRE ARMY?

HEY, WE'VE STOPPED AN ENTIRE AIR FLEET BEFORE, HAVEN'T WE?

GOOD POINT.



SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, SOKKA?

AH, THE BURDEN OF BEING THE IDEA GUY.



ALL SHT. STEP ONE:

TOPH, CAN YOU GET US INTO ONE OF THOSE TANKS UNDETECTED?

NOT A PROBLEM.

**RUMBLE**



WHAT THAT?

AN UNDERGROUND SLIDE THAT'LL TAKE US DIRECTLY UNDER ZUKO'S ARMY! COME ON!



AAAH!



YOU'VE REALLY BEEN INTO SLIDES LATELY.

I ENJOY HEARING YOUR GIRLISH SCREAM.

THAT WAS SUKI.

HEY!



IT'S SO DARK DOWN HERE. I CAN HARDLY SEE ANYTHING!

SHHH! TOPH'S REALLY TOUCHY ABOUT THAT!

QUIET, BOTH OF YOU!

RUMBLE  
RUMBLE  
RUMBLE



RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



KRACK



RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

WHAT'D I SAY ABOUT STAYING AWAY FROM BEAN SPROUTS WHEN WE HAFTA BE IN THE TANK TOGETHER?!

RRIIP!







GUYS, STOP! YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!



HEY, SMELLERBEE, HEY, LONGSHOT.



SNEERS?! YOU'VE BEEN IN YU DAO THIS WHOLE TIME?! LONGSHOT AND I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!

SMELLERBEE AND LONGSHOT, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY GIRLFRIEND KORI, KORI, THIS IS SMELLERBEE AND LONGSHOT.

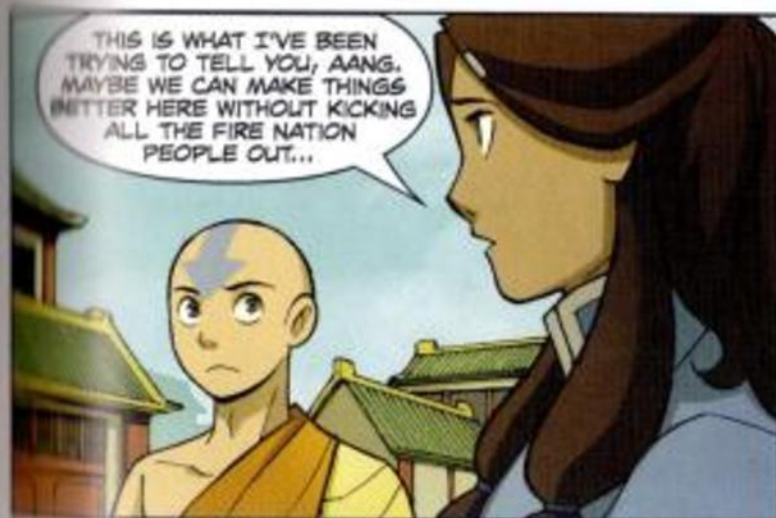
WELL, WHAT D'YA KNOW? LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE!



SNEERS TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU, SMELLERBEE!

I'M SORRY I CAN'T SAY THE SAME!


YOU KNOW WHAT FRIENDS DO? TALK! YOU KNOW WHAT FRIENDS DON'T DO? BEAT EACH OTHER UP!







DON'T YOU GET IT, SMELLERBEEF? I AGREE WITH YOU!



I WANT THE FIRE NATION COLONIALS TO LEAVE, TOO! I JUST WANT THEM TO LEAVE PEACEFULLY!



I DON'T THINK THAT'S AN OPTION ANYMORE, AANG.



LOOKS LIKE THE EARTH KING'S FINALLY STEPPED UP TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES.



MONKEY FEATHERS!



EARTH KING  
KUEI! WHY DON'T  
YOU COME DOWN HERE  
AND ANNOUNCE YOUR  
OWN DECREES?!

GENERAL  
HEU'S DOING  
JUST FINE ON HIS  
OWN, THANK  
YOU!



FIRE NATION  
COLONIALS  
WHO REMAIN IN  
THE CITY ARE  
HEREBY DECLARED  
**CRIMINALS**, AND  
SHALL BE  
**ARRESTED ON  
SIGHT!**



THE HARMONY  
RESTORATION MOVEMENT  
SHALL BE COMPLETED  
ON THIS DAY, **WITH OR  
WITHOUT COLONIAL  
COOPERATION!**

**YEAH!**

**FIRE  
NATION OUT!  
HARMONY  
NOW!**

THIS IS IT,  
AANG! YOU CHOOSE  
TO EITHER DEFEND YU  
DAO WITH US...OR  
**DOOM US.**

NOT  
NECESSARILY,  
SNEERS!  
LOOK!



