

NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

65



岸本 斉史

I've recently starting going out to eat with my assistants after work. Once we get our drinks I always end up leading the toast... but my assistants' eyes seem to be stating that simply saying "thanks for your hard work today" is somewhat insufficient... Ah, but there ain't much variation that can be had there!!!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2013



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. 65
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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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.

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 65

HASHIRAMA AND MADARA

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS



Sasuke
うちはサスケ



Naruto
うずまきナルト



Sakura
春野サクラ



Kakashi
はたけカカシ



Yamato
ヤマト



Sai
サイ



Obito
うちはオビト



Kurama
九喇麻

Tsuchikage
土影Raikage
雷影Gaara
我爱罗Tsunade
綱手Kabuto
カブトEight
Tails
八尾Killer
Bee
殺し蜂Mizukage
水影Jugo
重吾Karin
香燐Suigetsu
水月Zetsu
ゼツOrochimaru
大蛇丸Might
Guy
ガイMadara
マダラ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 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.

The Fourth Great Ninja War against the Akatsuki begins. Having stopped the Edotensei jutsu with the help of his brother, Sasuke now heads off with Orochimaru to fulfil a new objective. Meanwhile, Naruto and his allies try to stop Obito and Madara from reviving Ten Tails. And what will Sasuke's next move be?!



NARUTO


VOL. 65
HASHIRAMA AND MADARA

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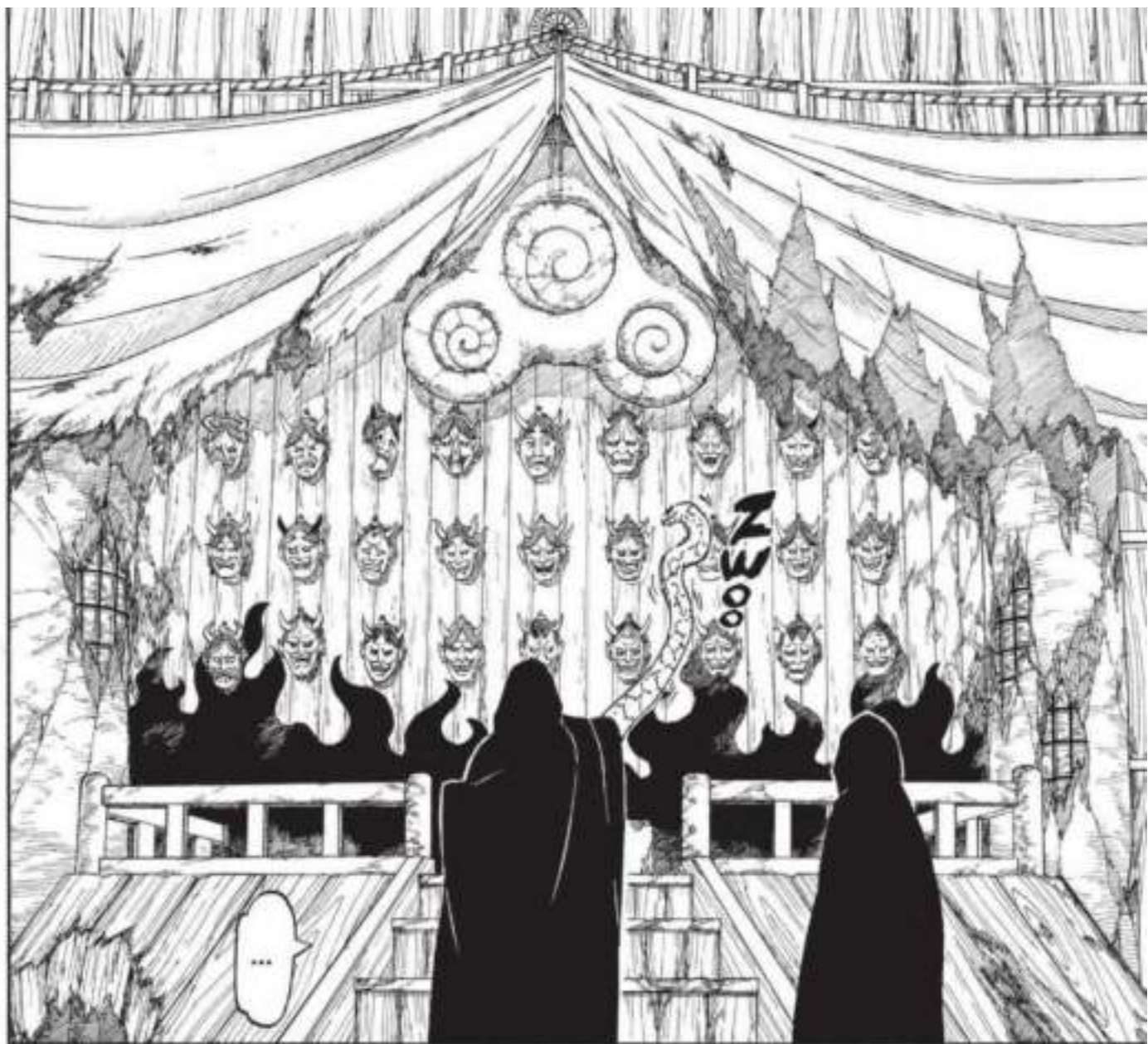


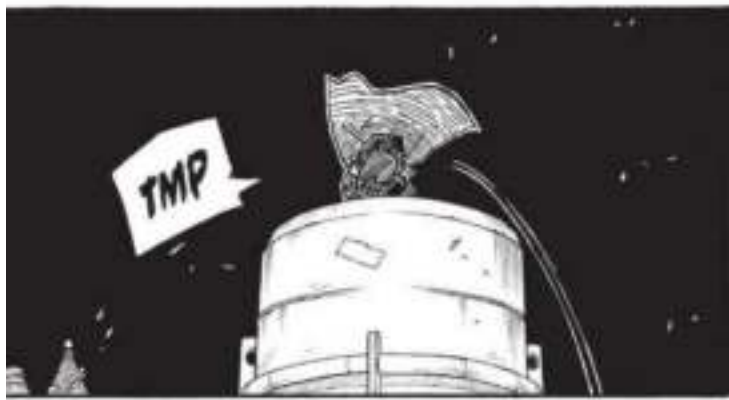
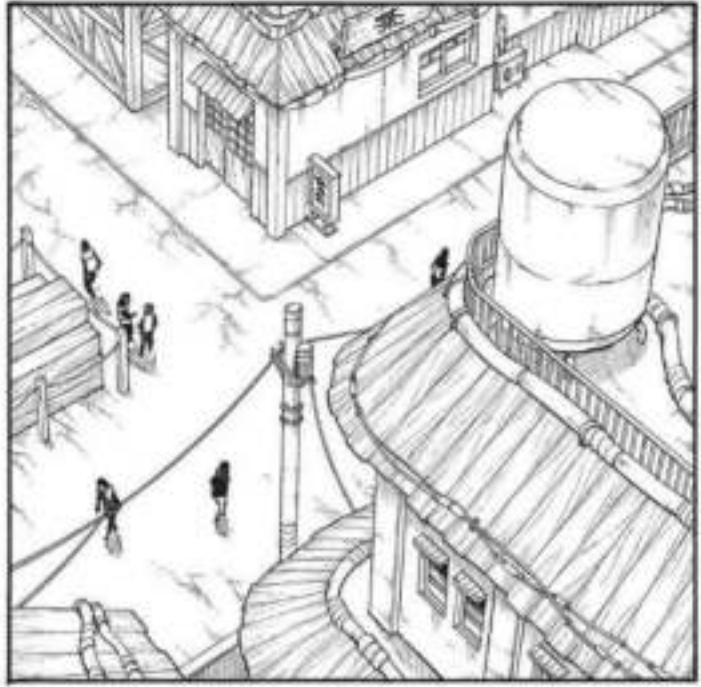
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 Number 618: The All-Knowing

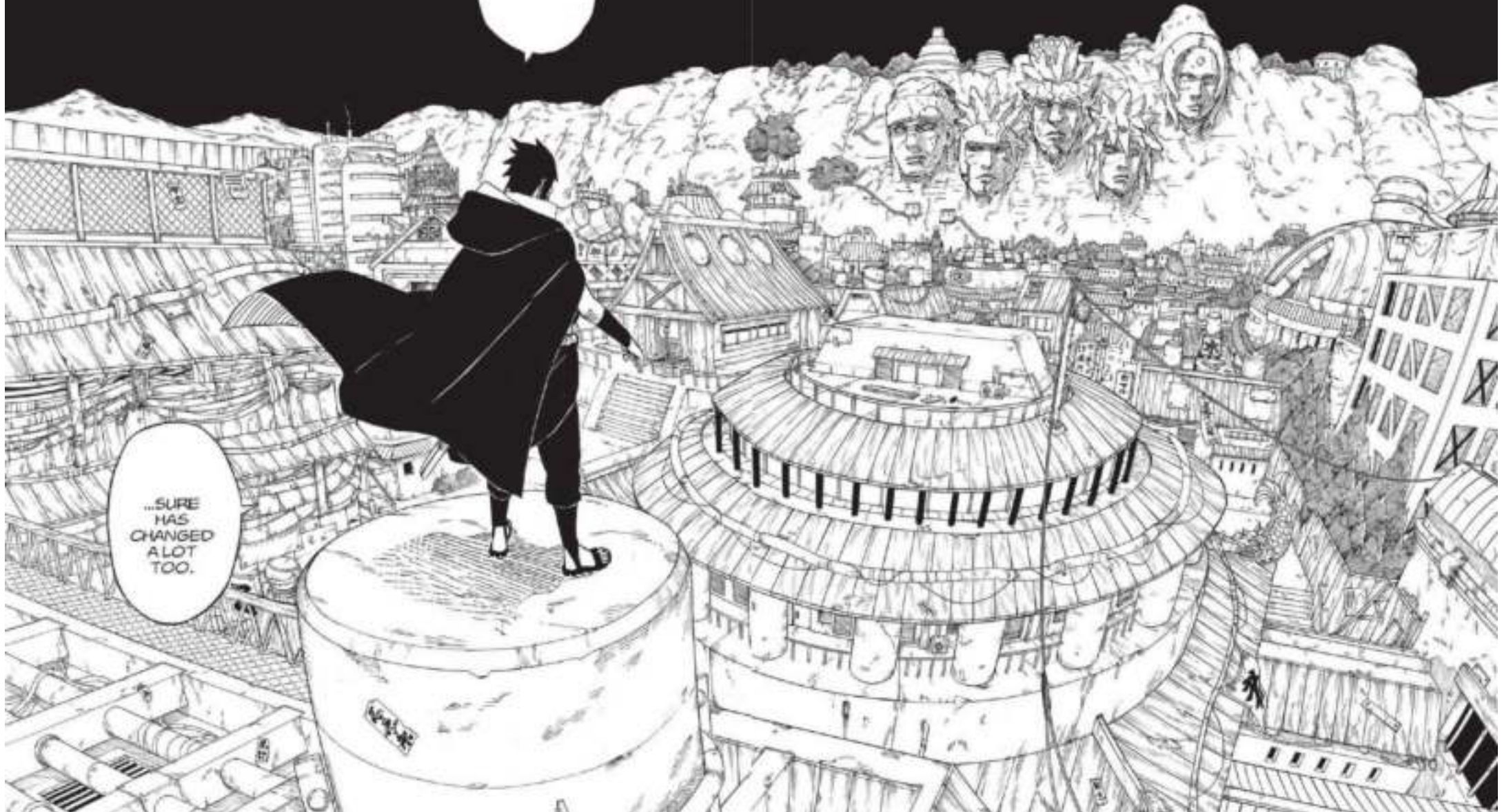


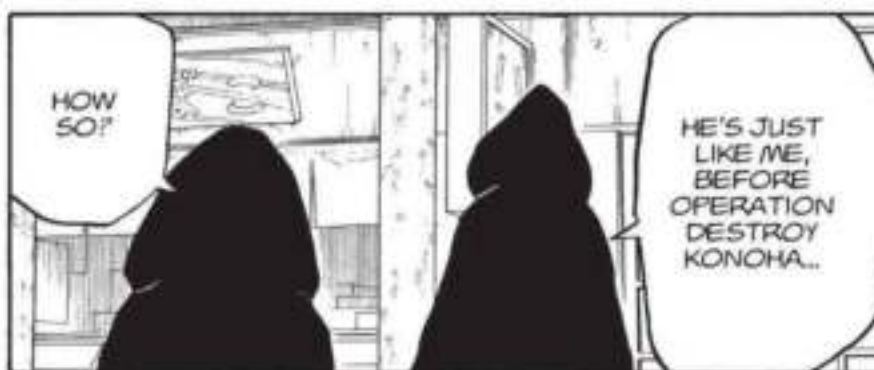




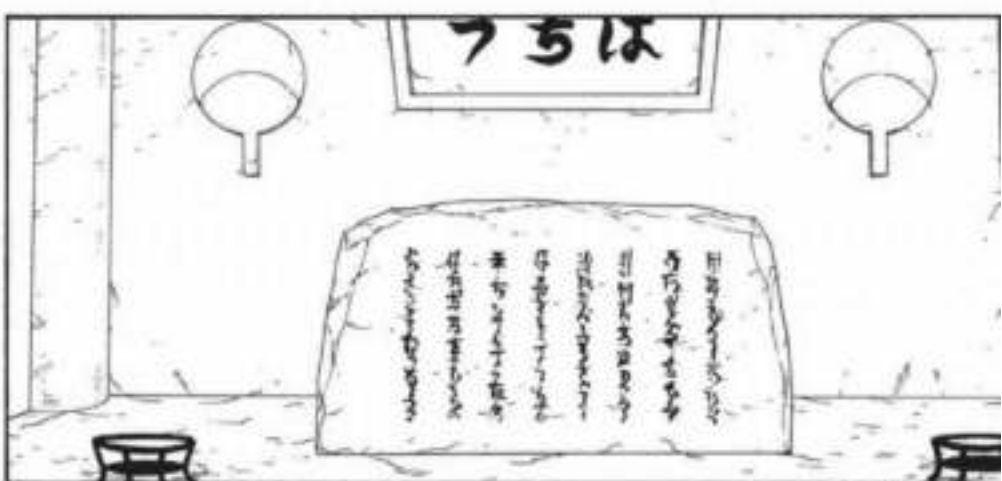
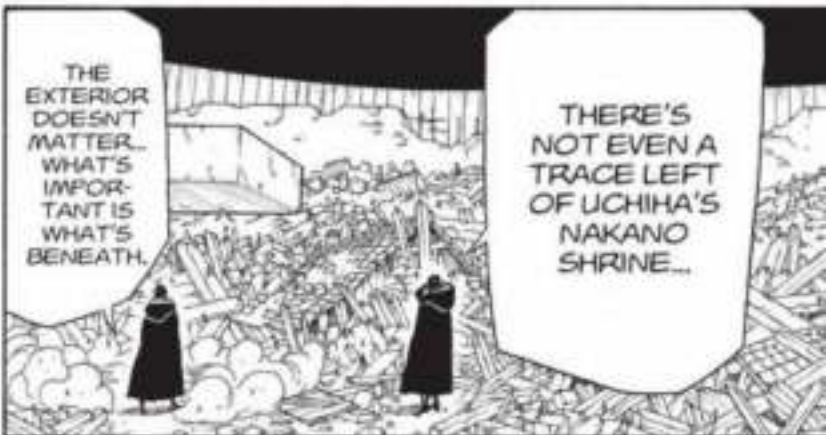
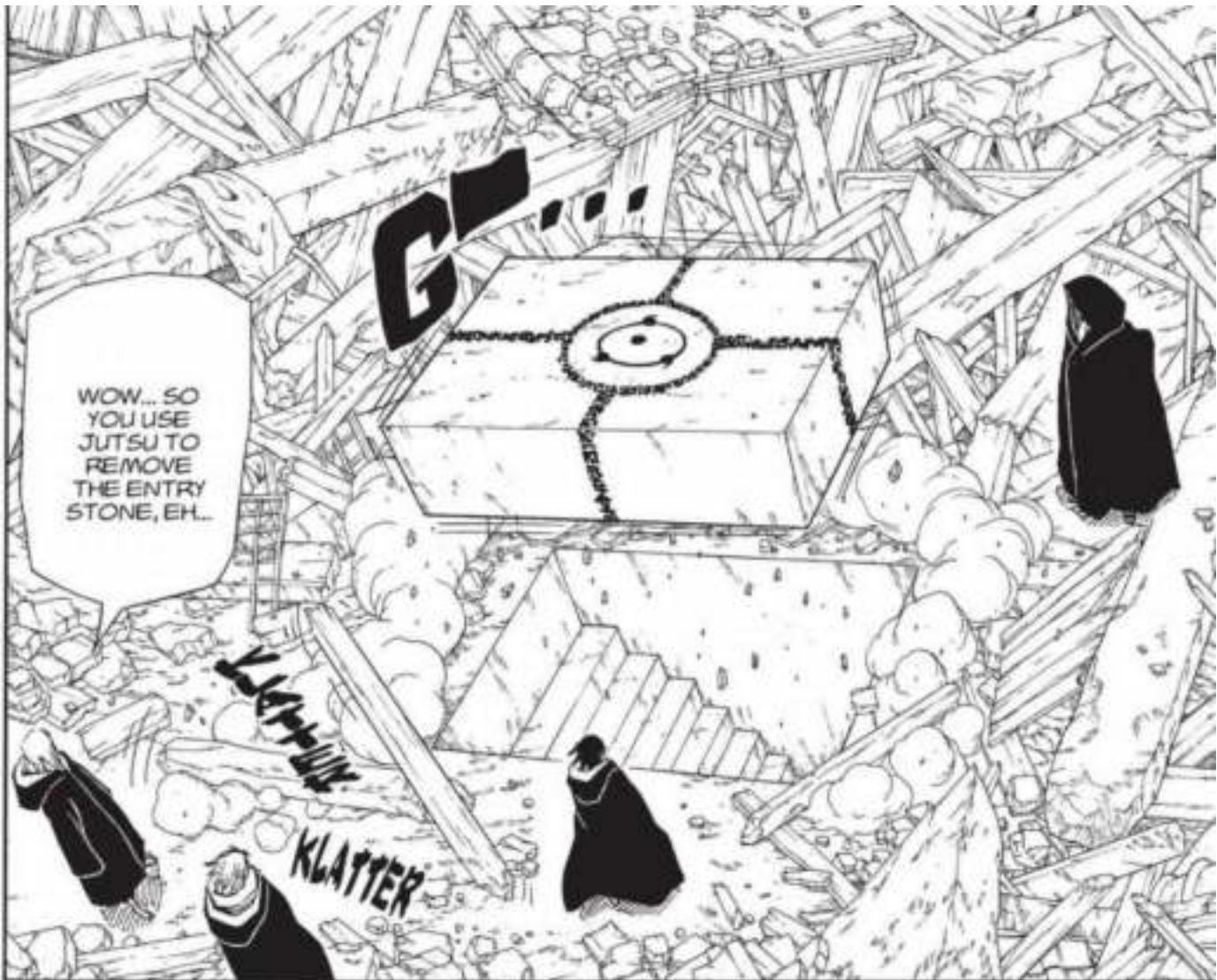
THIS PLACE...

...SURE HAS CHANGED A LOT TOO.













THEN, ONE
MUST ALLOW THE
DEATH GOD OF THE
REAPER DEATH
SEAL TO POSSESS
ONESELF, AND GUIDE
IT FORTH.



*TEXT: REAPER DEATH SEAL RELEASE

THAT IS
LOCATED IN
THE UZUMAKI
CLAN'S NOH
MASK HALL
ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF
KONOHA.

IN ORDER TO
PERFORM
WHAT IS
WRITTEN IN
THAT SCROLL,
FIRST, THE
DEATH GOD'S
MASK IS
NECESSARY.





