

NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

26



岸本齊史

My cover image for this volume was inspired by the Nine-Tailed Fox Naruto that appears in the GameCube game, *Clash of Ninja*. They did such an awesome job with the presentation that I couldn't resist imitating it.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2005



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. 26
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation & English Adaptation/Naomi Kokubo & Eric-Jon Rössel Waugh
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Gia Cam Luc
Design/Yvonne Cai
Editor/Joel Enos

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP of Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP of Sales/Gonzalo Ferreyra
Sr.VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola
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www.viz.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended
for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic
and fantasy violence.

ratings.viz.com

THE WORLD'S
MOST POPULAR MANGA

SHONEN
JUMP

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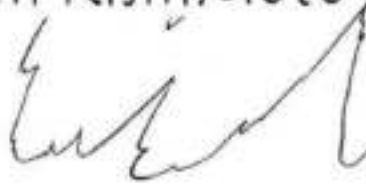
SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO

A black and white line drawing of Naruto Uzumaki in a dynamic, powerful pose. He is shown from the waist up, with his arms raised and hands open, surrounded by large, jagged lightning bolts. He has a determined and intense expression, with his mouth open as if shouting or exerting effort. He is wearing his signature orange jacket, a headband with the Hidden Leaf Village symbol, and his signature sandals. The background is filled with motion lines, suggesting a high-speed or high-energy action scene.

VOL. 26
AWAKENING

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO



CHARACTERS

Sakura

サクラ



Sasuke

サスケ



Naruto

ナルト





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. That boy is Naruto, once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy.

Despite the rough start, he and his friends, Sasuke and Sakura, successfully join the ranks of the ninja. During the Chûnin Ninja Selection Exam, they are attacked by Orochimaru, who vanishes only after he places a curse mark on Sasuke. Halfway through the third exam, however, Orochimaru and his henchmen launch *Operation Destroy Konoha*. The attack is thwarted when the Third Hokage sacrifices his life. After the deadly battle, Tsunade steps up to become the Fifth Hokage.

Charmed by the power of Orochimaru, Sasuke departs Konoha in the company of the Sound Ninja. In pursuit of Sasuke, Shikamaru and his team weather desperate battles. As Naruto finally closes in on his friend, Sasuke's mind is struck by vivid memories of his brother, Itachi.

The Story So Far...



NARUTO

VOL. 26
AWAKENING

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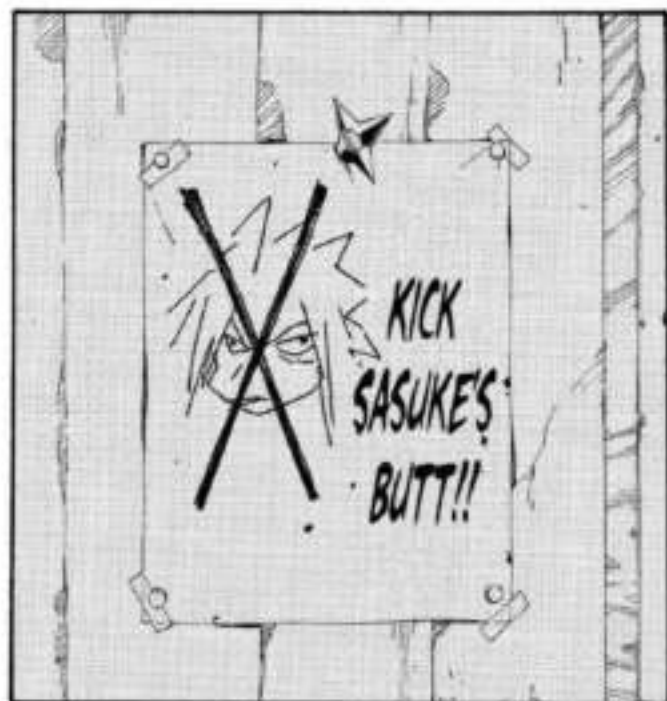


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 **Number 227:**
Chidori vs. Rasengan!!

NARUTO





WITH THE AID OF MY RASENGAN...

AND THAT'S WHY I... I HAD TO TEST IT...



...MY CLOSEST FRIEND,

IT'S NOT INSIGNIFICANT, YOU'RE ...



SASUKE...

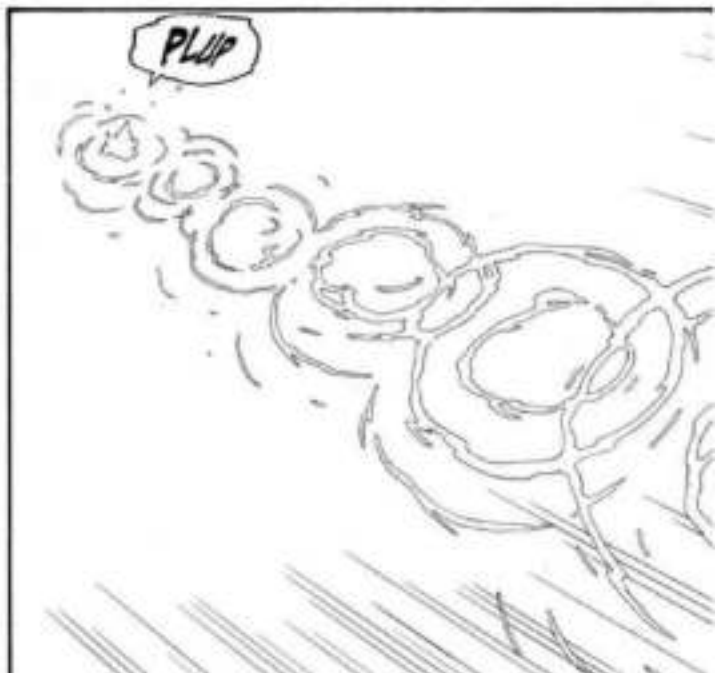
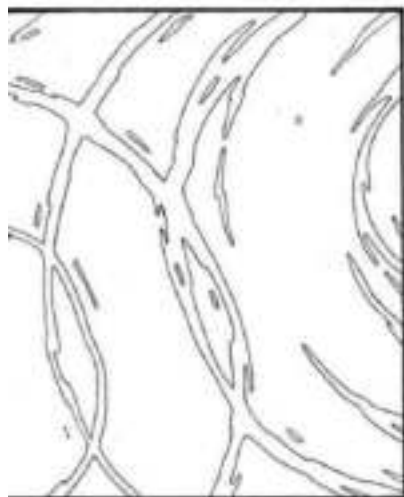
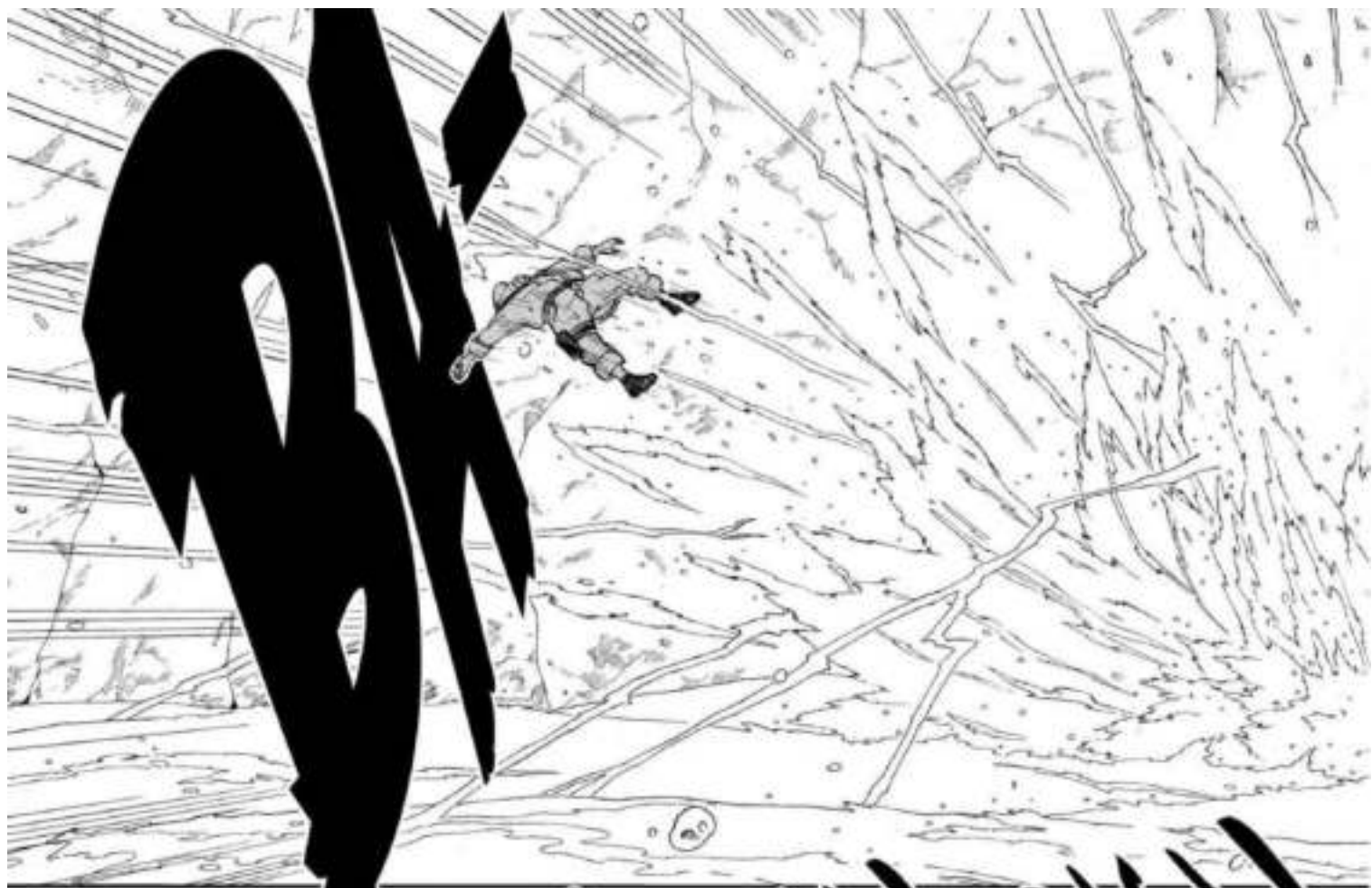
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID TO ME.

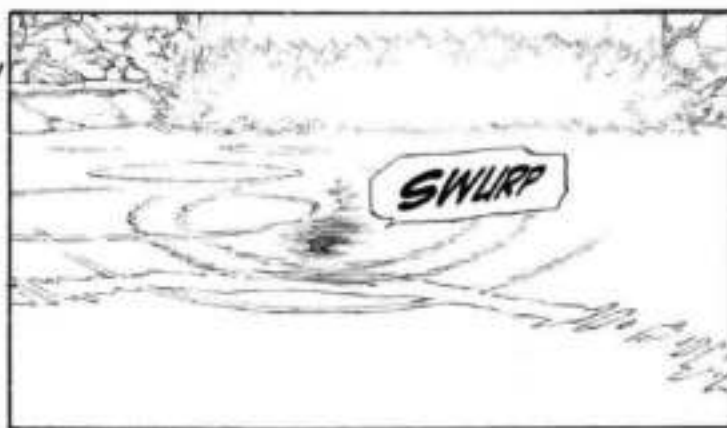
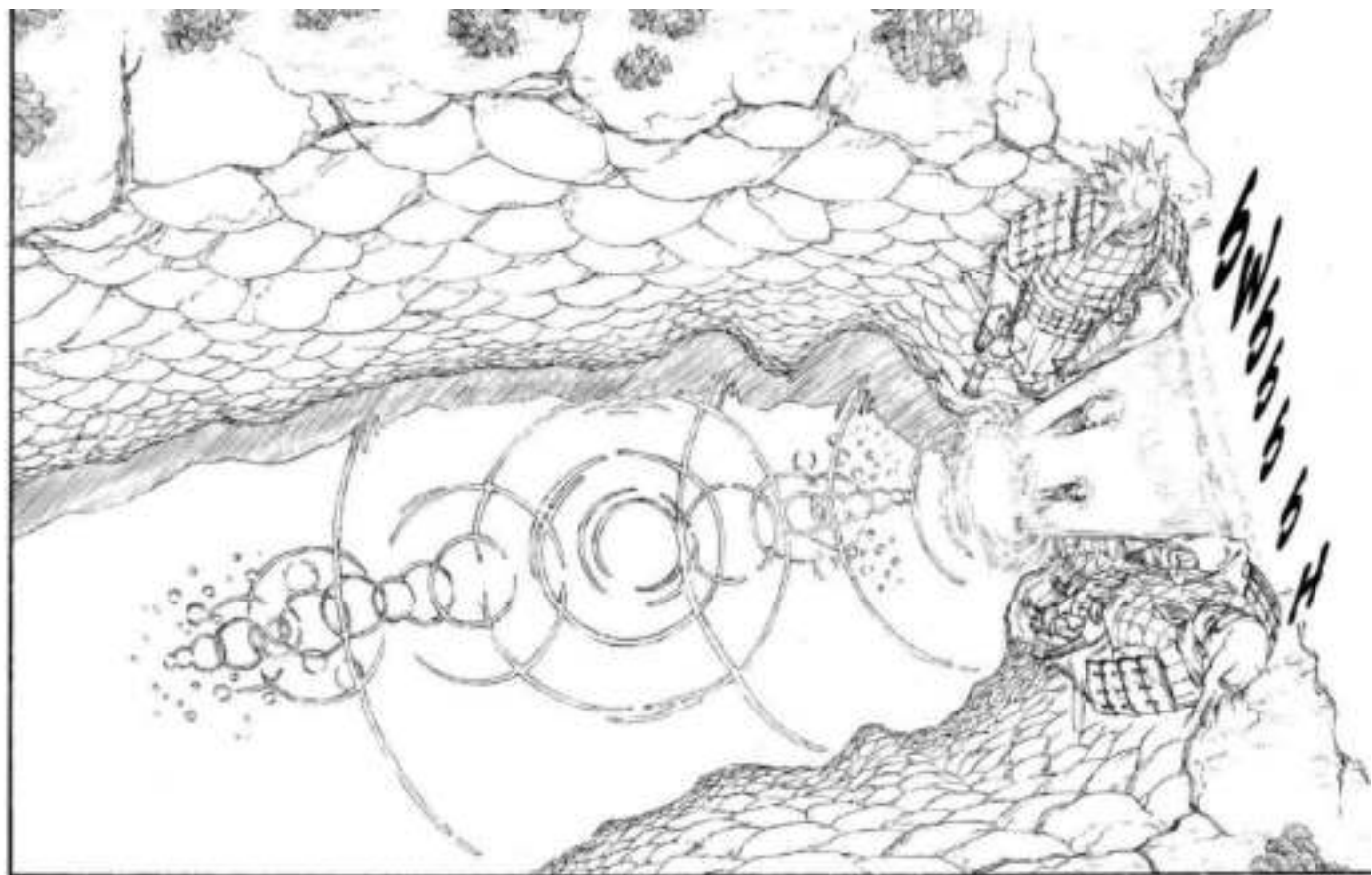


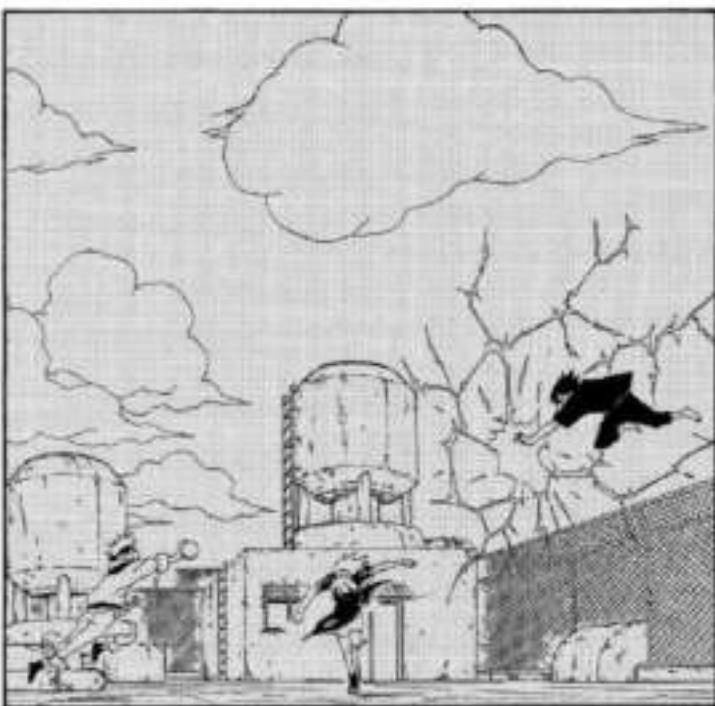
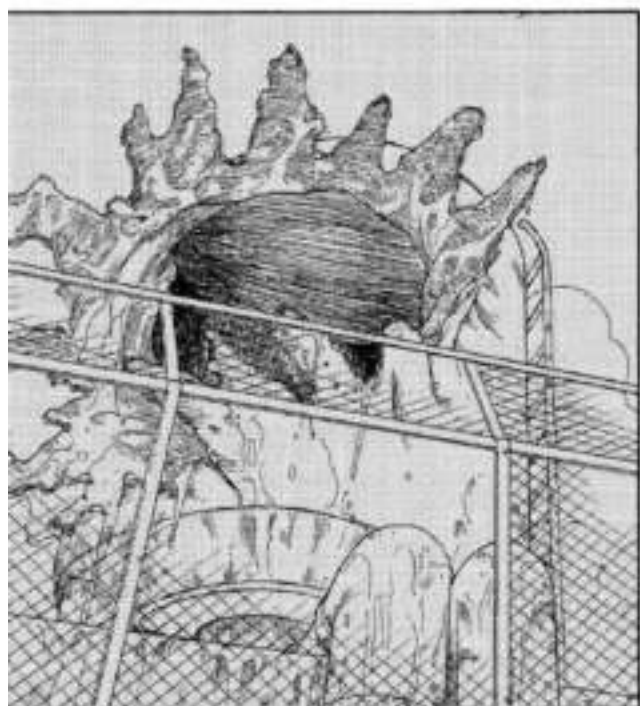
KIRK



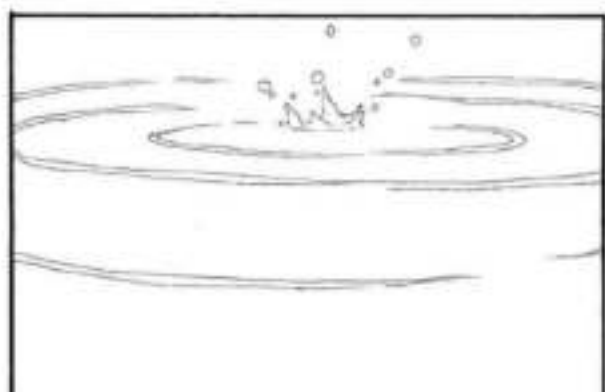
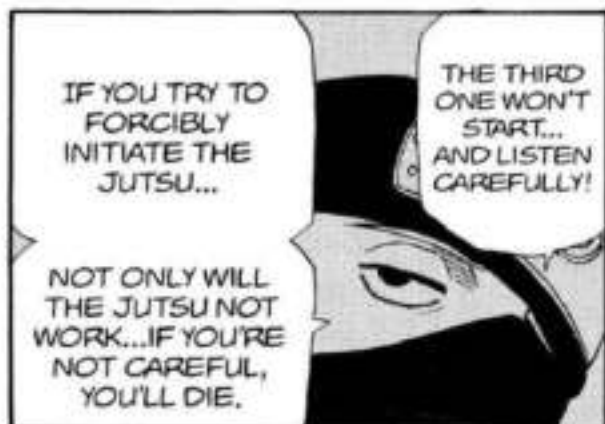














SASUKE

...

YOU
REALLY
WOULDN'T
THINK
TWICE
ABOUT
KILLING
ME.



THIS IS
REALLY
HAPPEN-
ING...

THIS
IS
FOR
REAL
...



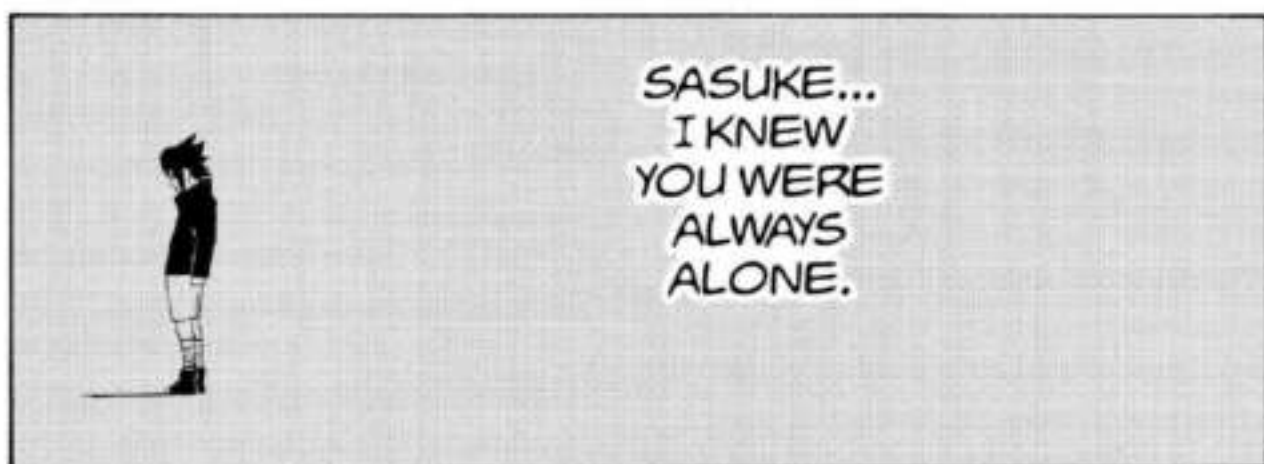
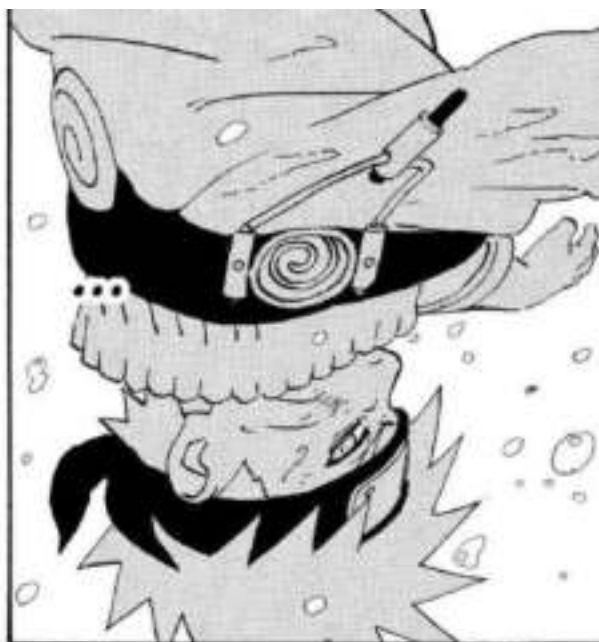
ALL HIS
ENERGY,
ALL HIS
MIND
FOCUSED
ON HOW
TO KILL
ME.

RIGHT
NOW,
THAT'S
ALL HE
CAN
THINK
ABOUT...



