

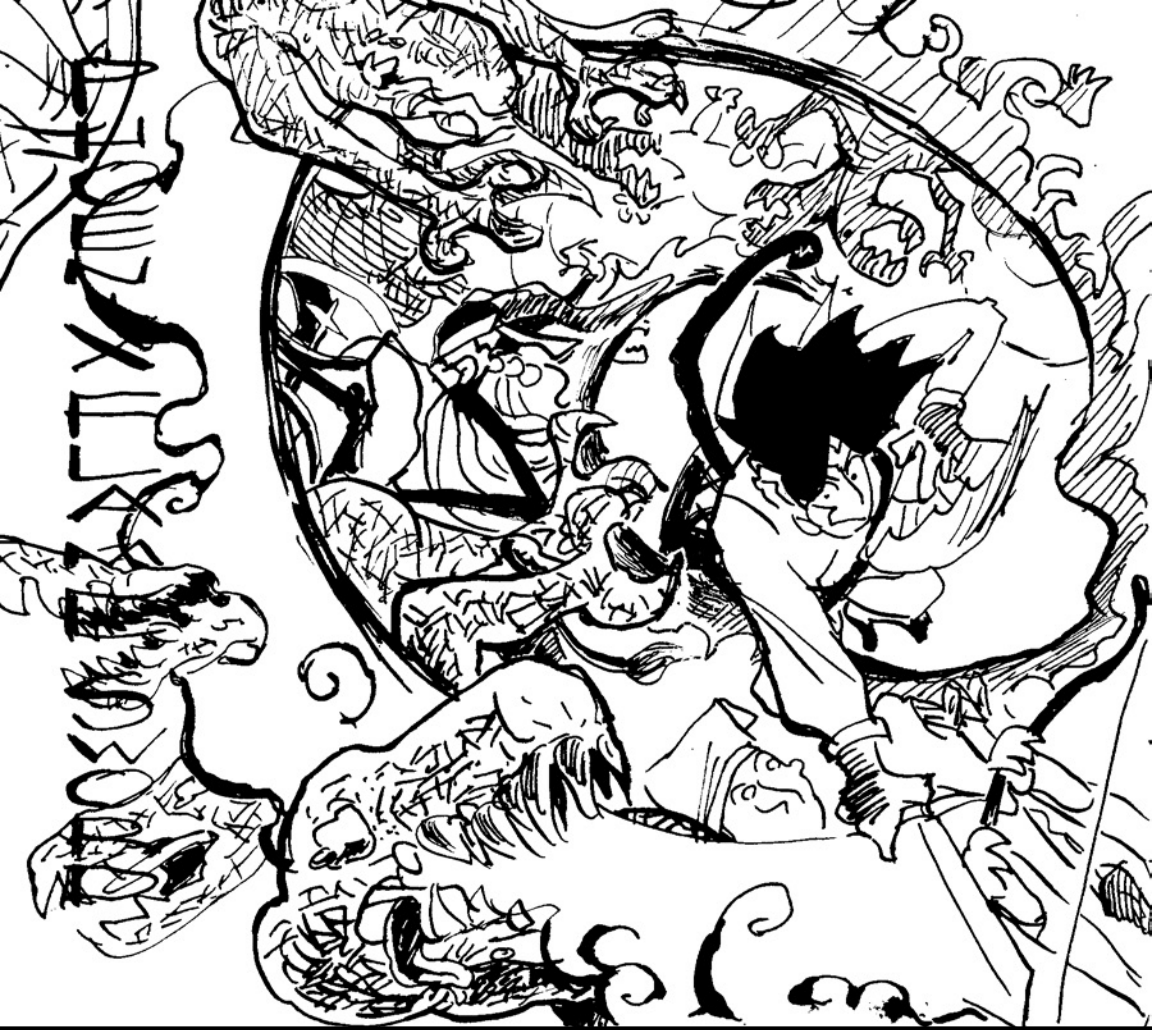
"The emperor of the South Sea was called Shu [Brief], the emperor of the North Sea was called Hu [Sudden], and the emperor of the central region was called Hun-tun [Chaos]. Shu and Hu from time to time came together for a meeting in the territory of Hun-tun, and Hun-tun treated them very generously.

