



NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

11



岸本 斉史

Recently, my editor has been taking me out to really tasty eateries more and more often. I ate fugu (blowfish) for the first time in my life, and I've gotta tell you, it's real yummy, everybody! Next time, I want to spin my plate of fugu on top of my chopsticks before I eat it!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2002



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





NARUTO VOL. 11
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This manga contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #42–44. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains partial nudity, tobacco use, and realistic and fantasy violence.

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www.shonenjump.com



SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO

VOL. 11
IMPASSIONED
EFFORTS



STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO



SAKURA サクラ

Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

NARUTO ナルト

When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking troublemaker. His goal: to become the village's next Hokage.

SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.





Ebisu エビス

Once tutor to Konohamaru (the Honorable Grandson of the Hokage), Ebisu has now been assigned to train Naruto for the final phase of the Chūnin Exam.



Hayate ハヤテ

A jōnin from Konohagakure and proctor of the third stage of the Chūnin Exam.



Baki バキ

Jōnin leader of Gaara, Kankuro and Temari — the trio of ninja from Sunagakure (The Village Hidden in Sand).



Kakashi カカシ

Although he doesn't have an especially warm personality, Kakashi is protective of his students.



Orochimaru 大蛇丸

This nefarious master of disguise placed a mysterious curse-mark on Sasuke and hopes to mold Sasuke into his successor.



Kabuto カブト

A spy for Orochimaru's village of Otogakure (The Village Hidden in the Sound), Kabuto has been living a double life in Konohagakure since childhood.

THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his teammates Sakura and Sasuke.

Nine candidates — including Naruto and Sasuke — have made it past the preliminary rounds of the third Chūnin Exam, and they begin a month-long period of preparation for the finals.

Meanwhile, Orochimaru orders Kabuto to kidnap Sasuke...but Kakashi catches Kabuto in the act. Although Sasuke is safe, Kabuto escapes — but not before his true identity is revealed. Now training with elite tutor Ebisu, Naruto practices a water-walking exercise at the local hot spring.

But when a peeping tom and a giant toad knock out his instructor, what's Naruto to do?!



NARUTO

VOL. 11

IMPASSIONED EFFORTS

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SCOW! JAB

IT'S A DIRTY BOOK!
IT'S INDECENT!

YES, I HAVE HEARD OF IT!!



F...FOOL!

I AM NO ORDINARY LECH!

THE PEEPING PROVIDES ME WITH THE INSPIRATION TO PRODUCE BETTER WORK...



IF YOU WERE MY AGE, IT COULD BE WRITTEN OFF AS MISCHIEF...

...BUT YOU'RE MIDDLE-AGED, SO IT'S CLEAR-CUT CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR!

BESIDES, WHAT THE HECK KIND OF RESEARCH WAS THAT?!

YOU WERE JUST PEEPING ON THE WOMEN'S BATH, YOU PERV!!



... TRAINING?

YOU MEAN THE WALKING-ON-WATER DRILL YOU WERE DOING JUST NOW?

Y-YOU KNOW THAT EXERCISE?!



ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT MY TRAINING?!

LIAR!! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!!



...AND TAKE OVER AS THE SUPERVISOR OF MY TRAINING!

THEN DO YOUR DUTY...



Eh? Eh?

OOPS...



AND I ABSOLUTELY HATE MEN!!

I CANNOT STAND RUDE JERKS!



LIAR! THAT NOVEL IS FOR ADULTS ONLY!

THAT MAKE-OUT PARADISE BOOK, IT WAS THE COOLEST, REALLY...



SHEESH... WHAT A DESPICABLE BRAT!

I'M A POWERFUL SAGE! I'M NO FOOL TO BE TWIRLED ON A STRING AROUND THE FINGER OF A GREENHORN LIKE YOU...



AW, MAN! WELL, IN THAT CASE...

FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE!

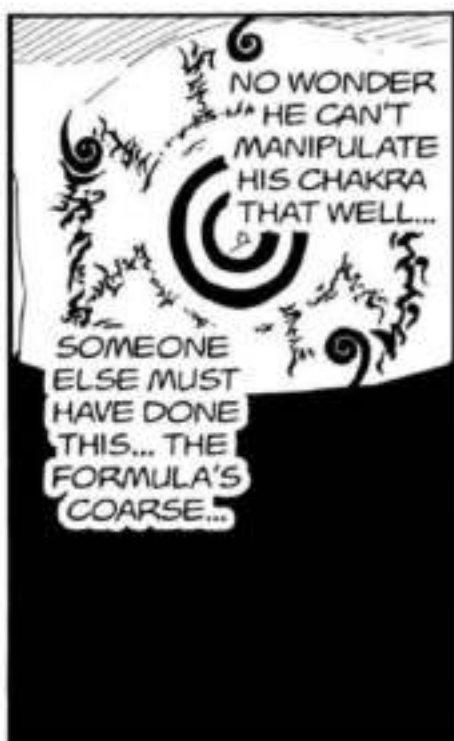
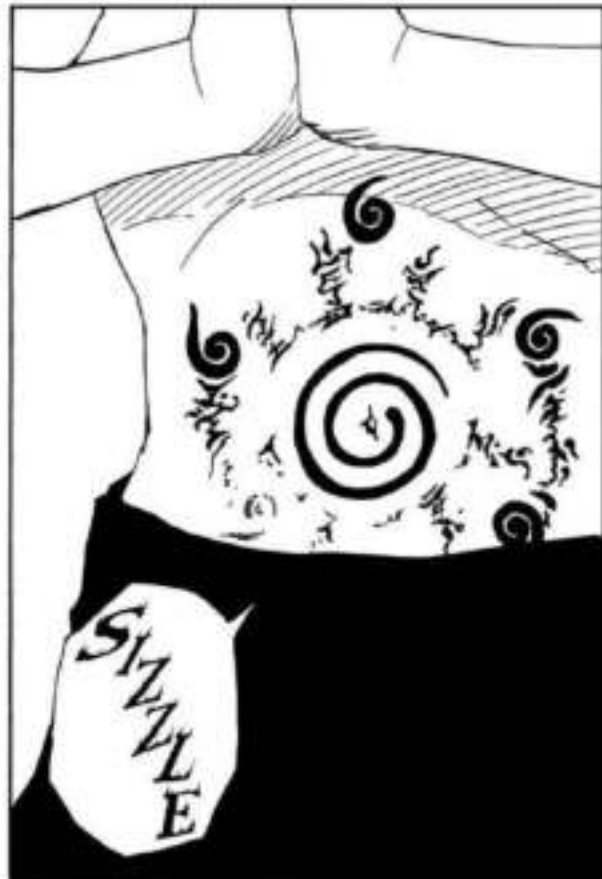
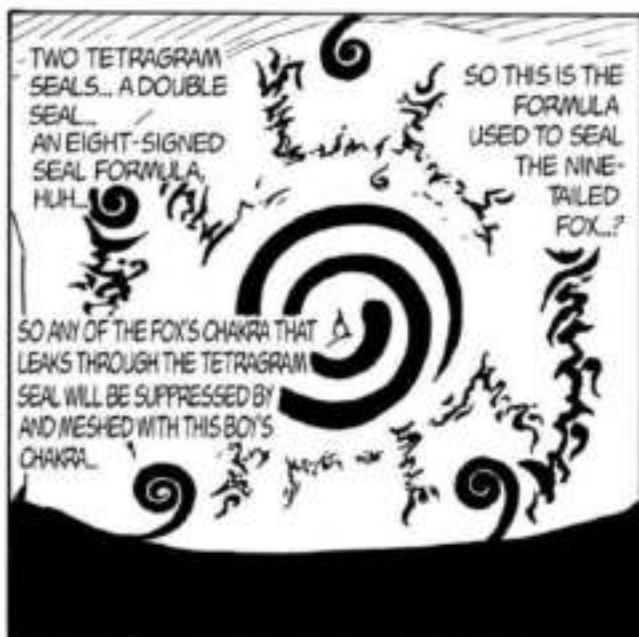


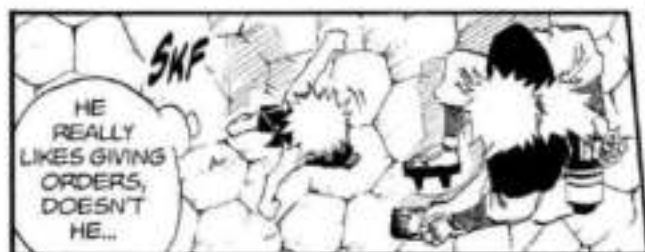




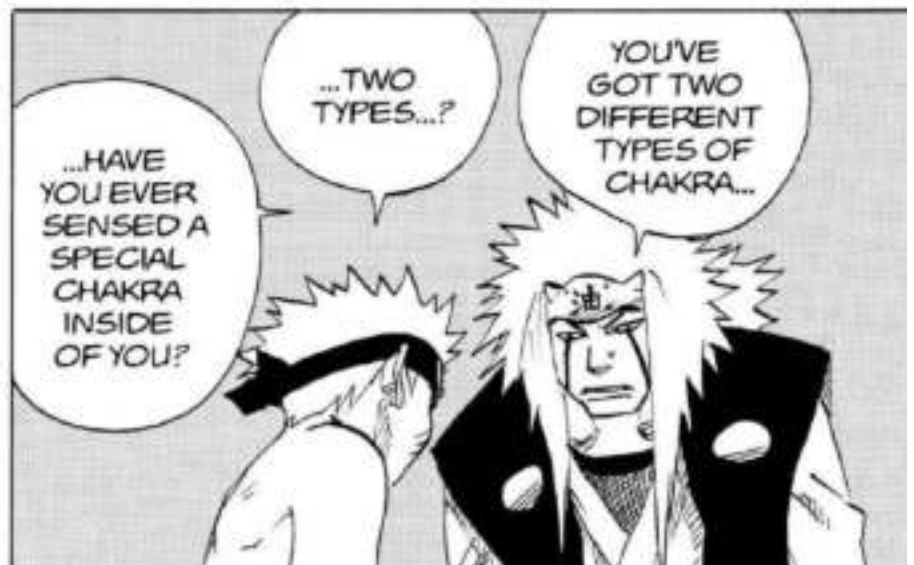






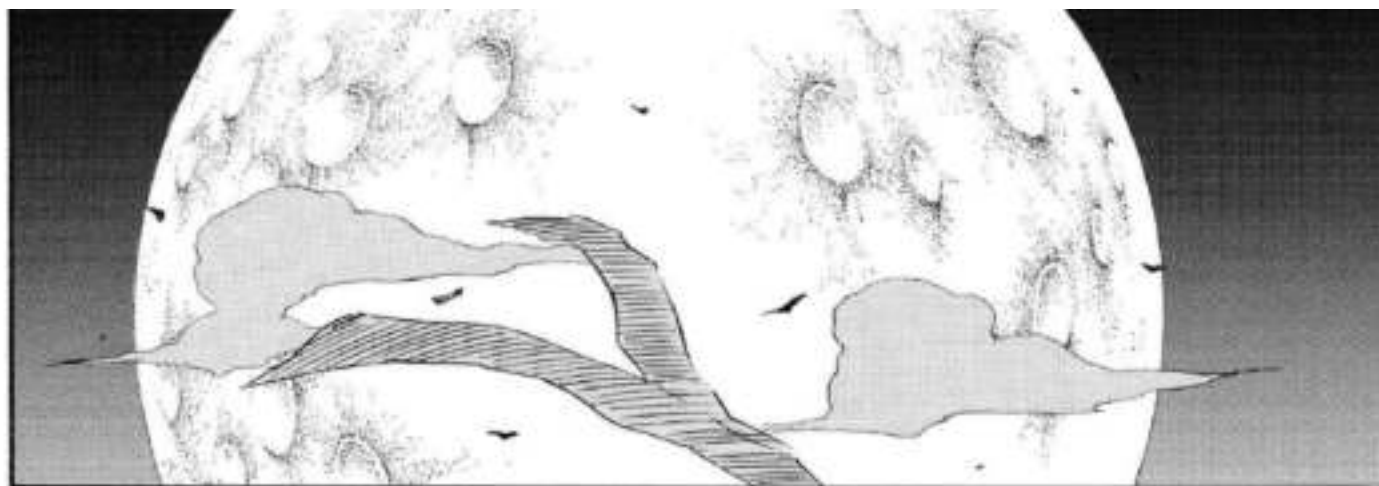




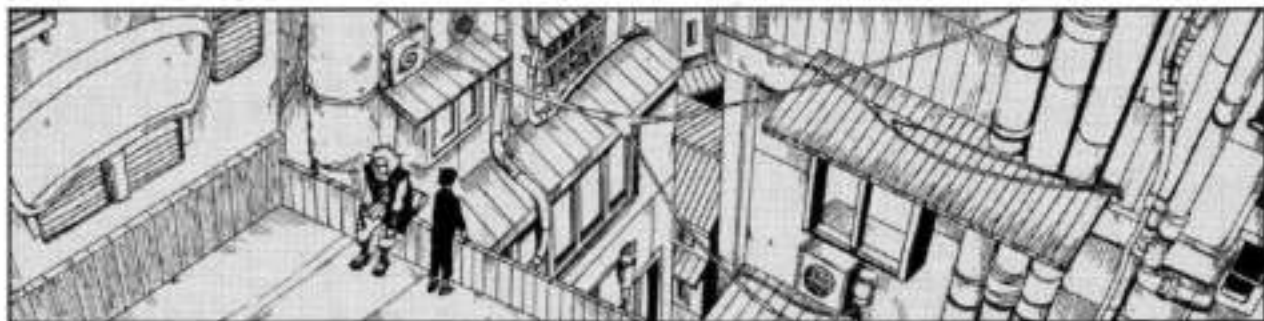


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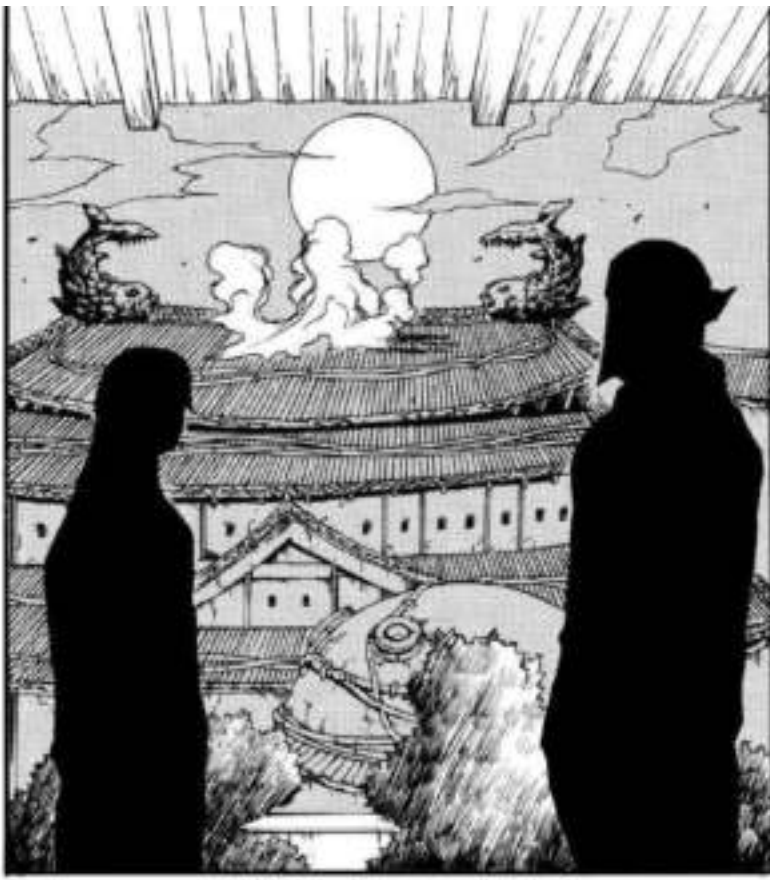




 Number 92:

Konoha vs. Sound vs. Sand...!!



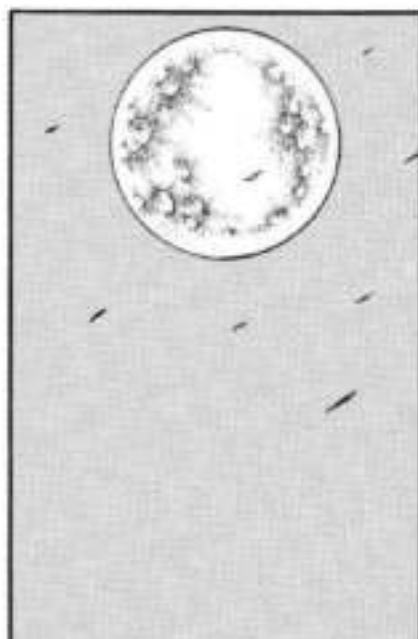


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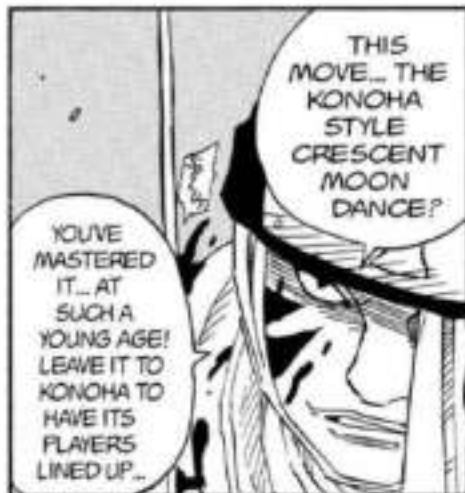












YOU'VE MASTERED IT... AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE! LEAVE IT TO KONOHA TO HAVE ITS PLAYERS LINED UP...

THIS MOVE... THE KONOHA STYLE CRESCENT MOON DANCE?



BUT IT'S A SIMPLE, OBVIOUS TASK TO HALT A PHYSICAL BLADE.

YOUR BLADE WORK IS BRILLIANT...

WHAT...? I CAN'T PULL MY BLADE OUT...



S
H
F

...BLADES OF WIND ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP.

HOWEVER...







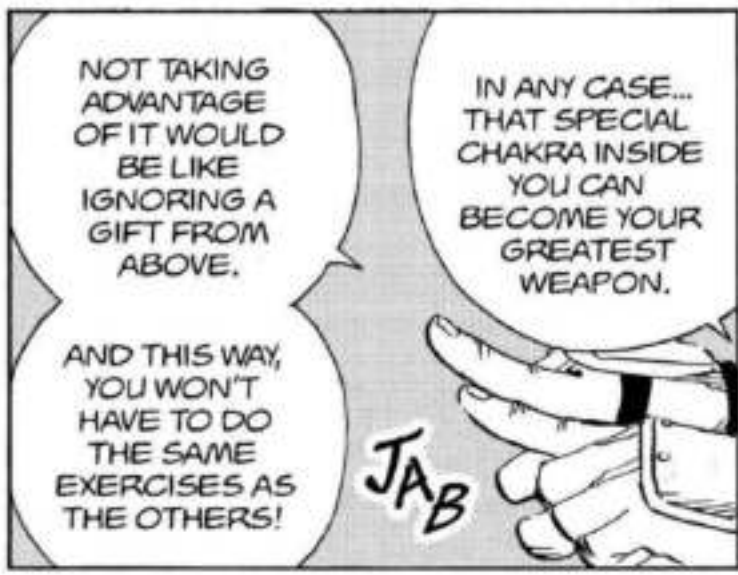




THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO, AT ANY TIME, DRAW ON AND USE...

