

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

49



岸本 齊史

Recently, because I get lonely when I am working alone, I keep movies playing continuously while I work. I'll occasionally glance at the movie while focusing on work, but then I'll suddenly realize that I'm focused on the movie and just occasionally scribbling on the paper. It's especially bad when it comes to trilogies!

Seriously... (beads of sweat)

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2010

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. 49
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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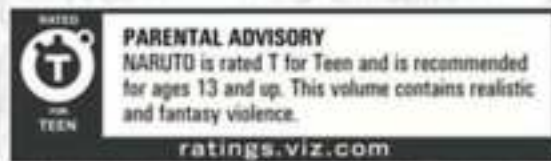
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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION


NARUTO



VOL. 49

THE GOKAGE-SUMMIT
COMMENCES

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



Jugo
重吾



Karin
香燐



Suigetsu
水月



Zetsu
ゼツ



Itachi
イタチ



Madara
マダラ



Raikage
雷影



Gaara
我爱罗



Danzo
ダンゾウ

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 grows up and engages in fierce battles against the tailed beast-targeting Akatsuki. Elsewhere, after winning the heroic battle against Itachi and learning his older brother's true intentions, Sasuke allies with the Akatsuki and sets out to destroy Konoha!

Thanks to Naruto's actions, the crisis of the village's destruction comes to an end, but Danzo of the Black Ops is appointed Sixth Hokage in Tsunade's place. Amidst all this, the Raikage's summons goes out and a Gokage Summit is set to begin!



NARUTO

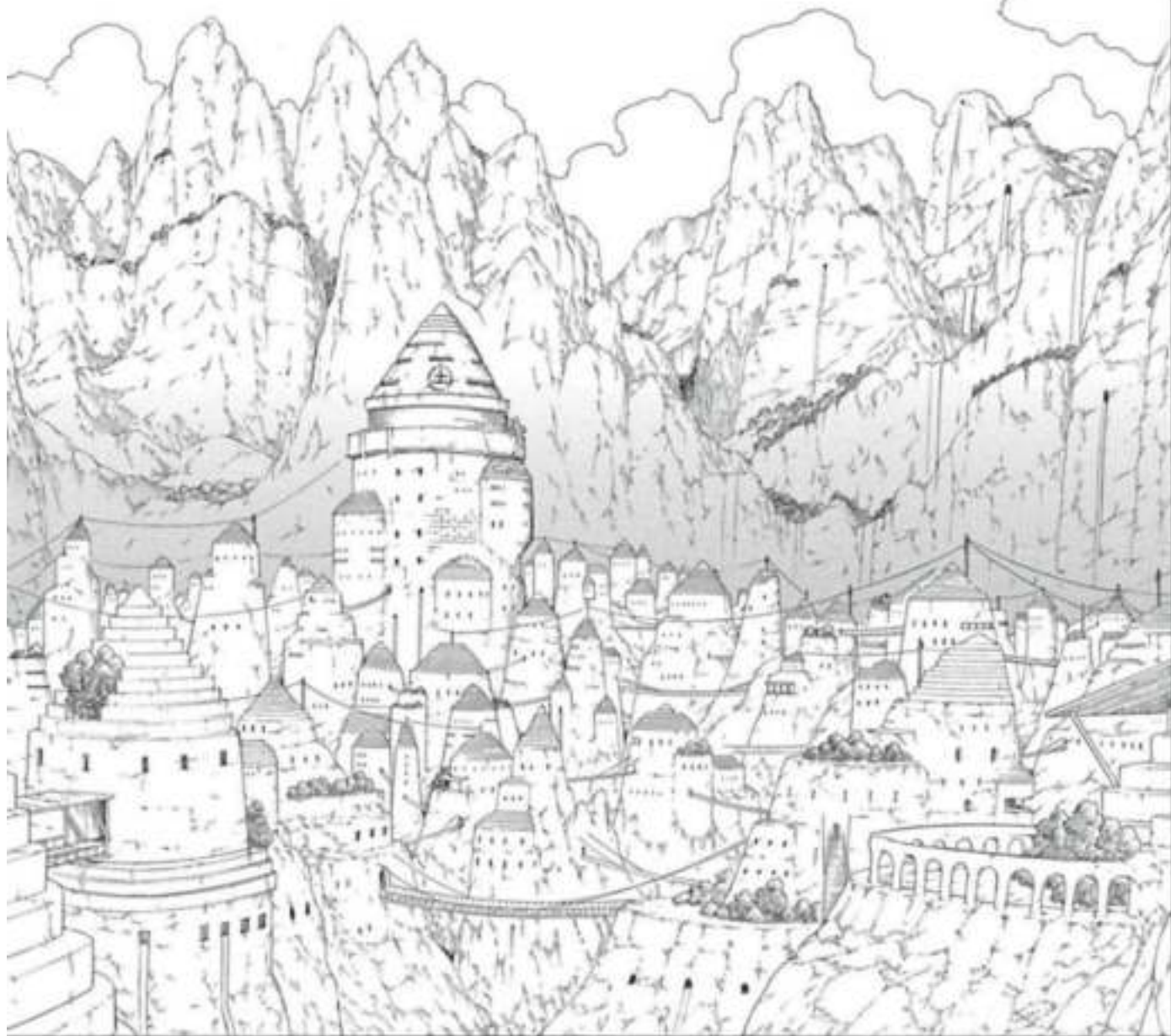
VOL. 49
THE GOKAGE SUMMIT
COMMENCES

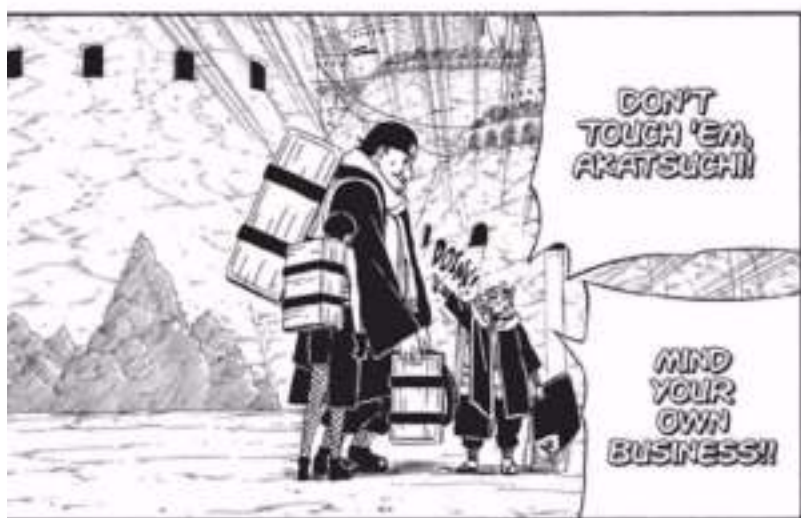
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 Number 454: Enter the Gokage...!!







WELL?
WANNA
SEND
SOMEONE
ELSE?

AAAA-
ARGH
!!!
MY
HIP!!!



I AM
TSUCHIKAGE
OHNOKI,
ONCE
FEARED AS
THE GREAT
FENCE
SITTER OF
IWAGAKURE
!!

F-FOOL!
WHO
DO YOU
THINK
I AM?!



NOW
LET'S
GET
GOING.

VERY
WELL.
CARRY
YOUR OWN
PACKS
IF YOU
WISH.

TMP

?



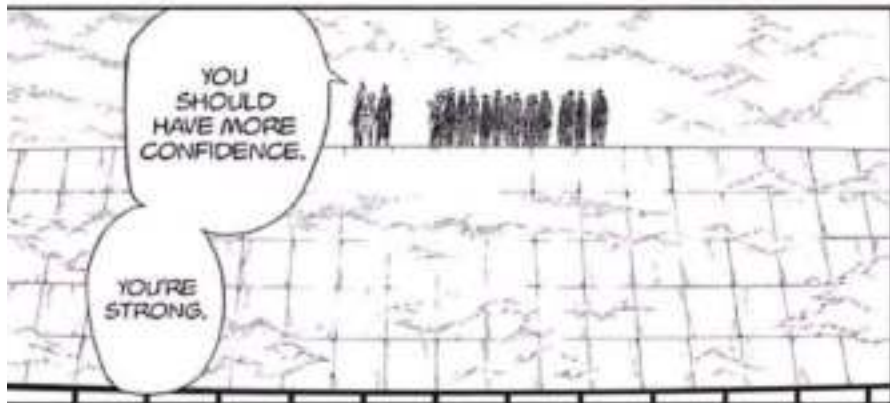
HUMPH!
I SHALL
CARRY
MY OWN
PACKS!!



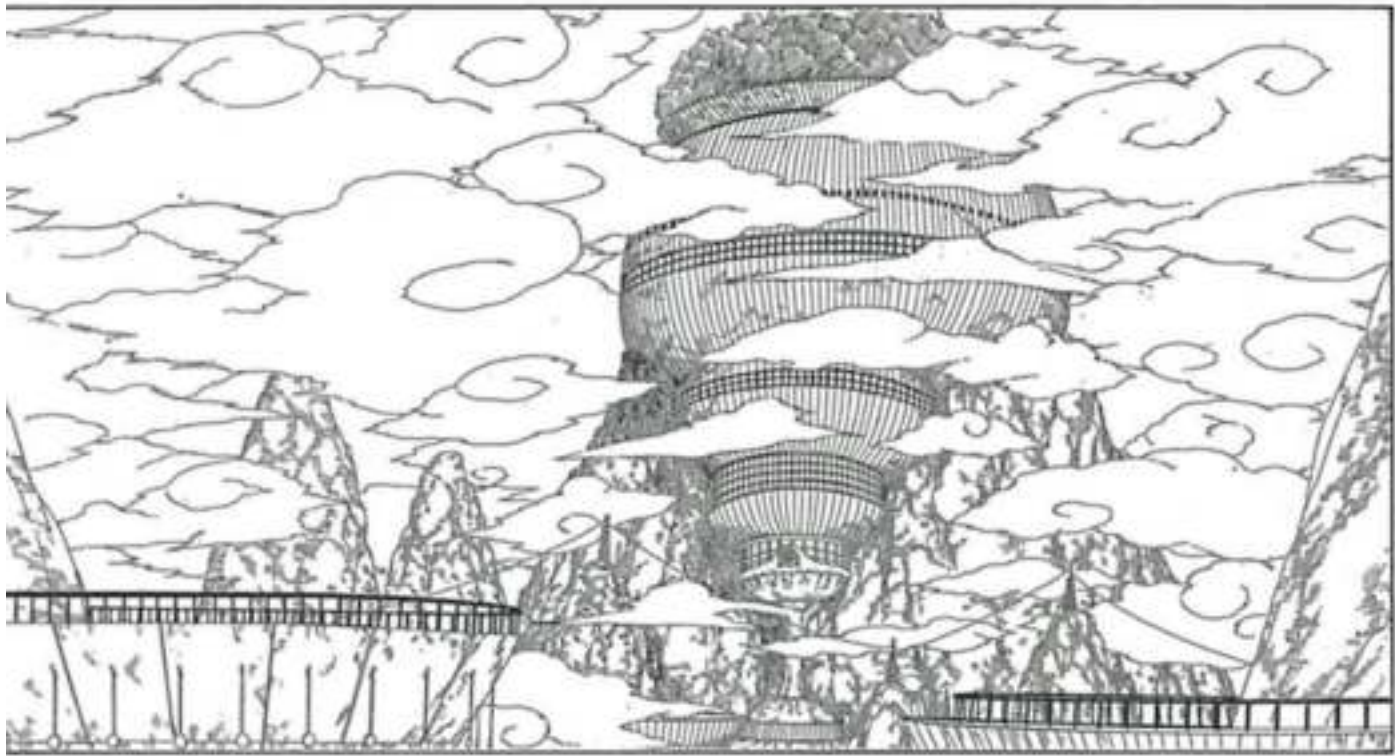
GAH...
STUBBORN
GEEZER!

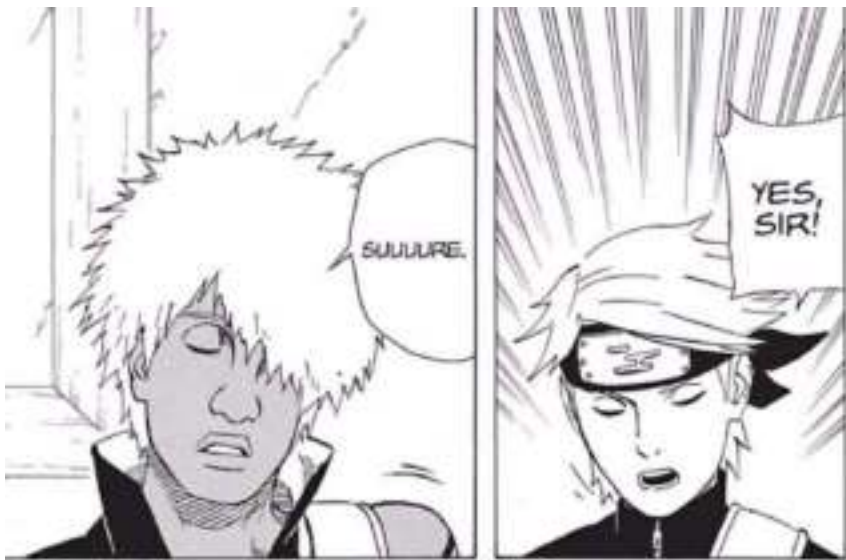
FSH

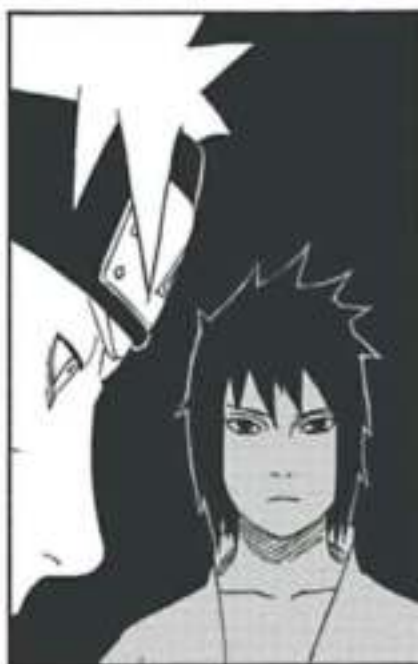






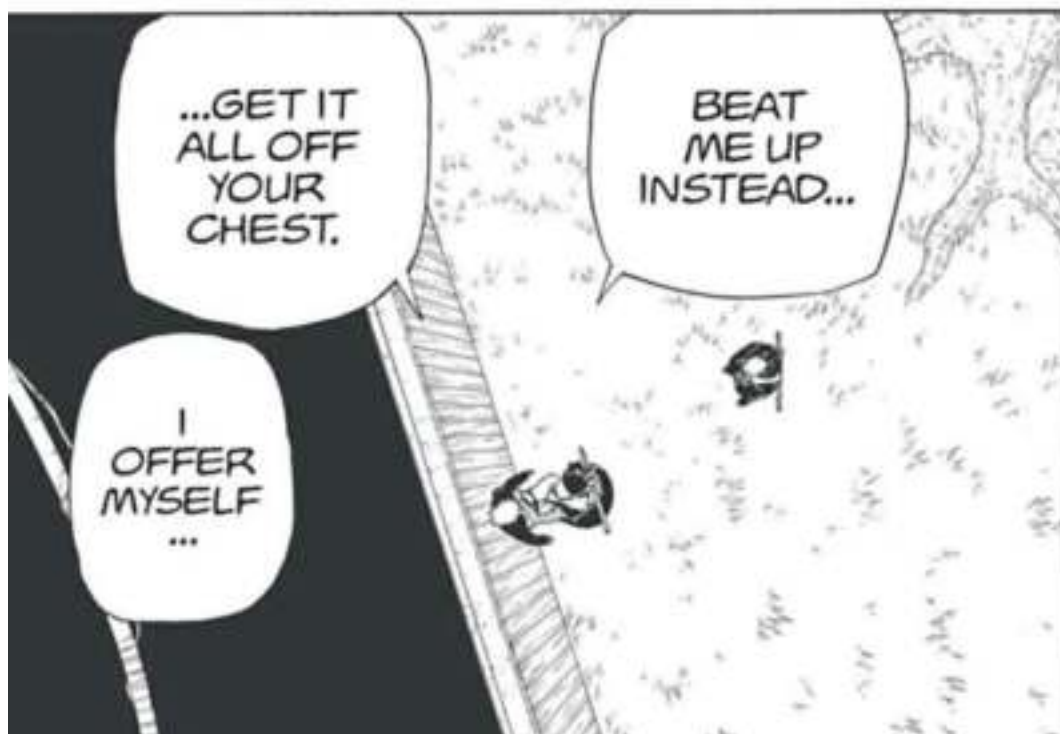




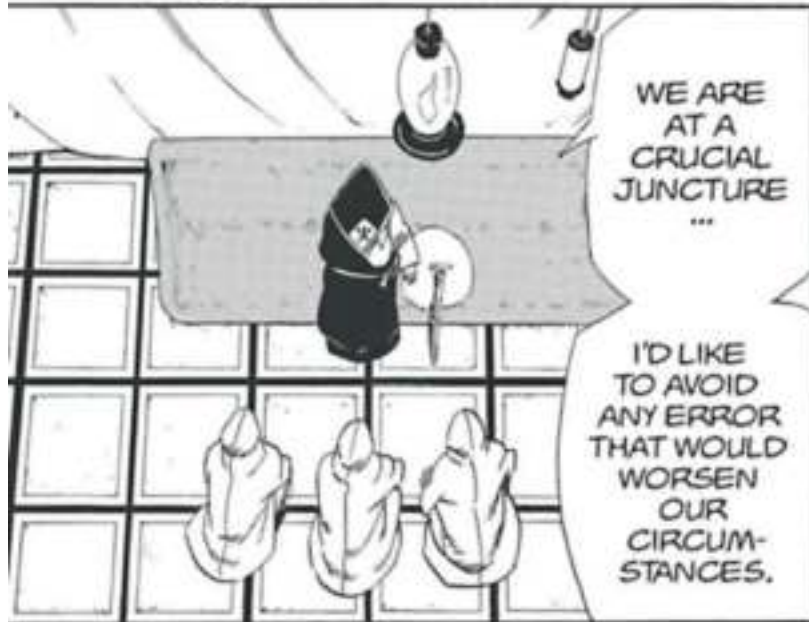












WE ARE AT A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE ...