Shu and Hu discussed how they could repay his kindness. "All men," they said, "have seven openings so they can see, hear, eat, and breathe. But Hun-tun alone doesn't have any. Let's try boring him some!" Every day they bored another hole, and on the seventh day Hun-tun died."

Aimlessly
by Jamie Y.

-- Chuang Tzu: *Basic Writings*, translated from Chinese by Burton Watson (1968).









Well, I gotta get going. You guys wait



Ya?

lets friend each other!

Sure, if you want?



Cya tmrw Hundun!!



POP!

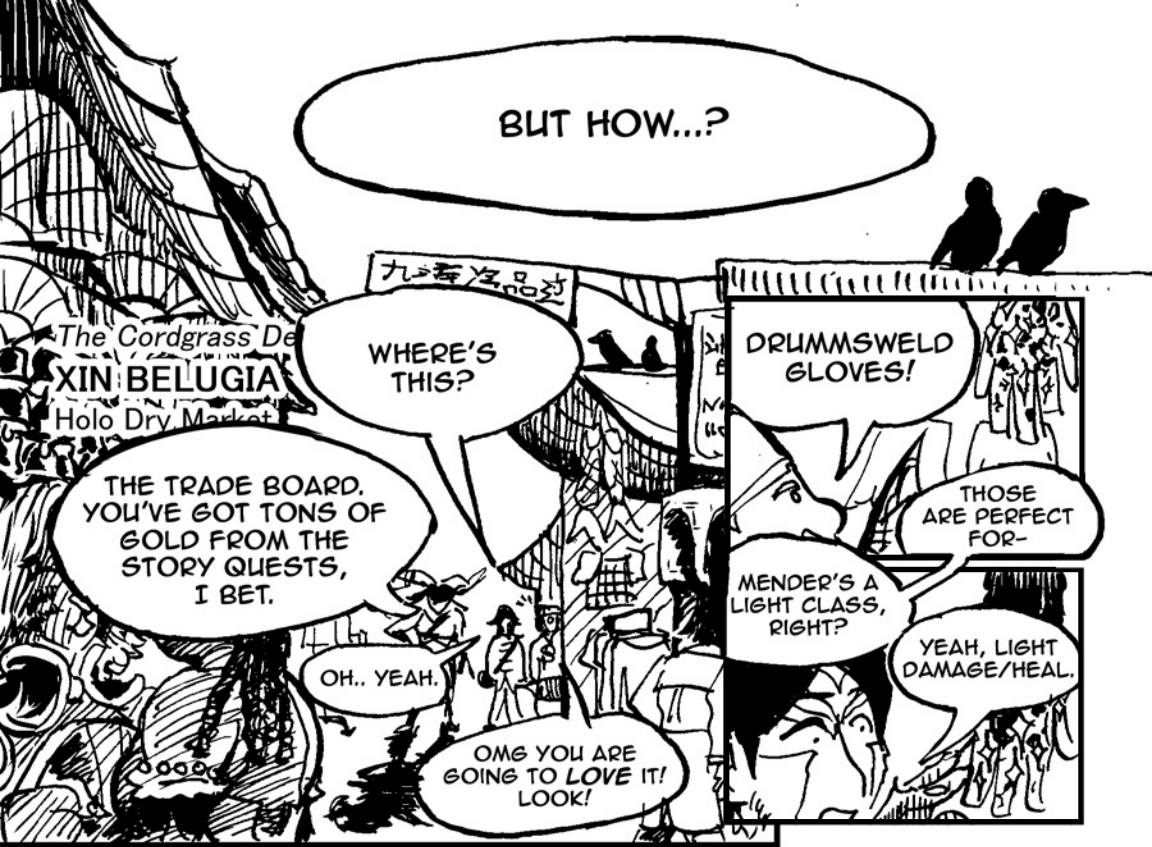


... THEY'RE SO NICE.

I KNOW, RIGHT? HIDEOUSLY OVERLEVELED, THOUGH.

WE GOTTA REPAY THEM SOMEHOW.

FOR SURE.



BUT HOW...?

WHERE'S THIS?

THE TRADE BOARD. YOU'VE GOT TONS OF GOLD FROM THE STORY QUESTS, I BET.

OH.. YEAH.

OMG YOU ARE GOING TO LOVE IT! LOOK!

DRUMMSWELD GLOVES!

THOSE ARE PERFECT FOR-

MENDER'S A LIGHT CLASS, RIGHT?

