

NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

volume

56



岸本 齊史

I'm always in a quandary over who to draw on the cover of each graphic novel volume... but I usually choose characters that were very prominent in the storylines within that volume. But lately they've all been unsightly old fogeys!!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2011

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. 56
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in SHONEN JUMP #108-110. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
English Adaptation/Joel Enos
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Inori Fukuda Trant, Sabrina Heep
Design/Sam Elzway
Editor/Megan Bates

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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





SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 56

TEAM ASUMA, REUNITED

CHARACTERS



Sasuke サスケ



Naruto ナルト



Sakura サクラ



Kakashi カカシ



Yamato ヤマト



Sai サイ



Gaara 我爱罗



Tsunade 綱手



Mizukage
水影



Tsuchikage
土影



Raikage
雷影



Kabuto
カブト



Zetsu
ゼツ



Madara
マダラ



Darui
ダルイ



Killer Bee
キラービー



Deidara
テイダラ

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.

Upon Madara's declaration of war, the Five Kage put together an Allied Shinobi Force. The Fourth Great Ninja War against the Akatsuki begins. Naruto continues training, still sequestered from the battlefield, while the Allied Forces fight harsh battles against the heroes Kabuto has resurrected. And do additional enemies threaten the main regiment of the Allied Forces?!



NARUTO

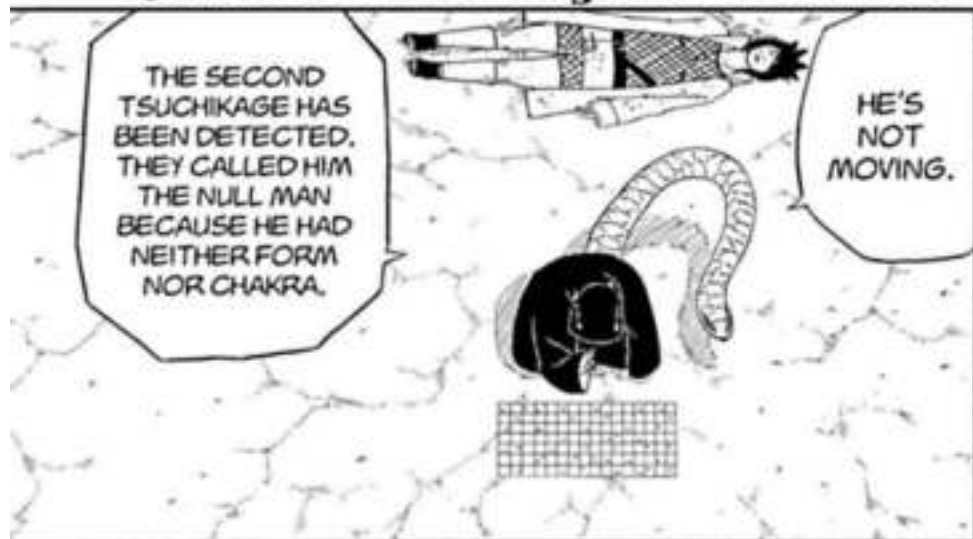
VOL. 56
TEAM ASUMA, REUNITED

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 Number 525: The Kage Resurrected!!



FISH

Number 525:
The Kage
Resurrected!!!

RECALLING
THE DEAD
FROM THE
UNDER-
WORLD AND
ENSLAVING
THEM.

THIS IS A
FOUL JUTSU
OF THE
SECOND
HOKAGE.

I WAS
FORCED
TO
SUMMON
YOU ALL
HERE.

...

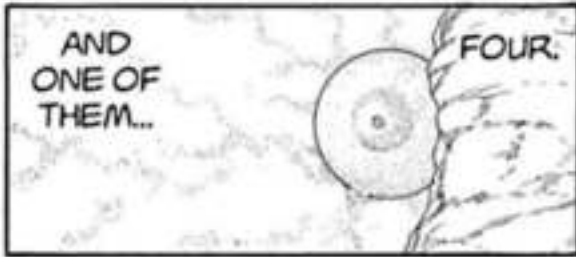
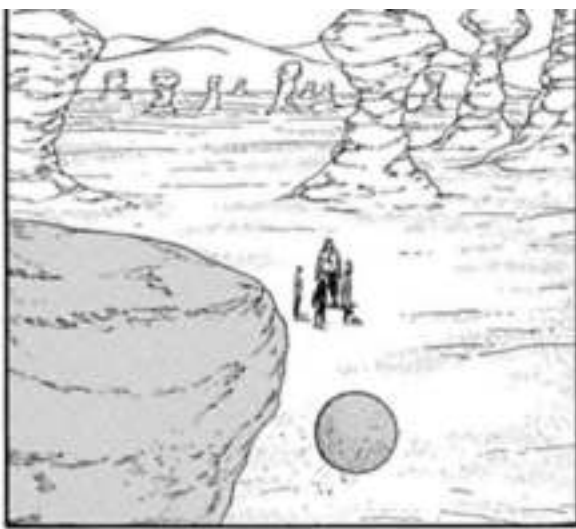
WAIT,
I
DON'T
KNOW
YOU.

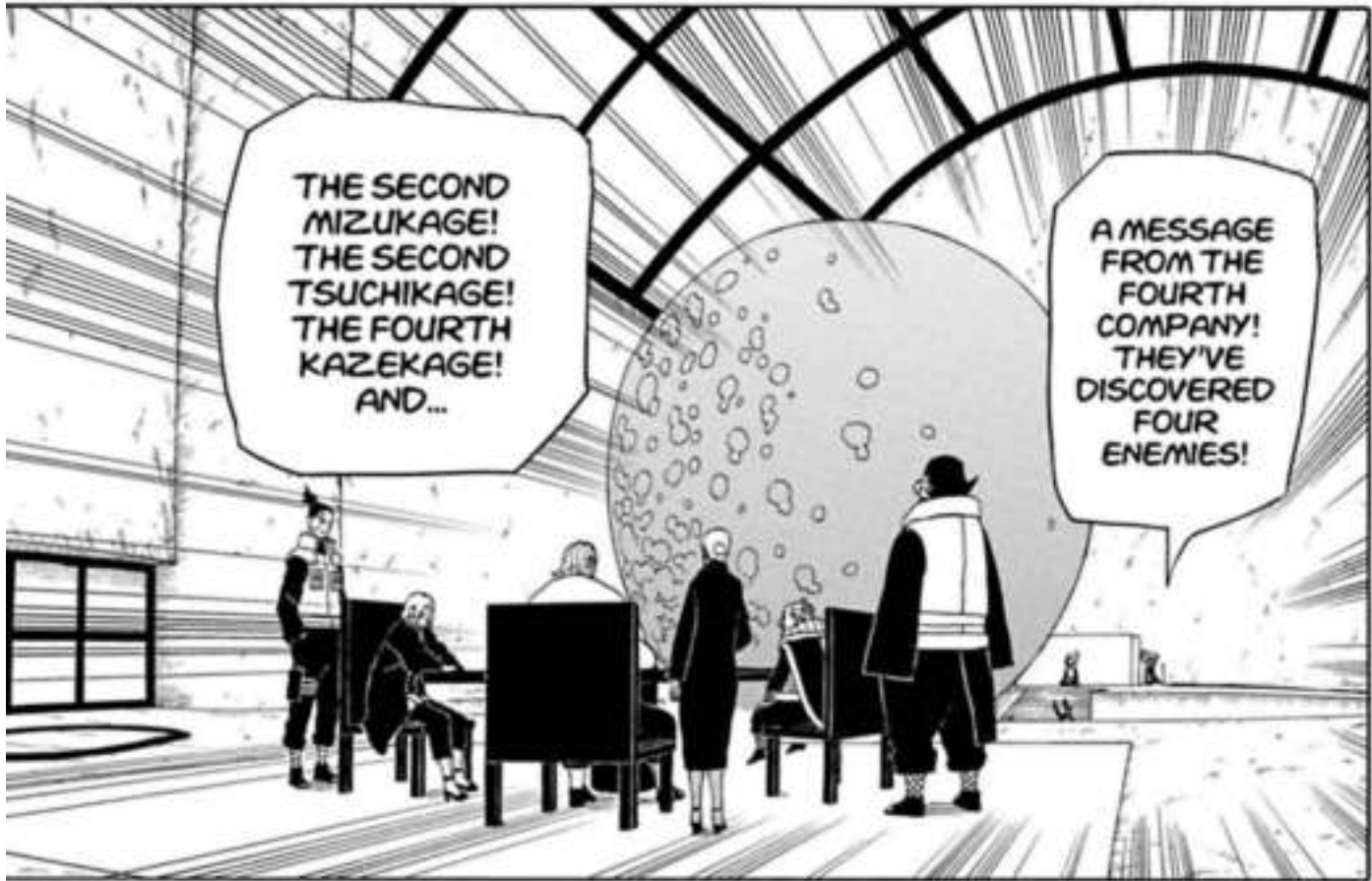
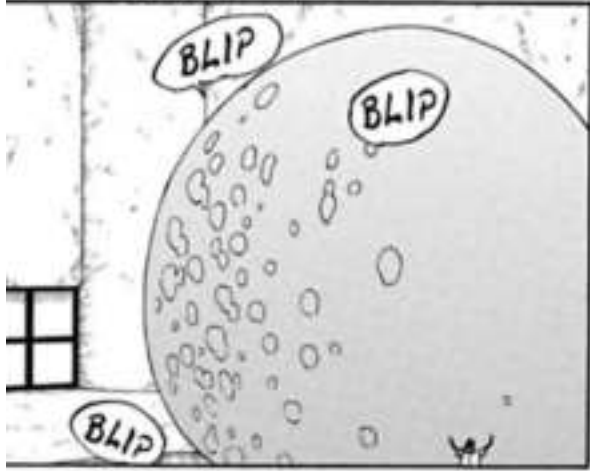
MY, MY. A
FRIENDLY
REUNION
OF PAST
ADVER-
SARIES.

WHERE?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

?









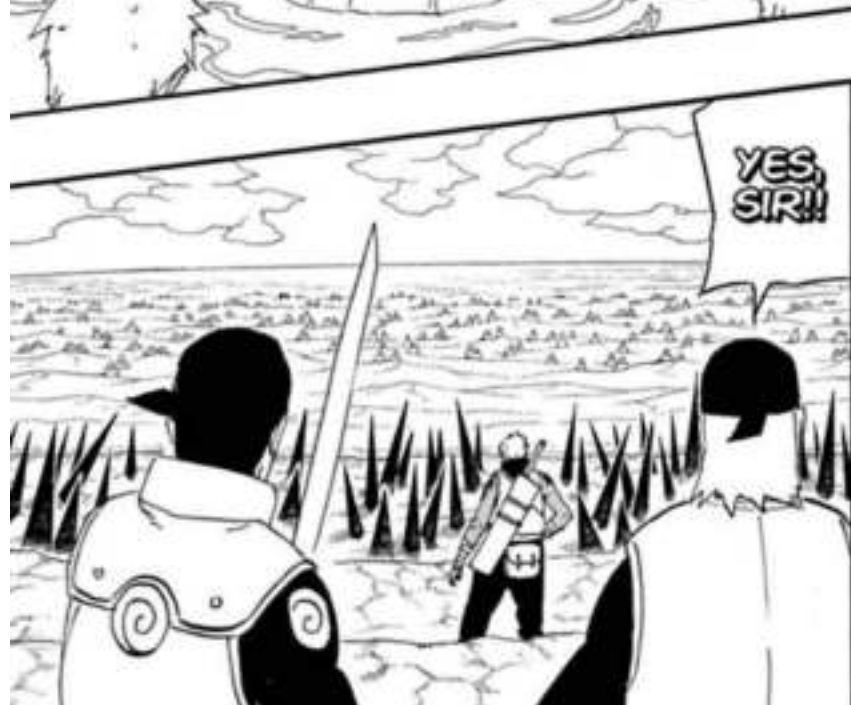
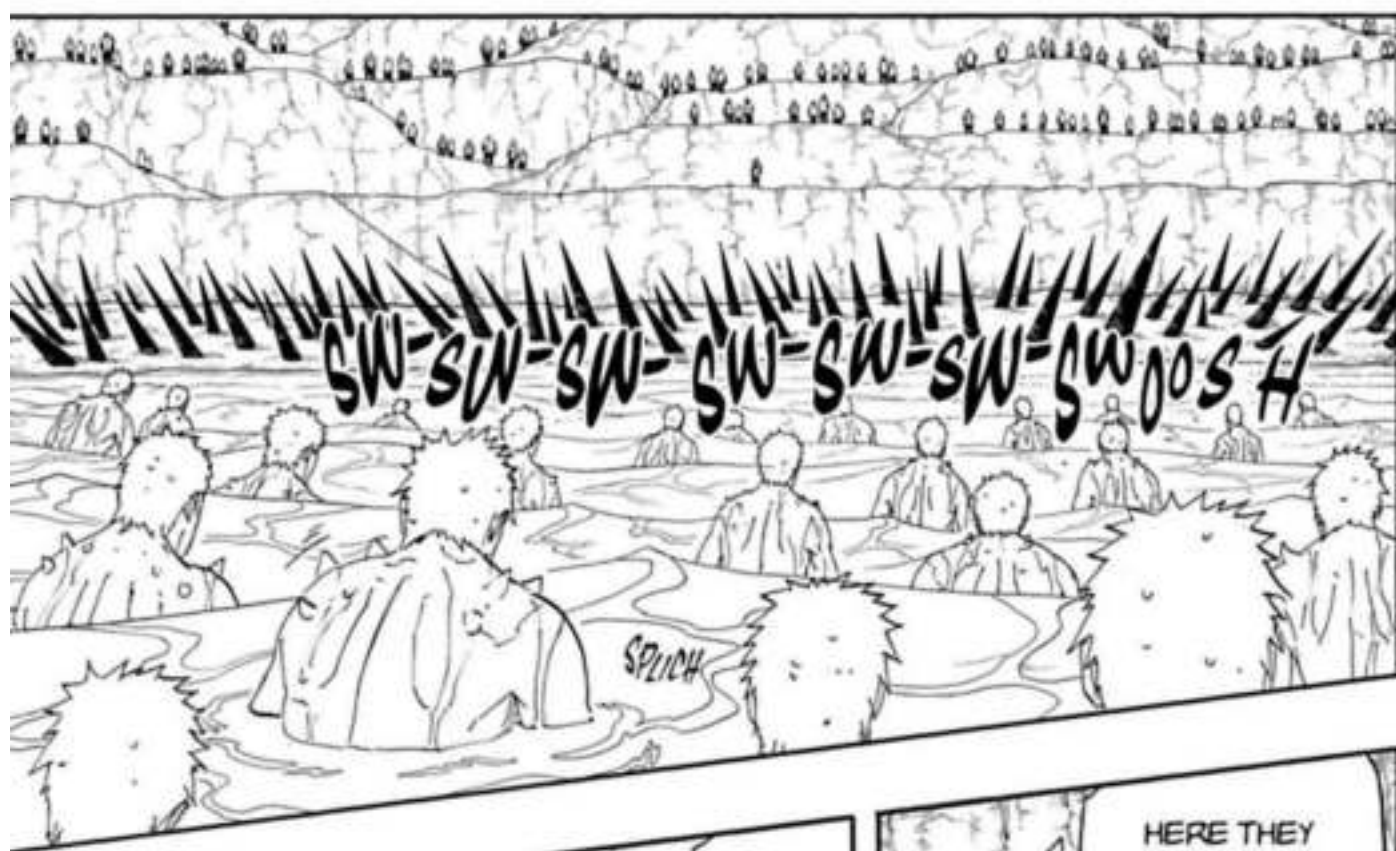
READ
THIS
WAY

