Story & Art by

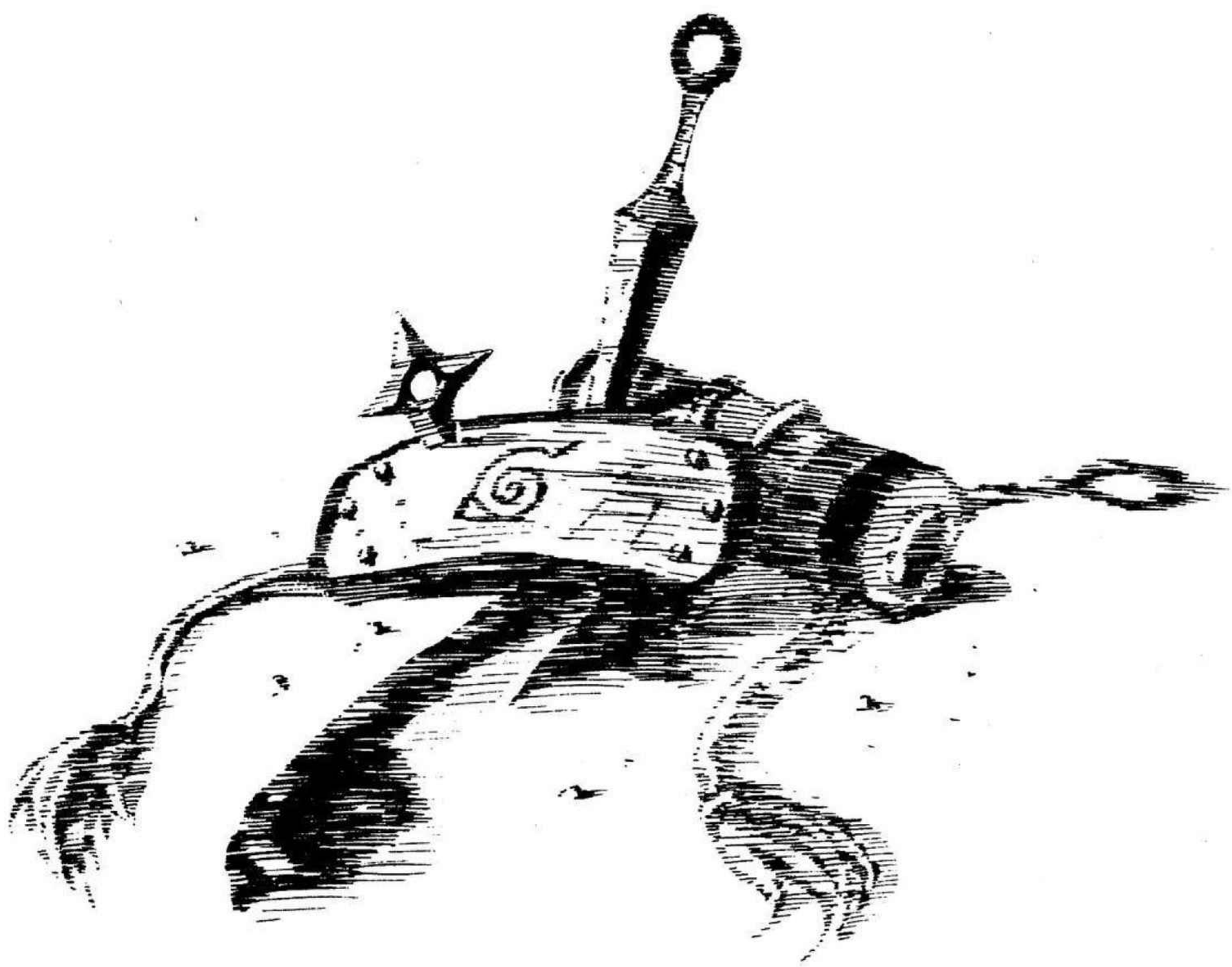
Masashi Kishimoto volume

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

NARUTO

VOL. 1

THE TESTS OF THE NINJA



STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

NARUTO

VOL. 1

THE TESTS OF THE NINJA

CONTENTS

NUMBER 1	UZUMAKI NARUTO!	5
NUMBER 2	KONOHAMARU	61
NUMBER 3	ENTER SASUKE!	85
NUMBER 4	HATAKE KAKASHI!	109
NUMBER 5	PRIDE GOETH BEFORE A FALL	129
NUMBER 6	NOT SASUKE!	149
NUMBER 7	KAKASHI'S DECISION	169

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE LIVED A FOX SPIRIT WITH NINE TAILS. AND HE WAS SO POWERFUL THAT WHENEVER HE SHOOK THOSE TAILS, LANDSLIDES AND TSUNAMIS WOULD RESULT.

THE SUFFERING PEOPLE GATHERED THE GREAT SHINOBI CLANS TO FIGHT THIS MENACE. FINALLY, RISKING HIS LIFE, ONE NINJA WAS ABLE TO IMPRISON ITS SOUL..

HAVING DEFEATED THE DEMON, THE BRAVE SHINOBI DIED.

THAT SHINOBI WAS THE FOURTH HOKAGE, THE FIRE SHADOW, CHAMPION OF THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES...

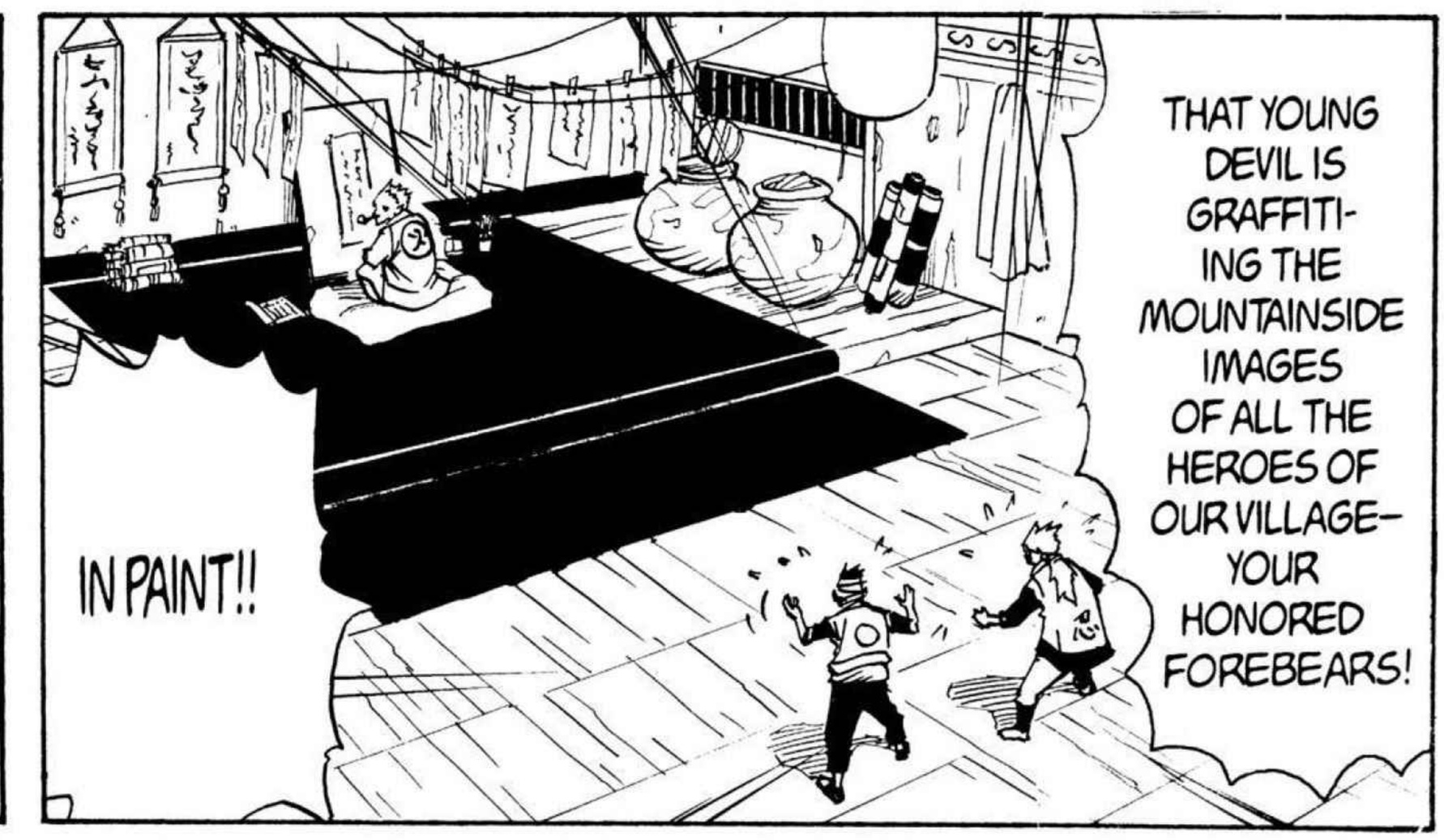
NARUTO

火

HA HA HA HA HA!

YES? WHAT IS IT? SOME NEW OUTRAGE BY NARUTO, I PRESUME?
LORD HOKAGE!!!

FLUMP
HMF.


IN PAINT!!
THAT YOUNG DEVIL IS GRAFFITI-ING THE MOUNTAINSIDE IMAGES OF ALL THE HEROES OF OUR VILLAGE— YOUR HONORED FOREBEARS!

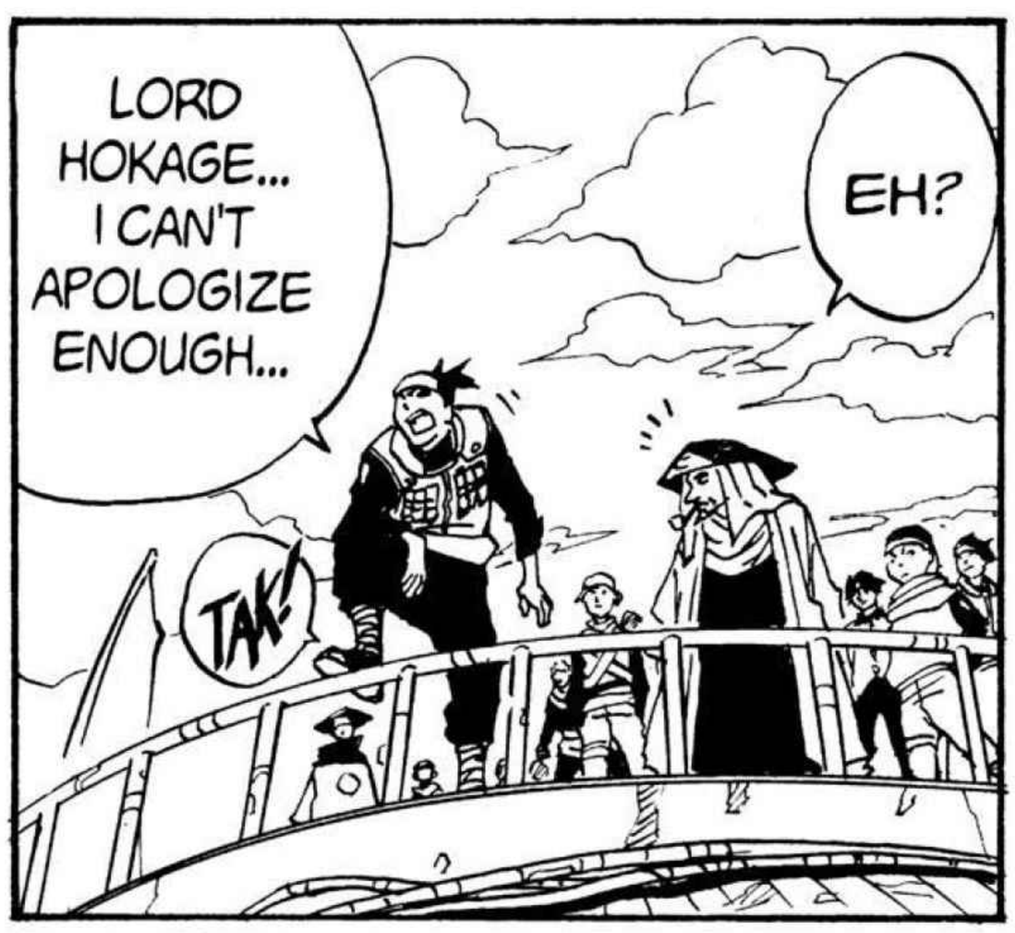
SWISH
SWISH
LOOK AT 'IM...
YOU ARE DEAD WHEN THEY CATCH YOU! YOU KNOW THAT?
WE'RE SICK OF IT! GROW THE HECK UP!
ENOUGH WITH THE STUPID PRANKS!

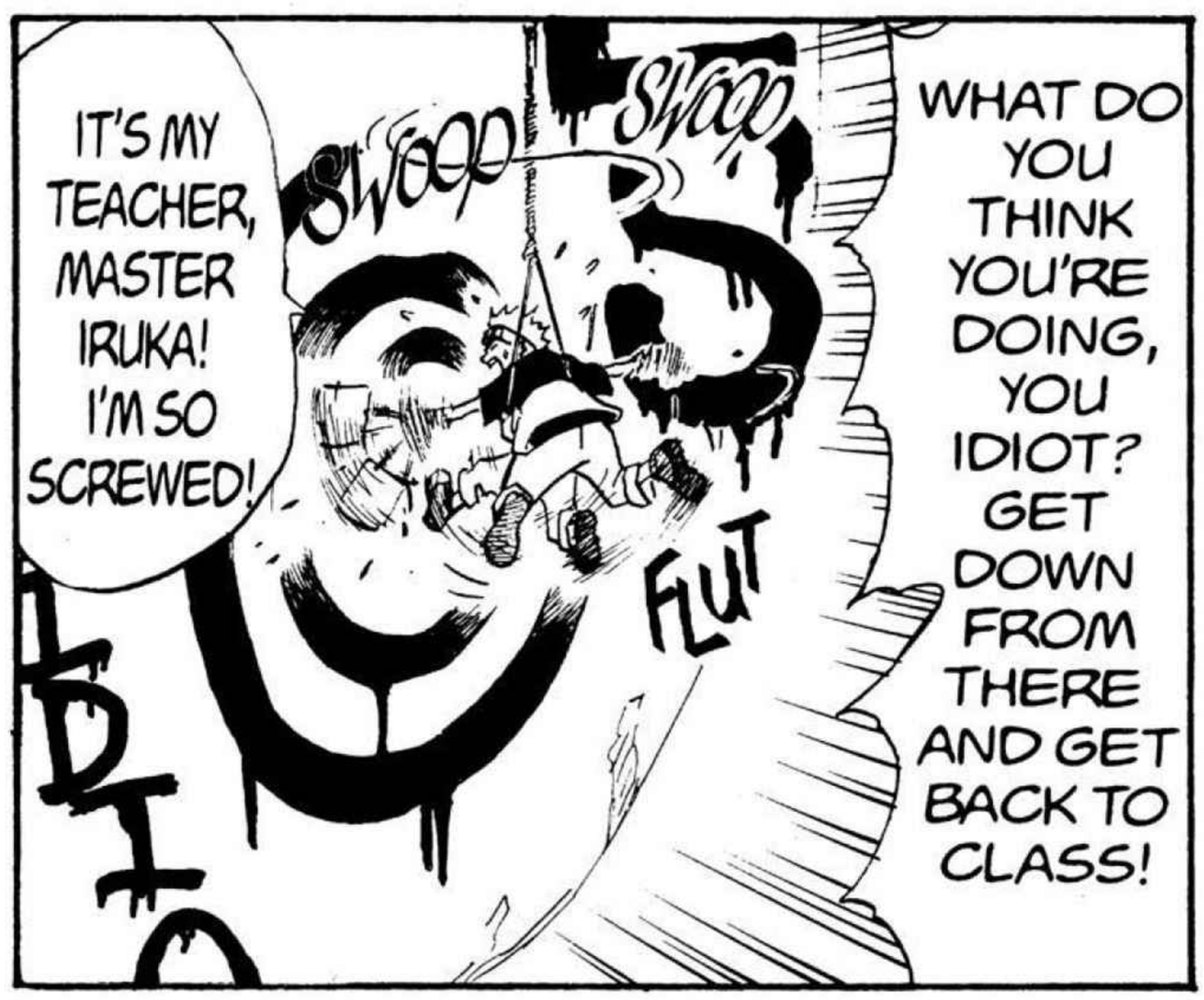
SWOOD

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DO SOMETHING THIS LOW!

