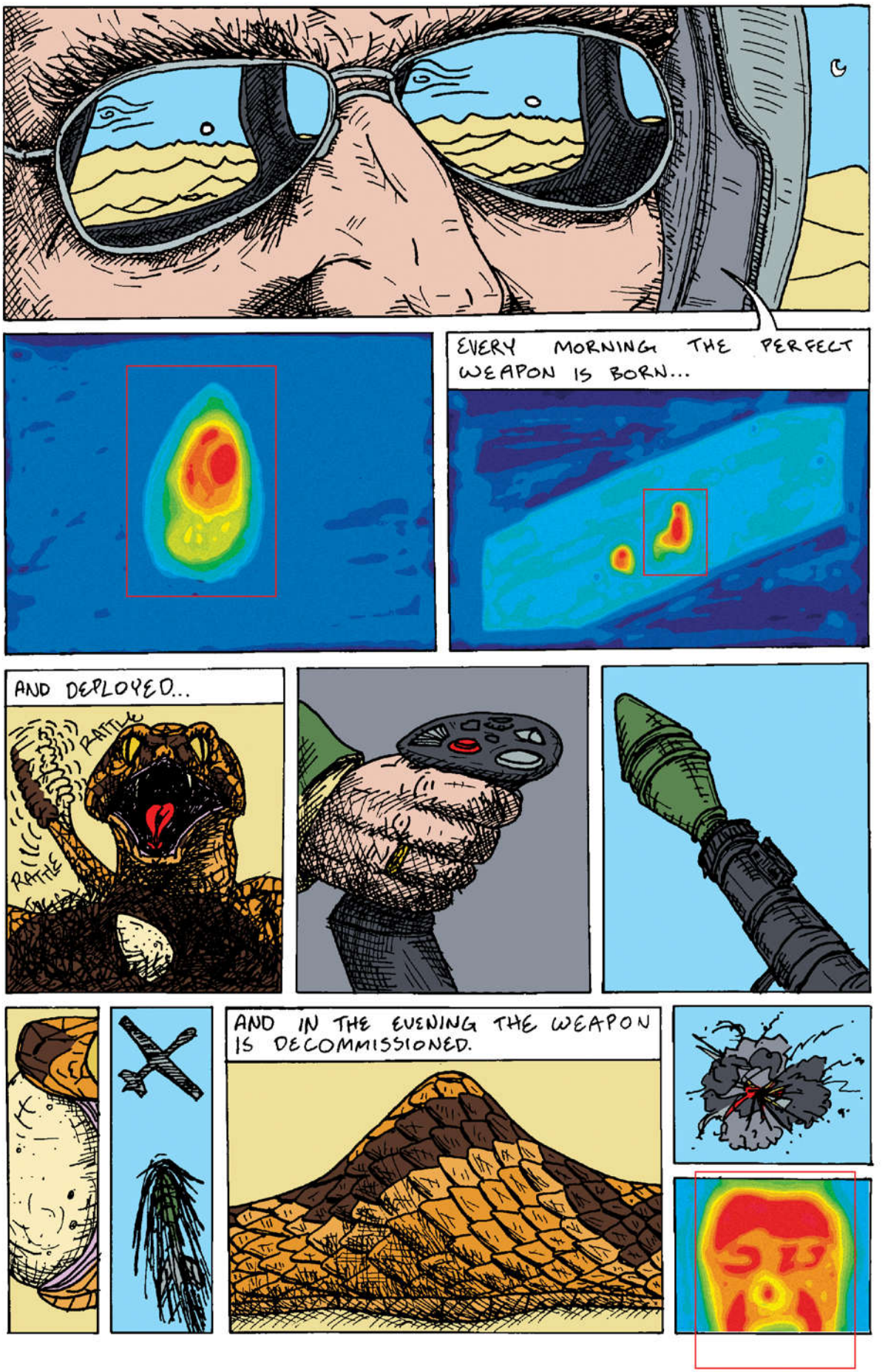
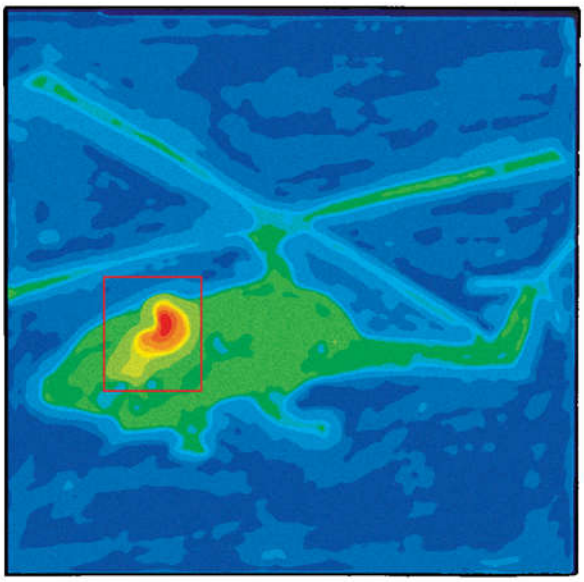
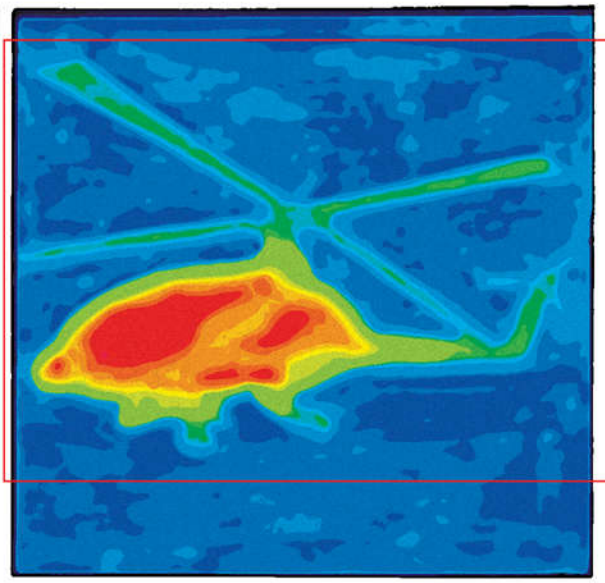
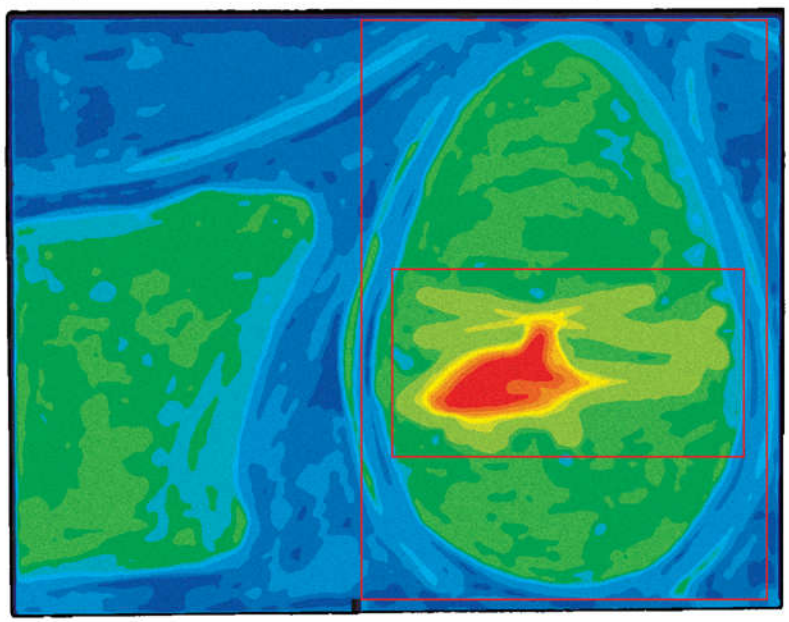
Elias Reichel

# Mechanical Pigeon in NEW ANGEL


EVERY MORNING THE PERFECT WEAPON IS BORN...
AND DEPLOYED...
RATTLE
RATTLE
AND IN THE EVENING THE WEAPON IS DECOMMISSIONED.

