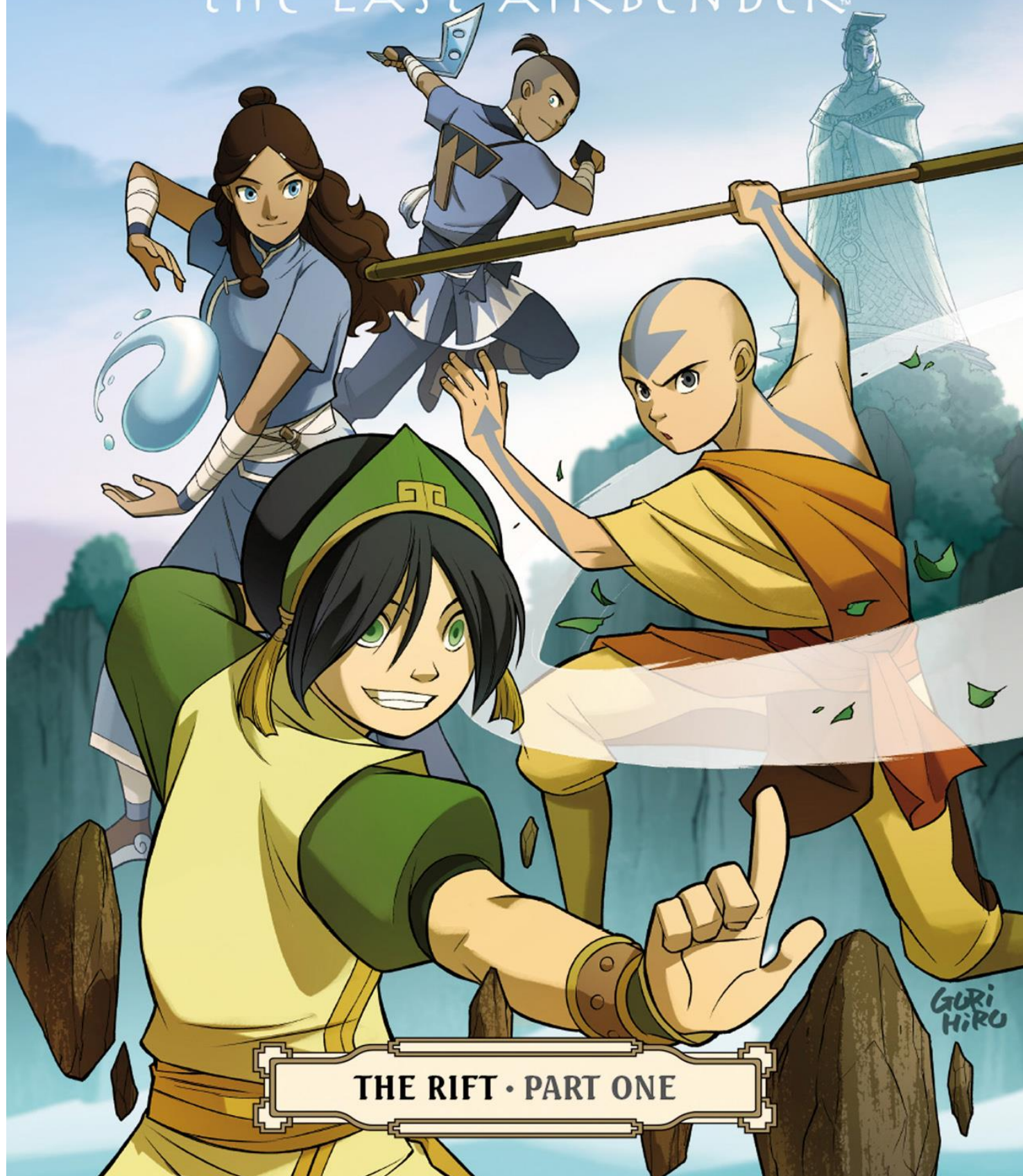


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THE LAST AIRBENDER™



THE RIFT • PART ONE

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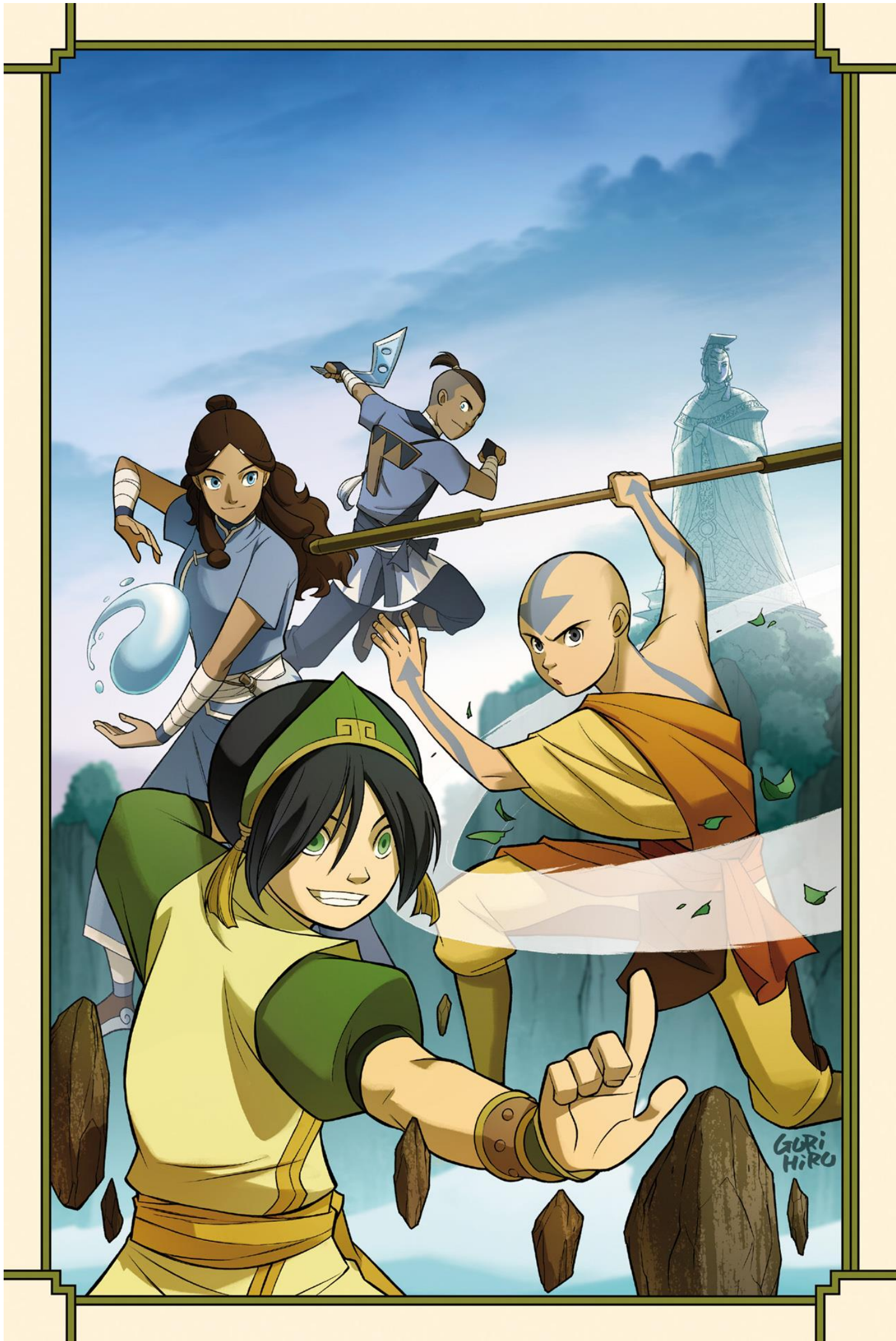
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THE LAST AIRBENDER™

Created by

Bryan Konietzko

Michael Dante DiMartino



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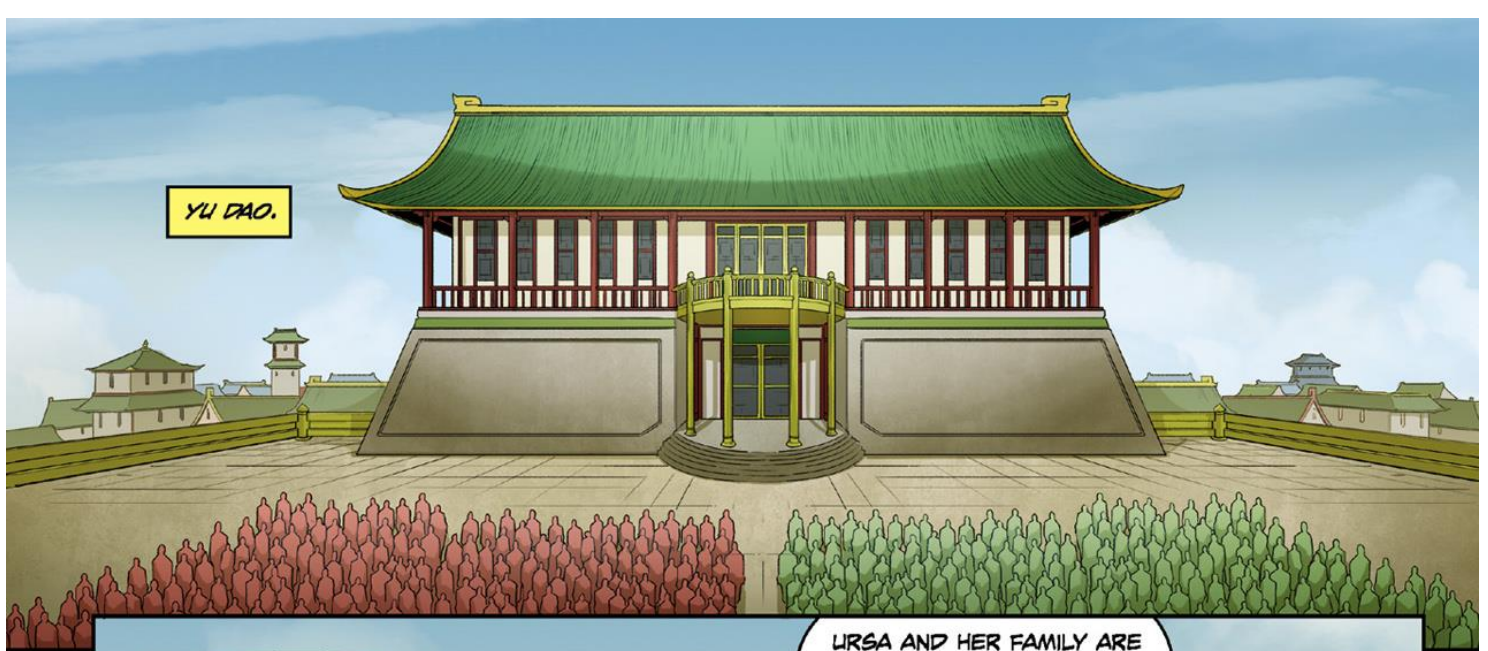
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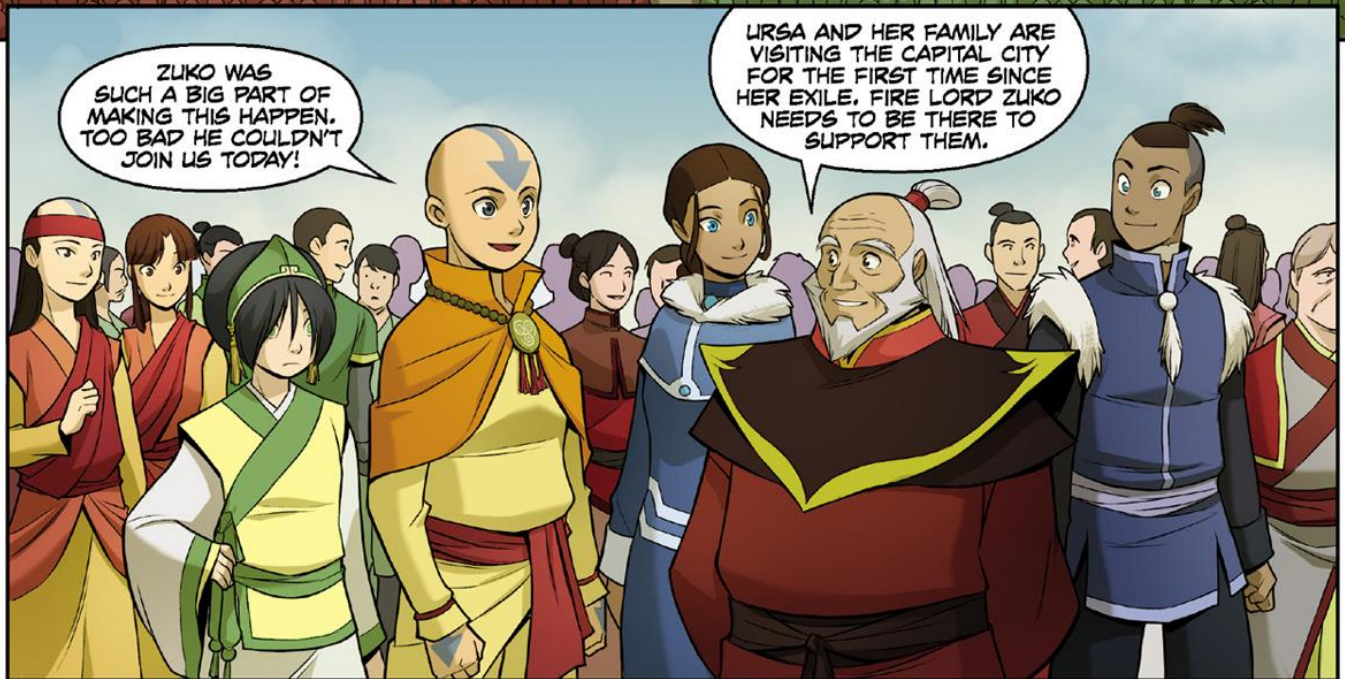
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YU DAO.



ZUKO WAS SUCH A BIG PART OF MAKING THIS HAPPEN. TOO BAD HE COULDN'T JOIN US TODAY!

URSA AND HER FAMILY ARE VISITING THE CAPITAL CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HER EXILE. FIRE LORD ZUKO NEEDS TO BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM.



HOW DID YOUR TENURE AS THE INTERIM FIRE LORD GO, IROH?

I HAD MUCH MORE FUN -- AND MORE TEA -- THAN I HAD EXPECTED! THE **NATIONAL TEA APPRECIATION DAY** WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS!

BUT IT ONLY MADE ME MISS MY LITTLE TEASHOP ALL THE MORE.

