



NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

21



岸本 齊史

There are so many movie trilogies and series these days, like *The Matrix*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, etc. It gladdens me that my favorite film worlds continue to live on.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2004



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. 21
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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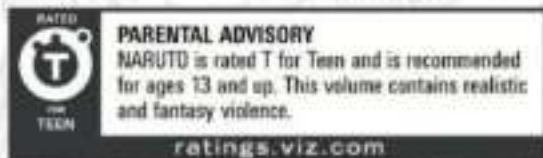
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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 21
PURSUIT



STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke
サスケ

Naruto
ナルト

Sakura
サクラ



The Sound Ninja Four





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 be a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his teammates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto and company take on the Chûnin Selection Exams but suffer a sudden attack from Orochimaru in the Forest of Death. Orochimaru leaves a curse mark on Sasuke's body and vanishes...

...only to return to launch *Operation Destroy Konoha!* The attack appears to be thwarted when Lord Hokage sacrifices his own life.

After the onslaught, Tsunade is elevated to the position of Fifth Hokage. She immediately attends to the medical needs of Sasuke and Rock Lee. Soon after Sasuke's recovery, however, the Sound Ninja Four set upon him. The Four attempt to woo Sasuke away with the power of Orochimaru, but...

The Story So Far ...



NARUTO

VOL. 21
PURSUIT

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Number 181:

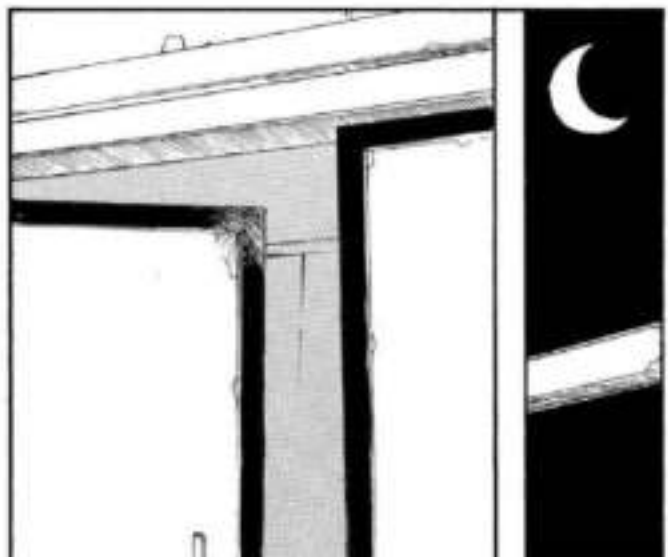
The Battle Begins...!!

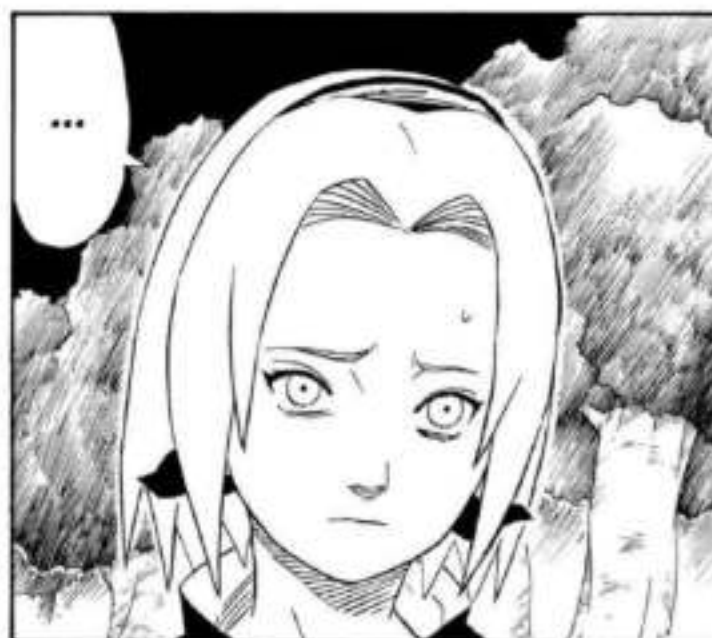
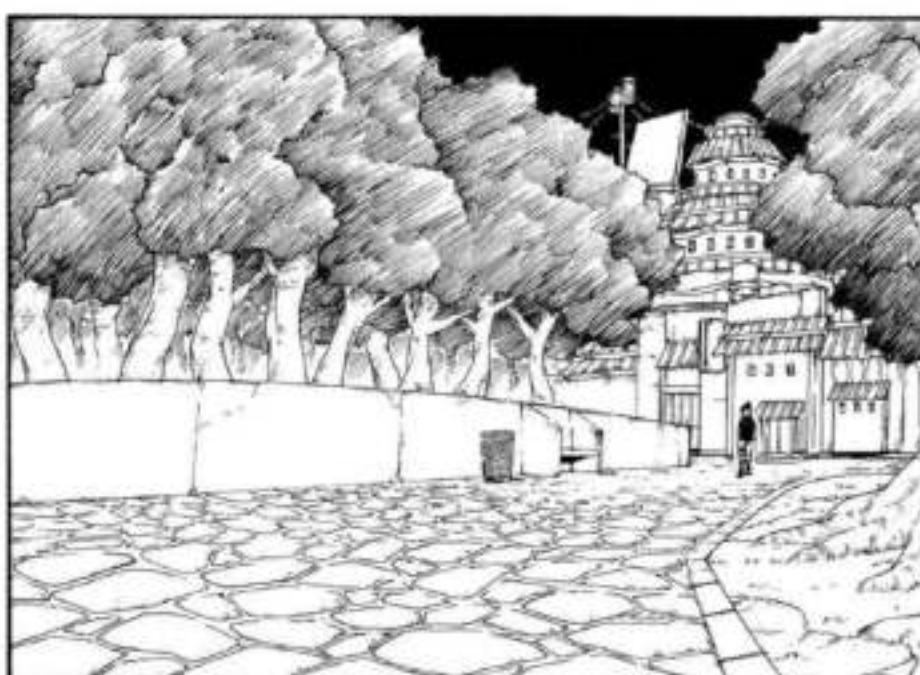
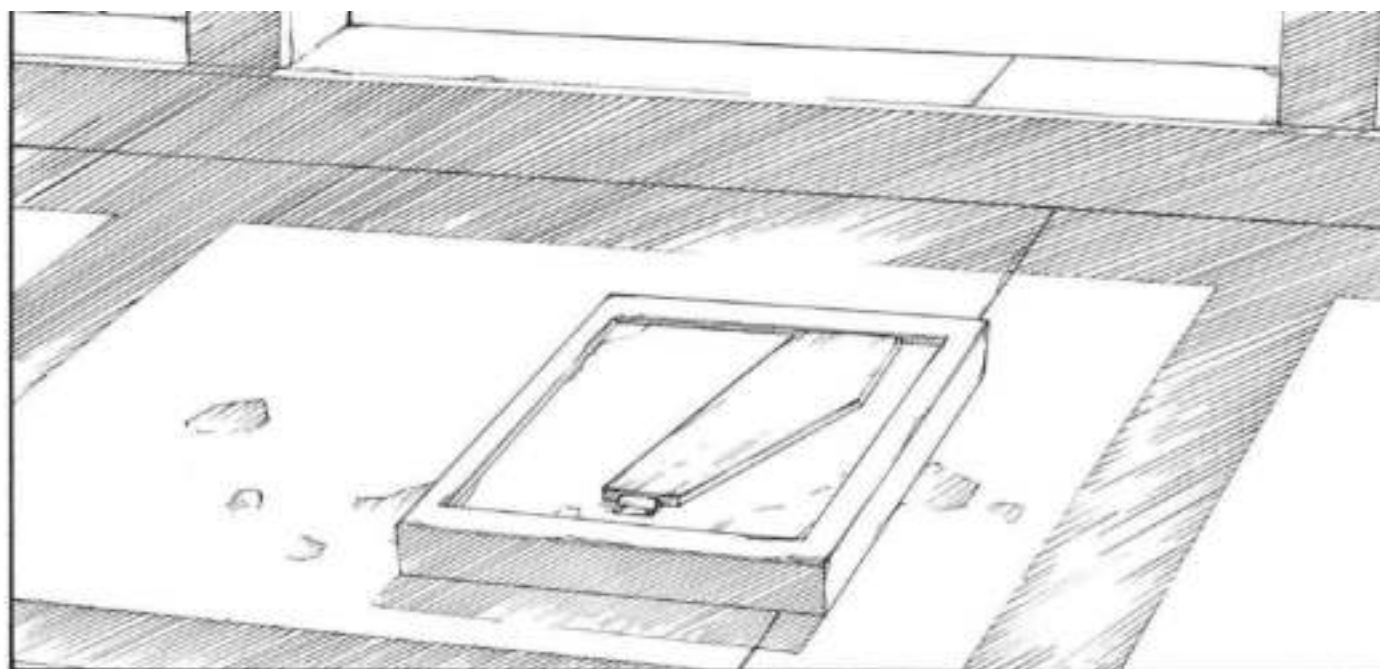


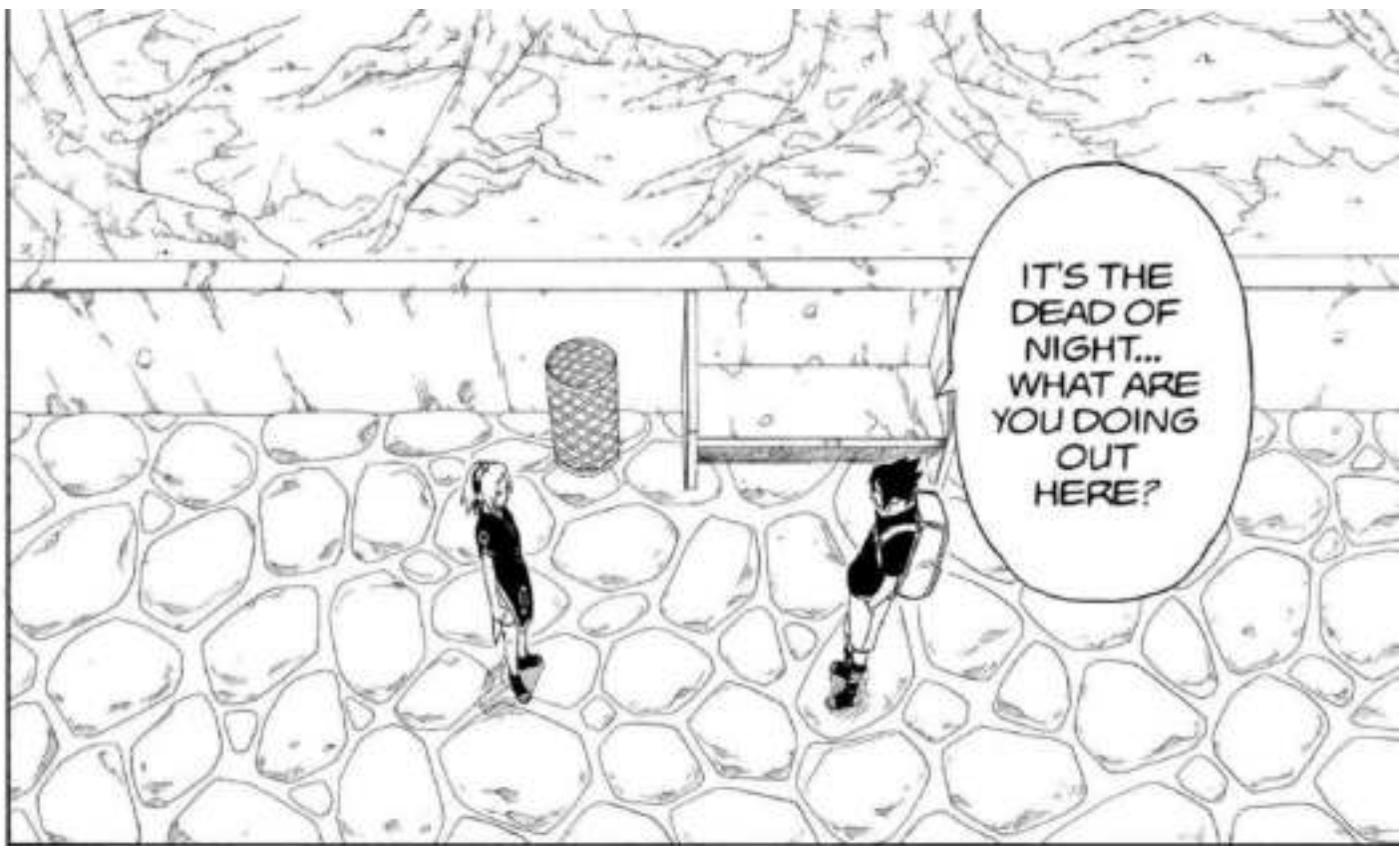


NARUTO

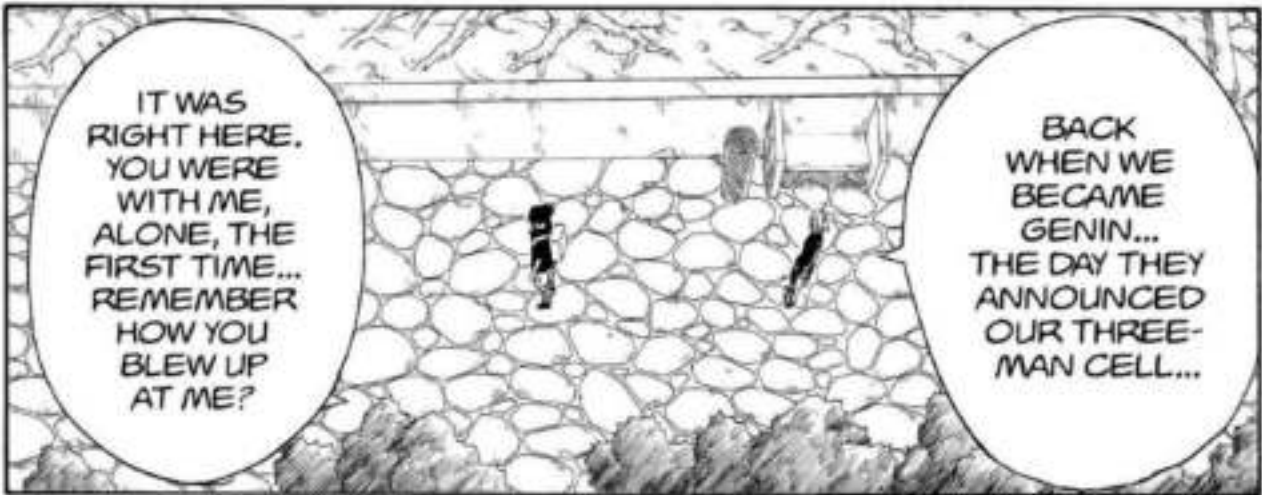


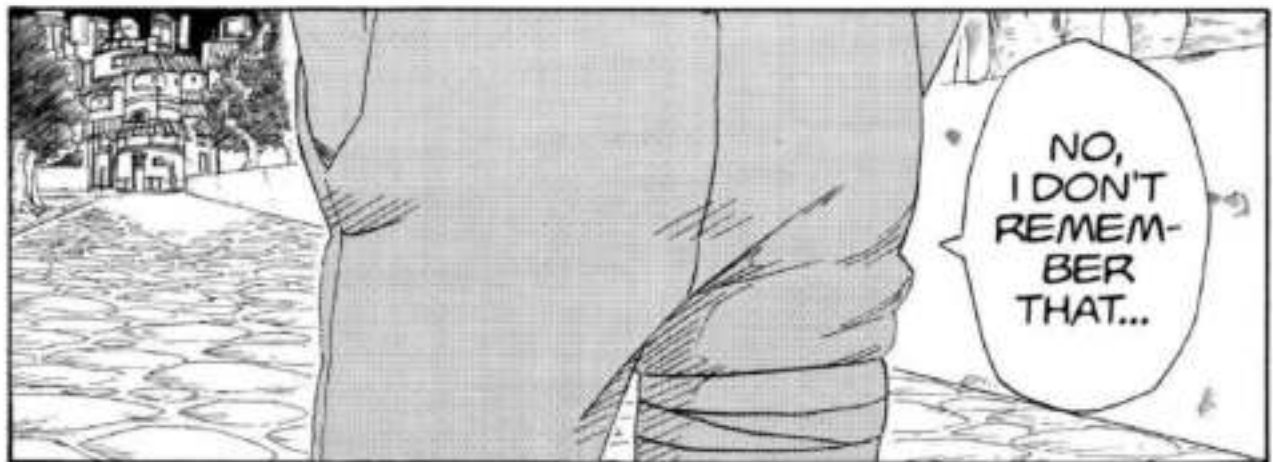




















...



I WILL BE VERY LONELY.

I'LL BE...



THEY'RE JUST DIFFERENT, IS ALL.

WE'RE EACH STARTING OFF ON A NEW PATH...



I'M SO IN LOVE WITH YOU THAT I CAN'T EVEN STAND IT! SASUKE!



I'M...

...!



