

IEWWI

Act 1:
Manae



fluffy



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Unity Book I: Ascent
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Lewi, Act 1: Manae

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Chapter 1
Determination





I won't **stand** for it! No daughter of **mine** is going into the... the **clergy!**

They operate on **faith**, without **any** rigor **whatsoever!** Their entire **worldview** is **post hoc ergo propter hoc!**

Dad...



I can't **believe** you would even **consider** this. If your mother were here, do you know what she'd say?!

y..Yeah...
I do...

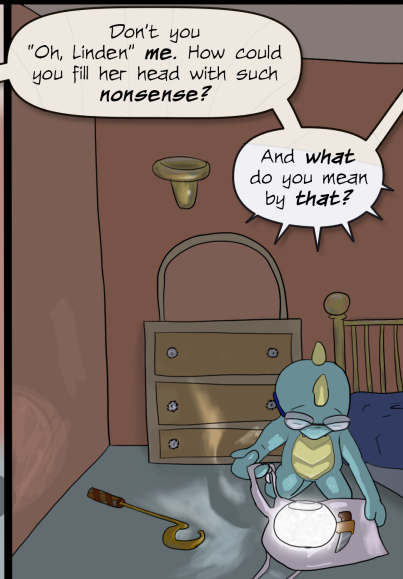


I talked to her last night. She said I'm a big girl and... and I can make my own choices.



Ezri, what **exactly** did you talk about with **our** daughter last night?

You didn't see fit to tell **me** about this, then?



Don't you "Oh, Linden" **me**. How could you fill her head with such **nonsense?**

And **what** do you mean by **that?**



No, that isn't fair at all! You know I only want what's **best** f--

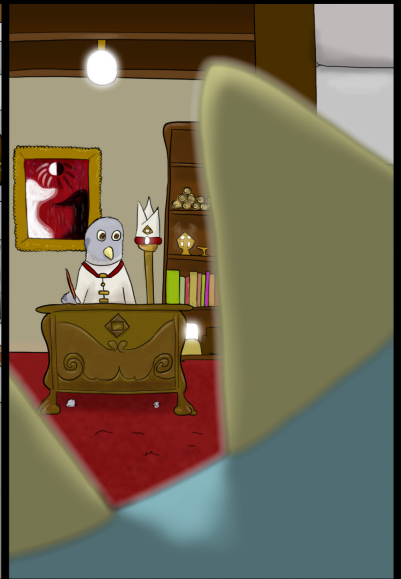
But our exper--

This. **This** is why I couldn't stay in your harem.

No, I'm **not** making this about **me!** I'm **just** saying how it's **impossible** for us to **ever** talk about









So, what can I do for you while you are here?

I don't... uh, that is to say, I mean, I...



Um...
Do you think I'm somebody?



Of course.
You aren't **nobody**, are you?



N-no, I mean, uh, you seem to have been expecting me, but I kinda... came on a whim.

Ah, the gods **do** work in rather mysterious ways, do they not?

Agh, no, this... this is like what my father always **says** about **clerics**.



Ah, **now** I understand. What is your name, young dragon?

Lewi...
Lewi **Davis**.

Well, Lewi Davis, my name is Edwin Burnaby, and I see that we have a **lot** of work to do.



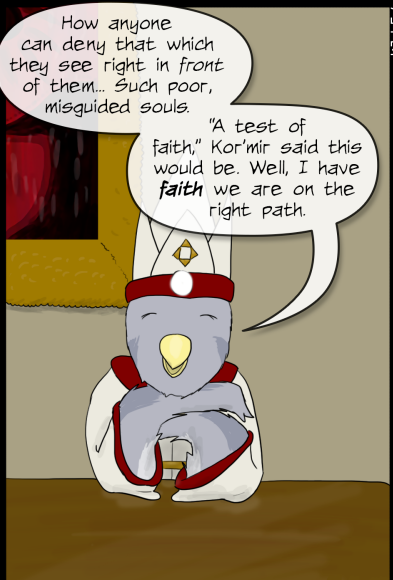
Last night, Kor'mir came to me and told me that a young dragon, full of uncertainty and doubt, would arrive to study under me.

Kor'mir?

Why, yes. This may be a temple of Za'air but we **do** honor **all** the gods, of course.



Oh. Um, I...
I don't really know much about the pantheon. My father is...
An atheist, of course, yes, this is **quite** clear.



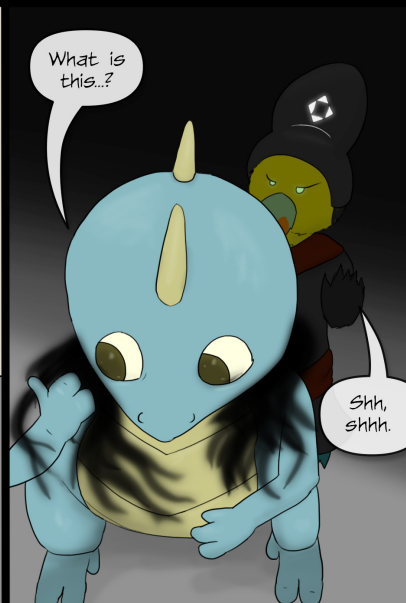
How anyone can deny that which they see right in front of them... Such poor, misguided souls.

"A test of faith," Kor'mir said this would be. Well, I have **faith** we are on the right path.

