Creator/Supervisor: Masashi Kishimoto
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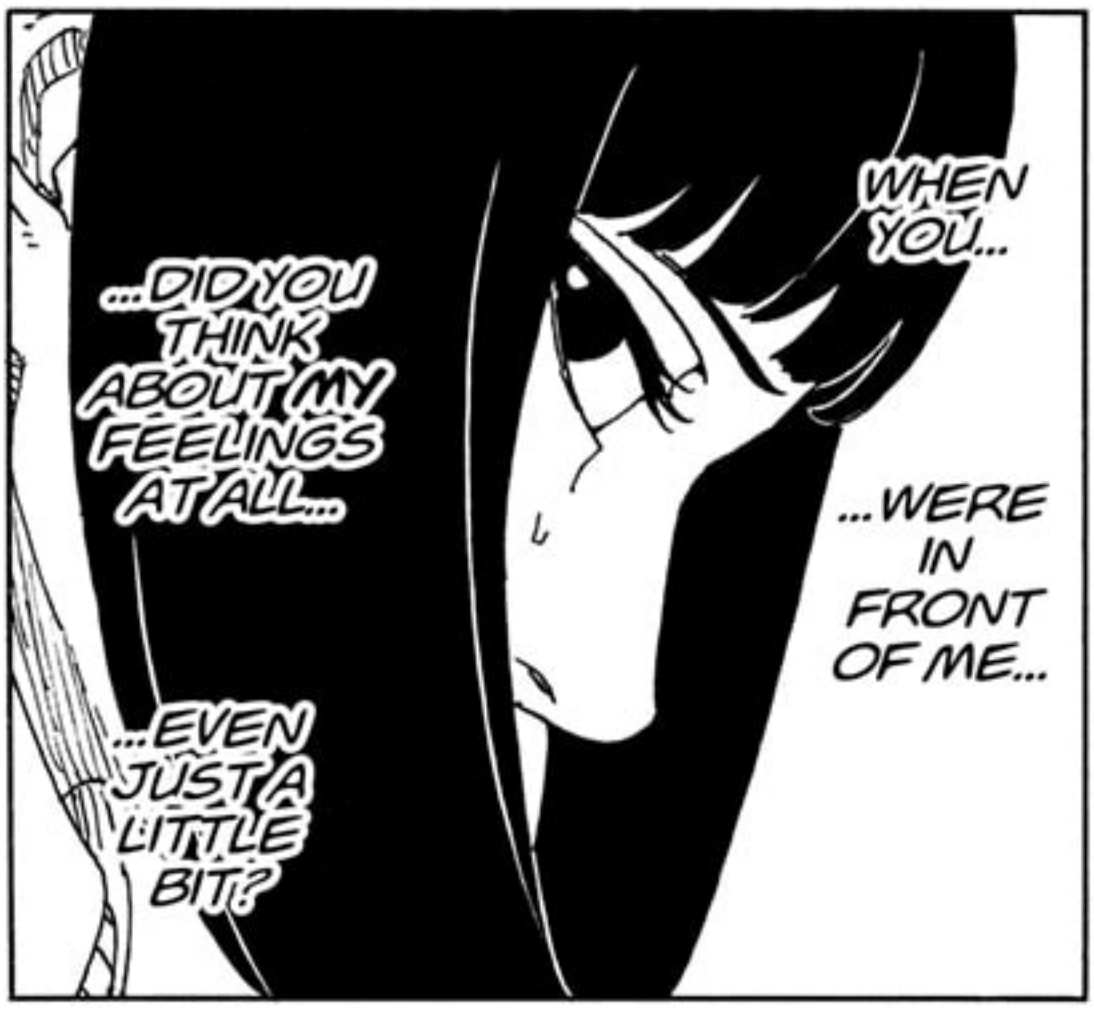
Lettering: Snir Aharon

◎17: Wild Beast Cubs

...IN BORUTO'S SHOES...
YOU MIGHT...
...WANT TO TRY PUTTING YOURSELF...

AND NOT JUST BORUTO'S FEELINGS...
...BUT MINE TOO.

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE LIKES...
...HAVING TO KEEP THINGS FROM US?
HAS THERE BEEN EVEN A MOMENT...
...WHEN YOU'VE REFLECTED ON HIS PAIN?


...DID YOU THINK ABOUT MY FEELINGS AT ALL...
WHEN YOU...
...WERE IN FRONT OF ME...
...EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT?

...

VWOOO
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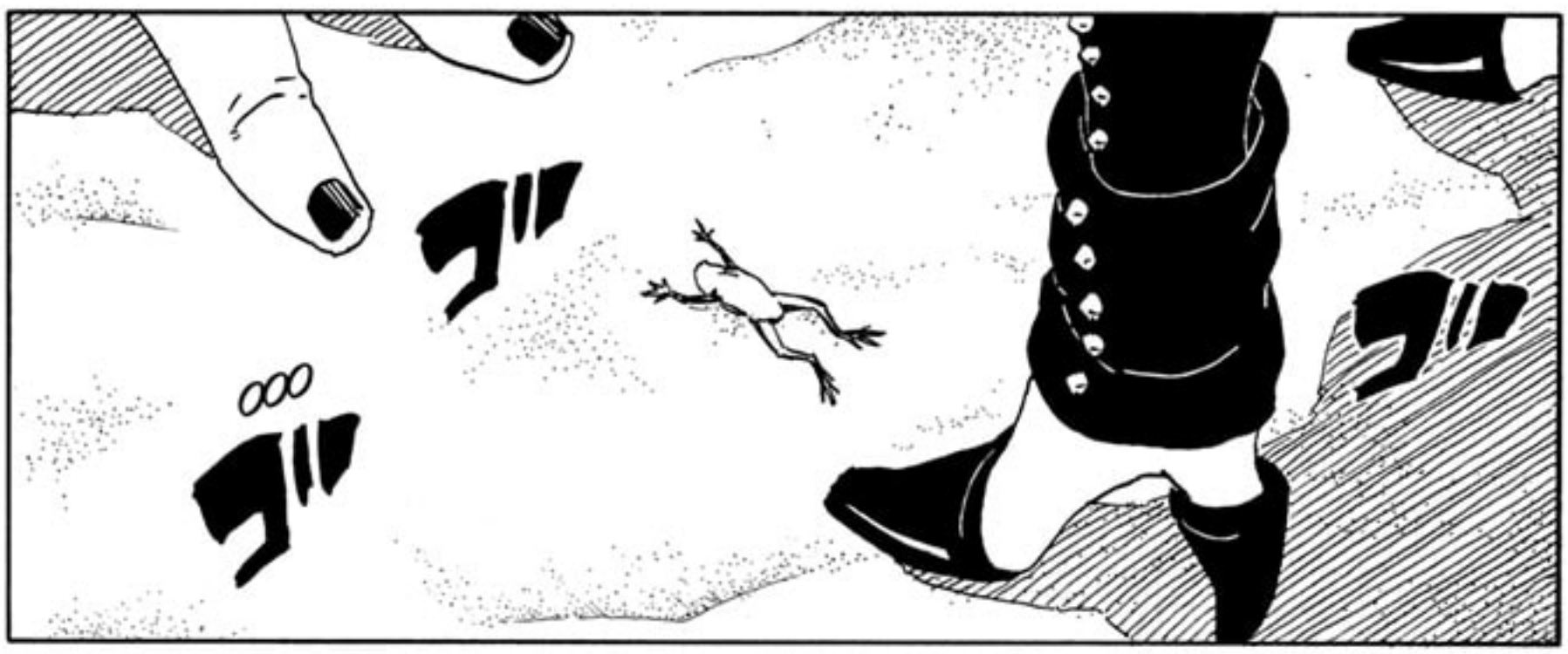
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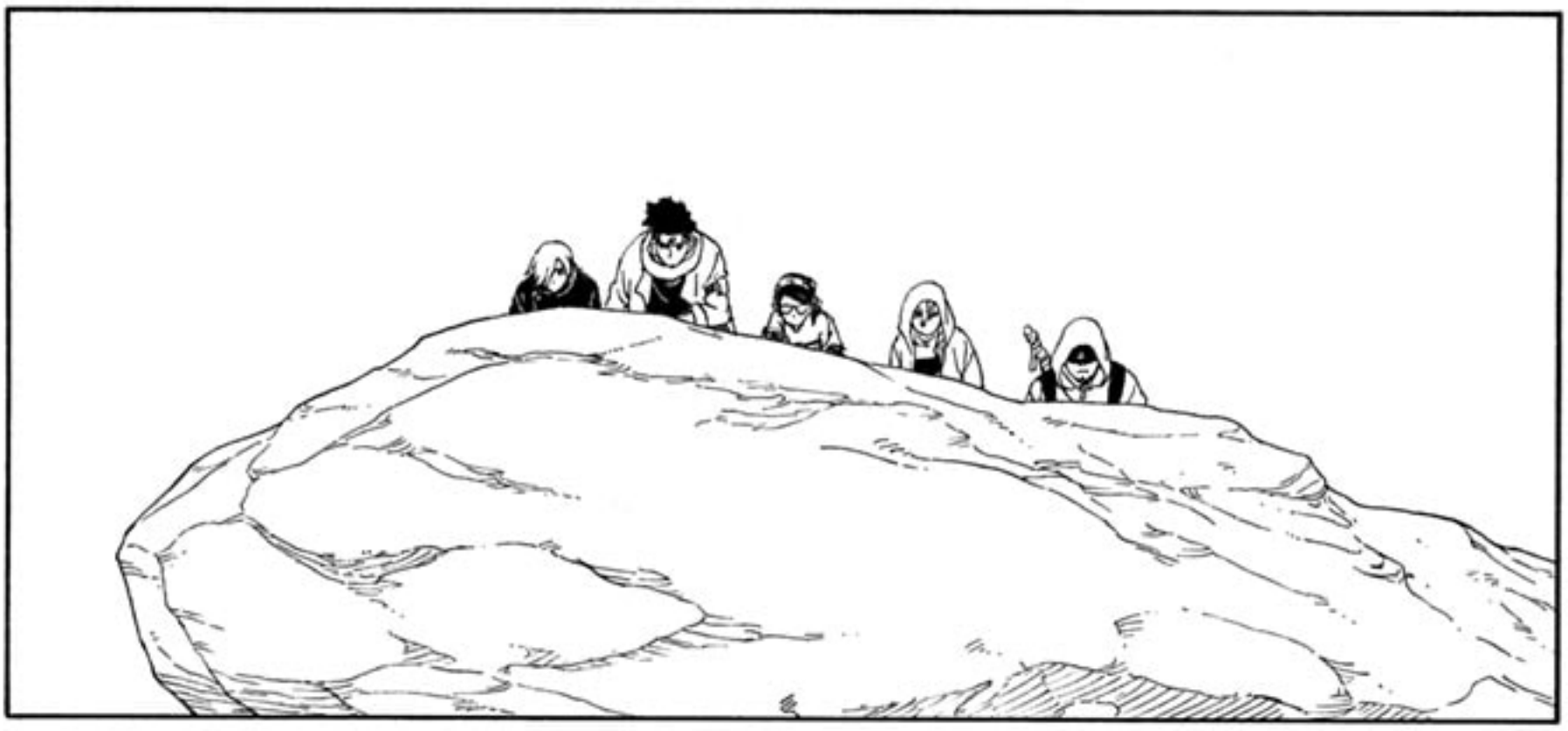
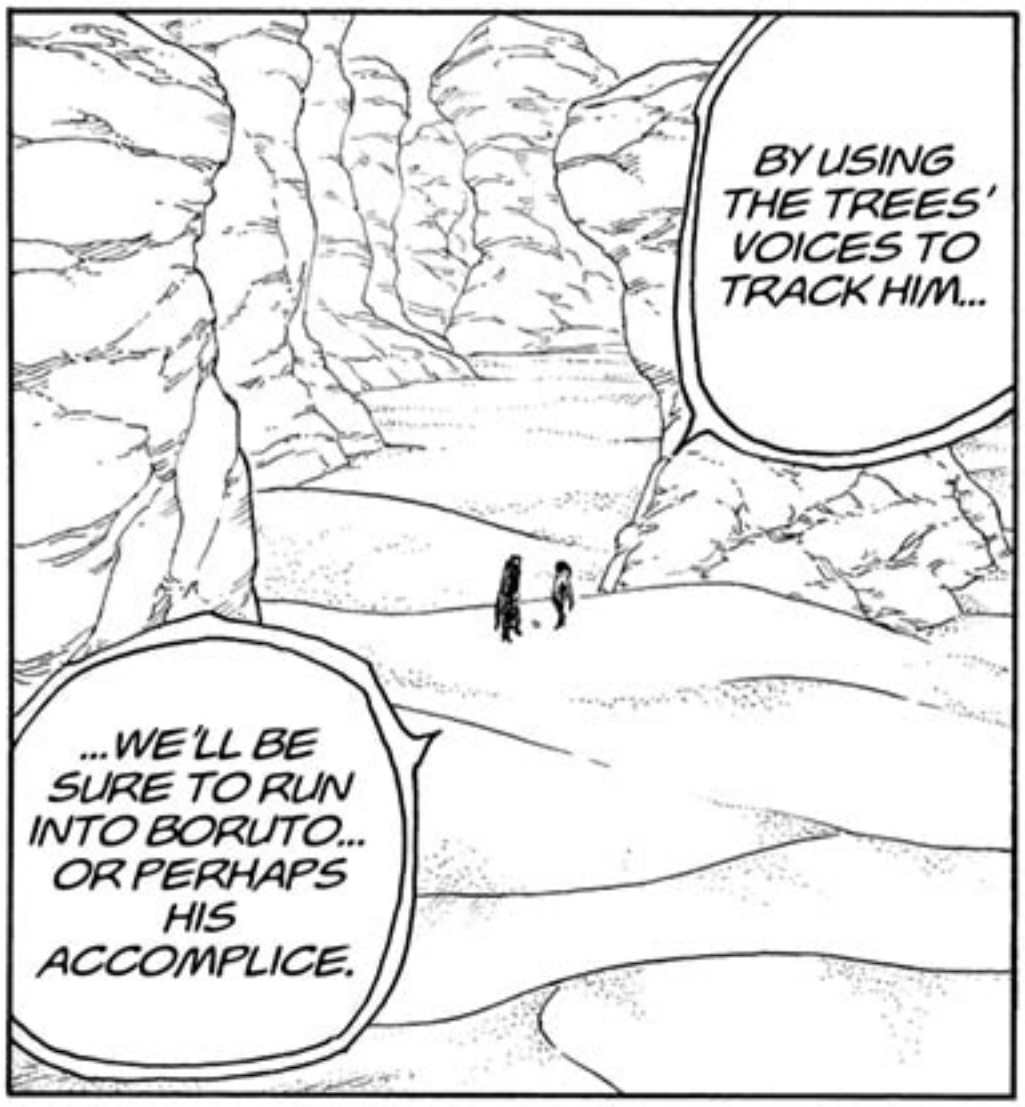
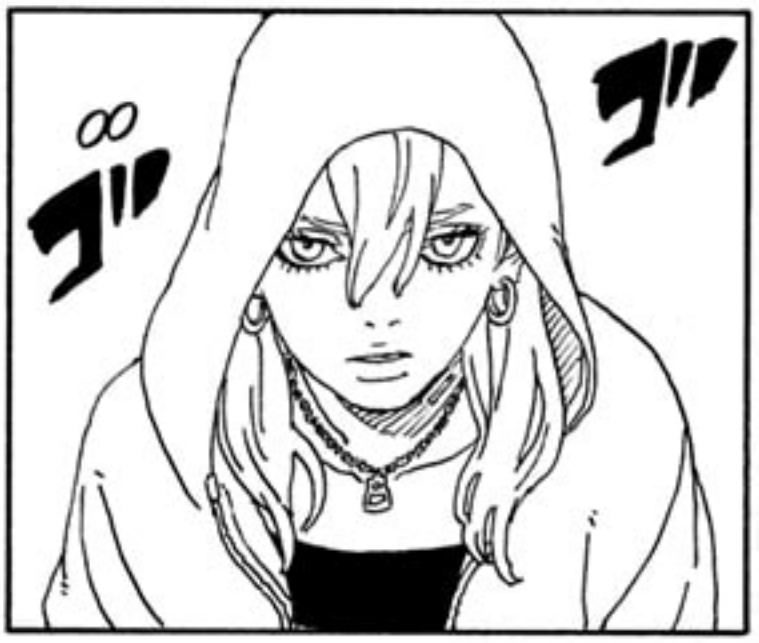
WHAT TREES?
THIS IS A DESERT.

THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE.
EVEN DEEP BELOW GROUND ...

ACCORDING TO THE TREES.
BORUTO HIMSELF PLACED THE TOAD HERE.
SO HE WAS DEFINITELY HERE.




BY USING THE TREES' VOICES TO TRACK HIM...
...WE'LL BE SURE TO RUN INTO BORUTO... OR PERHAPS HIS ACCOMPLICE.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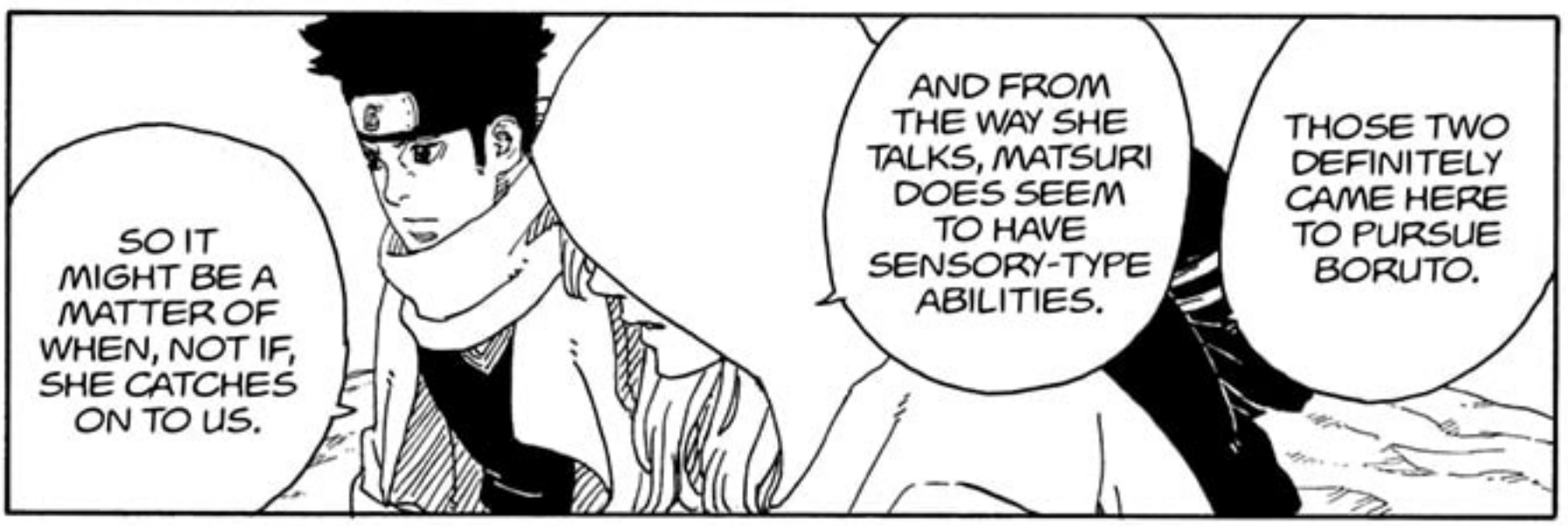

SO IT MIGHT BE A MATTER OF WHEN, NOT IF, SHE CATCHES ON TO US.
AND FROM THE WAY SHE TALKS, MATSURI DOES SEEM TO HAVE SENSORY-TYPE ABILITIES.
THOSE TWO DEFINITELY CAME HERE TO PURSUE BORUTO.

...