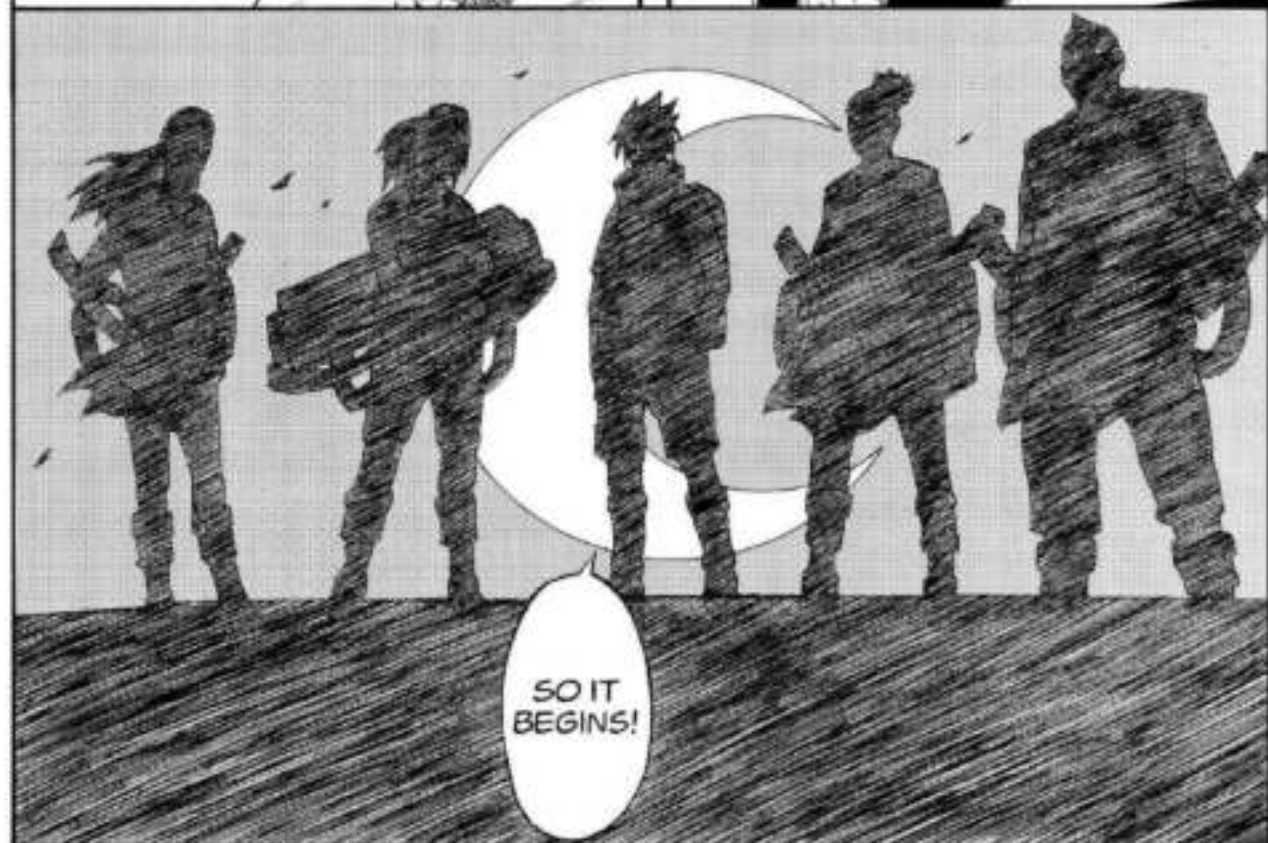
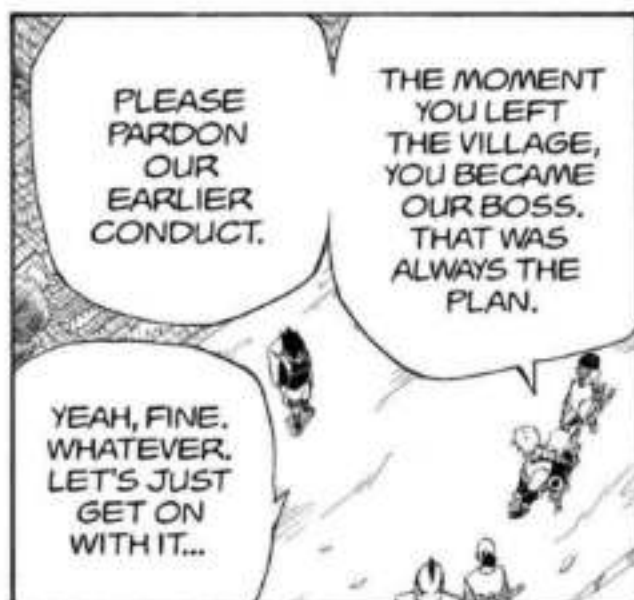
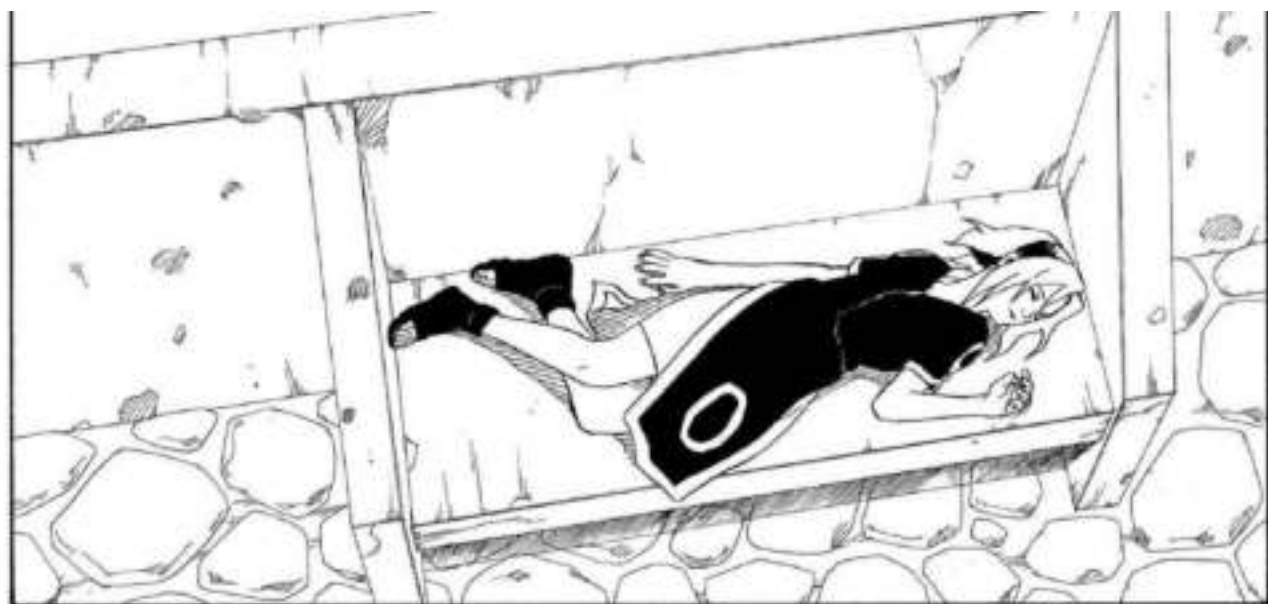


YOU...

...WILL
NEVER
CHANGE.





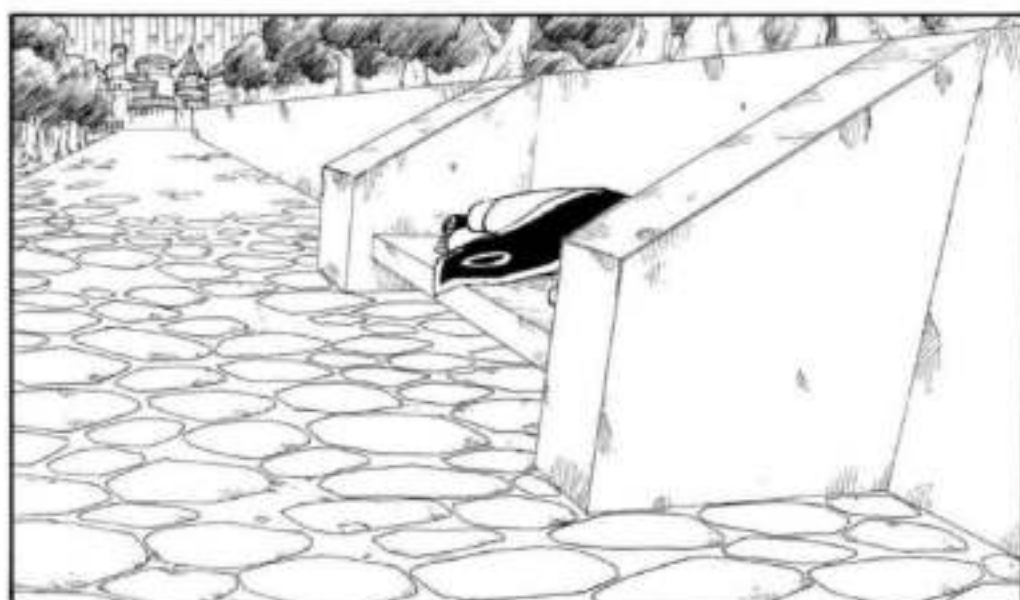


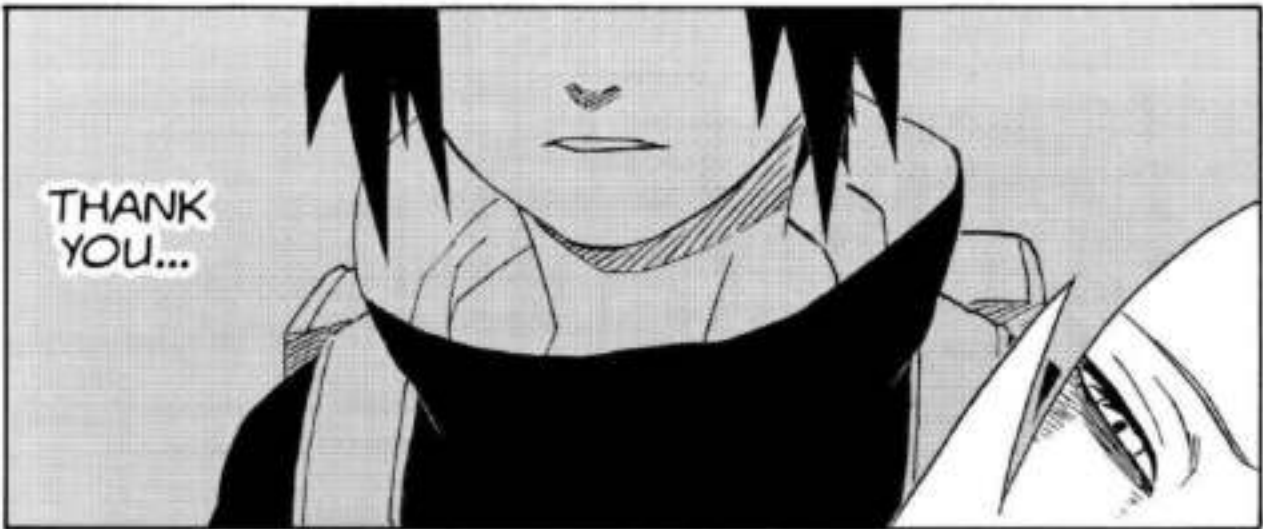


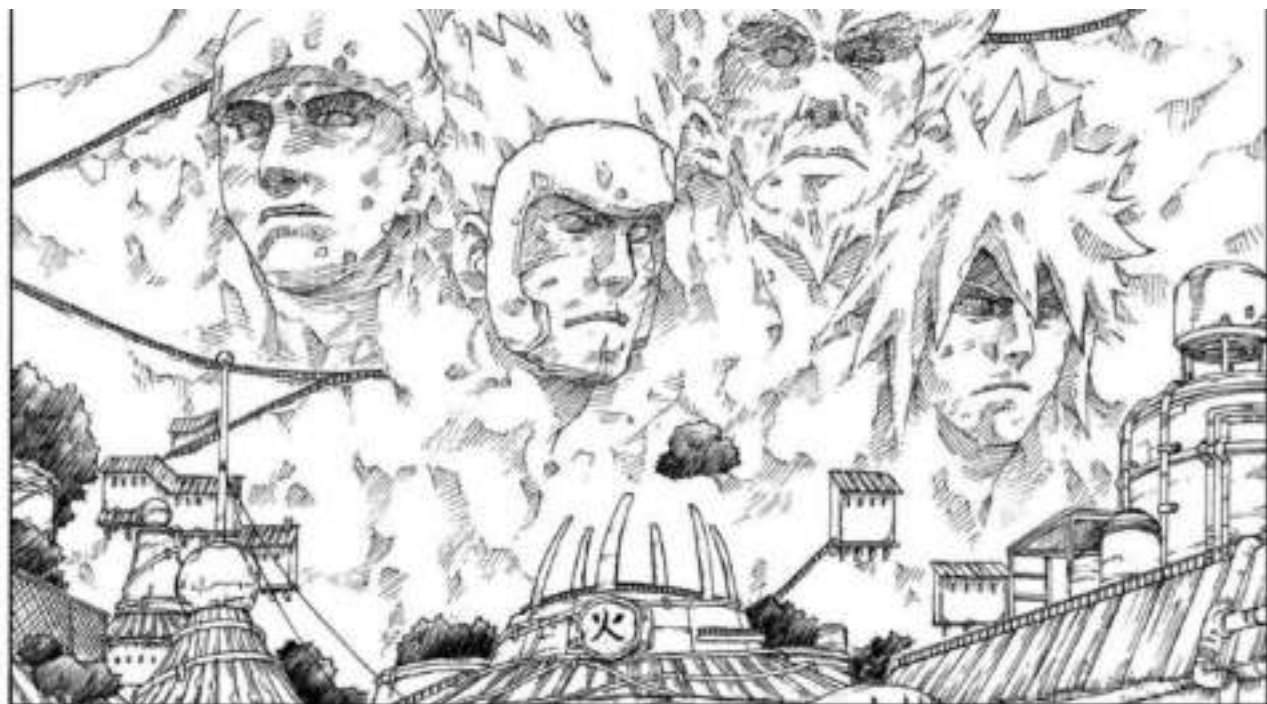


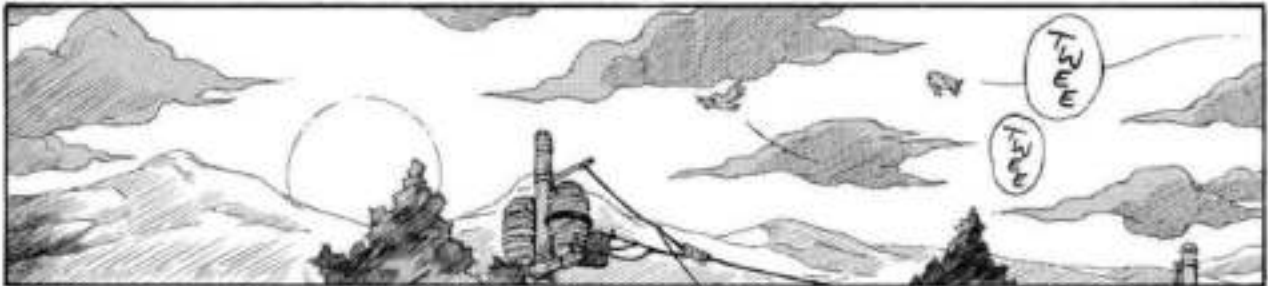
Number 182: Assemble!!













HE'S
ALREADY
MAKING
HIS
MOVE...

BLAST.

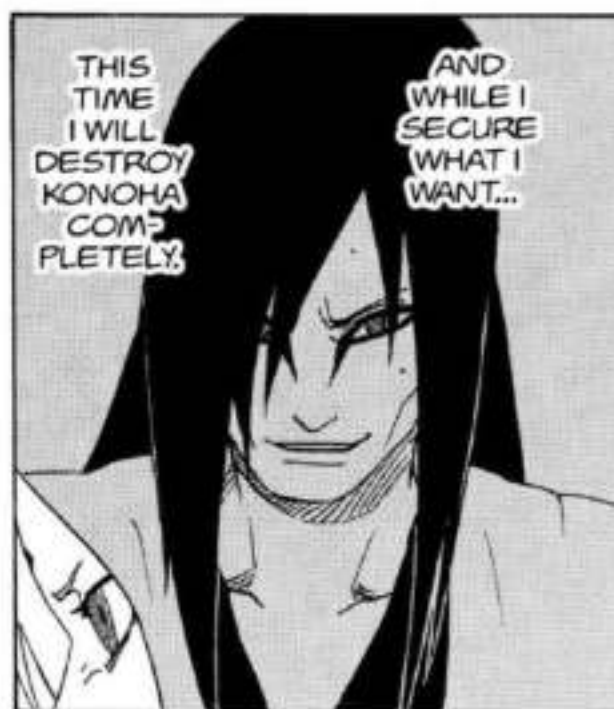


...



SO WHAT
HE WANTS
IS THE
POWER OF
THE UCHIHA?
THAT...THAT
CREEP!

...



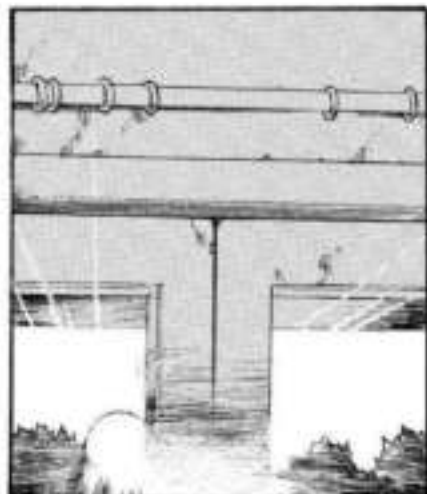
THIS
TIME
I WILL
DESTROY
KONOHA
COM-
PLETELY.

AND
WHILE I
SECURE
WHAT I
WANT...



I WANT
YOU TO
BRING
SOMEONE
BEFORE
ME.

IZUMO
AND
KOTETSU.