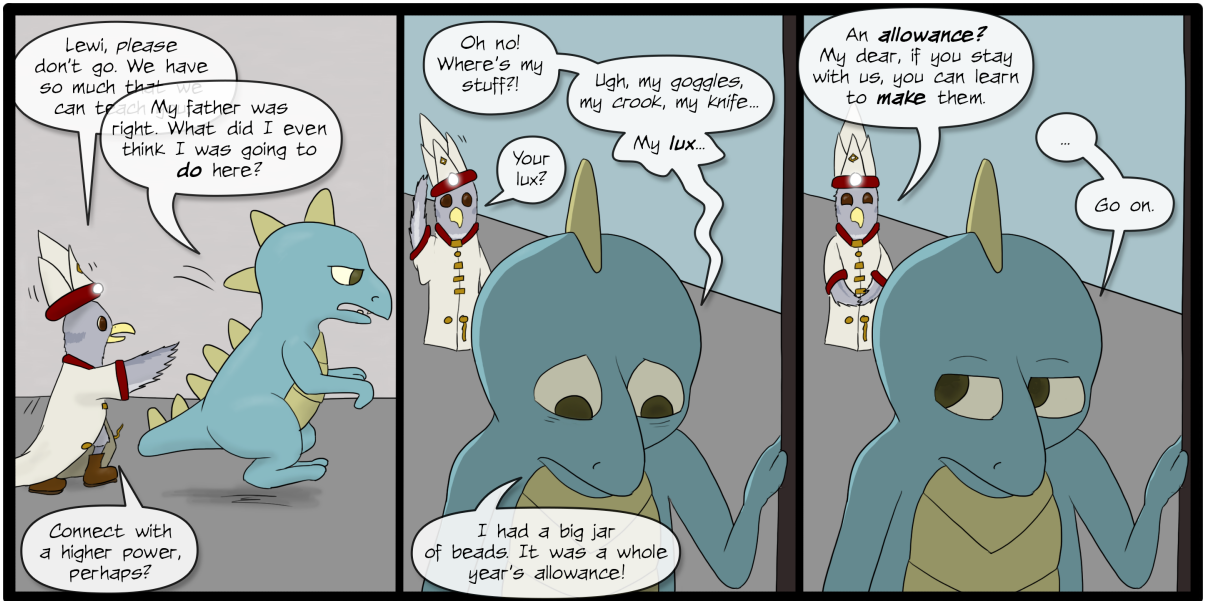


Chapter 2
Arrangements

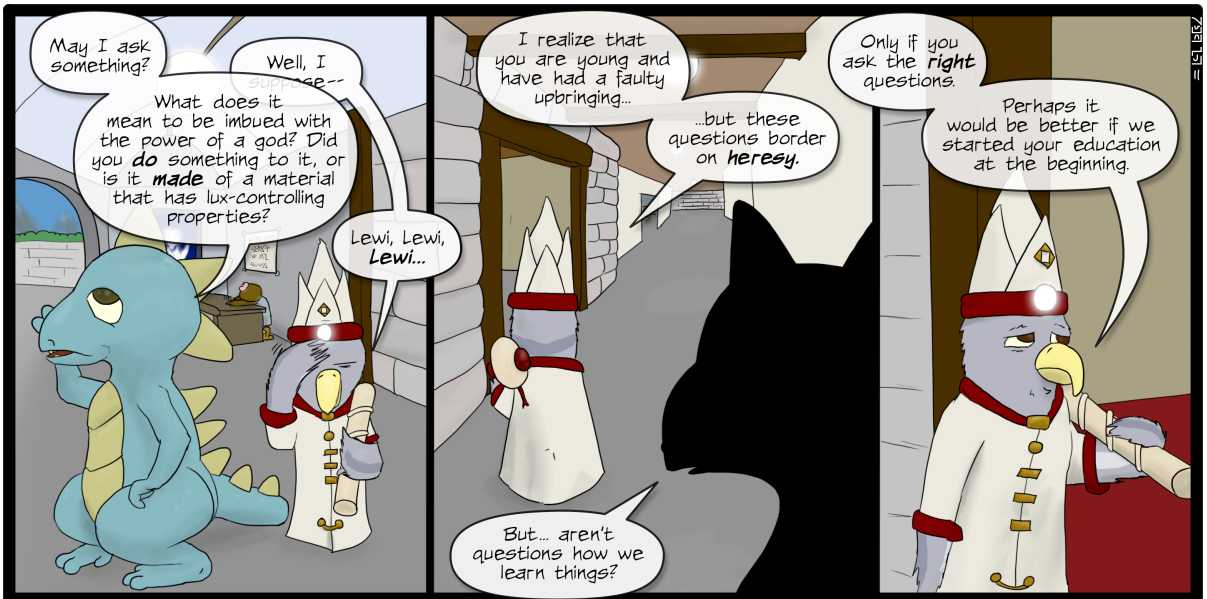






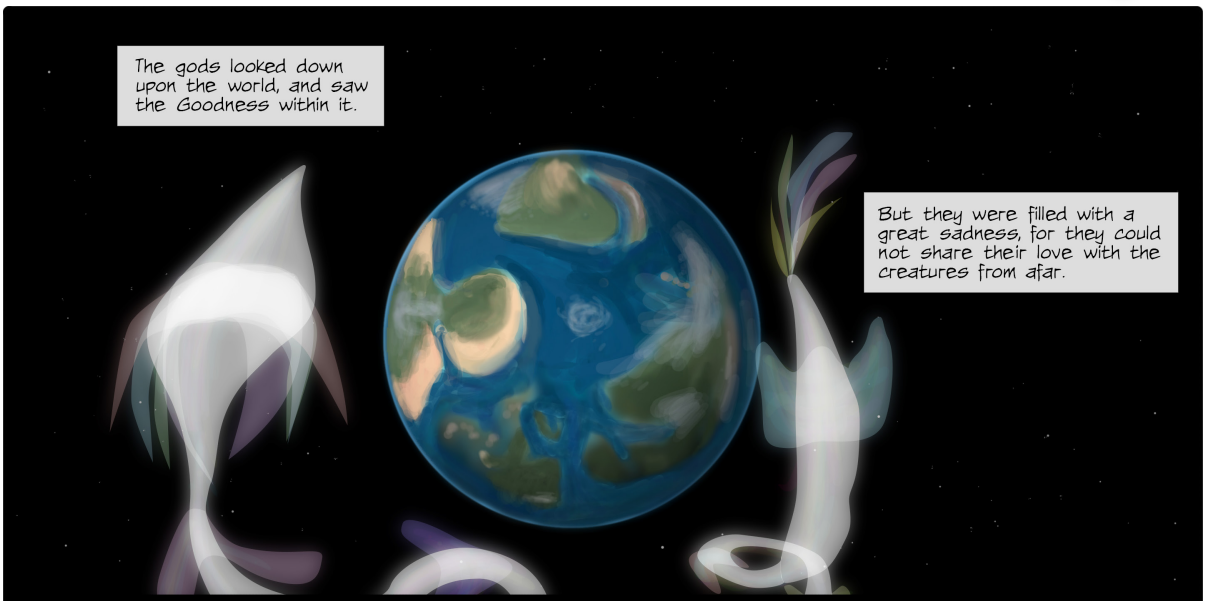




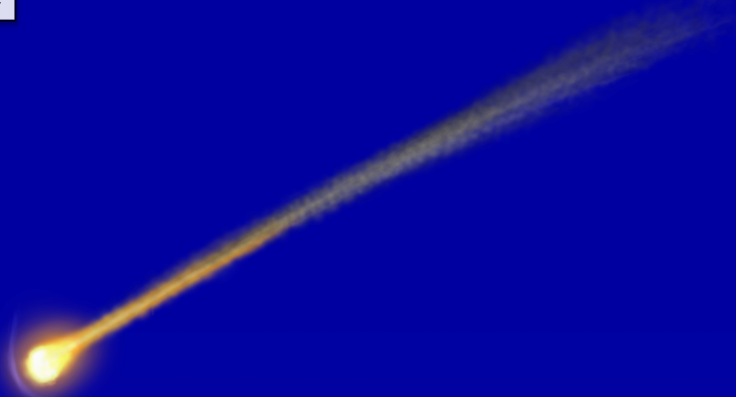




Chapter 3 Origins



And so, they decided to visit.



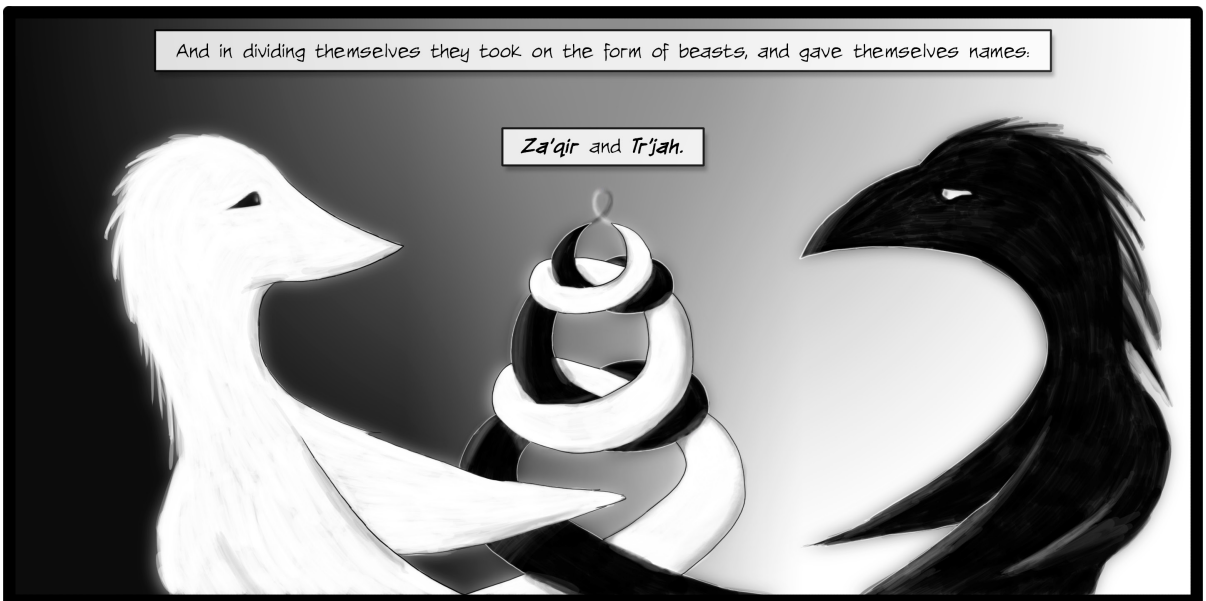
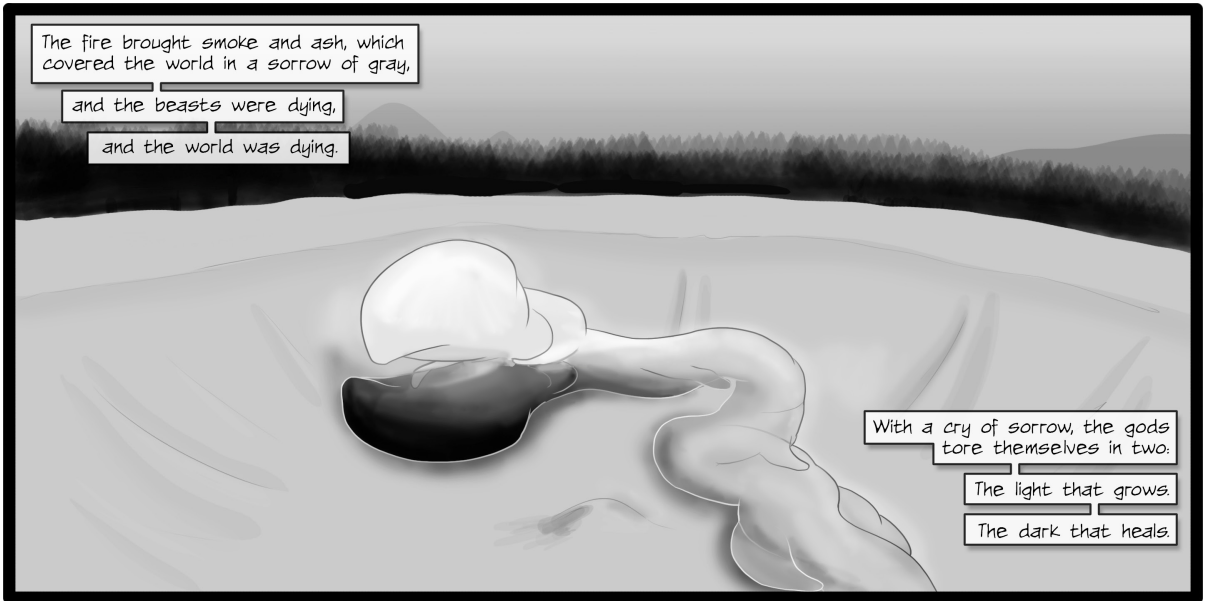
But the world was not yet prepared to receive their glory.

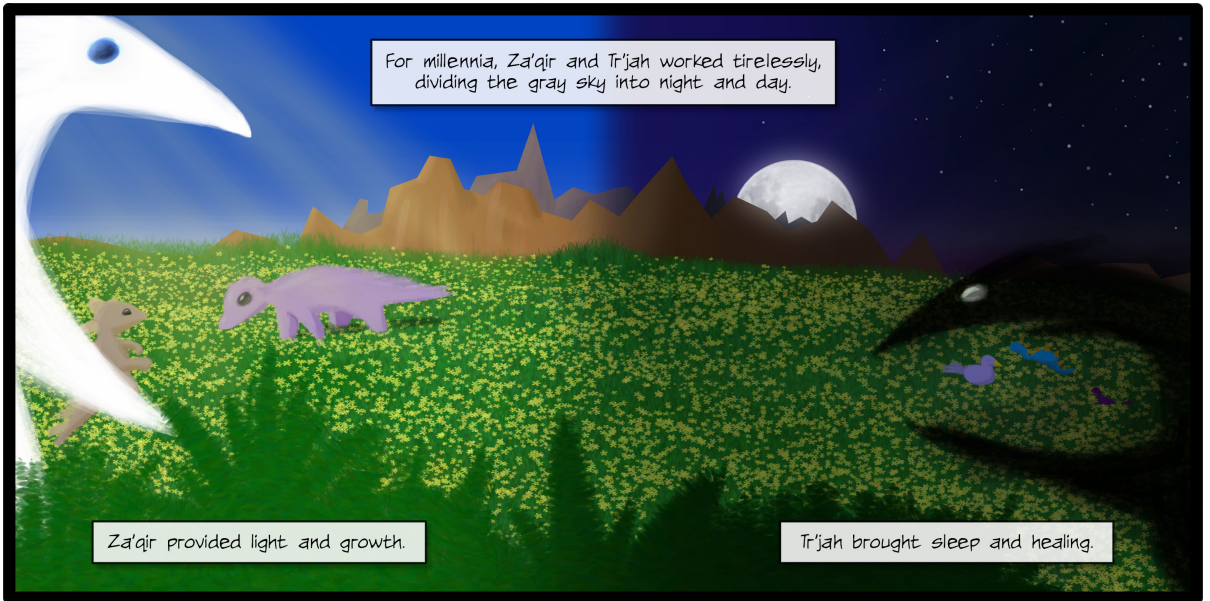
As did the gods arrive, so did a great Fire.



And with this great Fire, the sky turned to smoke and ash.

And the beasts were dying,
And the world was dying,
And the gods felt an even greater
Sadness, for what had they wrought?