YEAH, LIGHT DAMAGE/HEAL.

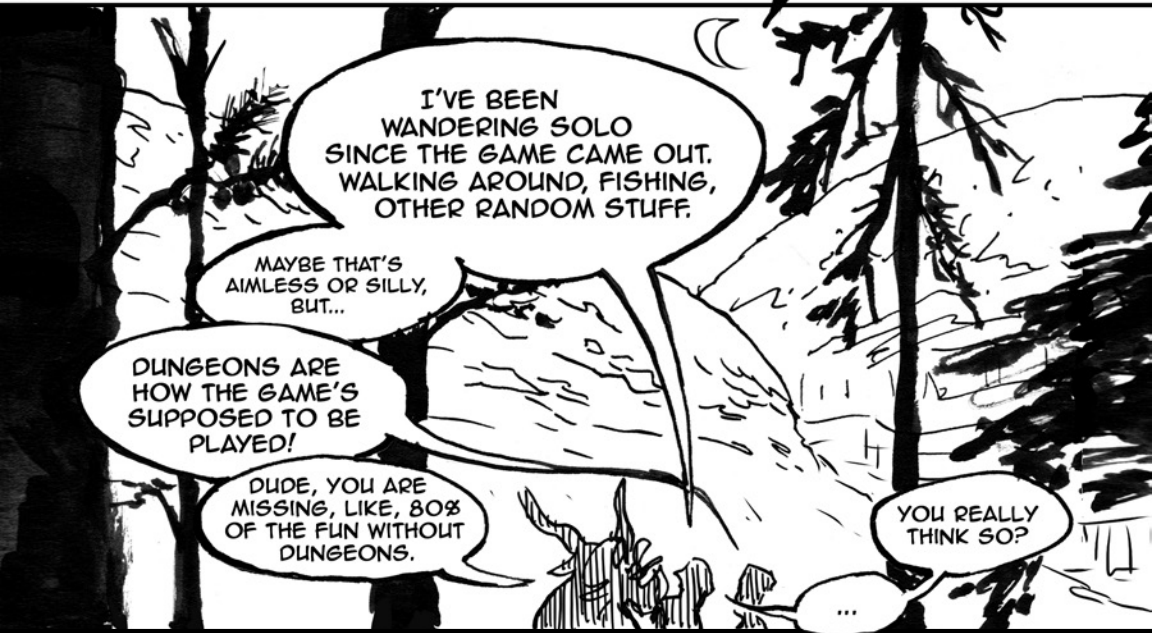
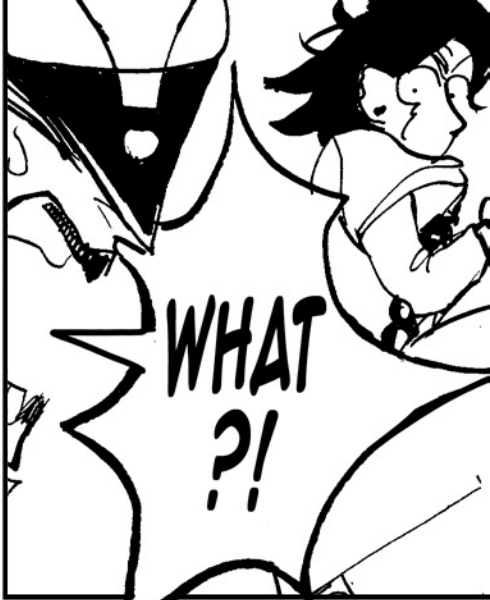
YEAH! AT THE TRADE BOARD, OTHER PLAYERS SELL THEIR STUFF, SO ALL KINDS OF FANCY SHIRTS, WEAPONS, SHOES, ET CETERA FOR ALL THE CLASSES.

LIMITED EVENT ITEMS, TOO. YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU WANT HERE!

BUT I LIKE MY OLD STUFF..

AND YOU'LL LOVE YOUR NEW STUFF IN NO TIME!
C'MON, 20% CRIT CHANCE.

YOU CAN'T PASS THAT UP.
...



DON'T WORRY, HUNDLIN!

**WE'LL
SHOW
YOU!**

THE REAL!

WAY!

TO PLAY!!



THEY'RE SO
OVERLEVELED,
WE COULD
START 'EM ON
DOUBLE-
DIAMOND.

