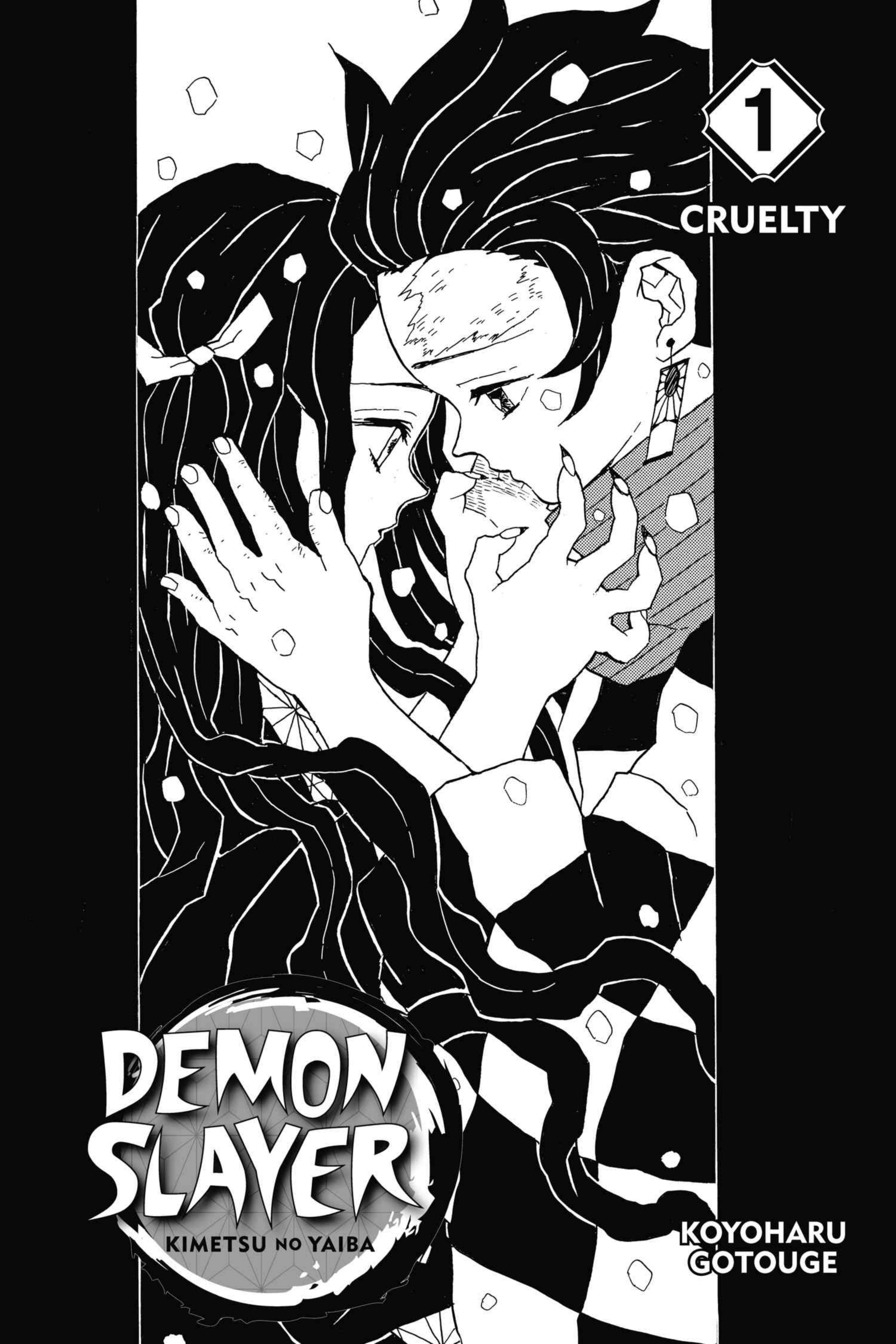
DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
1
Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE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CRUELTY
DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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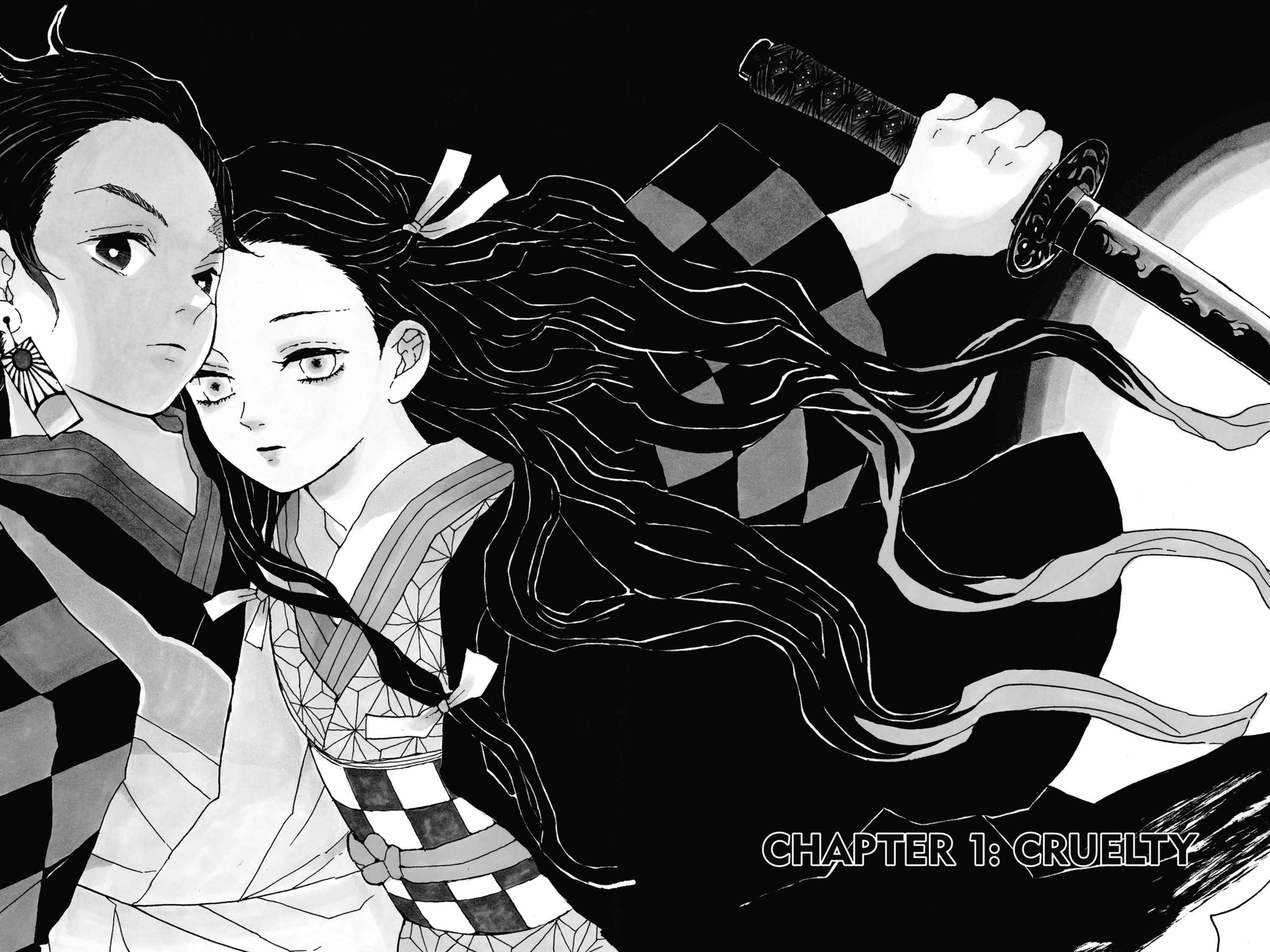
CRUELTY

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

CHAPTER 1: CRUELTY



CHAPTER 1: CRUELTY

DEMON
SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA

TANJIRO!

IT'S SNOWING AND IT'S DANGER-OUS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.

YOUR FACE IS PITCH-BLACK.

COME HERE.

THANK YOU.

...EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE.

I WANT US TO HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR'S FEAST, SO I'LL GO SELL AS MUCH CHARCOAL AS I CAN...

WHAAAAA?!

I WANNA GO TOO!

TANJIRO, ARE YOU GOING TO TOWN AGAIN TODAY?

...SO HE CAN'T PULL YOU WHEN YOU'RE TIRED.

HE ISN'T TAKING THE CART TODAY...

BUT MOM!

NO. YOU CAN'T WALK FAST LIKE TANJIRO.

NO.

I WILL, BUT...

...I WAS HOPING WE'D DO IT TOGETHER.

I wanna go with you!

TAKEO ...

I KNOW YOU CAN'T DO A LOT, BUT CUT A LITTLE WOOD TODAY. OKAY?

BE CARE-FUL!

HURRY BACK, OKAY?

I WAS PUTTING ROKUTA TO SLEEP...

...BUT I HEARD ALL THE COMMO-TION.

NEZUKO ...

TANJIRO!

SEE YOU LATER!

...SO THEY'VE STARTED CLINGING TO YOU.

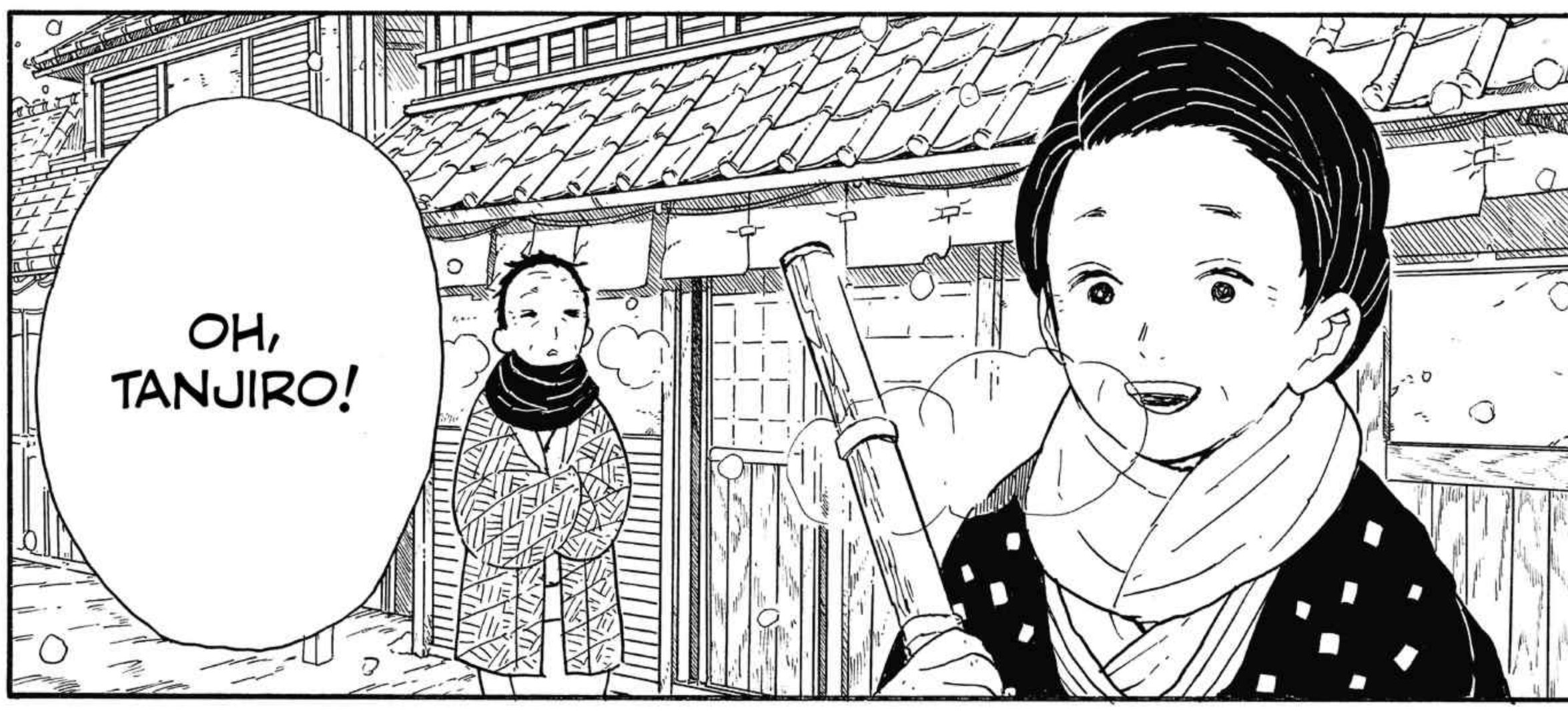
THEY'VE BEEN SO LONELY SINCE FATHER DIED...

IT'S ALWAYS CHANG-ING.
BUT LIFE IS LIKE THE WEATHER ...

...AND THE SNOW WON'T ALWAYS KEEP FALLING.
IT WON'T ALWAYS BE EASY...

...THE SMELL OF BLOOD IN THE AIR.
WHEN HAPPI-NESS ENDS THERE'S ALWAYS...

OUR LIFE ISN'T EASY, BUT WE'RE HAPPY.


OH, TANJIRO!

THANKS FOR FIXING MY SHOJI DOOR THE OTHER DAY!

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!

YOU CAME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ON A DAY LIKE TODAY? YOU WORK SO HARD!

GIVE ME SOME CHARCOAL TOO!

HEY! SELL ME SOME CHAR-COAL!

HELP ME!

SHE SAYS I BROKE A DISH!

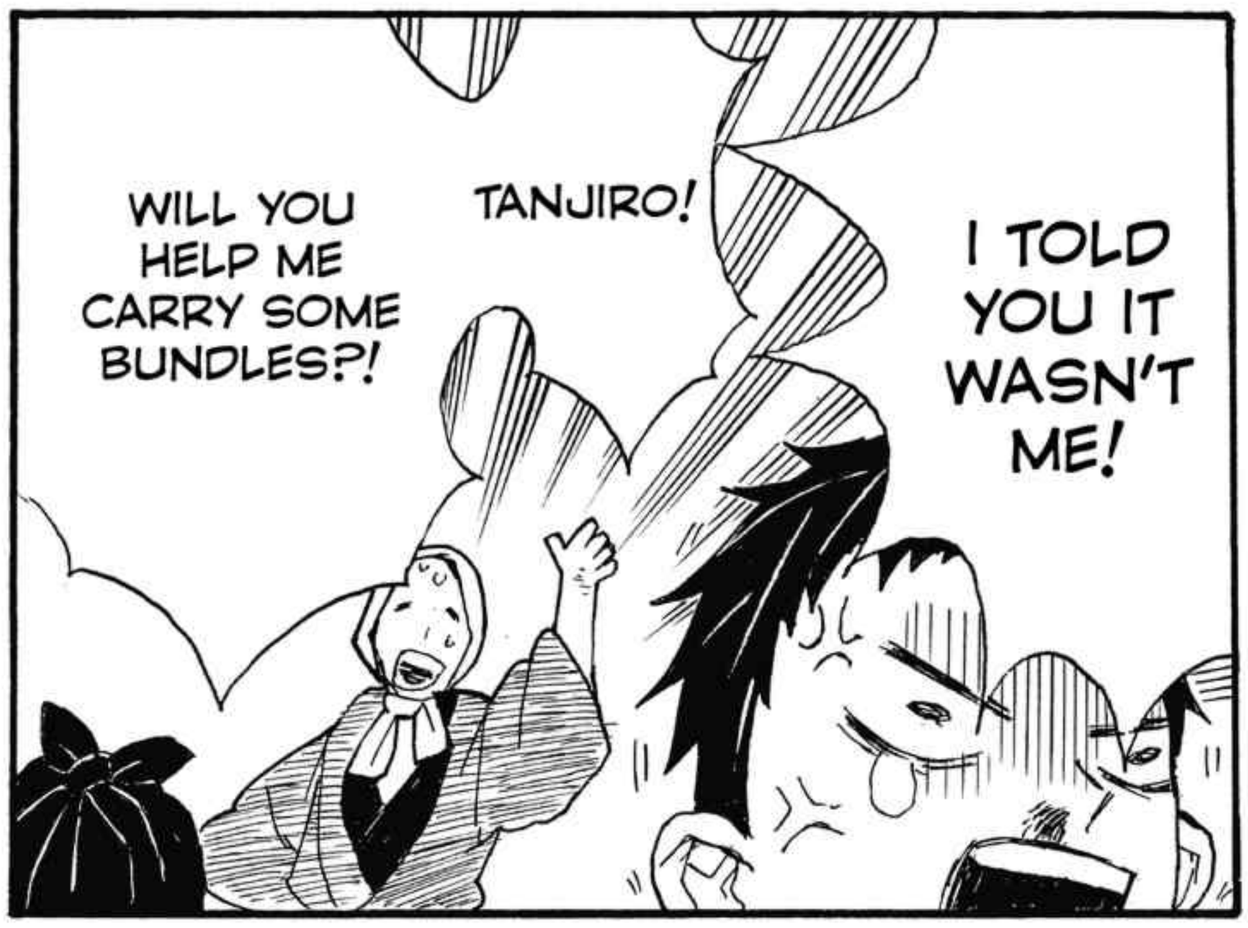
SMELL IT!

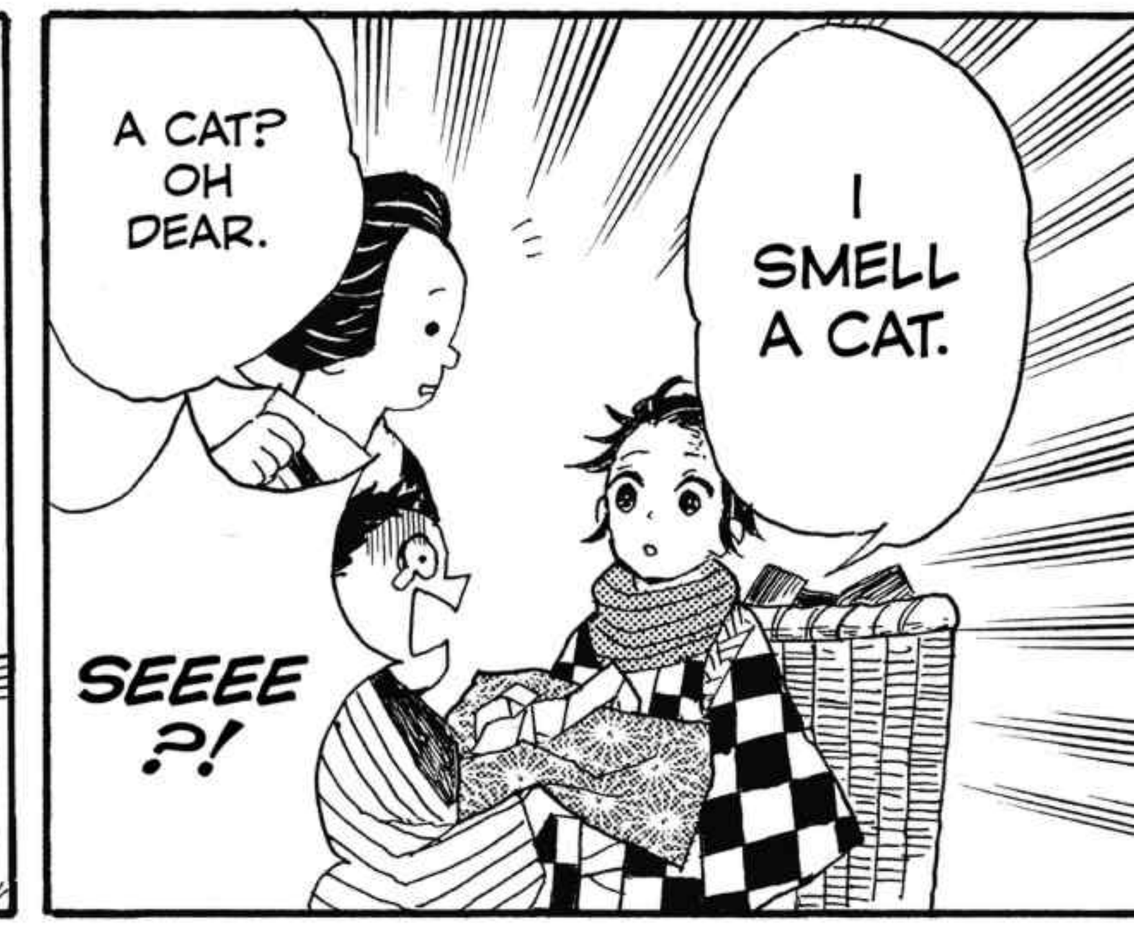
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!

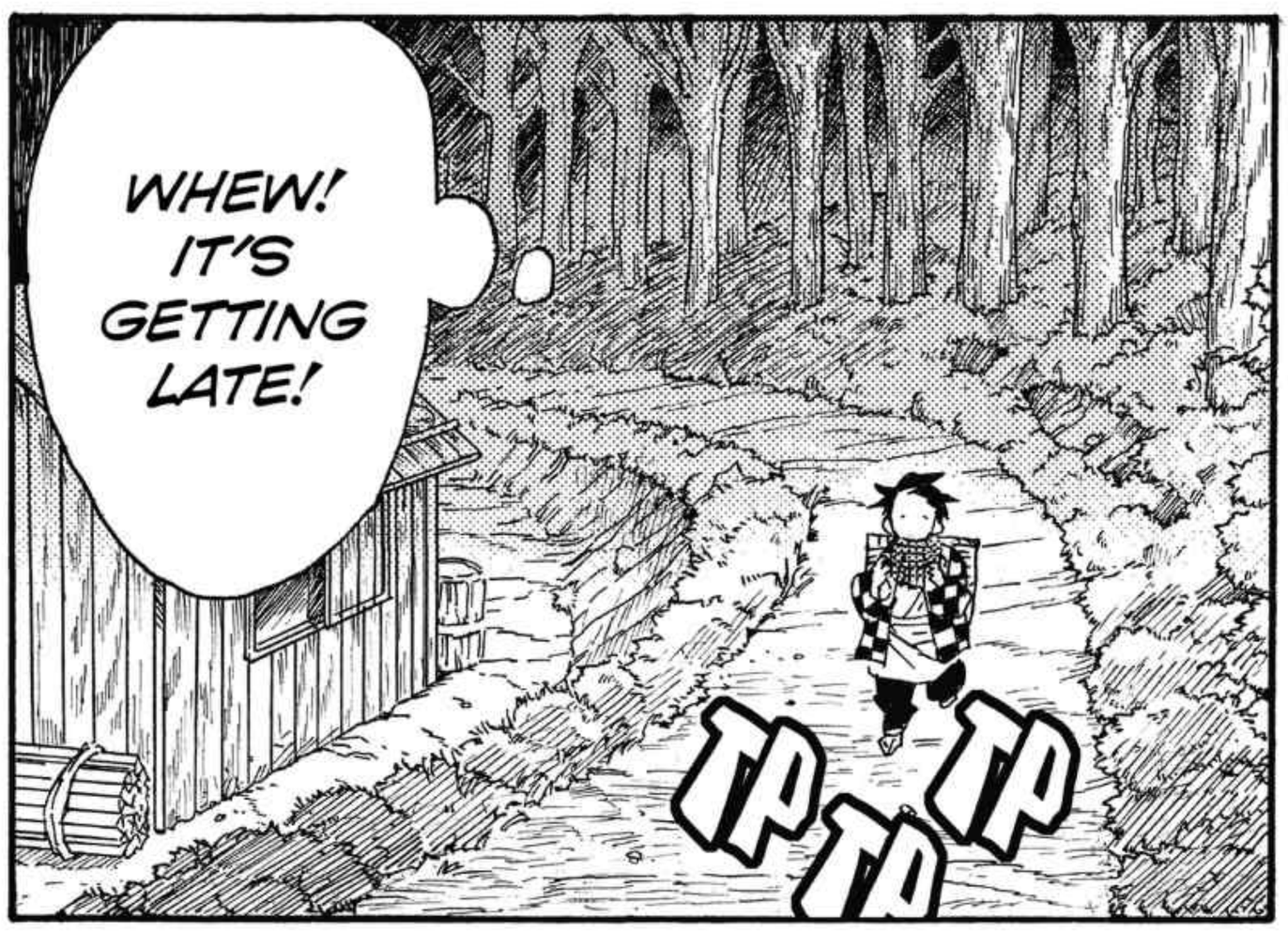
AAAH! TANJIRO!

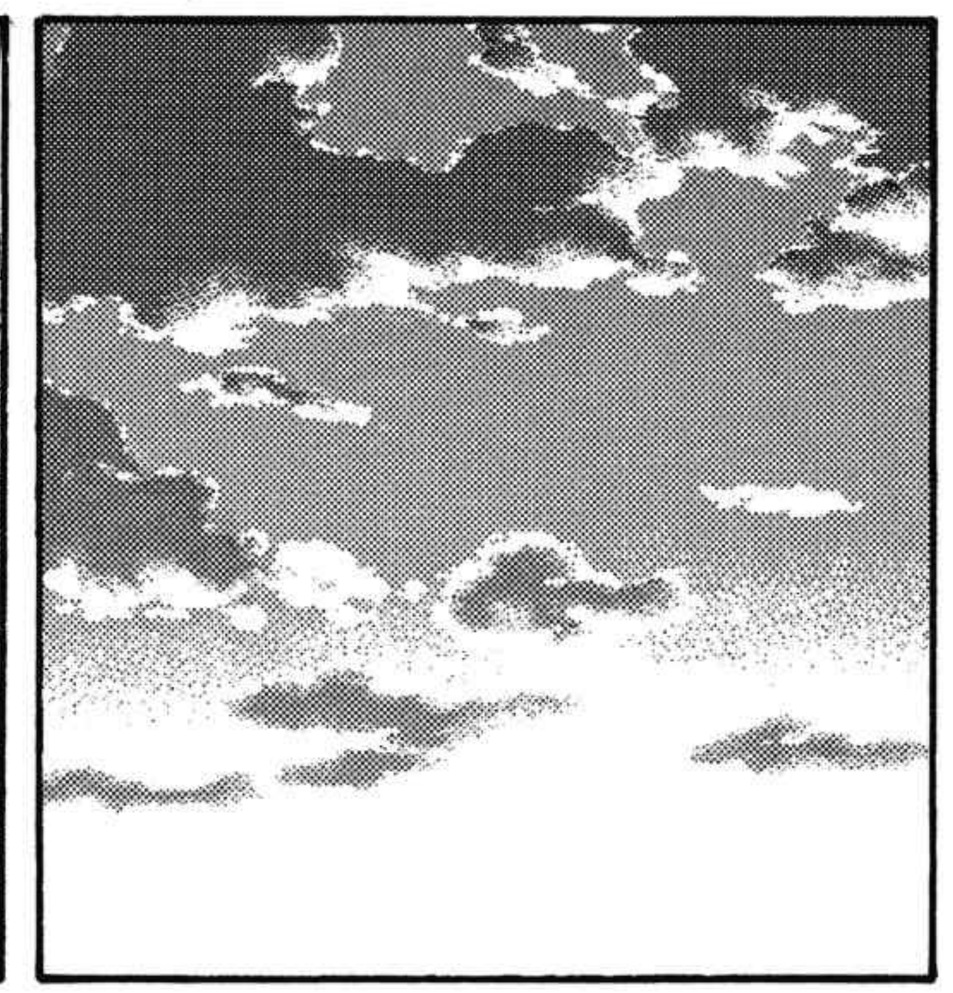
SNIFF

SNIFF SNIFF

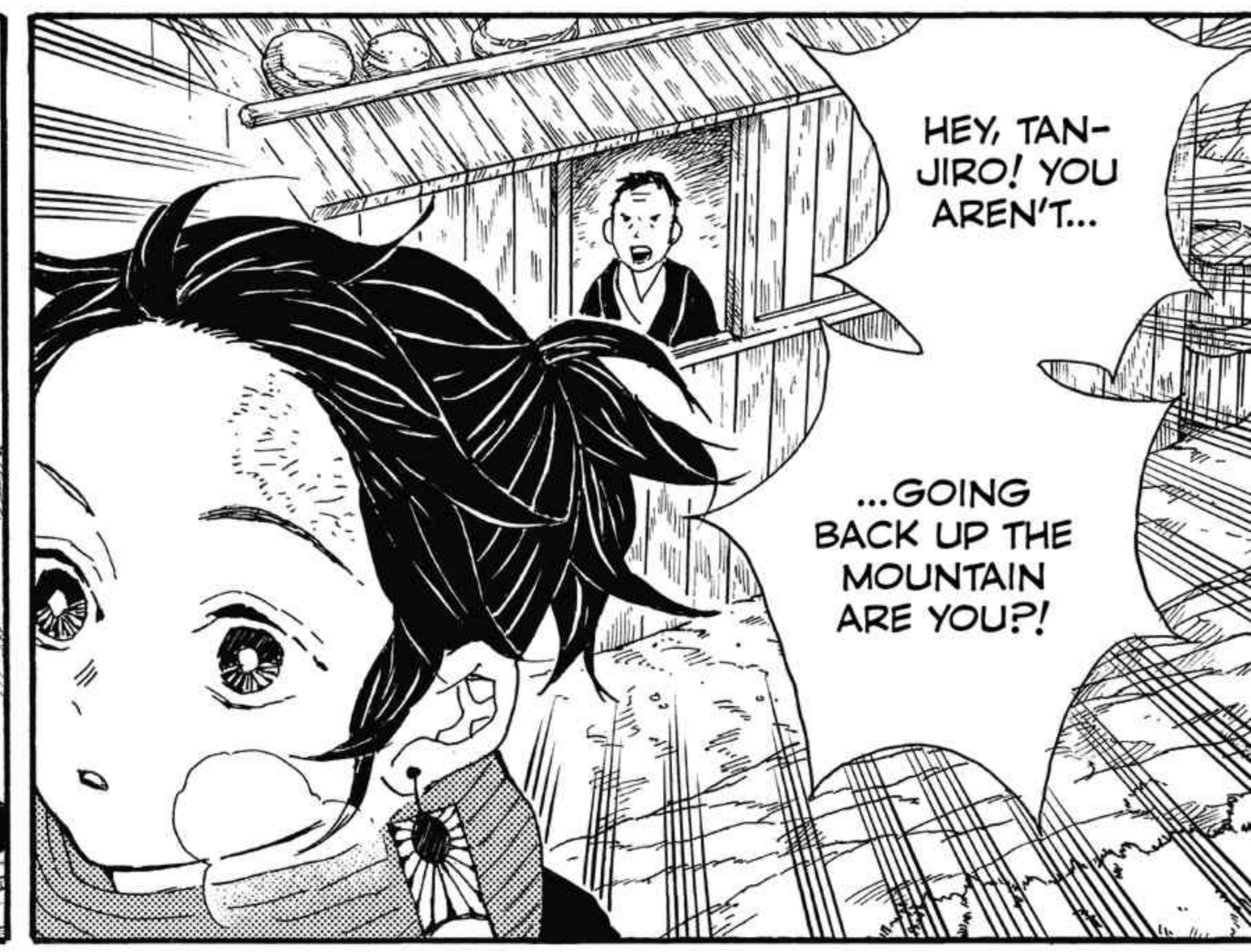

WILL YOU HELP ME CARRY SOME BUNDLES?!
TANJIRO!
I TOLD YOU IT WASN'T ME!


A CAT? OH DEAR.
I SMELL A CAT.
SEEEE ?!


WHEW! IT'S GETTING LATE!
TP
TP
TP



IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!

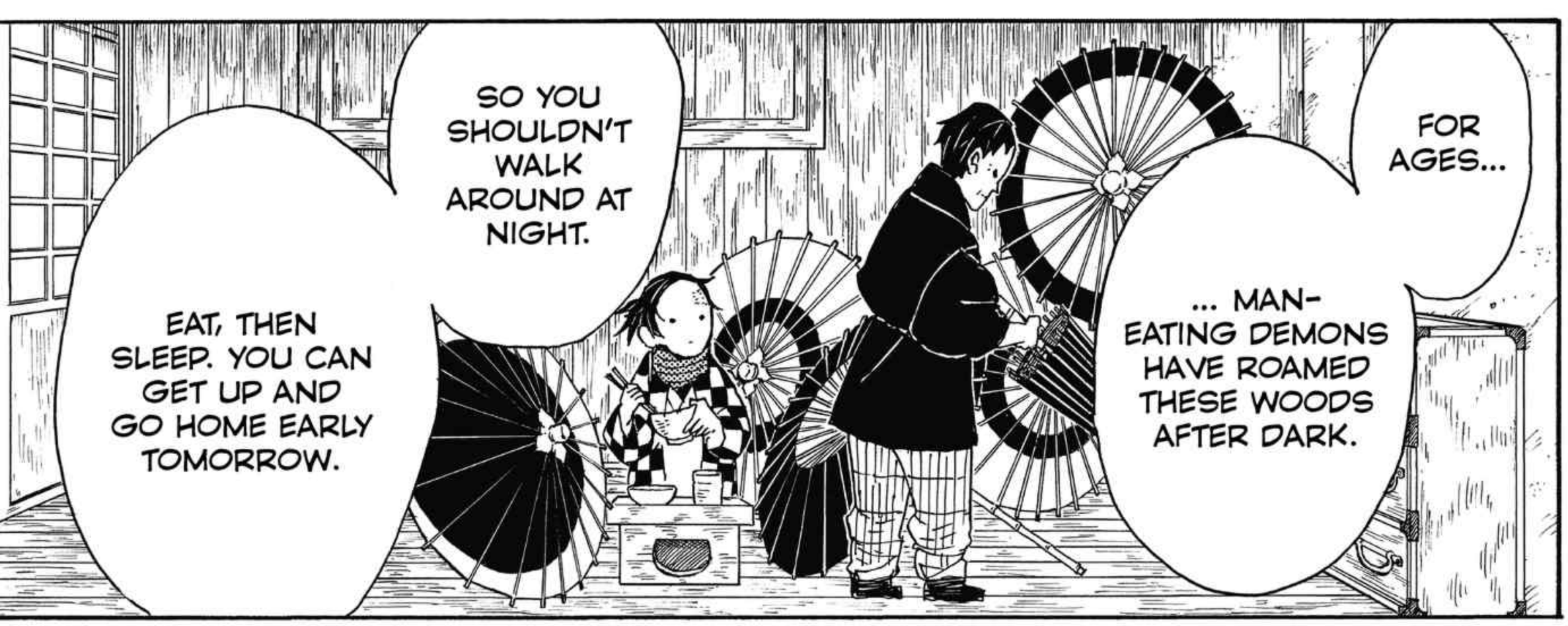

HEY, TAN-JIRO! YOU AREN'T...
...GOING BACK UP THE MOUNTAIN ARE YOU?!

BUT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE WELCOME HERE.

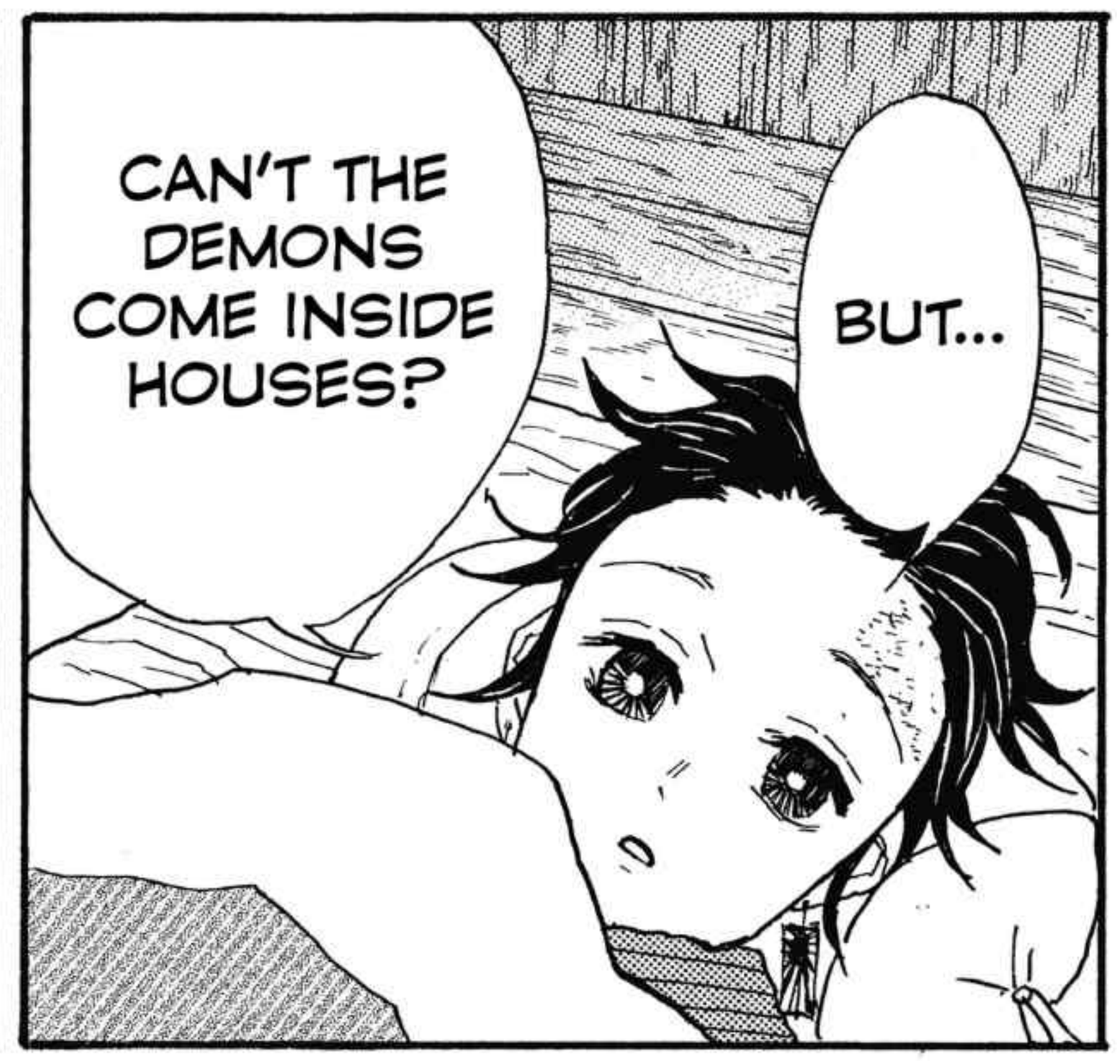
YOU CAN STAY HERE.
PLEASE. COME BACK.

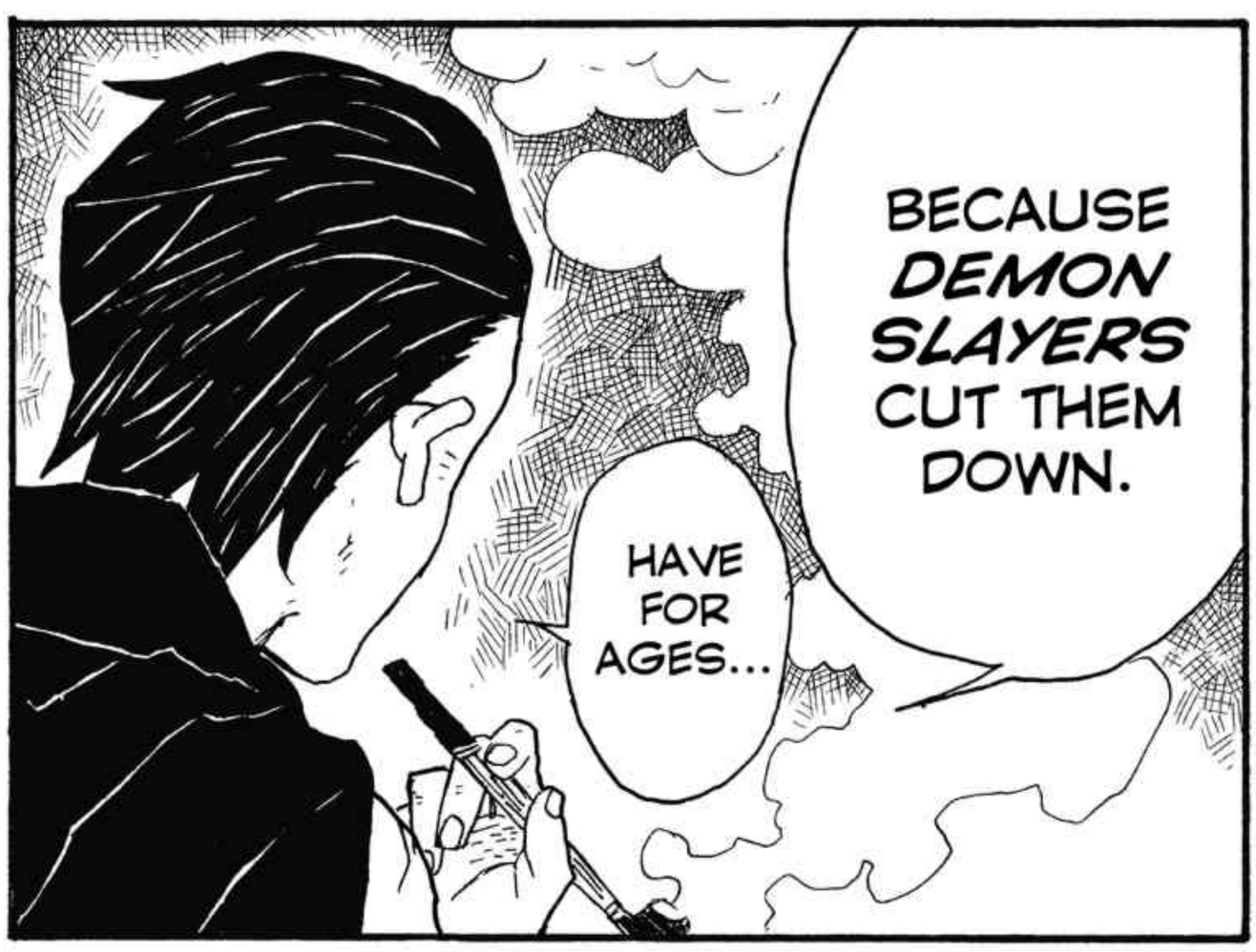
I'VE GOT A GOOD NOSE FOR TROUBLE. I'LL BE FINE.

YOU DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO ANY *DEMONS.*

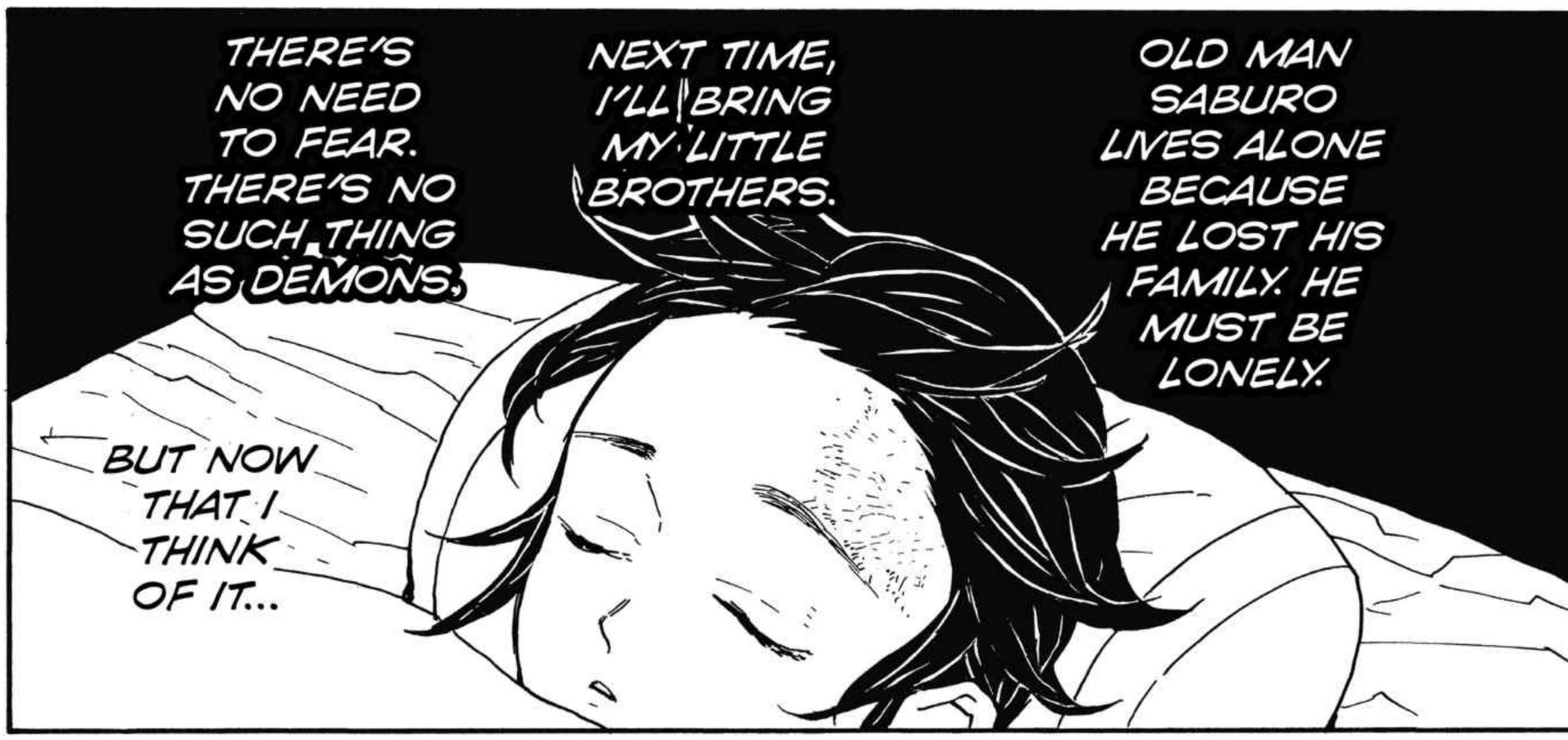

SO YOU SHOULDN'T WALK AROUND AT NIGHT.
EAT, THEN SLEEP. YOU CAN GET UP AND GO HOME EARLY TOMORROW.
FOR AGES...
... MAN-EATING DEMONS HAVE ROAMED THESE WOODS AFTER DARK.

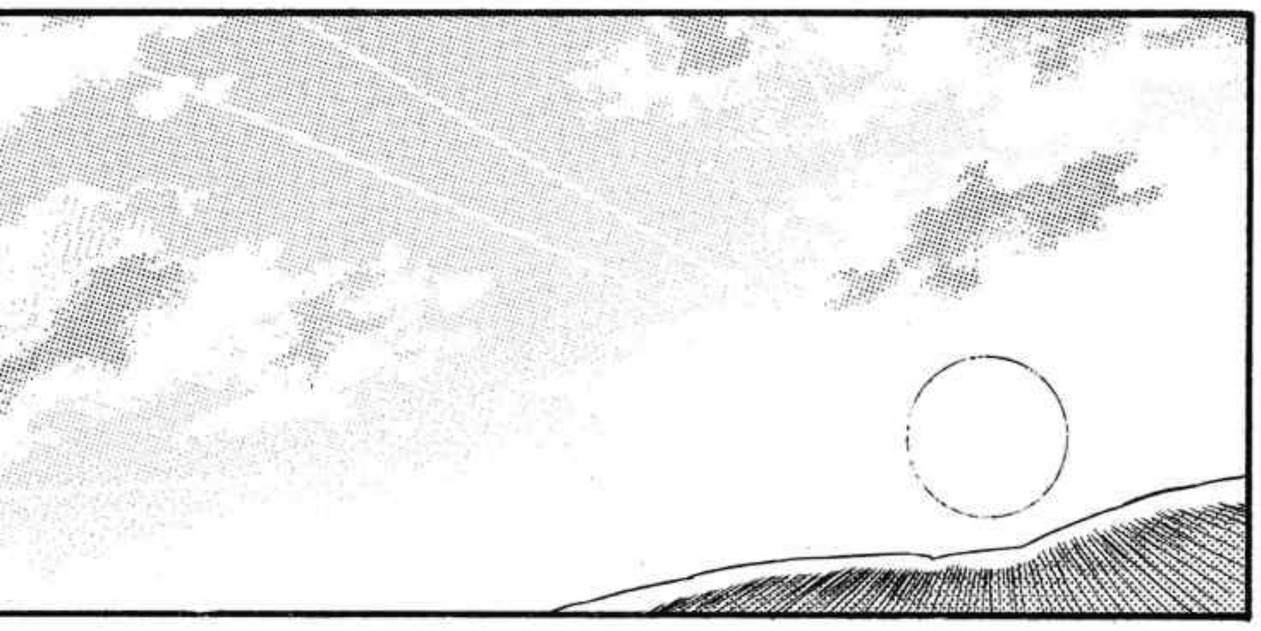
YES...
...THEY CAN.

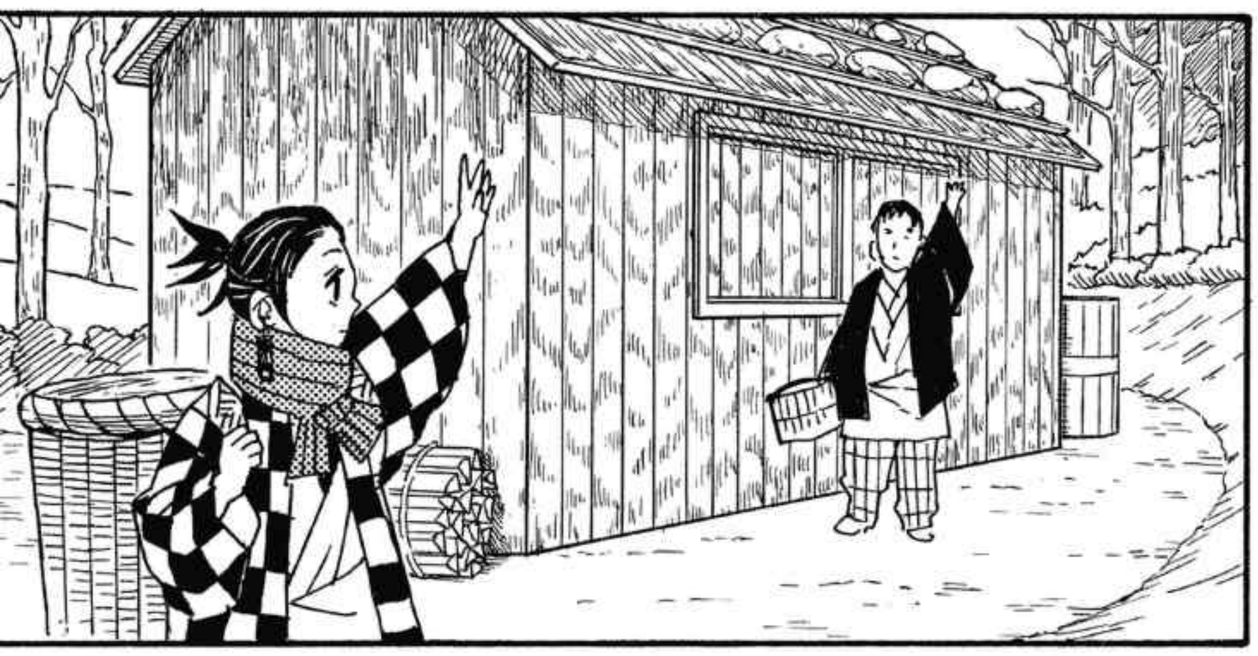

CAN'T THE DEMONS COME INSIDE HOUSES?
BUT...


BECAUSE *DEMON SLAYERS* CUT THEM DOWN.
HAVE FOR AGES...

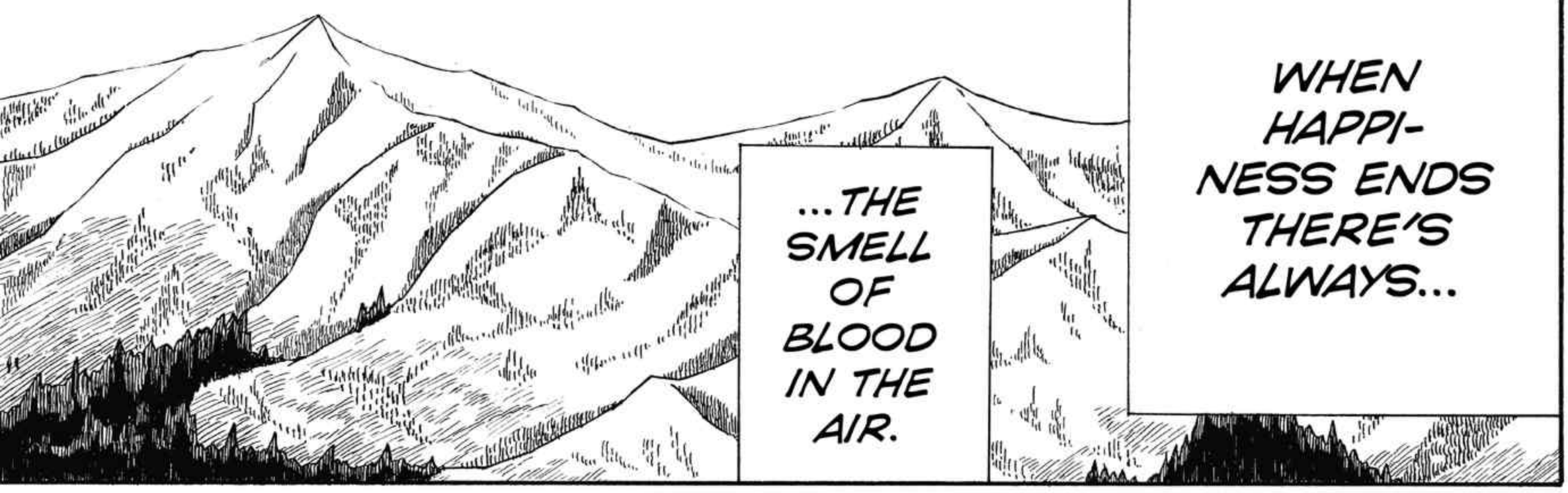
...WHY DON'T THEY EAT EVERY-ONE?
... THEN ...
BUT...
YAWN
YAWN

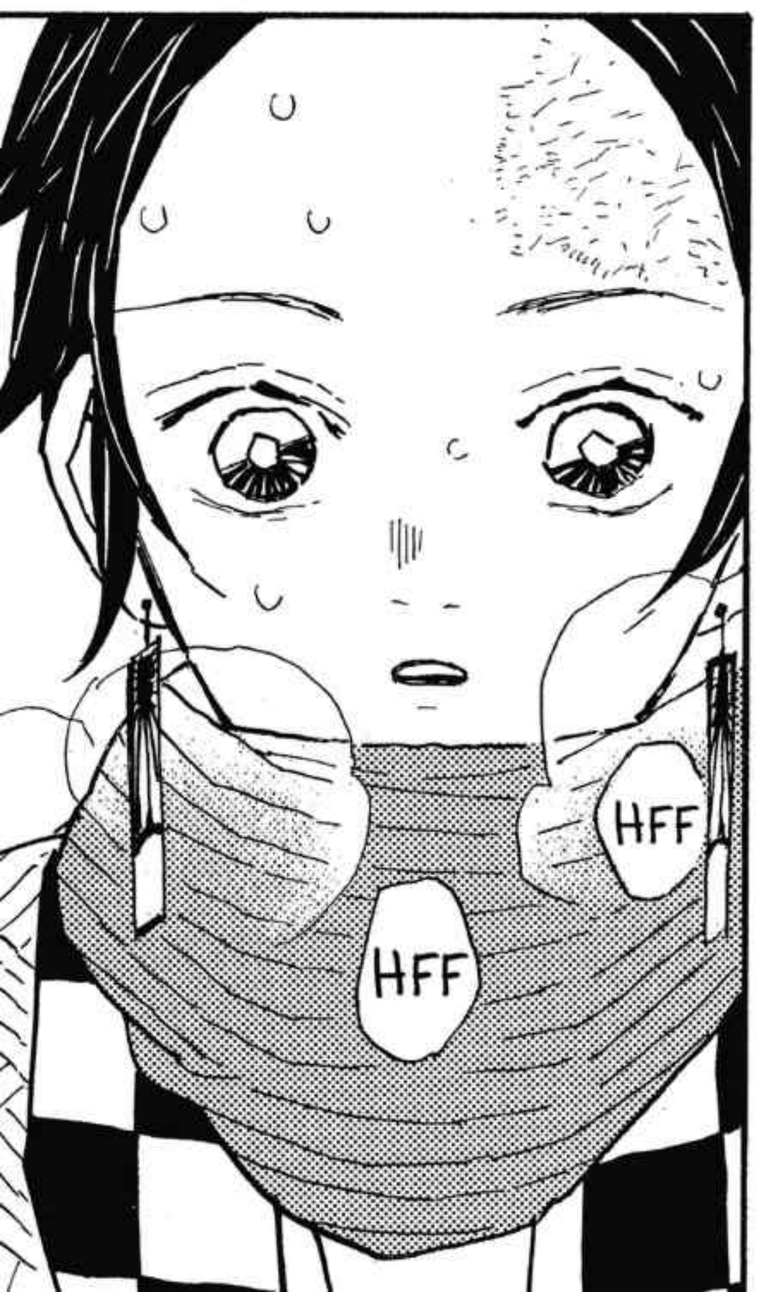

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS DEMONS.
NEXT TIME, I'LL BRING MY LITTLE BROTHERS.
OLD MAN SABURO LIVES ALONE BECAUSE HE LOST HIS FAMILY. HE MUST BE LONELY.
BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...

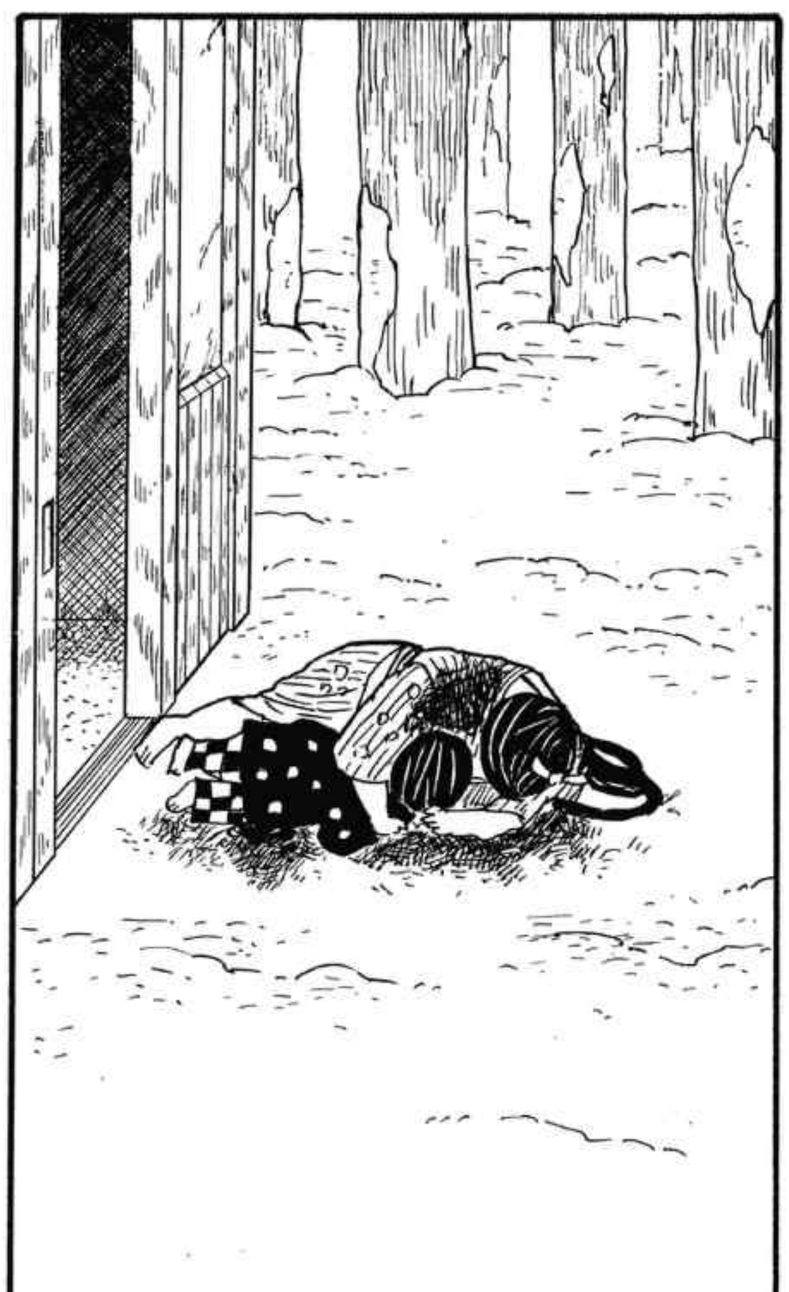




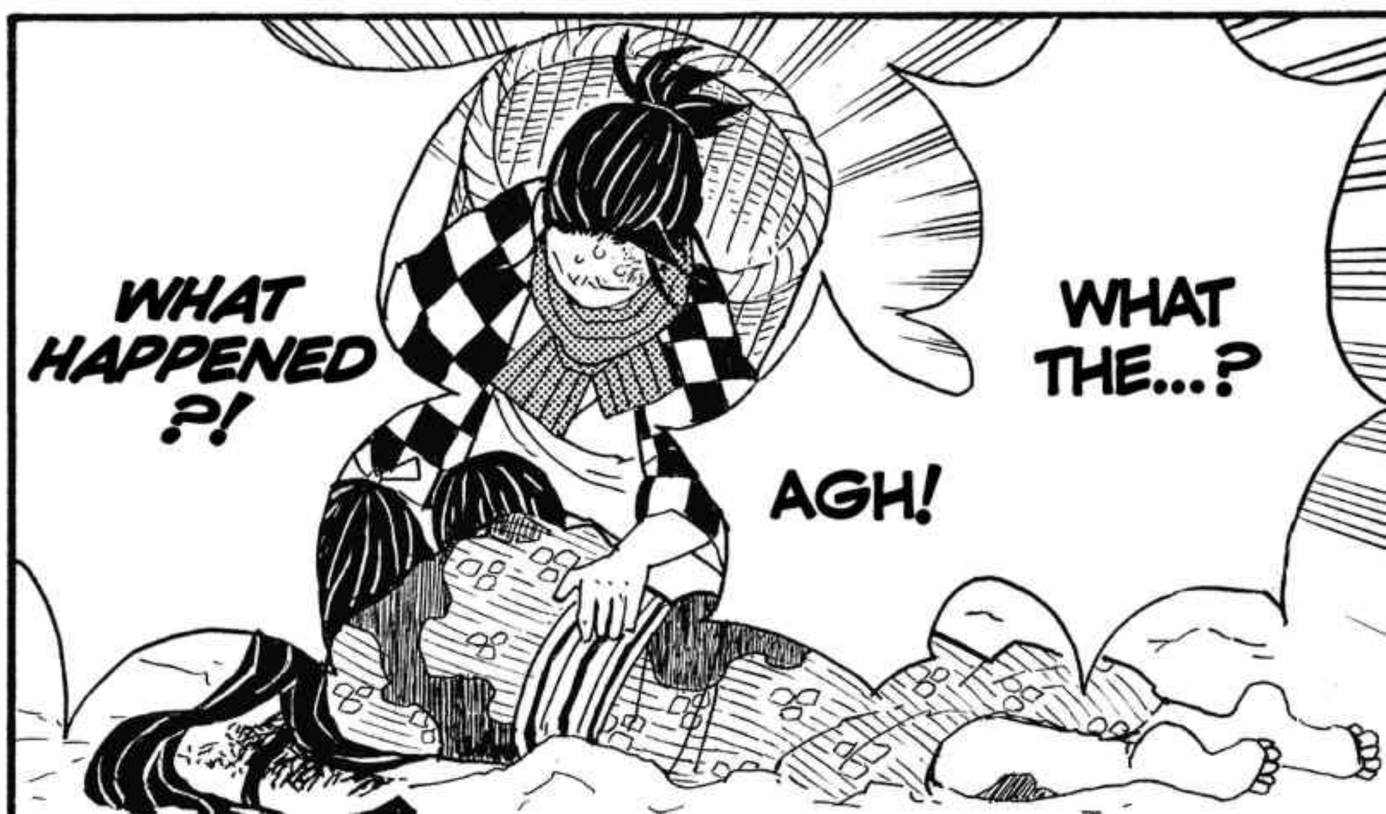
...MY GRANDMOTHER SAID THE SAME THING BEFORE SHE DIED.

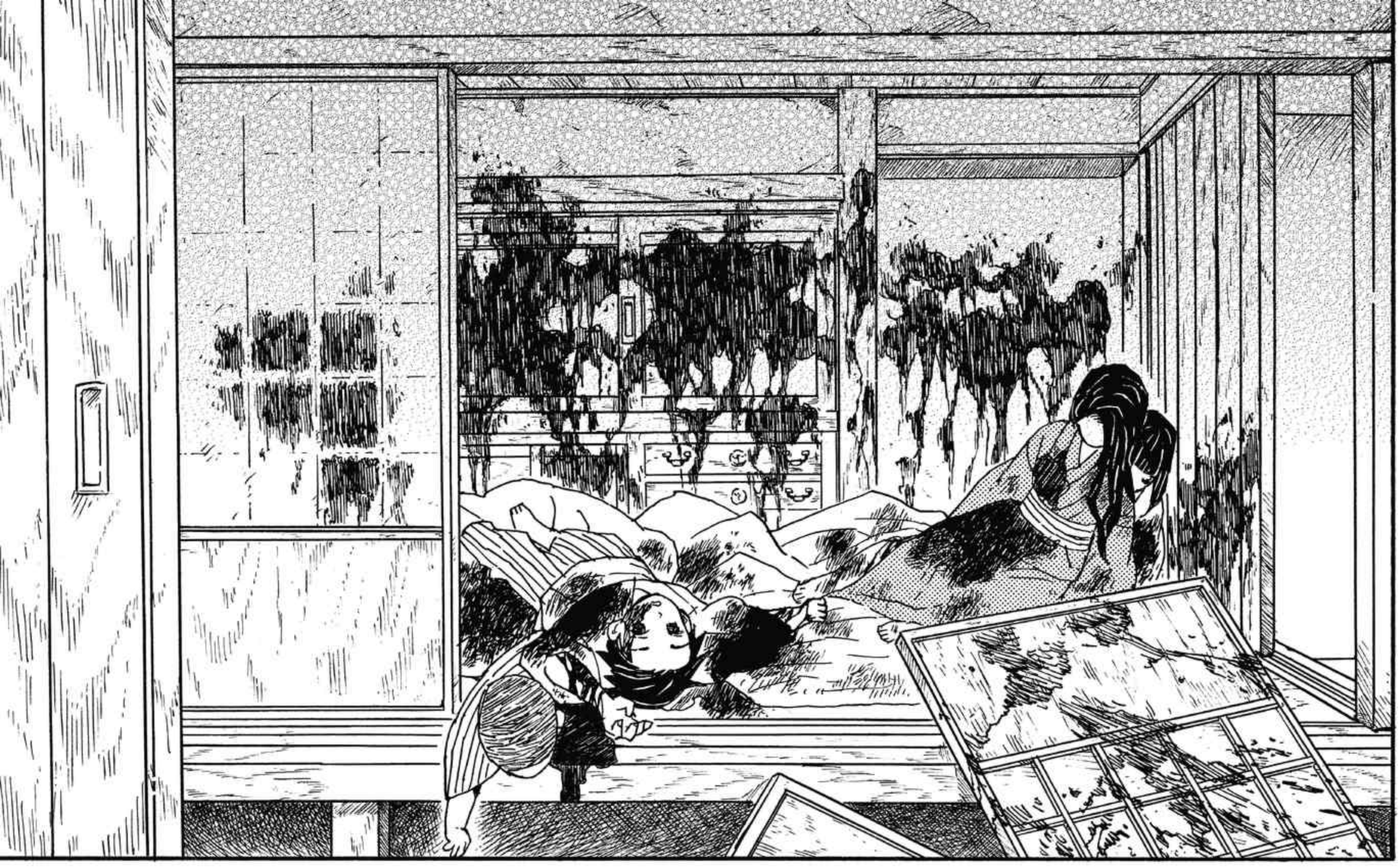


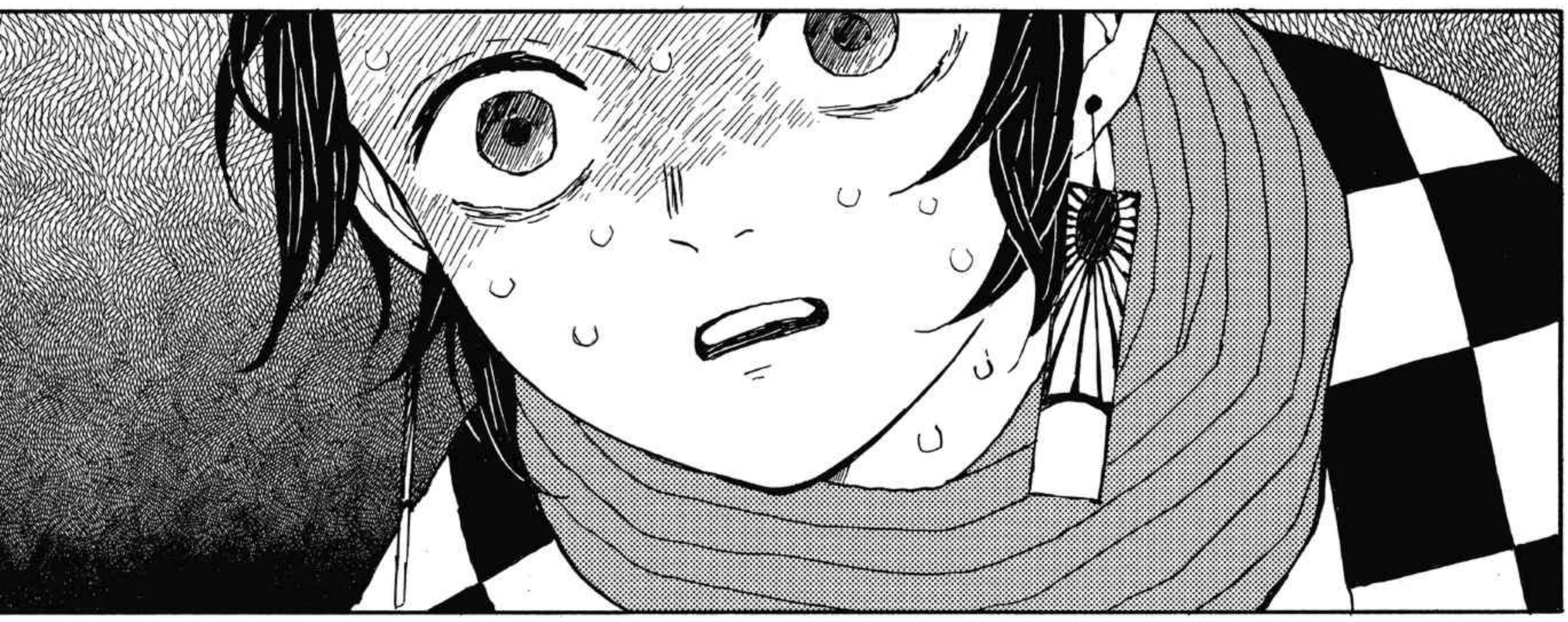


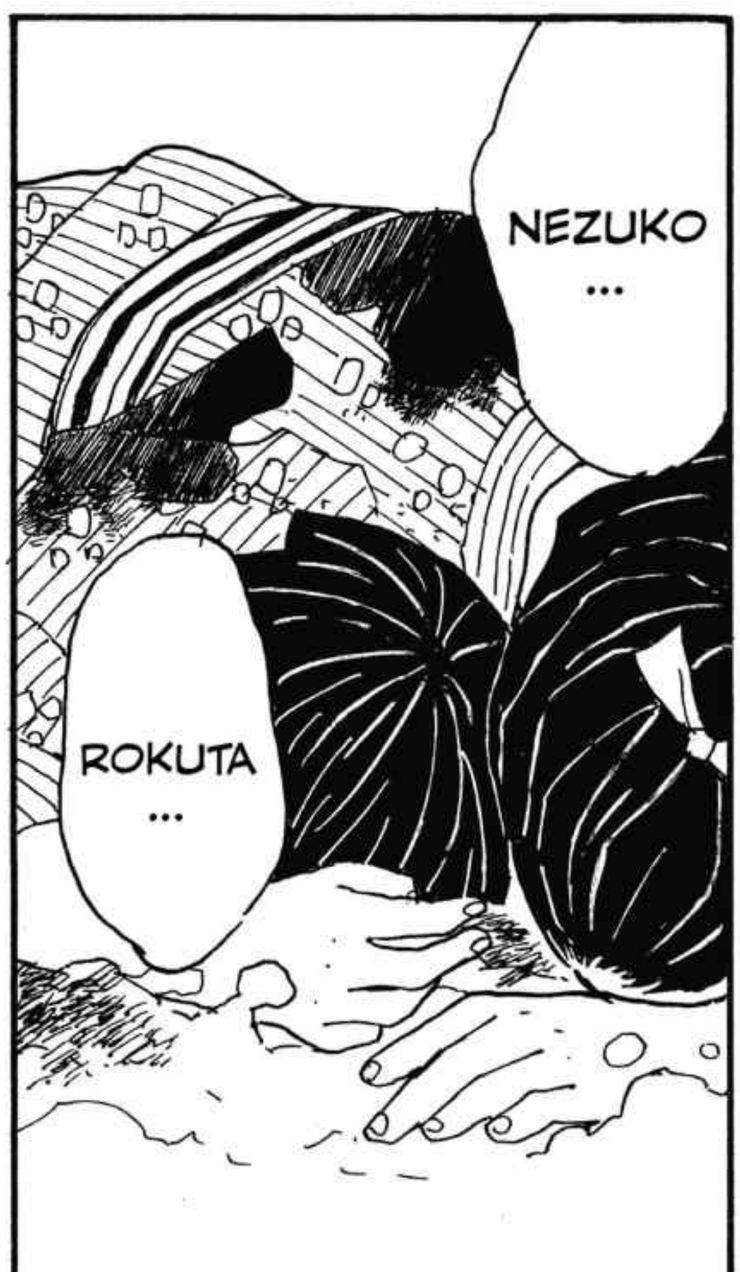


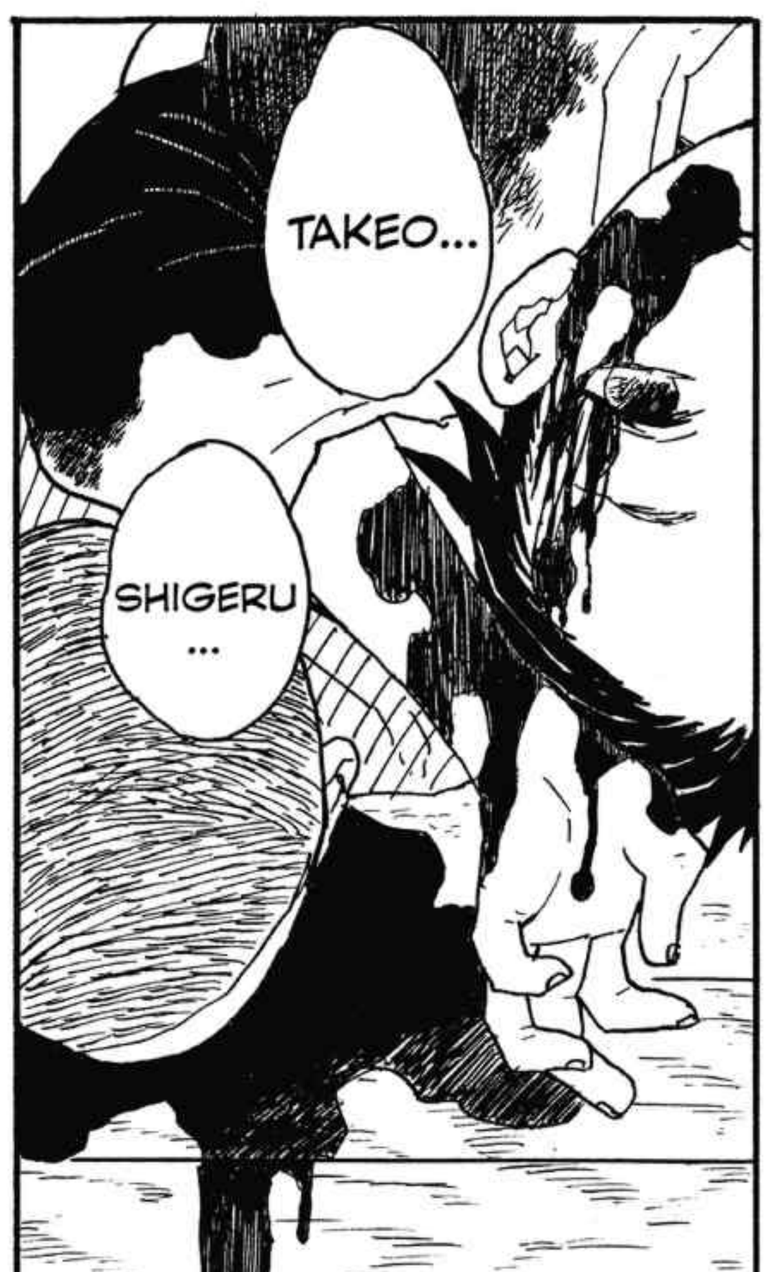
WHAT HAP—


WHAT HAPPENED ?!
AGH!
WHAT THE...?



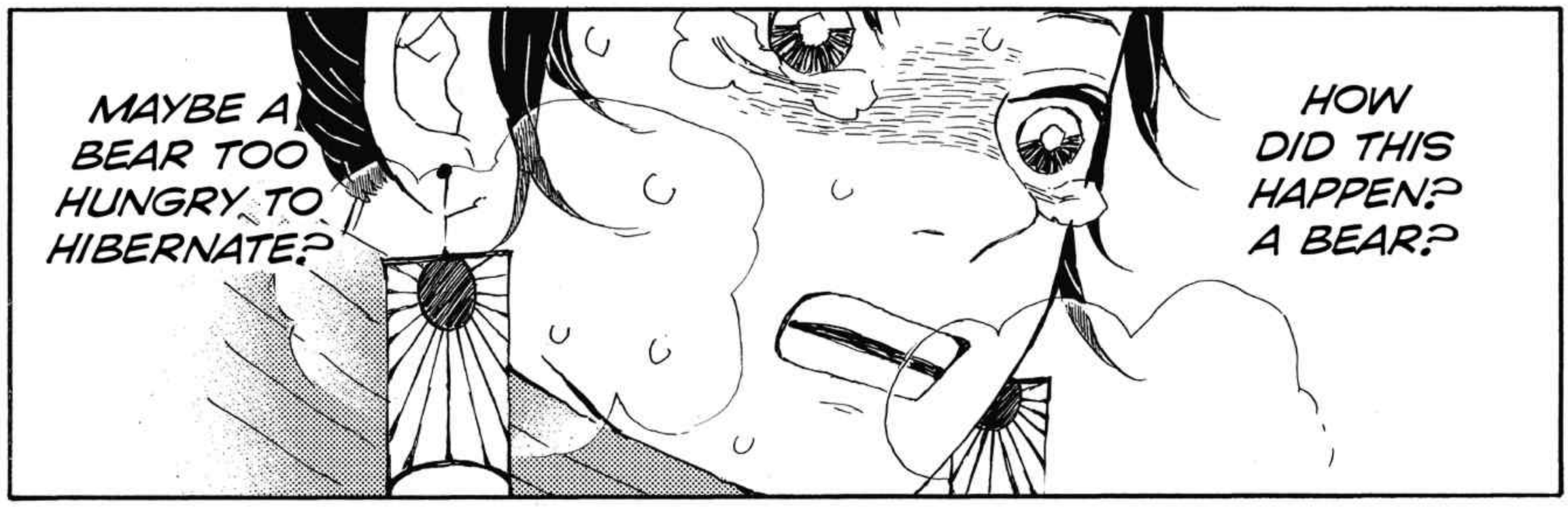



NEZUKO ...
ROKUTA ...