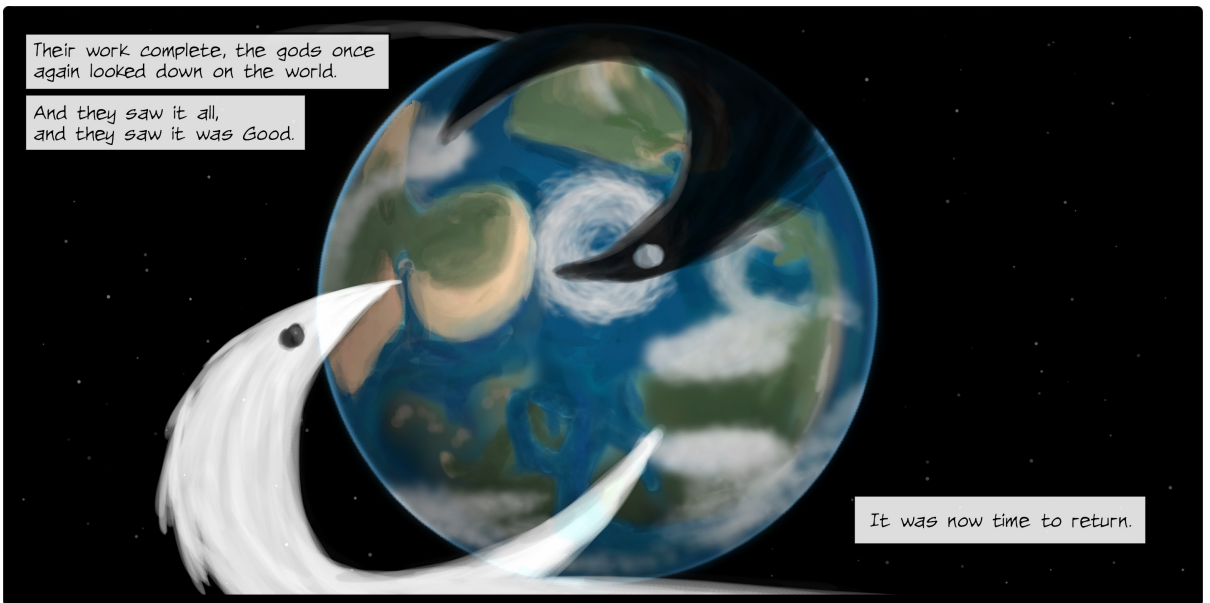




For millennia, Za'qir and Tr'jah worked tirelessly, dividing the gray sky into night and day.

Za'qir provided light and growth.

Tr'jah brought sleep and healing.



Their work complete, the gods once again looked down on the world.

And they saw it all, and they saw it was Good.

It was now time to return.

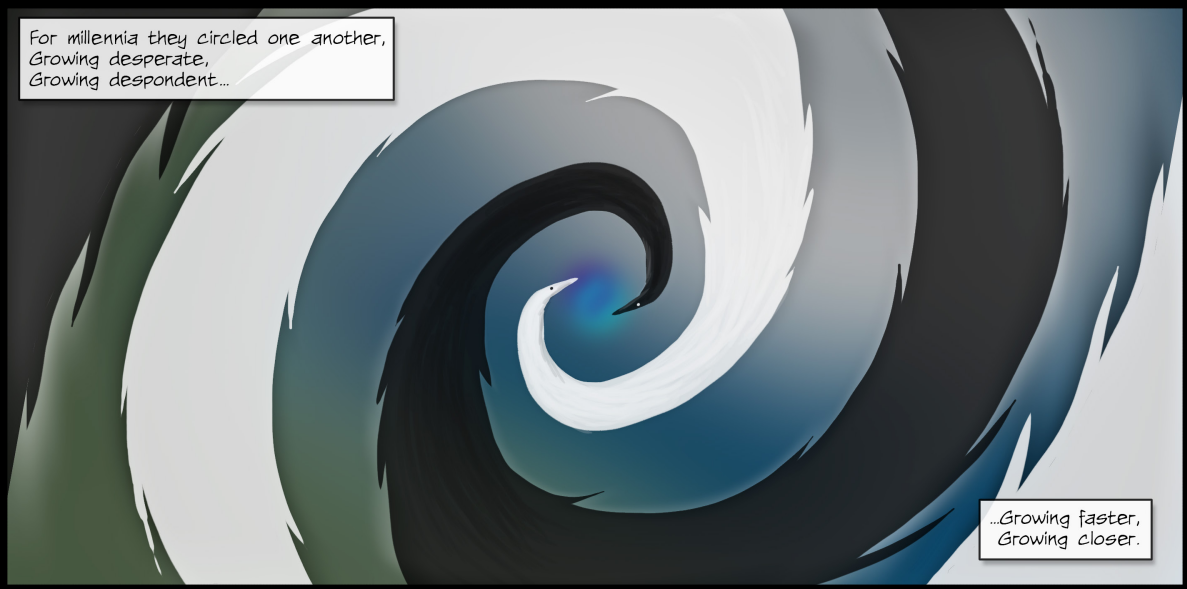
But try as they might, they could not return to each others' embrace.

While their powers had healed the world, the wounds they'd inflicted upon **themselves** ran far deeper.

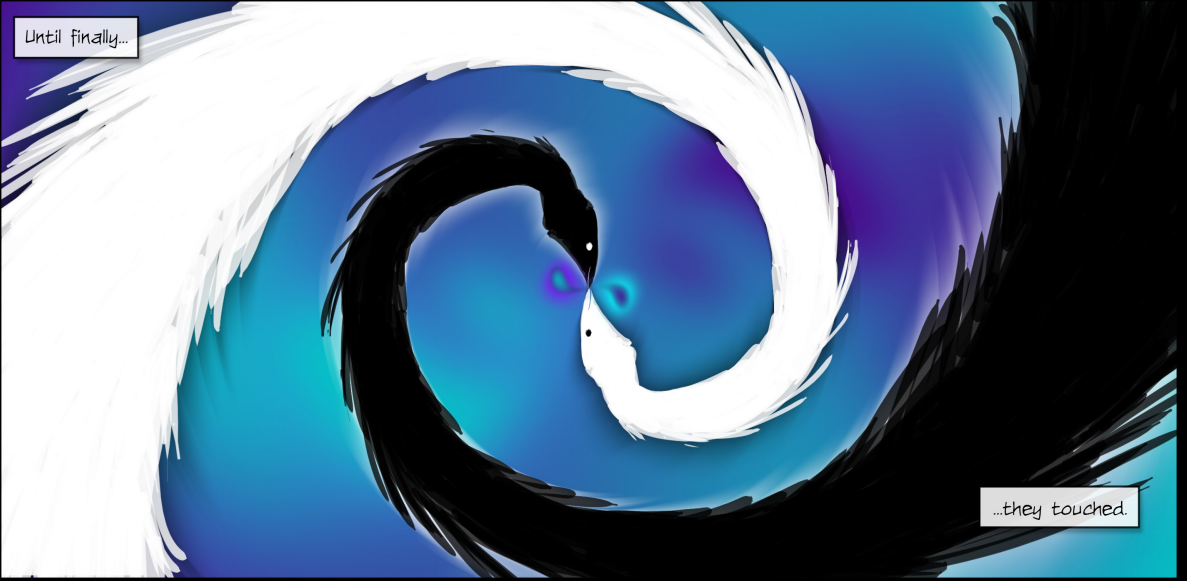


For millennia they circled one another,
Growing desperate,
Growing despondent...

...Growing faster,
Growing closer.



Until finally...



...they touched.

They awoke to find themselves further divided,
They were still Za'qir and Ir'jah, and yet,
They were also Qh'i'tal and Kor'mir...



They were now as children.

And while Za'qir and Tr'jah could not touch,
And while Qh'ital and Kor'mir could not touch,
Amongst a differing pair they could embrace one another.

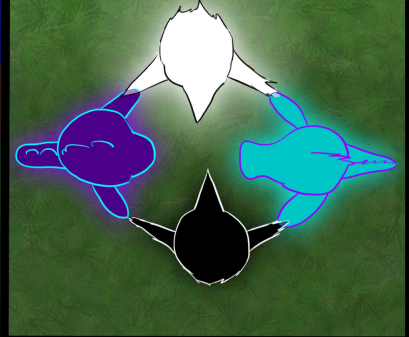
And through this bond they formed
a Quadrature of strength,



And of unity,



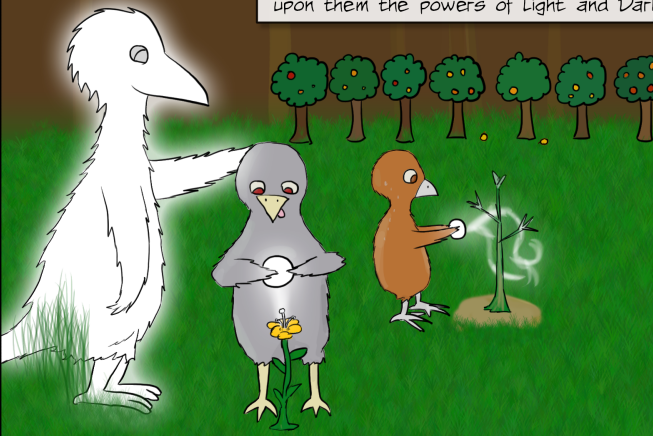
And of love.



They knew what was
left for them to do.

These four separate gods divided the beasts among themselves.

Za'qir and Tr'jah chose the Avians, and conferred
upon them the powers of Light and Dark.



Qh'ital and Kor'mir chose the Dragons, upon
whom they bestowed Strength and Wisdom.



With these four pillars of the Quadrature they set out to
build a glorious new world: A shining beacon to share
our gods' love with all the heavens' majesty.



And the beasts are living,
And the world is living,
And everything is, forever,
Good.



Ummm... yeah, so...

Ah, yes, my child?

I have so many questions about what you just told me.



But I'm not sure if they are... "right questions."

You are still learning. Some missteps are to be expected.

Okay, well... If Za'qir is an Avian god, why take me in?



Why would Kor'mir be the one to inform me of your arrival? Surely this is part of their plan.

But what *is* their pl...? Oh, that's probably not a "right question."

You learn quickly.



The story you told me, where did it come from?

It's not a "story," little one, it's *history*, related to us by the gods themselves.

O..kay, so um, they separated? And couldn't rejoin?



Ah, yes, this is reflected in how the four types of mana behave. Allow me to demonstrate...

These ampules are filled with pure, unbound mana.



See how the lux and scuro drive each other apart? The same occurs with verum and for...

Oh, so *that's* how a telestone works!

...Pardon?



Yeah, when I was little, my dad and I moved away, and my mom gave us a telestone so we could stay in touch.

One night I opened it, and there were these glowing *things* inside...

I didn't know what they were but my dad said they were "vital to the principle of its operation."

