



NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

14



岸本 齊史

Thanks to everyone's support, *Naruto* has finally become an animated series!

I wrote in the first manga volume, "The first time I won an award...I was so happy." And when my first comic book was published, I was 10 times happier still.

But the anime makes me 100 times happier! So please watch the *Naruto* anime *and* keep reading the manga.

Oh! But I guess I'm happiest knowing that people are still enjoying *Naruto*. Yup, that's 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. 14
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #51–53. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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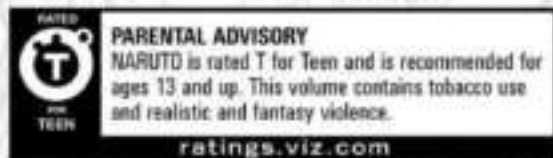
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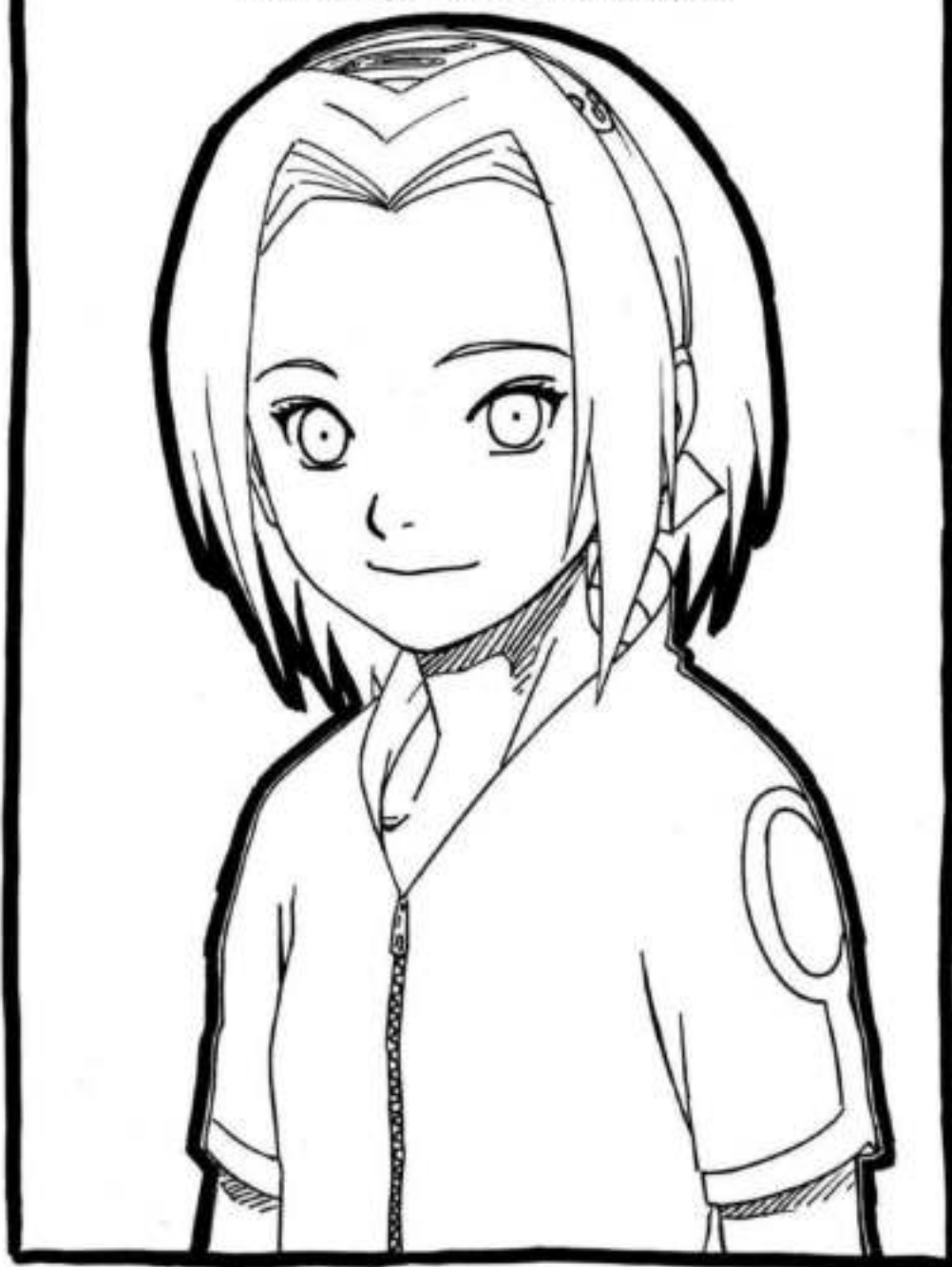


SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO

VOL. 14

HOKAGE VS. HOKAGE!!



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.





The Third Hokage

三代目火影

The leader of Konohagakure. He was retired, but stepped back into the position when the fourth Hokage was killed by the Nine-Tailed Fox.



Gaara 我愛羅

Mysterious, bloodthirsty Gaara is one of the scariest – and strangely familiar – ninja Naruto has ever encountered.



Orochimaru 大蛇丸

A nefarious master of disguise with a master plan of total revenge against the Third Hokage – for what exactly we have yet to learn.



Shikamaru シカマル

One of Naruto's classmates. He specializes in the Shadow Possession technique, and is a skilled ninja despite his lazy demeanor.



Pakkun パックン

A talking dog and excellent tracker who's also a loyal companion to Naruto's teacher Kakashi. Pakkun watches over his students whenever Kakashi can't.



Kakashi カカシ

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

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.

The Chunin Exams come to a shocking conclusion! As Sasuke and Gaara face off, an invasion commences, halting the exams for good. Sasuke takes off after the fleeing Gaara, and Kakashi sends Naruto, Sakura and Shikamaru after him. As Chaos Spreads, Orochimaru, disguised as Kazekage, takes the Third Hokage hostage. Orochimaru's *Operation Destroy Konoha* is under way, complete with a dastardly – and forbidden – secret weapon...



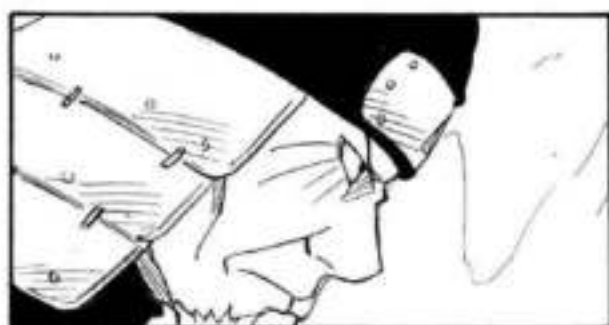
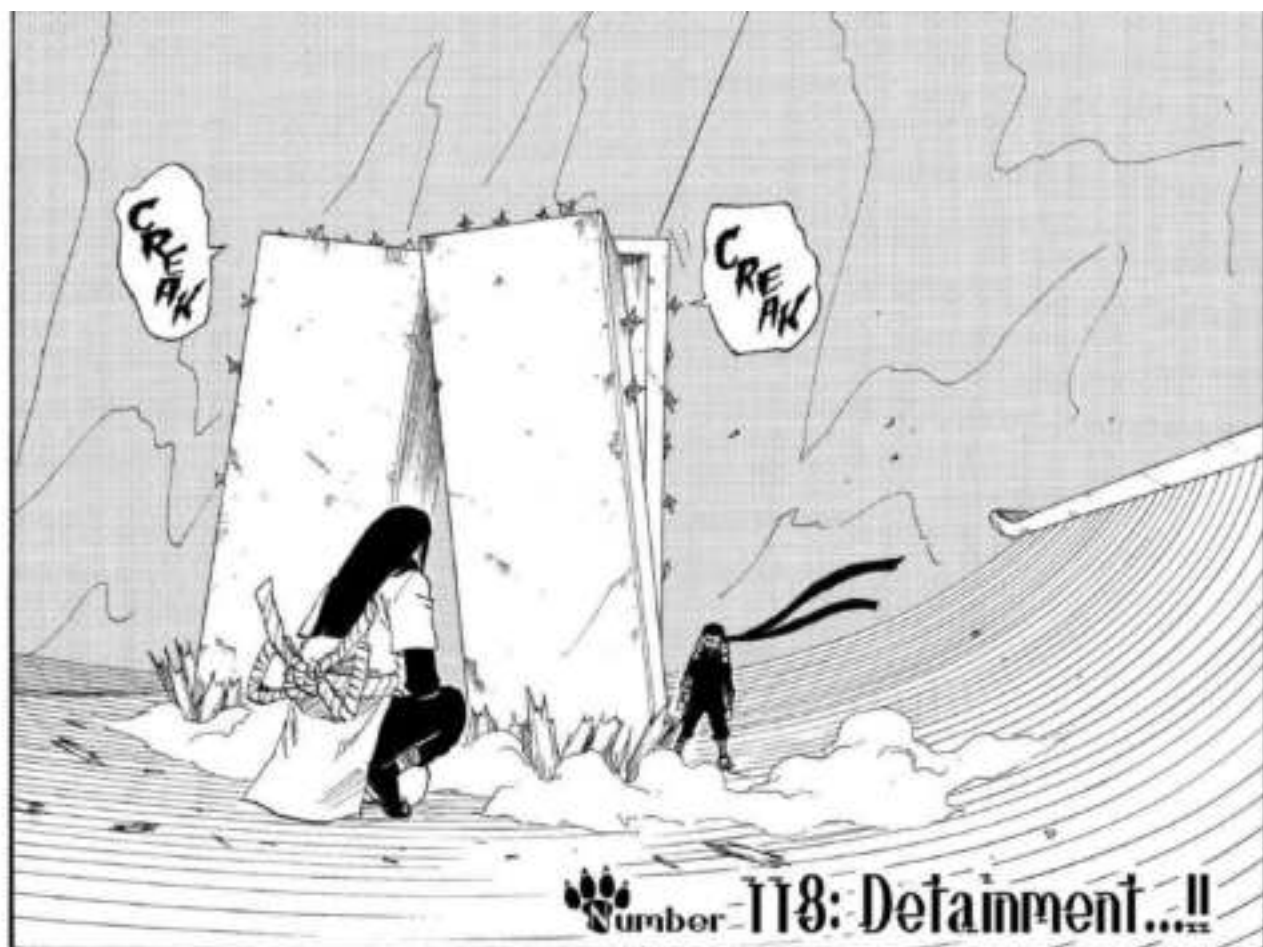
NARUTO

VOL. 14
HOKAGE VS. HOKAGE!!

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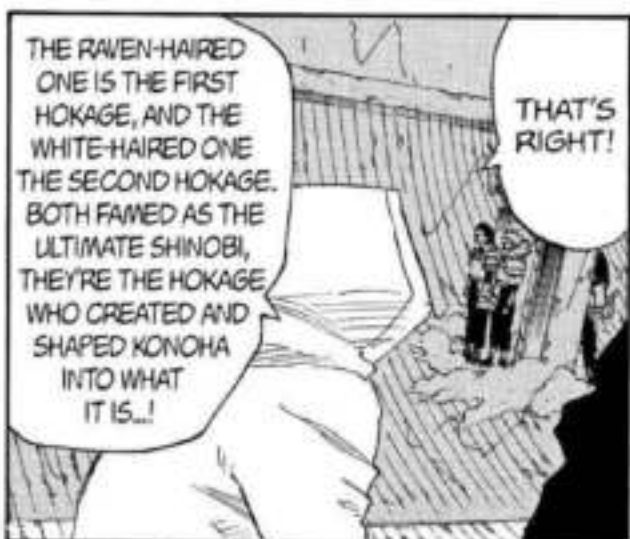
Number 118: Detainment...!!







FIRST
HOKAGE!
SECOND
HOKAGE!!



THE RAVEN-HAIRED
ONE IS THE FIRST
HOKAGE, AND THE
WHITE-HAIRED ONE
THE SECOND HOKAGE.
BOTH FAMED AS THE
ULTIMATE SHINOBI,
THEY'RE THE HOKAGE
WHO CREATED AND
SHAPED KONOHA
INTO WHAT
IT IS..!

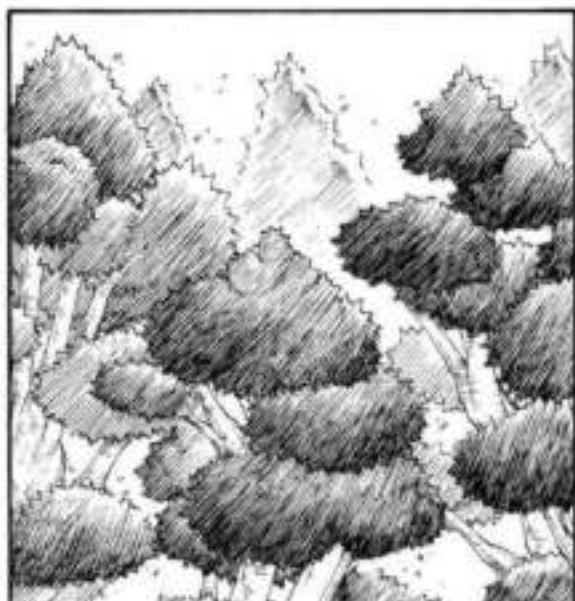
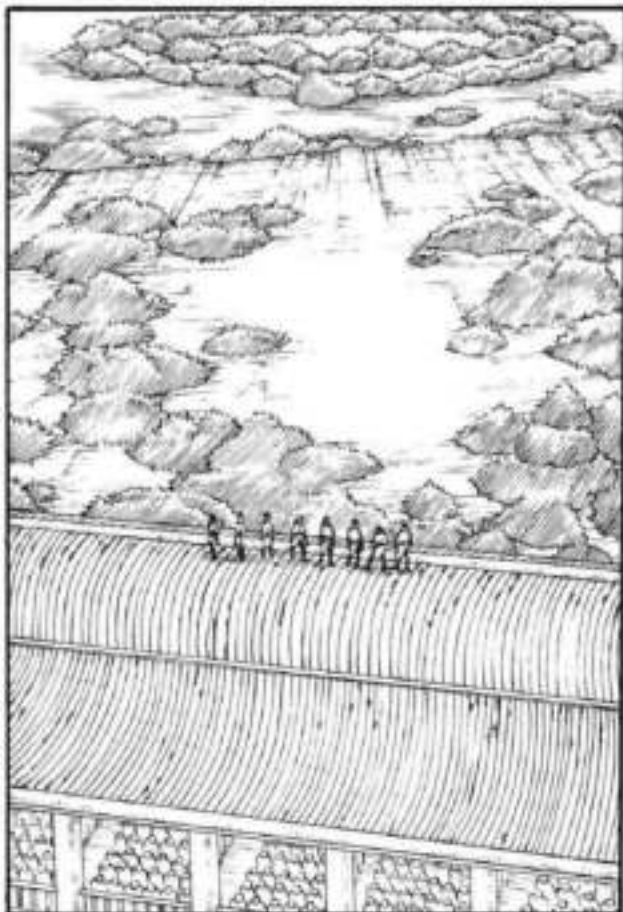
THAT'S
RIGHT!



HUH?!!

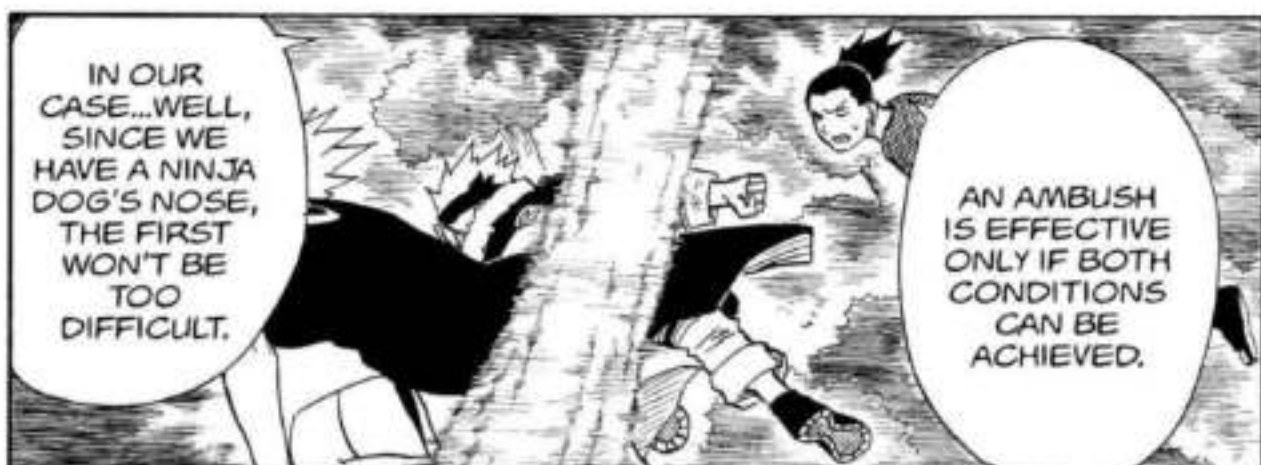
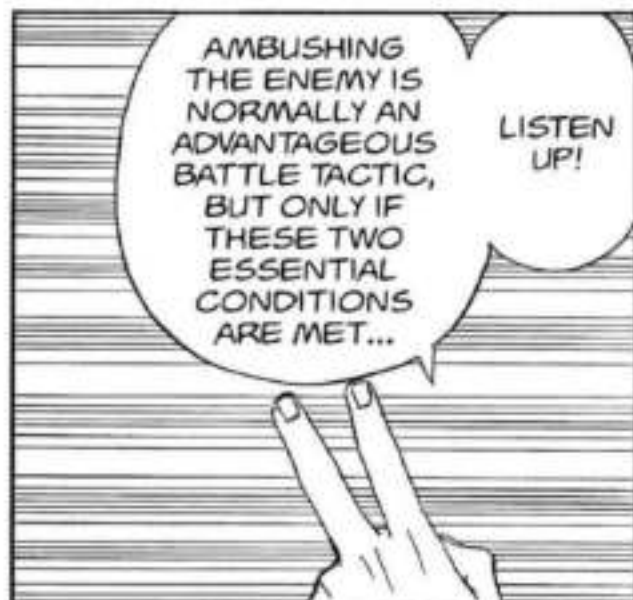














BUT THAT WON'T FLY AGAINST MINIONS OF A FORMER FELLOW KONOHA SHINOBI!

