

# SAMURAI'S BLOOD™

image

6 of 6

Owen Wiseman  
Nam Kim  
Matt Dalton  
Sakti Yuwono



# SAMURAI'S BLOOD

CREATED BY MICHAEL BENAROYA & OWEN WISEMAN

SCRIPT: OWEN WISEMAN

PENCILS: NAM KIM

INKS: MATTHEW DALTON

COLOR: SAKTI YUWONO AND IFANSYAH NOOR OF IMAGINARY FRIENDS STUDIOS

LETTERING: JOSH AITKEN

COVER: JO CHEN

EDITOR: DAVE ELLIOTT

PROMOTION: GIANLUCA GLAZER



BENAROYA PUBLISHING

WWW.BENAROYAPUBLISHING.COM

The Sanjo Clan has been destroyed. It's last remaining remnant has gathered itself in Yamagata City, risen from its own ashes, and prepared to exact its vengeance. The odds are overwhelming. The moment of fate is at hand.

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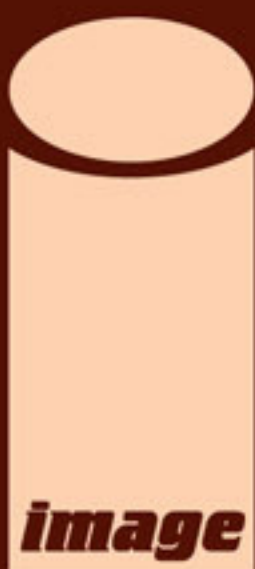
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AT THE HOUSE OF HORTOMO-SAN,  
GENTLEMAN OF THE NORTHERN LANDS.



MAY  
ALL THE POWERS  
OF HEAVEN AND EARTH  
SHELTER YOU, AND MAY YOU  
LIVE TO TAKE YOUR VENGEANCE  
AND RETURN. BUT MOST OF  
ALL MAY YOU LIVE  
TO TAKE YOUR  
VENGEANCE.

THIS WORLD IS  
BUT A DREAM, AND TO  
BE MINDFUL OF THIS IS TO  
WALK IN THE WAY. GO NOW  
IN THAT SPIRIT, AND ALL  
WILL BE WELL.





THE STOLEN CASTLE SANDO.

NOT ALL DESTINY CONTAINS VENGEANCE. BUT ALL RIGHTEOUS VENGEANCE IS A PART OF DESTINY.



THERE HAVE BEEN VENGEFUL CONQUESTS THAT TOPPLED EMPIRES.



THERE HAVE BEEN SECRET VENGEFUL MOMENTS THAT HAVE BESPOILED SINGLE HUMAN LIVES.



YET ALL VENGEANCE IS A JOURNEY, WITH PURITY OF PURPOSE TO COUNTERBALANCE THE OBSCURITY OF RIGHT AND WRONG.

AND EACH JOURNEY MUST HAVE AN ENDING.



HERE IS THE YOUNG MAN YOU REQUESTED.

STOP THERE. THAT'S QUITE CLOSE ENOUGH.



SO THIS IS THE FEARSOME HANIYA TOSHIMITSU! YOU HARDLY SEEM OLD ENOUGH TO BE THE MAN THEY SAY YOU ARE.

BLOOD AGES MEN QUICKLY, MY LORD.



HAHAHA! WELL SAID!

BEFORE YOU PROCEED, THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST SHOW YOU.



IN SPITE OF YOUR INSOLENCE, YOU HAVE PROVEN USEFUL, AND USEFUL MEN ARE STILL VALUED IN THESE WILD, NORTHERN LANDS. YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO REVEAL THIS OBJECT.



THIS SECRET IS FOR YOUR EYES ALONE.



VERY WELL. DROP YOUR SWORDS, AND YOU MAY APPROACH. GUARDS, SEARCH HIM!





THIS IS THE SECRET SIGIL OF MY CLAN, THE KOGA GOSEIDAN. THIS PIECE OF CLOTH ADORNED MY BROW WHEN I SLAUGHTERED THE ENEMIES OF THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.

I GAVE IT TO MY SON WHEN LAST I SAW HIM, AND THIS IS THAT BOY. HIS MOTHER IS THE FIRST DAUGHTER OF THE SHOGUN.

UNCOVER YOUR FACE, SO I CAN GAZE UPON IT AND SEE IF YOU LIE.



