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HOUSE OF THE MUSES

THE LATTER DAYS OF
SAPPHO OF LESBOS



RECOMMENDED:

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THESE PIECES WERE
BEGUN BY TELESIPPA,
ATTHIS AND ANAKTORIA--

--SO YOU MAY
HAVE AN IDEA WHAT
A CLOTH LOOKS LIKE,
IN PROGRESS ON
THE LOOM!

ANY
QUES-
TIONS?

WHEN IS
LUNCH?

WEAVING CLASS WAS A NECES-
SARY EVIL FOR EVERY GREEK
GIRL WHO CAME OF AGE.



NEARLY EVERYTHING WE
WORE WAS WOVEN FROM
LOOMS MUCH LIKE THESE.

THE LOOM PROVIDED
CLOTHING FOR THE
ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD.



FOR A GIRL TO NOT HAVE
THESE NECESSARY SKILLS
WOULD MEAN DISGRACE,
FOR HER FAMILY WOULD
GO UNCLOTHED.

A GIRL WITHOUT SKILLS
WOULD BE DEEMED
UNMARRIAGEABLE.



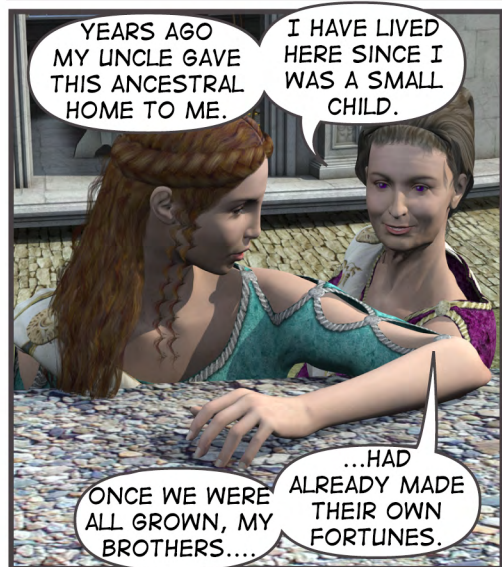
HERO WAS FINE
WITH THAT.

1



THE SEA BREEZES ARE INVIGORATING HERE, ARE THEY NOT?

THEY CERTAINLY ARE. YOU HAVE A **BEAUTIFUL** VILLA.



YEARS AGO MY UNCLE GAVE THIS ANCESTRAL HOME TO ME.

I HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE I WAS A SMALL CHILD.

ONCE WE WERE ALL GROWN, MY BROTHERS....

...HAD ALREADY MADE THEIR OWN FORTUNES.



SO WHEN MY UNCLE EURYGYS PASSED INTO ELYSIUM--

IT WAS HANDED DOWN UNTO ME.

CAN YOU COME WALK WITH ME?

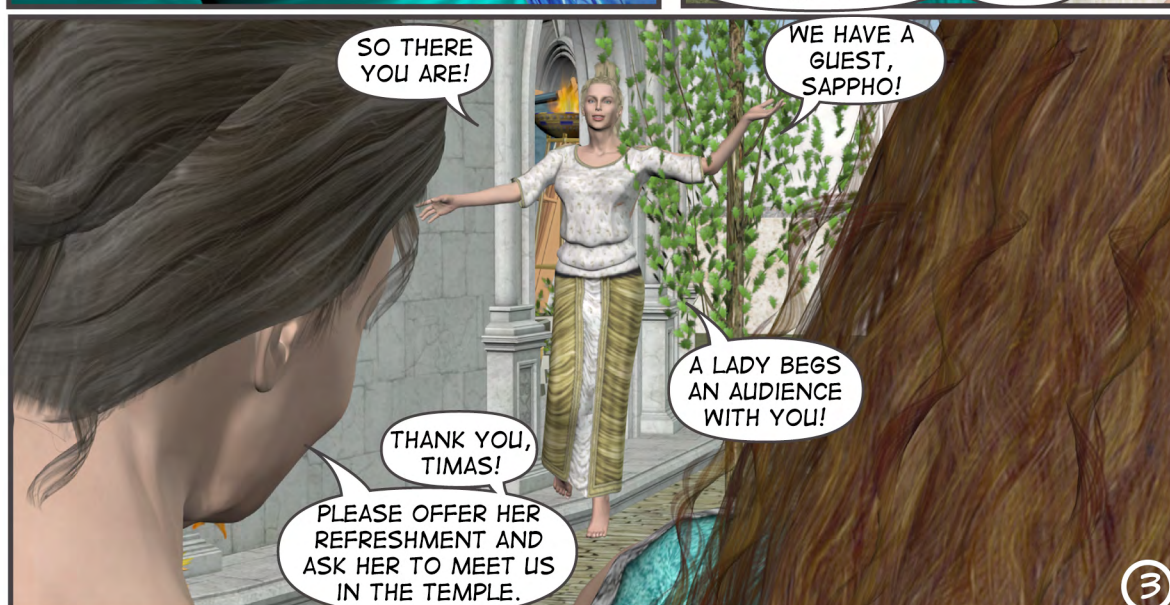


LET US BOTH ENJOY THE COOL AND PEACEFUL BEAUTY OF MY GARDEN BY THE SEA.

I **LOVE** TO HIDE HERE FROM THE HEAT OF THE DAY.

THE MESSENGER OF SPRING, THE LOVELY-VOICED NIGHTINGALE,

...HAS AN HONORED HOME HERE, WHERE THE EARTH WITH ITS MANY GARLANDS IS EMBROIDERED.



SAPPHO TOOK ME BY THE HAND AGAIN AND LED ME TO HER PRIVATE TEMPLE, DEDICATED TO THE WORSHIP OF THE GODDESS APHRODITE. THE WOMAN WHO MET US THERE WAS OF VERY REGAL BEARING, DRESSED IN HER FINEST CLOTHING. IT STRUCK US AS VERY ODD.

IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

A WOMAN OF SUCH STATURE WOULD HAVE NO NEED TO SOLICIT SAPPHO'S PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AS AN EDUCATOR.

SURELY HER CHILD WOULD HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING TAUGHT BY THE FINEST SCHOLARS IN GREECE, NOT MERELY BY ITS MOST REKNOWNED POETESS.

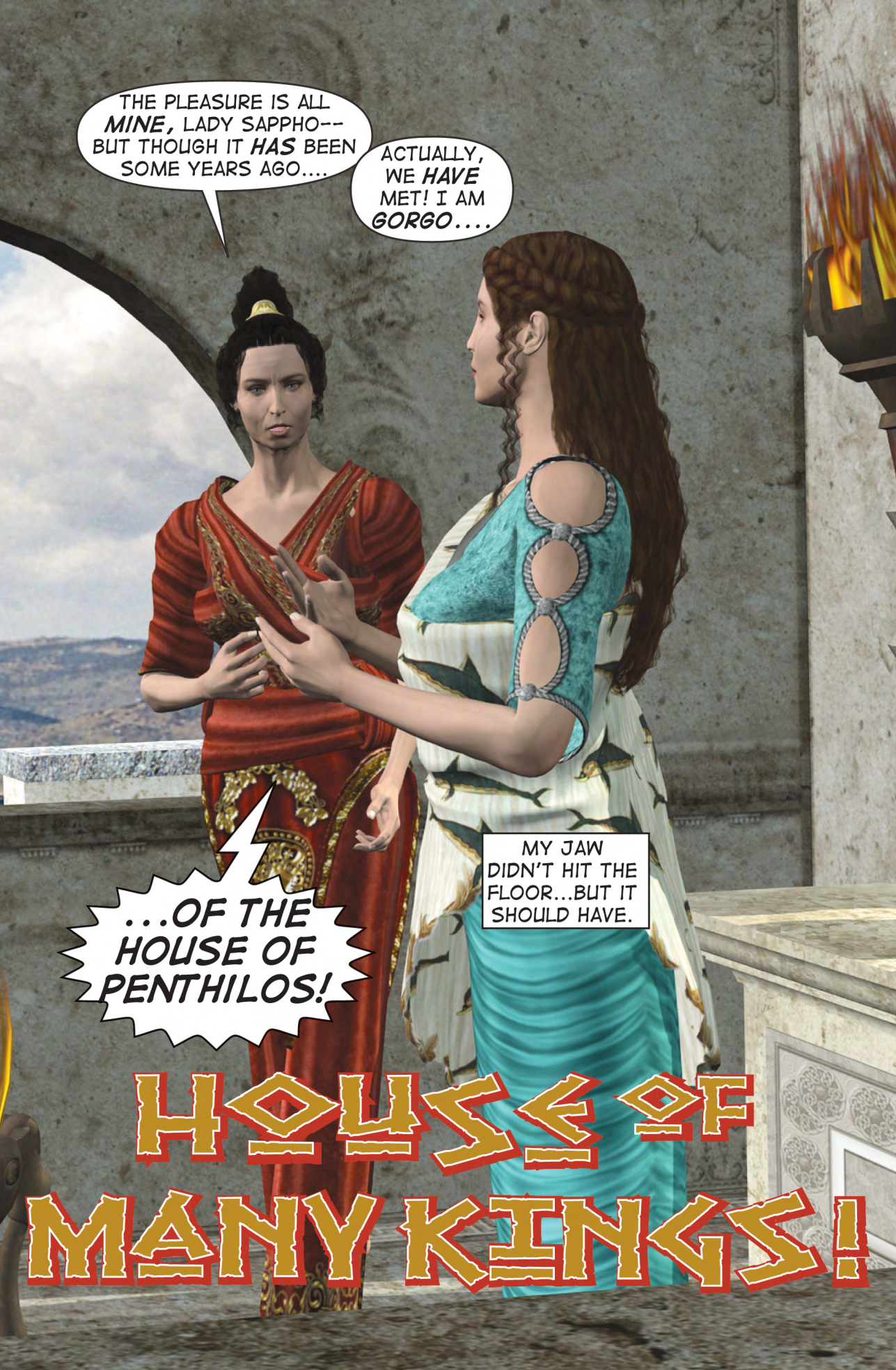
I DO NOT BELIEVE WE HAVE MET!

HOUSE OF THE MUSES

THE LATTER DAYS OF SAPPHO OF LESBOS

CREATED, WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY PAM HARRISON

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THE PLEASURE IS ALL
MINE, LADY SAPPHO--
BUT THOUGH IT **HAS** BEEN
SOME YEARS AGO....

ACTUALLY,
WE **HAVE**
MET! I AM
GORGO....

...OF THE
HOUSE OF
PENTHILOS!

MY JAW
DIDN'T HIT THE
FLOOR...BUT IT
SHOULD HAVE.

**HOUSE OF
MANY KINGS!**

A LOW HUM ROSE IN MY EARS
AS I COULD ALMOST ANTICIPATE
WHAT SHE'D SAY NEXT.

I FEAR, LADY
GORGO--

--YOU STILL
HAVE ME AT A
DISADVANTAGE.

IN THE INTERESTS
OF A FRIENDLY
RIVALRY, I ONLY
THOUGHT IT FAIR TO
ANNOUNCE THAT--

I HAVE ELECTED
ANOTHER LADY WHOM
YOU **ARE** QUITE FAMILIAR
WITH--ANDROMEDA--AS
MY HEADMISTRESS.

ANDROMEDA?

THE DAUGHTER
OF **PITTAKOS??**

THE
VERY
SAME.

--FOLLOWING **YOUR**
ILLUSTRIOUS AND
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL
EXAMPLE--

I HAVE MYSELF
FOUNDED A SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS IN
MYTILENE!

THIS BIZARRE TURN OF EVENTS STRUCK
ME AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE COMPLEX
PATTERNS OF THE LIVES WE WEAVE.



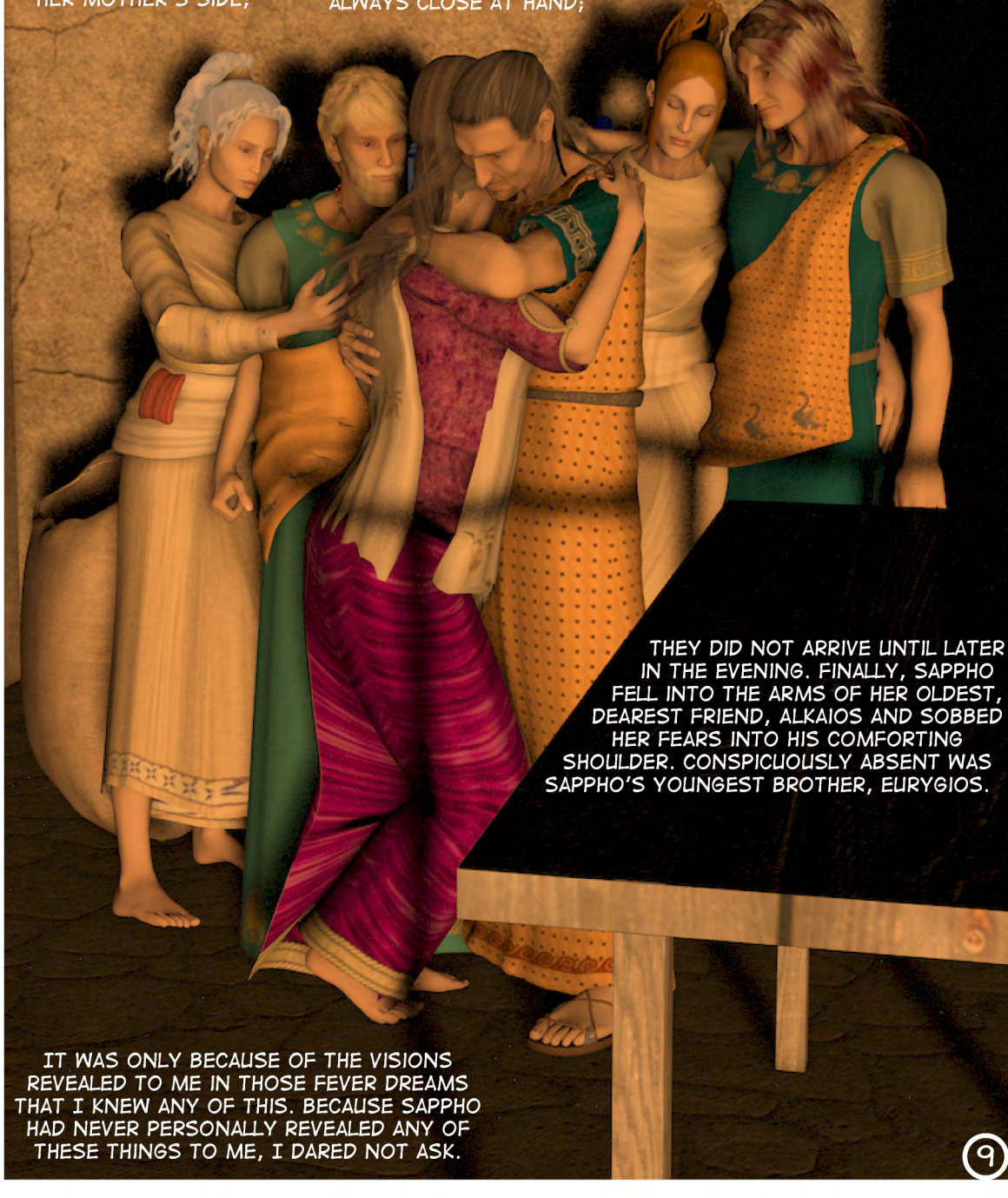


THE EVENING MEAL WAS NOTABLY TENSE. THE WORDS GORGO HAD EXCHANGED WITH SAPPHO HAD SHAKEN HER TO THE VERY CORE. NO SOONER HAD GORGO DEPARTED THAN SAPPHO CALLED FORTH HER SLAVES TO SUMMON ALL THOSE SHE HELD MOST DEAR:

KLEIS, SAPPHO'S DAUGHTER, LIVED AT HOME AND WAS THEREFORE NEVER FAR FROM HER MOTHER'S SIDE;

LARICHOS, HER YOUNGER BROTHER WHO LIVED IN THE CITY HE SO LOVED, AND LIKE HIS NIECE WAS ALWAYS CLOSE AT HAND;

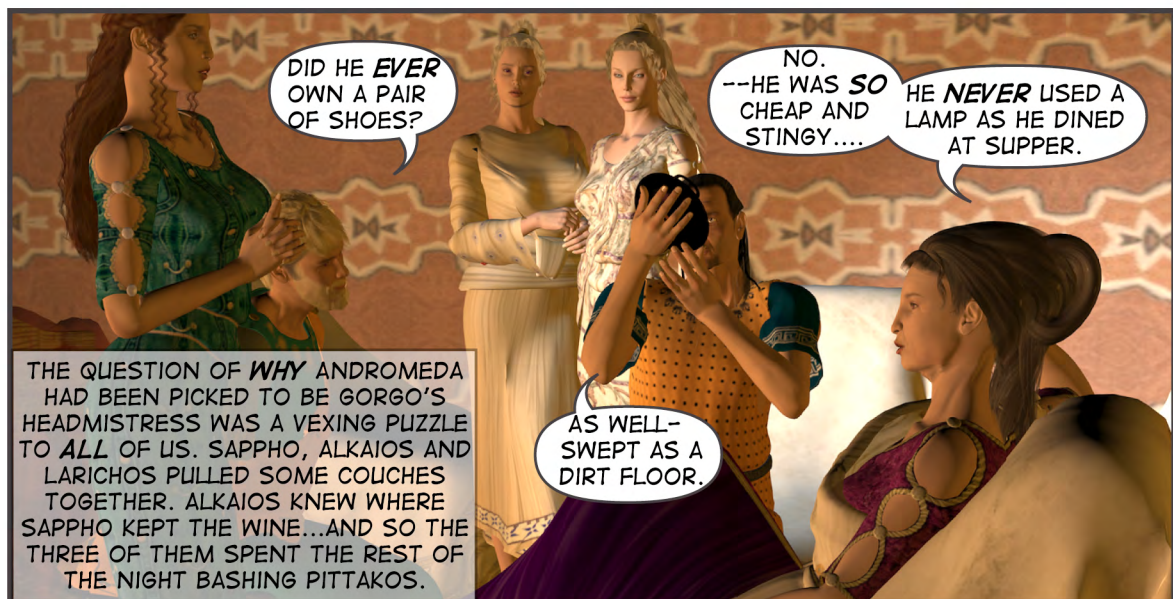
HER BROTHER CHARAXOS AND HIS WIFE DORICHA, WHO OWNED A THRIVING MERCHANT BUSINESS.



THEY DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL LATER IN THE EVENING. FINALLY, SAPPHO FELL INTO THE ARMS OF HER OLDEST, DEAREST FRIEND, ALKAIOS AND SOBBED HER FEARS INTO HIS COMFORTING SHOULDER. CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT WAS SAPPHO'S YOUNGEST BROTHER, EURYGIOS.

IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE VISIONS REVEALED TO ME IN THOSE FEVER DREAMS THAT I KNEW ANY OF THIS. BECAUSE SAPPHO HAD NEVER PERSONALLY REVEALED ANY OF THESE THINGS TO ME, I DARED NOT ASK.





DID HE **EVER** OWN A PAIR OF SHOES?

NO. --HE WAS **SO** CHEAP AND STINGY....

HE **NEVER** USED A LAMP AS HE DINED AT SUPPER.

THE QUESTION OF **WHY** ANDROMEDA HAD BEEN PICKED TO BE GORGO'S HEADMISTRESS WAS A VEXING PUZZLE TO **ALL** OF US. SAPPHO, ALKAIOS AND LARICHOS PULLED SOME COUCHES TOGETHER. ALKAIOS KNEW WHERE SAPPHO KEPT THE WINE...AND SO THE THREE OF THEM SPENT THE REST OF THE NIGHT BASHING PITTAKOS.

AS WELL-SWEPT AS A DIRT FLOOR.



I AM QUITE WEARY OF ALL THIS TALK.

YOU SEEM TO REMEMBER A **FAR** MORE GLORIOUS REBELLION....

...THAN **I** DO, MY DEAR FRIEND.



YOU CANNOT TELL ME, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THAT YOU HAVE REGRETTED THOSE DAYS!

I SHALL LOOK UPON MY COUNTRY IN ITS DREADFUL SUFFERING...

AND **KNOW** THAT WHAT WE DID WAS **RIGHT!**



IF YOU RESPECT MODERATION, THEN **USE** IT....

FOR I HAVE **NO** REASON TO STIR UP THE OLD DAYS AGAIN--

...**NOT** IN THIS FASHION. AND I SHALL LEAVE TO YOU THESE THOUGHTS:

ARE YOU **CERTAIN** OUR PLANS OF REBELLION WERE THE **RIGHT** ACTIONS TO TAKE--



"...OR DID THE GODS **FROWN** UPON OUR YOUTHFUL IMPETUOSITY?"

SOME GOD CAME DOWN TO US.

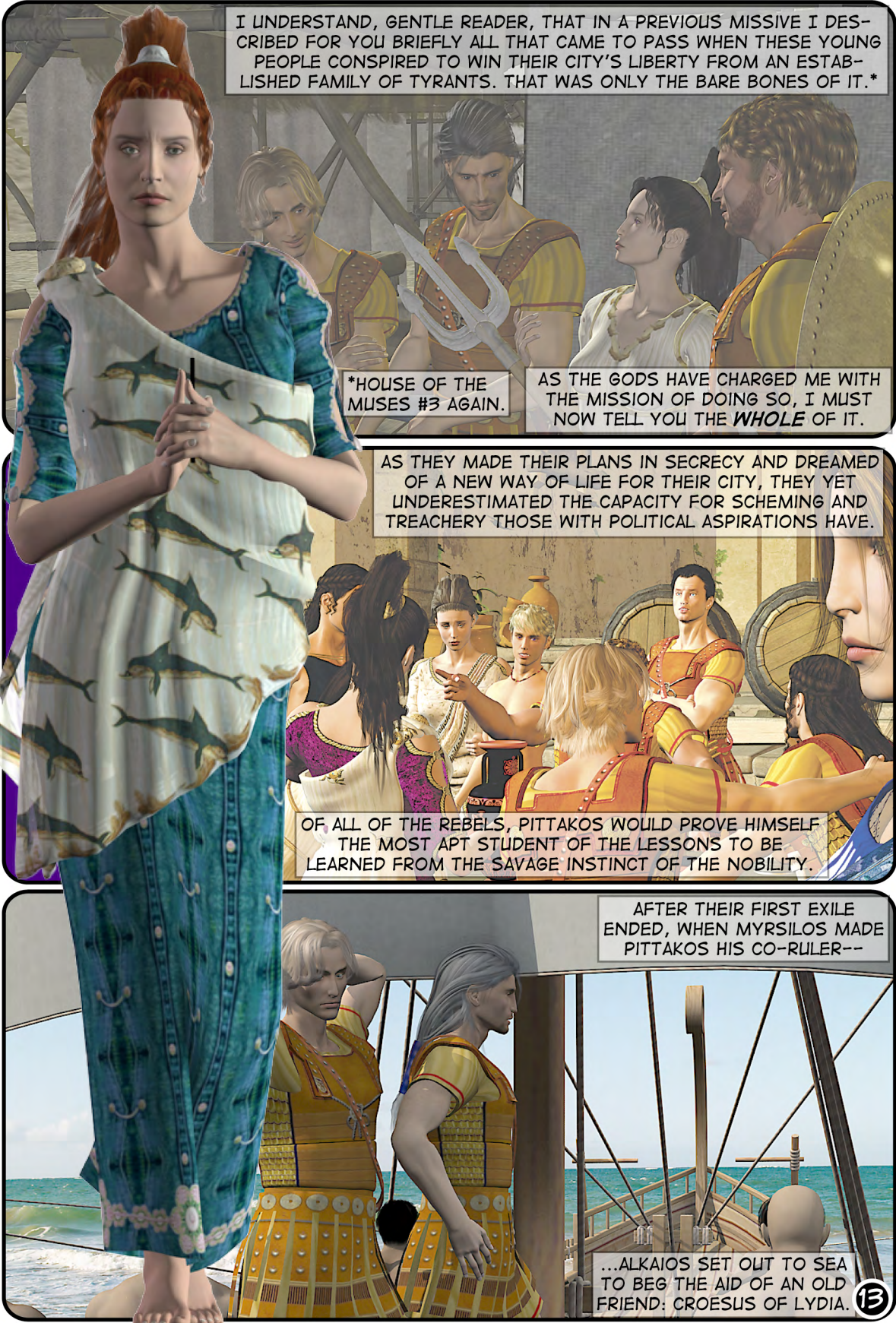
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER OUR DREAMS?

"ALKAIOS WROTE ABOUT HIS WARTIME EXPLOITS AND HIS SEA-VOYAGE WHEN PITTAKOS, THE TYRANT OF HIS CITY, HAD DRIVEN HIM OUT BECAUSE HE WAS EXHORTING THE MYTILENEANS TO THE LOVE OF LIBERTY; HE LATER DEFEATED THEM WHEN HE HAD GATHERED TOGETHER AN ARMY." -ACRO ON HORACE, ODES

PITTAKOS' BETRAYAL HAD DEVASTATED ALKAIOS: "I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE DIRECTION OF THE WINDS: ONE WAVE ROLLS IN FROM THIS SIDE, ANOTHER FROM THAT, AND WE IN THE MIDDLE ARE CARRIED ALONG IN THE COMPANY OF OUR BLACK SHIP, MUCH DISTRESSED IN THE GREAT STORM. THE BILGE-WATER COVERS THE MASTHOLD;

"ALL THE SAIL LETS THE LIGHT THROUGH NOW, AND THERE ARE GREAT RENTS IN IT...THE ANCHORS ARE SLACKENING; THE RUDDERS FAIL TO STEER OUR COURSE,

"MY FEET BOTH STAY ENTANGLED IN THE ROPES: THIS ALONE SAVES ME; THE CARGO IS LOST...."



I UNDERSTAND, GENTLE READER, THAT IN A PREVIOUS MISSIVE I DESCRIBED FOR YOU BRIEFLY ALL THAT CAME TO PASS WHEN THESE YOUNG PEOPLE CONSPIRED TO WIN THEIR CITY'S LIBERTY FROM AN ESTABLISHED FAMILY OF TYRANTS. THAT WAS ONLY THE BARE BONES OF IT.*

*HOUSE OF THE MUSES #3 AGAIN.

AS THE GODS HAVE CHARGED ME WITH THE MISSION OF DOING SO, I MUST NOW TELL YOU THE **WHOLE** OF IT.

AS THEY MADE THEIR PLANS IN SECRECY AND DREAMED OF A NEW WAY OF LIFE FOR THEIR CITY, THEY YET UNDERESTIMATED THE CAPACITY FOR SCHEMING AND TREACHERY THOSE WITH POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS HAVE.

OF ALL OF THE REBELS, PITTAKOS WOULD PROVE HIMSELF THE MOST APT STUDENT OF THE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE SAVAGE INSTINCT OF THE NOBILITY.

AFTER THEIR FIRST EXILE ENDED, WHEN MYRSILOS MADE PITTAKOS HIS CO-RULER--

...ALKAIOS SET OUT TO SEA TO BEG THE AID OF AN OLD FRIEND: CROESUS OF LYDIA.

ALKAIOS AND HIS PARTY SUFFERED THE RULERSHIP OF MYRSILOS AND PITTAKOS FOR MANY MONTHS BUT SAW NO SWEEPING CHANGES IN POLICY OR REFORMS. CONVINCED THAT AFFAIRS WERE WORSENING, ALKAIOS BEGAN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE TYRANTS.

WHO ARE THESE **WARRIORS** RIDING INTO OUR CITY?

THEIR ARMOR LOOKS FAMILIAR.

ARE THEY **GREEKS?**

IT WOULD APPEAR SO.

LET'S SEE WHAT THEY WANT.

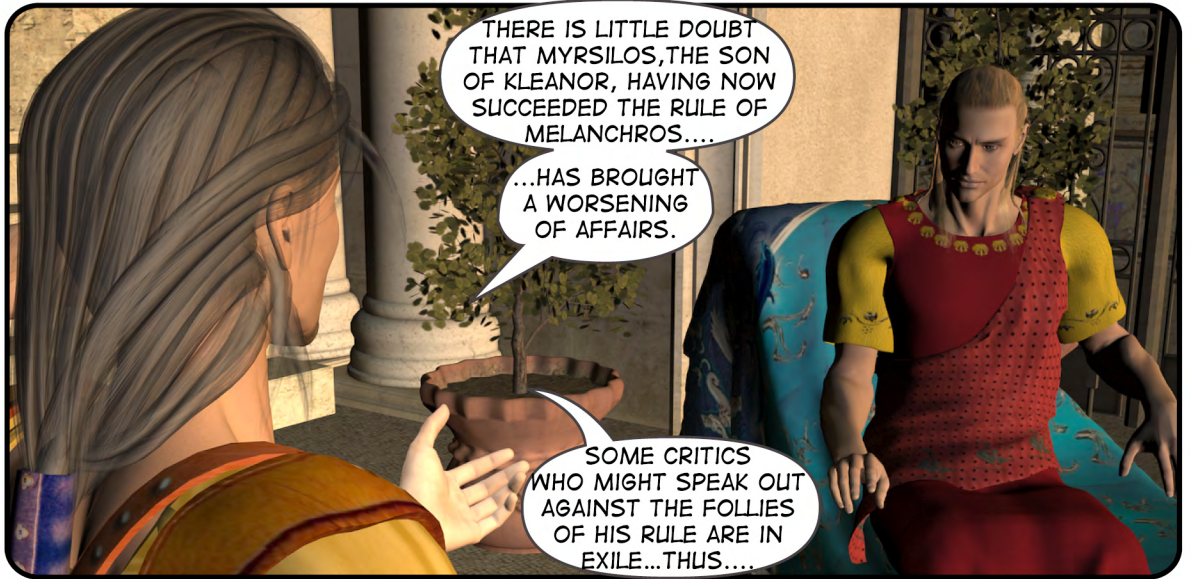
THUS DID ALKAIOS AND BYCCHIS RENEW FRIENDSHIP WITH THE MAN--

--WHO IN LATER YEARS WOULD BE REKNOWNED AS THE FAMED CROESUS, THE WEALTHIEST KING OF LYDIA.