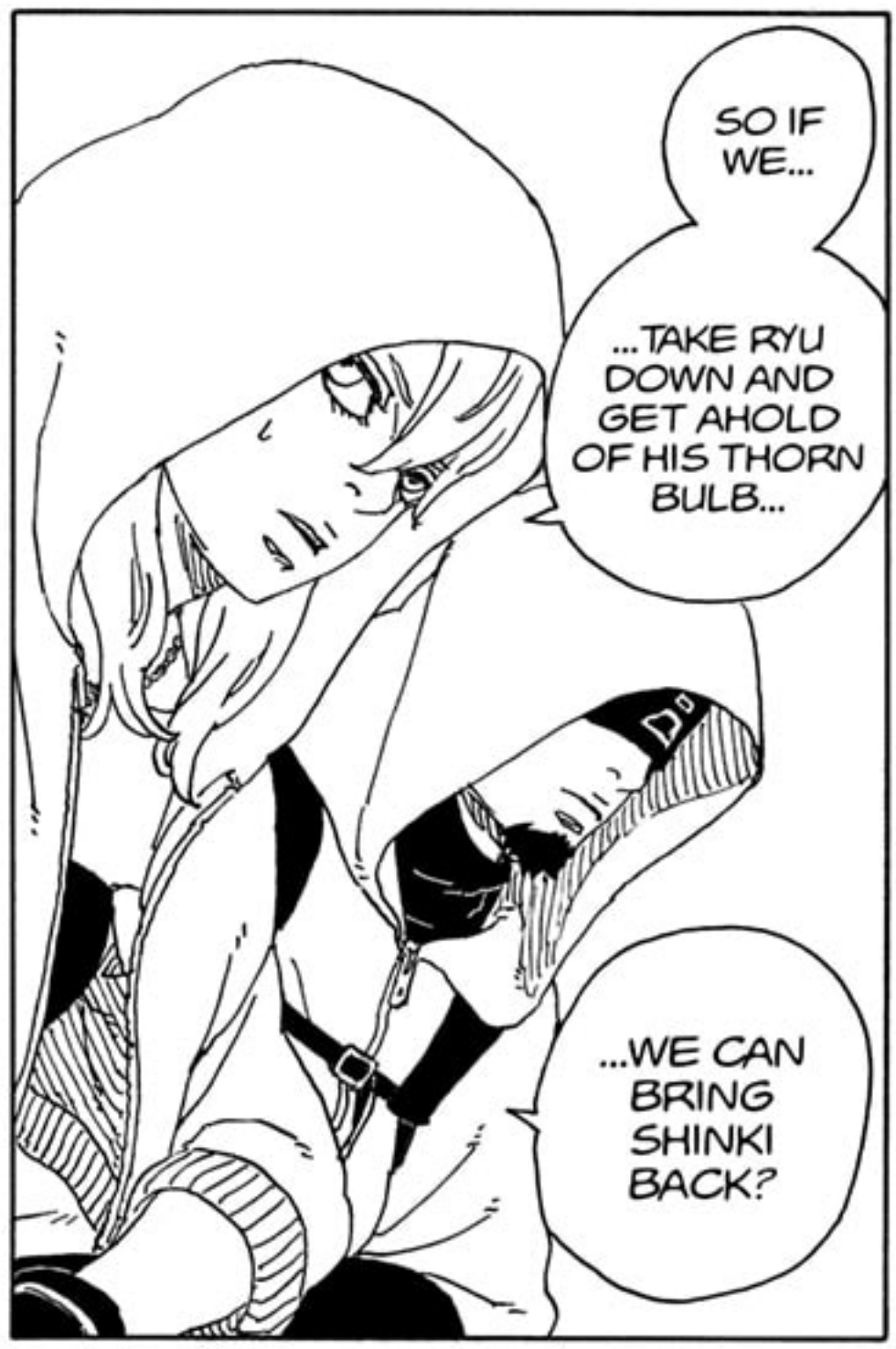
OKAY.
EVERY-THING'S LINING UP WITH OUR INTEL SO FAR.
ARE YOU ALL READY?

I'LL FOCUS, I PROMISE!
OH, SORRY.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON, SARADA?

MASTER KONOHA-MARU?

IF OUR INTEL IS CORRECT.
APPAR-ENTLY.
WE'RE OPERATING ON THAT PREMISE, AT LEAST.


SO IF WE...
...TAKE RYU DOWN AND GET AHOLD OF HIS THORN BULB...
...WE CAN BRING SHINKI BACK?

YODO, I BEG YOU...
PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS.

...
I SWEAR TO DO MY BEST.

...

I TOLD YOU TO SHUT IT!
OR ELSE I'LL SHUT YOU UP!

YODO!

I'M GONNA DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES...
QUIT TELLING ME WHAT TO DO, ARAYA.
...TO RESCUE SHINKI!

THE LAST THING WE NEED IS YOU FIGHTING!
STOP IT, YOU TWO!

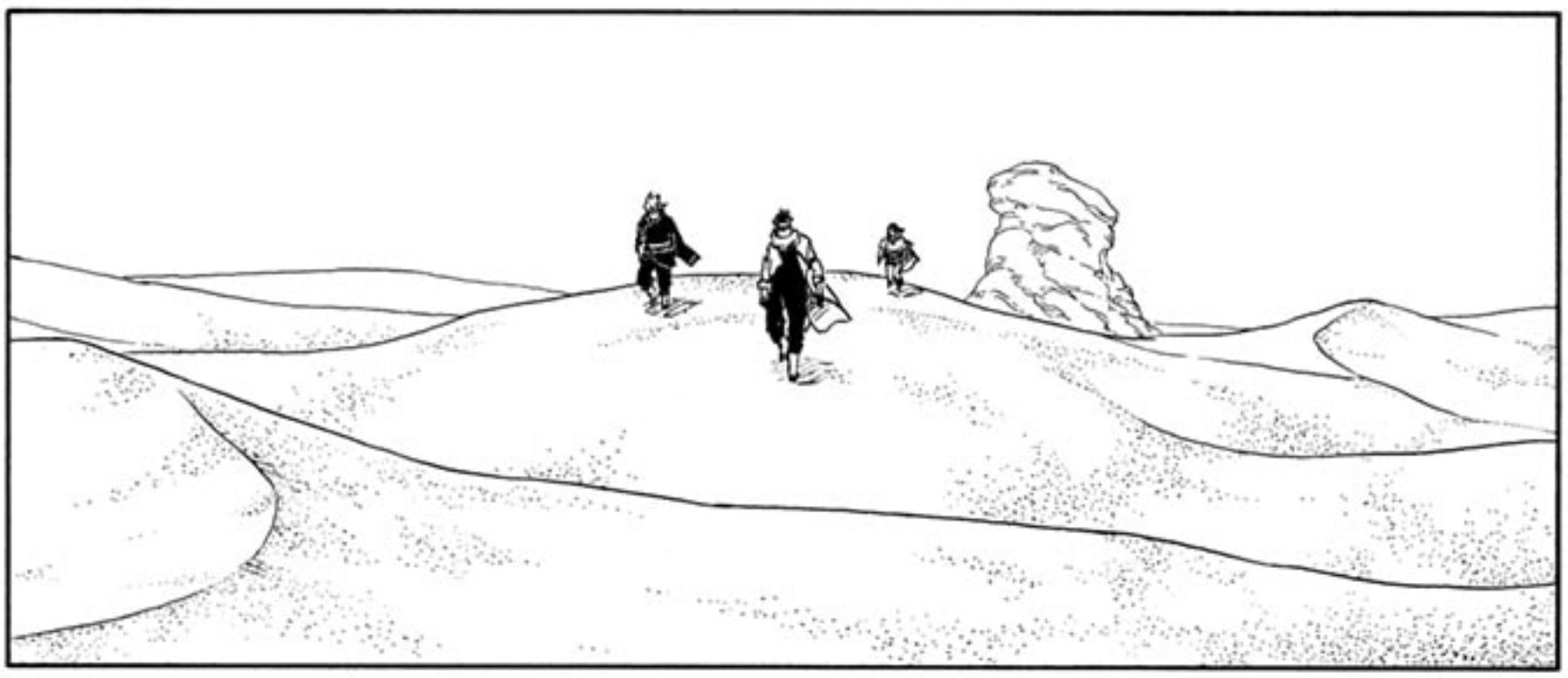
...

...
SORRY.
WE'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
IT WON'T AFFECT THE MISSION.

YESSIR.
THOUGH I WONDER IF IT'LL REALLY WORK.

YEESH.
JUST TO BE SAFE, I'LL ASK AGAIN.
DO ALL OF YOU UNDERSTAND THE PLAN?

DON'T YOU START NOW.
LET'S GO!
WE'VE COME TOO FAR NOT TO PROCEED.



ELDER.
NINJA APPROACHING.

YOU TWO OVER THERE!
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

WE ARE KONOHA SHINOBI.
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE REBEL BORUTO'S TRAIL.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

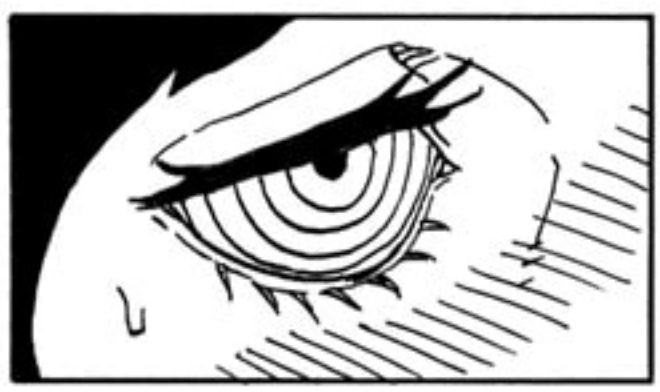
SARU-TOBI...
...KONOHA-MARU...

...ELDER MATSU--
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN...

IT SEEMS LIKE...
...THEY DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE.

...

...
ELDER?



I'M FEELING ...
...A BIT OFF...
YOU DO THE TALKING, RYU.

...
I...

SHP

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HUH?

LISTEN, KONOHA-MARU.

THORN BULBS?