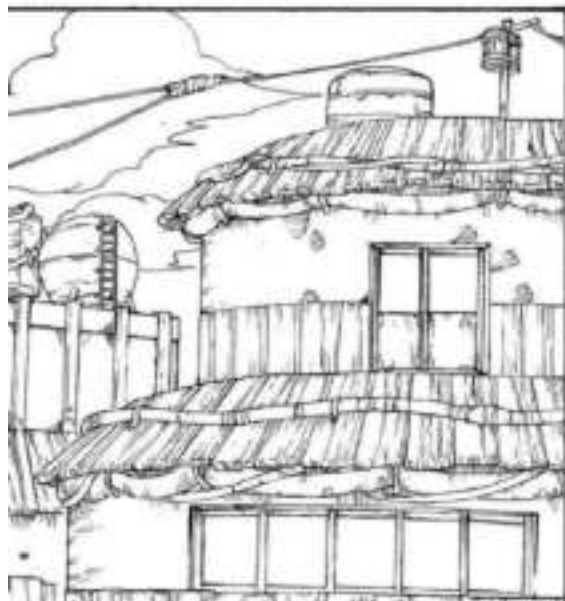




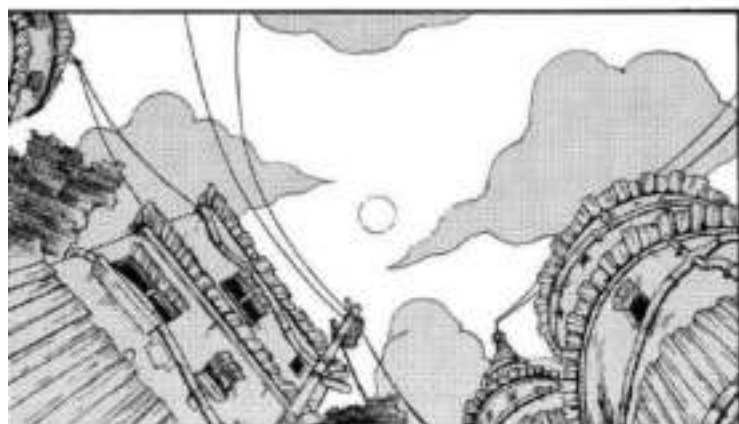


















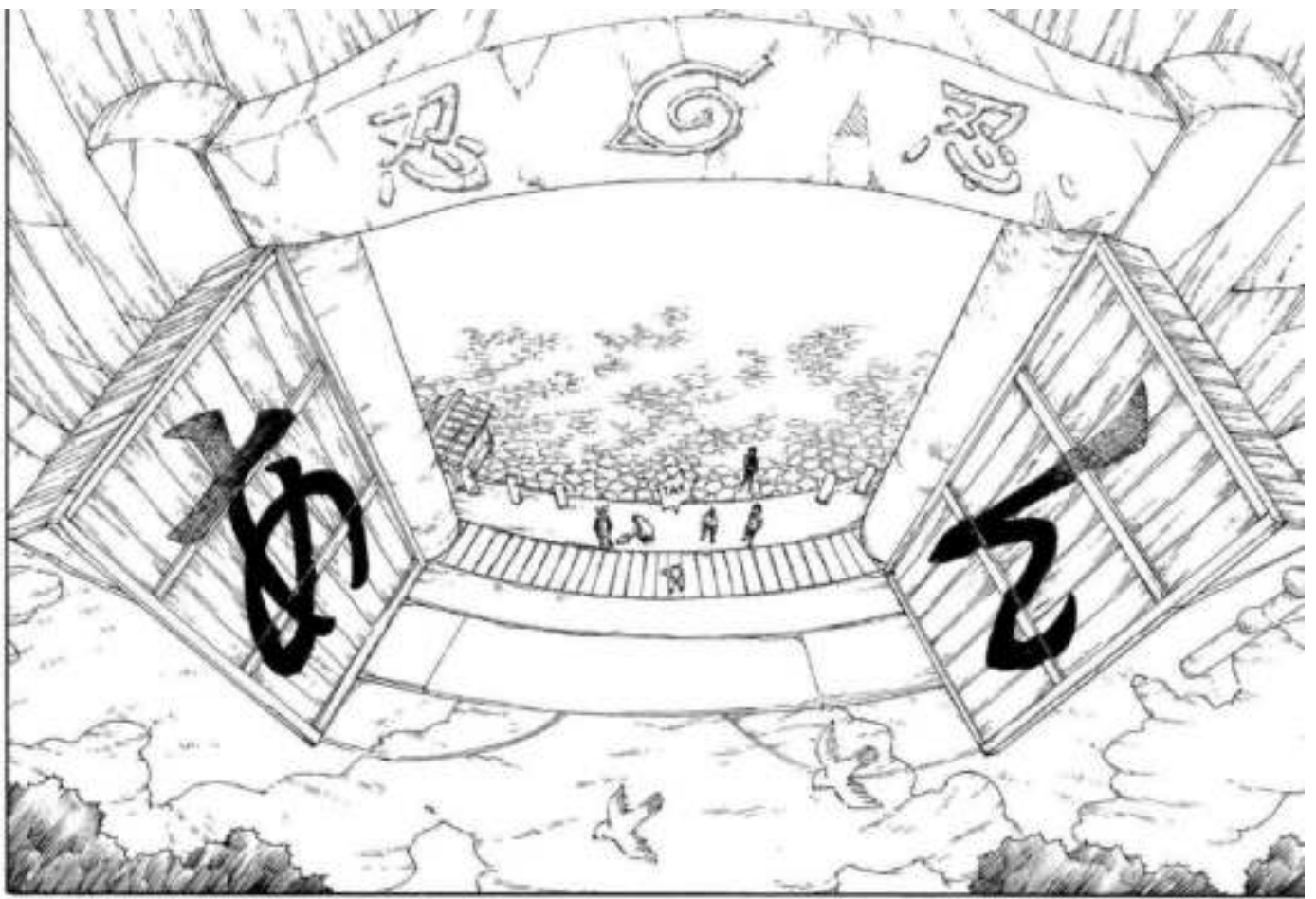




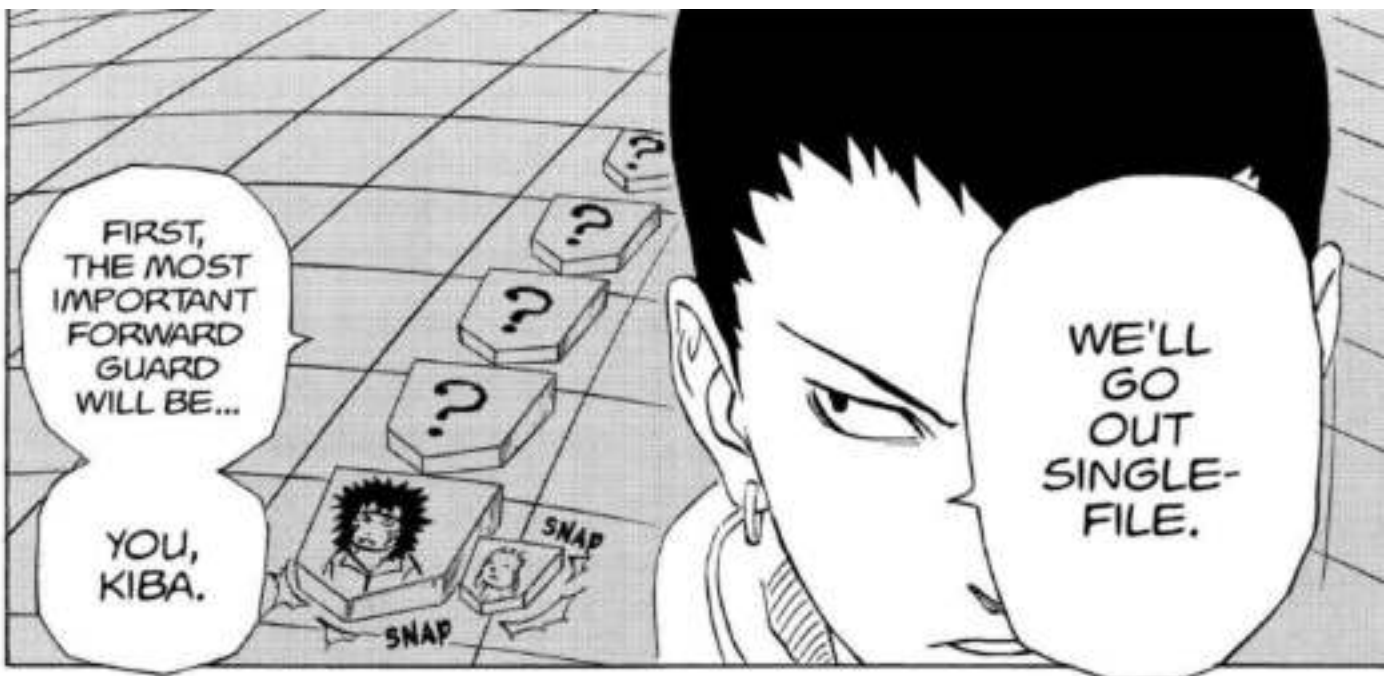
 Number 183:

The Promise









FIRST, THE MOST IMPORTANT FORWARD GUARD WILL BE...
YOU, KIBA.

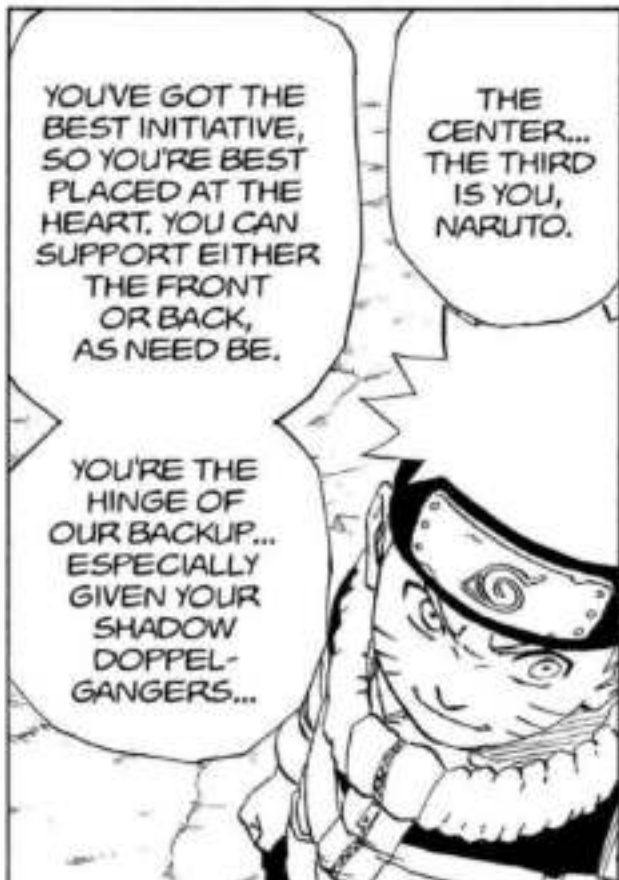
WE'LL GO OUT SINGLE-FILE.



ALSO, A SINGLE-FILE FORMATION IS VULNERABLE TO FRONTAL ATTACK...
YOUR PAIRING WITH AKAMARU MAKES YOU DOUBLY EFFECTIVE.

YOU CAN EVEN DETECT AND DISARM BOOBY TRAPS, WHERE THE ENEMY HAS TOUCHED THEM.

YOU SPENT ALL YEAR WANDERING THE LAND OF FIRE WITH AKAMARU, SO IF ANYONE KNOWS THE TERRAIN, IT'S YOU...
PLUS, GIVEN YOUR ACUTE SENSE OF SMELL, WE CAN TRACK SASUKE BY SCENT.



YOU'VE GOT THE BEST INITIATIVE, SO YOU'RE BEST PLACED AT THE HEART. YOU CAN SUPPORT EITHER THE FRONT OR BACK, AS NEED BE.
YOU'RE THE HINGE OF OUR BACKUP... ESPECIALLY GIVEN YOUR SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS...

THE CENTER... THE THIRD IS YOU, NARUTO.



WHATEVER THE SITUATION, I CAN RESPOND BY ORDERING KIBA DIRECTLY FROM BEHIND.
MEANWHILE I CAN USE HAND SIGNALS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF YOU.

AND THEN...I, PLATOON LEADER, COME SECOND.



REAR
GUARD
IS THE
TOUGHEST
JOB
OF ALL.

WITH YOUR
BYAKUGAN,
YOU CAN
ENSURE
THAT OUR
SQUAD HAS
NO BLIND
SPOTS.

FINALLY,
BRINGING
UP THE
REAR...
IS NEJI.



CHOJI,
YOU'RE
FOURTH
UP?

IN
OTHER
WORDS,
YOUR
JOB IS
IN THE
FOLLOW-
UP
STRIKE.

YOU DON'T
HAVE SPEED,
BUT YOU HAVE THE
GREATEST STRIKING
POWER. ONCE KIBA,
NARUTO AND I LAUNCH
A SURPRISE ATTACK,
YOU TAKE THE STAGE
AND CLOBBER THE
ENEMY WITH A
FATAL BLOW.



TAKE A
GOOD
LOOK.

HERE.
LET ME
DRAW
UP A
DIAGRAM.



NARUTO
LEFT,
CHOJI
RIGHT.

AND NEJI...
YOU USE YOUR
BYAKUGAN
TO COVER
THE WHOLE
AREA BEHIND
US.

VERIFY
YOUR
TARGET
AREA.
KIBA
FRONT.

ME
GREATER
FORWARD
AREA.















SO NOW...
NOW THE
ONLY
PERSON
WHO CAN...
STOP HIM...
SAVE HIM...

...IS
YOU.

I
COULDN'T
DO IT!

I...
I COULDN'T
STOP HIM!



JUST...
YOU,
NARUTO.



NARUTO,
THIS...
THIS IS
MY WISH...
OF A
LIFETIME
...

PLEASE...
PLEASE
BRING
SASUKE
BACK...



GRIN

SAKURA,
YOU
SURE DO
CARE
ABOUT
SASUKE...



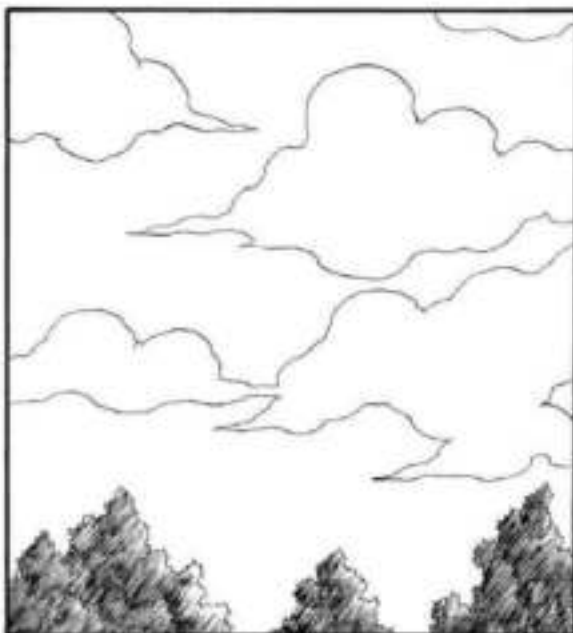
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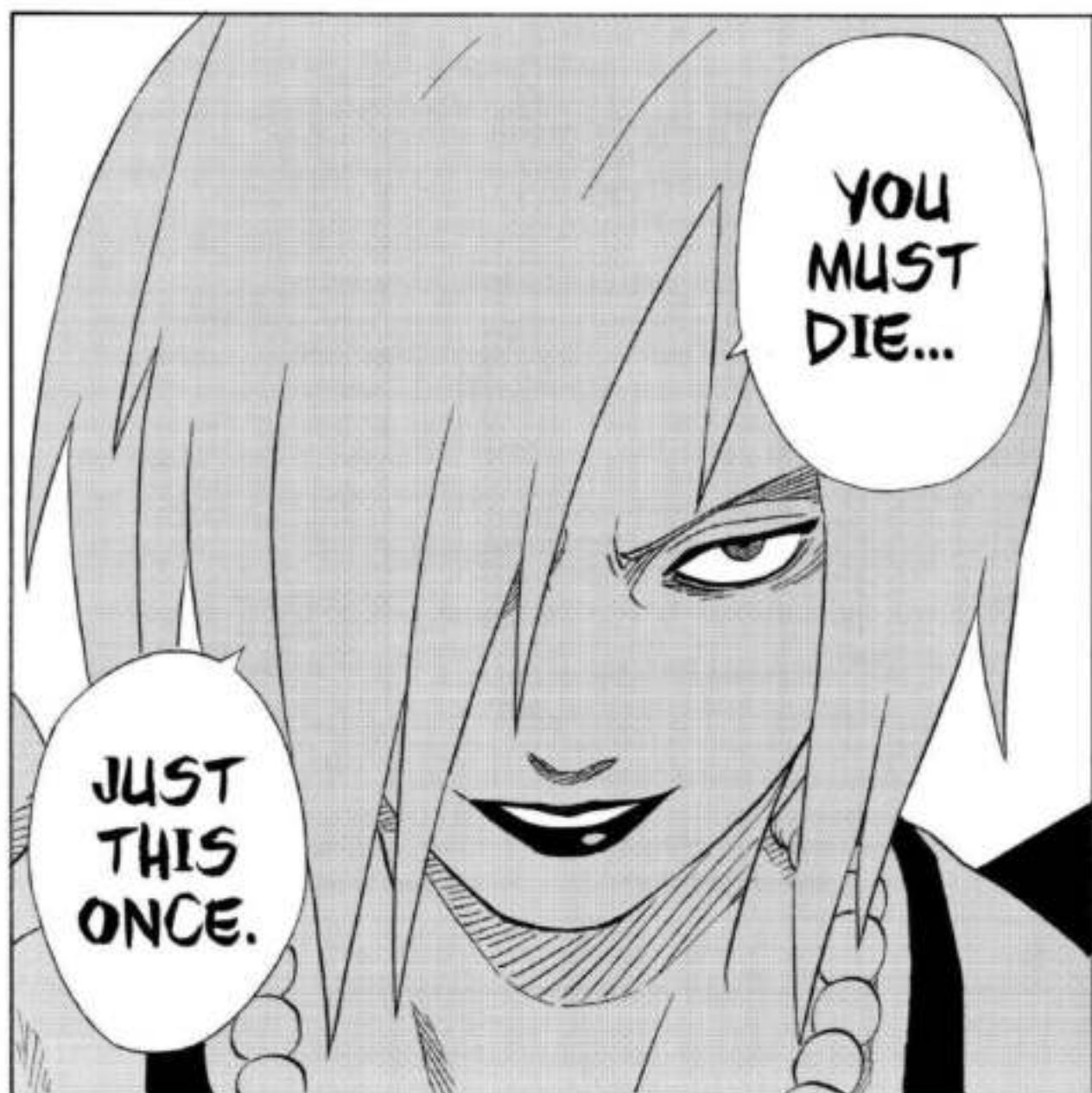


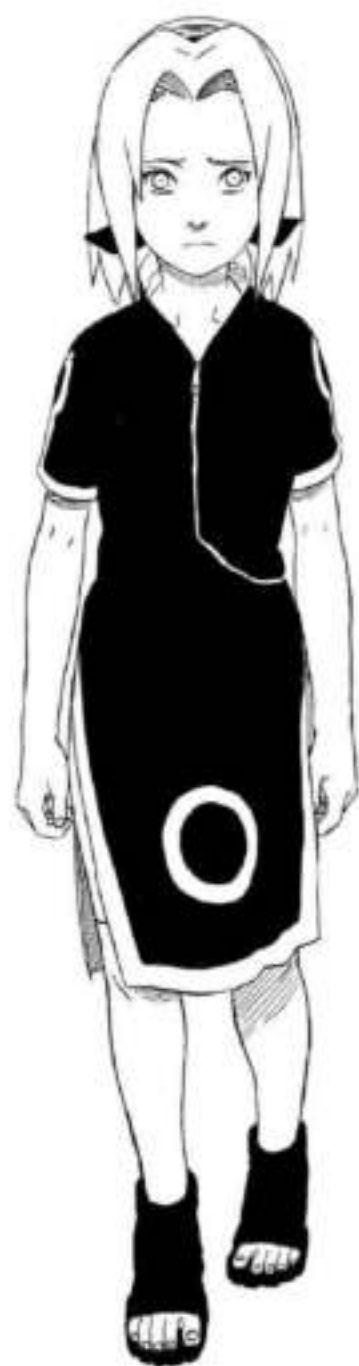








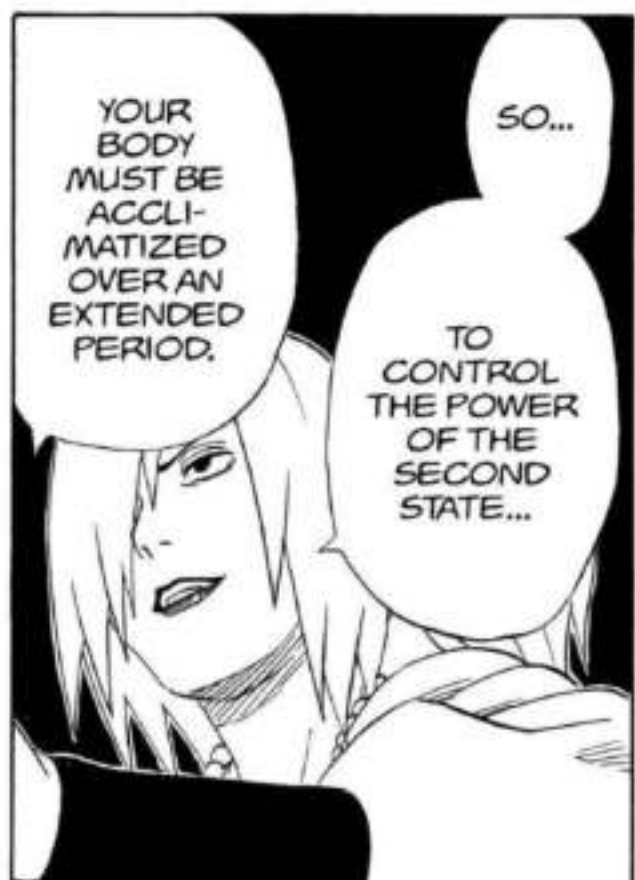
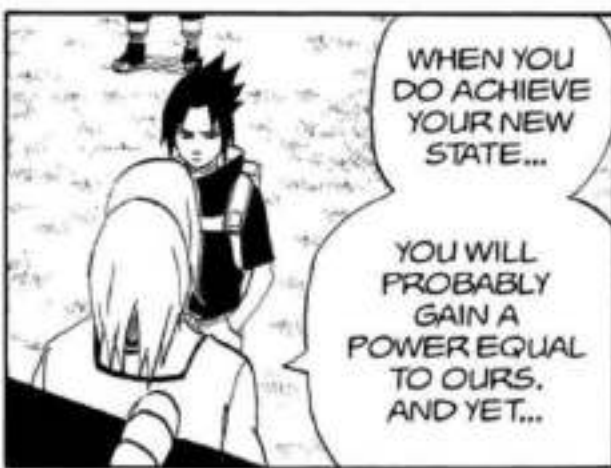


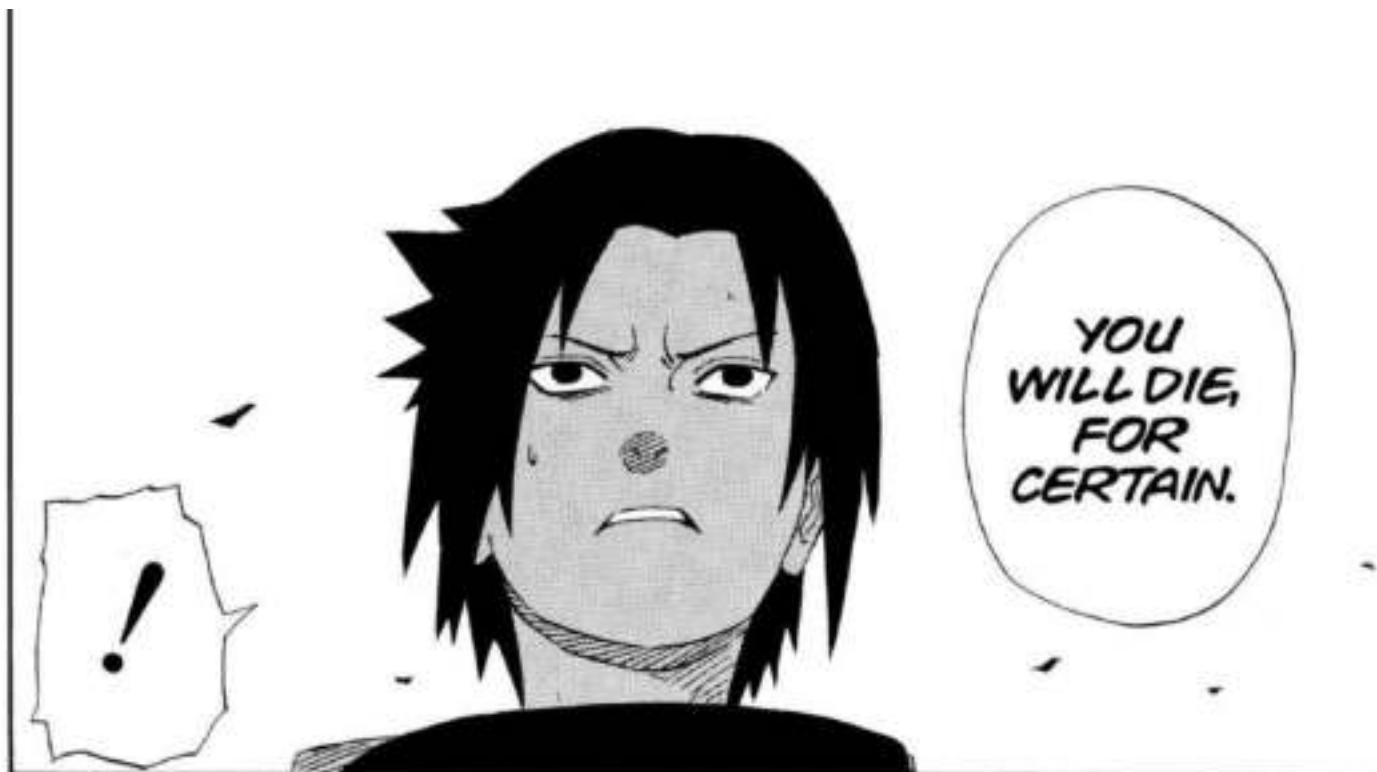


 Number 184:











RATHER THAN DIE, YOU WILL LAPSE INTO A SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

USING BARRIER NINJUTSU, WE CAN REIN IN THE SIDE EFFECTS...