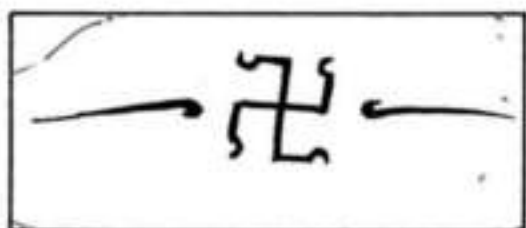


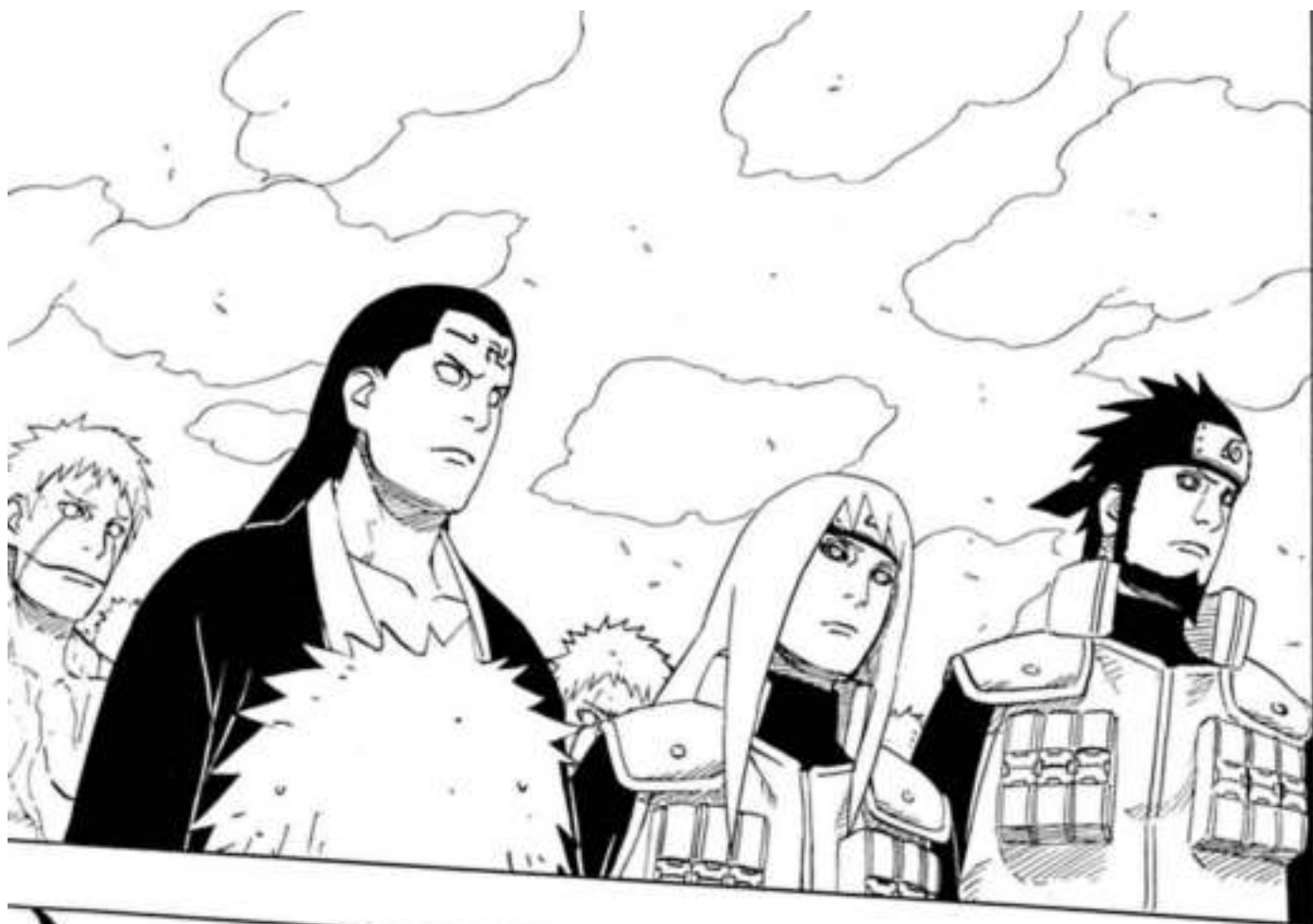
EACH ONE
IS MORE
POWERFUL
THAN THE
LAST!!

!!

NO!!
THERE ARE
TOO MANY
EDOTENSEI
ATTACKING
FIRST
COMPANY!!









YOU'VE GOT TO UTILIZE YOUR ARMY TO FIT EACH SOLDIER'S STRENGTHS.

LOOK AT THE MAP!

A

DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY

KITSUCHI'S SECOND COMPANY

MIFUNÉ'S FIFTH COMPANY

B

GAARA'S FOURTH COMPANY

HERE, THEY'RE LABELED BATTLEFIELDS A AND B.

WHEN YOU FACE AN ENEMY ON TWO FRONTS, YOU NEED TO OVERLOAD ONE FRONT FIRST AND WIN A DECISIVE VICTORY!

DARUI'S COMPANY CANNOT POSSIBLY STAND UP TO THIS MANY POWERFUL SHINOBI.

I'VE GOT TO KEEP UP WITH MY STRATEGY ANALYSIS!

FSH

THE TIDE OF BATTLE CHANGES TOO QUICKLY.

MIFUNÉ'S FIFTH COMPANY NEEDS TO JOIN UP WITH FIRST COMPANY TO REINFORCE THE RANKS WHILE MAINTAINING THE BELT FORMATION.

KITSUCHI'S SECOND COMPANY NEEDS TO FAN OUT LENGTHWISE. THEY MUST SURROUND THE ENEMY AND BOX THEM IN.

A

DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY

KITSUCHI'S SECOND COMPANY

MIFUNÉ'S FIFTH COMPANY

B

GAARA'S FOURTH COMPANY

IN OUR CASE, START WITH A!

CONCENTRATE FORCES AROUND DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY!

GAARA'S FOURTH COMPANY NEEDS TO RETREAT INTO A REVERSE L-FORMATION. THIS WILL LURE THE ENEMY FORWARD.

A

DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY

MIFUNÉ'S FIFTH COMPANY

B

KITSUCHI'S SECOND COMPANY

GAARA'S FOURTH COMPANY

SECOND COMPANY WILL BE STRETCHED THIN, BUT FIFTH COMPANY WILL BUTTRESS THEM.

HAVE THEM DECISIVELY HIT THE ENEMY AT B, WHICH GAARA'S FOURTH COMPANY DRAWS IN, FROM THE REAR!

THEN, AFTER THEY WIPE OUT THE ENEMY AT A, DEPLOY COMBINED DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY AND GAARA'S SQUAD BACK TOWARD B.

MIFUNE'S FIFTH COMPANY COMBINED WITH KITSUCHI'S SECOND COMPANY

DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY COMBINED WITH GAARA'S SQUAD

GAARA'S FOURTH COMPANY

B

KITSUCHI'S SECOND COMPANY

DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY

A

REINFORCEMENTS FROM GAARA

MIFUNE'S FIFTH COMPANY COMBINED WITH KITSUCHI'S SECOND COMPANY

B

GAARA'S FOURTH COMPANY

HAVE THE TOP HALF OF THE REVERSE L JOIN UP WITH FIRST COMPANY.

KITSUCHI'S COMPANY IS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THE ENEMY.

THEY CAN ATTACK THE WHITE NINJA FROM BEHIND.

THE SECOND AND FIFTH COMPANIES ARE NEAR BATTLEFIELD A AND CAN BE MOBILIZED QUICKLY.

IF YOU SPLIT GAARA'S COMPANY IN HALF, THE ENEMY AT B MAY USE THAT OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT.

WHY START WITH A?

AN EVEN IF THEY WERE TO LAUNCH AN ASSAULT, FOURTH COMPANY IS A LONG-RANGE BATTLE UNIT.

IF OUR TROOPS SUDDENLY DROP TO HALF THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER, THE ENEMY WILL THINK WE'RE UP TO SOMETHING AND BE RELUCTANT TO MAKE A CARELESS MOVE.

THE ENEMY AT POINT B WILL BE MOSTLY CONTAINED.





I'VE
ALREADY
RELAYED
ALL
OF IT!



INOICHI!
PAYING
ATTENTION?!



AND I'VE
HAD SHIZUNE
DIVIDE THE
INJURED UP
EVENLY TO BE
TREATED!



MIFUNE'S
COMPANY HAS
ALSO BEEN
CONTACTED
REGARDING THE
COMMANDO UNIT,
AND THEY'RE
ON THEIR WAY!

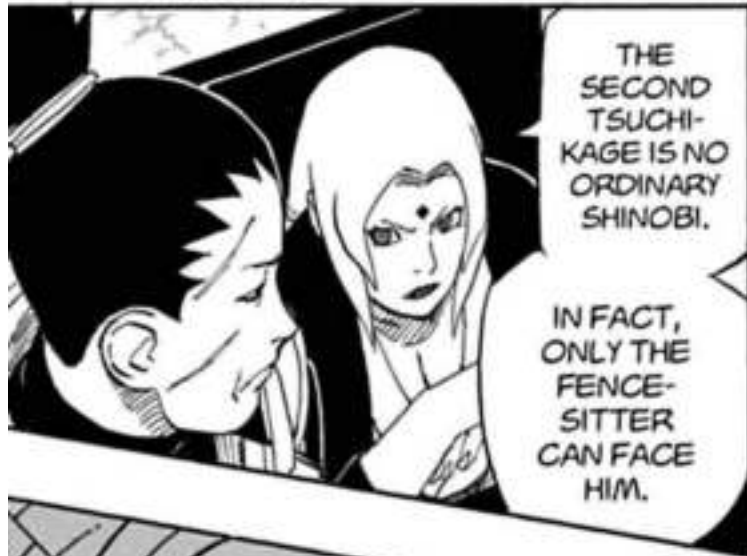


IF I MAY
INTERJECT
ONE THING?



I THINK
IT'S TIME
FOR INO-
SHIKA-CHO
TO MAKE
A RARE
APPEAR-
ANCE.

GOOD.



THE SECOND Tsuchikage is no ordinary shinobi.

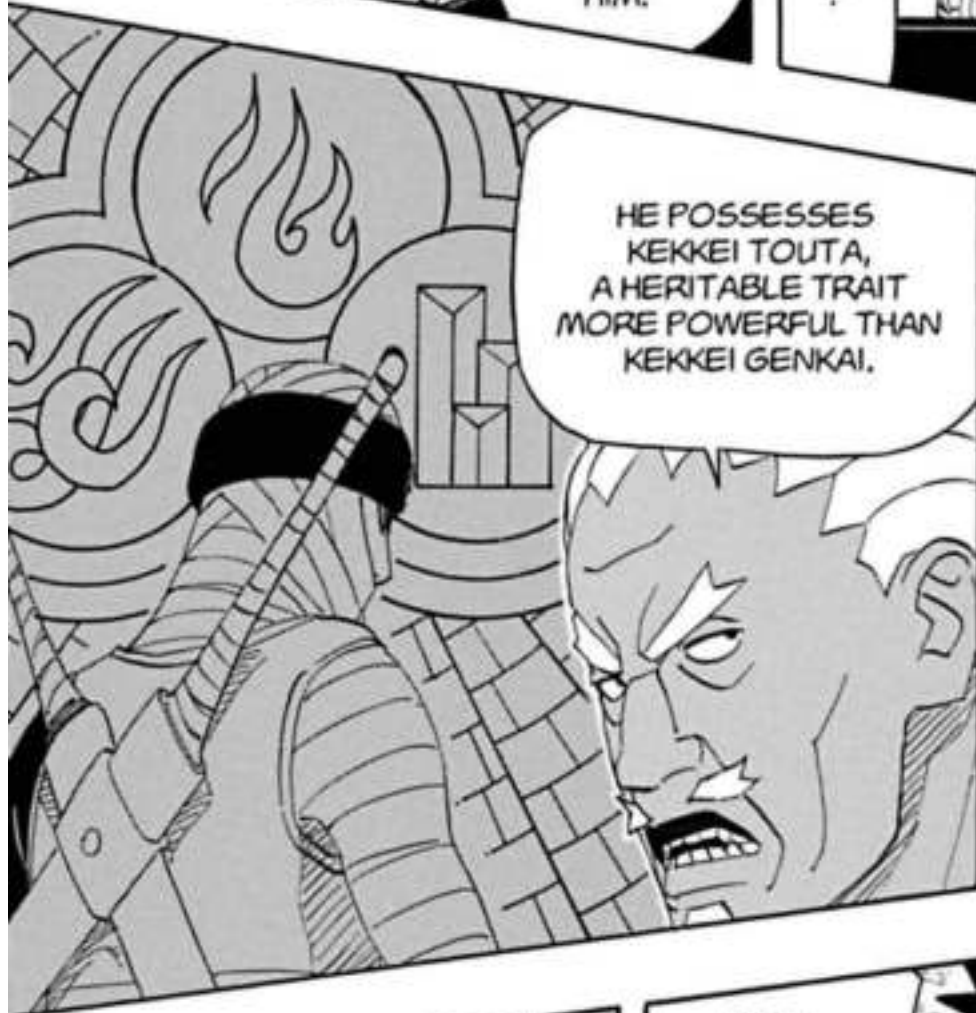
In fact, only the fence-sitter can face him.



You need to alter your plan slightly.

Yes, sir?

How?



He possesses Kekkei Touta, a heritable trait more powerful than Kekkei Genkai.



Not ordinary?

