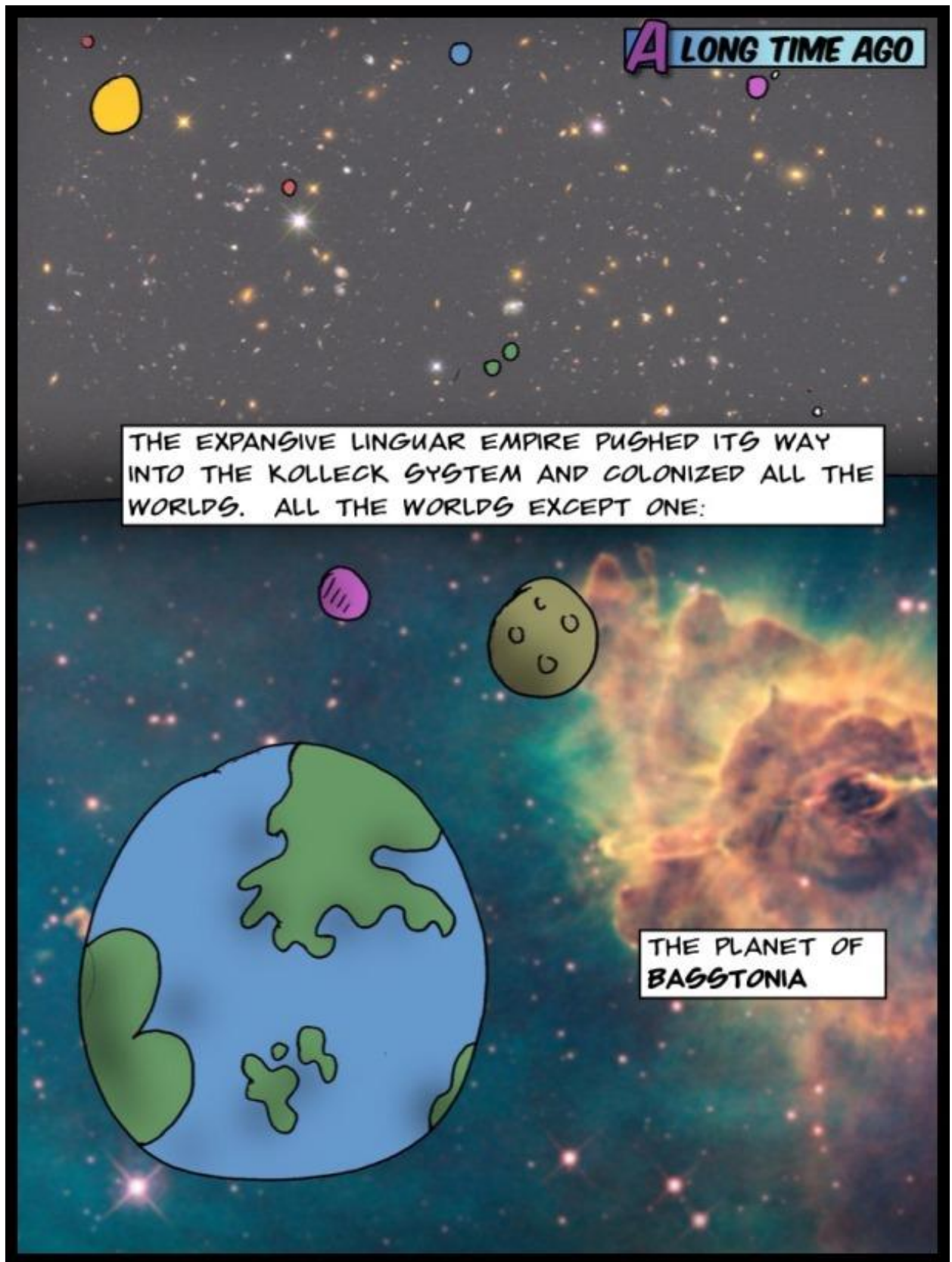


**A** LONG TIME AGO

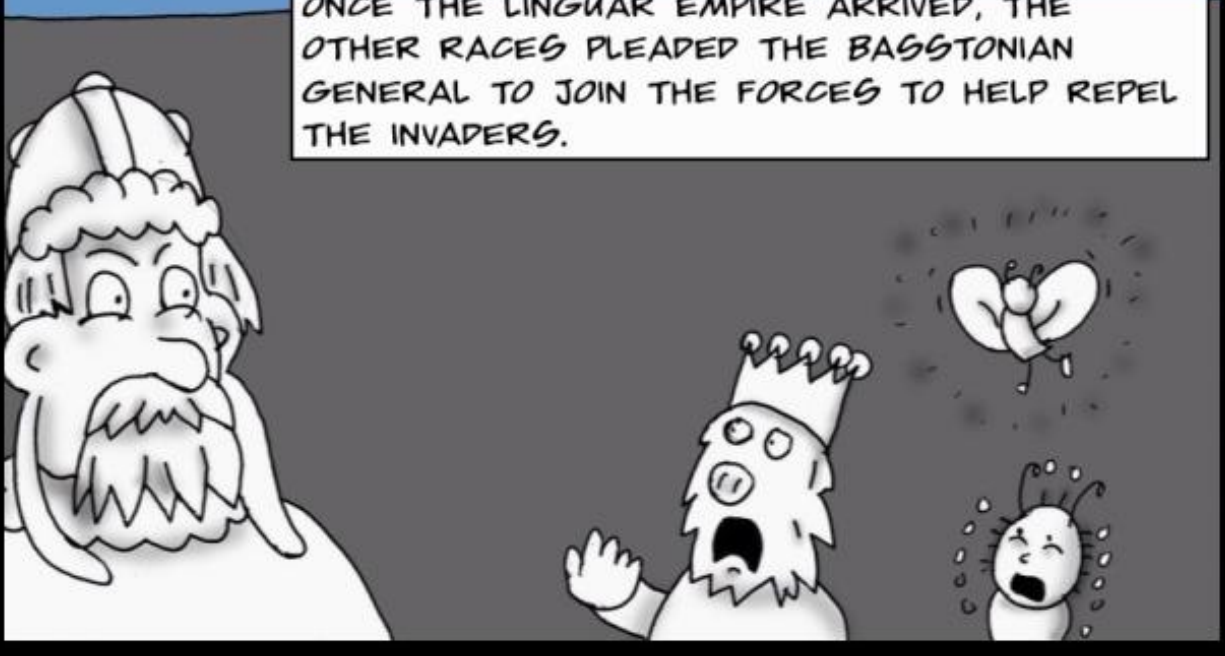
THE EXPANSIVE LINGUAR EMPIRE PUSHED ITS WAY INTO THE KOLLECK SYSTEM AND COLONIZED ALL THE WORLDS. ALL THE WORLDS EXCEPT ONE:

THE PLANET OF  
**BAGSTONIA**





THE WARRIOR RACE OF  
BASSTONIANS WERE THE DOMINANT  
SPECIES IN THE KOLLECK SYSTEM  
FOR COUNTLESS MILLENNIA.



ONCE THE LINGUAR EMPIRE ARRIVED, THE  
OTHER RACES PLEADED THE BASSTONIAN  
GENERAL TO JOIN THE FORCES TO HELP REPEL  
THE INVADERS.





THE BAGSTONIANS CLOSED THEMSELVES OFF COMPLETELY UNTIL THEY HAD THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE. THEY THOUGHT A GOOD STRATEGY WOULD BE TO LET THE OTHER PLANETS FIGHT THE EMPIRE FIRST, WEAKENING THE EMPIRE, AND ALLOWING THEM AN EASY VICTORY OVER THIS FOREIGN ENEMY.



THAT OPPORTUNITY NEVER CAME.

THE LINGUAR EMPIRE COLONIZED AND ENSLAVED THE OTHER PLANETS; NOW ONLY GROWING IN STRENGTH WITH THEIR NEWFOUND RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY;

