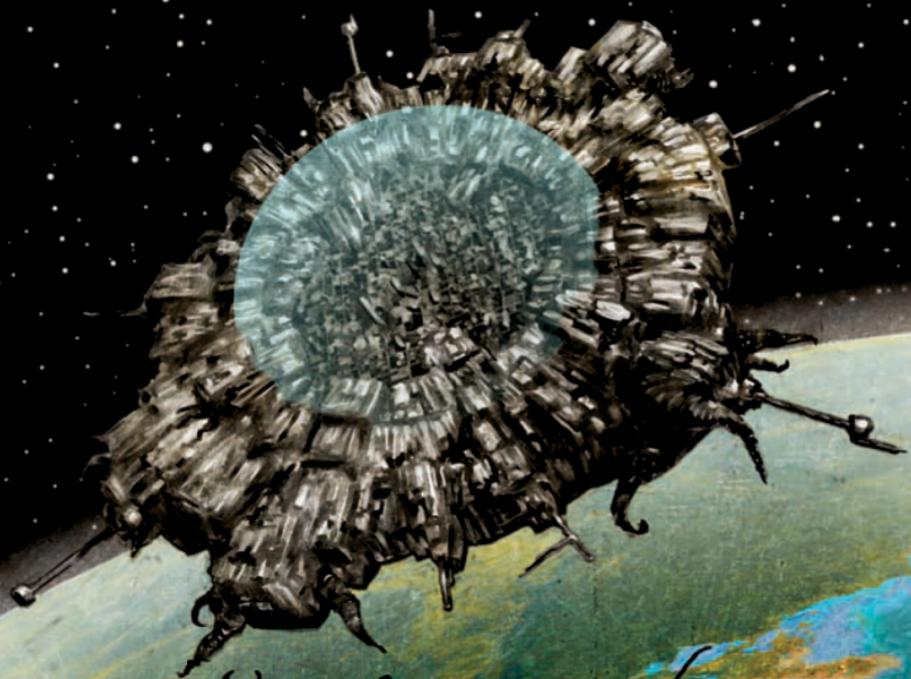


*The Decline and Fall
of the Flying Island*



*Written by: Martin Klíma
Illustrated by: Tomáš Kučerovský*



TODAY WE COMMEMORATE
THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR ASCENSION!



... THE WATER RATIONING THAT WAS RECENTLY
INITIATED IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.
THE PEOPLE CAN BE ASSURED THAT THIS
IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE...

THERE CAN BE NO RETURN TO EARTH IN OUR LIFETIMES!
THE EARTH IS NOTHING BUT PSIOACTIVE HELL,
INHABITED BY FREAKS, MONSTERS AND WILD BEASTS!

UNDER THE AUGUST LEADERSHIP
OF THE COUNCIL OF EARTH,
OUR HOME IN THE SKY CONTINUES
TO BE OUR CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT,
AND AN EVER-GROWING SUCCESS.

... WE MUST REMOVE FROM OUR SOCIETY
THE IRRESPONSIBLE AND SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS
THAT SERVE AS A CONSTANT THREAT
TO EVERYTHING WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED...



BULLSHIT!



DID YOU SEE THE EARTH LAST NIGHT? BLUE AND WHITE AND GREEN? IT'S WAITING.

DON'T GET STARTED AGAIN! THE COUNCIL DIDN'T BUILD THIS LAPUTA FOR FUN!

COUNCIL DIDN'T BUILD THIS LAPUTA. PERIOD



THERE ARE SEALED PARTS ON THE ENGINE DECK OF THE LAPUTA. NOBODY WITHOUT THE MASTER CODE GETS THROUGH. MY FRIENDS AND I BELIEVE THERE ARE-



ARE YOU CRAZY? WHO TOLD YOU THIS?

WE'VE GOT MANUALS IN A STRANGE LANGUAGE-

THE FORBIDDEN BOOKS. THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF THE COUNCIL.

YOUR FRIENDS? OH, NOW I GET IT. NOW I KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT MY FATHER. YOU DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ME! YOU JUST WANT ME TO STEAL THOSE CODES FOR YOU!!

LANGUAGE OF THE COUNCIL? DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN SPEAK IT? CAN YOUR FATHER?

THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT. YOU SPEAK OF FAIRY TALES. YOU'RE BEING IRRATIONAL!

YOU SOUND JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER... SAY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE DOCKS?

SAY SOMETHING!

I'M SORRY, I'VE GOT TO GO.