HOWEVER, IT WILL ALSO ALLOW ME TO GET BACK BOTH MY ARMS FROM INSIDE THE DEATH GOD'S BELLY.

JAB

ZLASH



THOUGH I SHALL THEN END UP A HUMAN SACRIFICE.

SLICE OPEN THE DEATH GOD'S ABDOMEN, AND THE SEAL WILL COME UNDONE.

FSH



AND IF I CAN REGAIN THE POWER THAT LIES IN THOSE ARMS, I CAN PERFORM THE EDOTENSEI... THAT'S RIGHT...

MINE AGAIN...!

2/22...

2/22...

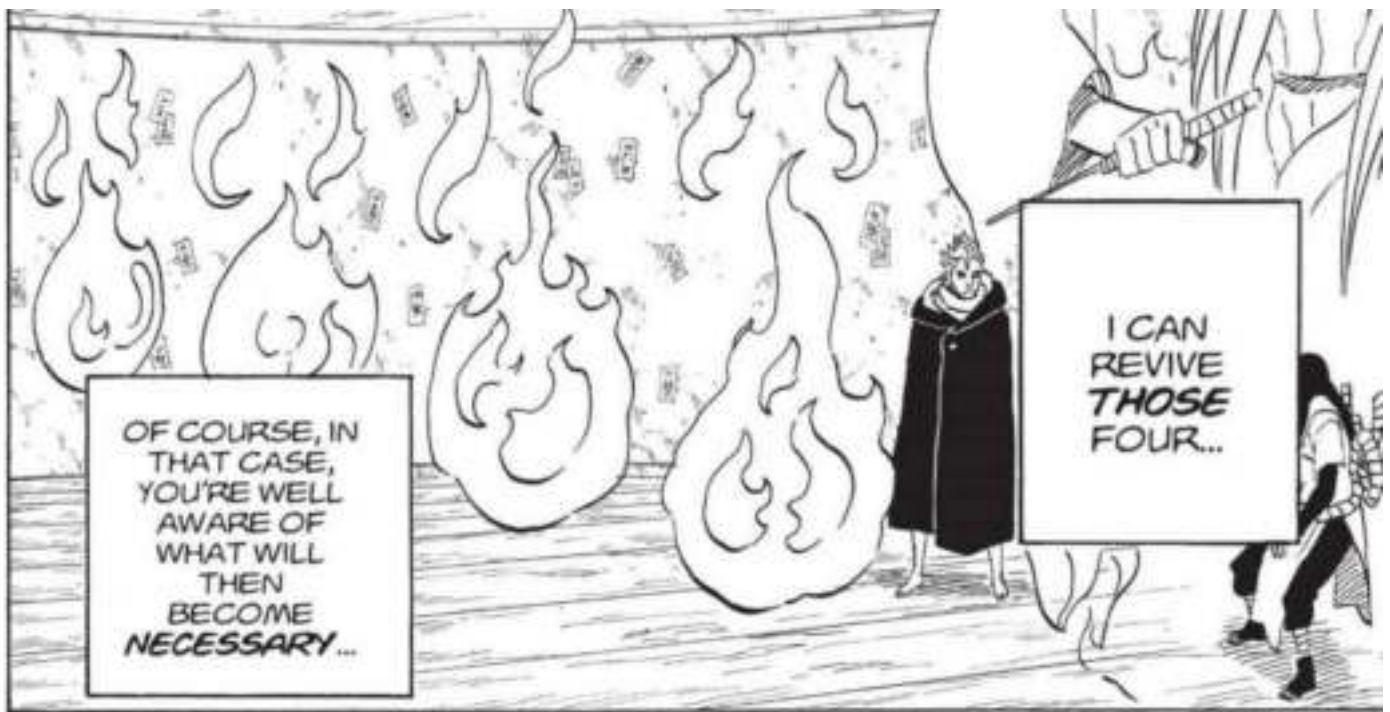


SWOO...



HACK!!

FWOP





JUGO,
BESTOW
UPON
SASUKE
SOME OF
YOUR CURSE
MARK SAGE
POWER...



AND WHEN
YOU DO,
THE ZETSU
THAT TOBI
STUCK
ONTO
SASUKE TO
WATCH
HIM...

...SHOULD
RESPOND
AND RISE
UP TO THE
SURFACE.



...ALL HIS
INTEL GOT
TRANSFERRED
INSIDE ME
TOO.

WHEN I
RECLAIMED
AND
RESORBED
MY CHAKRA
FROM
KABUTO...

AND HE'D
THOROUGHLY
INVESTIGATED
THE SIX OF YOU
THAT'D BEEN
ATTACHED TO
SASUKE.

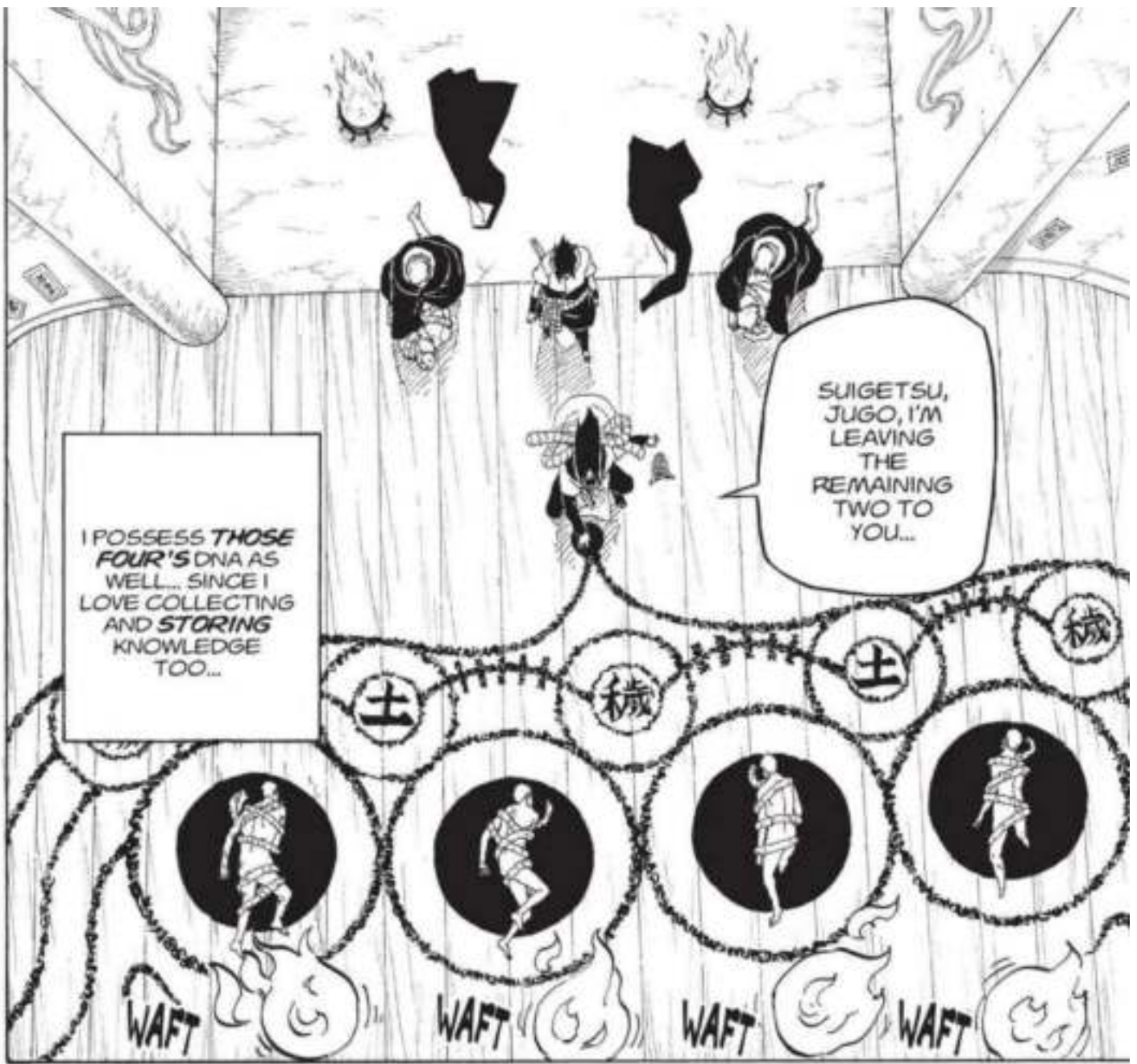


INCLUDING
HOW TO
DETECT
YOU, OF
COURSE.

I KNOW YOUR
HASHIRAMA
CELLS INSIDE
OUT FROM MY
EXPERIMENTS...

GAH...
HOW'D
YOU...?!

SIX OF YOU,
EH... TOBI
SURE WASN'T
TAKING ANY
CHANCES.







...THE
PREVIOUS
HOKAGE!





Number 619: A Clan Possessed by Evil











AND THIS TIME YOU EVEN REVIVED ME, YOUR FORMER TEACHER, TO FIT ME AGAINST KONOHA?!!

I TOOK AWAY YOUR JUTSU IN EXCHANGE FOR MY OWN LIFE.

YET YOU STILL...?!
GAH!!



EVEN CURRENTLY...

SECOND HOKAGE... MANY OF YOUR POLICIES AND THE JUTSU YOU DEVELOPED ENDED UP CAUSING PROBLEMS LATER DOWN THE LINE.



ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTACK KONOHA AGAIN?!



I AM TRYING TO SPEAK TO THIS STRIPLING.

HUSH, ELDER BROTHER.

TOBIRAMA... THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU THAT TIME TO--



FOR SURE... IT CANNOT BE CALLED THAT GREAT A JUTSU.

SIGH... ALWAYS CONFLICT, NO MATTER WHAT THE ERA, EH.



SHUT UP!

BUT I...

FSH



は

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T SUPPRESS YOUR PERSONALITIES, SEE?

PLEASE DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND... I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE LEANINGS IN THAT DIRECTION.



GOD OF SHINOBI...? SO NOT DIGNIFIED...!!

Gooom



I'M MERELY CREATING A STAGE FOR DISCOURSE PER HIS STRONG DESIRE.

THERE ARE CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AT PLAY THIS TIME...

SHUP



I WANT TO ASK YOU HOKAGE SOME THINGS.

MY NAME IS UCHIHA SASUKE.





HOW-
EVER...

ITACHI'S...



AFTERWARDS, I
LEARNED THE
TRUTH FROM
TOBI AND
DANZO...

AND LEANED
TOWARDS
SWEARING
VENGEANCE
AGAINST
KONOHA.



SO IT
CAME
TO
THAT,
EH...



EVERYTHING
REGARDING
ITACHI.

HOWEVER, I
WANT TO
HEAR IT
STRAIGHT
FROM YOUR
MOUTH.



...AND KEEP
TAGS ON
THE
AKATSUKI
ALL BY
HIMSELF.

NOT ONLY
DID I HAVE HIM
KILL HIS
BRETHREN...

...I ALSO HAD
HIM BEAR
THE FALSE
CHARGE OF
TRAITOR...



...



HE WAS A SENSITIVE CHILD WHO UNDERSTOOD OUR VILLAGE'S PAST AND OUR SHINOBI...

FROM THE TIME HE WAS A SMALL CHILD, ITACHI PAID ATTENTION TO THE TEACHINGS AND SIGNS OF OUR PREDECESSORS THAT NO ONE ELSE GAVE HEED TO.



HE WAS ABLE TO THINK AHEAD, ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SHINOBI... AND OF THE VILLAGE...

AND CONSTANTLY HAD MISGIVINGS REGARDING THOSE FUTURES.

AND PERHAPS DUE TO THAT, ITACHI WAS NEVER BOUND BY THE TRAPPINGS OF CLAN...

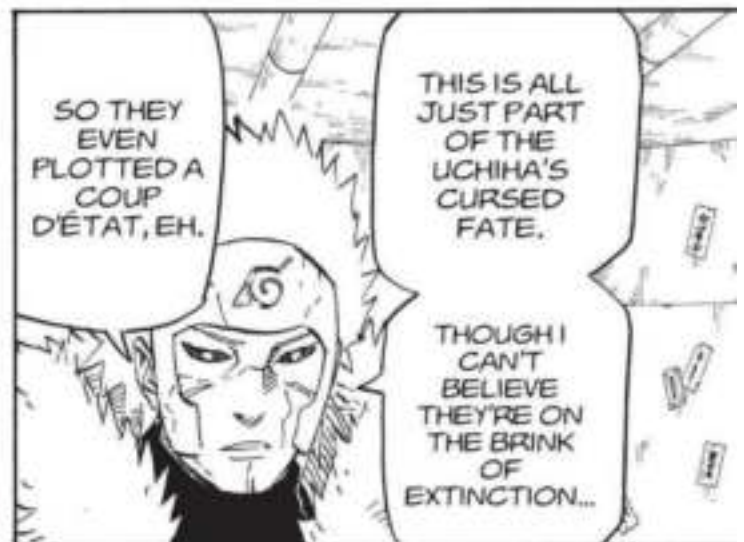
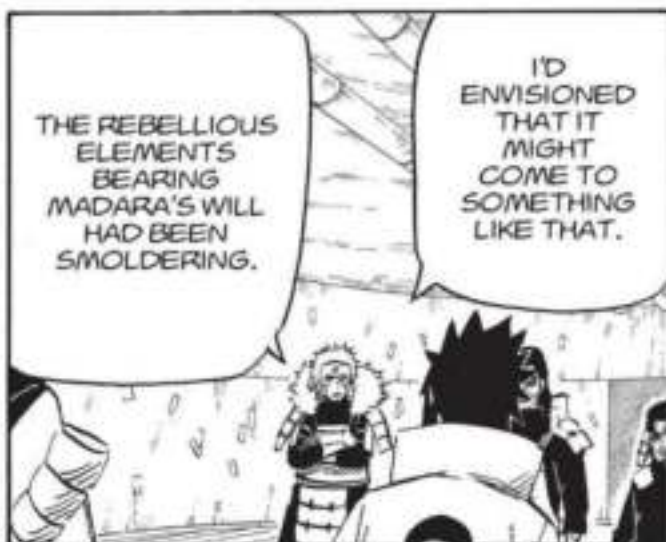


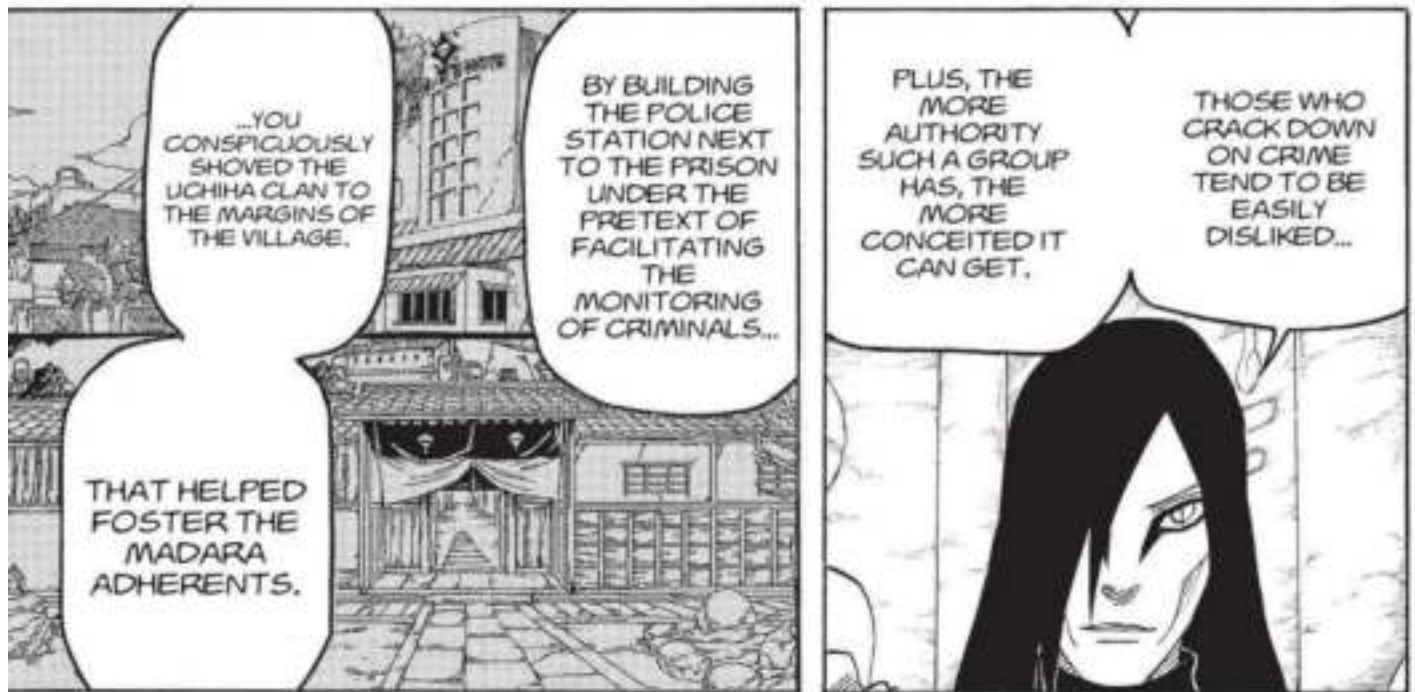
AND HE EXECUTED HIS MISSIONS PERFECTLY.

WE LEFT EVERYTHING TO ITACHI, IN HIS HANDS ALONE...



AT ALL OF SEVEN YEARS OF AGE, HE THOUGHT QUITE LIKE A HOKAGE...





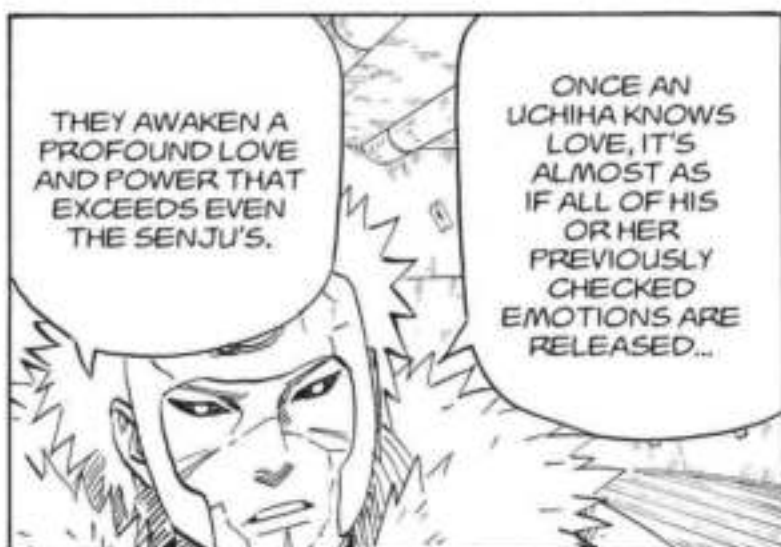






AND THAT IS WHY THE UCHIHA HAVE SUPPRESSED AND SEALED IT AWAY.

THERE IS NO CLAN THAT FEELS DEEPER LOVE THAN THE UCHIHA.



THEY AWAKEN A PROFOUND LOVE AND POWER THAT EXCEEDS EVEN THE SENJU'S.

ONCE AN UCHIHA KNOWS LOVE, IT'S ALMOST AS IF ALL OF HIS OR HER PREVIOUSLY CHECKED EMOTIONS ARE RELEASED...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...?!



...



EXCEPT THAT IT IS QUITE PROBLEMATIC.