BUT THE SECOND... THE SECOND NORMALLY WOULDN'T BE IMPOSSIBLE, SINCE WE KNOW OUR OWN VILLAGE BETTER...
...AND CAN PINPOINT THE BEST POSITIONS FOR MAXIMUM SURPRISE.



AND THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL MASTERS OF PURSUIT JUTSU.

OUR PURSUERS HAVE STUDIED OUR GEOGRAPHY AND PRACTICED IN PREPARATION FOR THIS ATTACK WITH MOCK BATTLES.



?

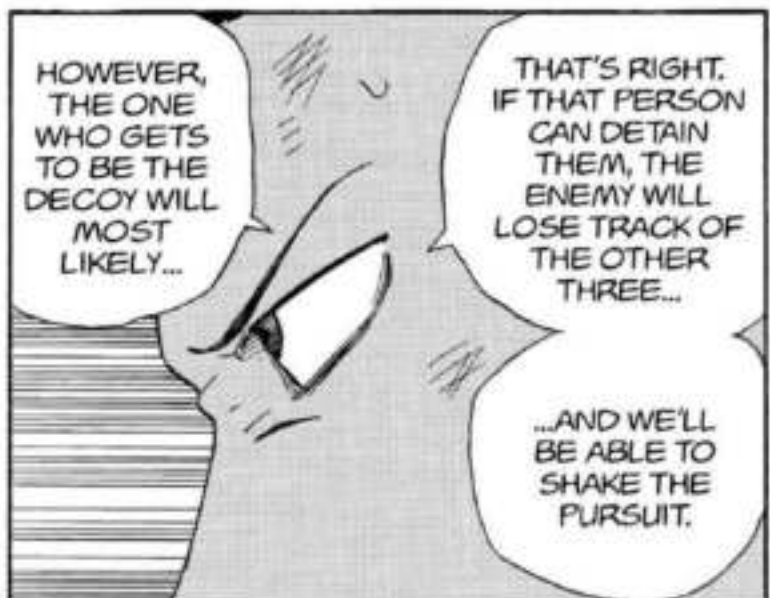


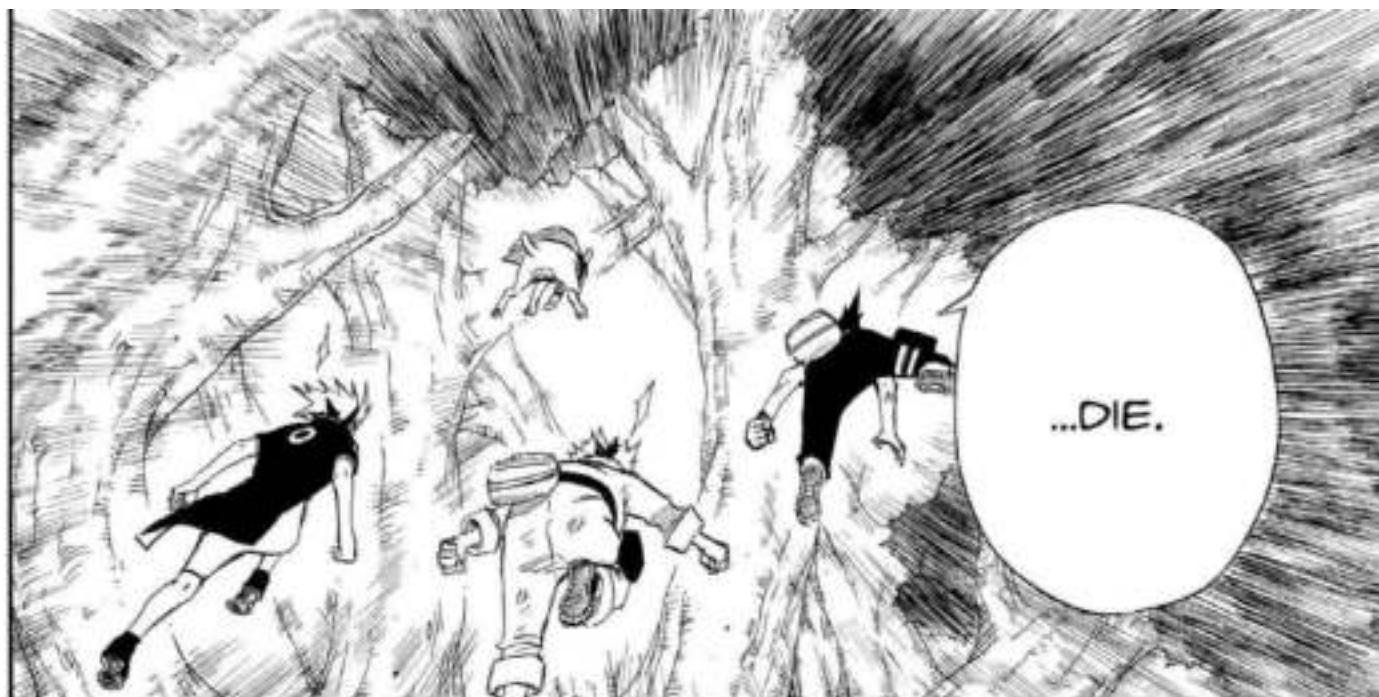
BESIDES, OUR "FRIENDS" WERE ASSEMBLED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PLOT, WHILE OUR GROUP IS COMPOSED OF...

...EXCEPT THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY UNCERTAINTIES!

EVEN SO, AN AMBUSH MIGHT STILL BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE...











I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU!!



WELL! I'LL
CATCH UP
WITH YOU
ALL LATER...
SO HURRY
UP AND
GO!!



SHIKAMARU
...

GLARE



SHOON
I NEVER SAW
SHIKAMARU
AS THE
RELIABLE
TYPE...

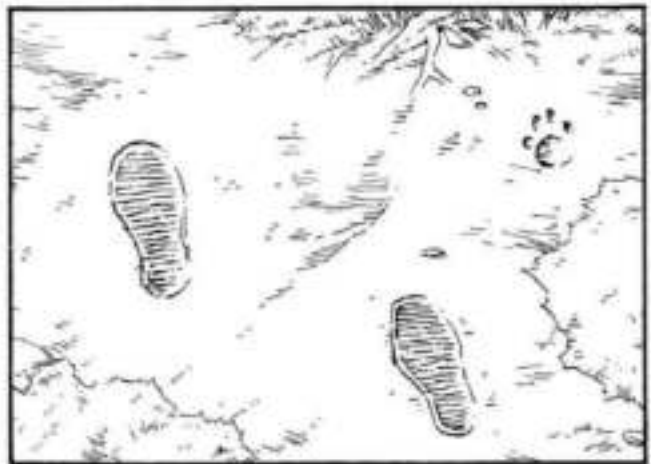
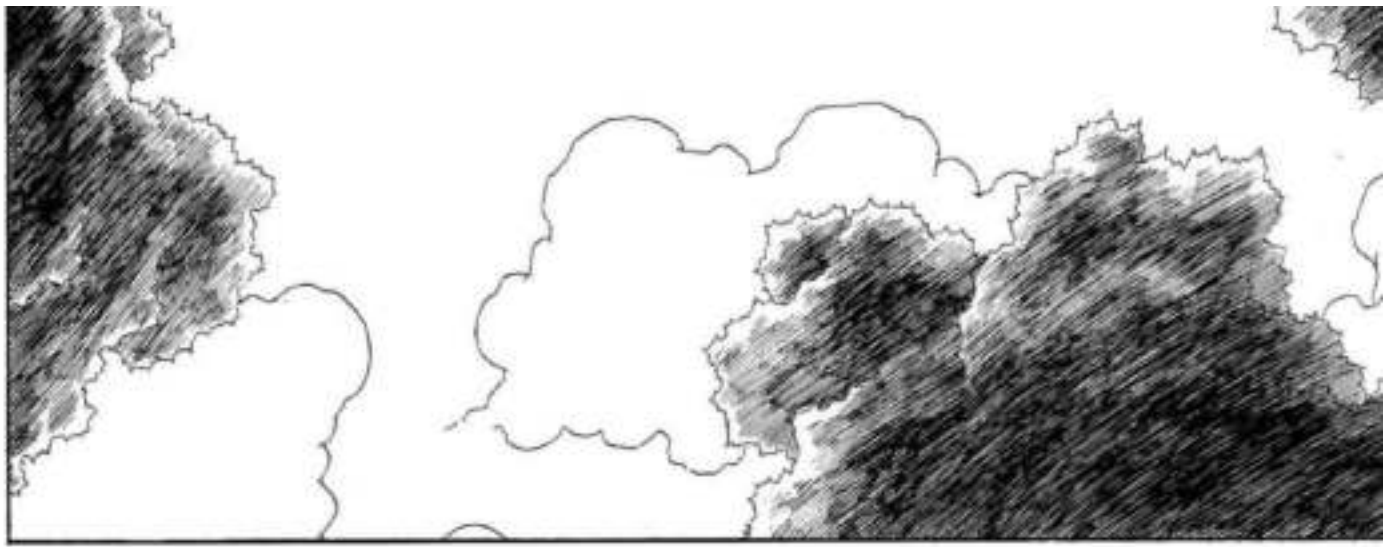
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SHOON



SHOON







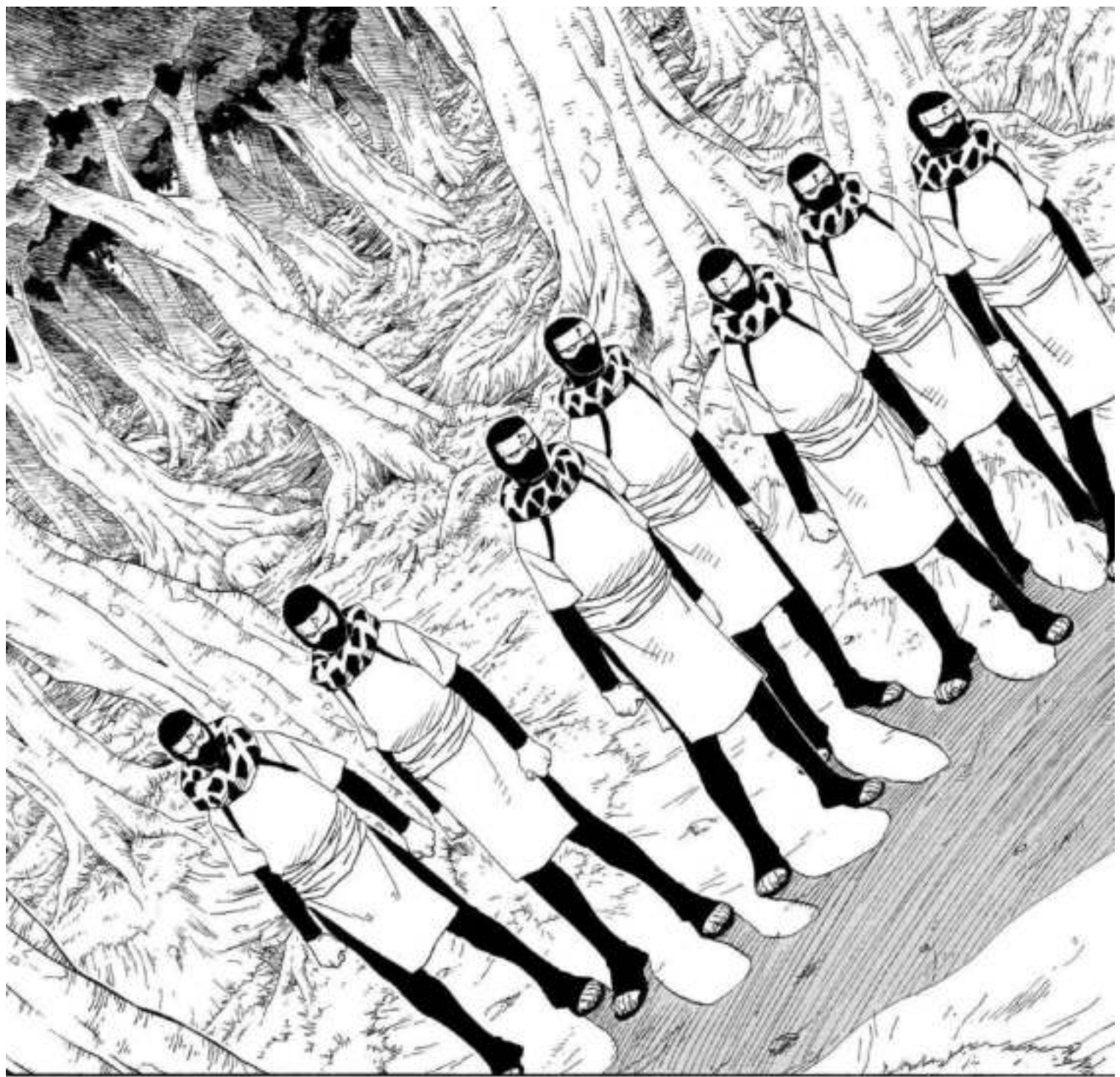






Number 119:
The Life I Wanted...!!





...LET'S SEE WHERE YOU'RE HIDING.

WELL, IN ANY CASE...



SHUK

...CLARIFY THINGS!!



THIS SHOULD...









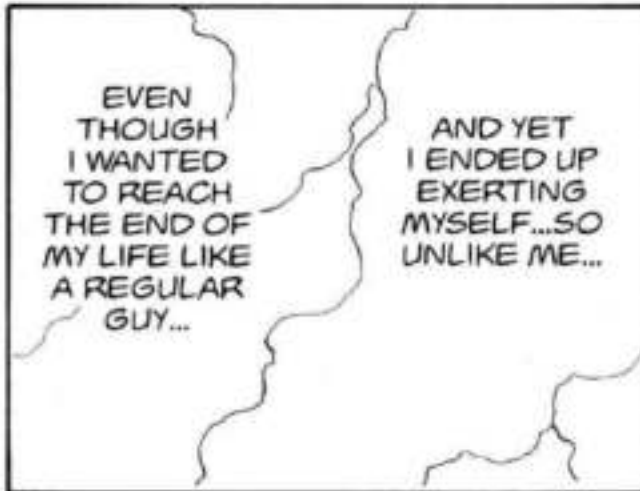
RETIRE WHEN MY DAUGHTER GOT MARRIED AND MY SON SUCCESSFULLY BECAME A NINJA...

...AND THEN JUST SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS PLAYING SHOGI OR GO, A CAREFREE AND LEISURELY RETIREMENT...



...MARRY A REGULAR GIRL WHO'S NOT SUPER PRETTY OR SUPER UGLY, HAVE TWO KIDS, A GIRL AND THEN A BOY...

SIGH... I USED TO REALLY WANT TO BE JUST AN AVERAGE NINJA MAKING AN AVERAGE LIVING...



EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO REACH THE END OF MY LIFE LIKE A REGULAR GUY...

AND YET I ENDED UP EXERTING MYSELF...SO UNLIKE ME...



...DYING OF OLD AGE BEFORE MY WIFE...

THAT'S THE LIFE I WANTED...



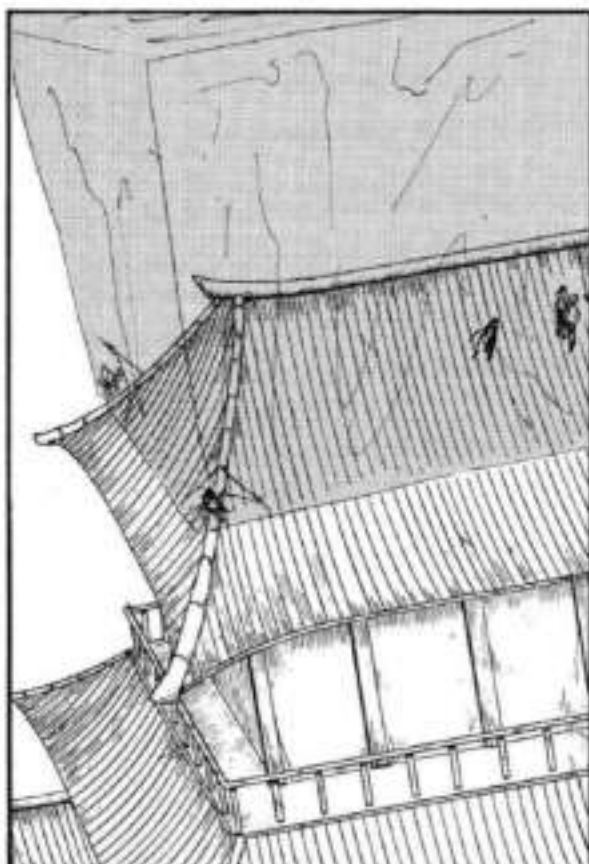
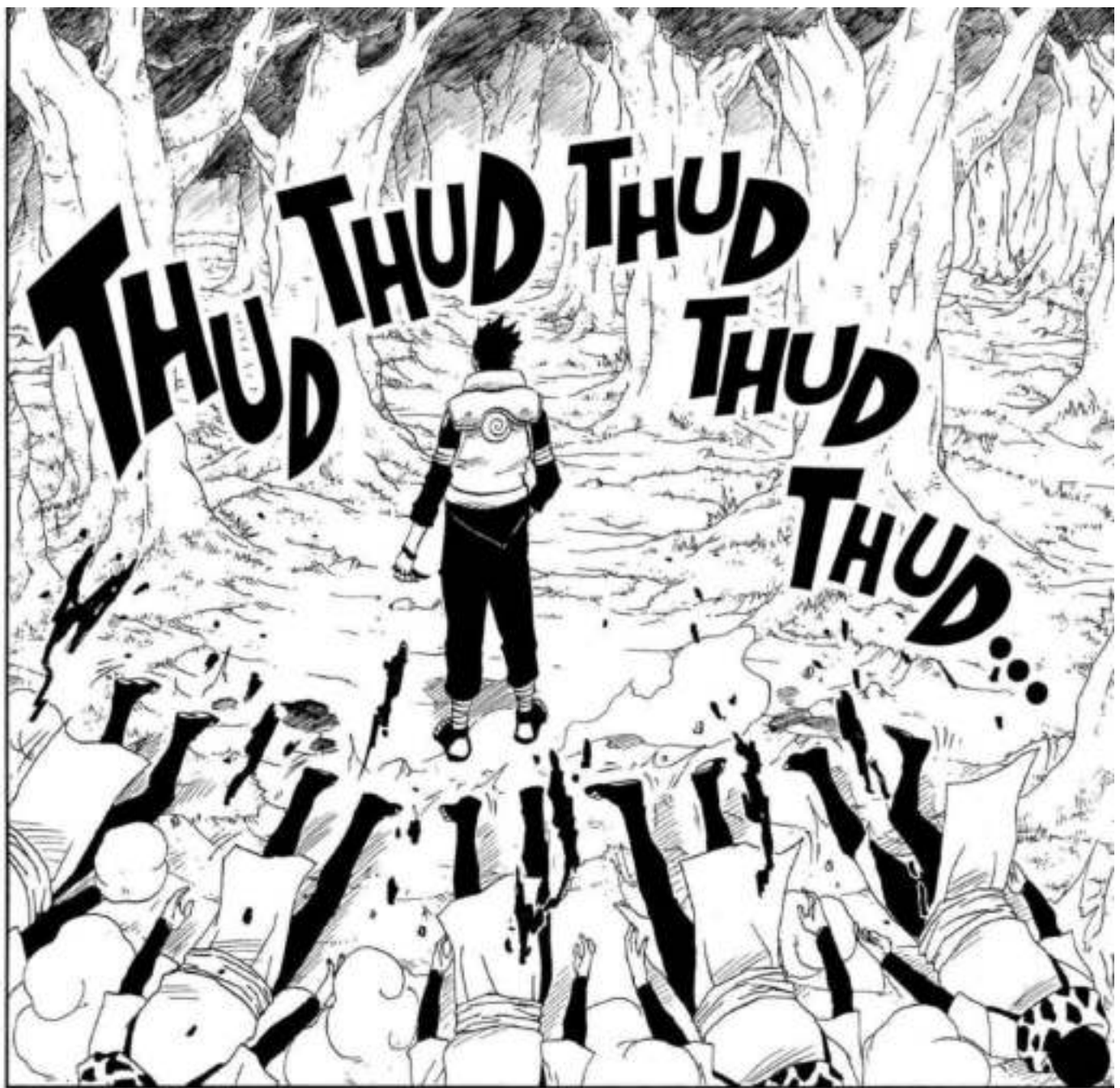
...I HAD TO GO AND GET MYSELF INTO THIS TIRESOME SITUATION...



