



Table of Contents

Main Stories

THUG! Issue #3 – “MELEE!”

THUG! Issue #4 – “Inherent, We Dwell”

THUG! Issue #5 – “Birthdyingreborn: A Cosmic Love Story”

THUG! Issue #6 – “The Fallow”

THUG! Issue #7 – “Hunter!”

THUG! Issue #8 – “Poker Wit’ ‘Da Boiz!”

THUG! Issue #9 – “Battle to the Death!”

THUG! Issue #10 – “Like Thieves in the Night!”

THUG! Issue #11 – “The Niap Priests of War!”

Back-Up Stories

“THUG in ... The Back-Up Story!”

“initiation”

“Love!”

“Bappity, Bap, Bap!”

“Get the Goods!”

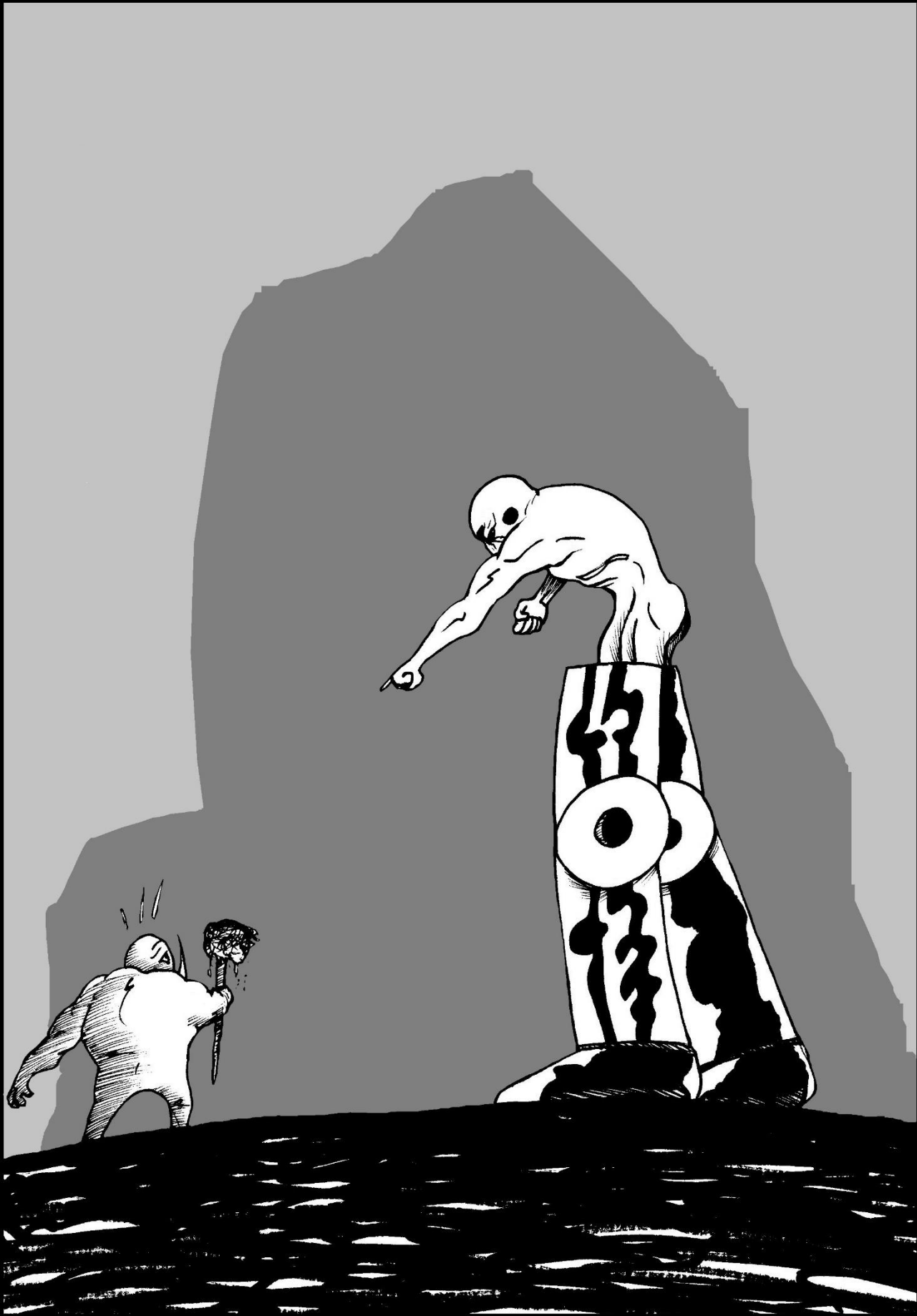
“Smashed Like a Stony Sentinel!”

Pin-Ups and Art

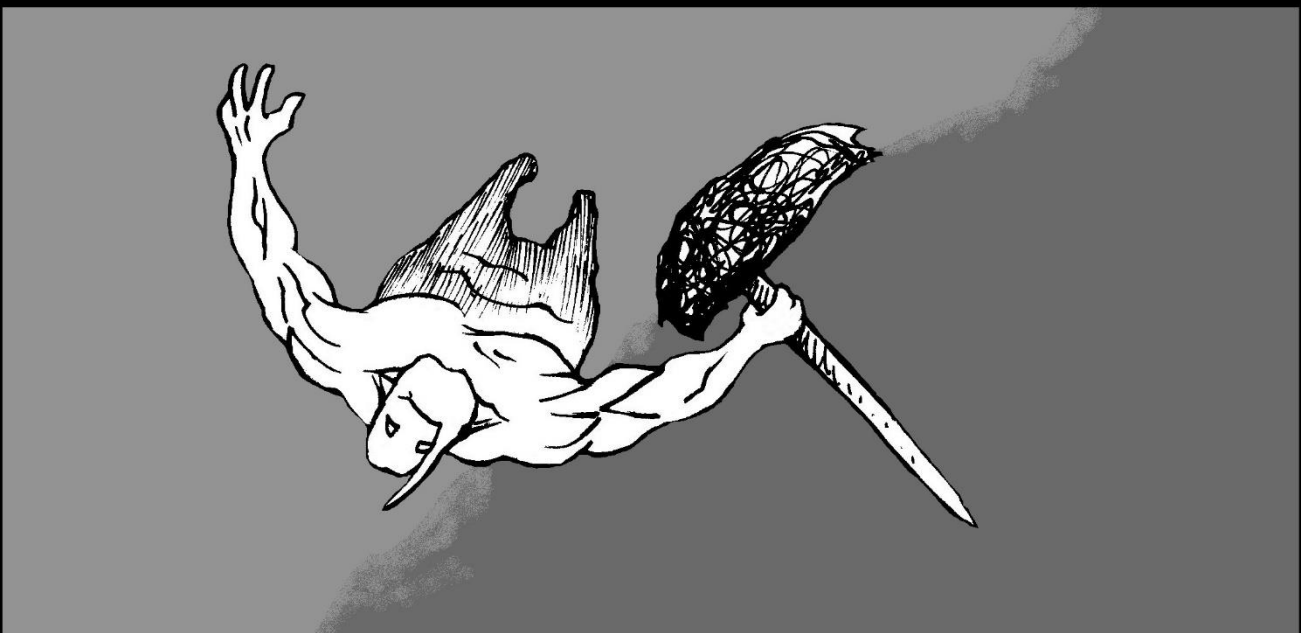
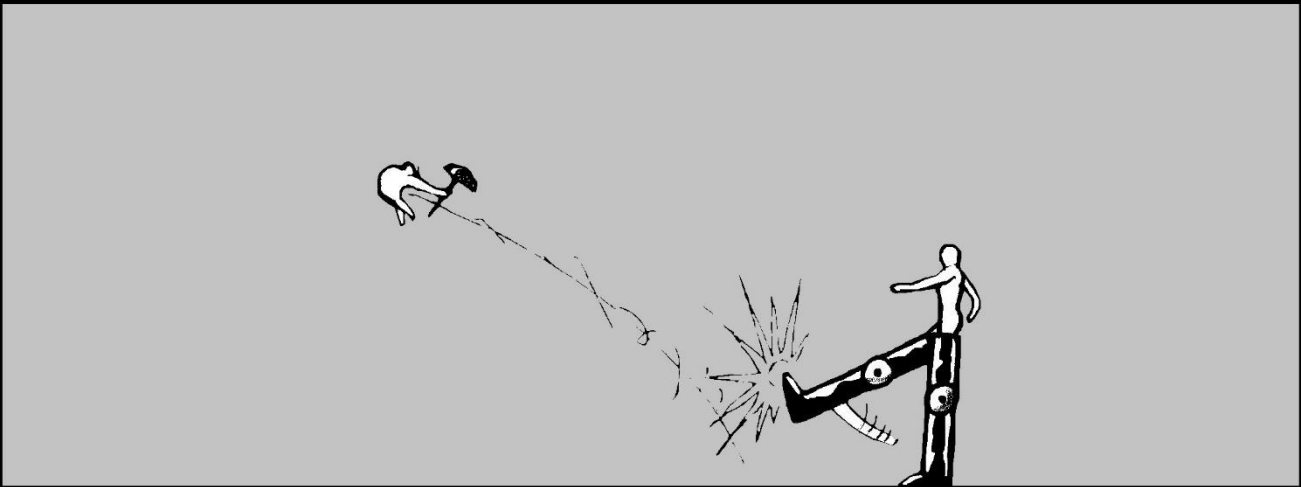


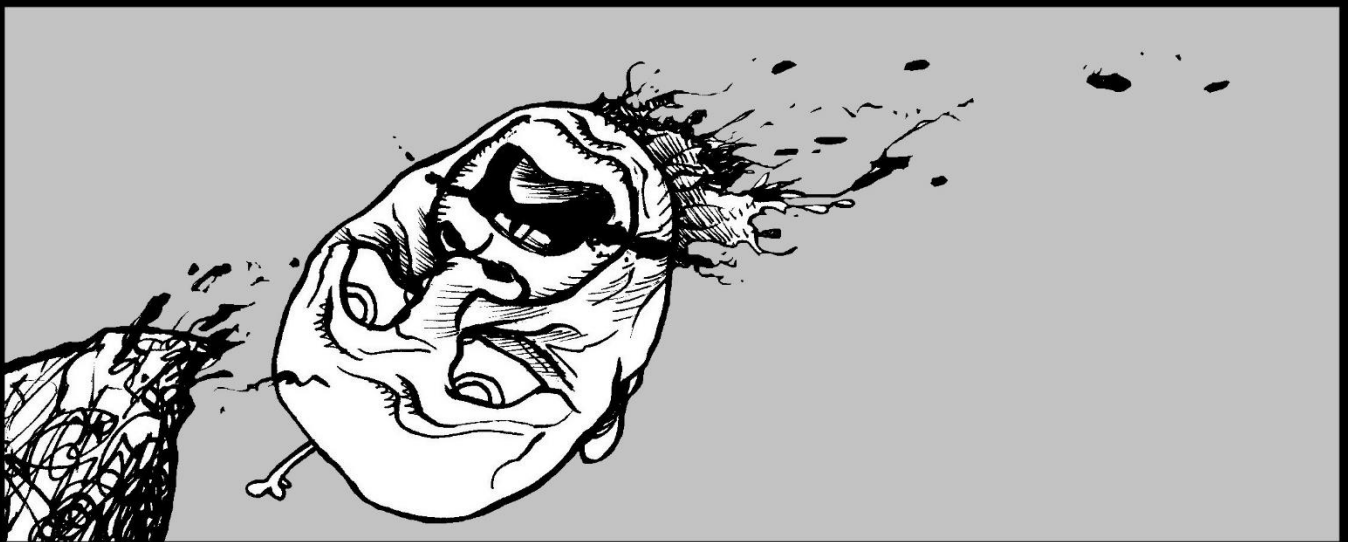
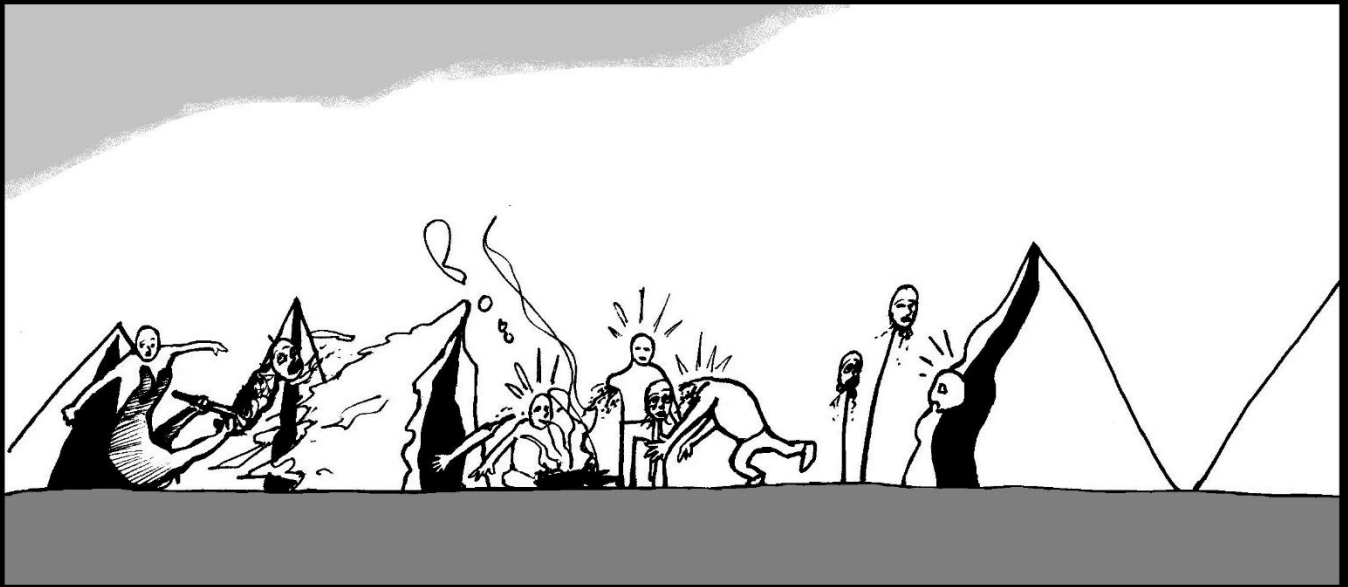
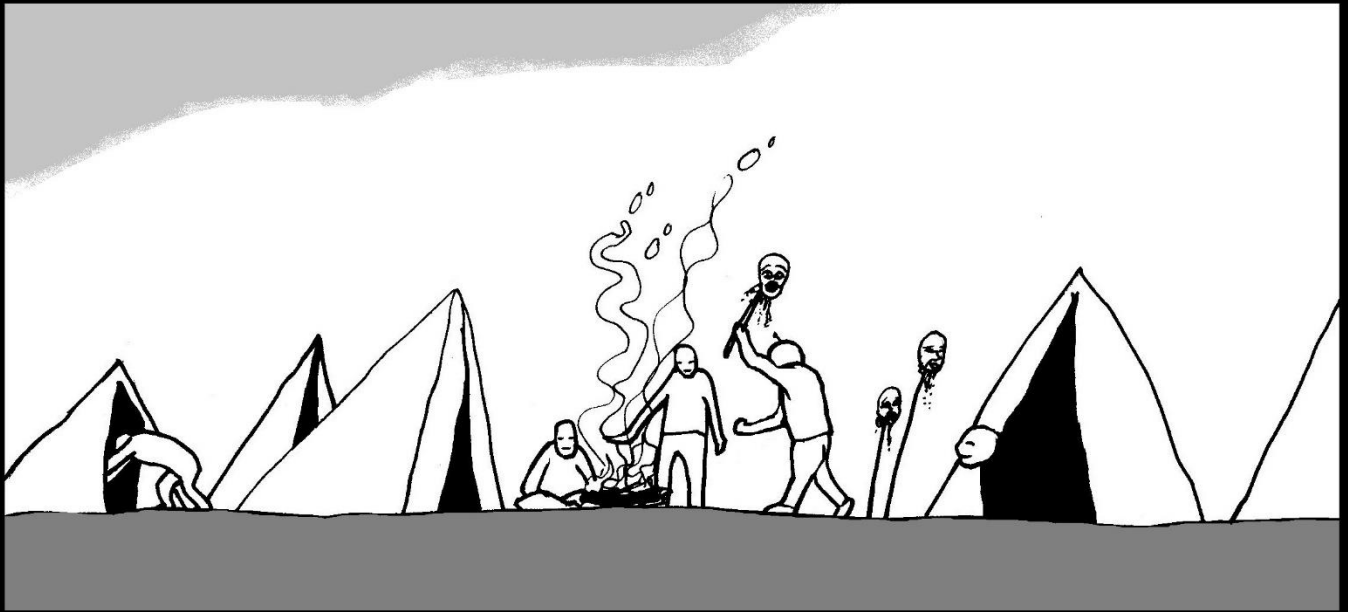




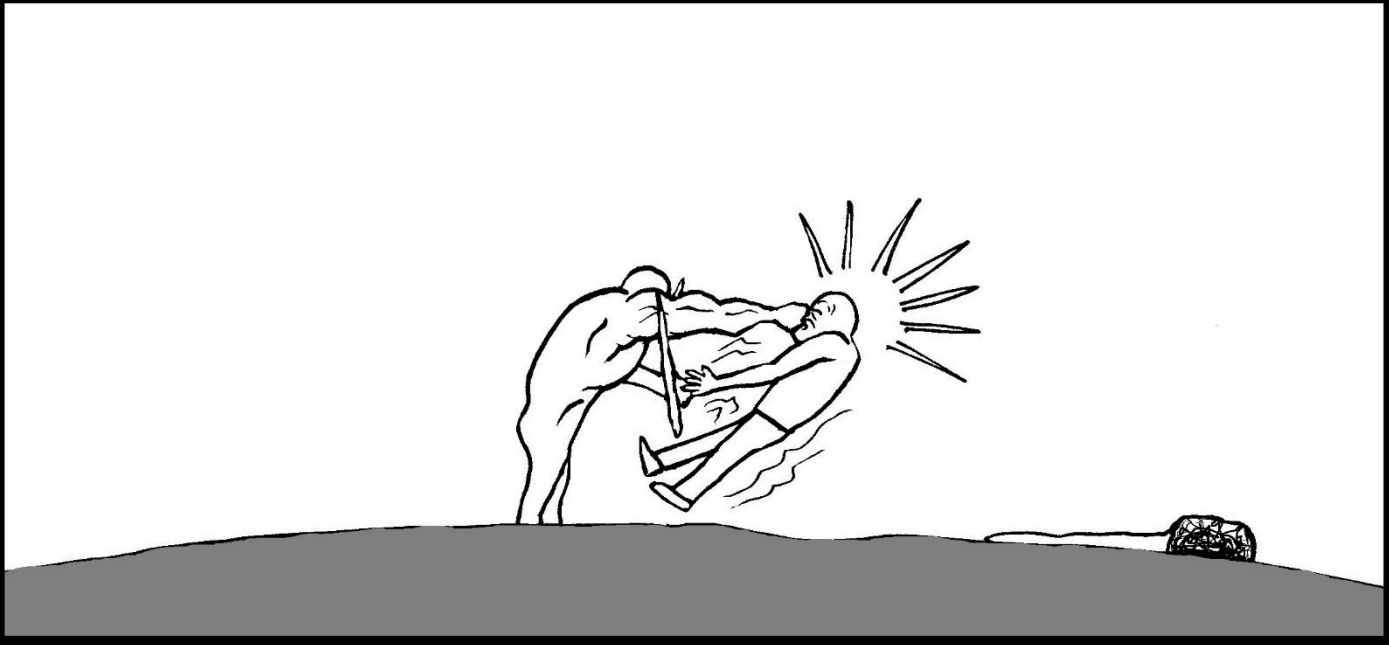
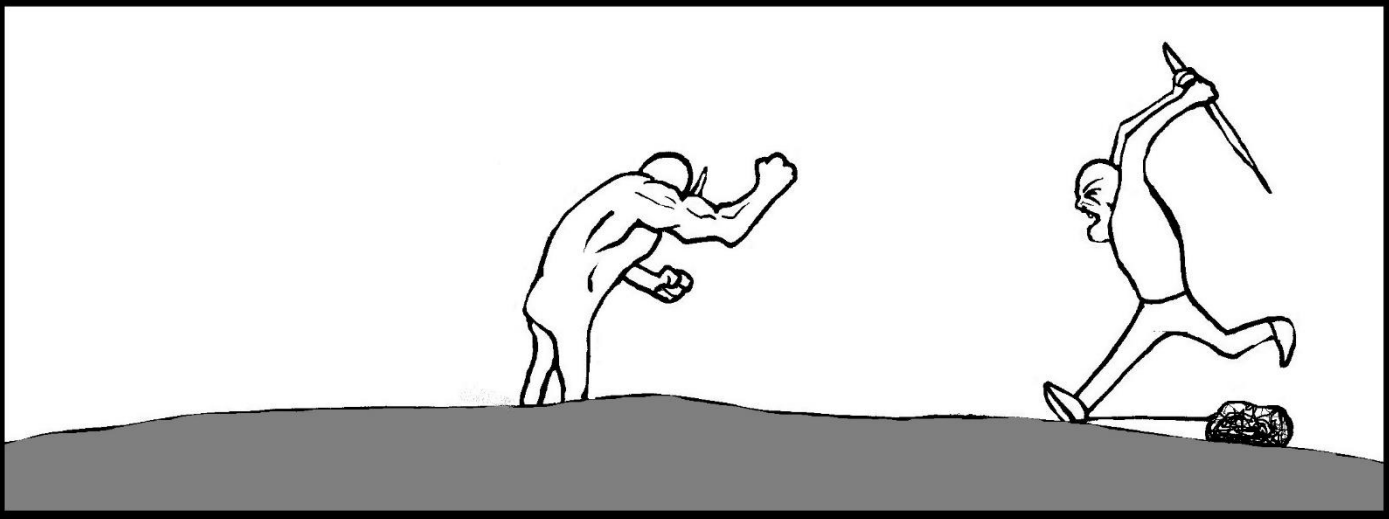
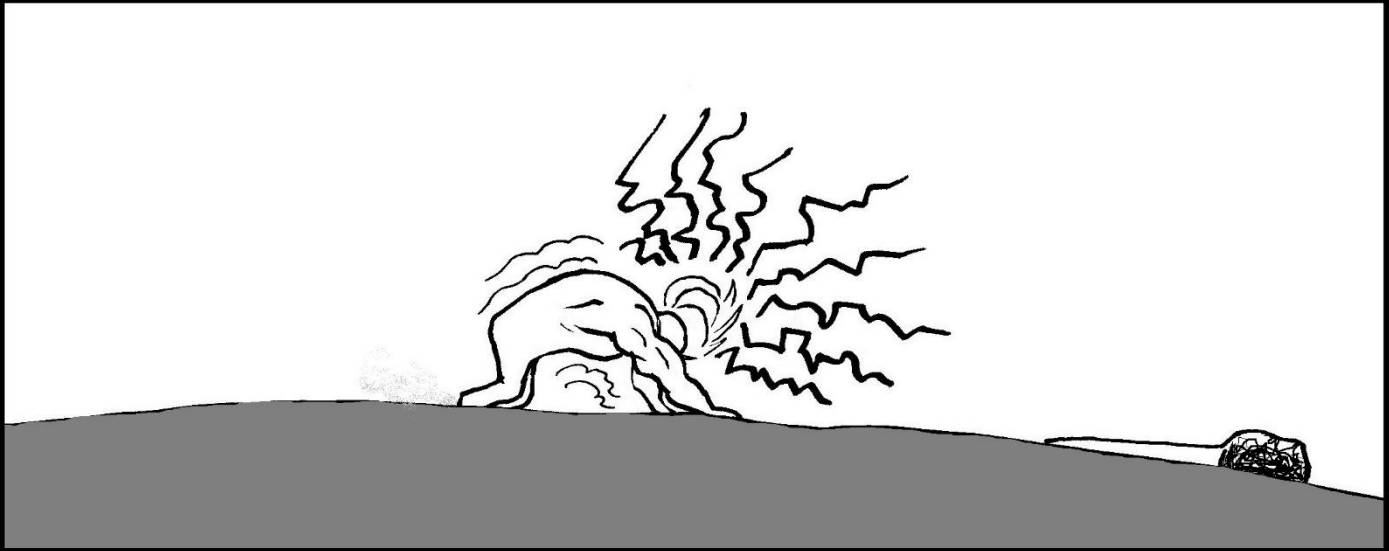


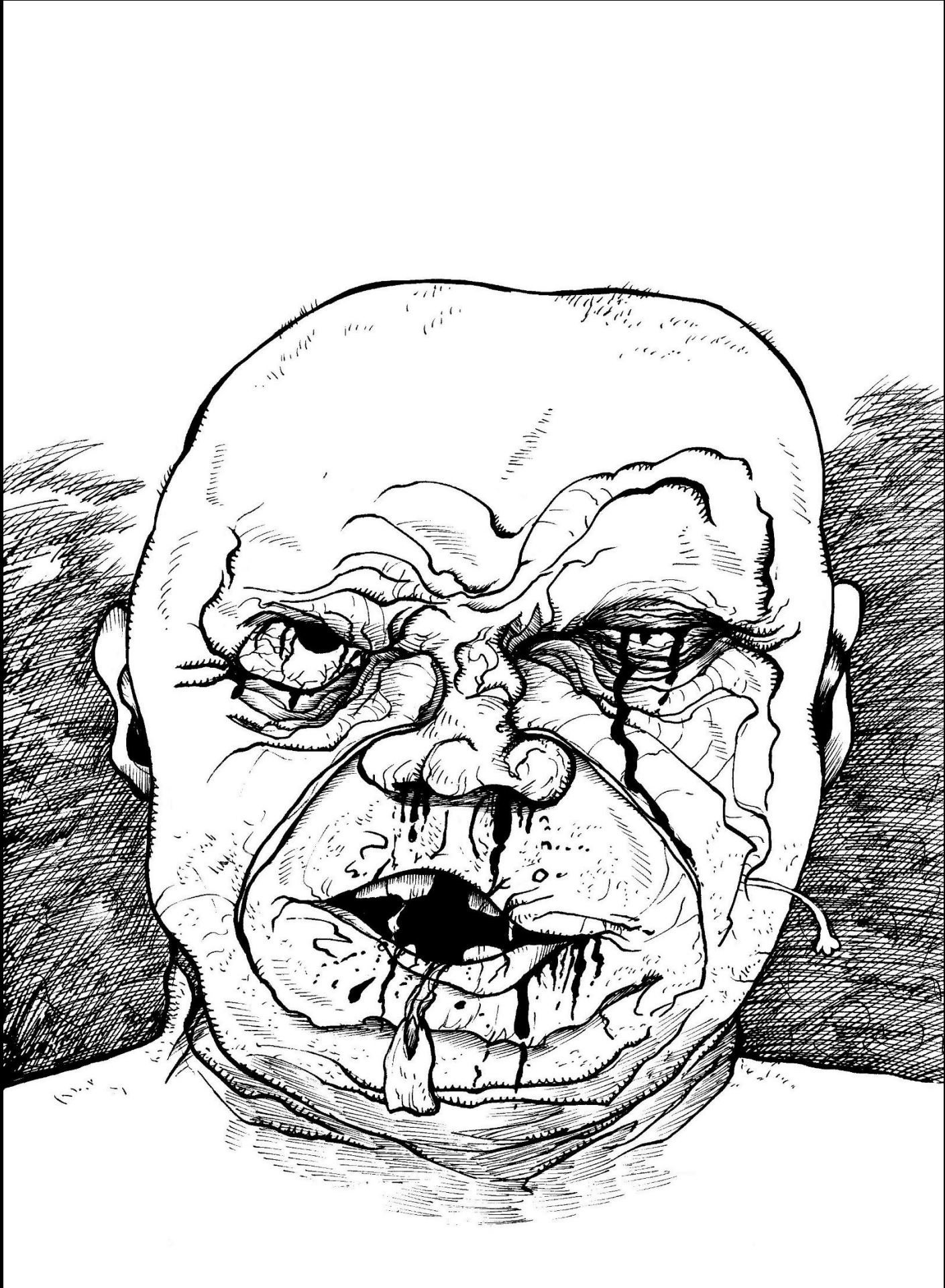


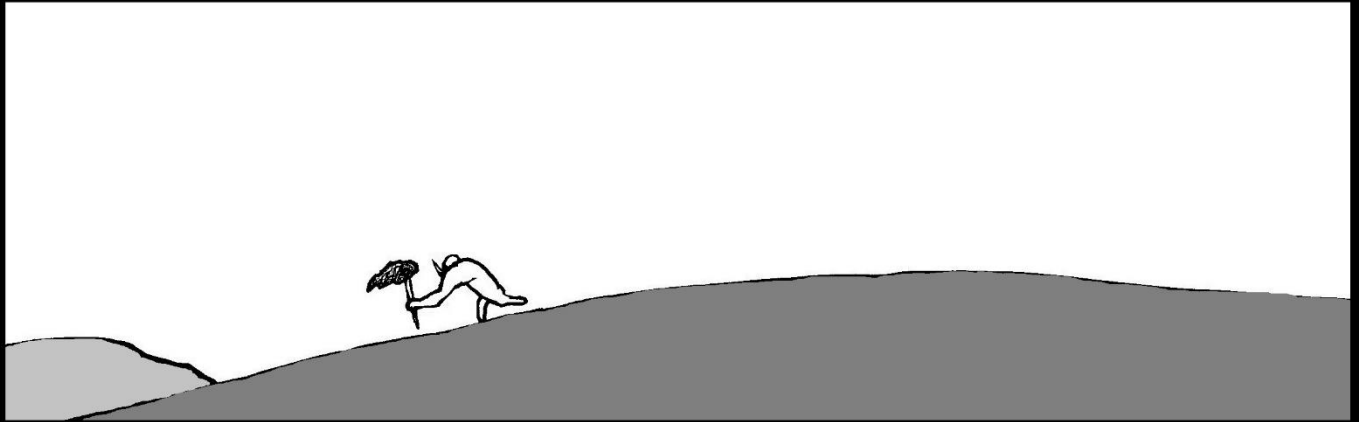


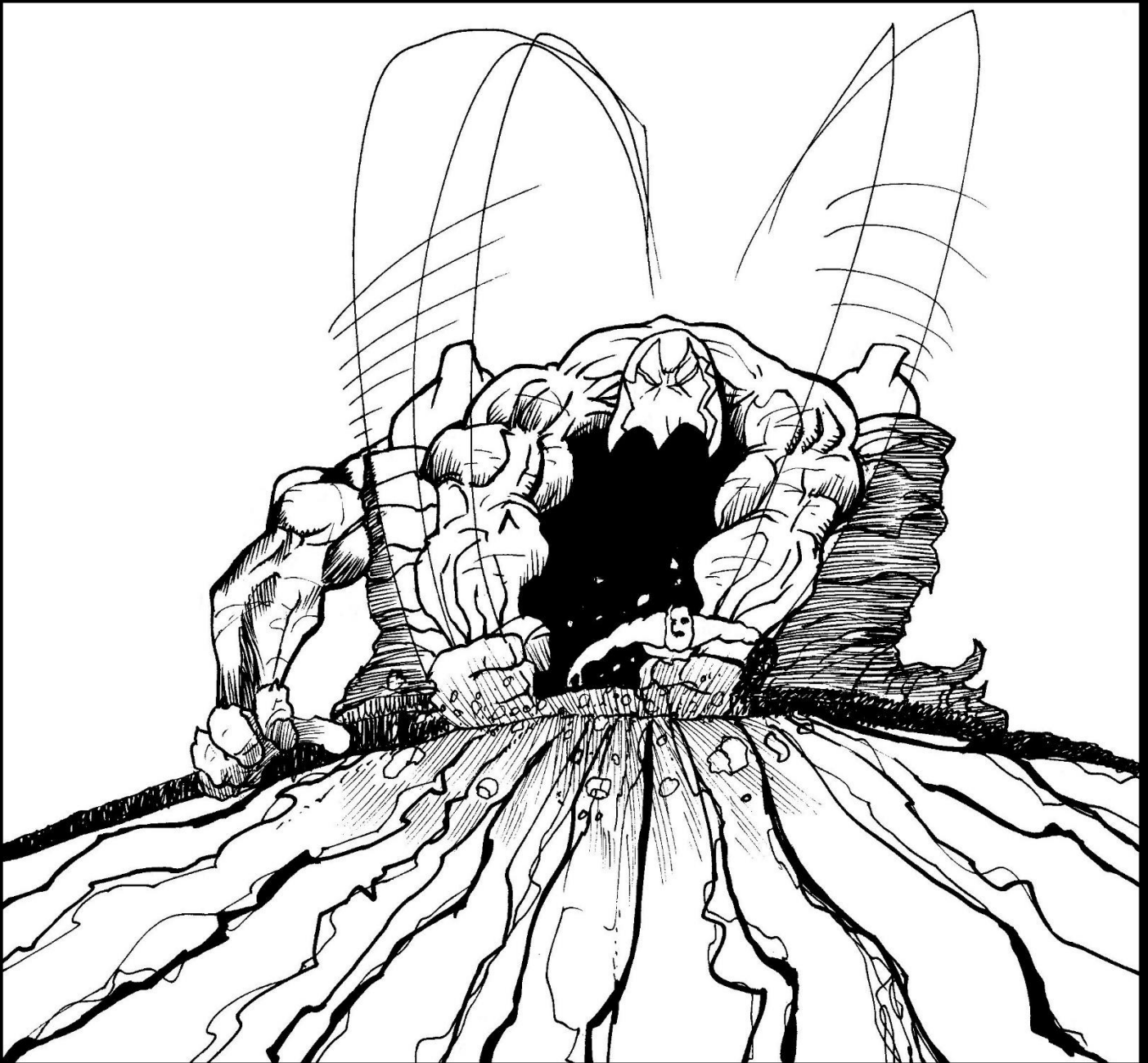
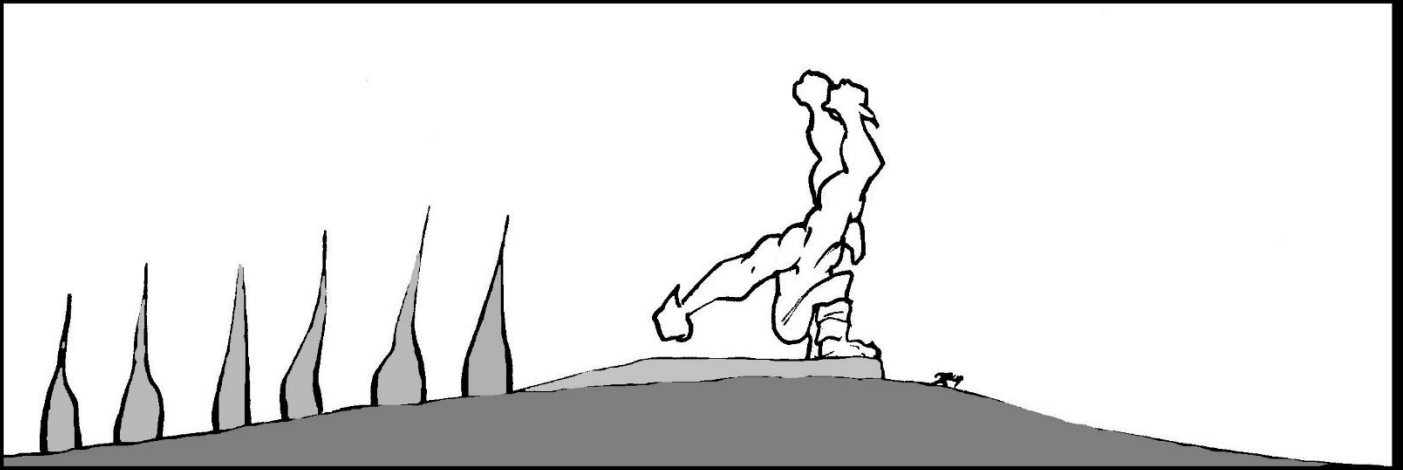


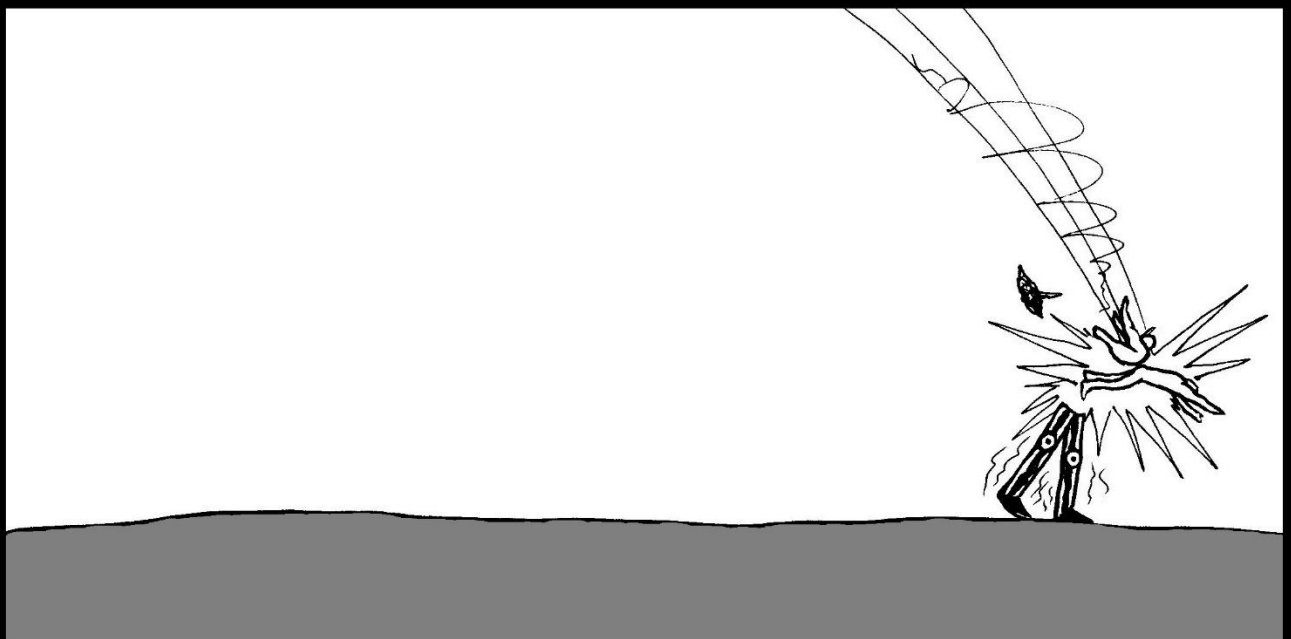
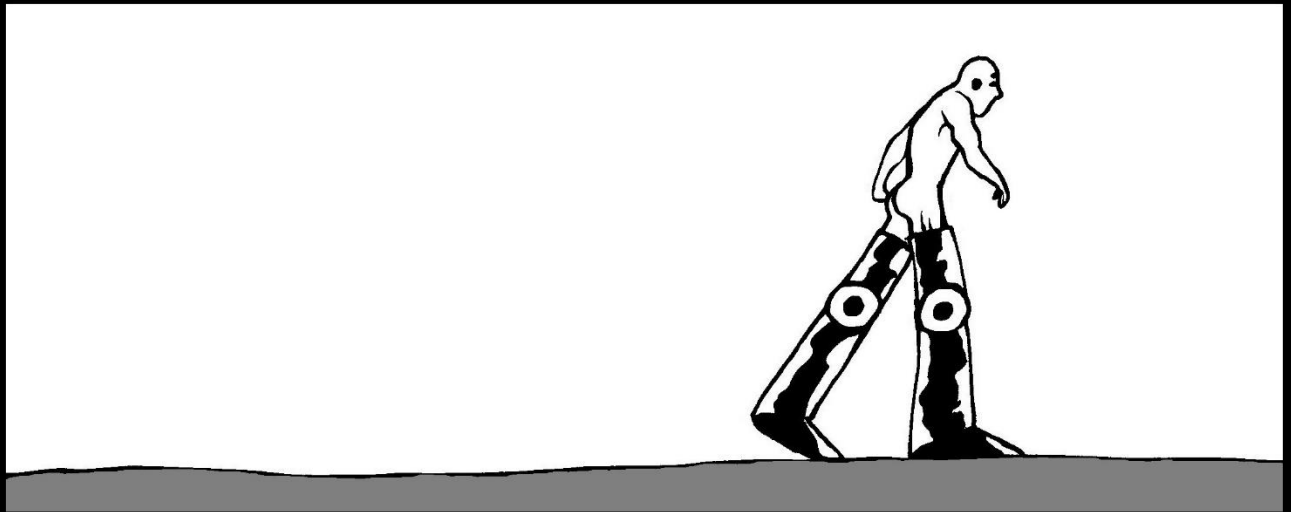
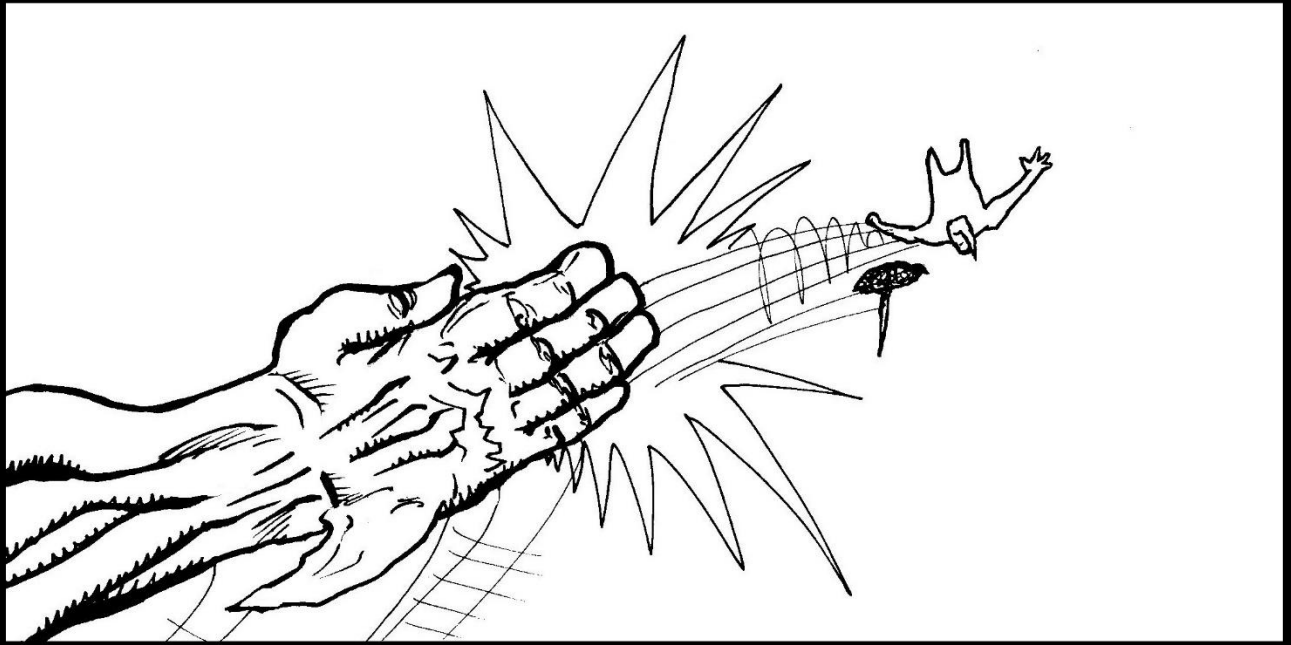


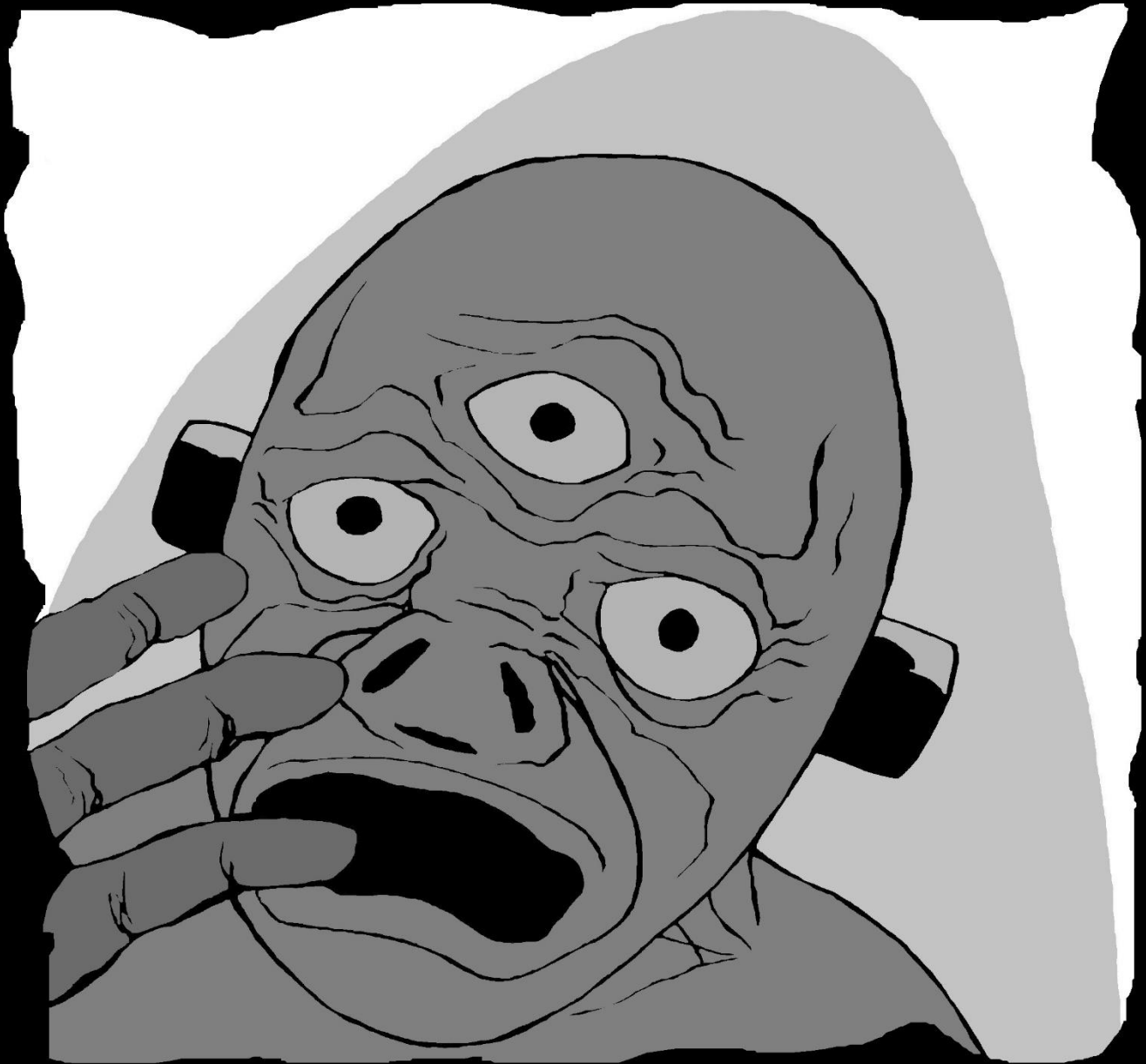
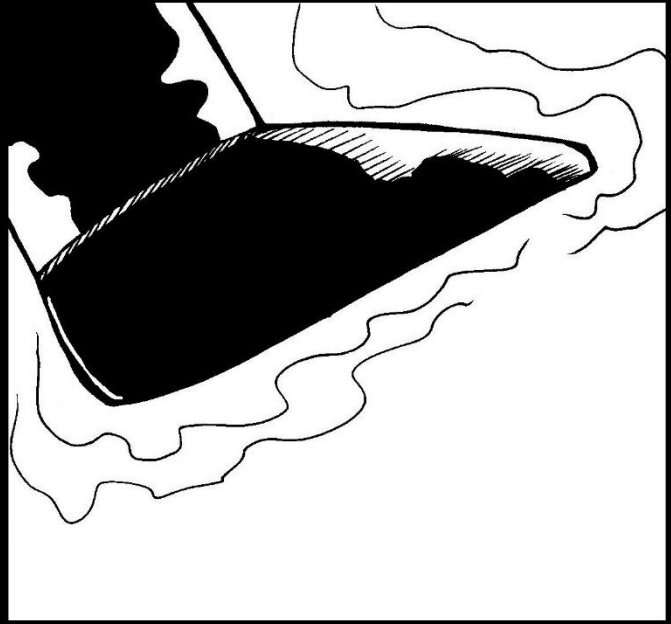
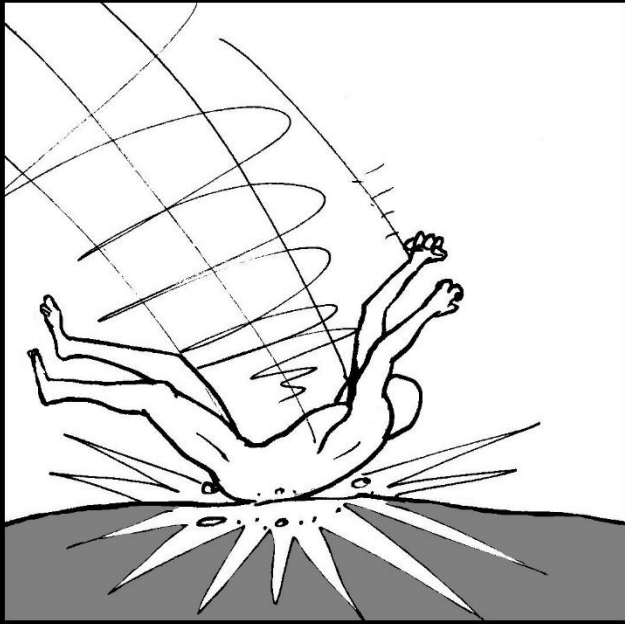


