

Parameswara and Temasek:



The Sacking of Singapore

Foo Swee Chin

Action Comics Capsule
Parameswara and Temasek: The Sacking of Singapore
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WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

Foo Swee Chin



About the Singapore Bicentennial e-book series

Take a quick dive into the different time periods in Singapore history, the stories and legacies of our different communities. Discover lesser-known histories of people, places and events. Each nugget offers a unique glimpse into the layered lives and histories of our people, going into topics as diverse as natural history, architecture and religious practices.

About the Singapore Bicentennial

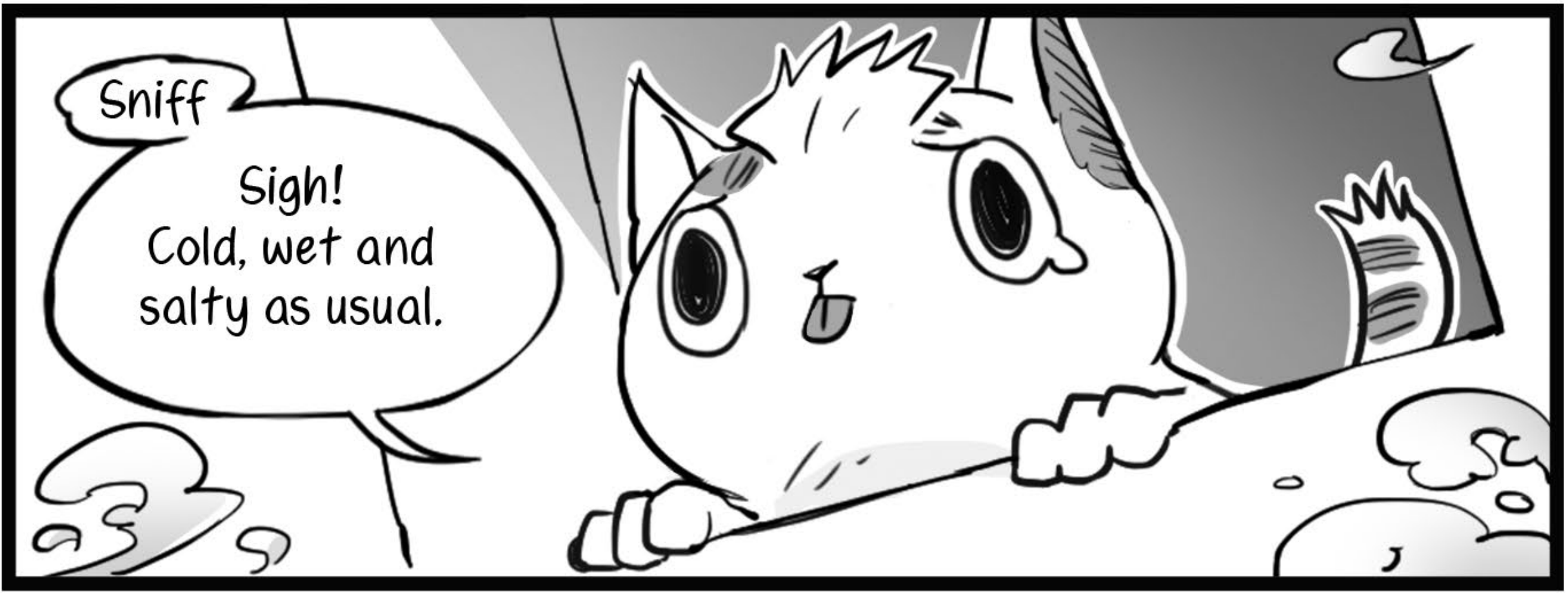
The Singapore Bicentennial marks the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the British in Singapore, a turning point in our history. But our story starts way before that.

Travelling back in time to 700 years ago, the Singapore Bicentennial is an occasion for us to reflect on our extensive and textured history: how we have evolved, from a place with a geographically strategic location, into Singaporeans with a unique DNA.

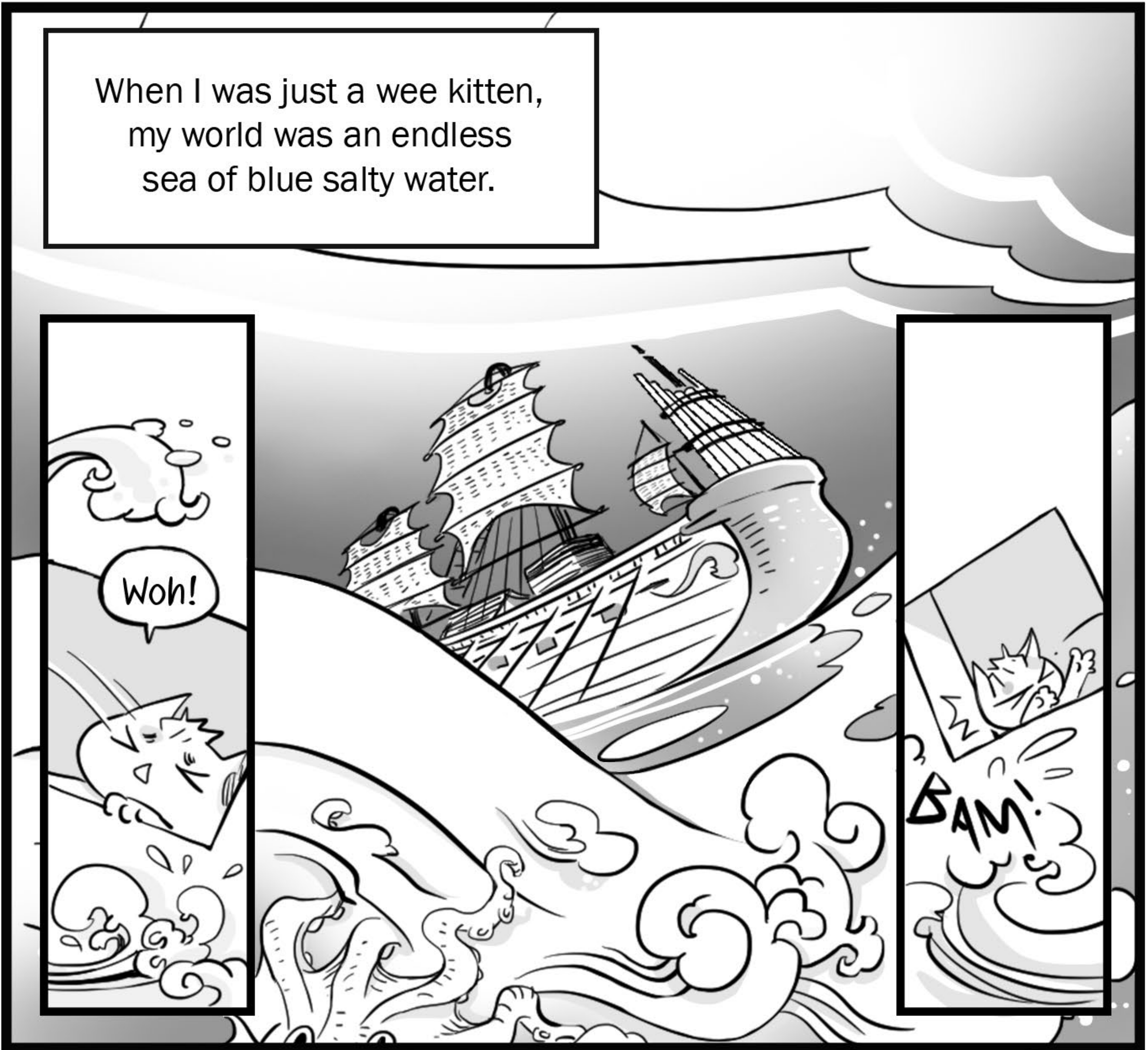
This commemoration features a huge cast of contributors, as well as the regional and global developments that have shaped our lives and identities.

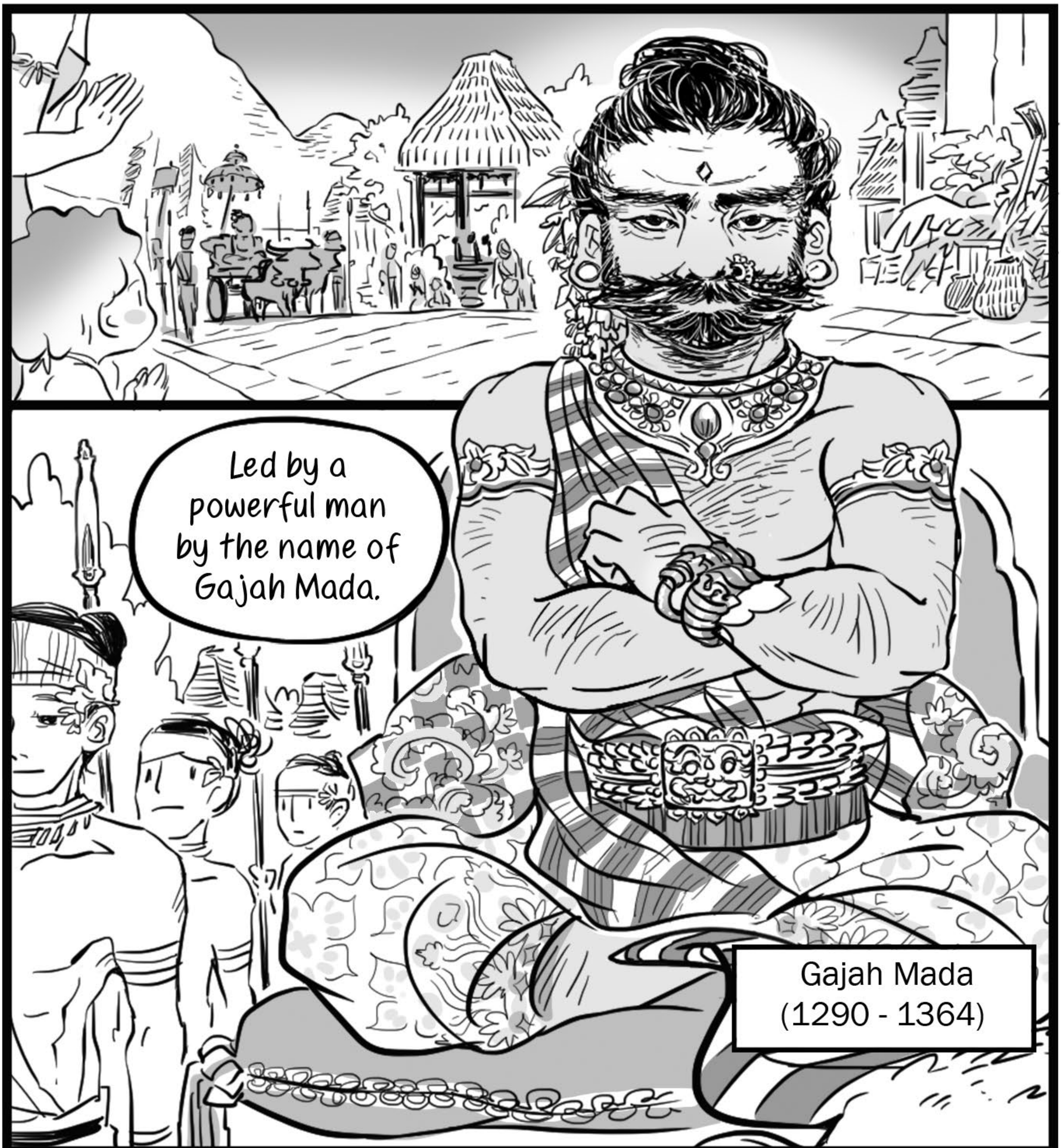
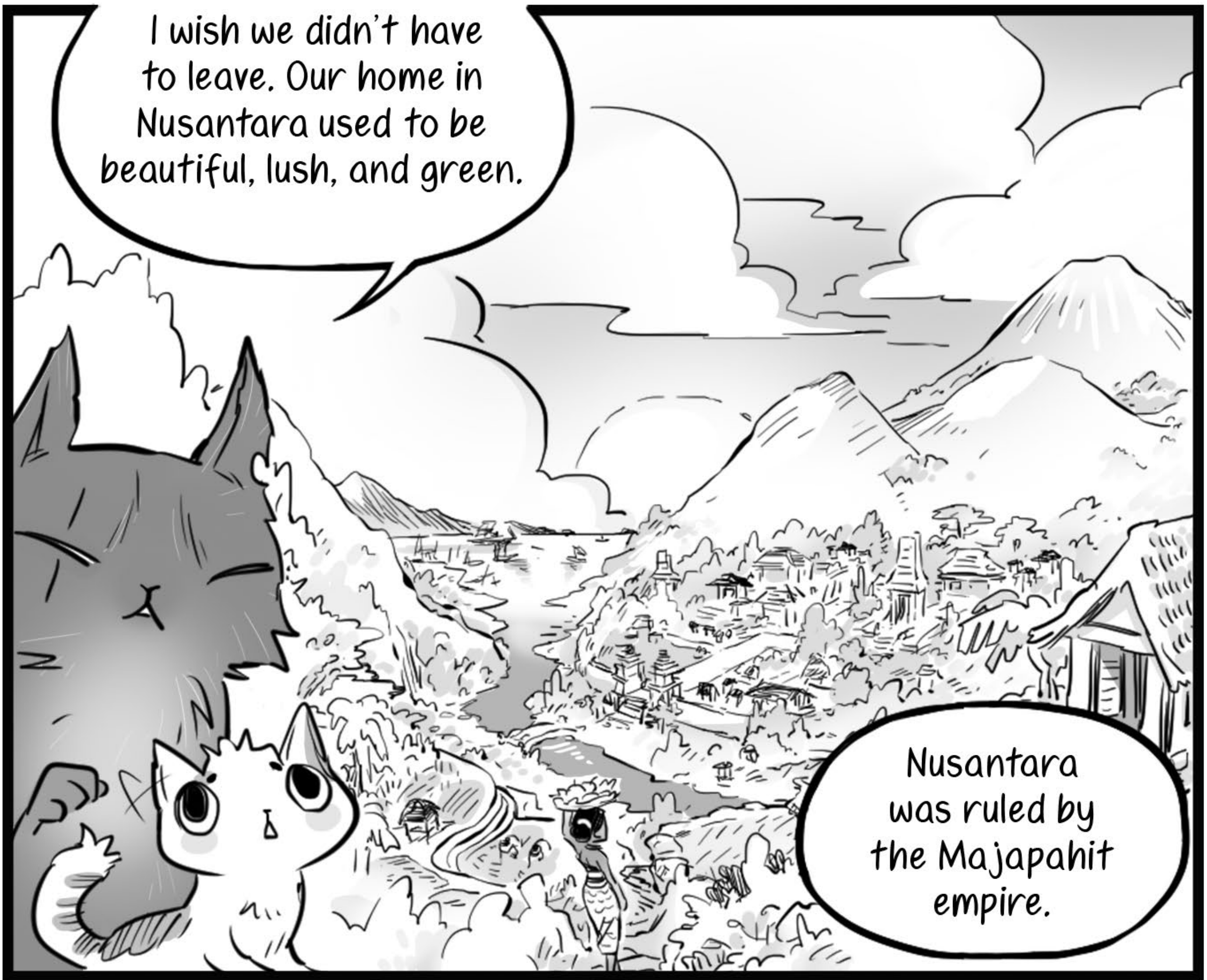
Parameswara and Temasek: The Sacking of Singapore

A kitten boards the ship of Parameswara, a prince on the run from Majapahit forces after his failed uprising. Leaving behind the beautiful lands of Nusantara, they end up on the shores of Temasek, where the ambitious prince turns his ambition towards the unsuspecting host and ruler, Sangesinga.



