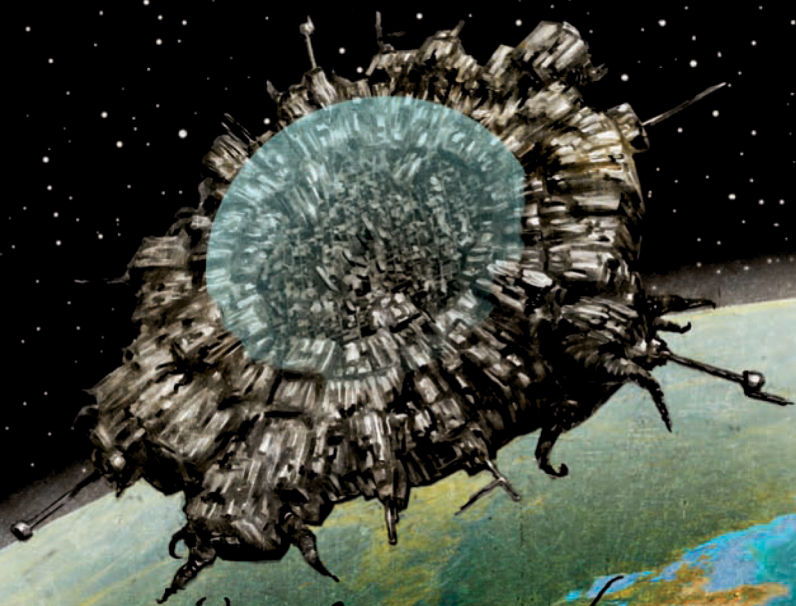


# *The Decline and Fall of the Flying Island*



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COUNCIL SQUARE, THE FLYING ISLAND, YEAR 49

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE  
THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF OUR ASCENSION!

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...

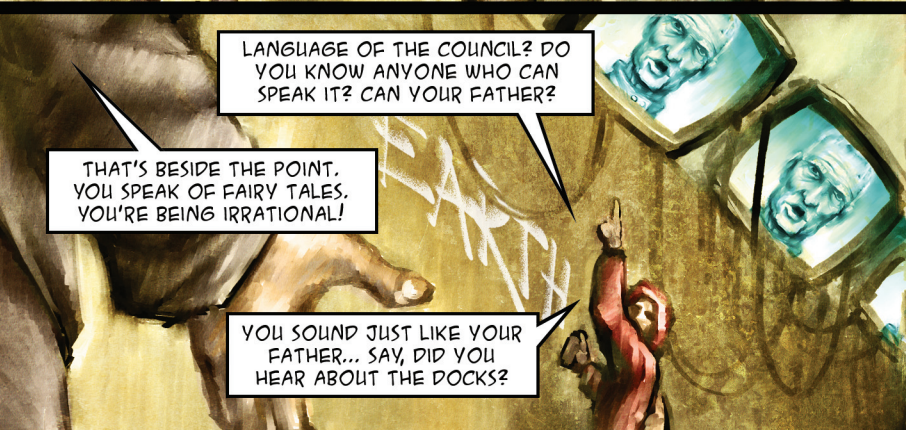
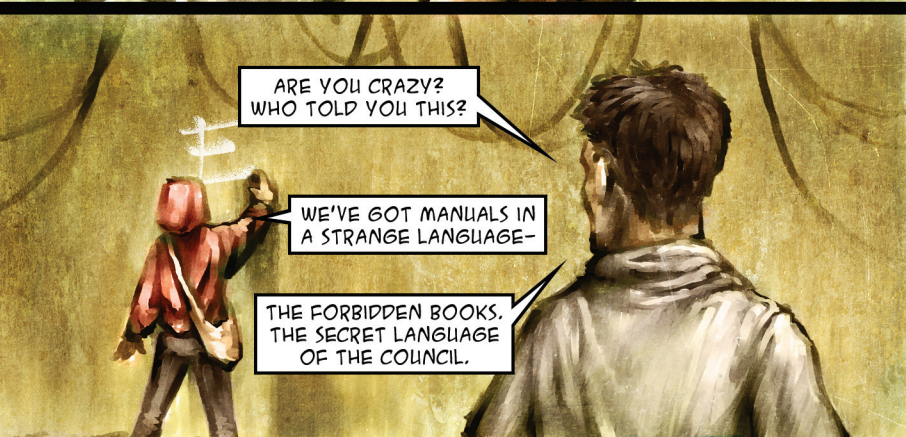
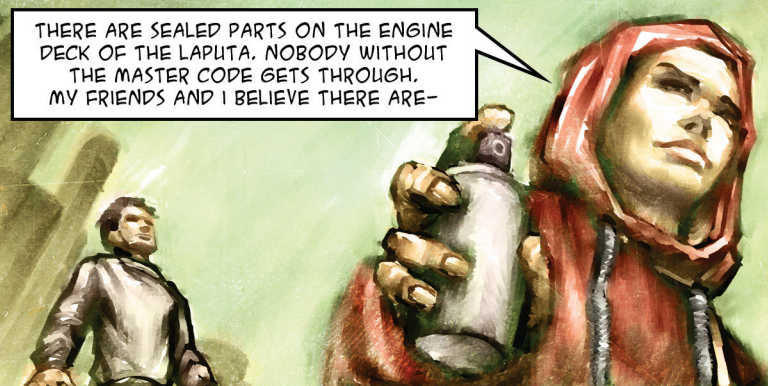
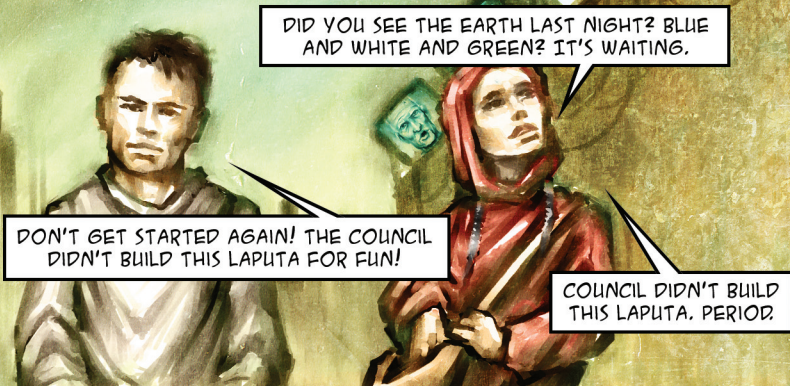