**MONKEY  
FEATHERS ON  
TOP OF MONKEY  
FEATHERS!**









STAY BACK,  
AVATAR AANG!  
WE'LL PROTECT  
YOU!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



HOOOSH

YOU GUYS  
AREN'T PROTECTING  
ANYTHING -- YOU'RE  
JUST PUTTING YOUR-  
SELVES IN DANGER!  
YOU'VE GOT TO  
GO!



SOKKA?!  
TOPH?!

SUKI,  
TOO. SHE'S  
DRIVING!

KRUNK



AANG, KATARA,  
WEREN'T YOU GUYS  
SUPPOSED TO PICK  
ME UP?!

SORRY,  
SOKKA. WE'VE  
BEEN KIND OF  
BUSY!

SO  
YOU DECIDE  
TO HITCH A RIDE  
WITH THE *FIRE*  
NATION ARMY  
INSTEAD?!



FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION, KATARA,  
WE WEREN'T *'HITCHING*  
*A RIDE,'* WE WERE TRYING  
TO SLOW THEM DOWN! AND  
WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO?  
SINCE WHEN DID DEFENDING  
FIRE NATION COLONIALS  
BECOME A PART OF THE  
HARMONY RESTORATION  
MOVEMENT?!



FIRE LORD?!  
WHAT -- WHAT'S  
GOING ON?!

I'M NOT  
SURE...!

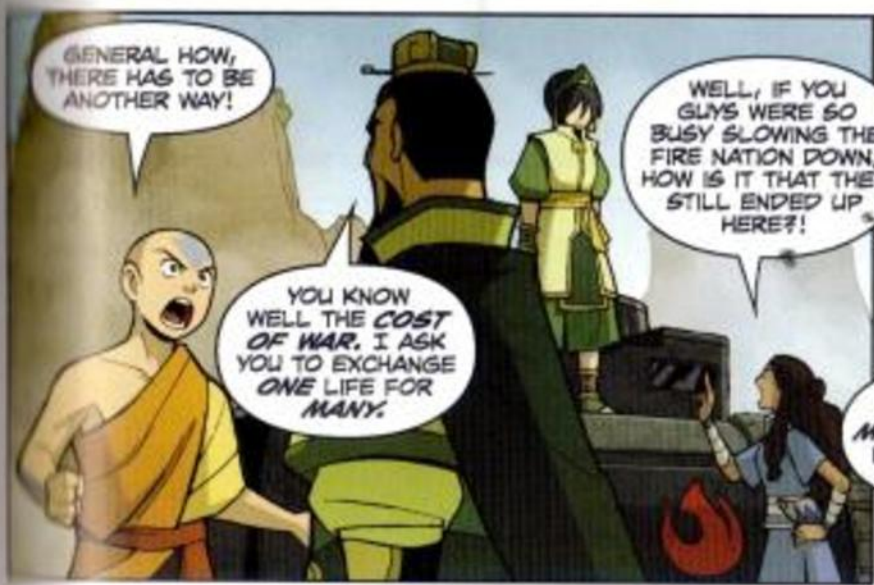


LISTEN TO ME, AVATAR! HARMONY CAN BE RESTORED **RIGHT NOW!** MY ARMY WILL TREAT THE COLONIALS WE ARREST MORE JUSTLY THAN THE FIRE NATION TREATED US. YOU HAVE MY WORD!

HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING IF THE FIRE LORD'S ARMY STANDS AGAINST US. WE HAVE A SAYING AMONG THE COUNCIL OF FIVE:



"AN ARMY WITH NO LEADER IS A DRAGON WITH NO HEAD." YOU ALONE HAVE THE POWER TO END THIS QUICKLY.



GENERAL HOW, THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY!

YOU KNOW WELL THE **COST OF WAR**. I ASK YOU TO EXCHANGE **ONE LIFE FOR MANY.**

WELL, IF YOU GUYS WERE SO BUSY SLOWING THE FIRE NATION DOWN, HOW IS IT THAT THEY STILL ENDED UP HERE?!

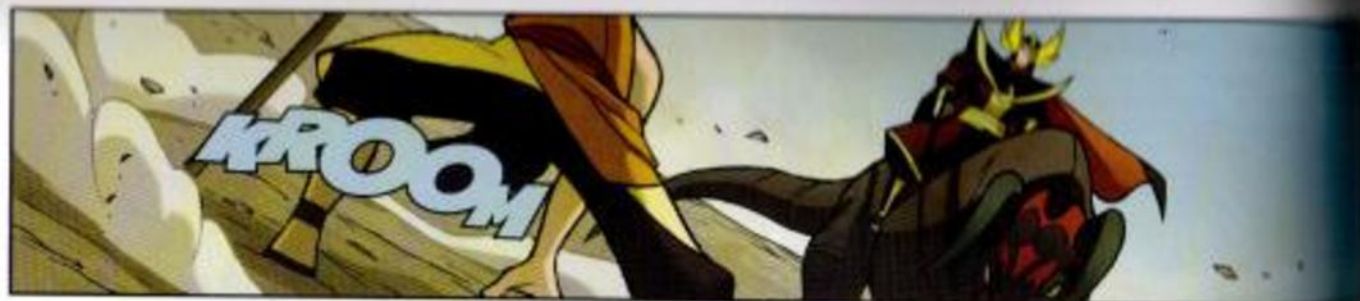


SHE'S FOLLOWING MY PLAN, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING!