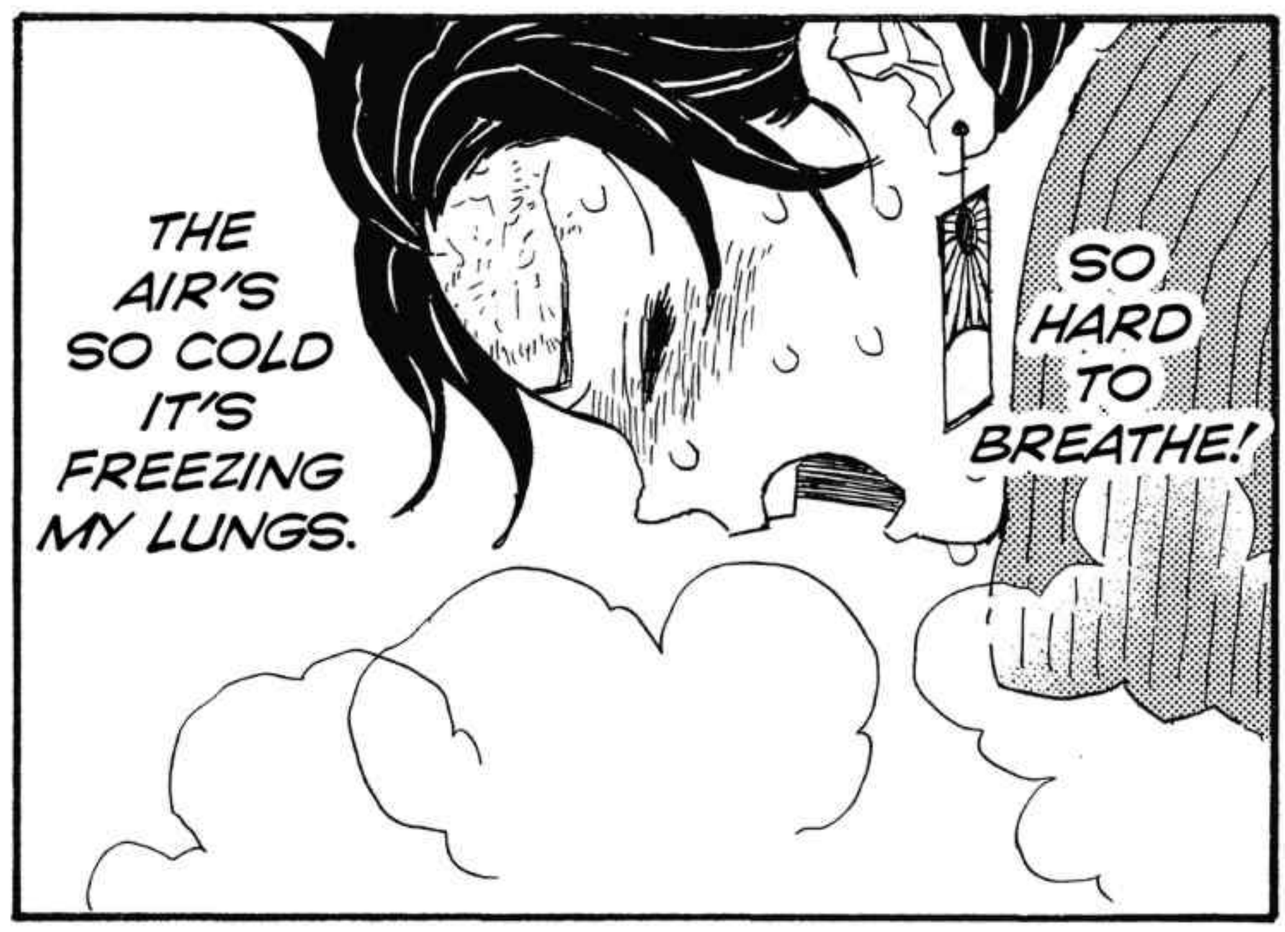

TAKEO...
SHIGERU ...

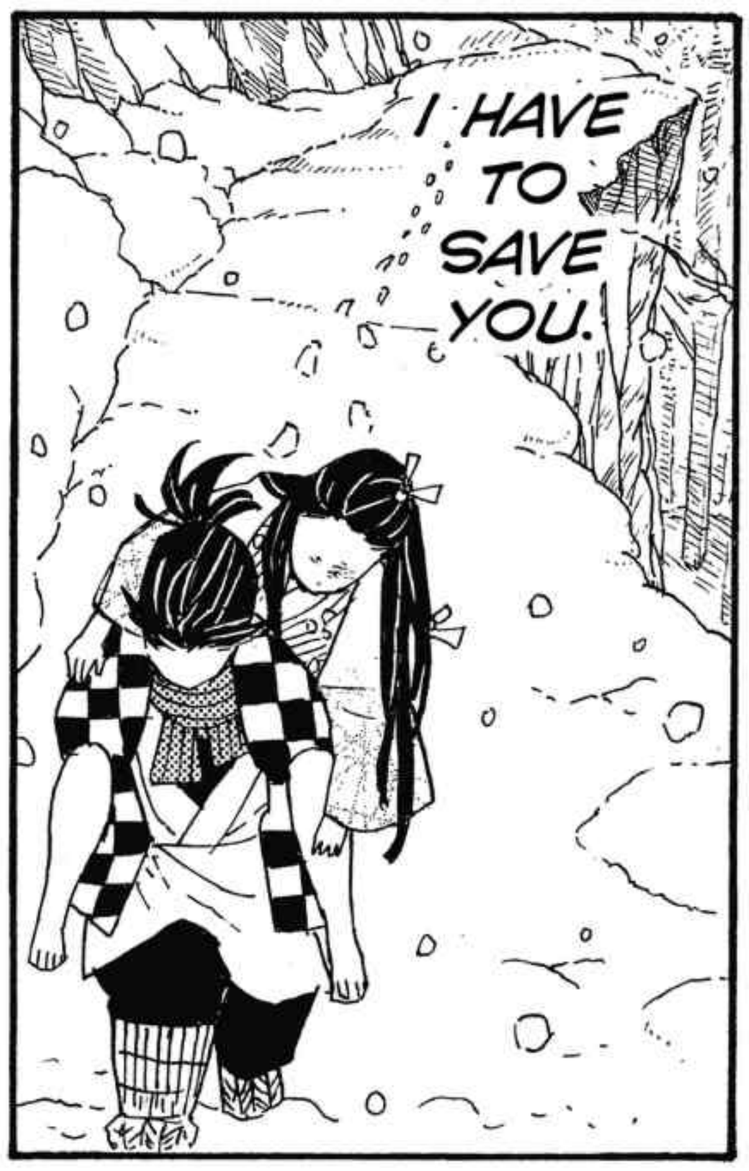
MOTHER ...
HANAKO ...

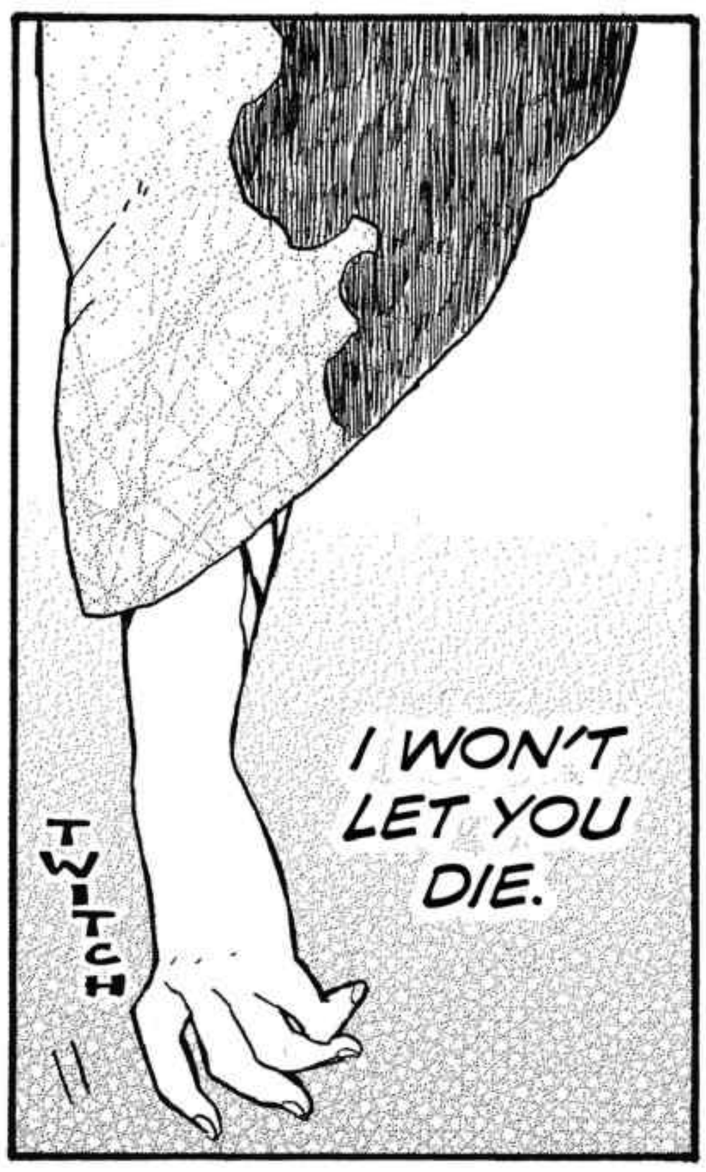
MAYBE A DOCTOR CAN SAVE HER.
ONLY NEZUKO'S BODY WAS STILL WARM.


MAYBE A BEAR TOO HUNGRY TO HIBERNATE?
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? A BEAR?

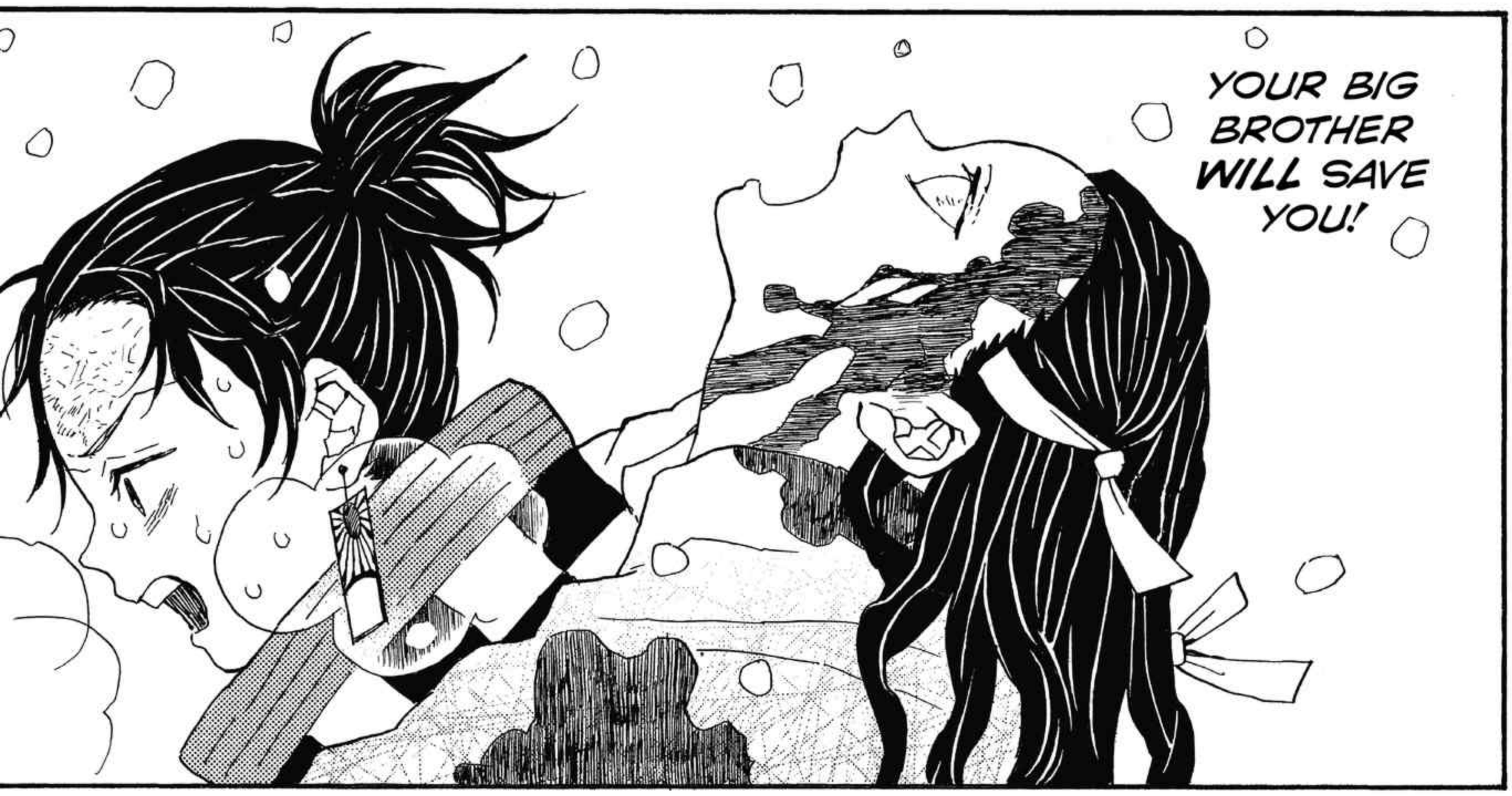
KEEP GOING!
MOVE YOUR FEET FASTER.


THE AIR'S SO COLD IT'S FREEZING MY LUNGS.
SO HARD TO BREATHE!

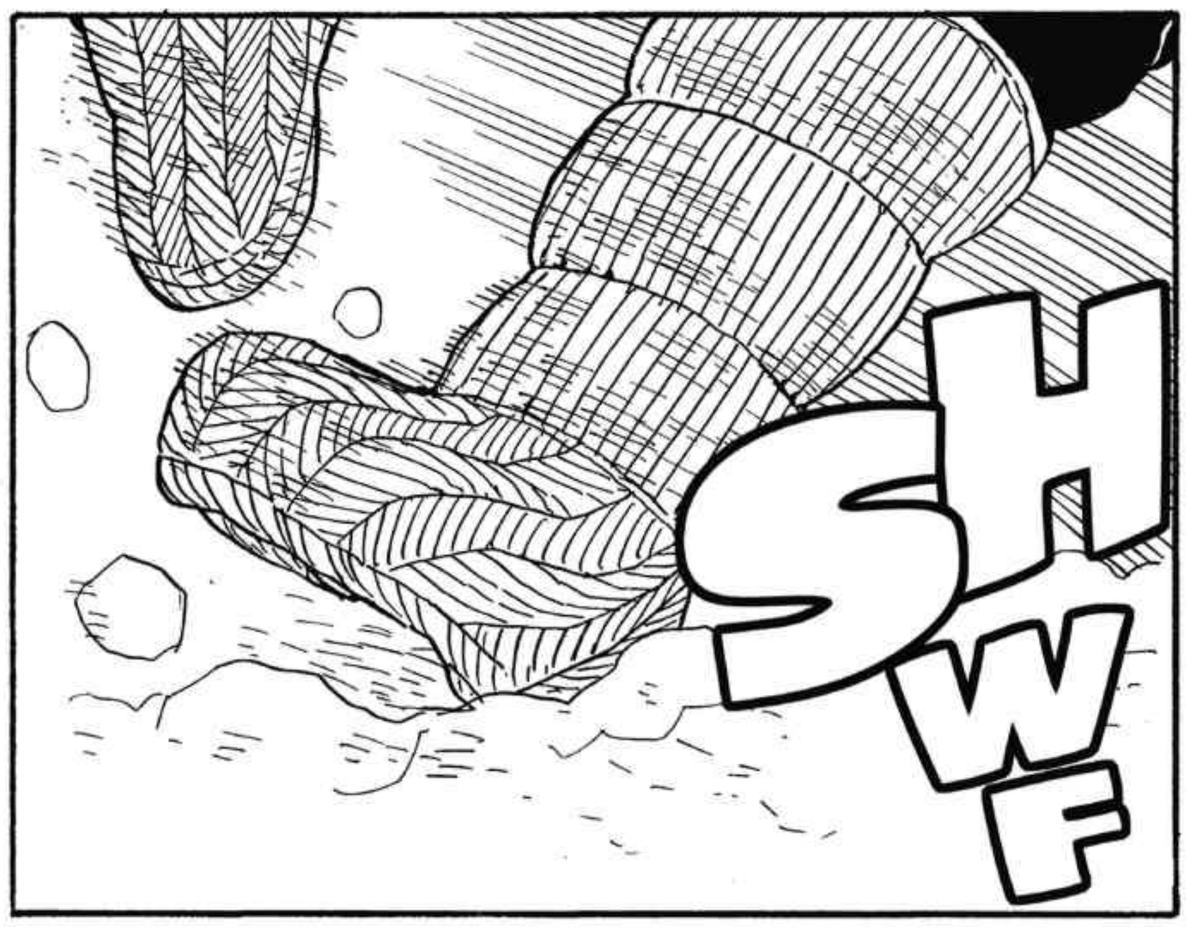

I HAVE TO SAVE YOU.

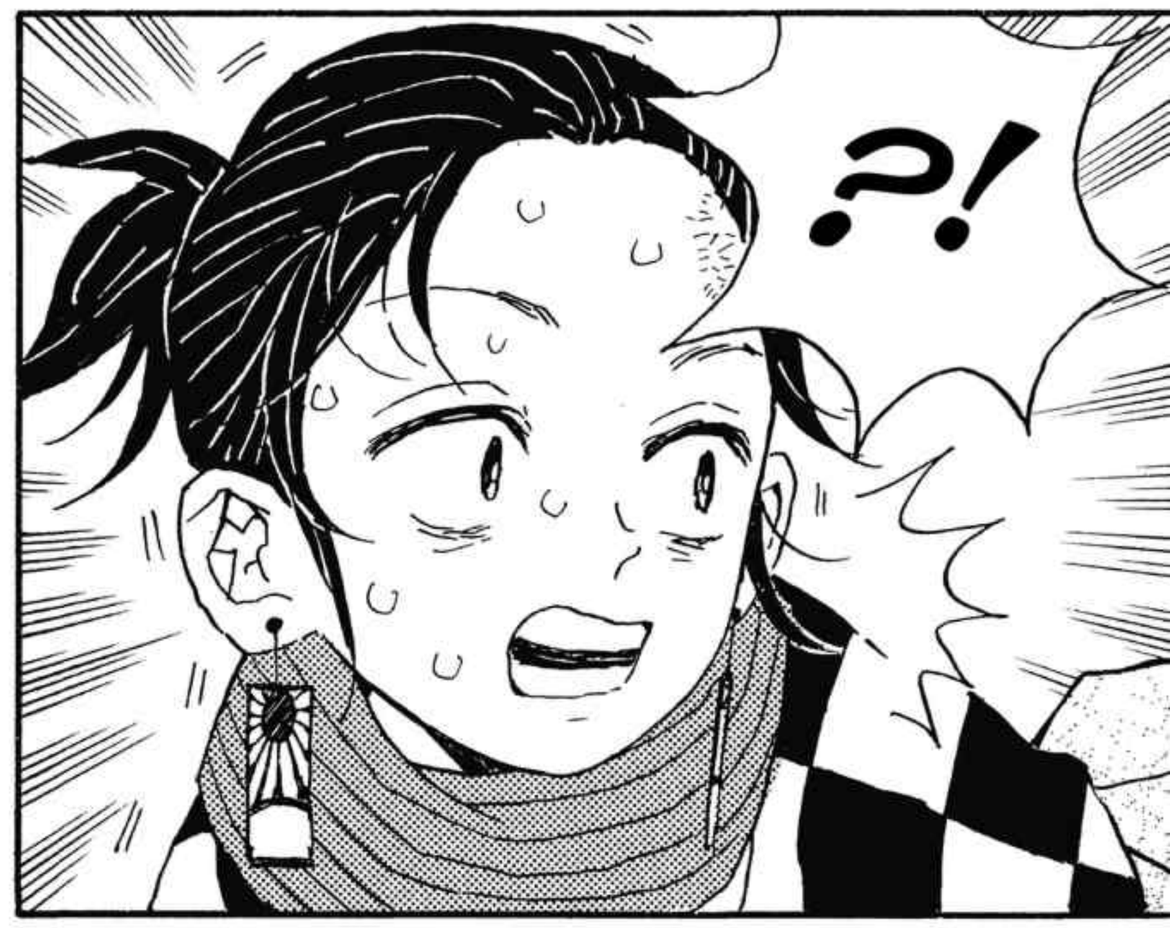

I WON'T LET YOU DIE.
TWITCH

IT'S STILL A LONG WAY TO TOWN.


YOUR BIG BROTHER WILL SAVE YOU!

AAAAH!
GRRRAAA


SHWF


?!

WHIP
I'M SLIP—
OH NO!

BUT IT ALSO MADE ME SLIP!
THE SNOW...
... SAVED ME.

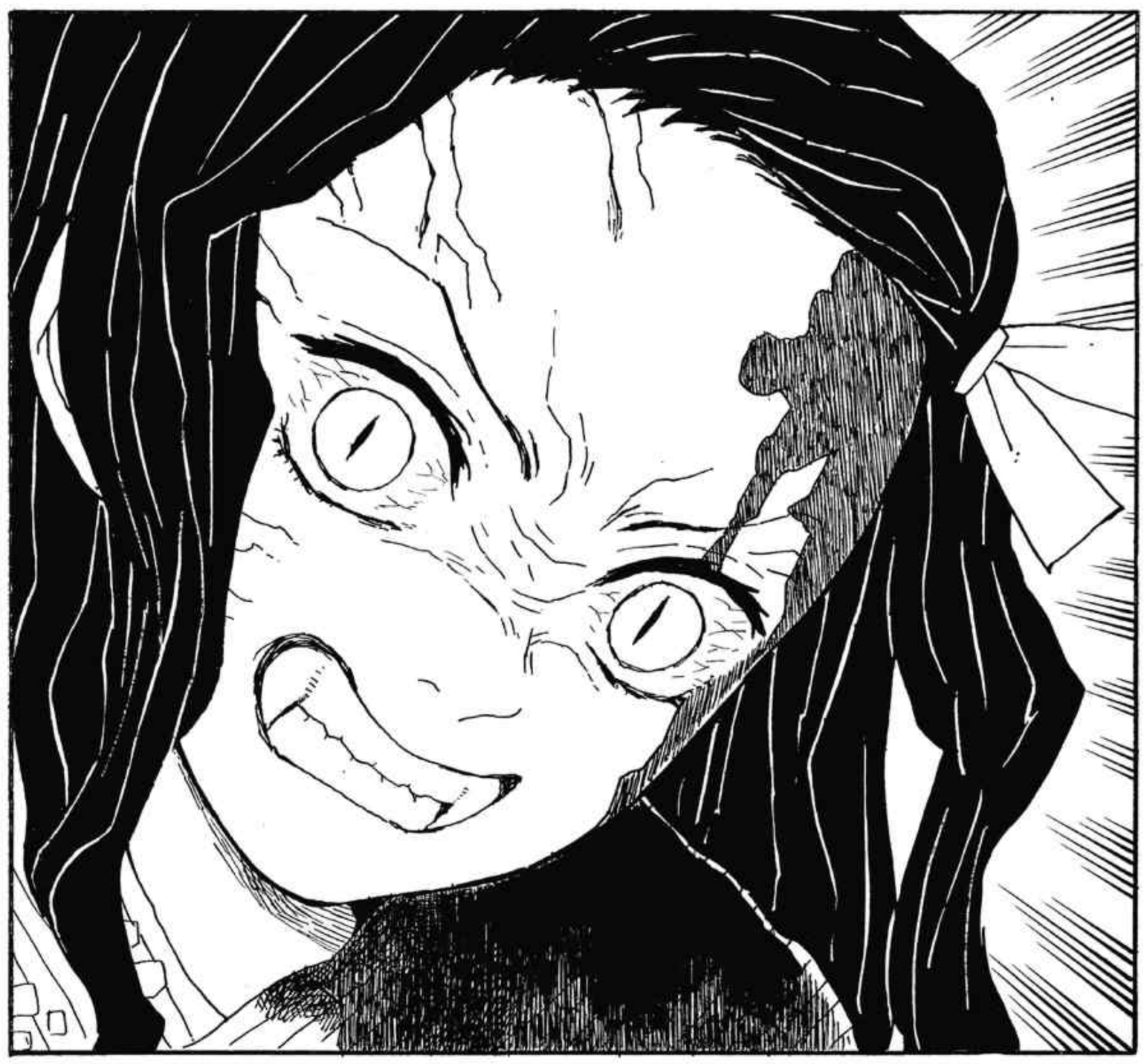
SHWUNG

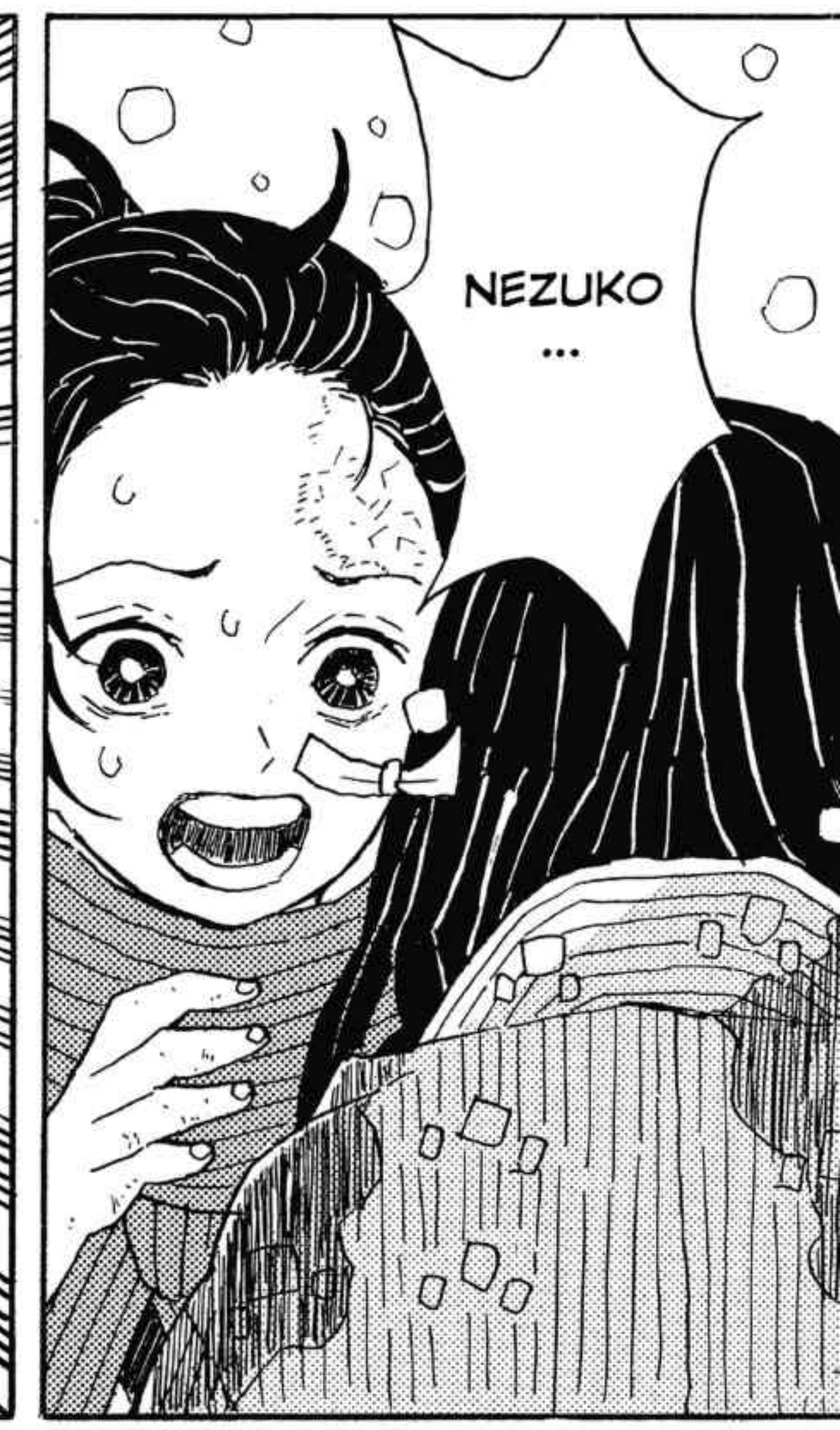
SHWUNG
NEZUKO!

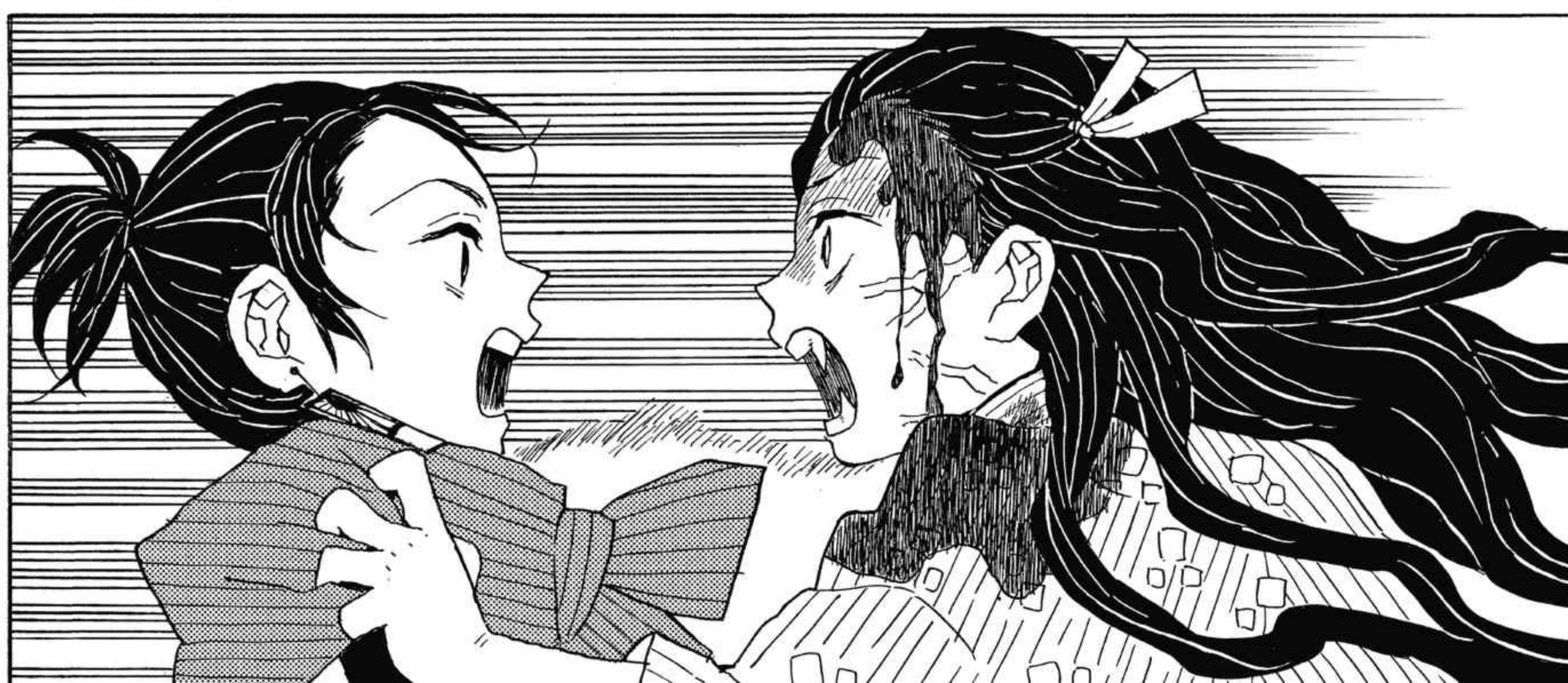
!!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE UP!
...CARRY YOU INTO TOWN!
LET ME...

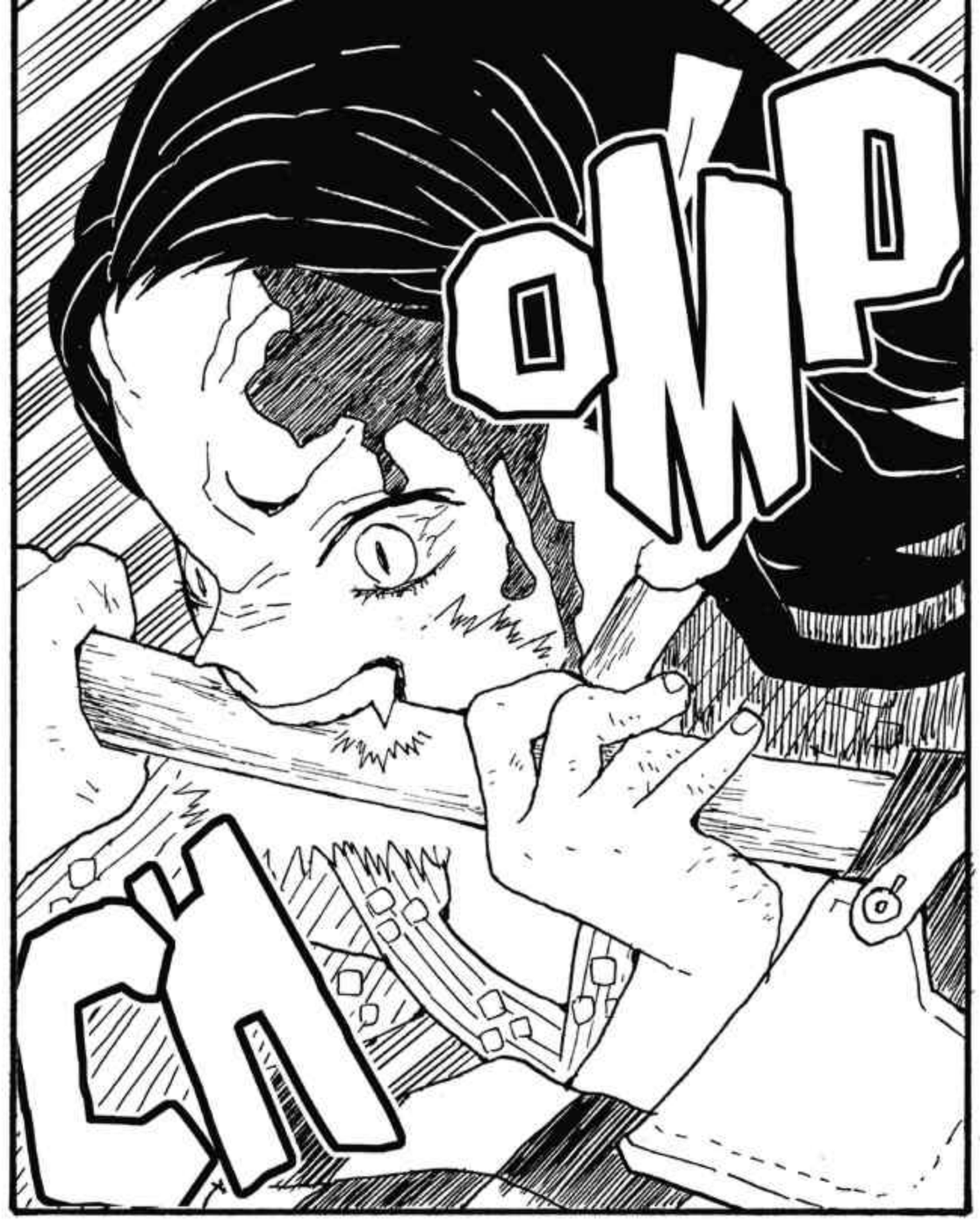
NEZUKO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SHF

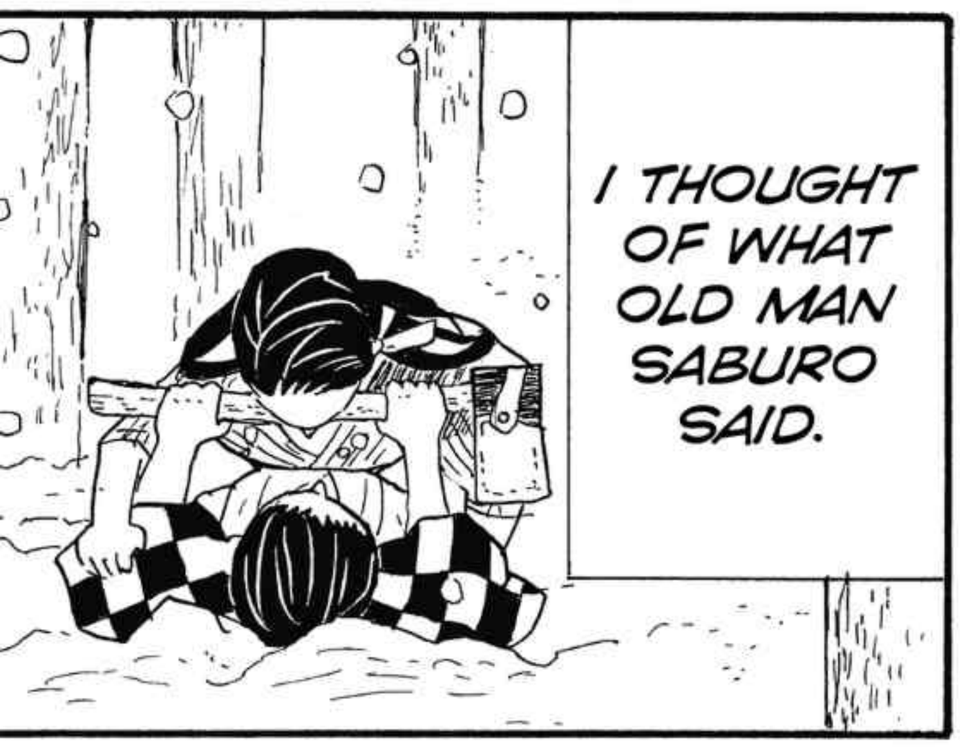



NEZUKO ...

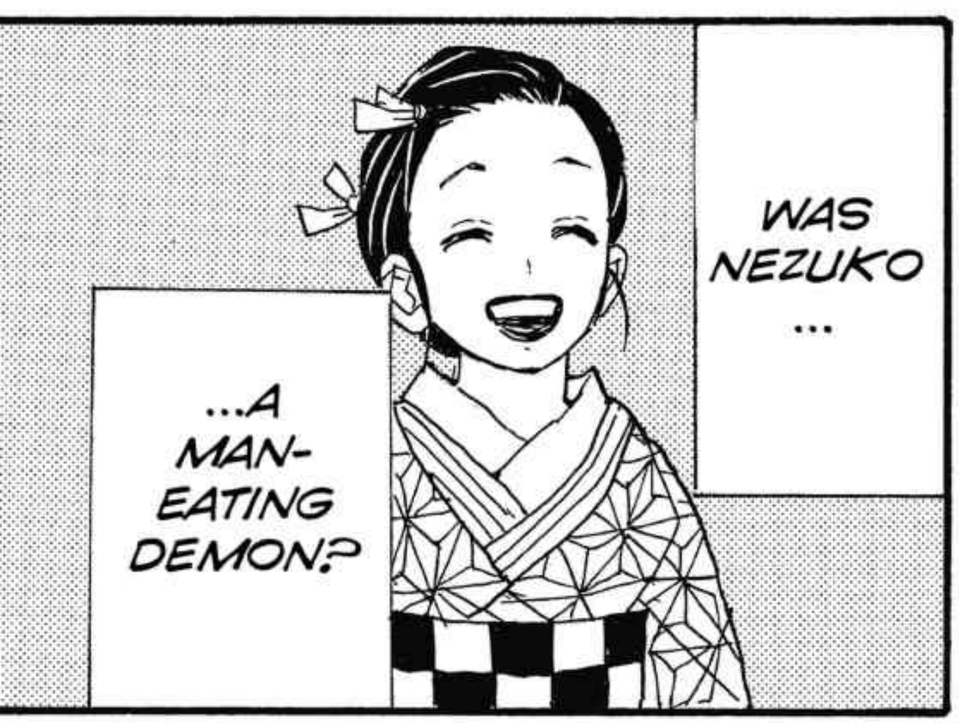


WHAMPH

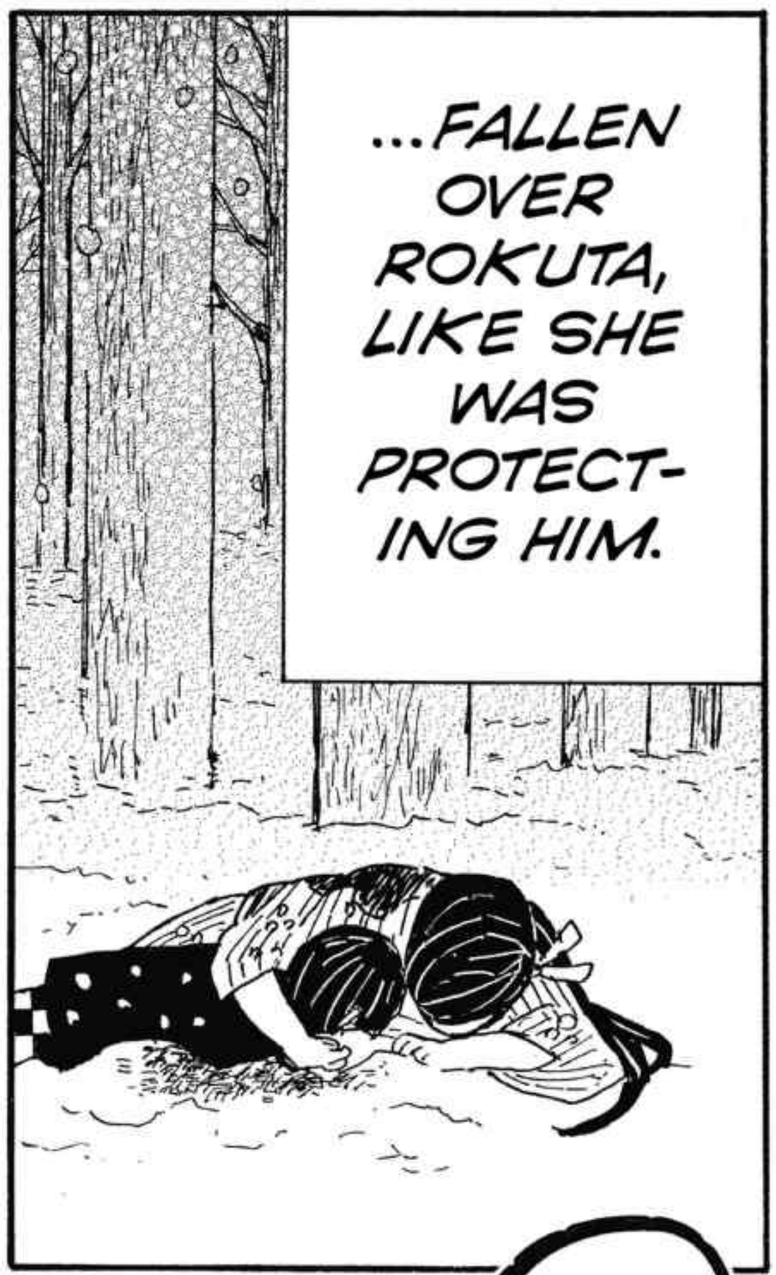

CHOMP

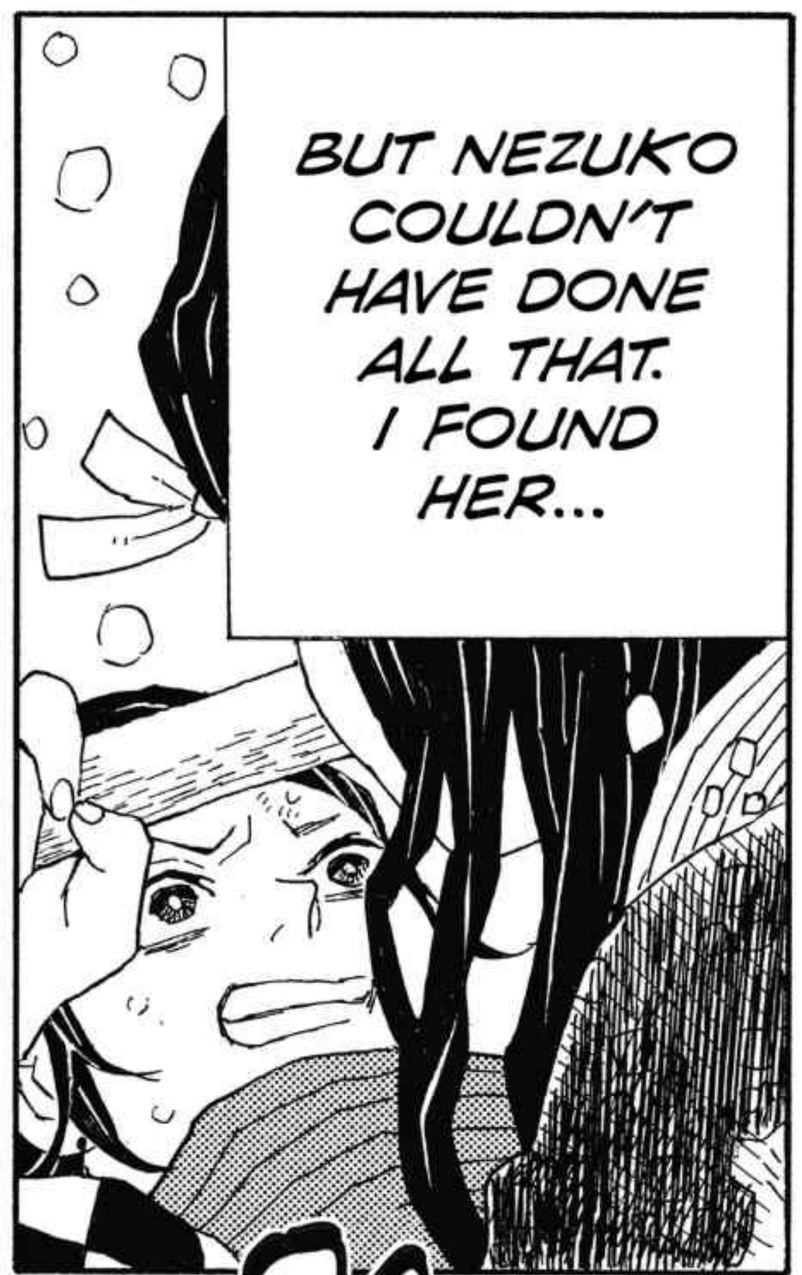

I THOUGHT OF WHAT OLD MAN SABURO SAID.

A DEMON!


WAS NEZUKO ...
...A MAN-EATING DEMON?

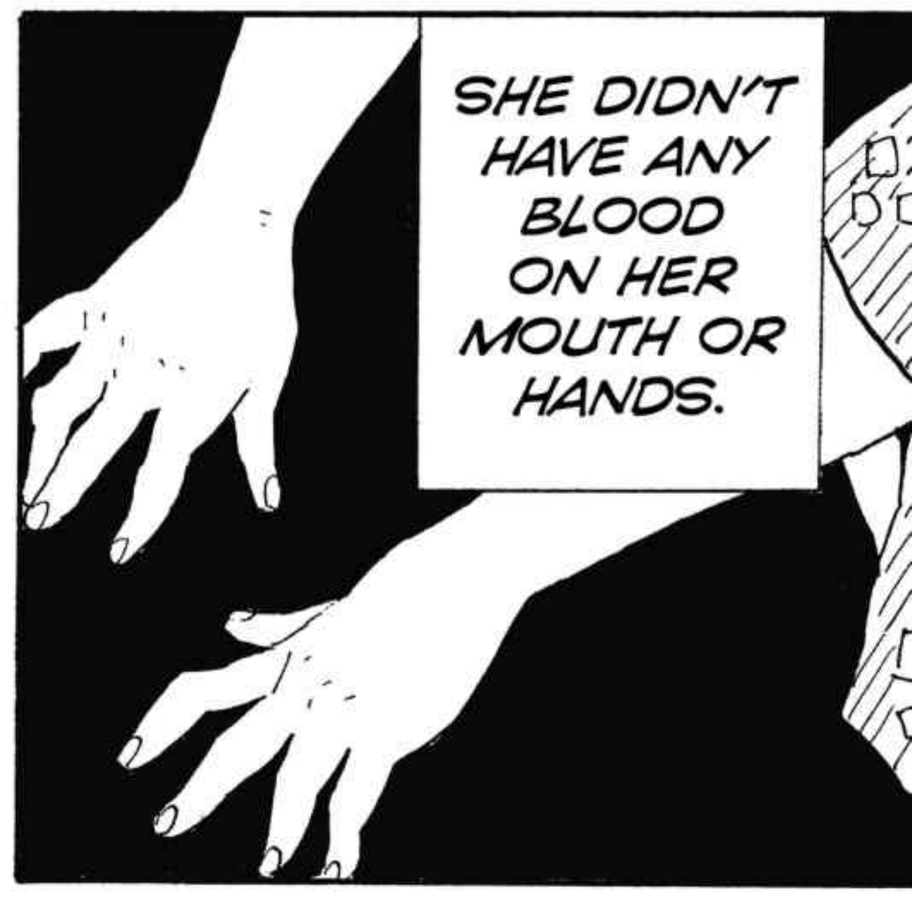
NO, THAT WAS IM-POSSIBLE.
NEZUKO HAS BEEN HUMAN...
...SINCE THE DAY SHE WAS BORN.


...FALLEN OVER ROKUTA, LIKE SHE WAS PROTECT-ING HIM.


BUT NEZUKO COULDN'T HAVE DONE ALL THAT. I FOUND HER...

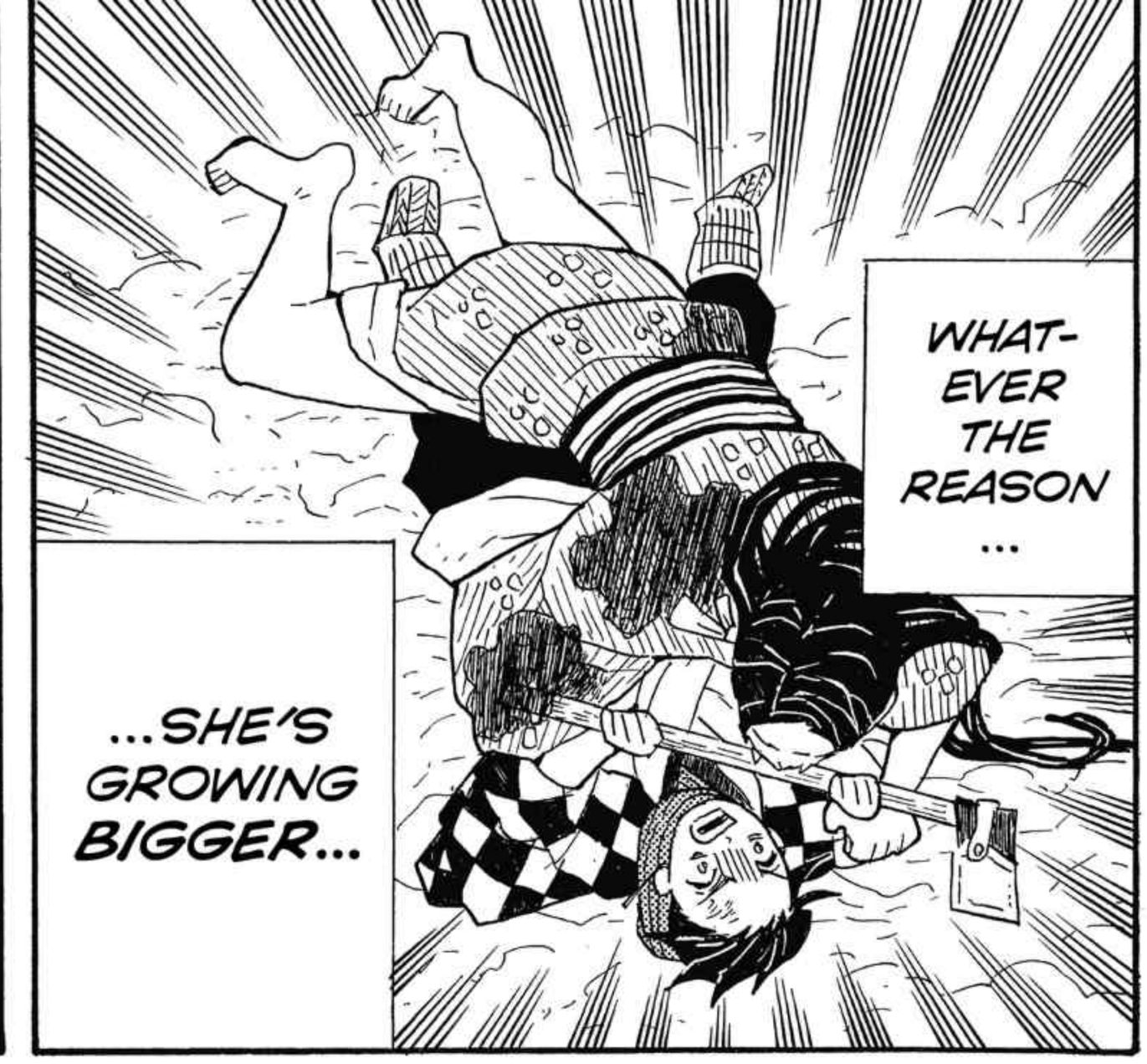
BUT THIS NEZUKO ...
...SMELLS OF BLOOD AND DEATH.

WHO AM I?


SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY BLOOD ON HER MOUTH OR HANDS.

AND THERE'S YET...
SKRR
SHFF
SKRK
...AN-OTHER SMELL...

KRK
...AND SHE'S GETTING STRON-GER!
KRK


WHAT-EVER THE REASON ...
...SHE'S GROWING BIGGER...

...HAPPENED TO MY WHOLE FAMILY.
WHILE I WAS SAFELY ASLEEP IN TOWN, SOMETHING HORRIBLE...

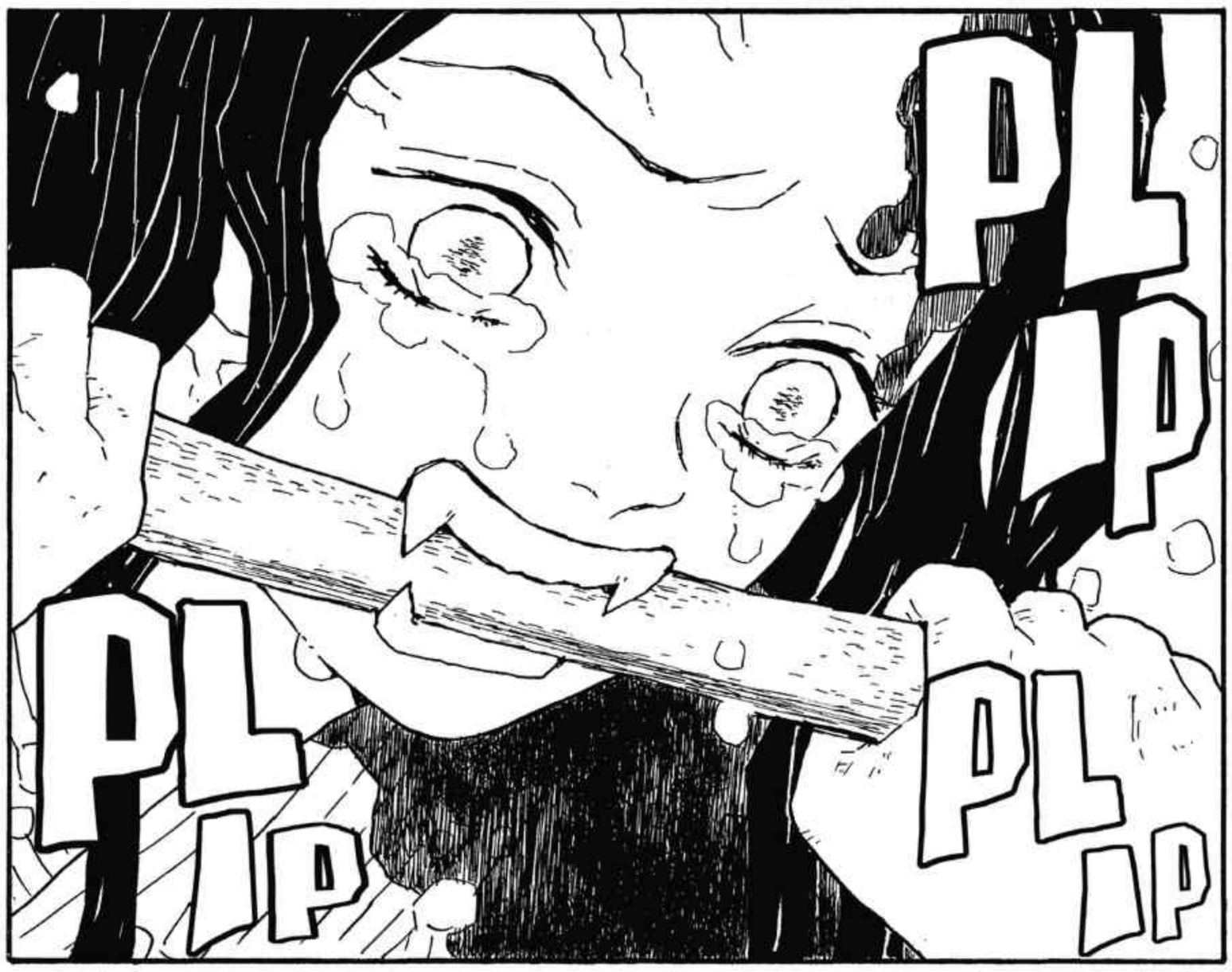
BUT SHE'S SO STRONG! I CAN'T PUSH HER AWAY!
NEZUKO!

KRK
I HAVE TO SAVE NEZUKO IF I CAN!
KRK

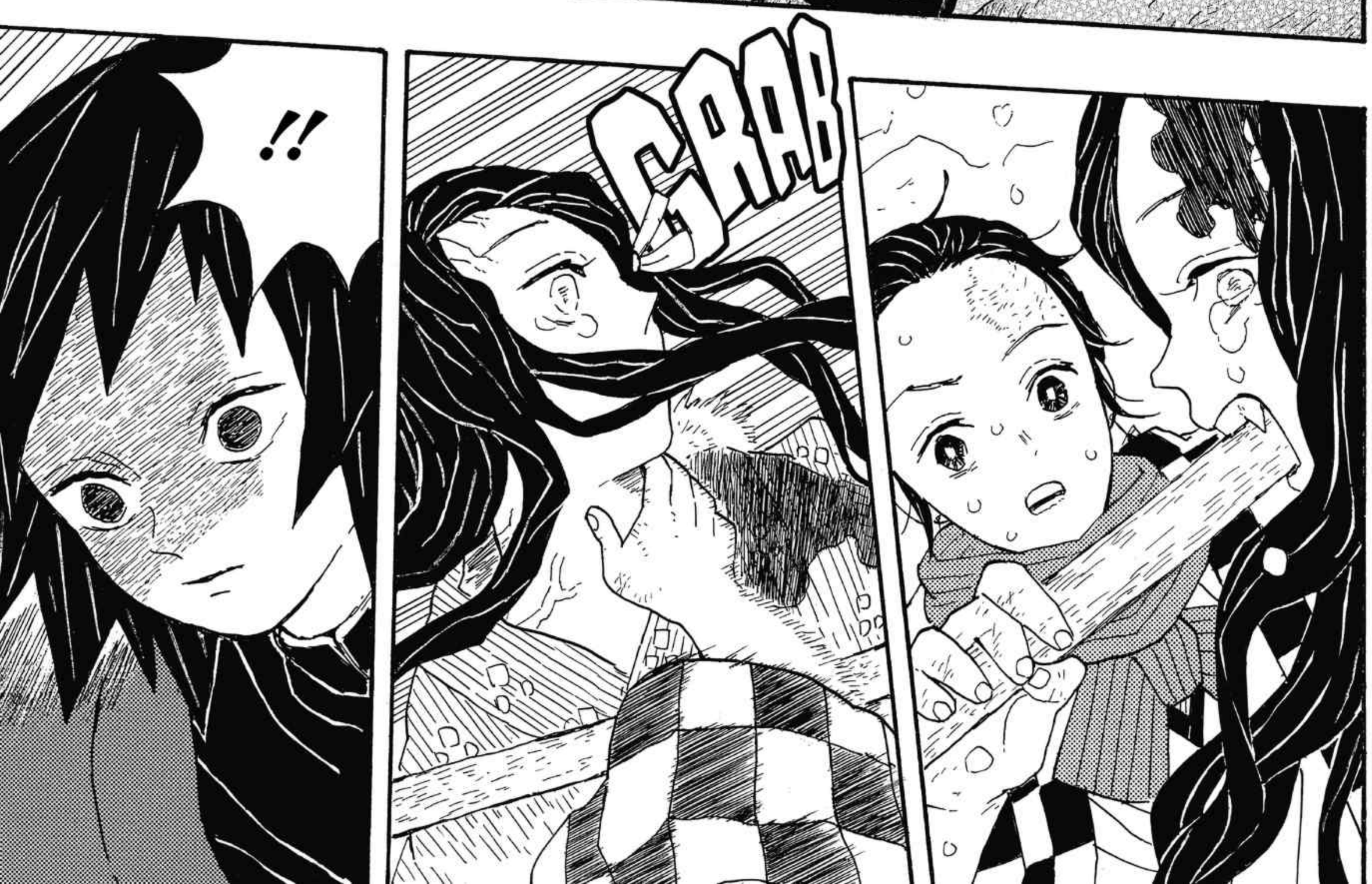
HOW THEY MUST HAVE SUFFERED.
...AND I WASN'T THERE TO HELP THEM.

BE STRONG!
YOU CAN DO IT!
DON'T TURN INTO A DEMON!

HOLD ON, NEZUKO!
FIGHT IT! FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE!


PLIP
PLIP
PLIP

NEZUKO!


!!
GRAB

FWSH

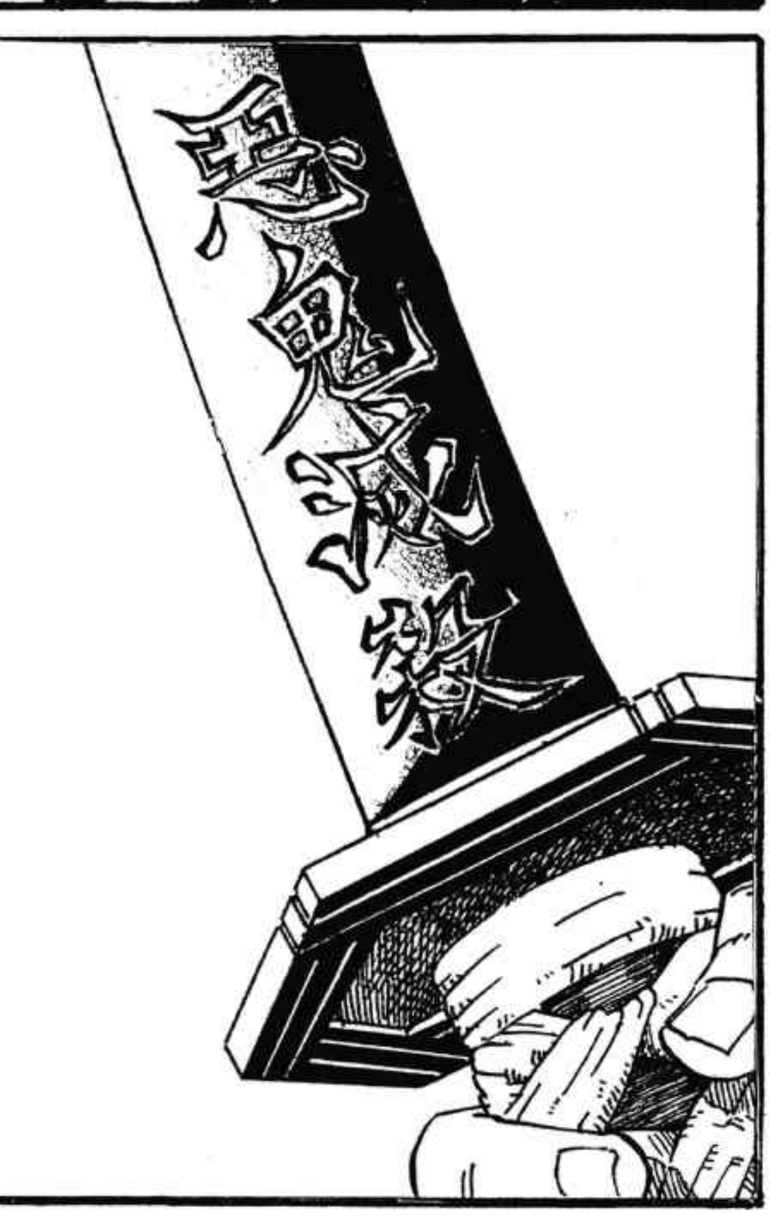
SNAP

WHO...

FMP

WHO IS THAT?

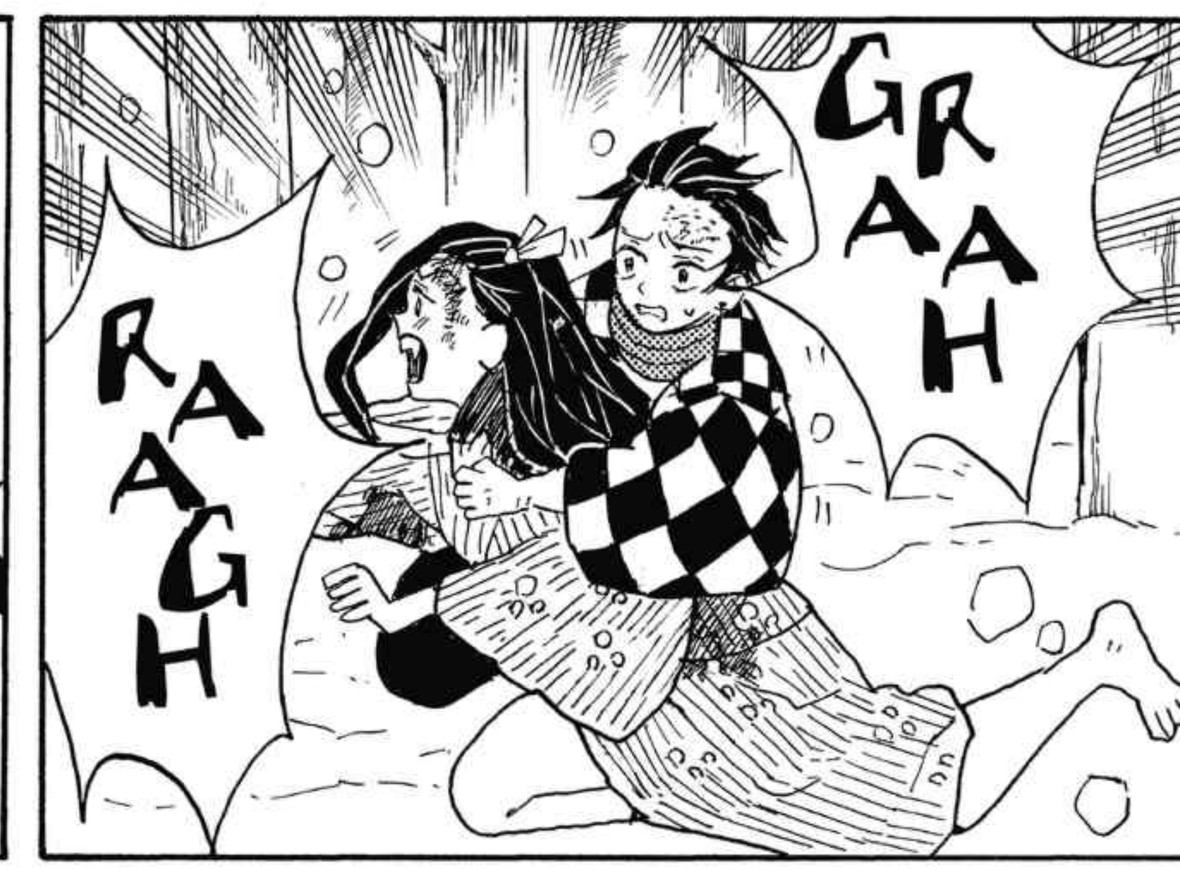
*AKKIMESSATSU, DESTROYER OF DEMONS



GRAAAR

S-SISTER...
SHE'S MY...
...LITTLE SISTER!

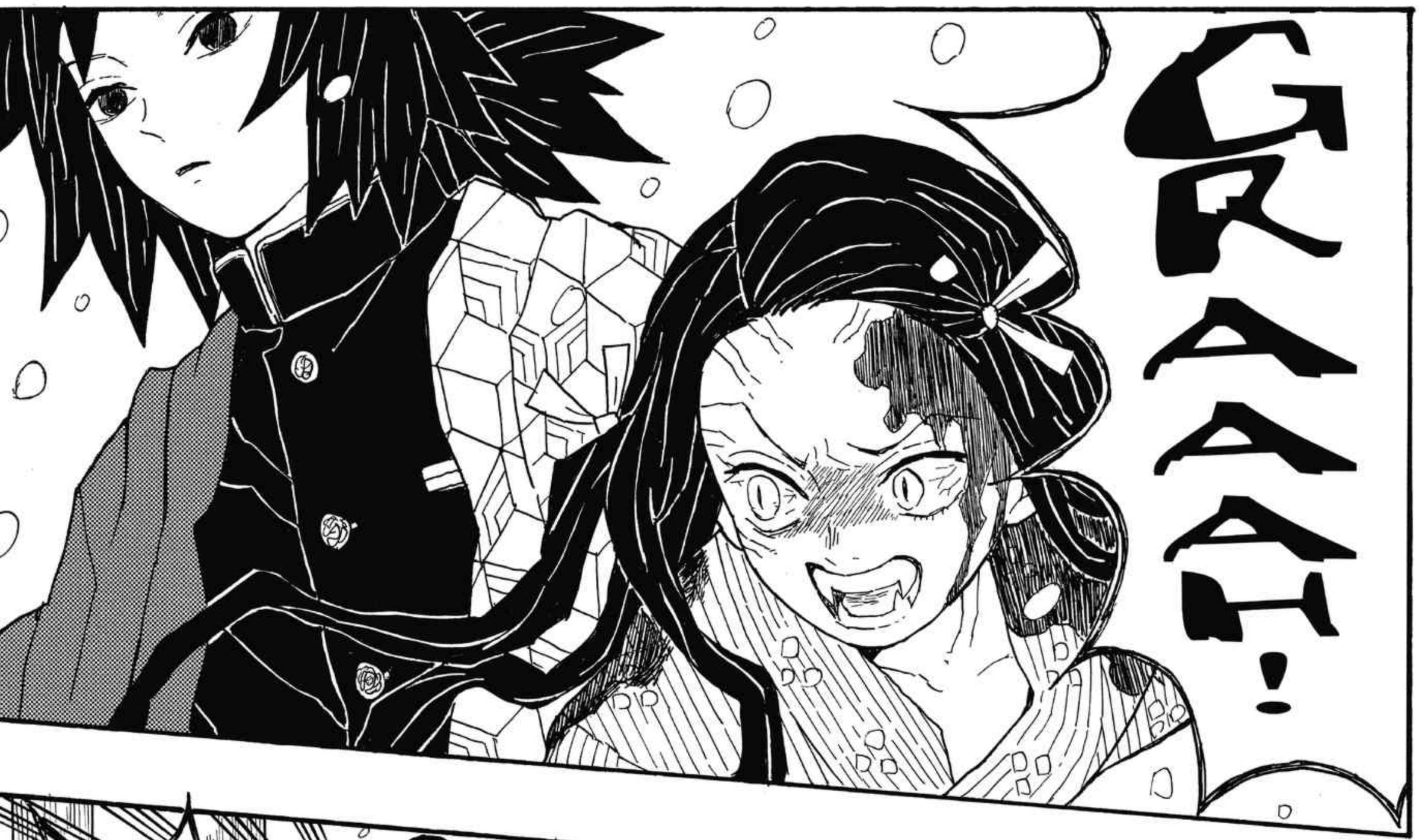
THAT IS YOUR LITTLE SISTER?

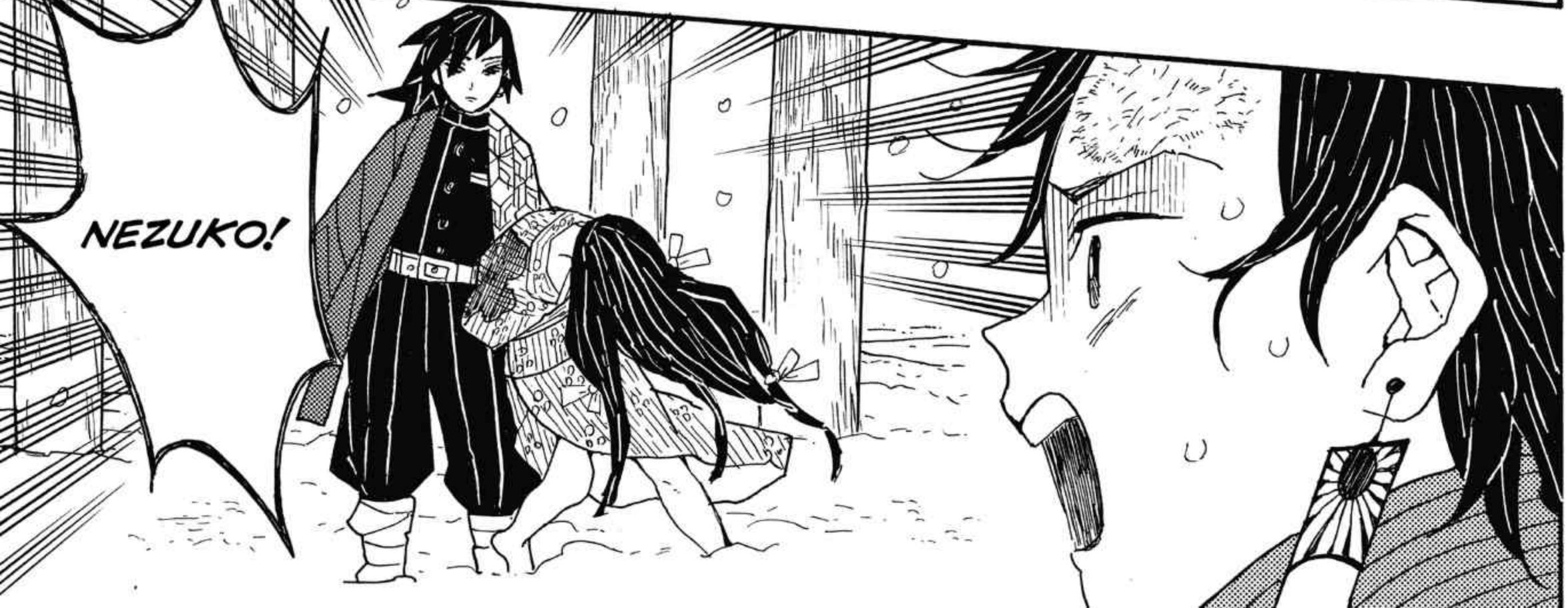

GRAAAGH
GRAAH

SLAGH

DASH

...


GRAAA!


NEZUKO!

HW
SH
!

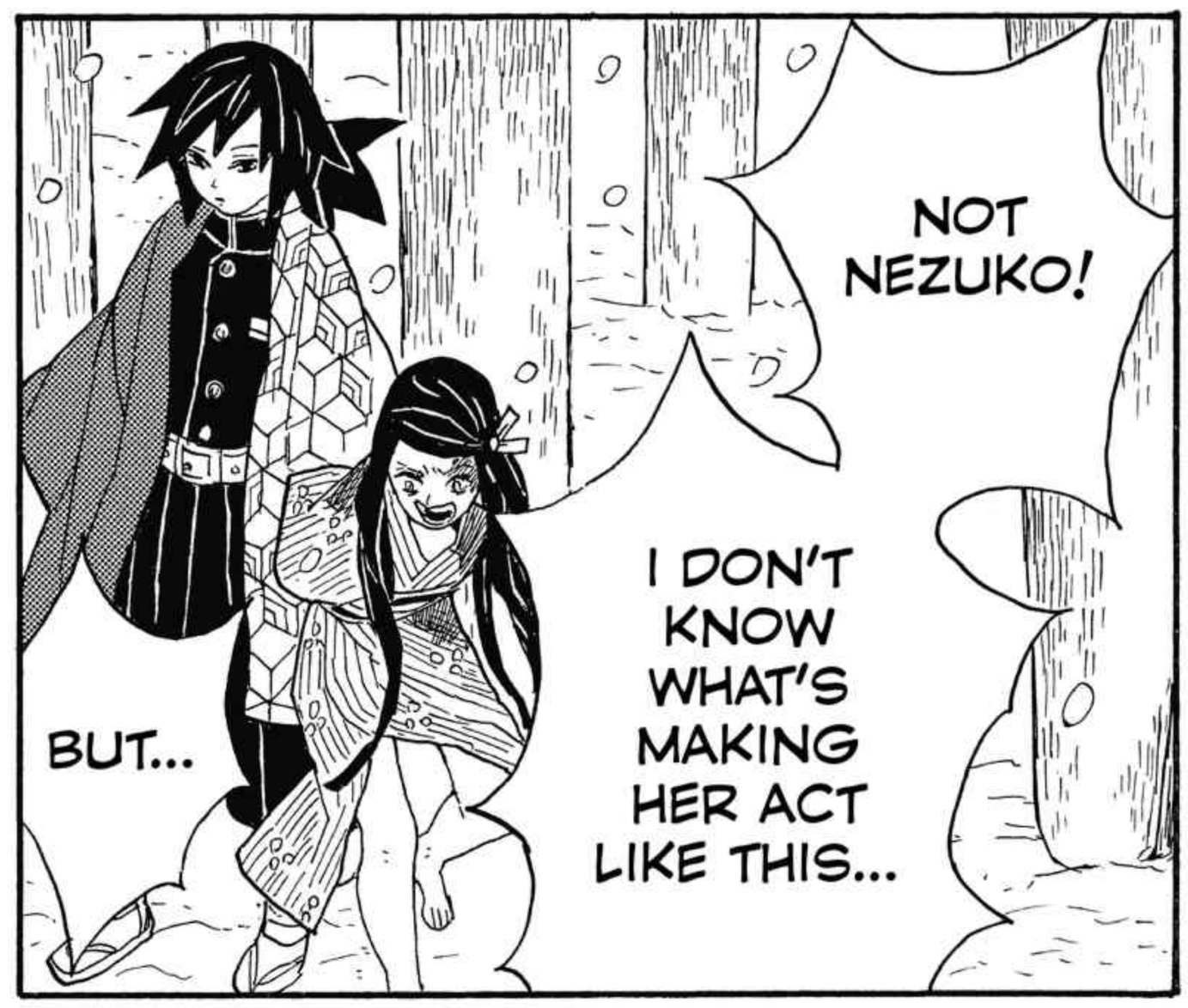
DON'T MOVE.

