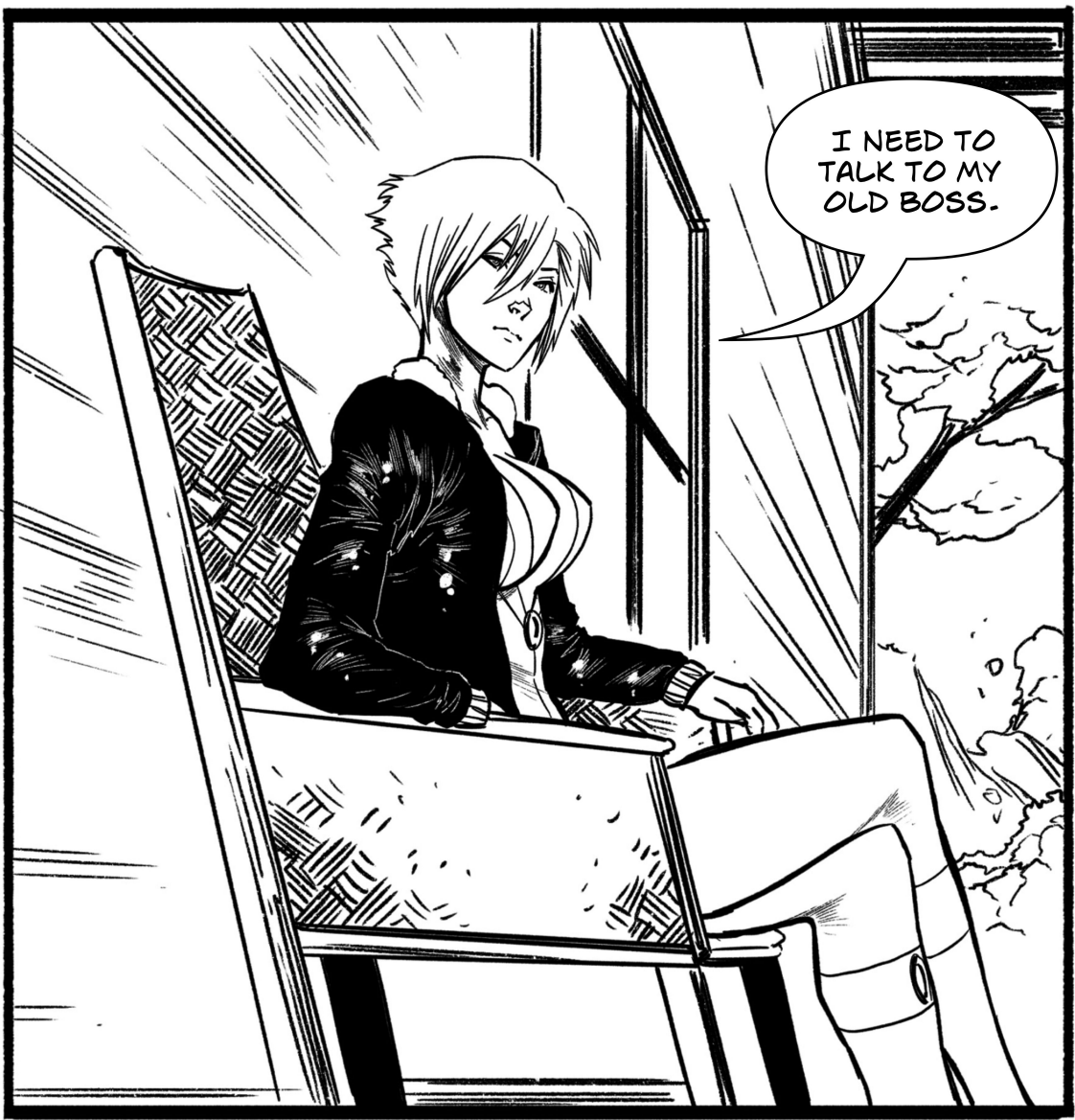


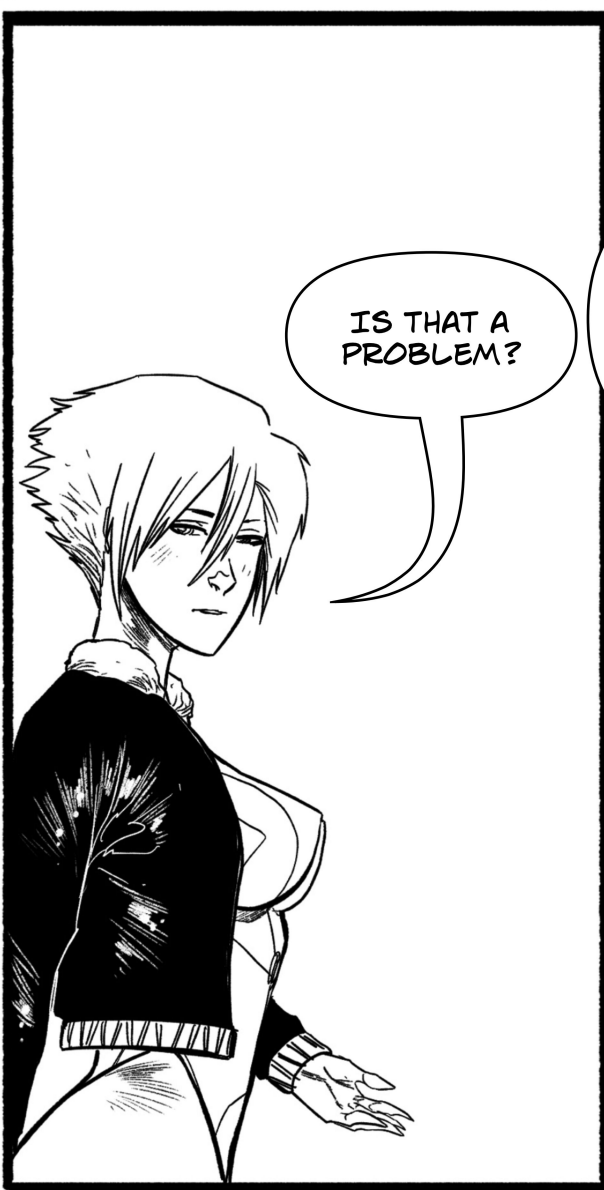


OKAY,
AND....?