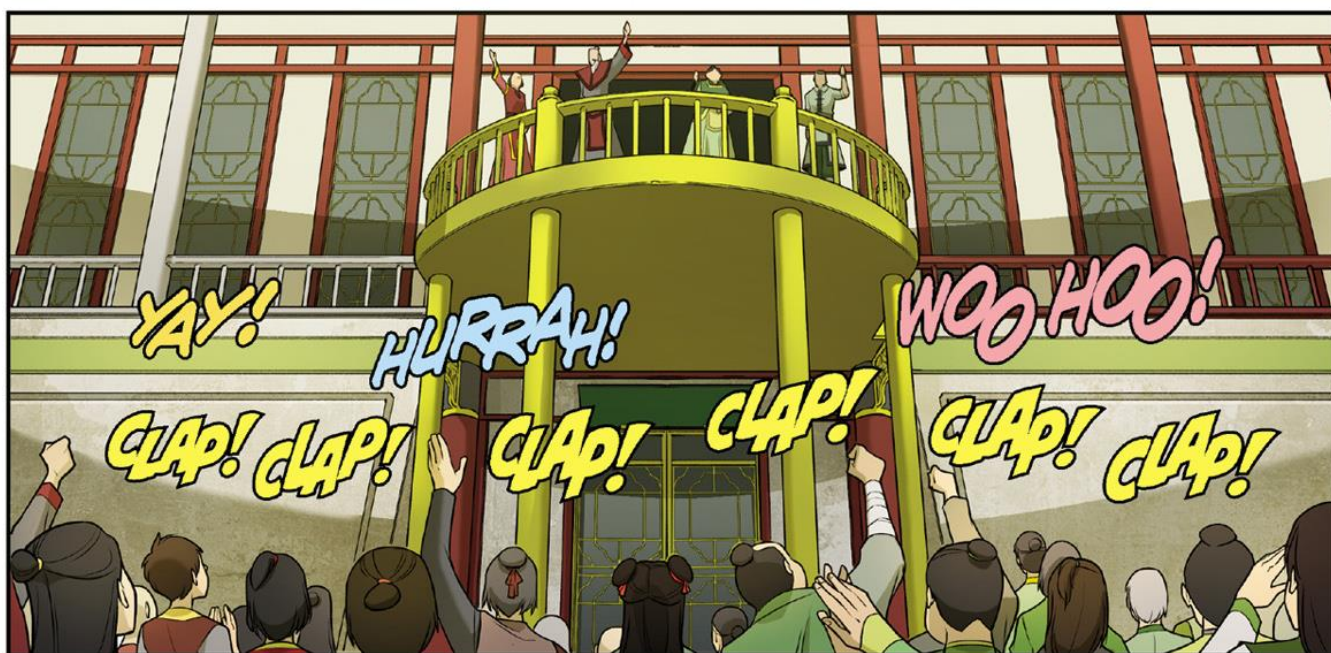


YOU'LL BE GOING HOME SOON, I HOPE?

OH YES! ATTENDING THIS IS MY LAST BIT OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS! AFTERWARDS, IT'S BACK TO BA SING SE FOR ME!

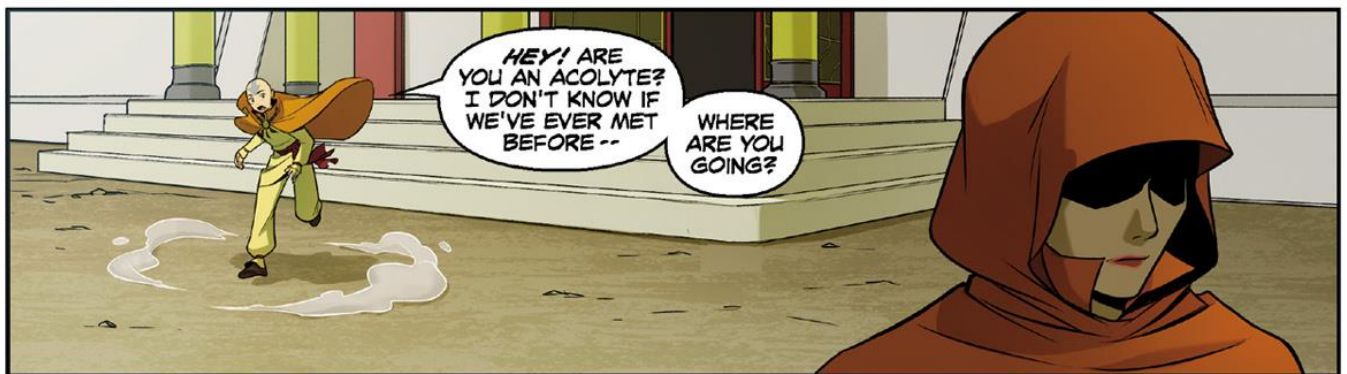


LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE READY TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT!

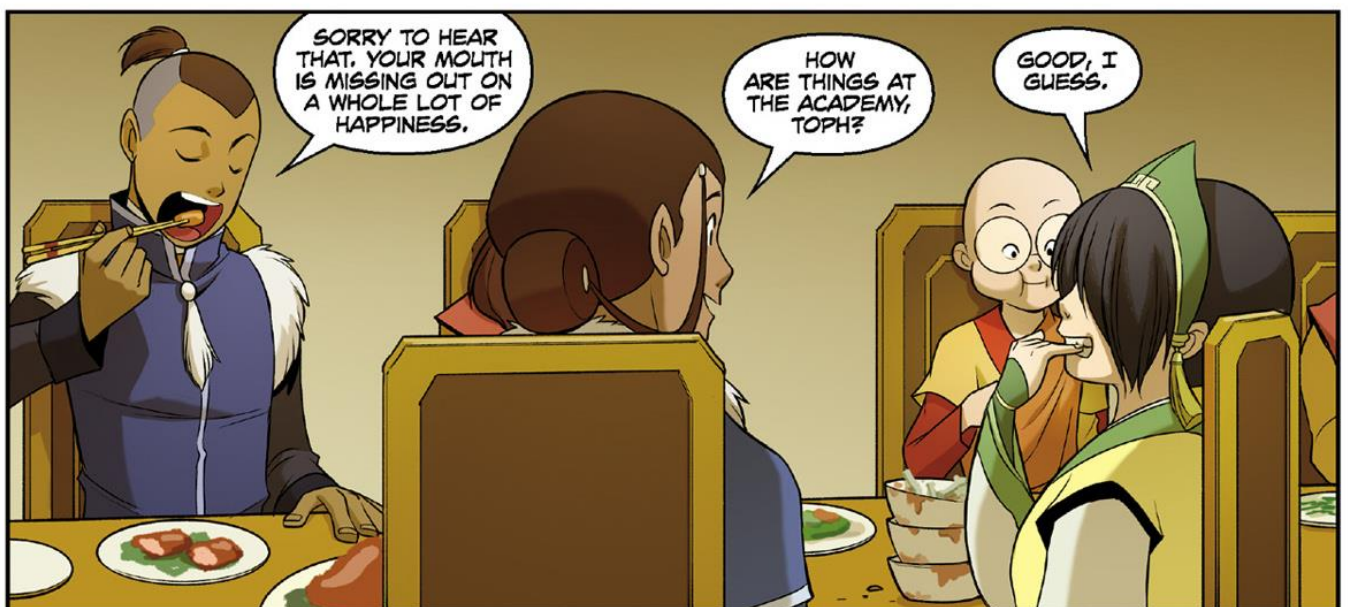












I'VE GOT SO MANY LILY LIVERS -- ER, **STUDENTS**--THESE DAYS, I HAD TO MAKE A BUNCH OF EARTH TENTS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL JUST TO HOUSE 'EM ALL. I WANNA EXPAND THE BUILDING, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.

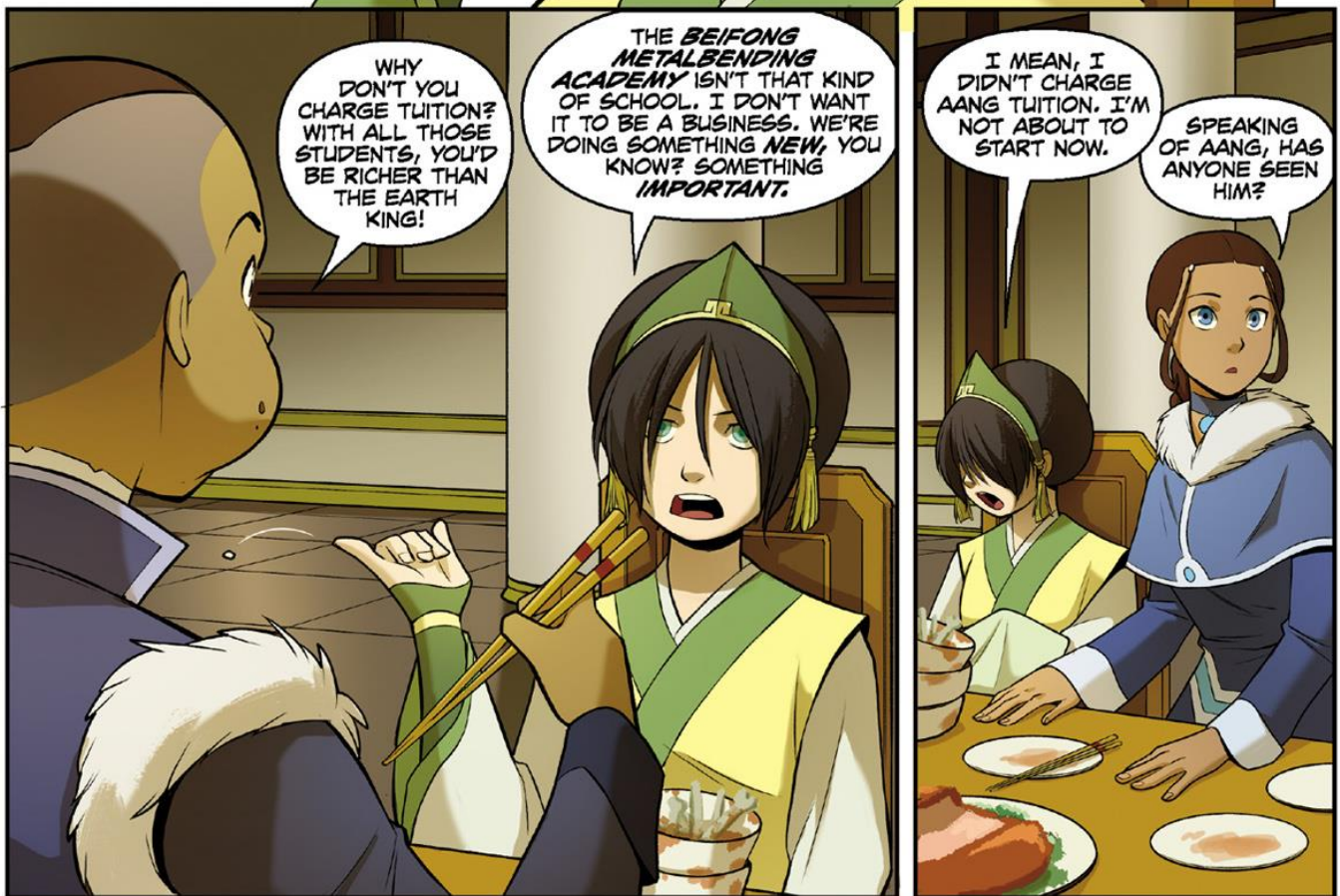


WHY DON'T YOU CHARGE TUITION? WITH ALL THOSE STUDENTS, YOU'D BE RICHER THAN THE EARTH KING!

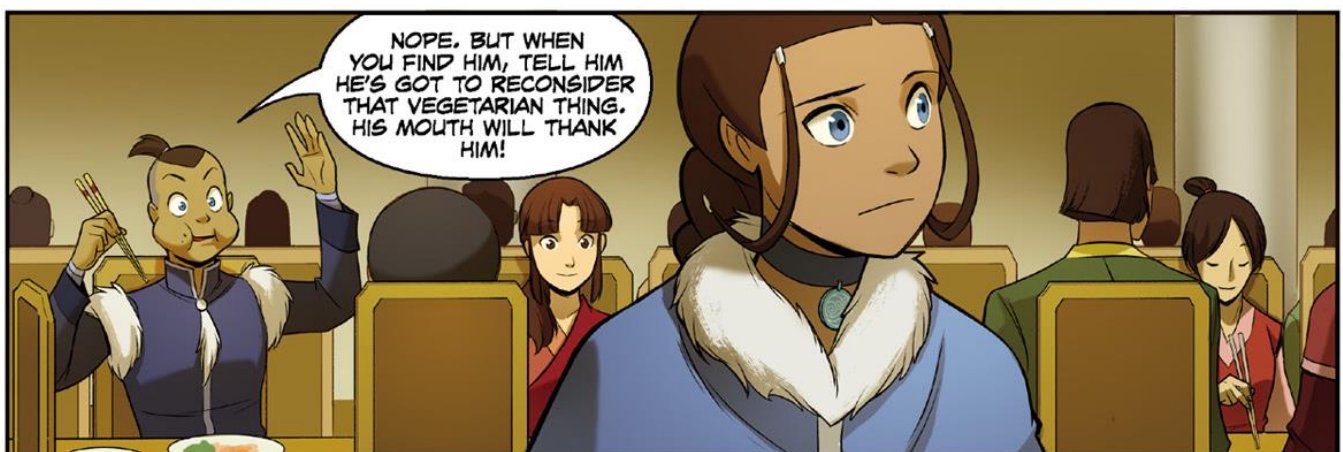
THE **BEIFONG METALBENDING ACADEMY** ISN'T THAT KIND OF SCHOOL. I DON'T WANT IT TO BE A BUSINESS. WE'RE DOING SOMETHING **NEW**, YOU KNOW? SOMETHING **IMPORTANT**.