I'D LIKE TO AVOID ANY ERROR THAT WOULD WORSEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.



I'VE SENT TWO OF MY BEST, DAJIM AND TERA, AFTER ANKO.

...DO WE MOVE TO ELIMINATE ANKO?



...WE MUST OBTAIN IT.

KABUTO POSSESSES ALL OF OROCHIMARU'S HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION DATA...



THAT ROGUE... HE MAY KNOW OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH OROCHIMARU...

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE PERSONNEL.

AND MAKE CAPTURING KABUTO A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN ANKO.

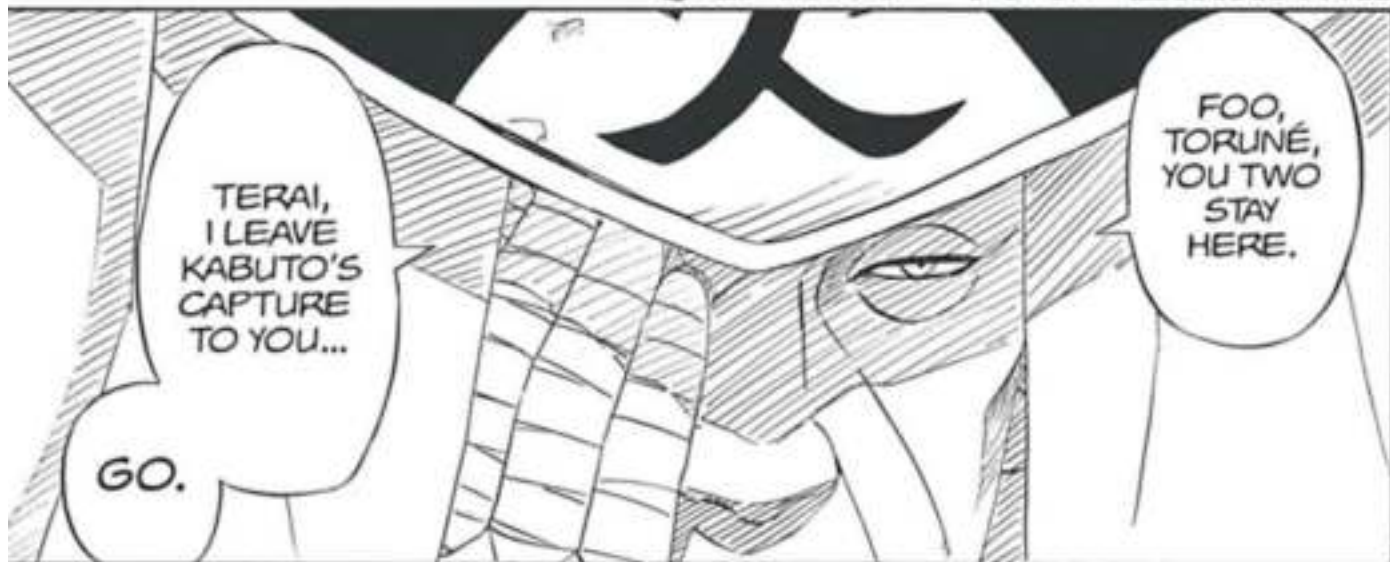


I AM SURE IT WILL BE MOST USEFUL IN REGARDS TO MY RIGHT EYE AND ARM.





Number 455: Links...!!



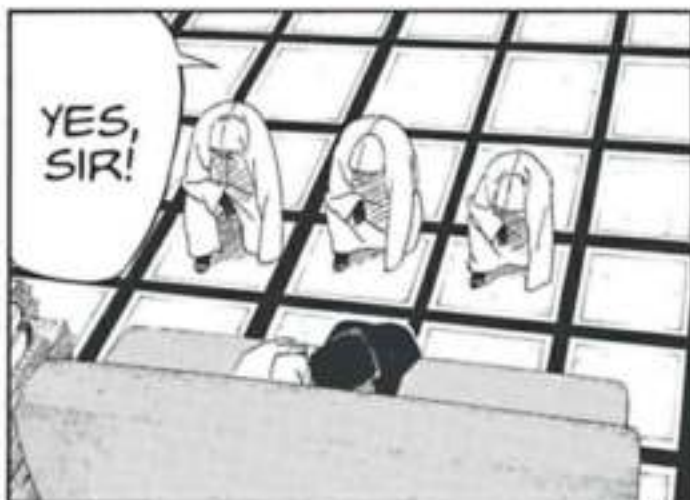
TERAI,
I LEAVE
KABUTO'S
CAPTURE
TO YOU...

FOO,
TORUNÉ,
YOU TWO
STAY
HERE.

GO.



SWSH



YES,
SIR!



SSH

WAP



FSH

KLAK

I HAVE DECIDED
THAT THOSE TWO
SHALL BE YOU,
WHO ARE THE
TWO BEST EVEN
AMONG THE
FOUNDATION.

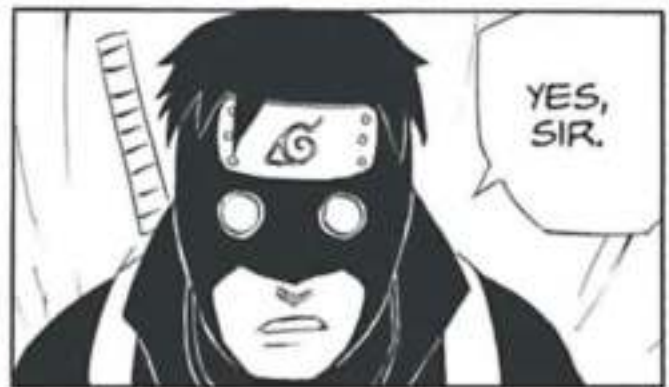
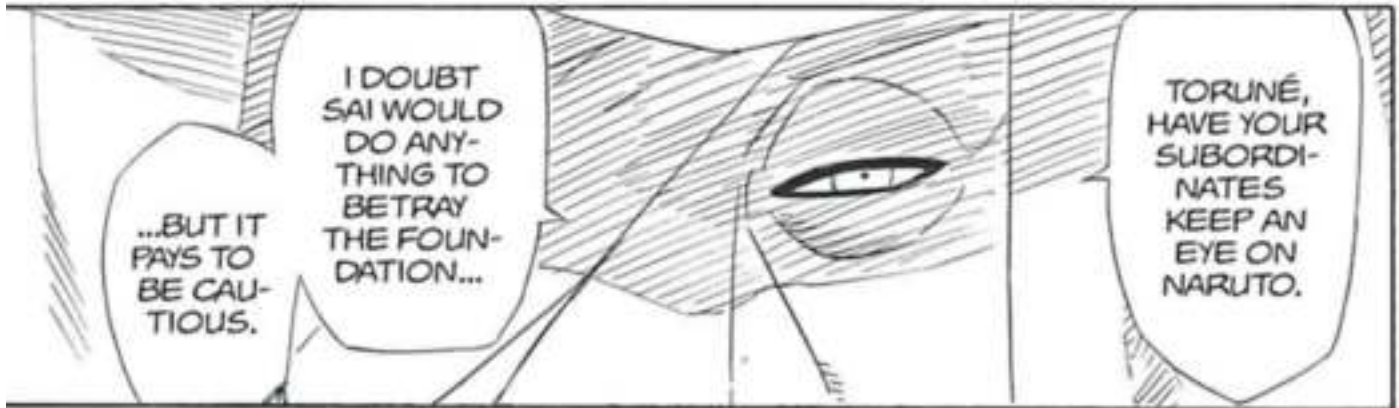
MASKS
ARE
FORBIDDEN.
REMOVE
THEM.

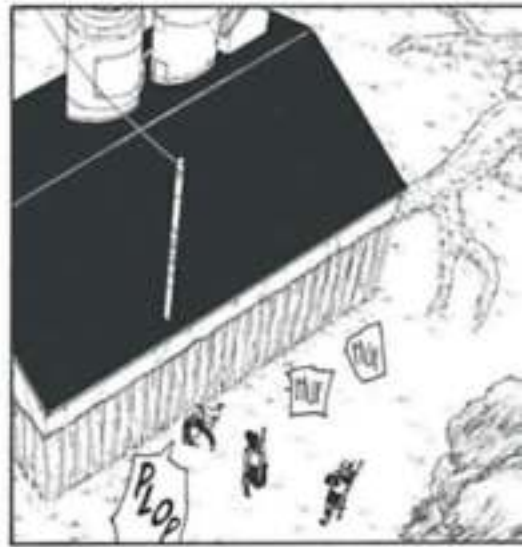


NOW...
I MUST
HEAD OUT
TO THE
GOKAGE
SUMMIT.

EXCEPT
IN SPECIAL
CASES,
WE ARE ONLY
PERMITTED
TO BRING A
MAXIMUM OF
TWO RETAIN-
ERS TO THE
SUMMIT.











...THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GET BEAT UP ON SASUKE'S BEHALF.

NARUTO ...



...AND THAT'S A BOND THAT CAN NEVER BE BROKEN. I'M DOING THIS, BECAUSE SASUKE IS MY FRIEND.



...BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I ALSO REALLY ENJOYED BEING AROUND HIM. WHEN I FIRST MET SASUKE, I TOTALLY HATED HIM!!



...IT'S MY CHOICE...

...SHUT UP...



IF YOU INTERFERE, I'LL PUMMEL YOU TOO, EH!



...IF I WERE YOU...



SASUKE... KEEPS CAUSING YOU SO MUCH PAIN.

UGH...

FSH





OH!
CAPTAIN
SAMUI.

OMOI,
KARUI.
HOW GOES
THE INTEL-
GATHERING?

TMP



HE WON'T
SELL OUT
SASUKE
NO MATTER
WHAT YOU
DO TO HIM.

HE'S THE
TYPE THAT
NEVER
GOES BACK
ON HIS
WORD.



LET'S
HUNT
DOWN
THE
AKATSUKI
HIDE-
OUTS!

NEVER
MIND THAT.
LORD
KILLER BEE
MAY STILL
BE ALIVE!

LET'S
GO
SAVE
HIM!



...

YOU
WEREN'T
CAUSING
TROUBLE,
WERE
YOU?



!



TAKE...
ME TOO...
PLEASE...

...I'D...
LIKE TO
HELP YOU
RESCUE
YOUR
JINCHURIKI...

WE'LL TAKE
KONOHA'S
DATA
DIRECTLY
TO LORD
RAIKAGE!

ESPECIALLY
SINCE
THERE'S
SO MUCH
OF IT.



ARE YOU
SUGGESTING
WE JUST GO
CHECK OUT THE
WHO-KNOWS-
HOW-MANY
AKATSUKI HIDE-
OUTS ONE
BY ONE?

WE
MUSTN'T
REPEAT THE
ERRORS WE
MADE WITH
YUGITO.

WE CAN'T
GO IN ALONE.
THESE
PEOPLE
CAPTURED
LORD KILLER
BEE...

WE
NEED INTEL.
WE NEED
ANALYSIS FIRST.
IT'LL SAVE
US TROUBLE
AND TIME!

AND
THEN
...?









?!

I'M
GONNA
GO SEE
THE
RAIKAGE
!!

NOW,
YOU
NEED
TO TAKE
IT EASY
FOR A
LITTLE
BIT...



I'M GONNA
CONVINCE
HIM TO
FORGIVE
SASUKE!



THE
GOKAGE
SUMMIT'S
ABOUT TO
BEGIN!

EVERY HIDDEN
SHINOBI VILLAGE
IS EXPECTED TO
CURTAIL EXCURSIONS
AND
UNNECESSARY
MISSIONS
OUTSIDE THEIR
VILLAGE!

AND
THEN
WHAT?



I SAW
THE
FOURTH
HOKAGE.



AND I CAN'T
STICK TO YOU
EVERY MINUTE,
HAVING BEEN
ASSIGNED THE
TASK OF RECONSTRUCTING
THE
VILLAGE!



DURING
THAT
LAST
BATTLE,
YOU
SPROUTED
THE
EIGHTH
TAIL!

YOU NO LONGER
HAVE THE SEALING
NECKLACE!
YOU, AS THE
JINCHŪRIKI,
MUSTN'T GO
BEYOND THE
VILLAGE
BOUNDARIES!

LUCKILY,
THE SEAL
KICKED IN AND
SUPPRESSED
NINE TAILS,
BUT WHO
KNOWS WHAT
WILL HAPPEN
NEXT TIME?!



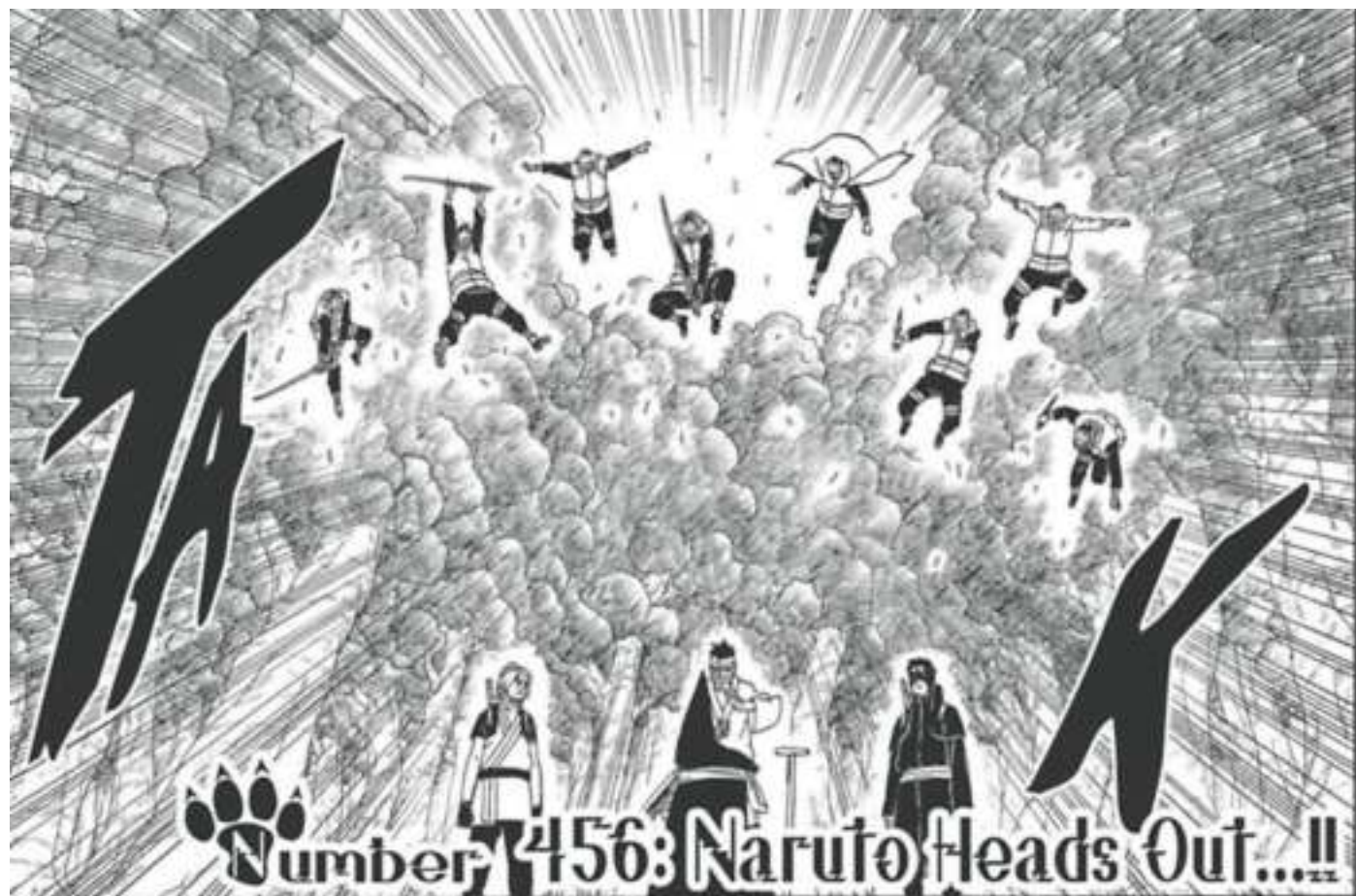






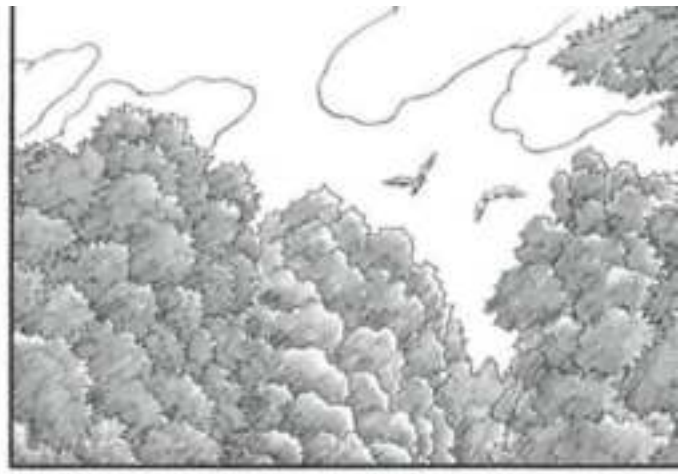
















BUT BY EXCLUSIVELY CONTROLLING BOTH THE SURFACE AND THE UNDERGROUND, ONE CAN TRULY STRENGTHEN VILLAGE AND NATION.