KEEP YOUR EYES ON **ME**, SUGAR QUEEN. KEEP YOUR EYES ON **ME.**







THE HARMONY RESTORATION MOVEMENT WAS SUCH A SIMPLE PLAN!



WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST FOLLOW IT THROUGH?



SNAP OUT OF IT, AANG!



DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT? YOU HAVE TO BE CALM, TO MAKE SURE YOUR DECISION IS RIGHT!

BUT ALL THESE PEOPLE, THEY'RE GONNA KILL EACH OTHER!

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THEM!



AANG, I NEVER FINISHED EXPLAINING TO YOU...ON OUR FIRST VISIT TO YU DAO, WHEN I SAW KORI'S FAMILY--



"... I ALSO SAW OUR FUTURE."



IF THE NATIONS HAVE TO BE SEPARATE, WHAT WILL THAT MEAN FOR US?

I...I KNOW IT'S SELFISH OF ME TO THINK LIKE THIS. THERE'S SO MUCH MORE AT STAKE THAN JUST US.

KATARA...



GO FIND A QUIET PLACE, AANG, AND FIGURE THIS OUT. THEN, WHATEVER DECISION YOU MAKE...I'LL TRUST THAT IT'S THE RIGHT ONE. I'LL SUPPORT YOU.

EVEN IF IT MEANS YOU HAVE TO FULFILL YOUR PROMISE.





THE AVATAR  
MUST HOLD THE  
WORLD ABOVE HIS  
OWN NATION, HIS OWN  
FRIENDS...EVEN HIS  
OWN FAMILY.



I CANNOT PUT  
INTO WORDS HOW  
MUCH IT PAINS ME TO  
ADVOCATE FOR THE END  
OF MY OWN GREAT-  
GRANDSON.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?



URSA,  
ZUKO'S MOTHER, IS MY  
GRANDDAUGHTER.



THEN,  
ZUKO--!



ROKU,  
HOW COULD YOU  
POSSIBLY--?!

BECAUSE YOU  
ARE THE AVATAR! TO  
SUCCEED WHERE I FAILED,  
YOU MUST HOLD THE WORLD  
ABOVE ALL ELSE!

EMPTY  
YOURSELF, AANG,  
AND CONTEMPLATE  
THE WORLD. THEN YOU  
WILL UNDERSTAND.



CONTEMPLATE  
THE WORLD.









GEEZ! HAS ZUKO ACTUALLY ADDED TROOPS TO HIS ARMY SINCE THE WAR ENDED?!

KRRK

THOK

YOU ALL RIGHT?

GIMME A SECOND TO CATCH MY BREATH.



I DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT A SECOND!



?!







SURRENDER, REBELS!



THIS CITY IS ONCE AGAIN UNDER THE EARTH KING'S PROTECTION! SURRENDER PEACEFULLY, AND YOU SHALL BE TREATED WITH MERCY!



NEVER!



SOLDIERS, ARREST THEM!