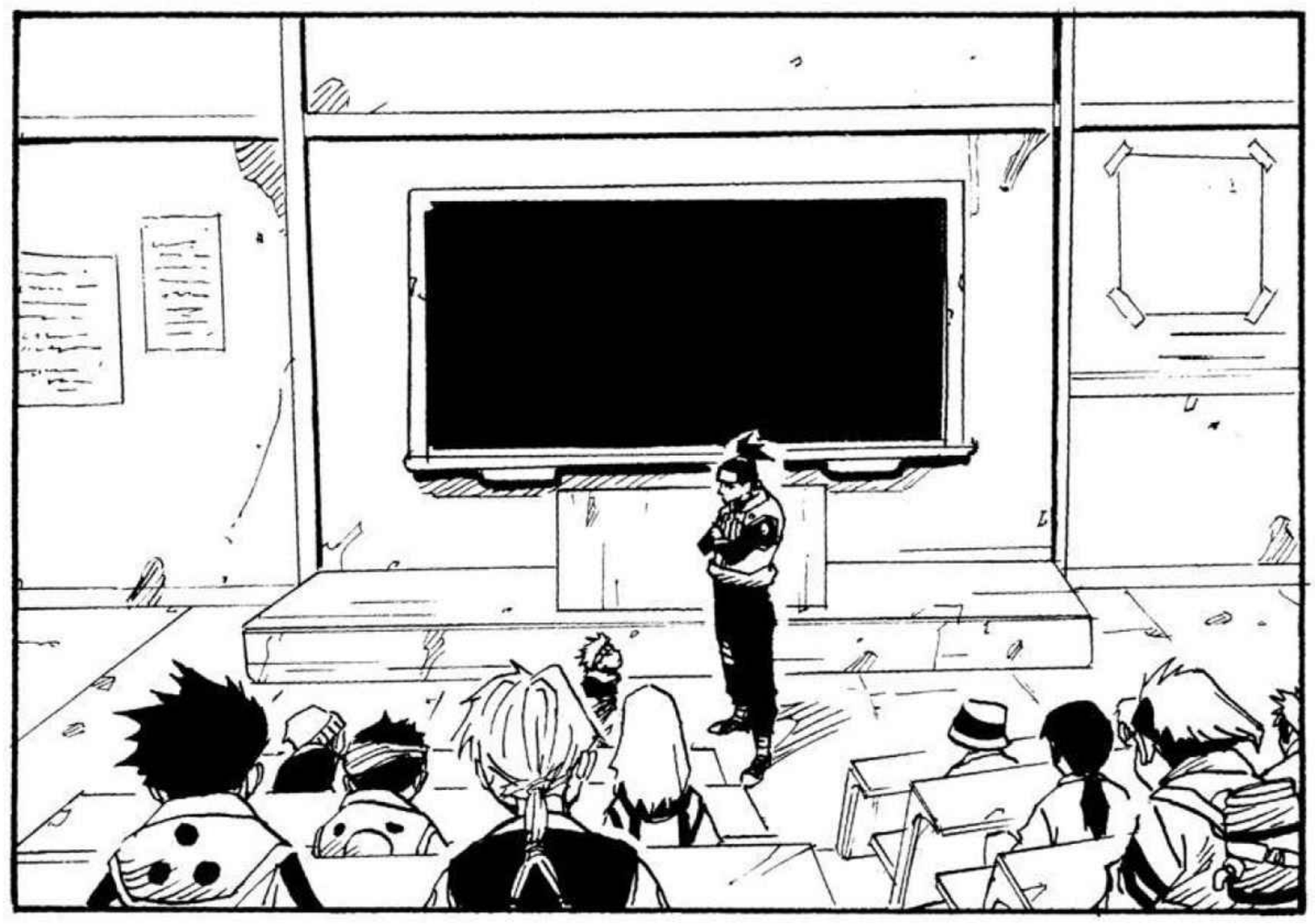
LOOOOSERS!! WANNA-BE'S!

I RULE, AND YOU DROOL!

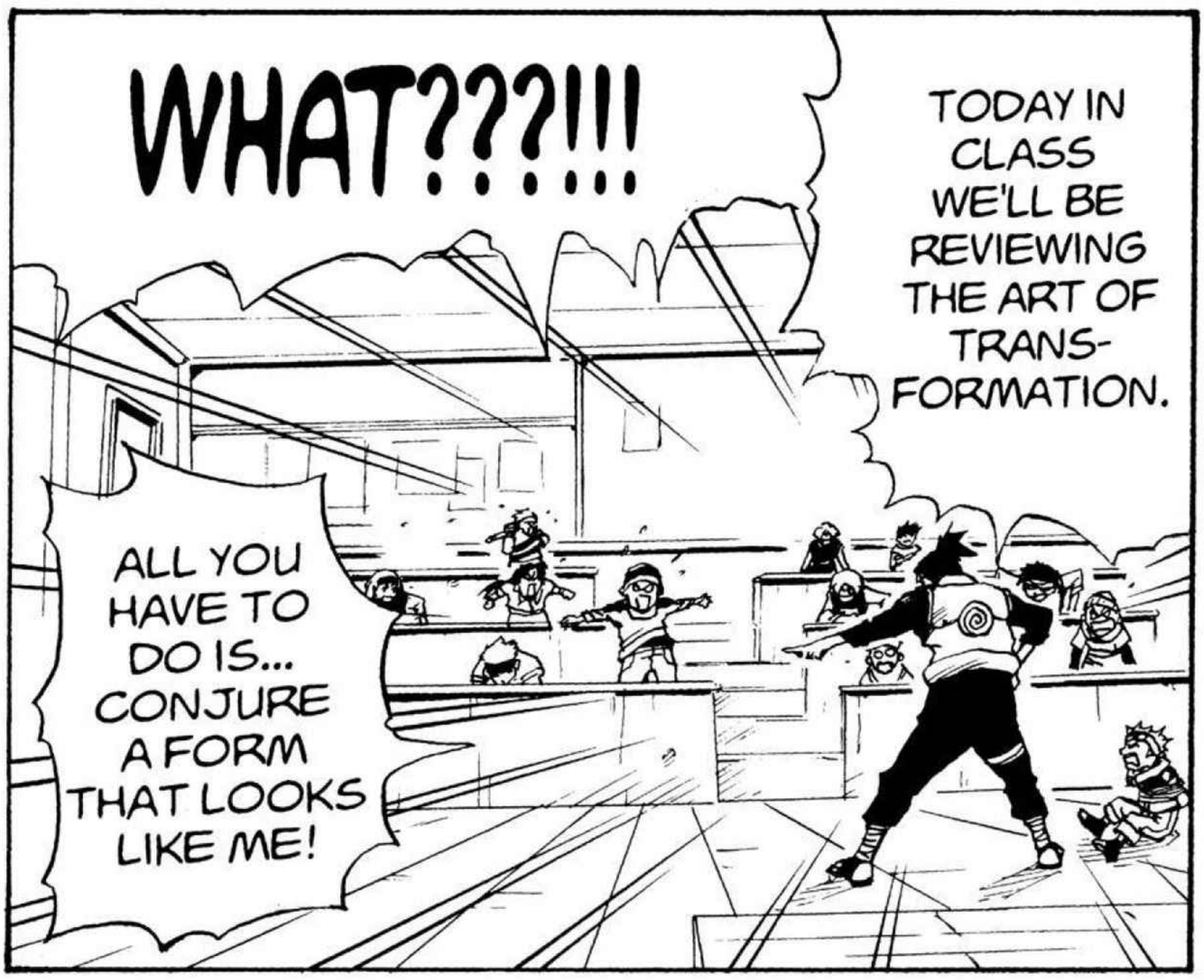




KKKK
HRRN



SO YOU CHOSE NOW FOR YOUR STUPID TRICKS? YOU MORON!
TOMORROW ALL YOUR CLASSMATES WILL PASS THE FINAL AND GRADUATE FROM THE NINJA ACADEMY, BUT THE LAST TWO TIMES THIS DAY CAME AROUND, YOU FLUNKED EVERY COURSE YOU'D TAKEN IN THE SECRET ARTS.


WHAT???!!!
TODAY IN CLASS WE'LL BE REVIEWING THE ART OF TRANS-FORMATION.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS... CONJURE A FORM THAT LOOKS LIKE ME!

SIR, YES, SIR!

RRRR

RIGHT. WELL DONE.
ONG / SEE YA!
NEXT UP, UZUMAKI.

ONG!

CHANGE!!!
ONNNNG

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!

THIS SUCKS!

BUT, HERE GOES NOTHING...
PO

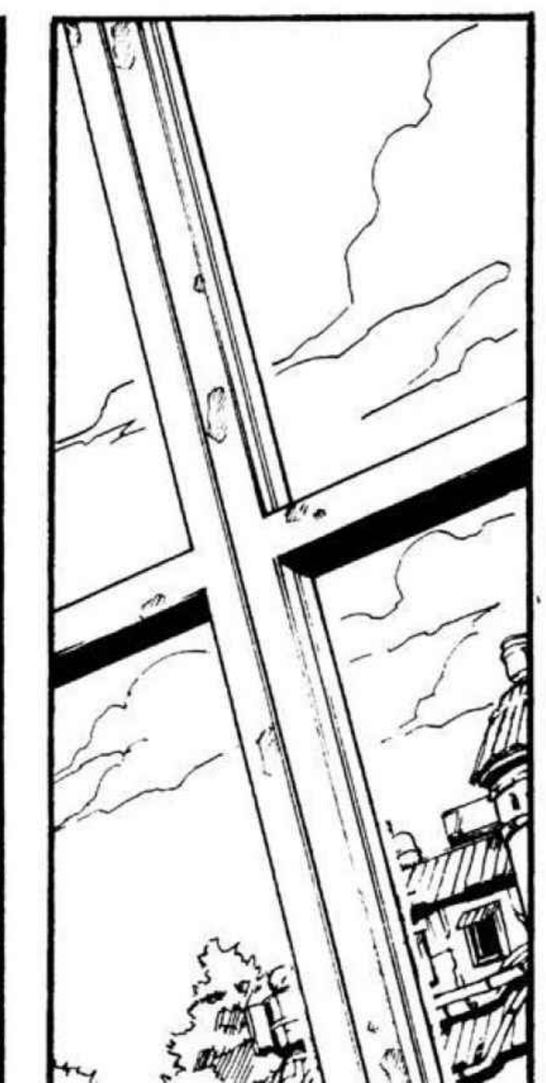
READ THIS WAY

GAAAH!!

I CALL THIS ONE THE NINJA CENTER-FOLD!
ONG!
HA HA HA HA!!

ONNG
MMWA
gigggle

YOU WASTE ALL OF YOUR TIME AND TALENT INVENTING THESE STUPID TRICKS!!
PPP!
HOW BIG A FOOL ARE YOU?



CRAP.

DOUBLE CRAP.

HAH!

SKUF SKUF

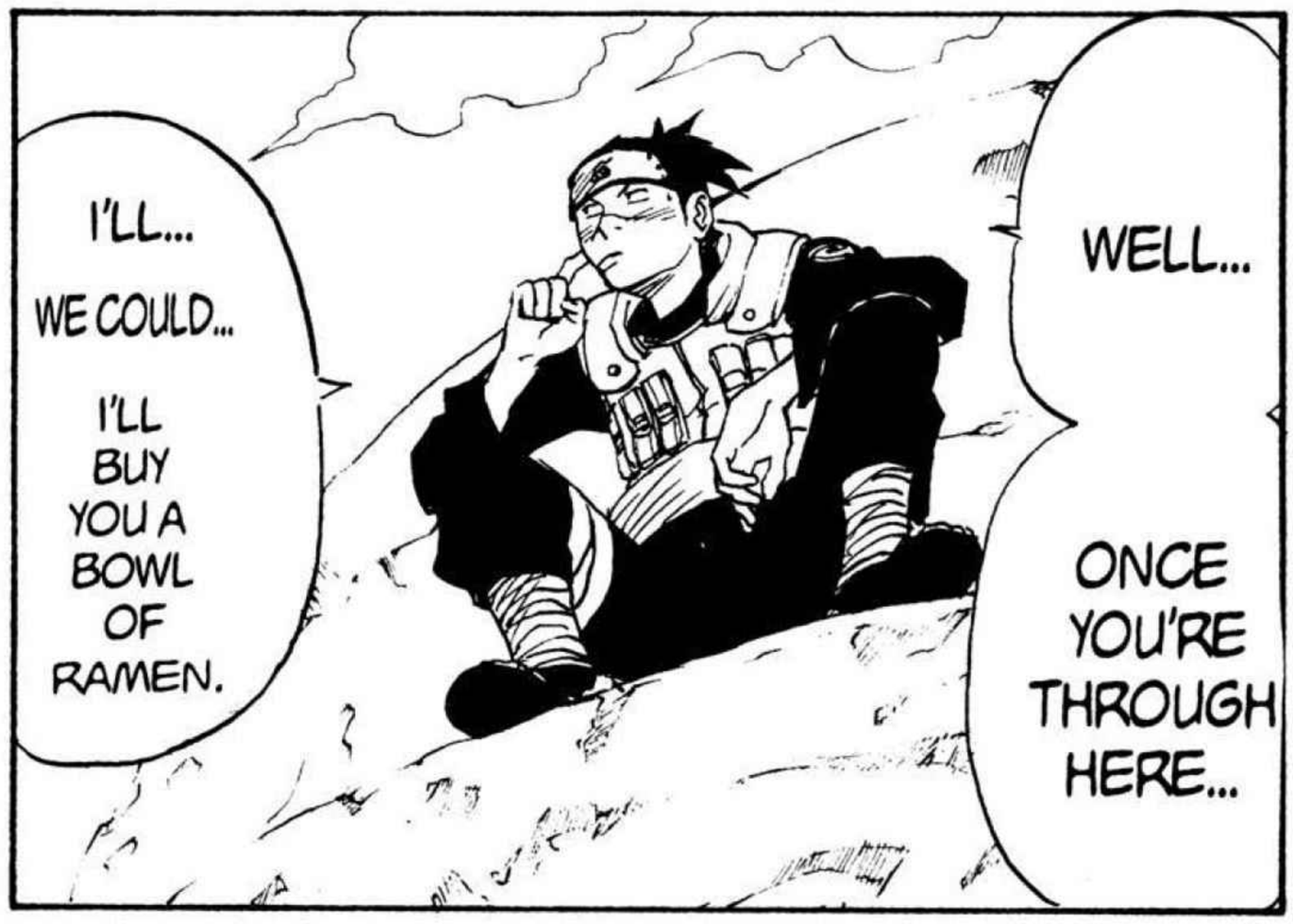
YOU DON'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL EVERY DROP OF PAINT IS GONE!