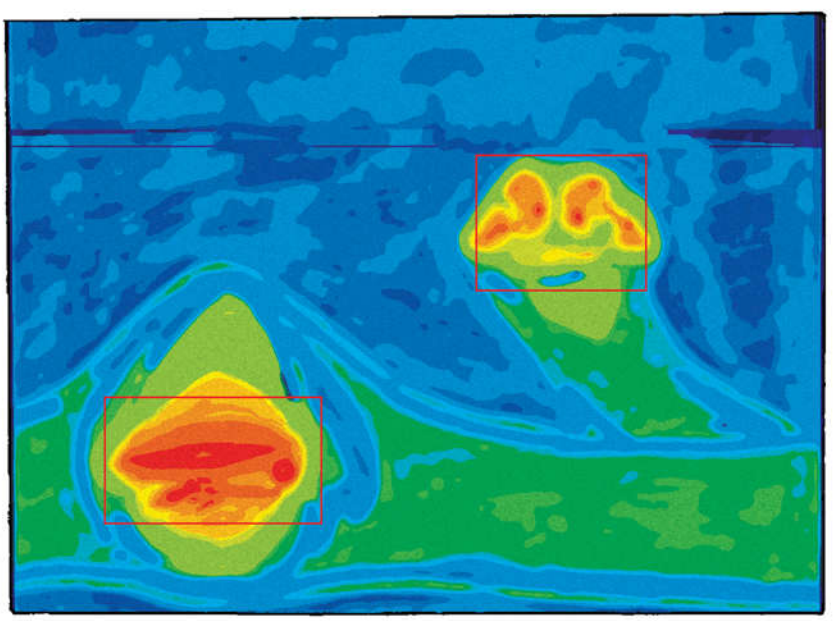


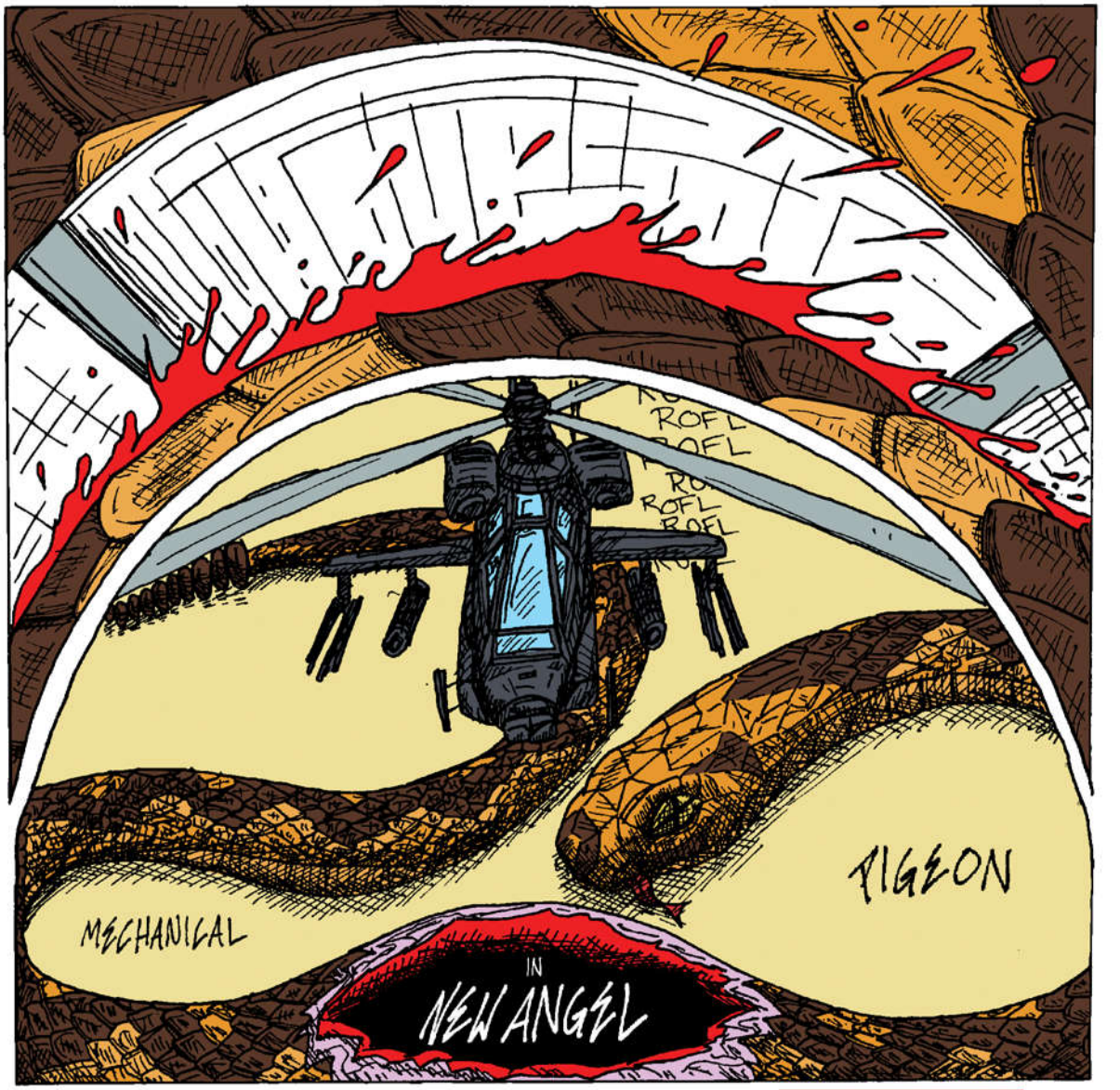




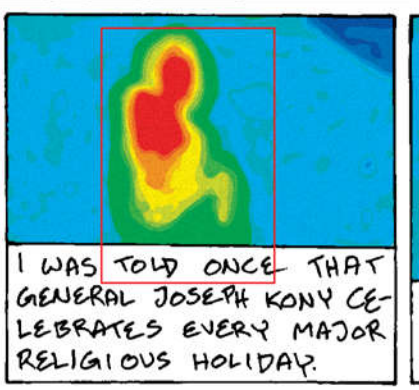
BUT THROUGH THE NIGHT THE WEAPON GESTATES...
BUZZ
WHRRR
BUZZ

AND WITH EVERY DAWN THE WEAPON IS REBORN.
BUZZ
CLICK
ROFL
ROFL
ROFL
ROFL



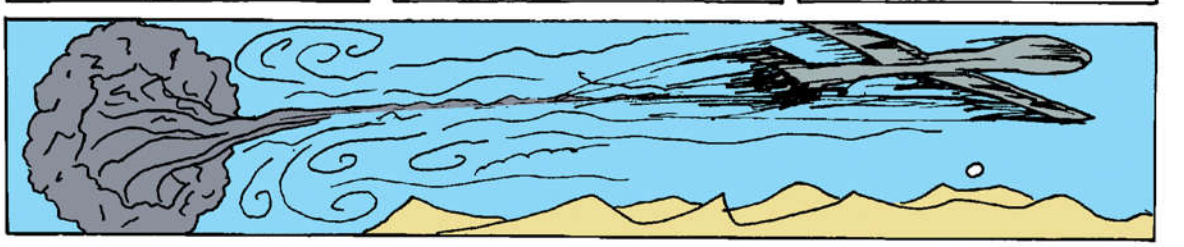


LIKE A CHILD SOLDIER, BORN YESTERDAY.

