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PLANET



**A SHARED
COMMITMENT TO THE
PUBLIC GOOD
IS WHAT ENSURES OUR
FREEDOM.**

While most Luthieran polei strove to organize themselves along communitarian principles, extant property claims and the imperative of inter-polis trade rendered a market economy--built upon the formerly Alliance-backed drachma--an ineluctable necessity.

**TRAITORS
ONLY UNDERSTAND
ONE THING.**



Intending to mitigate the worst effects of market-related shocks, the Civilian Council instituted wide-ranging price controls on necessities (clothing, medicine, fuel, and, crucially, food), with the Luthieran state functioning as a monopsonistic procurer and distributor.



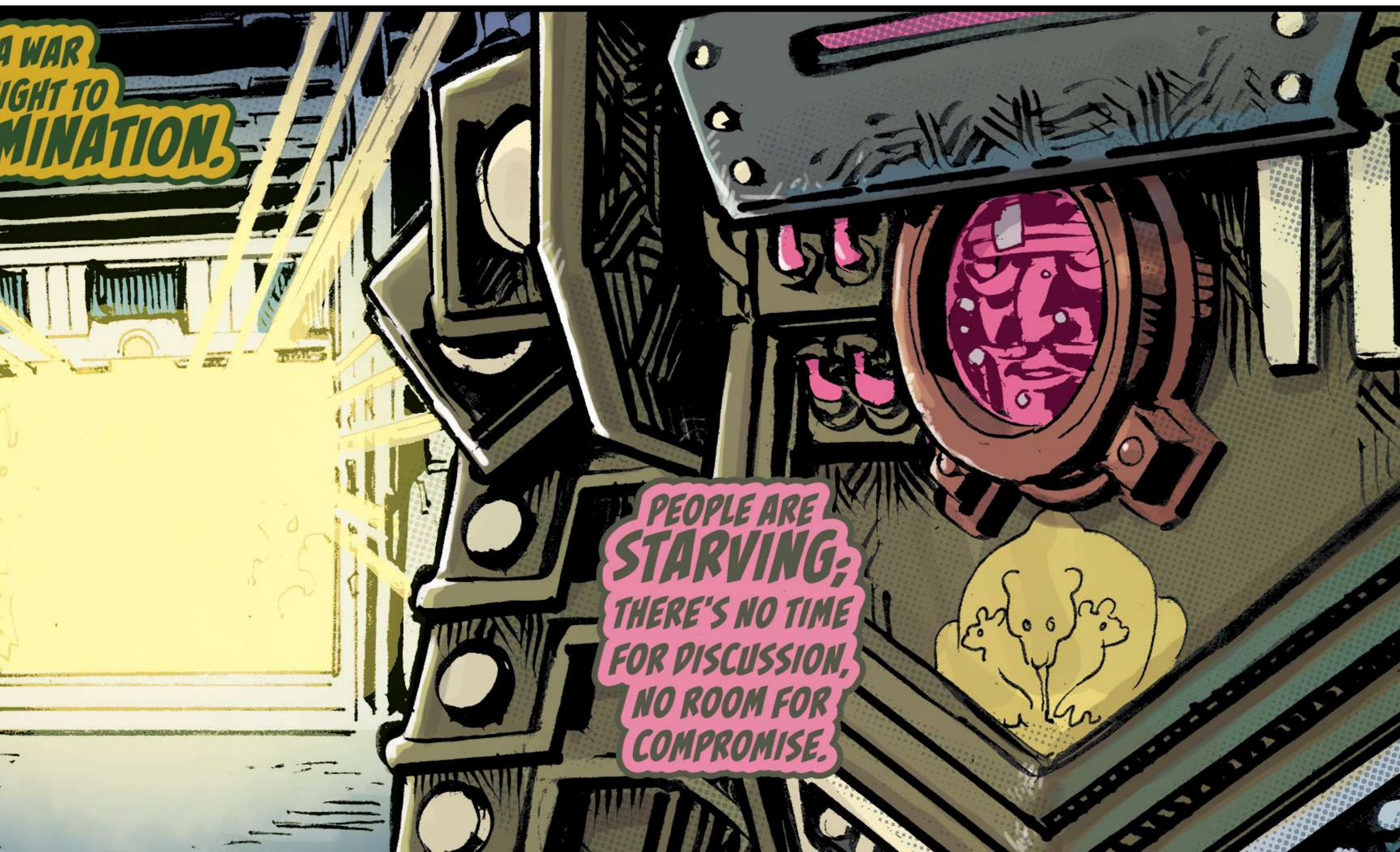
Though successful at distributing rations, polei with significant tracts of terraformed land balked; the scheme was perceived as benefitting urban areas at the expense of less populous ones, eo ipso diminishing their purchasing power and, consequently, quality of life.



