



# NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

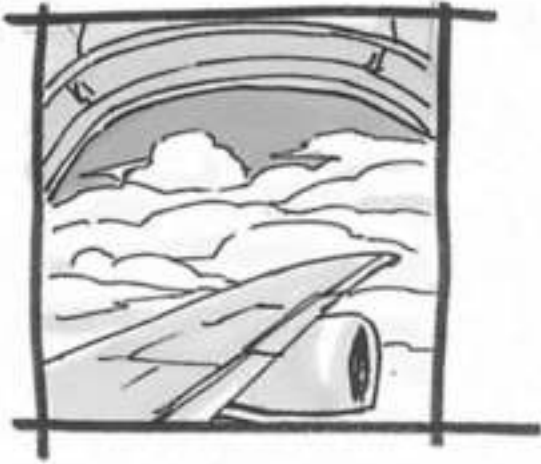
Story & Art by

**Masashi Kishimoto**

volume

**44**





I went home to visit my parents for the first time in a long while. The clouds I saw out the airplane window were very pleasant and made me remember that I like clouds.

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2008*



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. 44**  
**The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition**

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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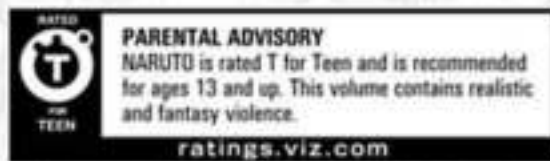
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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

# NARUTO



VOL. 44

SENJUTSU HEIR

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO



# CHARACTERS



Sasuke

サスケ



Naruto

ナルト



Sakura

サクラ



Kakashi

カカシ



Yamato

ヤマト



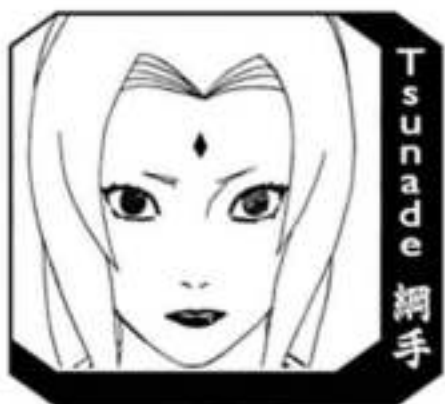
Sai

サイ



Jiraiya

自来也



Tsunade

綱手



JUGOU  
重吾



KARIN  
香燐



SUIGETSU  
水月



KONAN  
小南



PAIN  
ペイン



MADARA  
マダラ



ZETSU  
ゼツ



KISAME  
鬼鮫



ITACHI  
イタチ

### THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. They grow and mature through countless trials and battles. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power...

Two years pass. Naruto and his comrades grow up and head out once more. As their fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki rage on, Sasuke rebels against Orochimaru and takes everything from him. Sasuke then gathers new companions and chases after Itachi. The heroic sibling battle eventually concludes with Itachi's grim death. Sasuke may have fulfilled his lifelong goal, but Madara then tells him the tragic truth about his older brother, Itachi—how he achieved revenge against the Uchiha clan by allowing Sasuke to defeat him and become Konoha's hero. After discovering Itachi's true motivations, Sasuke renames his team Taka, claiming to exist for one sole reason: to *destroy Konoha!!*





# NARUTO

VOL. 44  
SENJUTSU HEIR

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YOU'RE  
OBSESSED  
WITH MY  
BROTHER...  
WHY?

...

HE'S GONE  
ROGUE.  
ABANDONED  
HIS VILLAGE,  
HIS FRIENDS  
...



...BUT HE'S  
MORE OF A  
BROTHER  
TO ME  
THAN YOU  
ARE TO  
HIM!!

WE MAY  
NOT BE  
BLOOD...



RRROAR  
!!



...









BUT WHAT IF THE OPPOSITE HAPPENS?

EVEN IF BY FORCE, HUH... I SURE, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, SASUKE WILL OBEDIENTLY RETURN TO THE VILLAGE.



I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!



WHAT IF SASUKE WERE TO ATTACK KONOHA? WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

YOU JUST SAID YOU CONSIDER SASUKE TO BE LIKE A BROTHER.



HUH...?



WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STOP HIM?



HE CAN EASILY BE DYED ANY COLOR.

SASUKE IS STILL A BLANK CANVAS.



WHY WOULD SASUKE ...

...DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!



EVEN  
KILL HIM,  
IF NEED  
BE...?



I WOULD  
DEFEND  
KONOHA!

BUT I  
WOULD  
ALSO STOP  
SASUKE  
WITHOUT  
KILLING  
HIM!

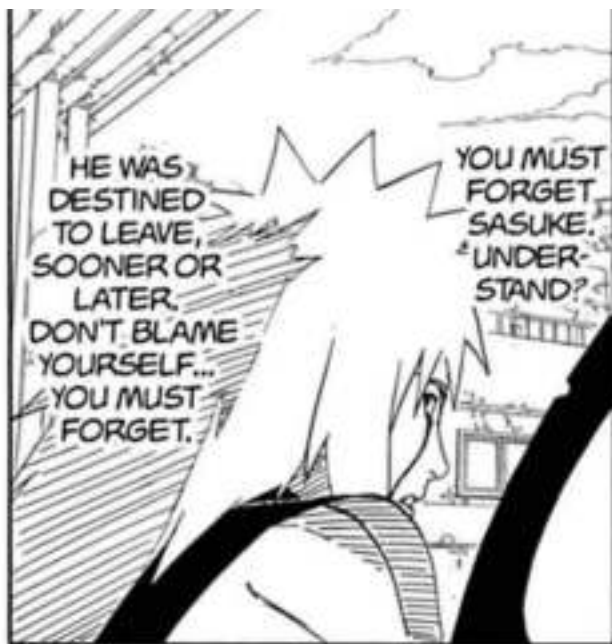


COULD  
YOU  
WEIGH  
SASUKE  
AGAINST  
KONOHA  
ON A  
SET OF  
SCALES?



...YOUR TALES  
ARE ALL  
FANTASIES...  
SHINOBI MUST  
SOMETIMES  
MAKE VERY  
HARSH  
DECISIONS.

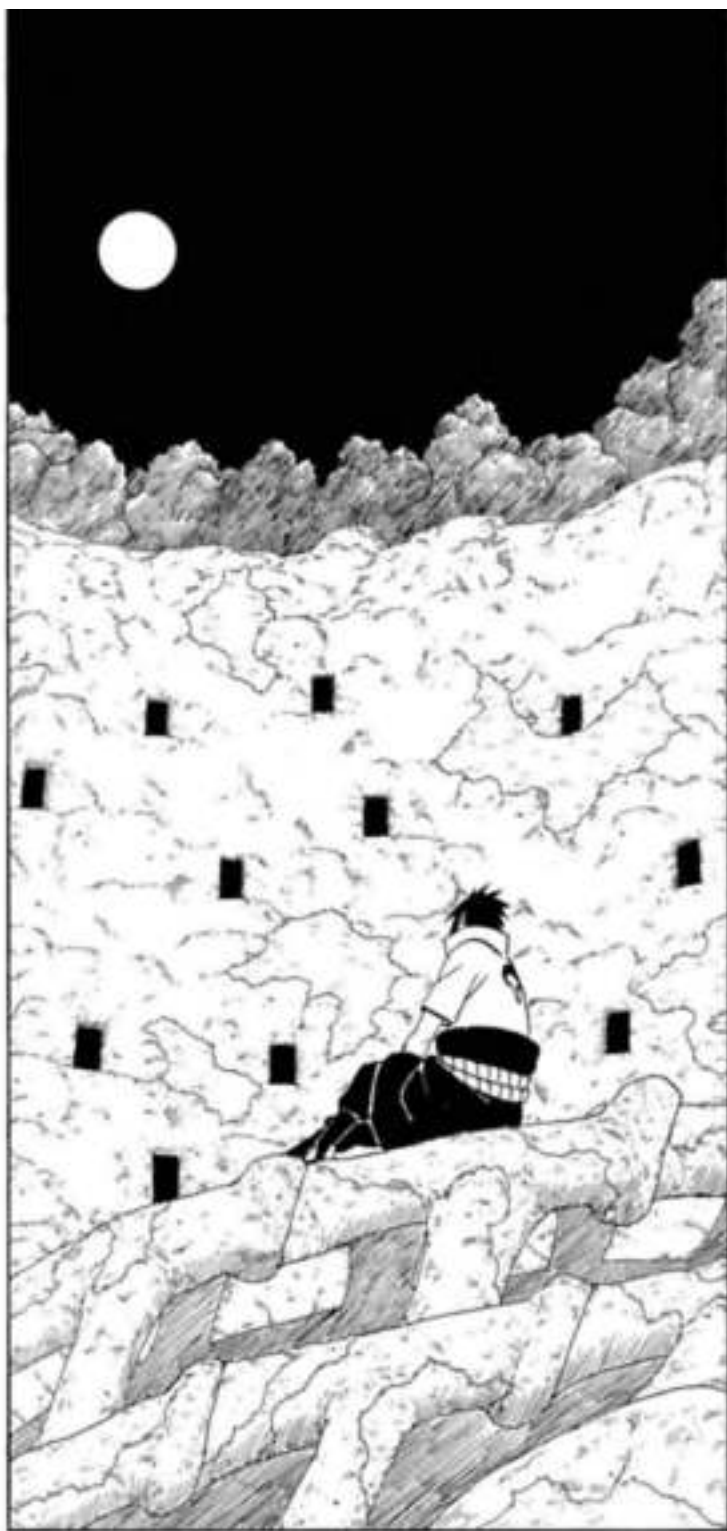
YOU'RE  
SUCH A  
CHILD...













FAINT  
MEMORIES  
STORED DEEP  
IN MY HEART  
ARE FLOATING  
BACK TO THE  
SURFACE.

NOW  
I CAN  
FINALLY  
RECALL  
THINGS  
ABOUT  
ITACHI...

...YOU WILL  
FIND ME  
AGAIN.

AND  
SOMEDAY,  
WHEN YOU  
HAVE THE  
SAME EYES  
AS I...



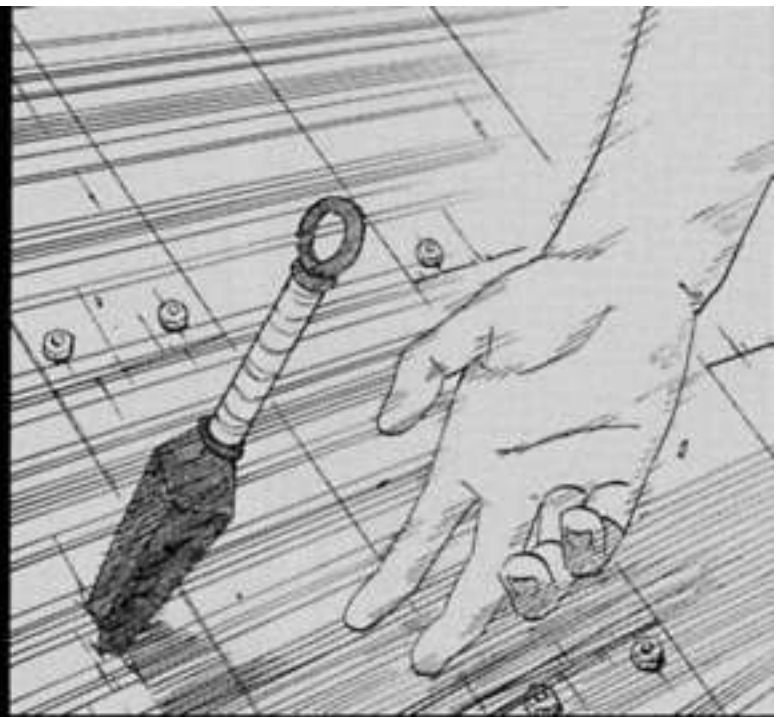
KEEP  
RUNNING...  
AND  
RUNNING  
...  
CLINGING  
DESPER-  
ATELY TO  
LIFE!



STAGGER













...HE WAS  
CRYING.

PITTE  
R...

THAT  
MOMENT  
...







I HOPE YOU'RE OK...

I WONDER WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW, SASUKE...







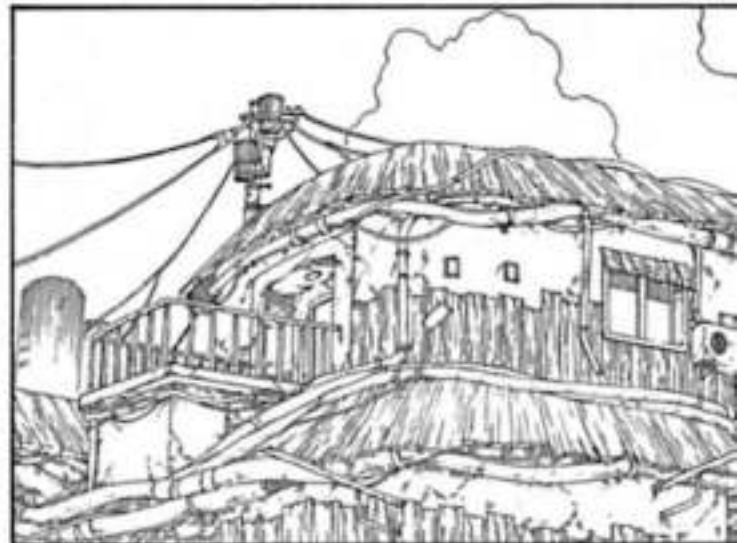
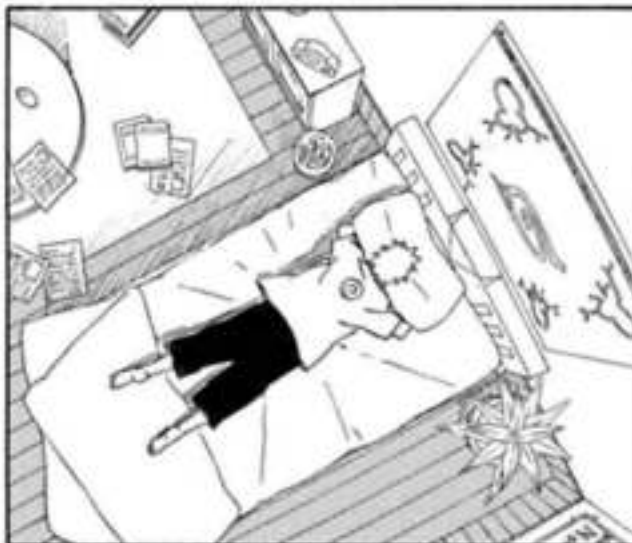
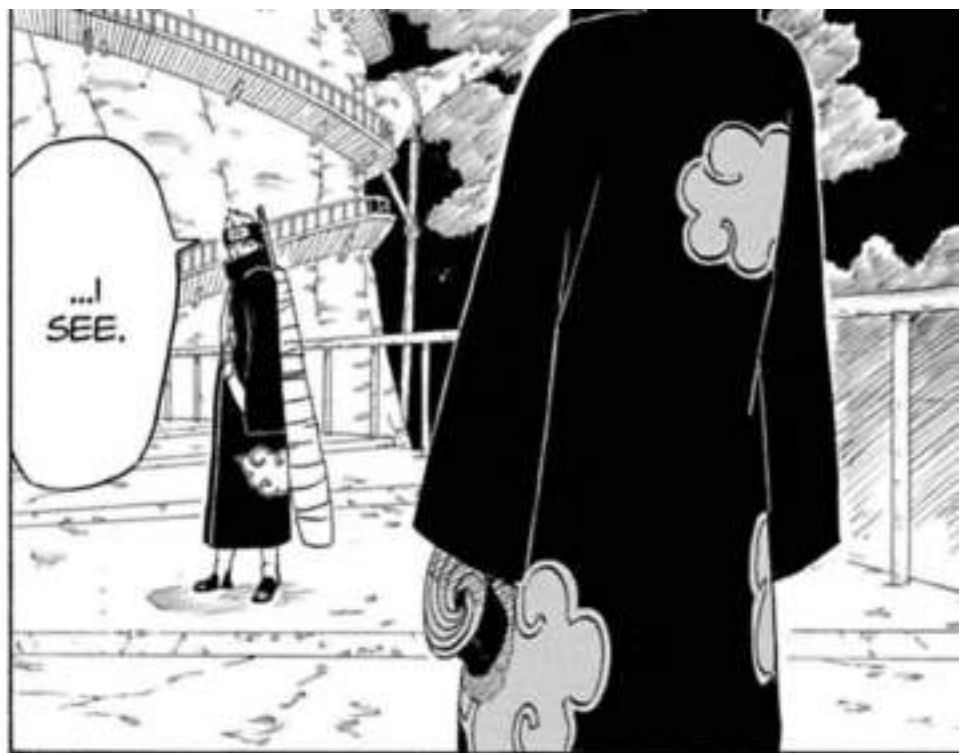


IT TURNS OUT THAT YOU WILL BE THE LAST TO KNOW...