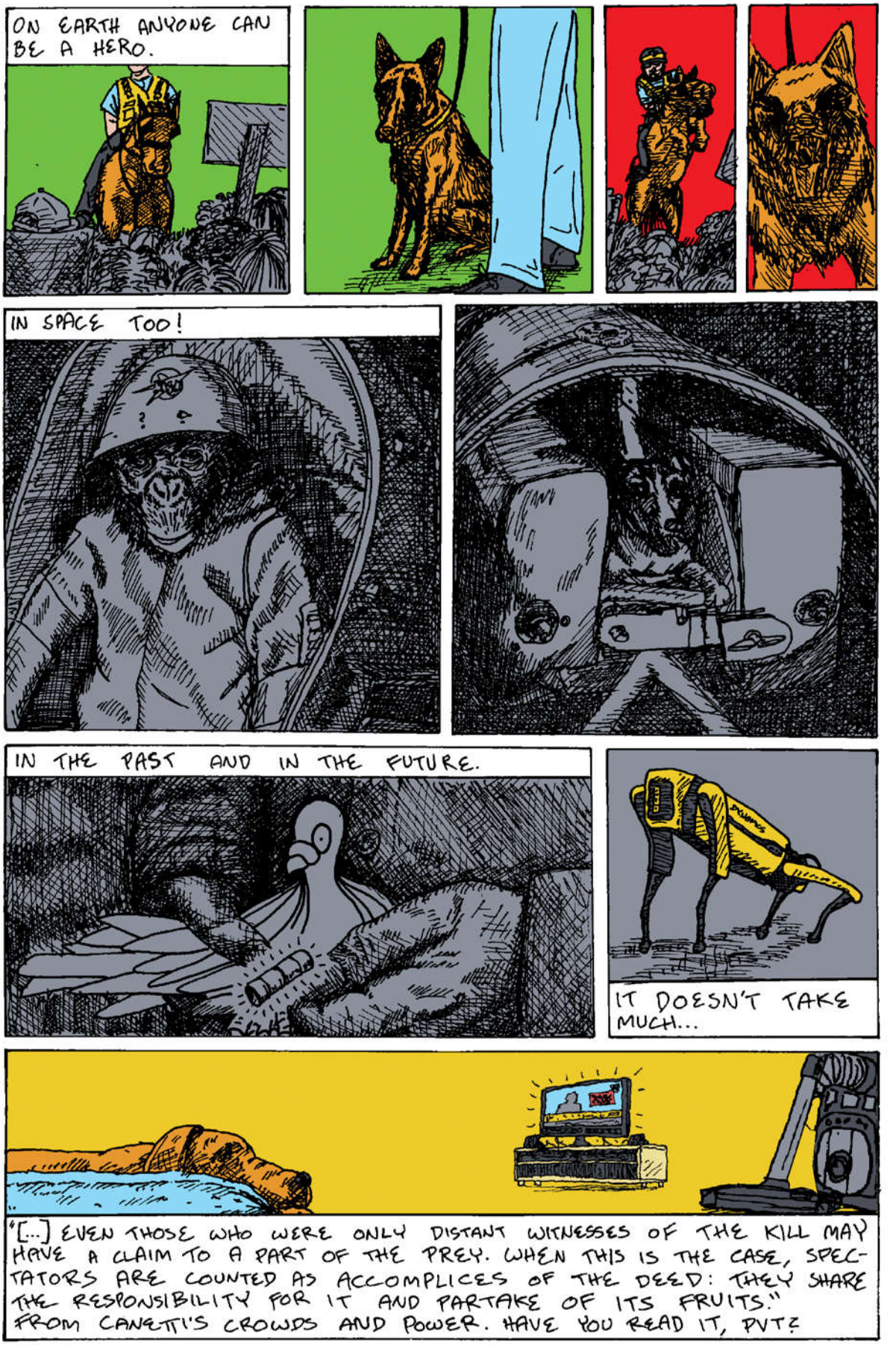


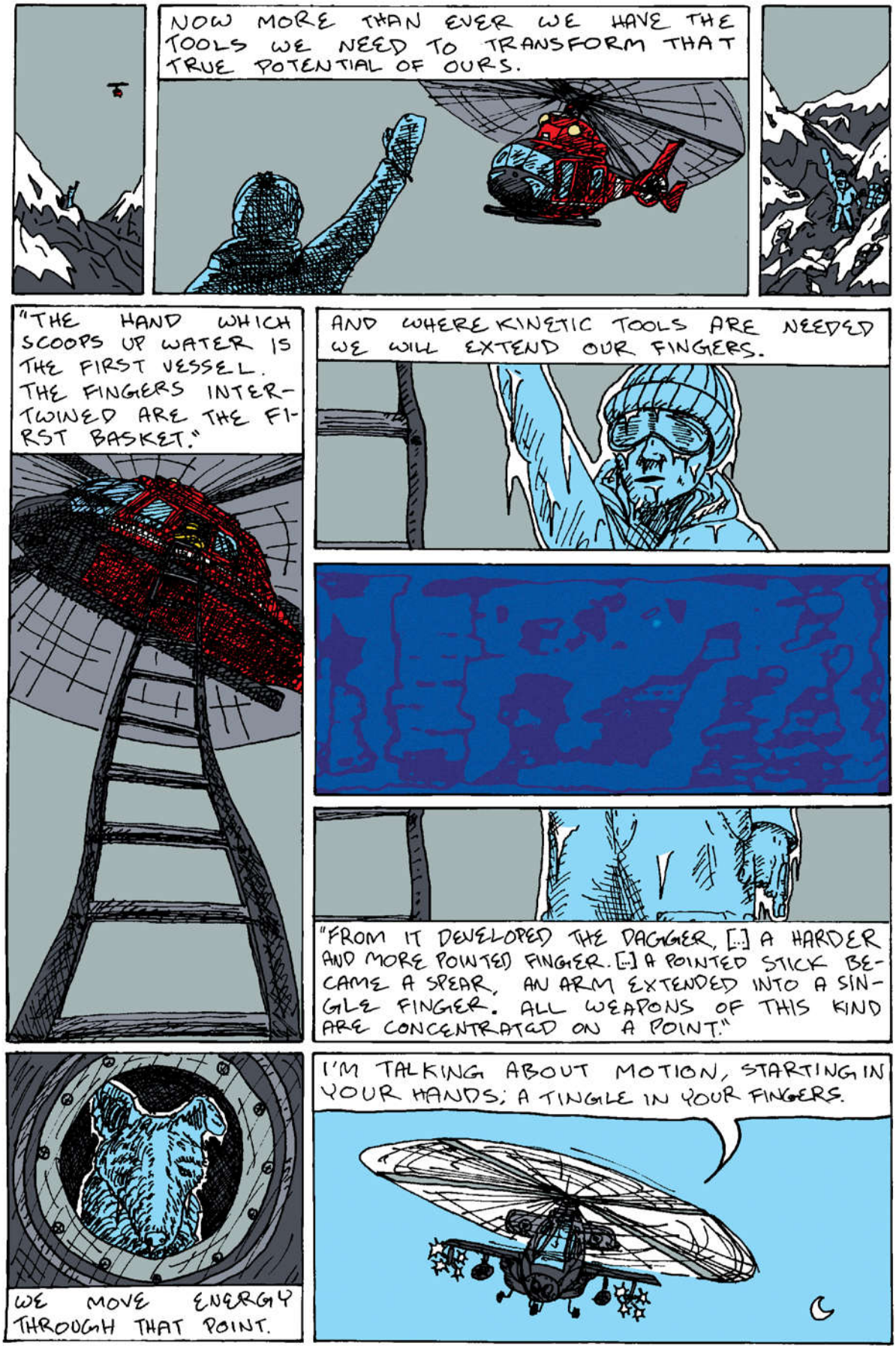
I WAS TOLD ONCE THAT GENERAL JOSEPH KONY CELEBRATES EVERY MAJOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY.

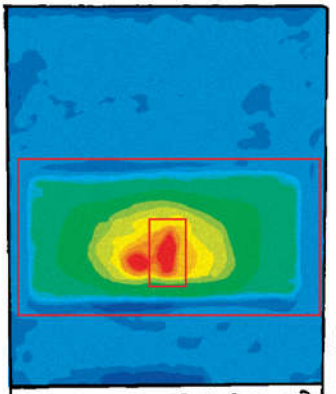
HE BELIEVES IT GIVES HIM THE FORTUNE OF MANY GODS.



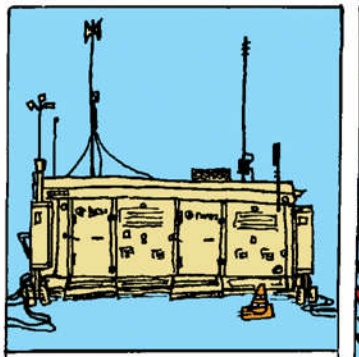
FLYING THIS APACHE CHOPPER, I IMAGINE MYSELF COMMANDING THE ENTIRE APACHE WARRIOR CLASS...
AN ARMY OF GHOSTS LIFTING THE AIR BENEATH MY BLADES.
IN HEAVEN EVERYONE IS GOD OF THEIR OWN WORLD.
WHAT'S YOUR LOCATION, PVT?


ON EARTH ANYONE CAN BE A HERO.
IN SPACE TOO!
IN THE PAST AND IN THE FUTURE.
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH...
"[...] EVEN THOSE WHO WERE ONLY DISTANT WITNESSES OF THE KILL MAY HAVE A CLAIM TO A PART OF THE PREY. WHEN THIS IS THE CASE, SPECTATORS ARE COUNTED AS ACCOMPLICES OF THE DEED: THEY SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT AND PARTAKE OF ITS FRUITS."
FROM CANETTI'S CROWDS AND POWER. HAVE YOU READ IT, PVT?

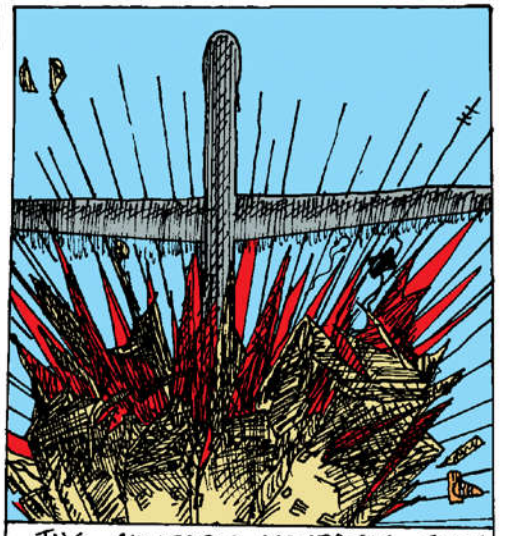

NOW MORE THAN EVER WE HAVE THE TOOLS WE NEED TO TRANSFORM THAT TRUE POTENTIAL OF OURS.
"THE HAND WHICH SCOOPS UP WATER IS THE FIRST VESSEL. THE FINGERS INTERTWINED ARE THE FIRST BASKET."
AND WHERE KINETIC TOOLS ARE NEEDED WE WILL EXTEND OUR FINGERS.
"FROM IT DEVELOPED THE DAGGER, [...] A HARDER AND MORE POINTED FINGER. [...] A POINTED STICK BECAME A SPEAR, AN ARM EXTENDED INTO A SINGLE FINGER. ALL WEAPONS OF THIS KIND ARE CONCENTRATED ON A POINT."
WE MOVE ENERGY THROUGH THAT POINT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT MOTION, STARTING IN YOUR HANDS; A TINGLE IN YOUR FINGERS.



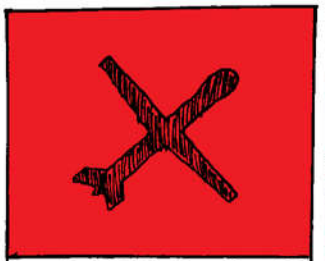
SOON IT TRAVELS UP THE ARMS AND SPREADS THROUGH THE BODY.