THAT VERY NIGHT DID ALKAIOS AND BYCCHIS HOLD COUNSEL WITH CROESUS AND HIS FATHER, KING ALYATTES.

EVEN AS THE MEN LAUGHED TO RECOUNT MEMORIES OF THOSE EARLY DAYS AGAINST THE ATHENIANS AT SIGEUM--

...CROESUS YET MARVELED AT HOW MANY TIMES NOW HAD PITTAKOS THE FARMER SURPRISED THEM ALL.



THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT MYRSILOS, THE SON OF KLEANOR, HAVING NOW SUCCEEDED THE RULE OF MELANCHROS....

...HAS BROUGHT A WORSENING OF AFFAIRS.

SOME CRITICS WHO MIGHT SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE FOLLIES OF HIS RULE ARE IN EXILE...THUS....



PITTAKOS' COWARDLY MANEUVERINGS HAVE BEEN MET WITH NO OPPOSITION WHATSOEVER.

THIS MAN WHO SEEKS SUPREME POWER WILL SOON OVERTURN THE CITY;

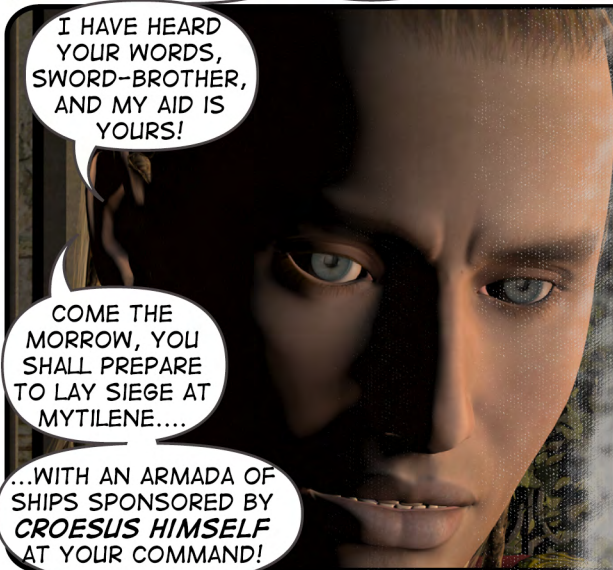
ITS FATE IS IN THE BALANCE.



SO YOU AND YOUR ALLIES WERE SENT INTO EXILE AFTER DEATH OF MELANCHROS---

...FOR CRITICIZING PITTAKOS' SIDING WITH MYRSILOS.

--AND THAT IS WHAT BRINGS US HERE.



I HAVE HEARD YOUR WORDS, SWORD-BROTHER, AND MY AID IS YOURS!

COME THE MORROW, YOU SHALL PREPARE TO LAY SIEGE AT MYTILENE....

...WITH AN ARMADA OF SHIPS SPONSORED BY **CROESUS HIMSELF** AT YOUR COMMAND!



I WILL HEAR **NO MORE**, ALKAIOS. NOT TONIGHT!

SAPPHO'S VOICE TREMBLED.

I AM RETIRING TO BED. WE CAN RESUME TALK OF THESE FINE OLD DAYS COME SUNRISE.



WHEN IT FIRST BEGAN TO SINK IN, I COULD NOT CONTAIN MY OUTRAGE AT HOW NAIVE I HAD BEEN.



BASED ON OUR PEOPLE'S TIME-TESTED METHODS OF DIVINATION, THE PREGNANCY WAS CONFIRMED.

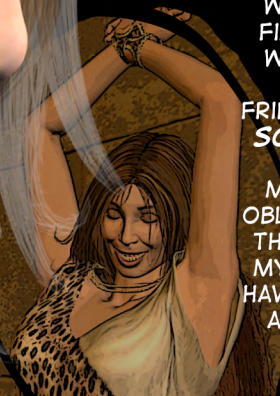
BUT THE NAGGING QUESTION NO ONE COULD ANSWER FOR ME WAS, **WHO** WAS THE FATHER? THOUGH EURYKLES HAD BRUTALLY ATTACKED ME AND LEFT ME FOR DEAD IN MY OWN ROOM ON THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT IN ATHENS*--

IN TRUTH, EURIPATES WAS NO INNOCENT IN THIS DRAMA, EITHER.



THEN THERE WERE NUMEROUS WILD, WINE-FILLED NIGHTS WITH HEGESO AND HER FRIENDS... I WAS **SO** DESPERATE TO DRINK MYSELF INTO OBLIVION DURING THAT PHASE OF MY LIFE, I MAY HAVE DONE JUST ABOUT **ANY-THING**.

I TOLD MYSELF THESE THINGS BECAUSE MY MOST HORRID FEAR WAS THAT AFTER **ALL THIS...**



TIME PASSED QUIETLY, AFTER THAT STRANGE AND FATEFUL DAY GORGO CAME TO VISIT US WITH HER NEWS OF THE NEW SCHOOL SHE'D CREATED.



THE SCHOOL OF ANDROMEDA GREW AND PROSPERED. SAPPHO WAS PLEASED THAT THE INCIDENT HAD DIED DOWN.



MY WORRIES DID **NOT** DIE DOWN.

IN FACT, THEY GREW LARGER OVER TIME. THE DAY CAME WHEN I CAME TO TERMS WITH THESE NEW CHANGES IN MY LIFE.



LIFE AT SAPPHO'S SCHOOL WENT ON. WE LIVED, LEARNED, AND FORGED STRONG BONDS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

THE COPING WITH MY NEW LIFE HERE ON LESBOS GRANTED ME A SERENITY THAT I NEVER HAD BEFORE.

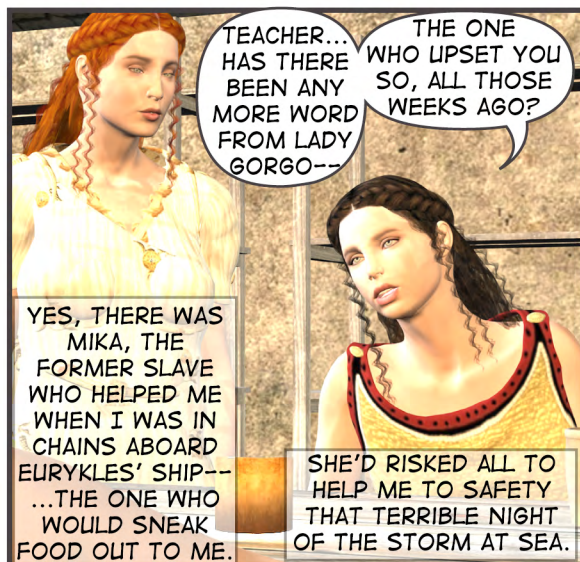


THE AROMA OF FRESH-BAKED BREAD REMINDS ME OF *HOME*.

ONE CANNOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE--

--BUT IT MAKES THE EVENING MEAL **SO** MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE.

I LOOK BACK ON MY MEMORIES OF LEARNING TO BAKE BREAD IN SAPPHO'S KITCHEN AS BEING AMONG THE SWEETEST.

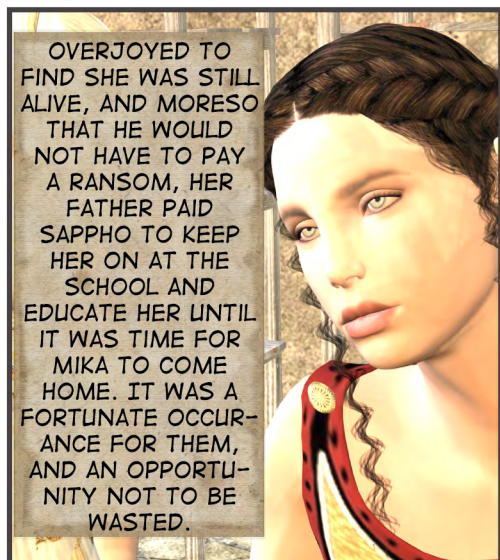


TEACHER... HAS THERE BEEN ANY MORE WORD FROM LADY GORGO--

THE ONE WHO UPSET YOU SO, ALL THOSE WEEKS AGO?

YES, THERE WAS MIKA, THE FORMER SLAVE WHO HELPED ME WHEN I WAS IN CHAINS ABOARD EURYKLES' SHIP-- ...THE ONE WHO WOULD SNEAK FOOD OUT TO ME.

SHE'D RISKED ALL TO HELP ME TO SAFETY THAT TERRIBLE NIGHT OF THE STORM AT SEA.



OVERJOYED TO FIND SHE WAS STILL ALIVE, AND MORESO THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY A RANSOM, HER FATHER PAID SAPPHO TO KEEP HER ON AT THE SCHOOL AND EDUCATE HER UNTIL IT WAS TIME FOR MIKA TO COME HOME. IT WAS A FORTUNATE OCCURANCE FOR THEM, AND AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE WASTED.



IF NOT FOR HER, I'D HAVE DIED AND GONE DOWN WITH THE SHIP. I NEVER FORGOT THAT.

I'D SINCE COME TO TERMS WITH THOSE EVENTS, AND WE SOON BECAME FAST FRIENDS.



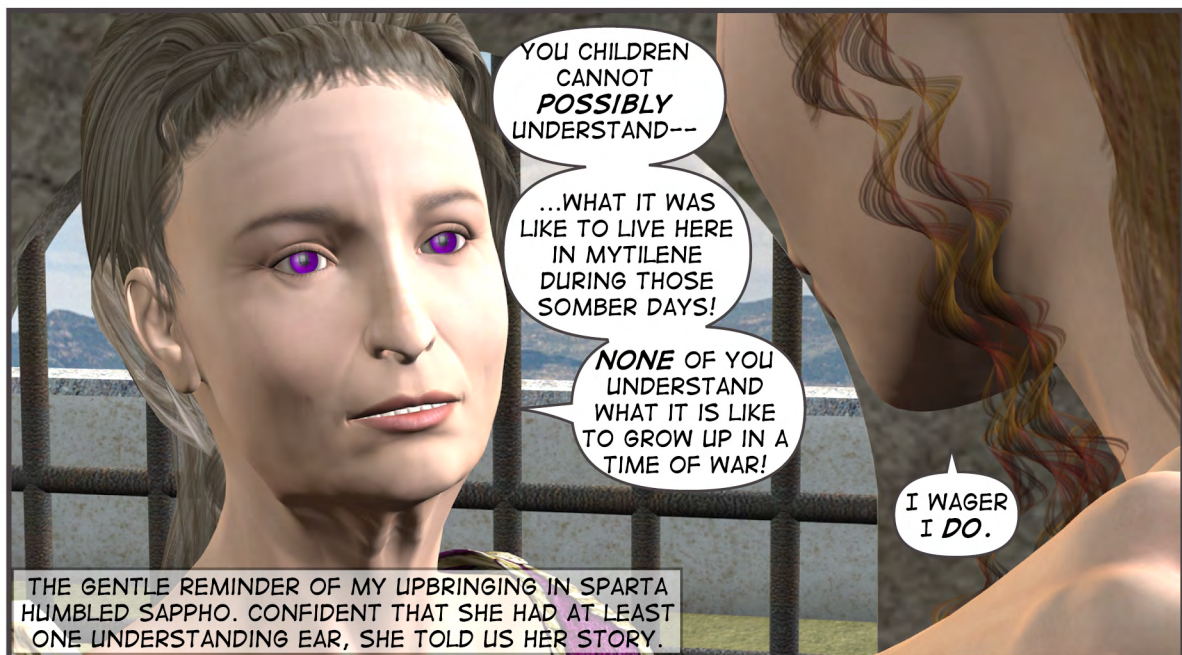
MIKA WAS VERY CURIOUS, AND ASKED LOTS OF QUESTIONS.

MY DEARS... I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR...

I AM CERTAIN SAPPHO WAS NOT TERRIBLY EXCITED TO HEAR THIS ONE.

...THAT CHAPTER IN MY LIFE WAS ONE I AM NO LONGER WILLING TO REVISIT.





YOU CHILDREN
CANNOT
POSSIBLY
UNDERSTAND--

...WHAT IT WAS
LIKE TO LIVE HERE
IN MYTILENE
DURING THOSE
SOMBER DAYS!

NONE OF YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT IS LIKE
TO GROW UP IN A
TIME OF WAR!

I WAGER
I **DO**.

THE GENTLE REMINDER OF MY UPBRINGING IN SPARTA HUMBLED SAPPHO. CONFIDENT THAT SHE HAD AT LEAST ONE UNDERSTANDING EAR, SHE TOLD US HER STORY.

"IN THOSE DAYS, AS I RECALL, IT SEEMED EVERYONE WAS POOR. THE HOUSE OF PENTHILOS TAXED THE PEOPLE SO SORELY, TREATED ALL OF THEM SO HARSHLY, NO ONE COULD MAKE AN HONORABLE LIVING. AMONG THE MANY POOR SUFFERING THE CRUELTY OF THEIR RULE WERE NUMEROUS VETERANS OF THAT WAR.



"ONLY THE SPARTANS KNEW THE SECRET OF DEFEATING COMBAT FATIGUE AND POSTWAR MADNESS, AND OUR WARRIORS DID NOT. THE PROLONGED WAR TOOK ITS TOLL ON MANY A VETERAN. SOME WERE REJECTED BY THEIR FAMILIES AND LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES. SOME COULD NOT ADAPT TO LIFE BEYOND THE SWORD, YET BEING UNABLE TO FIGHT, FELL INTO POVERTY AND APATHY, BEGGING FOR THEIR MEAGER LIVING ON THE STREETS. 'DO NOT LOOK AT THEM,' MY MOTHER TOLD ME. 'DO NOT GO NEAR THEM; FOR THEY ARE MAD. THEY MIGHT **HARM** YOU.'"