NINJA BELONGED TO A WORLD OF ASCETICS, ONCE. TO BE NAMELESS WAS A SOURCE OF PRIDE.



THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS, LOOKING FOR THE SLIGHTEST OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.

THESE ARE REMNANTS OF THE HAN'NYA-MASKED BLACK OPS FROM THE LAND OF WOODS THAT WE SLEW IN THE PAST.

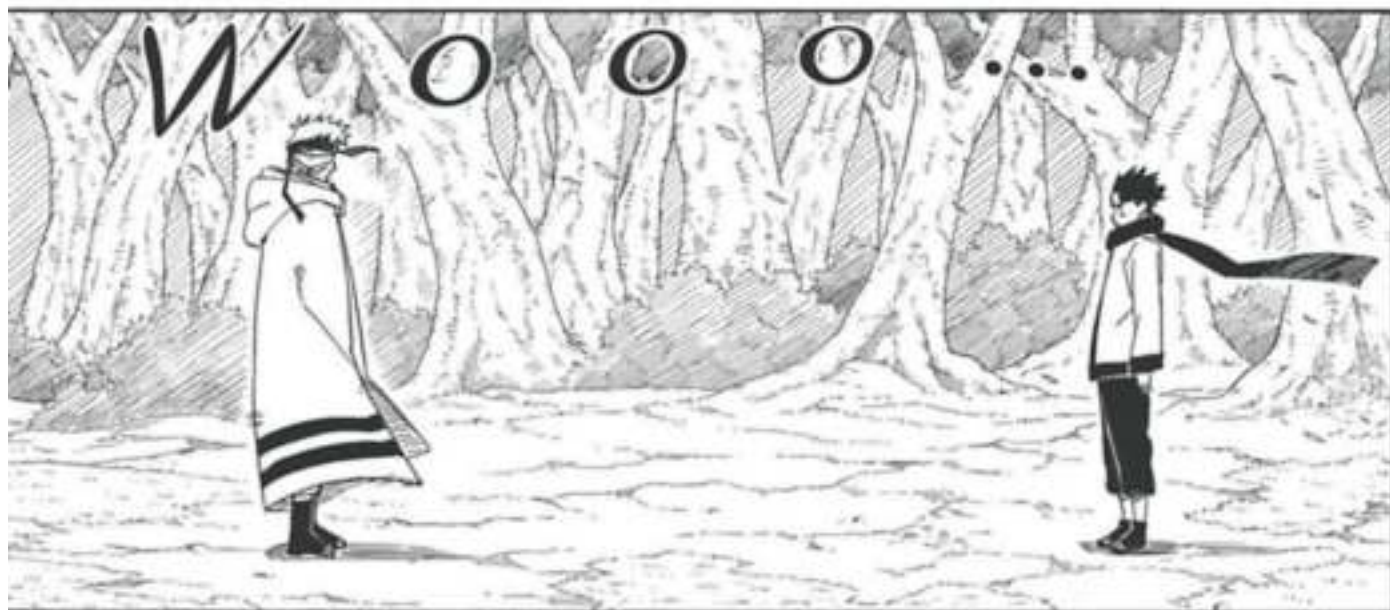
SEEMS COMING OUT INTO THE OPEN IS GOING TO INCREASE OUR HEADACHES IN VARIOUS WAYS.



THEN EVEN THE JONIN COUNCIL WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT ME AS WELL.

I SHALL ENSURE THIS SUMMIT SUCCEEDS AND MAKE THE OTHER SHADOWS ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS HOKAGE.

MY ERA HAS FINALLY COME.



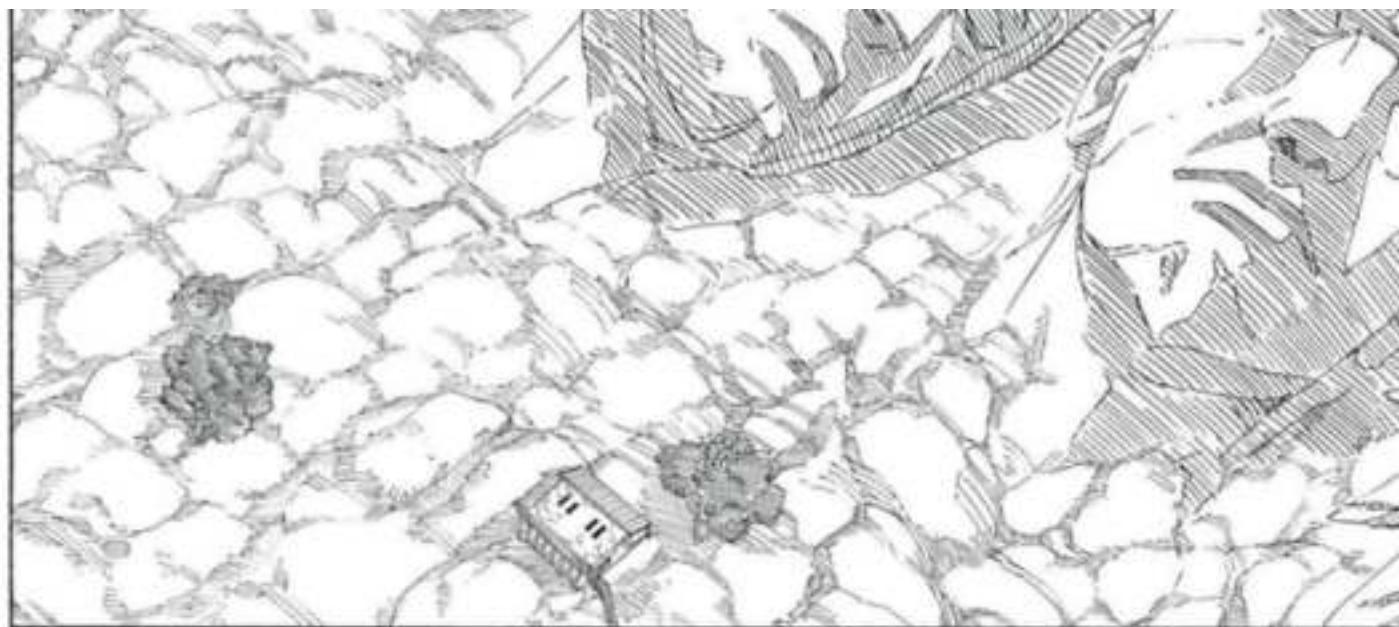


SWEET DREAMS. YOU'LL BE SEEING ILLUSIONS OF NARUTO FOR A WHILE.

OH, WERE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR NINJA CENTER-FOLD...? SO SORRY.

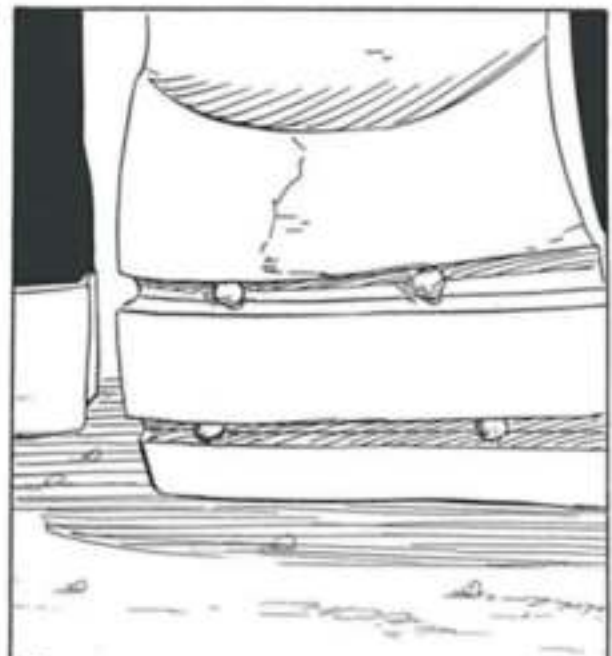
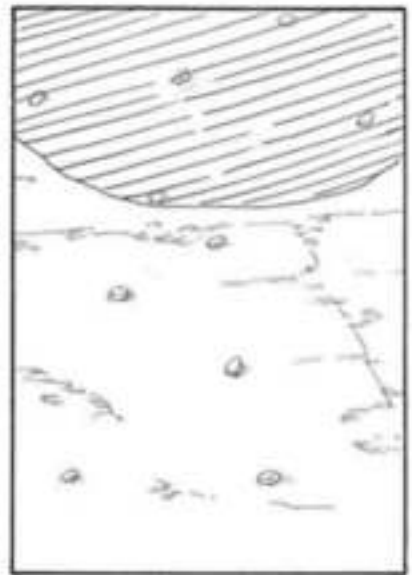




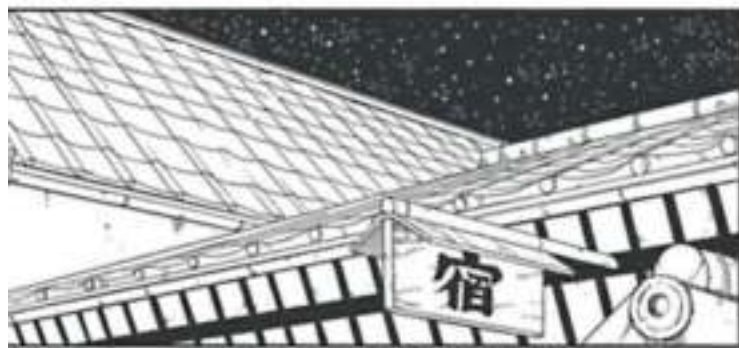




(KONoha ARCHIVES)







(LODGINGS)





THE NIGHTMARE CREATED BY THE FOURTH MIZUKAGE HAS BEEN OVER FOR QUITE A WHILE...

AO... WE NO LONGER LIVE IN THAT ERA OF DARKNESS WHEN WE WERE KNOWN AS THE VILLAGE OF BLOODY MIST.

YOU WOULD DO WELL NOT TO BRING UP THE PAST.



HE SPIKES A TEMPERATURE FROM SUCH A SHORT JAUNT?! THOSE OF OUR GENERATION...

THIS IS WHY YOUTH THESE DAYS GET SO FULL OF THEMSELVES!

LADY FIFTH, YOU SPOIL CHOJURO TOO MUCH!



EN-GAGED TO BE MARRIED?!

...EN-GAGED ...



WHAT HAVE YOU ENGAGED FOR US TO EAT TONIGHT? YOU HAVE ARRANGED FOR OUR MEALS, CHOJURO, HAVEN'T YOU?

OH...



NOW, LET US STOP SUCH DEPRESSING TALK AND HAVE SOME SUPPER INSTEAD.

F-FORGIVE ME... I JUST...

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO INN MEALS.



MY ENGAGEMENT, THERE WAS A LOT OF TROUBLE, AND IN THE END...

... VOIDED ?!!



GAH, YOU VACILLATING FOOL!! THIS IS WHY YOUTH THESE DAYS HAVE A VOID IN THEIR HEARTS WHERE AMBITION SHOULD LIVE!

TH-THERE WERE SO MANY CHOICES, I HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE DECIDING...

...AND IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE UP MY MIND...





READ THIS WAY





 Number 457:
The Gokage Summit Commences...!!



NARUTO
ナルト

BY JARPLAP



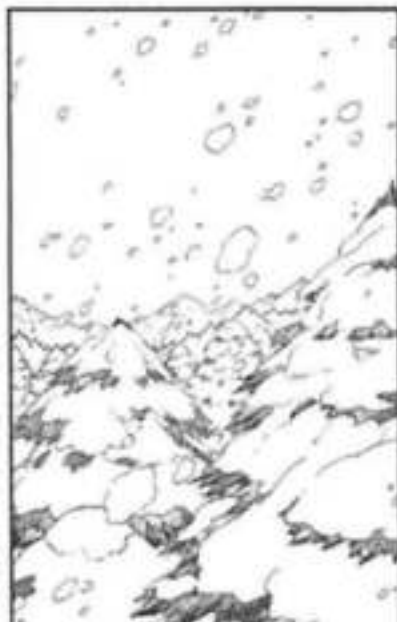
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457 : THE KAGE SUMMIT COMMENCES!

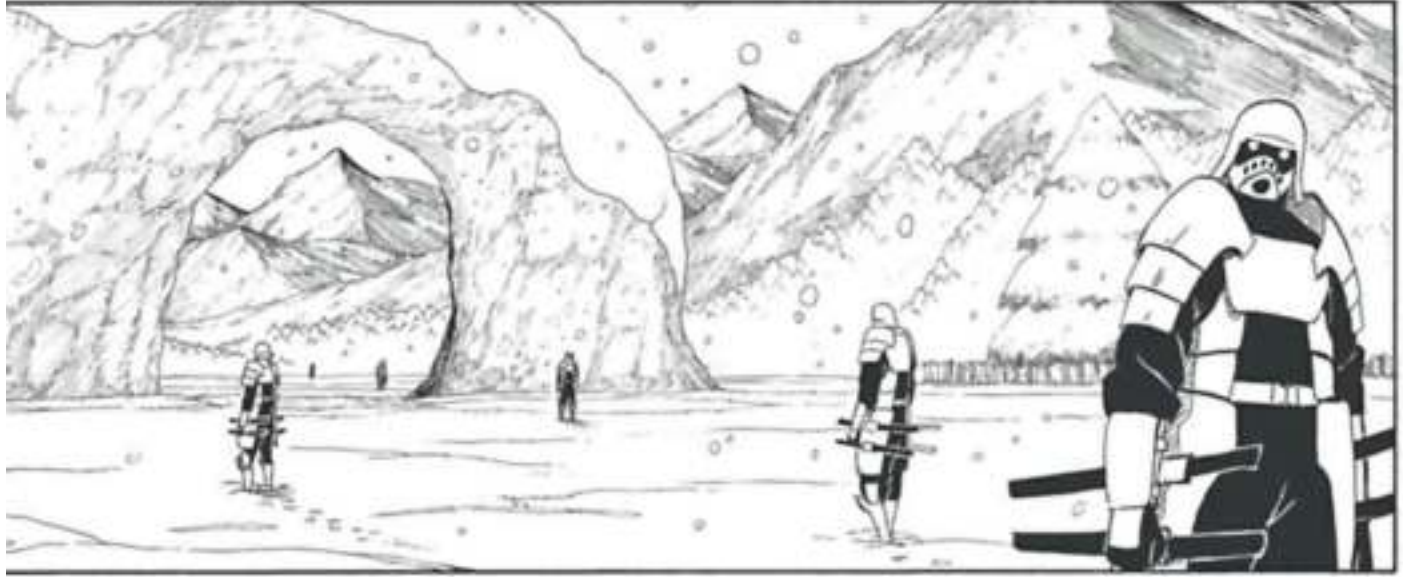
岸本 斉史

NARUTO











WHY WOULD I LIE?
DANZO IS NO FRIEND OF OURS...



AND WHEN ONE LIES, ONE'S CHAKRA BECOMES MUDDIED ...

I CAN SENSE CHAKRA.

I'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR CHAKRA TOO, YOU HEAR?



LET'S DESCEND !!

TAK

AH!



LORD RAIKAGE, IT'S SQUAD SAMUI.

WHIP

!



WE HAVE RETURNED FROM KONOHA-GAKURE.

FMP

AND?!

FMP

FMP



SHOW YOURSELVES, KONOHA DOGS!!



?!

SAMUI... YOU'VE BEEN TAILED.