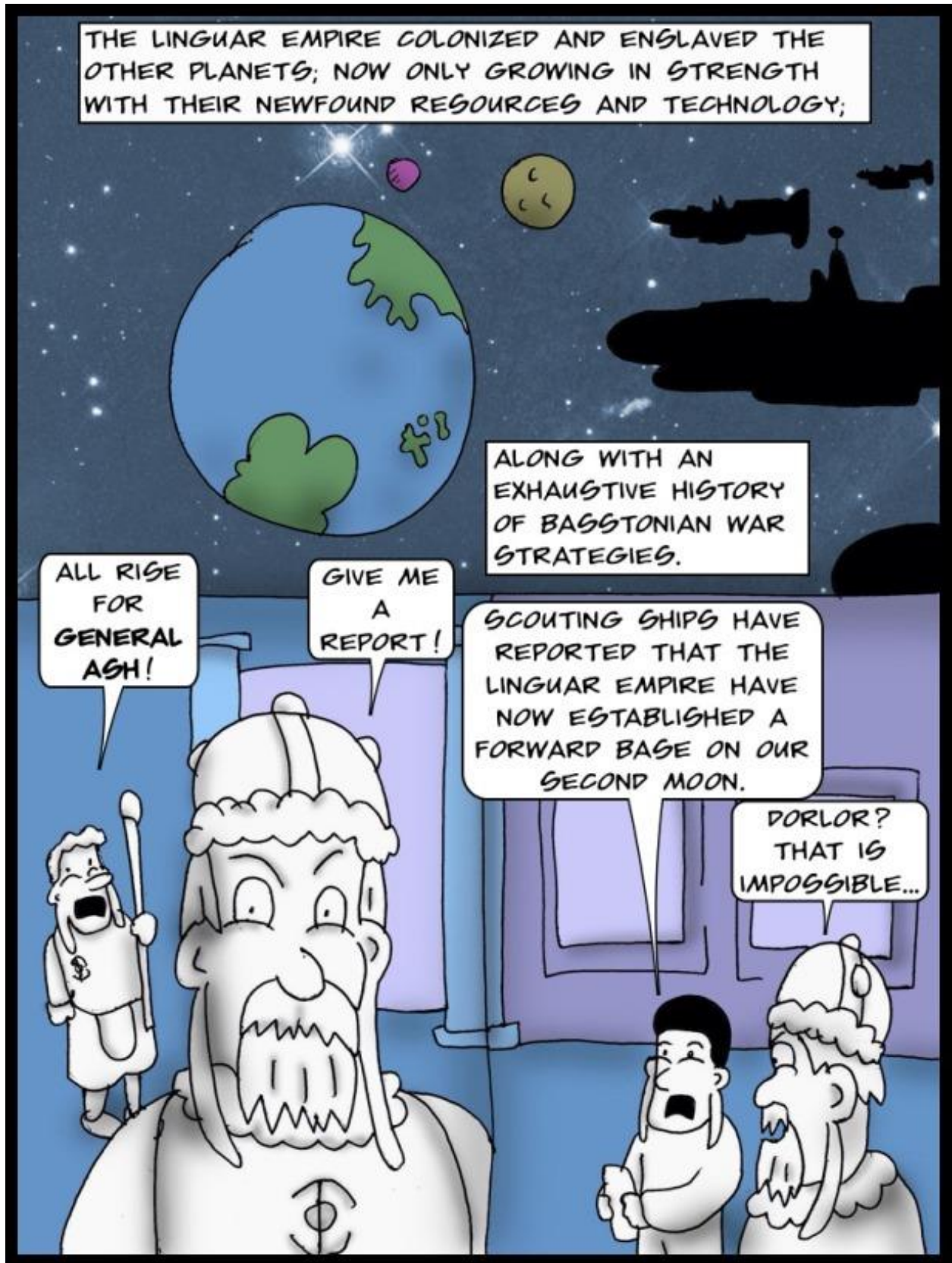
ALONG WITH AN EXHAUSTIVE HISTORY OF BAGSTONIAN WAR STRATEGIES.

ALL RISE FOR GENERAL ASH!

GIVE ME A REPORT!

SCOUTING SHIPS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE LINGUAR EMPIRE HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED A FORWARD BASE ON OUR SECOND MOON.

DORLOR? THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE...





IT SEEMS THAT IT  
IS INEVITABLE THAT  
THIS WAR WILL BE  
FOUGHT ON  
BASSTONIA SOIL

WE BASSTONIANS  
HAVE NEVER NEEDED  
TO LEARN HOW TO  
DEFEND. WE HAVE  
ALWAYS BEEN THE  
INVADERS!