... THE WATER RATIONING THAT WAS RECENTLY  
INITIATED IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.  
THE PEOPLE CAN BE ASSURED THAT THIS  
IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE...

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











HOW DID IT GO?

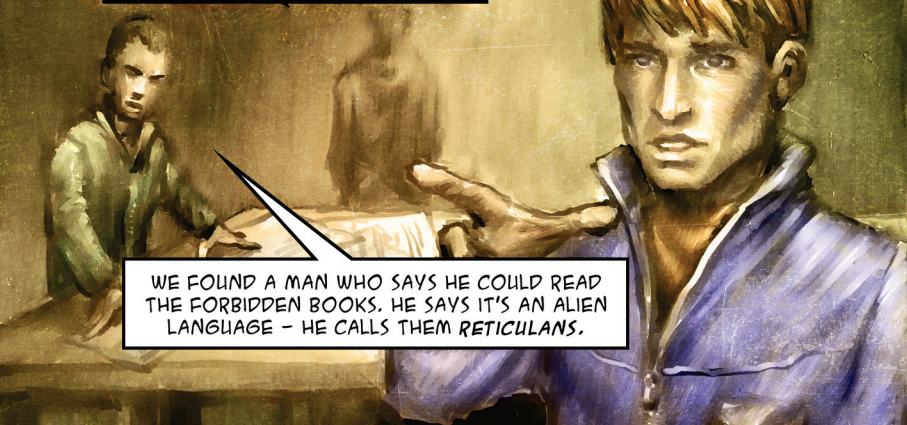
I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING.  
HE FIGURED IT OUT RIGHT AWAY.

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 WON'T-



**EVERYBODY  
FREEZE! YOU ARE  
UNDER ARREST!**

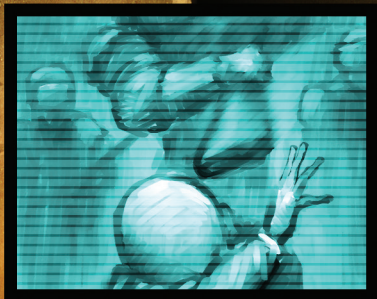
I'LL HOLD THEM!  
GET OUT OF HERE!  
NOW!





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

-CLICK-



HI! CAN I ASK YOU  
SOMETHING?

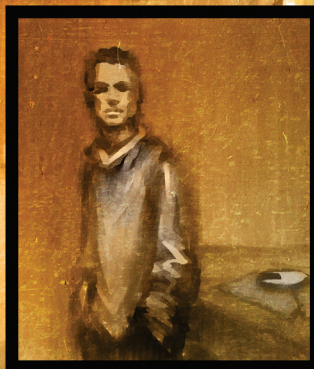
BUT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT!  
I NEED TO KNOW-

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

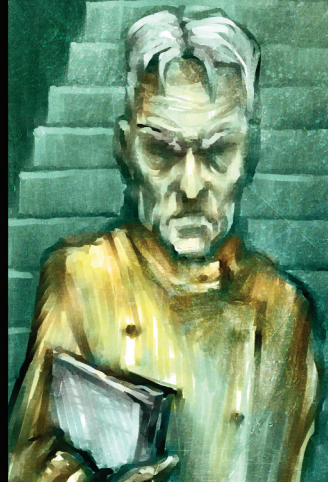
CAN YOU SPEAK THE SECRET  
LANGUAGE OF THE COUNCIL?

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.

AND WHAT IS YOUR SCIENCE TASK FORCE DOING ABOUT IT?