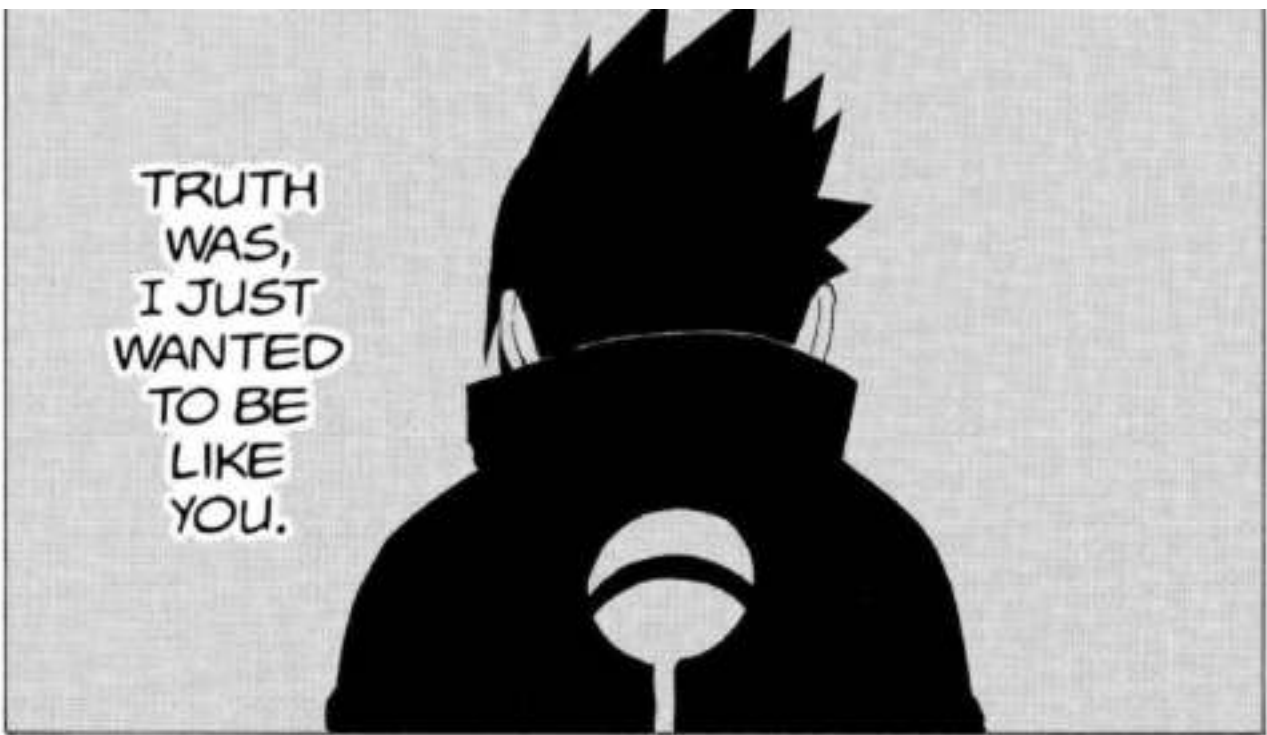














WITHOUT SAYING A WORD, I KNEW RIGHT THEN AND THERE...

AND... YES, WITHOUT EVEN TRADING BLOWS...

BA
AAKK



...WE WERE FRIENDS!

SHUP

...MY CLOSEST FRIEND. IT'S NOT INSIGNIFICANT. TO ME, YOU'RE...



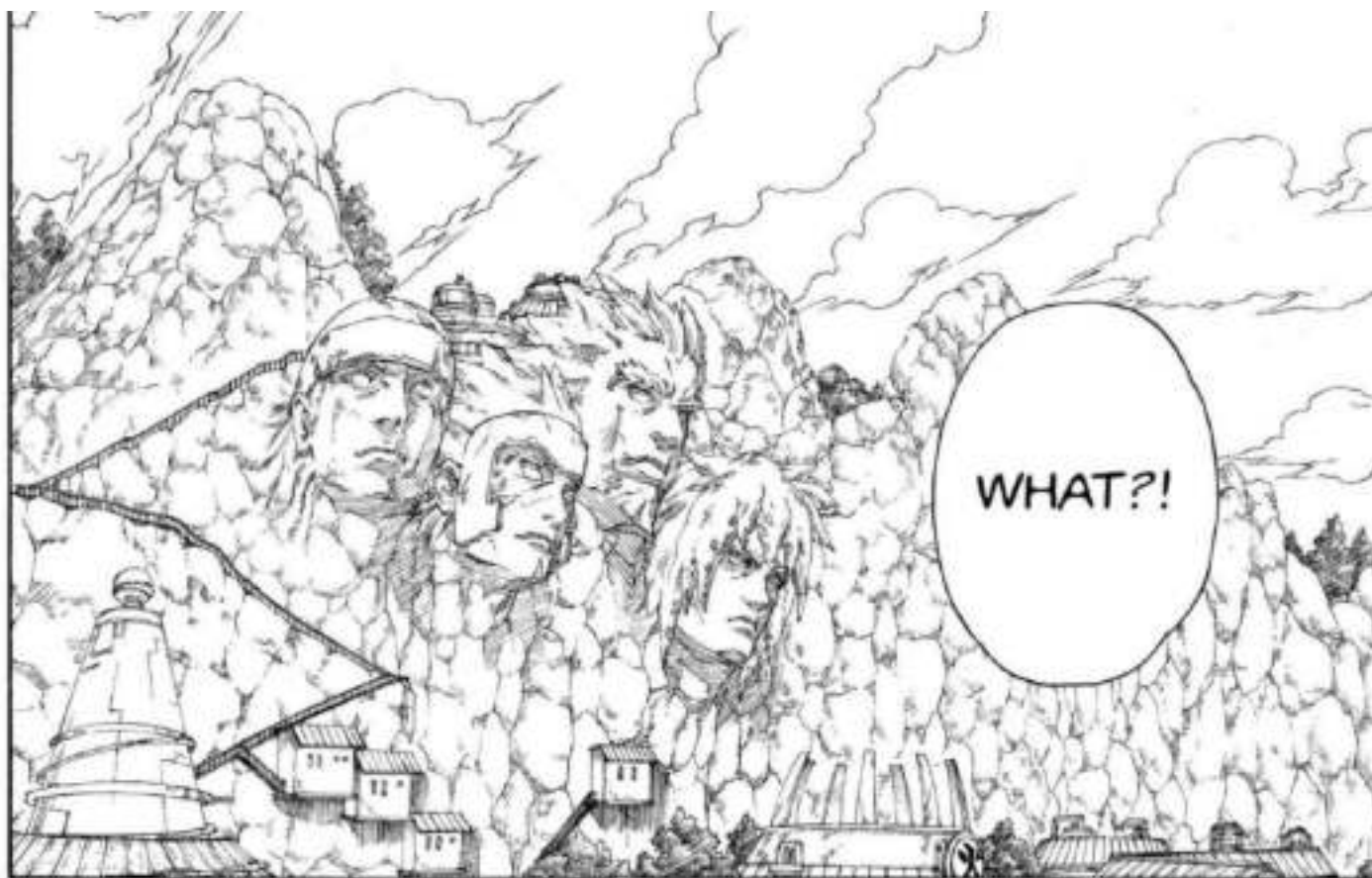


Congrats.
5th
Anniversary!!

*There's nothing wrong with a bit of depression. It just shows you're human.
That said, I'm fond of Naruto and Mr. Kishimoto: characters unburdened by doubt,
who always try to bring out their best.*

2004.11.3 高橋 和久
Kazuhiro Takahashi





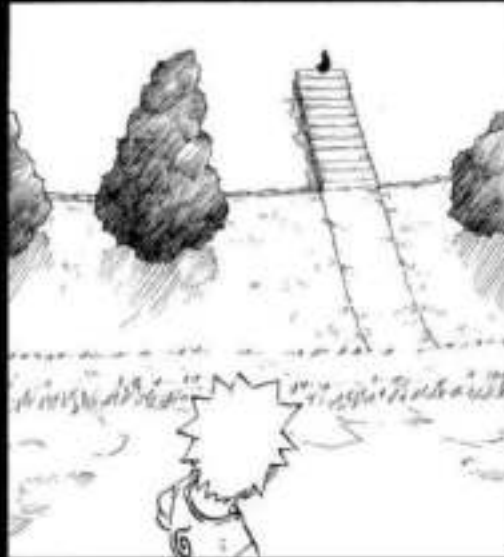
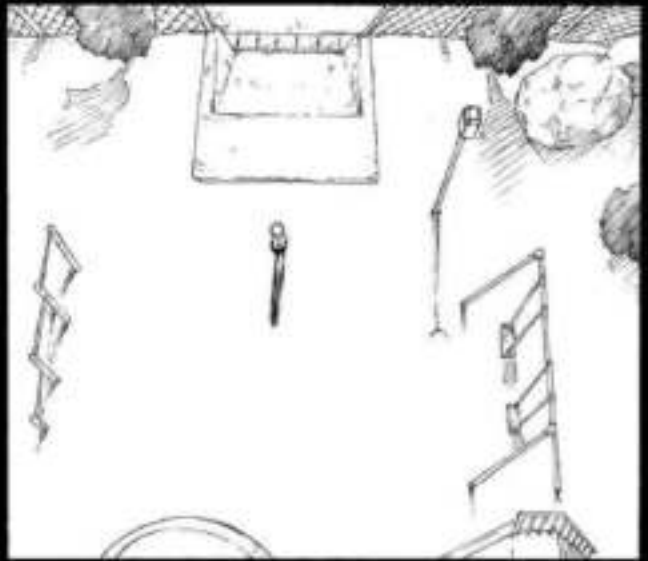
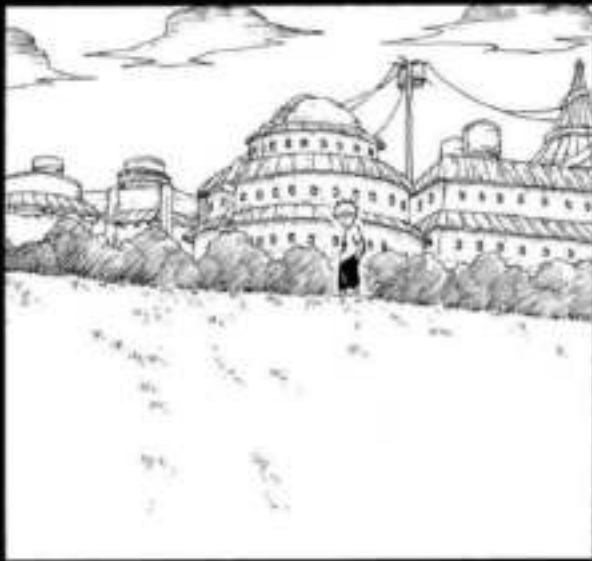
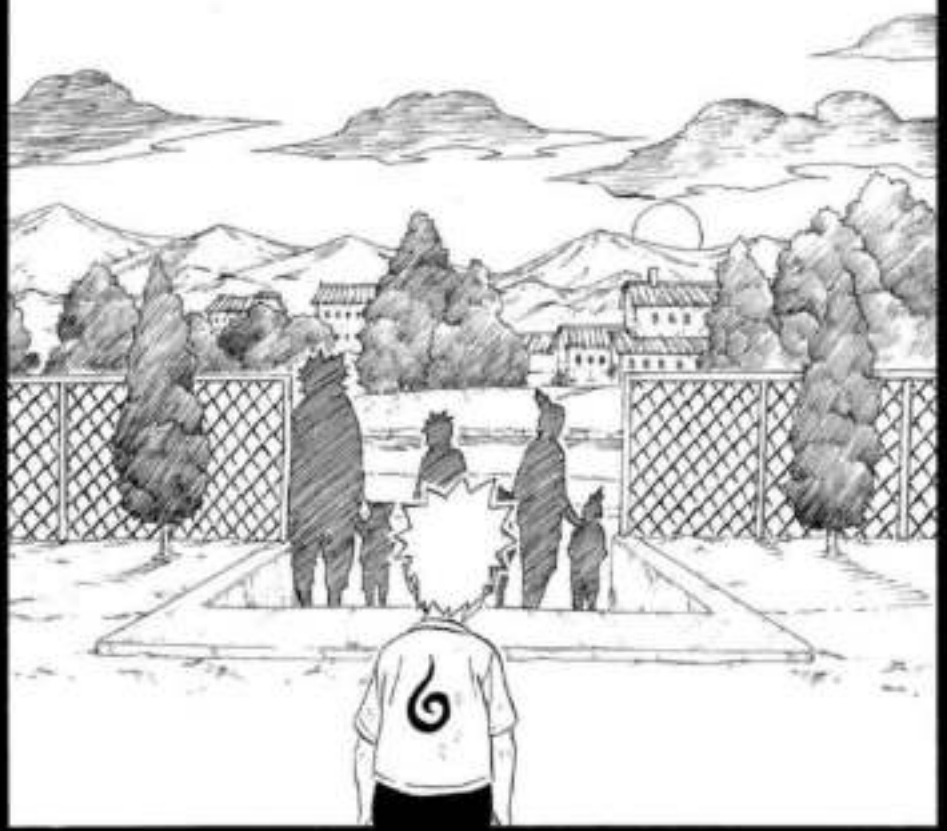






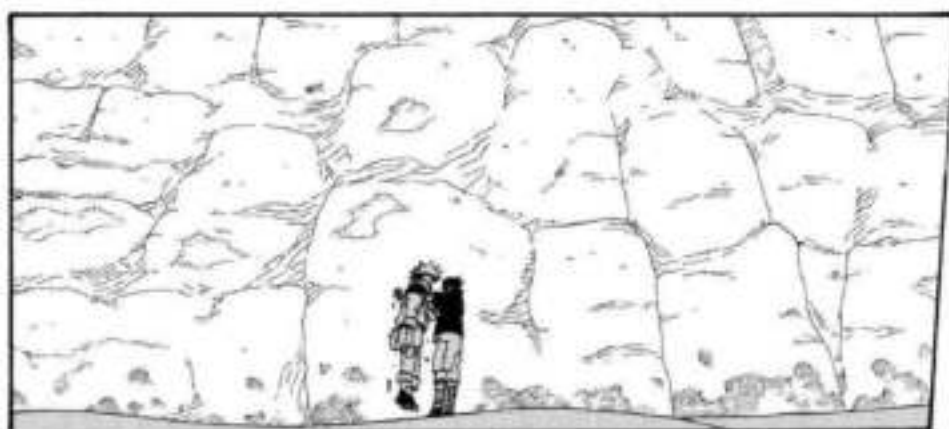


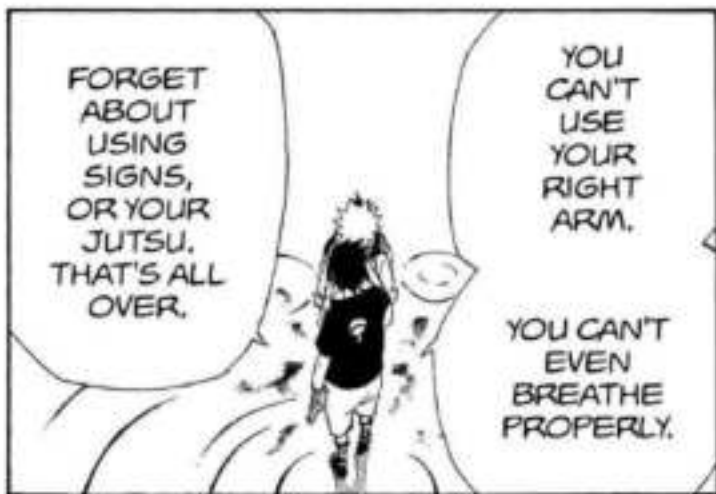




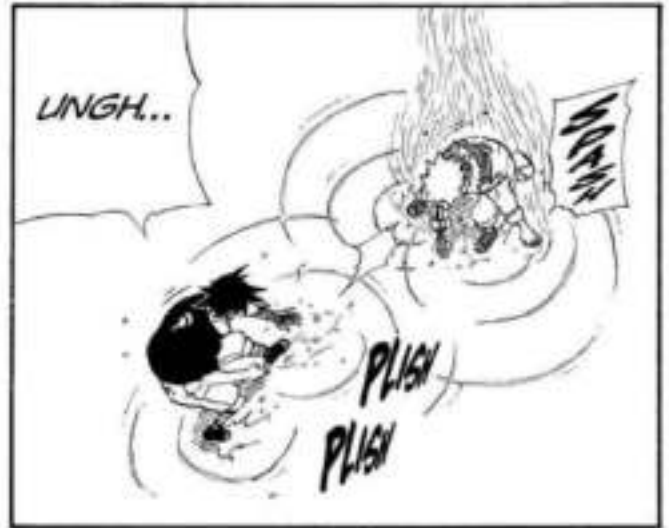






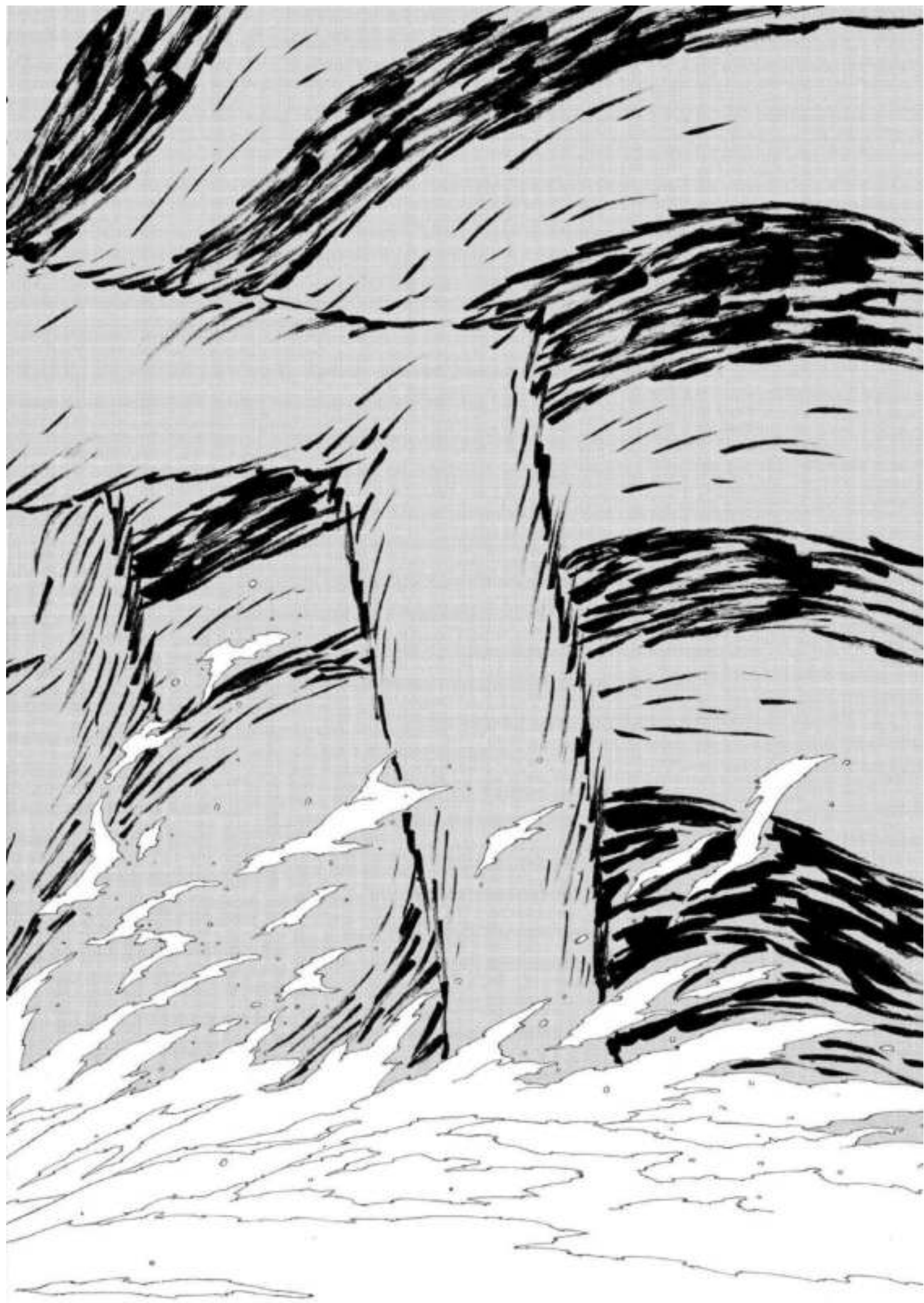




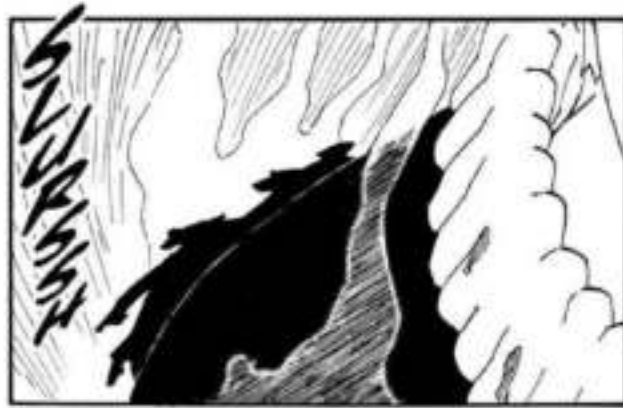


READ THIS WAY













Akira
Okubo,
11/8/2004

大久保彰

Mr. Kishimoto!
Congratulations on
the 5th anniversary
of Naruto!
Please stay healthy
and keep up the
good work!



 Number 229: The Bond...!!



IS HE... A
DEMON?

AND
WAS THAT
REALLY RED
CHAKRA?

GNURN GNURN GNURN



WHAT'S...
THIS
FORCE?
IT'S OVER-
WHELM-
ING...

IS THIS
REALLY...
NARUTO?!



WHAT...
TELL ME,
WHAT
ARE YOU?



GULP



Number 229: The Bond...!!



...FILTH LIKE
OROCHIMARU
CAN'T
HAVE YOU!

THAT'S
WHAT I'VE
BEEN
TELLING
YOU...

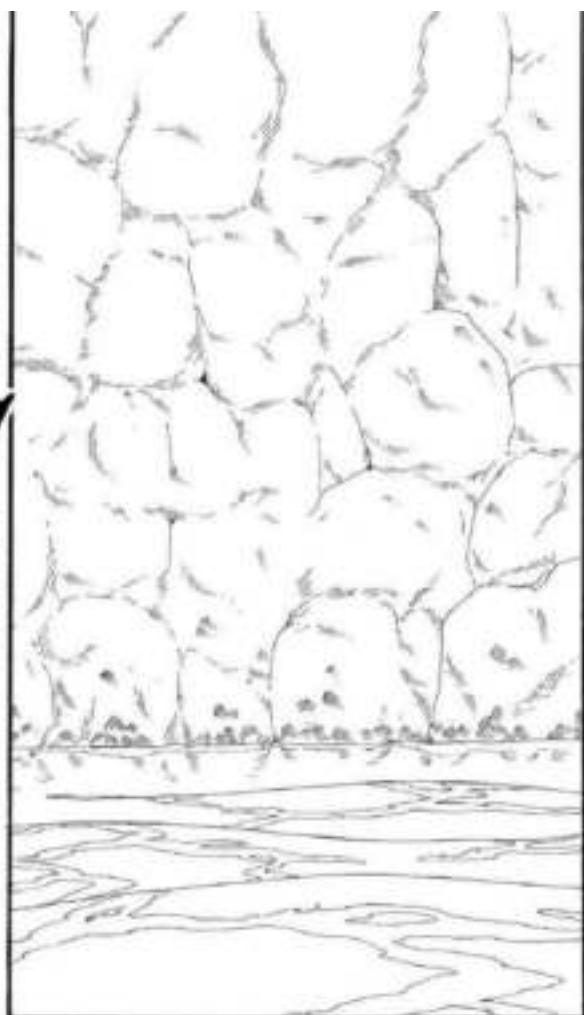


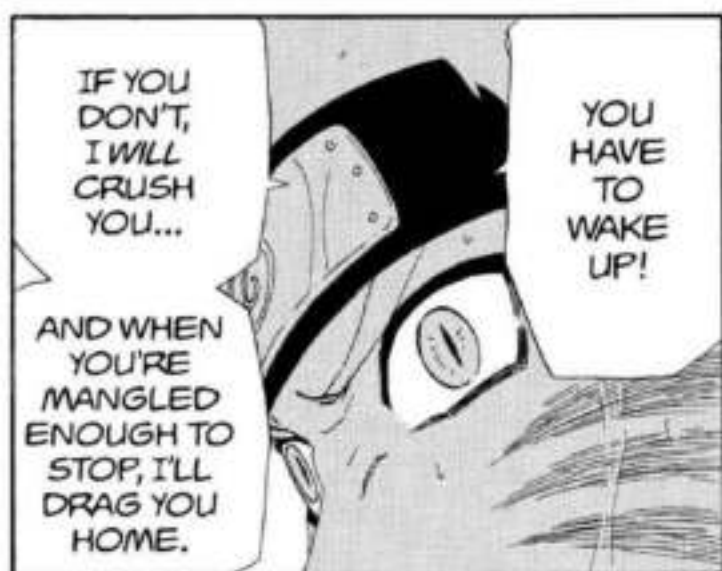
















WHAT
CAN YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
ME?!

YOU
WERE
ALONE
TO
BEGIN
WITH!!

HUNH
?!!

