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#9: THE FALL OF ATERO

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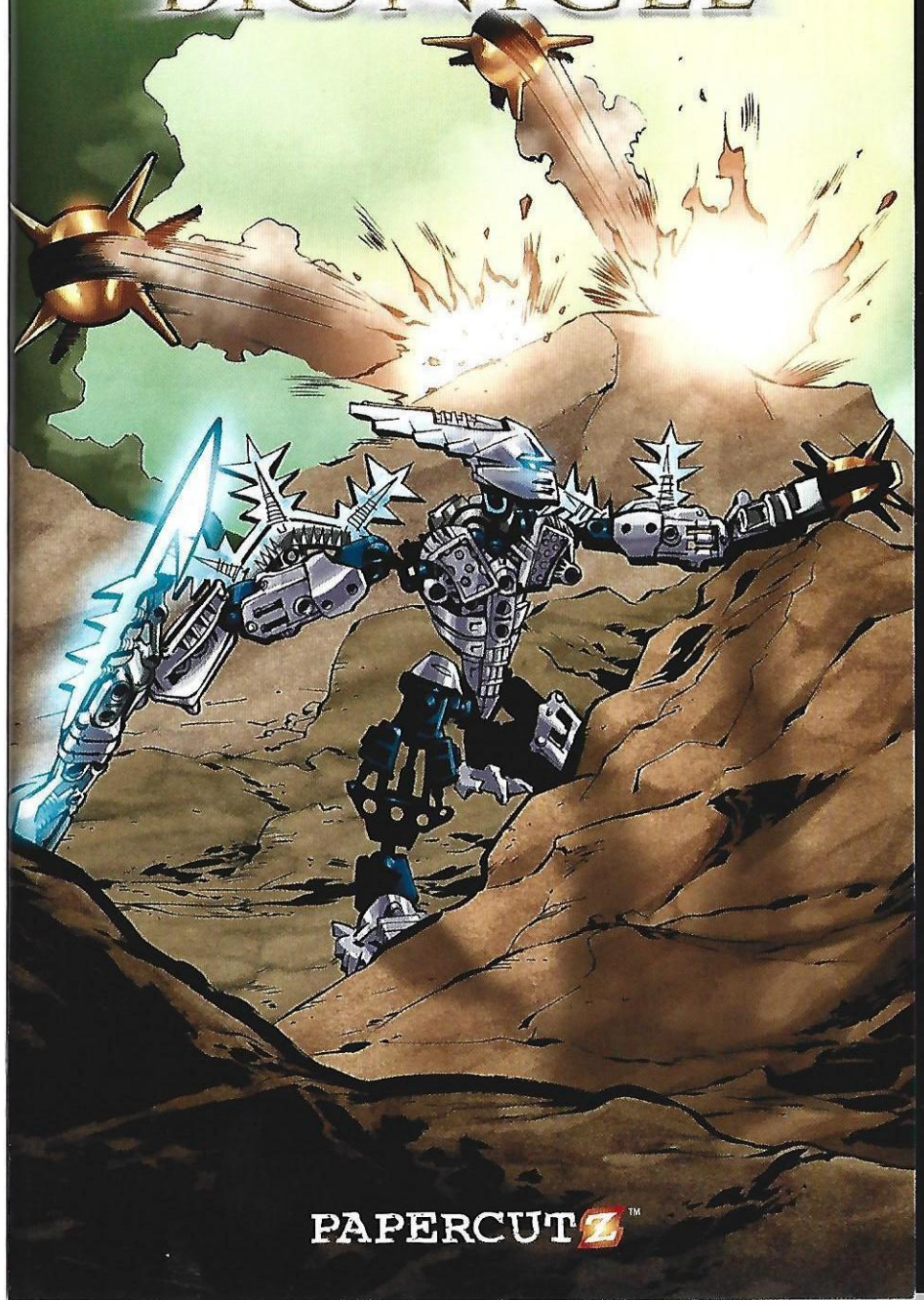
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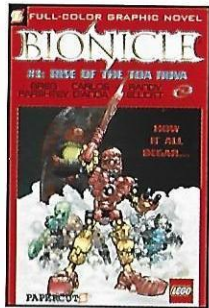


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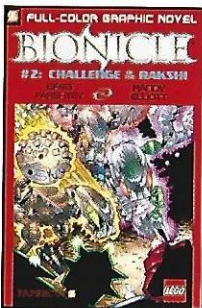


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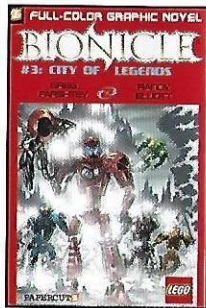
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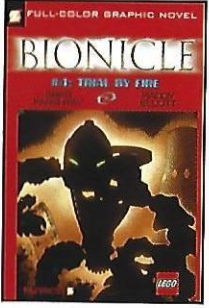
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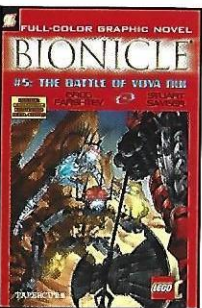
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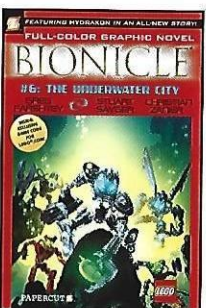
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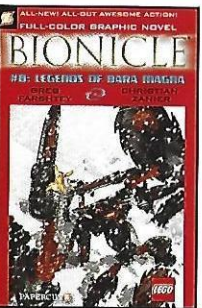
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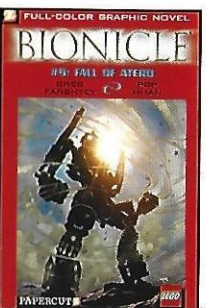
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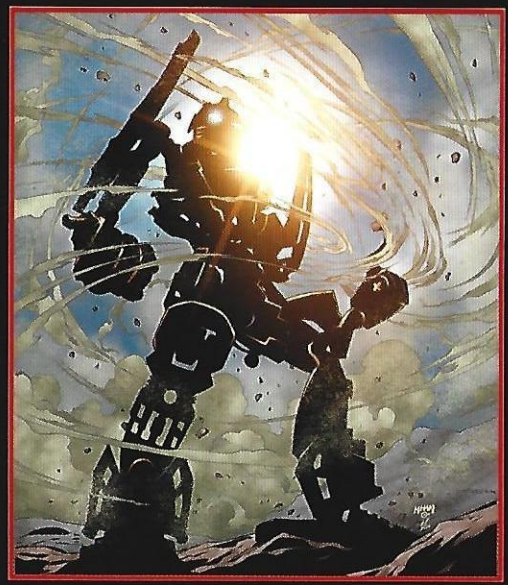
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Graphic Novel #9
"The Fall of Atero"

BIONICLE®

#9 The Fall of Atero



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WRITER
POP MHAN
ARTIST

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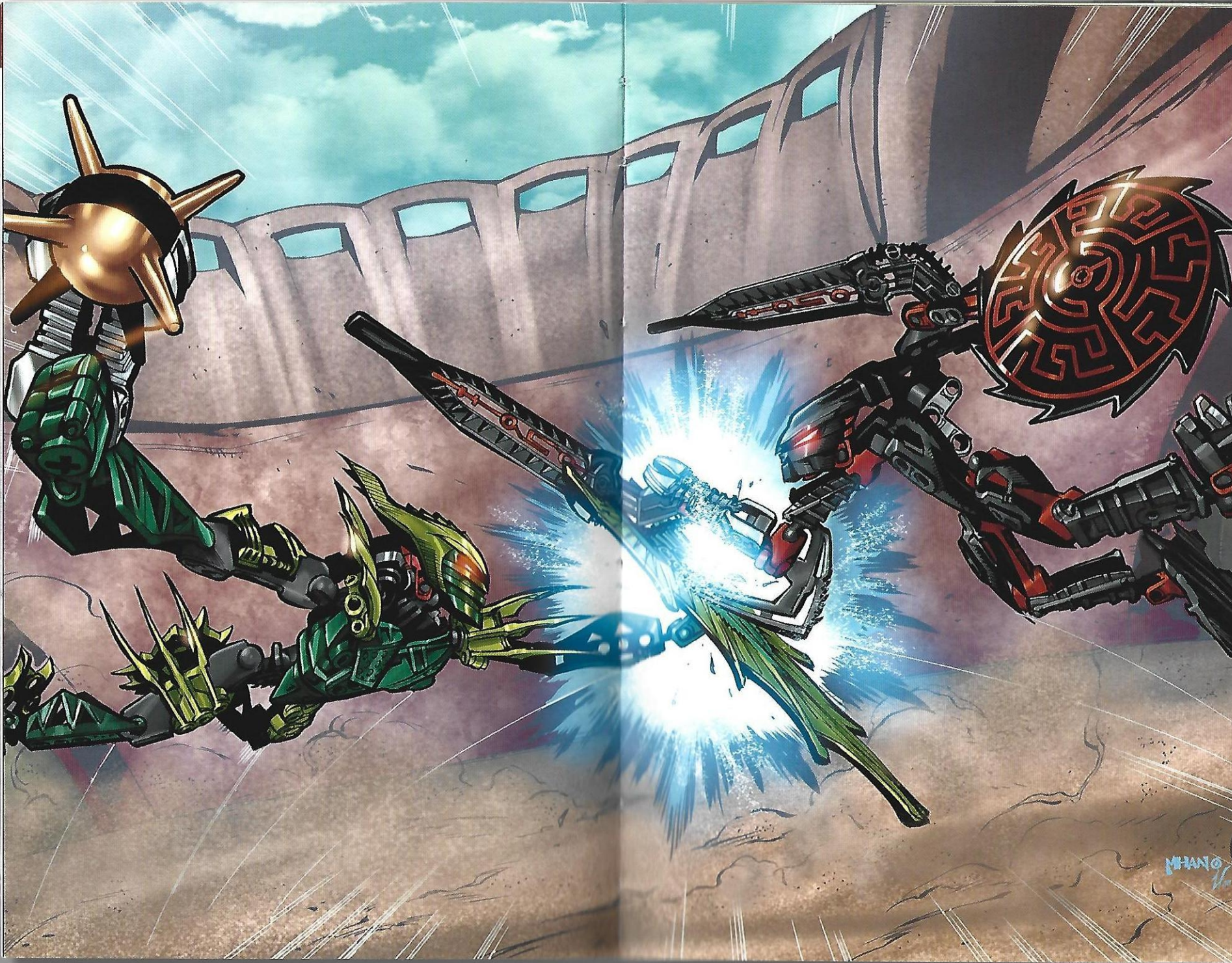
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THE FALL OF ATERO CHAPTER ONE







HE IS BERIX, AN AGORI VILLAGER IN THE SETTLEMENT OF TAJUN.



BERIX IS A COLLECTOR, SCOURING THE DESERT AND ITS RUINS FOR "TREASURES"—SCRAP METAL, OLD ARMOR AND WEAPONS, OR WHATEVER HE MIGHT COME ACROSS.



THERE'S ONLY ONE PROBLEM WITH BEING A COLLECTOR ON BARA MAGNA ...



OOOF!

...SOMETIMES YOU FIND THINGS YOU DON'T WANT.

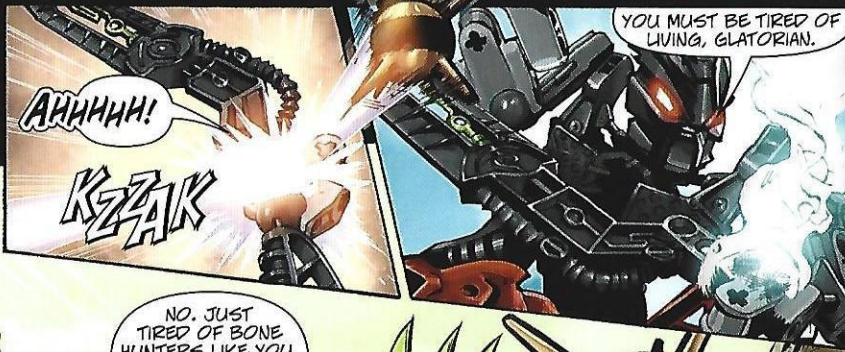


AND SOMETIMES THEY FIND YOU.

SANDS OF BARA MAGNA



HUNT'S OVER, YOU LOSE.

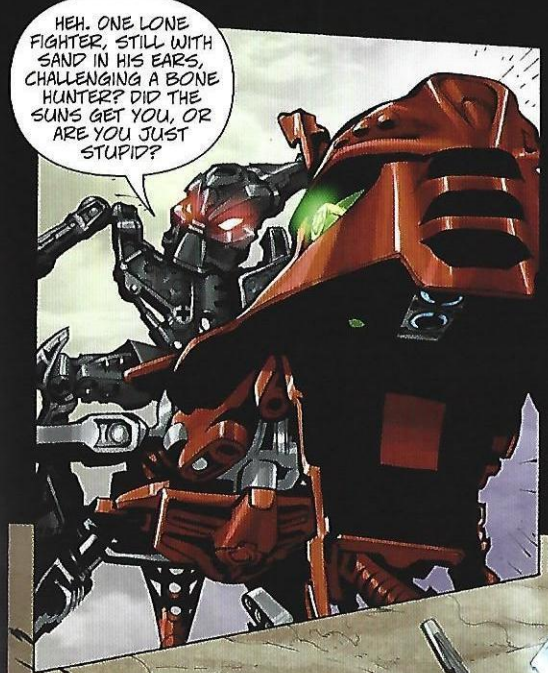


AAAAHHH!

KZZAK

YOU MUST BE TIRED OF LIVING, GLATORIAN.

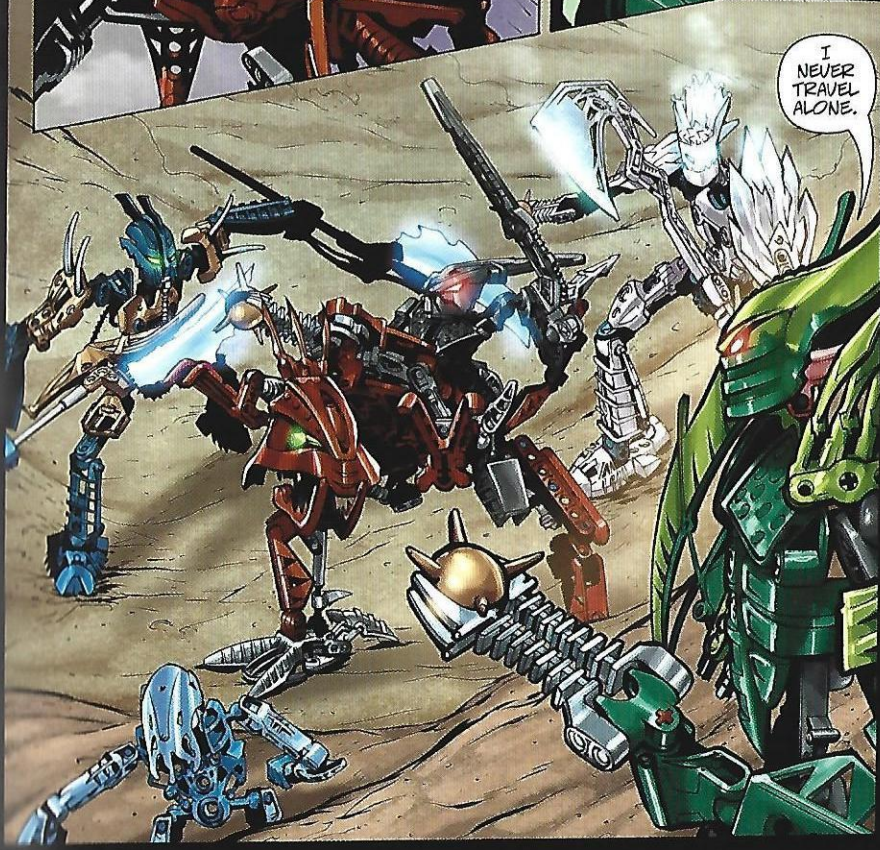
NO. JUST TIRED OF BONE HUNTERS LIKE YOU. LEAVE THE AGORI ALONE AND MOVE ALONG.



HEH. ONE LONE FIGHTER, STILL WITH SAND IN HIS EARS, CHALLENGING A BONE HUNTER? DID THE SUNS GET YOU, OR ARE YOU JUST STUPID?



NOT SUN-STUCK. NOT STUPID. JUST A TRAVELER. ONE THING, THOUGH...



I NEVER TRAVEL ALONE.

MINUTES LATER ...



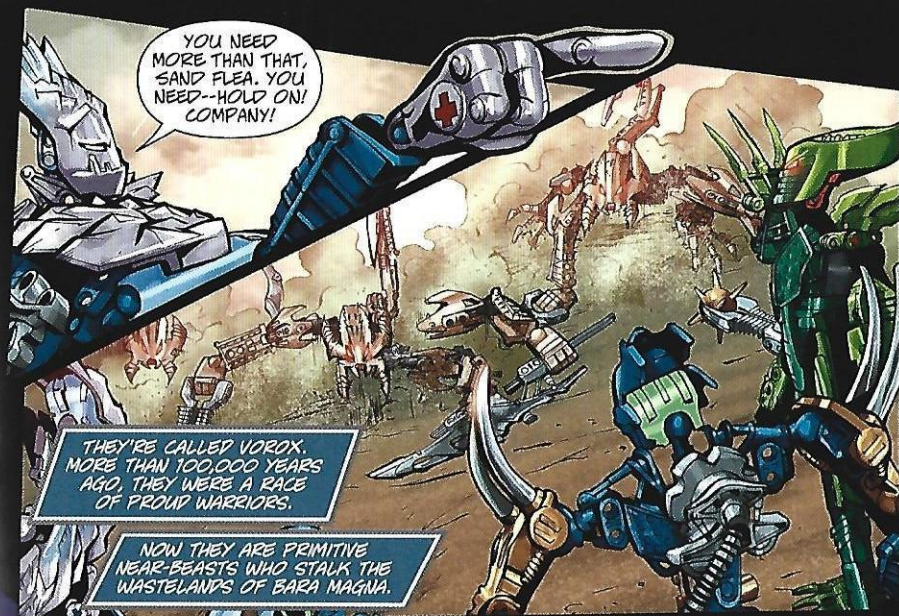
THANKS FOR THE RESCUE, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO PAY YOU WITH.



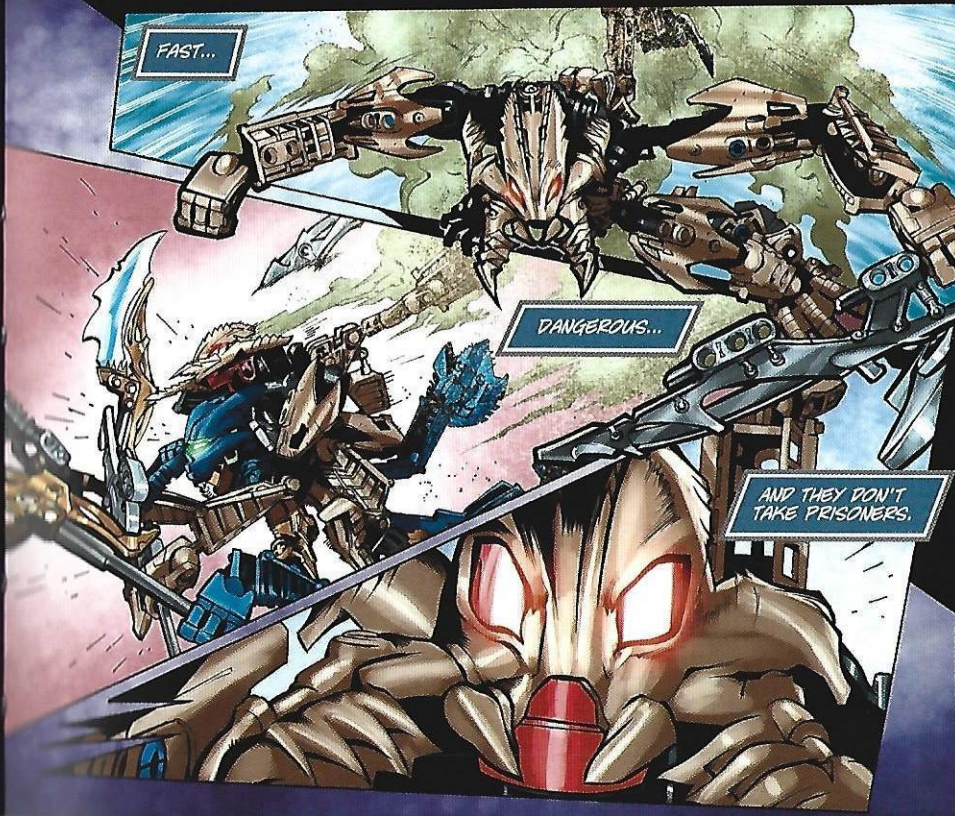
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO FAR FROM TAJUN?