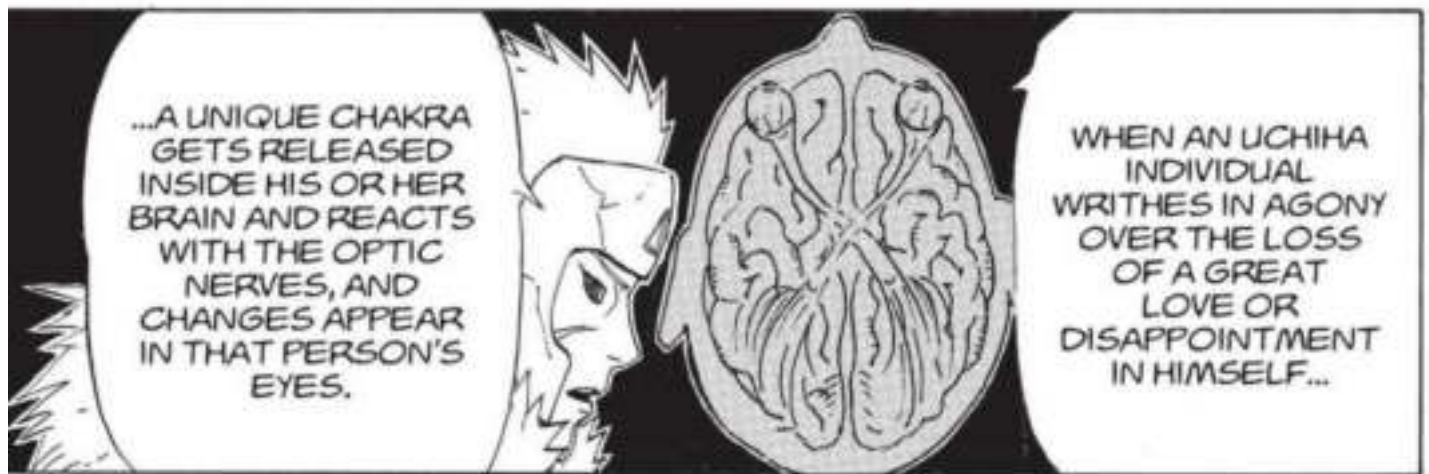
THIS GREAT POWER HIDES WITHIN IT THE POSSIBILITY OF GOING OUT OF CONTROL.



IT SHOULD HELP THINGS GO SMOOTHLY WITH THE SENJU TOO...

THIS SUPER-STRONG POWER OF LOVE, RIGHT?

BUT WHY'S THAT A PROBLEM?





AND NEARLY ALL WHO WERE EXPOSED TO STRONG EMOTIONS WERE TAKEN BY DARKNESS AND FELL TO EVIL.

THERE WERE MANY SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS AMONG THE UCHIHA...



THE SHARINGAN TAPS INTO THE POWER OF THAT PERSON'S HEART, RAPIDLY INCREASING HIS OR HER STRENGTH...

...ALONG WITH THE POWER OF THEIR HATE...



MADARA CARED INTENSELY ABOUT HIS LITTLE BROTHER... LIKELY EVEN MORE SO THAN YOUR BROTHER.



THE DEEPER THE DARKNESS GETS, THE GREATER THE OCULAR POWERS ALSO BECOME, UNTIL THE PERSON CAN NO LONGER BE STOPPED...

JUST LIKE MADARA.

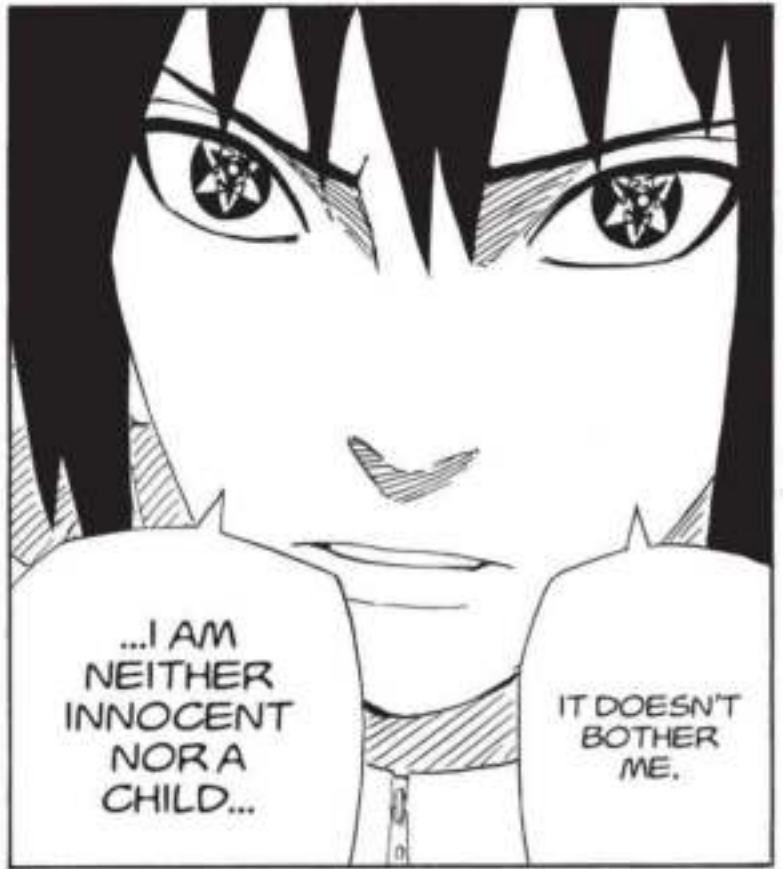


EITHER WAY, IN THE END, THEY WERE OF USE TO THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA.




ALTHOUGH... IF THEY SELF-DESTRUCTED FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE, THEN SO BE IT.

I THOUGHT I HAD ARRANGED AND GUIDED THINGS SUCH THAT THE UCHIHA'S POWER COULD BE HARNESSSED TO SERVE THE VILLAGE.

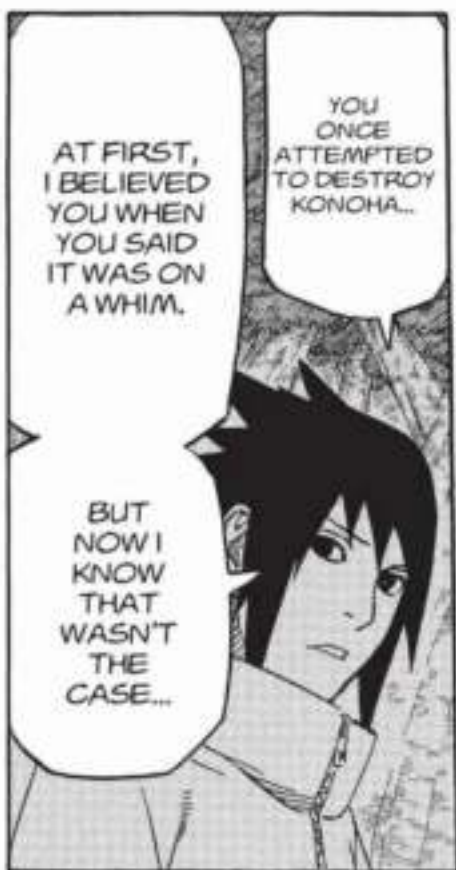






 Number 620: Senju Hashirama









TOBIRAMA...



G R

KRAK

うちは

うちは

うちは

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK







NO TIME?



IF POSSIBLE, COULD YOU PLEASE TELL THIS CHILD EVERYTHING HE WANTS TO KNOW QUICKLY?

I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU ABOUT THE VILLAGE, BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME.

WE DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TIME.



!!



UCHIHA MADARA HAS BEEN REVIVED AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO ERASE ALL THE SHINOBI OF THIS WORLD.

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR.



...



ALWAYS CONFLICT, NO MATTER WHAT THE ERA...

...



THAT'S NARUTO AND NINE TAILS' CHAKRA!



...IN THE DIRECTION OF TWO O'CLOCK...

I DO SENSE POWERFUL CHAKRA...



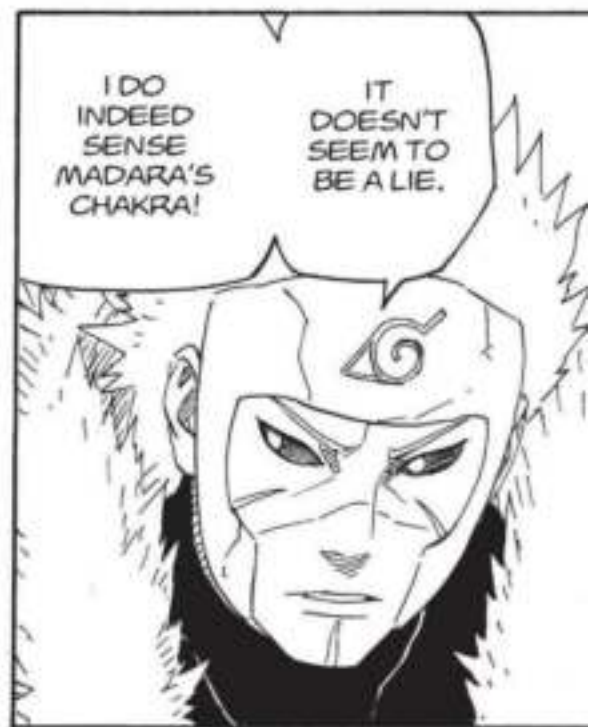
AND YOU'RE FIGHTING TOGETHER... EVEN NOW!

I SEE... SO YOU DID MANAGE IT, NARUTO!



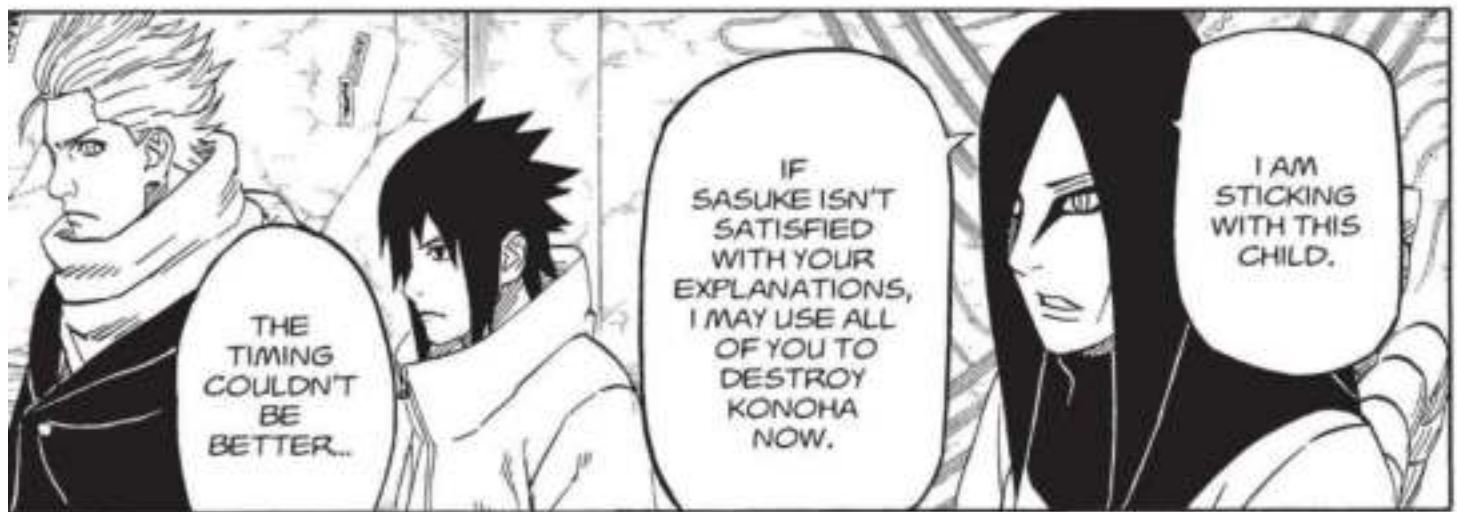
AS ALL OF YOU ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF MY EDOTENSEI JUTSU, YOUR MOVEMENTS CAN BE RESTRICTED...

THEN WE OUGHT TO HEAD TO THE BATTLEFIELD!!

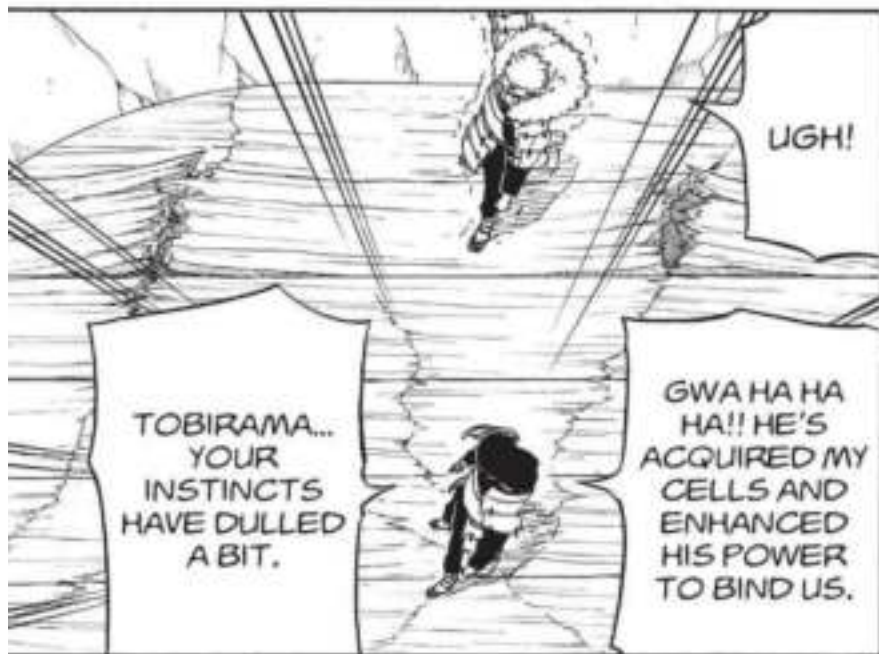


I DO INDEED SENSE MADARA'S CHAKRA!

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A LIE.















...FIRST
I MUST
SPEAK OF
UCHIHA
AND
SENJU.

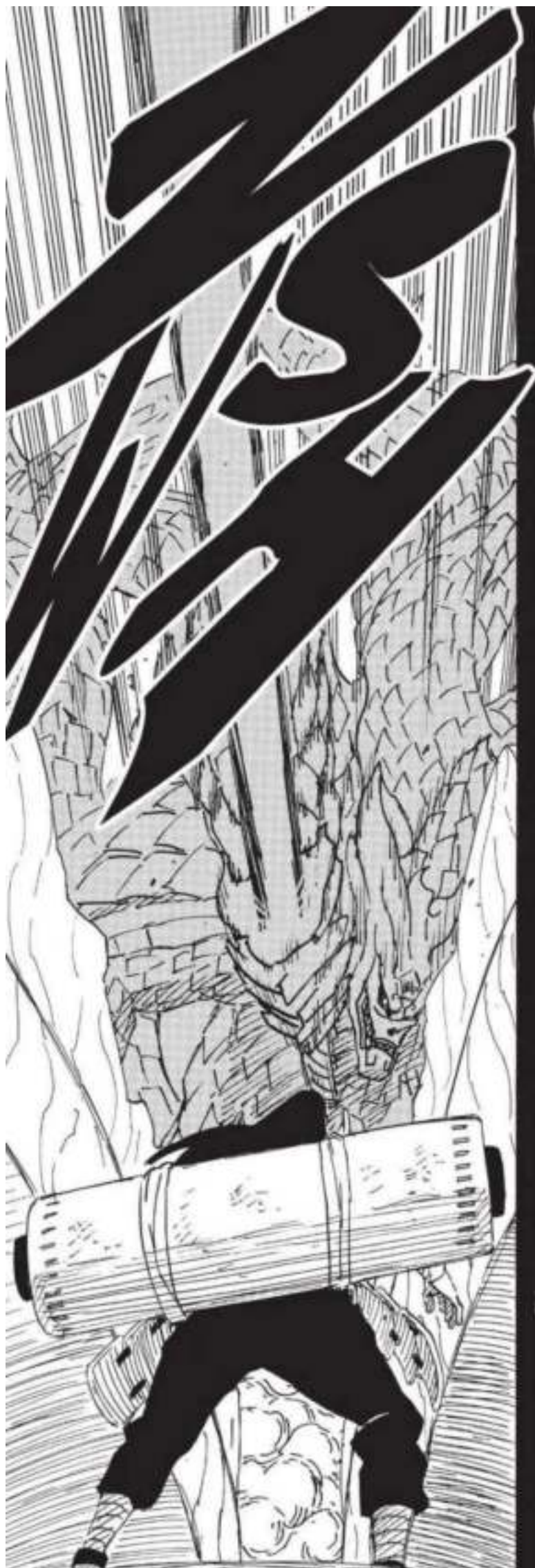




Number 621: Hashirama and Madara

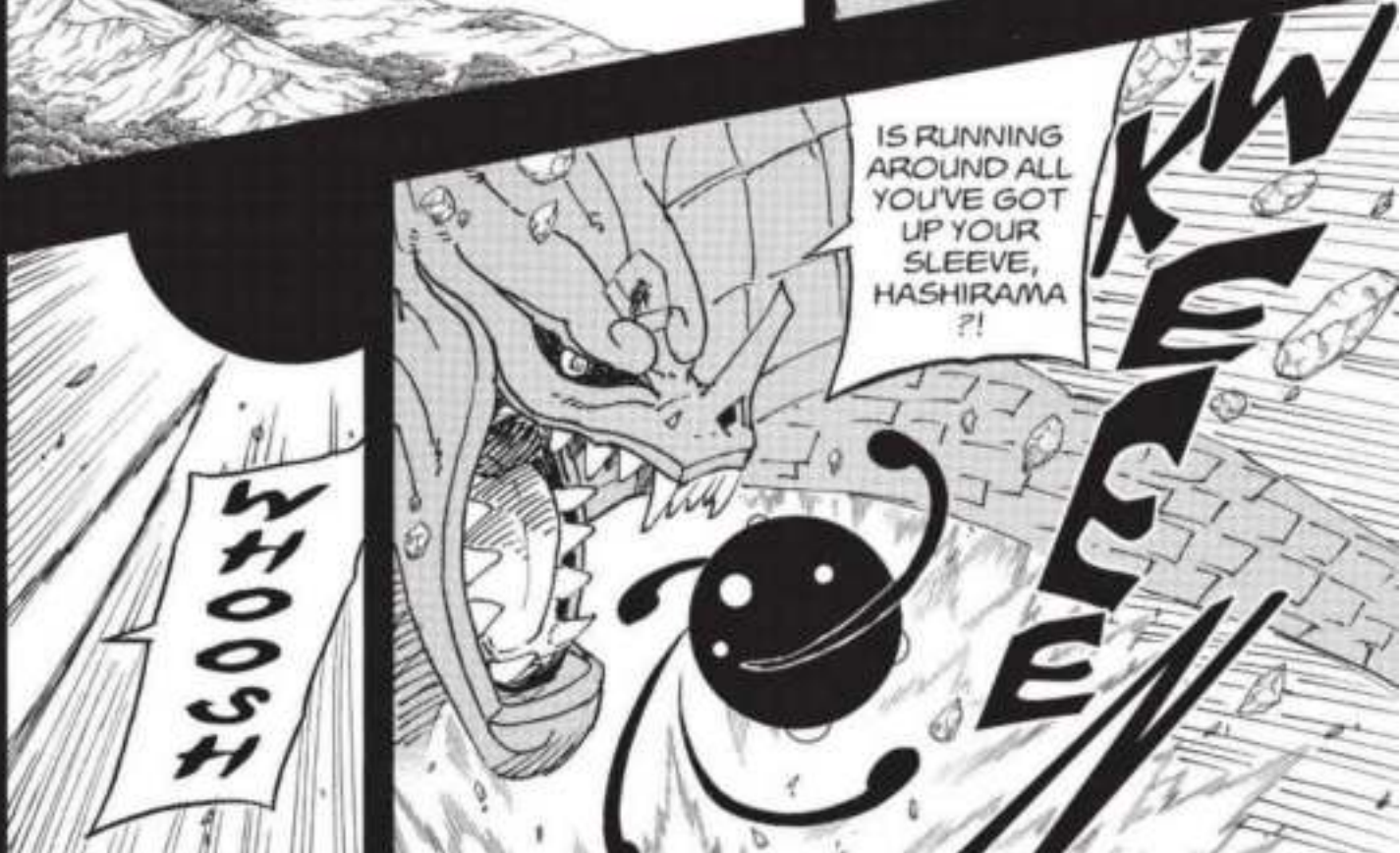
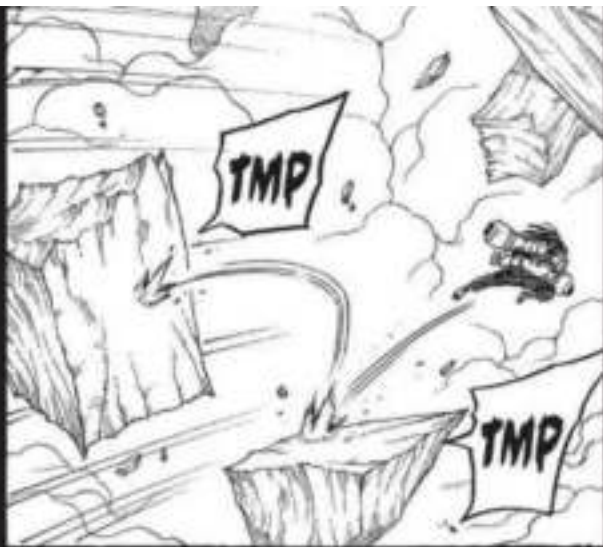