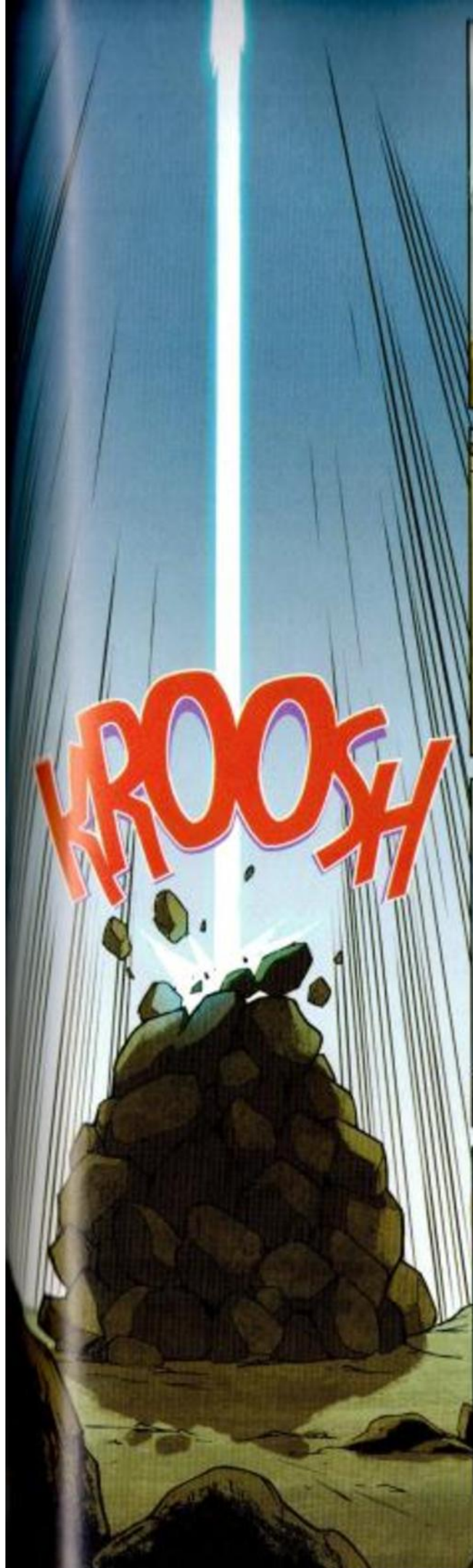
KRACK



!

FWOOSH







**KROOOM**

AANG, I KNOW HOW THIS LOOKS! BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, IN MY HEART...!