WHEN I PLEDGED MY LOYALTY TO TOKUGAWA, I BARED MY FACE IN HIS PRESENCE. YOU WOULD MAKE ONLY THE SECOND MAN TO EXACT SUCH A GESTURE.

YOUR INDULGENCE WILL NOT BE WITHOUT REWARD IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, KOGA-SAN. THE GOSEIDAN WILL RISE AGAIN, AND SWEEP THE LAND CLEAN OF THE ENEMIES OF THIS REALM.



VERY WELL.



THERE IS ONE MORE THING.



I BEAR  
A MESSAGE FROM  
A DEAD MAN.  
SANJO GORO SAYS  
HELLO.



THE MOMENT OF FATE IS ONLY A  
SINGLE DROP OF WATER IN A VAST OCEAN.







IT PASSES IN THE BLINKING OF AN EYE, AND FADES INTO MERE MEMORY LIKE ANY OTHER MOMENT.



AS A DROP IS LOST FOREVER IN THE OCEAN, SO THE MOMENT OF FATE IS SUBMERGED IN THE ENDLESS SEA OF HISTORY.



I SWORE YOU WOULD SEE MY FACE, AND YOU HAVE SEEN IT. I SWORE YOU WOULD HEAR HIS NAME AND SO YOU HAVE HEARD IT.

NOW DIE!

AAAAHHH!

AND YET NO DROP SHIMMERS SO IN THE SUN, AS NO MOMENT SHIMMERS IN THE MEMORY, LIKE THAT ONE, TIMELESS MOMENT OF FATE.



KILL THEM!

ALL BEFORE FATE IS DARKNESS.  
ALL AFTER IS CHAOS.



PAK

PAK



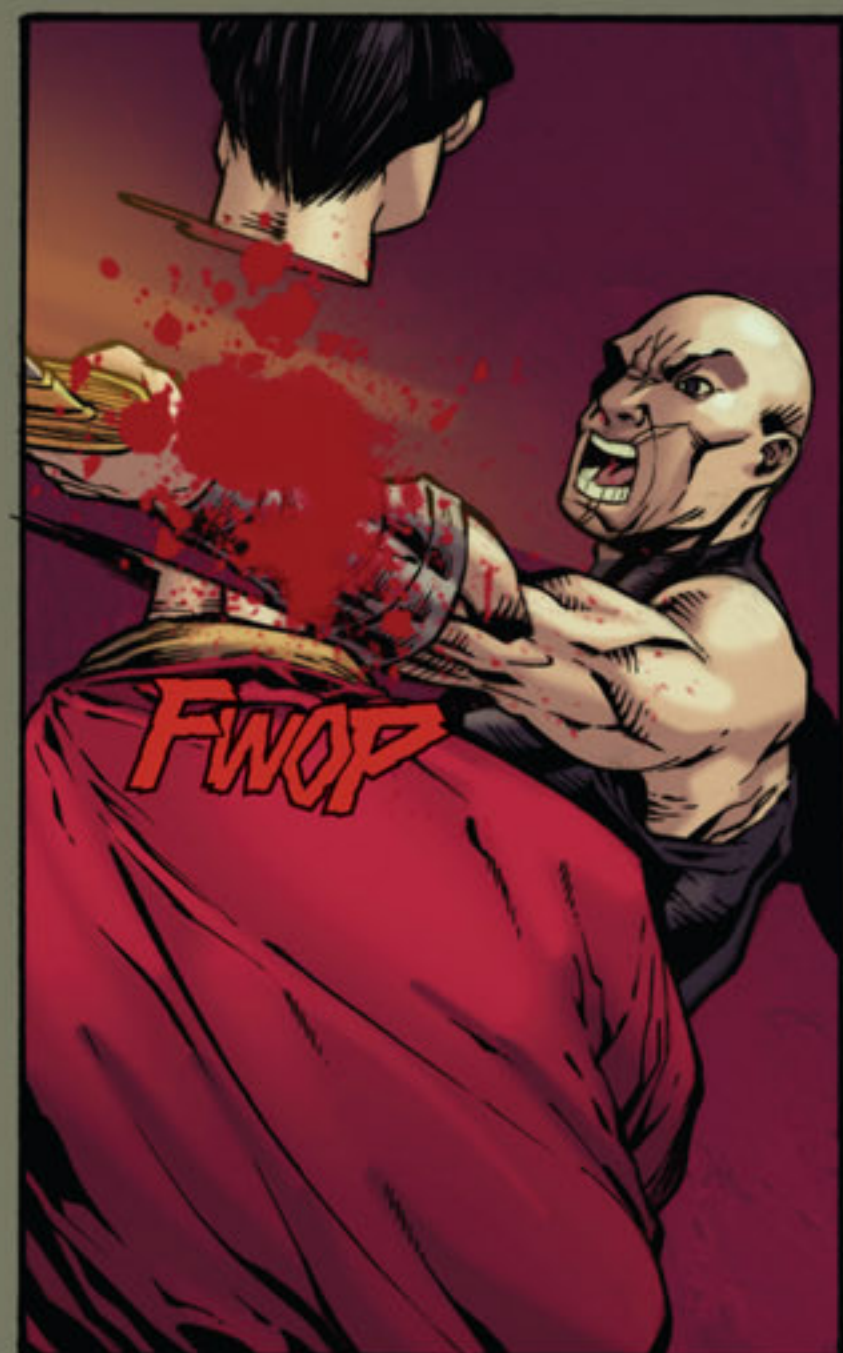
GAH!