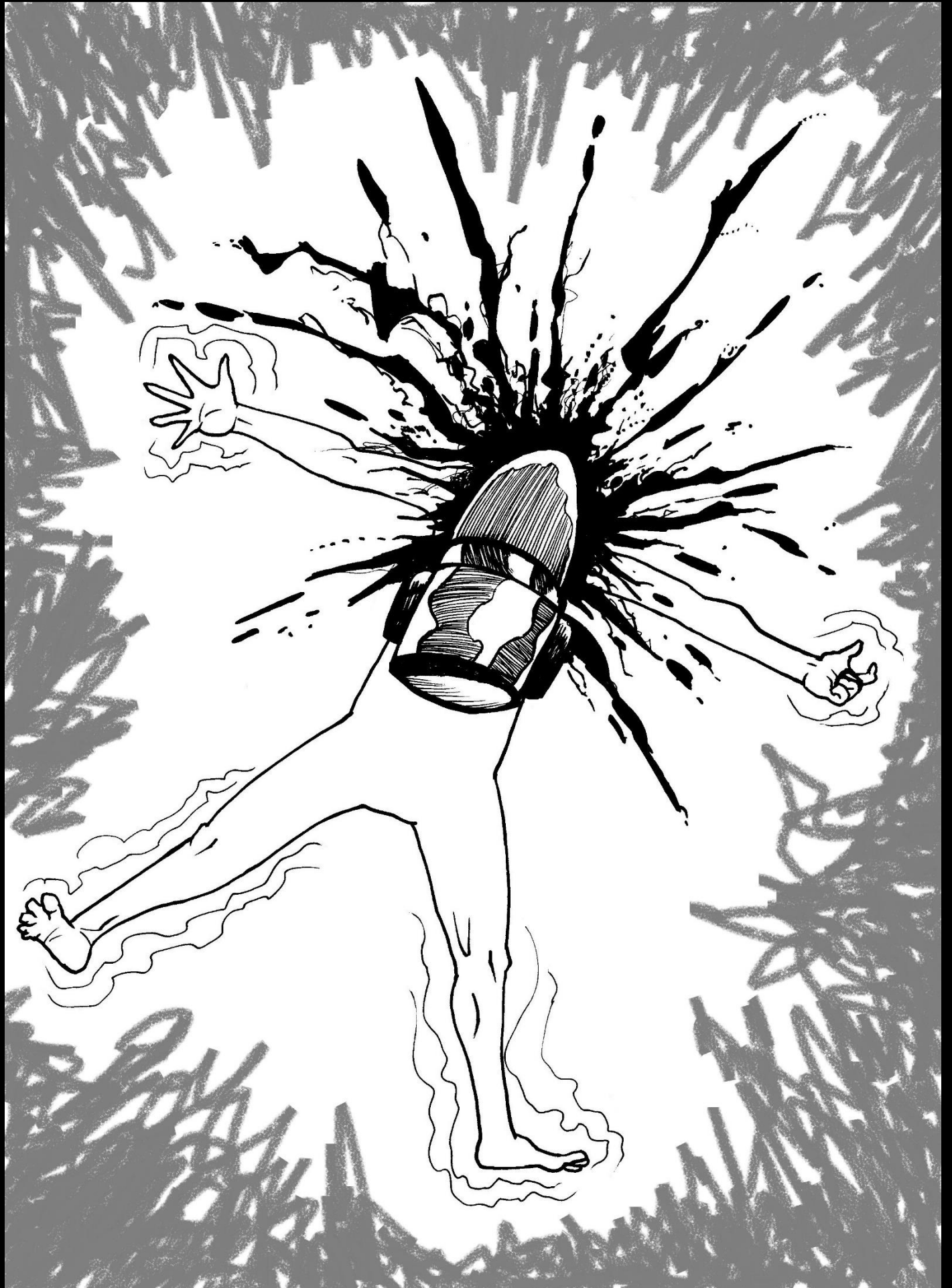








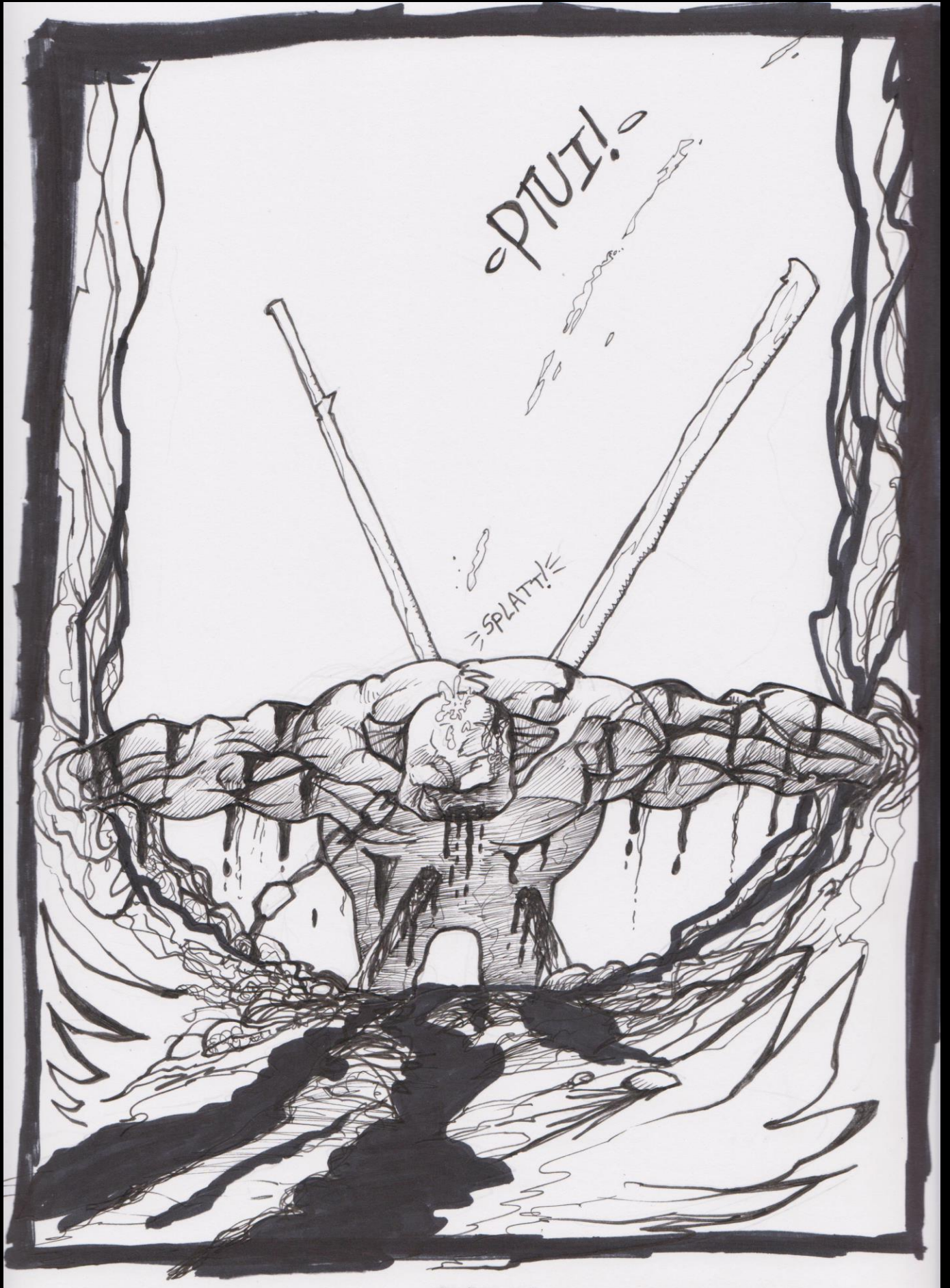




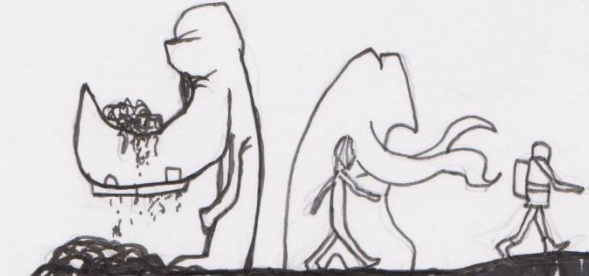


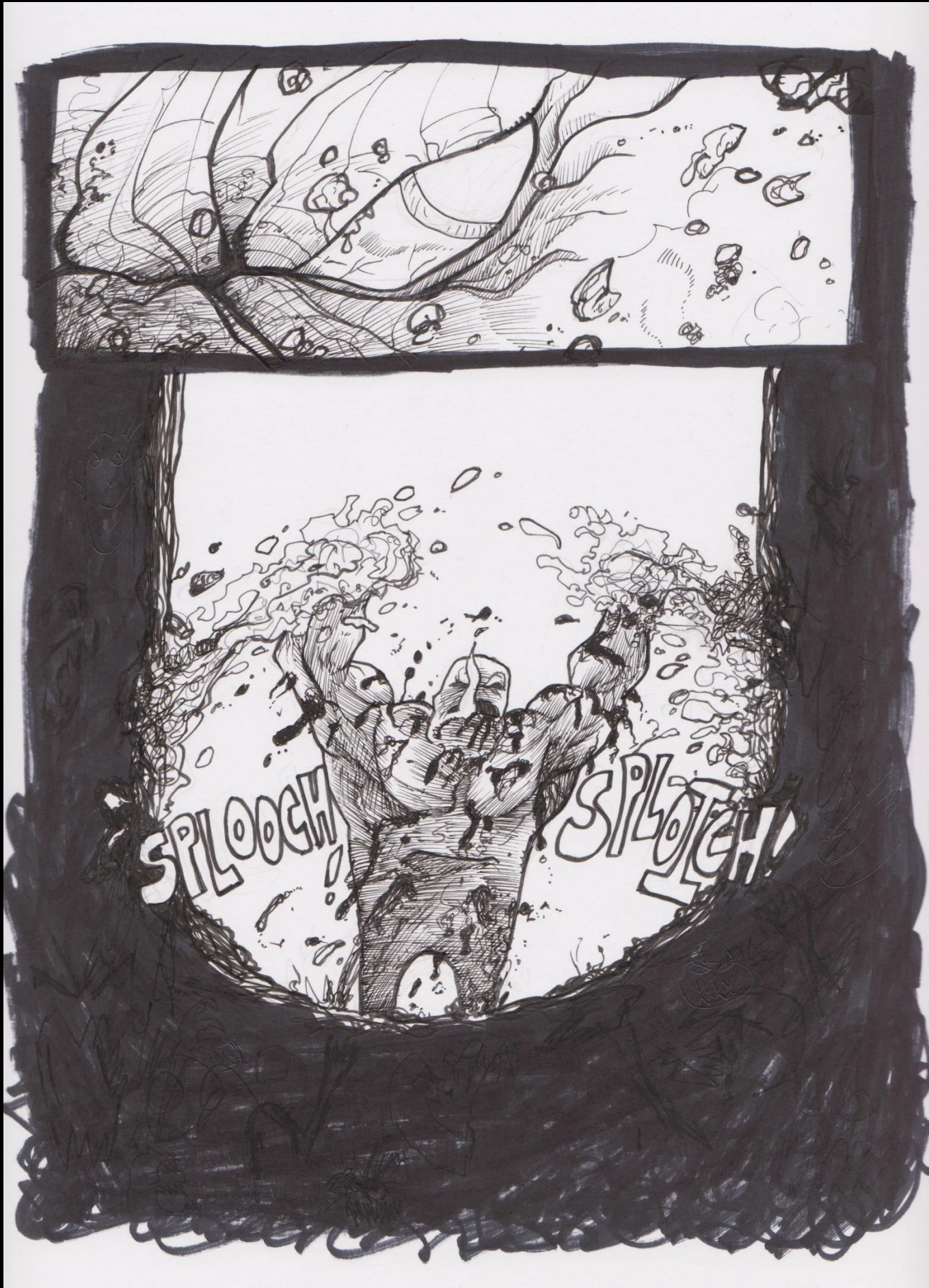
THUG

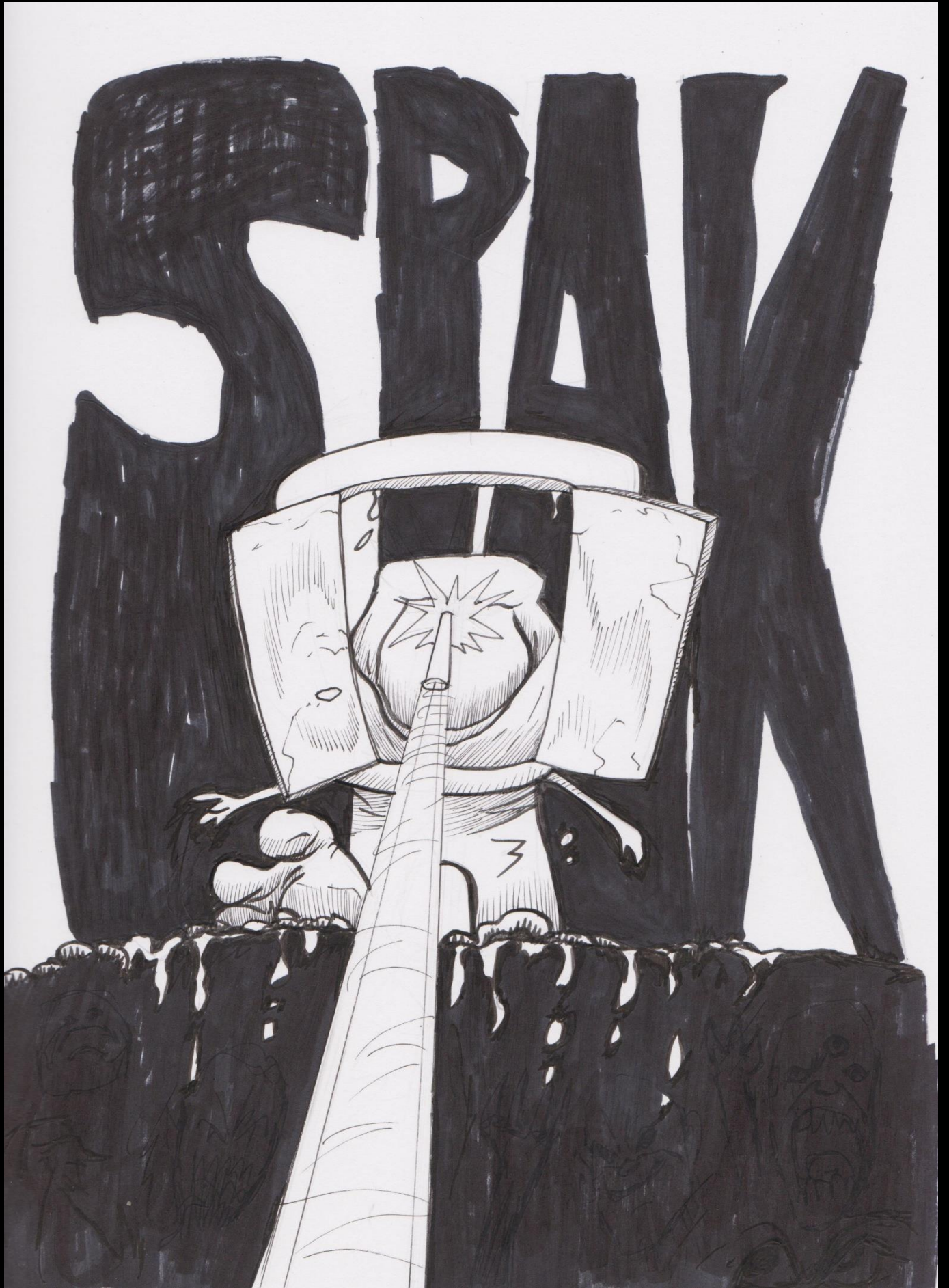




BURRY HIM.







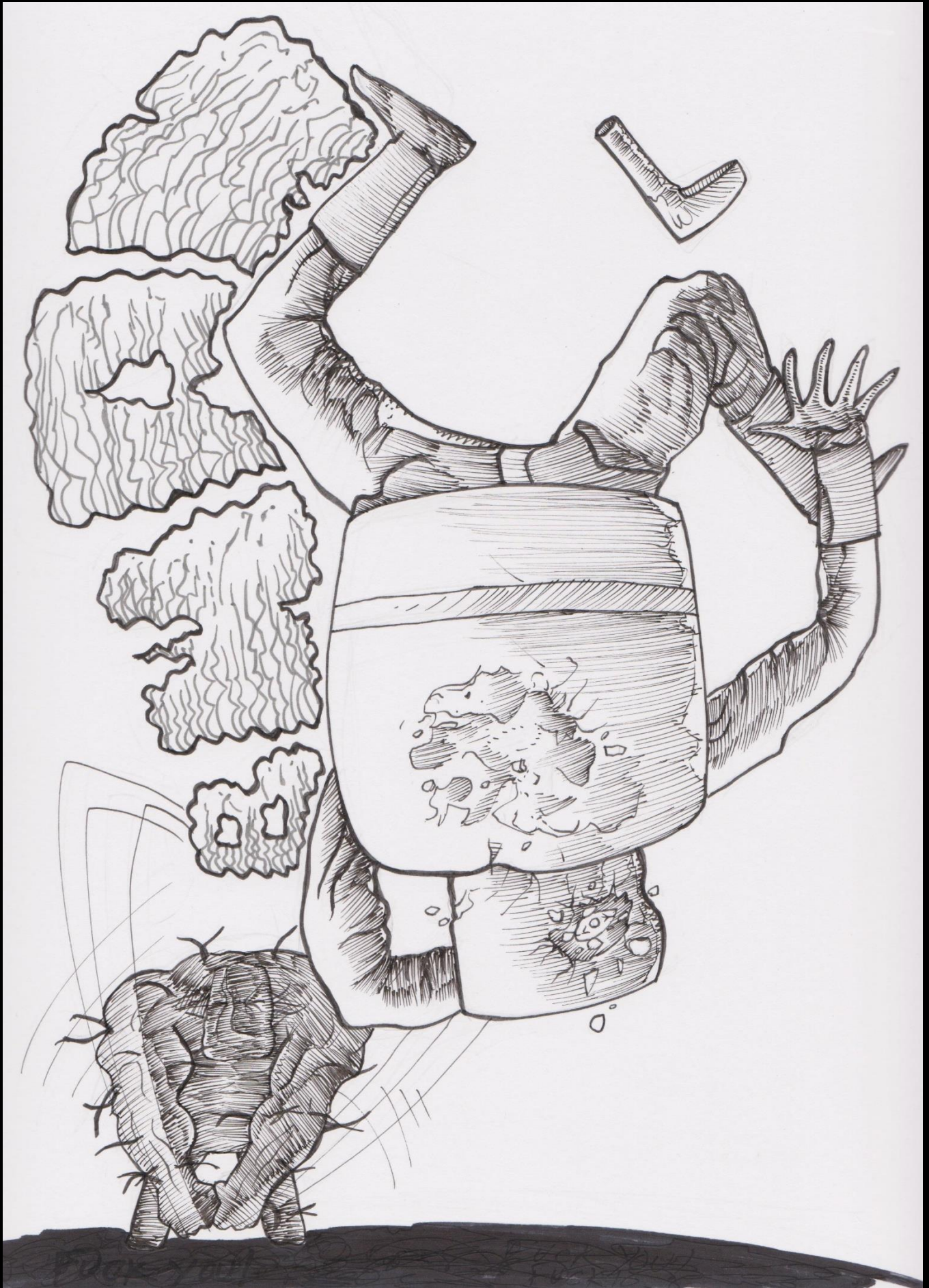


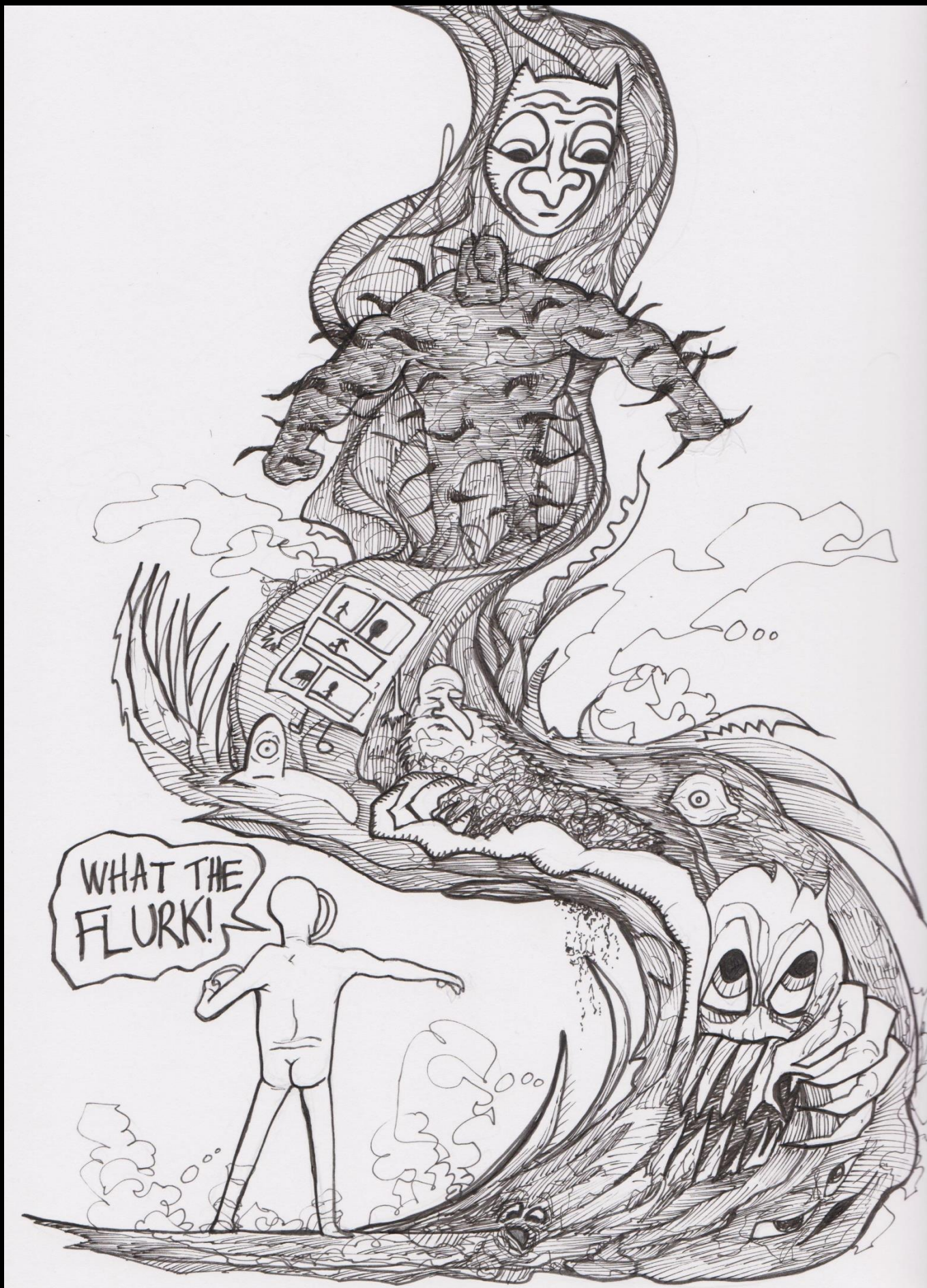


I THINK HE
KILLED
REYMALDO!

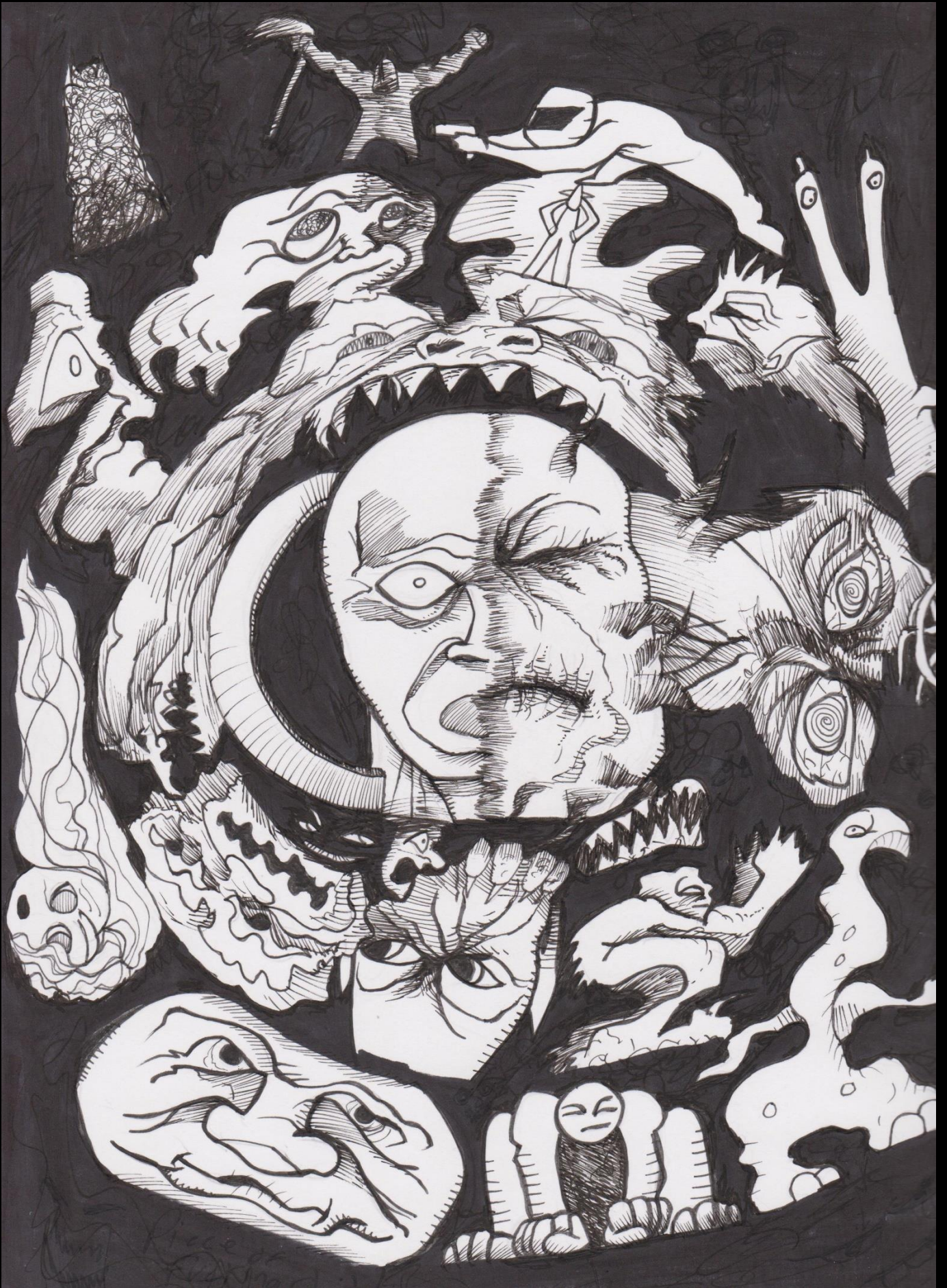
HERE
HE
COMES!

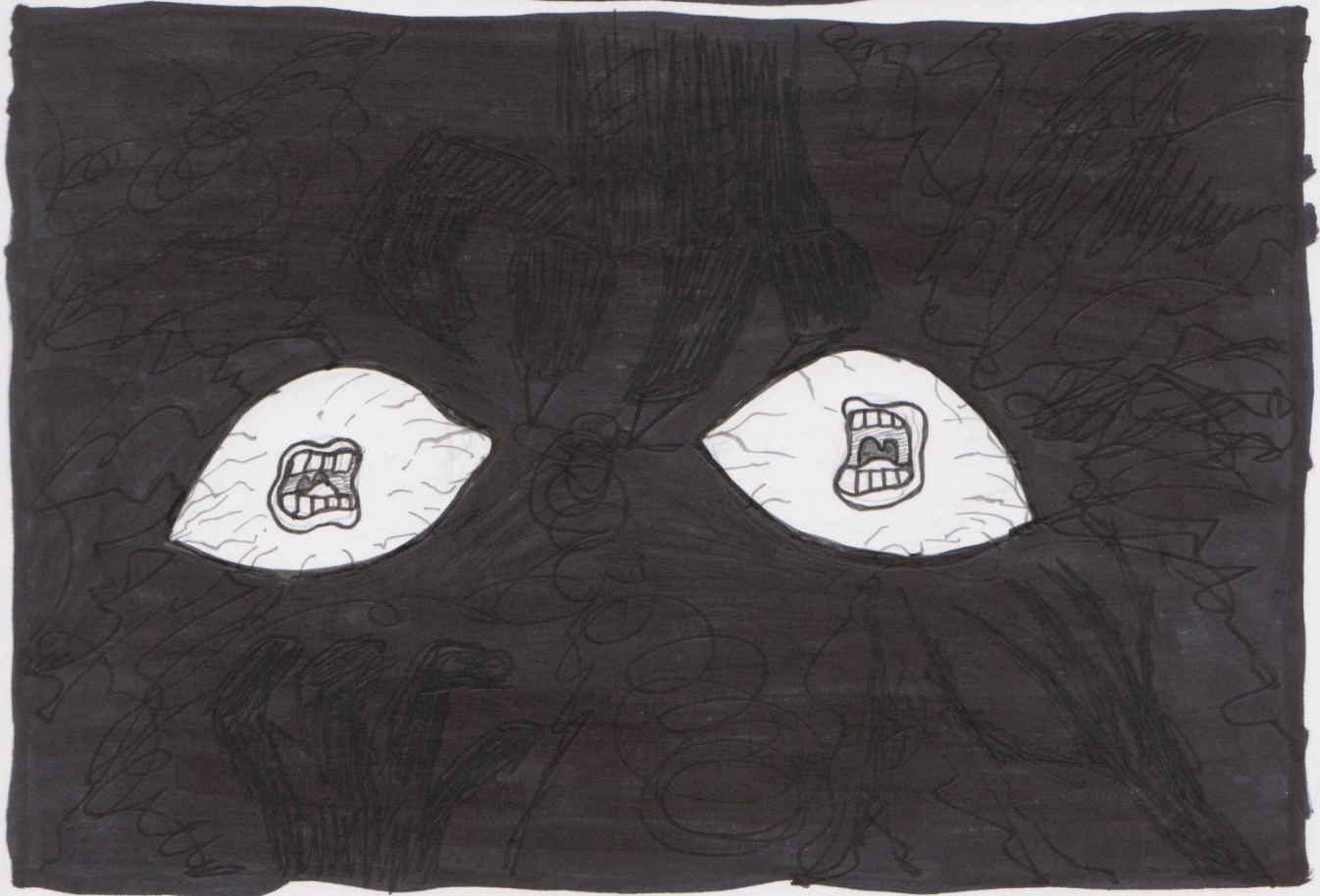


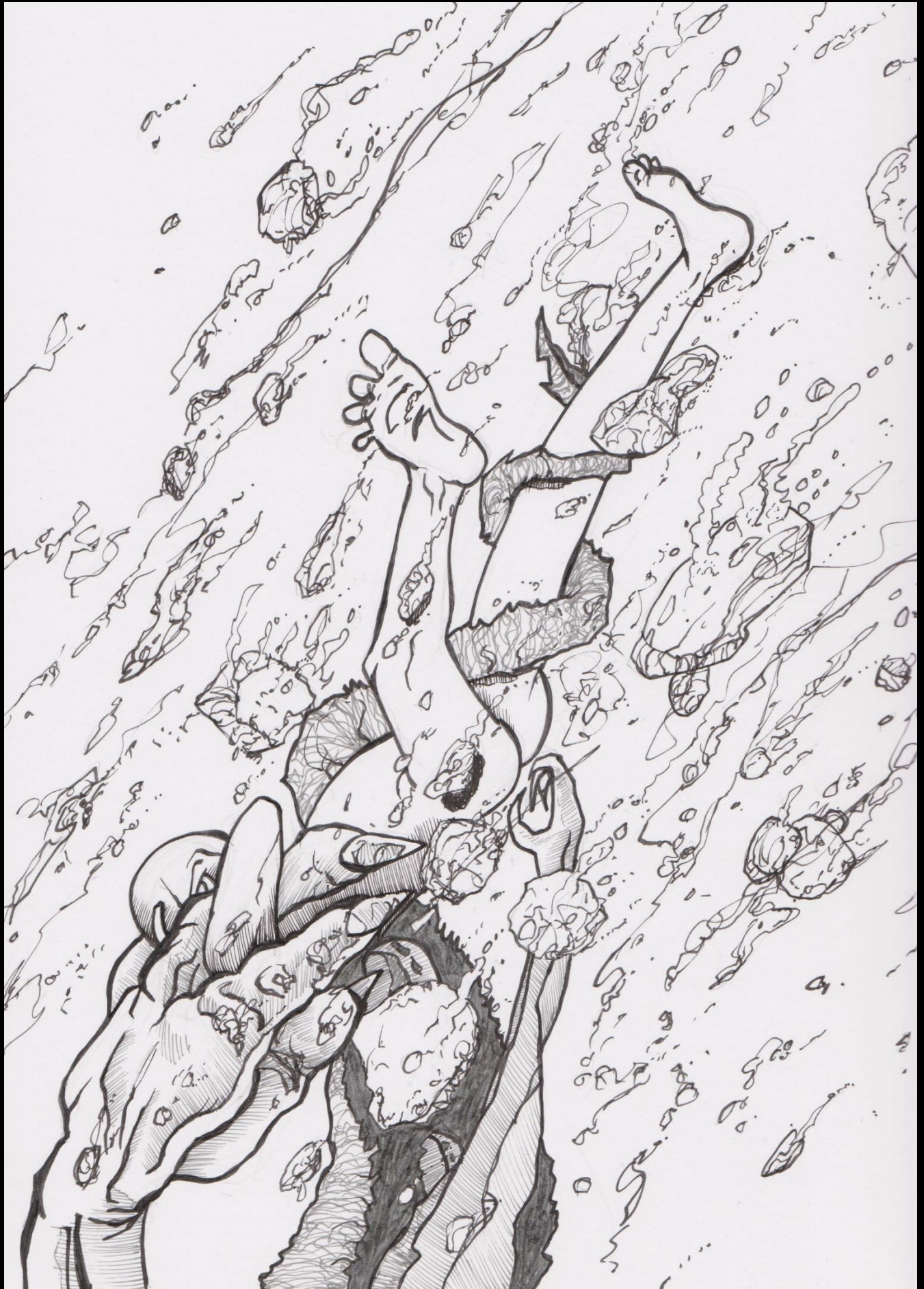


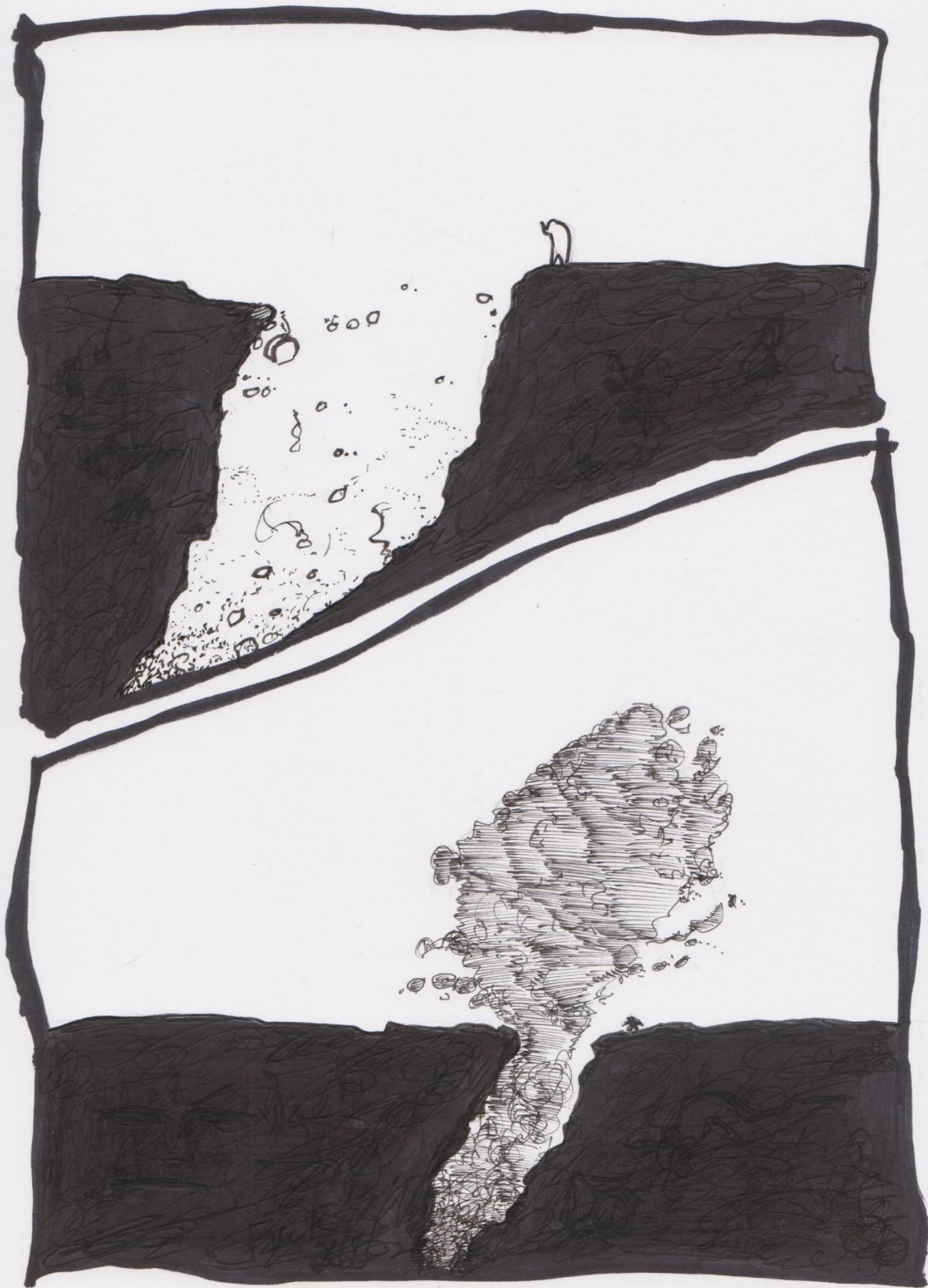


WHAT THE FLURKI!