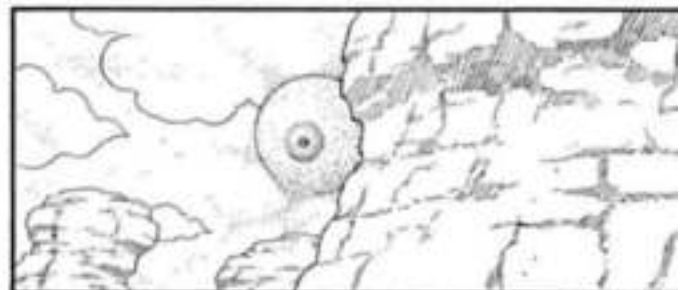
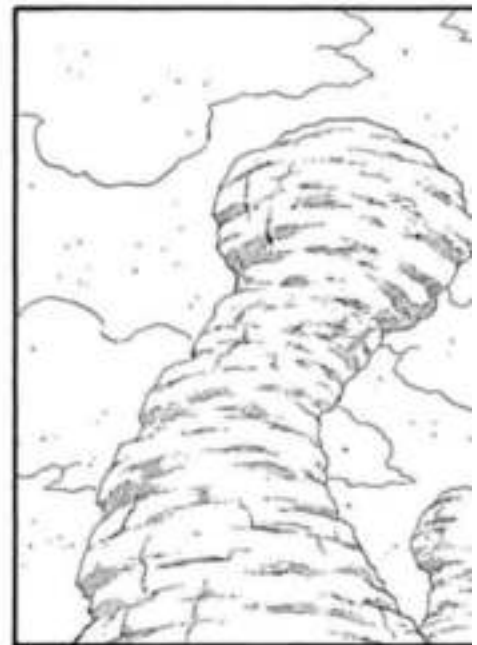


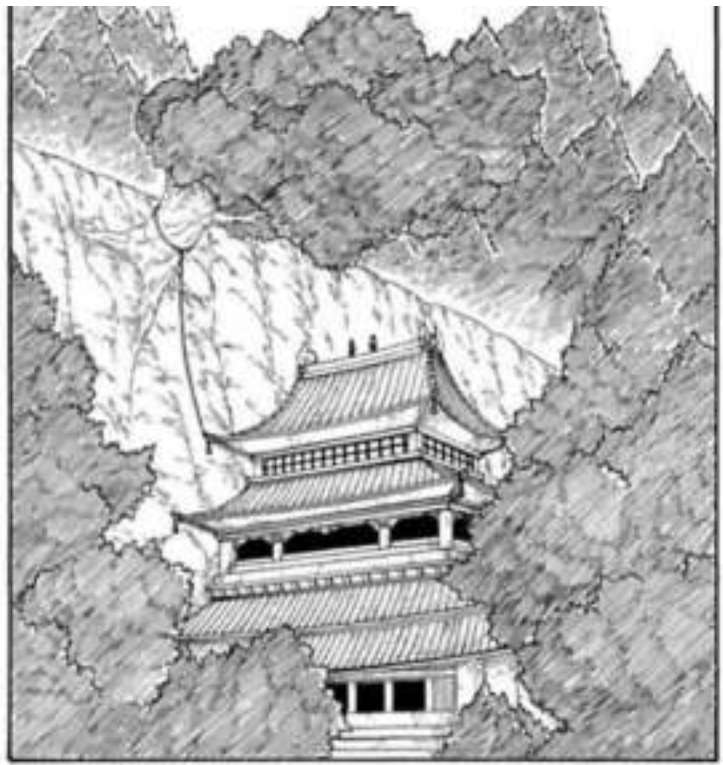
But I thought you were the only wielder, Third Tsuchikage!

Not the second, as well!



Kekkei Touta!





NOW, NOW. BE AT PEACE. WE SHOULD BESTOW ON THEM MERITORIOUS HONORS ONCE THE WAR IS OVER.

HOW LONG DO WE DAIMYO HAVE TO BE COOPED UP IN SUCH CRAMPED QUARTERS?

I AM NOT ENJOYING THIS.

HMM. WHAT SHALL WE CALL SUCH DECORATIONS?

ZWO...



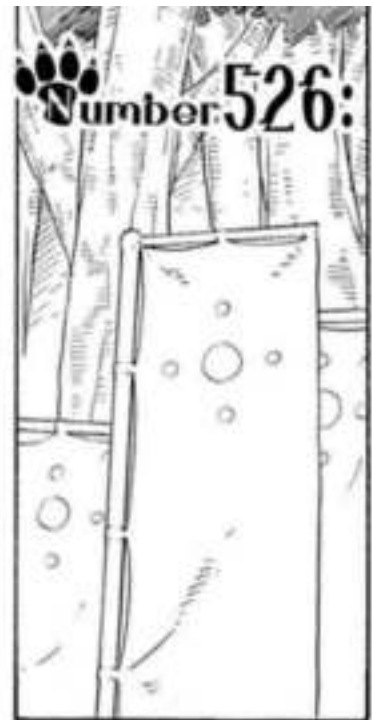
IS THIS THE PLACE?

ZWOOP





IT'S NOT UNHEARD OF THAT LEADERS END UP HOSTAGES DURING TIMES OF WAR.



Battle Challenge!!



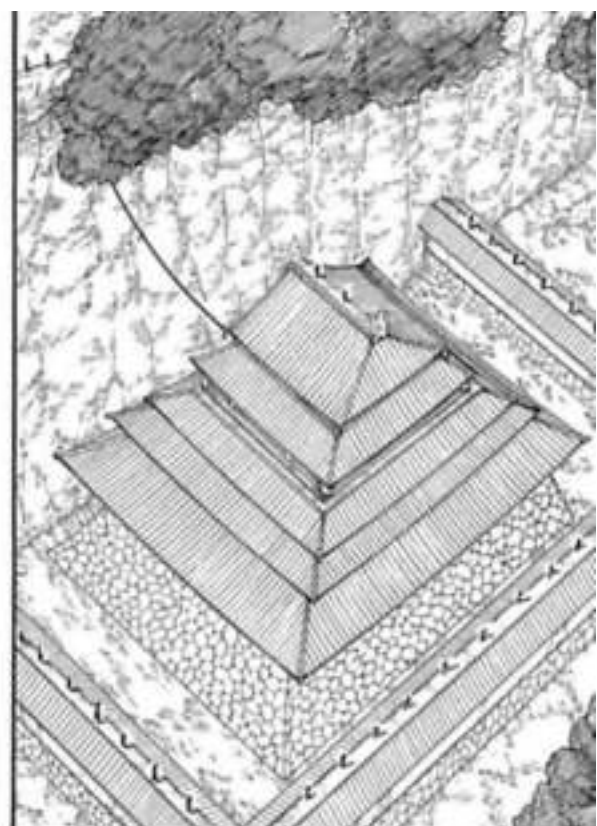






HOW ABOUT
LAND OF FIRE'S
KONOHAGAKURE,
LAND OF WIND'S
SUNAGAKURE,
LAND OF EARTH'S
IWAGAKURE,
LAND OF WATER'S
KIRIGAKURE, AND
LAND OF LIGHTNING'S
KUMOGAKURE
ALLIED SHINOBI
DECORATION.

AH, I'VE
THOUGHT
OF AN
EXCELLENT
ORDER
NAME!



THAT'S
UNFAIR!

WHY
IS LAND
OF FIRE
FIRST?



NO, NO,
THAT'S TOO
ABBREVIATED
AND DOESN'T
MEAN
ANYTHING.

WHY NOT
JUST THE
ALLIED
AWARD?!

TOO
LONG!



THEY DOLE OUT
THE HONORS AND
AWARDS IN KEEPING
WITH THE HIERARCHY
OF RESPECT THAT'S
COMPLETELY
NECESSARY IN
THESE TIMES.

WE
NEED TO
RESPECT
THEIR
ORDERS.

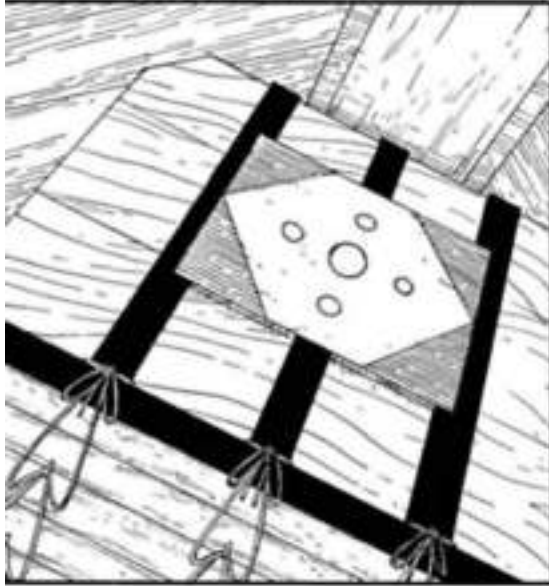
SOMEONE'S
GOT TO SET
THE STANDARDS.

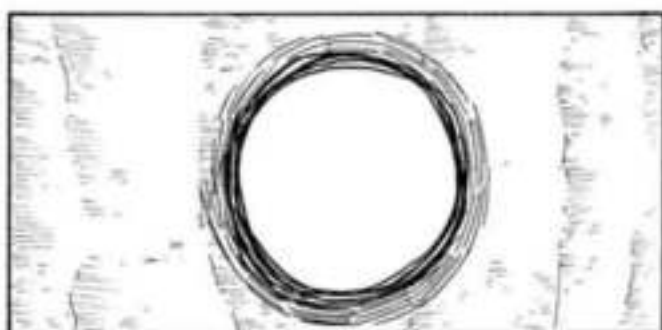


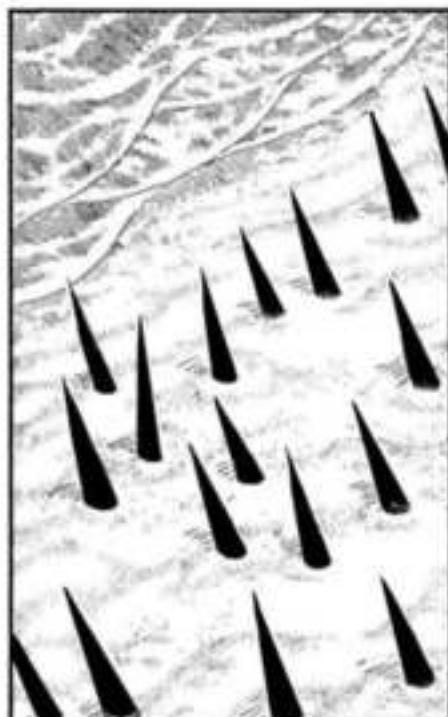
AWARDS
AND TITLES
WON'T REVIVE
OUR FALLEN
COMRADES.

THE DAIMYO
SEEM A BIT
OBLIVIOUS.

BUT
THAT'S
THEIR
JOB.









LORD
RAIKAGE
ONLY EVER
LET CAPTAIN
DARUI GET A
TATTOO!!

BLACK
LIGHT-
NING!



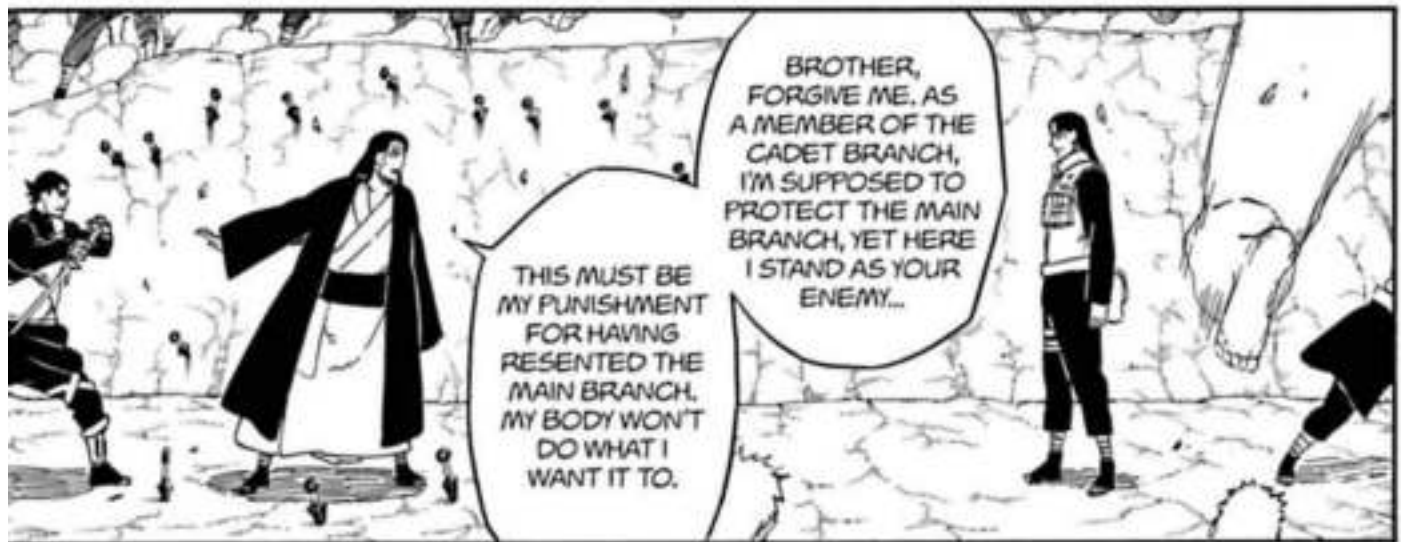
LIGHTNING
STYLE!
BLACK
PANTHER!!



BLZZZ

AAAAAHHH!!!

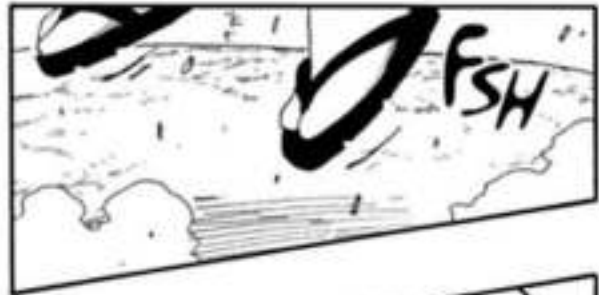
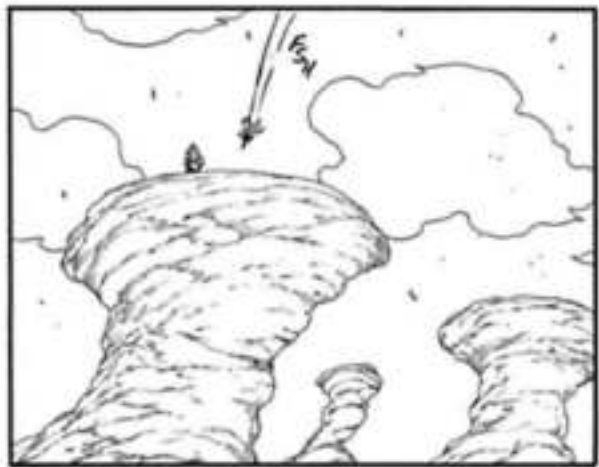




















TOO MUCH
TIME HAS
PASSED.

I'LL SHUT
YOU UP!

I DON'T
LIKE YOUR
TONE
TOWARD
GREAT
SENPAI.

OUR
COMRADES
HAVE NEVER
HEARD OF
US.

Number 527: Forbidden Words



VOOSH

MISS
SAMUI.
ATSUI.

!!

G-G-G-

TMP

TMP



NEE

THOSE
TWO
REALLY
MUST BE
SOME-
THING!

AAH...!
THE USUALLY
COOL-HEADED
LADY'S RED-HOT
TODAY!

I'D RATHER
NOT BE
CALLED YOUR
COMRADE.

YOU TWO
REALLY ARE THE
KINKAKU AND
GINKAKU OF
HISTORY BOOKS?









I'LL TAKE ON THE ONE ALL THE WAY IN THE BACK!



YOU DON'T KNOW HOW FEARSOME THE GOLD & SILVER BROTHERS TRULY ARE.

CALM DOWN, RAIKAGE.

YOU'RE SUPREME COMMANDER, REMEMBER?



...THEY STAGED A COUP, LAUNCHING SURPRISE ATTACKS AGAINST BOTH THE SECOND RAIKAGE AND SECOND HOKAGE.

A WHILE BACK, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMAL CEREMONY TO CEMENT OUR ALLIANCE WITH KONOHA...



THEY'RE THE WORST CRIMINALS IN ALL OF KUMOGAKURE HISTORY.



APPARENTLY KUMOGAKURE TRIED TO CAPTURE NINE TAILS.

NINE TAILS THEN DEVoured THE GOLD & SILVER BROTHERS.



THEY DROVE THE SECOND HOKAGE TO THE BRINK OF DEATH.

THEY WIELDED THE FIVE TREASURED TOOLS OF THE SAGE OF SIX PATHS.

BUT I'D NEVER HEARD THAT THEY POSSESSED NINE TAILS' CHAKRA.