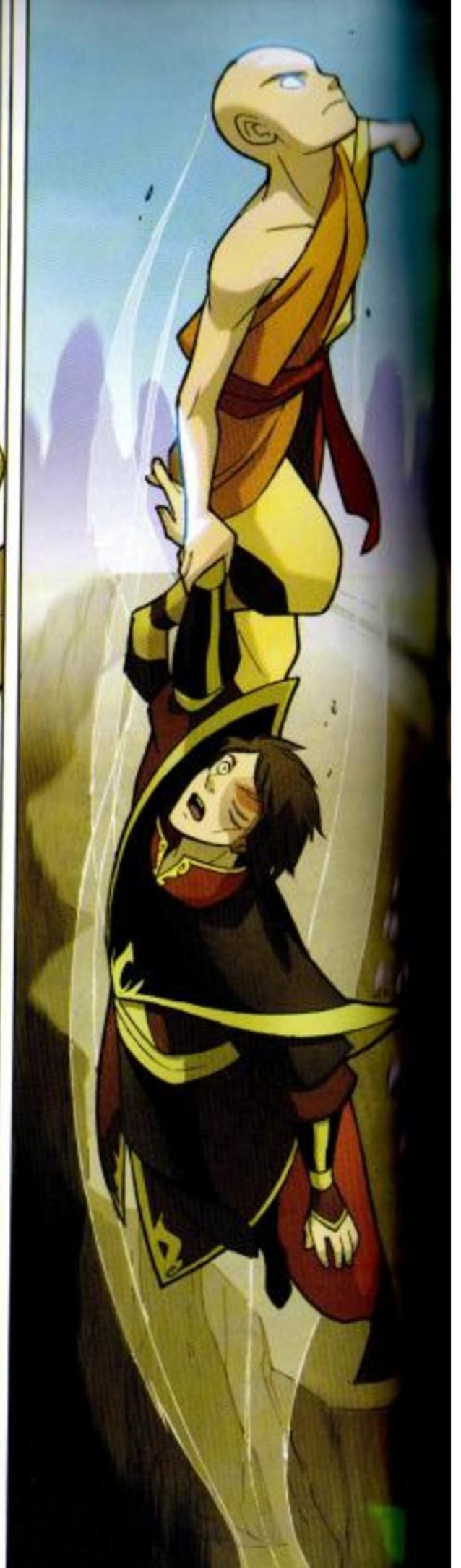


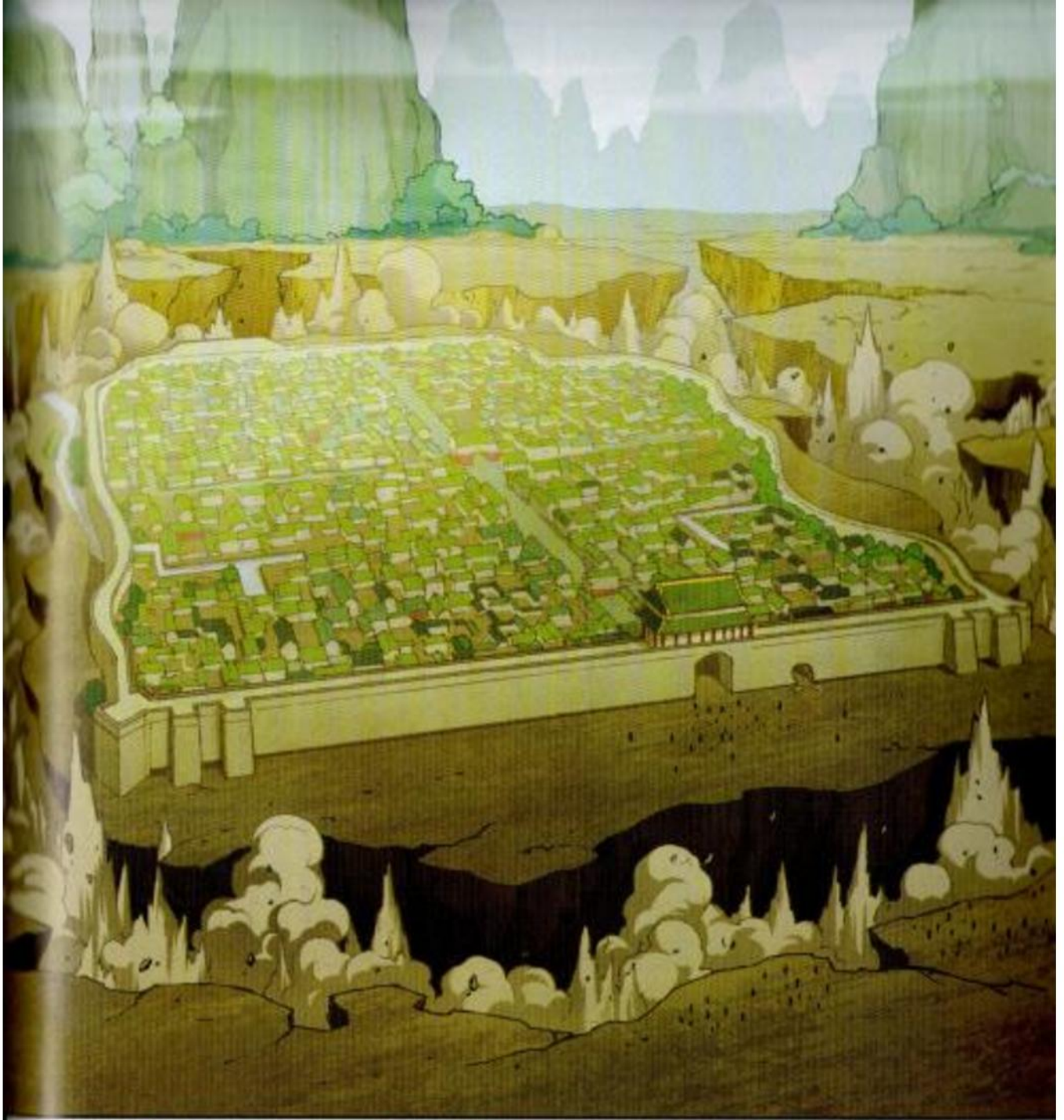
SIGH  
NONE OF THAT  
MATTERS, DOES  
IT? I'M DOING  
EXACTLY WHAT MY  
FATHER WOULD  
HAVE DONE.



大 爆 炸











FIRE NATION, YES --

-- BUT ALSO EARTH KINGDOM --

-- WATER TRIBE --

-- AND NOW, AIR NOMAD.



THIS IS WHO STANDS AGAINST YOUR ARMY.

AND AGAINST THE FIRE NATION ARMY, TOO!



IT TOOK ME A WHILE, BUT I FINALLY UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE NOT JUST FIGHTING A COLONY.

YOU'RE FIGHTING A WHOLE NEW KIND OF WORLD.







I'M NOT LIKE YOU, ROKU.

AANG, YOU ARE ME.

