

500 YEARS AGO.

WHY AM I BEING DETAINED? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

WE HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCES OF SEVEN CHILDREN FROM THE NEARBY VILLAGE.

OH, YES. I'D HEARD ABOUT THAT. DREADFUL. BUT AREN'T THERE EIGHT CHILDREN MISSING?

WE FOUND THE EIGHTH IN THE WOODS A SHORT WHILE AGO.

THAT'S HIM. THIS IS THE GUY WHO GRABBED ME.

ERM... MY WORD AGAINST HIS?

WE ALSO FOUND BURNED REMAINS IN THIS STONE POT OF YOURS. THE BONES ARE SMALL, BUT UNMISTAKABLY HUMAN.

HE SAID HE WAS GONNA PUT MY SPIRIT INSIDE A HINA DOLL!

I'M ONLY A SIMPLE FARMER, BUT I KNOW WHAT WE SAW IN THAT SHRINE IS NOT SHINTO. IT'S SORCERY!

IT WAS JUST AN EXPERIMENT! YOU SEE, I'M TRYING TO HELP THEM...

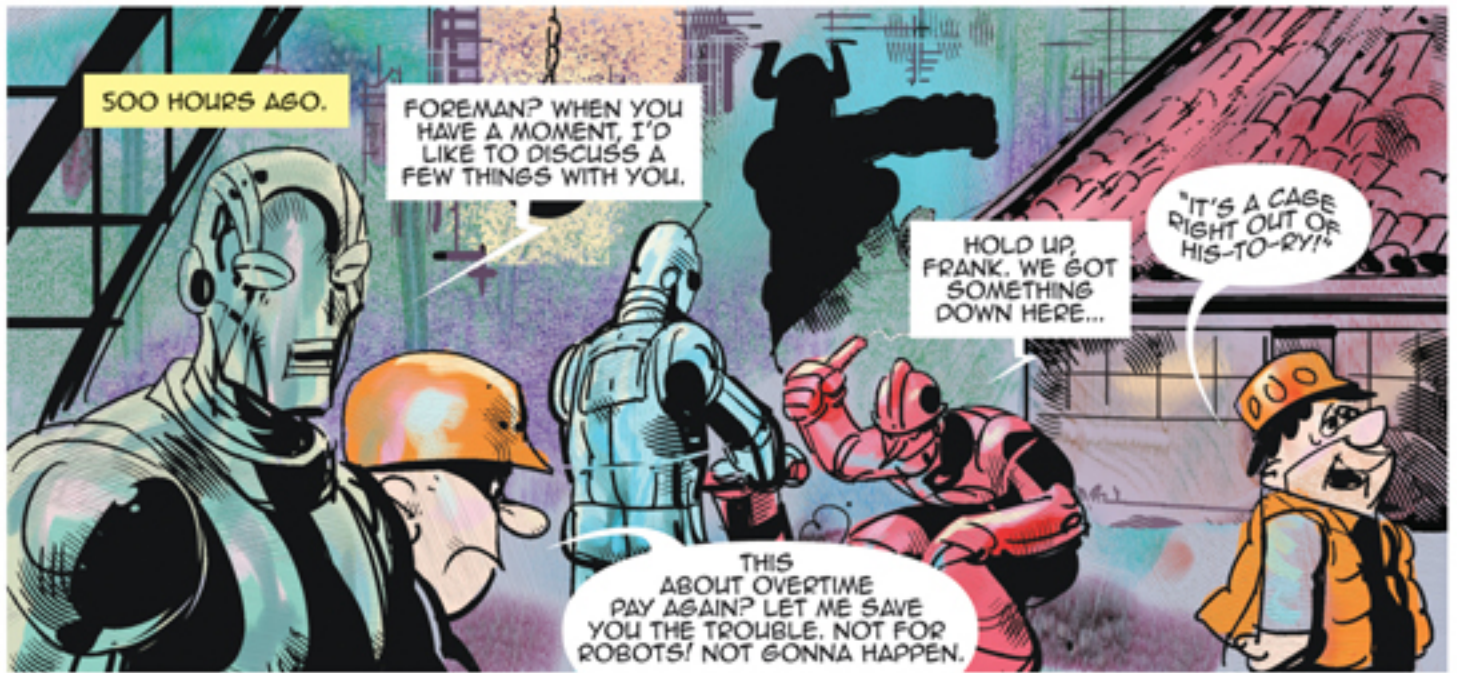
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.

THEY WANTED TO KILL YOU, BUT THEN YOUR GHOST COULD HAUNT THIS PLACE.