WAIT! NEZUKO HASN'T KILLED ANYONE!

SO OF COURSE, I'LL TAKE YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S HEAD TOO.
KILLING DEMONS IS MY JOB.

THAT MUST BE WHO KILLED EVERYONE!
...FROM SOMEONE I'VE NEVER SMELLED BEFORE!
THERE WAS A SCENT AT MY HOUSE...

THAT'S EASY. DEMON BLOOD GOT IN HER WOUND, SO SHE'S TRANSFORMED INTO A DEMON.
GRAAR!


NOT NEZUKO!
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MAKING HER ACT LIKE THIS...

THAT IS HOW MAN-EATING DEMONS MULTIPLY.

NO! I'M SURE SHE KNOWS WHO I AM!

A MOMENT AGO SHE ALMOST ATE *YOU!*

NEZUKO WOULD NEVER EAT ANYONE!

I'LL MAKE HER *HUMAN* AGAIN!

I'LL FIND A WAY TO *CURE* HER!

I *WON'T* LET HER HURT ANYONE!

I'LL FIND A WAY! I SWEAR! PLEASE DON'T KILL HER!

A HUMAN WHO BECOMES A DEMON CANNOT GO BACK.

SHE WON'T GET BETTER.

SHWNG

...SO...

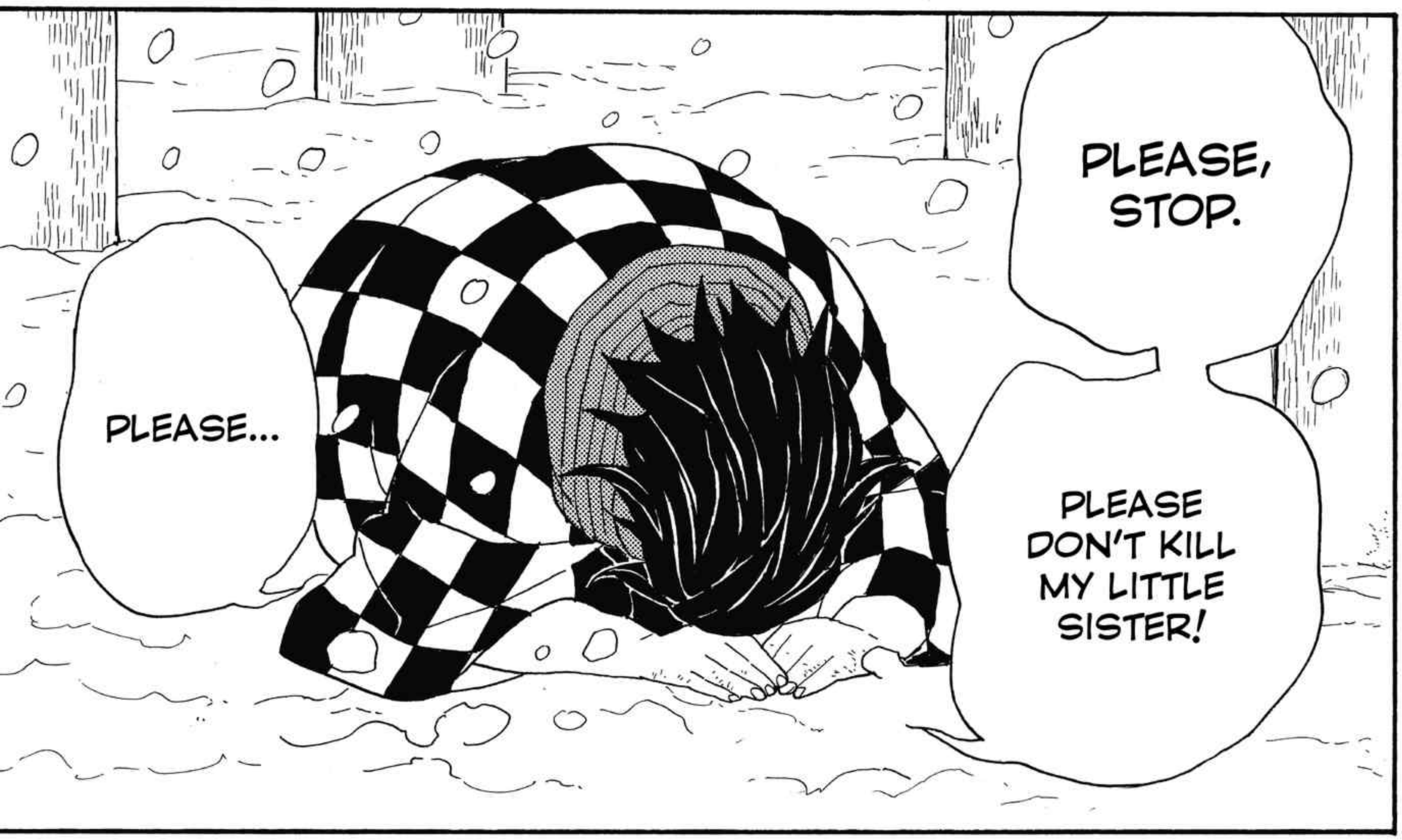
...SO...

I'LL DO ALL THAT, SO...

I'LL ALSO FIND THE ONE THAT KILLED MY FAMILY!

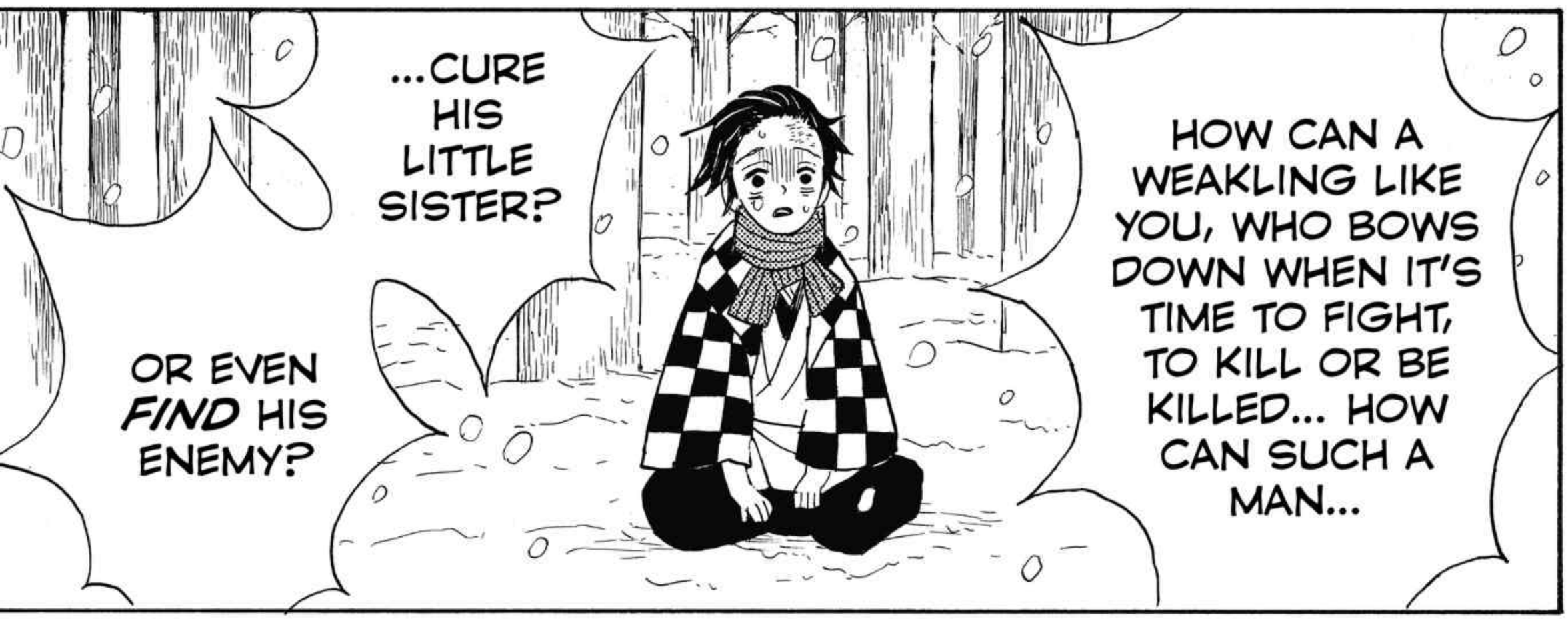
I CAN'T LOSE NEZUKO TOO!

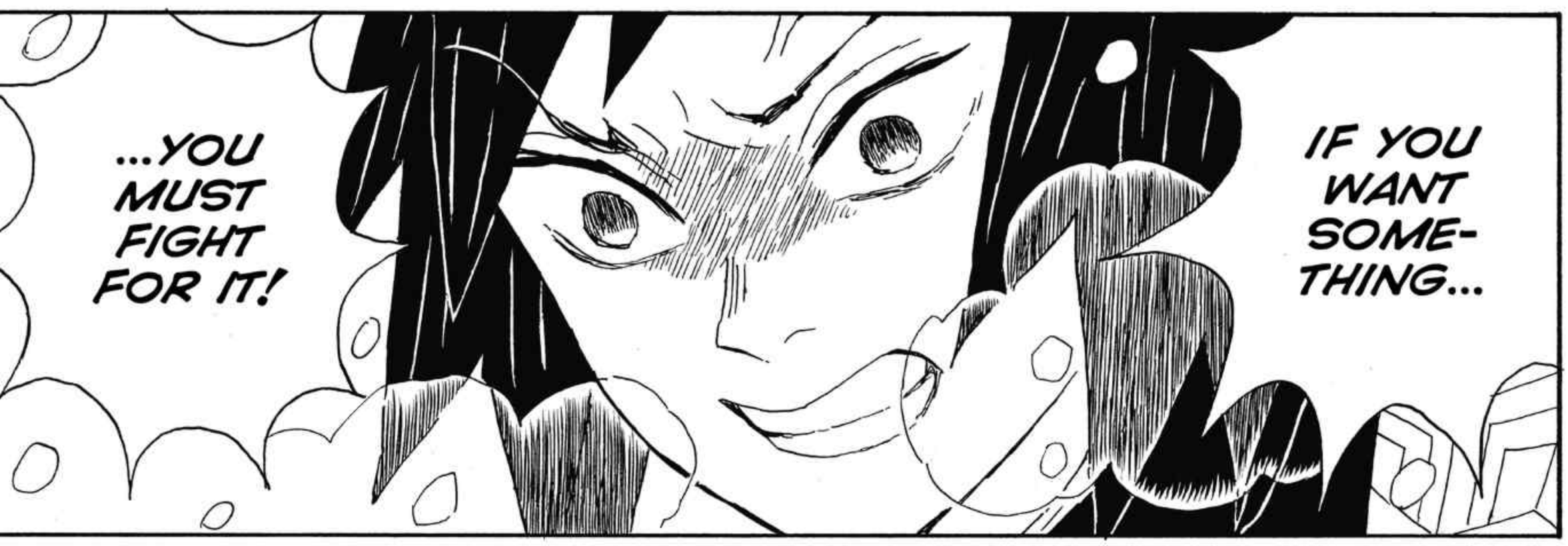
STOP!


PLEASE...
PLEASE, STOP.
PLEASE DON'T KILL MY LITTLE SISTER!

PLEASE...

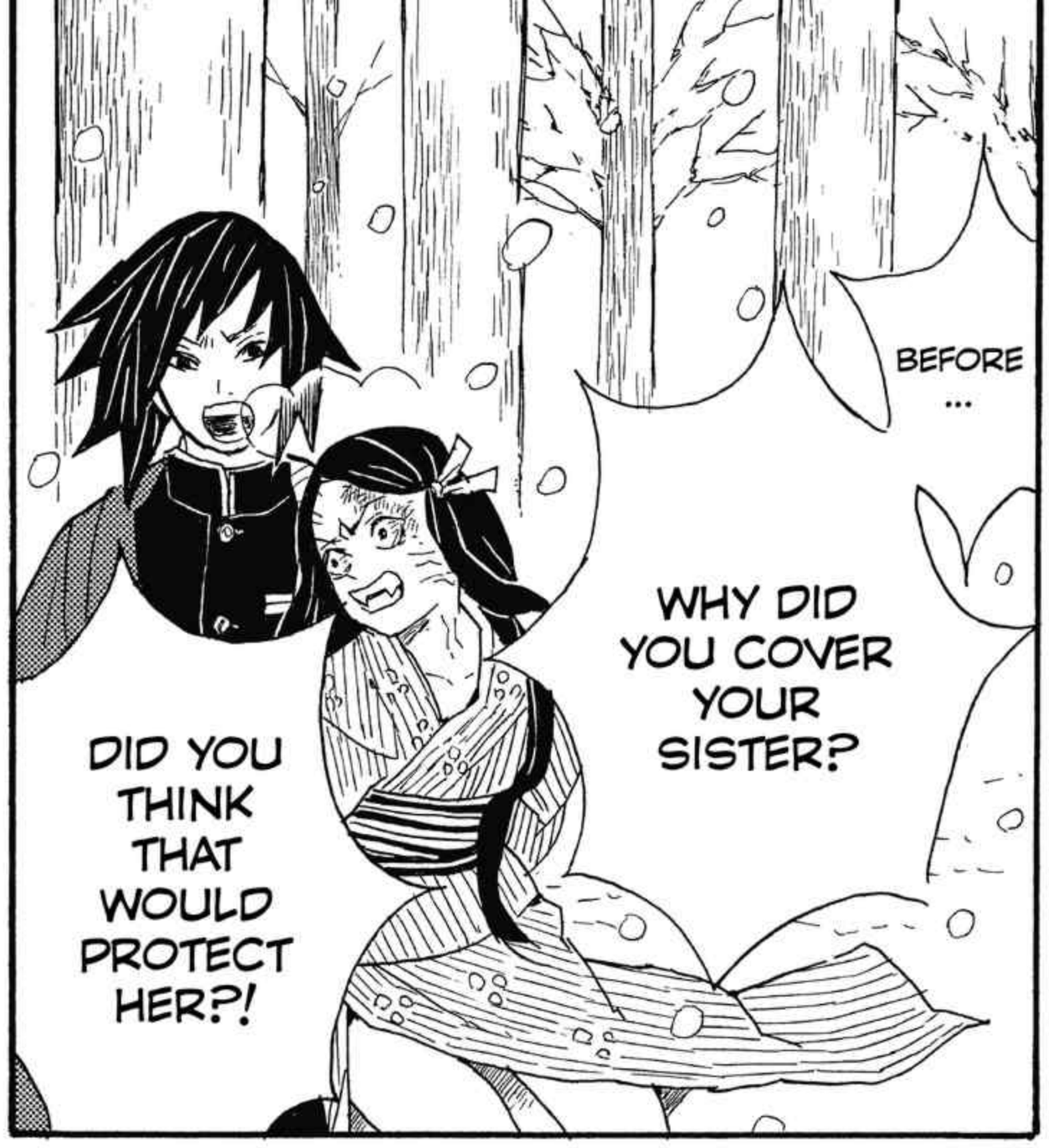
NEVER LEAVE YOURSELF SO *DEFENSELESS* IN FRONT OF AN ENEMY!


...CURE HIS LITTLE SISTER?
OR EVEN *FIND* HIS ENEMY?
HOW CAN A WEAKLING LIKE YOU, WHO BOWS DOWN WHEN IT'S TIME TO FIGHT, TO KILL OR BE KILLED... HOW CAN SUCH A MAN...


...YOU MUST FIGHT FOR IT!
IF YOU WANT SOME-THING...

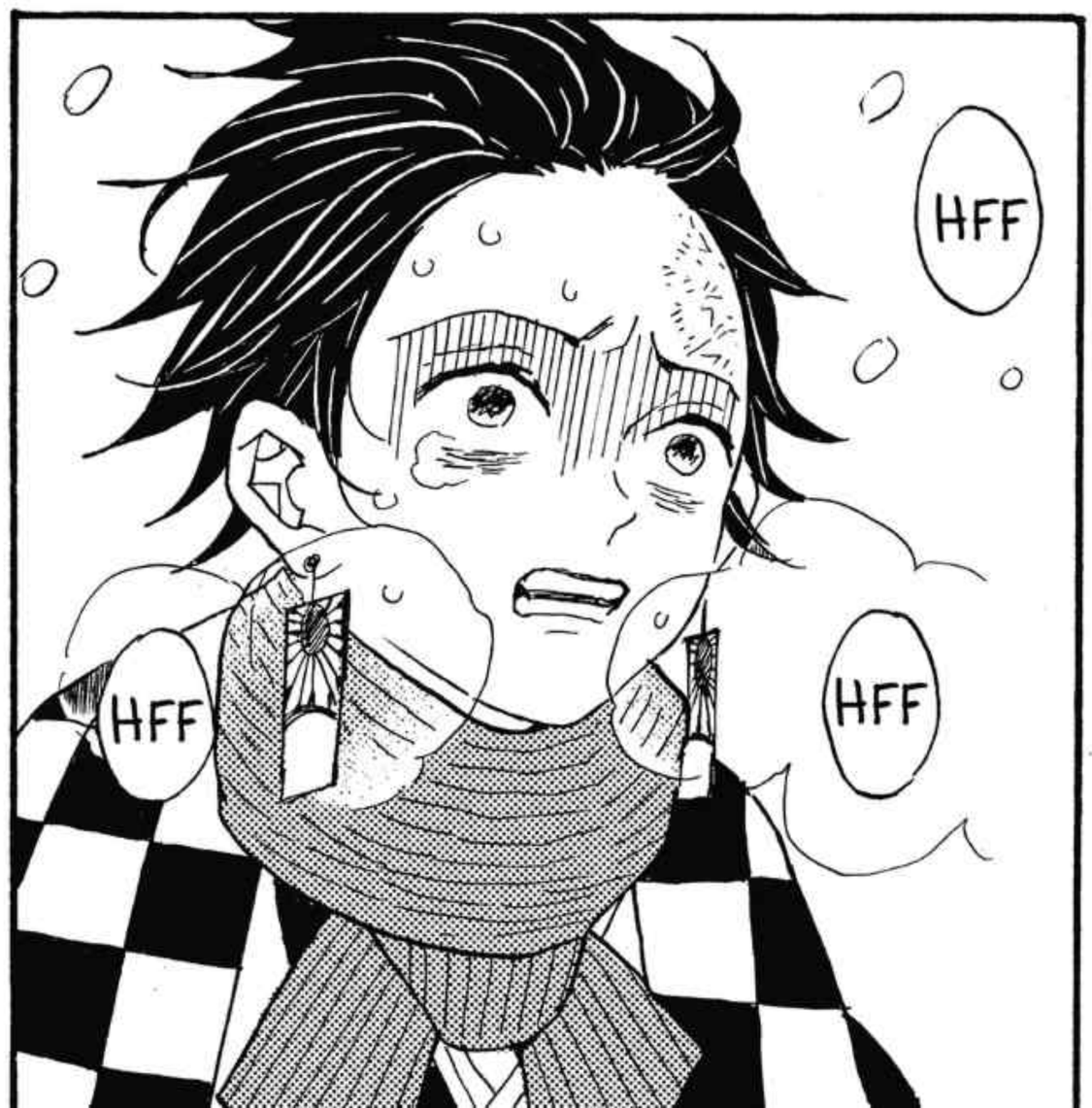
DEMONS MIGHT KNOW HOW TO CURE YOUR LITTLE SISTER...
...NO DEMON WILL RESPECT YOUR WHINING AND BEGGING!
... BUT ...

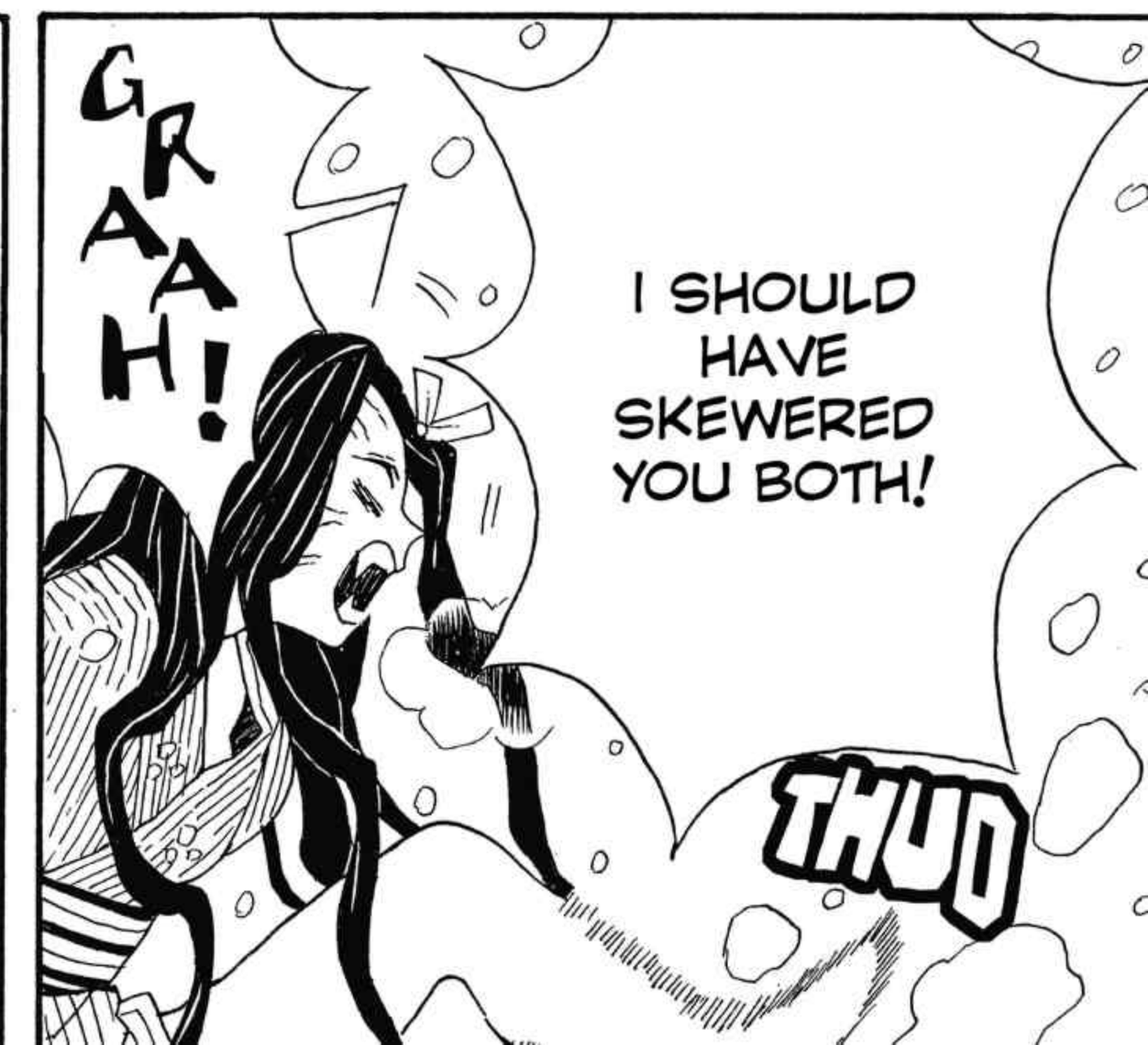
THE MEEK HAVE NO POWER AND NO OPTIONS!
THE STRONG WILL CRUSH THEM IN EVERY WAY!


BEFORE ...
WHY DID YOU COVER YOUR SISTER?
DID YOU THINK THAT WOULD PROTECT HER?!

AND FOR THAT MATTER, I DON'T RESPECT YOU EITHER!
THAT'S REALITY!

THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO TAKE HER!
WHY DIDN'T YOU THROW YOUR HATCHET?
WHY DID YOU SHOW ME YOUR BACK?!


HFF
HFF
HFF


GRAAH!
I SHOULD HAVE SKEWERED YOU BOTH!
THUD

YOUR HEART IS CRUSHED.

YOUR FAMILY IS DEAD AND YOUR SISTER HAS BECOME A DEMON.

I KNOW YOUR PAIN, HOW YOU MUST WANT TO CRY OUT.

DON'T CRY.

DON'T DESPAIR.

THOSE THINGS WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.

BUT THERE IS NO TURNING BACK TIME.

...YOUR FAMILY MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED.

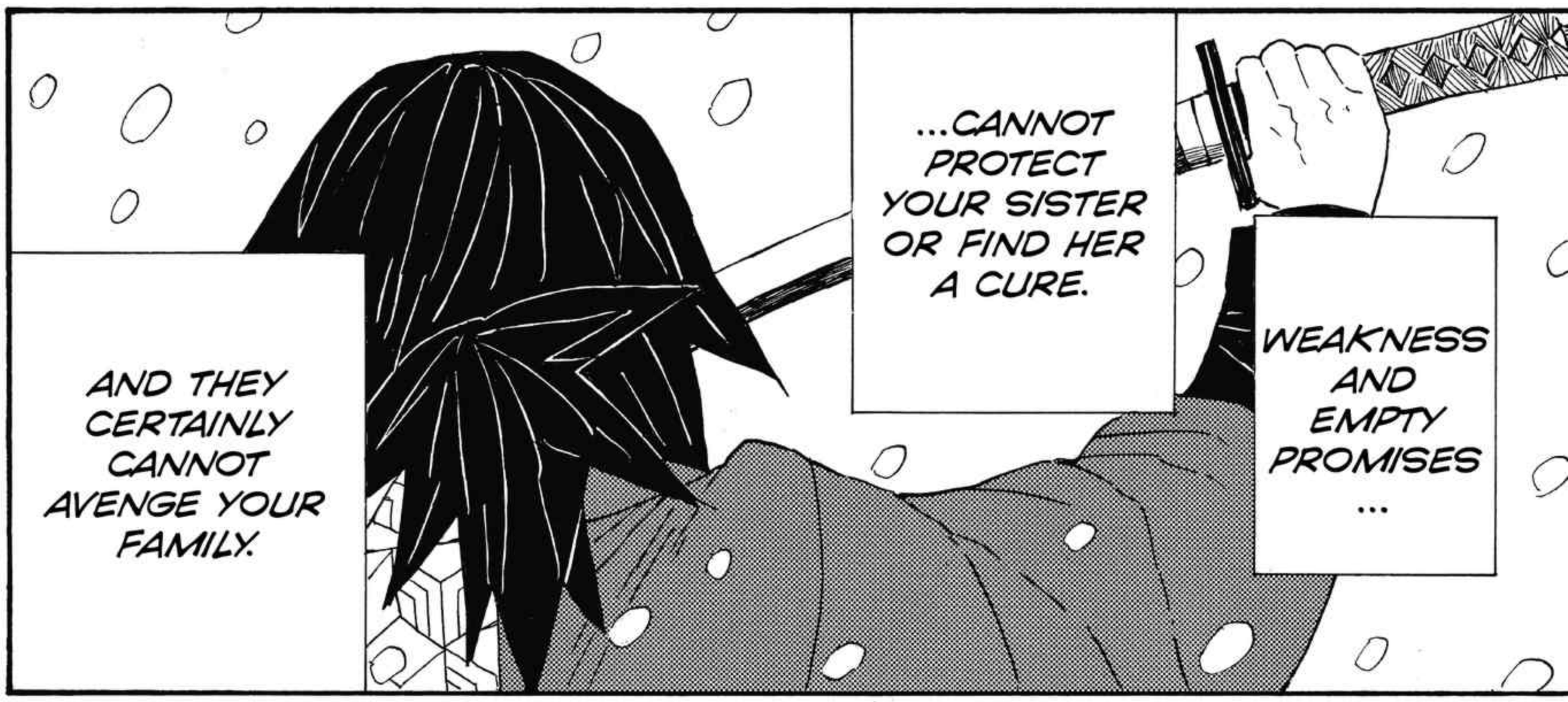
IF I'D COME HALF A DAY SOONER ...

ANGER THAT BECOMES THE UNWAVERING FORCE THAT DRIVES YOUR LIMBS.

...THAT GIVES NO QUARTER.

STRONG, PURE ANGER...

FILL YOUR HEART WITH ANGER.


AND THEY CERTAINLY CANNOT AVENGE YOUR FAMILY.
...CANNOT PROTECT YOUR SISTER OR FIND HER A CURE.
WEAKNESS AND EMPTY PROMISES ...

W...
SHINK
GRAAK!

GHEH
NOOO!
FWIP

キン
ハ

AAAAAH!
HOK

WHAT A FOOL!
A SIMPLE, HEAD-ON ATTACK RELYING ON PURE EMOTION.

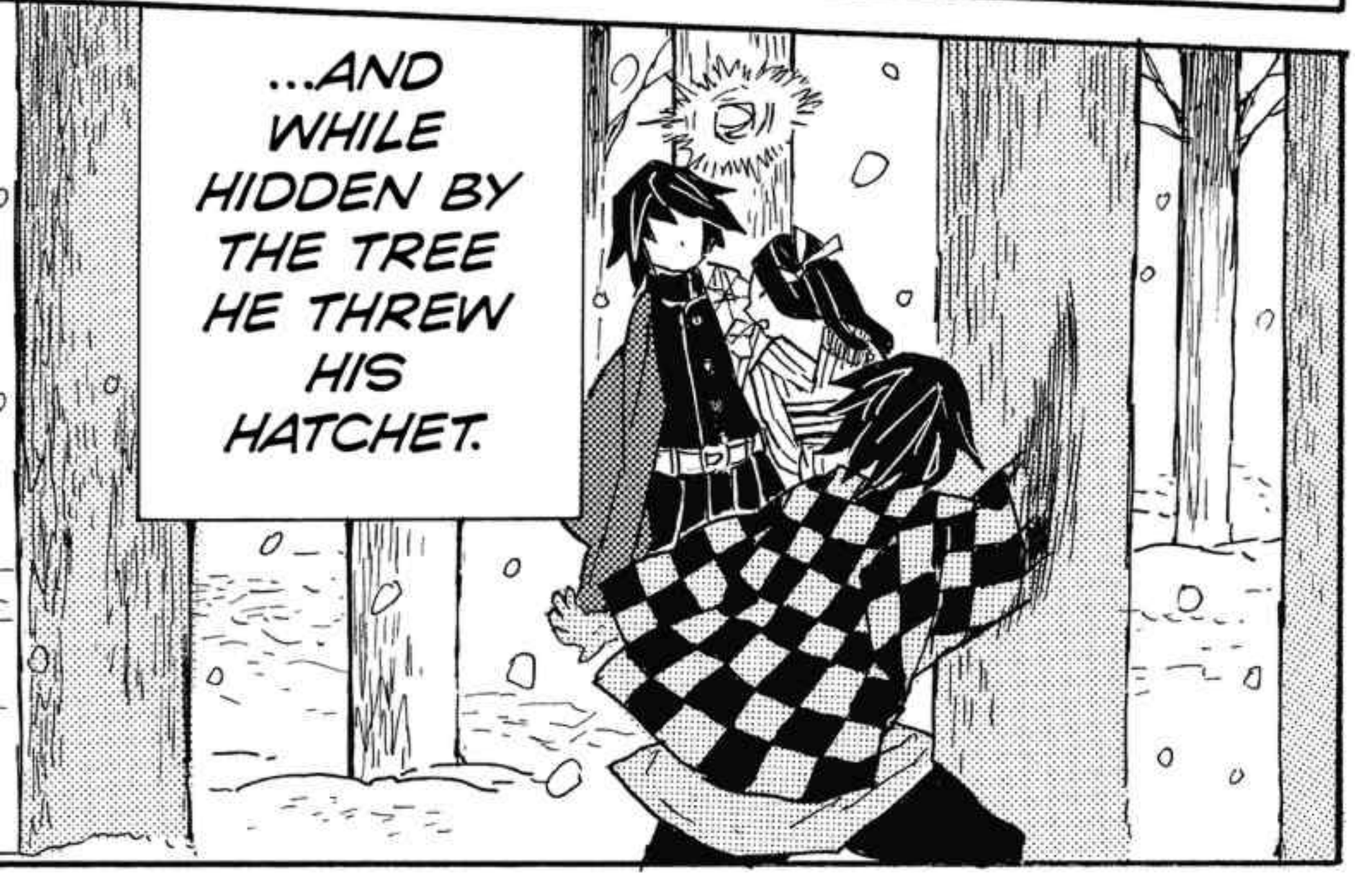
H
滅殺
OK

WHERE IS HIS HATCHET?

FWOOIP
FWOOIP

Thok

JUST BEFORE PASSING BEHIND THE TREE, HE THREW A ROCK...

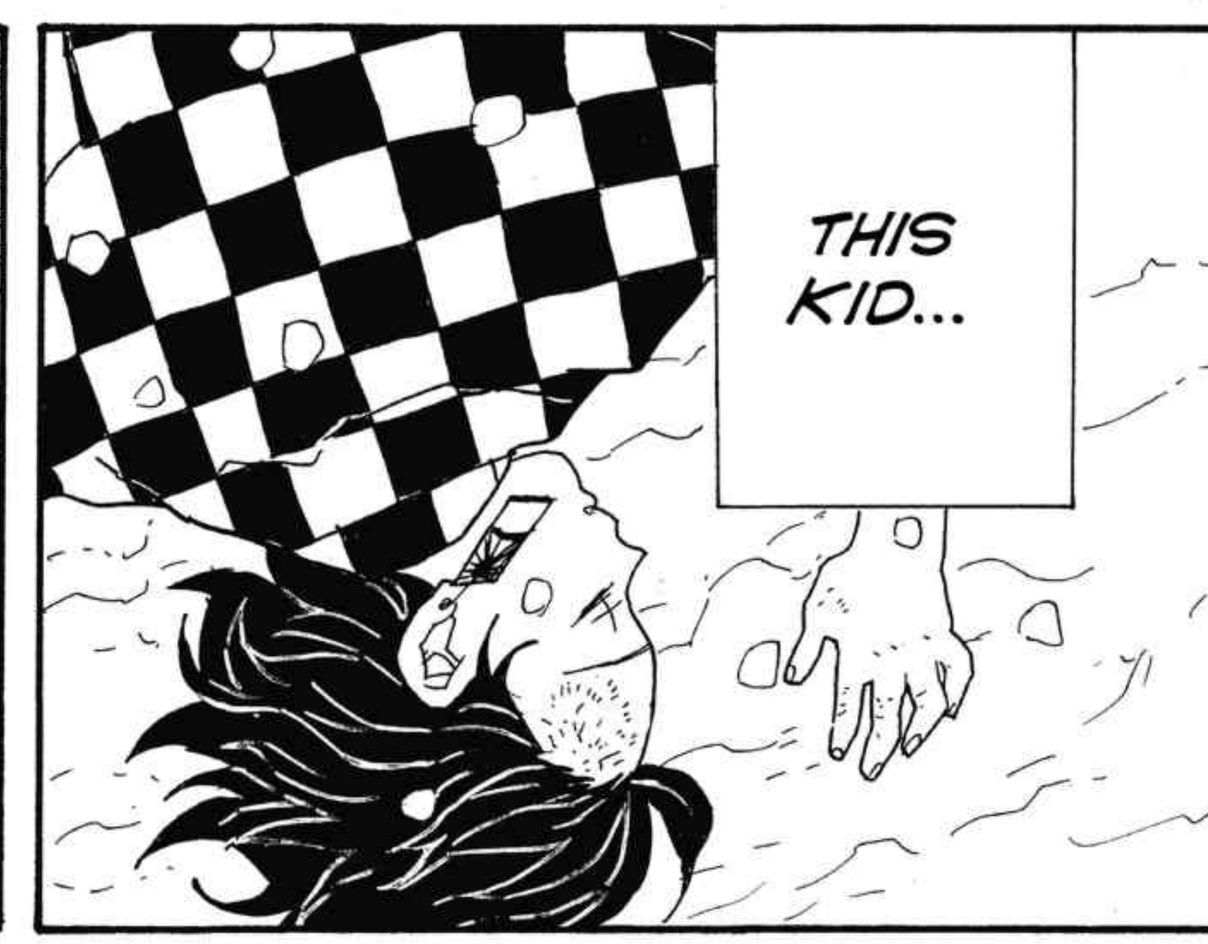

...AND WHILE HIDDEN BY THE TREE HE THREW HIS HATCHET.

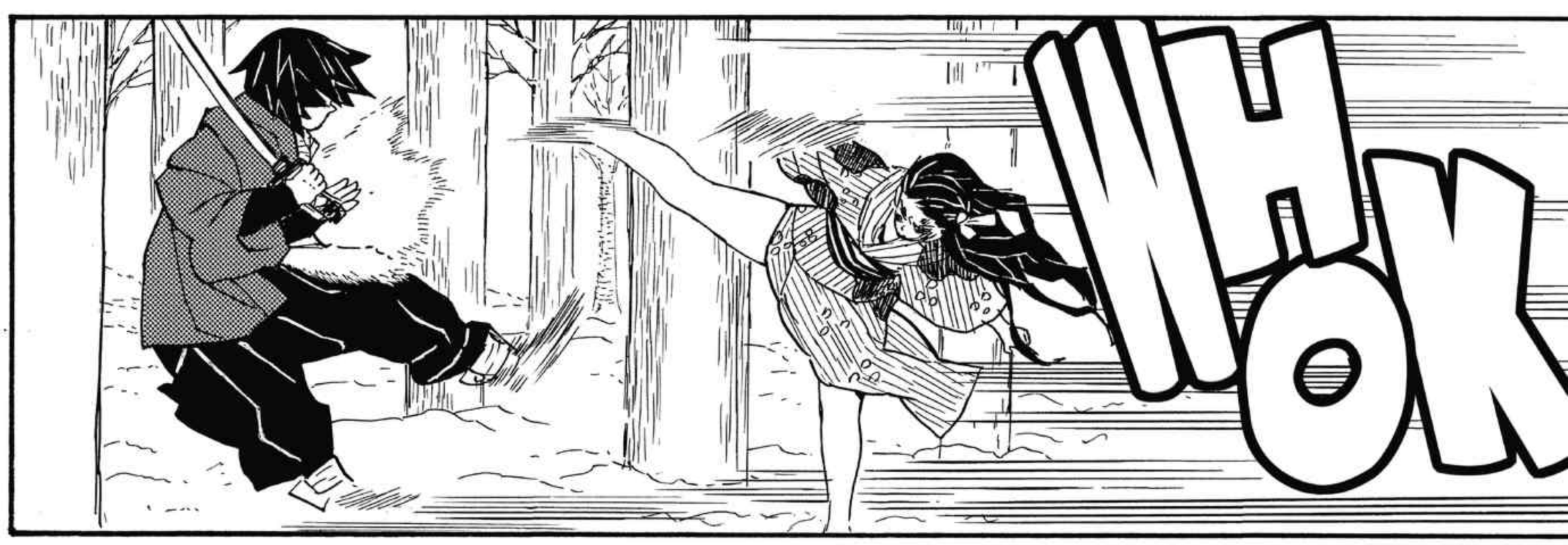
...WAS TO STRIKE ME DOWN AFTER I KILLED HIM.

HE KNEW HE COULDN'T WIN AGAINST ME, SO HIS PLAN...

HE HID HIS HAND SO I WOULDN'T SEE HE WAS UNARMED.

GRAAR!

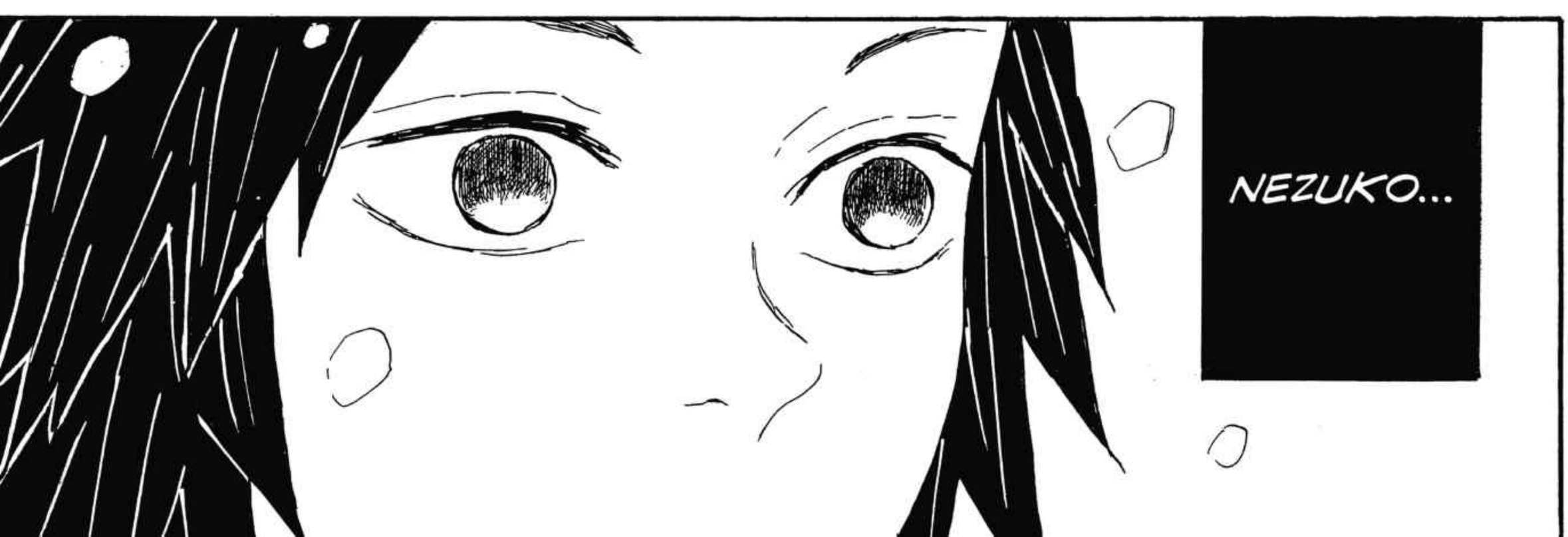

THIS KID...


HOK

NO! I'M TOO LATE!

SKE

SHE'S ABOUT TO EAT HIM!


NEZUKO...

NEZUKO WOULD NEVER EAT ANYONE!

NOT NEZUKO!

BECAUSE THEY NEED THE ENERGY.

I'VE SEEN IT COUNTLESS TIMES.

STARVING DEMONS WILL KILL AND EAT THEIR OWN PARENTS AND SIBLINGS.

...AND MUST WANT TO EAT HUMAN FLESH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

...NOT TO MENTION THE STRENGTH IT TOOK TO TRANSFORM INTO A DEMON. SHE MUST BE DOUBLY STARVED RIGHT NOW...

THIS GIRL IS INJURED. IT COSTS HER STRENGTH ...

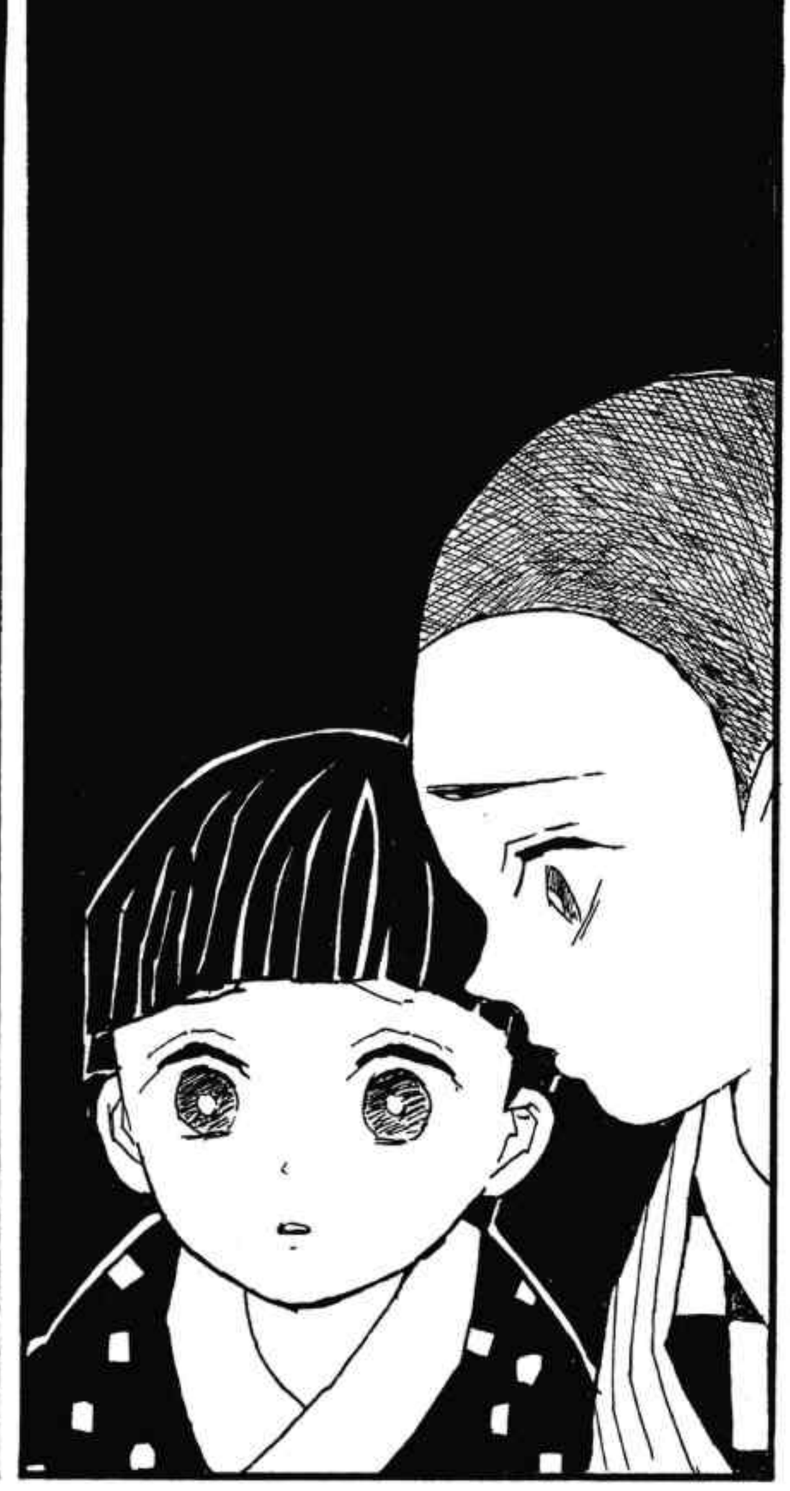
...TO HEAL THAT WOUND...

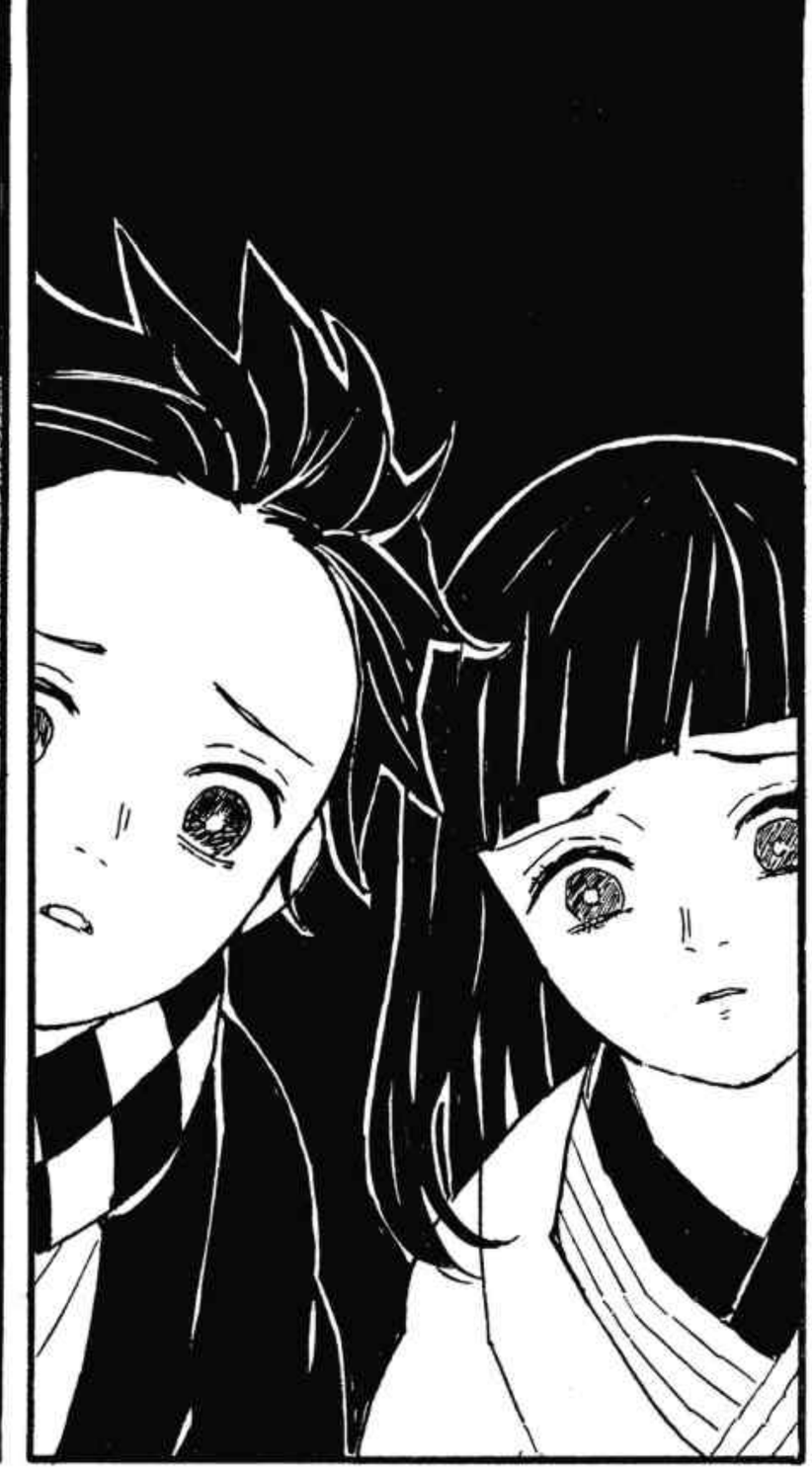
...AND FOCUSING HER ANGER ON ME.

BUT SHE'S PROTECTING HIM...

THESE TWO MAY BE DIFFERENT.

WHAK

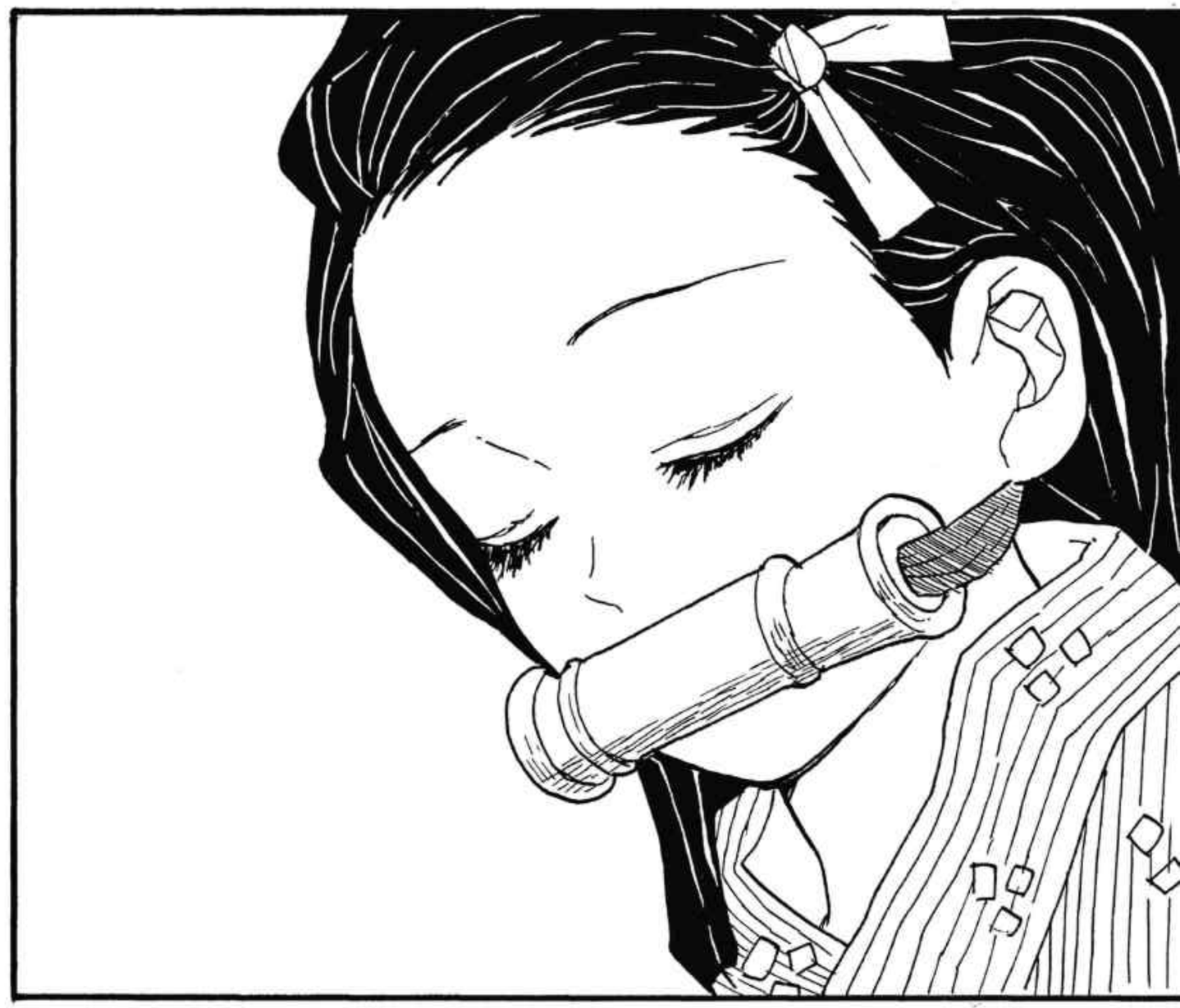




I'M SORRY I HAD TO LEAVE YOU, TANJIRO.
TAKE CARE OF NEZUKO.

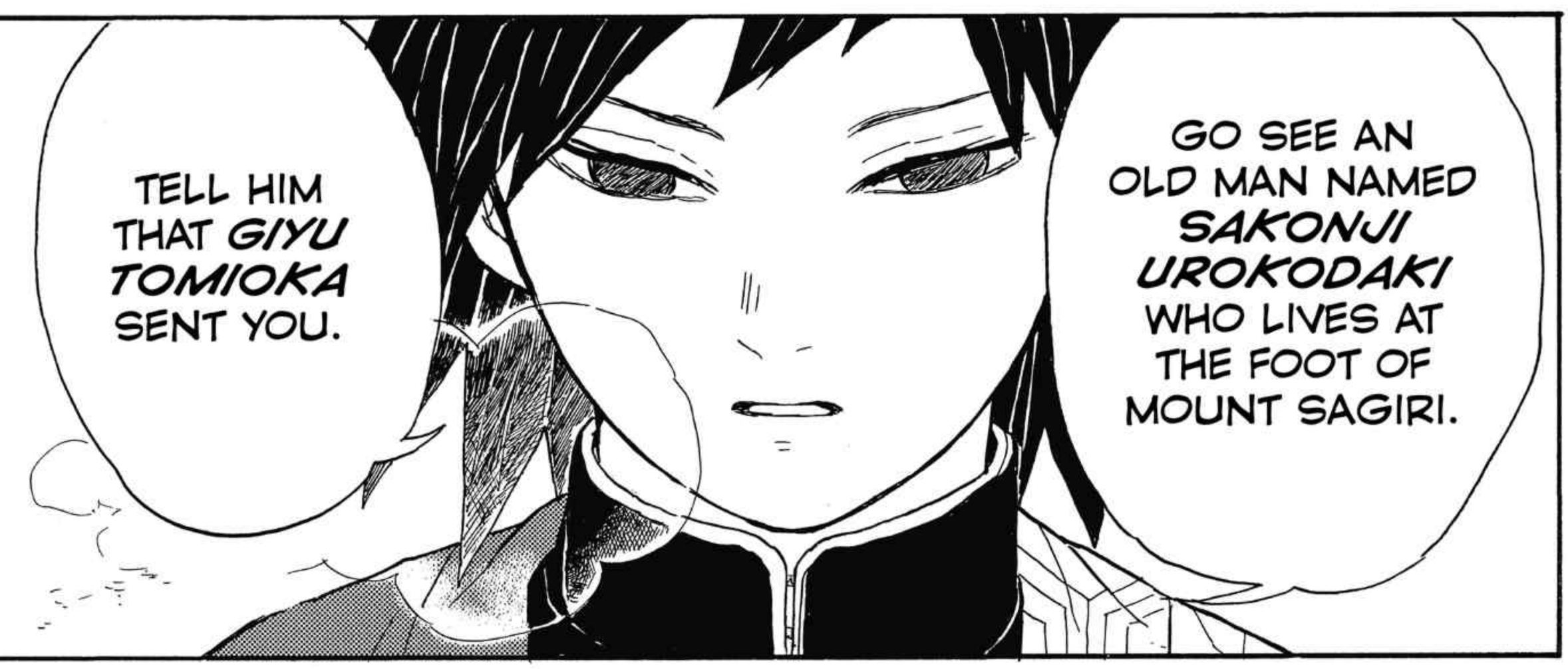
ザッ

HFF
HFF
HFF

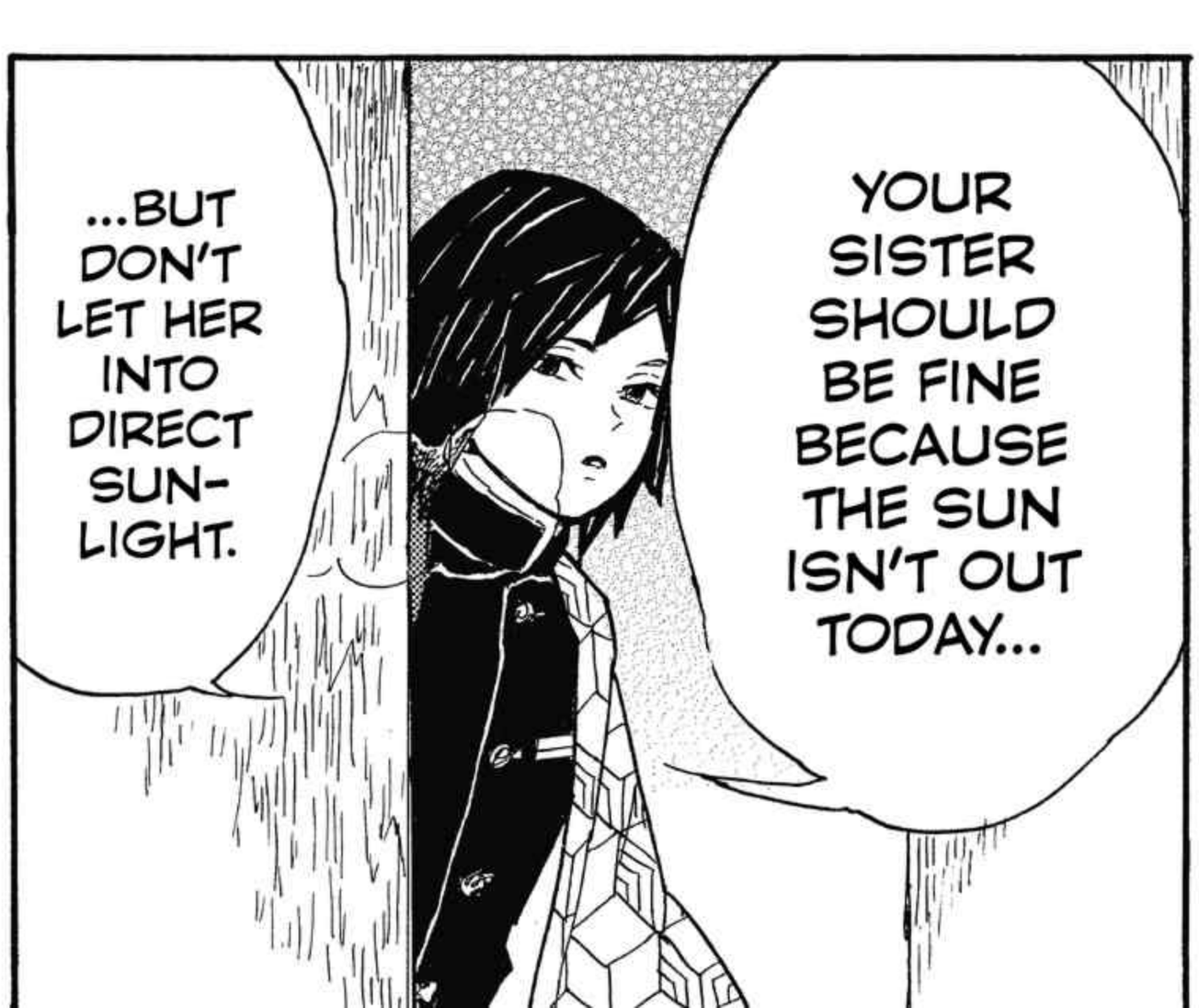


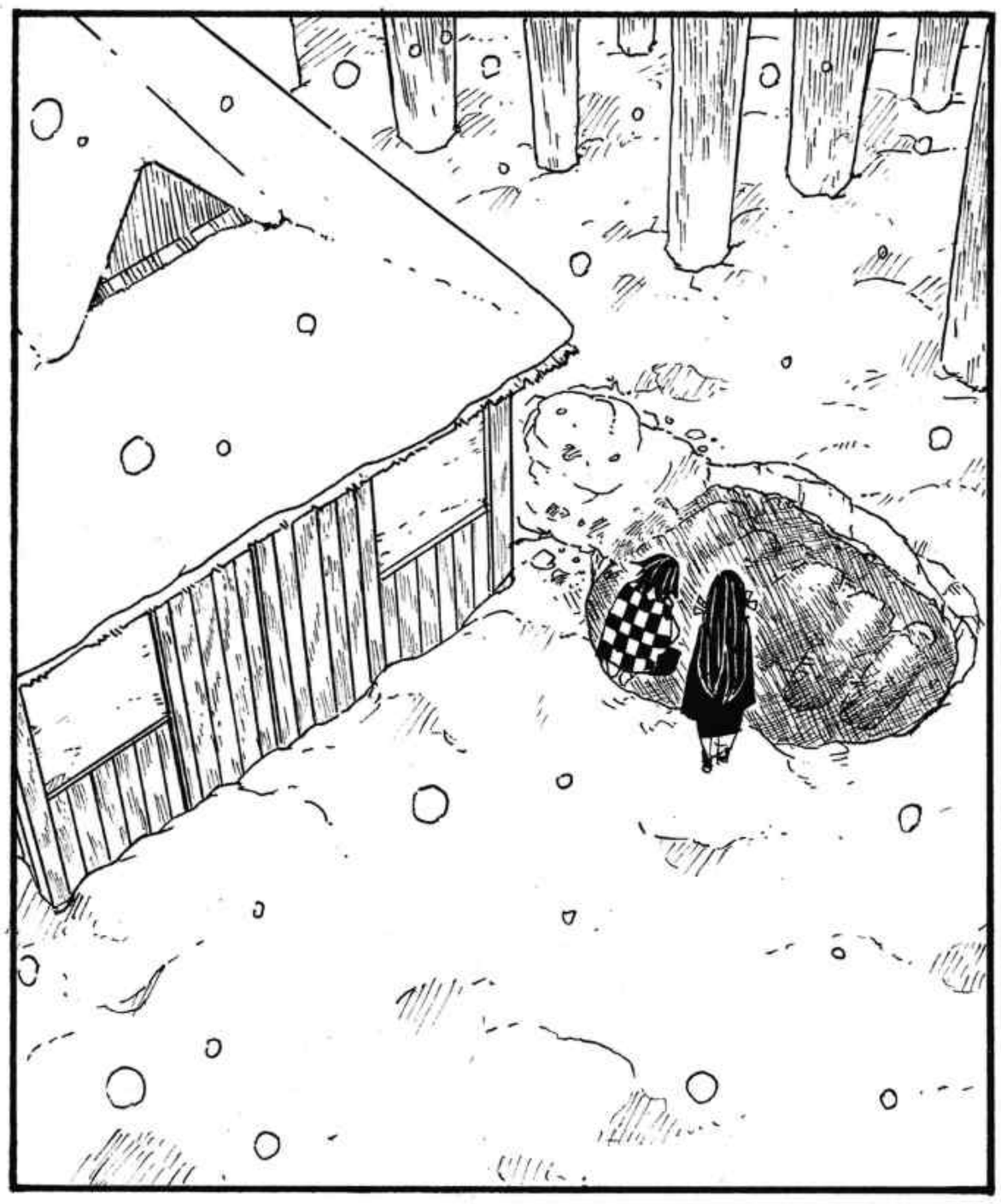
HWSH

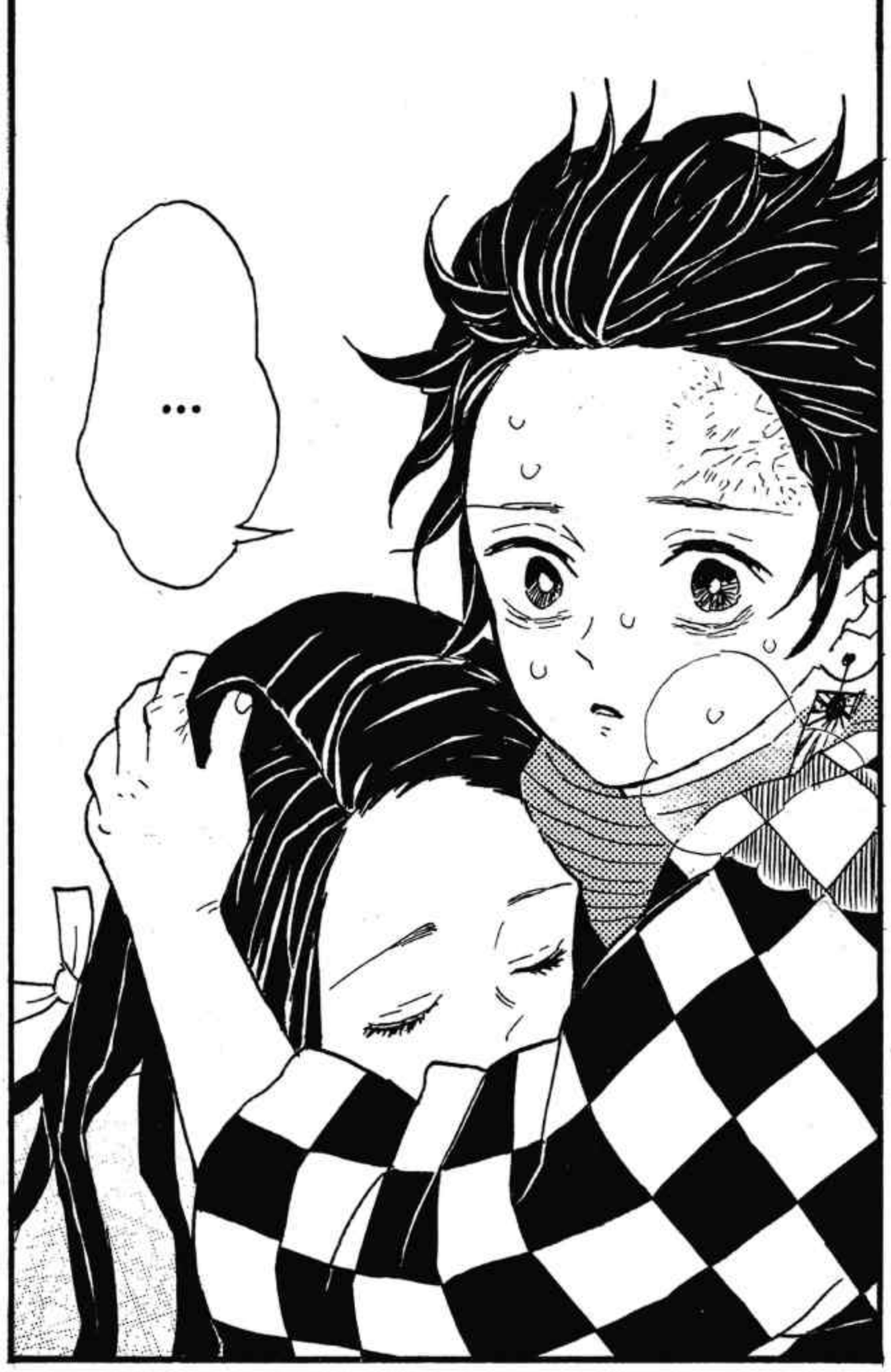
YOU'RE AWAKE?
MMPH

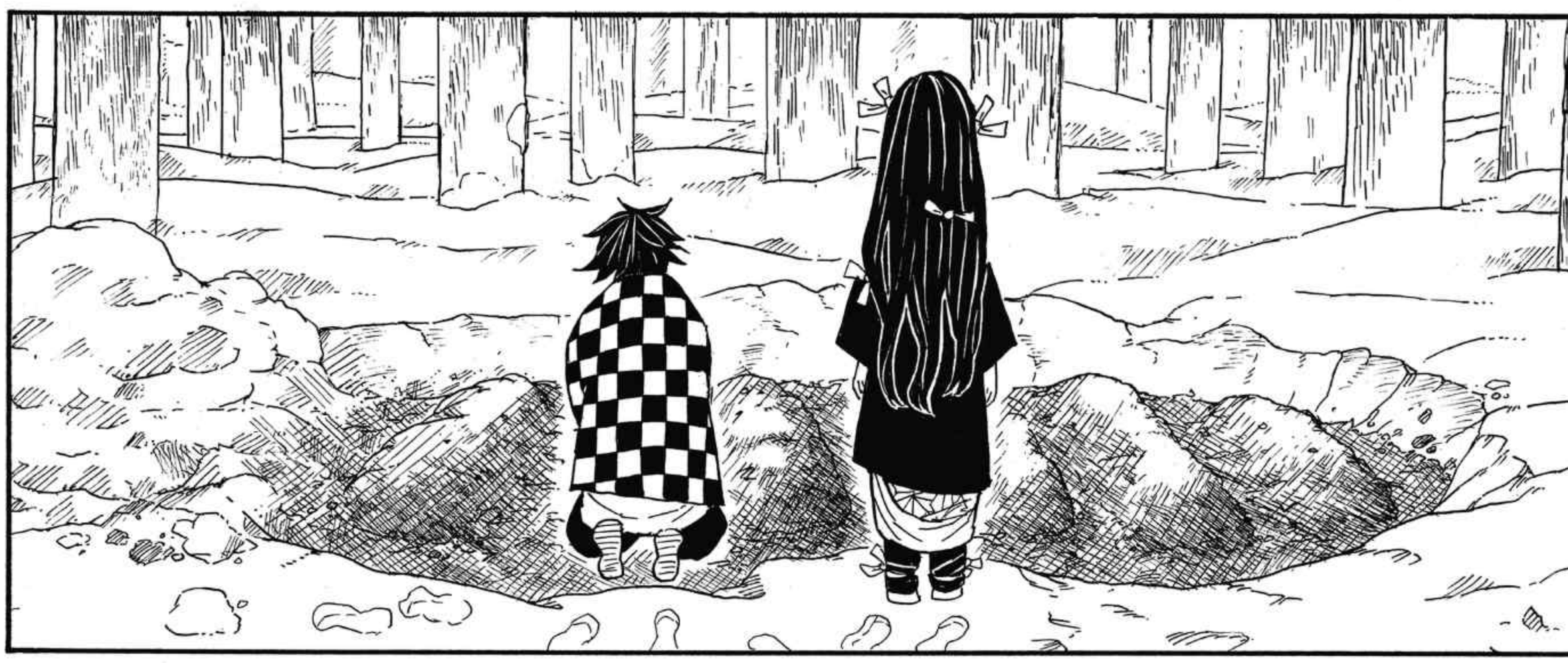

TELL HIM THAT *GIYU TOMIOKA* SENT YOU.
GO SEE AN OLD MAN NAMED *SAKONJI UROKODAKI* WHO LIVES AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT SAGIRI.

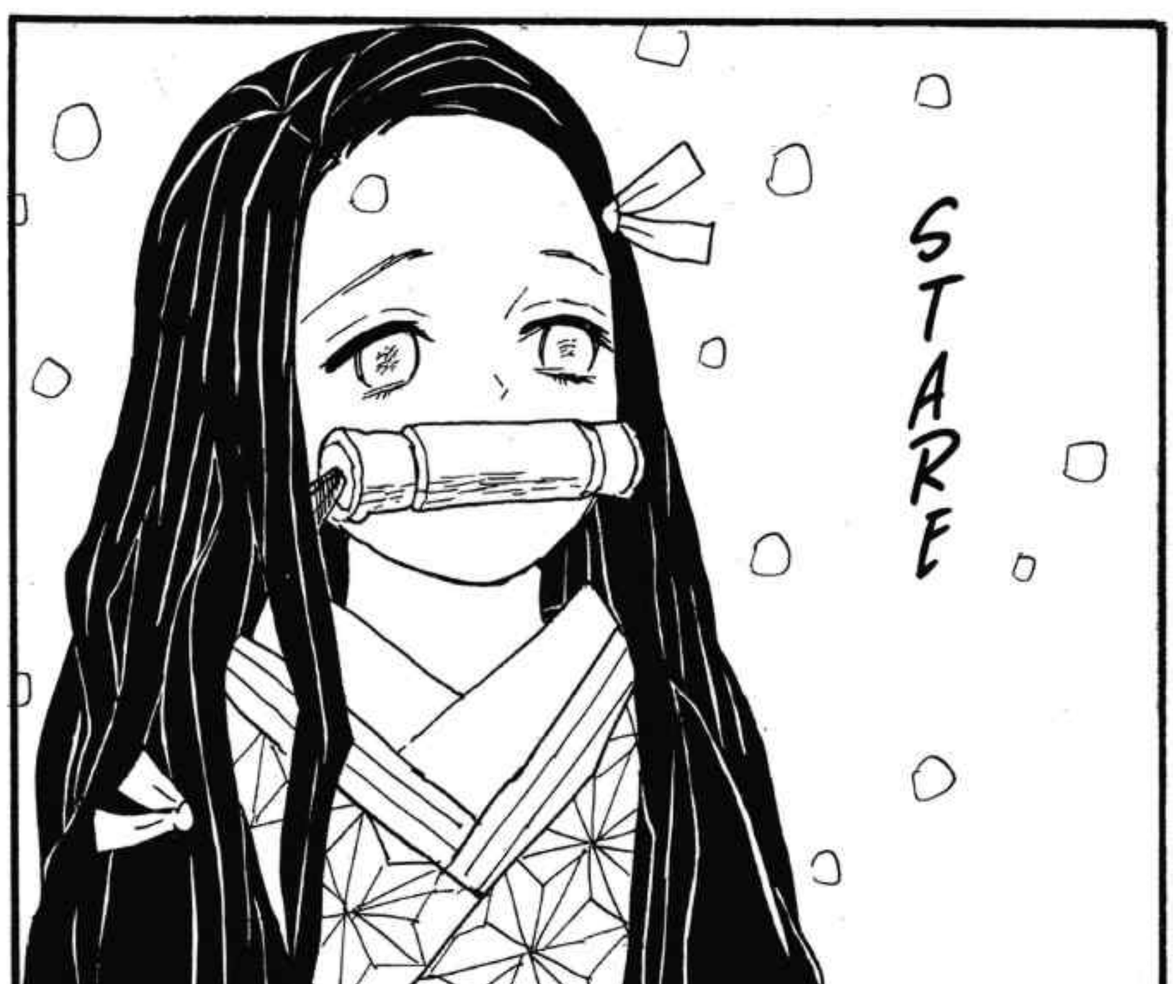
WHSH

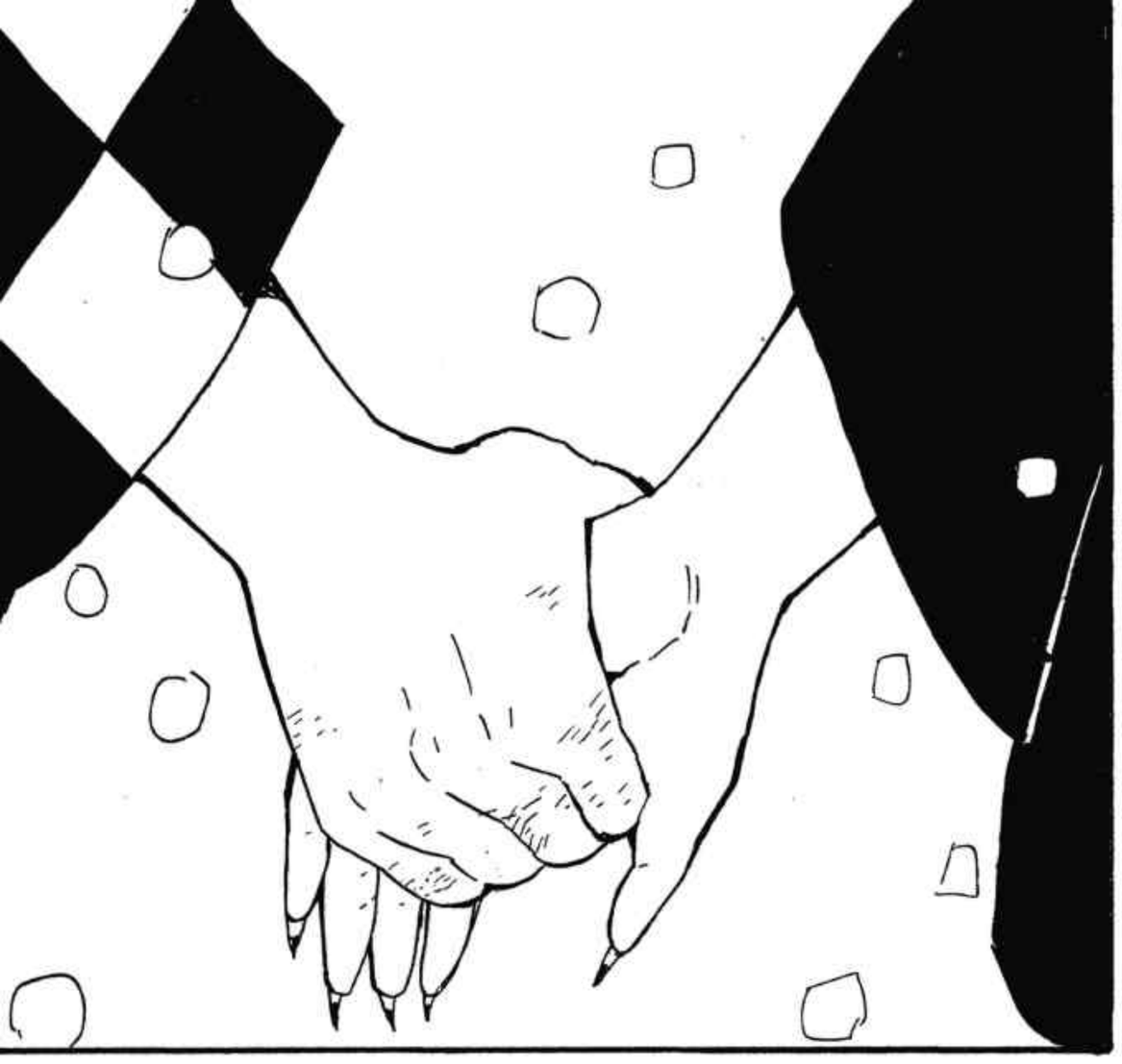

...BUT DON'T LET HER INTO DIRECT SUN-LIGHT.
YOUR SISTER SHOULD BE FINE BECAUSE THE SUN ISN'T OUT TODAY...