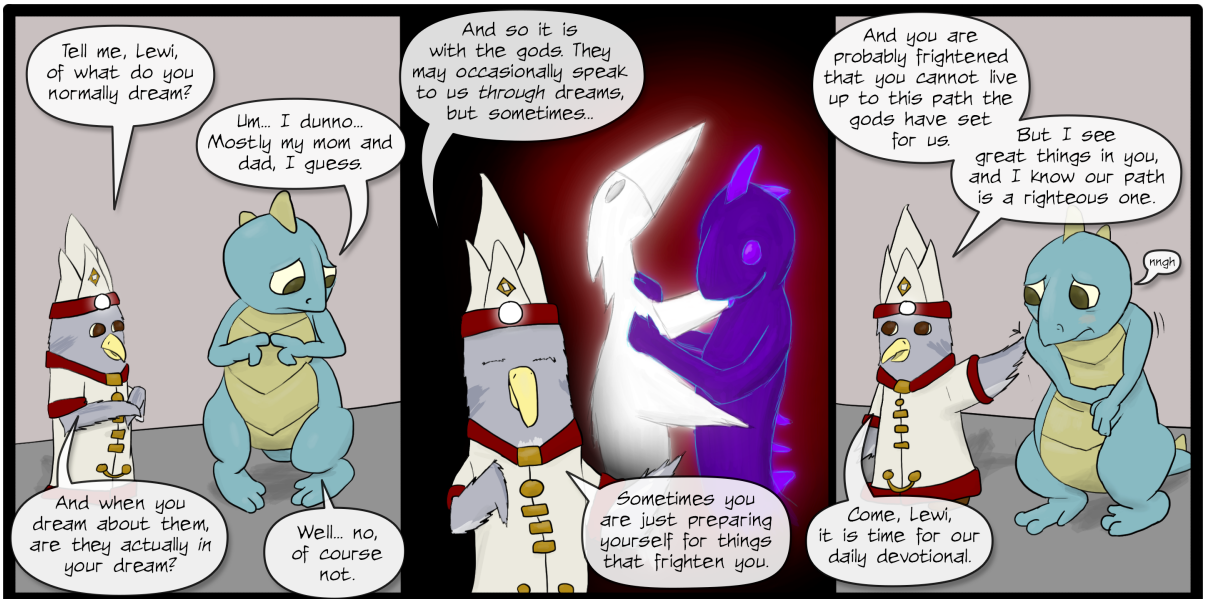
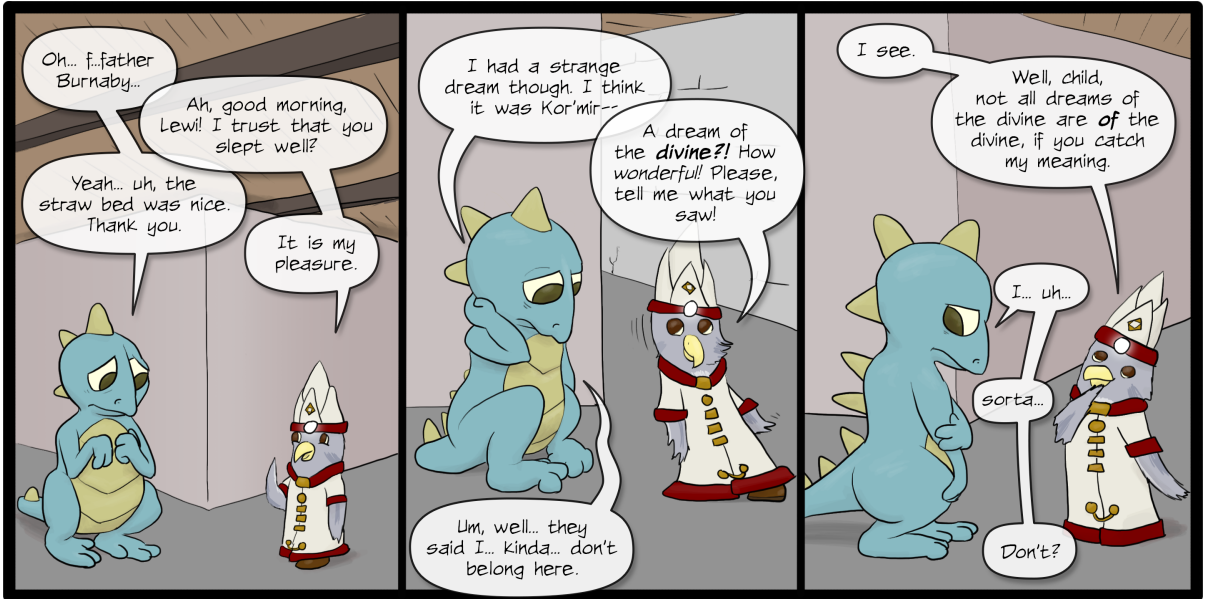
Ah, how clever. So even your father finds benefits by the power of the gods



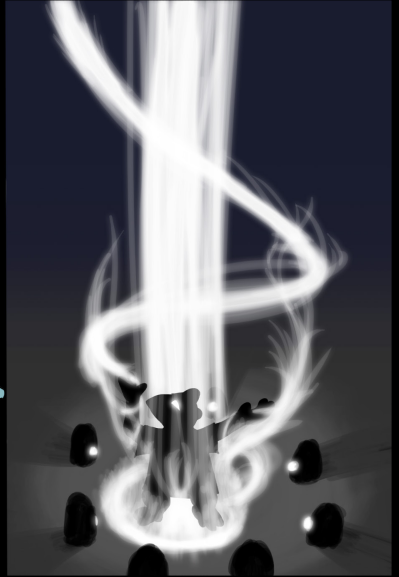
Well, sure. Say, can I take apart your staff? Maybe there's

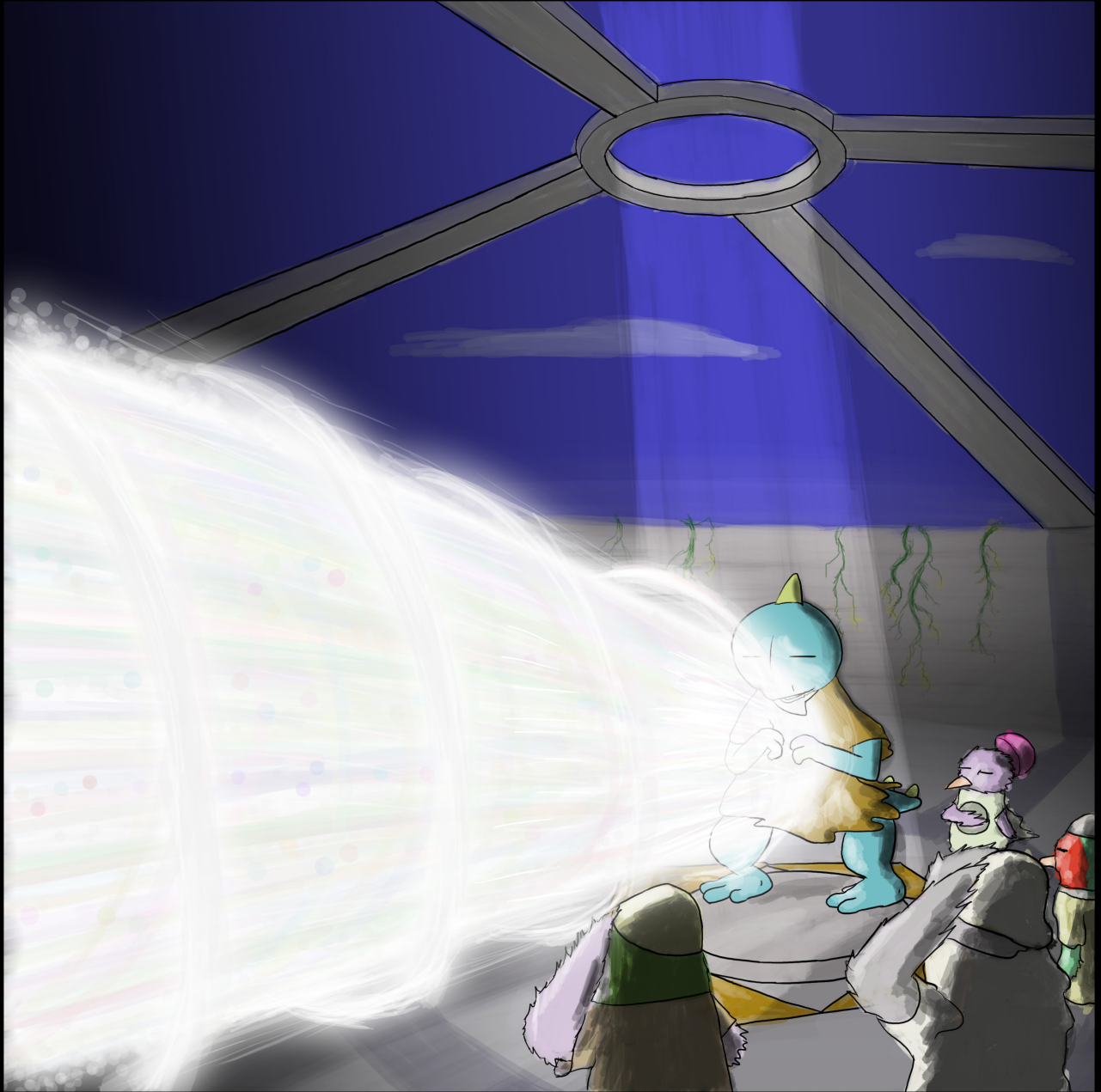
NO.

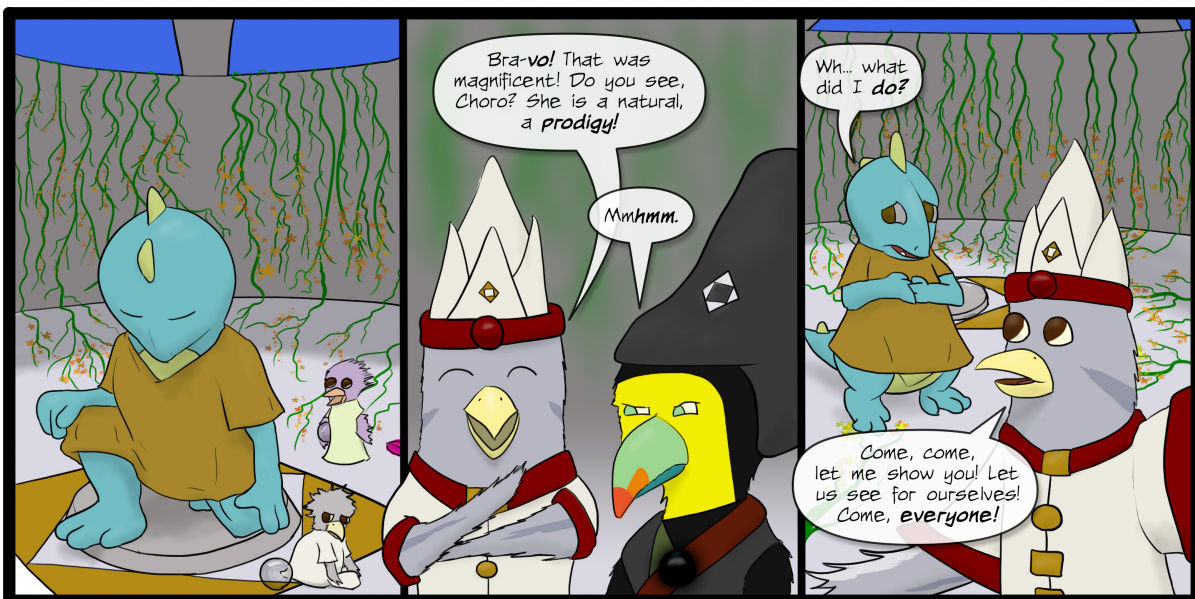












Bra-vo! That was magnificent! Do you see, Choro? She is a natural, a *prodigy!*

Mmhmm.

Wh... what did I *do?*

Come, come, let me show you! Let us see for ourselves! Come, *everyone!*





Oh, hi there!

I'm Lewi. What's your name?

It's okay, I might be big but I'm not gonna hurt you.

Dragon!
D'ya really not know any better?!

I... I'm sorry, Zhu. Uh... reverend Choro, that is, I mean...

You do not speak while you are eating.

Oh... Oh, I'm so... but I thought this food was vegetarian...?

Plants're livin' things too! You ignorant child.

