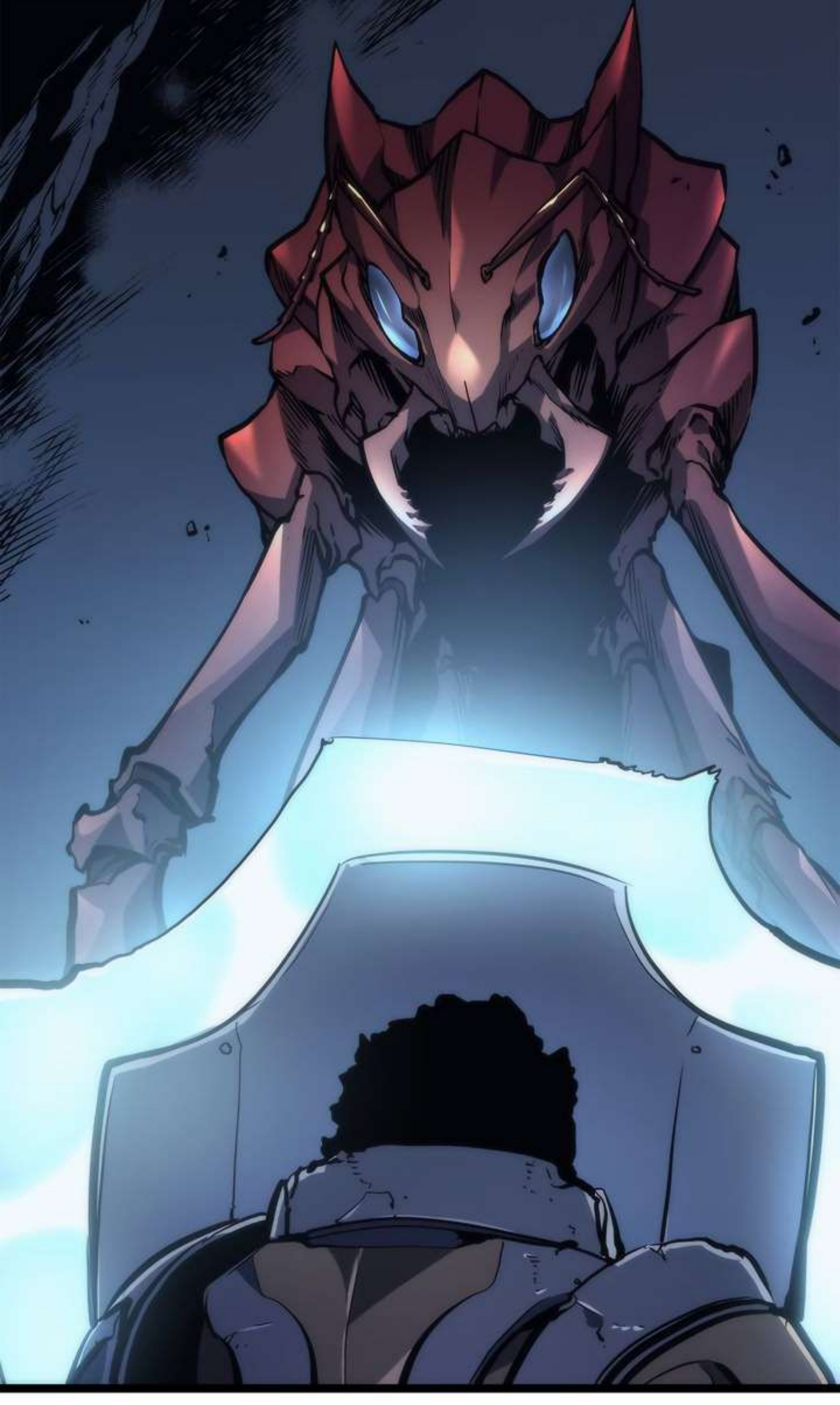


Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

97

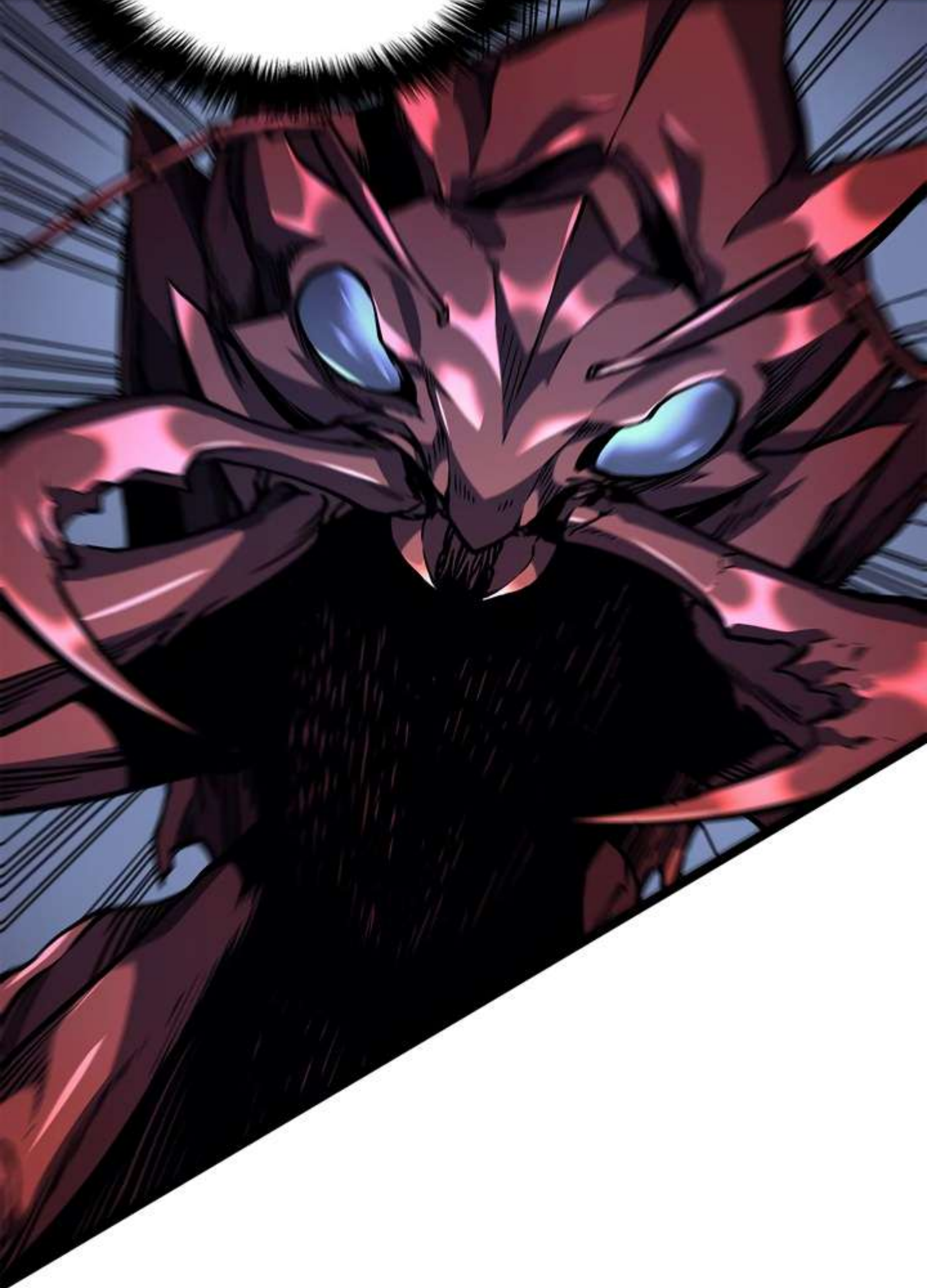


SO THESE
GUYS ARE THE
QUEEN'S ROYAL
GUARDS....!



LOOKS LIKE EACH
ONE IS BASICALLY
AN S-RANK.

BUT IN THE END,
BEASTS ARE
BEASTS.