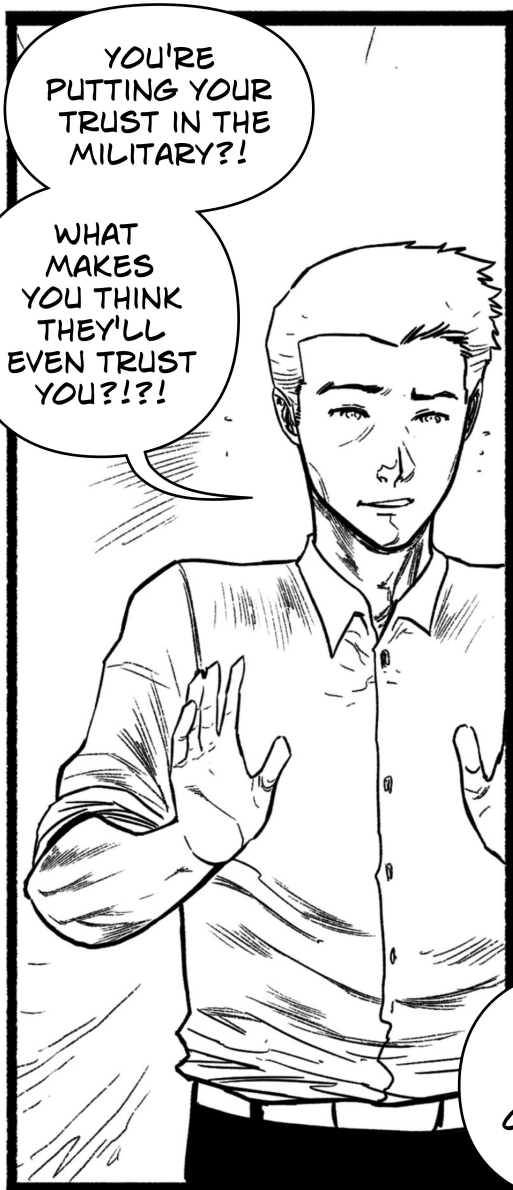


I NEED TO
TALK TO MY
OLD BOSS.

YOUR OLD...
YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT
SOME GENERAL,
AREN'T YOU?

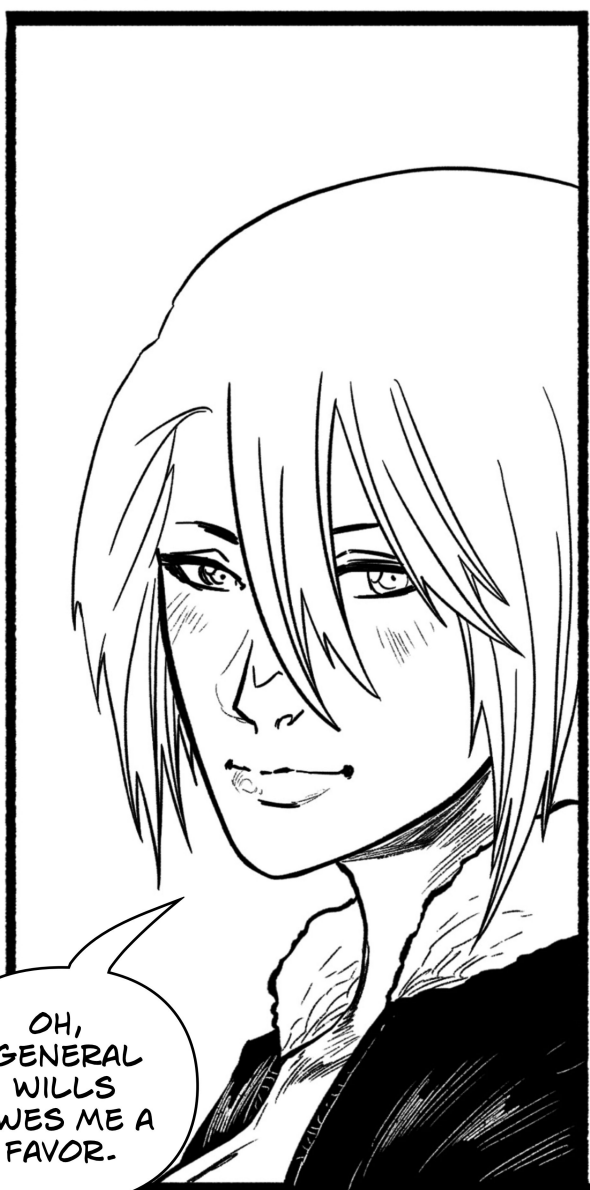


IS THAT A
PROBLEM?



YOU'RE
PUTTING YOUR
TRUST IN THE
MILITARY?!

WHAT
MAKES
YOU THINK
THEY'LL
EVEN TRUST
YOU?!?!



OH,
GENERAL
WILLS
OWES ME A
FAVOR.



YOUR CODEX...
THE INFORMATION
IT BRINGS...

THIS IS THE
TREASURE TROVE
OF KNOWLEDGE WE
WERE ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR!

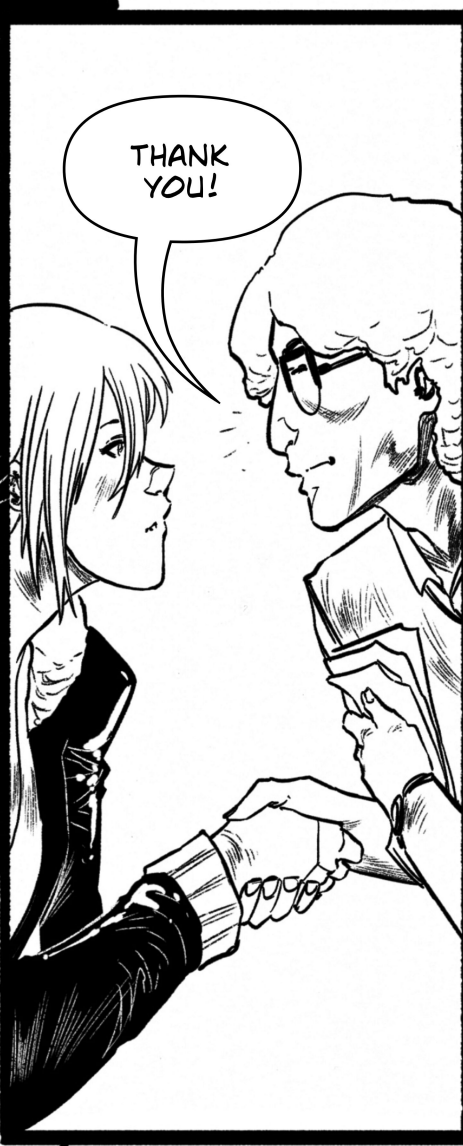


THIS
VALIDATES
MY ENTIRE
LIFETIME
OF WORK!

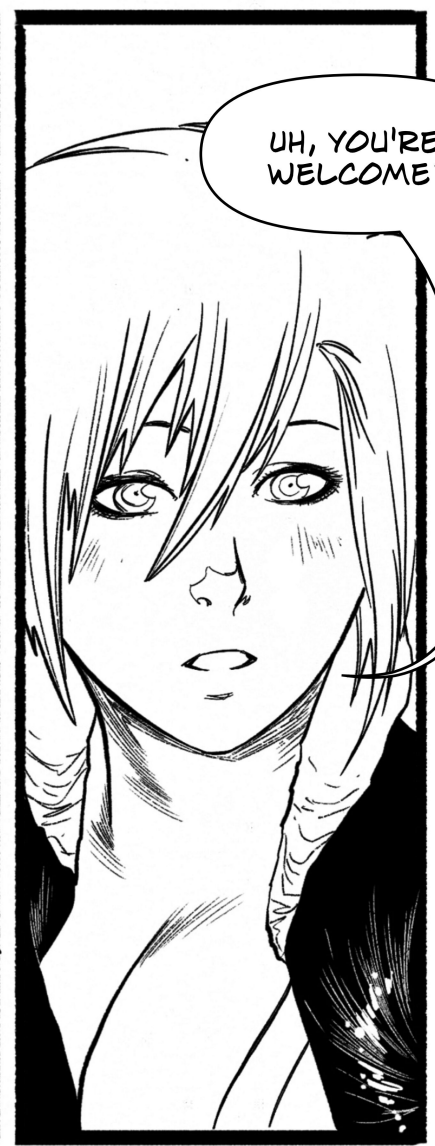


I WON'T
BE JUST
ON SOME
HISTORY
CHANNEL
SPECIAL!

