



NARUTO

SHONENJUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

5



岸本 斉史

I love movies, so I go see them pretty often. And since I watch movies often, I decided to spend what little money I had to purchase a DVD player. Ho ho ho...now I can enjoy movies with incredibly high image quality and Dolby Digital sound! Or so I thought, except that the movies I wanted to watch hardly ever came out on DVD, so I couldn't watch them anyway.

Recently, however, the popularity of DVDs has finally risen, and more and more DVDs are coming out!! Yes! Except...now I'm so busy drawing manga that I don't have time to watch them, even though I want to! Waah!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

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. 5
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

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STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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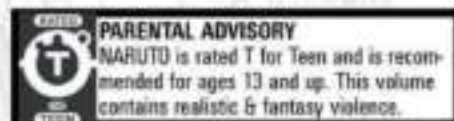
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SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

NARUTO™



VOL. 5

THE CHALLENGERS

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.





KAKASHI カカシ

The elite ninja assigned to train Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura. His *Sharingan* ("Mirror-Wheel Eye") allows him to reflect and mimic enemy *ninjutsu*.



ROCK LEE ロック・リー

One of the many student ninja from foreign villages who have traveled to Konohagakure for the Junior Ninja Selection Exams. What does this creepy kid have in mind when he challenges Sasuke to a duel? Sasuke is about to find out!

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 classmates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura have been nominated by their instructor Kakashi to take the Junior Ninja Selection Exams, which they must pass to advance to the next level of ninja training. The village is crawling with student ninja from villages near and far, who are all determined to ace the exams. On their way to turn in the applications, they observe their fellow students' advanced skill and training, and Naruto and his classmates begin to suspect that they're in way over their heads....



NARUTO

VOL. 5
THE CHALLENGERS

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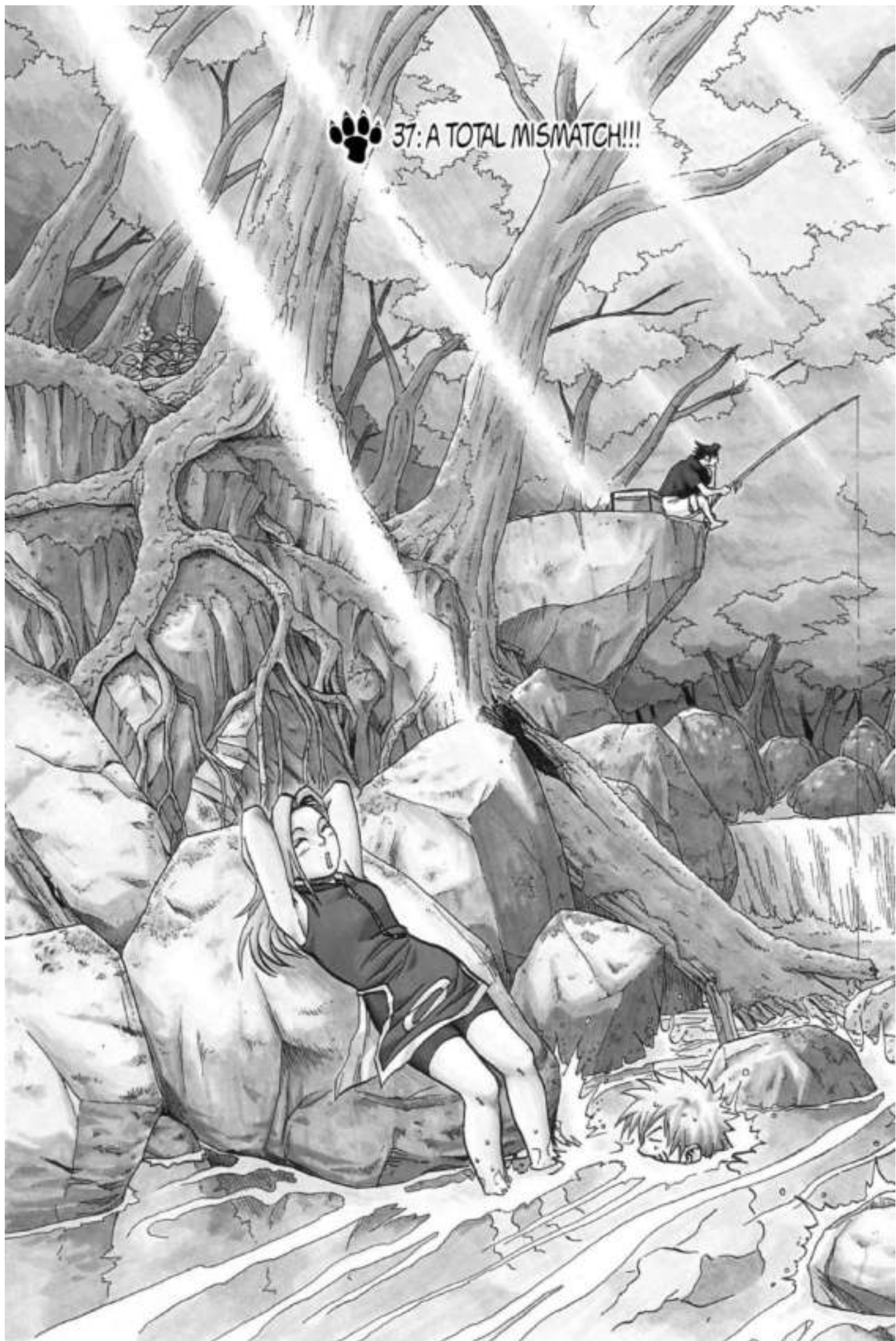
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37: A TOTAL MISMATCH!!!









AW... DON'T BE LIKE THAT...

I COULD HAVE DIED, DODGING THAT!!

YOU KEEP YOUR WEIRD KISSES TO YOURSELF, CREEP!

SASUKE, SASUKE! IT'S ALL ABOUT SASUKE! BLEAH!



...WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN UCHIHA?

SO, DOG-BROW... DO YOU REALLY WANT TO LEARN...

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A FOOL.

SO YOU'RE CHALLENGING ME, EVEN KNOWING MY LINEAGE?

OH, YEAH!



NOW YOU'LL GET THE PROOF YOU REQUIRE, MASTER GUY!

HOLD IT.



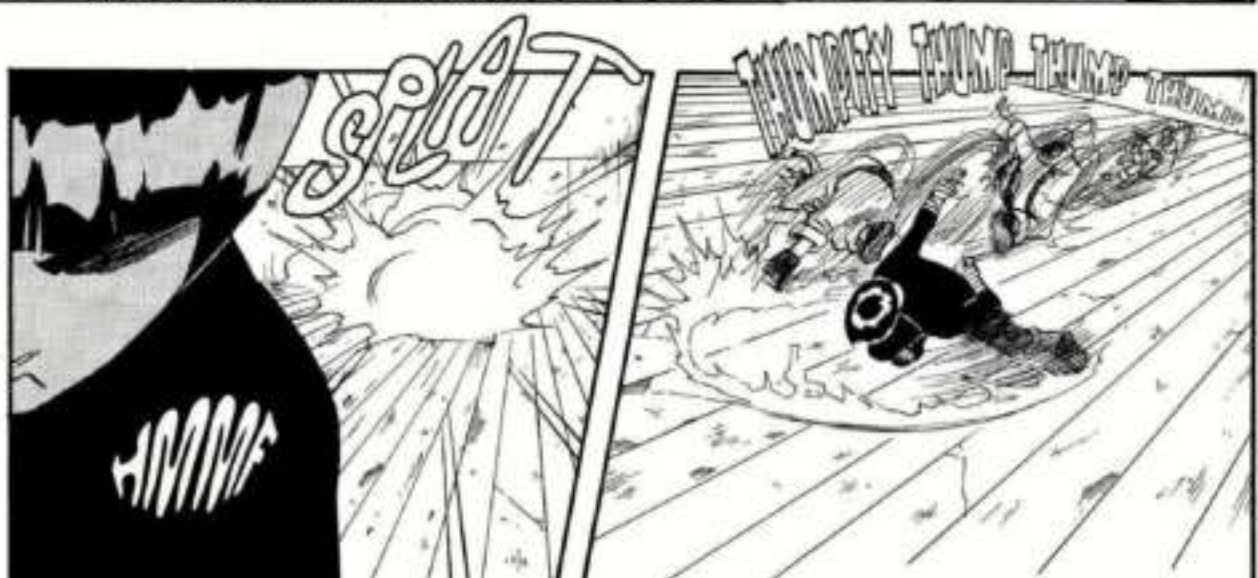
I'M GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE CREAM OF THE ROOKIE CROP, FIRST TIME OUT!

ABSOLUTELY!

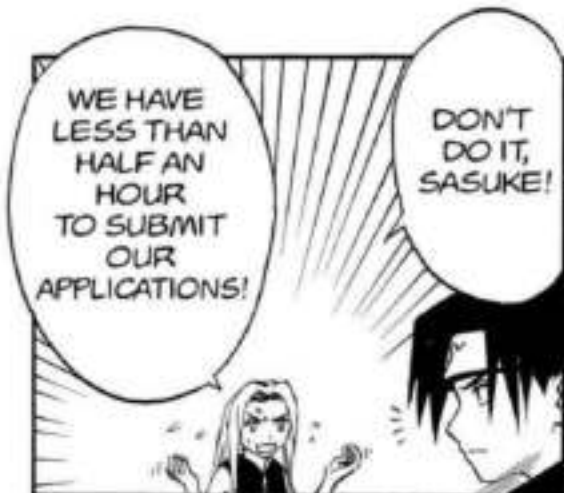
HOO! I CAN HARDLY WAIT!























* ONE OF KONOHA-STYLE'S TAIJUTSU PHYSICAL ARTS: THE WARRIOR VISUALIZES HIS OPPONENT AS A WIND-TOSSED LEAF, AND THE WARRIOR PURSUES THAT LEAF BY MOVING AS THOUGH HE WERE ITS SHADOW.



HARD AS YOU MAY FIND IT TO ACCEPT...

THAT'S RIGHT. NO NINJUTSU. NO TRICKERY. MY MOVES ARE STRICTLY PHYSICAL.



BUT... HOW?!

I'M SURE YOUR SHARINGAN IS INVALUABLE AGAINST ARTS LIKE NINJUTSU AND GENJUTSU, WITH THEIR FORMALIZED RULES, SIGN-CASTING, AND CHAKRAS...

BUT PHYSICAL TAIJUTSU ARTS IN THEIR PURE FORM ARE A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.



... IF YOUR SHARINGAN EYE CAN SEE TO THE HEART OF EVERY NINJA ART WELL ENOUGH TO DUPLICATE IT, AS IT IS SAID TO, THEN YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY IS TRUE.



IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR EYE CAN SEE IF YOUR BODY'S TOO WEAK TO ACT!

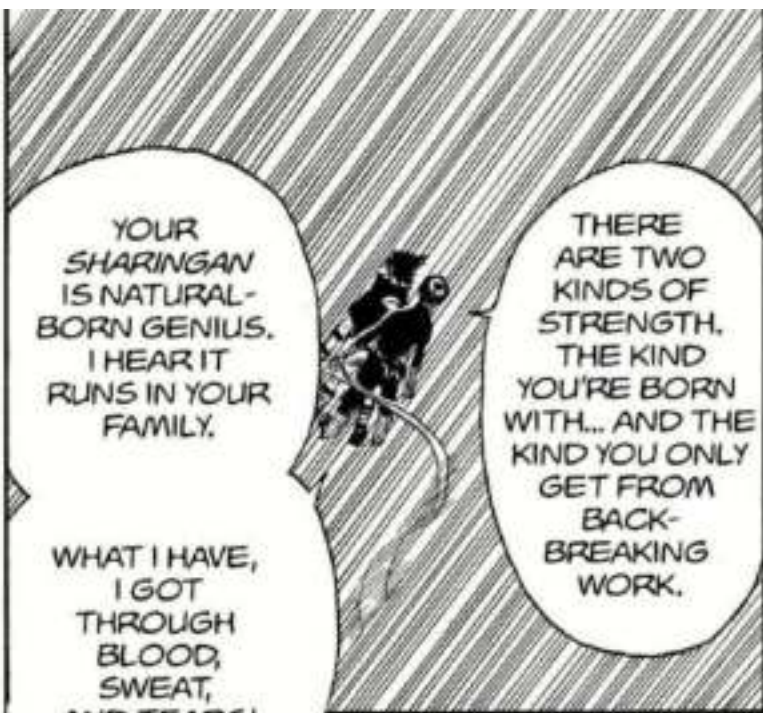


EVEN IF YOU CAN PERFECTLY PERCEIVE AND UNDERSTAND MY MOVEMENTS, YOU LACK THE SPEED AND STRENGTH TO COUNTER THEM. YOU HAVEN'T HAD THE PHYSICAL TRAINING NECESSARY TO KEEP UP WITH ME!



LET ME PROVE IT TO YOU.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR SUBTLE ARTS AND MY PHYSICAL PROWESS MAKE US A COMPLETE MISMATCH!



YOUR SHARINGAN IS NATURAL-BORN GENIUS. I HEAR IT RUNS IN YOUR FAMILY.

WHAT I HAVE, I GOT THROUGH BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF STRENGTH. THE KIND YOU'RE BORN WITH... AND THE KIND YOU ONLY GET FROM BACK-BREAKING WORK.



WHAT'S HE UP TO?

THIS PARTICULAR MOVE OF MINE EXCEEDS YOUR GENIUS... COMPLETELY!



HALT!

IT'S-



SLICE



HUNH?

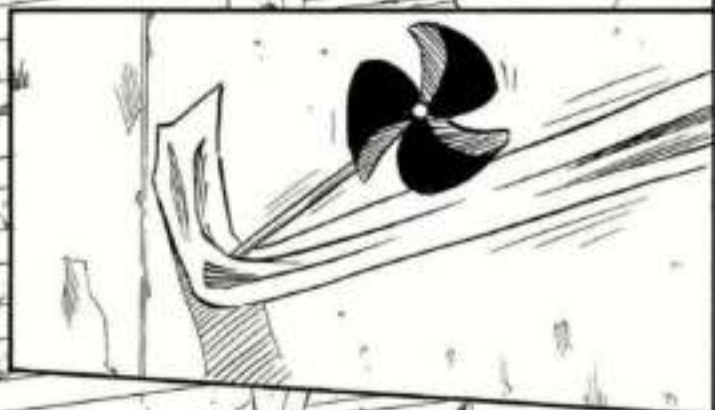


THAT'S ENOUGH, LEE!