"WHEN THESE SAME TECHNOLOGIES ARE PACKAGED FOR AND PURCHASED BY BILLIONS OF CONSUMERS...



...THE MILITARY MANDATES THAT SUBTLY (OR NOT SO SUBTLY) UNDERGIRDED THEIR DESIGN BEGIN TO PERMEATE EVERY DAY LIFE AND ATMOSPHERICS."



-LISA PARKS, DRONES & VERTICAL MEDIATION.

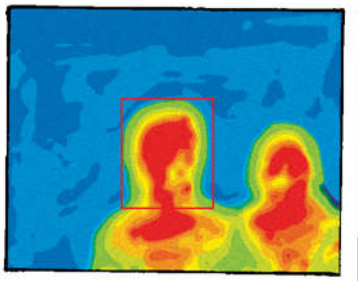
READ THAT CO
FORT LIBERT

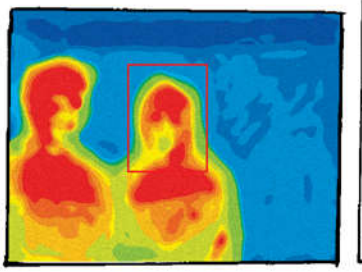
ING IN FROM
VIA NORTHW

VIA RAMMST

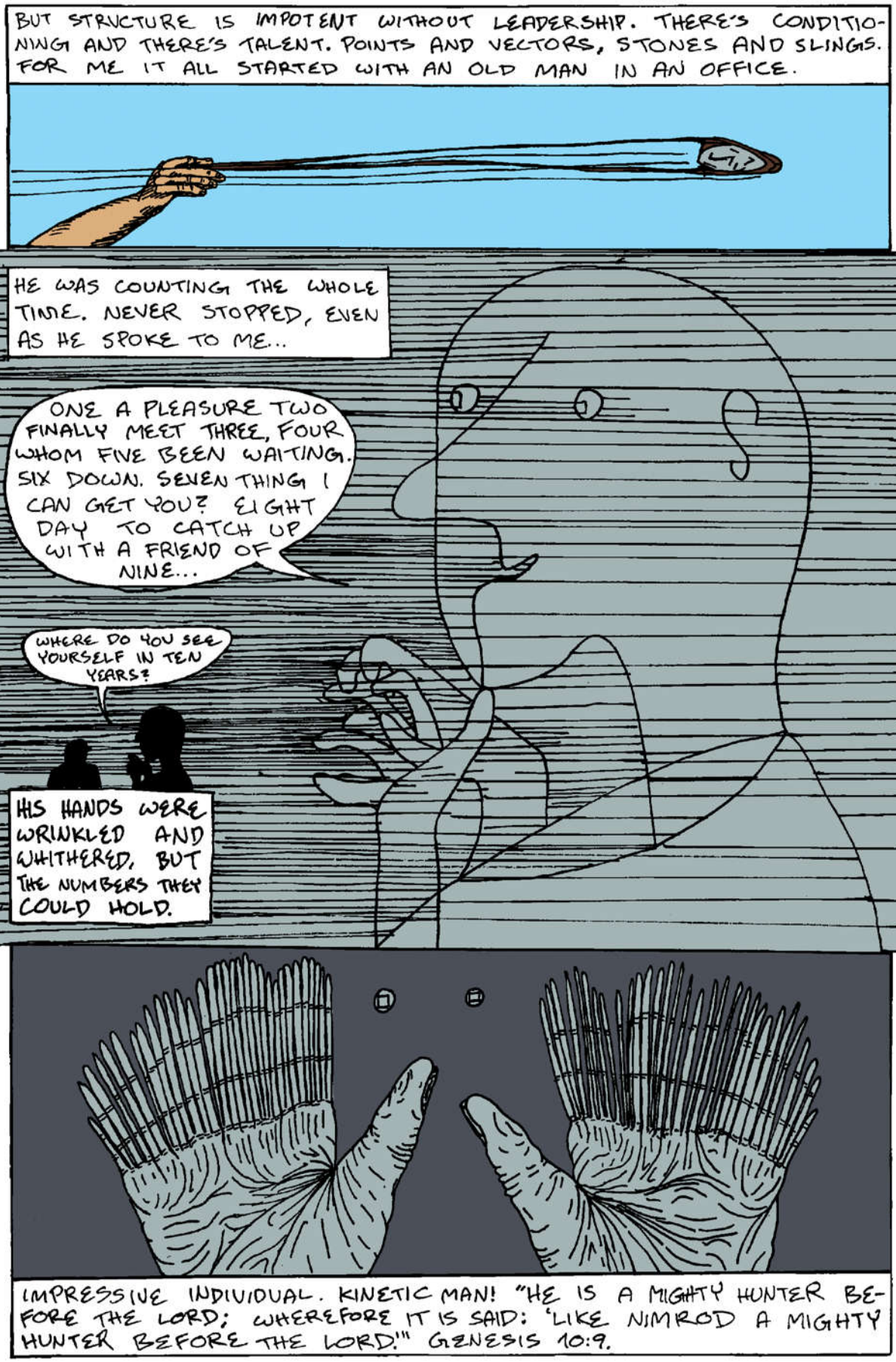
IN. VIA AKR

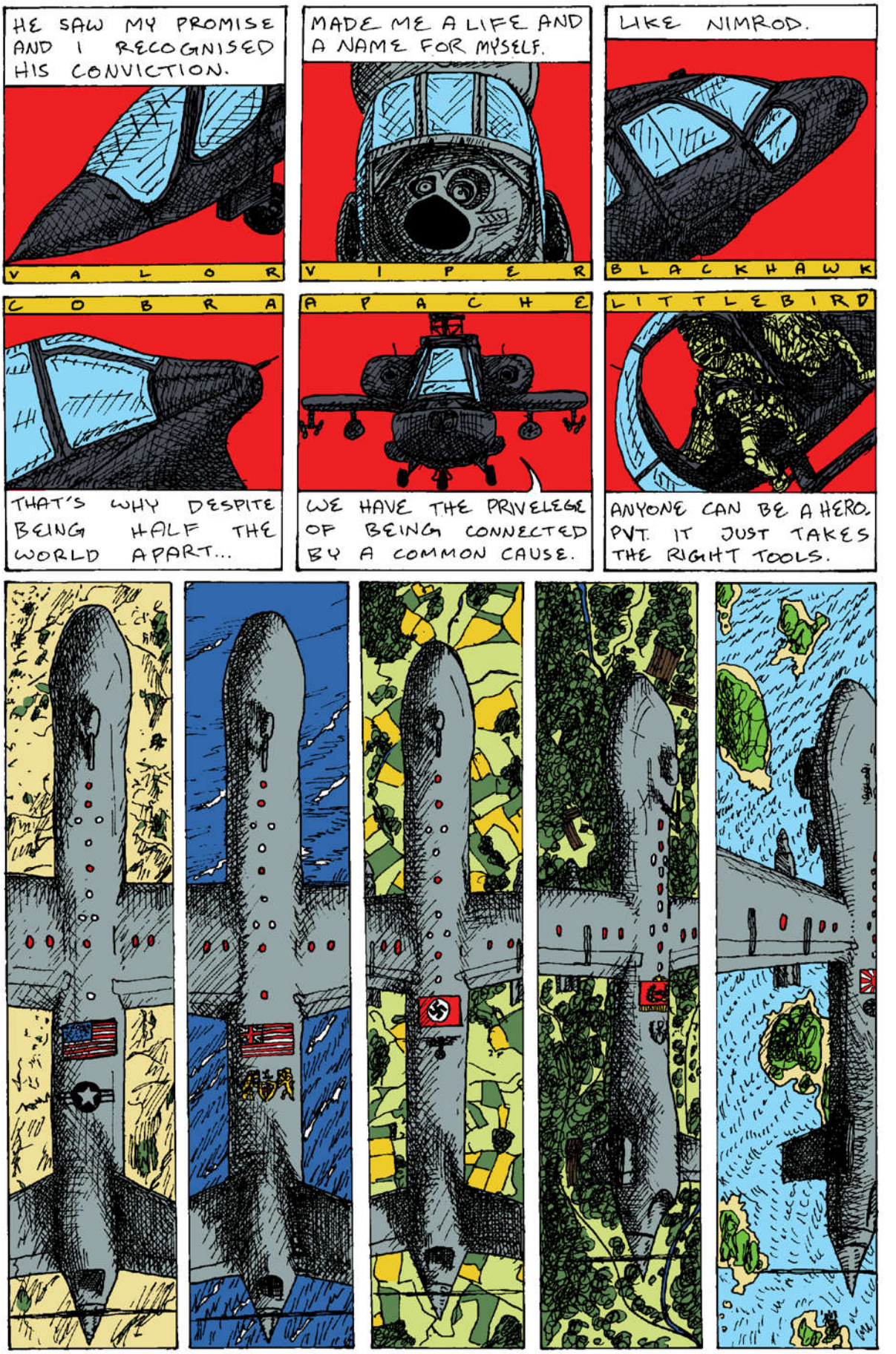
TIRI, VIA P.S.