I WILL BE
PUBLISHED!



THANK
YOU!



UH, YOU'RE...
WELCOME?

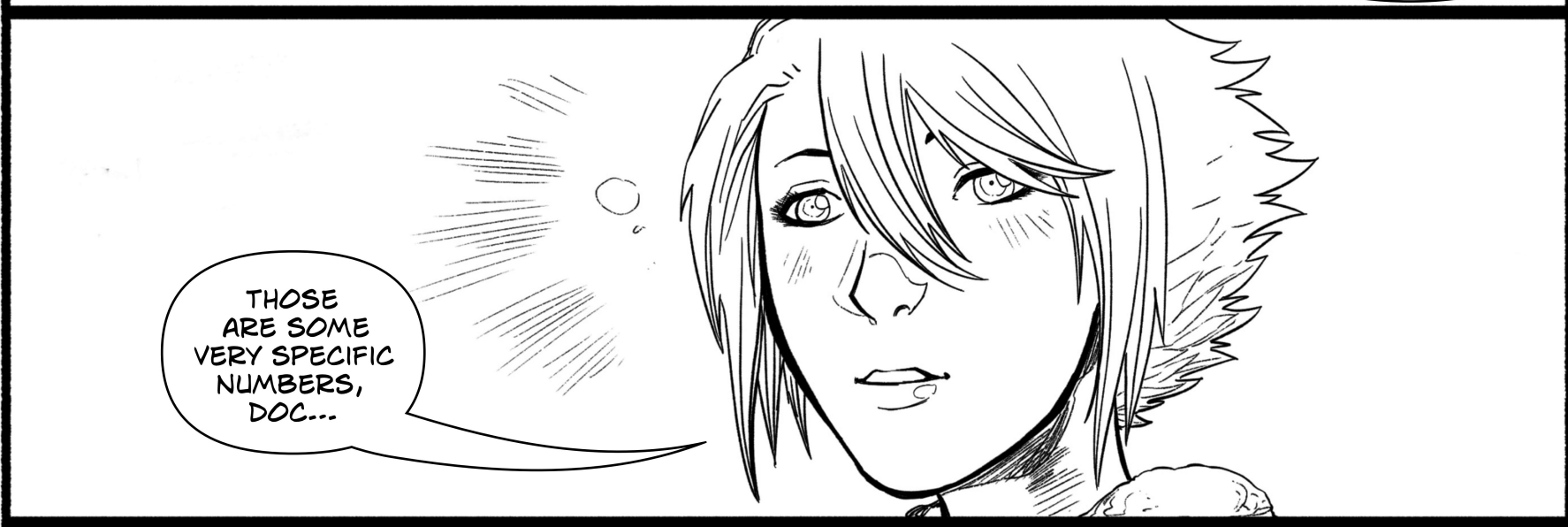


ALRIGHT, DOC... TELL US WHAT YOU LEARNED.

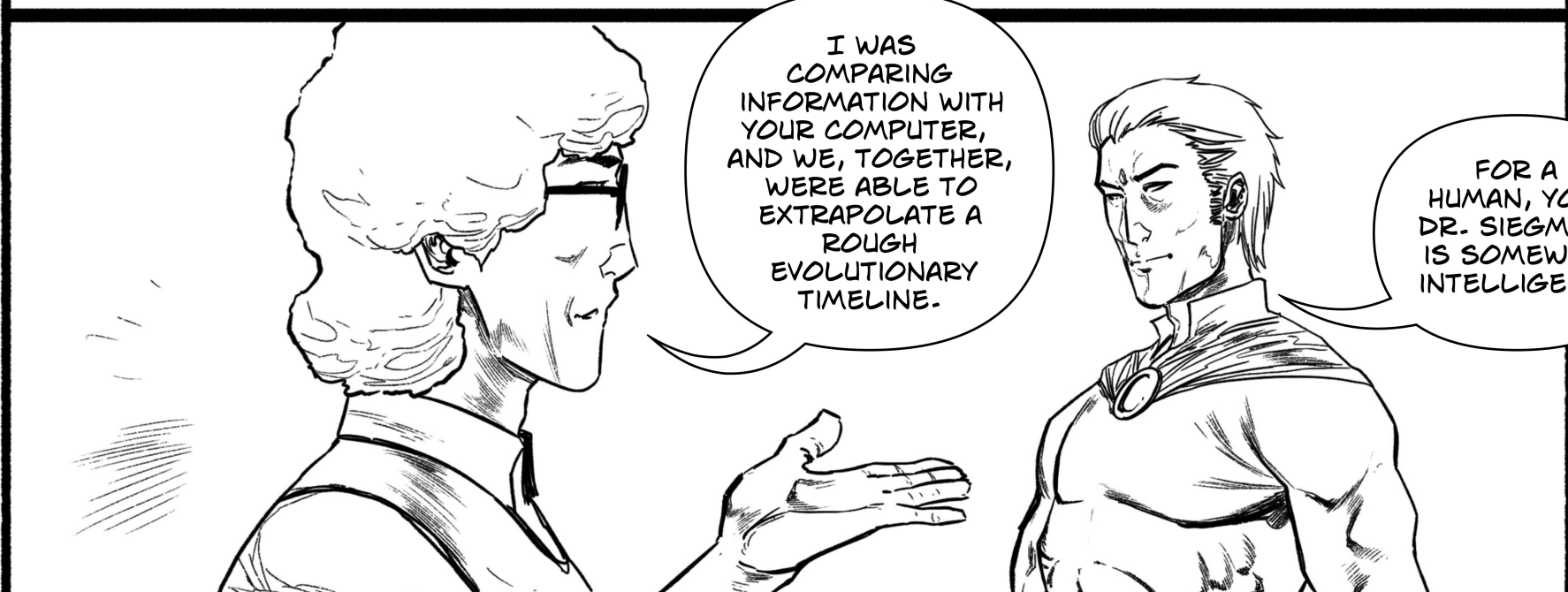


THE ANCIENTS ARE A PROTO-HUMAN SPECIES THAT HAS HAD AN EVOLUTIONARY FAST-TRACK!