FMP FMP

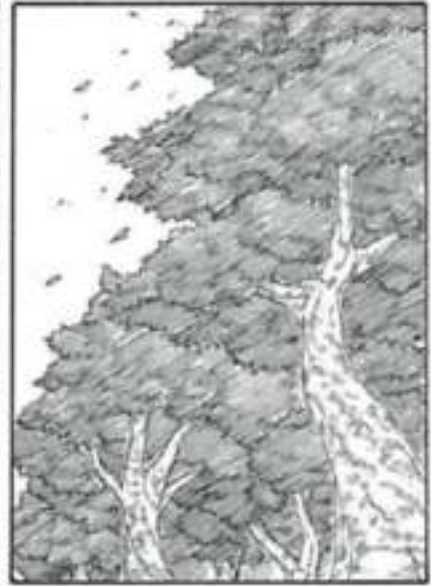


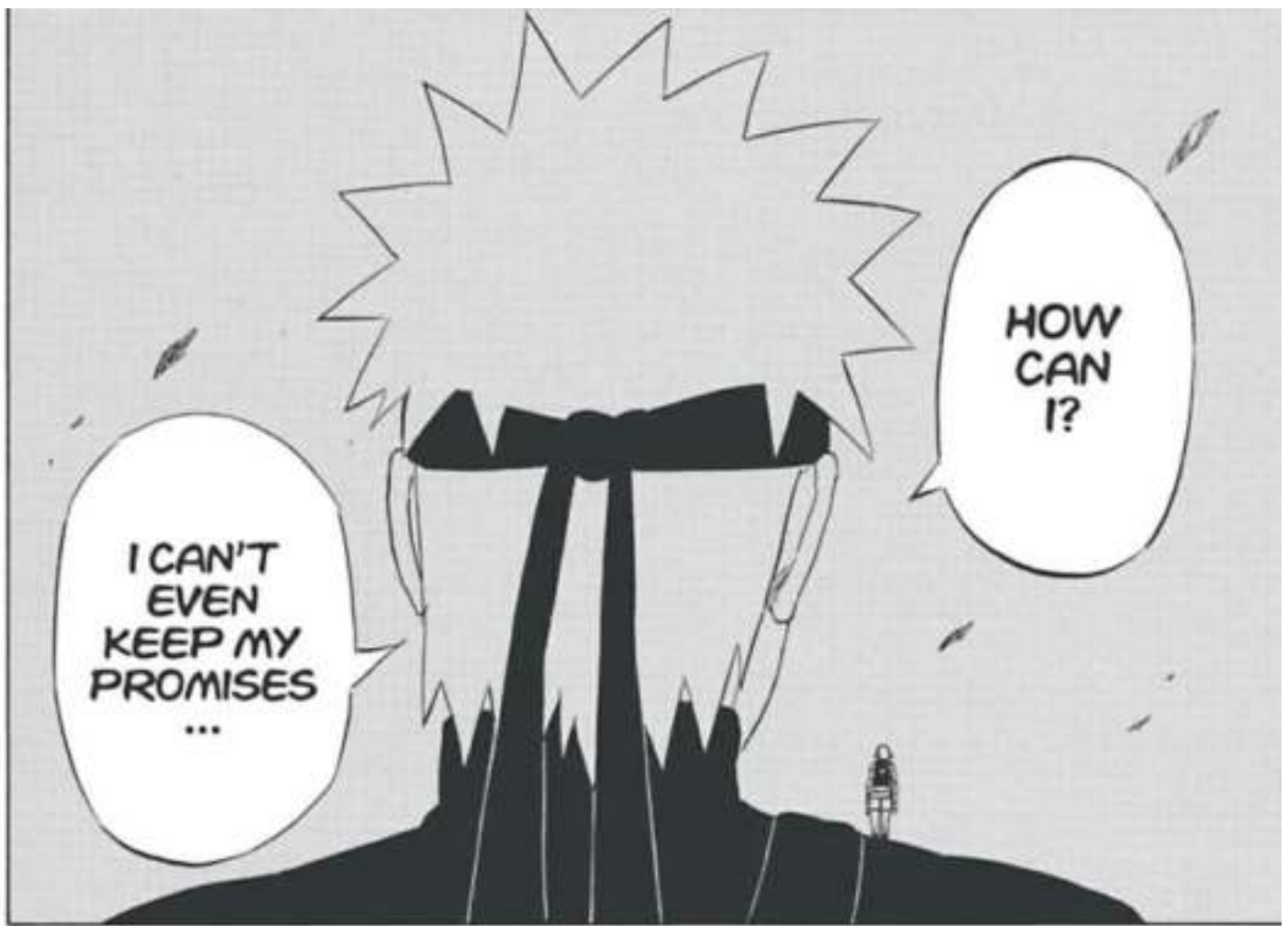
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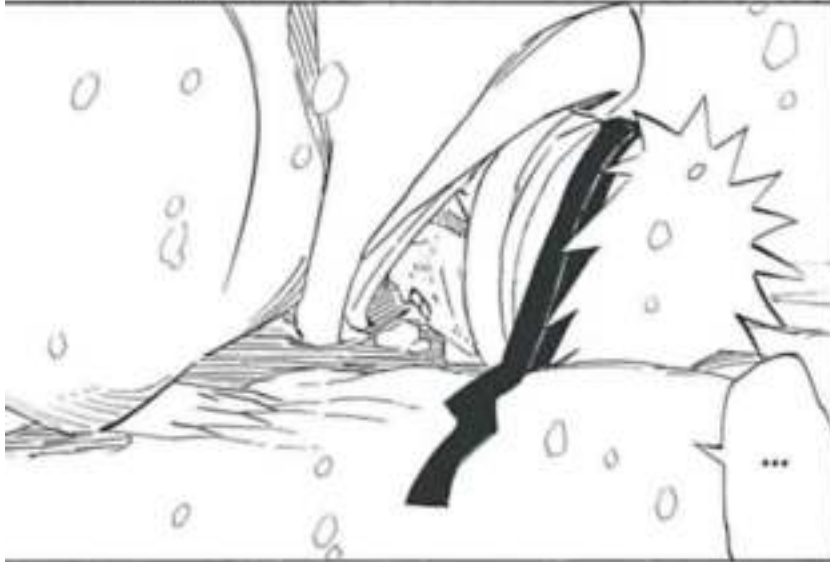












WE'RE IN A RUSH. SORRY, BUT YOUR TIME IS UP.

FEH, YOU FOOL!!



...THAT YOUR EXISTENCE RIDES UPON THOSE NOBLE SACRIFICES.

DO NOT FORGET ...



WE OF KONOHA SWALLOWED OUR TEARS OF BLOOD TO AVOID WAR...

...A WAR WHOSE SEEDS YOU OF CLOUD HAD SOWN.

THE INCIDENT IN WHICH YOU TRIED TO OBTAIN THE HYUGA BYAKUGAN IS STILL UNRESOLVED ON OUR SIDE.



UNH ...



...AS ONE OF THE GOKAGE, WHAT THINK YOU OF THIS?

LORD RAIKAGE ...



RIGHT HERE AND NOW, THIS YOUNG SHINOBI...

...NO MATTER HOW AWKWARDLY, IS BOWING HIS HEAD... IN HIS AFFECTION FOR CLOUD AND LEAF, VILLAGE AND NATION.



IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SHINOBI, CONCESSIONARY BEHAVIORS ARE TABOO.



SHINOBI OUGHT NOT LOWER THEIR HEADS SO EASILY!

ACTION AND POWER ARE WHAT SHINOBI RESPECT!



THOSE WHO ARE WEAK ARE TRAMPLED!

...EVERY NATION... EVERY VILLAGE HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN EVER MORE POWERFUL NINJUTSU.

THAT IS THE ABSOLUTE TRUISM OF THE SHINOBI WORLD!



THE HISTORY OF MANKIND IS A HISTORY OF WAR!

SINCE THE THREE GREAT NINJA WARS...



THAT IS NOT CONSIDERED FRIENDSHIP IN THE SHINOBI WORLD!

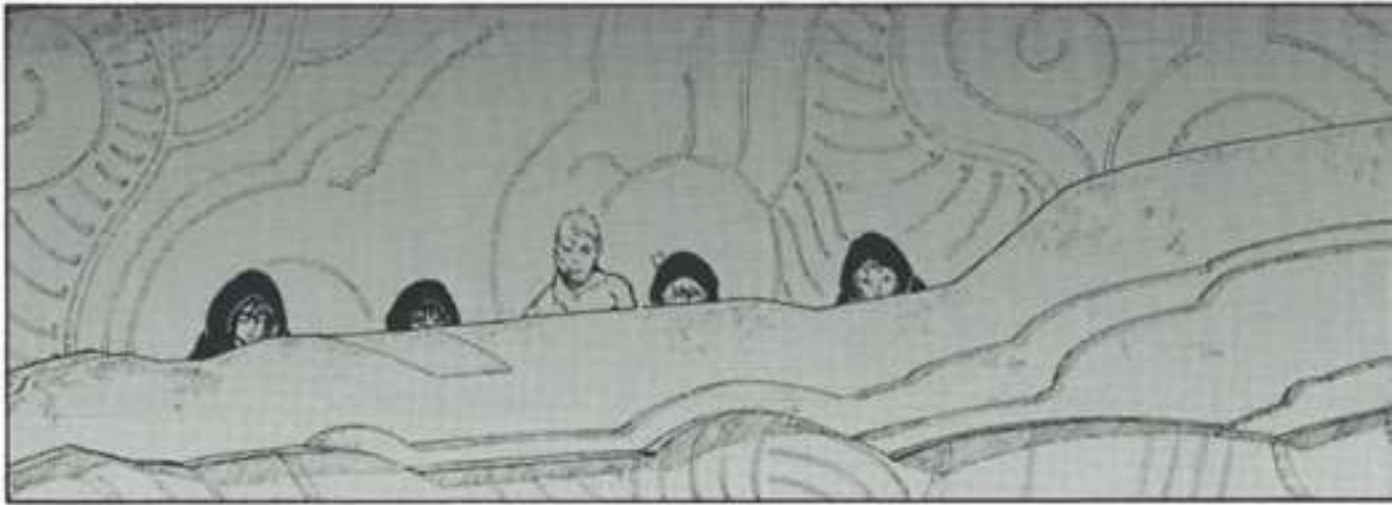
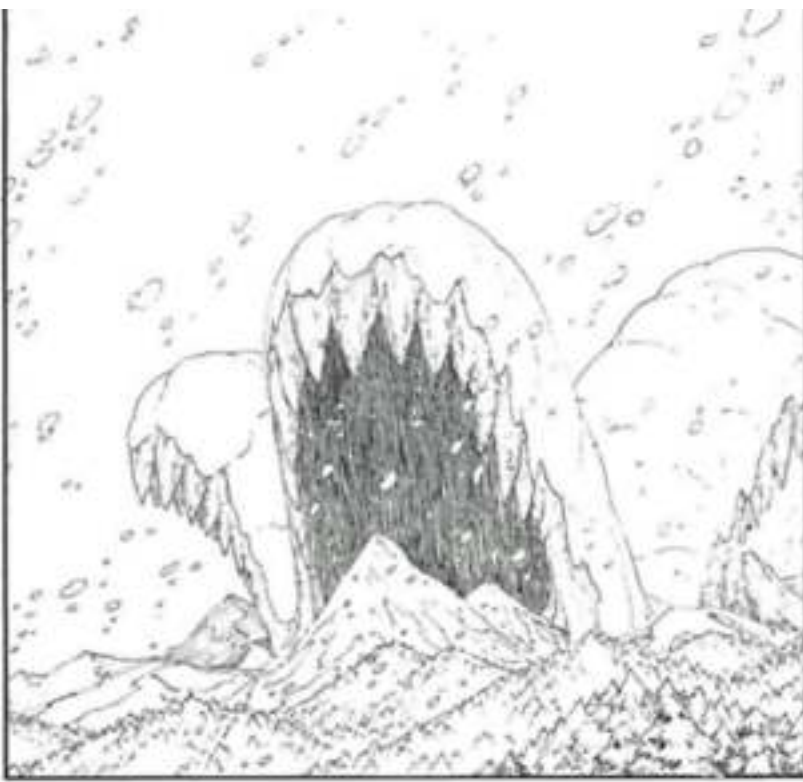
YOU BOW YOUR HEAD FOR A CRIMINAL AND BEG MERCY TO KEEP YOUR COMRADES SAFE.

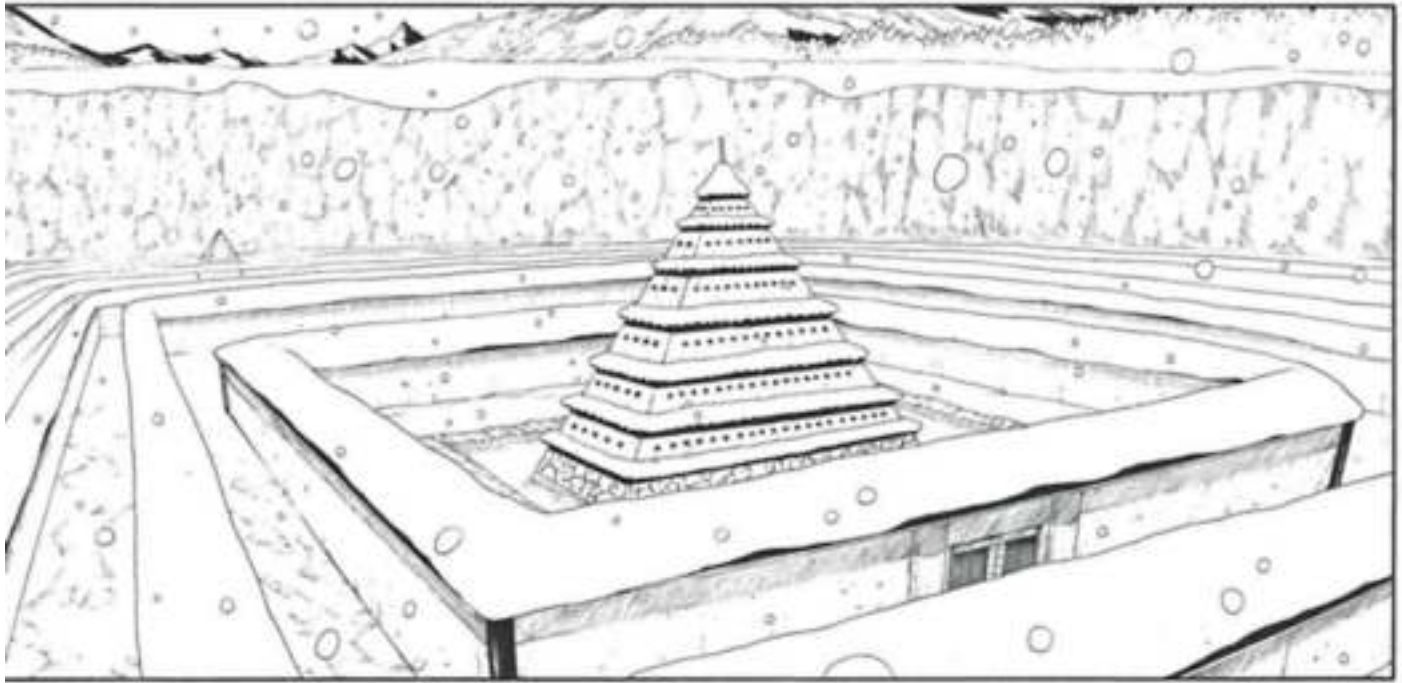


THE AKATSUKI SHALL BE NAMED INTERNATIONALLY SOUGHT CRIMINALS.

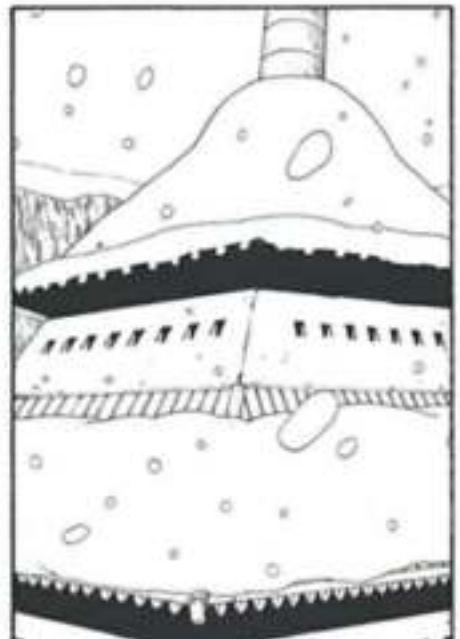
ONCE THAT HAPPENS, NOT JUST I, BUT THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL GO AFTER SASUKE.







(SAMURAI)



水門風

火土

雷

YOU, THE GOKAGE, ASSEMBLE HERE TODAY IN RESPONSE TO LORD RAIKAGE'S SUMMONS.

PLACE YOUR KAGE HEAD-PIECES BEFORE YOU...

NOW LET THE GOKAGE SUMMIT COMMENCE!

I AM MIFUNE, AND I SHALL PRESIDE OVER THESE PROCEEDINGS.



NARUTO

Number 458: The Great Gokage Debate...!!





I'VE APPLIED TO YOU, THE OTHERS OF THE GOKAGE, FOR AID AND COOPERATION NUMEROUS TIMES AND BEEN ROUNDLY IGNORED.

...EXCEPT FOR THE PREVIOUS HOKAGE.

AFTER SO MANY OF THE JINCHŪRIKI HAVE BEEN TAKEN, TO COLLABORATE NOW IS SIMPLY TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.



NO ONE SEEKS AID FROM OTHER LANDS WHEN JINCHŪRIKI DISAPPEAR!

COVERT RESCUE AND RECOVERY MISSIONS ARE THE NORM!



HUMPH... THE HIDDEN VILLAGES OF THE FIVE GREAT NATIONS CANNOT AFFORD TO ALERT OTHERS THAT THEIR JINCHŪRIKI HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

IT'S AN EMBARRASSMENT!



HUMPH... HOW DARE THAT STRIP-LING...



THEY'RE FOOLISH, OUTDATED CONCEPTS.

APPEARANCES... STATUS...





ENOUGH WITH THIS NONSENSE !!!







AND THAT'S NOT ALL!!

...LEAF!
STONE!
SAND!
MIST!

THE AKATSUKI IS COMPOSED OF ROGUE SHINOBI FROM YOUR VILLAGES!