I NEED TO TALK TO YOU, MASTER KISAME.







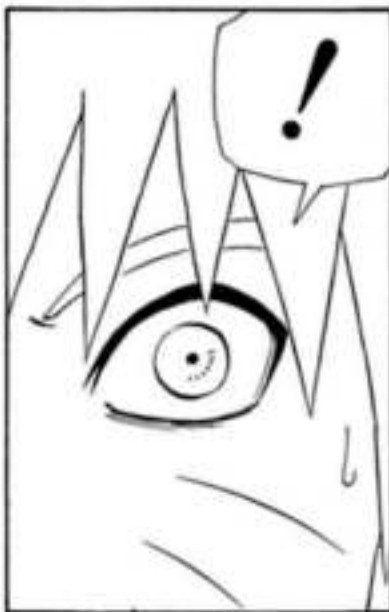


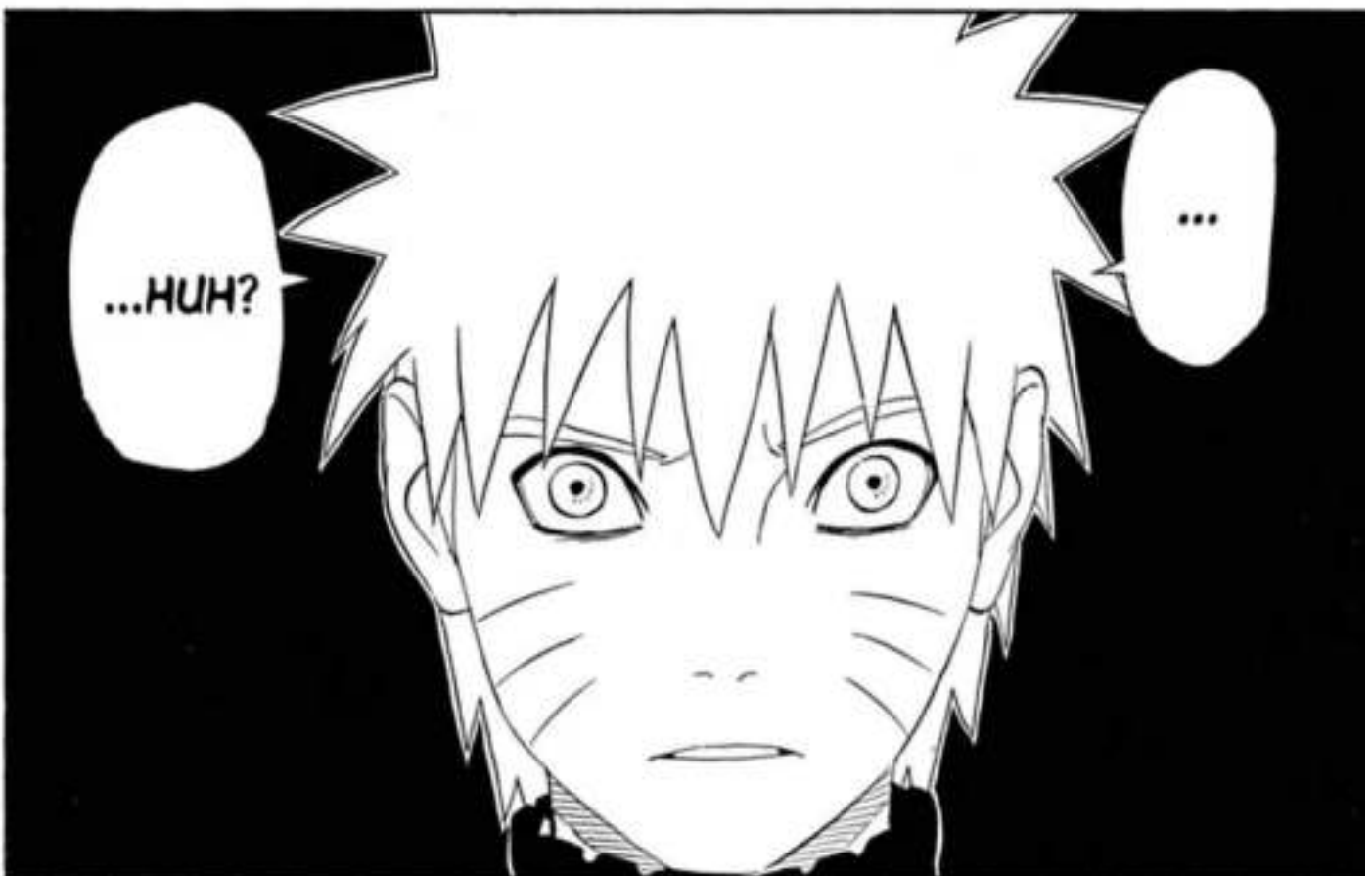


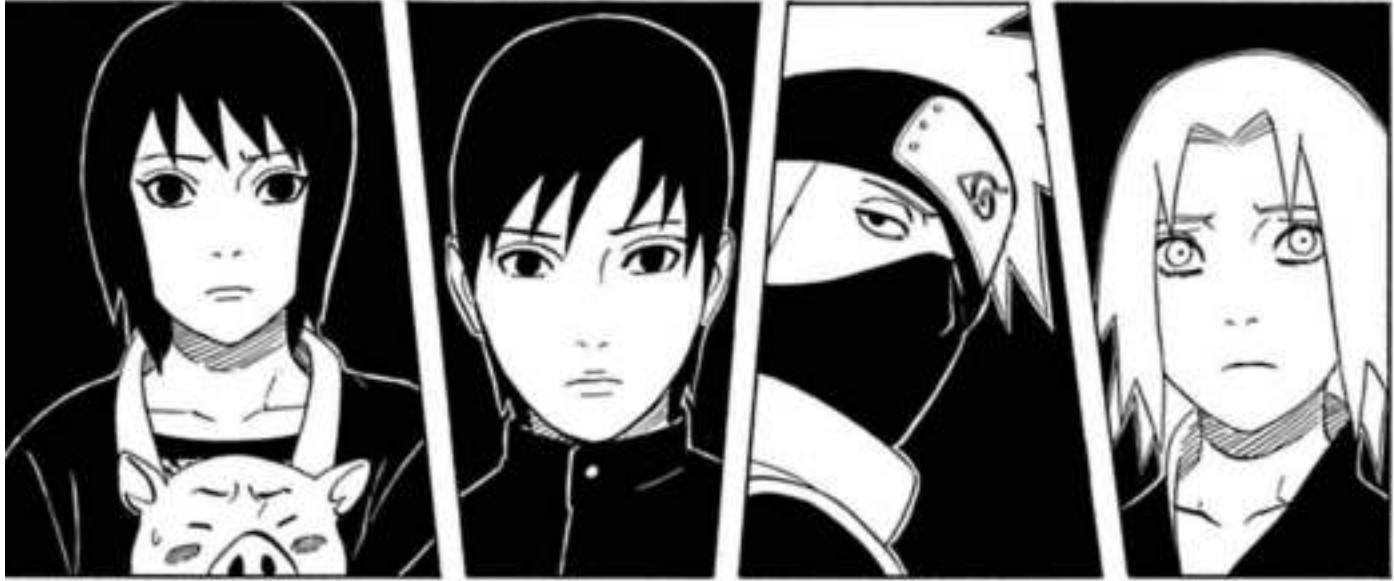




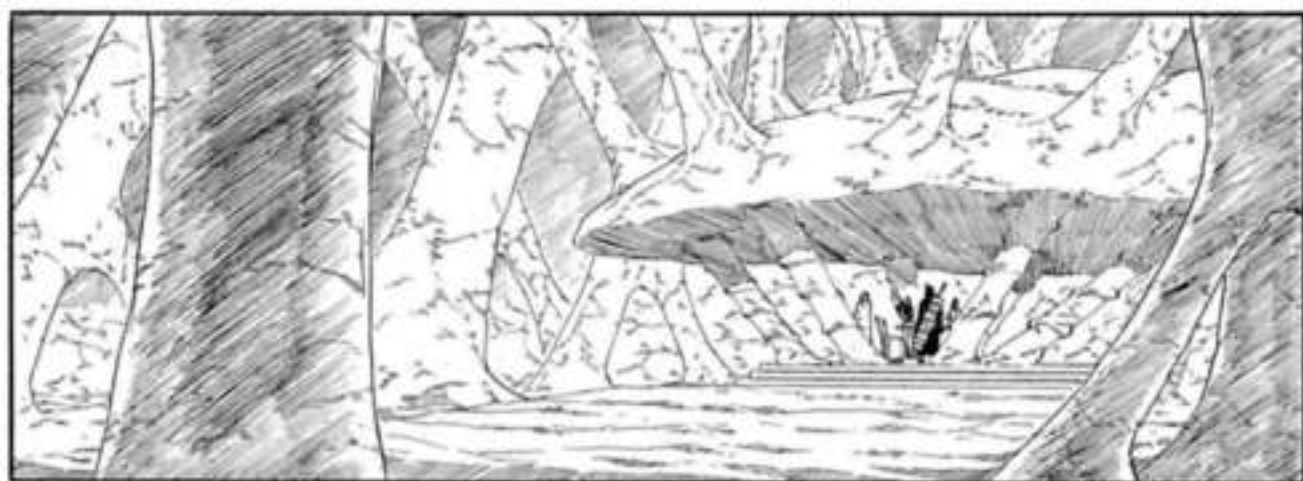
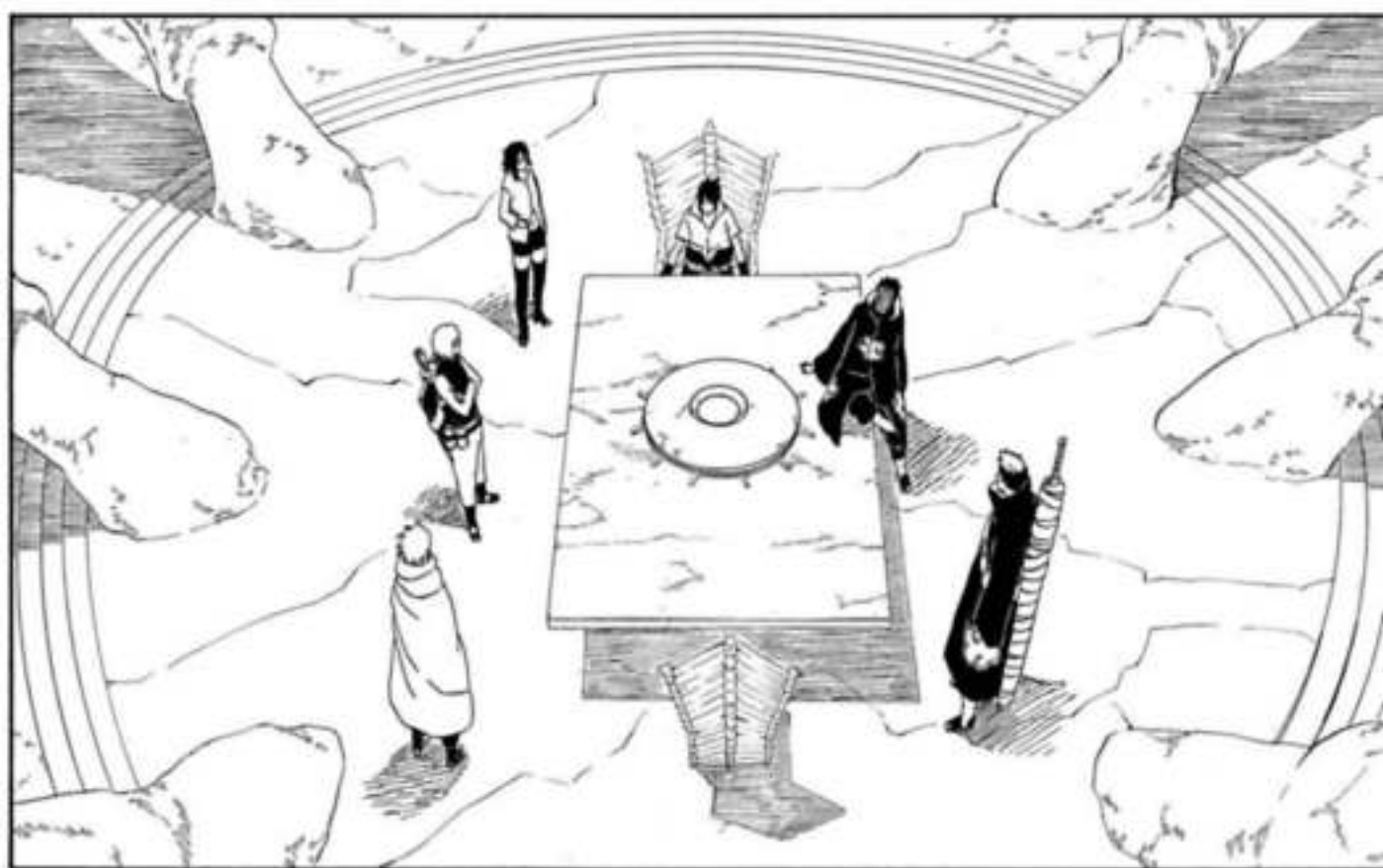
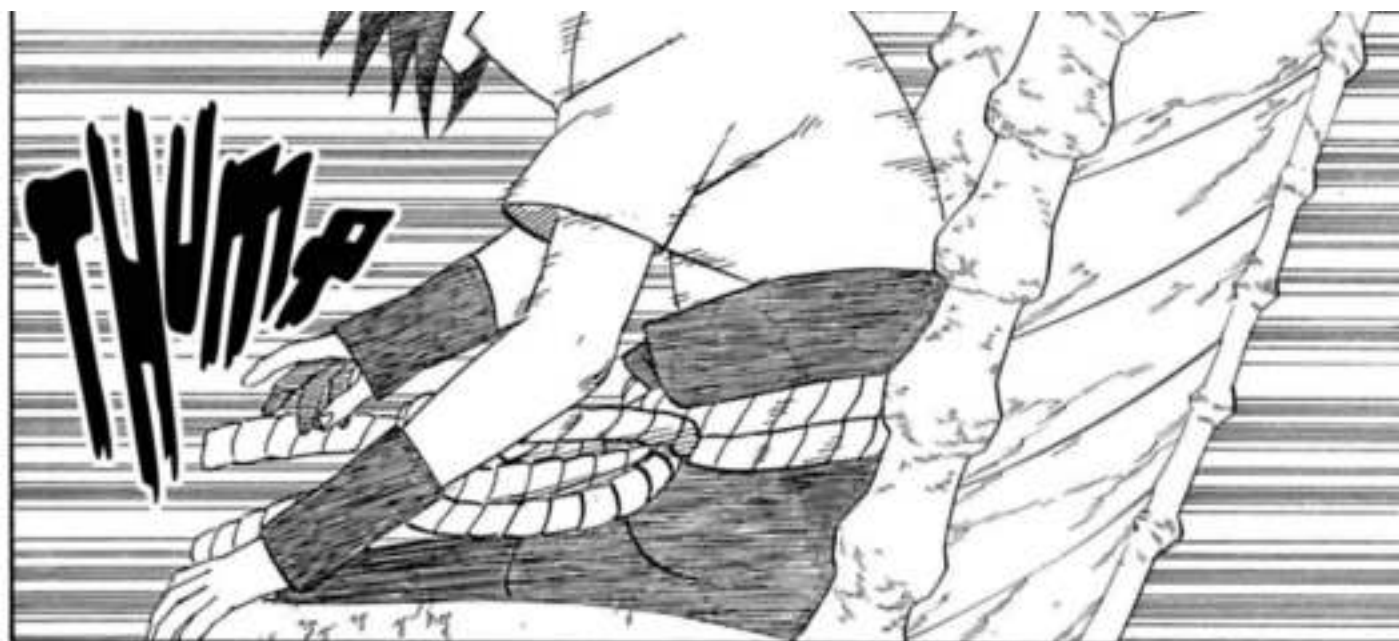