*HOUSE OF THE MUSE



"WE ARE HIGHBORN FOLK, OF **NOBLE** BLOOD," SHE INSISTED. "YOU MUST **NOT** MINGLE WITH THE COMMON RIFFRAFF."

"BUT I WAS YOUNG, AND I **SO** WANTED TO PLEASE MOTHER. SO FOR A WHILE I BELIEVED HER."



"I WAS EDUCATED BY THE FINEST SCHOLARS. FROM THE TIME I WAS A SMALL CHILD, MY FAMILY KNEW I WAS GIFTED IN THE ARTS OF MUSIC AND POETRY."

"BEFORE LONG THEIR HOPES WERE REALIZED, AS I MADE A NAME FOR MYSELF AS A MUSICAL PRODIGY."



"I REMEMBER HOW PROUD MY FAMILY WAS WHEN I WON MY FIRST LAURELS."

--AND IT PLEASES BOTH THE BLESSED GRACES AND OUR ESTEEMED JUDGES--

--TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR'S WINNER: **SAPPHO OF ERESSOS!!**

"IN KEEPING WITH THE CUSTOM OF RECKONING OUR NOBLE LINEAGE, I WOULD HENCEFORTH ALWAYS BE NOTED FOR THE CITY OF MY BIRTH."



"I ENJOYED **ALL** THE PRIVILEGES OF CELEBRITY."

"IN FACT, I **REVELED** IN IT."

"IN THOSE EARLY DAYS I OWNED A POPULARITY THAT **FEW** HAVE KNOWN SINCE ...I **GLORIED** IN THE HEYDAY OF MY YOUTH."



"THOUGH I ENJOYED EVERY PRIVILEGE, I ALWAYS FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE, SOME HIGHER PURPOSE TO MY LIFE THAT ELUDED MY GRASP."

"SINCE YOU WERE DISCOURAGED FROM MINGLING WITH THE COMMON FOLK-- WHAT **MOTIVATED** YOU, SAPPHO--"



...TO INVOLVE YOURSELF IN A CIVIL WAR THAT HAD **NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU?**

LOVE.

LOVE? YOU FELL IN **LOVE** WITH SOMEONE?



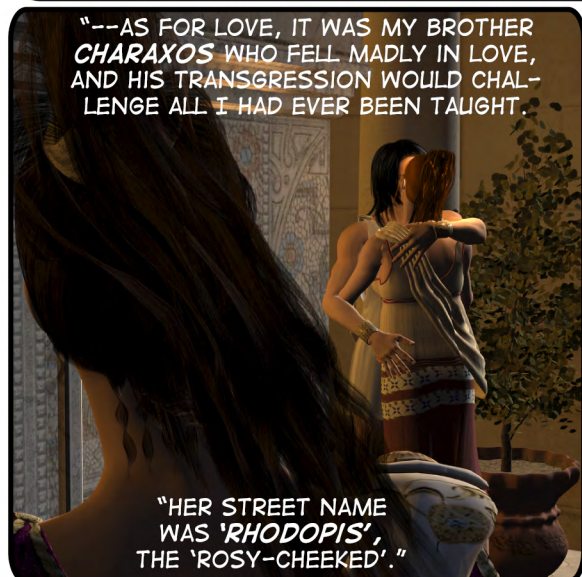
WAS IT A BOY OR A GIRL?

DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE FROM THE COMMON CLASS?

GIRLS--REMEMBER, BY THIS TIME, THANKS TO MY MOTHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT...

...THE CELEBRITY, ADULATION AND WORSHIP FROM ALL MY ADMIRERS--

...HAD TURNED ME INTO AN INSUFFERABLE **SNOB**.



--AS FOR LOVE, IT WAS MY BROTHER **CHARAXOS** WHO FELL MADLY IN LOVE, AND HIS TRANSGRESSION WOULD CHALLENGE ALL I HAD EVER BEEN TAUGHT.

"HER STREET NAME WAS '**RHODOPIS**', THE '**ROSY-CHEEKED**'."



"SHE WAS THE **LOWEST OF THE LOW**--

"SHE WAS A COMMON **STREET HARLOT**..."

"A PROSTITUTE."

"EVEN WORSE--CHARAXOS BROUGHT THIS GIRL HOME TO MEET MOTHER! I DON'T KNOW HOW HE EXPECTED US TO REACT--"



"CHARAXOS FOUND HER WHEN HE SAILED TO NAUCRATIS IN EGYPT DURING THE REIGN OF AMASIS II, AS A MERCHANT, A PURVEYOR OF WINE.

"ACCORDING TO THE WILD TALES THEY TOLD US, SHE WAS A FELLOW-SLAVE WITH THE FABLE TELLER AESOP, BOTH OF THEM BELONGING TO THE SAMIAN IADMON.

"SHE LATER BECAME THE PROPERTY OF XANTHES, ANOTHER SAMIAN, WHO TOOK HER TO NAUCRATIS WHERE SHE CONTINUED TO WORK AS AN HETAERA, A PAID COMPANION, FOR THE BENEFIT OF HER MASTER.

"I COULD HAVE CARED *LESS* WHERE SHE CAME FROM.



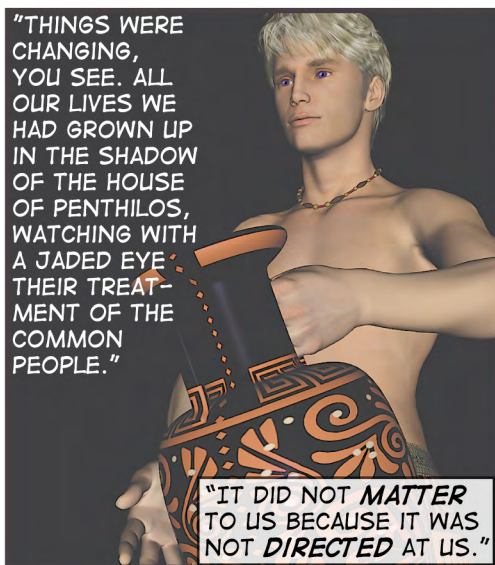
"CHARAXOS FELL IN LOVE WITH HER, AND RAN-SOMED HER FROM XANTHES FOR A LARGE SUM OF MONEY. THIS INFURIATED ME.

"I CALLED RHODOPIS A GOLD-DIGGER AND EVERY OTHER NAME I COULD THINK OF, AND HEAPED THE REST ON *HIS* HEAD. I ACCUSED RHODOPIS OF ROBBING CHARAXOS OF HIS HARD-EARNED MONEY. I WAS SO ANGRY THAT I LATER PUBLISHED A FIERY POEM ABOUT IT.

I WENT TOO FAR. HE MARRIED THIS WOMAN DESPITE ALL OUR WISHES, AND MOVED BACK WITH HER TO NAUCRATIS."



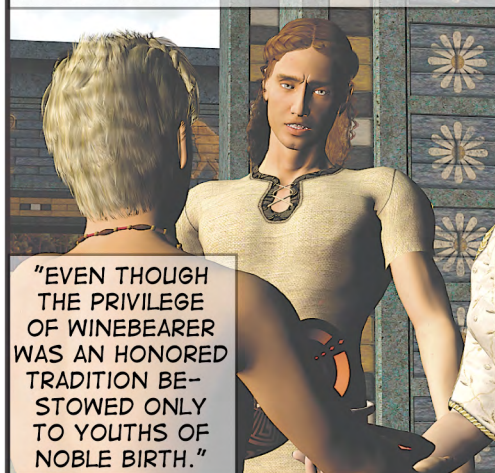
"WHEN MY BROTHER LEFT, I WAS DEVASTATED. HE COULD NOT SEE THAT MY MISGUIDED ANGER WAS DIRECTED AT HIM OUT OF LOVE. I REBELLED, WITHDREW, AND INVOLVED MYSELF IN SITUATIONS THAT A YOUNG GIRL OF MY AGE HAD NO BUSINESS BEING INVOLVED IN."



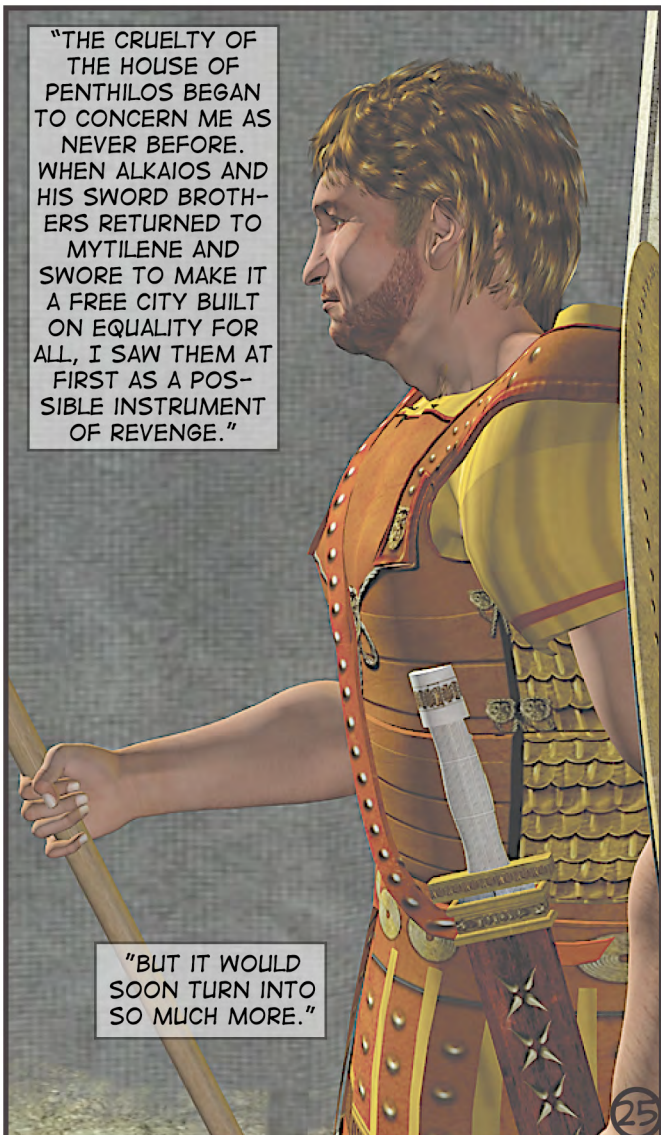
"THINGS WERE CHANGING, YOU SEE. ALL OUR LIVES WE HAD GROWN UP IN THE SHADOW OF THE HOUSE OF PENTHILOS, WATCHING WITH A JADED EYE THEIR TREATMENT OF THE COMMON PEOPLE."

"IT DID NOT **MATTER** TO US BECAUSE IT WAS NOT **DIRECTED** AT US."

"AS THE WAR DREW TO A CLOSE, EVEN THAT CHANGED. THE PENTHILIDS TREATED MY BROTHER LIKE STREET TRASH--"



"EVEN THOUGH THE PRIVILEGE OF WINEBEARER WAS AN HONORED TRADITION BESTOWED ONLY TO YOUTHS OF NOBLE BIRTH."



"THE CRUELTY OF THE HOUSE OF PENTHILOS BEGAN TO CONCERN ME AS NEVER BEFORE. WHEN ALKAIOS AND HIS SWORD BROTHERS RETURNED TO MYTILENE AND SWORE TO MAKE IT A FREE CITY BUILT ON EQUALITY FOR ALL, I SAW THEM AT FIRST AS A POSSIBLE INSTRUMENT OF REVENGE."

"BUT IT WOULD SOON TURN INTO SO MUCH MORE."



SAPPHO?

AND SO THE DAYS PASSED. I CONTINUED MY INVOLVEMENT WITH ALKAIOS AND HIS COHORTS, COMPLETELY BITTER IN MY OUTLOOK UNTIL ONE MOONLIT NIGHT.

WHO IS THERE?



SAPPHO, IT IS I--**DORICHA!** YOUR HATED SISTER-IN-LAW!

PLEASE COME **DOWN** HERE...

--AND **TALK** TO ME!

WHAT?!? YOU ARE **MAD!**



SAPPHO, I MOST HUMBLY BESEECH YOU, COME **SPEAK** WITH ME!

AWAY FROM HERE, YOU EXPENSIVE **TROLLOP!!**

AFTER THE WAY YOU HAVE **WRECKED** MY FAMILY--

I HAVE **NOTHING** TO SAY TO YOU!!!

NO??? I HAVE DONE **NO HARM** TO YOU **OR** YOUR FAMILY--

YET IN CURSING AND REVILING ME IN YOUR POETRY AND PROSE, YOU HAVE MADE A **LAUGHING-STOCK** OF ME!!



I AM A WOMAN IN **LOVE**, AND I **REFUSE** TO LEAVE HERE--

-- UNTIL YOU HAVE **HEARD** WHAT I HAVE TO **SAY!!**



"FORTUNATELY THE FIGHT DID **NOT** LAST AS LONG AS IT **COULD** HAVE. I LET DORICHA KNOW IN **NO** UNCERTAIN TERMS WHO WOULD COME OUT ON TOP."



GET **OFF!!**
YOU ARE **HURTING**
ME!!!

LISTEN TO YOU!
CLEARLY YOU'RE
AN ENTERTAINER,
NOT A FIGHTER.

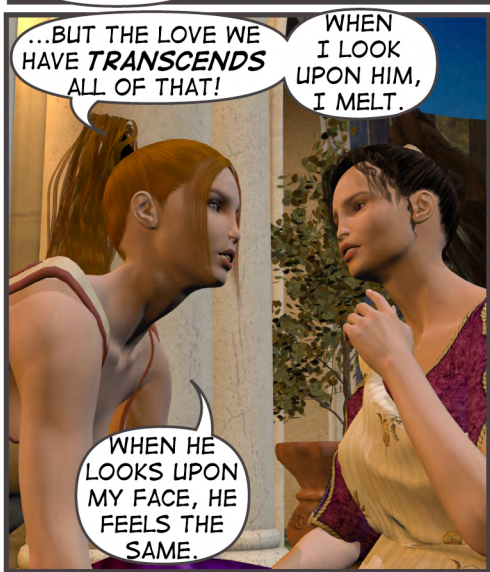
AT HER MERCY, THEN, A WHOLLY CAPTIVE AUDIENCE, I HAD TO LISTEN AS DORICHA TOLD ME ABOUT HER LIFE.



I **KNOW**
THAT I AM
NOT WHOM
YOU MIGHT--

...HAVE
ENVISIONED
YOUR BROTHER
WOULD WED.

I **KNOW**
YOU ARE HIGH-
BORN, AND I
FROM **COMMON**
FOLK.



