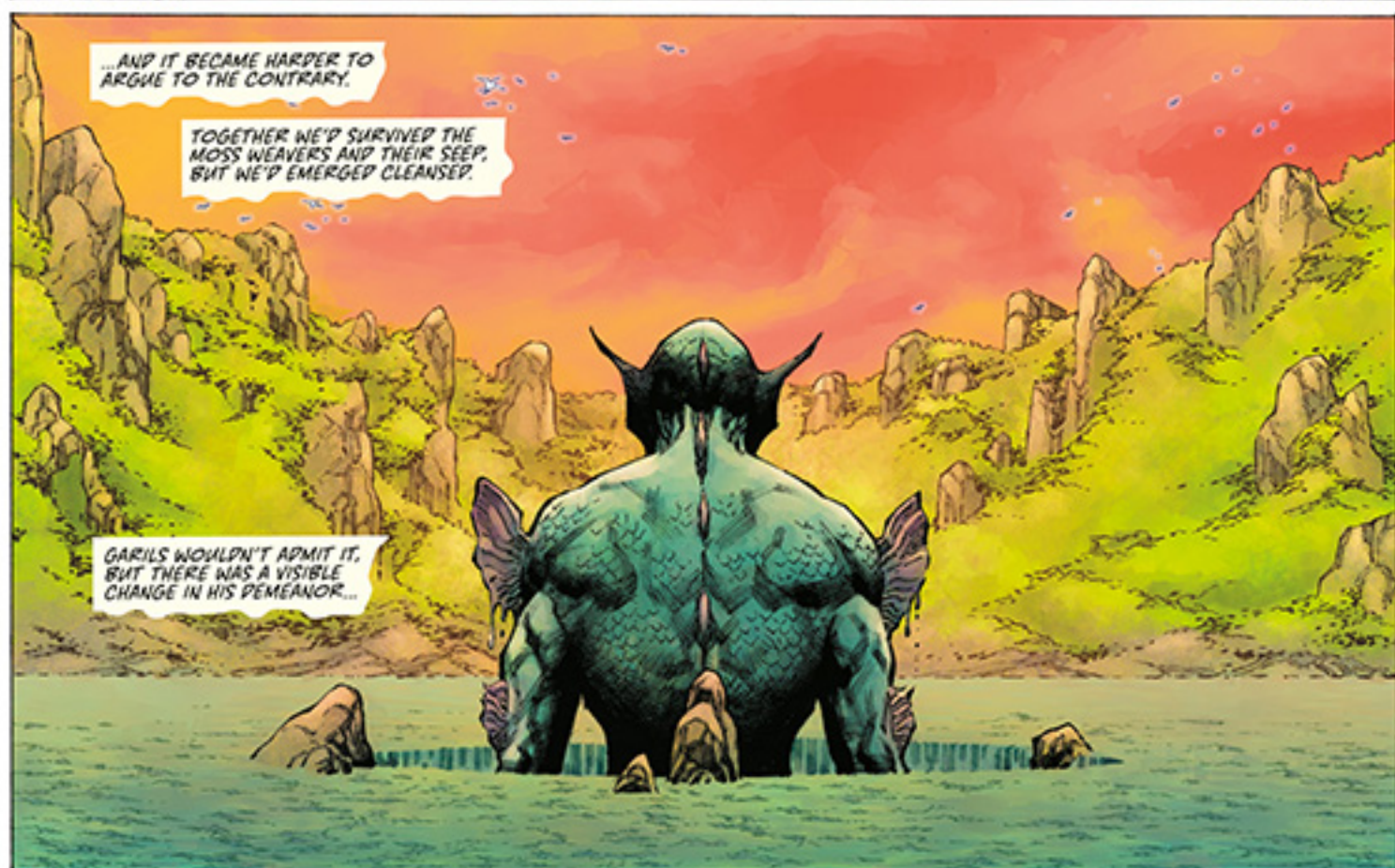


...LIKE HE'D JUST SEEN
SOMEONE HE LOVES DIE.

BY THE TIME WE FOUND OUR WAY OUT,
MY LOVE FOR PA WAS REPLACED WITH
RAGE AT THAT JUDGMENTAL GAZE.

THE DAMNED EYE THAT
FOLLOWS ME STILL.

FROM GARILS' PERSPECTIVE,
HE'D SAVED ME FROM PA'S
ZEALOTRY, WAS SAVING ME
STILL...



...AND IT BECAME HARDER TO
ARGUE TO THE CONTRARY.