HENG SHAN

Mountain Fortress - Double Diamond

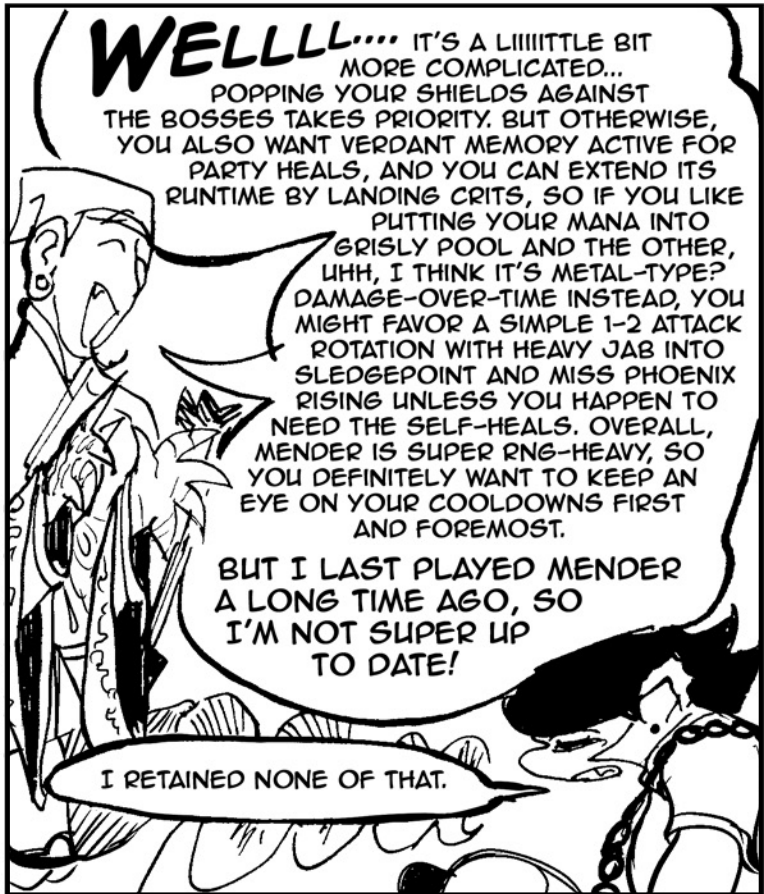
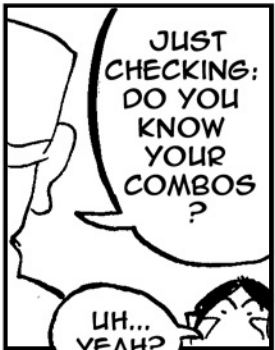
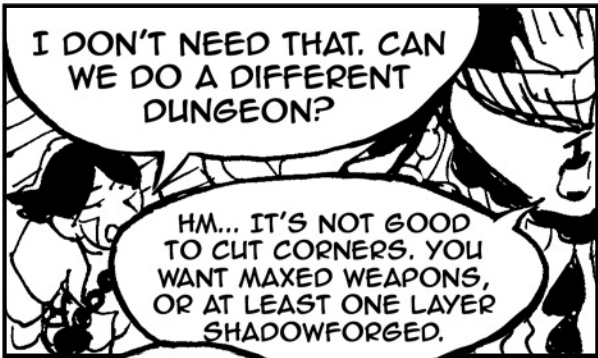