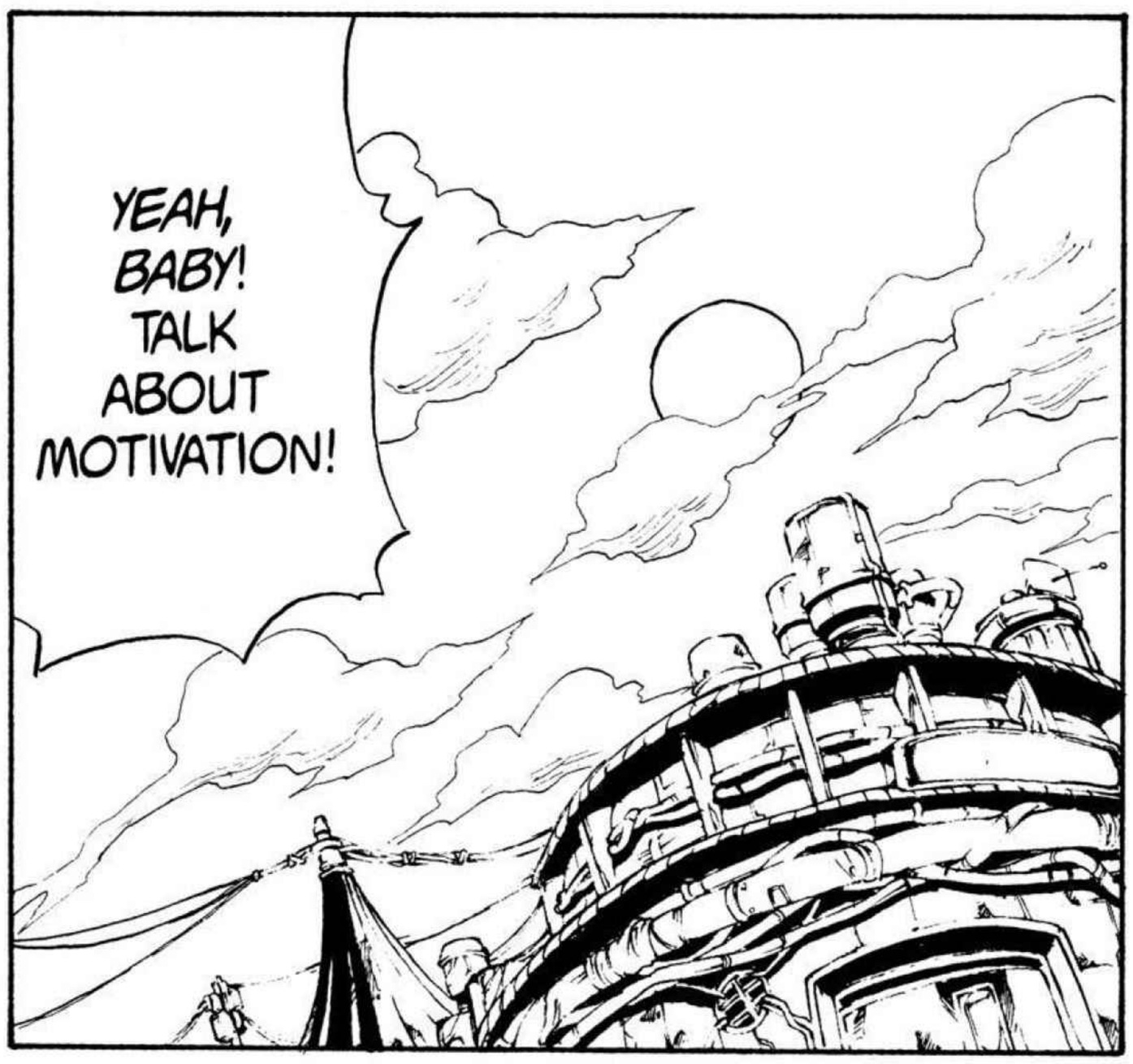
SO? IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYONE WAITING AT HOME FOR ME.

NARUTO...

Hff Hff

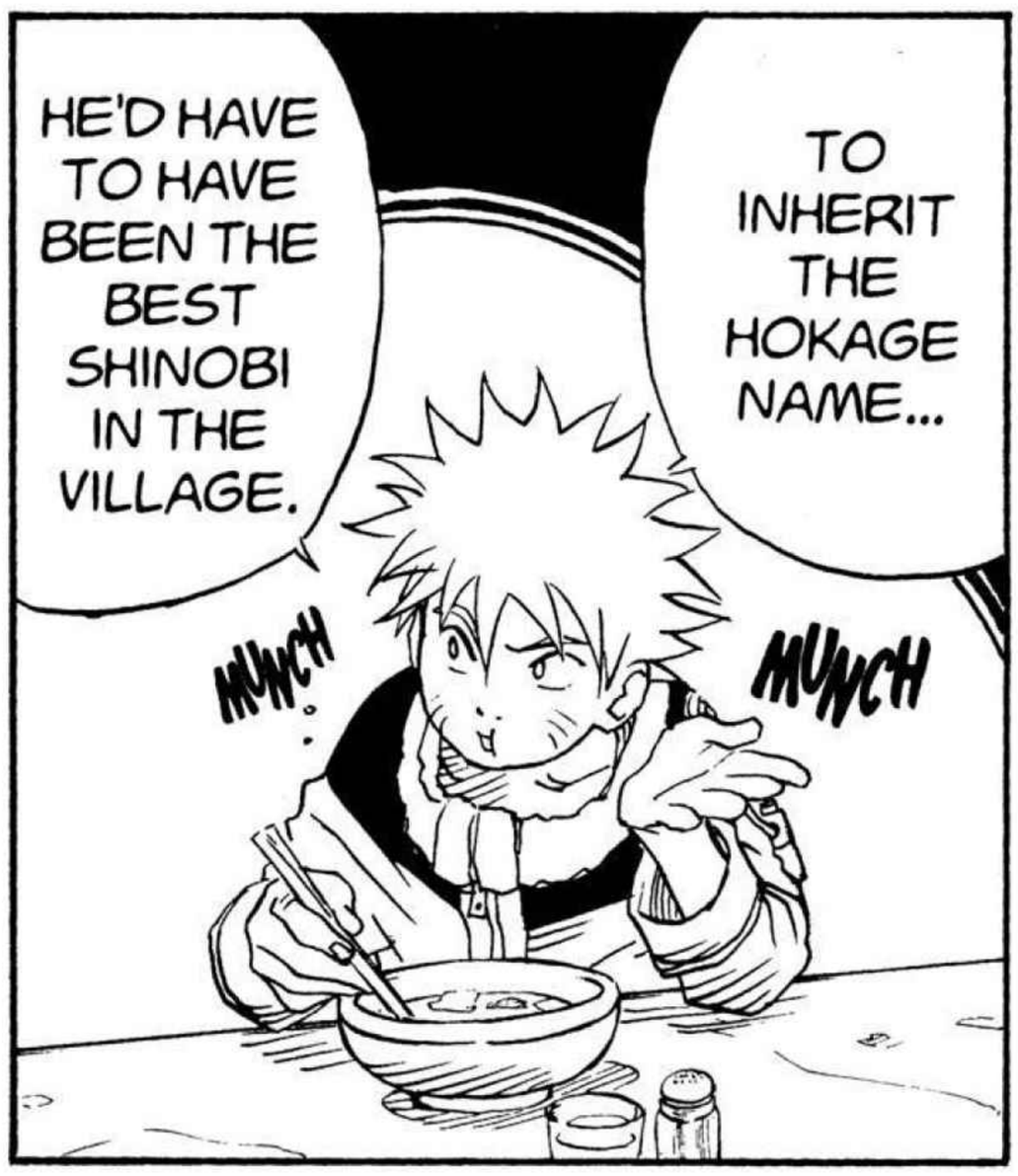
NOW WHAT?

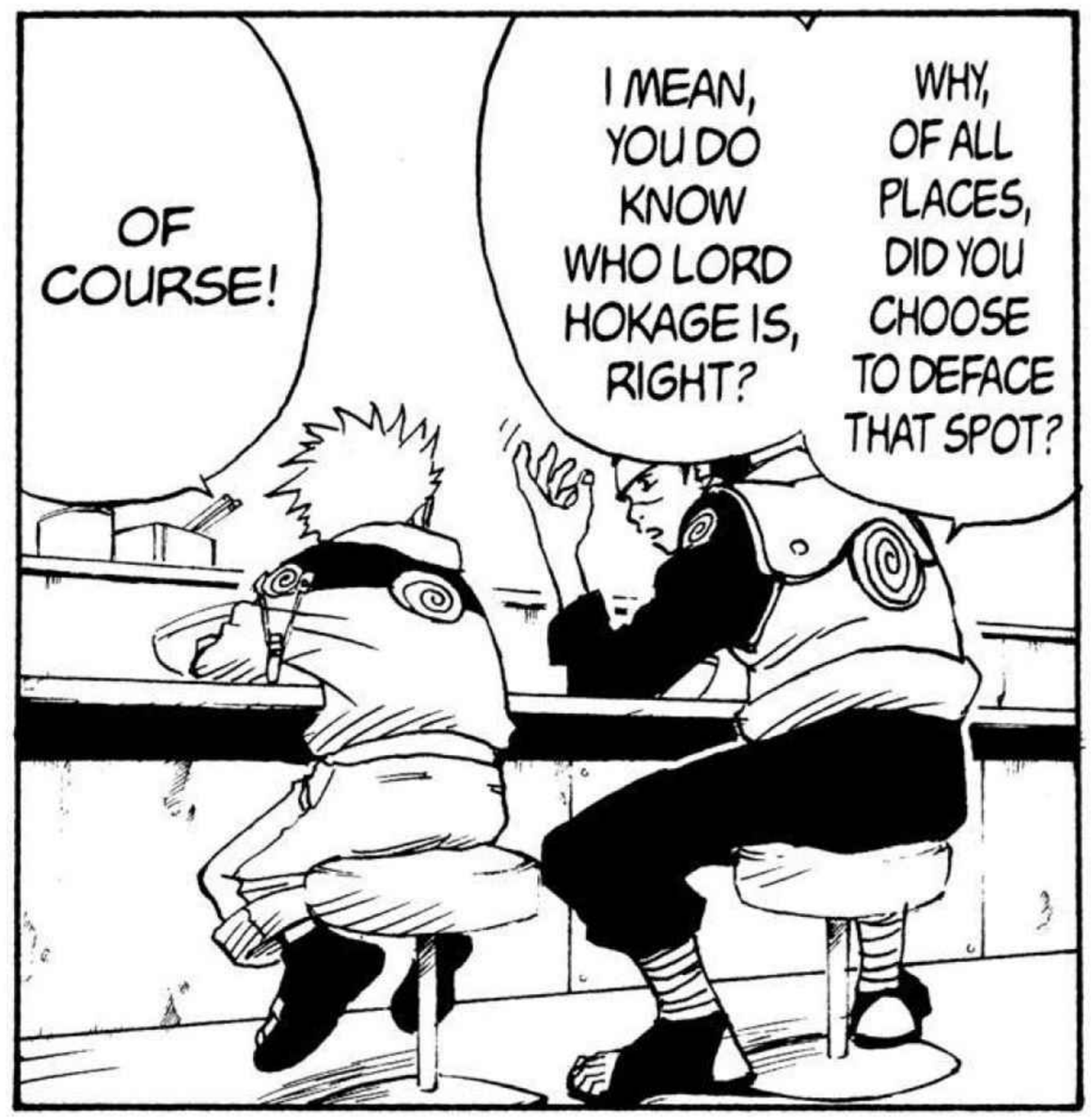

WELL...
ONCE YOU'RE THROUGH HERE...
I'LL... WE COULD... I'LL BUY YOU A BOWL OF RAMEN.

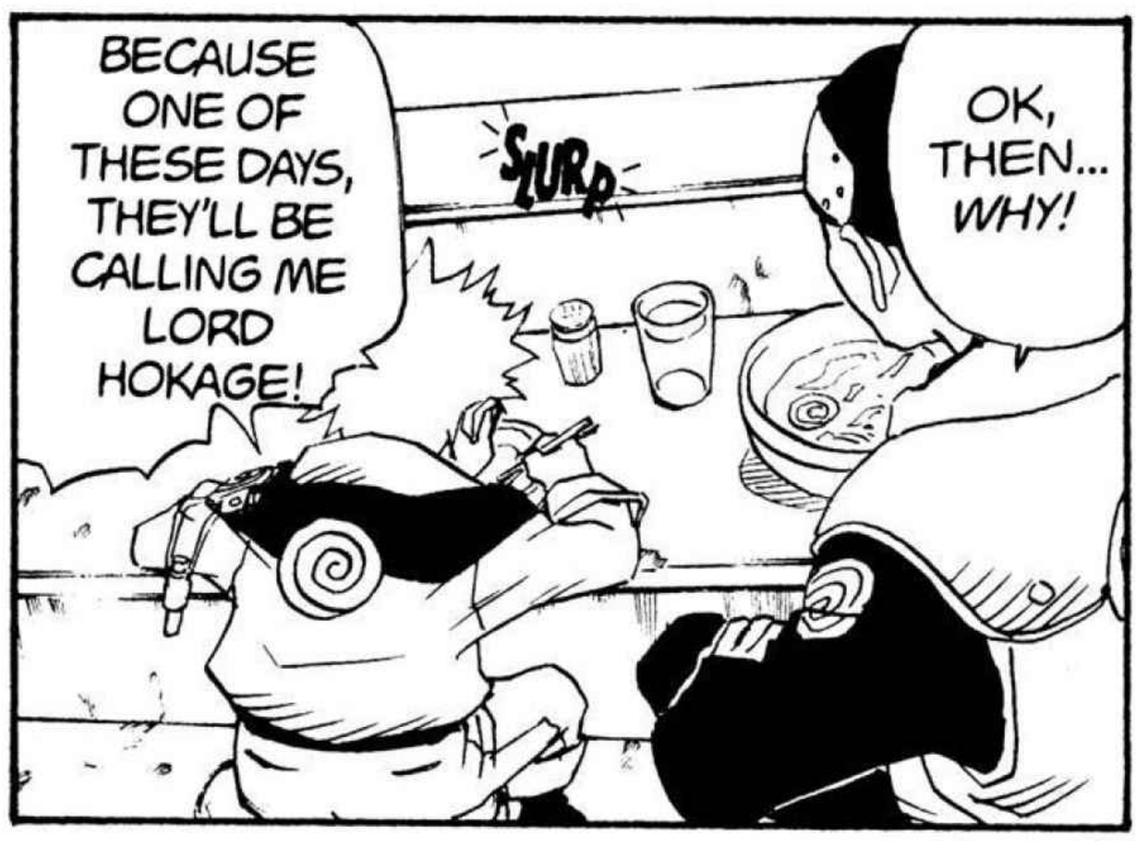

YEAH, BABY! TALK ABOUT MOTIVATION!