When I was just a wee kitten,
my world was an endless
sea of blue salty water.





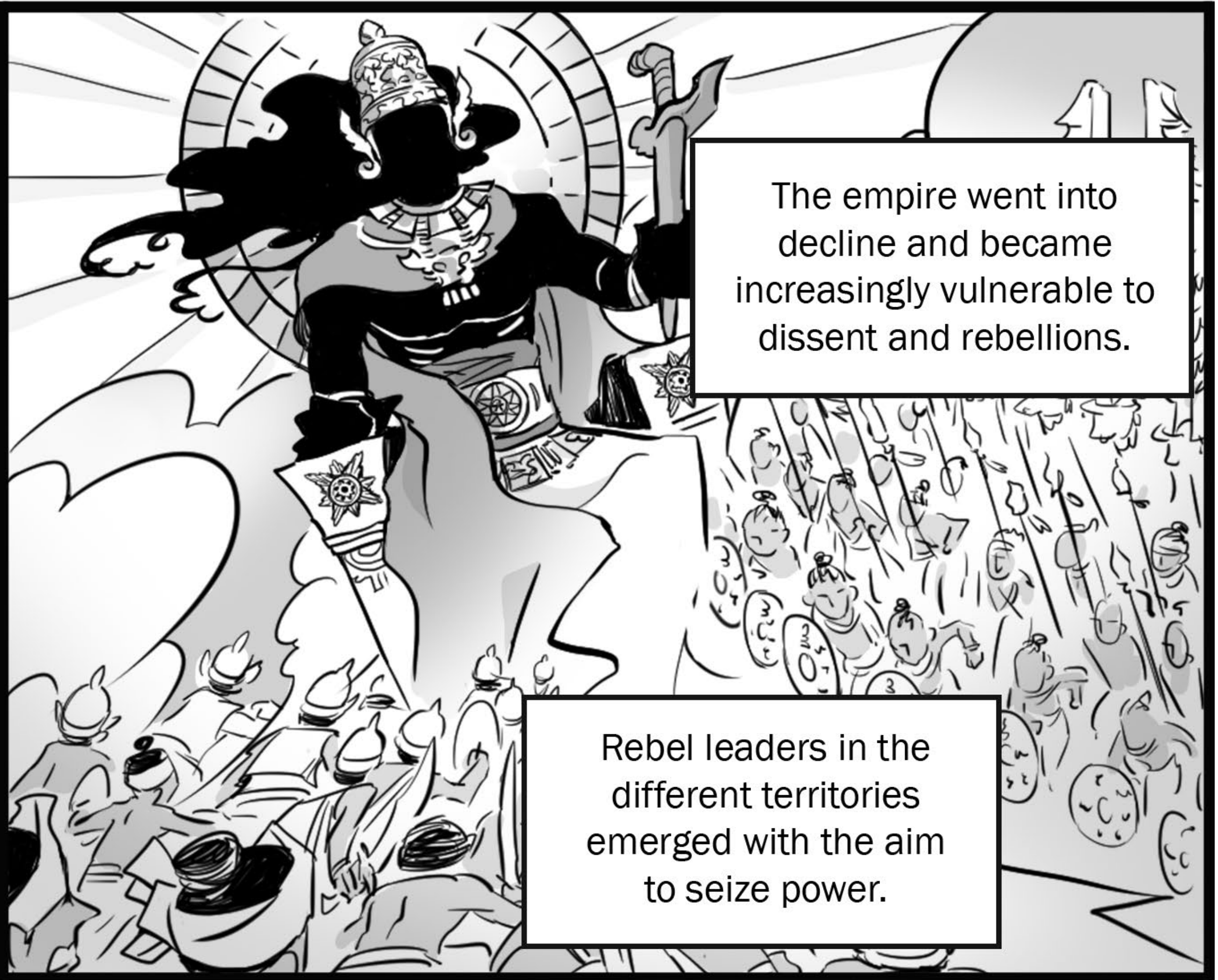
The people loved
Gajah Mada.
He was their hero.



His death brought
despair and division
spread and rippled
across the land.



The empire went into
decline and became
increasingly vulnerable to
dissent and rebellions.



Rebel leaders in the
different territories
emerged with the aim
to seize power.

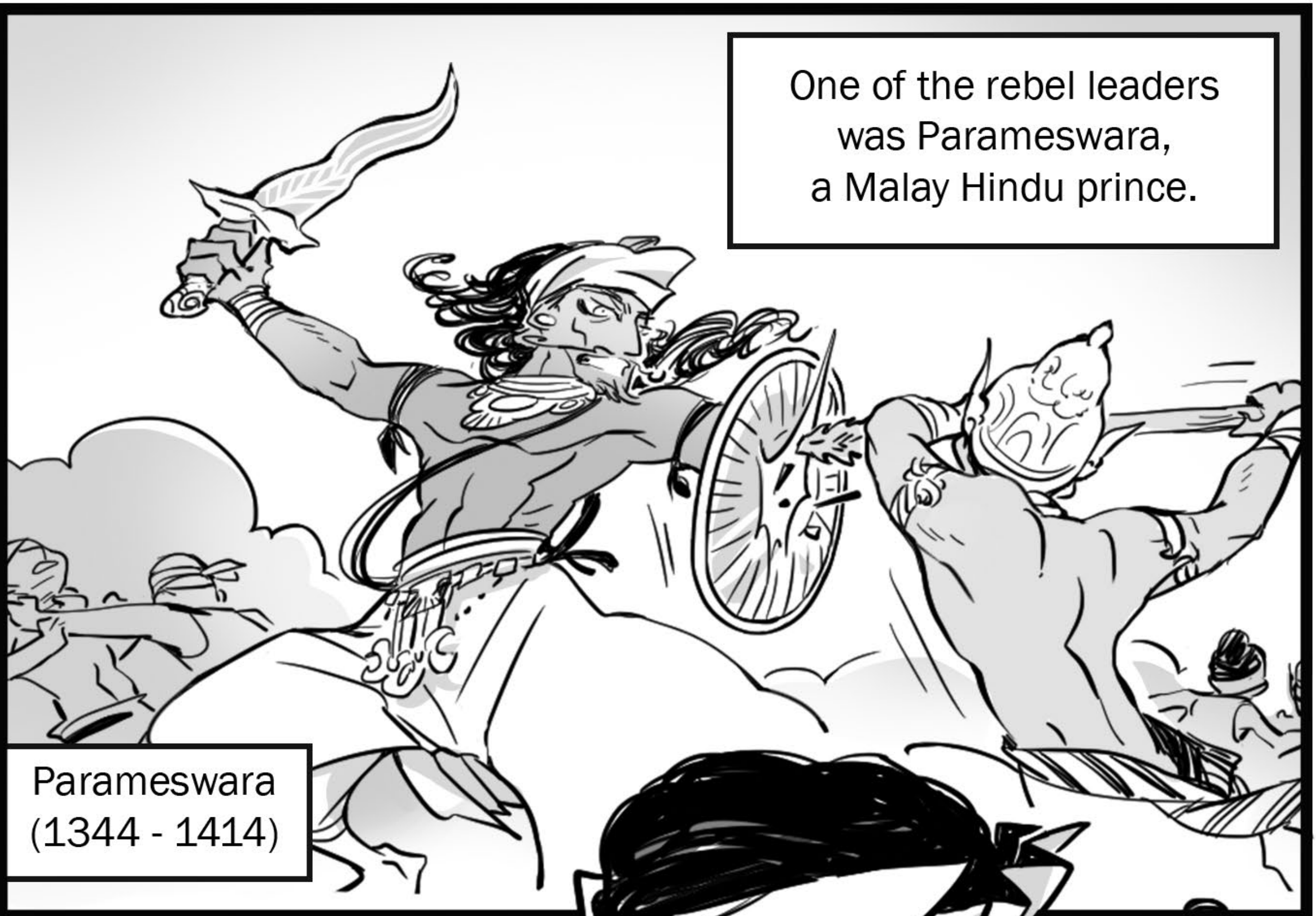
There were ruthless
murders, homes
were destroyed.



You and your
brothers were
born amidst
chaotic times.



One of the rebel leaders was Parameswara, a Malay Hindu prince.



Parameswara (1344 - 1414)



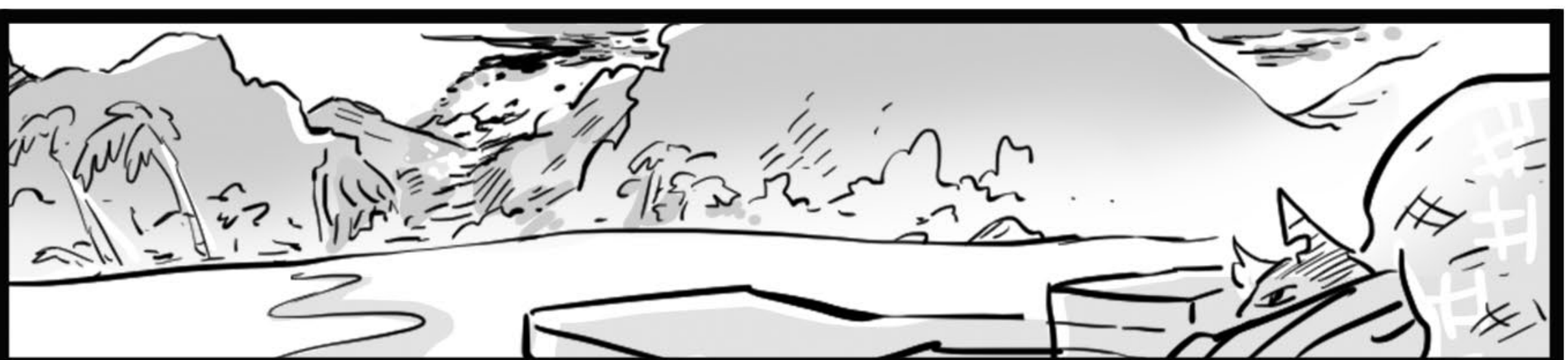
Unfortunately his attempt to seize power did not go well.

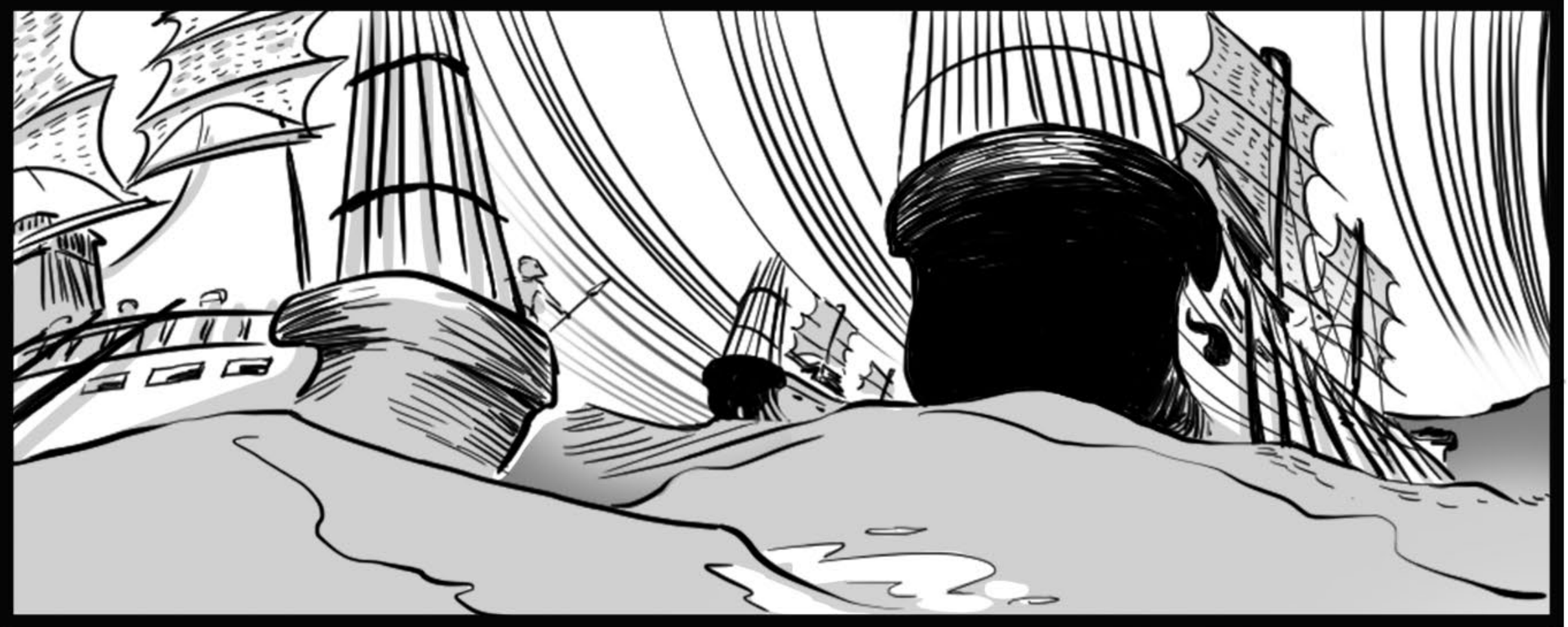


He had to abandon Bangka island and flee from the pursuing Majapahit forces.