...THE GIGANTIC OTHER CHAKRA THAT'S BEEN SLEEPING INSIDE YOU ALL YOUR LIFE.

THE MOVE I'M ABOUT TO TEACH YOU REQUIRES WAY MORE CHAKRA THAN YOU CURRENTLY POSSESS ON YOUR OWN!



NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IT WOULD BE LIKE IGNORING A GIFT FROM ABOVE.

AND THIS WAY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO THE SAME EXERCISES AS THE OTHERS!

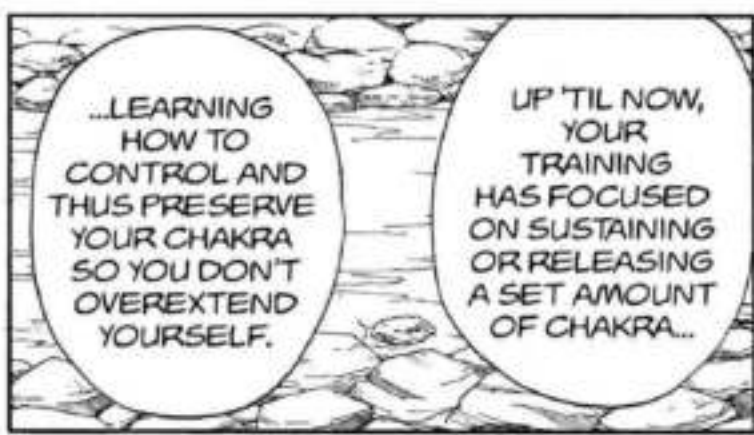
IN ANY CASE... THAT SPECIAL CHAKRA INSIDE YOU CAN BECOME YOUR GREATEST WEAPON.

JAB



HOW DID YOU KNOW I HAD THIS OTHER CHAKRA, ANYWAY?

WELL, I AM A POWERFUL SAGE...



...LEARNING HOW TO CONTROL AND THUS PRESERVE YOUR CHAKRA SO YOU DON'T OVEREXTEND YOURSELF.

UP 'TIL NOW, YOUR TRAINING HAS FOCUSED ON SUSTAINING OR RELEASING A SET AMOUNT OF CHAKRA...



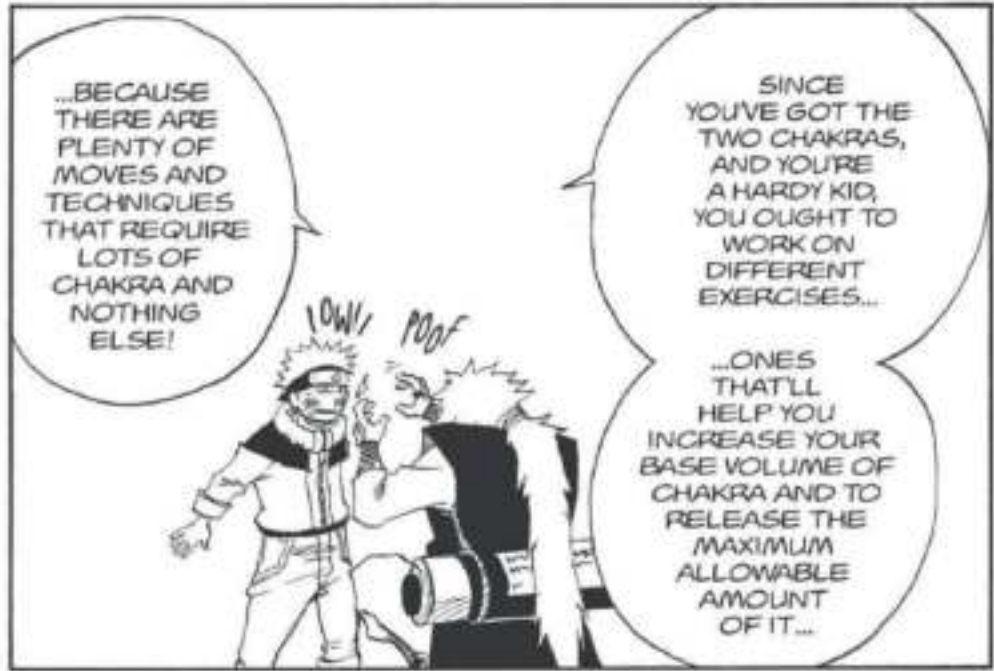
EACH OF US HAS OUR OWN PERSONAL STYLE.

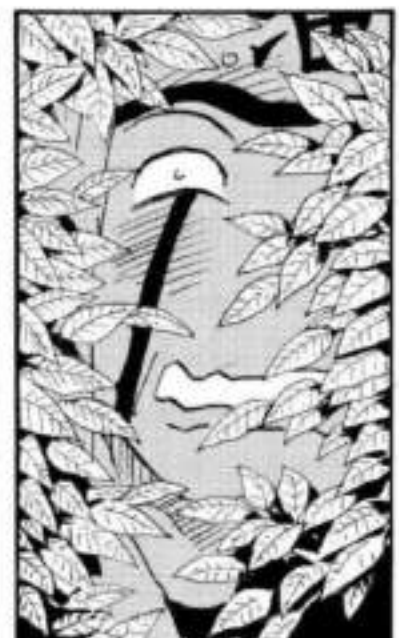
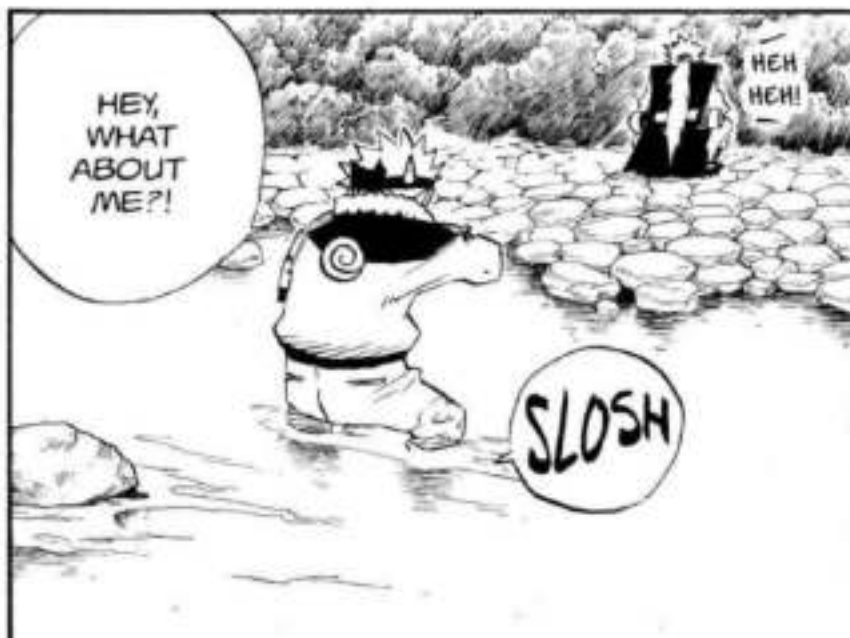
EVERYONE HAS HIS OWN STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.



...SO YOU CAN JUST USE YOUR POWER INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT FINESSE.

BUT YOUR STAMINA IS INCREDIBLE...







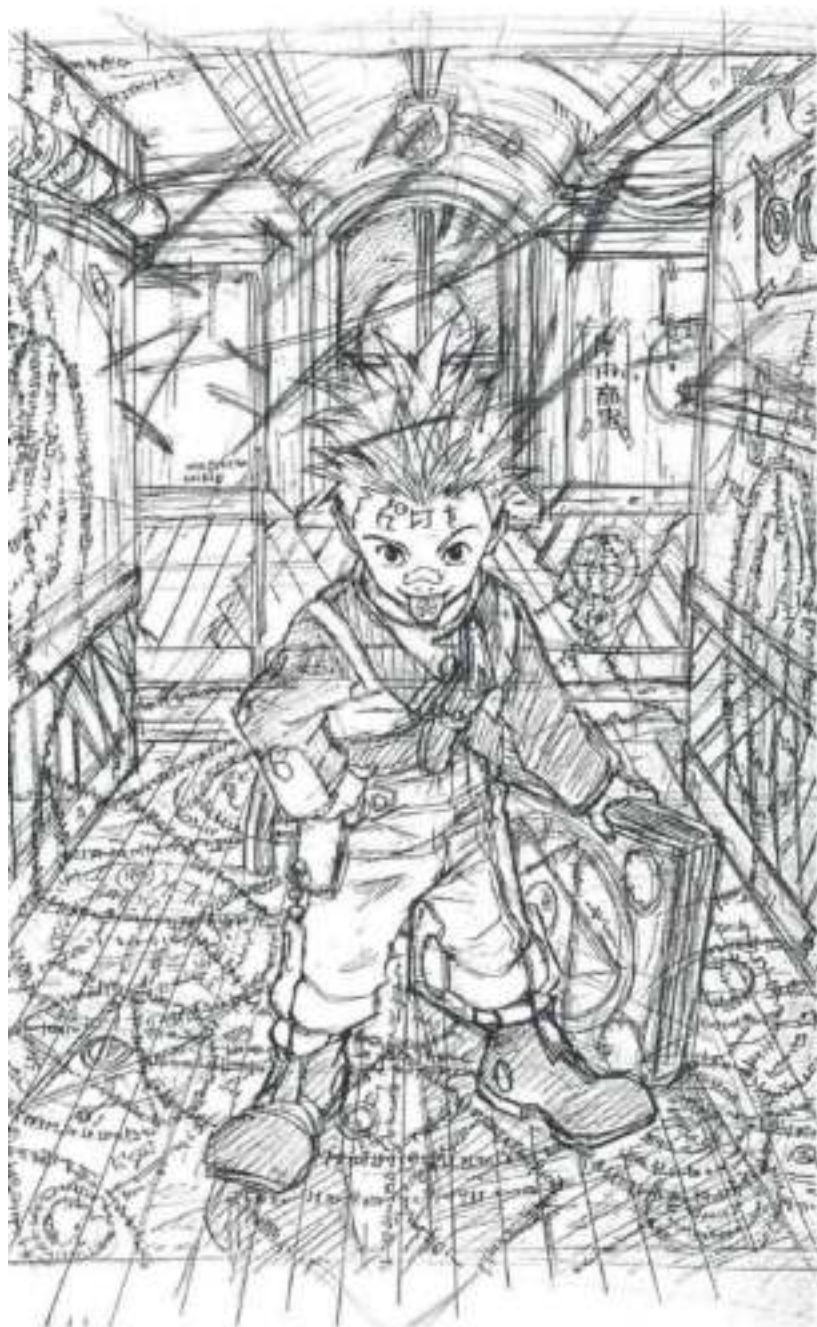








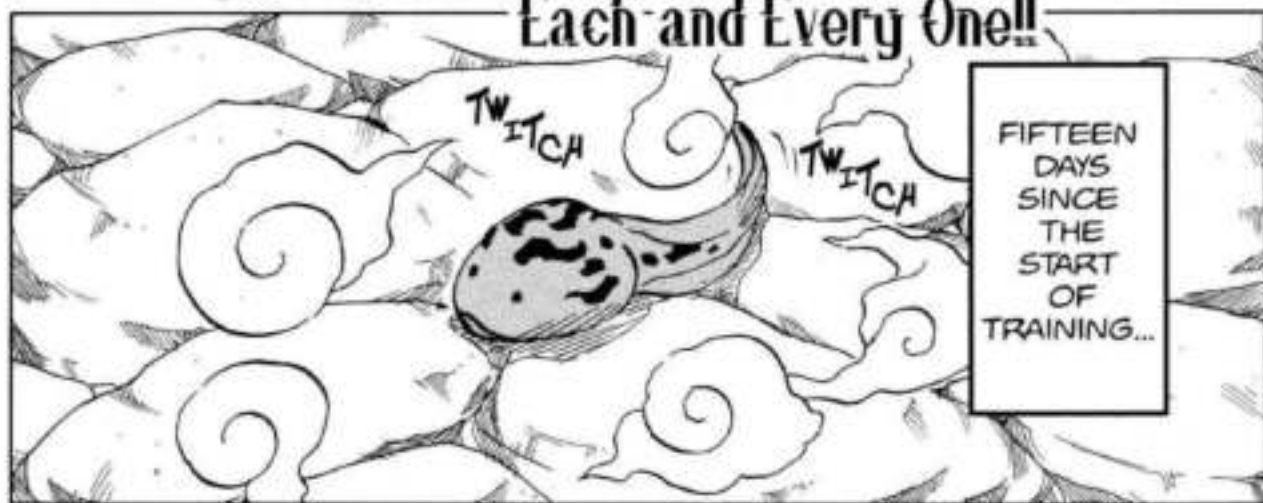
KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S
MANGA REJECT SPECIAL
NO. 4!

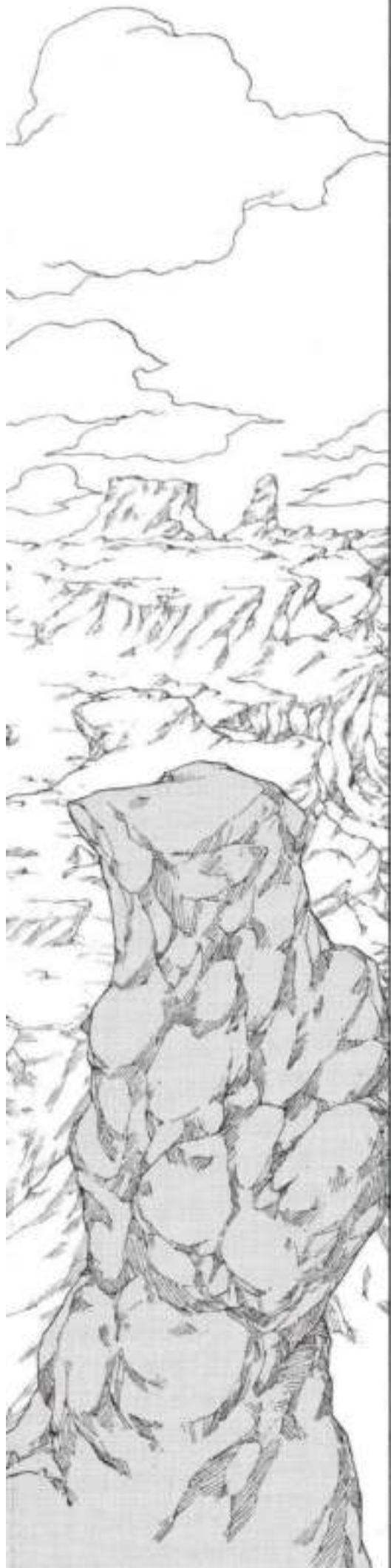


I'M GOING TO DO A MANGA REJECT SPECIAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE!
THE TITLE OF THE REJECTED MANGA PANEL TO THE LEFT IS "MAGIC MUSHROOM," AND IT'S A FANTASY-ADVENTURE MANGA SET IN A MAGICAL WORLD (IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S AN OTAKU MANGA). I NAMED IT AFTER A BAND THAT A FRIEND OF MINE USED TO BE A MEMBER OF. THE PLOT REVOLVES AROUND A DELINQUENT BOY WHO ATTENDS A MAGIC SCHOOL IN THIS MAGICAL WORLD. THE BOY HAPPENS UPON A FORBIDDEN TOME WITHIN WHICH IS SEALED A DARK WIZARD WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY WREAKED GREAT EVIL. THE BOY GETS INTO ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE, AND ALONG THE WAY HE LEARNS TONS OF LESSONS AND BECOMES MORE MATURE... BUT THE IDEA FLOPPED BRILLIANTLY. IN GENERAL, MANGA LIKE THIS, WHICH CONTAIN CONCEPTS SUCH AS MAGICAL ABILITY AND ALTERNATE UNIVERSES THAT REQUIRE A LOT OF EXPLANATION FOR READERS, TAKE UP AN INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF PAGES BECAUSE OF ALL THE EXPOSITION. SO I KNEW IT WASN'T IDEAL FOR A ONE-VOLUME MANGA, BUT I STILL TRIED TO SQUEEZE THE INTRODUCTION TO THE MAIN CHARACTER, HIS ABILITIES, AND HIS UNIVERSE ALL INTO THE INITIAL "HOOK." I ALSO COMBINED THE SECOND HALF'S THEME AND PLOT INTRODUCTIONS AS WELL TO MINIMIZE THE PAGE COUNT, BUT IT SEEMS THAT SUCH MANGA JUST DON'T FARE VERY WELL... NEWCOMERS WHO DRAW THIS SORT OF MANGA APPARENTLY NEED TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED IN ORDER TO PULL IT OFF SUCCESSFULLY. I ACTUALLY PERSISTED FOR QUITE A WHILE, REVISING AND RESUBMITTING IT NUMEROUS TIMES DESPITE CONTINUOUS REJECTION FROM MY EDITOR. BUT THEN ONE DAY HE SAID, "THIS WORLD ALREADY HAS *BASTARD* AND *BERSERK*, YOU KNOW?!" "OH, ALL RIGHT! I GIVE UP!" I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, AND PROMPTLY STOPPED WORKING ON IT.

HOWEVER, WELL, I STILL RATHER LIKED THE IDEA OF THIS "MAGIC MUSHROOM," SO I ENTERTAINED THE THOUGHT OF DRAWING IT AGAIN SOME DAY, PERHAPS AFTER *NARUTO* ENDS, SO I WAS ORIGINALLY NOT PLANNING TO SUBMIT IT TO THE MANGA REJECT SPECIAL. BUT THEN WHY DID I BRING IT UP NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE VOLUME 4? BECAUSE I RECENTLY BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THE NOVEL *HARRY POTTER*, AND SEEING HOW SIMILAR THE PREMISE AND STORY WERE TO IT, I'M LOATH TO BE CALLED A COPYCAT. SO I LOST INTEREST IN DRAWING IT, AND DECIDED TO SHOWCASE IT HERE.

Number 93: Impassioned Efforts...
Each and Every One!!







...UGH,
I'VE REALLY
LET MY
BODY
GET WEAK.

THIS
ROCK-
CLIMBING
EXERCISE...
SHOULDN'T
BE SO
STRENUOUS...



IS
THERE
ENOUGH
TIME
LEFT...?

HUF

HUF

 Number 93:

Impassioned
Efforts...
Each and
Every One!!



...HIS BODY WAS DISCOVERED THIS MORNING NEAR KIKYO CASTLE.

SADLY...

WHAT...? HAYATE...?

AND GO AFTER OROCHIMARU...

THEN WE SHOULD POSTPONE THE CHŪNIN EXAM...

HAYATE WAS MOST LIKELY TRAILING THE SOUND SPY KABUTO.

BUT... IT IS PRETTY CERTAIN THAT OROCHIMARU IS PLOTTING SOMETHING.