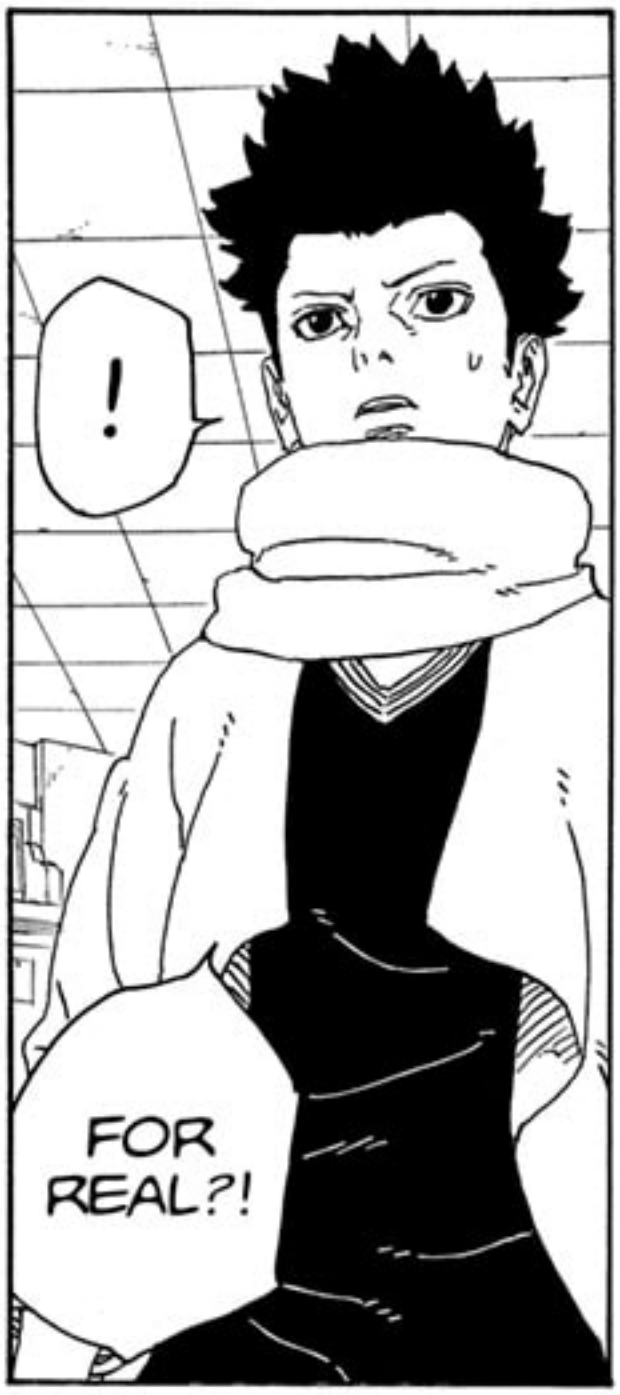
IT'S CRUCIAL...
YOUR MISSION ISN'T JUST TO TAKE THE DIVINE TREES DOWN.
...THAT YOU COLLECT THEIR THORN BULBS.

OH, THAT!
!

I BELIEVE YOU'VE SEEN ONE.
IT'S THE THING THAT APPEARED WHEN HIDARI WAS DEFEATED.

IF WE RETURN THEM TO THEIR TREES...
...WE CAN BRING MOEGI AND SHINKI BACK.

THE INTEL IS SOLID.
...AND RYU'S, SHINKI.
MATSURI'S THORN BULB WILL RESTORE MOEGI...


!
FOR REAL?!

IN SHORT, FIGHTING THEM IS USELESS...
...IF WE CAN'T TAKE THEIR THORN BULBS.

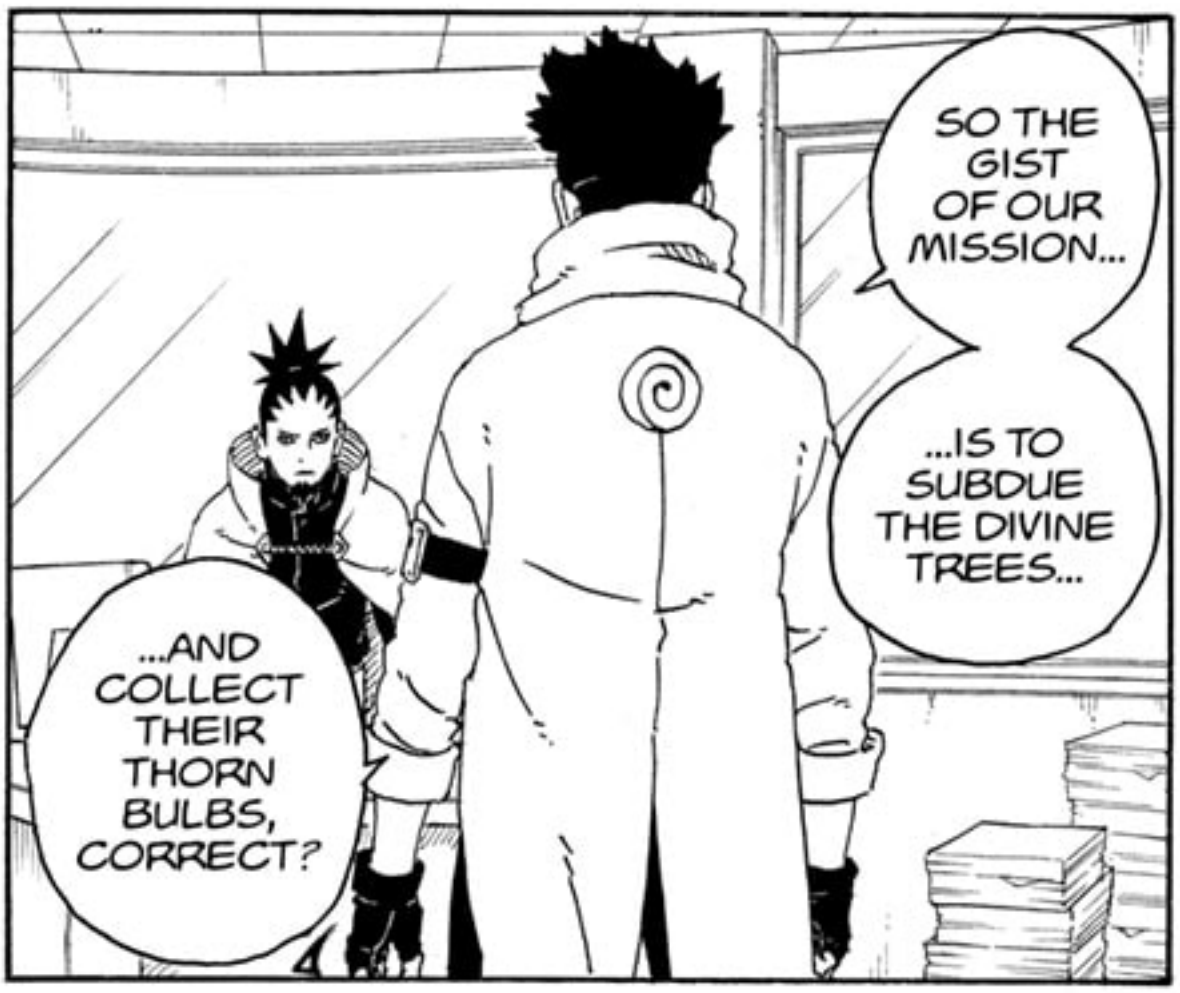
CONVERSELY, IF WE DON'T RETRIEVE THOSE THORN BULBS...
...MATSURI AND RYU WILL KEEP RESUR-RECTING.

...

...
IT'S LIKELY.

ARE YOU SAYING ...
...HIDARI IS BACK AMONG THE LIVING?

AFTER BORUTO DEFEATED HIM, HIDARI'S THORN BULB...
...FLEW OFF SOME-WHERE.


SO THE GIST OF OUR MISSION...
...IS TO SUBDUE THE DIVINE TREES...
...AND COLLECT THEIR THORN BULBS, CORRECT?

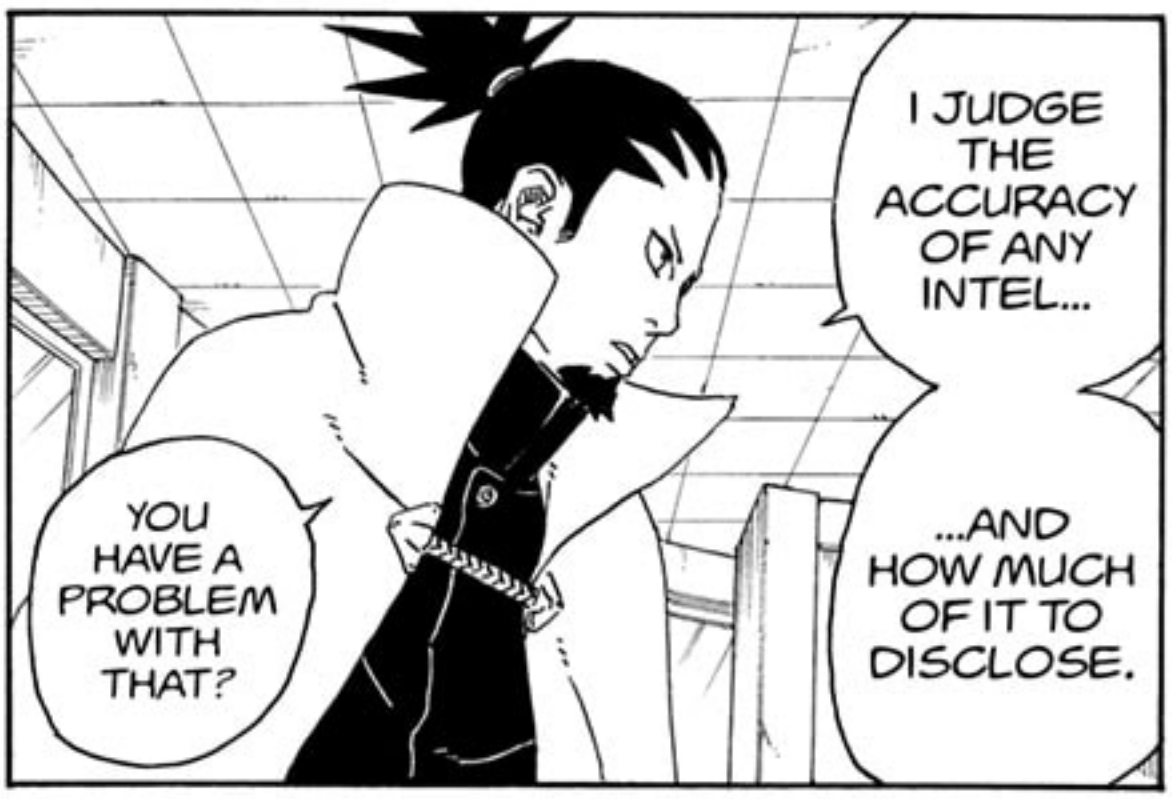
...

BUT LORD EIGHTH ...
...HOW'D YOU COME BY THIS INTEL?

SORRY, KONOHA-MARU.
BUT THAT'S BEYOND YOUR CLEAR-ANCE.

ITS VERACITY ASIDE...
...THIS IS WAY MORE INFORMATION THAN WHAT WE GLEANED FROM BORUTO'S INTERRO-GATION.

...
NO...


I JUDGE THE ACCURACY OF ANY INTEL...
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
...AND HOW MUCH OF IT TO DISCLOSE.

REGARDING YOUR MISSION...
...I HAVE A PARTICULAR STRATEGY IN MIND...
...FOR HOW TO FIGHT THEM, BASED ON THE INTEL.