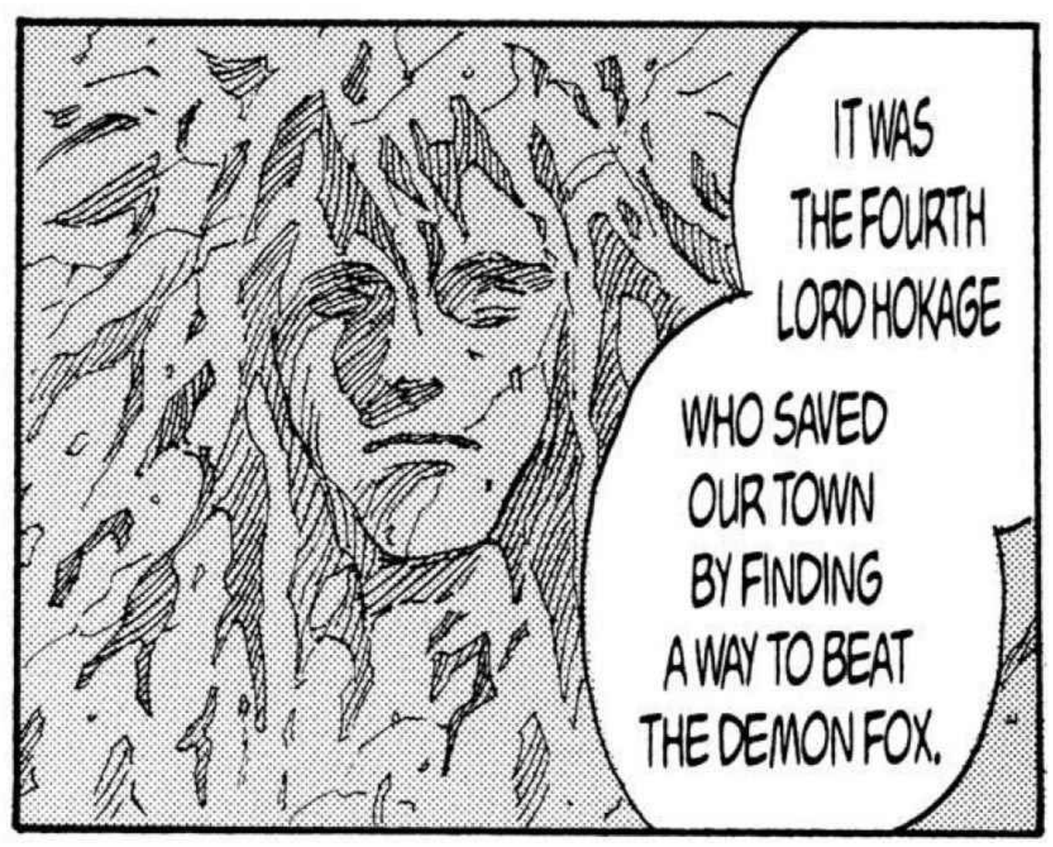
HMMMM?
SLUURRP

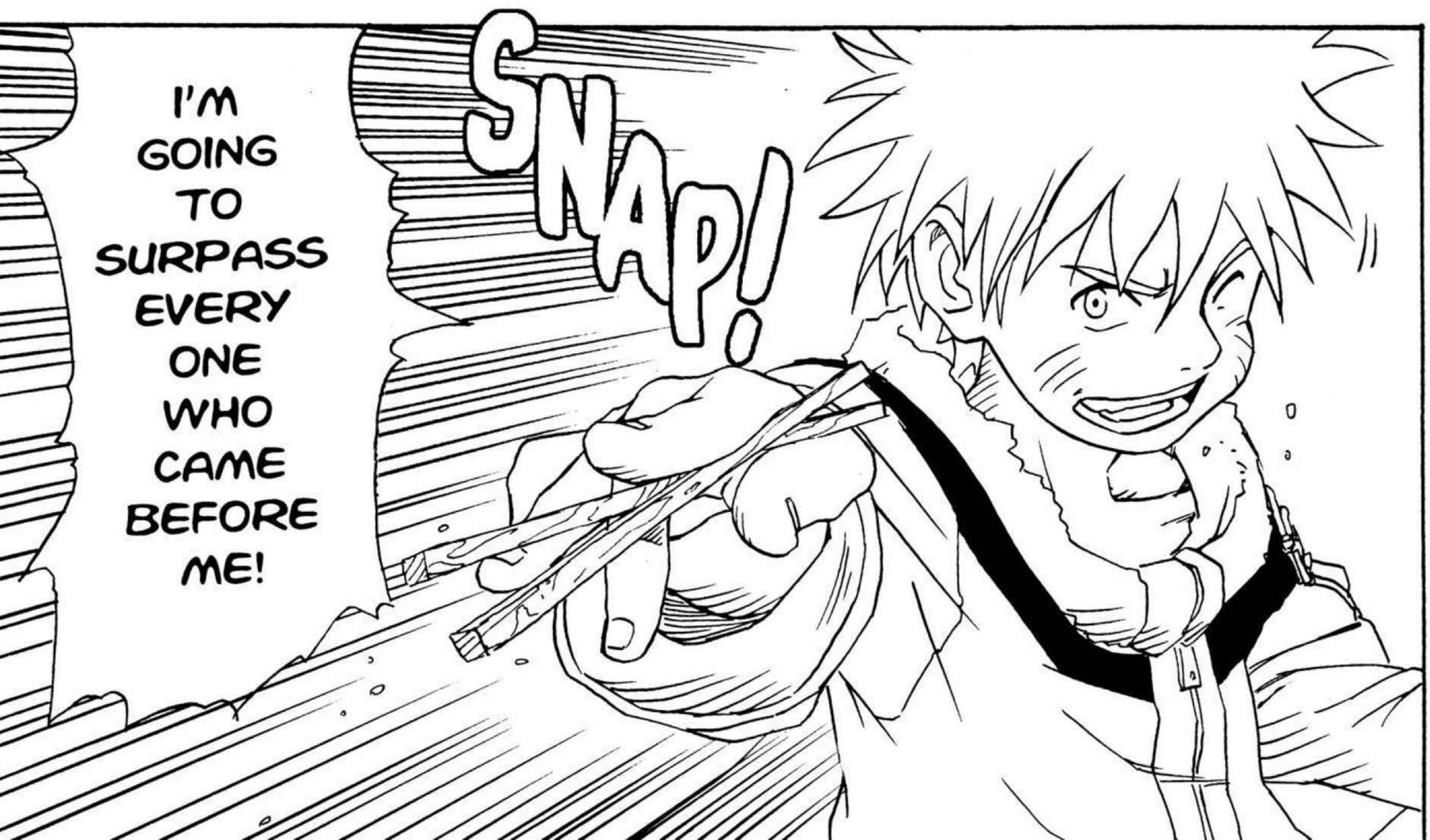
酒酒酒
一楽
ラーメン
NARUTO...


HE'D HAVE TO HAVE BEEN THE BEST SHINOBI IN THE VILLAGE.
TO INHERIT THE HOKAGE NAME...
MUNCH
MUNCH


OF COURSE!
I MEAN, YOU DO KNOW WHO LORD HOKAGE IS, RIGHT?
WHY, OF ALL PLACES, DID YOU CHOOSE TO DEFACE THAT SPOT?

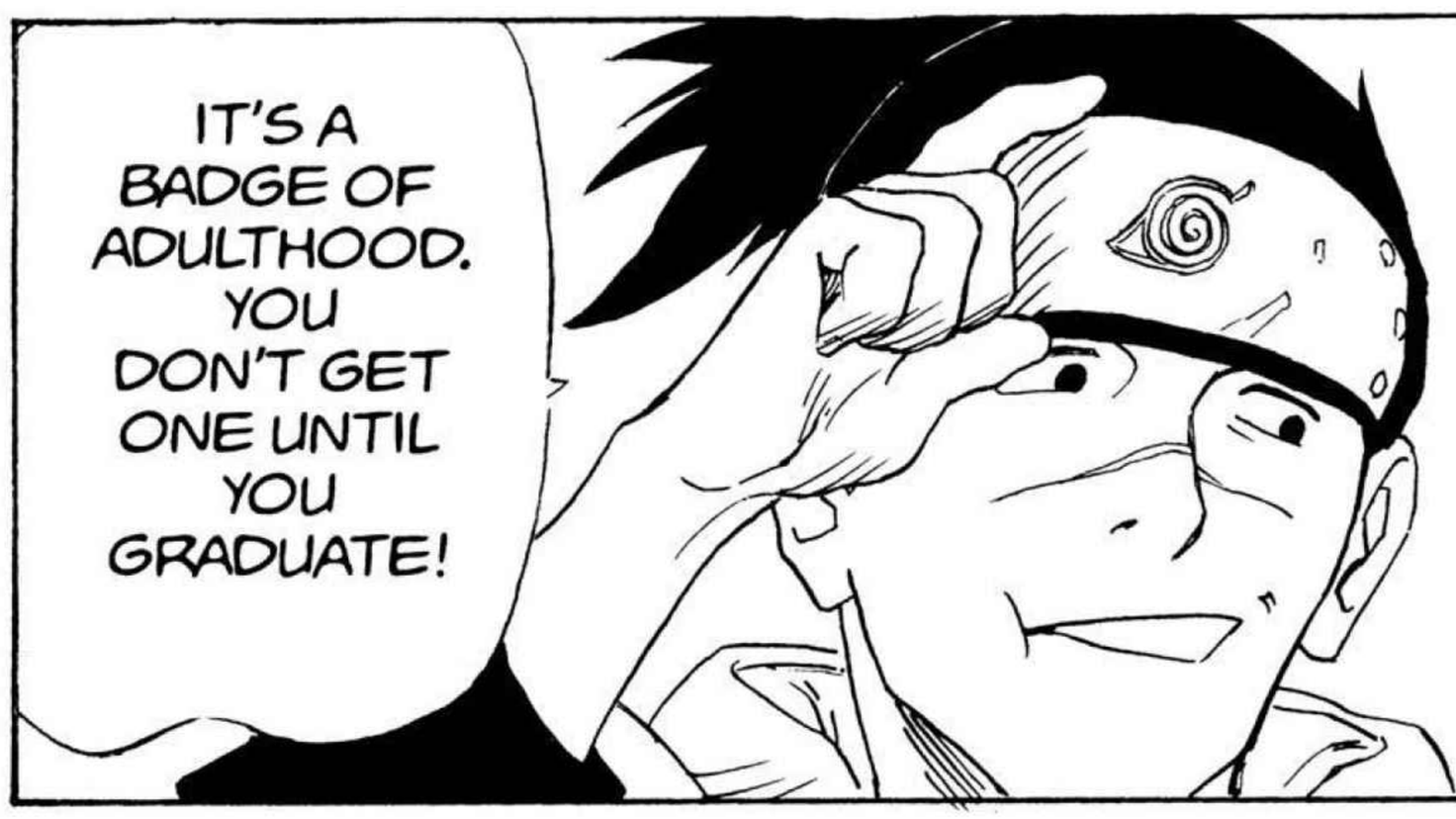

BECAUSE ONE OF THESE DAYS, THEY'LL BE CALLING ME LORD HOKAGE!
SLURP
OK, THEN... WHY!


IT WAS THE FOURTH LORD HOKAGE WHO SAVED OUR TOWN BY FINDING A WAY TO BEAT THE DEMON FOX.

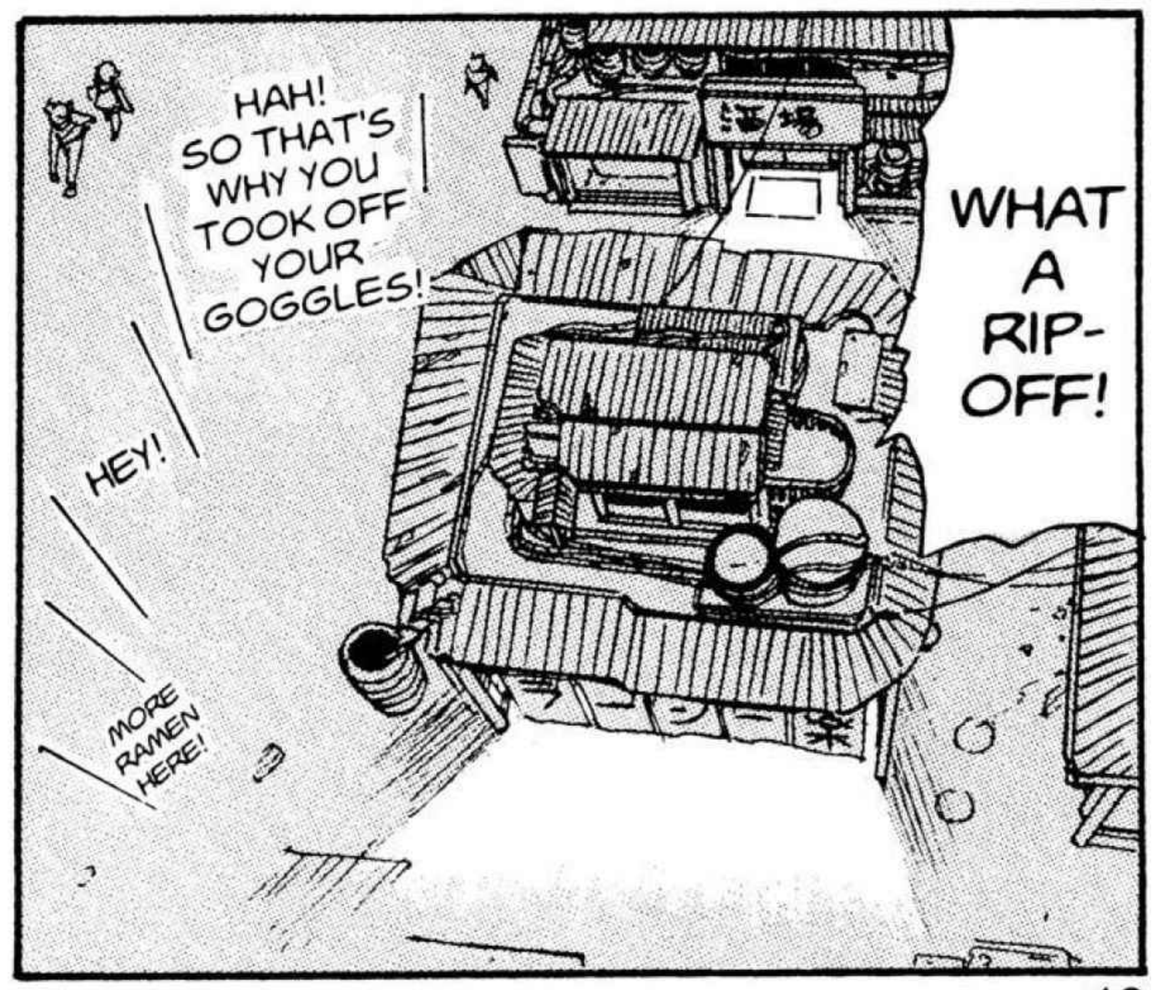

I'M GOING TO SURPASS EVERY ONE WHO CAME BEFORE ME!
SNAP!