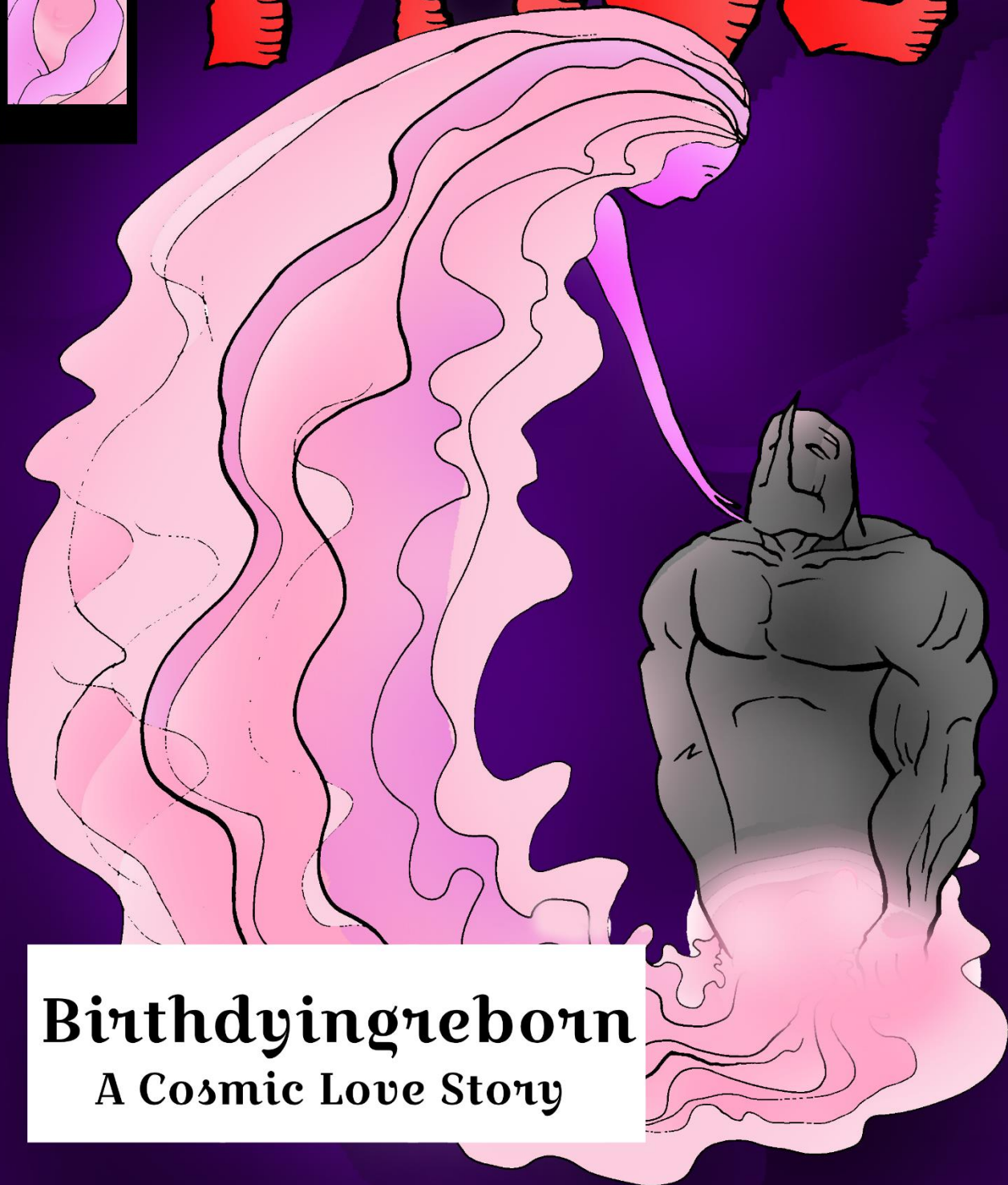








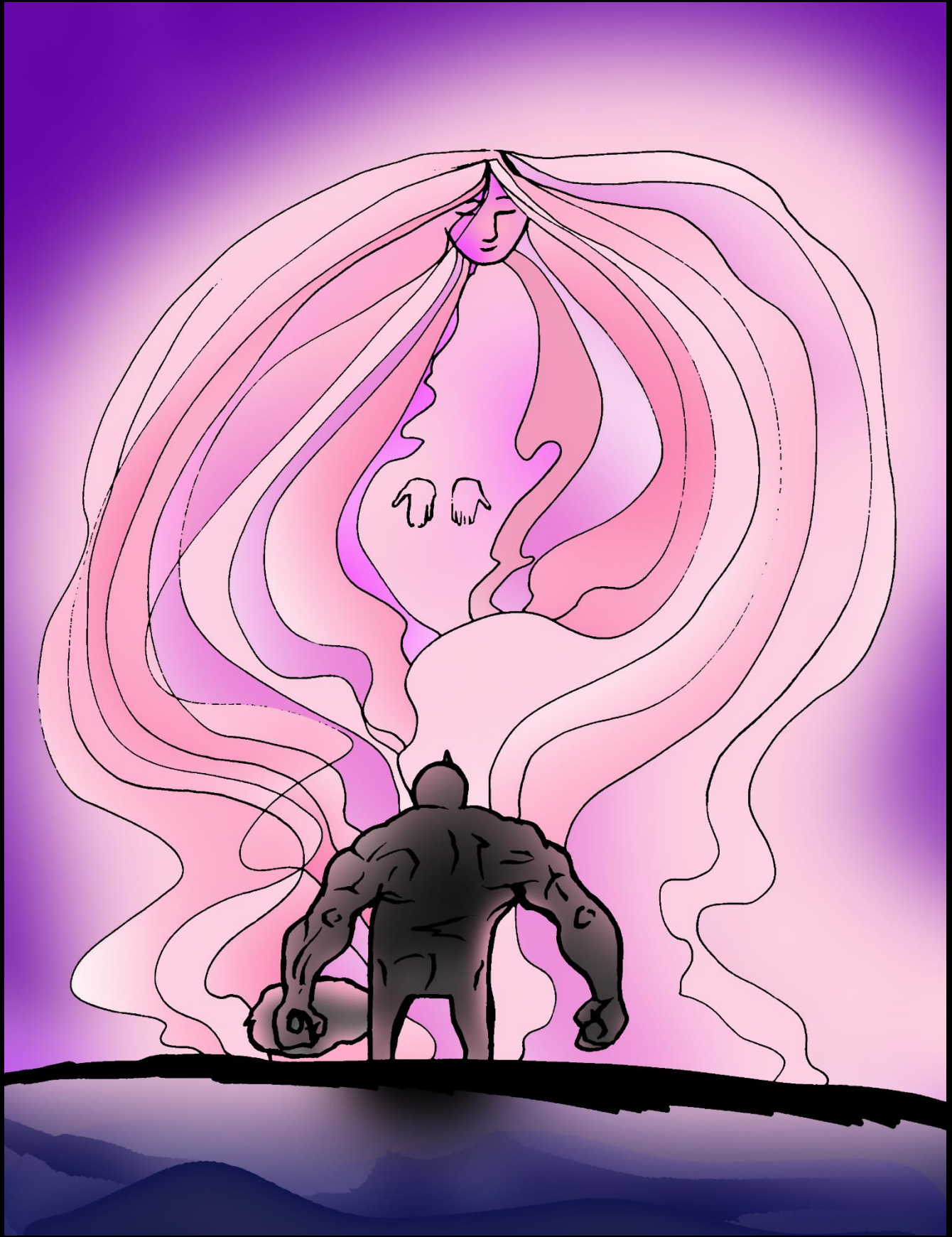
THUG



Birthdyingreborn
A Cosmic Love Story

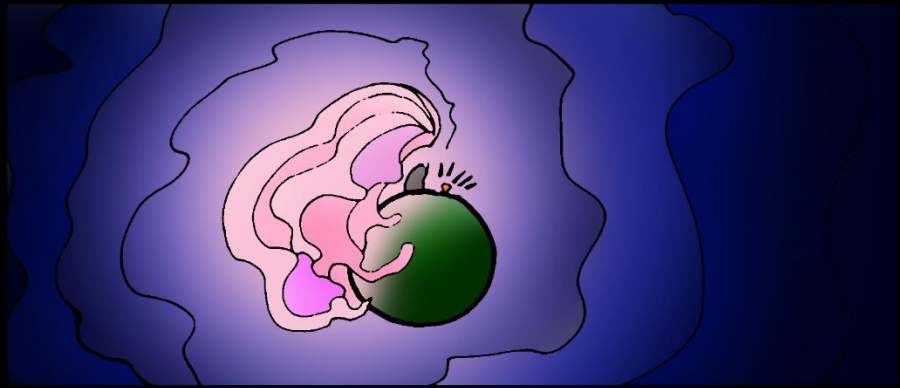




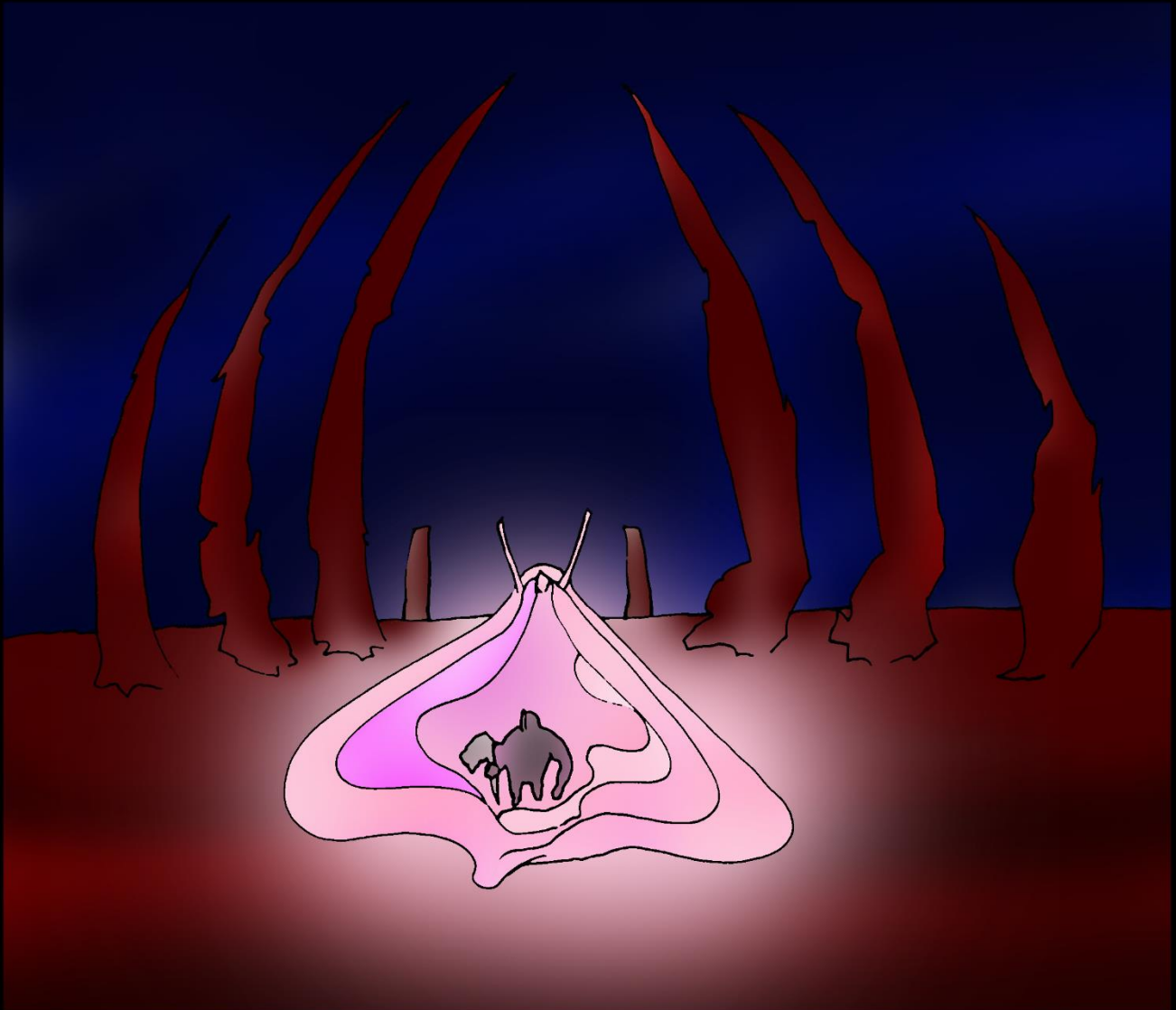


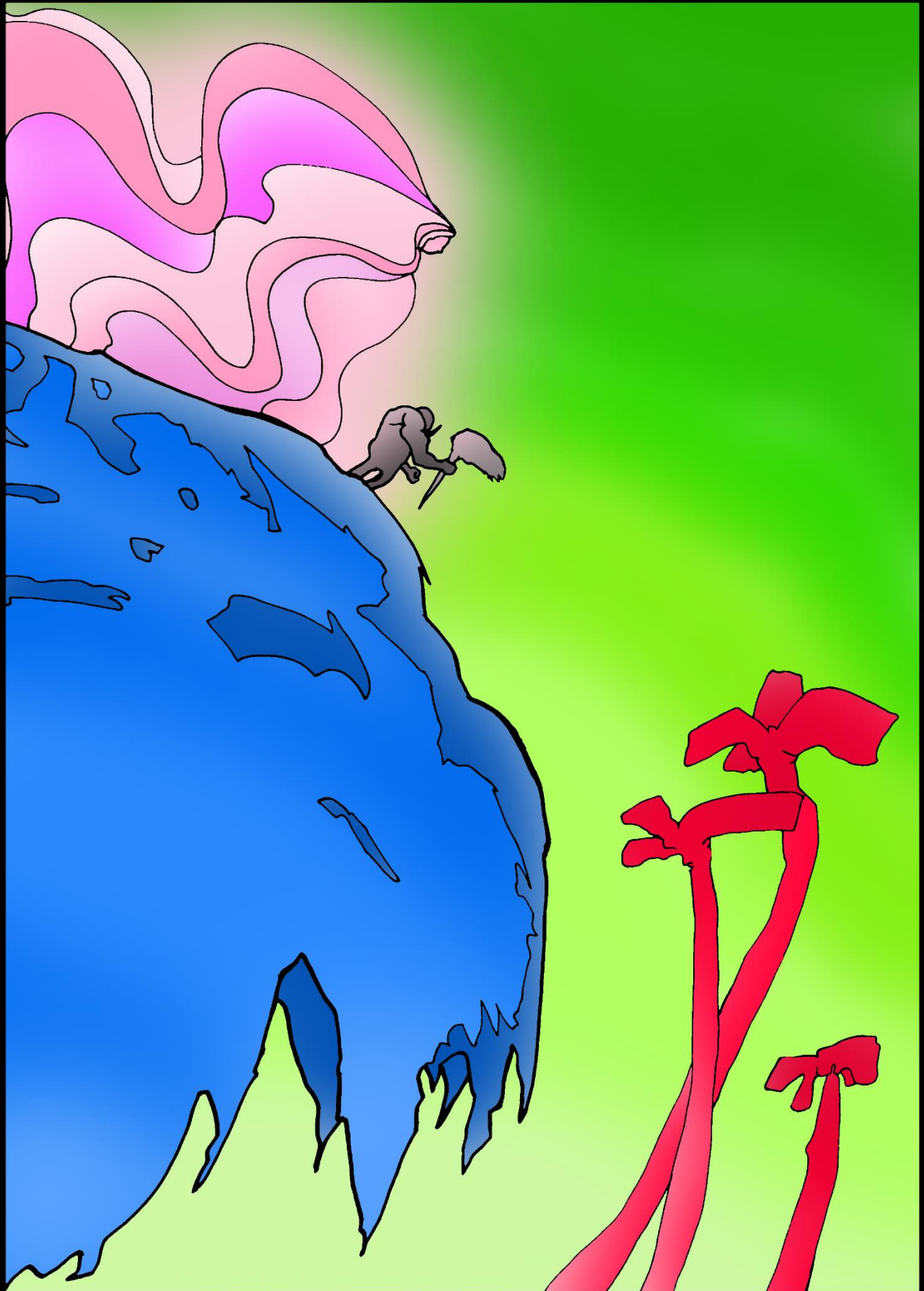




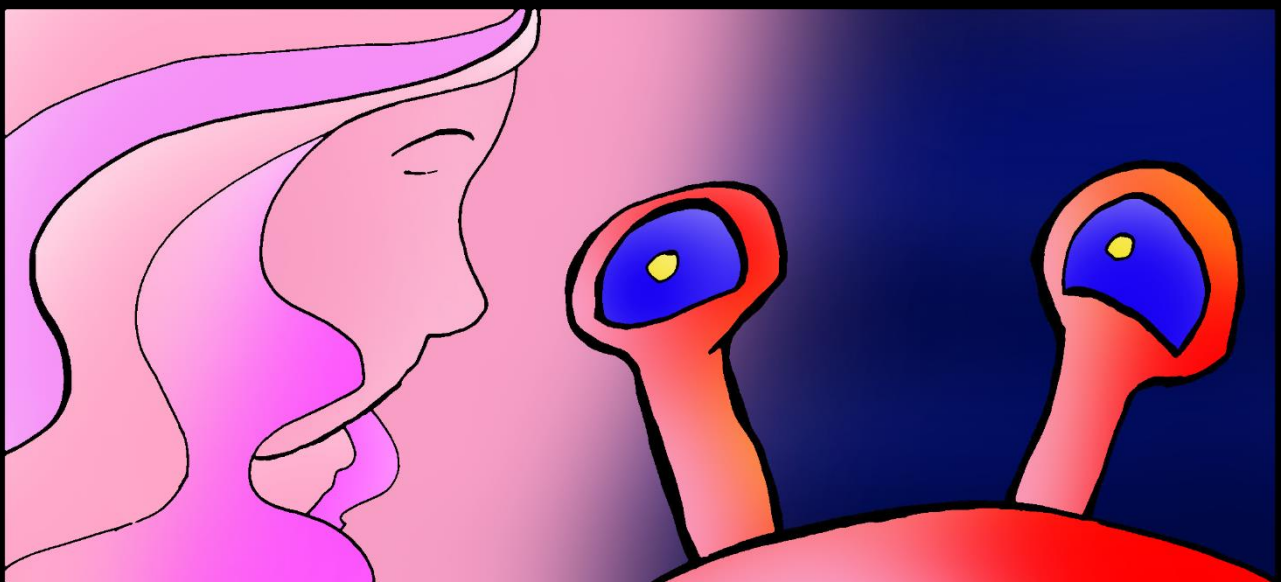
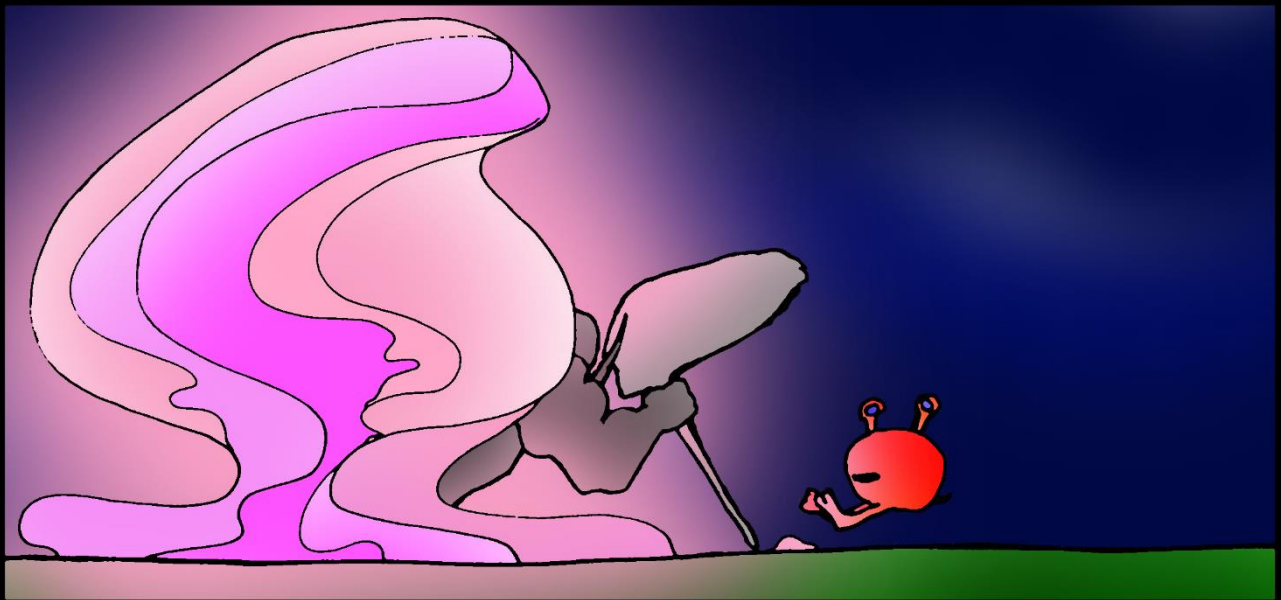
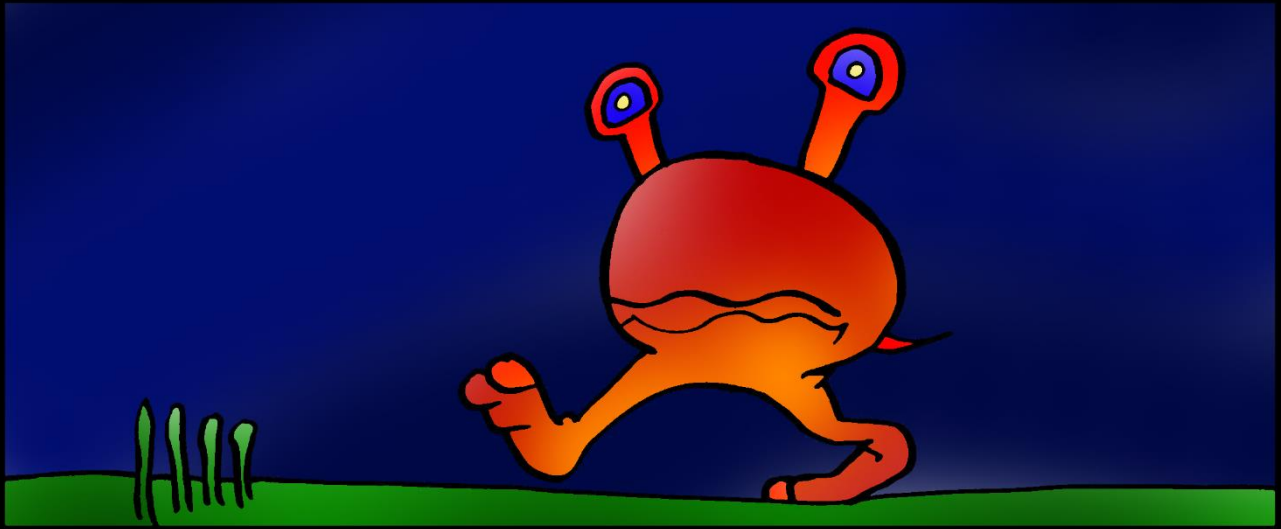


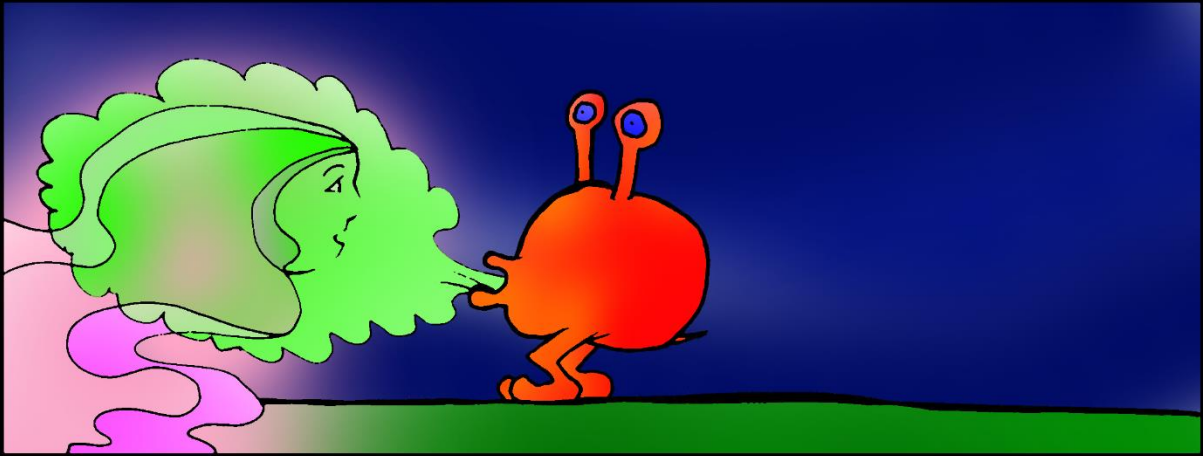




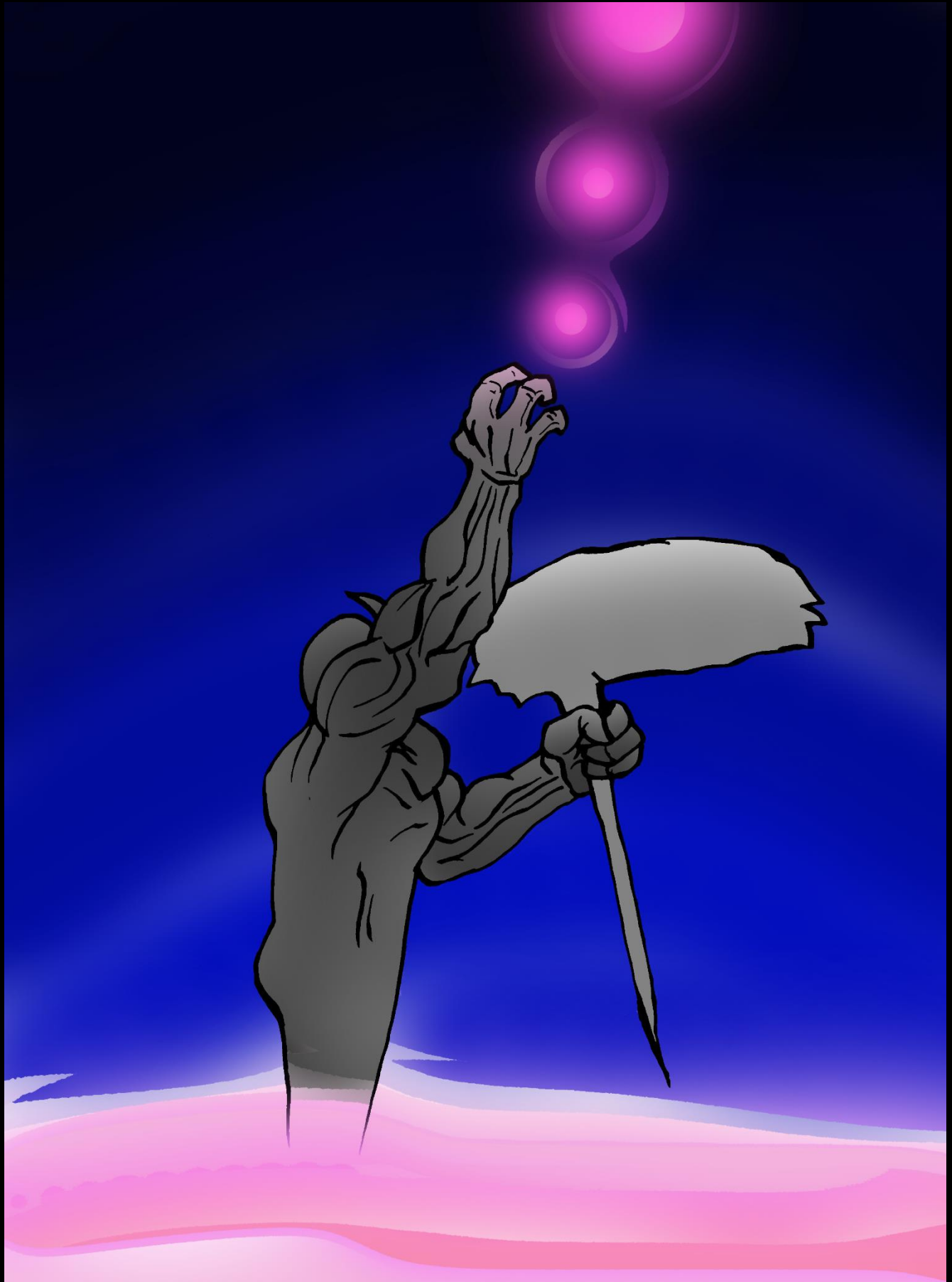








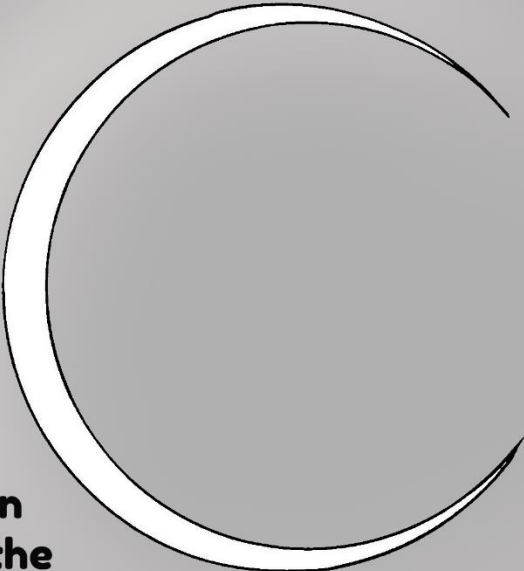







THUG



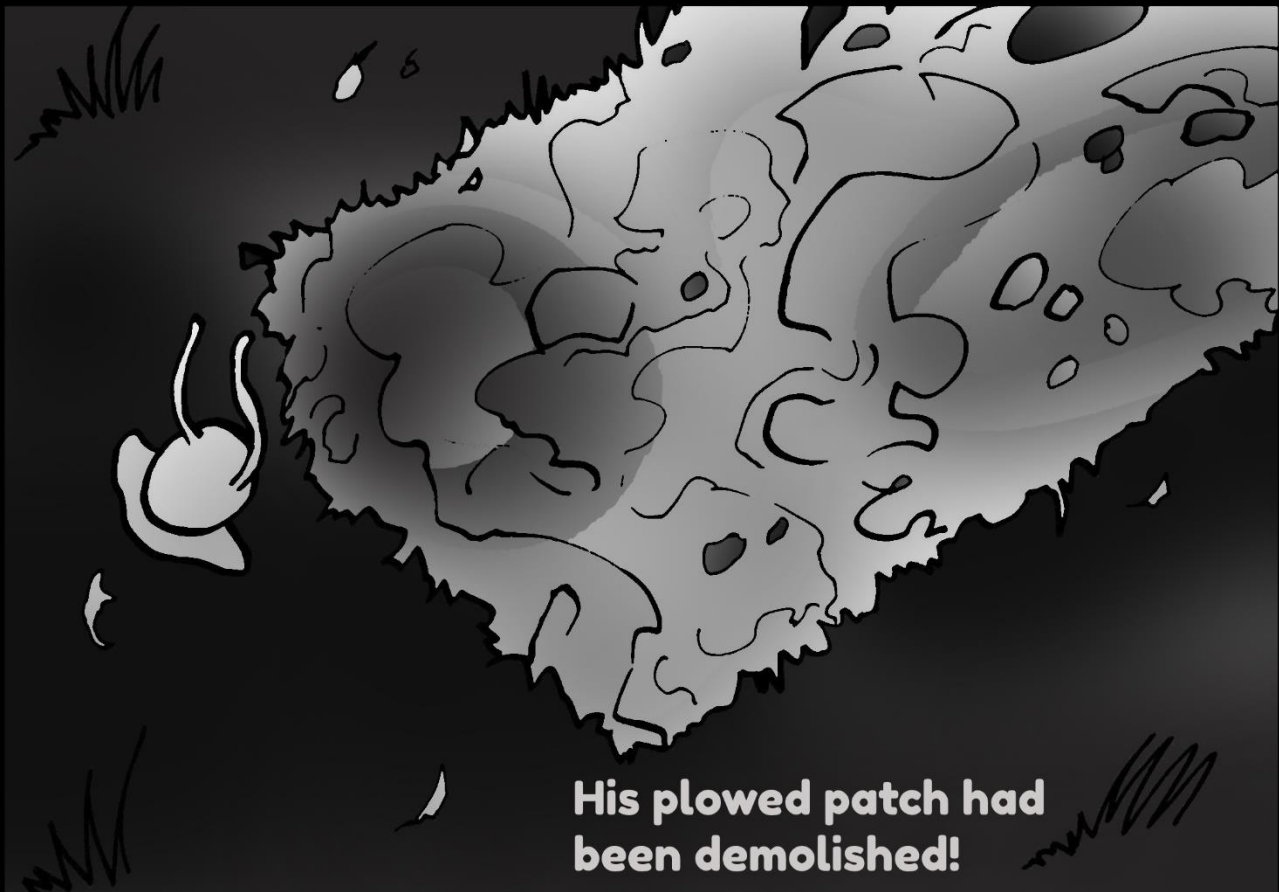


**The crescent moon
rested nestled in the
early autumn sky as
a cool wind blew
through the thick
grass in the fallow.**



**Fim walked carefully
toward the small area
he plowed for a garden
earlier that afternoon...**

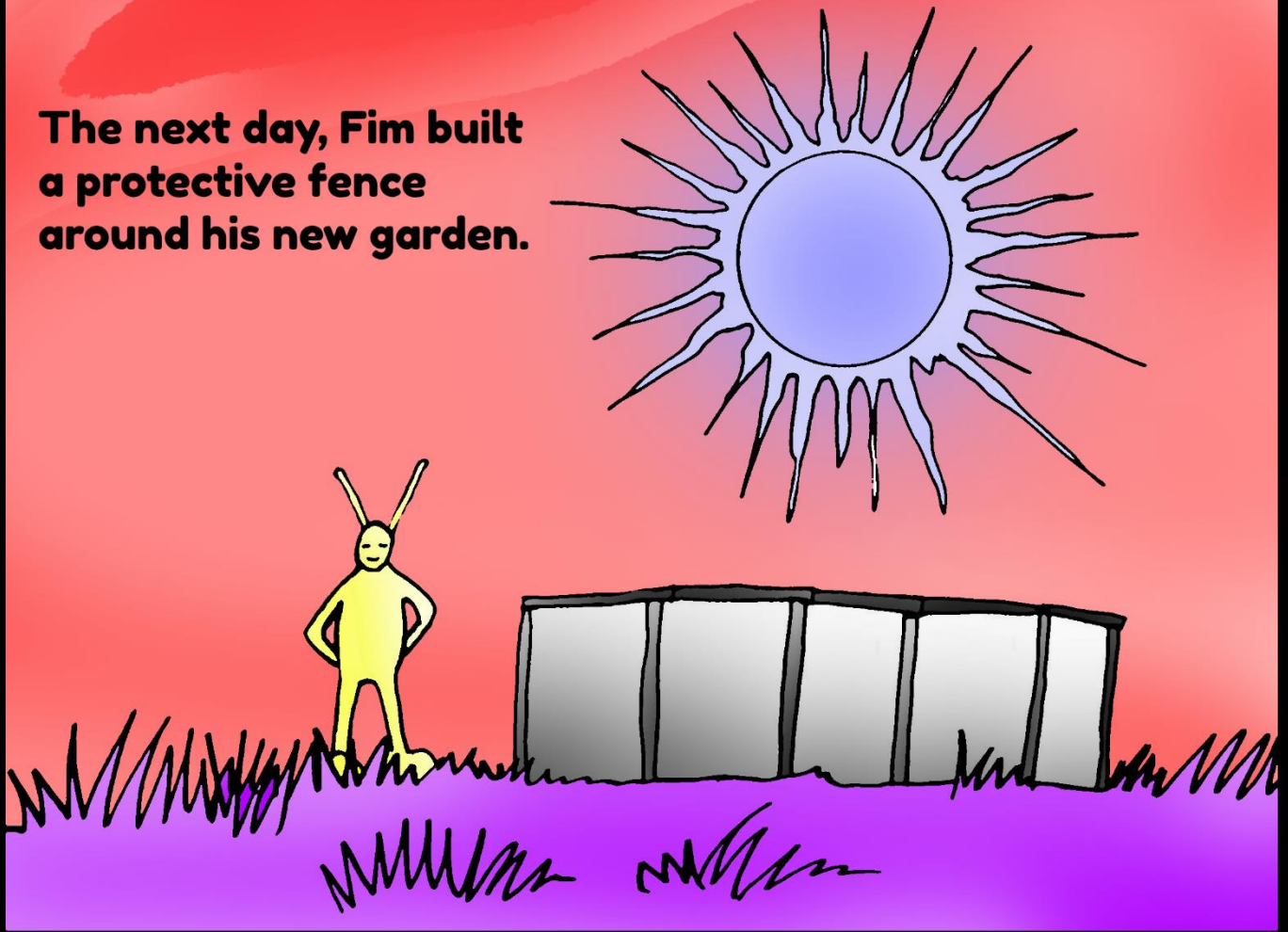




He would have to
try again tomorrow...



The next day, Fim built a protective fence around his new garden.



He then waited as night fell to watch over it.

Despite the fence, the garden was destroyed again.



THIS

IS MY

LAND!







I have heard of your soldier race. Since you have agreed to take the job of guarding my garden, I'll tell you the details ... and what you are protecting it from...





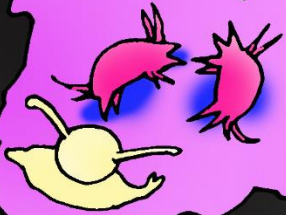
I was lonely.

So, I created an imaginary friend, what some call a tulpa.

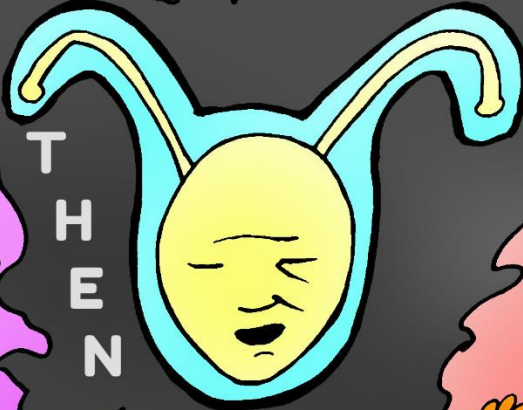


We were happy.

I started to find dead creatures around my house.



T
H
E
N



My suspicions grew. And then one evening...



It was HORRIBLE!

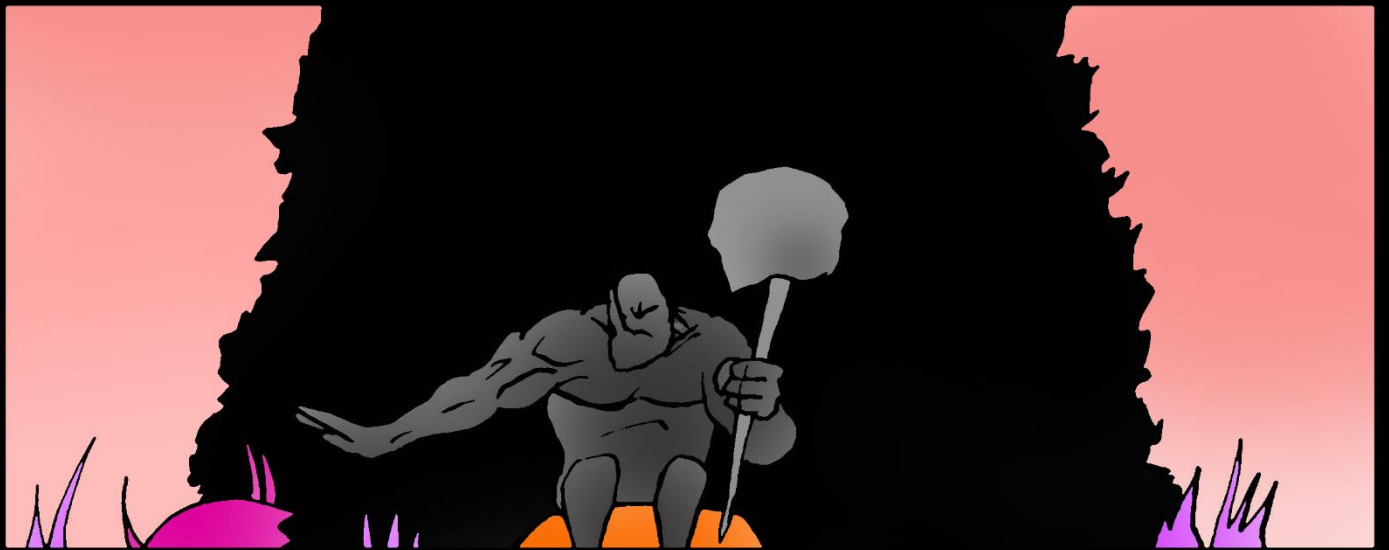
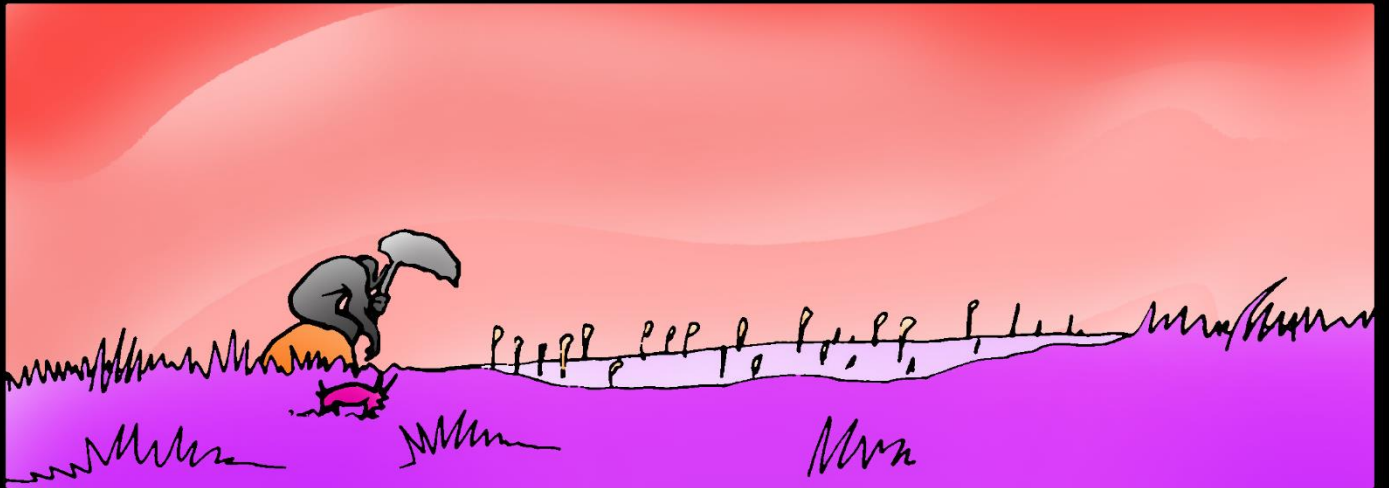
When I confronted Furrn about it, he claimed he was protecting us from all of the dangerous native creatures.



I didn't believe it and decided to cut ties with him...



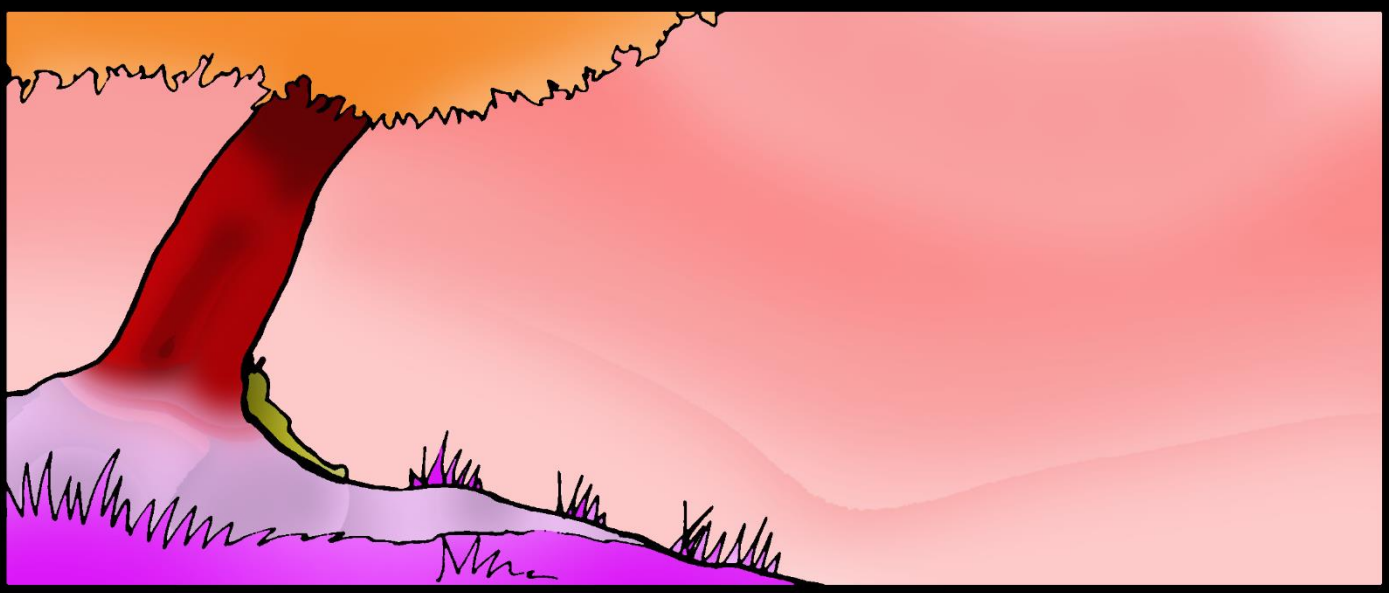




YOU'VE ONLY BEEN
GIVEN A PORTION OF
THE STORY, SOLDIER...



FOLLOW ME.
I'LL TELL YOU
THE REST...





FIM AND I SPENT OUR
TIME TENDING TO THE
GARDEN.



ONE DAY, I DISCOVERED
THE PIGGLIES RAIDING
OUR GARDEN.



FIM DID NOT SEE
IT THAT WAY.

SO, I FOLLOWED
THEM ONE SUNSET.



I TRIED TO
STOP THEM.



THEY LED ME
TO PHERM.



AND THE
PIGGLIES'S
LEADER...





THEY LURED HIM HERE
TO THIS FALLOW AND
THEN RELEASED THEIR
BODILY GASSES PLACING
HIM INTO AN ENDLESS
SLUMBER.

THEY NEED TO FEED OFF
OTHER CREATURES' LABORS,
IMAGINATIONS, AND DREAMS.

And he has served us well.

**Especially his imagination
in creating you and Fim!**

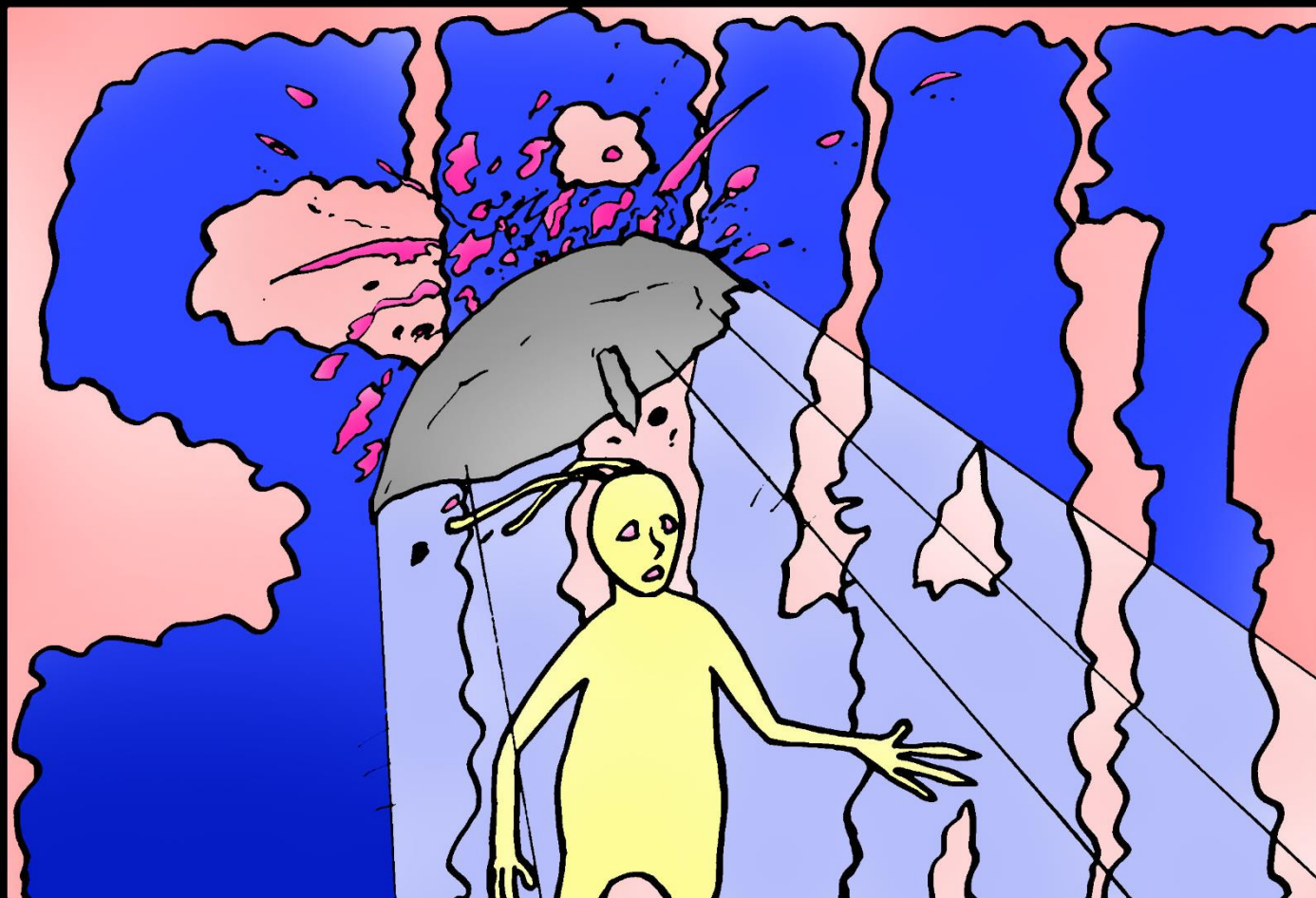
**While you two are merely
figments of Pherm's
imagination ... you ALL
have benefited...**

the MERNAINI!

**Now, we look forward
to adding this stout,
THUGGISH creature to
our collective essence!**



THEY ARE COMMANDING THE
GRASS TO BIND US, AND...



THE MERNAINI ARE FLEEING AT
THEIR DEATH OF THEIR LEADER!

Pherm awakens!
Setting us free...





#7 Aouwgust

THUG



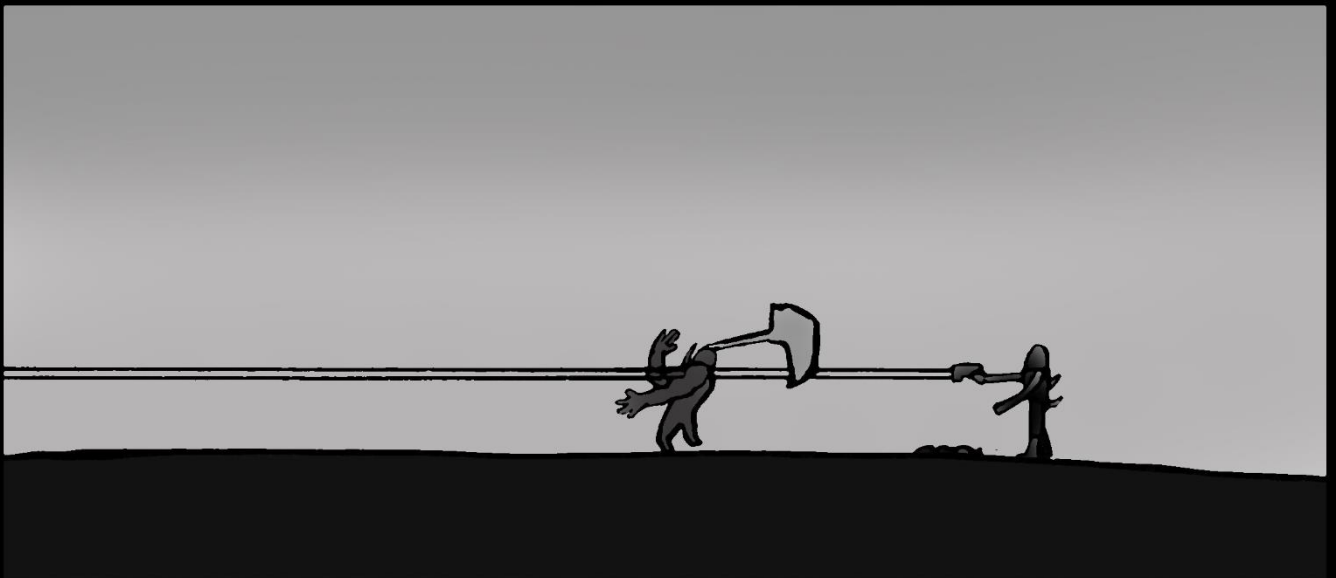
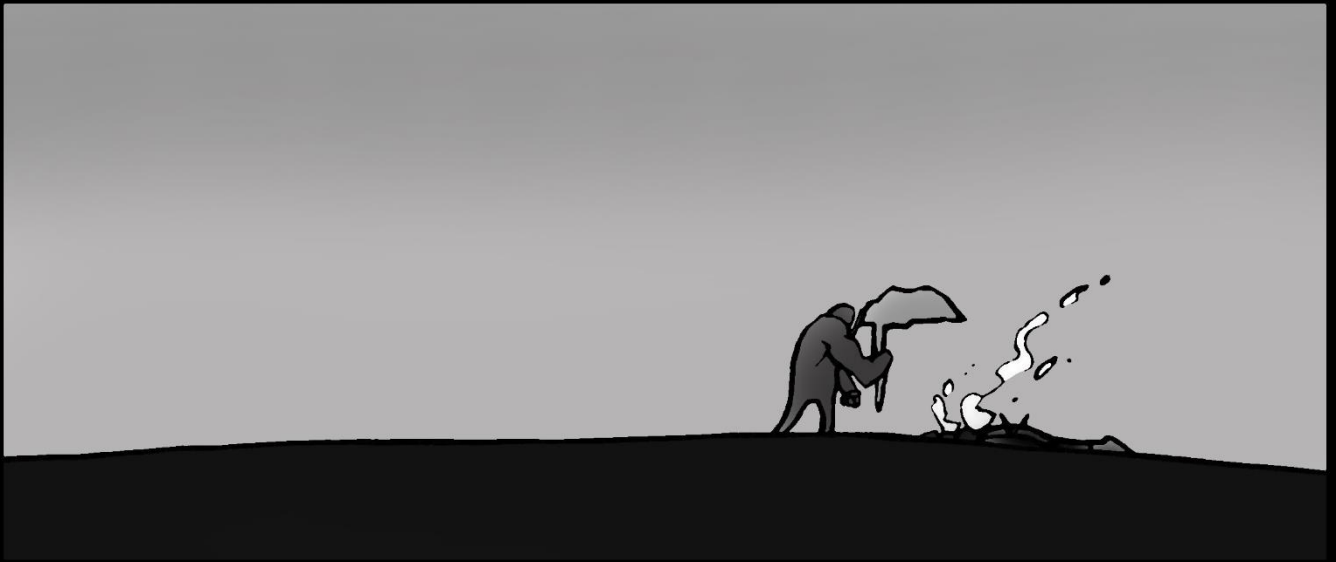


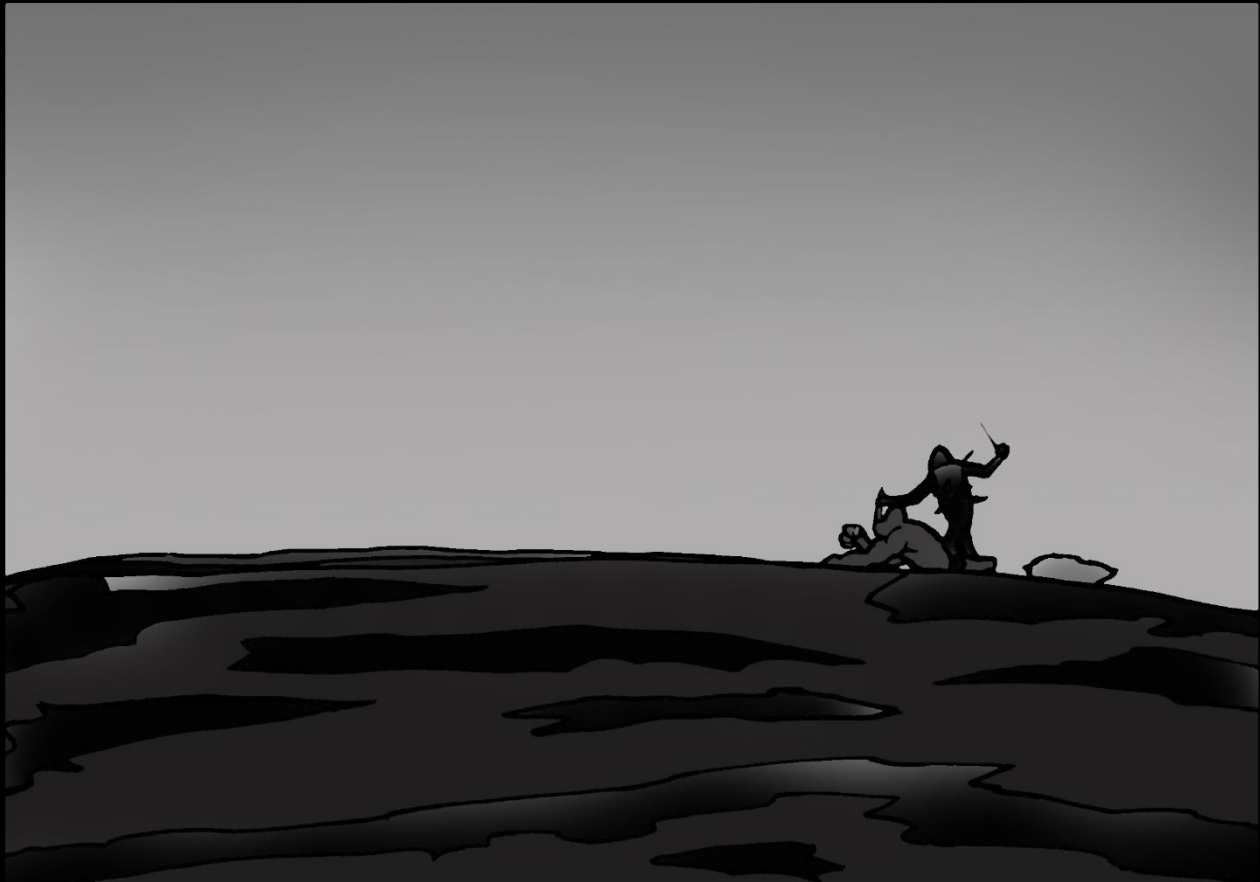
TWO MOONS AGO ON
THE PLANET SUCC-KA...