THIS IS MORE SUITABLE, I THINK.

CONSIDER IT ANOTHER EXPERIMENT.

WITH PATIENCE, YOU MAY YET FIND THE AFTERLIFE YOU DESERVE.



500 HOURS A.G.O.

FOREMAN? WHEN YOU HAVE A MOMENT, I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS A FEW THINGS WITH YOU.

HOLD UP, FRANK. WE GOT SOMETHING DOWN HERE...

"IT'S A CASE RIGHT OUT OF HIS-TO-RY!"

THIS ABOUT OVERTIME PAY AGAIN? LET ME SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE. NOT FOR ROBOTS! NOT GONNA HAPPEN.



DRILL DOWN HERE? GOT IT.

WAIT-WAIT-WAIT--!

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YOMI, OH MY! AT LAST, THE POLLUTED LAND. SURELY, THIS IS THE REALM OF THE DEAD!



YOU FELLOWS OKAY?

I THINK SO?

MY HEAD HURTS.



THIS! THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! WHY DO HUMAN WORKERS GET TIME AND A HALF-AND HELMETS-WHILE MACHINDERS GO WITHOUT?!

AND THEN WHAT? A DENTAL PLAN FOR THE DUMP TRUCK? HAZARD PAY FOR THE PILE DRIVER? GIVE ME A BREAK!

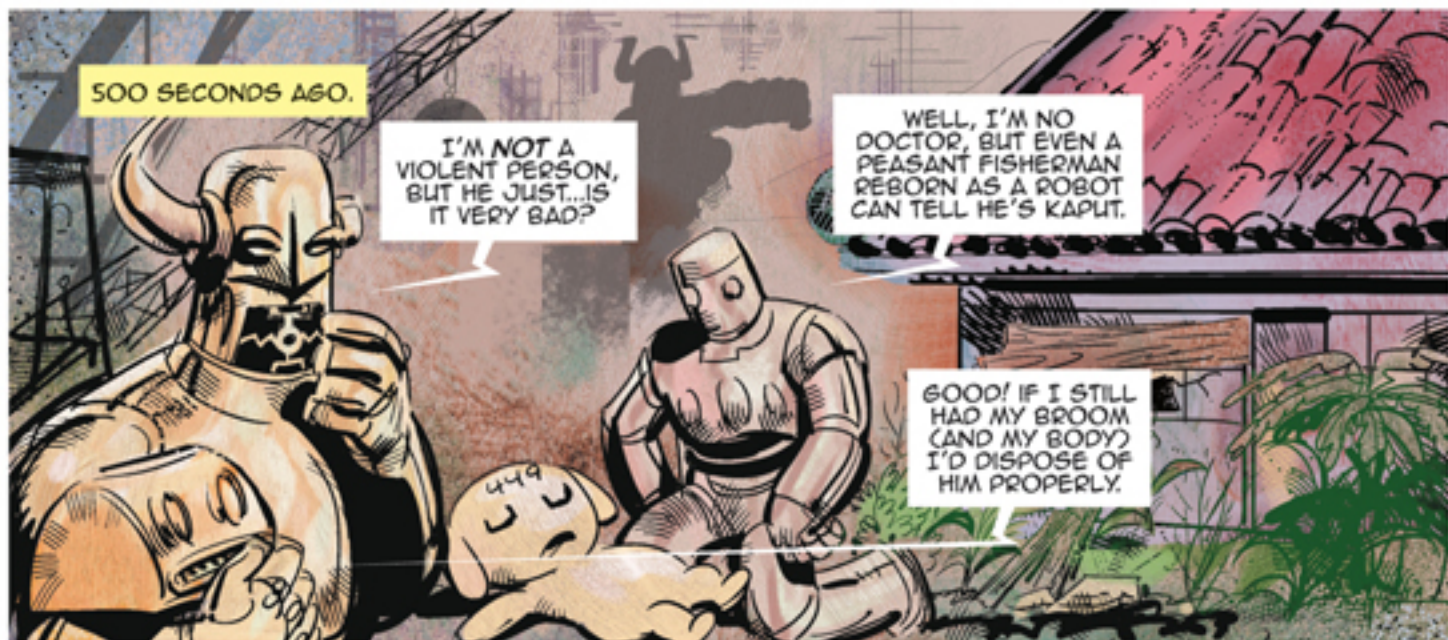
YOU-ARE-A-MACHINE. USE YOUR HEAD! ISN'T IT ALREADY PRETTY MUCH A HELMET?



HOW'S THIS FOR A BREAK, BOSS? KEEP YOUR HELMET, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT! ALL HELL SHALL STIR FOR THIS!