We took the chance to sneak aboard.



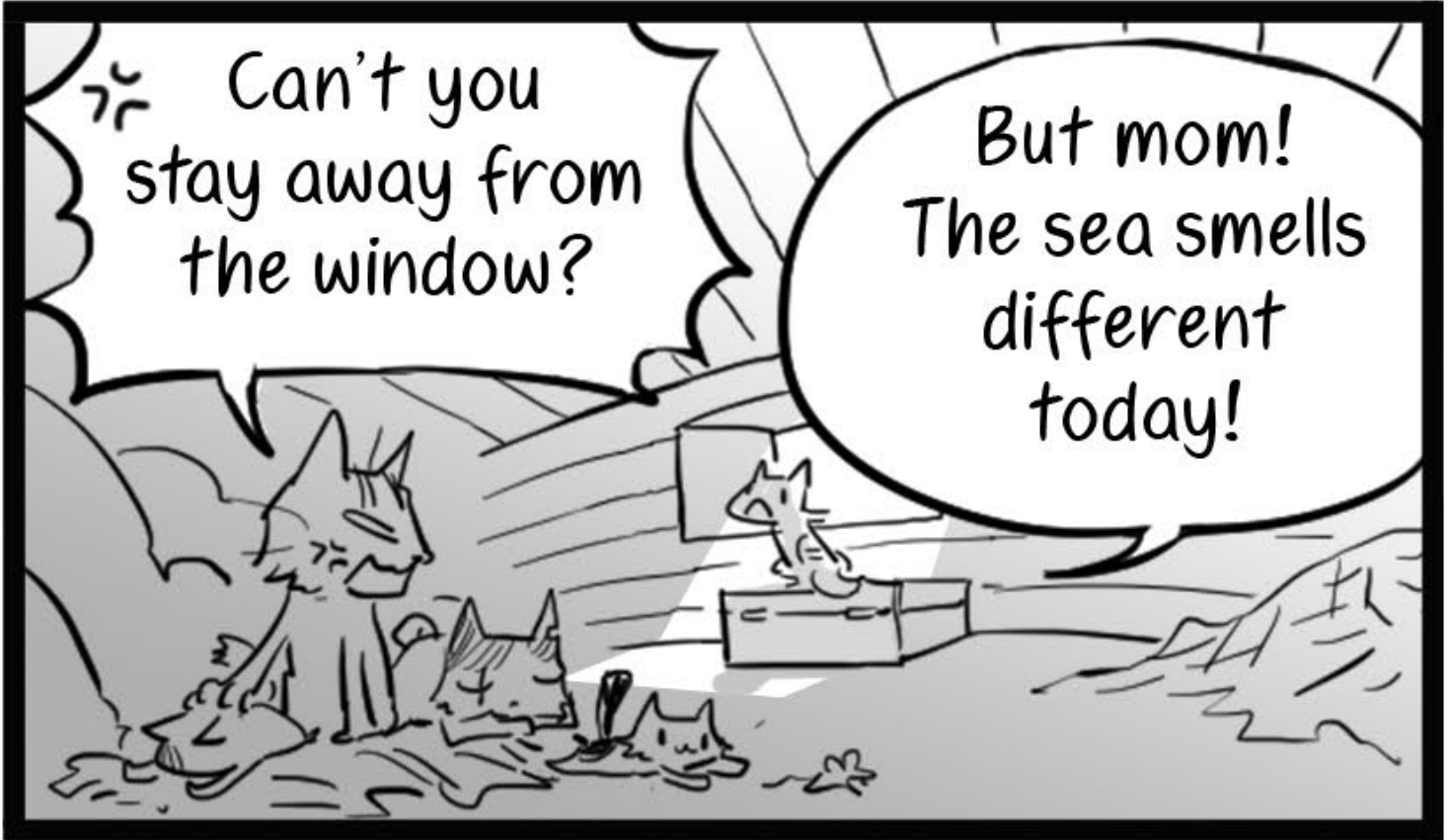




A few days later...

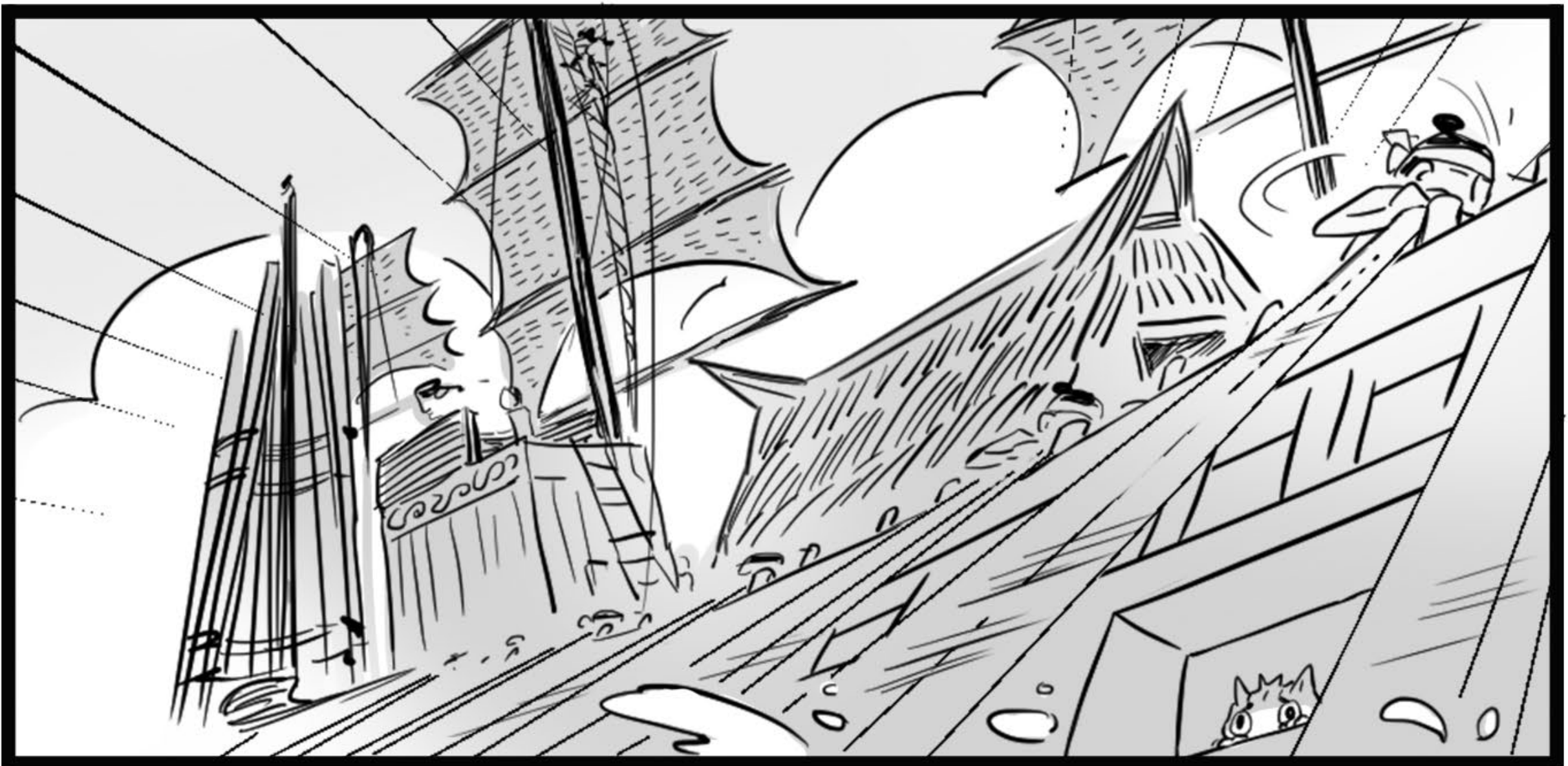


Sniff
Hmm



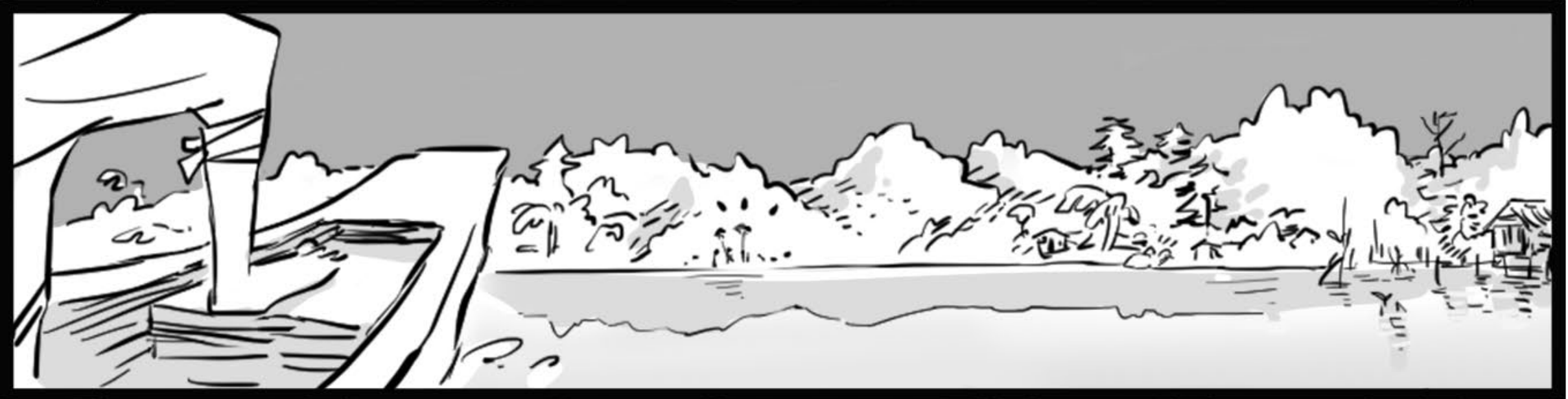
Can't you stay away from the window?

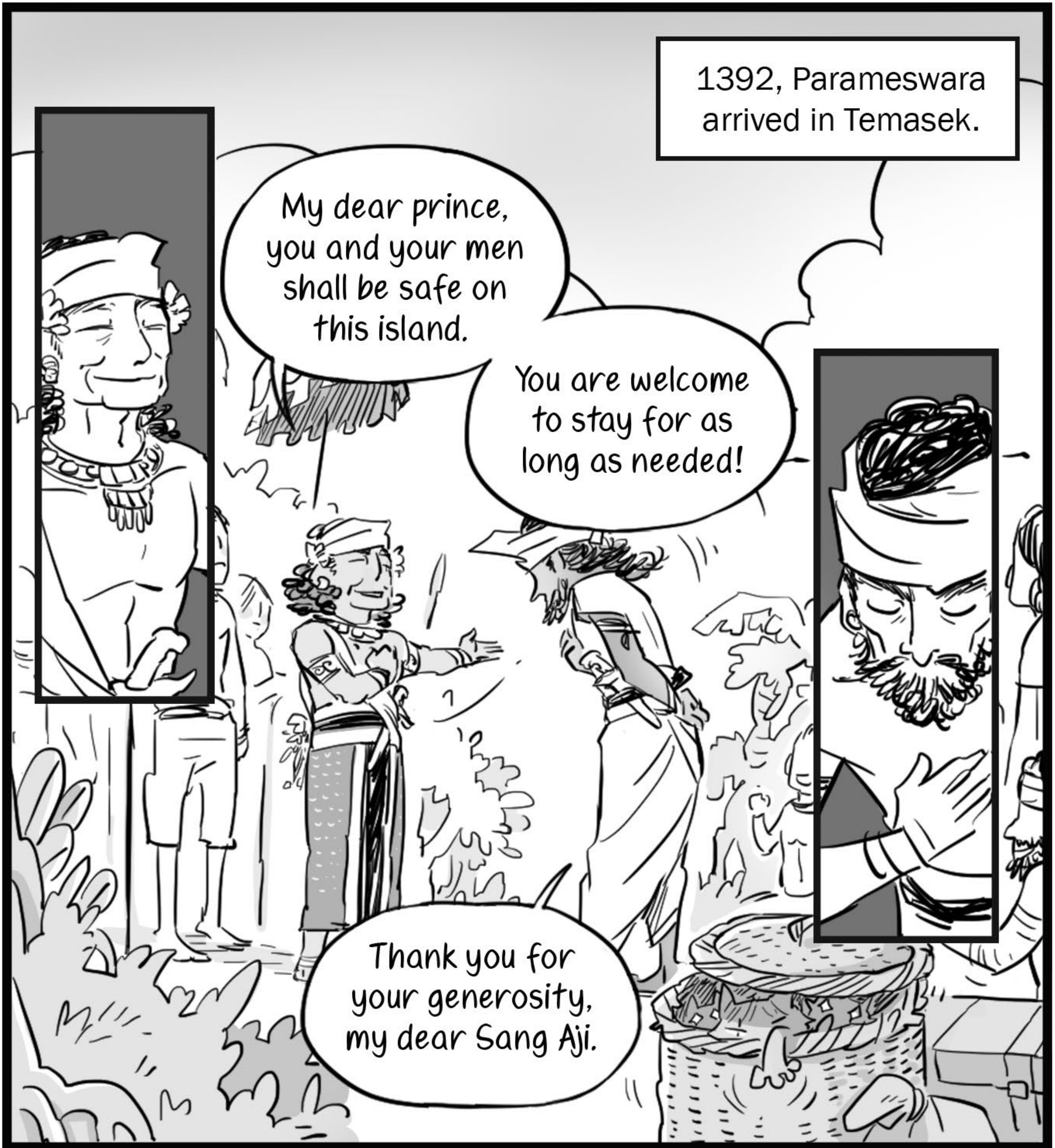
But mom! The sea smells different today!