YET THE POWER OF THAT  
ONE MOMENT CAN CHANGE  
THE WHOLE WORLD.



SHRIK



FWOP



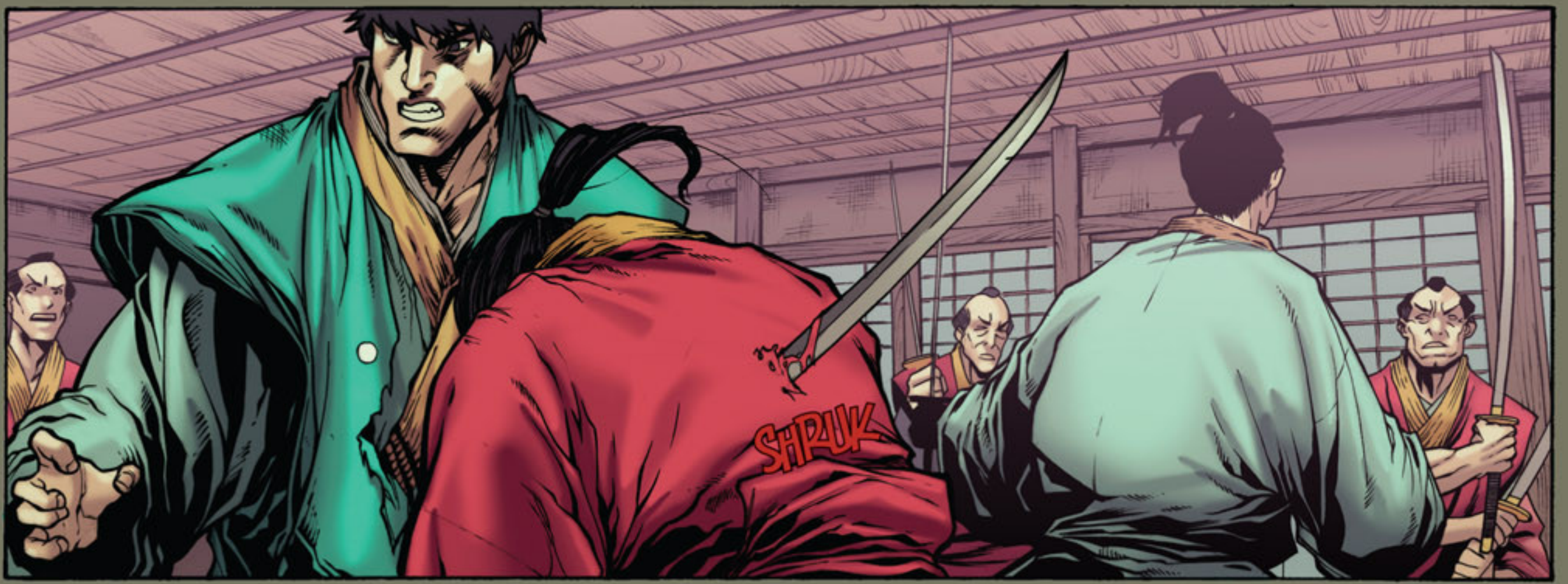
AND YET EVEN THIS ANALYSIS, WITHIN THE MOMENT ITSELF, IS USELESS. WHEN THE POWER OF FATE GRABS THOSE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE CHOSEN, THERE IS NO MORE THINKING.



THERE ARE NO MORE QUESTIONS, OR ANSWERS.