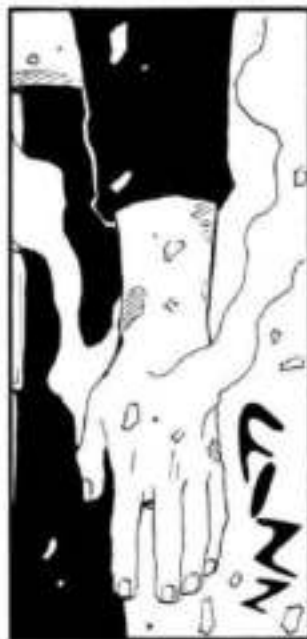




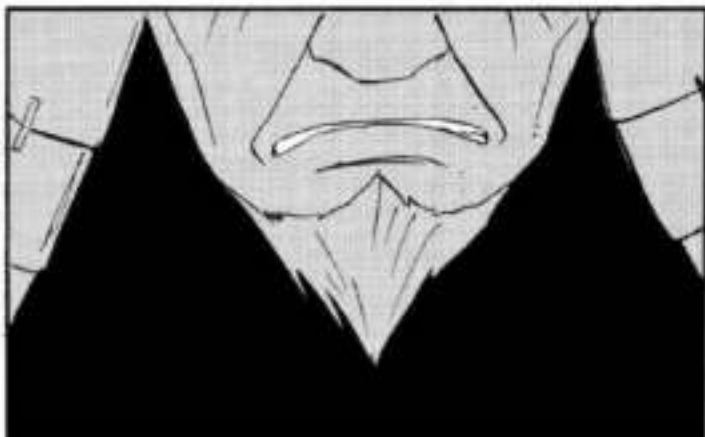














THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 19

EVEN AS I WAS COMPLETING MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE, I STILL COULDN'T DRAW AN ADEQUATE MANGA. THAT'S WHEN I SUDDENLY ASKED MYSELF, "WHAT IS MANGA?" REALIZING THAT I HAD TO UNDERSTAND MANGA MORE THOROUGHLY, I DECIDED THAT I NEEDED TO TAKE IT APART AND ANALYZE IT. SO I CAME TO KNOW THAT THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF MANGA ARE CHARACTERS, MOTIF, STORY, THEME, DIRECTION IN THE FORM OF PICTURE COMPOSITION (WIDE ANGLE, ZOOM IF USING CAMERA ANGLES AS AN ANALOGY), SOUND (SOUND EFFECTS), ACTION, EFFECTS, ONE-, TWO- AND THREE-POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE FOR THE BACKGROUND, AND THEN TIMING, SENSE, AND MANY OTHER FACTORS. AND WHILE MY COMPREHENSION WAS GREAT, AS I CONTINUED MY ANALYSIS I STARTED SEEING MORE AND MORE THINGS THAT I WASN'T GOOD AT OR SKILLS THAT I LACKED. FEELING OVERWHELMED BY THE AMOUNT OF LEARNING AND HONING I STILL HAD TO DO, I FELL INTO A SMALL PANIC. I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND THAT UNLESS I COMPREHENDED AND MASTERED ALL THOSE FACTORS MYSELF, I COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DRAW EVEN A SIMPLE "WELL, IT'S KINDA INTERESTING" LIGHT-READ TYPE OF MANGA.

SOMEHOW, I SUDDENLY BECAME TERRIFIED OF MANGA, THINKING OF THEM AS MONSTERS, AND BECAME AFRAID OF DRAWING MANGA. THAT PAINFUL PERIOD LASTED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND JUST AS I WAS SLIDING INTO AN EMOTIONALLY DRAINED STATE, A FRIEND OF MINE BOUGHT AN ISSUE OF JUMP AND STARTED READING *SLAM DUNK* IN MY ROOM... WHEN I LOOKED AT HIS FACE, I NOTICED THAT HE HAD AN AVID AND HAPPY EXPRESSION. AND THEN, WHEN HE FINISHED THE CHAPTER, HE EXCLAIMED, "WOW! *SLAM DUNK* IS SO COOL!!"

SUDDENLY, I HAD AN URGE TO ASK HIM A QUESTION. THIS QUESTION WAS A REALLY SCARY QUESTION FOR ME TO ASK. FOR THAT FRIEND WAS ONE WHO WOULD NEVER LIE TO ME, AND HE ALSO KNEW MANGA WELL. SO THIS IS WHAT I ASKED:

"WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *SLAM DUNK* AND MY MANGA? WHY IS *SLAM DUNK* SO COOL AND INTERESTING?"

OF COURSE, I MYSELF ALSO LOVED *SLAM DUNK*, AND WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT IT WAS VERY INTERESTING! I JUST WANTED TO GET AN OUTSIDE, OBJECTIVE VIEW OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN *SLAM DUNK* AND MY MANGA. MY FRIEND REPLIED THUS:

"YOU CAN TELL FROM READING IT HOW MUCH MR. INOUE TAKEHIKO REALLY LOVES BASKETBALL. AND YOU CAN FEEL HOW MUCH FUN HE HAS DRAWING *SLAM DUNK*, AND IT'S LIKE MR. INOUE'S DRAWING IT WITH THE MESSAGE 'PLEASE READ IT, BASKETBALL IS LOTS OF FUN' TO THE READERS. WITH YOUR MANGA, I'M SURE YOU'RE DRAWING BECAUSE YOU REALLY LOVE IT TOO, BUT IT'S JUST NOT COMING THROUGH AS FUN... IT'S LIKE, YOU'RE HAVING ALL THE FUN BY YOURSELF AND WE'RE BEING LEFT OUT OR LEFT BEHIND. THERE'S NO SENSE OF 'PLEASE READ IT'..."







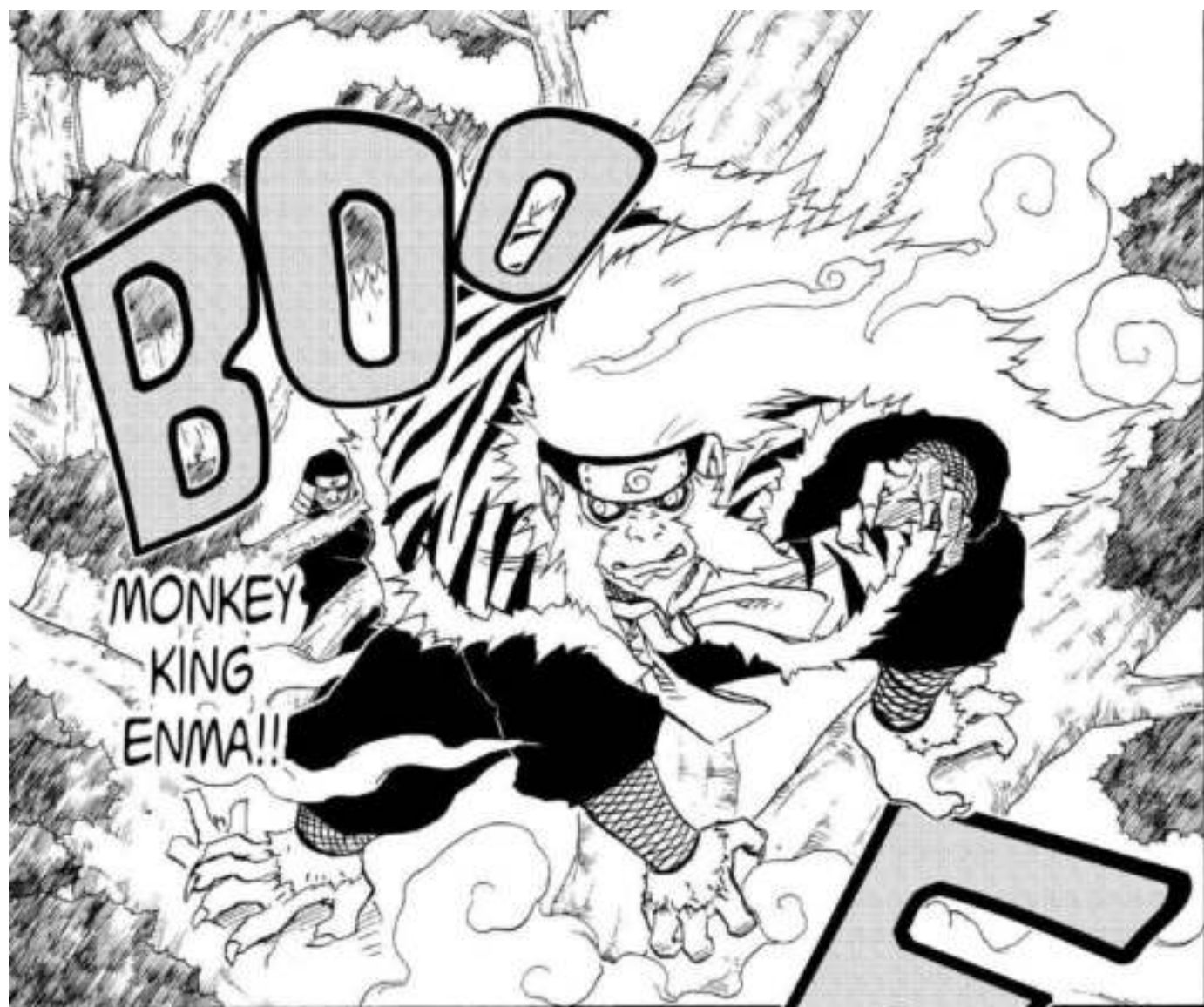












MONKEY
KING
ENMA!!



'TIS SAD,
SARUTOBI...

AND ALL
BECAUSE
YOU FAILED
TO KILL HIM
THAT DAY!!



HUMPH... A
GERIATRIC
MONKEY
KING,
EH...?



SO IT
HAS COME
TO THIS,
AFTER
ALL...!

OROCHI-
MARU...



THIS IS
WHAT IT
TAKES TO
BE
HOKAGE...

WHAT A
HIGH-LEVEL
NINJUTSU
CONTEST...!



HO HO...
IT'S FINALLY
GETTING
INTERESTING



WITH ONE
SWING OF
KUSANAGI...

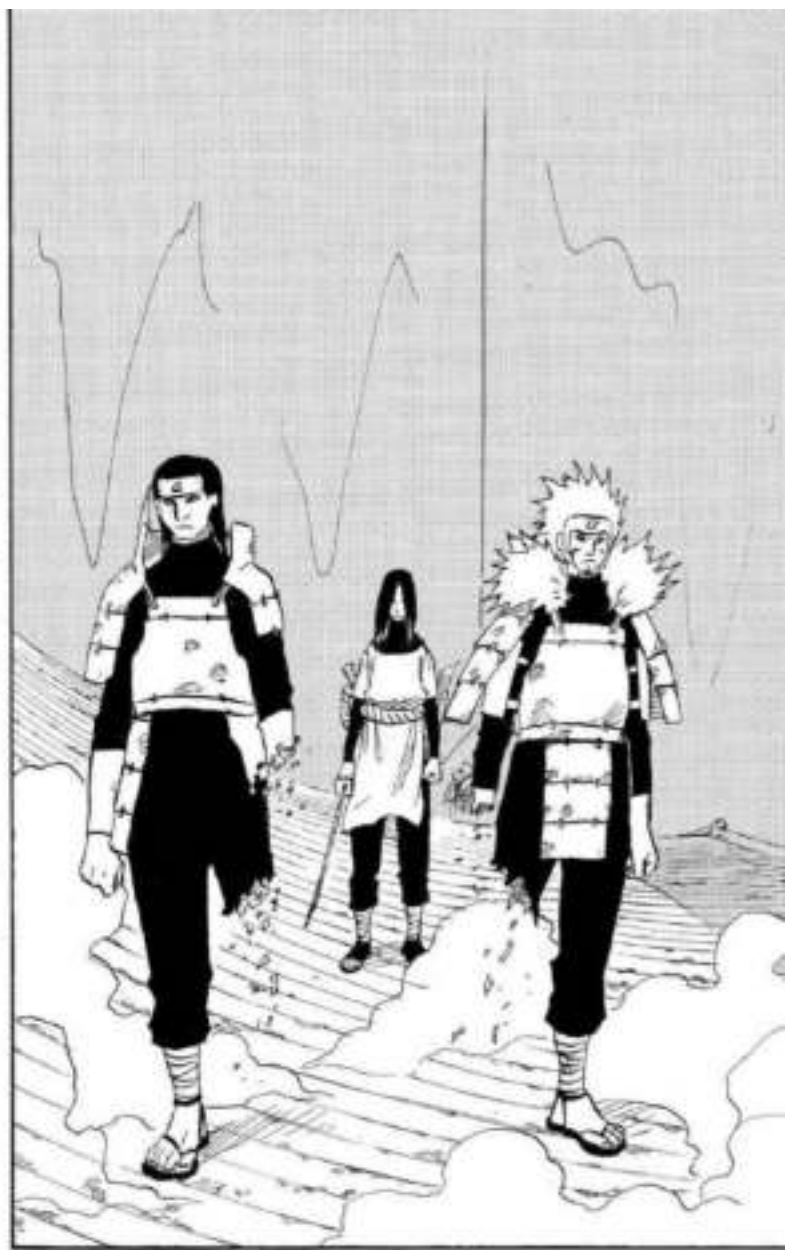


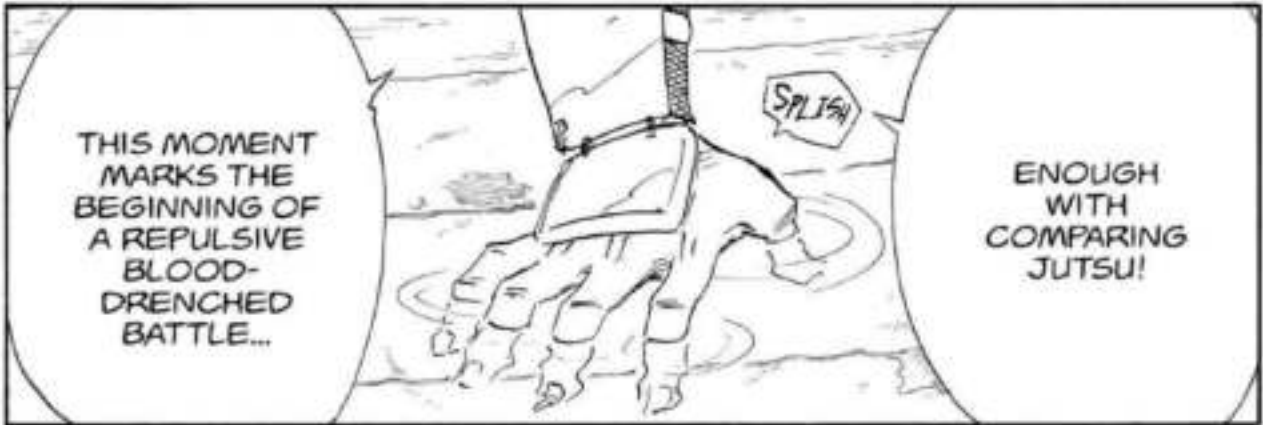












THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 19 (CONTINUED)

WHEN I HEARD THE TRUTH, IT DID DEFLATE ME, BUT I CONTINUED TO POSE THE SAME QUESTION TO OTHER FRIENDS OF MINE. AND YET I KEPT GETTING SIMILAR RESPONSES FROM THEM AS WELL.

AND THEN, IT CAME TO ME. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT ELEMENTS TO DRAWING MANGA, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE IS...

"ONE MUST HAVE FUN DRAWING ONE'S OWN MANGA. AND THEN, WHAT'S EVEN MORE CRITICAL IS TO BE AWARE OF ONE'S AUDIENCE AND DRAW FOR THE READERS' ENJOYMENT. EVERYTHING MUST BE FOR THE READERS. ONE MUST BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES AND MAKE THEM SAY 'WOW! THAT IS SO COOL!' WHEN THEY'VE FINISHED READING IT!!"