Land!

Men! I see land ahead!



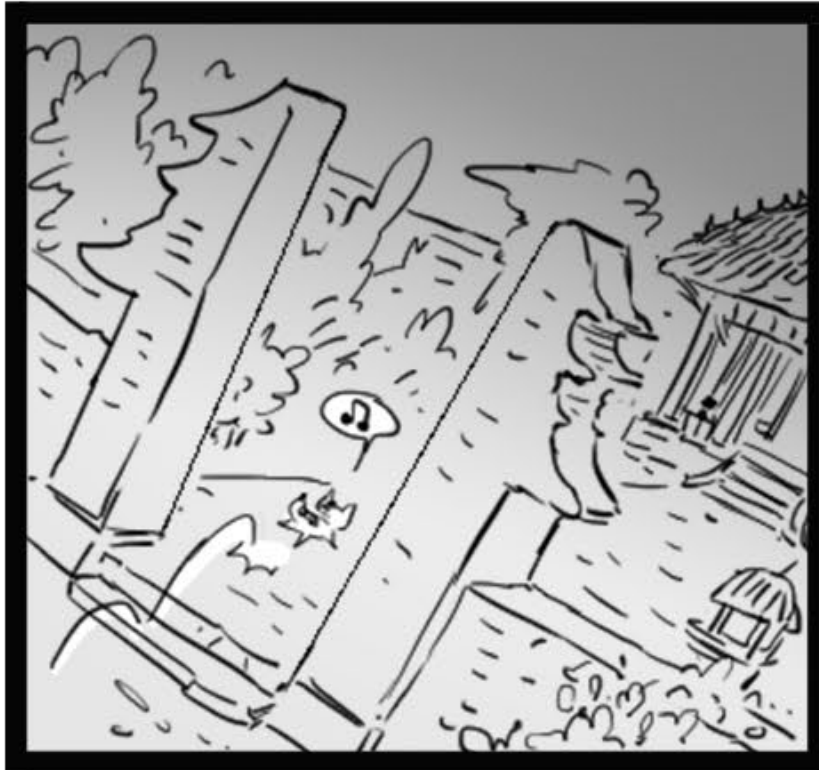


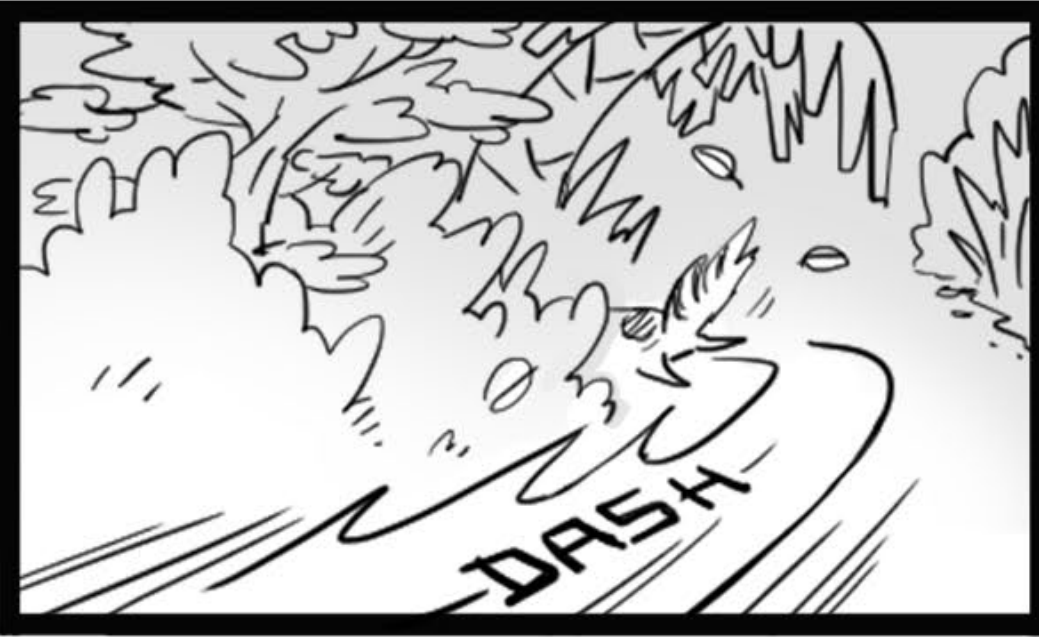
While we explored
the new land,

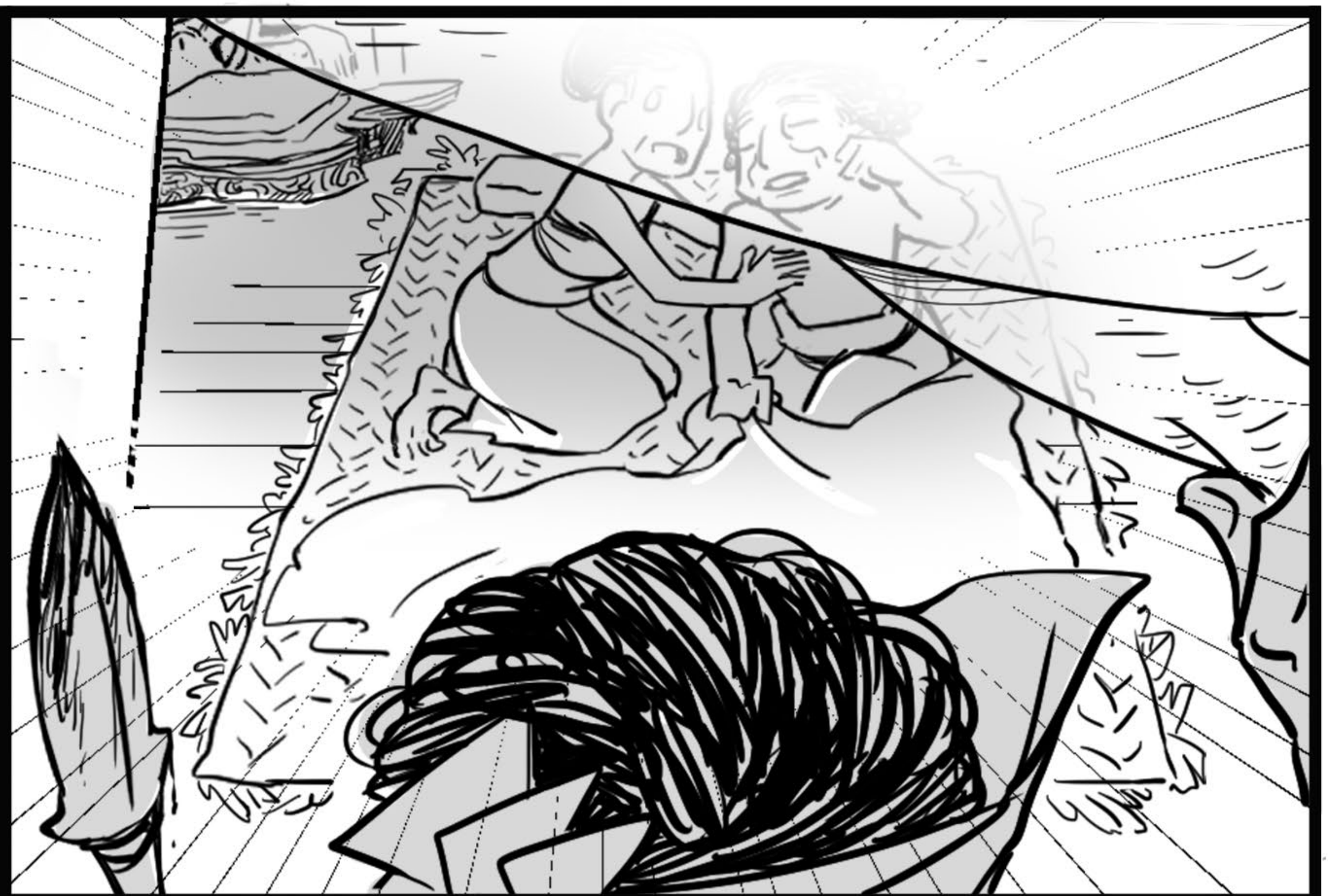


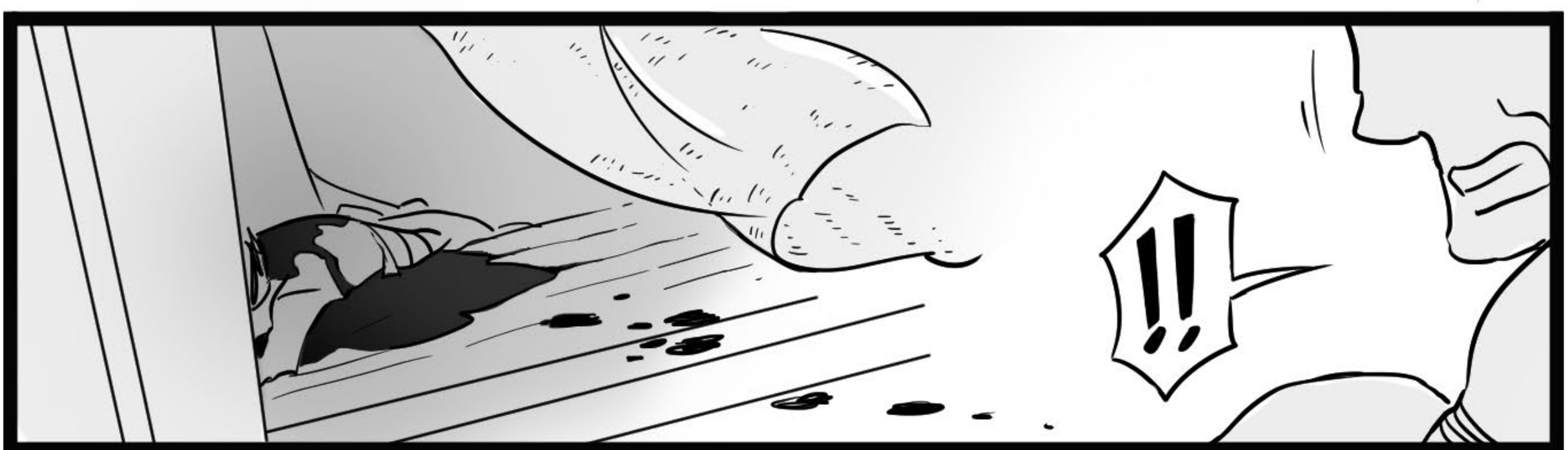
the Sang Aji hosted
Parameswara and
his men generously.