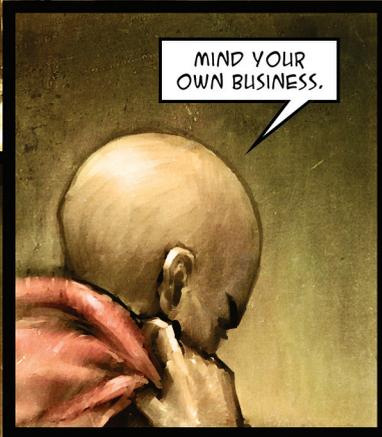
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



HOW DID IT GO?

I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING. HE FIGURED IT OUT RIGHT AWAY.

STUPID. WHY DIDN'T YOU USE YOUR POWERS?



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

LOOK, JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE MY SISTER, DOESN'T MEAN-



WE FOUND A MAN WHO SAYS HE COULD READ THE FORBIDDEN BOOKS. HE SAYS IT'S AN ALIEN LANGUAGE - HE CALLS THEM *RETICULANS*.



WE WERE HANDING OUT OUR LEAFLETS ON THE CORNER... NEAR THE LOWER HYDROPONICS BAY. THE PEOPLE AREN'T GIVING US AS MANY WEIRD LOOKS AS THEY USED TO.

I THINK THE COUNCILMEN ARE GETTING DESPERATE. NOW ALMOST EVERYBODY CAN SEE THE LAPUTA IS GOING DOWN THE DRAIN. SOON THEY WILL-

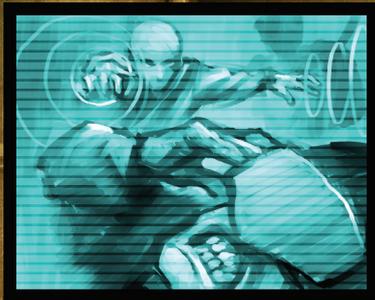
SURELY HE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.



HE IS THE SON OF THE PROPAGANDA MINISTER, FOR GOD'S SAKE! HE WONT-

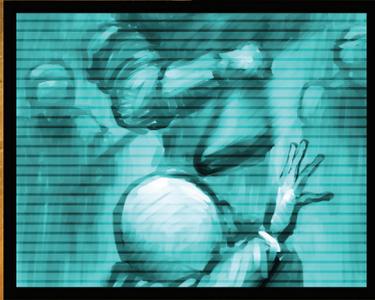
EVERYBODY FREEZE! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

I'LL HOLD THEM! GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!



SORRY, SON, I'VE GOT A MEETING NOW.

-CLICK-



HI! CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

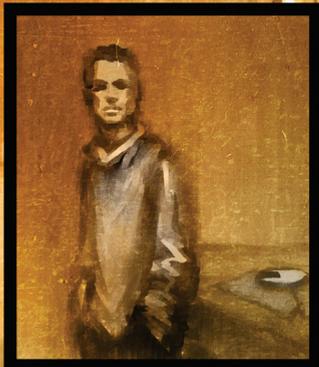
BUT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT! I NEED TO KNOW-

