Alduin (solution)
by Celestine Lau

The title, flavortext, and ALL CAPS presentation of the dragon's speech indicate that this puzzle references Dragon Shouts in *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*. (The dragon Alduin is the main antagonist of *Skyrim*.) Solvers should start by identifying that the 16 given images correspond to the English translations of Words of Power, and are given in alphabetical order as follows, along with their corresponding Words of Power:

Armor (*Qah*)	Balance (*Ro*)	Curse (*Dur*)	Defeat (*Viik*)
Essence (*Rii*)	Finite (*Zah*)	Fury (*Nah*)	Hunt (*Nir*)
Hunter (*Ah*)	Ice (*Iiz*)	Inspire (*Shaan*)	Kill (*Krii*)
Magicka (*Lah*)	Never (*Neh*)	Spirit (*Zii*)	Time (*Tiid*)

Next, consider the 8 given word clues. Each can be solved with a three-syllabic answer using two of the 16 Words of Power above, and one additional Word of Power outside the above 16. Listening to audio clips of the various Words of Power to obtain their pronunciation would help here. (It might also be helpful to shout out the Words of Power that make up the answers, preferably in the voice of the Dragonborn.)

Clue	Answer	Words of Power	Additional Word of Power	Lighter scales (Index)	Extract
Get back on one's feet	RECOVER	*Rii Qah Vur*	*Vur* (Valor)	1	V
Disposed of a dead body	CREMATED	*Krii Mey Tiid*	*Mey* (Fool)	2	E
Online shopping website popular in SEA	LAZADA	*Lah Zah Dah*	*Dah* (Push)	1	D
Three-time FIFA World Player of the Year	ZINEDINE	*Zii Neh Diin*	*Diin* (Freeze)	1	D
Instances of overcoming an opponent	VICTORIES	*Viik Toor Iiz*	*Toor* (Inferno)	3	O
Jeep or Land Rover, e.g. (hyph.)	OFF-ROADER	*Ov Ro Dur*	*Ov* (Trust)	2	V
Ideal state or place	NIRVANA	*Nir Vah Nah*	*Vah* (Spring)	2	A
With Rosh, a Jewish festival	HASHANAH	*Hah Shaan Ah*	*Hah* (Mind)	3	H

Now observe that each dragon image has between one and three scales in a lighter color. The number of lighter scales can be used as an index into the Word of Power in Dragon language. This gives the cluephrase VED DOVAH, which is in the Dragon language. Translating it back to English gives the answer **BLACK DRAGON**.

Constructor's Notes:

I don't often write puzzles about video games, but *Skyrim* stood out when thinking about ideas for a dragon-themed puzzle. Dragon shouts are one of the primary abilities the main character has, and are a pretty thematic choice for a puzzle as a fair number of the Words are close enough to English that they could form reasonable English words/phrases with pronunciations that are close enough. It also helped that the Dragon language was expressive enough to be able to translate the final answer to Dragon, providing a nice thematic last step.