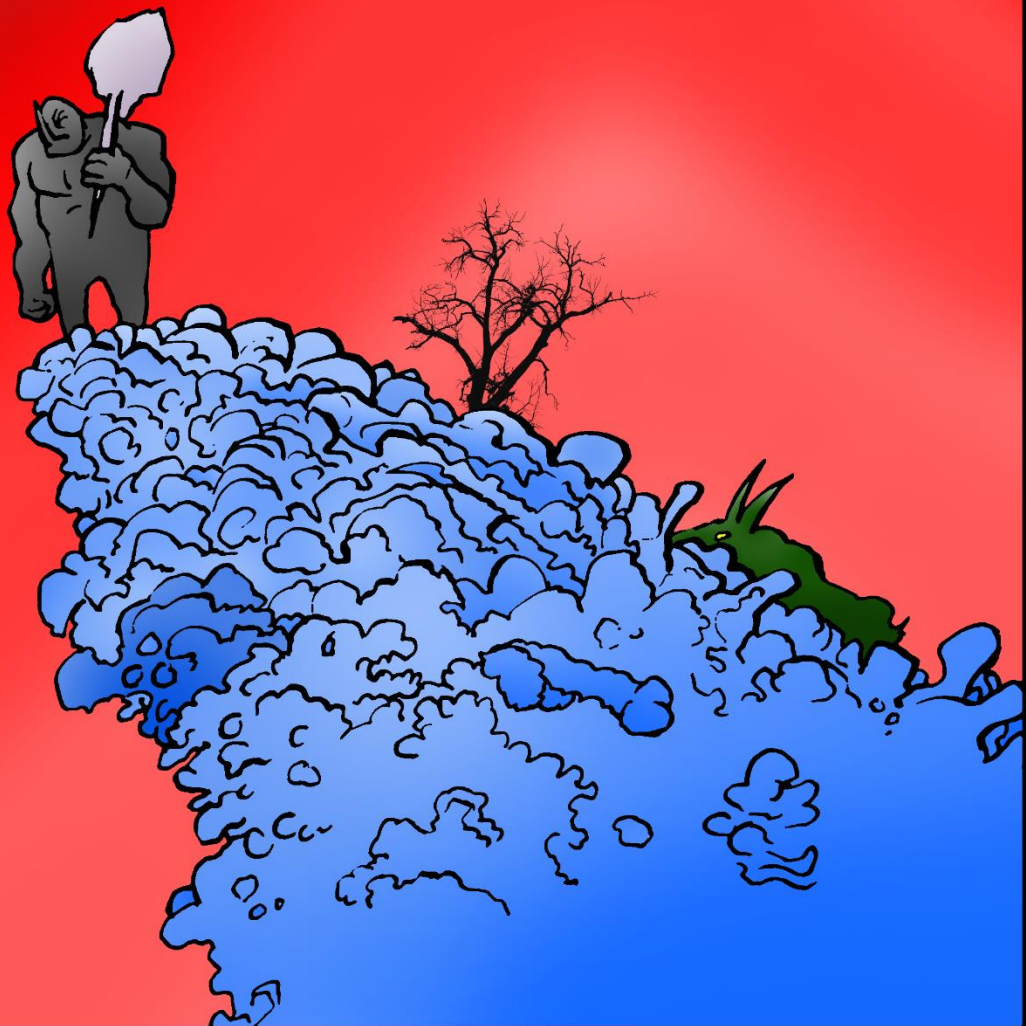


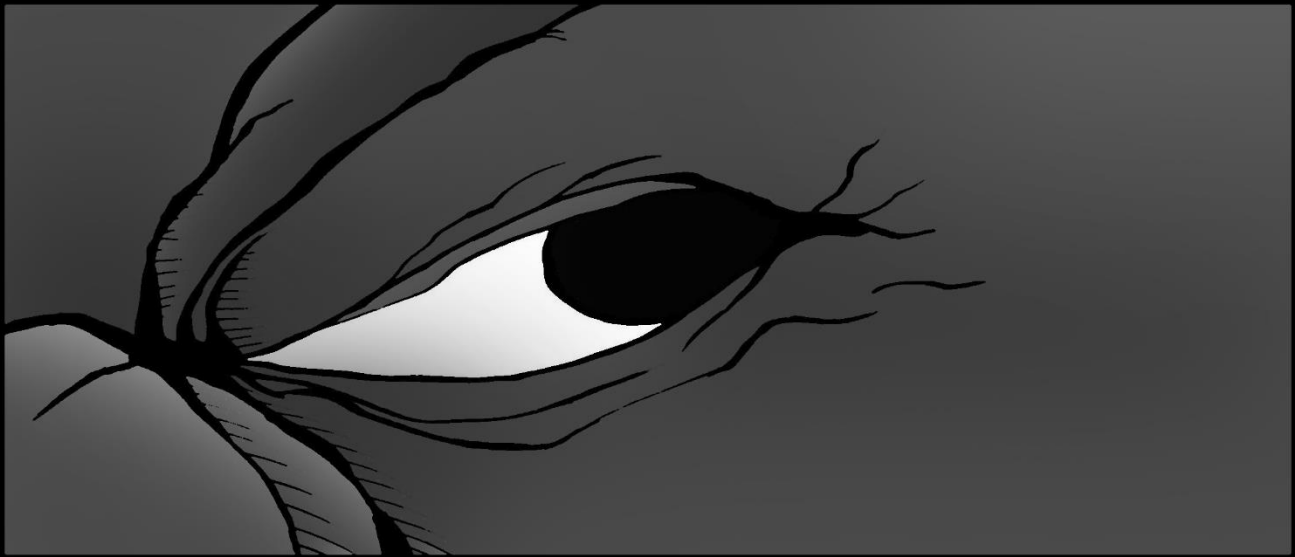


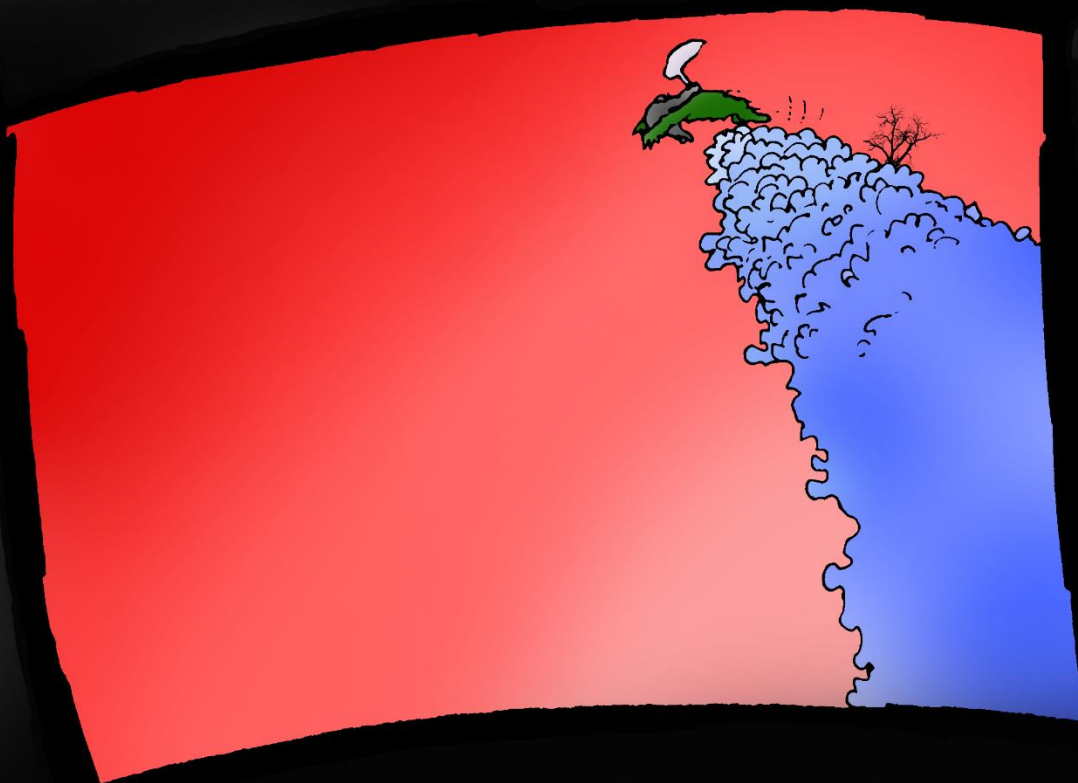
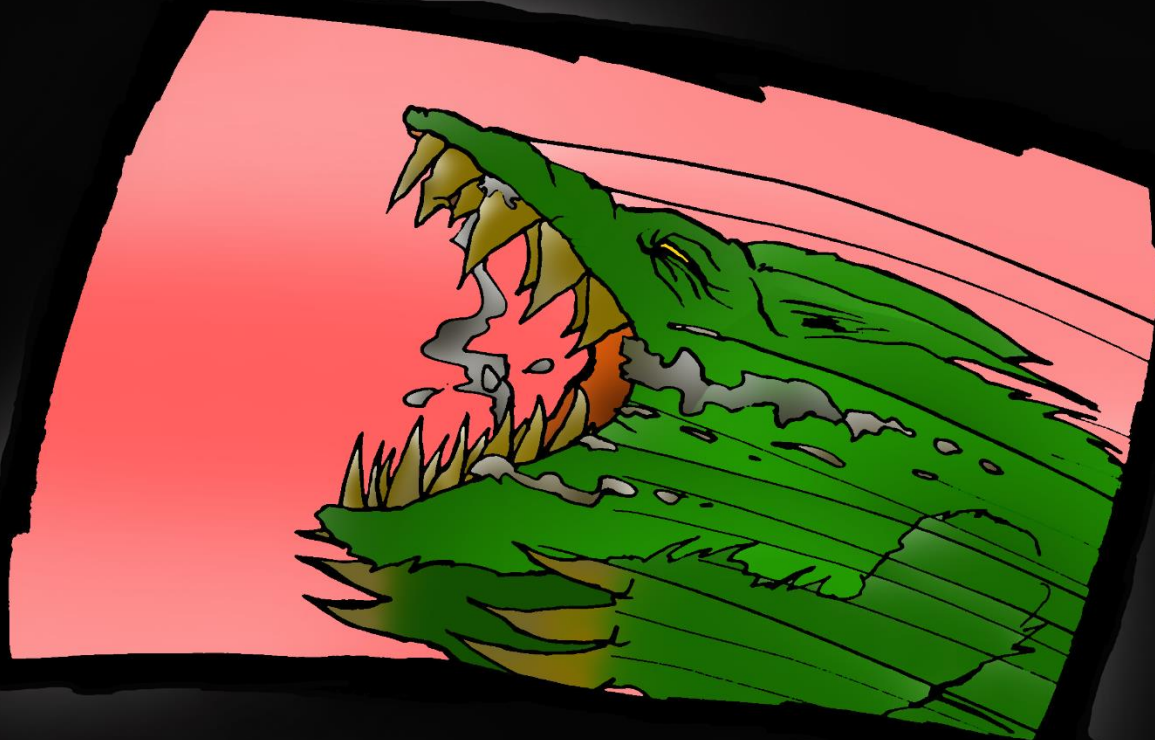




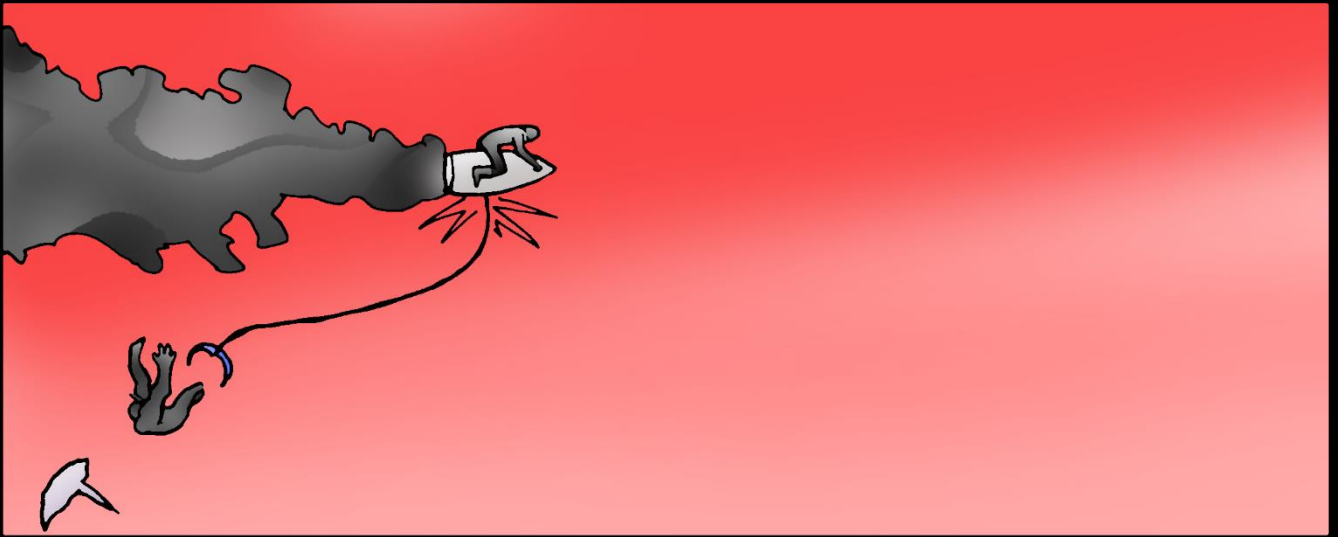
ELSEWHERE...

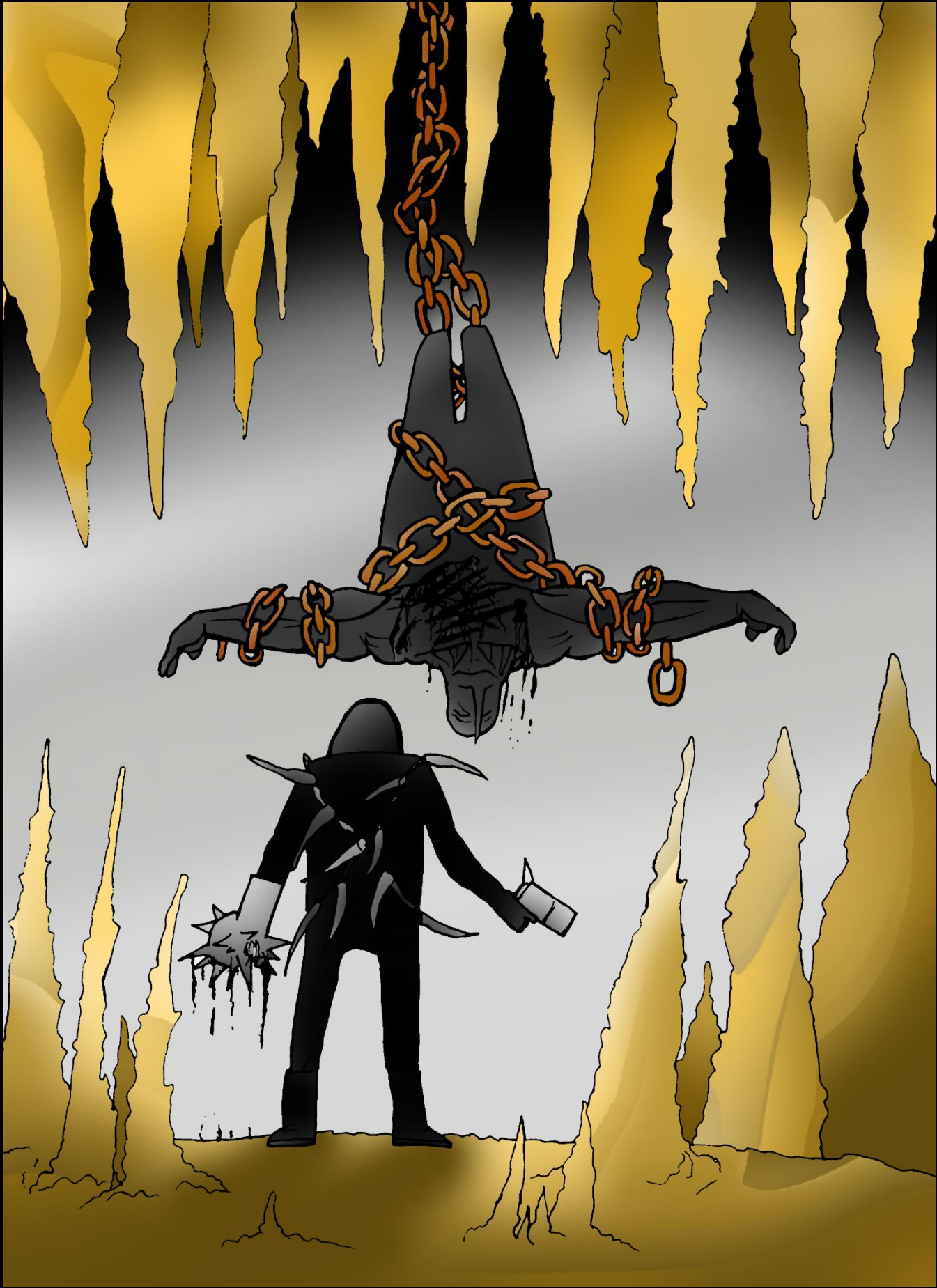


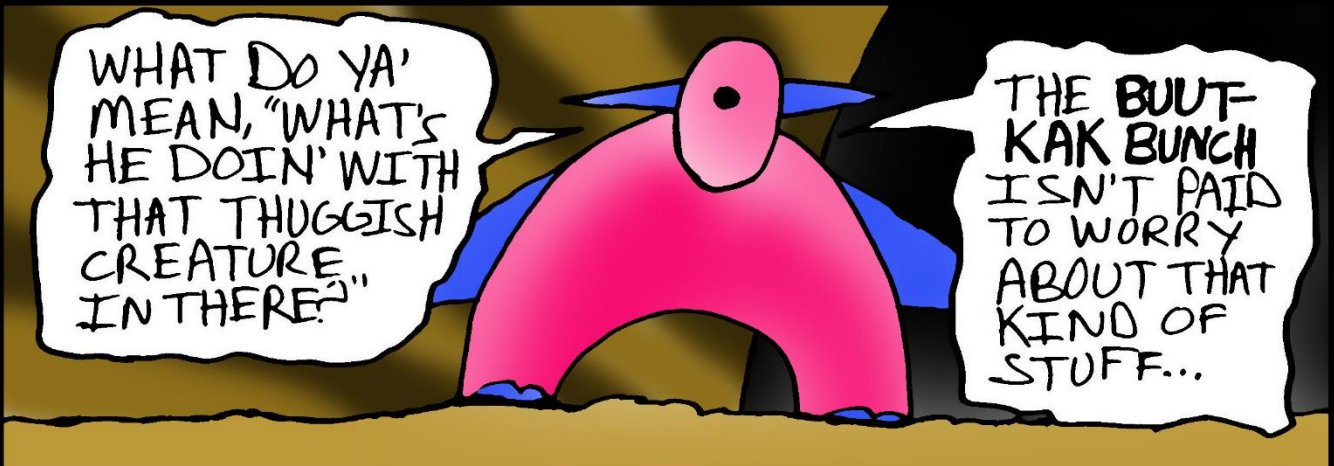
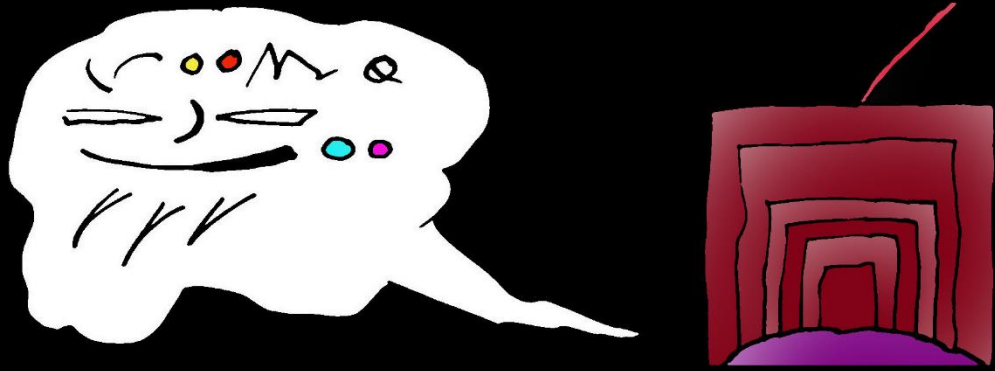
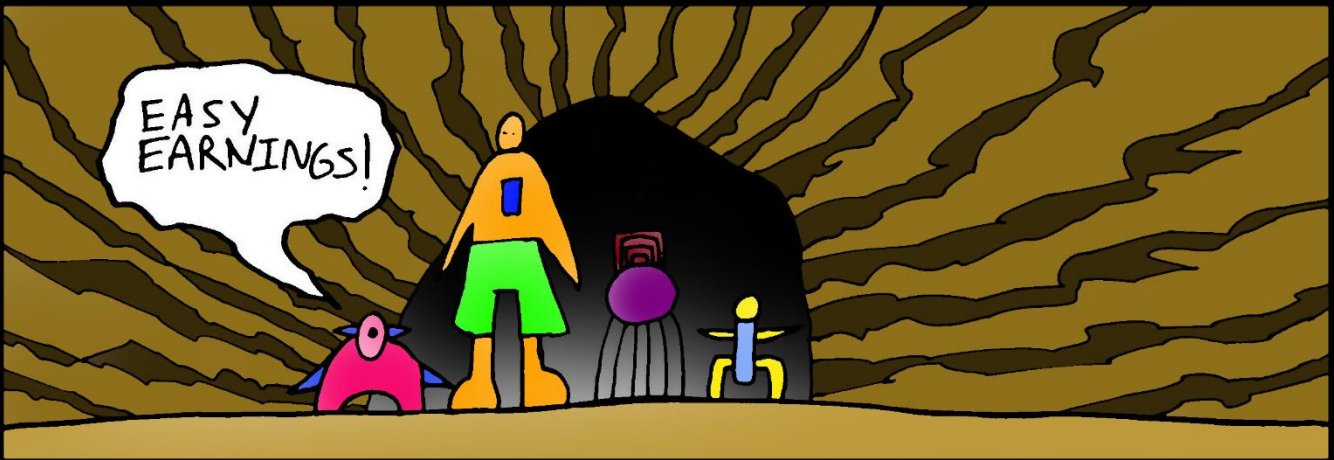


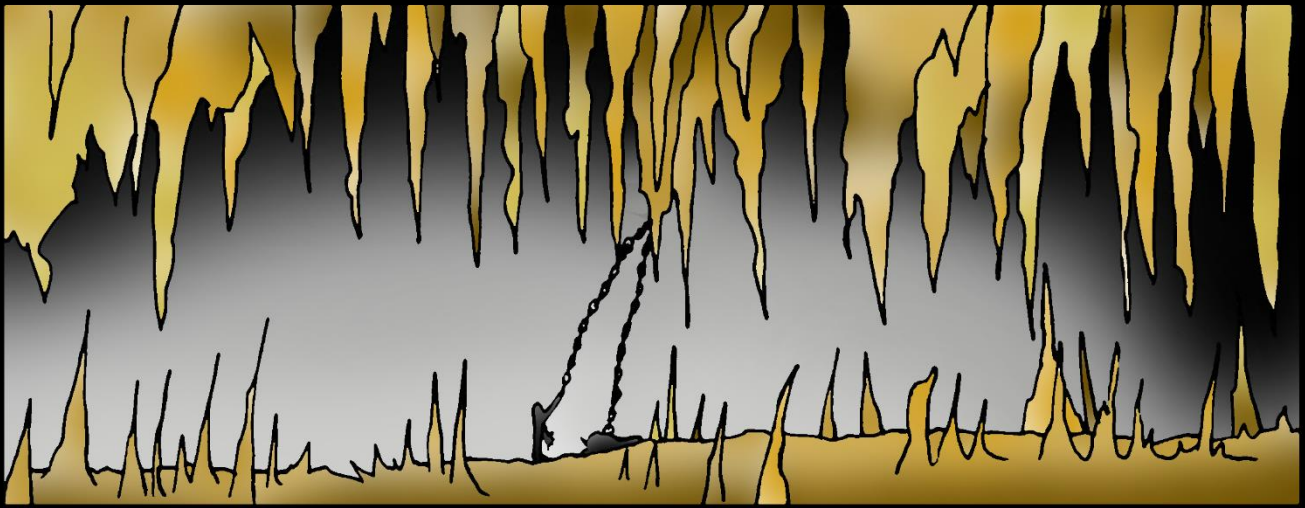


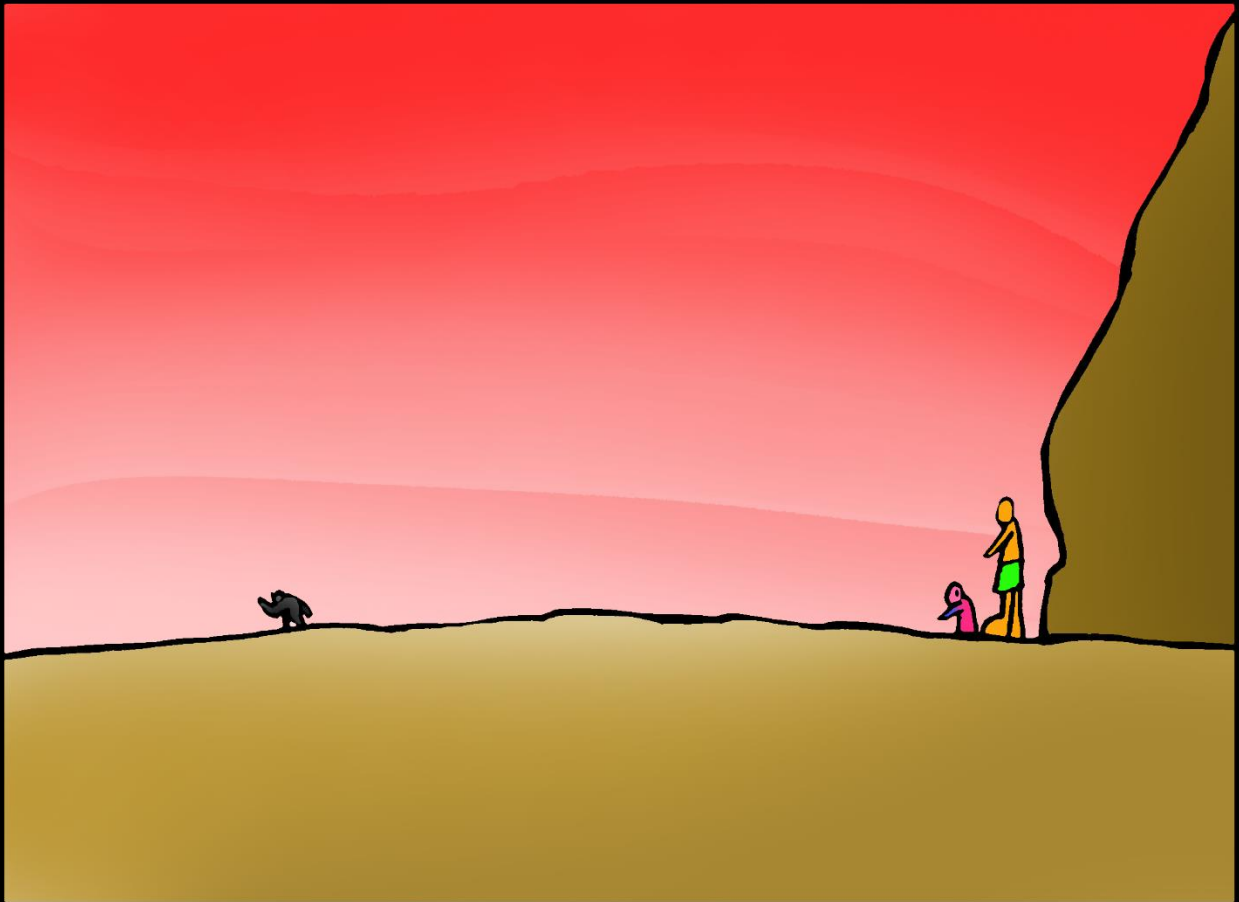
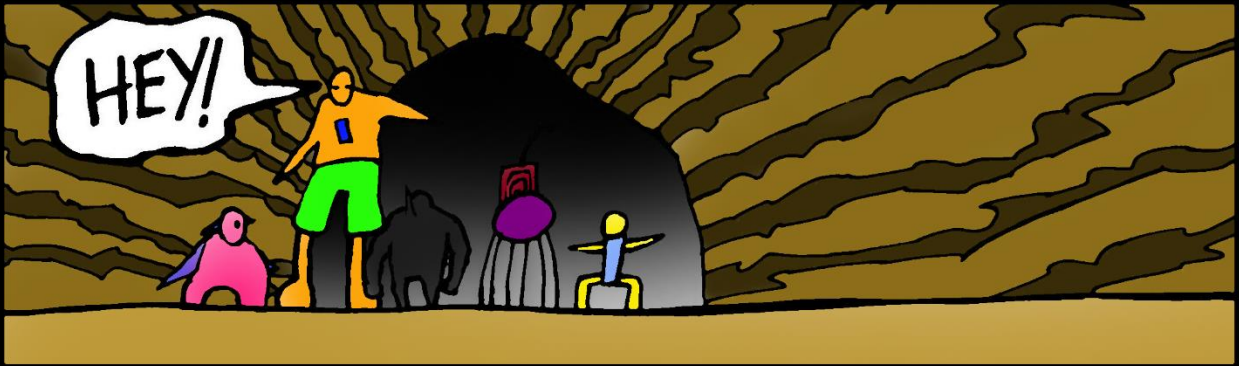










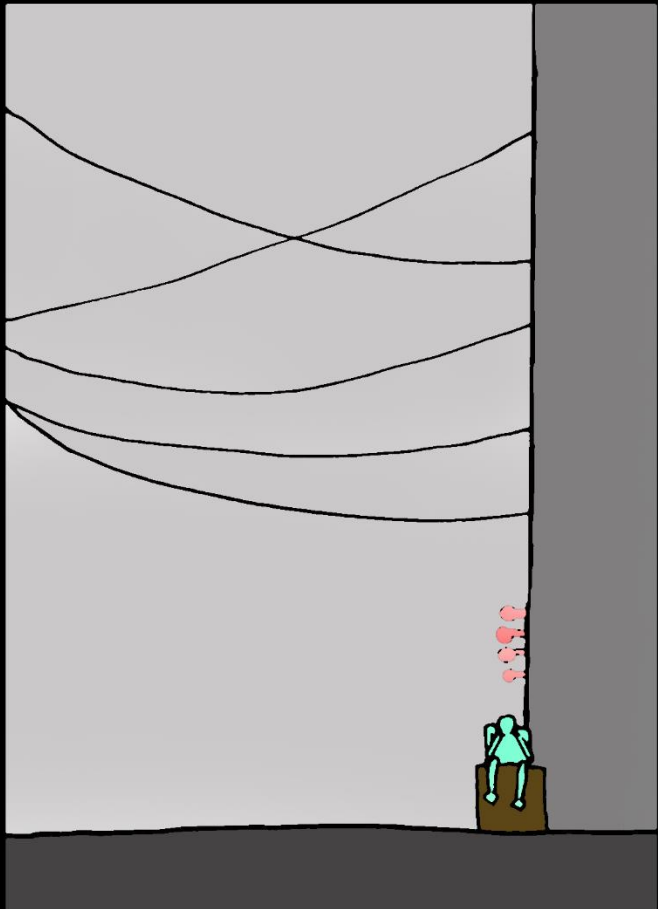
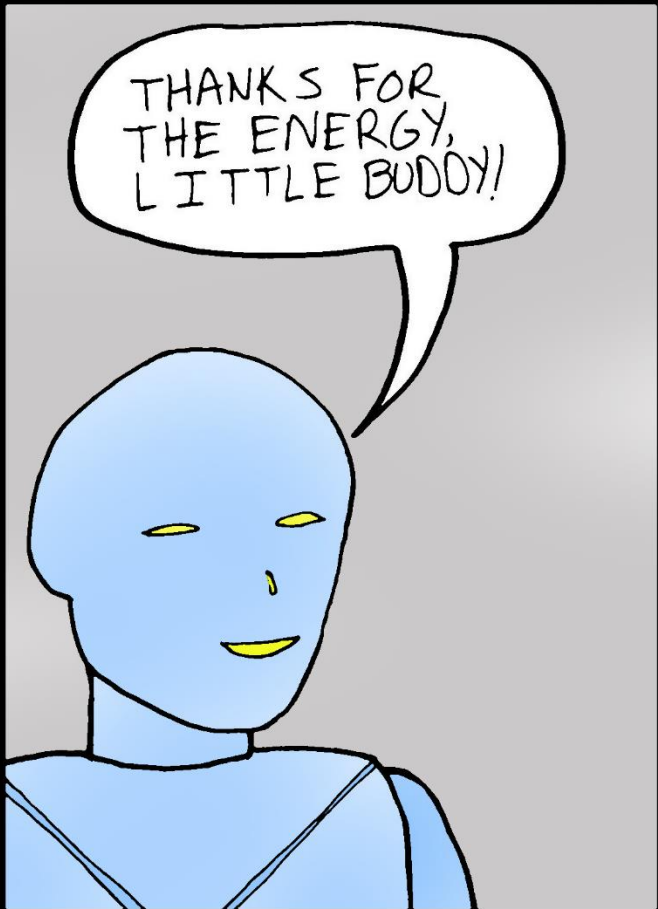
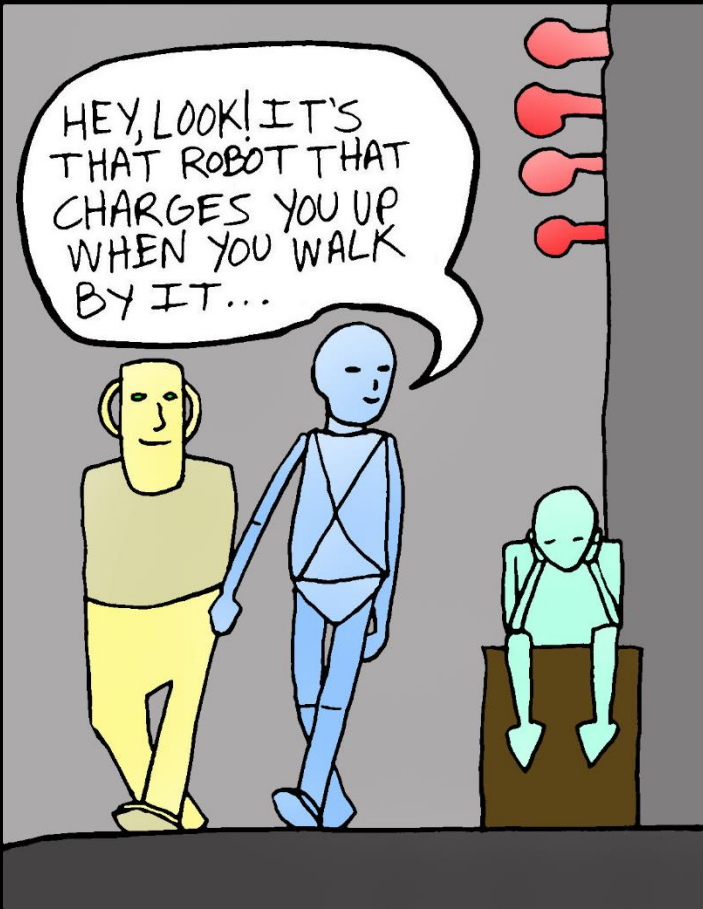


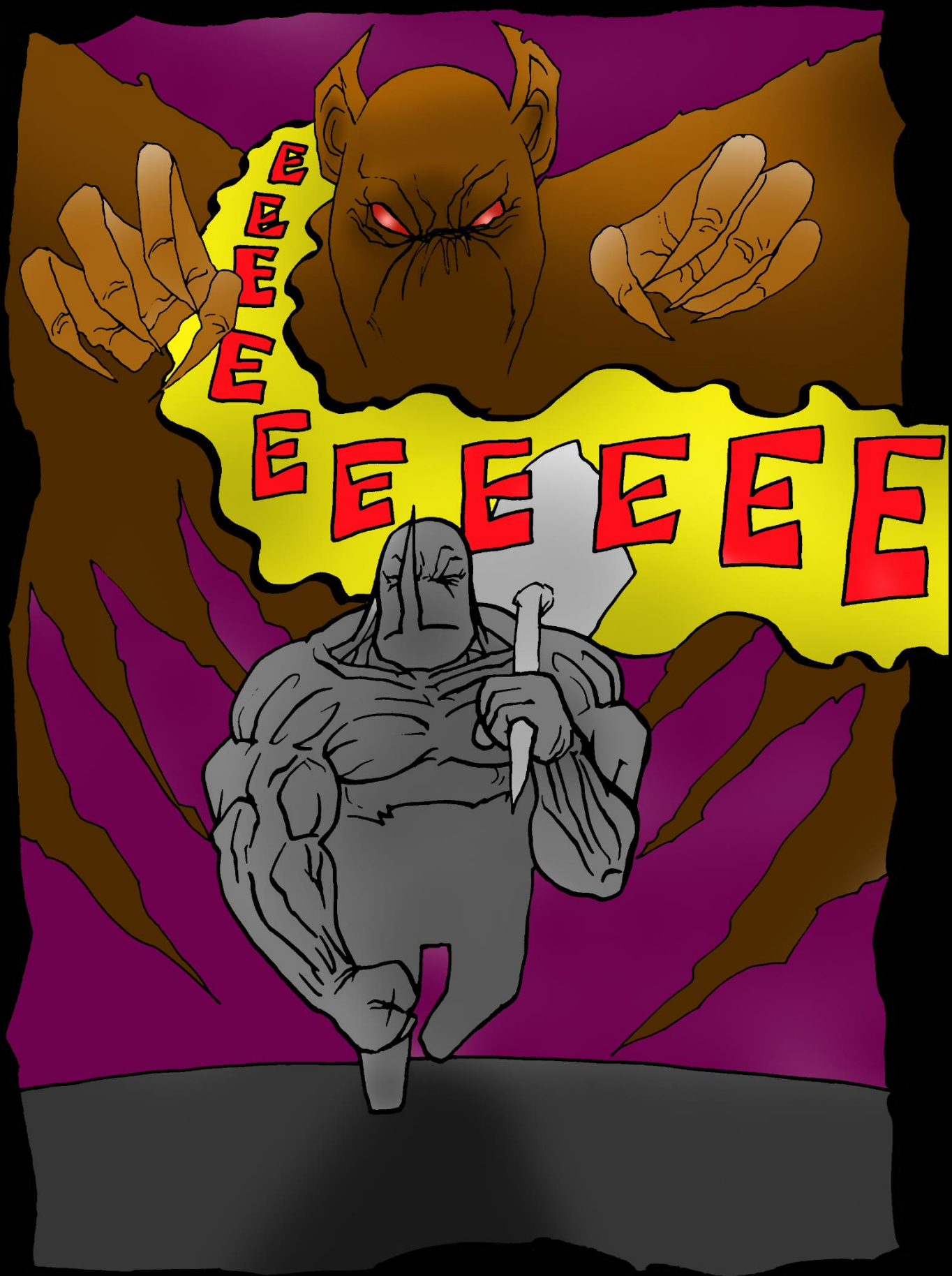
THE BIG



IN THIS ISSUE WE
SPOTLIGHT THE
VILLAINY OF THIS
MYSTERIOUS FIGURE!

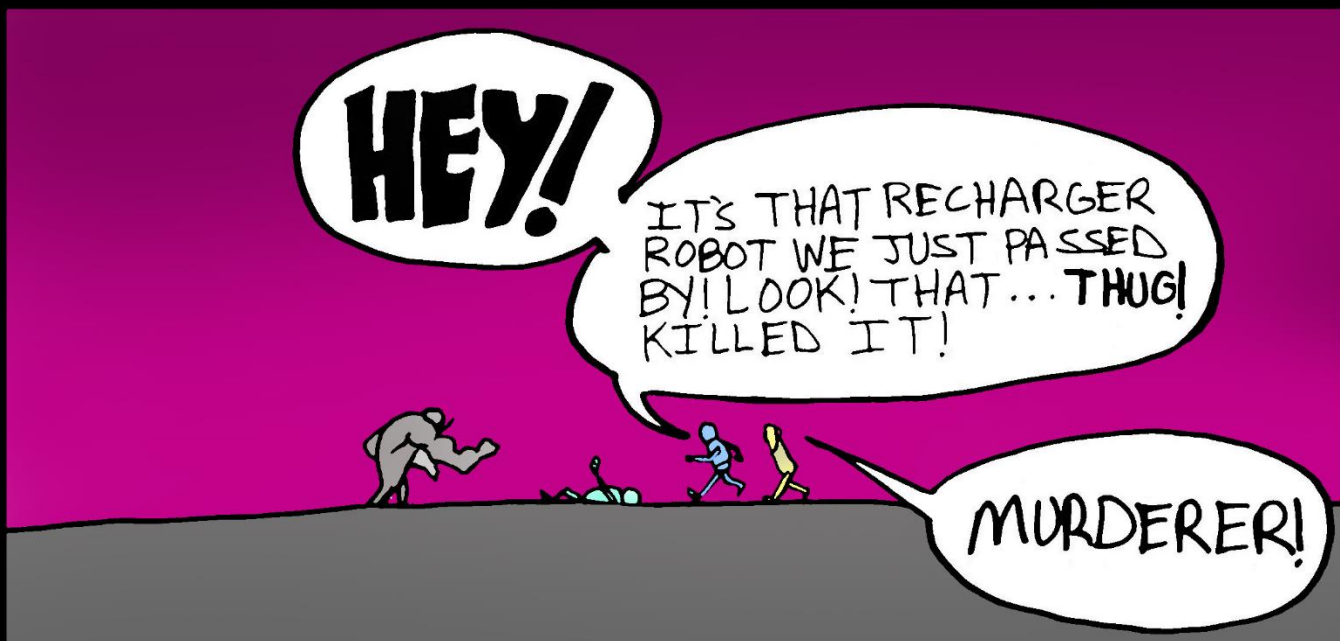






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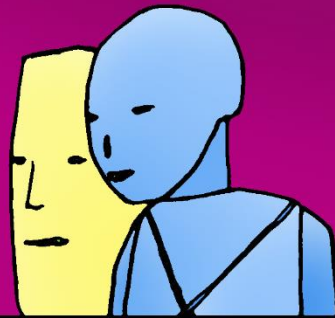
HOLD YOUR ACCUSATIONS, CITIZENS...

I AM NAMTAB!
FROM MAHTOG!
I HAVE BEEN
HIRED TO HUNT
THIS KILLER.

I KNOW YOUR
KIND. YOU
WOULD NOT
KILL WANTONLY.



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHARGER ROBOT?




MY INVESTIGATION WILL CONTINUE...

...IN THE MEANTIME...



... I COULD USE AN ASSISTANT...





YOU'LL SERVE
AS MY NEW
ASSISTANT...

THIS IS MY PREVIOUS
ASSISTANT'S HEADWEAR.
WEAR IT SO THAT I
CAN IDENTIFY YOU
IN CASE THERE
ARE OTHER
SOLDIERS OF
YOUR ILK
WANDERING
AROUND...



"ILK?"

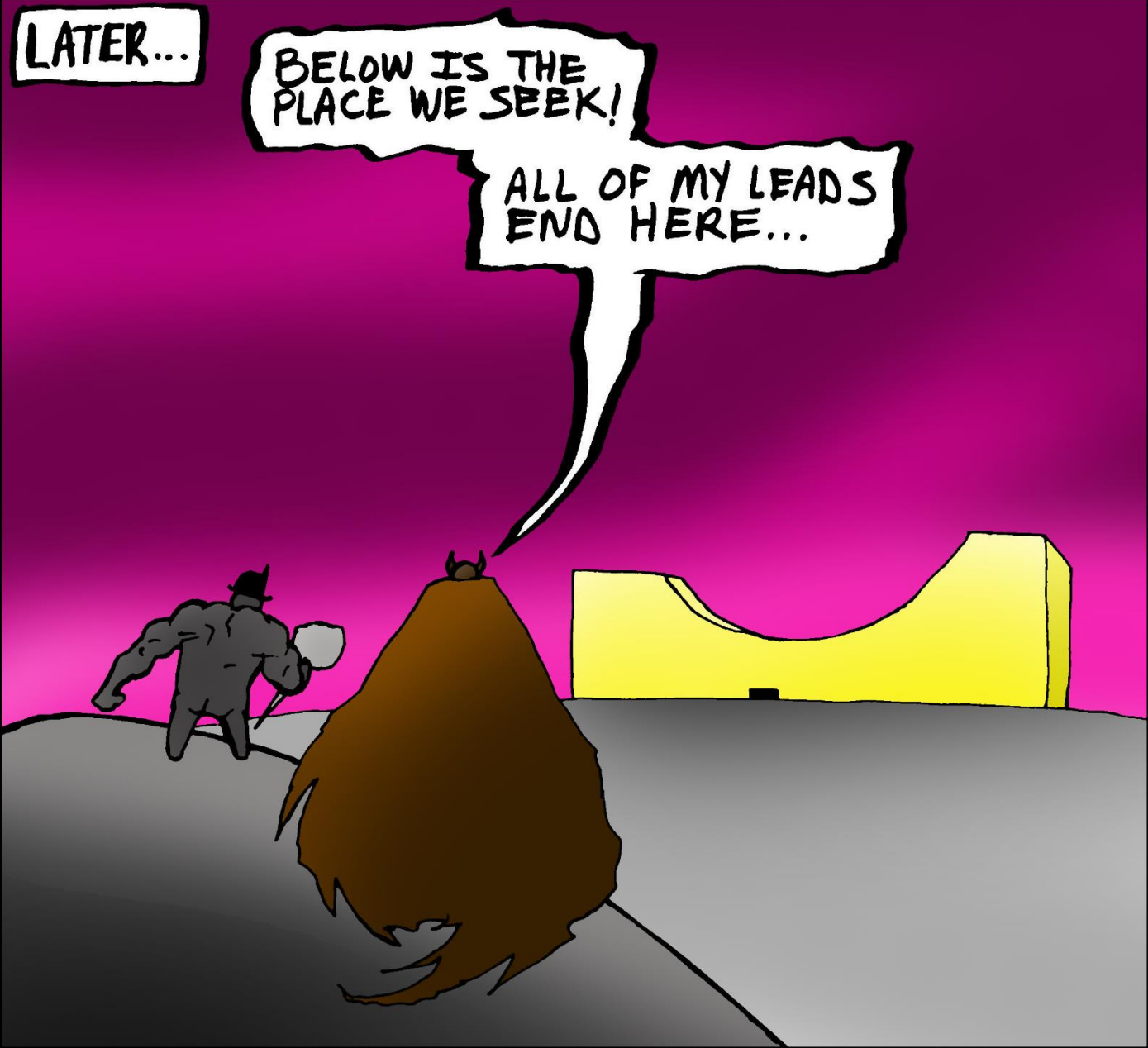
HE IS FROM A
CLONED RACE
OF SOLDIERS.

ENOUGH CHATTER!
LET'S GO!

LATER...

BELOW IS THE
PLACE WE SEEK!

ALL OF MY LEADS
END HERE...



YES?

WE NEED TO SPEAK TO...

...MIT LOOP!
FADCASTER!

HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST WALK IN WHEN LOOPCASTE IS HAVING POKER NIGHT WIT' DA BOIZ!