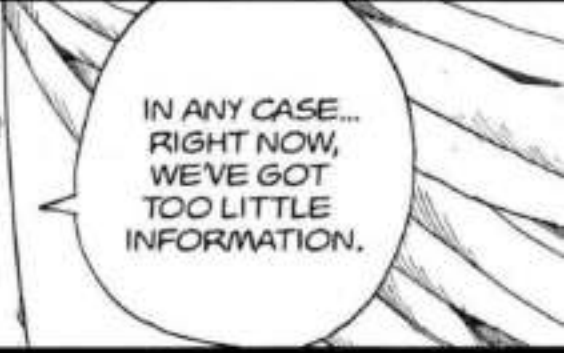
...NO ...WE CANT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS!

WAS IT OROCHIMARU?






WE MUST NOT MAKE TOO MANY ASSUMPTIONS...



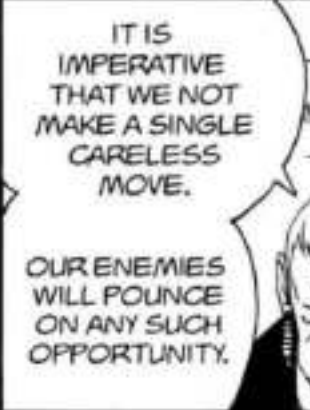
IN ANY CASE... RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TOO LITTLE INFORMATION.




I HAVE THE ULTIMOST CONFIDENCE IN ALL OF YOU!



IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE NOT MAKE A SINGLE CARELESS MOVE.




OUR ENEMIES WILL PONCE ON ANY SUCH OPPORTUNITY.



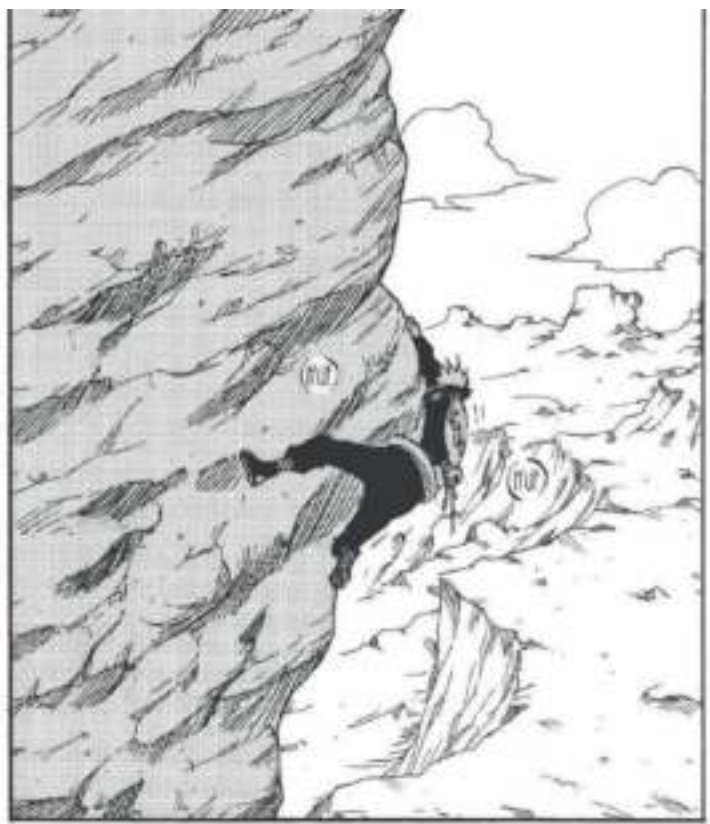
WE HAVE ALREADY DISPATCHED BLACK OPS UNITS TO EACH NATION TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE...



...AND FIGHT!

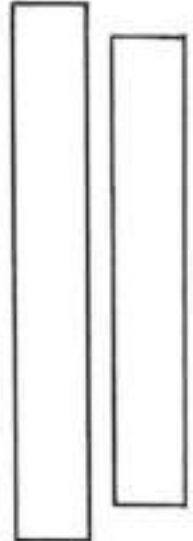
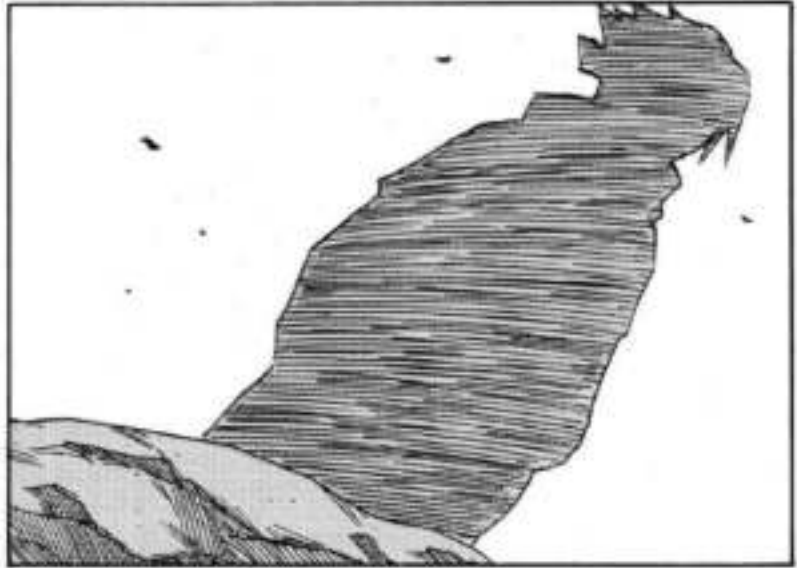


IF IT COMES TO IT, WE SHALL CONSOLIDATE ALL OF KONOHA'S STRENGTH...





READ
THIS
WAY





UCHIHA SASUKE HAS BEEN MISSING FROM HIS ROOM SINCE LAST NIGHT...



EVENTUALLY, SASUKE WILL BE FORCED TO SEEK ME OUT...



...



...EVEN THOUGH HE'S STILL SUPPOSED TO BE ON STRICT BED REST...



BLINK

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

STOP!



...SASUKE...

WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU GO...?







...THE BEST CHOICE IS CUT FLOWERS. WHICH ONES SHOULD I GET...?

IT'S BAD LUCK TO BUY A POTTED PLANT FOR SOMEONE WHO'S IN THE HOSPITAL, SO...



HOW UNUSUAL, THAT YOU WOULD COME TO BUY OUR FLOWERS...



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS...

N..NOT REALLY...

"THIS IS BECAUSE THE WORD FOR 'ROOTED' (NETSUKU) IS PRONOUNCED THE SAME AS 'BEDRIDDEN.'"



UGH... INO, YOU WRETCHED PIGLET...

I'M GOING WITH YOU!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET A LEG UP ON ME!



AHA! YOU'RE GOING TO GO VISIT SASUKE, AREN'T YOU?!

FLINCH



MY CHOICE IS THE DAFFODIL...

HEH HEH... SO PREDICTABLE.



...TO SYMBO-LIZE LOVE!

I CHOOSE THIS ROSE...



I'LL IMBUE IT WITH MY HOPE THAT HE CAN LEAVE THE HOSPITAL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
♥

...IT'S A HARDY FLOWER THAT SHOWS ITS BEAUTIFUL FACE EVEN IN THE DEAD OF WINTER...

...PATIENTLY WAITING FOR SPRING WITHOUT BOWING TO THE COLD.



NO... THE SECOND ONE IS FOR LEE!



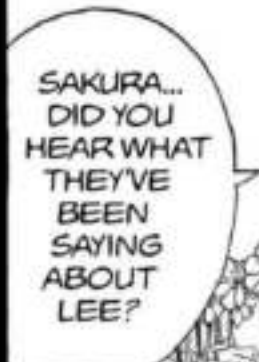
I TOLD YOU I WASN'T GOING TO LOSE TO YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU NOW, SOME KIND OF FLOWER EXPERT?!

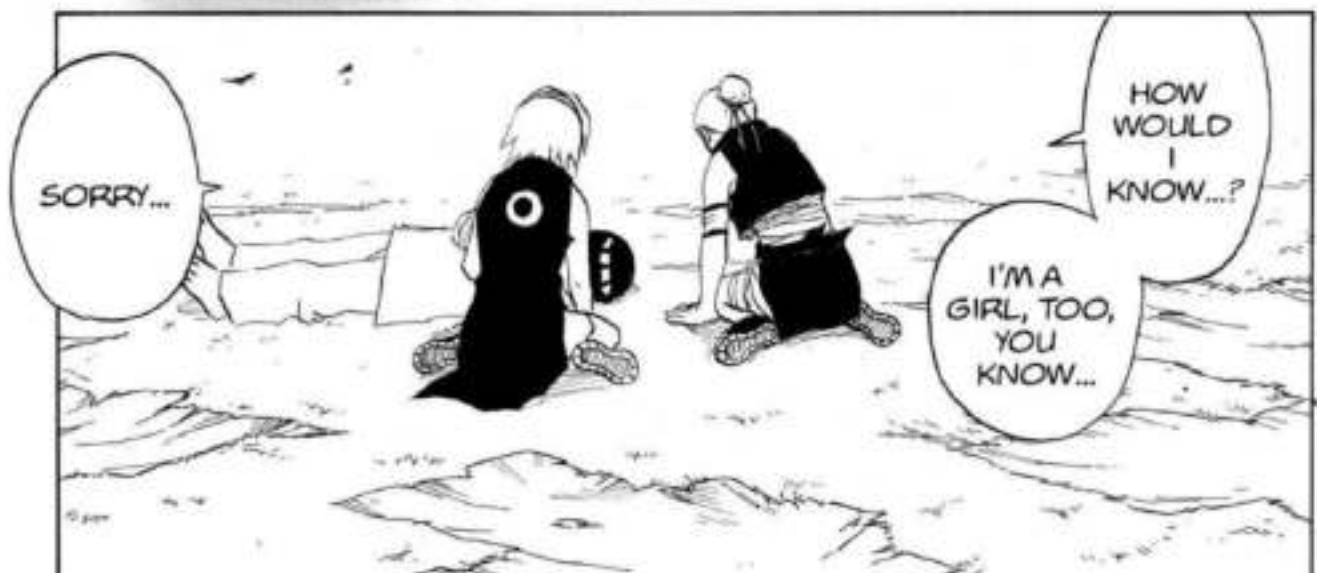


WHY? YOU ONLY NEED ONE--

ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO GET TWO...















Number 94:

The Key...!!





READ THIS WAY





...HE'S BEEN SLOGGING THROUGH PRETTY MUCH ON WILLPOWER ALONE.

...I SUPPOSE IT'S TO BE EXPECTED FOR THE LAST 21 DAYS...



SIGH...

HE COLLAPSED AGAIN...?



...THE CHAKRA OF THE NINE-TAILED FOX... WHENEVER HE WANTS.

CLOP CLOP

IT'S NO EASY TASK, DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO ACCESS AND CONTROL...



I IMAGINE NARUTO'S BODY NORMALLY SUPPRESSES THE FOX SPIRIT'S POWER TO AVOID STRAIN.

AND THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HIS BODY IS TOO SMALL TO COMPLETELY CONTAIN THE MONSTER'S CHAKRA...



...IS A SUDDEN EMOTIONAL RUSH OR PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO NARUTO'S FLESH...

HOIST

SO IF THE KEY TO DRAWING OUT THE FOX'S CHAKRA...



...