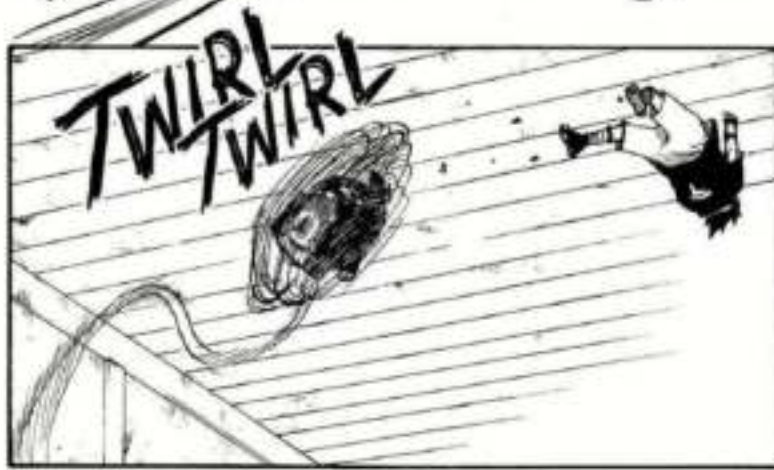
 Number 38:
On Your Mark

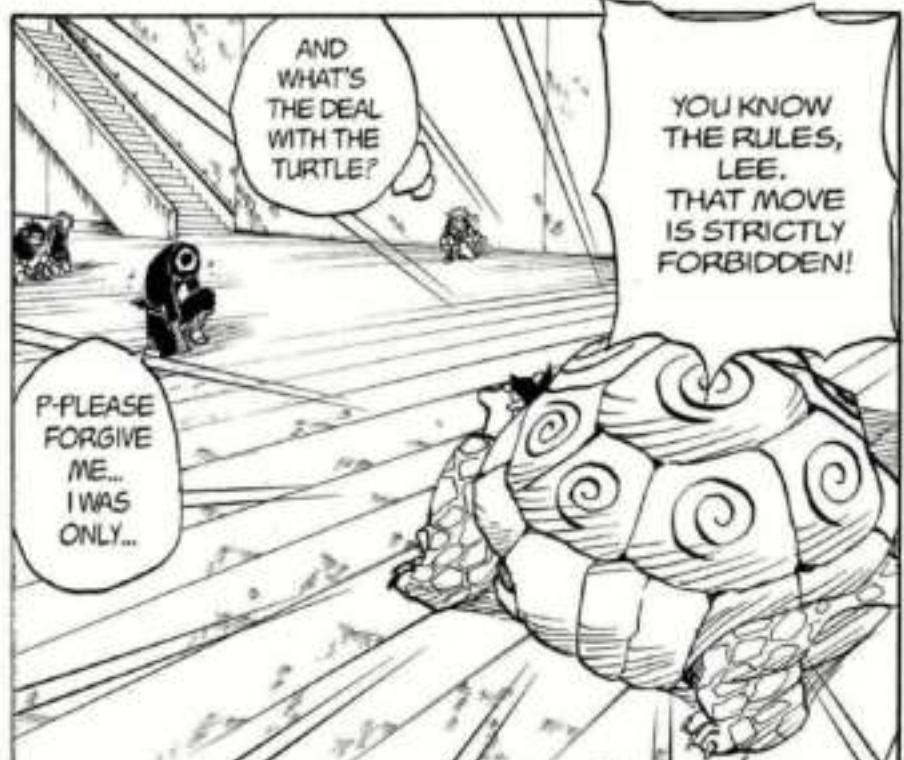


WANK

THAT'S
ENOUGH,
LEE!











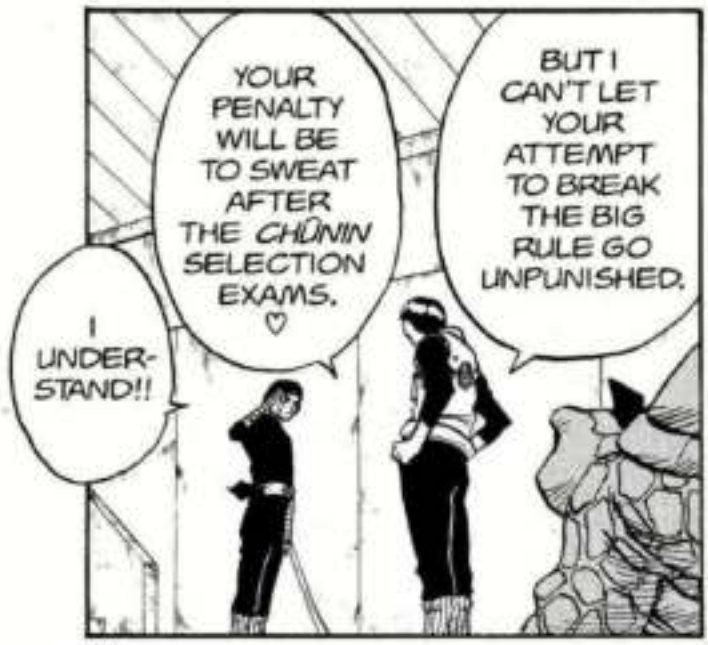


AH,
THE
EXUBERANCE
OF
YOUTH.
ALL
OF
YOU
ARE
FULL
OF
IT.

GLARE

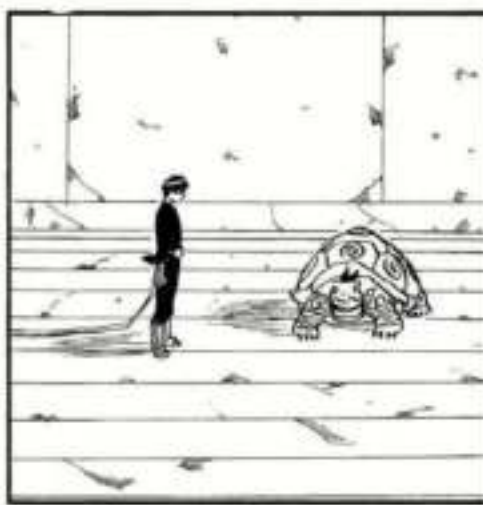








READ THIS WAY







HE'S...





GLAD YOU MADE IT AFTER ALL, SAKURA.



...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THIS WAY YOU ALL QUALIFY TO APPLY FOR THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAM.



BUT... MASTER KAKASHI, YOU SAID IT WAS UP TO EACH OF US TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO APPLY. WERE YOU LYING?

THE WAY THE TEST IS SET UP, IT CAN ONLY BE TAKEN BY THREE-PERSON CELLS.









39: The Challengers!!





HE WAS CONSIDERED A STANDOUT AMONG LAST YEAR'S GENIN... BUT HE DIDN'T APPLY FOR THE CHŪNIN EXAM.

HE'S A FRST-TIMER, LIKE YOU THREE. HIS TEAMMATES ARE NAMED HYUGA NEJI AND TENTEN.



FIRST UP IS ROCK LEE.

HE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN YOU THREE. MISSIONS TO DATE: 20 D-RANKED, 11 C-RANKED. HIS TEAM'S MENTOR IS MIGHT GUY...

AND HIS TAIJUTSU PHYSICAL SKILLS HAVE GROWN EXPONENTIALLY THIS PAST YEAR. HE HAS NO OTHER TALENTS WORTH MENTIONING.

SINCE HE'S FROM WAY OUT IN THE DESERT, I HAVE LESS ON HIM... BUT IT'S INTERESTING. HE'S COME BACK FROM EVERY MISSION COMPLETELY UNSCATHED.

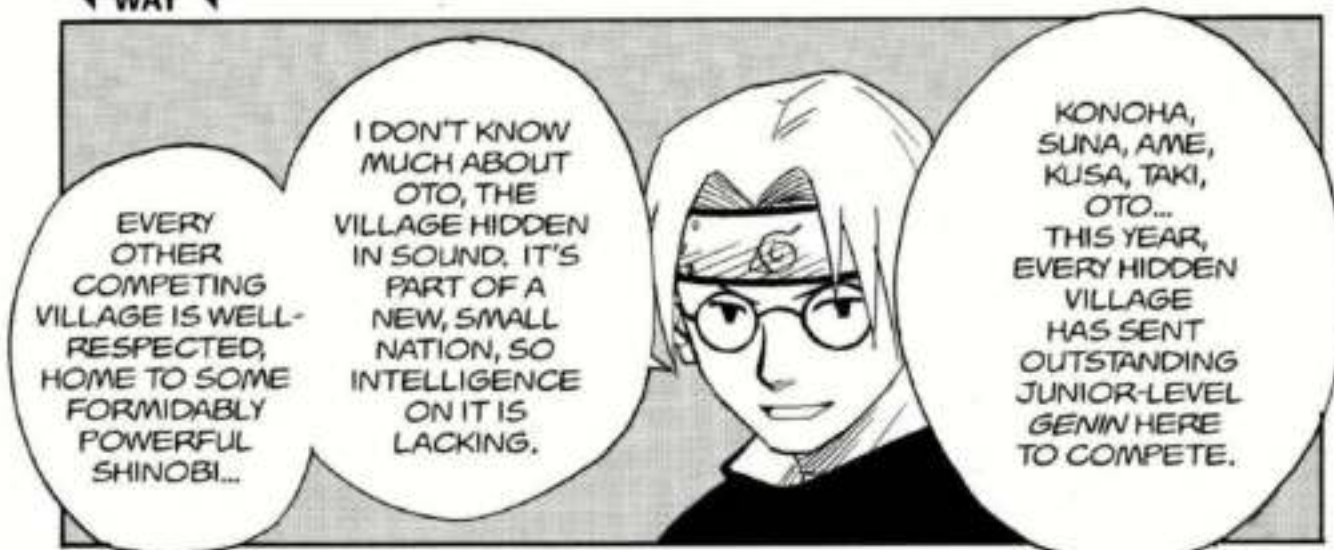
WITHOUT A SCRATCH...



NEXT IS GAARA OF THE SAND... DESERT COUNTRY...

EIGHT C-RANKED MISSIONS... ONE B. WOW! NOT MANY ROOKIE SHINOBI GET B-RANKED ASSIGNMENTS!





EVERY OTHER COMPETING VILLAGE IS WELL-RESPECTED, HOME TO SOME FORMIDABLY POWERFUL SHINOBI...

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT OTO, THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN SOUND. IT'S PART OF A NEW, SMALL NATION, SO INTELLIGENCE ON IT IS LACKING.

KONOHA, SUNA, AME, KUSA, TAKI, OTO... THIS YEAR, EVERY HIDDEN VILLAGE HAS SENT OUTSTANDING JUNIOR-LEVEL GENIN HERE TO COMPETE.



OH, YEAH. THEY'RE ALL LIKE LEE AND GAARA...

ELITE, HAND-PICKED SHINOBI, THE BEST YOUNG NINJA IN THE WORLD.



WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL US IS... EVERYONE HERE...

ANYBODY BESIDES ME SUDDENLY FEELING KIND OF OUTCLASSED?



THEY HAVE TO BE! THE TEST IS PITILESS!



YOU'RE RUSHING THEM INTO IT!

IT'S A HARSH AND UNFORGIVING TEST, KAKASHI!



HEH...
GIVE YOUR CELL TIME TO BUILD SOME STRENGTH.

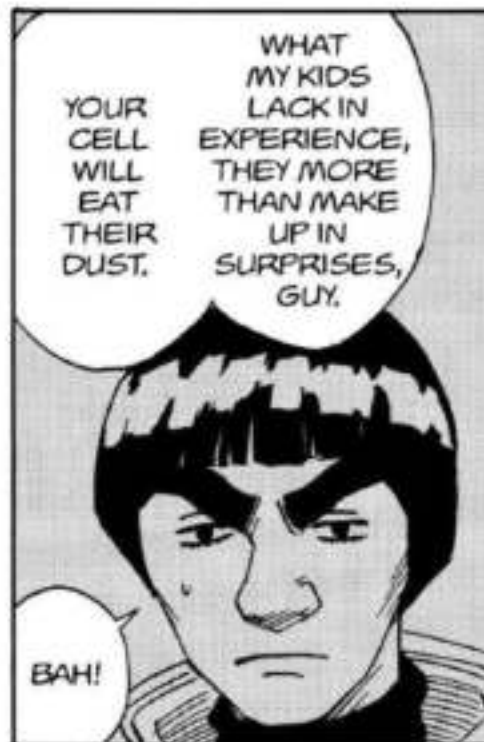


IRUKA WAS RIGHT!
MY KIDS ARE THE BEST, BUT I STILL GAVE THEM A YEAR TO MATURE BEFORE LETTING THEM APPLY.



FOR OUR NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS, I'LL CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENIN CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED THEIR FIRST YEAR.

ENOUGH OF THIS.



BAH!

WHAT MY KIDS LACK IN EXPERIENCE, THEY MORE THAN MAKE UP IN SURPRISES, GUY.
YOUR CELL WILL EAT THEIR DUST.



HAH!
OVER
ONE
HURDLE...



301
... BUT
EVEN THEY
MUST BE
A LITTLE
UNEASY,
WONDERING
WHAT
COMES
NEXT.

THOSE
THREE
ARE
UTTERLY
FEARLESS...

EVEN
SO...



LOOKS
LIKE EVEN
OUR TEAM'S
OVERCONFIDENT
BUTTHEAD
HAS THE
SHAKES.



SHAKE
SHAKE



IT'S ALL
RIGHT,
NARUTO.
NOTHING TO
WORRY
ABOUT.

STILL,
IT'S NOT
LIKE NARUTO.
MAYBE IF I
GIVE HIM A
LITTLE PEP
TALK...



BUT
WE
THREE
ARE THE
YOUNGEST...
ABSOLUTE
BEGINNERS!

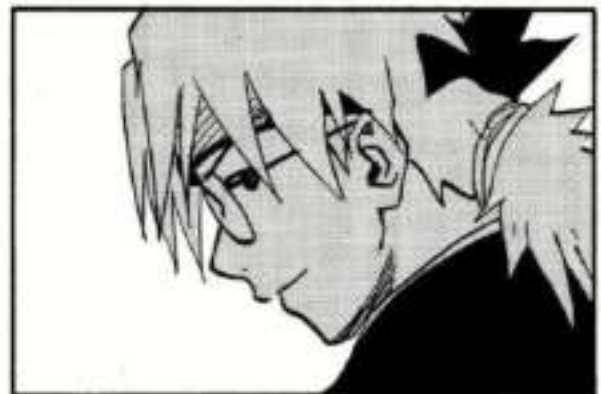
AND
WHO
CAN
BLAME
HIM?
WE'RE
ALL
GENIN-
HERE...

AND
NONE
OF
YOU
ARE
GONNA
BEAT
ME!!!!

MY
NAME IS
UZUMAKI
NARUTO!!

OWN
OWN
OWN







DIDN'T WE MEET HIM EARLIER?



SO... ACCORDING TO THIS DOSSIER, OUR TOWN IS AN UNKNOWN LITTLE VILLAGE IN A BACKWATER COUNTRY.

MORTIFYING, ISN'T IT?



MAYBE YOU WENT TOO EASY ON HIM, LEE.

KID'S GOT SOME LIFE IN HIM.



THAT TWIT, TREATING OTO LIKE SOME KIND OF AFTERTHOUGHT. LET'S GIVE HIM A LITTLE DATA FOR HIS DOSSIER. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WE-WHO-HIDE-IN-SOUND IS... UNSOUND.

SOUNDS GOOD!

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH THEM?

WE'LL SEE WHERE THE INTELLIGENCE IS LACKING...



40: The First Test





THAT IDIOT
TURNED A
ROOM
FULL OF
STRANGERS
INTO A
ROOM FULL
OF ENEMIES
WITH JUST
ONE
SENTENCE.

"AND NONE
OF YOU ARE
GONNA
BEAT ME!"
THE NERVE
OF THAT KID!

LITTLE SHOW-OFF!



GRRRA



I'M
TELLING
THE
TRUTH!!