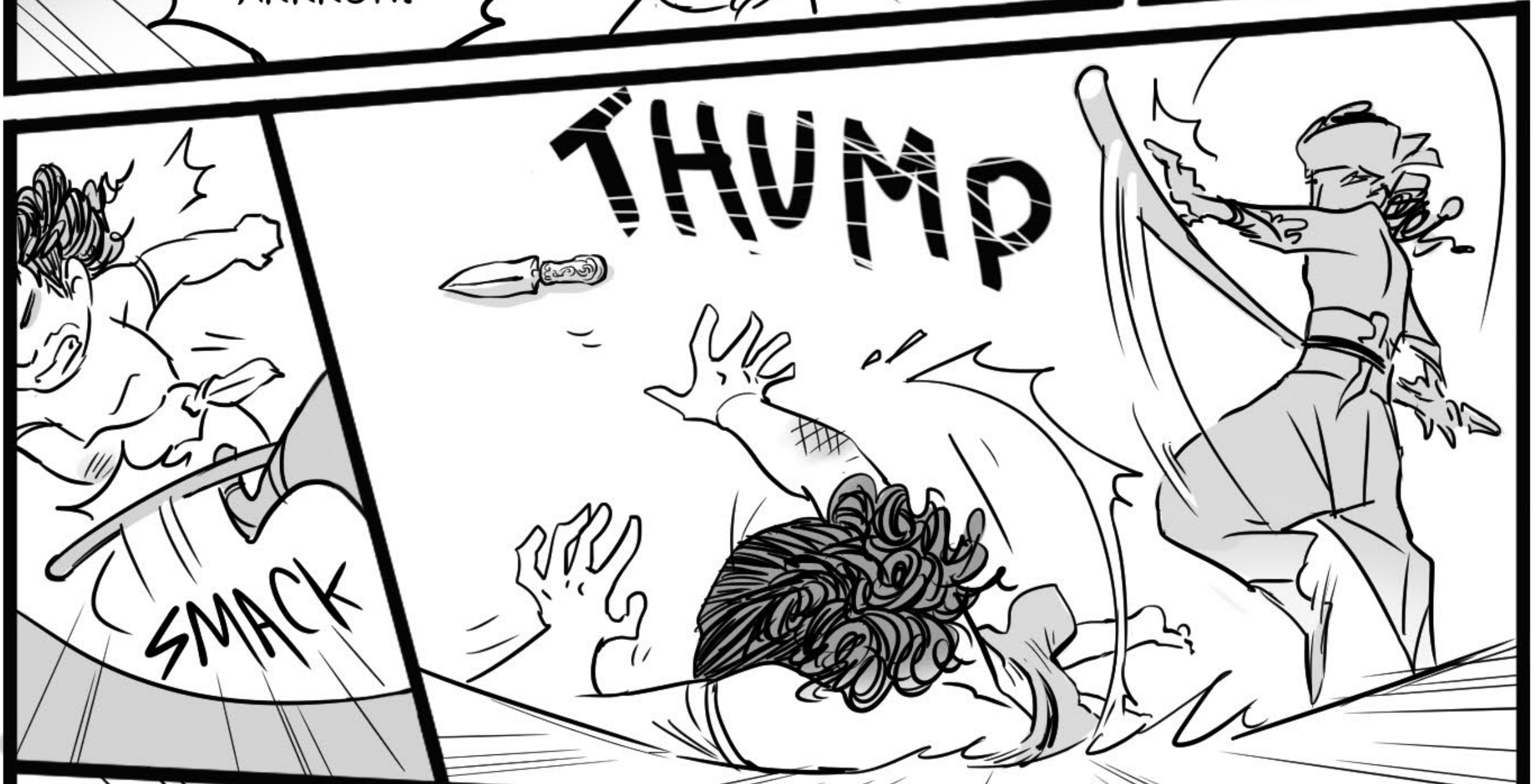


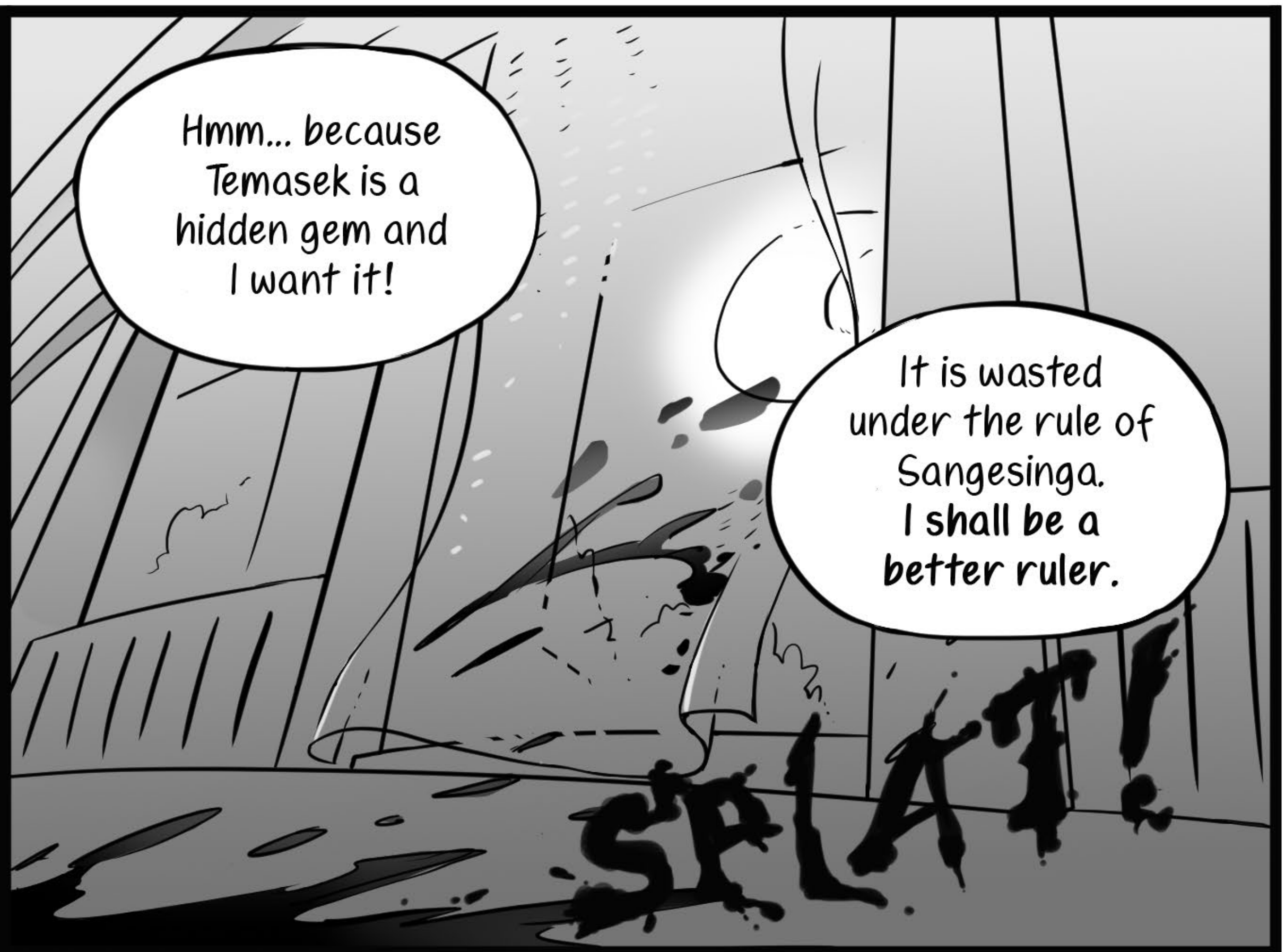
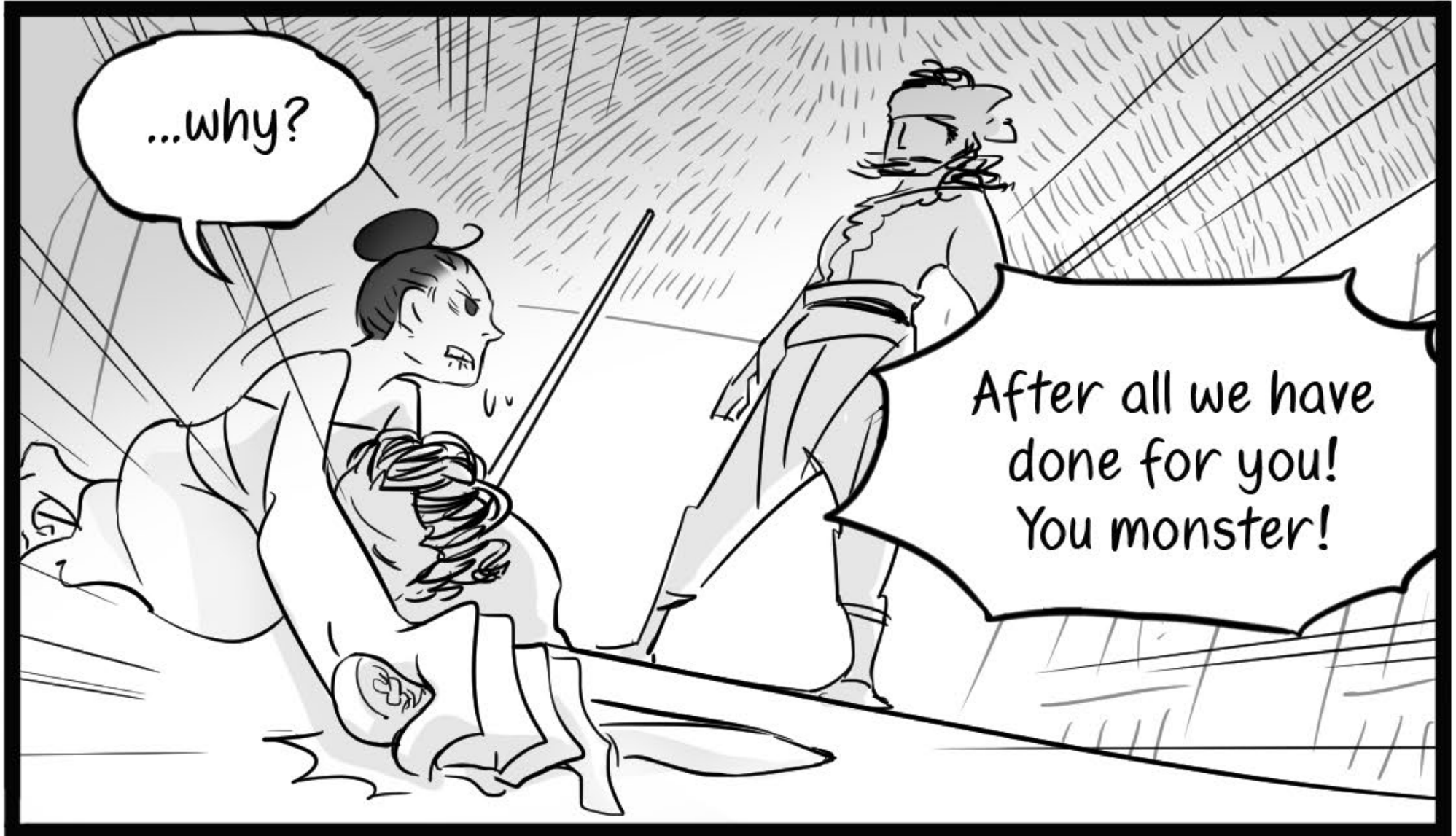


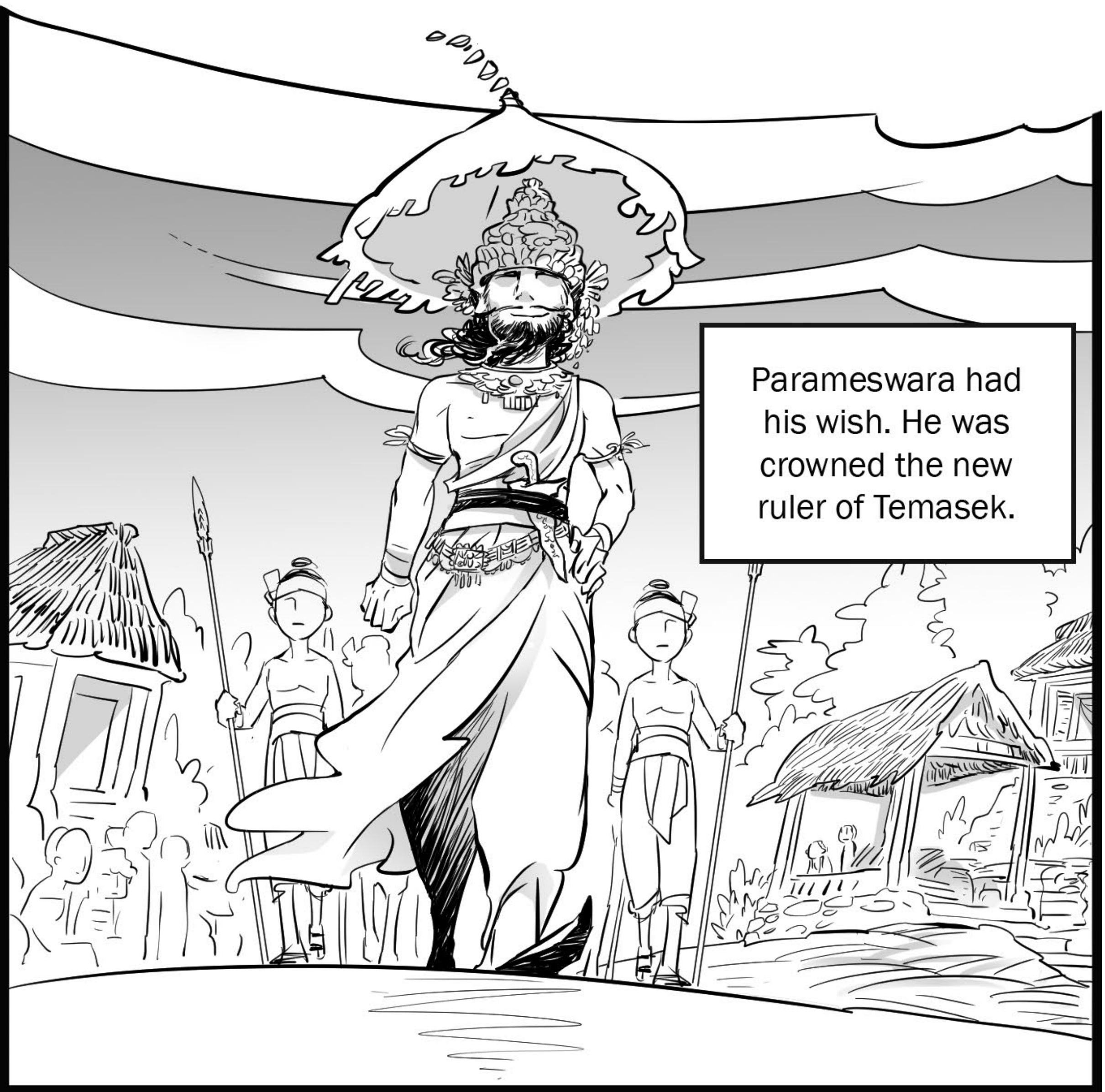
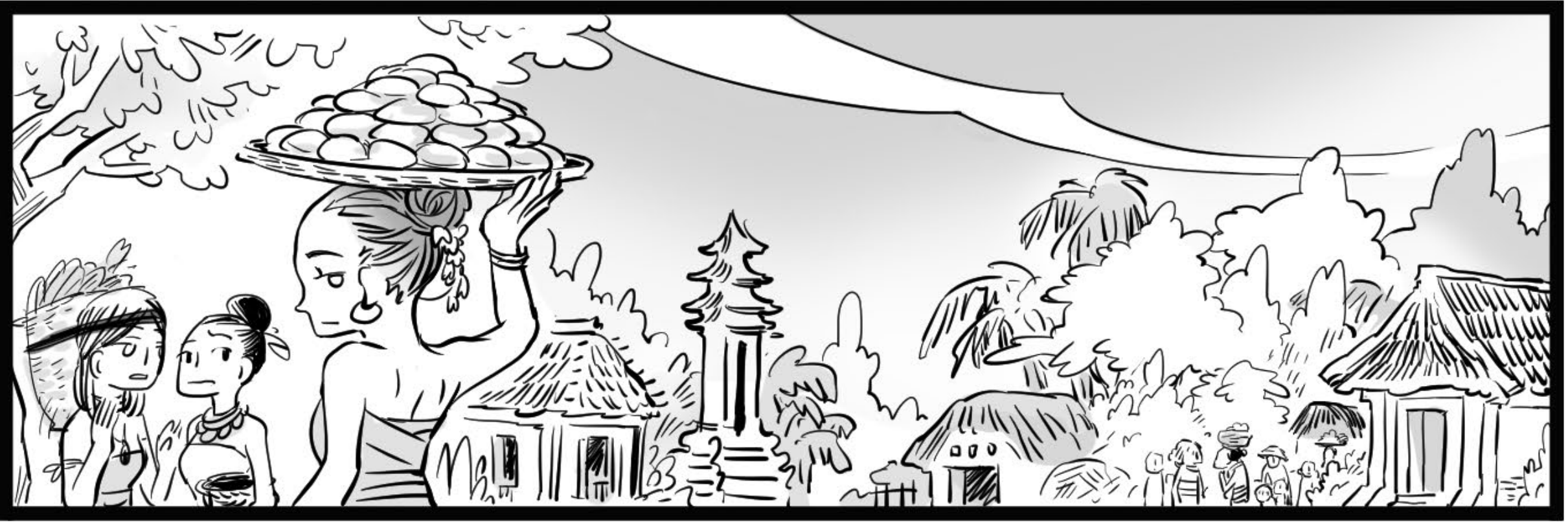