AND AFTER A LITTLE WHILE, I REALIZED THAT THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY "ENTERTAINMENT." IT'S IMPORTANT TO GRASP THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF DRAWING MANGA, BUT AS LONG AS ONE DRAWS THINKING "I'M GOING TO BE AN ENTERTAINER!!" I FEEL THAT THE OTHER THINGS WILL QUIETLY AND NATURALLY FALL INTO PLACE.

I AM STILL LEARNING NEW THINGS EVERY DAY.

 Number 121:



The Terrible Experiment...!!

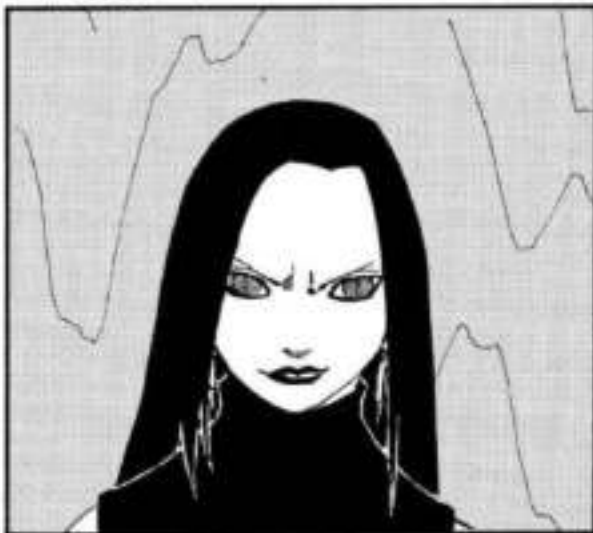








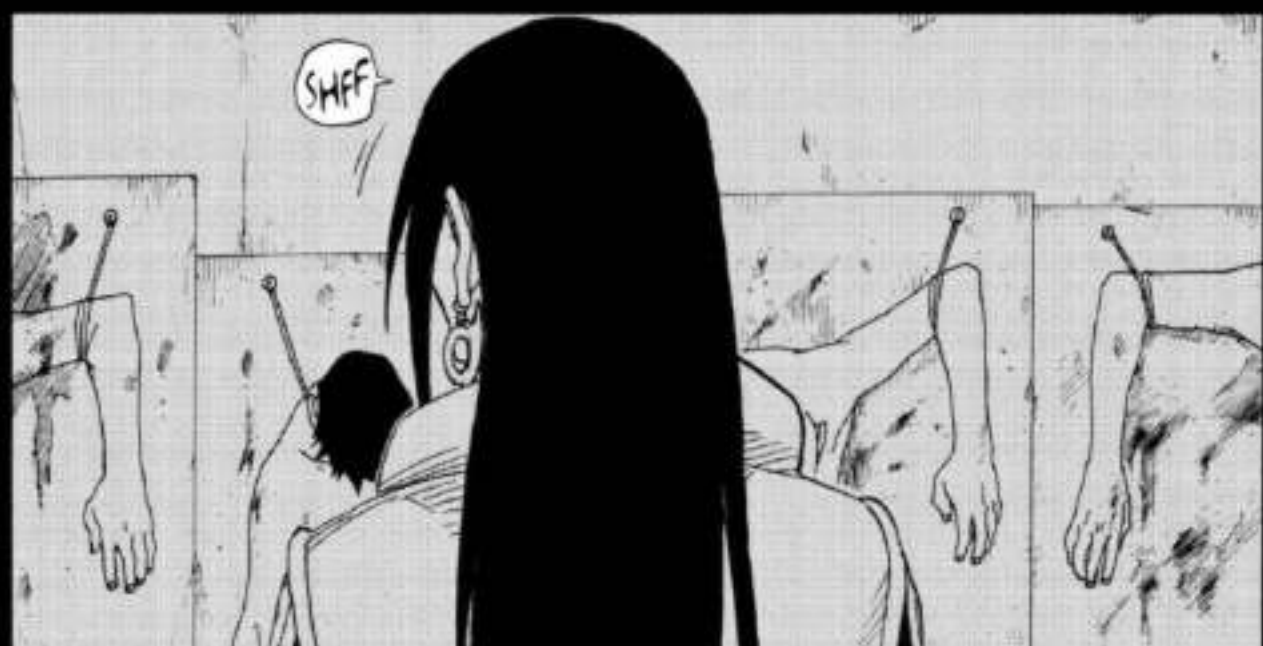
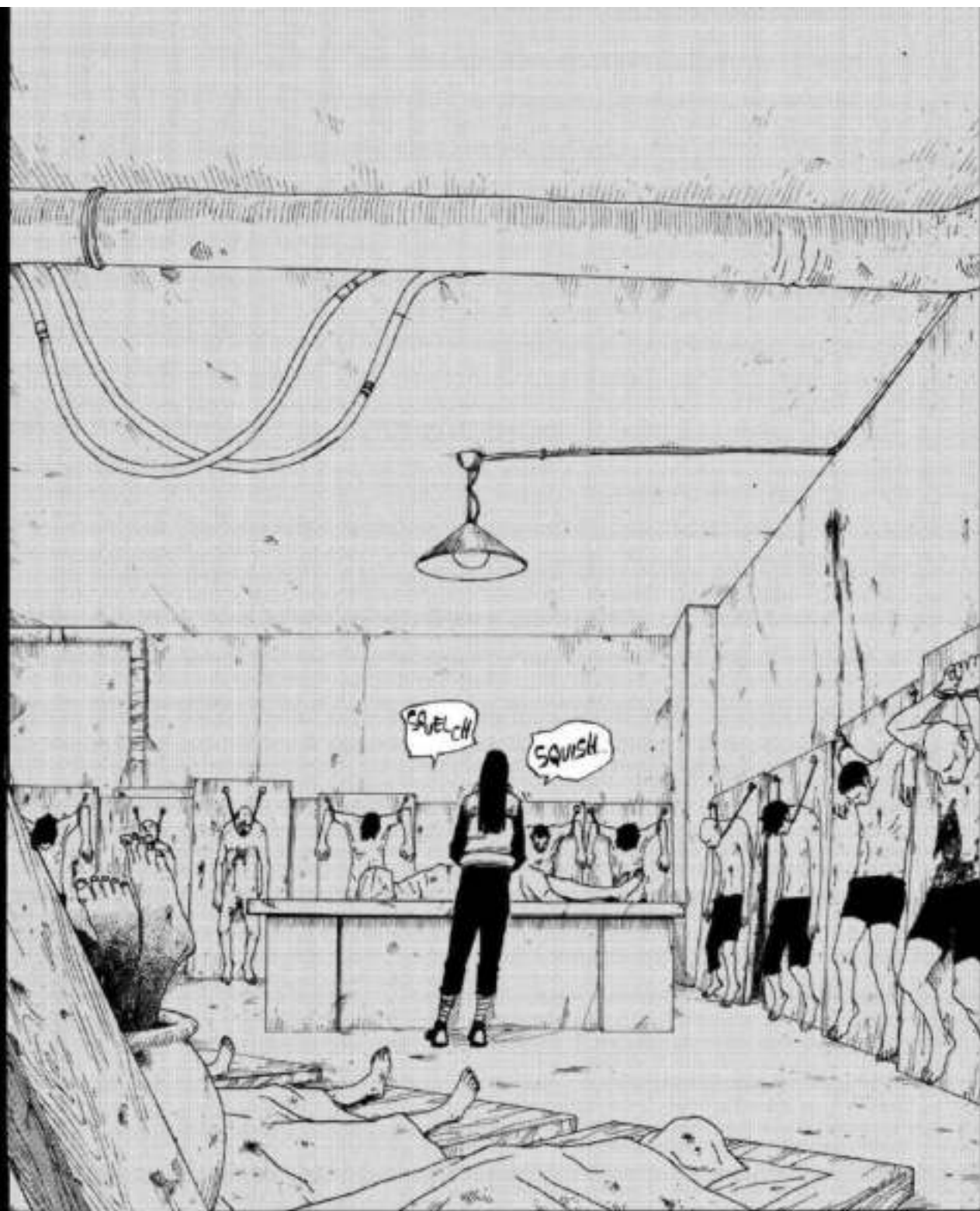






SLAW







WHAT A SHAME.

HO HO HO... I'VE FINALLY BEEN FOUND OUT...



AND WE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT YOU'VE BEEN ACTING IN A SUSPICIOUS MANNER...

THERE HAVE BEEN A SPATE OF DISAPPEARANCES RECENTLY, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, OF NOT JUST GENIN AND CHŪNIN, BUT EVEN SEVERAL BLACK OPS AGENTS...



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!!

OROCHIMARU...



I WAS GOING TO SAY I'M SHOCKED, BUT I SEE IT IS YOU, THIRD LORD...

AND I THOUGHT I HAD RIGGED ENOUGH BOOBY TRAPS...



HEH HEH HEH... WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO KILL YOU TOO?



LORD OROCHIMARU... WHY WOULD A SHINOBI OF YOUR CALIBER ENGAGE IN SUCH THINGS...?!!





...EVERYTHING?!



EVERYTHING!



...NAME THE NEWLY CREATED COLOR GREEN.



AND THUS DID THE FELLOW WHO FIRST MIXED BLUE AND YELLOW...



I WANT TO ACQUIRE ALL JUTSU AND GRASP ALL OF THIS WORLD'S PRINCIPLES...



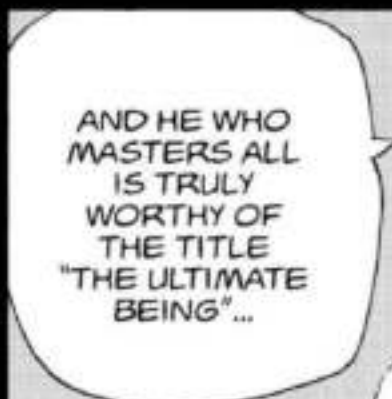
JUST AS THERE ARE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF COLORS, SO ARE THERE THOUSANDS IF NOT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JUTSU OUT IN THE WORLD...



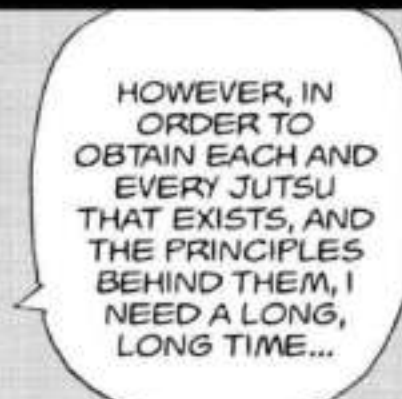
SAY BLUE IS CHAKRA, THEN YELLOW IS SIGNS AND GREEN IS JUTSU...



I WISH TO DO THE SAME...



AND HE WHO MASTERS ALL IS TRULY WORTHY OF THE TITLE "THE ULTIMATE BEING"...



HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN EACH AND EVERY JUTSU THAT EXISTS, AND THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THEM, I NEED A LONG, LONG TIME...

READ THIS WAY



DON'T TELL ME THE JUTSU YOU WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH HERE WAS...

OROCHI-MARU...



...EVEN IF I HAD BECOME HOKAGE. FOR ONCE ONE IS DEAD, IT'S ALL OVER...

FOR ME, THE LIFESPAN OF THE FLESH IS MUCH TOO SHORT...



YES... IT'S THAT WHICH YOU FEAR...



FURÔFUSHI NO JUTSU... THE ART OF IMMORTALITY!





IT'S A TENSEI JUTSU, A TRANSFERENCE TECHNIQUE WHERE I FIND A NEW BODY TO INHABIT, THEN INSERT MY MIND AND SOUL INTO IT AND TAKE IT OVER...

THE ART OF IMMORTALITY IS A METHOD OF KEEPING ONE'S MIND AND SOUL ANCHORED IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY...



I FEEL IT DEEPLY SEEING YOU LIKE THIS...

AGING IMPARTS A SENSE OF FUTILITY, DOES IT NOT?



...WAS THAT I WANTED YOU TO FEEL NOSTALGIC ABOUT OUR REUNION, MASTER...

HEH HEH HEH... THE REASON I WAS ASSUMING MY OLD APPEARANCE UNTIL NOW...

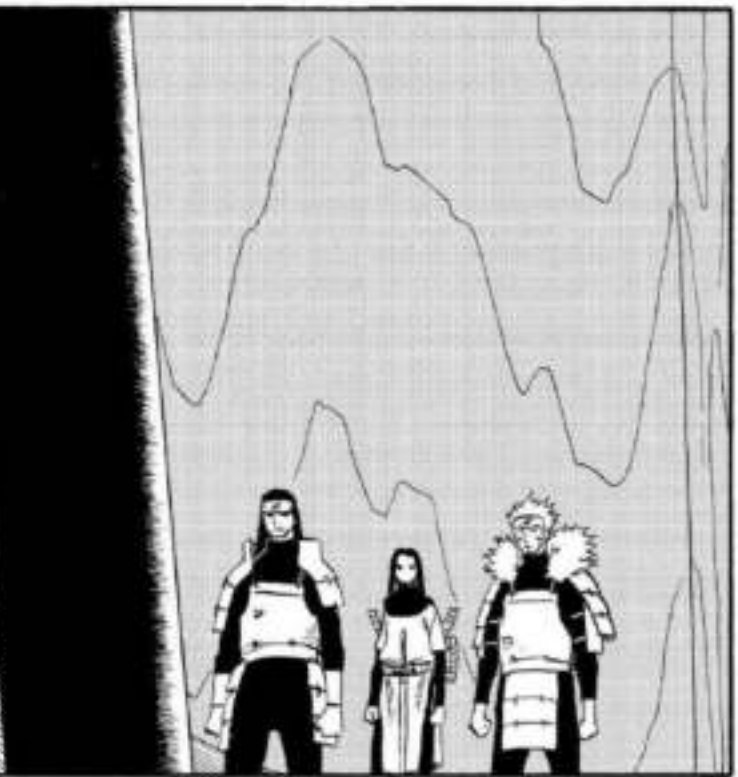




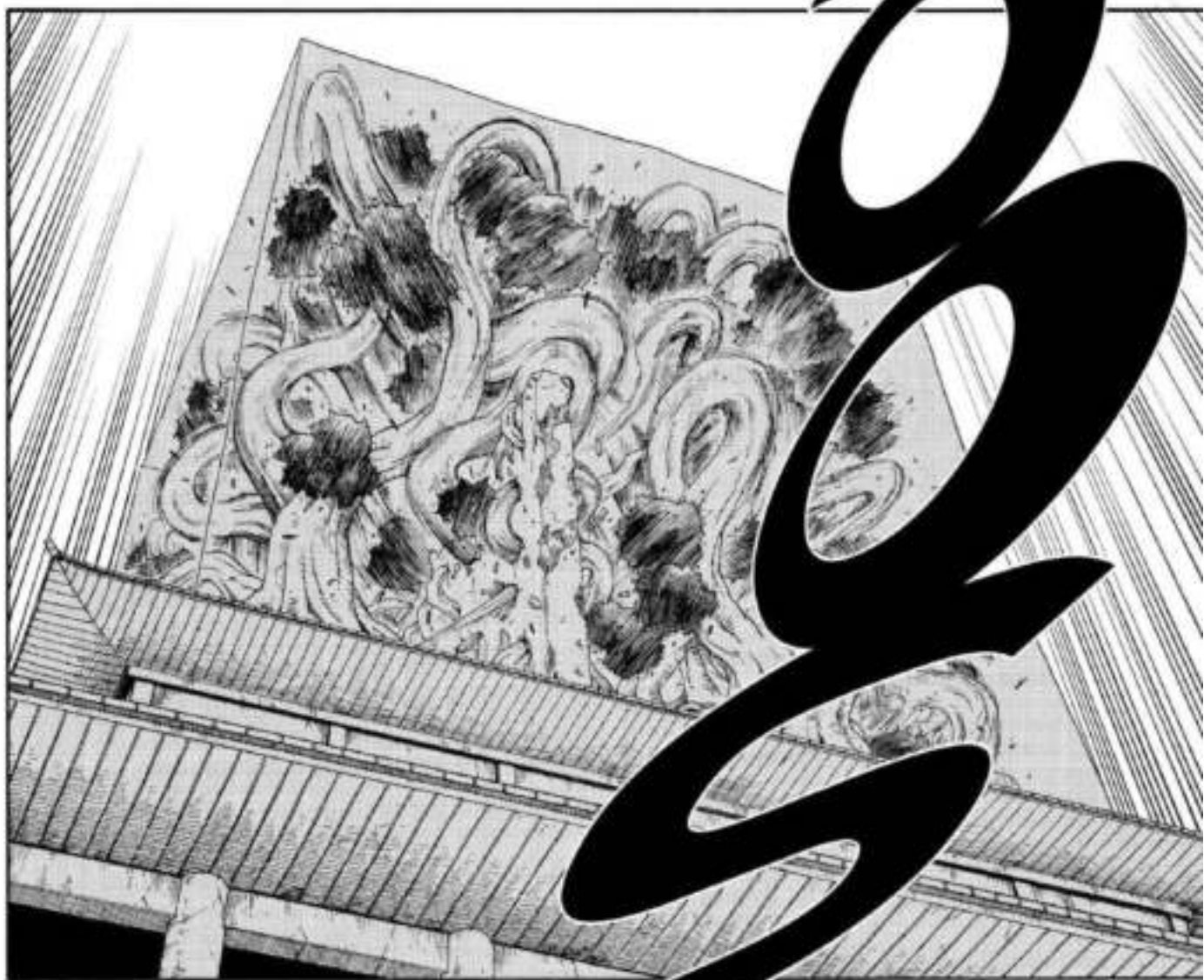
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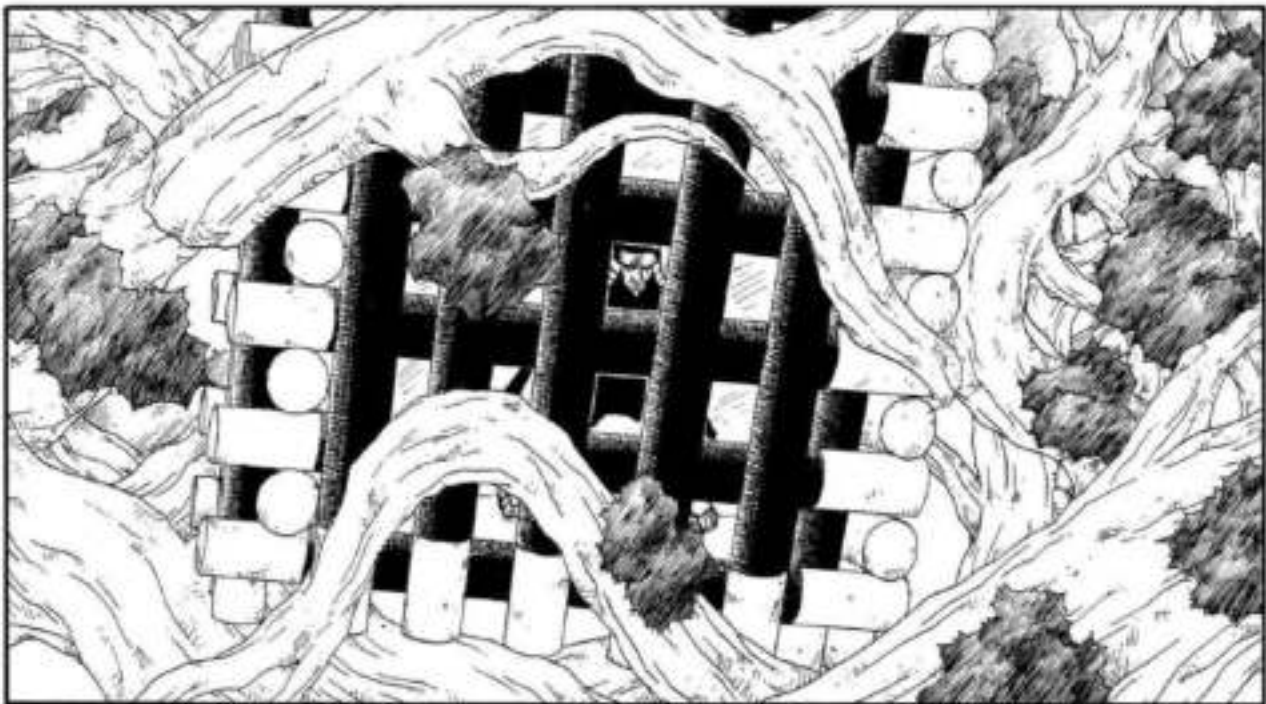
The Bestowed Will^{zz}