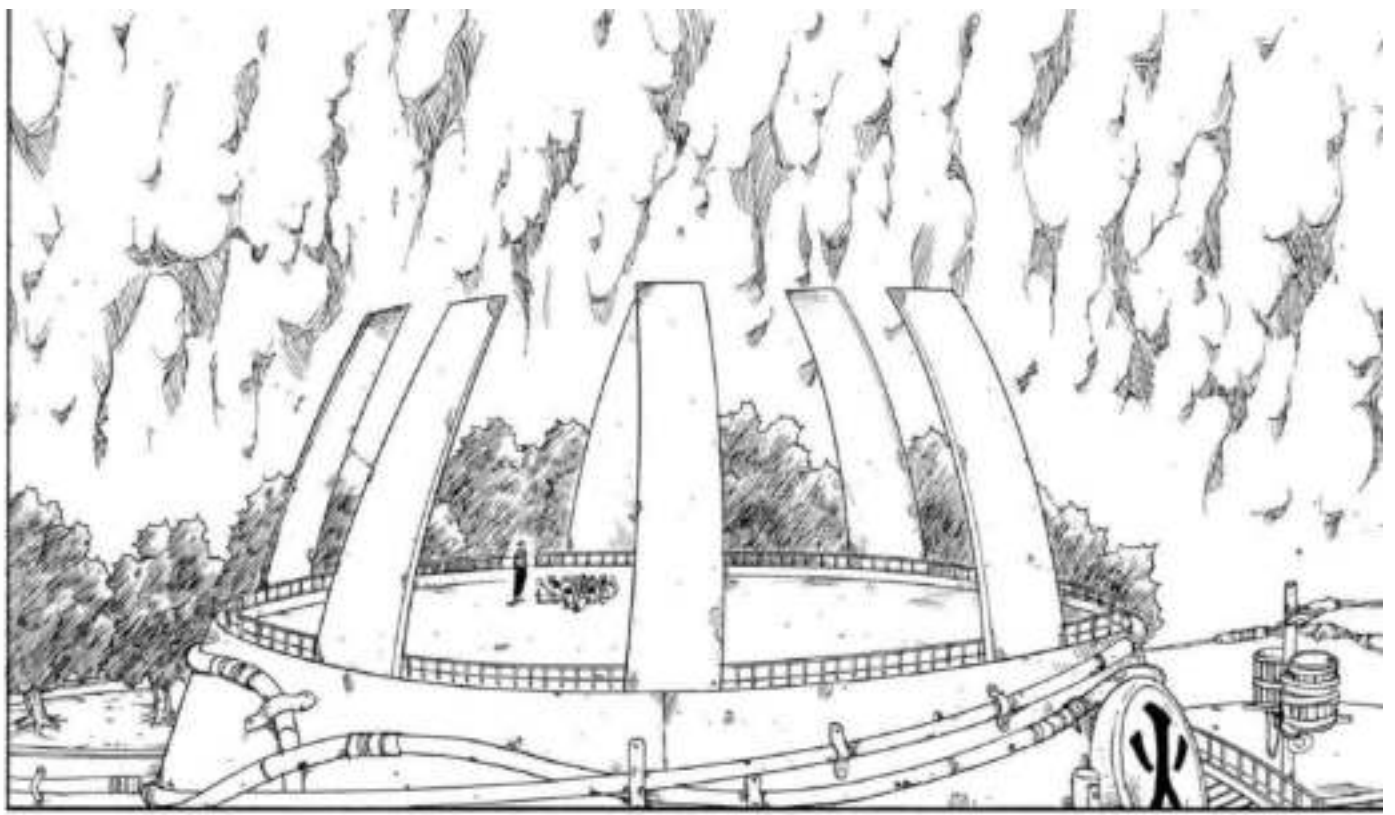














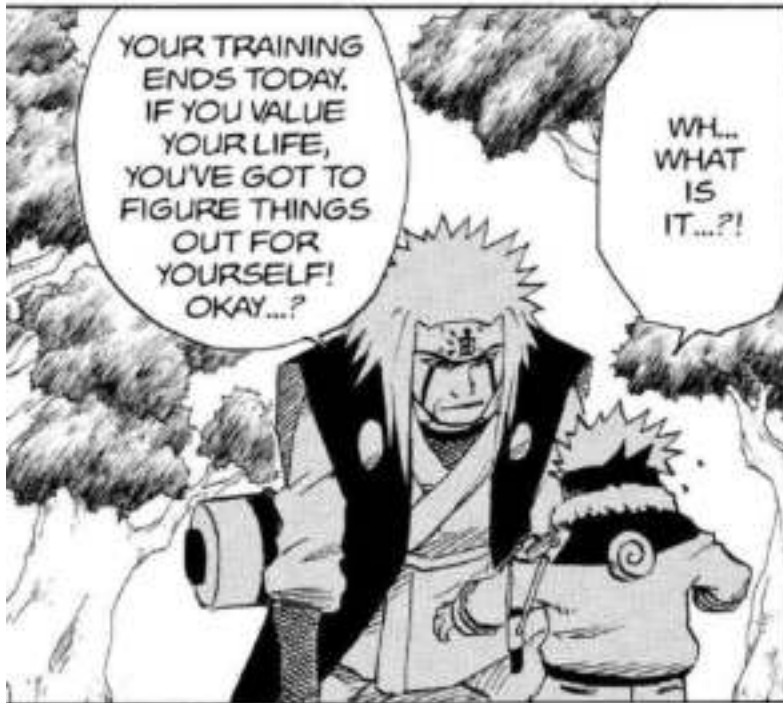




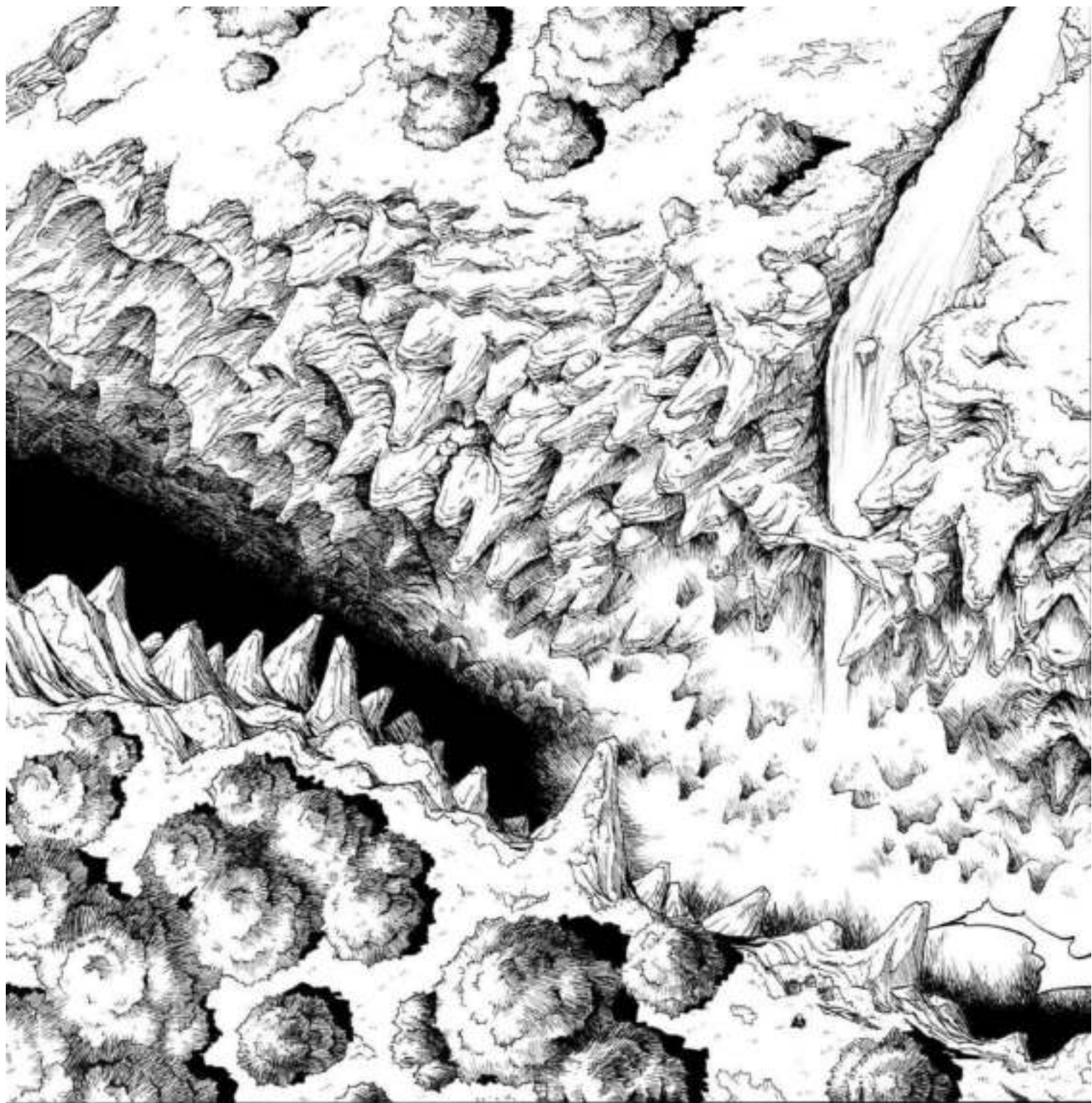










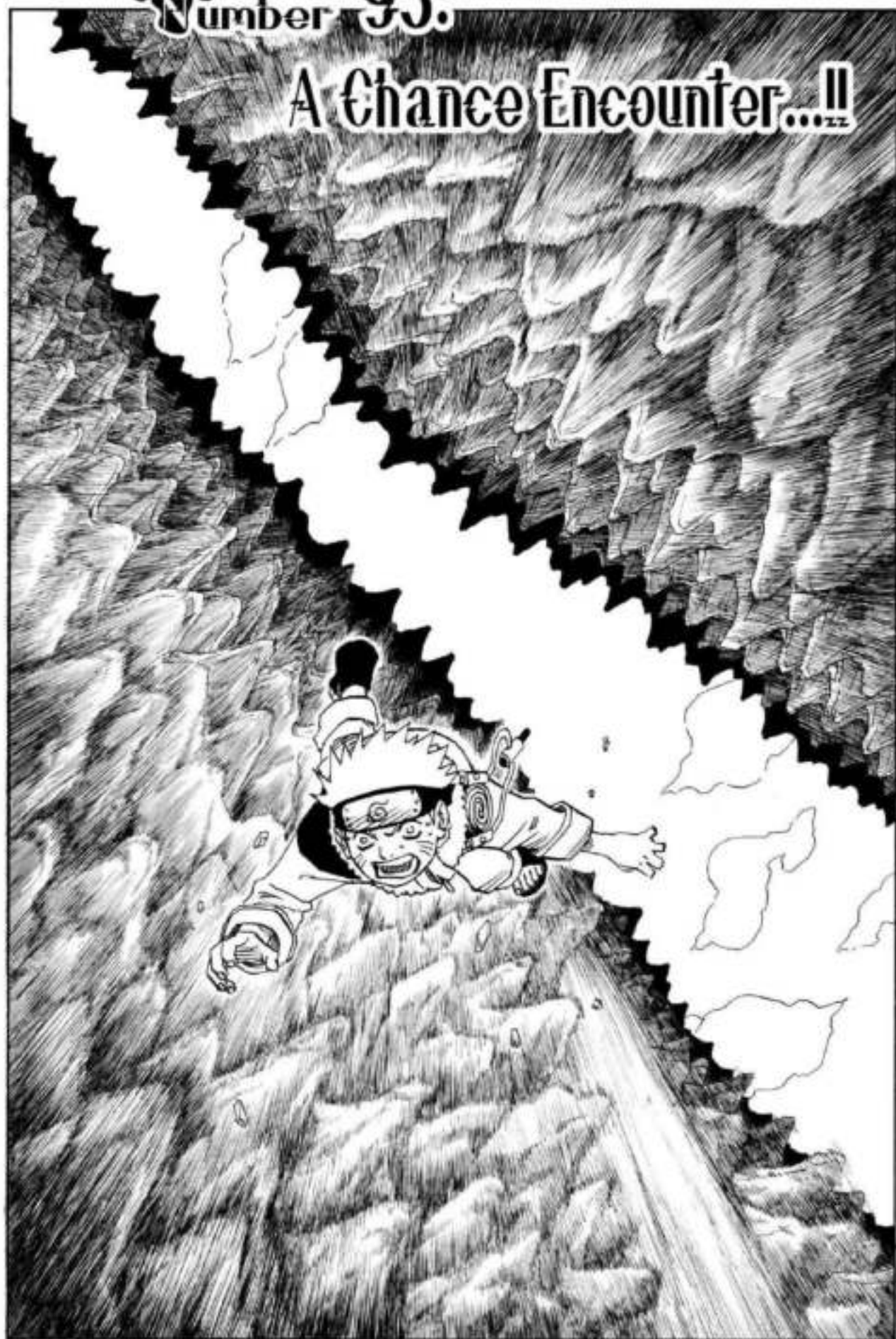


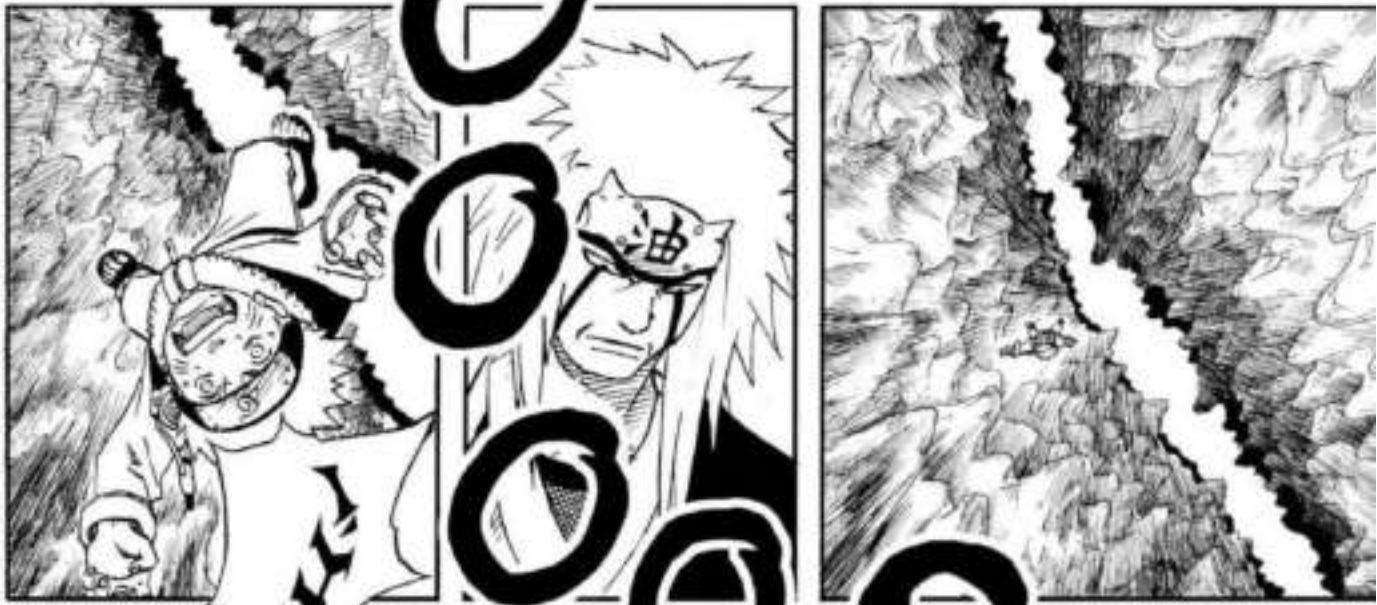
THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 14

ONCE I STARTED MY LAST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH, I HAD TO CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING FOR MY HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS RATHER THAN DRAWING MANGA. THIS WAS BECAUSE, EVEN THOUGH I WAS VERY STUPID, I DECIDED TO APPLY TO A SCHOOL FOR HIGHLY MOTIVATED COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS. I THOUGHT I HAD STUDIED PRETTY HARD, BUT... I WAS NAIVE! I FAILED THE ENTRANCE EXAM IN SPECTACULAR FASHION. I FELT TOTALLY DEFLATED. I HAD APPLIED TO A DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOL AS A "SAFETY," AND THEY ACCEPTED ME, SO I ENDED UP GOING THERE INSTEAD. BUT BY THAT POINT I PRETTY MUCH STOPPED STUDYING COMPLETELY BECAUSE I HAD DECIDED, "I'VE GOT TO START MAKING MY MOVE IF I'M GOING TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST!" I KNEW ABOUT A BUNCH OF GUYS WHO HAD WON *SHONEN JUMP'S* HOP STEP AWARD IN THEIR LATE TEENS, AND I HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT PLENTY OF SHOJO MANGA ARTISTS PUBLISHED THEIR FIRST COMICS BY THE TIME THEY ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL, SO I WAS SWEATING. IN MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, I BOUGHT A SET OF MANGA DRAWING TOOLS, BUT EVERY TIME I TRIED TO DRAW A "NAME" FOR A STORY (A KIND OF SIMPLE ROUGH DRAFT OF PLOTLINES AND CHARACTERS), I JUST COULDN'T DO IT. I'D JUST SIT THERE THINKING FOR FIVE HOURS (OR MORE!) AND STILL BE UNABLE TO COME UP WITH A SINGLE PAGE... I FROZE UP AS IF I'D SUDDENLY BEEN TURNED TO STONE. UNLIKE MY RANDOM DOODLING DAYS OF YORE, I NOW HAD TO COME UP WITH 31 PAGES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD, AND THAT PROSPECT WAS JUST TOO DAUNTING. I COULDN'T EVEN PINPOINT WHAT I WAS LACKING, BUT I WAS CONTINUALLY DEPRESSED AND CONVINCED THAT I'D NEVER BECOME A MANGA ARTIST BECAUSE I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO DRAW. THAT'S WHEN I HAD A STARTLING REALIZATION. "I'M IN BIG TROUBLE! A MANGA ARTIST NEEDS MORE THAN JUST DRAWING ABILITY... HE'S GOT TO BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH STORIES, TOO! I SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION IN LITERATURE CLASS. DARN IT!" NOW, WHEN I LOOK BACK, I WONDER WHY ON EARTH IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO REALIZE THAT! BUT AT THE TIME, I HONESTLY BELIEVED THAT AS LONG AS I COULD DRAW, I COULD BECOME A MANGA ARTIST. AS I SAID, I REALLY WAS THOROUGHLY STUPID.

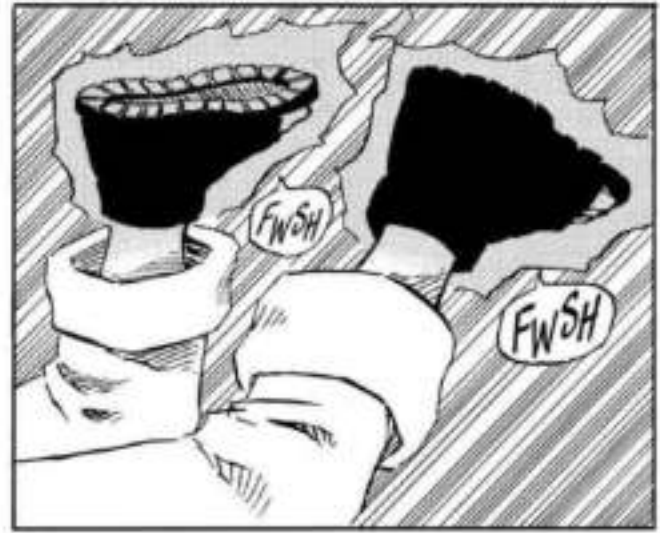
 Number 95:

A Chance Encounter...!!



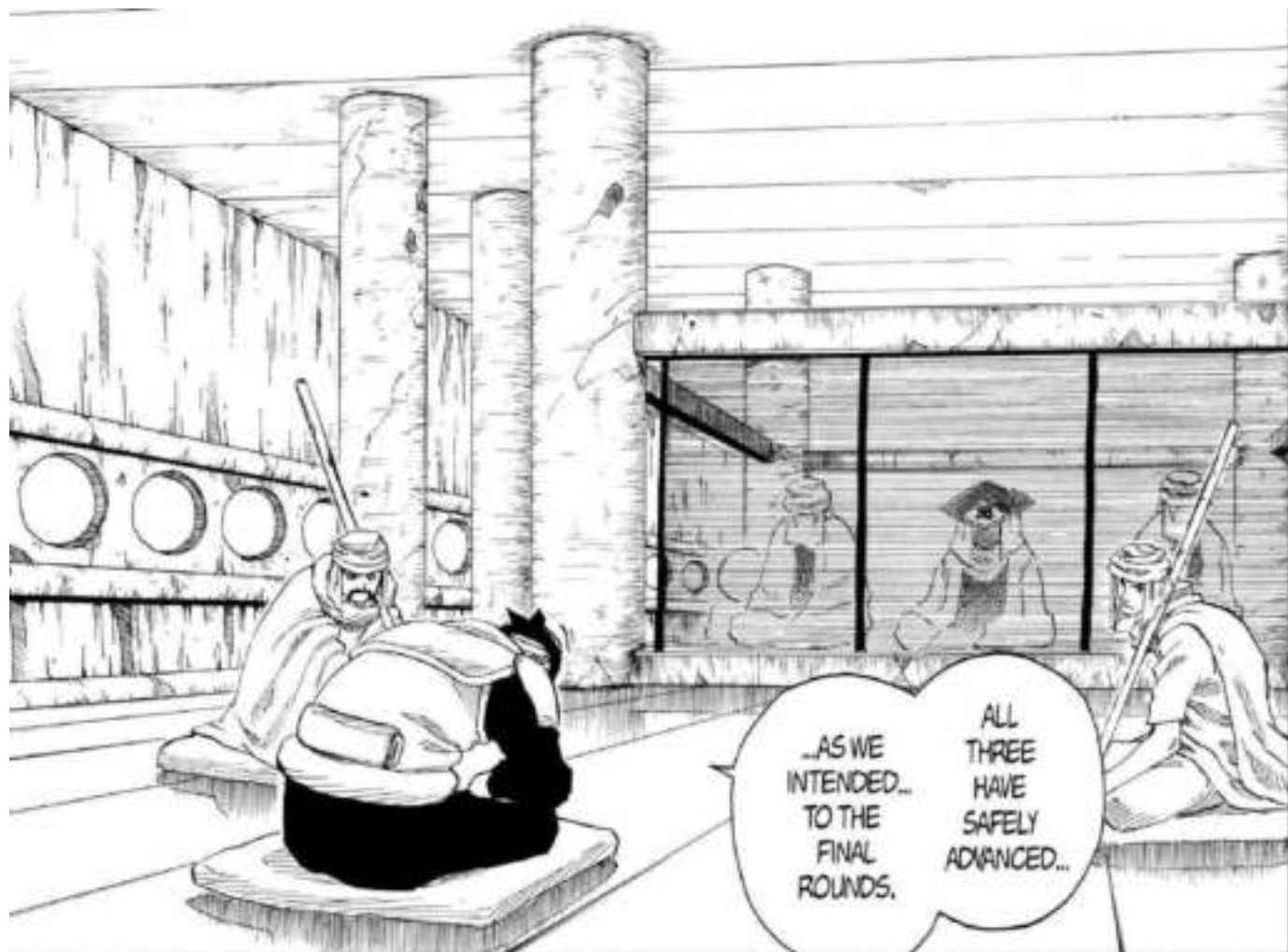








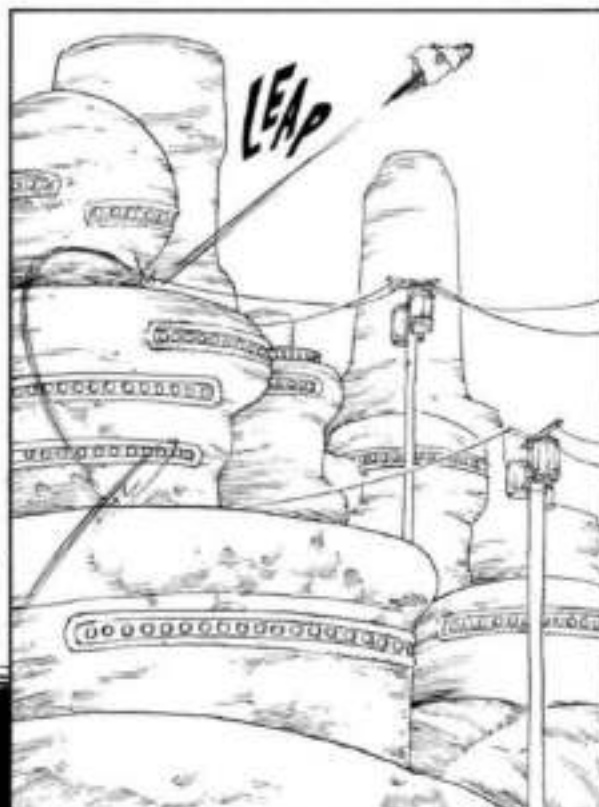






*LAND OF FIRE: THE NATION WHERE THE VILLAGE OF KONOHAGAKURE IS LOCATED.







THE TREATY OF ALLIANCE ITSELF IS A THREAT TO OUR VERY EXISTENCE.

SHINOBI ARE FUNDAMENTALLY INSTRUMENTS OF CONFLICT.



...TO FORCE MILITARY CUTBACKS ON OUR VILLAGE OF SUNAGAKURE.

...THAT IDIOT DAIMYO OF THE LAND OF WIND USED THE TREATY AS HIS OPPORTUNITY...



YOU GENIN MAY NOT KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT...



WHEN THE HEAD IS A FOOL, IT IS WE, THE HANDS AND FEET, WHO SUFFER.

...OUR VILLAGE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF EACH SHINOBI.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS MILITARY STRENGTH...

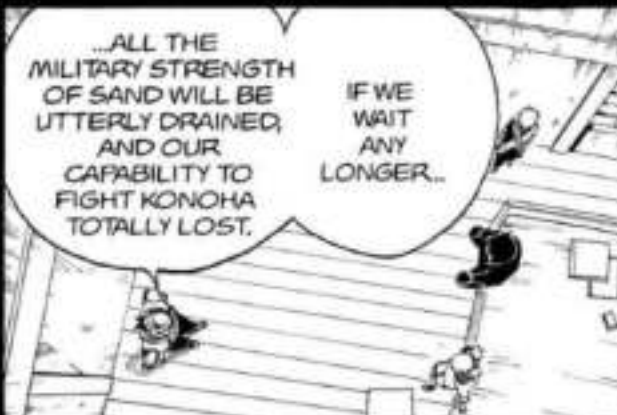


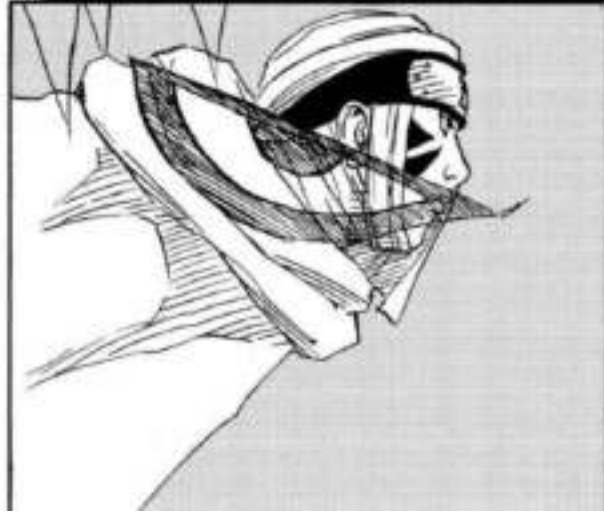
...CLAIMING THAT HIS SCHEME WAS CHEAPER.