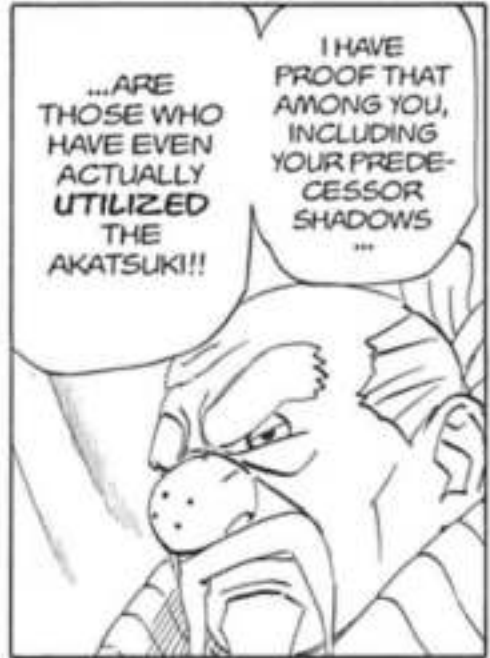


AND ORIGINALLY, I HAD NO INTEREST IN ANY DISCOURSE!

I DON'T TRUST ANY OF YOU!



UTILIZED ...?



...ARE THOSE WHO HAVE EVEN ACTUALLY UTILIZED THE AKATSUKI!!

I HAVE PROOF THAT AMONG YOU, INCLUDING YOUR PREDECESSOR SHADOWS ...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY UTILIZED THE AKATSUKI ?!



...IS TO FINALLY QUESTION YOUR LOYALTIES !!!

BUT THE REASON WHY I'VE COME HERE AND SUMMONED YOU ALL...



YOU SAND HAVE PREVIOUSLY USED THE AKATSUKI IN BATTLE!

YOU'RE KAZEKAGE, AND YOU KNOW NOTHING?!

JUST ASK YOUR VILLAGE'S GEEZER ELDERS!



WHAT IF WAR SUDDENLY BREAKS OUT?! TO RELY ON SHINOBI WITH NO ACTUAL BATTLE EXPERIENCE IS PROBLEMATIC TOO, NO?

AND YET, COMPLETELY ELIMINATING THEM RUNS ITS OWN RISK.

YOU'D LOSE THE BATTLE.



AS STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS EASE AND THE THREAT OF WAR DIMINISHES...

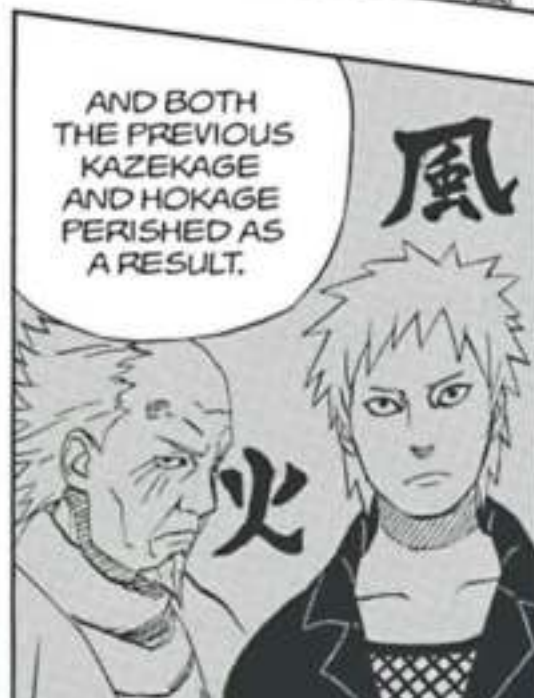
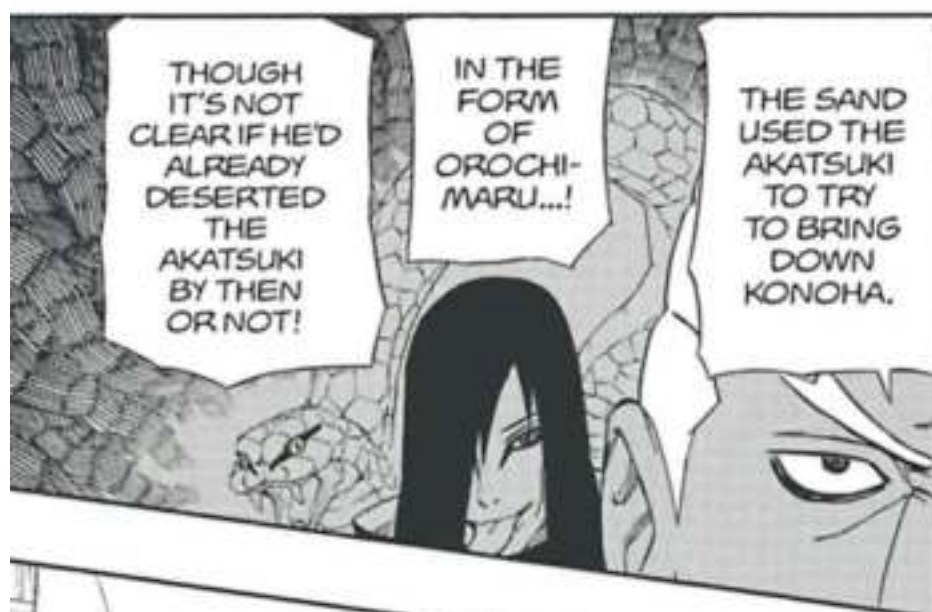
CURRENTLY, ALL FIVE GREAT NATIONS ARE EQUALLY STABLE... AND ARE SWITCHING OVER FROM ARMS BUILD-UP TO DISARMAMENT.

...HIDDEN VILLAGES, CONSIDERED MILITARY POWERS BY THEIR NATION, BECOME OBTRUSIVE, MONEY-GUZZLING BODIES...



...SUCH AS THE AKATSUKI HANDY, EH.

SO ONE WAY TO AVOID THAT RISK IS HAVING A MERCENARY FORCE...







...I'D LIKE TO STATE THE POINT I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE EARLIER...

BEFORE YOU START ARGUING EACH OTHER'S MERITS ...

WHAT ?!



IN FACT, IT'S BECAUSE YOU, NEEDLESS OF APPEARANCES, WENT AROUND COLLECTING NINJUTSU, SEEKING POWER IN THIS ERA OF DEPRIVATION...

WATCH YOUR TONE, RABAGE!

...THAT WE WERE FORCED TO HIRE THE AKATSUKI IN ORDER TO COUNTER YOU!



THE AKATSUKI'S LEADER IS PROBABLY UCHIHA MADARA.



WHAT IS IT?!

RAWR



IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HE'S NOT... BUT THIS IS FROM A PRETTY RELIABLE SOURCE.

SO HE REALLY IS A MONSTER, HUH...



I THOUGHT HE WAS LONG DEAD...?!



?!



HOWEVER, WE CAN TURN THIS MISFORTUNE INTO A BLESSING... IT'S A RARE THING FOR ALL FIVE SHADOWS TO CONVENE IN ONE PLACE.

HE BIDED HIS TIME AND WAITED FOR THE VARIOUS NATIONS TO STABILIZE, YET STILL DISTRUST EACH OTHER, TO EXPAND HIS POWER...

SO HOW THINK YOU... UNTIL THE AKATSUKI CAN BE DISPOSED OF...

AT THIS RATE, HE MAY EVEN TARGET THE LAND OF IRON...



LET ME SAY THIS FROM MY STANDPOINT AS THE LEADER OF THIS NEUTRAL STATE...

...THE AKATSUKI LEADER DEFINITELY HAS HIS FINGER ON THE PULSE OF TIME...



...WHY NOT FORM THE WORLD'S FIRST UNITED SHINOBI ARMY... OF THE FIVE GREAT HIDDEN VILLAGES?



...TO WHOM DO YOU PROPOSE HANDING THE REINS OF THIS UNITED ARMY...? AND ...



A STANDARDIZED CHAIN OF COMMAND WOULD ALSO BE IDEAL.

FURTHER CHAOS MUST BE AVOIDED.



WE ARE PRACTICALLY IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY... COOPERATION IS KEY.

THIS IS GOING WELL.



A UNITED ARMY?!





I FEEL THAT HE WANTED TO GIVE NARUTO THE CHANCE TO TRY, NO MATTER HOW FUTILE IT IS.

BECAUSE MASTER KAKASHI BELIEVES IN NARUTO.



I CAN'T EVEN KEEP MY PROMISES ...

...HOW CAN I?

...AND I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT PROMISE HE MADE TO YOU...



SO I STILL DON'T KNOW ALL OF YOU THAT WELL...

I WAS ONLY RECENTLY ASSIGNED TO TEAM KAKASHI, TO TAKE SASUKE'S PLACE.

...NOT THAT I UNDERSTAND ANY EMOTIONS IN GENERAL.



HOWEVER ...

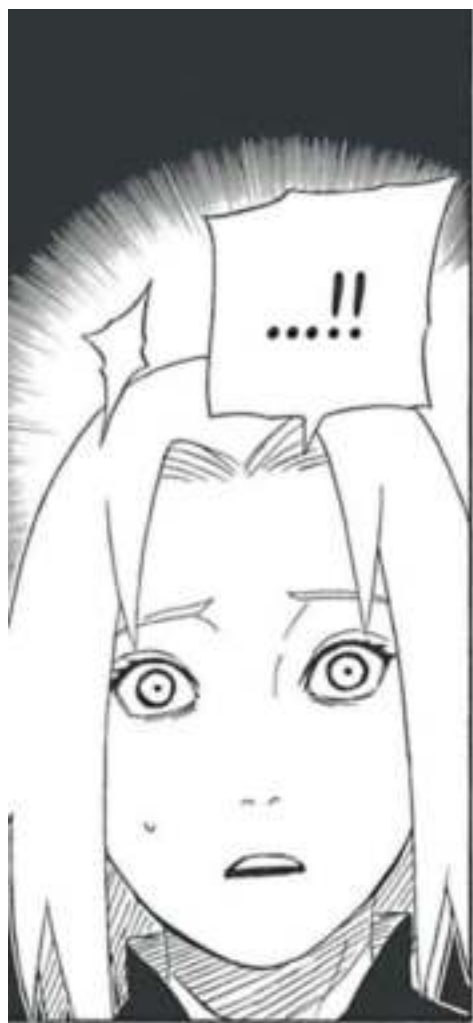


PLEASE... PLEASE BRING SASUKE BACK...

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



...!







NARUTO

Number 459: Sakura's Resolve!!





...BUT SOMEONE SUCH AS YOURSELF WHOSE ACTS ARE RULED BY HIS EMOTIONS WOULD PROBABLY END UP SPLINTERING A UNITED ARMY JUST LIKE HE DID THAT DESK.

I AM WELL AWARE THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PASSION AND STRENGTH IS NECESSARY TO ASSEMBLE AND LEAD A FORCE OF POWER-HOUSES...



HE DOES NOT YET HAVE MUCH PULL WITH OTHER LANDS. HIS TITLE OF KAZEKAGE ALONE IS INADEQUATE.

LORD KAZEKAGE IS STILL TOO YOUNG TO SPEARHEAD SUCH A VENTURE...



I AM MERELY STATING MY UNBIASED OPINION AS A NEUTRAL PARTY.



RRRRRR
GRR ...



PEOPLE MIGHT WONDER IF THERE ARE SPIES.

AND AS LORD MIZUKAGE'S KIRIGAKURE IS SUSPECTED TO BE THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE AKATSUKI...

...THERE IS SOME CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE INTELLIGENCE LEAKS.

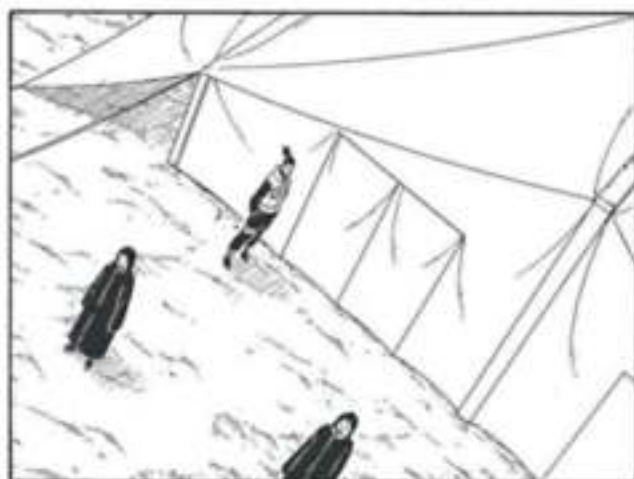


CONVERSELY, LORD TSUCHIKAGE IS TOO OLD AND GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF LACKING MOBILITY.

HE HAS ALSO UTILIZED THE AKATSUKI TOO MUCH... HE IS THE LEAST TRUSTED.













...AND WE NEED TO STOP SASUKE.



I CAME HERE TO ASK THE CONSENT OF CELL NUMBER SEVEN'S MEMBERS.

CONSENT? DON'T TELL ME...?!



WE CAN'T LET KONO HAGAKURE AND KUMOGAKURE ENTER INTO WAR BECAUSE OF SASUKE.

YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT.



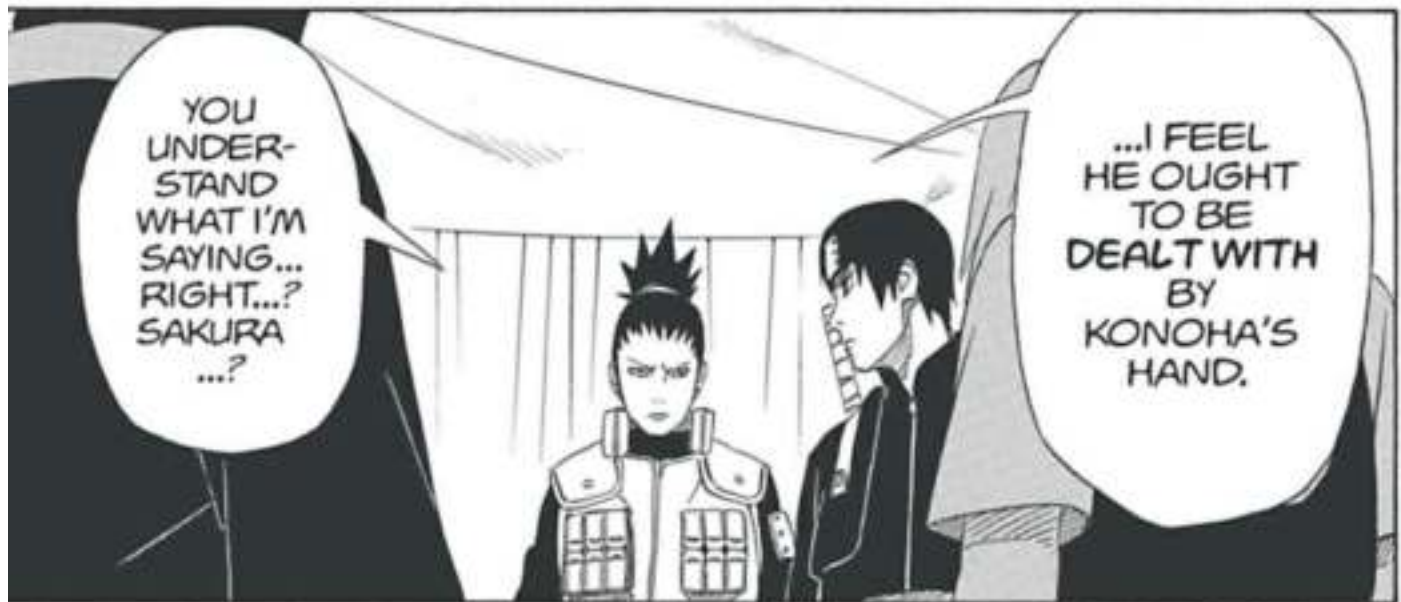
...NEITHER I NOR CHOJI, NOR MASTER INOICHI OR YOUR PARENTS, WILL STAY SILENT. WE'D AVENGE YOU.