ALL THAT QUESTIONING IS MERELY THE VEIL WE DRAW TO HIDE THE UNMISTAKABLE EVIDENCE OF OUR ENSLAVEMENT TO THESE FEW MOMENTS OF FATE.



A SAMURAI, OR A NINJA, OR ANY TRUE WARRIOR, IS A PERSON WHO CAN OPEN HIS EYES TO THIS BONDAGE, ESCAPE IT, AND BE FREE.













YOU HAVE ALL BEEN SERVING A TRAITOR, AND DEEP IN YOUR HEARTS YOU KNOW IT IS SO!



MY NAME IS SANJO JUNICHI! I AM THE RIGHTFUL DAIMYO OF THIS REALM, THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO CLAN SANJO! YOU HAVE ALL TRANSGRESSED, BUT THOSE TRANSGRESSIONS MAY BE FORGIVEN!

THE USURPER LIES DEAD, AND ANY MAN WHO FALLS TO HIS KNEES AND BEGS FORGIVENESS SHALL RECEIVE IT!







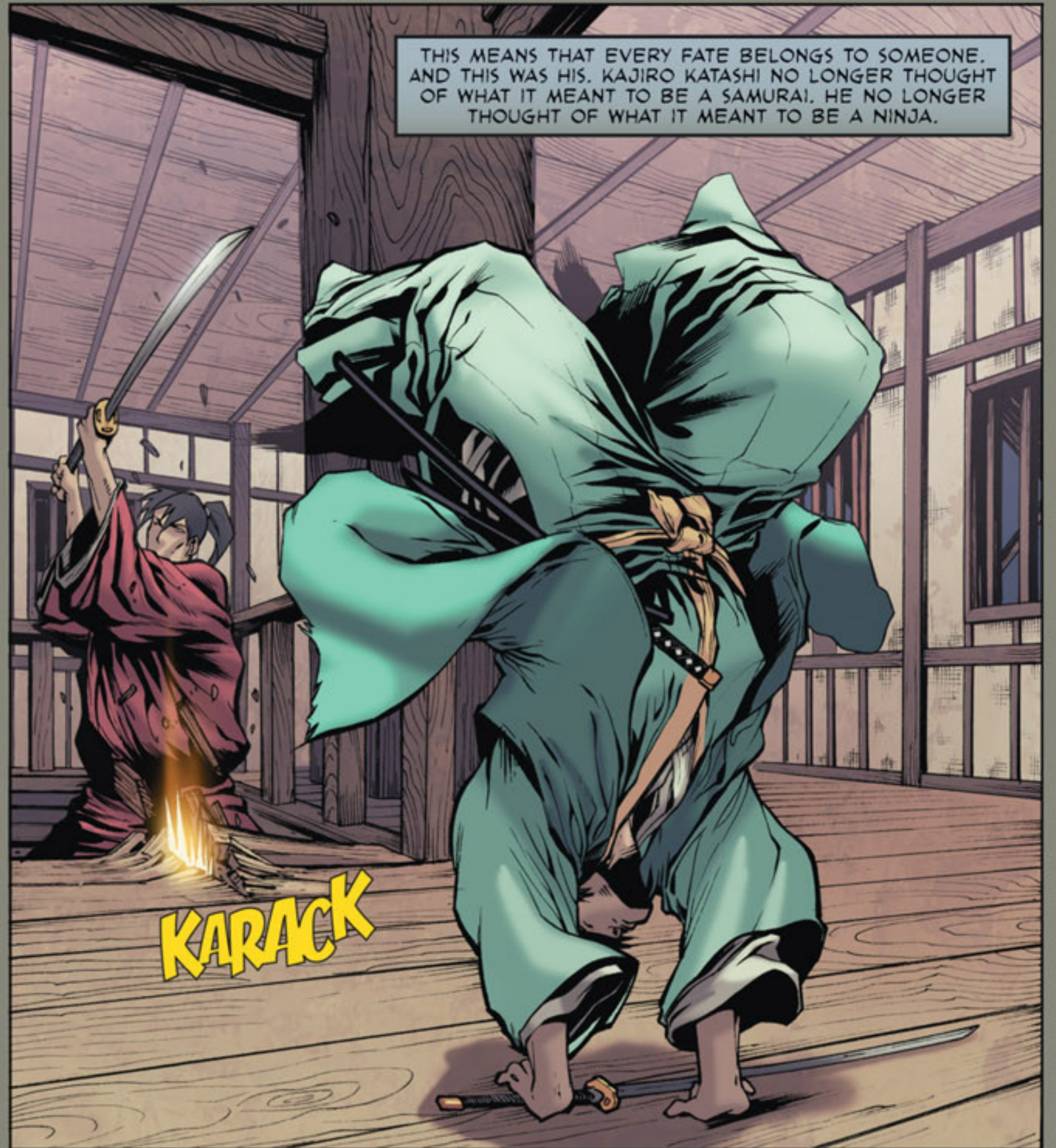






FATE DOES NOT EXIST AS AN ABSTRACTION. WE MUST FILL FATE WITH OURSELVES IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE REALIZED.