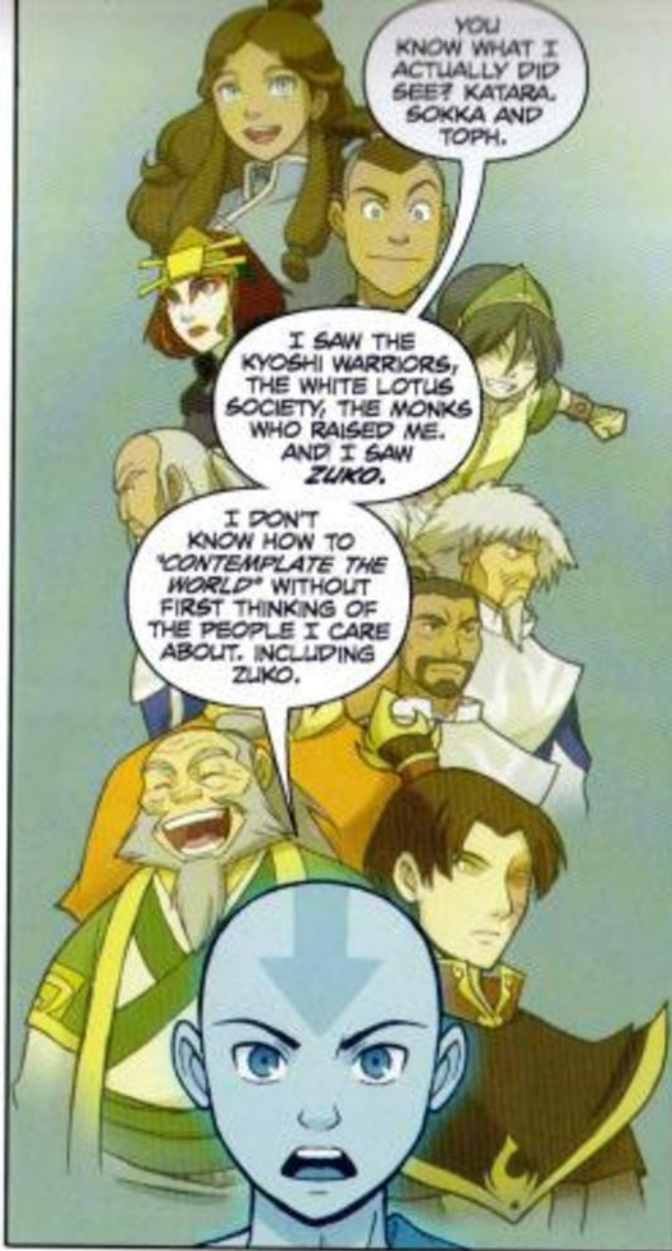


YES, BUT... TO ASK ME TO END YOUR OWN GREAT-GRANDSON...!

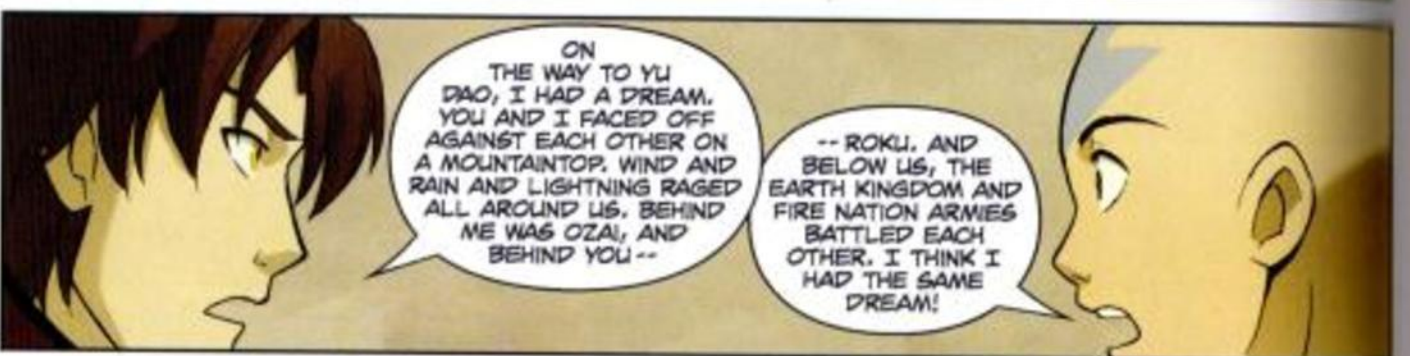
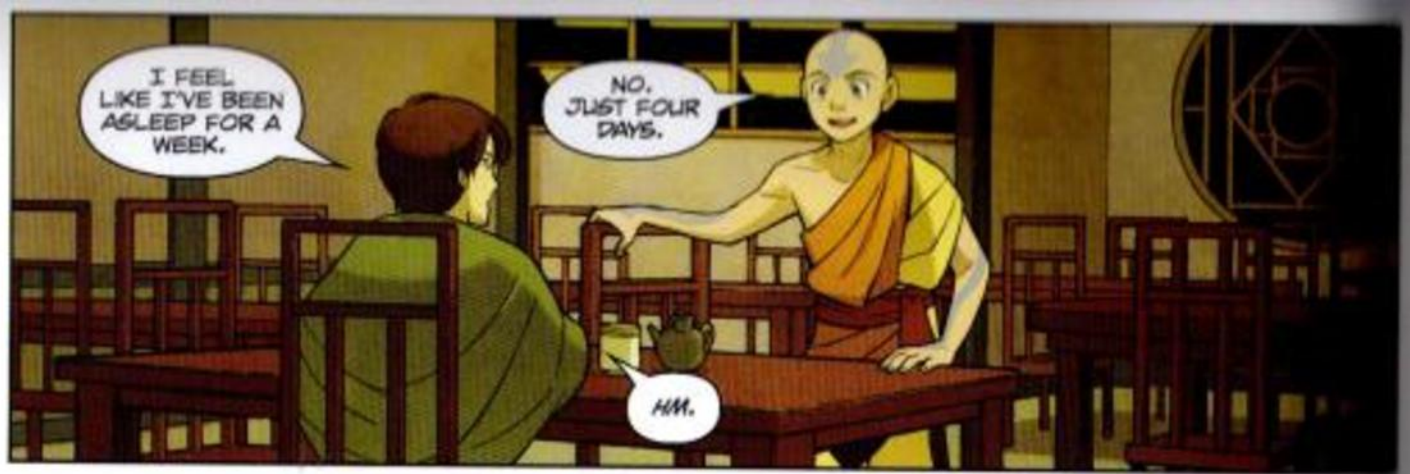
FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD!