**WE WON A WAR
FOR OUR RIGHT TO
SELF-DETERMINATION.**



**PEOPLE ARE
STARVING;
THERE'S NO TIME
FOR DISCUSSION,
NO ROOM FOR
COMPROMISE.**





HOW WAS GHROTTDALE?

FINE, THANKS.

The accident changed everything. I don't want to be resentful. I don't want to cast blame. I know it's pointless.



WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?

JUST JOURNALING.

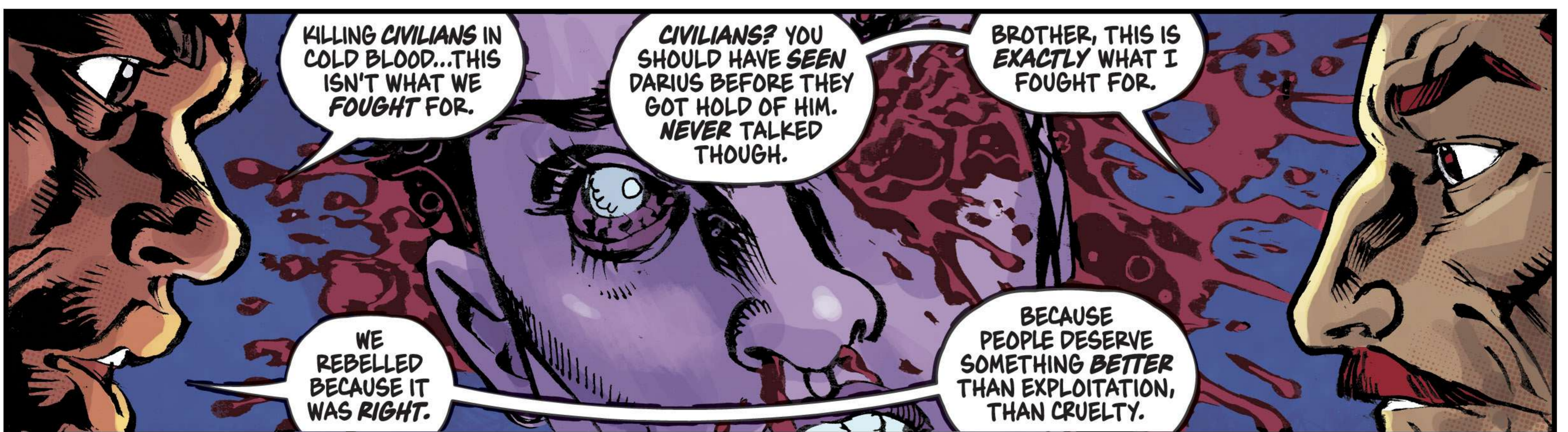
And I know Katja feels guilty. She'd trade places in a second. I know the guilt is distancing, that it's a cycle. We're not dumb people.



WE SHOULD SECURE THE DETAINEE.

BUT TAKING HIM ALIVE WON YOU ANOTHER FAN, MR. KINGVARTI.