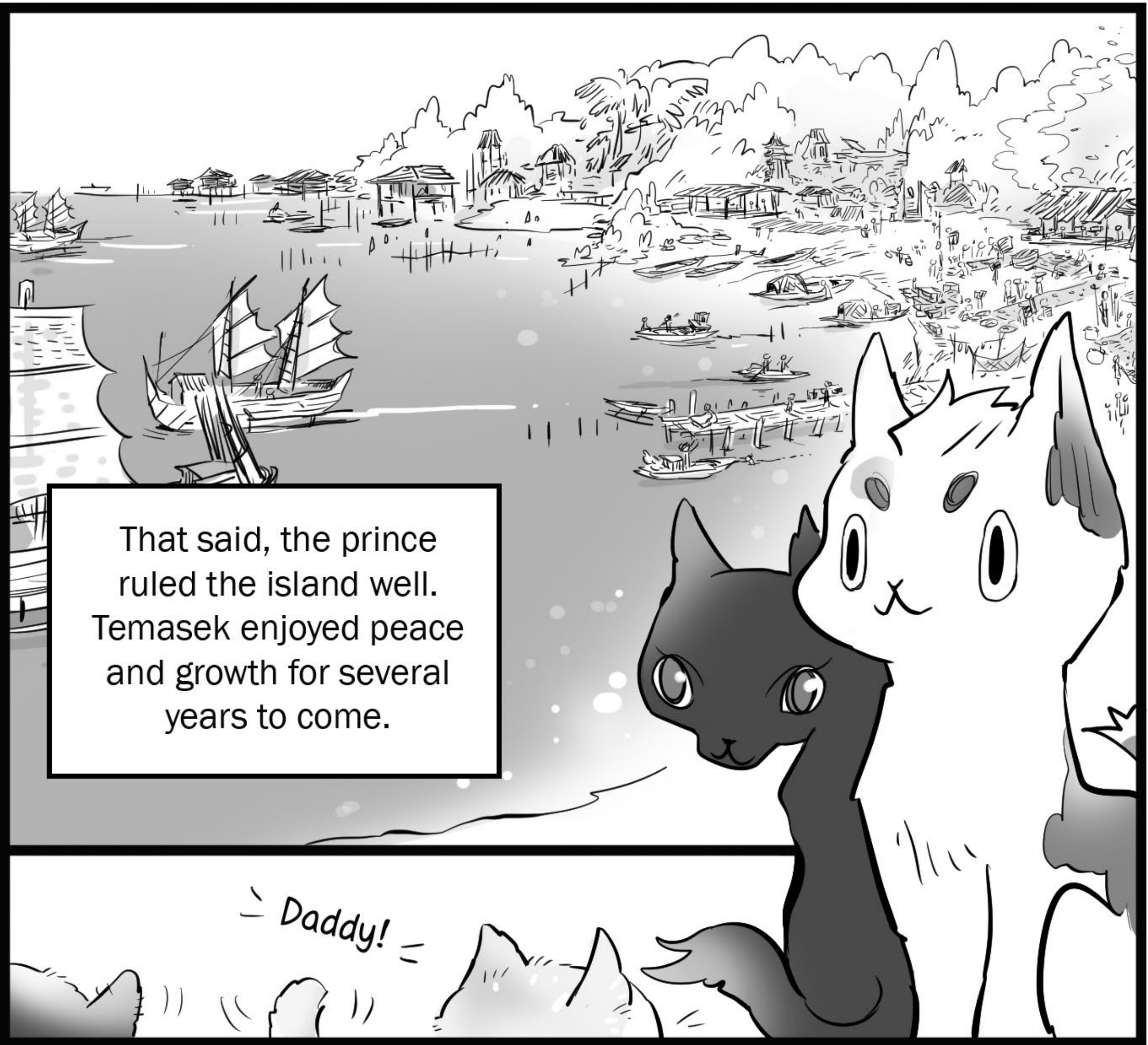






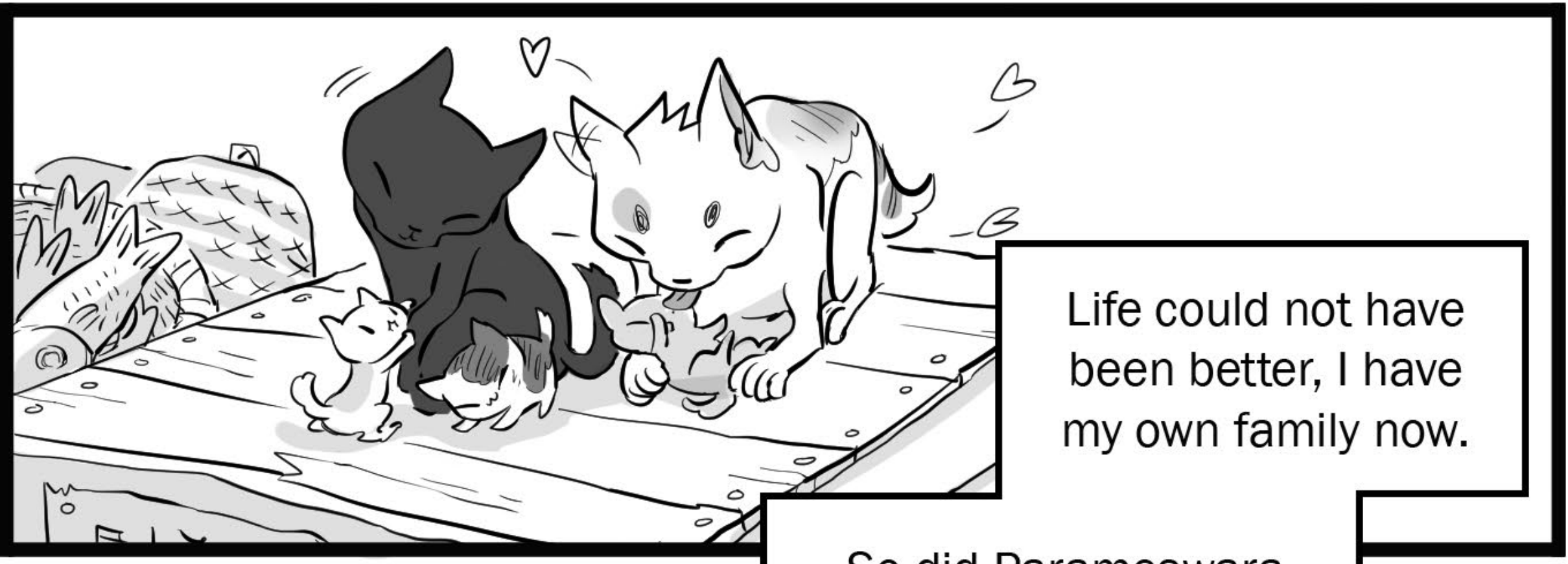






That said, the prince ruled the island well. Temasek enjoyed peace and growth for several years to come.

Daddy!



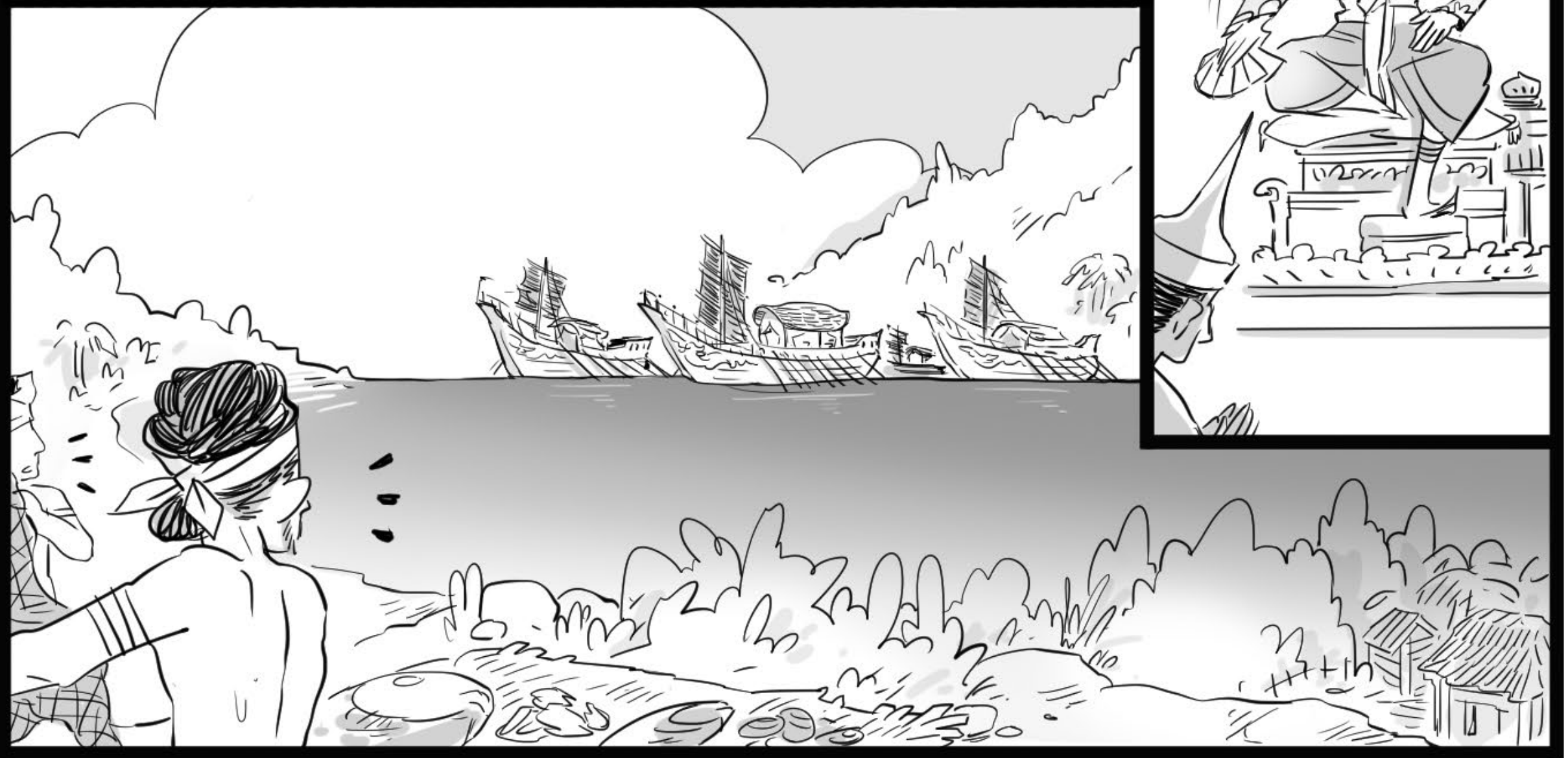
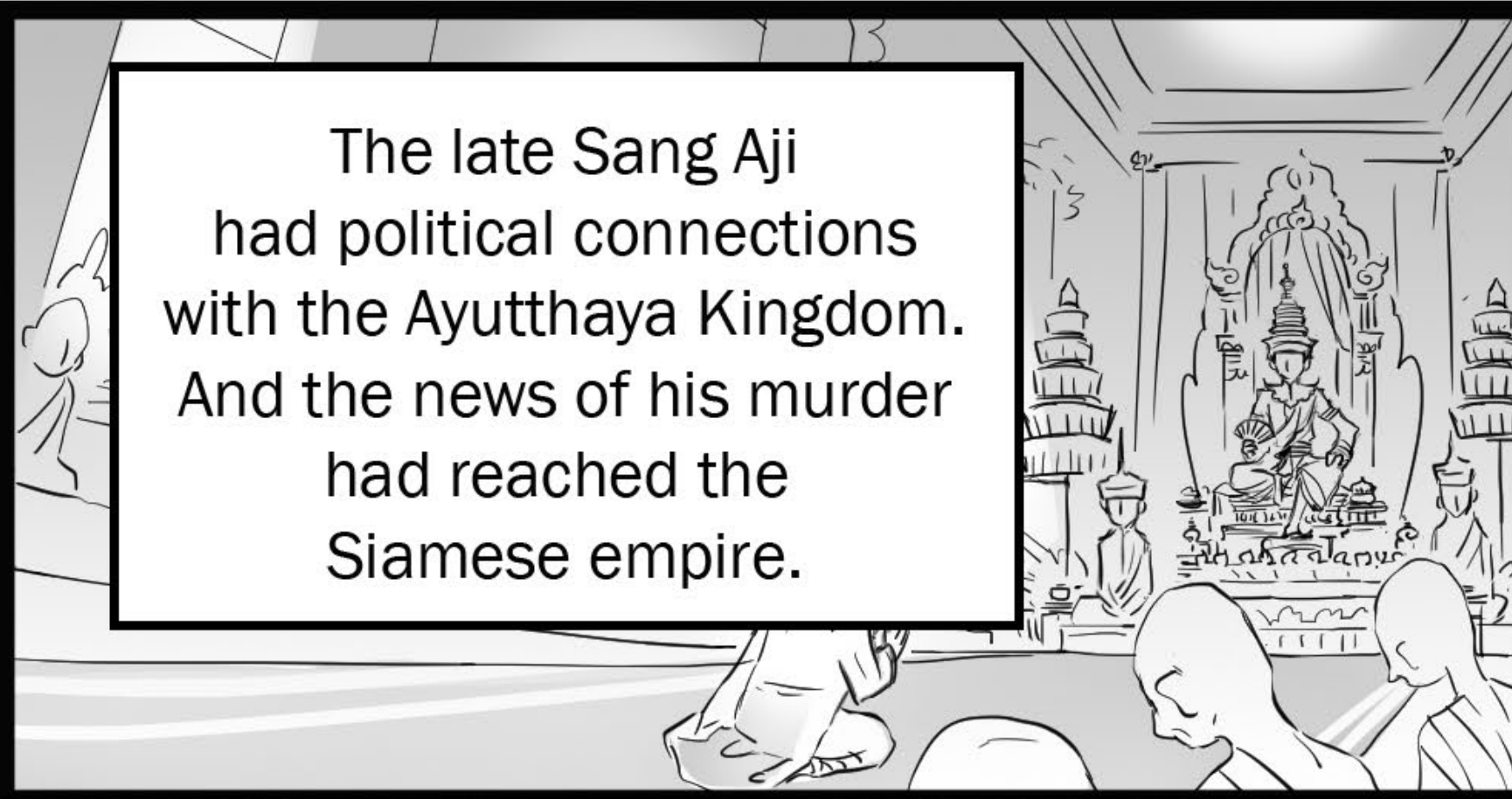
Life could not have been better, I have my own family now.