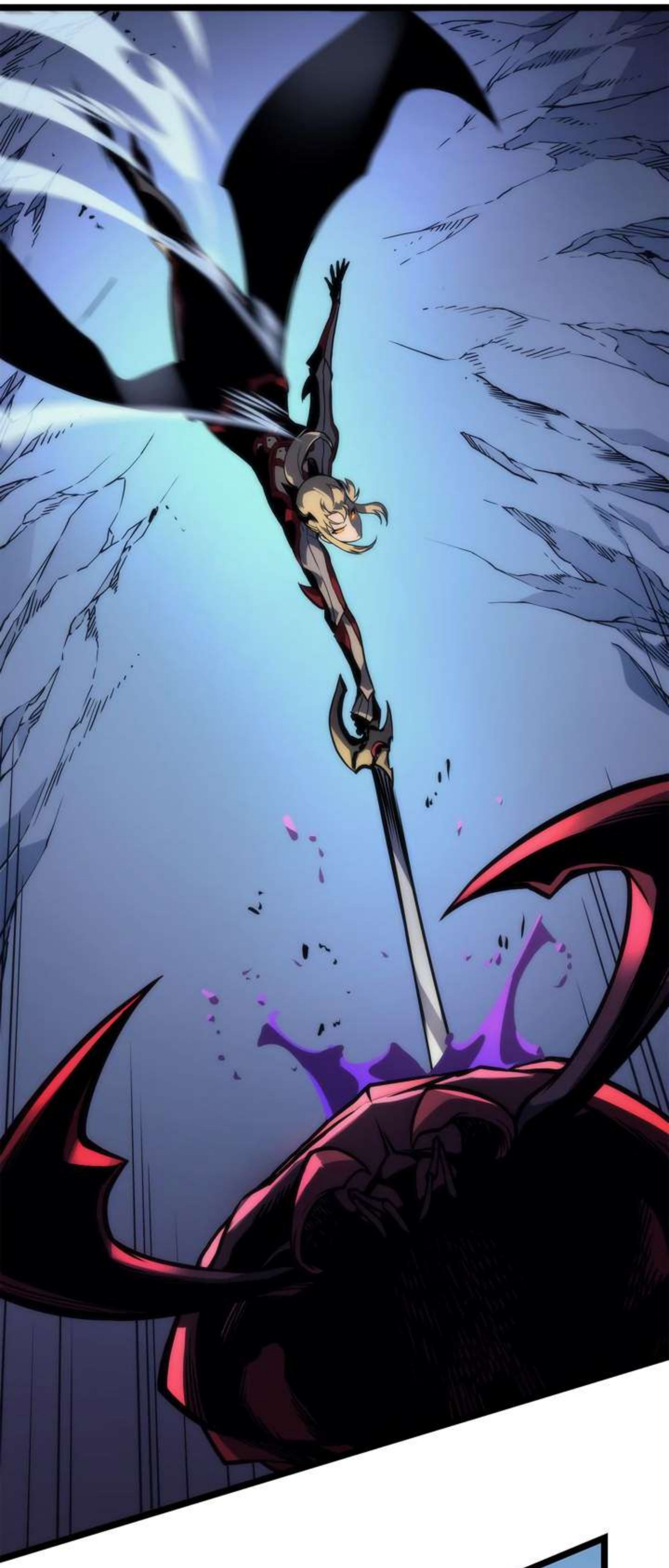


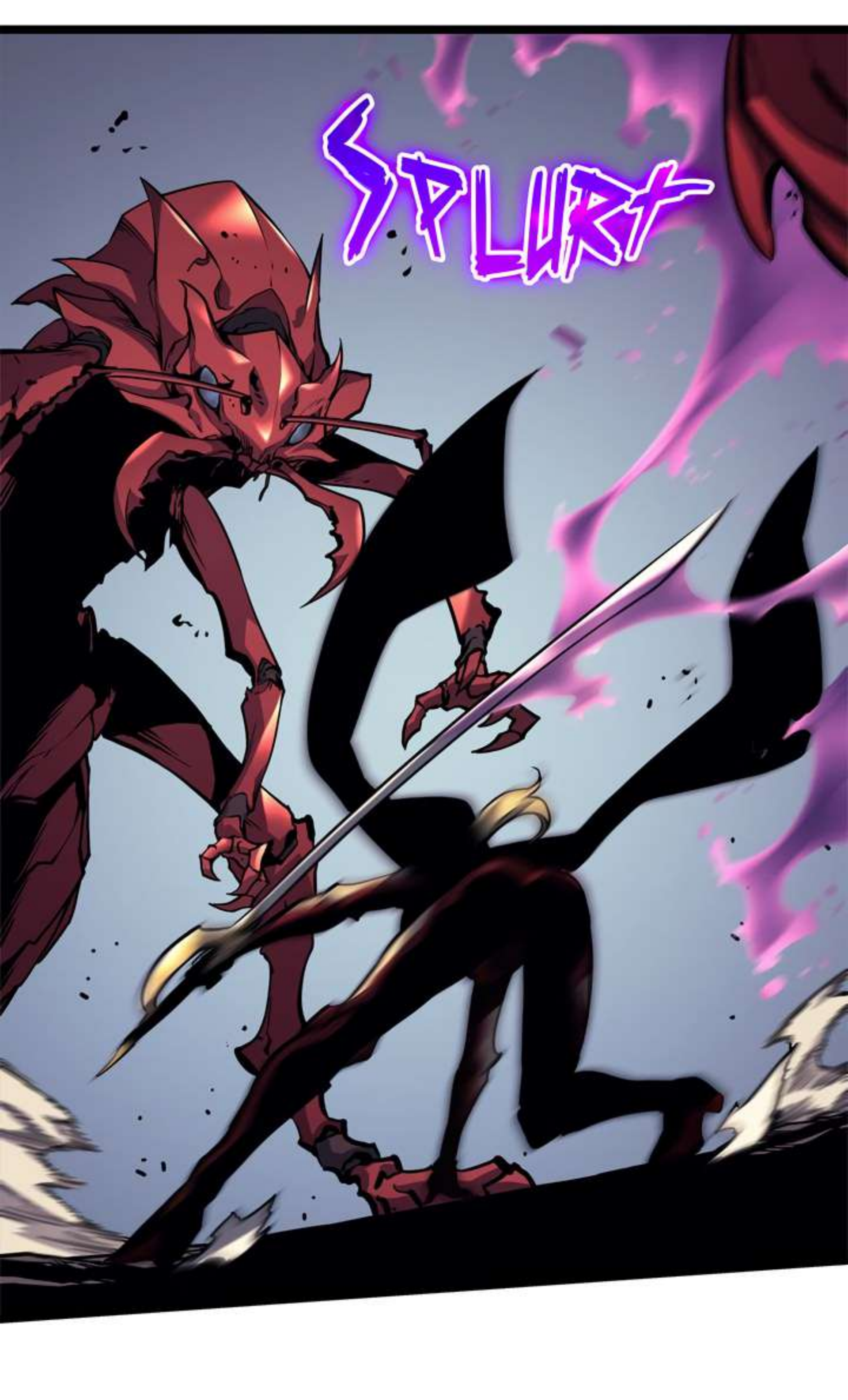
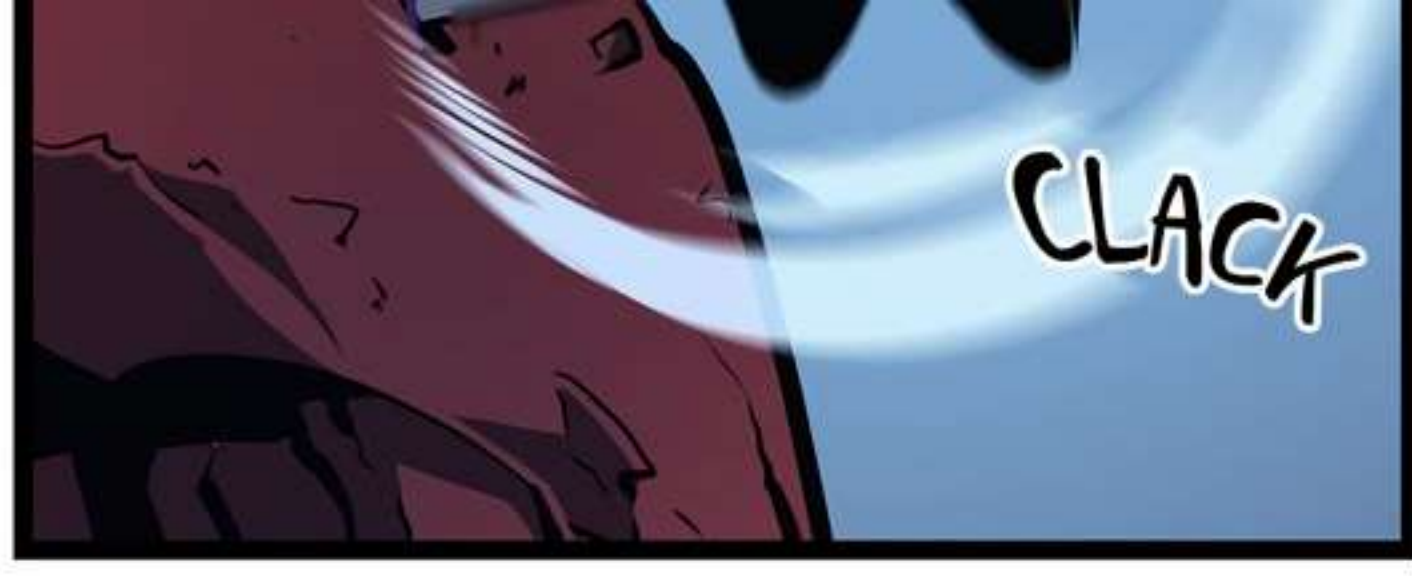
*UNLIKE HUNTERS,
WHO USE A WIDE
VARIETY OF BATTLE
TACTICS, THEIR
MOVEMENTS ARE
LIMITED!*

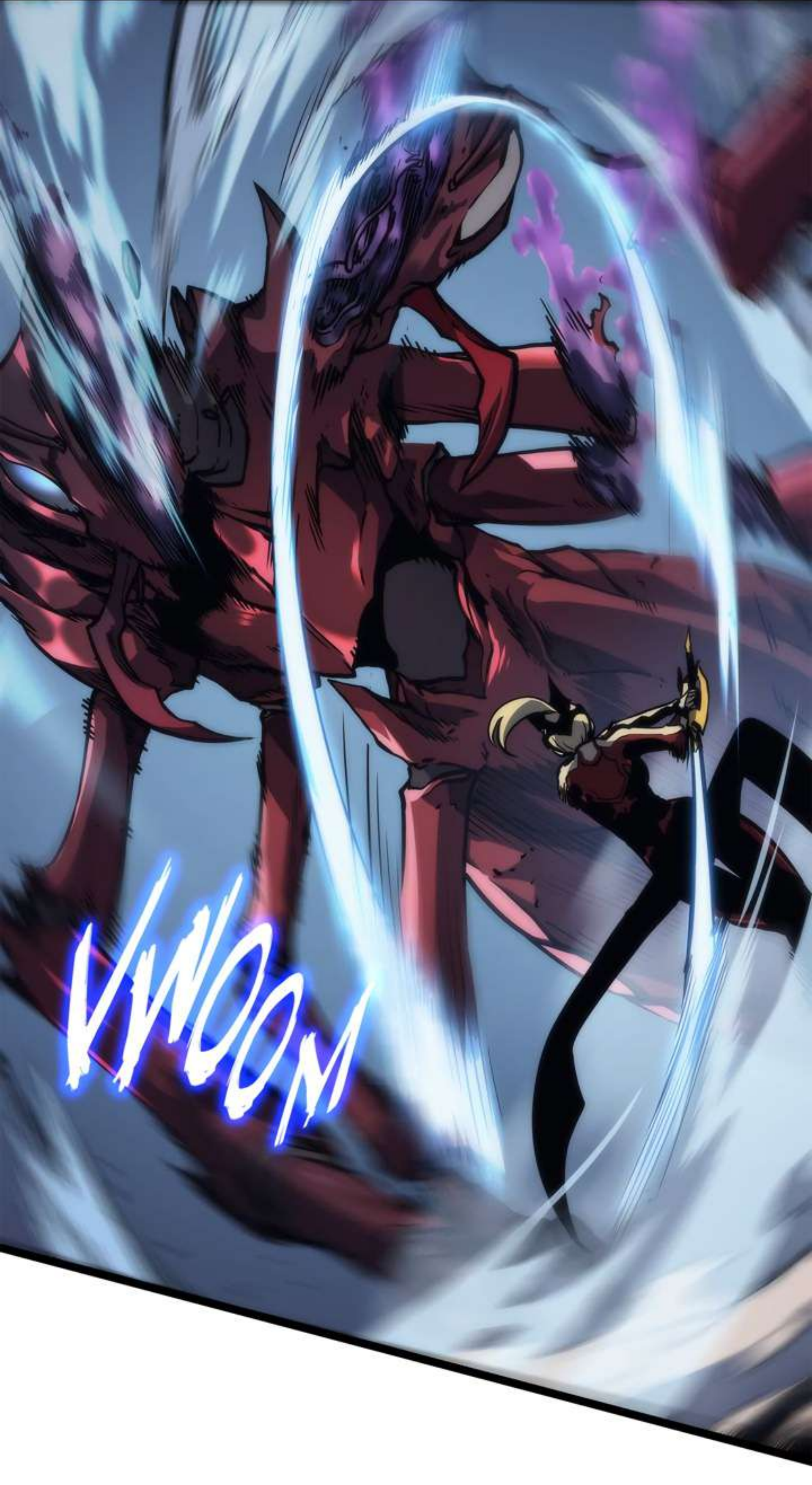




CLANG







THEIR BODIES
ARE PRETTY
TOUGH.



WAY MORE THAN
I THOUGHT THEY
WOULD BE.



THESE ROYAL
GUARDS ARE
DIFFERENT FROM
REGULAR ANTS.



I'M JUST GLAD
THERE AREN'T
THAT MANY OF
THEM.



DON'T
WORRY.

I'M HERE TO
BACK YOU UP.

I GUESS YOU
AREN'T ALWAYS A
SCAREDY-CAT.

SWISH

SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF, MAN.
STOP ACTING LIKE
AN AMATEUR.



DID YOU
FORGET? EVEN IF
YOU CRUSH THEIR SKULLS,
THEY CAN REMAIN ALIVE
FOR QUITE SOME
TIME.

YOU HAVE TO
EITHER CUT OFF THEIR
LIMBS, OR MAKE SURE
YOU FINISH THEM OFF
FOR GOOD.



UH... RIGHT!

EVEN THOUGH THE
QUEEN ISN'T IN HER
CHAMBER, HER ROYAL
GUARDS ARE
HERE.