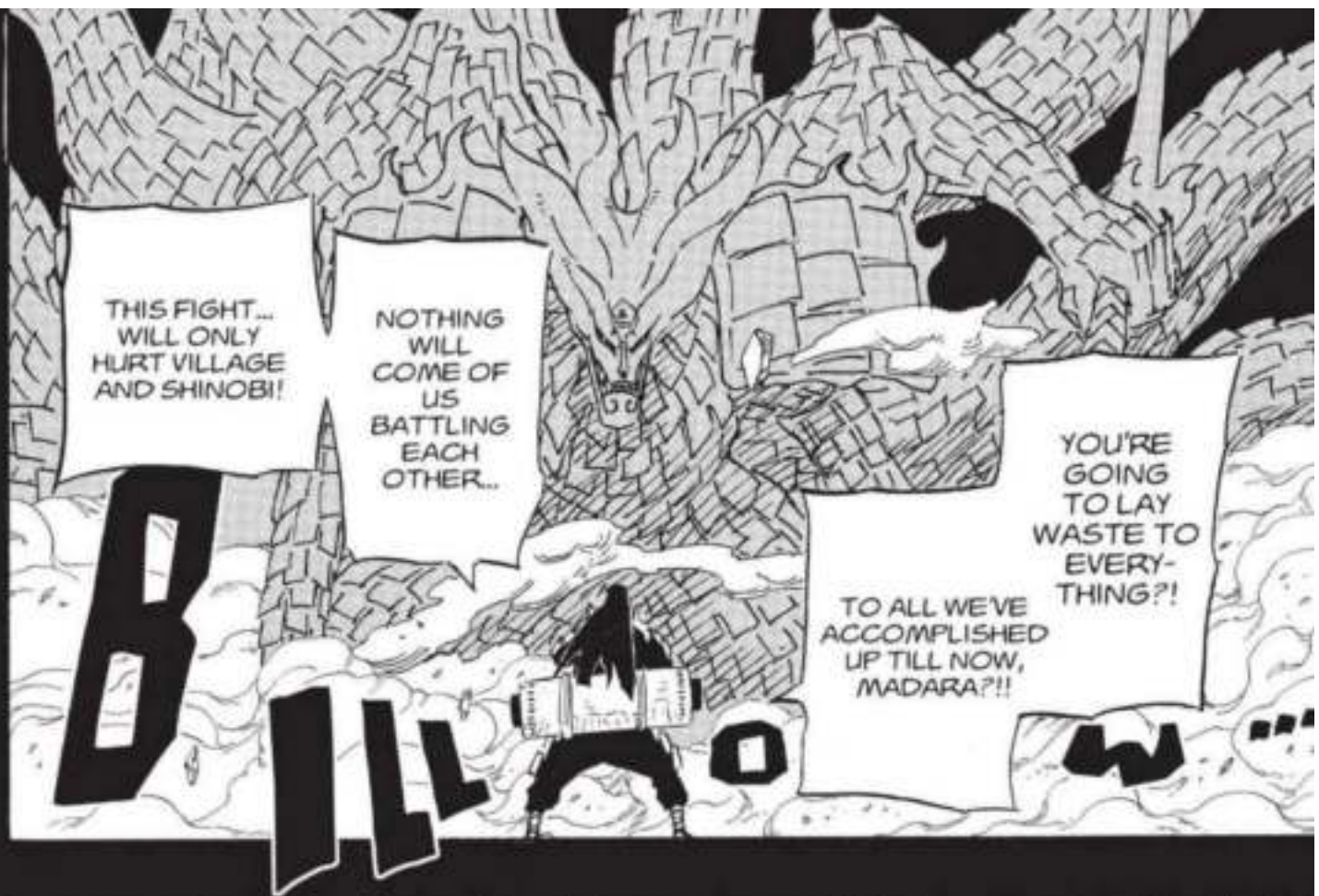




... FIVE-LAYER
RASHOMON!!!







THIS FIGHT...
WILL ONLY
HURT VILLAGE
AND SHINOBI!

NOTHING
WILL
COME OF
US
BATTLING
EACH
OTHER...

YOU'RE
GOING
TO LAY
WASTE TO
EVERY-
THING?!

TO ALL WE'VE
ACCOMPLISHED
UP TILL NOW,
MADARA?!!

**B
I
L
L
O
W**



YOU...
KNOW
NOTHING
OF...

...



IT IS
DISRESPECT
TOWARDS
OUR
BROTHERS...
AND OUR
COMRADES!!



I'M SAYING
WE ARE
FRIENDS...

NO!!



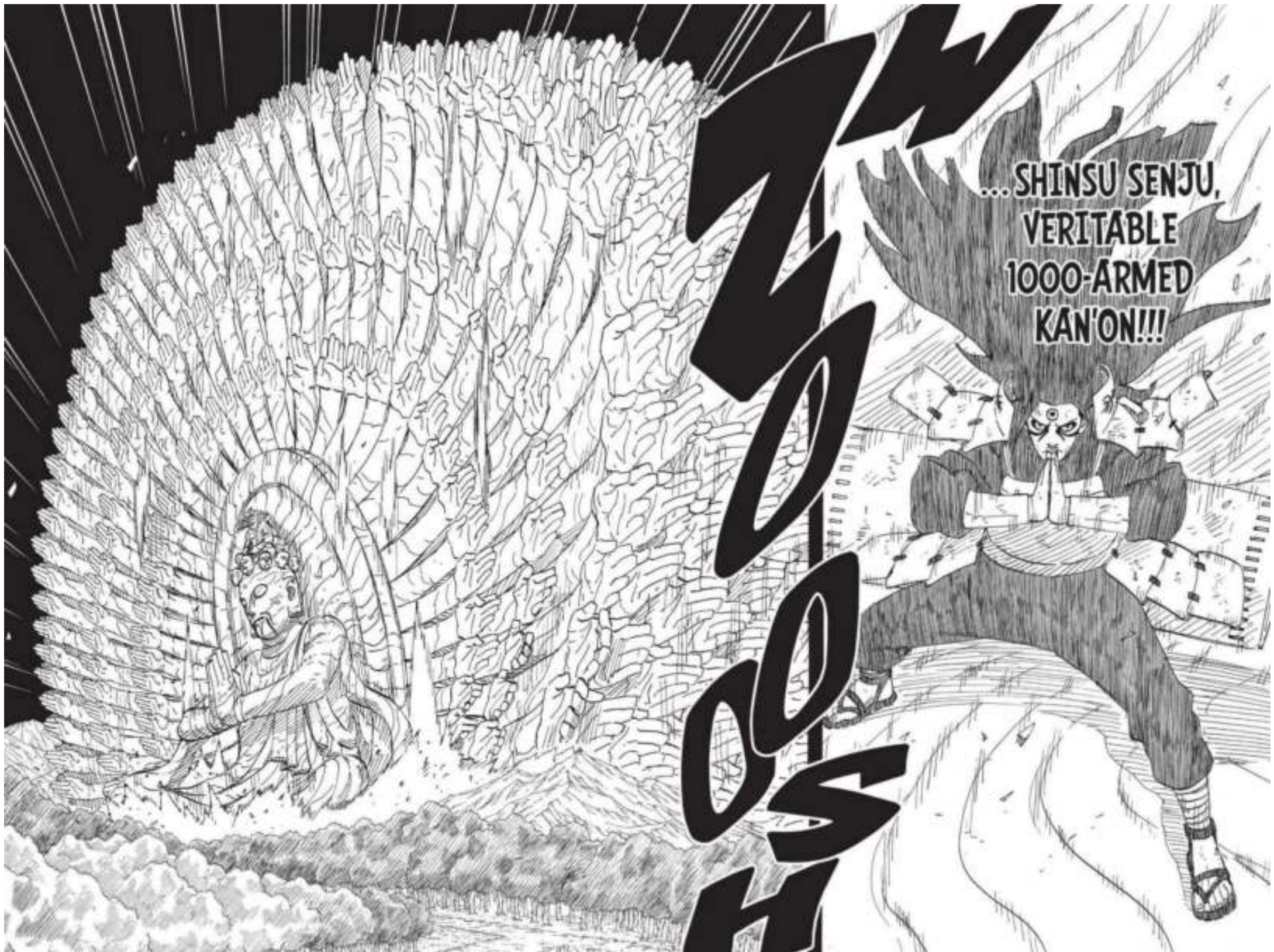
...KILL ME
AT ANY
TIME?

ARE YOU
IMPLYING
THAT YOU
COULD...



I DON'T
WANT TO
HAVE TO
KILL YOU...!

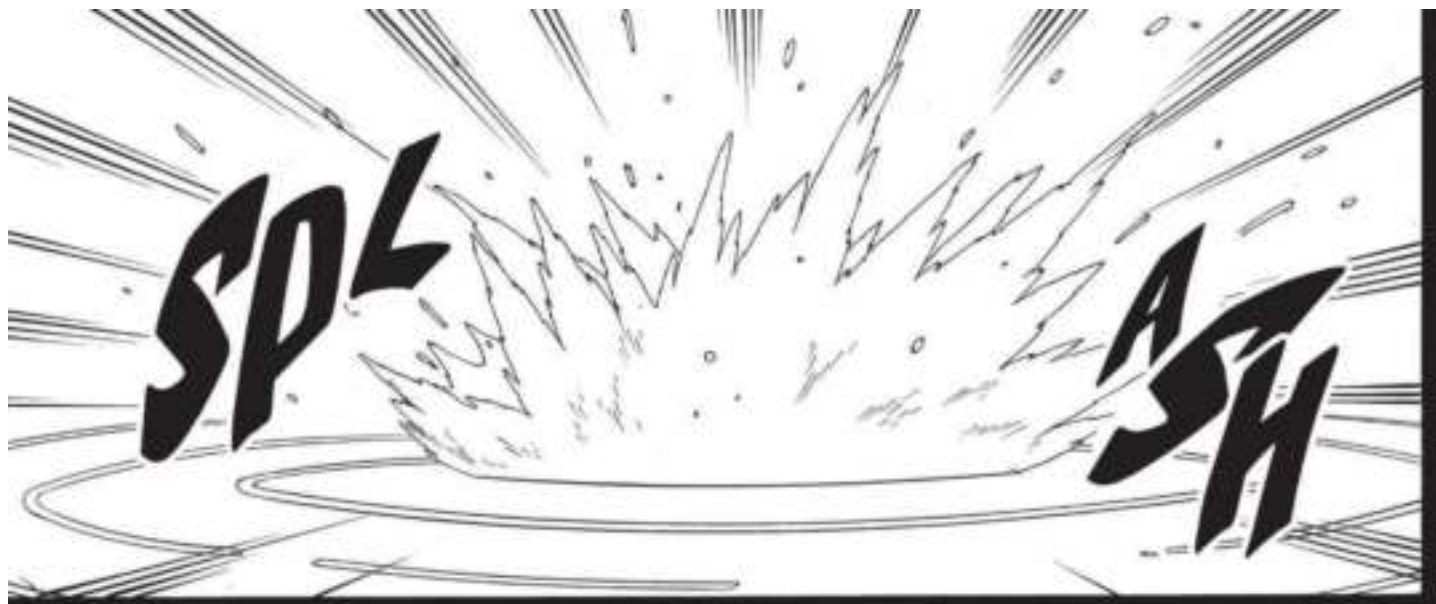




... SHINSU SENJU,
VERITABLE
1000-ARMED
KAN'ON!!!

SHINSU SENJU









THAT'S THE TRICK.

AIM IT A LITTLE HIGHER THAN YOU'D EXPECT.



THOUGH I'VE ALREADY REACHED IT.

AS OF RIGHT NOW... I GUESS I'M YOUR STONE-SKIPPING RIVAL...

THAT WAS MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH UCHIHA MADARA.



...



IT'D REACH THE OTHER SIDE IF I PUT MY ALL INTO IT!

I KNOW THAT!

FSH



ER...

WHO'RE YOU ANYWAY?

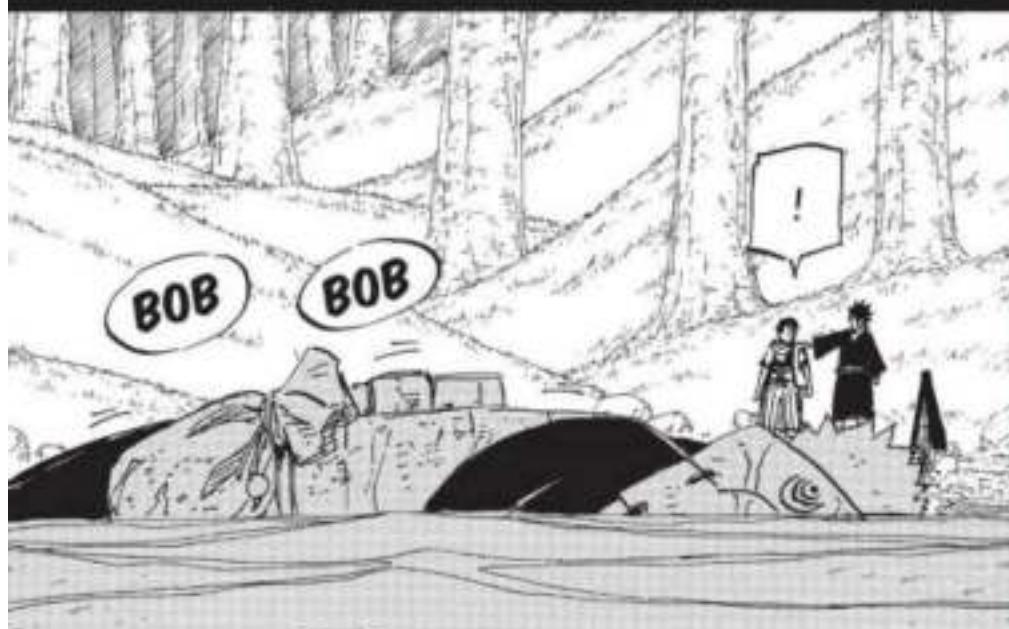




Number 622: It Reached

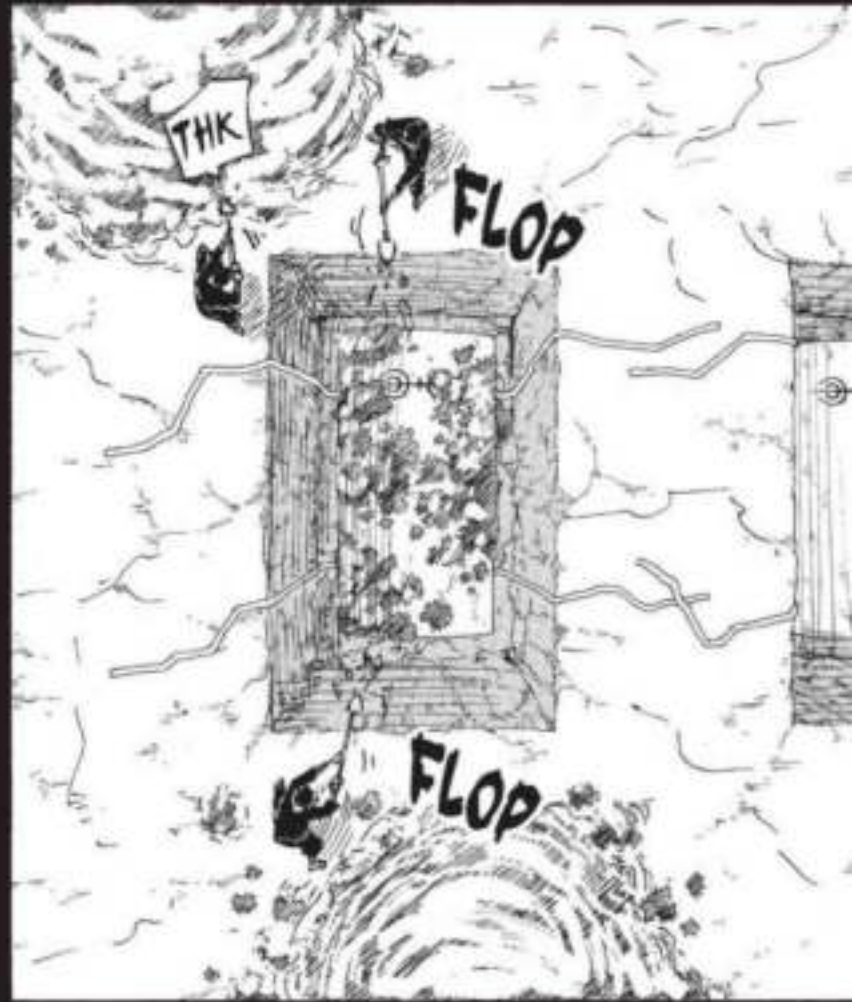
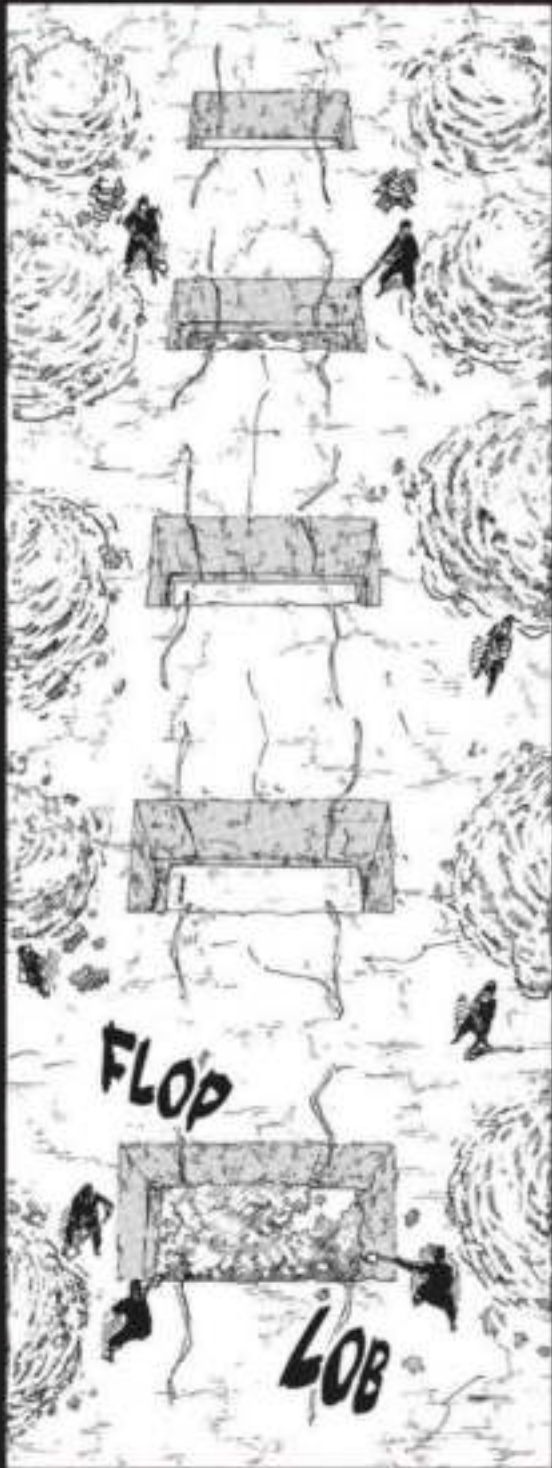
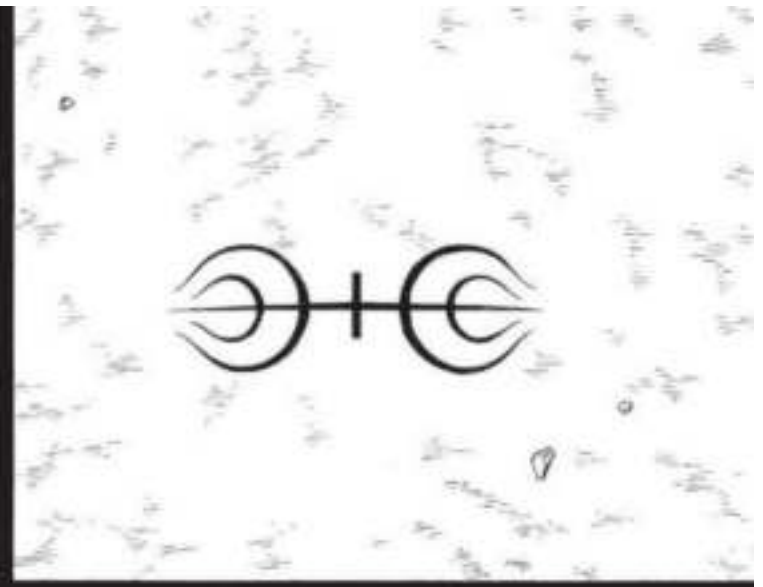














SHINOBI ARE BORN INTO THIS WORLD TO FIGHT AND DIE IN BATTLE!