HE NO LONGER  
THOUGHT OF HIS PRIDE.



HE NO LONGER  
THOUGHT OF MAYUKO.



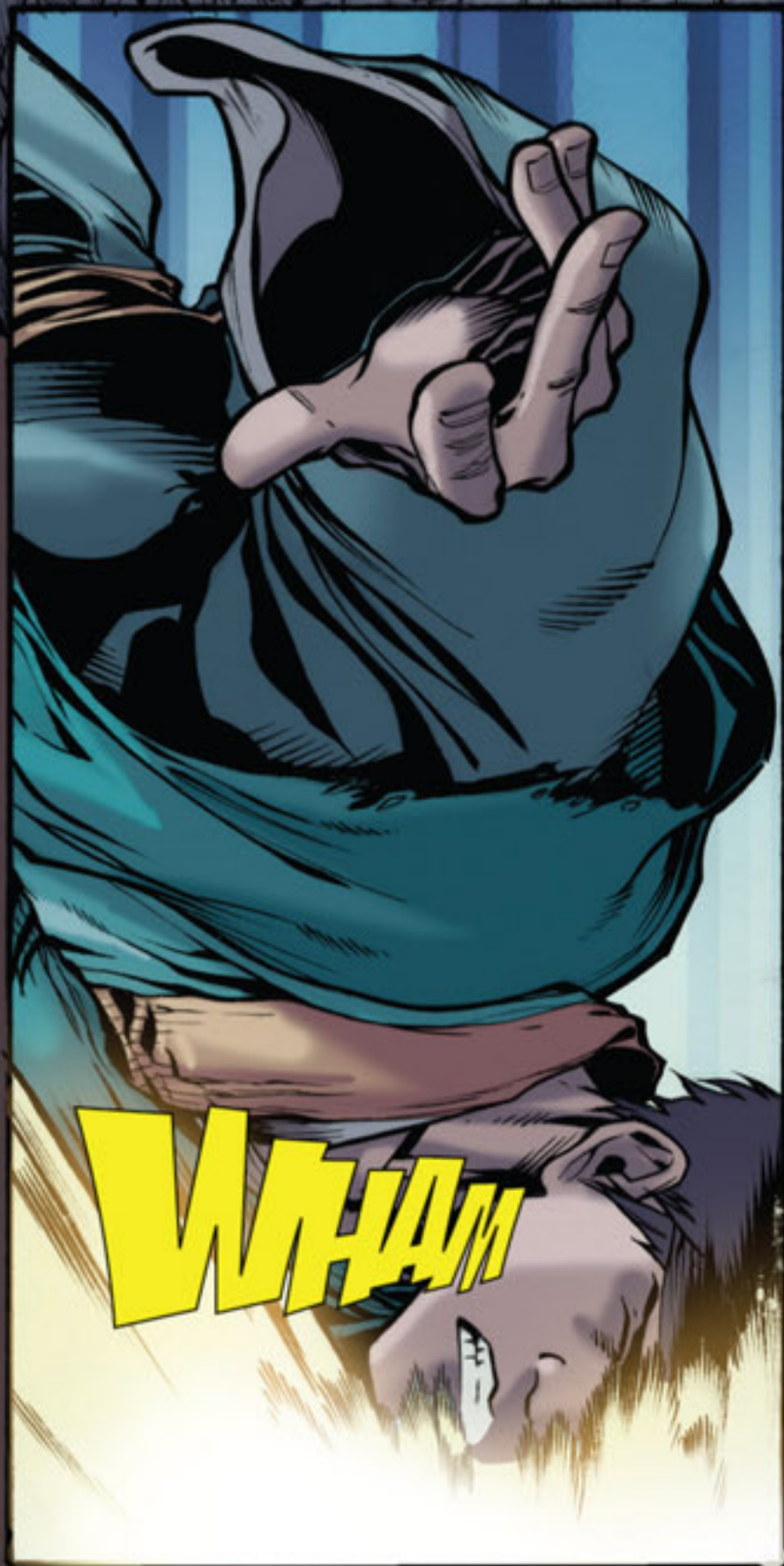
HE NO LONGER  
THOUGHT OF HIS FATHER.