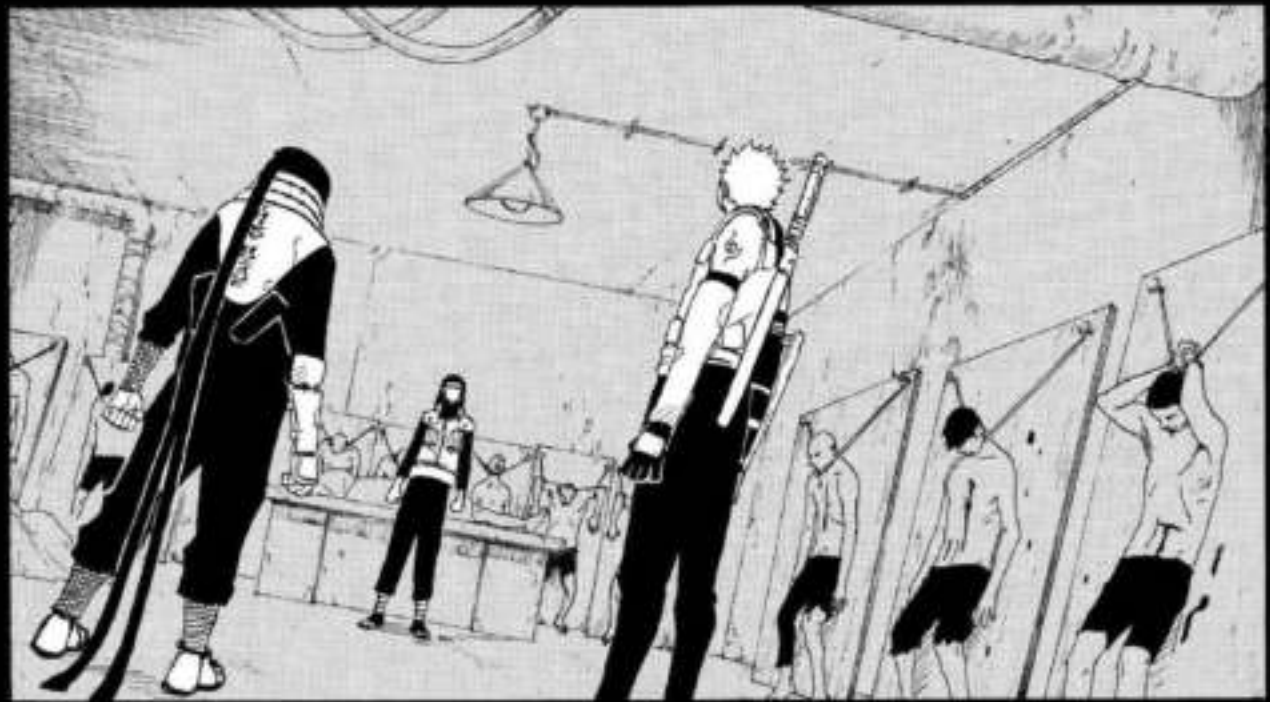














PUPILS
WHO
CONCEALED
MALICE AND
AMBITION...



I KNEW,
AND YET
PRE-
TENDED
I HADN'T
NOTICED...

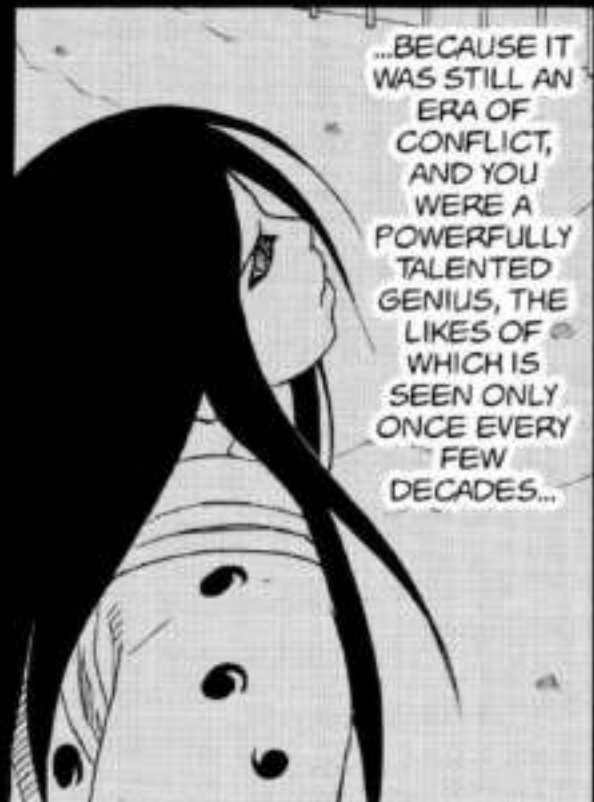
... THAT YOU
HAD SUCH
FOUNDATIONS
WITHIN YOU...



I HAD
PICKED
UP...



I HAD HOPED
YOU WOULD
INHERIT MY WILL
AND STRENGTH...
THAT'S WHAT
I WISHED.

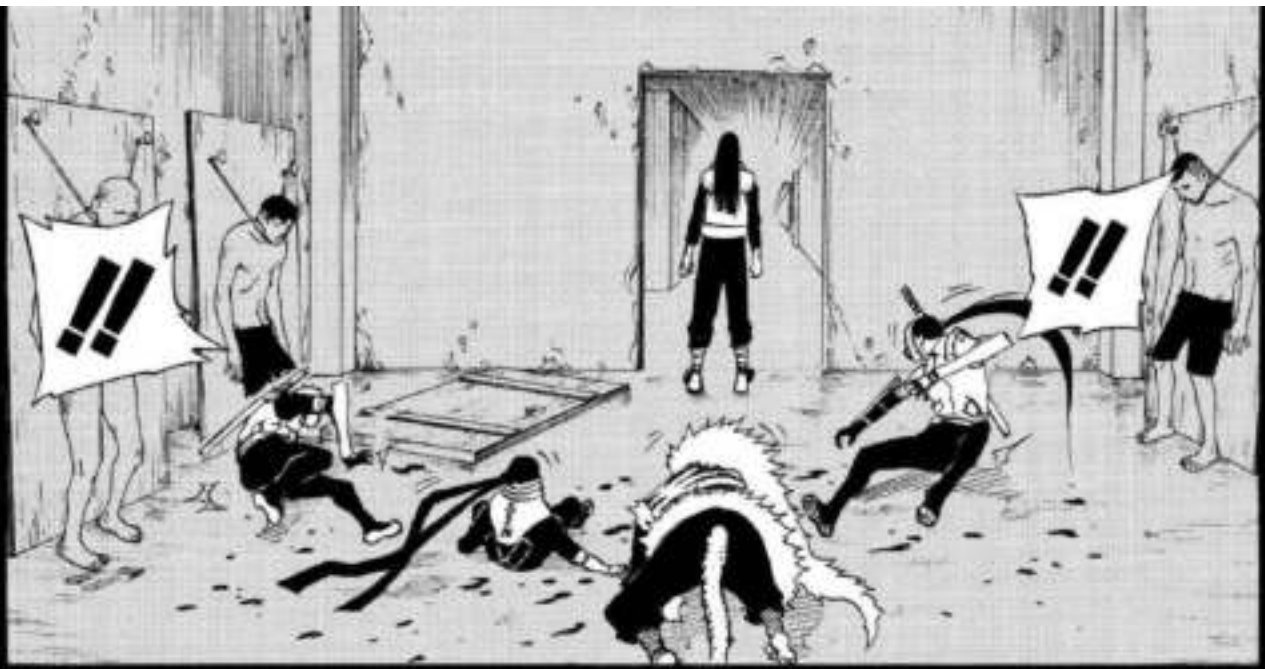


... BECAUSE IT
WAS STILL AN
ERA OF
CONFLICT,
AND YOU
WERE A
POWERFULLY
TALENTED
GENIUS, THE
LIKES OF
WHICH IS
SEEN ONLY
ONCE EVERY
FEW
DECADES...



AND THUS MY
INDULGENCES
HAVE BROUGHT
ABOUT THESE
CIRCUM-
STANCES...
BOTH THEN
AND NOW...







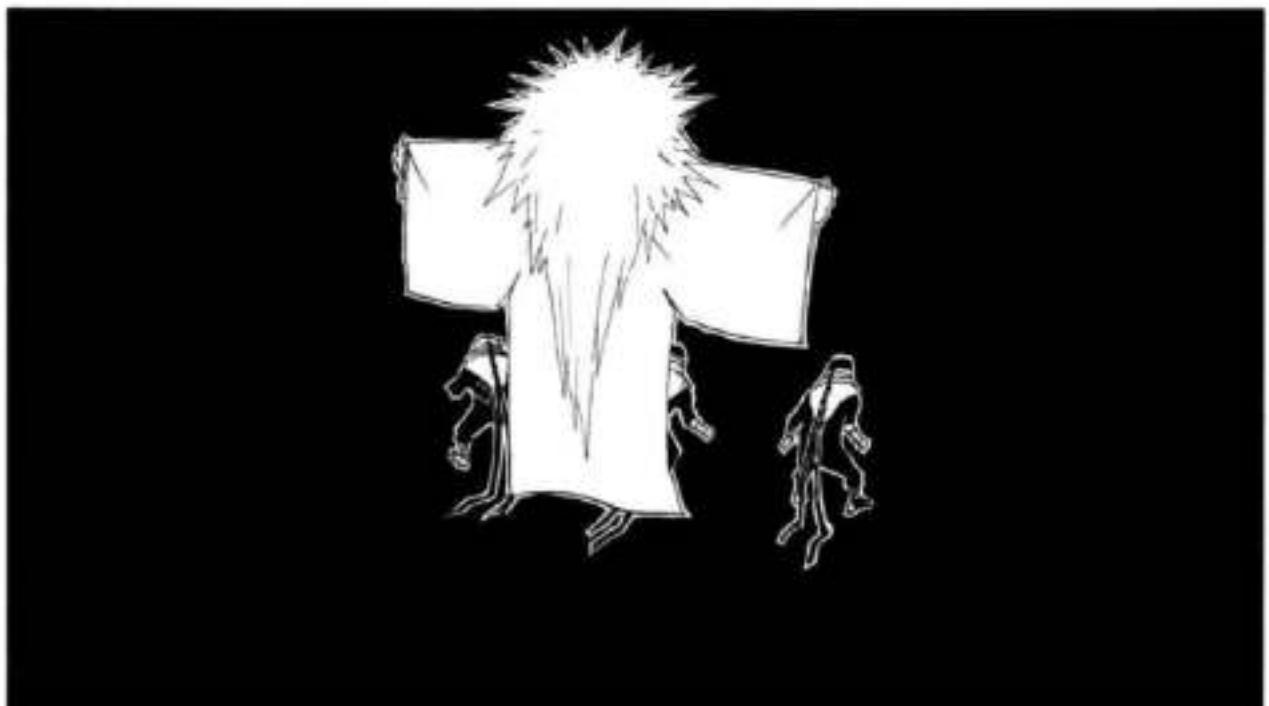


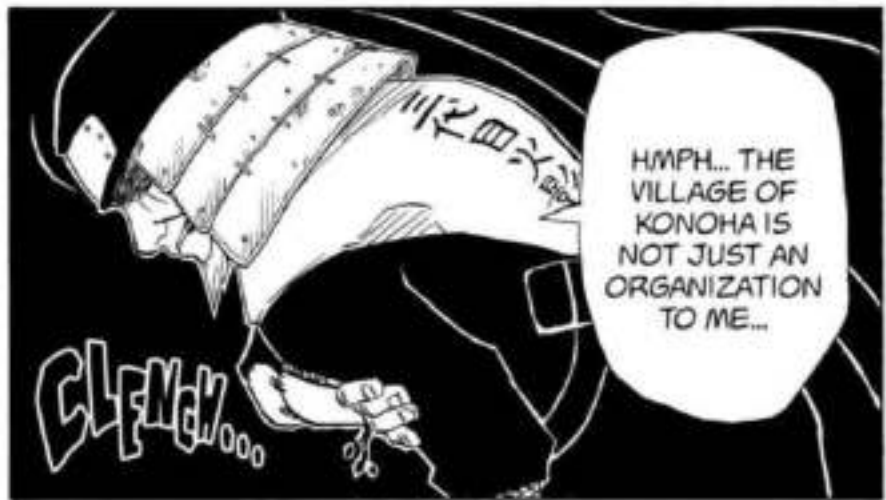
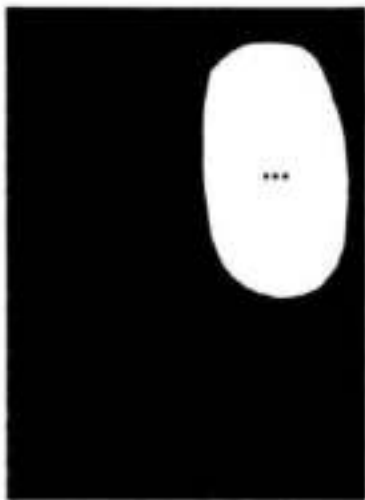




SO THIS IS THE GOD OF DEATH THAT THE FOURTH HOKAGE WAS SAYING ONLY THE CASTER OF THIS JUTSU CAN SEE...

三代目







IN KONOHA
EVERY YEAR
NEW
SHINOBI ARE
BORN AND
RAISED...



THEY LIVE...
FIGHT... AND
DIE IN ORDER
TO PROTECT
THE VILLAGE...
AND THOSE
WITHIN ITS
WALLS...



EVERYONE
IN THE
VILLAGE,
EVEN
THOUGH WE
ARE NOT
CONNECTED
BY BLOOD...





...IS
PRECIOUS
TO ME...
THEY ARE
MY...



...FAMILY!



...AND DESTROY THE HOUSE OF KONOHA.

HEH HEH HEH... THEN I SHALL KNOCK DOWN AND BREAK YOU, THEIR PILLAR...



HMPH! EVEN IF YOU KILL ME, THAT PILLAR SHALL NOT BREAK!!



I INHERITED THE WILL OF THE FIRST LORD, THE SECOND LORD, AND OF KONOHA—

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO DESTROY KONOHA-GAKURE...



I AM THE THIRD HOKAGE !!!





...AND
DEFEND
THE
HOUSE
OF
KONOHA!!

A NEW
HOKAGE WHO
INHERITS MY
WILL SHALL
EMERGE AS
ITS PILLAR...

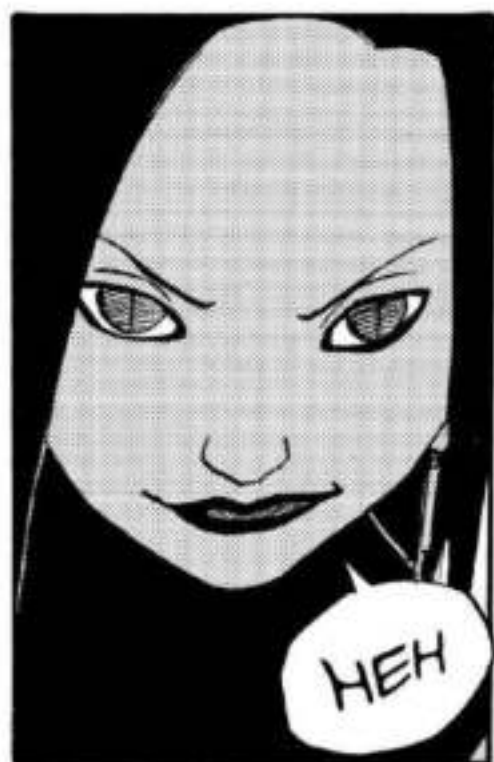


RIGHT...
FOURTH
HOKAGE...?