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HALP! POLICE! CALL THE SECURITY BUREAU-ROBOT DIVISION!

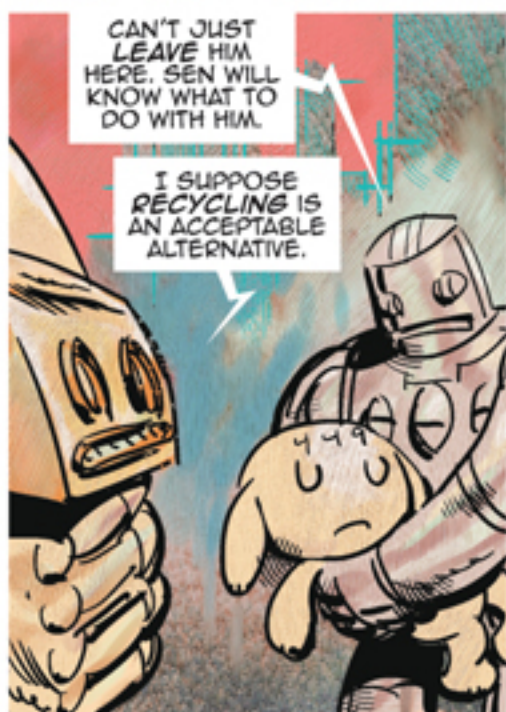


500 SECONDS AGO.

I'M NOT A VIOLENT PERSON, BUT HE JUST...IS IT VERY BAD?

WELL, I'M NO DOCTOR, BUT EVEN A PEASANT FISHERMAN REBORN AS A ROBOT CAN TELL HE'S KAPUT.

GOOD! IF I STILL HAD MY BROOM (AND MY BODY) I'D DISPOSE OF HIM PROPERLY.



CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE. SEN WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.

I SUPPOSE RECYCLING IS AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE.



"THE ONLY THING MISSING IS A DRAGON GOD."

INSIGNIFICANT FLEA! GIVE THAT TO ME!

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PORON

WHY ISN'T IT... WORKING?!

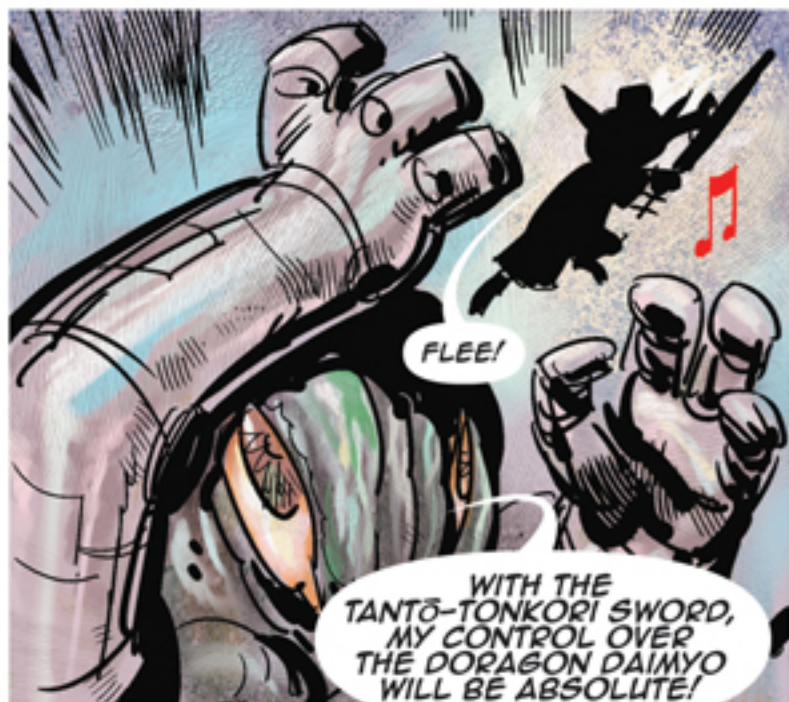


WITH THE SHRINE COMPROMISED, WE'LL HAVE TO GO SOMEPLACE ELSE. BUT WHERE? EVERYTHING IS SO STRANGE HERE.

FEELS LIKE THE STORY OF URASHIMA TARO, WHO ALSO FOUND HIMSELF SO FAR INTO THE FUTURE.