...BUT THE LOVE WE
HAVE **TRANSCENDS**
ALL OF THAT!

WHEN
I LOOK
UPON HIM,
I MELT.

WHEN HE
LOOKS UPON
MY FACE, HE
FEELS THE
SAME.



HE **LOVES** ME.
HE IS **GOOD** TO
ME. NO MAN IN MY
LIFE HAS **EVER**
LOVED ME SO.

KNOWING ALL THIS,
WHY CAN YOU NOT
LOVE AND ACCEPT ME
FOR **WHO I AM?**

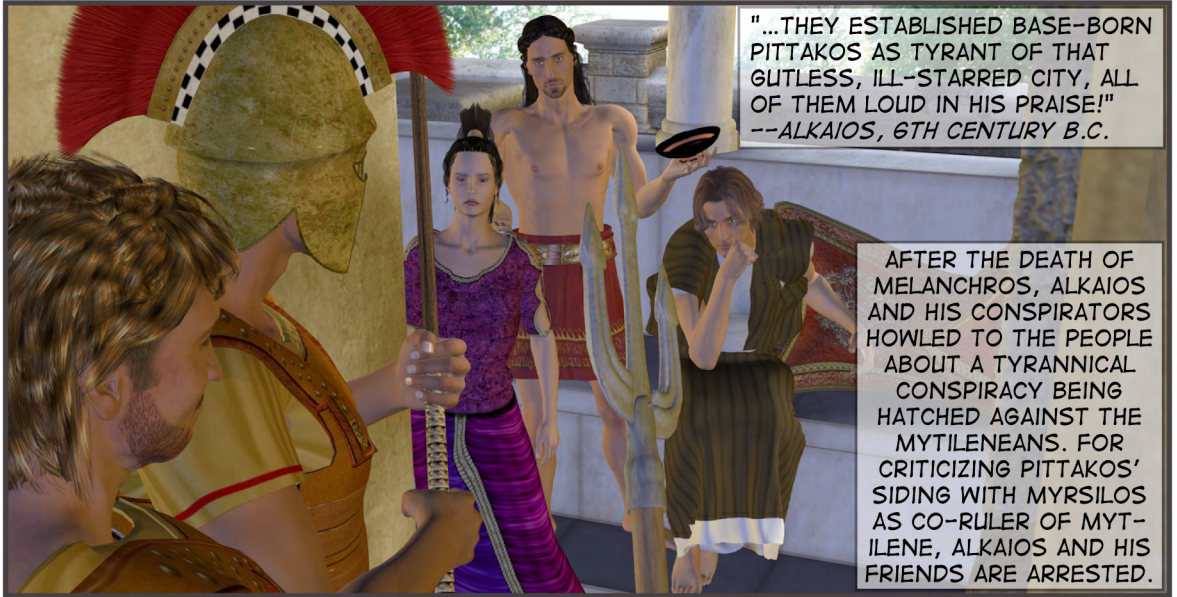


SO WHAT
HAPPENED?

DID YOU AND
DORICHA EVER
MEND THIS?

DID YOU
TWO EVER
BECOME
FRIENDS?



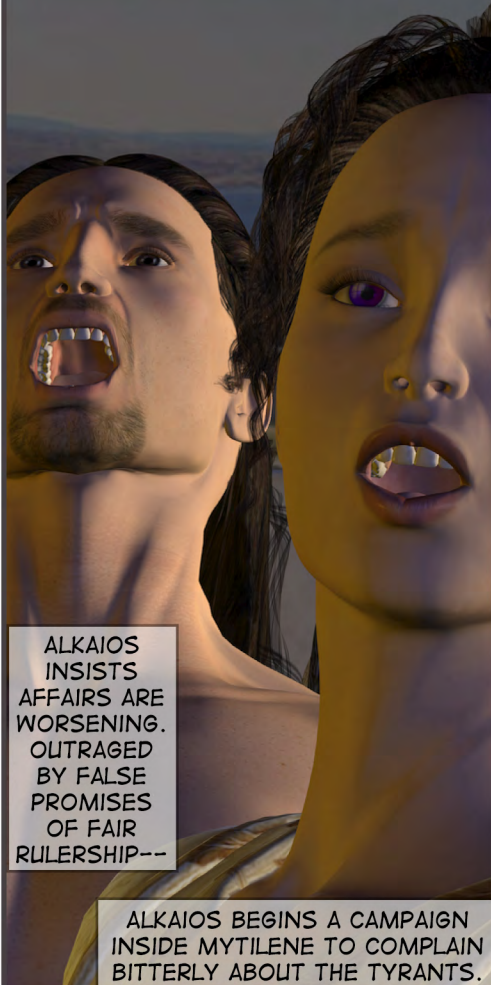


"...THEY ESTABLISHED BASE-BORN PITTAKOS AS TYRANT OF THAT GUTLESS, ILL-STARRED CITY, ALL OF THEM LOUD IN HIS PRAISE!"
--ALKAIOS, 6TH CENTURY B.C.

AFTER THE DEATH OF MELANCHROS, ALKAIOS AND HIS CONSPIRATORS HOWLED TO THE PEOPLE ABOUT A TYRANNICAL CONSPIRACY BEING HATCHED AGAINST THE MYTILENEANS. FOR CRITICIZING PITTAKOS' SIDING WITH MYRSILOS AS CO-RULER OF MYTILENE, ALKAIOS AND HIS FRIENDS ARE ARRESTED.

ALKAIOS AND HIS PARTY SUFFER THE RULERSHIP OF MYRSILOS AND PITTAKOS, BUT NO SWEEPING CHANGES IN POLICY OR REFORMS ARE NOTED.

PITTAKOS WAS FINALLY ONLY ABLE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT--TO SILENCE THEM, IN OTHER WORDS--



ALKAIOS INSISTS AFFAIRS ARE WORSENING. OUTRAGED BY FALSE PROMISES OF FAIR RULERSHIP--

ALKAIOS BEGINS A CAMPAIGN INSIDE MYTILENE TO COMPLAIN BITTERLY ABOUT THE TYRANTS.



BY BANISHING THE GROUP OF NOBLES TO THE CITY OF PYRRHA, THEIR FIRST EXILE.



"ALKAIOS COMPLAINED BITTERLY FROM PYRRHA. FIRST VILE INSULTS, THEN FLATTERY AND WHINING."

"AT LAST HE RECEIVED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE TYRANTS,

"BUT IN THE END NEGOTIATIONS WITH PITTAKOS AND MYRSILOS GO NOWHERE."

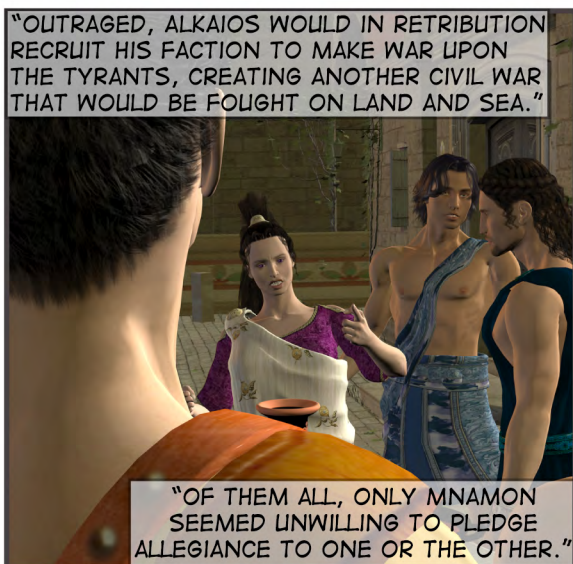


YOU MIXED THE CUP OF BATTLE!

WHAT HAS BEEN MIXED BY YOU, AS IF DRAWING FROM THE GREY SEA,*

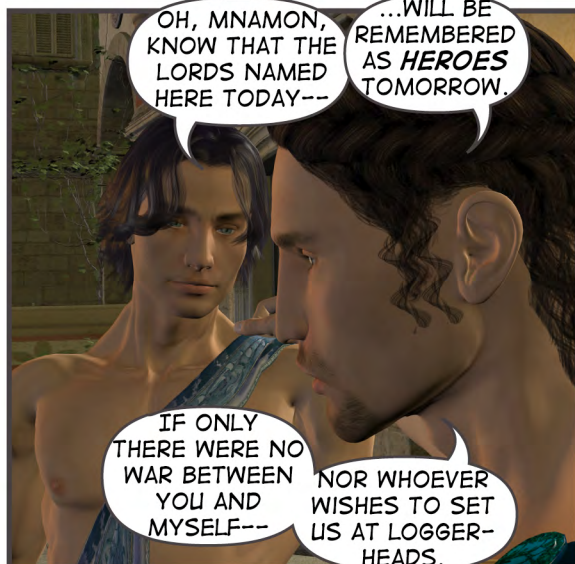
AS IF YOU *ALL* WERE BALING FROM THE SEA--

--YOU SHALL HAVE *UNENDING WAR!!*



"OUTRAGED, ALKAIOS WOULD IN RETRIBUTION RECRUIT HIS FACTION TO MAKE WAR UPON THE TYRANTS, CREATING ANOTHER CIVIL WAR THAT WOULD BE FOUGHT ON LAND AND SEA."

"OF THEM ALL, ONLY MNAMON SEEMED UNWILLING TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO ONE OR THE OTHER."

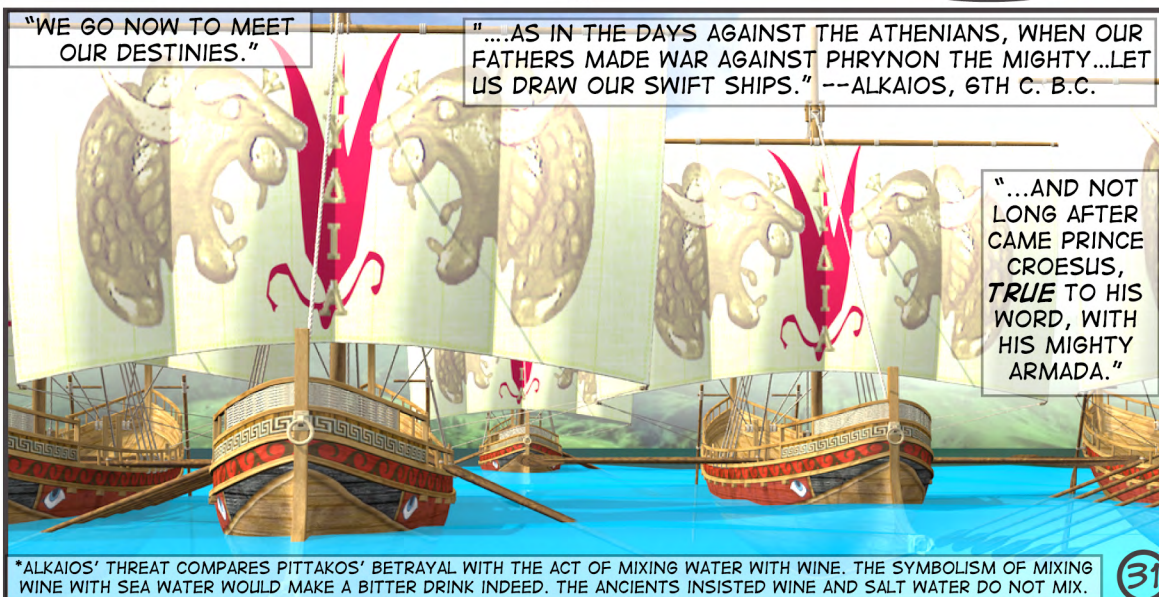


OH, MNAMON, KNOW THAT THE LORDS NAMED HERE TODAY--

...WILL BE REMEMBERED AS *HEROES* TOMORROW.

IF ONLY THERE WERE NO WAR BETWEEN YOU AND MYSELF--

NOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SET US AT *LOGGERHEADS*.



"WE GO NOW TO MEET OUR DESTINIES."

"...AS IN THE DAYS AGAINST THE ATHENIANS, WHEN OUR FATHERS MADE WAR AGAINST PHRYNION THE MIGHTY...LET US DRAW OUR SWIFT SHIPS." --ALKAIOS, 6TH C. B.C.

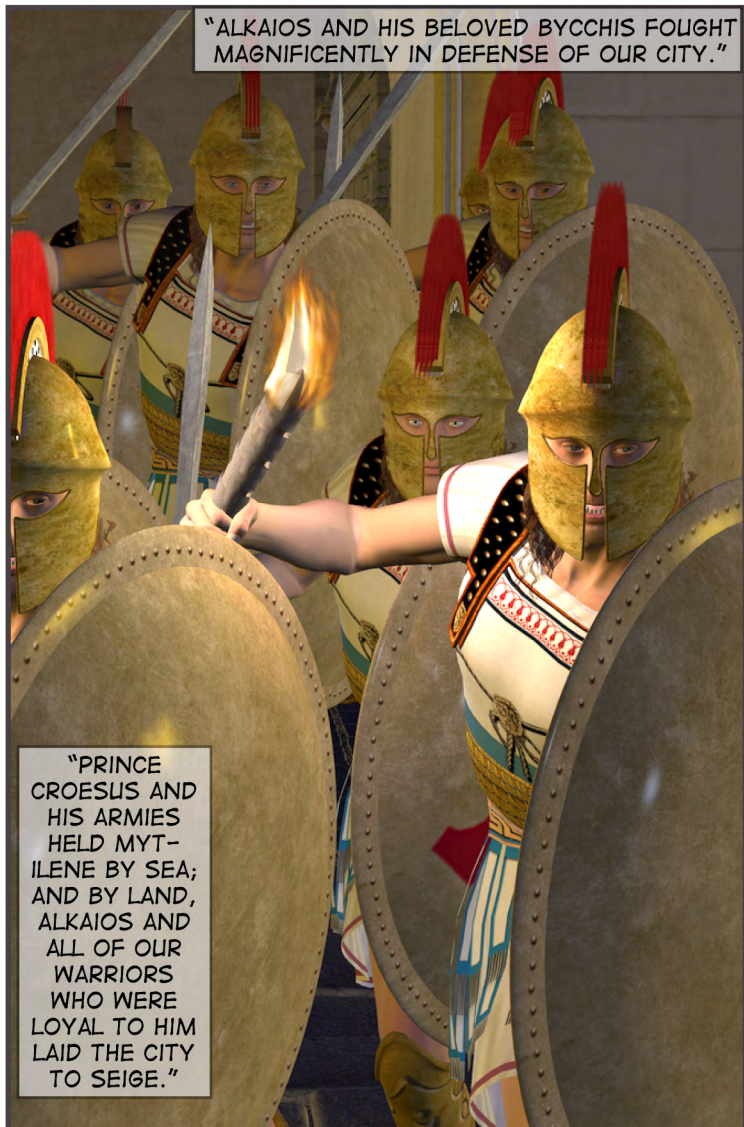
"...AND NOT LONG AFTER CAME PRINCE CROESUS, *TRUE* TO HIS WORD, WITH HIS MIGHTY ARMADA."