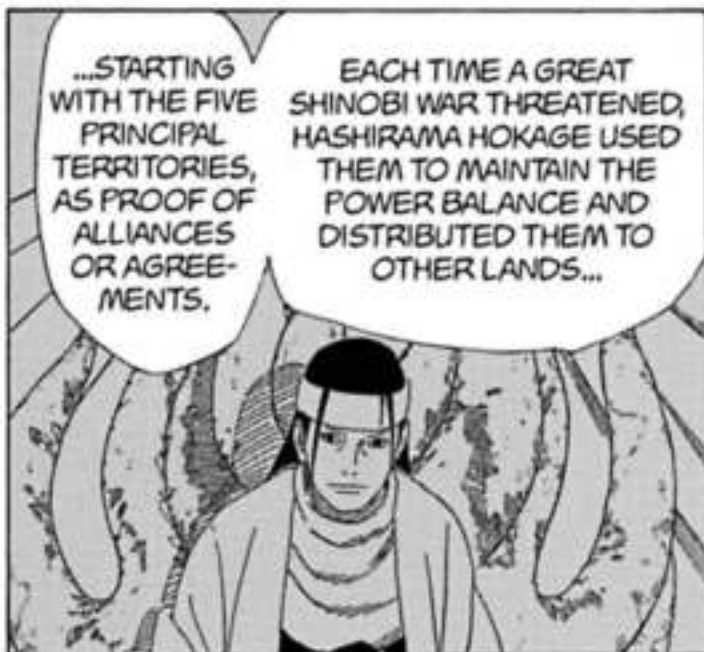




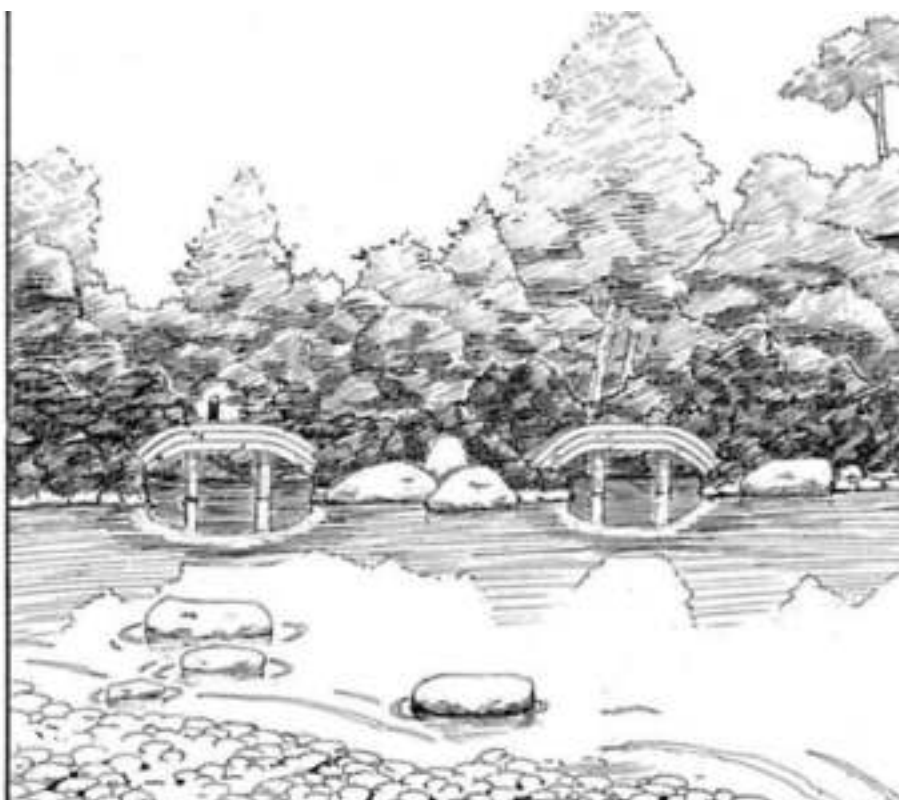

















**NARUTO**



 Number 405: Inheritance



FRRLP

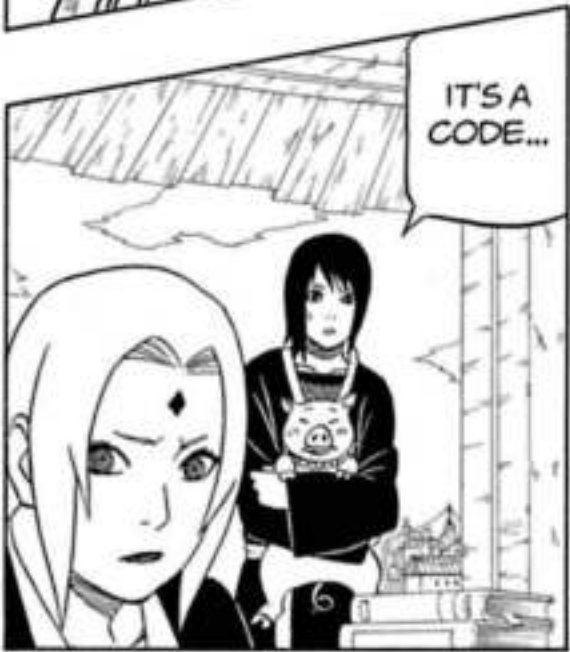
THIS IS THAT MESSAGE!



GRNP

EVEN AFTER HE HAD HIS THROAT CRUSHED BY PAIN...

...JIRAIYA-BOY LEFT A MESSAGE BEFORE COLLAPSIN'.



IT'S A CODE...



9,31,8

106,7

207,15









YOU OF ALL PEOPLE OUGHT TO KNOW LADY FIFTH'S FEELINGS.



I AM STILL ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA. YOU DO REMEMBER WHAT THAT MEANS?

ALONE?! NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS ...!



OUR JOB IS TO SET EXAMPLES FOR AND AID THE NEXT GENERATION.

JUST GONNA HAVE TO KEEP OUR EMOTIONS IN CHECK, I GUESS...

FOR THAT CAUSE, I'LL GLADLY RISK MY LIFE.



...AND THEY'LL CONTINUE TO SHAPE US.

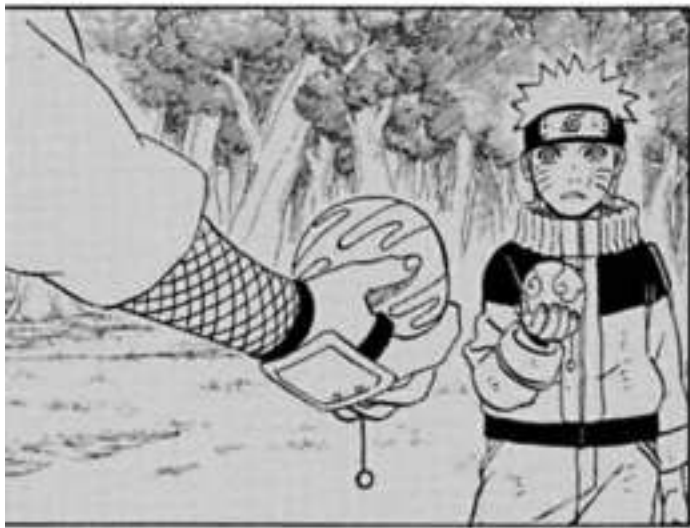
ALL OUR EXPERIENCES... ALL THE PEOPLE WE'VE LOST... HAVE SHAPED WHO WE ARE NOW...

LOOK AT YOU NOW... A 50-SOME-THING GRANNY...







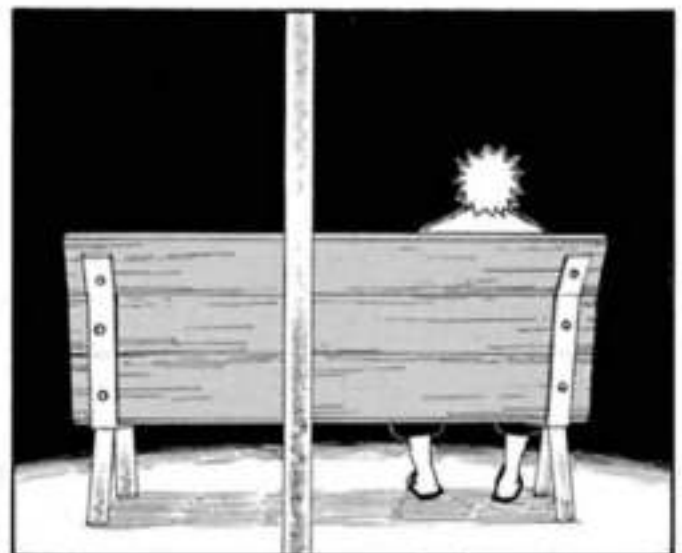
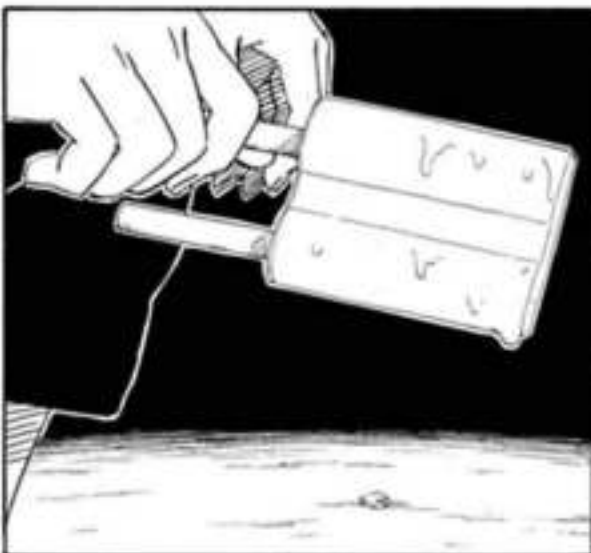
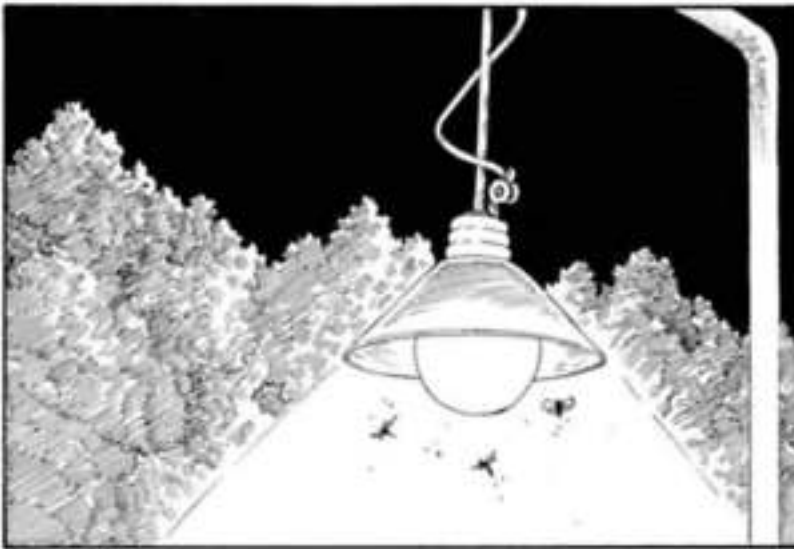






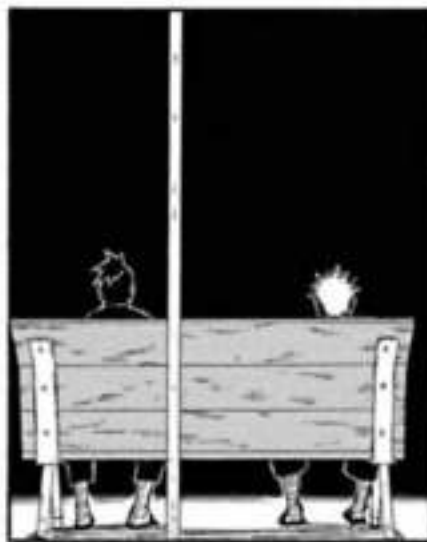


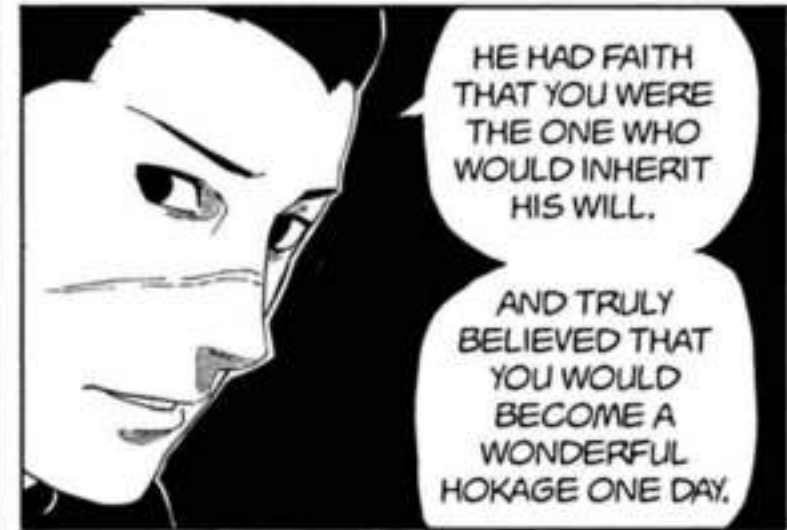
(24-Hour Convenience Store)