IS IT TRUST-WORTHY ?

THIS BARRIER NINJUTSU OF YOURS...



...



WE EXCEL IN ALL MANNER OF NINJUTSU, BE IT BARRIER, DEFENSIVE WALLS...
...CURSE MARKS, SEALING SPELLS AND THE REST.

SASUKE, SIR...
WE'RE THE SOUND NINJA FOUR, BODYGUARDS TO LORD OROCHIMARU, THE ELITE OF THE ELITE.

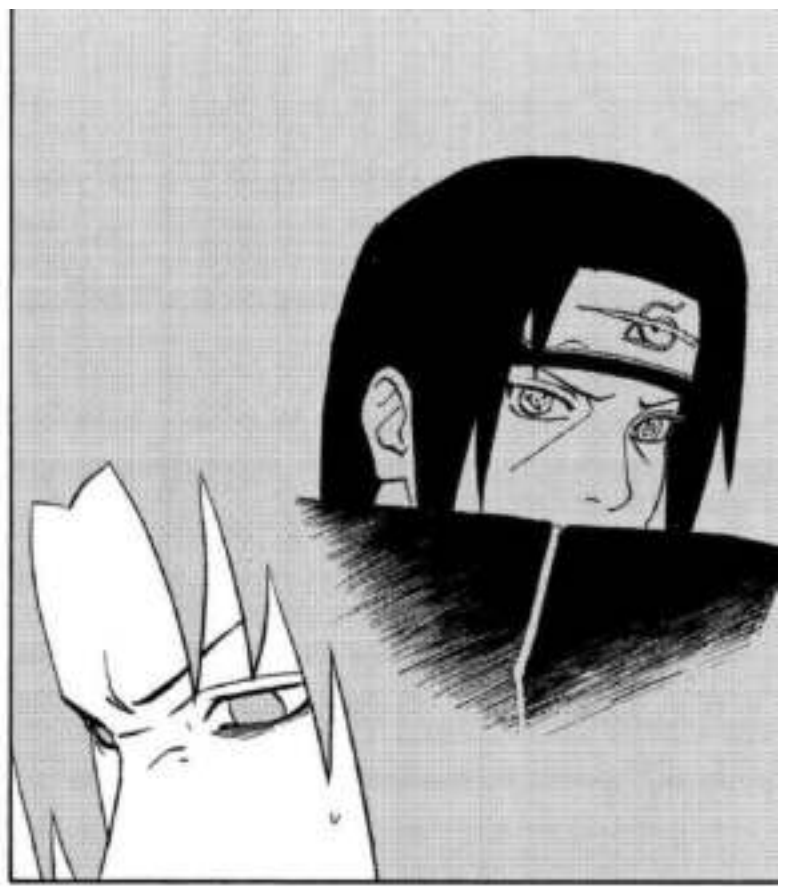


NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T DIE YET...

I CAN'T ...



...



READ THIS WAY



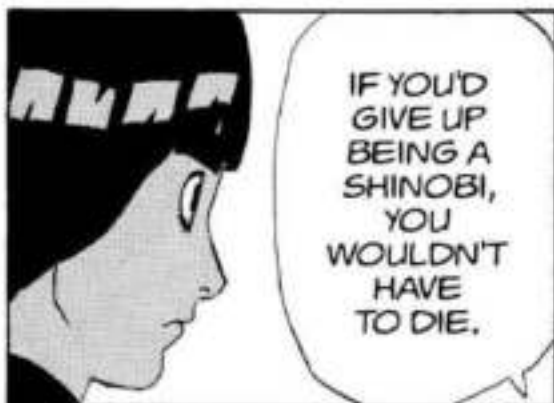
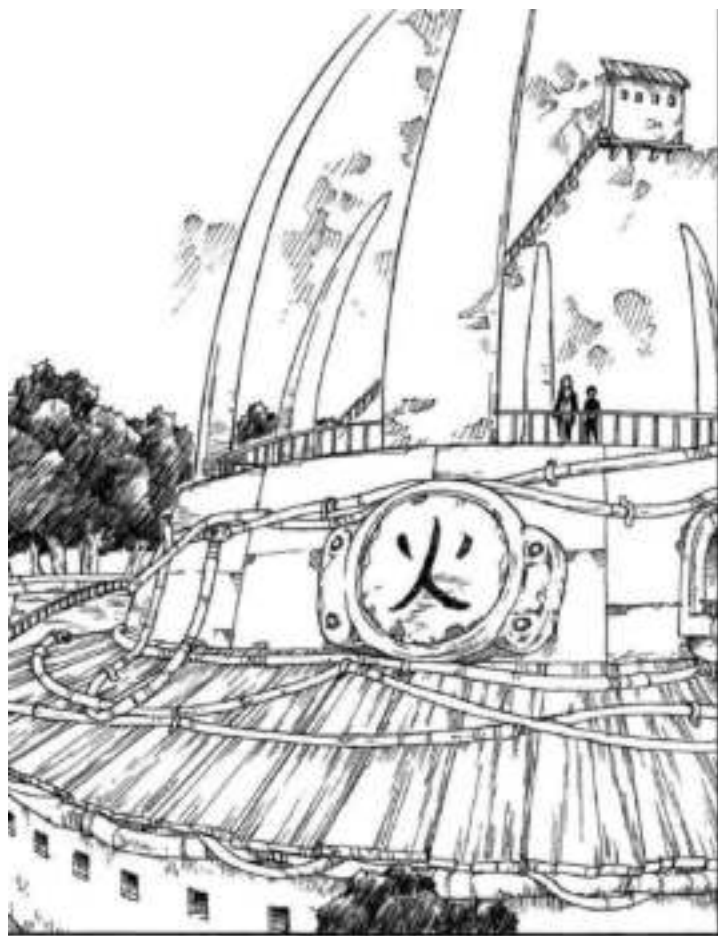


SHIKOKU
MUJIN!
FOUR
BLACK
MISTS
FORMA-
TION!!

FWOOO

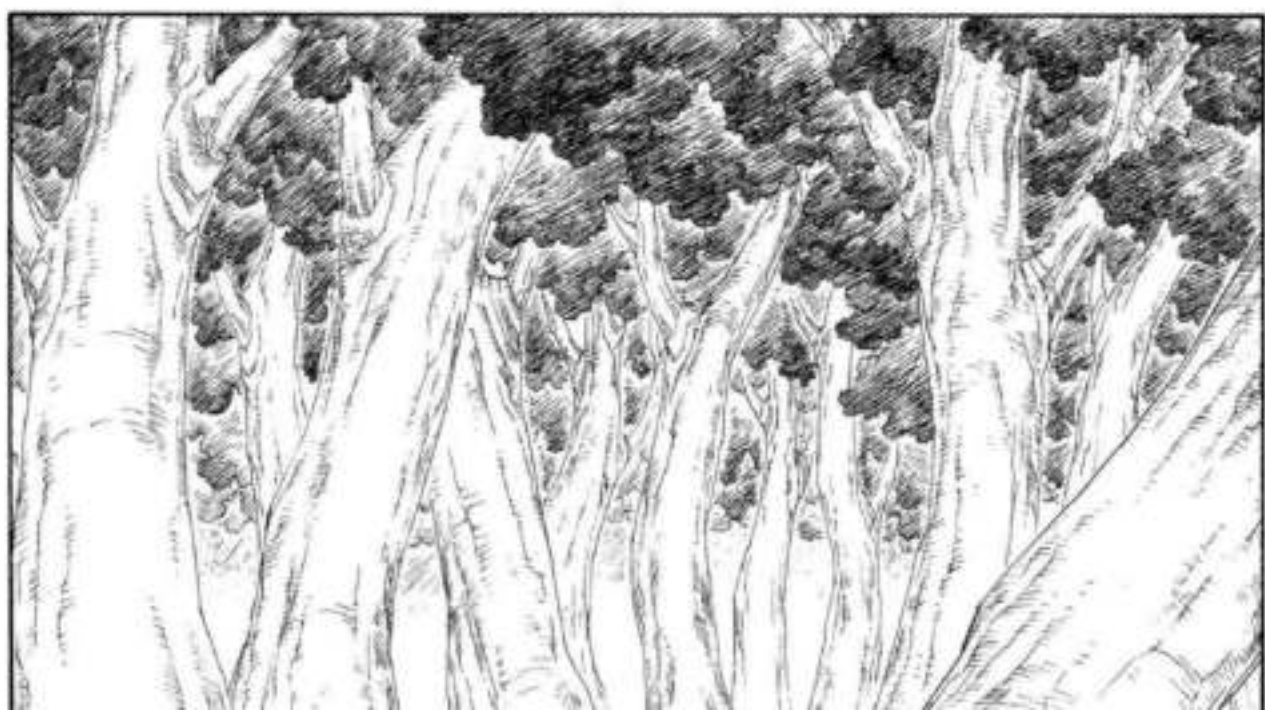























FIGHTING
TWO
JÔNIN
IS A BIT
ROUGH.



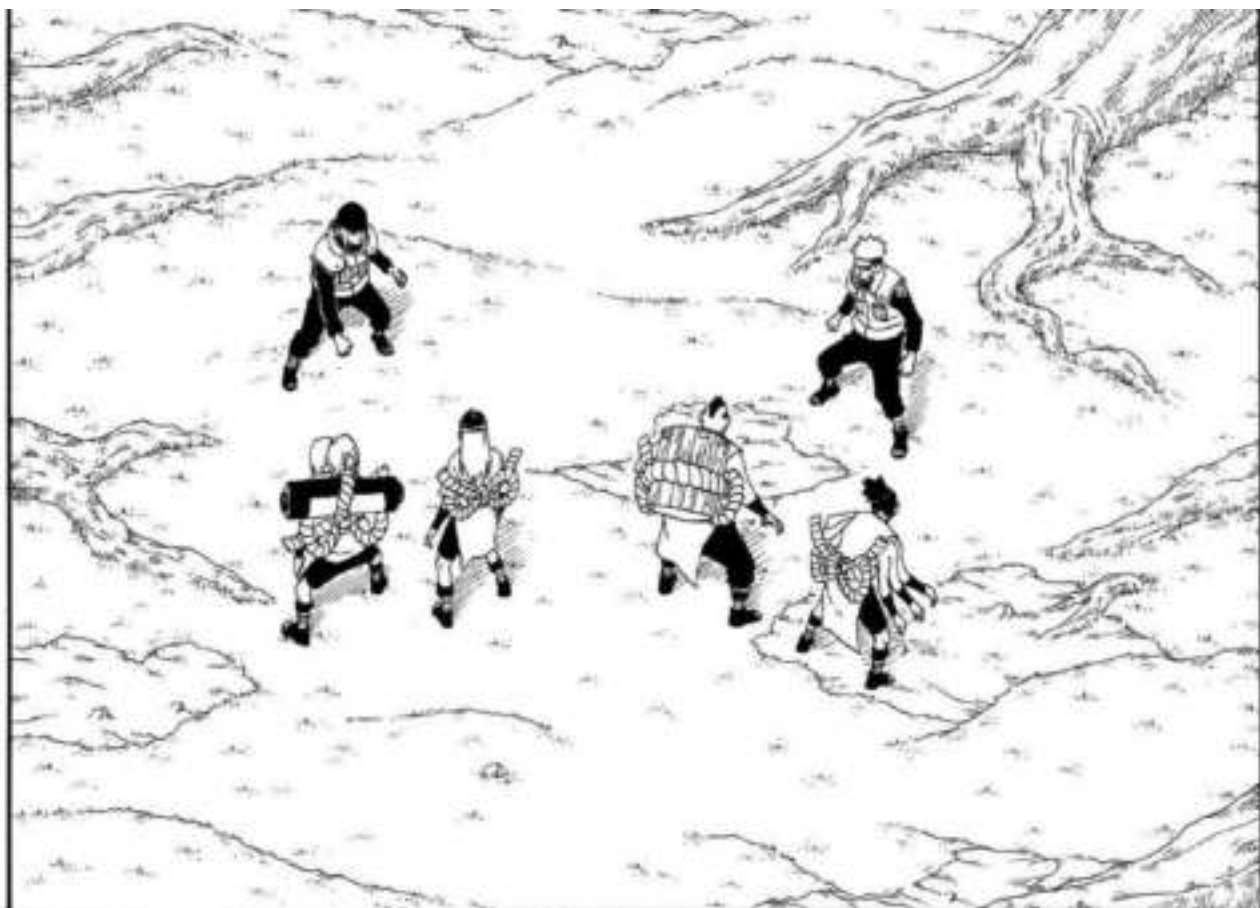
NEARBY...
THE
SMELL
OF
BLOOD...



 Number 185: Pursuit...!!





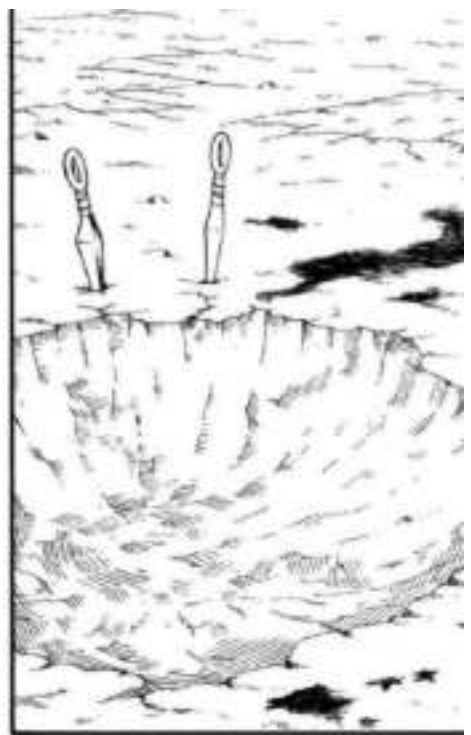




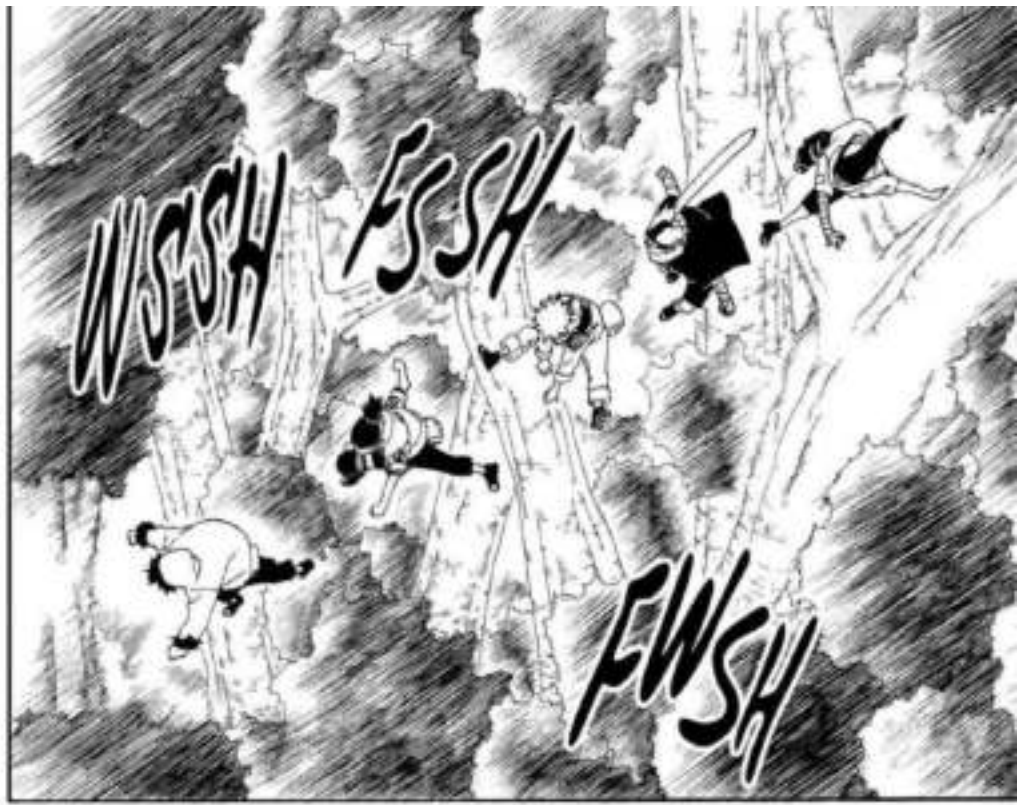














I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT TURN UP SOMETHING BY INVESTIGATING...

BUT WE CAN'T JUST TEAR IN HALF-COCKED. WE'LL HAVE TO SWITCH GEARS TO SCOUT MODE AND CREEP IN AT GROUND LEVEL...

IF THERE'S THE SMELL OF BLOOD...

THAT MEANS THERE WAS A FIGHT.



...



SO WHAT'RE WE DOING, THEN?



AND WHILE WE'RE PLAYING DETECTIVE...

SASUKE WILL HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER.



ALL RIGHT! WAY TO GO, MAN!



FINE! WE'LL TRAIL SASUKE!





SHEESH...
AND AFTER
I THOUGHT
I'D FINALLY
CAUGHT UP
TO HIM!

NARUTO...
EVERY TIME
I SEE HIM,
HE'S GOT
SOME NEW
TECHNIQUE
UP HIS
SLEEVE.



THIS
PLACE
REEKS
OF THE
ENEMY!

HEY!