IF I HAD TO GUESS, THEY ARE AT LEAST A MILLENIA AHEAD OF HOMO-SAPIEN IN GENETIC DEVELOPMENT, AND FIVE THOUSAND YEARS IN TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT!



THOSE ARE SOME VERY SPECIFIC NUMBERS, DOC...

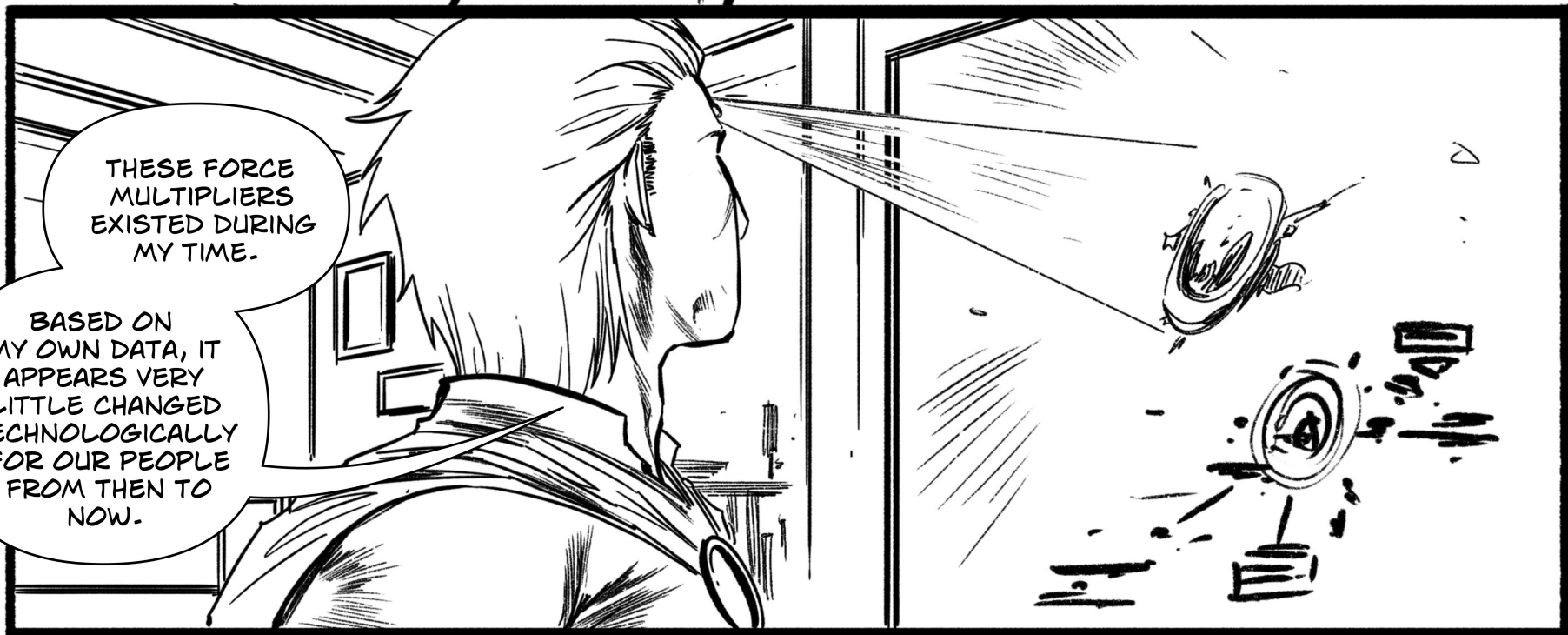


I WAS COMPARING INFORMATION WITH YOUR COMPUTER, AND WE, TOGETHER, WERE ABLE TO EXTRAPOLATE A ROUGH EVOLUTIONARY TIMELINE.

FOR A HUMAN, YOUR DR. SIEGMUND IS SOMEWHAT INTELLIGENT.



WHEN YOUR COMPUTER SCANNED YOU, TURBULANCE, IT PICKED UP THESE SUBDERMAL IMPLANTS THAT GENERATE FORCEFIELDS WITH GESTURES AND THOUGHTS.



THESE FORCE MULTIPLIERS EXISTED DURING MY TIME.

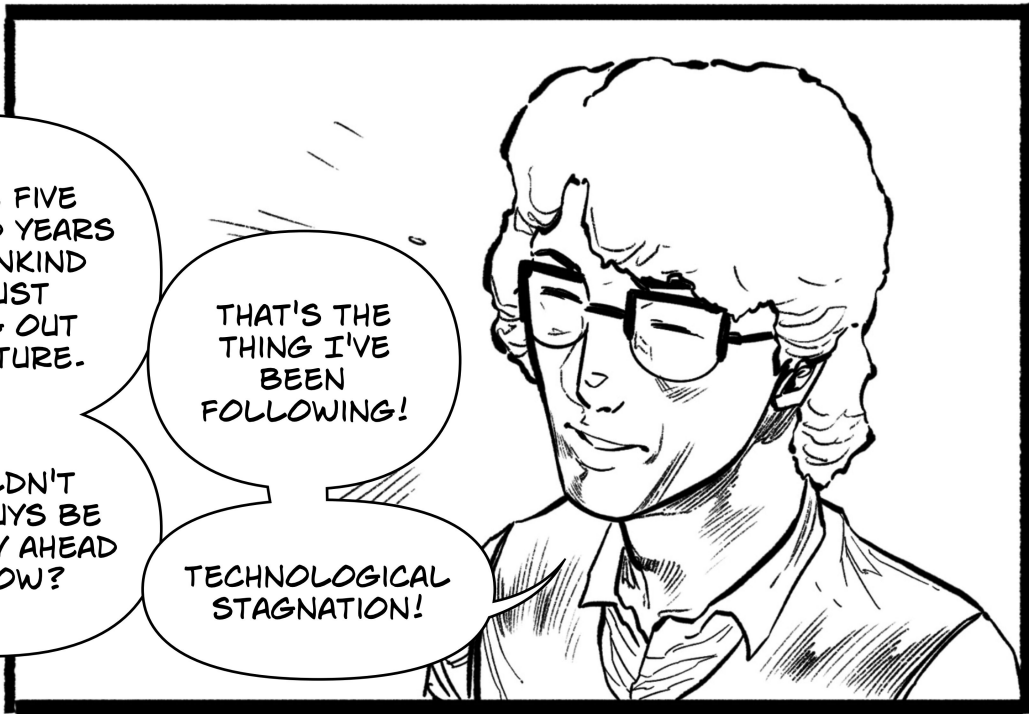
BASED ON MY OWN DATA, IT APPEARS VERY LITTLE CHANGED TECHNOLOGICALLY FOR OUR PEOPLE FROM THEN TO NOW.



ISN'T THAT STRANGE?