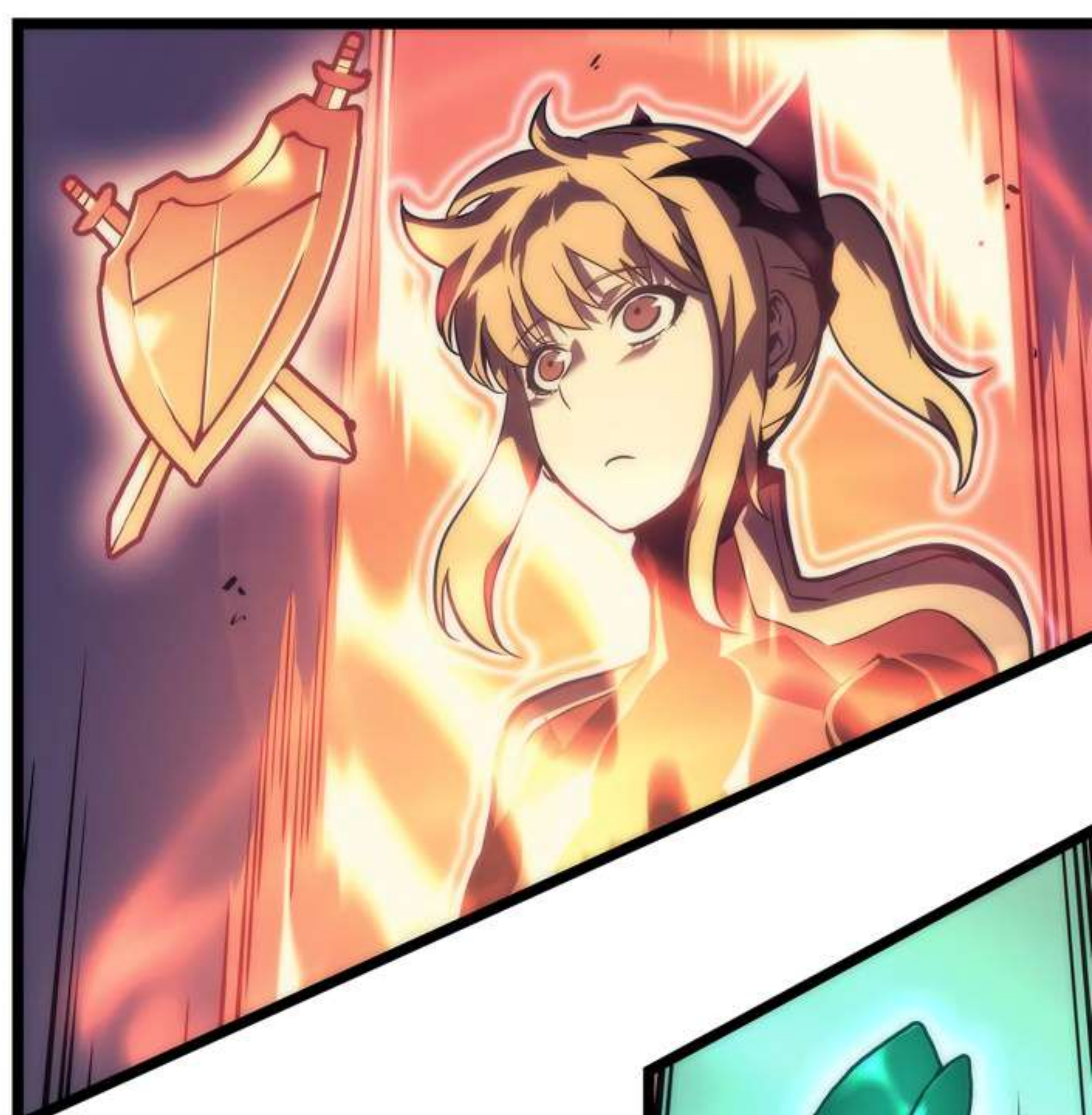
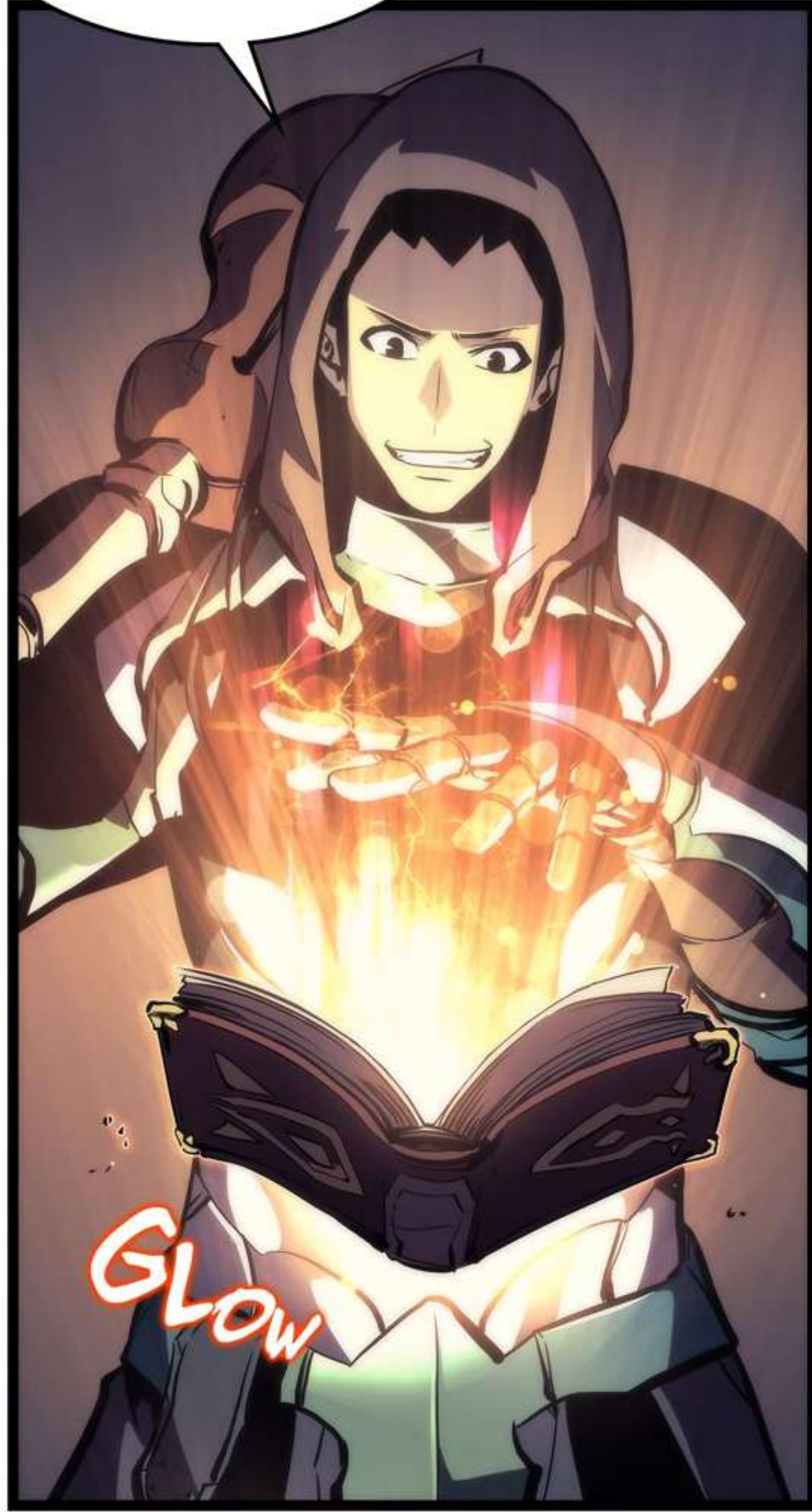
BUT THESE ONES
LOOK LIKE THEY'RE
FROM AN OLDER
GENERATION...

THIS IS JUST
A GUESS,
BUT...

I THINK THEY
WERE CAST OUT
BECAUSE THEY'RE
FIRST-GENERATION
ANTS.

THAT
MEANS A SLEW OF
SECOND-GENERATION
GUARDS MAY BE
WAITING FOR US
UP AHEAD.

THEN WE'D BETTER
MAKE SURE WE'RE
PREPARED!



I FEEL A
NEWFOUND STRENGTH
COURSING THROUGH
MY BODY!

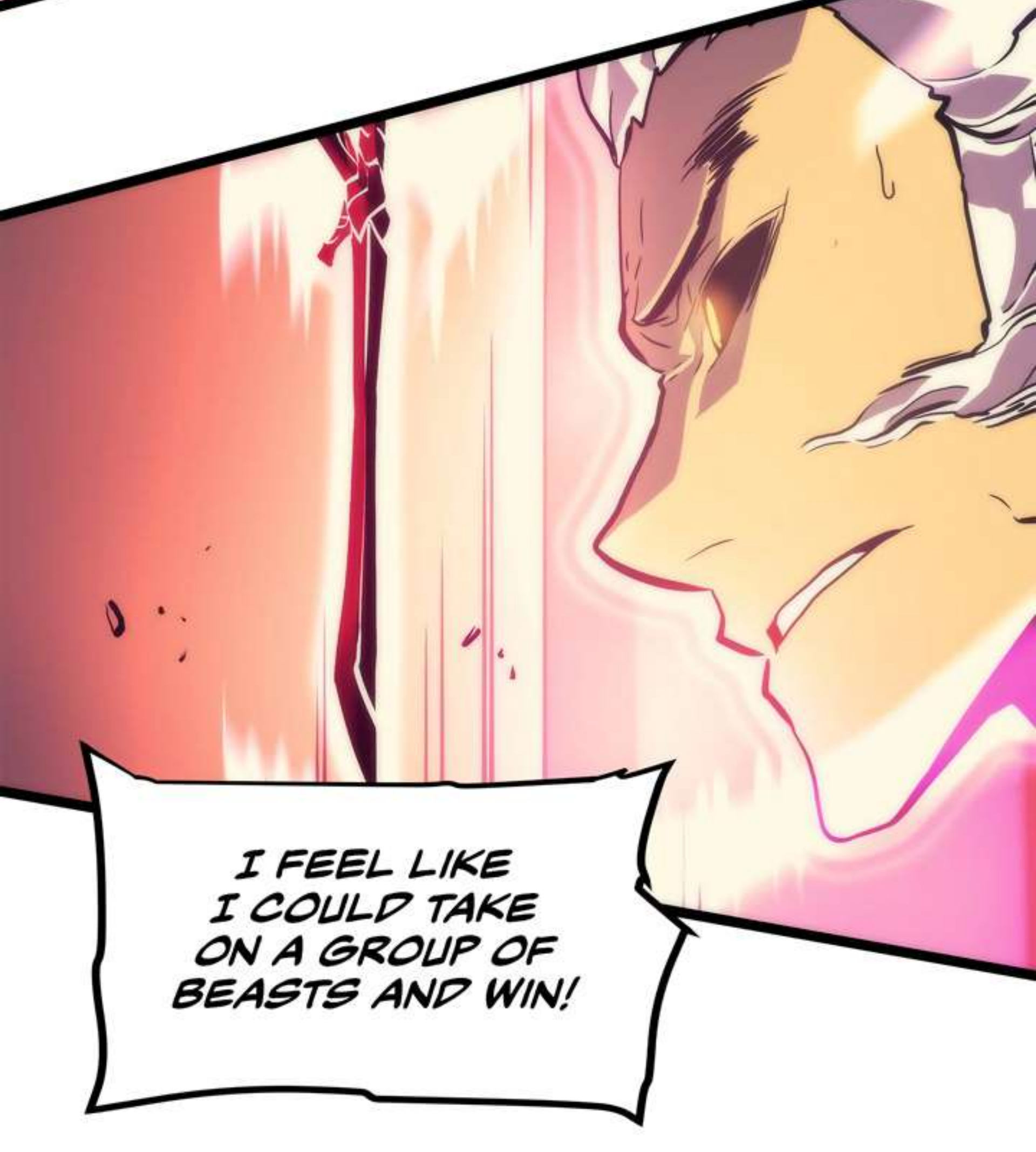




IN FACT,
I DON'T JUST FEEL
REFRESHED,



I FEEL LIKE
I COULD TAKE
ON A GROUP OF
BEASTS AND WIN!