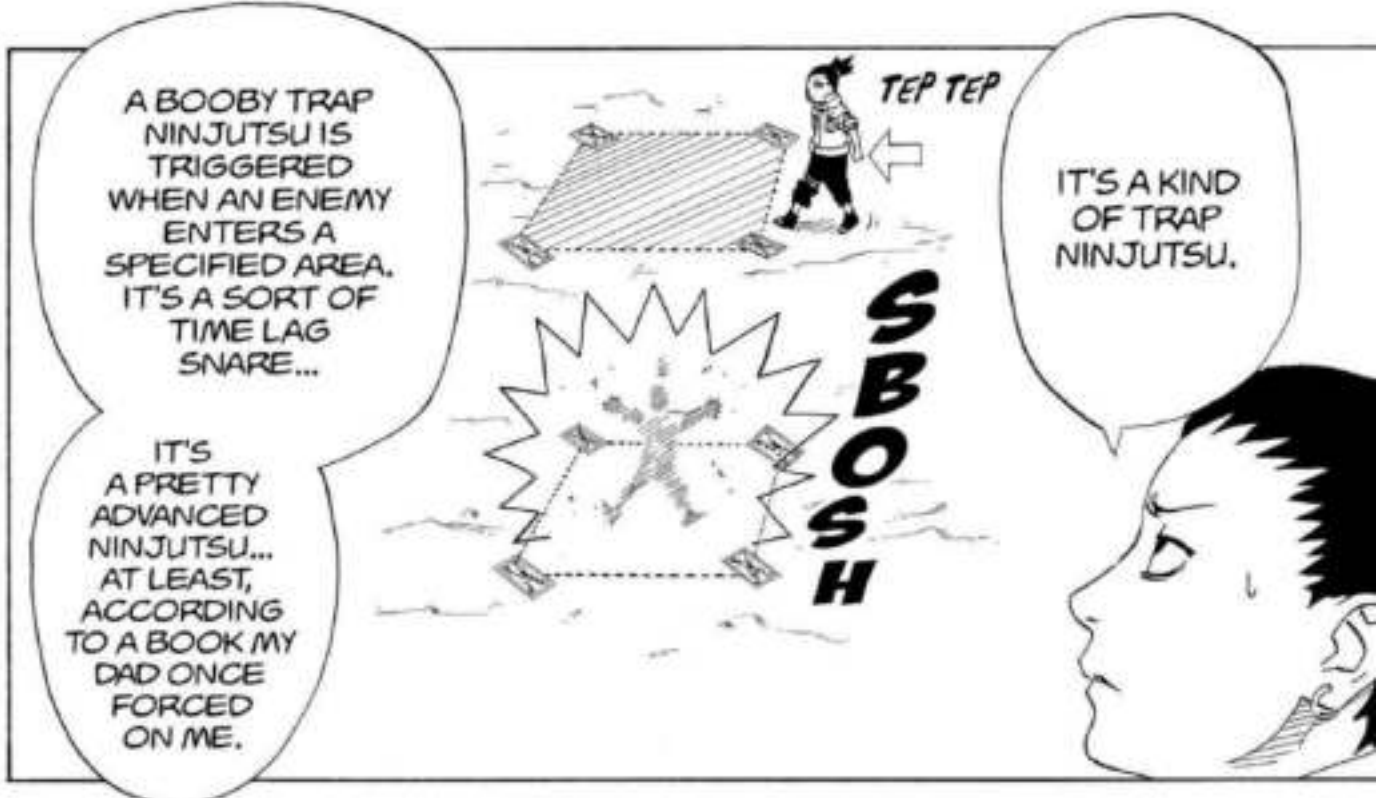
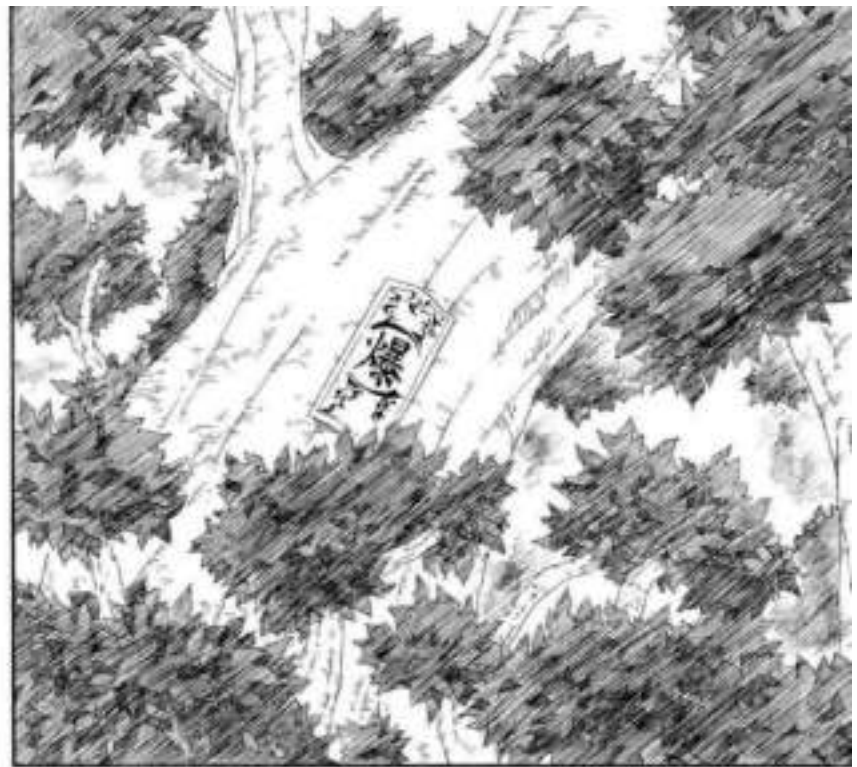
STOP,
EVERY-
ONE!!



LOOK
UP
THERE,
CARE-
FULLY.



SHFF SHFF SHFF SHFF



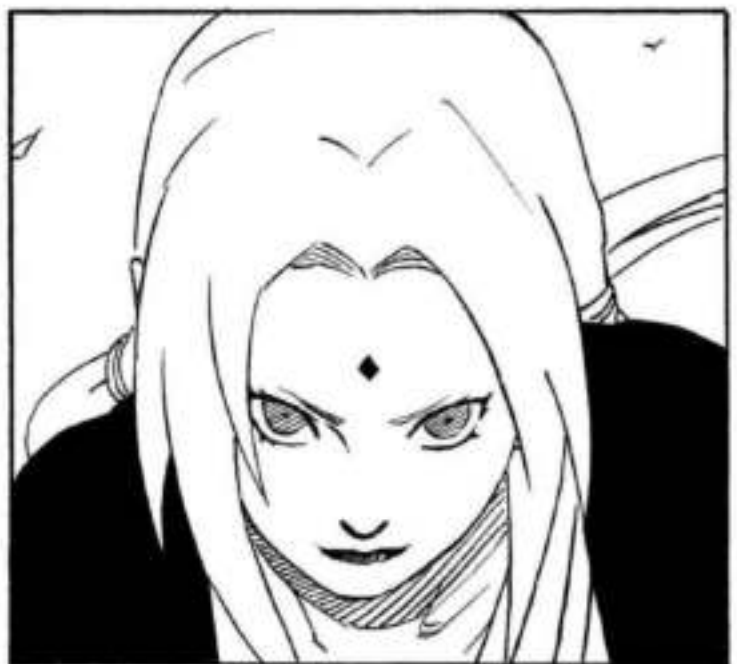








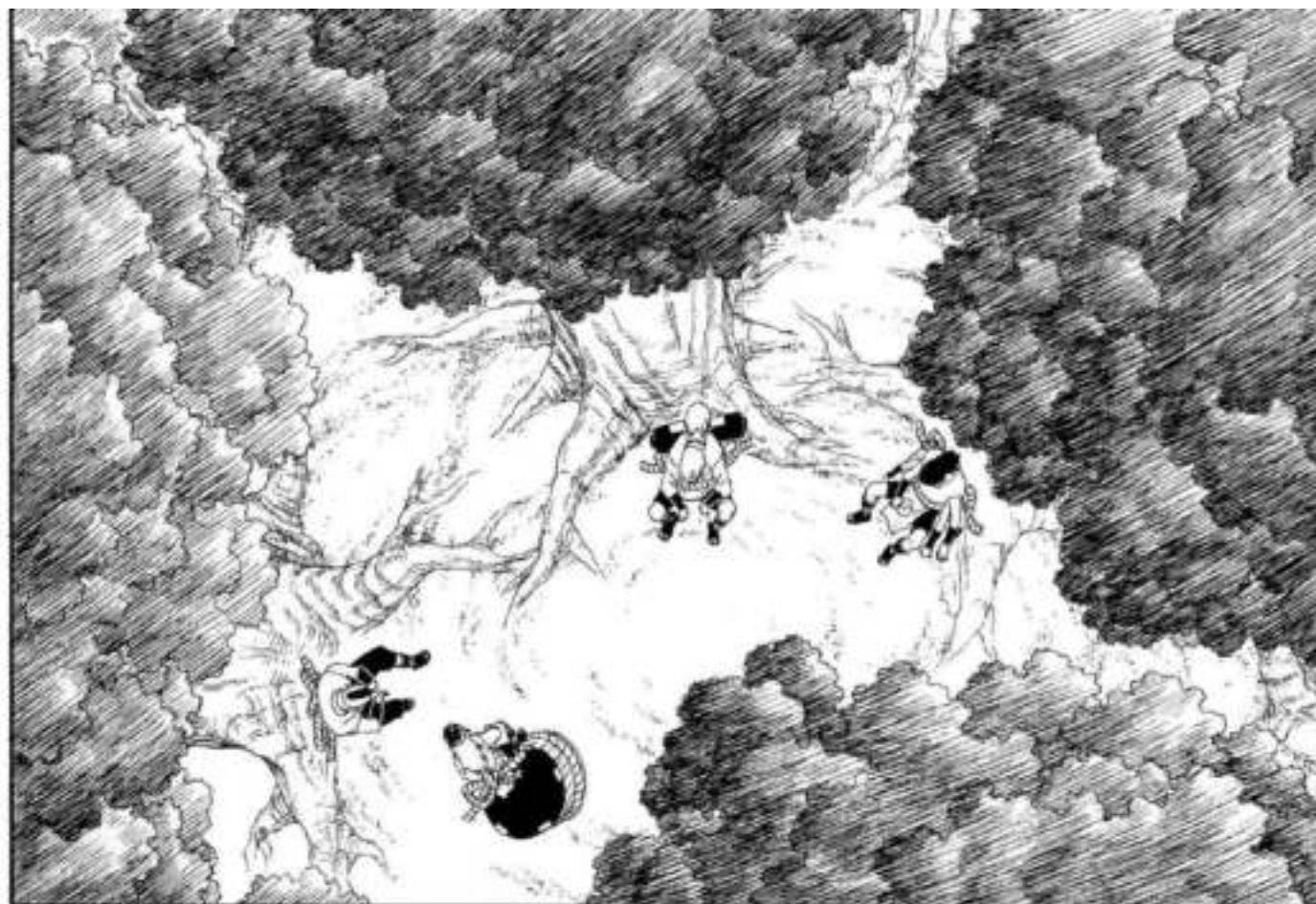




 Number 186:



Failure...?!
z z









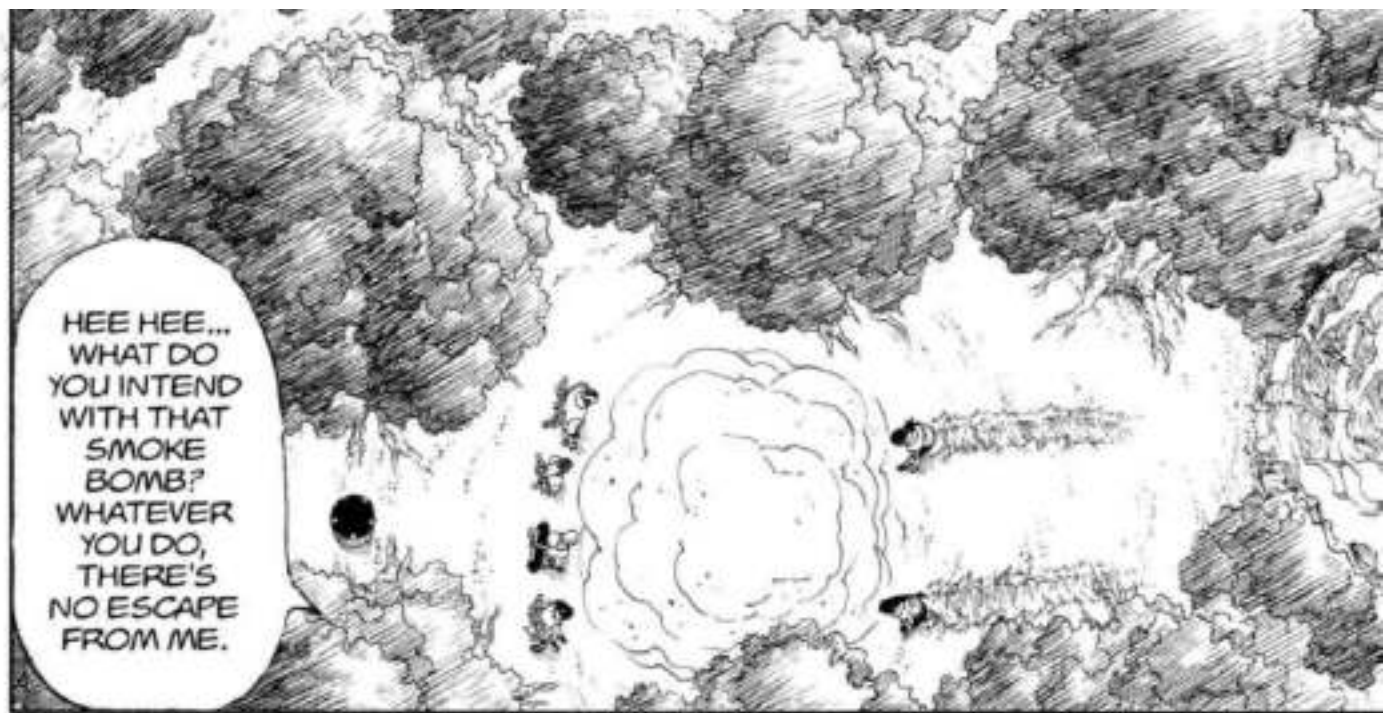




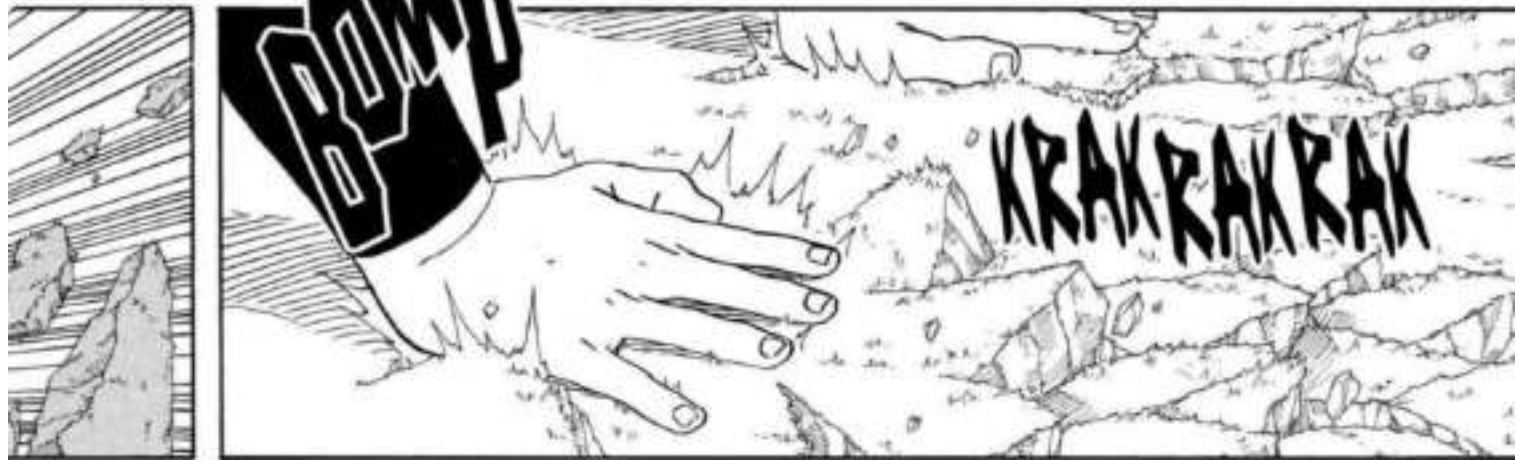


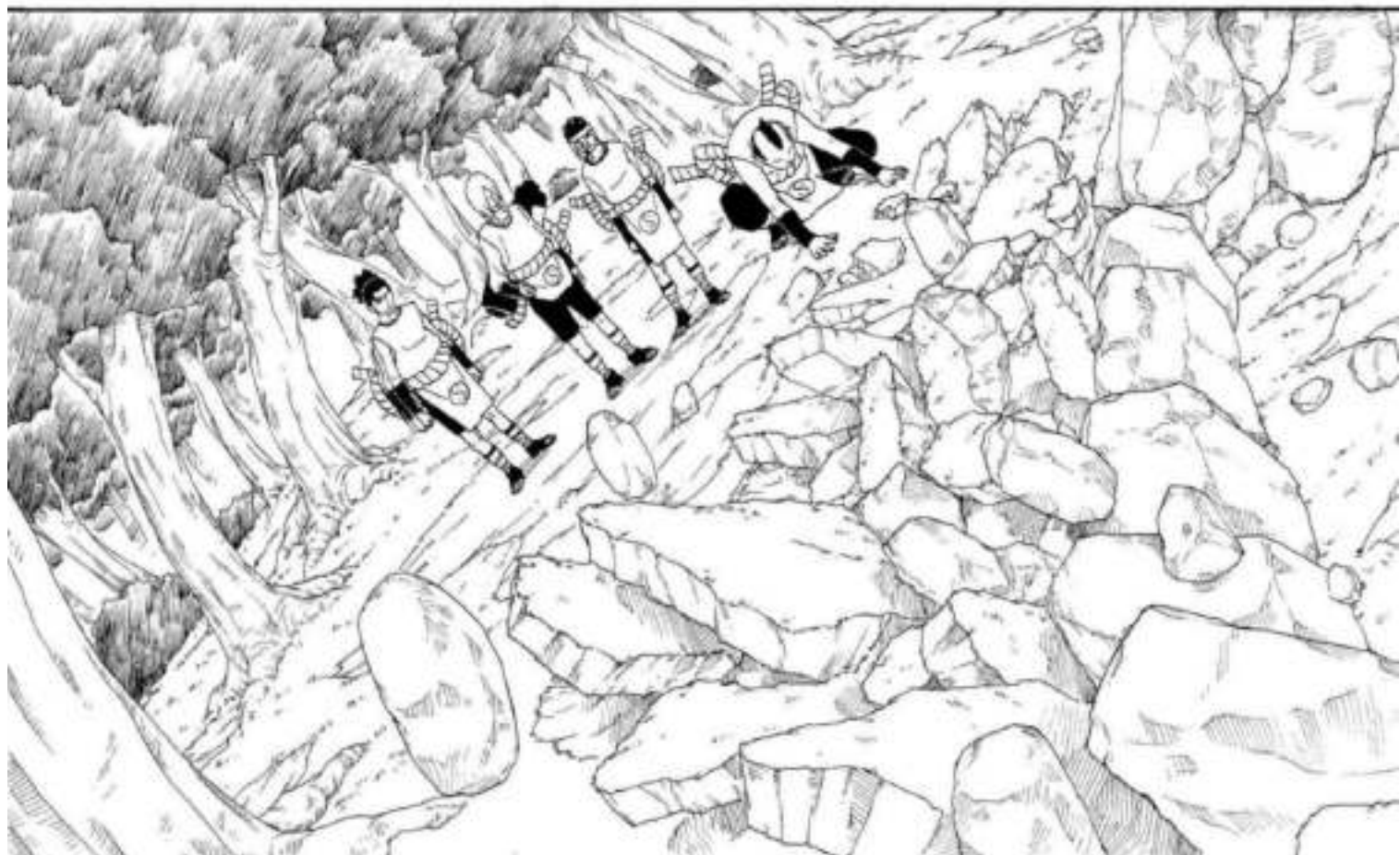
READ THIS WAY























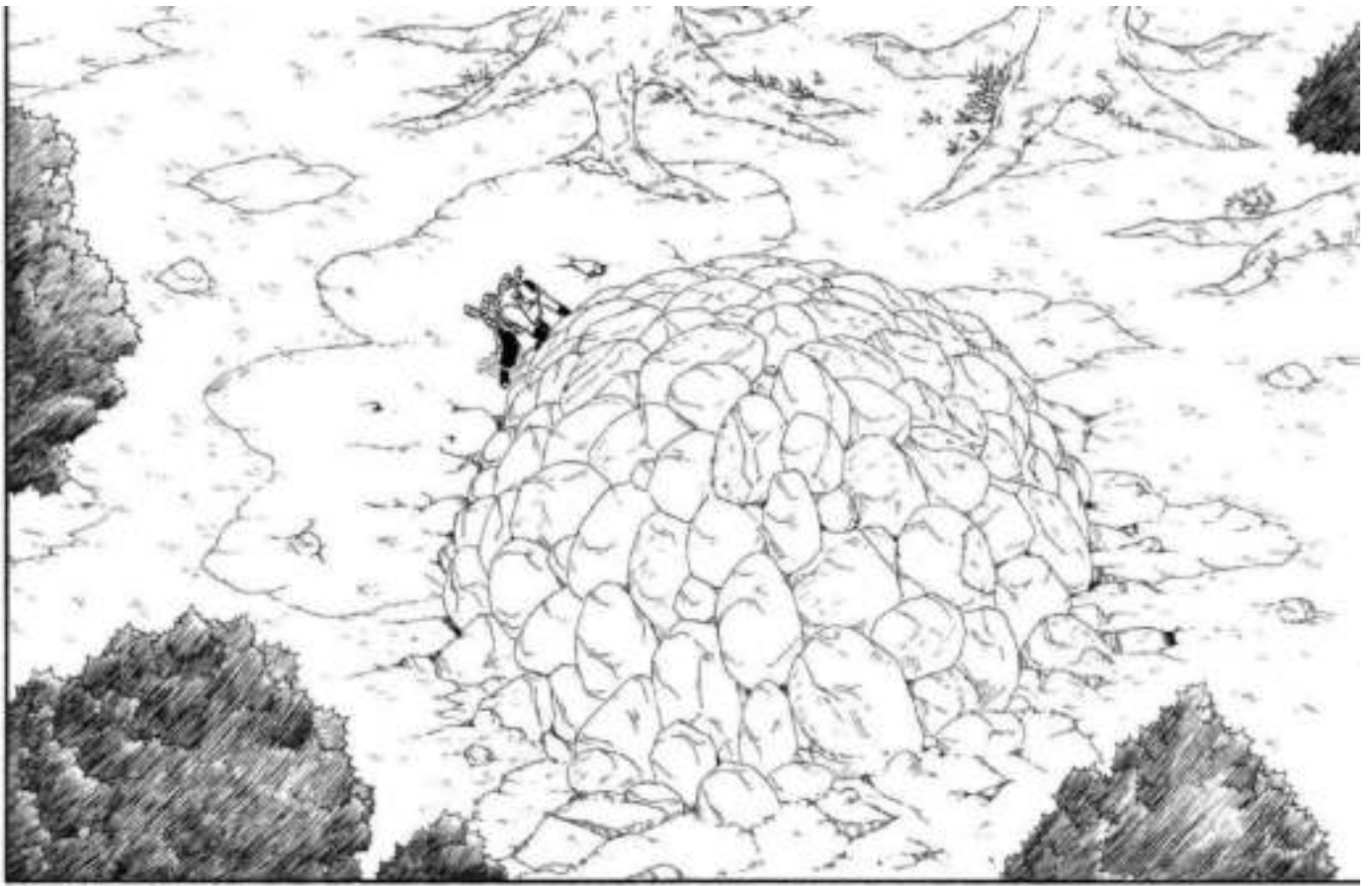




Number 187:



The Plea...!!











GATSUUGA!

SHIRAK

FANG
OVER
FANG
!!



SK
RK

MORE!
MORE!

SK
UK

PAKKA

PAKKA





RASEN-
GAN!
SPIRAL
CHAKRA
SPHERE
!!



THE WAY
THINGS
ARE GOING,
WE WON'T
LAST TEN
MINUTES.
WHEN OUR
CHAKRA'S
GONE...



IN THIS
CONDITION,
I COULD
NEVER PULL
OFF A
HARD-TO-
CONTROL
ATTACK LIKE
THE SPIRAL
CHAKRA
SPHERE...

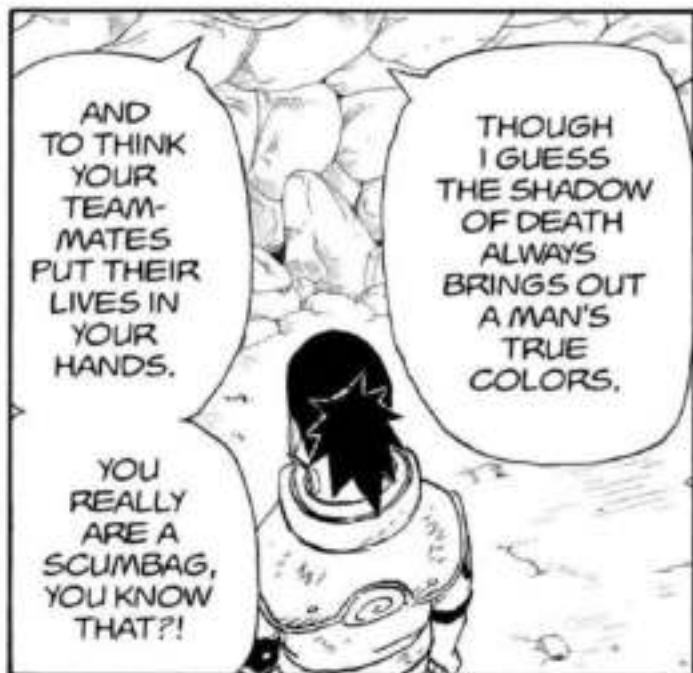
URK.
HE IS
SUCK-
ING
IT
AWAY...



FWAAA...



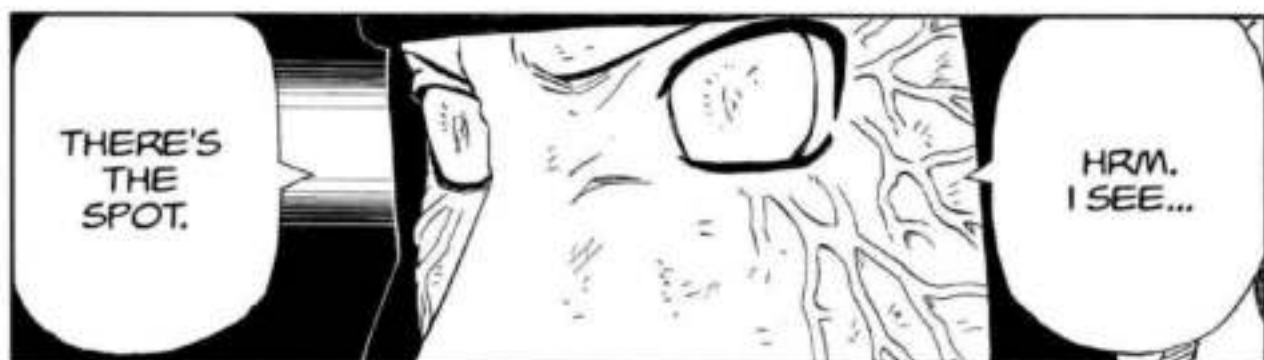
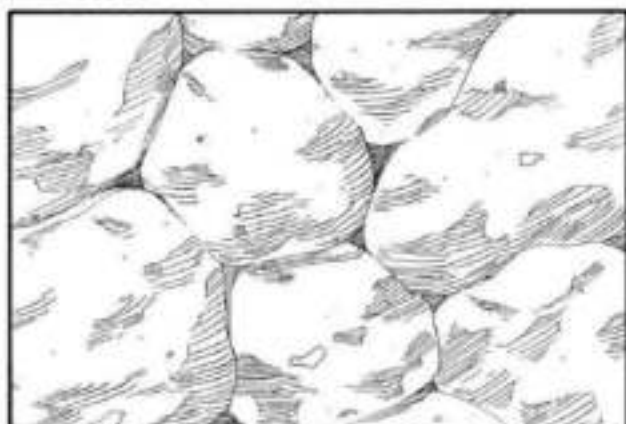




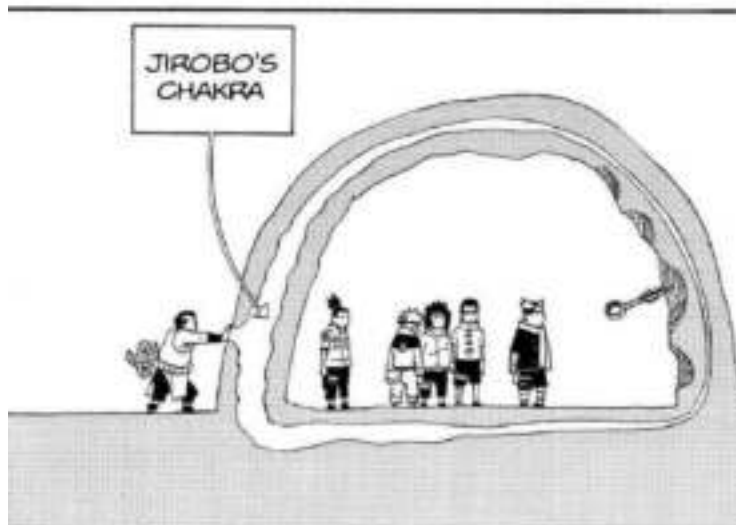














SKRUNCH



**NIKUDAN
SENSHA!
THE
HUMAN
JUGGER-
NAUT!!!**

NCH



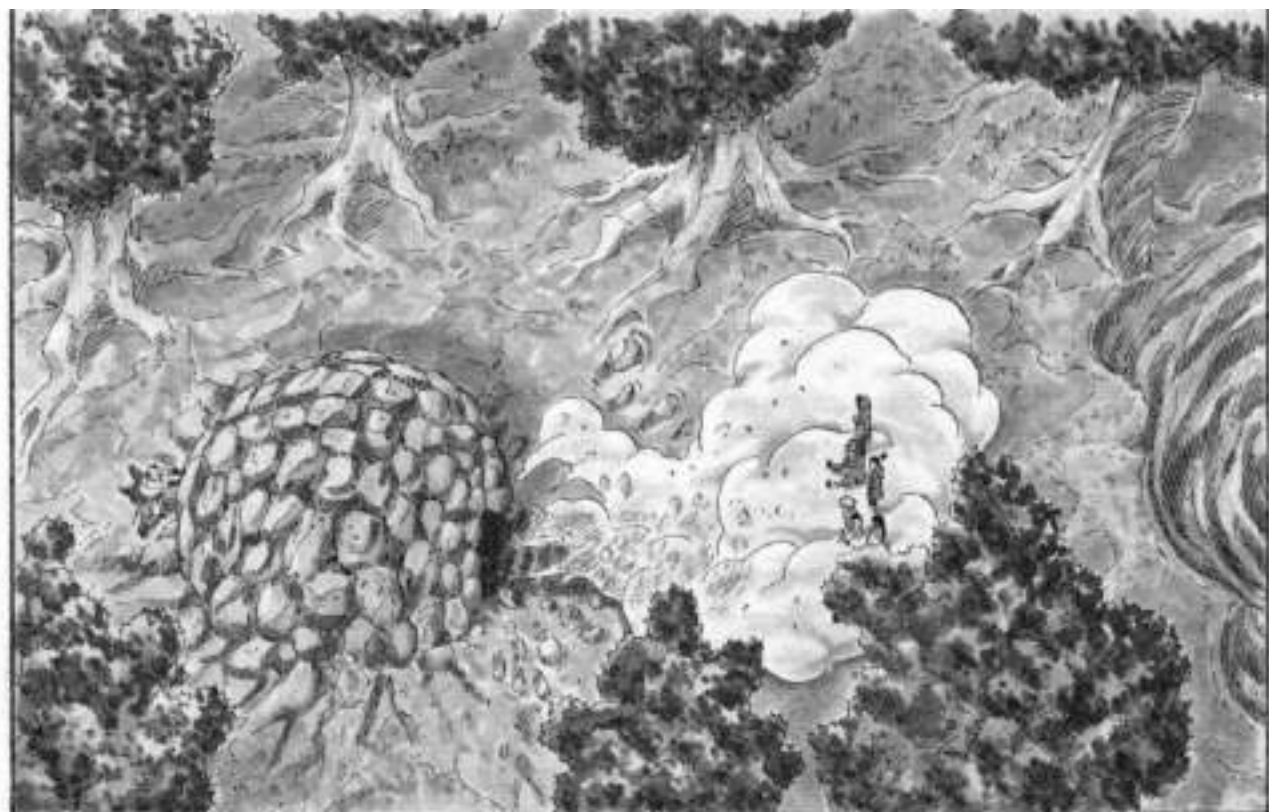
I KNEW
IT...
CHOJI...

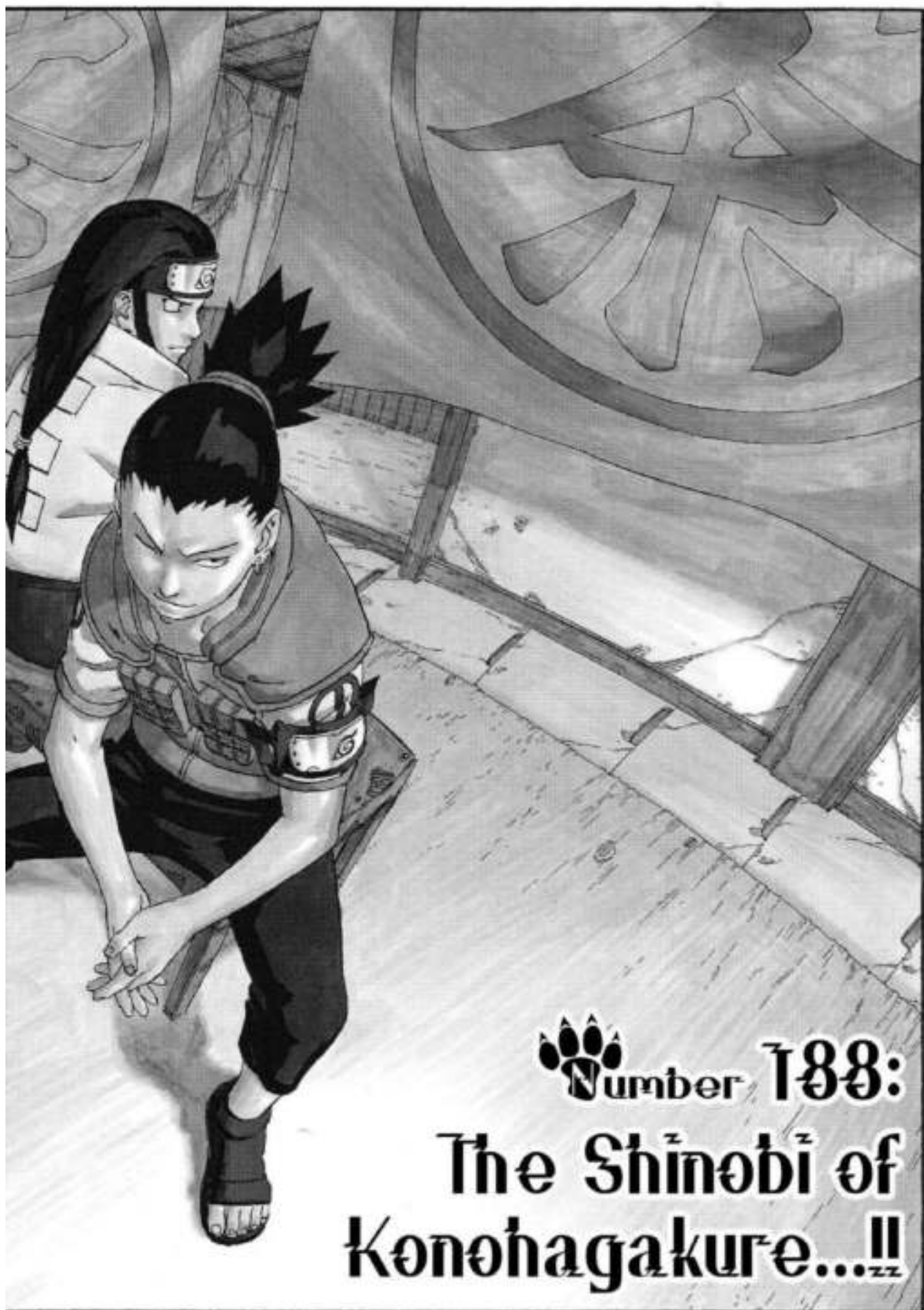


**GRM
GRM
GRM...**







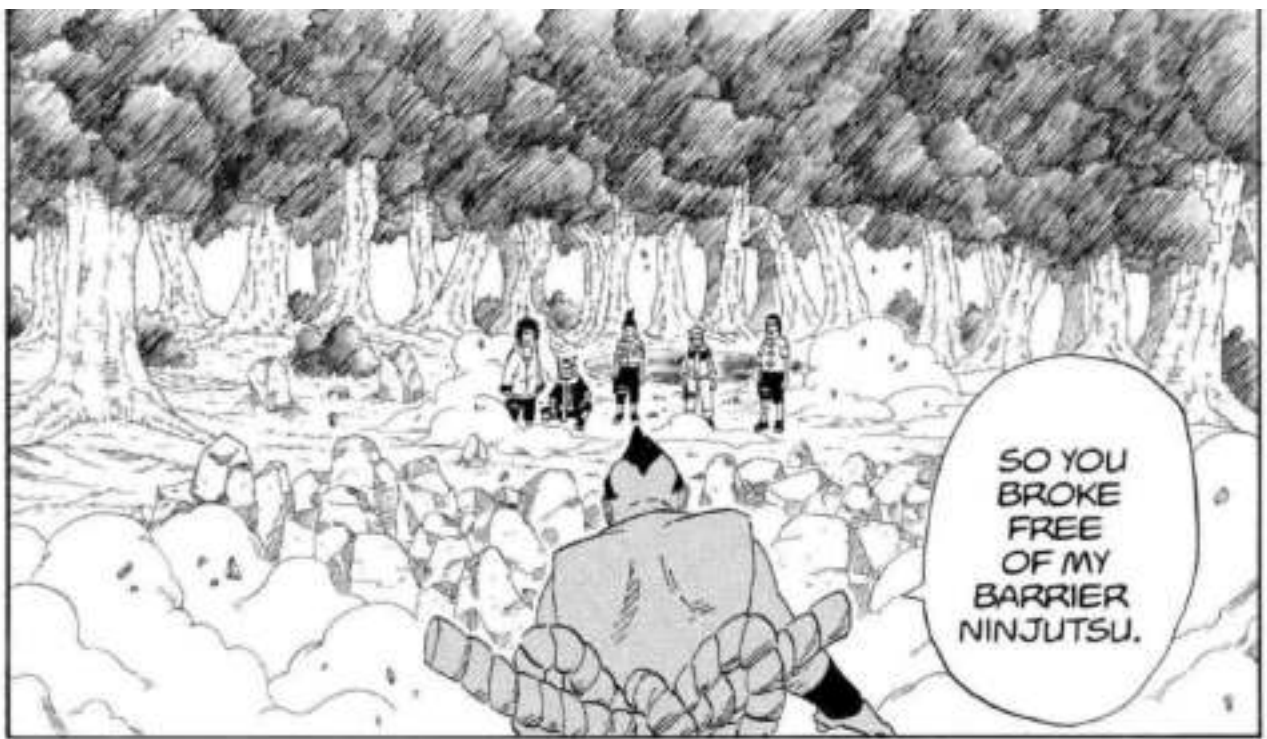


 Number 188:
The Shinobi of
Konohagakure...!!



NARUTO





SO YOU
BROKE
FREE
OF MY
BARRIER
NINJUTSU.



URK...