THEY DRAIN SUCH A MASSIVE VOLUME OF CHAKRA THAT MOST WHO TRY DIE.

NO ORDINARY HUMAN CAN WIELD THOSE TREASURED TOOLS.

THAT'S QUITE A FAR-FETCHED TALE.



SINCE THEN, THEY'VE BOTH BORNE NINE TAILS' CHAKRA.

BUT THEY WERE SO UNRULY THAT NINE TAILS FINALLY COULDN'T STAND IT ANYMORE AND VOMITED THEM BOTH BACK UP.

THEY WERE INSIDE NINE TAILS FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS.



UGH!

BUT THEY ARE NOW MORE LIKE MONSTERS, INFUSED WITH THE CHAKRA OF THE NINE-TAILED BEAST!







(TOP: HOT BOTTOM: COOL)





WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!



I TOLD YOU TO LET ME FINISH!

H...

KLOP

LISTEN, YOU CAN'T SPEAK CARELESSLY FROM THIS POINT ON.

?!



OUR SPIRIT WORDS HAVE BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE.

ATSUI AND I HAVE A CURSED JUTSU AND SEALING JUTSU CAST AGAINST US.



NEXT TIME WE UTTER THE WORD OR PHRASE WE'VE SAID MOST OFTEN SINCE WE WERE BORN...



...WE'LL BE TRAPPED INSIDE THAT GOURD.













SO FAST.
PRECISION
NINJUTSU
?!

FW OOSH



GOOD JOB
HITTING HIM
WITH THE
KOKINJO,
KINKAKU!

OWW!

WHA

WH

UGH!!

AM



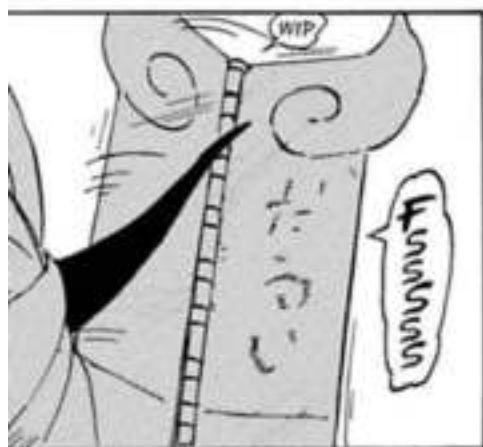
THIS
ONE FIRST,
THOUGH.



UNH.

GAK...





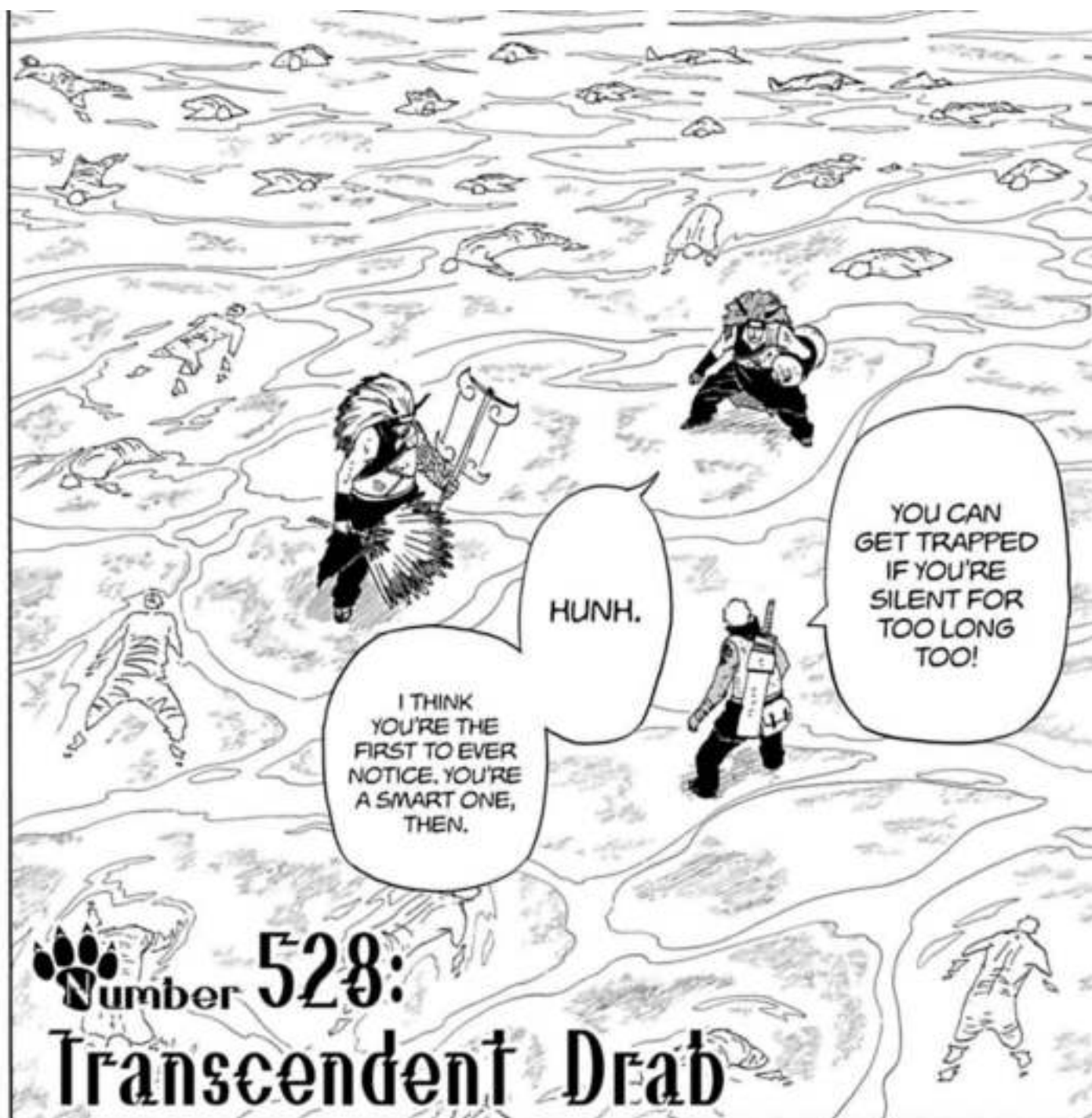
(DRAB)



NARUTO

Number 528: Transcendent Drab





HUNH.

I THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST TO EVER NOTICE. YOU'RE A SMART ONE, THEN.

YOU CAN GET TRAPPED IF YOU'RE SILENT FOR TOO LONG TOO!

Number 528:
Transcendent Drab



...

IRK..



SUCCESSFUL DECEIT IS THE TRUEST PROOF OF ELOQUENCE!

AND THEN, SOMETIMES, SPEECH IS GOLDEN!

SILENCE IS ALSO PROHIBITED, HA HA HA!



YOU SAID SILENCE IS GOLDEN.



...YOU TWO ARE CONSIDERED DISGRACES IN KUMOGAKURE.

THAT'S WHY...



IN THE SHINOBI WORLD, DECEIT AND BETRAYAL ARE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE BATTLE TACTICS. SO WORDS ARE ALSO NINJA TOOLS.

I TOLD YOU! WORDS ARE MERELY TOOLS PEOPLE USE TO TRICK EACH OTHER.



...BUT...

DO NOT BLAME YOURSELF.

I'M SORRY, SIR. YOU CHOSE ME AS YOUR BODYGUARD, YET I FAILED TO PROTECT YOUR LEFT ARM.



YEAH, YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE RABBIT, A PAWN OF THE RAJAGE, WE ARE GOLD AND SILVER, YOU ARE BRONZE, A CHEAP IMITATION! SO SHUT YOUR TINY LITTLE BRONZE MOUTH!

WHADJA JUST SAY, YOU PUNY LITTLE BUNNY!

SERIOUSLY, THIS CURRENT GENERATION OF SHINOBI ALL BRONZE AND NO GOLD OR SILVER, I SWEAR.



YEAH, THIS ONE...

TWO RIGHT ARMS?

I CAN MANAGE WITHOUT A LEFT ARM.

FOR I'VE GOT MYSELF TWO RIGHT ARMS.



...

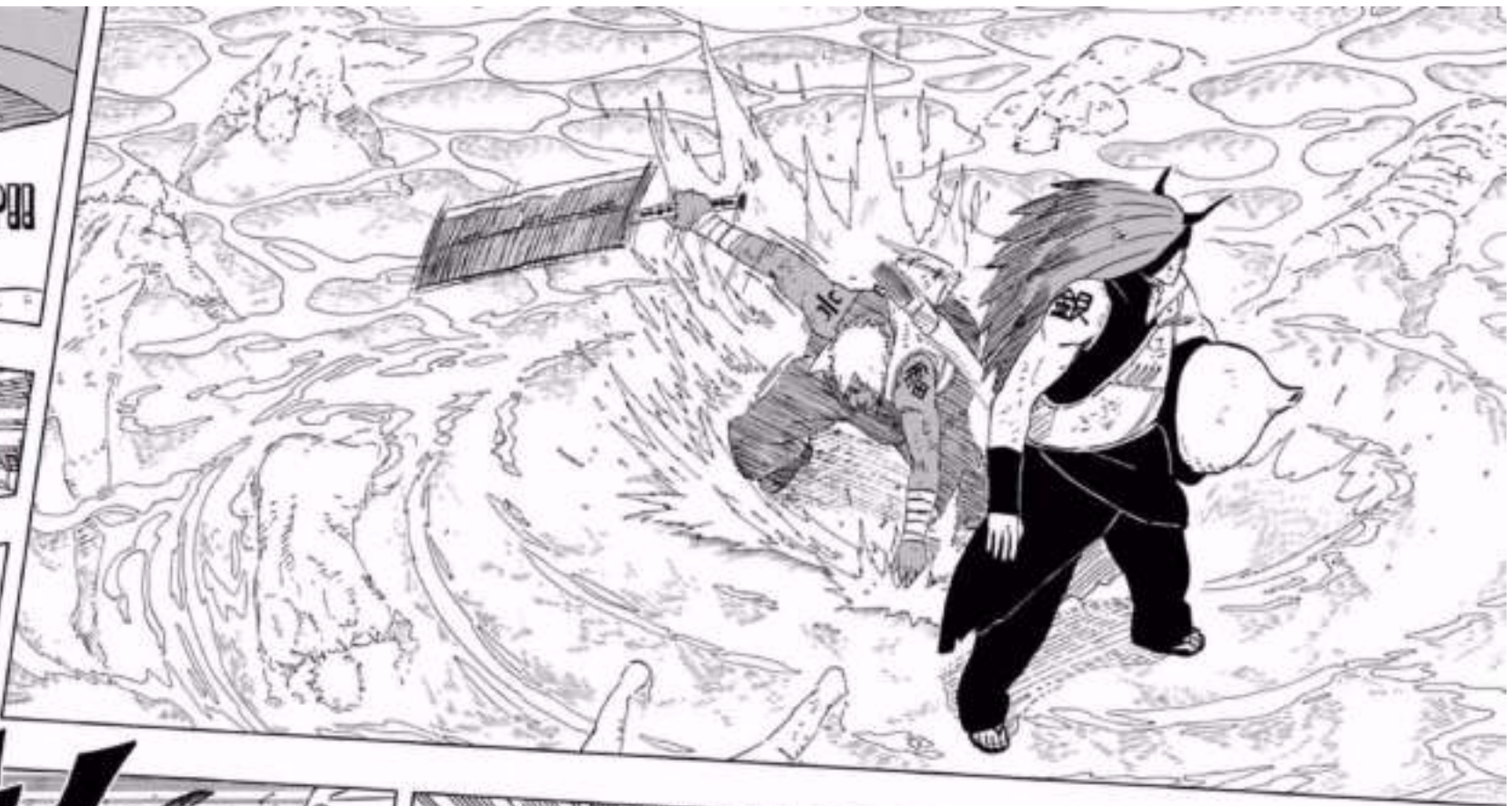
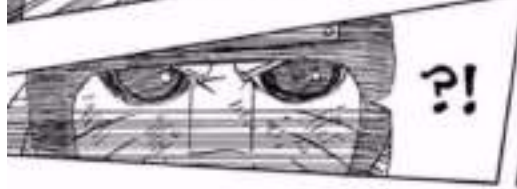






READ THIS WAY









HIS MOST-AND HIS SECOND-MOST UTTERED WORDS SWITCHED THEIR ORDER WHILE HE WAS GETTING SUCKED IN!

I KNOW THE WORD WAS DRAB!

SORRY, EVERY-ONE.

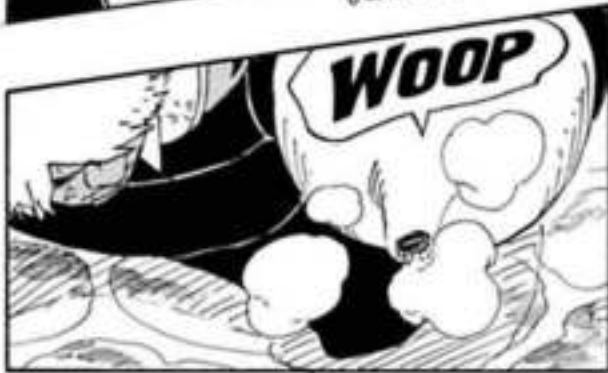
I'M SO SORRY, MISS SAMUI, ATSU!

SORRY, BOSS.











ONE
DOWN,
ONE
TO GO!

MISS SAMUI,
ATSUI, THIS WAS
POSSIBLE
THANKS TO YOU.
I SWEAR I'LL
GET YOU OUT
LATER!



ARGH
!!

WAAAH
!!

BAW



N-NO WAY,
HE LOOKS
JUST
LIKE...

HEY,
HEY,
HEY!



SHOCK



WHAT
?!

?!!



GRR
...!!

HOW
DARE YOU
TAKE
GINKAKU!!

ZIZZLE...



A NINE
TAILS
JINCHŪRIKI
?!



KINKAKU
ONLY LOOKS
LIKE THIS...

...WHEN
GINKAKU
IS DONE
FOR!



RAAAAWR!!!

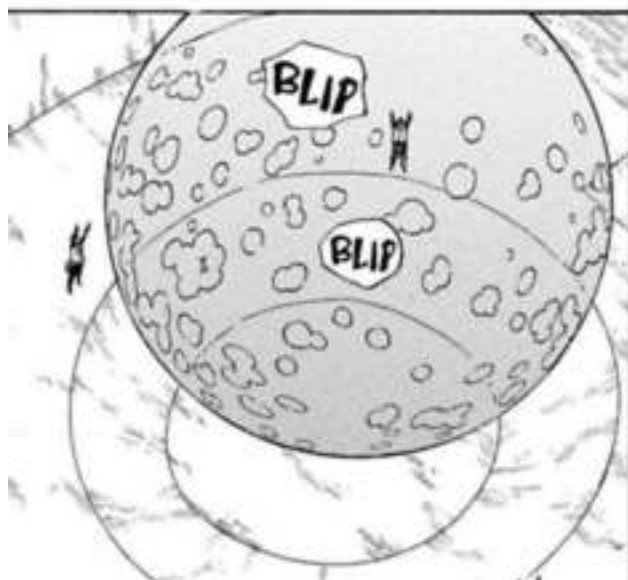
NARUTO



Number-529: Golden Bonds













YOU DON'T NEED THE OTHER TOOLS FOR THE JAR TO WORK. ALL YOU DO IS SAY THE TARGET'S NAME AND IF THEY RESPOND, THEIR VOICE IS RECORDED AND THEY'RE TRAPPED INSIDE IT!