WHAT
ARE YOU
BLATHERING
ABOUT?!

GRRRA



SHALL
WE?

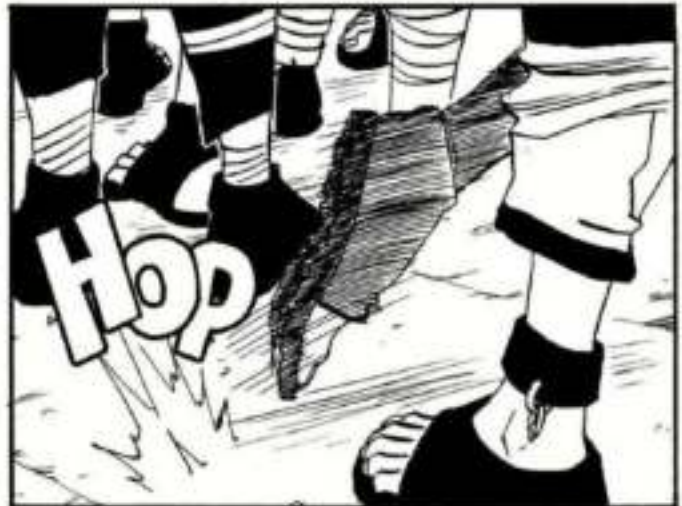
WHAT
WERE
YOU
THINKING?!



HE'S...
YOU
KNOW...
A SPECIAL-ED
NINJA...

PAY
NO
ATTENTION
TO
MY
FRIEND...











NOTE: ABUMI'S SHIRT SAYS "DEATH."





YOU'RE A PUSHOVER, AREN'T YOU? PRETTY SAD FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN AN APPLICANT FOR FOUR YEARS NOW.

...YEAH... I'M FINE...

YOU DON'T LOOK FINE



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

KABUTO!! HEY, BRO!

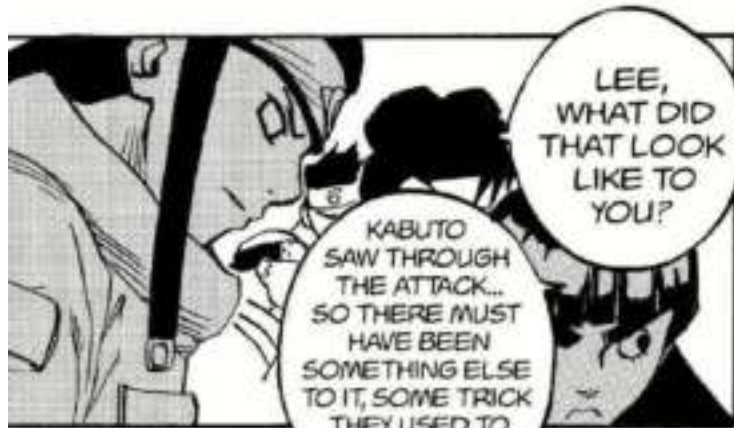


WHY DID HE VOMIT?

I KNOW KABUTO DUCKED THAT BLOW... SO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?



BETTER ADD THIS TO YOUR CARDS. THE THREE APPLICANTS FROM HIDING-IN-SOUND WILL ALL MAKE CHUNIN THIS YEAR!



LEE, WHAT DID THAT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

KABUTO SAW THROUGH THE ATTACK... SO THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE TO IT, SOME TRICK THEY USED TO MAKE HIM SICK.

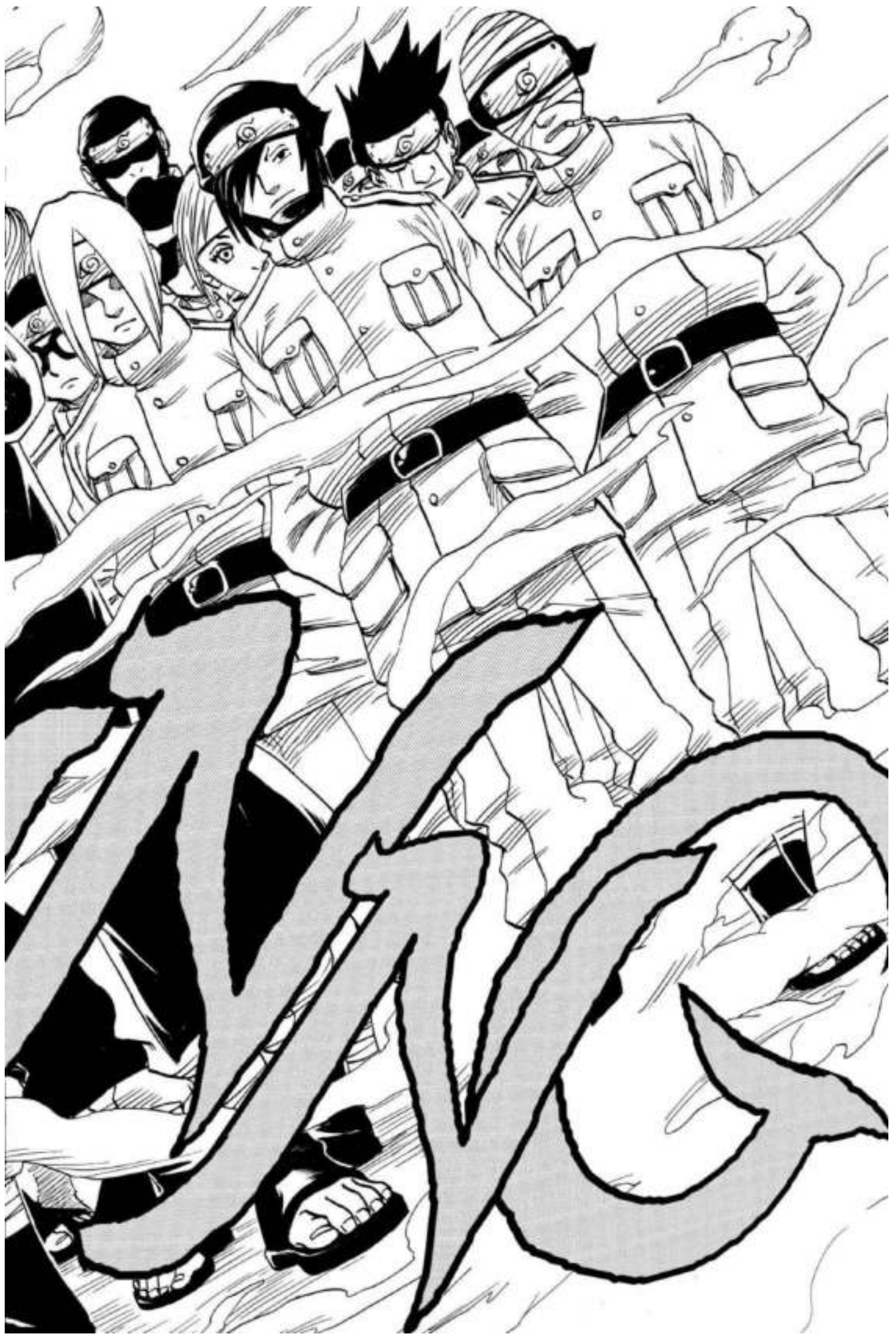


WHAAA?!

WOULD EVERYBODY PLEASE JUST SHUT UP?!



HMM...









AND EVEN IF THAT PERMISSION IS GRANTED, ANYTHING THAT ENDANGERS ANOTHER APPLICANT'S LIFE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, THERE WILL BE NO MORE FIGHTING WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE EXAMINING OFFICER...

THEN IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEONE LAID DOWN A FEW GROUND RULES.



IS THAT SO?



GOT THAT?

ANY OF YOU LITTLE PIGLETS WHO BREAK THAT RULE ARE OUT. DISQUALIFIED. NO SECOND CHANCES.



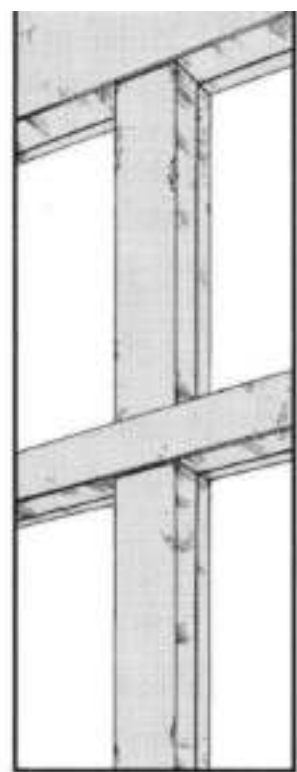
SNEER



SO THIS IS A TEST FOR LITTLE GIRLY MEN?



...





BUT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS INCORRECTLY, WE TAKE YOUR TEN POINTS...

...SUBTRACT ONE POINT FOR EVERY WRONG ANSWER... AND YOUR TOTAL DROPS DOWN TO SEVEN.

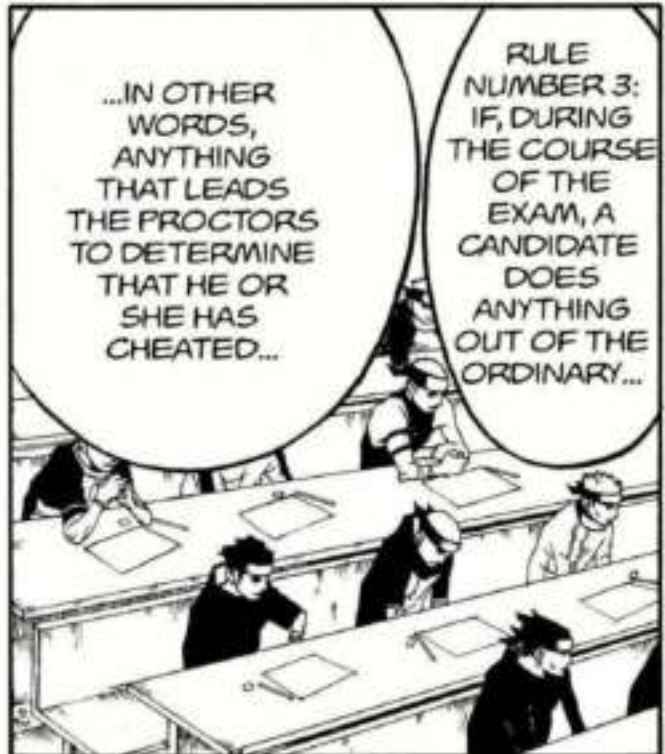
TOTAL POINTS

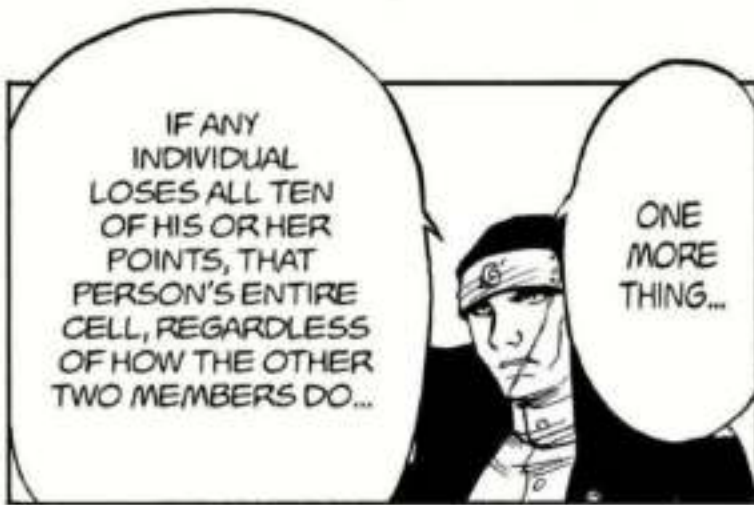
EXAMPLE 1.
PERFECT SCORE
TOTAL POINTS
REMAIN AT 10

EXAMPLE 2.
3 ANSWERS WRONG
TOTAL POINTS
ARE REDUCED TO 7 POINTS

GET ALL TEN RIGHT, AND YOU RETAIN THE TEN POINTS YOU HAVE.







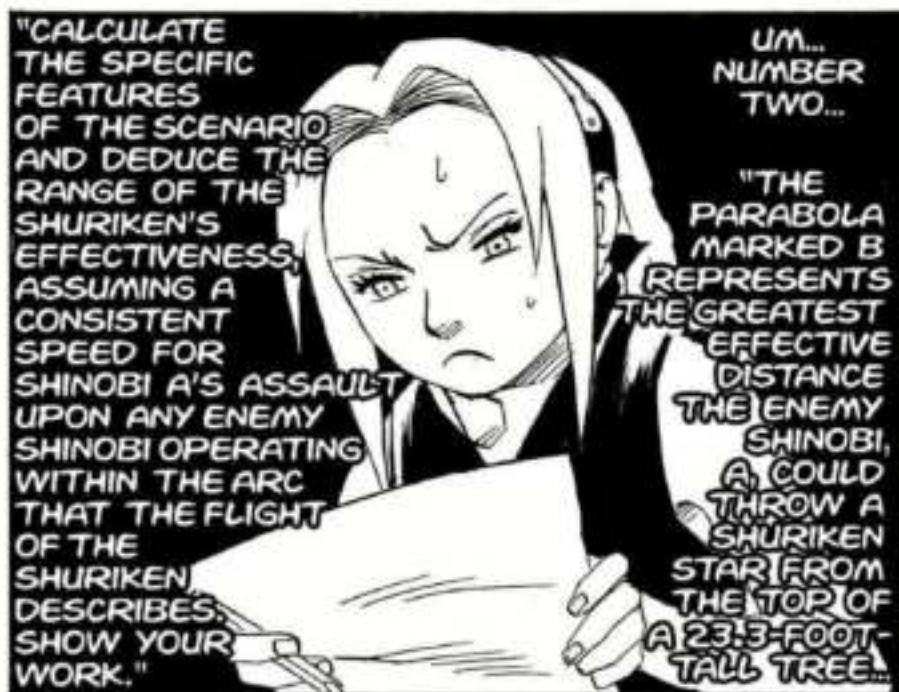


THE CHŪNIN JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAM
RULES FOR PART ONE

- (1) EACH APPLICANT BEGINS WITH A PERFECT SCORE OF TEN POINTS. THERE ARE TEN QUESTIONS WORTH ONE POINT APIECE. A POINT IS SUBTRACTED FOR EVERY INCORRECT ANSWER. THE GRADING SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY BASED ON A PRINCIPLE OF PENALIZATION.
- (2) THE EXAM IS A TEAM EVENT. WHAT MATTERS IS HOW CLOSE EACH THREE-NINJA CELL CAN COME TO RETAINING ITS INITIAL THIRTY POINTS.
- (3) ANYONE CAUGHT ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT OR AIDING AND ABETTING A CHEATER WILL LOSE TWO POINTS FOR EACH OFFENSE.
- (4) ANYONE WHO HAS NO POINTS LEFT AT THE TEST'S END--WHETHER DUE TO BEING CAUGHT CHEATING OR TO AN INABILITY TO ANSWER ANY OF THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY--WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL; IF A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL FAILS, THE REMAINING TWO MEMBERS OF THAT PERSON'S CELL WILL BE FAILED AS WELL.