!
MMGH



THAT'S
PRETTY
GOOD,
KIDS.



HOLD
IT!!

SHWA



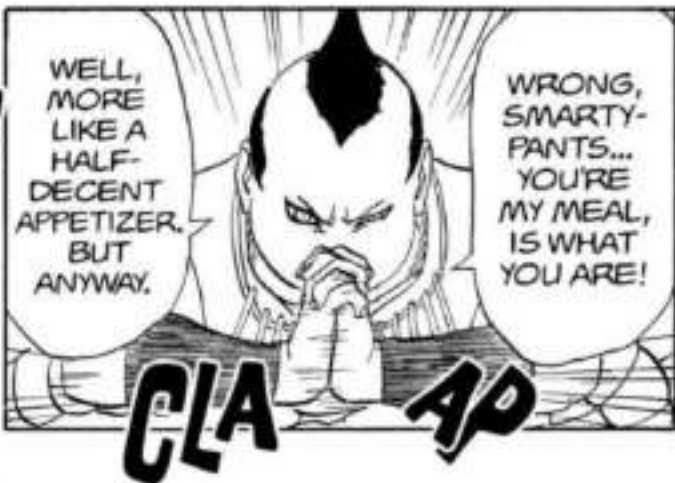
NOW THAT
WE'RE OUT,
WE'VE GOT
THE UPPER
HAND!

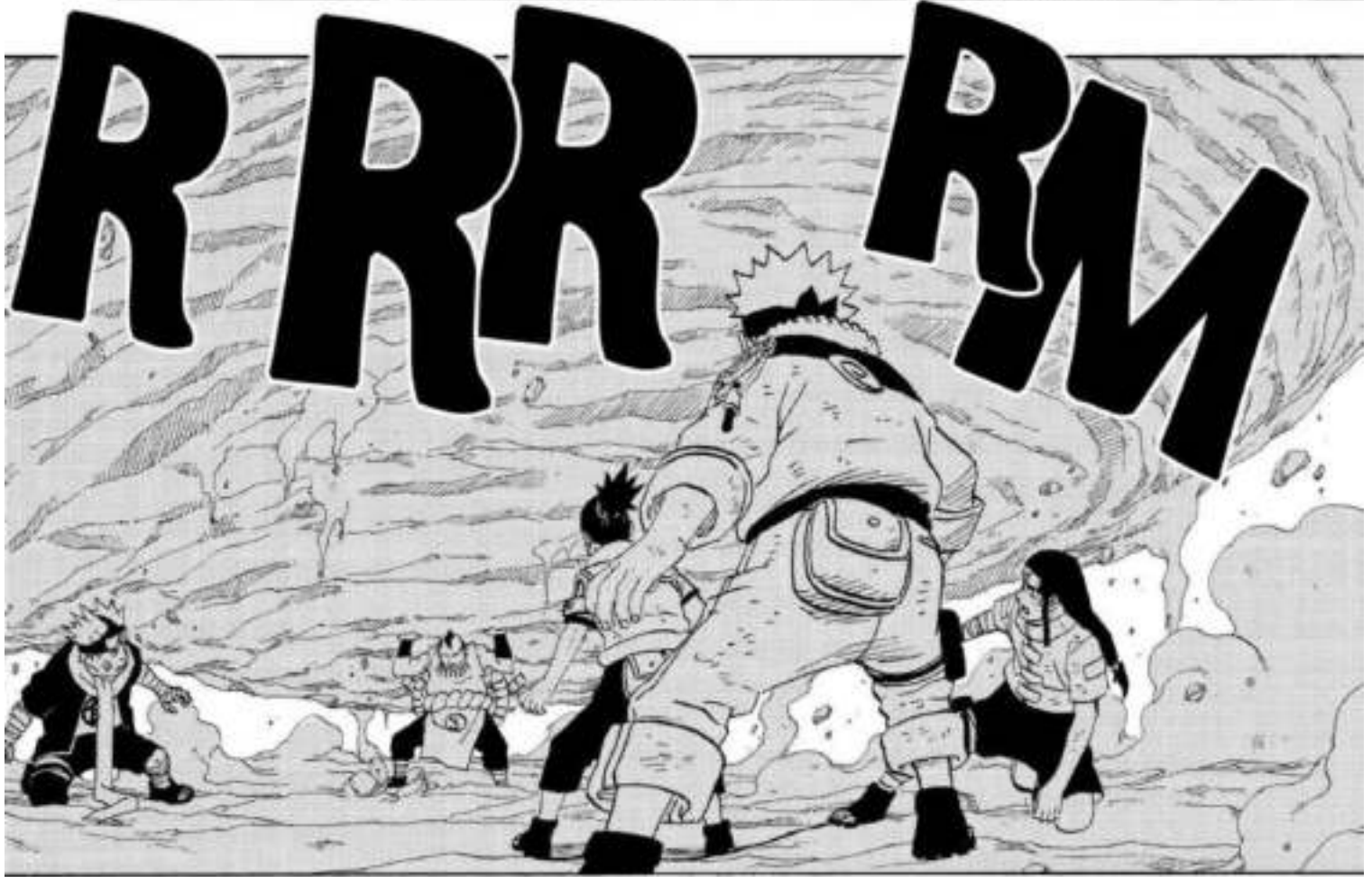


ME!
LET ME
HAVE
HIM!!

SKKT











**KA
KR
NIN
RCH
RCH
RCH**





UNGH
...



PWO
NK

UGH!!

SHO-SHITSU!
KNEE
SLAM!!



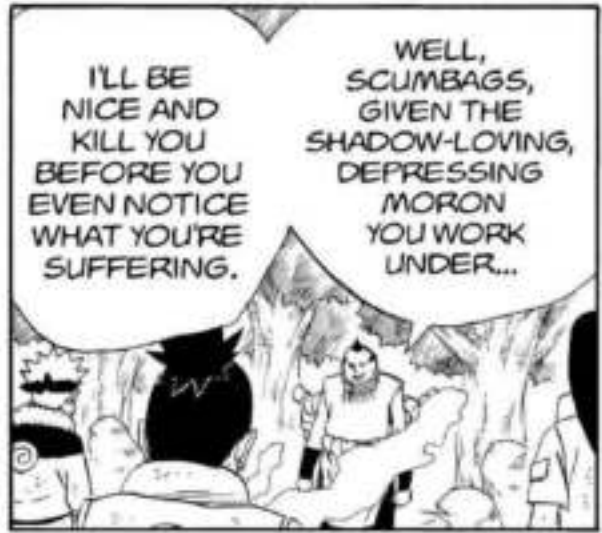
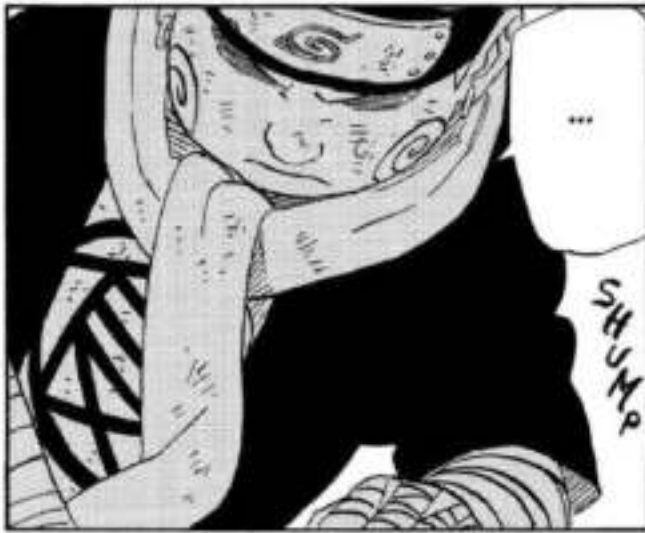
UGAH!

PWO
NG

TOKEN!
SHOULDER
CHARGE!!











SHIKAMARU...
DIVIDE UP
THESE
MILITARY
RATIONS
PELLETS,
AND RAISE
YOUR
CHAKRA.

SST











I'LL
MAKE
SHORT
WORK
OF
YOU...

THEN
I'LL HUNT
THEM
DOWN
FOR
DESSERT!!

HMPH
...

FUNDOON



POP

SHFFF



YOU
THINK
SO.

WHAM



FIRST,
THE
GREEN
SPINACH
PELLET,
THE
HOREN-
GAN!!

CHOMP



THREE
COLORS...
THOSE
AREN'T
HYOROGAN
MILITARY
RATIONS
PELLETS.
THEN WHAT
COULD
THEY...

...?!





AND YET...
EVERY
PILL HAS
ITS SIDE
EFFECTS.
CHOJI...
PLEASE
SETTLE
THIS
FIGHT
QUICKLY!

MM, THE
SANSHO-
KUGAN
CARRY
TREMEN-
DOUS
ENERGY.




GREEN,
YELLOW, RED.
THE TRIAD OF
COLORED
PELLETS,
SANSHOKUGAN,
CAN
GIVE YOU
EXPLOSIVE
POWER.

HE
BROUGHT
ALONG THE
AKIMICHI
CLAN'S
SECRET
TRIPLE
THREAT!

AHH! NO
WONDER
HE WAS SO
SURE OF
HIMSELF!



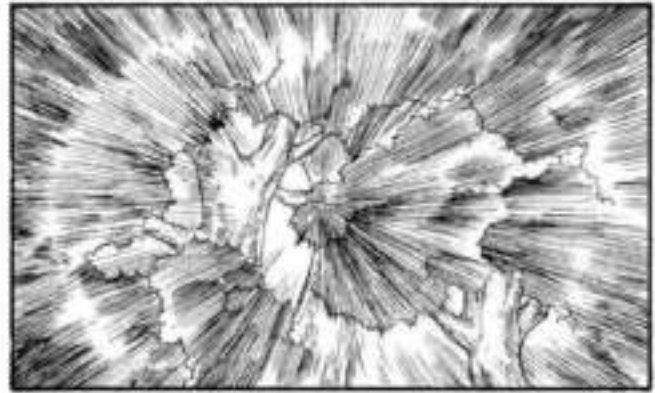
 Number 189: Faith...!!













THAT'S THE NATURE OF BATTLE.



WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT POWER THAT MAMMOTH IS COMMANDING... CHOJI MAY WELL STAND ZERO CHANCE AGAINST HIM, AND YET...

IT'S TRUE... IF WE SIT BACK AND LOOK AT THE SITUATION...



...



RIGHT NOW, I CALCULATE, UNLESS WE'RE PREPARED TO KILL ONE ENEMY A PIECE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH SASUKE.

I DID IMAGINE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO, IN WHICH EACH OF US MUST FIGHT SEPARATELY...

THAT'S RIGHT... WE KNEW FROM THE START WE WEREN'T OUT FOR A PICNIC. WE'VE STAKED OUR LIVES ON THIS MISSION.



THE ONE THING HE IS CONFIDENT ABOUT IS THAT HE'S THE WEAKEST LINK AMONGST US...



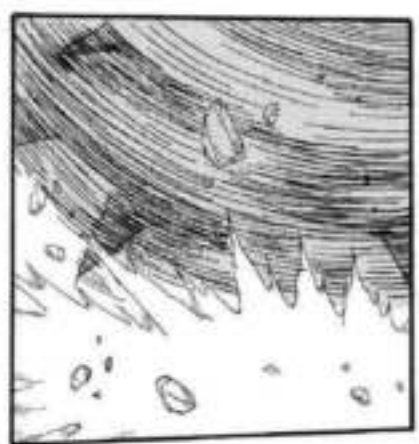
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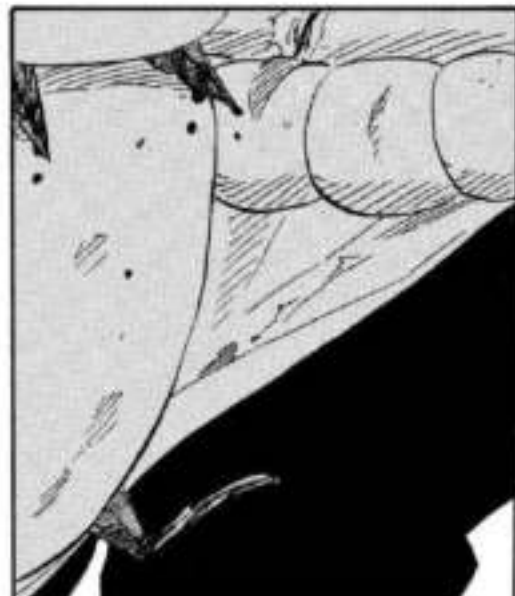


CHOJI HAS A GOOD HEART...

WHAT HE LACKS IS CONFIDENCE.









UGAH!

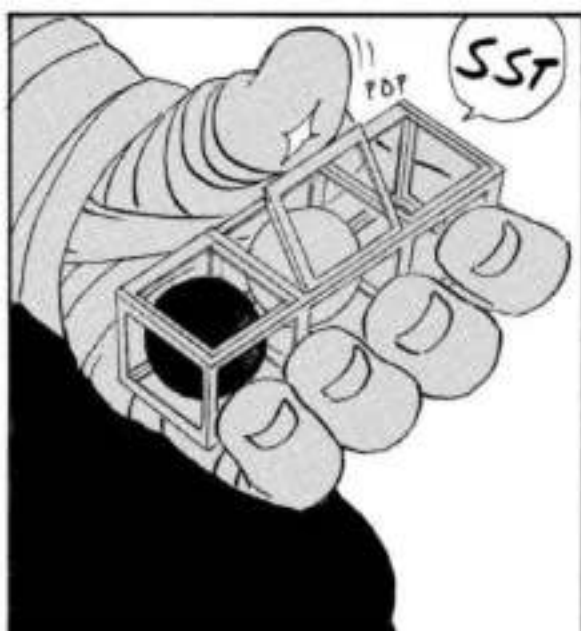


YOU GET
FIVE PEOPLE
TOGETHER,
ONE OF THEM
IS ALWAYS THE
REJECT.

THE GUY
THEY ONLY
KEEP AROUND
FOR A LAUGH.
AND IN A PINCH,
HE'S ALWAYS THE
FIRST ONE TO GO,
A PAWN AMONG
KNIGHTS.











RIGHT
BACK
AT YOU,
FATSO!!



HERE
I
COME,
FATSO
!!



?!
WAAAAA

BUBUN-
BAIKA
NO
JUTSU!
THE
ART
OF
PARTIAL
EXPAN-
SION!!

ARM!!



NO
FOOLING
AROUND,
SCUM-
BAG!!

KU
KU
DU



KRISH SKRCH

RRRAA...

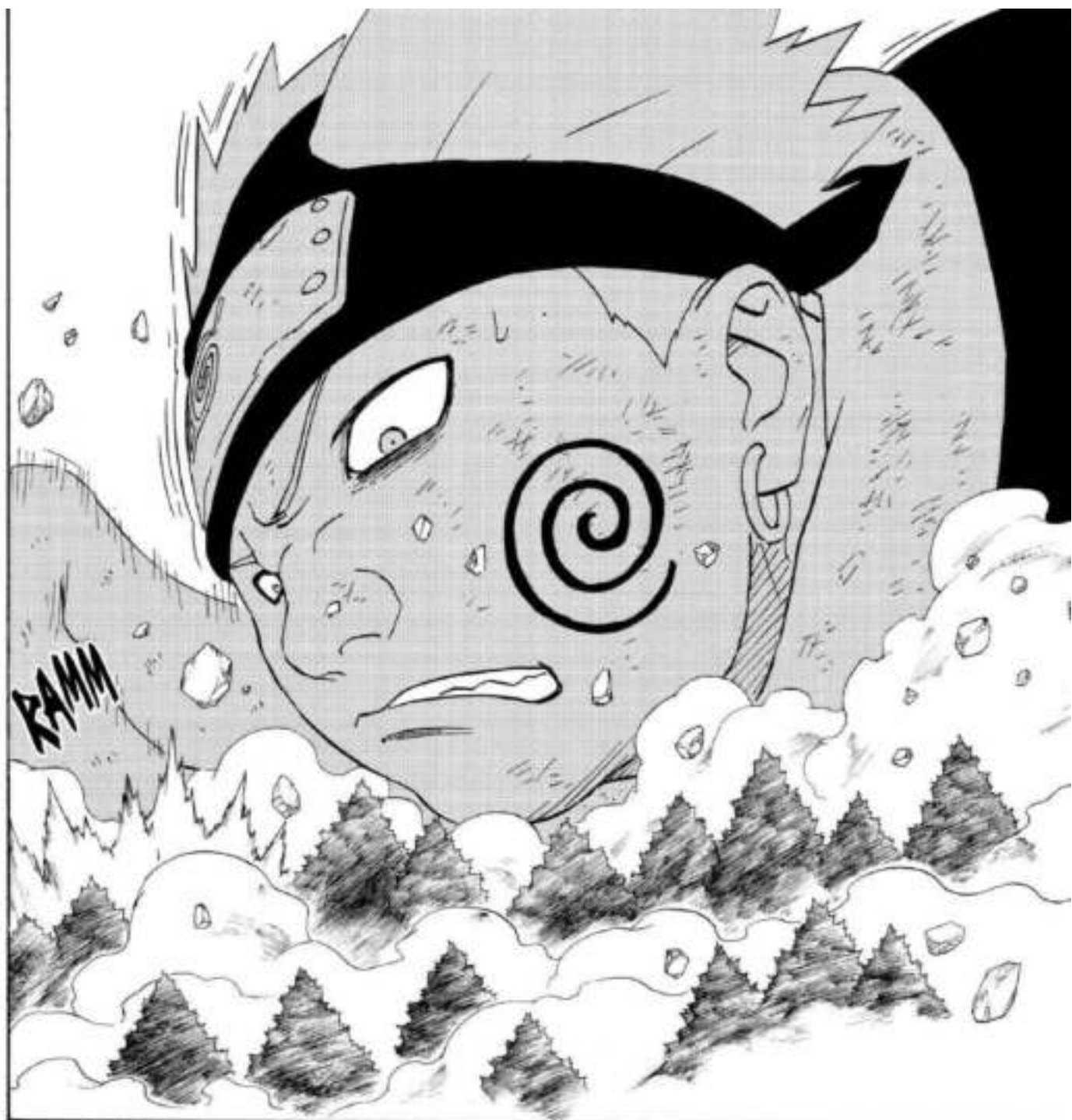




A black and white comic book illustration. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees, rendered with fine cross-hatching and shading. In the upper right, a character is partially visible, appearing to be in a dynamic pose. A large, bold, black sound effect 'SLAM' is written across the top half of the image. A jagged, starburst-shaped speech bubble is positioned in the lower right, containing the text 'THE ART OF SUPER-EXPANSION!!!'.

SLAM

**THE
ART
OF
SUPER-
EXPAN-
SION!!!**





LATELY, IT'S BEEN GETTING REALLY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO COME UP WITH NEW CHARACTERS. IT'S SO HARD TO DESIGN GOOD ONES THAT, THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, I'M AFRAID THAT THE *NARUTO* SERIES MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE...SO TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, WE DECIDED TO HOLD A NEW EVENT!

AND JUST WHAT IS THIS NEW EVENT?! WELL, IT'S A "DESIGN AND MAIL IN YOUR OWN ORIGINAL CHARACTERS TO POOR CREATIVITY-DRAINED KISHIMOTO" COMPETITION! THE MOST EXCELLENT WORKS WILL BE PRINTED IN *JUMP COMICS*! IN ADDITION, I WILL COPY AND ILLUSTRATE THE BEST DESIGN, AND THAT TOO WILL BE PRINTED!! (PLEASE NOTE, THE BEST DESIGNER WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY OF MY TAKE ON HIS OR HER DESIGN.)

SERIOUSLY, IF YOUR CHARACTERS ARE GREAT, THEY MIGHT EVEN APPEAR IN *NARUTO*! SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, *JUMP* EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT WILL CONTACT YOU BY PHONE OR IN WRITING. (PLEASE RESPOND COURTEOUSLY WHEN IT HAPPENS!)

REMEMBER, THE DESIGN MUST BE TRULY ORIGINAL!