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYTHING SPECIAL.



THIS IS THE FIFTH TREASURE THAT WAS USED TO SEAL AWAY EIGHT TAILS.

THE AMBER PURIFICATION JAR.



I'M GOING TO SEND THIS TO DARUI SO HE CAN SEAL KINKAKU AWAY!

WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE JUST THIS ONE FROM THE GOLD & SILVER BROTHERS.



...



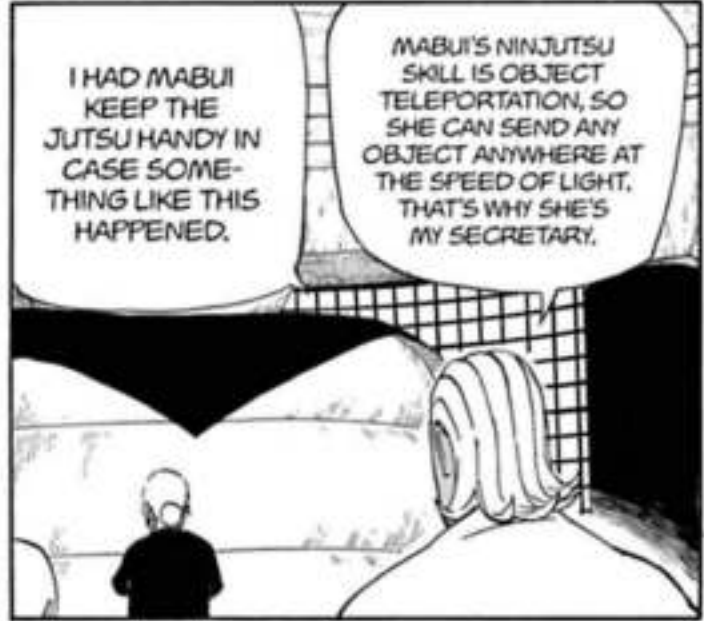
I CAN SEND IT TO DARUI ANYTIME YOU WISH!

LORD RAJAGE, I'M READY!



IT WILL TAKE TOO LONG TO TRANSPORT THIS.

THE SITUATION ON THE FRONT IS URGENT.













THE
TEAMWORK
NINJITSU OF
INO-SHIKA-CHO
IS ONE OF THE
MOST CELEBRATED
LEGENDS IN AND
OF ITSELF! HAVE
CONFIDENCE AND
PRIDE IN THAT!!

HE MAY HAVE
NINE TAILS'
POWER, BUT WE
HAVE THE POWER
OF THE
INO-SHIKA-CHO
BOND!!



MORE
REIN-
FORCE-
MENTS!



HERE
THEY
COME!



HE'S OVER!!

SO THAT'S HIM, HUH.

SORRY WE'RE LATE.



FISH

EVERY-ONE, COVER THEM, ALL TOGETHER!!

THROW YOUR KUNAI AT KINKAKU, NOW!!



...



?!

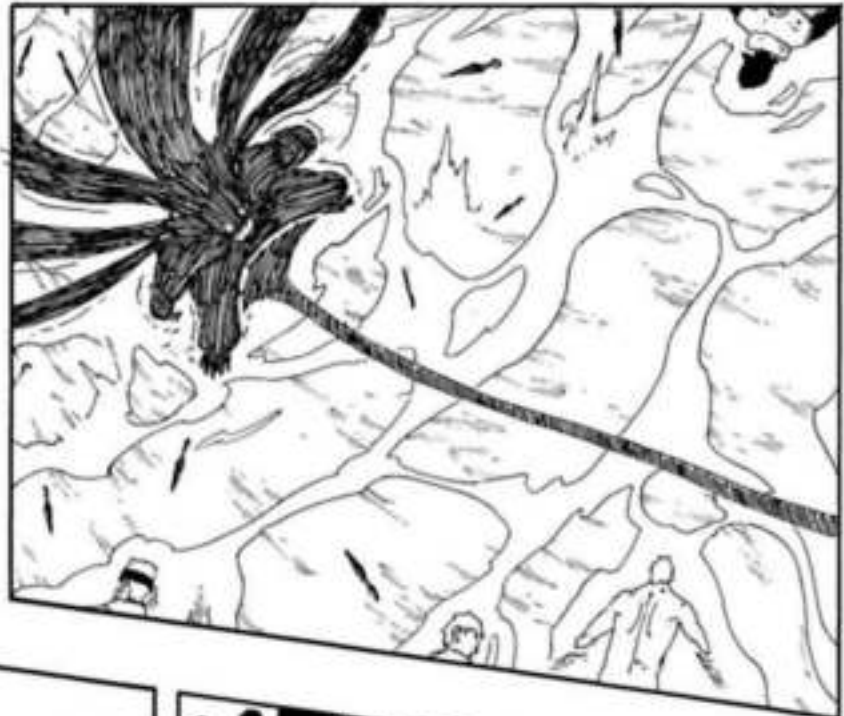
THK THK THK THK



FWOOSH

YOU PUNY BRONZIES !!











 Number 530:



Choji's Decision





READ THIS WAY





ZWOOP...

AND THIS ONE MAKES IT FIVE.

BADUMP

BADUMP



SO I'M ON DEFENSE WITH NO HISHA, MY ROOK, AND MY GOLD AND SILVER GENERALS ALSO TAKEN?

YOINK



WHO CARES IF HE'S DEAD OR ALIVE?!!

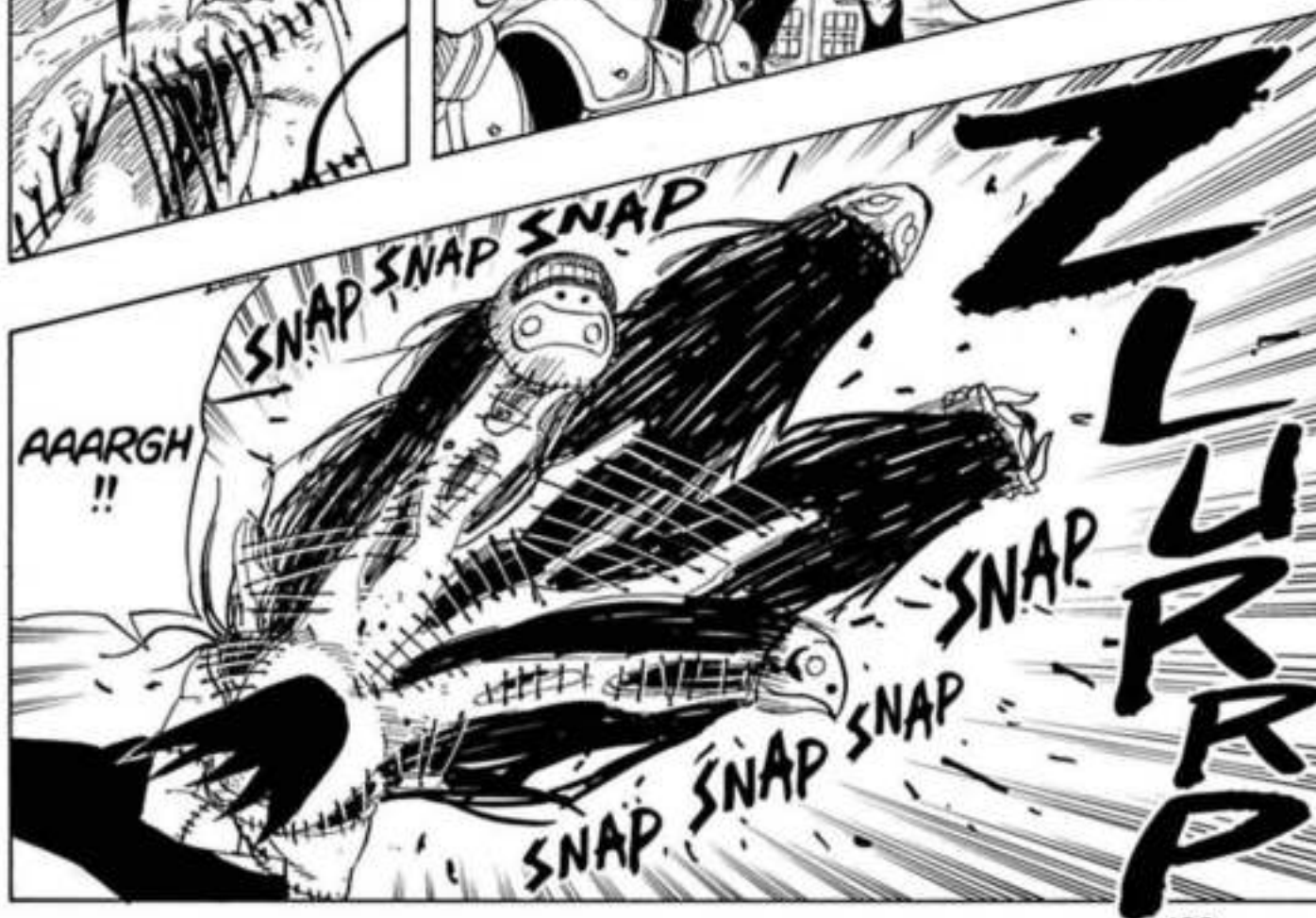


I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET STARTED IN TRUE KAKU MODE.

WHUF



HE'S GOT FIVE HEARTS. THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM DOWN FIVE TIMES!



AAARGH !!

SNAP SNAP SNAP

SNAP SNAP SNAP

SNAP

Z
L
U
R
R
P





MASTER ASUMA!!!

!!

!

...YOUR FORMER TEACHER, SON OF THE THIRD HOKAGE, SARUTOBI ASUMA!



BOON

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

THERE ARE STILL MORE!

SO YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE TAKEN YOUR OPPONENT'S PIECES.





THEY
SAY THAT
MONEY
TALKS, EVEN
IN HELL.

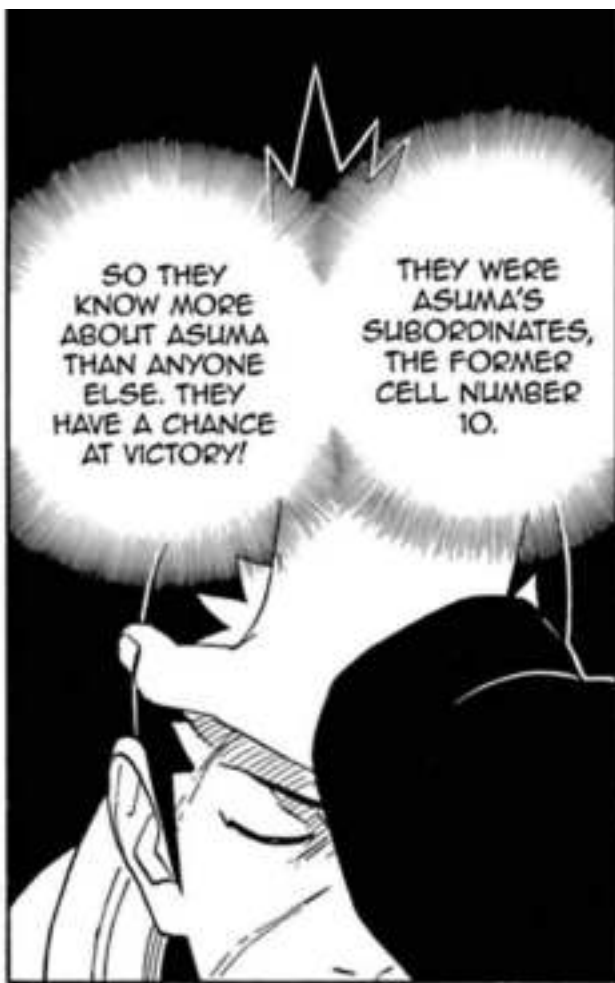
SO IS
THAT THE
TRUTH, O
DEAD
ONE?

SORRY, I DON'T
REMEMBER THOSE
WHO DON'T GARNER
ME ANY BOUNTY.

WE OWE
YOU.

WE HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
YOU, YOU
STRINGY
MESS.





SO THEY KNOW MORE ABOUT ASUMA THAN ANYONE ELSE. THEY HAVE A CHANCE AT VICTORY!

THEY WERE ASUMA'S SUBORDINATES, THE FORMER CELL NUMBER 10.



I'M GOING TO HAVE SHIKAMARU AND THE OTHERS FIGHT ASUMA.

ASUMA-SENPAI WAS THEIR TEACHER...! IT'S TOO CRUEL!

BUT... THAT'S JUST...!



BUT I... UH...DON'T...



THIS IS WAR! AND WE HAVE TO WIN!

DON'T YOU COMPLAIN!



HUH?

...!

...!



ISN'T THAT THE WAY FRIENDS BEHAVE, MILKSOP?!

IF YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS, THEN INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY... YOU SHOULD SET YOUR MIND TO IMPROVING YOURSELF!

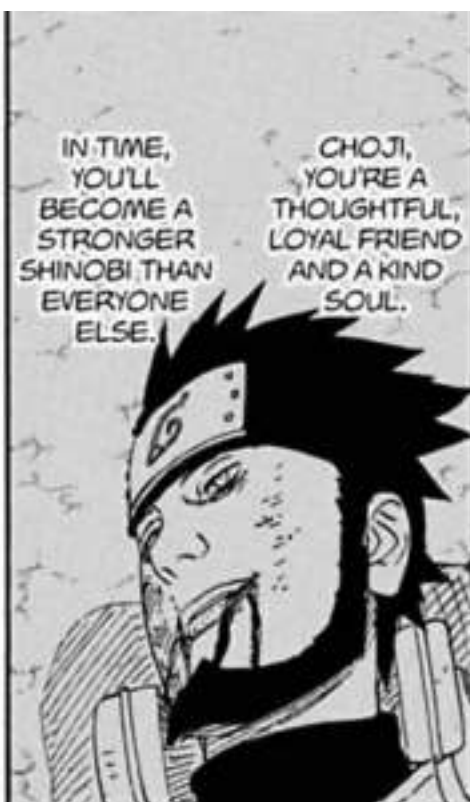


...





SO
BE MORE
CONFIDENT
IN
YOURSELF.



IN TIME,
YOU'LL
BECOME A
STRONGER
SHINOBI THAN
EVERYONE
ELSE.

CHOJI,
YOU'RE A
THOUGHTFUL,
LOYAL FRIEND
AND A KIND
SOUL.

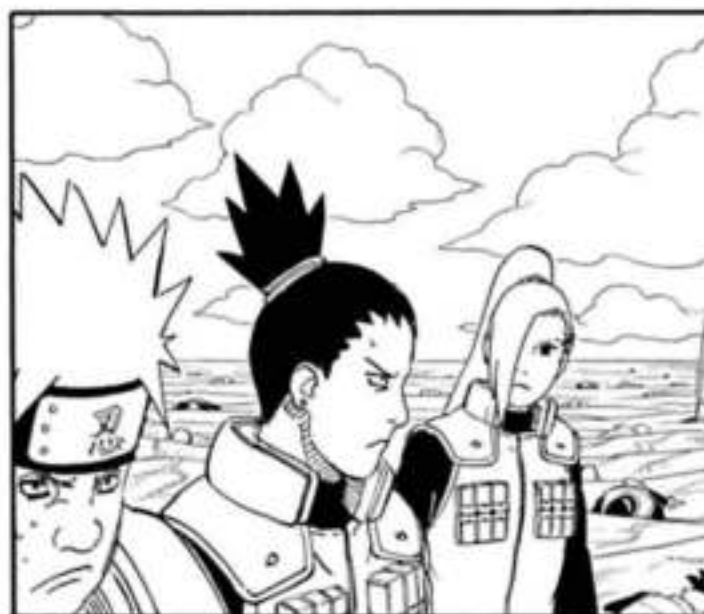


CHOJI!
REMEMBER
MASTER
ASUMA'S LAST
WORDS?