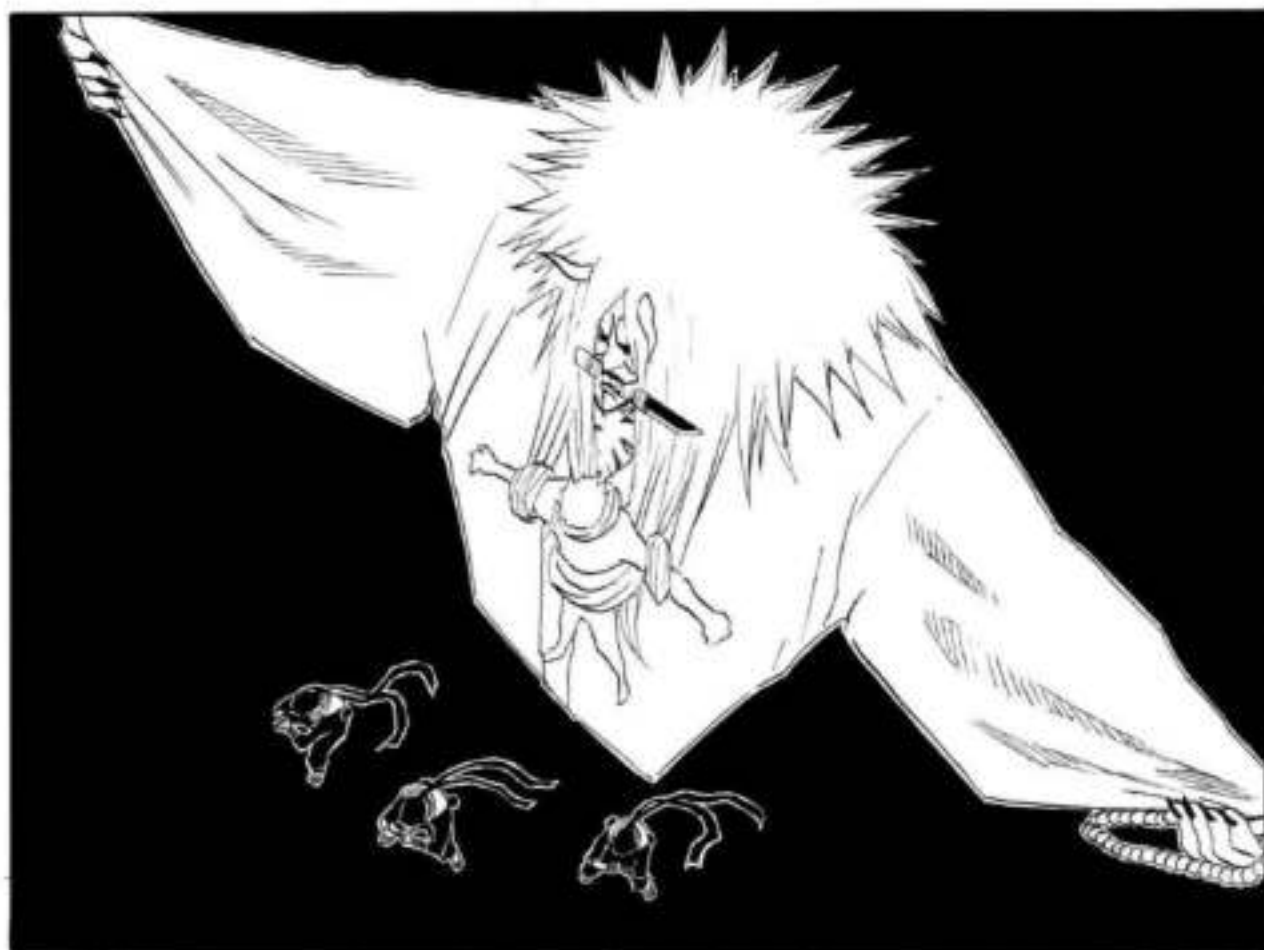
SEALING
JUTSU!
SHIKIFUJIN!
REAPER
DEATH
SEAL!!

OROCHIMARU!!
LET ME
REVEAL FOR
YOU MY TRUMP
JUTSU, ONE
EVEN YOU
DON'T KNOW!



Number 123: The Final Seat





I'VE GOT
TO HURRY...
THIS
DARKNESS IS
DANGEROUS...



...THIS
SUPPOSED
JUTSU...!

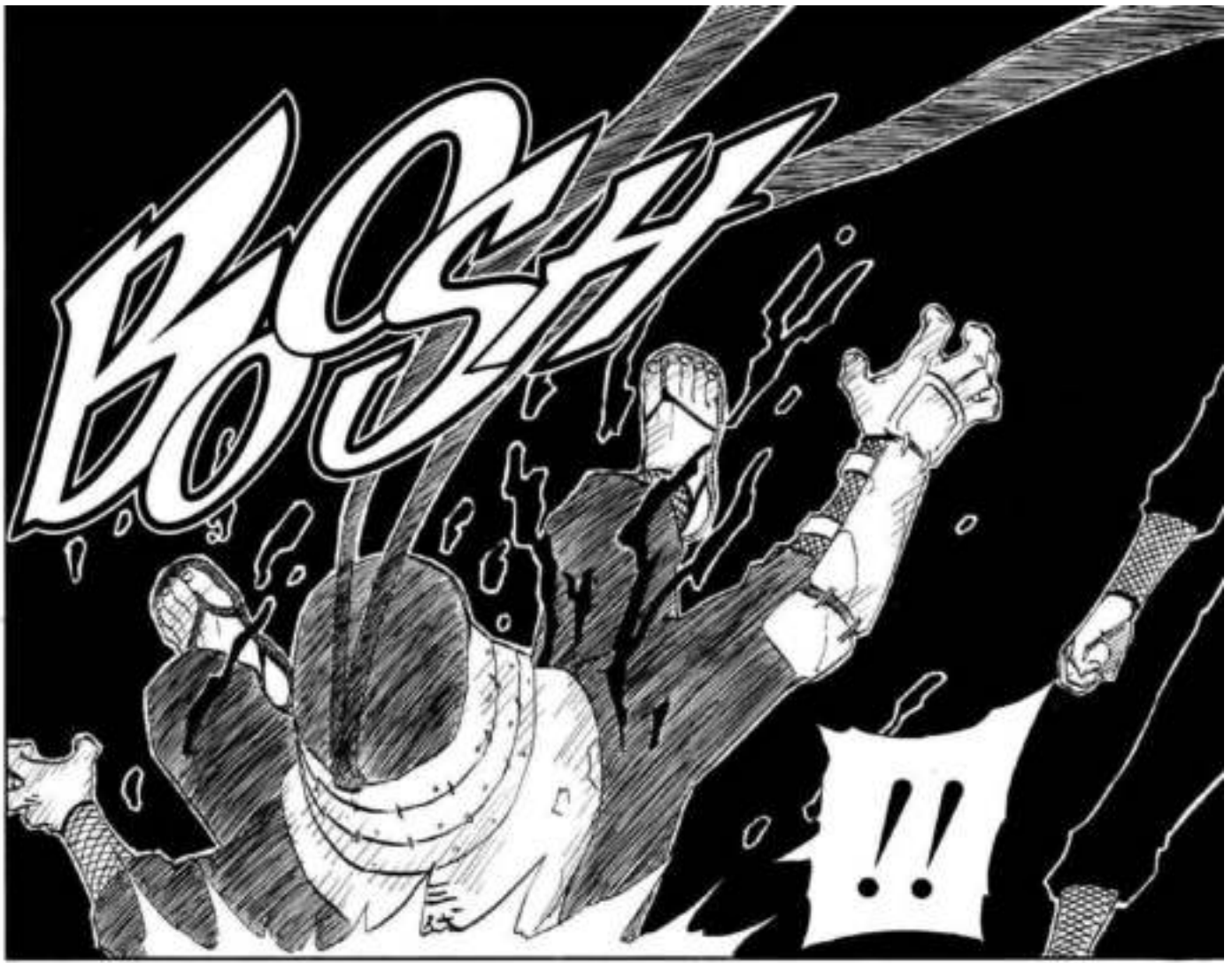
THEN
SHOW
ME...



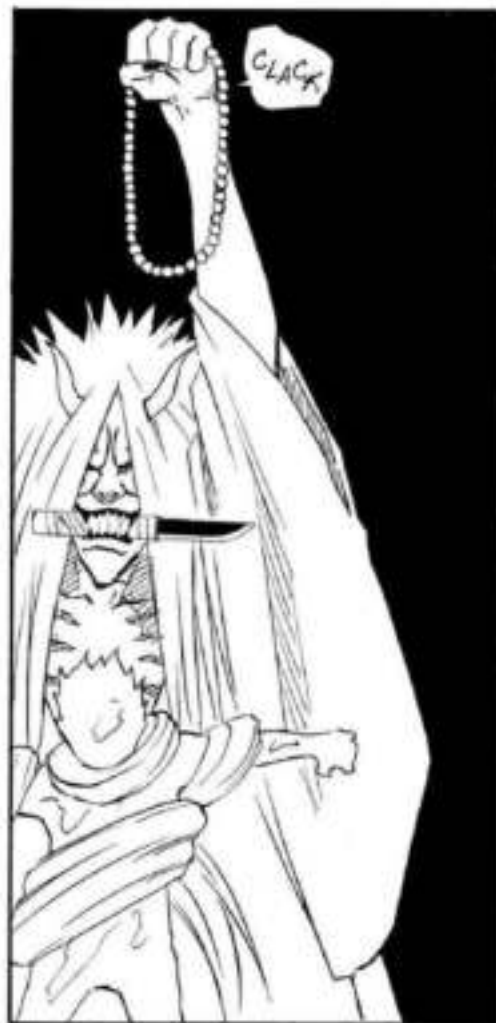
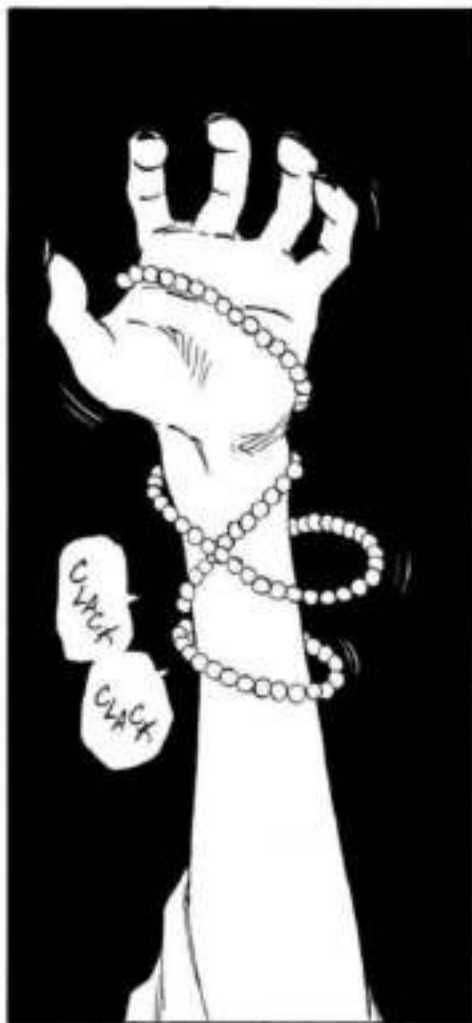
UGH...

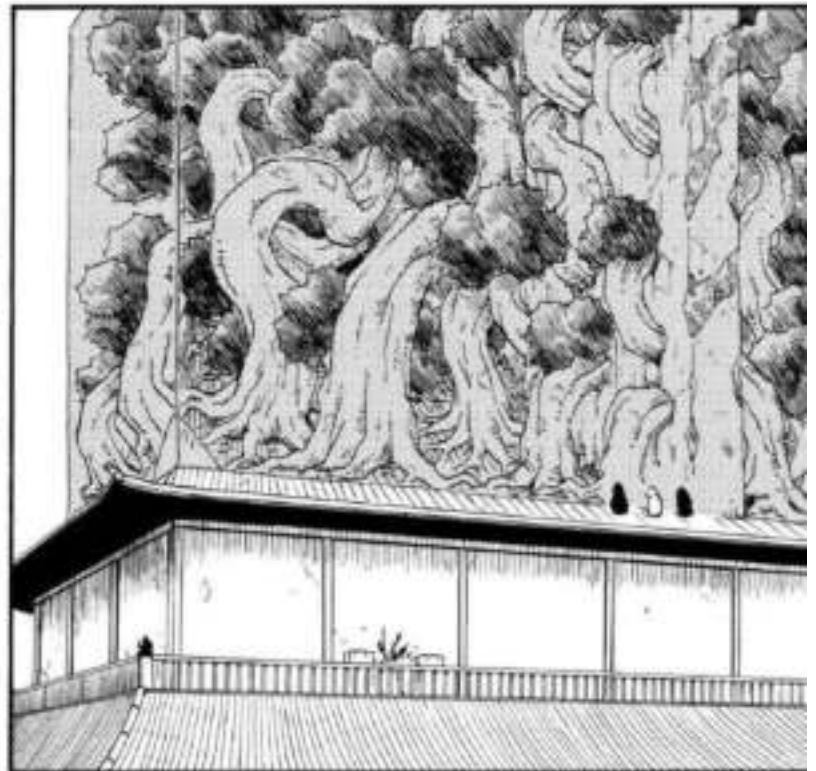
!!





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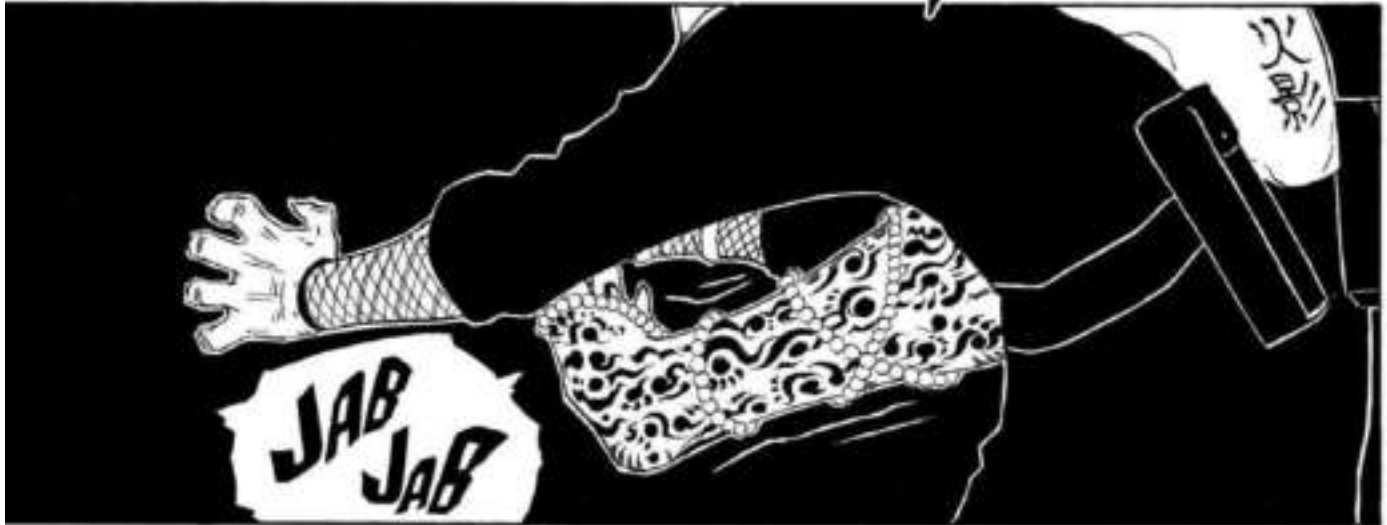








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SARUTOBI!!



THE DARKNESS VANISHED. WHAT IS THIS JUTSU?!

...!!



SO SORRY... SARUTOBI...

YANK



FIRST LORD!
SECOND LORD!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...



FORGIVE US FOR TROUBLING YOU...







THE VILLAGERS BELIEVE IN ME, AND I BELIEVE IN ALL OF THEM... THAT IS WHAT BEING HOKAGE MEANS...!

EACH AND EVERY KONOHA COMRADE IS A PART OF MY OWN BODY...



FOR, STARTING TOMORROW, YOU...

SARU... YOU MUST LOVE THE VILLAGE AND PROTECT THOSE WHO TRUST IN YOU. AND THEN, YOU MUST NURTURE THEM, THOSE TO WHOM YOU CAN ENTRUST THE FUTURE...



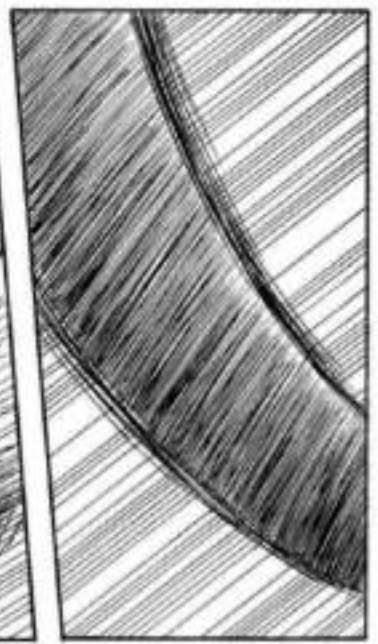
...MY SUBORDINATES' LIVES? HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP SPOUTING SUCH NONSENSE...?!