Number 41:
**The
Whisper
of
Demons**



"CALCULATE THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE SCENARIO AND DEDUCE THE RANGE OF THE SHURIKEN'S EFFECTIVENESS, ASSUMING A CONSISTENT SPEED FOR SHINOBI A'S ASSAULT UPON ANY ENEMY SHINOBI OPERATING WITHIN THE ARC THAT THE FLIGHT OF THE SHURIKEN DESCRIBES. SHOW YOUR WORK."

UM... NUMBER TWO...

"THE PARABOLA MARKED B REPRESENTS THE GREATEST EFFECTIVE DISTANCE THE ENEMY SHINOBI, A, COULD THROW A SHURIKEN START FROM THE TOP OF A 23.3-FOOT-TALL TREE..



...BUT I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON MY OWN WORK!
I'VE GOT TO HANG ONTO ALL MY POINTS TO MAKE UP FOR HIM...

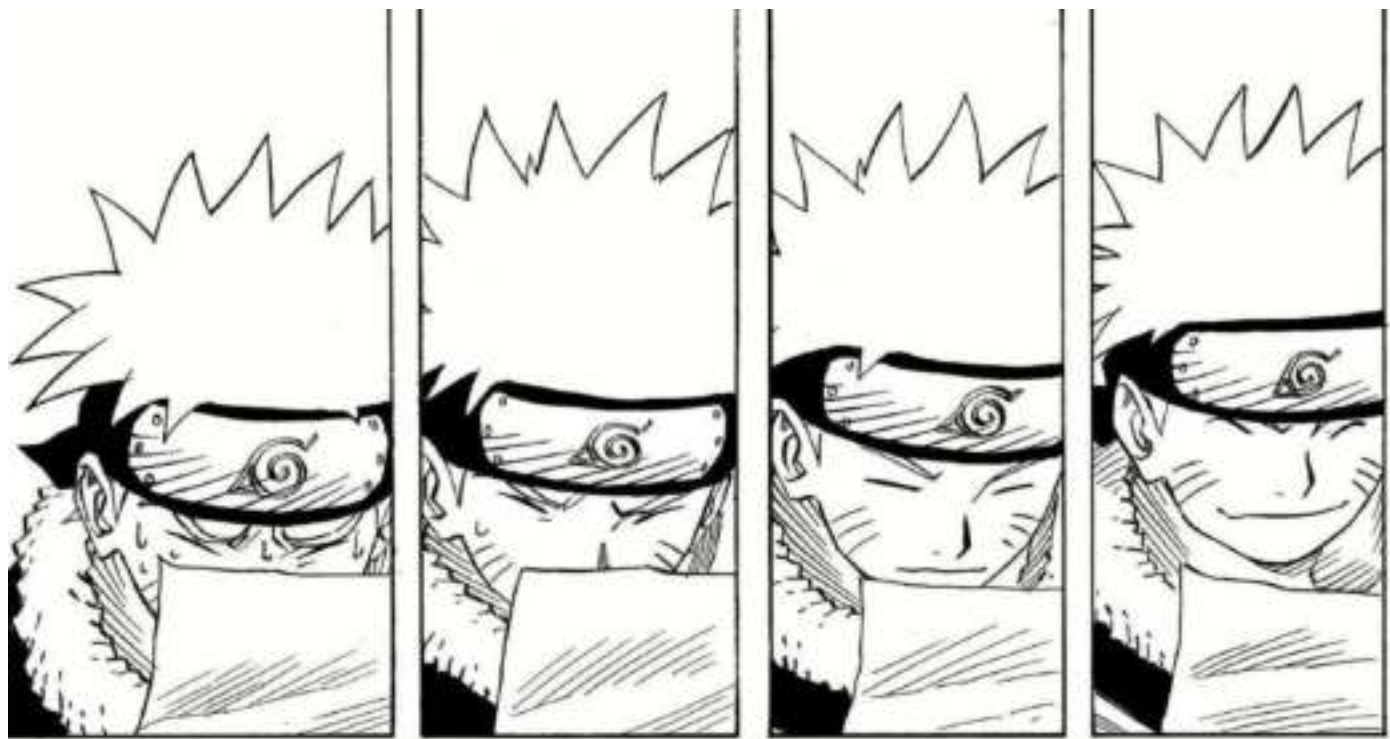


OF COURSE, NEITHER CAN MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE. IT'S A KILLER...
COURSE, I CAN ANSWER IT.

THERE'S NO WAY NARUTO COULD SOLVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!



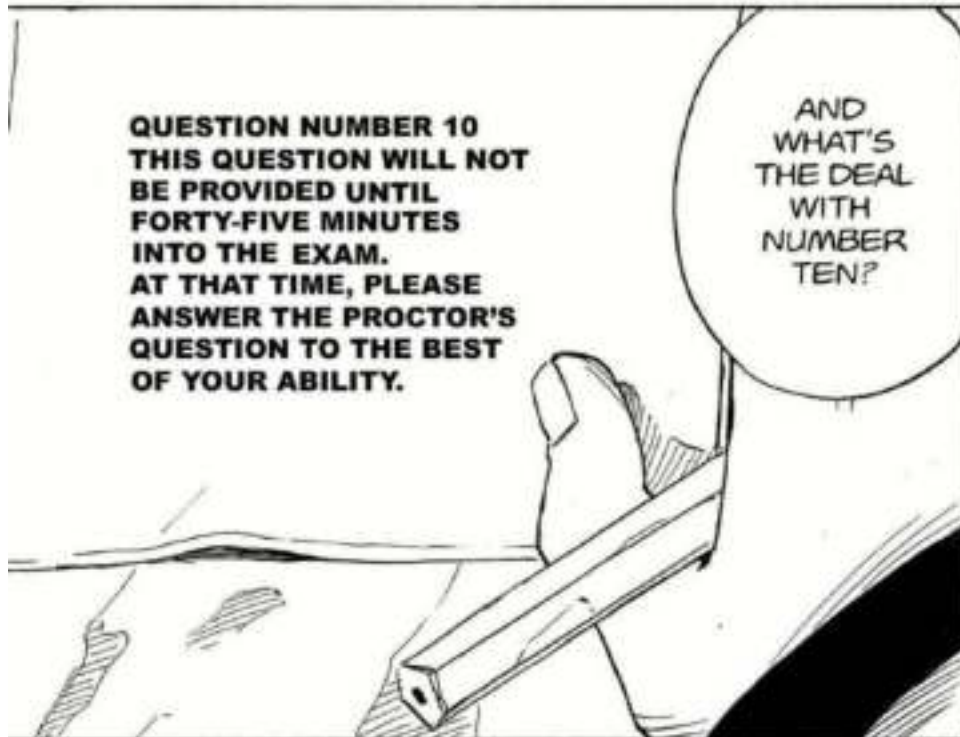
THIS... THIS IS... TO SOLVE THIS, YOU NEED TO HYPOTHESIZE UNDER VERY UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS... AND THEN APPLY THE LAWS OF KINETICS TO WHATEVER YOU COME UP WITH!



HEH...
HEH.



HMF.



**QUESTION NUMBER 10
THIS QUESTION WILL NOT
BE PROVIDED UNTIL
FORTY-FIVE MINUTES
INTO THE EXAM.
AT THAT TIME, PLEASE
ANSWER THE PROCTOR'S
QUESTION TO THE BEST
OF YOUR ABILITY.**

AND
WHAT'S
THE DEAL
WITH
NUMBER
TEN?



I DON'T
KNOW
HOW TO
ANSWER
A SINGLE
ONE OF
THESE
QUESTIONS.

WELL,
WELL...

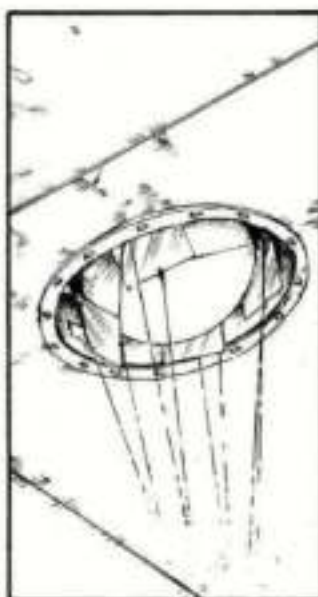
SIGH

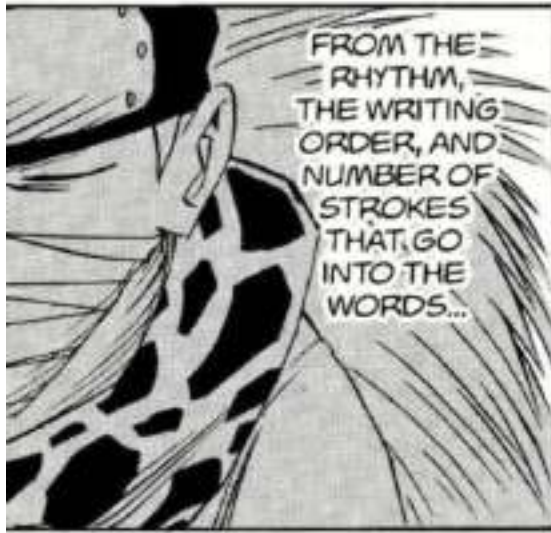
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?



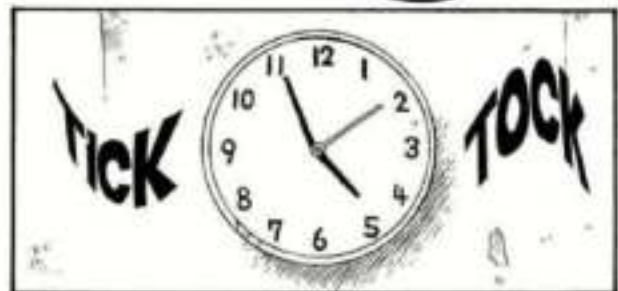
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?

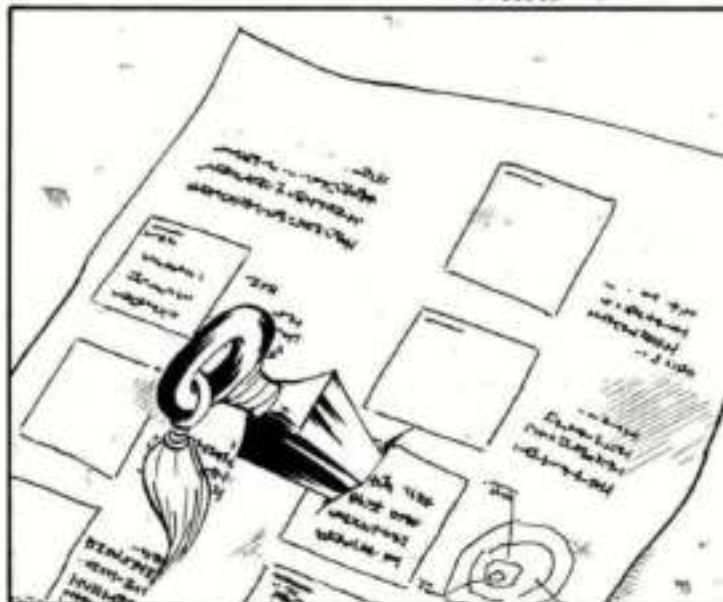


















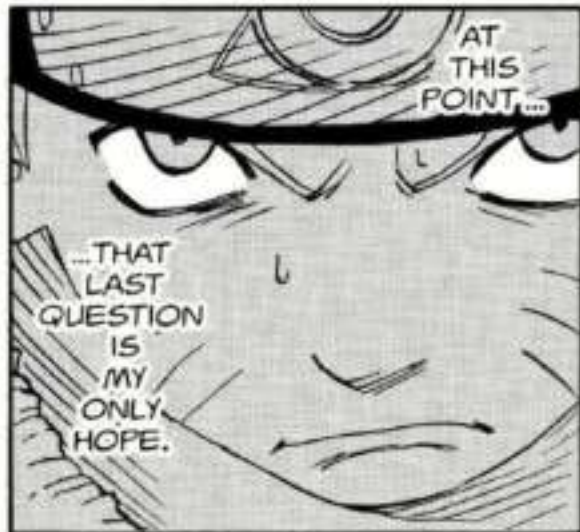
 Number 42:

To Each His Own











...SO YOU OUGHT TO FEEL HONORED...



SAKURA... YOUR BROAD BROW AND BIG BRAIN HAVE EARNED MY RESPECT...



NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND HER WHEN SHE STARTS THAT ASTRAL-PROJECTION STUFF!

SHE MUST BE USING THAT TECHNIQUE OF HERS...

INO'S ASLEEP.





YOU'RE A
DEAR,
LETTING
ME
POSSESS
YOU LIKE
THIS...
AND SEE
ALL OF
YOUR
ANSWERS!



SAKURA...



HEH
HEH
HEH...

SORRY,
SAKURA...
NOT.



NEXT I'LL
POSSESS
SHIKAMARU
AND CHOJI,
AND WRITE
THESE
ANSWERS
ON THEIR
PAPERS!
CLEVER
LITTLE ME!



GO
IT!

YES!

HAVE
TO
MEMORIZE
THIS
QUICKLY,
BEFORE
SOMEONE
CATCHES
ME.



YOU
FAIL.

ON
YOUR
FEET,
NUMBER
102.







AAGH!!



YOU FEEL THIS? WELL, I AM AS SKILLED AS I AM POWERFUL!

!!



LISTEN UP AND LISTEN GOOD. WE PROCTORS ARE THE ELITE. EVEN IN A GROUP AS SKILLED AS THE ONE GATHERED HERE TODAY, WE ARE FAR AND AWAY THE BEST. WE MISS NOTHING!

OW...

YOU GOT THAT, KIDS?



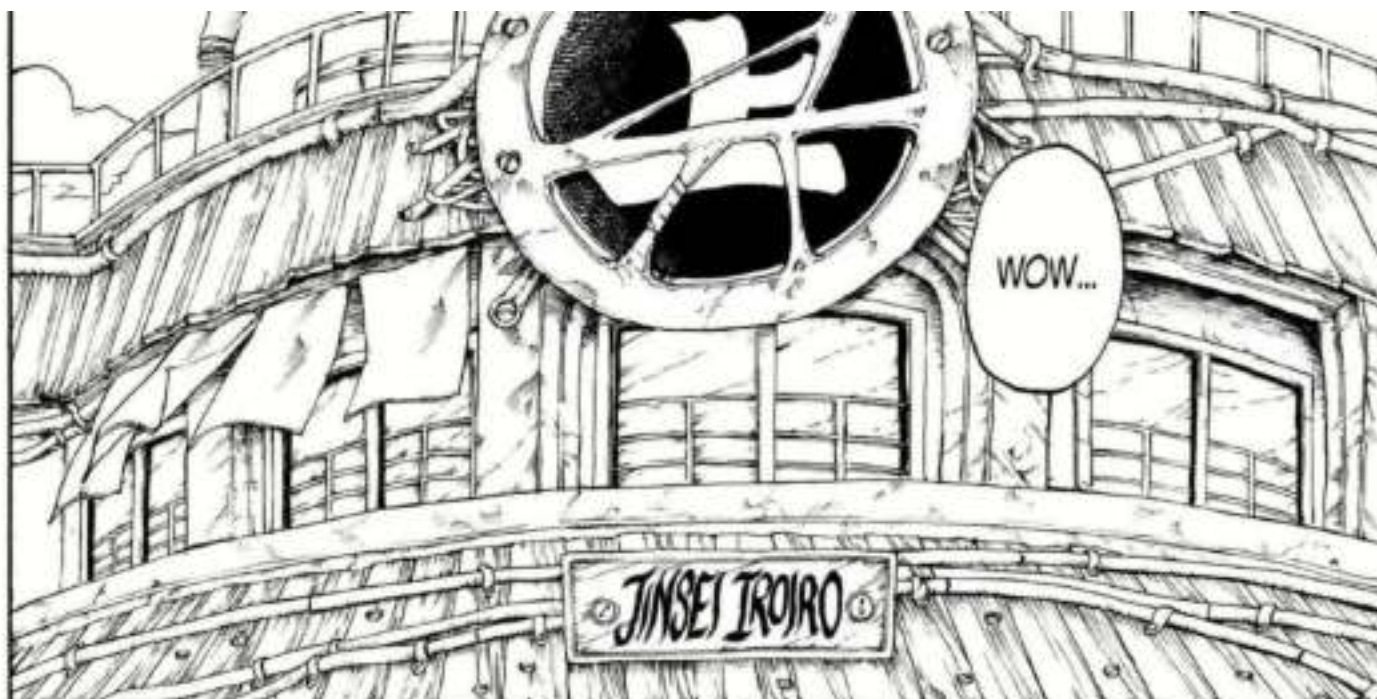
GULP!