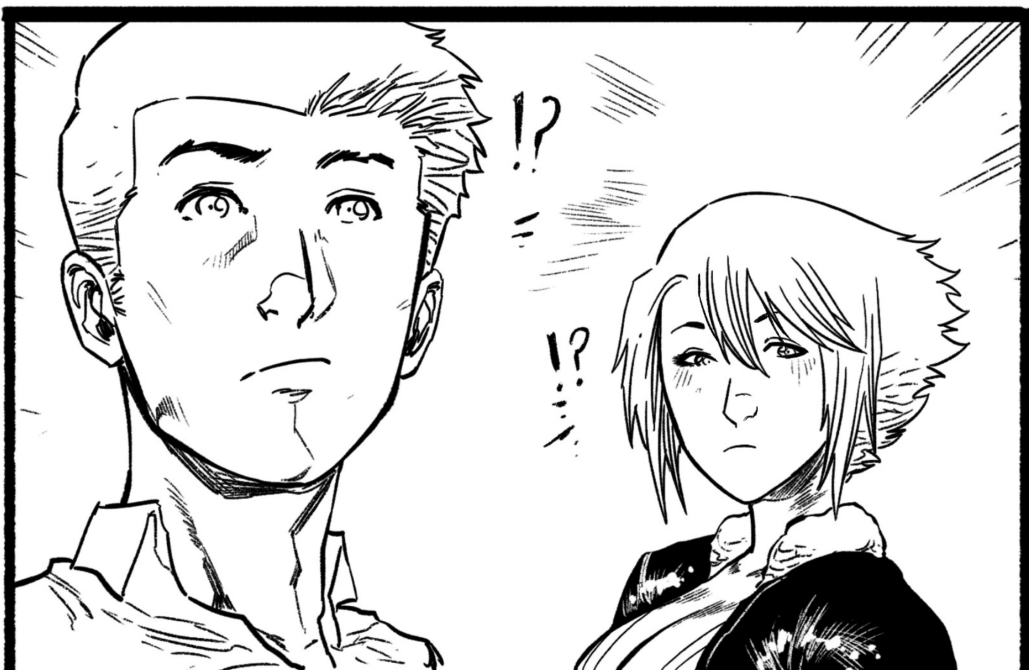
I MEAN, FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO, MANKIND WAS JUST FIGURING OUT AGRICULTURE.

SHOULDN'T YOU GUYS BE LIKE WAY AHEAD BY NOW?



THAT'S THE THING I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING!

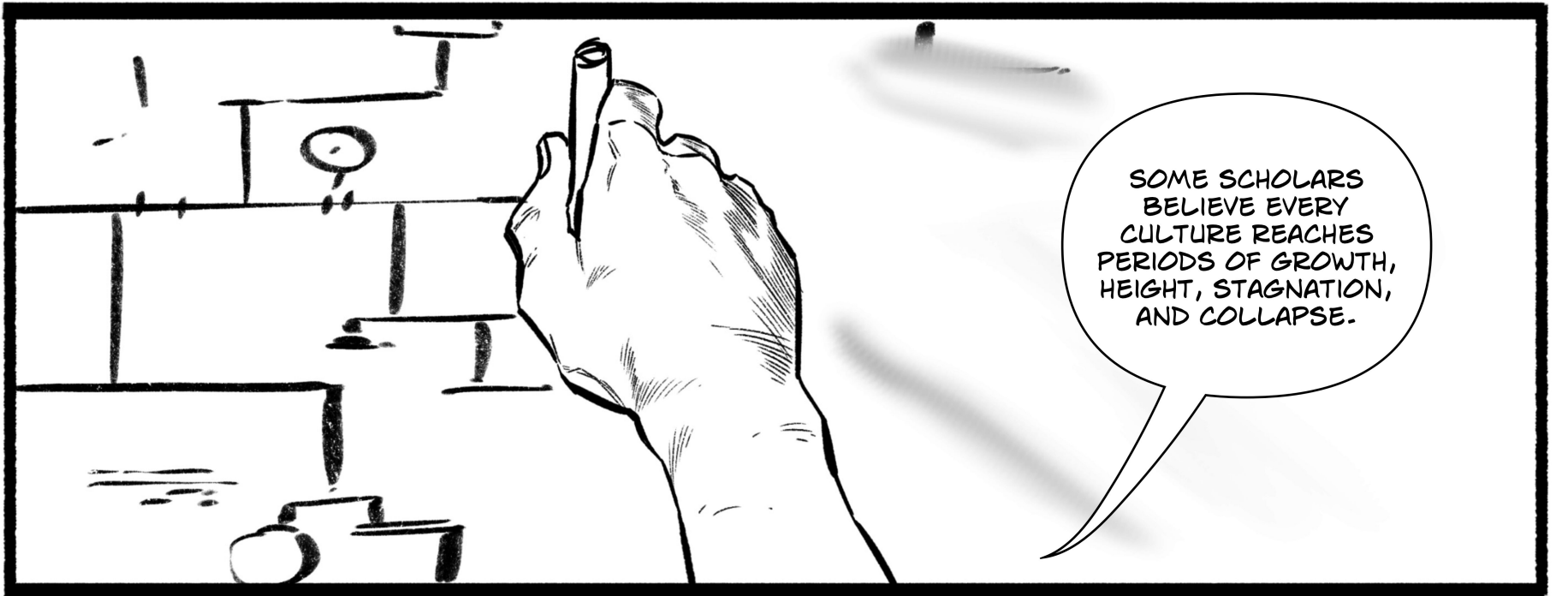
TECHNOLOGICAL STAGNATION!