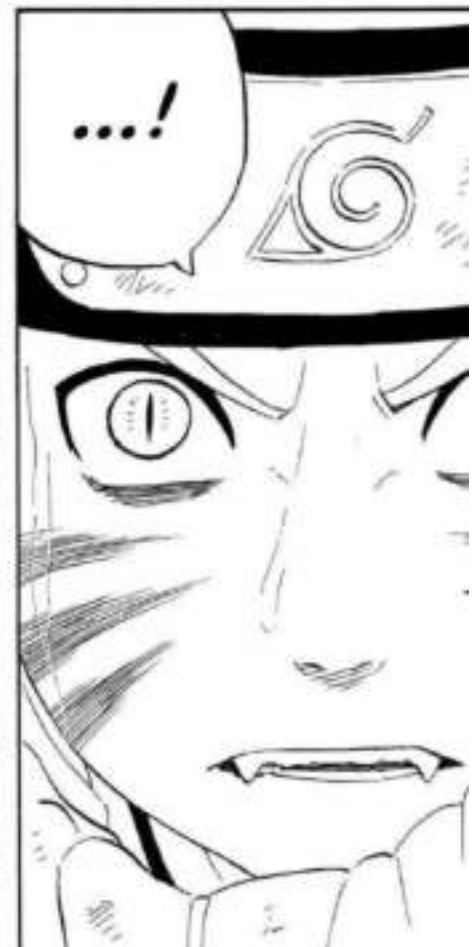


HOW COULD
YOU EVER
KNOW WHAT
IT MEANS
TO LOSE
ANYTHING!!

THIS PAIN
IS BORN
FROM MY
FAMILY
BONDS!

KLUU

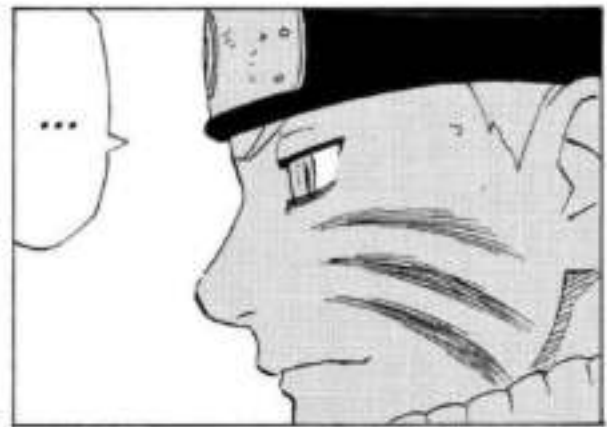
LIMKI!



...!

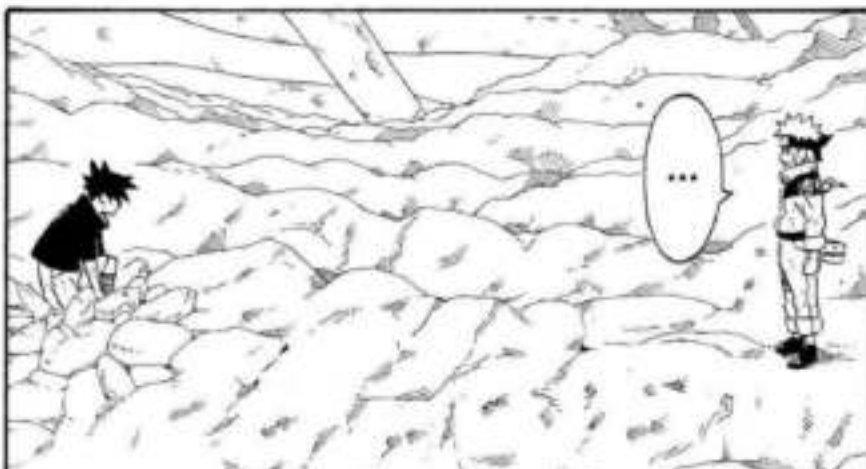






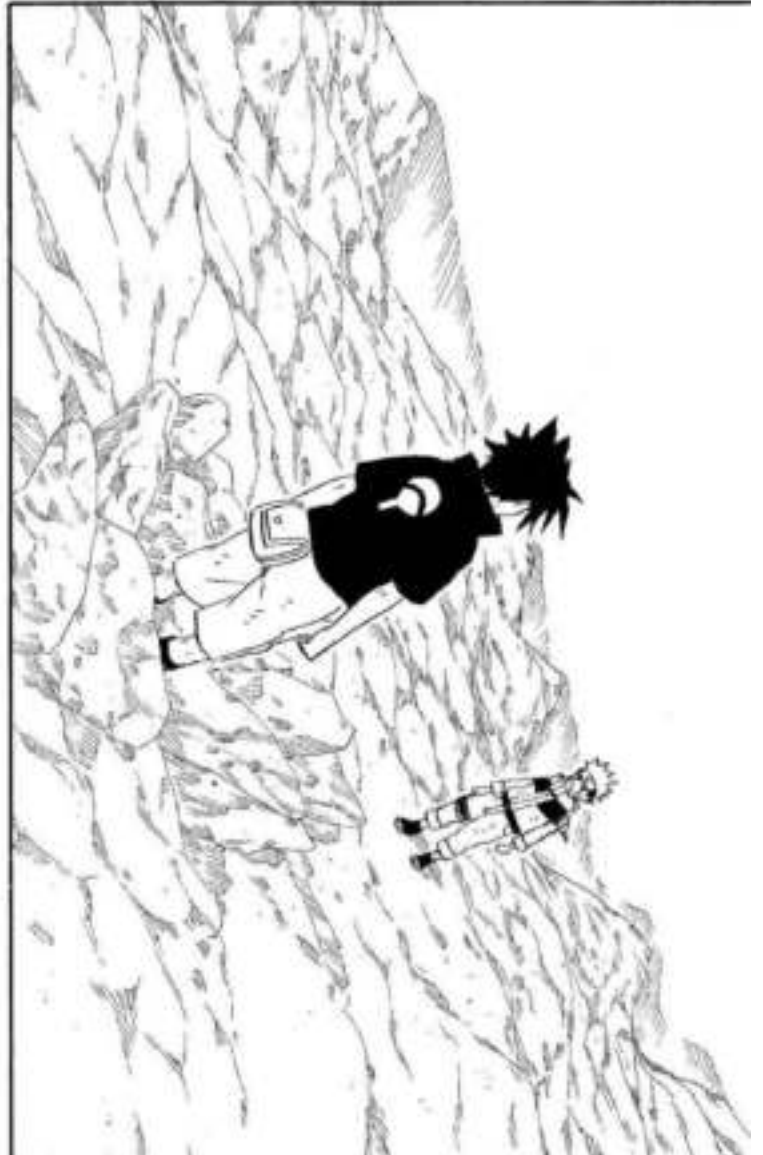
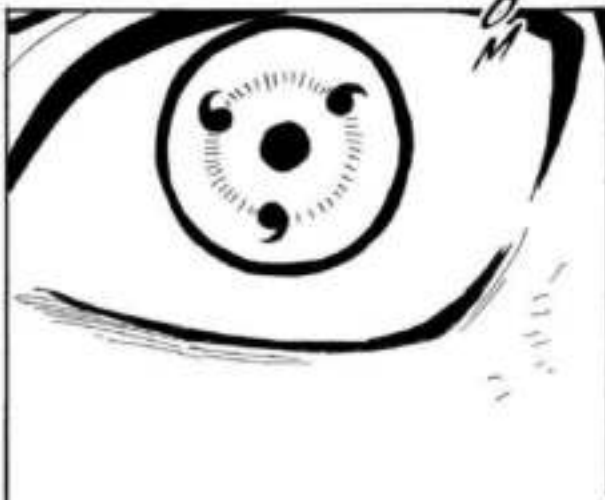
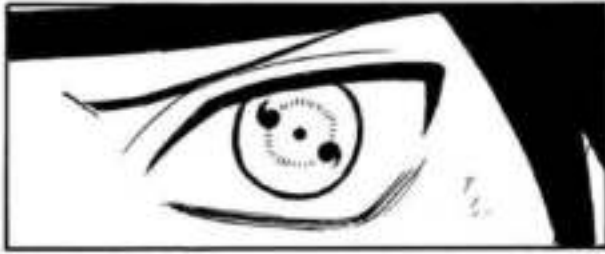
A black and white manga-style illustration of a storm. The background is a dark grey, textured sky with white, swirling clouds and rain falling in diagonal streaks. In the center, a large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble contains the text. The overall mood is dramatic and intense.

**I
IMAGINE...
MAYBE
THAT'S
WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO
HAVE A
BROTHER.**











ANNIVERSARY

THE



04.11.08

田坂亮
Ryō Tasaka



Number 230: Awakening!!

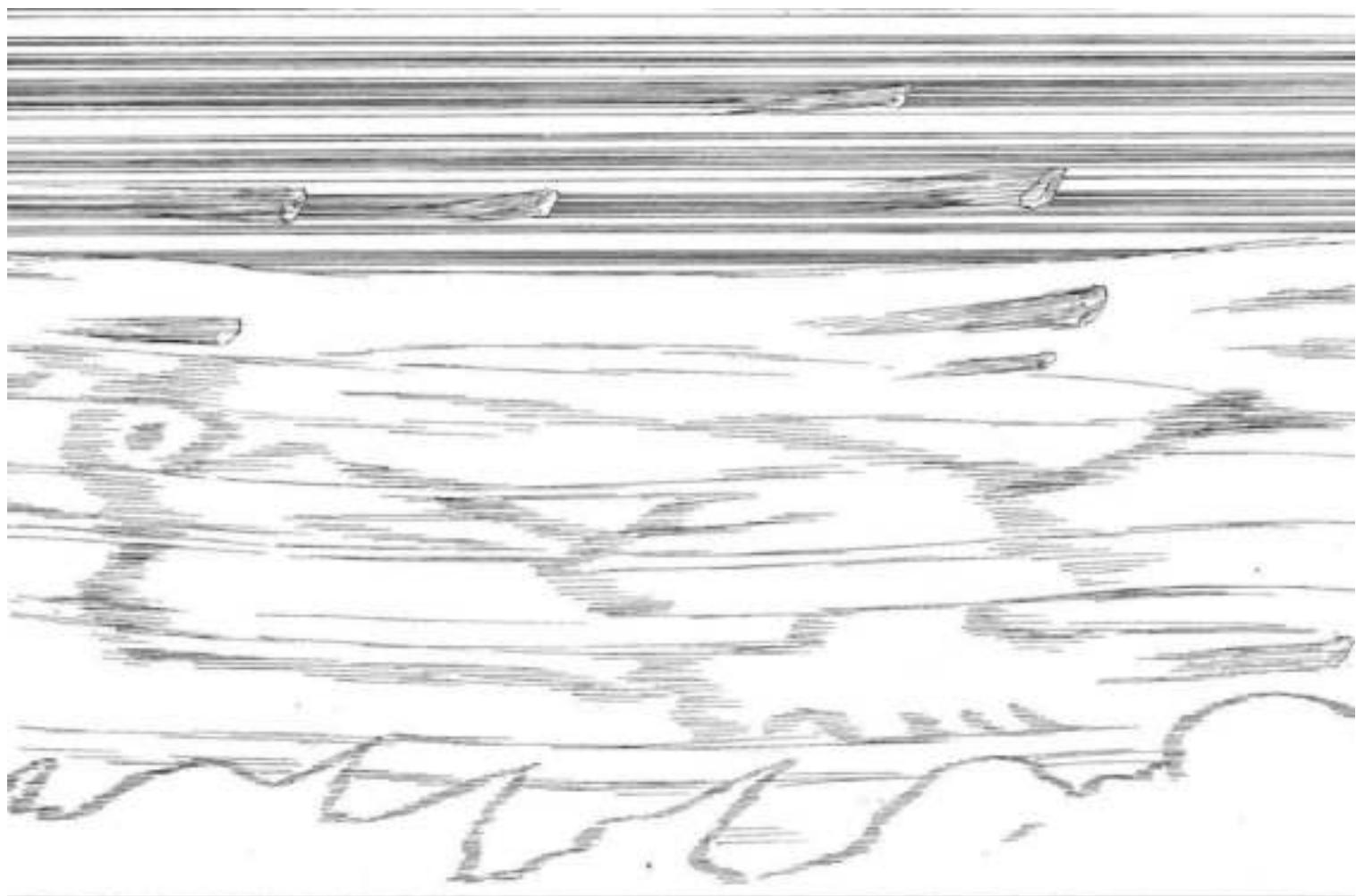




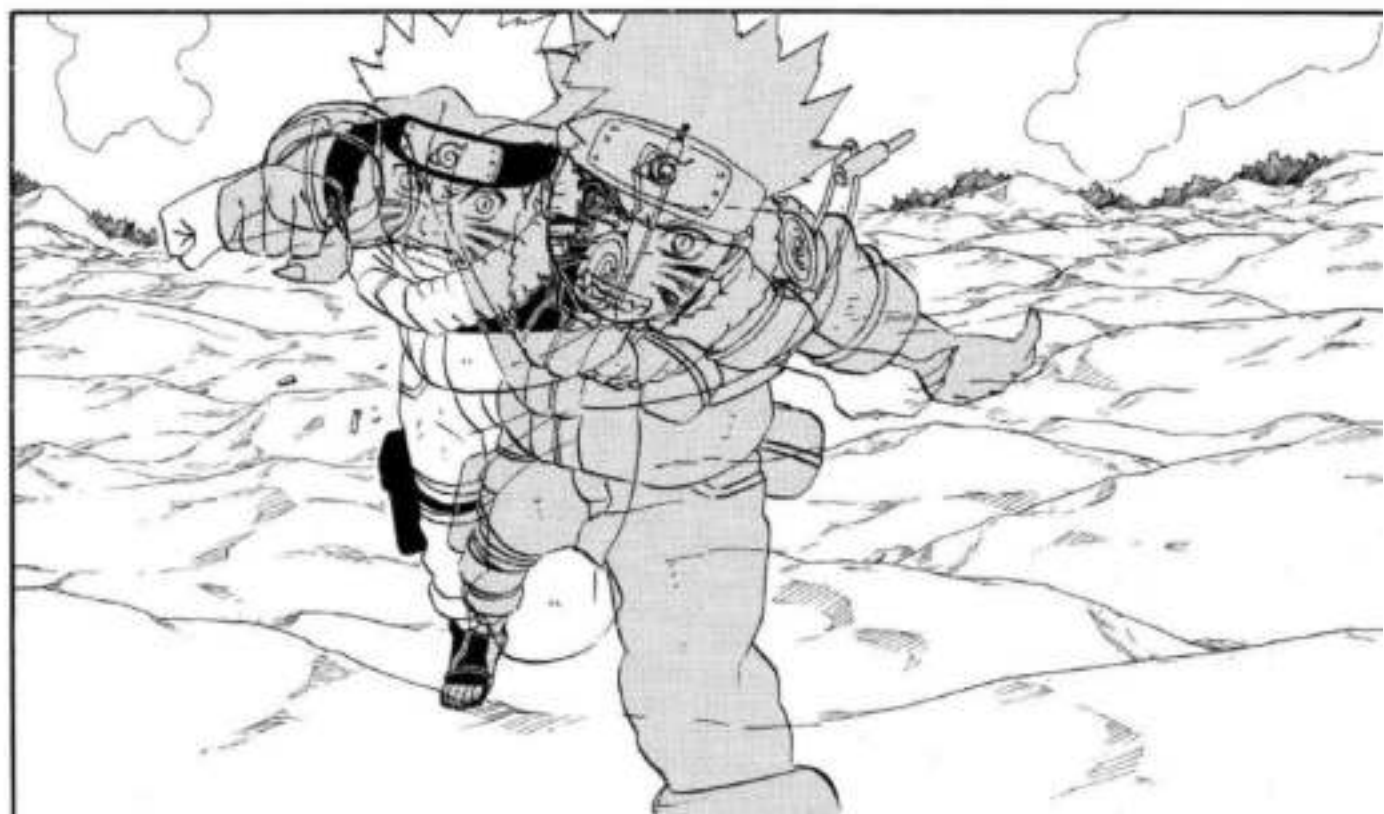


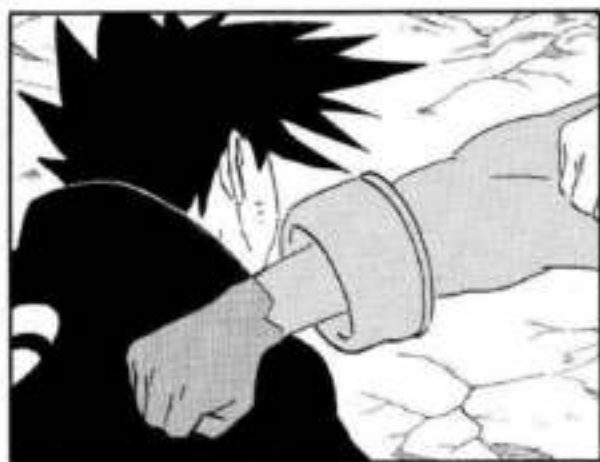




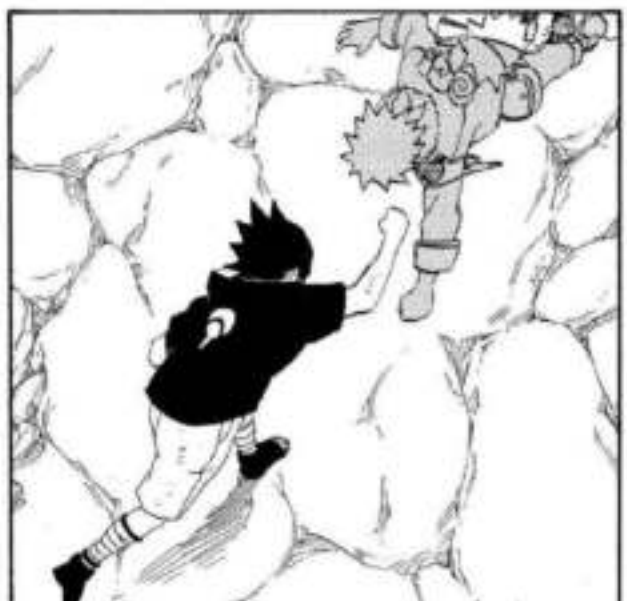


















GAH!!

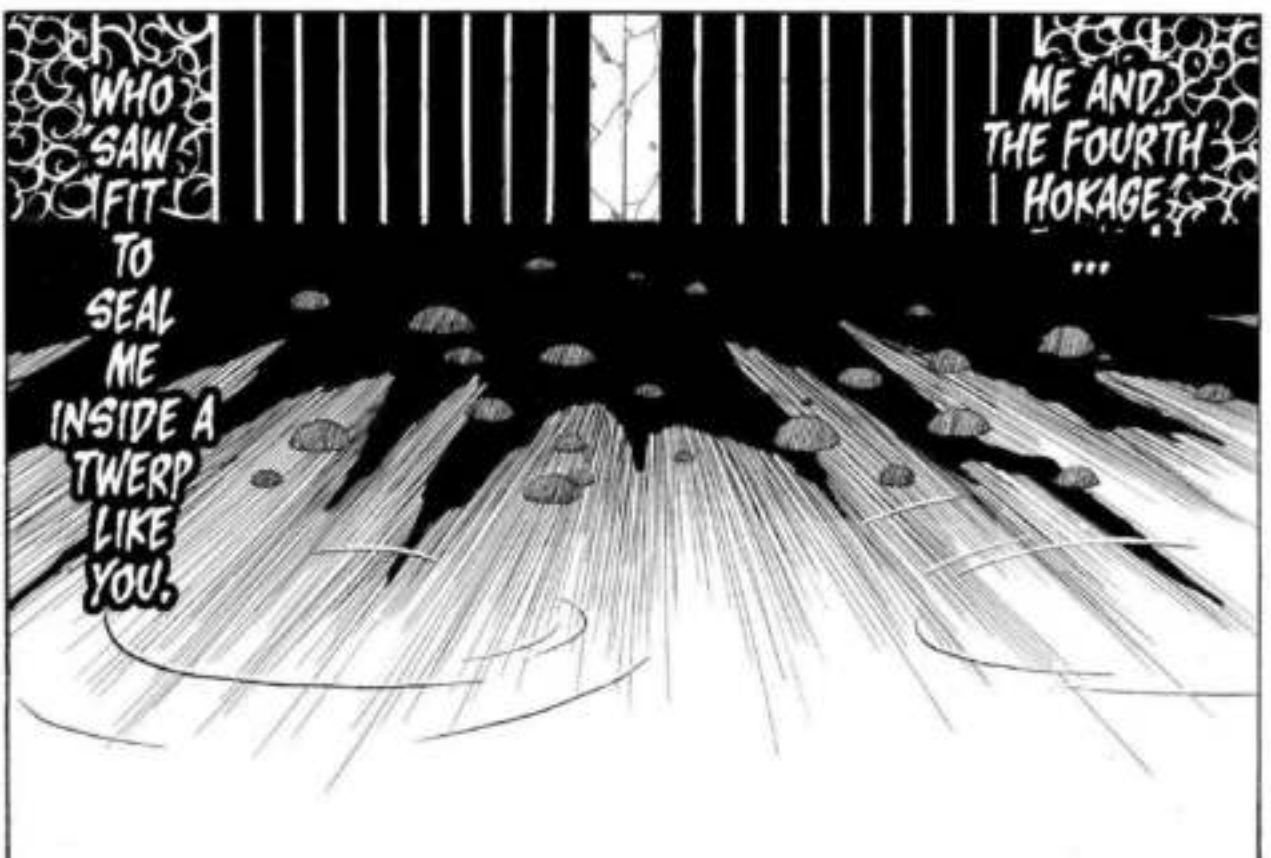
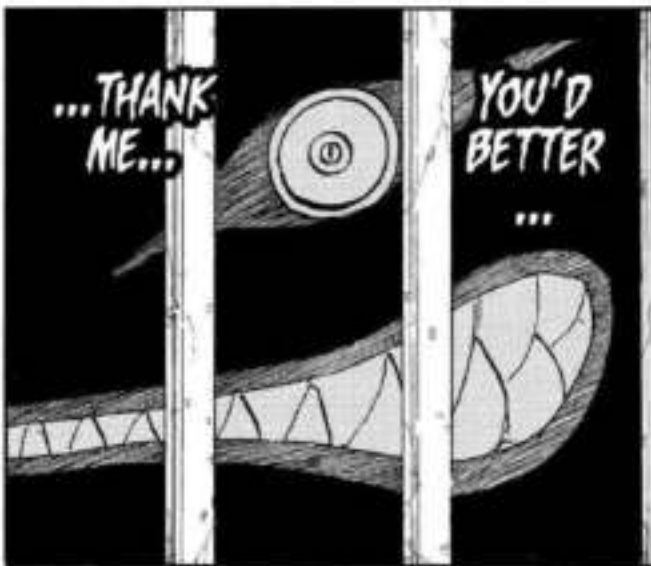
KLUK