 Number 43:

The Tenth Question



* JINSEI IROIRO:
"THERE ARE MANY DESTINIES."



READ THIS WAY





...THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE APPLICANTS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES THAT MAKE HIM INFAMOUS AS AN INTERROGATOR.

IN THE EXAM THAT'S PRESENTLY UNDERWAY... WHILE THERE MAY BE NO PHYSICAL TORTURE...



...WHETHER TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THIS TENTH QUESTION!

FIRST... YOU MUST CHOOSE...



ULP!

AN ABSOLUTE RULE...?!



WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE DOESN'T ACCEPT THE QUESTION?!

OH CHOOSE?



ACCEPT OR REJECT...?



...AND FAIL!

AND BOTH OF YOUR TEAMMATES WILL FAIL RIGHT ALONG WITH YOU.

IF YOU REJECT THE QUESTION AND DON'T EVEN TRY TO ANSWER IT, YOU'LL LOSE ALL YOUR POINTS IMMEDIATELY...



OH, COME ON. WHAT MORE CAN HE ADD?!



...OF THE OTHER RULE.

BECAUSE...

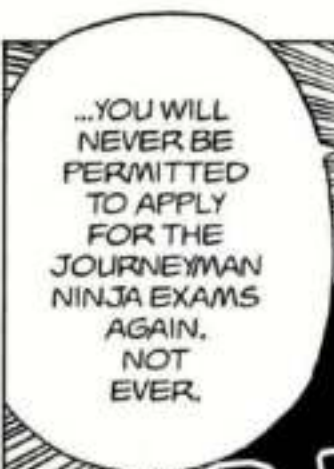


THEN WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE TO REJECT IT?

SAY WHAT?!



!!



...YOU WILL NEVER BE PERMITTED TO APPLY FOR THE JOURNEYMAN NINJA EXAMS AGAIN, NOT EVER.

IF YOU TRY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION...

...AND YOU GET IT WRONG...

OWNNING





I DON'T
QUIT,
AND I
WON'T
RUN!!

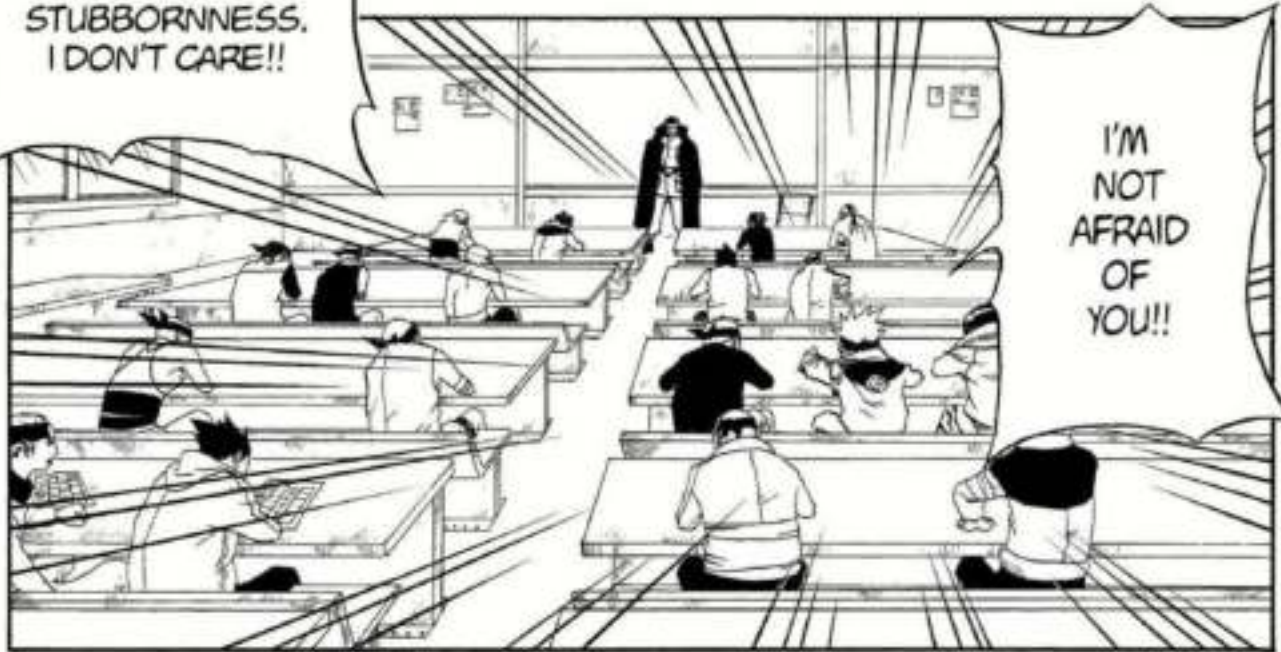
NEVER
UNDERESTIMATE
ME!!!



S
A
M



...I'LL STILL BECOME LORD HOKAGE, EVEN IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT BY PURE STUBBORNNESS. I DON'T CARE!!





CUSSEDNESS IS PART OF MY SHINOBI SKILL SET!

I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD.



I'LL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME.

THIS IS A DECISION THAT COULD AFFECT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

QUIT NOW, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE CHANCE.

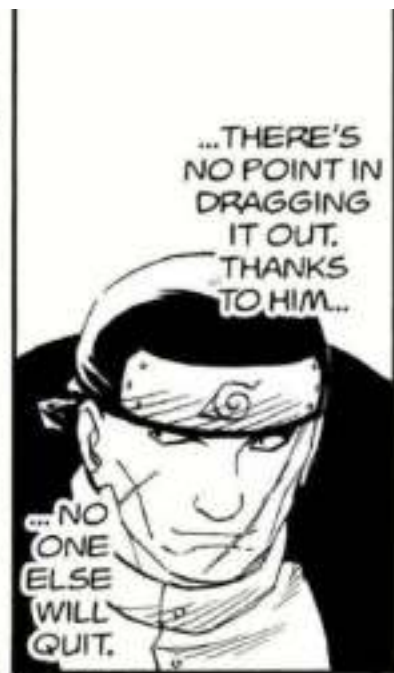


SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THEM ARE STILL HERE.

HMMM... AN ENTERTAINING KID, AND INTERESTING. HE DISPELLED EVERYONE ELSE'S DOUBTS ALONG WITH HIS OWN.

MORE THAN I EXPECTED, BUT...





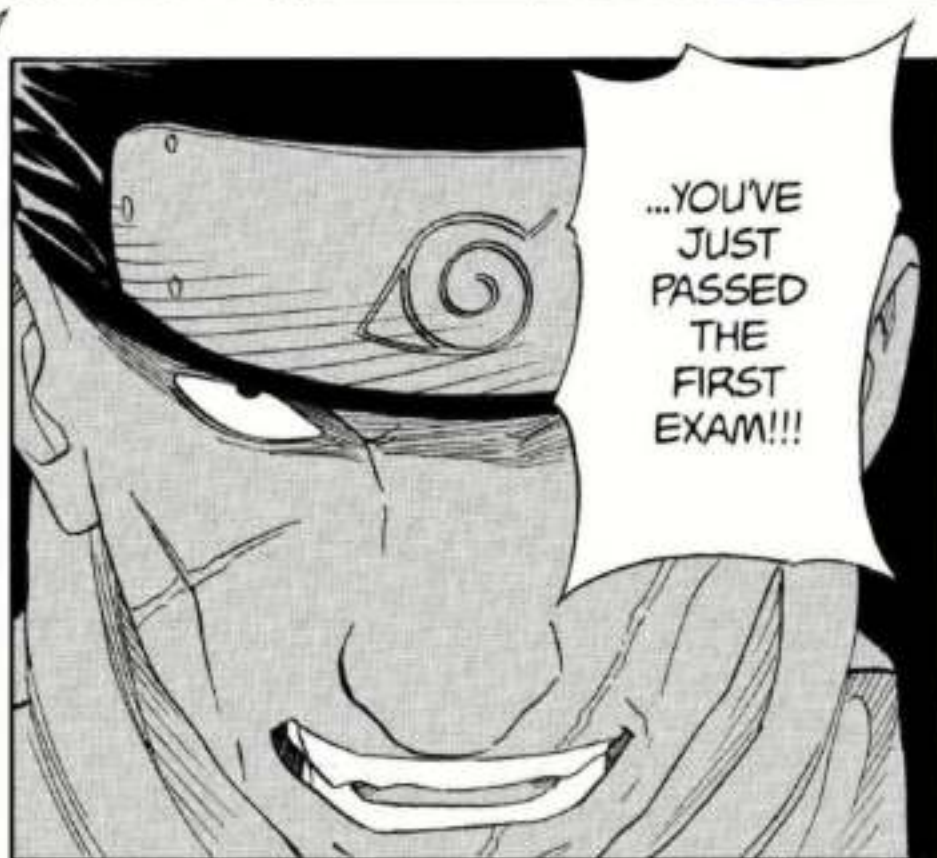
...THERE'S NO POINT IN DRAGGING IT OUT. THANKS TO HIM...

...NO ONE ELSE WILL QUIT.



SO, EVERYONE WHO IS STILL HERE...

GOOD CALL.



...YOU'VE JUST PASSED THE FIRST EXAM!!!



A FRIEND OF MINE DREW THIS PICTURE OF NARUTO FOR ME.

 Number 44:



The Talents We Test For





...BEYOND THE WHOLE "ACCEPT OR REJECT" THING.

THERE IS NO TENTH QUESTION...

gr in



THOSE QUESTIONS HAD A PURPOSE, WHICH THEY'VE ALREADY SERVED.

THERE WAS NO WASTE.



THAT WAS A TOTAL WASTE OF OUR TIME!

HEY! THEN WHY DID WE HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THE OTHER NINE QUESTIONS?!



HUNH?!!

!



HE SEEMS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

?

...OUR SKILLS AT SPYING?



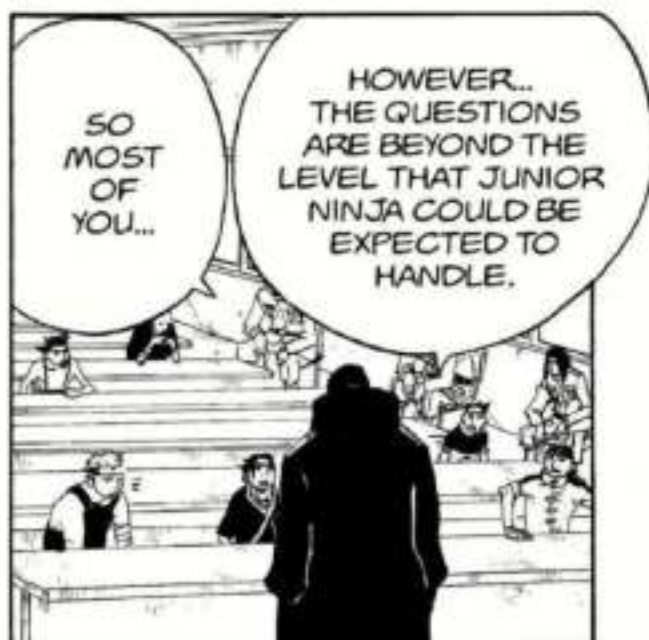
...AT SPYING!

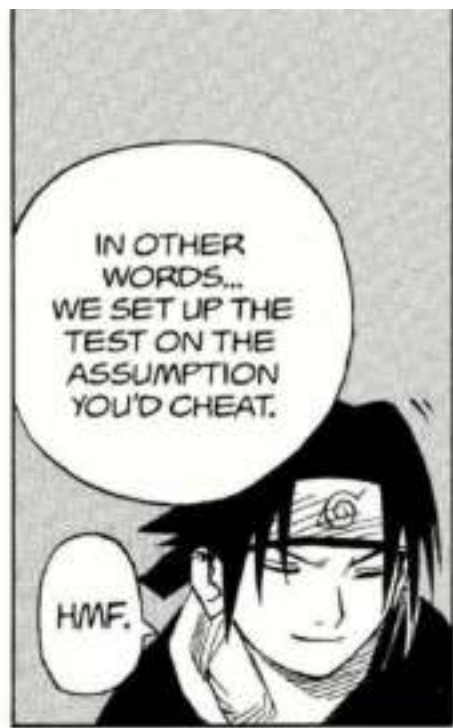
OUR GOAL WAS TO TEST YOUR SKILLS...



!

SUCH AS?







YOU PAY IN WAYS THAT CAN BE TAKEN FROM YOU LITTLE BY LITTLE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WHEN MANY LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE.

BECAUSE THERE MAY BE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE BEING CAUGHT IN AN ACT OF ESPIONAGE CAN COST YOU MORE THAN JUST YOUR LIFE.



BUT THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR BEING DUMB ENOUGH TO GET CAPTURED. IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME!

COOL... I BET HIS HANDS ARE EVEN WORSE!