THEN HOW ABOUT
WE EACH TAKE ON
10 ANTS?



I'VE GOT
THE COMBAT
SKILLS OF AN
A-RANK,

SO I CAN TAKE
CARE OF ONE OR

TWO STRAGGLERS
IF NEEDED.

DO YOU REALLY
THINK I'M CRAZY
ENOUGH TO RELY
ON A HEALER?

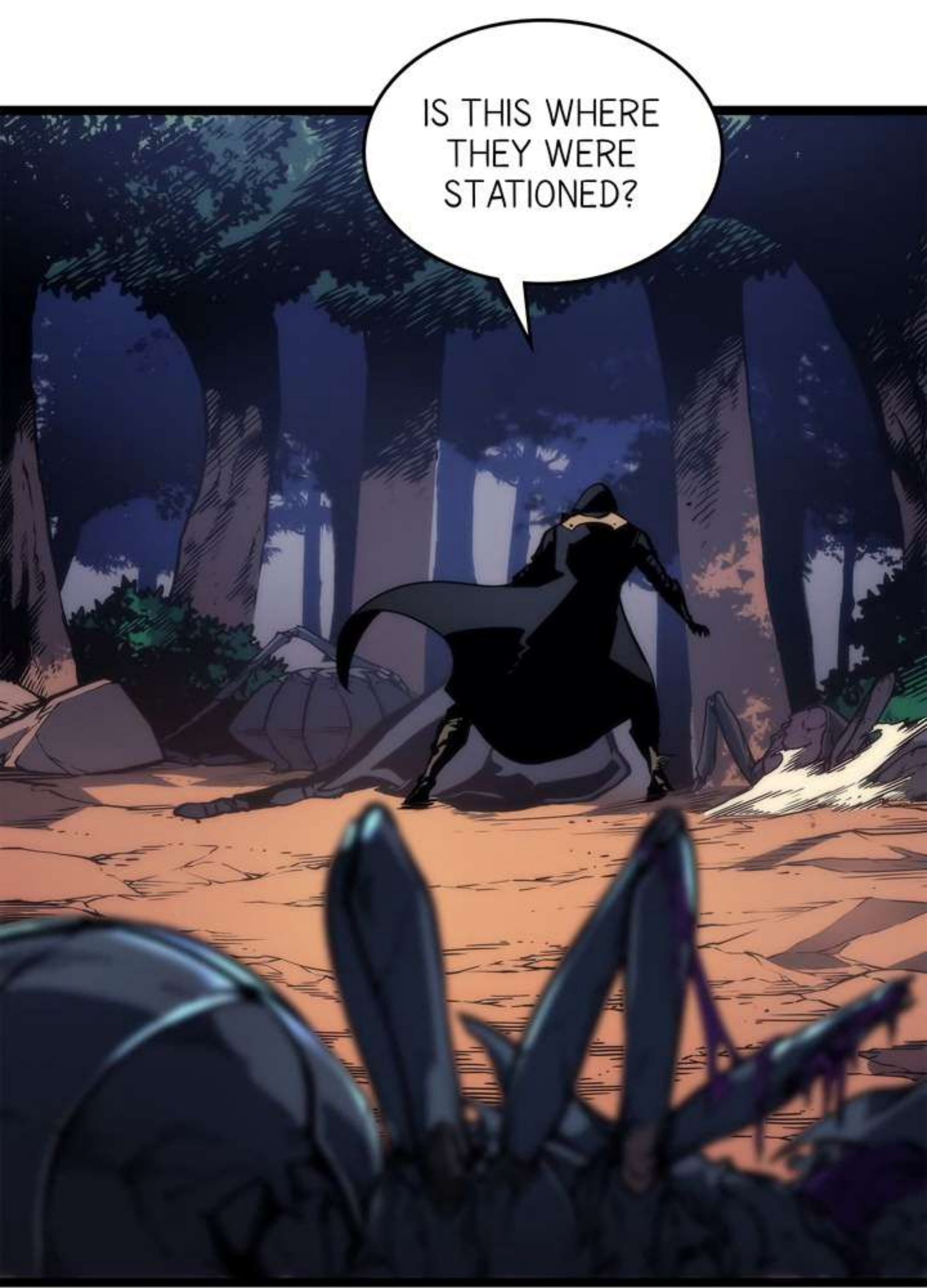
THESE BLUFFS YOU'VE
GIVEN US SHOULD BE
MORE THAN ENOUGH,
SO STAND BACK AND
WATCH HOW IT'S
DONE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE
WE HAVE TO GO CHECK
UP ON TEAM CHARLIE
BECAUSE WE LOST
CONTACT WITH
THEM...

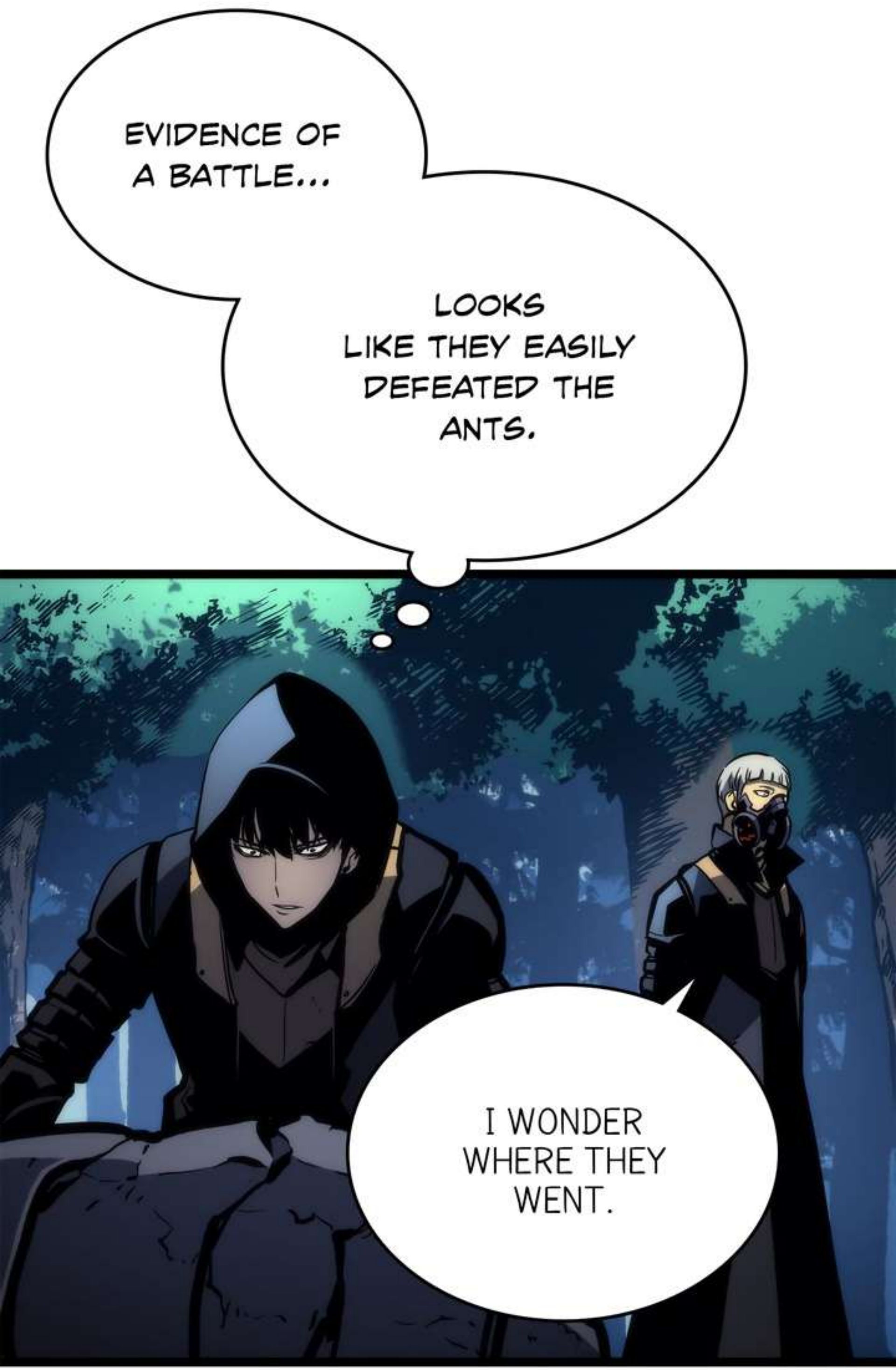
WHAT THE
HELL ARE THEY
UP TO?



HEY, SLOW
DOWN.



IS THIS WHERE
THEY WERE
STATIONED?



EVIDENCE OF
A BATTLE...