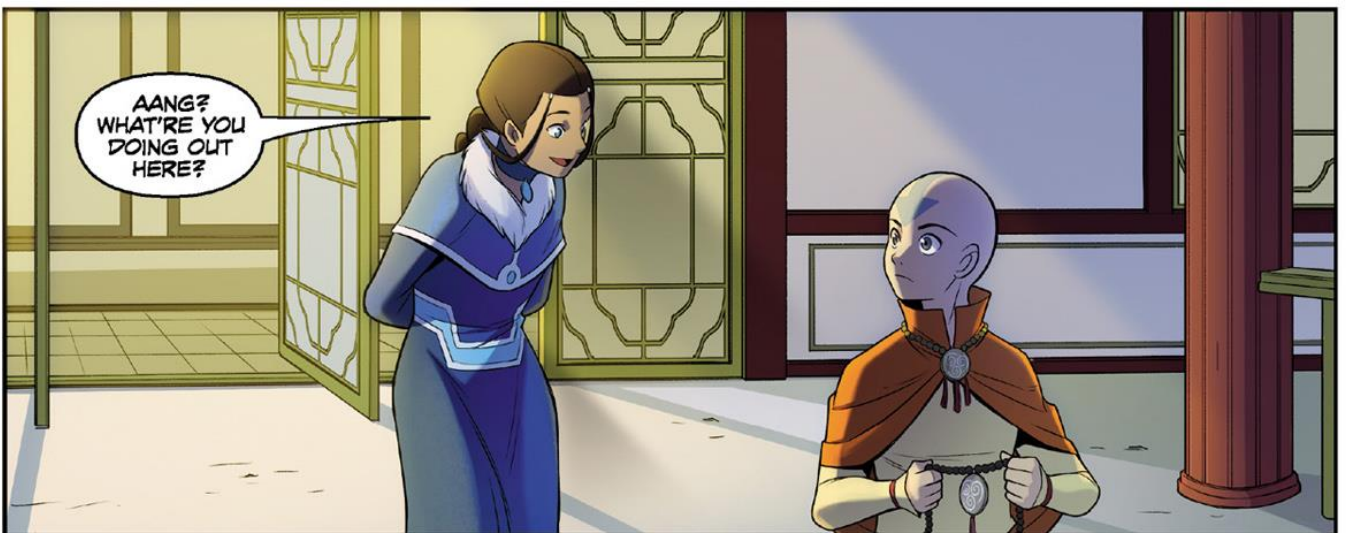
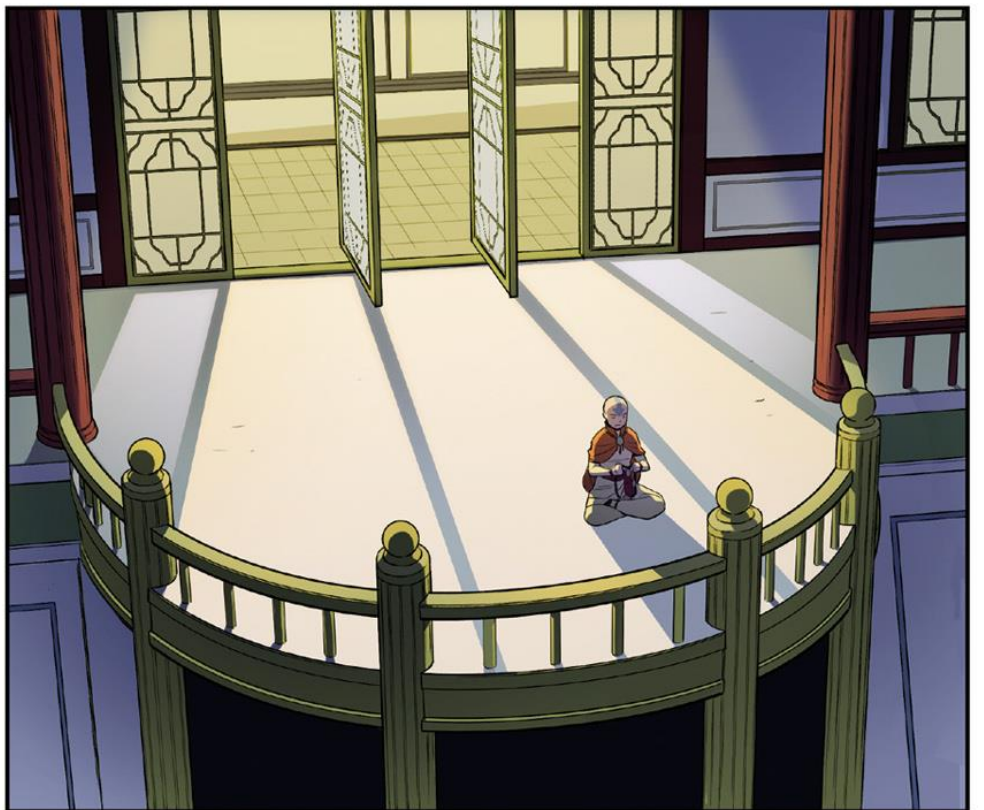
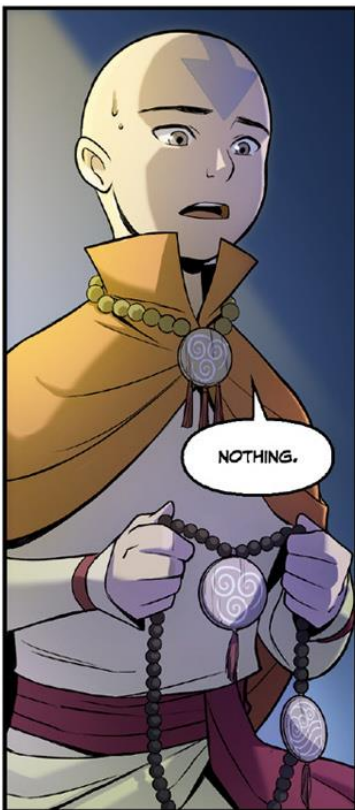
I MEAN, I DIDN'T CHARGE AANG TUITION. I'M NOT ABOUT TO START NOW.

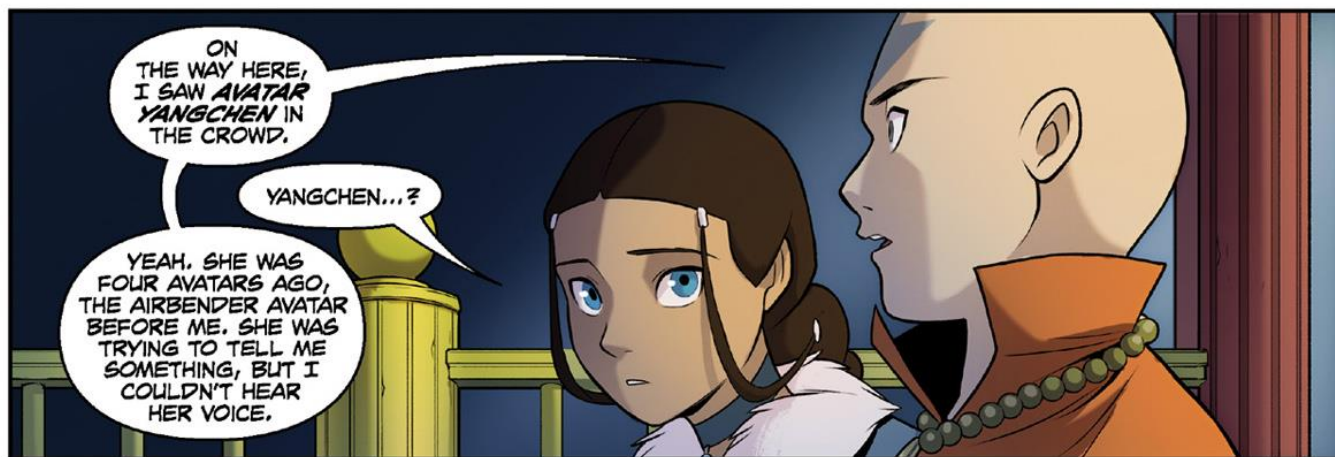
SPEAKING OF AANG, HAS ANYONE SEEN HIM?



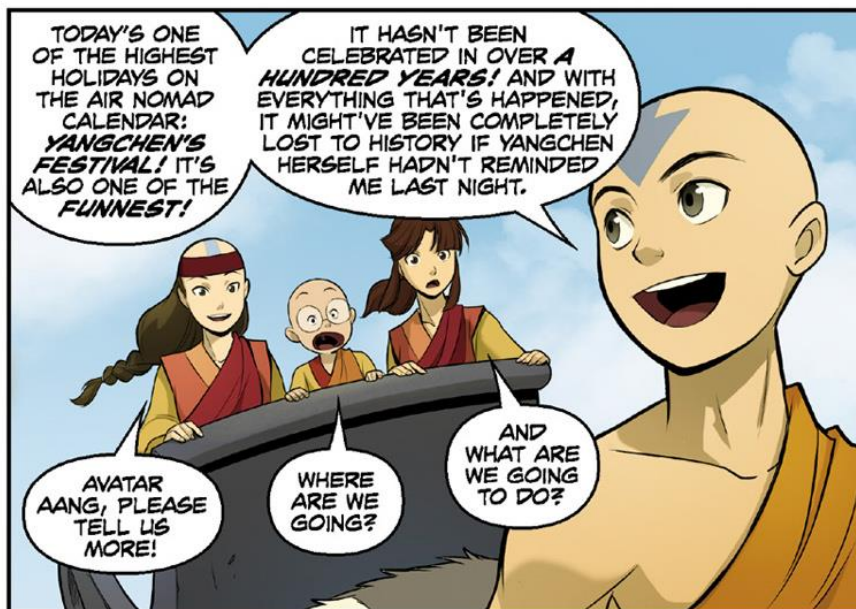
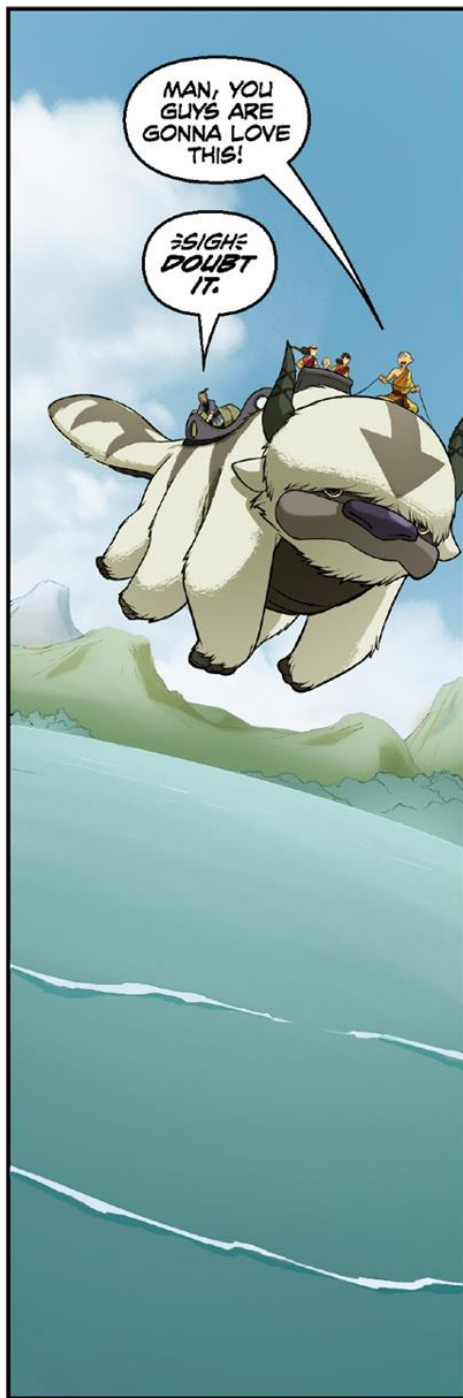
NOPE. BUT WHEN YOU FIND HIM, TELL HIM HE'S GOT TO RECONSIDER THAT VEGETARIAN THING. HIS MOUTH WILL THANK HIM!

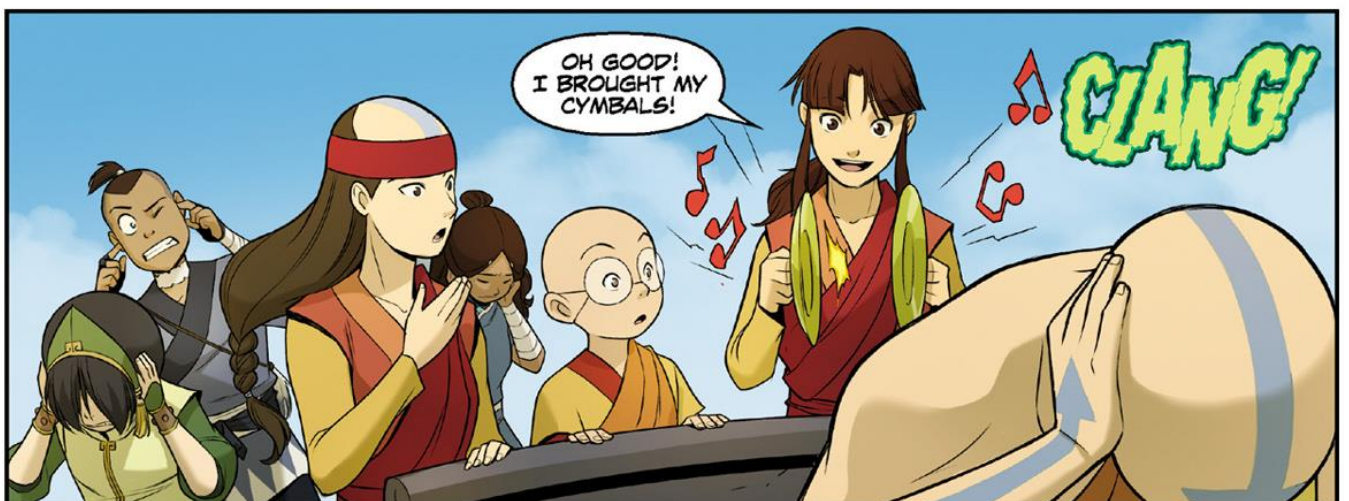
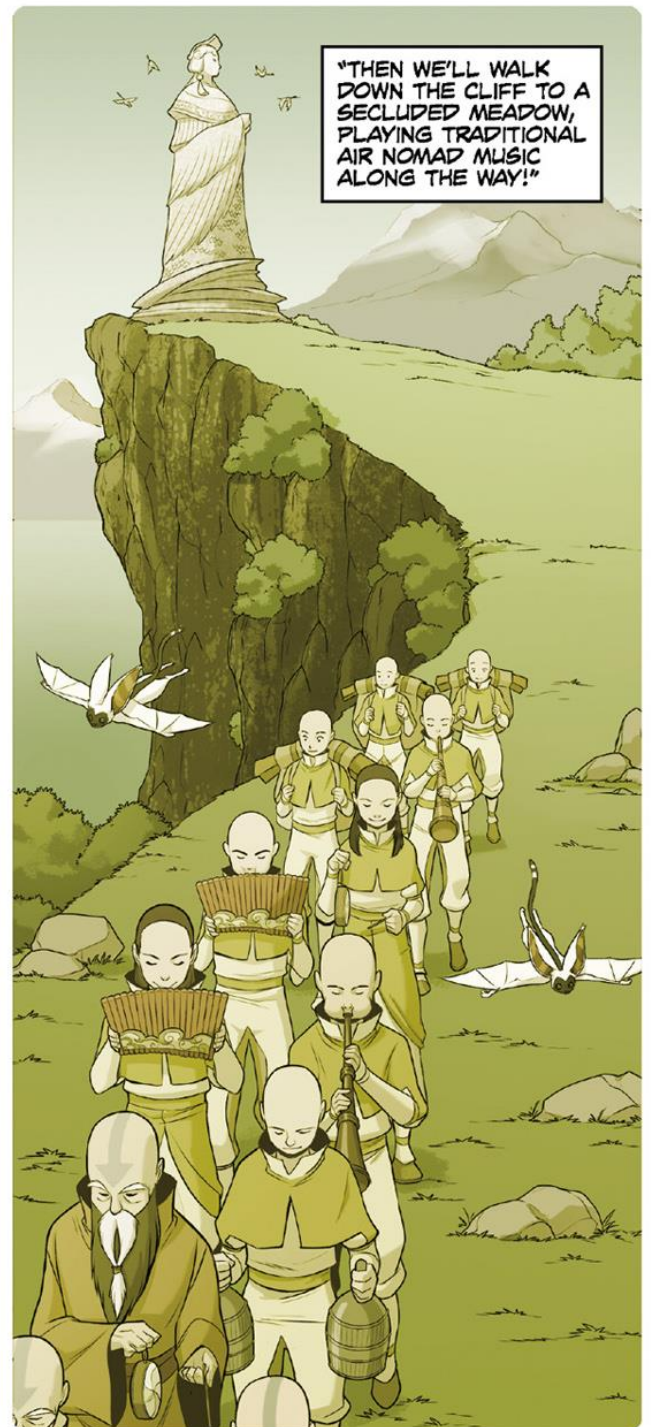