RECKON YOU COULD SHUT YOUR EYES IF YOU NEED TO.



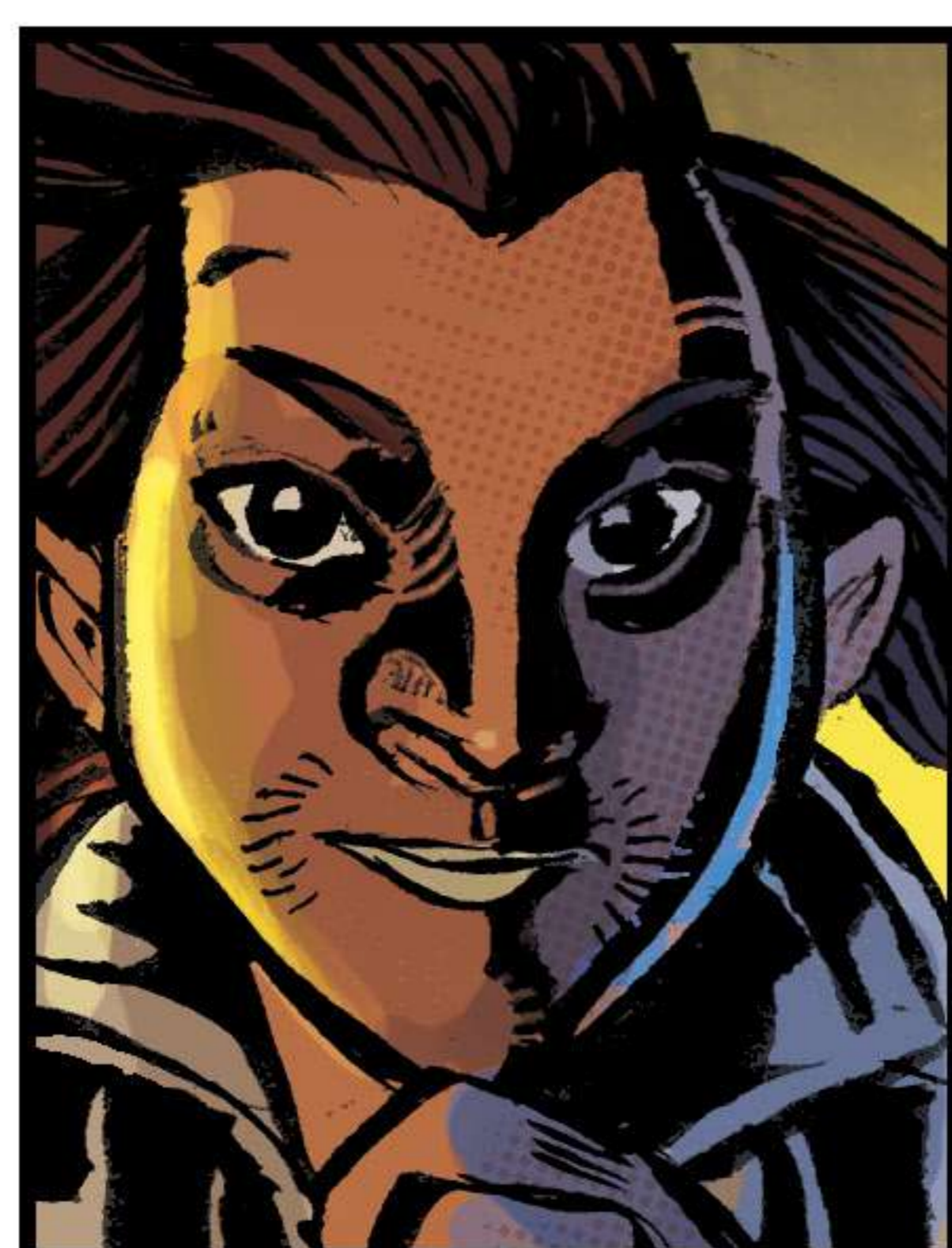
KILLING CIVILIANS IN COLD BLOOD...THIS ISN'T WHAT WE FOUGHT FOR.