COLLECTING BITS OF OLD ARMOR. I NEED BETTER ARMOR IF I'M GOING TO FIGHT IN THE ARENA SOMEDAY.

GLATORIAN FIGHT FOR THE VILLAGES THAT HIRE US, SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER. BUT WE DON'T CHARGE TO SAVE A LIFE.



FAST...





HUNGRY OR JUST ANGRY, YOU THINK?

KLANG

PROBABLY BOTH.

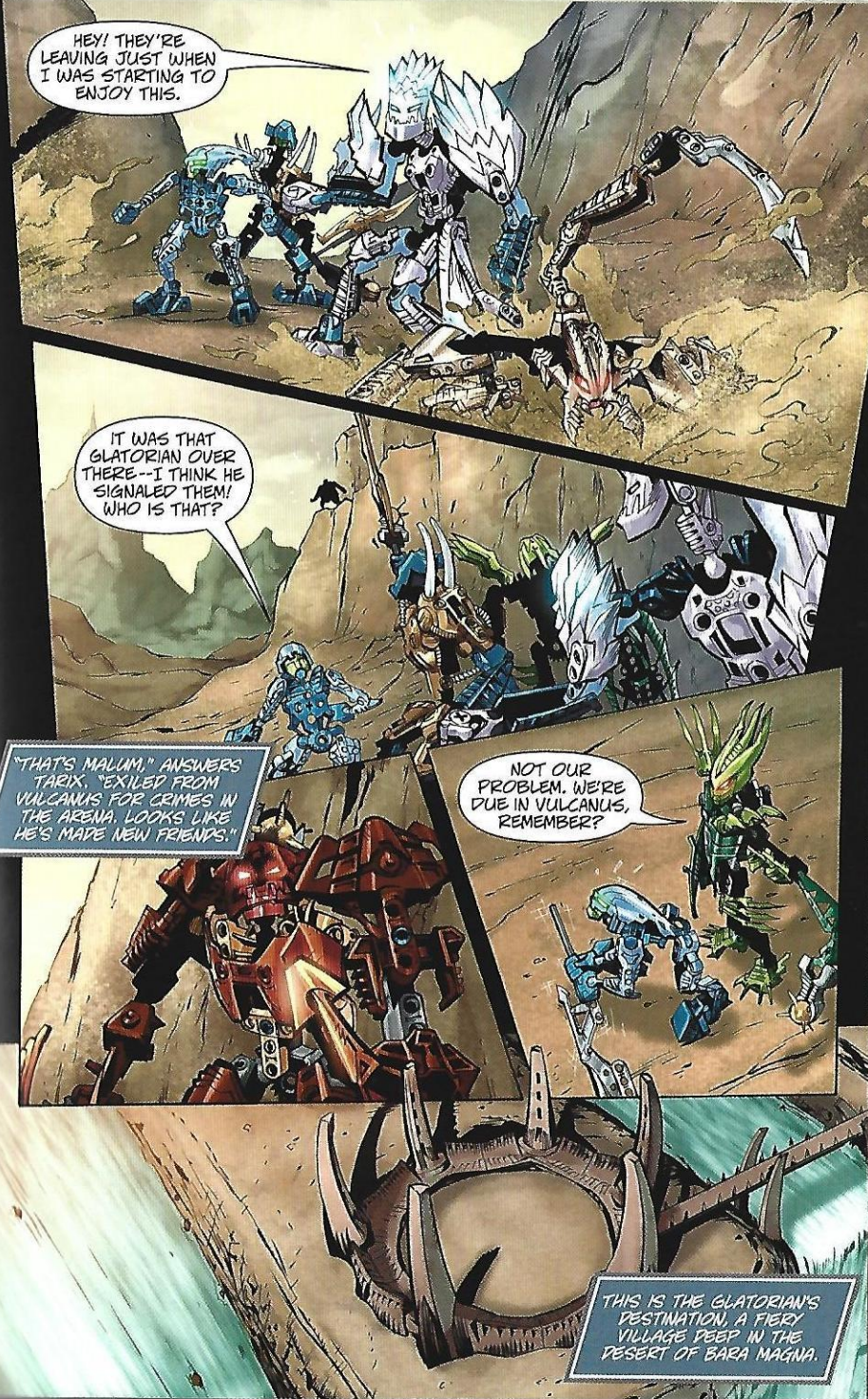
SINCE WHEN DO VOROX NEED A REASON?

BAMM

GOOD POINT.

WHEEET

WHAT'S THAT?



HEY! THEY'RE LEAVING JUST WHEN I WAS STARTING TO ENJOY THIS.

IT WAS THAT GLATORIAN OVER THERE - I THINK HE SIGNALLED THEM! WHO IS THAT?

"THAT'S MALIM," ANSWERS TARIK. "EXILED FROM VULCANUS FOR CRIMES IN THE ARENA. LOOKS LIKE HE'S MADE NEW FRIENDS."

NOT OUR PROBLEM. WE'RE DUE IN VULCANUS, REMEMBER?

THIS IS THE GLATORIAN'S DESTINATION, A FIERY VILLAGE DEEP IN THE DESERT OF BARA MAGNA.

RAANU, ELDER OF THE VILLAGE OF VULCANUS, IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A LESS THAN FRIENDLY CHAT WITH METUS, RECRUITER/TRAINER OF GLATORIAN.

BUT WE NEED ANOTHER FIGHTER, NOW THAT MALUM'S GONE! THE SKRALL ARE CLAIMING THE FLAME GEYSERS TO THE NORTH, AND WE MUST MEET THEIR CHALLENGE.

GOOD GLATORIAN DON'T SPRING FROM THE SAND. AND, BESIDES, NO ONE WANTS TO WORK FOR YOU RIGHT NOW--

"NOT IF IT MEANS FIGHTING HIM."

MOVE.

FIND SOMEPLACE ELSE TO WATCH FROM--THIS SPOT'S MINE.

I. SAID. MOVE.

MOVE! RIGHT. SURE. YES, SIR. MOVING NOW.

YOU'RE FIGHTING A SKRALL?

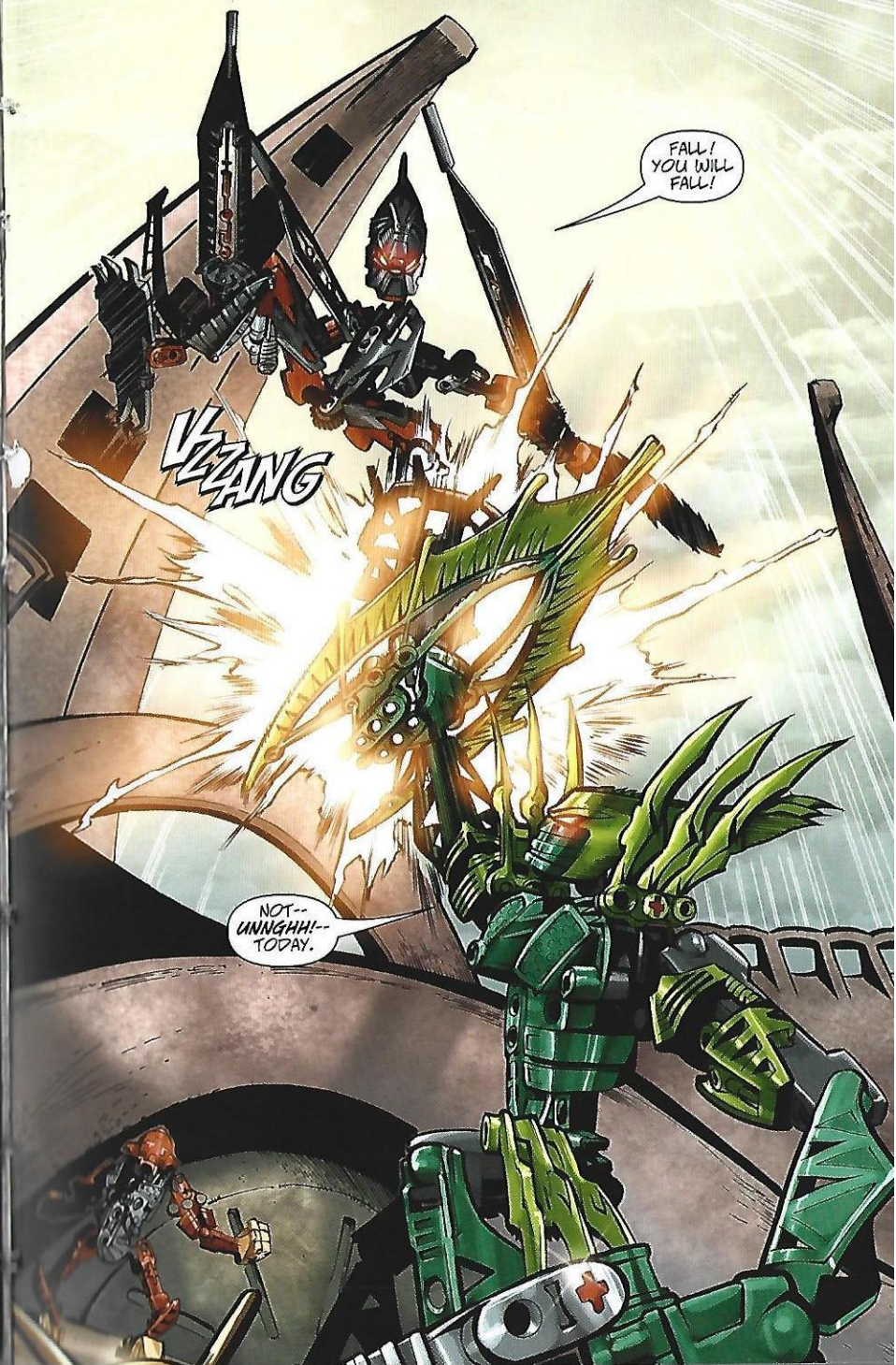
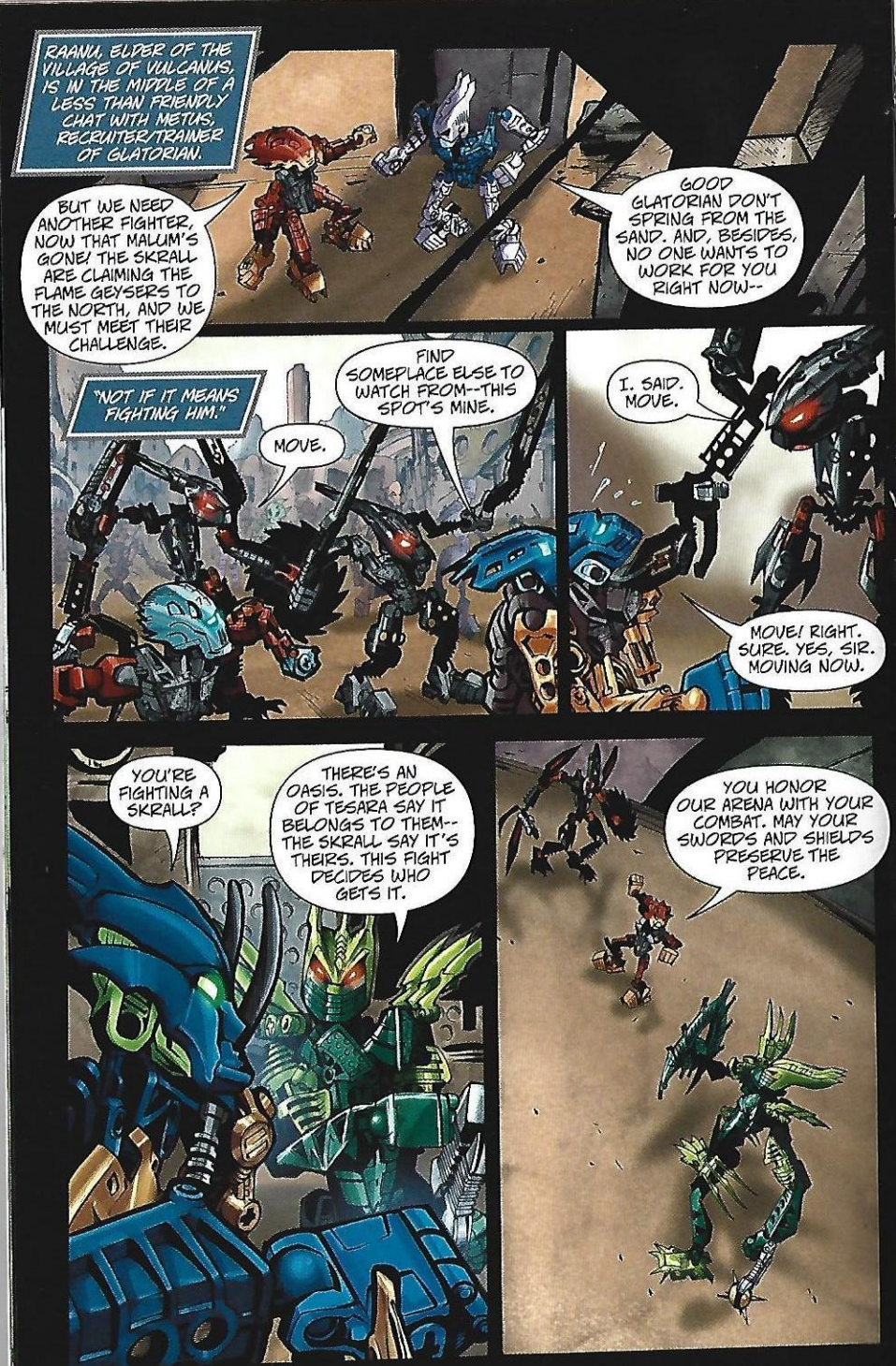
THERE'S AN OASIS. THE PEOPLE OF TESARA SAY IT BELONGS TO THEM-- THE SKRALL SAY IT'S THEIRS. THIS FIGHT DECIDES WHO GETS IT.

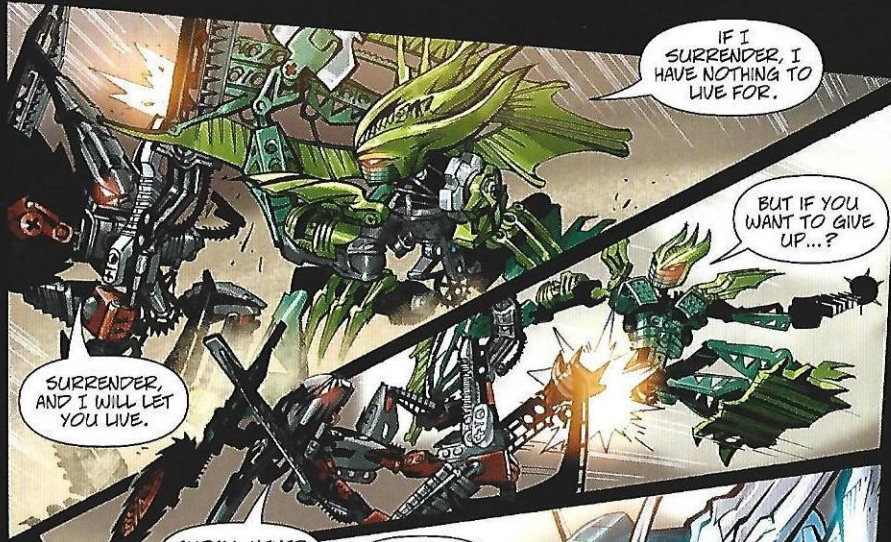
YOU HONOR OUR ARENA WITH YOUR COMBAT. MAY YOUR SWORDS AND SHIELDS PRESERVE THE PEACE.

NOT-- UNNGH!-- TODAY.

FALL! YOU WILL FALL!

ZZANG





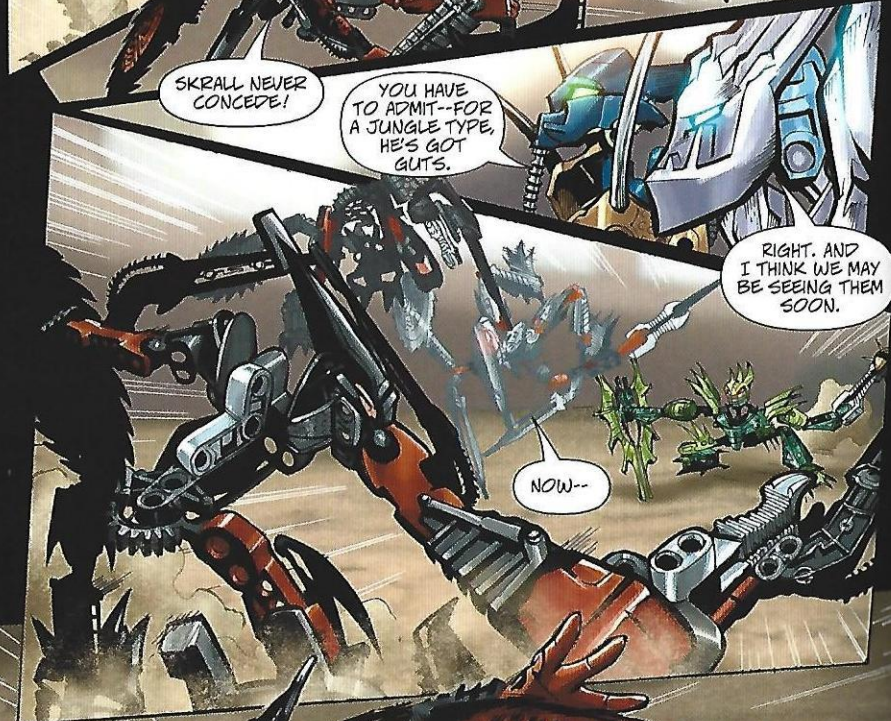
SURRENDER, AND I WILL LET YOU LIVE.

IF I SURRENDER, I HAVE NOTHING TO LIVE FOR.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO GIVE UP...?

SKRALL NEVER CONCEDE!

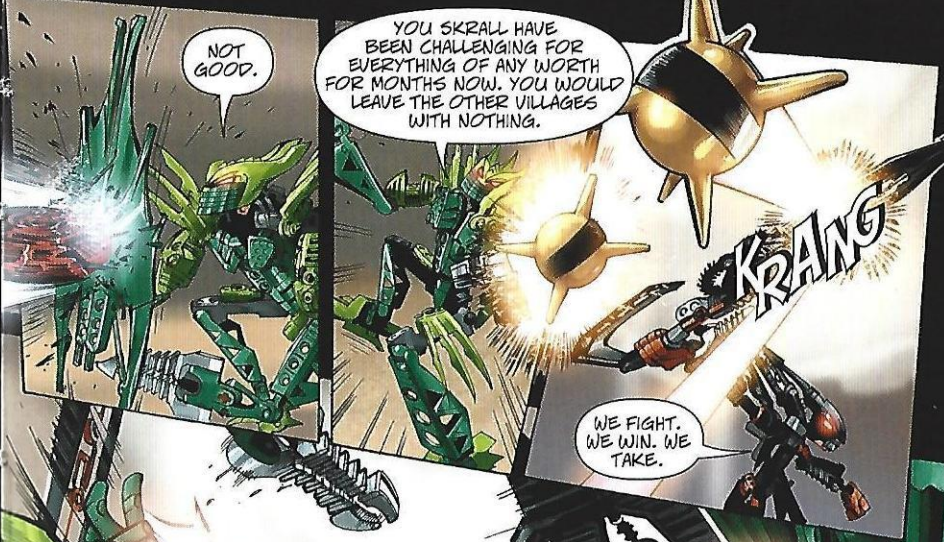
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT--FOR A JUNGLE TYPE, HE'S GOT GUTS.