IF YOU'RE A SHINOBI, DO NOT GRIEVE!

UNH, UNH...



BUT KAWARAMA WAS ONLY SEVEN!!

H-HOW LONG ARE THESE CONFLICTS GOING TO LAST?!

FOR OUR ENEMY THIS TIME INCLUDES THE UCHIHA CLAN IN ADDITION TO THE HAGOROMO CLAN.

THEY'RE PARTICULARLY MERCILESS!

BE GLAD THAT WE HAVE EVEN A PIECE OF HIS CORPSE!



GLARE

AND CHILDREN MUST BE SACRIFICED ...?!

THE PATH TO A BATTLE-FREE WORLD IS NOT EASILY PAVED!

UNTIL THE VERY LAST FOE HAS BEEN VANQUISHED.







KIDS LIKE YOU ARE CALLED BRATS!!



I SWEAR, THIS SHINOBI WORLD IS **TOTALLY** MESSED UP!!



GO COOL YOUR HEAD, HASHIRAMA.



SHUP

FATHER... ELDER BROTHER IS FEELING BLUE TODAY TOO.

SO PLEASE FORGIVE HIM...



...





THE ERA OF WARRING STATES... WHEN THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF BOTH SHINOBI AND CITIZENS WAS AROUND 30 YEARS...

WHAT'S A TRUE ALLIANCE...?

HM?



AND WHAT WAS KEEPING THAT SO LOW...

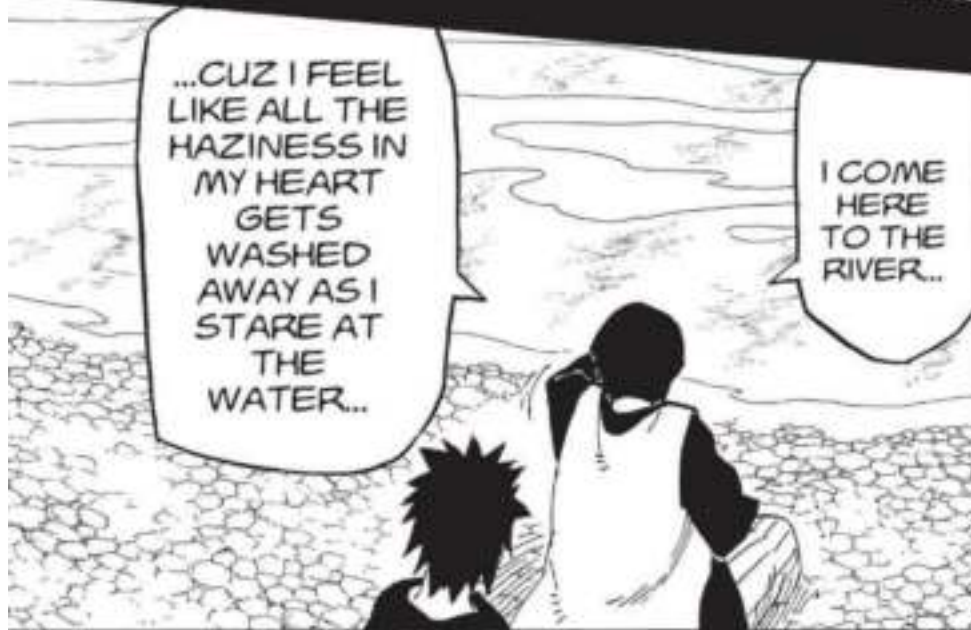
HUF

HUF

HUF











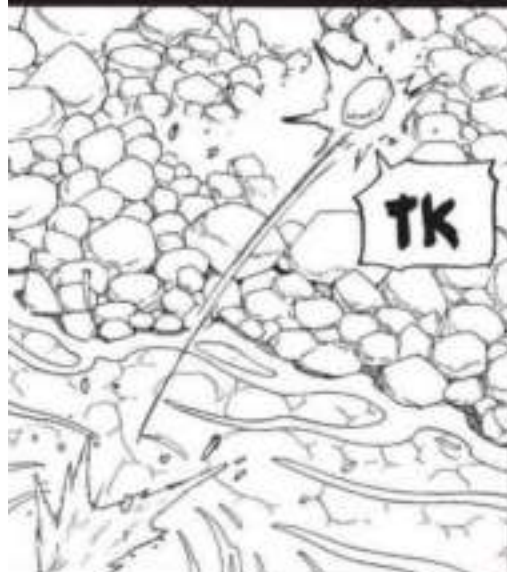
...TO SHOW OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER?

IS IT NOT POSSIBLE ...



SO ONE OR BOTH MIGHT ACTUALLY BE SEETHING INSIDE...

SWSH



TK

BUT I'M ALWAYS PUTTING OUT A LITTLE WISH WHEN I'M HERE.
HOPING TO FIND THE WAY.



I DUNNO...



SPLASH

SPLASH



IT'S NOT JUST YOURS. MINE ALSO...

...REACHED THE OTHER SIDE.

LOOK AT THAT.

SEEMS LIKE THERE FINALLY WILL BE A WAY, THIS TIME.





Number 623: View

NOT THAT WE THOUGHT ALIKE IN EVERY RESPECT...

THAT YOUR HAIRDO AND YOUR OUTFIT ARE TOTALLY LAME!

RATHER THAN BEING SHOCKED, I CONSIDERED MADARA A GIFT FROM THE DIVINE.

SO THERE WAS ANOTHER FOOLISH KID WHO THOUGHT AS I DID... TO TRY TO CHANGE THIS WAR-TORN ERA.

GLOOM

TELL WHAT?

THOUGH I GOTTA SAY, I DON'T NEED TO SEE YOUR GUTS AT ALL TO TELL...



WE'D SPAR AND COMPARE OUR SHINOBI MOVES, OR TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

STILL WITHOUT KNOWING EACH OTHER'S FAMILY NAME...

AFTER THAT, WE STARTED MEETING UP EVERY NOW AND THEN.







THE FIRST STEPS ARE FOR US TO NOT GIVE UP ON OUR IDEALS, AND TO GET A LOT STRONGER.

WE'VE GOT TO HAVE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE...

BUT THE QUESTION IS, HOW DO WE CHANGE THINGS CONCRETELY?

WEAK PUPS BARKING WON'T CHANGE A THING.

GULP GULP



!

WE GOTTA MASTER MANY JUTSU AND COVER ANY WEAKNESSES...

IF WE MASTER ALL SORTS OF JUTSU AND GET STRONGER ...

RIGHT...

TMP

WELL, I AM STRONGER THAN MOST ADULTS AROUND ME ALREADY...

...THE ADULTS WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE OUR WORDS ANY-MORE.



...



PHEW ...

PSSSH...



I TOLD YA NOT TO STAND BEHIND ME!!!

IT REALLY DOES STOP FLOWING...!



HEY, MADARA... I THOUGHT UP AN AWESOME JUTSU!



HOW ABOUT I THROW YA INTO THE RIVER I JUST PISSED INTO, EH?!

FOUND A WEAKNESS...!

EVERY TIME WE MET UP, WE GOT CLOSER.



ER... I CAN'T VISUALIZE IT AT ALL...

THE ULTIMATE TAIJUTSU, A SUPER-FIRE STYLE GENJUTSU-SLICE GIANT SHURIKEN TWO-STEP DROP!!!

F
W
P



WHAT IS IT? HUH...

LET'S MASTER IT TOGETHER!!



QUIT GETTING DEPRESSED SO EASILY!

THAT'S YOUR WEAKNESS!

GLOOM



SHADDUP! WE'RE COMPETING AT ROCK CLIFF CLIMBING TODAY!

LET ME BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU...



HUFF

HUFF

HACK



YOU HAD A HEAD START!

OF COURSE YOU DID...

...I... WIN...

HUFF

HUFF

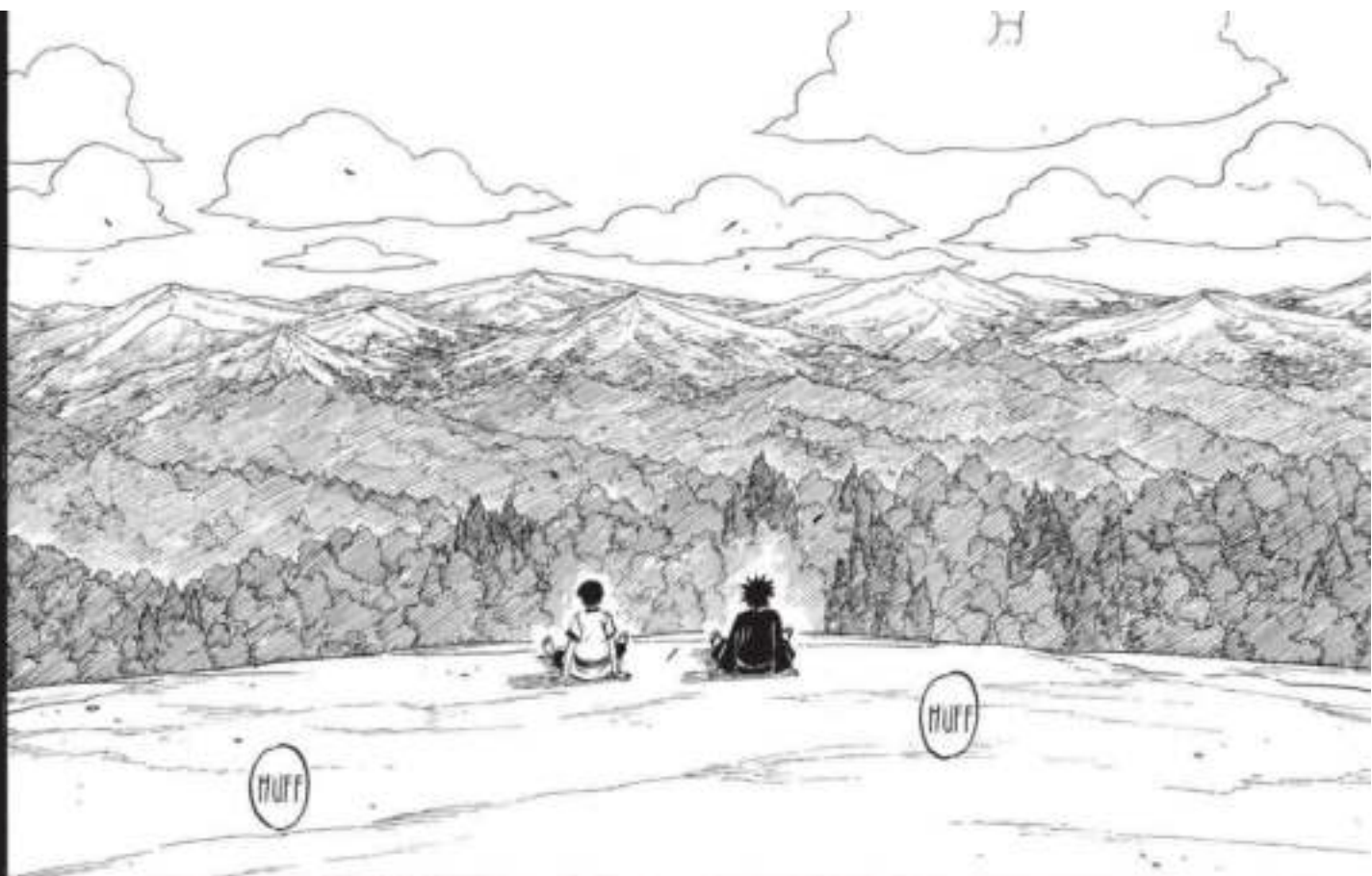


A-HA HA HA, SEE YOU AT THE TOP!!

YOU WERE JUST PRETENDING TO BE BLUE!

HEY! BASTARD!

!!







I SWEAR
I'LL
PROTECT
HIM, NO
MATTER
WHAT!!



AND MAKE IT
SO KIDS WON'T
HAVE TO KILL
EACH OTHER!!

LET'S BUILD
OUR
SETTLEMENT
HERE!!



WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?!

HEH... YOU'RE
PRETTY MUCH
THE ONLY
ONE
SPOUTING
SUCH
NONSENSE!



HAVE
SUPERIORS
WHO CAN
PROPERLY
ASSIGN
RANKS TO
COMMISSIONS!

ASSIGN
MISSIONS
THAT FIT AN
INDIVIDUAL'S
ABILITIES
AND
STRENGTH!

WE'LL
CREATE A
SCHOOL
WHERE KIDS
CAN TRAIN
AND GROW UP
STRONGER!

IT'LL BE
A PLACE
WHERE KIDS
DON'T HAVE TO
BE SENT INTO
HARSH BATTLE-
FRONTS!

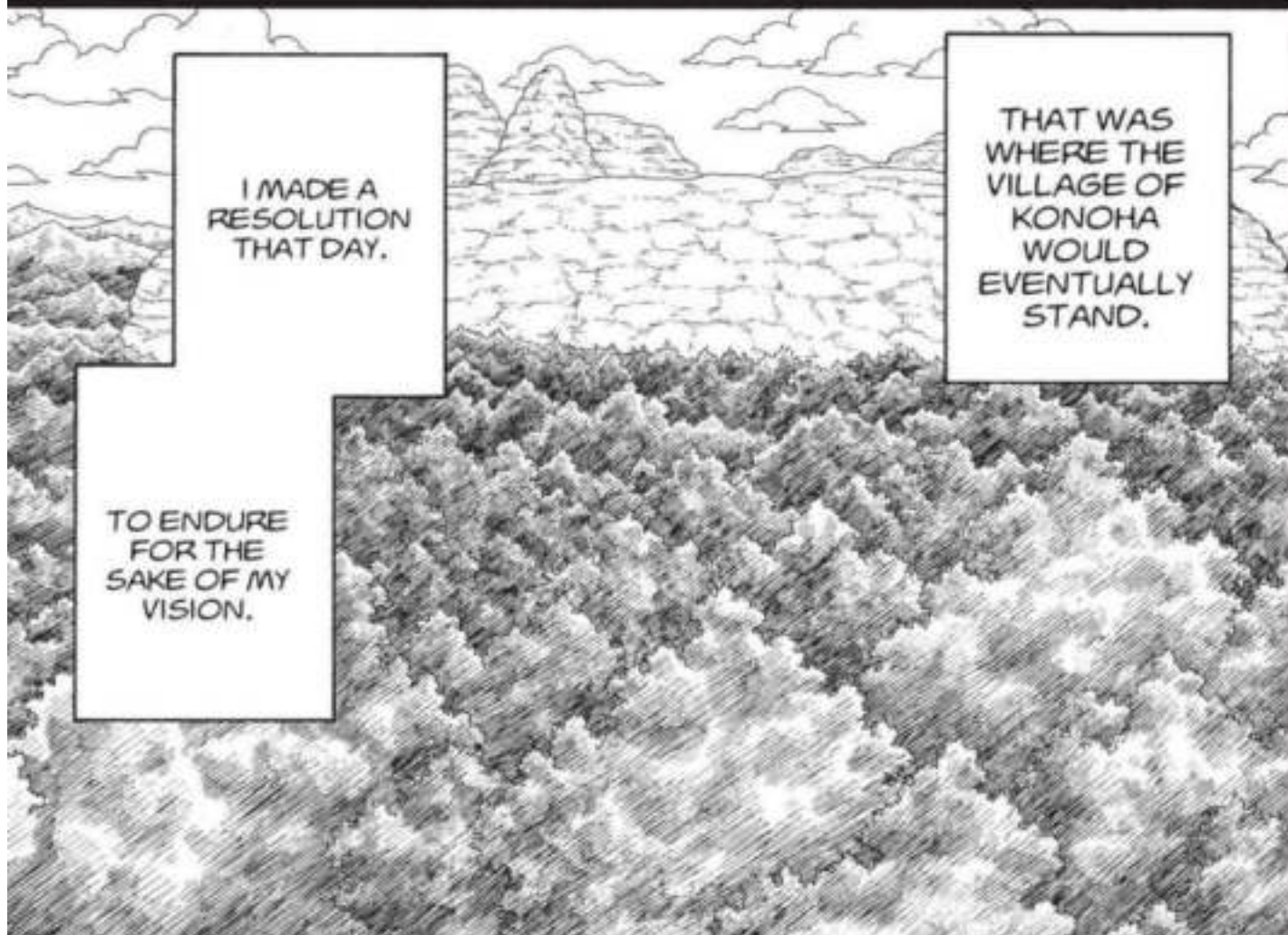


...I COULD
WATCH OVER
AND
PROTECT MY
LITTLE
BROTHER.

WELL, IF
SUCH A
SETTLEMENT
GETS BUILT UP
HERE, THEN...



HEH
HEH
HEH...



I MADE A
RESOLUTION
THAT DAY.

THAT WAS
WHERE THE
VILLAGE OF
KONOHA
WOULD
EVENTUALLY
STAND.

TO ENDURE
FOR THE
SAKE OF MY
VISION.



SNATCH



THAT'S A GOOD STONE FOR SKIPPING.