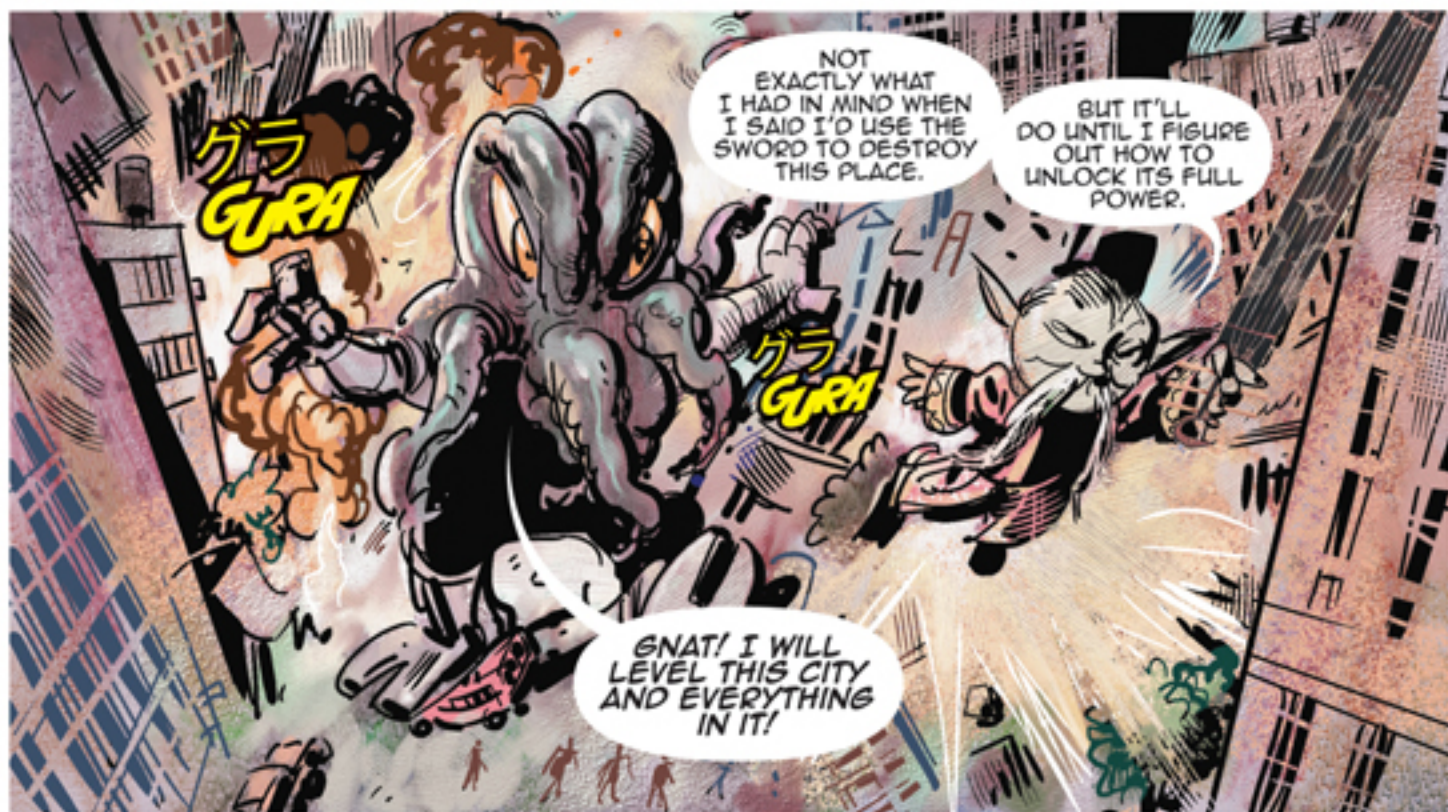


INSIGNIFICANT.



FLEE!

WITH THE TANTŌ-TONKORI SWORD, MY CONTROL OVER THE DORAGON DAIMYO WILL BE ABSOLUTE!



NOT EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN I SAID I'D USE THE SWORD TO DESTROY THIS PLACE.

BUT IT'LL DO UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW TO UNLOCK ITS FULL POWER.

GNAT! I WILL LEVEL THIS CITY AND EVERYTHING IN IT!



AHH! DAIKAIJU! CALL THE ARMY!

BUT THERE ISN'T AN ARMY ANYMORE. REPLACED WITH ROBOTS, LONG AGO.



THAT'S RIGHT. WE NEED THE ROBOTS, THEN!

SURE, EXCEPT... ROBOTS ARE AGAINST THE LAW NOW, NE?



THEN...THEN MAYBE THE GREAT MACHINDER WILL HELP US!

AH, BUT ISN'T HE ALSO A ROBOT? GREAT MACHINE, DUR.