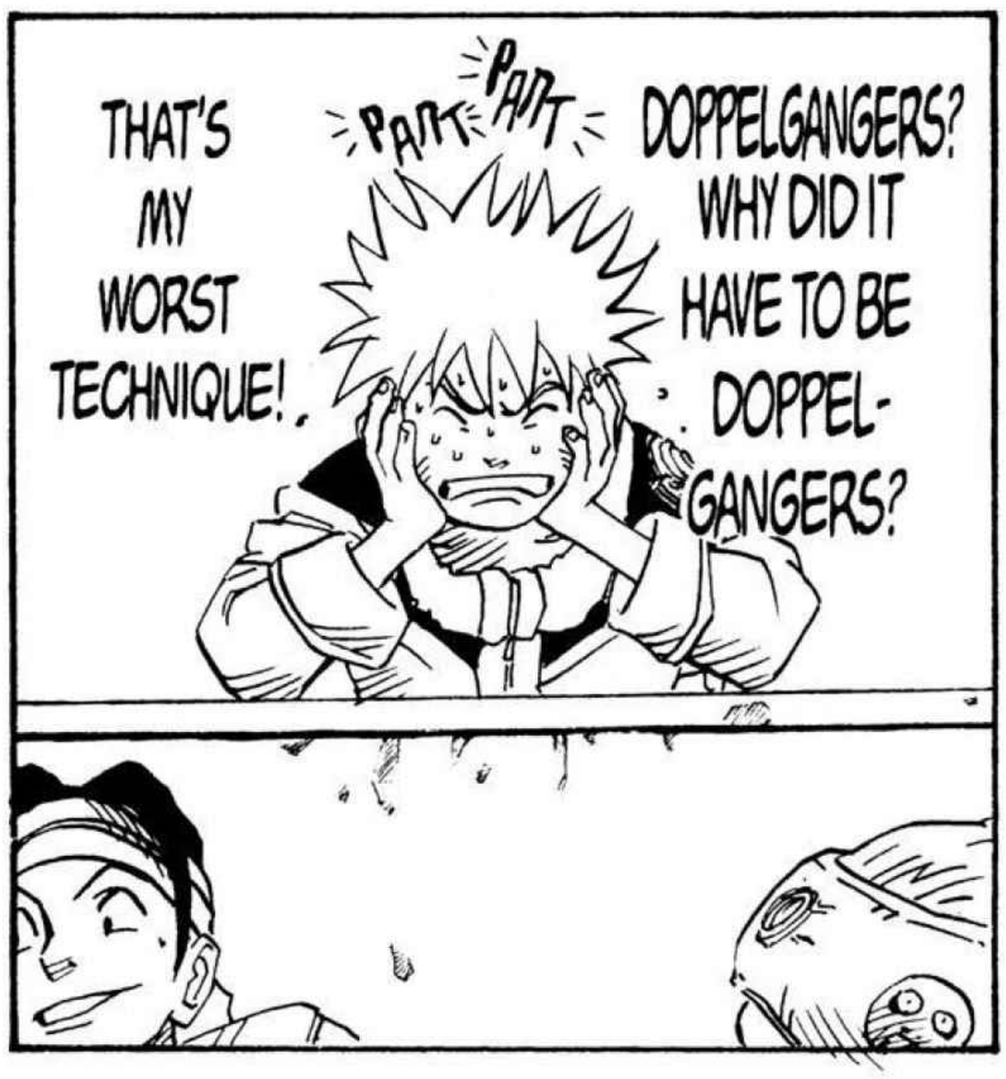
ANOTHER BOWL OF RAMEN?
.....BY THE WAY ....MASTER, I NEED A FAVOR...
UHHH... YOUR HEADBAND. THAT LEAF YOU'RE WEARING... PRETTY PLEASE?! ♡

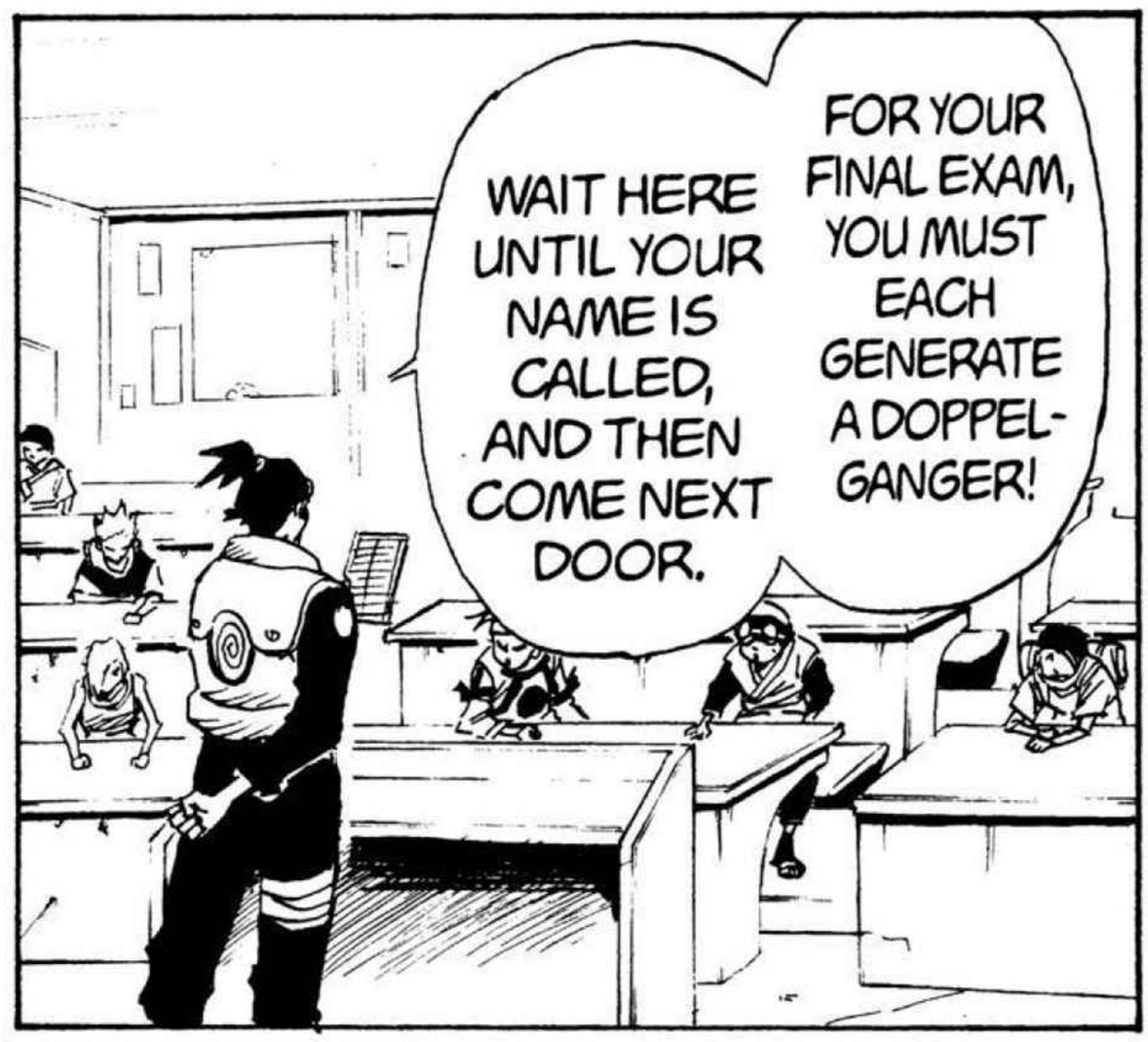
AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, EVERYONE IN TOWN WILL HAVE TO GIVE ME SOME RESPECT AT LAST!

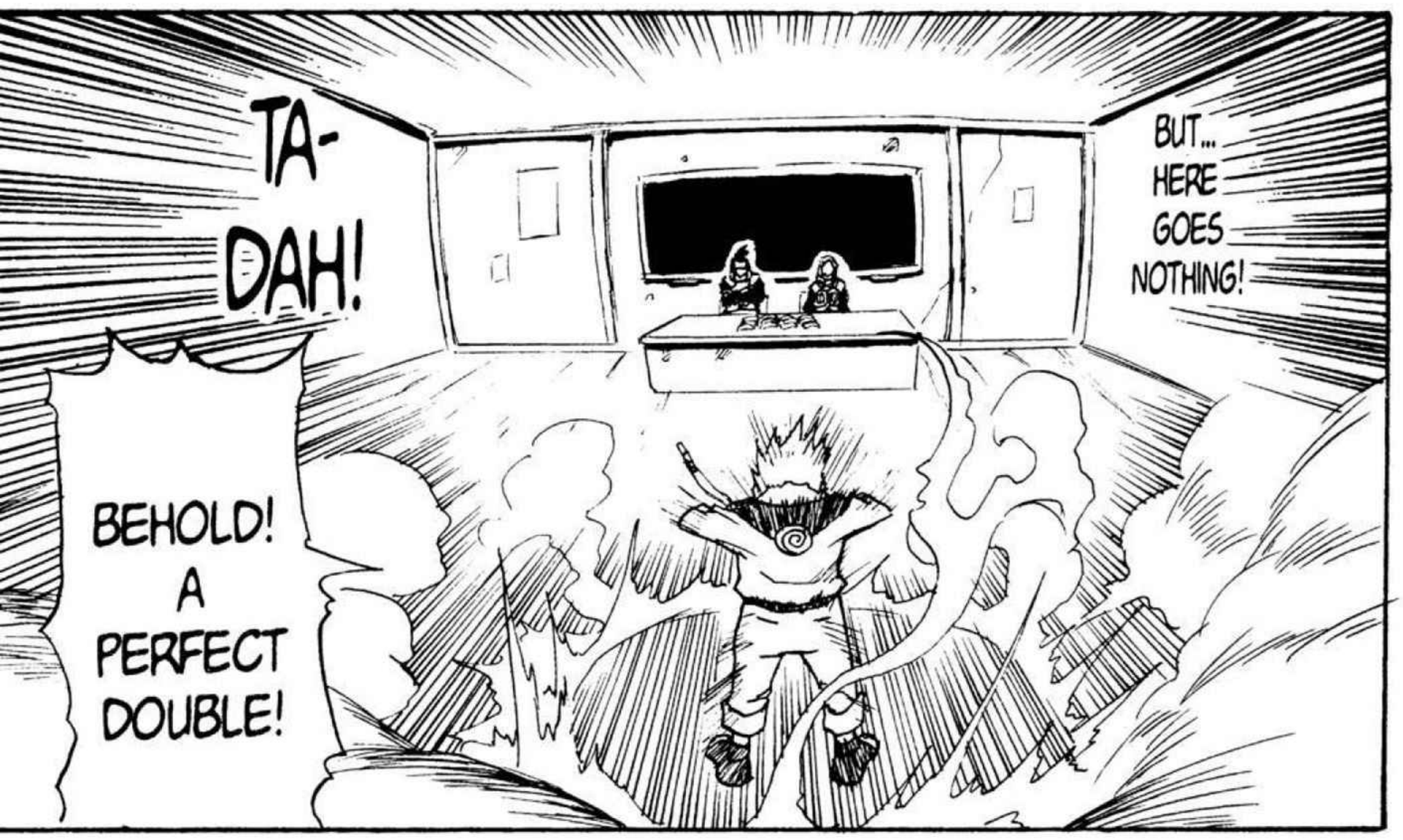

IT'S A BADGE OF ADULTHOOD. YOU DON'T GET ONE UNTIL YOU GRADUATE!
MY... THIS? NO. NOT YET. NO WAY.