RIGHT. AND I THINK WE MAY BE SEEING THEM SOON.

NOW--

--WE START AGAIN.



NOT GOOD.

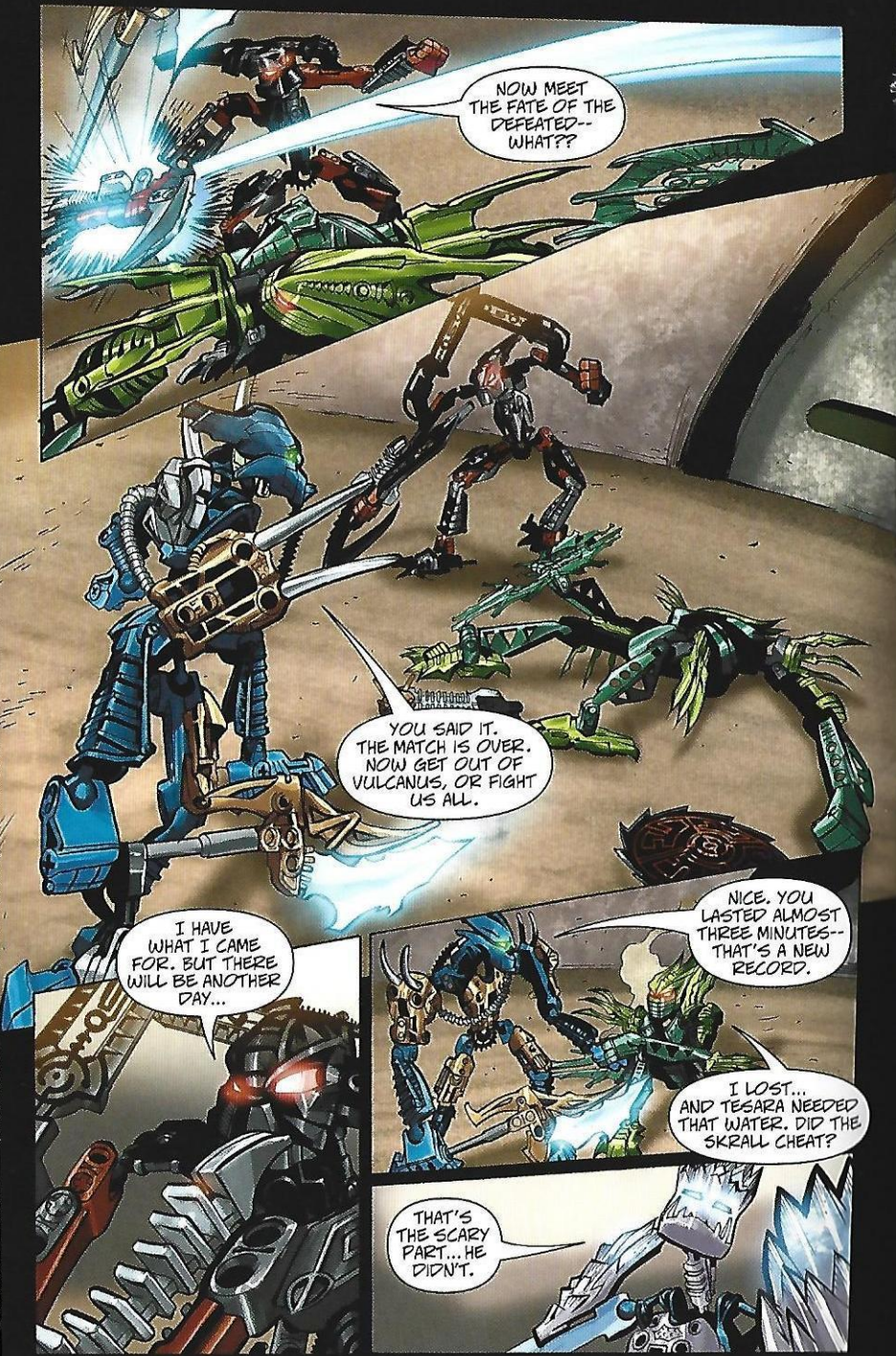
YOU SKRALL HAVE BEEN CHALLENGING FOR EVERYTHING OF ANY WORTH FOR MONTHS NOW. YOU WOULD LEAVE THE OTHER VILLAGES WITH NOTHING.

WE FIGHT. WE WIN. WE TAKE.



WE ARE SKRALL!

THE MATCH IS OVER!



NOW MEET THE FATE OF THE DEFEATED-- WHAT??

YOU SAID IT. THE MATCH IS OVER. NOW GET OUT OF VULCANUS, OR FIGHT US ALL.

I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR. BUT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER DAY...

NICE. YOU LASTED ALMOST THREE MINUTES-- THAT'S A NEW RECORD.

I LOST... AND TESARA NEEDED THAT WATER. DID THE SKRALL CHEAT?

THAT'S THE SCARY PART... HE DIDN'T.



LATER...

WHY ARE WE HERE? SKRALL DO NOT HIDE IN THE SHADOWS.

TELL TUMA A TRADE CARAVAN LEAVES FROM TAJUN IN A WEEK'S TIME. IF THE BONE HUNTERS RAID IT, TAJUN GOES HUNGRY THIS SEASON.

BONE HUNTERS? WHAT DOES ANYONE CARE WHAT THOSE SAND-SPAWN DO?

LET ME EXPLAIN...

IF TAJUN HAS NO FOOD, THEY HAVE TO CHALLENGE OTHERS FOR IT. AND IF THEY LOSE--WHICH THEY WILL--THEY WILL BE EASY PREY FOR YOUR PEOPLE... OUR PEOPLE.

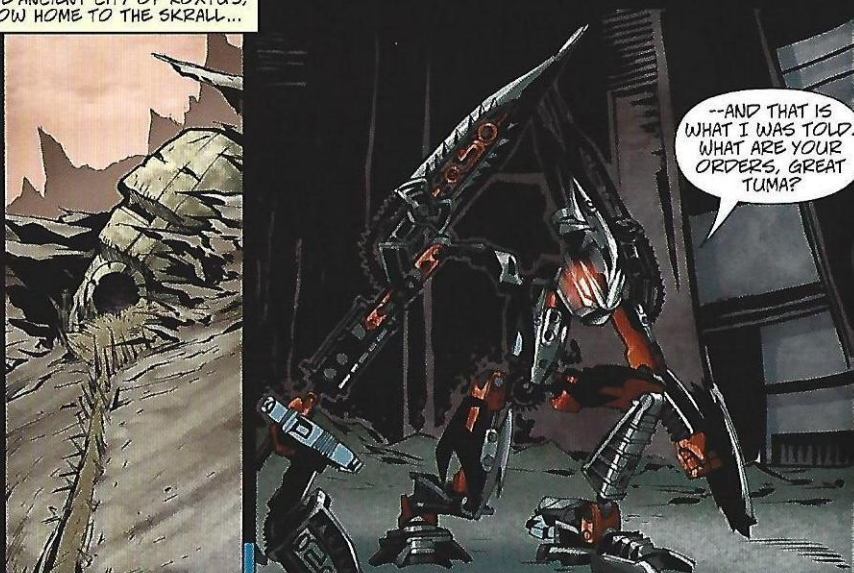
YOU ARE NOT ONE OF US. DO NOT PRETEND YOU ARE.

RELAY THE MESSAGE. GO, BEFORE WE ARE SEEN TOGETHER.

BERIX? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

JUST WALKING... AND WISHING... AND WONDERING WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.

THE ANCIENT CITY OF ROXTUS,
NOW HOME TO THE SKRALL...



--AND THAT IS
WHAT I WAS TOLD.
WHAT ARE YOUR
ORDERS, GREAT
TUMA?



YOU WILL SPEAK OF
THIS IN FRONT OF
ONE OF OUR CAPTURED
AGORI VILLAGERS.
THEN "ACCIDENTALLY"
LET HIM ESCAPE.



AS SOON AS HE REACHES
OPEN DESERT, HE WILL
BE CAPTURED BY THE BONE
HUNTERS. AND HE WILL TELL
THEM ALL HE KNOWS ABOUT
THE CARAVAN, WHILE
HE CAN.



THEN THE
BONE HUNTERS WILL
ACT ON WHAT THEY KNOW ...
AND WIN OUR BATTLE FOR
US. BUT THE TIME IS COMING,
WARRIOR, WHEN WE WILL NOT
NEED TO ACT THROUGH
OTHERS...



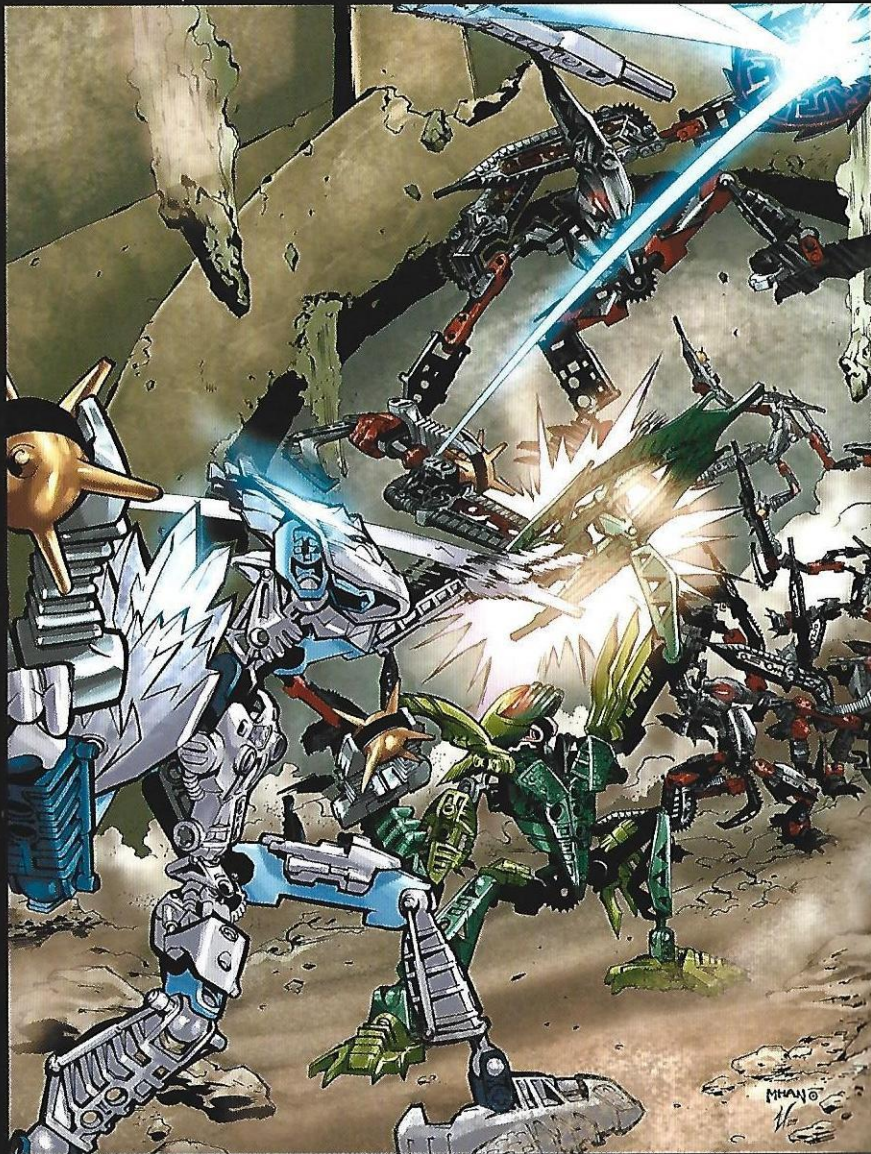
SOON, WE
SKRALL WILL SHED
OUR SKINS LIKE THE
SAND DRAGONS AND BE
REVEALED FOR WHAT WE
ARE--CONQUERORS!
RULERS!

WE WILL
ATTACK... WE WILL
WIN... AND BARA MAGNA
WILL BE OURS!

END CHAPTER ONE

THE FALL OF ATERO

CHAPTER TWO



THE HARSH DESERT
WORLD OF BARA MAGNA.



IN SCATTERED
VILLAGES, AGORI DEAL
WITH THE DAILY
STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE.



WHEN VILLAGES HAVE A
DISPUTE, THEY SETTLE IT WITH
BATTLES BETWEEN GLATORIAN
FIGHTERS IN THEIR ARENAS.



ONCE A YEAR, GLATORIAN
FROM ALL OVER BARA
MAGNA GATHER TOGETHER
TO BATTLE FOR THE RIGHT
TO BE CALLED CHAMPION.

THEY COME HERE--ARENA
MAGNA IN THE CITY OF
ATERO--TO COMPETE, TO
TALK, TO SHARE NEWS AND
NEW BATTLE TACTICS.

BUT THIS YEAR, SOME
WHO COME WON'T EVER
LEAVE AGAIN.

THE FALL OF ATERO

A PRACTICE
MATCH BEFORE THE
TOURNAMENT BEGINS...

I
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE.

HA! THEN
I'LL BEAT YOU
QUICK TOMORROW,
AND YOU CAN GO
HOME.

CIANG

YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN... A
TRADE CARAVAN TO
MY VILLAGE, TAJUN,
WAS WIPED OUT BY
BONE HUNTERS. I
SHOULD BE WITH
MY PEOPLE.

ONE
GOOD BLOW,
AND I'LL KNOCK
YOU BACK
THERE!

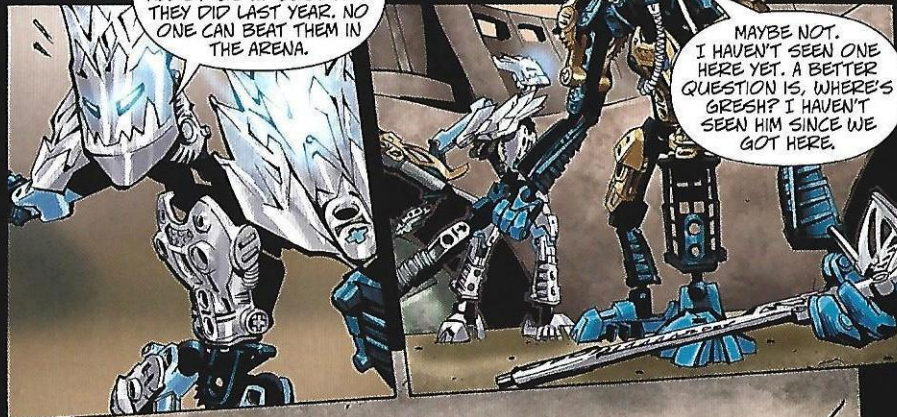
I'M
SERIOUS.



HEY--!

NOW,
WHO IS GOING
TO BEAT WHO
QUICK?

WHAT DOES
IT MATTER? AS
SOON AS THE SKRALL
SHOW UP, THEY'LL STOMP
ALL OF US ... JUST LIKE
THEY DID LAST YEAR. NO
ONE CAN BEAT THEM IN
THE ARENA.



MAYBE NOT.
I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE
HERE YET. A BETTER
QUESTION IS, WHERE'S
GRESH? I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM SINCE WE
GOT HERE.



HERE, IT
HELPS IF YOU HANG
ON TO THIS.

I'LL
REMEMBER...
IN FACT, I'LL
REMEMBER
A LOT OF
THINGS.



DO
YOU ALWAYS
PRACTICE YOUR
BATTLE MOVES
ALONE?

I'M
NOT ALONE.
YOU'RE
HERE.

I'M NOT
A VETERAN LIKE
STRAKK OR TARIK.
THEY HAVE ONE SET
OF MOVES THEY LET
OTHER GLATORIAN SEE
IN PRACTICE, AND
ANOTHER THEY USE
IN THE ARENA.



I NEED
TO KEEP MINE
SECRET. ANYWAY,
WHY LET THEM
KNOW WHAT'S
COMING?

BECAUSE
WHAT'S COMING
COULD MEAN
THE DEATH OF
THEM ALL.

WHO'S
THERE?



AM I FORGOTTEN ALREADY THEN? PERHAPS I LOST TRACK OF HOW LONG I HAVE BEEN AN EXILE...

MALUM! TARDUK, GET BACK INSIDE THE CITY.

BUT--

I SAID, INSIDE-- NOW!

WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF, GRESH? MY FRIENDS? THEY WON'T HURT ANYONE... UNLESS I ASK THEM TO. AND I AM NOT HERE TO CAUSE HARM, BUT TO HELP YOU.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR KIND OF "HELP."

THERE IS A STORM COMING, GLATORIAN--NOT A WIND STORM OR A SANDSTORM, SOMETHING YOU CAN HIDE FROM UNTIL IT HAS PASSED. THIS STORM WILL SWALLOW YOU WHOLE... YOU AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR VILLAGES, YOUR PEOPLE.

AND ARE YOU GOING TO HELP US WEATHER THIS... STORM? OR ARE YOU JUST HERE TO TALK?

AH, THEY SAID I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO FIGHT WITH THE LIKES OF YOU... THEY SAID I WAS A KILLER, REMEMBER? BUT I WILL TELL YOU THIS...

THIS STORM HAS A NAME. YOU AND YOURS WILL BE SCREAMING IT BEFORE TOO LONG, IF YOU DON'T FLEE NOW. RUN, GRESH-- RUN FAST AND HARD AND HOPE THEY DON'T FIND YOU.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, MALUM. I'M A GLATORIAN.

AND GLATORIAN DON'T RUN.

MORNING IN ATERO,
AND THE COMPETITION
BEGINS.

TOLD
YOU I'D
REMEMBER!

I DON'T
NEED TWO SWORDS
TO BEAT YOU,
STRAKK.

RIGHT, YOU
STILL HAVE ONE,
THEN LET'S TRY
FOR NONE.

PLEASE. I
WAS DODGING
THORNAX WHEN YOU
WERE STILL SWATTING
AT SNOWFLAKES.

AMONG THE AGORI WATCHING
THE ACTION: RAAMU, LEADER OF
VULCANUS; BERIX, SCAVENGER
FROM TAJAN; AND METUS,
GLATORIAN TRAINER FROM
ICONOX.

STRAKK
DOESN'T STAND A
CHANCE... I SAW TARIX
BEAT MALUM ONCE
WITH THAT MOVE.

IF THE
SKRALL DON'T SHOW
UP, TARIX MIGHT EVEN
WIN THE TOURNAMENT.
I WONDER WHERE
THEY ARE?

NOT LIKE
THEM TO MISS
A CHANCE TO
HUMILIATE
EVERYONE
ELSE.

DID YOU HEAR
WHAT GRESH WAS SAYING
THIS MORNING? CAN'T BELIEVE
MALUM HAD THE NERVE TO
SHOW UP HERE!

I HEARD. MALUM IS JUST CRAZY...
I MEAN, ISN'T HE?

SURE, BUT... WHAT IF THAT
"STORM" HE TALKED ABOUT IS
WHY THE SKRALL AREN'T HERE?
WHAT IF SOMETHING...
GOT THEM?

MAYBE... MAYBE WE
SHOULD GO OUT AND CHECK.
YOU KNOW, JUST LOOK AROUND.
MAYBE THE SKRALL ARE ON THEIR
WAY, JUST A LITTLE
LATE.