HE NO LONGER THOUGHT  
OF LIVING AND DYING.

GOODBYE,  
DOG!

EVEN TRAPPED DEEP INSIDE A CAVERN OF PAIN, HE HAD REACHED A PLACE OF STILLNESS.







FOR THIS IS THE SECRET OF THE SAMURAI AND THE NINJA.



RID YOURSELF OF ALL AFFECTATION.



BRING NOTHING TO BATTLE BUT YOUR ANIMAL SPIRIT.



ALLOW FATE TO TAKE CONTROL, AND CAST AWAY ALL DESIRES BUT ONE.

Nooooooooooooo!!!

OH YES!





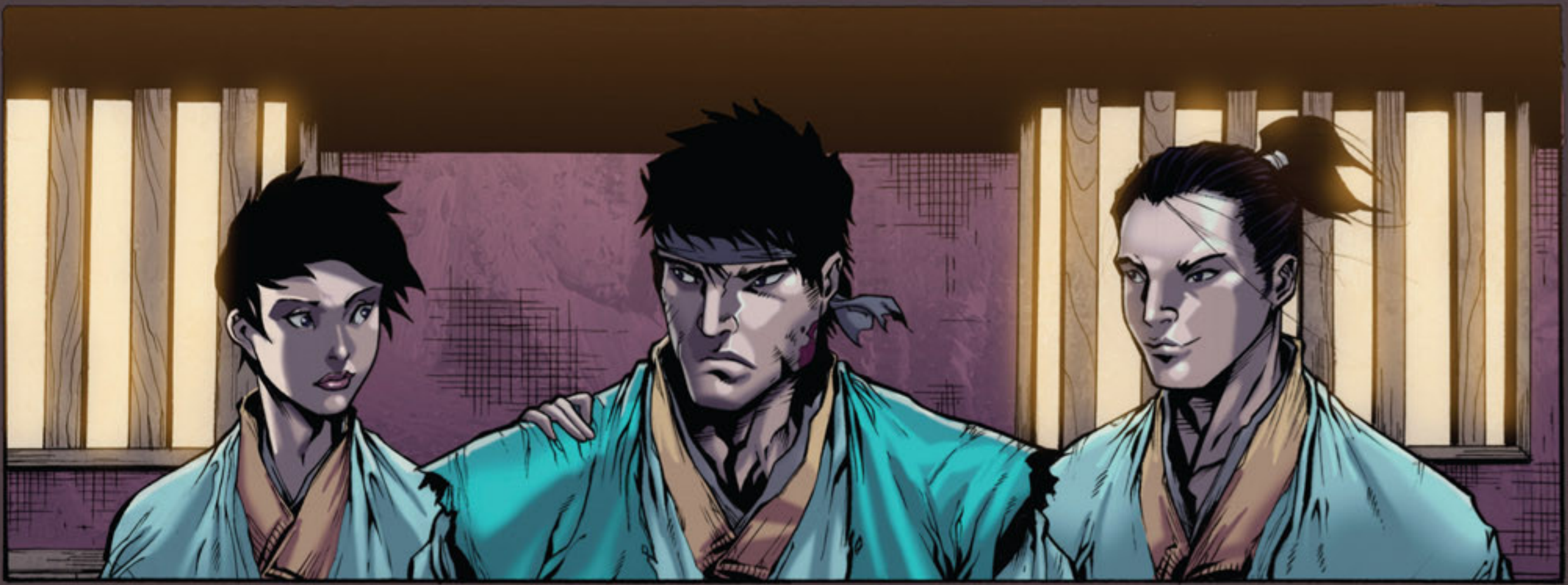
VENGEANCE PROMISES NOTHING. IT SOLVES NOTHING.  
IT IS ITSELF A PROMISE. AND END, NOT MEANS.



A ROCK STRONG  
ENOUGH TO STAND UP  
AGAINST THE CURRENT.



ONE REAL THING IN  
A WORLD FILLED WITH  
SHADOWS AND MADNESS.







In this world nothing is truly possessed nor truly lost.  
Only steered this way or that on its journey through this endless sea.  
Each fate gives way to another.  
All the important battles last far longer than a single human life.  
And so each end is a beginning as well.