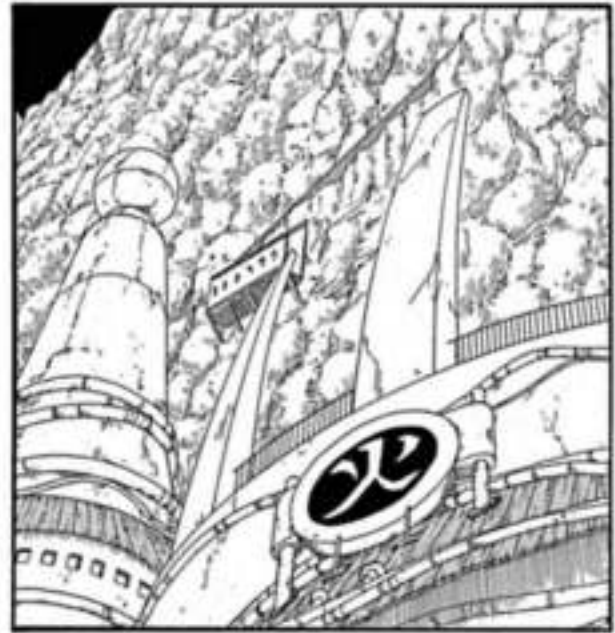






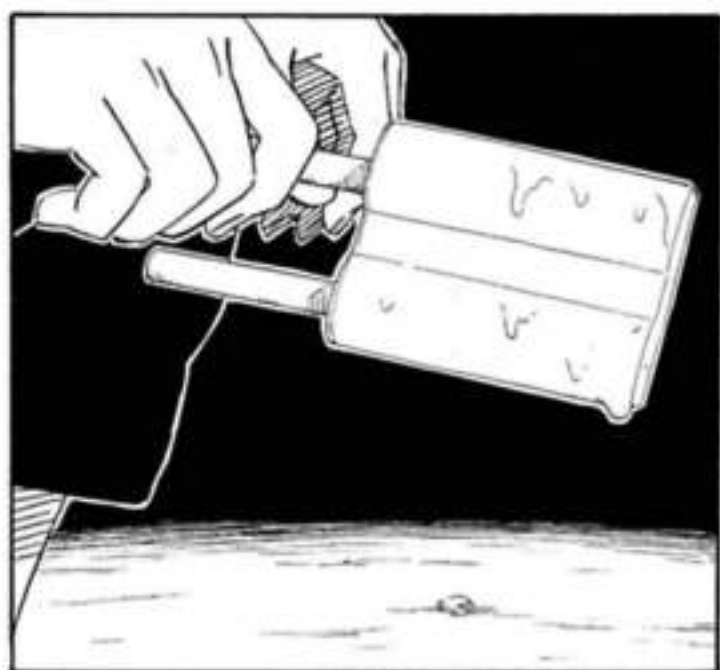












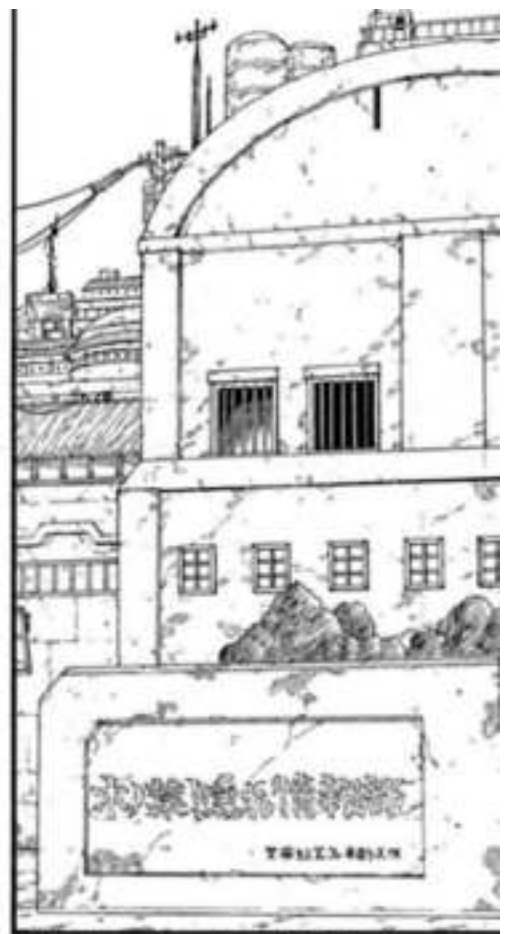




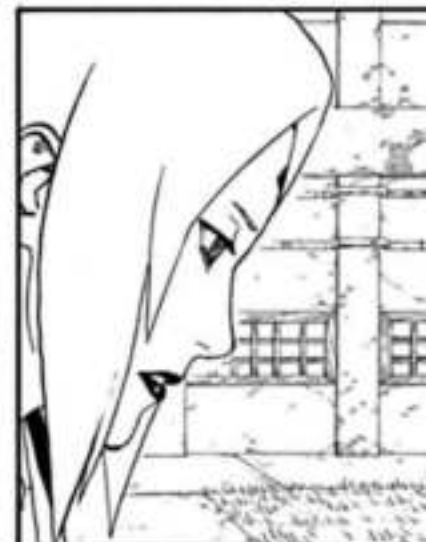
 Number

406:

The  
Key  
to  
the  
Future



(Konohagakure Intel Division)





...N' WITHOUT KNOWIN' THE EXTENT OF THEIR POWERS, NO ONE COULD EVER WIN AGAINST 'EM NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY FOUGHT.

BUT PAIN'S ABILITIES FAR EXCEEDED HIS IMAGINATION...



ON TOP O' THAT, HE COULD'VE GOTTEN AWAY IF HE HAD A' WANTED TO...

...BUT HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE SO THAT HE COULD LEAVE US THIS CODED MESSAGE.



...N' ALMOST MANAGED TO UNCOVER THEIR SECRETS.

NO ONE BUT JIRAIYA-BOY COULD'VE GOTTEN AS FAR...

JIRAIYA-BOY PUSHED HIMSELF BEYOND HIS OWN LIMITS...



BE AS ROUGH AS YOU NEED TO BE. GET IT ALL OUT OF HIM!

I INTEND TO.



HE BEQUEATHED THE FUTURE TO Y'ALL.

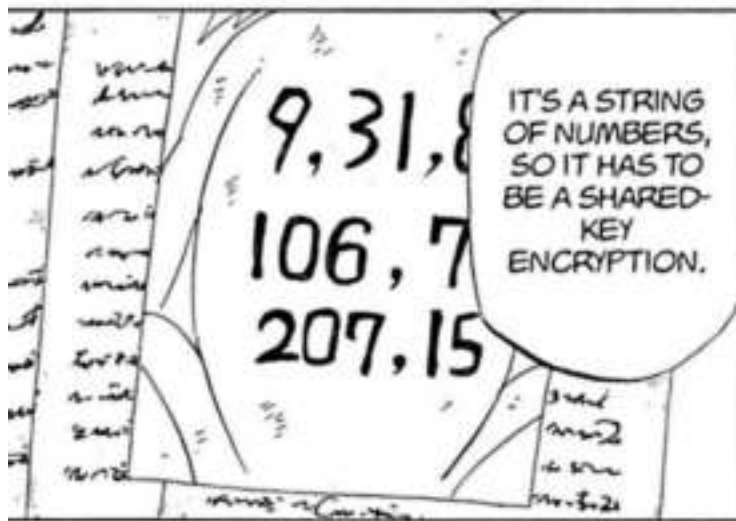




(Autopsy Room 3)

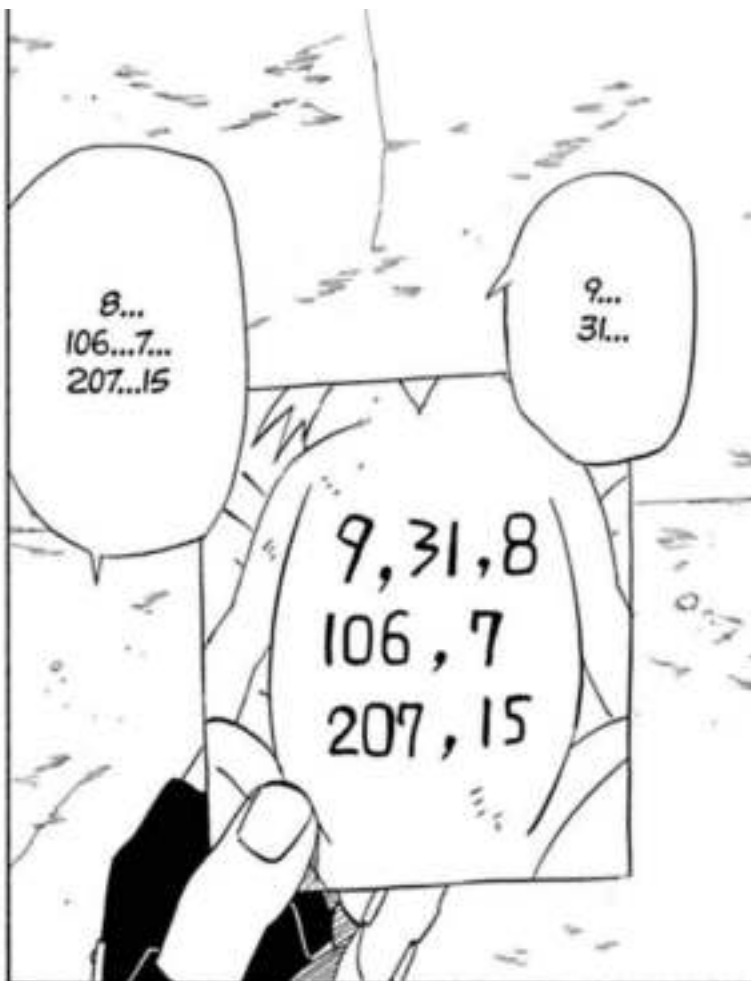






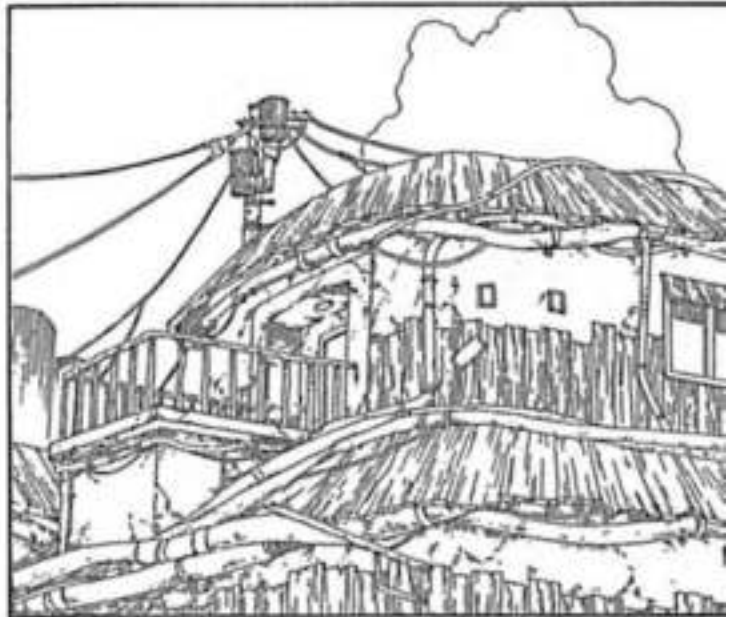




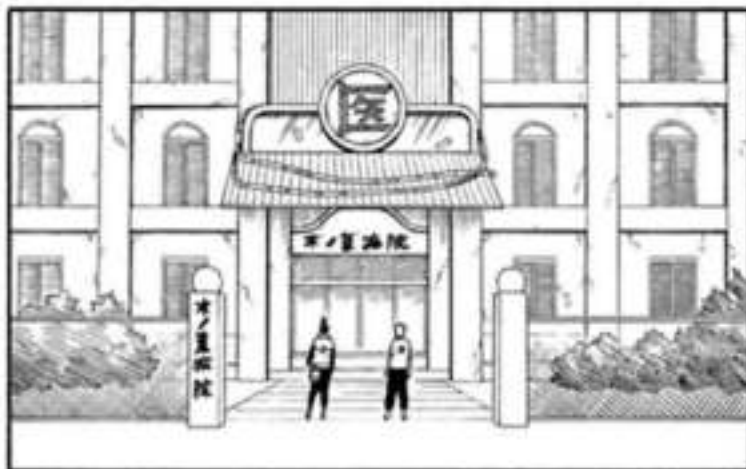












(Konoha Hospital)









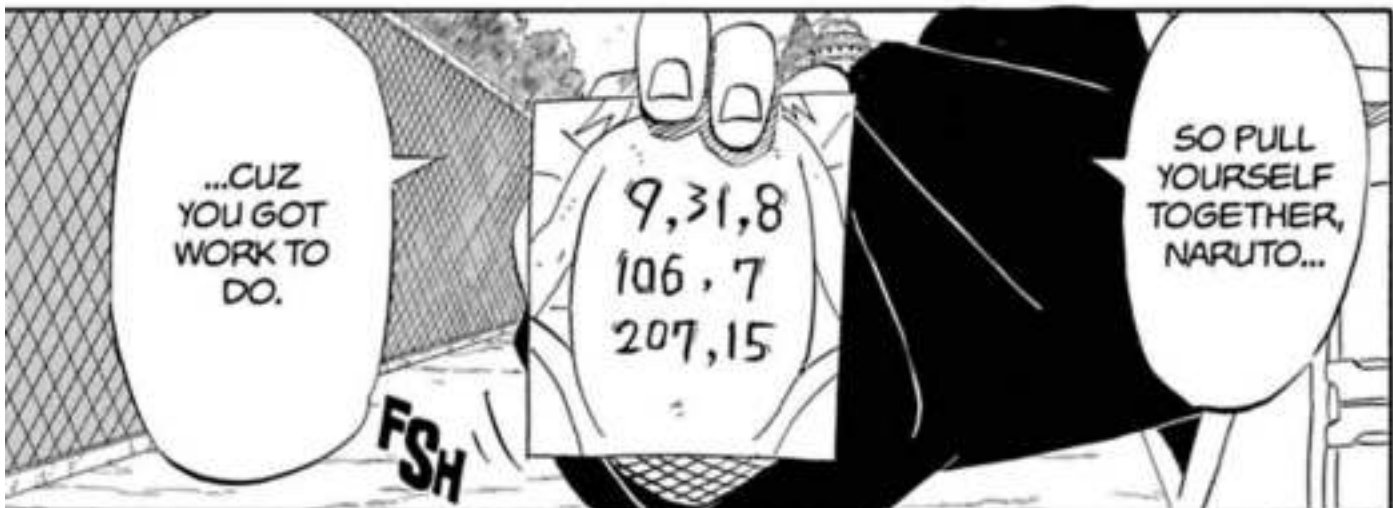
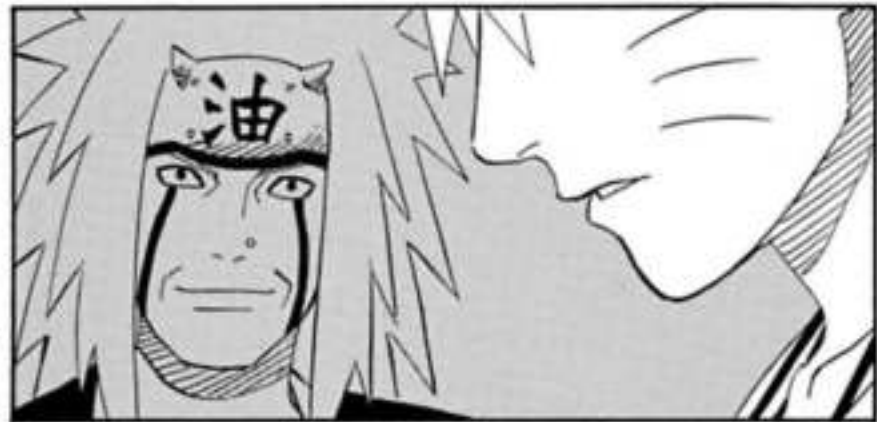
(Konoha Hospital)