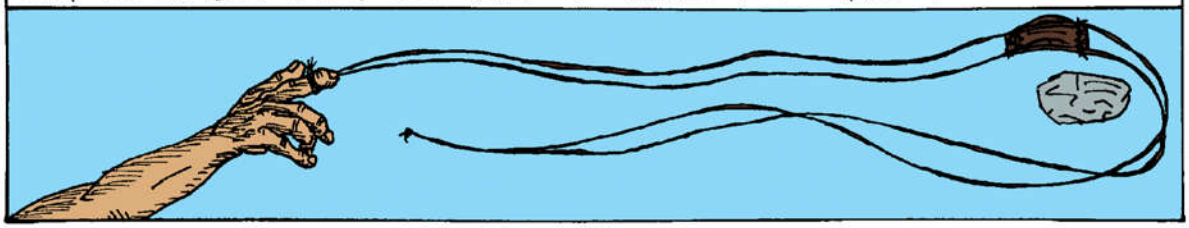


"SUCH TECHNOLOGIES STRUCTURE THE WAYS PEOPLE COMMUNICATE, HOW AND WITH WHOM THEY INTERACT, WHAT AND WHERE THEY HEAR AND SEE, AND HOW THEY POSITION THEMSELVES AND UNDERSTAND THEIR LOCATION."


BUT STRUCTURE IS IMPOTENT WITHOUT LEADERSHIP. THERE'S CONDITIONING AND THERE'S TALENT. POINTS AND VECTORS, STONES AND SLINGS. FOR ME IT ALL STARTED WITH AN OLD MAN IN AN OFFICE.
HE WAS COUNTING THE WHOLE TIME. NEVER STOPPED, EVEN AS HE SPOKE TO ME..
ONE A PLEASURE TWO FINALLY MEET THREE, FOUR WHOM FIVE BEEN WAITING. SIX DOWN. SEVEN THING I CAN GET YOU? EIGHT DAY TO CATCH UP WITH A FRIEND OF NINE...
WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN TEN YEARS?
HIS HANDS WERE WRINKLED AND WHITHERED, BUT THE NUMBERS THEY COULD HOLD.
IMPRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL. KINETIC MAN! "HE IS A MIGHTY HUNTER BEFORE THE LORD; WHEREFORE IT IS SAID: 'LIKE NIMROD A MIGHTY HUNTER BEFORE THE LORD.'" GENESIS 10:9.

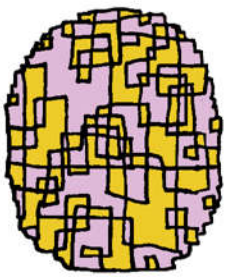

HE SAW MY PROMISE AND I RECOGNISED HIS CONVICTION.
V A L O R
MADE ME A LIFE AND A NAME FOR MYSELF.
V I P E R
LIKE NIMROD.
B L A C K H A W K
C O B R A
THAT'S WHY DESPITE BEING HALF THE WORLD APART...
A P A C H E
WE HAVE THE PRIVELEGE OF BEING CONNECTED BY A COMMON CAUSE.
L I T T L E B I R D
ANYONE CAN BE A HERO. PVT. IT JUST TAKES THE RIGHT TOOLS.

TOOLS THAT ALLOW US TO WHITTLE AWAY AT HISTORY FROM ABOVE THE CLOUDS, CARVING IT INTO A SINGLE POINT GETTING INFINITELY SHARPER LIKE A LINE INTO THE HORIZON.



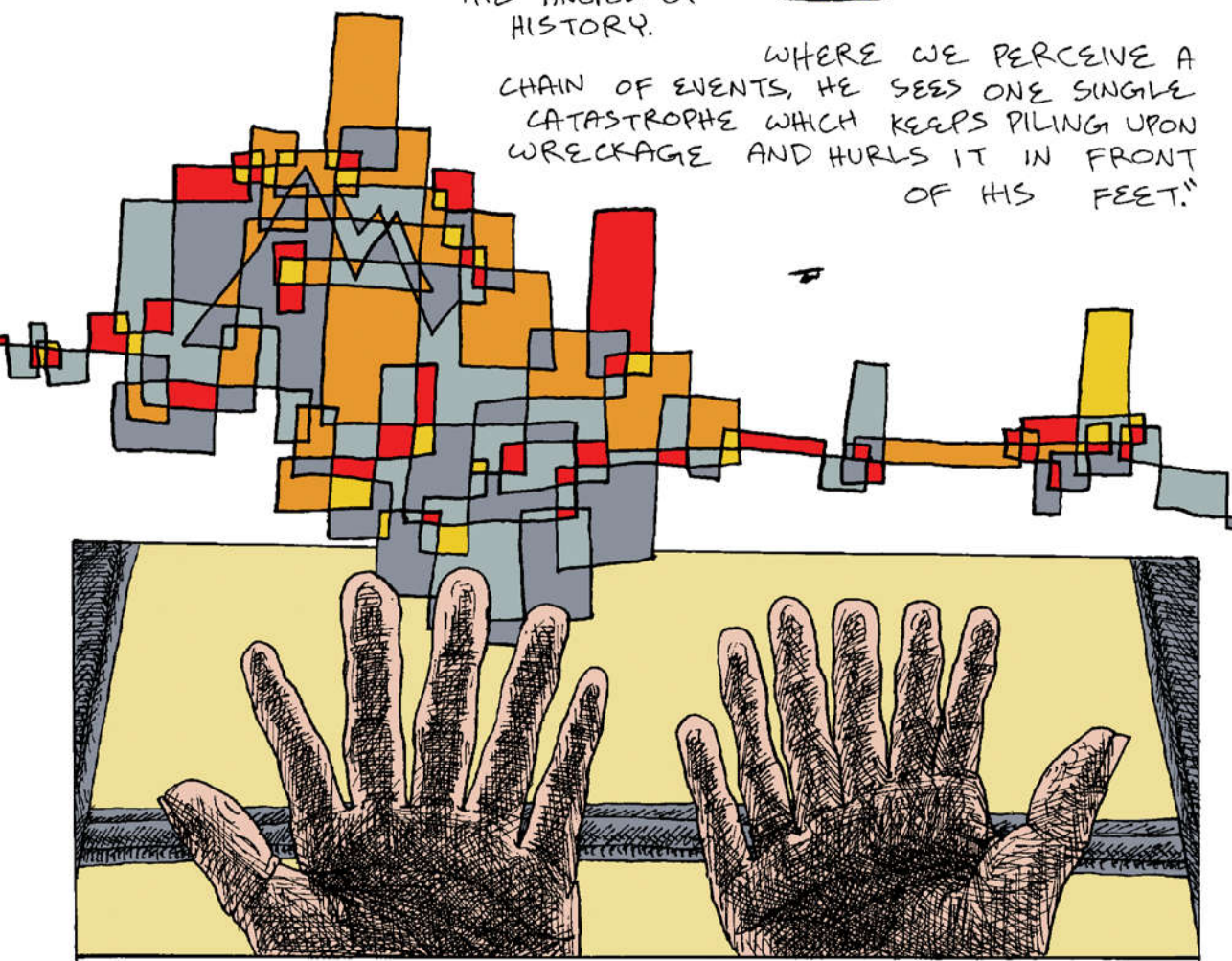
FROM THESES ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY: "THERE IS A PAINTING BY KLEE CALLED 'ANGELUS NOVUS'.

AN ANGEL IS DEPICTED LOOKING AS THOUGH HE IS ABOUT TO MOVE AWAY FROM SOMETHING HE IS FIXEDLY CONTEMPLATING. HIS EYES ARE STARING, HIS MOUTH IS OPEN, HIS WINGS ARE SPREAD.