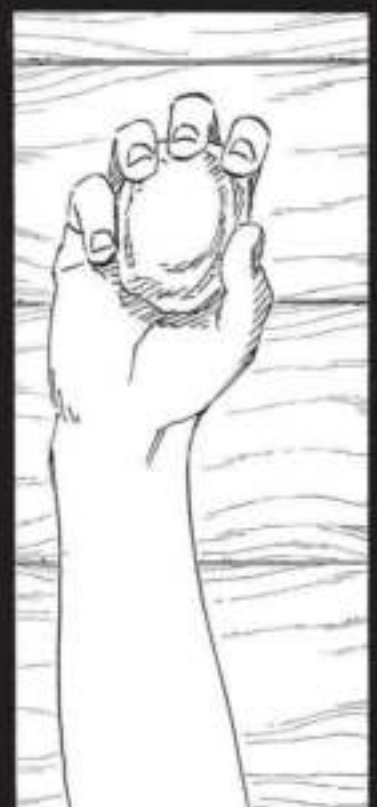
WE BOTH REACH THE OTHER SIDE NOW.

I'LL LET YOU HOLD ON TO IT UNTIL THE NEXT TIME WE MEET!



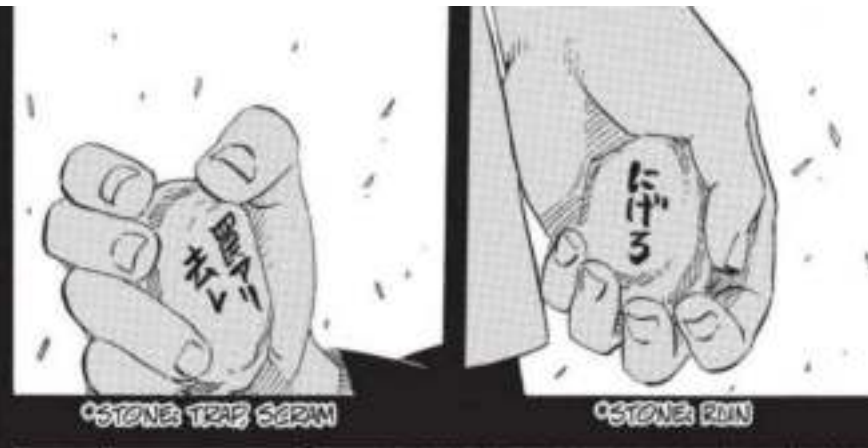

















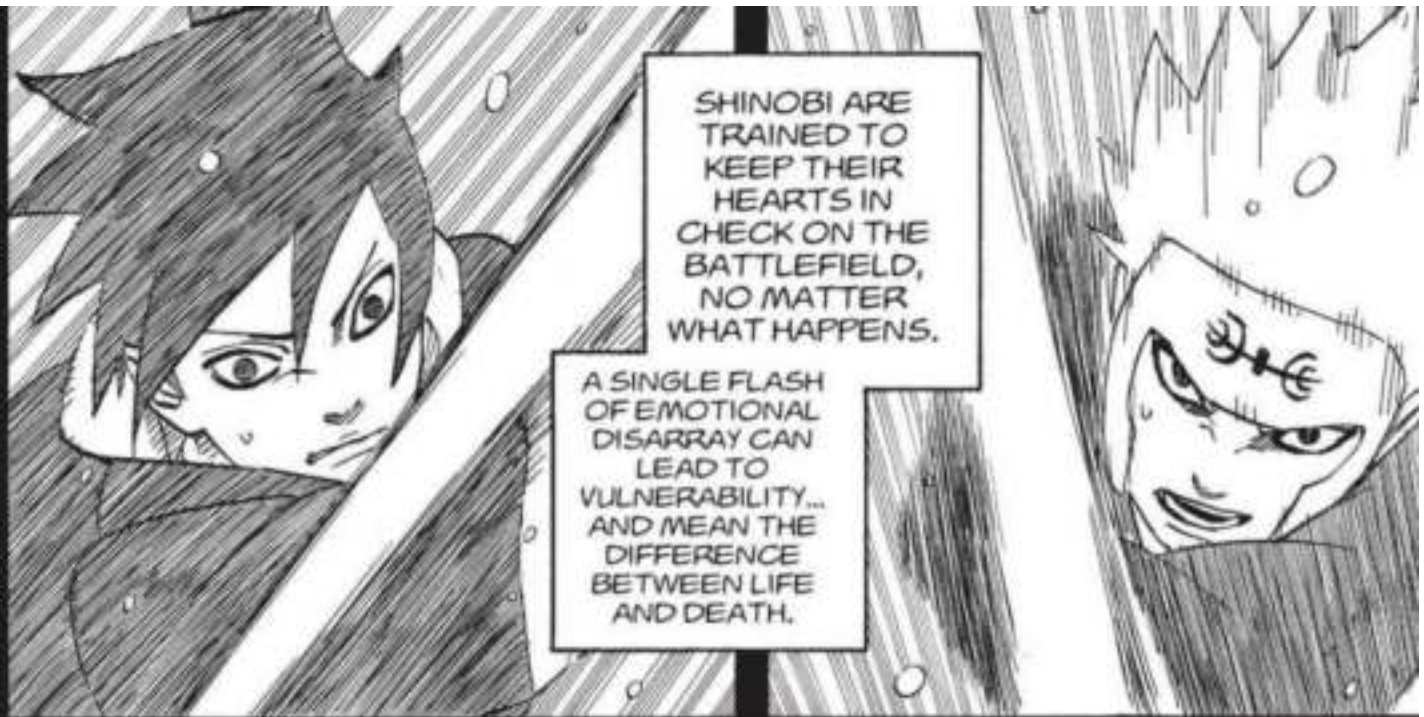
IT SEEMED THE UCHIHA SIDE COINCIDENTALLY HAD HAD THE SAME IDEA.

EXACT IDENTICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

 Number 624: Even



BOTH SENJU BUTSUMA AND UCHIHA TAJIMA KNEW FROM NUMEROUS PRIOR CLASHES THAT THEY POSSESSED PRACTICALLY EQUAL STRENGTH.



SHINOBI ARE TRAINED TO KEEP THEIR HEARTS IN CHECK ON THE BATTLEFIELD, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

A SINGLE FLASH OF EMOTIONAL DISARRAY CAN LEAD TO VULNERABILITY... AND MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.



STOP IT!!



SHAKE

AND THE TWO ADULTS WERE WELL AWARE...



...IT WOULD LIKELY, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT, UNBALANCE THEIR HEART.

...THAT IF THEIR OWN CHILD WERE KILLED BEFORE THEIR EYES...



...COULD LAND THE FIRST STRIKE WOULD DETERMINE THE OUTCOME.

MEANING THAT, WHICHEVER ONE...





水炎の巻

水炎の巻







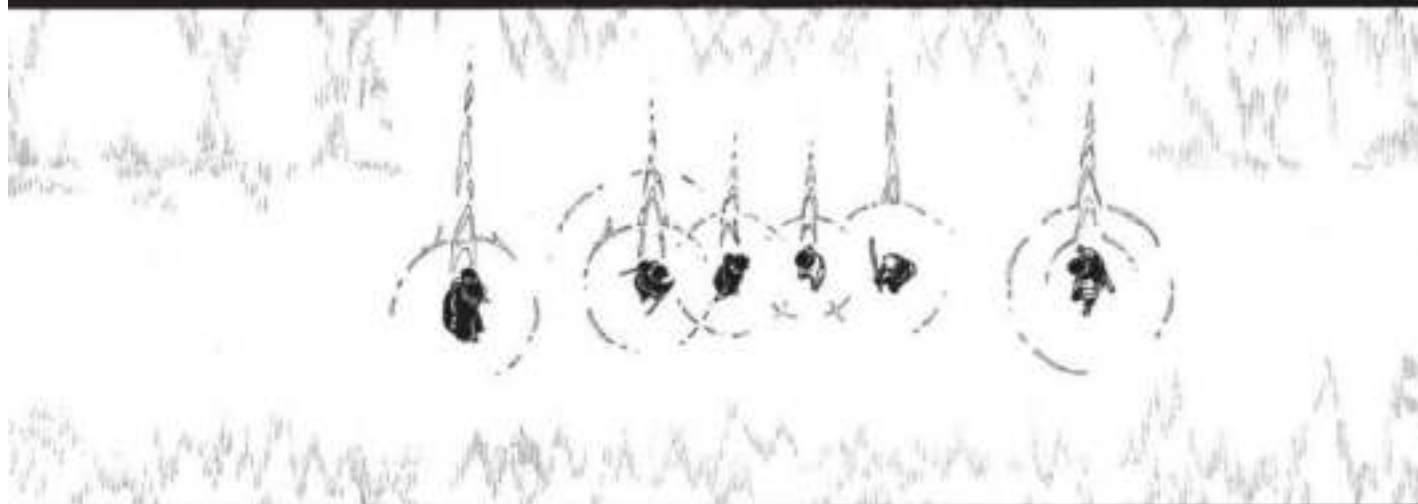
...HASHI-
RAMA.

IT MAY
HAVE
BEEN
BRIEF,
BUT IT
WAS
FUN...



MADARA...

WHAT
ARE
YOU...



I SEE... QUITE
IMPRESSIVE...

A
STRONGER
KID THAN
YOU...?



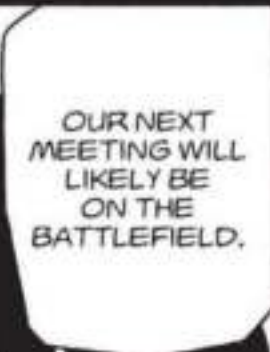
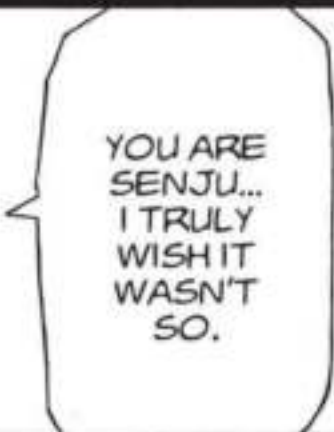
THREE
AGAINST
THREE.

WELL,
MADARA?
CAN WE
TAKE
THEM?



IF WE
FIGHT,
WE'LL
LOSE.

NO...
HASHIRAMA
IS
STRONGER
THAN ME.





FOR I AM...
UCHIHA
MADARA.

SHARINGAN



IT WAS
JUST NOW
AWAKENED...?

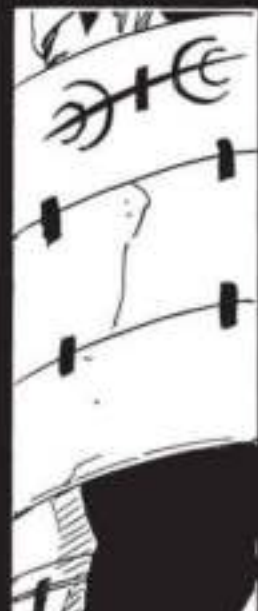
SHARIN-
GAN...



HEH HEH...
WE MAY
NOT HAVE
OBTAINED
INTEL ON
SENJU...

LOOK,
FATHER, BIG
BROTHER'S
EYES!

...BUT IT
SEEMS WE
GAINED
SOMETHING
VALUABLE
FROM THIS
AFTER ALL...



...THE
SHARINGAN
TRULY
SIGNIFIED.



IN THAT
MOMENT...
I FELT LIKE I
UNDERSTOOD
WHAT
AWAKENING...



TO
ERASE
ME FROM
HIS LIFE.

HE'D
DECIDED TO
COMPLETELY
ERASE HIS
FRIEND.



WE FOUGHT
EACH
OTHER DAY
AFTER DAY...

AFTER
THAT, WE
BATTLED.



BEFORE WE
KNEW IT,
WE'D EACH
BECOME
OUR
RESPECTIVE
CLAN'S
LEADER.





WHY DON'T WE END THIS...?

BUT I HAD NEVER ABANDONED OUR DREAM...



HERE...



IF THE TWO STRONGEST SHINOBI CLANS, UCHIHA AND SENJU, JOIN FORCES... NATIONS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND OTHER SHINOBI CLANS THAT CAN STAND AGAINST US...

THE CONFLICT WILL EVENTUALLY START TO DIE DOWN.



!



DO NOT BE ...NO, BIG DECEIVED BROTHER... BY THEM...



...



THAT'S ABOUT WHEN MADARA CHANGED AS WELL...



IN FACT, DEFECTORS TO SENJU SOON BEGAN SHOWING UP.

IT WAS CLEAR TO ALL THAT THE UCHIHA CLAN WAS IN AN UNFAVORABLE POSITION.



...LEAVING ME POWERS THAT WILL HELP PROTECT UCHIHA!

HE HAD OBTAINED THE ETERNAL MANGEKYO SHARINGAN.

MY LITTLE BROTHER ENDED UP DYING FROM THAT DAY'S WOUNDS...



IF YOU TRULY WANT TO PROTECT UCHIHA, LET'S STOP FIGHTING!

I SENT YOU A CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT!



IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE TO SHOW OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER. DON'T YOU GET IT?!

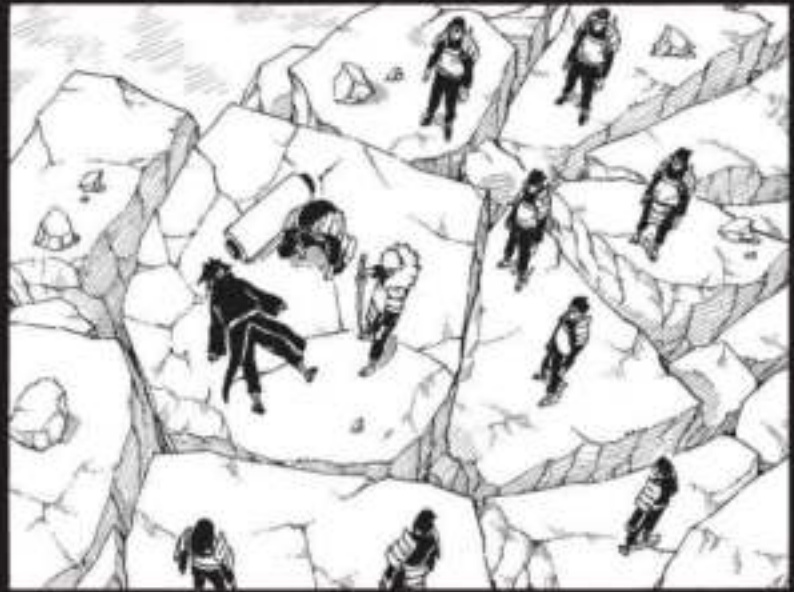
HASHIRAMA! HOW LONG WILL YOU KEEP SAYING SUCH JUVENILE THINGS?!



MADARA'S
BACK
TOUCHED
THE GROUND
FOR THE
VERY FIRST
TIME.

AT THE
END OF A
BATTLE
THAT
LASTED A
WHOLE
DAY...

TWO TWO TWO TWO





NO ONE TOUCHES HIM!



HUMPH... JUST GET IT OVER WITH, HASHIRAMA...



JUJUJU



TOGETHER ... CAN'T WE SKIP STONES AGAIN, LIKE IN OLDEN TIMES?



...TO DIE BY YOUR HAND. IT WOULD BE AN HONOR...



YOU AND I ARE NO LONGER THE SAME... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...

NO... THERE ALWAYS IS SOMEONE...

THERE ISN'T ANYONE LEFT WITH SUCH PLUCK AMONG THE UCHIHA.

IF I KILL THE CLAN CHIEF LIKE THIS, THE YOUNGER UCHIHA WHO FOLLOW YOU SHALL RUN AMOK AGAIN.

QUIT THE POSTURING.



WELL,
THERE IS A
WAY TO
SHOW EACH
OTHER OUR
GUTS...



AND I
JUST
CAN'T
TRUST
YOU...

I DON'T
HAVE A
SINGLE
BROTHER
LEFT...



...NO
WAY
I CAN
CON-
VINCE
YOU?

IS
THERE
...



AND
THEN...
WE'LL
BE
EVEN...

I'D BE
WILLING
TO TRUST
YOUR
CLAN.

EITHER
KILL YOUR
BROTHER...
OR KILL
YOURSELF,
RIGHT NOW.





HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH AN OUTLANDISH--

KILL YOUR LITTLE BROTHER OR YOURSELF?!

 Number 625: My True Dream



OR ARE YOU GOING TO DIE ON ACCOUNT OF THIS GUY'S NONSENSE?

THAT'S IDIOTIC... DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, ELDER BROTHER!



SO ELDER BROTHER...

THAT'S JUST CRAZY TALK!

...ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME NOW?!



FSH

!




YOU REALLY ARE KINDHEARTED.

THANK YOU, MADARA.

FSH...





MADARA HAD GIVEN ME A CHOICE... AN OPTION WHERE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO KILL MY LITTLE BROTHER...

!

KAK

I FORBID ANY FIGHTING BETWEEN UCHIHA AND SENJU.

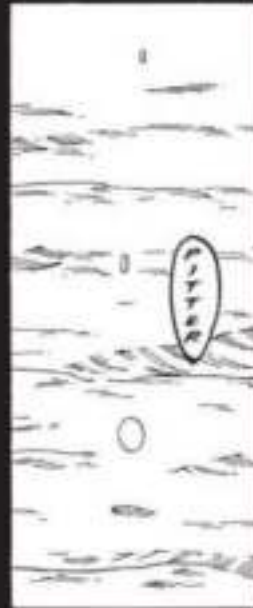
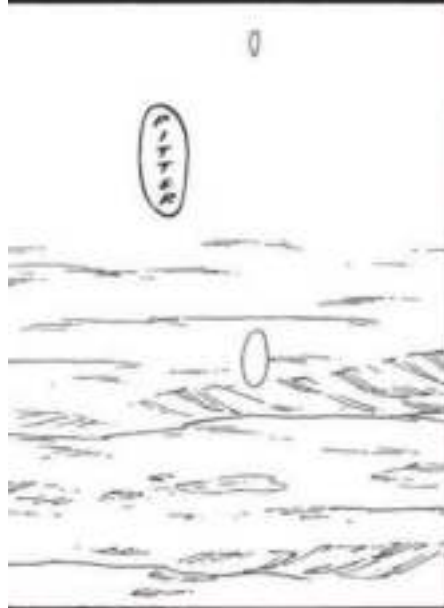
AFTER MY DEATH, DO **NOT** KILL MADARA.

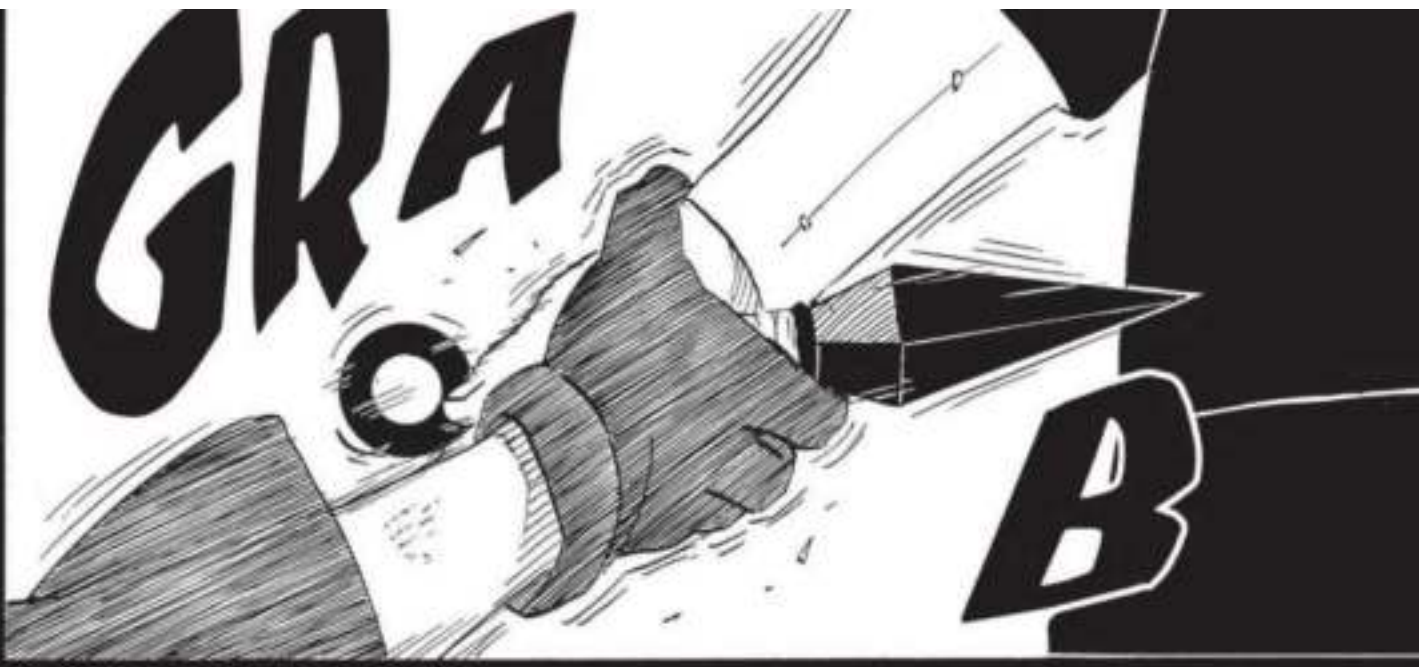
HE TOO KNEW HOW AN OLDER BROTHER FEELS TOWARD HIS YOUNGER SIBLINGS...