**NARUTO**

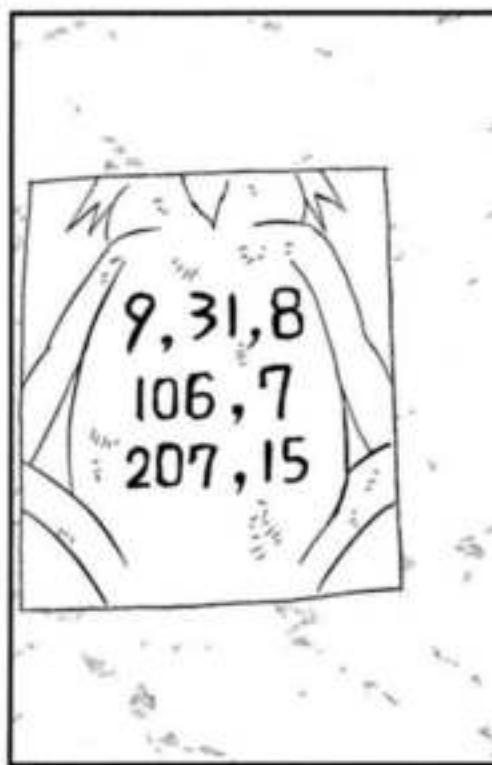


# Number 407: Addressee: Naruto



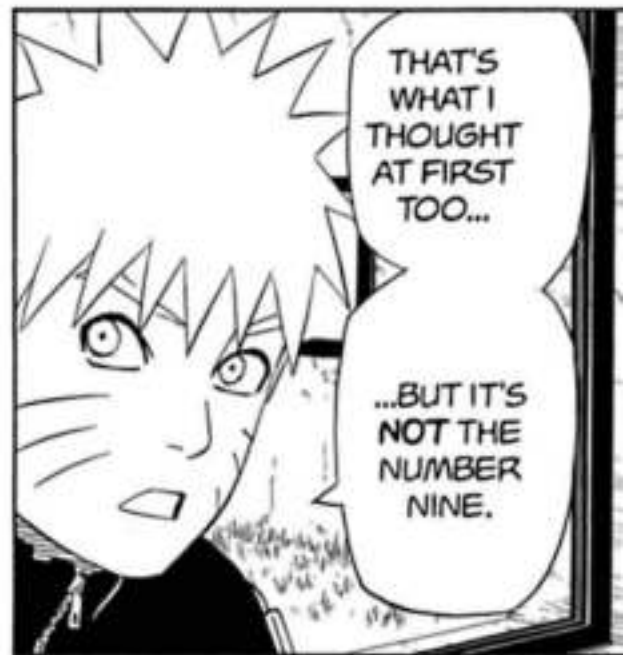
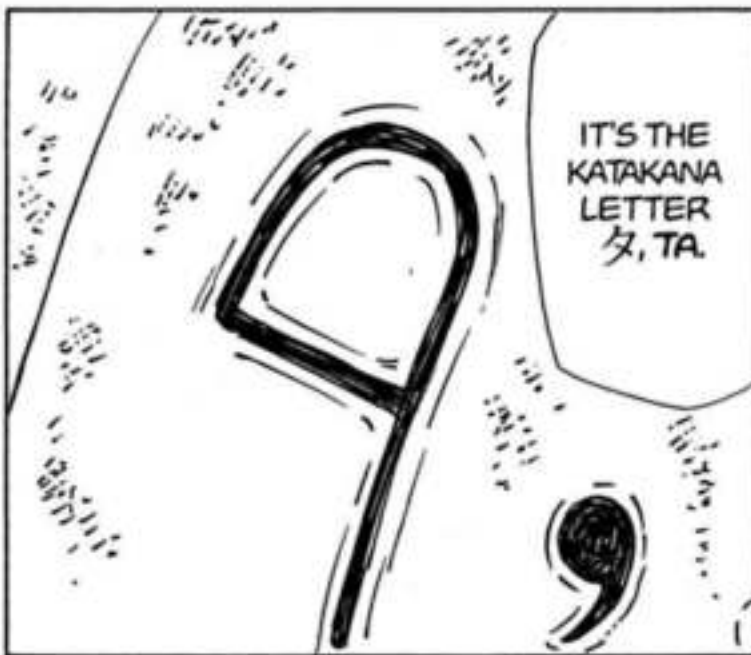


(Cipher Corps)













AND HIS SECOND STROKE WAS ROUNDED...



普通

(Most folks)

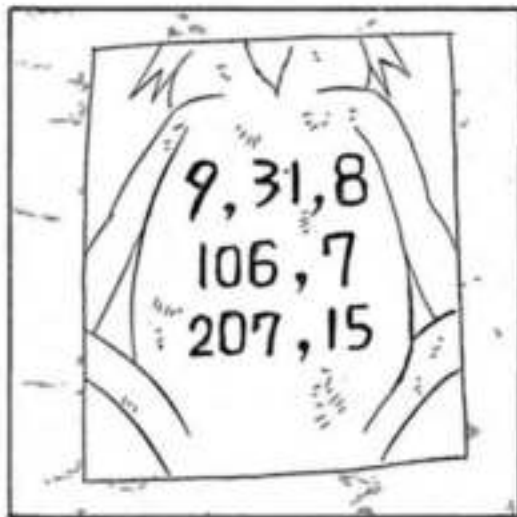


自来也様

(Lord Jiraiya)

WHEN LORD JIRAIYA WROTE THE LETTER タ...

...HE HAD A HABIT OF DRAWING THE FIRST STROKE SHORTER THAN MOST, AND STARTED THE THIRD STROKE FROM THE TIP INSTEAD OF THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRST STROKE.



...RESULTING IN HIS タ LOOKING LIKE A NINE.



自来也様

SQUIK



CUZ JUST CUZ WE KNOW IT'S A TA DOESNT MAKE THE REST ANY CLEARER!

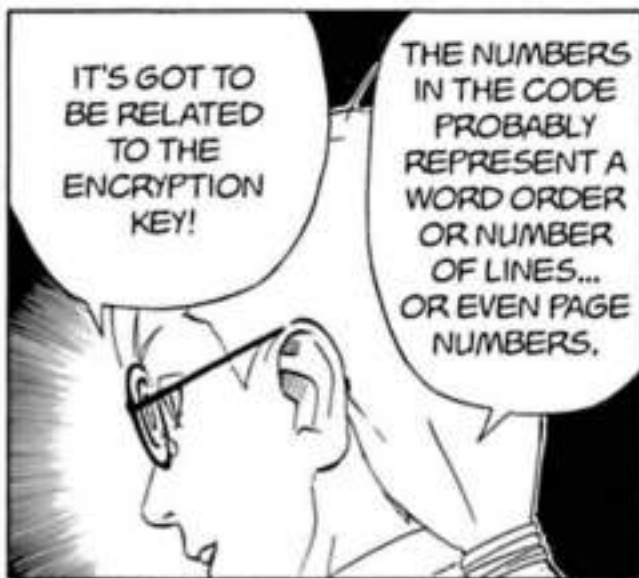
WHY DIDNT YOU MENTION SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING SOONER?



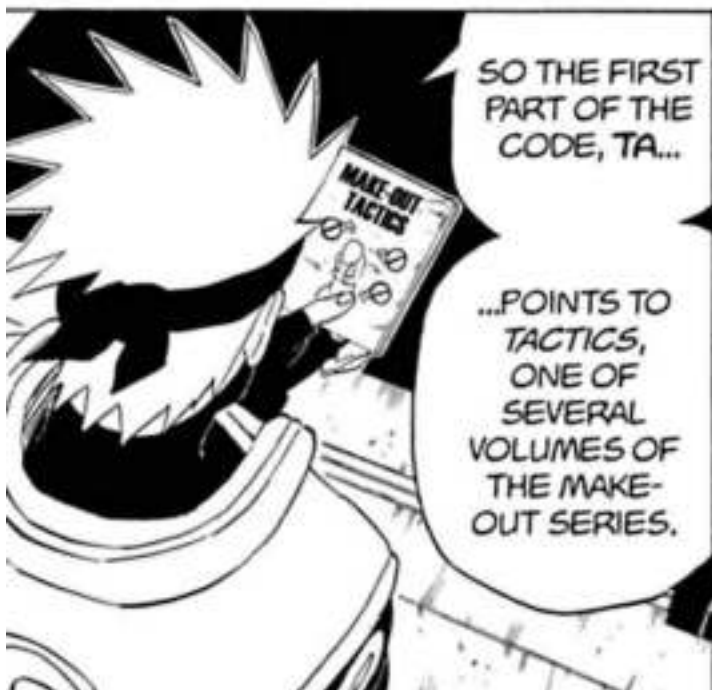
SO THAT WAS THE COMMON LINK...

...BETWEEN LORD JIRAIYA AND NARUTO!















P15 椅子がギンギンと音を立て、い

P207 無理そんなの……それじゃ私の

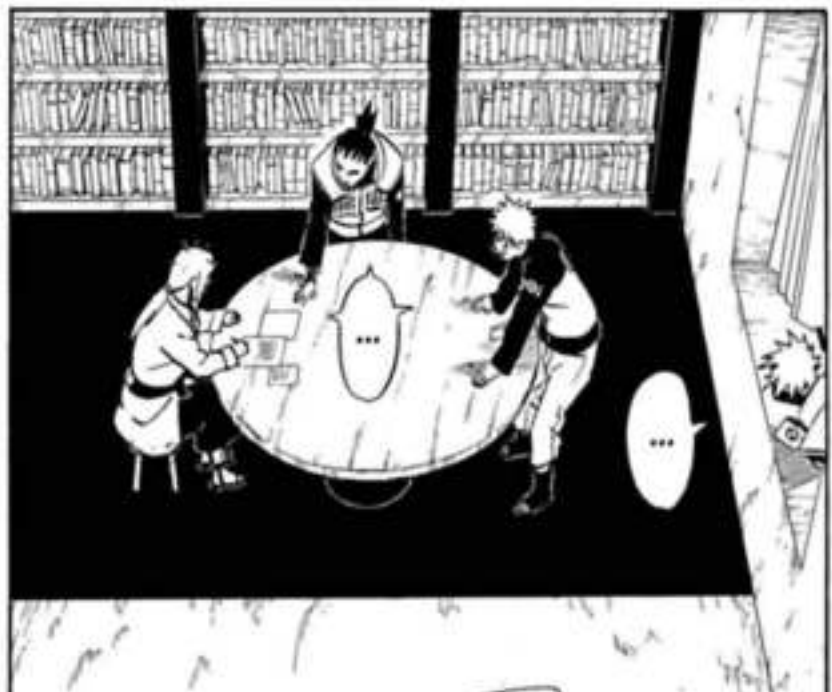
P7 意外に大きいのね、アナタのそ

P106 葉が邪魔だな……もう君という

P8 物々交換と同じだ、それでも君

P31 本当に愛してる  
持ち







SO WE ASK LADY FIFTH TO SUMMON THIS LORD FUKASAKU, RIGHT?



PERHAPS IT WILL MEAN SOMETHING TO HIM, SINCE HE FOUGHT PAIN TOO.

WE OUGHT TO RELAY THIS TO LORD FUKASAKU RIGHT AWAY.



SURE, THAT'D BE GREAT, SHIHO.

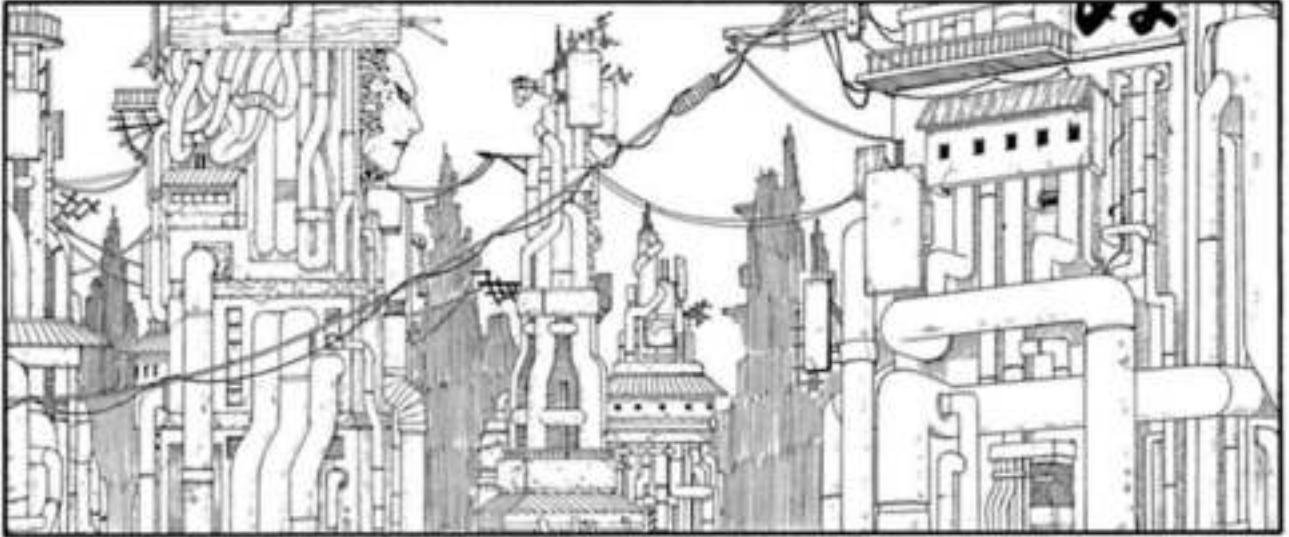
MAY I COME ALONG TOO?