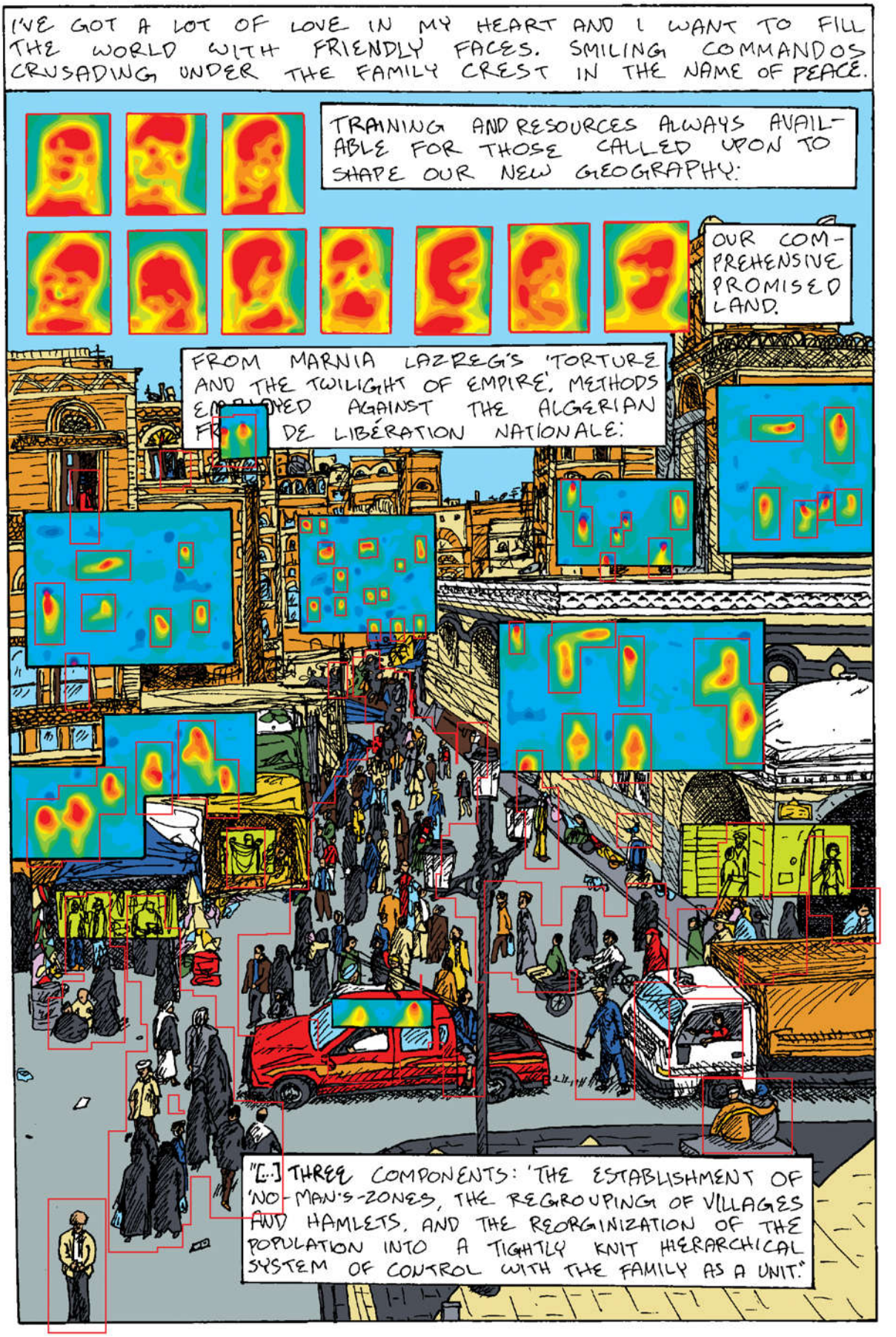


THIS IS HOW ONE PICTURES THE ANGEL OF HISTORY.

WHERE WE PERCEIVE A CHAIN OF EVENTS, HE SEES ONE SINGLE CATASTROPHE WHICH KEEPS PILING UPON WRECKAGE AND HURLS IT IN FRONT OF HIS FEET."



AND I'VE GOT THIRTEEN MOUTHS TO FEED AT HOME. IT'S A LOT I KNOW, A BAKER'S DOZEN. THAT'S WHY I HAD TO JOIN THE ARMY. WHAT'S ONE TO DO? I ALWAYS WANTED A BIG FAMILY.


I'VE GOT A LOT OF LOVE IN MY HEART AND I WANT TO FILL THE WORLD WITH FRIENDLY FACES. SMILING COMMANDOS CRUSADING UNDER THE FAMILY CREST IN THE NAME OF PEACE.
TRAINING AND RESOURCES ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE CALLED UPON TO SHAPE OUR NEW GEOGRAPHY:
OUR COMPREHENSIVE PROMISED LAND.
FROM MARNIA LAZREG'S 'TORTURE AND THE TWILIGHT OF EMPIRE', METHODS EMPLOYED AGAINST THE ALGERIAN FRONT DE LIBÉRATION NATIONALE:
"[..] THREE COMPONENTS: 'THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 'NO-MAN'S-ZONES, THE REGROUPING OF VILLAGES AND HAMLETS, AND THE REORGINIZATION OF THE POPULATION INTO A TIGHTLY KNIT HIERARCHICAL SYSTEM OF CONTROL WITH THE FAMILY AS A UNIT."

"NO-MANS ZONES, WERE TO BE SET UP IN AREAS WHERE THE TOPOGRAPHY LENT ITSELF TO GUERILLA ACTION. THESE WERE FREE-SHOOTING ZONES AIMED AT DISLODGING AND ELIMINATING FIGHTING 'BANDS.'"

WE ARE DEALING IN SOCIAL TOPOGRAPHIES. A WARNING FROM MAO ZEDONG:

"WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY MOBILIZED, WE SHALL CREATE A VAST SEA OF HUMANITY IN WHICH THE ENEMY WILL BE SWALLOWED UP...

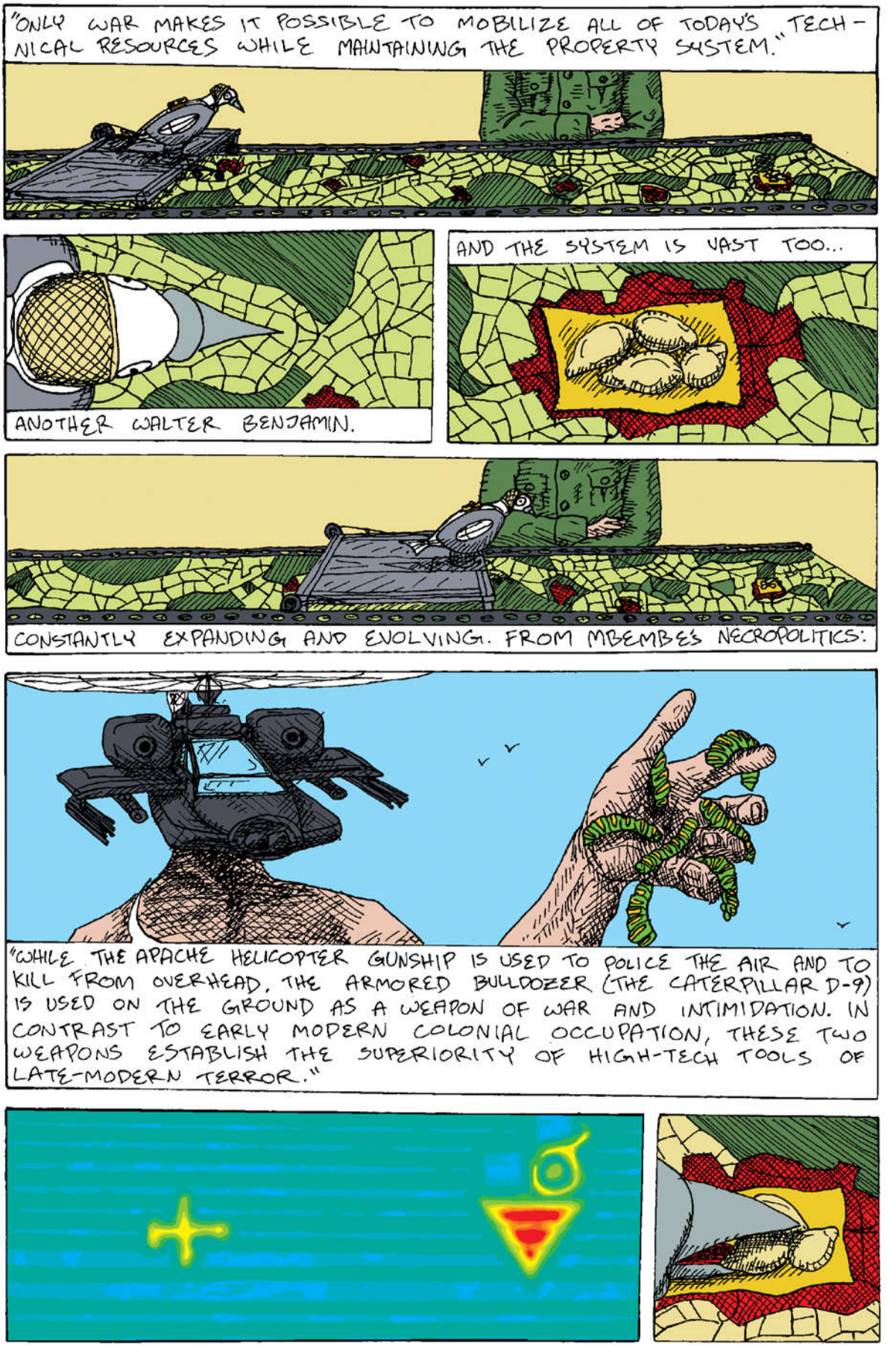
THE POPULAR MASSES ARE LIKE WATER, AND THE ARMY IS LIKE A FISH. HOW THEN CAN IT BE SAID THAT WHEN THERE IS WATER, A FISH WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN PRESERVING ITS EXISTENCE?"

BUT IF WE COULD DRAIN THE SEA, SO THE WATER ONLY BARELY TOUCHED OUR ANKLES WE COULD NOODLE THE FISH WITH OUR HANDS.

OR BETTER YET, AS GIANTS WE COULD TRAWL THE FISH WITH OUR FORARMS.

OR WE COULD DRINK THE OCEAN SO THE FISH LIVED IN OUR STOMACHS;

LARVAE BIRTHED INTO AN EATEN STATE.