You have so much to learn, and it **astonishes** me that **Burnaby** thinks he is the one to teach it t'you.

Speakin' of, 'e wants t'see ya, soon as y'finish yer brekkie.

I'm Paul.

SILENCE!

Hi, uh... Y-you wanted to, uh, see me?

Ah, yes, Lewi! Come in, come in!

Do you understand what it is you did last Noon?

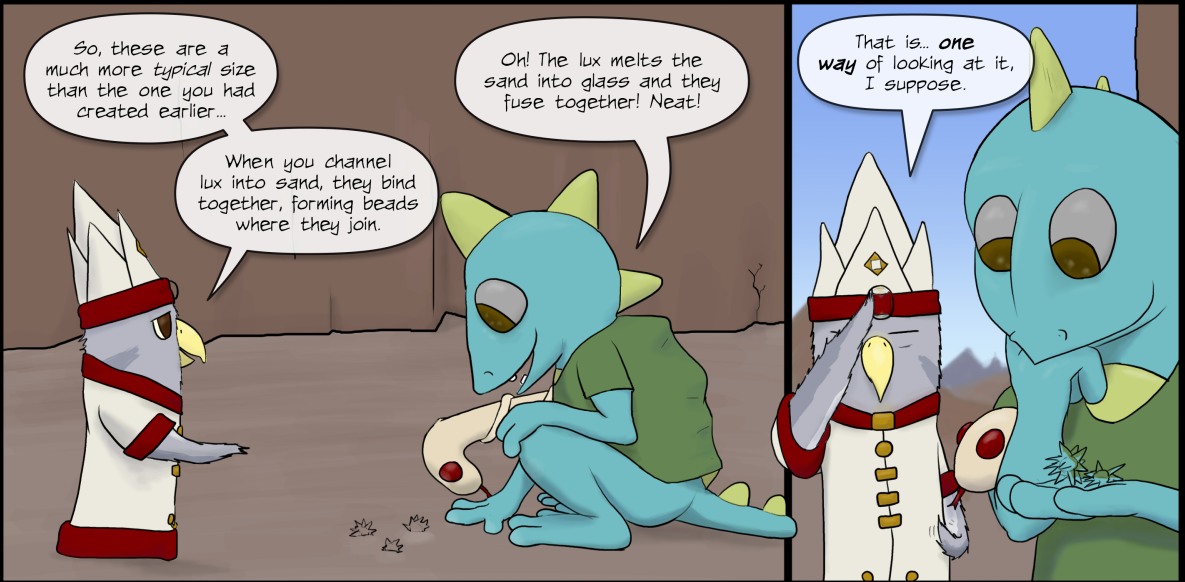
N-no... Um, not... not really.

Ah, the naïve master, truly **blessed** by our Luminance.

My usual preparations for tomorrow's solstice now seem quite **insufficient**.

Please, Lewi, come with me.

The Alchemist



So, these are a much more typical size than the one you had created earlier...

When you channel lux into sand, they bind together, forming beads where they join.

Oh! The lux melts the sand into glass and they fuse together! Neat!

That is.. *one way* of looking at it, I suppose.



However, you must learn **control**. A bead should be *smooth*. You are putting *far too much* into them.

Here, let me show you how-- Oh, my vessel is drained *already*?



No matter, I shall refill it. Pay no mind, that is a much later lesson.

Lewi, do you finally realize that you *do* belong here? You have a gift and we must cultivate it.

Well, I *am* learning a lot...



I wonder what my dad would think about all this.

Why worry about *him*? You are filled with the gods' love, something your father could *never* understand.



Wh... why would you say that?!

Simple. He is an *atheist*.

N-no... he's an alch-

FATHER!

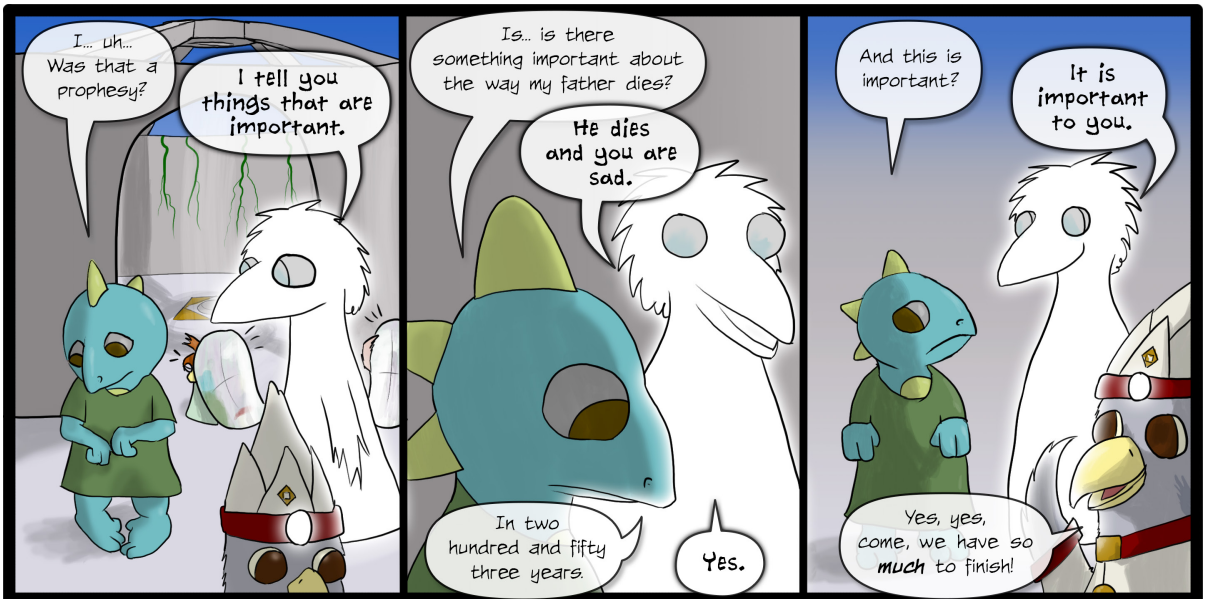
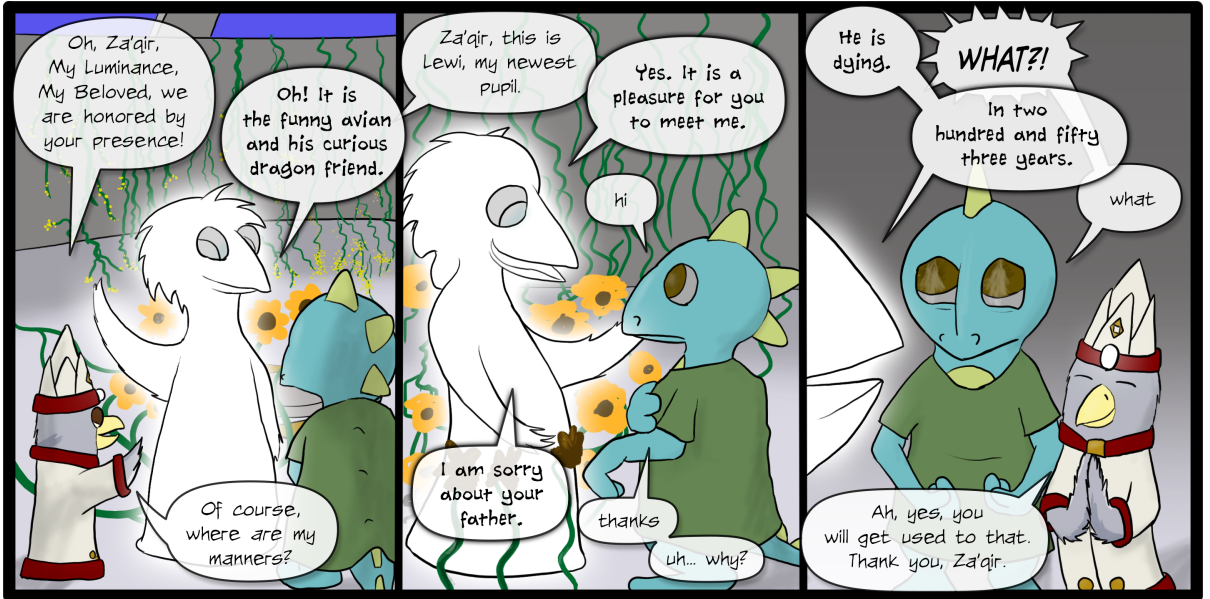


Oh, hello. What is it?

Father! Our *Luminance!*

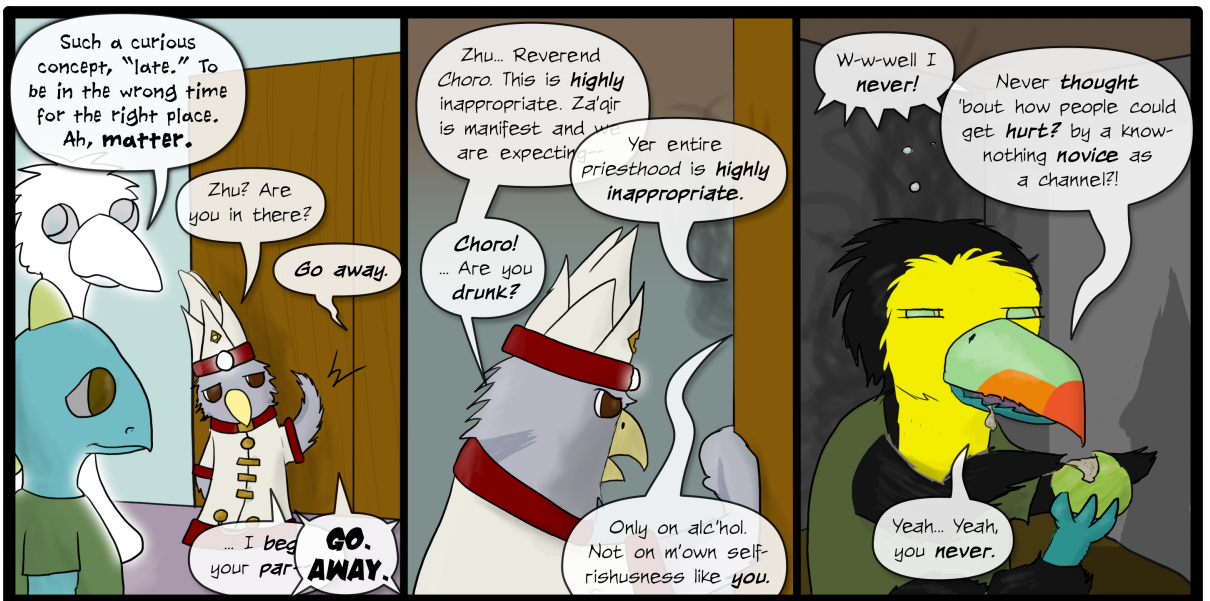
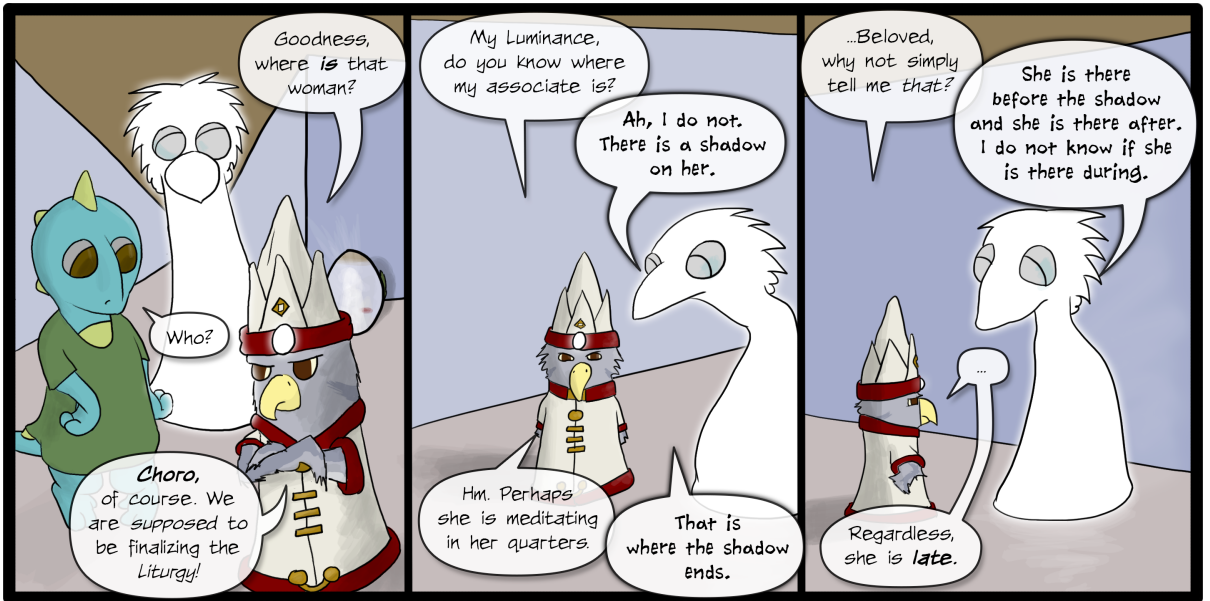
Has become! *manifest!*