ALL RIGHT!

LET'S GO LET GRANNY KNOW!













 Number

408:

F U K A S A K U S  
P R O P O S I T I O N







A FEARFUL HEART IS MORE LIKELY TO CRACK.



WE OF THE YOTSUKI CLAN...WILL NEVER BETRAY ONE OF OUR OWN!

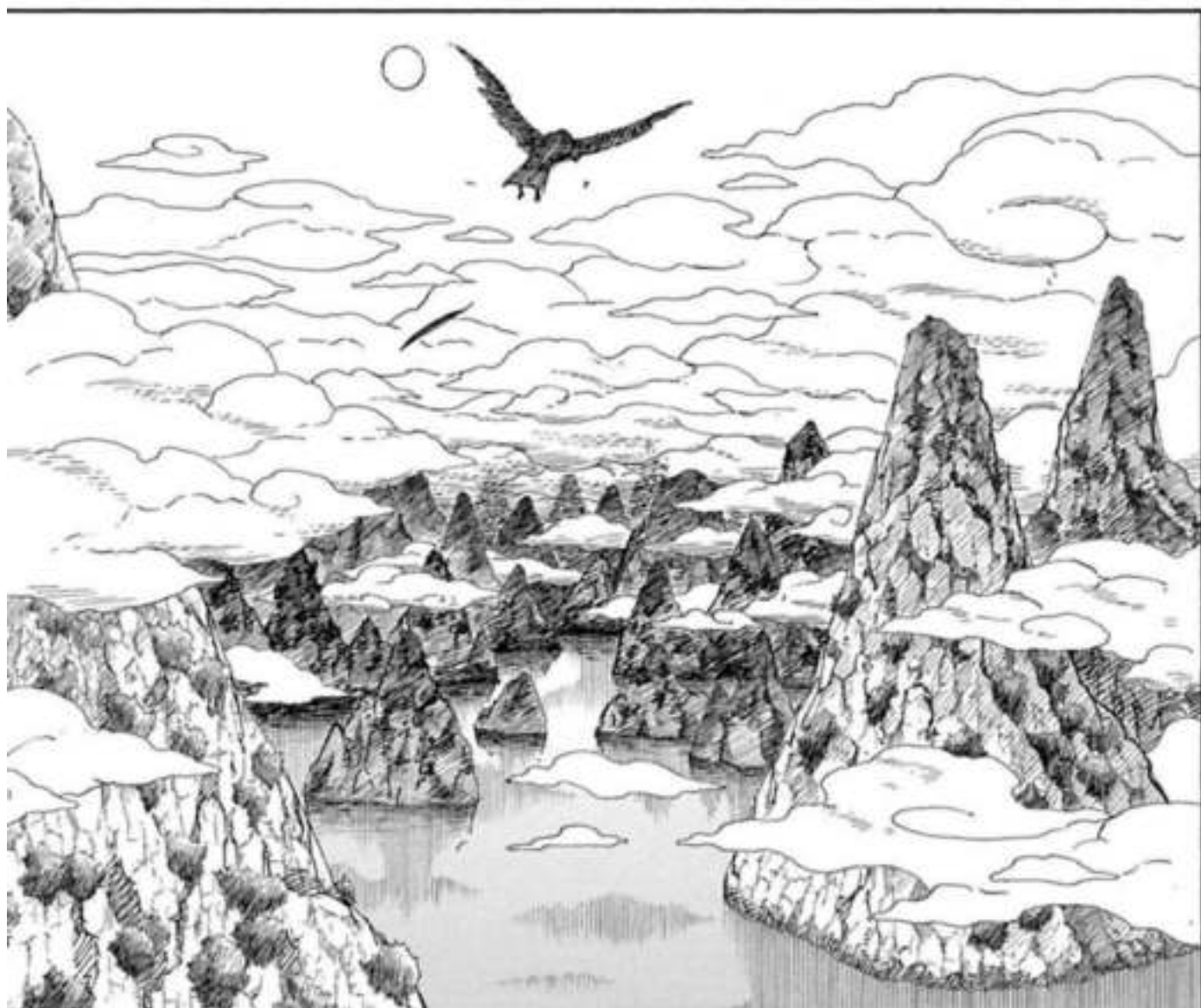












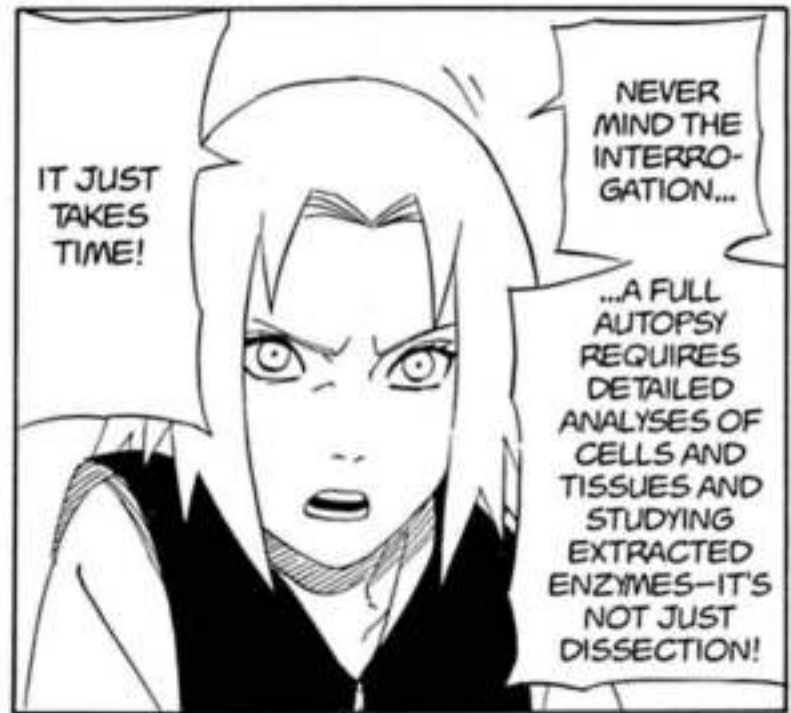


















N' EITHER WAY, YER DEFINITELY NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT PAIN YET.

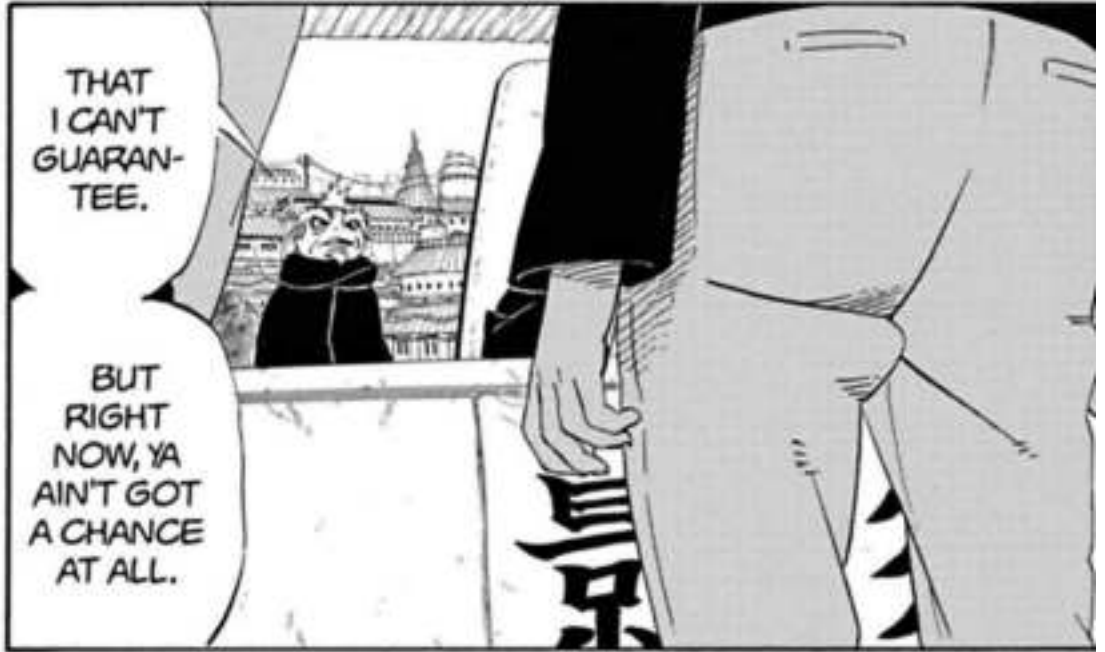


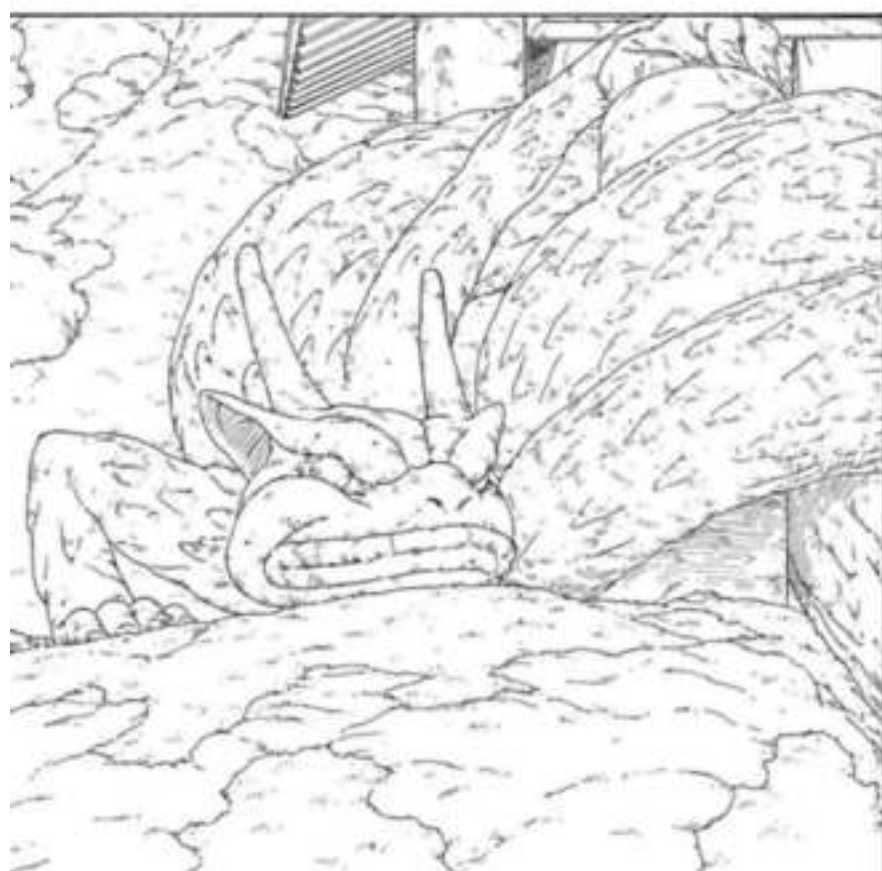
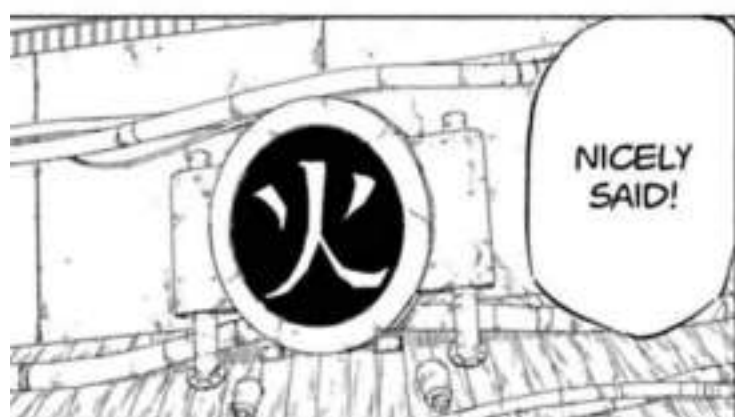
SO... COME ALONG WITH ME.



THE SAME WAY I HAMMERED IT INTO JIRAIYA-BOY, IF IT'S OKAY WIT' YOU.

I'LL TRAIN YA IN SAGE JUTSU AT MOUNT MYOBOKU.









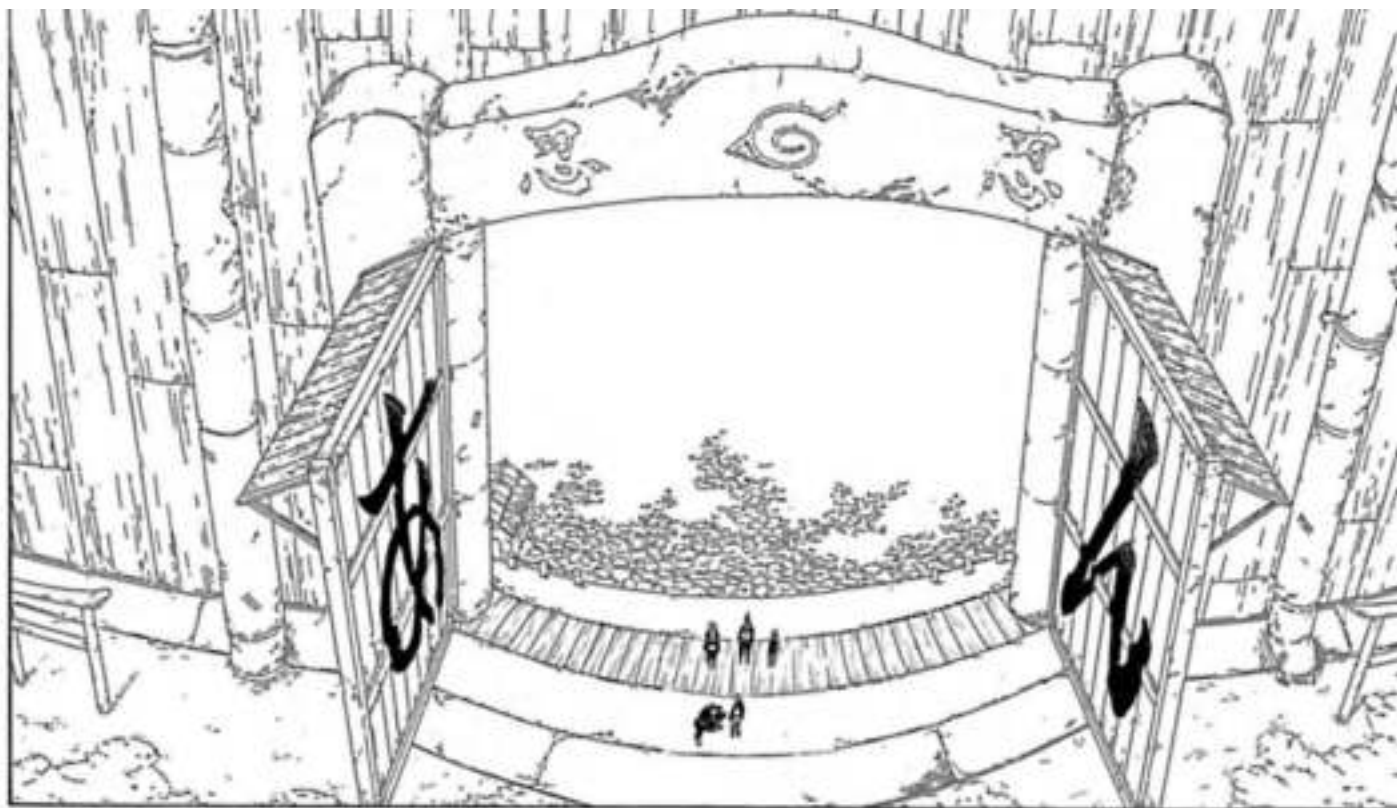


(Storm Cloud Ravine)