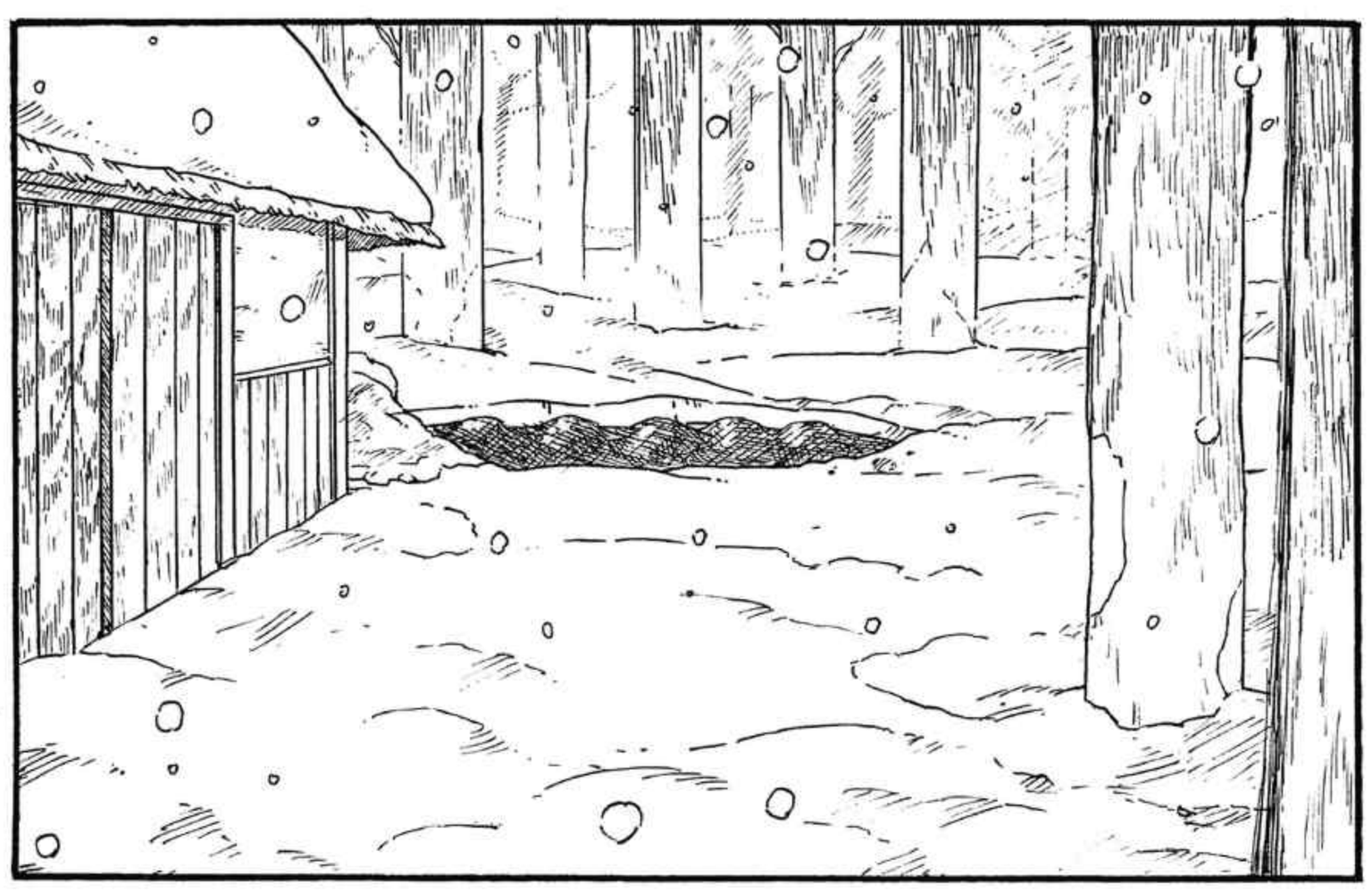

...




STARE

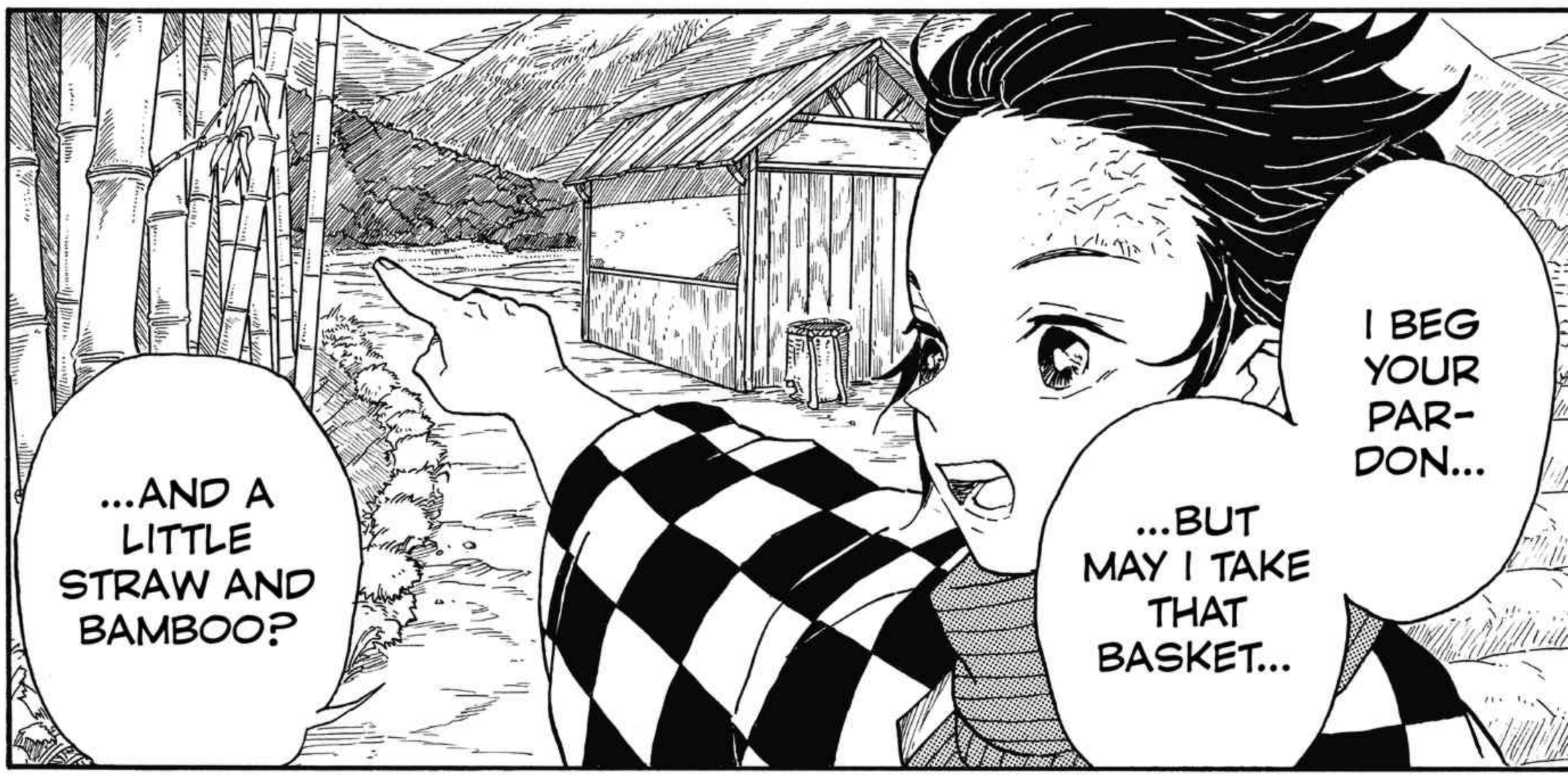


LET'S GO.

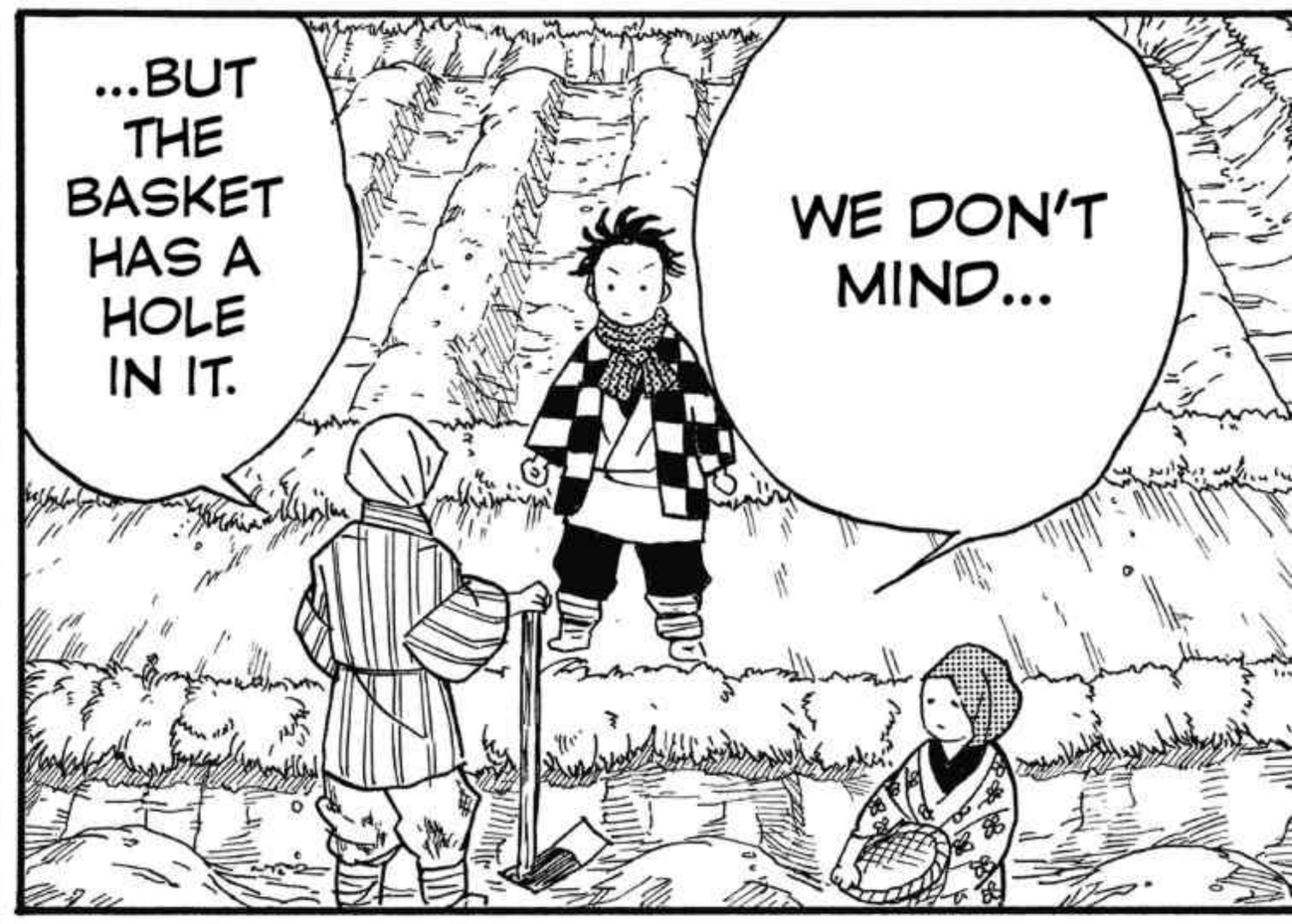


PRODUCTION ART, ILLUSTRATION ①

CHAPTER 2: THE STRANGER


...AND A LITTLE STRAW AND BAMBOO?
I BEG YOUR PAR-DON...
...BUT MAY I TAKE THAT BASKET...

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. CAN I PAY YOU?
NO NEED. IT'S A BROKEN BASKET.


...BUT THE BASKET HAS A HOLE IN IT.
WE DON'T MIND...

WE DON'T WANT IT!
BUT I *WANT* TO PAY!
WHAT A STUB-BORN KID!

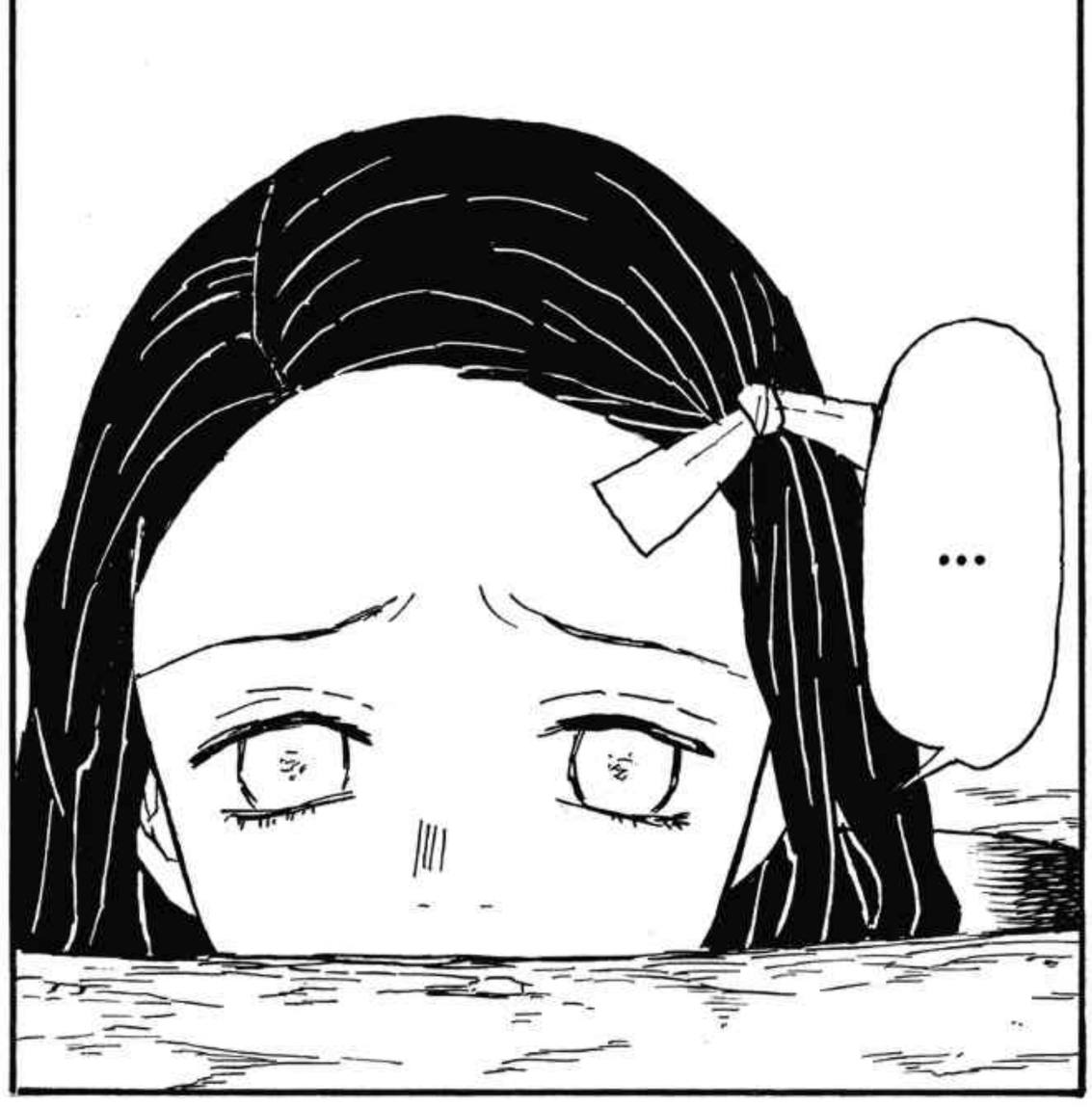
NO, THANK YOU.
SHAKE SHAKE
PLEASE LET ME PAY.
YOU CAN HAVE THE OTHER STUFF TOO.

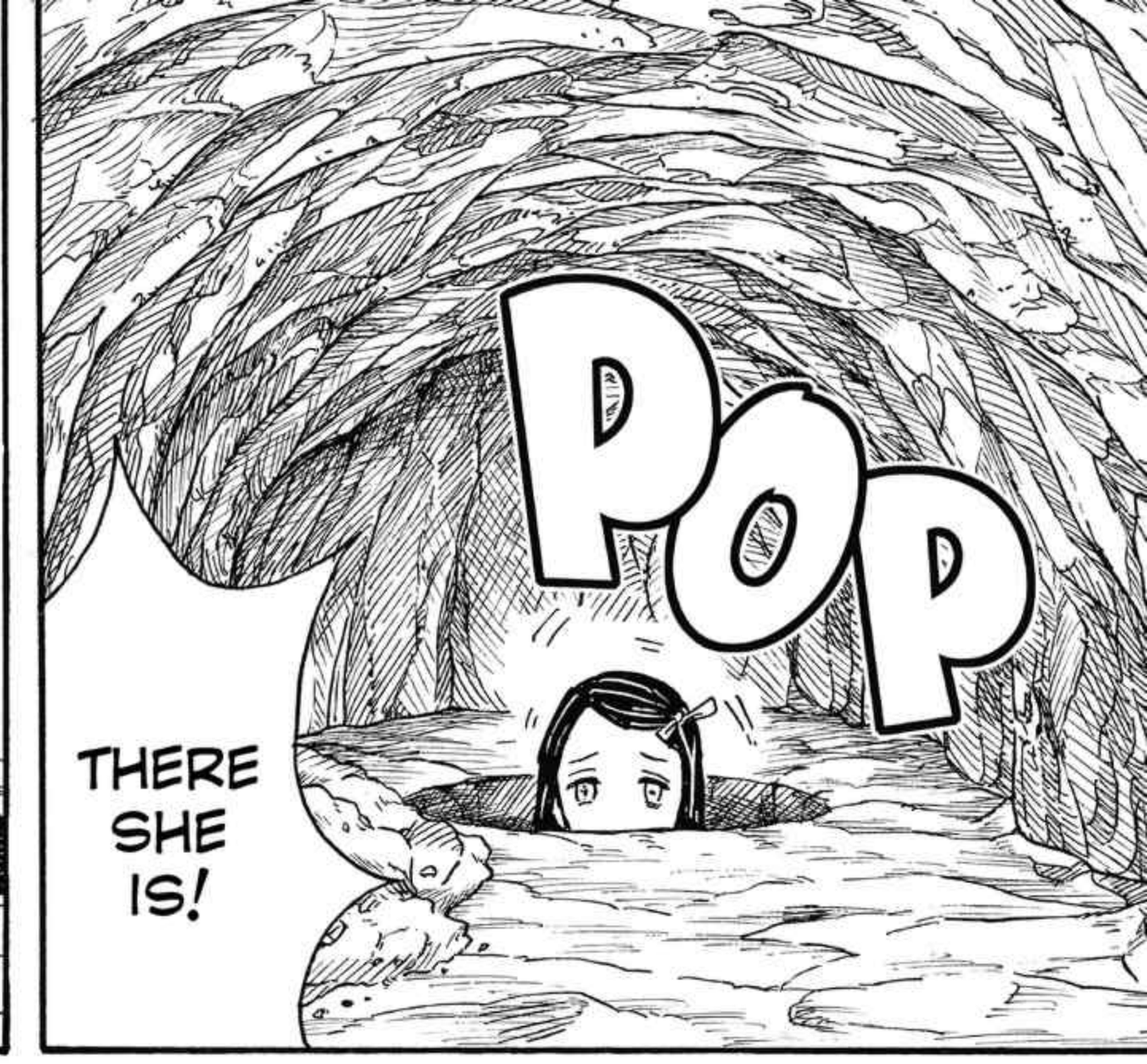
SMACK

JUST TAKE IT! IT'S ONLY A FEW COINS ANYWAY!

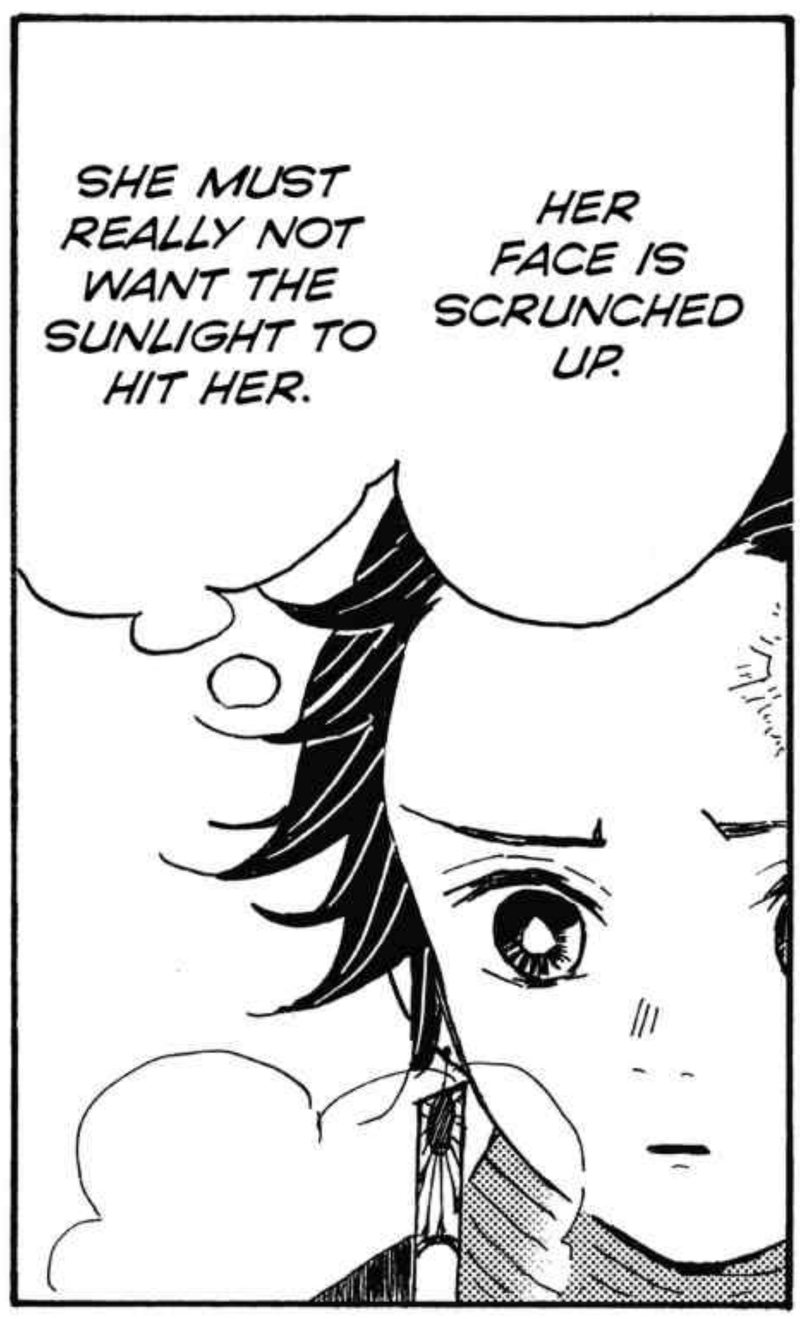
OWWW!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

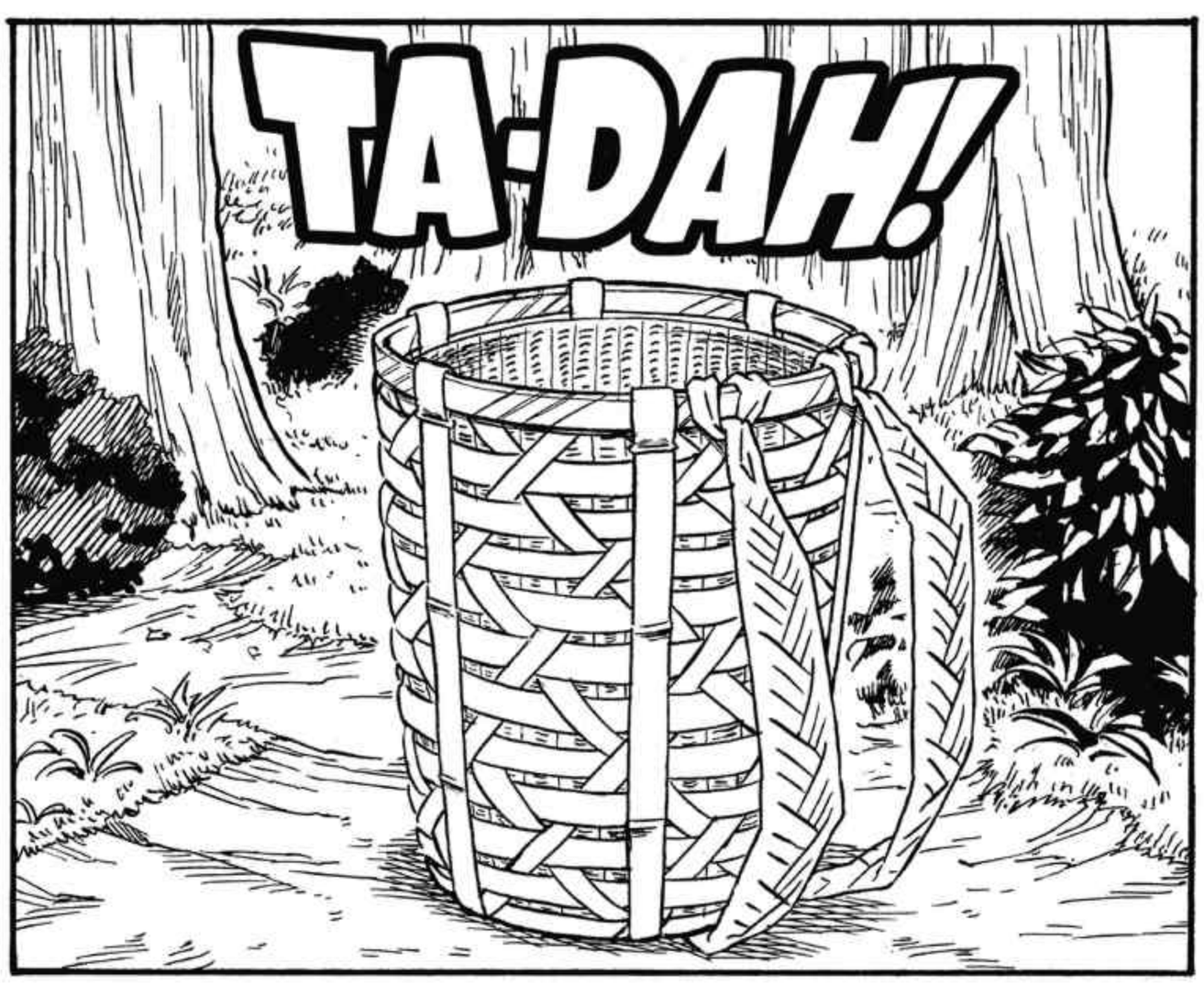

...


POP
THERE SHE IS!

JUST WAIT.


SHE MUST REALLY NOT WANT THE SUNLIGHT TO HIT HER.
HER FACE IS SCRUNCHED UP.

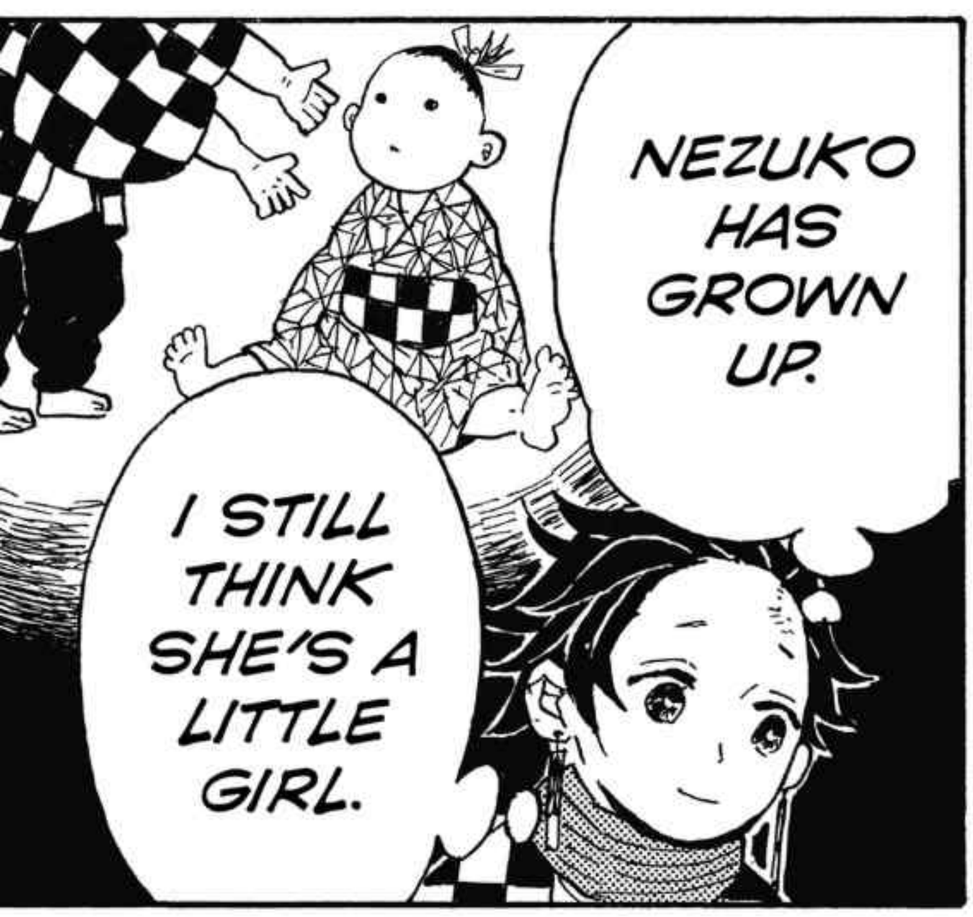
MY SISTER IS LIKE A MOLE NOW.
DID SHE DIG THAT HOLE?

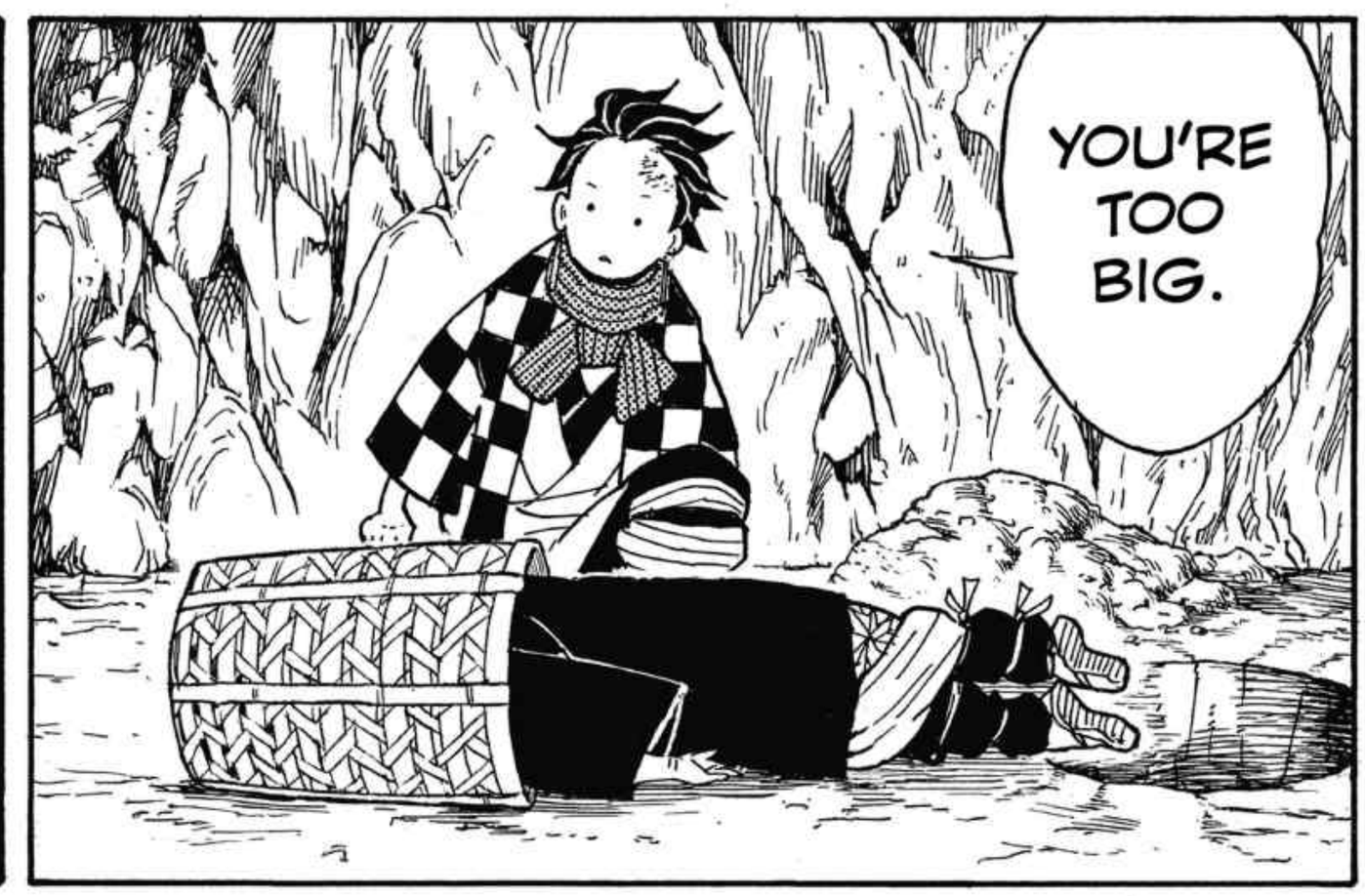

TA-DAH!

FWIK
FWIK
FWIK

...
GET IN.
HERE.
THE BASKET.

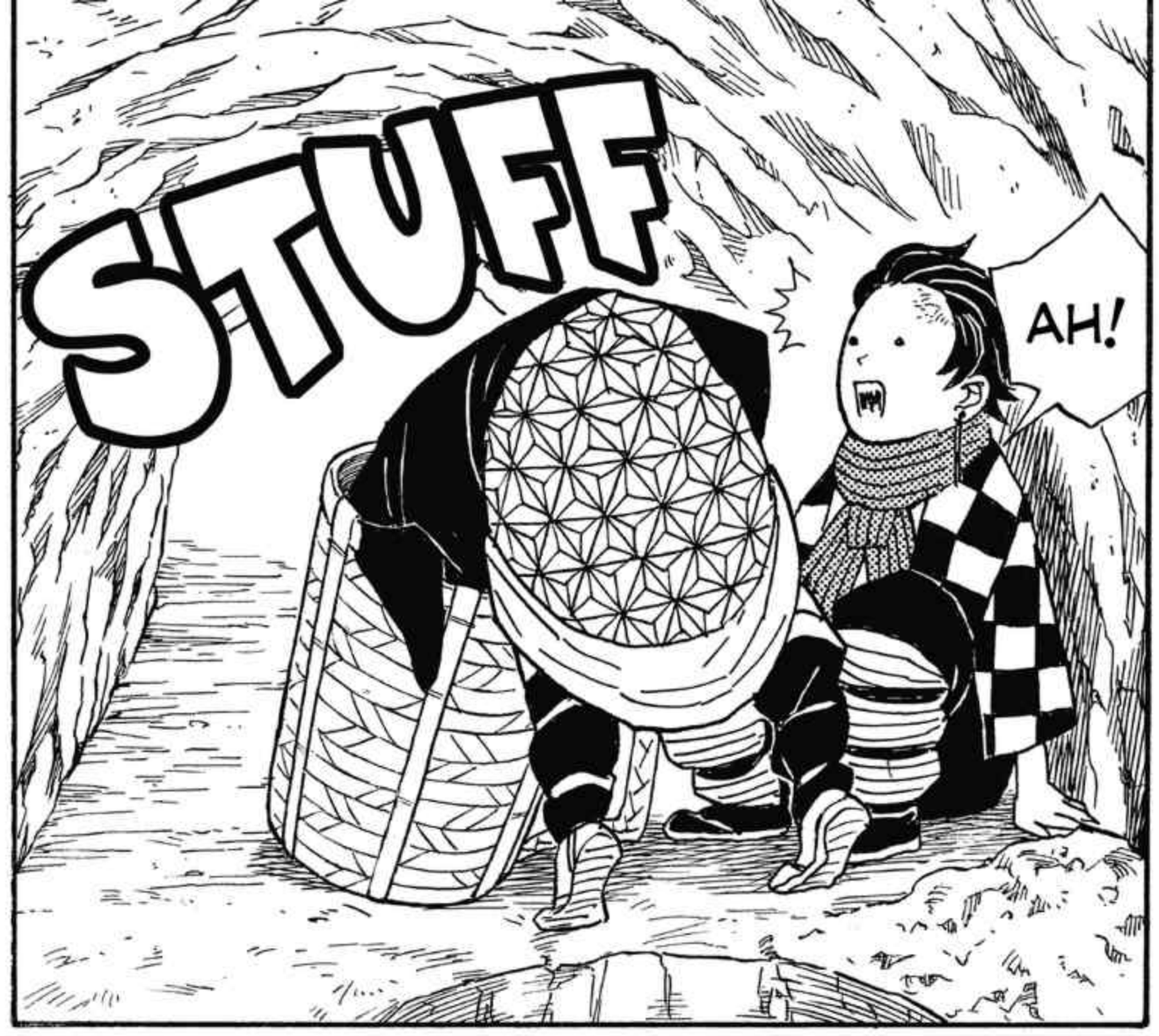
I WANT US TO TRAVEL DURING THE DAY.
WILL YOU FIT IN HERE?
I'LL CARRY YOU.

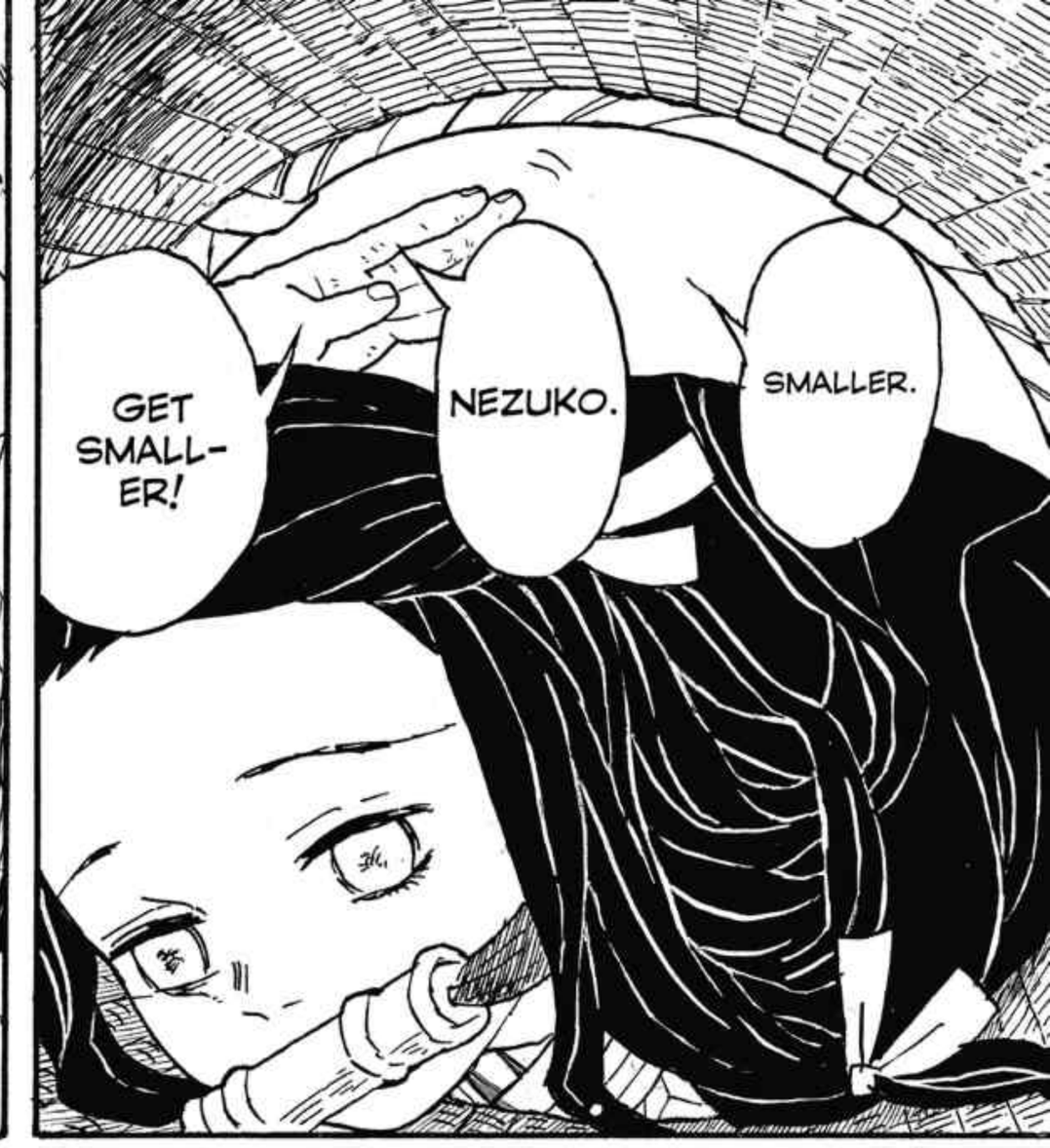

NEZUKO HAS GROWN UP.
I STILL THINK SHE'S A LITTLE GIRL.


YOU'RE TOO BIG.

...RE-VERSE THAT...
...AND GET SMALLER?
NEZUKO ...
...YOU'RE AS BIG AS AN ADULT. CAN YOU...

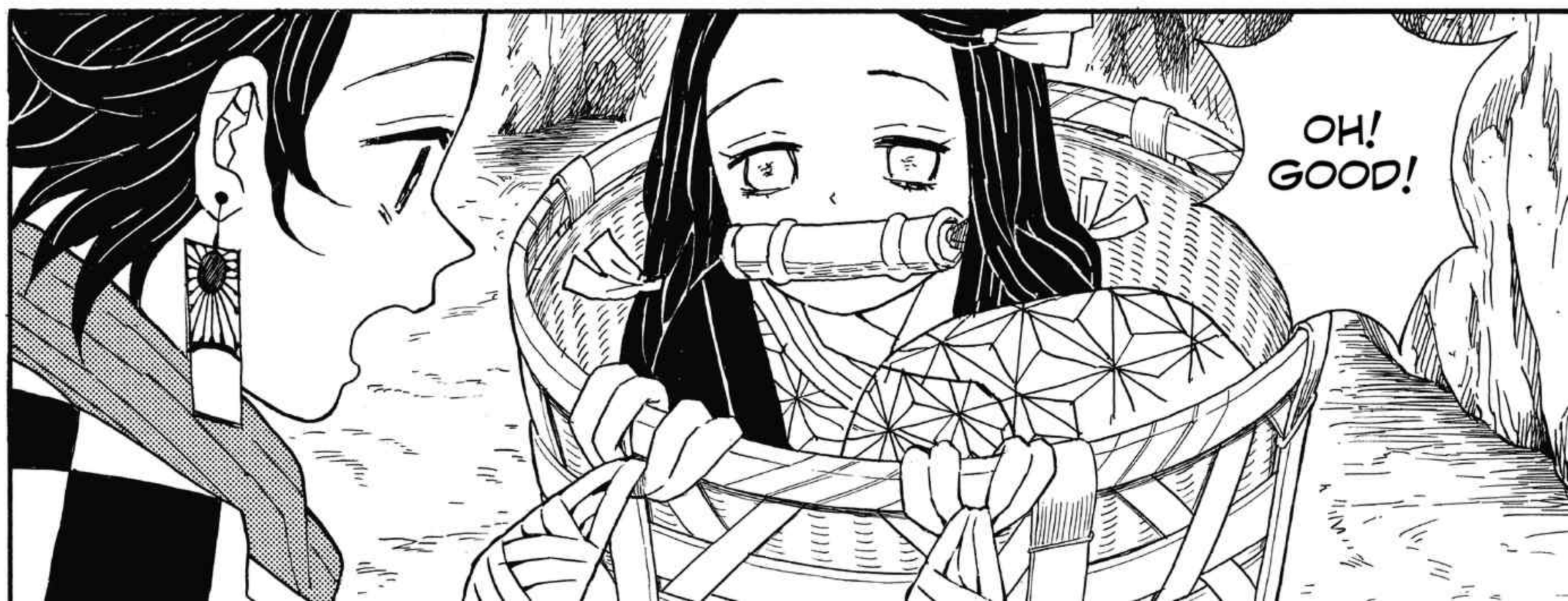
HMM?

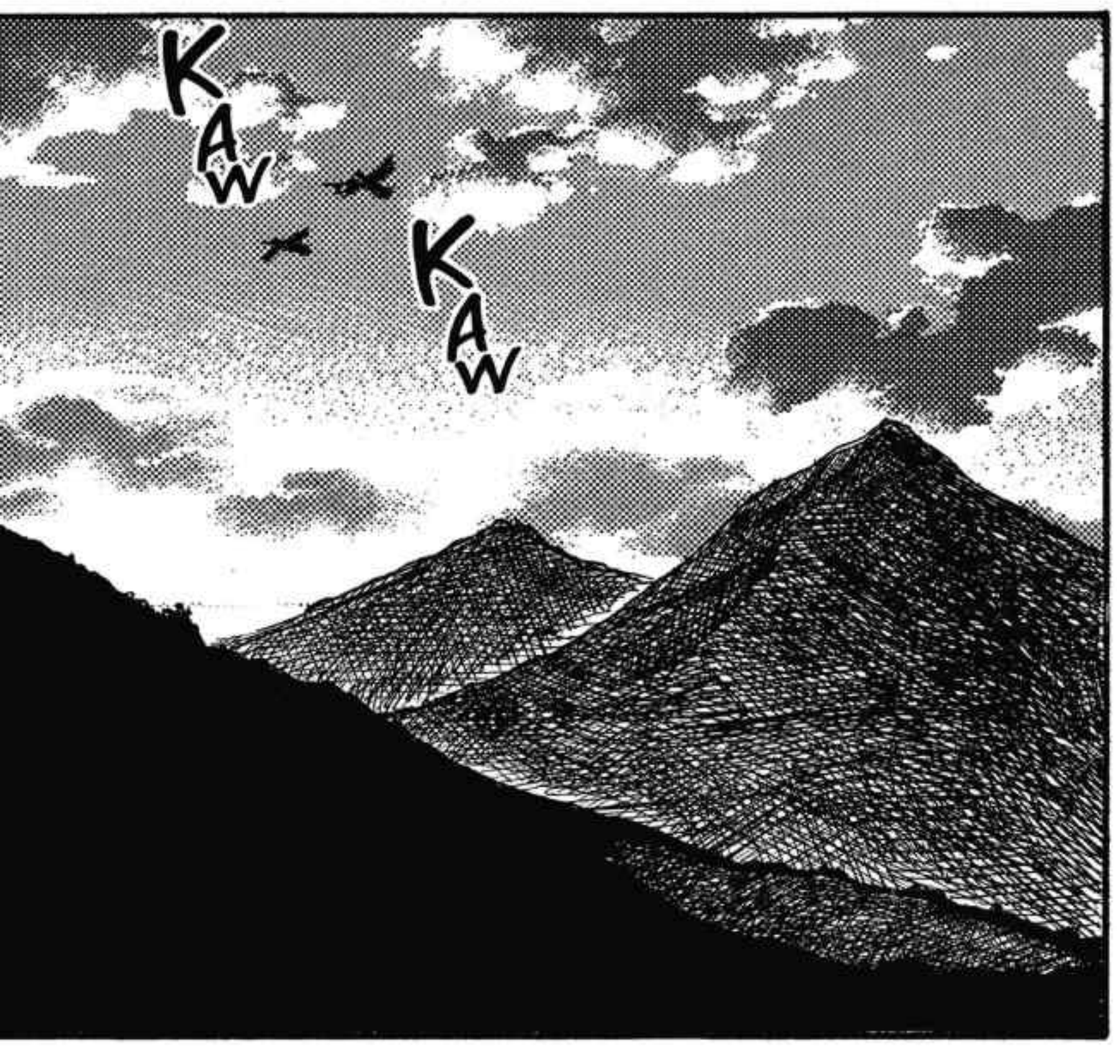

STUFF
AH!


GET SMALL-ER!
NEZUKO.
SMALLER.

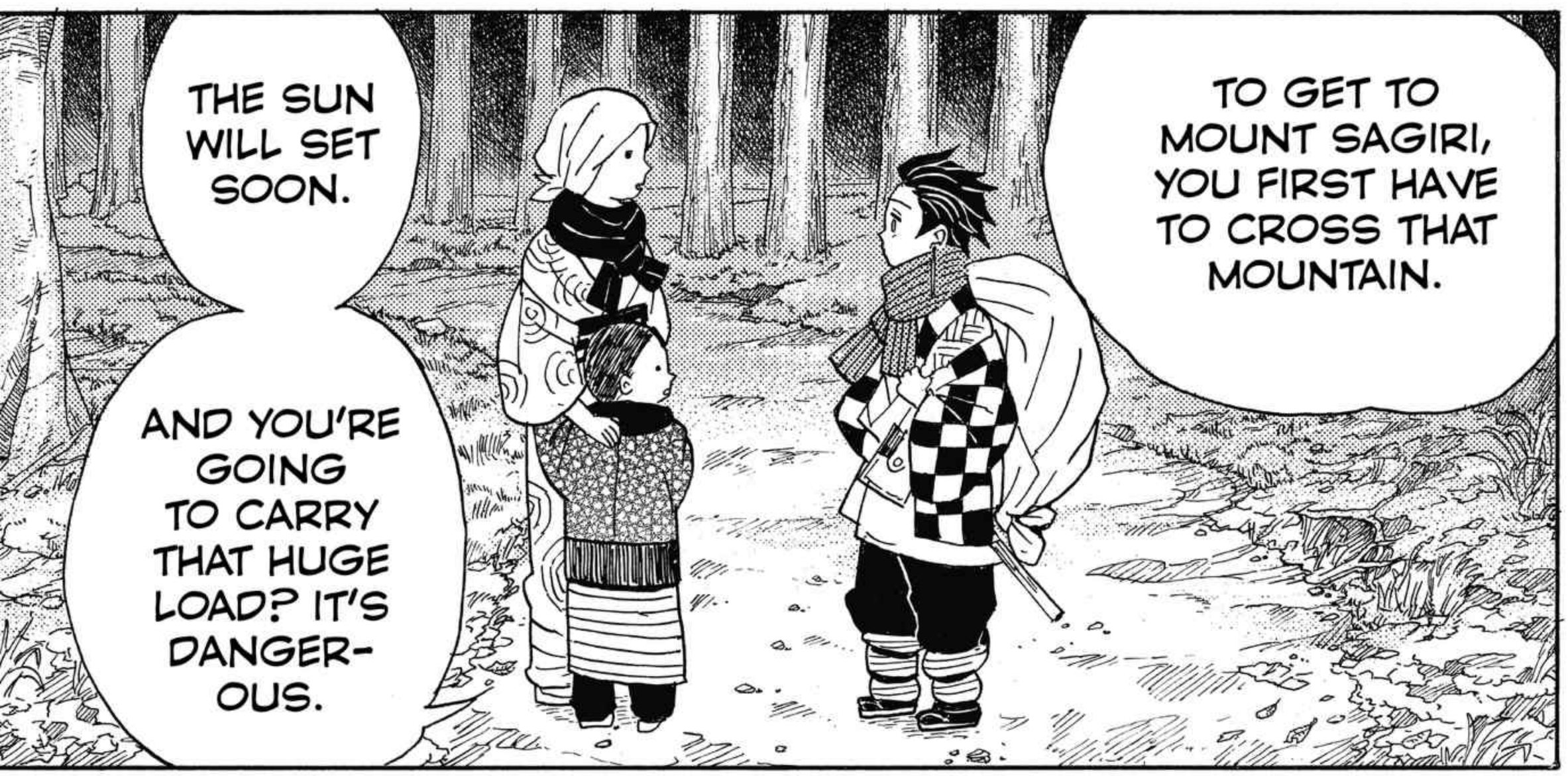
FLOP
FLOP

FWOP
YEOW!

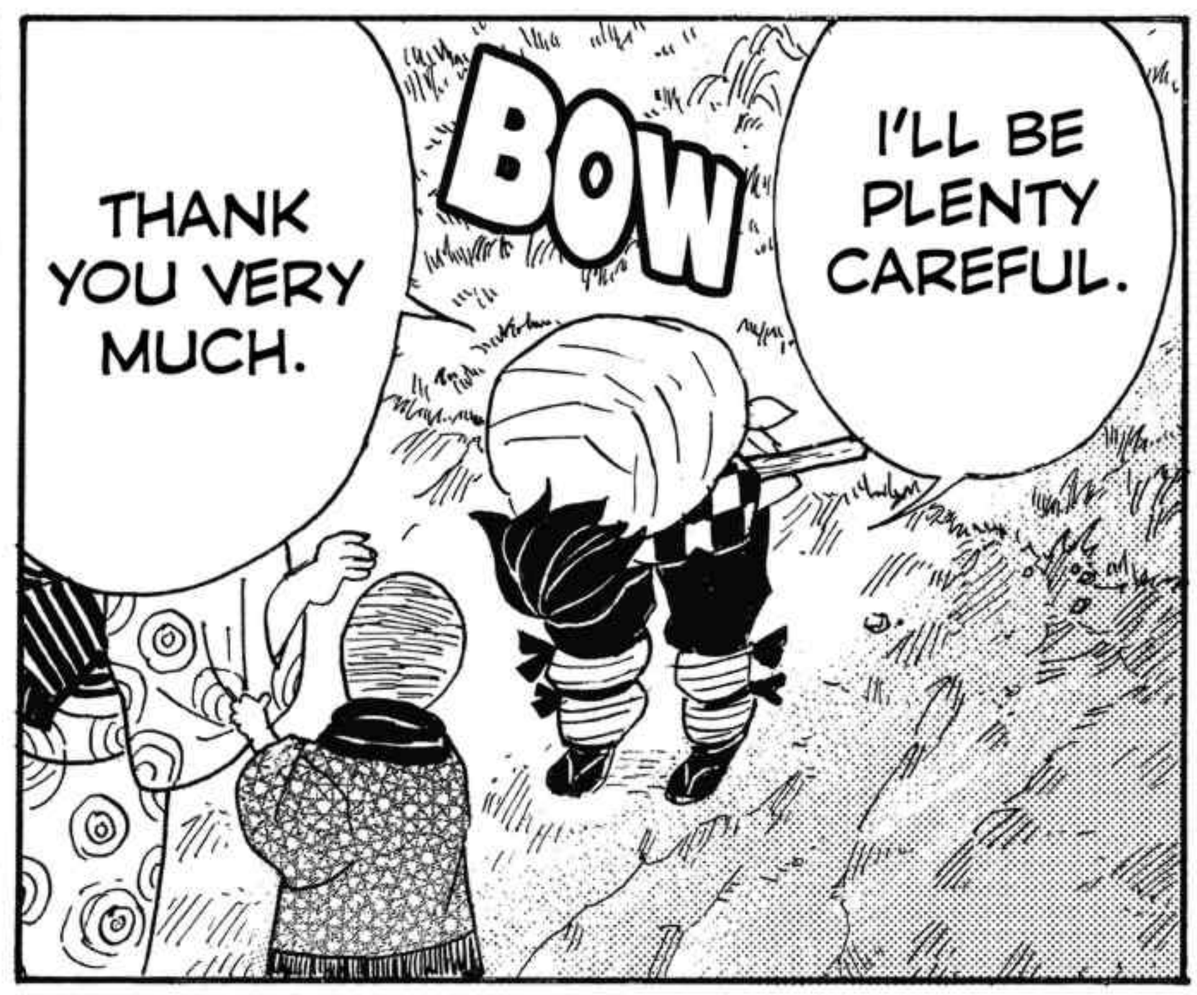

OH! GOOD!

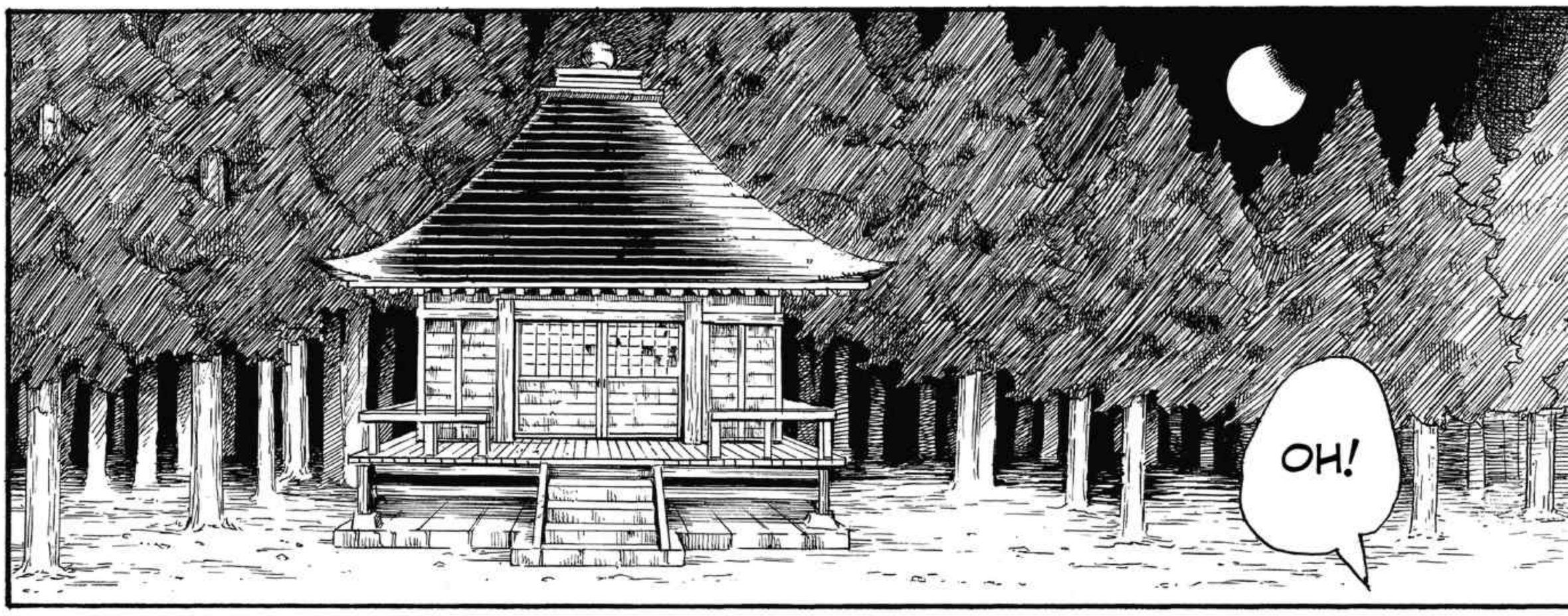

KAW
KAW

GOOD GIRL, NEZUKO!
I'M IMPRESSED!
PAT PAT
THAT'S PERFECT!


THE SUN WILL SET SOON.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO CARRY THAT HUGE LOAD? IT'S DANGER-OUS.
TO GET TO MOUNT SAGIRI, YOU FIRST HAVE TO CROSS THAT MOUNTAIN.

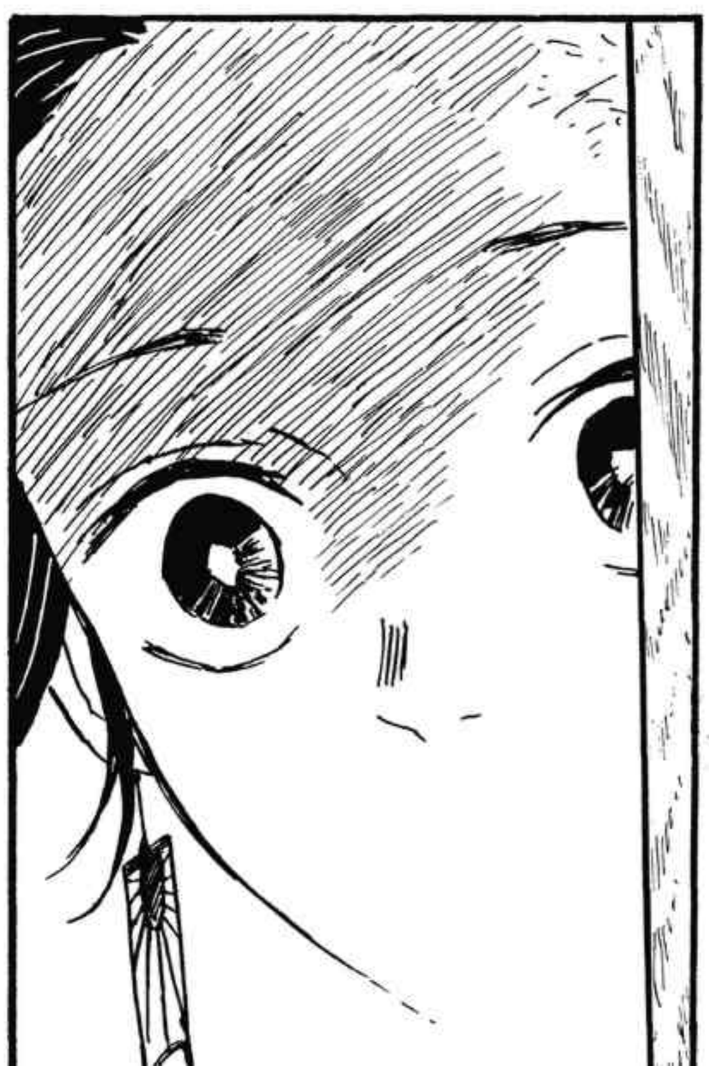
...SO DON'T GET LOST!
PEOPLE REALLY DO DISAPPEAR UP THERE...


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BOW
I'LL BE PLENTY CAREFUL.


OH!

!!
I SMELL BLOOD!

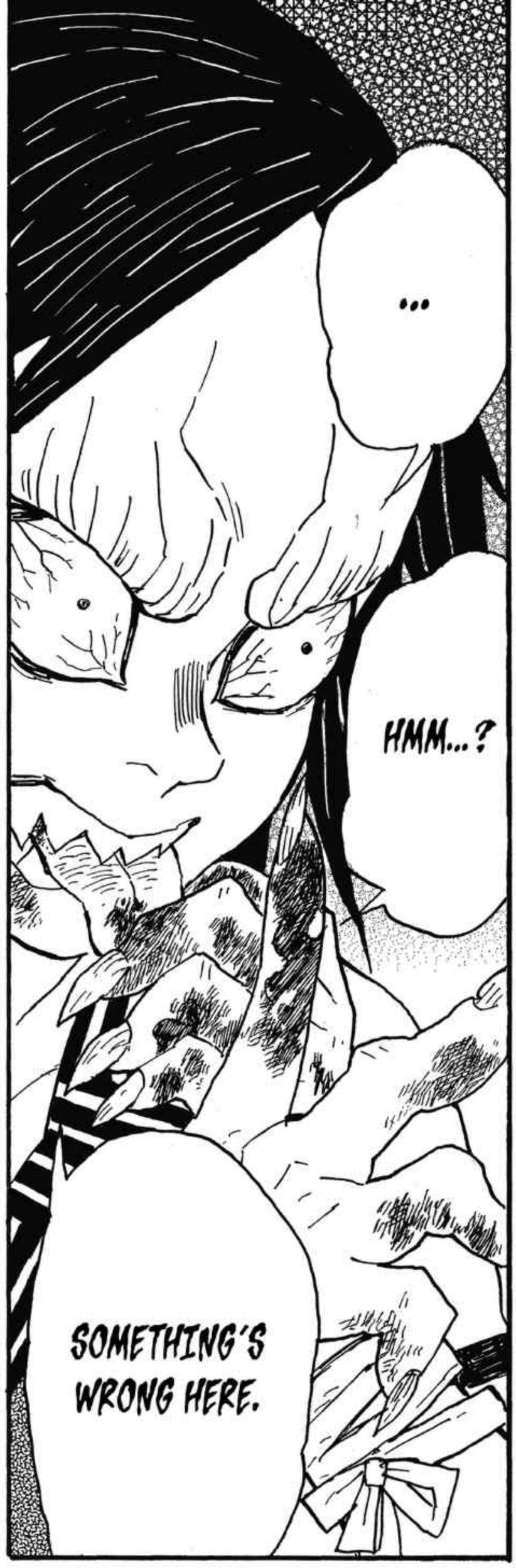
THERE'S A WAY STATION.
THERE'S A LIGHT ON. SOMEONE MUST BE THERE.
LET'S GO.

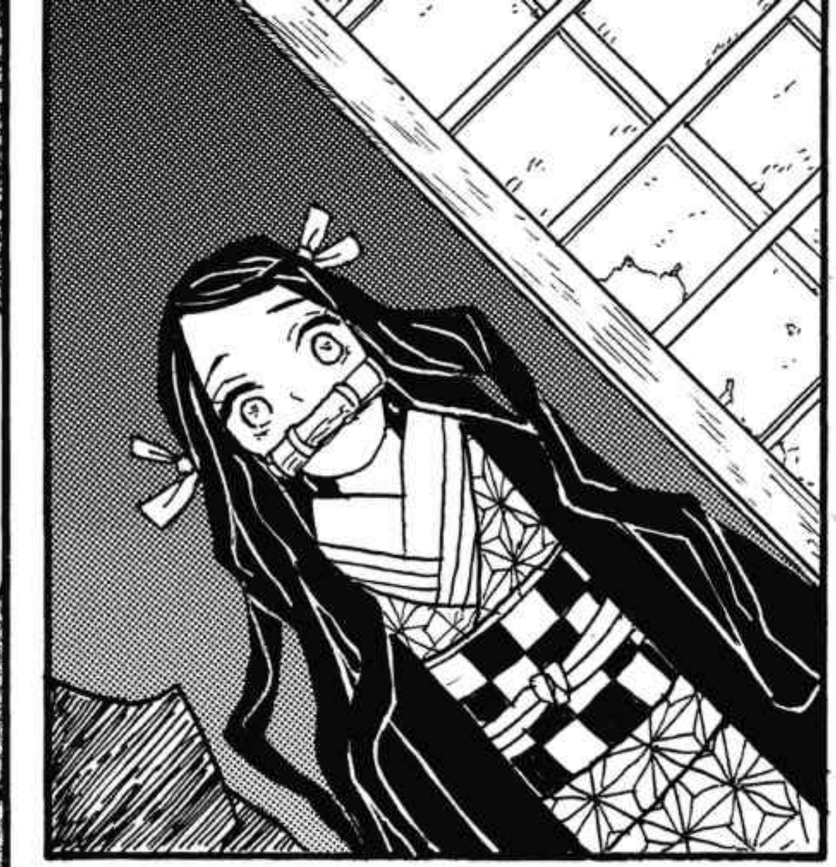


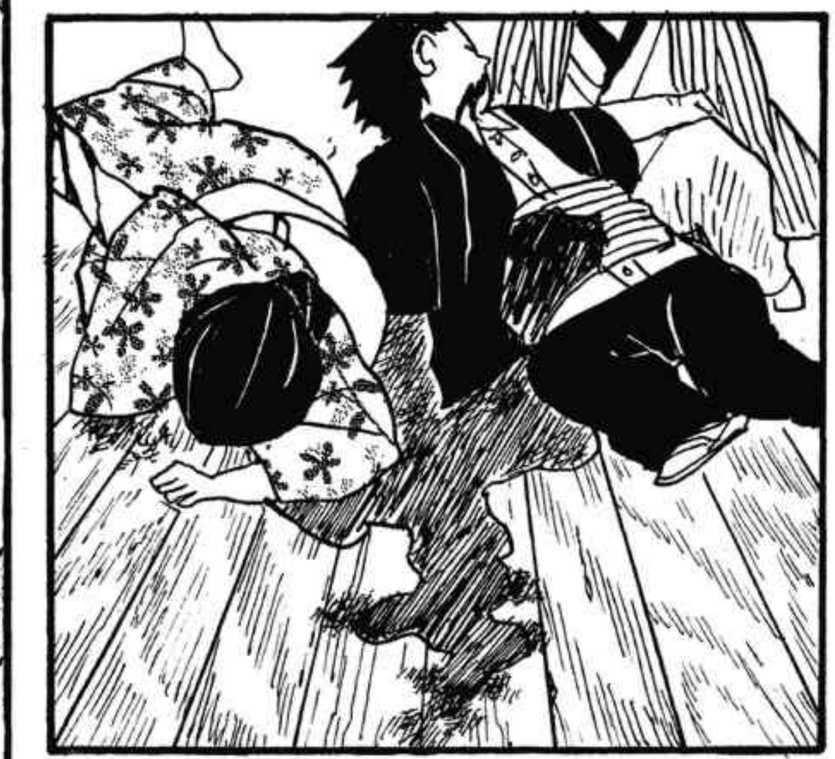
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KLAK
KT K

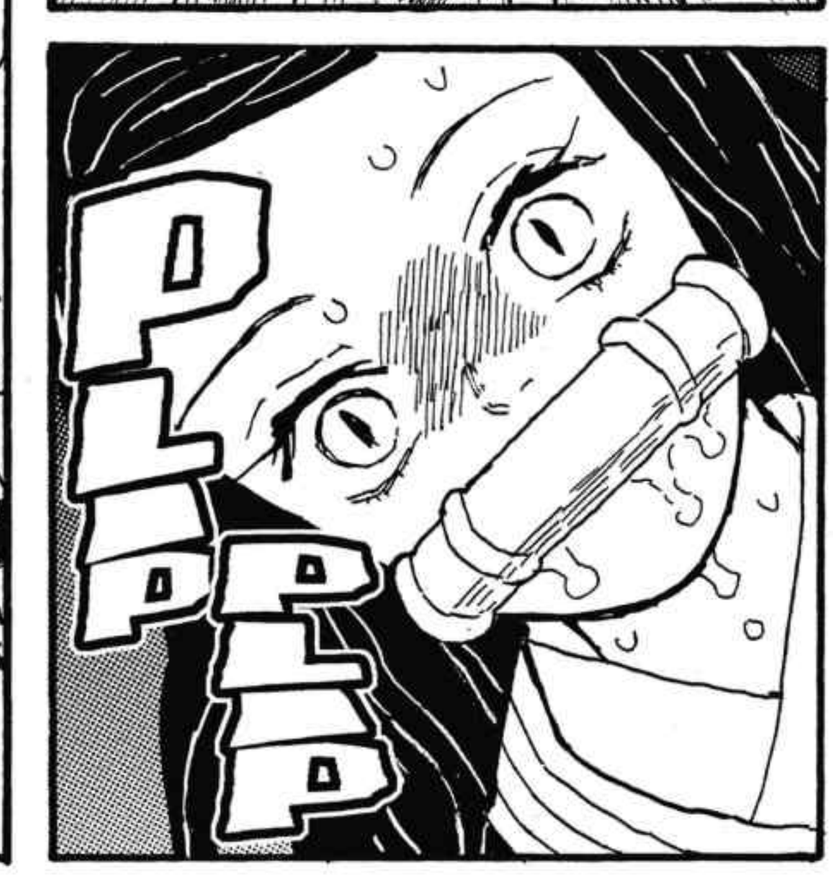
THESE MOUNTAIN PATHS ARE DANGER-OUS. THAT TRAVELER MAY BE INJURED!

GET AWAY FROM MY FEEDING GROUND!
...IS MY TERRITORY!
THIS...
WHAT?!
HEY!


...
HMM...?
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE.






PLIP
PLIP

A MAN-EATING DEMON!

ARE YOU TWO HUMAN?

WIP
WHAM

HA! HA!
A HATCHET ?!
HA!
NOT BAD!

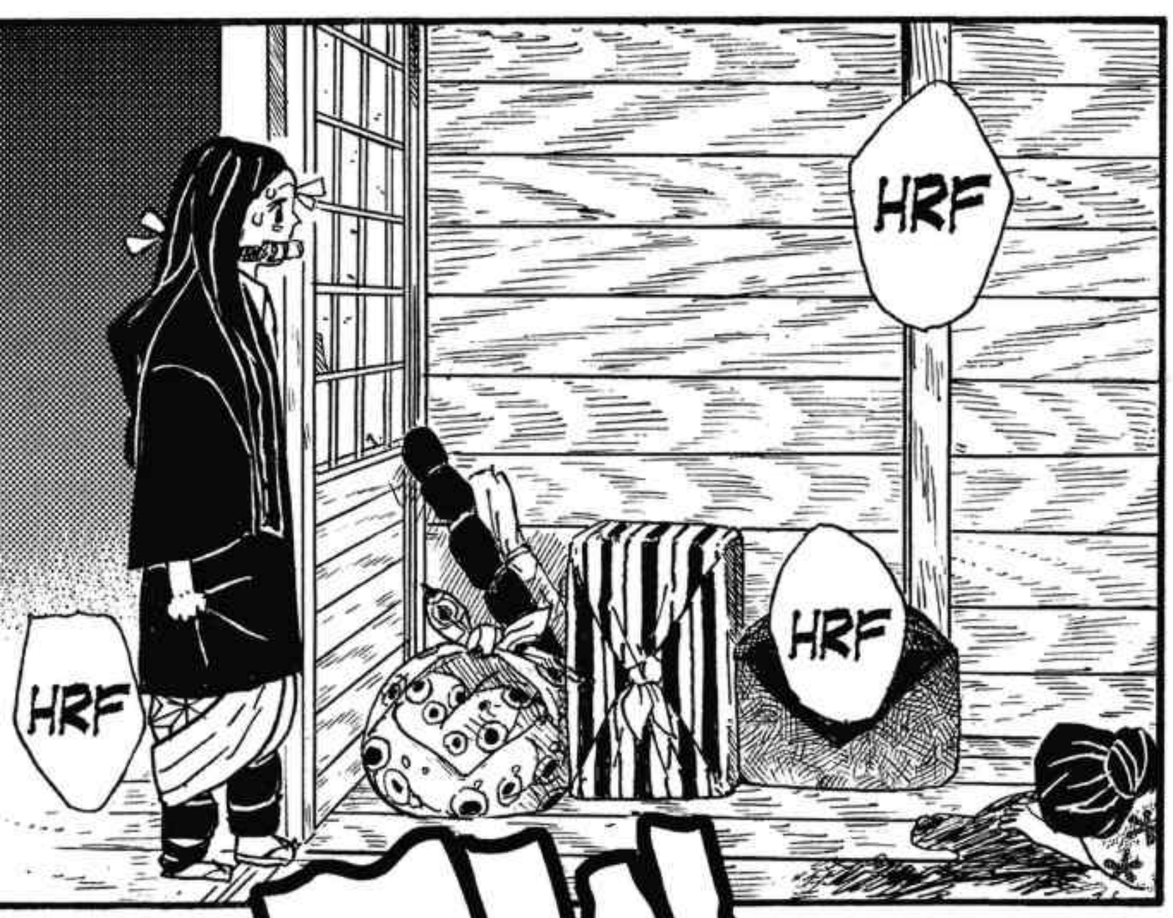
FWW
P

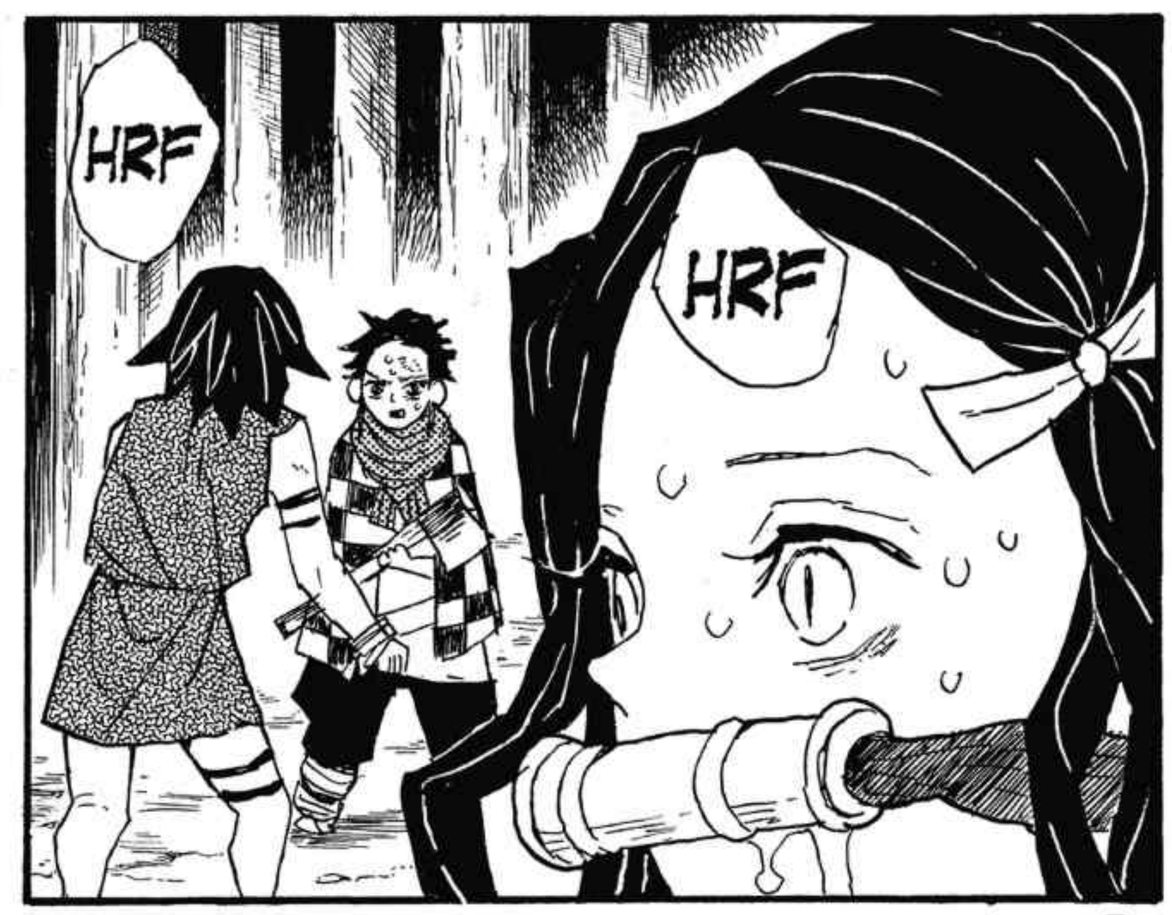
SEE?
THE BLEEDING ALREADY STOPPED!
BUT A WOUND LIKE THIS...
...WILL HEAL IN NO TIME!