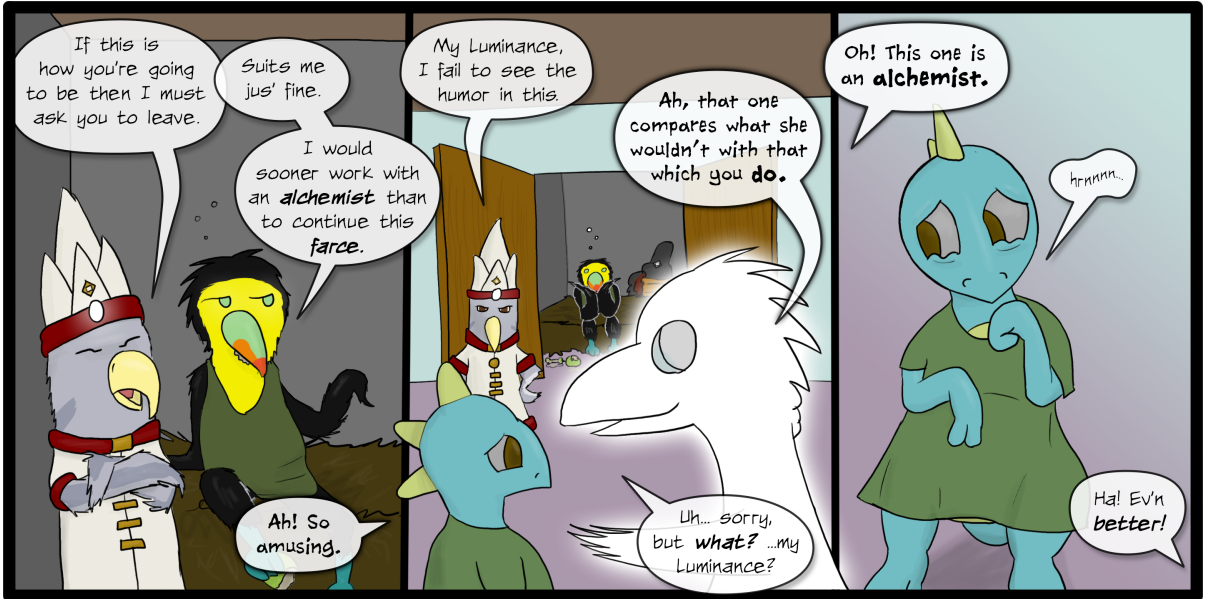
Oh, goodness, so soon?! We must see them at once!













In here, dragon.



Hello, Lewi.



Kor'mir.



You do not belong here, little one.

yeah i know

why did i even come here

There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom.



I should have left that morning. Ugh, I screwed this up...

This is the optimal path for you to follow.

Path...?



Oh, that was **you** on the path over here, wasn't it.

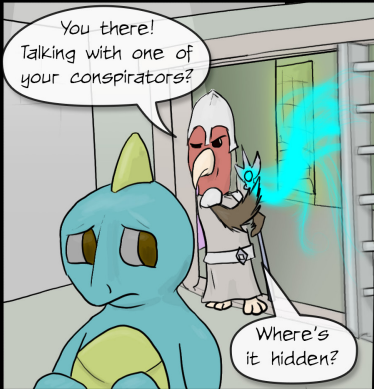
...and **you** told me not to come.

Haha, yep!

Mm-hmm.

So why did I...?

Knowledge and wis
HEY YOU!
Lew



You there!
Talking with one of
your conspirators?

Where's
it hidden?



What?
Your frotting
telestone. Hand
it over.

B-but it's
at home. I was
just talking to
Kor'mir--



You expect me
to believe that,
alchemist?

No matter...



...this
will find its
mana.



Ah ha,
there it--

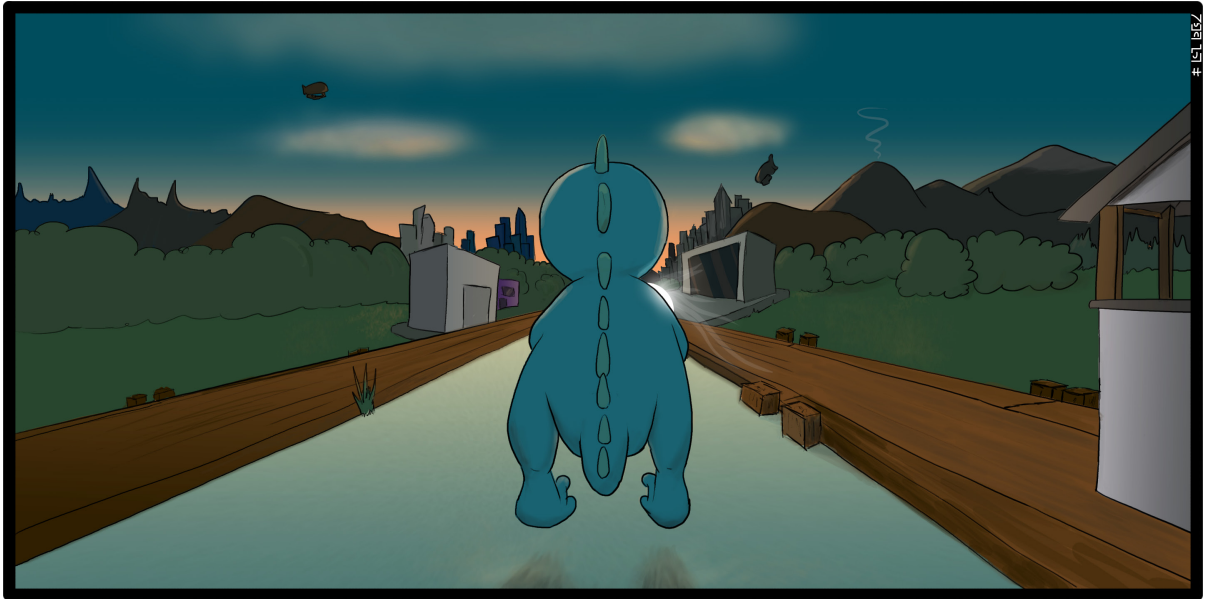


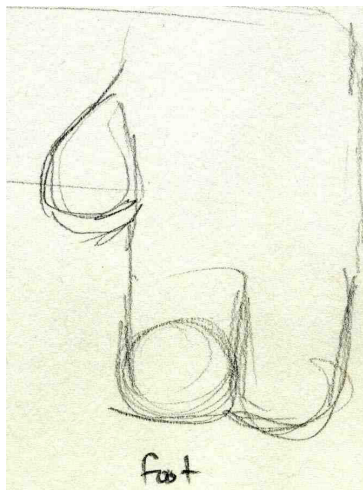
Aagh!



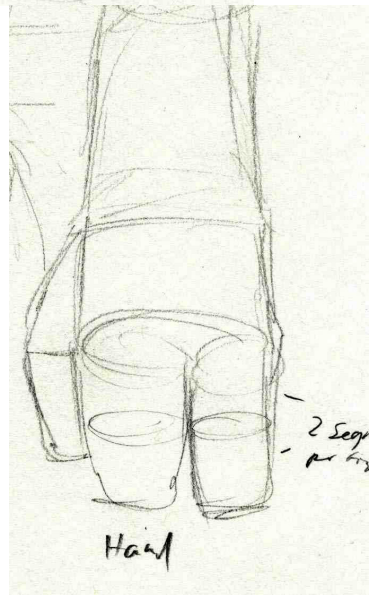
Help, I'm
blind!

Prisoner out,
Prisoner out!