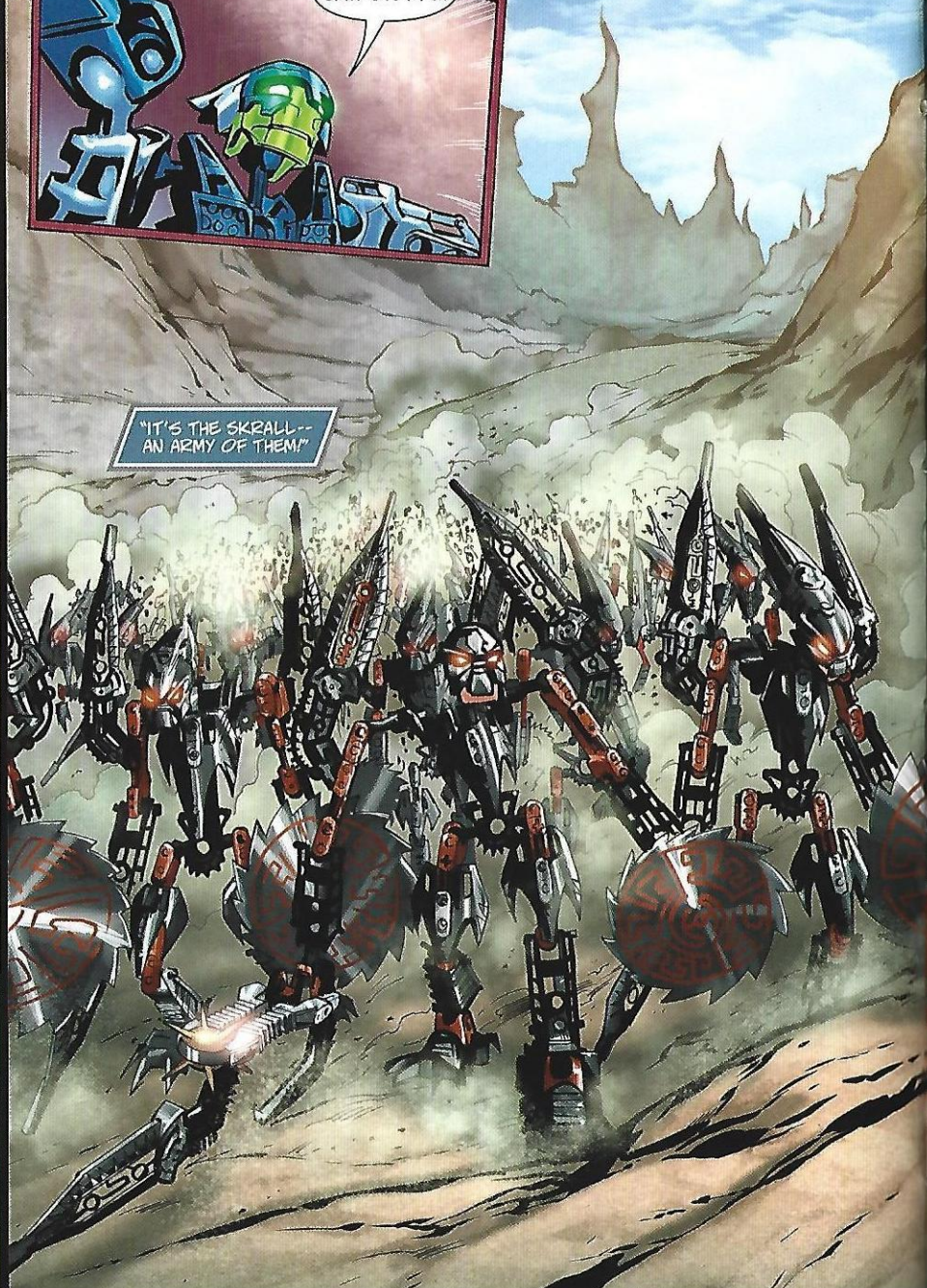
GOOD IDEA,
BERIX. I'M SURE
THERE'S SOME SIMPLE
EXPLANATION FOR
THEIR ABSENCE... NOT
THAT I MISS THEM
AT ALL.

LOOK OUT
THERE--WHAT A
SANDSTORM! IF THAT
HITS THE ARENA
NOW--



OH, MY... THAT'S NOT A SANDSTORM...

"IT'S THE SKRALL-- AN ARMY OF THEM!"



FACED WITH A HORDE OF SKRALL ON THE MARCH, MOST AGORI WOULD FREEZE IN PANIC. BUT RAANU IS A LEADER, AND KNOWS WHAT HE MUST DO.

TARIX IS A LEADER, TOO. HE DOESN'T WASTE TIME WORRYING WHY THE SKRALL HAVE SUDDENLY DECIDED TO ATTACK--HE ACTS.



THE SKRALL! THE SKRALL ARE ATTACKING! GET EVERYONE TO SAFETY!

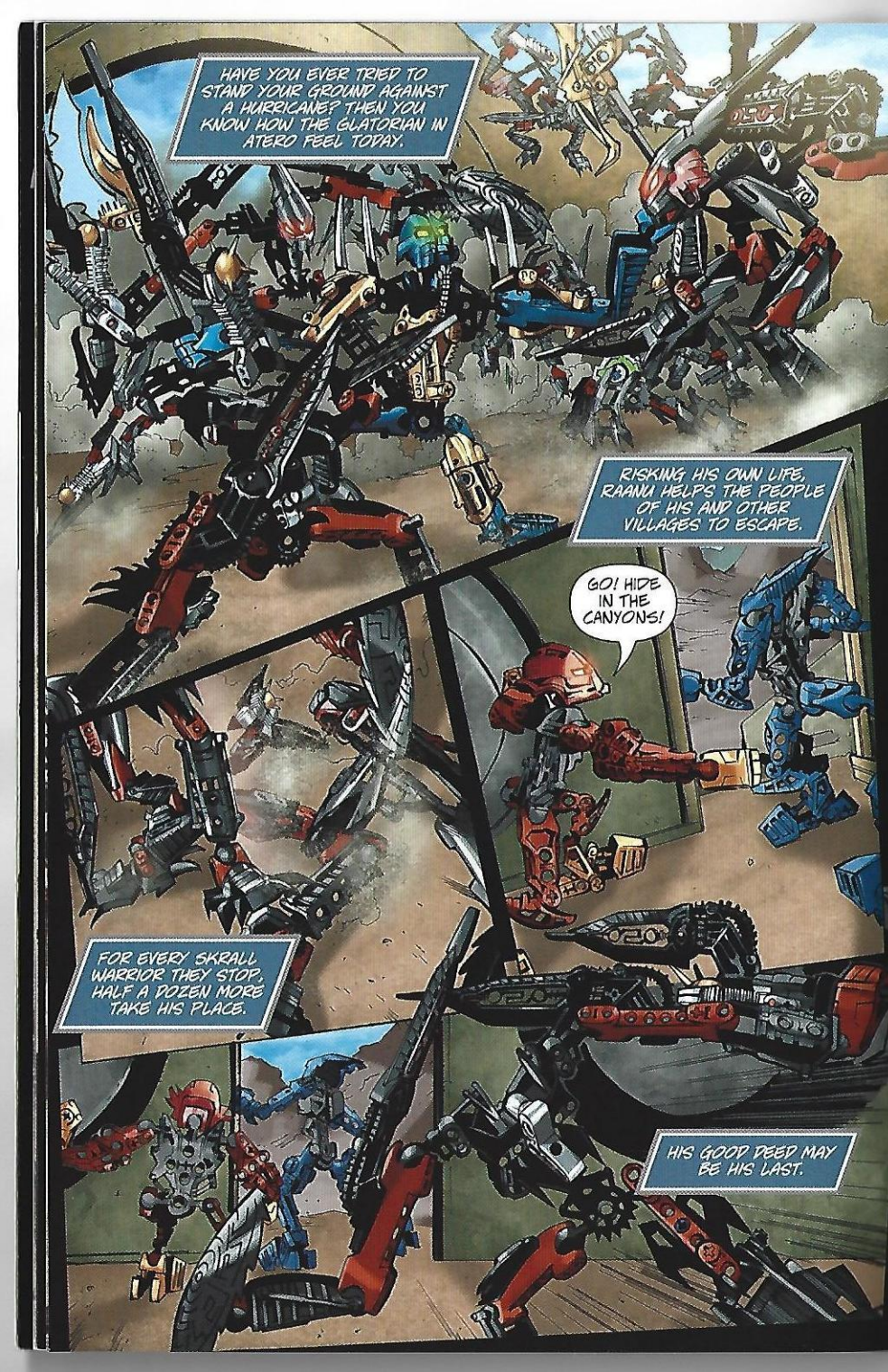
GRESH! STRAKKI! EVERYONE! WE HAVE TO HOLD THEM OFF SO THE AGORI CAN ESCAPE.

IS HE CRAZY? THEY'RE SKRALL! NONE OF US HAS BEEN ABLE TO BEAT ONE, LET ALONE HUNDREDS.

THEN WE'LL DIE TRYING, I GUESS.

SORRY FOR ASKING. I FORGOT--YOU'RE CRAZY, TOO.

THE TIME FOR TALK HAS PASSED... AND THE TIME FOR BATTLE HAS ARRIVED.



HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO STAND YOUR GROUND AGAINST A HURRICANE? THEN YOU KNOW HOW THE GLATORIAN IN ATERO FEEL TODAY.

RISKING HIS OWN LIFE, RAANU HELPS THE PEOPLE OF HIS AND OTHER VILLAGES TO ESCAPE.

GO! HIDE IN THE CANYONS!

FOR EVERY SKRALL WARRIOR THEY STOP, HALF A DOZEN MORE TAKE HIS PLACE.

HIS GOOD DEED MAY BE HIS LAST.



GOOD THING I GOT THIS REPAIRED BEFORE I LEFT VULCANUS, HUH?

KRAAANG

WHY? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

BECAUSE WE "INSECTS" HAVE A STING.

WE ARE THE MOST POWERFUL. WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT IN THE ARENA FOR WHAT WE WANT, WHEN WE CAN SIMPLY STEP ON YOU ALL LIKE INSECTS?

GIVE UP, GLATORIAN. YOU CAN'T WIN.

GRESH WOULD ANSWER, BUT AS HE SCANS THE ARENA, HE SEES THE SKRALL MIGHT BE RIGHT.

STRAKK, LOOK OUT!

KRAKXX

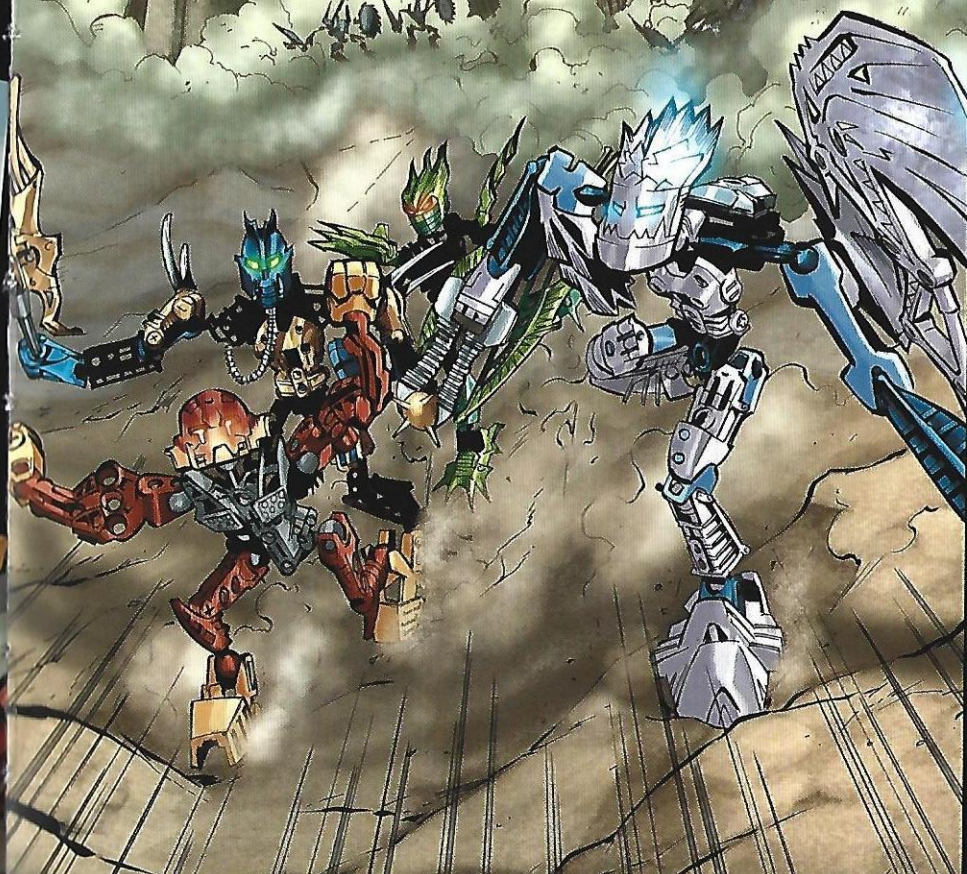
THEY RUN, KNOWING THAT MUCH MORE THAN ATERO'S ARENA MAGMA HAS BEEN DESTROYED TODAY.

AND WORSE IS SURE TO COME.

KA-KRAMMM

THAT DOES IT! STAY IF YOU WANT TO, BUT ATERO IS FINISHED.

"GO," SAYS TARIK, SADLY. "I'LL GET RAANA AND THE OTHERS OUT. WE'LL MEET IN THE CANYON. IT'S ... OVER."



THE FALL OF ATERO

CHAPTER THREE



HOW MANY DID WE LOSE?

AT LEAST HALF A DOZEN GLATORIAN, MAYBE MORE... AGORI ARE STILL SCATTERED IN THE DESERT, TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK HOME, SO WHO KNOWS?

THE SKRALL ATTACKED WITHOUT CAUSE... KILLED WITHOUT REASON.

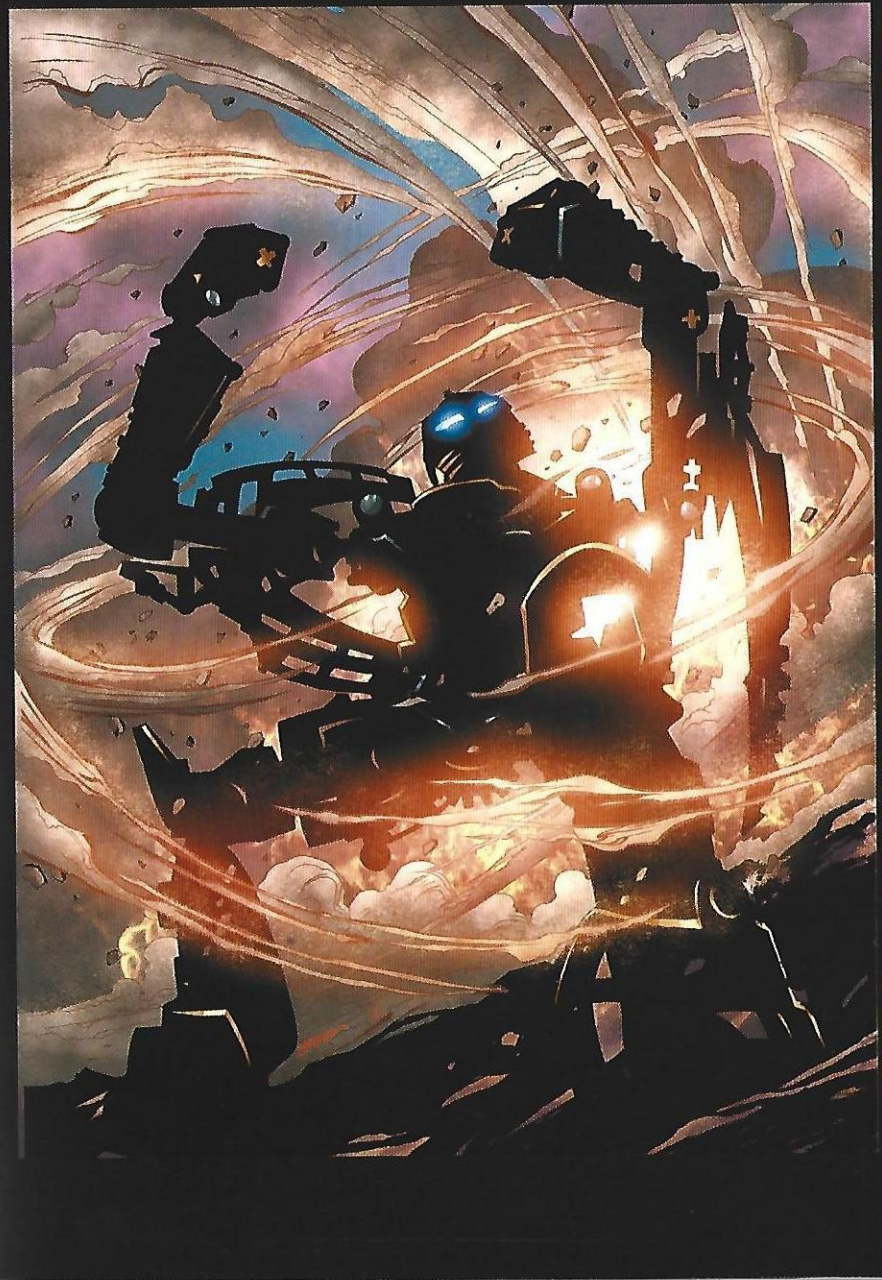
THEY HAD A REASON--BECAUSE THEY COULD, AND ATERO IS PROBABLY JUST THE START.

AN ARMY OF THEM... AGAINST A HANDFUL OF VILLAGES THAT CAN'T STOP SQUABBLING LONG ENOUGH TO AGREE ON WHICH OWNS AN OASIS OR A PILE OF RUSTED EQUIPMENT.

TARIX... DO YOU THINK WE CAN STOP THEM?

NO, GRESH, I DON'T THINK WE CAN... I ONLY KNOW WE HAVE TO. BUT WE SURE COULD USE SOME HELP--THE KIND OF HELP THAT CARRIES A SWORD.

END CHAPTER TWO



HIS NAME IS GELU. HE USED TO BE A GLATORIAN FOR THE ICE VILLAGE OF ICONDX. THEN THE SKRALL ATTACKED THE CITY OF ATERD. THAT WAS WHEN GELU DECIDED HE WAS READY FOR A NEW CAREER.

SO HE QUIT THE ARENA AND HIRED HIMSELF OUT AS AN ARMED GUARD FOR CARAVANS CROSSING THE BARA MAGNA DESERT. ON MOST DAYS, IT WAS GOOD PAY FOR PRETTY EASY WORK.

KRA-KAMN

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE DAYS.

A HERO REBORN

WELL, I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE AN EASY JOB... SMALL CARAVAN, SHORT ROUTE, FAR FROM UOROX NESTS... A CINCH.

KRA-KAMN

"I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED—THIS IS BARA MAGNA. THERE ARE NO EASY JOBS HERE."

OKAY, IF I CAN MAKE IT TO THOSE ROCKS UP THERE, I CAN HOLD THEM OFF FOR A WHILE. IT'S NOT FAR, RIGHT? FEW HUNDRED FEET.