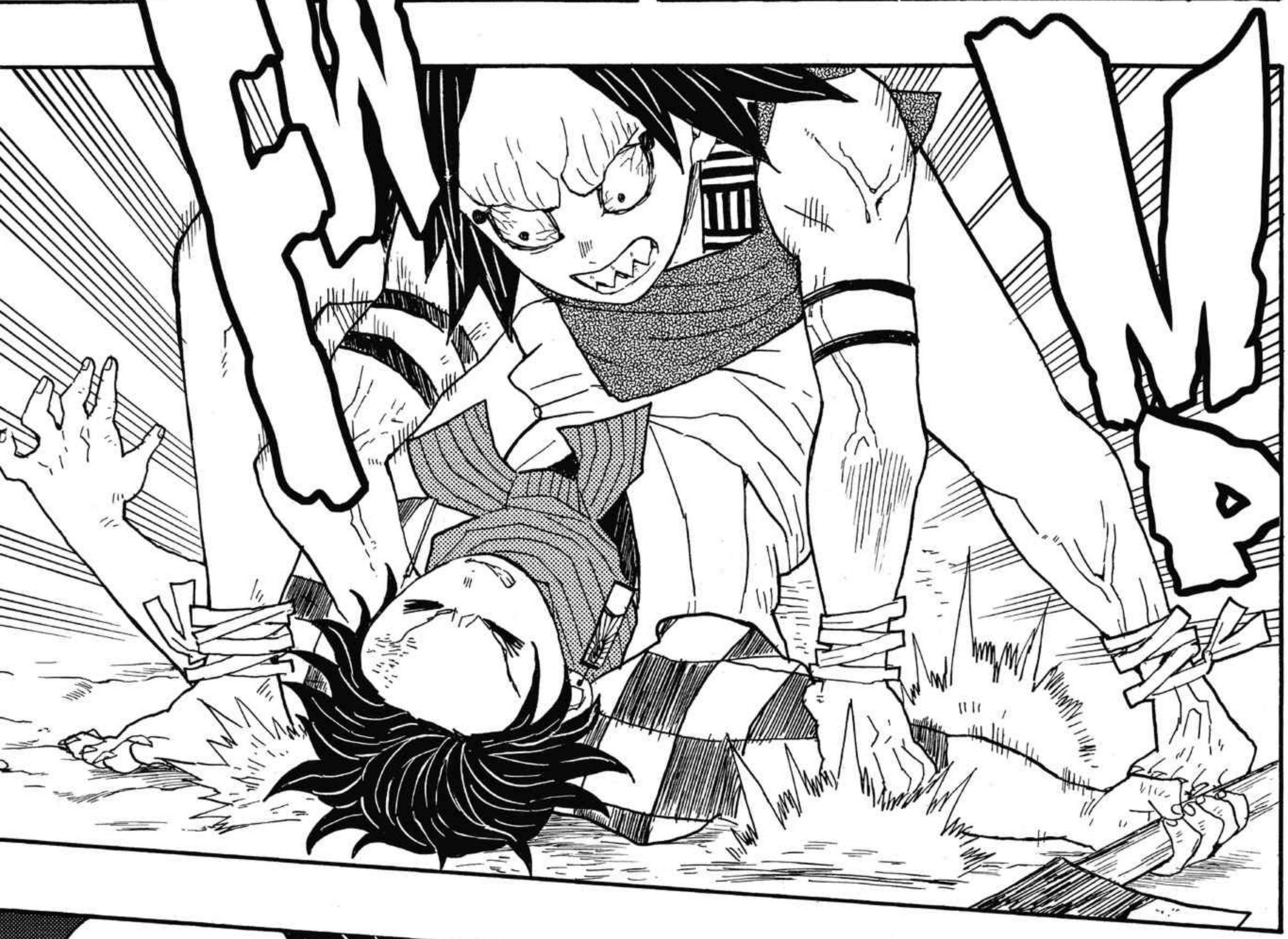
VWP

ZWP
ZWP

?!

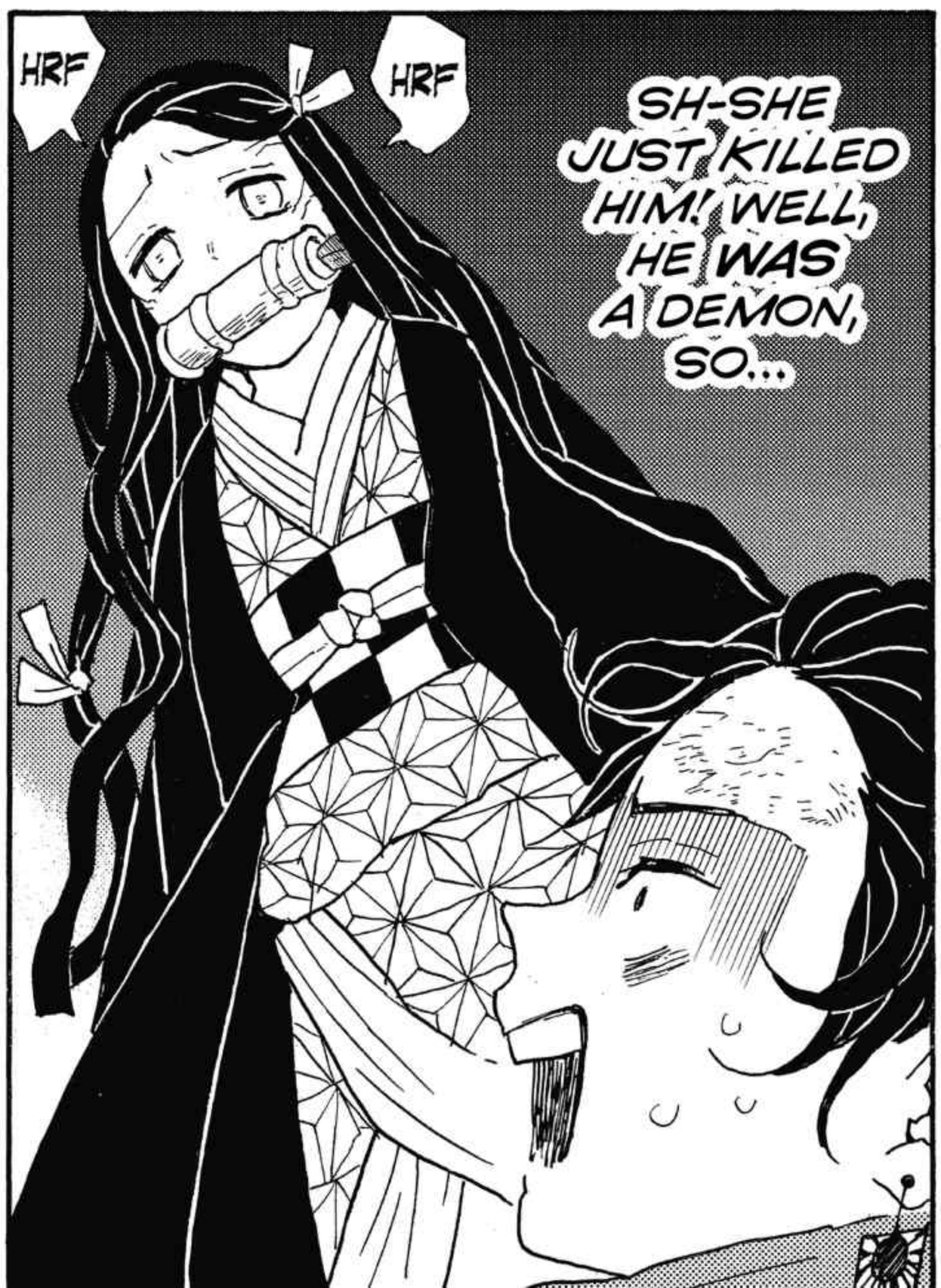

HRF
HRF

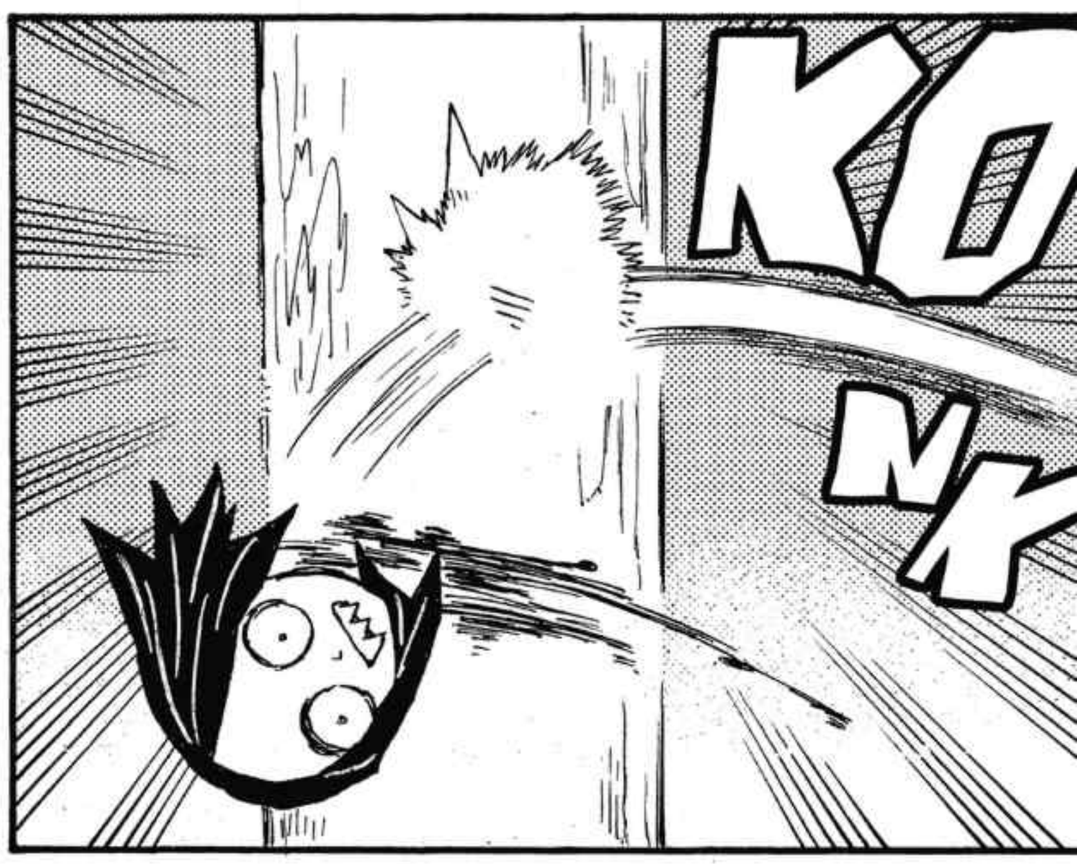

HRF
HRF


FWSH

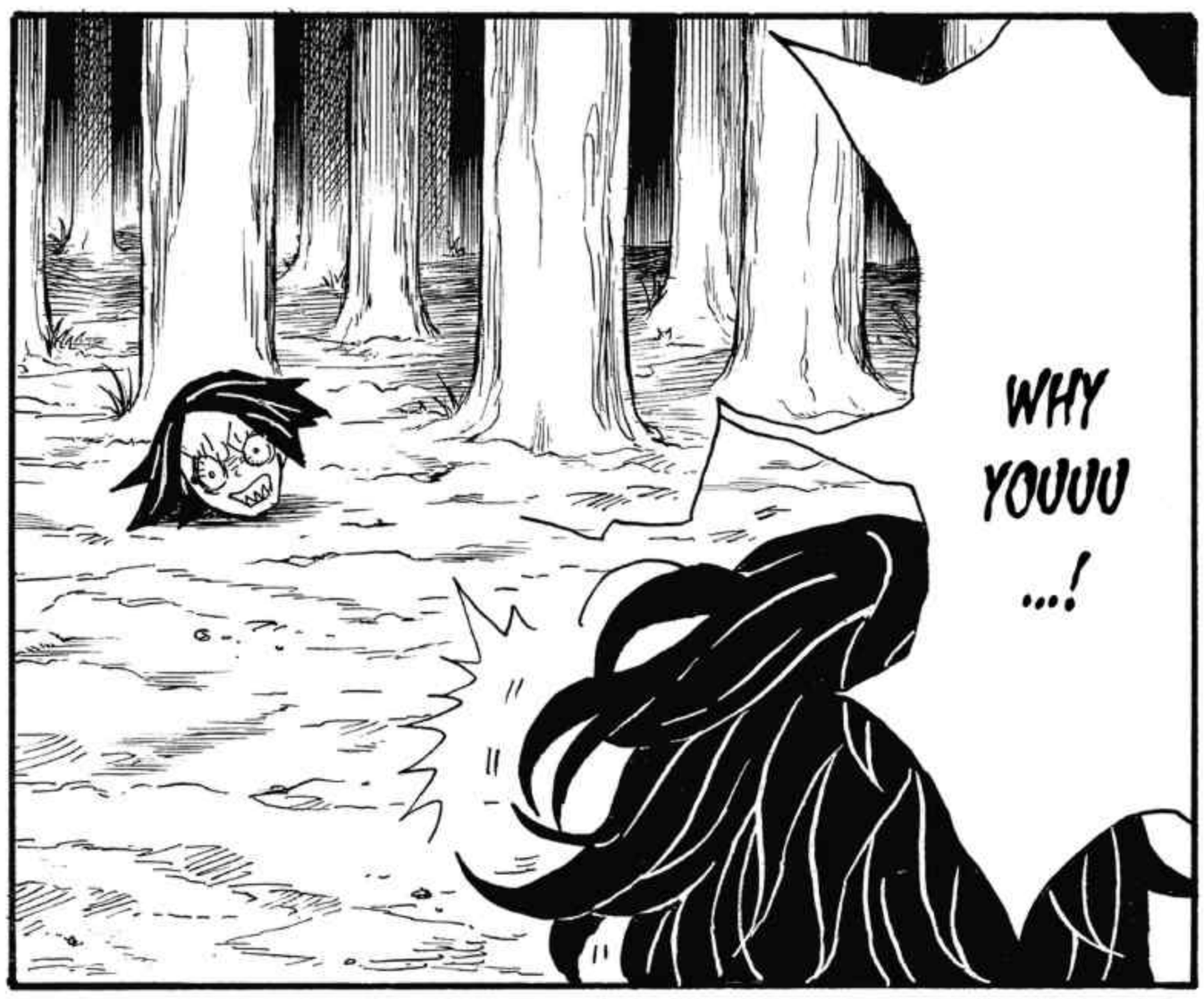
I'M GONNA SNAP YOUR NECK.
YOU'LL NEVER DO THAT AGAIN!

AND IN-CREDIBLY STRONG!
KRK
KRK
HE'S FAST!

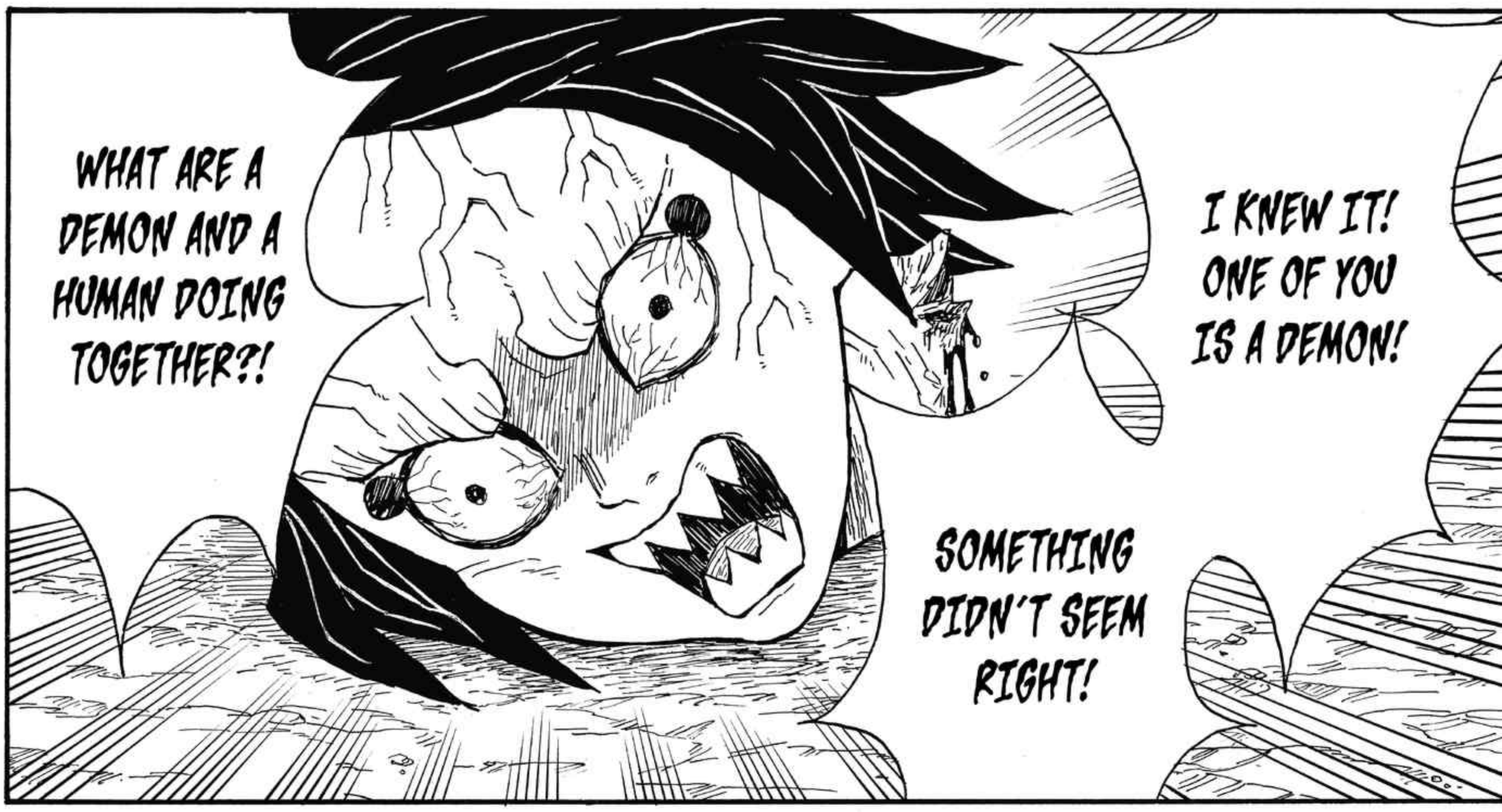

HRF
HRF
SH-SHE JUST KILLED HIM! WELL, HE WAS A DEMON, SO...

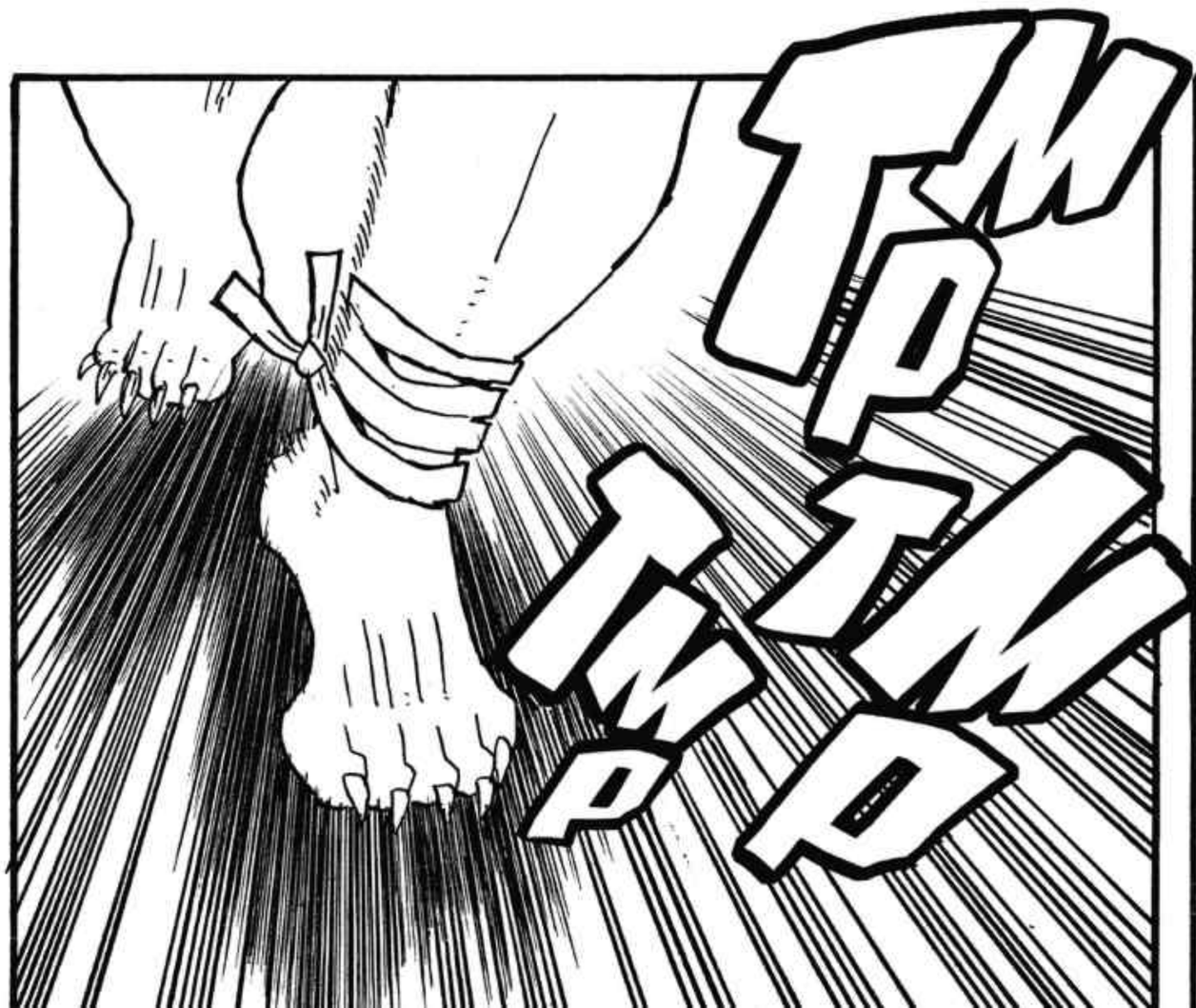


FWSH
N...
NEZUKO!
WHOK
THUMP
!


WHY YOUUU ...!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT JUST MOVED WITH ITS HEAD RIPPED OFF!

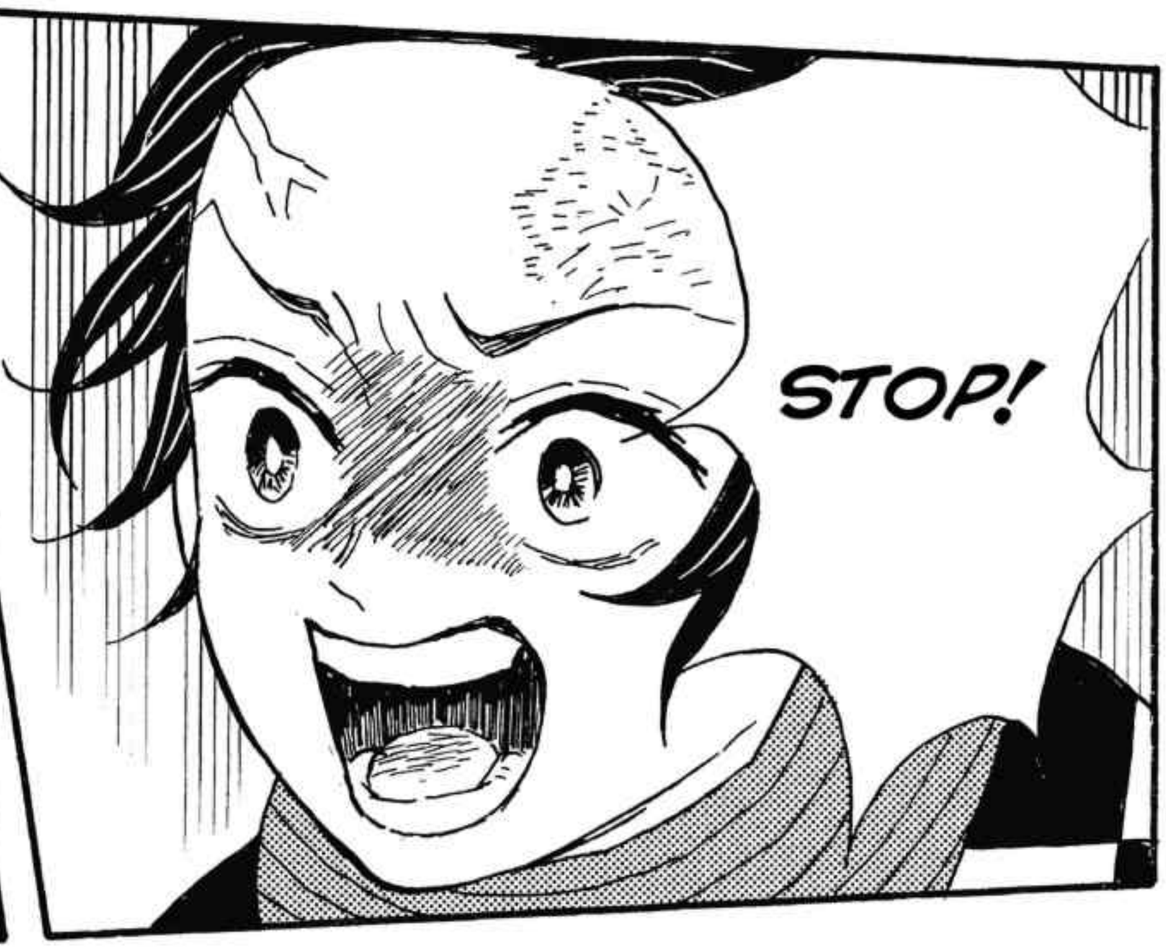

WHAT ARE A DEMON AND A HUMAN DOING TOGETHER?!
I KNEW IT! ONE OF YOU IS A DEMON!
SOMETHING DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT!


TWP
TWP
TWP

IT'S STILL TALK-ING!!

CLARAP

!!



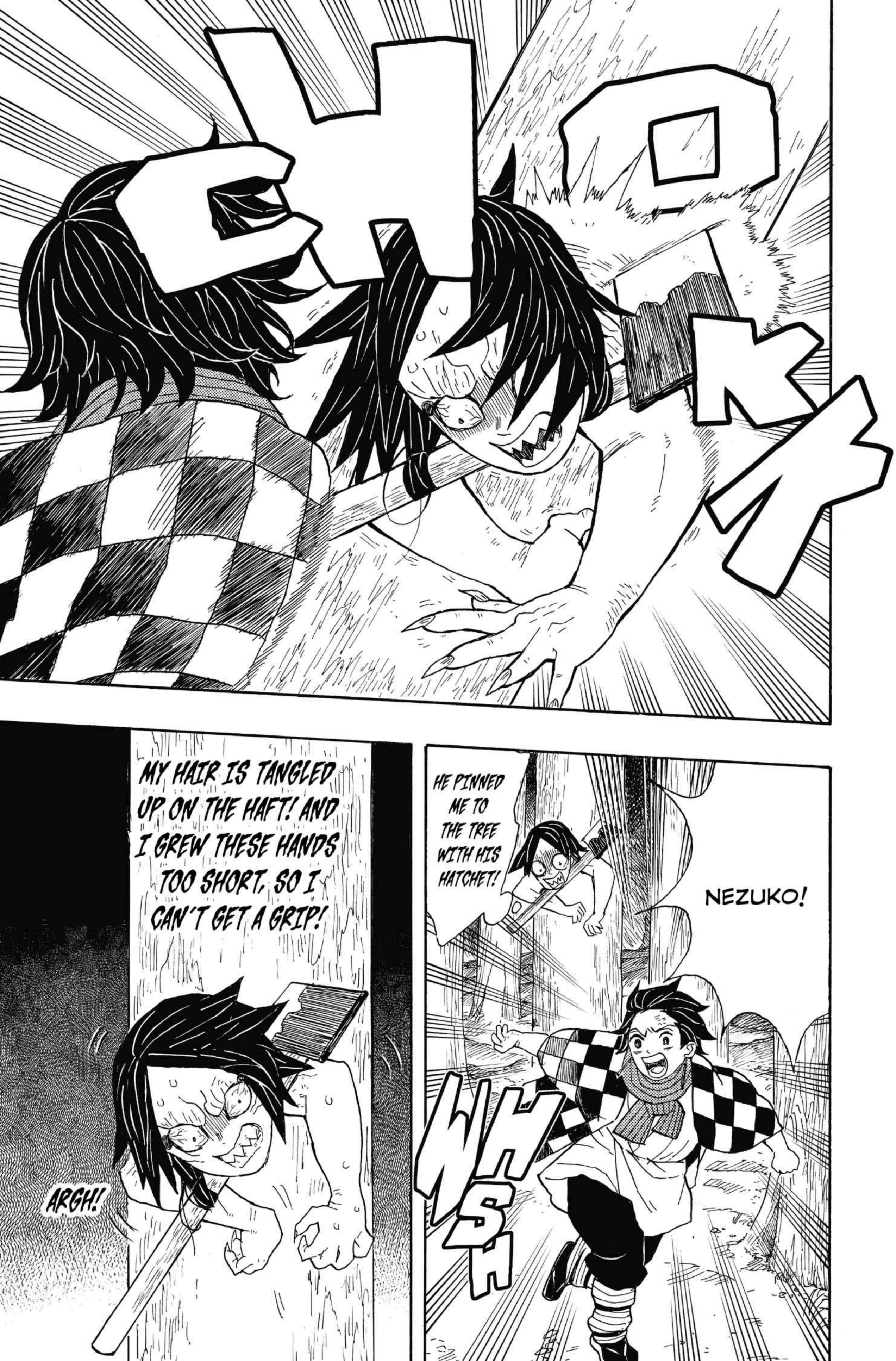
NS
4
KCHA
K
YANK

GET OFF OF ME!

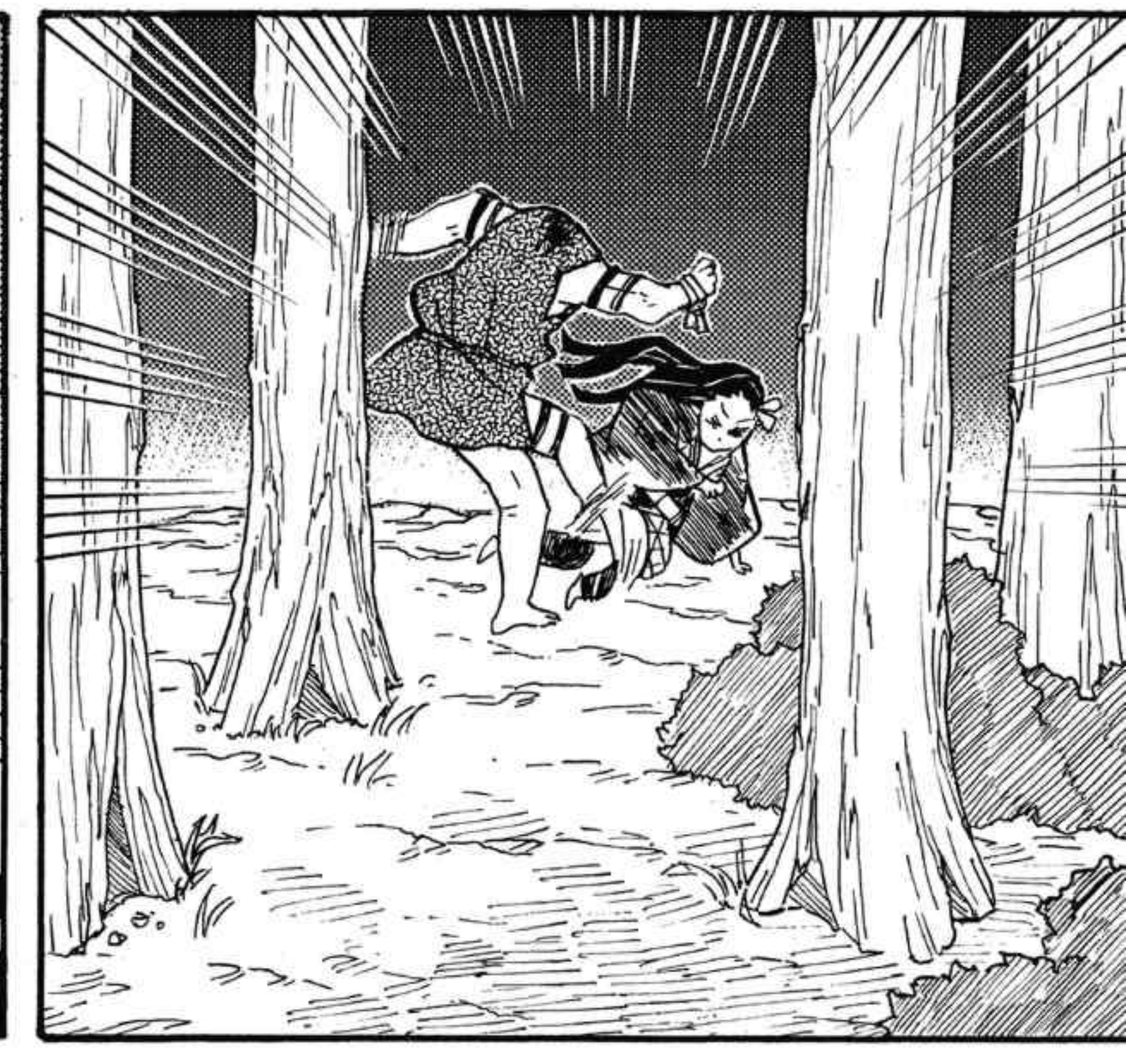
WHAT THE—? THE HEAD GREW ARMS?!
UGH

BOOM

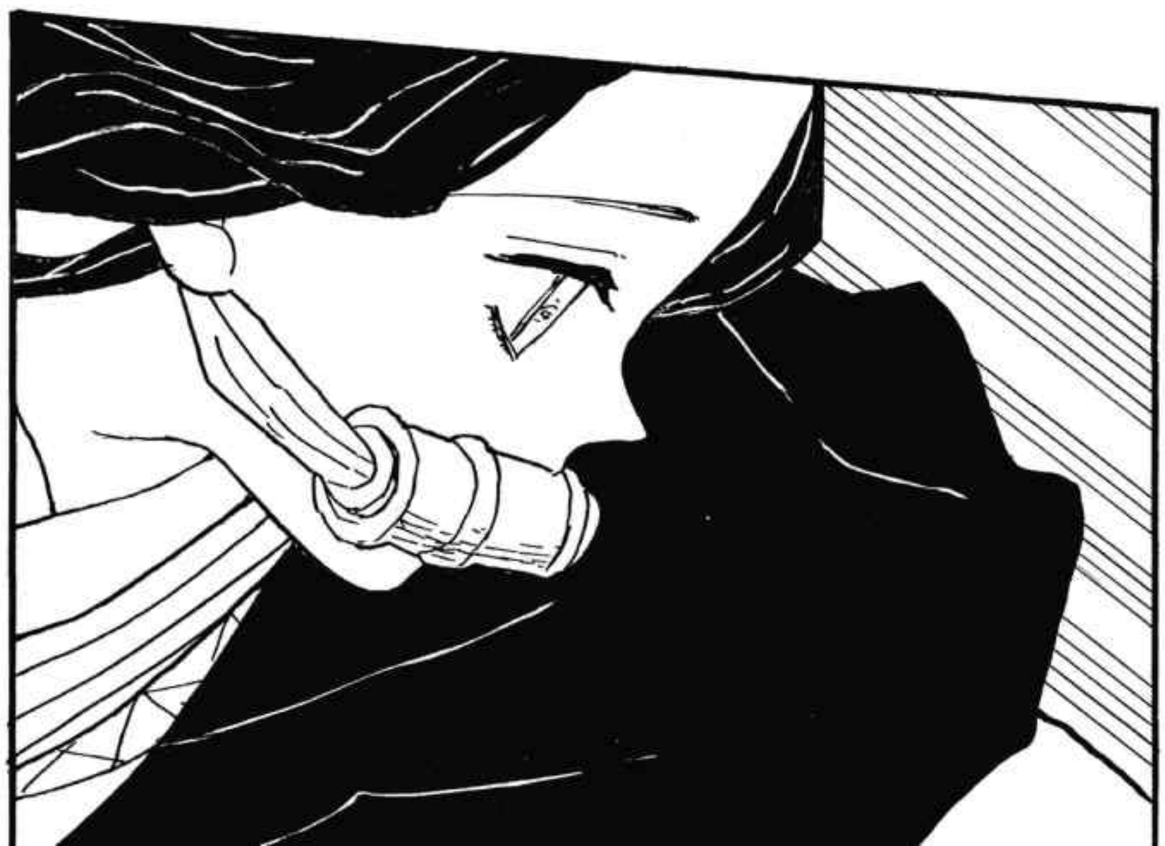
GRA
GR
P
THIS GUY'S TOUGH!
BIP
HIS HEAD...
...IS HARD!
PAN
TAP


MY HAIR IS TANGLED UP ON THE HAFT! AND I GREW THESE HANDS TOO SHORT, SO I CAN'T GET A GRIP!
ARGH!
HE PINNED ME TO THE TREE WITH HIS HATCHET!
NEZUKO!
WHSH

STOMP



HUH
KNOCK IT OFF!



ARGH!

GYAAAH!
SPAT

WOW!

HOW MANY DEMONS ARE THERE?

SHNG

SO I HAVE TO DO THIS.

HFF

HFF

BUT...

...IF I DON'T KILL HIM, HE'LL ATTACK MORE PEOPLE.

HFF

A DIFFERENT DEMON.

HE SMELLS DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE THAT WAS AT MY HOUSE.

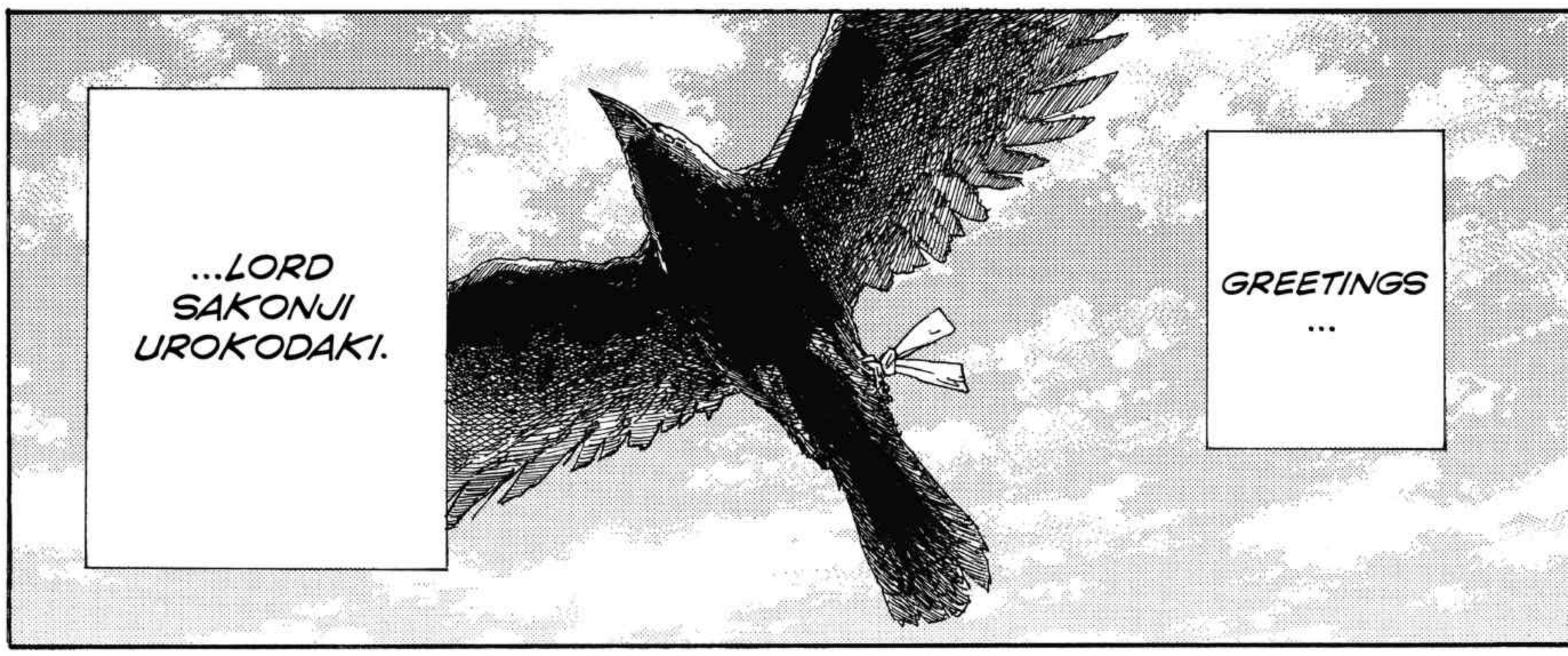
DO IT!

SK
EE

YOU CAN'T KILL IT WITH THAT.

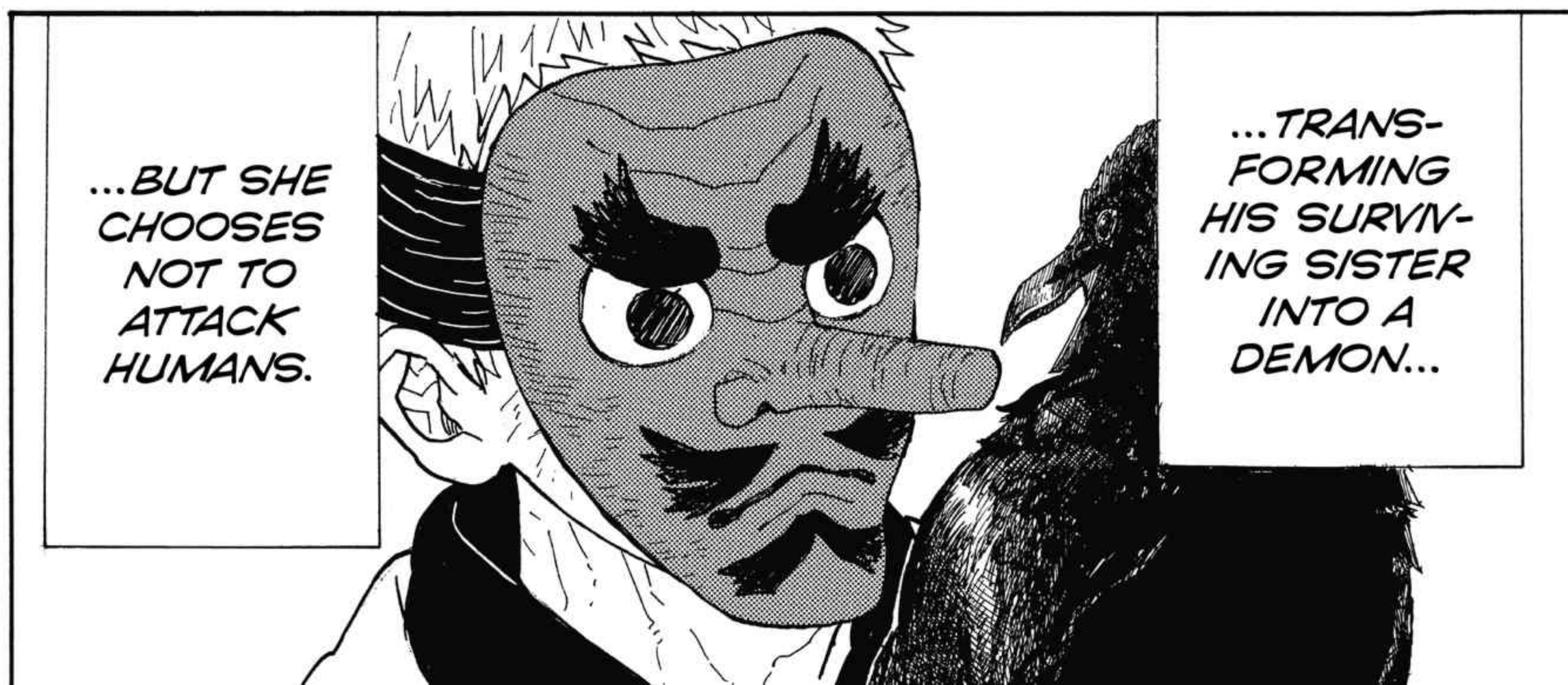
PRODUCTION ART, ILLUSTRATION ②

CHAPTER 3: RETURN BY DAWN


...LORD SAKONJI UROKODAKI.
GREETINGS ...

A DEMON SLAUGH-TERED HIS FAMILY...
HE HAD THE COURAGE TO FIGHT ME UNARMED.

I HAVE SENT A BOY YOUR WAY WHO SAYS HE WANTS TO BECOME A DEMON-SLAYING SWORDSMAN.


...BUT SHE CHOOSES NOT TO ATTACK HUMANS.
...TRANS-FORMING HIS SURVIV-ING SISTER INTO A DEMON...

I BELIEVE THAT PERHAPS ...

LIKE YOU, THE BOY HAS A STRONG SENSE OF SMELL.

I SENSE SOMETHING IN THESE TWO THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS.

I KNOW THIS IS A SELFISH REQUEST, SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

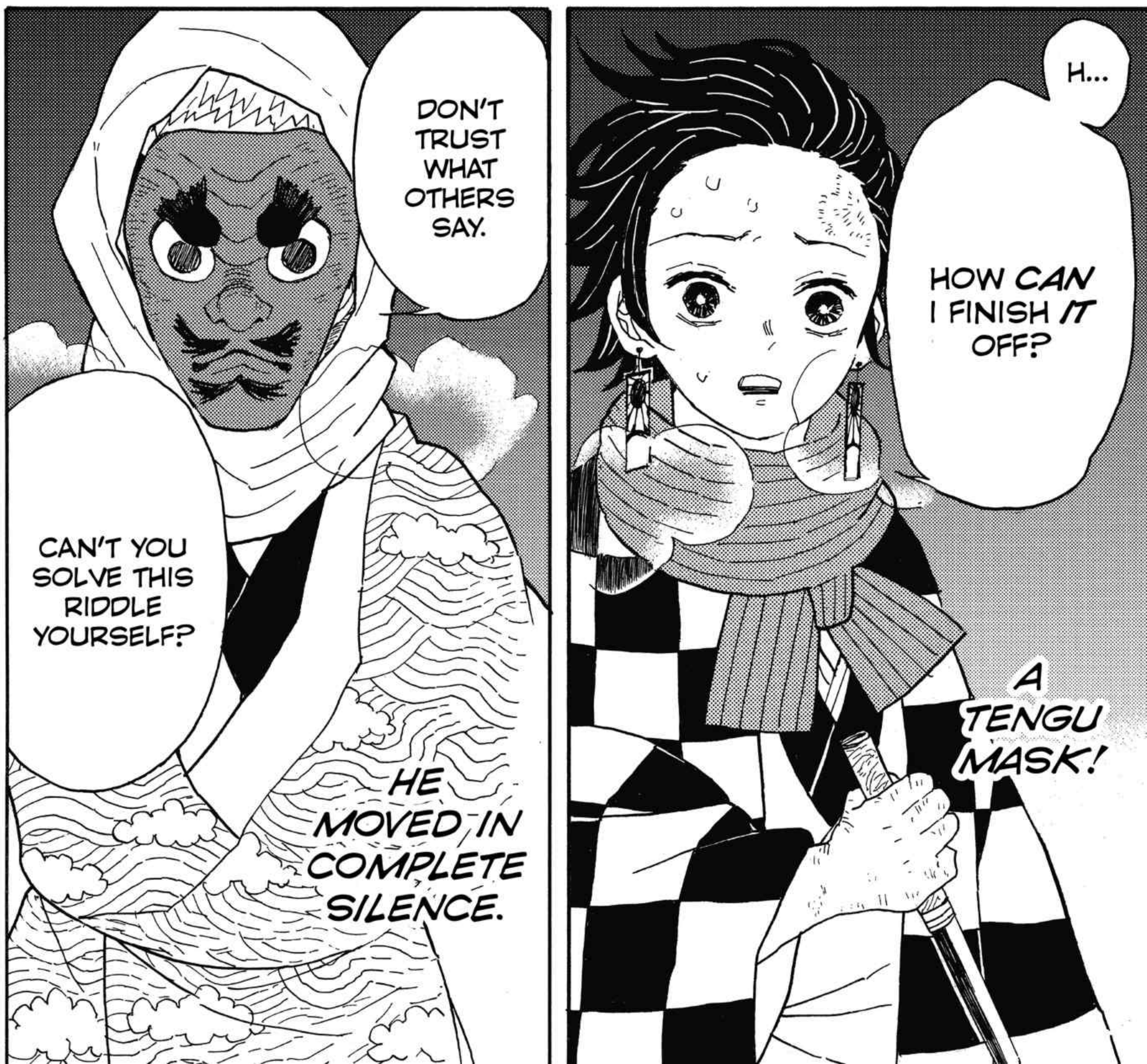
...HE COULD BE WORTHY OF CARRYING ON YOUR TRADITIONS.
PLEASE, TRAIN HIM.

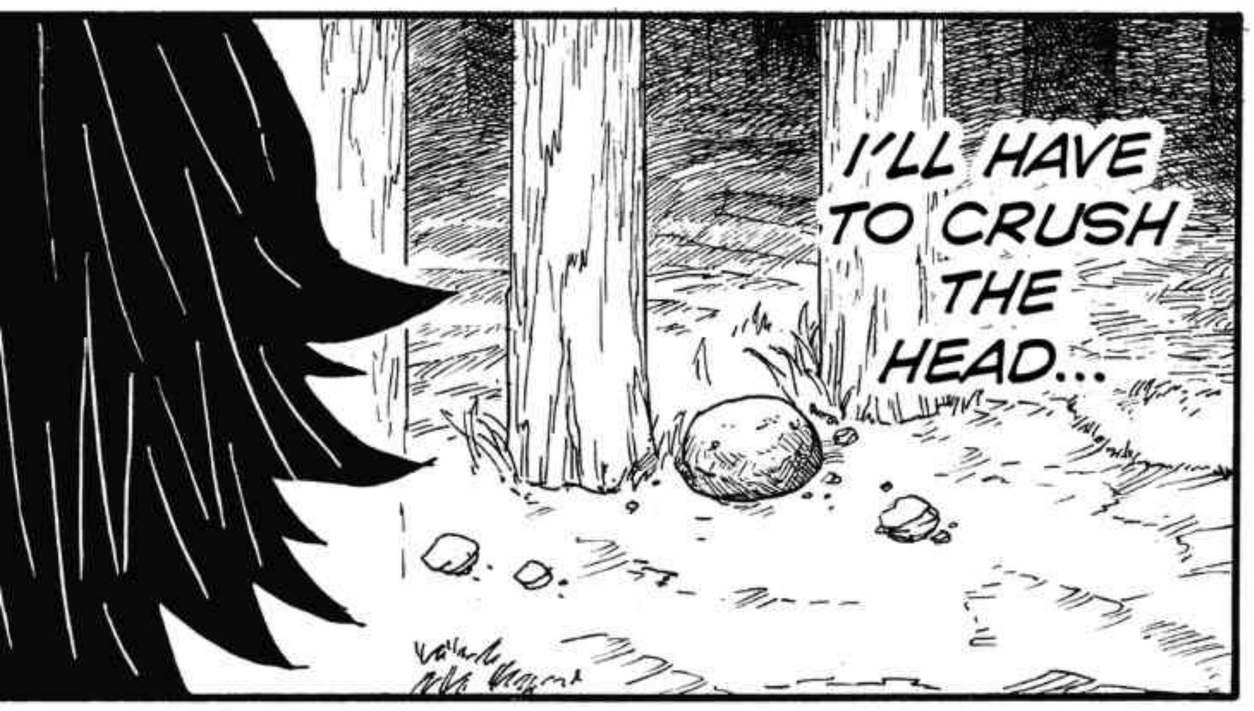
SIN-CERELY ...

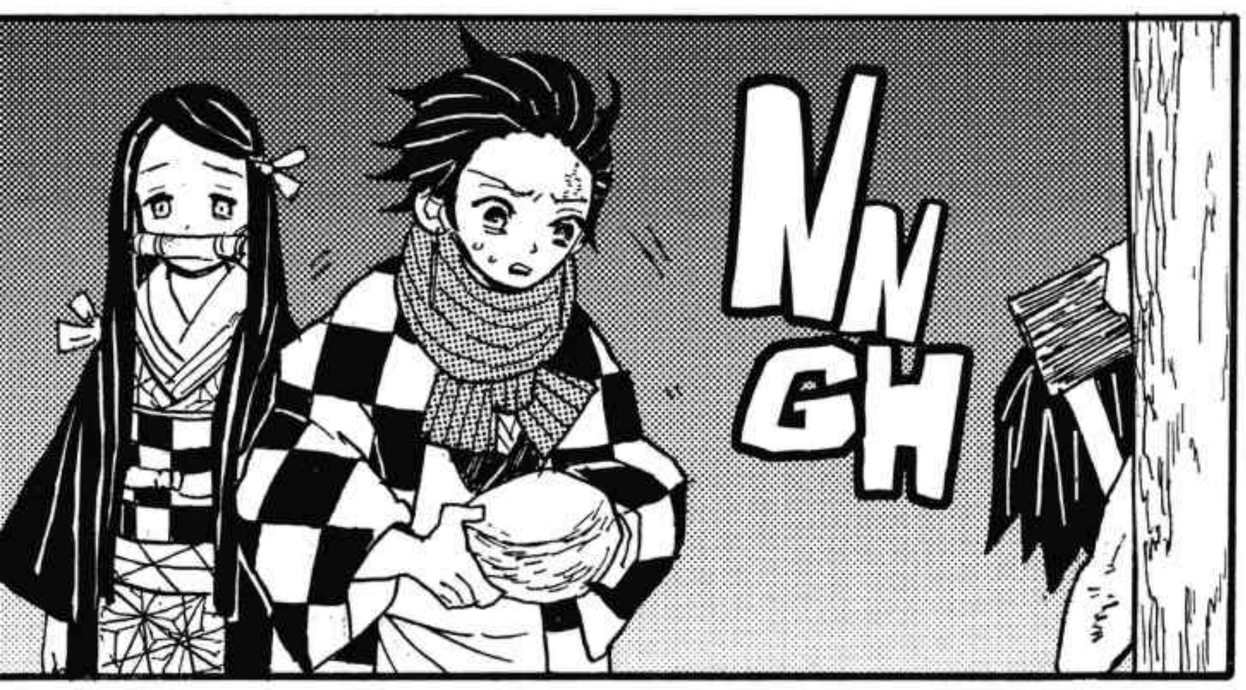
...GIYU TOMIOKA.

...AND IN GOOD SPIRITS.

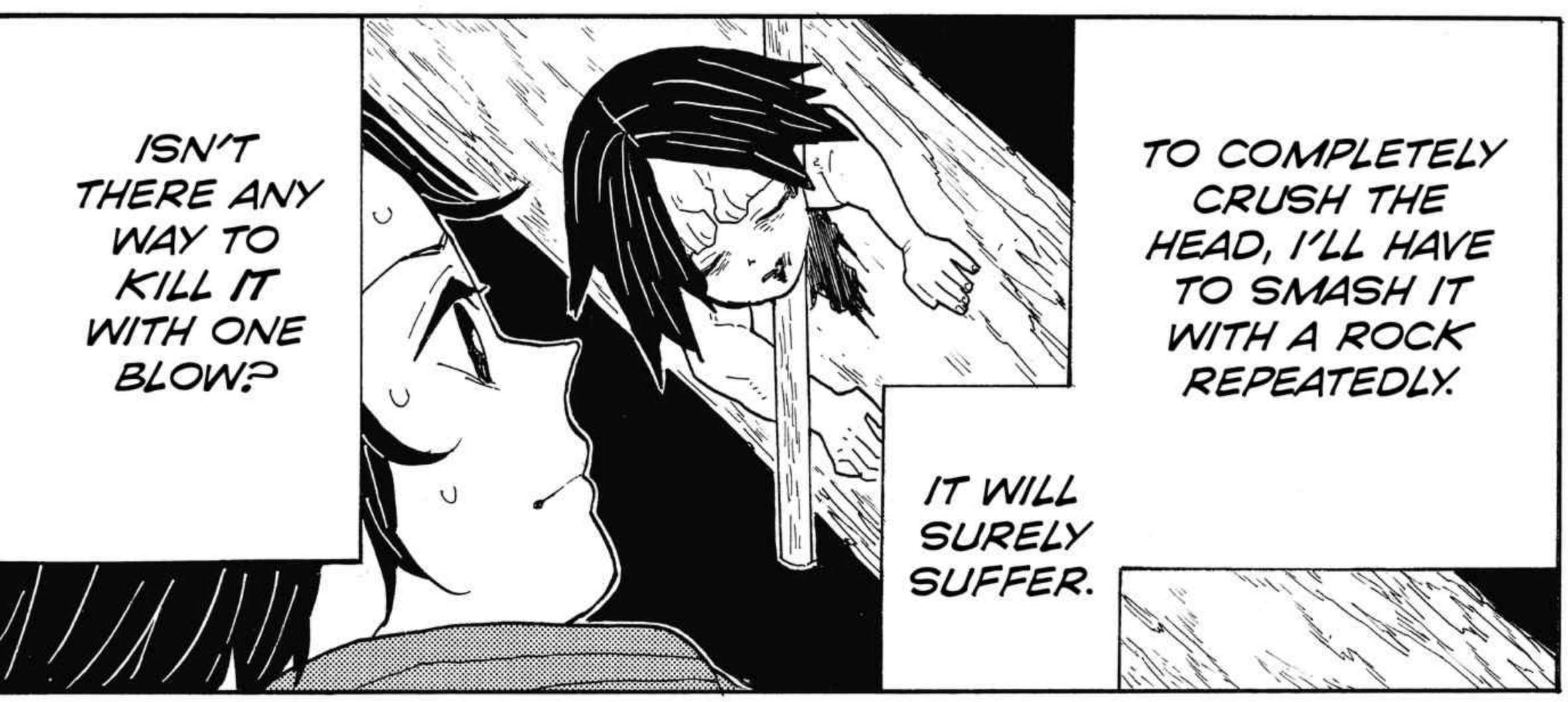
MAY THIS FIND YOU IN GOOD HEALTH...



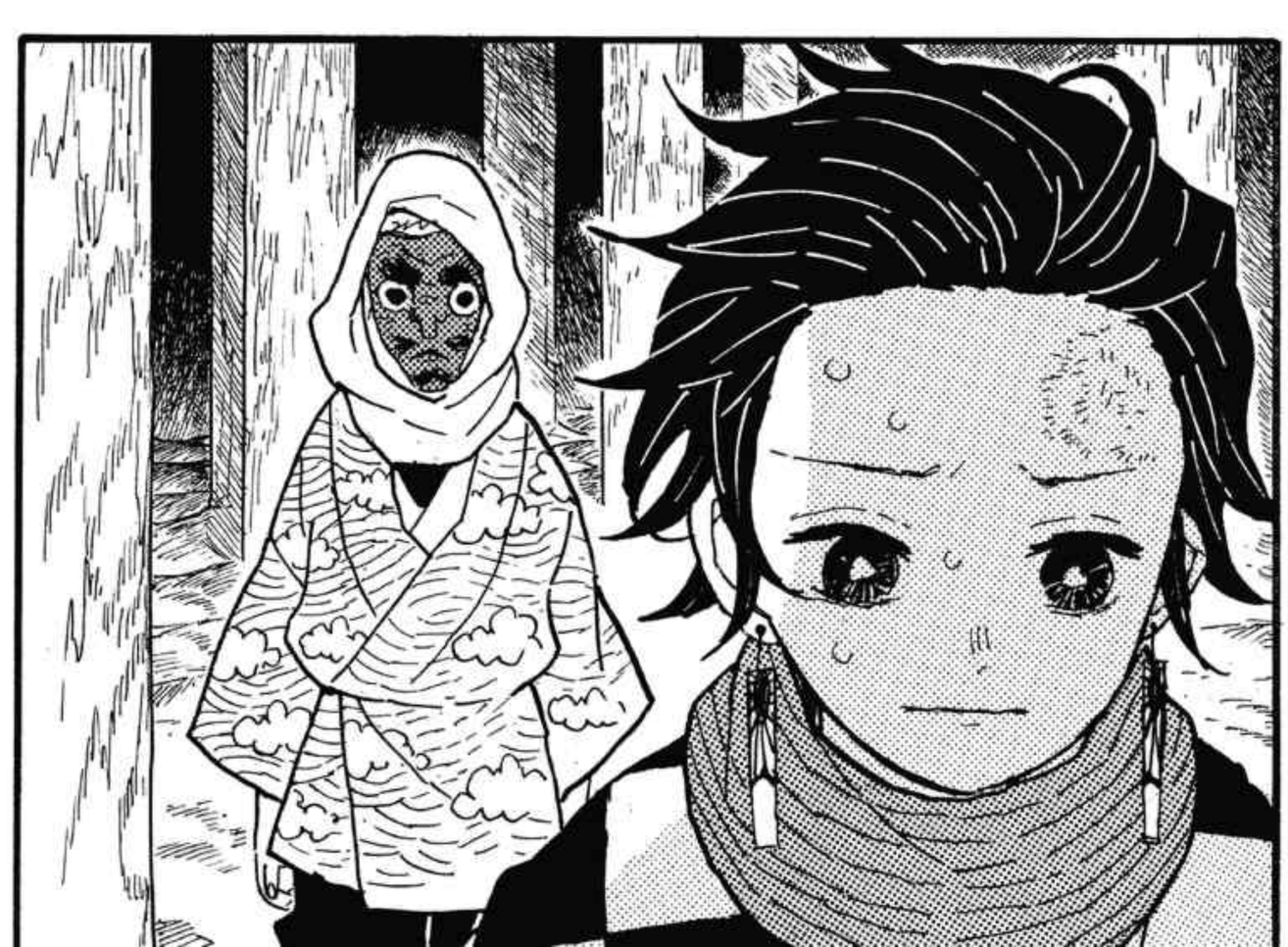

I'LL HAVE TO CRUSH THE HEAD...


NNGH

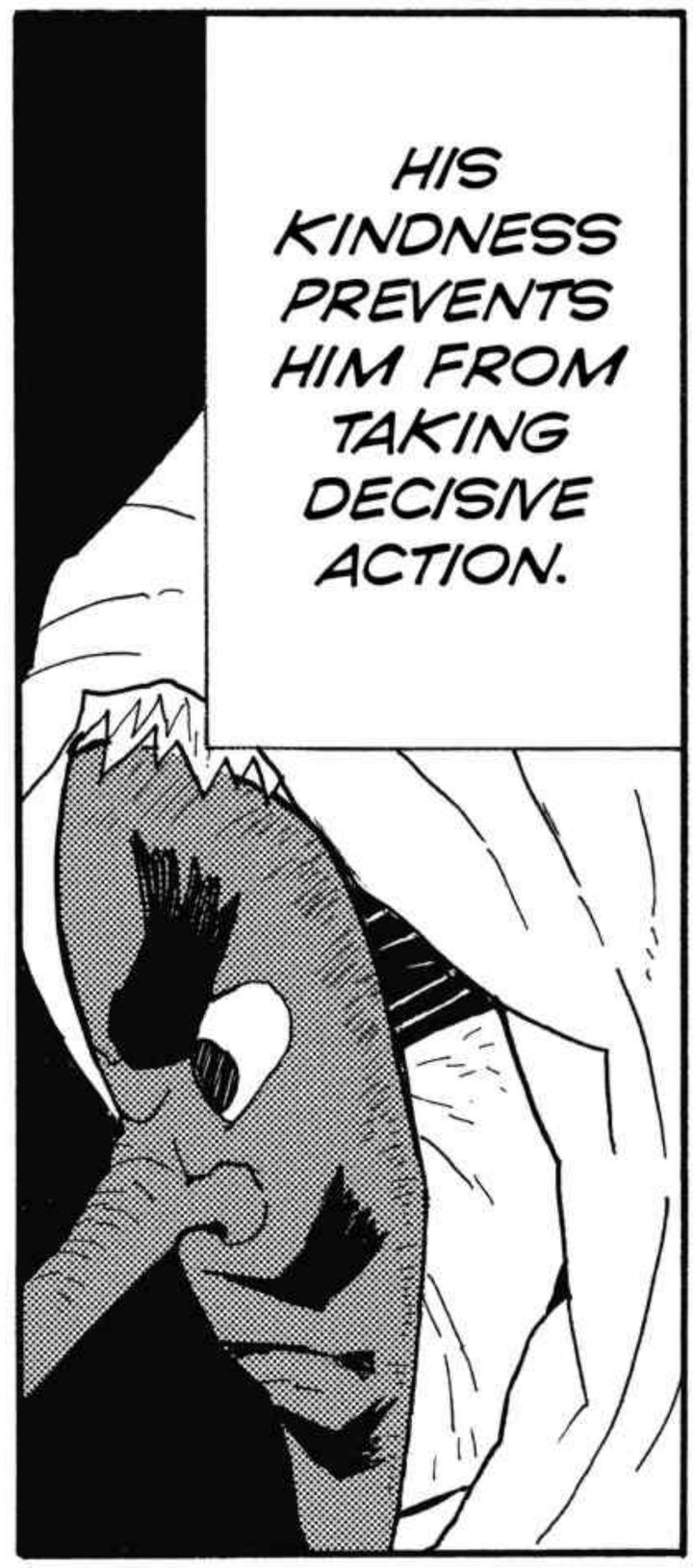
...
IF STAB-BING IT WON'T WORK...


ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO KILL IT WITH ONE BLOW?
IT WILL SURELY SUFFER.
TO COMPLETELY CRUSH THE HEAD, I'LL HAVE TO SMASH IT WITH A ROCK REPEATEDLY.

SNIFF

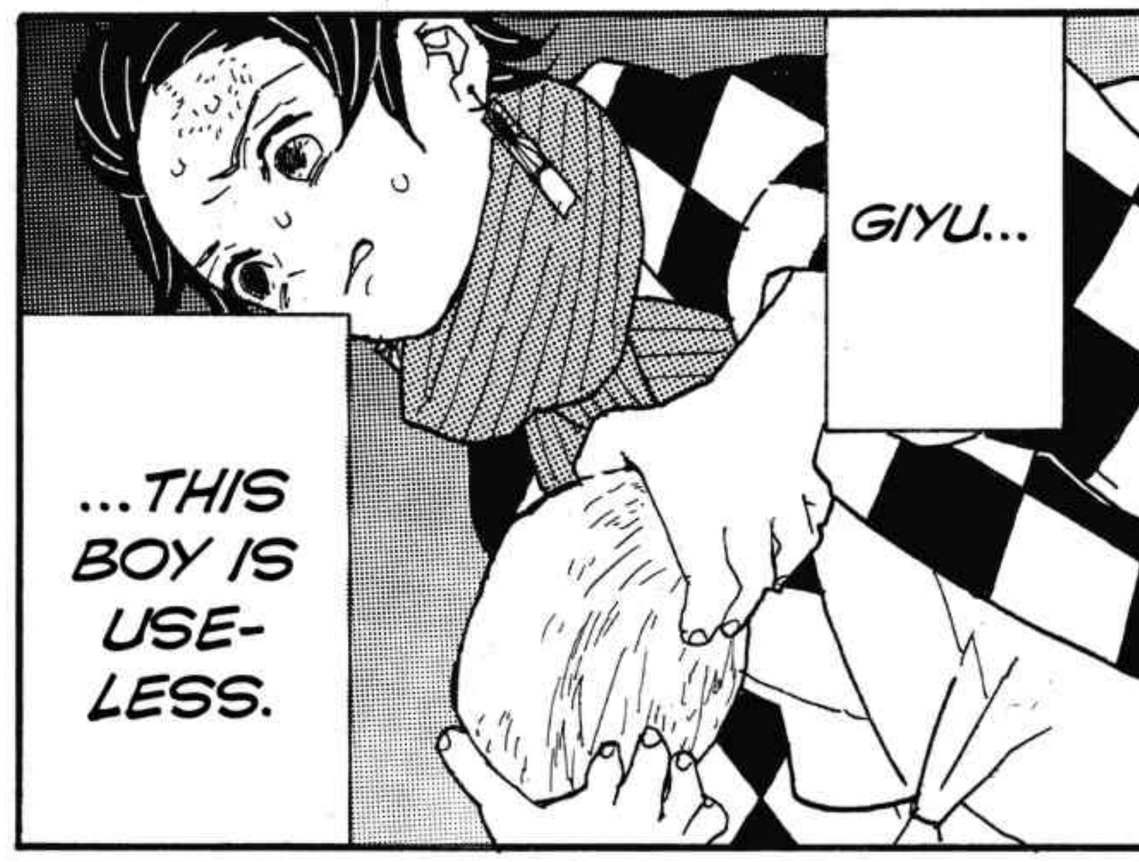


WHEN FACING A DEMON, HE STILL REEKS OF SYMPATHY AND CON-SIDERATION.
HE EVEN FEELS SYMPATHY FOR A DEMON.


HIS KINDNESS PREVENTS HIM FROM TAKING DECISIVE ACTION.

DAMN ...
...THIS KID IS NO GOOD.

I WAS UNCONSCIOUS.
I FEEL SICK.
IS MY BODY DEAD?


GIYU...
...THIS BOY IS USE-LESS.

WHA-?

WHILE I WAS WASTING TIME, THE MORNING HAS COME!

OH!

!!

FWAH

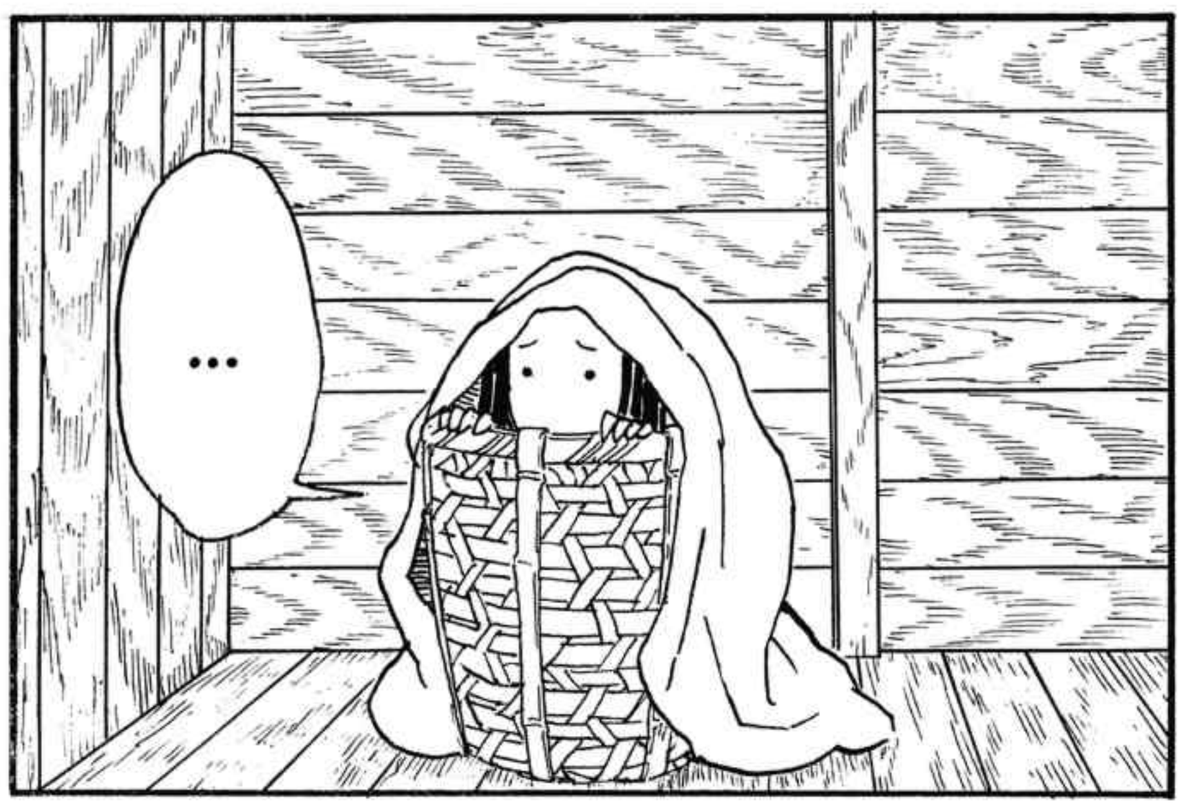
GYAAAH!

FLOP FWOP FLOP FLOP

GYAAAH!

GYAAH!