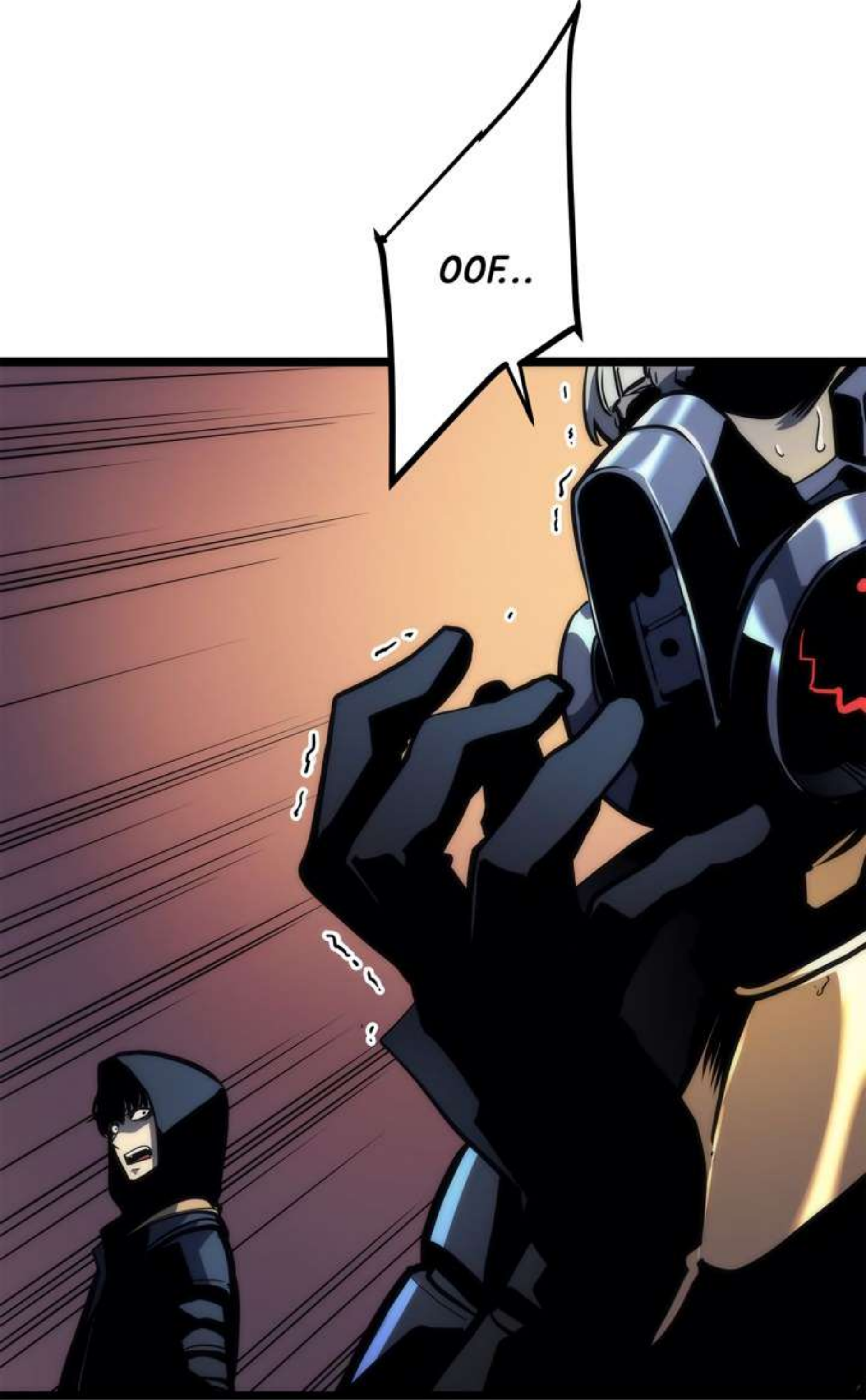
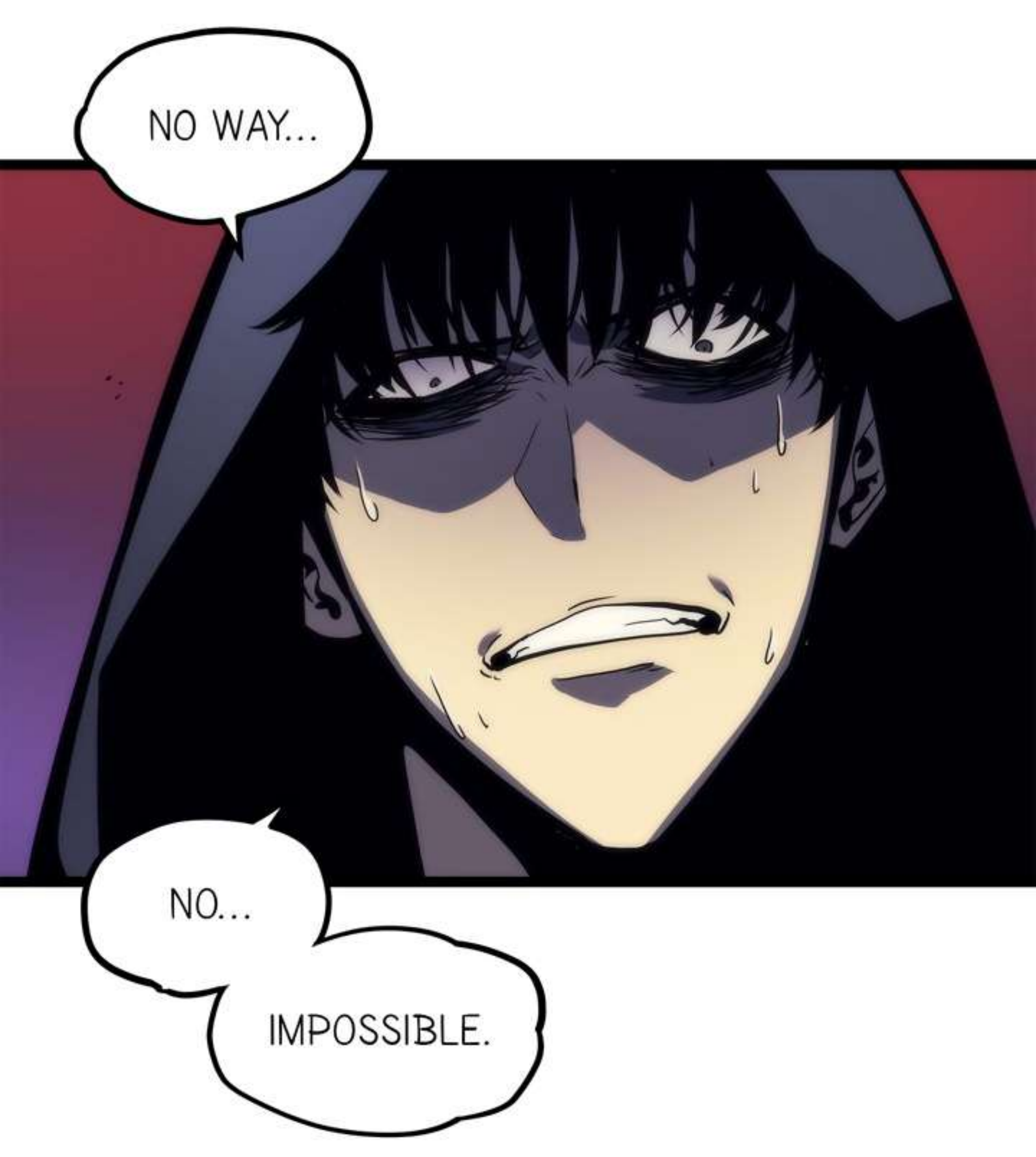
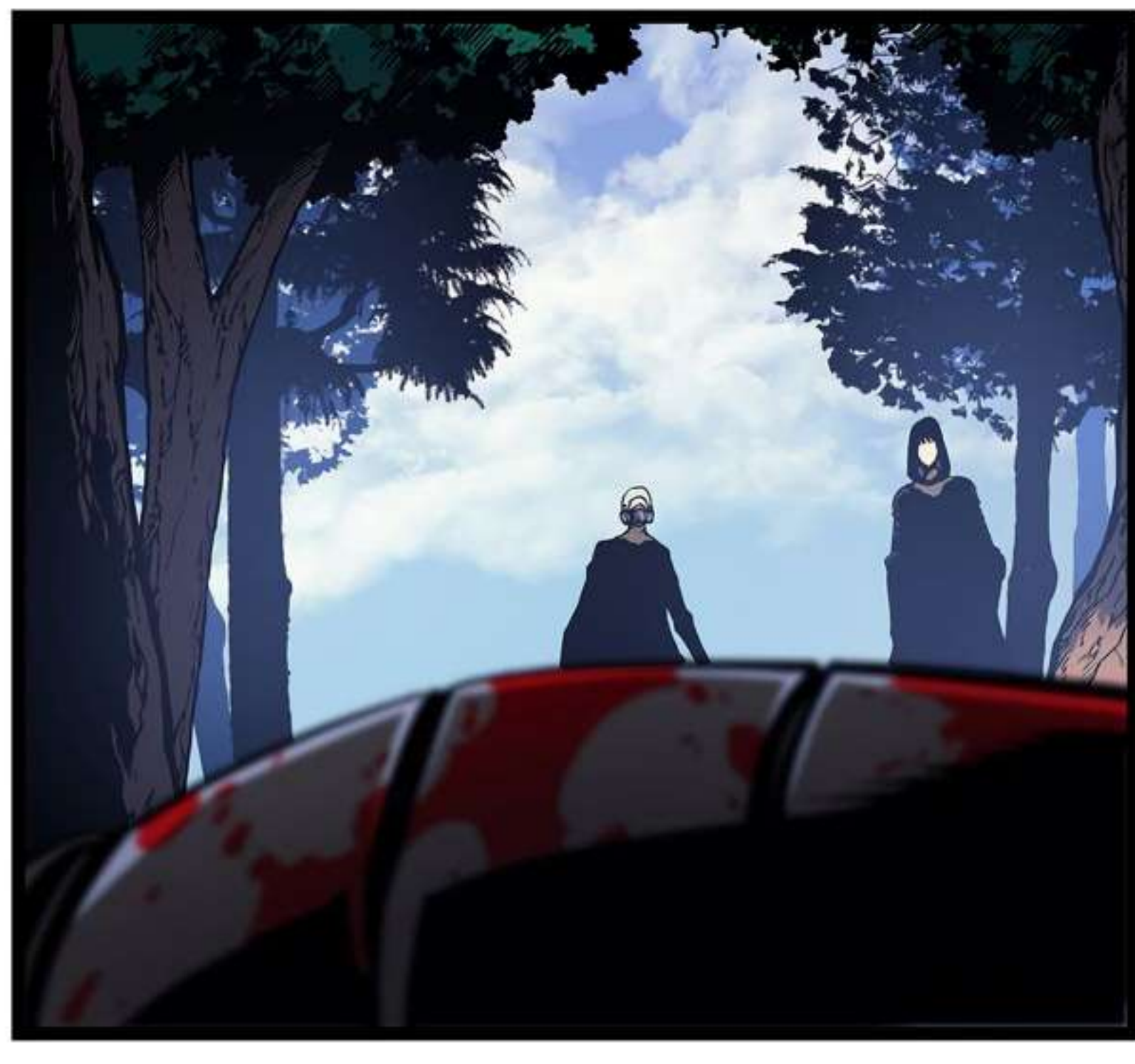
LOOKS
LIKE THEY EASILY
DEFEATED THE
ANTS.

I WONDER
WHERE THEY
WENT.



FUJISHIMA'S
GLASSES?





KEI, WHAT'S
WRONG?!

WHAT IS
THAT AWFUL
SMELL...?!

A ROTTEN
STENCH...

I'VE
NEVER SMELLED
ANYTHING LIKE IT
BEFORE!