**KRAN BAN
POW KLUK
KRAK**

**S
WSSSH**

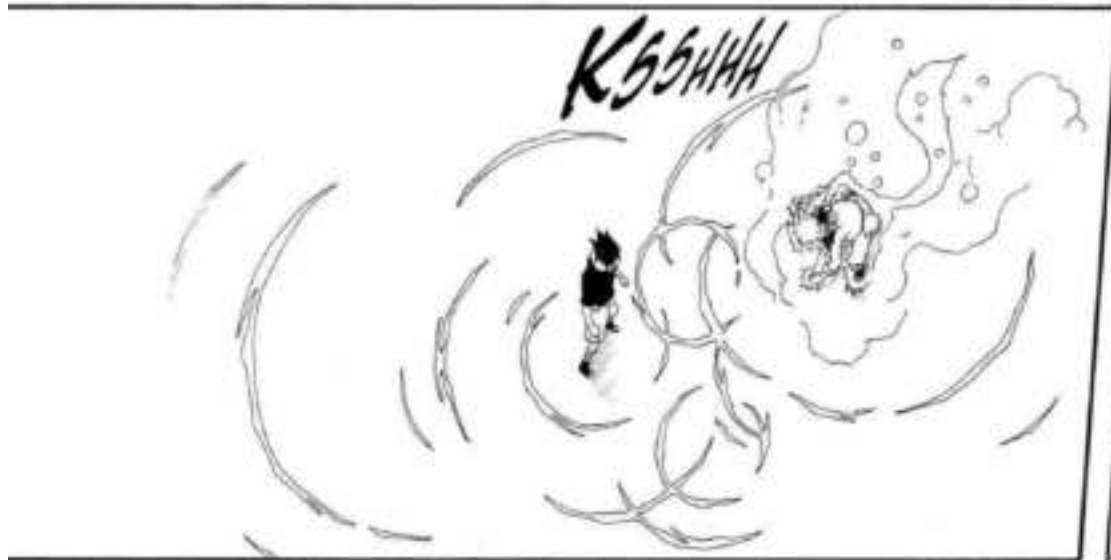














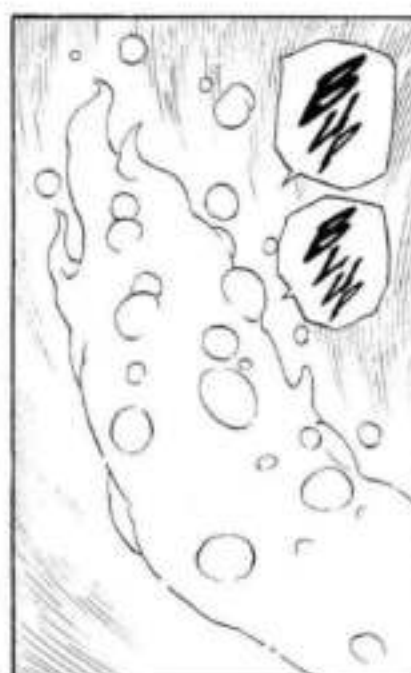
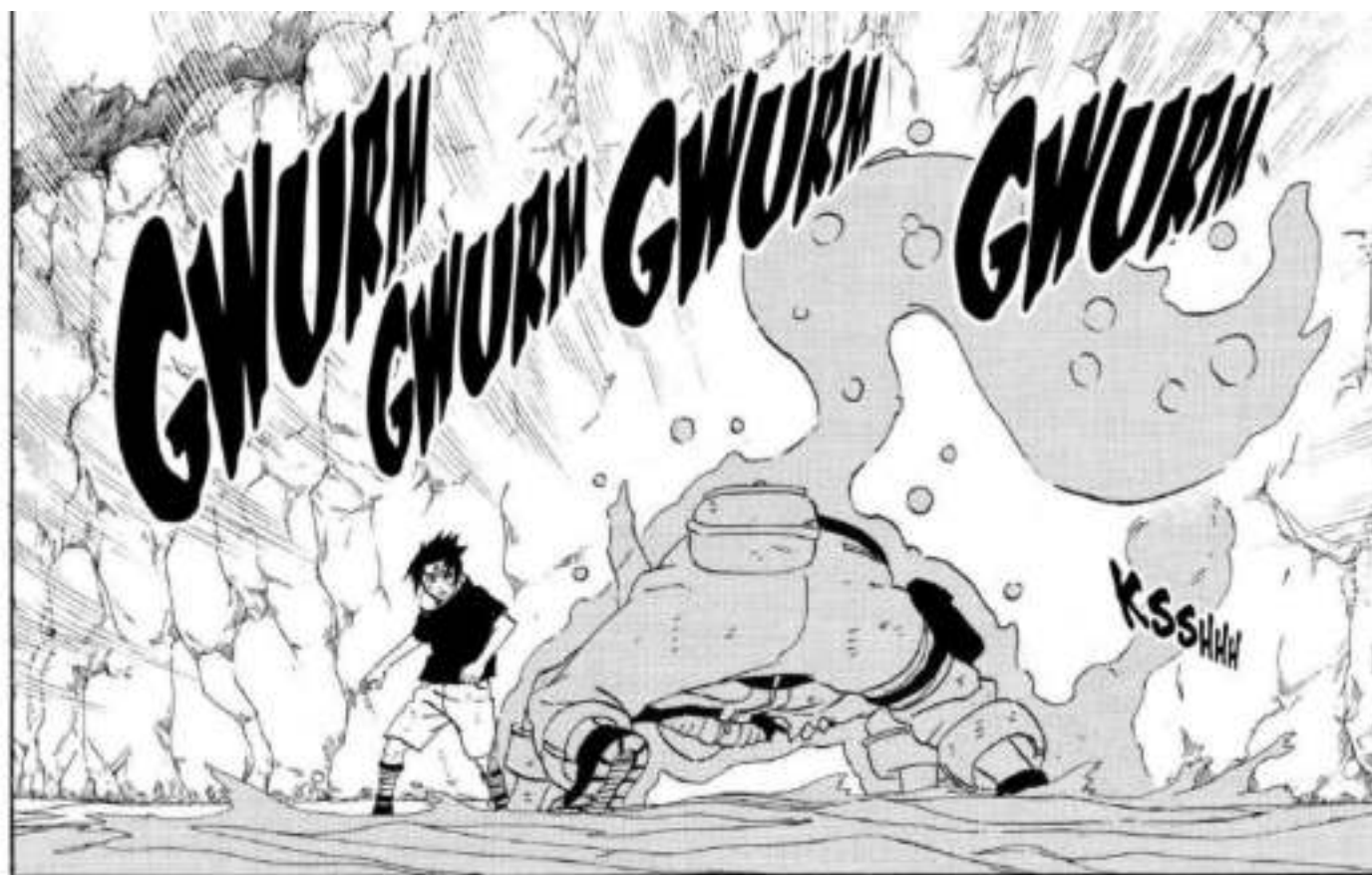
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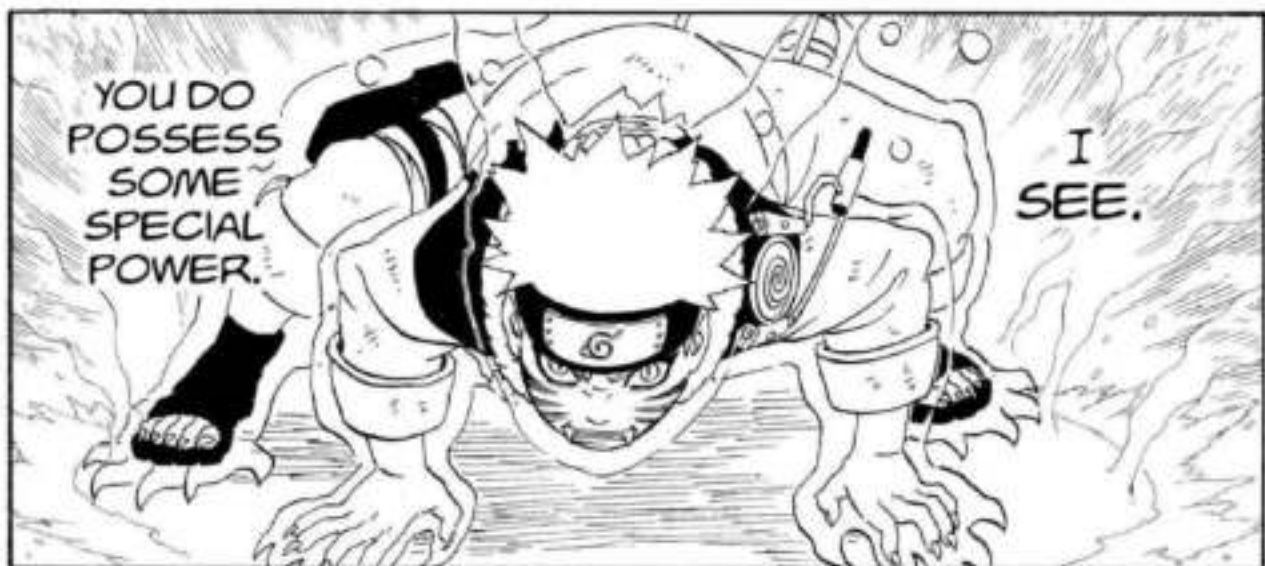
th. ANNIVERSARY
2004.11.8 池本幹雄
Mikio Ikemoto

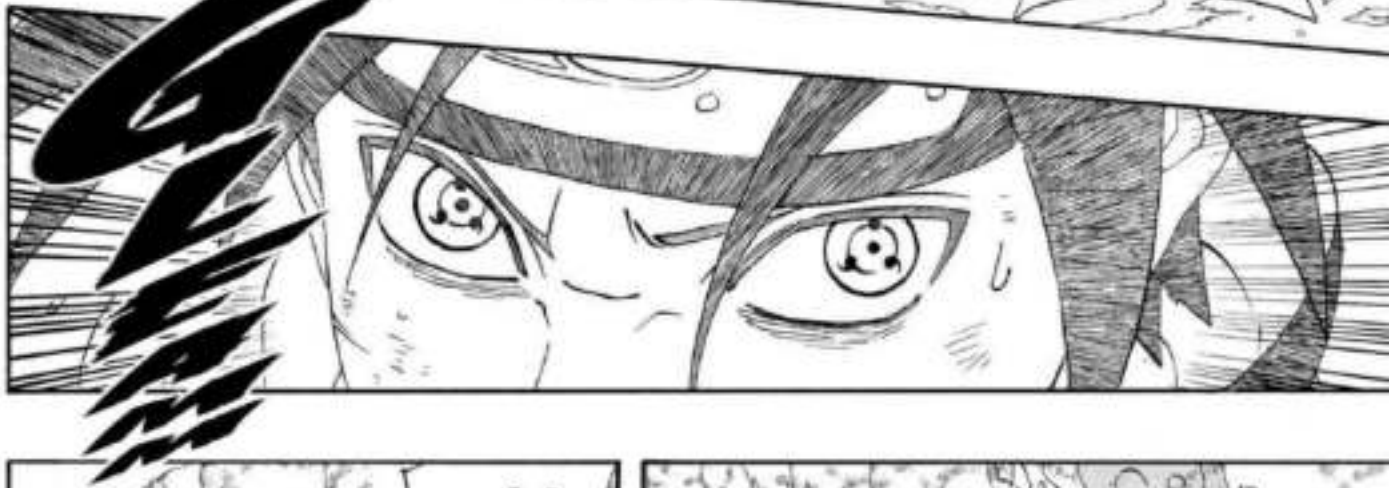


Number ~~237~~: Special!!!



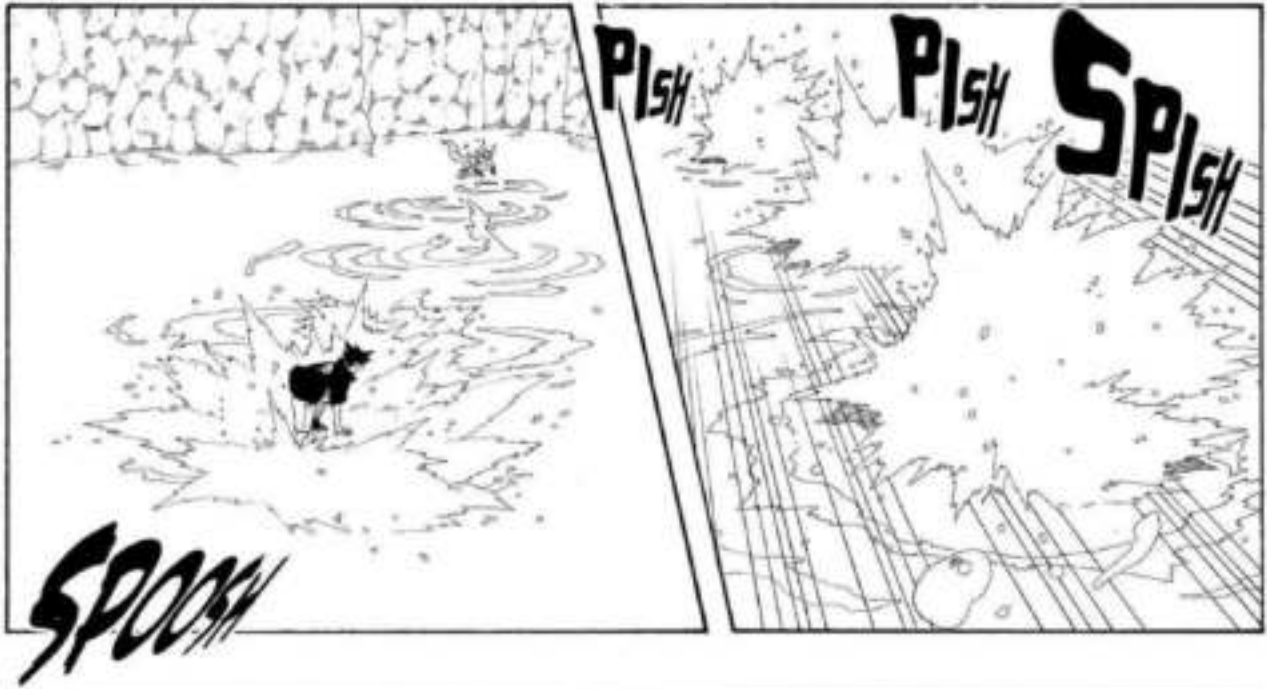


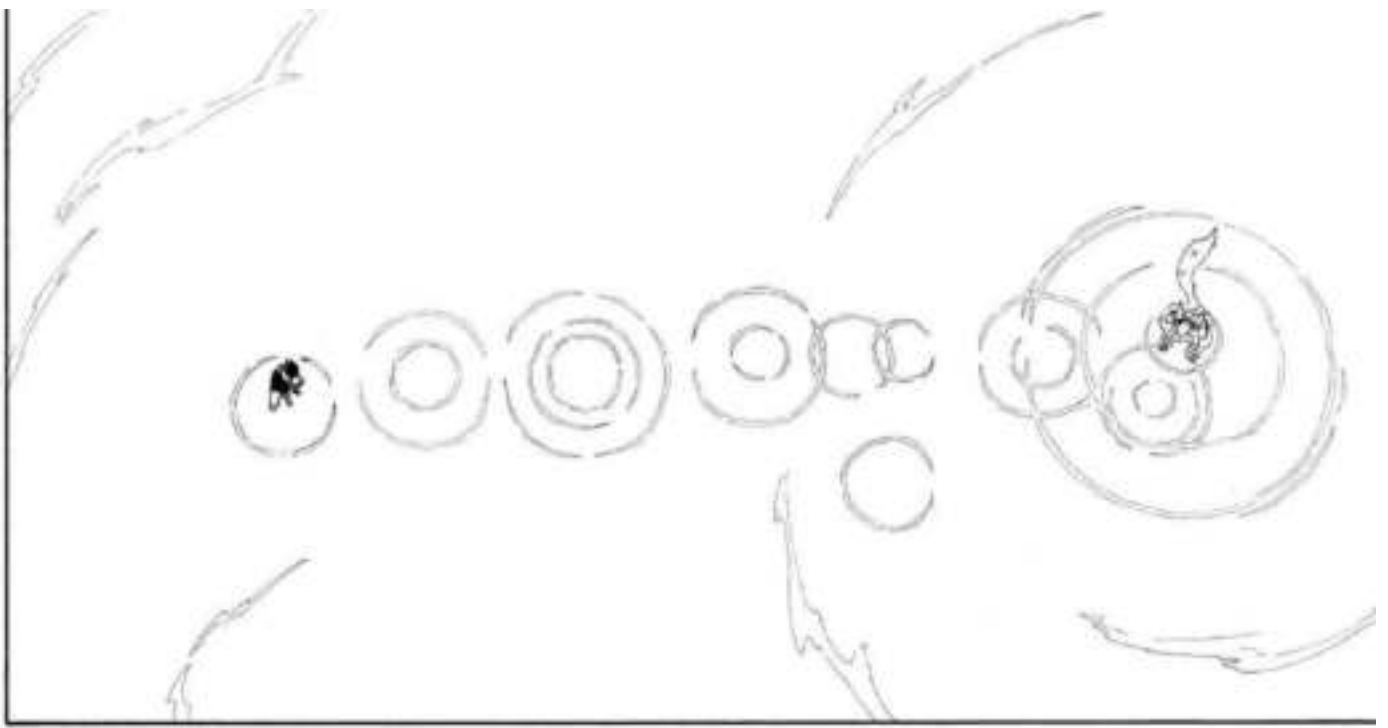






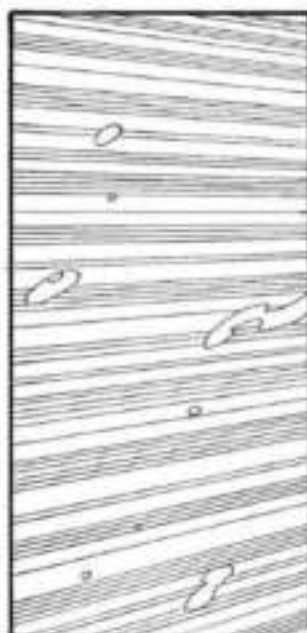


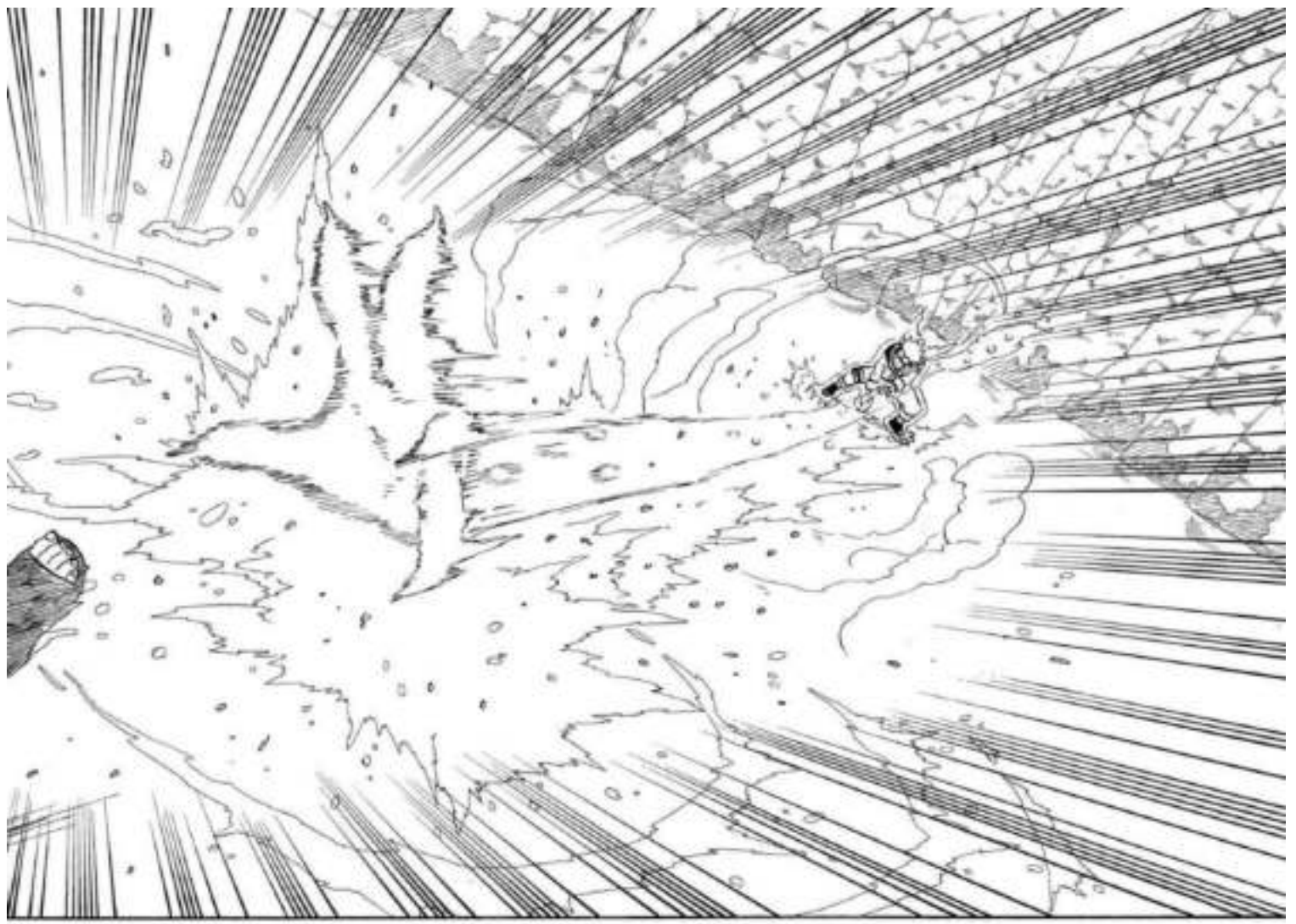






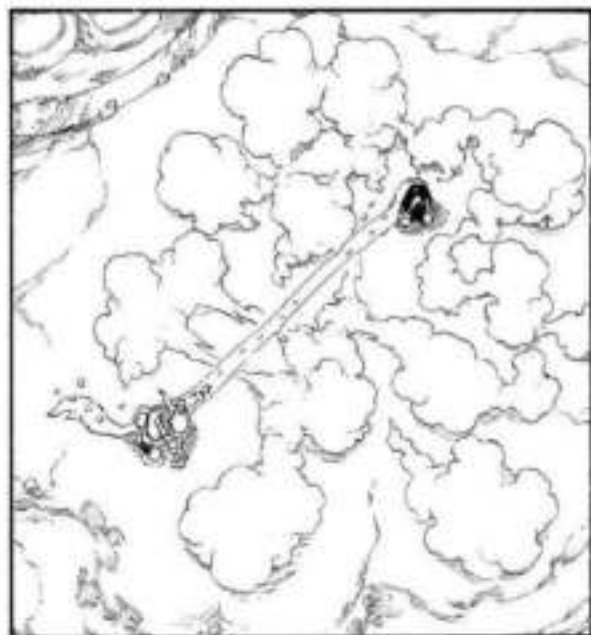


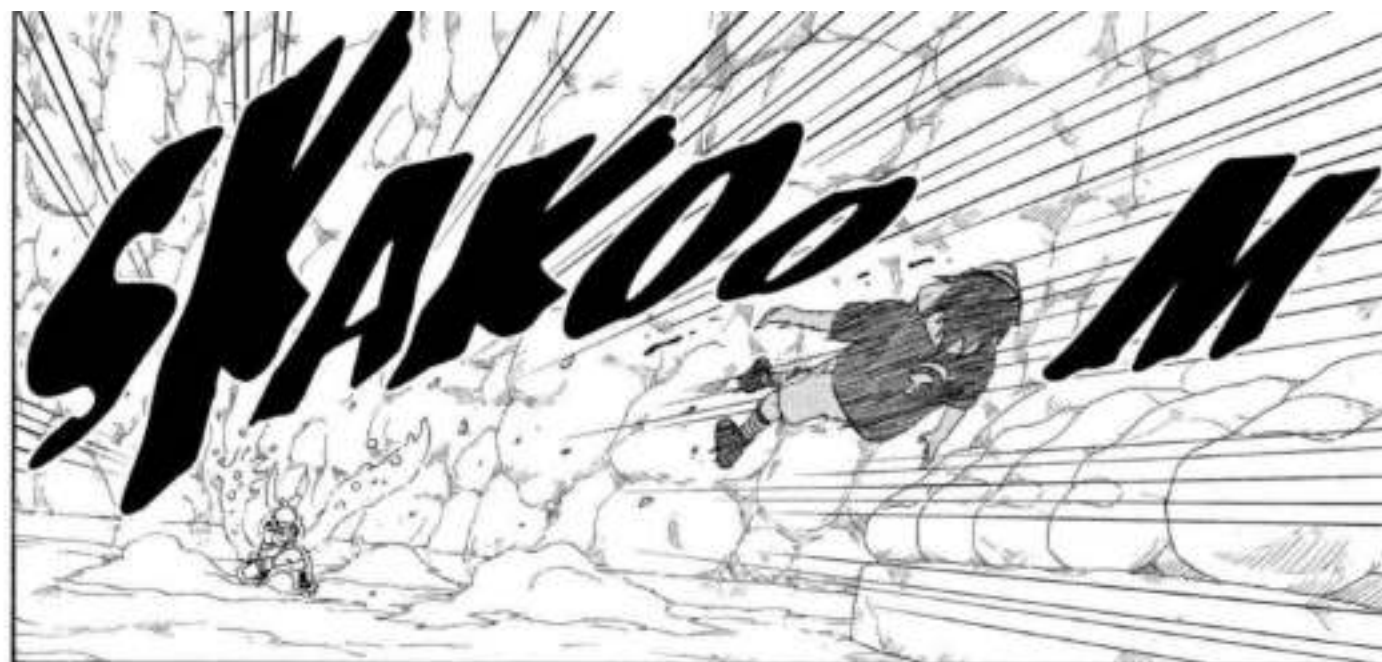
















**I'M
STILL
MORE
SPECIAL
THAN
YOU!**



*Mr. Kishimoto, congrats on the 5th anniversary!
My hats off to you for the efforts you put in!!*