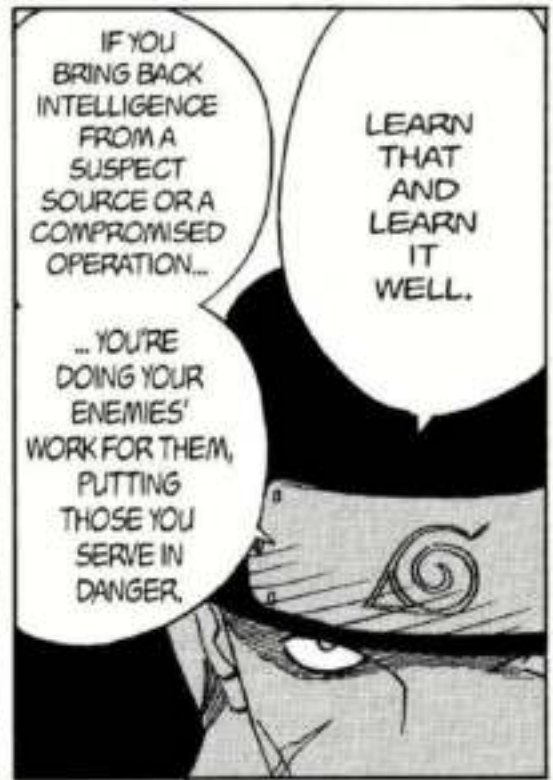
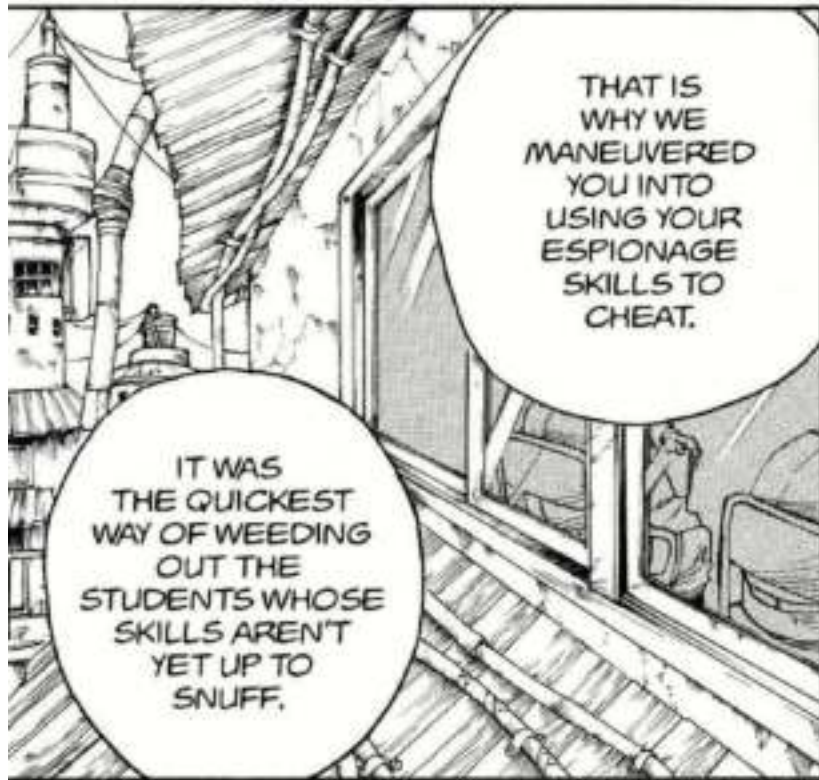
...



UJ!

HE'S BEEN TORTURED!!

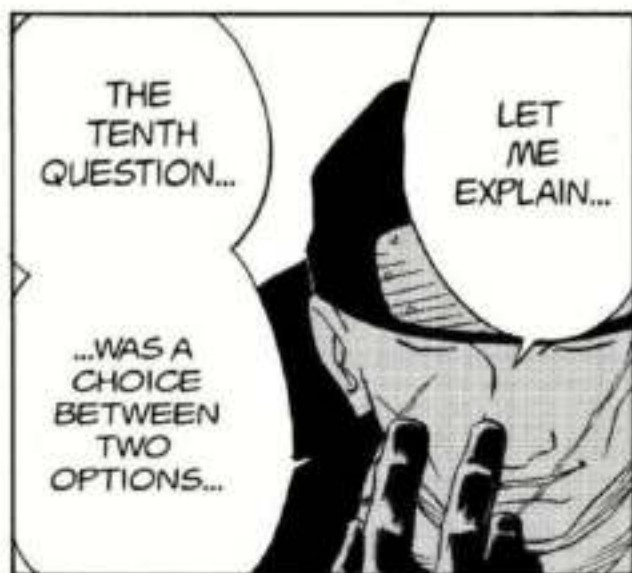
BURN SCARS... PUNCTURES FROM WHERE SCREWS WERE USED... LONG SLASH MARKS...





...WAS THE FIRST REAL TEST ON THE EXAM.

AH! THE TENTH QUESTION...



THE TENTH QUESTION...

LET ME EXPLAIN...

...WAS A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO OPTIONS...



WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN?

...



?



IT WAS A NASTY, UNFAIR, NO-WIN SET OF OPTIONS.

...LOST ANY CHANCE OF EVER EVEN TRYING AGAIN.



THOSE WHO CHOSE TO REJECT WERE FAILED, AND THEIR FRIENDS ALONG WITH THEM. THOSE WHO CHOSE TO ACCEPT AND COULDN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION...

...THAT WERE BOTH DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS.



LET'S
SUPPOSE
YOU ALL
GO ON TO
SUCCESSFULLY
ATTAIN THE
RANK OF
CHŪNIN.

SO
WHY
DID I
PRESENT
THEM?



...



YOU MAY
HAVE TO
CROSS A
TERRITORY
THAT HAS
BEEN HEAVILY
MINED
AND SET
WITH TRAPS.

NOW...
DO YOU
ACCEPT
YOUR
MISSION?
OR DO
YOU
REJECT
IT...



...KNOWING
NOTHING
ABOUT THE
SKILLS,
DEPLOYMENT,
OR MILITARY
PREPAREDNESS
OF YOUR FOE.

YOU ARE
ASSIGNED
TO STEAL
A VITAL
ENEMY
DOCUMENT...



OF
COURSE
NOT!



COULD
ANY CHŪNIN
GET AWAY
WITH ONLY
TAKING ON
THE SAFE
JOBS?

...RATHER
THAN PLACE
YOUR OWN
LIFE--OR THE
LIVES OF YOUR
COMPANIONS--
IN JEOPARDY?

...









WH-
WHAT
THE--



HER...
NOW?
OH,
SPARE
ME...



SHIA

OMNINO

NEWLY ARRIVED

SECOND CHIEF

OFFICER



NONE
OF
YOU
ARE
IN
ANY
POSITION
TO
CELEBRATE.



...MITARASHI ANKO!!

I AM THE SECOND CHIEF EXAMINATION OFFICER..

TIME'S A-WASTIN', PEOPLE. LET'S GO!!



SHHHNNNN

?!
....



FOLLOW ME!!!



...



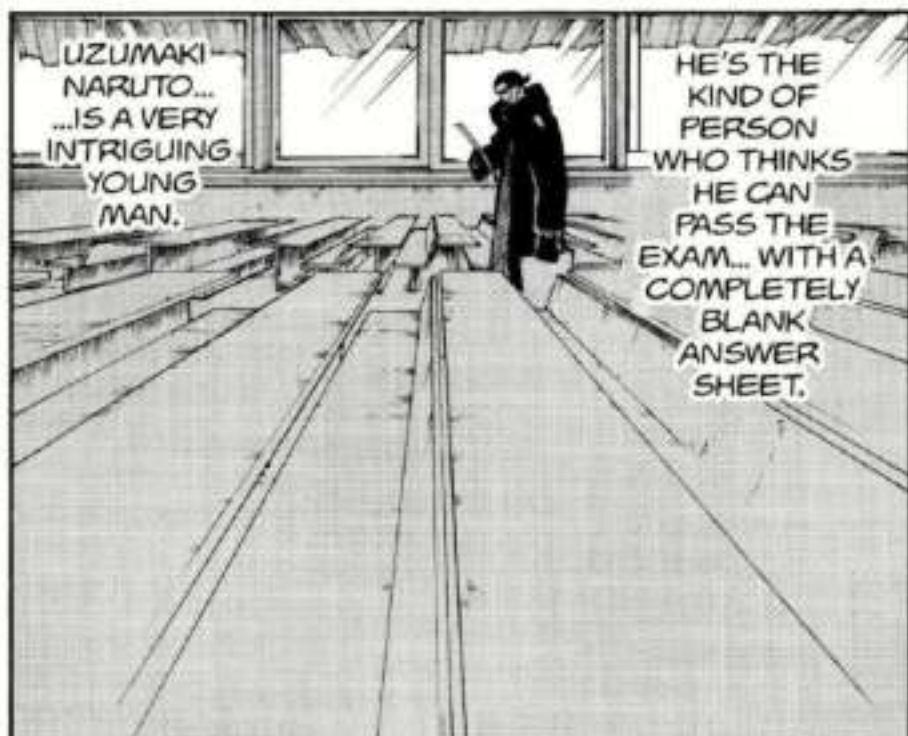
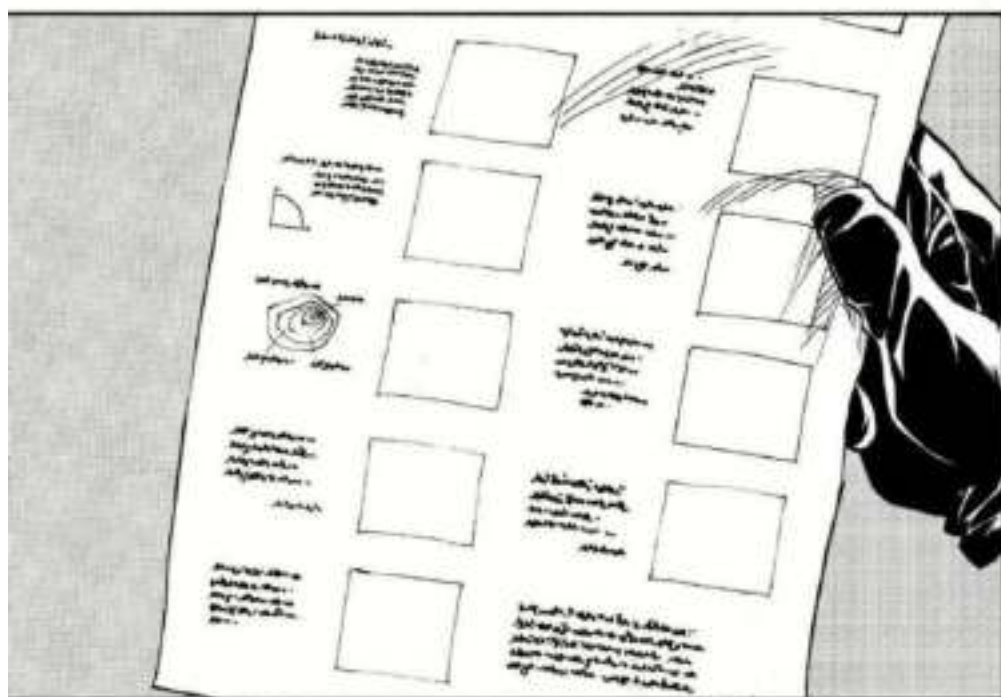
...OF NARUTO.

THIS NEW OFFICER ALMOST REMINDS ME...



CAN'T YOU SENSE THE MOOD IN HERE?



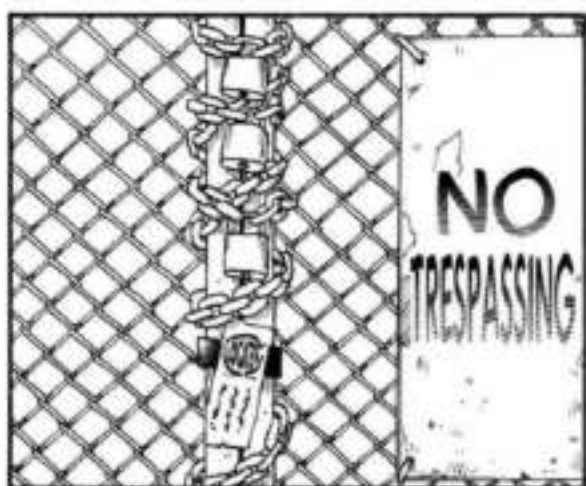
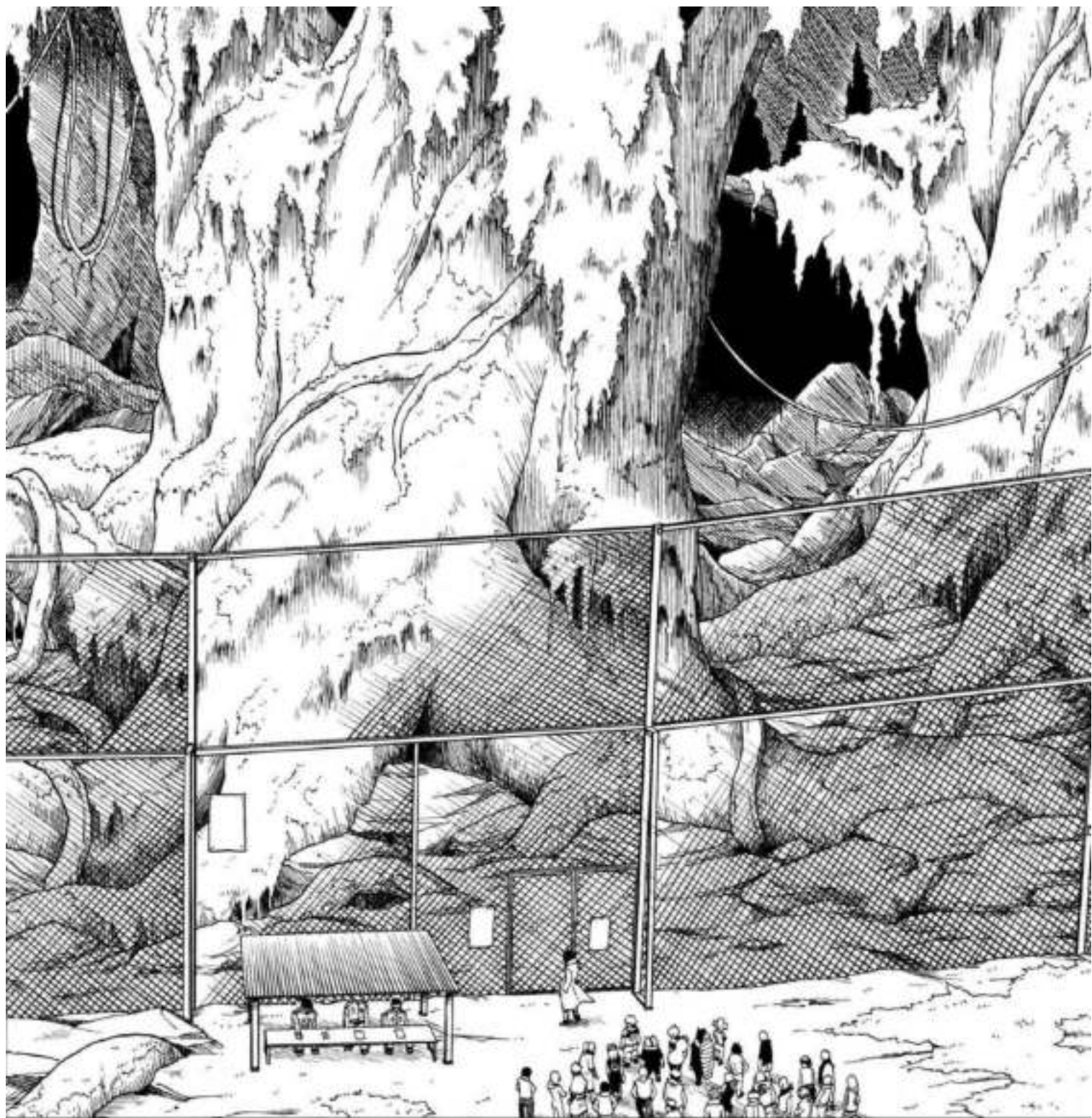