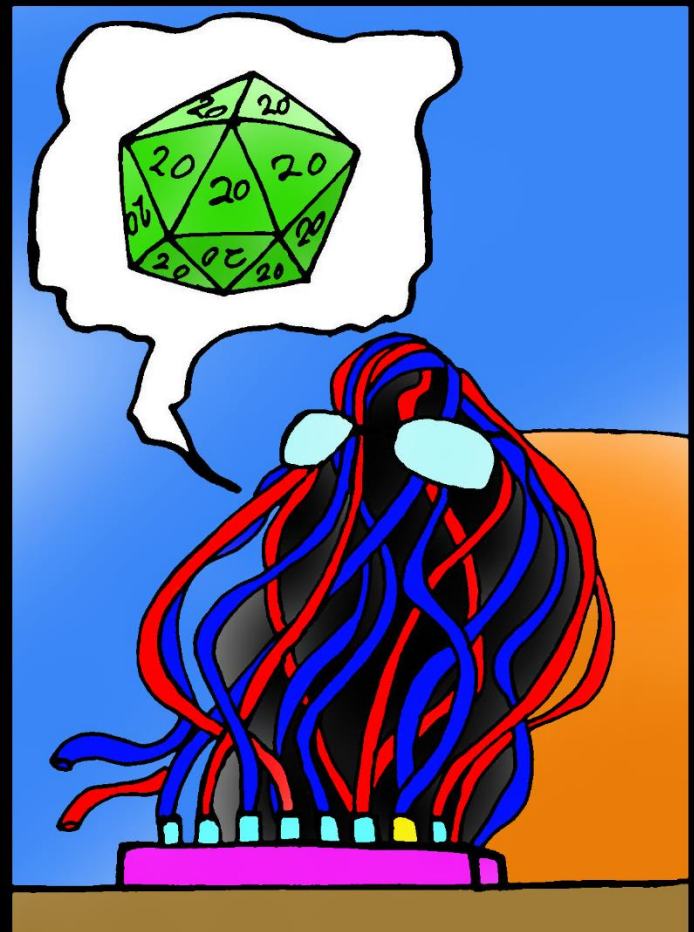
THIS DIALOGUE IS SPONSORED BY SAPPHIRE

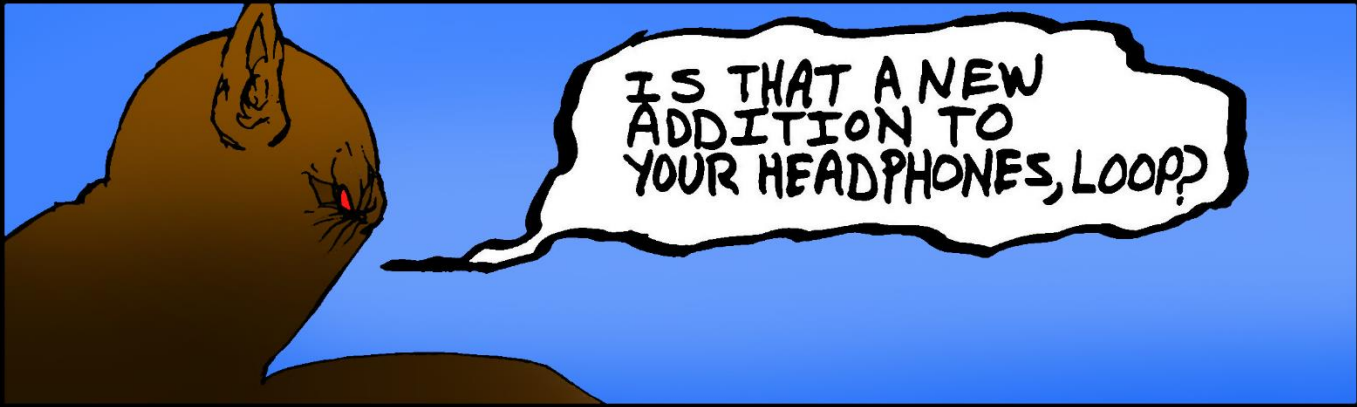
CROSSWIRED!

A WRITER FOR LOOPCASTE!

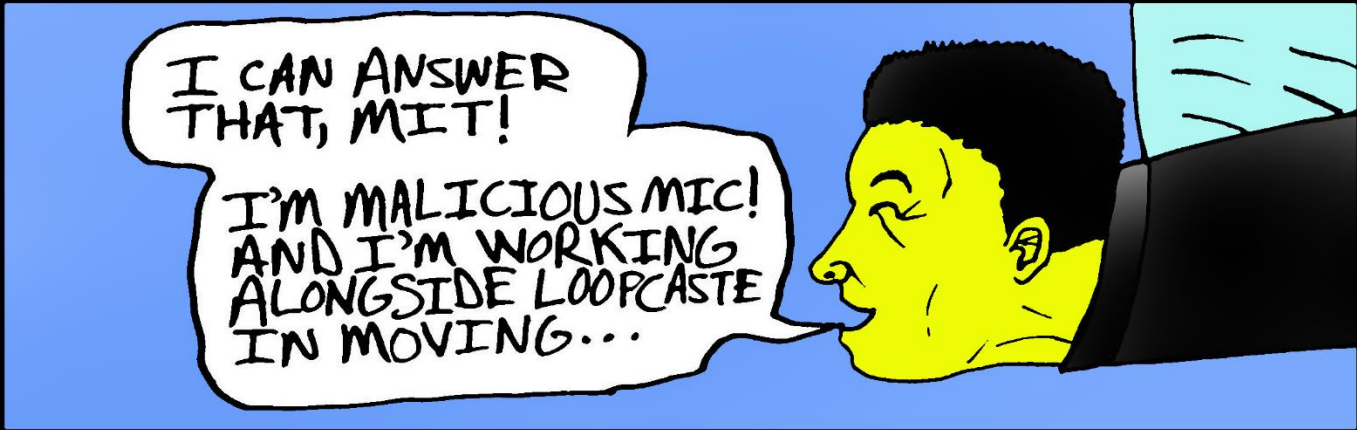
REMNANT OF THE REMAINS!





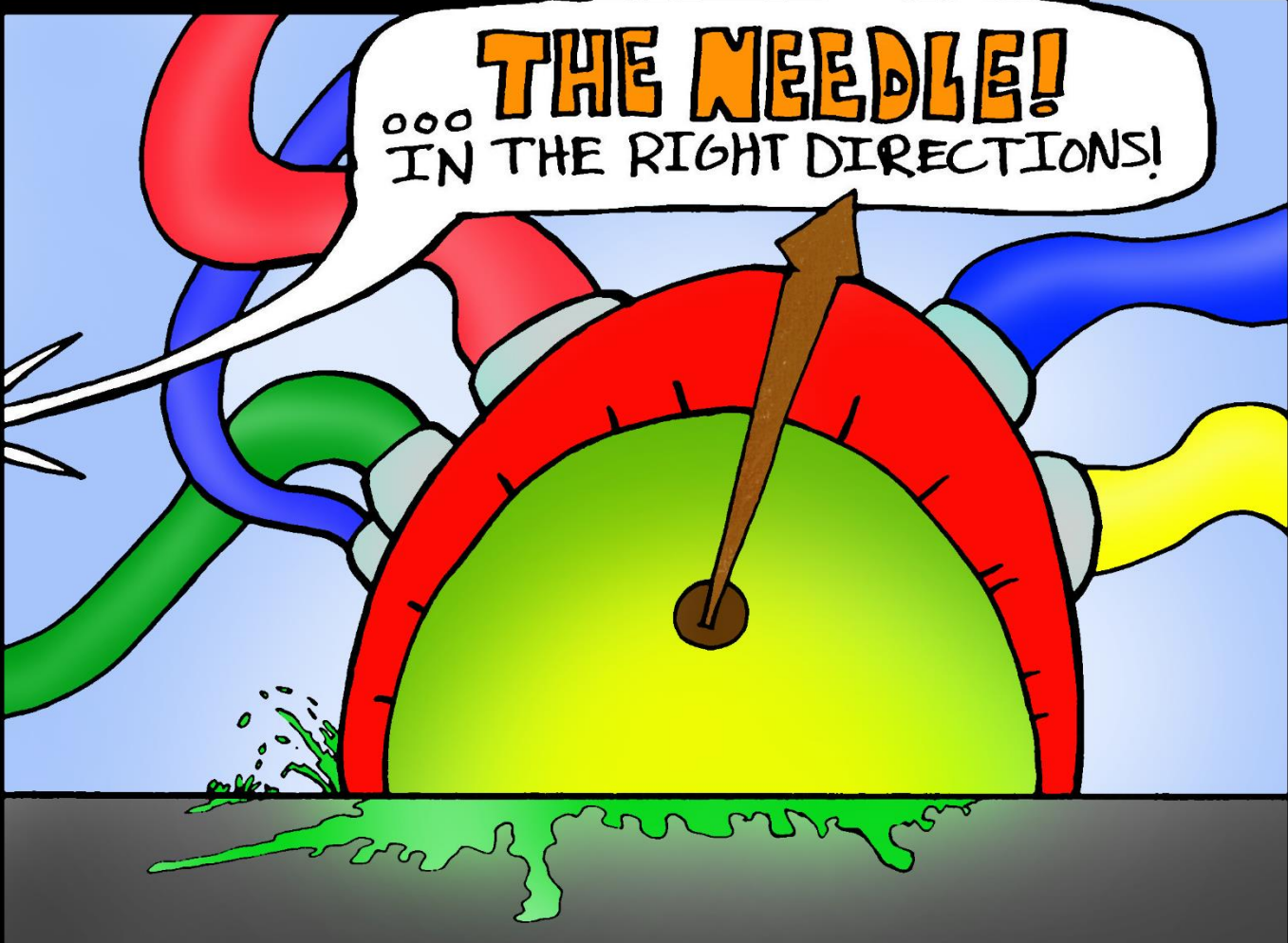


IS THAT A NEW
ADDITION TO
YOUR HEADPHONES, LOOP?



I CAN ANSWER
THAT, MIT!

I'M MALICIOUS MIC!
AND I'M WORKING
ALONGSIDE LOOPCASTE
IN MOVING...



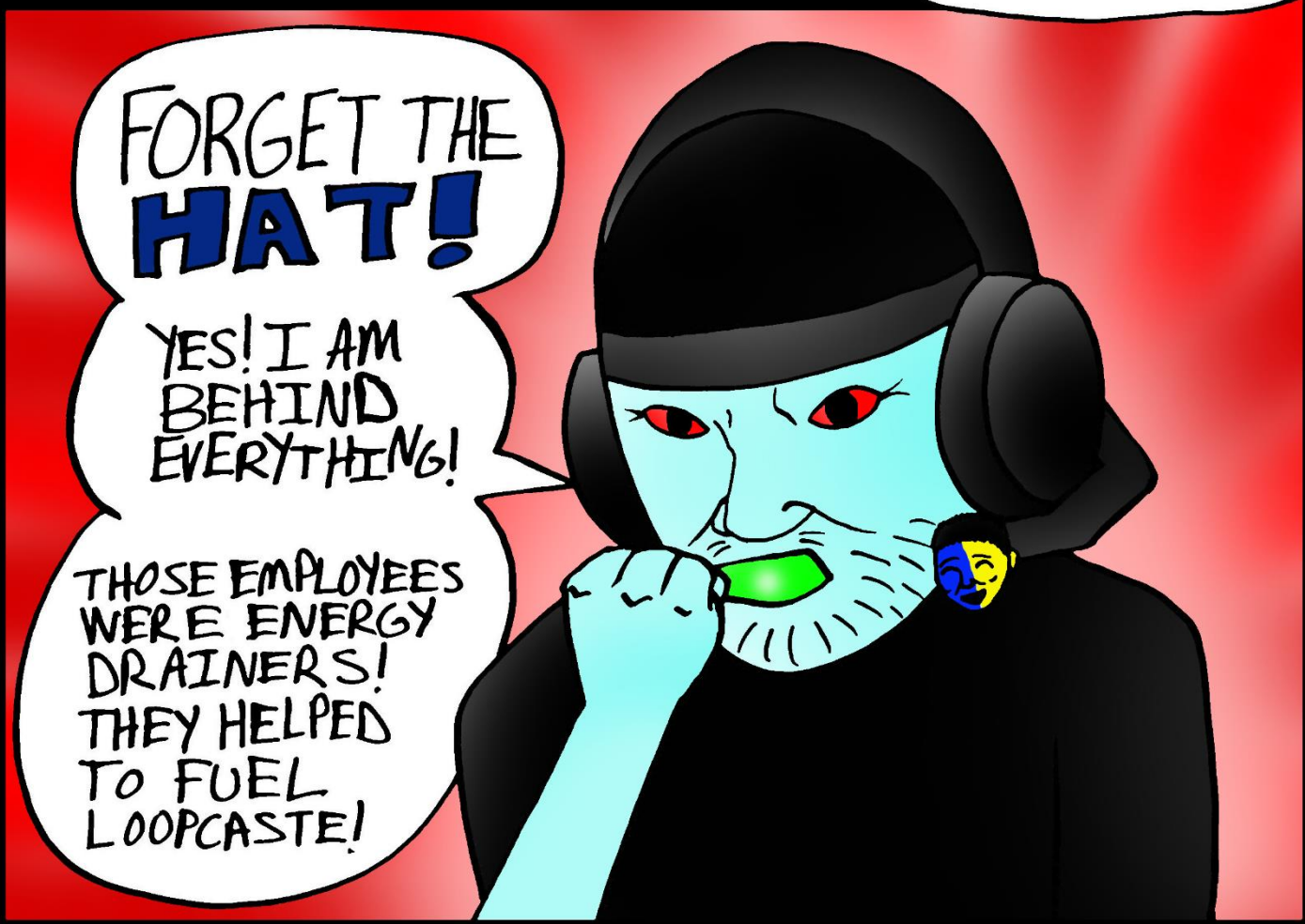
THE NEEDLE!
ooo
IN THE RIGHT DIRECTIONS!



MALICIOUS MIC HAS HELPED OUT LOOPCASTE SO MUCH...

YOU'RE WELCOME!

... THAT IS A FINE HAT YOU HAVE ON! I BET YOU'RE SOPHISTICATED!



FORGET THE **HAT!**

YES! I AM BEHIND EVERYTHING!

THOSE EMPLOYEES WERE ENERGY DRAINERS! THEY HELPED TO FUEL LOOPCASTE!

AND I WILL CONTINUE TO CONTROL THE MAJORITY OF ENERGY IN ROBOCITY!

ATTACK!

YIPEE!





MU
W
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

LOOP IS
ESCAPING!

BYE BYE
SUCKERS!

YOU'RE ALL
EXPENDABLE
ASSETS
AFTER ALL!

HA!

NOT SO FAST,
LOOP!



OH! NO! THEY'RE FALLING TOWARD THE NEEDLE!

BUNGE

OF

CLASH!



LOOP...
... THE NEEDLE...
... ARE GONE!
NOW WHAT
DO WE DO?



WHAT WAS
THE NEEDLE
FOR ANYWAY?



DAMNED
IF I
KNOW...

THING

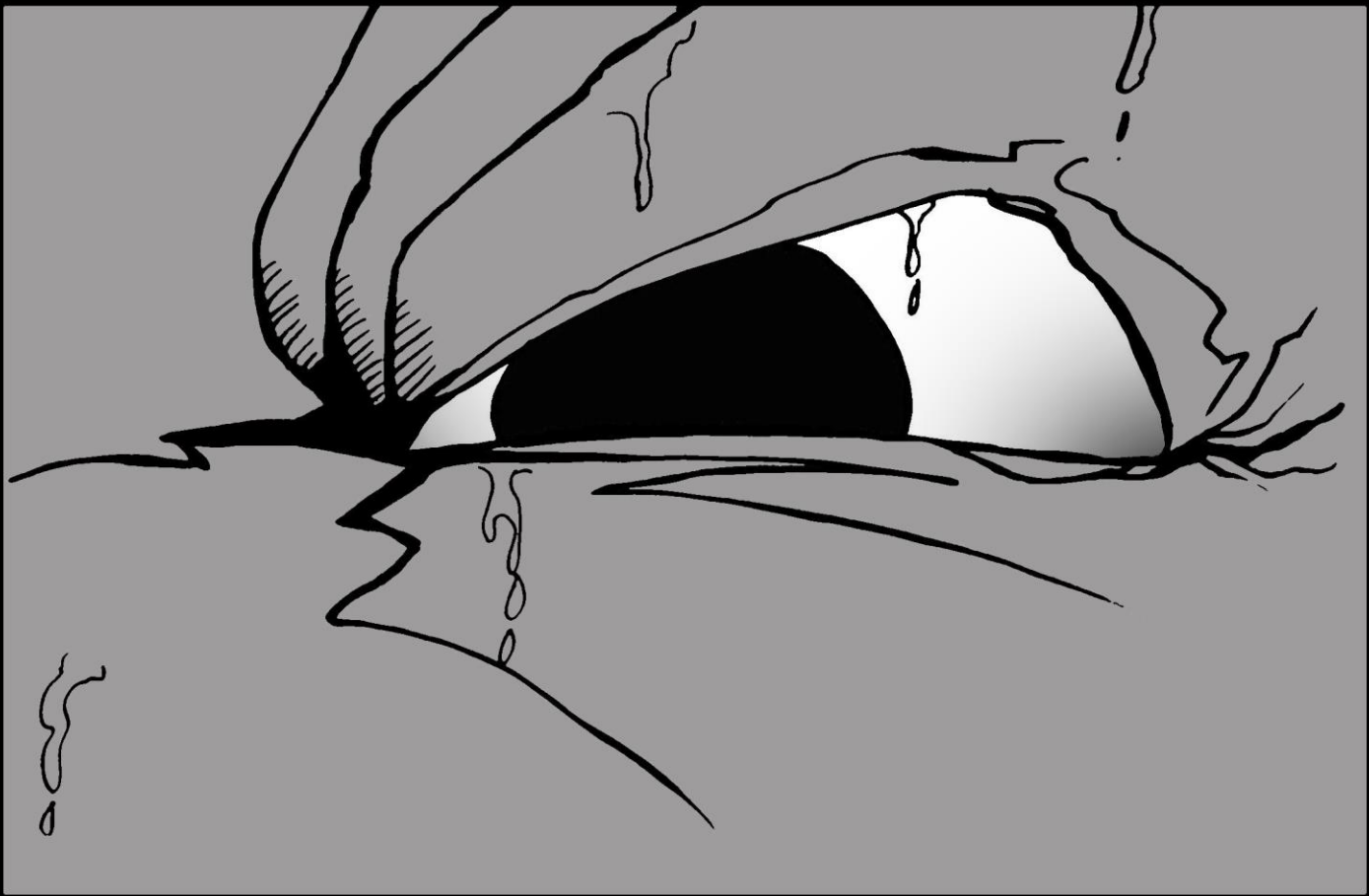
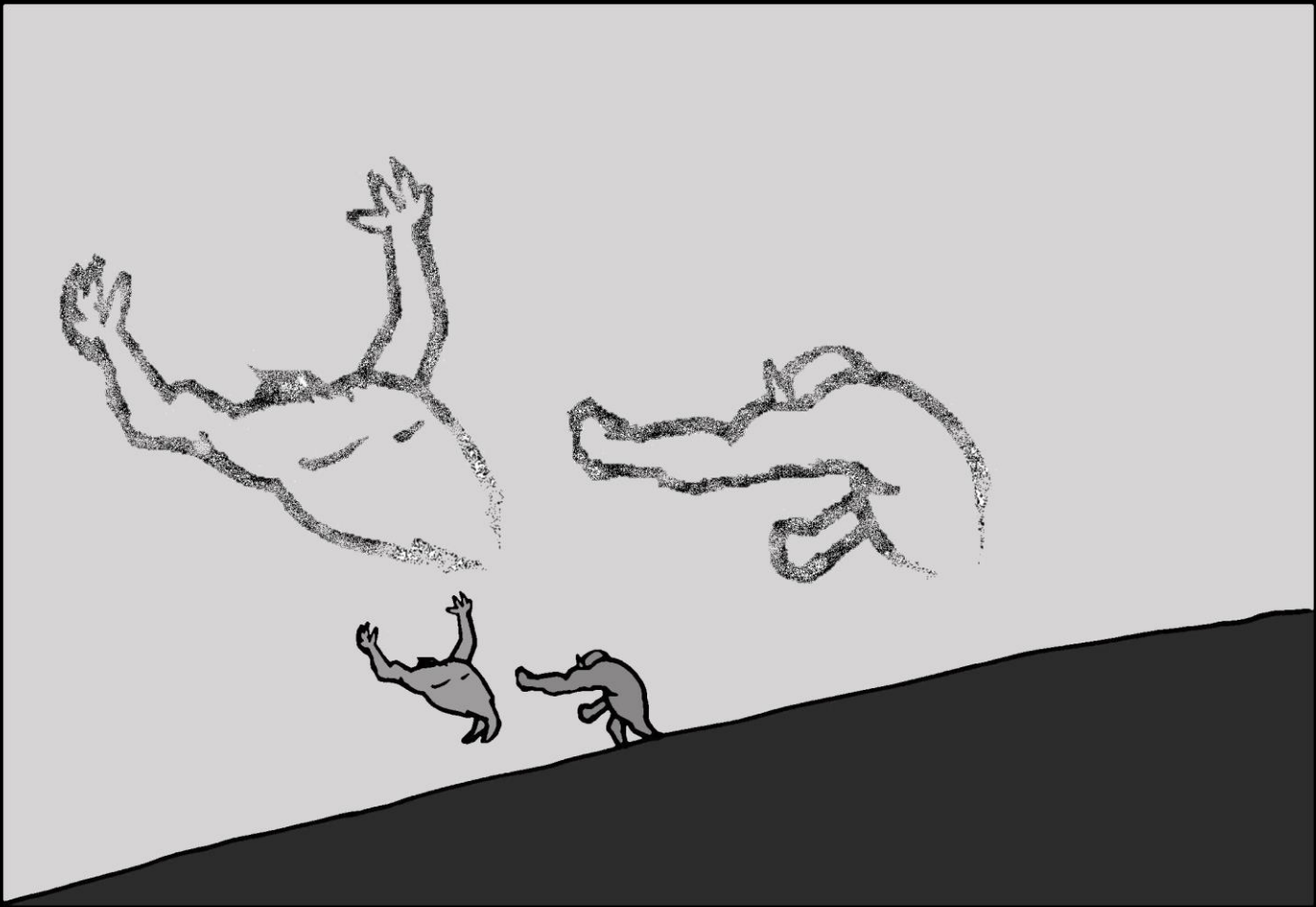


#9 Dec.



BATTLE TO THE DEATH!





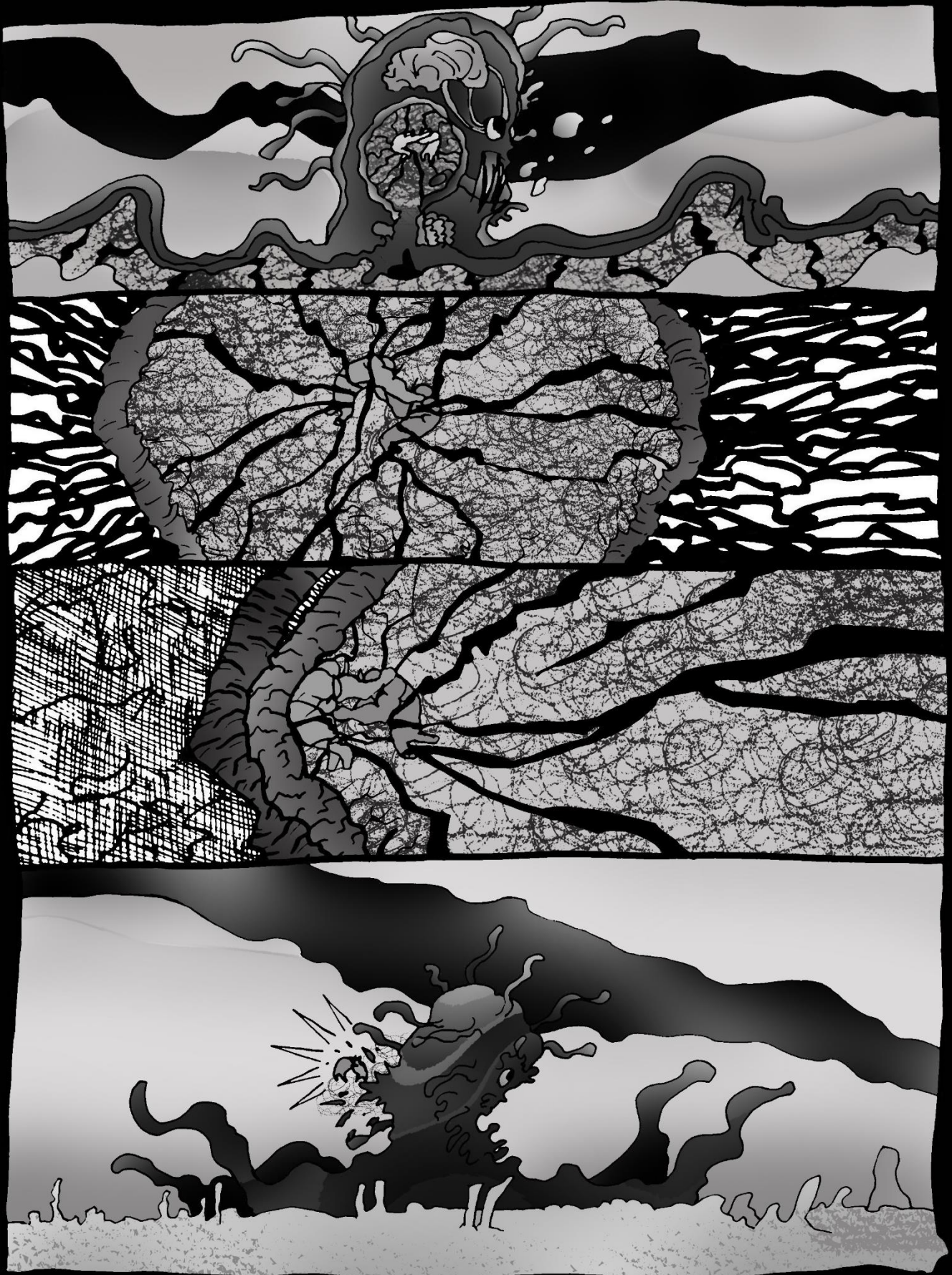










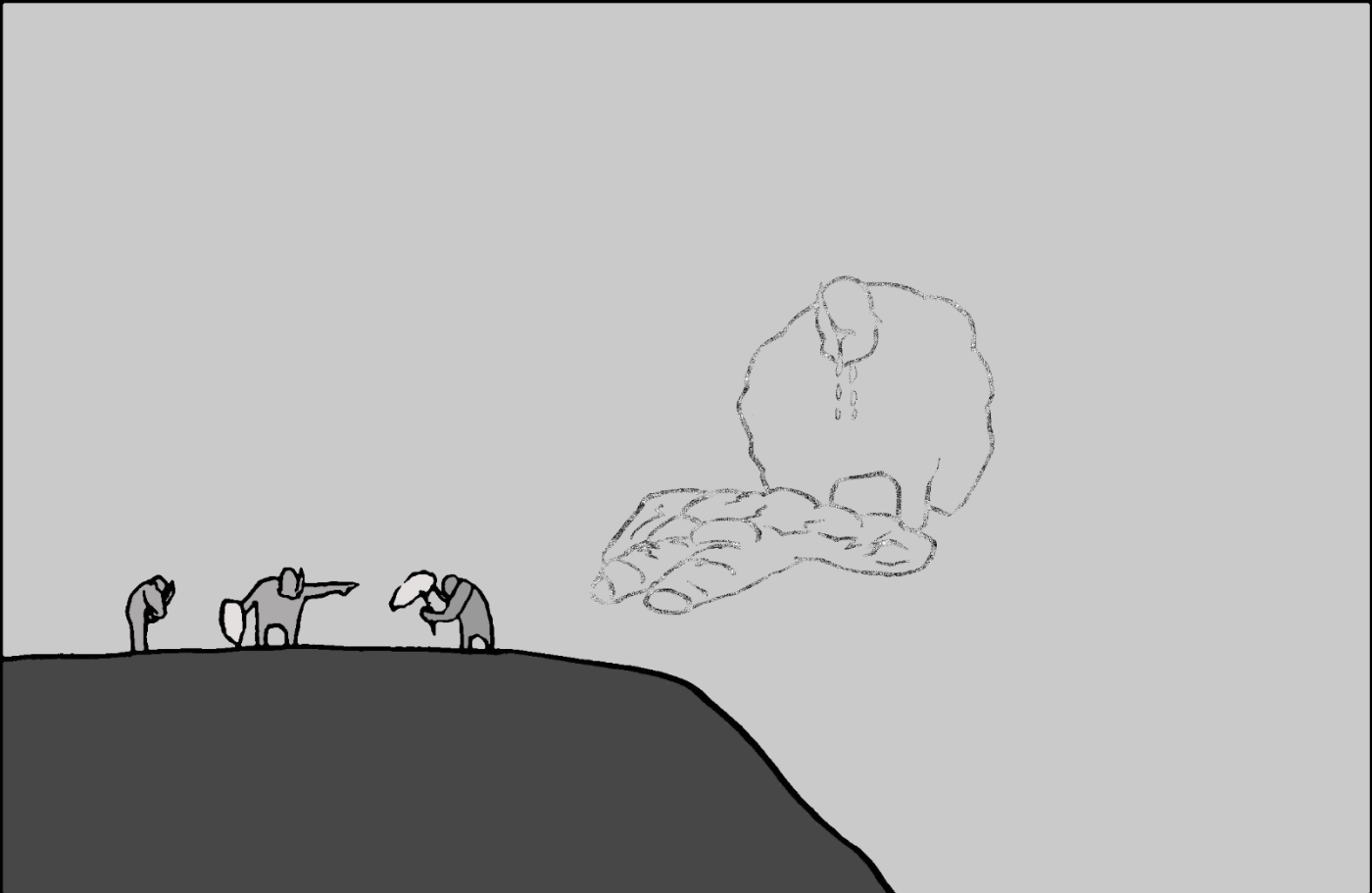


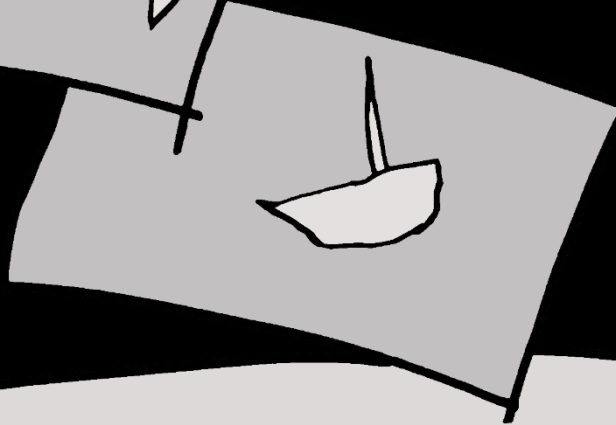


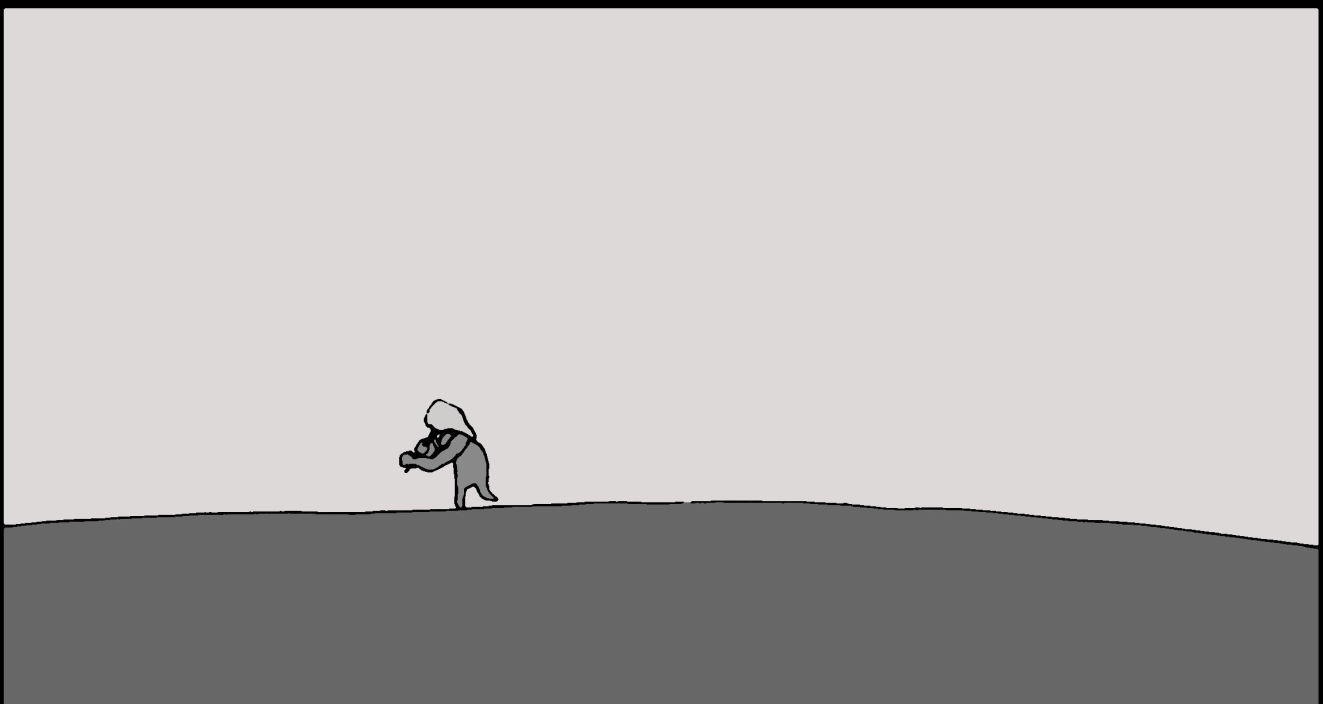
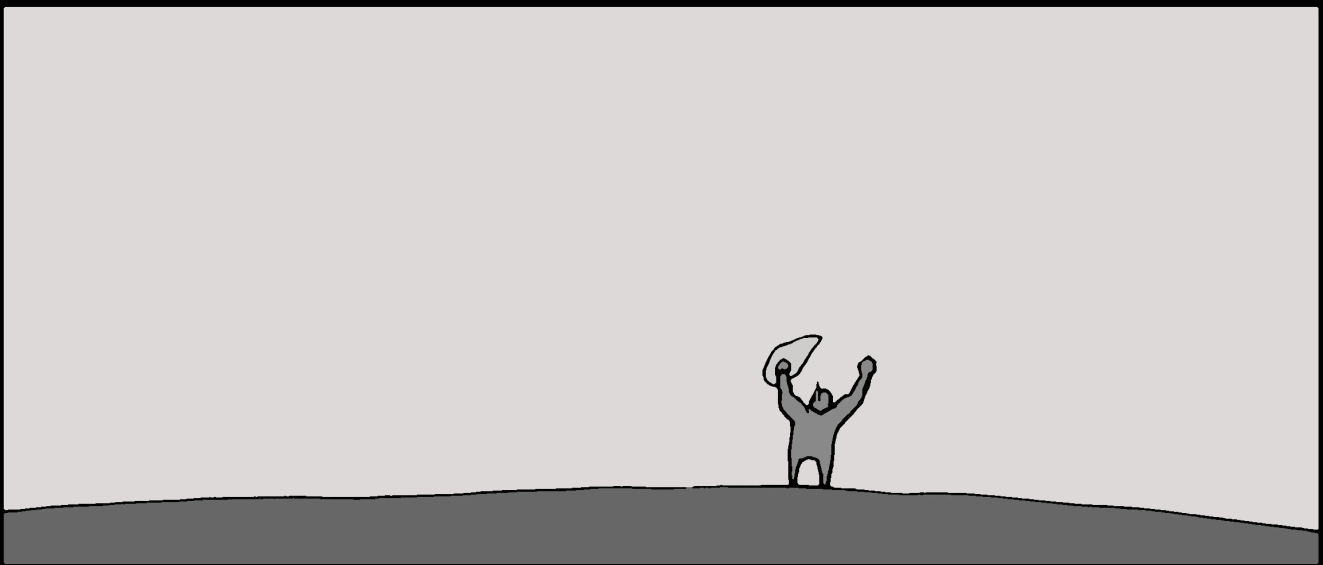
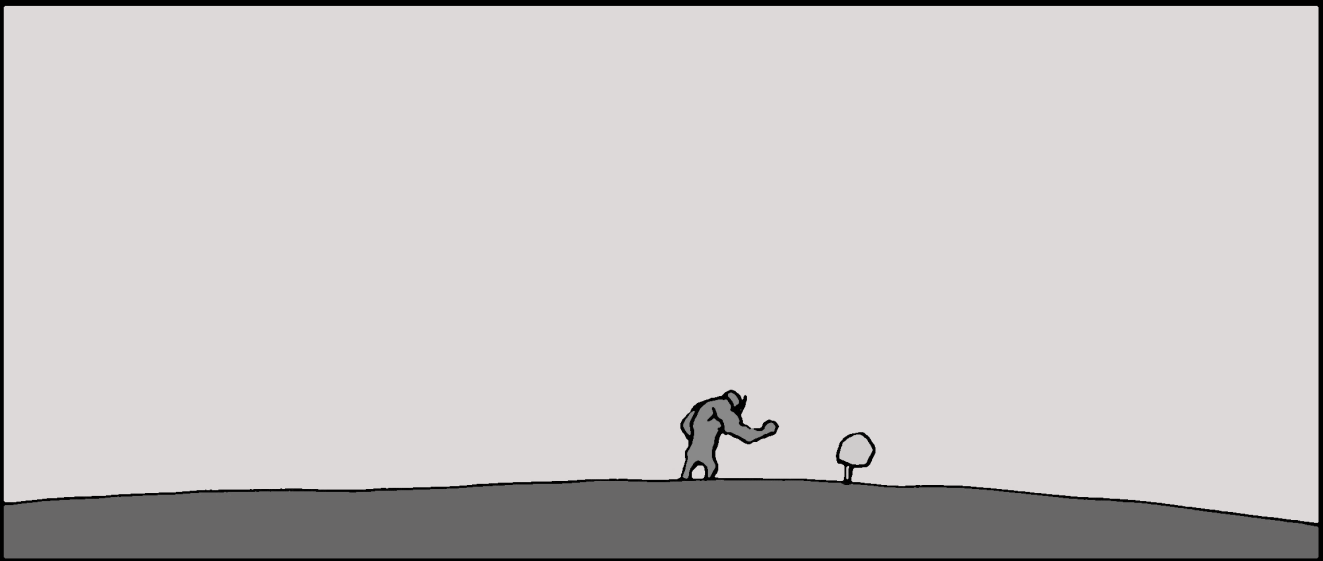
ELSEWHERE...

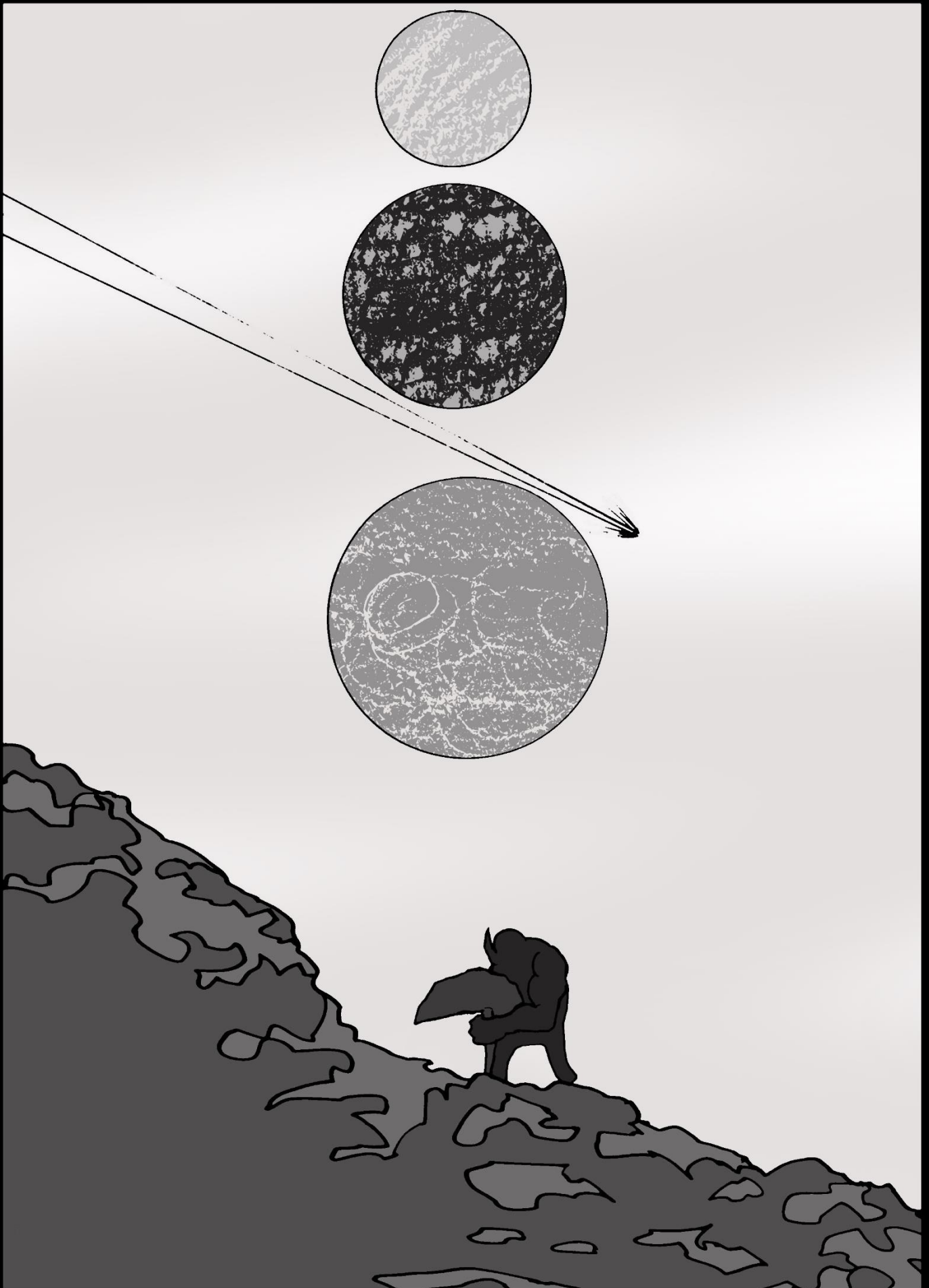




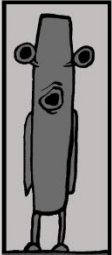
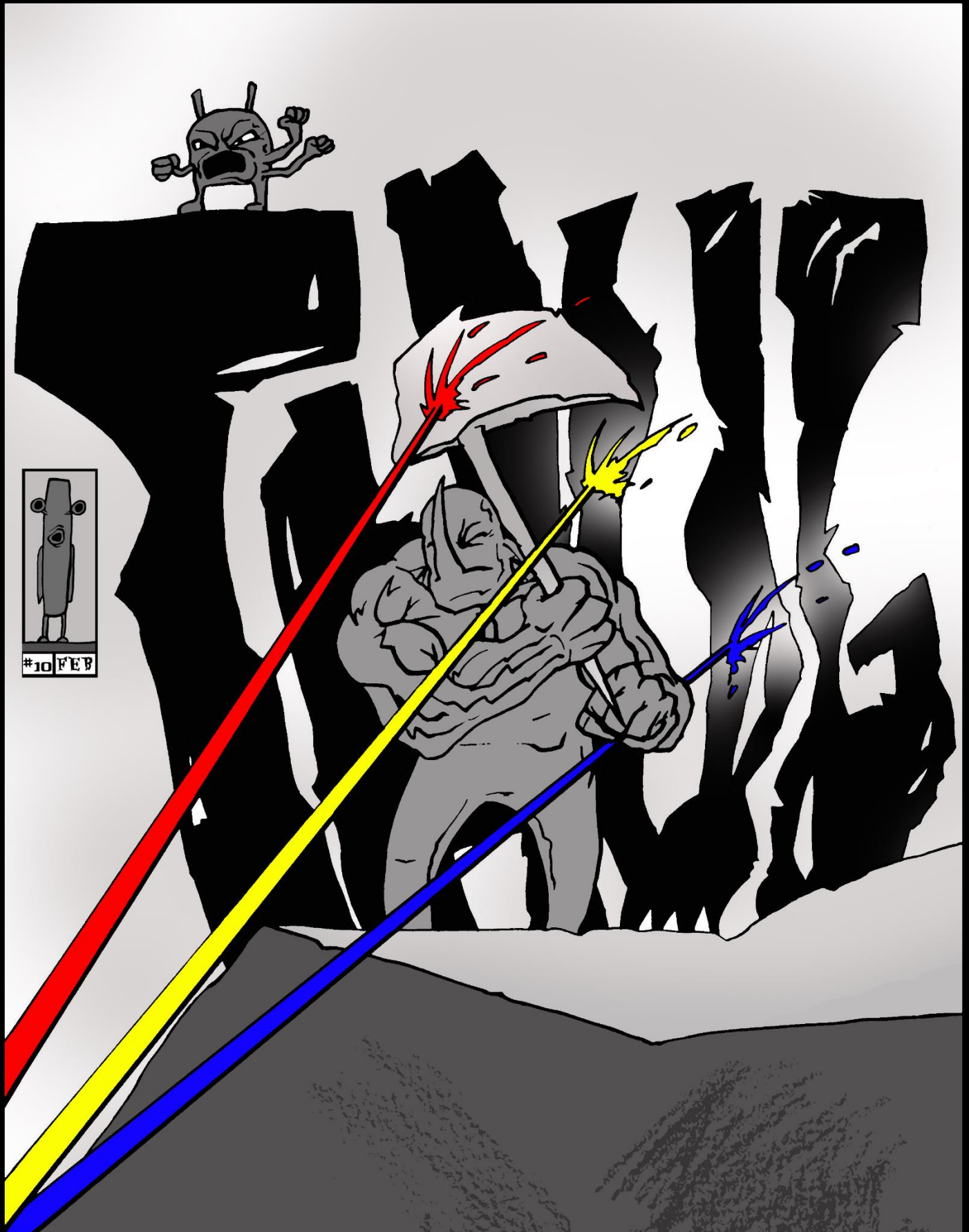












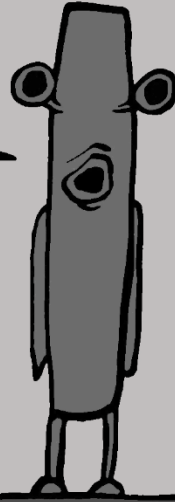
#10 FEB

**LOOK,
YOU BIG
GALLOOT!**





FORGET 'IM,
MOOK! THAT
THUG! DON'T
WANT HIS
CUT...



AAAA!
COME ON,
POOKY!



YEAH!
FORGET
THIS GUY!