*ALKAIOS' THREAT COMPARES PITTAKOS' BETRAYAL WITH THE ACT OF MIXING WATER WITH WINE. THE SYMBOLISM OF MIXING WINE WITH SEA WATER WOULD MAKE A BITTER DRINK INDEED. THE ANCIENTS INSISTED WINE AND SALT WATER DO NOT MIX.



"THE BATTLE IS JOINED IN THE HARBOR OF MYTILENE AND IT IS ALKAIOS WHO IS THE VICTOR IN THE FIGHT."

"THE BATTLE MOVES INSIDE THE CITY ITSELF. ONE OF ALKAIOS' OLD FRIENDS AND COMRADES, DINNOMENES, FALLS IN THE INITIAL ATTACK ON MYTILENE."



"ALKAIOS AND HIS BELOVED BYCCHIS FOUGHT MAGNIFICENTLY IN DEFENSE OF OUR CITY."

"PRINCE CROESUS AND HIS ARMIES HELD MYTILENE BY SEA; AND BY LAND, ALKAIOS AND ALL OF OUR WARRIORS WHO WERE LOYAL TO HIM LAID THE CITY TO SEIGE."

"I THINK IN A SENSE ALKAIOS **REDEEMED** HIMSELF THAT DAY. **GONE** WAS THE BOY--"



"--WHO HAD THROWN DOWN HIS SWORD AND SHIELD IN DESPAIR TO **FLEE** THE FIELD OF BATTLE IN SIGEION."

"ONLY A FEAR-**LESS FIGHTING MAN** STOOD IN HIS PLACE."



"MNAMON HELD ME CAPTIVE TO MAKE GOOD OUR ESCAPE; IT WOULD LATER SEAL MY FATE. EVEN AS WE FLED TO THE HARBOR, THE DIVERSION WAS DETECTED, AND WE WERE CUT OFF BY SOLDIERS. A BRIEF, DEFIANT SCUFFLE LATER SAW MYRSILOS THE TYRANT LYING DEAD AT OUR FEET. AT THAT **VERY SAME TIME** ACROSS TOWN, **PITTAKOS** WAS ADDRESSING THE CITIZENS OF MYTILENE, TO ANNOUNCE--



PITTAKOS, SON OF HYRRAS, THEN MARRIED INTO THE HOUSE OF PENTHILOS. ON SAPPHO'S PARDON AND RETURN TO MYTILENE, HER CAREER THRIVED ONCE MORE. PITTAKOS GOVERNED FOR TEN YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME HE MADE NEW LAWS FOR THE PEOPLE.

A CRIME COMMITTED BY A PERSON WHEN DRUNK (ALSO POSSIBLY MADE WITH ALKAIOS IN MIND) SHOULD RECEIVE DOUBLE THE PUNISHMENT WHICH IT WOULD MERIT IF THE OFFENDER WERE SOBER. HIS GREATEST MOTTO WAS WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE **GOLDEN RULE**.

OTHER SAYINGS WERE: "WHAT-EVER YOU DO, DO IT WELL."

"EVEN THE GODS CANNOT STRIVE AGAINST NECESSITY."

"POWER SHOWS THE MAN."

"DO NOT SAY BEFOREHAND WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO; FOR IF YOU FAIL, YOU WILL BE LAUGHED AT."

"DO NOT REPROACH A MAN WITH HIS MISFORTUNES, FEARING LEST NEMESIS MAY OVERTAKE YOU."

"FORBEAR TO SPEAK EVIL NOT ONLY OF YOUR FRIENDS, BUT ALSO OF YOUR ENEMIES."

"CULTIVATE TRUTH, GOOD FAITH, EXPERIENCE, CLEVERNESS, SOCIABILITY, AND INDUSTRY."



"KNOW THY OPPORTUNITY." FOR HIS WISDOM, IN HIS LIFETIME PITTAKOS WOULD BE NOTED AS ONE OF THE SEVEN SAGES OF GREECE.

LEGEND SAYS PITTAKOS HAD A SON CALLED TYRRHAEUS, WHO WAS MURDERED.

AND THE LAST OF HIS BEST-KNOWN SAYINGS, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN APPRECIATED BY HIS FORMER COMRADES:

WHEN THE KILLER WAS BROUGHT BEFORE PITTAKOS, HE RELEASED THE MAN, SAYING,

"PARDON IS BETTER THAN PUNISHMENT."



"...IT IS A HARD THING TO BE REALLY A GOOD MAN."



WELL, UM...
THAT WAS
FUN, BUT
AWKWARD.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY MIKA CAN'T
LEARN WHEN TO
SHUT UP!

I DON'T
THINK SHE
TRULY MEANT
ANY HARM.



I'M STARTING TO
HATE MY HAIR IN
BRAIDS. IT MAKES
ME LOOK PRIM.

I NEED TO DO
SOMETHING
WITH MY HAIR--



--THAT
ISN'T
QUITE SO
CIVILIZED.

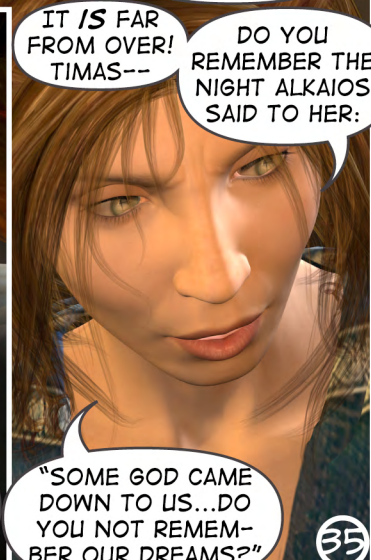
DIKA--I THINK
YOUR HAIR IS THE
LEAST OF OUR
PROBLEMS!



I KNOW SAPPHO
TOLD US **MUCH**
ABOUT HERSELF
TONIGHT.

SOME OF IT WAS
FRIGHTENING.

BUT I THINK WE
ALL KNOW THAT
THIS STORY IS
FAR FROM OVER.



IT **IS** FAR
FROM OVER!
TIMAS--

DO YOU
REMEMBER THE
NIGHT ALKAIOS
SAID TO HER:

"SOME GOD CAME
DOWN TO US...DO
YOU NOT REMEM-
BER OUR DREAMS?"



I WASN'T
THERE THAT
NIGHT!

SHE
WAS NONE
TOO HAPPY
ABOUT IT.

THEY WERE ALL
PULLED IN BY EVENTS
FAR BEYOND THEIR
CONTROL.



I THINK WE
CAN AGREE THAT,
IN ALL THE WORLD,
NO ONE KNOWS
YOU MORE INTI-
MATELY THAN
WE DO.

NIOBE'S RIGHT.
ONE THING WE **ARE**
CONFUSED ABOUT IS
HOW MUCH YOU
HAVE **CHANGED**.

WHY DO YOU
KNOW SO MUCH MORE
ABOUT THESE THINGS
THAN SAPPHO?!?



THIS IS
NOT MY
DOING!

THE GODS HAVE
BROUGHT US HERE
TO BEAR WITNESS.

BEAR WITNESS
TO **WHAT??**



CERTAIN
THINGS ARE FATED
TO COME TO PASS
TOMORROW--

--THAT
WILL CHANGE
ALL OUR LIVES
--**FOREVER!**

MARKET DAY, IN THE AGORA AT MYTILENE: THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD VENTURED HERE WITH THE OTHERS SINCE THE DAY I'D FIRST WASHED ASHORE ON LESBOS.

IT WAS MUCH LIKE THE AGORA AT ATHENS, BUT CLOSER TO THE HARBOR. SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF A TYPICAL MARKET DAY ASSAILED THE SENSES: FROM THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF WARRIORS AND MERCHANTS---

MERCHANTS HAWKING THEIR WARES TO ANY PASSERBY WHO CARED TO LISTEN, TO CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE STREET....

CATS AND SEAGULLS SCAVENGING FOR ANY MORSEL OF FOOD THAT A HUMAN MIGHT HAVE DROPPED.

I'D BEEN TO MARKET IN ATHENS PLENTY OF TIMES WITH ISTHIA, SO THIS COMFORTING FAMILIARITY FILLED WITH BUSTLING PEOPLE MADE ME FEEL QUITE AT HOME.

ONLY ONE THING MADE THIS SCENE COMPLETELY SURREAL.

THOUGH I'D NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE IN MY LIFE....

...THE MARKETPLACE AT MYTILENE WAS ALMOST *EXACTLY* AS I REMEMBERED IT.

AND THEN, **HE** TURNED TO LOOK AT US, AND THEIR EYES MET. I CAN'T SPEAK FOR NIOBE ABOUT WHAT SHE FELT IN THAT FLEETING MOMENT--

BUT I FELT HER STOP SHORT, HEARD HER DELIGHTED GASP, SAW HER FIRST TENTATIVE SMILE OF APPRAISAL. AND OH, YES, HE WAS A **HANDSOME** FELLOW.

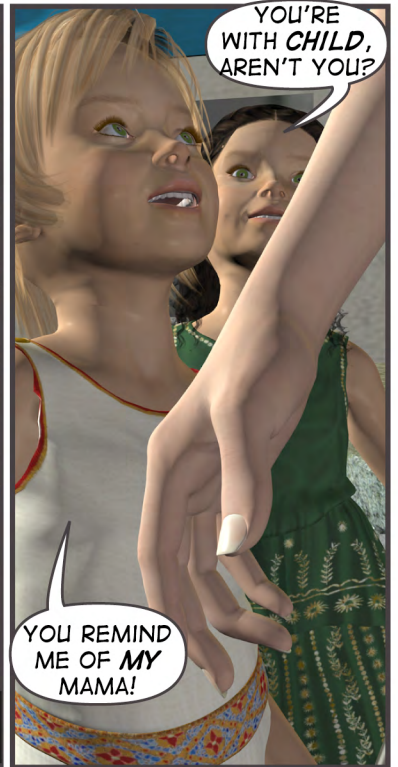
NOT EVEN A FOOL COULD MISS THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE. THIS YOUNG MAN SMILED ON HER AS THOUGH IN THE PRESENCE OF A NUBIAN GODDESS.

HER HAND SLIPPED FROM MINE AS SHE RETURNED HIS SMILE AND MOVED CLOSER.

MY HEART, ON THE OTHER HAND, ONLY WENT "KER-FLOP"--

I HAD NEVER SEEN NIOBE SO **ALIVE** BEFORE. SHE WAS GIDDY, ALL SMILES, HEART RACING IN EXCITEMENT.

...AND JUST LAY THERE.

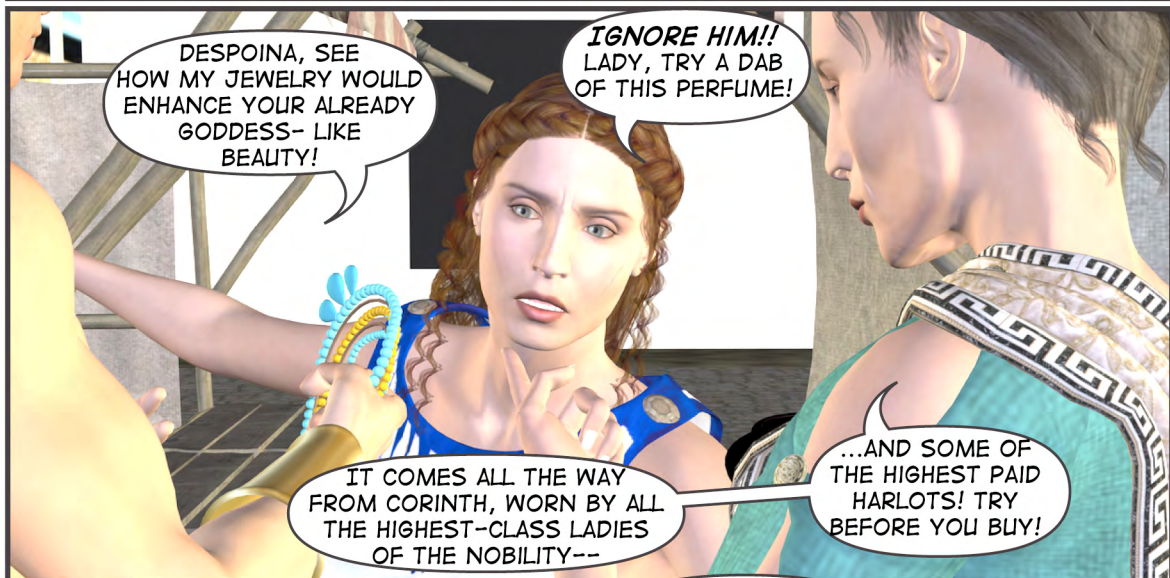




I CHASED THE BRAT ALL THROUGH THE MARKET-PLACE, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS JUST OUT OF REACH.

I PURSUED HIM THOUGH MY CONDITION HINDERED ME: I WAS **FURIOUS** AT BEING STOLEN FROM.

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS GETTING MYSELF INTO.

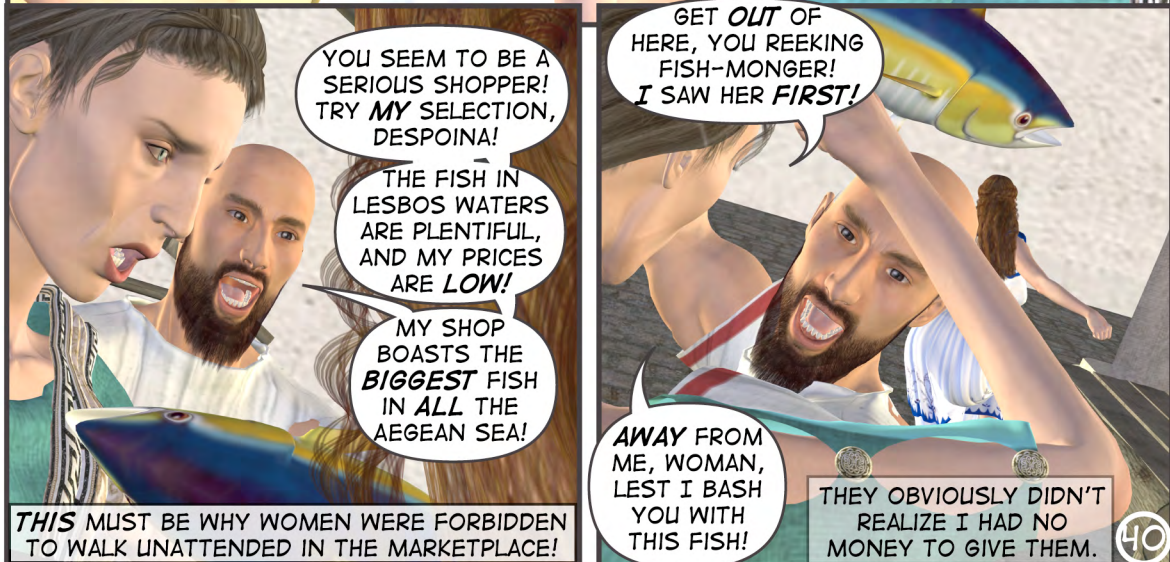


DESPOINA, SEE HOW MY JEWELRY WOULD ENHANCE YOUR ALREADY GODDESS- LIKE BEAUTY!