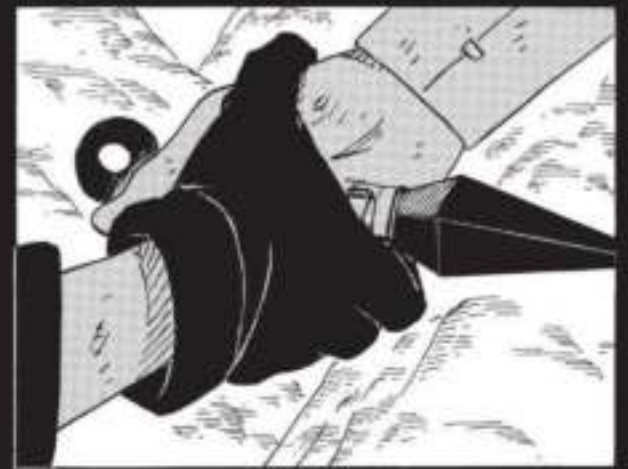
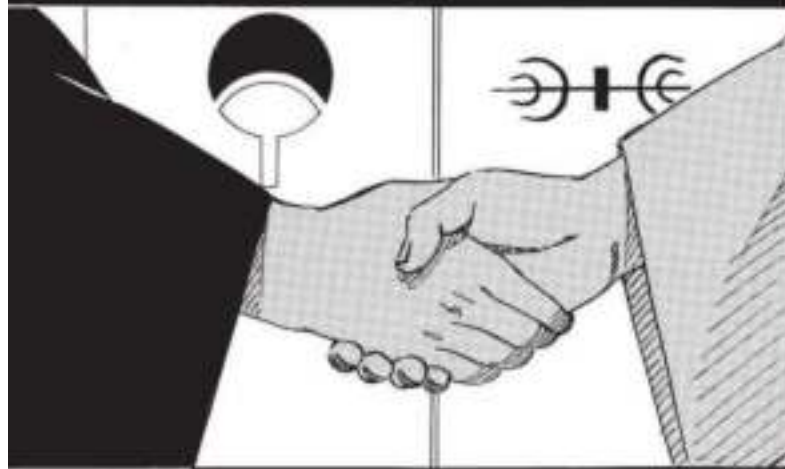
WORDS THAT I SHALL BE EXCHANGING WITH MY LIFE.

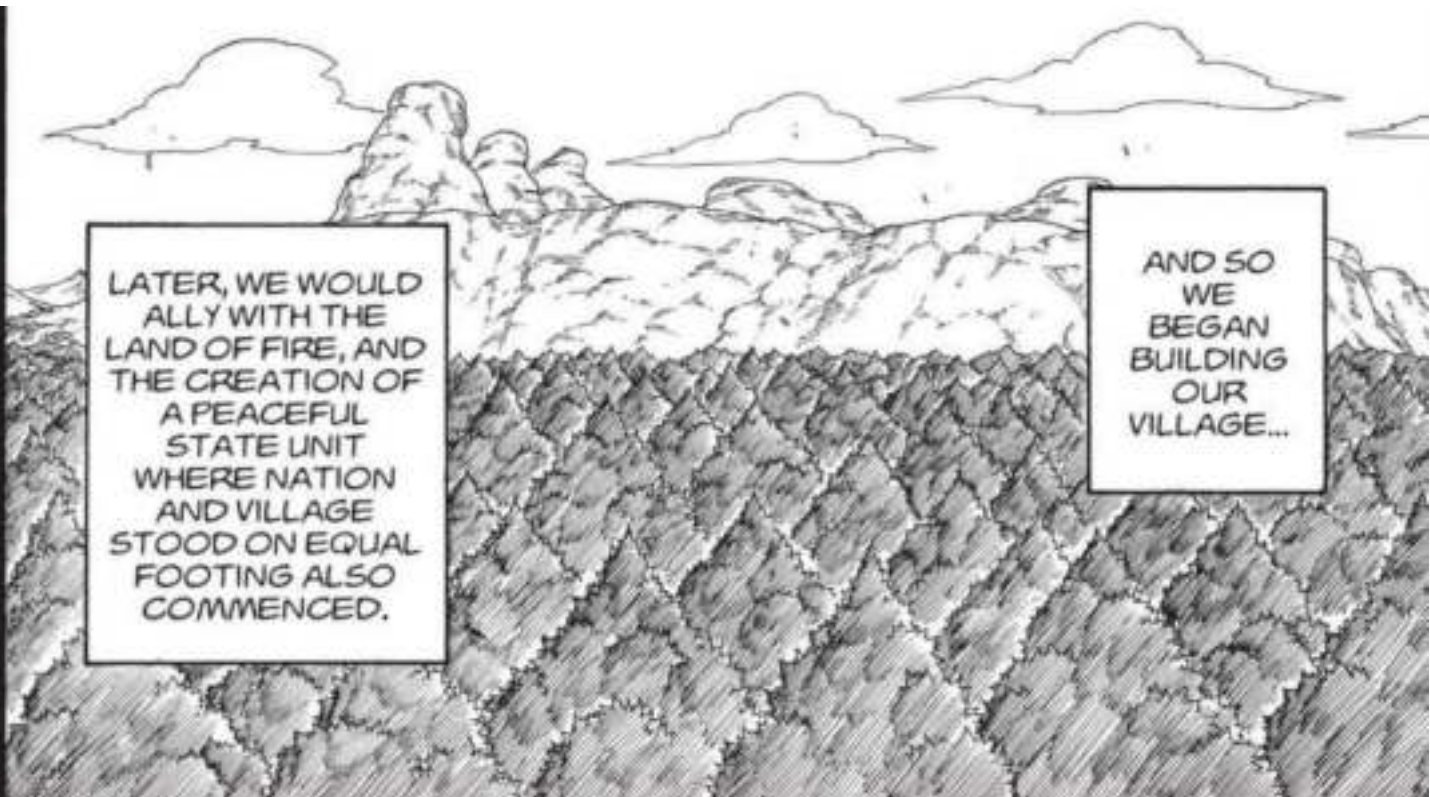
YOU TOO, MY FELLOW CLAN MEMBERS.

LISTEN, TOBIRAMA... CARVE INTO YOUR HEART THESE FINAL WORDS OF MINE...










LATER, WE WOULD
ALLY WITH THE
LAND OF FIRE, AND
THE CREATION OF
A PEACEFUL
STATE UNIT
WHERE NATION
AND VILLAGE
STOOD ON EQUAL
FOOTING ALSO
COMMENCED.

AND SO
WE
BEGAN
BUILDING
OUR
VILLAGE...



IN ANY CASE,
IT WAS
DREAMLIKE...



HOW WE
USED TO
TALK HERE
WHEN WE
WERE
BRATS?

DO YOU
REMEMBER
...?



YEAH...



WELL?

THE LEADER OF SHINOBI WHO PROTECTS THE LAND OF FIRE FROM THE SHADOWS...

THE FIRE SHADOW, OR HOKAGE.

EVEN THOUGH THERE REALLY WASN'T ANYTHING TRULY BEYOND MY GRASP, I...

I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST DREAMING...

THAT DREAM IS NOW BECOMING REALITY.



I'M CONSIDERING NAMING YOU TO BE OUR LEADER...

...THE HOKAGE.

WHAT'S THAT?

THE LAND OF FIRE HAS REQUESTED THAT WE SELECT SOMEONE TO REPRESENT THE VILLAGE.



ME, WHO COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT MY OWN BRETHREN ...?

YOU WILL PROTECT THEM ALL.

I'D LIKE YOU TO THINK OF ALL OF THIS VILLAGE'S SHINOBI AS YOUR SIBLINGS.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE ANY BLOOD SIBLINGS LEFT, BUT...



AND OTHERS AS WELL...

YOU'RE KIDDING... ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

THIS VILLAGE IS GOING TO KEEP ON EXPANDING!



THERE'S NO TIME TO BE WEAK-KNEED RIGHT NOW!

...IT SEEMS THE SARUTOBI AND SHIMURA CLANS WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US AS WELL.

FOR IN ADDITION TO OUR TWO CLANS...



...

ANY THOUGHTS?



WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO COME UP WITH A NAME FOR THE VILLAGE TOO.



HOW ABOUT... KONOHA-GAKURE?

THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES.



...

ESH0000

GLOOM

AND YOU STILL HAVE THAT HABIT OF GETTING DEPRESSED REALLY EASILY??!

HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT FROM "HOKAGE," EH??!

YOU CALLED IT EXACTLY AS YOU SAW IT...

NO SPIN OR INGENUITY AT ALL...

...THAT'S SO SIMPLISTIC...

SO YOU'RE SAYING THE ROLE OF HOKAGE IS TO STAY IN THE VILLAGE AND PROTECT EVERYONE?

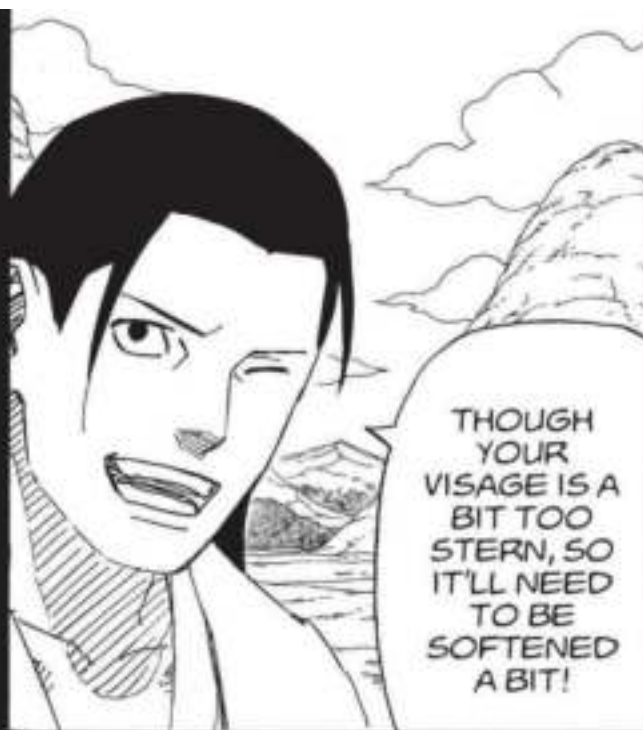
IT HAD TAKEN A LONG TIME, BUT I FELT LIKE WE'D MANAGED TO GET BACK TO OUR OLD CAMARADERIE.

AS A SYMBOL OF OUR VILLAGE'S PROTECTOR!

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOUR LIKENESS CARVED INTO THIS CLIFF FACE AT OUR FEET.

AS OUR VILLAGE-BUILDING PICKS UP SPEED, THE HOKAGE WILL GET BUSIER TOO...

YEAH, BUT THAT'S ONLY A SMALL PART OF IT.



THOUGH
YOUR
VISAGE IS A
BIT TOO
STERN, SO
IT'LL NEED
TO BE
SOFTENED
A BIT!



YOU'RE
KIDDING...



TOBI-
RAMA...



THERE
YOU
ARE...

WHAT ARE YOU
DAWDLING HERE
FOR?! THE DAIMYO
OF THE LAND OF
FIRE WILL BE
ARRIVING ANY
MINUTE NOW FOR
THE CONFERENCE!

SHUP



FOR
HOKAGE
?!



...



...



BUT THE FINAL DECISION SHOULD REST ON THE POPULAR OPINION OF BOTH THE LAND OF FIRE AND OUR VILLAGE, ALONG WITH DISCOURSE WITH SENIOR MEMBERS!

TO PROPOSE MADARA AS A LEADER CANDIDATE IS ONE THING.

THAT'S NOT YOUR CHOICE!

THESE ARE DIFFERENT TIMES COMPARED TO FATHER'S!



BESIDES WHICH... HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT THE UCHIHA?

EVERYONE KNOWS... THAT YOU'RE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THIS VILLAGE...

PLUS... UCHIHA MADARA WOULD NEVER BE SELECTED TO LEAD US.

BUT...

EVEN THE UCHIHA ARE WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT.

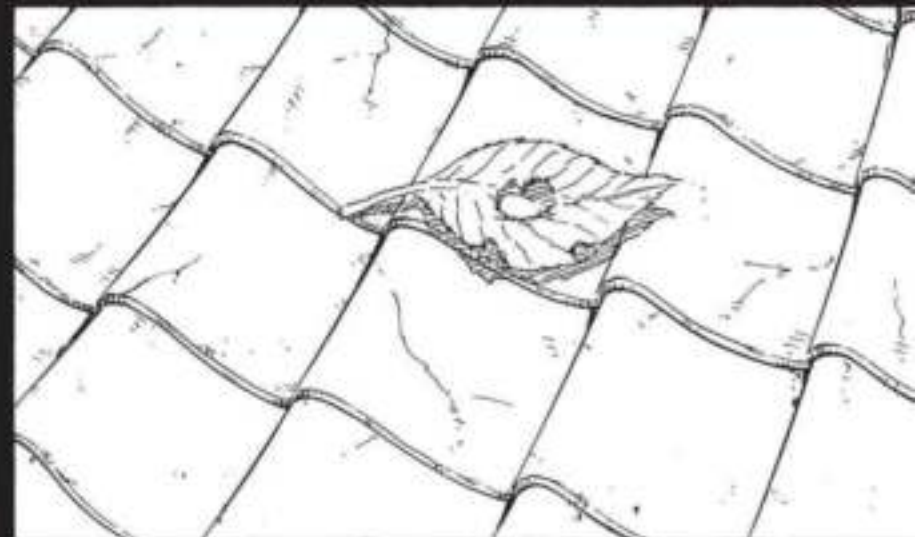
QUIT SAYING SUCH THINGS, TOBIRAMA!

YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHAT THEY MIGHT DO.

THAT THE STRONGER THEIR HATE, THE GREATER THEIR OCULAR POWERS.

SO FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE'S FUTURE...

THAT'S THE SECRET OF THE SHARINGAN.







...?

IT COULD ALSO BE INTERPRETED DIFFERENTLY.

HOWEVER...



YOU LEAVE TOBIRAMA TO ME...

THE VILLAGERS WILL EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZE YOUR MERITS...

KEEP WORKING WITH ME AS THE HOKAGE'S RIGHT HAND, AND AS A BROTHER!

I CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU...



HASHIRAMA... DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...?

...



BUT IT SEEMS NOT ONE PERSON IS WILLING TO COME WITH ME.

KNOWING THIS, I REACHED OUT TO OTHER UCHIHA, CALLED UPON THEM TO LEAVE AND ABANDON THE VILLAGE...

AND IF THAT HAPPENS, THE UCHIHA WILL SLOWLY BE EXPLUNGED...



I SUSPECT TOBIRAMA WILL BECOME HOKAGE AFTER YOU.

AND THEN, I'LL NAME YOU SECOND HOKAGE...



I'M NOT EVEN TRUSTED BY THE BRETHREN WHOM I WANT TO PROTECT...

AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP MY OATH TO PROTECT MY CLAN EITHER...

I COULDN'T PROTECT MY LITTLE BROTHERS...



BUT WHICH OF US WOULD YOU SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE?

YOU CALL ME YOUR BROTHER...



PERHAPS... I SHOULD'VE ONLY GIVEN YOU THE OPTION OF KILLING YOUR LITTLE BROTHER THAT DAY...



I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL...

THAT'S NOT TRUE!



I'VE FOUND A DIFFERENT PATH, A DIFFERENT WAY.



I'VE HAD ENOUGH...

I'M GOING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE.



I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT I KNOW YOU PRETTY WELL.



...



IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU CONSTRUE REALITY, HASHIRAMA...

THAT'S NOT TRUE! I WON'T LET IT BE LIKE THAT!

SHUP

BUT LET'S AGREE NOT TO ARGUE TRIVIALITIES...



COOPERATION IS MERELY A QUIETER FORM OF CONFLICT.

I CAN SEE IT NOW ONLY BECAUSE WE'VE SHOWN OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER...



...



ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME AT ALL, MADARA?!

IT'S MUCH SOUNDER TO JUST SEE THIS WORLD AS ENTERTAINMENT...

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S AN EVEN MATCH FOR ME.



...UP UNTIL THE TIME I ACHIEVE MY TRUE DREAM

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BATTLES WE'LL FIGHT...





I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WE'VE AIMED FOR IS HERE IN THIS VILLAGE!!

WHAT IS YOUR TRUE DREAM?



Number 626: Hashirama and Madara, Part 2



...



DREAMS OF THE FAR FUTURE.

SWOO...

WHAT'S EVEN FURTHER AHEAD...



YOU... JUST CAN'T SEE IT...



...AS A FRIEND.

AND...



IF IT'S LINKED TO THIS VILLAGE'S DREAMS... I NEED YOUR STRENGTH AS A LEADER...

AS A SENIOR MEMBER...

THEN... TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DREAMS OF THE FAR FUTURE.





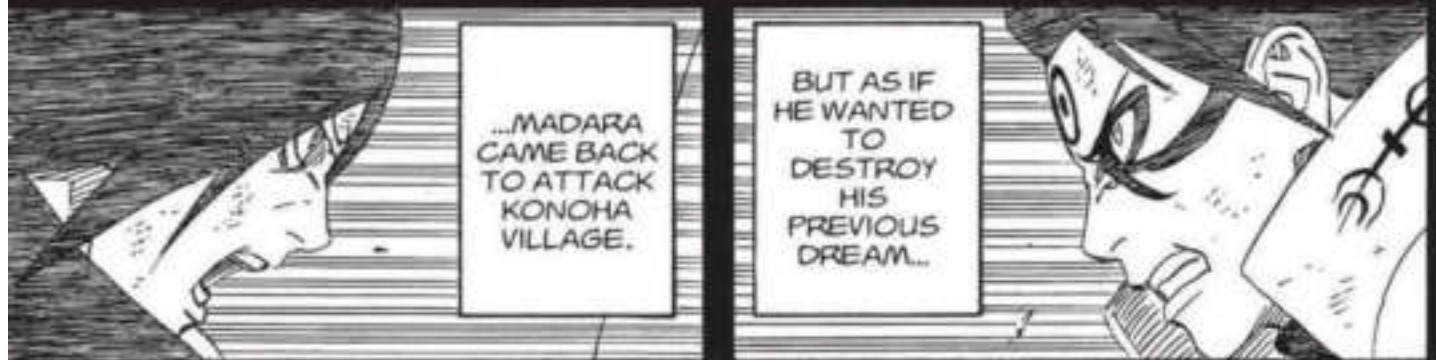
OUR DREAM
HAD COME
TRUE.

BUT IN THE WORLD
AT LARGE,
EVERYONE
RESPECTED AND
STARTED
COPYING OUR
VILLAGE SYSTEM
OF ALLIED NINJA
CLANS, WHICH HAD
BEEN CREATED BY
THE FORMER
WARRING RIVALS
UCHIHA AND
SENJU JOINING
FORCES.