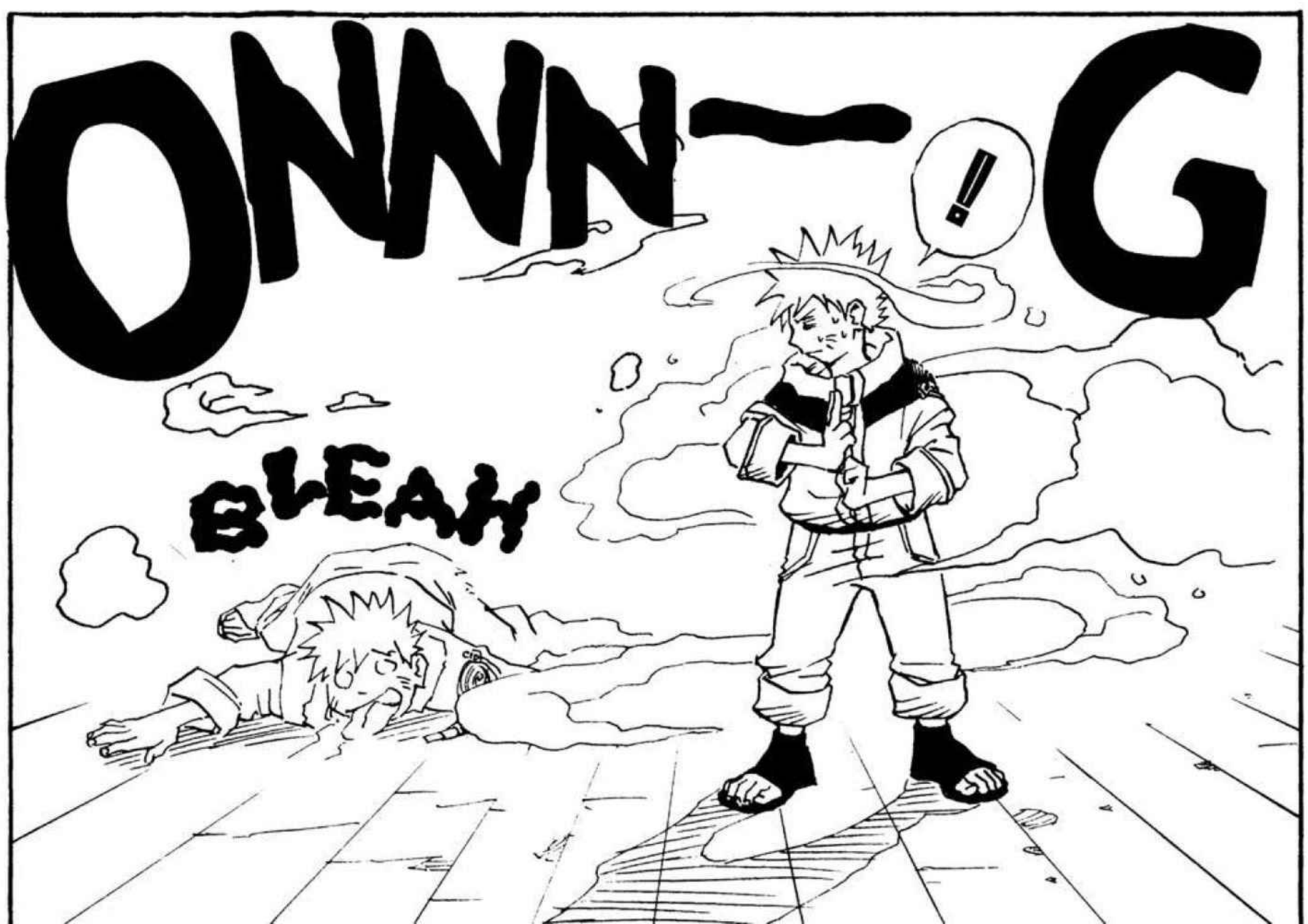
lub-DUB lub-DUB


HAH! SO THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK OFF YOUR GOGGLES!
WHAT A RIP-OFF!
HEY!
MORE RAMEN HERE!


THAT'S MY WORST TECHNIQUE!
PAFF PAFF
DOPPELGANGERS? WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE DOPPEL-GANGERS?

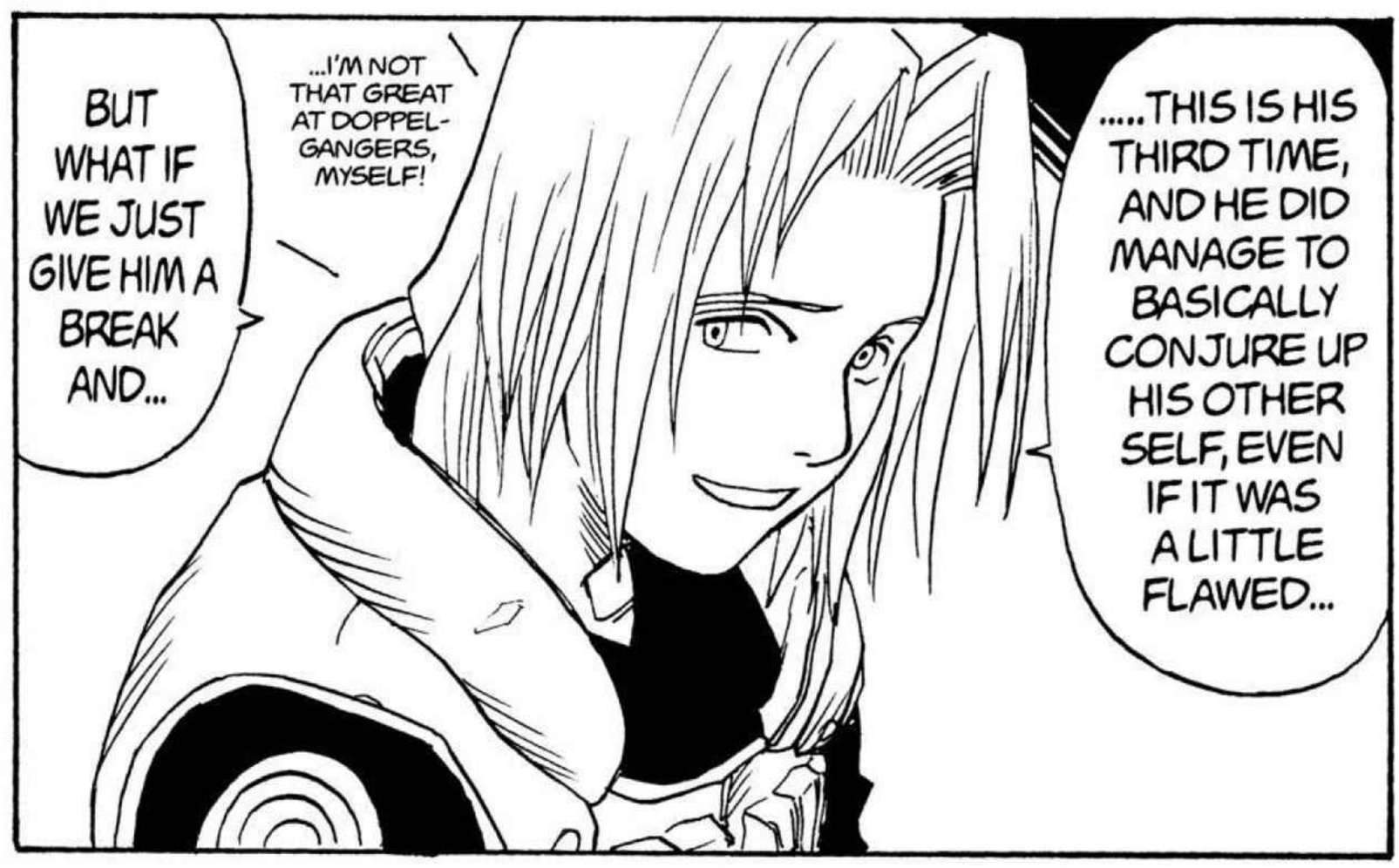

WAIT HERE UNTIL YOUR NAME IS CALLED, AND THEN COME NEXT DOOR.
FOR YOUR FINAL EXAM, YOU MUST EACH GENERATE A DOPPEL-GANGER!

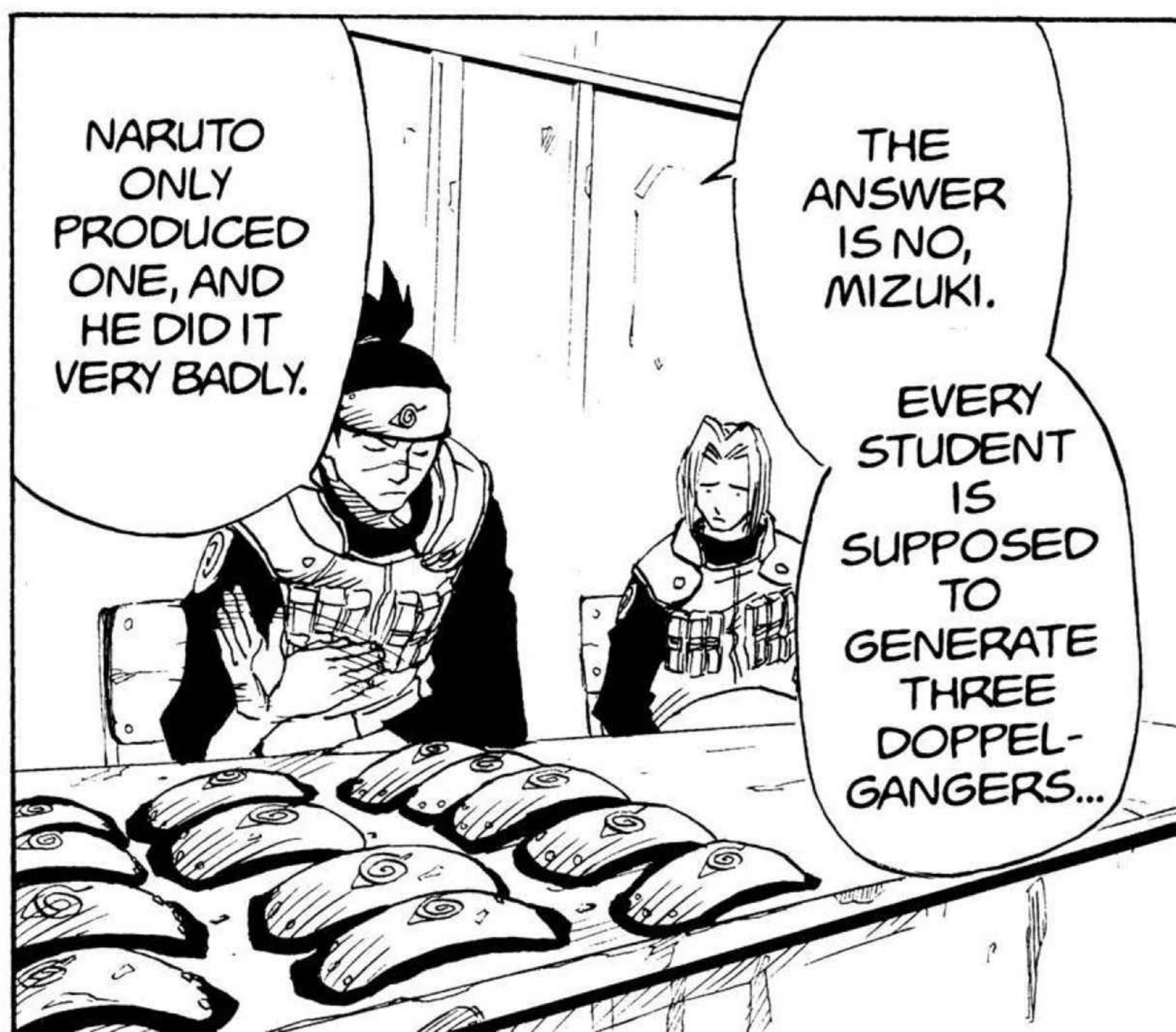

TA-DAH!
BEHOLD! A PERFECT DOUBLE!
BUT... HERE GOES NOTHING!