CIVILIANS? YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN DARIUS BEFORE THEY GOT HOLD OF HIM. NEVER TALKED THOUGH.

BROTHER, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I FOUGHT FOR.

WE REBELLED BECAUSE IT WAS RIGHT.

BECAUSE PEOPLE DESERVE SOMETHING BETTER THAN EXPLOITATION, THAN CRUELTY.



But I'm different now. Here. In this body, a dilapidated satellite, a starving planet. We're stuck. Trapped.

I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER.

OKAY. THANKS.

I just can't escape the thought. It haunts me. All my promise, all my hopes and dreams have come down to this...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU HELPED.

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR DEXTERITY DRILLS TODAY?

SIGH

LOVE WITH A METAL HAND.

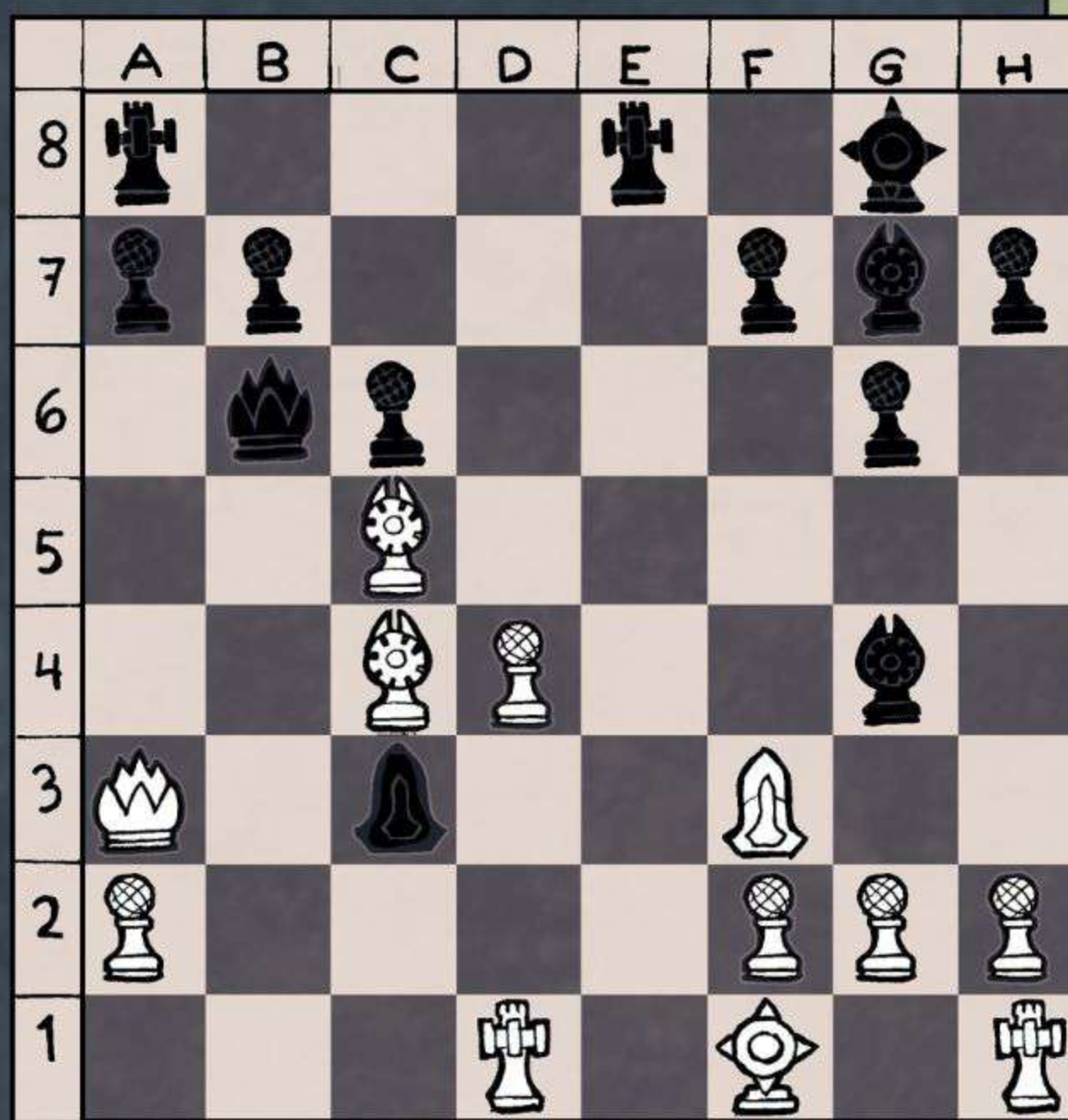
LIFE LIVED THROUGH A PORTHOLE.