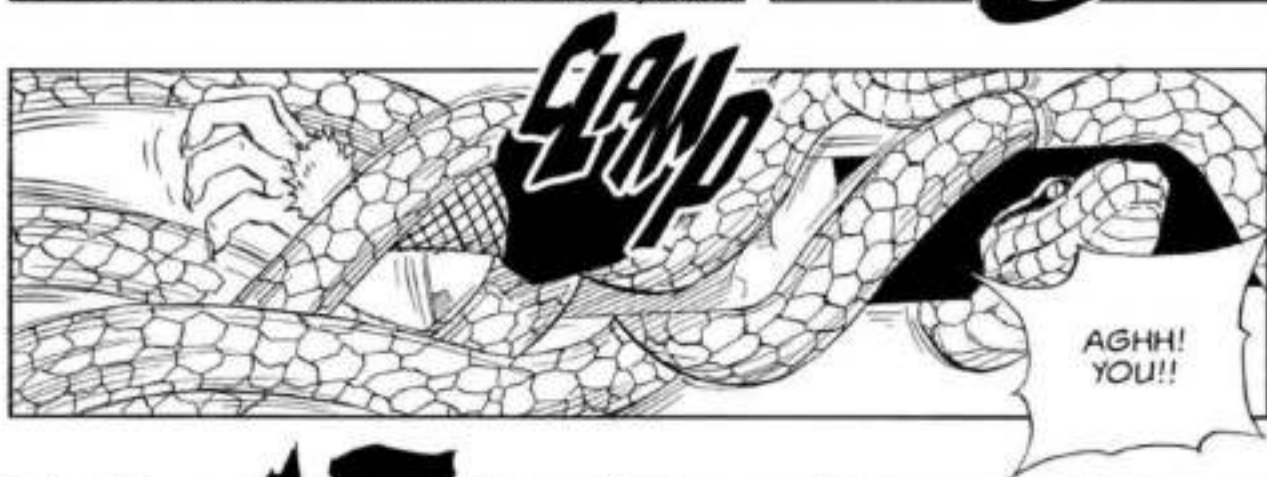


...ARE HOKAGE...!!













THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 20

AROUND THE TIME OF MY THIRD YEAR IN COLLEGE, I STARTED WATCHING MOVIES A LOT. THERE ARE VARIOUS FILM CONCEPTS THAT APPLY TO MANGA, SO THEY ARE GOOD REFERENCES.

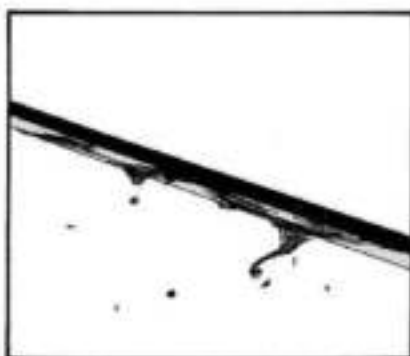
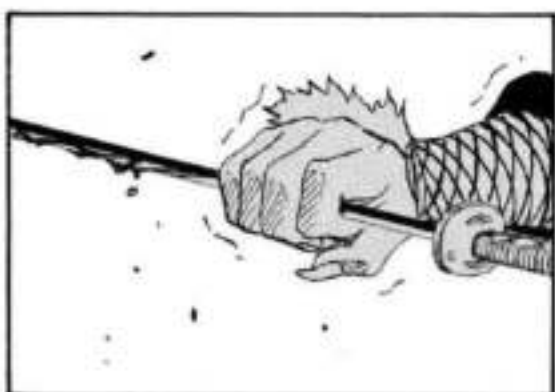
PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THAT, I STARTED RENTING VIDEOS MORE AND MORE, UNTIL I WAS WATCHING AT LEAST ONE MOVIE A DAY. EVENTUALLY, EVEN RENTALS WEREN'T ENOUGH, SO I STARTED GOING TO THE THEATER TO WATCH NEW RELEASES. ONE SUCH DAY, I STARTED HEARING RUMORS ABOUT THE BRAD PITT/MORGAN FREEMAN MOVIE "SEVEN." IT WAS A BLOCKBUSTER HIT THAT WAS SECOND IN BOX OFFICE TICKET SALES IN 1996. A PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER WHOSE TITULAR THEME REFERS TO THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS, IT RAISED MY EXPECTATIONS QUITE A BIT. "THIS IS A MUST! I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE THEATER!" MY DETERMINATION AND ZEAL KEPT ON CLIMBING! I EVEN DECIDED TO GO TO THE SALON FOR A CUT BECAUSE MY BANGS HAD GROWN SO LONG I WAS AFRAID IT WOULD MAKE IT HARDER TO SEE THE MOVIE SCREEN.

...HOWEVER!! KISHIMOTO WAS NOT YET AWARE AT THIS TIME THAT A FRIGHTFUL INCIDENT WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THAT SALON!!

DUN-DA-DUN-DUN~~~~DUN!!!

(I'M GOING TO STRETCH THIS OUT IN TYPICAL MYSTERY/SUSPENSE GENRE FASHION... HURRY ON TO PAGE 138!)

Number 124: The Eternal Battle...!!



Number 124:

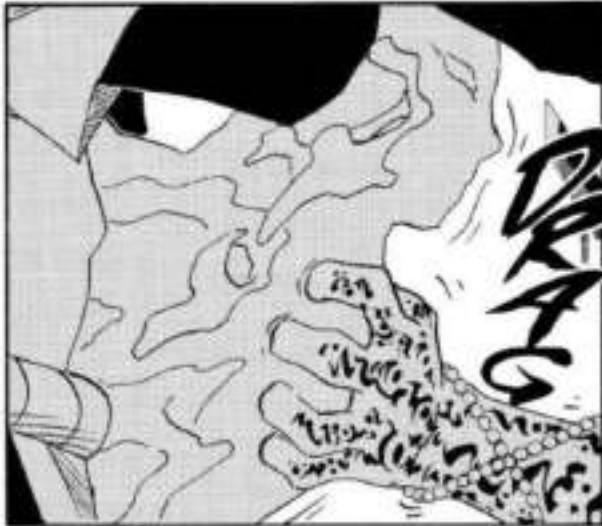


The Eternal Battle...!!









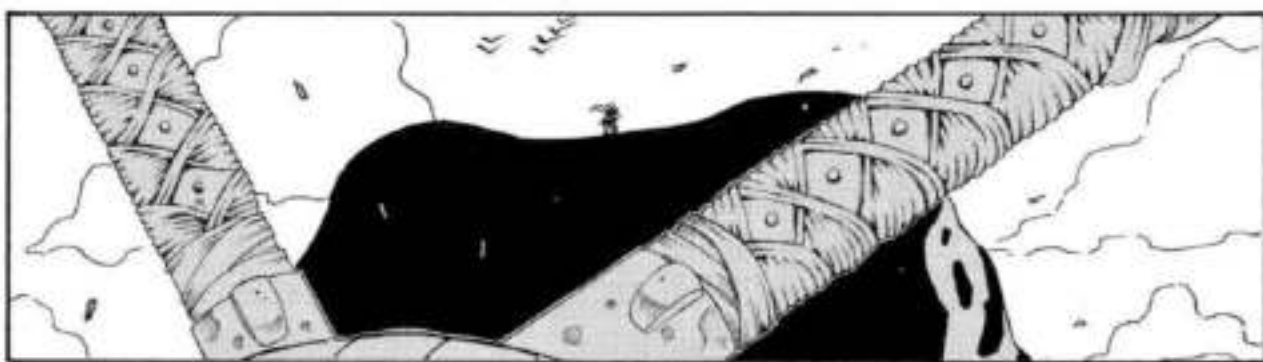
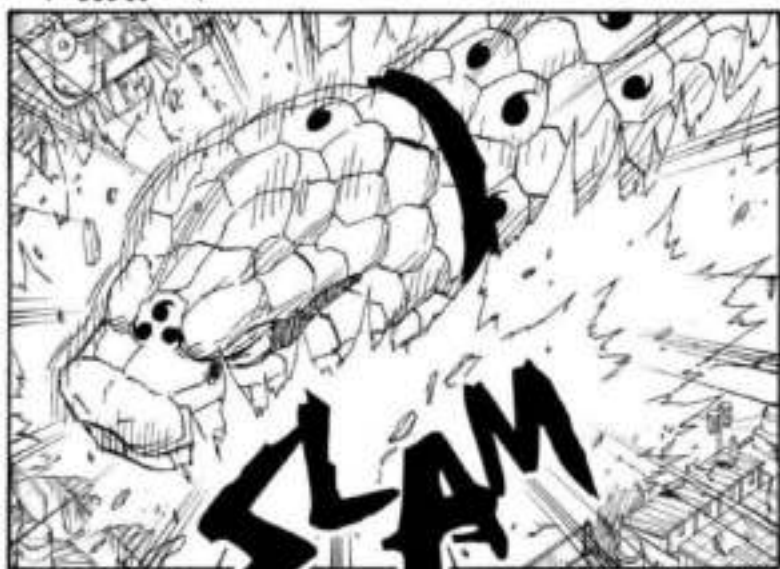














THANK
THE
HEAVENS!!

YOU BABY
CHICKS!!
OPEN WIDE
THOSE BEADY
LITTLE EYES
OF YOURS
AND WATCH
CLOSELY!!

HERE
COMES THE
UNORTHODOX
NINJA SAGE
JIRAIYA! HERE
TO RUN AMOK
AMONG ALL
THE OTHER-
WORLDLY
CREATURES!!



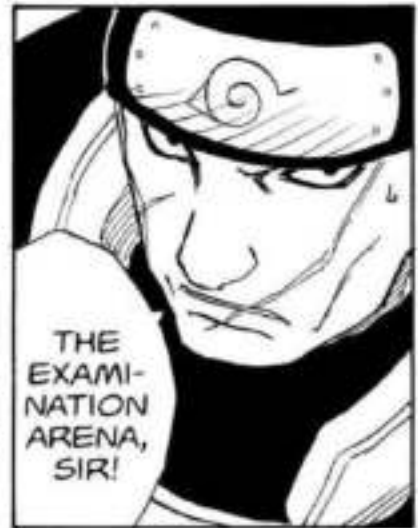
QUIVER

QUIVER



BEGONE!!

YONDER
SNAKES
TRAPPED
BY MY
TOAD'S
STARE!!















THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 20 (CONTINUED)

I WENT TO THE SALON TO GET MY BANGS TRIMMED, SO I SAT IN THE HAIRCUT SEAT. MY HEAD WAS FULL OF... "I'M GOING TO GO SEE SEVEN TOMORROW--! I WONDER WHAT THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS ARE--?! THE DIRECTOR IS DAVID FINCHER, SO I BET THE FRIGHT SCENES ARE GOING TO BE PRETTY AMAZING! WITH MORGAN FREEMAN AS THE VETERAN DETECTIVE AND BRAD PITT AS THE GREEN YOUNG DETECTIVE, WHAT A FANTASTIC TEAM! I HEARD IT HAS AN UNEXPECTED ENDING, A SUDDEN REVERSAL, BUT I WONDER WHAT IT IS..." I WAS ALL EXCITED. AND JUST AS THEY STARTED CUTTING MY HAIR, SOME WOMAN CAME IN FOR A HAIRCUT AND SAT DOWN IN THE NEXT CHAIR OVER. THIS WOMAN STARTED UP A FRIENDLY CHAT WITH HER STYLIST, BRAGGING, "I WENT ON A DATE YESTERDAY." I HAD NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH MY STYLIST, SO I WAS SILENT AND PRETENDED TO BE ASLEEP. TO MY DISGUST, THE LOUDMOUTHED WOMAN NEXT TO ME STARTED GOING INTO DETAILS ABOUT HER DATE. "GRODY~" I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, BUT... BECAUSE HER VOICE WAS SO LOUD, I ENDED UP HEARING HER BRAGGING TALE WHETHER I WANTED TO OR NOT. SUDDENLY, SHE STARTED SAYING SHE HAD GONE TO THE MOVIES WITH THIS GUY, AND THAT THE FILM THEY HAD SEEN WAS THE CURRENTLY POPULAR SEVEN.

JUST AS I WAS THINKING TO MYSELF "I'M GOING TO GO SEE IT TOO, TOMORROW...", OH NO! THAT CHATTERBOX GIRL STARTED DESCRIBING THE PLOT OF SEVEN!! NEEDLESS TO SAY, SHE WAS LOUD!! I WANTED TO COVER MY EARS, BUT MY HANDS WERE UNDER THE CAPE BECAUSE I WAS GETTING MY HAIR CUT...!! AND SO, IN THAT MOMENT, I BEGGED THAT WOMAN...

"PLEASE! THE CLINCHER... JUST DON'T SPILL THE CLINCHER, PLEASE~~~~~!!!"

"AND WHAT WAS INSIDE THAT BOX. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT... IT WAS THE HEAD OF BRAD PITT'S WIFE--! AND THEN--!"

...SHE HAD SPILLED IT...

THE NEXT DAY, I DECIDED NOT TO GO SEE SEVEN... (I CAN JUST RENT THE VIDEO... ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I KNOW THE WHOLE STORY...) FURTHERMORE, THEY HAD CUT MY BANGS TOO MUCH AND I ENDED UP LOOKING LIKE A BUSINESSMAN.

 Number 125:



The Time of Awakening...!!