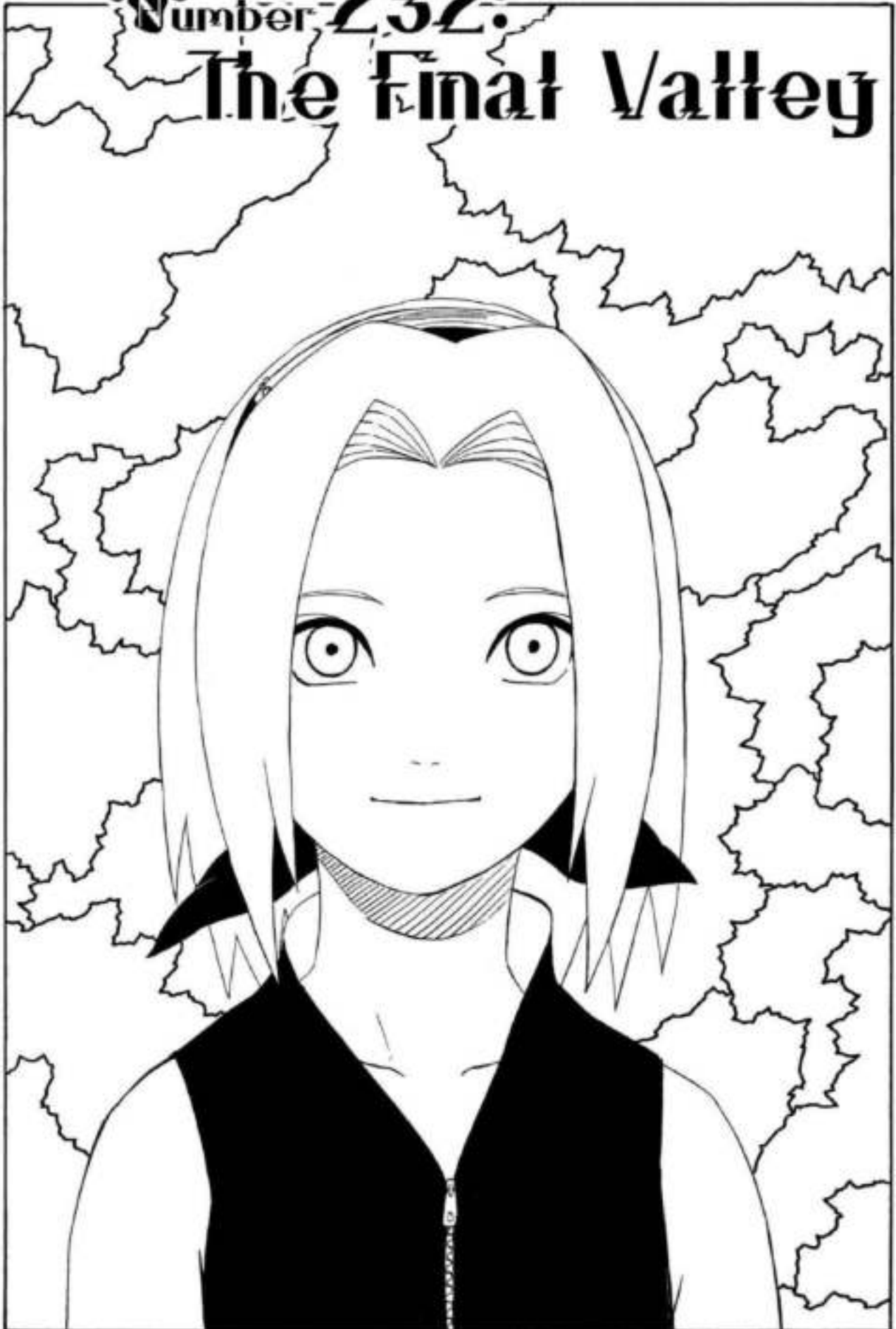
by. 西谷浩一
Kaichi Nishitani





Number 232:

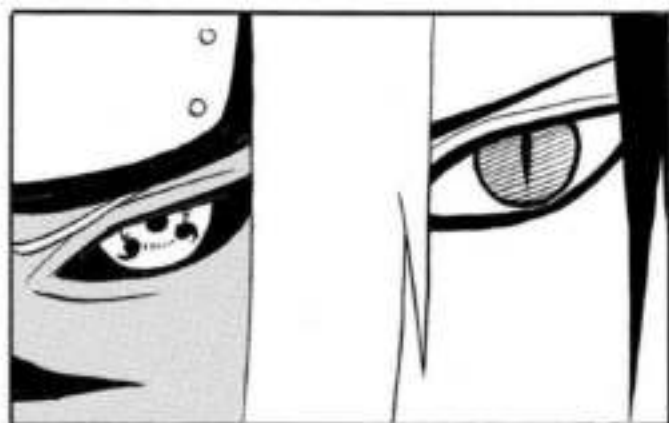
The Final Valley

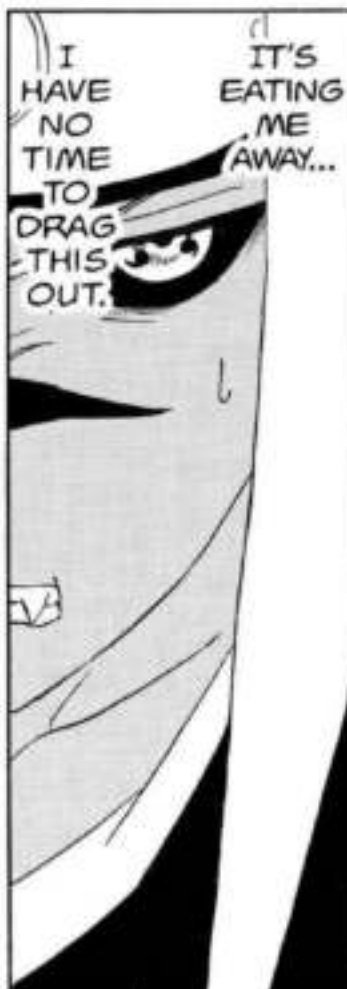
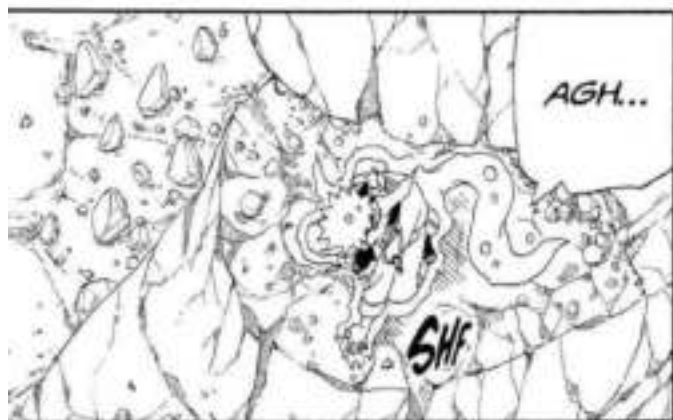
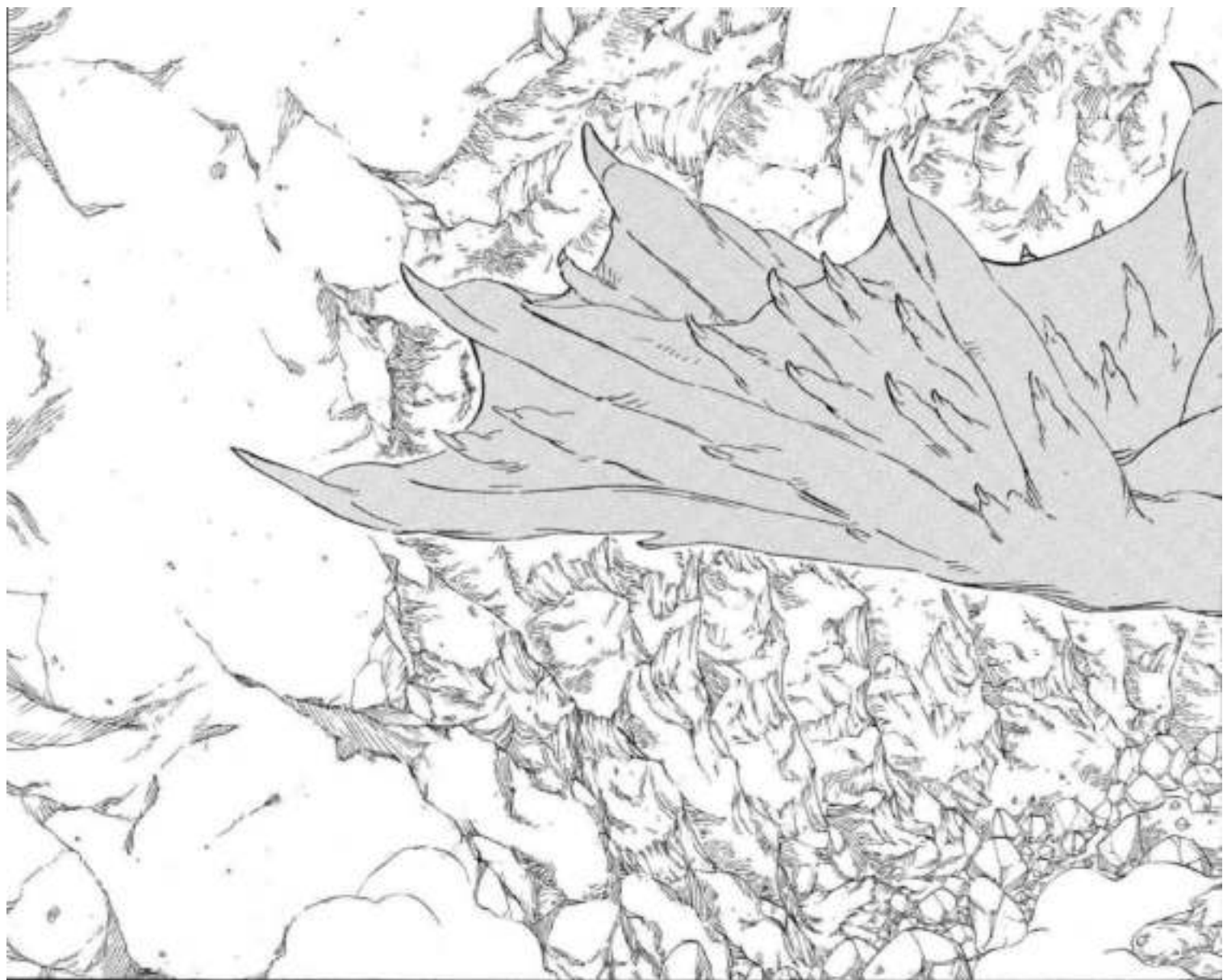


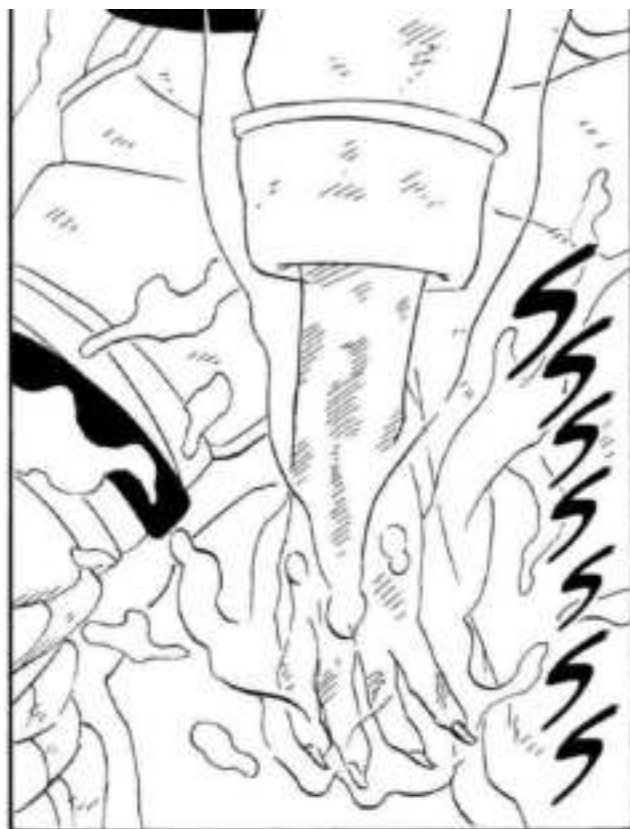
















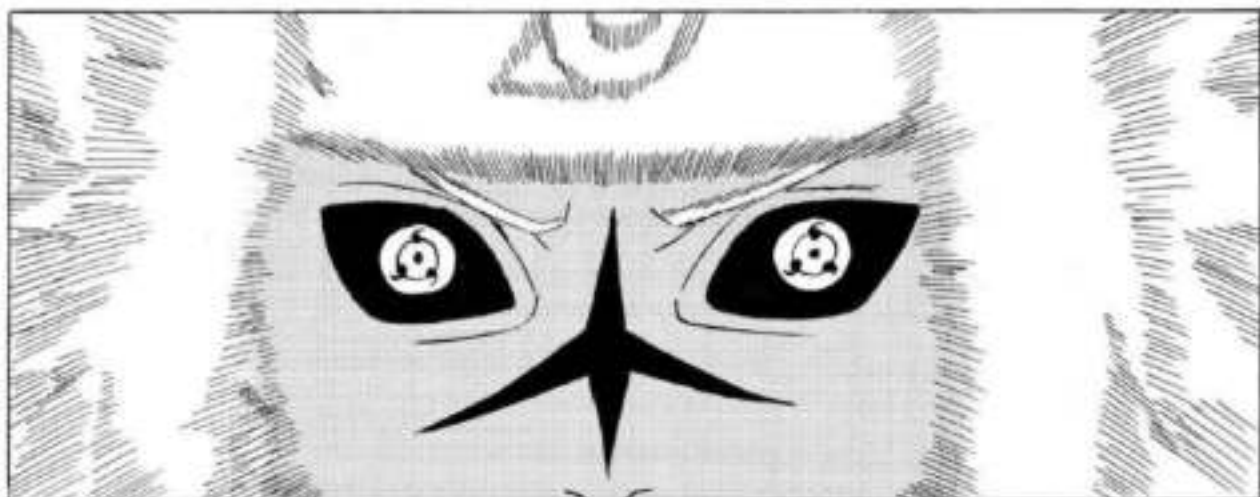
BATTLES TO DATE...

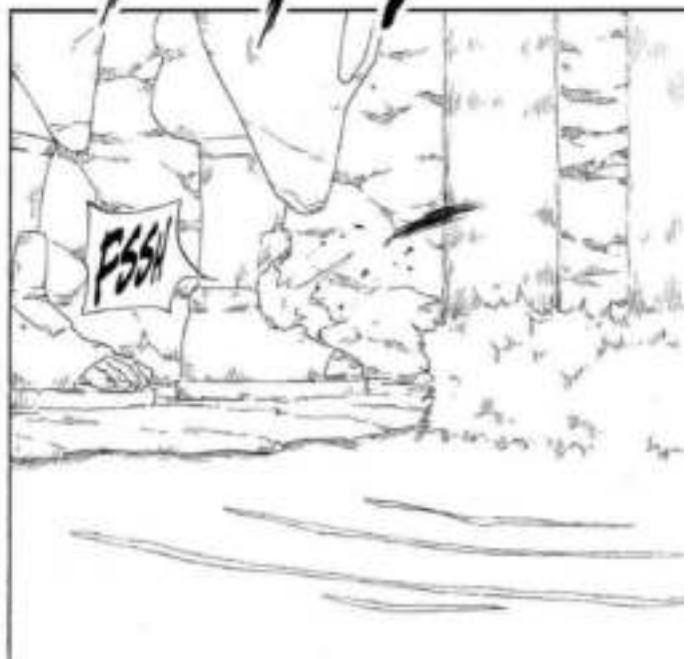


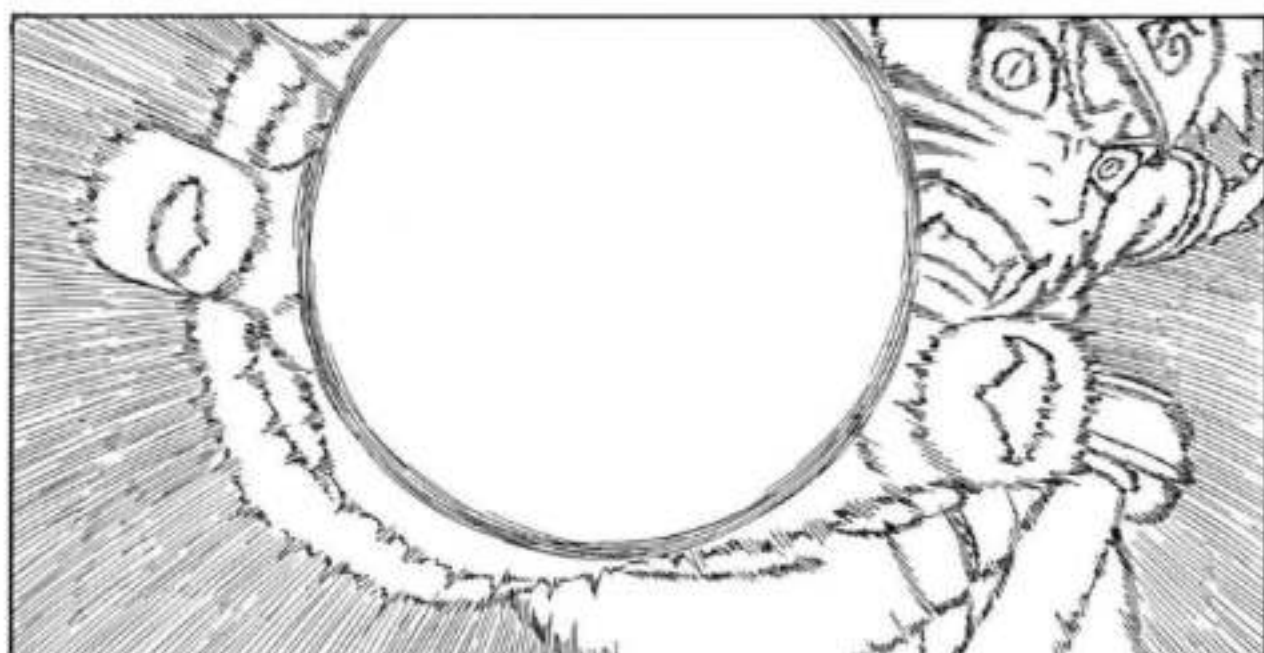
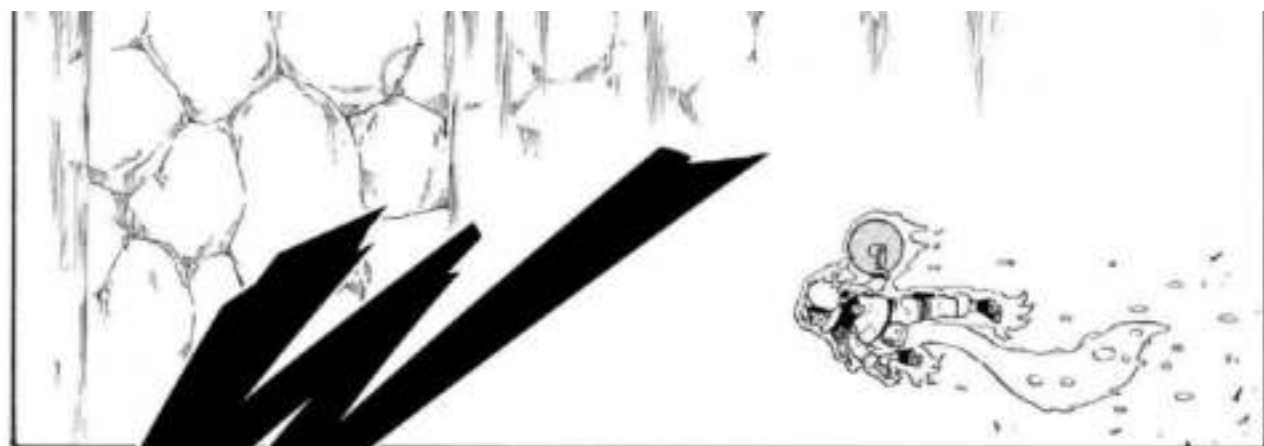
AND ALL THE

NOW...











RASENGAN!
SPIRAL
CHAKRA
SPHERE!!





CHIDORI!
1000
BIRDS!!

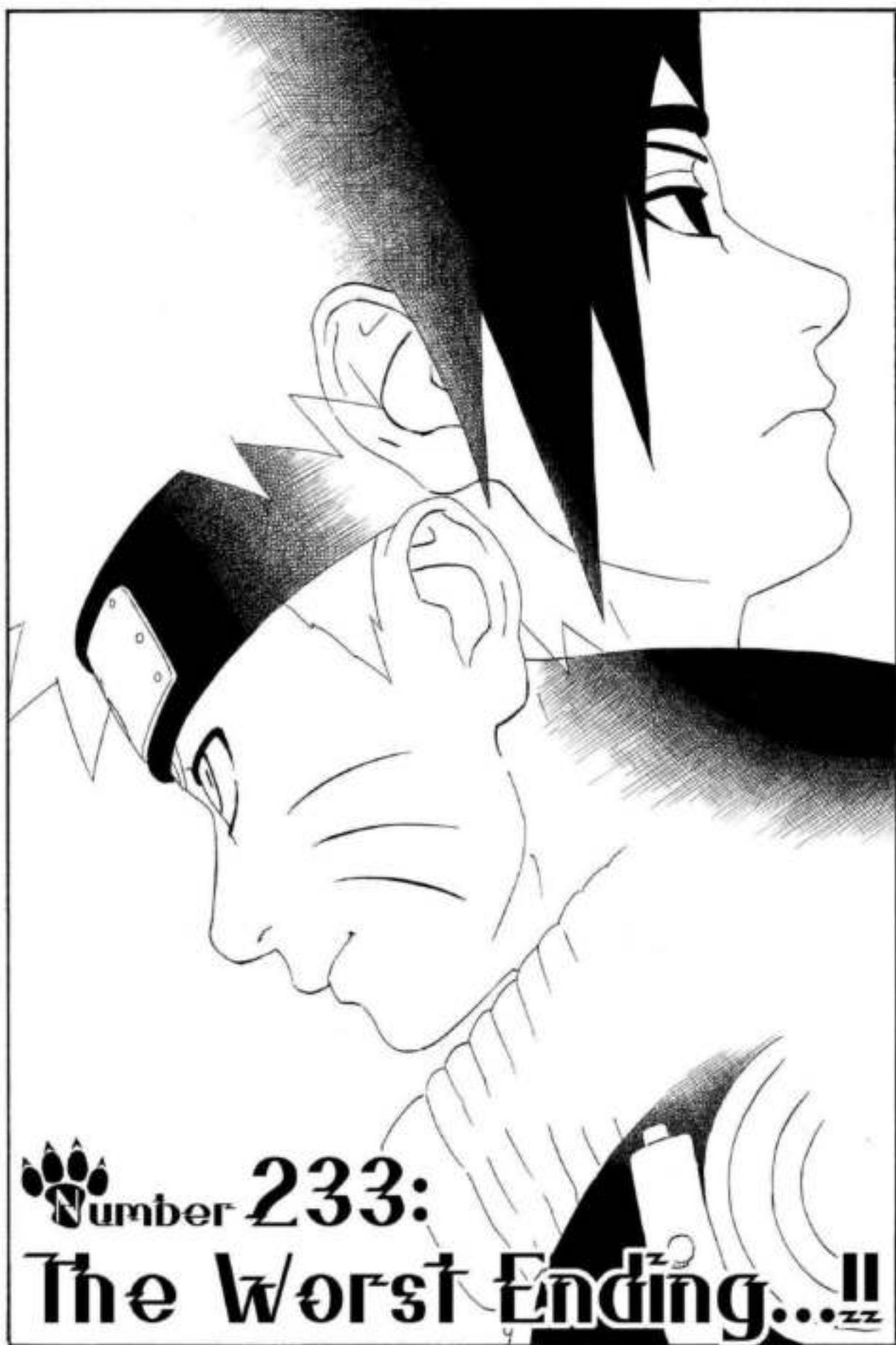
S+H.