TOGETHER WE'D SURVIVED THE
MOSS WEAVERS AND THEIR SEEP,
BUT WE'D EMERGED CLEANSED.

GARILS WOULDN'T ADMIT IT,
BUT THERE WAS A VISIBLE
CHANGE IN HIS Demeanor...

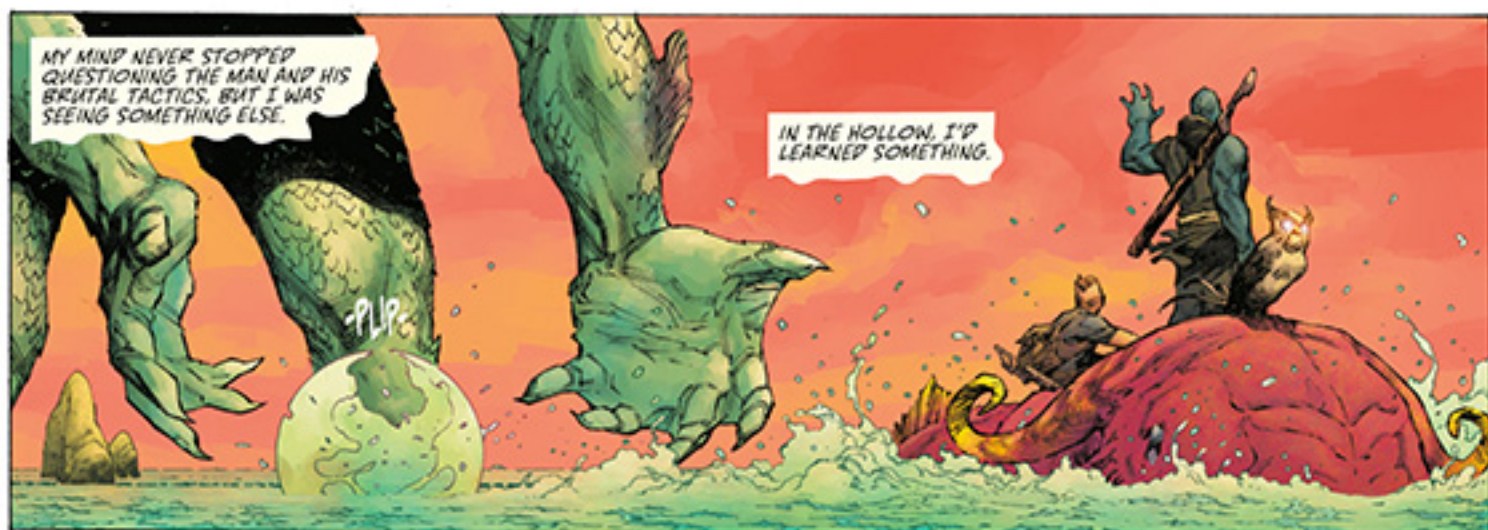


...A LIGHTNESS THAT
HAD PREVIOUSLY
BEEN MASKED.

OUR
BARTER IS
COMPLETE.

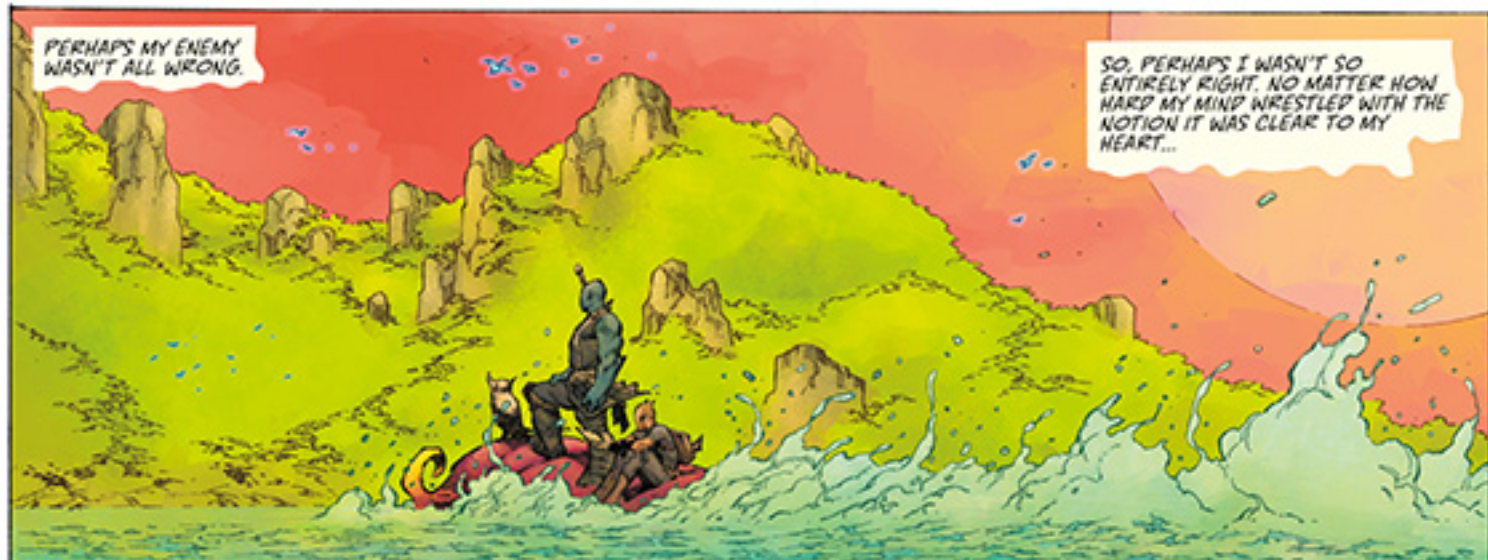
YOU,
OBVIOUSLY,
HAVE OUR
UNDYING
GRATITUDE
FOR THIS
MERCY.