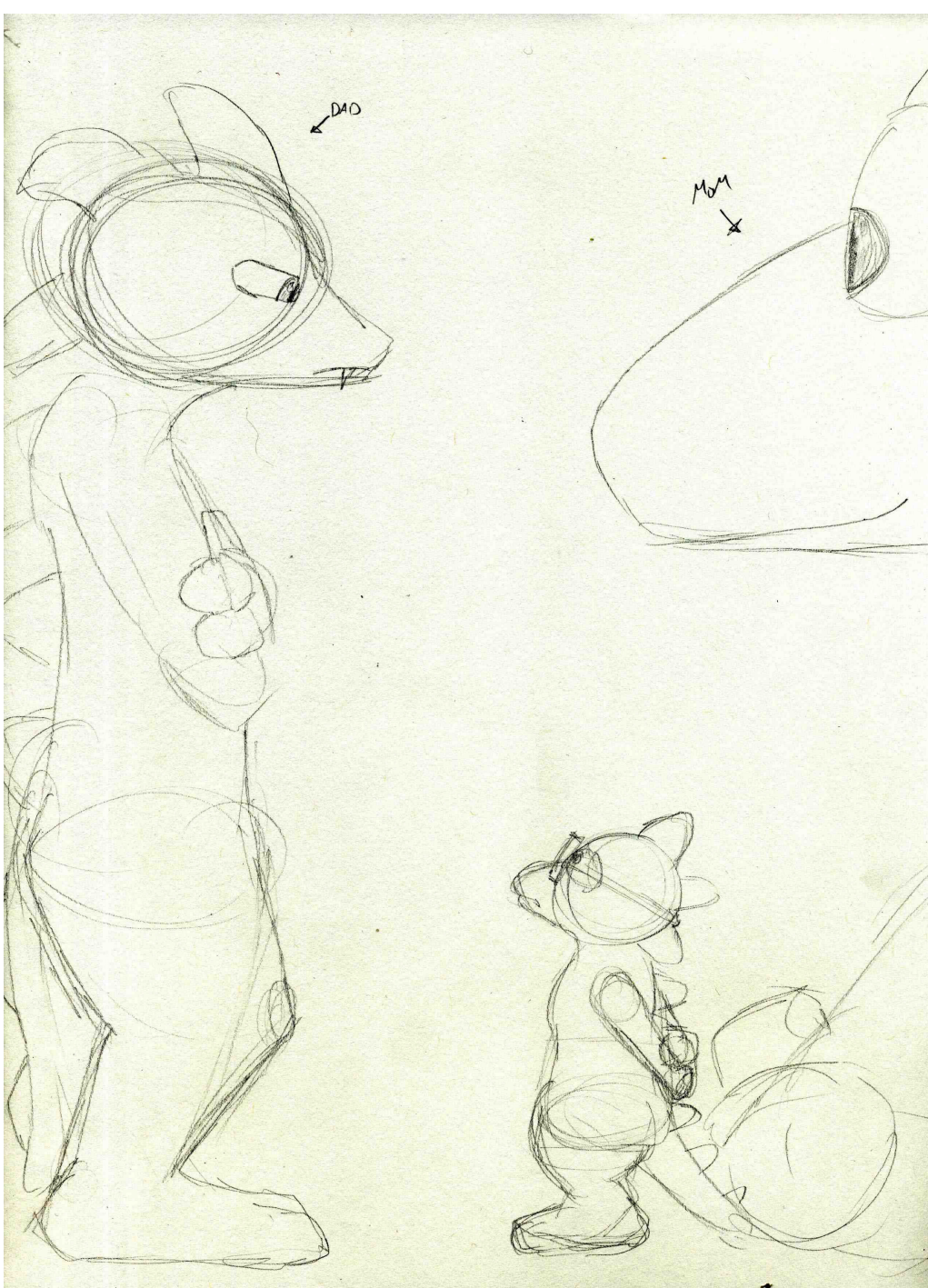


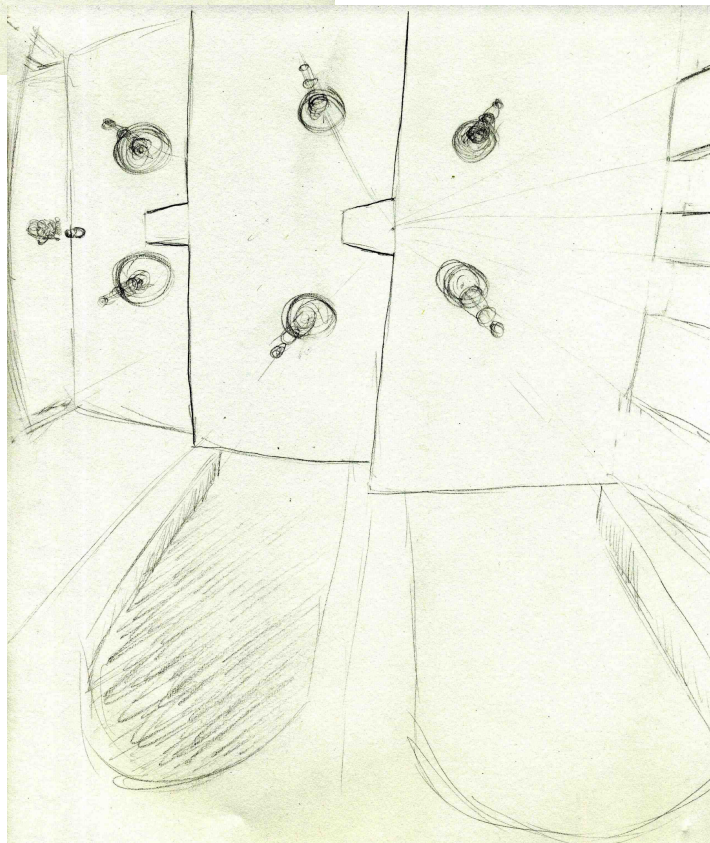
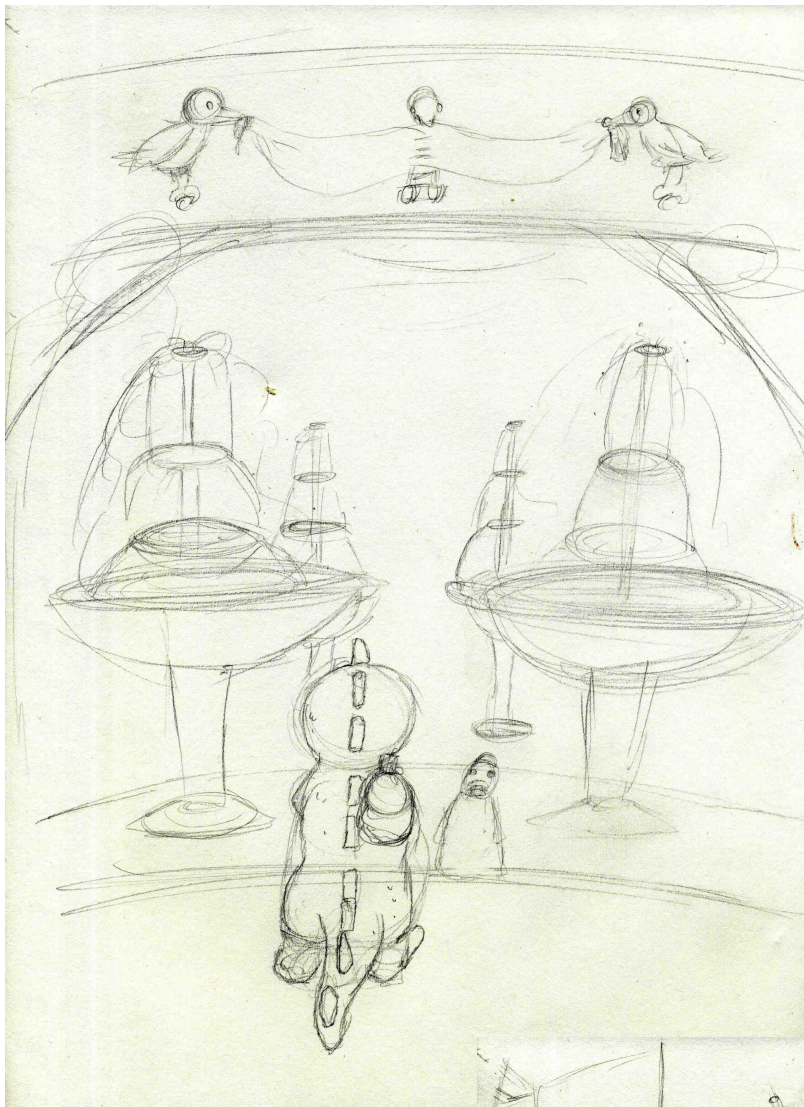