ナルト



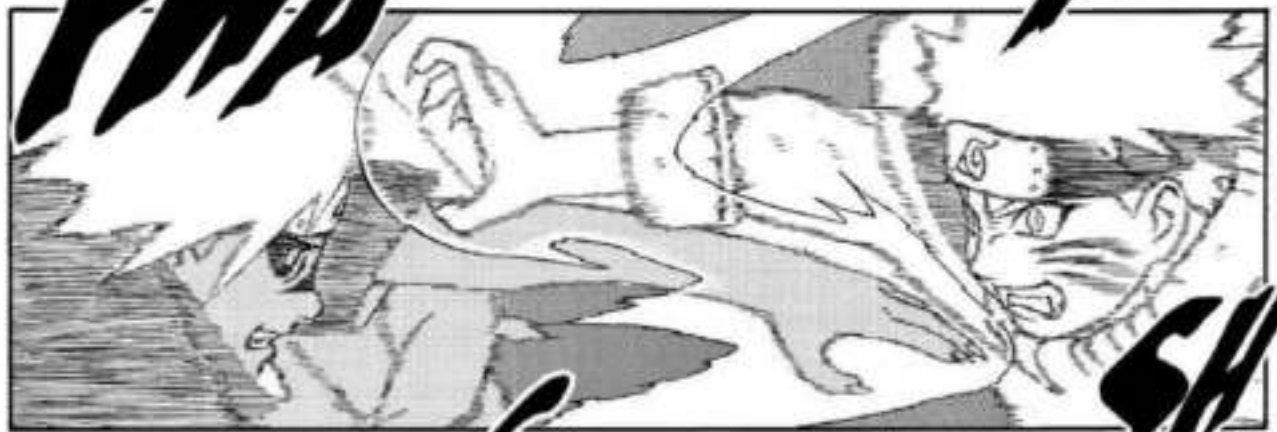
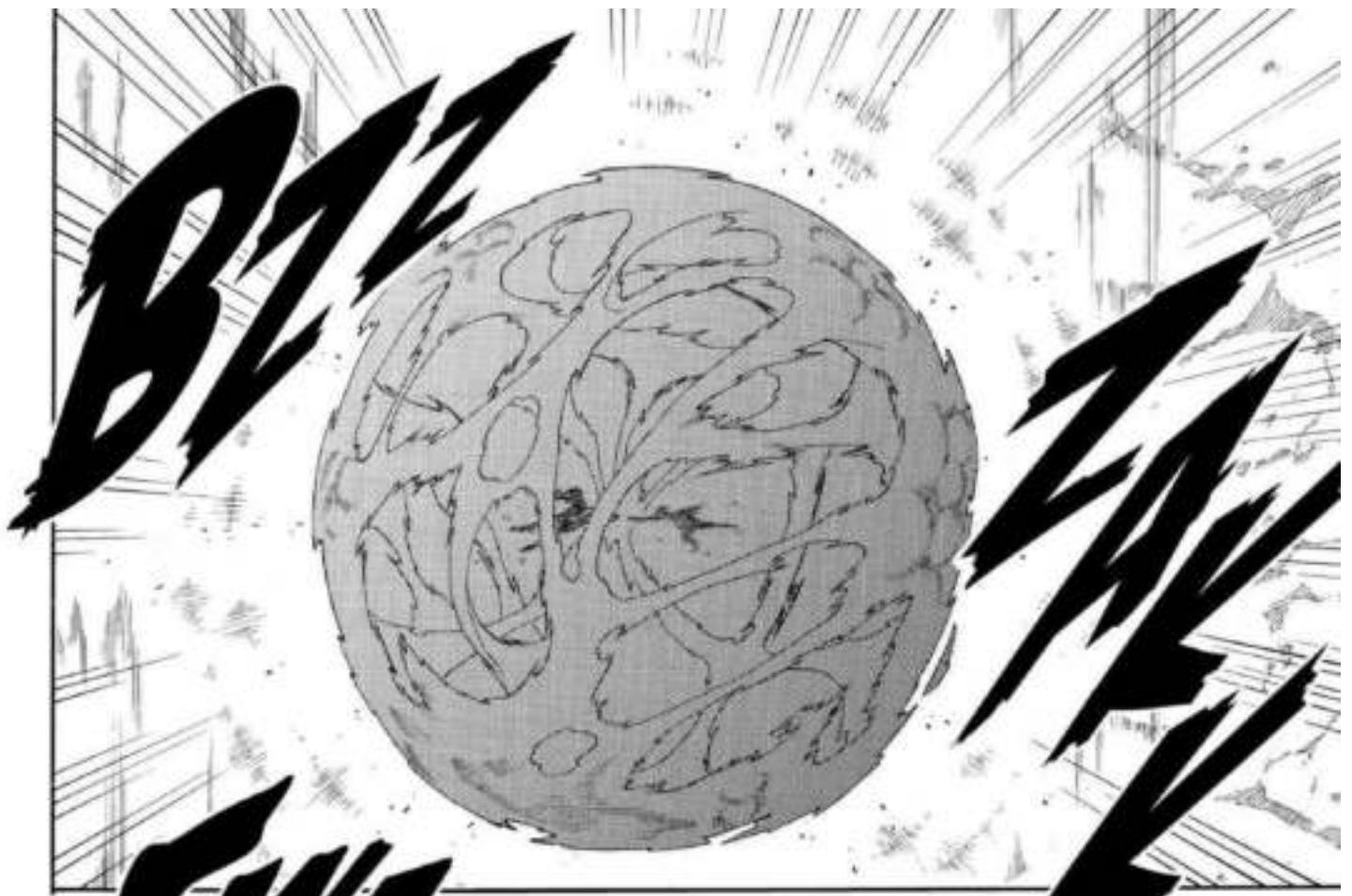
平成16年
11月8日
板倉雄一

Yuichi Itakura, 11/8/2004

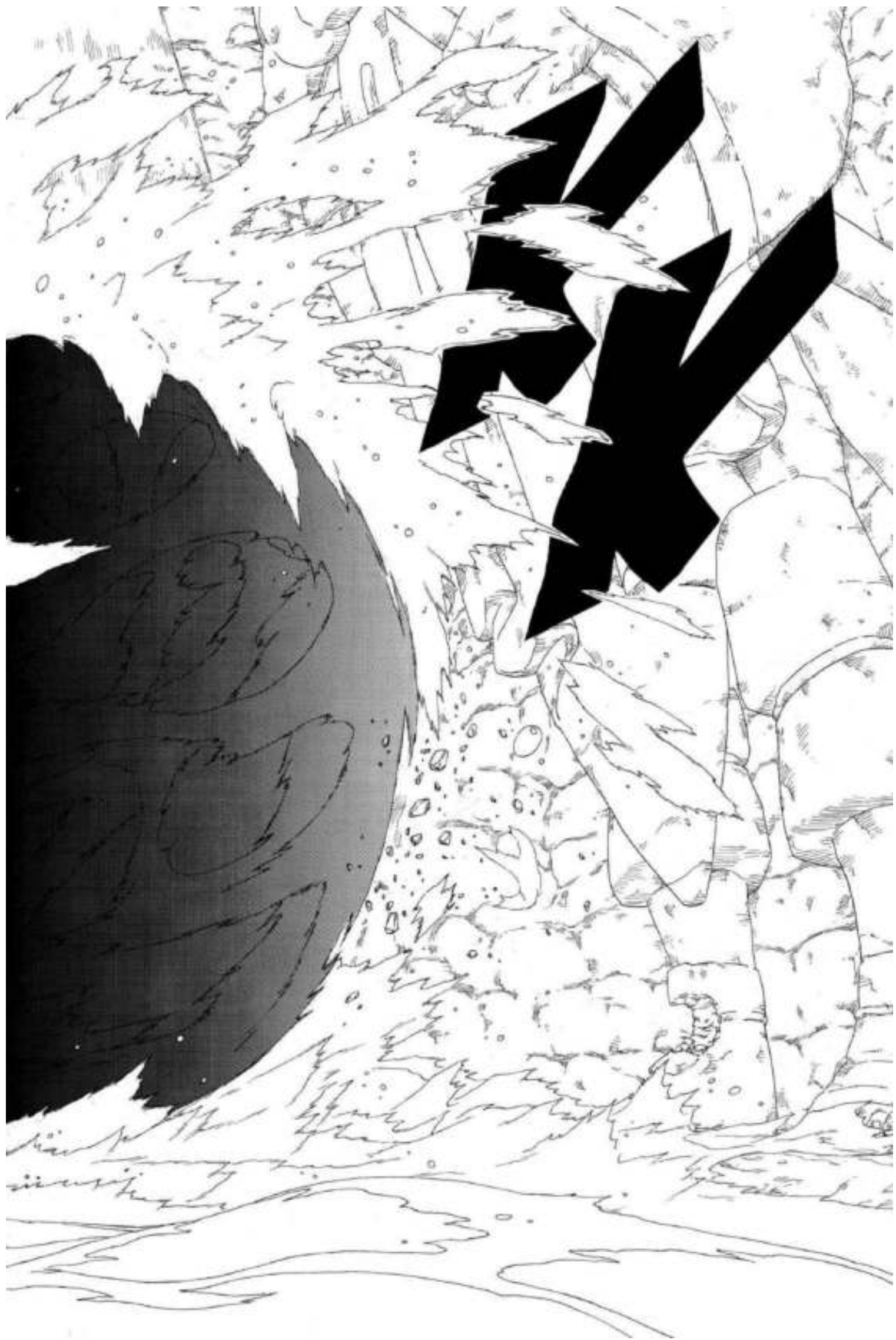


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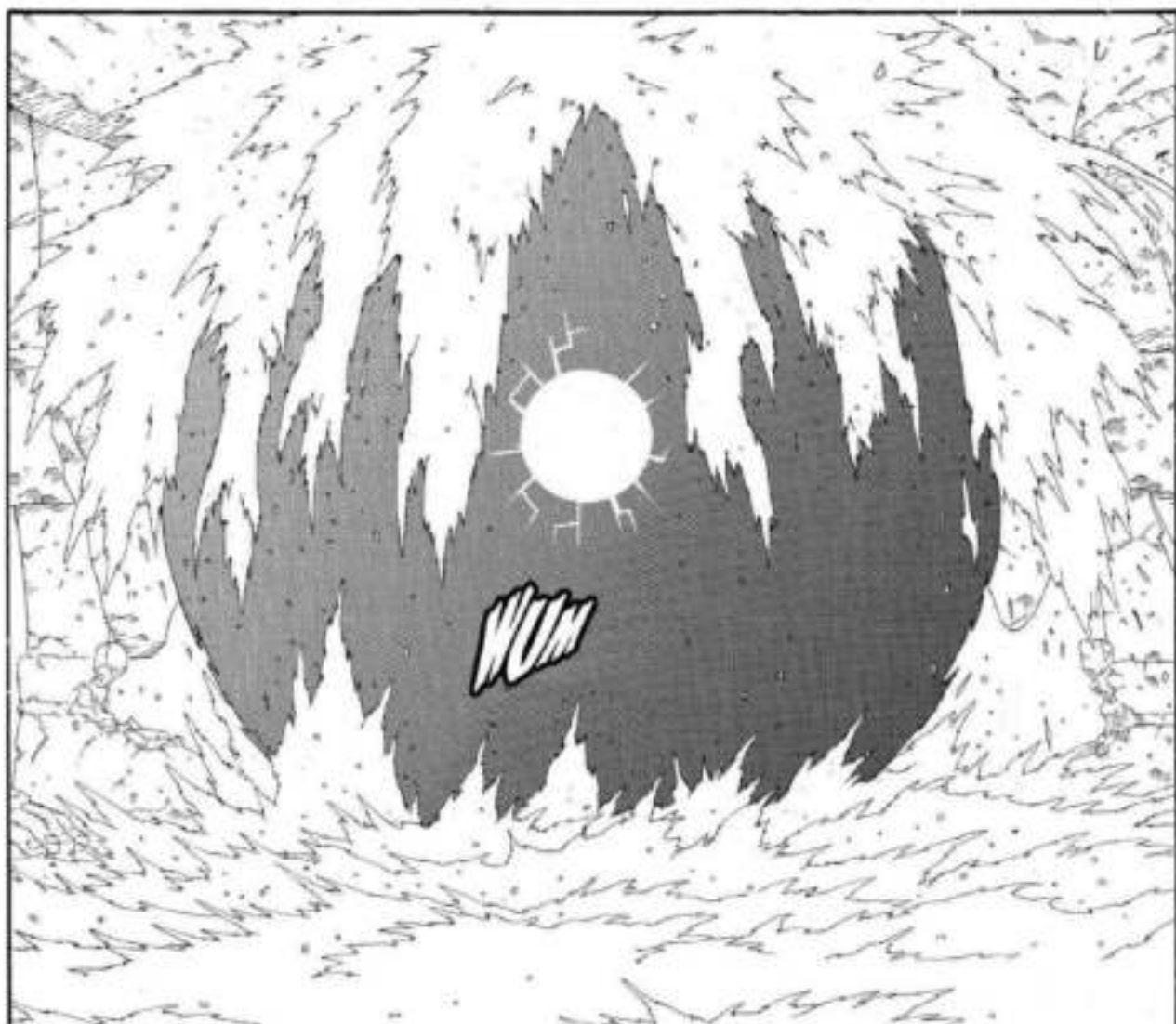
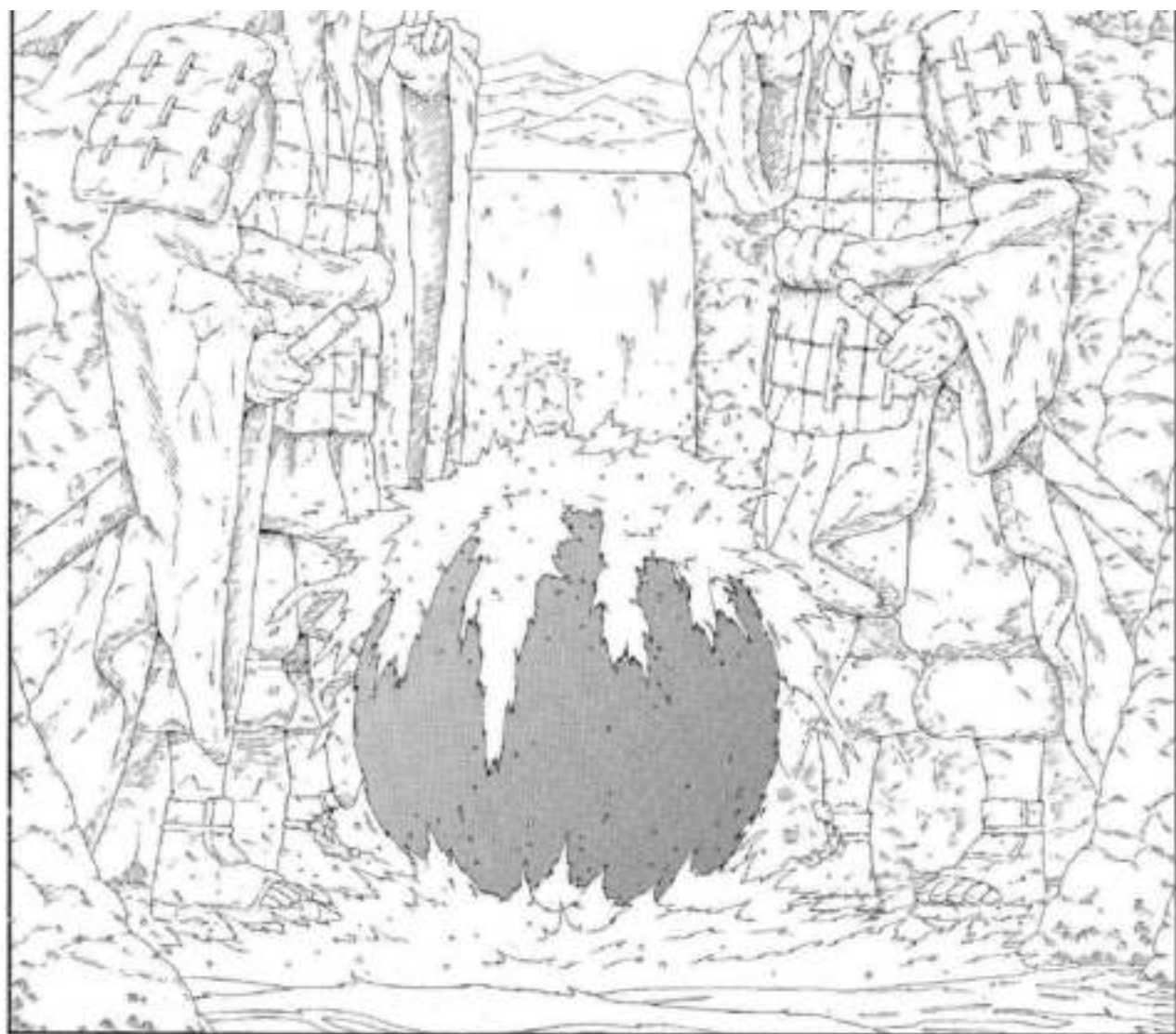
The Worst Ending...!!
zz

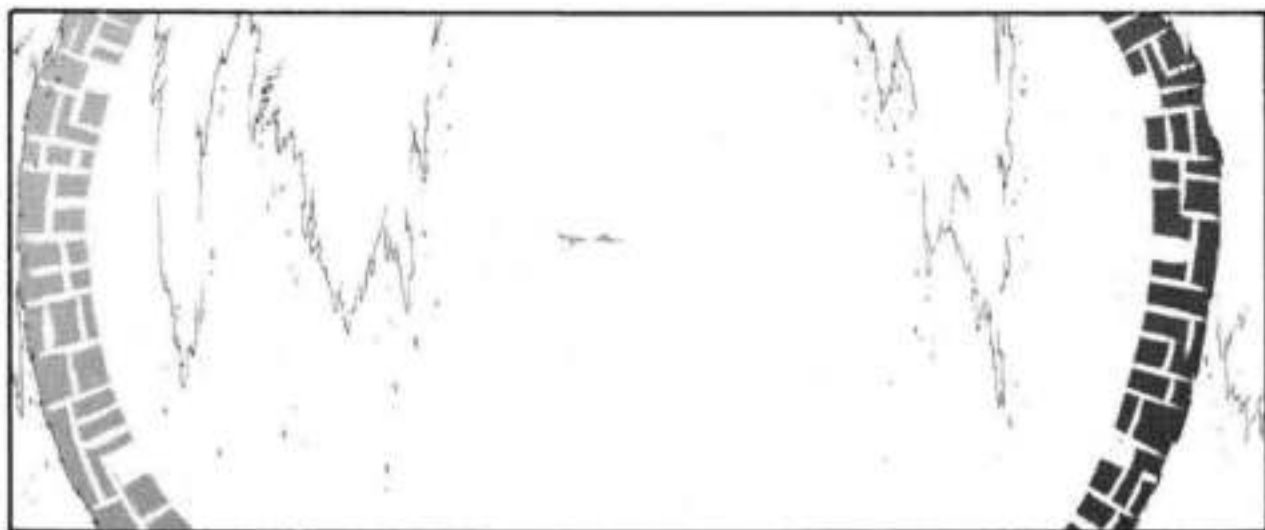


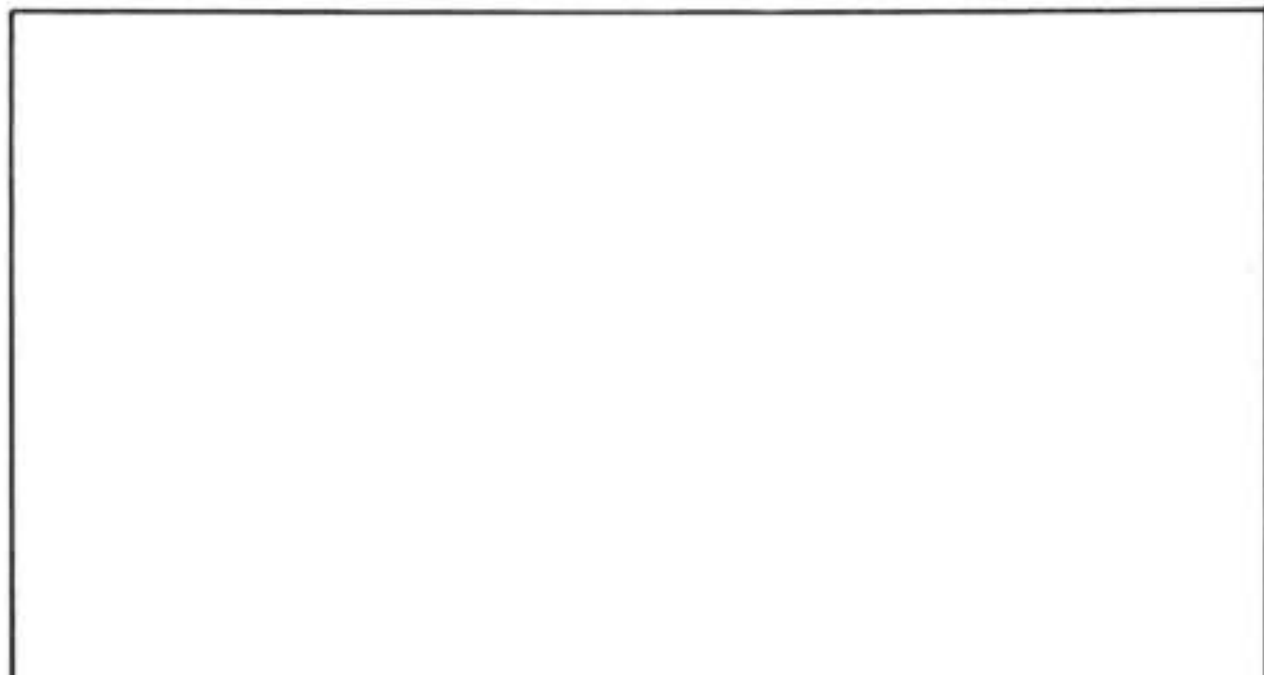
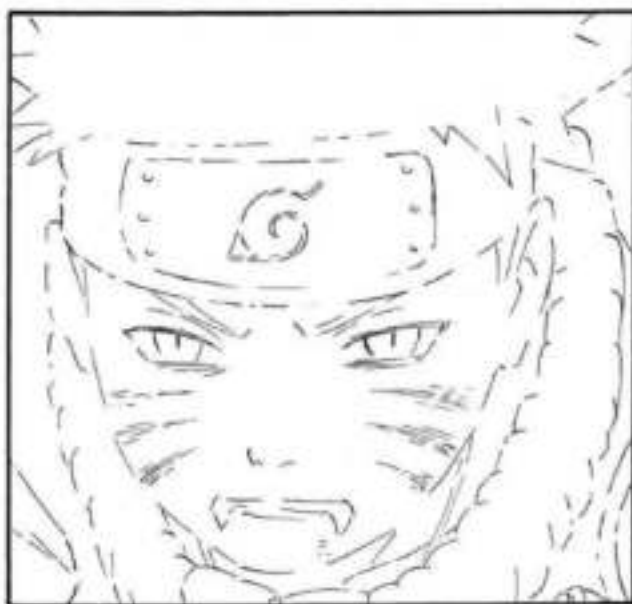