CHOJI AND
SHIKAMARU,
THEY'RE AWKWARD,
CLUMSY, SO
YOU WATCH OVER
THEM!

YOU MAY BE
HEADSTRONG,
BUT YOU'RE
ALSO A
CONSIDERATE
CARETAKER.







EVERYONE'S GOING TO THINK I'VE BEEN PLAYING POSSUM AGAIN!

I DON'T CARE IF IT WAS THE AKATSUKI OR OROCHIMARU! WHOEVER REANIMATED ME WILL ABSOLUTELY REGRET IT!!

OVER THERE!

I CAN FEEL LORD OROCHIMARU'S CHAKRA PASS THROUGH MY SKULL, SEEP INTO MY FLESH AND BONES.

HOW UNDIGNIFIED!

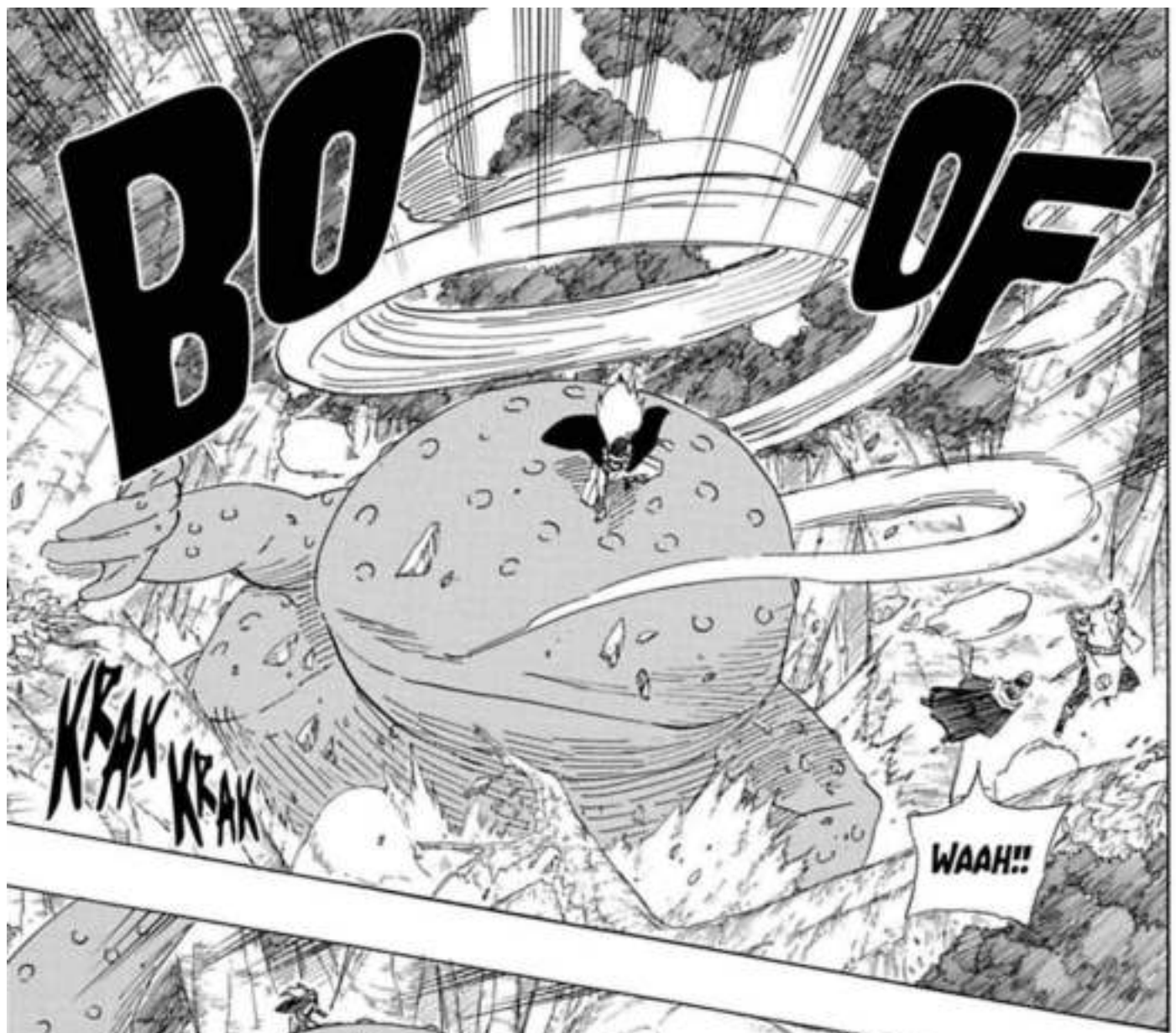
I MUST ACHIEVE MY OBJECTIVE!

THIS DISTANCE SHOULD WORK.

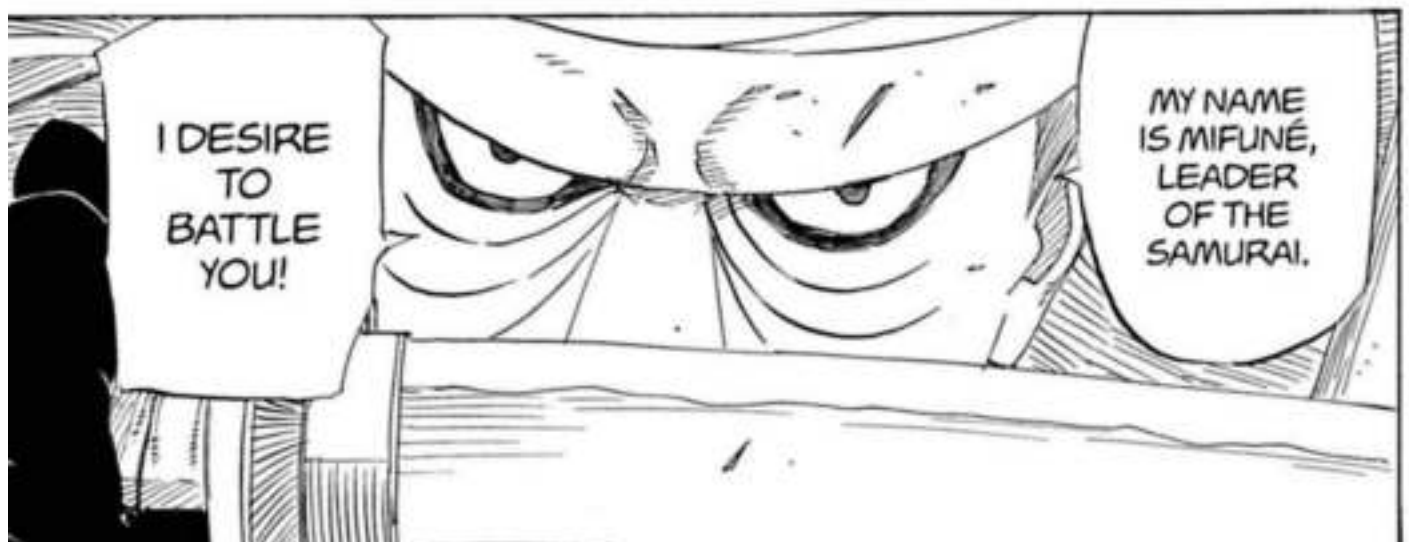
KUCHIYOSE SUMMONING!!

YOU BE QUIET, FACE MASK!!

I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE! BE QUIET, PUPPET GRANNY.







NARUTO

 Number 531: Team Asuma, Reunited!



 Number 531: Team Asuma, Reunited!





11TH PLACE
UMINO IRUKA
2494 VOTES

9TH PLACE
HARA SHIKAMARU
2533 VOTES

12TH PLACE
HARUNO SAKURA
2188 VOTES

12TH PLACE
SAI
2188 VOTES

4TH PLACE
GAARA
4239 VOTES

8TH PLACE
SASORI
3152 VOTES

2ND PLACE
UCHIHA SASUKE
5791 VOTES

10TH PLACE
HYUUGA HIMATA
2517 VOTES

7TH PLACE
NAMIKAZE MINATO
3477 VOTES

6TH PLACE
DEIDARA
3623 VOTES

5TH PLACE
UCHIHA ITACHI
4011 VOTES

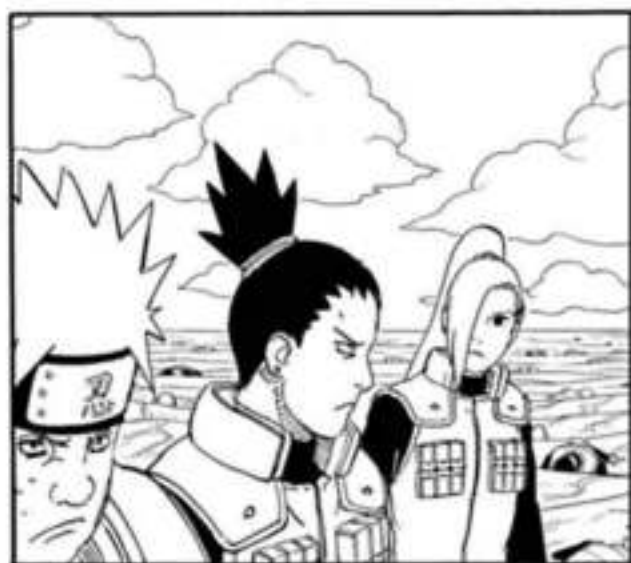
3RD PLACE
HATAKE KAKASHI
4828 VOTES

1ST PLACE
UZUMAKI NARUTO
6880 VOTES

LOOKS
LIKE I'M
NUMBER
ONE, AFTER
ALL!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-

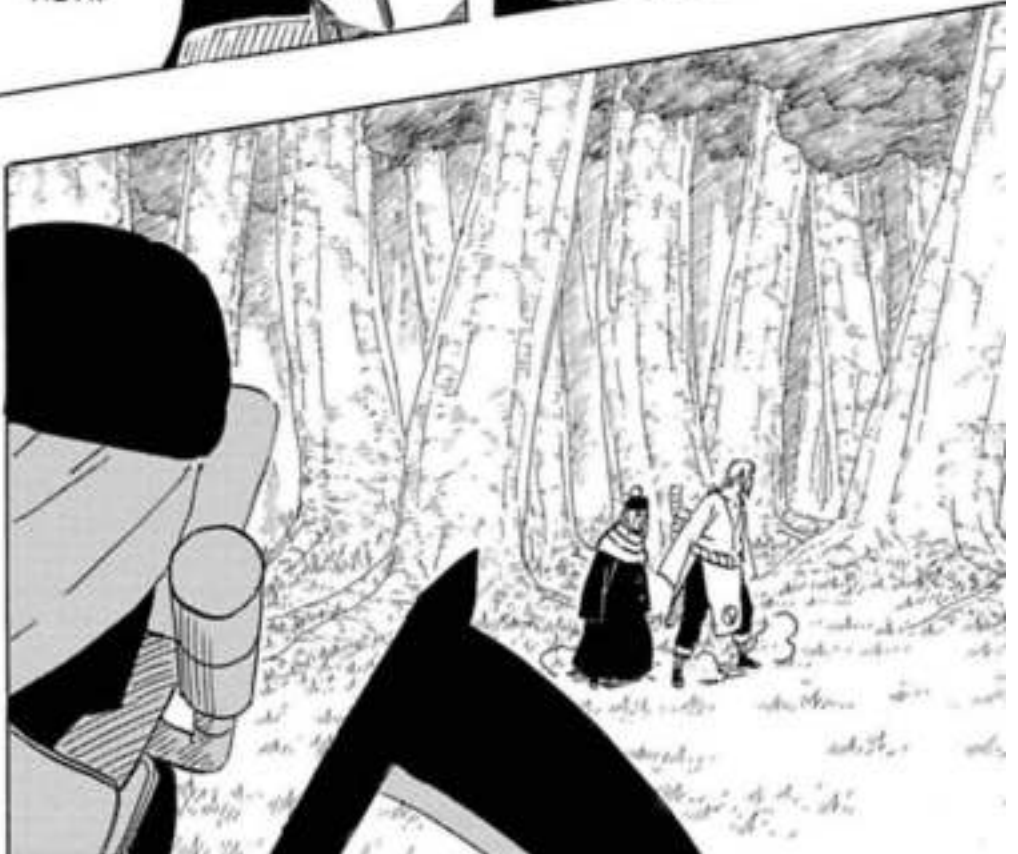
NARUTO

















YOU DODGED THAT, I'M IMPRESSED.





YOU
CAME TO
REALIZE?



I QUICKLY
CAME TO
REALIZE
THAT TRUE
PEACE DOES
NOT EXIST.

DON'T
YOU LOOK
AT ME
THAT WAY.

I TOO ONCE
AIMED FOR PEACE.
I WAS GOING TO UNITE
THE FIVE PRINCIPLE
TERRITORIES INTO
ONE SHINOBI WORLD.



MANY
SAMURAI HAVE
BECOME SHINOBI.
THEIR TRAINING
IS INTERMIXED,
TAINTED.



ALL THAT'S
LEFT AT
THE END IS
DEATH!

BATTLE
AFTER
BATTLE
AFTER
BATTLE.

SHINOBI HAVE
NO DEVOTION
TO PEACE.
THEY ARE RULED
BY MONEY AND
NINJUTSU AND
POWER.

THERE IS
NO LONGER
A ROLE FOR
SAMURAI
IN THIS
WORLD.

HUMPH! YOU MORE
THAN ANY OTHER
KNOW BEST WHAT
HAS HAPPENED TO
THE SAMURAI!

YOU
SAY YOU
PLEDGE
YOUR-
SELVES TO
PEACE?



I AM
THE
SAME.

THEY FIGHT,
THEY DIE. AND
THEY LEAVE
NOTHING
BEHIND.



WHAT DRIVES ME IS MY CONVICTION!

YOU ARE WRONG. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF LIFE OR DEATH.

YOURS HAS BECOME WARPED!

IT IS FINE BY ME IF I SHOULD LOSE MY LIFE IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE!



AND THUS ONE CAN LIVE ON IN OTHERS' MEMORIES, LIKE MY FAMED BLADE KUROSAWA HERE.

ACCORDING TO THE SAMURAI WAY, PEOPLE THEMSELVES ARE SWORDS!



I TOLD YOU. CONVICTION LIVES FOREVER.



WHAT CAN YOU GLEAN FROM A LUMP OF IRON?

DO NOT COMPARE PEOPLE TO BLADES!

INCLUDING YOUR PRACTICE OF SEPPUKU...

WHY DO YOU SAMURAI TRY TO CUT SHORT AND ERASE YOUR LIVES SO MUCH?



I SHALL ERASE YOU SAMURAI, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

ENOUGH NON-SENSE!



MY TWO-STEP SICKLE-AND-CHAIN ATTACK.

NO ONE'S EVER MANAGED TO AVOID IT.