IGNORE HIM!!
LADY, TRY A DAB OF THIS PERFUME!

IT COMES ALL THE WAY FROM CORINTH, WORN BY ALL THE HIGHEST-CLASS LADIES OF THE NOBILITY--

...AND SOME OF THE HIGHEST PAID HARLOTS! TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!



YOU SEEM TO BE A SERIOUS SHOPPER! TRY **MY** SELECTION, DESPOINA!

THE FISH IN LESBOS WATERS ARE PLENTIFUL, AND MY PRICES ARE **LOW!**

MY SHOP BOASTS THE **BIGGEST** FISH IN ALL THE AEGEAN SEA!

GET **OUT** OF HERE, YOU REEKING FISH-MONGER! I SAW HER **FIRST!**

AWAY FROM ME, WOMAN, LEST I BASH YOU WITH THIS FISH!

THEY OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T REALIZE I HAD NO MONEY TO GIVE THEM.

THIS MUST BE WHY WOMEN WERE FORBIDDEN TO WALK UNATTENDED IN THE MARKETPLACE!

ABOUT THAT TIME I
ROUNDED ANOTHER
CORNER OF THE AGORA--

--AND THE MOST
INCREDIBLE, SICKENING
FEELING CREPT OVER ME.



I DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THESE
EVENTS WERE COMING FULL CIRCLE.



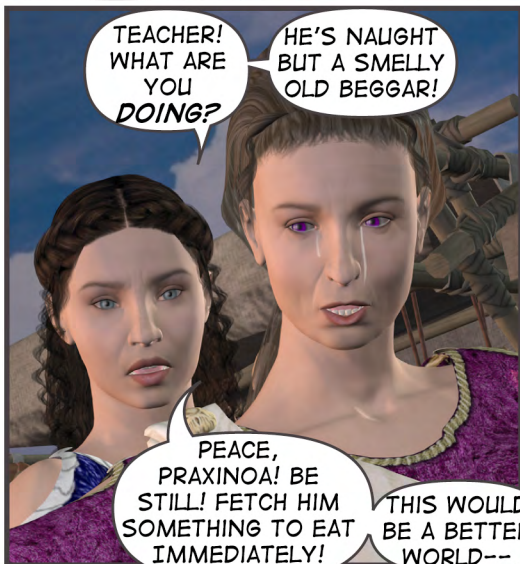
NOT YET--
BUT BY YOUR
GRACE, I COULD
DINE LIKE A
KING--

NO MATTER THAT POVERTY
HAD A VERY LONG REACH--



TEACHER!
WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING?

HE'S NAUGHT
BUT A SMELLY
OLD BEGGAR!



A SIMPLE
KINDNESS....

IF WE COULD
JUST STOP
A MOMENT...

...AND BE
MORE **KIND** TO
ONE ANOTHER.

...ANOTHER
REDEMPTION.





ADORABLE. MINISTERING TO THE **POOR** THESE DAYS, **ARE YOU, SAPPHO?**

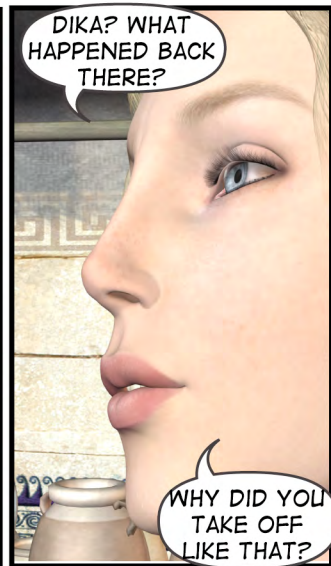
YOU **KNOW** THAT MY PATRON GODDESS--

...IS **APHRODITE, LADY GORGO!**



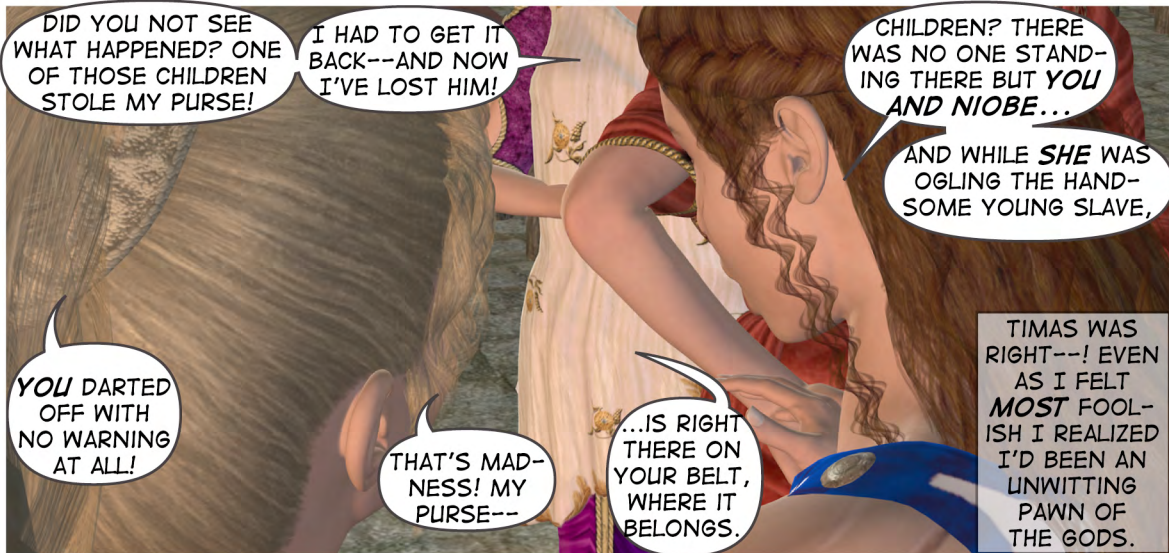
AND IF THE GODS HAVE MADE IT COME TO PASS THAT I SHOULD ADMINISTER TO THIS MAN,

WHY SHOULD THAT OFFEND YOU?



DIKA? WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?

WHY DID YOU TAKE OFF LIKE THAT?



DID YOU NOT SEE WHAT HAPPENED? ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN STOLE MY PURSE!

I HAD TO GET IT BACK--AND NOW I'VE LOST HIM!

YOU DARTED OFF WITH NO WARNING AT ALL!

THAT'S MADNESS! MY PURSE--

...IS RIGHT THERE ON YOUR BELT, WHERE IT BELONGS.

CHILDREN? THERE WAS NO ONE STANDING THERE BUT **YOU AND NIOBE...**

AND WHILE **SHE** WAS OGLING THE HANDSOME YOUNG SLAVE,

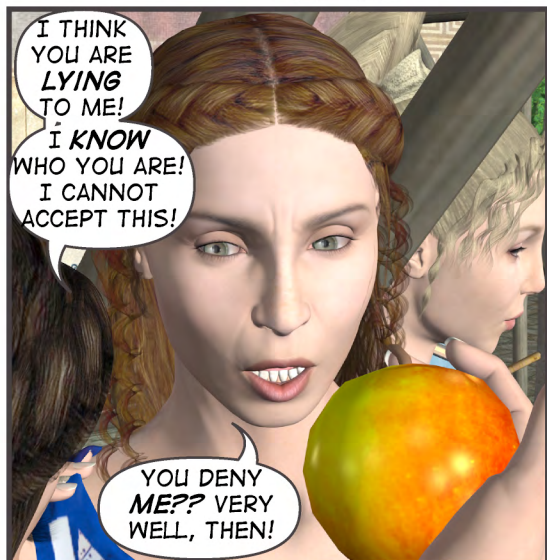
TIMAS WAS RIGHT---! EVEN AS I FELT **MOST** FOOLISH I REALIZED I'D BEEN AN UNWITTING PAWN OF THE GODS.



WELL! LOOK AT **THIS---**! I'D SAY THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET **INTERESTING!**

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN THE WOMAN REACHED OUT AND SWATTED ME ON THE SHOULDER TO GET MY ATTENTION.

WHEN I SAW IT WAS A **WINGED** WOMAN, I NEARLY JUMPED OUT OF MY SKIN.





SAPPHO STOOD
HER GROUND
AGAINST GORGO
IN THAT BIZARRE,
SURREAL MOMENT,
WITH THE GRIM
RESOLVE OF ONE
WHO REALIZED
SHE HAD MET
HER DESTINY.

WE ALL COULD
SENSE WHAT WAS
COMING. ATTHIS,
MIKA AND PRAXINOA
RAISED THEIR
VOICES IN PROTEST
AS THE UNSEEN
APPLE OF DISCORD
BOUNCED OFF INTO
THE CROWDED
MARKETPLACE AND
ROLLED AWAY.



DIKA!!
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
HERE??

DISASTER!!!



I'M SURPRISED YOU
HAVE THE NERVE TO SHOW
YOUR *FACE* HERE AFTER
OUR *LAST* ALTERCATION,
SAPPHO!

BROUGHT YOUR
LITTLE CONSORTS
FOR AN OUTING IN
THE MARKETPLACE,
DID YOU--

--TO WATCH YOU
MINISTER TO CLASSLESS
FOLK WHO ARE NOT
DESERVING OF IT?





STOP!
WHAT YOU
ACCUSE ME OF IS
DISGRACEFUL!

WHY
DO YOU
MAKE A PUBLIC
SPECTACLE
OF US LIKE
THIS?

**YOU
MURDERED
MY FATHER!**

**I AM THE
DAUGHTER OF
MYRSILOS!!!**

AS GORGO'S FORCEFUL SHRIEK
FILLED THE AIR, IN MY MIND I HEARD
THE DRIVING SOUND OF A BLADE
RIPPING THROUGH FLESH. THEN
CAME SAPPHO'S HORRIFIED GASP.



FLEE, WRETCH,
AND TAKE YOUR
LOVERS **WITH YOU!!**

SHE TURNED PALE THEN, A
HORRID FISHBELLY WHITE,
AND COULD CONFRONT
GORGO NO MORE.

**I WILL
HAVE LINDYING
VENGEANCE ON
YOU FOR WHAT
YOU HAVE DONE!**



TO THE ANNALS
OF HISTORY GO THE
VICTORS, SAPPHO!

AND I WILL SEE
TO IT, FOR ALL TIME,
THAT HISTORY
REMEMBERS YOU--

**FOR THE
MONSTER YOU
TRULY ARE!!!**



ARE YOU GOING TO BE ALRIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN MOODY ALL EVENING.

ARE YOU **CERTAIN** I CAN'T GET YOU SOMETHING?

I'M FINE, DARLING. REALLY.



DON'T LET WHAT GORGO SAID TO YOU MAKE YOU SO GLUM!

SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO HURT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE--

AND SHE SUCCEEDED!

BUT I COULD NOT SLEEP. ANXIETY WAS DRIVING ME MAD.

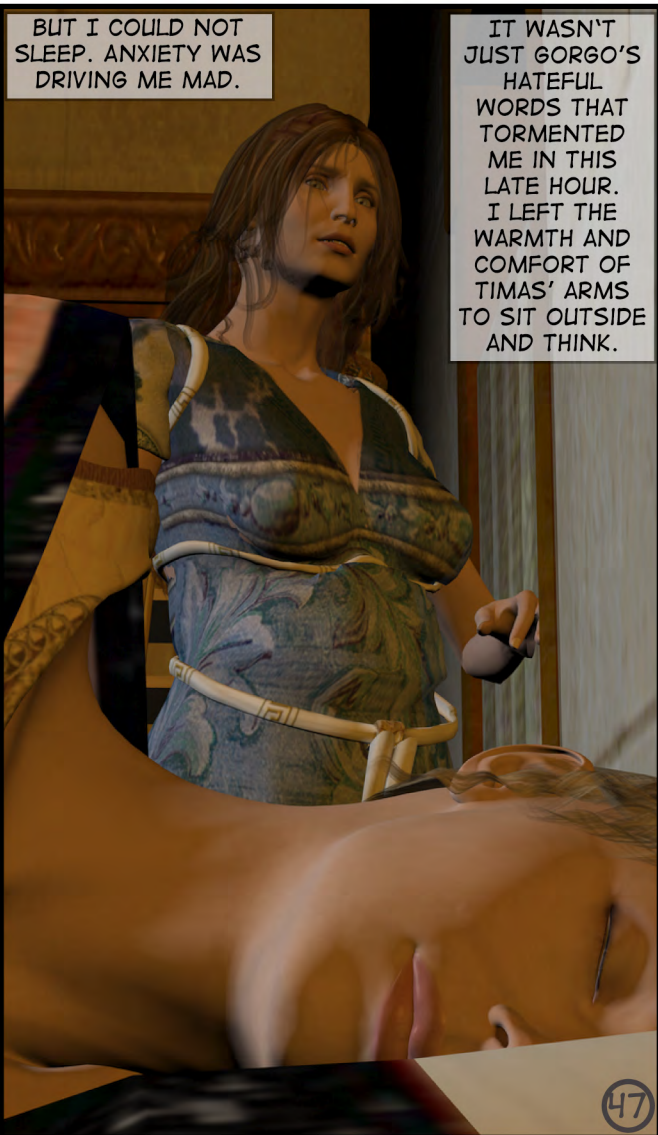
IT WASN'T JUST GORGO'S HATEFUL WORDS THAT TORMENTED ME IN THIS LATE HOUR. I LEFT THE WARMTH AND COMFORT OF TIMAS' ARMS TO SIT OUTSIDE AND THINK.



SWEETNESS, **PLEASE** SMILE FOR ME!

ALL THIS WORRY WILL NOT DO YOU ANY GOOD!

LET'S SLEEP ON IT AND PUZZLE IT OVER IN THE MORNING!





I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS. I'VE NEVER *FELT* SO ALONE.

DON'T WEEP SO... YOU ARE NOT ALONE AT ALL.