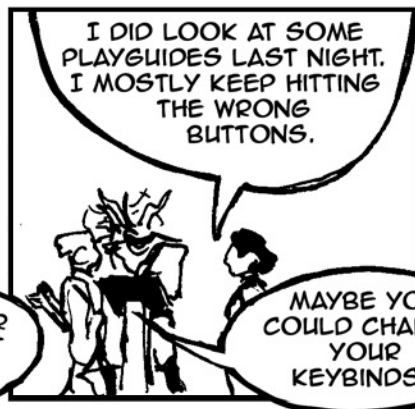
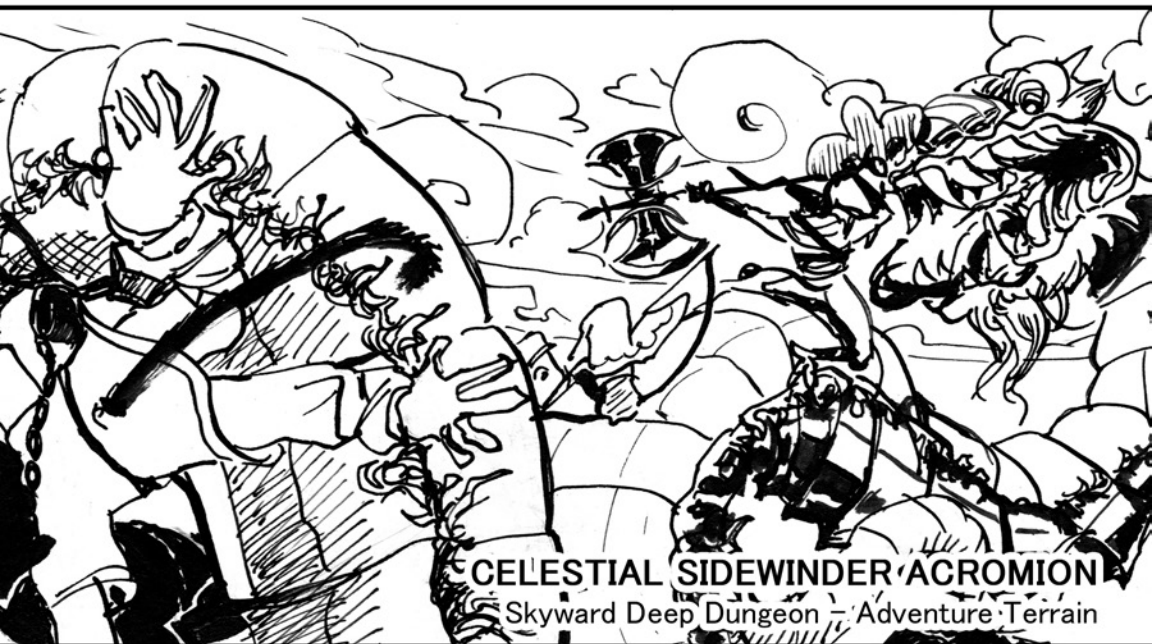
WE JUST DID THIS
DUNGEON.

WHY ARE
WE DOING IT
AGAIN?

WHY,
WE'RE FARMING
SHADOWDROPS
FOR YOUR
NEW GEAR,
OF COURSE.

WHAT?