SZZL KRAKL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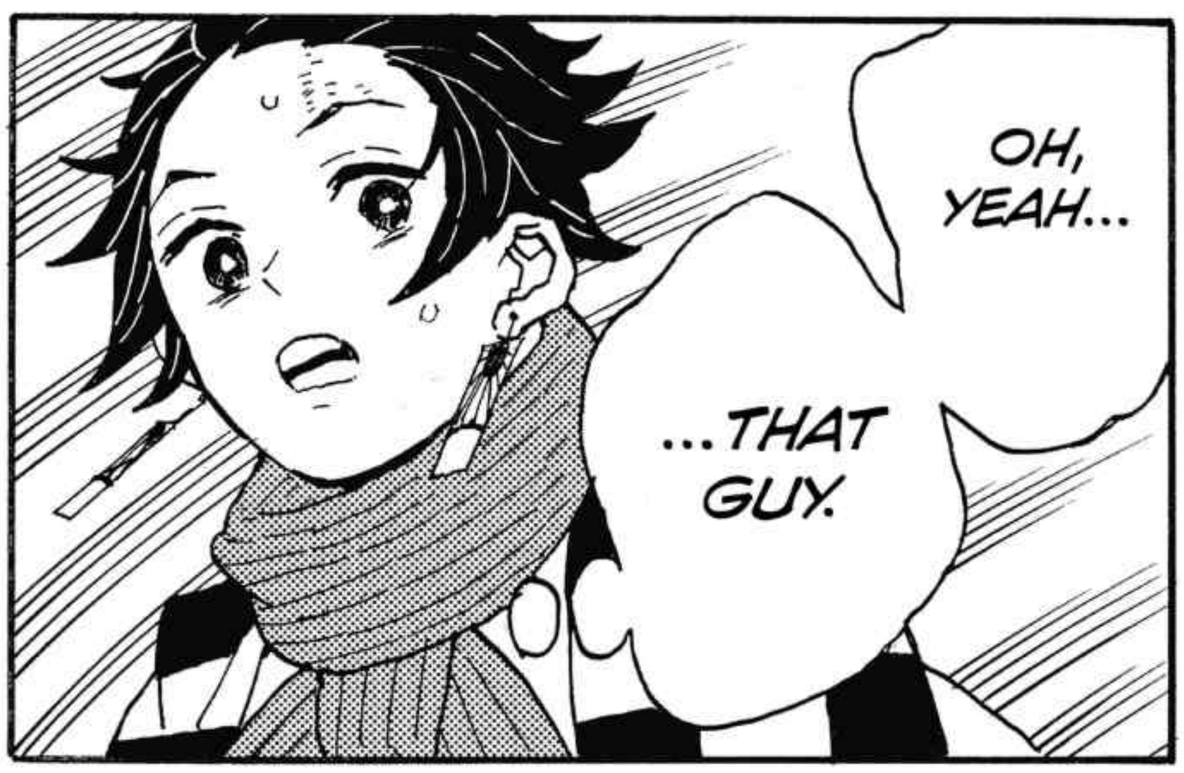
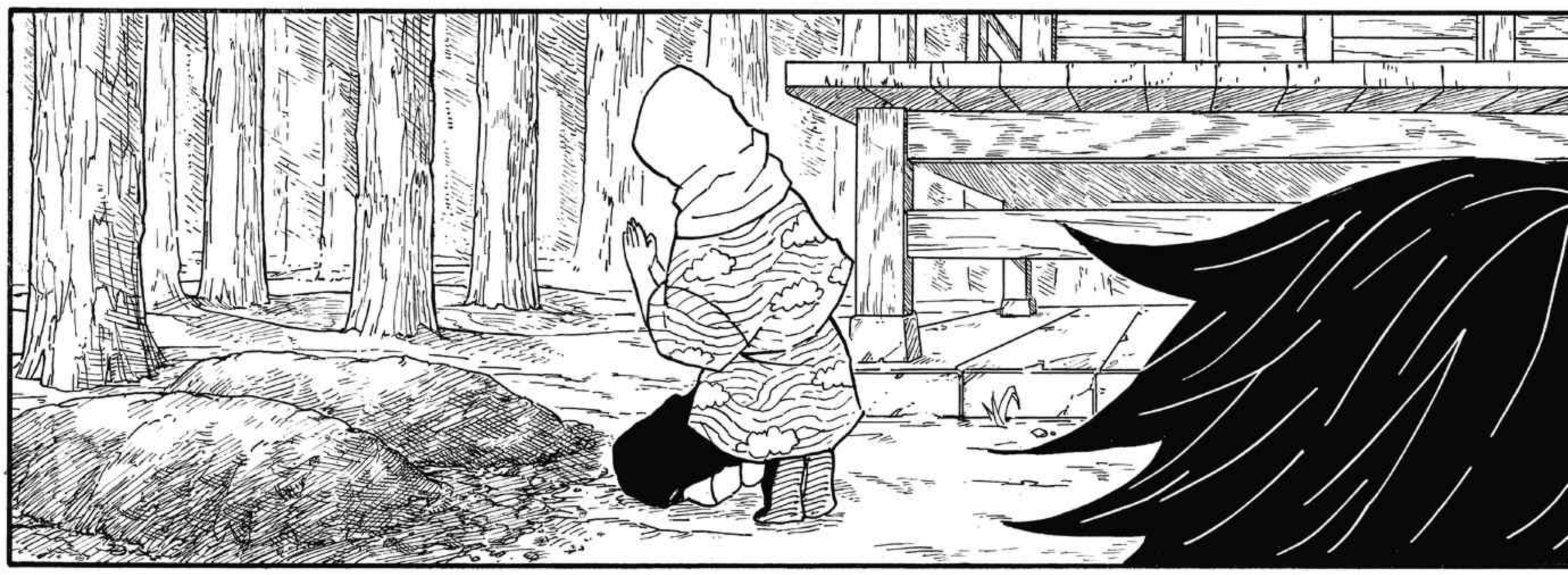
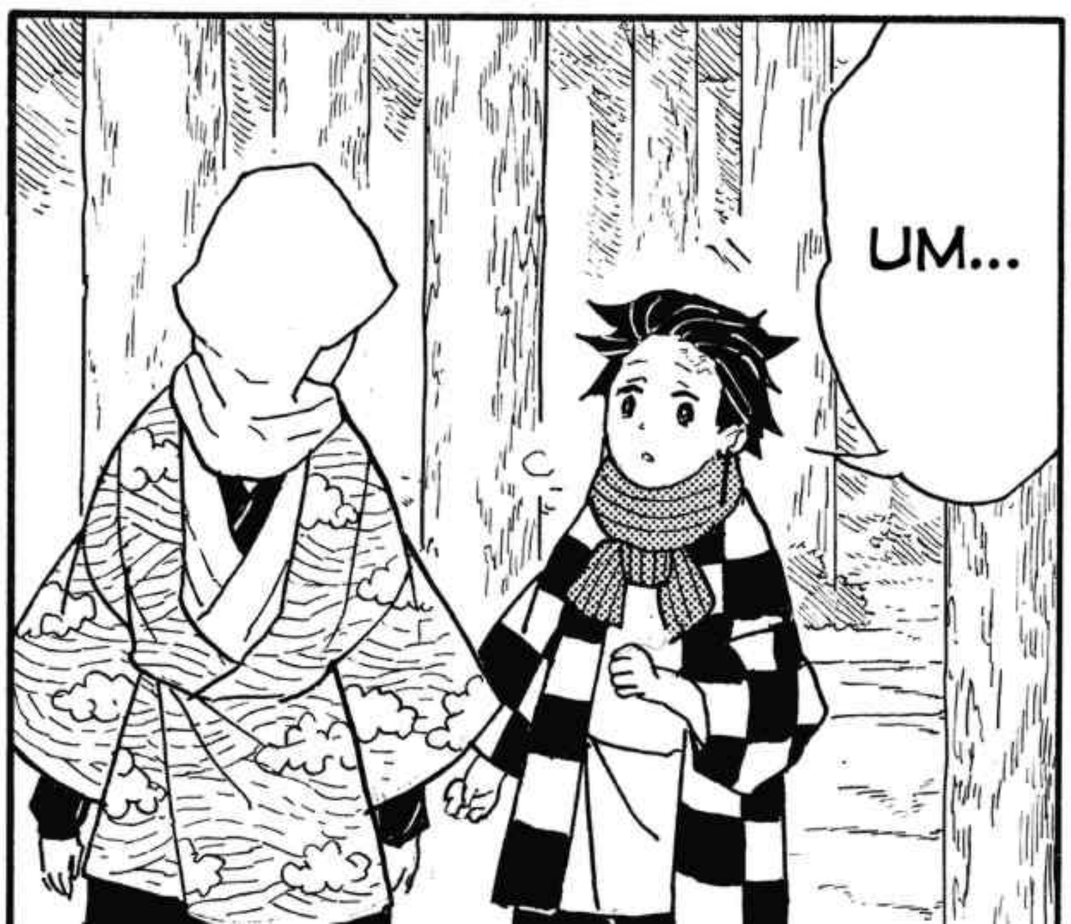
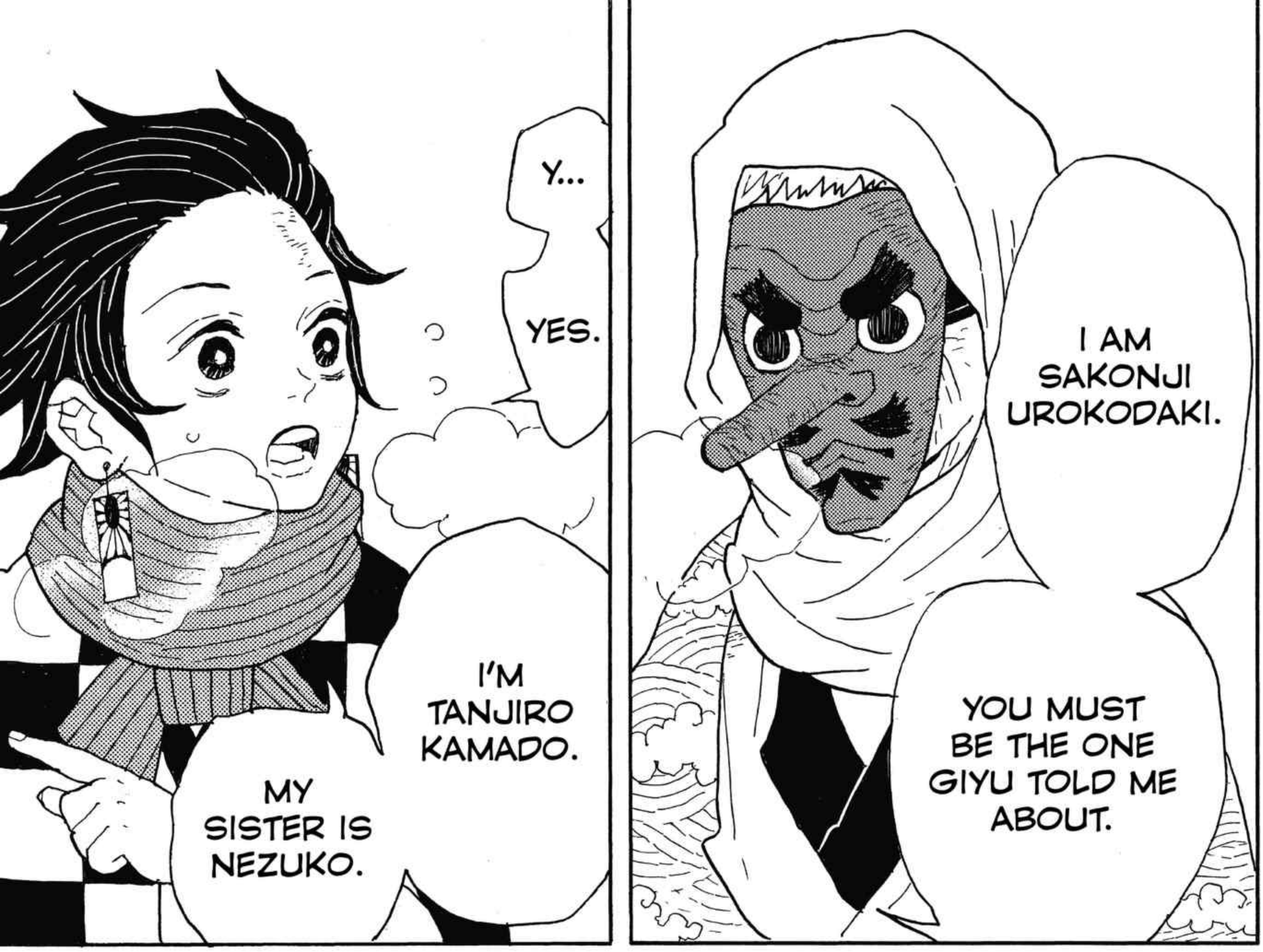

OH, YEAH...
...THAT GUY.

JUST A TOUCH OF SUN-LIGHT DID THAT?!
NO WONDER NEZUKO FEARS IT!




UM...

HE'S BURYING THE DEMON'S VICTIMS.


Y...
YES.
I'M TANJIRO KAMADO.
MY SISTER IS NEZUKO.
I AM SAKONJI UROKODAKI.
YOU MUST BE THE ONE GIYU TOLD ME ABOUT.

...WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOUR SISTER EATS SOMEONE?
TELL ME, TANJIRO...

WHY COULDN'T YOU ANSWER THAT QUESTION IMMEDIATELY?

...

YOU ARE TOO SOFT!

YOU COULD NEVER FINISH OFF A DEMON BEFORE THE MORNING LIGHT.

YOU STRUGGLE OVER THE SIMPLEST DECISIONS.

THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO TRAVEL WITH YOUR SISTER WHO HAS BECOME A DEMON!

WHEN YOUR SISTER EATS SOMEONE, THERE ARE *TWO THINGS* YOU HAVE TO DO...

KILL YOUR SISTER... THEN SLIT YOUR OWN *BELLY* AND DIE!

DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT I AM SAYING?

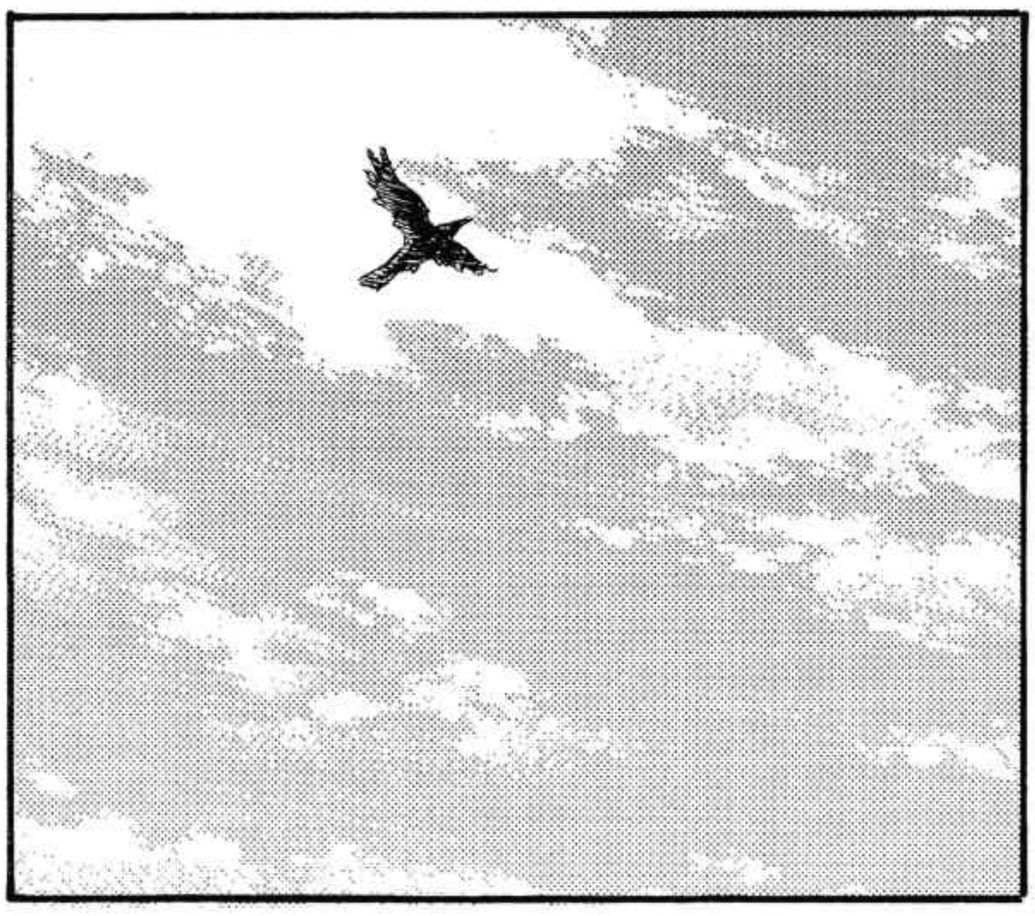
YOUR SISTER MUST *NEVER* TAKE THE LIFE...

...OF AN INNOCENT PERSON!

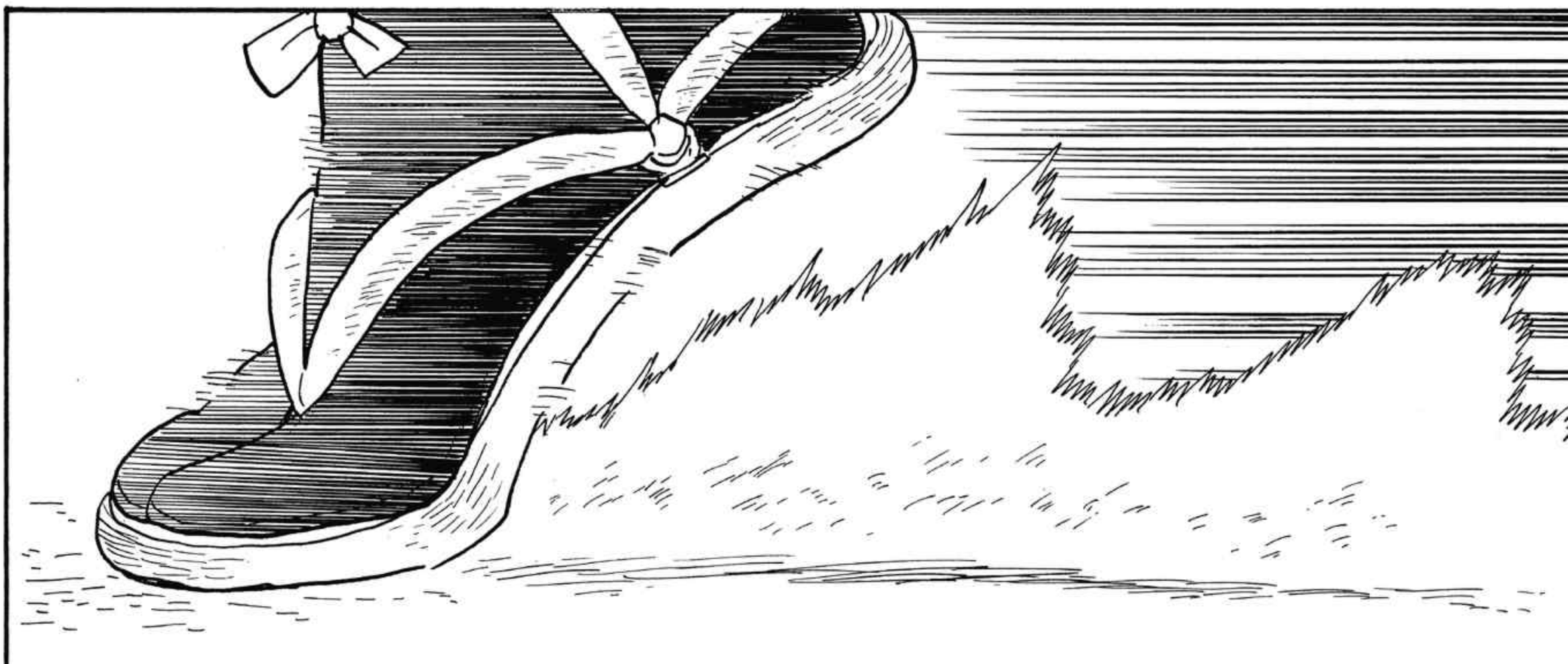
BUT IT IS YOUR SACRED DUTY TO ENSURE THAT THIS *NEVER* HAPPENS.

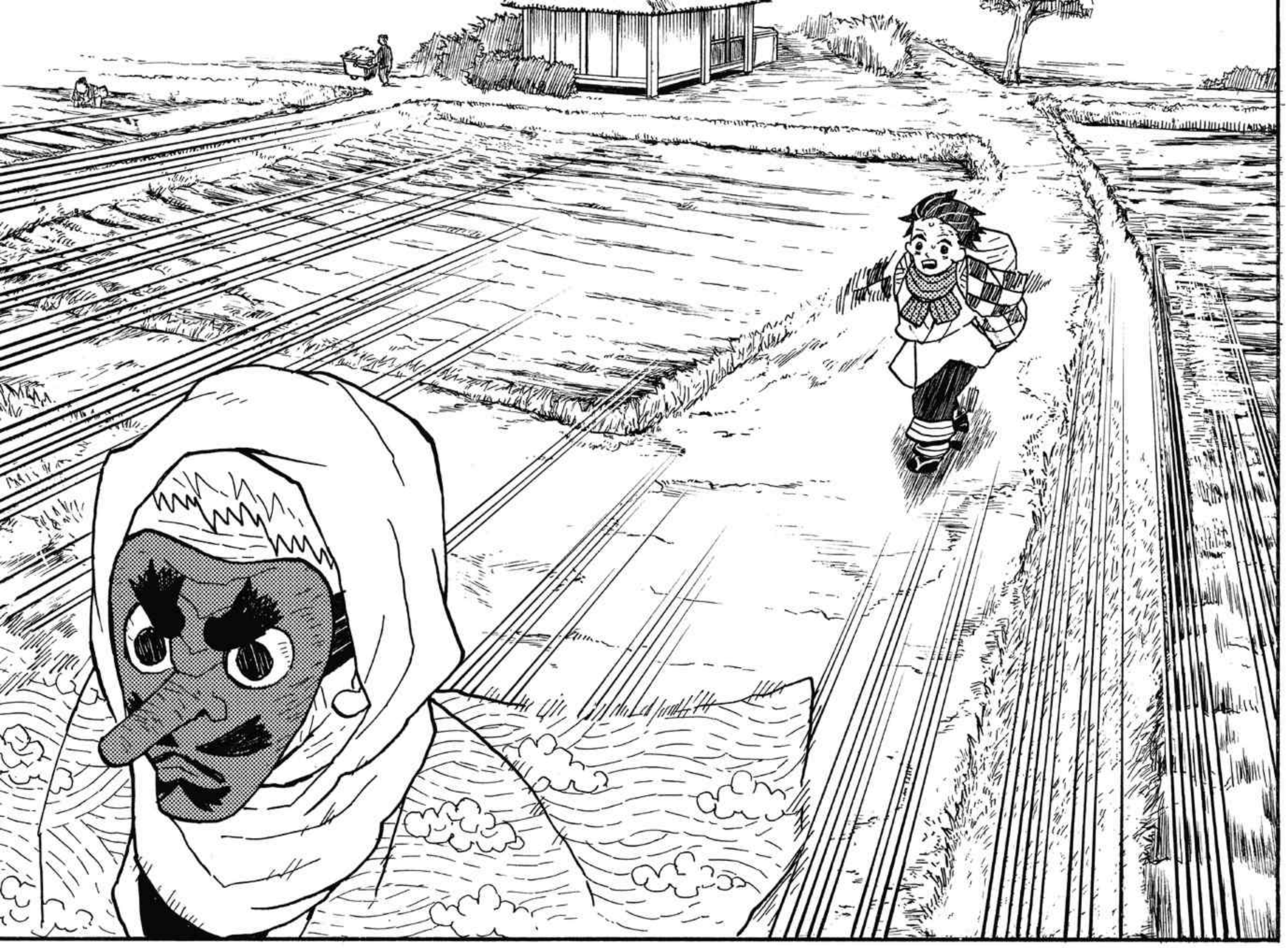
VERY WELL...
...I WILL TEST YOU TO SEE IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES...
...TO BE A DEMON-SLAYER SWORDS-MAN.

YES!



SHOULDER YOUR SISTER AND FOLLOW ME.





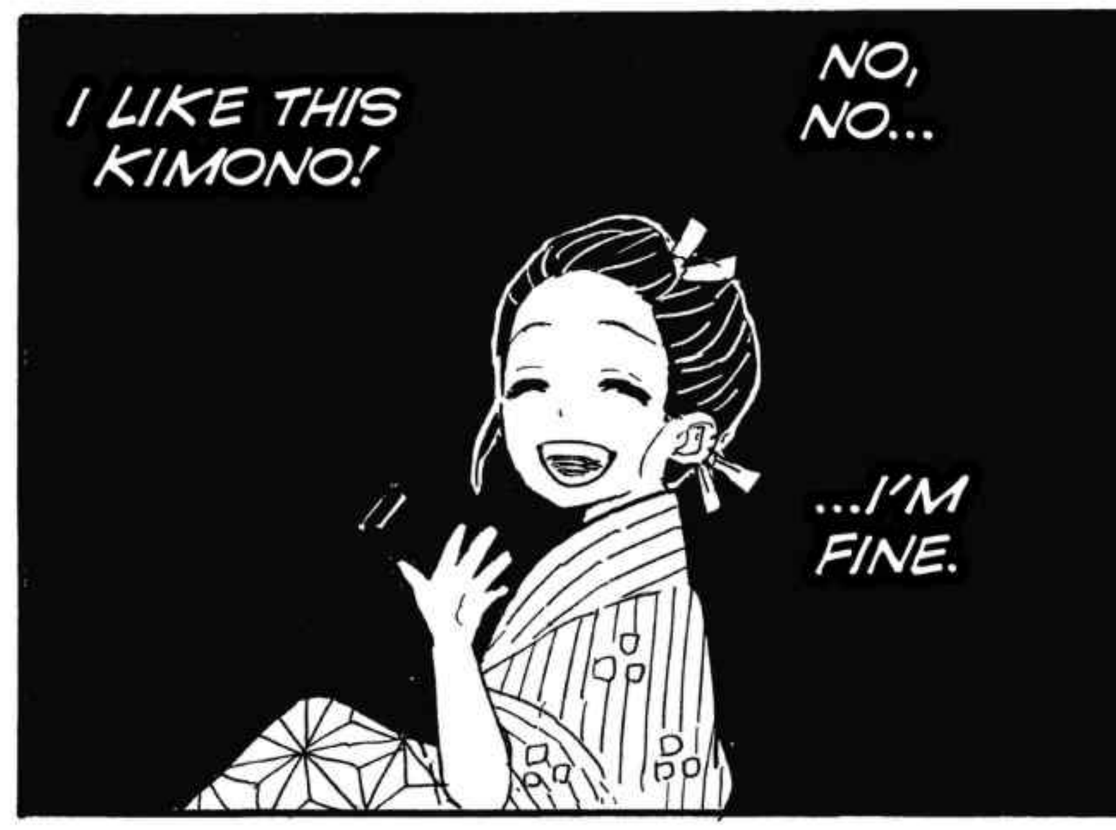
AND HIS FEET REALLY DON'T MAKE ANY SOUND!
HFF
HFF
HF
HE'S FAST!
HOW OLD IS THIS GUY?!

...
SUFFERING IS ALL YOU'VE EVER KNOWN...
...LITTLE SISTER.
BUT THEN...

...THIS'LL BE ROUGH, BUT HANG IN THERE!
NEZUKO...

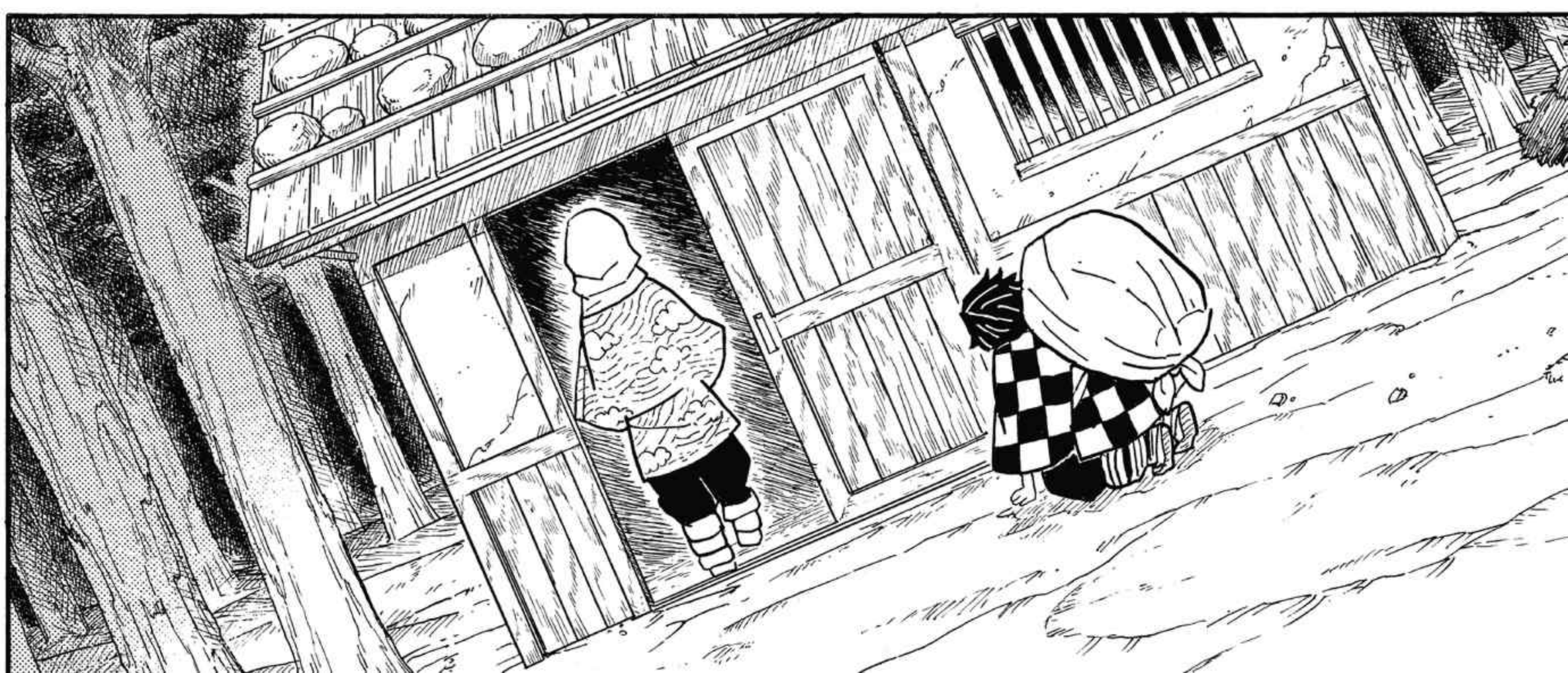
...TO GIVE THE YOUNGER KIDS PLENTY TO EAT.
INSTEAD, I USE THAT MONEY...

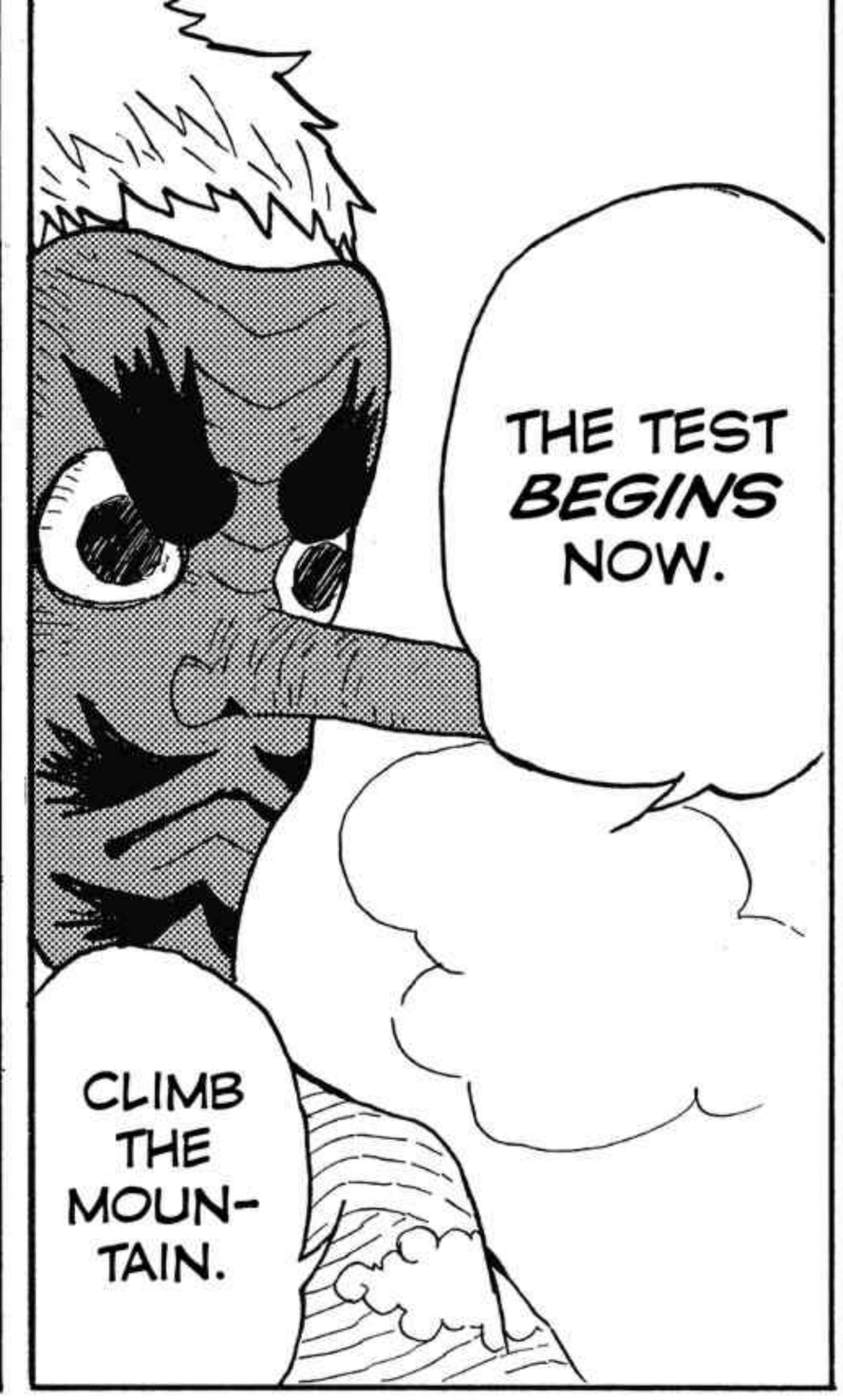
YOU SHOULD BUY A NEW ONE.
ARE YOU MENDING YOUR KIMONO AGAIN?

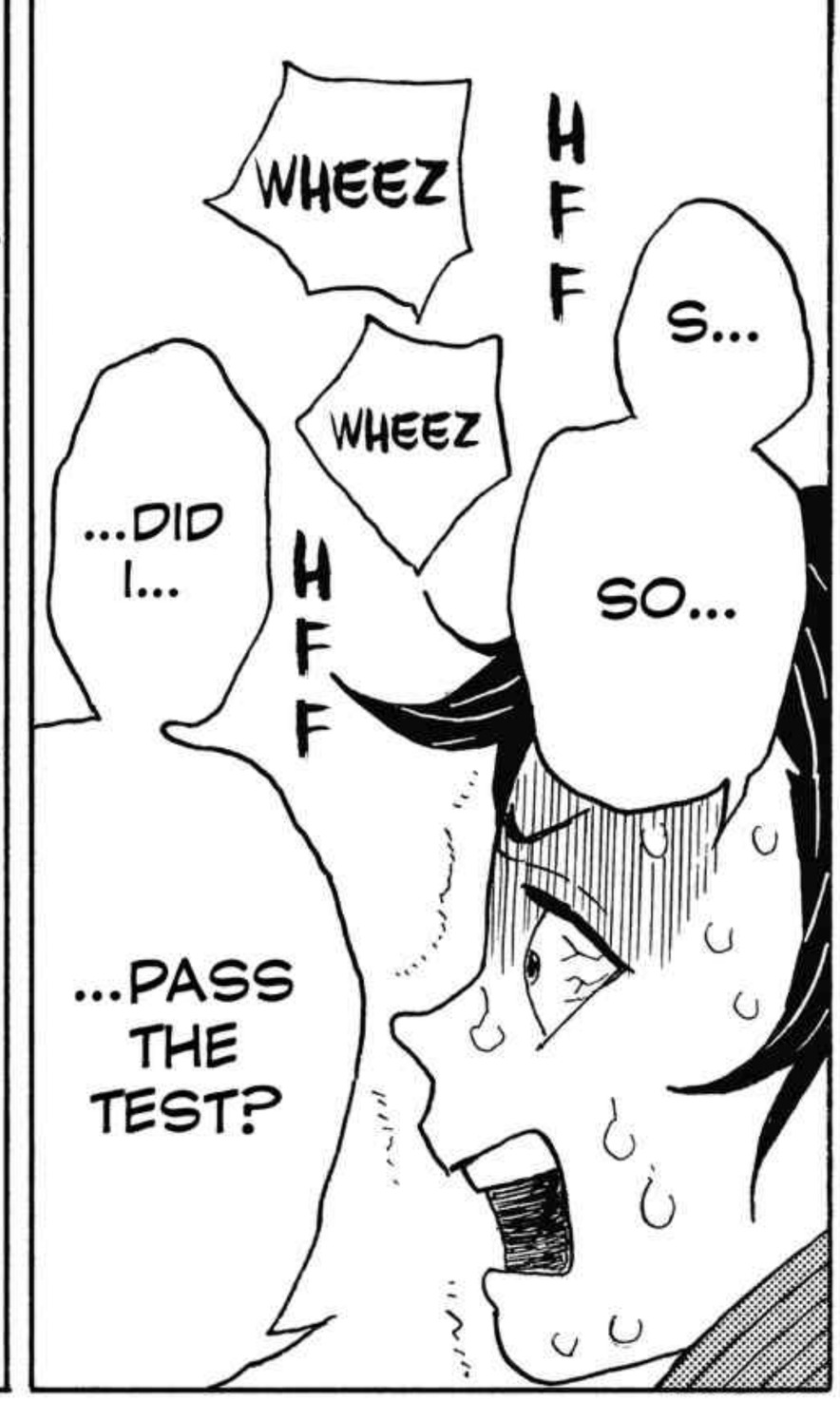

I LIKE THIS KIMONO!
NO, NO...
...I'M FINE.

EVERYTHING I COULDN'T GIVE TO THEM, I'LL GIVE TO YOU!

AND THEN I'LL BUY YOU A BEAUTIFUL KIMONO!
I WILL MAKE YOU HUMAN AGAIN!




THE TEST *BEGINS* NOW.
CLIMB THE MOUN-TAIN.


WHEEZ
HFF
S...
WHEEZ
...DID I...
HFF
SO...
...PASS THE TEST?

FWIP
HFF
HFF

I'M DIZZY...
I'M ALREADY TIRED. MY LEGS ARE GETTING WEAK.
HFF
HFF

THIS TIME, I WILL NOT WAIT UNTIL SUNRISE.

NOW YOU MUST DESCEND TO THE HOUSE AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN.

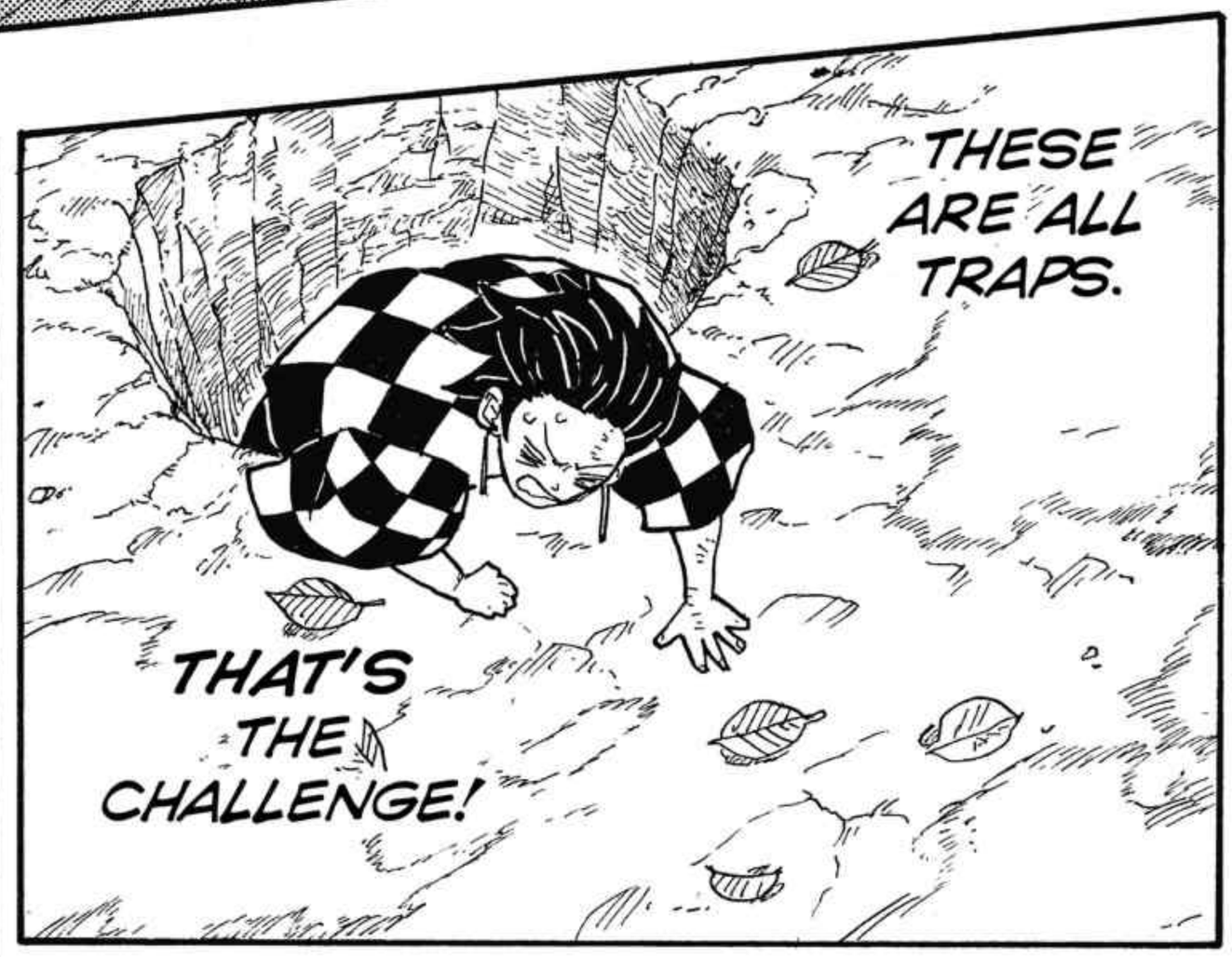
SNAG
WHSH
EVEN IF I CAN'T SEE HIM, I CAN STILL FOLLOW HIM ALL THE WAY.
TOKO
?!
NHAP
NHAP
NHAP

WHO'S THROWING ROCKS?!
WHIMP

I GET IT!

A COVERED PIT!

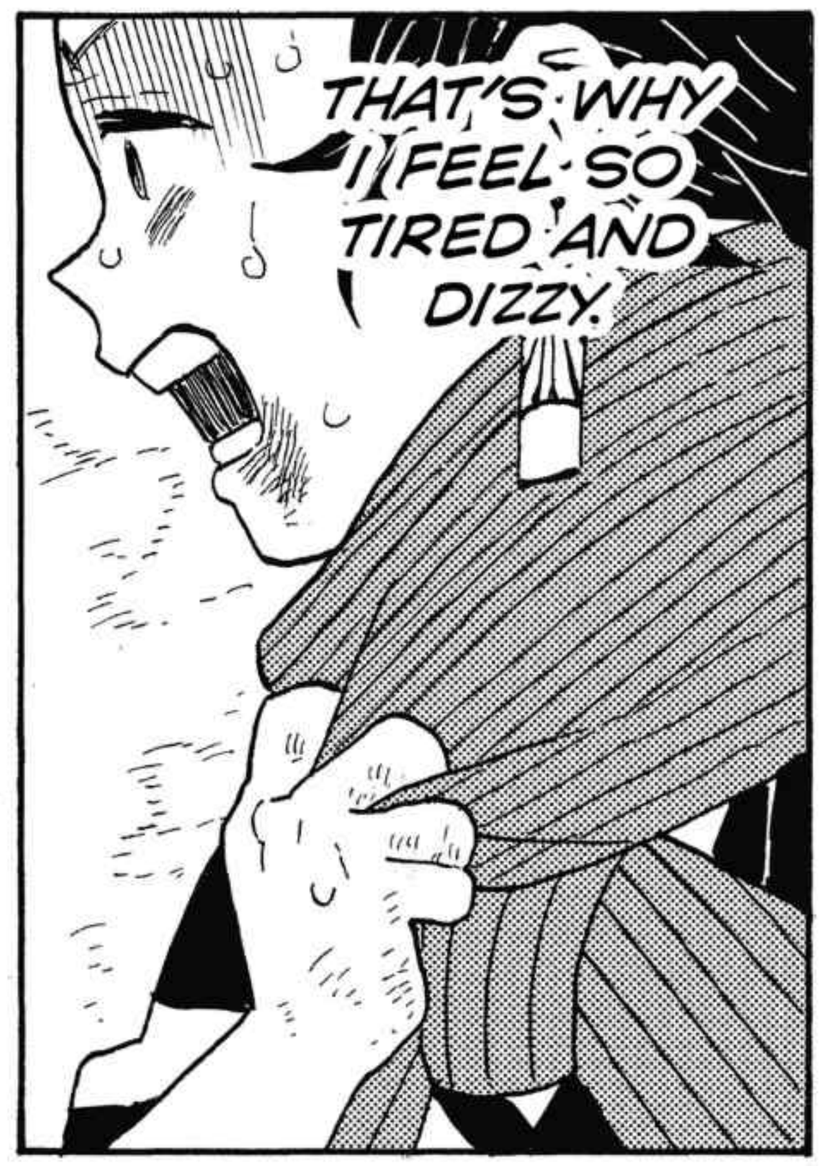
WSH
UH-OH! HERE WE GO AGAIN!

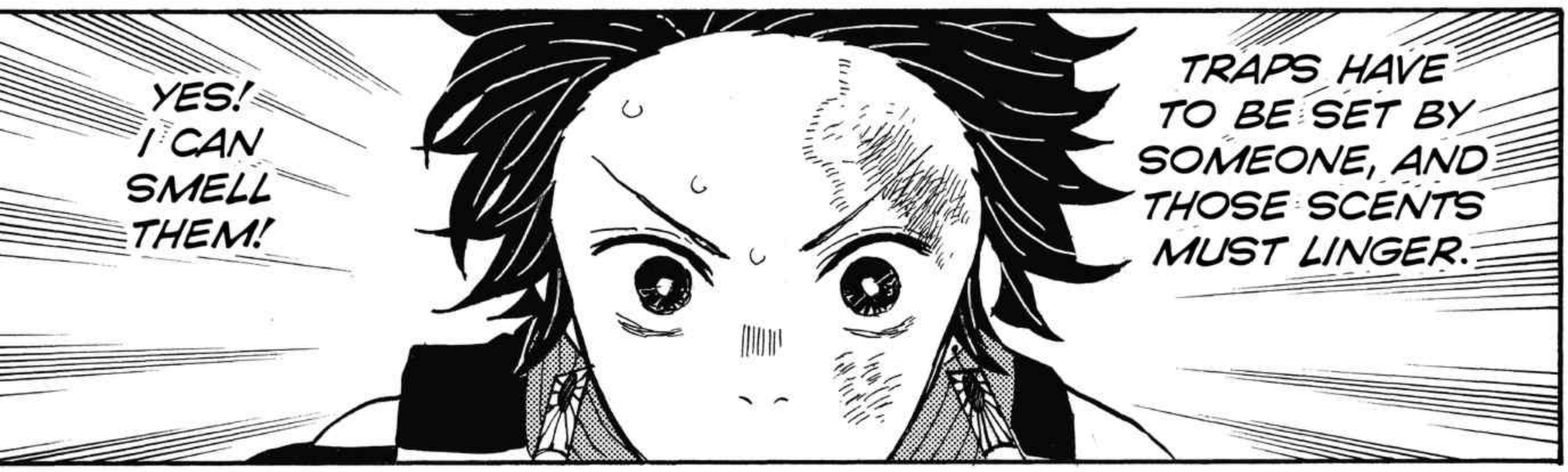

THESE ARE ALL TRAPS.
THAT'S THE CHALLENGE!

MMPH

I'M IN BIG TROUBLE.
HFF
HFF
WHUD
AND I JUST NOTICED... UP ON THIS MOUNTAIN...
IF I KEEP SETTING OFF EVERY TRAP, I WON'T GET DOWN THE MOUNTAIN BY MORNING.

HFF
HFF
HFF
IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN THE MOUNTAIN WE LIVED ON!
...THE AIR'S SO THIN I CAN BARELY BREATHE!
HFF
HFF





...THE ABILITY TO EVADE THEM ALL!

BUT KNOWING THEY'RE THERE DOESN'T GRANT ME...

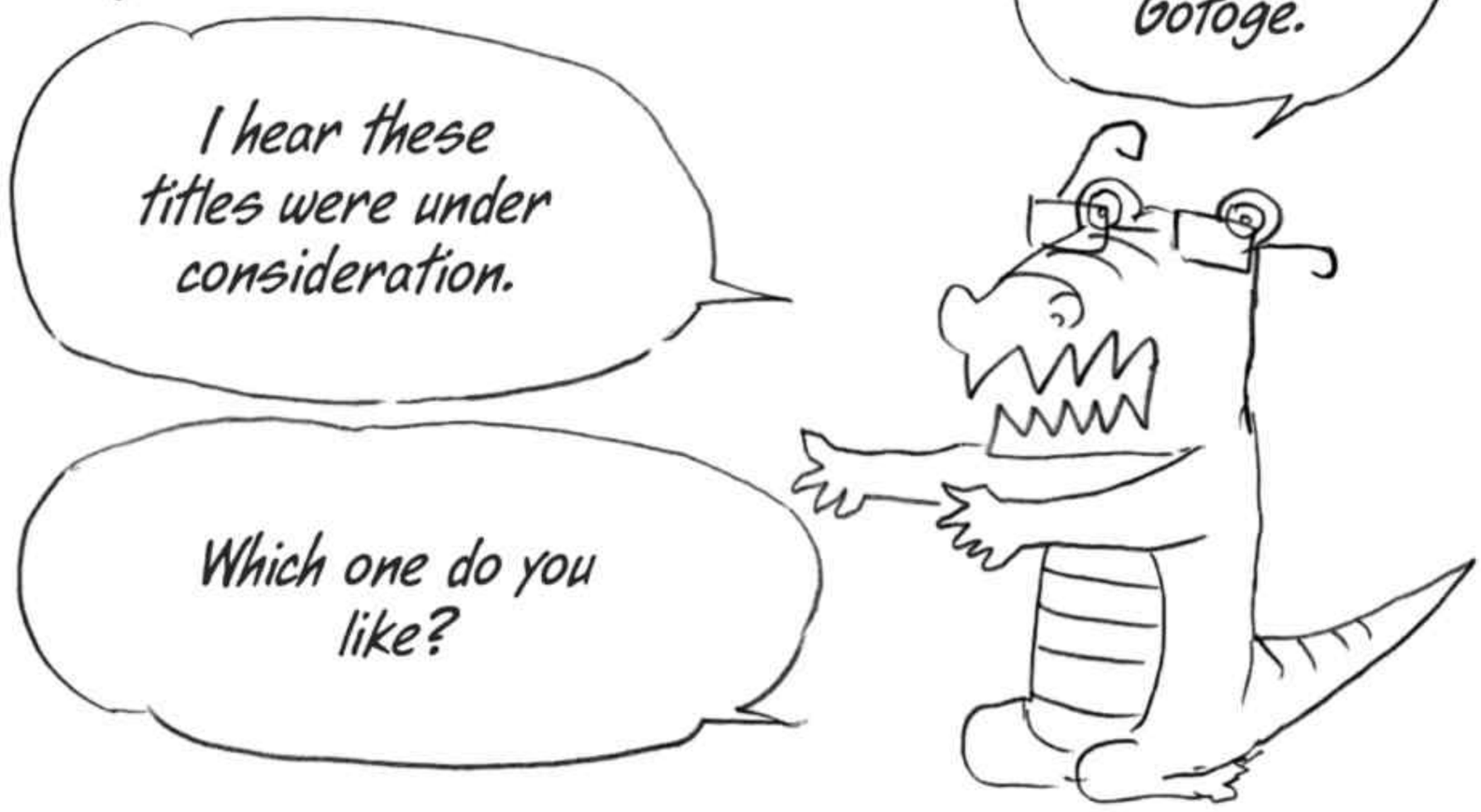
SHMP
SHMP
I...
...MADE IT...
...BACK.
HFF
HFF
HFF
...I ACCEPT YOU AS MY STUDENT!
TANJIRO KAMADO...

Taisho Whispers & Rumors

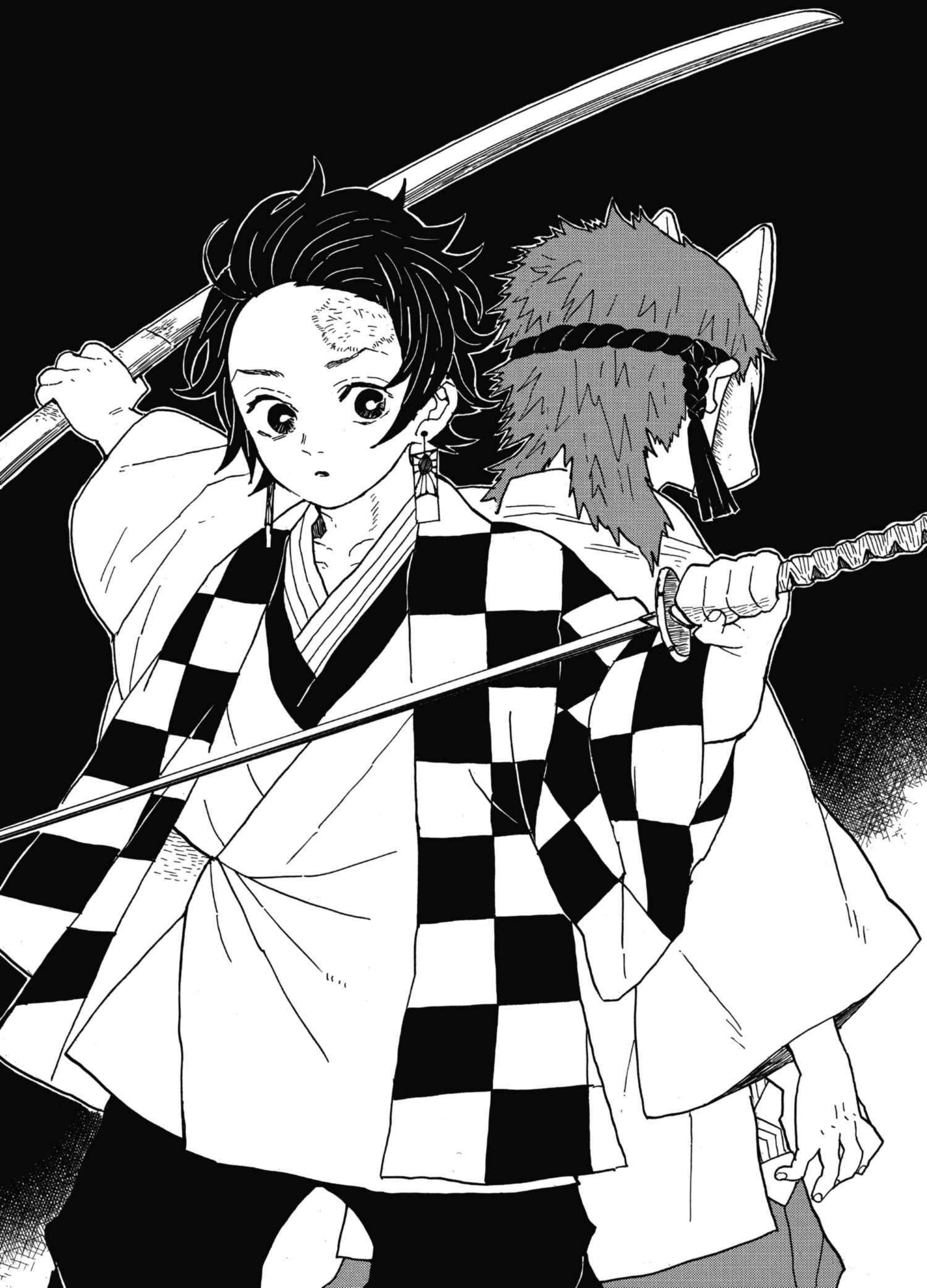
- 鬼滅奇譚 (Kimetsu Kitan) (Mysterious Story of the Demon Slayer)
- 鬼鬼滅滅 (Kikimetsumetsu) (Demon Demon Slayer Slayer)
- 悪鬼滅々 (Akkimetsumetsu) (Evil Demon Slayer)
- 鬼殺の刃 (Kisatsu no Yaiba) (Sword of the Demon Killer)
- 滅々鬼譚 (Metsumetsu Kitan) (Strange Tale of the Demon Slayer)
- 鬼殺譚 (Kisatsutan) (Tale of the Demon Killer)
- 空想鬼滅奇譚 (Kuso Kimetsu Kitan) (The Fantastic Strange Tale of the Demon Slayer)
- 鬼狩りカグツチ (Onigari Kagutsuchi) (Demon Hunting God of Fire)
- 炭のカグツチ (Sumi no Kagutsuchi) (Charred God of Fire)

* "Kitan" means an unusual and mysterious story.

* "Kagutsuchi" is a god of fire.



CHAPTER 4: TANJIRO'S JOURNAL, PART 1



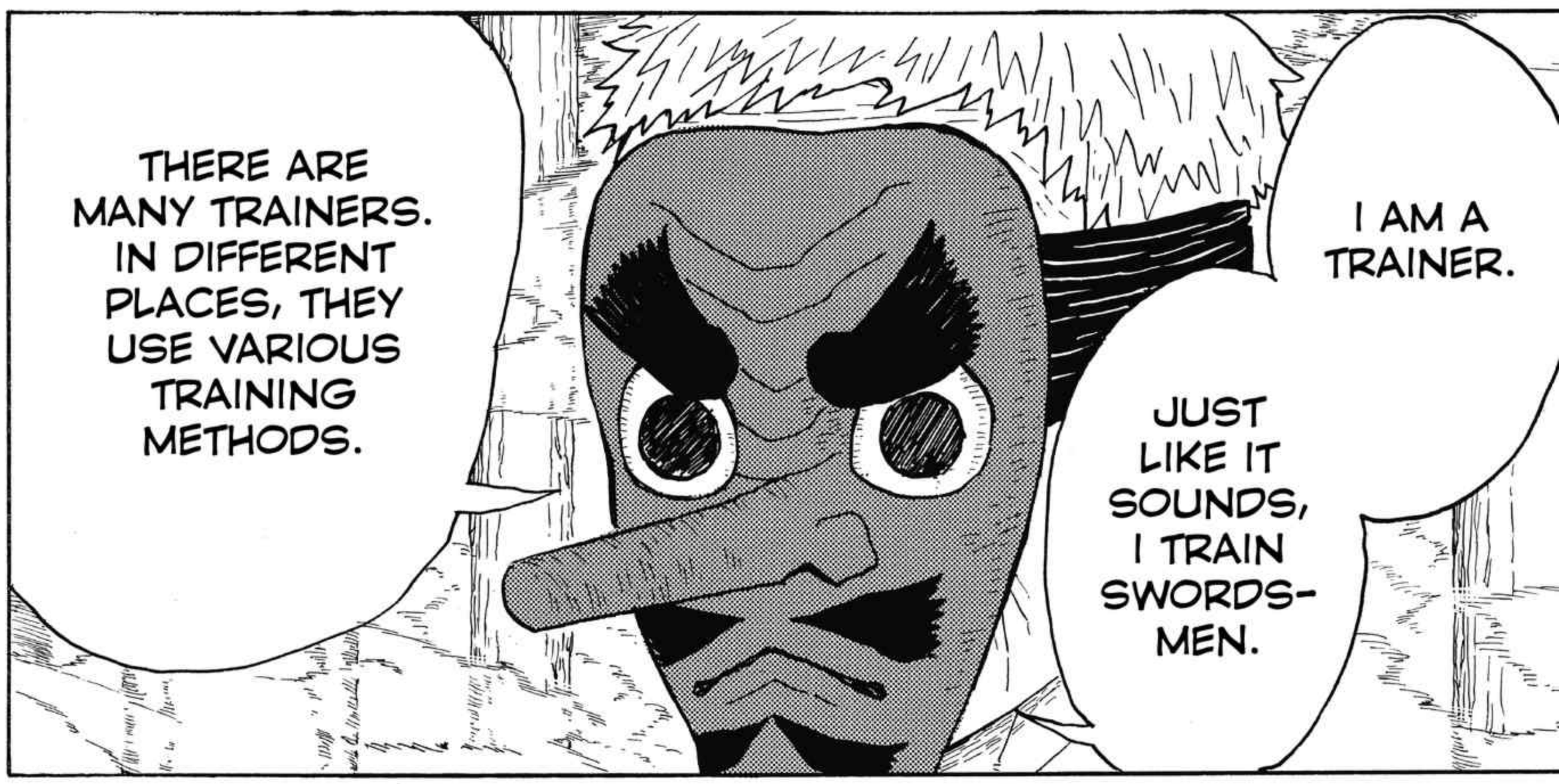
THERE ARE A FEW HUNDRED MEMBERS ...
...OF THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS.
HOWEVER, THE IDENTITY OF THE LEADER OF THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS...
THE ORGANIZATION ISN'T OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
...IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.
BUT IT HAS EXISTED SINCE DAYS OF OLD AND STILL HUNTS DEMONS TODAY.

THEY HAVE IMPRESSIVE PHYSICAL ABILITIES AND THEIR WOUNDS HEAL QUICKLY.
DEMONS.
STAPLE FOOD: HUMANS.
THEY CAN RECONNECT SEVERED FLESH AND GROW NEW LIMBS. SOME DEMONS CAN CHANGE FORM. OTHERS POSSESS STRANGE POWERS.
THEY KILL HUMANS AND EAT THEM.
IT IS UNCLEAR WHEN OR WHERE THEY FIRST APPEARED.
THE ONLY WAYS TO KILL THEM ARE BY EXPOSING THEM TO SUNLIGHT OR BY CUTTING OFF THEIR HEADS WITH A SPECIAL SWORD.

THEY ARE HUMAN, SO THEIR WOUNDS HEAL, SLOWLY AND LOST-LIMBS DO NOT RETURN.

THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS FIGHTS DEMONS FACE-TO-FACE.

NONETHE-LESS, THEY FIGHT DEMONS IN ORDER TO PROTECT ORDINARY PEOPLE.



AGAIN TODAY, I DESCENDED THE MOUNTAIN.

STARTING TODAY, I HAVE DECIDED TO WRITE THIS JOURNAL FOR NEZUKO.

I TRAIN AS HARD AS I CAN SO I WON'T DIE DURING FINAL SELECTION.

IT'S LIKE HE REALLY WANTS TO KILL ME.

THOK THOK

BUT THE TRAPS ARE GETTING MUCH DEADLIER.

IT REALLY GETS IN THE WAY...

...SO CARRYING IT GOT ME CAUGHT IN A LOT OF TRAPS.

TODAY, I WENT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN WITH A KATANA.

AFTER DESCENDING THE MOUNTAIN, I SWING THE SWORD SO MUCH I FEEL LIKE MY ARMS MIGHT FALL OFF.

SWSH SWSH

...715...

...716...

I SAY "TODAY," BUT LATELY I DO THIS **EVERY** DAY.

TODAY, I PRACTICED SWINGING THE SWORD.

...713...

...714...

WITH A KATANA ...

IT'S STRONG AGAINST FORCE LENGTHWISE BUT WEAK AGAINST FORCE FROM THE SIDE.

THE FIRST THING HE TAUGHT ME WAS THAT A KATANA BREAKS EASILY.

WHEN YOU SWING A KATANA...

...YOU MUST ATTACK STRAIGHT AHEAD.

...THE DIRECTION OF THE BLADE AND THE DIRECTION OF THE FORCE YOU APPLY MUST BE EXACTLY THE SAME.

...HE'LL BREAK MY BONES. HIS THREATS ARE COLD...

IN OTHER WORDS, IF I BREAK IT...

...YOU!

FURTHER-MORE...

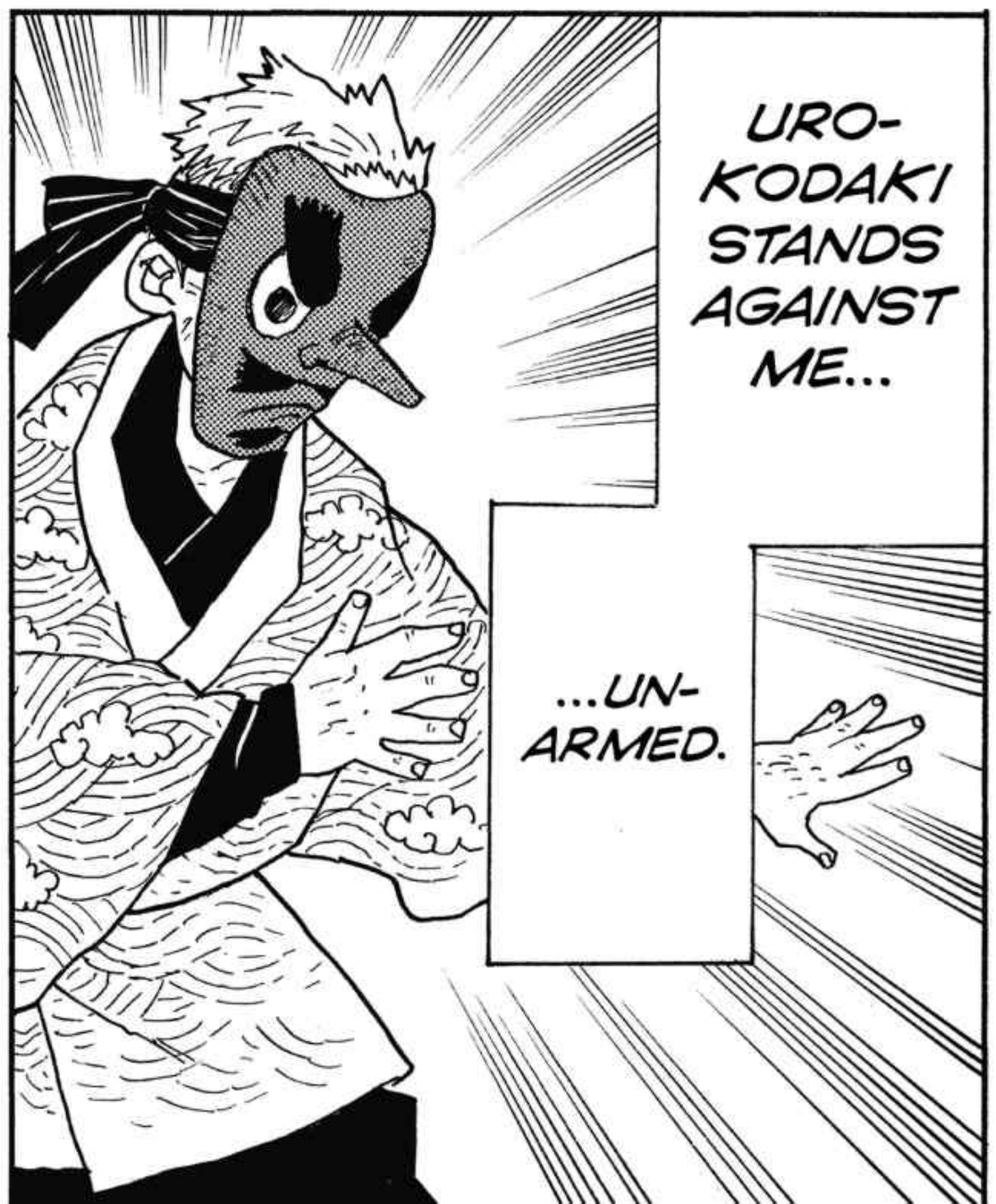
...IF YOU DAMAGE THE SWORD, HE'LL DAMAGE...

...LIKE THE MOUNTAIN.

FALL

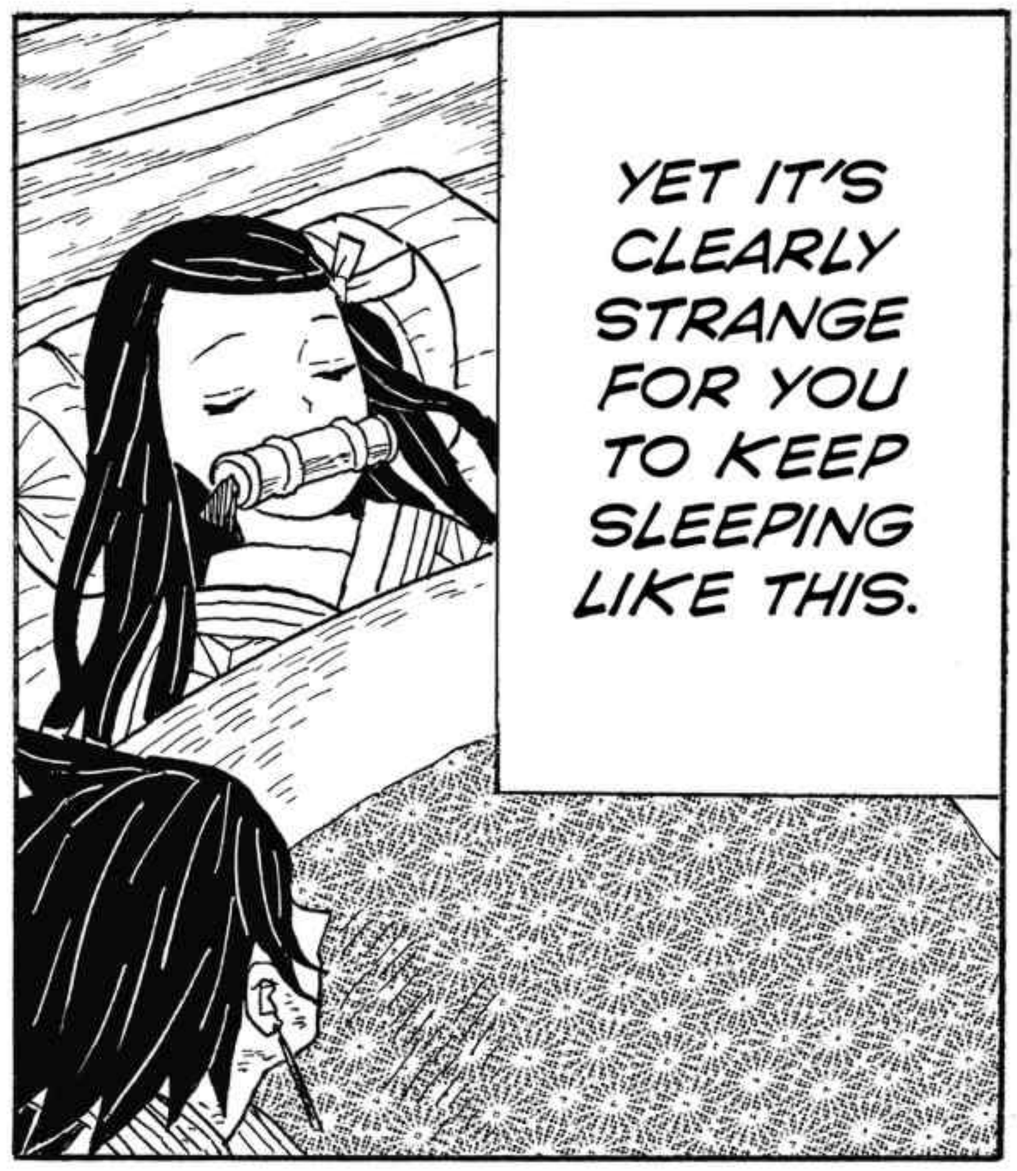
TODAY, I DID NOTHING BUT FALL DOWN...

...TRAINING TO BREAK MY FALL AND GET UP QUICKLY.

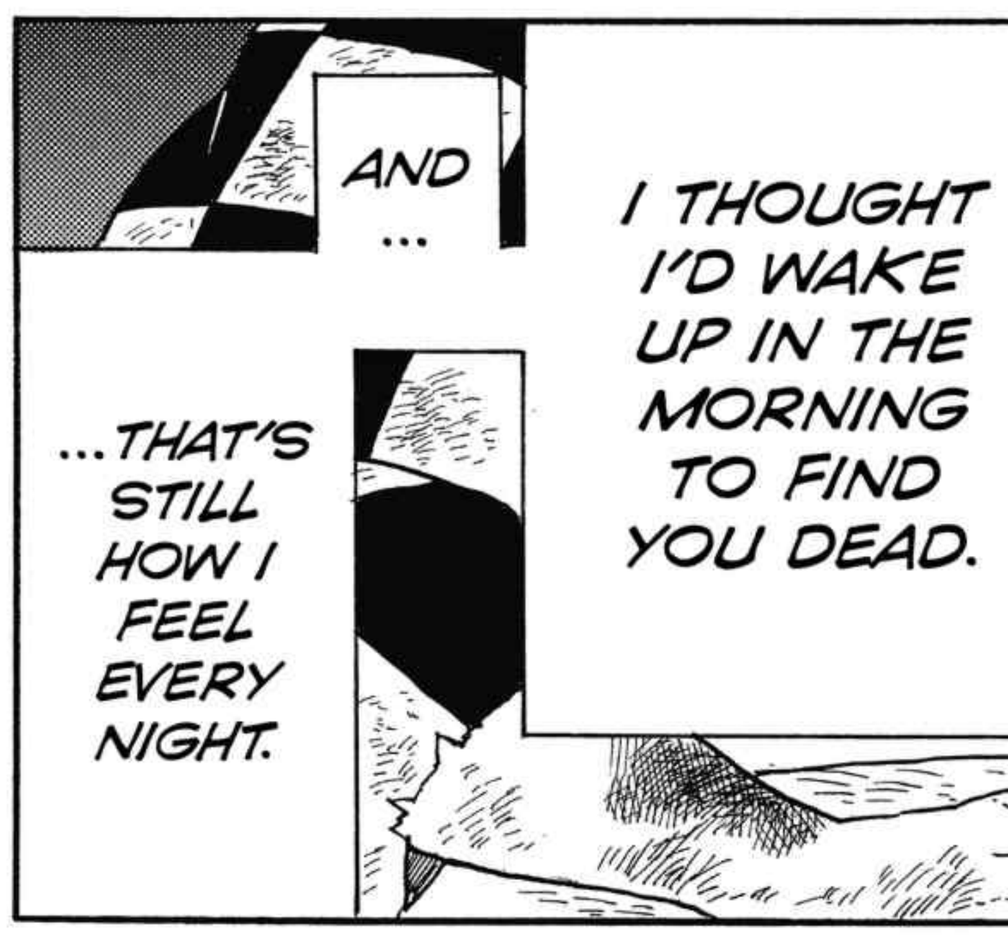


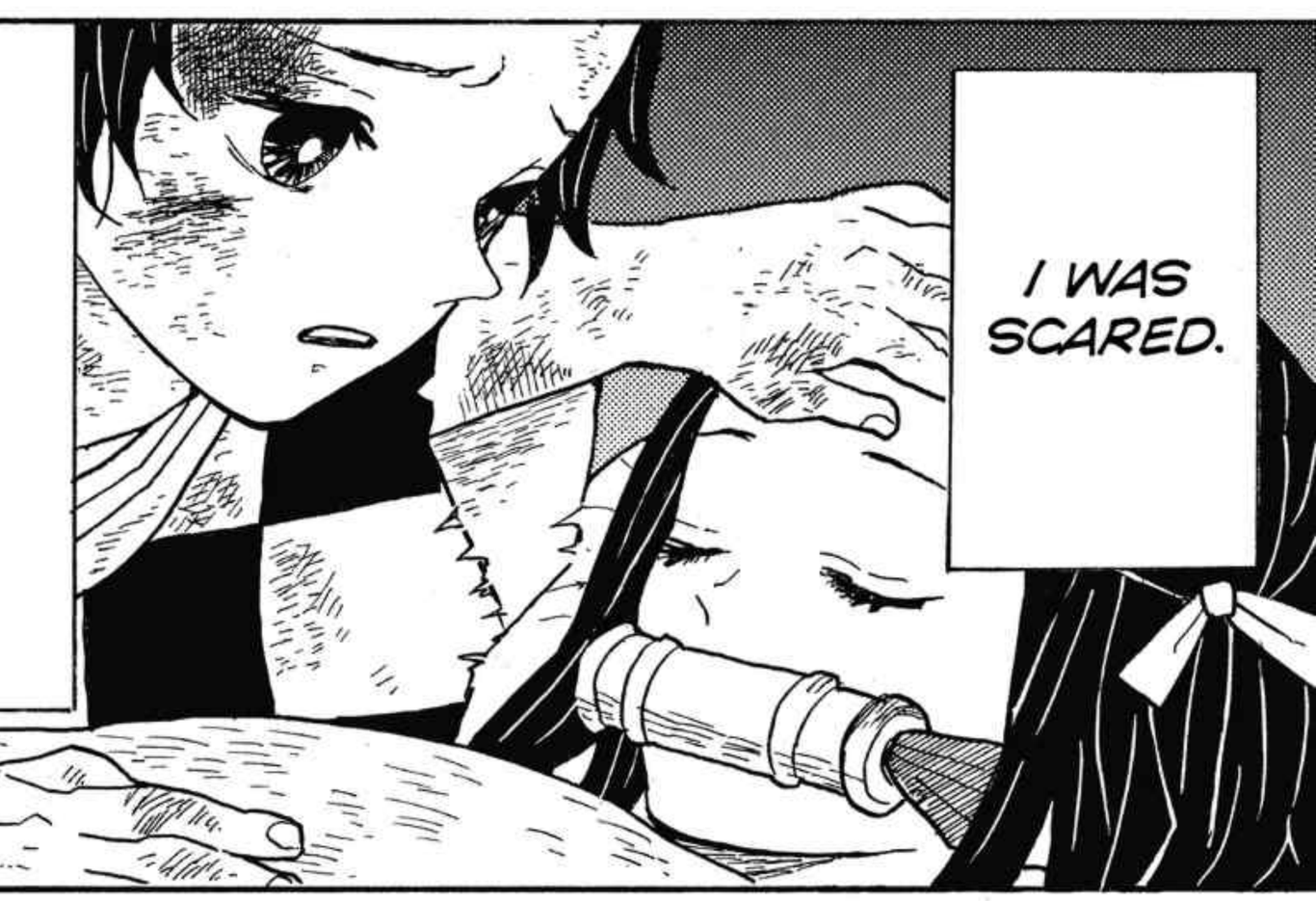
HE EASILY THROWS ME TO THE GROUND.
HUUUUH?!
BUT HE'S RIDICULOUSLY STRONG.

I'VE BEEN WRITING...
...FOR SIX MONTHS, NEZUKO, AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T WOKEN UP.
NO!
NO!
THIS ?
THIS ?
NO!
LIKE THIS ?
TODAY, I LEARNED BREATHING AND SOME STANDARD FORMS.
HE SAID I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH IN MY CORE, THEN HE GOT ANGRY AND HIT MY STOMACH.
BAM
AAGH!
BAM


YET IT'S CLEARLY STRANGE FOR YOU TO KEEP SLEEPING LIKE THIS.

UROKODAKI IMMEDIATELY CALLED A DOCTOR TO LOOK AT YOU...
...BUT HE FOUND NOTHING WRONG.


AND ...
...THAT'S STILL HOW I FEEL EVERY NIGHT.


I THOUGHT I'D WAKE UP IN THE MORNING TO FIND YOU DEAD.
I WAS SCARED.

MANY TIMES I'VE THOUGHT THAT I WOULD DIE.
AND EVERY DAY I GO HIGHER ON THE MOUNTAIN FOR MY TRAINING, EACH PLACE MORE DANGEROUS AND WITH THINNER AIR.

I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO TEACH YOU.

...THAT WAS ALL HE SAID.

ABOUT A YEAR AFTER I ARRIVED AT MOUNT SAGIRI...

HZZ

HZZ

HFF

HUH?

IF YOU CAN SPLIT THIS BOULDER, I WILL APPROVE YOU FOR FINAL SELECTION.

CAN YOU SPLIT IT WITH A KATANA?

CAN THAT EVEN BE SPLIT?!

A BOULDER ...?

THE BLADE WOULD BREAK.

I DON'T THINK I CAN.

UROKO-DAKI!!

UROKO-DAKI!

WAIT! THIS...

STOMP

...HASN'T TAUGHT ME ANYTHING.

...

UROKO-DAKI

...

SINCE THAT DAY...

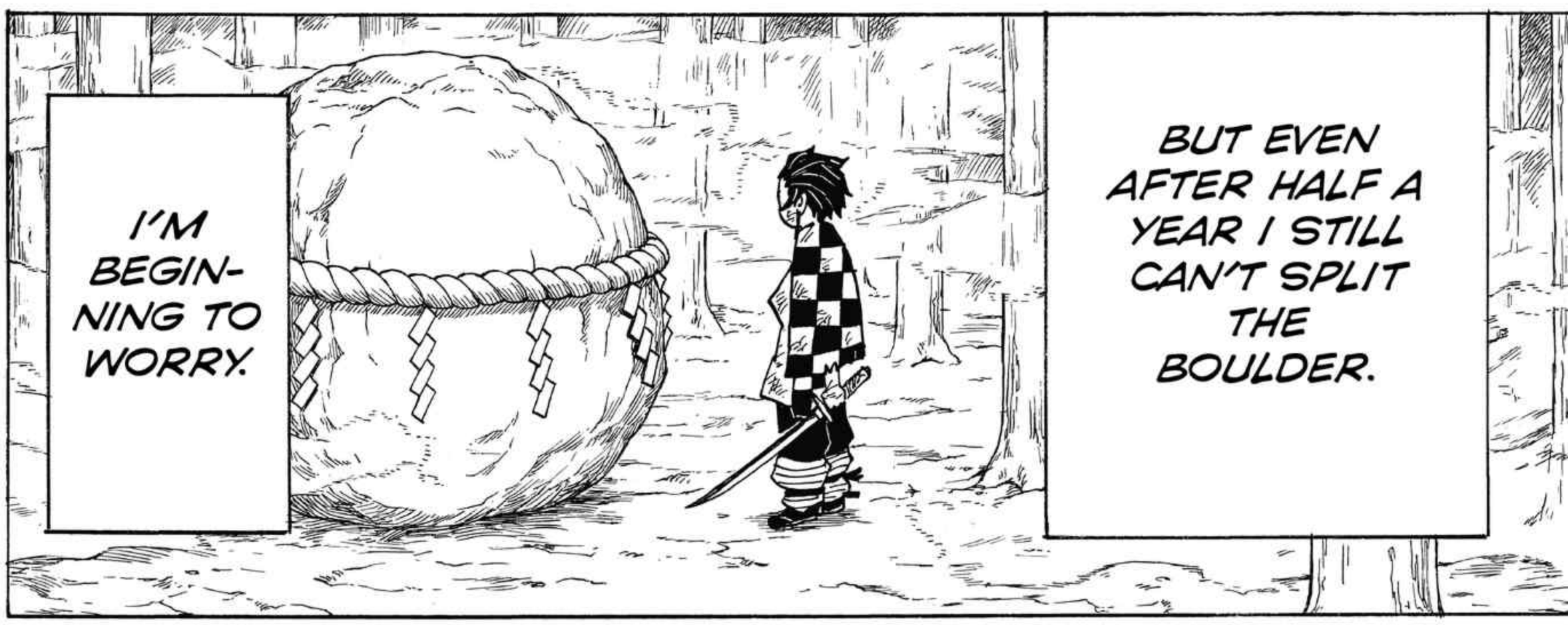
SLISH SLISH SLISH

HOLDING MY BREATH, FLEXIBILITY, AND THE MOST BASIC THINGS TOO.