WHO IS THERE--



AGANIPPE??

I THOUGHT YOU CROSSED THE RIVER STYX A *LONG TIME* AGO!



PERSEPHONE GAVE ME A HOLIDAY.

WE DECIDED YOU COULD USE SOME CHEERING.

BESIDES...A GOOD MIDWIFE'S WORK IS *NEVER* DONE.

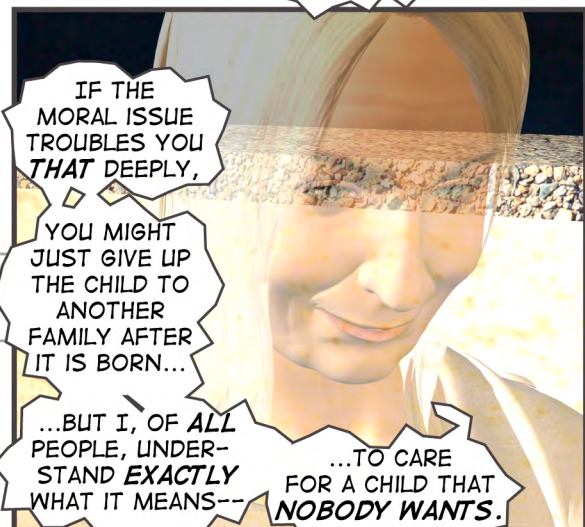


I THOUGHT TIMAS HAD YOU CONVINCED TO *KEEP* THIS CHILD.

...I DON'T *KNOW* ANYMORE.

IT WORRIES ME--I'M AFRAID THIS CHILD MIGHT TURN OUT--

...TO BE A MONSTER JUST LIKE *EURYKLES!*



IF THE MORAL ISSUE TROUBLES YOU *THAT* DEEPLY,

YOU MIGHT JUST GIVE UP THE CHILD TO ANOTHER FAMILY AFTER IT IS BORN...

...BUT I, OF *ALL* PEOPLE, UNDERSTAND *EXACTLY* WHAT IT MEANS--

...TO CARE FOR A CHILD THAT *NOBODY* WANTS.

I HAD NO ANSWER FOR THAT BUT TEARS. MY FATHER HAD CAST ME ASIDE AT BIRTH, BUT AGANIPPE WAS THERE FOR ME. I REMINDED MYSELF TO SEND UP A NICE SACRIFICE OF THANKS TO PERSEPHONE.



...DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY I WAS TELLING ONE OF THE MIDWIVES--

THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DIRT WAS GOOD FOR A CHILD?

HAHAHA-HAHA....

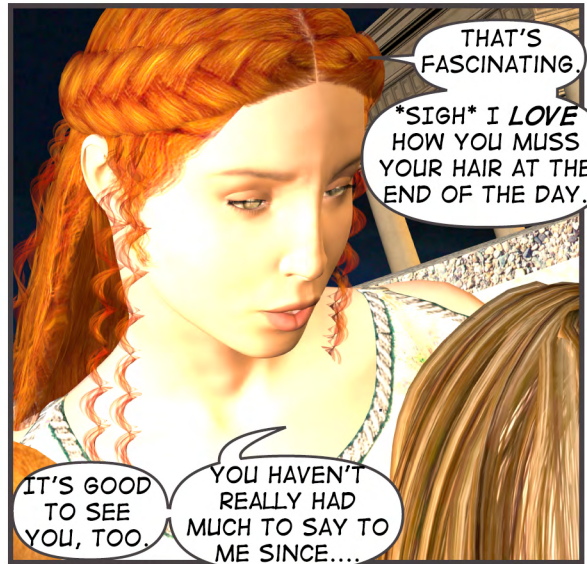
THIS BLESSED REUNION WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO LIFT MY SPIRITS. AND I REALLY MISSED AGANIPPE'S WRY SENSE OF HUMOR.

YOU RAN RIGHT OUTSIDE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY MAKING MUDDIES.



GOOD EVENING, MY DARLING. **WHO** ARE YOU COMMUNING WITH?

MY OLD NURSEMAID.
SHE THOUGHT I COULD USE SOME CHEERING.



THAT'S FASCINATING.
SIGH I **LOVE** HOW YOU MUSS YOUR HAIR AT THE END OF THE DAY.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOO.

YOU HAVEN'T REALLY HAD MUCH TO SAY TO ME SINCE....



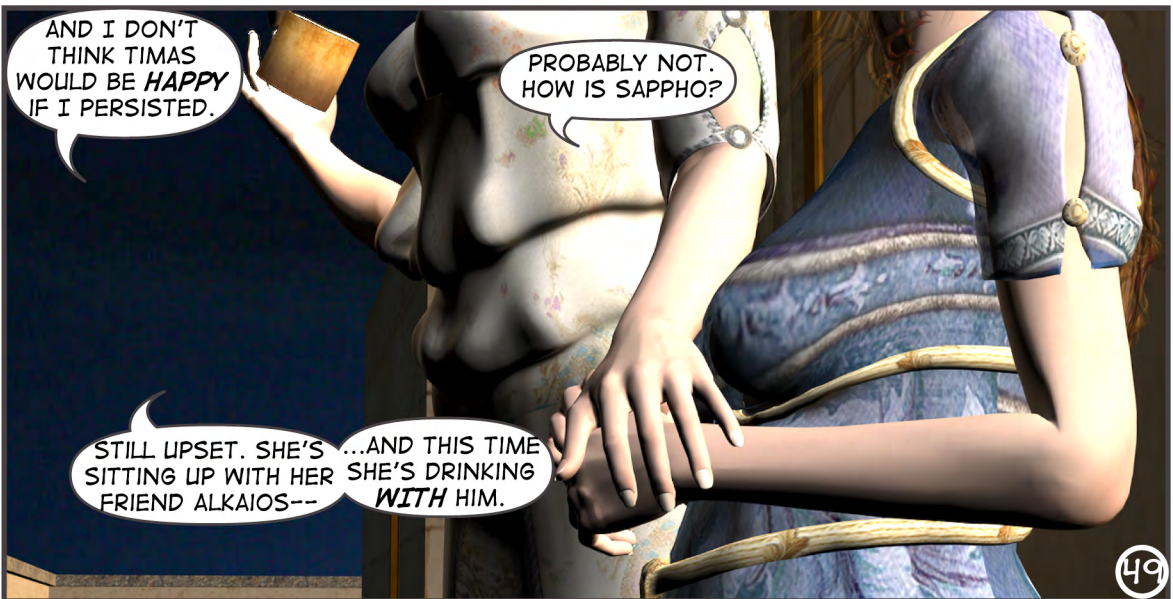
THAT FIERY **VISION** YOU SUCKED ME INTO THAT NIGHT? I GOT OVER IT.

I DON'T THINK I EVER REALLY TOOK YOUR ABILITIES **SERIOUSLY** UNTIL **THAT** HAPPENED.



BESIDES... YOU MADE **YOUR CHOICE** WHO YOU WANTED TO **BE** WITH--

...EVEN IF IT **DID** BREAK MY HEART...



AND I DON'T THINK TIMAS WOULD BE **HAPPY** IF I PERSISTED.

PROBABLY NOT. HOW IS SAPPHO?

STILL UPSET. SHE'S SITTING UP WITH HER FRIEND ALKAIOS--

...AND THIS TIME SHE'S DRINKING **WITH** HIM.



THAT'S A SHAME...
BUT THEN AGAIN, IT
PROBABLY MEANS
WE'LL HAVE A HOLI-
DAY TOMORROW.

I WISH I COULD
FORSEE HOW THIS
IS ALL GOING TO
TURN OUT.

BUT...
YOU'RE AN
ORACLE, NO?



CAN'T YOU LOOK
AHEAD, EVEN A
LITTLE BIT--

...AND TELL US
WHAT'S GOING
TO HAPPEN?

HERO...MY
GREATEST GIFT
IS TO SEE THE
PAST, NOT
THE FUTURE.

SOMETIMES, YES, I
CAN SEE THE FUTURE, BUT
ONLY IN **GLIMPSES**--



...SCATTERED IMAGES
THAT GIVE ME VERY LITTLE
FORESIGHT OF WHAT IS
GOING TO HAPPEN.

SO AS AN
ORACLE, I'M
PATHETIC.

HOWEVER,
AS A **STORY-**
TELLER, I
SHOULD BE
QUITE **SPEC-**
TACULAR!



SO, AS FAR AS PRE-
DICTING THE OUTCOME
OF THIS FEUD BETWEEN
SAPPHO AND GORGO...?

...I'M JUST AS
HELPLESS AS THE
REST OF YOU.

**LAST CHILD OF
NEXT: HERAKLES!**

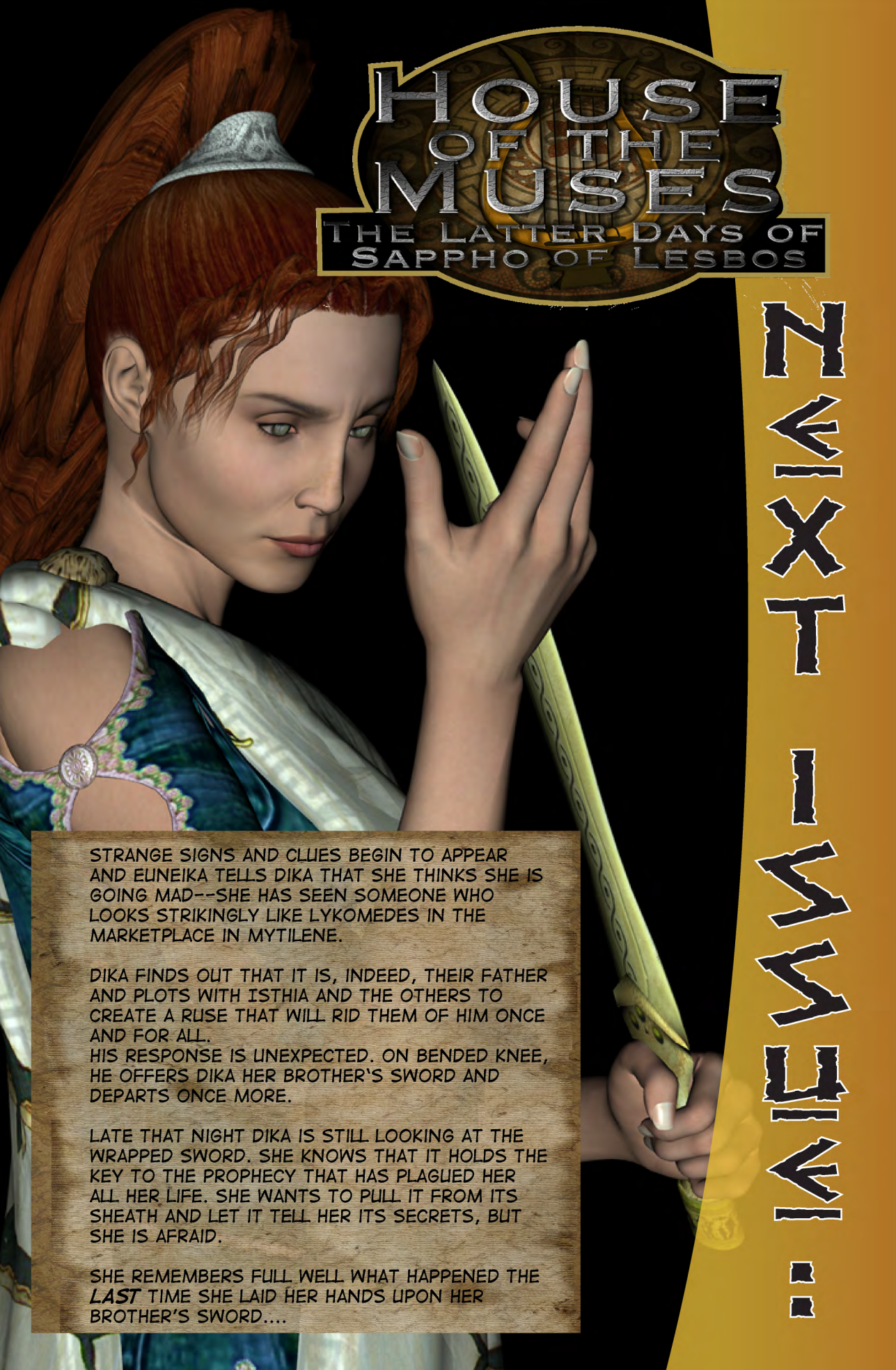
Eris (Greek **Ερις**, "Strife") is the Greek goddess of strife, her name being translated into Latin as **Discordia**. Her Greek opposite is **Harmonia**, whose Latin counterpart is **Concordia**. Homer equated her with the war-goddess **Enyo**, whose Roman counterpart is **Bellona**.

ERIS



Eris, the solar system's largest known dwarf planet, is named after the goddess.
READ MORE:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eris_\(mythology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eris_(mythology))



HOUSE OF THE MUSES

THE LATTER DAYS OF
SAPPHO OF LESBOS

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STRANGE SIGNS AND CLUES BEGIN TO APPEAR AND EUNEIKA TELLS DIKA THAT SHE THINKS SHE IS GOING MAD--SHE HAS SEEN SOMEONE WHO LOOKS STRIKINGLY LIKE LYKOMEDES IN THE MARKETPLACE IN MYTILENE.

DIKA FINDS OUT THAT IT IS, INDEED, THEIR FATHER AND PLOTS WITH ISTHIA AND THE OTHERS TO CREATE A RUSE THAT WILL RID THEM OF HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

HIS RESPONSE IS UNEXPECTED. ON BENDED KNEE, HE OFFERS DIKA HER BROTHER'S SWORD AND DEPARTS ONCE MORE.

LATE THAT NIGHT DIKA IS STILL LOOKING AT THE WRAPPED SWORD. SHE KNOWS THAT IT HOLDS THE KEY TO THE PROPHECY THAT HAS PLAGUED HER ALL HER LIFE. SHE WANTS TO PULL IT FROM ITS SHEATH AND LET IT TELL HER ITS SECRETS, BUT SHE IS AFRAID.

SHE REMEMBERS FULL WELL WHAT HAPPENED THE **LAST** TIME SHE LAID HER HANDS UPON HER BROTHER'S SWORD....



FERA

A TALE OF MONSTERS.
A TALE OF BEASTS.



WHEN AN ANCIENT WORLD OF MYTH AND LEGEND
COLLIDES WITH A POST-APOCALYPTIC EARTH, OUR
WOULD-BE HEROES MUST EMBARK ON AN EPIC JOURNEY
OF LOVE, LOSS AND ADVENTURE ACROSS TWO WORLDS
IN ORDER TO SAVE THEIR HOME AND DISCOVER THE TRUTH.

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