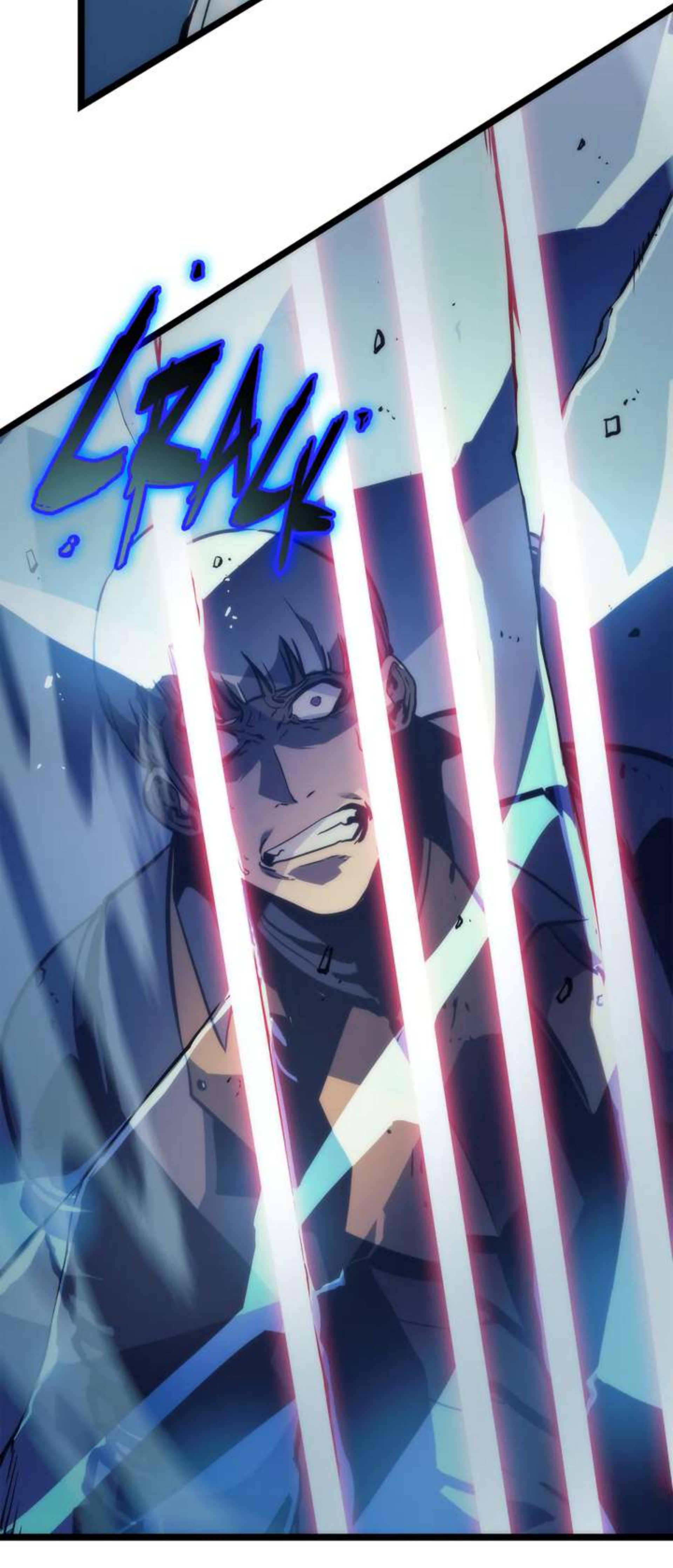
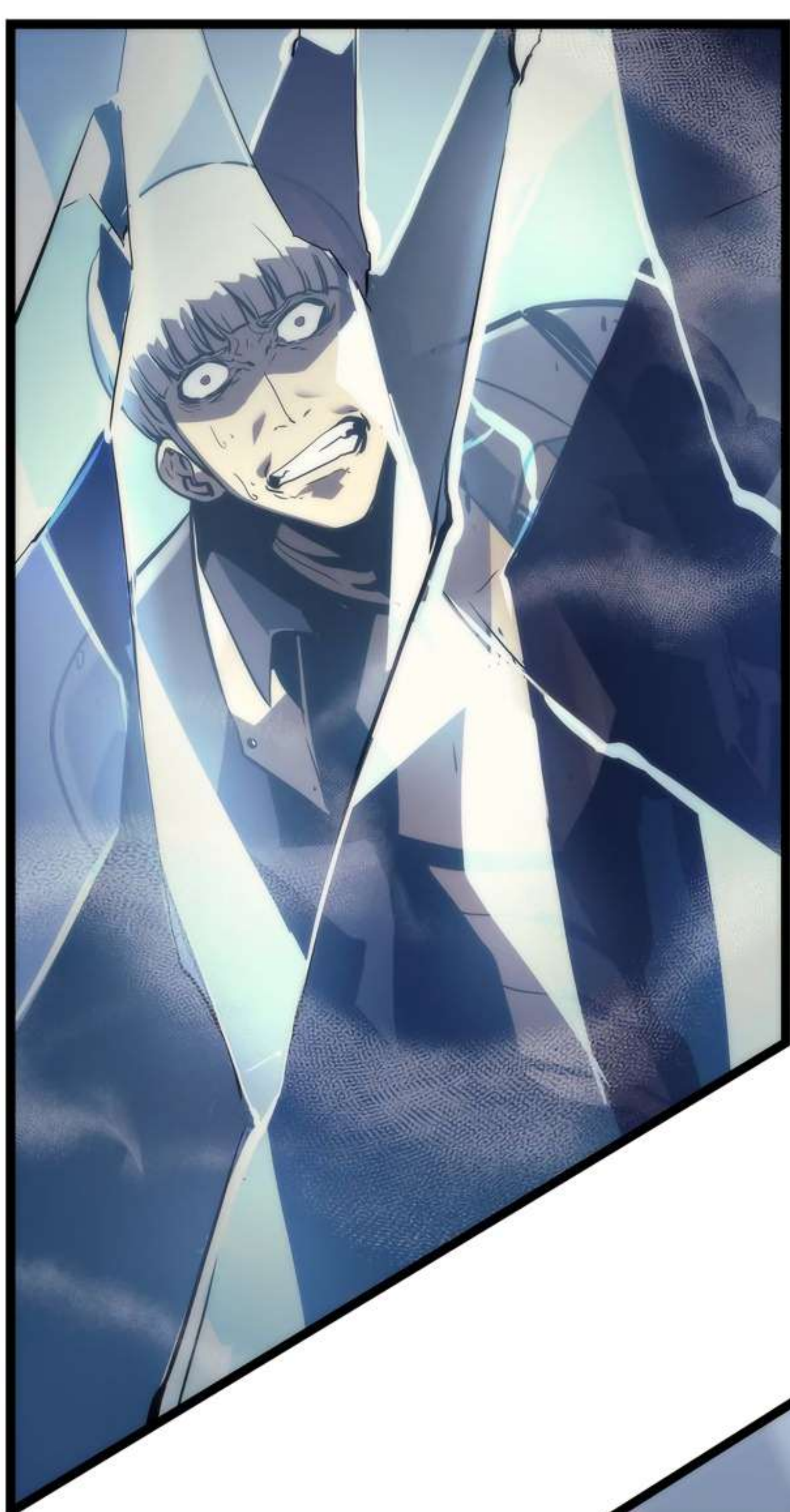
AAAAHHHH!!!

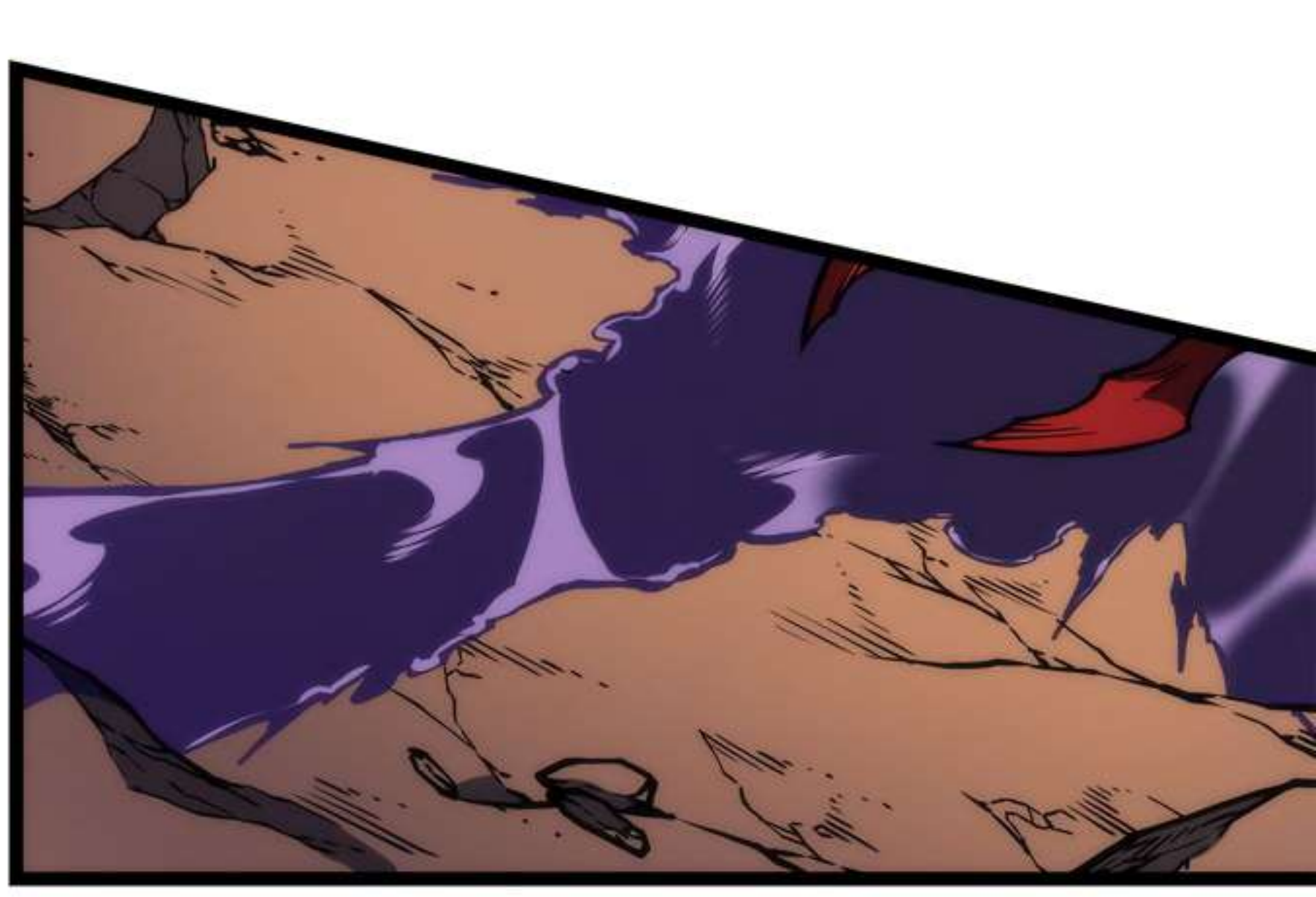


BLAST



FOONNN








DAMN IT... WE
SPENT TOO MUCH
TIME ON THESE
GUYS.


A wide shot of a cave interior. A massive red ant is on the right, its body segmented and glowing with a bright light. Several heroes are positioned around it: a man in a black and white outfit with a white beard, a man in a grey and black suit, a man in a red and black suit, and a woman in a red cape. They are all looking towards the ant.

NO, IT ONLY TOOK FIVE
MINUTES TO DEFEAT THIS
MANY ANTS. WE WERE
PRETTY FAST.



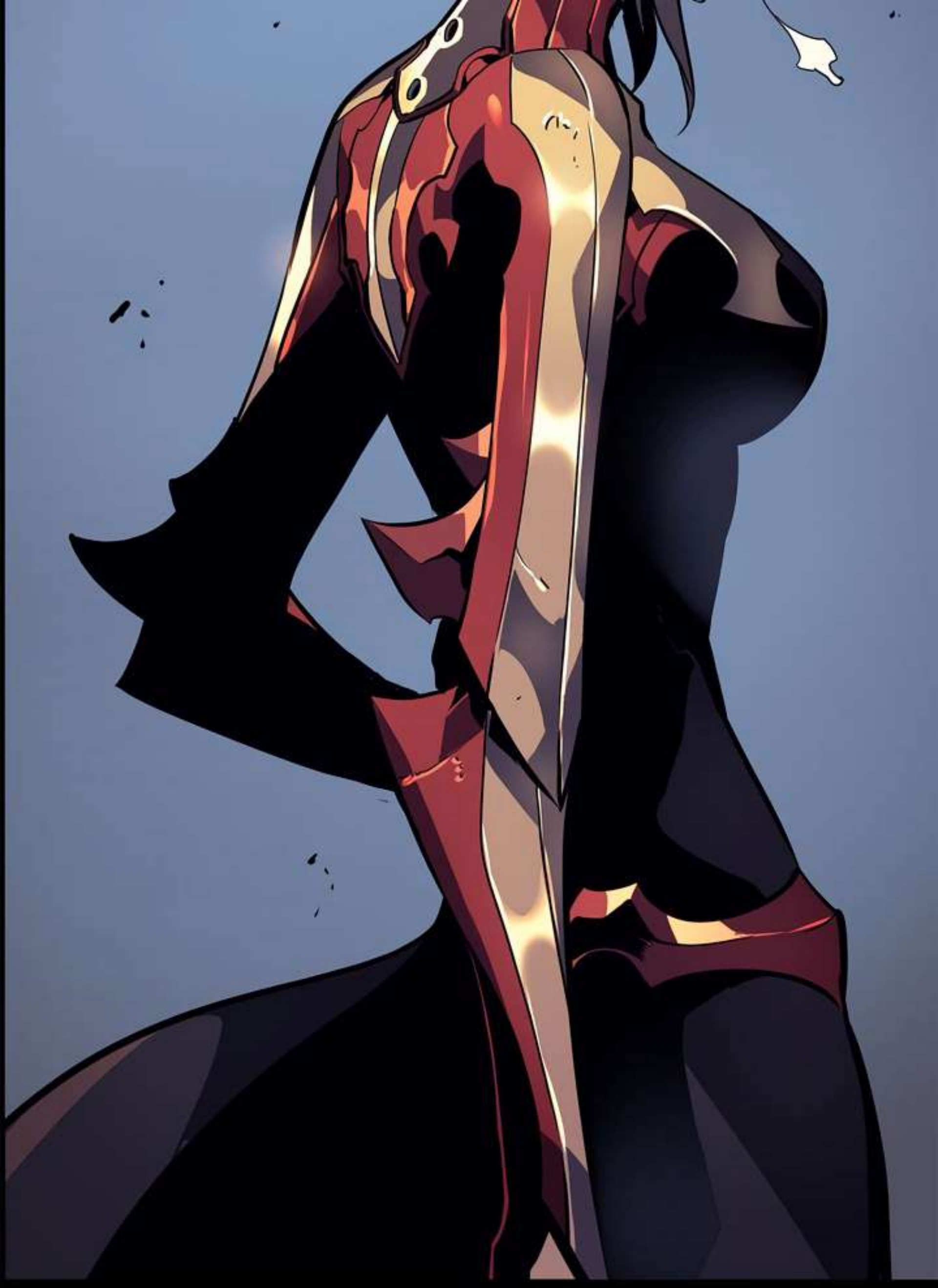
THAT WAS AMAZING.
BYUNG-GU BASICALLY
GAVE HER WINGS.