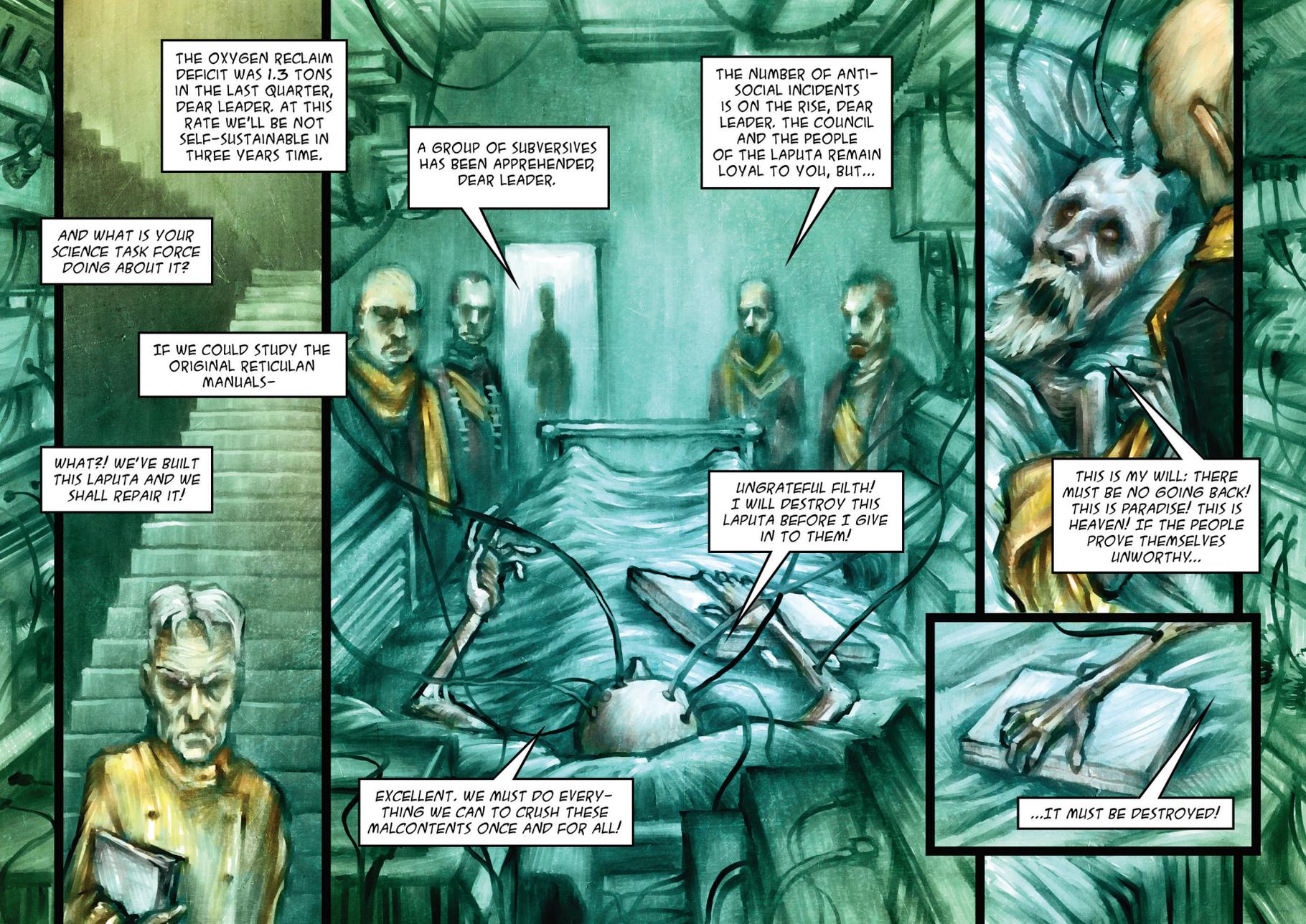
SON, I HAVE TO GO! WE CAN TALK WHEN I GET BACK.

CAN YOU SPEAK THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF THE COUNCIL?

SECRET... RIDICULOUS! THERE'S NO SUCH THING. IT'S NOTHING BUT A SICK RUMOR SPREAD BY MALCONTENTS. NOW, I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. I'M LATE FOR MY MEETING WITH THE DEAR LEADER.

YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS MORE WISELY, MY SON.





THE OXYGEN RECLAIM DEFICIT WAS 1.3 TONS IN THE LAST QUARTER, DEAR LEADER. AT THIS RATE WE'LL BE NOT SELF-SUSTAINABLE IN THREE YEARS TIME.

A GROUP OF SUBVERSIVES HAS BEEN APPREHENDED, DEAR LEADER.

THE NUMBER OF ANTI-SOCIAL INCIDENTS IS ON THE RISE, DEAR LEADER. THE COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF THE LAPUTA REMAIN LOYAL TO YOU, BUT...

AND WHAT IS YOUR SCIENCE TASK FORCE DOING ABOUT IT?

IF WE COULD STUDY THE ORIGINAL RETICULAN MANUALS-

WHAT?! WE'VE BUILT THIS LAPUTA AND WE SHALL REPAIR IT!

UNGRATEFUL FILTH! I WILL DESTROY THIS LAPUTA BEFORE I GIVE IN TO THEM!

THIS IS MY WILL: THERE MUST BE NO GOING BACK! THIS IS PARADISE! THIS IS HEAVEN! IF THE PEOPLE PROVE THEMSELVES UNWORTHY...

EXCELLENT. WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO CRUSH THESE MALCONTENTS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

...IT MUST BE DESTROYED!



...YESTERDAY, THREE CONVICTED DIVERSIONISTS WERE SENTENCED TO BE DROPPED OUT OF THE LAPUTA. THE TRIAL CONTINUES LATER TODAY, AS MORE RINGLEADERS HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN A POLICE RAID.....



...THE CONVICTS ARE NOW BEING LED TO THE DROP-OUT PLATFORM...



...LET THIS BE A WARNING TO ANYONE WHO SEEKS TO UNDERMINE THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL...