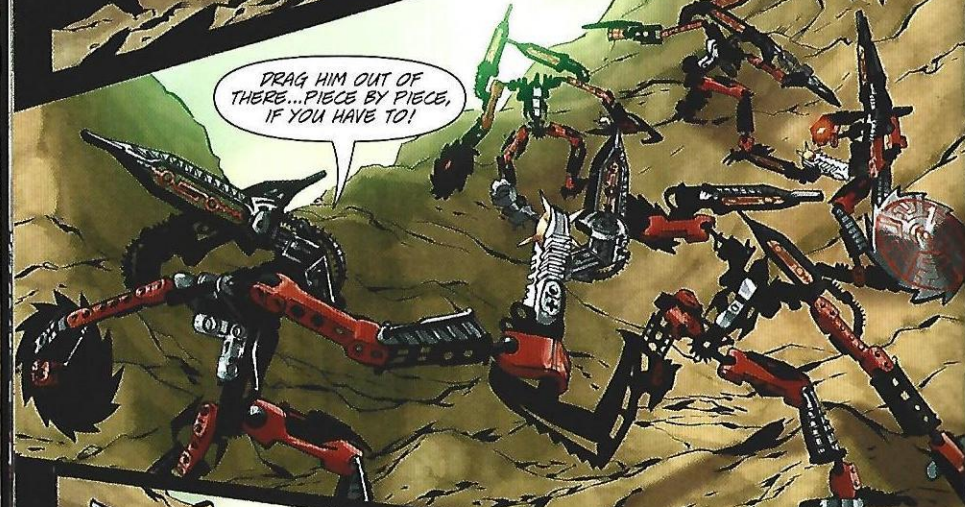
ONLY SEEMS LIKE A MILLION MILES!



GO!
GO!

KABAM!

DRAG HIM OUT OF
THERE...PIECE BY PIECE,
IF YOU HAVE TO!



NOW THAT'S A
TRULY DISGUSTING
SUGGESTION!

I JUST WISH
I KNEW HOW TO
STOP THEM, BUT
THAT MIGHT TAKE A
MIRACLE. AND--



WHAT IS--

--THAT??

IT'S
FALLING TO
THE EAST!

IS IT A
WEAPON?



NOW, WHILE
THE SKRALL ARE
DISTRACTED, TIME
TO MOVE.



NOT SURE WHAT
MADE THAT LIGHT
IN THE SKY...



"BUT IT JUST BECAME
MY FAVORITE THING IN
THE WORLD. EVER."

ROXTUS, CITY OF THE SKRALL.

FOR MONTHS NOW, THE SKRALL HAVE BEEN CAPTURING VOROX AND TRAINING THEM TO BE "GUARD ANIMALS." THE TRAINING HAS BEEN BRUTAL AND NOT ALL THE VOROX HAVE SURVIVED.



VOROX ARE DESERT DWELLERS. THEY ARE USED TO OPEN SAND AND ENDLESS SKY, AND THEY HATE TO BE CHAINED.



SOME HATE IT MORE THAN OTHERS.

EVEN AMONG THE SKRALL, A MADDENED VOROX CAN BE A MENACE.



AT LEAST SOMETIMES.

ON YOUR LEASH, YOU'RE A PIECE OF SKRALL PROPERTY. OFF IT, YOU'RE JUST ONE MORE MISERABLE BEAST TO BE PUT DOWN.



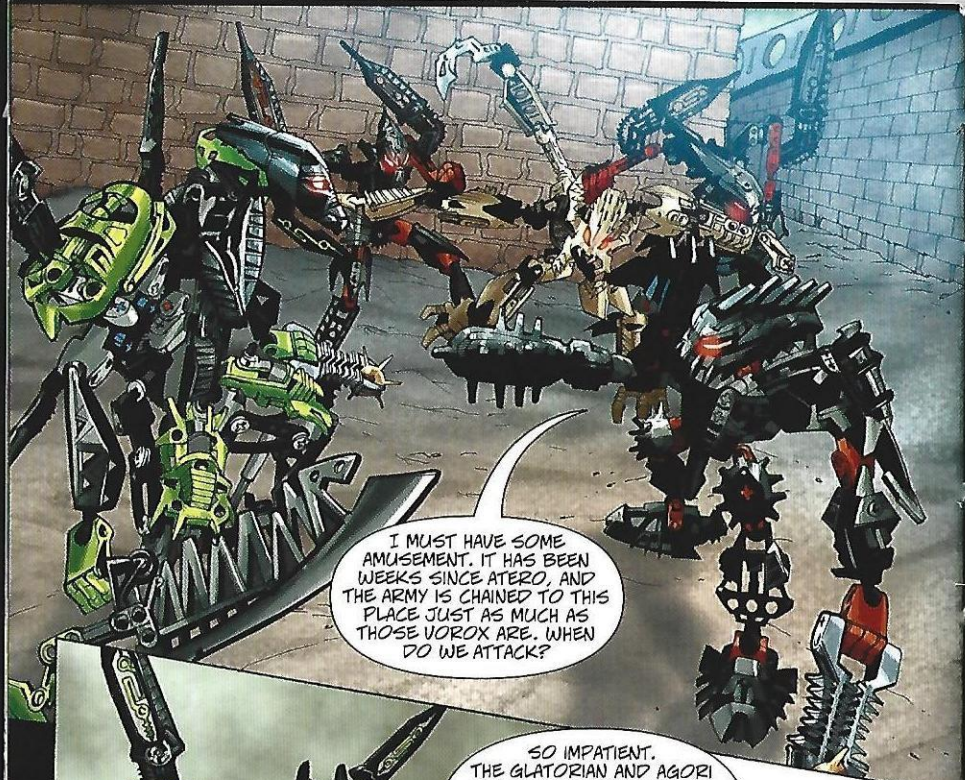
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

DO YOU HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN TORTURE THE LIVESTOCK?

WOULD YOU RATHER I LET IT RUN LOOSE? YOU KNOW THE DAMAGE THESE FILTHY ANIMALS CAN DO.

STRONIUS!

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE WARRIORS FOR-- TO CLEAN UP THE MESS. PUT IT DOWN. NOW.



I MUST HAVE SOME AMUSEMENT. IT HAS BEEN WEEKS SINCE ATERO, AND THE ARMY IS CHAINED TO THIS PLACE JUST AS MUCH AS THOSE VOROX ARE. WHEN DO WE ATTACK?

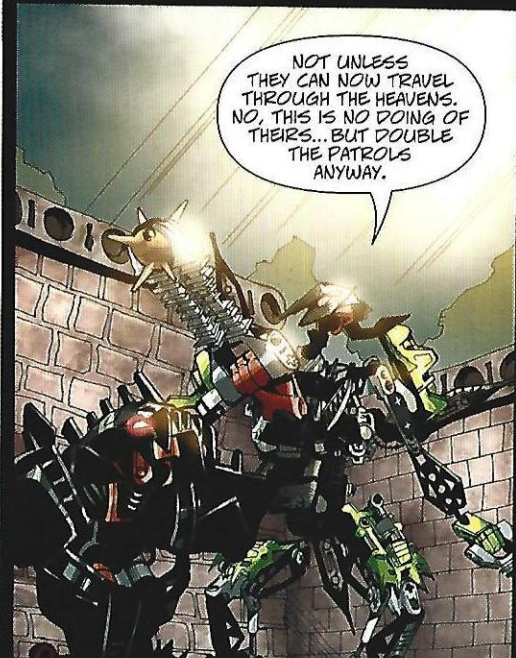
SO IMPATIENT. THE GLATORIAN AND AGORI CANNOT EAT OR SLEEP, AS THEY WAIT IN FEAR FOR OUR NEXT STRIKE. WHERE WILL IT COME? WHEN? THESE QUESTIONS TORTURE THEM. LET THEM SWEAT A WHILE LONGER.

THEY LIVE IN A DESERT... THEY ARE EXPERTS AT SWEATING ALREADY. MEANWHILE, OUR LEGIONS LOSE THEIR EDGE, LIKE BLADES TOO LONG UNUSED.

DO YOU QUESTION MY-- WHAT IS THAT??



SOME GLATORIAN TRICK? AN ATTACK ON US?



NOT UNLESS THEY CAN NOW TRAVEL THROUGH THE HEAVENS. NO, THIS IS NO DOING OF THEIRS... BUT DOUBLE THE PATROLS ANYWAY.

AH, I SEE IT NOW-- ONLY A SHOOTING STAR. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



"AFTER ALL, HOW IMPOTANT CAN IT BE?"

THE OUTSKIRTS
OF THE VILLAGE
OF TESARA.

I'M TELLING
YOU, IT'S TRUE!
I SAW IT!

COME ON, TARDUK.
WE'VE ALL HEARD TALES
OF STRANGE THINGS UP
NORTH. WHY SHOULD WE
BELIEVE YOURS?

BECAUSE
I WAS THERE,
ALONG WITH SOME
OTHER AGORI!

I KNOW YOU
AREN'T ONE TO MAKE
THINGS UP, TARDUK,
BUT... SHAPESHIFTING
MONSTERS? AN
ENTIRE VALLEY
THAT'S A MAZE?

ANYWAY, WE HAVE
TOO MUCH TO WORRY
ABOUT HERE THESE
DAYS TO GO RUNNING
OFF SEARCHING
FOR MYTHS.

VASTUS IS RIGHT.
THERE ARE BONE HUNTERS
ALL OVER THE LAST FEW
WEEKS. WE NEED TO GET
NEW WALLS BUILT.

RIGHT,
LIKE THAT WILL
STOP SKRALL
WHEN THEY
COME.

WELL, ALL
WE CAN DO FOR
NOW IS KEEP
OUR EYES
OPEN.

CRASH!

KRAMM



THAT WAS...
INCREDIBLE! HOW
DID YOU KNOW THE
BONE HUNTER WAS
THERE?



WELL, IF
I WAS A BONE
HUNTER, THAT'S
WHERE I WOULD
HAVE BEEN.

HEY, THIS IS A SKRALL
SHIELD... WHAT WOULD A
BONE HUNTER BE DOING
CARRYING THIS?

I DON'T KNOW...
MAYBE HE SCAVENGED
IT, OR STOLE IT.

OR
MAYBE...
A SKRALL
GAVE IT TO
HIM?



I THINK THE "GIANT
MAZE" STORY MADE
MORE SENSE THAN THAT,
TARDUK. YOU CAN'T
REALLY--WHAT?

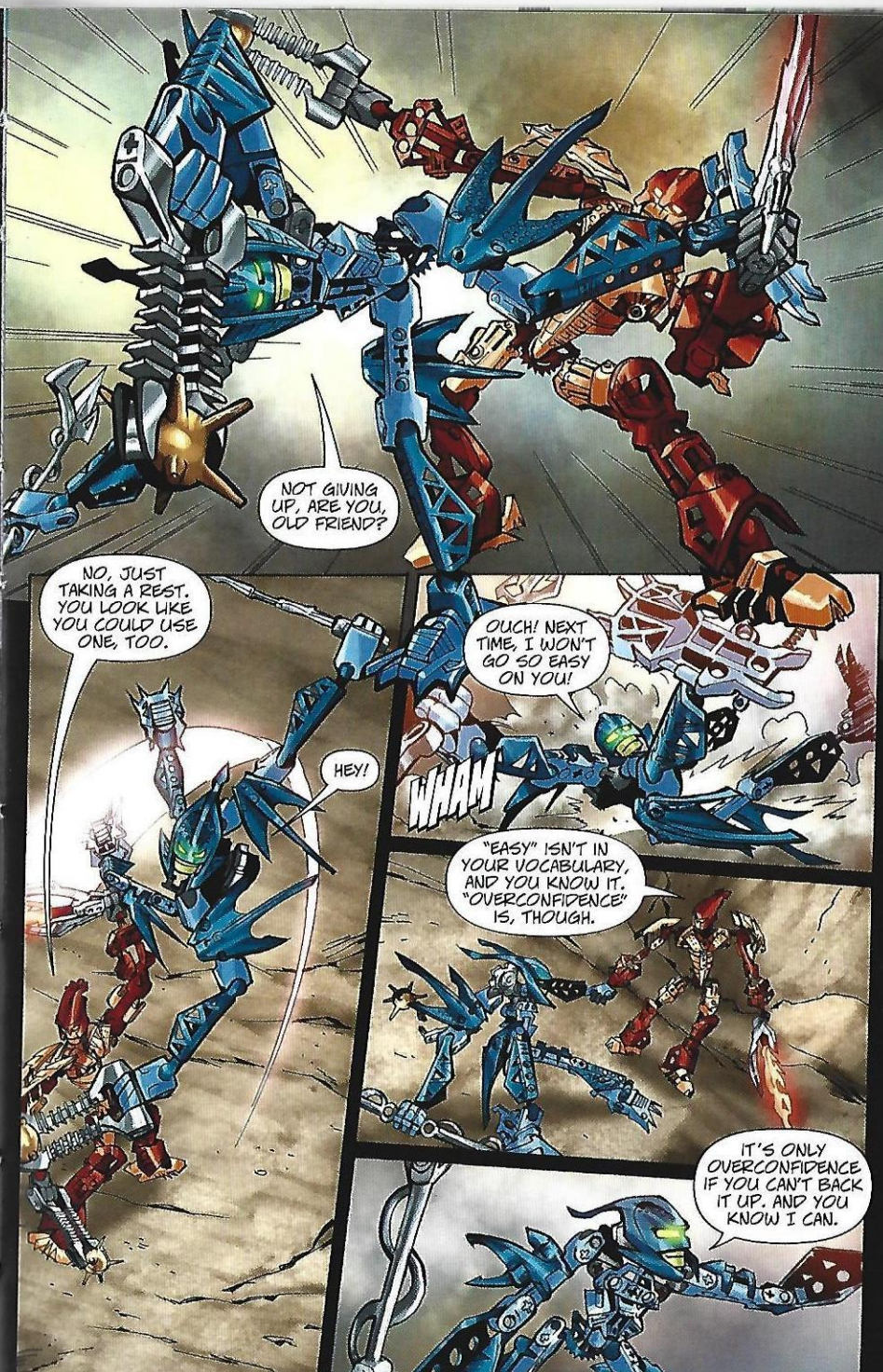
"HMMMM. LOOKS LIKE BONE
HUNTERS AREN'T THE ONLY
THING FALLING TODAY."





HA! I'M FASTER THAN YOU REMEMBERED, ACKAR-- STRONGER, TOO. IT'S ALL THAT PRACTICE WITH TARIQ.

UNNNH-- MAYBE--OR MAYBE I'M SLOWER THAN YOU REMEMBER.



NOT GIVING UP, ARE YOU, OLD FRIEND?

NO, JUST TAKING A REST. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE ONE, TOO.

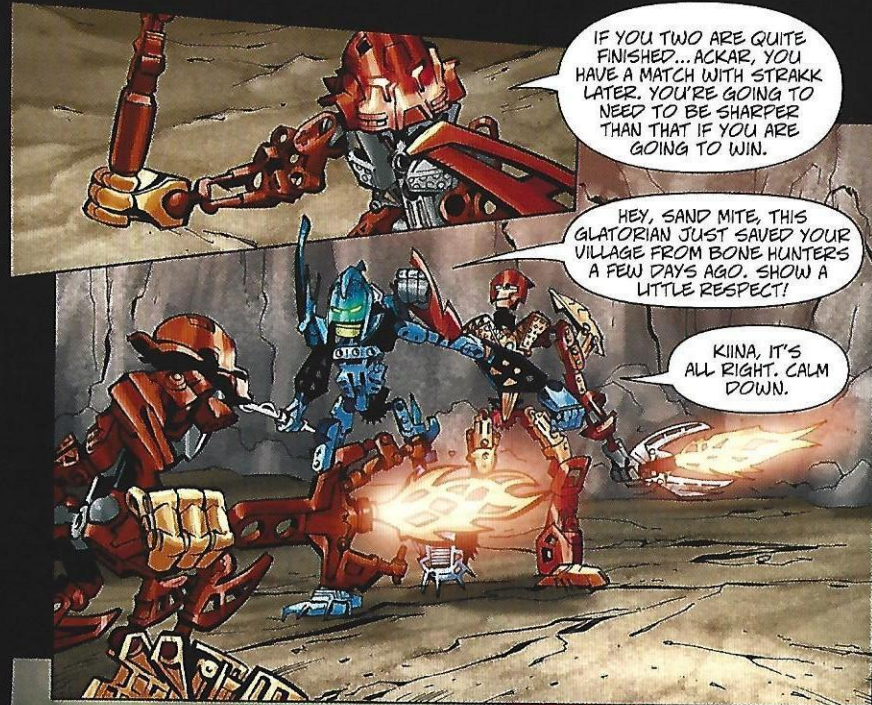
OUCH! NEXT TIME, I WON'T GO SO EASY ON YOU!

HEY!

WHAM

"EASY" ISN'T IN YOUR VOCABULARY, AND YOU KNOW IT. "OVERCONFIDENCE" IS, THOUGH.

IT'S ONLY OVERCONFIDENCE IF YOU CAN'T BACK IT UP. AND YOU KNOW I CAN.



IF YOU TWO ARE QUITE FINISHED... ACKAR, YOU HAVE A MATCH WITH STRAKK LATER. YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO BE SHARPER THAN THAT IF YOU ARE GOING TO WIN.

HEY, SAND MITE, THIS GLATORIAN JUST SAVED YOUR VILLAGE FROM BONE HUNTERS A FEW DAYS AGO. SHOW A LITTLE RESPECT!

KIINA, IT'S ALL RIGHT. CALM DOWN.



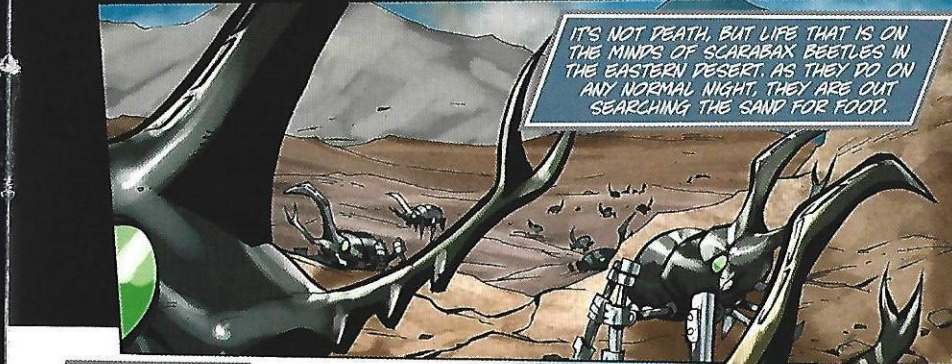
RAANU HAS A POINT-- STRAKK IS QUICK, AND HE FIGHTS DIRTY. I'LL NEED TO BE-- KIINA, LOOK AT THAT!



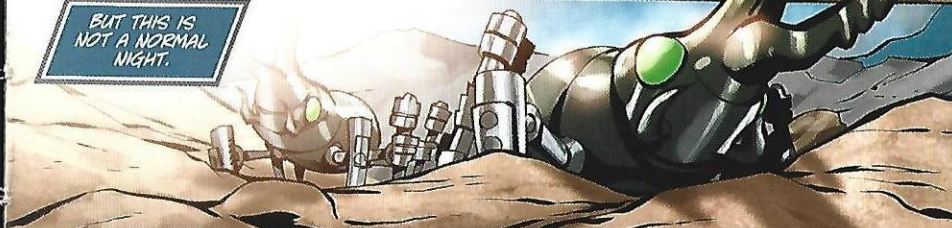
"WOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS? MAYBE A FLYING SHIP-- SOMETHING I COULD USE TO GET OFF THIS SAND PILE?"

MORE LIKELY A DEAD STAR PLUNGING TO A LAST RESTING PLACE IN THE DESERT...