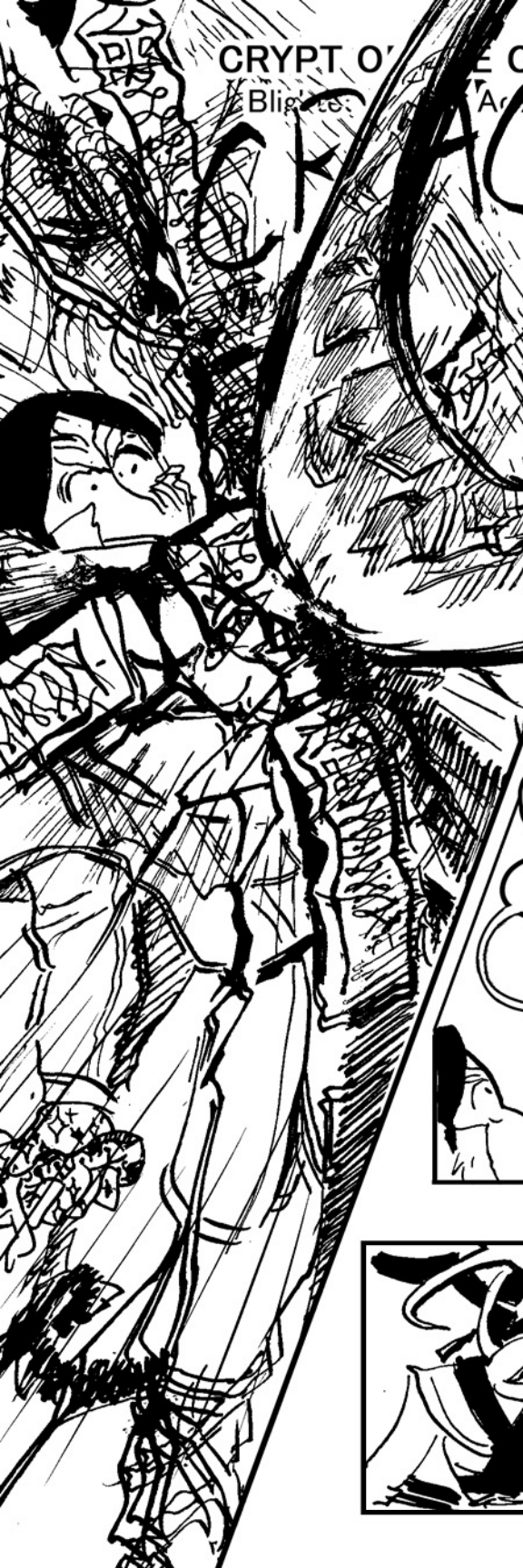


CRYPT OF THE GREYGEONS

Blights

Arven up Terra

CRACK!



HUNDUN.

KEEP.
YOUR.
SHIELD.
UP.

IF YOUR SHIELD
BREAKS AND
WE DIE, WE
ALL HAVE TO
START OVER
AT LEVEL 1.

WE

BARELY
MADE IT
THROUGH
THAT
ALIVE.

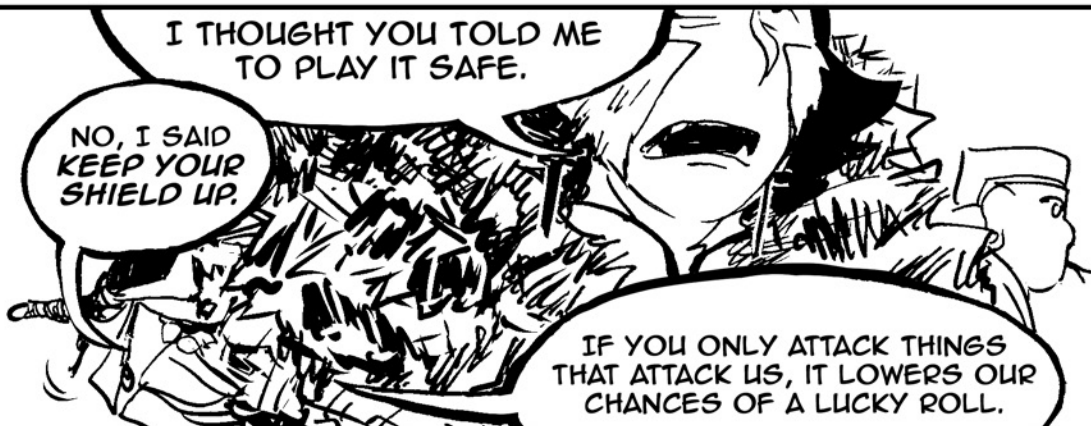
YOU KNOW
THAT, DON'T
YOU?!

LAY
OFF!
I'M
NOT
A KID!



...YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.

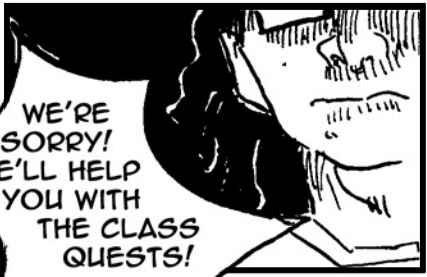
GOT CAUGHT UP
IN THE MOMENT.







K
R
A
K



THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN! FUCK!

The Cordgrass Delta
BEACH OF BEGINNINGS
The Eastern Bay

HUNDUN
LVL 1
MENDER



Pop!



...

THERE'S A MESSAGE.

HUH?

"Dear Shu and Hu,

It's been a while.

I hope you're both doing well. If you're reading this, I guess it means you're still playing.

How's college going?

I'm OK, I've been studying a lot.

Same old, really.

I haven't been able to play Shanshui at all since that day.

It wasn't just because of losing my character build - to be honest, playing with you two ruined the way the game felt for me.

I was fine playing on my own, in my beginner armor, just wandering around appreciating the world and story.

I wish you had respected that.

But also I get it.

You thought you knew what was best for me. And I tried to agree.

I probably should've been firmer.



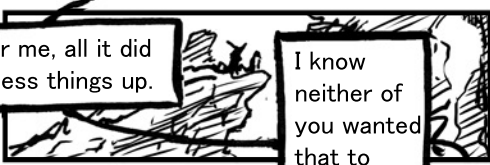
You said you were trying to do me a favor.