A close-up of a man's face, looking down with a serious expression. He has dark hair and a yellow eye.



IN THAT SHORT AMOUNT
OF TIME, SHE PROBABLY
SLAUGHTERED AT LEAST
TWICE AS MANY ANTS
AS I DID.

A close-up of a woman's face, looking up with a determined expression. She has blonde hair and a yellow eye.



IT TOOK
US 15 MINUTES TO
REACH THIS POINT.

IT'LL TAKE US LESS
TIME TO GO BACK THE
WAY WE CAME, SO...

I'D SAY WE HAVE
ABOUT 30 MINUTES
LEFT.



NOW WE NEED TO
FIGURE OUT A WAY TO
COMPLETE THIS
RAID...

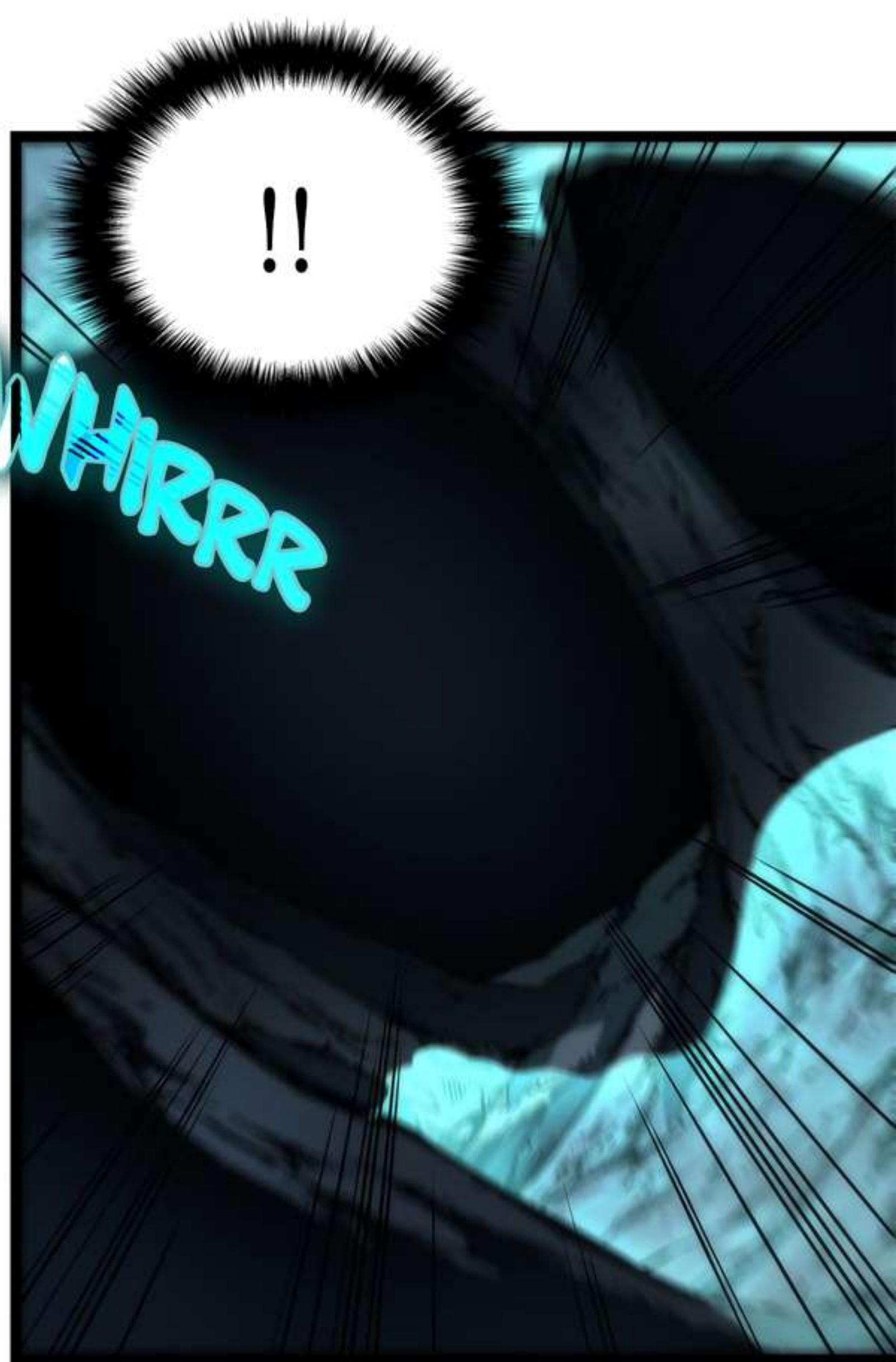
THIS SMELL...



SNIFF
SNIFF

...PROBABLY
BELONGS TO THE
QUEEN. I THINK
SHE'S WITH HER
GUARDS AS
WELL...

LET ME
CHECK.



THAT'S...
THE QUEEN?!



THE QUEEN
IS IN THE VERY
BACK...

...AND THERE ARE
EIGHT GUARDS IN
FRONT OF HER.



THE ROYAL
GUARDS ARE PRETTY
MUCH AS STRONG AS
S-RANKS, BUT...

THE TEAM WILL BE
ABLE TO FINISH THEM
OFF WHILE I CREATE A
DIVERSION AND BUY
THEM TIME.

MS. CHA, I'LL TAKE
ON THE QUEEN. CAN
YOU TAKE CARE OF
THE GUARDS?

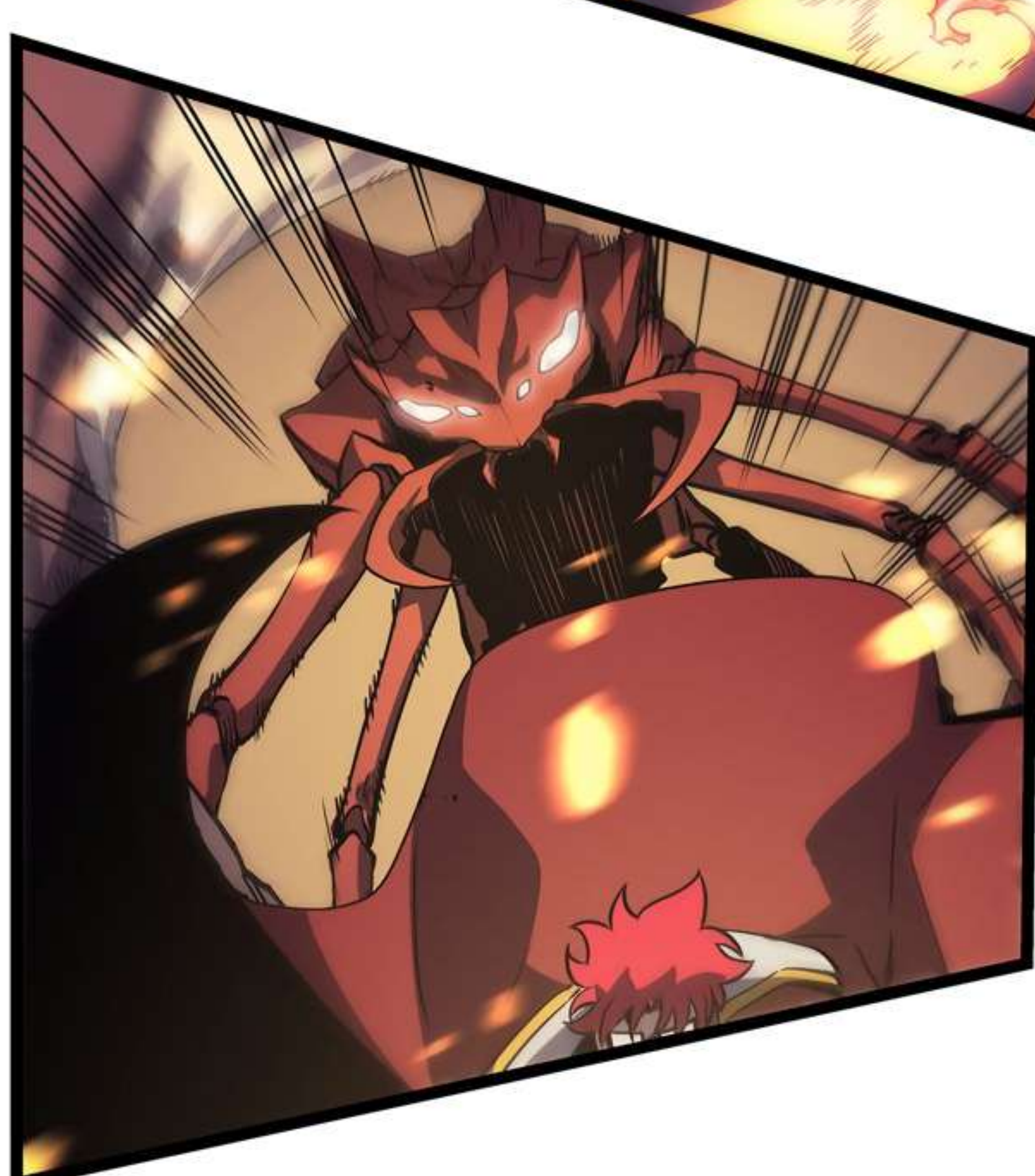
SURE, YOU
CAN COUNT
ON ME.