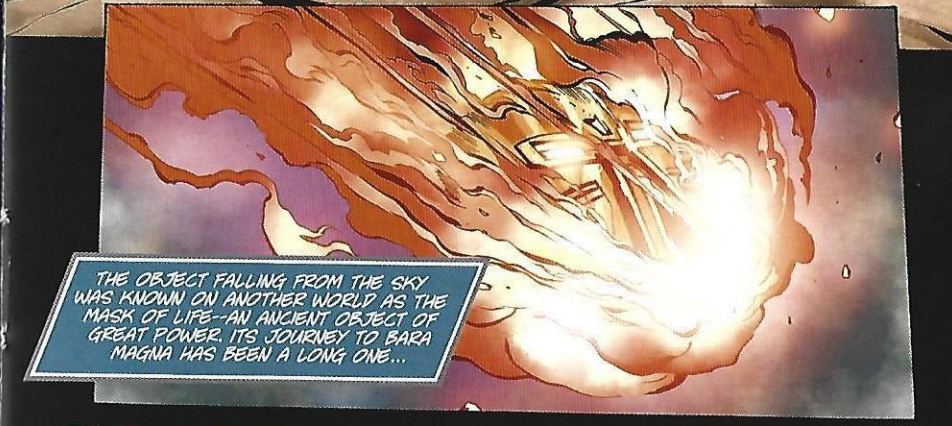
YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S WHAT BARA MAGNA IS GOOD FOR-- A PLACE TO DIE.



IT'S NOT DEATH, BUT LIFE THAT IS ON THE MINDS OF SCARABAX BEETLES IN THE EASTERN DESERT. AS THEY DO ON ANY NORMAL NIGHT, THEY ARE OUT SEARCHING THE SAND FOR FOOD.



BUT THIS IS NOT A NORMAL NIGHT.



THE OBJECT FALLING FROM THE SKY WAS KNOWN ON ANOTHER WORLD AS THE MASK OF LIFE-- AN ANCIENT OBJECT OF GREAT POWER. ITS JOURNEY TO BARA MAGNA HAS BEEN A LONG ONE...



... AND IT HAS JUST COME TO AN END.

WHA-KA-MMM

HOW THE MASK SURVIVED IS A MYSTERY, AND NOT ONE THE BEETLES - NOW SCATTERED AND HIDING IN FEAR - CARE TO SOLVE.

AT LEAST, NOT UNTIL ONE BRAVE INSECT DARES TO COME CLOSE AND INSPECT THIS NEW ARRIVAL...

... AND GETS MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR.

ABLAZE WITH THE ENERGIES OF THE MASK OF LIFE, THE SAND OF BARA MAGNA BEGINS TO TRANSFORM.

AND WHEN THE STORM IS THROUGH...

... A HERO STANDS REBORN!

END CHAPTER THREE

THE FALL OF ATERO

CHAPTER FOUR



WE'LL SEE WHO'S LAUGHING WHEN THEY HAVE TO SCRAPE YOU TWO UP OFF THE SAND.

BETTER TURN, CROTESIUS, OR YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PATCH THE CENDOX UP... AGAIN.

YOU TURN-- THE BEST WAY TO TRAIN FOR THE ARENA IS TO PRACTICE WINNING.

AND YOU NEED THE PRACTICE, FRIEND!

HERE--PRACTICE RECOVERING FROM THIS MOVE.

IF YOU INSIST!

YIII!

WHOOON!

SO... WANT TO TRY AGAIN? ATERO MAY BE WRECKED, BUT I'M BETTING WE'RE GOING TO BE NEEDED FOR MATCHES SOON, ANYWAY.

MORE LIKELY, DEFENSE, IF THE SKRALL GO AFTER OUR VILLAGES NEXT.

WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR? THEY DESTROY ATERO, AND THEN... NOTHING.

THEY GOT
ATERO BECAUSE IT WAS
UNDEFENDED.

THEY DON'T
HAVE THE GUTS TO
HIT A VILLAGE WHERE
THERE ARE GLATORIAN
AND AGORI
WAITING.

TRUST ME,
WE'VE SEEN THE
LAST OF THE
SKRALL.

WE ARRIVE IN THE VILLAGE "JUST IN TIME,"
ACCORDING TO MY PRIMER, METUS,
TO SEE SOMETHING
DISTURBING--TWO WARRIORS BATTLING IN AN ARENA,
WHILE VILLAGERS LOOK ON CHEERING.

METUS EXPLAINS THAT
THIS IS HOW DISPUTES
ARE SETTLED HERE--



THIS SYSTEM MAY
BE EASIER ON THE
VILLAGES, BUT IT
SEEMS PRETTY HARD
ON THE GLATORIAN.

--BETWEEN FIGHTERS
CALLED GLATORIAN,
RATHER THAN IN WARS.

CONCEDE,
STRAKK, YIELD,
AND THIS GOES
NO FARTHER.

ALL RIGHT,
ACKAR... YOU
WIN.

SOMETHING IN THE FALLEN ONE'S
TONE DOES NOT SOUND RIGHT TO
ME, AND SURE ENOUGH, AS HIS
OPPONENT TURNS AWAY, HE
REACHES FOR HIS WEAPON...

...AND HURLS IT, IN AN ATTACK AS DEVASTATING AS IT IS TREACHEROUS.

AAAAAH!

YOU'RE FINISHED, OLD--

THE ONE CALLED ACKAR IS DOWN, AND NOW STRAKK STANDS READY TO DELIVER A FINAL BLOW.

BUT NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.

WHAT-- UNNNGHHH!

KRAAAA

THIS STRAKK IS FASTER THAN I AND RECOVERS QUICKLY.

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN FOR THAT, OUTSIDER!

WORSE, HE HAS THE POWER TO DO WHAT HE THREATENS.

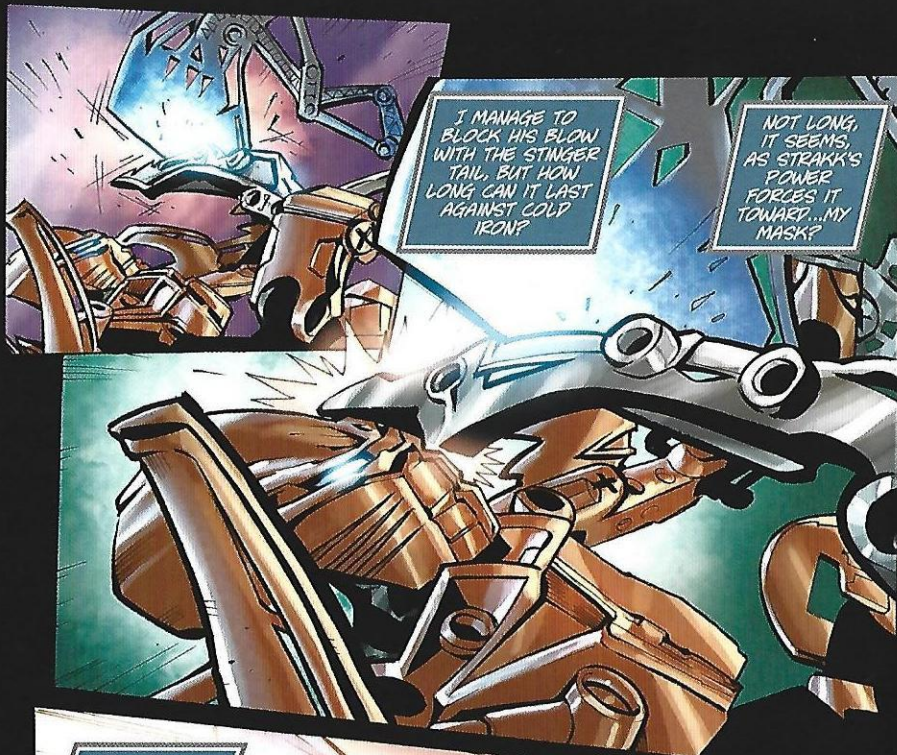
KRANG!

STAY DOWN, STRANGER, AND I'LL MAKE IT QUICK, IF NOT PAINLESS.

BAMMM

STRAKK, NO! YOUR FIGHT IS WITH ME!

YOU'RE NEXT, ACKAR. BUT THIS ONE ASKED FOR IT, AND HE'S GOING TO GET IT.



I MANAGE TO BLOCK HIS BLOW WITH THE STINGER TAIL, BUT HOW LONG CAN IT LAST AGAINST COLD IRON?

NOT LONG, IT SEEMS, AS STRAKK'S POWER FORCES IT TOWARD... MY MASK?



YES, MY MASK, INDEED.

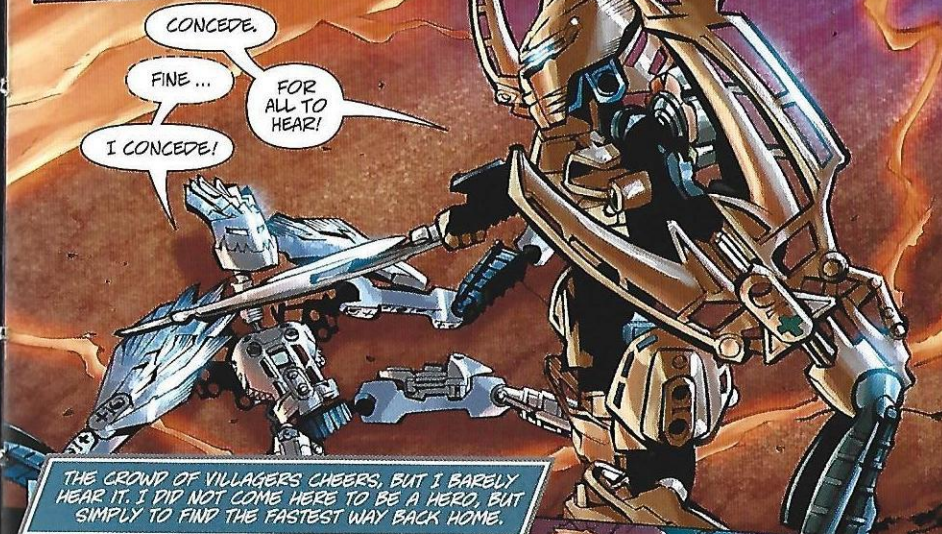
HEY!



NOW, LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.



WHUNNINGH!



CONCEDE.

FINE...

FOR ALL TO HEAR!

I CONCEDE!

THE CROWD OF VILLAGERS CHEERS, BUT I BARELY HEAR IT. I DID NOT COME HERE TO BE A HERO, BUT SIMPLY TO FIND THE FASTEST WAY BACK HOME.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO STRAKK NOW?

FOR ATTACKING AFTER HE HAD SURRENDERED? BANISHMENT. HE'LL BE LIVING IN THE WASTELANDS BEFORE THE WEEK IS OUT.

I'M IN YOUR DEBT, STRANGER. COME, WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOU... AND THAT TRICK WITH THE SWORD.

ACKAR TAKES ME BACK TO HIS SHELTER. HE HAS ANOTHER MATCH IN TESARA, HE SAYS, BUT HE DOES NOT SEEM HAPPY ABOUT IT.

WHY DO YOU BATTLE IN THE ARENA, IF YOU HAVE TIRED OF IT?

DUTY. PRIDE. BUT A GLATORIAN PAST HIS PRIME IS NO GOOD TO ANYONE.

TO BE DEFEATED WITHOUT A FIGHT WOULD BE DISHONOR. I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD ALLOW THAT... YOU ARE A TRUE TOA.

A TOA? WHAT'S A TOA?

WHERE I COME FROM... IT IS A NAME GIVEN TO A SELECT FEW WARRIORS, WORTHY OF--

MATA NUU! YOU WERE BRILLIANT! VULCANUS WILL PAY ANYTHING YOU ASK! AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS VILLAGE, NO PROBLEM-- I'LL GET THE OTHERS TO BID ON YOU!

THAT IS VERY... KIND. BUT THE ANSWER IS NO.

WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY? THINK WHAT YOU'RE GIVING UP-- THE LIFE OF A PRIME GLATORIAN! ALL RIGHT, BUT ONE DAY YOU'LL COME BACK TO ME, BEGGING FOR THIS CHANCE.

WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?

KIDDING! KIDDING! SOME PEOPLE HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR AT ALL...

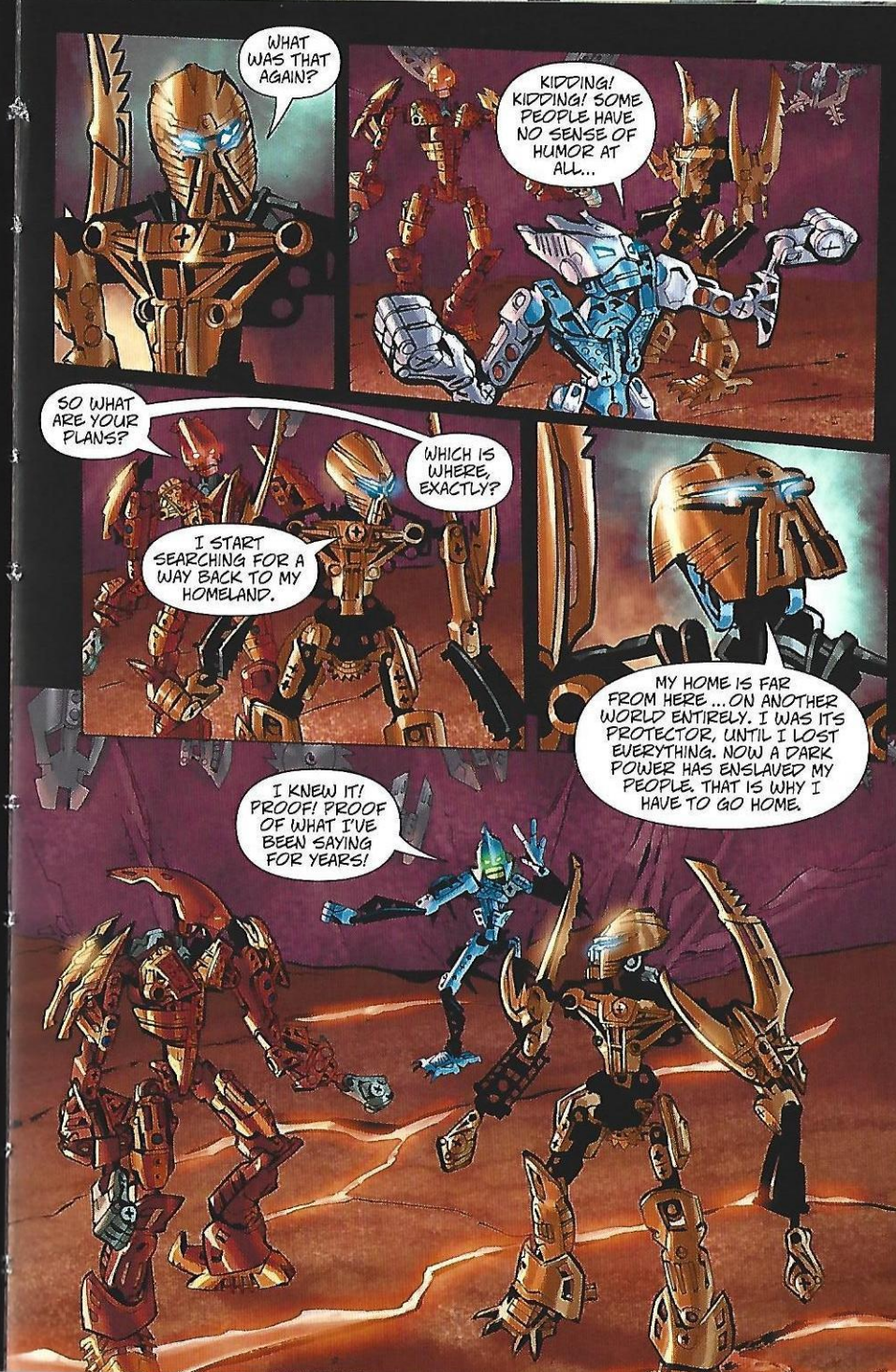
SO WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

WHICH IS WHERE, EXACTLY?

I START SEARCHING FOR A WAY BACK TO MY HOMELAND.

MY HOME IS FAR FROM HERE ... ON ANOTHER WORLD ENTIRELY. I WAS ITS PROTECTOR, UNTIL I LOST EVERYTHING. NOW A DARK POWER HAS ENSLAVED MY PEOPLE. THAT IS WHY I HAVE TO GO HOME.

I KNEW IT! PROOF! PROOF OF WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS!



WHOEVER THIS PERSON IS, ACKAR SEEMS TO KNOW HER.

KIINA!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME--OR THE PLACE!

NAME'S KIINA. I'M A GLATORIAN. ONE OF THE BEST. AND YOU JUST WON ME A LOT OF BETS.

IT'S OKAY. ALTHOUGH I DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH HER METHODS--LIKE LURKING IN SHADOWS--KIINA RANKS. I'D TRUST HER WITH MY LIFE, AND HAVE, MORE THAN ONCE.

SO IS WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT YOU TRUE? SWORDS AND SHIELDS THAT JUST APPEAR FROM NOWHERE, THAT SORT OF THING?

SEEING NO POINT IN LYING TO HER, I NOD. THIS ONLY SEEMS TO MAKE HER MORE EXCITED.

A REAL OTHER-WORLDER. FINALLY, SOMEONE TO CONVINCING THE AGORI THERE'S A BETTER PLACE THAN THIS MISERABLE WASTELAND.

KIINA SAYS SHE MAY KNOW OF A WAY I CAN FIND MY WAY HOME. SHE HAS FOUND A CAVE NEAR HER VILLAGE FILLED WITH ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY AND STRANGE INSCRIPTIONS, AND SHE AGREES TO TAKE ME THERE.

IN RETURN, SHE ASKS ONE FAVOR--THAT WHEN I LEAVE BARA MAGNA, I TAKE HER WITH ME. SEEING NO OTHER CHOICE, I AGREE. THE NEXT MORNING, WE DEPART FROM THE VILLAGE OF TAJUAN.

WE HAD BEEN RIDING FOR SOME TIME WHEN WE REACHED A CANYON. ACKAR GREW TENSE AS SOON AS WE ENTERED.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. IT'S A PERFECT SPOT FOR AN AMBUSH.

PLEASE. EVEN BONE HUNTERS WOULDN'T BE STUPID ENOUGH TO TAKE ON ALL THREE OF US.

OH, NO? BETTER TELL THEM THAT, THEN.



I LOOK BEHIND. WE ARE BEING PURSUED-- WHY AND BY WHOM, I DON'T KNOW. BUT I DOUBT THEY ARE HERE TO INVITE US TO DINNER, UNLESS WE ARE SUATED TO BE THE MEAL.



MY VILLAGE-- THERE ARE OTHER GLATORIAN THERE! HANG ON, WE'RE MAKING A RUN FOR IT!



I HAVE YET TO SEE KINNA FIGHT, BUT I QUICKLY LEARN SHE CAN DRIVE. LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE GAIN GROUND ON THE BONE HUNTERS.



OUR PURSUERS AREN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT.

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN, MATA NUI, OR ONE OF THOSE THORNAX WILL TAKE IT OFF!

WHAT DO THESE BONE HUNTERS WANT?

"WHAT THEY ALWAYS WANT," ACKAR REPLIES. "WHATEVER THEY CAN GET."