STILL...

...EVERY DAY I PRACTICE WHAT I LEARNED FROM UROKO-DAKI.

I'M GLAD I WROTE EVERYTHING DOWN IN MY JOURNAL.



BONK
COME ON! TRY HARDER!
I HAVE NO ANSWERS!
I'M LOSING HOPE! I'M GOING TO FAIL!
WHAT IF...
...I'M NO GOOD?
WILL NE-ZUKO ...
...DIE LIKE THAT?
SILENCE!

A MAN SHOULDN'T WHINE... IT'S UNSEEMLY.

I CAN'T SMELL HIM!

A FOX MASK...?

WHERE DID HE COME FROM?!

?!

WHAK
THUD
BOOP
UGH!

...AND IMMATURE.
YOU'LL NEVER BE A DEMON SLAYER.
YOU'RE SLOW...
...AND WEAK...

ADVERTISING ILLUSTRATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SERIES.

CHAPTER 5: TANJIRO'S JOURNAL, PART 2

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!
!!
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO HAVE YOUR BUTT STUCK IN THE MUD?
TAKE A STANCE!
DOING?
I'M TRAIN-ING.

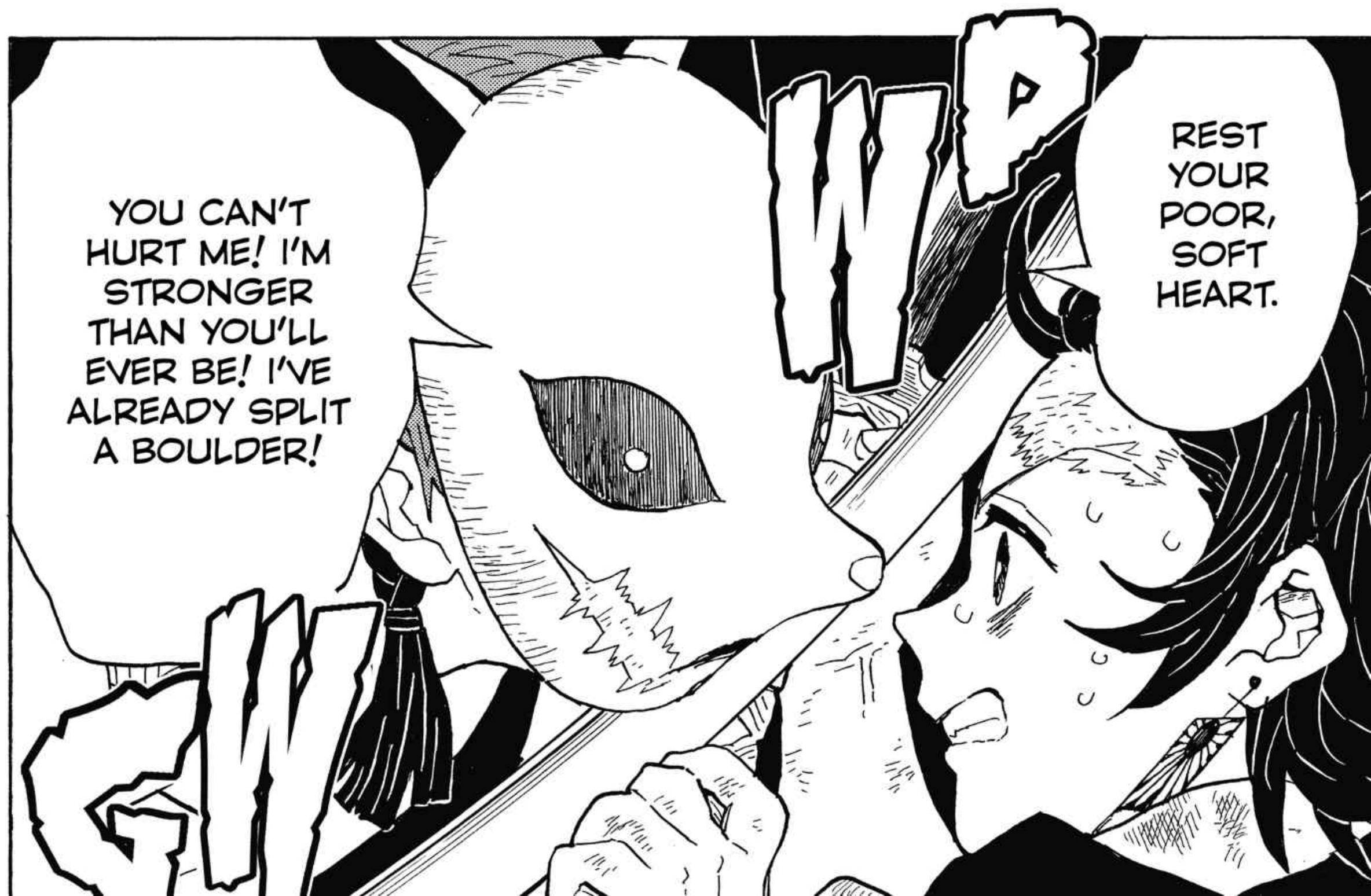
NOW... ATTACK!
STOMP
BUT...
...YOU HAVE A WOODEN SWORD AND I HAVE A REAL ONE!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA!

...

HA HA HA!

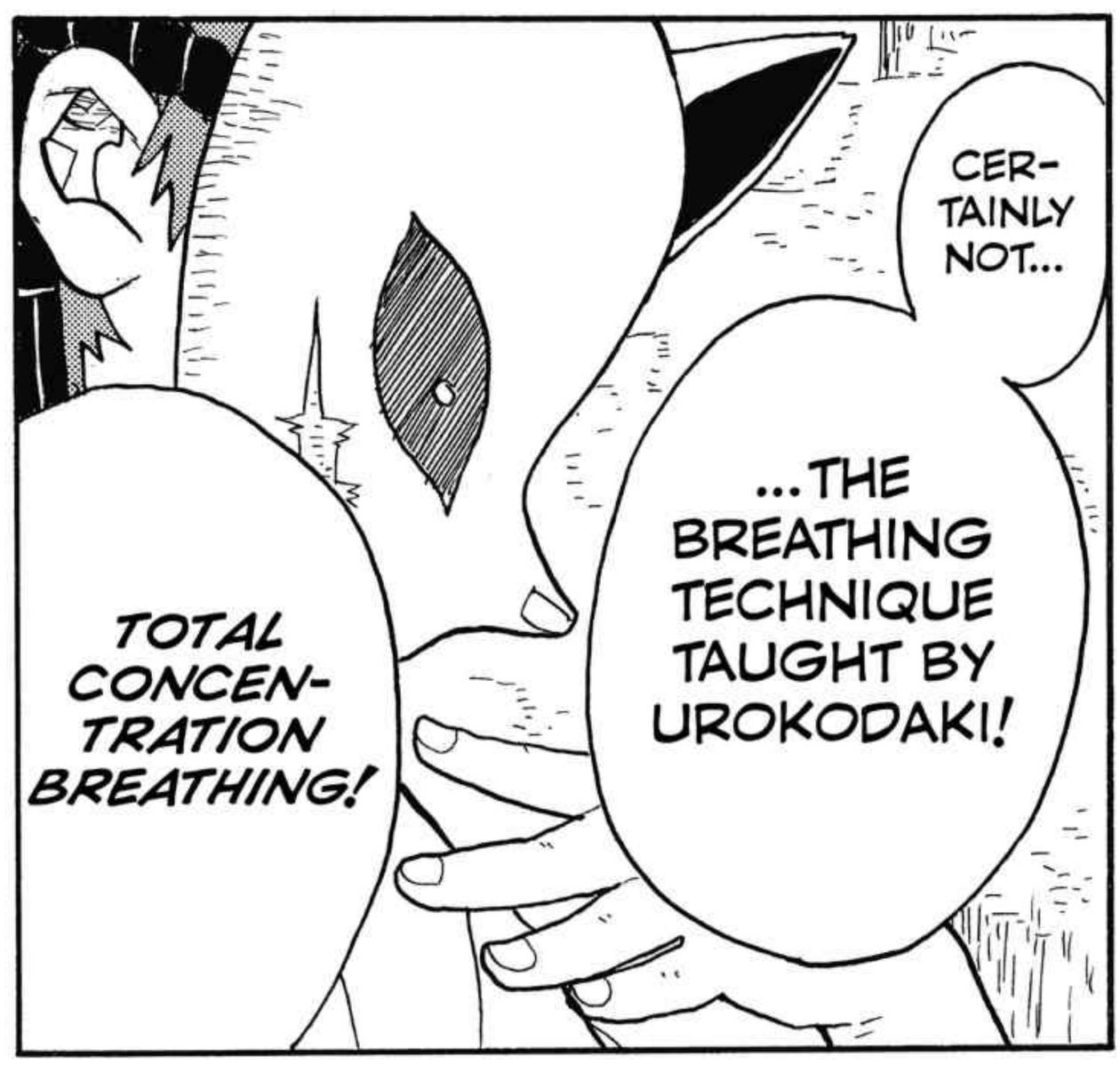
WA HA HA HA!



FAW FAW
YOU'VE GAINED NOTHING. YOU HAVEN'T MASTERED ANYTHING!

YOU SPLIT A BOULDER ?!

YOU JUST MEMORIZED IT AS A FACT...
BUT YOUR BODY DOESN'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING!


CER-TAINLY NOT...
...THE BREATHING TECHNIQUE TAUGHT BY UROKODAKI!
TOTAL CONCEN-TRATION BREATHING!

HE KNOWS UROKODAKI?! AND ABOUT THE BREATHING...
!!

BEAT IT INTO THE MARROW OF YOUR BONES!

I DO!
AS HARD AS I CAN!
I DO, EVERY DAY!

BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY...
I CAN'T PROG-RESS ANY FURTHER.

WHACK
WHAM
BEAT IT INTO YOUR FLESH AND BLOOD!
MORE!
MORE!
MORE!
WHAM
SO THAT YOU BECOME THE EMBODIMENT OF THE SECRETS UROKODAKI TAUGHT YOU!
WHAM

...IS TO LIE DOWN AND DIE! SO *MAKE* YOURSELF PROGRESS!

DON'T "TRY"... JUST *DO* IT!

IF YOU'RE A MAN!

THE ONLY OTHER CHOICE...

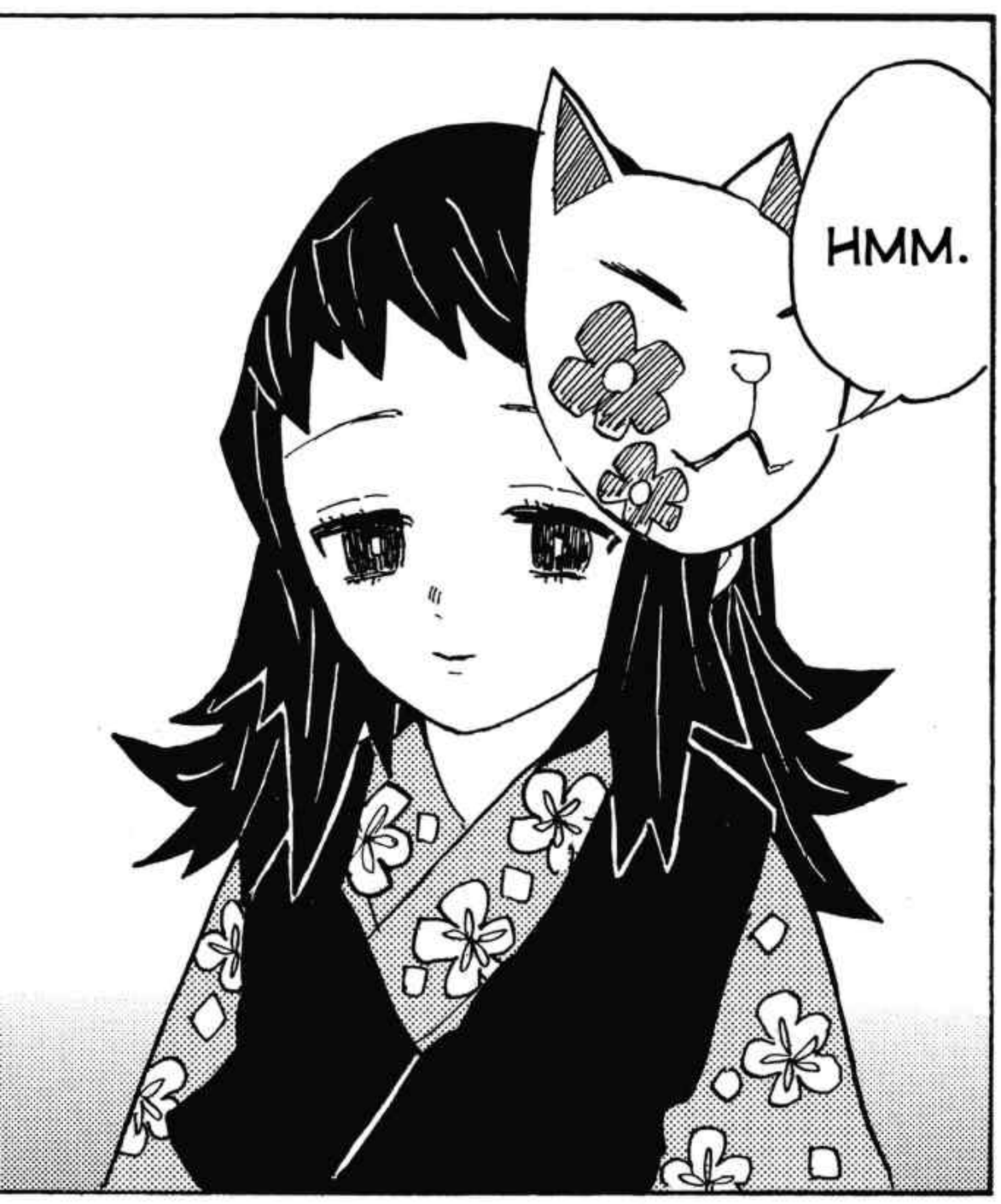
SHOW ME...

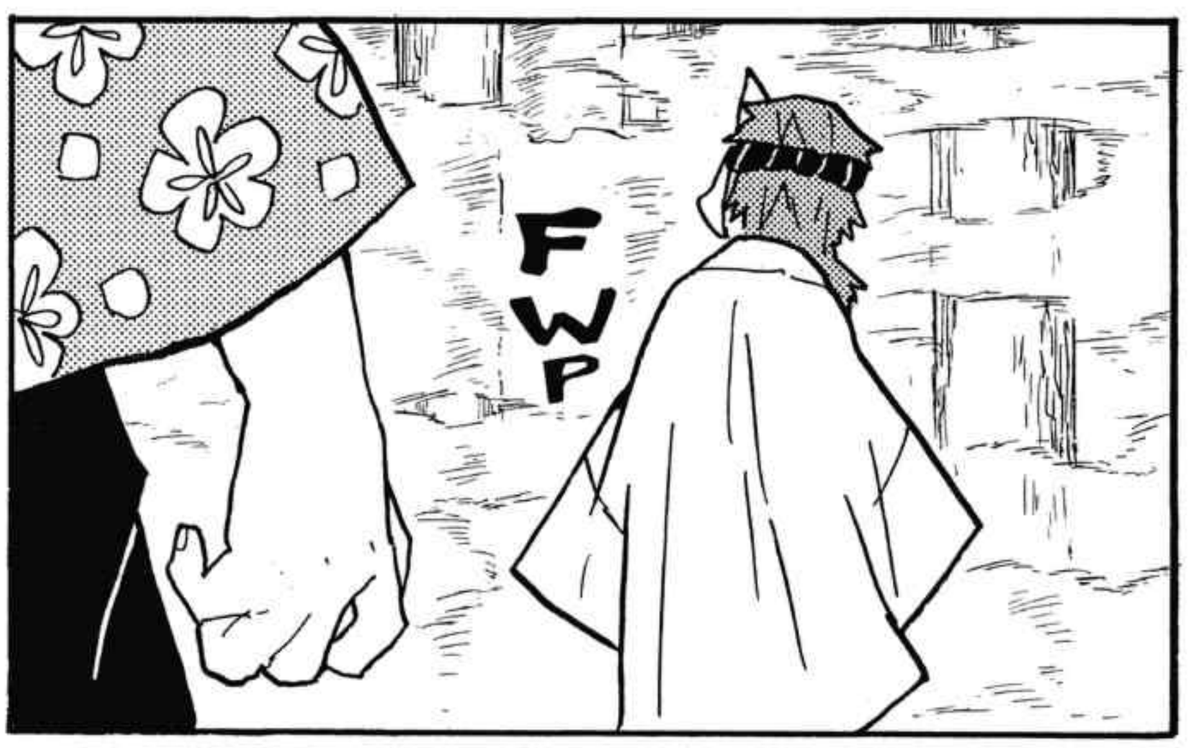
...YOUR STRENGTH!

ATTACK! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

AAAAAGH!!

THUD





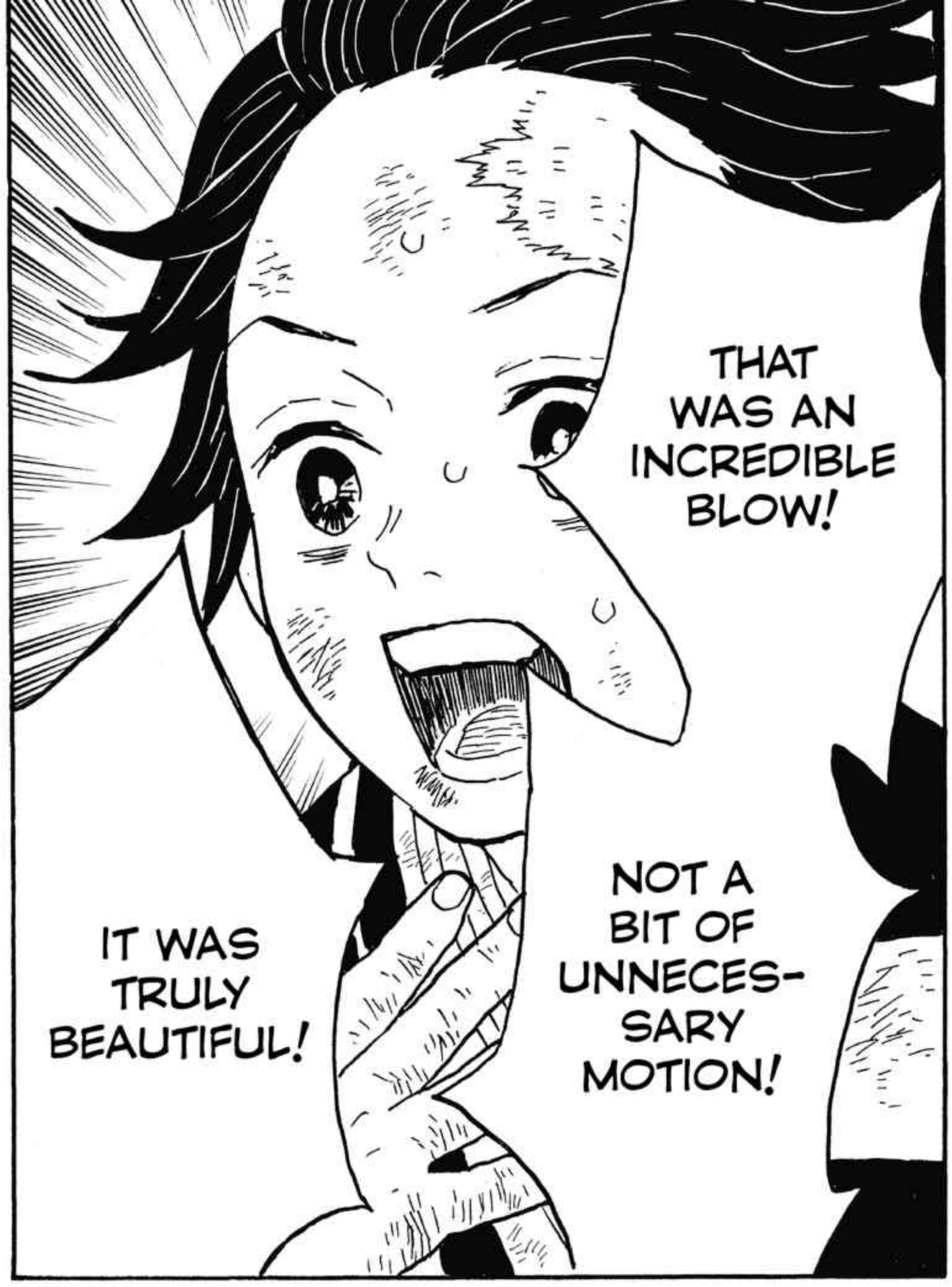
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

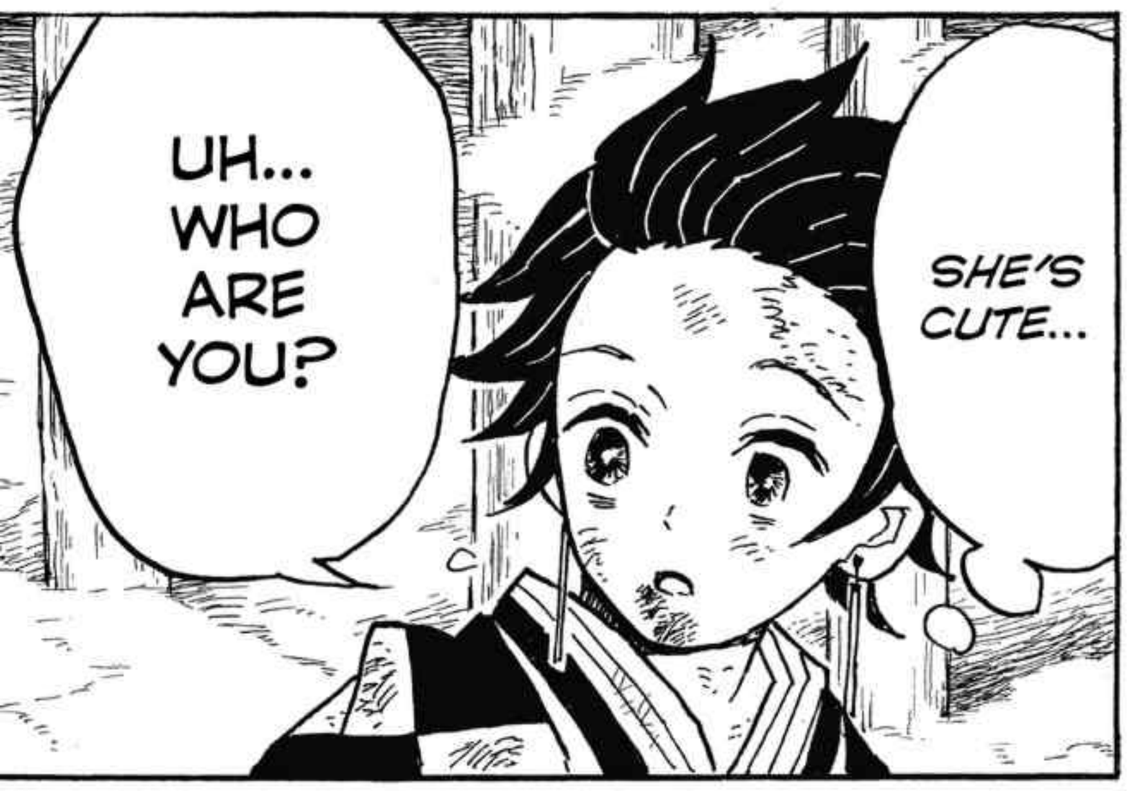
DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED?

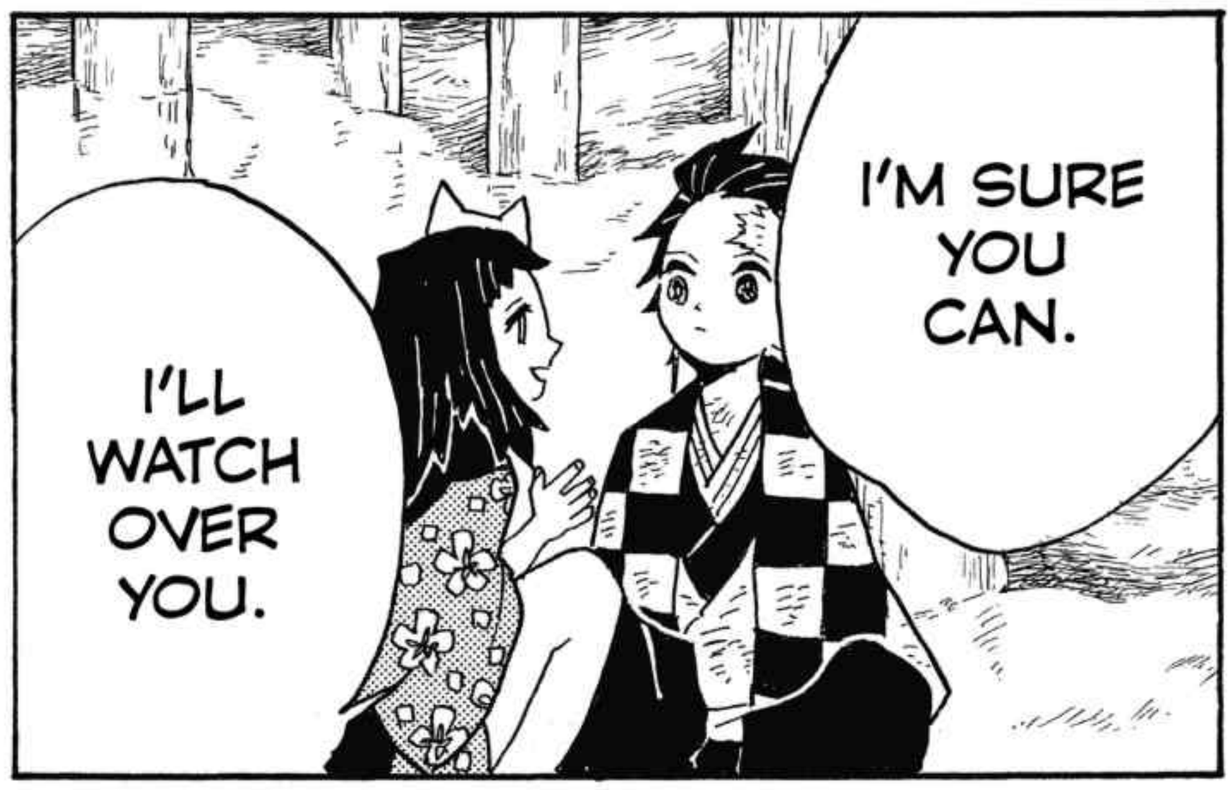
?

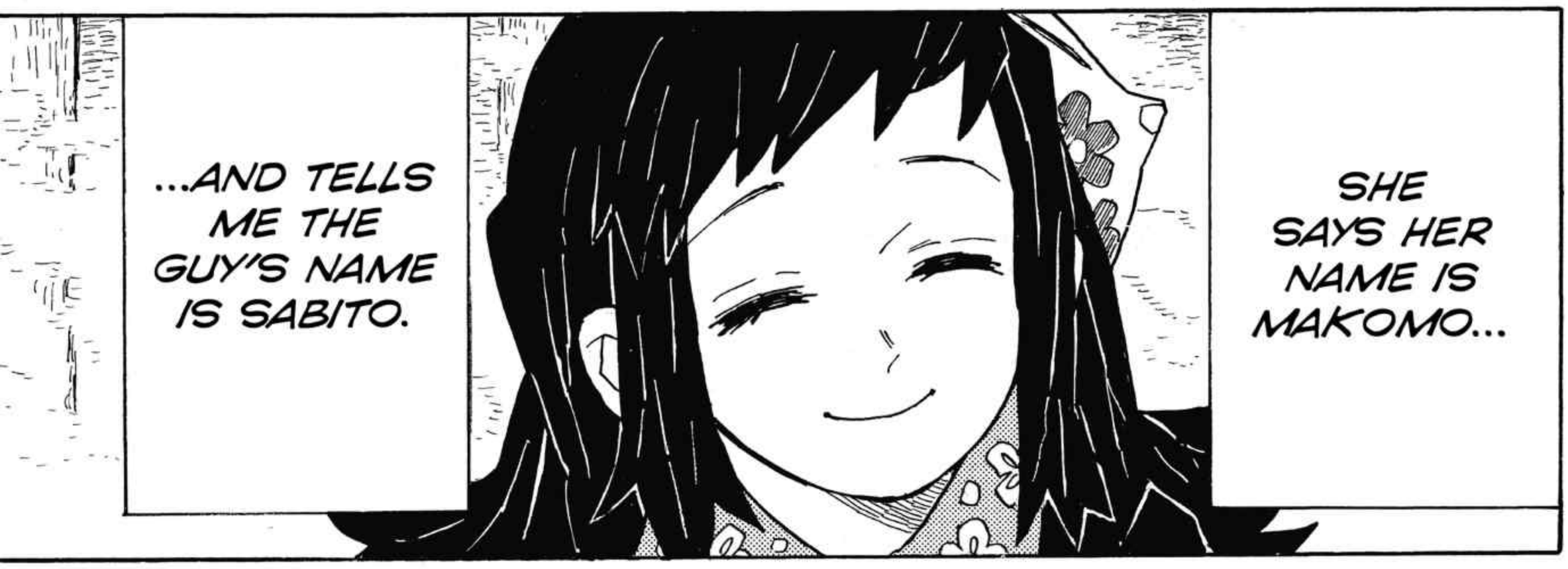
SHWF

THAT'S HOW I WANT TO BE TOO!
BUT IS THAT EVEN POS-SIBLE?
CAN I DO IT...?


THAT WAS AN INCREDIBLE BLOW!
IT WAS TRULY BEAUTIFUL!
NOT A BIT OF UNNECES-SARY MOTION!


UH... WHO ARE YOU?
SHE'S CUTE...


I'M SURE YOU CAN.
I'LL WATCH OVER YOU.


...AND TELLS ME THE GUY'S NAME IS SABITO.
SHE SAYS HER NAME IS MAKOMO...

SHE CORRECTS MY UNNECESSARY MOVEMENTS AND BAD HABITS.

MAKOMO POINTS OUT THE DEFECTS IN MY STYLE.

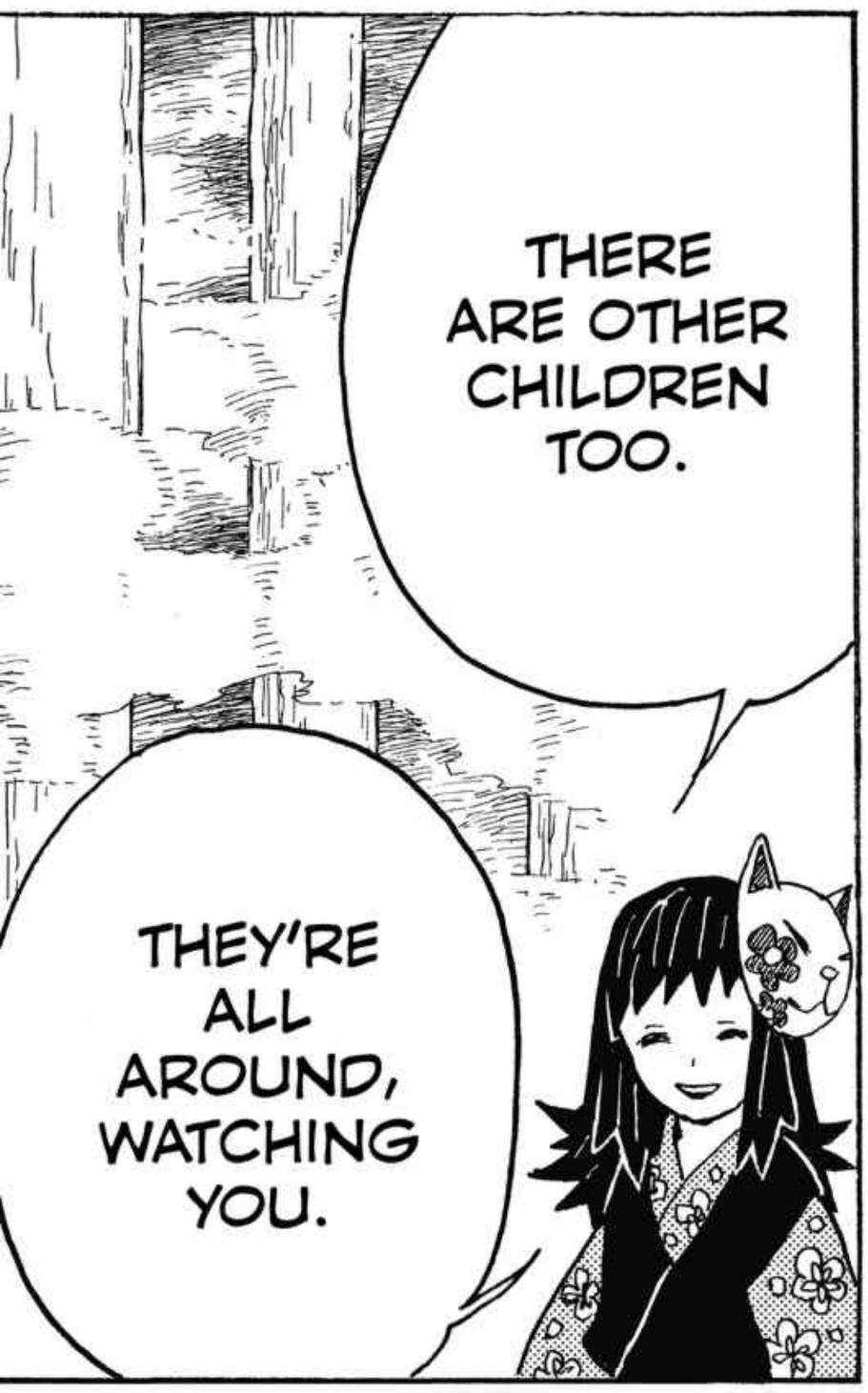
I ASK, BUT SHE NEVER TELLS ME.

WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?

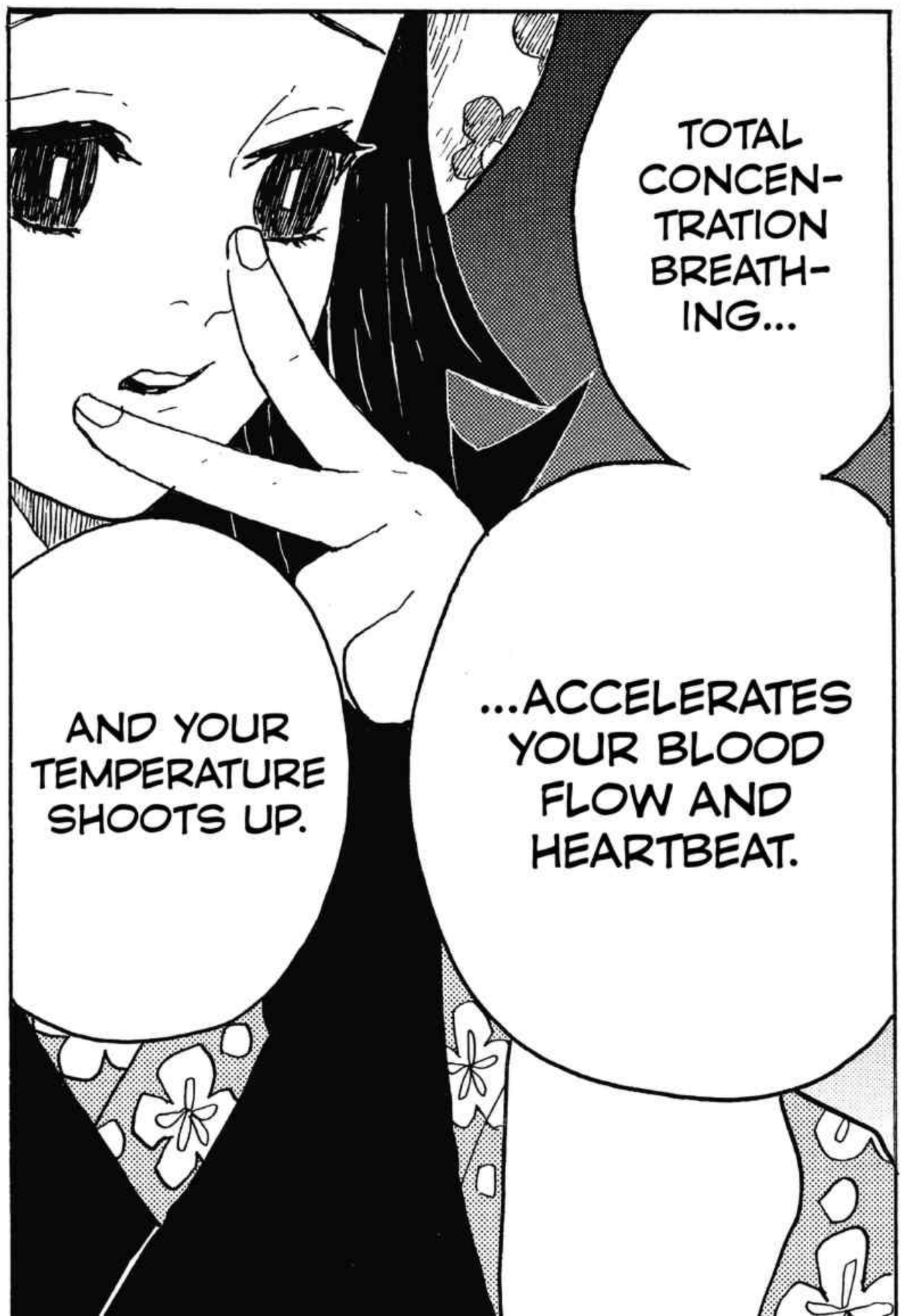
WHY IS SHE DOING THIS FOR ME?

SHE OFTEN SAYS THOSE WORDS.

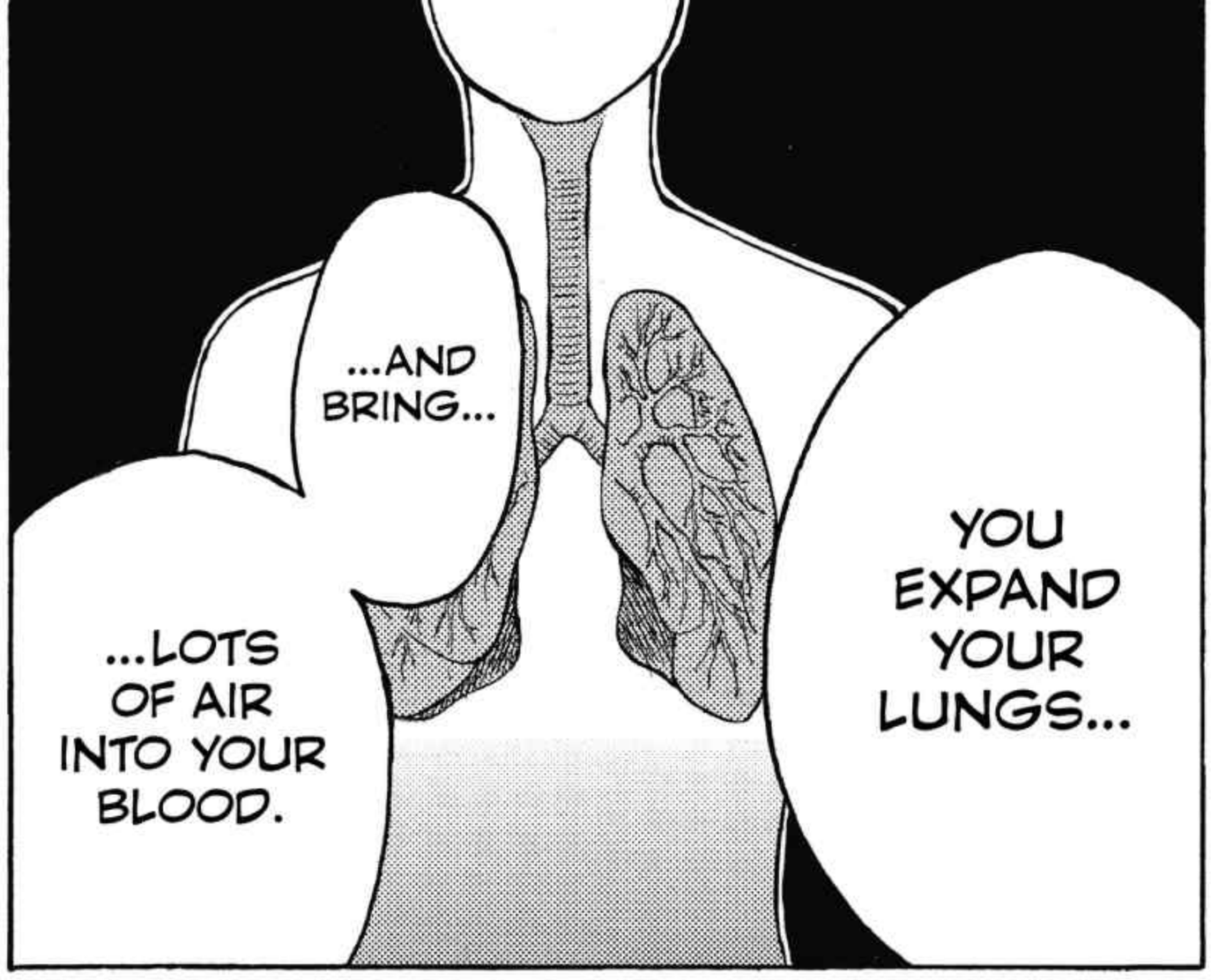
WE REALLY LIKE URO-KODAKI.

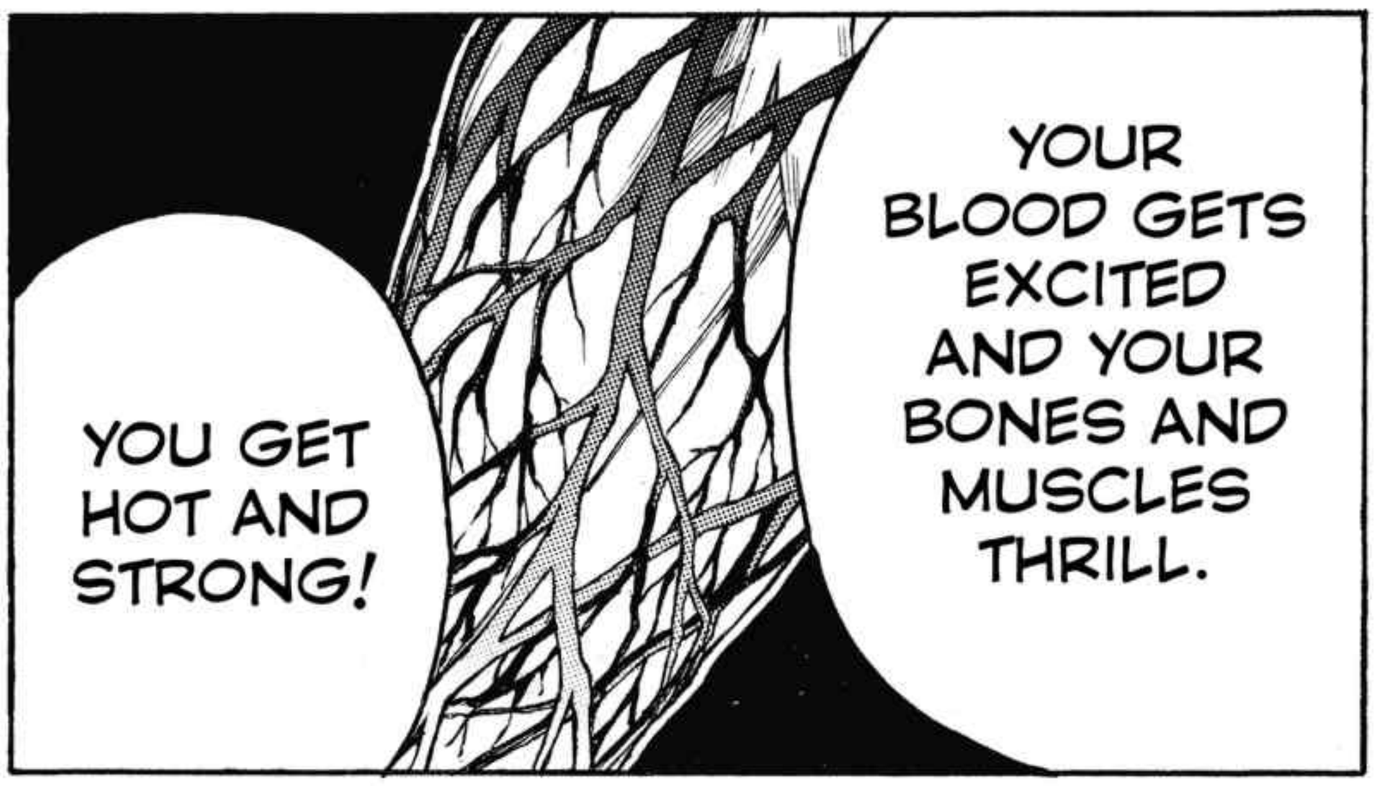

THERE ARE OTHER CHILDREN TOO.
THEY'RE ALL AROUND, WATCHING YOU.

THEY AREN'T SIBLINGS. THEY WERE BOTH ORPHANS.
UROKO-DAKI TOOK THEM IN AND RAISED THEM.

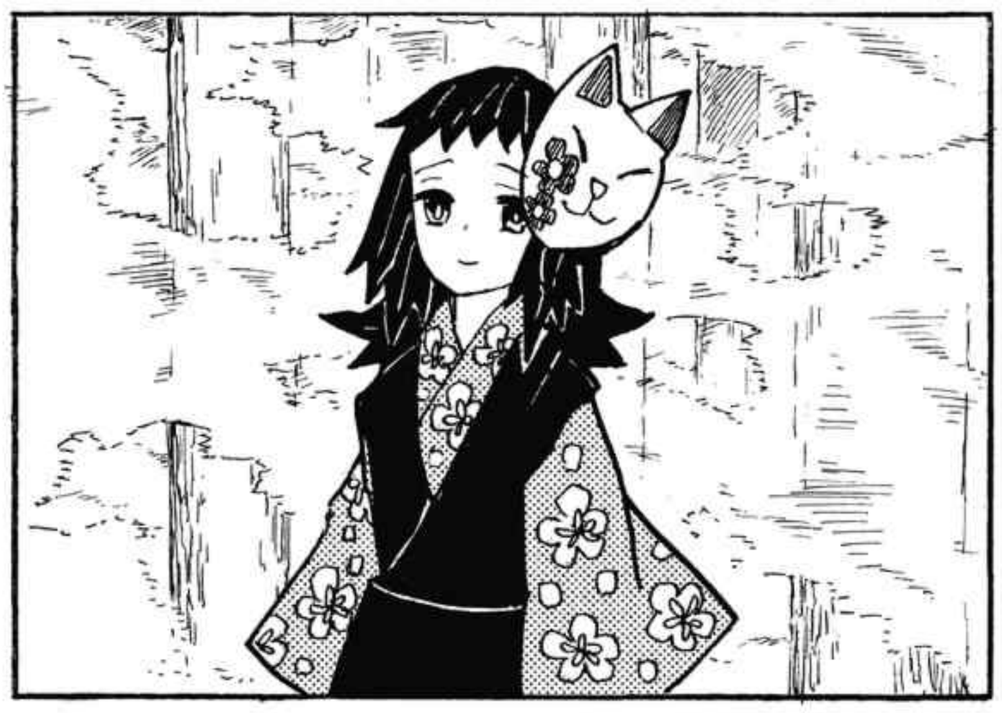

TOTAL CONCEN-TRATION BREATH-ING...
...ACCELERATES YOUR BLOOD FLOW AND HEARTBEAT.
AND YOUR TEMPERATURE SHOOTS UP.

MAKOMO IS A BIT OF A STRANGE GIRL.
SHE SAYS THINGS IN A WEIRD WAY.
?
?

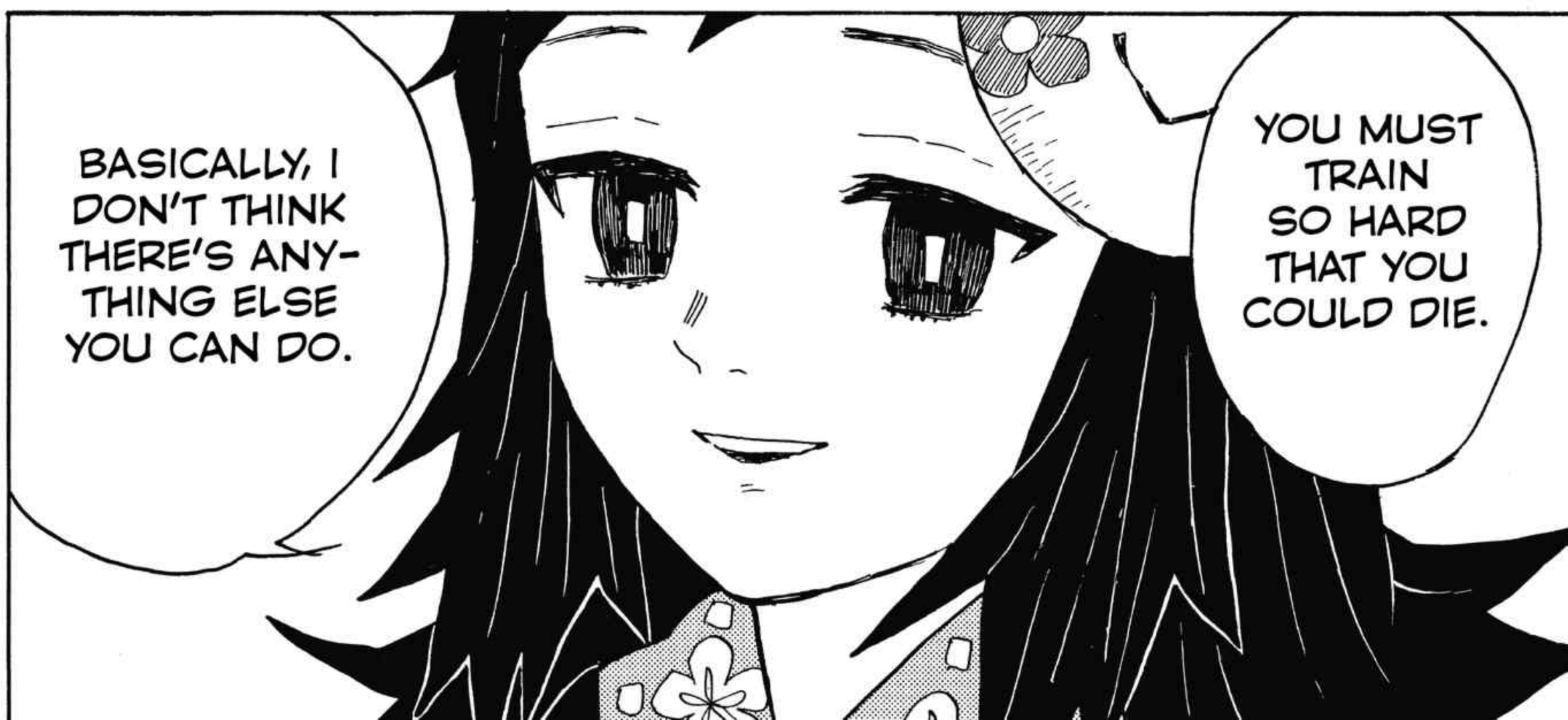

...AND BRING...
...LOTS OF AIR INTO YOUR BLOOD.
YOU EXPAND YOUR LUNGS...


YOU GET HOT AND STRONG!
YOUR BLOOD GETS EXCITED AND YOUR BONES AND MUSCLES THRILL.

YOU'RE STILL HUMAN, BUT YOU GET STRONG LIKE A DEMON.



HOW CAN THAT BE?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT...


BASICALLY, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN DO.
YOU MUST TRAIN SO HARD THAT YOU COULD DIE.

...BUT...

...AND HEART WOULD BURST IN MY CHEST...

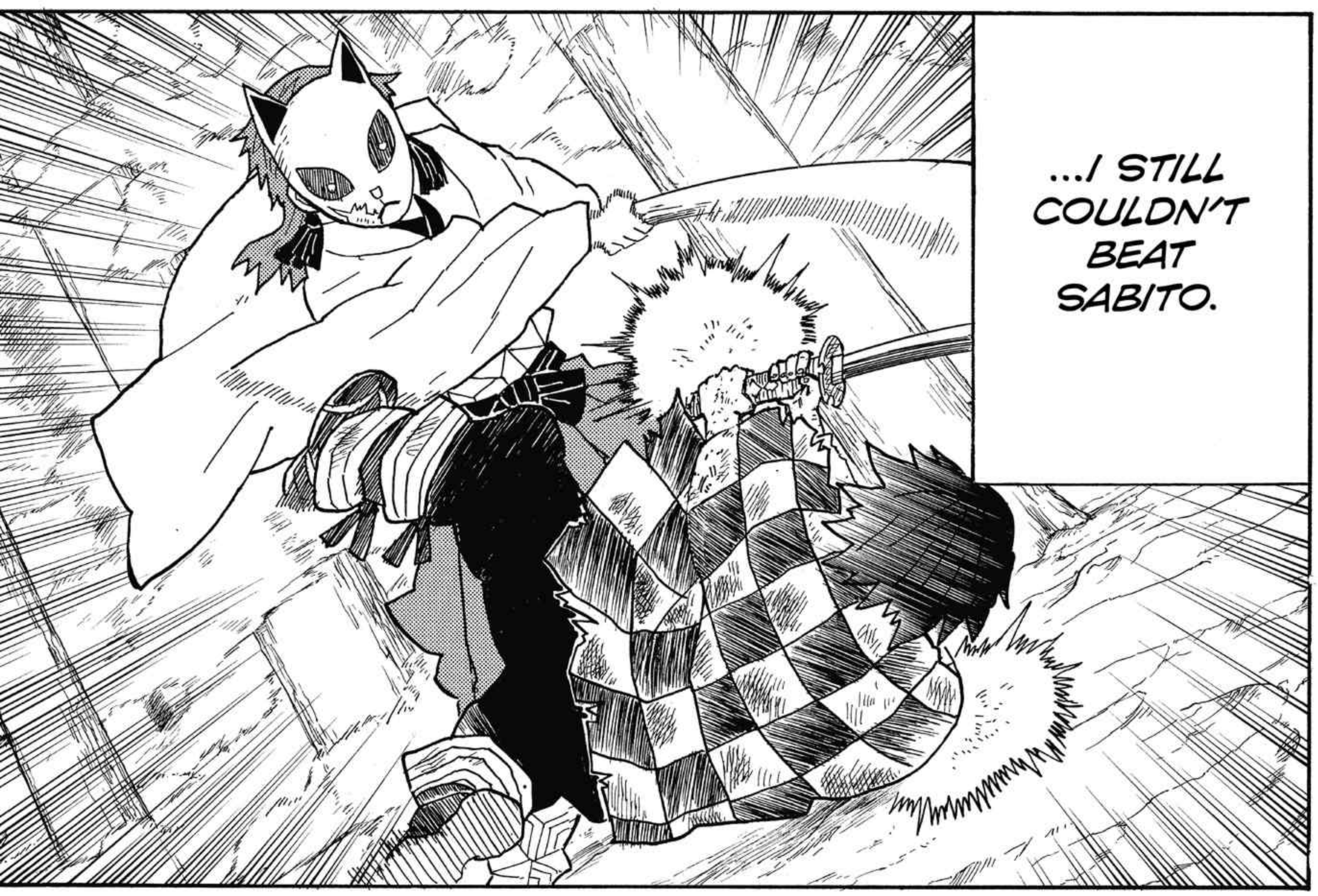
...AND THAT...

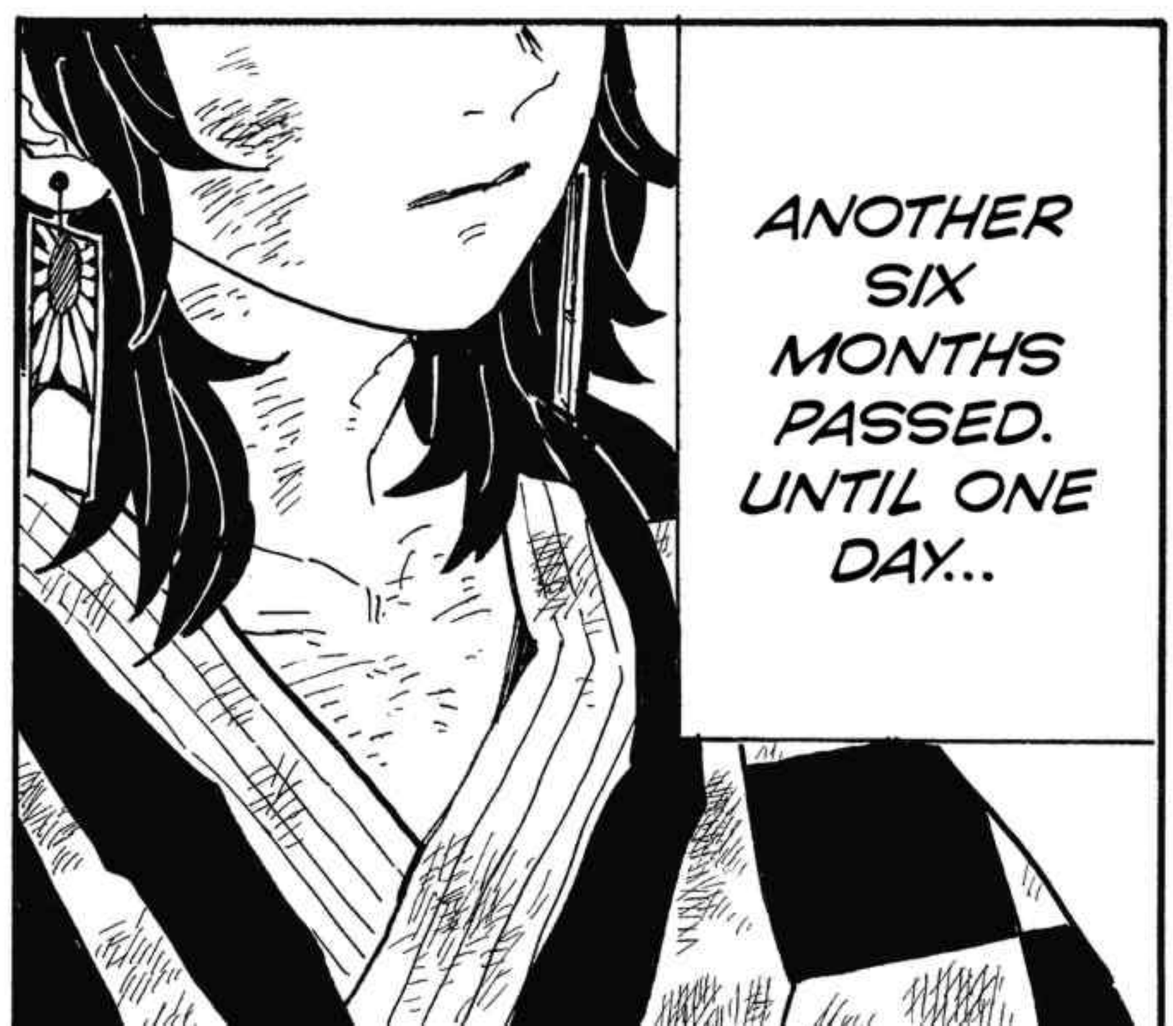
...MY LUNGS ...

...IT FELT LIKE MY ARMS AND LEGS WOULD COME OFF...

I SWUNG MY SWORD...

...SO HARD THAT...





TODAY, I WILL WIN.
THE CONTEST WAS SIMPLE.
THE STRONGER, FASTER BLADE WINS.
AFTER HALF A YEAR...
...YOU'VE FINALLY GOT THE FACE OF A MAN.

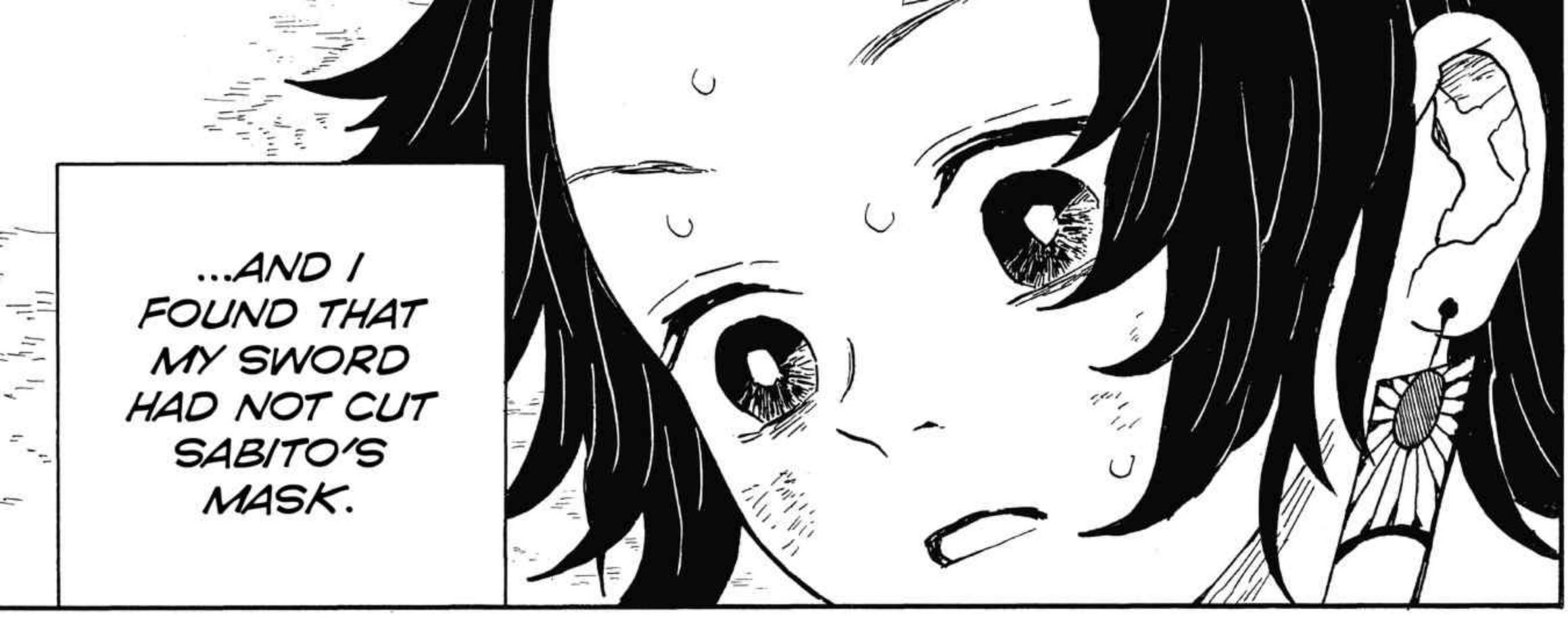
THE FIGHT WAS OVER IN AN INSTANT.

THAT DAY, IN THAT MOMENT, FOR THE FIRST TIME...

...MY BLADE REACHED SABITO FIRST.

GASP

...OR MAYBE PROUD AND REASSURING.
IT SEEMED LIKE A SAD SMILE TO ME...
WHEN I WON, SABITO SMILED.
SUDDENLY, SABITO DISAPPEARED...
WIN, TANJIRO...
... AGAINST THEM TOO.
FWSH


...AND I FOUND THAT MY SWORD HAD NOT CUT SABITO'S MASK.

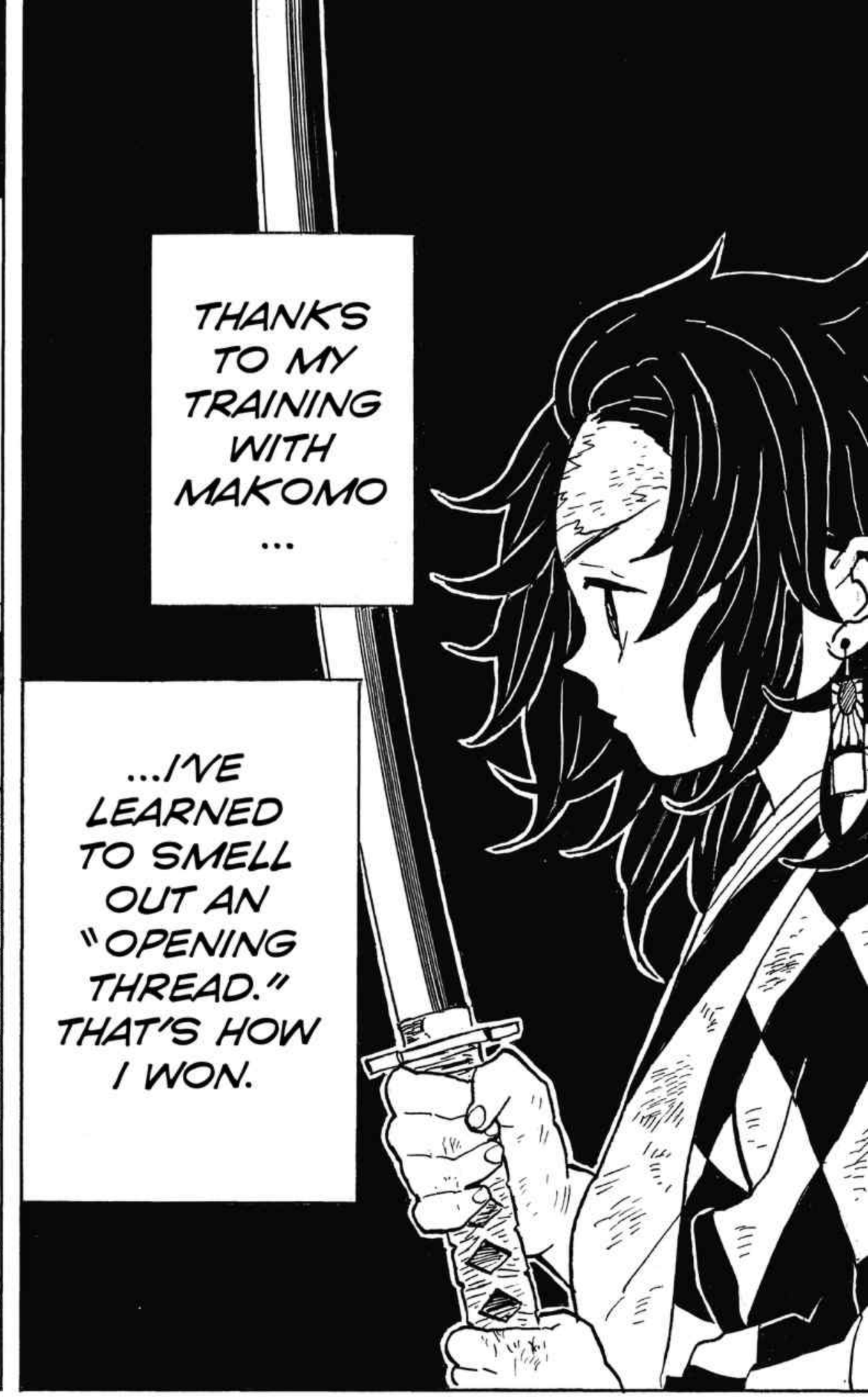
IT HAD SPLIT THE BOULDER.

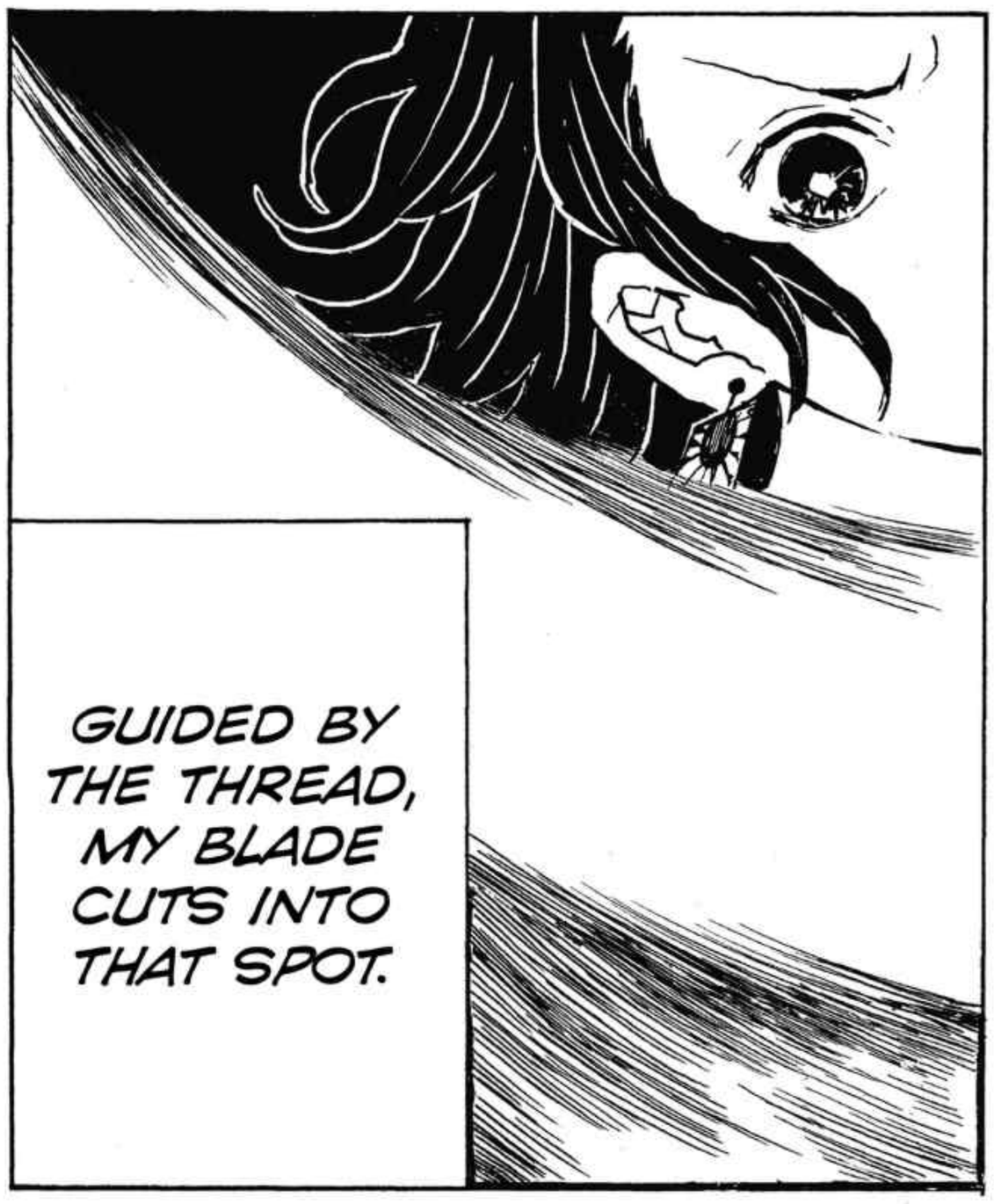
WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Thank you to everyone who read this work and to everyone who bought it. Thanks to your support, the series will continue. I can't tell you how thankful I am. Unlike water and food, manga isn't absolutely necessary for survival. Getting you to buy it is a tough job. Thank you very much. I create this manga with the help of many people. I'll work even harder to keep it interesting for you, so please keep reading. And again... thank you!!

HOWEVER, WHEN USING A NORMAL BLADE, EVEN CUTTING ITS NECK WON'T KILL IT.
A DEMON'S WEAK POINT IS ITS NECK.
THE SWORDS THAT THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS USE ARE MADE FROM A SPECIAL STEEL.
WE CALL THEM NICHIRIN SWORDS.
CHAPTER 6: A MOUNTAIN OF HANDS

WHEN I'M FIGHTING SOME-ONE...
...AND I FIND THAT SCENT, I SEE THE THREAD.


THANKS TO MY TRAINING WITH MAKOMO ...
...I'VE LEARNED TO SMELL OUT AN "OPENING THREAD." THAT'S HOW I WON.


GUIDED BY THE THREAD, MY BLADE CUTS INTO THAT SPOT.

IT RUNS FROM MY BLADE...
...TO A SPOT ON MY OPPONENT, AND IT GOES TAUT THE MOMENT I SEE IT.

I HAD NO WISH TO SEE ANOTHER CHILD DIE.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD SPLIT THAT BOULDER...

I DID NOT INTEND TO SEND YOU TO FINAL SELECTION.

...BUT YOU DID WELL.

...ARE AN AMAZING CHILD.

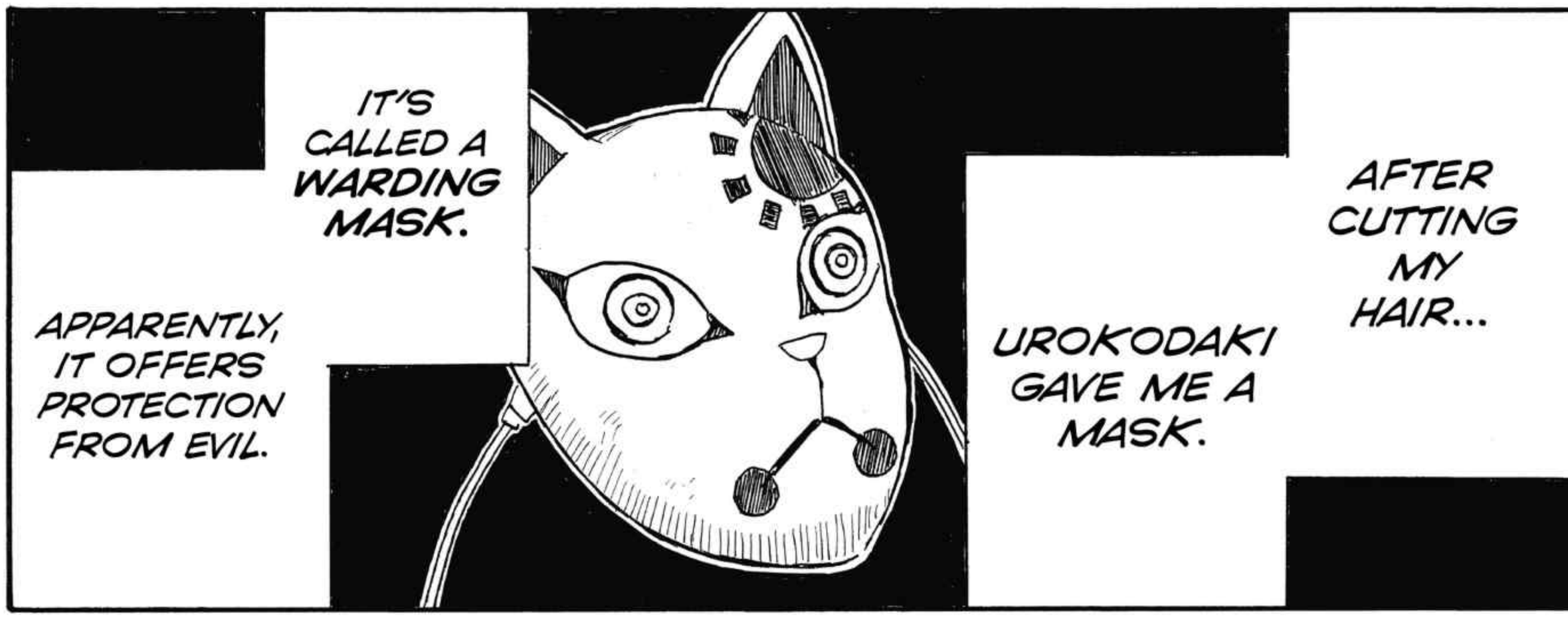
TANJIRO ...

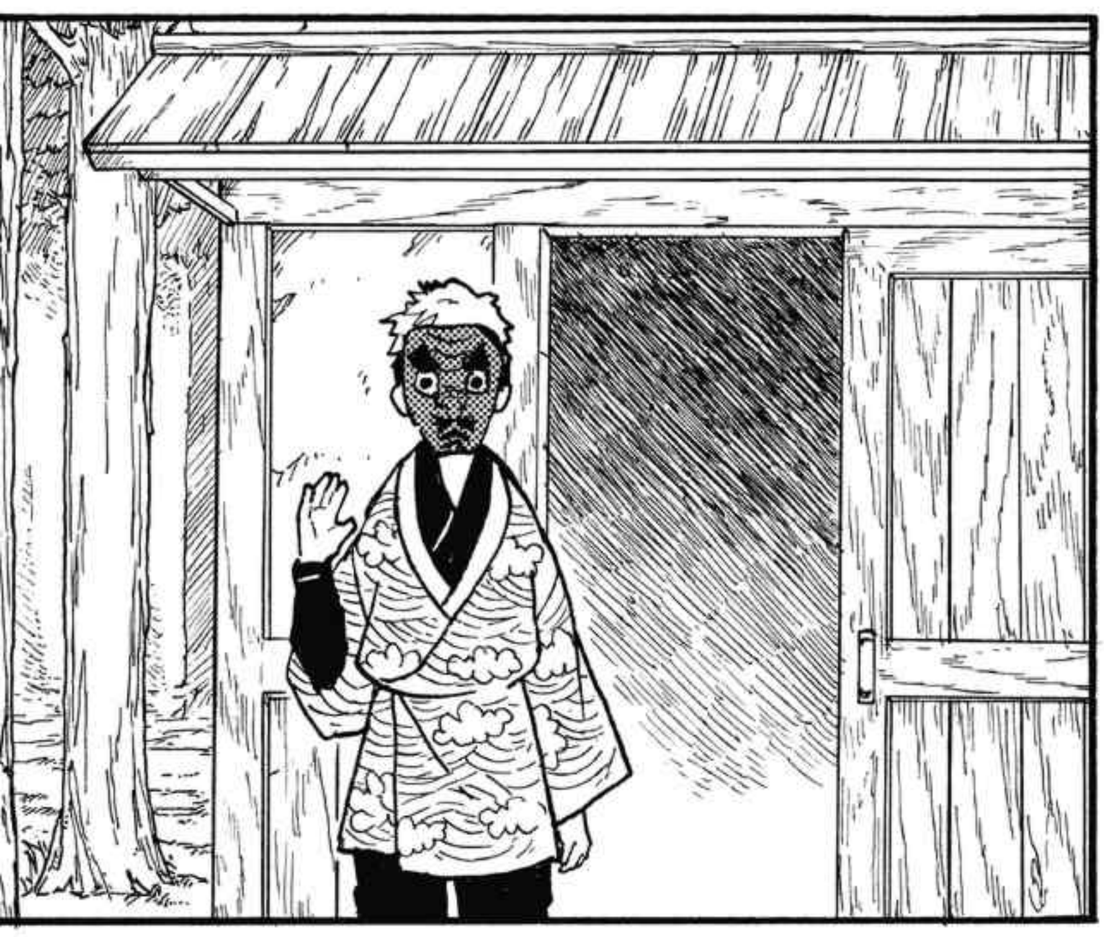
...YOU...