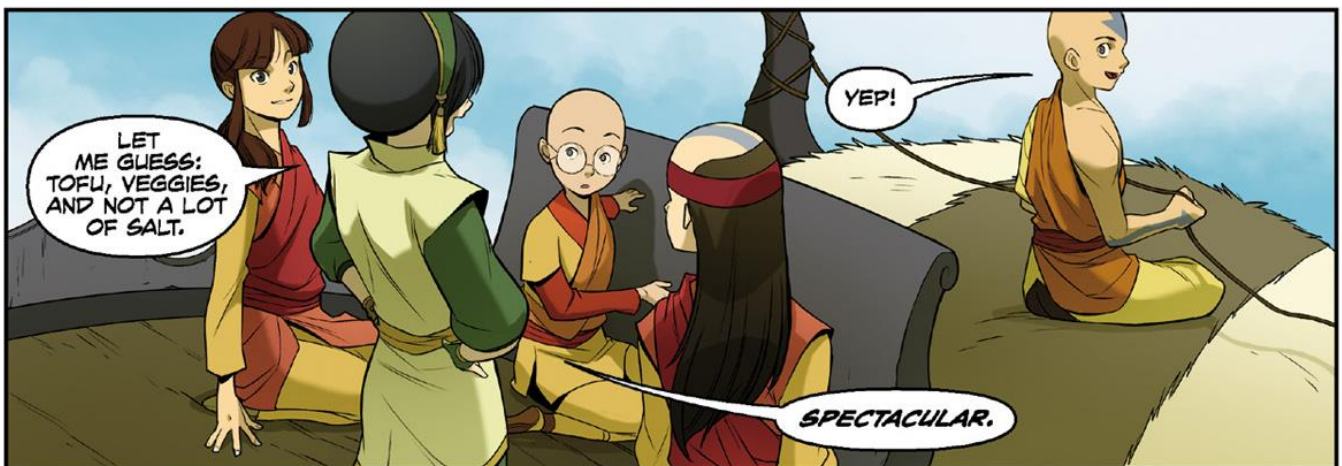




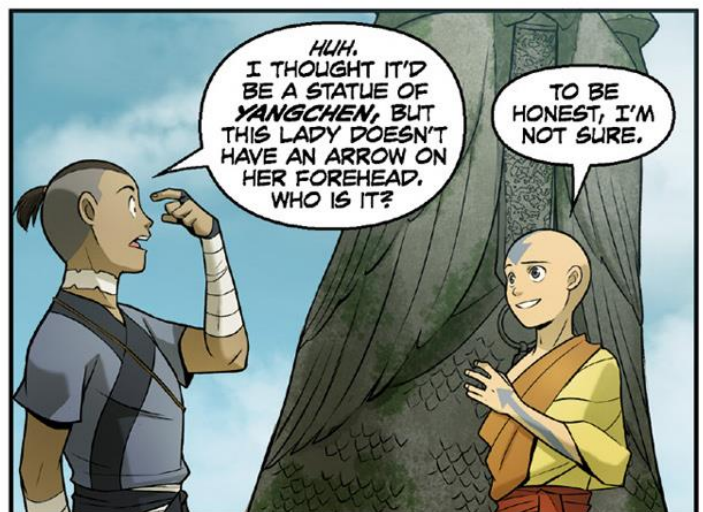


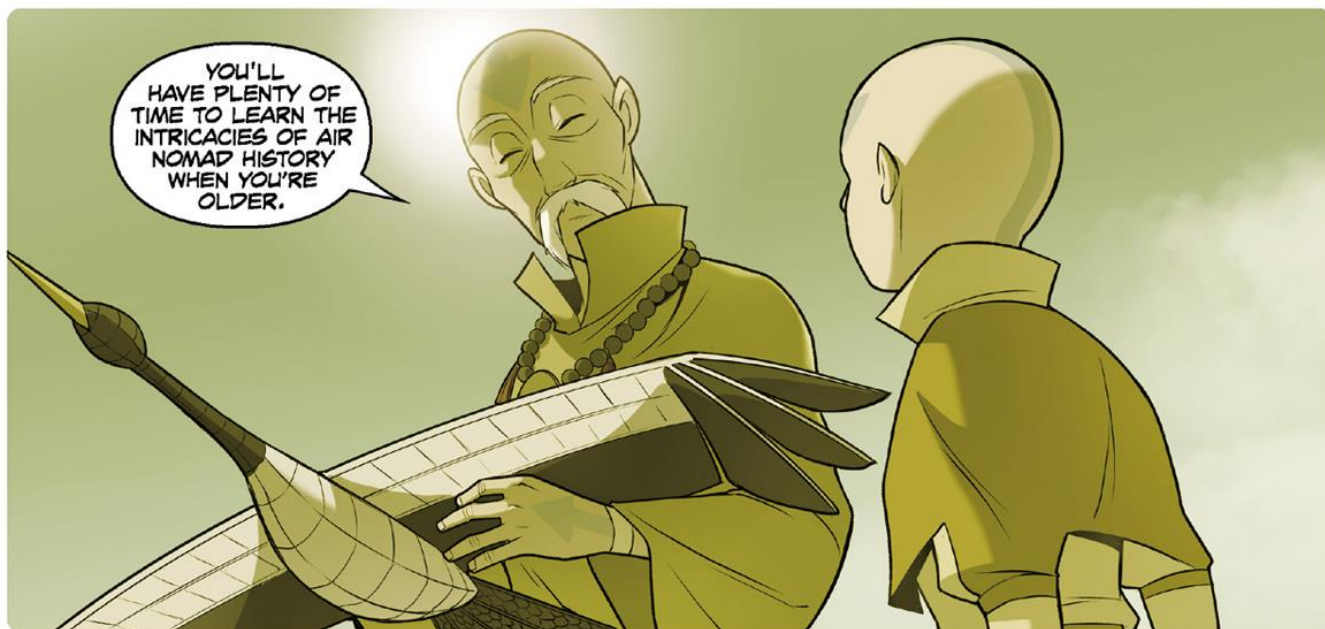
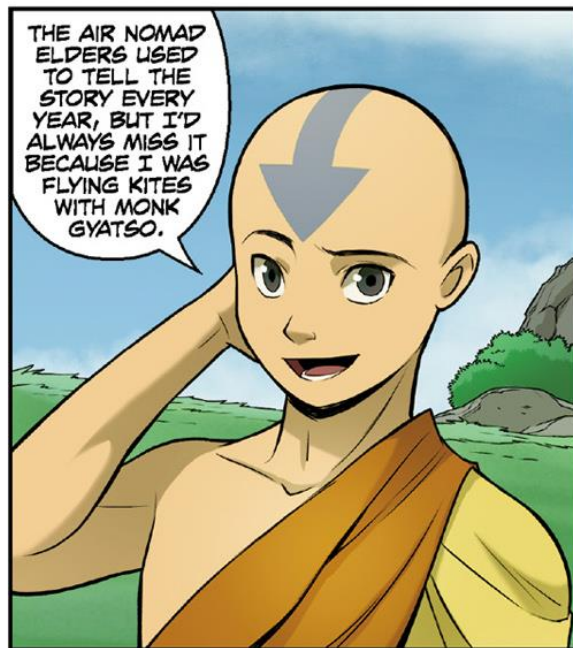




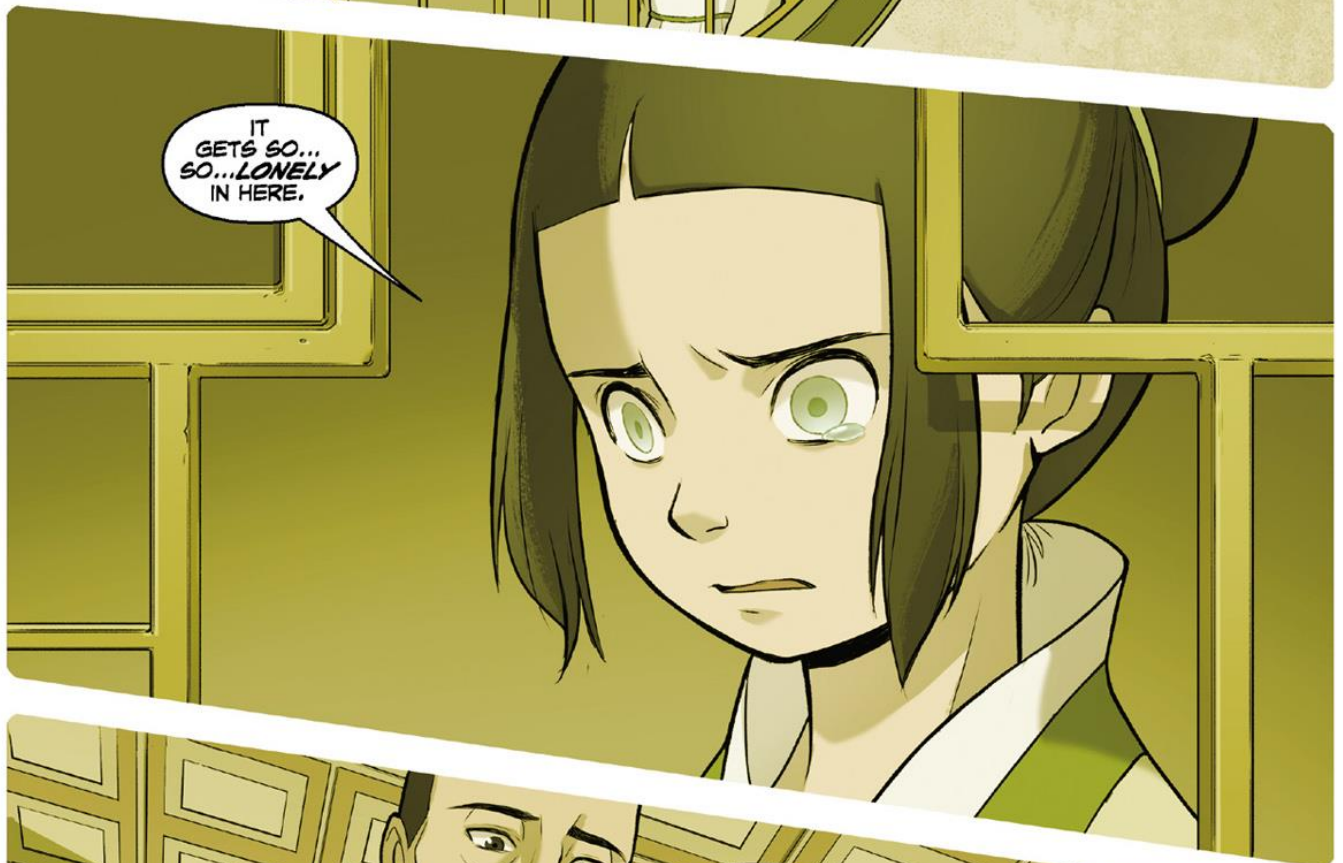
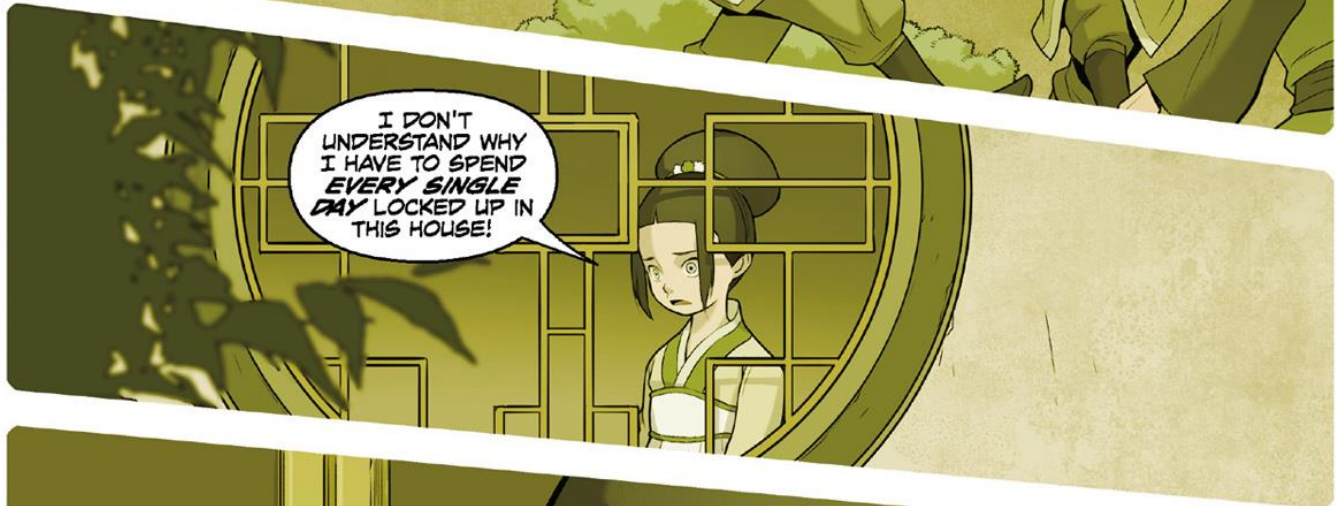