IF WE COULD STUDY THE ORIGINAL RETICULAN MANUALS—

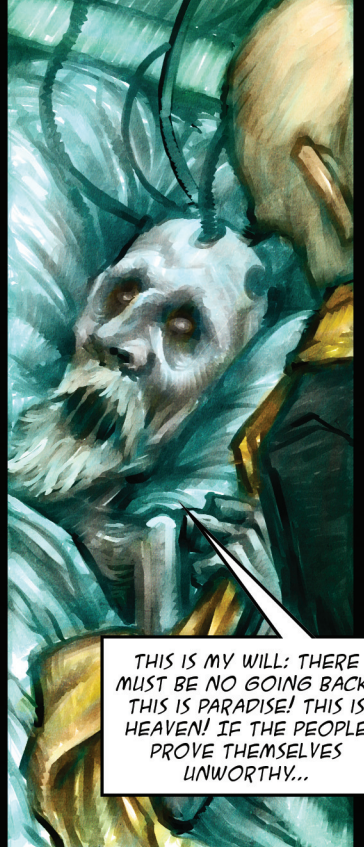
WHAT?! WE'VE BUILT THIS LAPUTA AND WE SHALL REPAIR IT!

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...

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

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

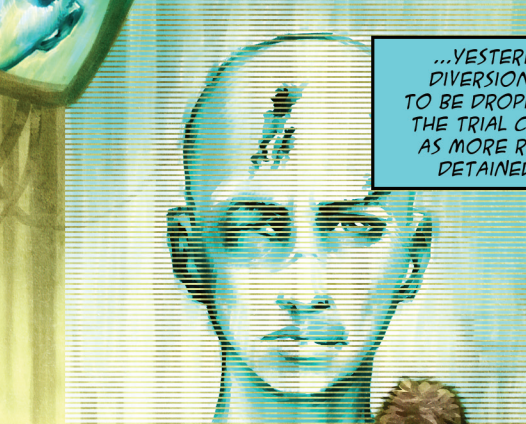


THIS IS MY WILL: THERE MUST BE NO GOING BACK! THIS IS PARADISE! THIS IS HEAVEN! IF THE PEOPLE PROVE THEMSELVES UNWORTHY...



...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.

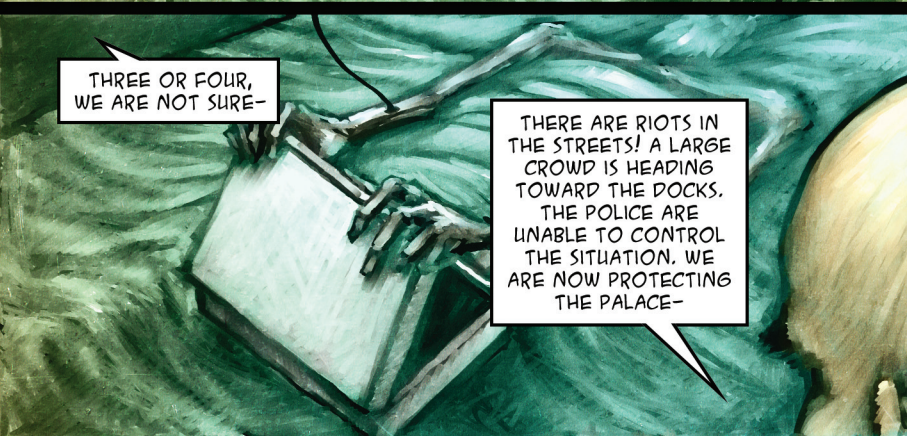
THE DOCKS? HOW MANY ARE THERE?



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?

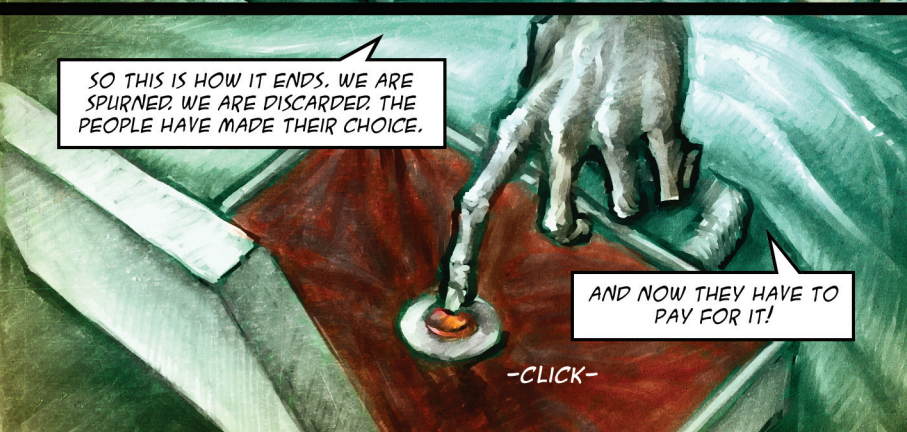


THREE OR FOUR,  
WE ARE NOT SURE-

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

**UFO**  
AFTERSHOCK.