WHEN YOU TOLD ME TO CONTEMPLATE THE WORLD, WHAT DID YOU EXPECT ME TO PICTURE IN MY MIND? A MAP? SOME FLOATY COSMIC ENERGY?









YOU KNOW WHAT I FELT, JUST AS YOU DID THAT...RIGHT BEFORE I WOKE UP?

ZUKO, I--

RELIEF.



I WAS WRONG TO ASK YOU FOR THAT PROMISE, AANG.

I'VE STRUGGLED FOR SO LONG TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT -- TO EVEN *KNOW* WHAT'S RIGHT. THEN WHEN THE WAR ENDED, I THOUGHT THE STRUGGLE HAD FINALLY ENDED, TOO. I THOUGHT I'D WON FOR *GOOD*.



A VISIT TO OZAI IN PRISON CHANGED THAT. I REALIZED THE STRUGGLE WAS ACTUALLY JUST *BEGINNINGS*. I DIDN'T THINK I COULD HANDLE IT, SO I ASKED FOR YOUR HELP.

BUT ASKING YOU TO END ME IF I WENT BAD -- THAT WAS LIKE ASKING YOU TO FIGURE OUT RIGHT AND WRONG FOR ME. I DIDN'T JUST WANT YOU AS MY SAFETY NET. I WANTED YOU AS MY ESCAPE HATCH.



I CAN'T PUT THAT ON YOU. I UNDERSTAND NOW. THE STRUGGLE ISN'T SOMETHING A FIRE LORD CAN ESCAPE.

I'M SORRY, AANG.



YOU DON'T GIVE YOURSELF ENOUGH CREDIT, ZUKO. DEEP DOWN, YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT'S RIGHT.

I MEAN, YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT YU DAO.

YEAH, I GUESS I WAS.



... SO WHEN YOU FELL INTO THAT CHASM I CREATED...DID YOU FEEL...RELIEF... THEN, TOO?

NO. AS SOON AS MY FOOT SLIPPED, I KNEW SOMEHOW THAT YOU WOULDN'T LET ME DIE.



BECAUSE I'M A FLAWED AVATAR.

DON'T GET ME WRONG! I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU --

ROKU TOLD ME YOU'RE HIS GREAT-GRANDSON.

THAT'S TRUE.



SINCE ROKU'S MY PAST LIFE, IN A WAY YOU'RE MY FAMILY, ZUKO, AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I'VE TRIED, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DETACH MYSELF FROM THOSE SORTS OF BONDS.

IT'S A FLAW, I KNOW, BUT IT'S ONE I'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT, FOR THIS LIFE, AT LEAST.



YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO'S FLAWED, AANG.

SSIGH

WHY CAN'T THE STRUGGLE GET EASIER FOR ME? EVEN JUST A LITTLE? SOMETIMES, I WONDER HOW LONG I'LL LAST.



YOU KNOW, IN THAT DREAM, A WOMAN STOOD WITH US ON THAT MOUNTAINTOP, WATCHING FROM THE SHADOWS. I THINK SHE WAS MY MOTHER.

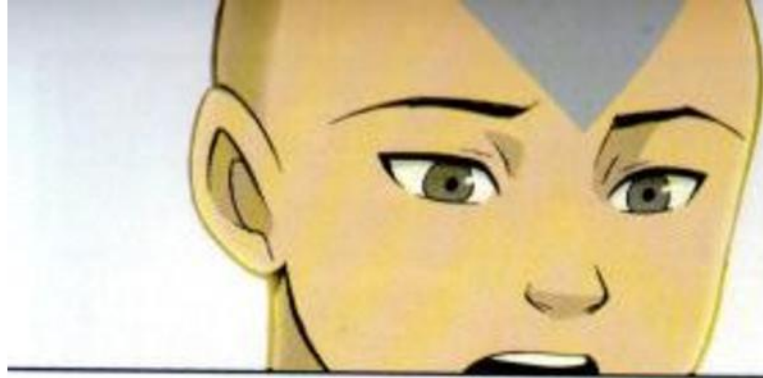


SOMETIMES, DREAMS ARE THE WAY A PERSON'S SPIRIT REVEALS THE ANSWER TO HIS OWN PROBLEMS.



BUT THEN AGAIN, SOMETIMES THEY ARE JUST THE RESULT OF EATING SPICY FOOD BEFORE GOING TO BED.