**NARUTO**





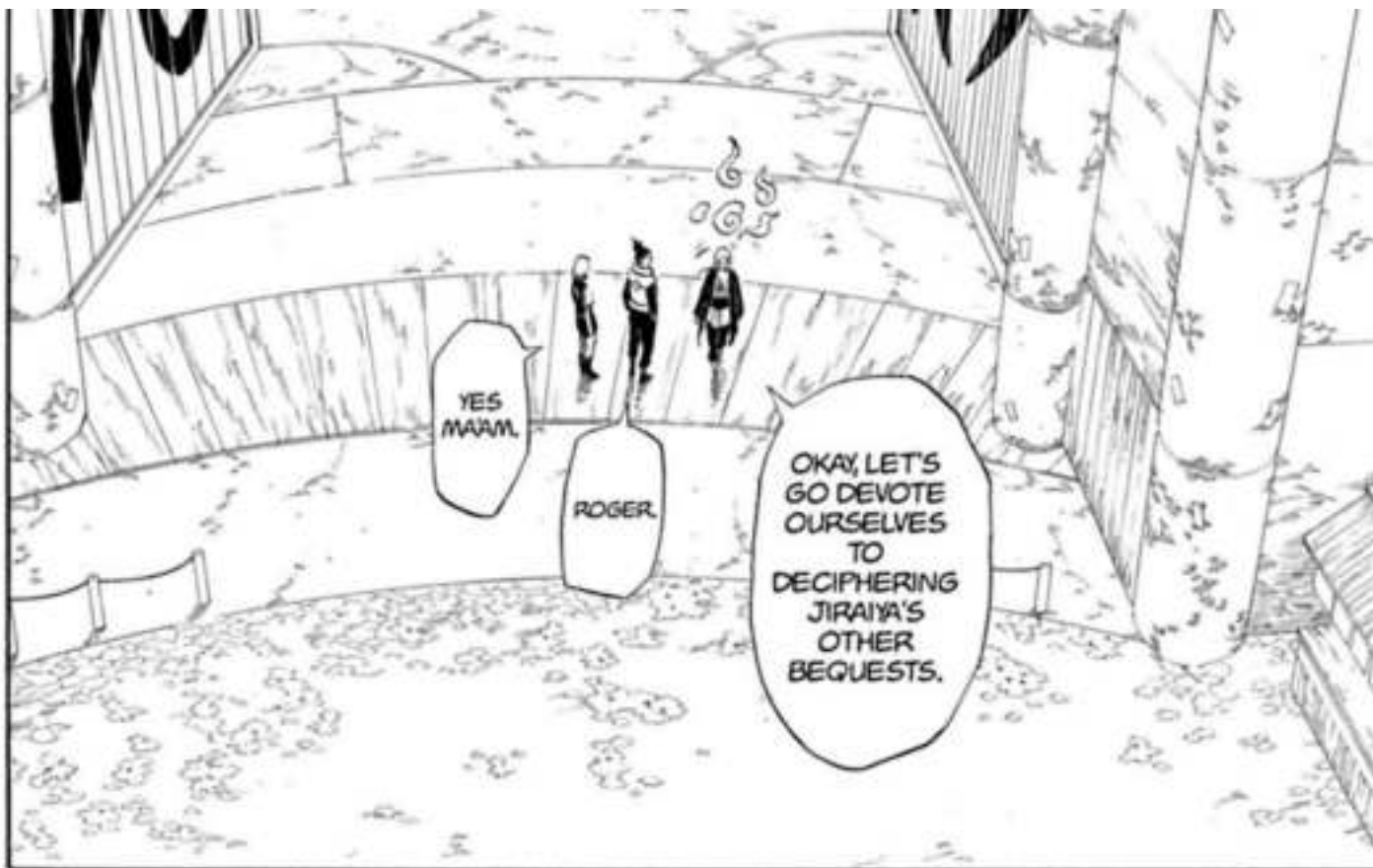






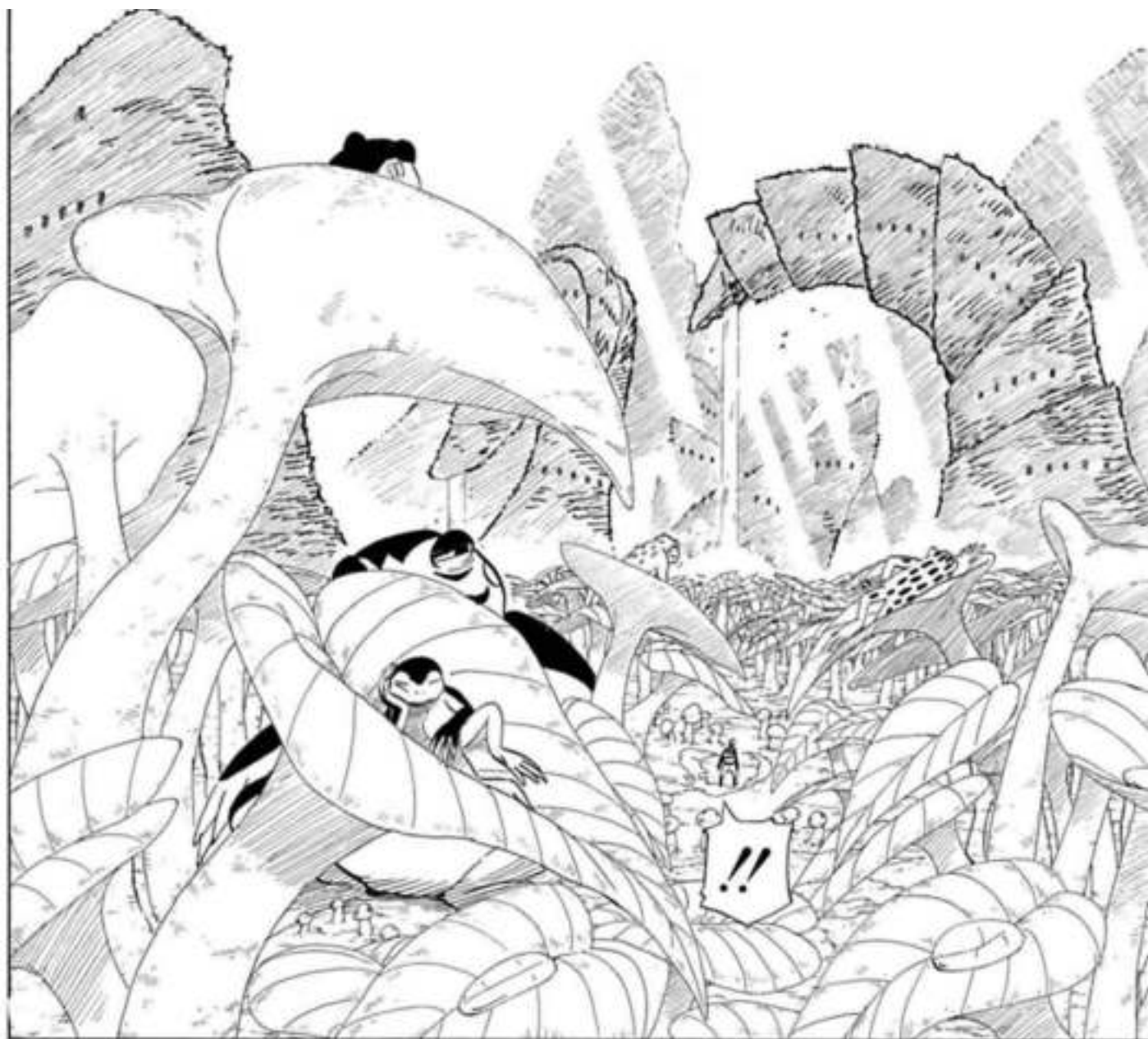


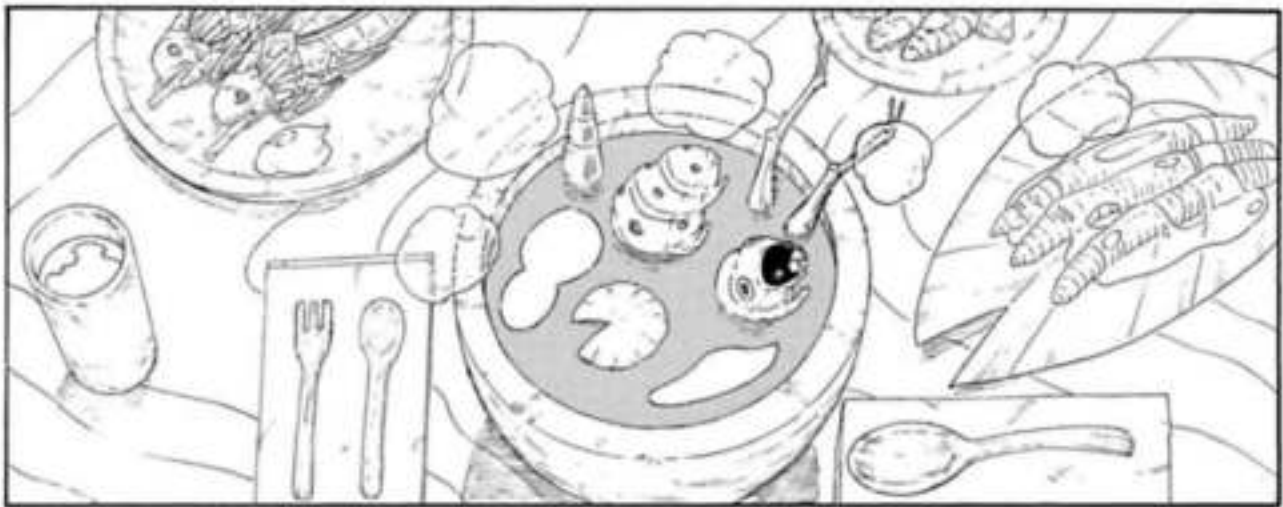




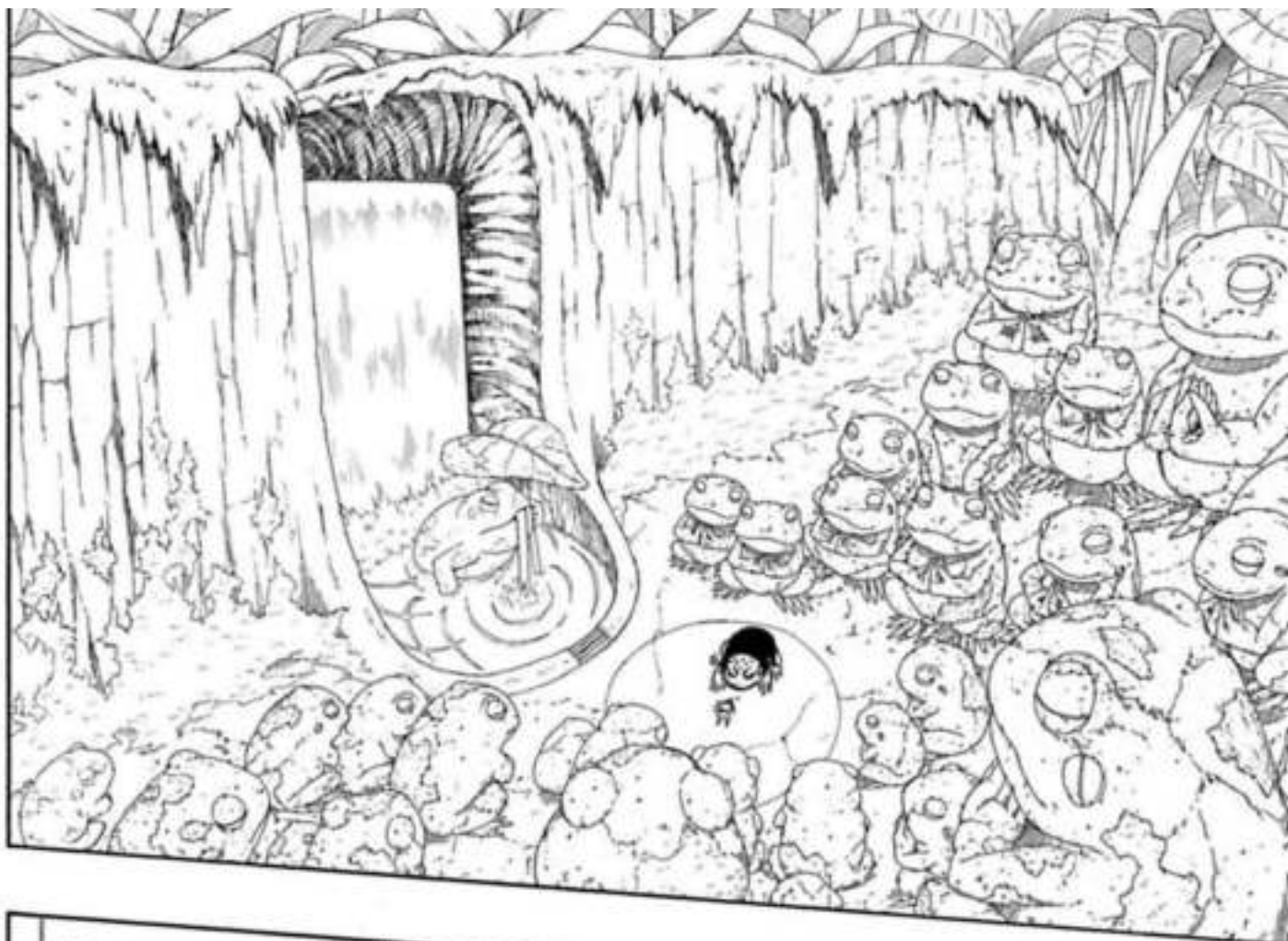
















(Arm: Sage) (Light: Mental) (Dark: Physical) (Darker: Nature)



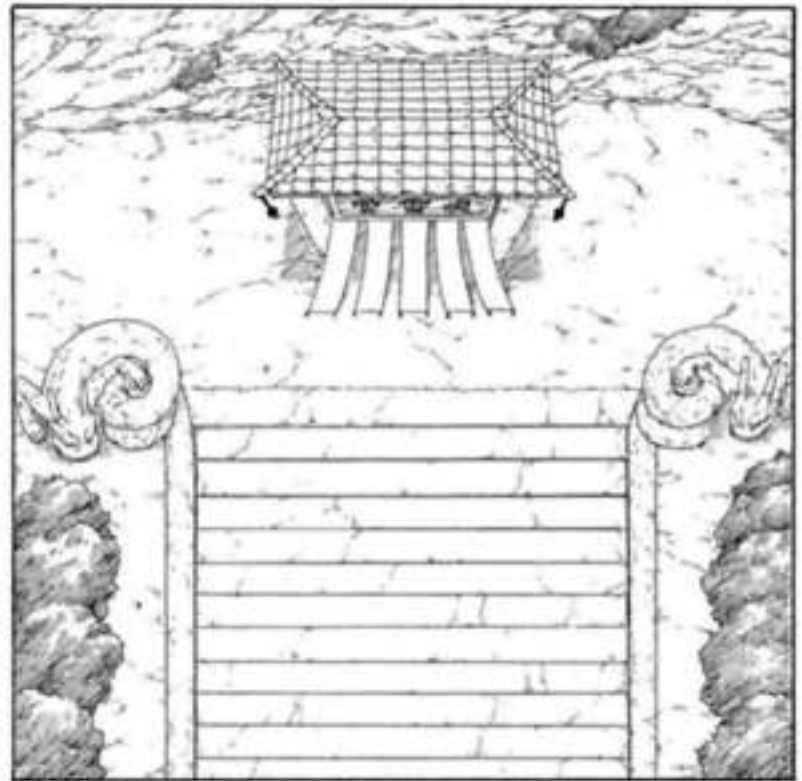














**NARUTO**





Number 410:

# The Battle at Storm Cloud Ravine!!



# NARUTO

-ナルト-











SCRITCH



DON'T  
WORRY.