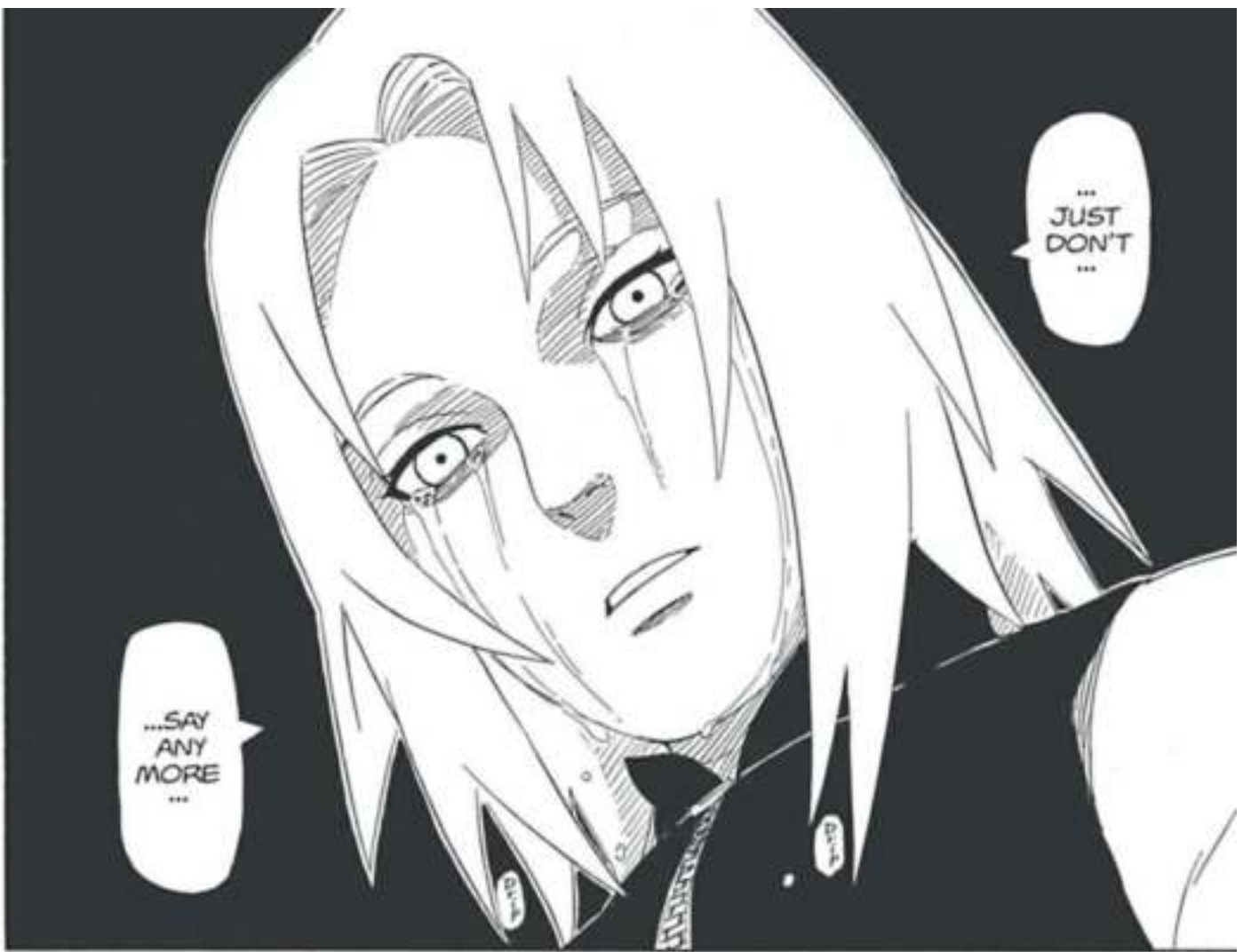
...AND IF YOU TWO OR INO WERE TO RECKLESSLY LASH OUT AND GET KILLED BY CLOUD NINJA...



IF KUMOGAKURE KILLS SASUKE, YOU AND INO AND ESPECIALLY NARUTO AREN'T APT TO JUST LET IT BE...

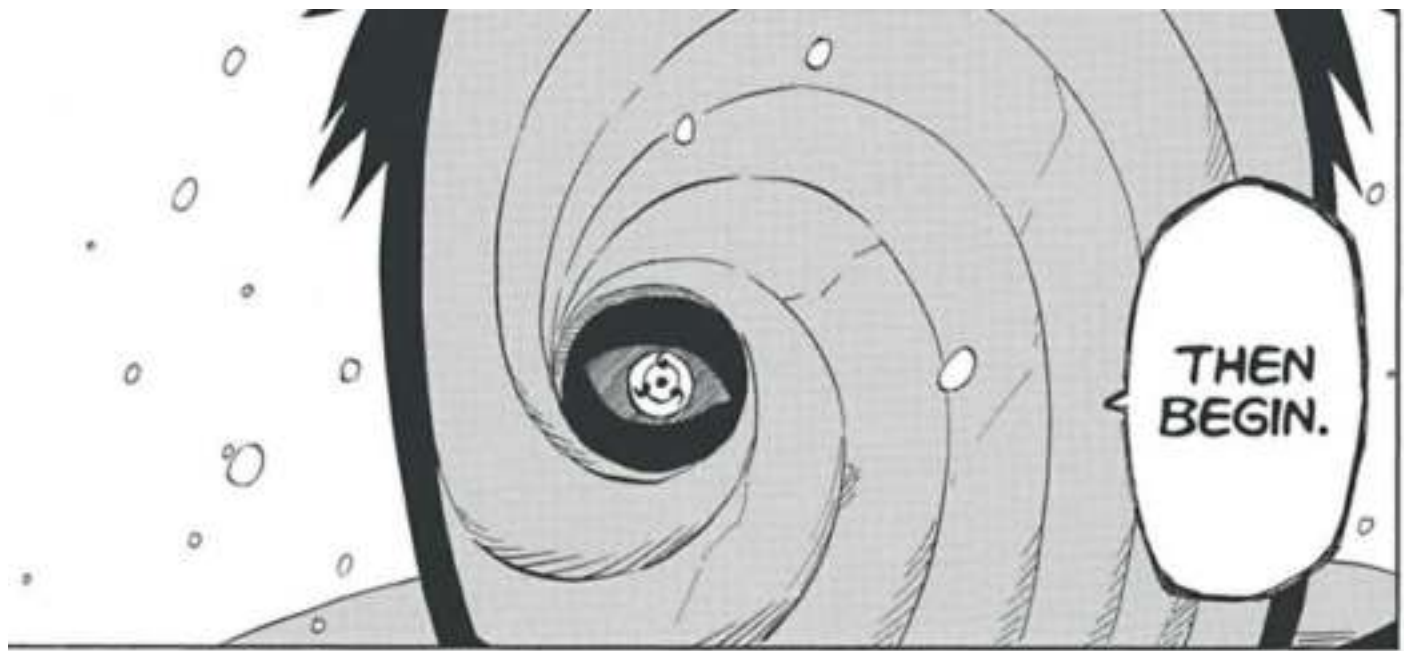
LET ME EXPLAIN... IT'LL BE A BIT ROUND-ABOUT, BUT BEAR WITH ME.

















NARUTO

Number 460: Trapping Sasuke...!!



**U
R
K
!!!**

**WHAT
?!!!**



**YEAH
!!**

**TIME
TO
FIND
SASUKE!**



**THAT
SHARIN-
GAN?**

**THE
ONE WHO
TOOK
DOWN
HAKU AND
ZABUZA?**

?



**SASUKE
?!**

**WHAT'S
HE
DOING
HERE?!**

HIM...?



**WHO'S
HE?**

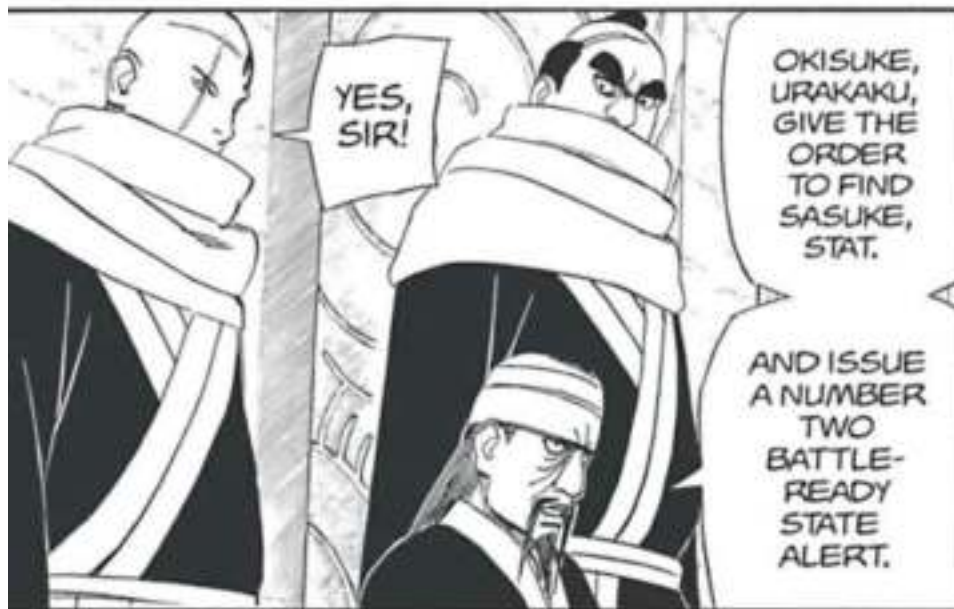
**AN
AKATSUKI...
HIS
NAME'S...**



**DON'T
TELL
ME...**

**SASUKE,
HERE...**











WANNA TALK, UZUMAKI NARUTO?

?!



Y-YOU'RE !!



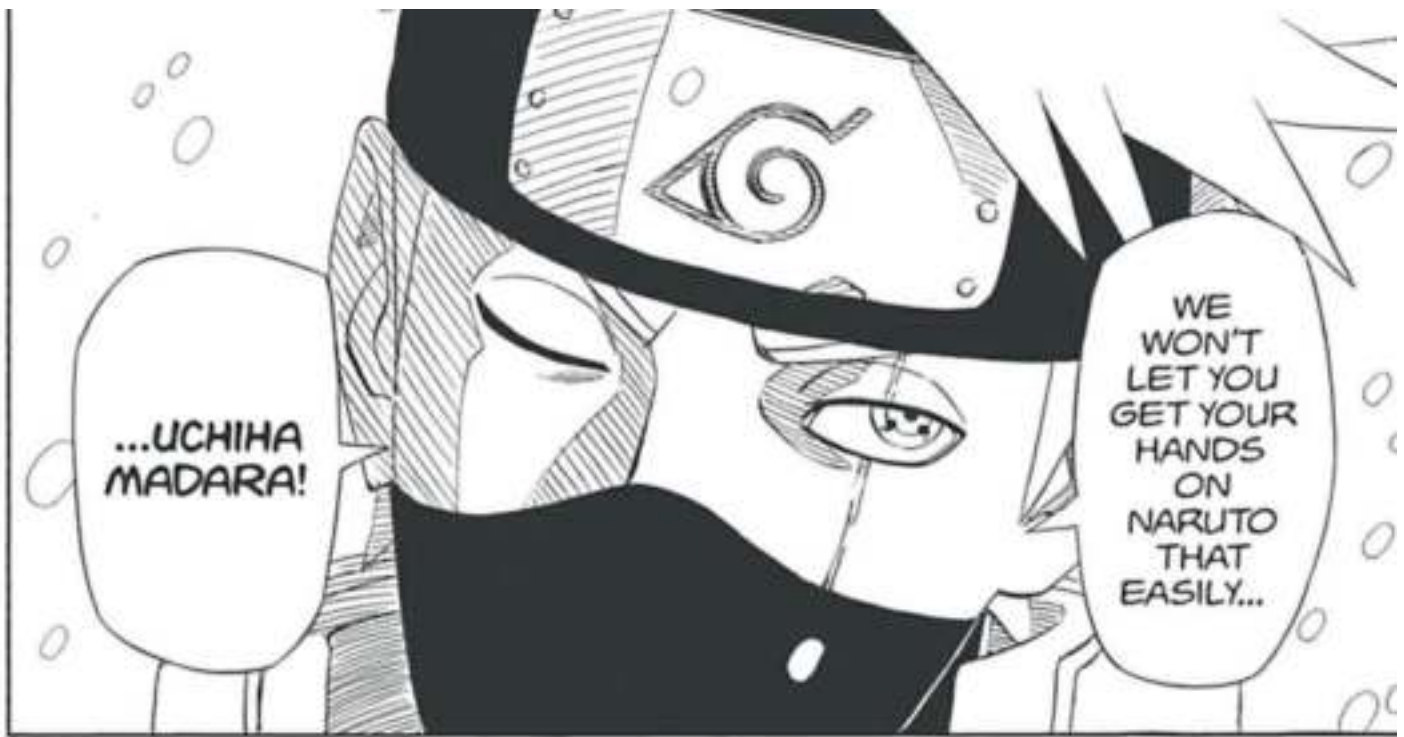
BUT YOU KNOW IT DOESN'T WORK ON ME, RIGHT?

A RASENGAN RIGHT OFF THE BAT, HUH...

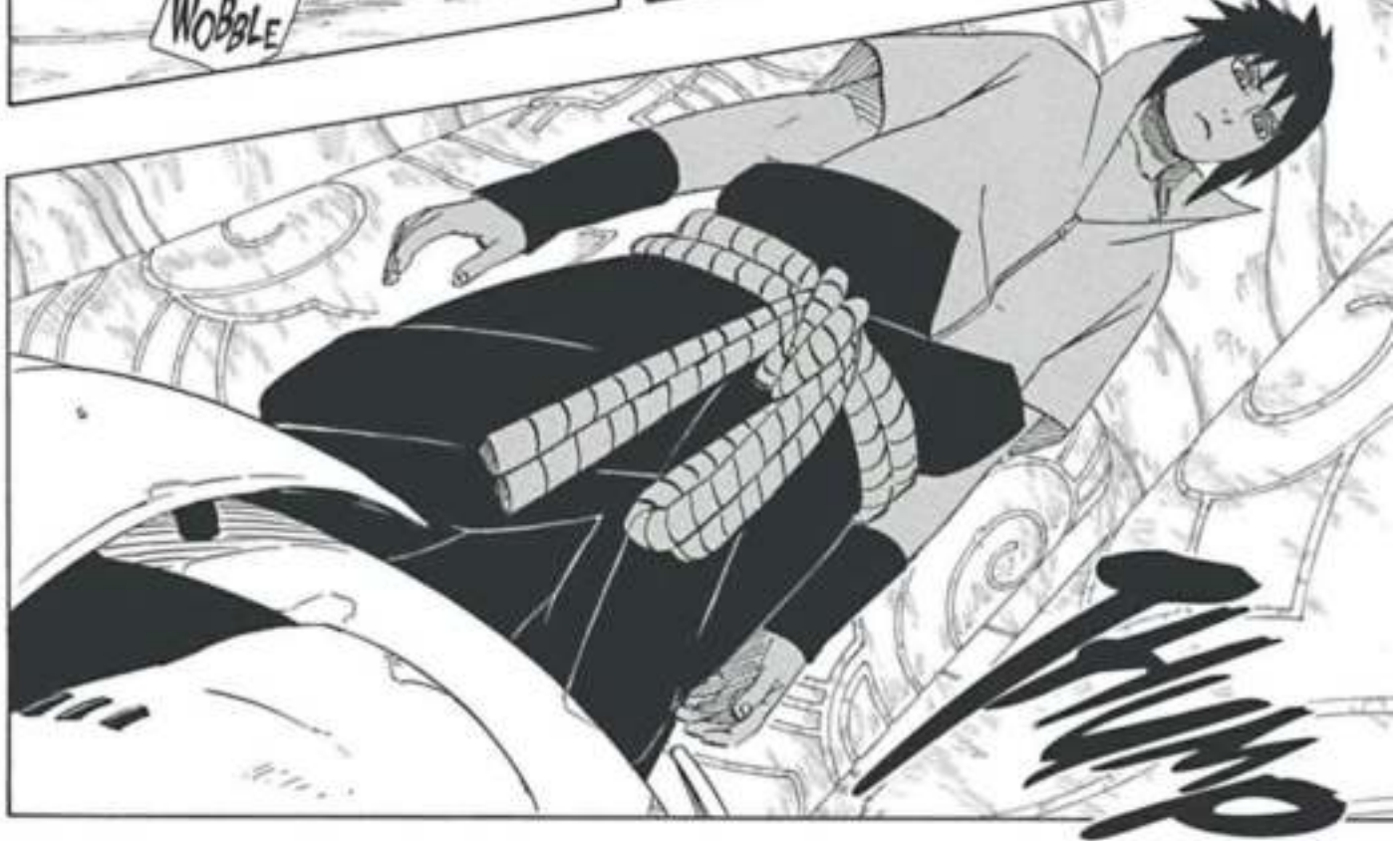
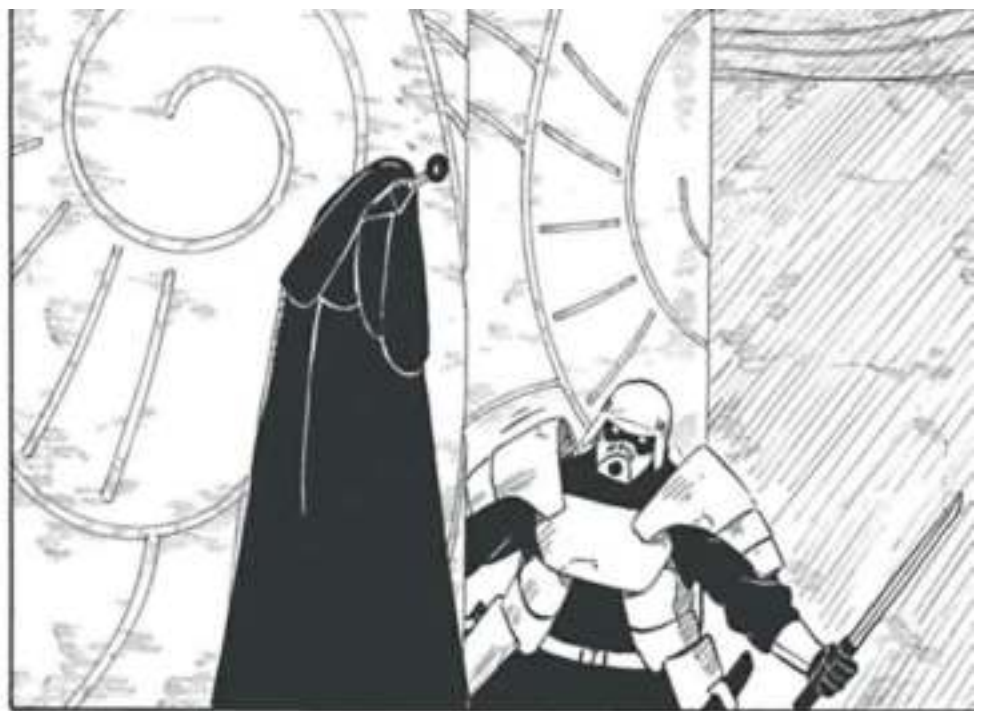