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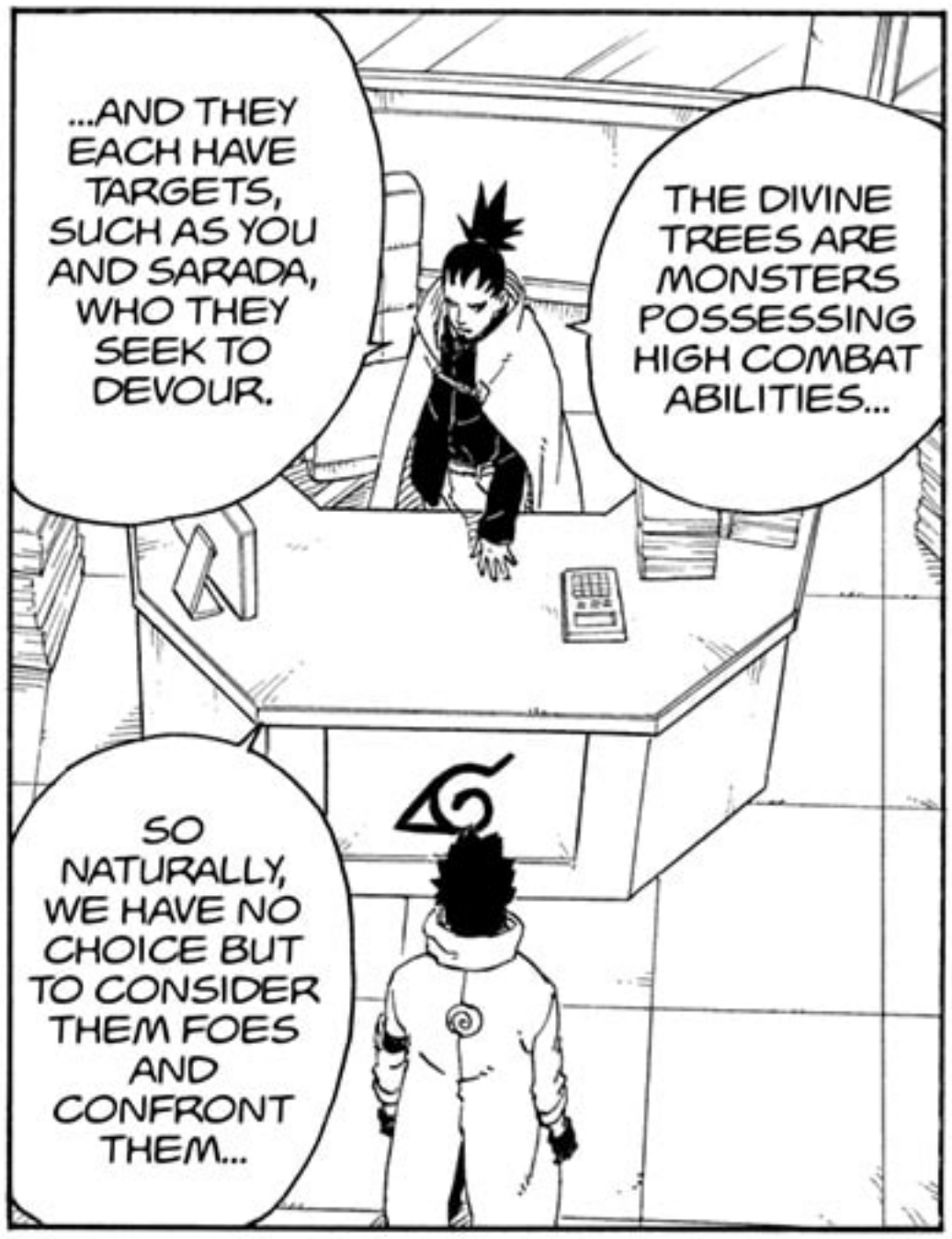
...YET THIS ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIP IS RELATIVE.
THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THESE DIVINE TREES ARE INTRINSICALLY EVIL.


...AND THEY EACH HAVE TARGETS, SUCH AS YOU AND SARADA, WHO THEY SEEK TO DEVOUR.
THE DIVINE TREES ARE MONSTERS POSSESSING HIGH COMBAT ABILITIES...
SO NATURALLY, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONSIDER THEM FOES AND CONFRONT THEM...

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
...THAT IN MY PERSONAL OPINION...
...THEY SEEM SIMILAR TO NEWLY BORN OFFSPRING OF WILD BEASTS.

?
HUH?

...CUBS?
WILD BEAST...

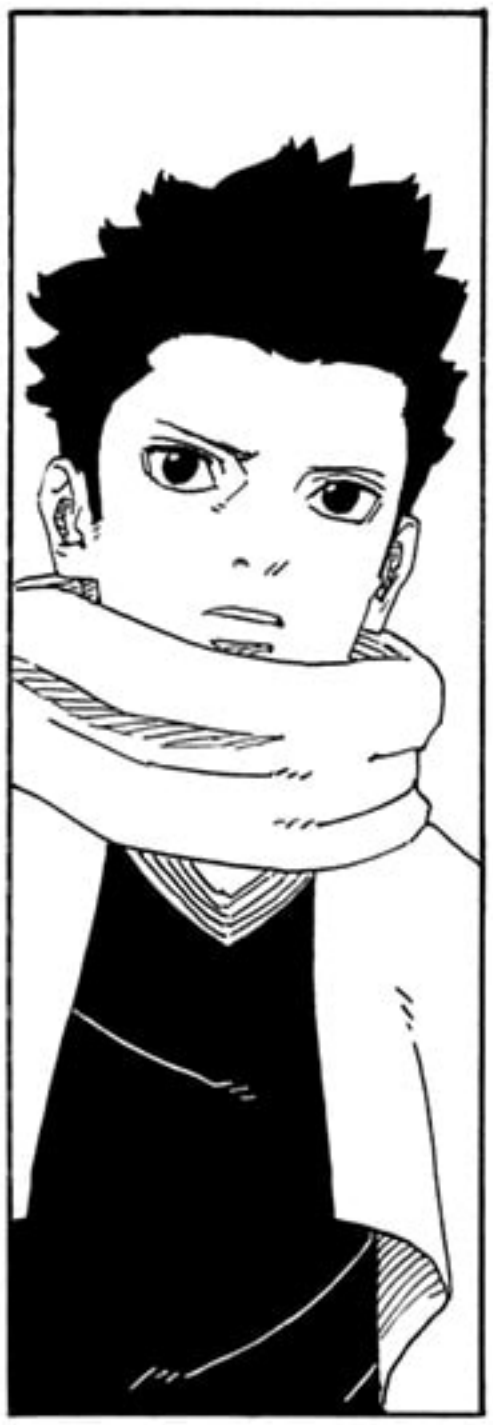
BUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE DANGEROUS STRENGTH...
...THEY POSE A GREAT THREAT TO US HUMANS.

AT LEAST, FOR THE TIME BEING...
I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE TRUE EVIL INTENT.
...THAT REACT ON INSTINCT.
...THEY ARE MERELY ANIMALS...

...

...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THIS?
THEN IT DOESN'T ...
...CHANGE THE FACT THAT THEY'RE FOES THAT WE NEED TO DEFEAT, RIGHT?



FRIENDS, KONOHA-MARU.
BECOME FRIENDS WITH THEM.

TAME 'EM, WHILE THESE WILD BEASTS ARE STILL INNOCENT CUBLINGS.
WIN THEM OVER.
AND THEN...

HUH?
WHAT?

...BETRAY THEM.

I PROPOSE THIS TACTIC...
NARUTO PROBABLY WOULDN'T TAKE THIS ROUTE...
...TO GET RID OF THESE SUPERHUMAN MONSTERS...
...BUT I'M NOT HIM.
...FOR THE SURVIVAL OF HUMAN-KIND.

THIS IS A PERFECT PLAN, IF YOU TRULY...
DID YOUR HEART REEL JUST NOW? DON'T ALLOW IT TO.
...CONSIDER THEM NOTHING BUT FOES.
GET THEM TO DROP THEIR GUARD, SO YOU CAN KILL THEM.

...

VWOOO
ワッオオ

THESE TWO ARE SARADA...
I AM COMMANDER KONOHA-MARU.
...AND MITSUKI.

...

AND YOU?

SHF

UH... ELDER MATSURI?
YOU OKAY?
YOU REALLY SEEM OFF.

AND THIS IS...
I AM RYU.

VWOOOO

...

...
I DUNNO.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR HIM ALSO.

YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR BORUTO TOO?

THEN OUR GOALS ARE THE SAME.

WE'D LOVE TO JOIN FORCES.

RYU AND MATSURI, EH?

NICE TO MEET YOU.

THIS TOAD IS A SPY USED BY BOTH BORUTO AND HIS ACCOMPLICE.

WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE WHAT IT WAS DOING HERE.

!
FOR REALS?

MASTER.

IT MIGHT BE ONE THAT BORUTO USES FOR TELEPORTATION.
I FOUND A PIECE OF METAL.

LET'S SPLIT UP.
YOU CHECK OVER THERE.
SARADA, MITSUKI.

ROGER!

WE MIGHT FIND OTHER CLUES.
WHY DON'T WE COMB THE AREA?

YOU'RE MATSURI, RIGHT?
YOU.
!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?

WHY? WHAT'S...
I'M HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING.
...WRONG WITH ME?

...

WE FOUND OTHER STUFF THAT MIGHT BE BORUTO'S ...
...OVER THAT WAY TOO.

RYU!

MAYBE HE'S STILL IN THE VICINITY?
FOR REALS ?

DON'T WORRY, WE'VE GOT THIS SWATH COVERED.
LEAVE IT TO US.

BUT...
... ELDER MATSU-RI'S...

OUR OTHER COMRADES ARE WAITING NEAR THERE.
LET'S GO TO THEM. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.

YOU KONOHA NINJA ARE SERIOUSLY NICE PEEPS.
PHEW, WHAT A RELIEF.
JUST LIKE I WAS TOLD.

COME.
SEE? MASTER HAS THINGS UNDER CONTROL.

...