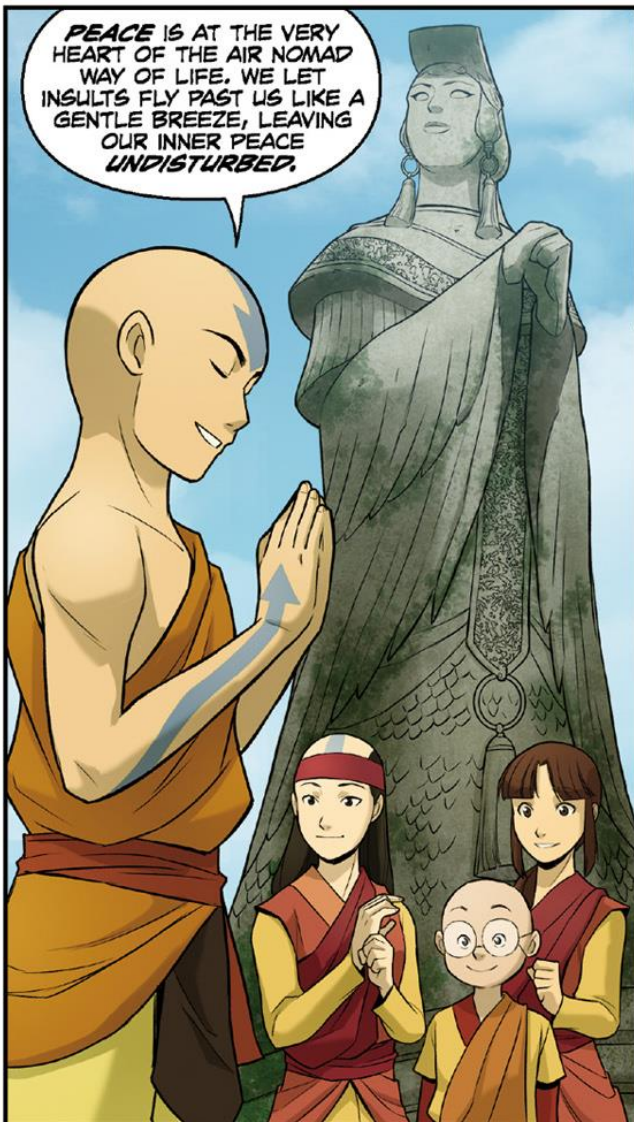




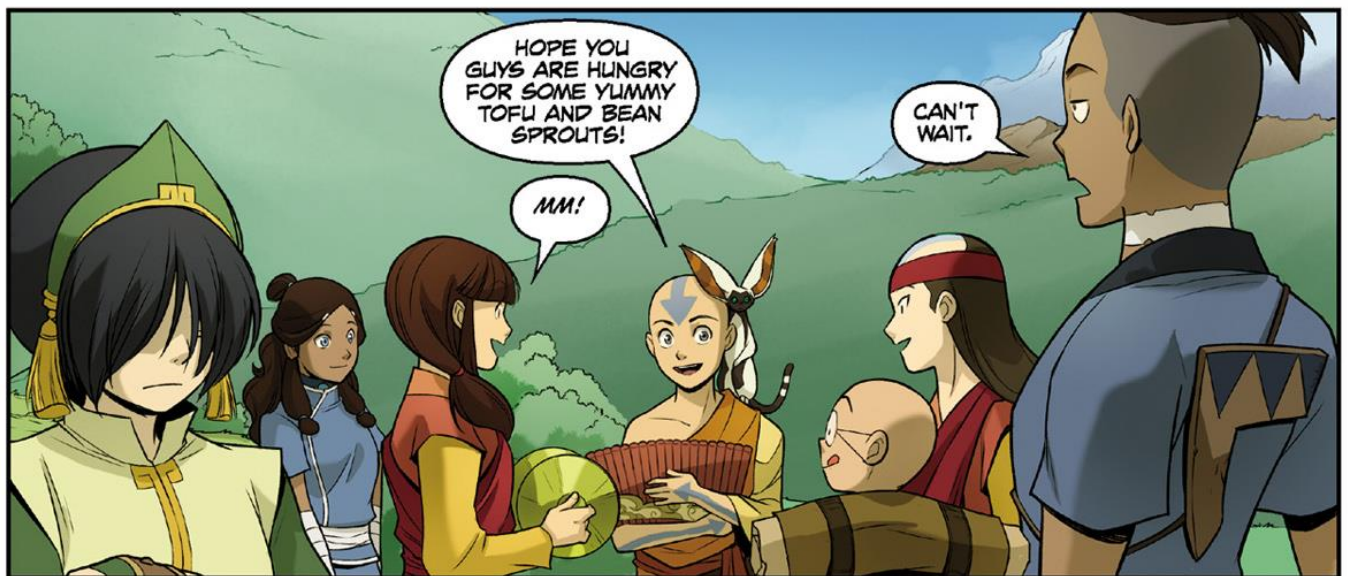


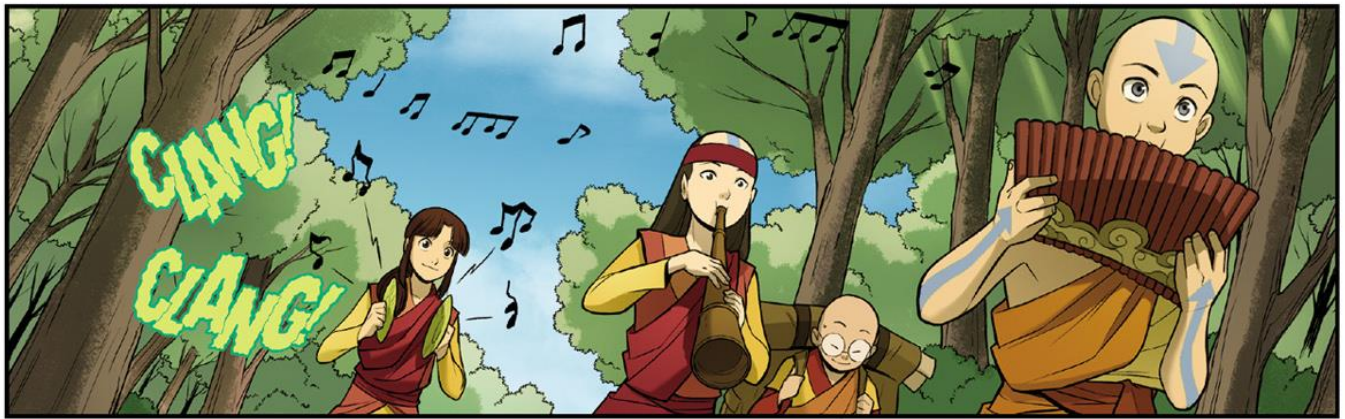


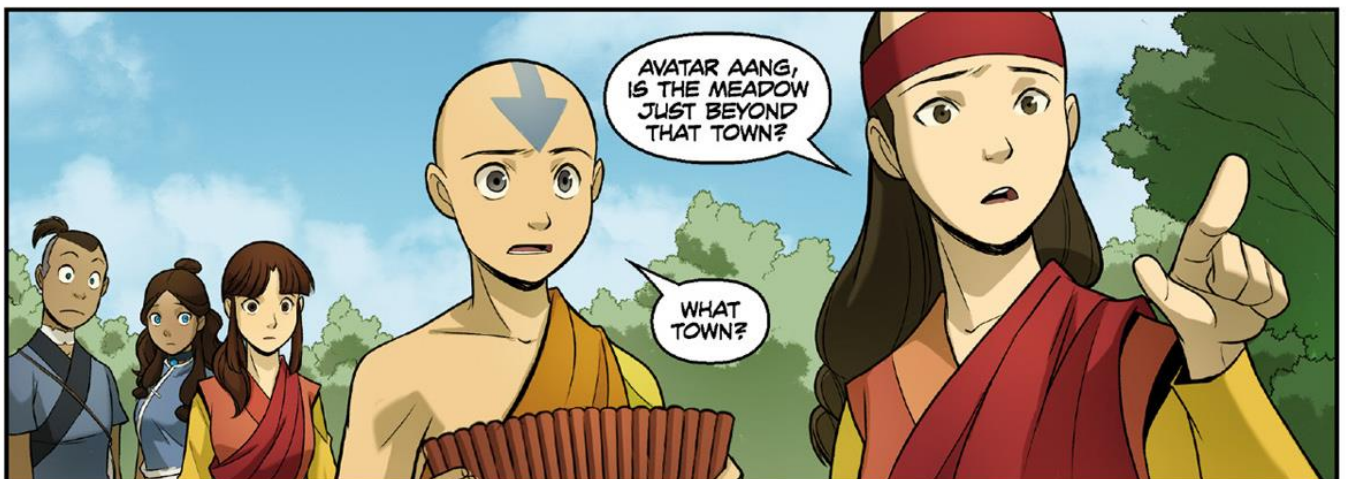


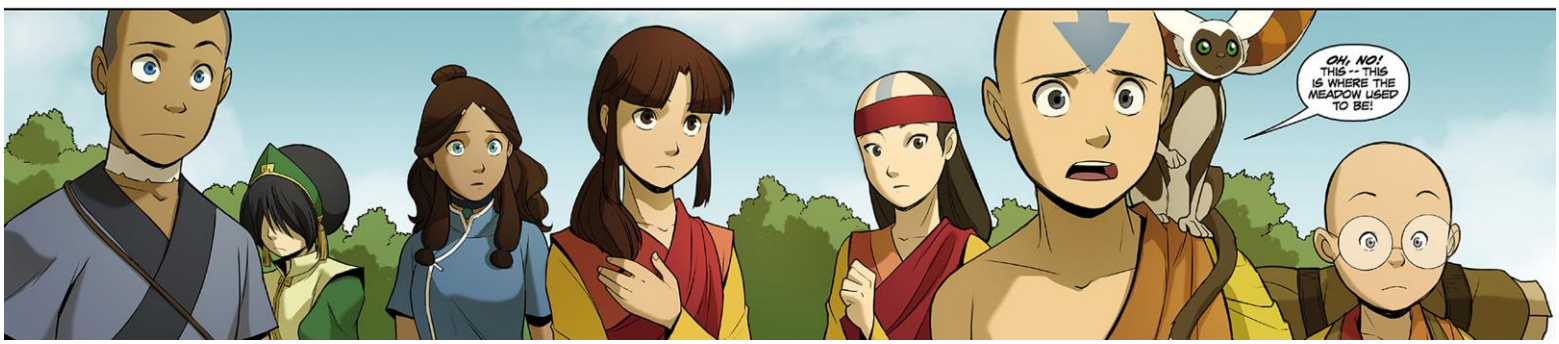


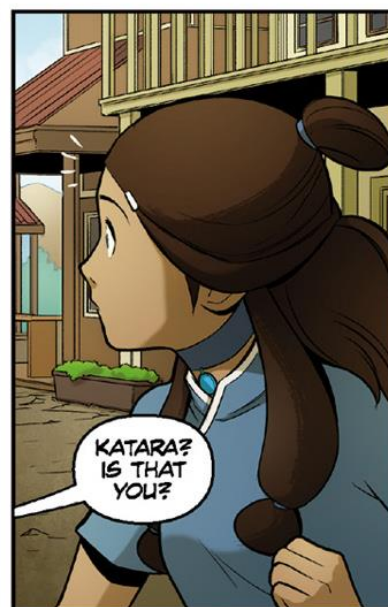




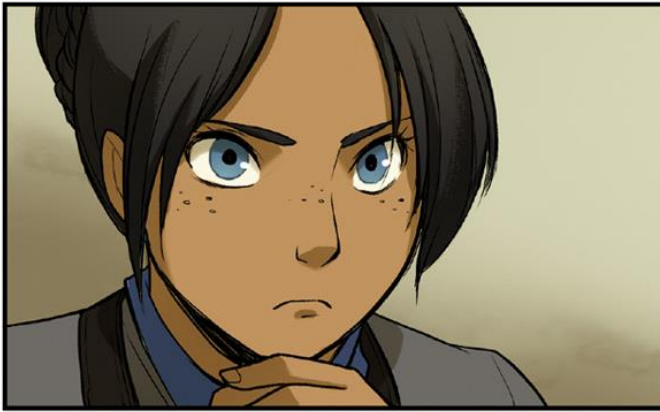




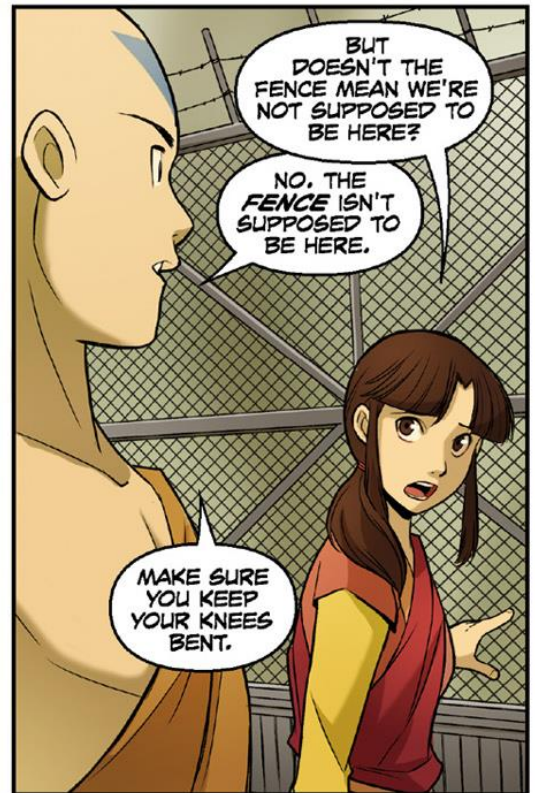
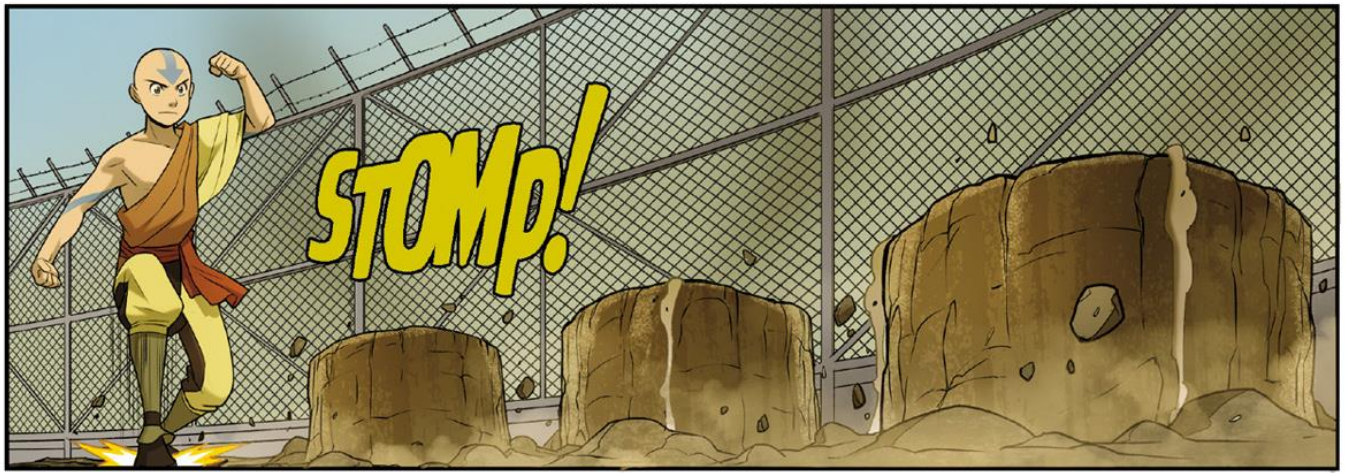