I'LL MAKE
GOOD ON MY
END ONCE
I'VE SEEN TO
ADAM'S
OFFER.



MY MIND NEVER STOPPED QUESTIONING THE MAN AND HIS BRUTAL TACTICS, BUT I WAS SEEING SOMETHING ELSE.

IN THE HOLLOW, I'D LEARNED SOMETHING.



PERHAPS MY ENEMY WASN'T ALL WRONG.

SO, PERHAPS I WASN'T SO ENTIRELY RIGHT. NO MATTER HOW HARD MY MIND WRESTLED WITH THE NOTION IT WAS CLEAR TO MY HEART...



GARILS WAS NO DIFFERENT THAN ME.

HOW DO YOU IMAGINE YOU'LL MAKE GOOD ON THE ELEMNTAK'S OFFER?

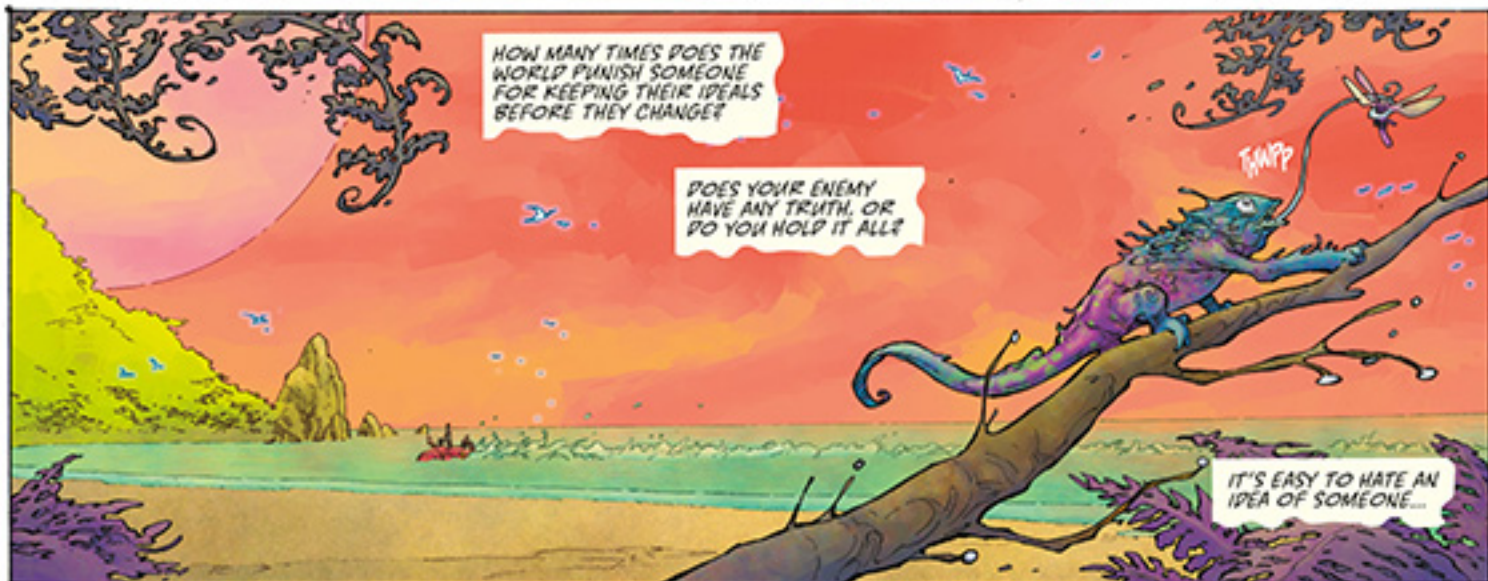
FROM A GREAT DISTANCE.