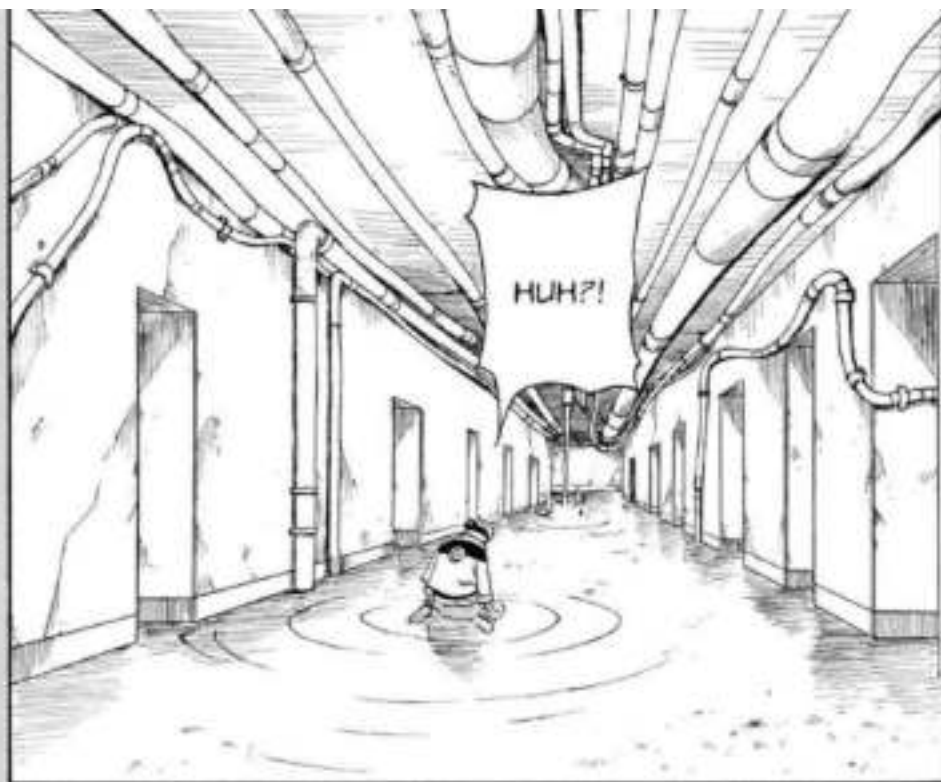
...FURTHER SLASHING THE FLOW OF FUNDS TO HIS OWN NATION'S SHINOBI VILLAGE...

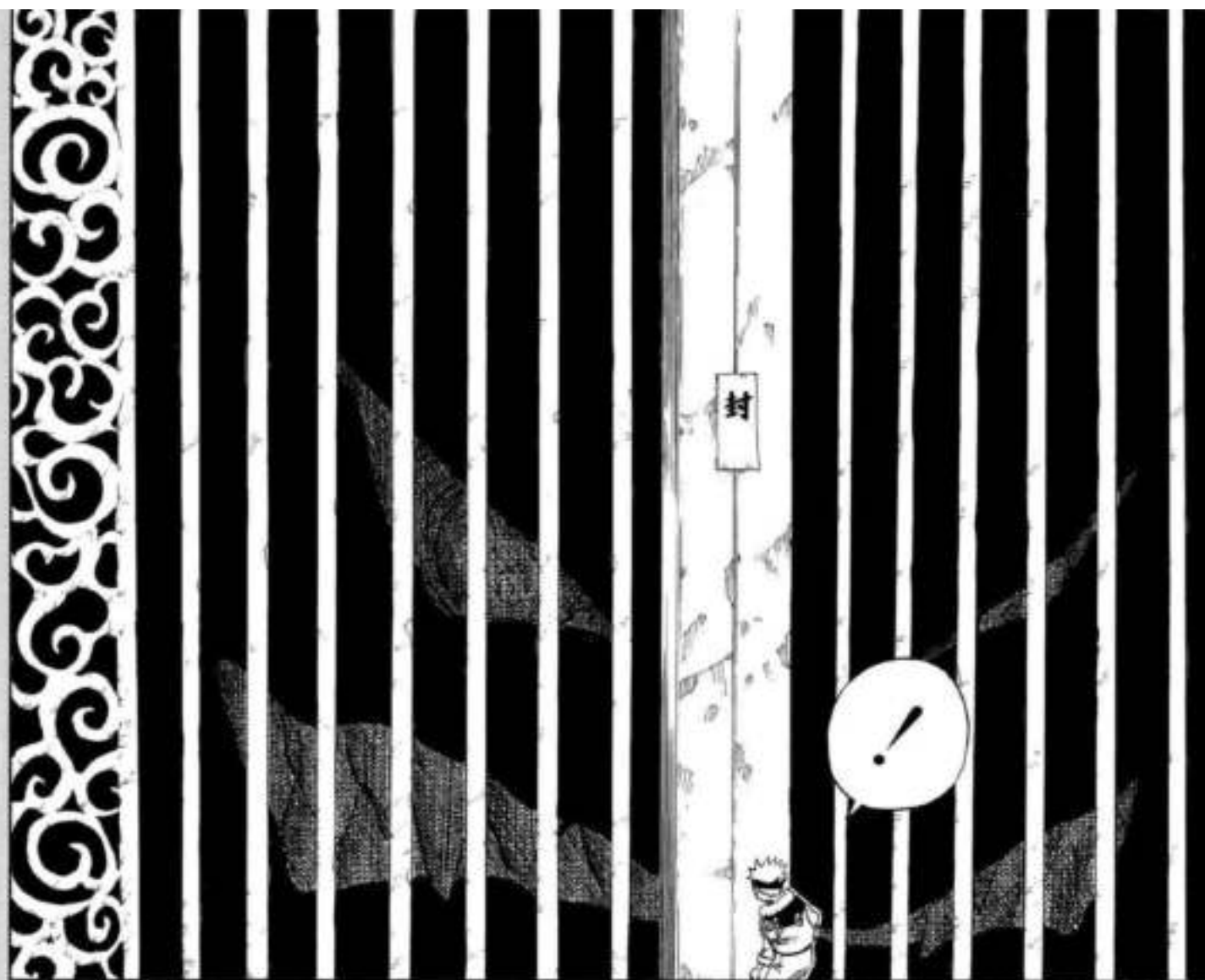


THE ALLIANCE CAUSED THE WIND DAIMYO TO PUT HIS TRUST IN KONOHA AND FORWARD REQUESTS TO THEM THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SENDING TO US...







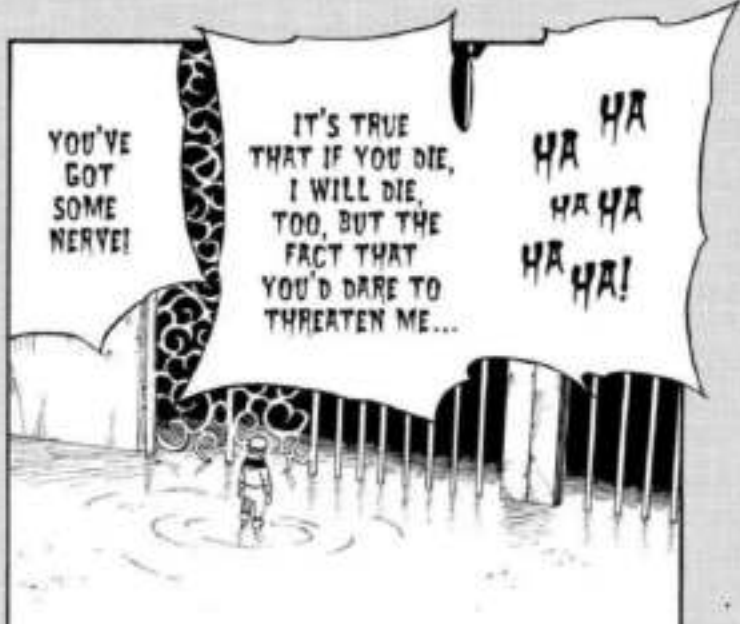
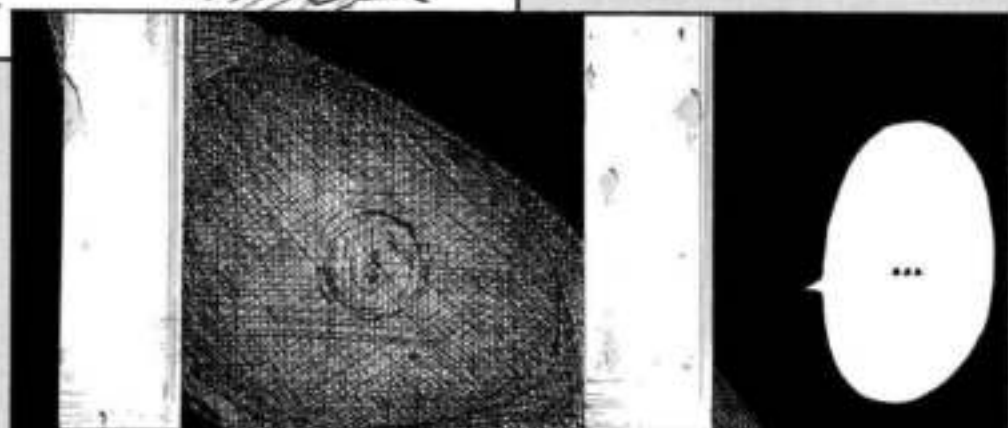
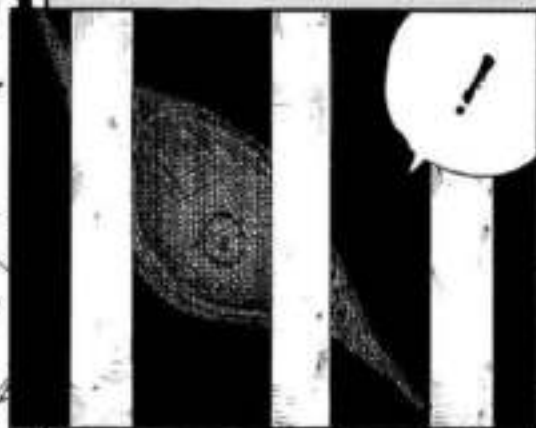


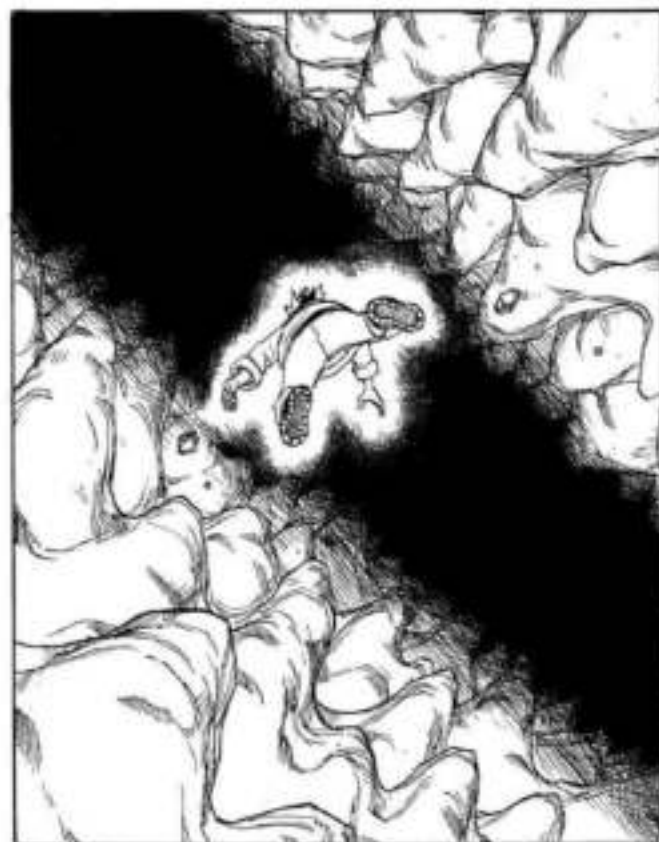


WHY DON'T YOU PAY ME SOME RENT AND LEND ME YOUR CHAKRA?!

HEY, STUPID FOX! I'VE BEEN LETTING YOU LIVE IN MY BODY ALL THIS TIME, SO...

BLARE





KUCHIYOSE
NO
JUTSU!
THE
ART
OF
SUMMONING!



TWOOSH

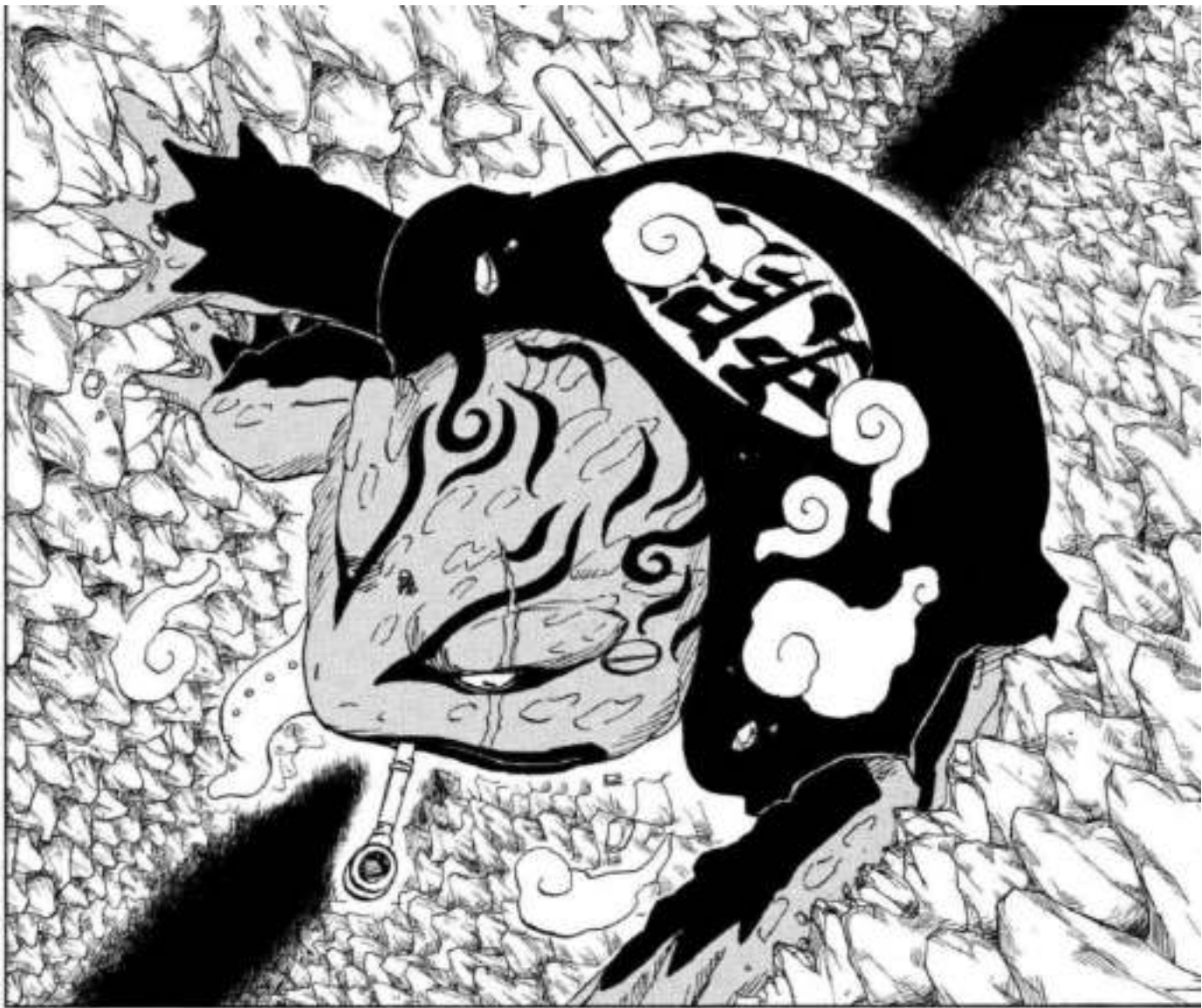




Number 96:

The Unexpected Visitor!!









WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AROUND SCREAMING ON TOP OF MY HEAD, IDIOT?!

HEY, URCHIN!



EH?!

I'M TRYING TO ENJOY MY FIRST BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN A LONG TIME, HERE...



WH-WHAT THE...?

...?!



...AND PUTTING A WEIRD BRAT ON TOP OF MY HEAD, TOO!

THAT LECHEROUS LOU, SUMMONING ME TO SUCH AN AWFUL PLACE...



H...HE'S SCARY! WHY DOES SOMETHING LIKE HIM HAVE TO POP OUT?!

JIRAIYA?

WHO?

HEY! YOU SCAMP! WHERE'S JIRAIYA?!





**RAGE
RAGE**

YOU
STUPID FROG!
I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO
ACT HUMBLE,
AND YOU KEEP
BLABBERING
AND
INSULTING
ME!



STARE



...I'M YOUR
MASTER,
RIGHT?!
STUPID
FROG!