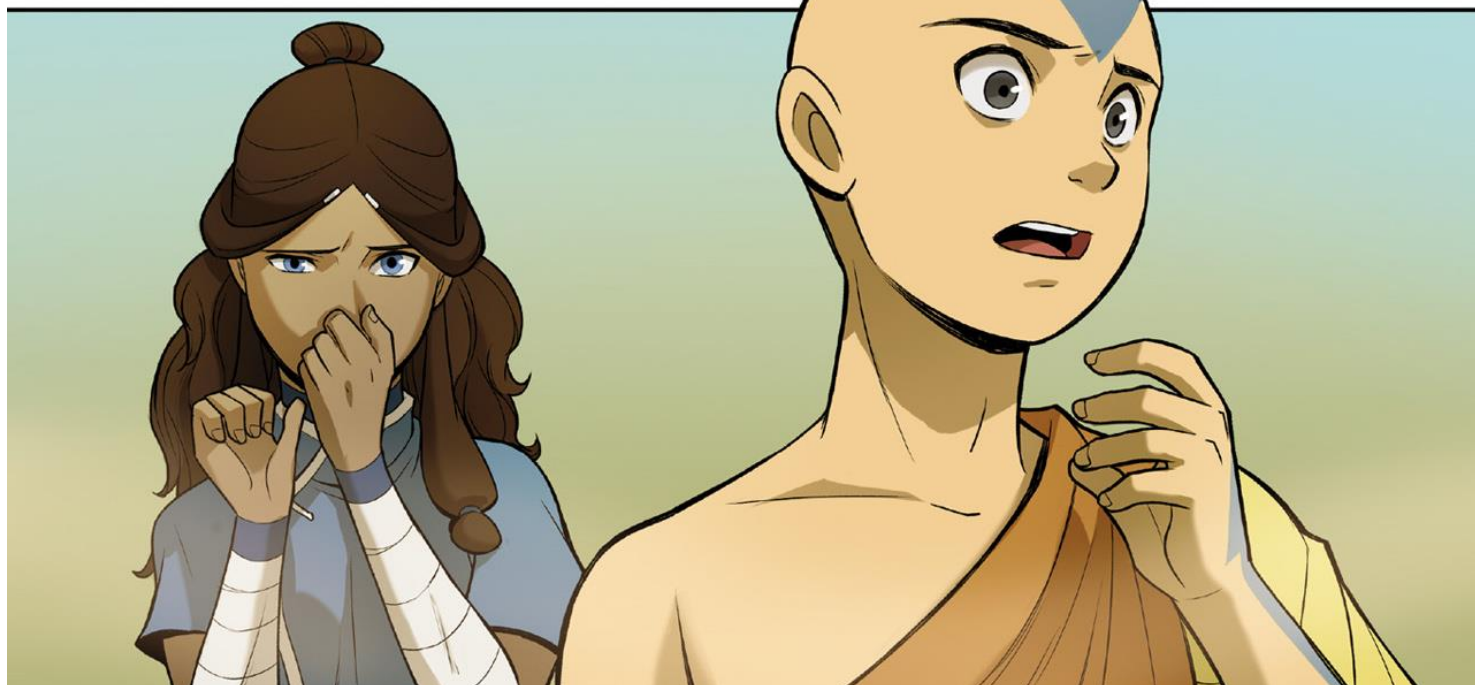
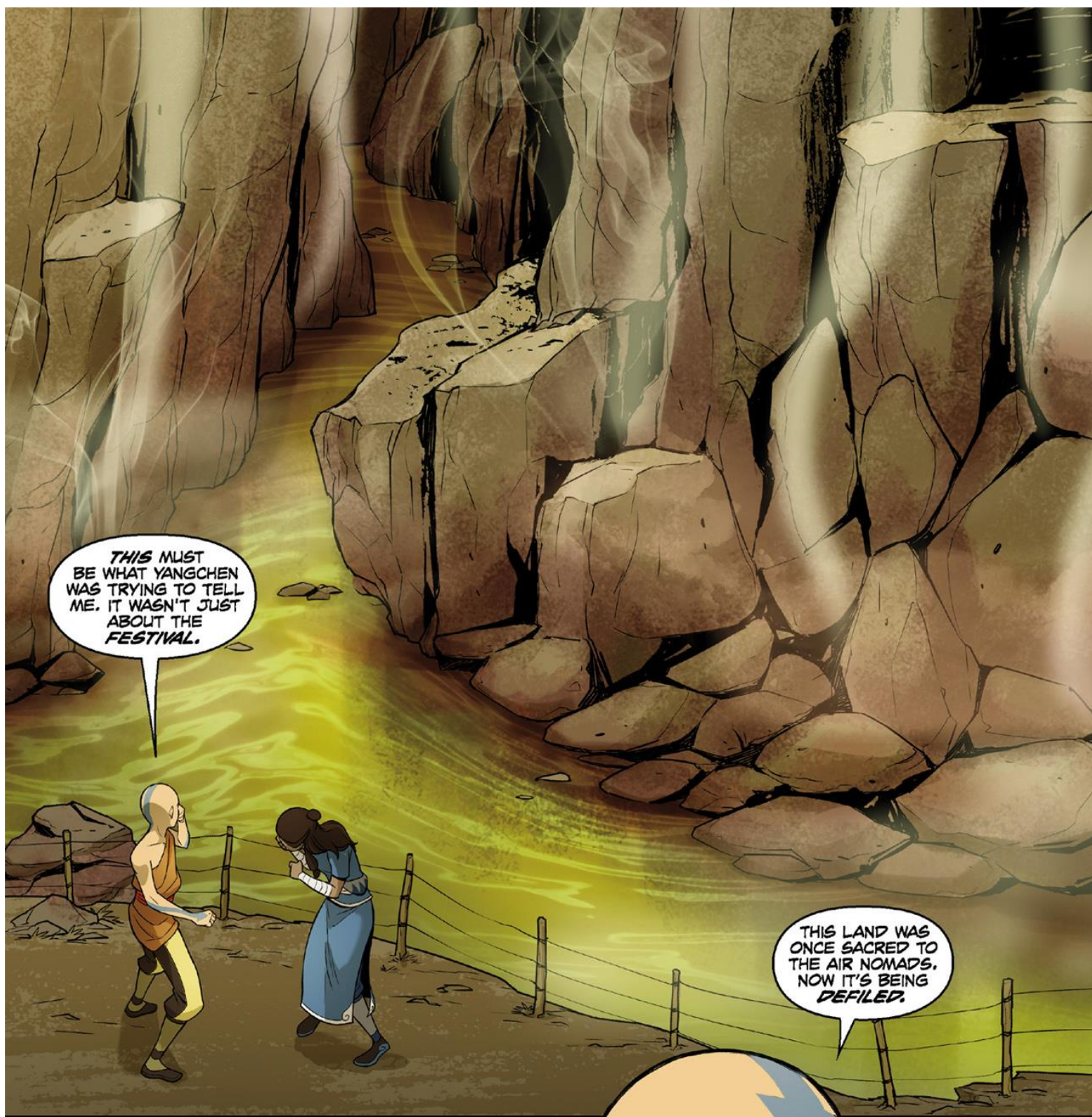
























HELLO, AVATAR! MY NAME IS SATORU!



WHAT AN HONOR TO MEET YOU! WHAT AN HONOR!

U-U-UHH... TH-TH-THANKS?



YOU MUST BE KATARA!

Y-YES!



AND YOU GUYS ARE--?

WE'RE AANG'S STUDENTS, THE AIR ACOLYTES!

NICE TO MEET YOU --

-- BUT WE'LL, AH, STICK WITH THE AIR NOMAD TRADITION OF BOWING INSTEAD OF SHAKING HANDS, IF YOU DON'T MIND.



I'VE READ SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, AVATAR, BUT I HAVE TO SAY, YOU'RE EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE IN PERSON!

THAT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU TO SAY BUT...I...

LISTEN, ARE YOU IN CHARGE AROUND HERE?







MS. BEIFONG --

NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL. YOU CAN CALL ME **TOPH**.

TOPH, WELCOME TO THE **EARTHEN FIRE REFINERY!**



YEARS AGO, MY UNCLE DISCOVERED THAT THIS AREA IS PARTICULARLY RICH WITH NATURAL RESOURCES.

BUT HE WASN'T ALLOWED TO DEVELOP IT BECAUSE... WELL... BECAUSE OF **POLITICAL REASONS**.



MY UNCLE ISN'T A VERY POLITICAL GUY, BUT HE *IS* FIRE NATION AND THIS LAND IS **EARTH KINGDOM**.

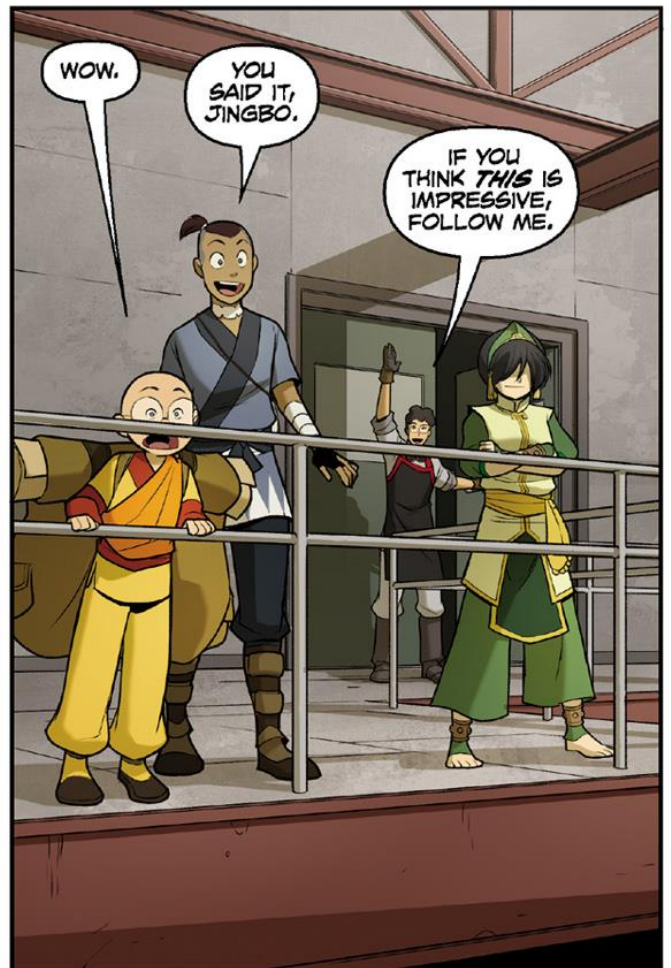
ACTUALLY, SATORU, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.



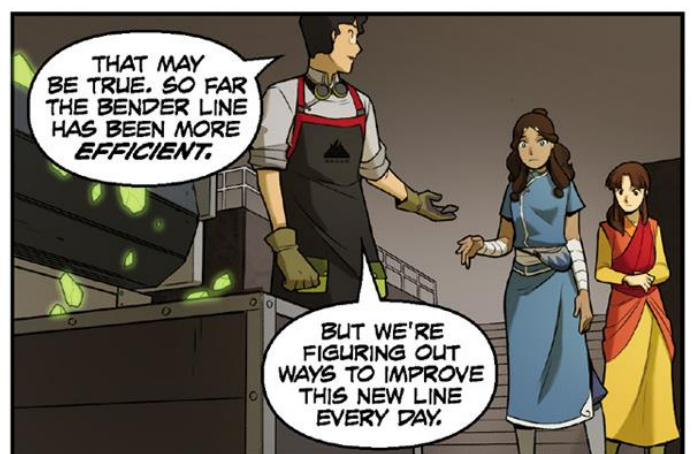
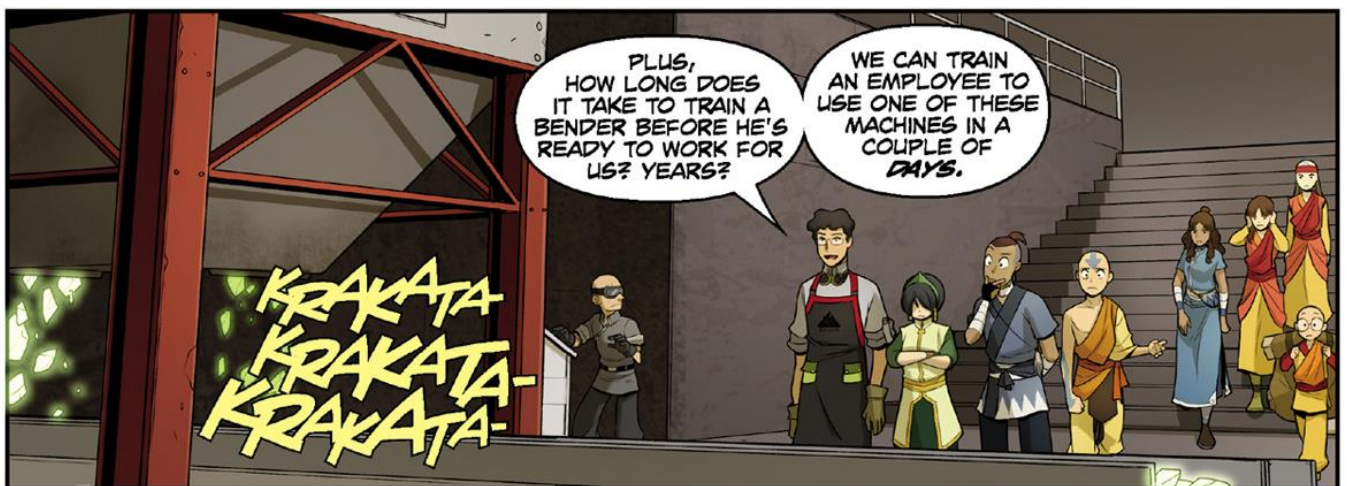
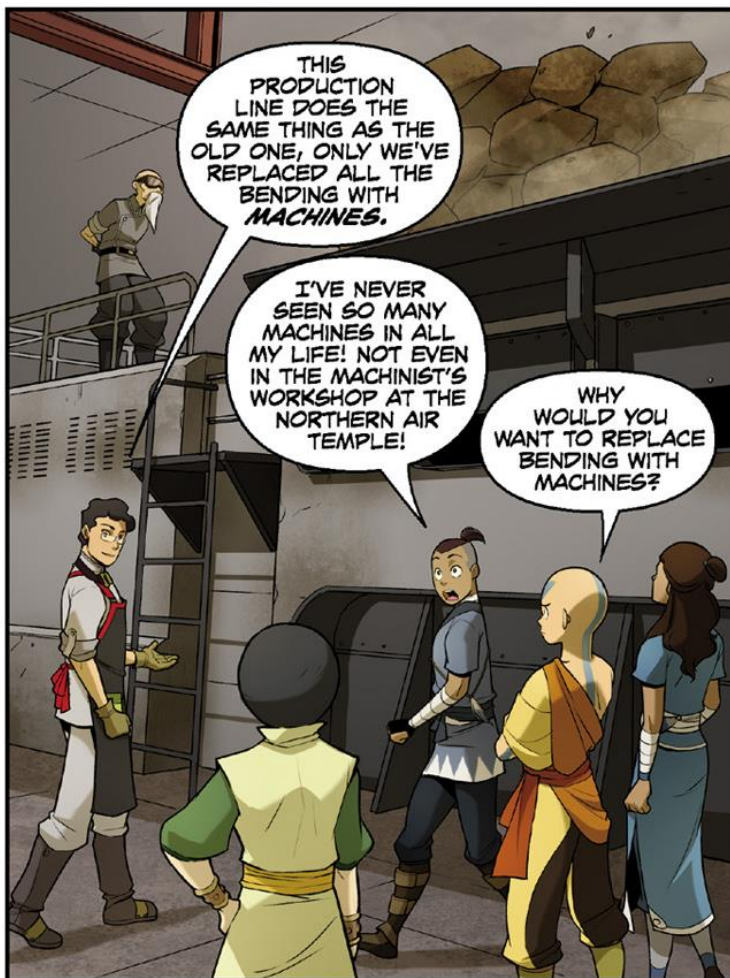
THIS LAND MAY BE A PART OF THE EARTH KINGDOM CONTINENT, BUT HISTORICALLY THE **AIR NOMADS** HAVE ALWAYS --