So did Parameswara who took a beautiful wife and settled down.



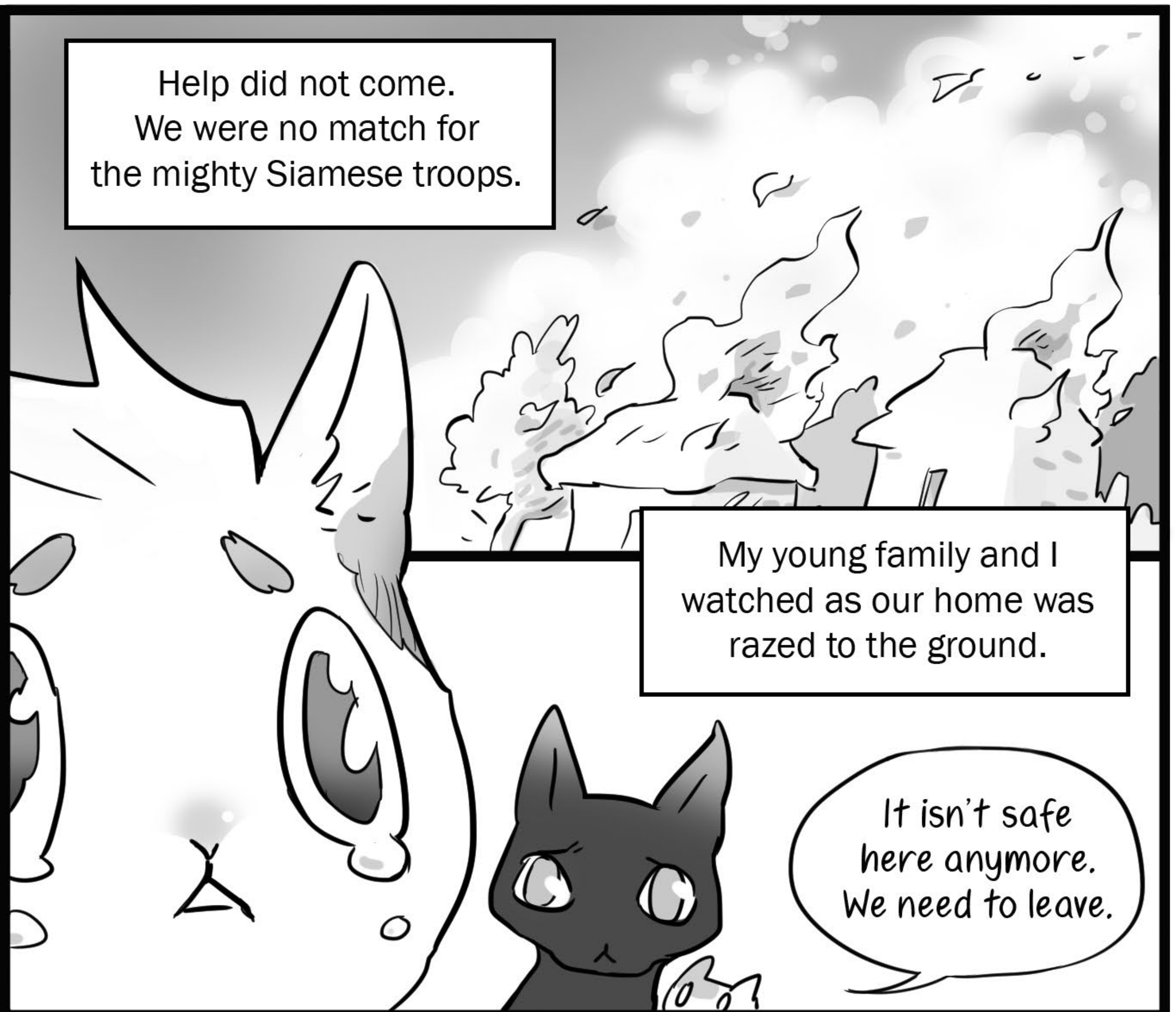
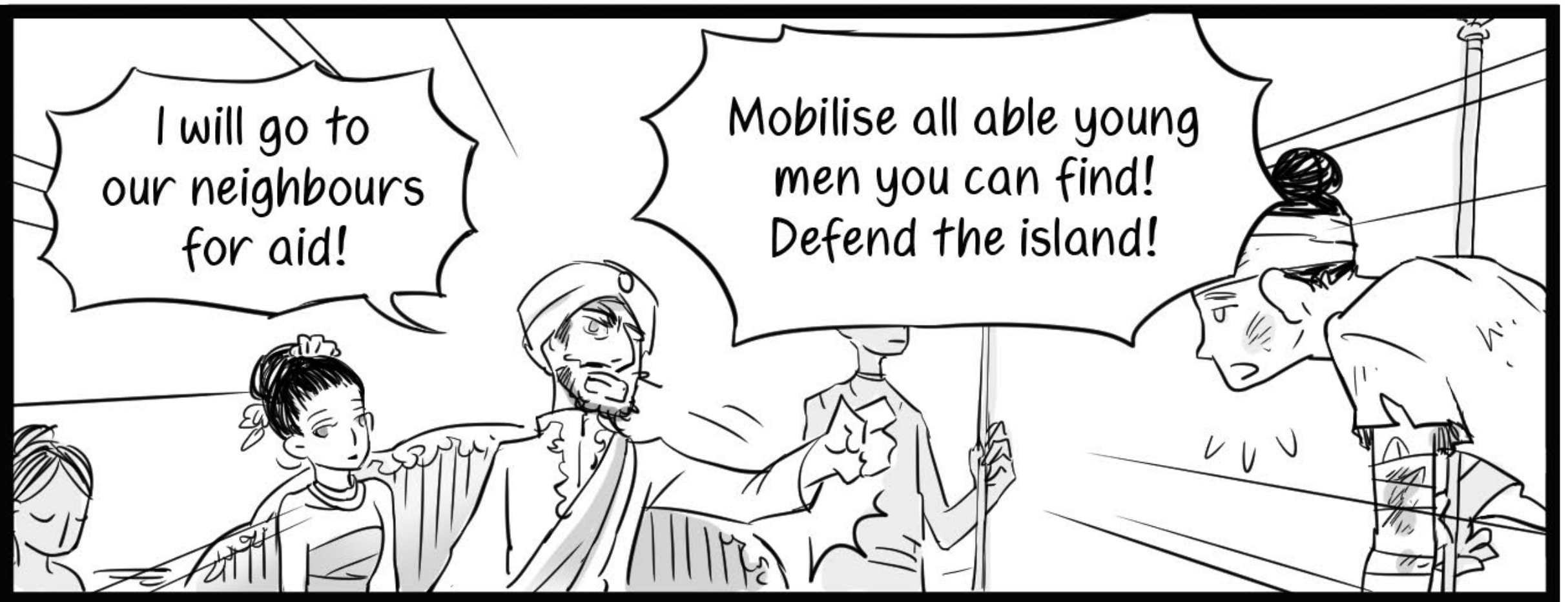
Alas! The peaceful days did not last.

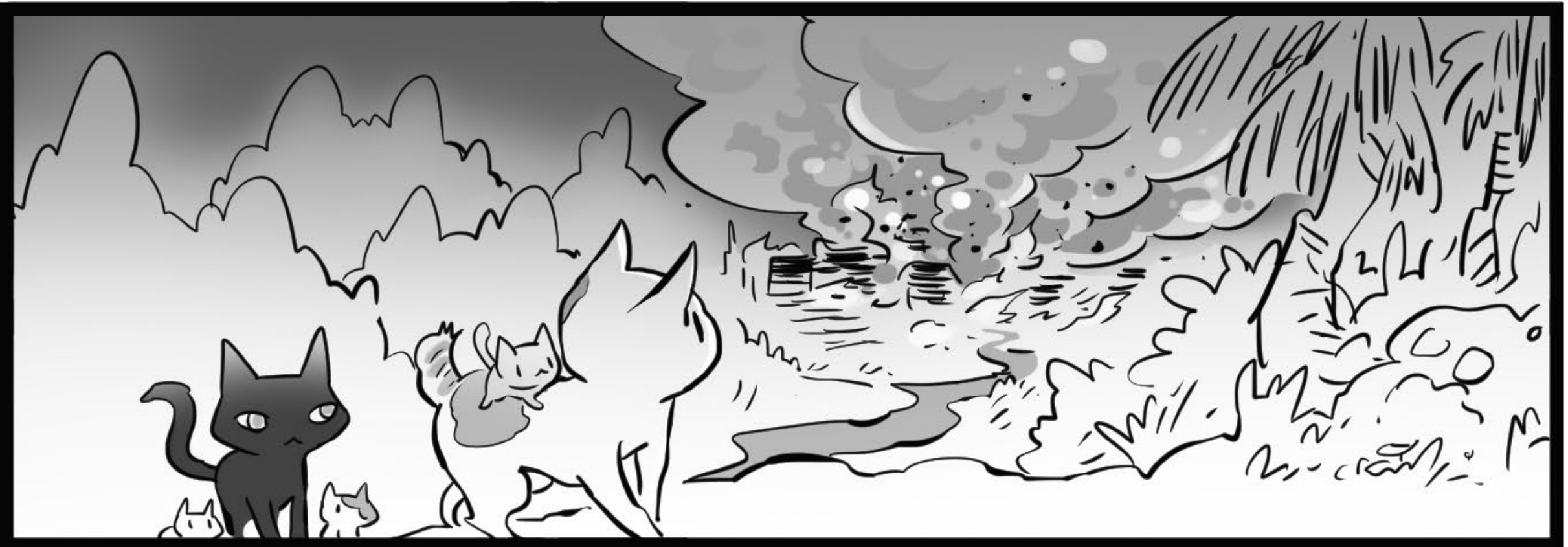
The late Sang Aji had political connections with the Ayutthaya Kingdom. And the news of his murder had reached the Siamese empire.