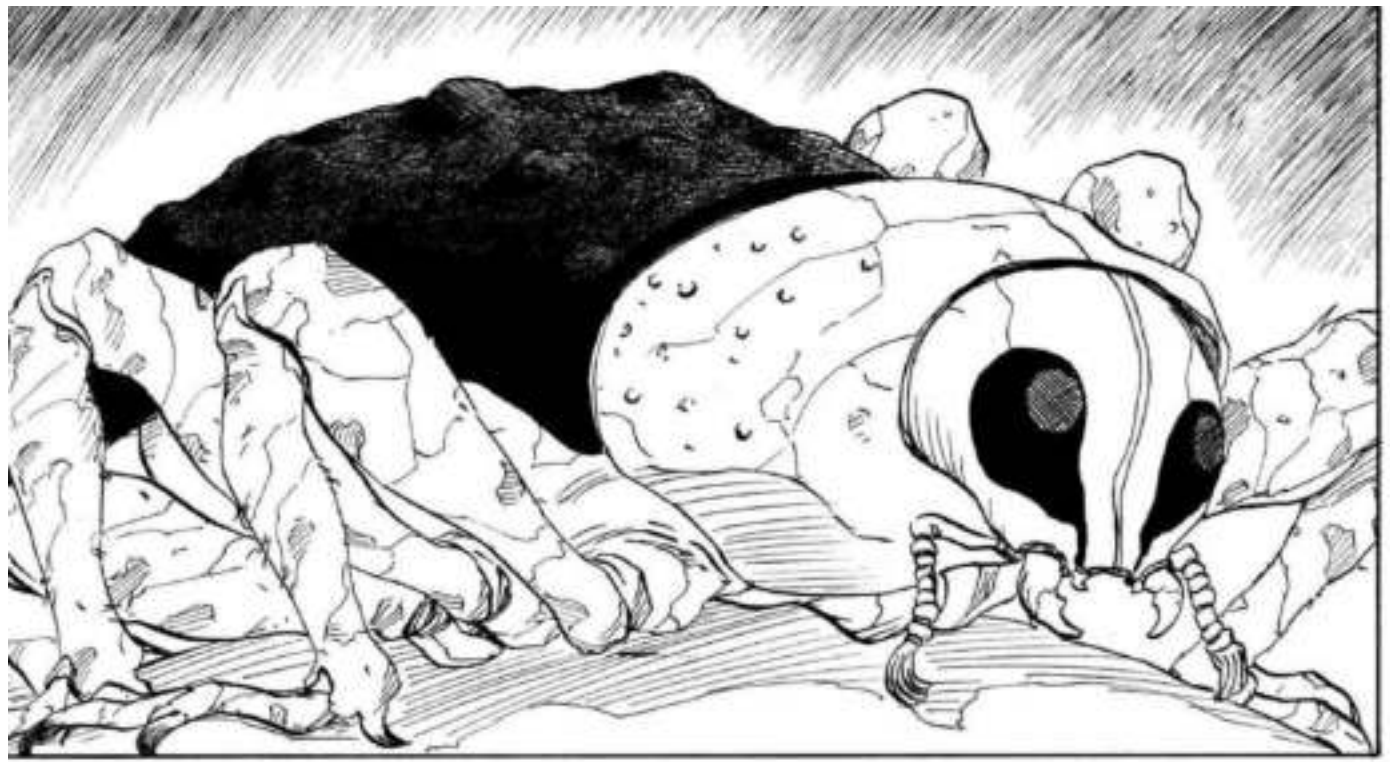


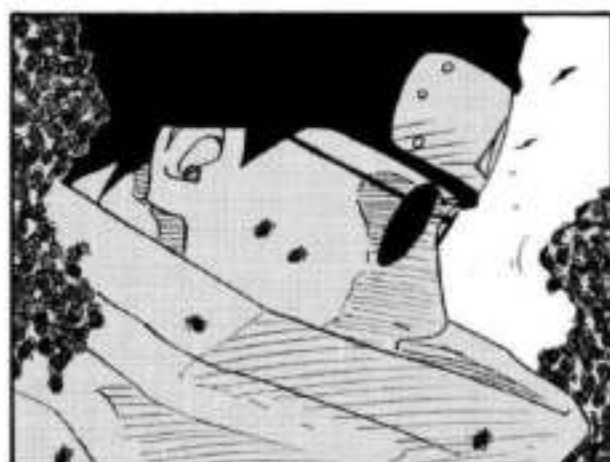














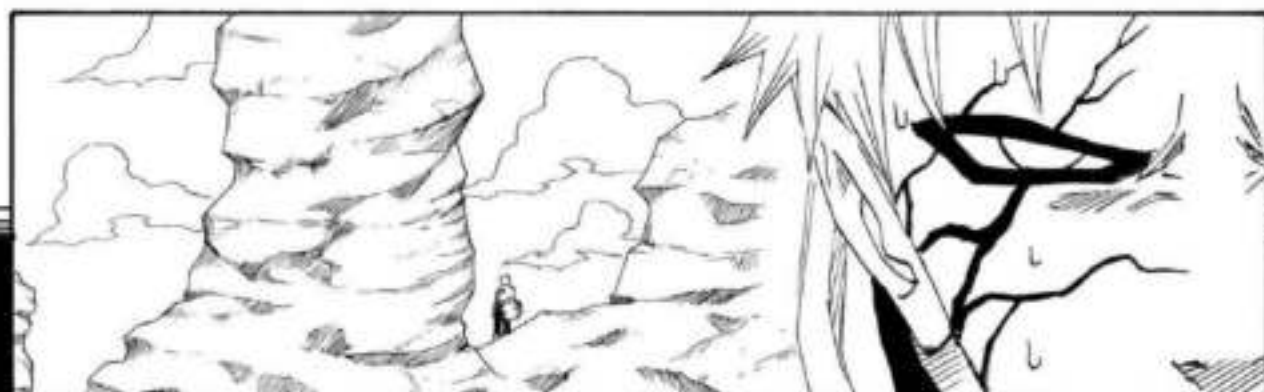






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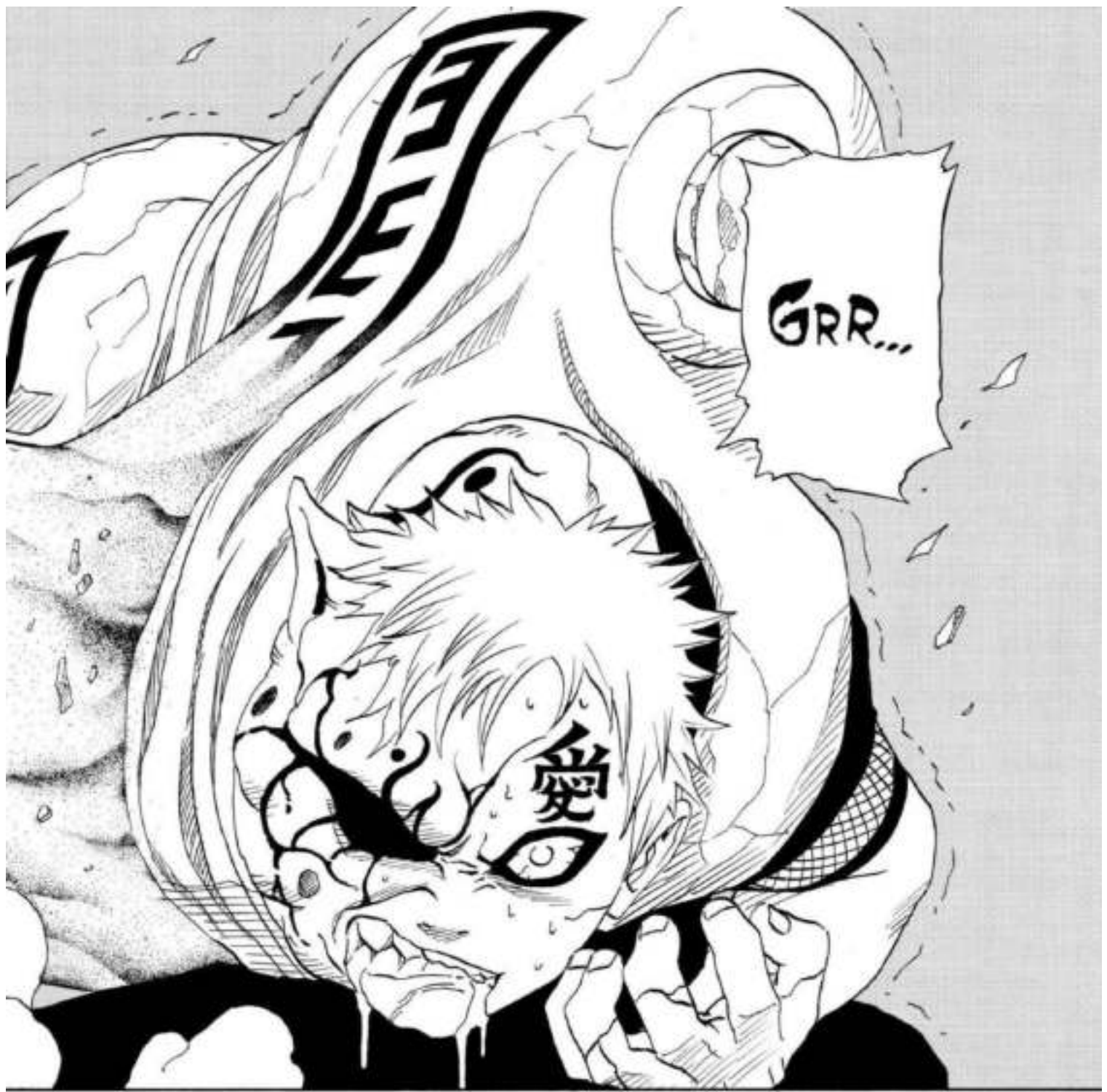


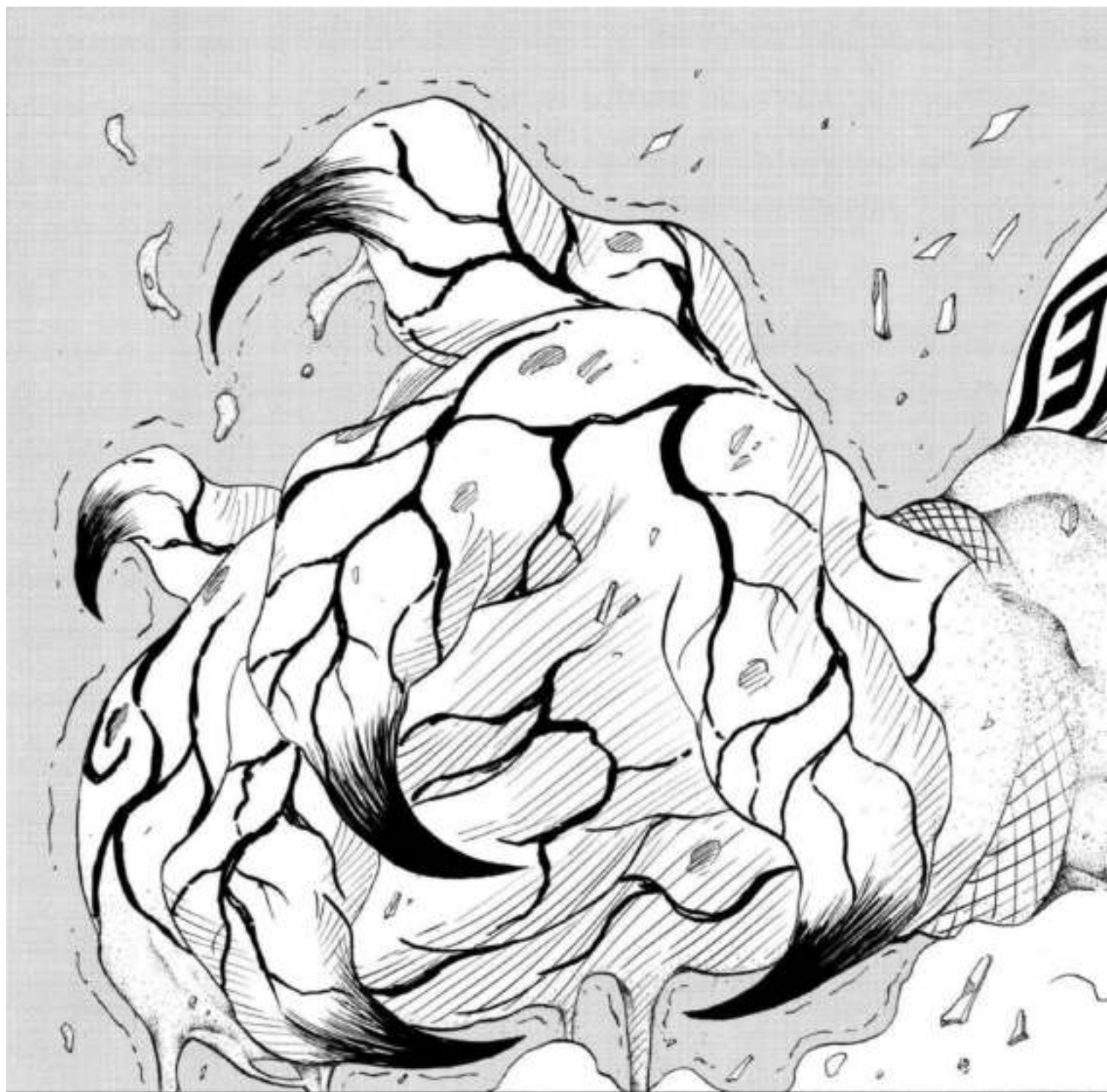















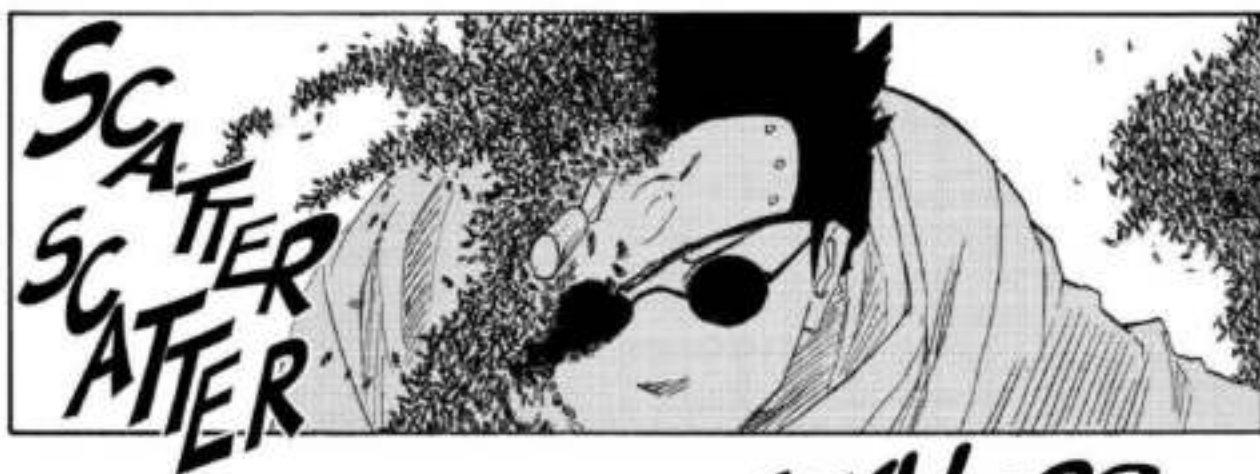


 Number 126: Off Guard...!!







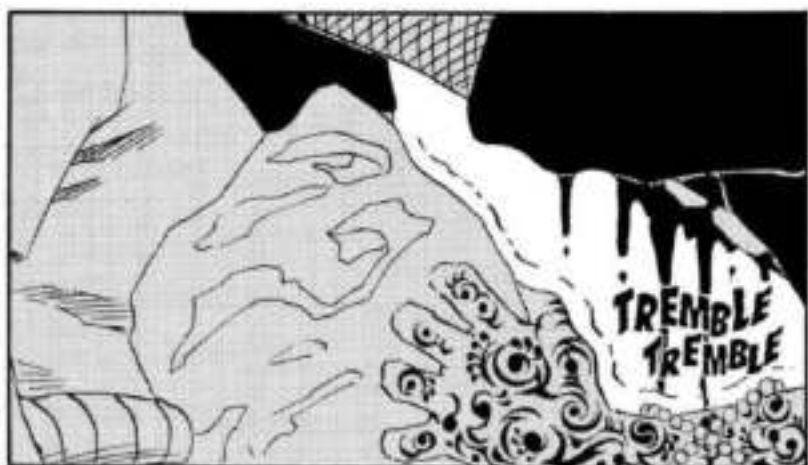
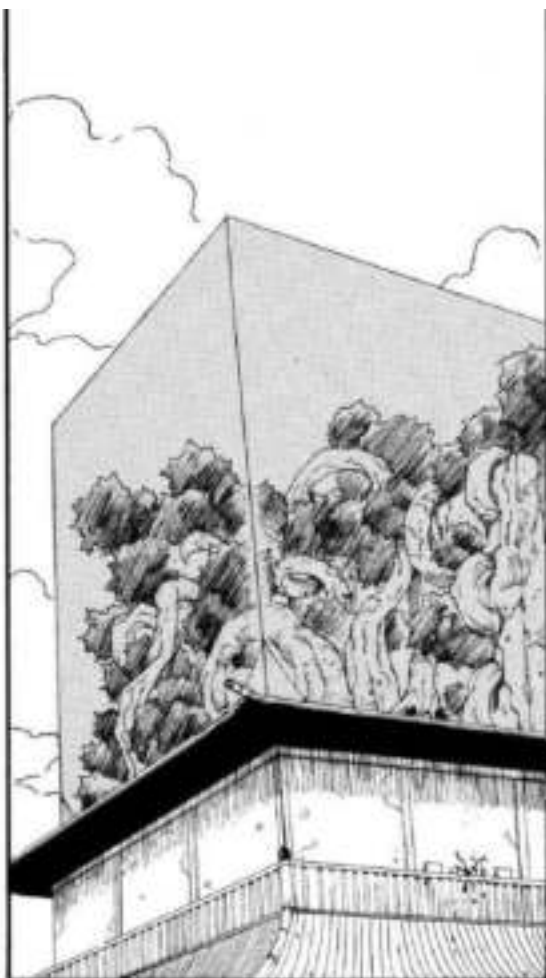










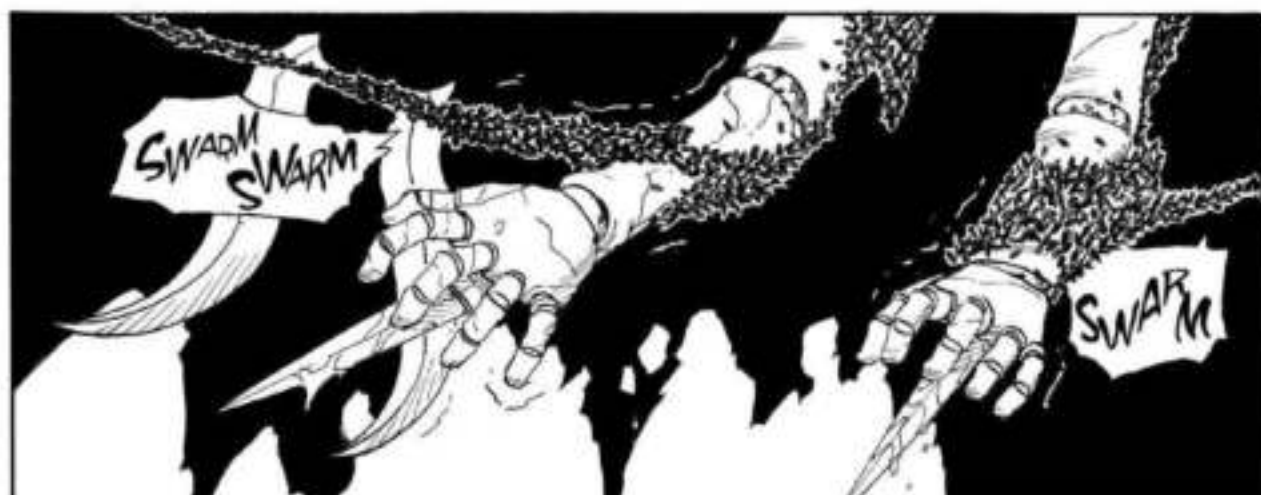


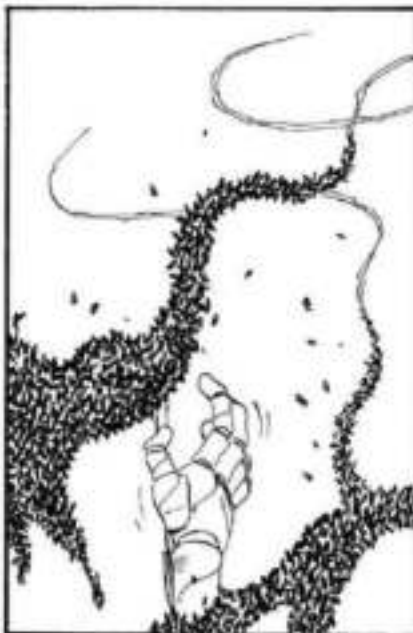


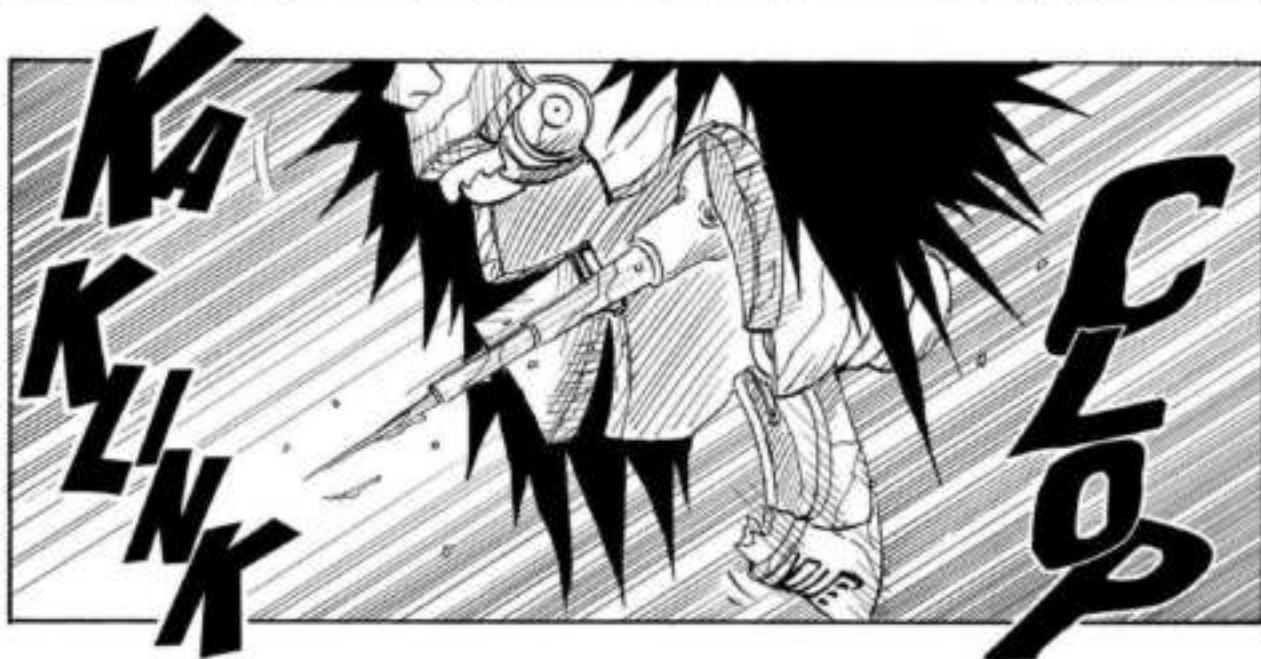




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