I STILL  
FEEL HIS  
CHAKRA  
LOUD AND  
CLEAR.



...THE  
JINCHŪRIKI,  
REMEMBER,  
SUIGETSU?

THE  
AKATSUKI TOLD  
US NOT TO  
COMPLETELY  
WIPE OUT...



SHEESH,  
WHAT A  
FLASHY  
DIVERSION.



SO STAND  
BACK AN' STAY  
BACK, OR  
YOU'LL GET  
WHACK, YA  
FOOL.

DA ONLY  
ONE WHO  
GETS TO  
DIG ME IS  
ME, YO.



STEP  
BACK,  
SUIGETSU  
...

SHUP

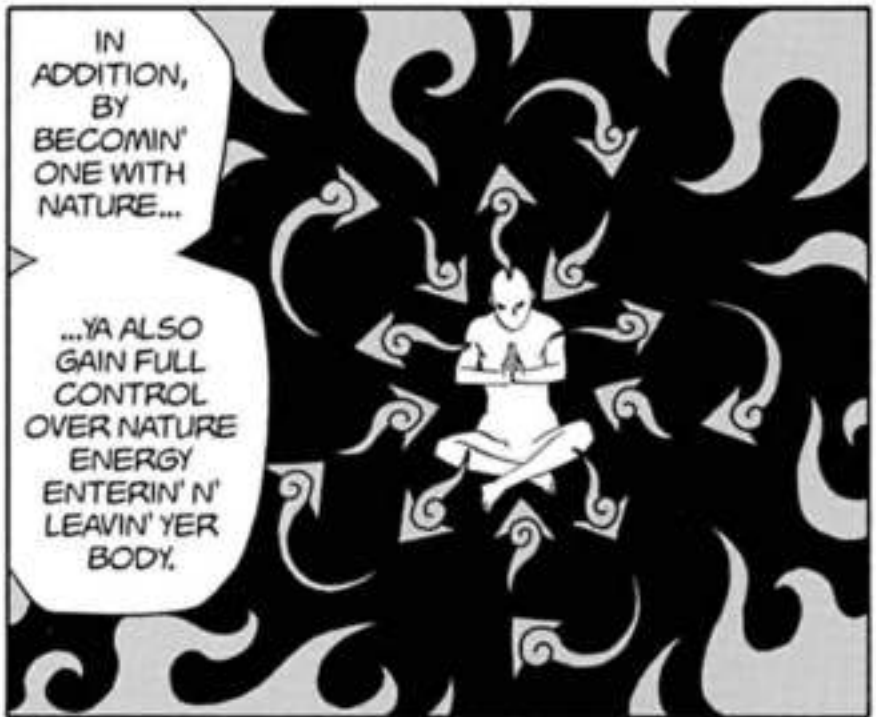


UGH!

FWAP

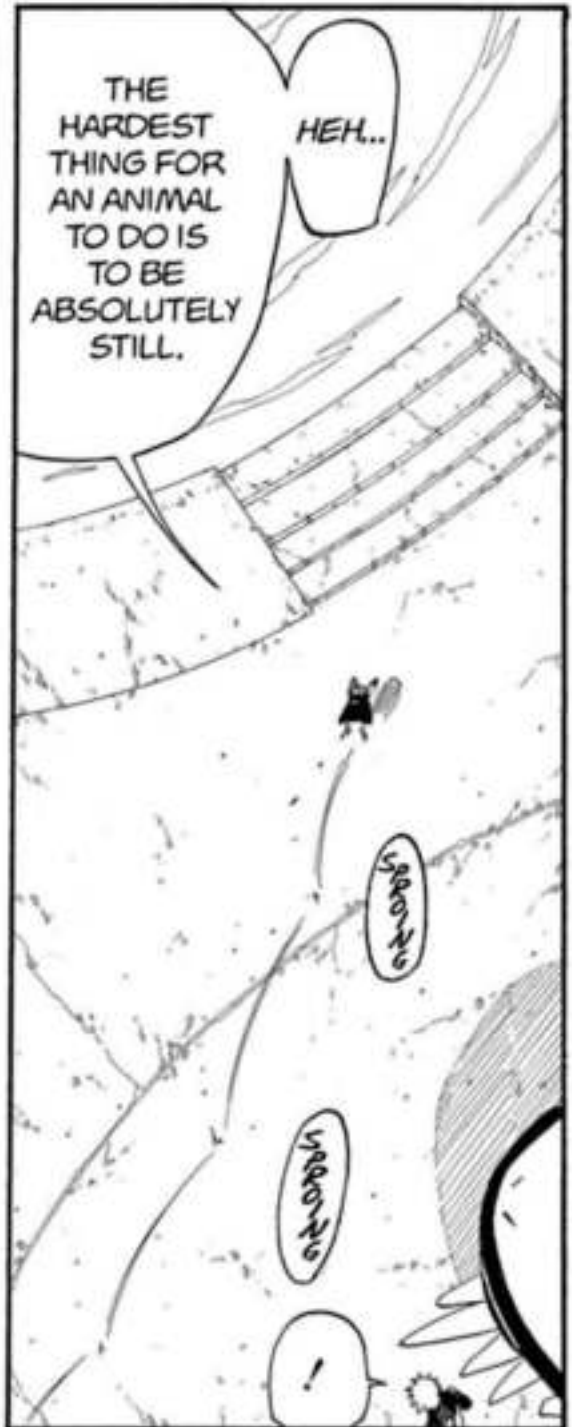
WHORL



















IF A  
NEOPHYTE  
WHO CANNOT  
CONTROL  
NATURE  
ENERGY USES  
IT, THEY START  
TRANSFORMIN'  
INTO A FROG.



!!GOG!!





IF YA DONT  
MANIPULATE  
THOSE THREE  
TOGETHER  
CAREFULLY, YA  
CAN'T PRODUCE  
SAGE JUTSU  
CHAKRA!!



IT'S ALL  
ABOUT  
BALANCE.

BETWEEN  
MENTAL  
ENERGY,  
PHYSICAL  
ENERGY, N'  
NATURE  
ENERGY.

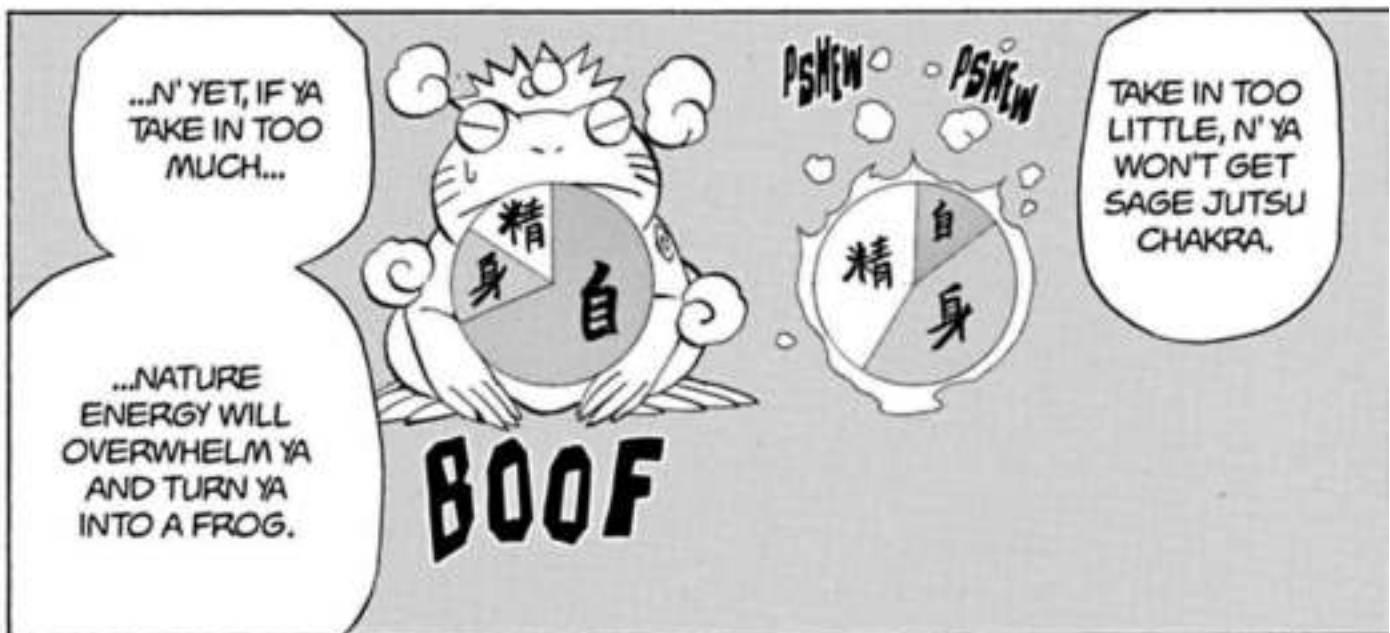


...BUT THEN  
TO COMBINE  
NATURE  
ENERGY  
HARMON-  
IOUSLY FROM  
OUTSIDE IS  
THE DIFFICULT  
PART.

IT'S EASY FOR  
YA TO BALANCE  
MENTAL ENERGY  
N' PHYSICAL  
ENERGY  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE USED TO  
DOIN' IT FOR  
REGULAR  
NINJUTSU  
CHAKRA...



...  
BALANCE,  
HUH...



...N' YET, IF YA  
TAKE IN TOO  
MUCH...

...NATURE  
ENERGY WILL  
OVERWHELM YA  
AND TURN YA  
INTO A FROG.

**BOOF**

PSHEW PSHEW

TAKE IN TOO  
LITTLE, N' YA  
WON'T GET  
SAGE JUTSU  
CHAKRA.









THIS BATON IS A TOOL THAT BEATS NATURE ENERGY OUT OF ONE'S BODY.

WELL... DON'T FRET TOO MUCH... I'LL BE RIGHT AT YER SIDE.



ALL OF THEM...?



...



IF YA START TRANSFORMIN' INTO A FROG, NARUTO-BOY, I'LL BEAT YA THOROUGHLY TO REVERSE IT.



AND HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST AT IT.

WHEN HE MANIPULATED SAGE JUTSU CHAKRA, JIRAIYA-BOY ALWAYS ACQUIRED SOME FROG FEATURES.



...EVEN JIRAIYA-BOY WASN'T ABLE TO COMPLETELY MASTER THIS.

SPEAKIN' TRUTHFULLY...





SO BEFORE YOU GET ALL DISINTEGRATED...  
**OWW.**

YEAH, THIS BATTLE Y'ALL INITIATED, BUT I'LL LEAVE YA HUMILIATED



EIGHT TAILS, THAT BE ME, DA RAPPIN' KILLER BEE!

FA SHOW!

YO, MY POWER'S ALL A-FLASH, WITH SOME STILL LEFT IN MY STASH







Number  
411:

FEED THE  
HORSES & SHEEP!

















































SHUNK

SHUNK

SHUNK

SHUNK



THEN I  
STING YA  
LIKE A  
KILLA'  
BEE



**NARUTO**





















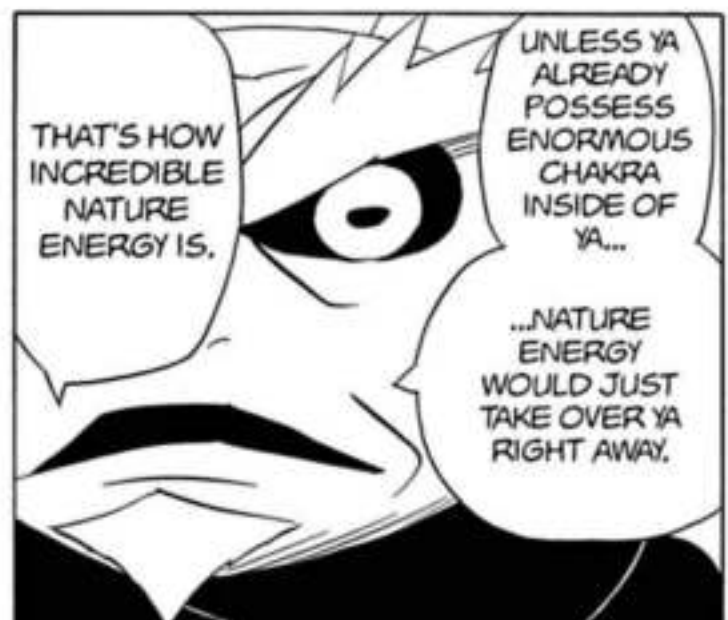












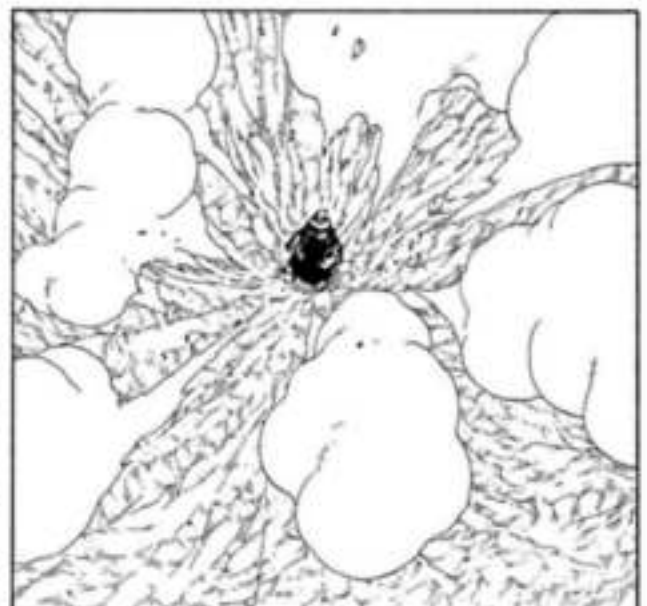
















CAN'T BE HELPED. HERE COMES DA EIGHTH!

SWSH



!!!



TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOLUME 45!



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