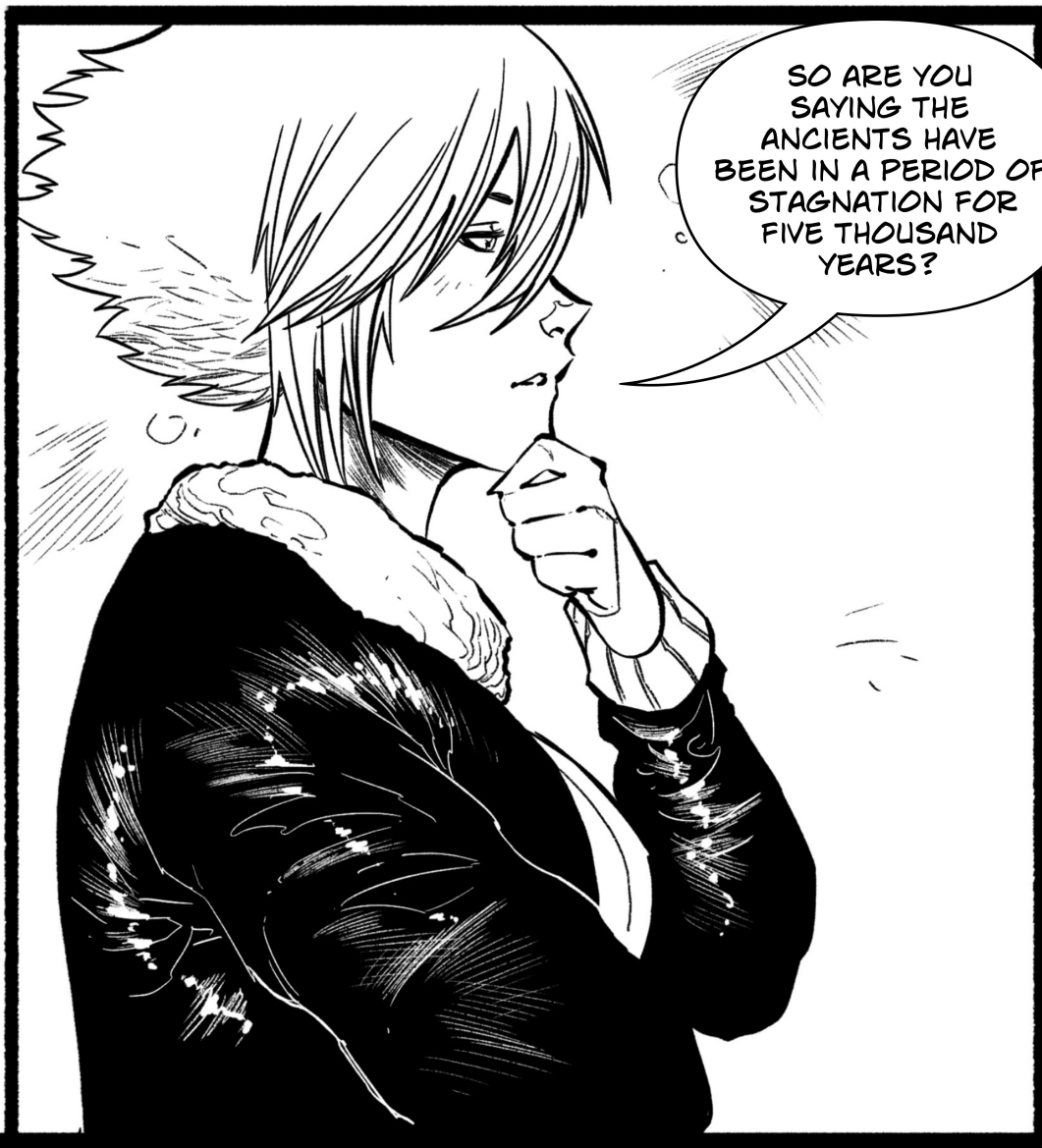


IN THE ANCIENT
WORLD, ROME
REACHED A ZENITH
IN TECHNOLOGY.

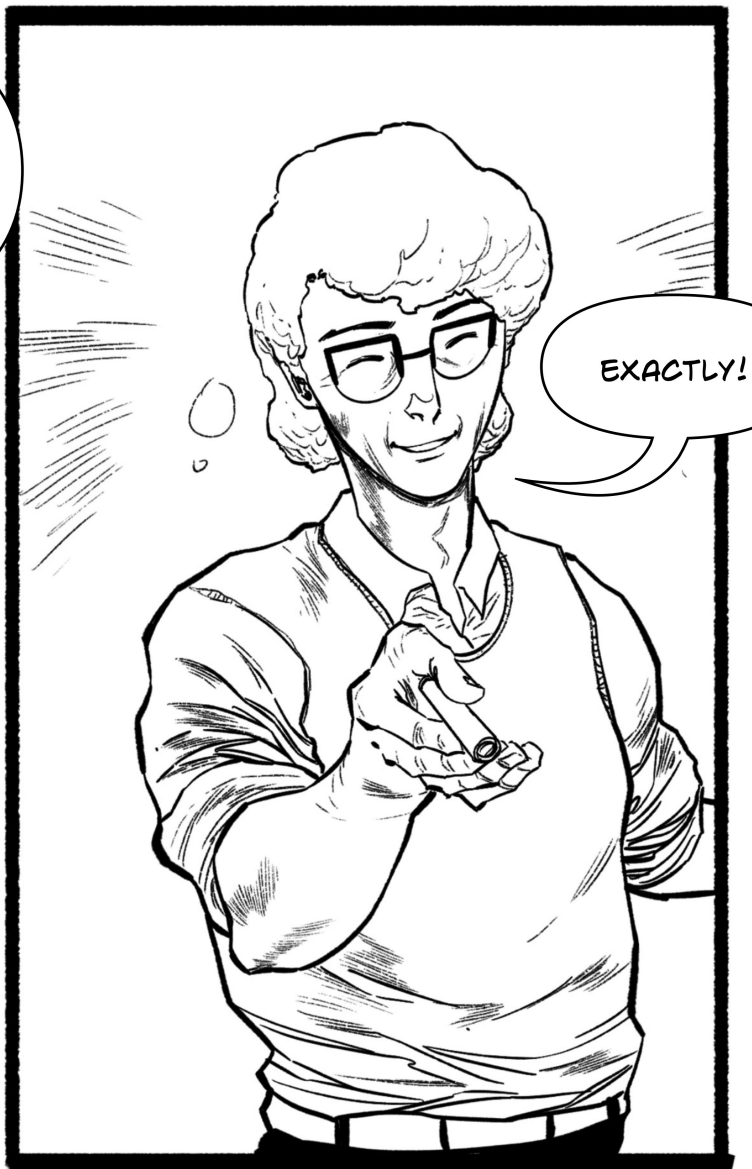
CONCRETE,
AGRICULTURE,
AQUEDUCTS...