"ONLY WAR MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO MOBILIZE ALL OF TODAY'S TECHNICAL RESOURCES WHILE MAINTAINING THE PROPERTY SYSTEM."
ANOTHER WALTER BENJAMIN.
AND THE SYSTEM IS VAST TOO...
CONSTANTLY EXPANDING AND EVOLVING. FROM MBEMBE'S NECROPOLITICS:
"WHILE THE APACHE HELICOPTER GUNSHIP IS USED TO POLICE THE AIR AND TO KILL FROM OVERHEAD, THE ARMORED BULLDOZER (THE CATERPILLAR D-9) IS USED ON THE GROUND AS A WEAPON OF WAR AND INTIMIDATION. IN CONTRAST TO EARLY MODERN COLONIAL OCCUPATION, THESE TWO WEAPONS ESTABLISH THE SUPERIORITY OF HIGH-TECH TOOLS OF LATE-MODERN TERROR."

IN THE SPAN OF MY CAREER I'VE LEARNED TO MASK THE ITCHY SWEATS I GET AT THIS POINT...

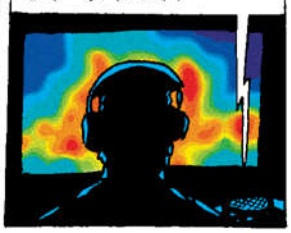
BUT THEY'RE WITH ME ALWAYS: THE GHOSTS, THE CHILD SOLDIERS.

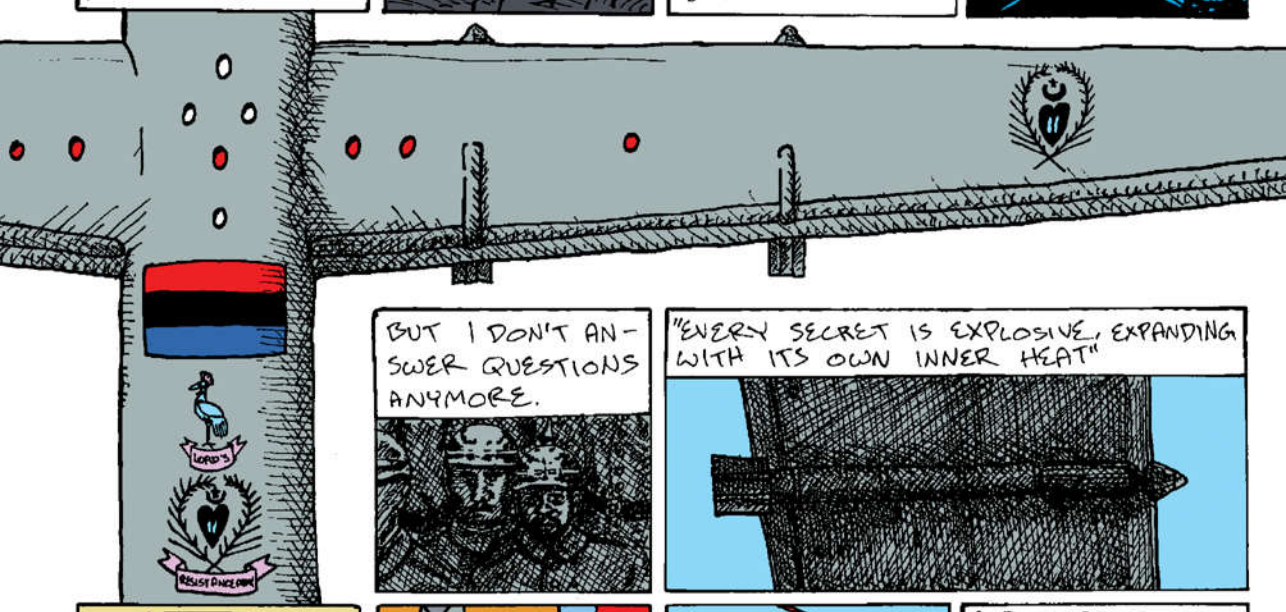
FROM CROWDS AND POWER: "ALL THAT THE PATIENT SKILLS OF THE HAND BRINGS TO THOSE WHO CONFINE THEMSELVES TO THEM IS SUBJECTION...

...IT IS THOSE WHO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO KILLING, WHO HAVE POWER."

ACHILLES MBEMBE ASKS: "WHAT INTRINSIC DIFFERENCE IS THERE BETWEEN KILLING WITH A MISSILE HELICOPTER OR A TANK AND KILLING WITH ONE'S OWN BODY?"

AND "DOES THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE ARMS USED TO INFLICT DEATH PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF GENERAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE MANNER OF KILLING AND THE MANNER OF DYING?"






BUT I DON'T ANSWER QUESTIONS ANYMORE.



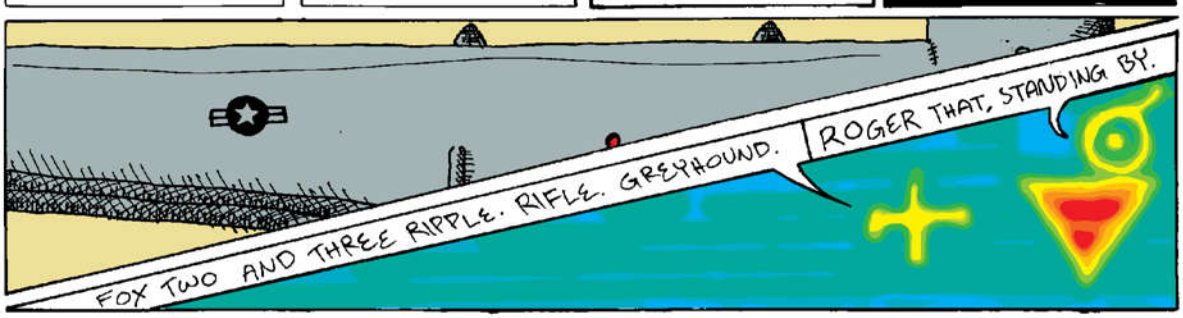
"EVERY SECRET IS EXPLOSIVE, EXPANDING WITH ITS OWN INNER HEAT"

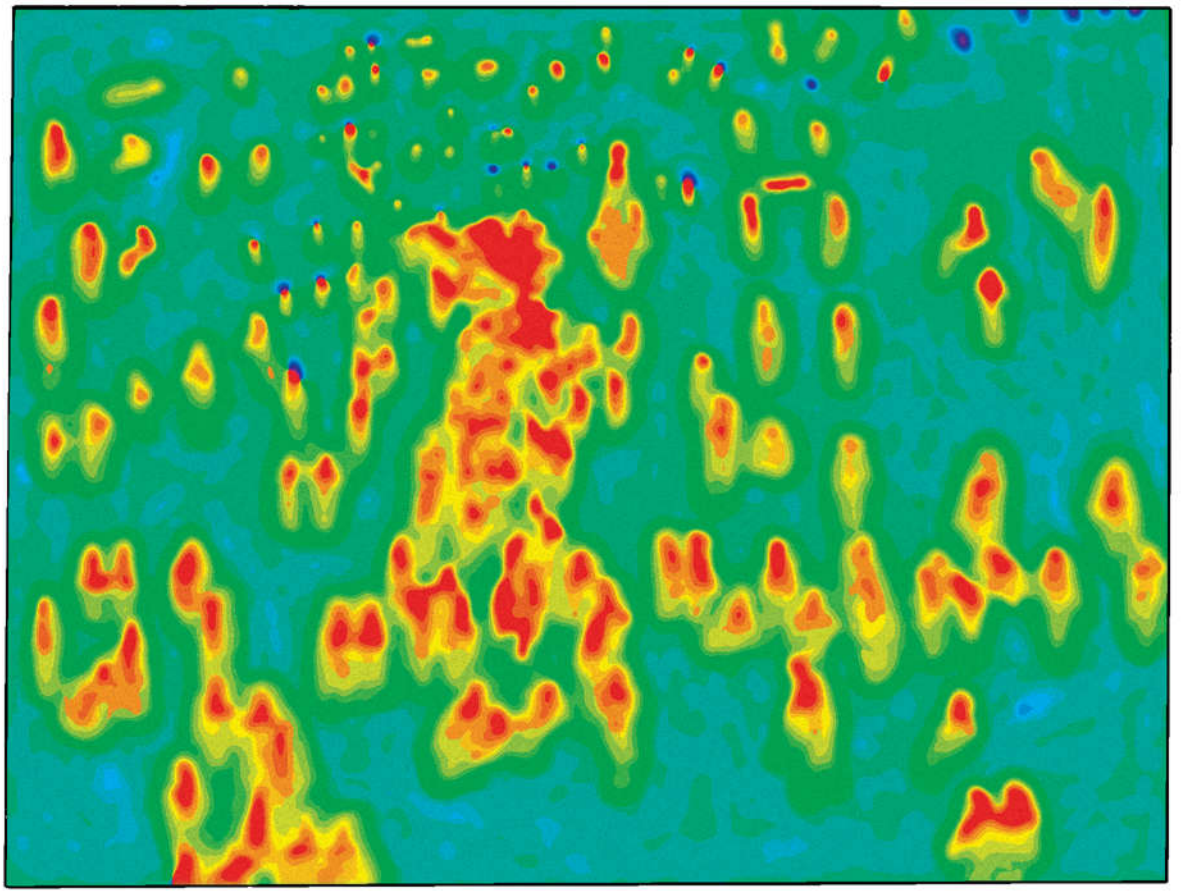
I FLEW FROM BETHLEHEM TO JERUSALEM ONCE ON BUSINESS.