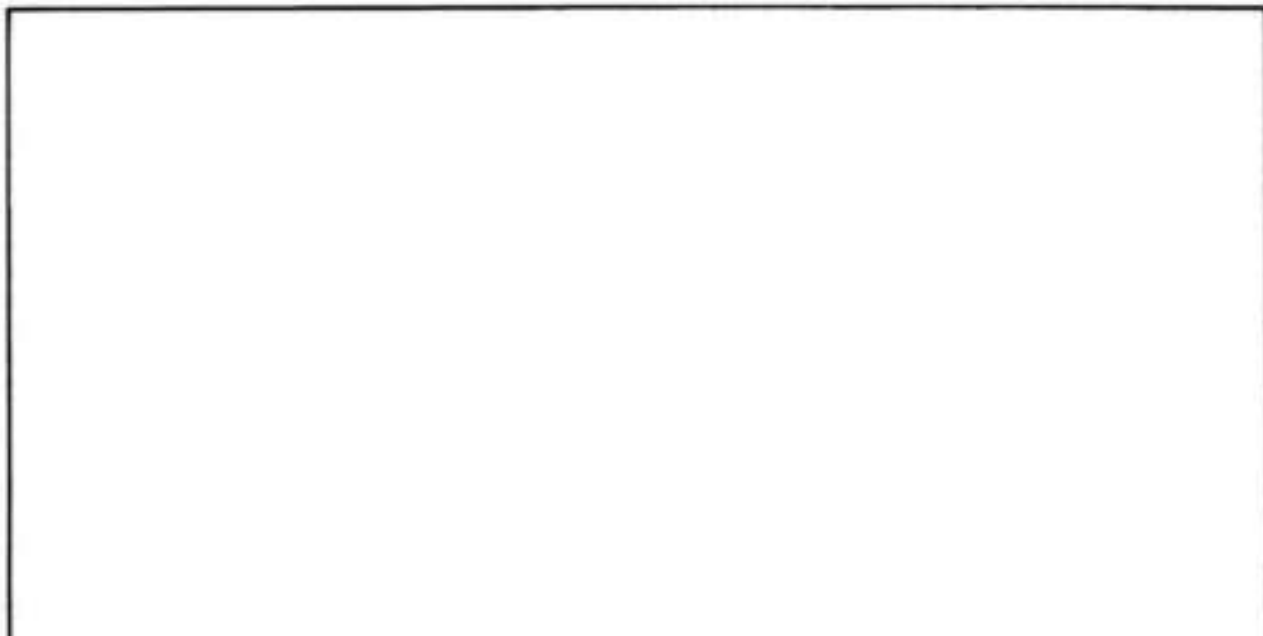
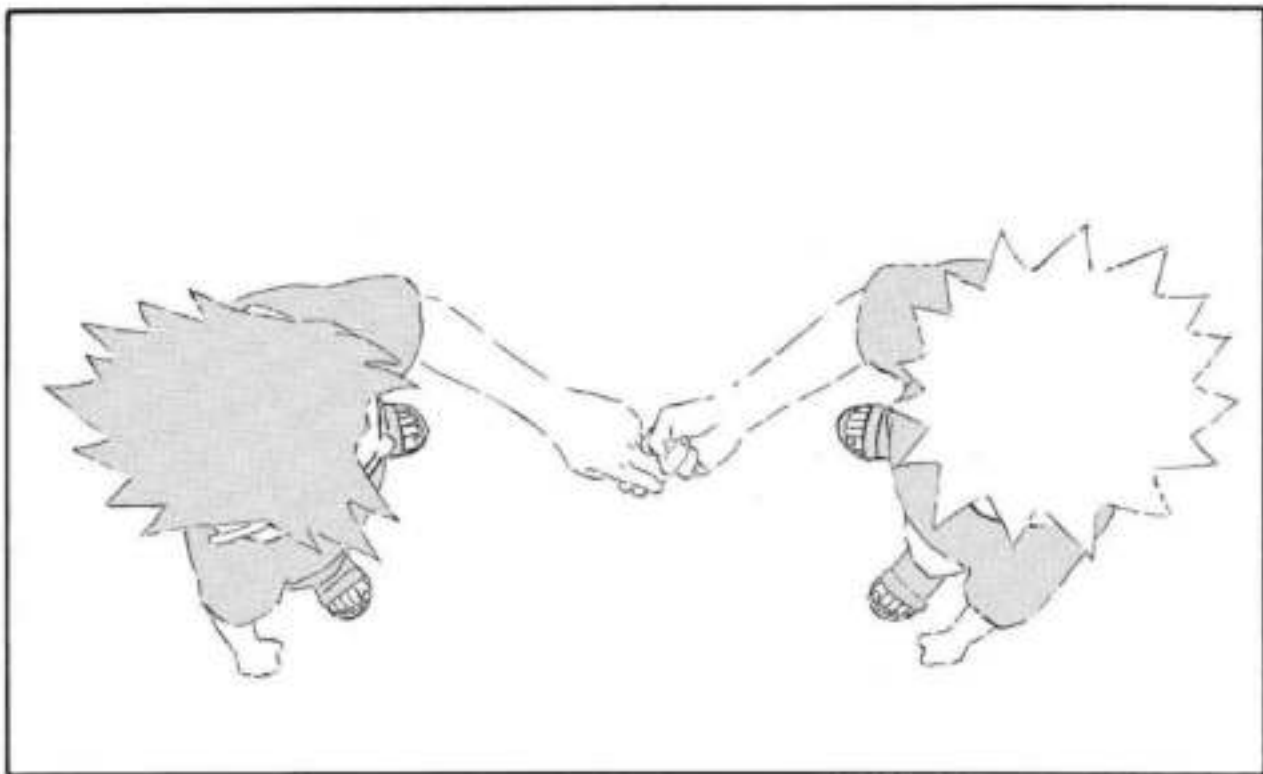
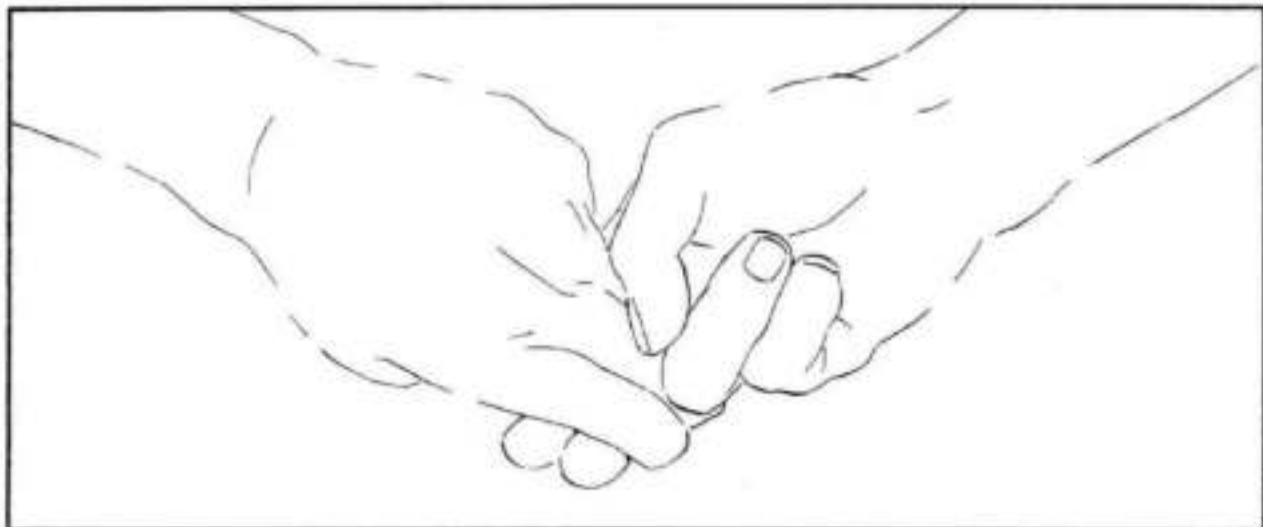




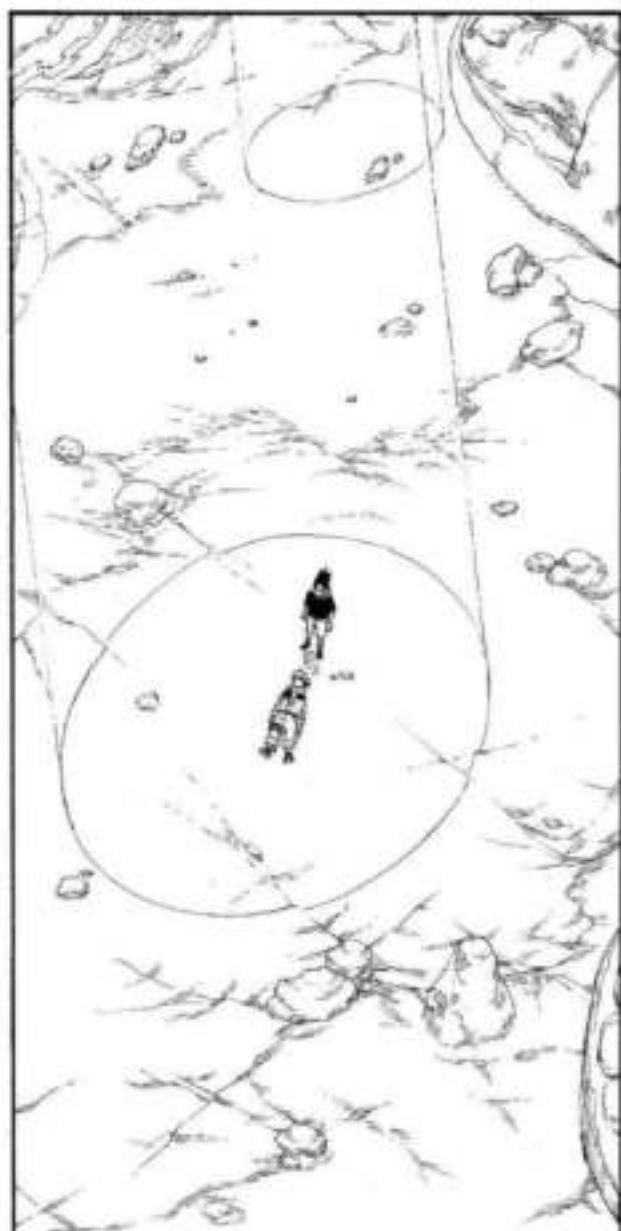
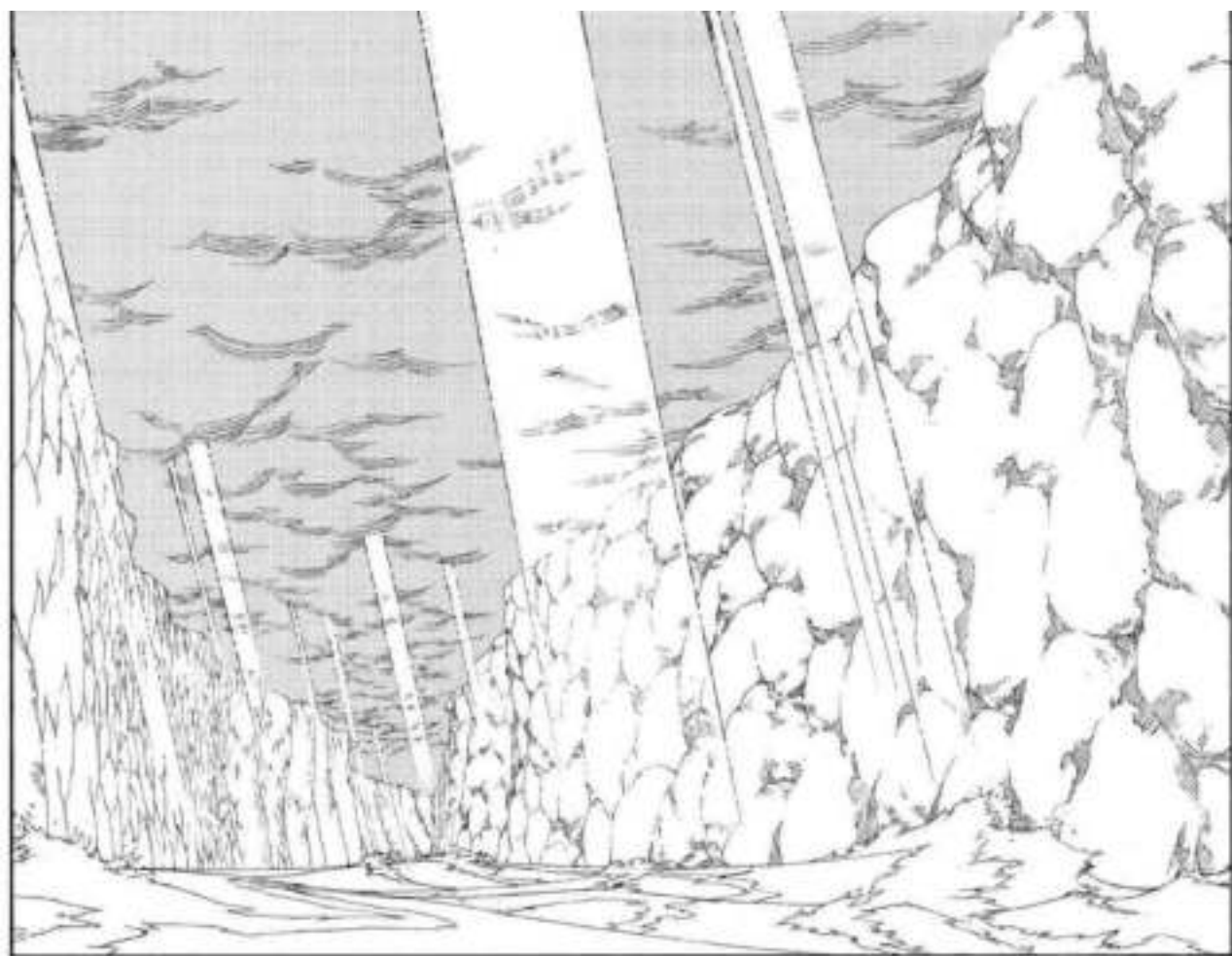








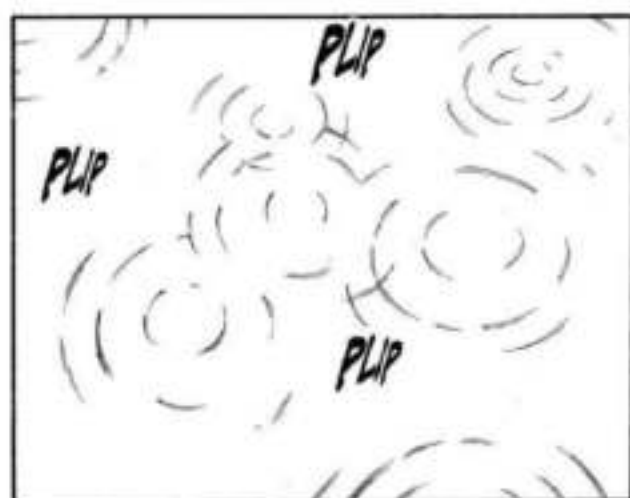
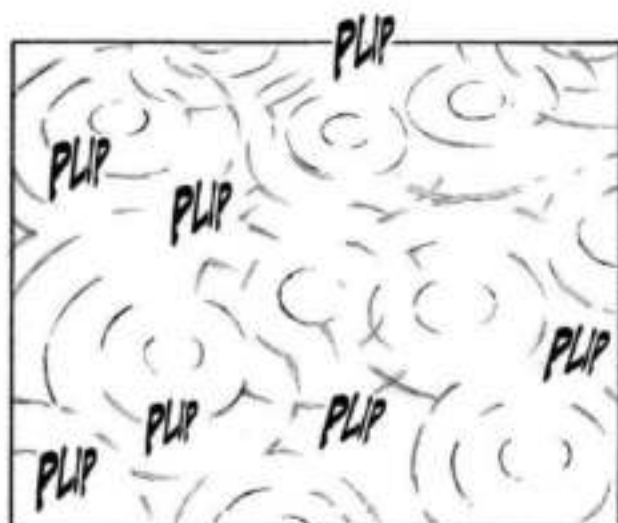


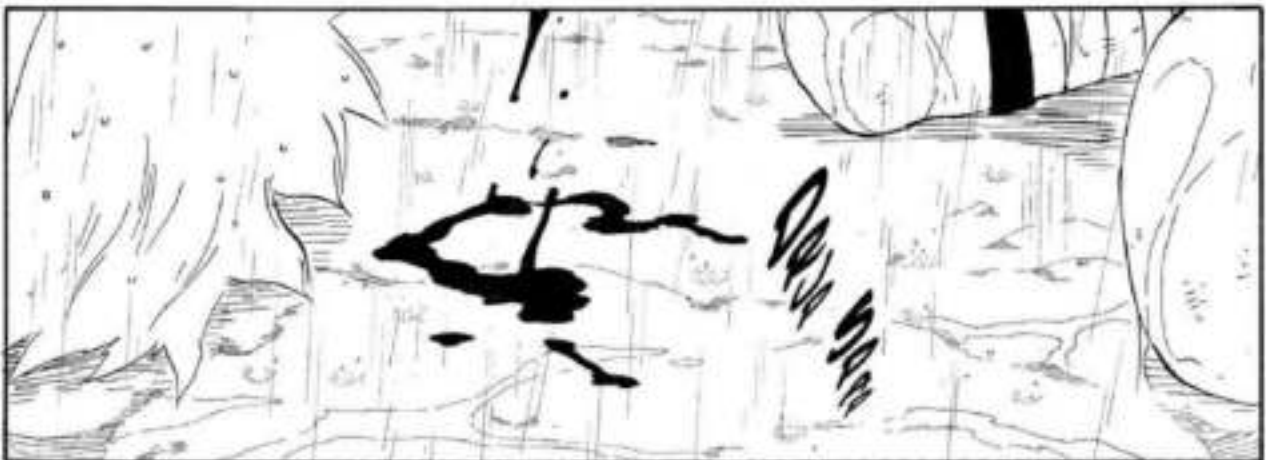








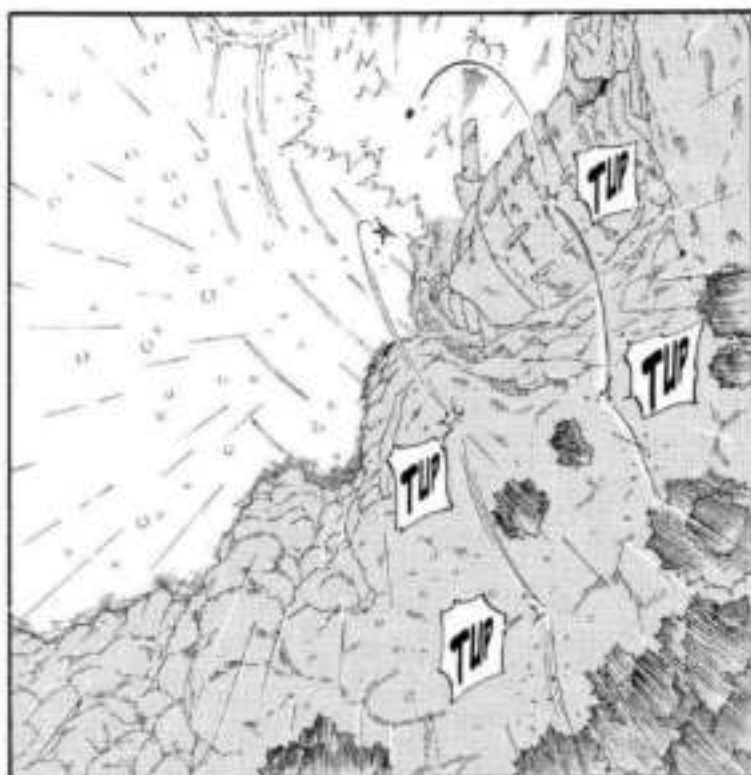






SHSS HHH









Congratulations on the 5th Anniversary!!

2004.11.09 村上正樹.
Masaki Murakami

 Number 234: Parting Ways...!!







Number 234: Parting Ways...!!















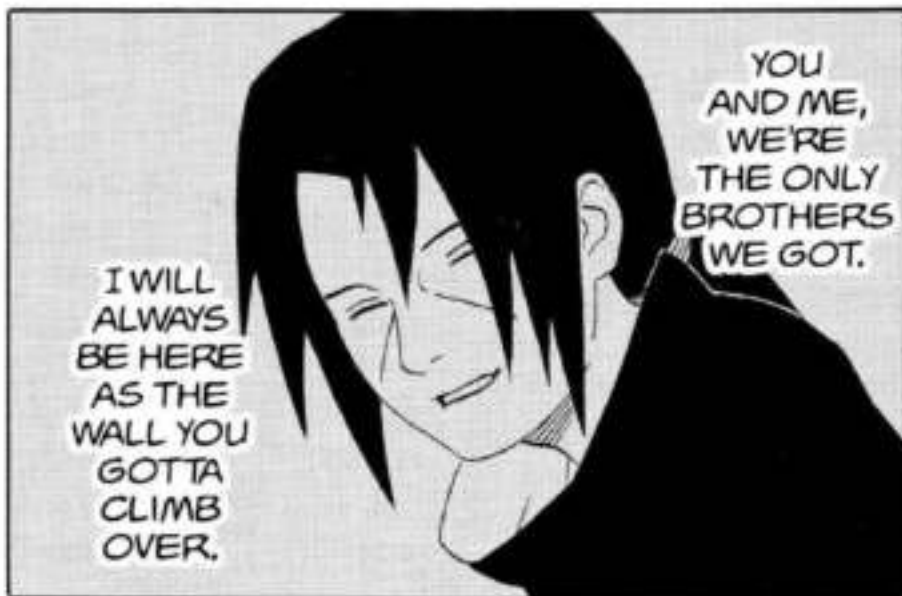


YOU'RE ALL DAD TALKS ABOUT.

WHEN-
EVER
WE
CHAT
...



THAT'S MY BOY.



I WILL ALWAYS BE HERE AS THE WALL YOU GOTTA CLIMB OVER.

YOU AND ME, WE'RE THE ONLY BROTHERS WE GOT.



AND IF YOU HATE ME FOR IT... WELL...







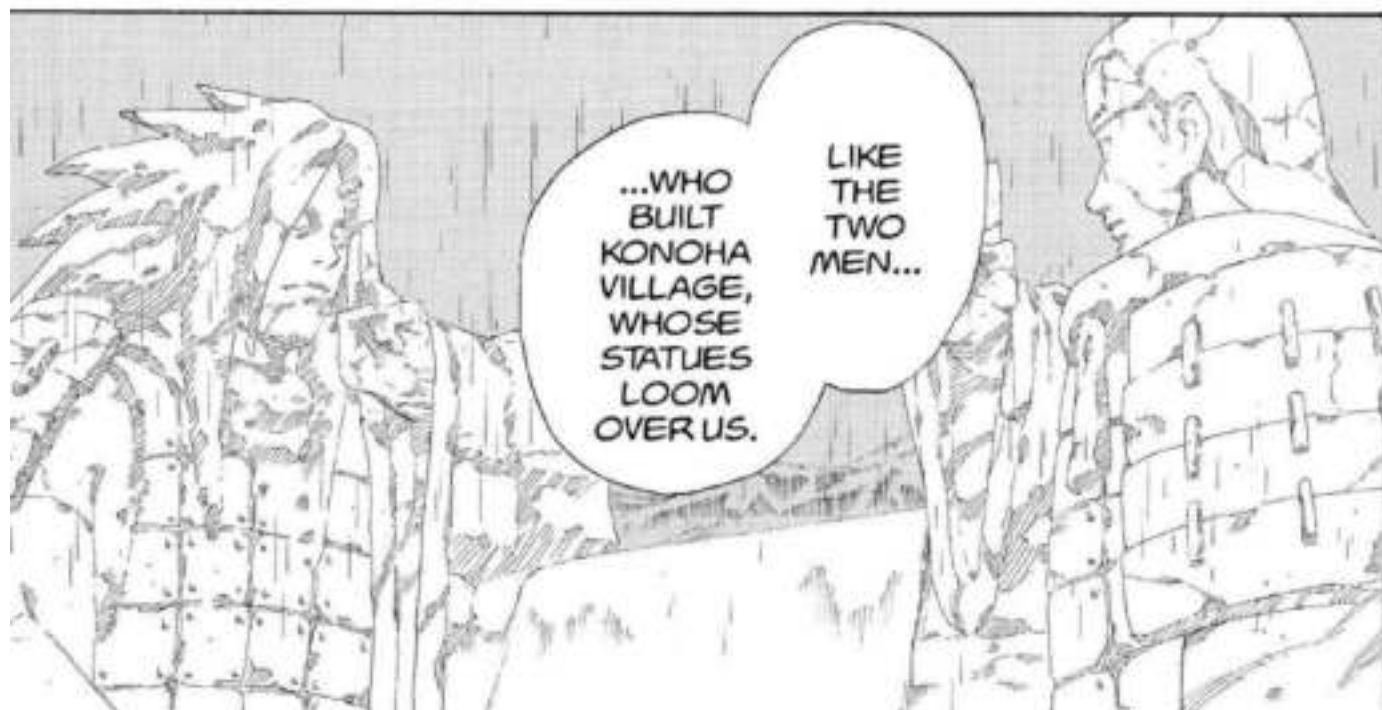
...YOUR
CLOSEST
FRIEND.

YOU
HAVE
TO
KILL...



OF
COURSE
THEY
PICKED
THIS
PLACE...