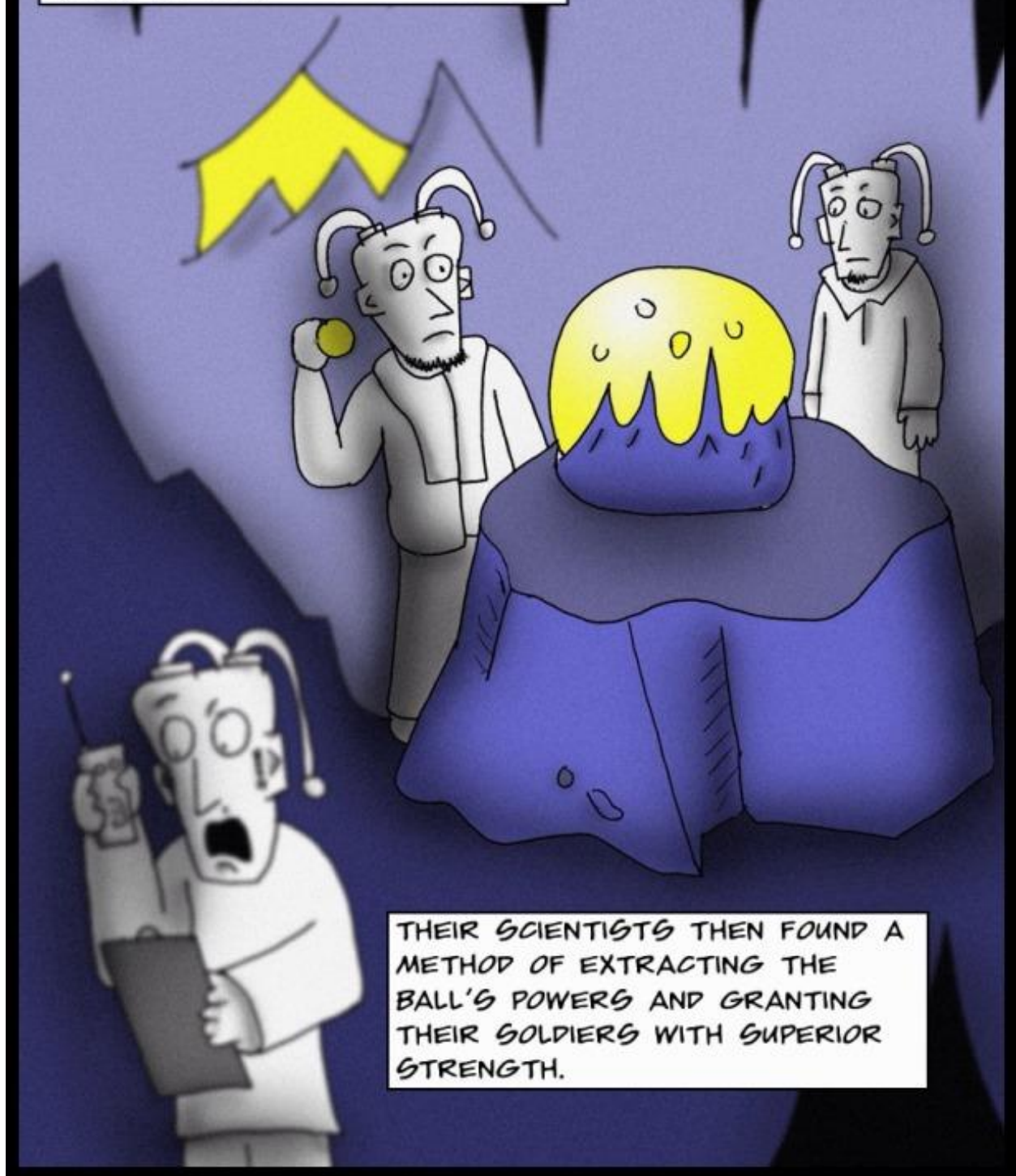
I MAY HAVE  
SOME GOOD  
NEWS,  
FATHER.

WHAT IS  
IT, SON  
CLASH?