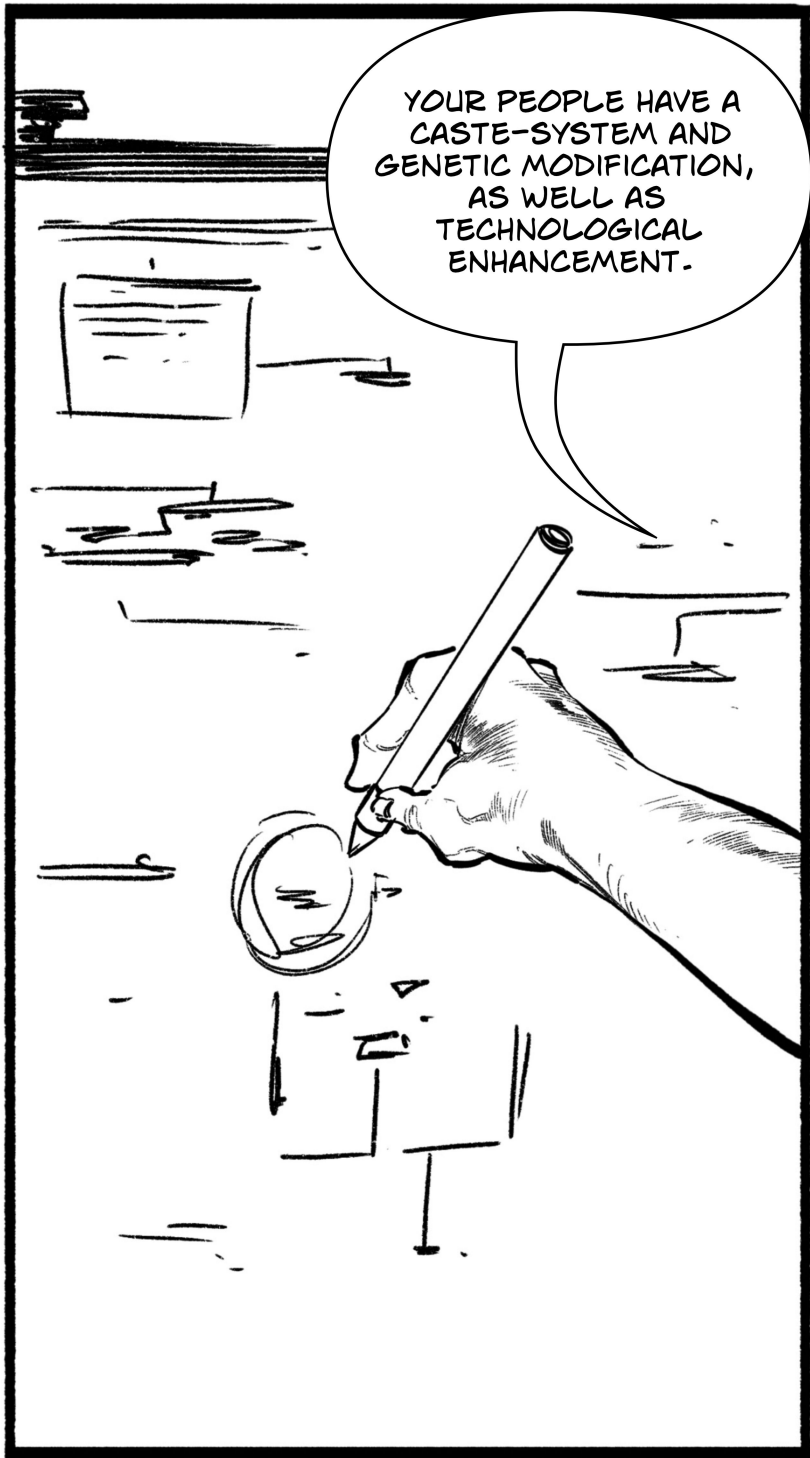
SOME SCHOLARS
BELIEVE EVERY
CULTURE REACHES
PERIODS OF GROWTH,
HEIGHT, STAGNATION,
AND COLLAPSE.



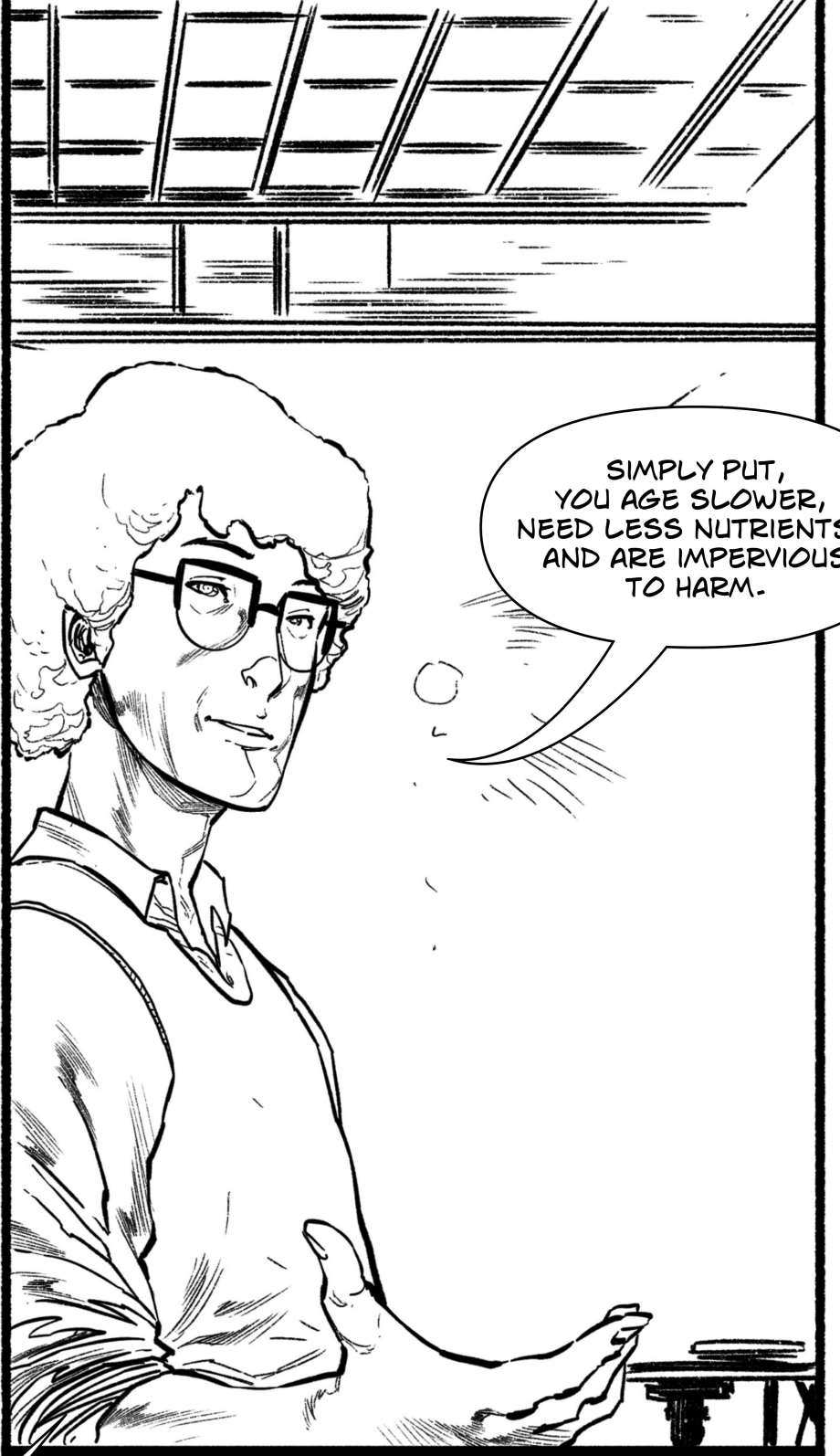
SO ARE YOU
SAYING THE
ANCIENTS HAVE
BEEN IN A PERIOD OF
STAGNATION FOR
FIVE THOUSAND
YEARS?