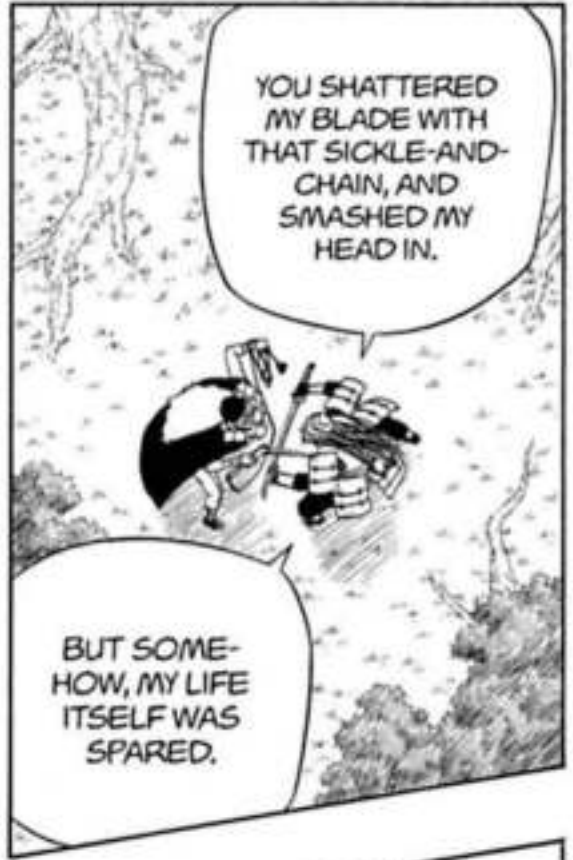


I'LL MAKE SURE TO FINISH YOU OFF THIS TIME.

I SEE. SO YOU WERE THAT SAMURAI. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SURVIVED.

I WAS ABLE TO TELL FROM OUR FIRST EXCHANGE TODAY WHY YOU, WHO WERE ONCE SO STRONG, COULD BE DEFEATED AND KILLED.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, BUT THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE.



YOU SHATTERED MY BLADE WITH THAT SICKLE-AND-CHAIN, AND SMASHED MY HEAD IN.

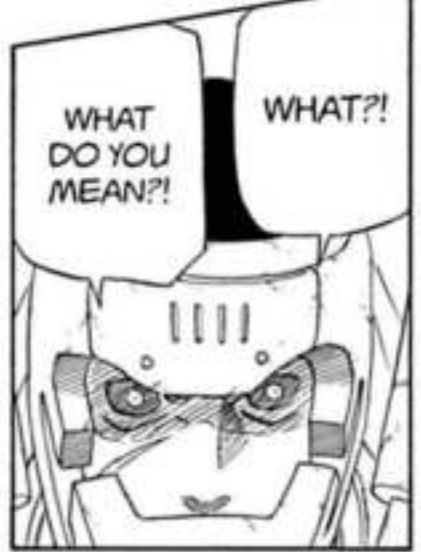
BUT SOMEHOW, MY LIFE ITSELF WAS SPARED.



....!



I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT A SHINOBI OF YOUR CALIBER IS NOT AWARE OF IT.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

WHAT?!



WHO ARE YOU?







WHAT DO THEY MEAN?!

WHAT IS IT THAT I'M NOT ABLE TO SEE?!



S...W...O...O...!

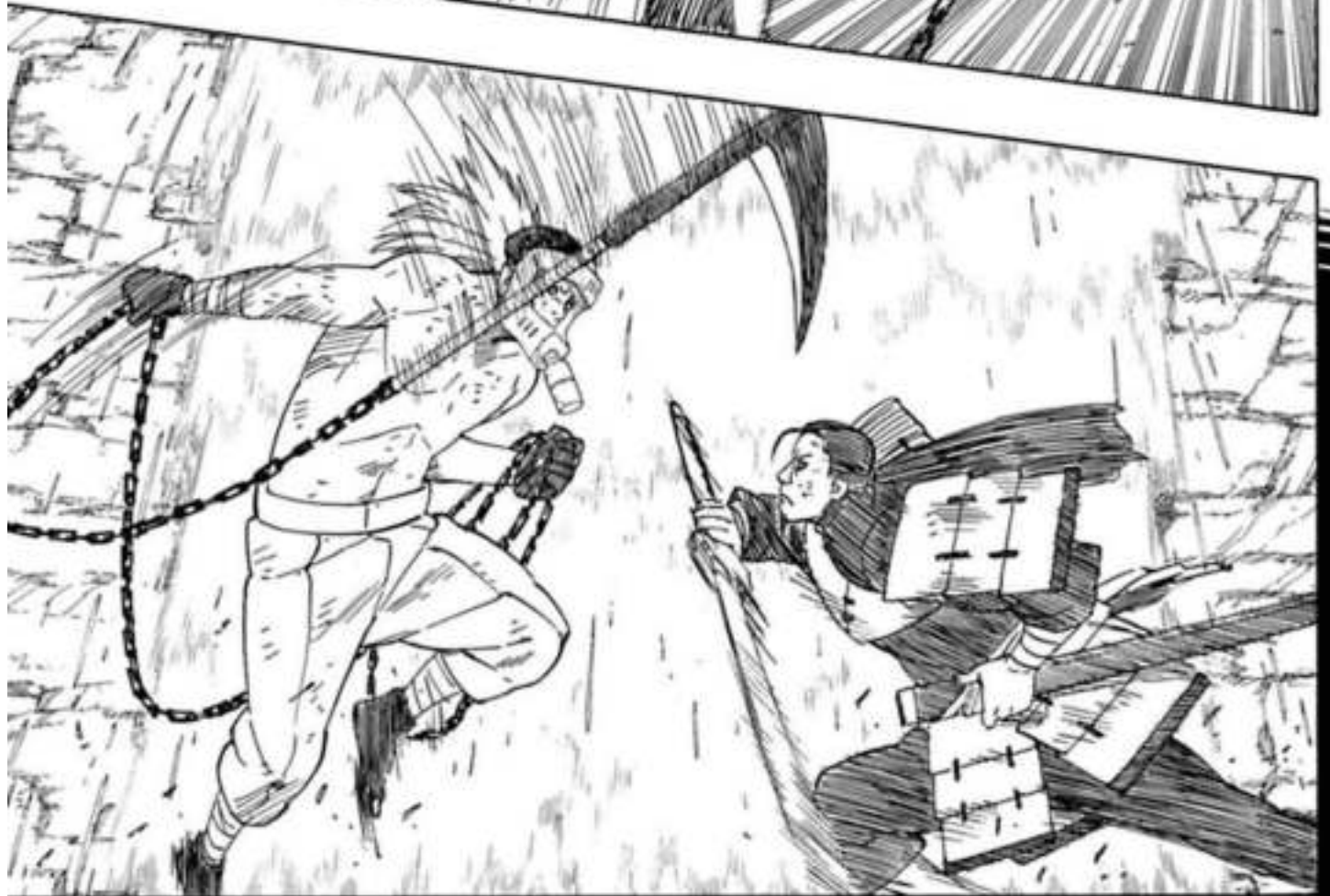
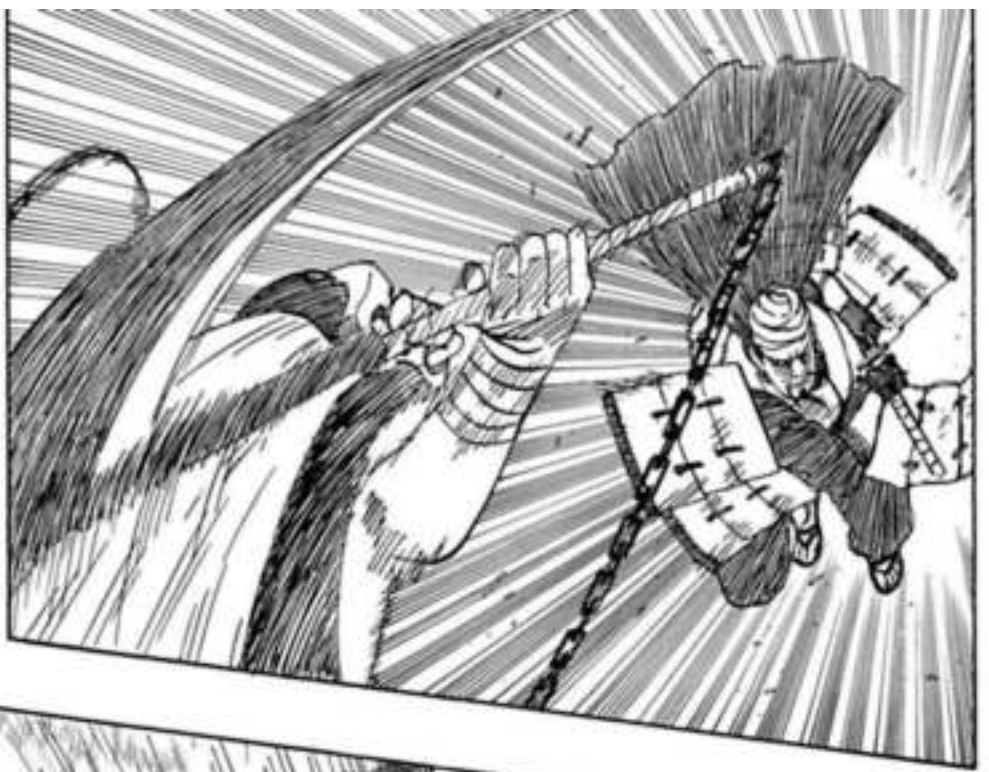


I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!

BE BATHED IN VENOM AND DIE!

REEEEK









 Number 532:

FSH

FSH

FSH

WAP

Mifuné vs. Hanzo Decided!!!



HAVE YOU ALSO FORGOTTEN YOUR FINAL WORDS TO ME...AFTER YOU CUT ME DOWN?!

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME.









THOUGH IT SEEMS YOU WIELDED A DULL BLADE.



YOU ARE A SKILLED OPPONENT.

I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE YOU ANY ADVANTAGES.



...



SO IT ENDS LIKE THIS? SO DISAPPOINTING.

PEOPLE THEMSELVES ARE SWORDS!
WHICH MEANS I ALSO WAS A BLUNTED EDGE.



...




?




DEATH IS NOT THE END.

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING.



LOSS OF
CONVIC-
TION IS
THE END.




HUF
HUF
...!
HUF



EVEN IF YOU
WERE TO DIE
HERE, YOU
WOULDN'T BE
CONSIDERED
BLUNTED OR
DULL.

IT'S
ACTUALLY
QUITE
INCONVE-
NIENT.

YOU CAN'T
JUDGE THE
WARRIOR BY
THE BLADE.



YOU USED
YOUR BODY
AS A SHIELD
TO TRY TO
DEFEND
THEM.

...SEIZED WITH
FEAR AND
FLEEING UPON
HEARING MY
NAME, WHO TRULY
ARE WORTHLESS
LUMPS OF IRON.

IT IS YOUR
COMPANIONS,
WHO ABANDONED
THE FIGHT AT THE
VERY BEGINNING...



HUF
HUF







...AND YOU ARE A RARE ONE INDEED.

I TOLD YOU THAT ONE CANNOT TELL IF SOMEONE HAS CONVICTION OR NOT JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.



FSH

I SHALL SPARE YOUR LIFE TODAY...
...THOUGH YOU'VE TAKEN IN SO MUCH POISON THERE IS STILL A CHANCE YOU MAY DIE.



GULP



?



I SHALL USE YOU AS A TEST CASE.



I TOO HAVE MY OWN CONVICTION...

...TO BRING PEACE TO THIS WORLD.



IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE ONE'S CONVICTIONS THROUGH.



TO SEE IF YOU
WILL DIE STILL
EMBRACING
YOUR
CONVICTIONS...

...OR WHETHER
YOU END UP
SURVIVING, AND
ABANDON THOSE
CONVICTIONS
OVER TIME.

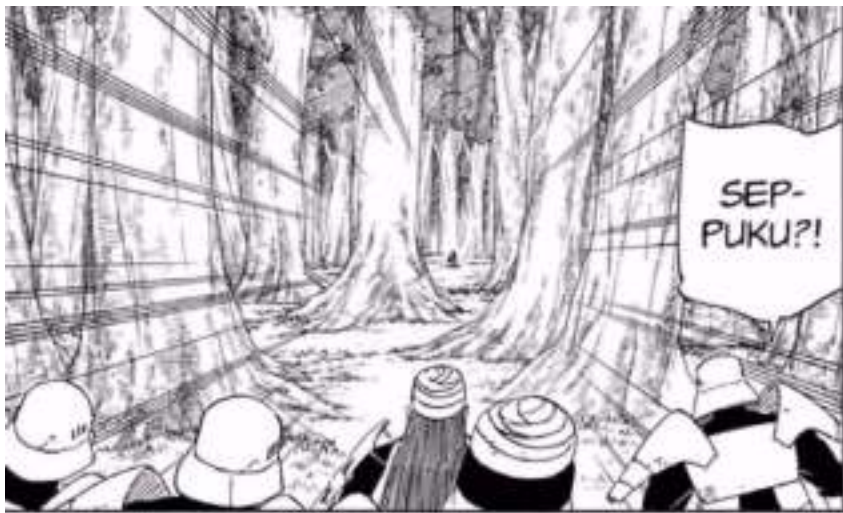


YOU WERE
THE ONE WHO
INSISTED ON
TESTING ME.

HAVE
YOU REALLY
ABANDONED
YOUR
CONVICTION?!









HE WAS
ABLE TO
FIGHT
THE MAN
IN THE
SHAD-
OWS!