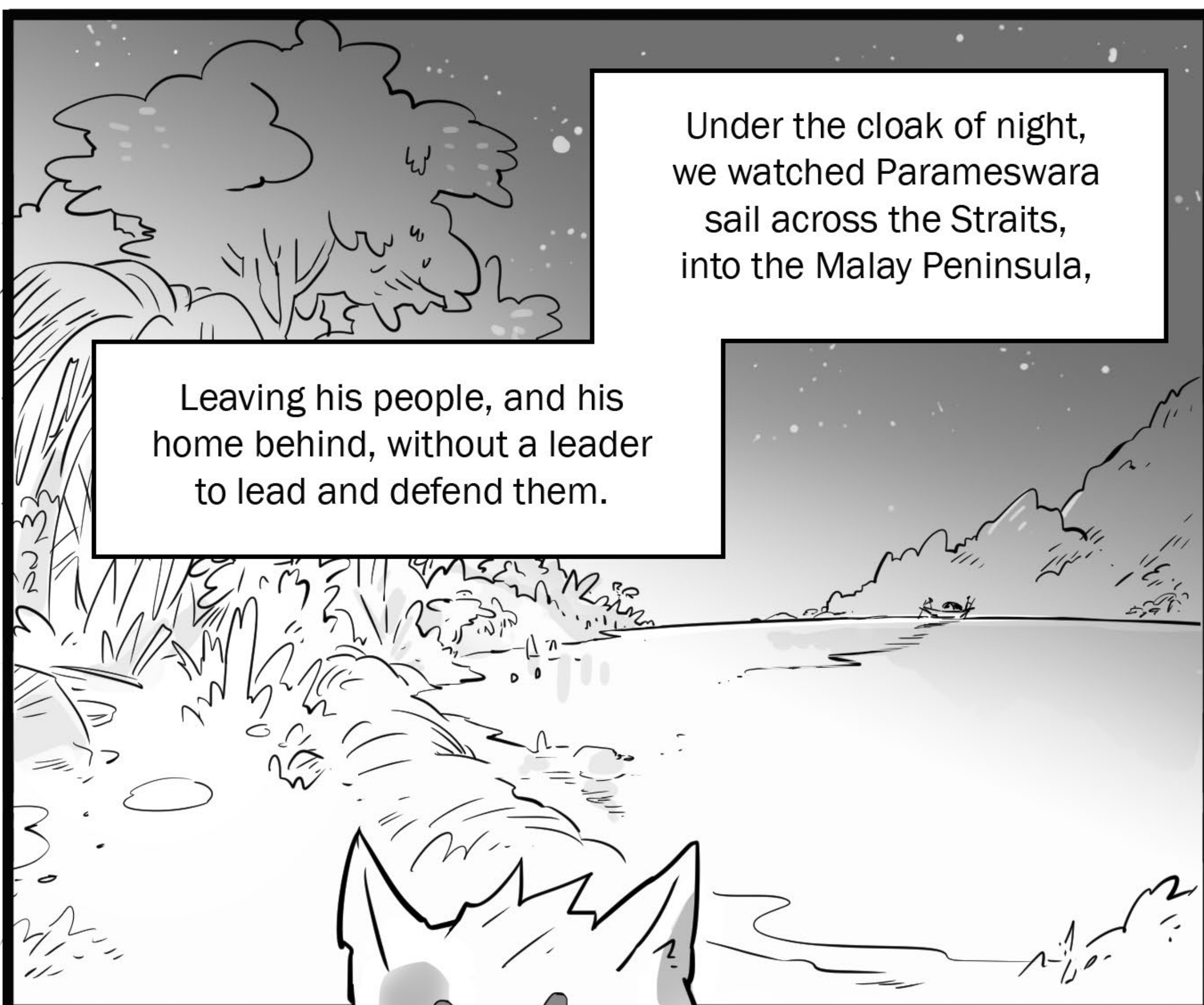
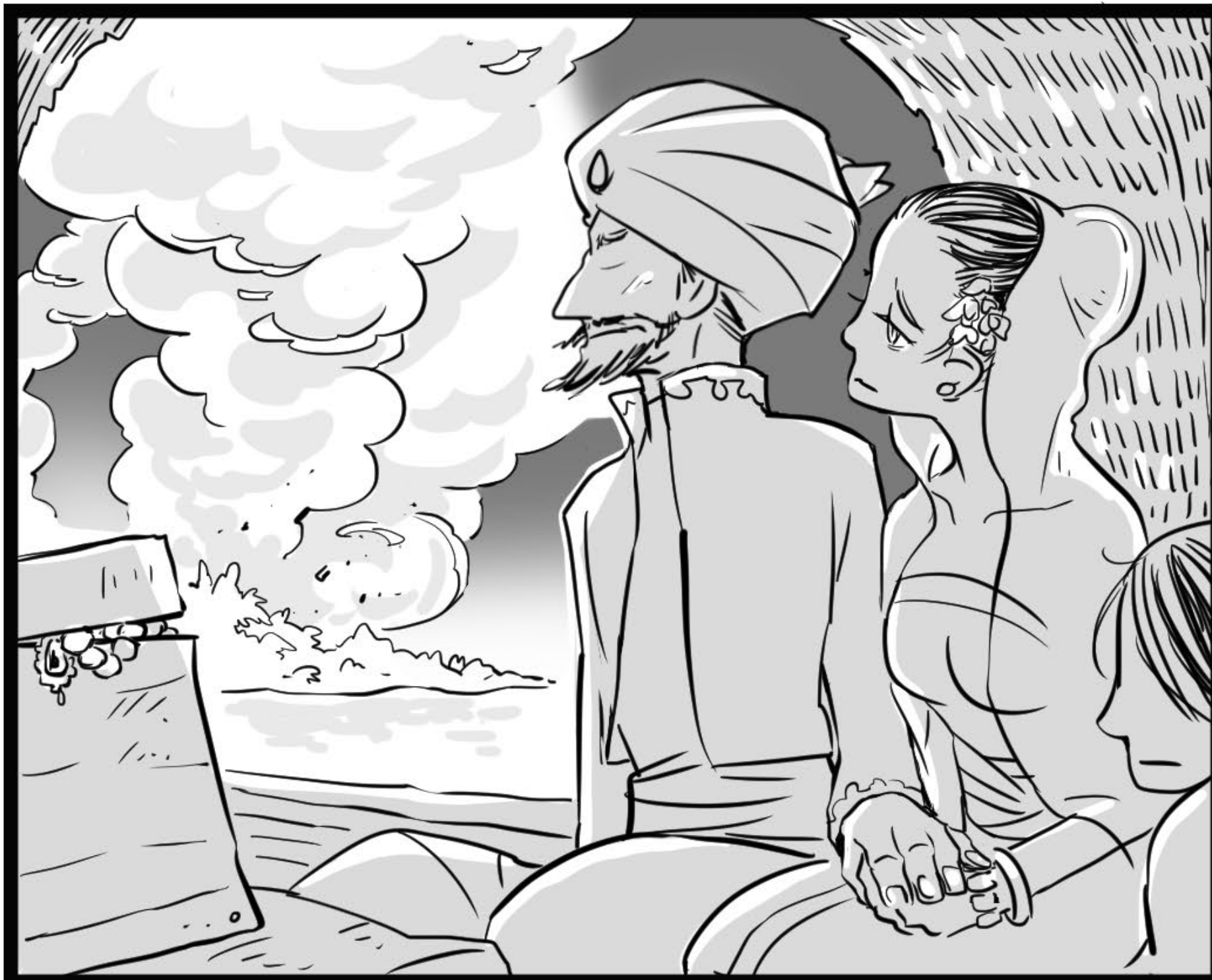


In the name of vengeance, the Siamese king sent his troops to attack Temasek.









Leaving his people, and his home behind, without a leader to lead and defend them.

Under the cloak of night, we watched Parameswara sail across the Straits, into the Malay Peninsula,



Watching his cowardly act, I wondered what had happened to the brave, ruthless warrior I once knew.



The Siamese left and the island gradually regained its peace and lush greenery. Nothing about Parameswara was heard again. We didn't know what became of him.



Year 1400

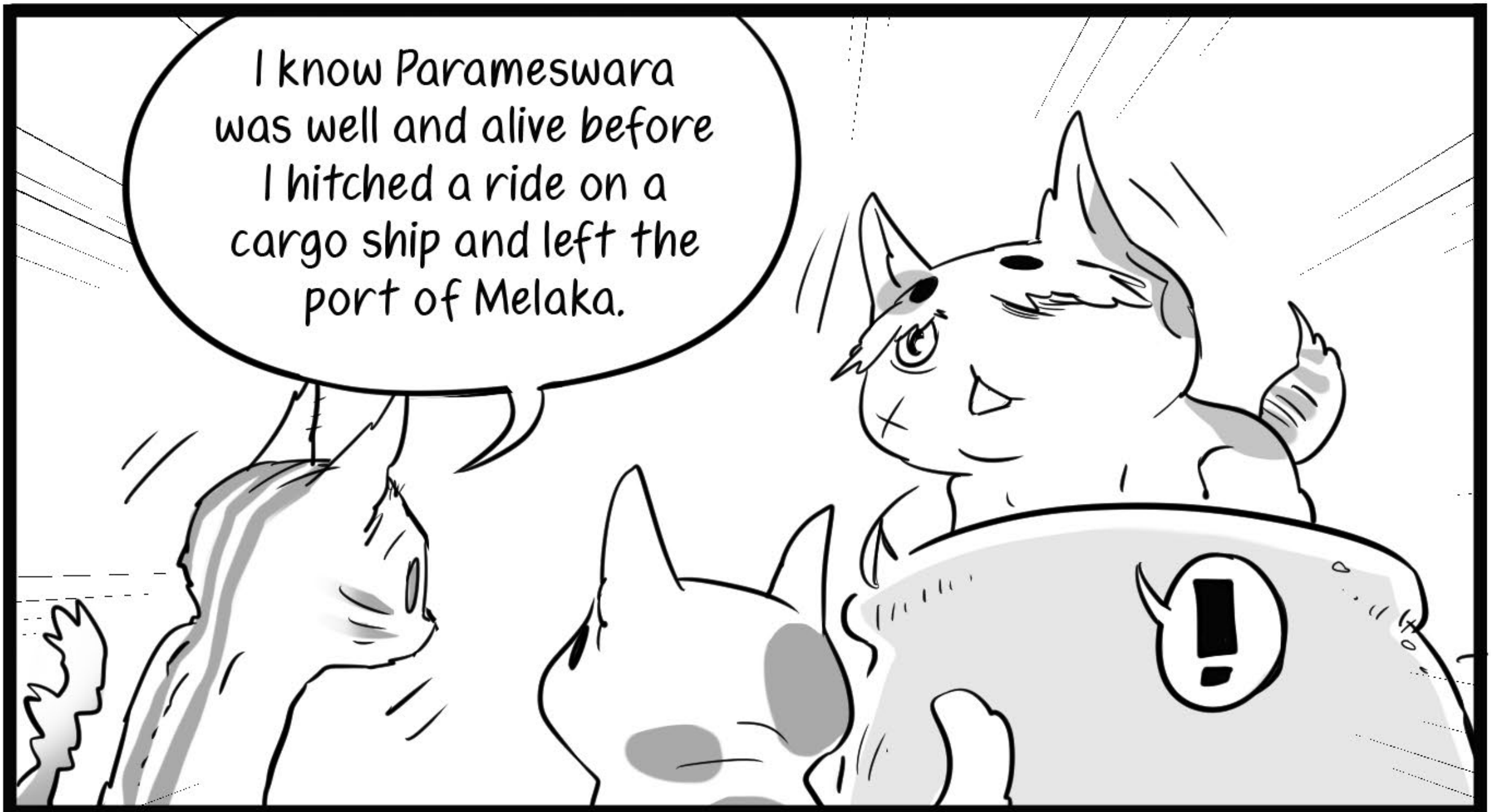
Great grandpa! Remember the stories of the prince you told us?



What about them, my girl?

My new friend from Melaka has news!

Yes sir.



I know Parameswara was well and alive before I hitched a ride on a cargo ship and left the port of Melaka.



Stay and tell me more!

Parameswara is a hero where I come from. Mom said that it was thanks to him Melaka is the properous bustling port it is now.

He is the founding father of Melaka.

But there were rumours that the Majapahit and Siamese were trying to claim the port... so I left.

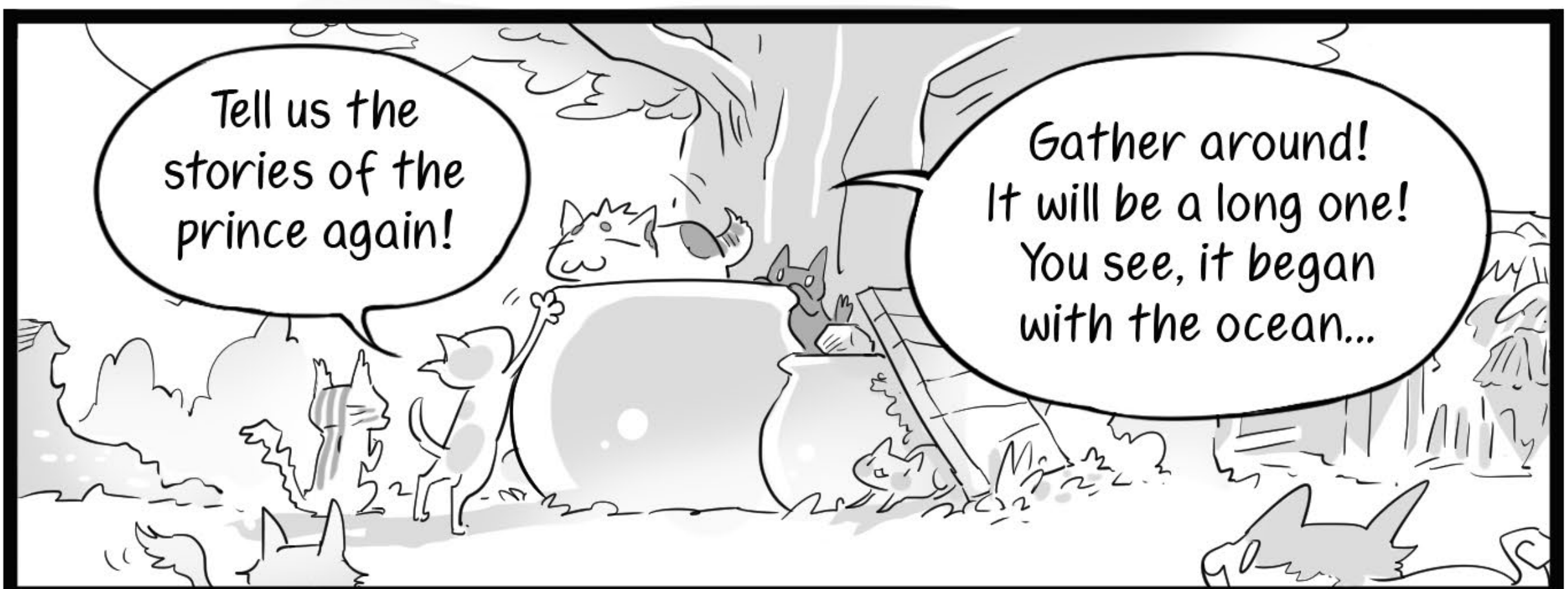


Ah deja vu!



Good to finally know how our friend is doing.

Great grandpa!



Tell us the stories of the prince again!

Gather around! It will be a long one! You see, it began with the ocean...

About the Author and Illustrator

FOO SWEE CHIN

Foo Swee Chin's career as a comic book artist and illustrator spans more than two decades. She has collaborated with American and Japanese publishing houses and game developers. Her versatility as an artist allows her to easily cross genres from dark, twisty and melancholic to sweet and whimsical.

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