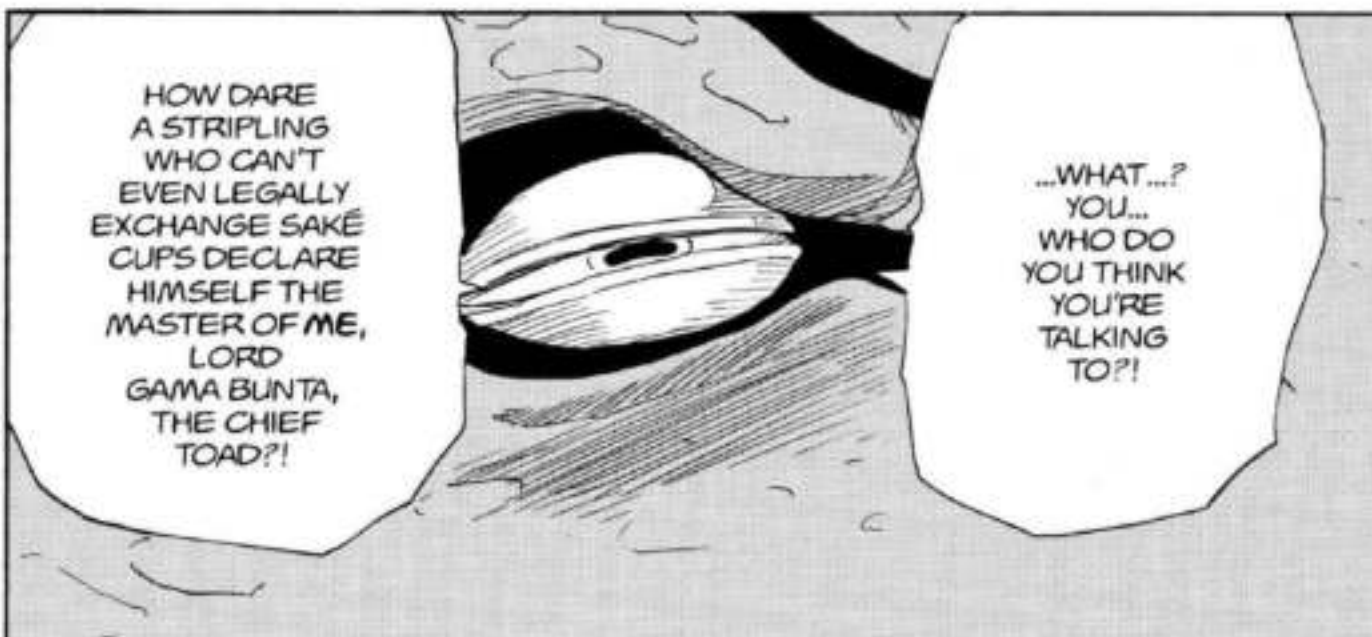
I MEAN,
SINCE
IT WAS
ME WHO
SUMMONED
YOU...



...!



UHH...

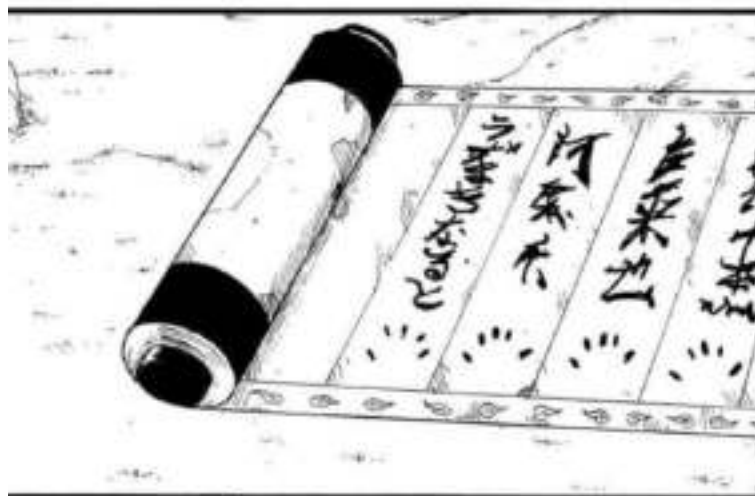


HOW DARE
A STRIPLING
WHO CAN'T
EVEN LEGALLY
EXCHANGE SAKÉ
CUPS DECLARE
HIMSELF THE
MASTER OF ME,
LORD
GAMA BUNTA,
THE CHIEF
TOAD?!

...WHAT...?
YOU...
WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
TALKING
TO?!







THE SCROLL LISTS THE NAMES OF JIRAIYA, THE FOURTH HOKAGE AND NARUTO.



...BUT WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE KID...

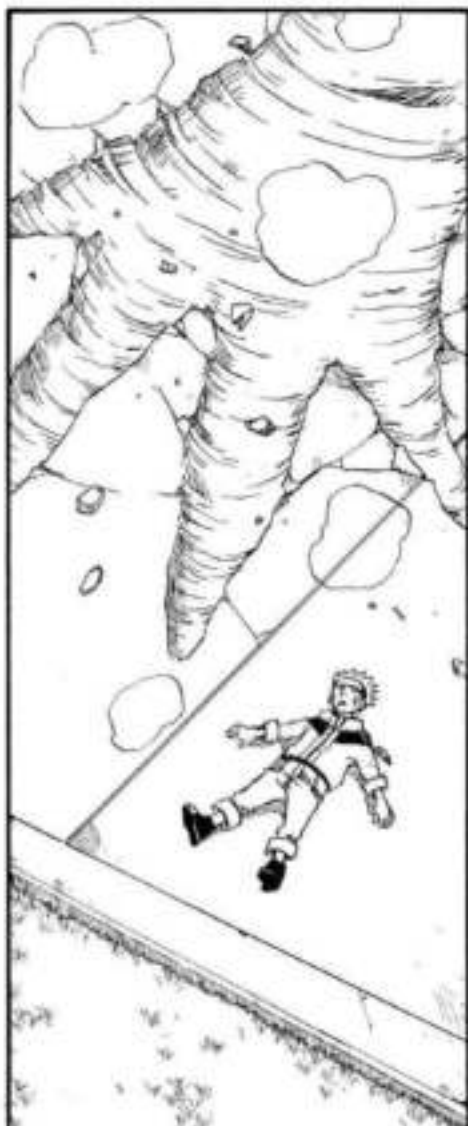
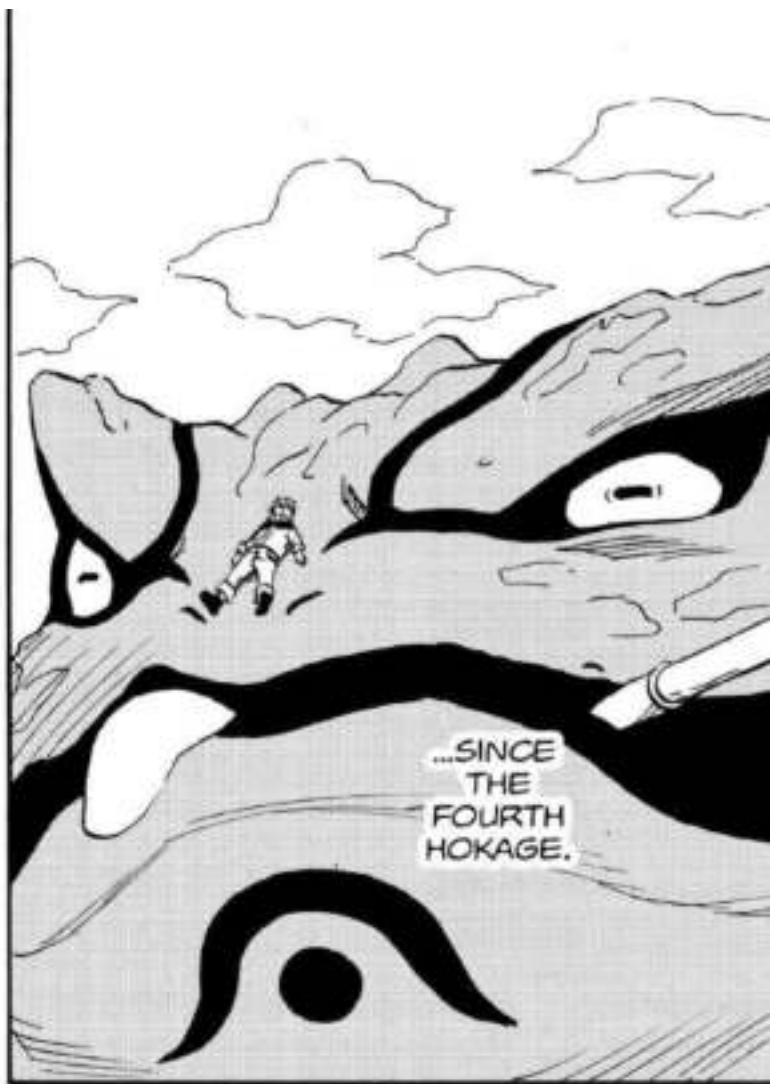


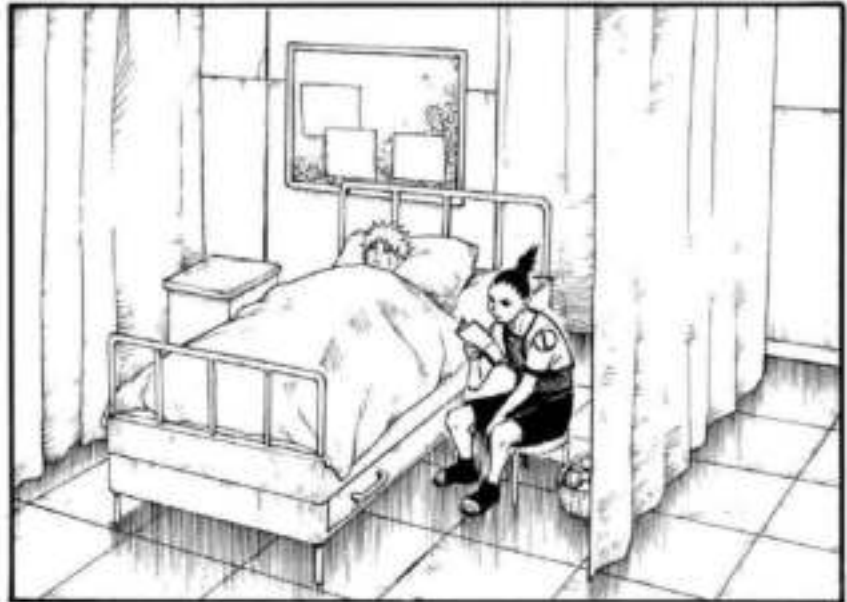
HEH HEH... THAT JIRAIYA...

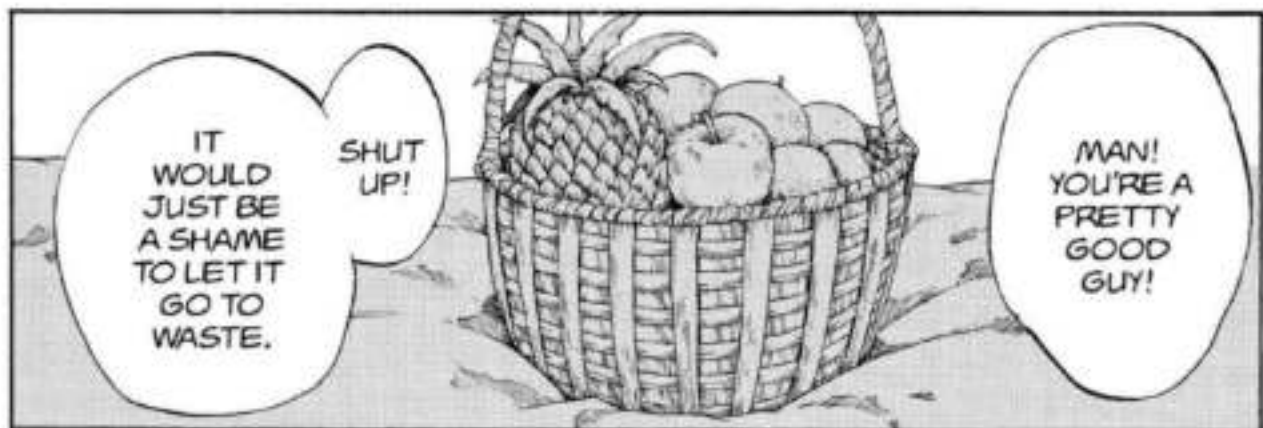


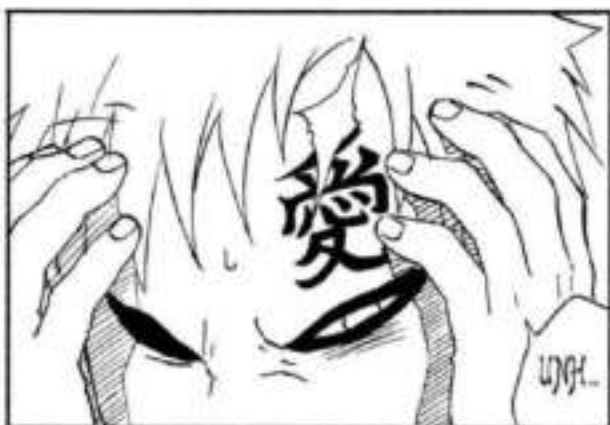
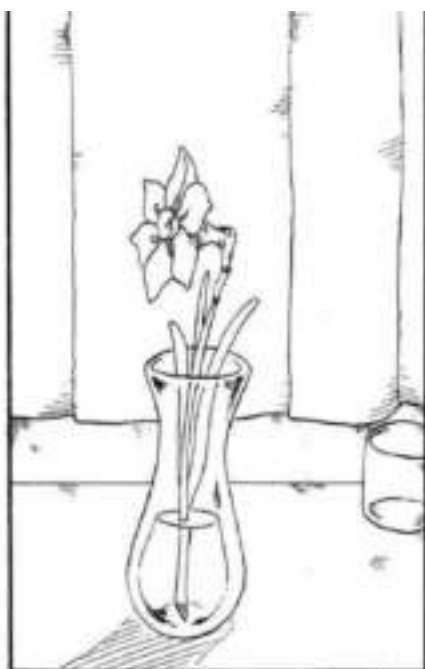
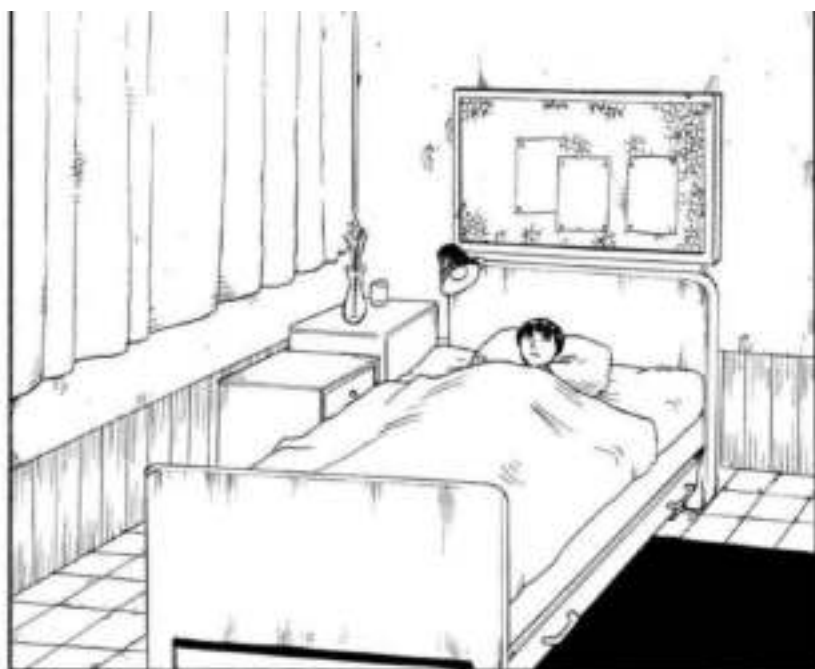
...TELLING THE TRUTH...

...THAT SCAMP... I GUESS HE WAS...

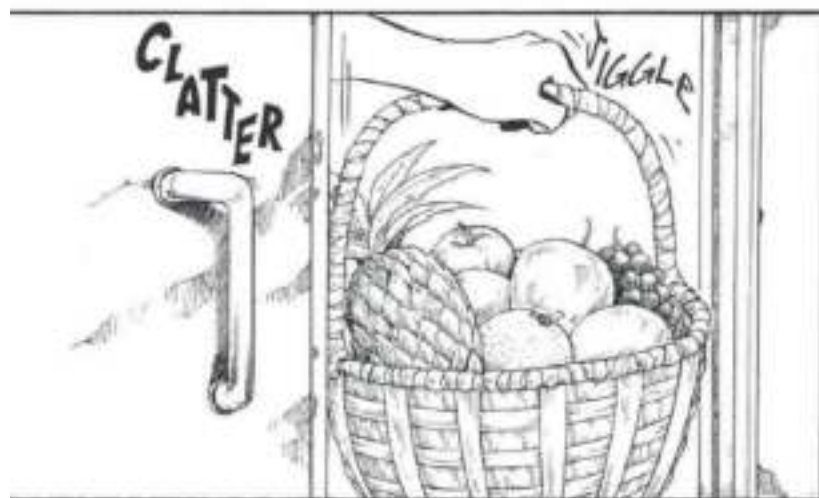
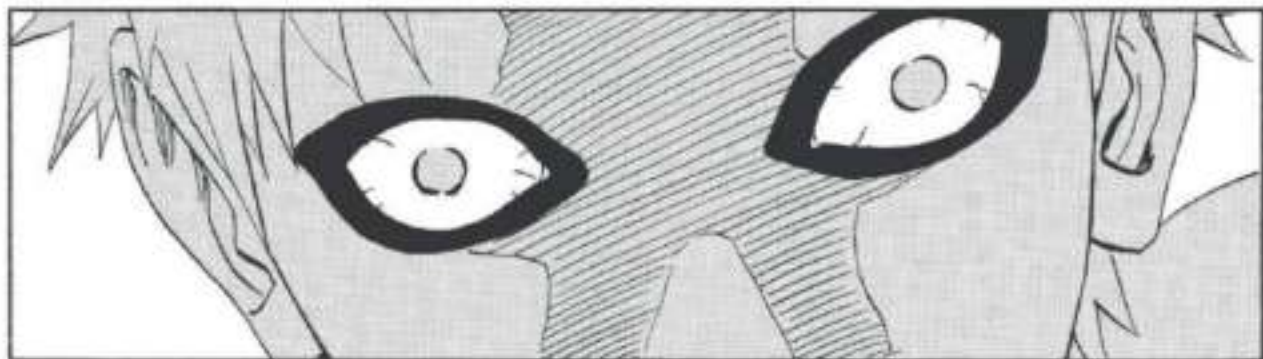


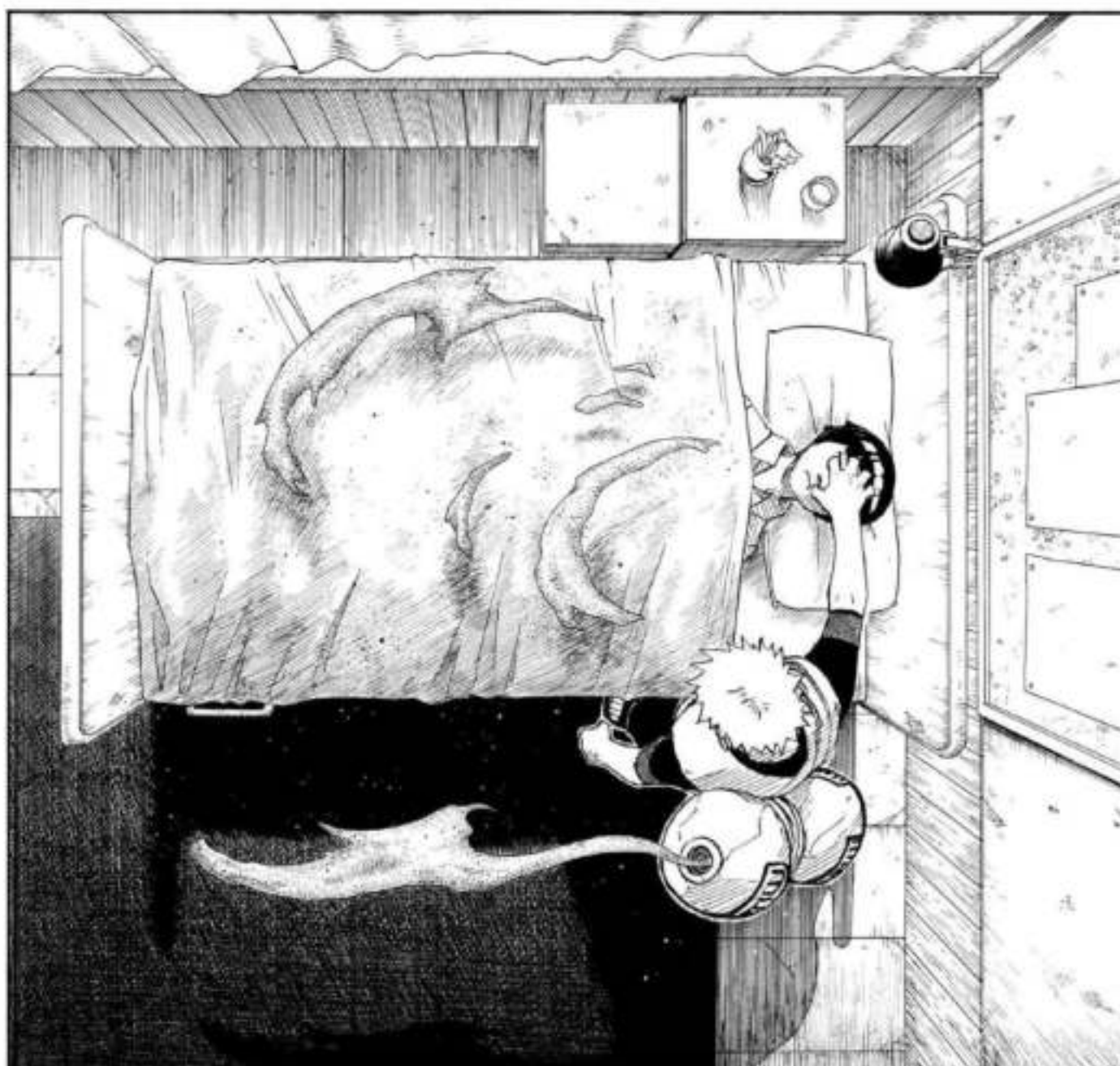


















KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S MANGA REJECT SPECIAL NO. 5!