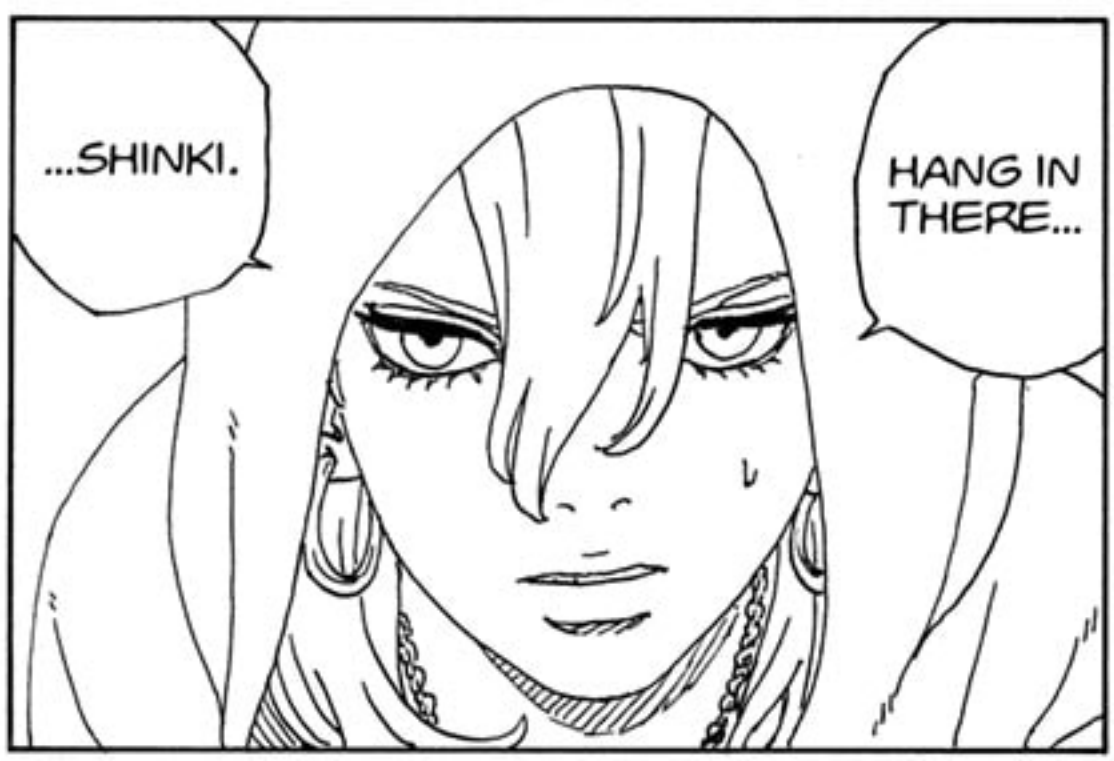
HUH?

...
JURA?

ELDER JURA'S FULL OF RESPECT FOR YA.
OH, HE'S OUR BOSS MAN.

AWW, GEE...
DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT.

Y'KNOW, HONESTLY, I'D BEEN INTENDIN' TO SLAUGHTER...
...ANY NINJA I RAN INTO.
SO I'M GLAD WE SPOKE FIRST.


...SHINKI.
HANG IN THERE...

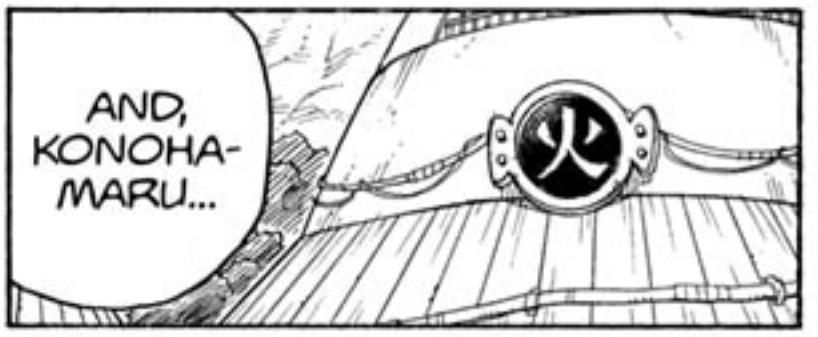
...

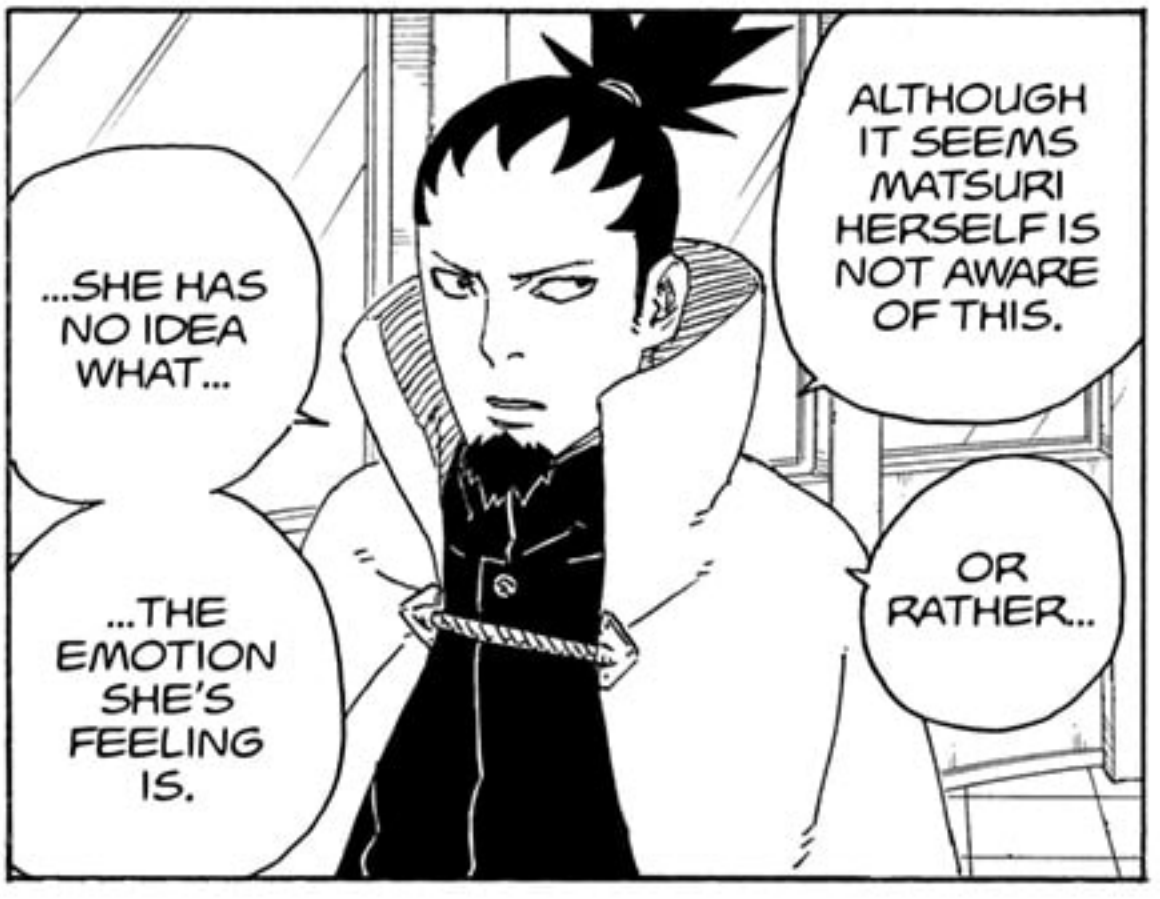
...

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE MATSURI'S TARGET?

IT'S CUZ...

...SHE BEARS ROMANTIC FEELINGS TOWARDS YOU.

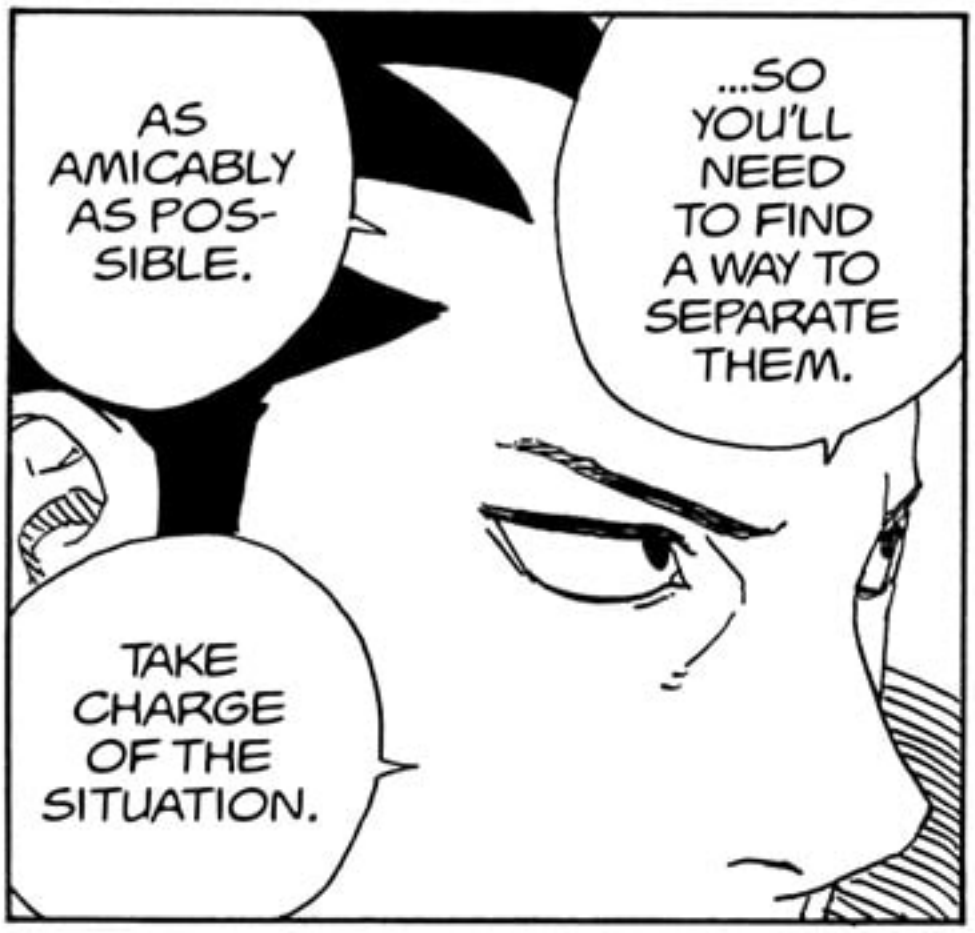




...
ER...
ISN'T THAT A BIT MUCH...?

SO THIS PLAN MAY PUT HER IN A STATE OF TURMOIL.
IF IT DOES, THAT WILL LIKELY GIVE US A FAVORABLE EDGE.