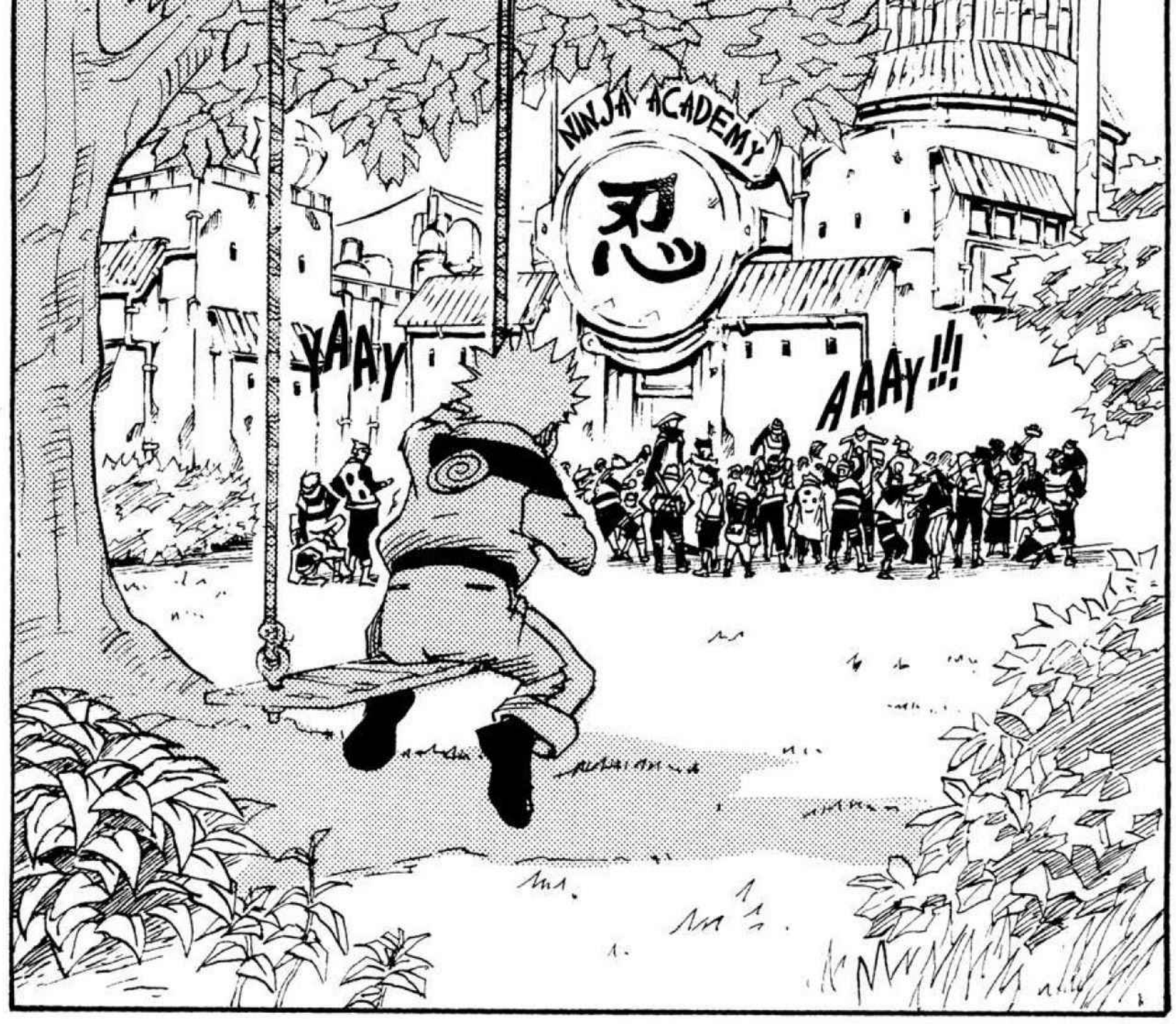

ONNN-G
!
BLEAH

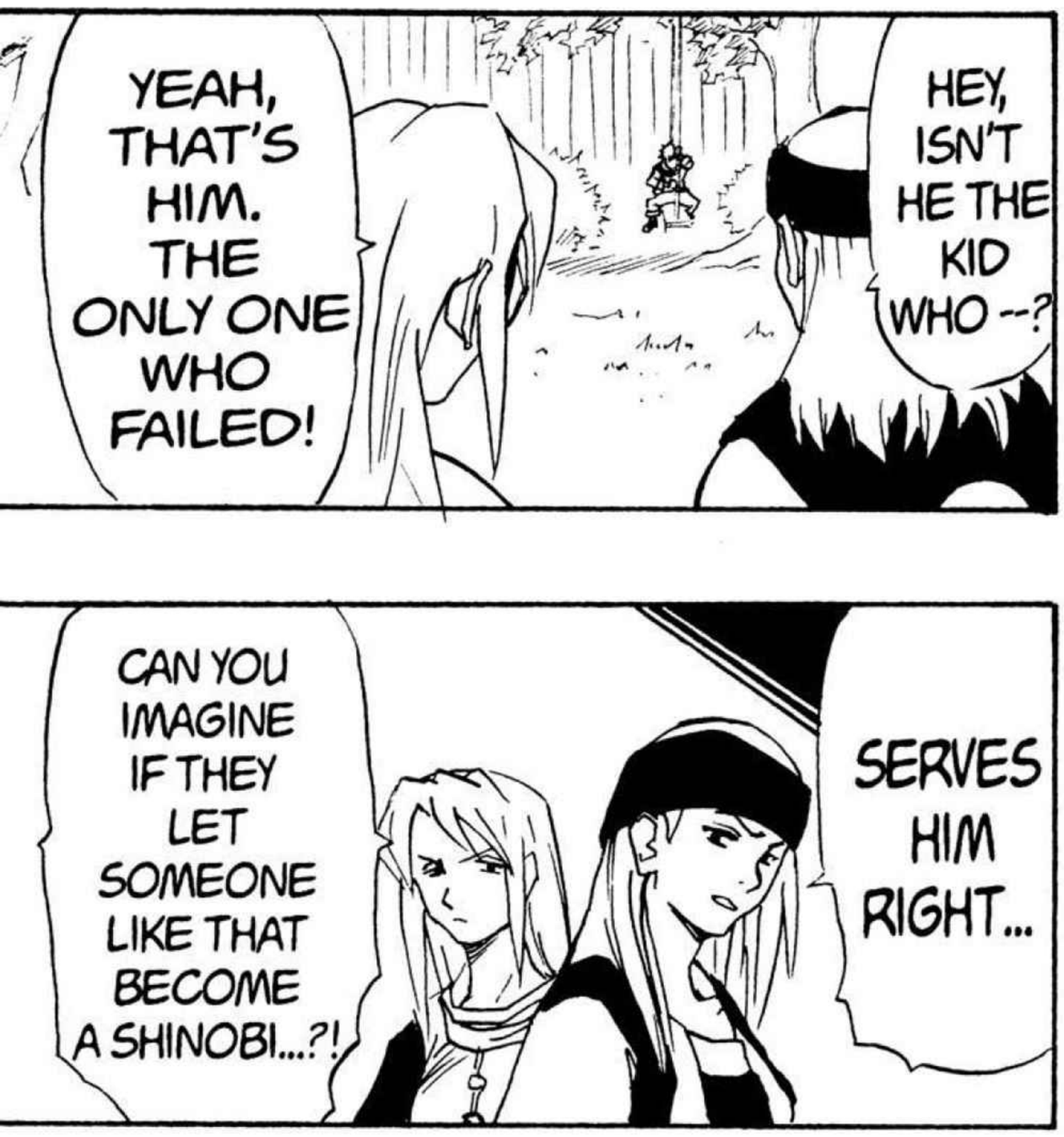
MASTER IRUKA...

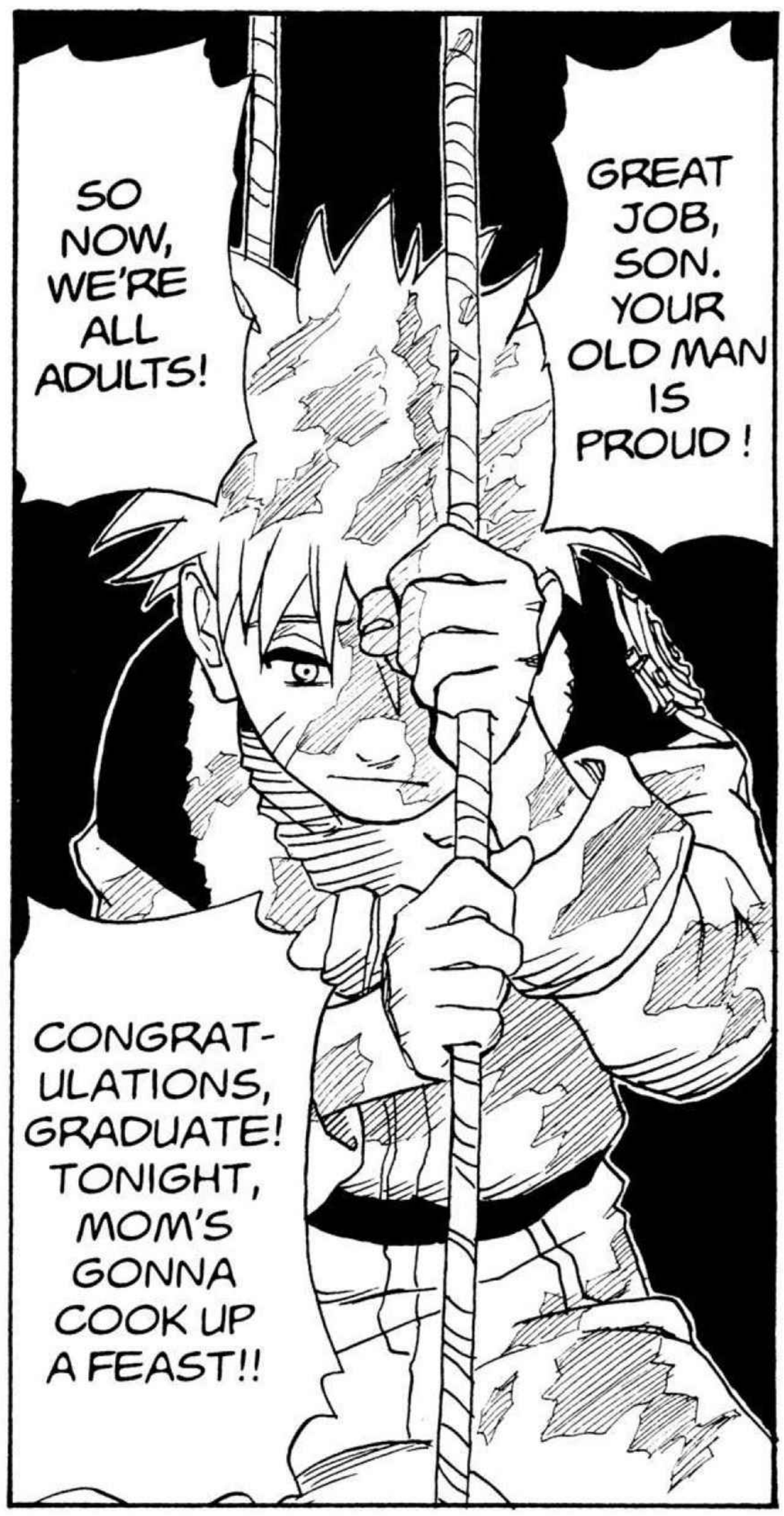
YOU FAIL!!!

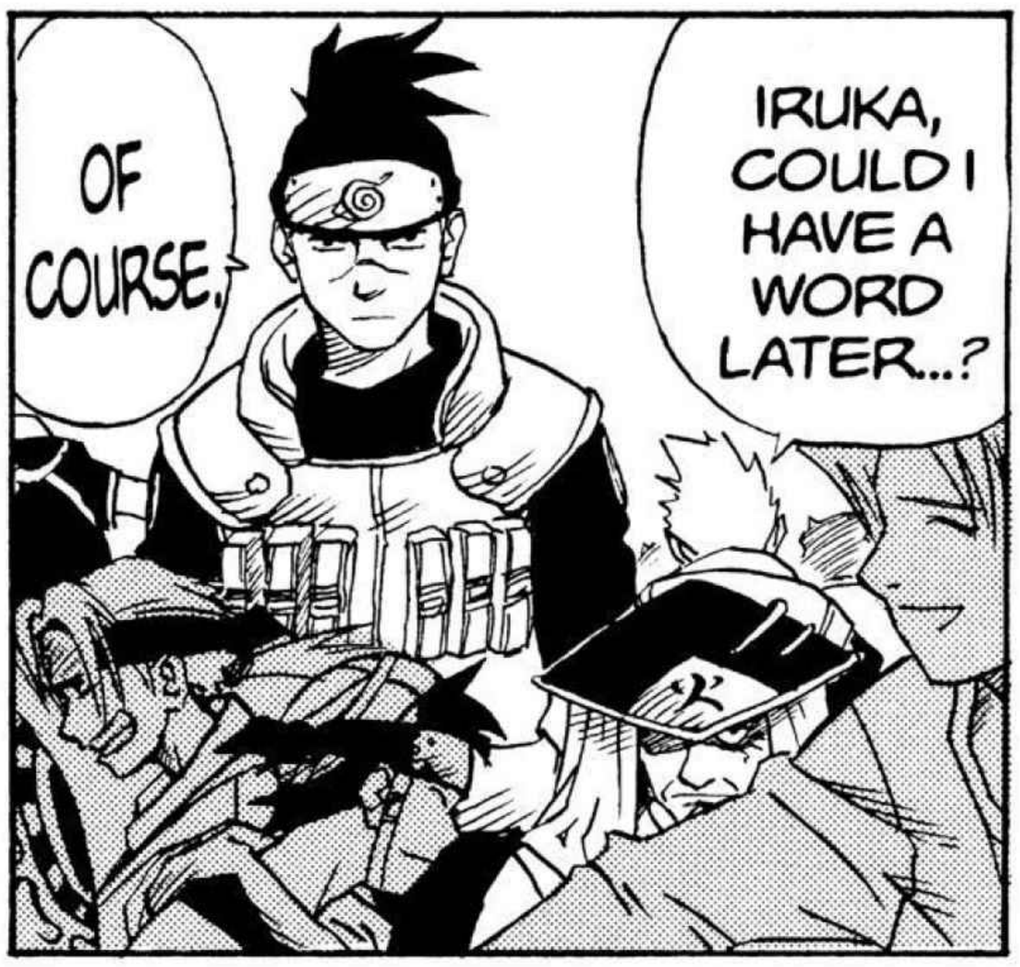


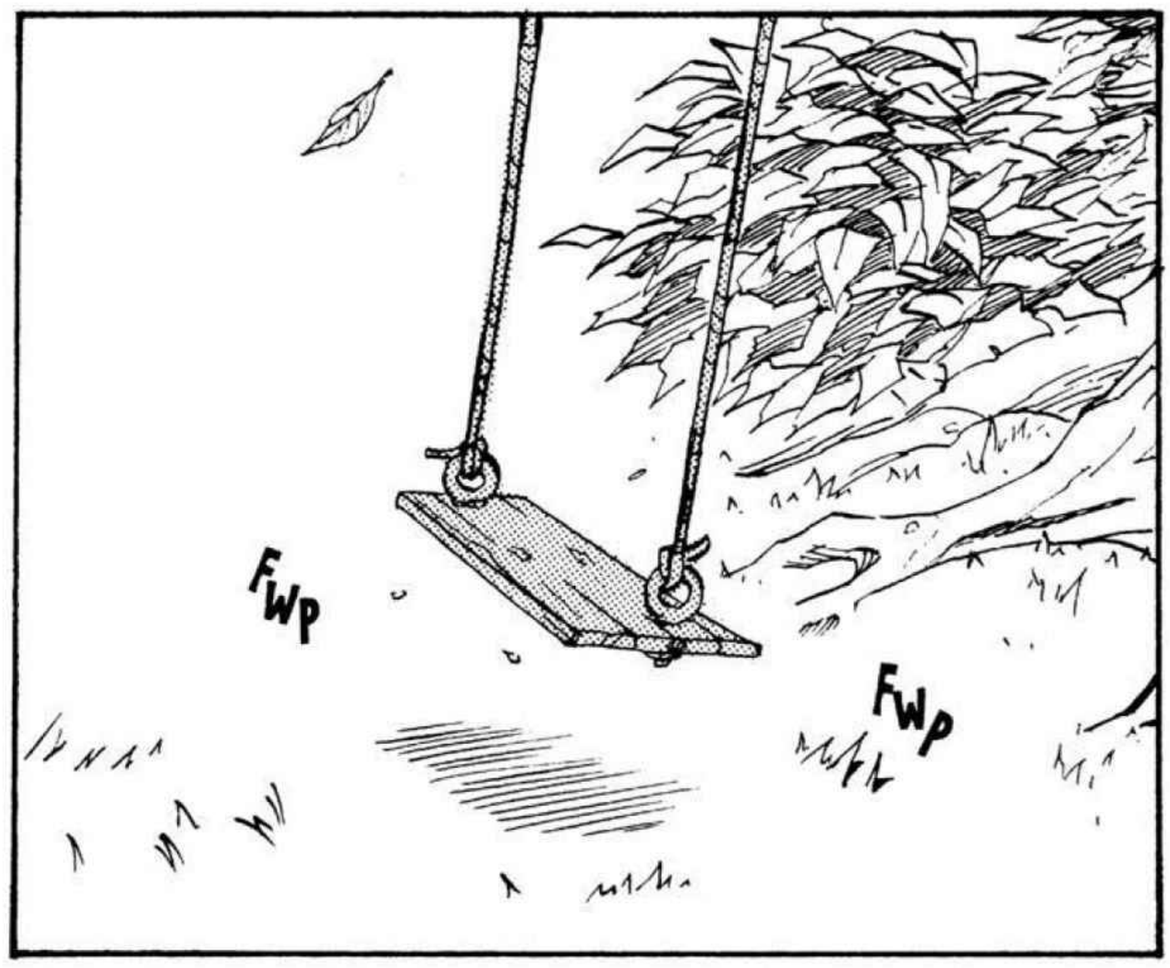


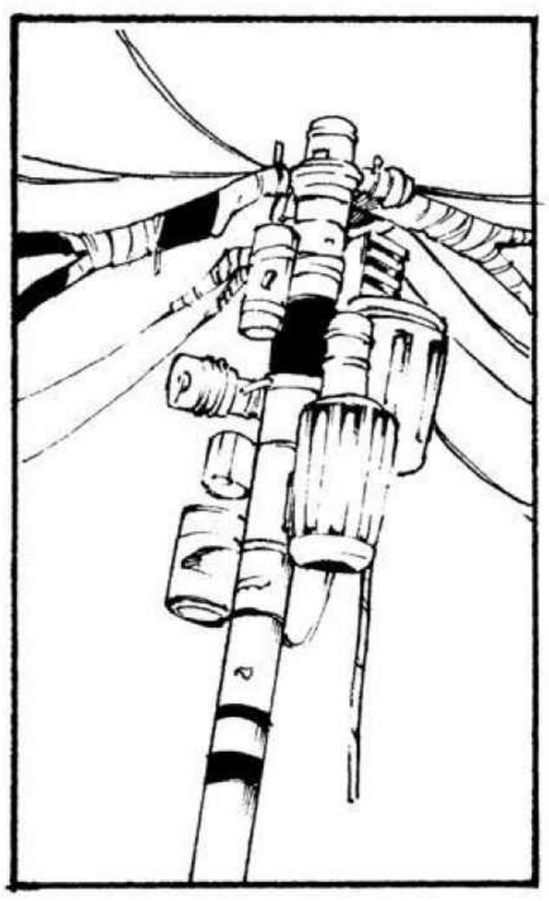

NINJA ACADEMY
忍
AAAY
AAAY!!!