JACKSON, DO YOU THINK THIS IS RIGHT?

NO.

I THINK IT'S JUST.

FARSTAR



Though known by more appellations than there are worlds in the human diaspora, chess endures across Alliance and Imperial space alike, a testament to commonalities persisting across the millennia and light years of mankind's estrangement.



WHY DID HE SEND YOU ONLY TO ABANDON YOUR FLEET?

THE GREAT SUN'S MANDATE WAS CLEAR: PREPARE LUTHERIA TO JOIN THE EMPIRE.

BISHOP TO E6.

Despite numerous claims of independent innovation, recent archaeological discoveries--and, notably, the recovery of a checkered board from a ghost ark--indicate a strong likelihood that chess traveled alongside humanity on its celestial exodus.

But while chess endured without substantial alteration, time and distance catalyzed the development of distinct play styles, from the Alliance's prioritization of tactics and aesthetics to the Orourans' rigorously strategic approach.

WHEN VECTOR OUTMANEUVERED YOU.

THE GREAT SUN'S VISION IS KEEN, HIS PLAN MULTIFACETED.

HE HAS ENTRUSTED ME WITH MULTIPLE PATHS, INCLUDING THOSE SHOULD CAPTURE BECOME UNAVOIDABLE.

LEFT YOUR QUEEN HANGING.

WHY IS THIS PART OF HIS PLAN? WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT?

Following the Revolution, chess was not spared attempts to foster a distinct Lutheran culture. Yet, despite best efforts--and reflecting similar cases--the foundational thinking and logic of Lutheran chess continued to emanate from the same Alliance font.

THEN WHY DID YOU DEVIATE FROM YOUR ORDERS?

DIFFERENT TACTICS TO ACHIEVE THE SAME GOAL.

17	...Be6	30	Nxe1: Bd5
18	Bxb6: Bxc4+	31	Nf3: Ne4
19	Kg1: Ne2+	32	Qb8: b5
20	Kf1: Nxd4+	33	h4: h5
21	Kg1: Ne2+	34	Ne5: Kg7
22	Kf1: Nc3+	35	Kg1: Bc5+
23	Kg1: axb6	36	Kf1: Ng3+
24	Qb4: Ra4	37	Ke1: Bb4+
25	Qxb6: Nxd1	38	Kd1: Bb3+
26	h3: Rxa2	39	Kc1: Ne2+
27	Kh2: Nxf2	40	Kb1: Nc3+
28	Re1: Rxe1	41	Kc1: Rc2#
29	Qd8+: Bf8		



Freedom is always circumscribed, granted in proportion to expertise and responsibility.

Is a child free to make their own decisions?
A farmer free to pilot a warship?

How much agony springs from the choices of the ill-prepared?
From authority untethered from responsibility?

From freedom devoid of knowledge, of wisdom?

From tactics unleavened by strategy?



BISHOP TAKES C4.

CHECK.