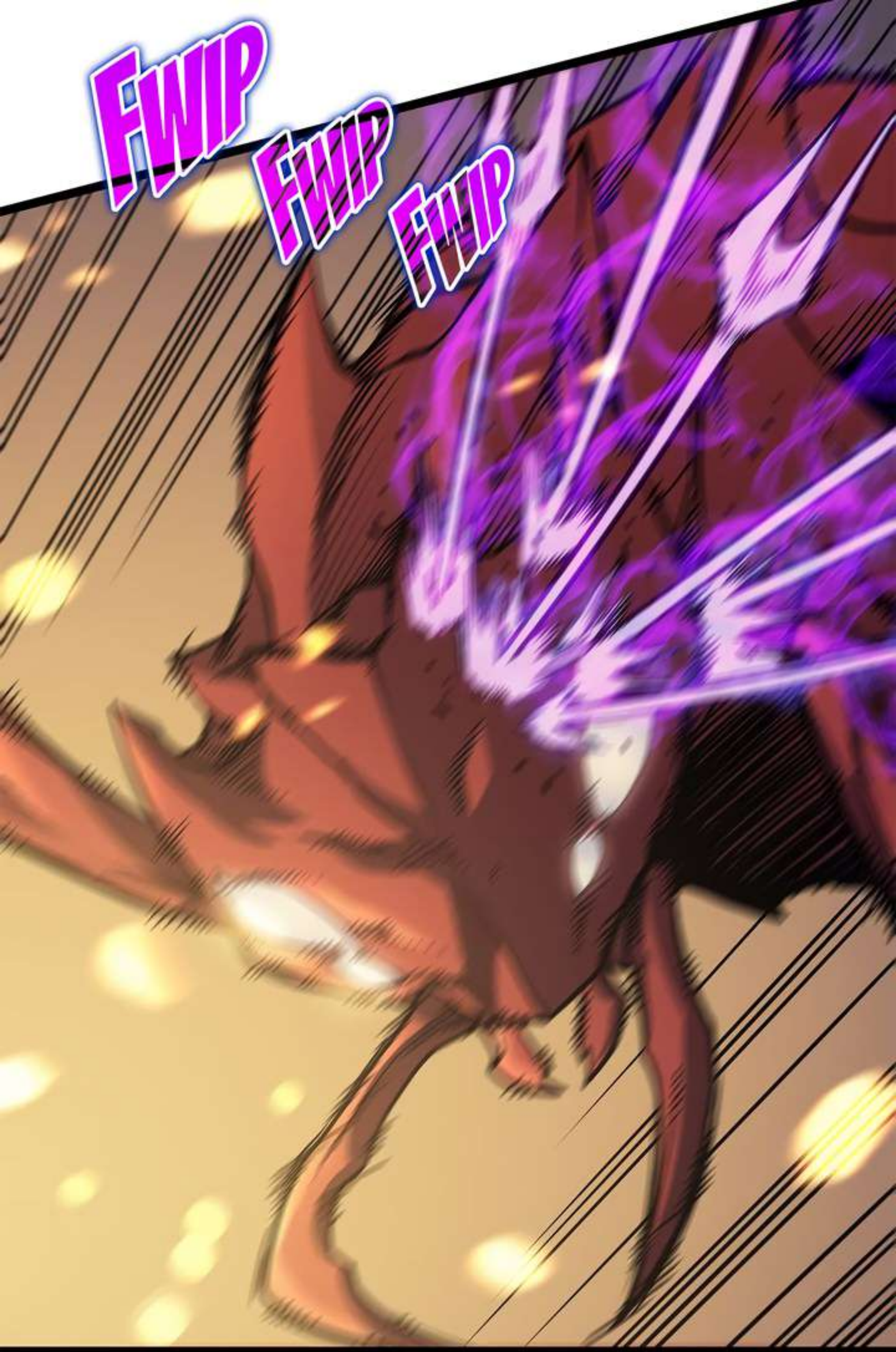


USUALLY I HAVE

USUALLY, I HAVE
TO RESTRAIN
MYSELF,

BUT TODAY, I THINK
IT'D BE A SHAME TO
LET ANY MANA GO
UNUSED.

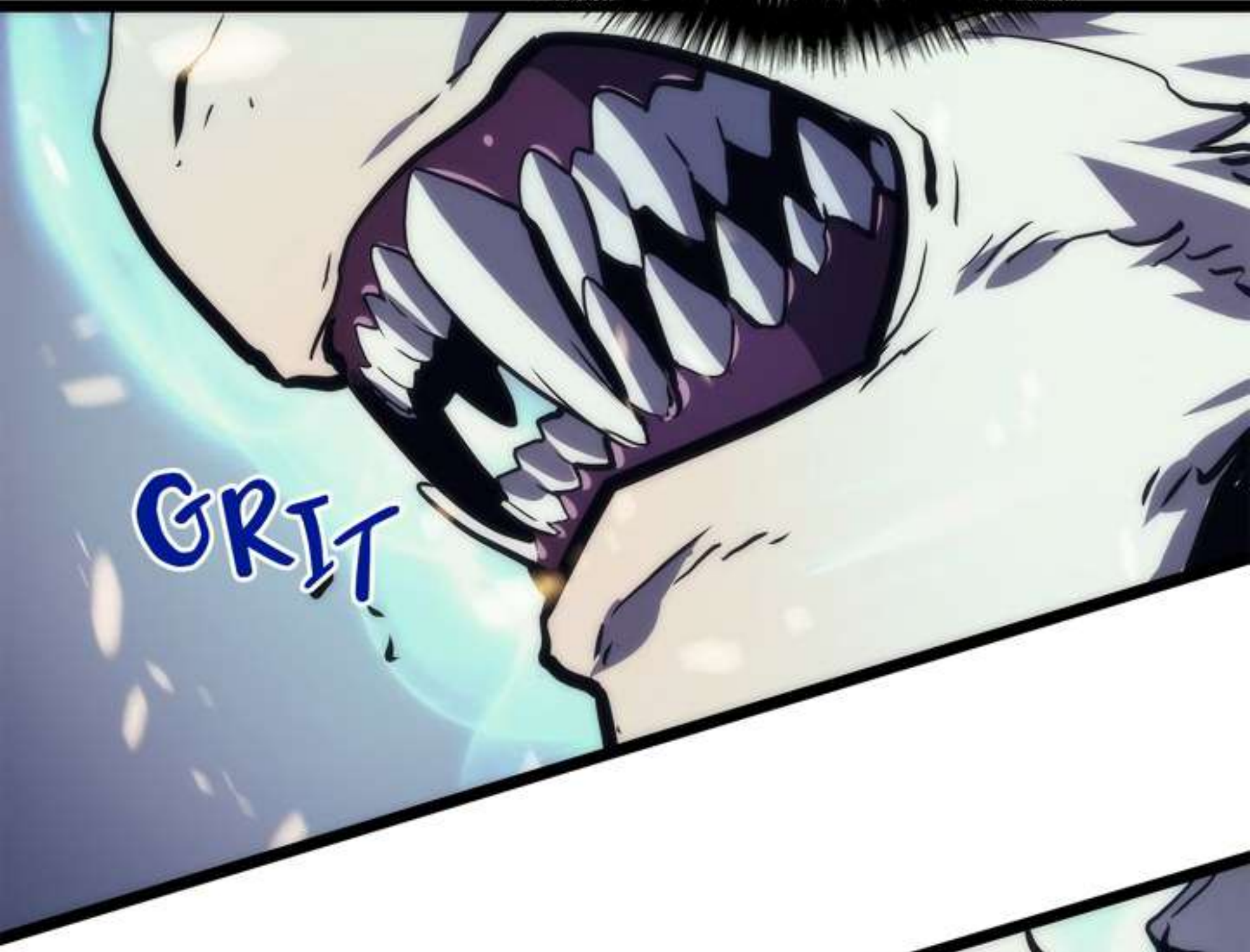




DON'T WORRY,
I'VE GOT YOUR
BACK.



THAT'S RIGHT,
THERE'S NO NEED TO
RESTRAIN MYSELF
ANYMORE.



GRIT



CRACK

I DON'T CARE
IF I TURN INTO
THIS HIDEOUS
FORM...





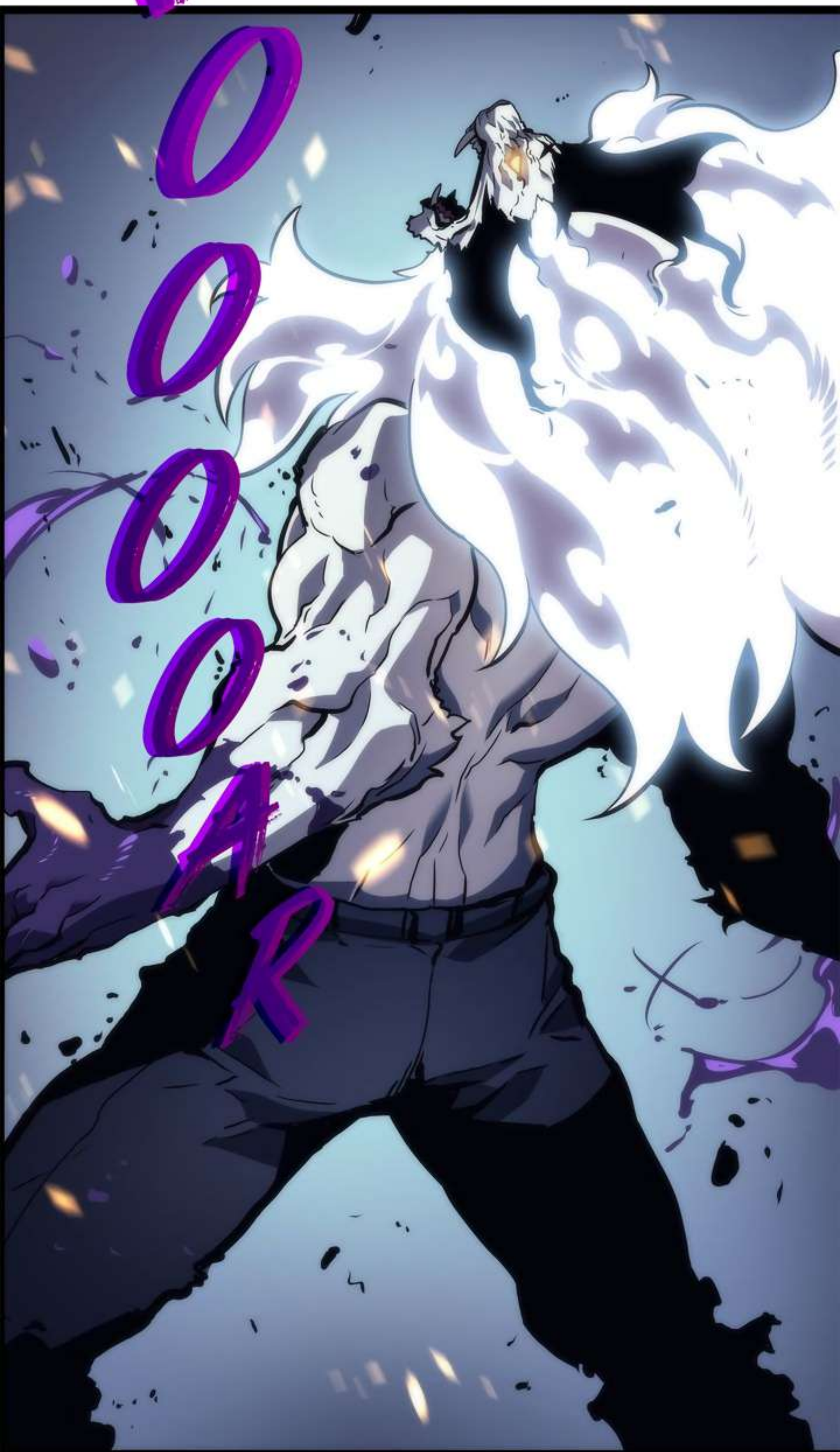
...AS LONG AS
I CAN EXTERMINATE
EVERY SINGLE ONE
OF THESE DAMN
INSECTS!



SO...
THAT'S BAEK
YOONHO'S BEAST
FORM!



R



To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C
WEBTOON

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Editor: Michelle Kim