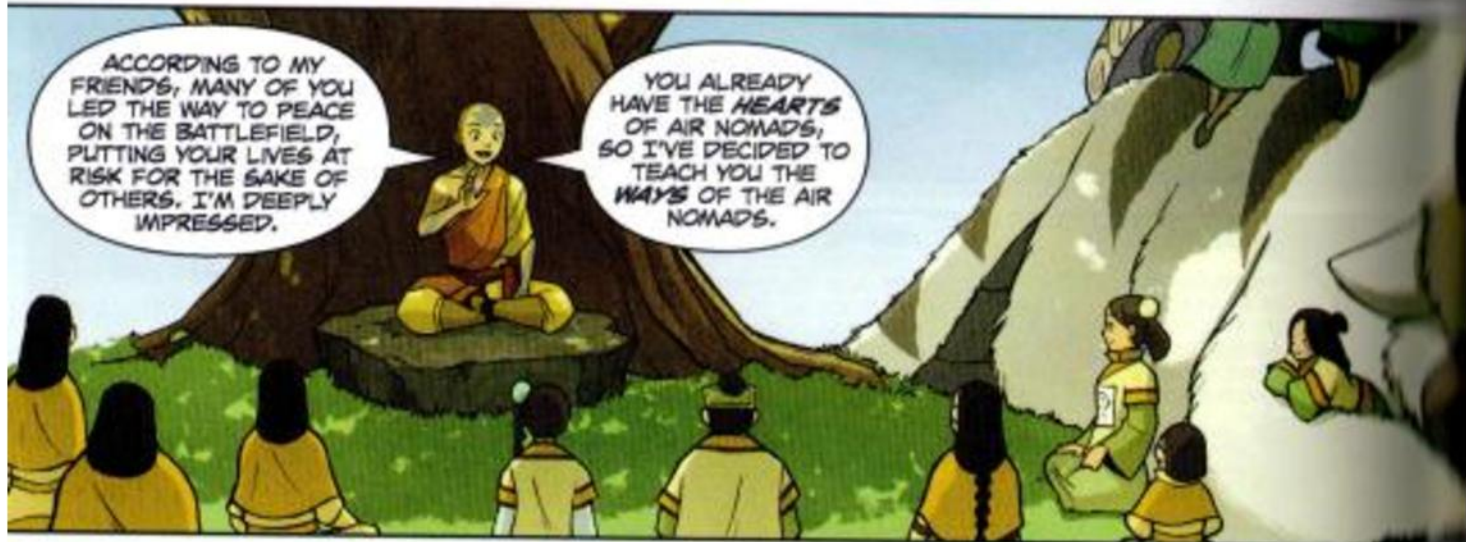




I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT THIS. I LOVE MY PEOPLE'S CULTURE AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT CORRUPTED.



AT THE SAME TIME, IT CAN'T JUST BELONG TO HISTORY. AIR NOMAD CULTURE HAS TO BELONG TO THE FUTURE, TOO.



ACCORDING TO MY FRIENDS, MANY OF YOU LED THE WAY TO PEACE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, PUTTING YOUR LIVES AT RISK FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS. I'M DEEPLY IMPRESSED.


YOU ALREADY HAVE THE **HEARTS** OF AIR NOMADS, SO I'VE DECIDED TO TEACH YOU THE **WAYS** OF THE AIR NOMADS.



BUT YOU CAN'T JUST BE A FAN CLUB ANYMORE. FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE KNOWN AS THE **AIR ACOLYTES!**




I KNOW THIS IS RISKY, BUT I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.



I FEEL DISCONNECTED FROM THE GOOD IN MY OWN FAMILY...AND IN MY OWN NATION. FOR A WHOLE HOST OF REASONS, I BELIEVE FINDING MY MOTHER WOULD HELP ME RECONNECT.



I'VE HAD CONVERSATION AFTER CONVERSATION WITH OZAI AND IT'S GONE NOWHERE. HE REFUSES TO REVEAL WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.



SO I'VE COME TO AN UNCOMFORTABLE CONCLUSION. YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO CAN COAX THE INFORMATION I NEED OUT OF OZAI.

TELL ME, THEN...



...WHAT DO YOU WANT IN RETURN FOR HELPING ME FIND MOTHER?

DON'T BE SILLY, ZU-ZU! THE SATISFACTION OF SERVING THE FIRE LORD IN SOME SMALL WAY WILL BE COMPENSATION ENOUGH!



BESIDES, NOT A DAY HAS GONE BY SINCE YOU PUT ME IN HERE THAT I HAVEN'T WONDERED --



I LOVE YOU, AZULA. I ALWAYS HAVE AND I ALWAYS WILL.



-- WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO OUR DEAR MOTHER?

THE END



**COMING IN MARCH 2013**

Fire Lord Zuko's quest to find his mother begins in . . .

**THE SEARCH · PART ONE**