WHO KNEW A HIGH SOUL OF THE WELL WOULD SMELL LIKE SUNBAKED SQUID?

HA!

GARILS WAS A MAN WHO'D FACED A DILEMMA AND MADE THE BEST COMPROMISES HE COULD.



HOW MANY TIMES DOES THE WORLD PUNISH SOMEONE FOR KEEPING THEIR IDEALS BEFORE THEY CHANGE?

DOES YOUR ENEMY HAVE ANY TRUTH, OR DO YOU HOLD IT ALL?

SWAMP

IT'S EASY TO HATE AN IDEA OF SOMEONE...



...BUT SPEND ENOUGH TIME WITH YOUR ENEMY AND YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING TO LOVE.

WHATEVER HE LOOKED AND SMELLED LIKE, HE WAS SURPRISINGLY KIND.

IT'S EASY TO FALSELY JUDGE CHARACTER BY PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.



THE WHITE LADY.

UNDERNEATH THAT WHITE GOWN WAS PITCH BLACK, THE BLACK WELL ITSELF.

PEOPLE HIDE THEIR TRUE, SELFISH MOTIVES BEHIND NOBLE CAUSES.



RESPECT TO YOUR OLD MAN, HE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS.

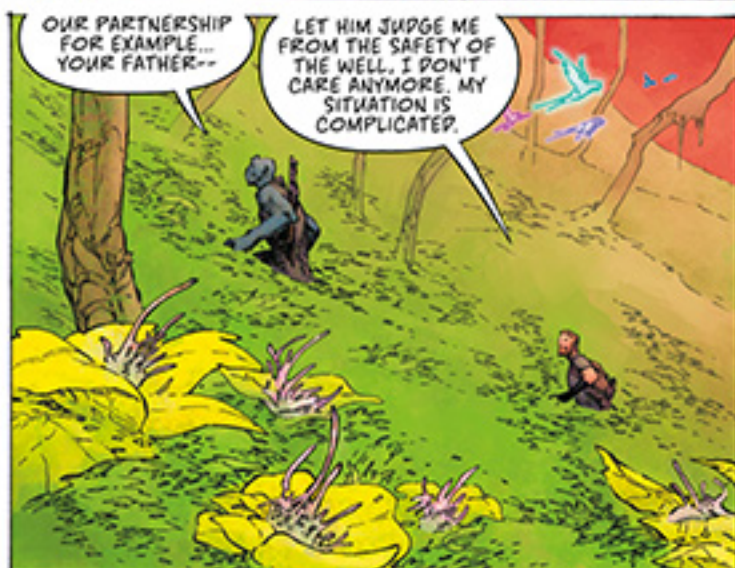
THAT DAMNED EYE...



NOTHIN'S EVER AS IT APPEARS TO BE.

KE-KOO!

HAVE TO LOOK DEEP TO SEE TRUTH. TAKES TIME. TAKES EFFORT.



OUR PARTNERSHIP FOR EXAMPLE... YOUR FATHER--

LET HIM JUDGE ME FROM THE SAFETY OF THE WELL. I DON'T CARE ANYMORE. MY SITUATION IS COMPLICATED.



HIGH-MINDEDNESS AND INTELLECTUALISM TEND TO GET MISCONSTRUED.

PROGRESSIVE IDEAS START WITH GOOD INTENTION IN ELITE CIRCLES, BUT ARE OFTEN HARD TO GRASP FOR THE LAYMAN.



OVERCOMPLICATED, THE IDEAS CONFUSE THEM.

CONFUSION LEADS THEM TO SEE THE IDEAS AS DISHONEST. SIMPLE IS BETTER. SIMPLE THEY UNDERSTAND.

SO, SIMPLE MUST BE RIGHT.



"NEW AND DIFFERENT TERRIFY THEM."

"WHEN MY GRANDFATHER SAW ME, ONCE HE KNEW MY MOTHER HAD LAIN WITH A HUMAN..."