BA M









READ THIS WAY

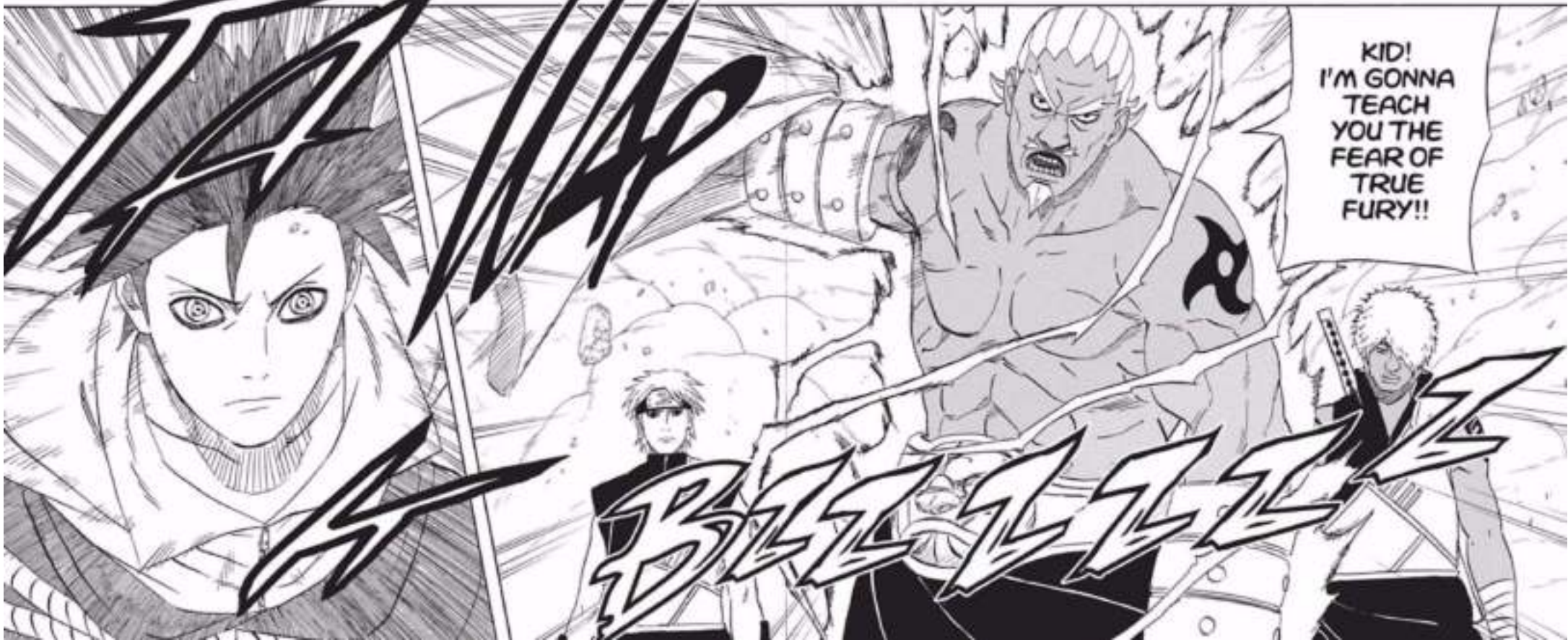


















Number 461:
Kumogakure vs. Taka!!







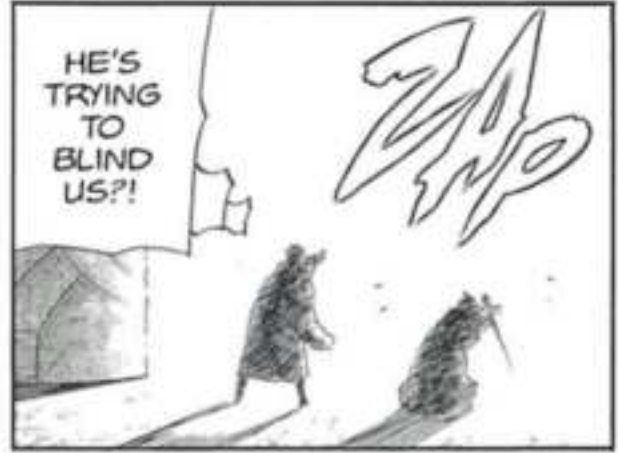
HERE
COMES
SOME-
THING!



I'LL
STOP
HIM!



LIGHTNING
ILLUSION
!!
FLASH
PILLAR
!!!





SHOULD'VE FIGURED, SHARINGAN.

JUGO, DON'T SWEAT IT. IT'S A GENJUTSU.



YOU MAY HAVE SEEN THROUGH THE GENJUTSU, BUT YOU'RE STILL TOO LATE!!



SASUKE !!











THE JUTSU IS UNDONE.

NO... RIGHT NOW, EVEN HIS KEIRAKUKEI CHAKRA NETWORK IS QUIET.

LORD AO... WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE HOKAGE'S OCULAR JUTSU IS STILL ENGAGED OR NOT, PLEASE.



IF A KONOHA HYUGA TURNED TRAITOR, I WOULD HAVE HIM OR HER TAKEN CARE OF AT ONCE.

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE BYAKUGAN FELL INTO OTHERS' HANDS...



FOR YOU ARE A MAN WHO CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

I'LL DECIDE THAT.



IT'S NOT A JUTSU I CAN USE THAT MANY TIMES IN A DAY.

RELAX.





ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE MAY BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN...

...YOUR OCULAR POWER AND THE JUTSU USED TO MANIPULATE THE FOURTH MIZUKAGE.

I'LL FIGHT YOU MYSELF, IF IT COMES TO THAT.

...BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE PLANNING MY DISPOSAL NOW, SINCE I KNOW YOUR SECRET...



I SHALL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PROTECT THE SHINOBI WORLD.

BUT "MAY HAVE" IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

YOU HAVE LOST TRUST... A SHAME, SINCE I MAY HAVE STILL CHOSEN YOU WITHOUT YOUR RESORTING TO SUCH TACTICS...

LORD HOKAGE, NINJUTSU IS PROHIBITED IN THIS ROOM.



TAKING THE TIME TO DO IT MORALLY AND ETHICALLY WILL RESULT IN NO CHANGE.

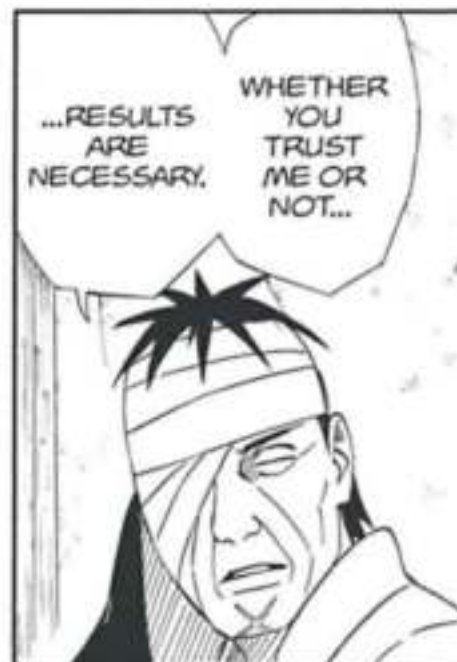
THIS SHALL NEVER BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION...

AND THE AKATSUKI WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY THE SHINOBI WORLD.

JUST AS THE FIRST HOKAGE HASHIRAMA ONCE BROUGHT TOGETHER HIS CLAN AND CREATED KONOHA...

...NOW WE MUST MERGE ALL THE VILLAGES AND CREATE ONE SHINOBI WORLD.

OUR WORLD MUST UNITE.







UCHIHA
... SASUKE,
HUH.

...



HEH!

WE
COOPERATED
WITH KONOHA
ON THEIR SASUKE
RETRIEVAL OPERA-
TION, BUT HE'S
NOW DESCENDED
TO JOINING THE
AKATSUKI.

NOW,
GAARA,
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?



LORD
TSUCHI-
KAGE...
WHAT
ABOUT
US?

SHALL
WE GO
FORTH TO
BATTLE?

SHUT
IT!

OLD MAN,
HE'S
SCORED
A POINT
ON YOU.



JUST
REMEMBER,
IF YOU GET
CAUGHT IN
THE RAIKAGE'S
CROSSFIRE,
YOU'LL DIE...
SO STAY OUT
OF THE WAY.

FINE,
DO AS
YOU
PLEASE!



BUT I
WANNA
SEE THIS
SASUKE
WHO
SUPPOSEDLY
TOOK
DOWN
DEIDARA!

FOOL!
WHAT IF MY
BACKPAIN
WERE TO GET
AGGRAVATED
?!





NARUTO

HE'S FAST !!

Sasuke's Shinobi Way...!!

BOOM

BZZZZZ

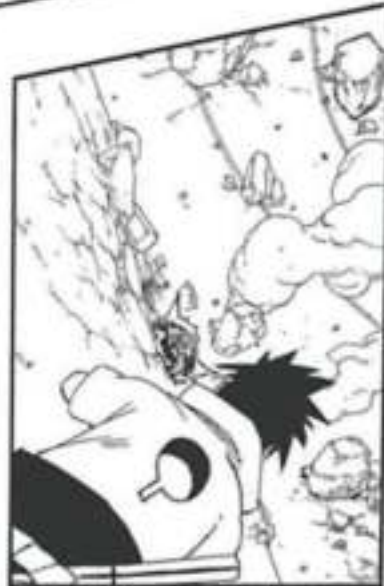
WHIK

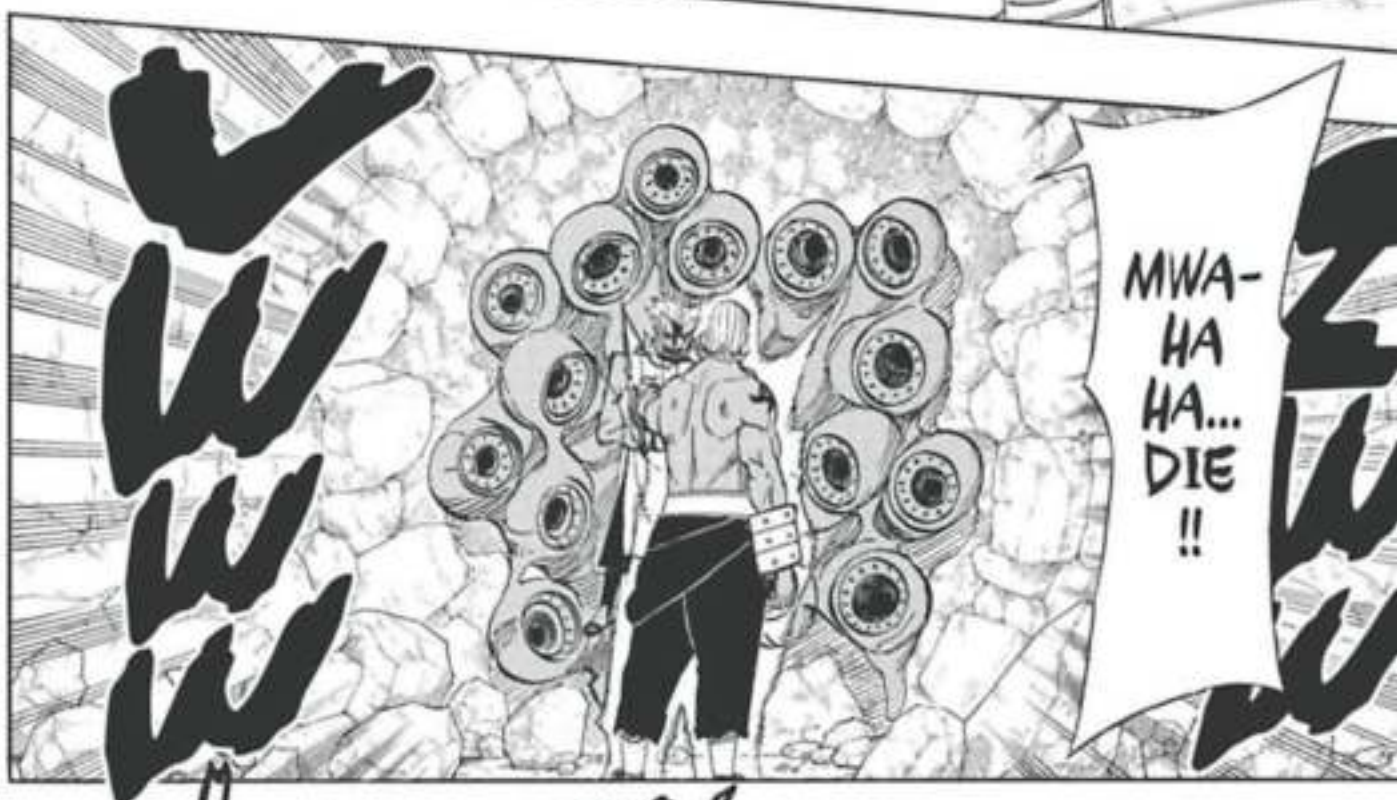
RRRR

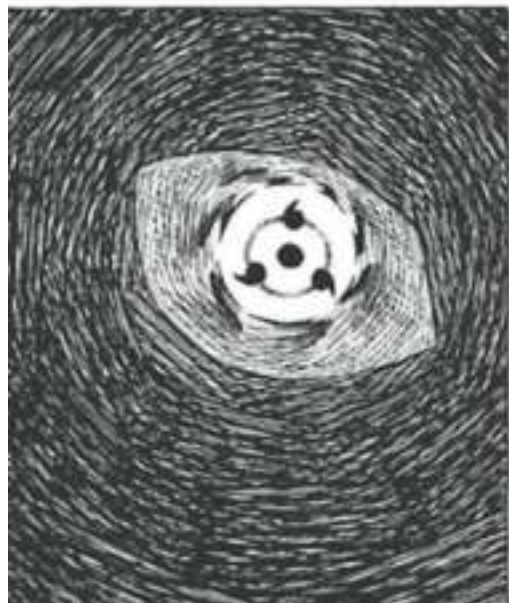
MRP MRP















SHEE!
WHY
ARE
YOU
LYING
DOWN
?!

GET
UP!



ALL
RIGHT!
I CAN GO
LOOKING
NOW!
SO LET'S
SEE
WHERE
DANZO
IS...

JUGO
CAN BE
USEFUL,
AFTER
ALL!

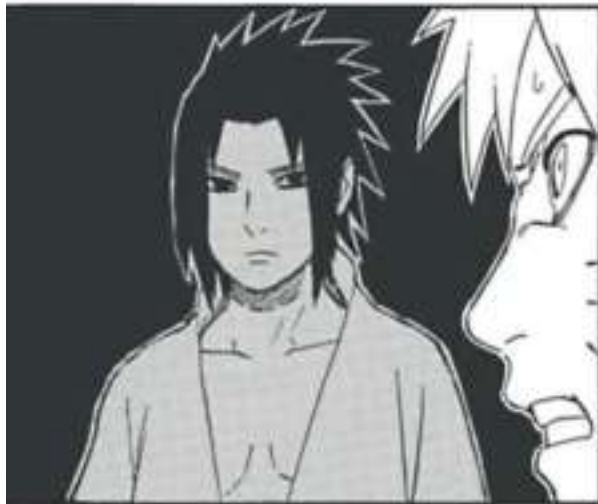


WHO'S
NEXT
?!!

KYA-HA
HA HA,
KILLED
YA!
I
KILLED
HIM!!









....!



SASUKE
CHOSE
THIS
PATH
ON HIS
OWN.



....!



YOU
LIE!!!



...IS TO WREAK
VENGEANCE
UPON KONOHA
FOR
PERSECUTING
THE UCHIHA
CLAN...
PARTICULARLY
ITACHI.

SASUKE'S
CURRENT
OBJEC-
TIVE...



HE
CHOSE
VEN-
GEANCE
...

...HE
IS OF
MY
KIND.

I DID
HAVE A
PRIVATE
BET
GOING...

...ON
WHETHER
HE WOULD
TAKE ON
ITACHI'S WILL...
OR SEEK
REVENGE
AGAINST
KONOHA.





THE SAGE
BEQUEATHED
HIS WILL
AND
TEACHINGS
TO HIS TWO
CHILDREN.



LONG AGO,
THE SAGE
OF SIX PATHS
CLARIFIED
SHINOBI
CREED AND
ATTEMPTED
WORLD
PEACE...

MYTHS
ARE OFTEN
BASED ON
TRUTHS...

HIS END
CAME
BEFORE
HE COULD
FULFILL
HIS
DREAM.



...AND
HE KNEW
LOVE WAS
NECESSARY
FOR
PEACE.

THE YOUNGER
SON HAD BEEN
BORN WITH THE
SAGE'S BODY...
GRANTED WITH
STAMINA AND
PHYSICAL
ENERGY...



HE KNEW
STRENGTH
WAS
NECESSARY
FOR
PEACE.

THE OLDER SON
HAD BEEN BORN
WITH THE
SAGE'S EYES...
GRANTING HIM
CHAKRA POWERS
AND MENTAL
ENERGY...