...AND
STARTED
LIVING LONG
ENOUGH TO
EVEN KNOW
THE TASTE OF
ALCOHOL.

SHINOBI CHILDREN
GOT TO KNOW
ABOUT LEARNING
AND PLAYING
INSTEAD OF
BATTLE...



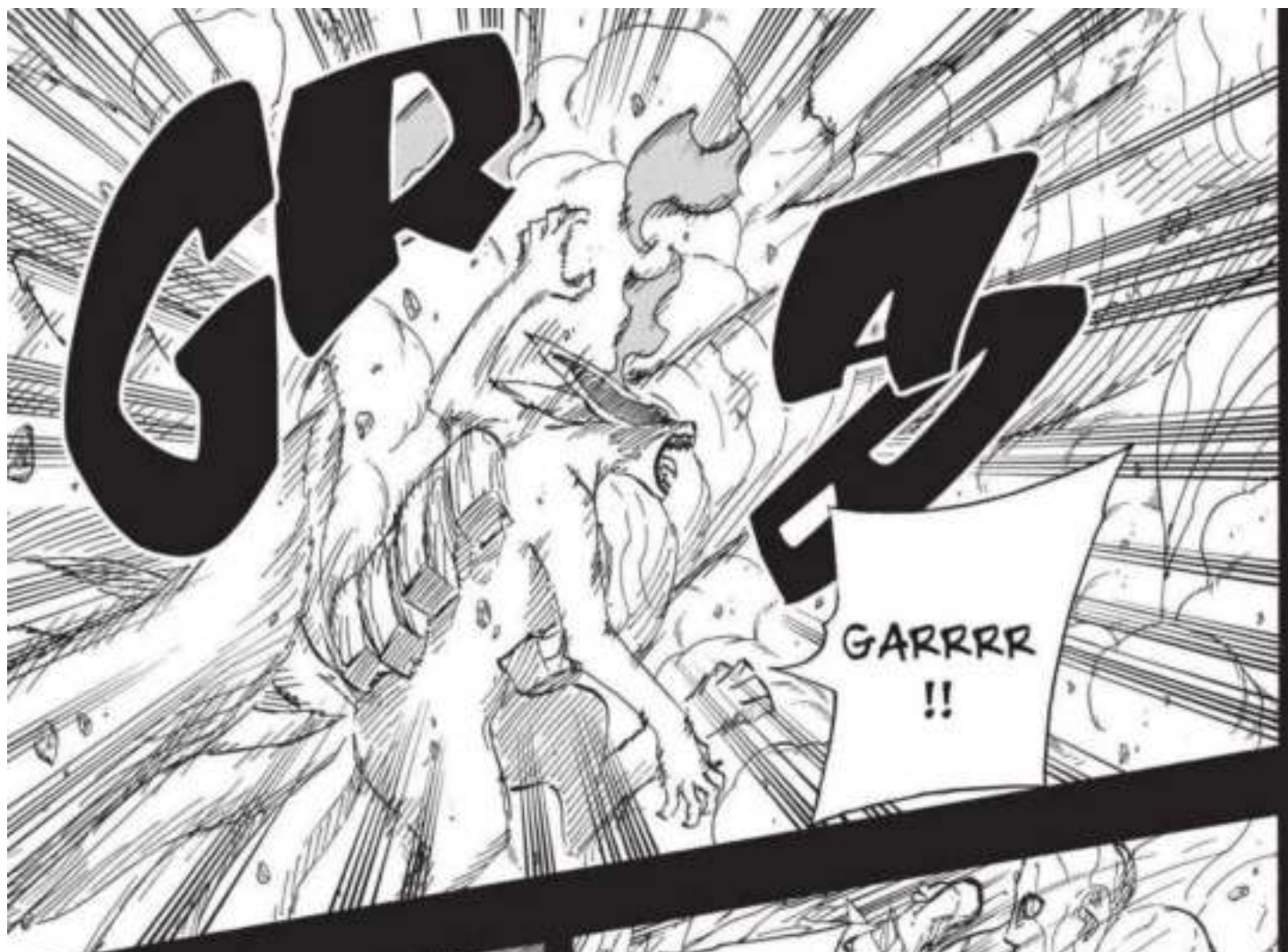
...MADARA
CAME BACK
TO ATTACK
KONOHA
VILLAGE.

BUT AS IF
HE WANTED
TO
DESTROY
HIS
PREVIOUS
DREAM...

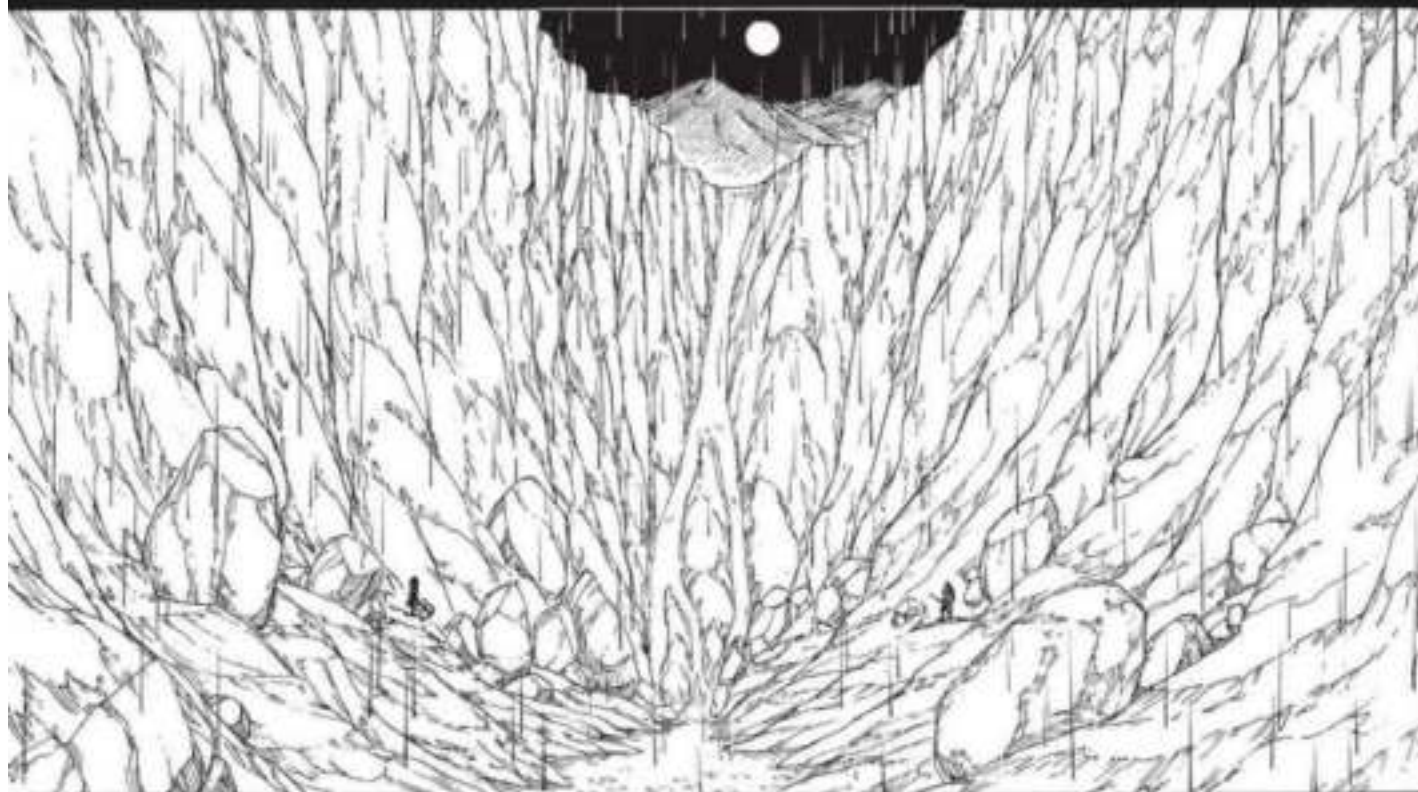


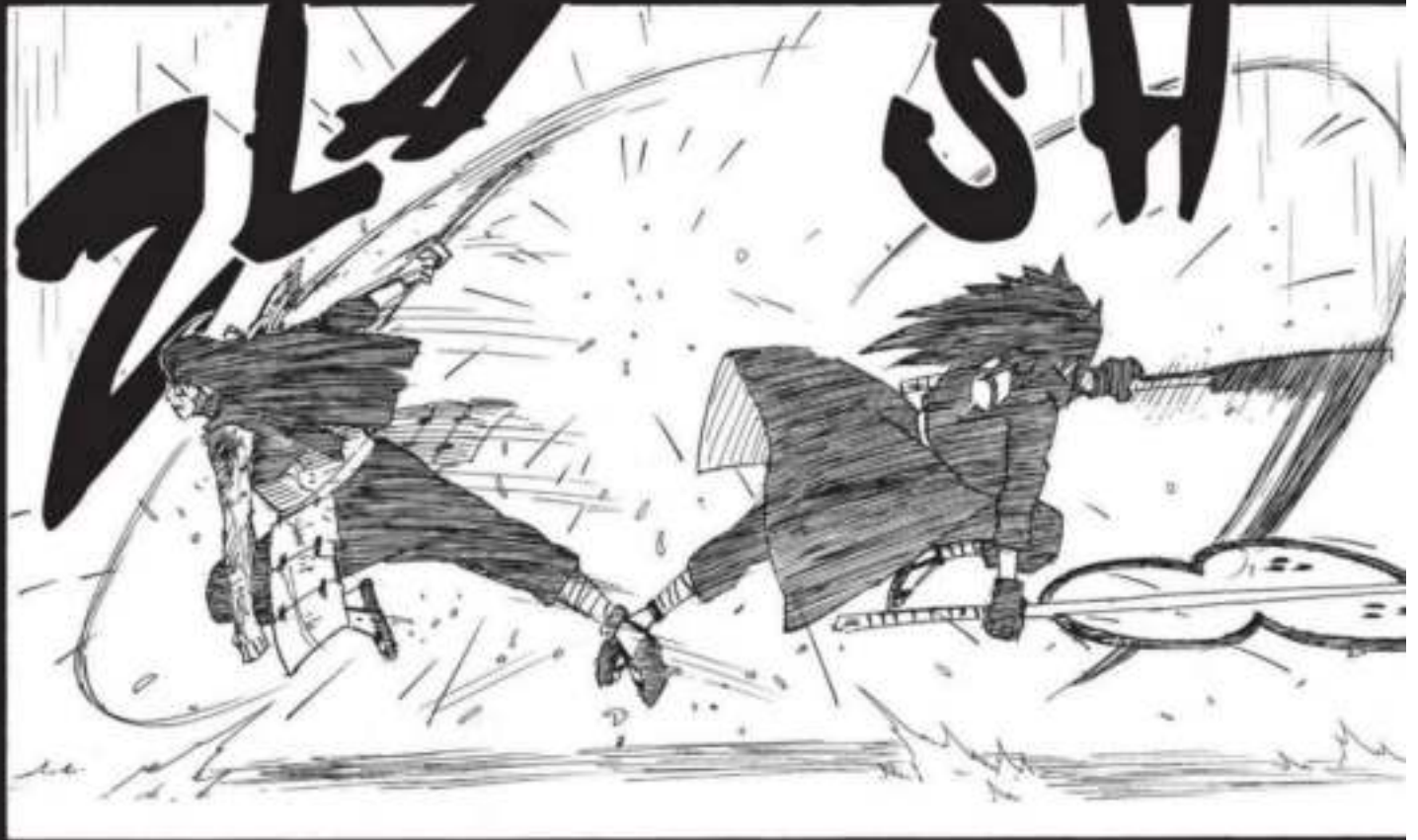
RAAA!!




















IT SHALL SOMEDAY... LEAD THE VILLAGE...





AND THUS...
THE BATTLE
BETWEEN
MADARA
AND MYSELF
CAME TO
AN END.







...



IT ALSO GAVE RISE TO DARKNESS, SUCH AS THAT BORNE BY YOUR OLDER BROTHER ITACHI.

HOWEVER...



FURTHERMORE, I AM ALSO THE ONE WHO CONSIDERED THEM ACCEPTABLE.

I AM THE SHINOBI WHO CREATED THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

AND I BELIEVE...



MAYBE HE HAD FORESEEN THIS VERY STATE OF AFFAIRS...

PERHAPS WHAT MADARA SAID WAS CORRECT AFTER ALL...



BUT DEPENDING ON WHAT THAT PURPOSE IS, A SHINOBI CAN CHANGE...

JUST AS BOTH MADARA AND I DID...

...THAT SHINOBI ARE THOSE WHO ENDURE FOR A PURPOSE...





Number 627: Sasuke's Answer







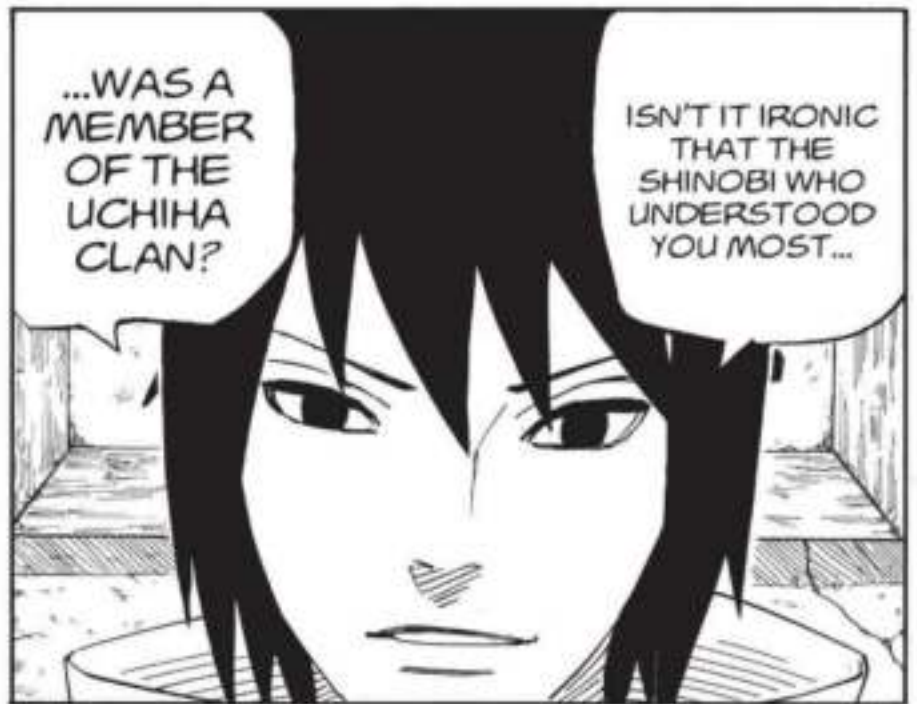
HE ENDURED LONGER AND HARDER THAN YOU...



IT TURNS OUT MY BROTHER INHERITED YOUR WILL WITHOUT YOU EVER HAVING DIRECTLY EXCHANGED WORDS WITH HIM...



...WAS A MEMBER OF THE UCHIHA CLAN?



ONE OF MY SUBORDINATES WAS UCHIHA KAGAMI, A MAN A LOT LIKE YOUR BROTHER.

YOUR BROTHER WASN'T THE ONLY ONE.







NO... IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT, LORD THIRD...

YOU DEVOTED YOURSELF TO THE VILLAGE WHOLLY AND RESPECTABLY.



EVEN THE THINGS THAT LED TO THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE IN PART MY RESPONSIBILITY...

IT SEEMS LIKE I ERRED TIME AFTER TIME AS HOKAGE...



I'M THE ONE WHO WENT DOWN DURING THE NINE TAILS ATTACK.



HEH HEH... A BIT, SINCE THE THIRD HOKAGE IS HERE.

LORD OROCHIMARU... ARE YOU BEING SNARKY?



WE WERE ALL SO DISAPPOINTED.

AND TO THINK I WAS SKIPPED OVER IN FAVOR OF YOU.



YOU HAD SUCH HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF ME AS HOKAGE... WHICH I DID NOT FULFILL...





...LIED TO
YOU AND
ASKED YOU
TO FORGIVE
ME...

I'VE
ALWAYS...

...BECAUSE...
I DIDN'T
WANT YOU
TO GET
CAUGHT UP
IN ANY OF
THIS...

DELIBER-
ATELY
KEEPING
YOU AT A
DISTANCE
BY MY OWN
HAND...

...THAT PERHAPS
YOU COULD
HAVE CHANGED
FATHER AND
MOTHER... AND
THE REST OF
THE UCHIHA...

BUT NOW
I THINK...

WITH ME,
WHO FAILED,
TELLING YOU
ALL THIS NOW
FROM ABOVE,
IT'S NOT GOING
TO PENETRATE
AND SINK IN.

IF I HAD
ONLY COME
TO YOU FROM
THE START...
LOOKED
STRAIGHT IN
YOUR EYES, AND
TOLD YOU THE
TRUTH...

YOU DON'T
EVER HAVE
TO FORGIVE
ME...



BUT I WANT
TO IMPART AT
LEAST THIS
MUCH TRUTH
TO YOU...

...AND NO
MATTER WHAT
YOU DO FROM
HERE OUT,
KNOW THIS...



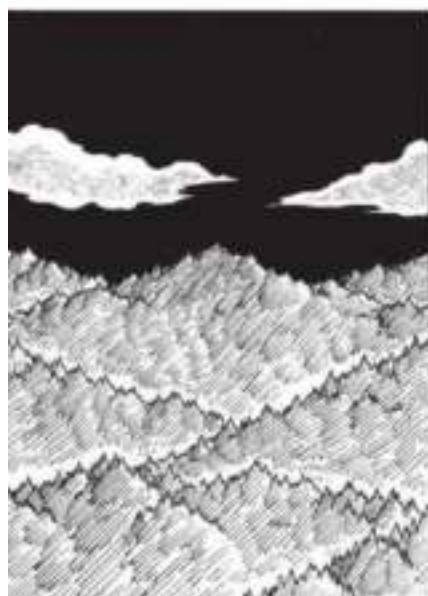
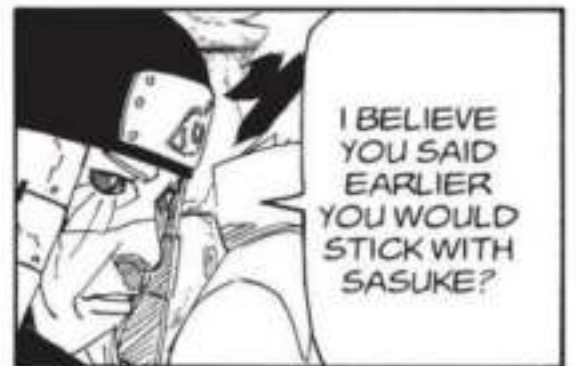
I WILL
LOVE YOU
ALWAYS.



I WON'T LET
THE VILLAGE
AND ITACHI...
BECOME
NOTHING!

I'M GOING TO
HEAD TO THE
BATTLEFIELD.











I BET MADARA'LL BE SHOCKED TOO!

FOUR MIGHTY ZOMBIES, THREE MONSTERS, AND NOW AN IDIOT...



G-GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.



SO RIGHT NOW, I'M MERELY CURIOUS ABOUT SASUKE'S DIFFERENT LIFE PATH...



I LEARNED WHILE INSIDE KABUTO...

...THAT EVEN HE WHO IMITATED MY LIFE PATH AND GATHERED EVERYTHING, FAILED.



OROCHIMARU... WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO COOPERATE WITH SASUKE?

YOU'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD TO DESTROY THE VILLAGE...

FSH



SINCE THAT BOY, UNLIKE KABUTO, DIDN'T TRY TO COPY ME...

SHUP