FURTHERMORE, YOU MUST DRAW A FULL BODY MODEL OF THE CHARACTER!!

HERE'S THE ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR CHARACTERS:

PLEASE SEND THEM TO:
SHONEN JUMP
C/O VIZ MEDIA, LLC
PO BOX 77010
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

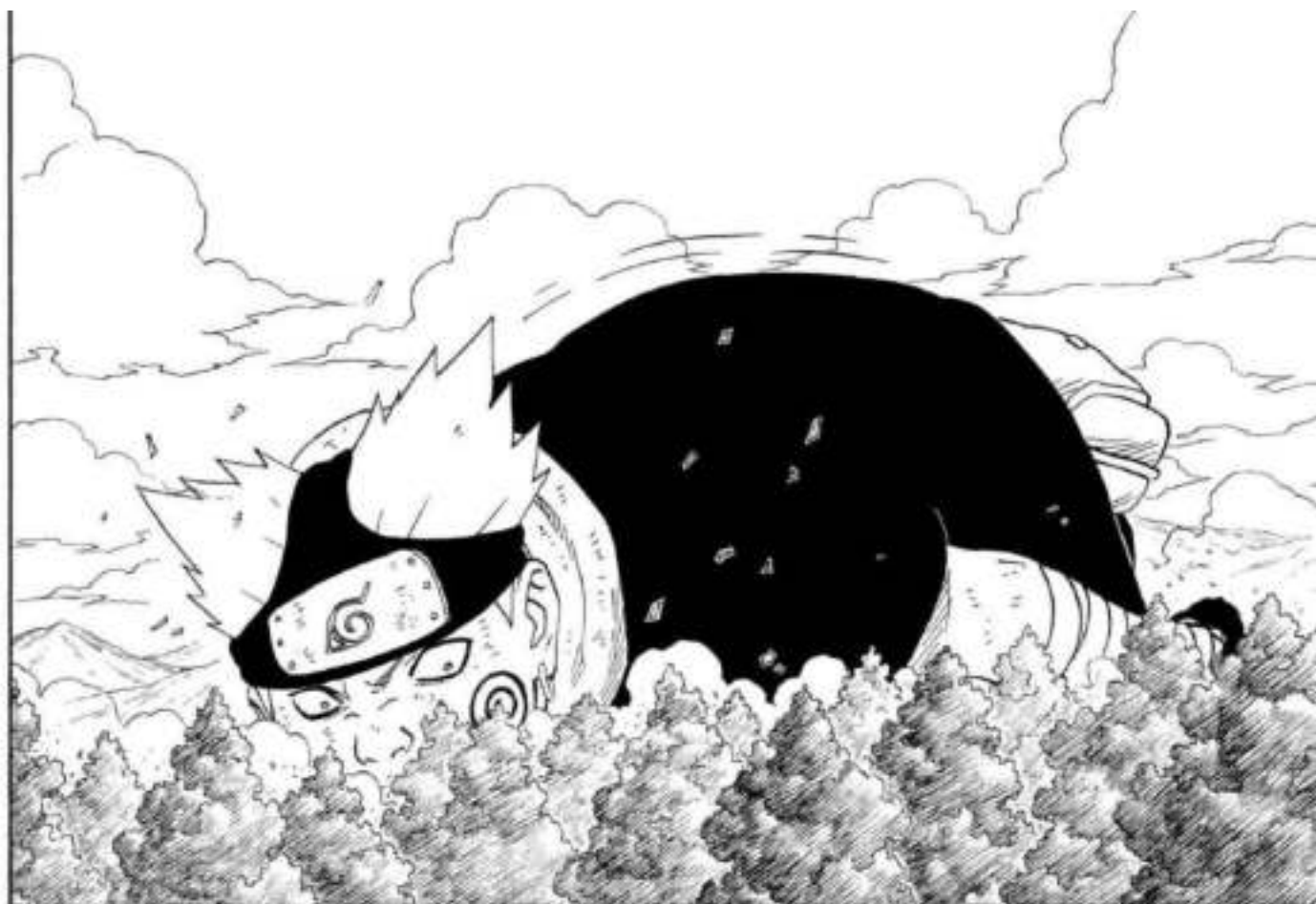
※ NOTE: WE ACCEPT POSTCARD SUBMISSIONS ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT SEND LETTERS. ☺

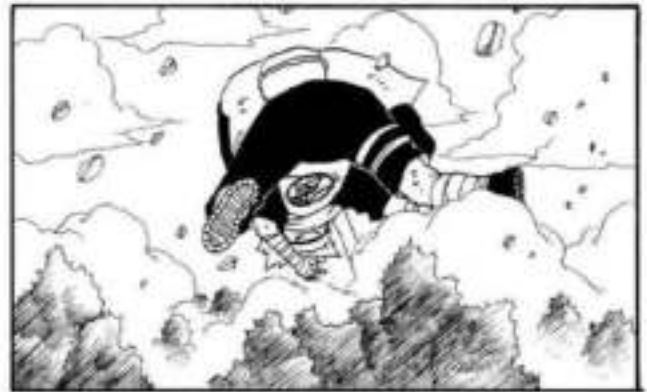
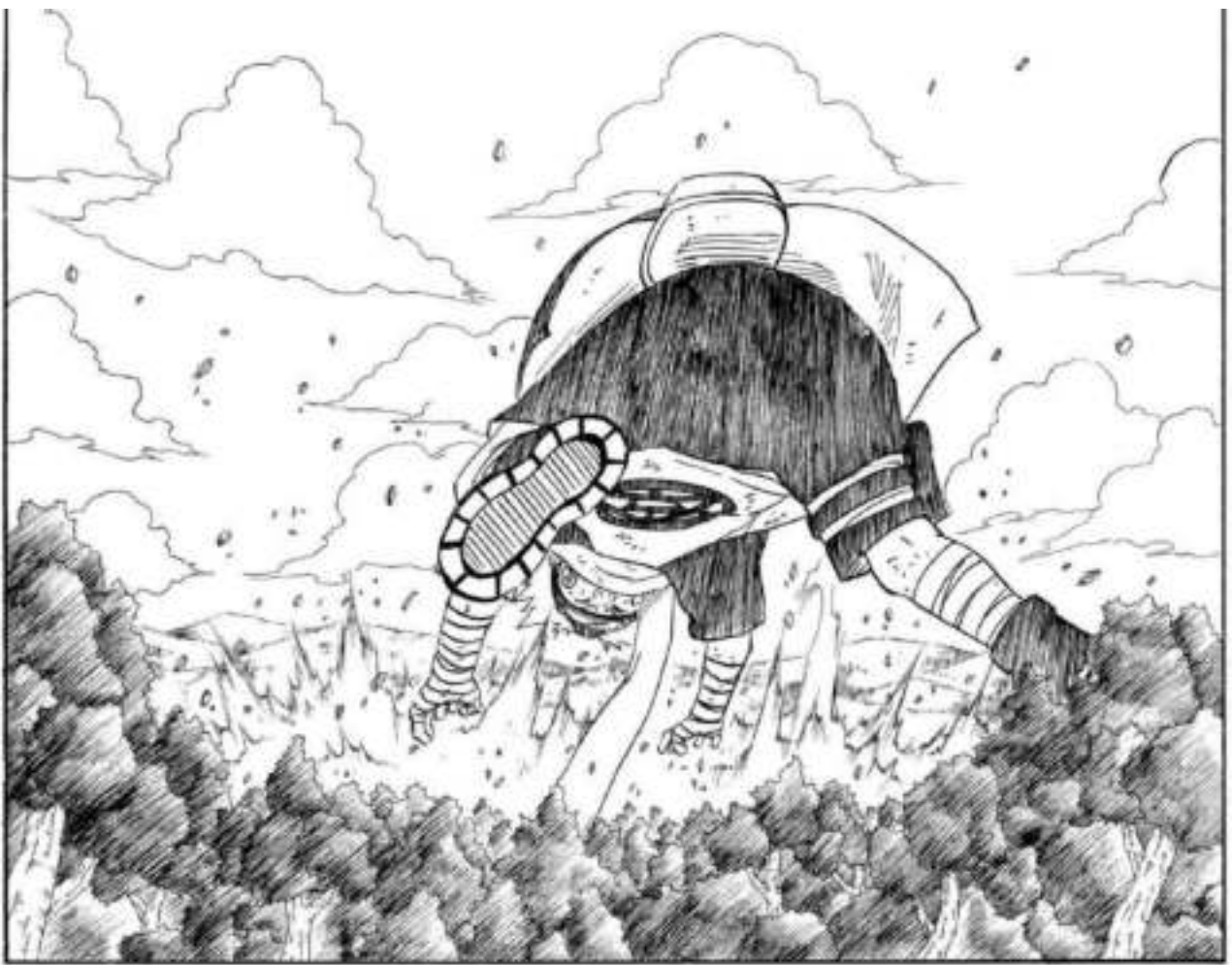
(THIS CONTEST WAS FOR JAPAN ONLY, BUT WE'D STILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOUR DRAWINGS. -ED)

 Number 190:



Unforgivable!!







IN THIS
SECOND STATE,
MY POWER
IS TEN TIMES
WHAT IT WAS
BEFORE. I'M
INVINCIBLE.

NOW
YOU'RE
FINISHED.



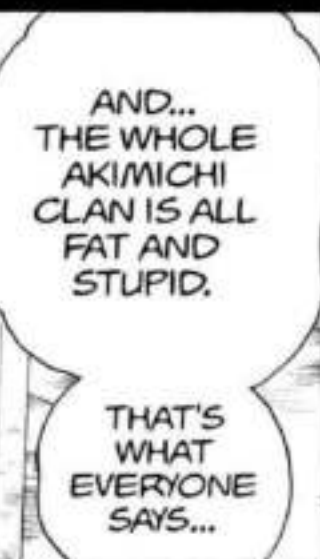
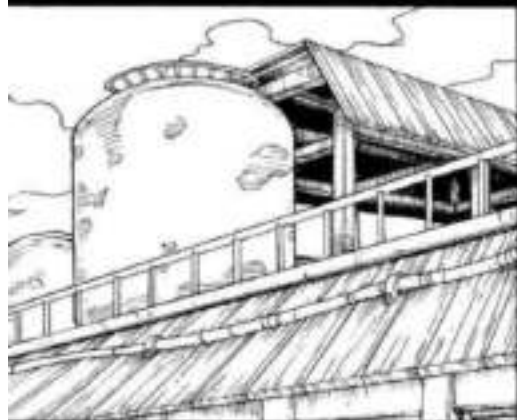














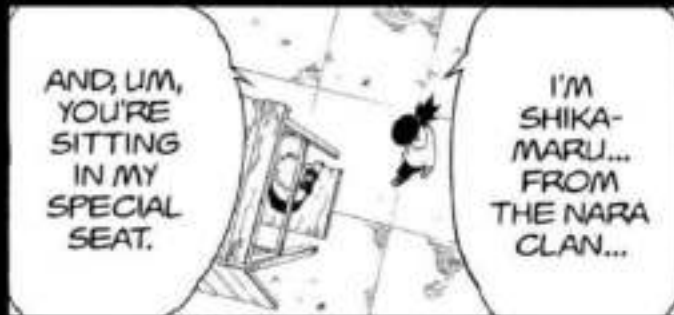
YOU'RE THAT GUY WHO...

!

!



HEY! AREN'T YOU...



AND, UH, YOU'RE SITTING IN MY SPECIAL SEAT.

I'M SHIKAMARU... FROM THE NARA CLAN...



YOU'RE HERE FOR... CLOUD WATCHING?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NINJA GAME?



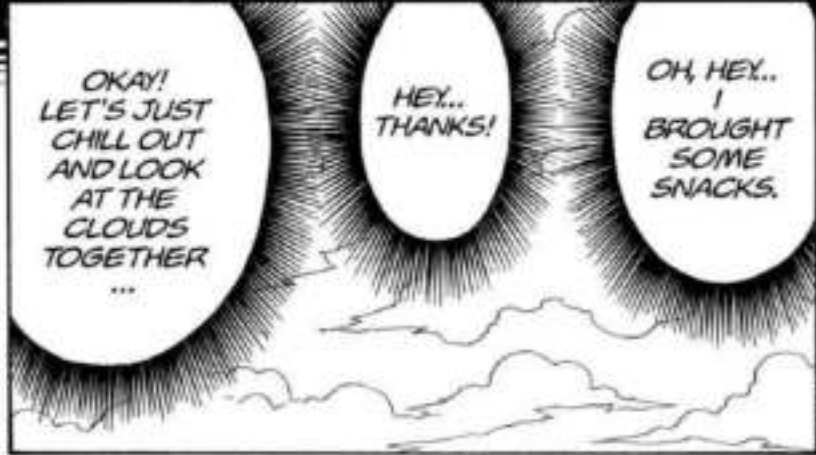
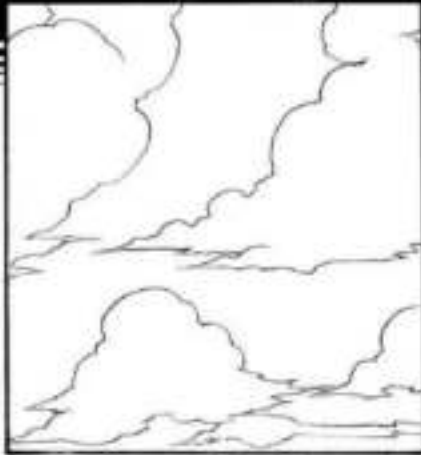
I LIKE LYING ON MY BACK AND WATCHING THE CLOUDS FROM THERE...

YOUR SPECIAL SEAT?



SO... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HEH... IT GOT TIRESOME, SO I QUIT.



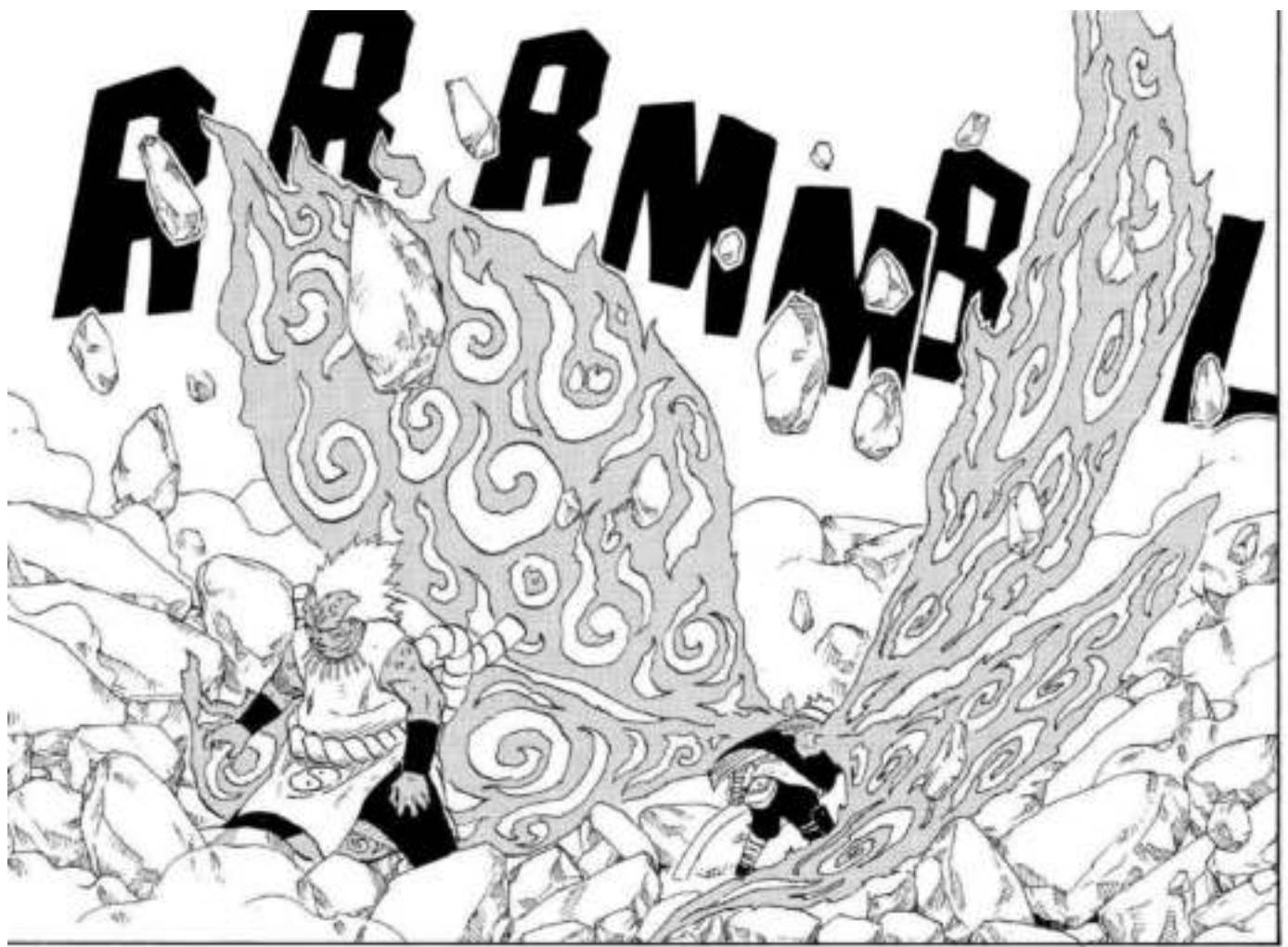


WHAT-
EVER
YOU'RE
DOING,
IT'S
TOO
LATE
NOW!



I WILL...
DESTROY
HIM!!



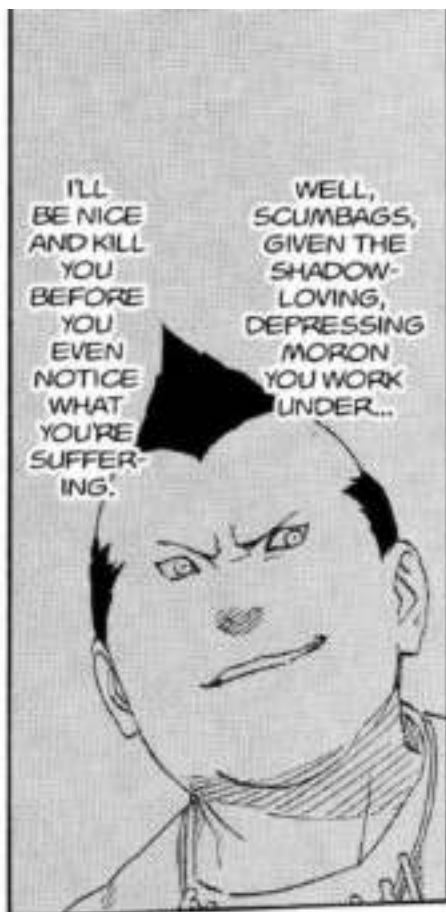






IMPOSSIBLE!
HIS CHAKRA
IS MASSIVE
ENOUGH TO
TRANSFORM
HIM?!





I'LL BE NICE AND KILL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN NOTICE WHAT YOU'RE SUFFERING!

WELL, SCUMBAGS, GIVEN THE SHADOW-LOVING, DEPRESSING MORON YOU WORK UNDER...



HAVING A NITWIT FOR A LEADER SURE MAKES THINGS TOUGH FOR HIS SUBORDINATES.

YOU REALLY ARE A SCUMBAG, YOU KNOW THAT?!



...A THROWN-AWAY PAWN. I DON'T THINK I'M READY TO FORGIVE THAT.

YOU SEE, YOU CALLED ME...



LET'S NOT RUSH INTO...

WAI... WAIT...

...



UNFORGIVABLE !!

THAT'S WAY WORSE THAN STEALING THE LAST BITE OF THE VERY BEST FOOD. IT'S WORSE THAN CALLING ME A FATSO, OR A SCUMBAG. IN FACT, IT'S UTTERLY AND ABSOLUTELY...

YOU INSULT MY BEST FRIEND?

BUT EVEN WORSE ...



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