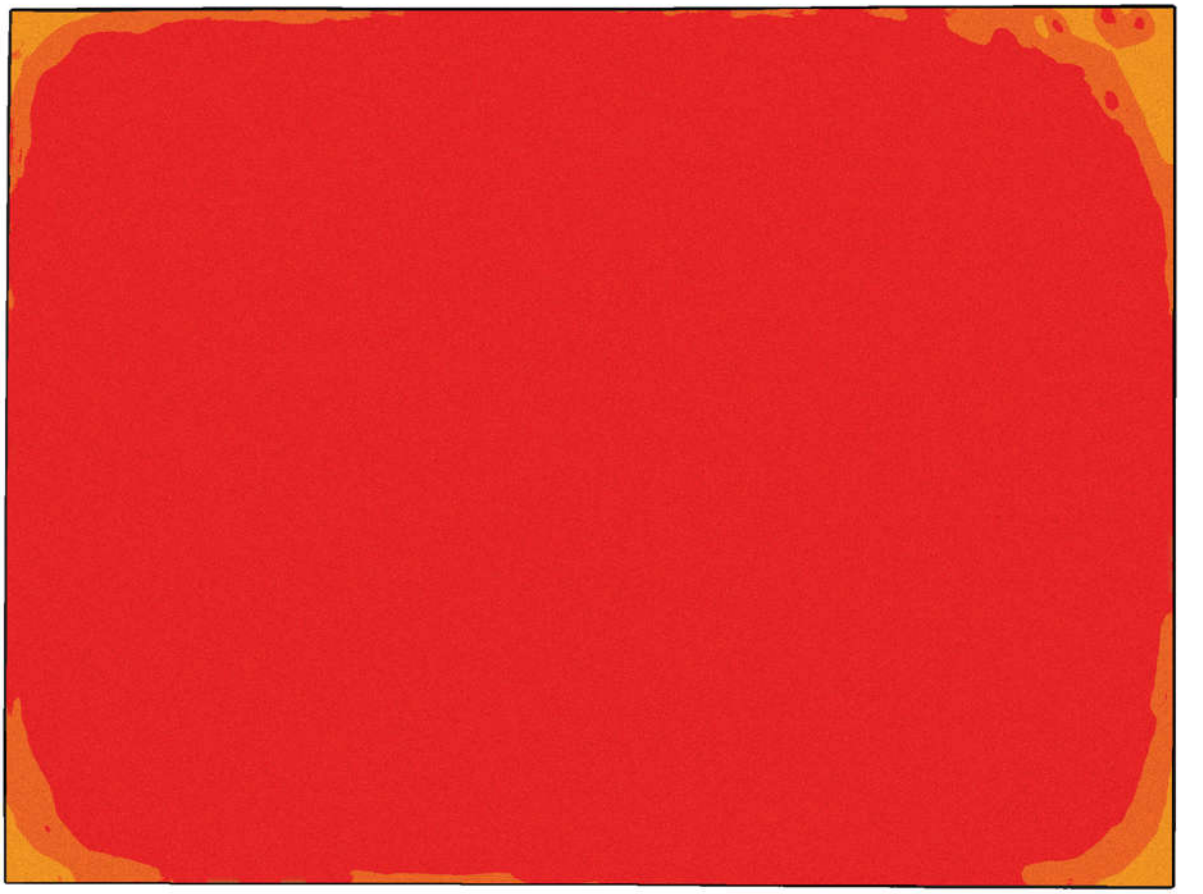
ONLY TOOK ME A FEW MOMENTS.

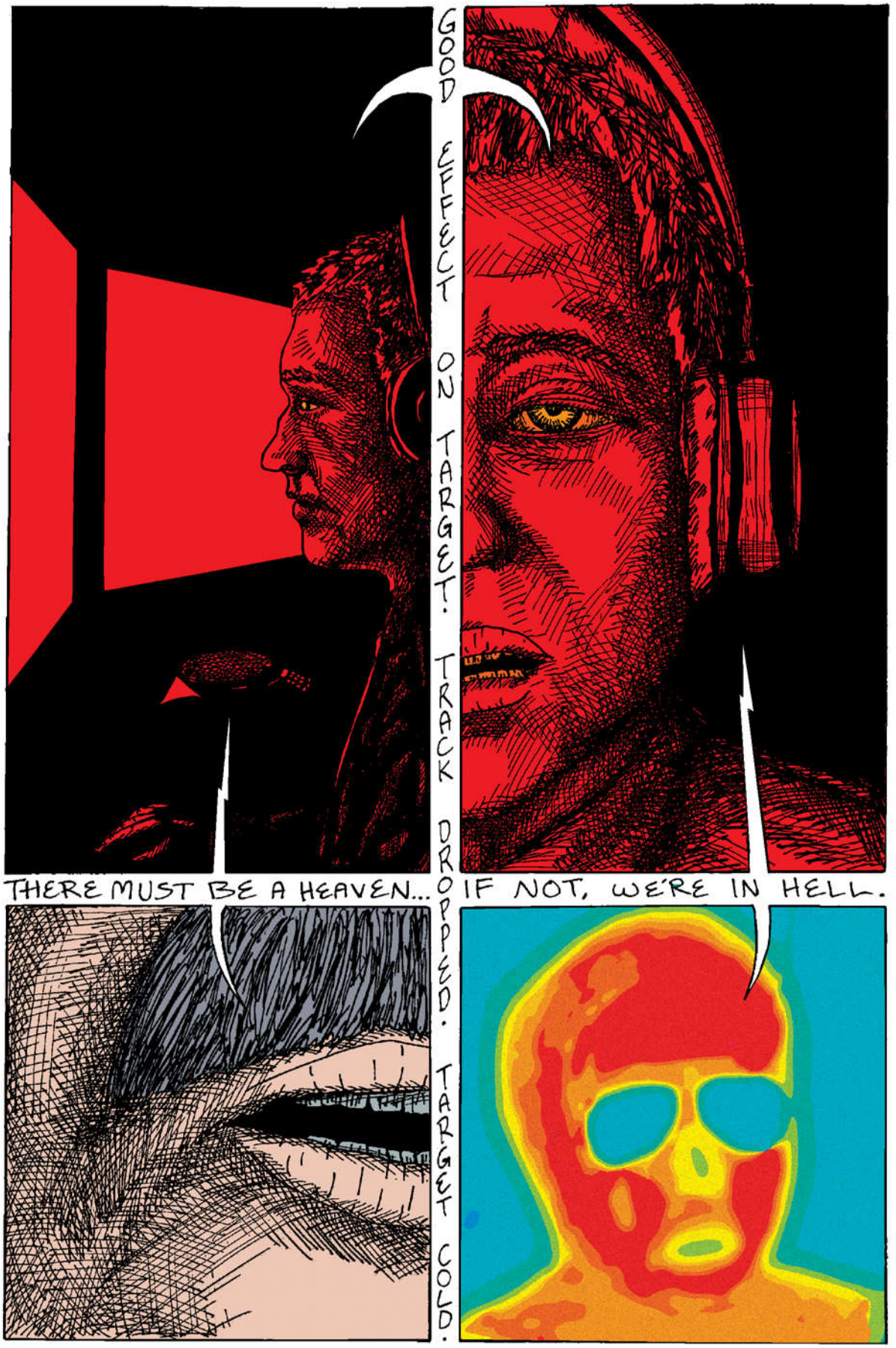
I TELL MYSELF THERE IS NO HEAVEN...

AND THERE IS NO H--








GOOD EFFECT ON TARGET. TRACK DROPPED. TARGET COLD.
THERE MUST BE A HEAVEN...
IF NOT, WE'RE IN HELL.

"A UNIVERSAL REGRESSION TAKES PLACE, A GANGRENE SETS IN, A CENTER OF INFECTION BEGINS TO SPREAD; AND AT THE END OF ALL THESE TREATIES THAT HAVE BEEN VIOLATED, ALL THESE LIES THAT HAVE BEEN PROPAGATED, ALL THESE PUNITIVE EXPIDITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TOLERATED, ALL THESE PRISONERS WHO HAVE BEEN TIED UP AND 'INTERROGATED', ALL THESE PATRIOTS WHO HAVE BEEN TORTURED, AT THE END OF ALL THE RACIAL PRIDE THAT HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED, ALL THE BOASTFULNESS THAT HAS BEEN DISPLAYED, A POISON HAS BEEN DISTILLED INTO THE VEINS OF EUROPE AND, SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE CONTINENT PROCEEDS TOWARD SAVAGERY. AND THEN ONE FINE DAY THE BOURGEOISIE IS AWAKENED BY A TERRIFIC BOOMERANG EFFECT: THE GESTAPOS ARE BUSY, THE PRISONS FILL UP, THE TORTURERS STANDING AROUND THE RACKS INVENT, REFINE, DISCUSS."

-AIMÉ CÉSAIRE, DISCOURSE ON COLONIALISM (1950)