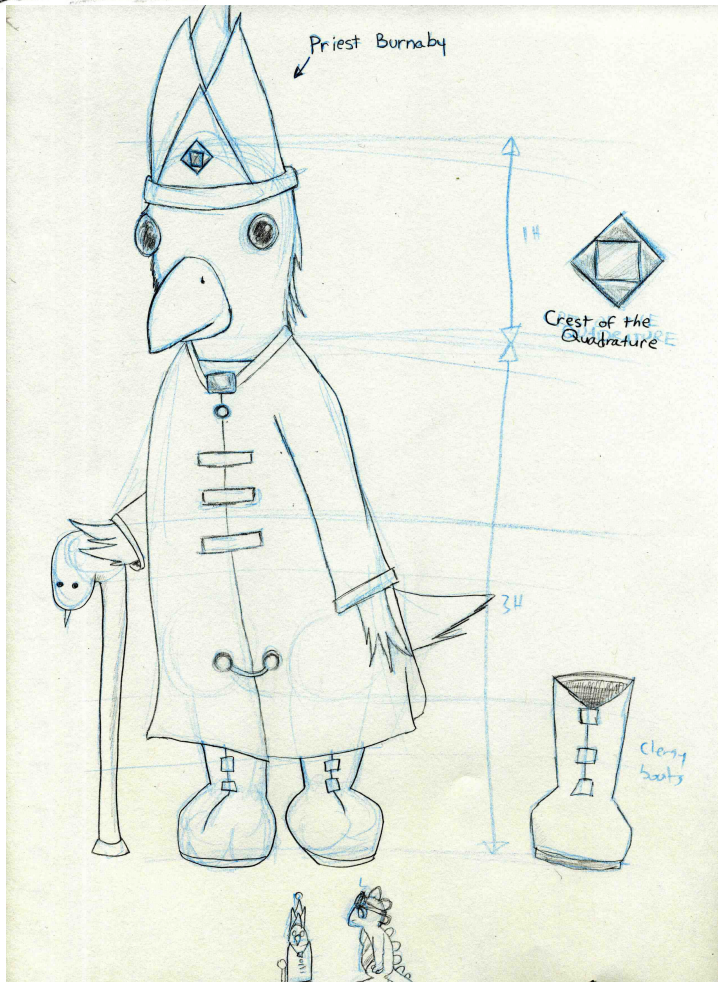
foot



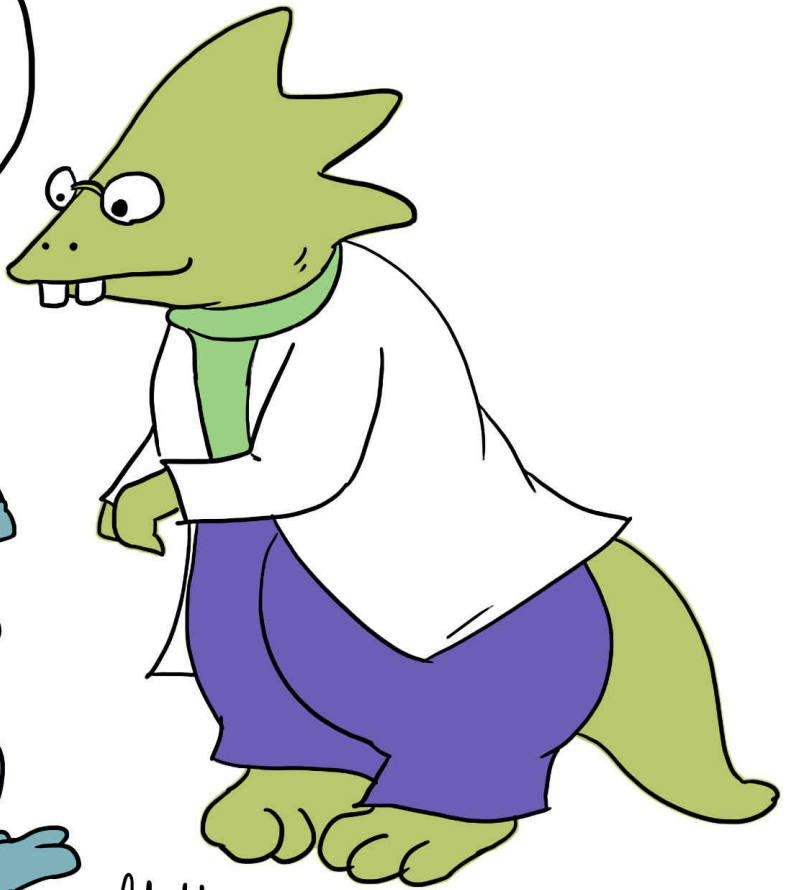
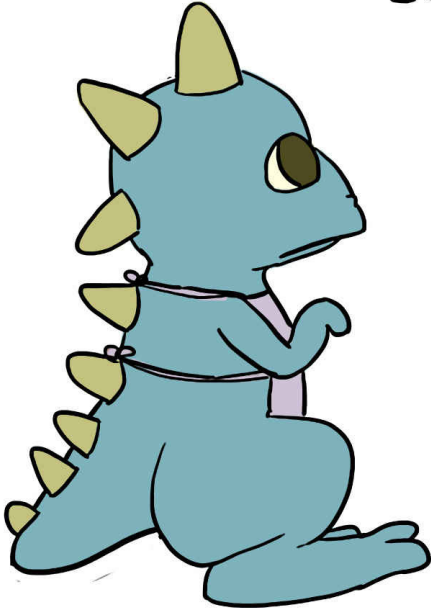
Hand



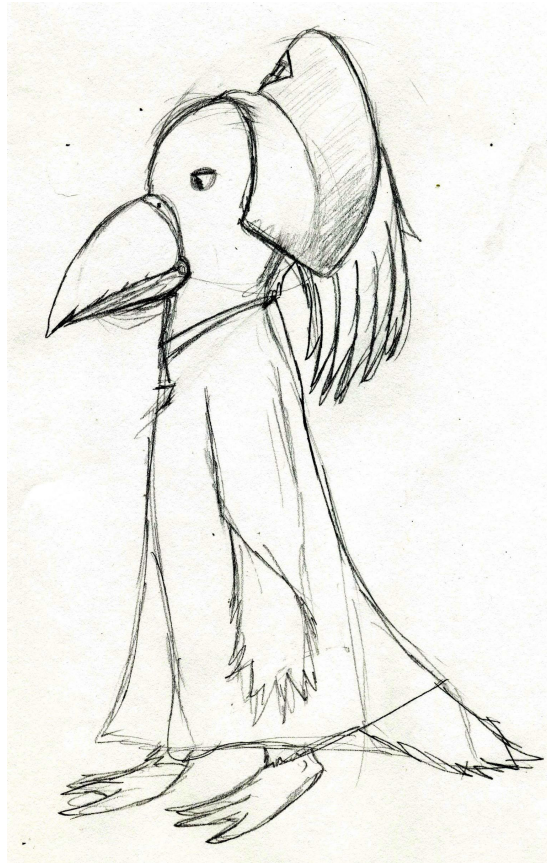


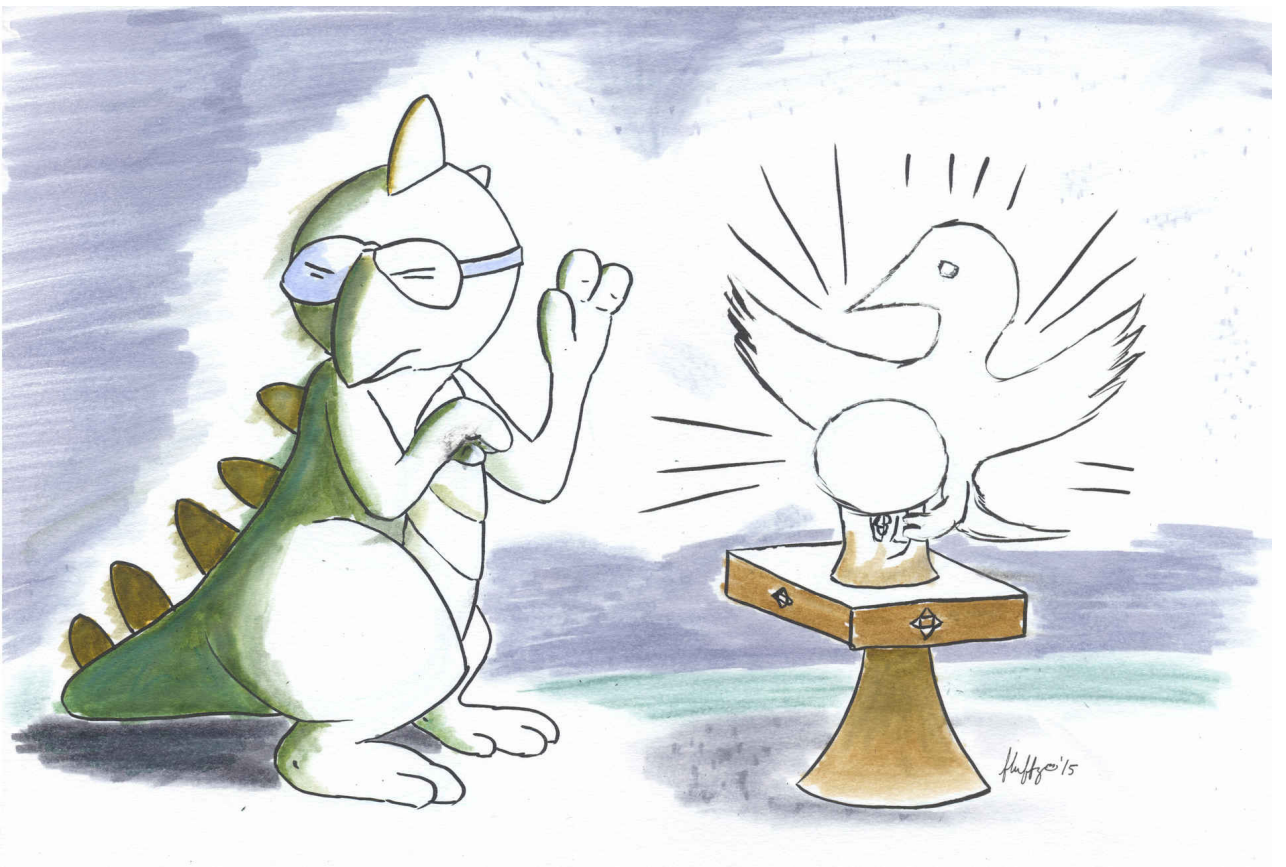


UH... H-HELLO
LITTLE GIRL!
D-DO YOU LIKE
ANIME?



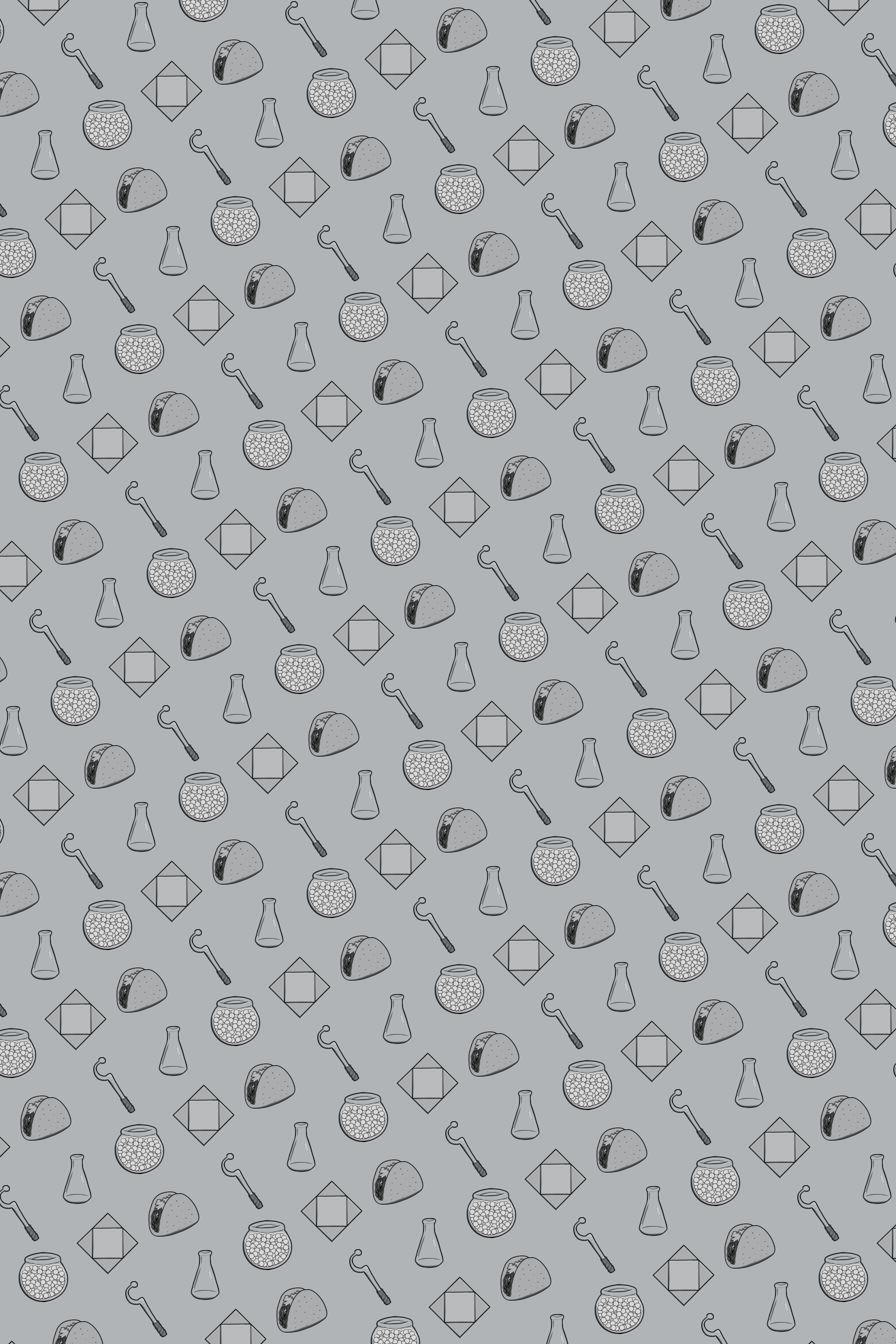
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In an ancient land of magic, Avian and Dragon clerics seek the favor of the gods. Lewi, a young Dragon who finds herself dissatisfied with life as an Alchemist, finds inspiration in spirituality and leaves home to join the Clergy. Soon she finds herself caught between the philosophical worlds of science and religion. Can she find happiness by casting off everything that she has ever known, or will she be lost forever?

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