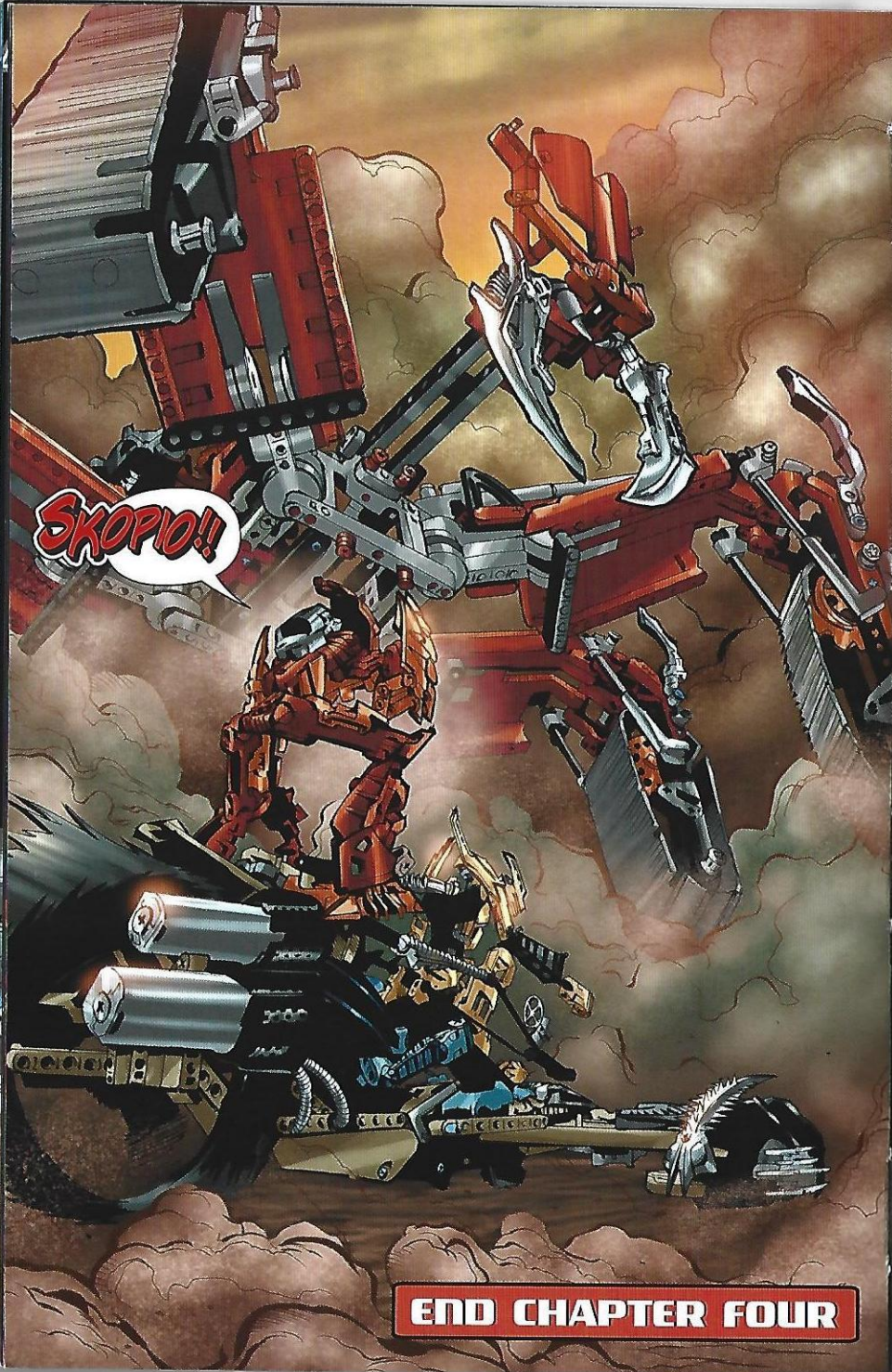
DO YOU FEEL THAT? A TREMOR IN THE GROUND?

UM, GUYS...

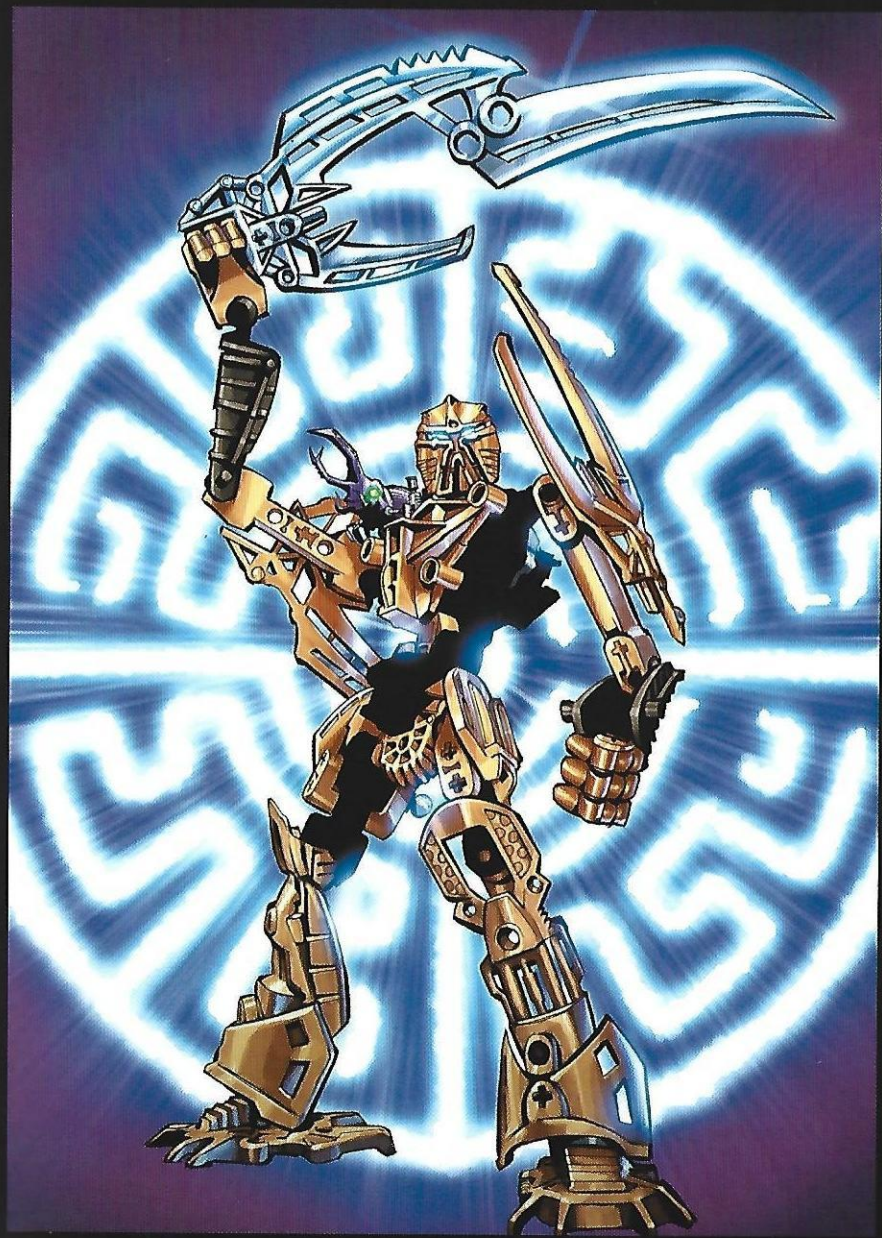
I THINK WE MAY HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN BONE HUNTERS...

RUMBLE

... MUCH BIGGER.



**THE FALL OF ATERO
CHAPTER FIVE**



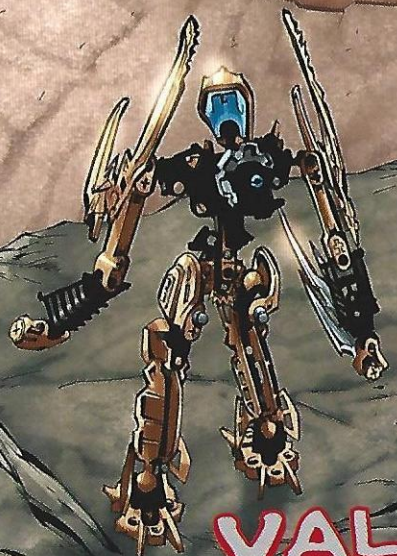
SOME BELIEVE THE WORLD OF BARA MAGNA TO BE ONLY A VAST, UNENDING DESERT. BUT THEY ARE WRONG.

THE BLACK SPIKE MOUNTAINS LOOM OVER THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE PLANET, AND TOPIY MATA NUI WALKS AMONG THE PEAKS.

HE'S COME IN SEARCH OF THE MEANING BEHIND THIS SYMBOL, FOUND BOTH ON THE SKRALL SHIELDS AND ON AN ANCIENT COIN FOUND BY BERIX IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE GREAT BEINGS.

NOW IT SEEMS HE'S FOUND THE ANSWER--BUT THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE IS ANOTHER PUZZLE, MYSTERY PILED UPON MYSTERY.

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, HE WONDERS IF THE GREAT BEINGS WERE TRULY BRILLIANT BEYOND IMAGINING, OR HOPELESSLY MAD. OR IF THERE'S EVEN ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO...



VALLEY OF FEAR

THE BARA MAGNA
DESERT.

OUT OF
MY WAY,
FOOLS!

NOT LIKELY,
SAHMAD--

I DON'T
KNOW WHERE YOU
GOT THOSE POWERS,
ACKAR, BUT THEY
WON'T HELP YOU...
OR THE AGORI!

NOT UNLESS
YOU'VE BECOME
FIREPROOF.



OH, SHUT
UP, YOU
LOSER.


HERE,
HAVE A DRINK
ON ME.

ACKK!

SPLOOSH

NOW LISTEN
CAREFULLY, SLAVER.
YOU'RE OUT OF BUSINESS,
AS OF TODAY. IF YOU SO
MUCH AS LOOK AT ONE
OF OUR AGORI IN THE
WRONG WAY, YOU'LL
REGRET IT.


OR MAYBE
YOU'D LIKE TO BE
THE FIRST PERSON
EVER TO DROWN
IN A DESERT,
SAHMAD?




HOPEFULLY, WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF SAHMAD. WE'VE DONE WELL SINCE THE VILLAGES UNITED.

JUST HAD TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT--ANYONE WHO MESSES WITH THE AGORI IS IN FOR A POUNDING.

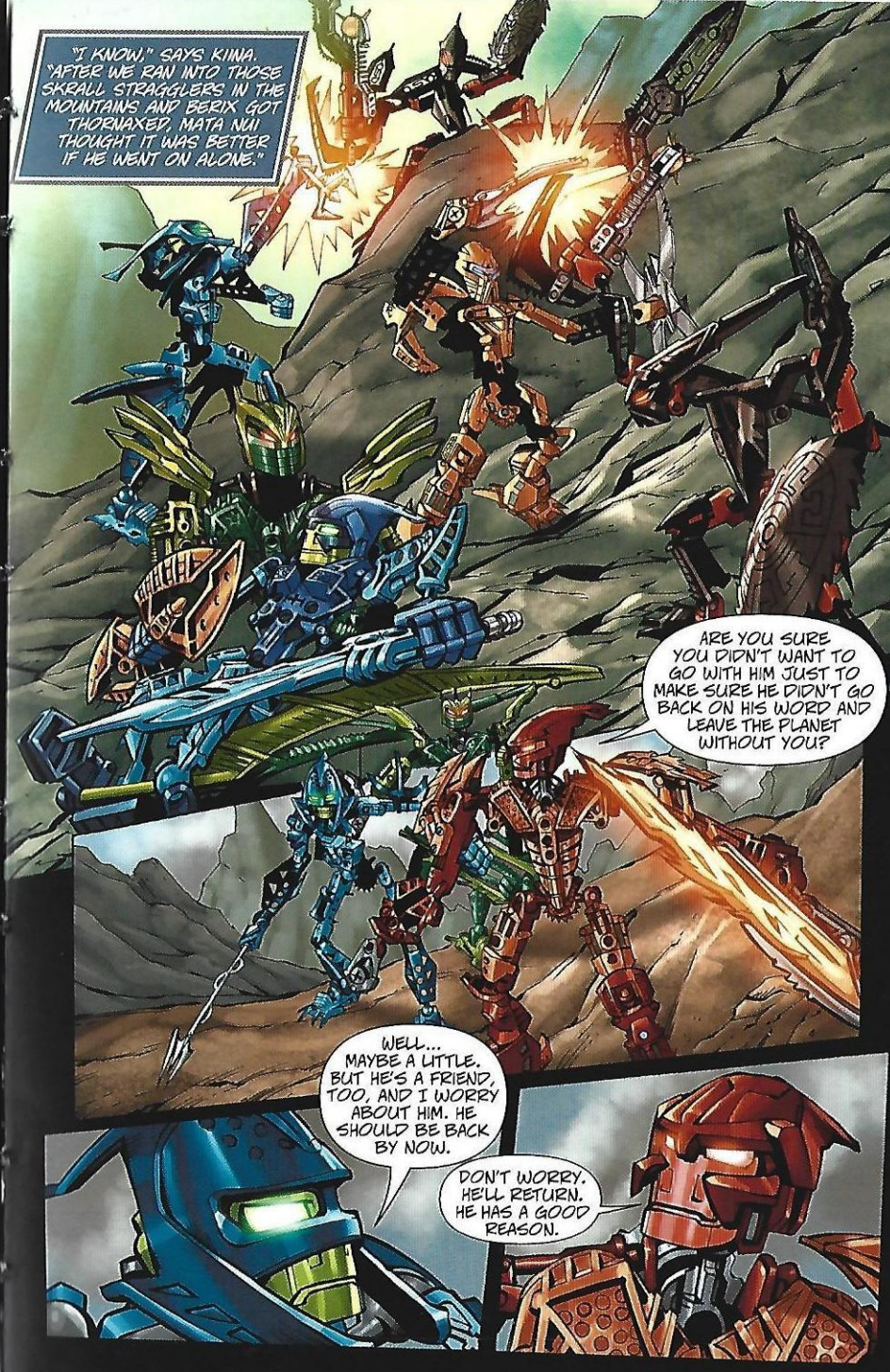
THE SKRALL? THEY'RE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE DESERT LIKE SAND FLEAS AFTER A STORM. IF THE BONE HUNTERS DON'T GET THEM, THE VOROX WILL. MY WORRY IS MATA NUI.




I DOUBT THAT WOULD SCARE THE SKRALL.



YOU STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITH HIM? WELL, SO DO I. BUT WHEN BERIX GOT HURT--



"I KNOW," SAYS KIIMA. "AFTER WE RAN INTO THOSE SKRALL STRAGGLERS IN THE MOUNTAINS AND BERIX GOT THORNAXED, MATA NUI THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER IF HE WENT ON ALONE."



ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO WITH HIM JUST TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T GO BACK ON HIS WORD AND LEAVE THE PLANET WITHOUT YOU?




WELL... MAYBE A LITTLE. BUT HE'S A FRIEND, TOO, AND I WORRY ABOUT HIM. HE SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW.




DON'T WORRY. HE'LL RETURN. HE HAS A GOOD REASON.

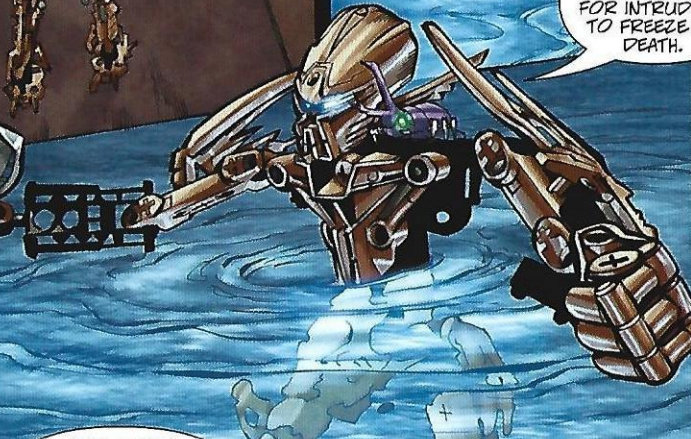




INTERESTING.
I WONDER WHAT WAS
SO IMPORTANT THE GREAT
BEINGS NEEDED THIS MAZE
TO PROTECT IT? AND WHO
THEY WERE PROTECTING
IT FROM?



A TRAP? ALMOST
CERTAINLY. BUT OUR
ONLY CHOICE IS TO
GO THROUGH IT
OR TURN BACK.



COLD.
MAYBE THE GREAT
BEINGS MEANT
FOR INTRUDERS
TO FREEZE TO
DEATH.



CALM DOWN,
LITTLE FRIEND. WE'LL
MAKE IT TO THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE POOL
SOON.

CLICK
CLICK



ICE???



ONCE, THIS
MIGHT HAVE BEEN A
PROBLEM. BUT MY
SWORD CAN EASILY
BREAK ME FREE.



THIS IS
MADNESS!



WHAT??

THE GREAT BEINGS REALLY
DIDN'T WANT UNINVITED
GUESTS. HOW WILL I-?



I WILL BE
FREE!

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
THIS!



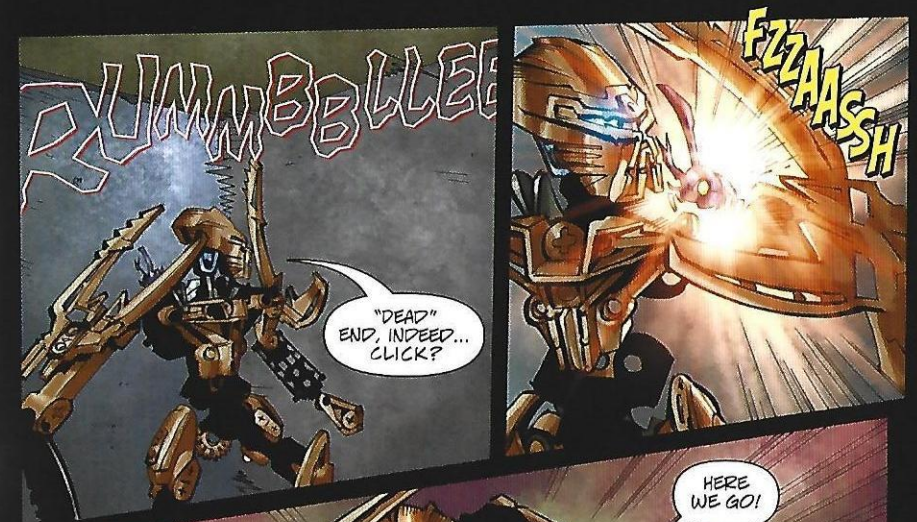
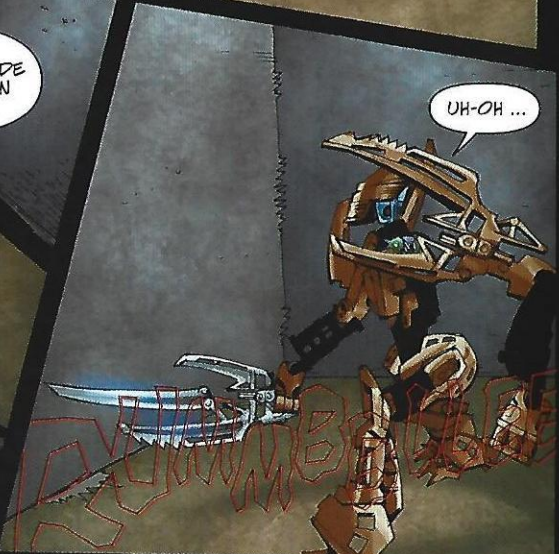
NOT JUST A MYSTERY, THEN, CLICK... A DEATHTRAP, BUT WE KEEP MOVING.

IS IT HOURS OR DAYS THAT I'VE BEEN MAKING MY WAY THROUGH THIS MAZE? I CAN NO LONGER TELL.



DEAD END. I MUST HAVE MADE A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE.

UH-OH ...





THORNAX LAUNCHERS!