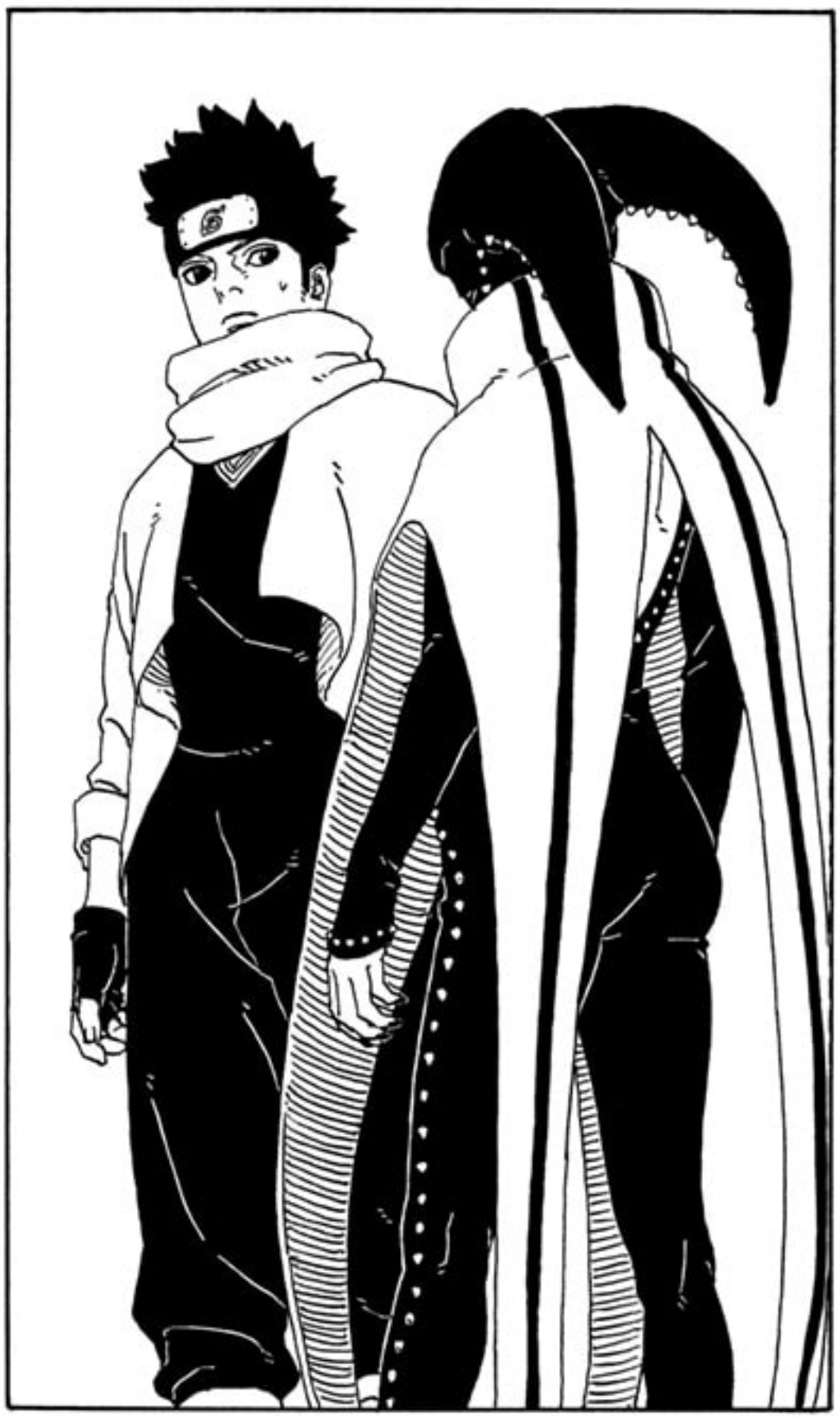
I TOLD YOU.
BE HEART-LESS.
DIVINE TREES ARE OUR ENEMY.

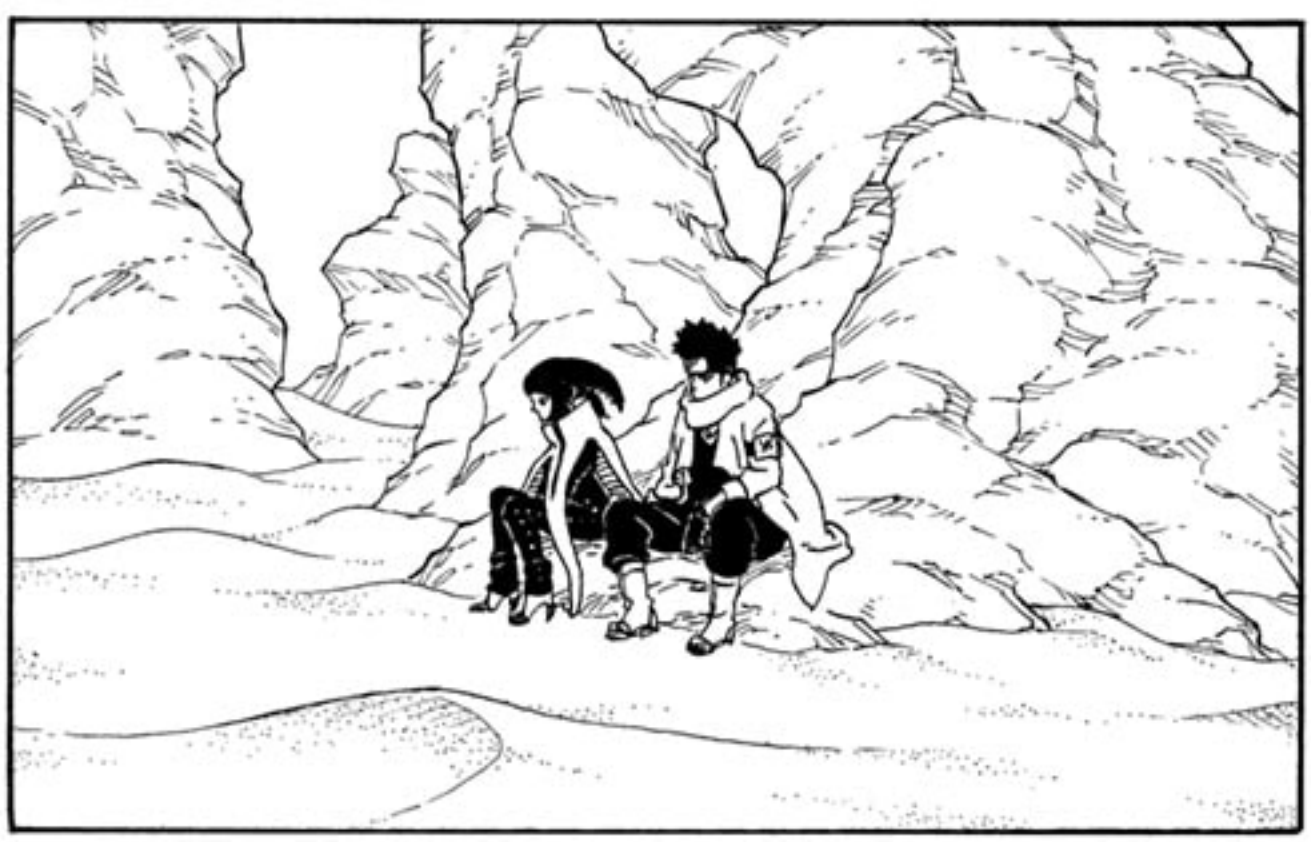

...SO YOU'LL NEED TO FIND A WAY TO SEPARATE THEM.
AS AMICABLY AS POS-SIBLE.
TAKE CHARGE OF THE SITUATION.

ACCORD-ING TO OUR INTEL, EITHER MATSURI OR RYU WILL SHOW UP.
WORST CASE, THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER.
FACING BOTH AT THE SAME TIME WILL NOT GO WELL FOR US...

...

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED A BREAK.
WANNA SIT SOME-WHERE AND TALK?





I DUNNO.
...ISN'T LIKE ME...
THIS JUST...

WELL?
ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?

...

YOU...
...SURE ABOUT THAT?

I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARILY WEIRD...
...FOR YOU TO GET THIS WAY, Y'KNOW?

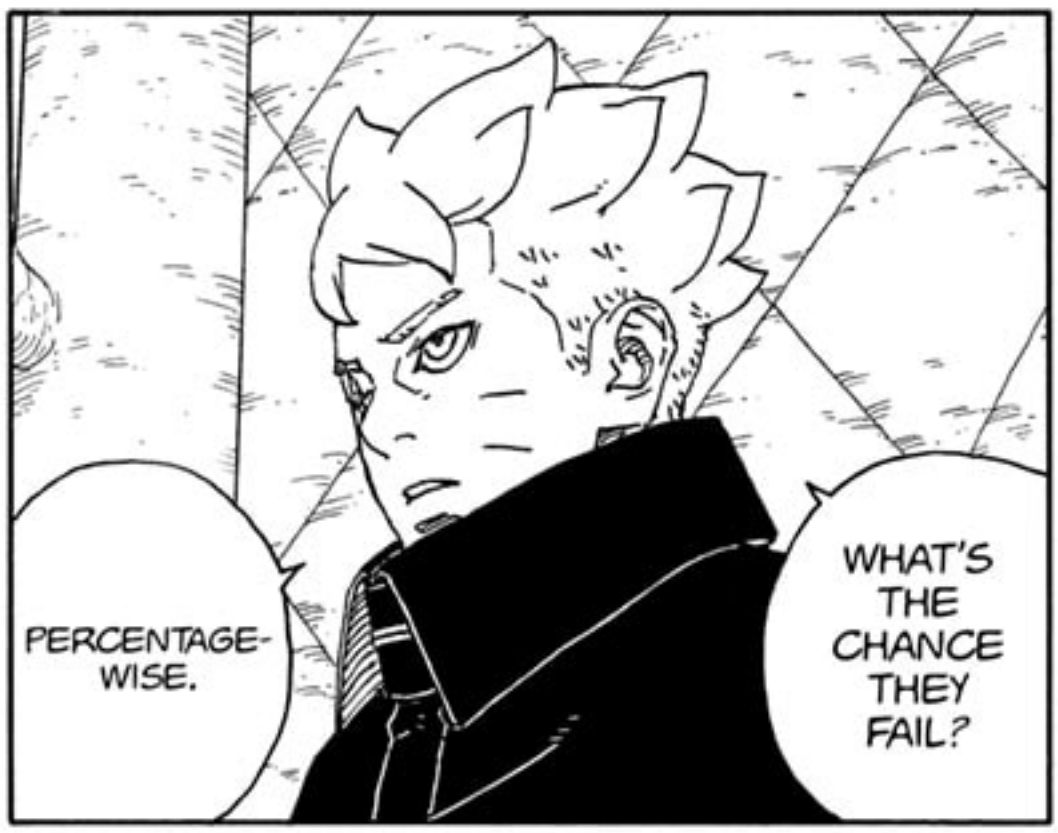
CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK RIGHT NOW?