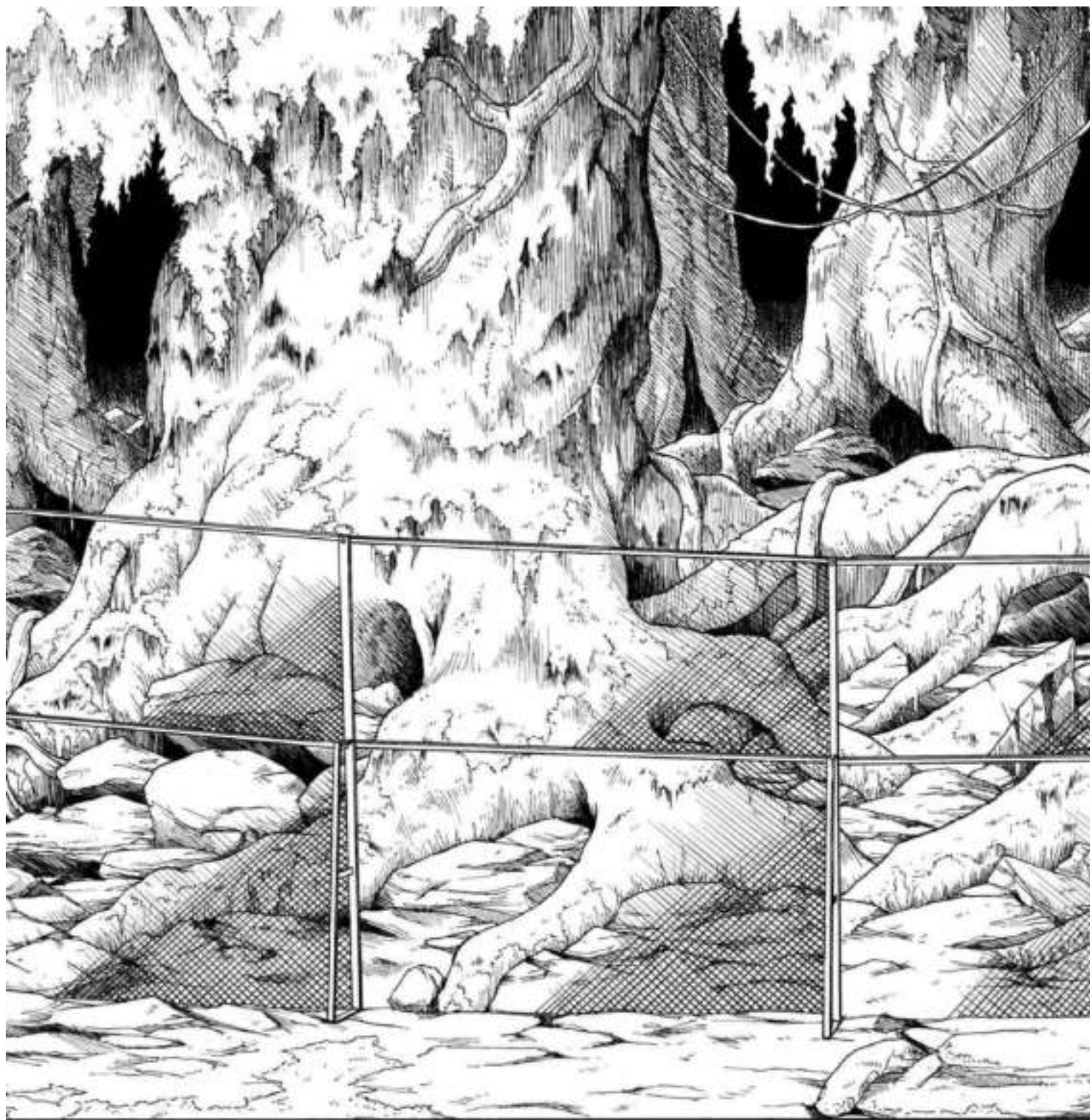
UZUMAKI NARUTO...
...IS A VERY
INTRIGUING
YOUNG
MAN.

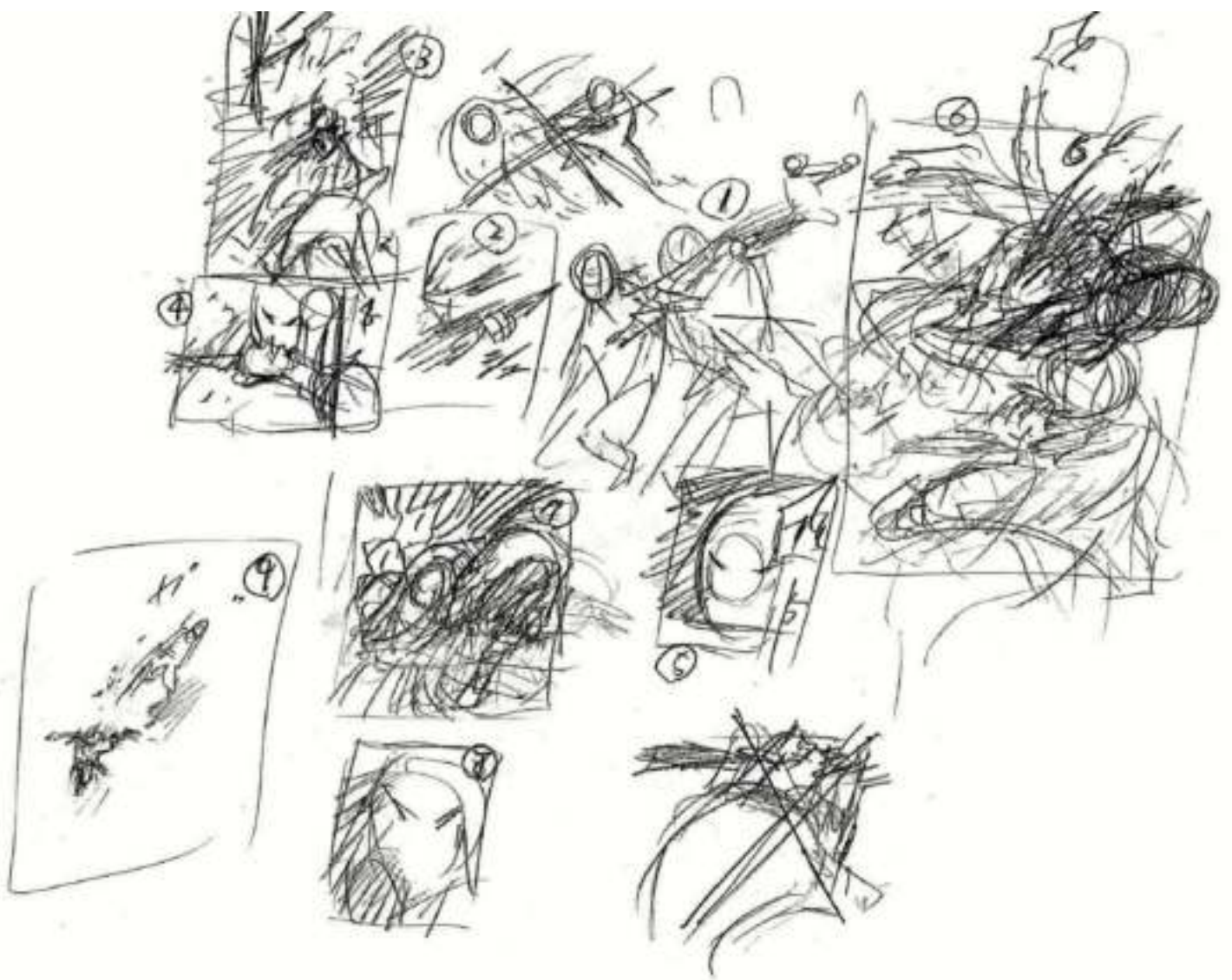
HE'S THE
KIND OF
PERSON
WHO THINKS
HE CAN
PASS THE
EXAM... WITH A
COMPLETELY
BLANK
ANSWER
SHEET.



HUH.







KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S "I ONLY SHOW YOU THESE THINGS SO YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH I LOVE MANGA" REJECTS CORNER...

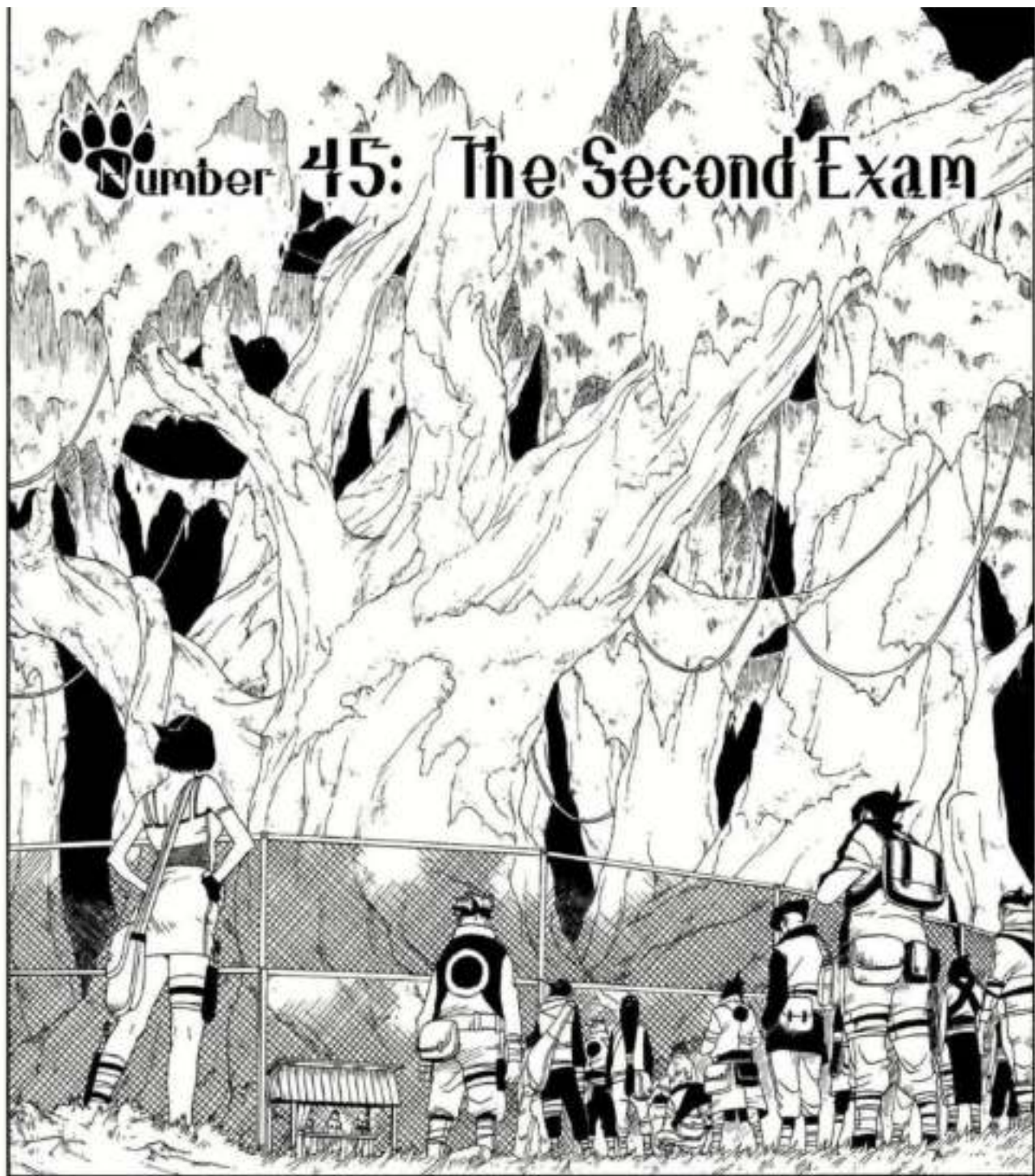
THE ROUGH SKETCHES ABOVE SHOW HOW I LAY OUT THE VISUAL FLOW OF AN ACTION SEQUENCE. I TRY TO BE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE FLOW OF SCENES IN NARUTO, SO AS SOON AS I COME UP WITH AN IDEA FOR AN ACTION SEQUENCE, I CHOREOGRAPH IT IN A SET OF THUMBNAIL DRAWINGS, LIKE STORYBOARDS. I TRY TO KEEP THE OVERALL PAGE COUNT FOR THE CHAPTER IN MIND, BUT THINGS USUALLY KEEP EXPANDING AND OPENING OUT, TAKING UP MORE AND MORE PAGES, WHILE I WORK OUT THE BEST CAMERA ANGLES, WITHOUT EVEN A THOUGHT TO WHERE THE DIALOGUE WILL FALL. NEXT I NUMBER THE SKETCHES, FIGURE OUT WHICH SCENES ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL, MAKE SURE THE TWO-PAGE SPREADS WILL ACTUALLY LAND ON PAGES THAT FACE EACH OTHER... AND THEN I NUMBER THE PAGES AND BREAK THEM DOWN INTO PANELS. THEN I DISCOVER I'VE USED UP MORE PAGES THAN I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE IN THE ENTIRE CHAPTER.. WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO GO BACK AND CUT SEQUENCES AND ERASE THINGS... CRYING LIKE A BABY ALL THE WHILE. YOU KNOW...

IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME...

THIS MAY BE WHY MY SCRIPTS ARE ALWAYS SO LATE!



Number 45: The Second Exam









I BELIEVE YOU DROPPED IT.

YOUR KUNAI KNIFE...

SHLUGK

GEE... THANKS.





SORRY ABOUT THAT.

AND THIS OTHER GUY...

WHAT'S UP WITH THE BIG, FREAKISH TONGUE?

SHHP

* THE CHARACTER ON THE LOINCLOTH READS "CRIME."



WE'RE HOT-BLOODED... AND SHE'S BLOOD-THIRSTY!



HEH... SHOULD BE FUN...

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A HOT-BLOODED TEAM ON OUR HANDS THIS TIME OUT!