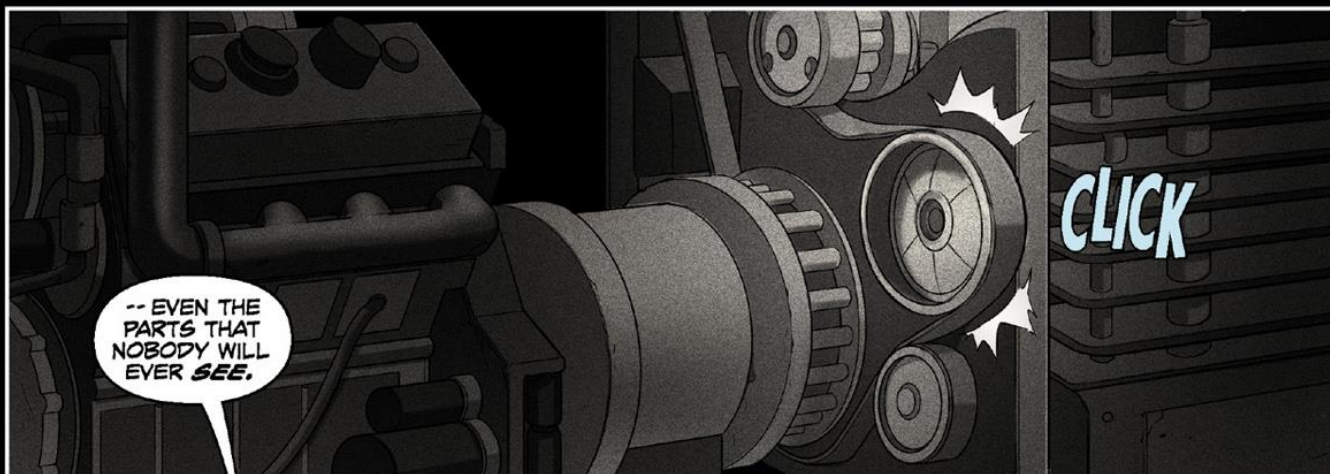
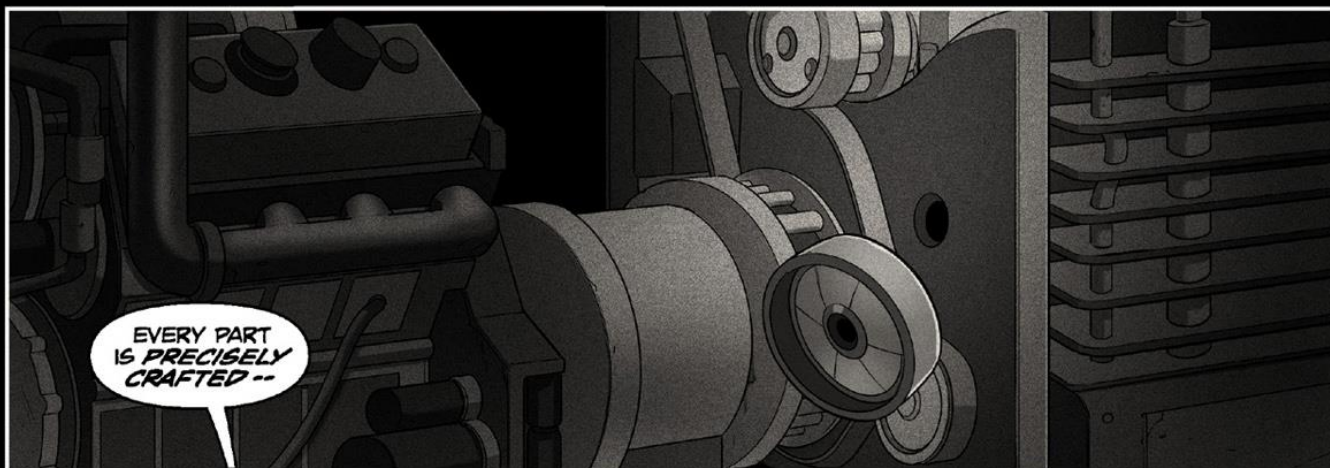
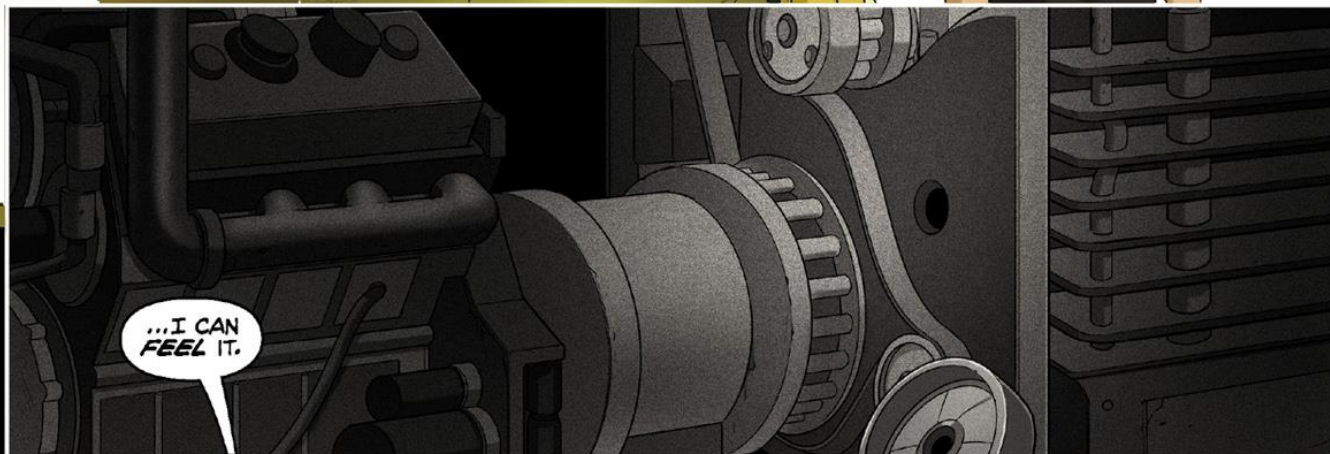


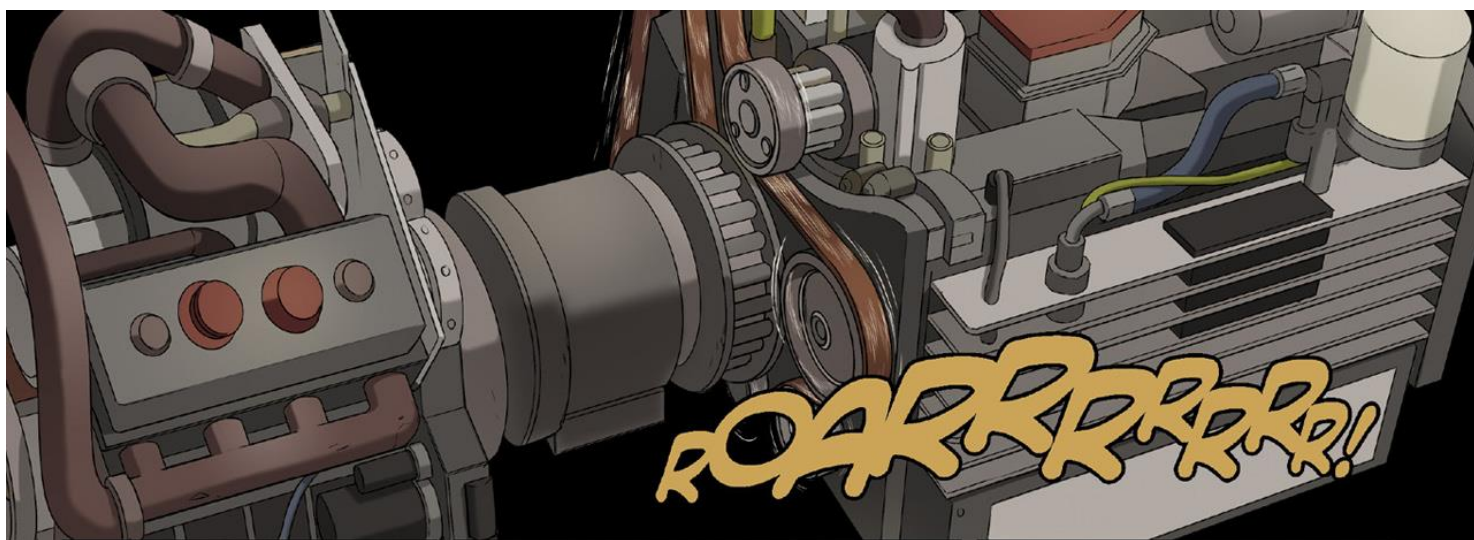












ROARRRRRRR!



NOBODY
BUT *YOU*,
YOU MEAN.

RRRRR!
CLANK!



THAT WAS
AMAZING.

NO
SWEAT. EVEN
MY MOST NOVICE
METALBENDING
STUDENTS COULD
DO THAT.



YOUR
STUDENTS?

I RUN A
METALBENDING
SCHOOL.

TOPH
BEIFONG, IS
THERE NO END TO
YOUR AMAZING-
NESS?



FLYING FIRE
FERRETS! I'VE
GOT AN IDEA!



WHAT IF YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS CAME HERE EVERY NOW AND THEN, TO HELP OUT WITH THE MACHINES?

THAT'S WHERE MY UNCLE AND HIS BUSINESS PARTNER ARE RIGHT NOW, MEETING WITH THE CITY'S NEW GOVERNMENT! THEY WANT TO BUILD A RAILROAD --

OF COURSE, WE'D PAY YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS FOR YOUR TIME.

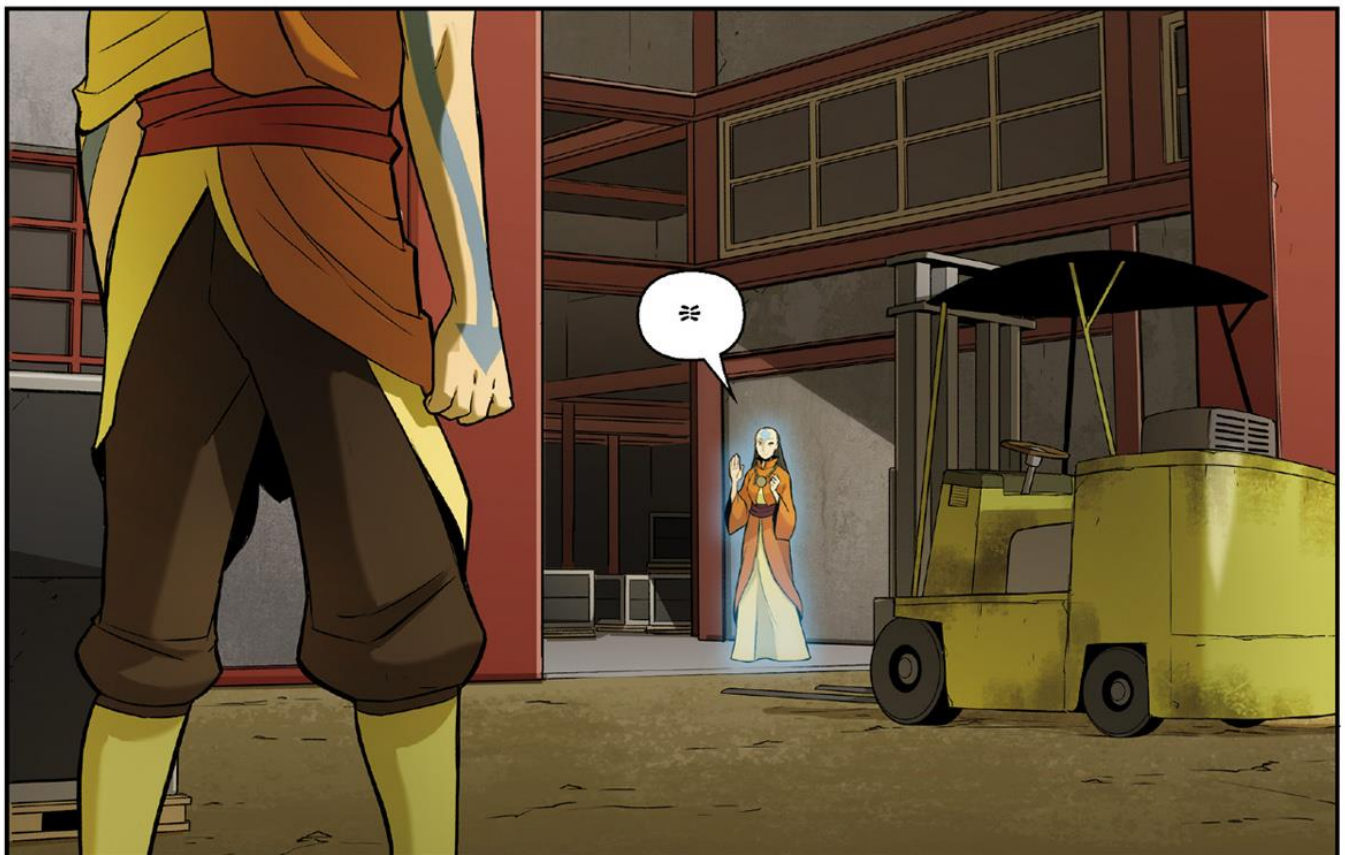
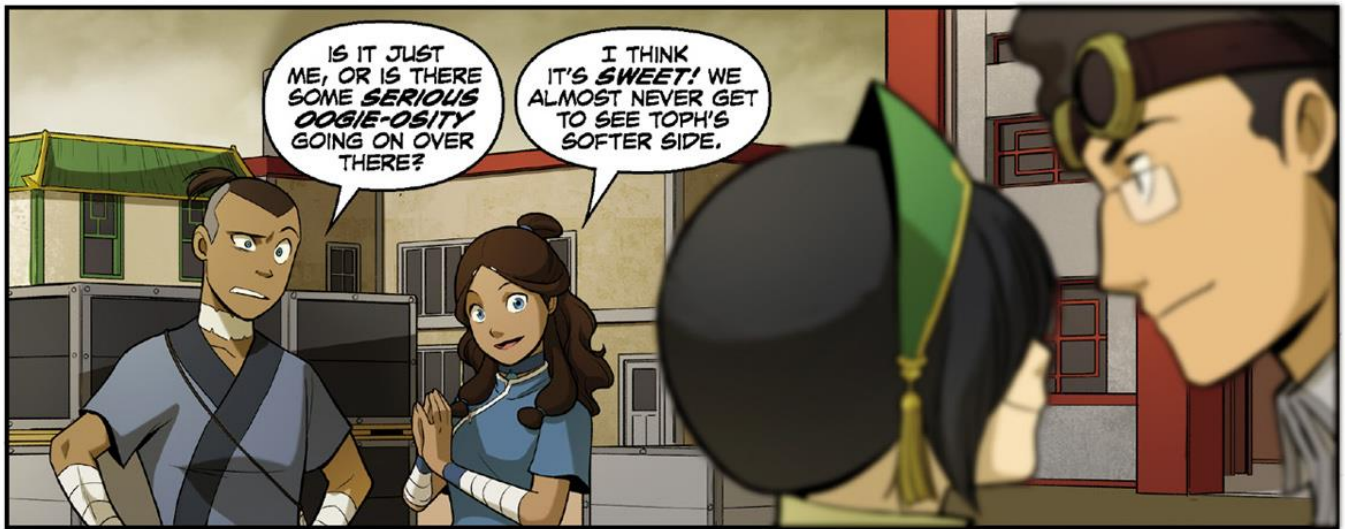
NO, THEY'RE STUDENTS, NOT EMPLOYEES. BUT YOU *COULD* SPONSOR A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR US.

