

**ASTRAL LIGHT**

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**CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS / STORY ATMOSPHERE**

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The Immortal: see [Barabbas](#).

Song I created to capture the emotional tone of the story:

<https://soundcloud.com/omnivata/astral-light>

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**PAGE 1 | 4 PANELS**

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**PANEL 1**

A large wooden cross is being carried by Roman soldiers to the crucifixion site at the top of a hill.

1. CAPTION: I was not born immortal.

**PANEL 2**

The cross has been erected upright, with JESUS affixed to it. A crowd gathers below. THE IMMORTAL catches the blood of Christ in a carpenter's cup as it drips from his ankles and wrists.

2. CAPTION: But I was there at the crucifixion, and drank from the chalice.

**PANEL 3**

The Immortal lifts the cup to his dried and cracked lips and drinks.

3. CAPTION: That changed everything.

**PANEL 4**

The Immortal has dropped the chalice. He is hunched over, holding his stomach with one hand - in obvious discomfort - and reaching out with the other. He stares into an illuminating light.

4. CAPTION: From that day forth, I did not age.

**PAGE 2 | 4 PANELS**

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**PANEL 1**

The Immortal stands in the center of a room in ancient Rome - arms spread like the Vitruvian Man - in the early morning aftermath of an all-night orgy. Naked women, and men, surround him. They litter the floor, are draped over furniture like a Dali painting, still nude but fast asleep.

1. CAPTION: For 2,000 years I was invincible. A god among men.
2. CAPTION: There were no consequences. Or if there were, they were finite by their very nature.
3. CAPTION: And I was infinite.

**PANEL 2**

Molecular view of cellular division, with the new cell expressing an obvious deformity.

4. CAPTION: Then it changed. My body turned against me, on a cellular level.

**PANEL 3**

In a modern hospital The Immortal lies in a hospital bed, wearing a hospital gown. He is attached to a heart monitor and an IV.

5. CAPTION: An autoimmune disorder took away my ability for regenerative healing.
6. CAPTION: This left me immortal but susceptible to injury.
7. CAPTION: I had to learn to live with pain.
8. SFX: BEEP BEEP

**PANEL 4**

The Immortal flies headfirst through the windshield of a car that is wrapped around an object (illustrators' choice... e.g., another vehicle, a fire hydrant, a telephone pole, etc.).

9. CAPTION: Then came the car accident. It severed my spine and confined me to a wheelchair.
10. CAPTION: I was eternal, but also a cripple.
11. CAPTION: How cruel the gods can be.
12. SFX: KRASH

**PAGE 3 | 3 PANELS**

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**PANEL 1**

Sitting in a wheelchair at the top of a hill, the Immortal looks out over the world as he figuratively and literally watches the sun set on civilization. The shadow of a massive city can be seen, as it gets drowned out by the light of a distant mushroom cloud.

1. CAPTION: Sitting on my perch, I watched the world decay.
2. CAPTION: First the rising temperatures brought the flood, and then the drought, which finished off the food supply.
3. CAPTION: After that, it was pure chaos.

**PANEL 2**

The Immortal wheels himself into an elaborate, underground bunker built in the hillside. It is full of supplies, the kind a survivalist would stock to live underground for decades.

4. CAPTION: I survived in a bunker.

**PANEL 3**

The Immortal has emerged back into the world, and now sits in his wheelchair atop the same hill (page 3, panel 1), but all living things - including plants - are dead. The city is a pile of rubble.

5. CAPTION: When I emerged, it was all gone. Even the grass.

**PAGE 4 | 5 PANELS**

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**PANEL 1**

The Immortal is in the dilapidated ruins of what may have once been a gas station. He is leaning over in his wheelchair to pick up a Twinkie.

1. CAPTION: I spent the next 4 billion years in quiet solitude.
2. CAPTION: I'd scavenge things. Parts. Food. Anything that might be useful.

**PANEL 2**

The Immortal sits in his wheelchair near a small, perfect house, on the edge of a pond that generates power with a watermill. There are windmills in the distance. A lush garden grows nearby.

3. CAPTION: Gradually, I built an oasis. Harnessed hydropower, then configured an electrical grid. After that, I learned how to split an atom.
4. CAPTION: I created utopia. Then destroyed it. Then built it again.

**PANEL 3**

The Immortal sits in his wheelchair, arm raised, pointer-finger outstretched. Something resembling a dragonfly sits atop it.

5. CAPTION: In time, new life emerged. Simple organisms.
6. CAPTION: I watched them evolve, ever so slowly.

**PANEL 4**

The Immortal sits on a hilltop in the middle of a lightning storm, pointing his finger at the sky and cursing the gods in anger.

7. CAPTION: But it wasn't enough. The earth had become a prison. I needed to break free from my cage.
8. SFX: KRAK

**PANEL 5**

The Immortal tightens the last bolt in the fuselage of a large rocket.

9. CAPTION: So I built a rocket.

**PAGE 5 | 4 PANELS**

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**PANEL 1**

The sun explodes into a red giant, consumes the earth, and rips apart the bottom half of the rocket that is barreling through space.

1. CAPTION: I broke the atmosphere just as the sun swallowed the earth.
2. CAPTION: By then I was far enough away that it only took my legs.
3. SFX: KABOOM

**PANEL 2**

The Immortal - wearing a helmet - floats through space. His legs are missing from the middle of the thigh down. His torso is frozen. His arms have been shattered by meteors. A small meteor pelts off his dented helmet.

4. CAPTION: My torso - exposed to the elements - instantly froze.
5. CAPTION: My arms were shattered by passing meteors.
6. CAPTION: While my head remained protected in the helmet.

**PANEL 3**

Flashback of The Immortal drinking from the chalice.

8. CAPTION: Eternal life was my gift, my curse.
9. CAPTION: I am doomed to float through space, into an ever-expanding universe.
10. CAPTION: Alone with my thoughts.
11. CAPTION: Unable to breathe, to eat, to die.

**PANEL 4**

Close up of The Immortal's face - and his eyes in particular - through the shield of the helmet. He has an anguished expression... part fear, part pain, and all madness.

12. CAPTION: I can only think. But I feel even that slipping from my grasp.
13. CAPTION: The madness takes me now.

**END**

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