SSSKKKKK FFF

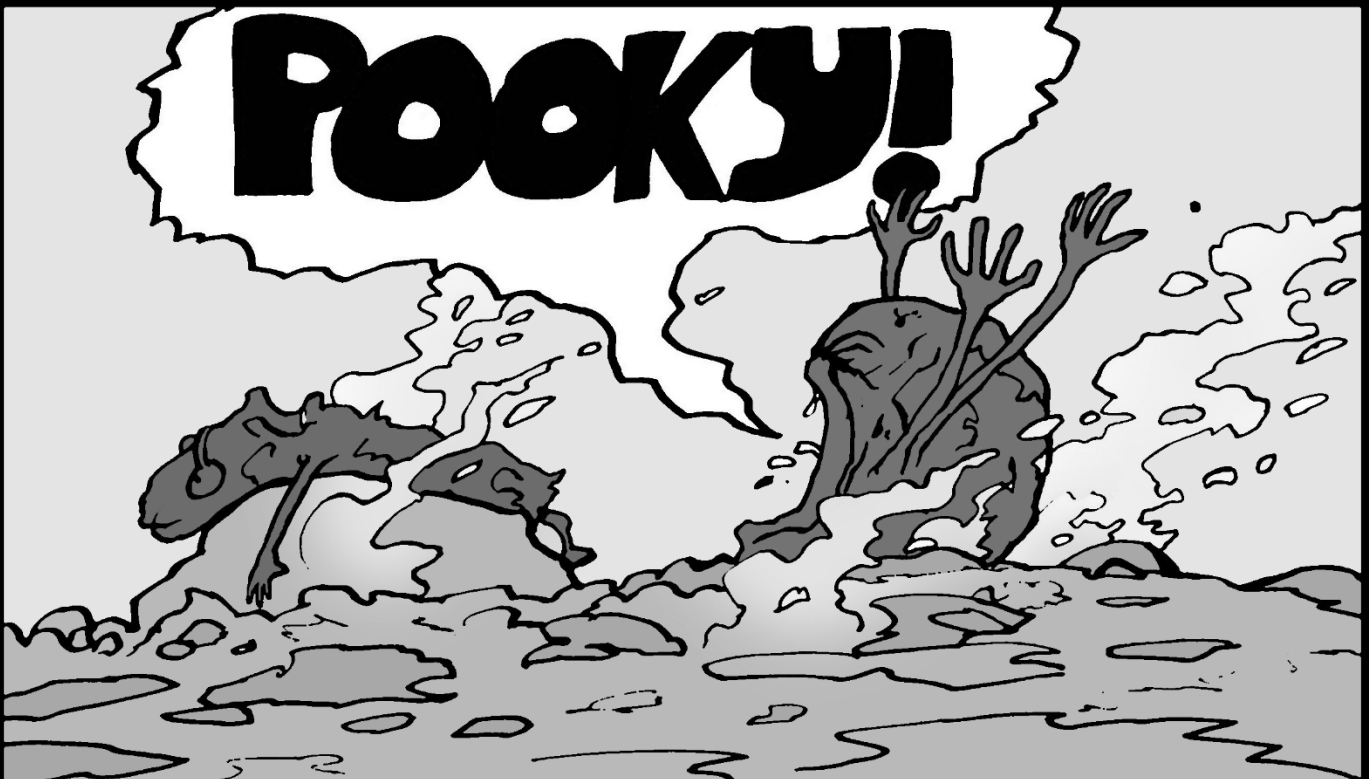
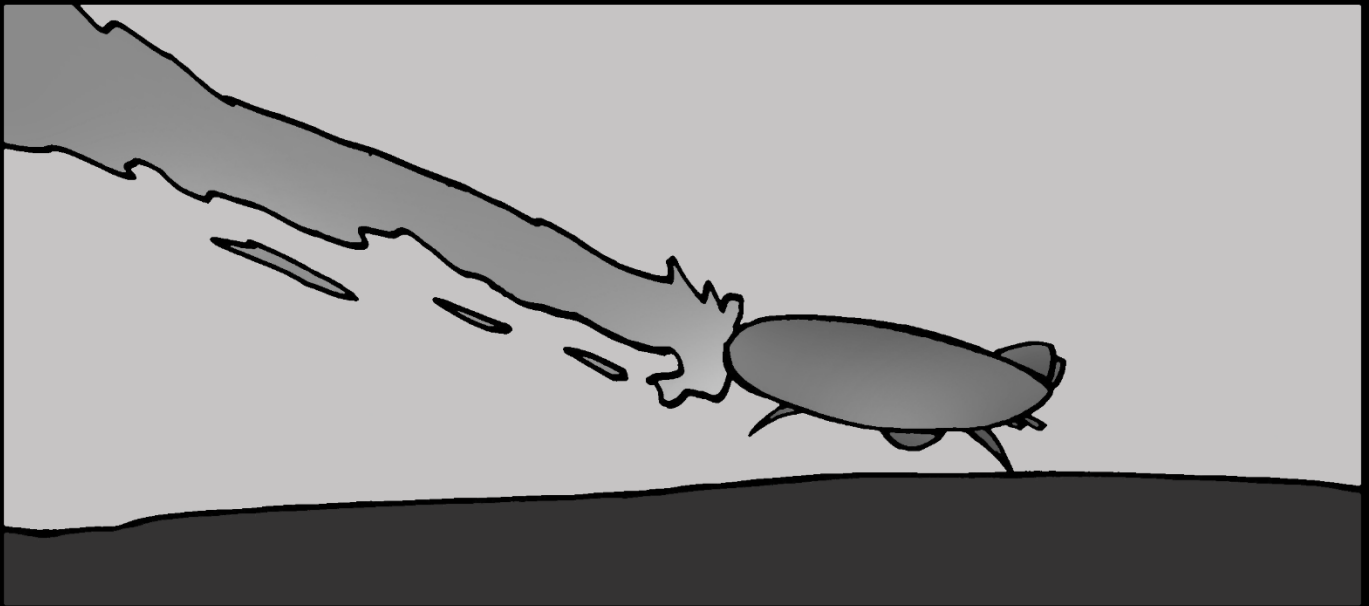


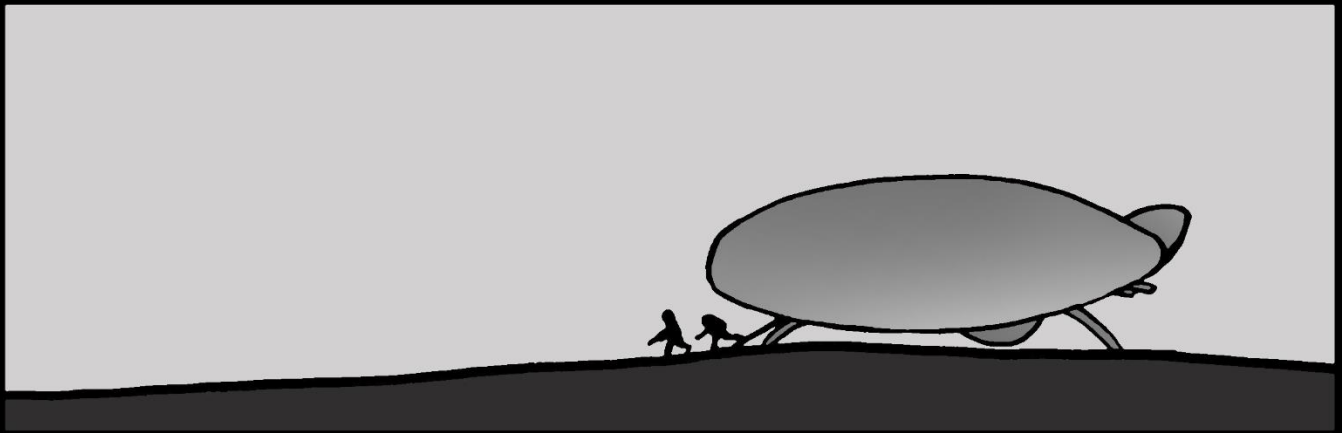


EZAK

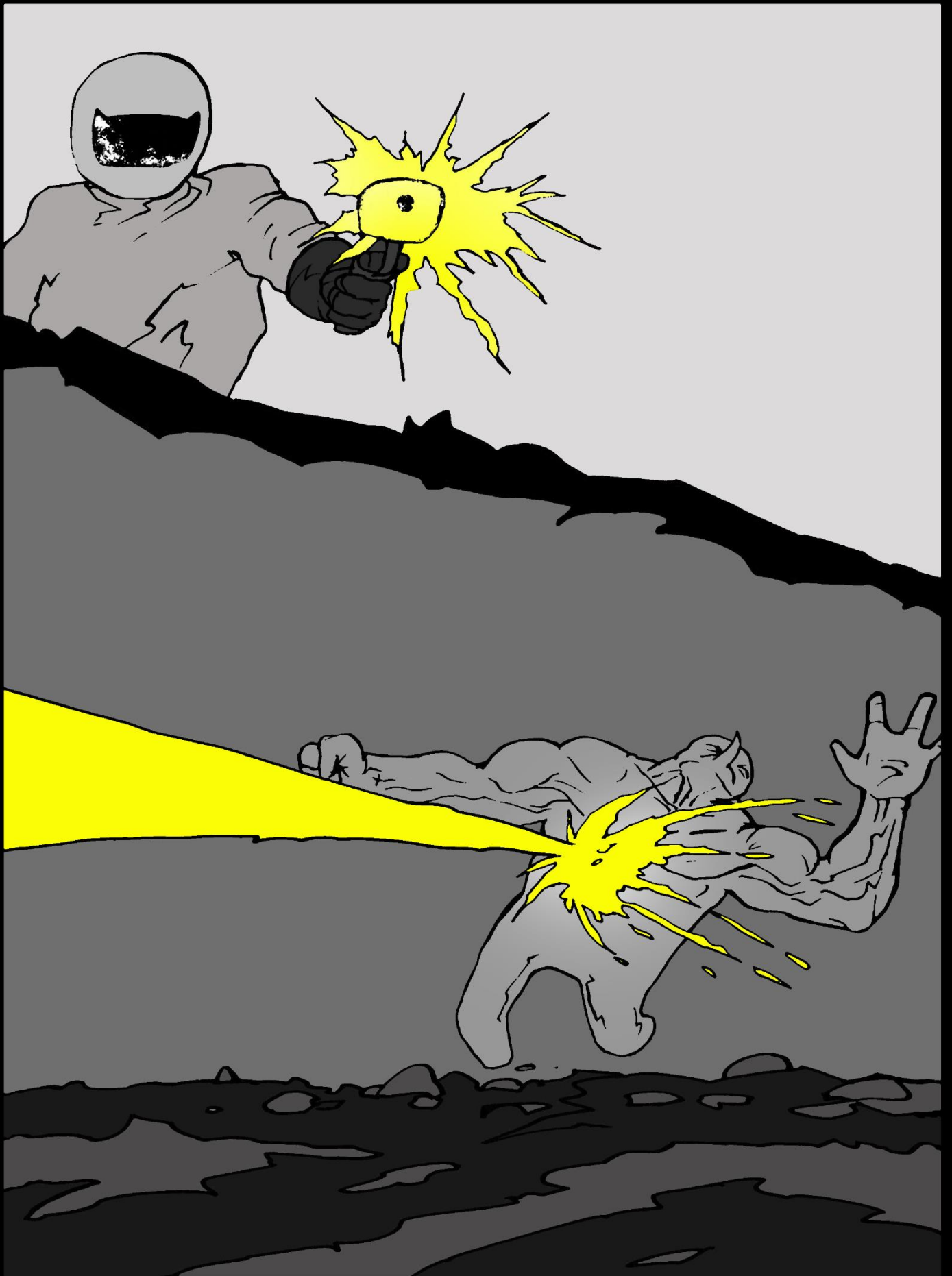
EZAK

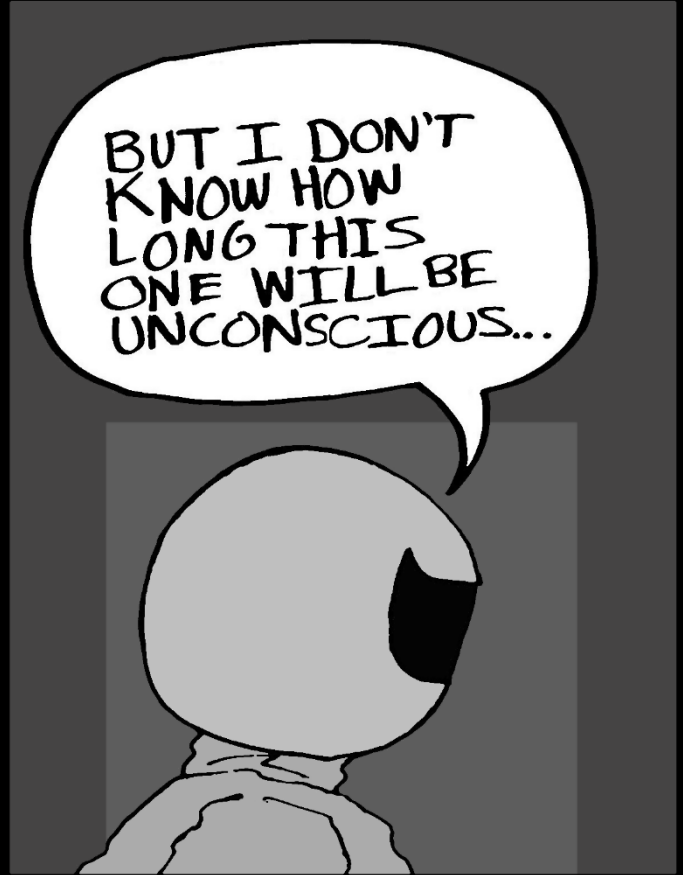
WHOA!





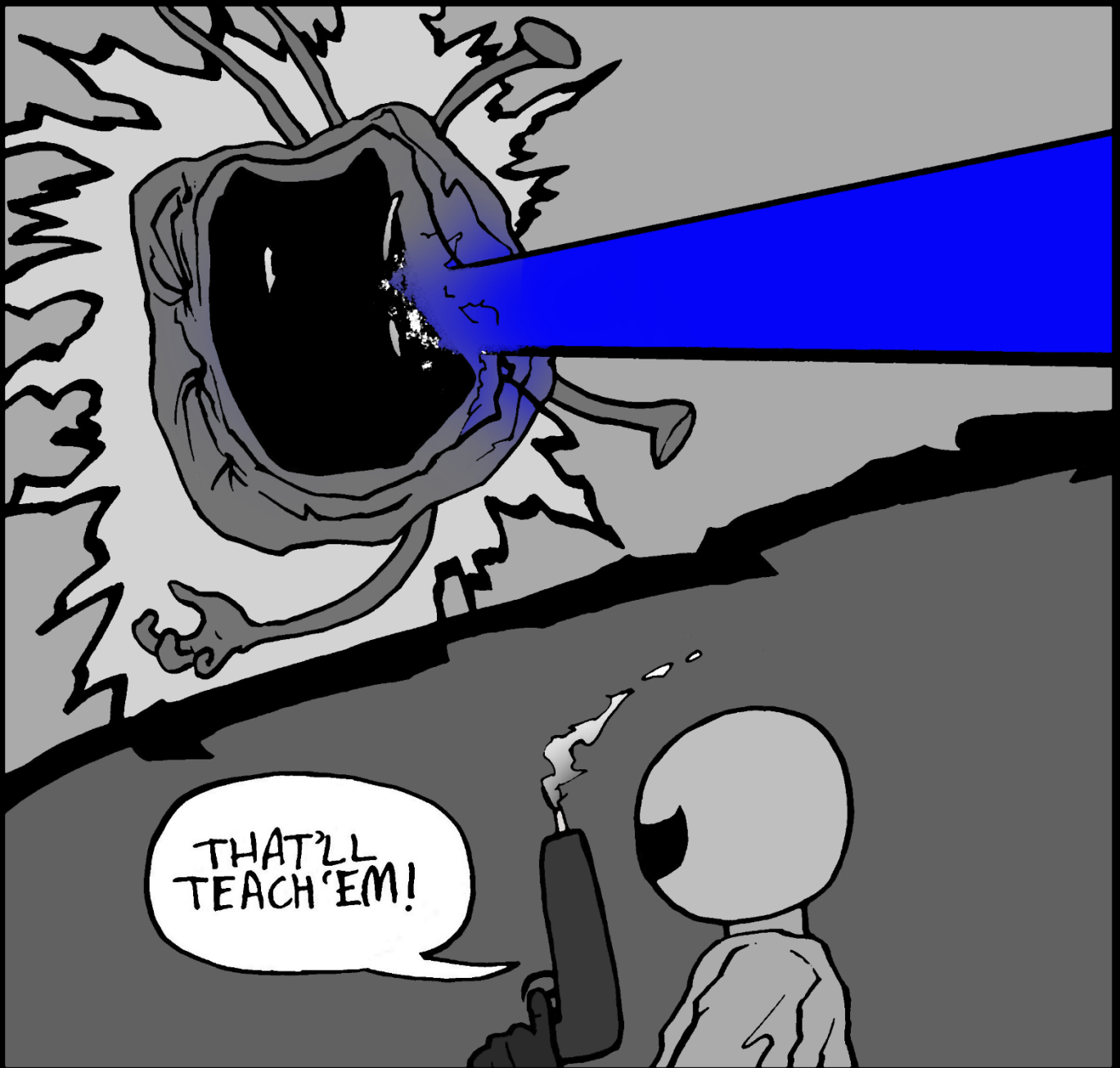






**Y'ALL KILLED
POOKY!**

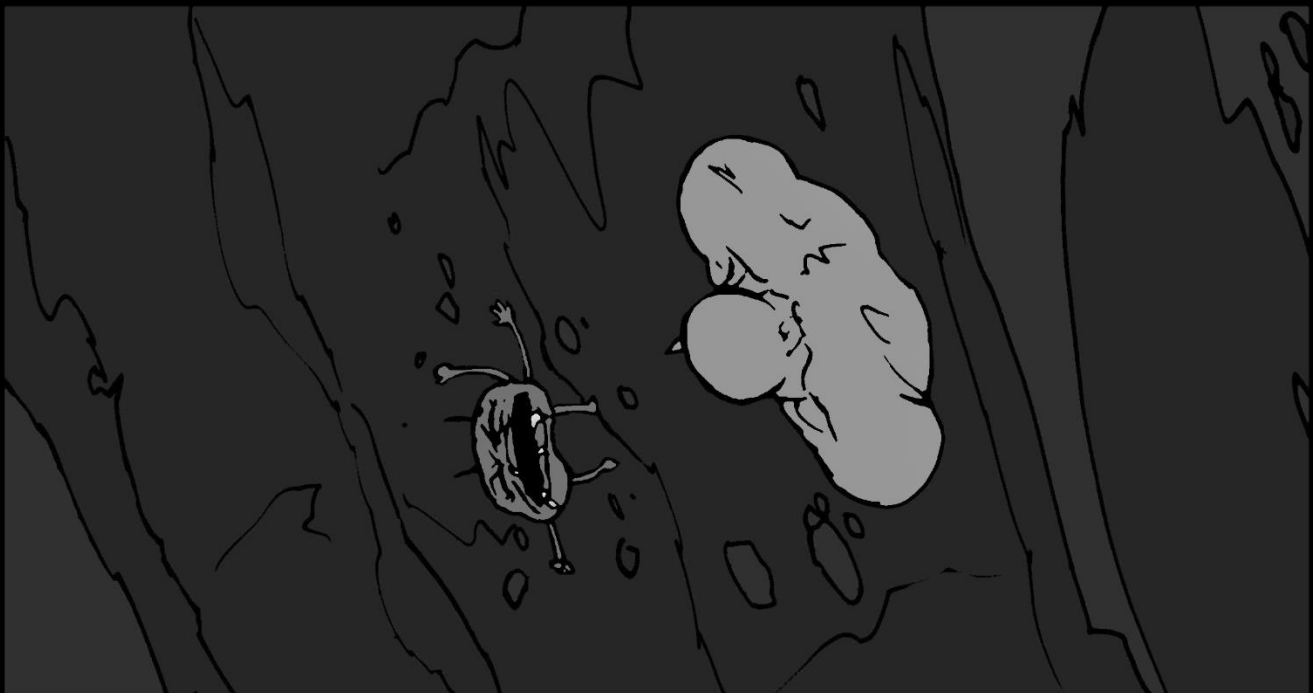


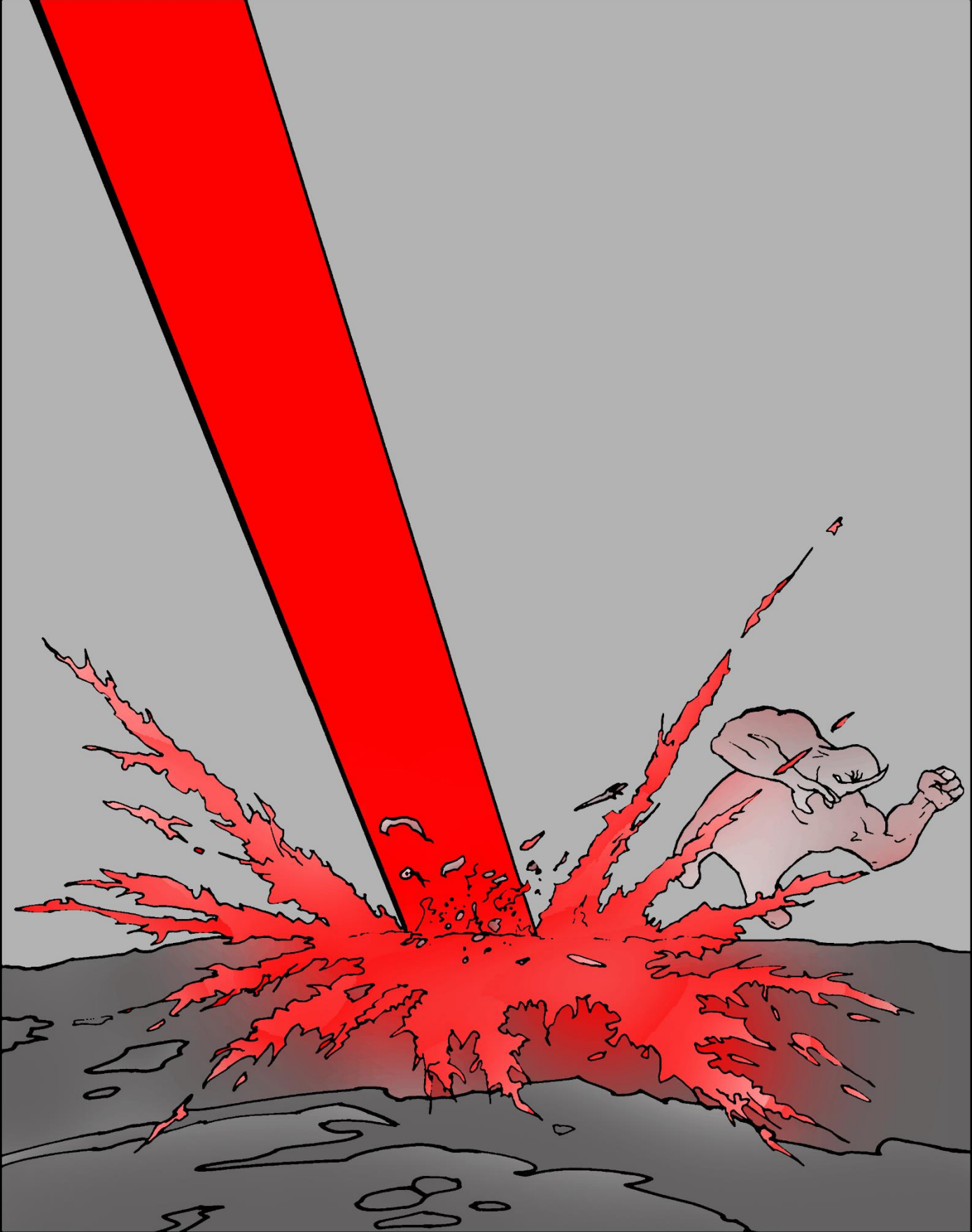


COME ON! LET'S GO!
WE GOT TWO OF 'EM.
WE CAN BLAST THAT
ONE TO SMITHEREENS
WITH OUR SHIP'S GUNS!

ALRIGHT.

~gurgles~
sput



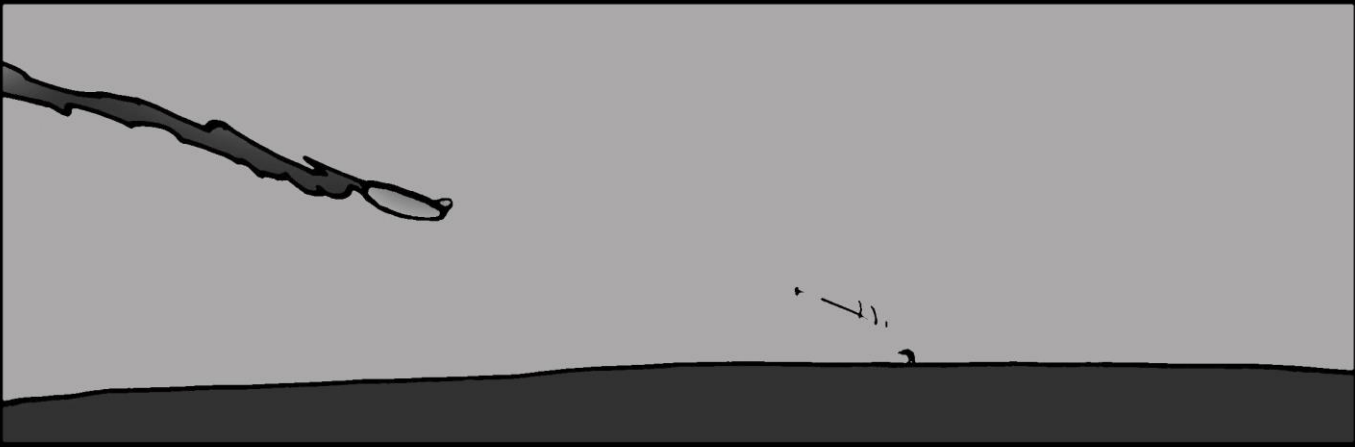




THERE HE IS!

GET LOW!



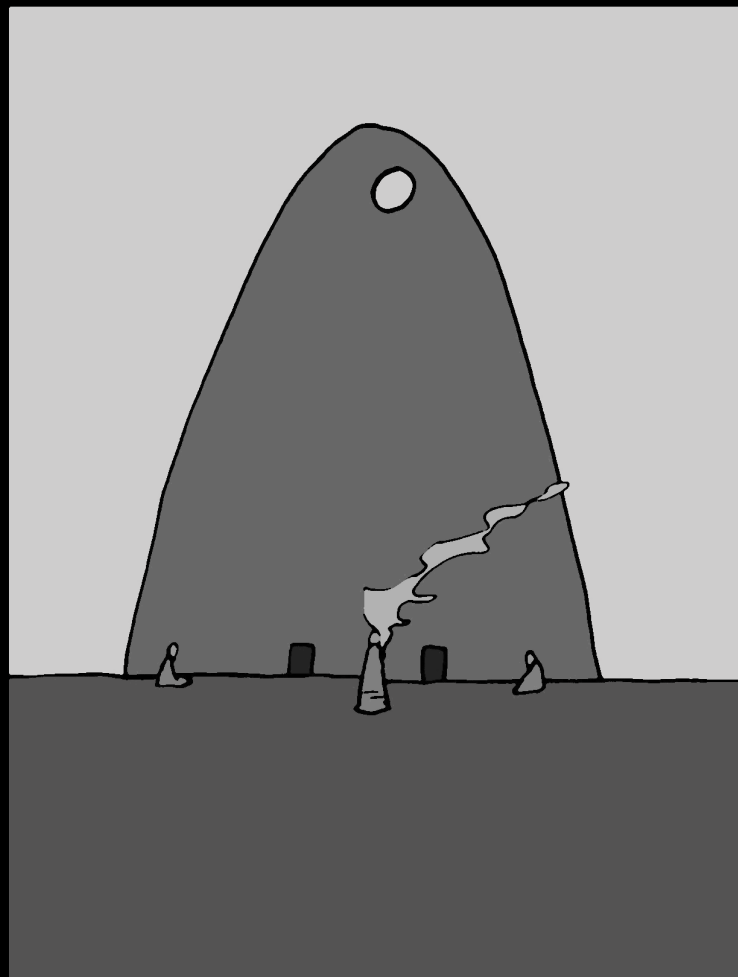
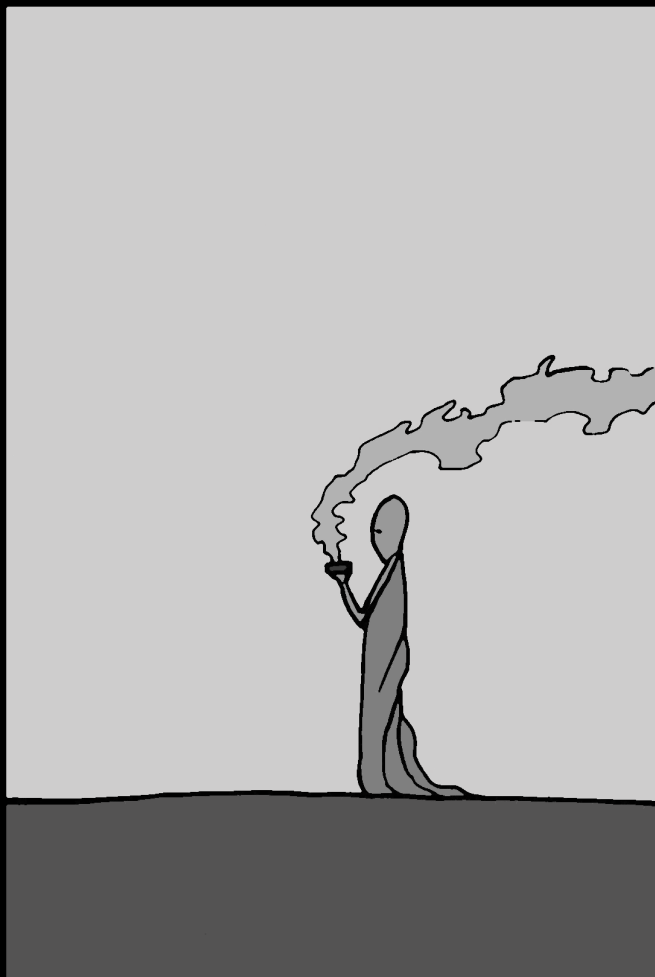




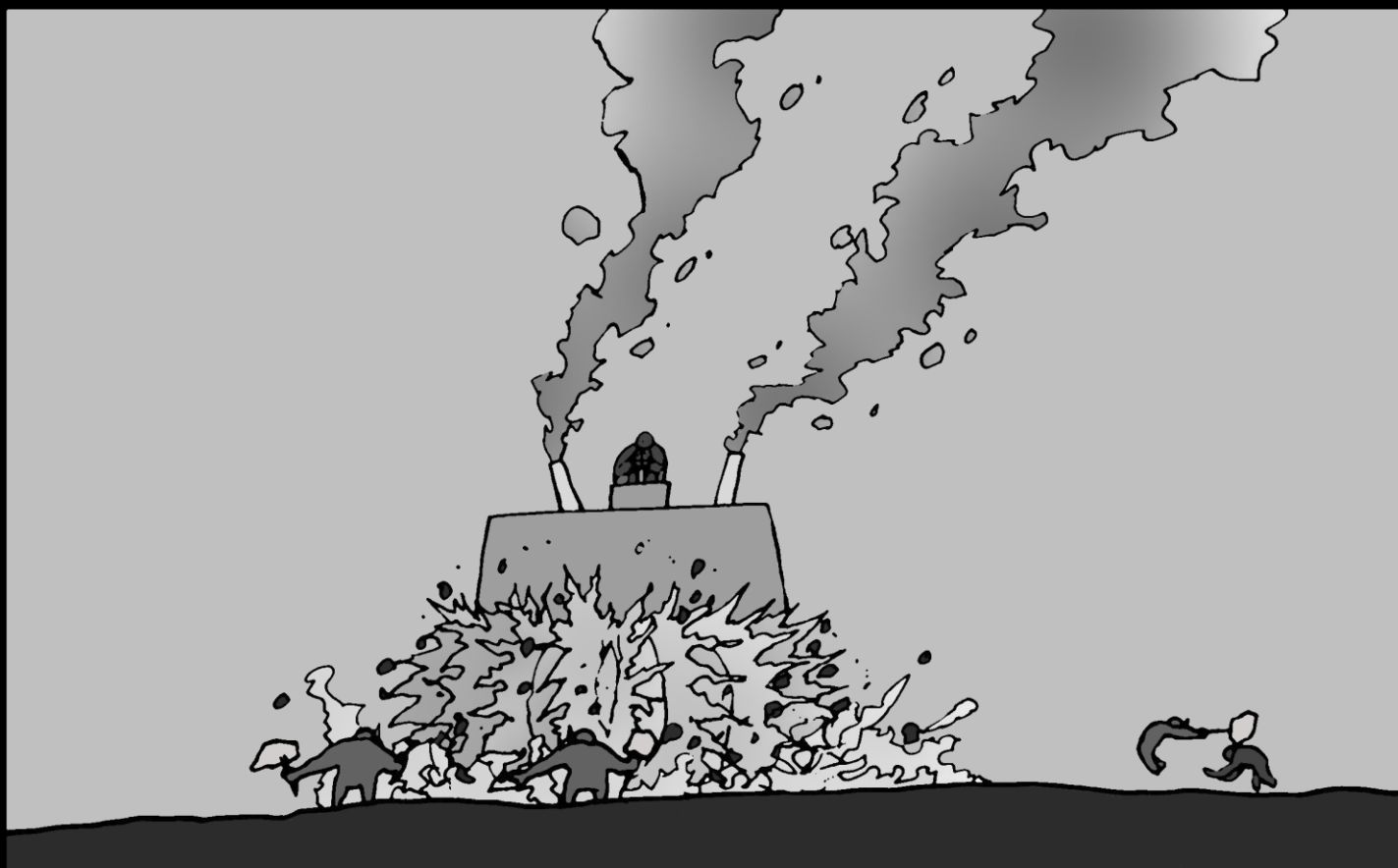
#11 March
01

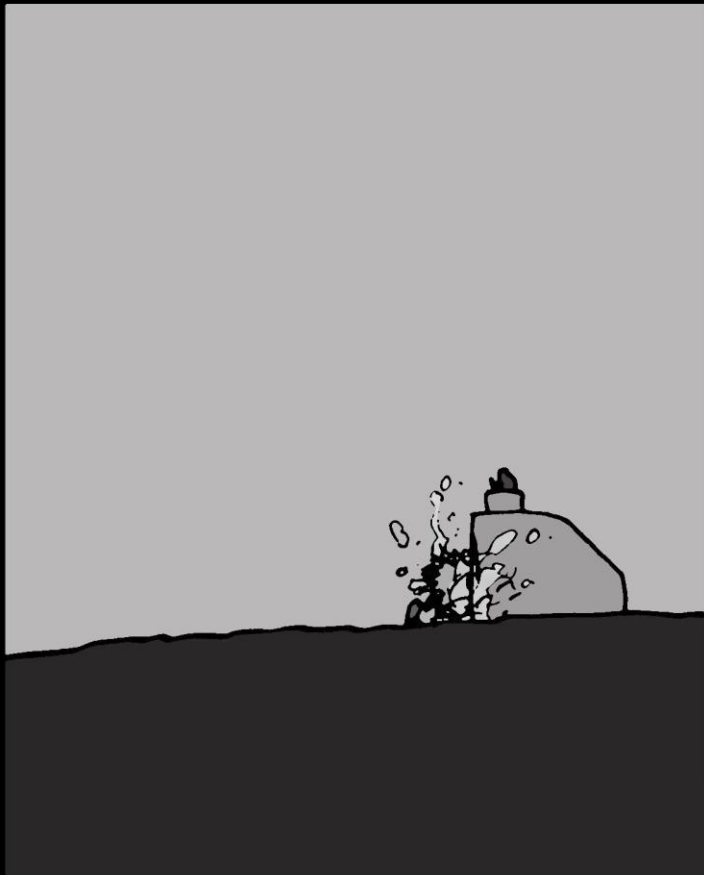
THUG!



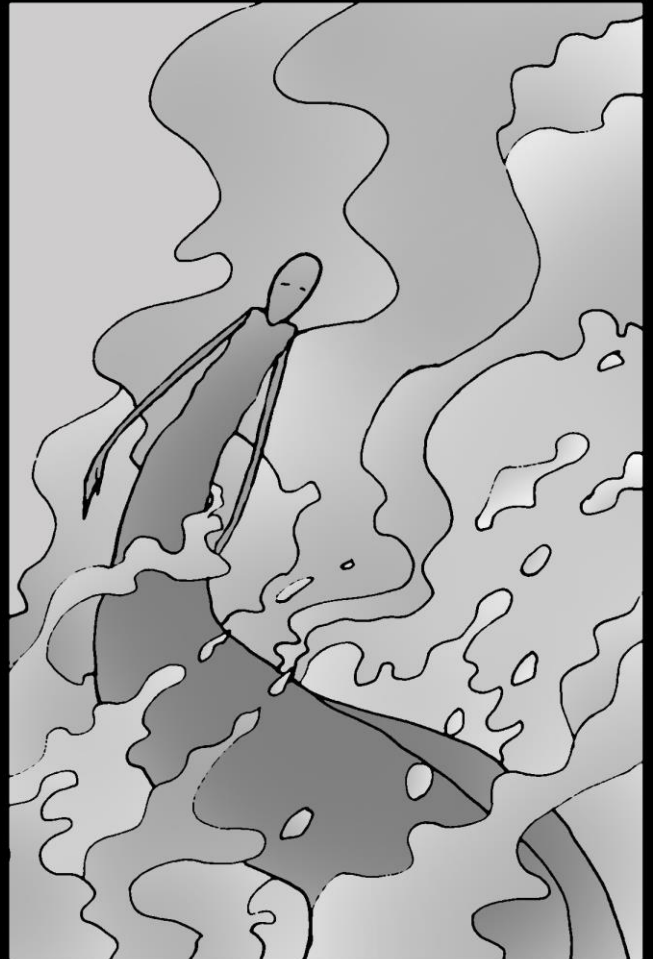
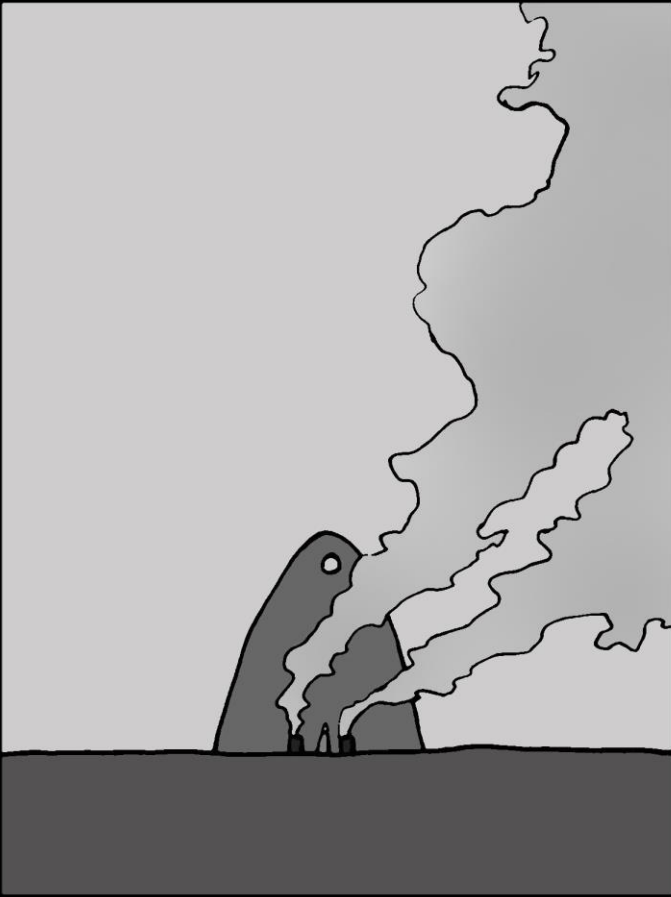










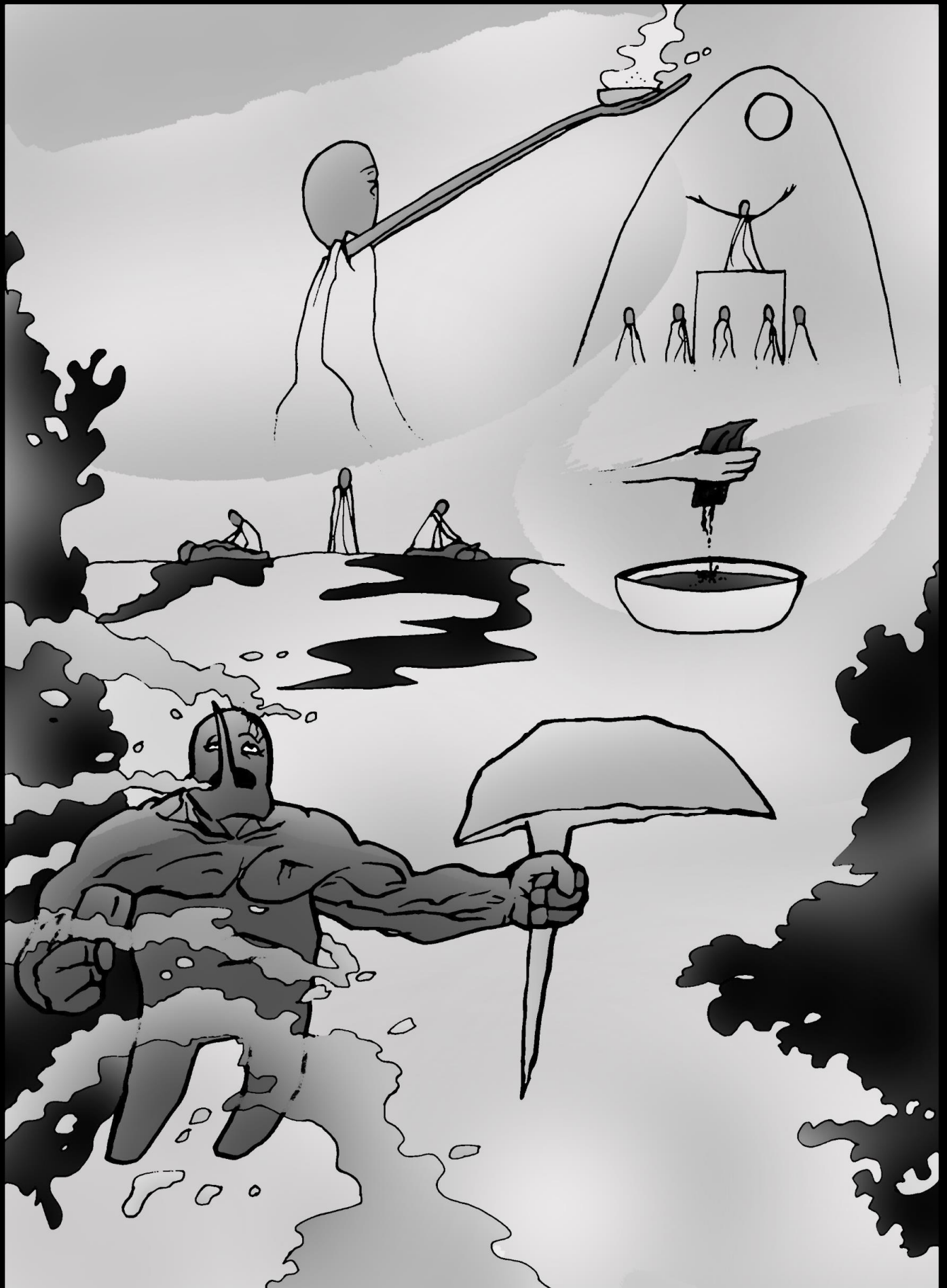




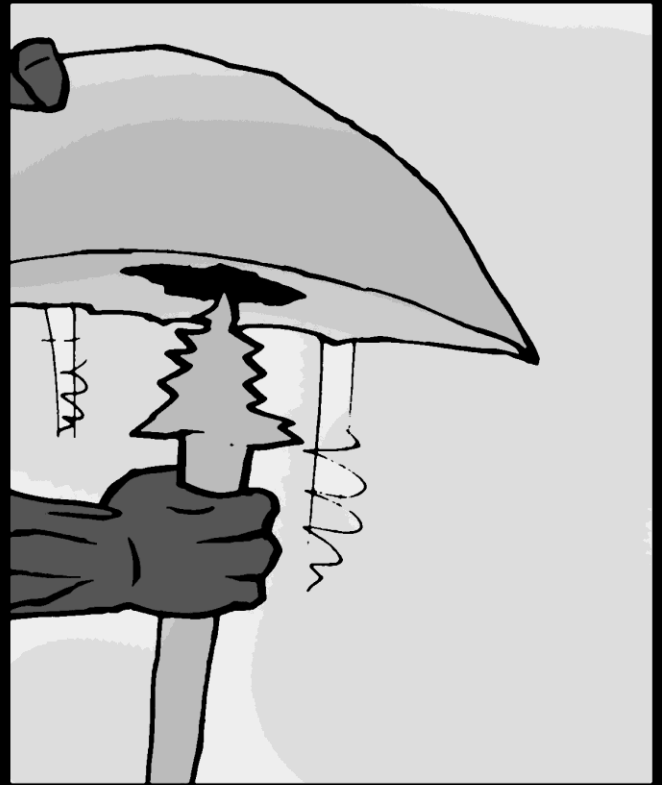
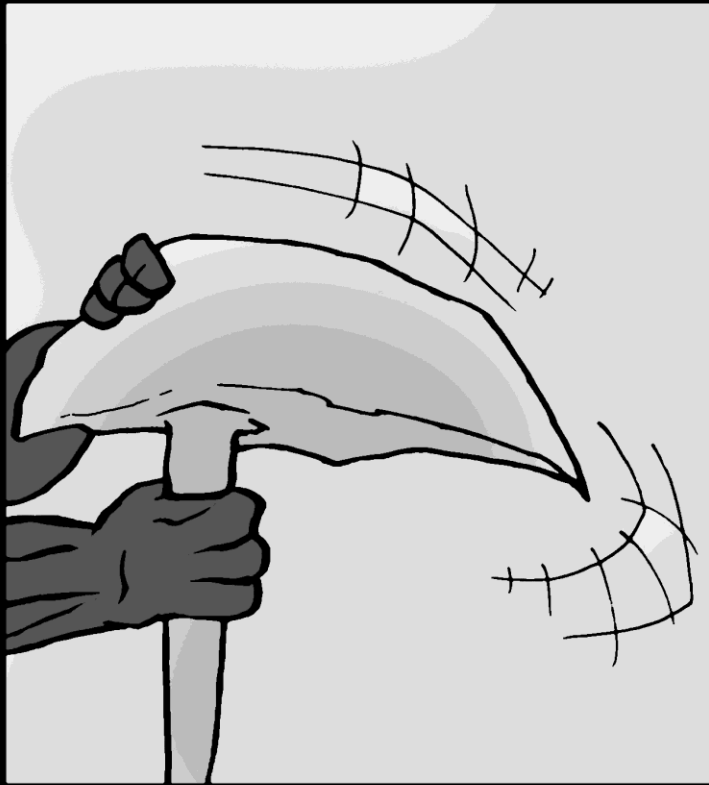




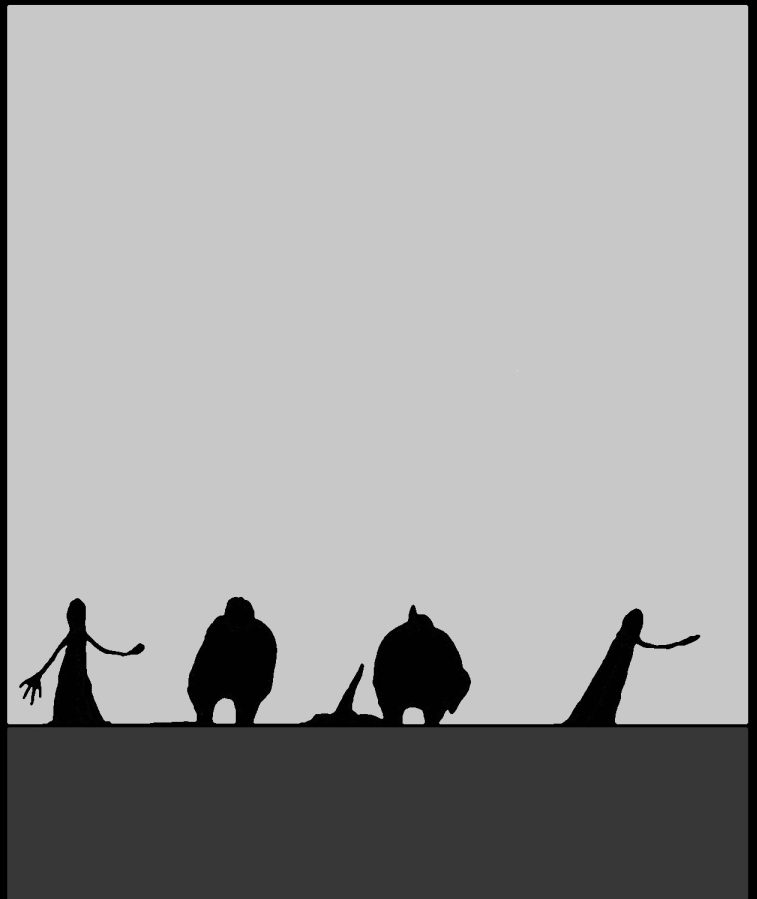
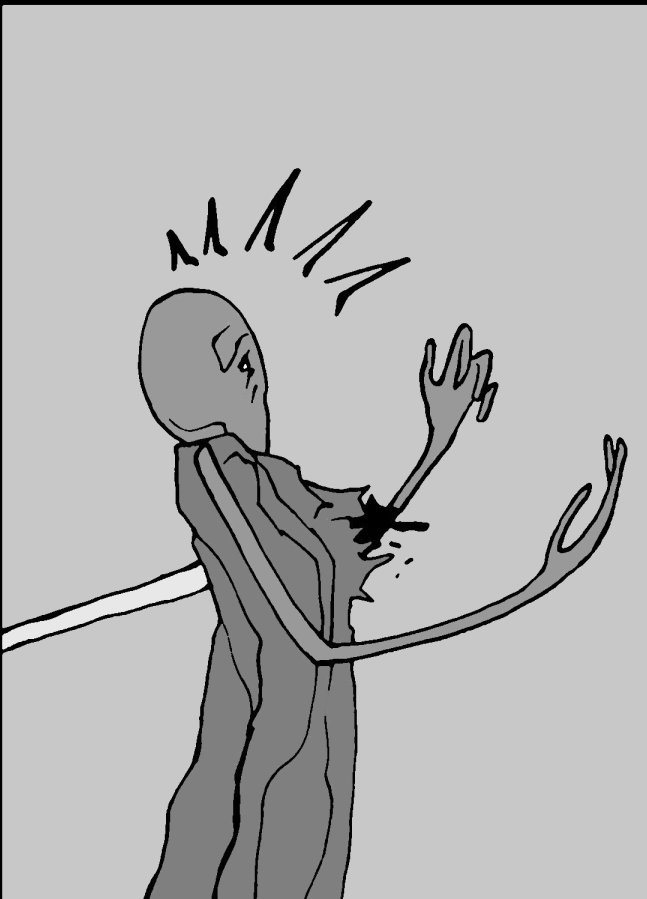
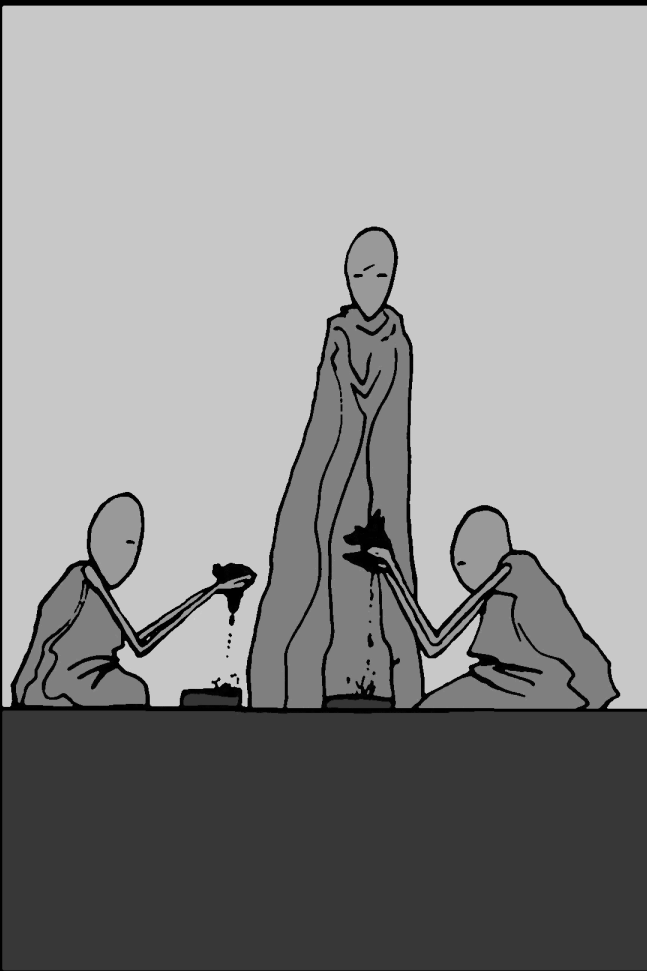