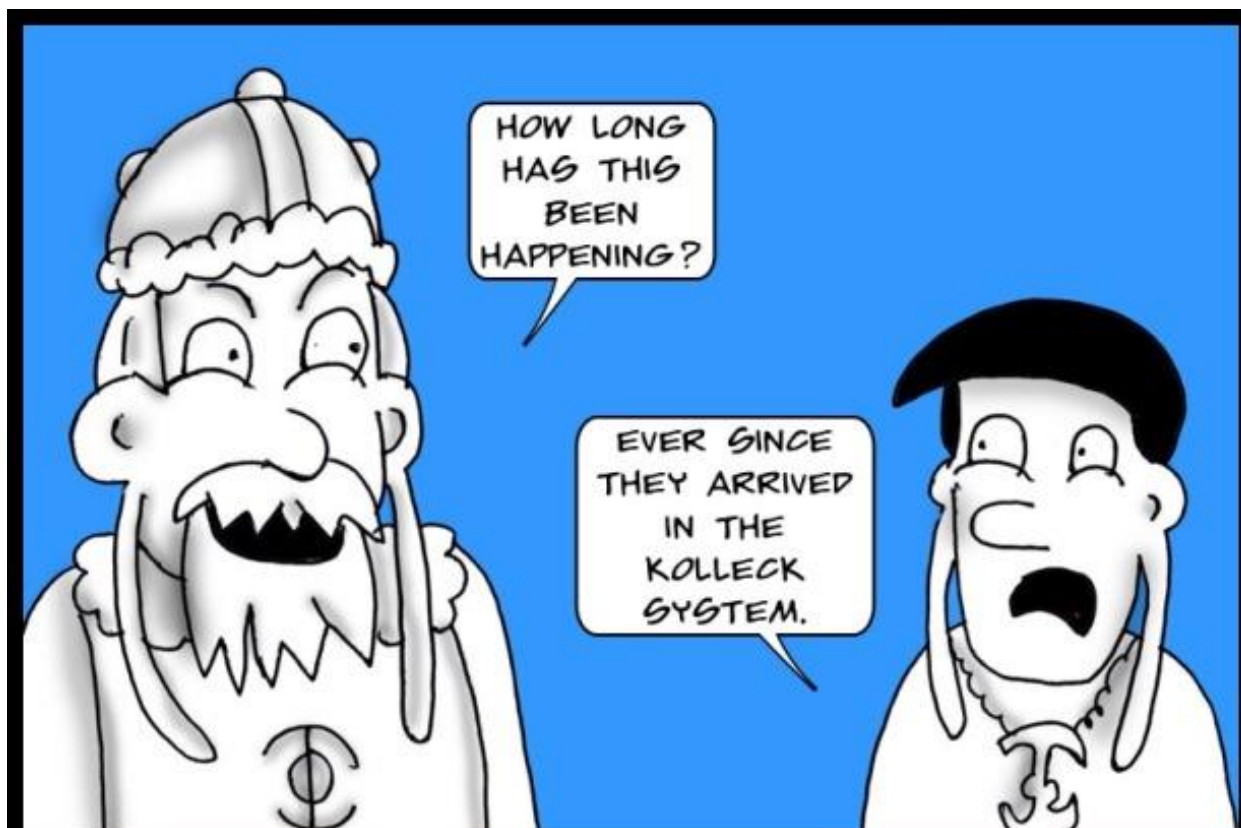
I HAVE A WAY THAT  
WE MAY USE THE  
LINGUAR EMPIRE'S  
GREATEST WEAPON  
AGAINST THEM.

TELL  
ME  
MORE.

MY SPIES HAVE TOLD ME THAT  
THE LINGUAR EMPIRE DISCOVERED  
A GIANT MAGICAL BALL IN THE  
CAVES OF NOT.



THEIR SCIENTISTS THEN FOUND A  
METHOD OF EXTRACTING THE  
BALL'S POWERS AND GRANTING  
THEIR SOLDIERS WITH SUPERIOR  
STRENGTH.








AND NOW THE  
UPPER HAND  
WILL BE  
OURS!

HOW IS  
THAT,  
SON?

THEIR LEAD  
SCIENTIST  
HAS DEFECTED  
TO US.

HELLO,  
GENERAL. I  
AM THE HEAD  
DOCTOR.





IT HAS AN  
EERIE AND  
POWERFUL  
AURA ABOUT  
IT.

WE ARE STILL  
RESEARCHING ITS ORIGIN,  
BUT THE DOCTOR WANTED  
TO PERFORM MORE RADICAL  
EXPERIMENTS WITH IT, BUT  
HIS SUPERIORS WOULDN'T  
ALLOW IT.

WHAT KIND OF  
EXPERIMENTS?



WELL, WE HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO GRANT SUPER STRENGTH AND INVULNERABILITY TO OUR SUBJECTS, BUT I HAD A THEORY THAT THE MAGICAL BALL'S PROPERTIES COULD ALSO PRODUCE OTHER QUALITIES ONTO OUR SOLDIERS; LIKE SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE AND SPEED.



WHY DID THE EMPIRE NOT LET THESE ADDITIONAL EXPERIMENTS PROCEED?

THEY FELT OUR PRESENT RESULTS WERE SUFFICIENT ENOUGH; AND I WAS DENIED DOING FURTHER RESEARCH.



SO YOU DECIDED  
TO STEAL THE  
BALL AND BRING  
IT TO US?

YES, AND YOU WOULD  
GRANT ME THE  
RESOURCES TO  
FURTHER MY  
RESEARCH AND  
EXPERIMENTS.

WHY  
WOULD WE  
DO THAT?

BECAUSE, NOT ONLY WOULD I  
BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU  
SOLDIERS TO MATCH THE  
LINGUAR EMPIRE'S STRENGTH,  
BUT I CAN CREATE LEADERS  
WITH SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE  
AND WARRIORS WITH INCREDIBLE  
SPEED.

WE WOULD  
FINALLY HAVE  
THE UPPER  
HAND...

ABSOLUTELY.

**M**INUTES LATER, AWAY FROM THE GENERAL

REMEMBER  
OUR DEAL,  
DOCTOR.

YES, SON CLASH. I  
WILL ENSURE THAT  
YOU WILL BECOME  
THE SMARTEST  
PERSON ON THE  
PLANET.