EIDA.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SAND.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

IT'S GOING WELL SO FAR.
...THEY'VE SUCCEEDED IN SEPA-RATING THEM.
OR AT LEAST...


WHAT'S THE CHANCE THEY FAIL?
PERCENTAGE-WISE.

KONOHA-MARU'S KEEPING MATSURI OCCUPIED.
IDEALLY, SARADA AND THE OTHER THREE WILL TAKE RYU DOWN FIRST...
...THEN REN-DEZVOUS WITH KONOHA-MARU AND DEFEAT MATSURI TOGETHER.

...
NOT THAT HIGH.

EITHER WAY...
...YOU'RE NOT TO GO, BORUTO.

DON'T LIE TO ME.
I ASKED YOU FOR A NUMBER.

AND IF THAT HAP-PENS...
...YOU WILL DIE THIS TIME.

JUST LIKE WITH HIMAWARI LEAVING KONOHA...
...IF YOU WERE TO TAKE PART IN THIS BATTLE...
...JURA WOULD MAKE A MOVE.

YOU ARE THE ONE THING...
...WE CANNOT LOSE...

...

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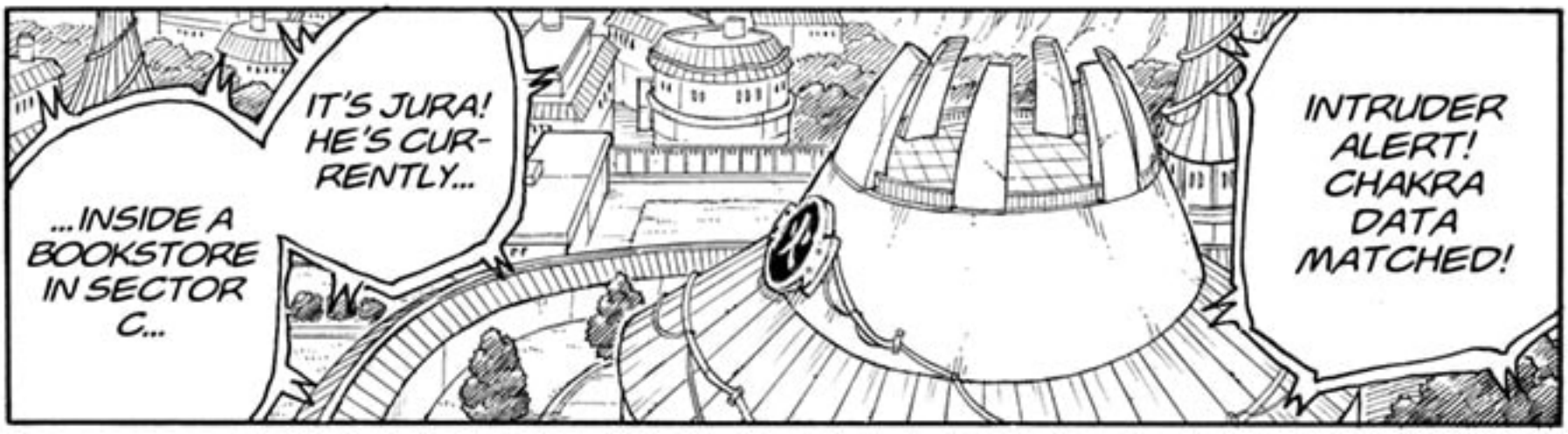

IT'S JURA! HE'S CURRENTLY...
...INSIDE A BOOKSTORE IN SECTOR C...
INTRUDER ALERT! CHAKRA DATA MATCHED!

WHMP

DMP

IGNORE HIM. LEAVE HIM ALONE.
DON'T EVACUATE ANY CIVILIANS EITHER.
AND RELAY TO ALL THE PERSONNEL ...
...THAT THEY ARE NOT TO ENGAGE.

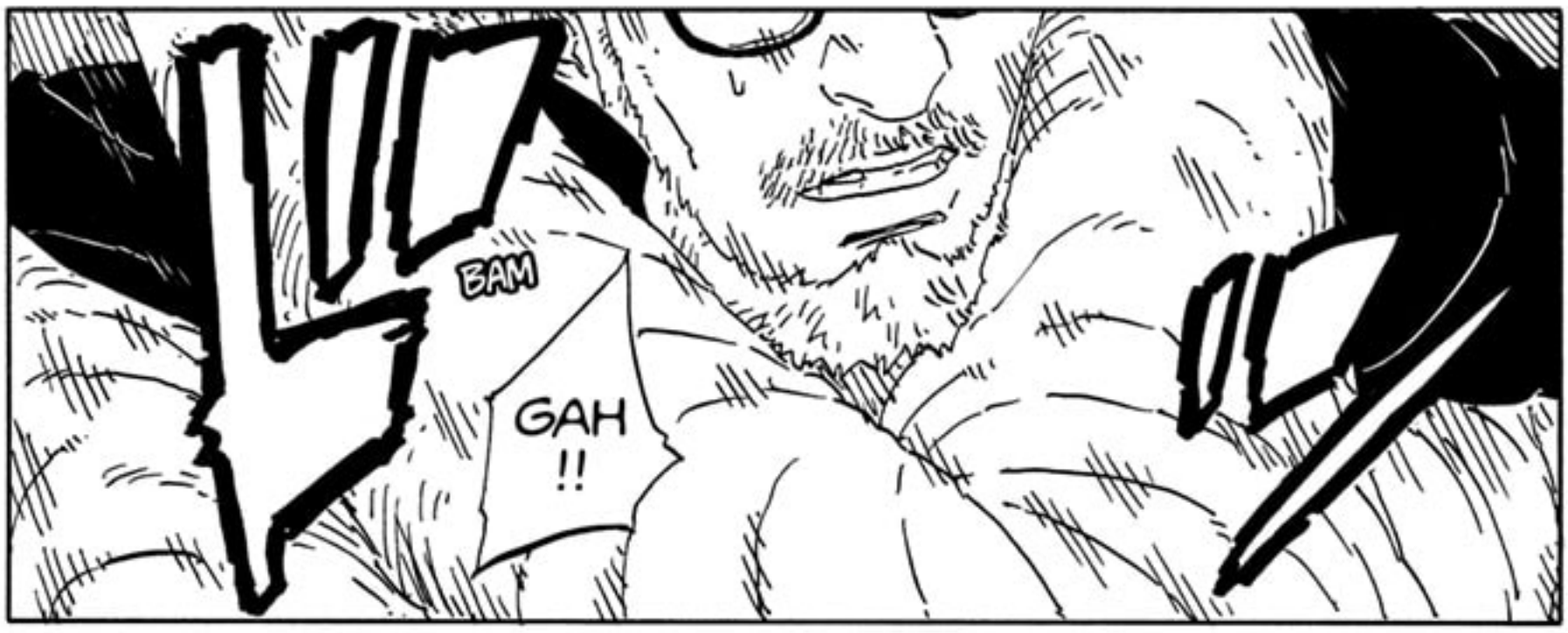
...
...TO SEEING YOU AGAIN, SIR...
AS YOU WISH. I LOOK FORWARD...

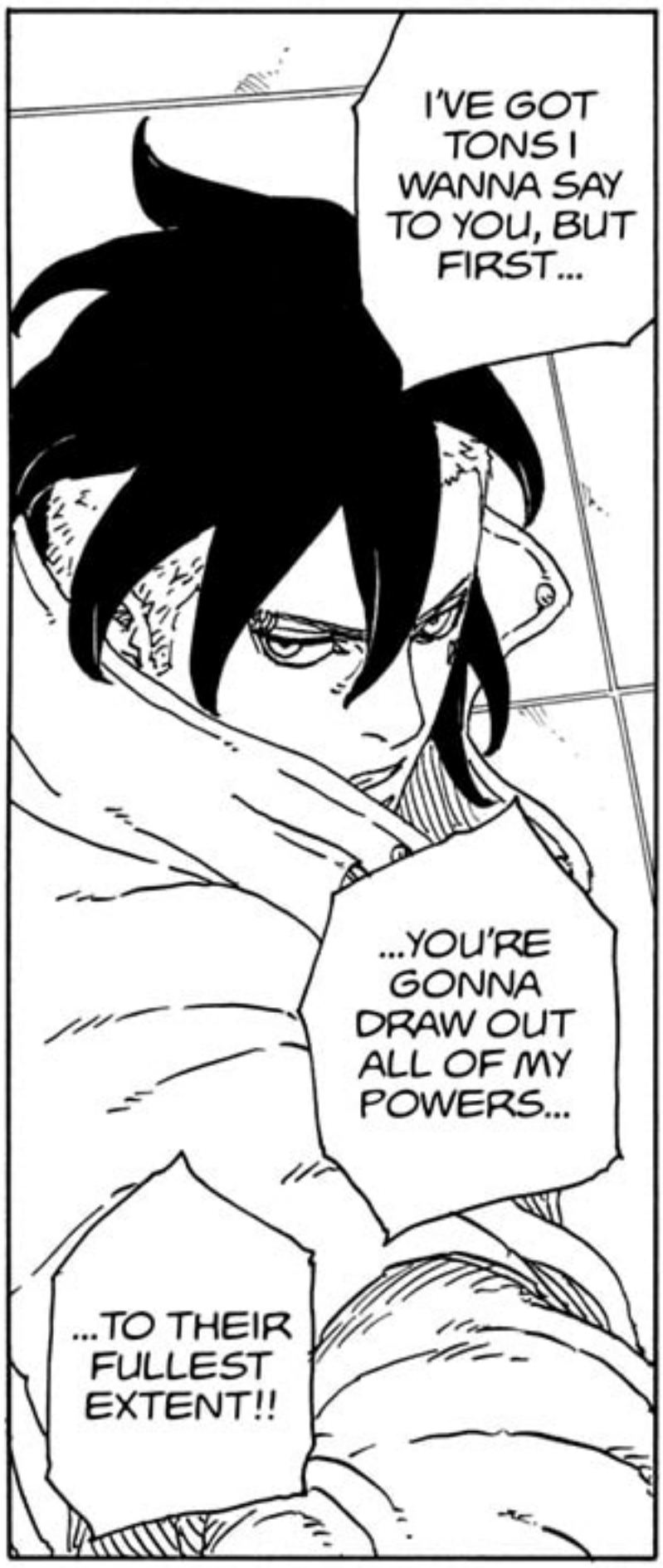
...TO BE APPLIED TO MY FUTURE PURCHASES.
HOLD THE CHANGE.
IT'S AN ADVANCE ...

RSTL

KAWA--

PIK





To be continued!