Maybe someone else would have benefited.



But for me, all it did was mess things up.

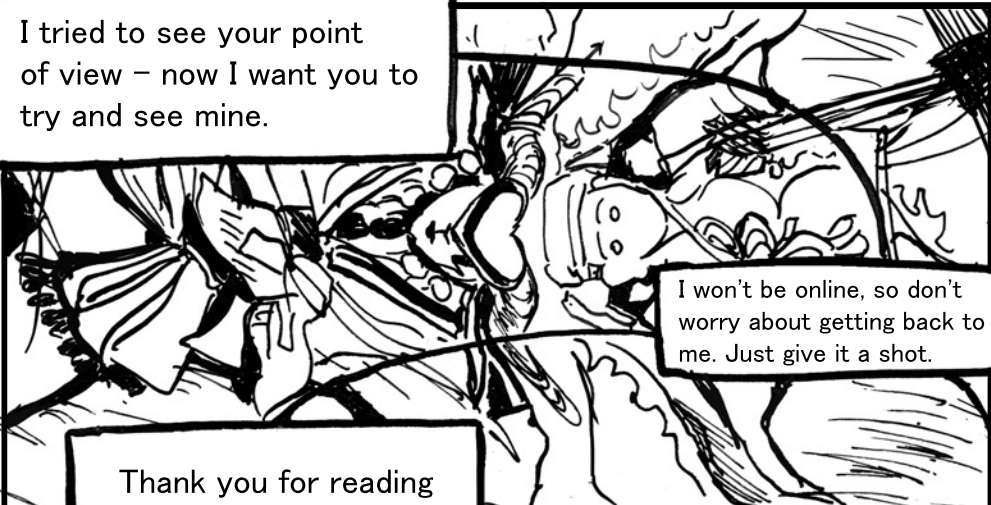


I know neither of you wanted that to happen.



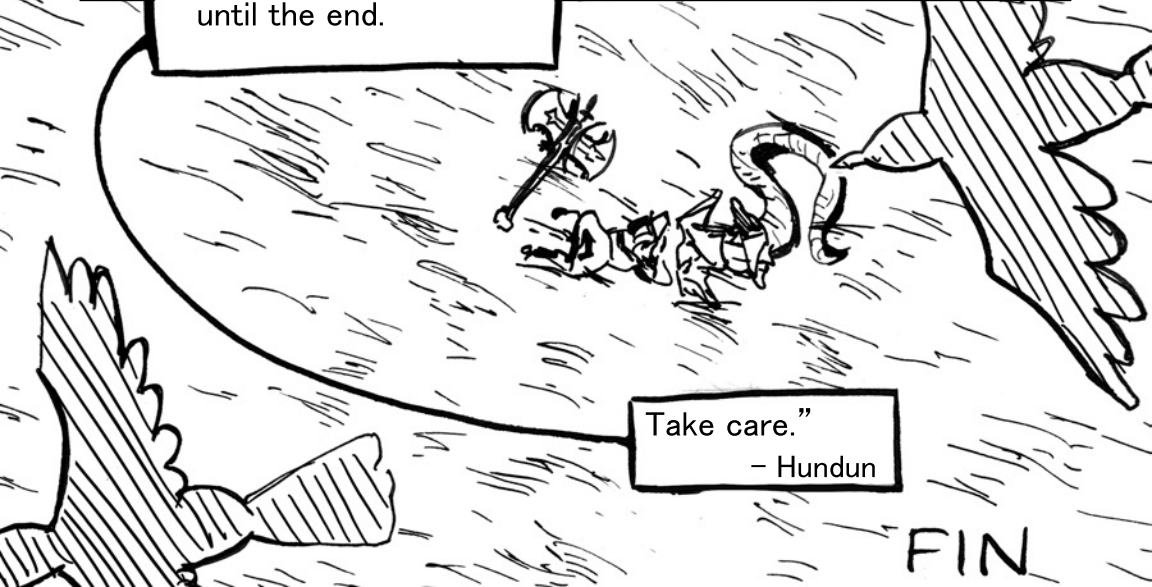
Let me ask you for one more favor, then.

I tried to see your point of view – now I want you to try and see mine.



I won't be online, so don't worry about getting back to me. Just give it a shot.

Thank you for reading until the end.



Take care.”
- Hundun

FIN