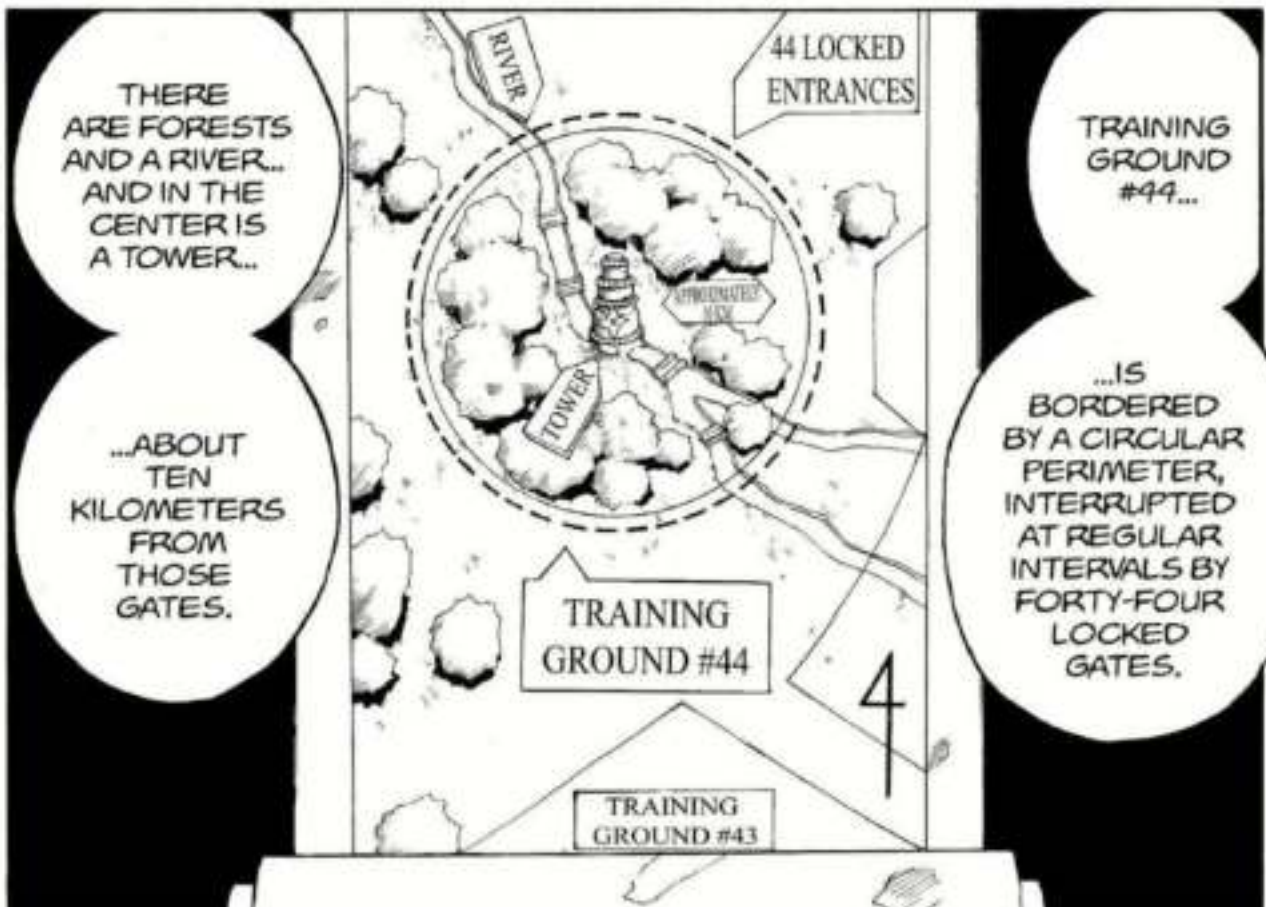
GR IN

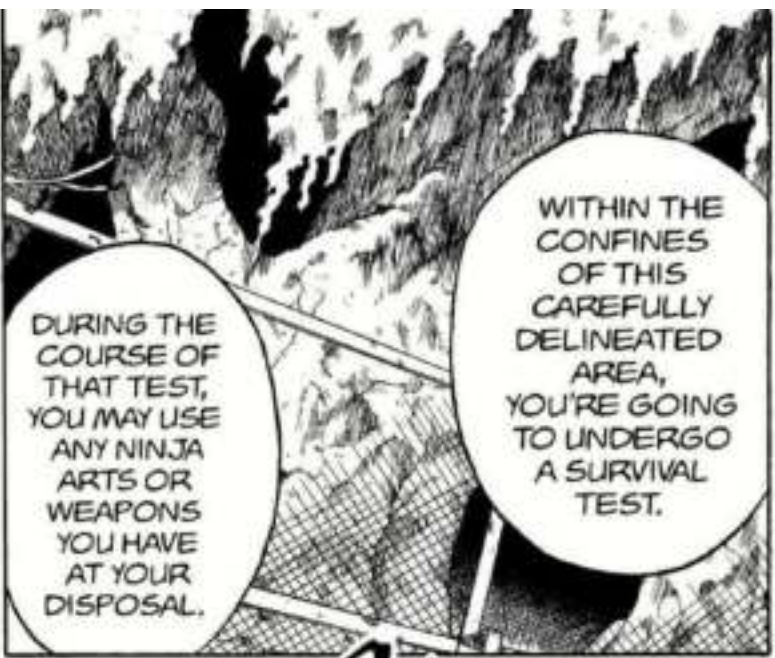


...THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO HAND OUT.

BEFORE WE BEGIN THE SECOND EXAM...







DURING THE COURSE OF THAT TEST, YOU MAY USE ANY NINJA ARTS OR WEAPONS YOU HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS CAREFULLY DELINEATED AREA, YOU'RE GOING TO UNDERGO A SURVIVAL TEST.



...OF "CAPTURE THE FLAG"... OR, IN THIS CASE, "CAPTURE THE SCROLL."

IT'S A KIND OF FIGHT-TO-THE-DEATH VERSION...



THERE'S A "SCROLL OF HEAVEN" AND A "SCROLL OF EARTH"...AND YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO ACQUIRE BOTH SCROLLS.



SCROLL?

EXACTLY!



THIRTEEN
TEAMS
WILL START
OUT WITH A
HEAVEN
SCROLL...

THIS SCROLL READS TEN, MEANING "HEAVEN."



THERE
ARE
SEVENTY-
EIGHT
OF YOU
HERE.

THAT'S
TWENTY-SIX
THREE-
MEMBER
TEAMS.



BUT
YOU'LL
NEED
BOTH
SCROLLS
TO
PASS.

...AND THE
OTHER
THIRTEEN
WILL START
WITH AN
EARTH
SCROLL.

THIS SCROLL READS CHI, MEANING "EARTH."



...AND
THEN
BRING
THEM
BOTH...

...TO
THE
TOWER
AT
THE
CENTER.




SO YOUR
OBJECTIVE
IS TO HOLD
ON TO YOUR
OWN SCROLL,
GET YOUR
HANDS ON
ONE OF THE
OTHER
KIND...



YOU HAVE 120 HOURS IN WHICH TO COMPLETE THIS EXAM--

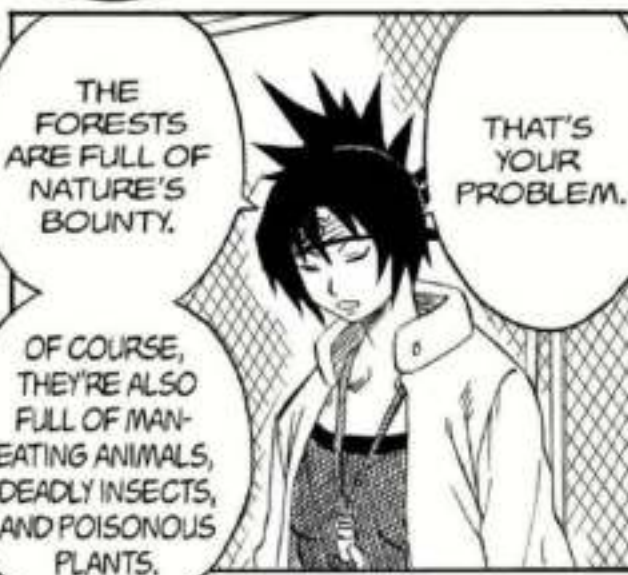
--EXACTLY FIVE DAYS!

YOU BET! AND THERE'S A TIME LIMIT!



--THE THIRTEEN TEAMS WHOSE SCROLLS ARE STOLEN-- WILL FAIL.

IN OTHER WORDS, AT LEAST HALF OF US--



THE FORESTS ARE FULL OF NATURE'S BOUNTY.


THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.

OF COURSE, THEY'RE ALSO FULL OF MAN-EATING ANIMALS, DEADLY INSECTS, AND POISONOUS PLANTS.



WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO FOR FOOD?!

FIVE DAYS?!



YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES AT ALL TIMES, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN.

...WITH LESS RECOVERY TIME FOR ANY MISTAKES, ACCIDENTS, OR INJURIES.

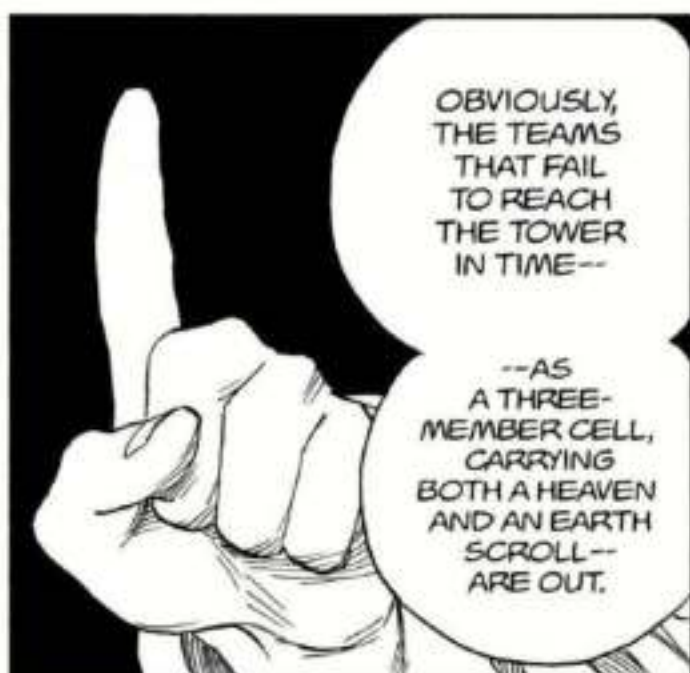
AS THE TIME SHORTENS, THE TRIALS WILL COME HARDER AND FASTER...

THERE'S NO WAY AS MANY AS THIRTEEN TEAMS WILL PASS THIS.



...SOME OF YOU ARE BOUND TO SUCCUMB TO EXHAUSTION, EXPOSURE, STARVATION, AND DEHYDRATION.

SO, IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHO DIE IN ATTEMPTS TO DEFEND OR CAPTURE A SCROLL...



OBVIOUSLY, THE TEAMS THAT FAIL TO REACH THE TOWER IN TIME--

--AS A THREE-MEMBER CELL, CARRYING BOTH A HEAVEN AND AN EARTH SCROLL-- ARE OUT.



NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE RULES... AND WHAT OFFENSES YOU CAN BE DISQUALIFIED FOR!



NO RECESS. NO TIME-OUTS.

...CAN YOU LEAVE THE FOREST BEFORE THE TIME IS UP.

AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES...



SO IS ANY TEAM THAT LOSES A MEMBER, WHETHER TO DEATH OR TO SEVERE INJURY.



...YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO LOOK AT THE CONTENTS OF THE SCROLLS UNTIL YOU'RE INSIDE THE TOWER!

ALSO...



THAT'S FOR THOSE WHO LOOK TO KNOW!
♡



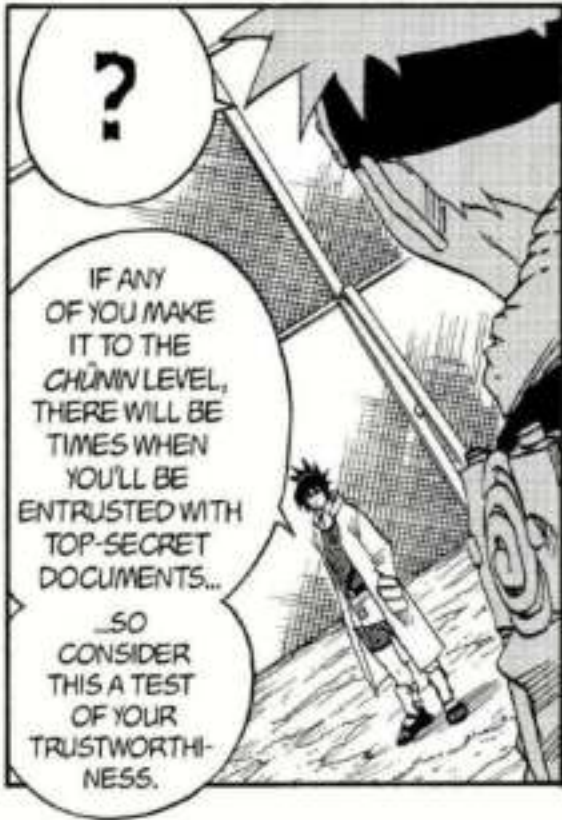
WHAT HAPPENS IF WE SNEAK A PEEK?



WE'LL TRADE ONE SCROLL FOR EVERY THREE FORMS.

WHEN YOU'VE GOT YOURS, CHOOSE THE GATE YOU WANT TO START FROM. EVERYONE WILL BEGIN AT THE SAME TIME.

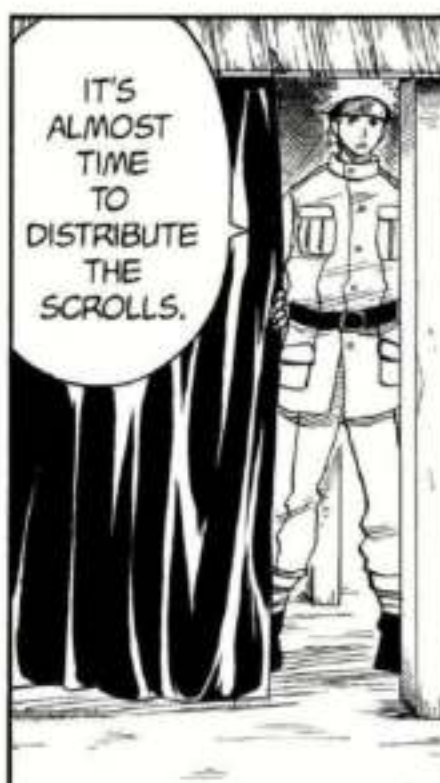
THAT'S ALL THE EXPLANATION YOU GET.



?

IF ANY OF YOU MAKE IT TO THE CHŪJIN LEVEL, THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL BE ENTRUSTED WITH TOP-SECRET DOCUMENTS...

...SO CONSIDER THIS A TEST OF YOUR TRUSTWORTHINESS.









...WHICH SHOULD MAKE OUR JOB A LOT EASIER.

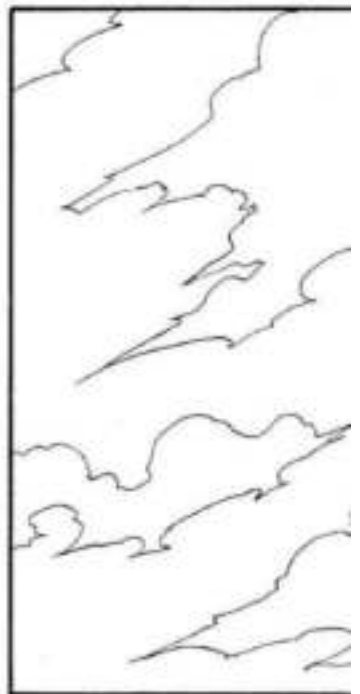
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT CARTE BLANCHE TO PICK THEM OFF FROM HERE ON IN...

TARGET THE ROOKIES FIRST.

**GATE 15
THE MYSTERIOUS KUSANIN GRASS NINJA TRIO.**

* THE TAGS ON THE HATS READ (RIGHT TO LEFT) "CRIME," "EVIL," AND "PUNISHMENT."







NOW!!

PART
TWO
OF THE
JOURNEYMAN
NINJA
SELECTION
EXAM
BEGINS...



GO
FOR
THE
BRATS!

THOSE
THREE,
RIGHT?



OWN

ALL
RIGHT!!

LET'S
GO!!

OWN

TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOL. 6!

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