THIS SKETCH IS FROM A MAFIA MANGA CALLED "MARIO" THAT I INITIALLY HAD THE IDEA TO CREATE BEFORE NARUTO. I'VE GOT A WHOLE ROUGH DRAFT ALREADY WORKED OUT, SO IT'S A PROJECT THAT I'M STILL KEEPING WARM, AND I DEFINITELY PLAN TO DRAW IT SOME DAY. I HAVE OVER 160 PAGES, AND I'M NOT SURE WHEN I'LL HAVE TIME TO WORK ON IT AGAIN... BUT I'M POSITIVE IT'S THE FUNNIEST OF ALL OF THE STORIES I'VE DRAWN SO FAR.

 Number 97:



My Reason for Living...!!















KNOWN AS SHUKAKU, IT WAS THE SPIRIT OF A FORMER SUNAGAKURE ELDER...







...CONNECTED BY HATRED AND MURDEROUS INTENT.

MERE HULLS OF FLESH...



...SO THAT I COULD BE BROUGHT TO LIFE AS THE VILLAGE'S GREATEST MASTER-PIECE...

MY MOTHER'S LIFE WAS SACRIFICED...

...AND AS KAZEKAGE'S SON.



AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THAT WAS LOVE...



MY FATHER TAUGHT ME SECRET SHINOBI SKILLS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

I WAS RAISED IN ISOLATION, SPOILED AND OVERPROTECTED...



...

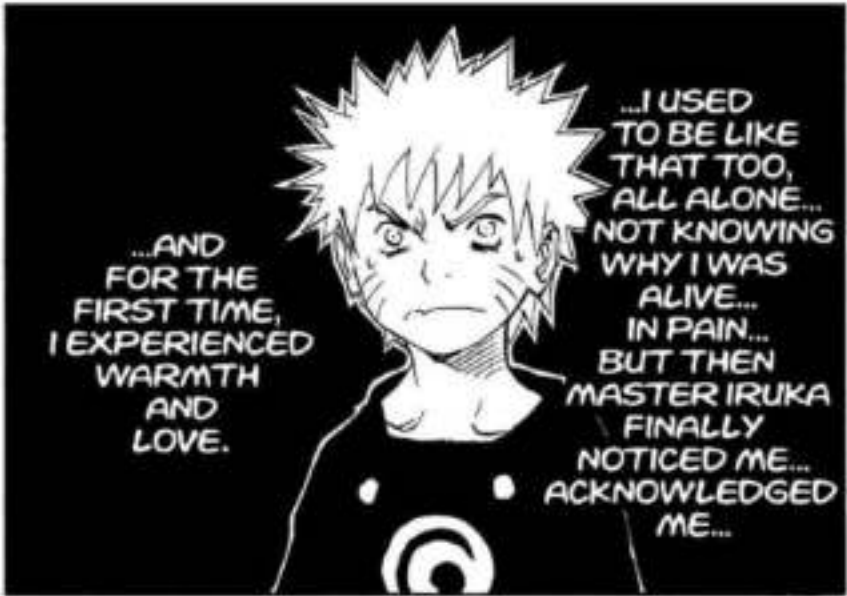


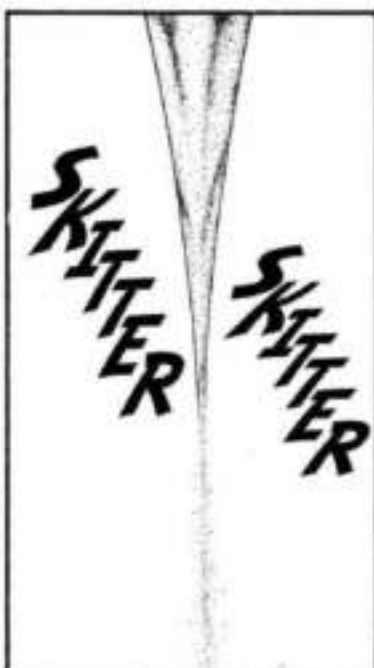
















THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 15

SOMEHOW, WHEN I WAS A HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR, I FINALLY MANAGED TO DRAW A 31-PAGE MANGA, BUT I COULDN'T JUDGE WHETHER IT WAS FUNNY OR NOT, SO I ASKED MY LITTLE BROTHER TO READ IT. I WAITED, SILENTLY WILLING HIM TO FIND IT HILARIOUS, BUT WHEN HE FINALLY SPOKE, HE SAID, "THIS ISN'T FUNNY AT ALL!" I DECIDED THAT I COULDN'T TRUST HIS OPINION, SO NEXT I SHOWED IT TO OUR FATHER, BUT HIS REACTION WAS THE SAME... "IT'S NOT FUNNY!" I HAD BEEN ALL READY AND EXCITED TO SEND IN THAT FIRST 31-PAGE MANGA TO THE *SHONEN JUMP* CONTEST, BUT AFTER THOSE TEPID RESPONSES, I COMPLETELY LOST MY NERVE, AND THAT REJECT MANGA ENDED UP BURIED IN MY DESK DRAWER FOREVER.

I WAS A YOUNG, SIMPLEMINDED, BLINKERED FOOL WHO THOUGHT, "I WANT TO HURRY UP AND WIN THAT CONTEST, SO I SHOULD JUST KEEP DRAWING MANGA AND SENDING THEM IN!" I KNOW I USED TO BE A COMPLETE IDIOTIC BRAT, BUT... WELL, LOOKING BACK, THAT BRAINLESS PERSEVERANCE WAS PROBABLY A GOOD TRAIT TO DEVELOP. I REASON TO MYSELF THAT I COULDN'T HELP IT BACK THEN BECAUSE I WAS AT THE HEIGHT OF MY YOUTH.

I DREW MANY OTHER MANGA, BUT I KEPT BEING TOLD THEY WERE NOT FUNNY, SO AT ONE POINT I SNAPPED AND SAID, "WHY AREN'T MY MANGA FUNNY?! DARN IT! WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT THEM COMPARED TO OTHER MANGA ARTISTS' WORK, HUH?!" I ENDED UP GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL WITHOUT HAVING MADE ANY PROGRESS ON THE MANGA FRONT. BUT BECAUSE I HAD BEEN SPENDING ALL MY TIME ATTEMPTING TO DRAW MANGA, MY GRADES WERE 38TH OUT OF 39 IN MY CLASS. EVEN WITH REVIEW COURSES, IT BECAME CLEAR I WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED TO ANY COLLEGE. SO I STANK AT CREATING MANGA, I STANK AT SCHOOL, AND OF COURSE MY ROMANTIC LIFE STANK, SO IT WAS A TRIPLE WHAMMY OF HIGH SCHOOL BLUES. BUT I GUESS THAT HIGH SCHOOL IS A ROUGH PERIOD FOR EVERYONE. IT'S A TIME WHEN YOU'RE BESET ON ALL SIDES BY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES (THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE CURRENTLY STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND). FATE WASN'T BEING VERY KIND (WELL, THAT'S USUALLY THE CASE). HOWEVER, I WAS UNDAUNTED... OR RATHER, I WASN'T THE TYPE TO THINK TOO DEEPLY ABOUT SUCH THINGS... I JUST KEPT THINKING, "WELL! I'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW." AHH, I FEEL SO LUCKY THAT I WAS DUMB!



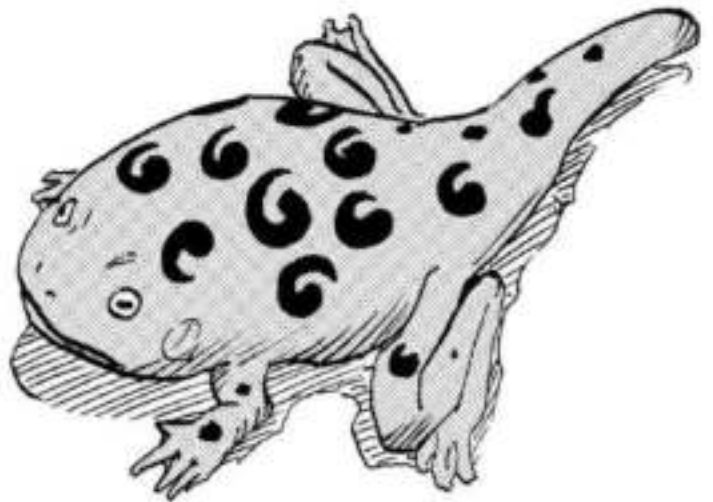
 Number 98:

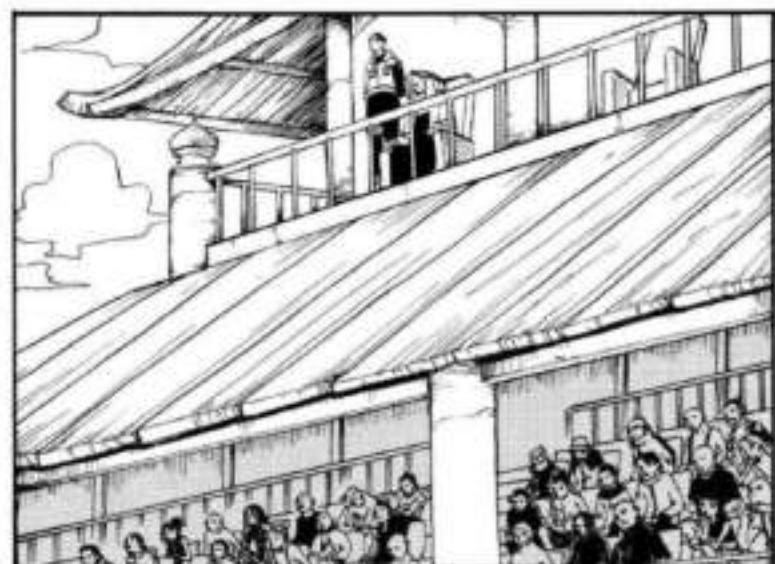
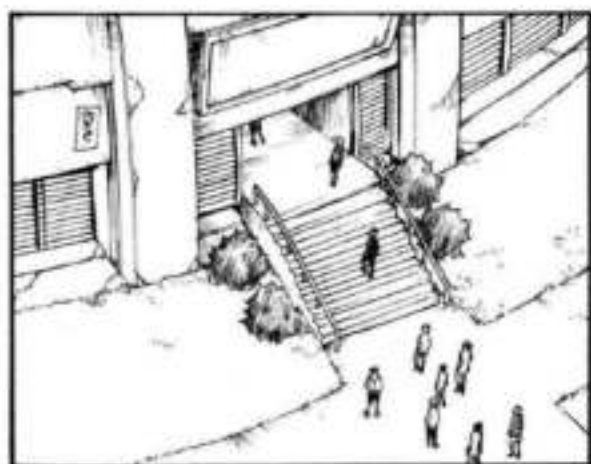
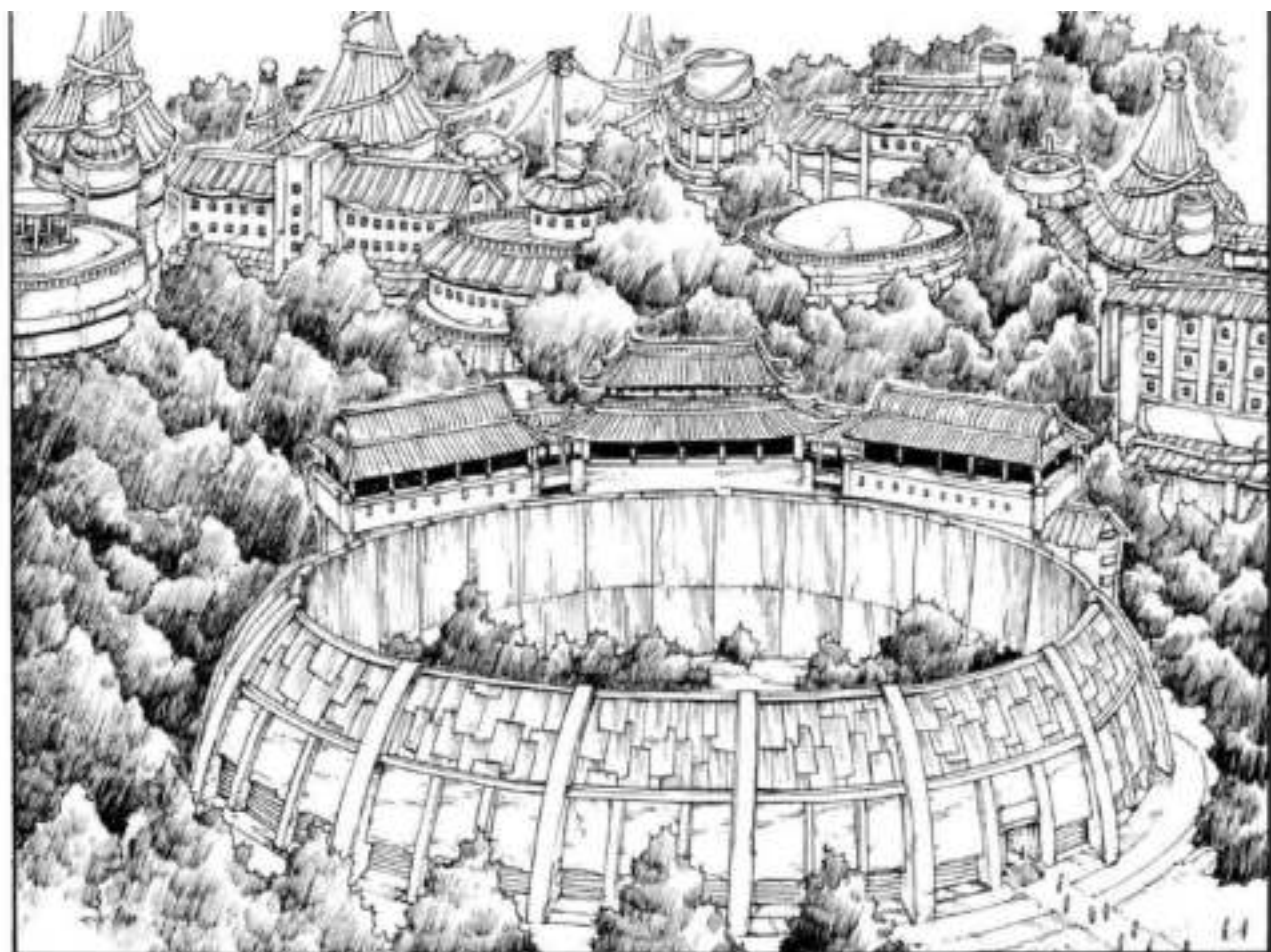
The Proud Failure!!