I MUST SEE YOUR LEADER AT ONCE. I HAVE THE CODES...

SO YOU'VE GOT THE MASTER CODE? REALLY?

YES, I HAVE. QUICKLY, YOU MUST RESCUE HER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



THE CODE CHANGES ONCE IT IS USED. IF WE OPEN HER CELL, WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE.

SO WHAT? YOU MUST RESCUE HER! YOU OWE HER!

NO, WE MUST GO TO DOCKS. THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET THERE!

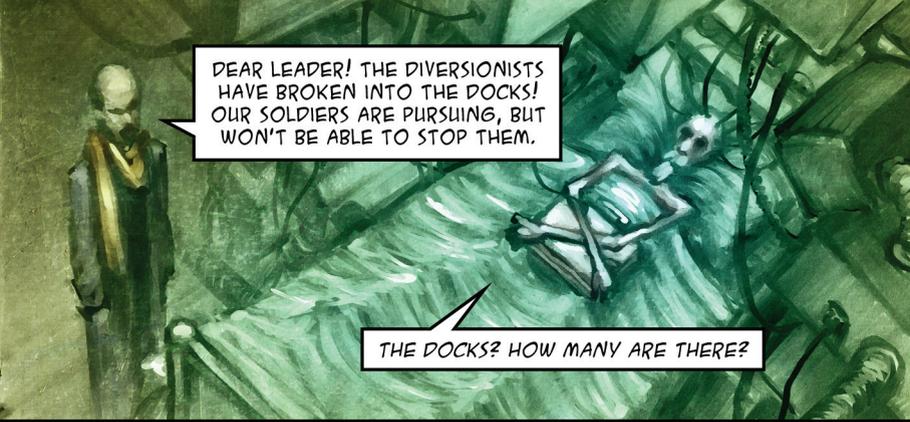


BUT WHAT ABOUT HER?



WE MUST GET TO THE DOCKS AND ESCAPE THE LAPUTA. I KNOW THAT IS WHAT SHE WOULD WANT US TO DO.

ARE YOU GOING TO SACRIFICE YOUR OWN SISTER?



DEAR LEADER! THE DIVERSIONISTS HAVE BROKEN INTO THE DOCKS! OUR SOLDIERS ARE PURSUING, BUT WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP THEM.

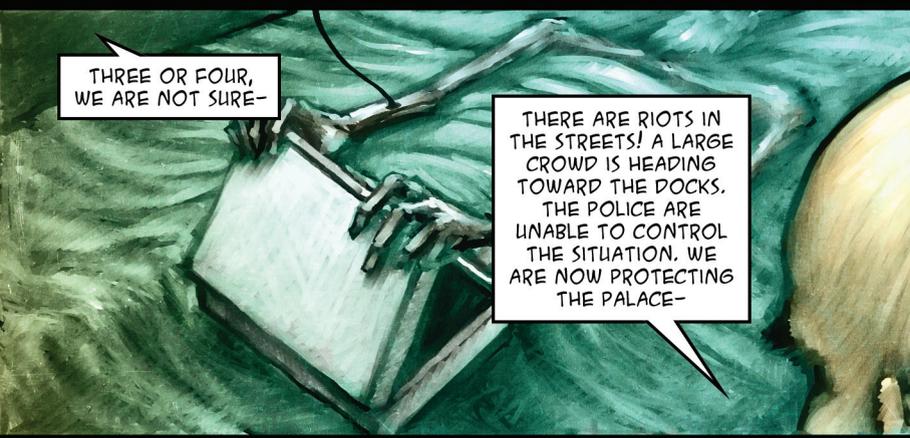
THE DOCKS? HOW MANY ARE THERE?



ENOUGH WHINING. WE MUST ACT NOW.

I SHOULD'VE GONE PLEADING TO MY FATHER! HE MIGHT HAVE MORE MERCY THAN YOU!

WHO'S STOPPING YOU?



THREE OR FOUR, WE ARE NOT SURE-

THERE ARE RIOTS IN THE STREETS! A LARGE CROWD IS HEADING TOWARD THE DOCKS. THE POLICE ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. WE ARE NOW PROTECTING THE PALACE-



OK, BOYS. GRAB YOUR WEAPONS. LET'S GO!



SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS. WE ARE SPURNED. WE ARE DISCARDED. THE PEOPLE HAVE MADE THEIR CHOICE.

AND NOW THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR IT!

-CLICK-



TO BE CONTINUED
IN

UFA
AFTERSHOCK.