THE BEIFONG METALBENDING ACADEMY ISN'T FAR FROM HERE. WE'RE JUST OUTSIDE OF YU DAO.

--TO CONNECT *THE*RE TO *HERE*.

I THINK MY UNCLE WOULD BE OPEN TO THAT. IT WOULD BE LIKE A...A *PARTNERSHIP* BETWEEN THE REFINERY AND THE SCHOOL.

SATORU, I WOULD *LOVE* TO BE IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU -- I MEAN, THE *REFINERY*.





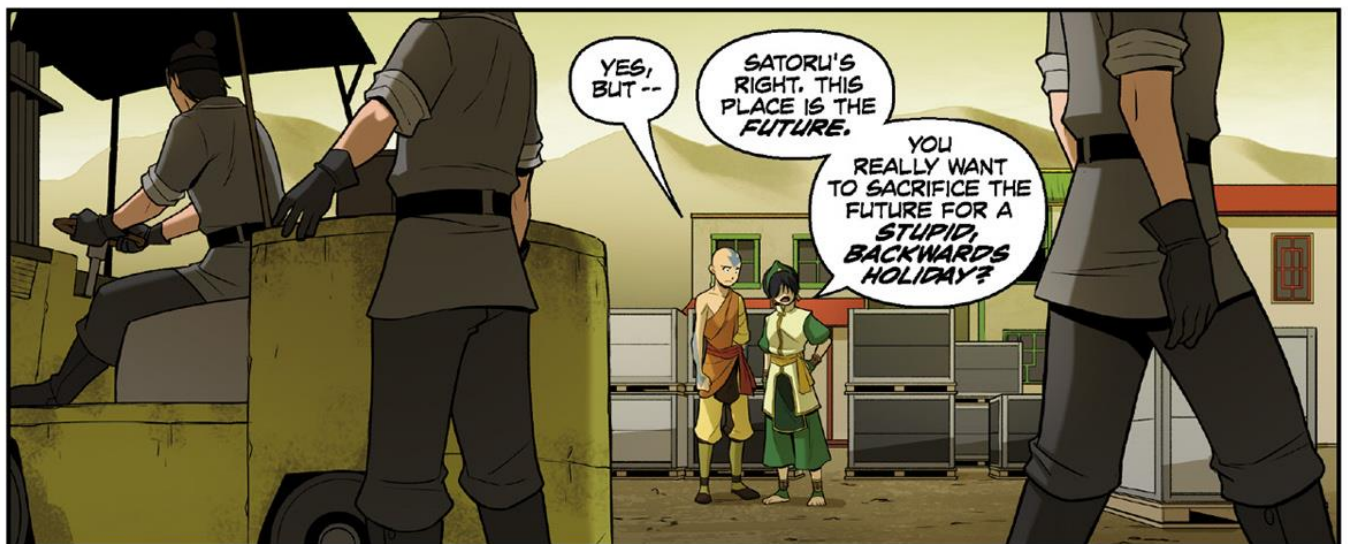














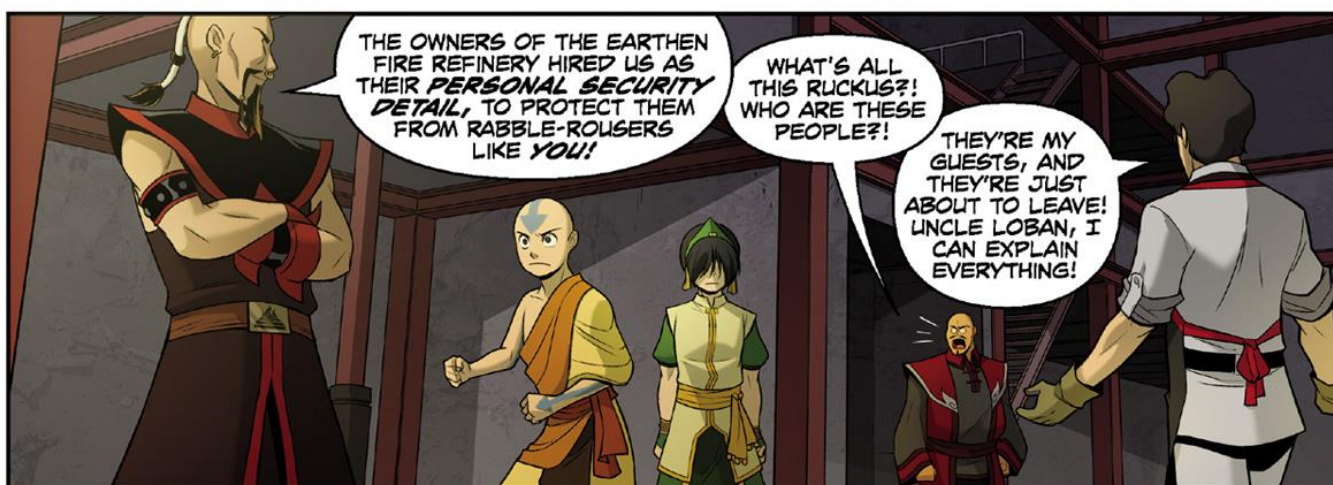
















WHAT'D I TELL
YOU, LAO?! SATORU IS
TOO **SCATTERBRAINED**
TO SHOULDER ANY REAL
RESPONSIBILITY!



FORGIVE ME,
UNCLE! I'LL GET IT
ALL SORTED OUT, I
PROMISE!



ONE OF US
SHOULD HAVE
STAYED BEHIND
TO MAKE SURE
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS DIDN'T
HAPPEN!



LAO...?

YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'VE SEEN
A **GHOST**.

FATHER.

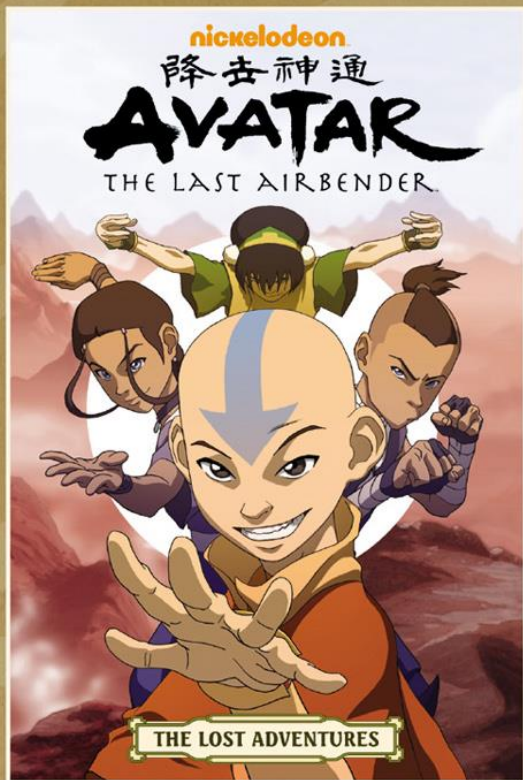




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Toph faces off against her own past in . . .

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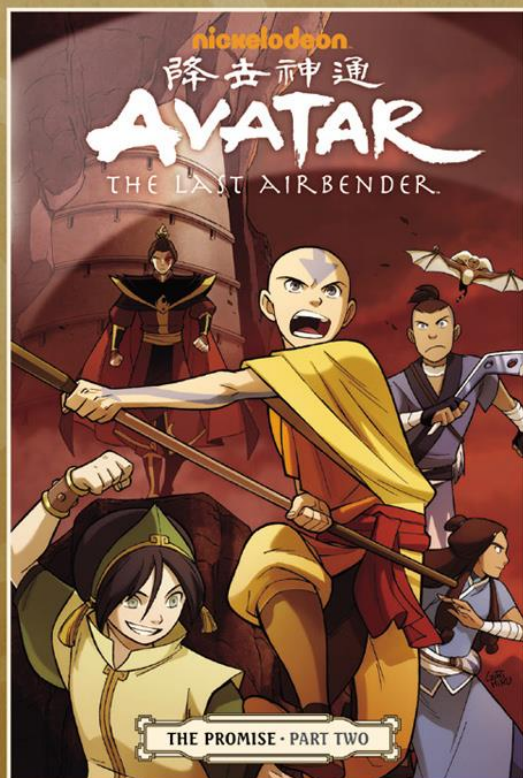
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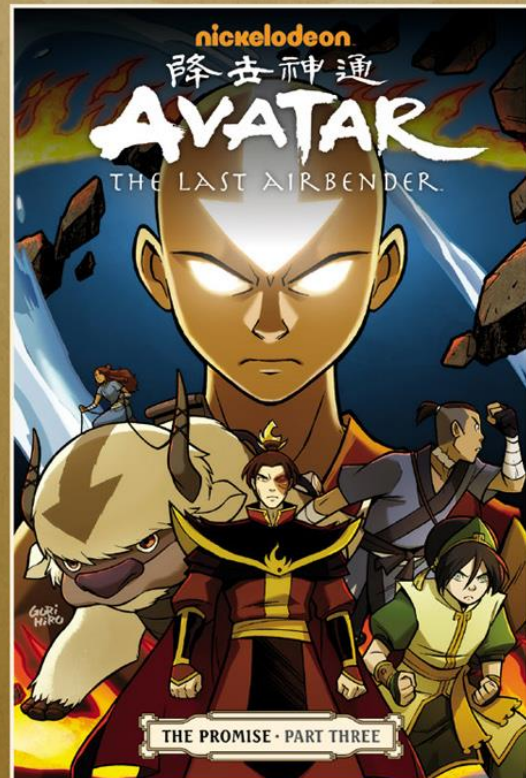
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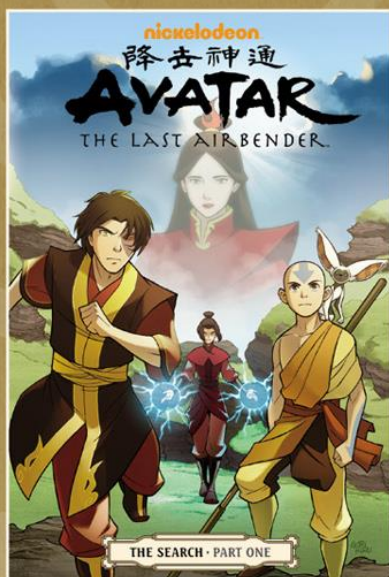
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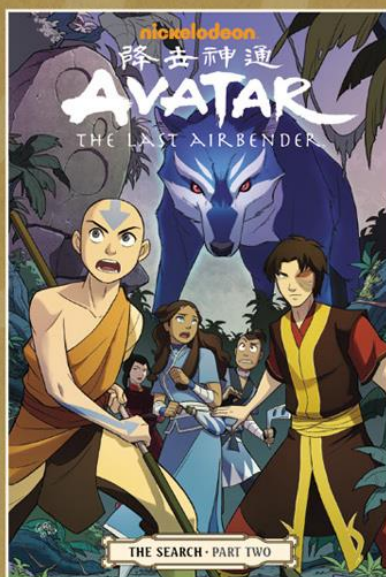
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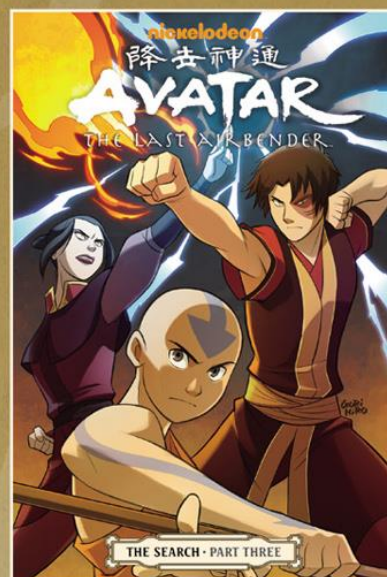
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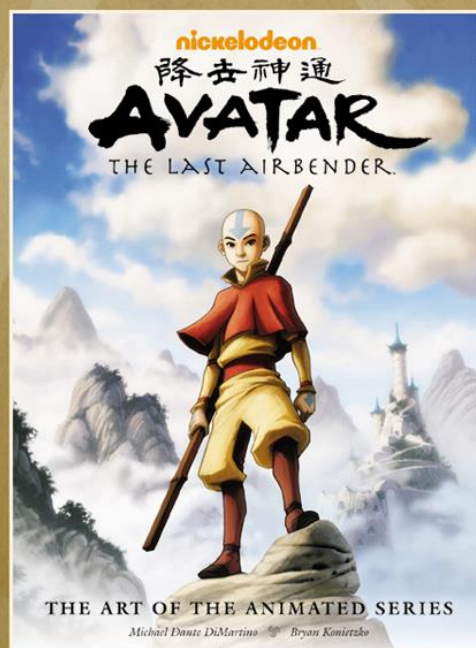
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Sacred Land Defiled!

Avatar Aang asks his friends to help him honor Yangchen's Festival—one of the highest Air Nomad holidays, which hasn't been celebrated in over one hundred years. But cryptic visits from the spirit of Avatar Yangchen herself lead Aang to discover a jointly owned Fire Nation and Earth Kingdom refinery—operating on land sacred to the Airbenders! Is this simply a case of corporate greed or is something more mysterious happening?

Writer Gene Luen Yang worked closely with *Avatar: The Last Airbender* creators Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko on this follow up to the best-selling series, *The Promise* and *The Search*. Artists Gurihiru also return for this ultimate continuation of *Avatar* and the perfect companion to *Legend of Korra*!

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