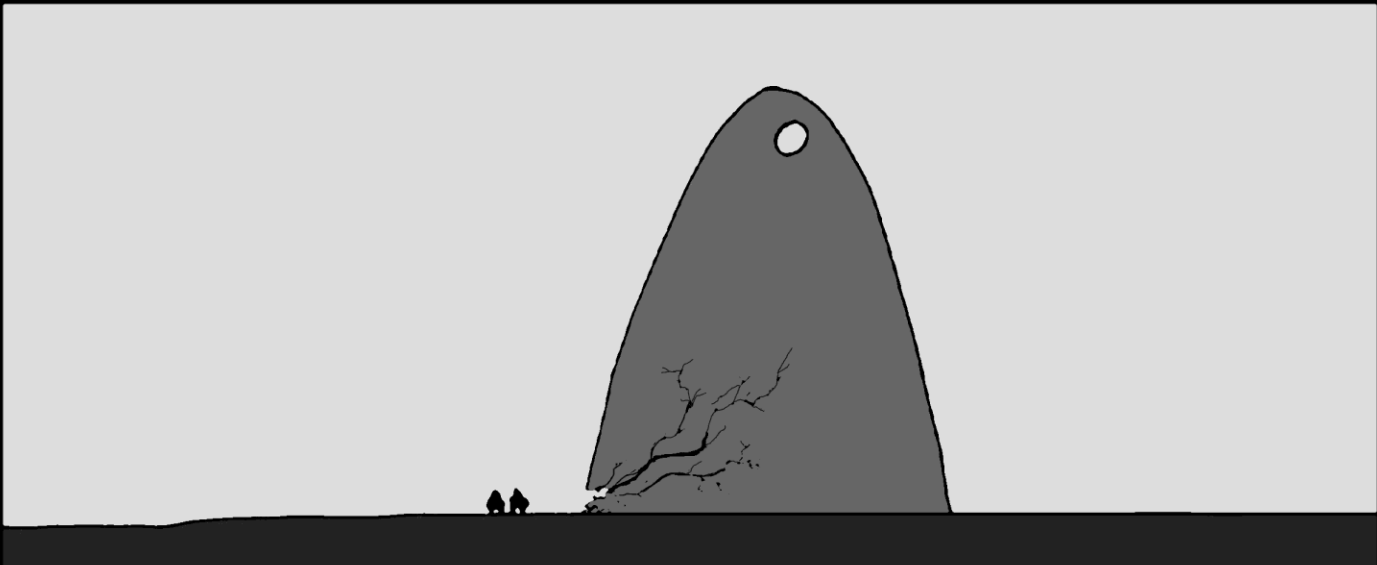
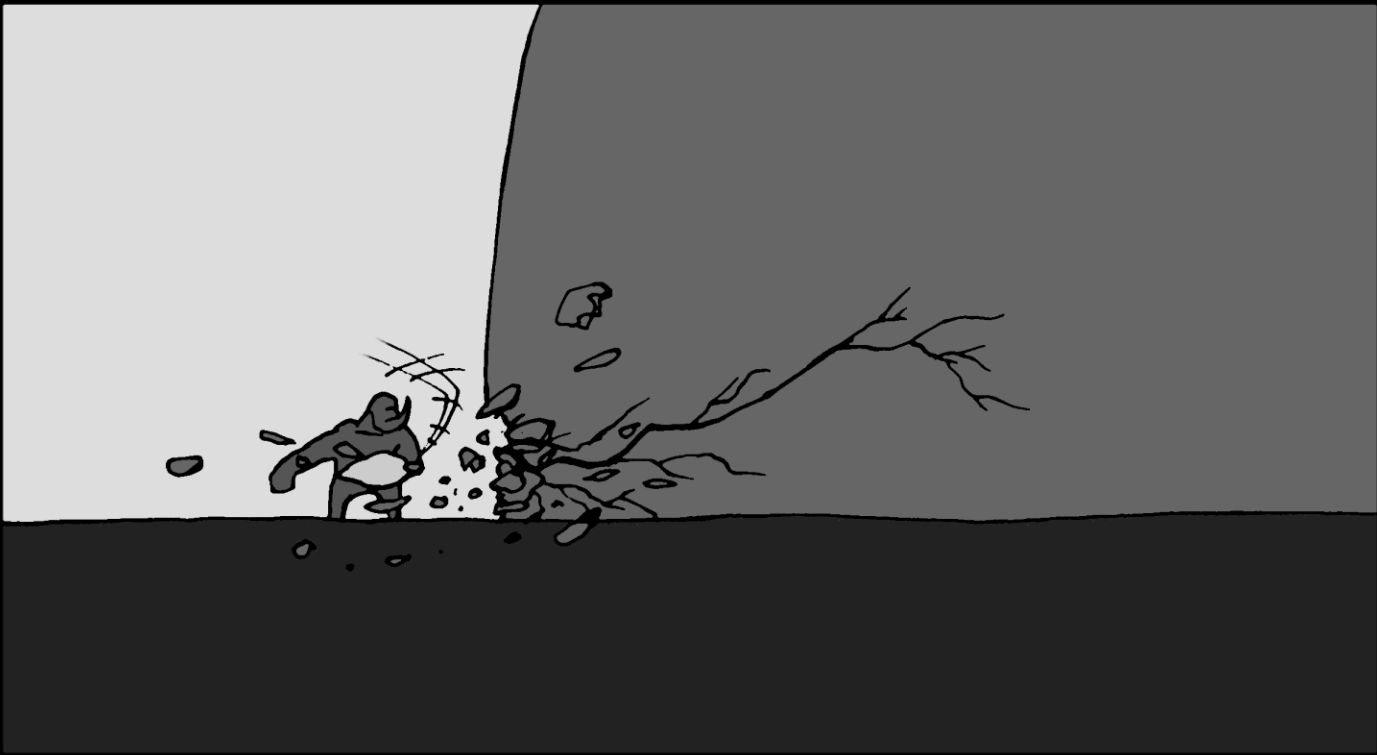
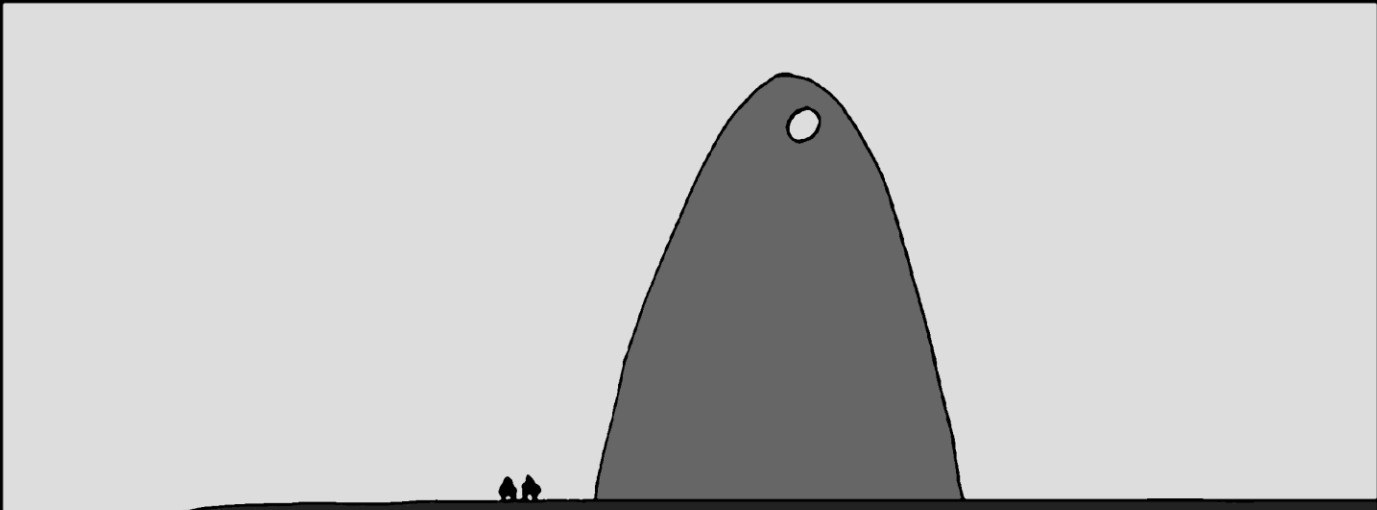


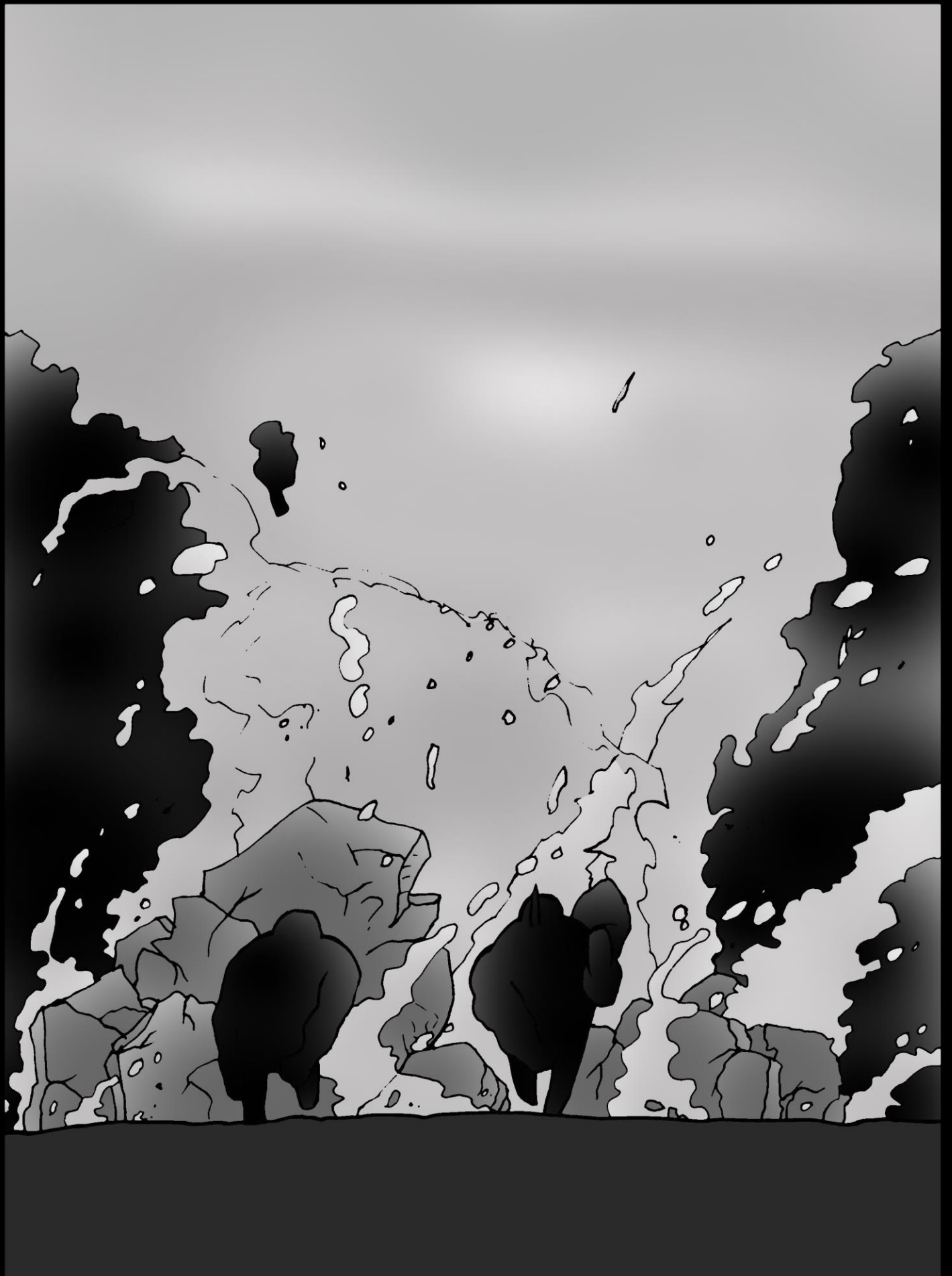




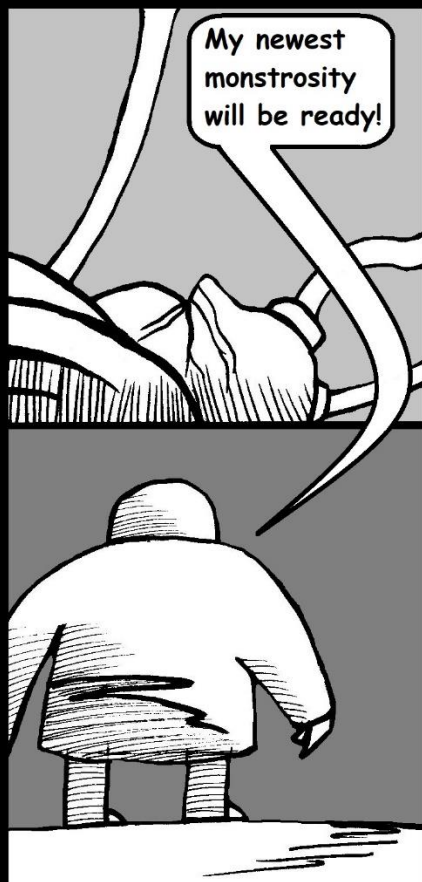
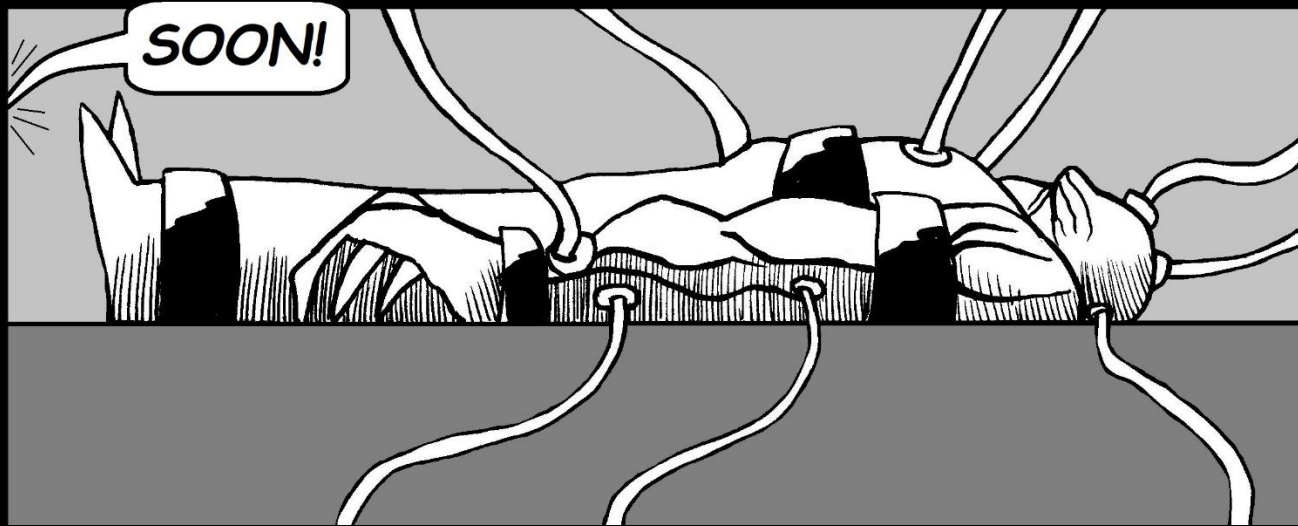








THUG in...
"THE BACK-UP STORY!"

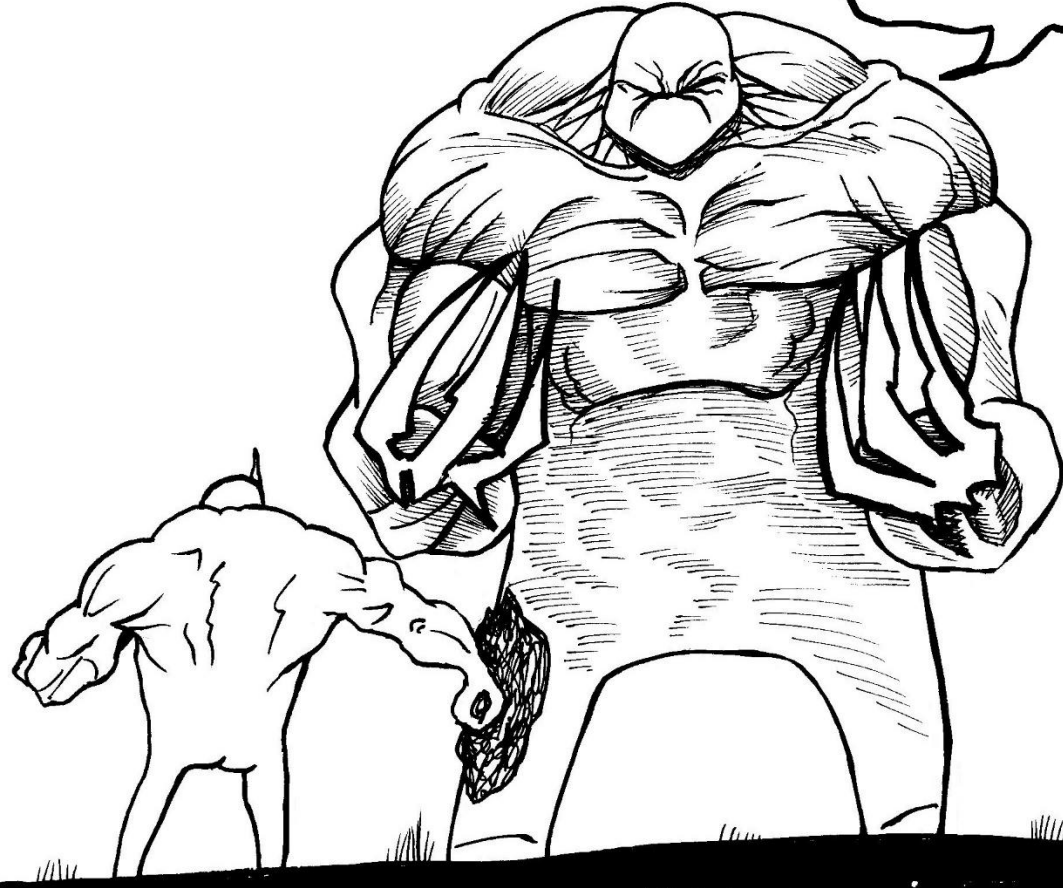


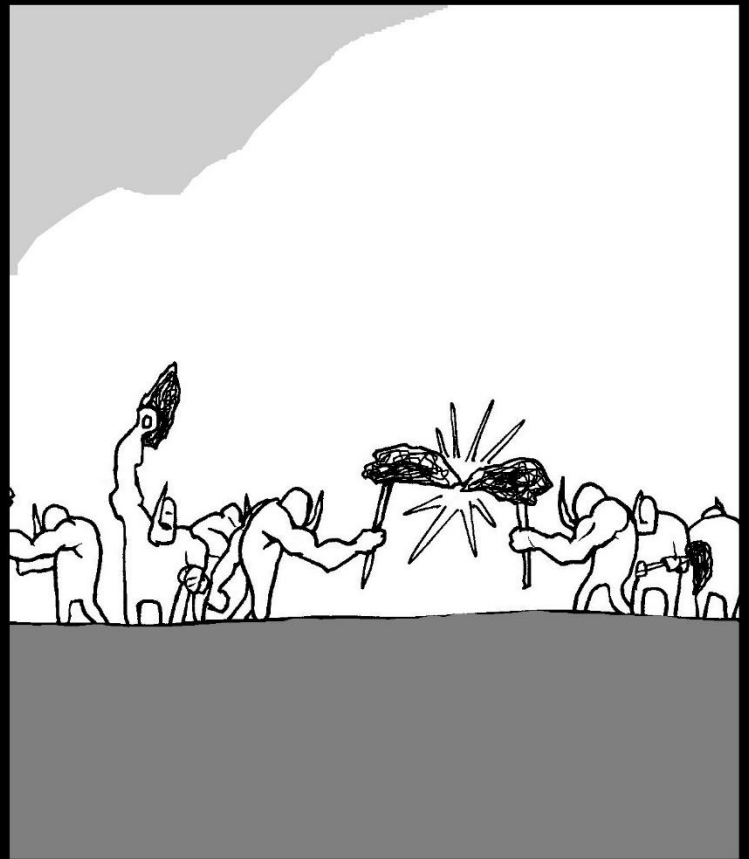
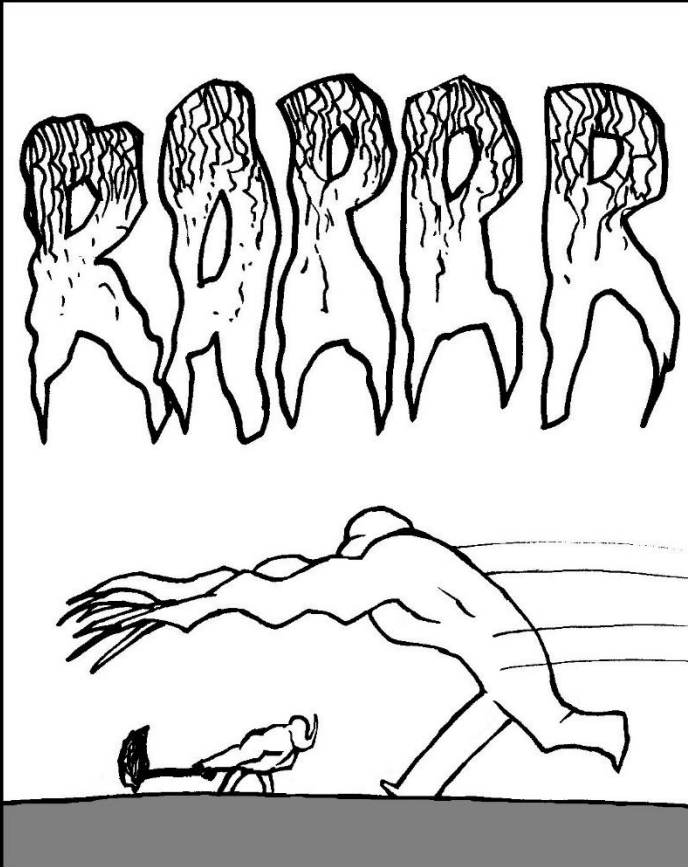
Later...

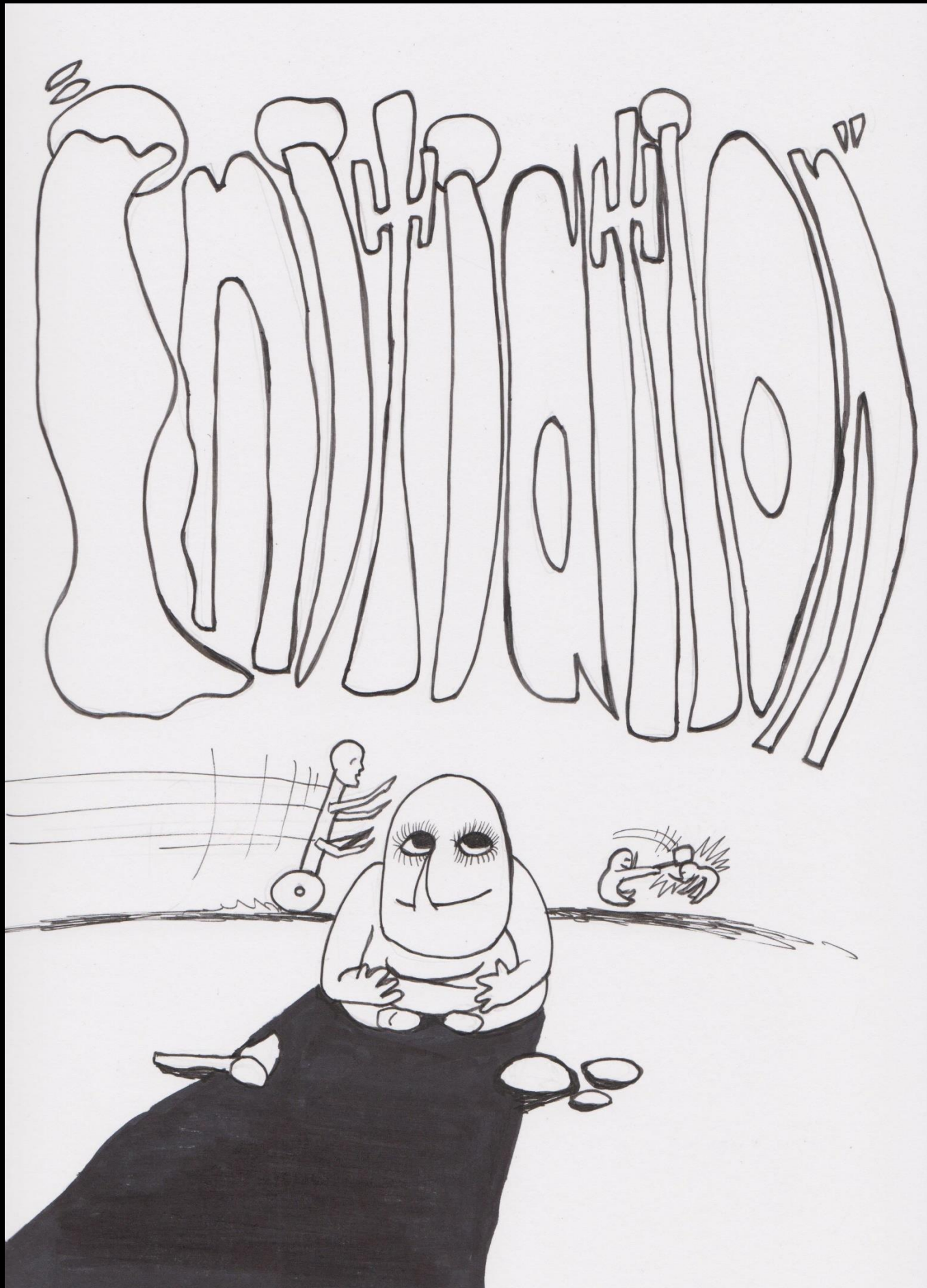


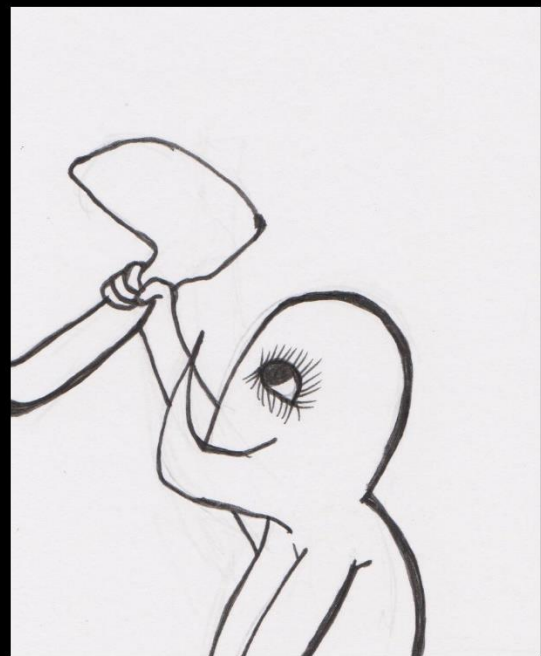
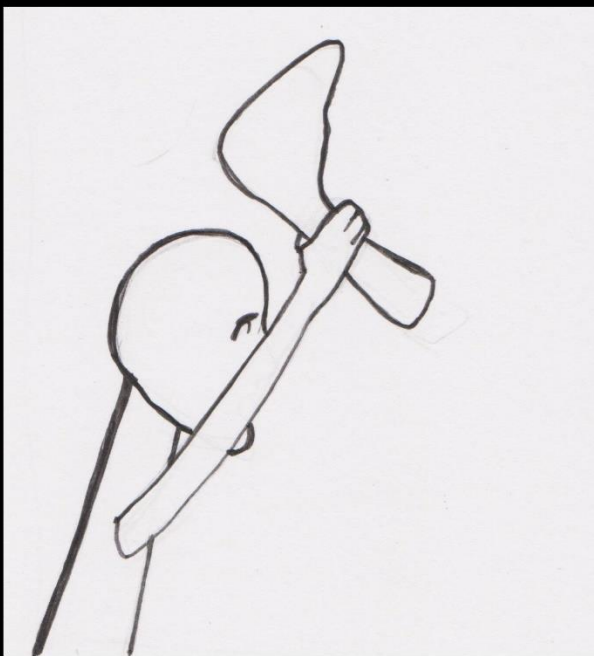
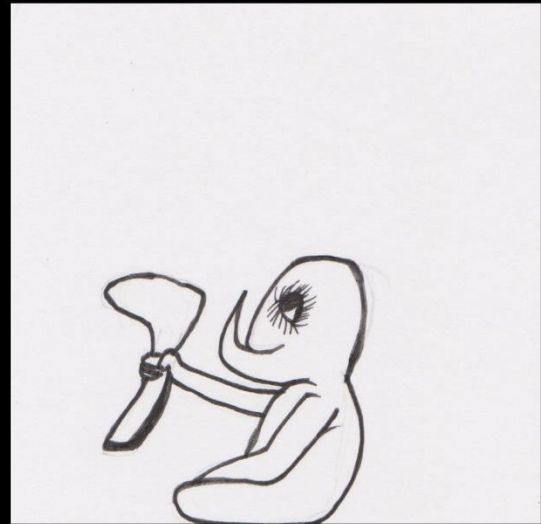
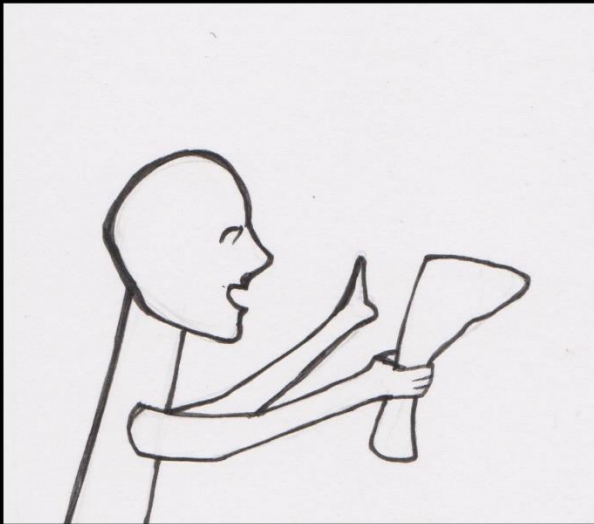
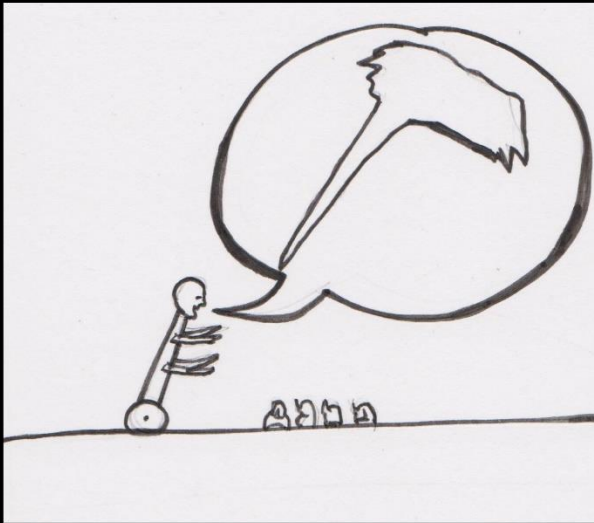
LO! I'M STANDARD FARE!

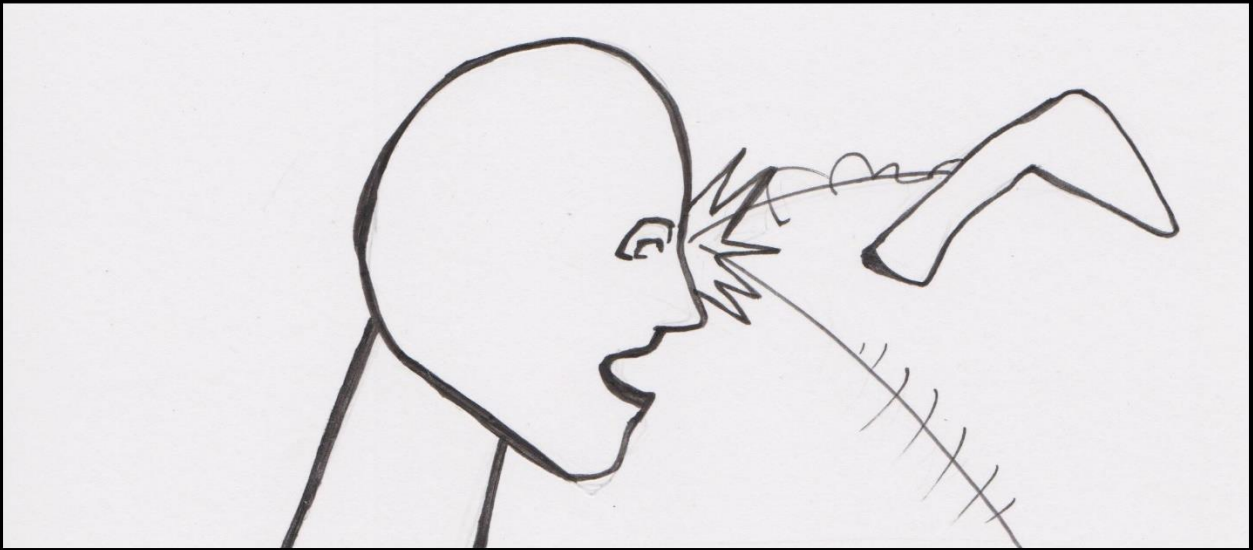
AND I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU!

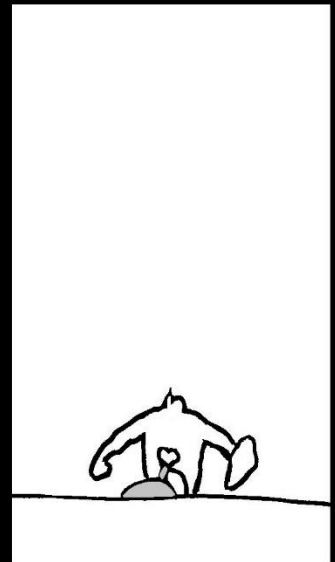
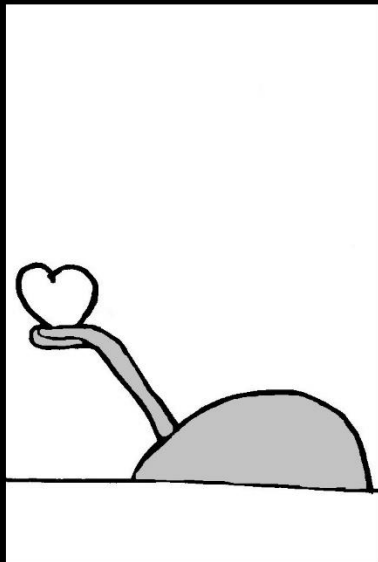
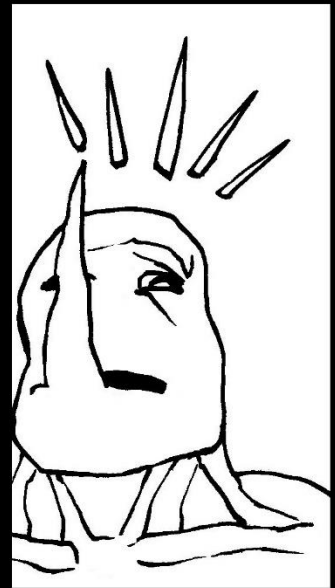
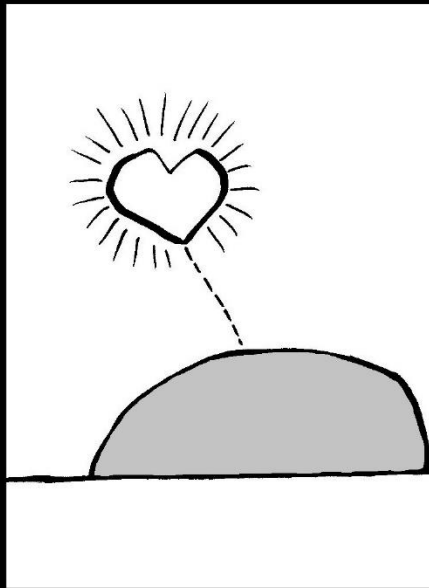
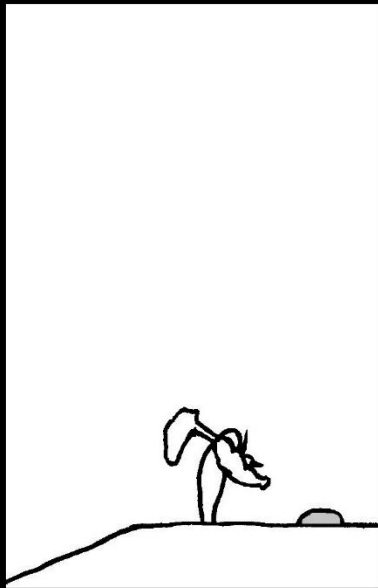
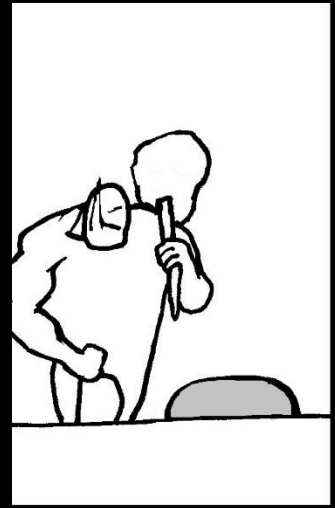
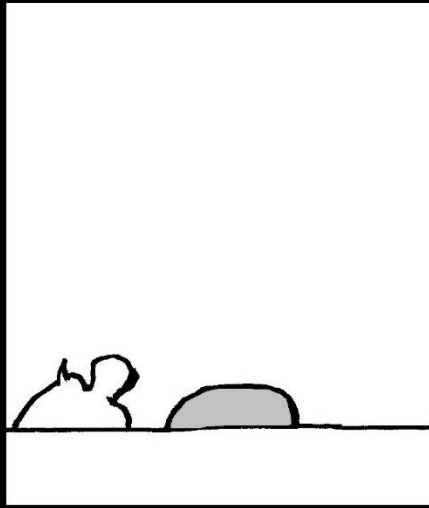
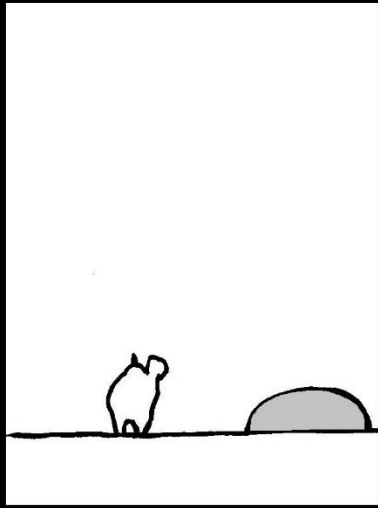


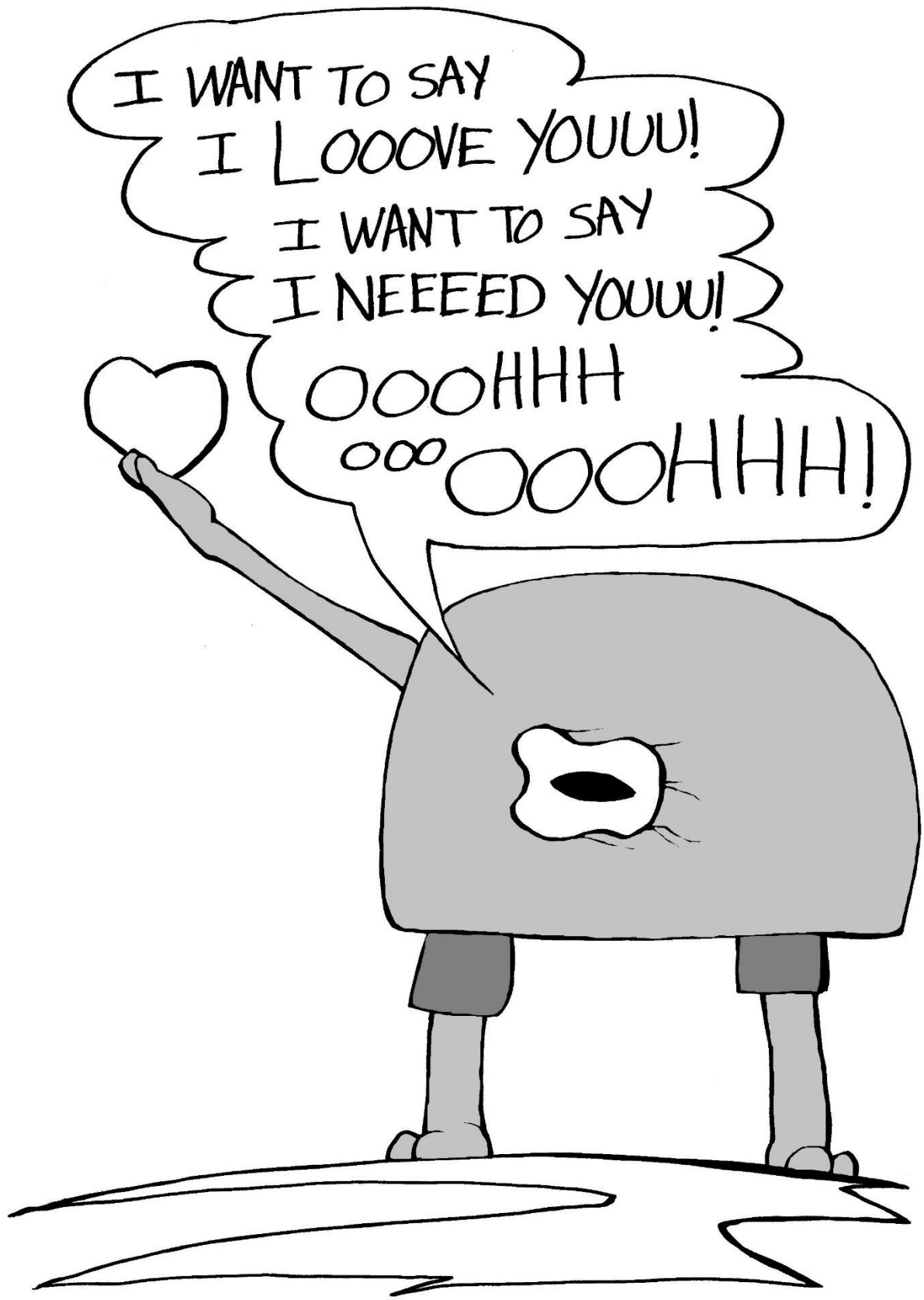






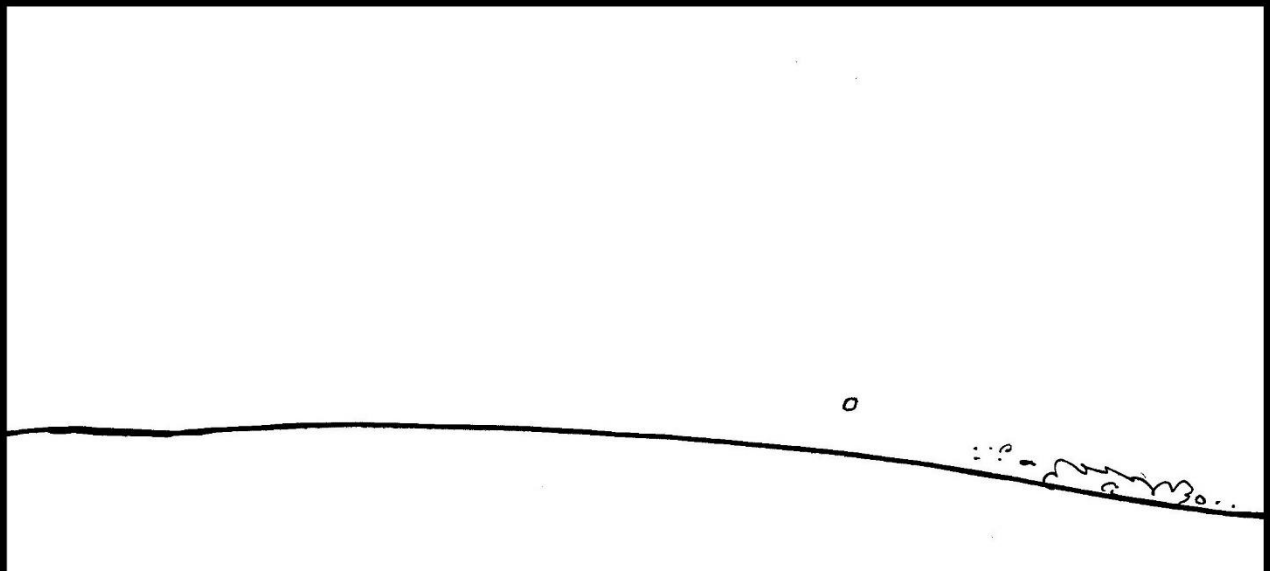
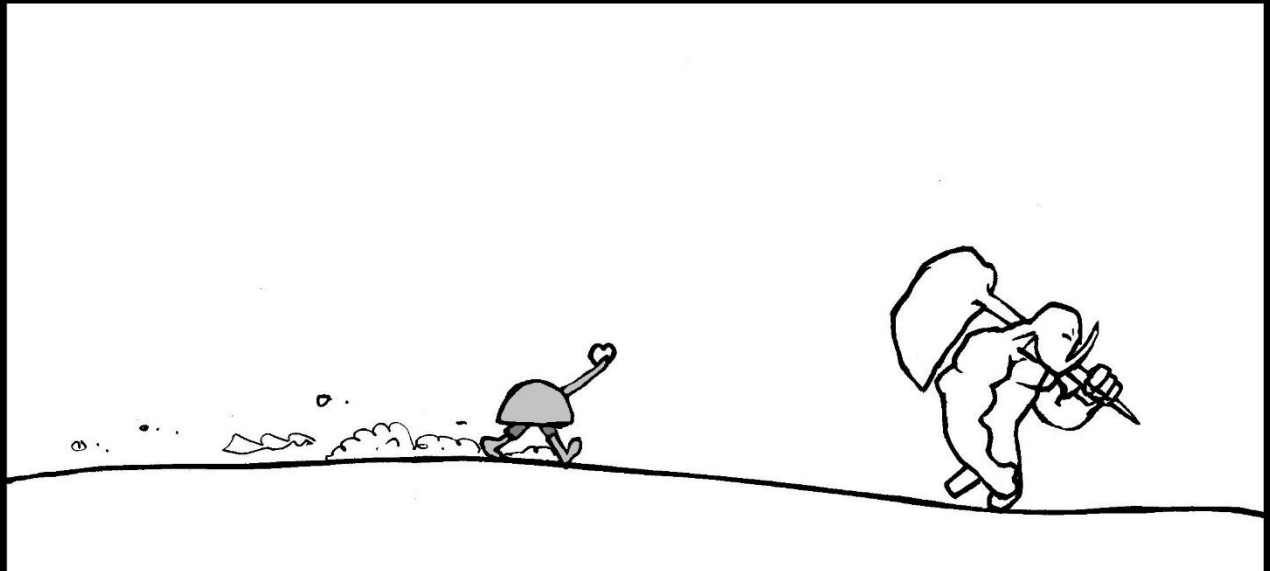
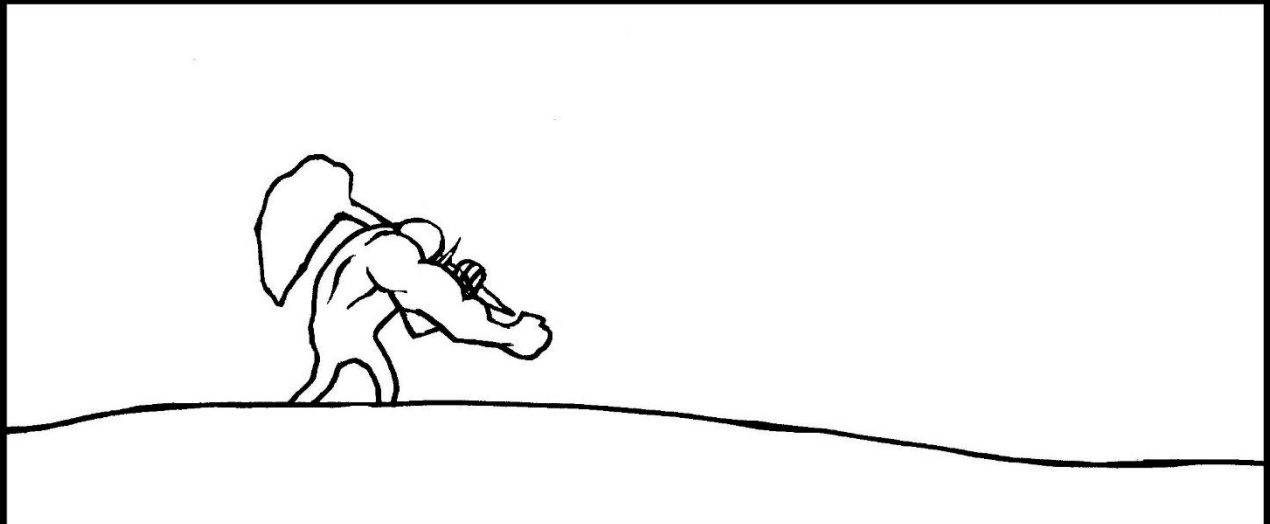






I WANT TO SAY
I L O O O V E Y O U U U !
I WANT TO SAY
I N E E E D Y O U U U !