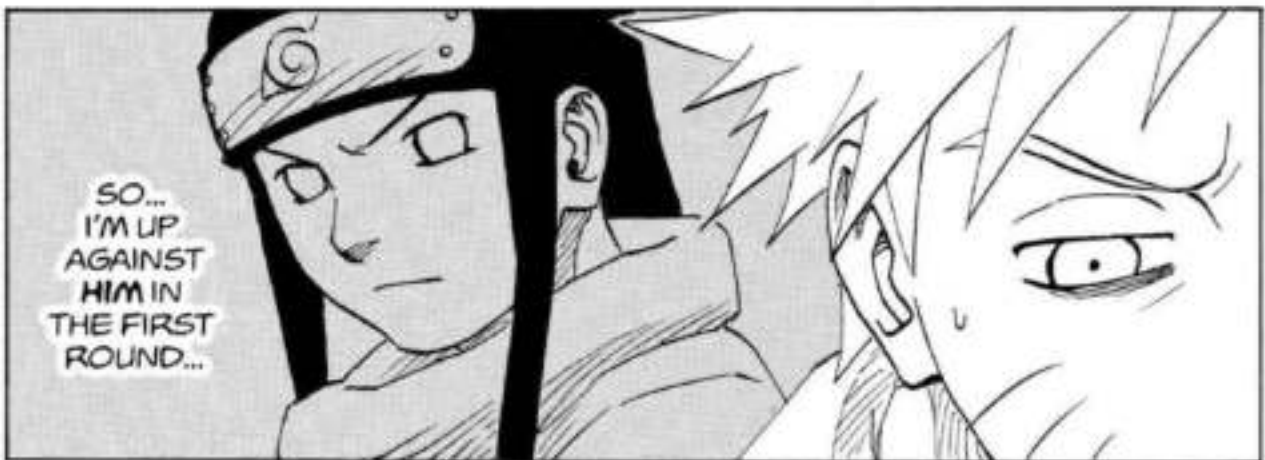


NARUTO

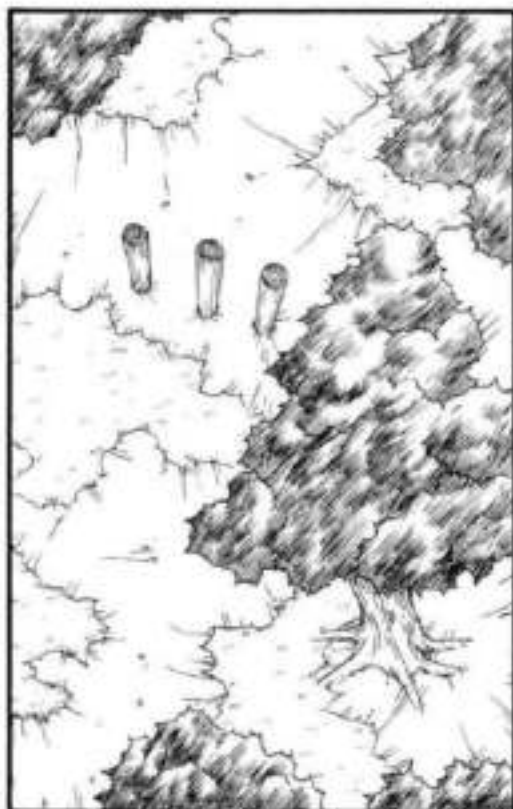




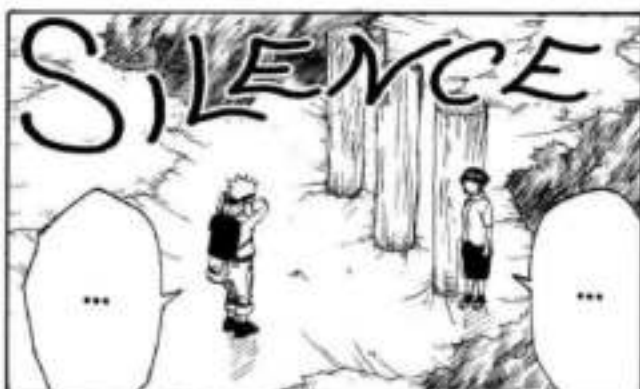










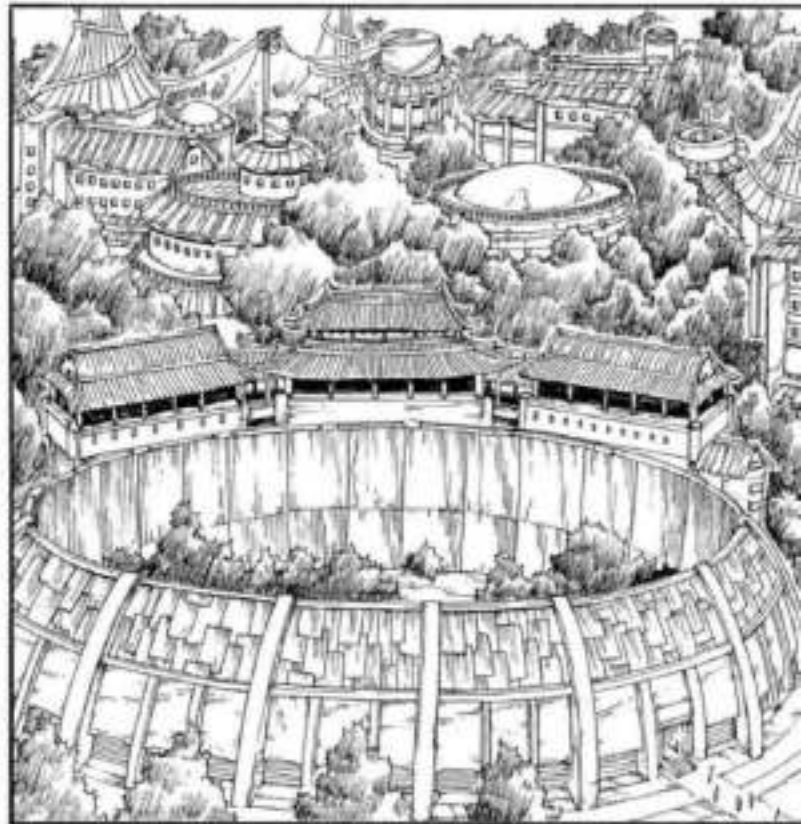














ROAR





 Number 99:



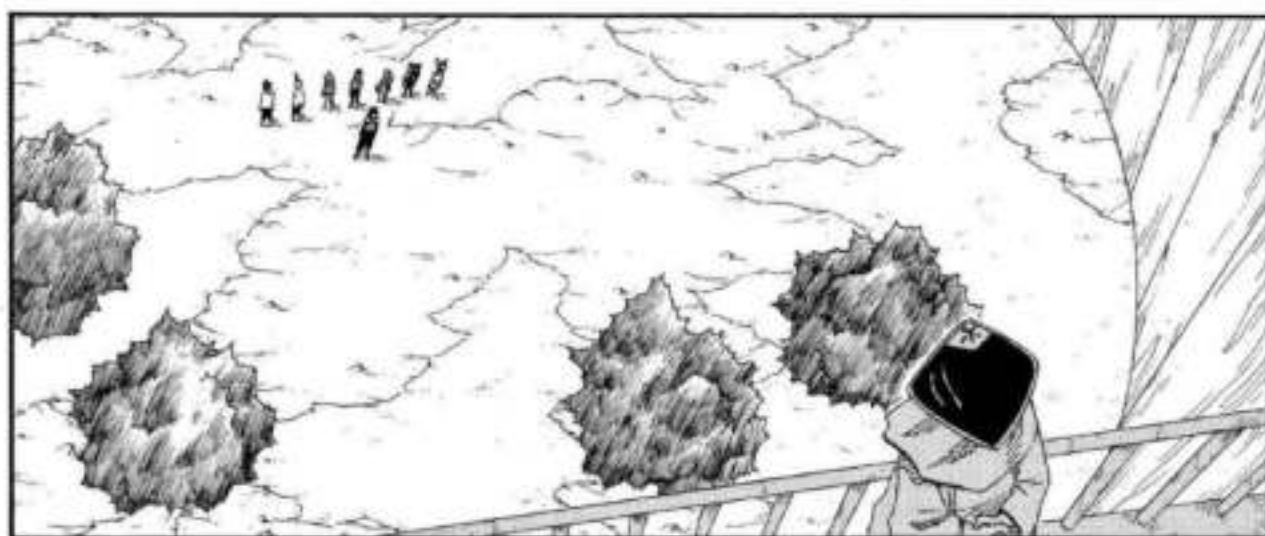
The Finals Commence...!!







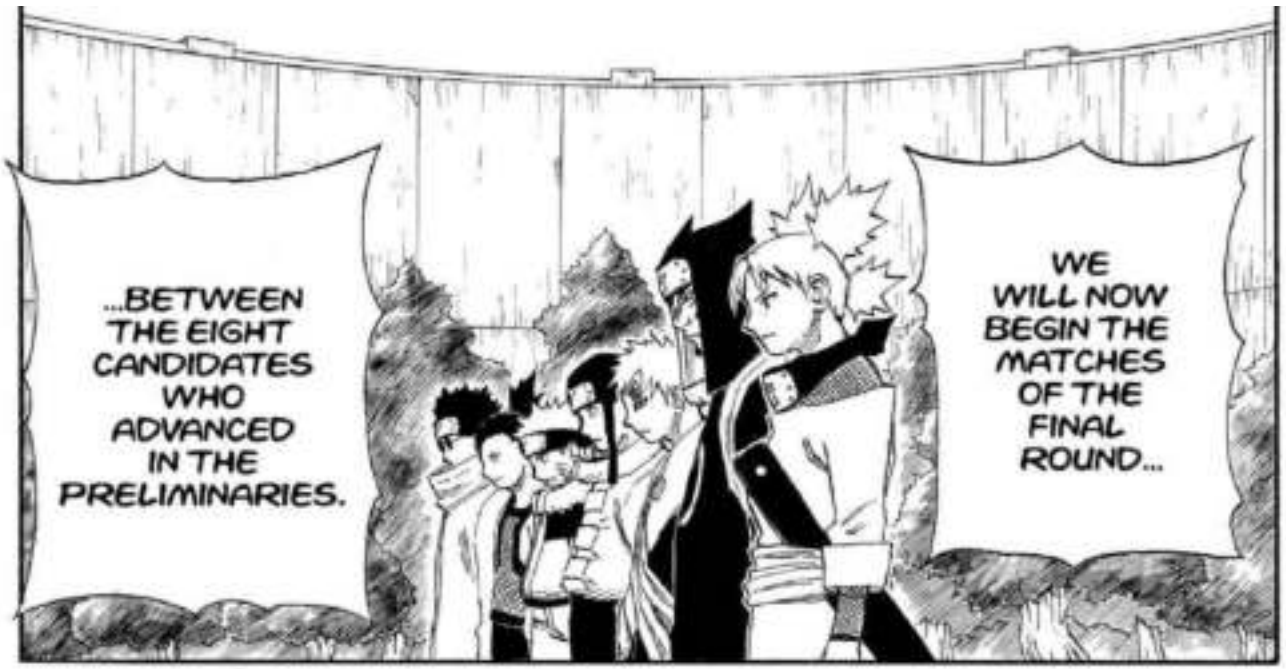




...FOR THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAMINATION!!

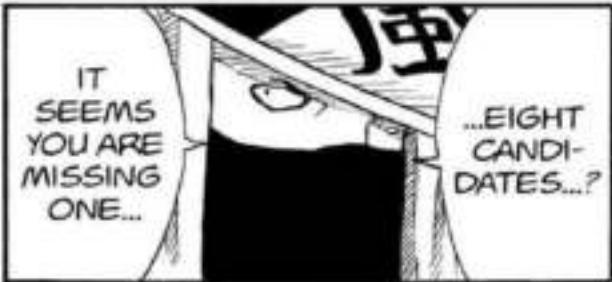
AHEM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ESTEEMED GUESTS... WELCOME AND HEARTFELT THANKS FOR GATHERING HERE IN KONO HAGAKURE...





...BETWEEN THE EIGHT CANDIDATES WHO ADVANCED IN THE PRELIMINARIES.

WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE MATCHES OF THE FINAL ROUND...



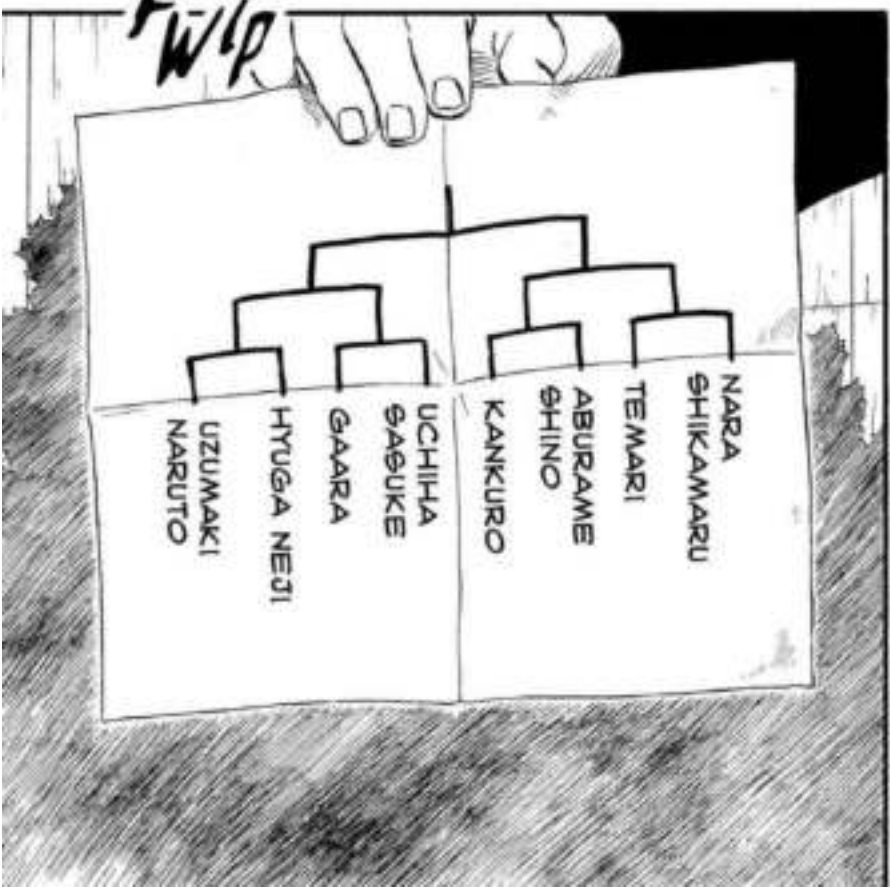
IT SEEMS YOU ARE MISSING ONE...

...EIGHT CANDIDATES...?



...AND ENJOY!

PLEASE SIT BACK...

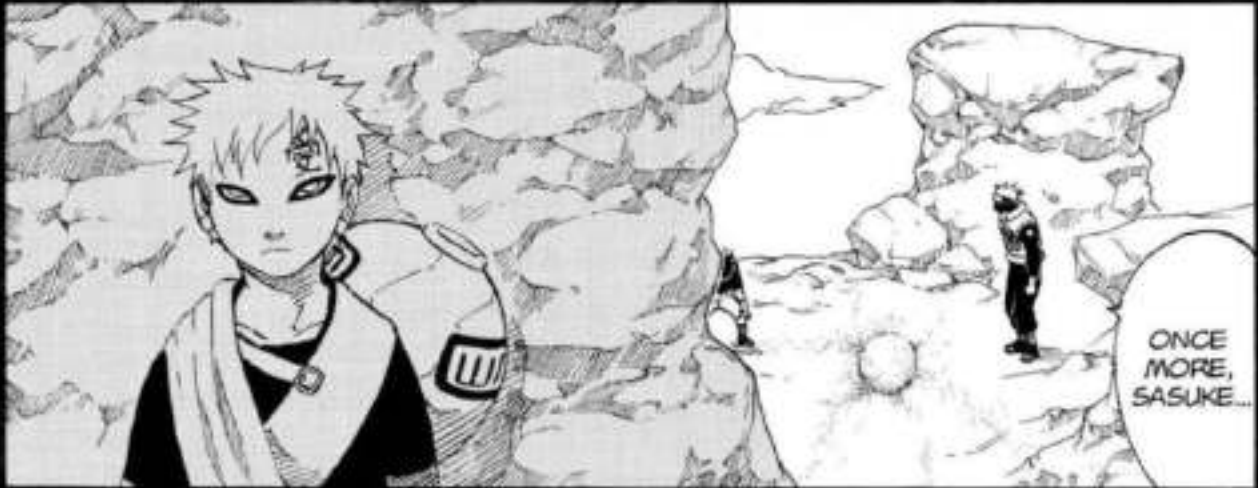
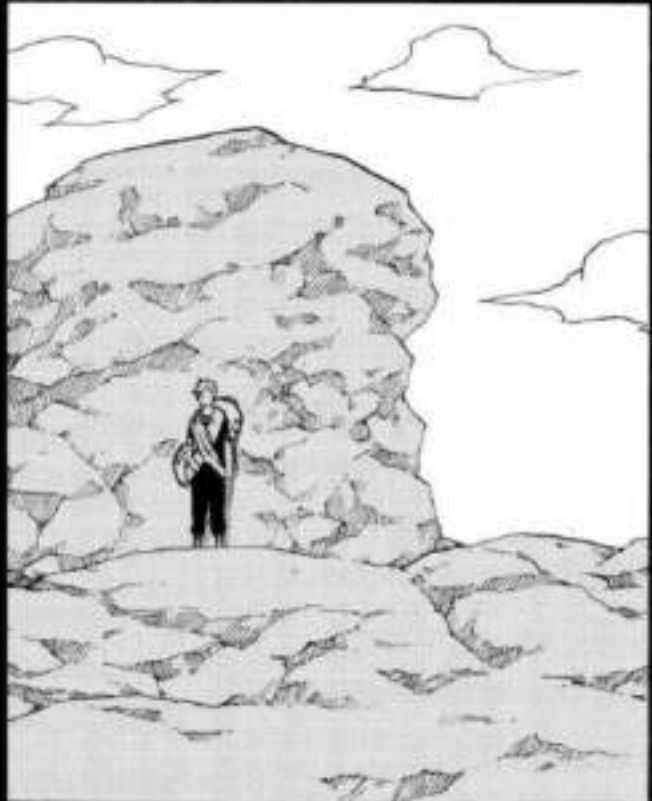
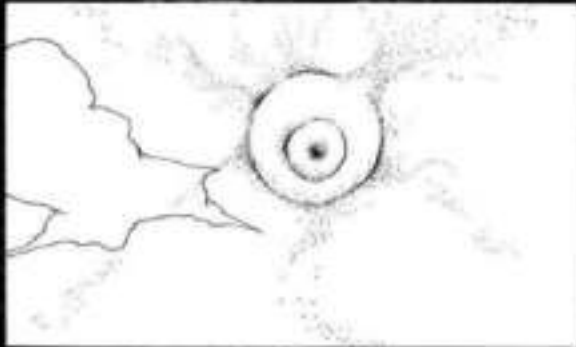
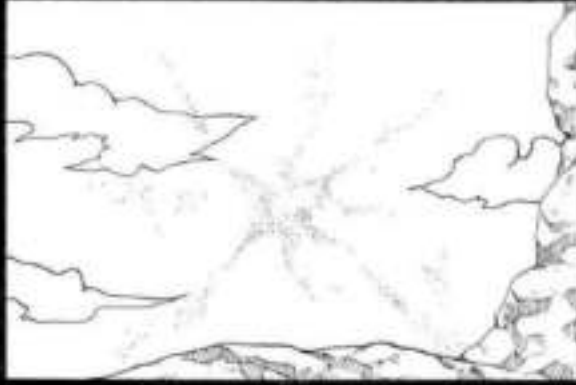


BEFORE WE BEGIN, I HAVE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS...

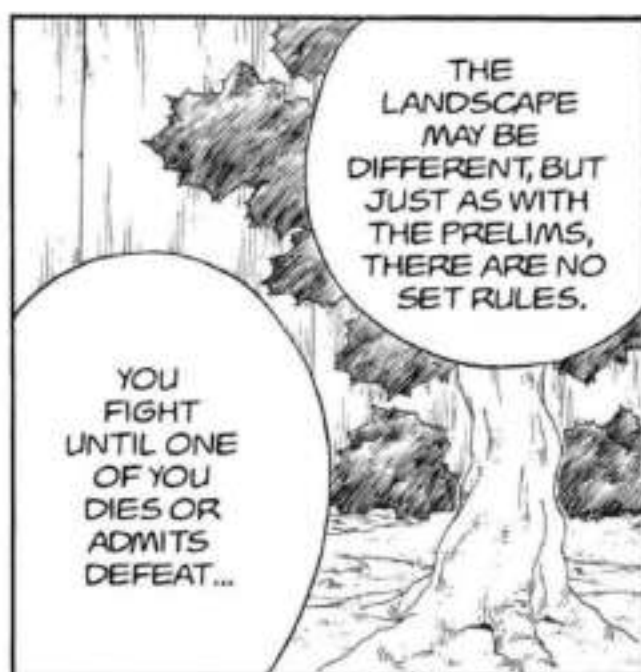
LOOK HERE!

























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