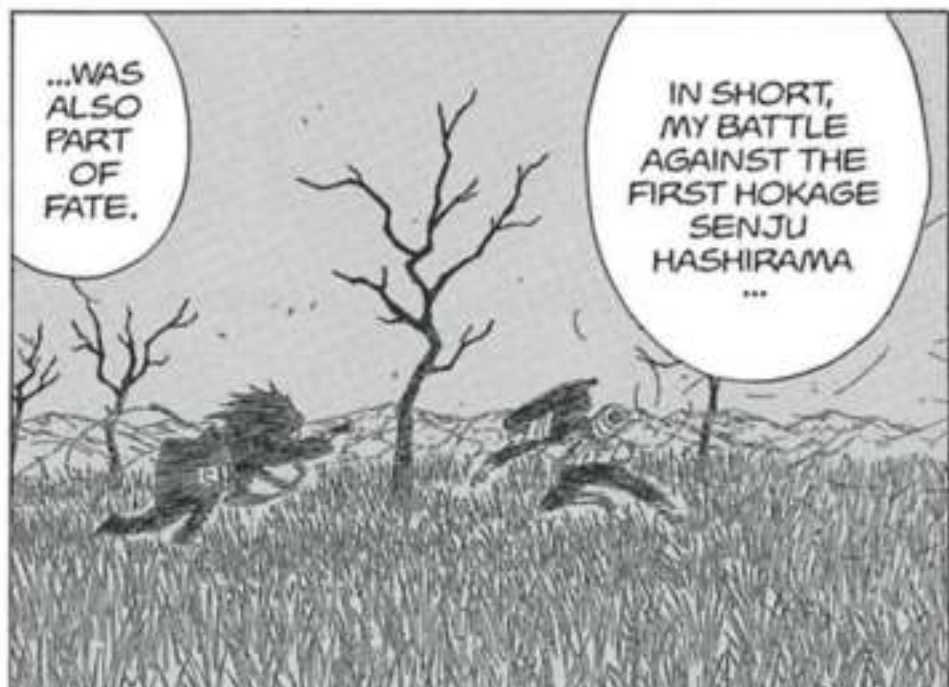


WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN?

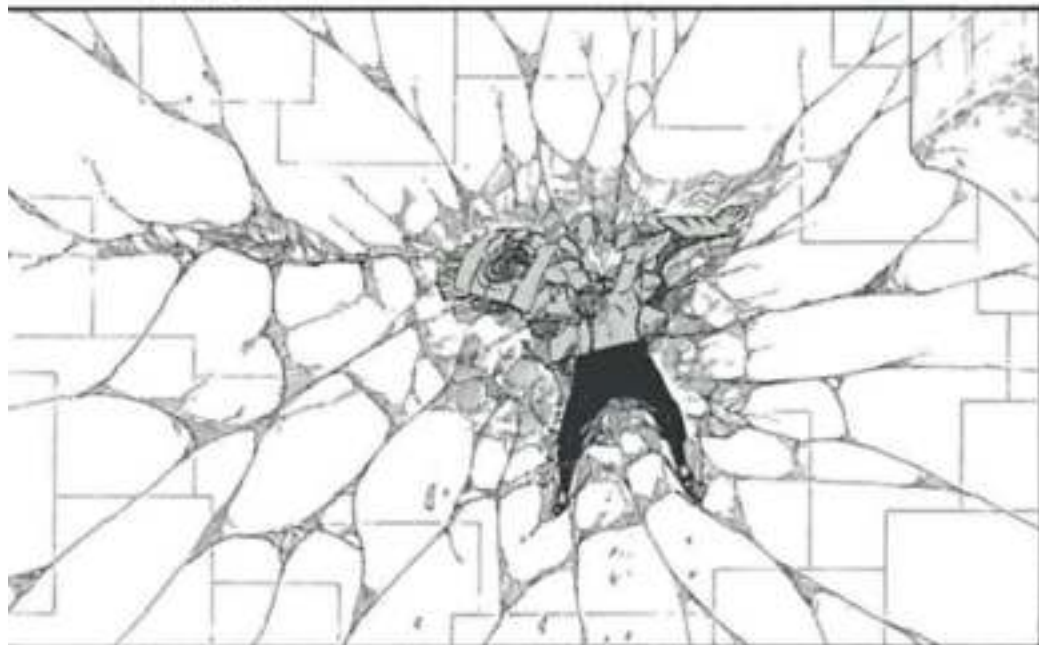


...A
DECISION
THAT
CREATED
THE
ETERNAL
CURSE OF
HATRED.

ON HIS
DEATHBED,
THE SAGE
CHOSE
A SINGLE
SUCCESSOR
...







YOU ARE JUST THE NEXT IN LINE TO BE CHOSEN BY DESTINY.





THE HATE THAT IS HIS STRONGEST WEAPON... HIS FRIEND...



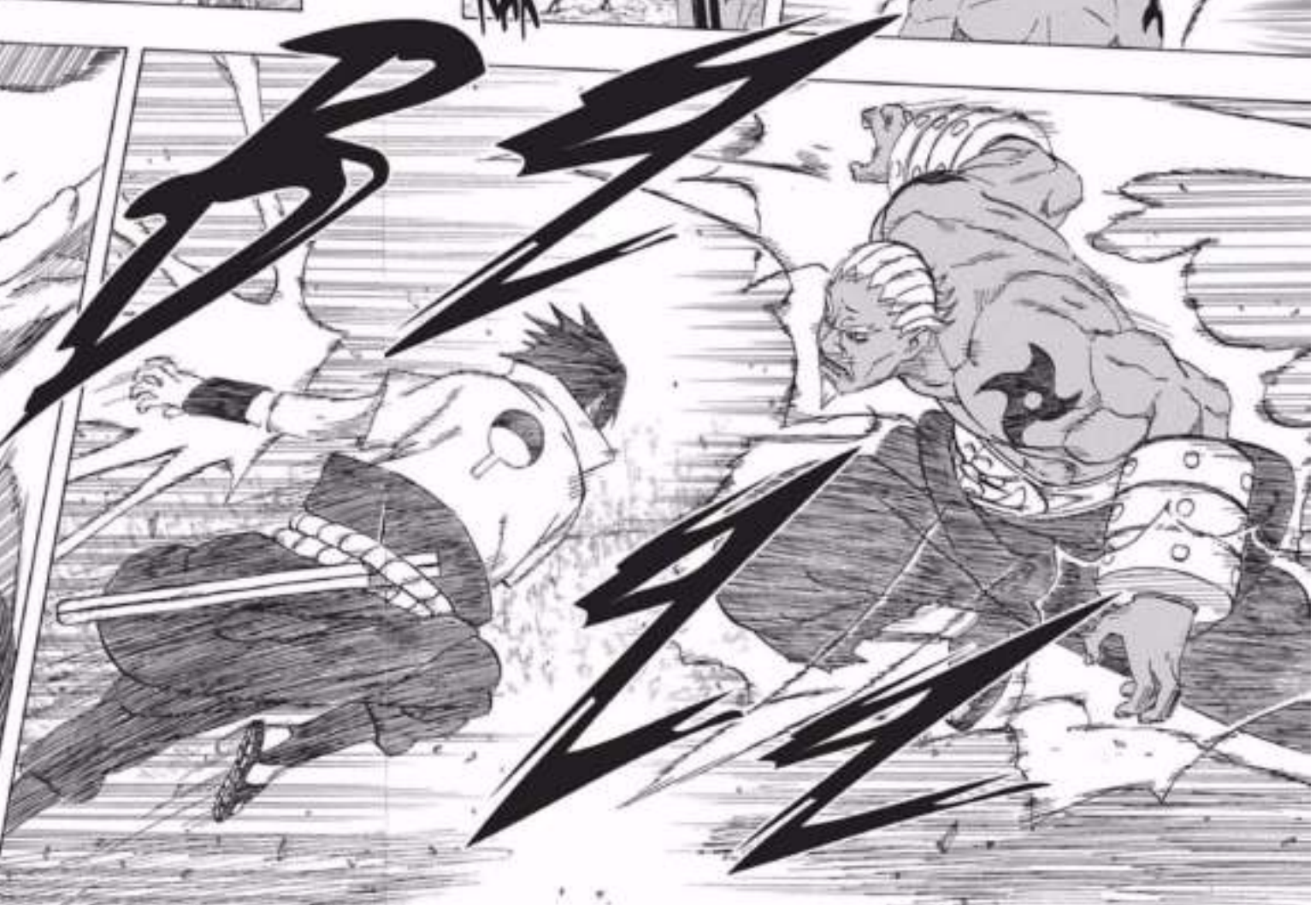
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP



...AND PLANS TO RAM THAT CURSE OF HATRED DEEP INTO THE WORLD.



THE UCHIHU CLAN IS CURSED WITH A DESTINY OF VENGEANCE.



NARUTO





Number 463: Sasuke vs. Raikage!!







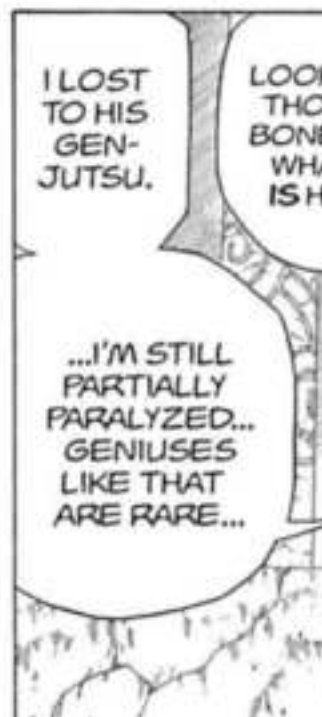
KABOO

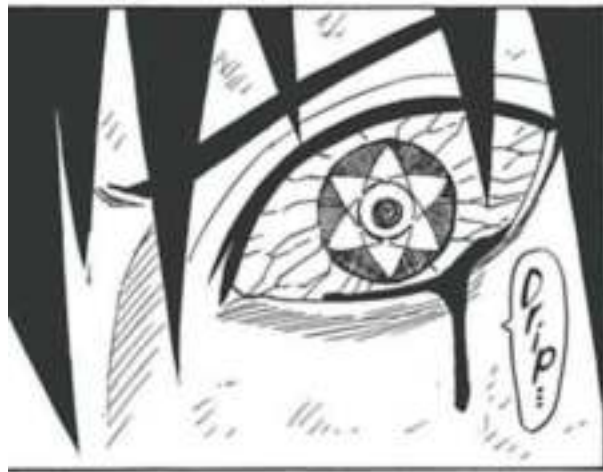
**LIGER
BOMB
!!!**

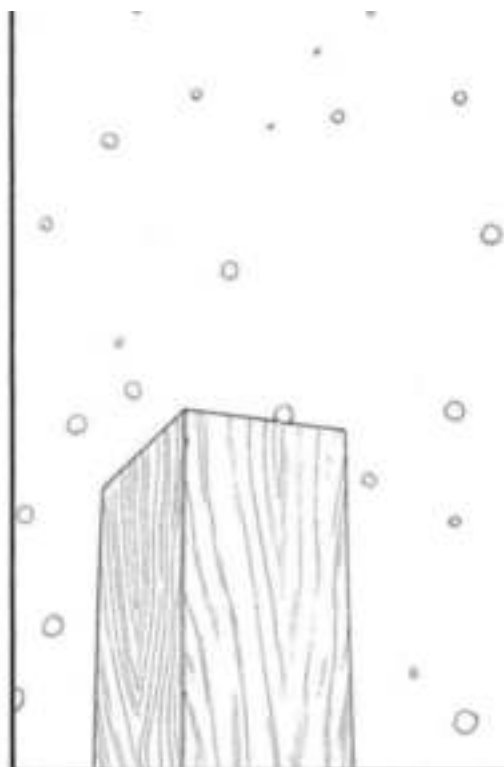
K













NEVER
COMPARE
YOURSELF
TO
NAGATO!!



...



HEH...

FOR
SURE...



BUT
YOU'RE
DIFFER-
ENT!!

OUR
METHODS
MAY HAVE
DIFFERED,
BUT HE
TRULY
WANTED
PEACE!



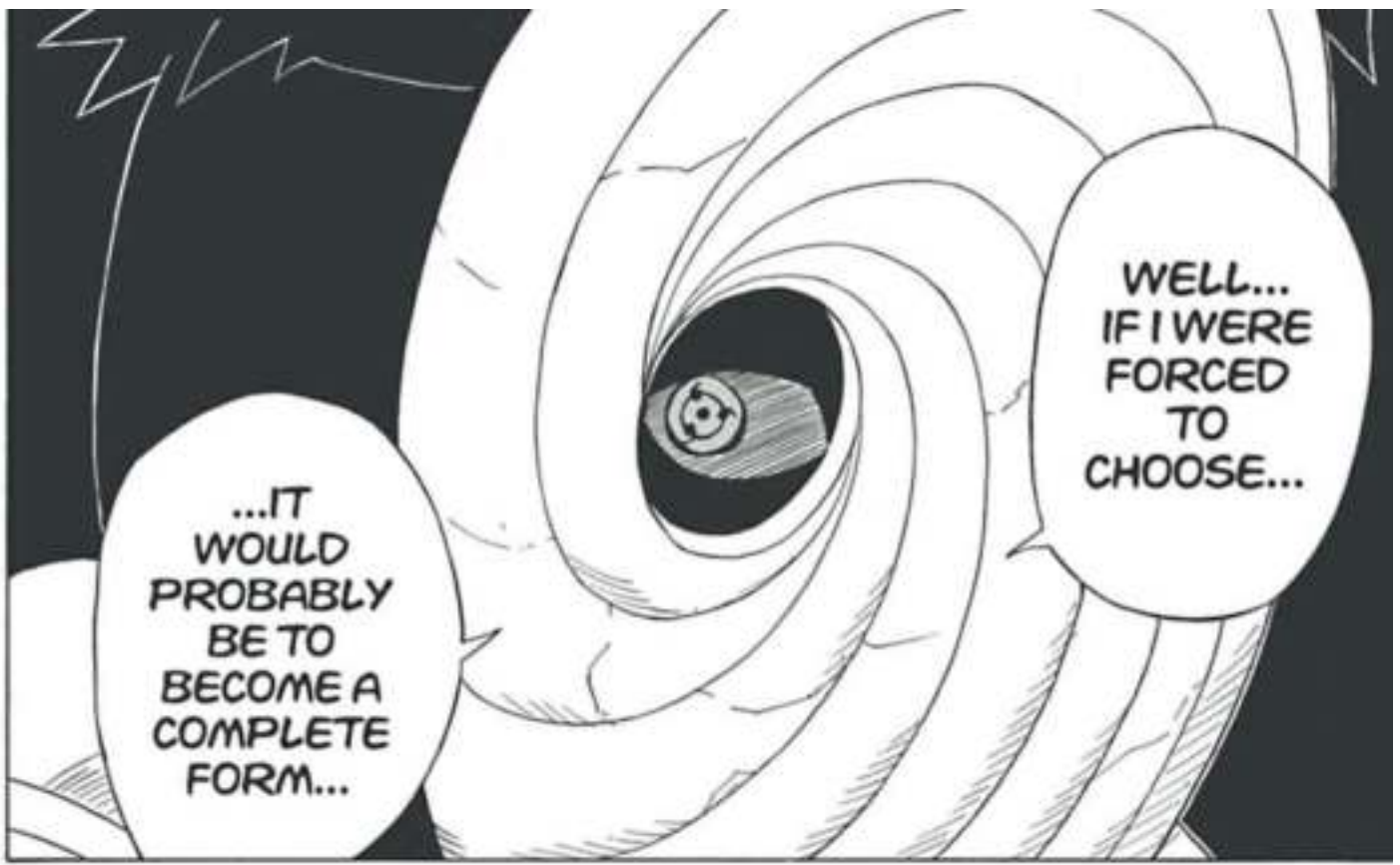
...THEN
WHY
COLLECT
BIJŪ?

IF YOUR
GOAL
REALLY
IS THAT
FOOLISH
PROOF...

WHAT
DO YOU
SEEK?

WHAT'S
YOUR
TRUE
PURPOSE?





...IT WOULD PROBABLY BE TO BECOME A COMPLETE FORM...

WELL... IF I WERE FORCED TO CHOOSE...



...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!



COMPLETE FORM ...?!

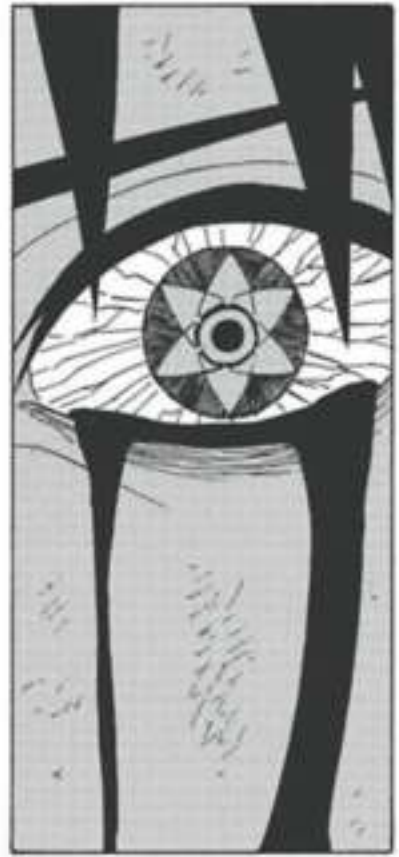


LATER ...

... 'T WAS FUN... CHATTING WITH YOU FOLKS...



TALKING TO YOU ABOUT IT NOW WOULD BE SOMEWHAT MEANINGLESS. I'LL TELL YOU UNDER MORE FITTING CIRCUMSTANCES...









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