...BUT BE SURE TO RETURN ALIVE.

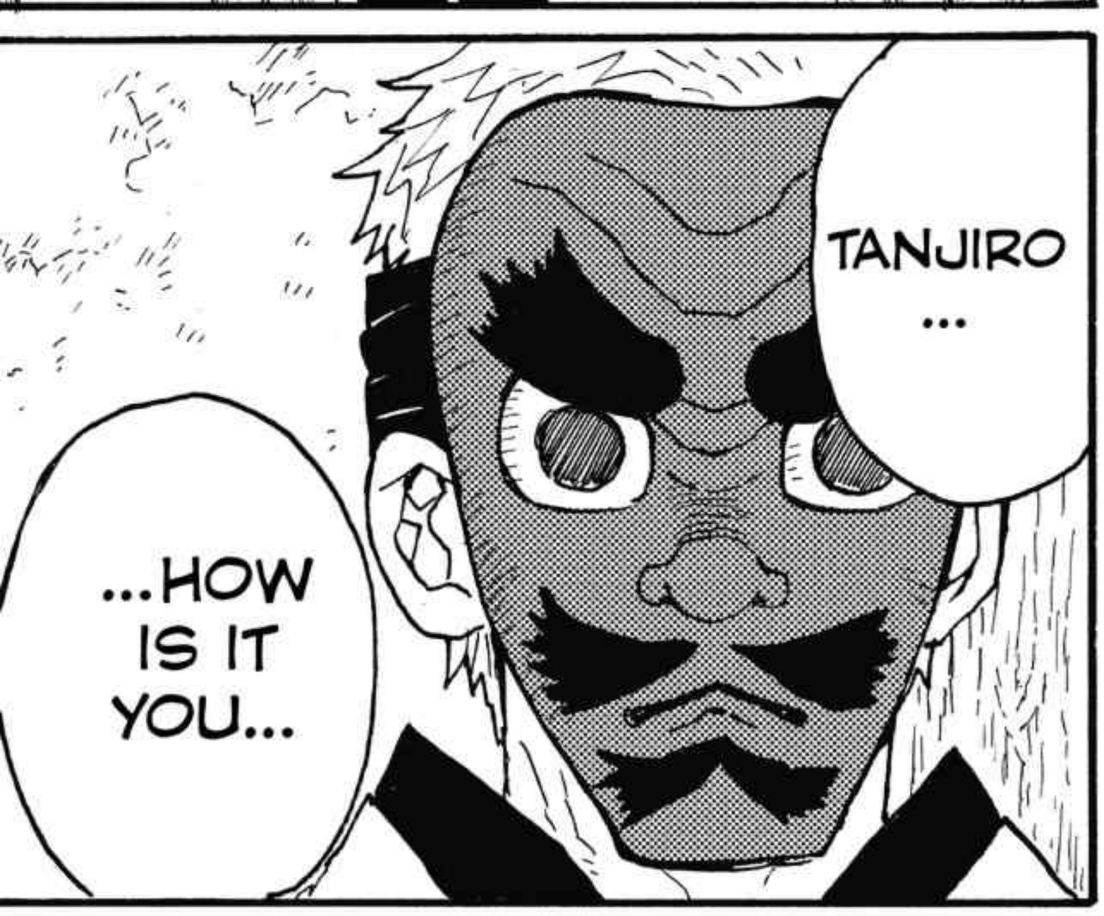
YOUR SISTER AND I ARE HERE WAITING.

GO TO FINAL SELEC-TION...





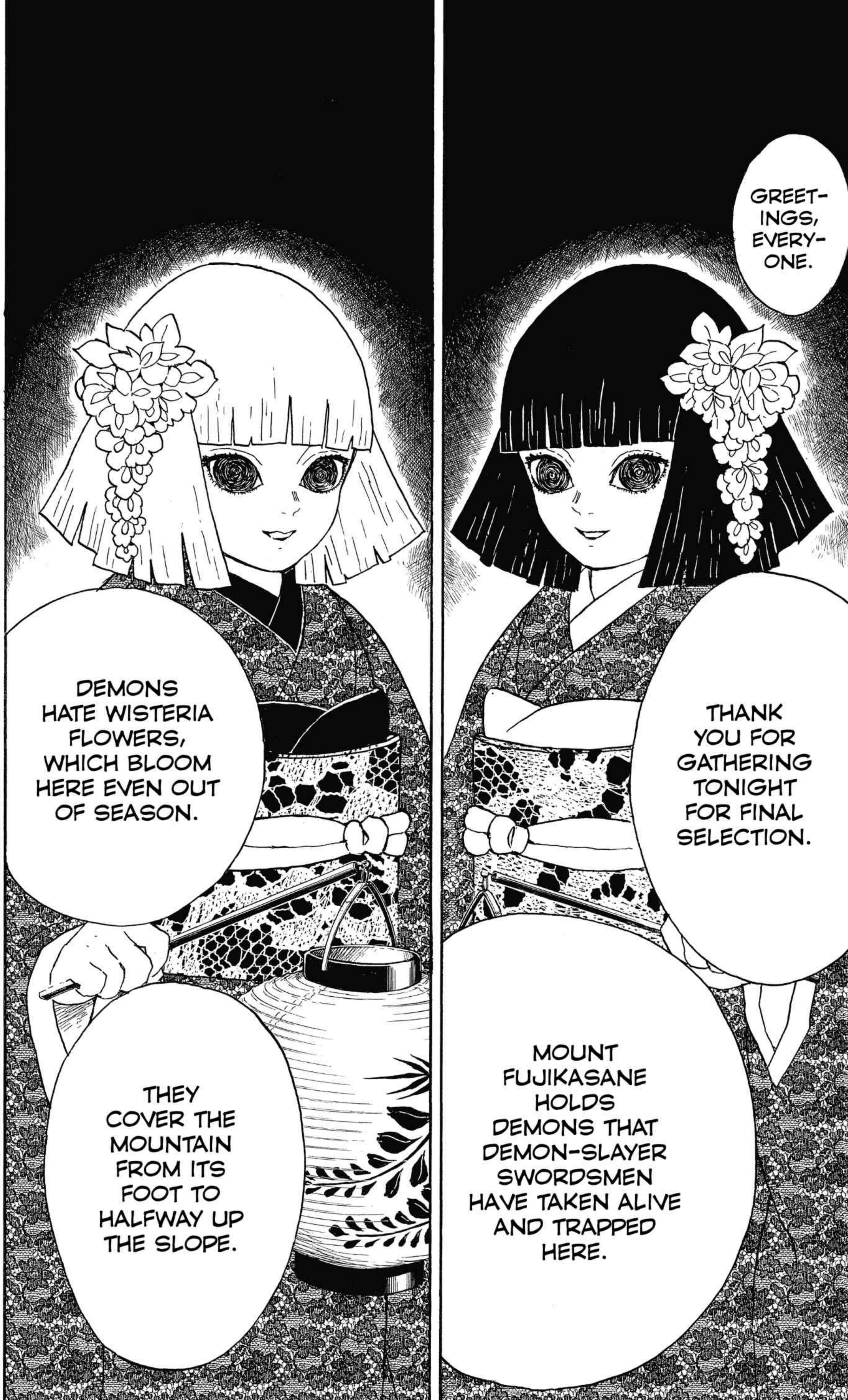
I'M ON MY WAY, UROKODAKI!
GIVE MY BEST TO SABITO AND MAKOMO!


TANJIRO ...
...HOW IS IT YOU...

...KNOW THE NAMES OF THOSE DECEASED CHILDREN?

MOUNT FUJIKASANE: SITE OF FINAL SELECTION

LOOK HOW MANY THERE ARE!


DEMONS HATE WISTERIA FLOWERS, WHICH BLOOM HERE EVEN OUT OF SEASON.
THEY COVER THE MOUNTAIN FROM ITS FOOT TO HALFWAY UP THE SLOPE.
GREETINGS, EVERYONE.
THANK YOU FOR GATHERING TONIGHT FOR FINAL SELECTION.
MOUNT FUJIKASANE HOLDS DEMONS THAT DEMON-SLAYER SWORDSMEN HAVE TAKEN ALIVE AND TRAPPED HERE.

IF YOU DO, THEN YOU WILL HAVE PASSED FINAL SELECTION.

NOW GO.

HOWEVER, FROM THAT POINT ON, THE WISTERIA DOES NOT BLOOM. SO THE DEMONS ROAM FREE.

YOU MUST SURVIVE THERE FOR SEVEN DAYS.

WHOA

HE'S *MY* MEAL!

SHUT UP!

KKS

THE ONE WHO KILLS HIM FIRST GETS TO EAT HIM!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I TASTED HUMAN FLESH!

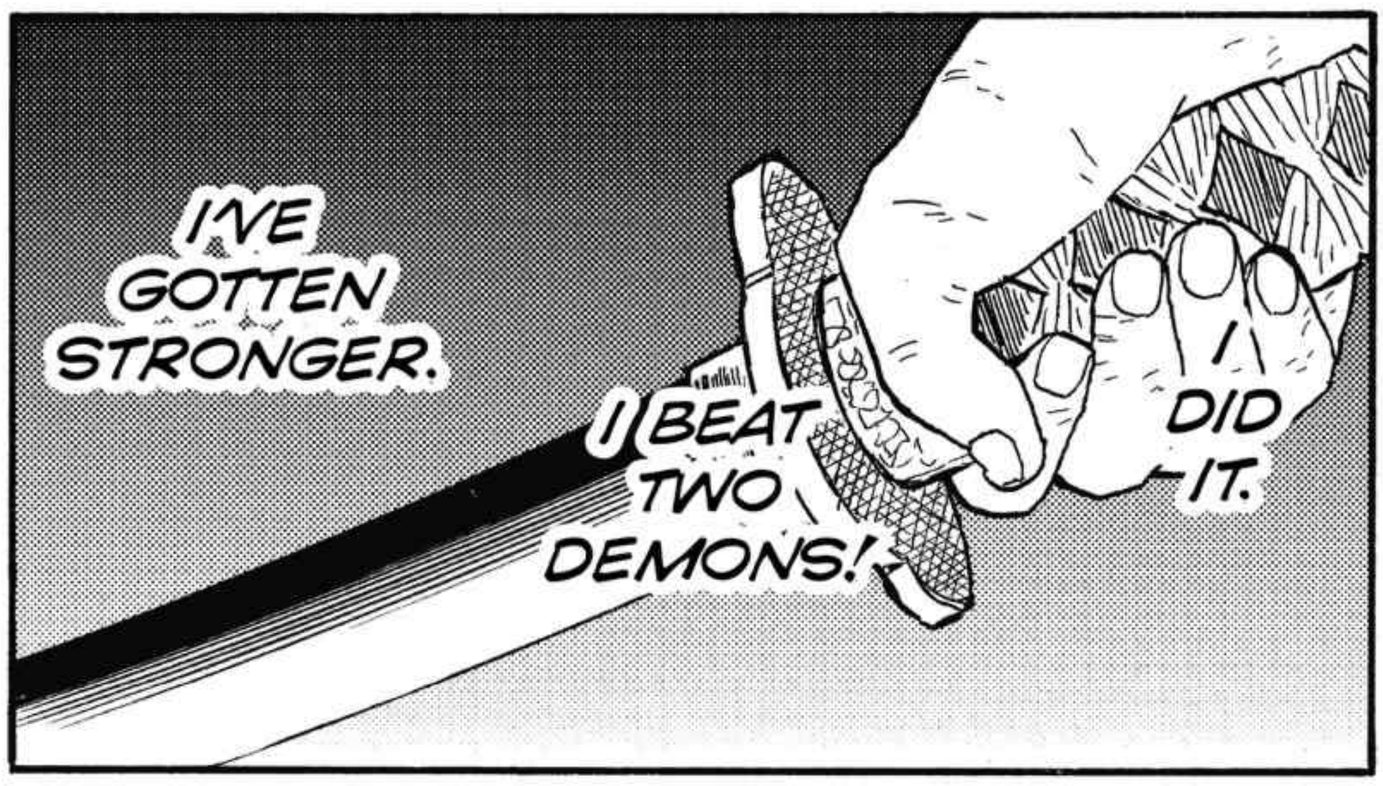
WATER BREATHING!

FU

TOTAL CONCEN-TRATION ...

I SMELL THE THREAD!

FOURTH FORM
STRIKING TIDE!


I'VE GOTTEN STRONGER.
I BEAT TWO DEMONS!
I DID IT.

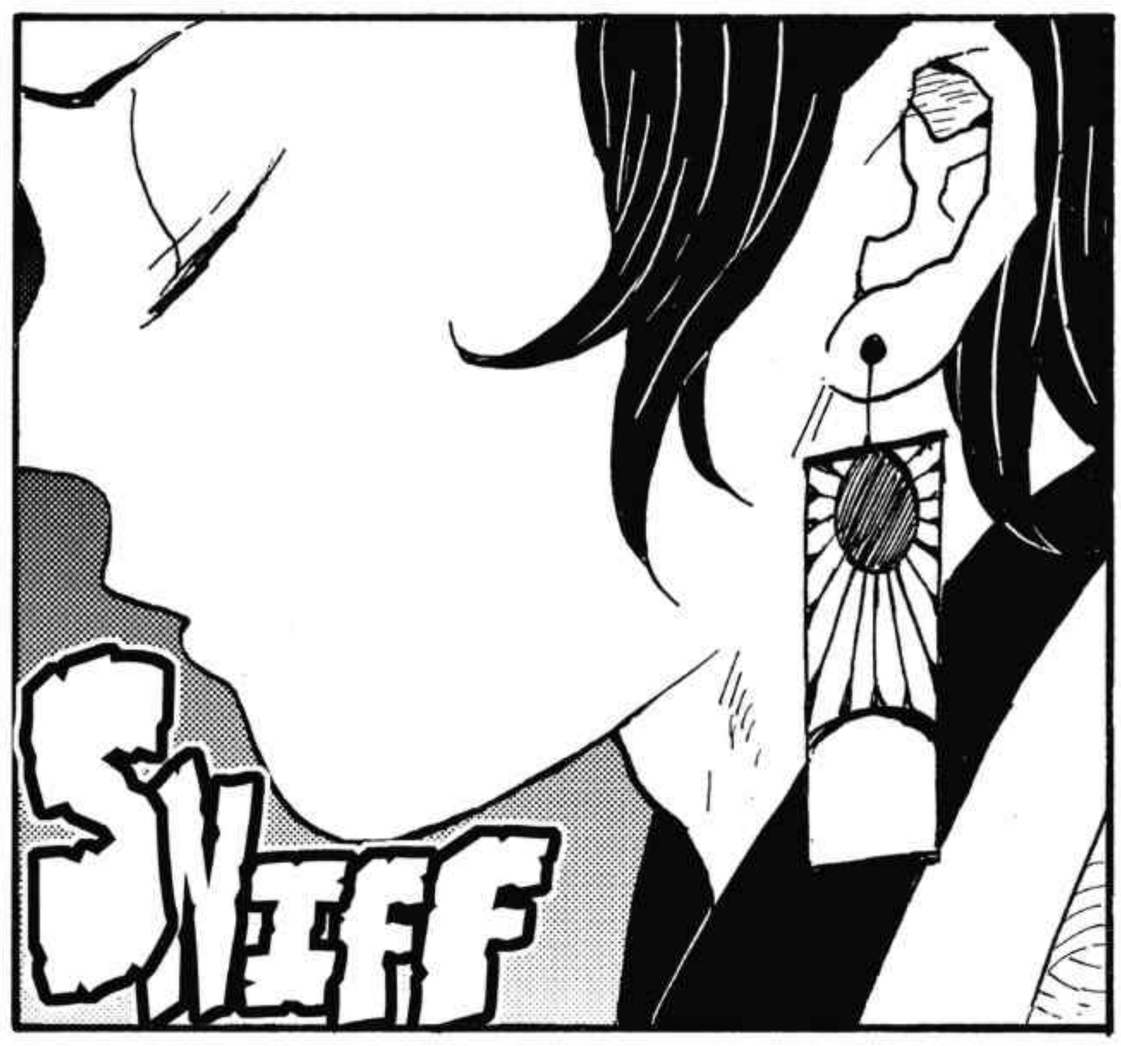
...I CAN DO THIS!
ALL THAT TRAINING WORKED...

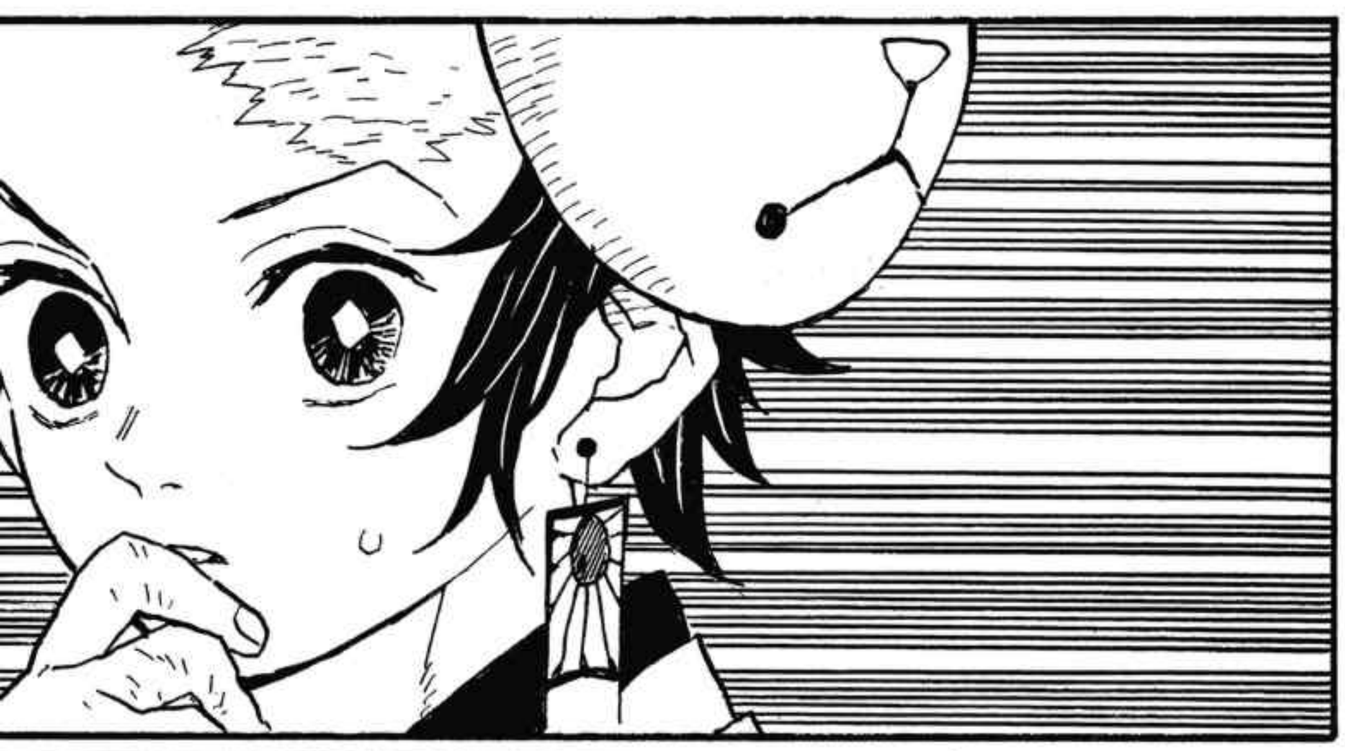
REST IN PEACE!

...EVEN THE BONES CRUMBLE!
WHEN I USE THE KATANA THAT URO-KODAKI GAVE ME...

KR
AK
SH

WHAT'S THAT ROTTEN SMELL?
UGH!

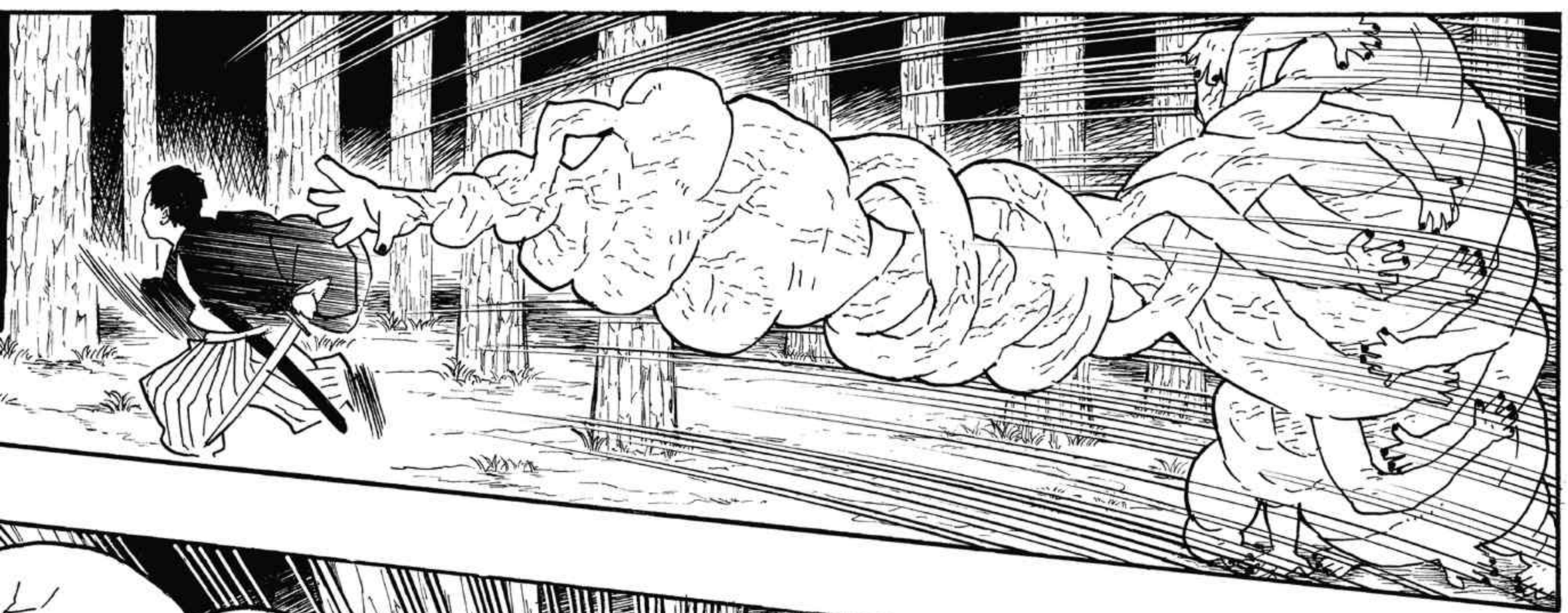

SNEFF



WAAAH!
WHSH

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE IT!
THERE'S A HUGE, DEFORMED DEMON BACK THERE!
THMP

BLRB
BRBL

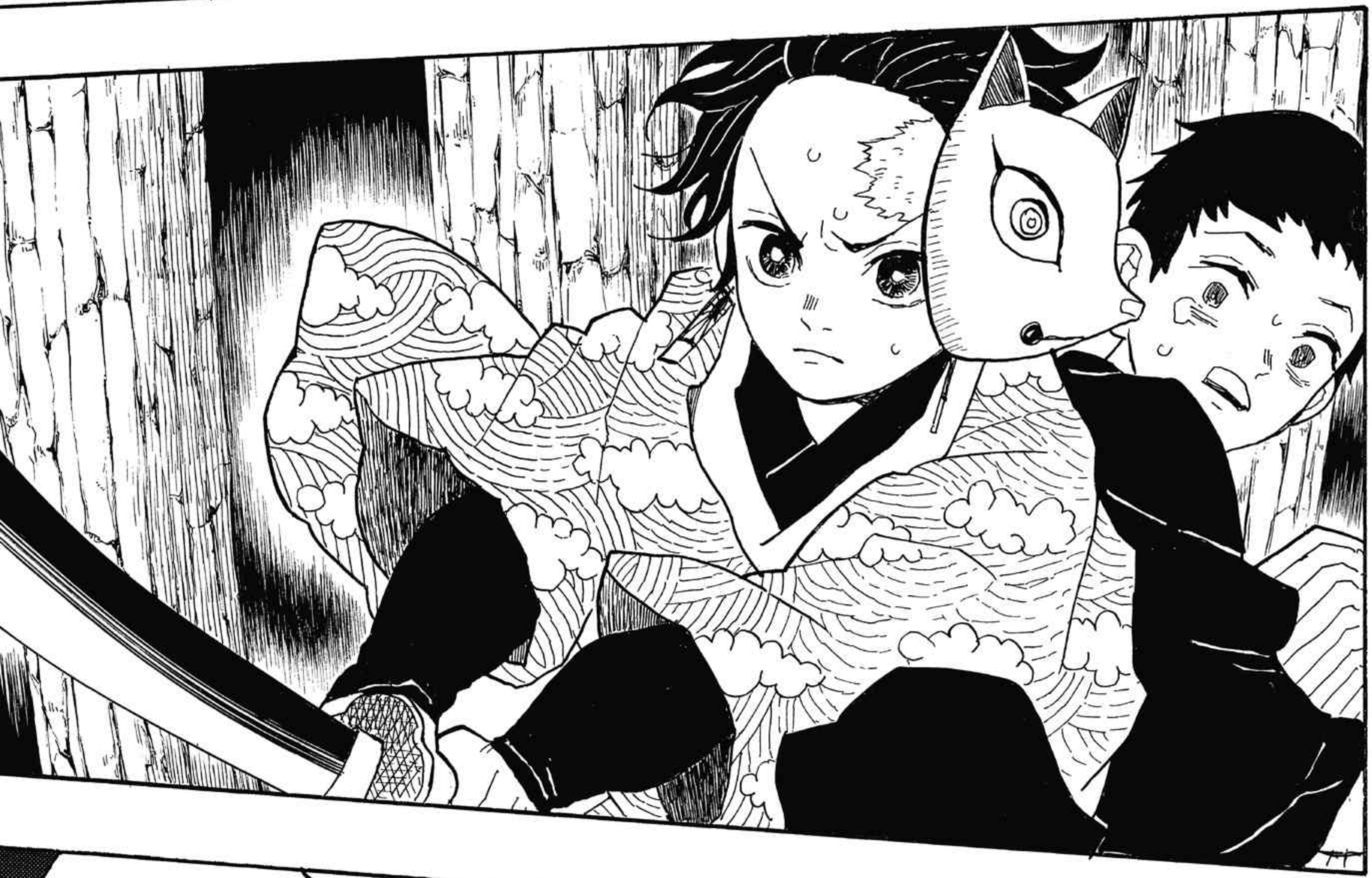


GYAAAH!

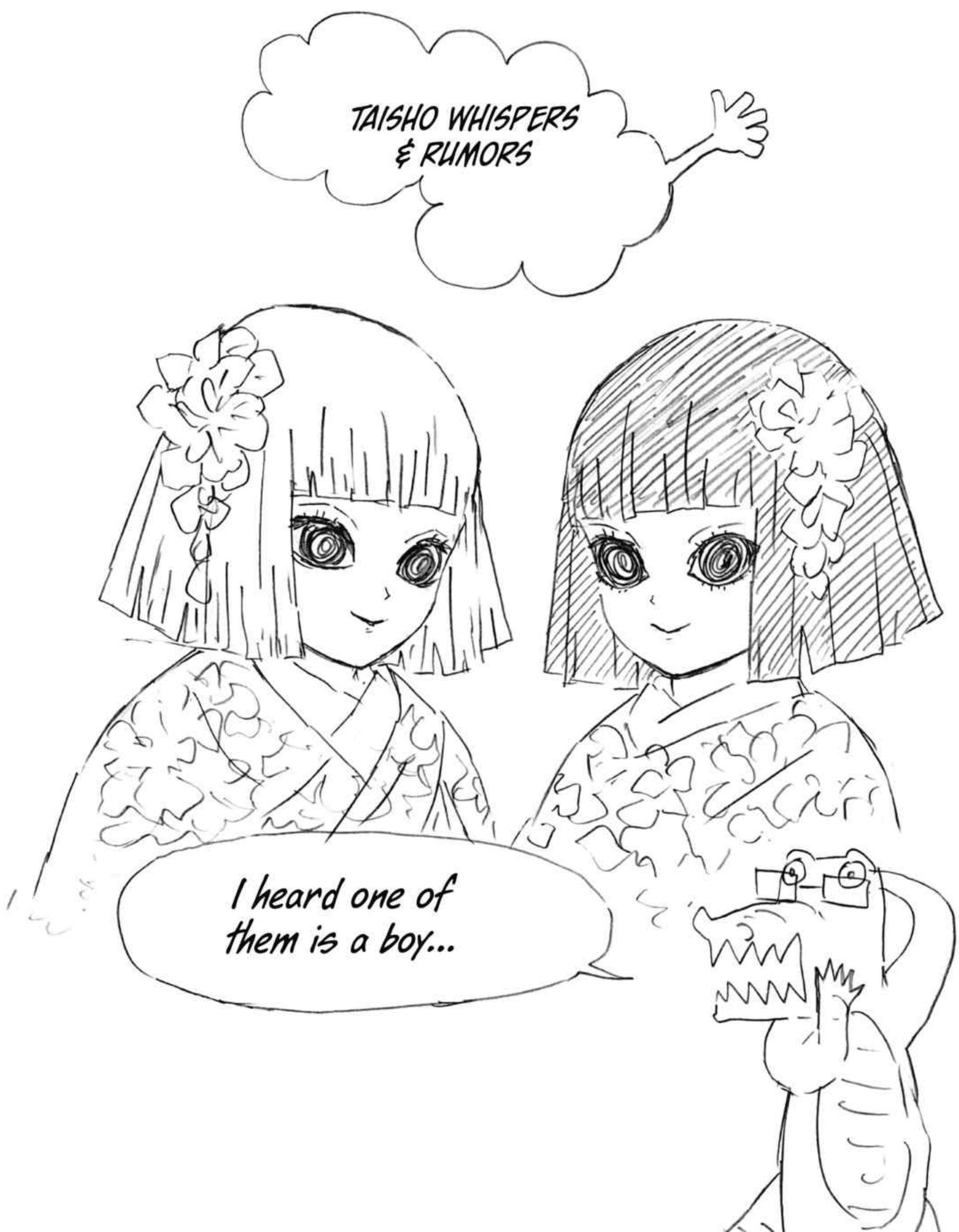
WATER BREATH-ING

FORM 2

WATER WHEEL!

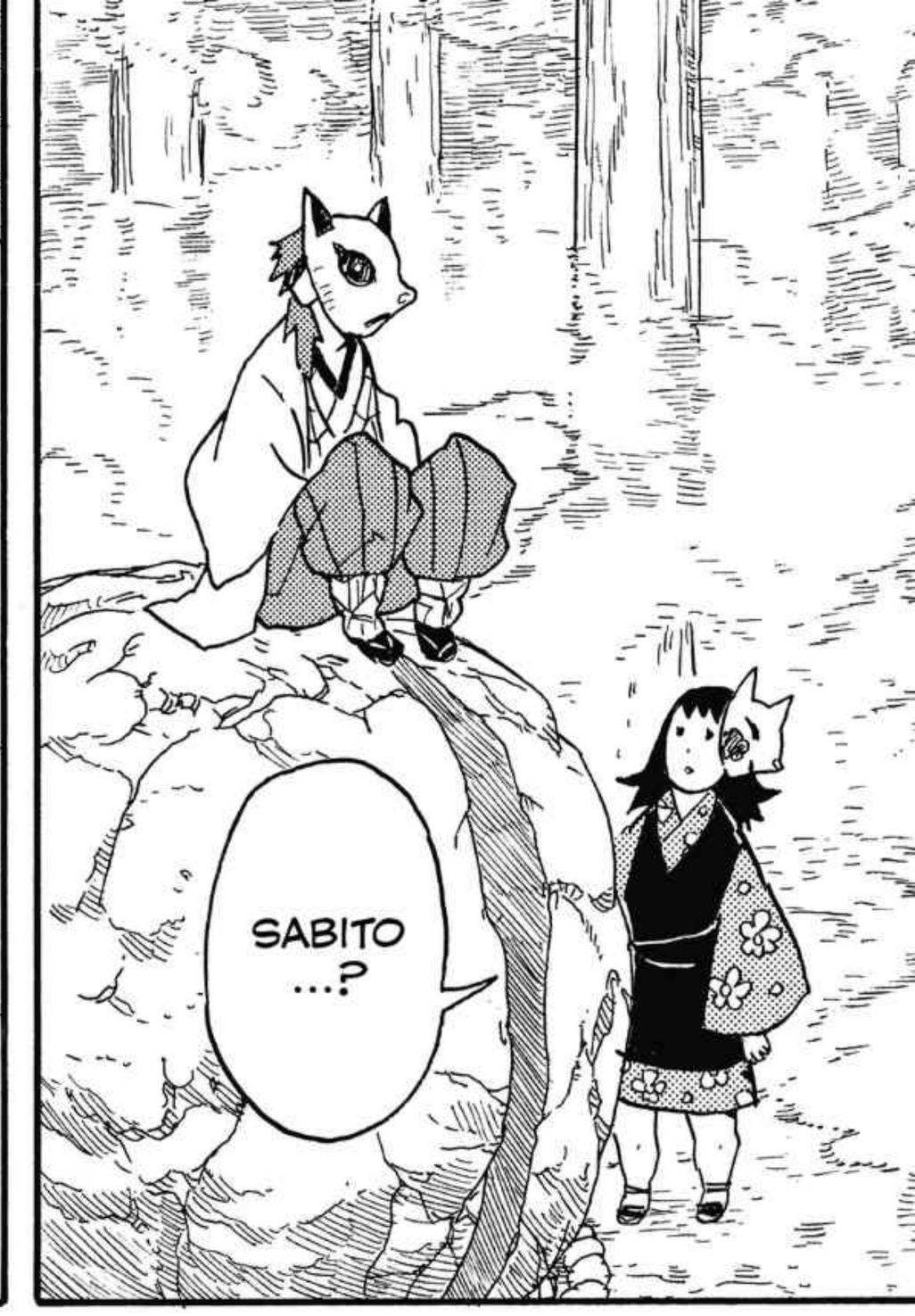


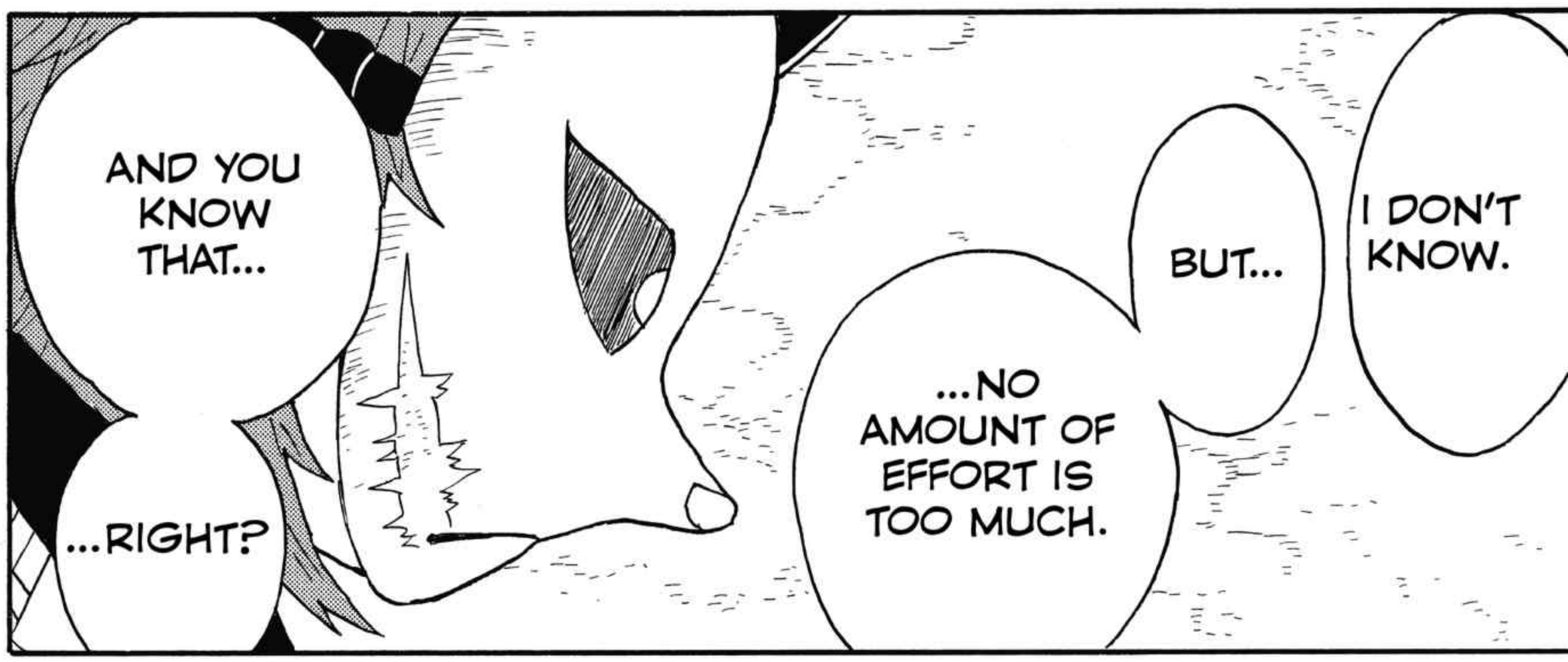
...FOXES HAS COME!
GLARE
ANOTHER OF MY DEAR...


TAISHO WHISPERS & RUMORS
I heard one of them is a boy...

CHAPTER 7: SPIRITS OF THE DECEASED

...TANJIRO CAN REALLY DO IT?
DO YOU THINK...


SABITO ...?


AND YOU KNOW THAT...
...RIGHT?
...NO AMOUNT OF EFFORT IS TOO MUCH.
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW.

THE IMPERIAL FAMILY IS *TAISHO!*

?!

...

SHI-NE

I'VE BEEN HERE SO LONG...

GAAAAGH!

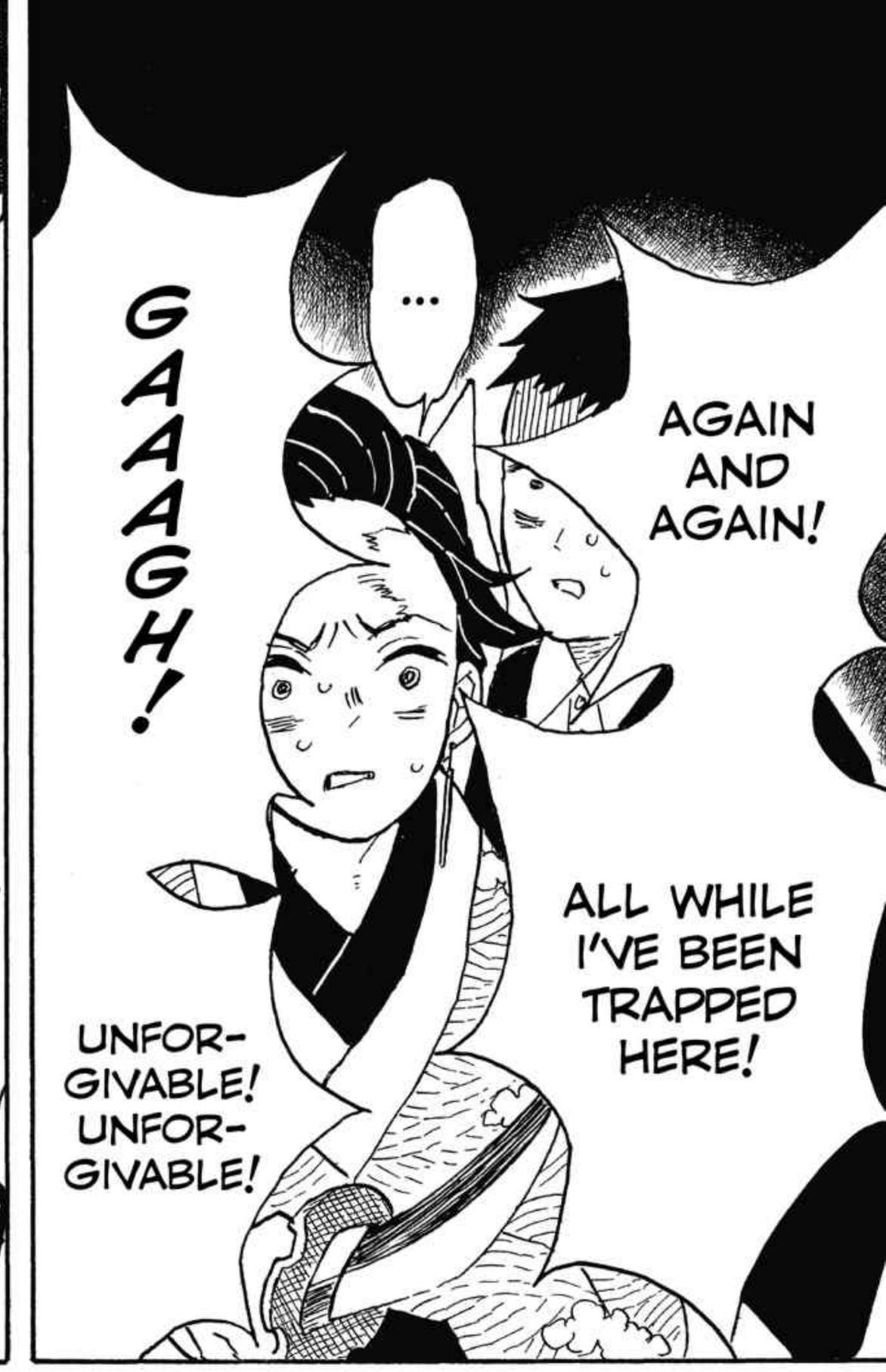
...THAT DYNASTIES HAVE RISEN AND FALLEN!

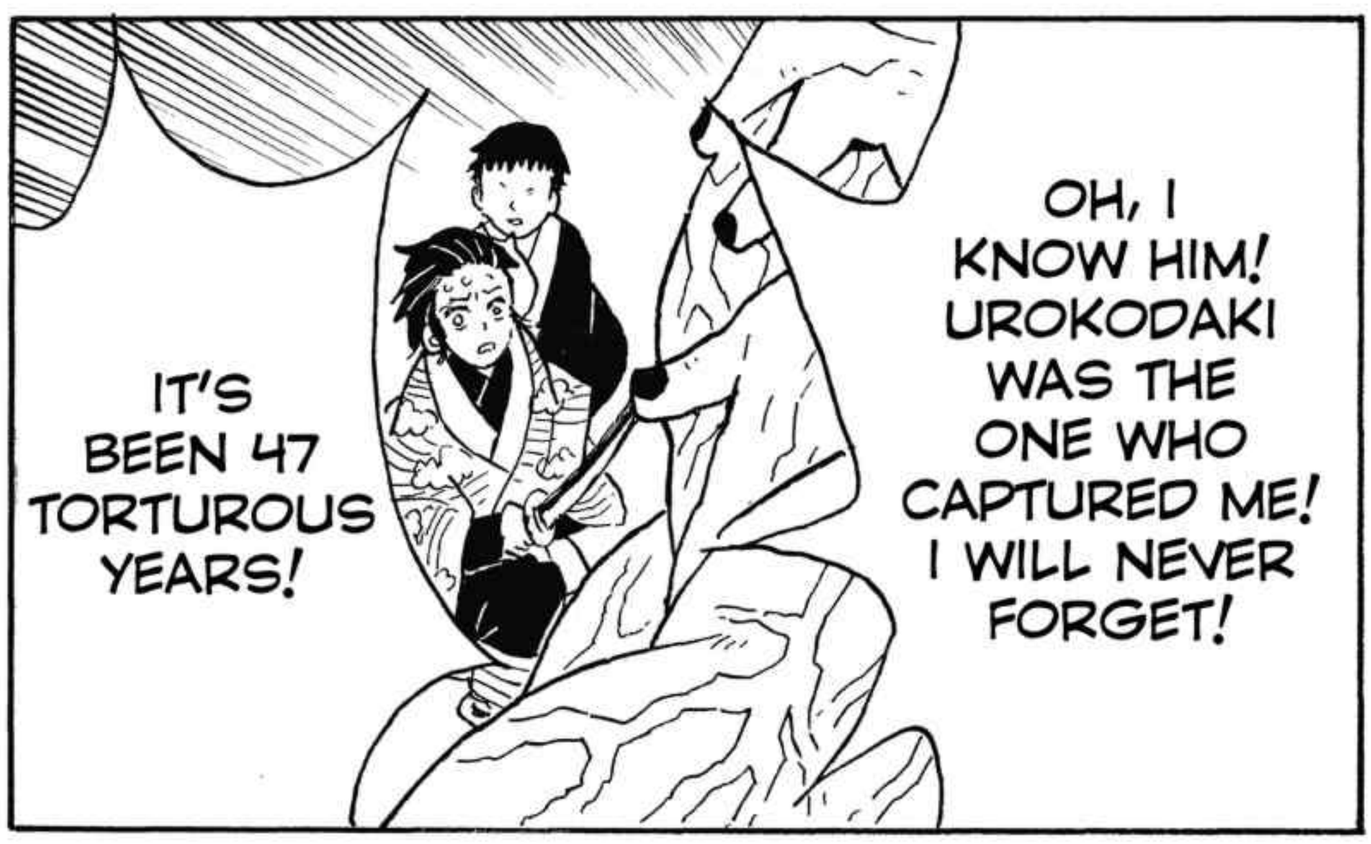
TELL ME, FOX BOY...

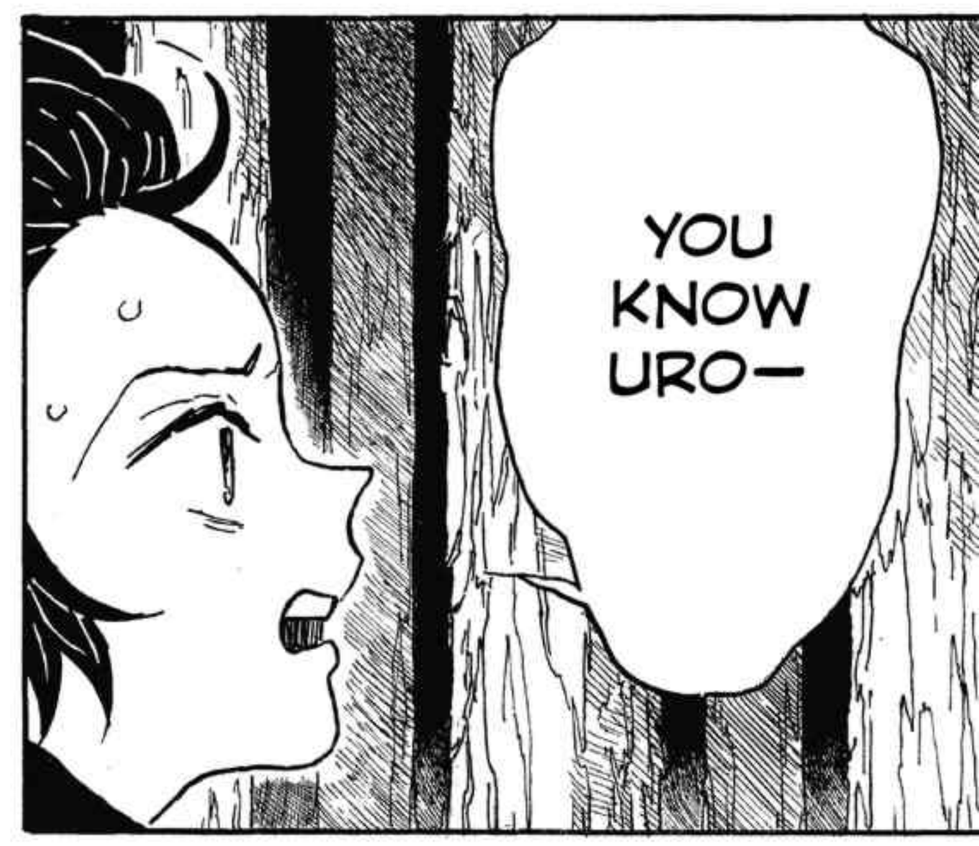
...RIGHT NOW...

...WHAT MEIJI EMPEROR SITS UPON THE THRONE?

WOOOE
DAMN UROKO-DAKI!
DAMN UROKO-DAKI!
DAMN UROKO-DAKI!
DAMN HIM!
BRBL
BLRB


...
GAAAGH!
AGAIN AND AGAIN!
ALL WHILE I'VE BEEN TRAPPED HERE!
UNFOR-GIVABLE! UNFOR-GIVABLE!


IT'S BEEN 47 TORTUROUS YEARS!
OH, I KNOW HIM! UROKODAKI WAS THE ONE WHO CAPTURED ME! I WILL NEVER FORGET!


YOU KNOW URO—

IN THE EDO PERIOD... THE KEIO ERA!
BACK THEN HE WAS STILL A DEMON SLAYER!

NO DEMON HERE HAS BEEN ALIVE THAT LONG!

LIES!

YOU'RE LYING!

DEMON HUNTER... EDO PERIOD?!

...AND THEY GET KILLED DURING SELECTION!

PLUS, THE DEMONS EAT EACH OTHER TOO!

THEY ONLY PUT DEMONS UP HERE THAT HAVE EATEN TWO OR THREE PEOPLE...

...I HAVE EATEN *50* OF YOU BRATS!

BUT I HAVE SURVIVED A VERY LONG TIME. IN THIS PRISON...

...OF WISTERIA BLOSSOMS ...

...A DEMON'S STRENGTH COMES FROM THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IT HAS CONSUMED.

REMEM-BER...

FIFTY?!

...AND SOME PHYSICALLY CHANGE, GAINING UNNATURAL POWERS.

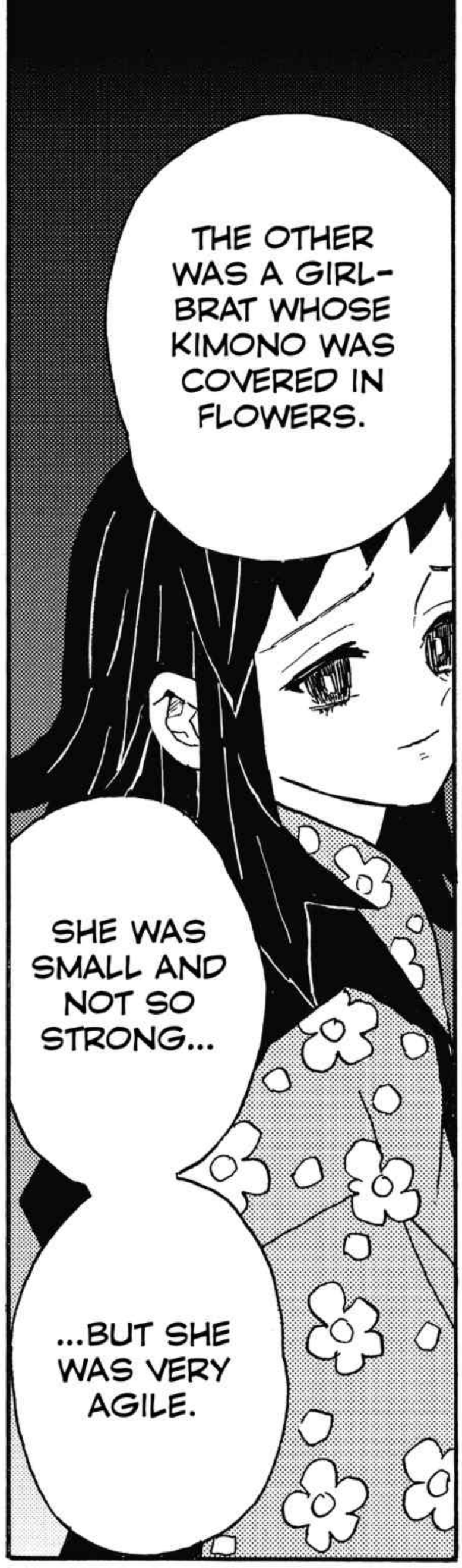
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY GROW STRON-GER...

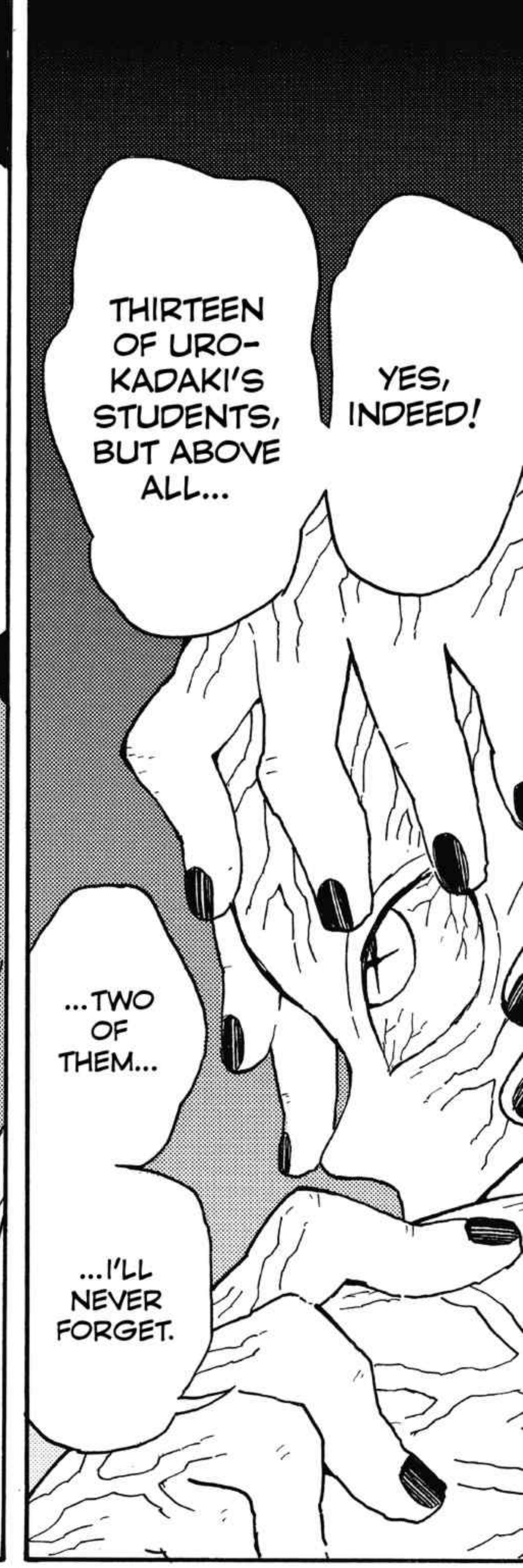
IF IT EATS MANY PEOPLE IT GETS STRONGER?

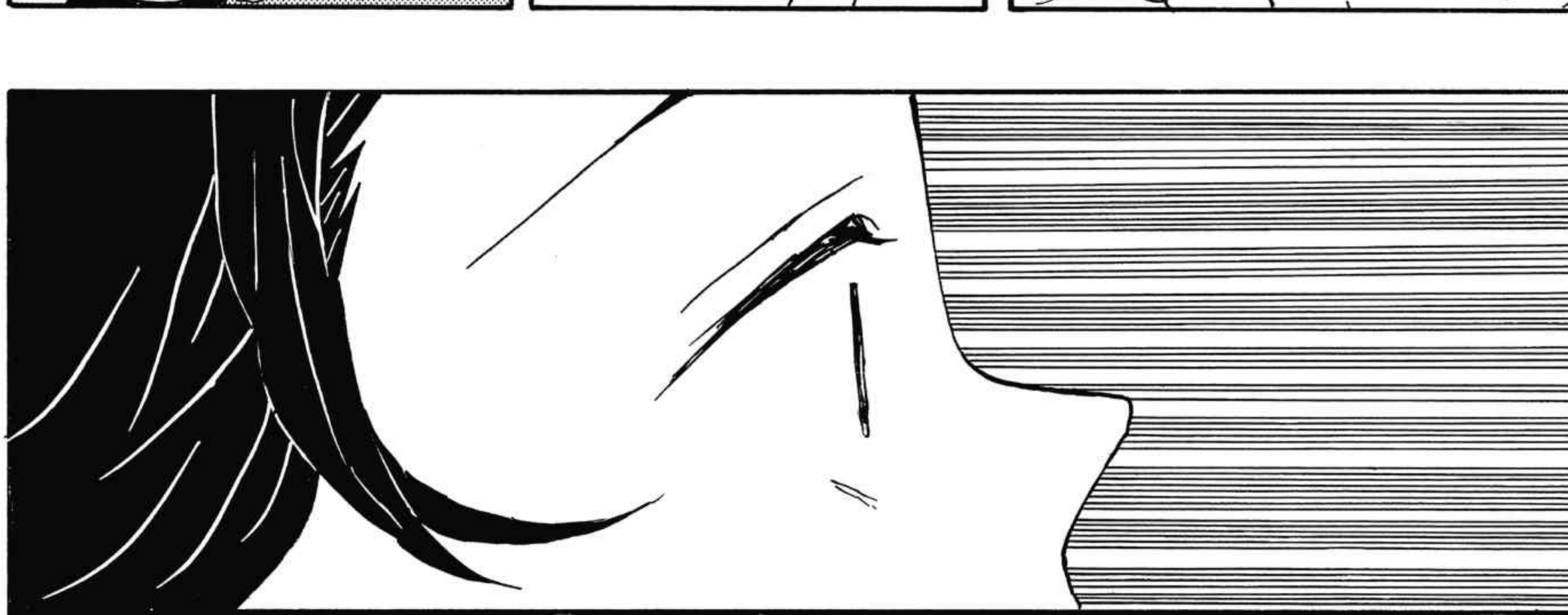
...HOW MANY PEOPLE A DEMON HAS EATEN.

IF YOUR NOSE GETS STRONGER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TELL...

?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...YOU ARE NUMBER 14.
...12...
...13...
... AND ...
I'VE DECIDED TO KILL *ALL* OF HIS STUDENTS!
THAT'S HOW MANY OF *UROKODAKI'S STUDENTS* I HAVE EATEN!
HEE HEE
HEE HEE







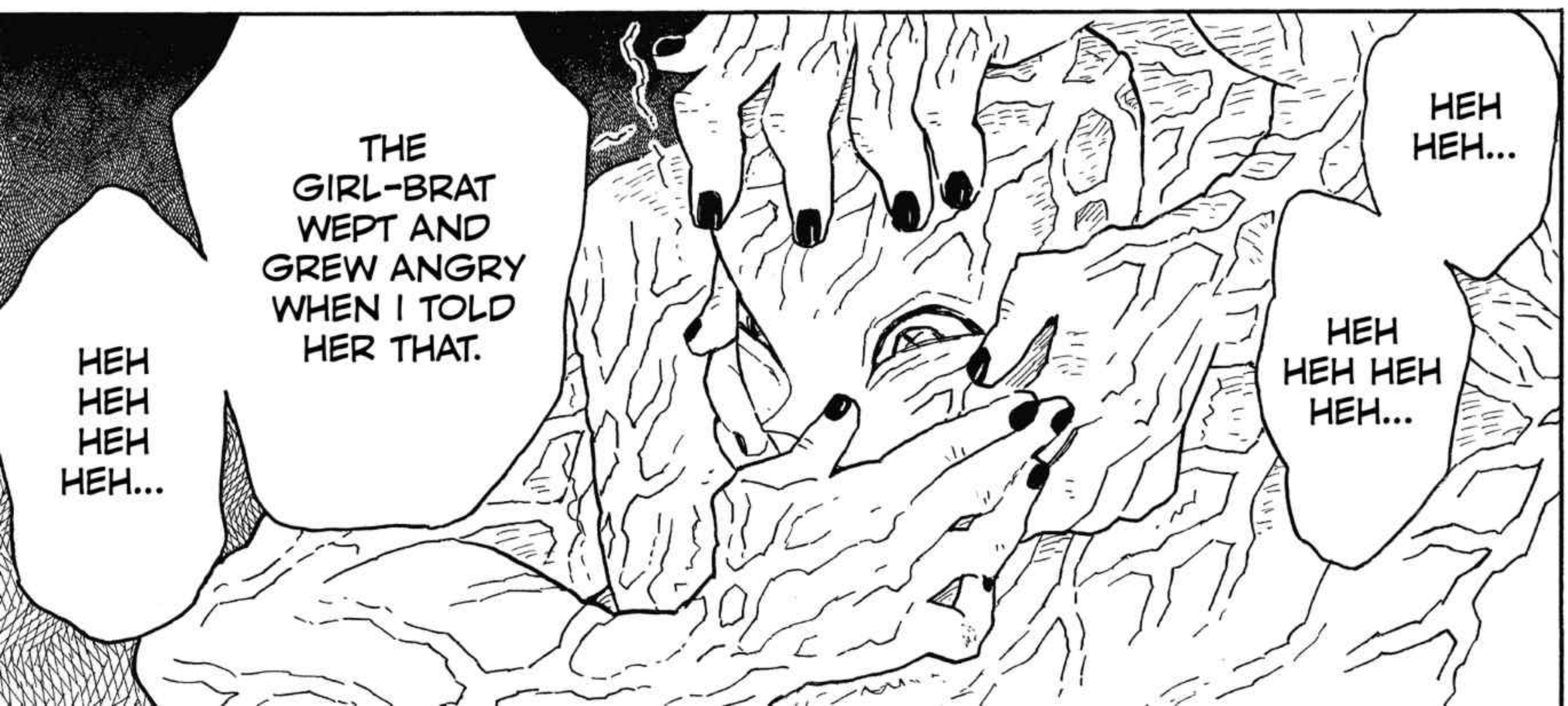
HOW COULD THIS DEMON HAVE KILLED THEM? THEY TRAINED ME!

I KNOW THE GRAIN OF THOSE MASKS THAT UROKO-DAKI CARVES.

THEY'RE CARVED THE SAME WAY AS THE TENGU MASK HE WORE.

I RECOGNIZE YOU...

...BY THOSE FOX MASKS.



SOON HER MOVEMENTS GOT SHAKY.
HEH HEH HEH!
THEN I RIPPED OFF HER ARMS AND LEGS!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US! FOCUS ON WHAT YOU MUST DO!

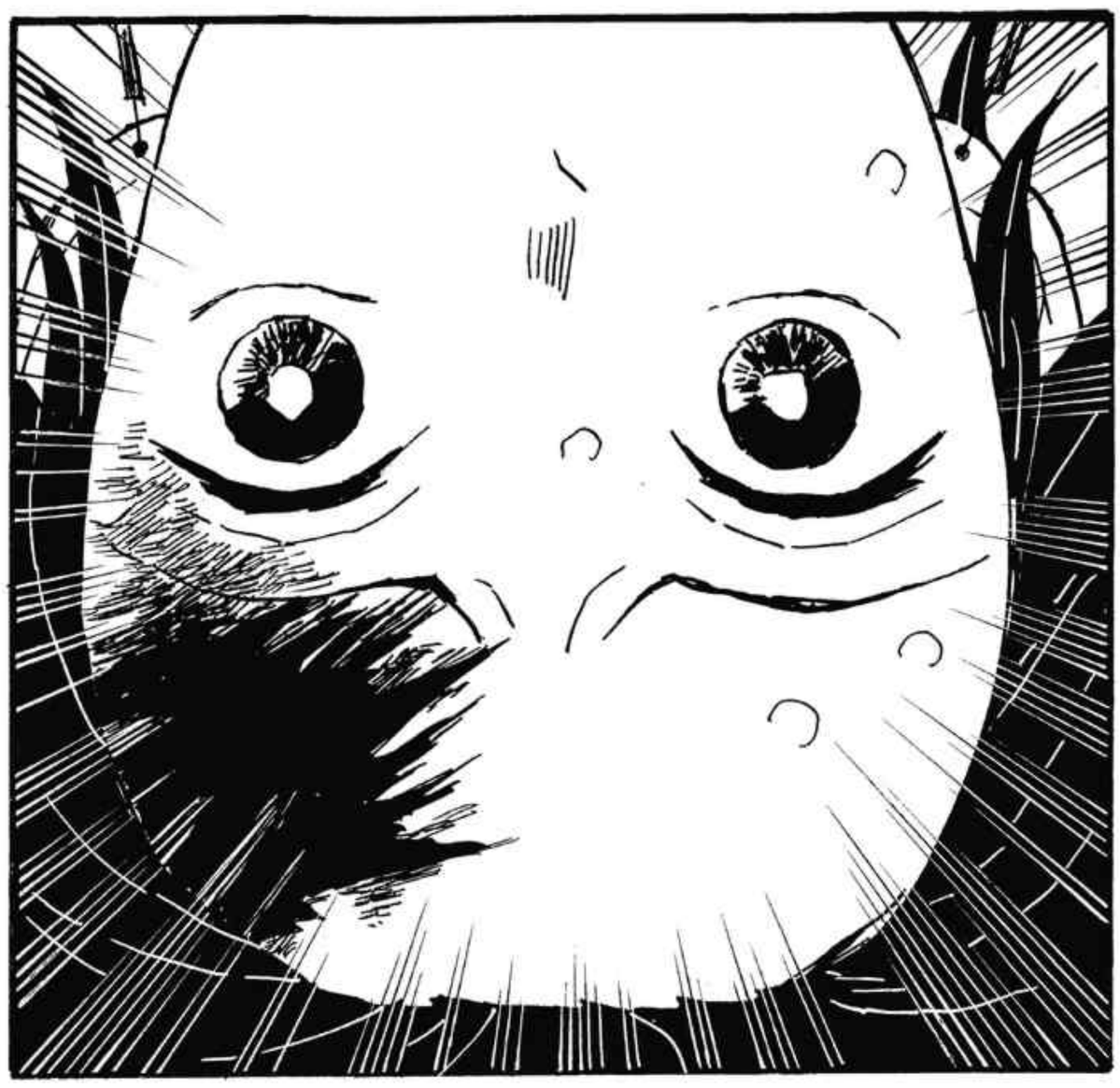
STAY CALM, TANJIRO.

YOUR BREATHING IS UNEVEN.

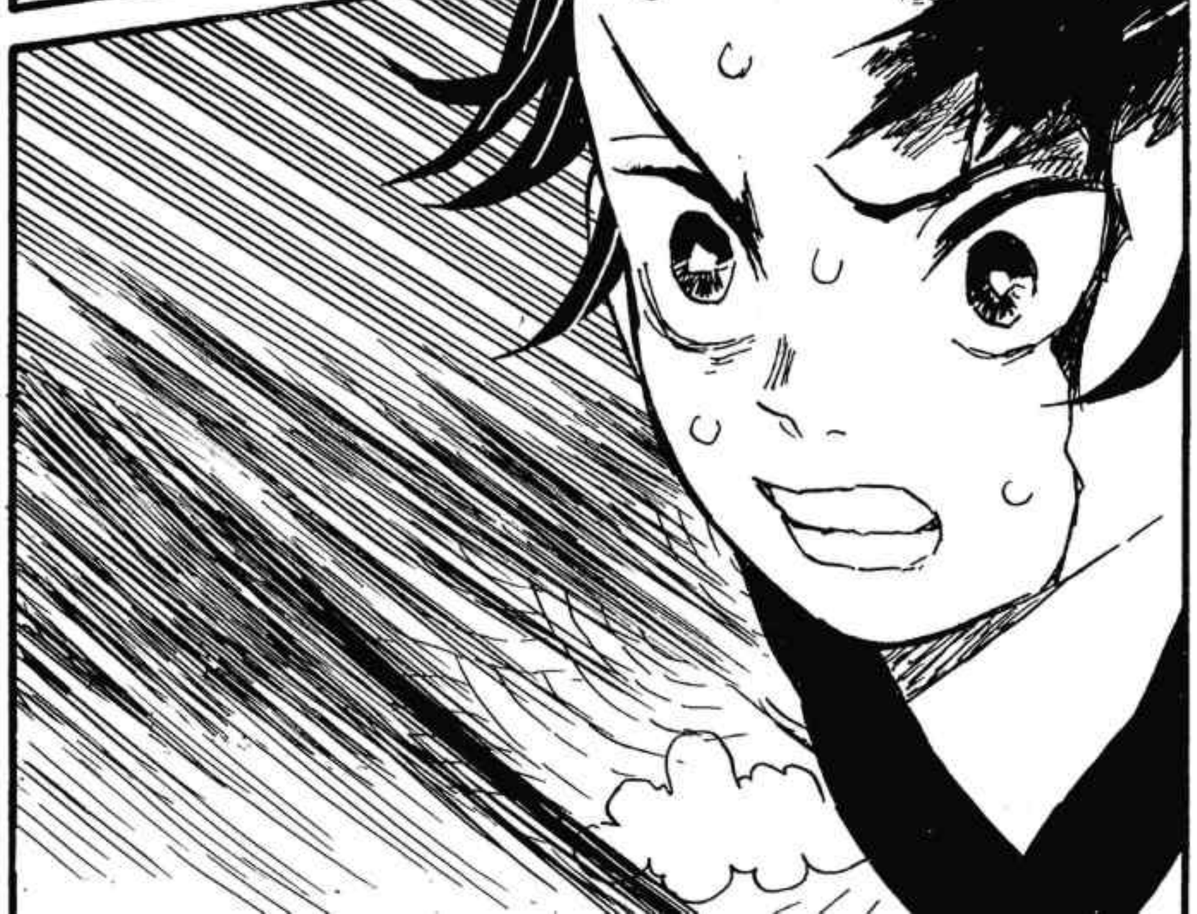
HA

HA

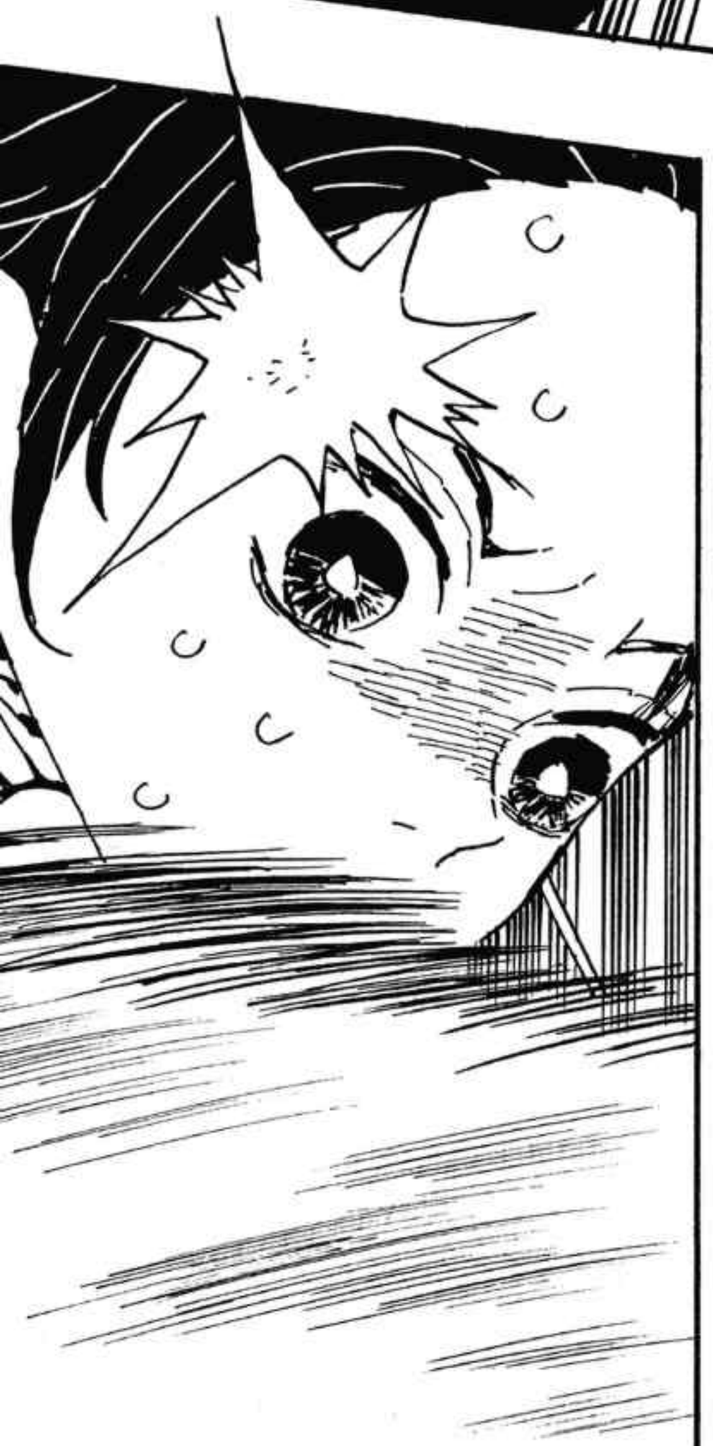
WHILE IT'S BEATING ON HIM, I'LL RUN AWAY!
WHSH
FLAM
KRAK



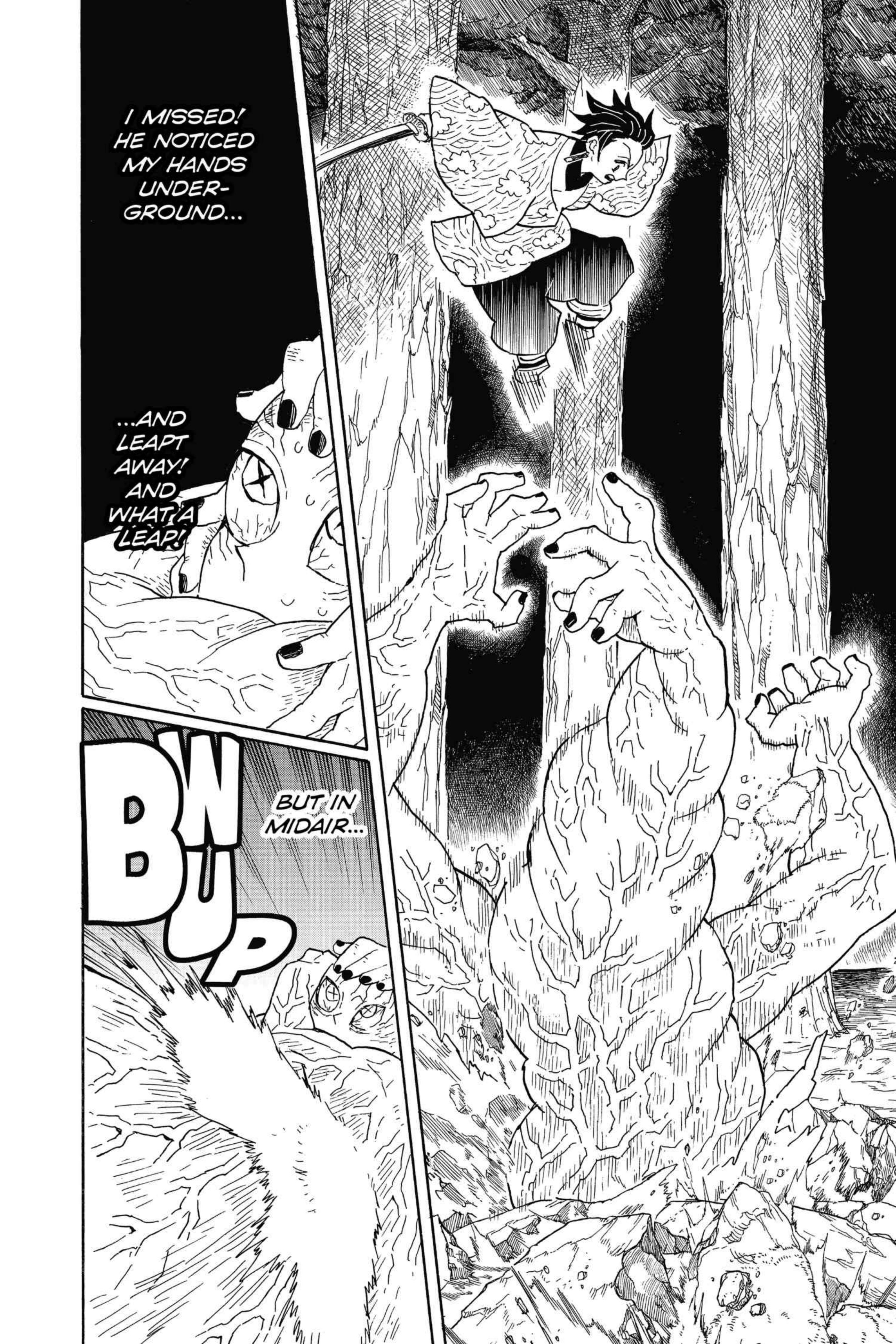
WHS
WHAM
BAM



WAKE UP, BIG BROTHER!



A STRANGE SMELL FROM THE GROUND!


I MISSED! HE NOTICED MY HANDS UNDER-GROUND...
...AND LEAPT AWAY! AND WHAT A LEAP!
BUT IN MIDAIR...
BUP

...HE CAN'T DODGE THIS ATTACK!
GWAAH
Uh oh

THE FOX-BRAT IS IN STRIKING RANGE!

I CAN'T GROW MORE IN TIME!

AND I'M OUT OF HANDS!

HE ESCAPED!

WATER BREATHING!

TOTAL CONCENTRATION.

EVEN THE PEACH-HAIR COULDN'T CUT IT!

BUT MY NECK IS HARD AND IMPERVIOUS!

SNIFF

...AND CRUSH IT, JUST LIKE I DID TO THE OTHER ONE!

WHEN HE FAILS TO CUT MY NECK, I'LL GRAB HIS HEAD...

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT TANJIRO WILL LOSE TOO?
THAT THING'S NECK IS SO HARD.
HE MAY LOSE OR HE MAY WIN.
BUT ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN...
NO!

THE BOULDER THAT TANJIRO CUT WAS BIGGER AND HARDER THAN ANYONE HAD EVER CUT BEFORE!

HRAAAAAH!!

VOLUME 1 — CRUELTY (THE END)

KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

They're publishing a graphic novel by me! Thank you! And heartfelt thanks to all the readers, my editors over the years, my assistants, everyone in the *Jump* editorial department, everyone at the printer, the people who designed the book, and the many other people who have offered their help!

DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA VOLUME 1

Shonen Jump Edition

Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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