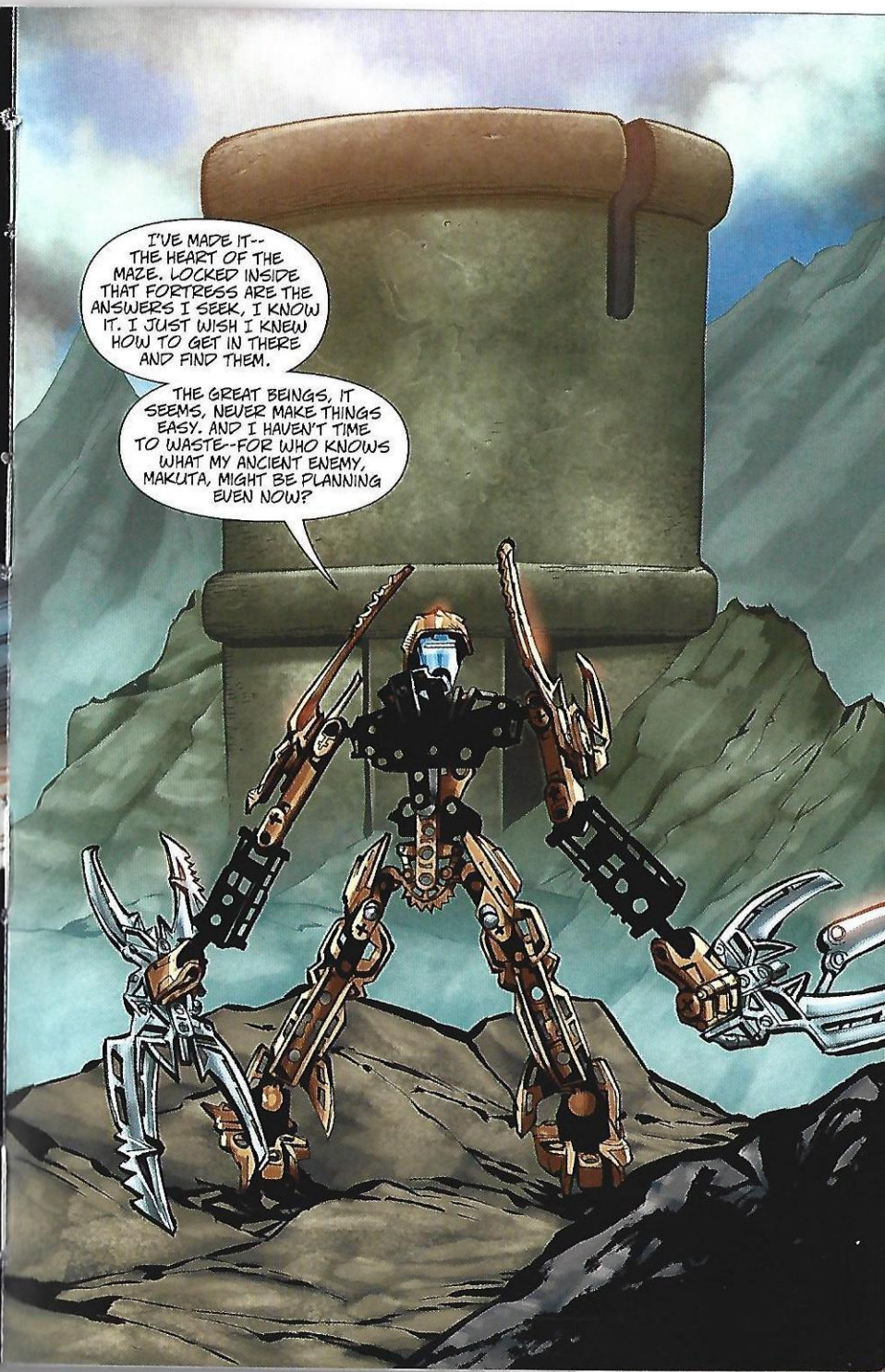
I'M SAFE BEHIND MY SHIELD... BUT "SAFE" WON'T GET ME WHERE I NEED TO GO.

KA-WHAM
KA-WHAM

MAYBE THIS WILL.

KRRUNNCH

DO YOUR WORST, MAZE. I WILL MAKE IT THROUGH. MY UNIVERSE AND MY PEOPLE DEPEND ON ME.

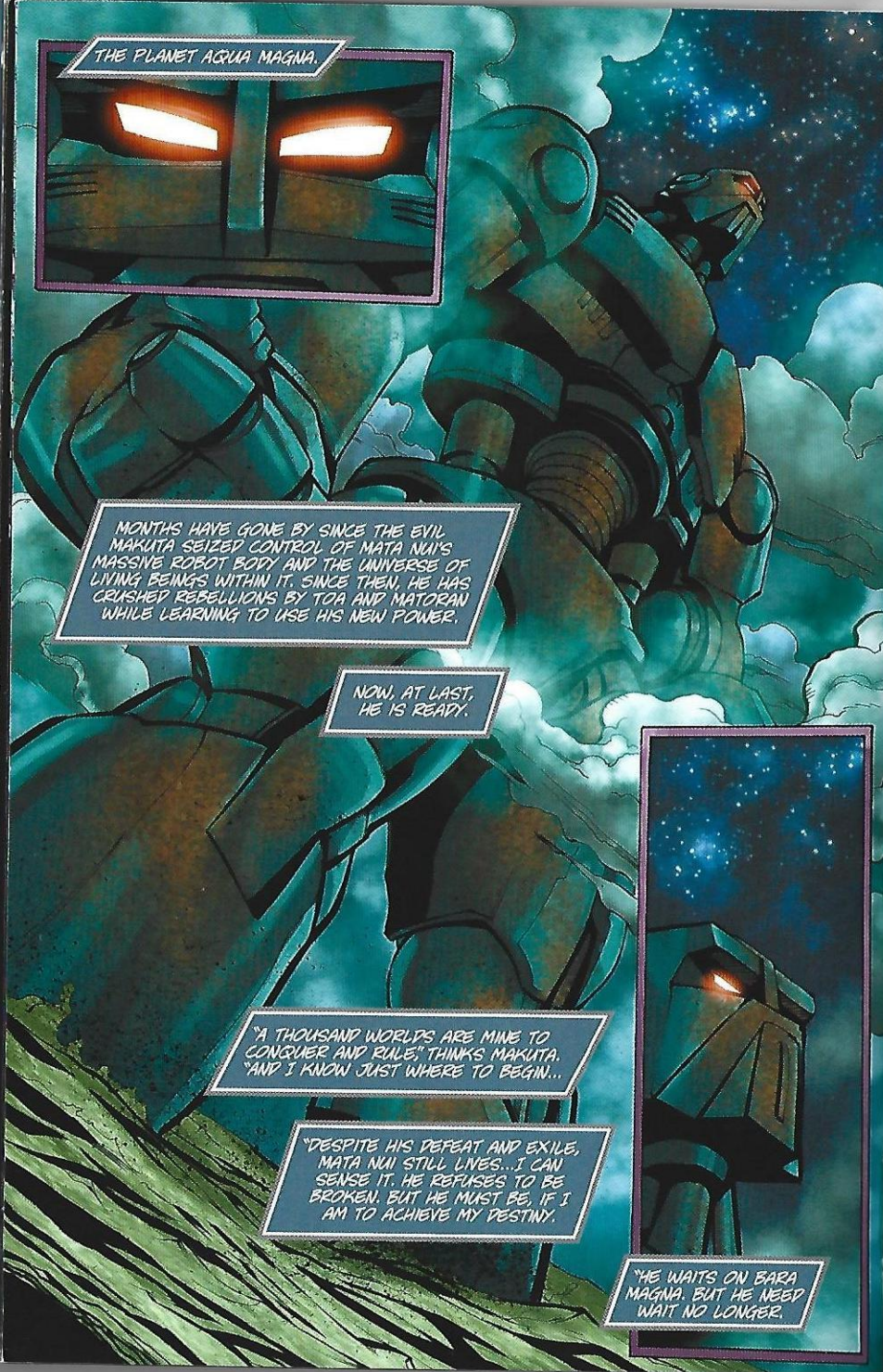


I'VE MADE IT-- THE HEART OF THE MAZE. LOCKED INSIDE THAT FORTRESS ARE THE ANSWERS I SEEK, I KNOW IT. I JUST WISH I KNEW HOW TO GET IN THERE AND FIND THEM.

THE GREAT BEINGS, IT SEEMS, NEVER MAKE THINGS EASY. AND I HAVEN'T TIME TO WASTE--FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT MY ANCIENT ENEMY, MAKUTA, MIGHT BE PLANNING EVEN NOW?



THE PLANET AQUA MAGNA.



MONTHS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THE EVIL MAKUTA SEIZED CONTROL OF MATA NUI'S MASSIVE ROBOT BODY AND THE UNIVERSE OF LIVING BEINGS WITHIN IT. SINCE THEN, HE HAS CRUSHED REBELLIONS BY TOA AND MATORAN WHILE LEARNING TO USE HIS NEW POWER.


NOW, AT LAST, HE IS READY.



"A THOUSAND WORLDS ARE MINE TO CONQUER AND RULE," THINKS MAKUTA. "AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO BEGIN..."

"DESPITE HIS DEFEAT AND EXILE, MATA NUI STILL LIVES... I CAN SENSE IT. HE REFUSES TO BE BROKEN. BUT HE MUST BE, IF I AM TO ACHIEVE MY DESTINY.

"HE WAITS ON BARA MAGNA. BUT HE NEED WAIT NO LONGER.



"BEWARE, MATA NUI--MAKUTA COMES FOR YOU. AND HE COMES BRINGING DEATH!"



NEXT: MAKUTA VERSUS MATA NUI...

WATCH OUT FOR PAPER CUTZ

Welcome to BIONICLE® #9, I'm Papercutz Editor-in-Chief Jim Salicrup with another AWESOME ANNOUNCEMENT. Papercutz is proud to present, not one, but TWO, all-new guides to the BIONICLE Universe! Each guide is a big 6" x 9" deluxe paperback book, with 96 pages jam-packed with facts, figures, charts, maps, diary entries, background info, character bios, and loads of full-color BIONICLE pictures and photos!

But why two guides, you may be wondering? Well, I could say that we here at Papercutz are so devoted to being fair and balanced that we were obligated to publish both MATA NUI'S GUIDE TO BARA MAGNA as well as MAKUTA'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE to present both extremely opposed viewpoints. Yes, I could say that, but the real answer is that I don't have the courage to say no to Makuta! I mean, check out this excerpt from his diary:

"I AM MAKUTA TERIDAX, AND THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW I CAME TO BE THE SUPREME RULER OF ALL THAT IS AND ALL THAT EVER WILL BE IN THIS UNIVERSE. IN THE BEGINNING, THE GREAT BEINGS CREATED A UNIVERSE, FILLED IT WITH LIFE, AND APPOINTED THE GREAT SPIRIT MATA NUI TO WATCH OVER IT. MATA NUI CREATED MYSELF AND MY FELLOW MAKUTA TO HELP HIM.

"FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, WE CREATED THE BEASTS THAT ROAM AND SWAM AND FLEW. WE WATCHED OVER THE MATORAN VILLAGERS AND PROTECTED THE PEACE. AND THEN CAME A DAY WHEN WE LED OUR ARMIES AGAINST THE REBELLIOUS BARRAKI WARLORDS, DEFEATING THEM. THEY HAD HOPED TO OVERTHROW MATA NUI AND SEIZE POWER. THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED THAT THEY COULD NEVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE SUCH A GOAL... BUT I COULD DO IT. I COULD RULE A UNIVERSE!"

Now, could *you* tell such a being you weren't going to publish his book?

Thanks,

Jim

(See the following pages for some excerpts from MAKUTA'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE and MATA NUI'S GUIDE TO BARA MAGNA.)

SPECIAL PREVIEWS OF BIONICLE® "MATA NUI'S GUIDE TO BARA MAGNA" AND "MAKUTA'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE"

VOYA NUI

Voya Nui is the hiding place of the powerful Mask of Life. Once located in the center of a huge continent within the Matoran domes, it was torn free by a massive earthquake and sent rocketing up through its dome and into the open ocean above. It floated for hundreds of years before coming to rest where it was with a small population of surviving Matoran, Axonn and Brutaka. Voya Nui was the site of the battles between the Piraka and both the Toa Nuva and Toa Inika. It has since been returned to the land mass it came from.

THE PIRAKA STRONGHOLD

A mighty fortress built by forced Matoran labor. This was the headquarters of the Piraka on Voya Nui and housed the crystal vat in which Makuta's energy form lurked. The stronghold was badly damaged by battles with the Toa Nuva and Toa Inika.

CHAMBER OF LIFE

A secret chamber beneath Mount Valmai, where the Mask of Life was kept hidden. It was guarded by Axonn, Brutaka, and Umbra. It could be reached by going through a hidden entrance in the Green Belt and descending a staircase with 777 stairs.

NUI CAVES

A network of caverns located beneath the surface of Voya Nui. Axonn led the Matoran down here to keep them safe from harm before Voya Nui returned to its native continent. Nektaann could also be found down here.

DESERT OF SORROWS

A vast, arid expanse near the center of Voya Nui. The Toa Nuva briefly fought the Matoran Resistance here, due to a case of mistaken identity. Gali Nuva was cured of temporary insanity while in the desert thanks to the help of Axonn.

MOUNT VALMAI

An extremely active volcano, Mount Valmai is the highest peak on Voya Nui. The Chamber of Life, hiding place of the Mask of Life, rests beneath it. The Piraka once tried to empty the volcano of lava, believing the mask could be found that way.

THE GREEN BELT

This strange forest encircled the island, its origin unknown. Some of the Piraka believed the Mask of Life could be found here, and that its power had made the plants grow. The secret entrance to the Chamber of Life could be found here.

MATORAN CLIFF VILLAGE

Dwelling place of the Voya Nui Matoran, this village was heavily defended and constructed like a fortress. It was originally intended to protect the residents from dangerous Rahi. It was the site of the Piraka's ambush of most of the island's population and was later destroyed.

ZONE OF NIGHTMARES

A cavern found along the staircase leading to the Chamber of Life. Anyone entering it would see their worst fear brought to life. The Piraka faced Irnakk, a legendary monster of their species' mythology, and the Toa Inika were tricked into thinking they had killed the Toa Nuva here.

PIRAKA OUTPOSTS

Small guard stations located throughout the island, armed with robotic defense devices called Nektaann. They were heavily armored and able to reconstruct themselves. One outpost was destroyed by Toa Nuparu using his loser drill.



ACKAR



Ackar is the Prime Glatorian of the village of Vulcanus, a former tournament champion, and a Core War veteran. The oldest active Glatorian, he is a little slower in the arena now but still a fighter worthy of respect.

If Ackar had been fighting on a normal schedule, it is likely that his record would be better than it is. But with the exile of Malum and no Second Glatorian to take his place, Ackar has had to fight twice as many matches and fatigue has hurt his performance. For a while, there was even talk of retiring him to a job as a trainer.



Although a skilled fighter, Ackar's biggest enemy in recent years has been himself. Convinced his age was eroding his skills, he worried about letting Vulcanus down. He also did not want to be one of those Glatorian who keeps trying to fight long past the point he should stop. But with Malum's exile and some of the best trainees slain by the bone hunters, he saw himself as having little choice but to keep fighting.

Despite this, Ackar remains a great strategist and a brave warrior. When bone hunters threatened Vulcanus, Ackar was ready to do whatever he had to in order to defend his village. He traveled into the wastelands at great personal risk to meet with Malum and secure the temporary aid of the Vorox against the raiders. He also masterminded the defense of the village, setting up traps and ambushes throughout Iron Canyon to snare the bone hunters.

Later, he joined with Kiina on a rescue mission to save Gresh, Strakk, Tarduk and Kirbold, who were being pursued by Skrall. When the group was trapped between Skrall and Vorox armies, it was Ackar who came up with the idea that saved all their lives and allowed them to make it safely back to Vulcanus.

Ackar's next match was with Strakk in Vulcanus. During the match, Metus brought a newcomer named Mata Nui to watch the fight. Although Ackar won the match fairly, Strakk tried to attack him from behind. Mata Nui saved Ackar and the two formed a friendship. During a journey to the village of Tajun, Ackar taught Mata Nui some tips on fighting, including the importance of observing an opponent closely to be able to predict his moves.

Following the discovery of the Skrall attack on Tajun, Ackar traveled to Tesara with Mata Nui and others to warn that village. Ackar's presence helped convince Tarix and Vastus of the seriousness of the threat. When Mata Nui left to confront the Skrall in Roxtus, Ackar took charge of the defense of Tesara.

While he is close to Tarix and Vastus, Ackar's best friend among the Glatorian is Kiina. She reminds him of himself

when he was younger—brash, bold, and always ready for a fight. He does his best to keep her impulsive nature and her hot temper in check, but in battle, there is no one else he wants fighting beside him. Although he knows her dream is to leave Bara Magna, he hopes that day never comes.

Ackar carries a Thornax launcher and a flame sword. His original blade was stolen some time ago, but retrieved for him by Gresh and Strakk in a raid on Roxtus.



THE MATORAN RESISTANCE

The Matoran residents of Voya Nui originally came from other lands. When their Turaga felt they were not working hard enough, they were shipped to the realm of Karzahni, where they would be "repaired." Unfortunately, Karzahni did a poor job, resulting in the Matoran being smaller and weaker than normal ones. Angry over his failure, Karzahni gave the Matoran weapons and shipped them to the southern continent. They eventually settled in Voya Nui.

When Voya Nui was ripped from its continent and ended up in the outer ocean, the Matoran found they had to struggle to survive in a hostile climate and with limited resources. But survive they did, constructing new villages, setting up their own government, and working together. (At the time, none of them realized the true significance of Voya Nui – that it was the hiding place of the Mask of Life – or that Axonn and Brutaka shared the island with them.)

None of the Voya Nui Matoran had ever seen a Toa face to face. So when the evil Piraka came to the island claiming to be Toa, most Matoran believed that was what they were. Only a handful questioned why "Toa" would be so nasty, destructive and brutal.

When the Piraka enslaved the Matoran population with zamor spheres, only six escaped: Garan, Piruk, Velika, Kazi, Balta and Dalu. They formed the Matoran Resistance, hiding in the mountains and harassing the Piraka. Although far weaker than their enemies, they did have some successes. These included the theft of a zamor sphere launcher from Avak and that Piraka's subsequent defeat by Dalu.

Easily their most important moment came during a major battle between the Toa Inika and the Piraka. The Matoran slipped away from the fight and found where the Toa Nuva were being kept prisoner. They succeeded in freeing the heroes. Later, Velika would make a new air katana for Lewa to replace the one the Piraka had broken.

With their fellow Matoran freed from the Piraka's domination, the Matoran Resistance remained on Voya Nui when the Toa Inika left to pursue the Mask of Life. They are still there now, although the island itself has now rejoined its original continent.



GARAN Onu-Matoran leader of the Resistance on Voya Nui. Garan was a strategic thinker, who was convinced the Resistance could win as long as they worked together. He carried twin pulse bolt generators that fired a ball of energy which grew more powerful the further it traveled. Garan led the mission to invade the Piraka stronghold and rescue the imprisoned Toa Nuva.



PIRUK The Le-Matoran member of the Resistance, Piruk was known for his stealth. Not terribly brave, he was still extremely loyal to his friends and a very skilled spy. He carried two shredder claws which could rip through solid metal. Piruk learned much of the Piraka's plans by sneaking into the Piraka stronghold and eavesdropping on Zaktan.



BALTA Ta-Matoran member of the Resistance, Balta was the weapons maker for the team and one of the most daring of the group. He stole a zamor sphere launcher from Avak, enabling Velika to copy the design, and also led the rescue party for Garan when he was a prisoner of the Piraka. Balta carried twin repeller tools which could block an enemy and strike back with equal force.



DALU Ga-Matoran warrior of the Resistance, Dalu was the best fighter on the team. Her most important moment during the battle against the Piraka was her single-handed defeat of Avak. Her twin chargers allowed her to temporarily increase one attribute of a target (strength, speed, hearing, etc.)



KAZI Ko-Matoran member of the Resistance, Kazi was cool, quiet and secretive. He was the first Voya Nui Matoran to meet Axonn and the only one who had an idea that there might be more to Voya Nui than anyone knew. He carried twin echo forks which, when slammed together, produced a devastating sound wave.



VELIKA Eccentric Po-Matoran Resistance member, Velika was known for his habit of always speaking in riddles and metaphors. A skilled engineer, he created the zamor sphere launchers carried by the Toa Inika as well as the energized protodermis-filled zamor spheres they used. Velika carried twin power carvers.

DON'T MISS BIONICLE® "MATA NUI'S GUIDE TO BARA MAGNA" AND "MAKUTA'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE"!

THE BIONICLE® GLATORIAN SAGA!

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