O O O H H H
O O O O O O H H H !



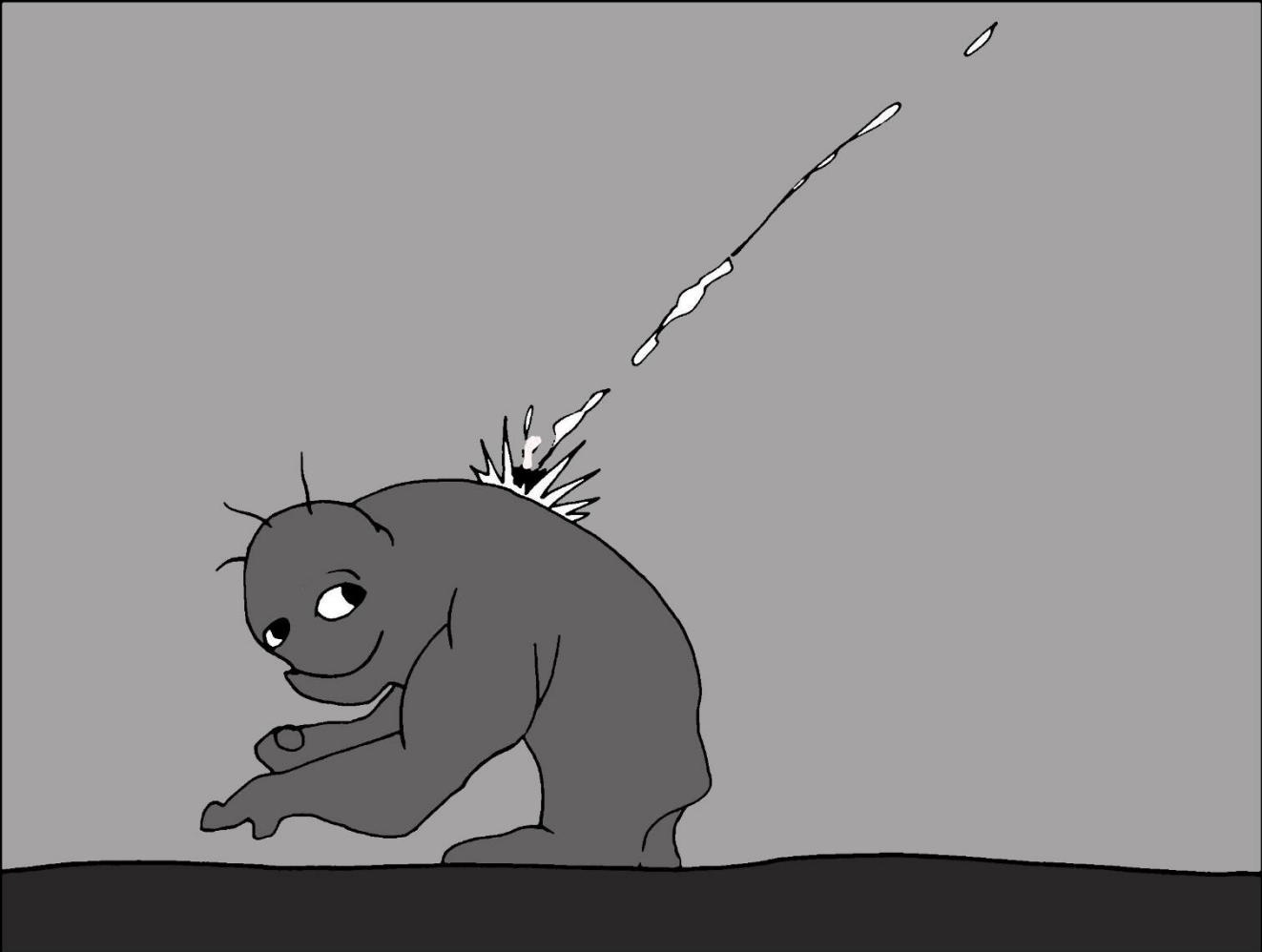
THUG! in...

"BAPPITY,
BAP, BAP!"





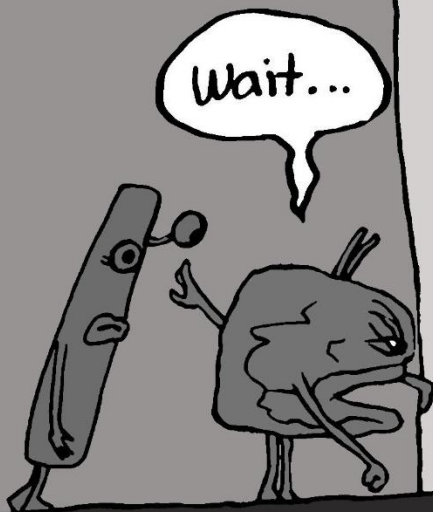






MOOK POOKY and + THUG!

in
"GET THE GOODS!"



QUIET! COME ON, POOKY!

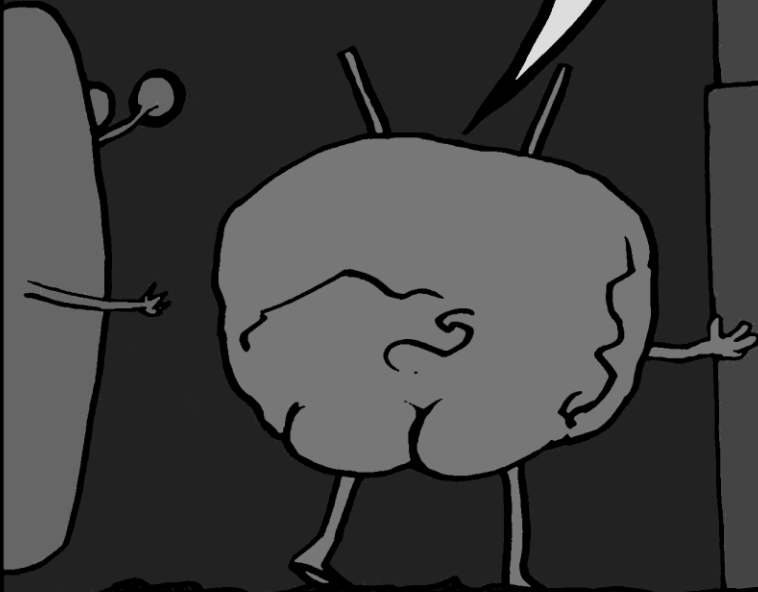


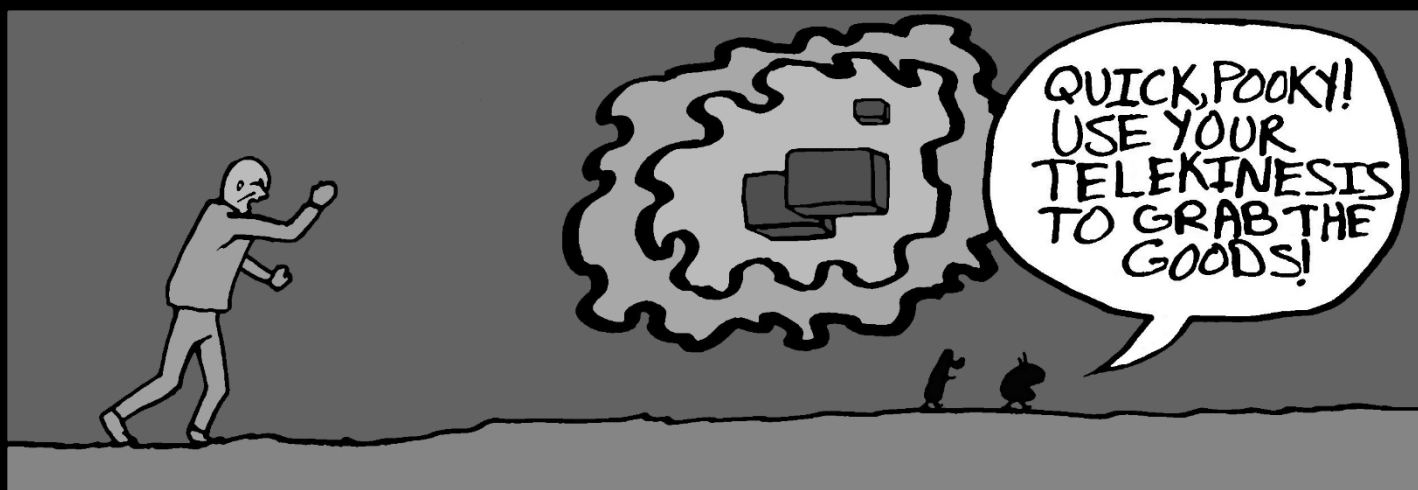
THERE THEY ARE!

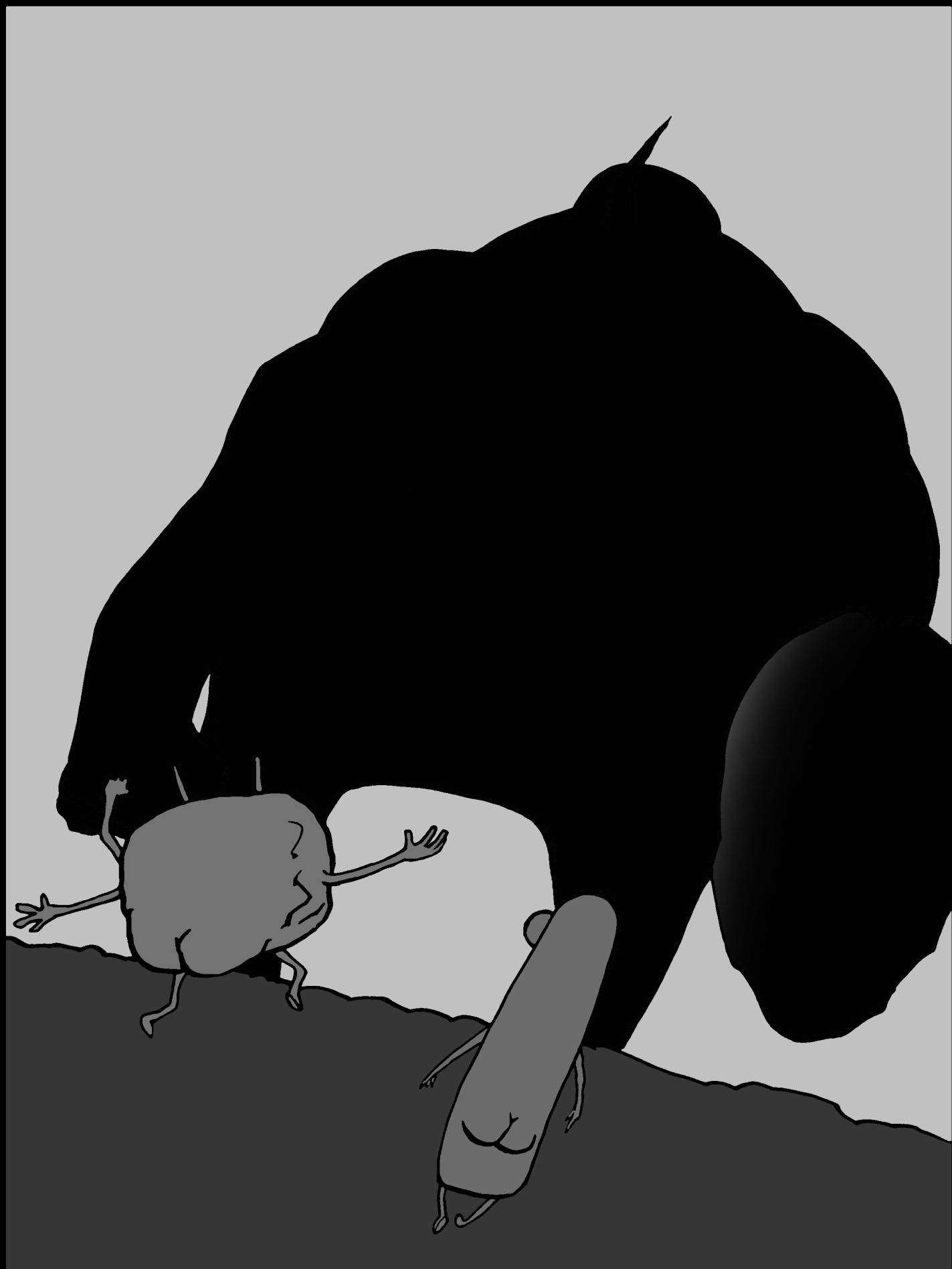
goodies

GOODS

GOODS

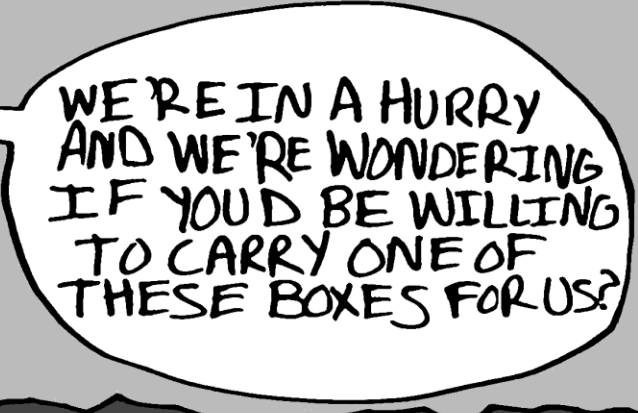




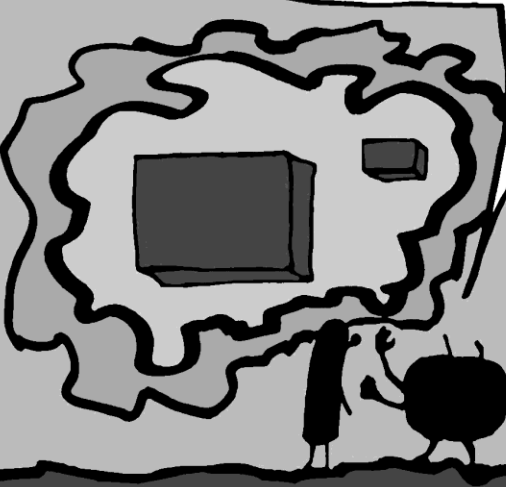




HEY! LISTEN!
CAN YOU LEND
US A HAND?



WE'RE IN A HURRY
AND WE'RE WONDERING
IF YOU'D BE WILLING
TO CARRY ONE OF
THESE BOXES FOR US?



THANKS, BUDDY!
LISTEN... WE'LL
SHARE SOME OF
THESE GOODS
WITH YOU...



“Smashed Like a Stony Sentinel!”

Slender shafts of light from outside of the cave’s entrance glimmered on the viridescent crystalline steps. He stood hesitant, scratching his chin-horn, his bulky, stout figure silhouetted in the cave’s opening. The translucent emerald steps disappeared into the dark depths. A gust of wind passed over him from the stygian caverns below. He soldiered on with his mallet resting firmly secured on his left shoulder, stepping with caution as he descended.

Moving through the inky atmosphere, he lost all sense of direction and balance. He stopped as a faint sound echoed from far below. His mallet suddenly felt awkward and heavy on his shoulder. A slimy substance fell on his head, and a low, aching growl issued out of the darkness as the cavernous walls closed around him.

When the soldier regained consciousness, a stony statue squatted one-and-a-half meters tall before him like a sentinel; its circular face glared at him with puckered lips and hollow eyes. He grunted as he stood up and looked around the tiny room. His mallet was nowhere in sight and the air was stale and heavy. There was no door.

He pounded on the rocky walls to determine how thick they were. They were dense and smooth. He sat down and considered his next move when a low hum filled the air. Part of the wall became transparent and a lighted room shown on the other side. The room was full of machinery, wires, and small blinking lights.

Little, rectangular machines skittered across the floor in the other room. He looked over at the garish statue, picked it up, and pitched it at the transparent wall. It crashed through, creating a sizable hole.

He clamored through the opening in the wall and stumbled into the other room. Two of the small, rectangular machines crashed into his feet. He kicked them away and started to walk over to the strange machinery.

A golden mist descended, blocking him from approaching the machinery. Within the aureate haze, shapes resembling two heads and four metallic tentacles formed. A voice sounded out, filling the room with an unfamiliar language.

Two roughhewn hands grabbed him from behind. The statue had become sentient and subdued him. He struggled to free himself, but was unable to break its granite grip. He scanned the room for a potential weapon but found none. The living statue's strong grip stymied any counterattack.

The two heads lowered to examine the soldier, causing him wince slightly as the brilliant mist crackled and stung his face. One of the glimmering head's eyes radiated a menacing reddish glow, making him feel woozy.

“So, you are from the preeminent soldier species within this part of the galaxy,” a gravelly voice said in a language he could understand.

Another voice asked, calmly “Were you sent here to destroy me and my laboratory?”

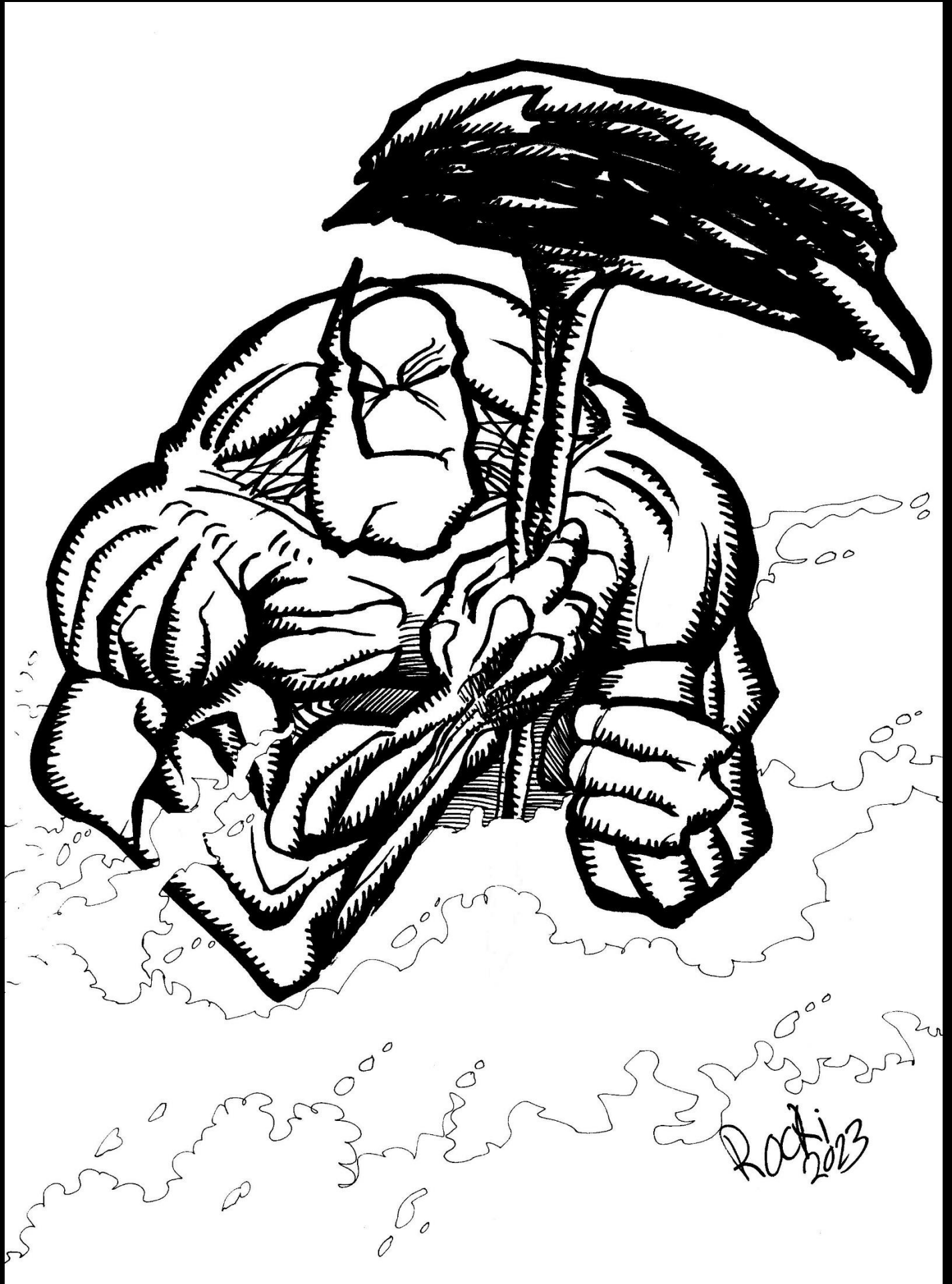
He did not answer as he continued to twitch in the stony grip, testing it for any weak points. The glimmering entity continued to scan the soldier's mind, replying, “Ah!”

In the near distance, he saw his mallet resting against one of the machines. He surged forward, pulling the living statue with him. They stumbled and fell, causing the stony creature's grip to loosen.

The soldier broke free and rolled toward his trusted weapon, snatching it up with one hand. He threw it like a missile toward the statue. Its impact shattered the statue's body into pieces.

The room became dark. The glowing entity, all of the machines, and the remains of the statue's body disappeared. On the ground before him sat a large seed.

He reached down to pick it up along with his mallet. After a brief hesitation, the soldier ascended the steps.

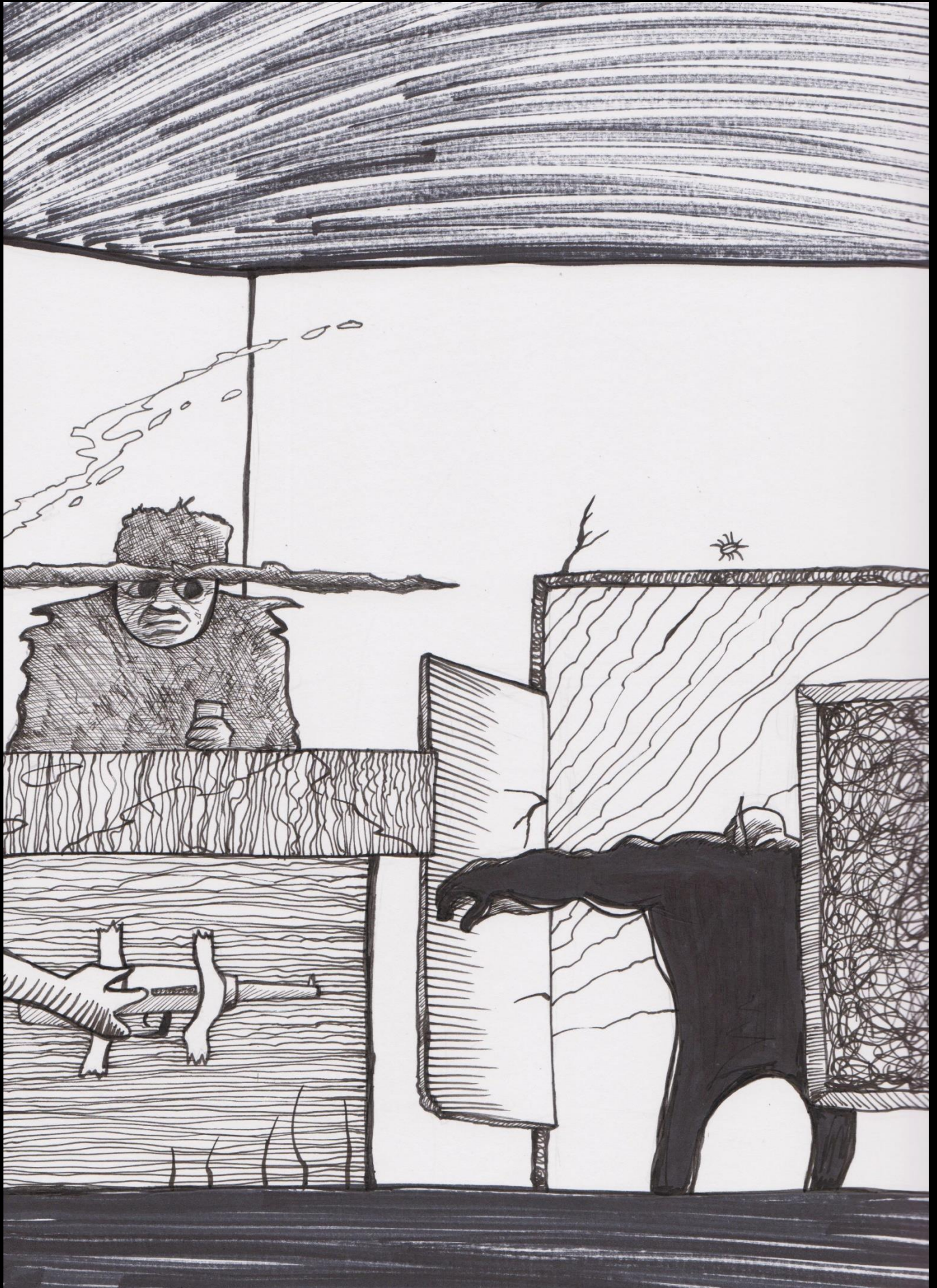


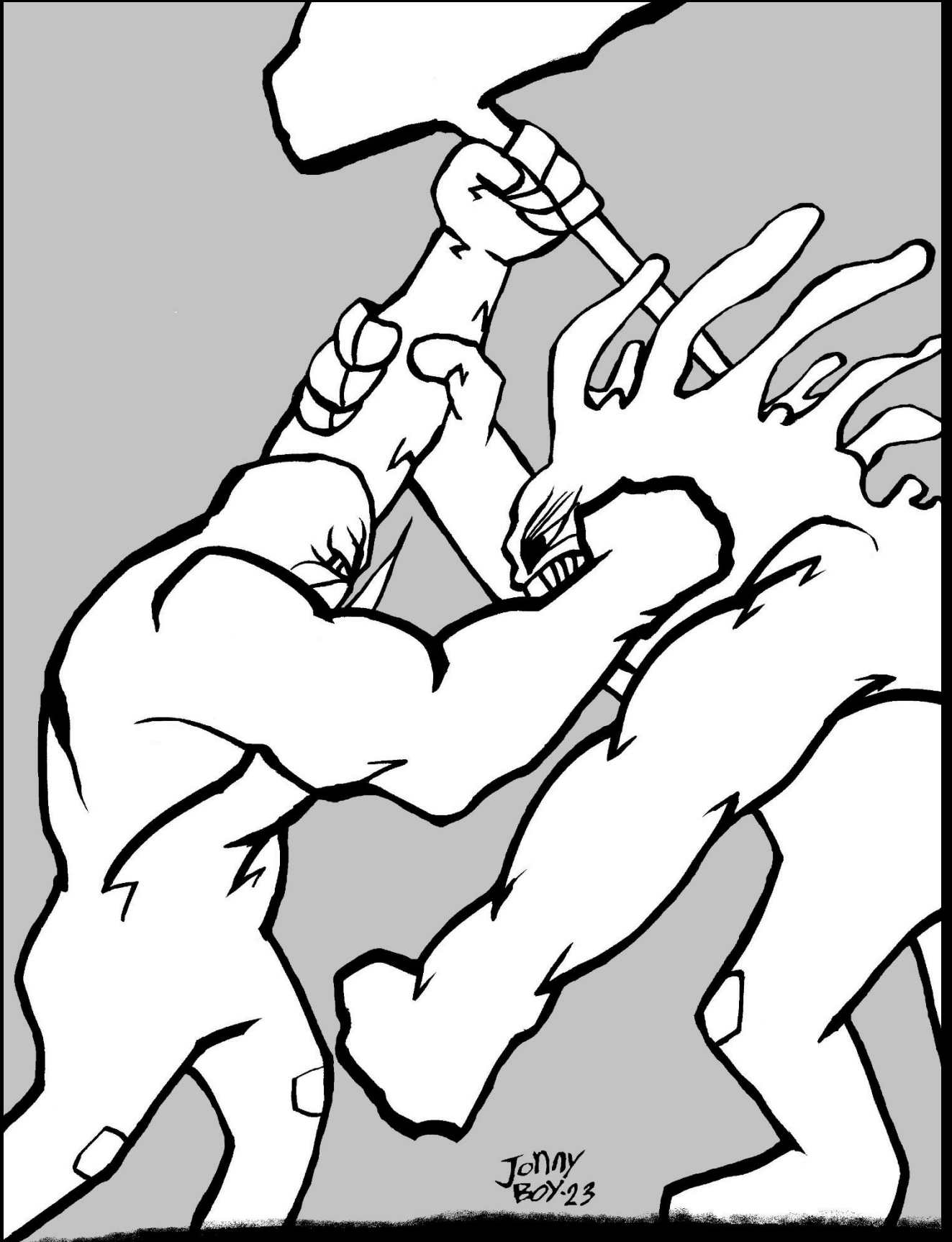


COOKi
23











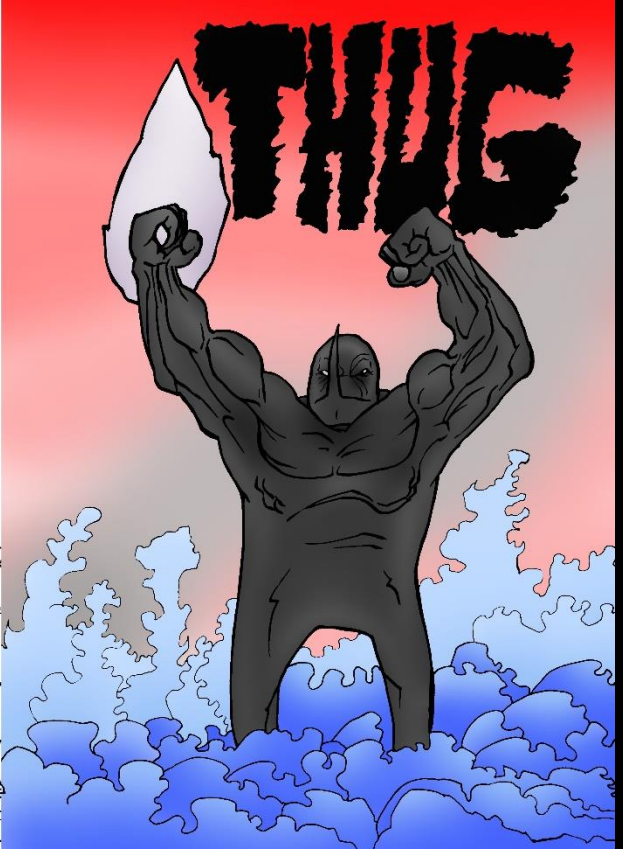
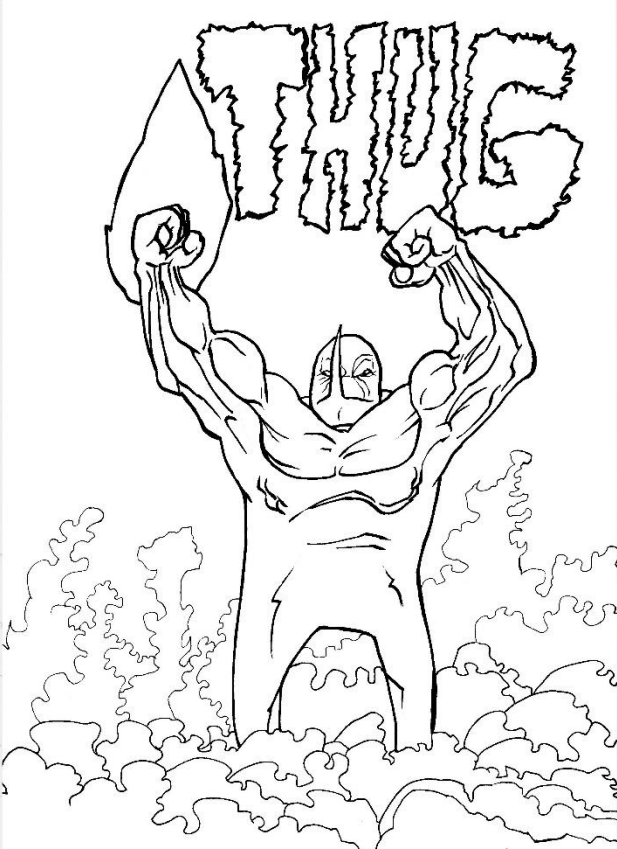
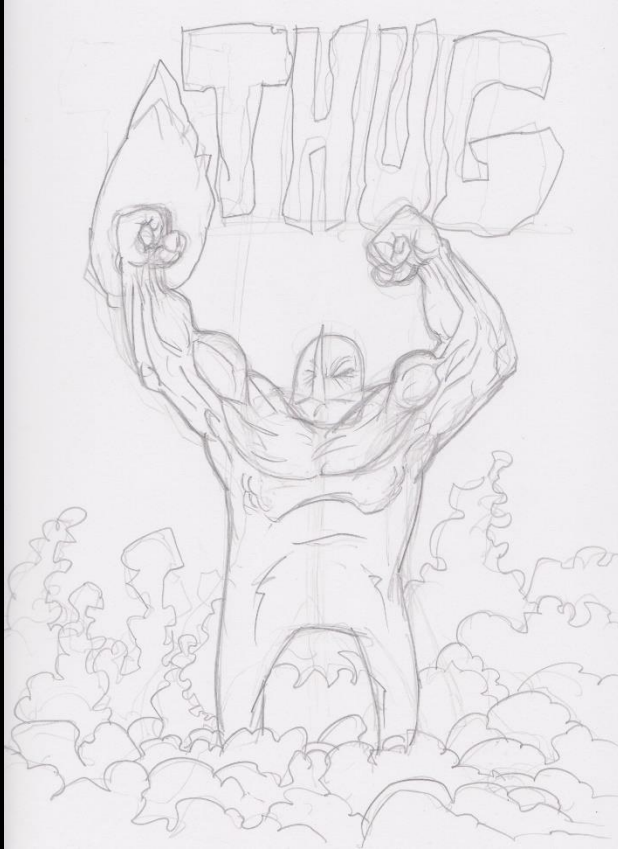
This is the original page ten. For the redrawn one, I decided to emphasize their travels and the creatures, entities, humanoids, and aliens they meet along the way. This page was meant to emphasize their “marriage” and I had wanted to include a Bigfoot-kind of creature residing over their ceremony, but it did not work out as I had imagined it.



shk1923

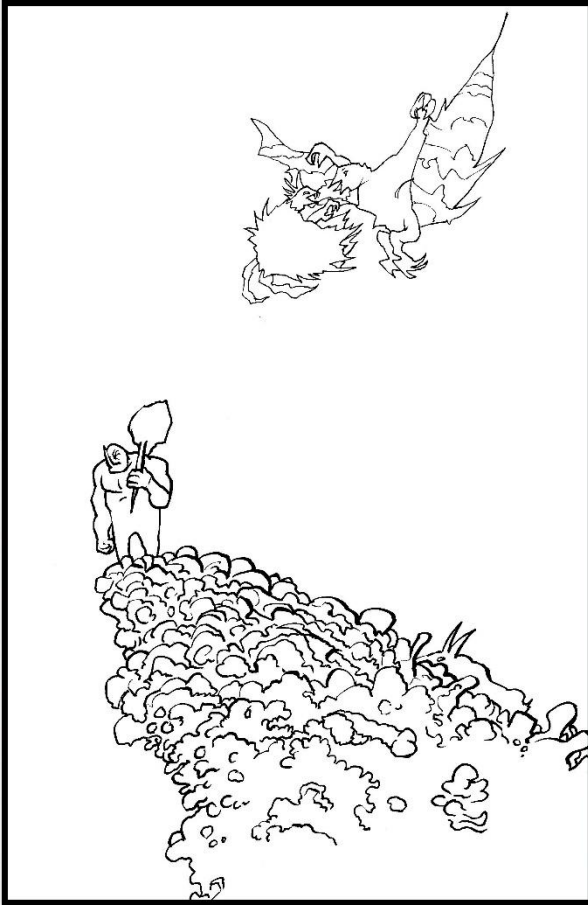
T HUG

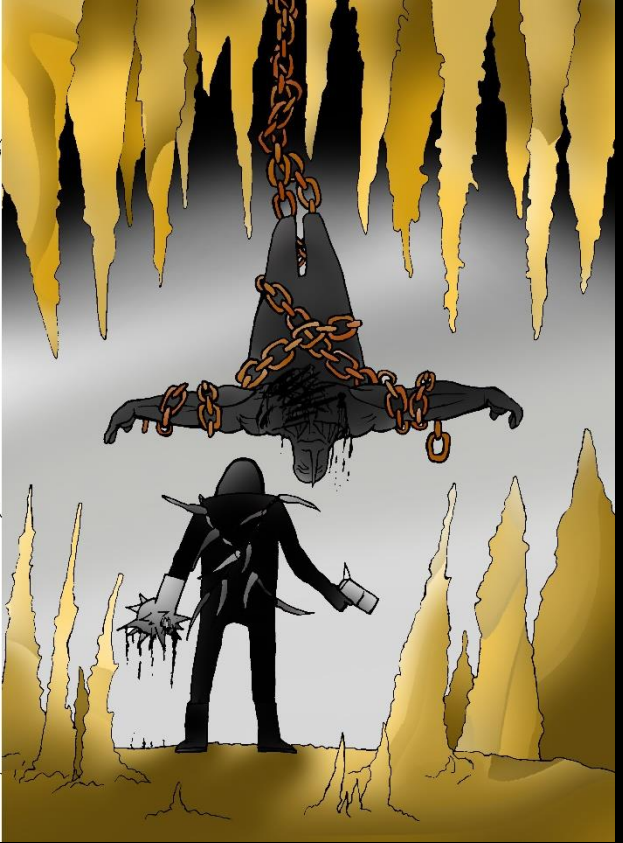
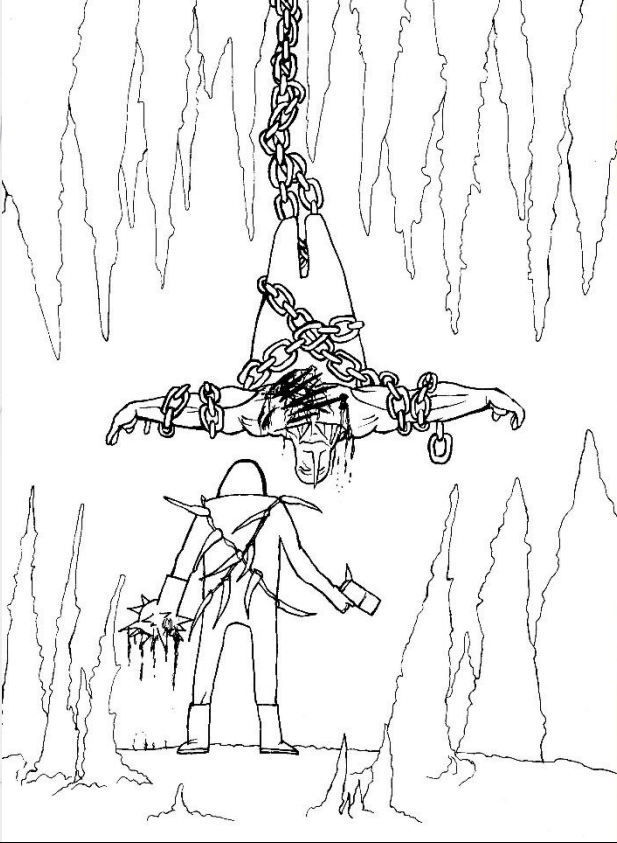


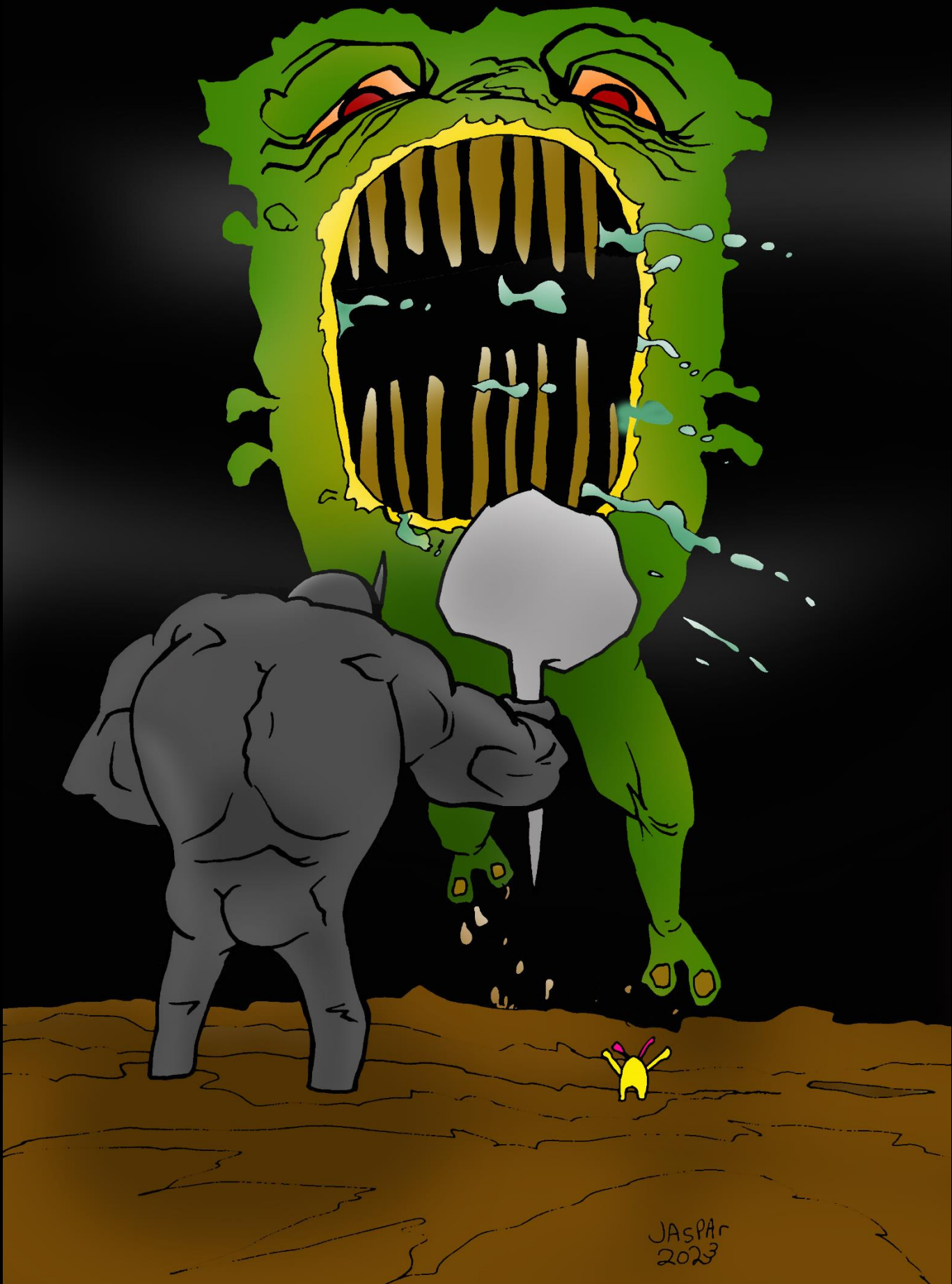












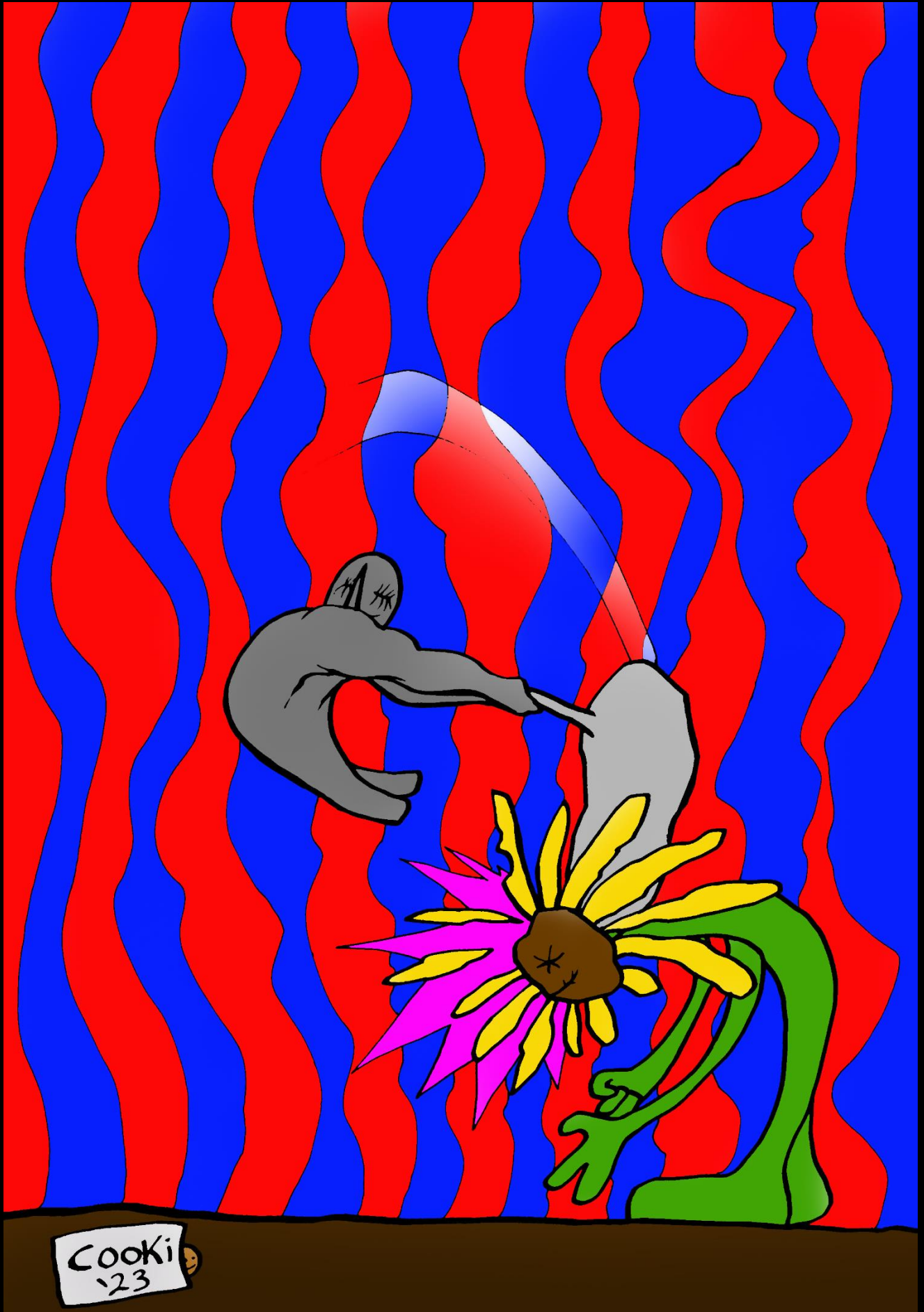
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OLD MAN COMICS!

COMING... TOO SOON!



LEGACY!

Ya' boi!