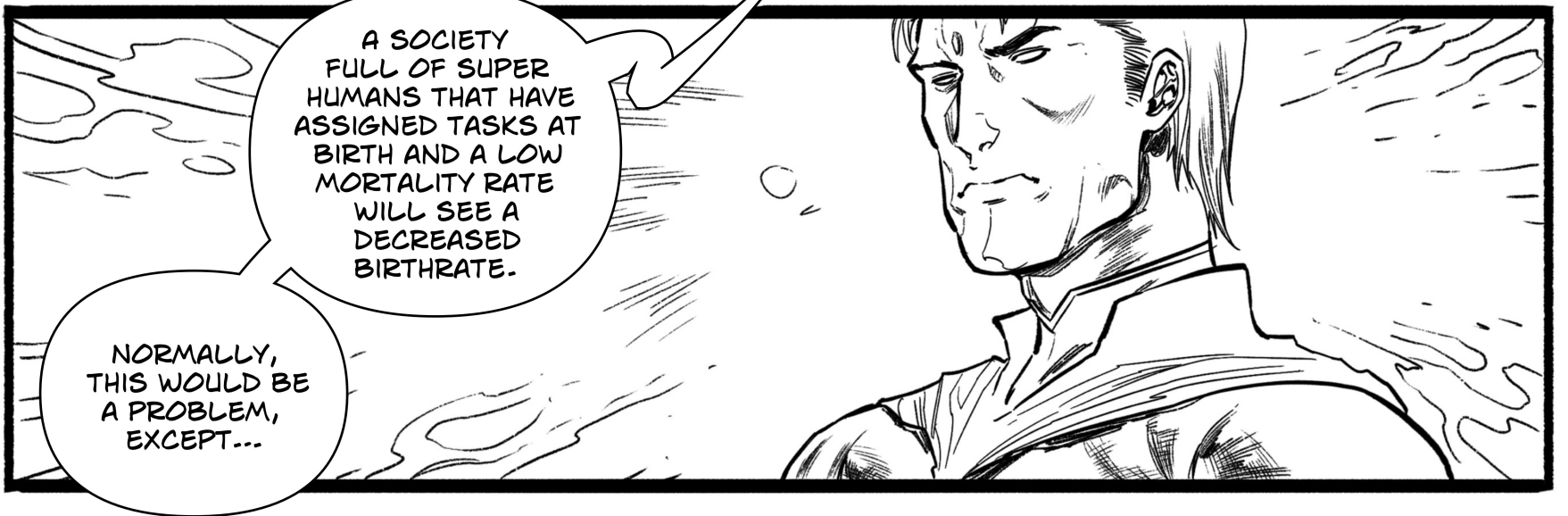
EXACTLY!



YOUR PEOPLE HAVE A CASTE-SYSTEM AND GENETIC MODIFICATION, AS WELL AS TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT.

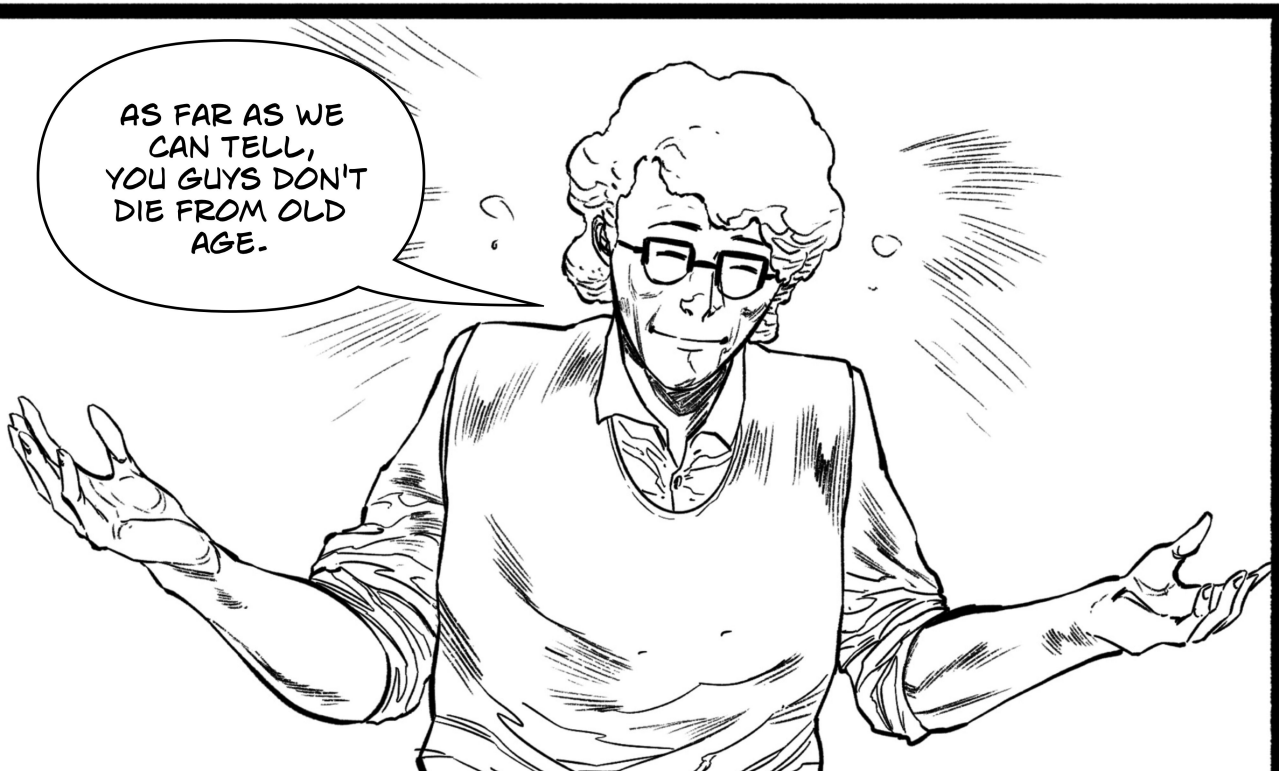


SIMPLY PUT, YOU AGE SLOWER, NEED LESS NUTRIENTS, AND ARE IMPERVIOUS TO HARM.

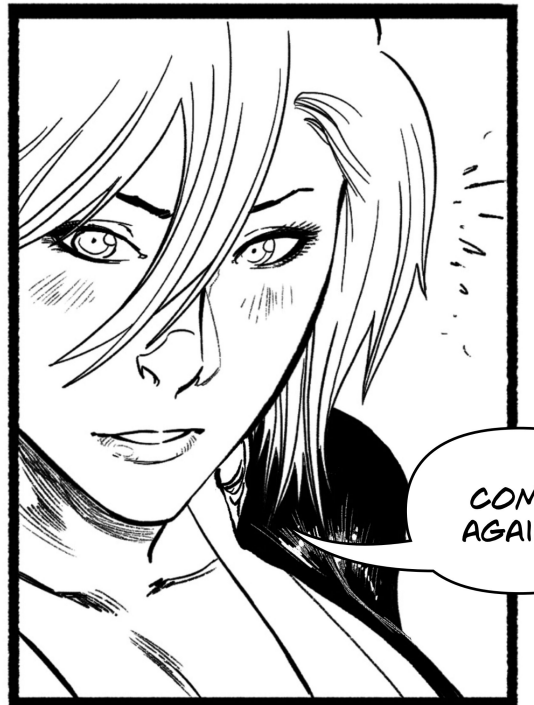


A SOCIETY FULL OF SUPER HUMANS THAT HAVE ASSIGNED TASKS AT BIRTH AND A LOW MORTALITY RATE WILL SEE A DECREASED BIRTHRATE.

NORMALLY, THIS WOULD BE A PROBLEM, EXCEPT...



AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, YOU GUYS DON'T DIE FROM OLD AGE.



COME AGAIN?