LORD HANZO
FOUGHT THE
CONTROLLER
AND WON!



~~~~~



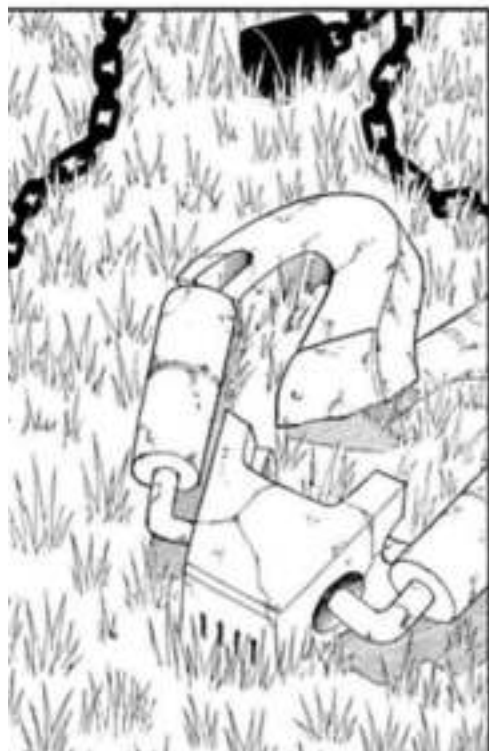
IF YOU  
REMAIN  
TRUE TO  
YOUR  
SELF...

YOU SHOW  
YOU'RE NOT  
JUST A  
BLUNTED  
BLADE!



WHY'S  
HE NOT  
MOVING  
?!

WHAT  
?!











I CAN'T  
TAKE MY  
MASTER  
DOWN!!

I'M  
SORRY!  
I CAN'T  
DO IT!!



ARGH  
!!



CHOJI  
!!



WIND  
STYLE! DUST  
STORM  
JUTSU!!

Fwp

FIGHT  
!!

Fwp

**NARUTO**



Number 533: A Time for Oaths





YAAR!!

SH



THOOH

THIS IS PHENOM-  
ENAL.  
BUT WHOSE  
IS IT?

YEAH! I  
GOT THE  
LIGHTNING  
ONE!!



SRR

EEL



TAK  
TAK  
TAK  
TAK













READ THIS WAY



...AND...  
...THESE  
PIERCINGS ARE  
ALSO PROOF TO  
YOUR RESPECTIVE  
CLANS THAT EACH  
OF YOU HAVE  
COME INTO  
YOUR OWN.



THESE  
EARRINGS ARE  
MY PRESENT  
TO YOU FOR  
ACHIEVING  
CHŪNIN RANK.

DON'T  
YOU EVER  
FORGET  
THAT WE  
WERE ONCE  
CELL  
NUMBER 10!



NOW  
GO ON!

YOUR  
CLAN SHALL  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
YOU AS FULL  
SHINOBI IN YOUR  
OWN RIGHT!



GO TO  
YOUR  
FAMILIES,  
SHOW  
THEM THE  
PIERCINGS.



YOU ALL  
ALREADY  
KNOW THE  
TALE BEHIND  
WHY WE  
WEAR THEM,  
RIGHT?

**F000SH**



FIRE  
STYLE!  
BURNING  
ASH!!

AIEE!



!







...ENTRUST YOU WITH MY KING!!

I HEREBY...



THE KING REPRESENTS ALL THE FUTURE GENERATIONS WHO SHALL INHERIT KONOHA.

KURENAI IS PREGNANT WITH MY CHILD.



WE'RE THE PROTECTORS NOW!!

STAY FOCUSED, CHOJI!!

DO YOU WANT ASUMA TO MURDER HIS OWN CHILD?!! YOU DISHONOR HIS LEGACY BY LISTENING TO THIS ZOMBIE!!!

WE DON'T NEED PROTECTING ANYMORE!



UNGH.



REMEMBER THE PIERCINGS AND WHAT THEY STAND FOR!

LISTEN TO SHIKAMARU!

...





REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE THE 16TH HEAD OF THE AKIMICHI CLAN!!

QUIT WHINING AND POUTING, CHOJI!!!



THE MIDDLE ONE IS THE NARA CLAN'S AND THE LEFTMOST ONE THE YAMANAKA CLAN'S.

THE ONE ON THE FAR RIGHT IS OUR AKIMICHI CLAN'S CREST. AND THE OTHER TWO ARE... UM...



THERE ARE CUSTOMARY OATHS TO BE SWORN BY EACH GENERATION ALONG WITH THOSE DECORATIONS.

TO STRENGTHEN OUR UNION AND PROTECT OUR CLANS, THE AUTHORITATIVE SARUTOBI CLAN BESTOWS EAR PIERCINGS UPON ALL THREE OF OUR CLANS.



WE HAVE BEEN COMBINING OUR POWERS FOR MANY GENERATIONS AND THE THREE CLANS SHARE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.



THREE CLANS THAT USE HIGHLY UNUSUAL HIDDEN NINJUTSU.



(NINJA ACADEMY)







MISTER CHOZA, WE NEED YOU! PLEASE HURRY!



THAT AS THE 16TH AKIMICHI CLAN LEADER, I SHALL PASS ON THIS OATH ENTRUSTED TO ME BY THE 15TH LEADER...

I HEREBY SWEAR!

...UNTO THE 17TH, TO MY CHILD THAT IS TO BE!



SORRY! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!



THOUGHT IT WAS JUST AN OATH.



...SWEAR TO TRANSFORM FROM A LOWLY CATERPILLAR TO A POWERFUL BUTTERFLY...!

YOU CAN GO BACK!

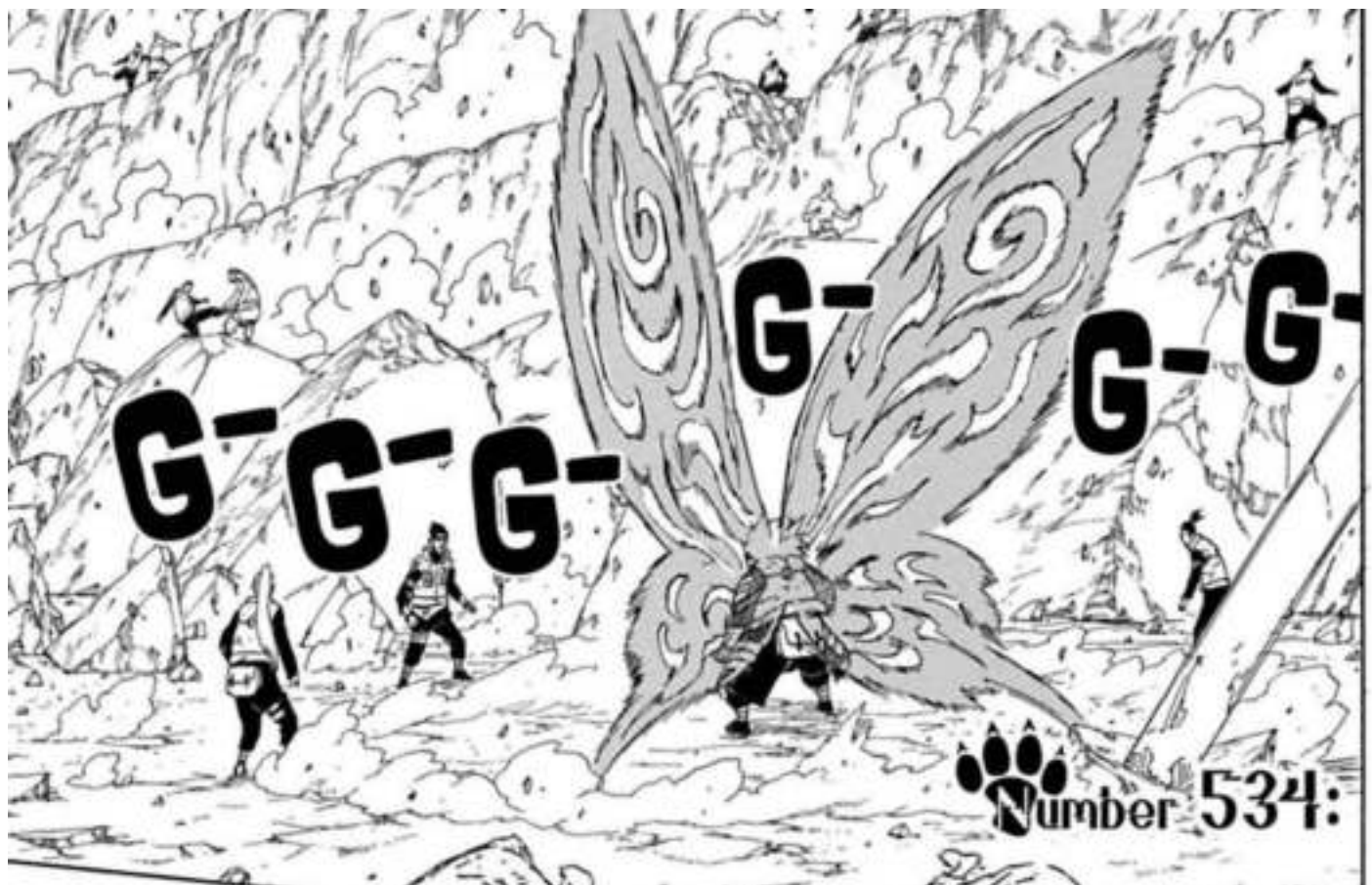
THANK YOU, INO. I'M OKAY NOW.

I, AKIMICHI CHOJI, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE YAMANAKA AND NARA CLANS, AND DEFEND KONOHA...



**NARUTO**





Number 534:

# Farewell, Ino-Shika-Cho!!



NO SIDE EFFECTS!

HE'S FINE!

HE ACHIEVED THE AKIMICHI CLAN CALORIE CONTROL HIDDEN WITHOUT PELLETS.



IS HE OKAY ?!

IT'S LIKE WHEN HE USED THE CHILI PEPPER PELLETS!



CHOJI'S SLIMMER. DID HE TAKE THE PELLETS AGAIN? !

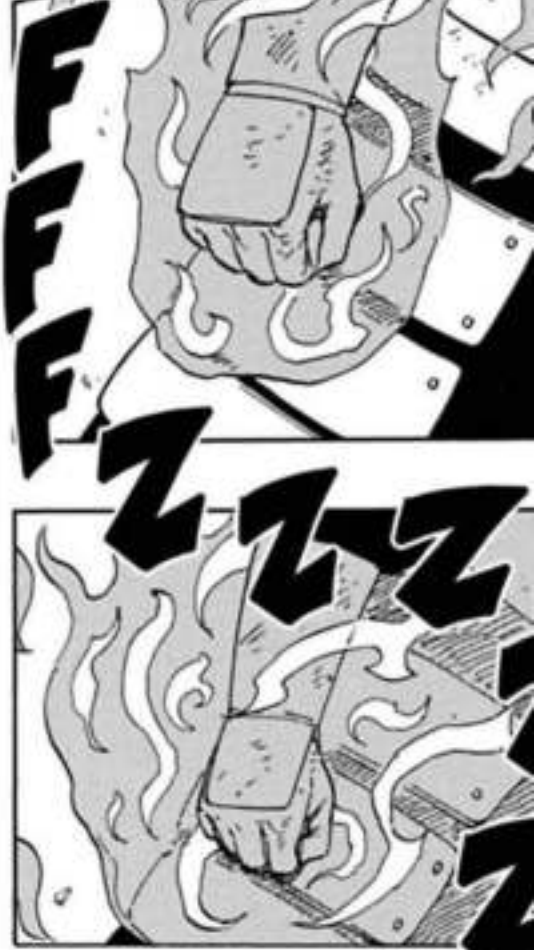


KRAK



WILL YOU BE ABLE TO FLY?

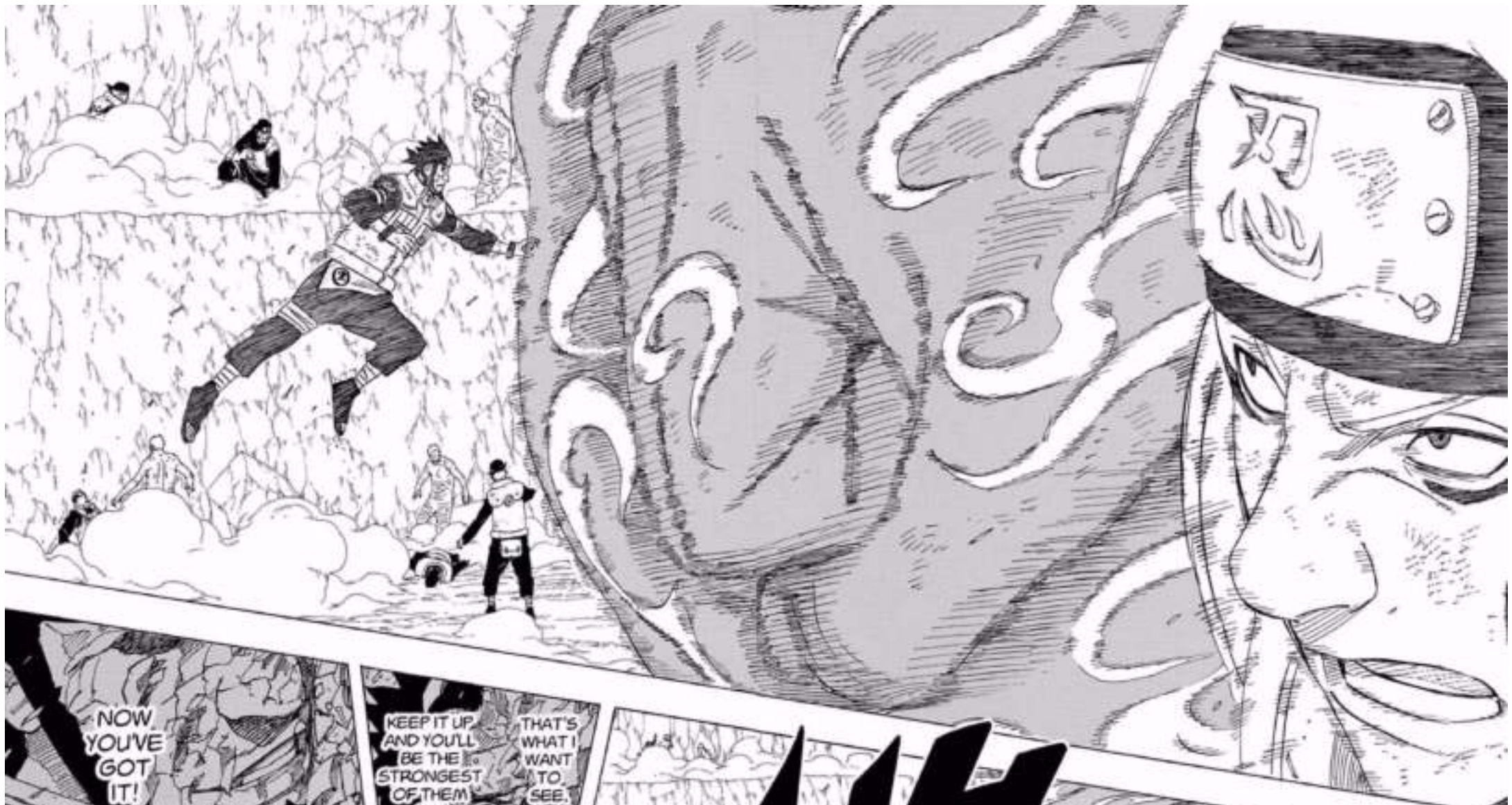
YOUR COCOON WAS STRONGER THAN YOU THOUGHT IT'D BE, EH CHOJI?











NOW YOU'VE GOT IT!

KEEP IT UP, AND YOU'LL BE THE STRONGEST OF THEM ALL!

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO SEE.



CHOJI...

**WHAM**









YOUR INO-SHIKA-CHO FORMATION IS COMPLETE!

I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO SAY TO YOU THREE.



MASTER ASUMA...



ASUMA...



MASTER ...



WHAP









YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP LYING TO HIM. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, BEE?

HE SENSED THE CHAKRA WHILE SEALED IN THIS SPACE.



THE GOLD & SILVER BROTHERS ALSO POSSESS THE NINE TAILS CHAKRA.

NARUTO'S FIGURING IT OUT.

WHICH MEANS OROCHIMARU'S JUTSU HAS REANIMATED THEM.



DON'T COUNT ON IT.



YOU CAN'T LET NARUTO OUT OF THIS SPACE!

DO?

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR, EIGHT!

COME ON! WEREN'T YOU PAYING ATTENTION TO THE PLAN?!



YOU IDIOT! HE'LL ESCAPE THE SPACE!

THE FIRST DOORWAY ON THE LEFT, OUTSIDE.

WHERE'S THE BATH-ROOM?

FISH...

GO WITH HIM!!



...





HALT, NARUTO!



I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP!



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY LOOK-OUTS?!



WE'LL TALK THERE. INSIDE.



OKAY, WHY IS SHINO'S DAD HERE?

WHY ARE YOU WATCHING ME?!



NARUTO, I'M SORRY, BUT WE CANNOT LET YOU PASS.

YOU MUST COOPERATE AND RETURN TO YOUR ASSIGNED SPACE.



TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOLUME 57!



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