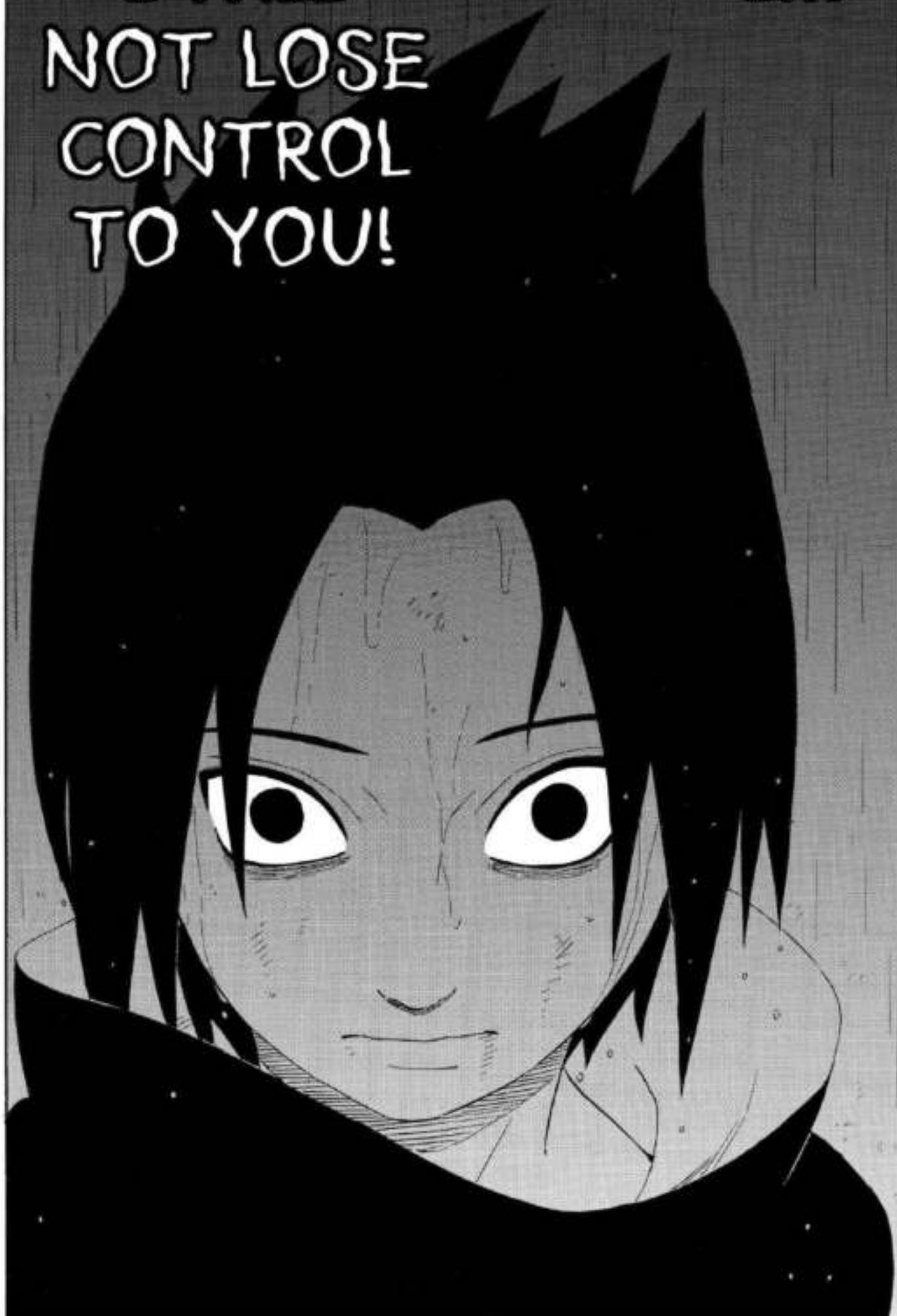






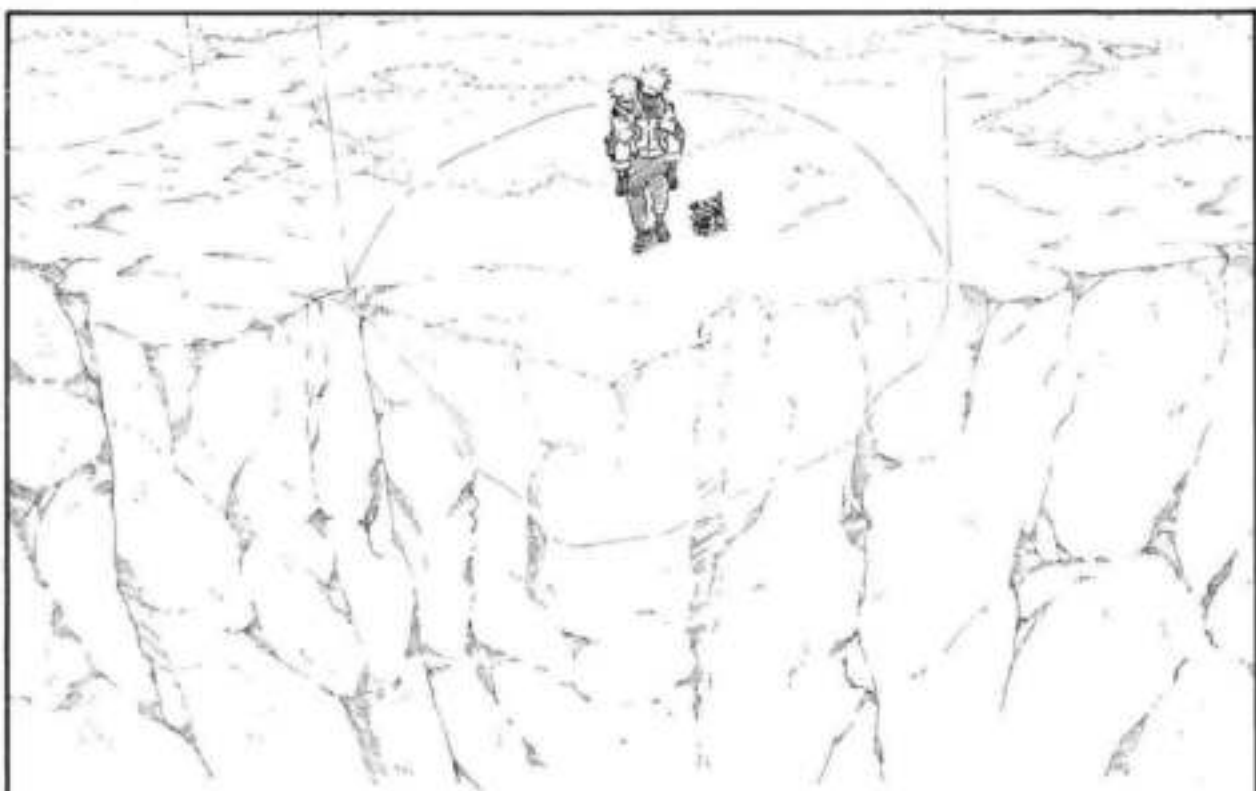
I WILL
NOT LOSE
CONTROL
TO YOU!

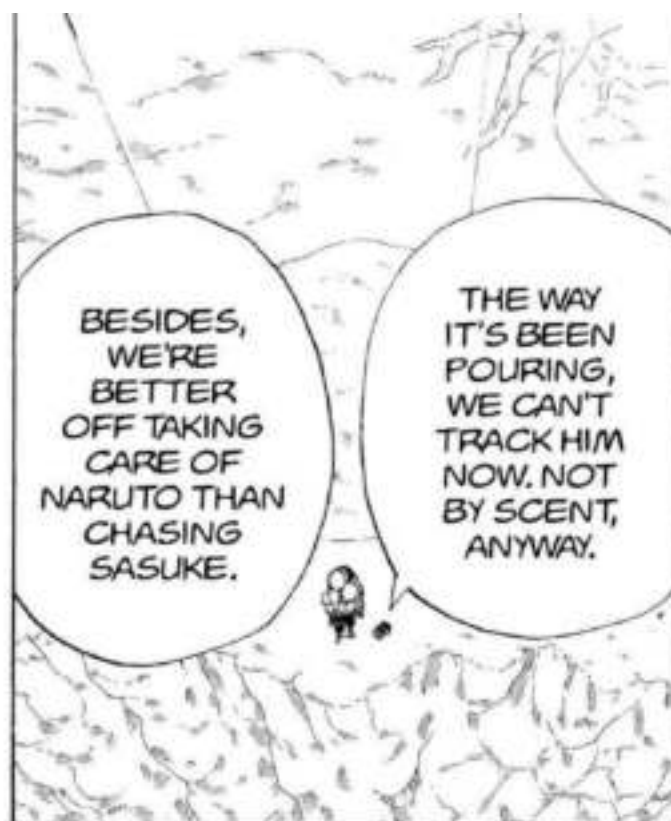
I...









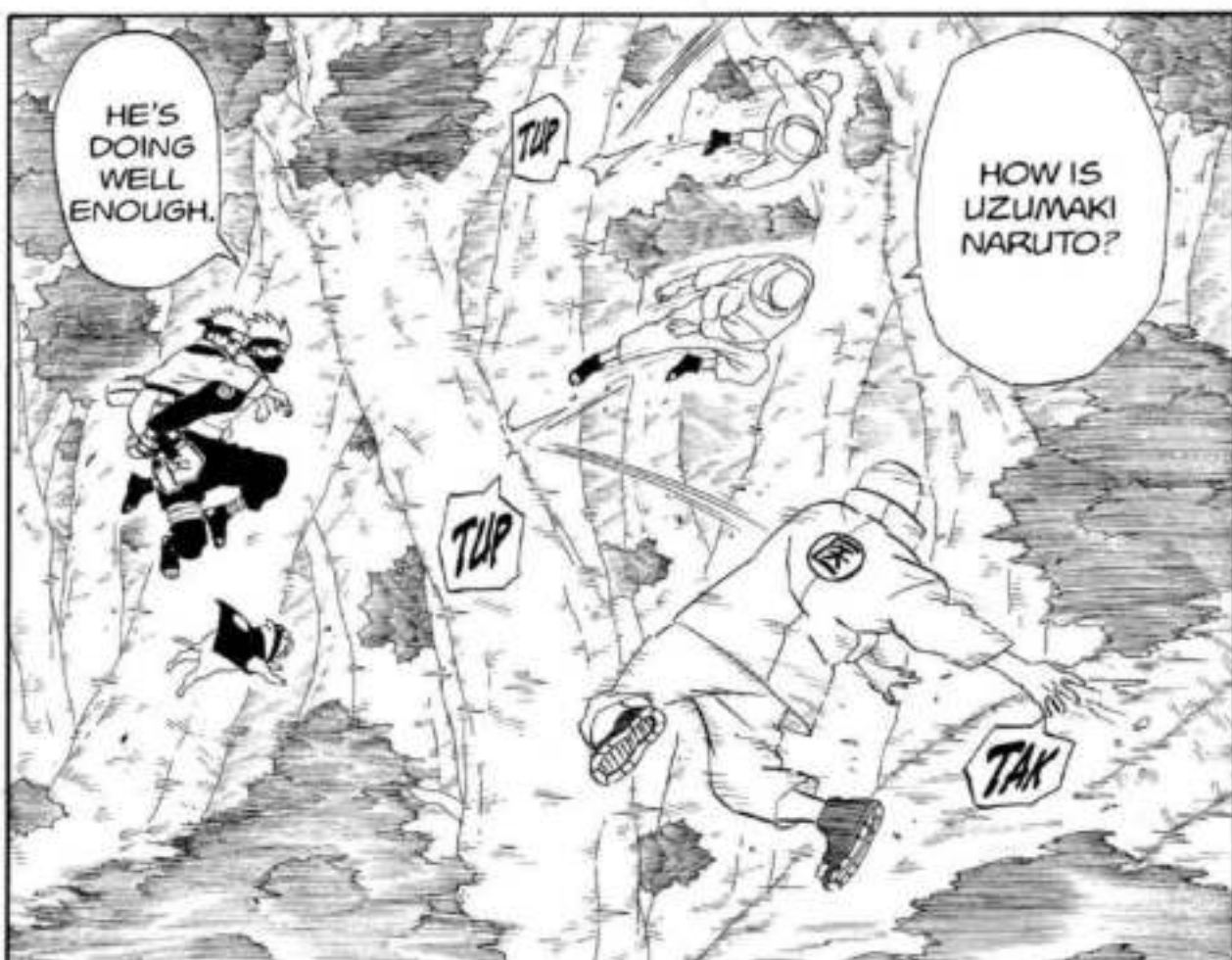




NARUTOTM









AND SASUKE?
WHERE'S UCHIHA SASUKE?!



THEY FOUND THE GENIN IN VARIOUS PLACES, ALL INJURED.

THEY PERFORMED SIMPLE FIRST AID AND CARRIED THEM BACK.

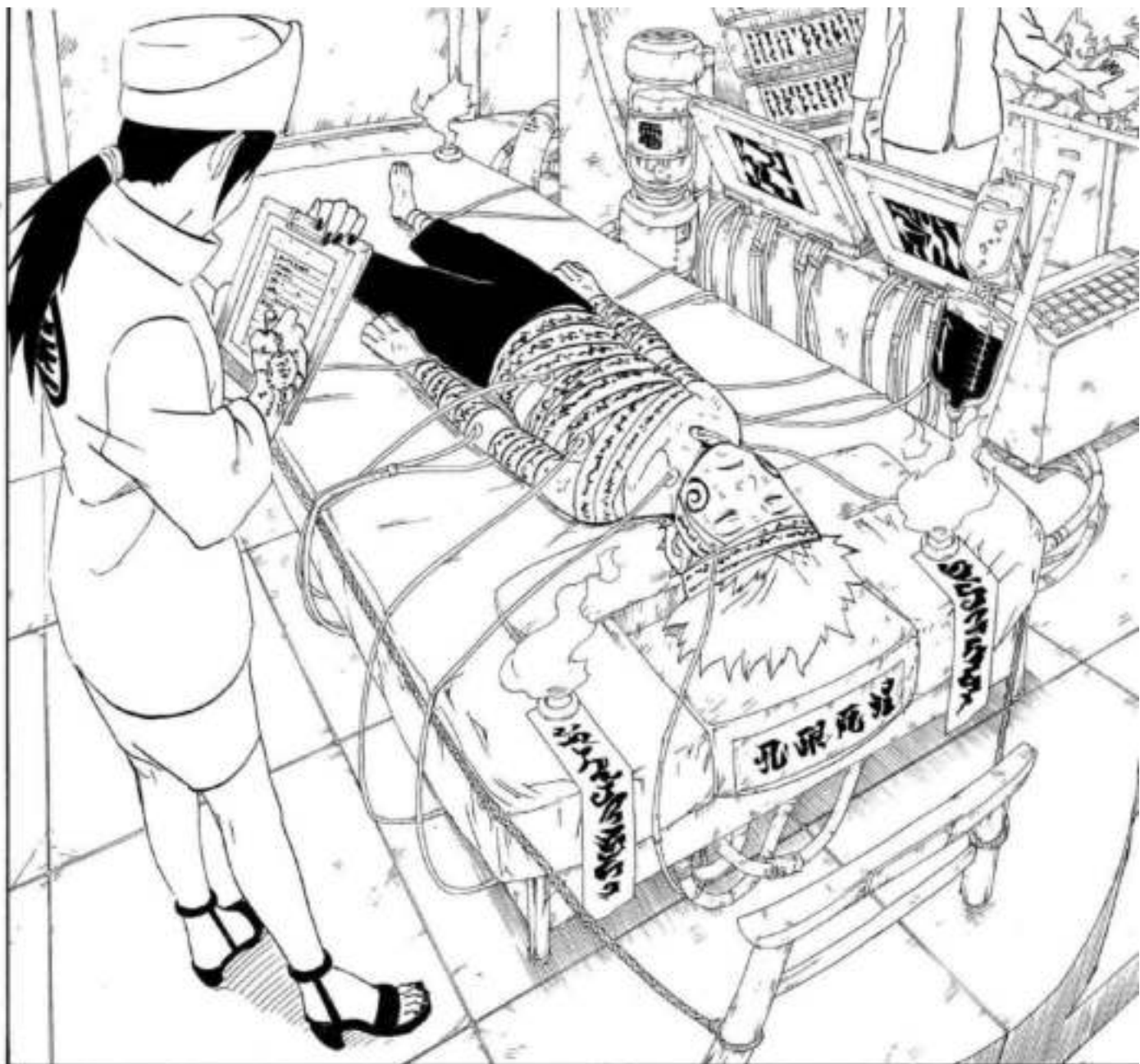
THE LADY HOKAGE DISPATCHED MEDICAL CORPS ONE AND TWO.

OH, YES!



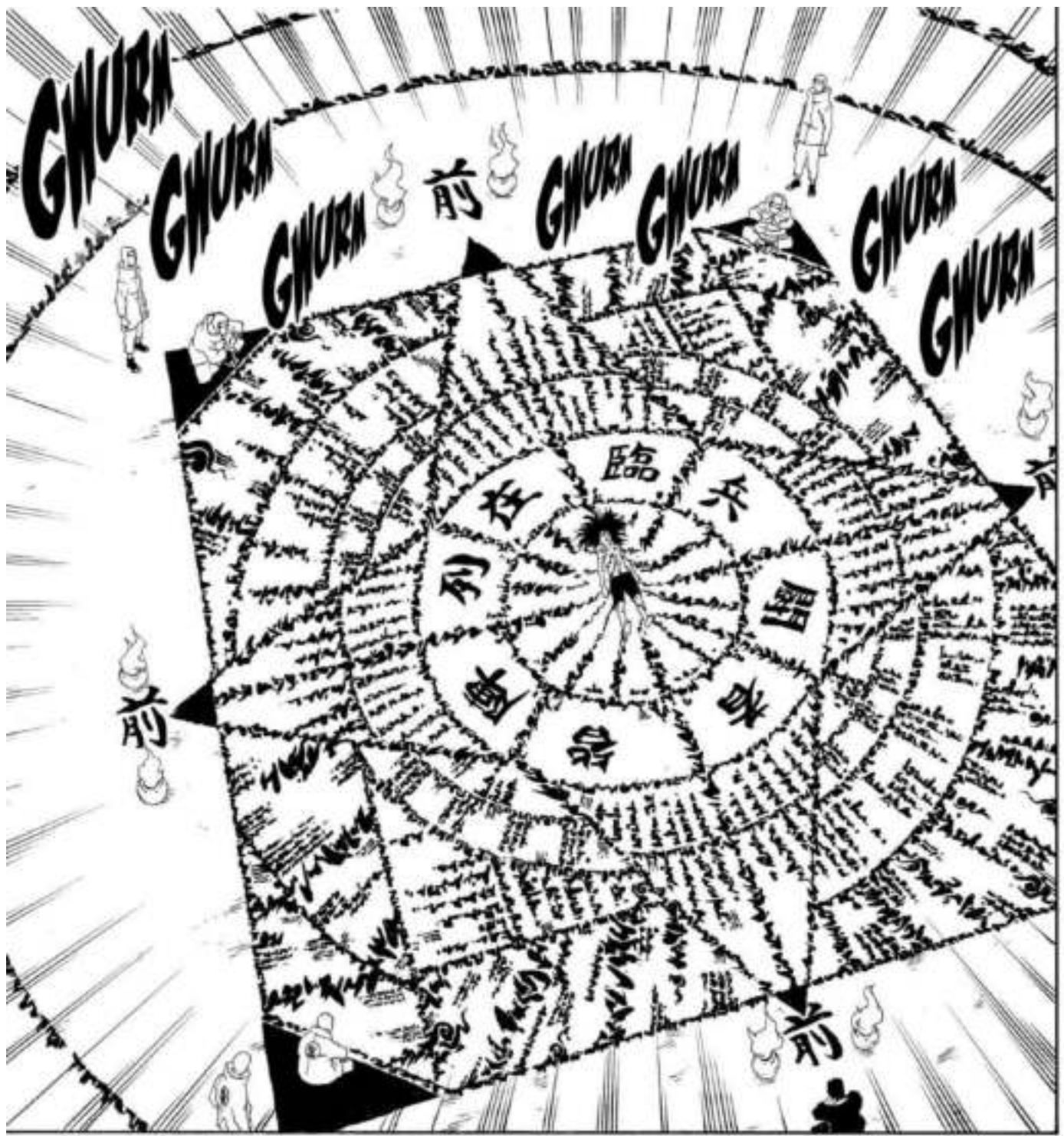
WHAT OF THE OTHER GENIN?













(THE SYMBOL PICTURED ABOVE, CALLED A MANJI, IS TRADITIONAL IN BUDDHIST IMAGERY-ED.)





IT HELPED ME REALIZE ...

I... THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I WAS NAMED CELL LEADER.



I'VE BEEN ON MISSIONS BEFORE...

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRAINING AND DOING.

I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT IT WAS TO BE A SHINOBI.



I'M NOT FIT TO BE A SHINOBI.



...



YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?

PSHAW, LOOK AT MISTER DELICATE.

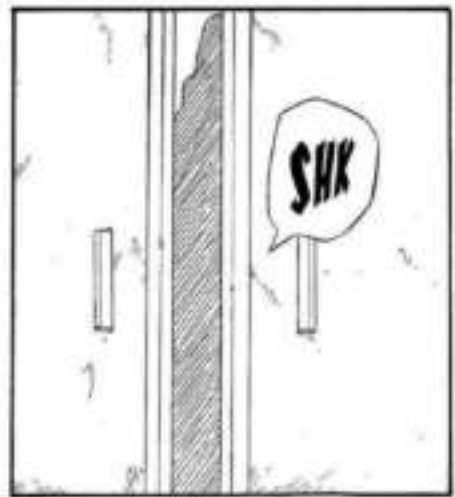


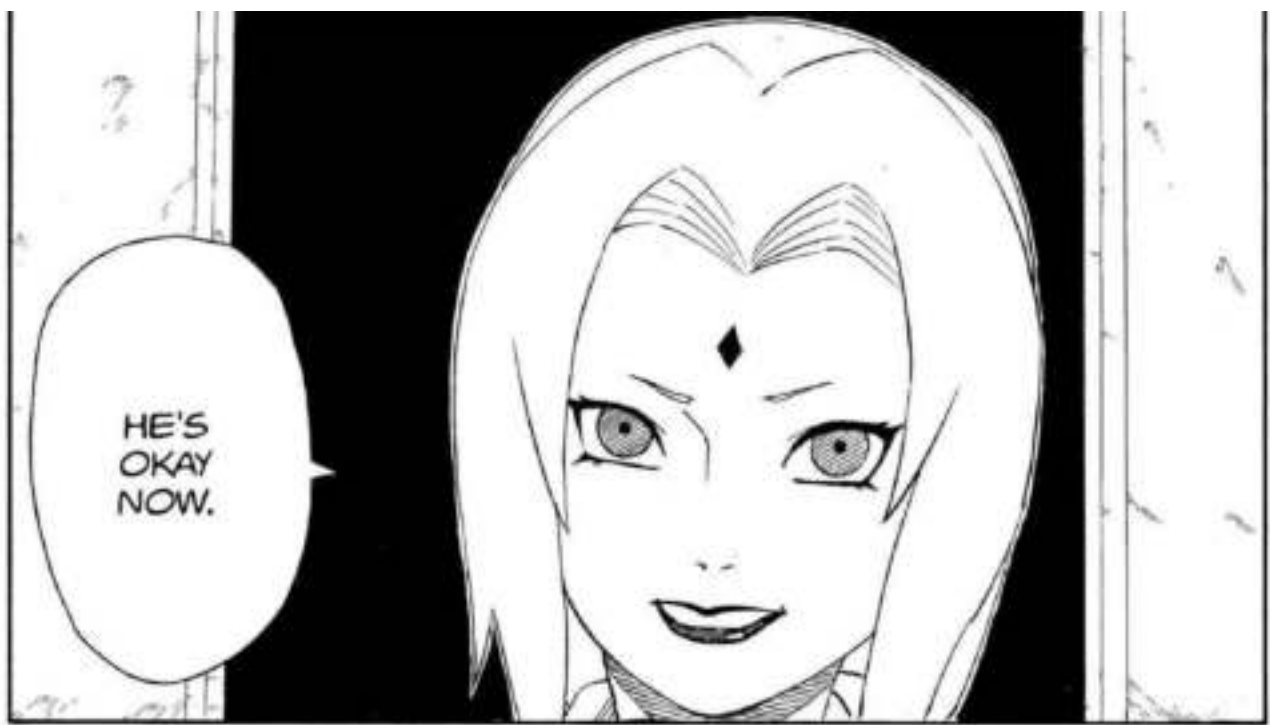
...















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