YEAH, THAT'S HIM. THE ONLY ONE WHO FAILED!
HEY, ISN'T HE THE KID WHO --?
CAN YOU IMAGINE IF THEY LET SOMEONE LIKE THAT BECOME A SHINOBI...?!
SERVES HIM RIGHT...
SHF
DON'T EVEN GO THERE.
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT WHAT HE IS...

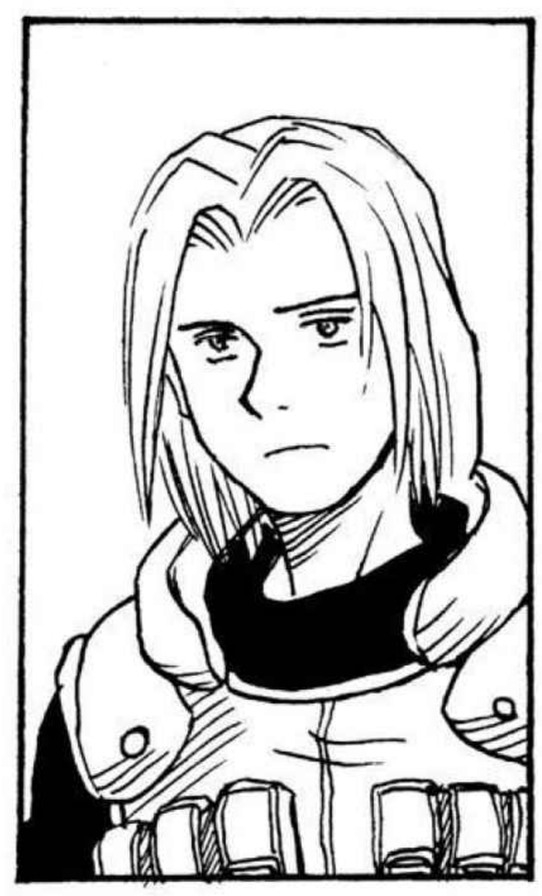

SO NOW, WE'RE ALL ADULTS!
GREAT JOB, SON. YOUR OLD MAN IS PROUD!
CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE! TONIGHT, MOM'S GONNA COOK UP A FEAST!!


OF COURSE.
IRUKA, COULD I HAVE A WORD LATER...?


FWP
FWP



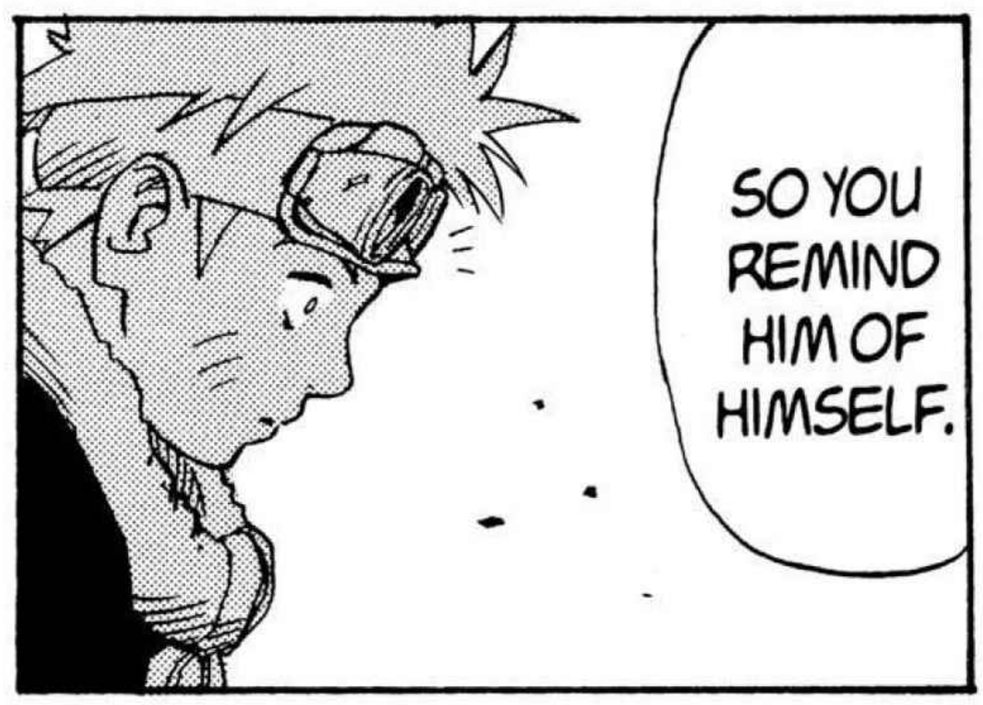
MASTER MIZUKI...!!
NARUTO.

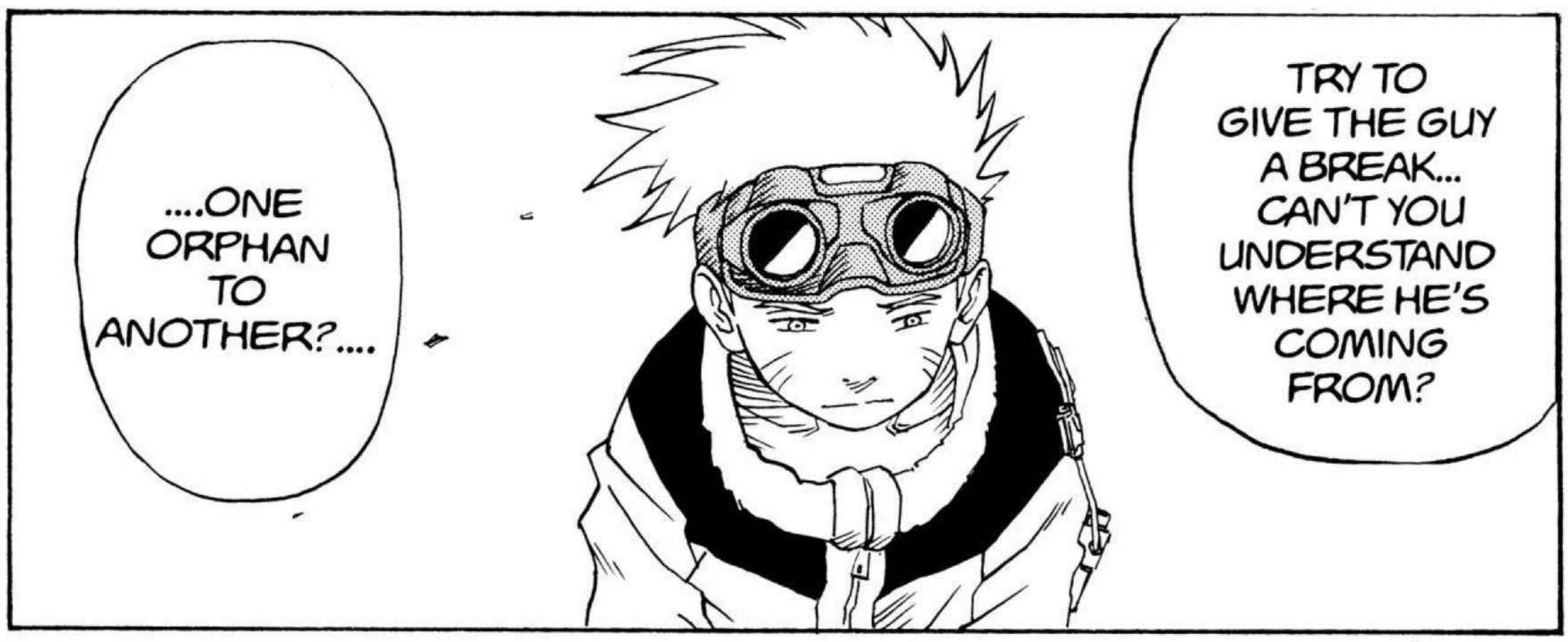


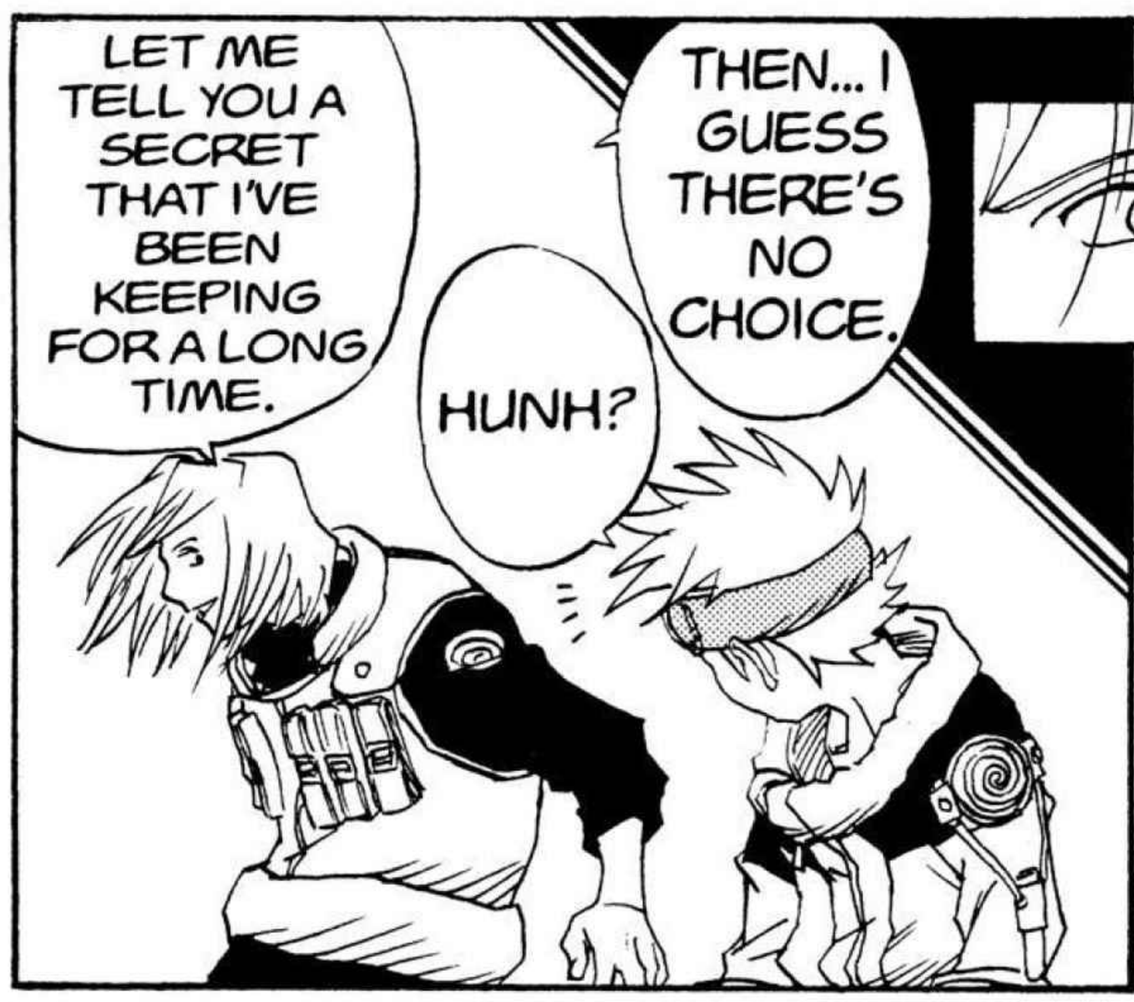
SO EVERYTHING HE'S ACCOMPLISHED HE DID BY HIMSELF, WITH A LOT OF HARD WORK AND DISCIPLINE.
MASTER IRUKA IS A REALLY SERIOUS GUY... HIS PARENTS DIED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG..
SO...? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

READ
THIS
WAY

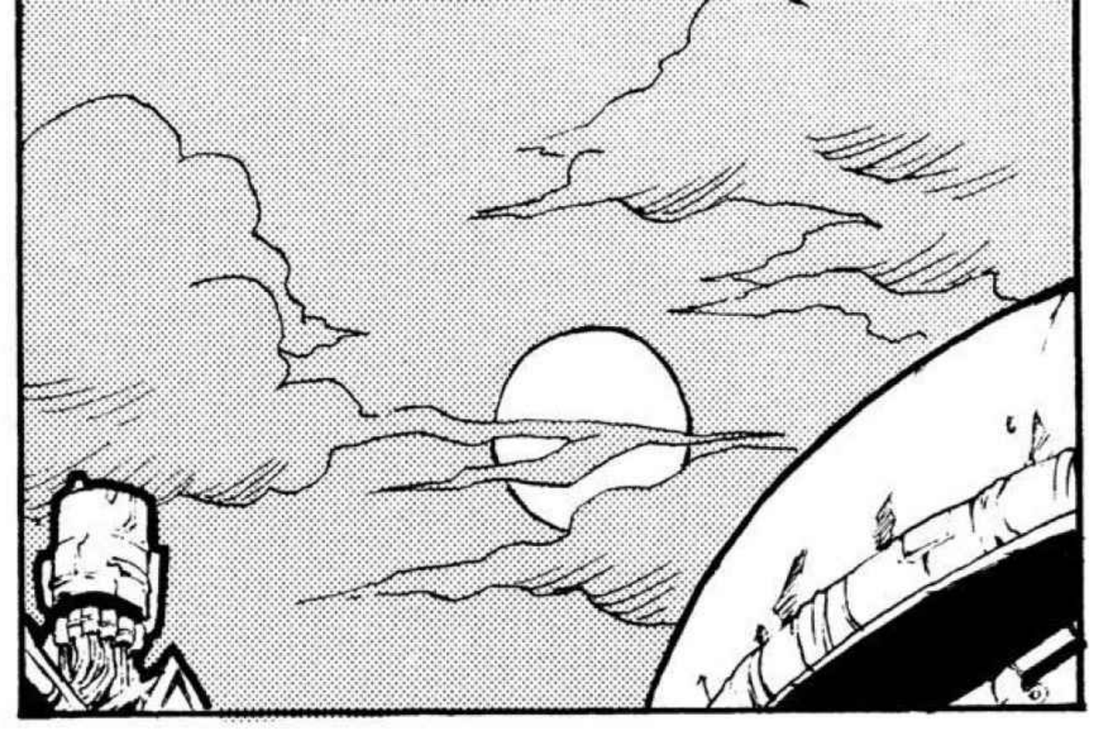
HE THINKS HE'S HELPING YOU TO GROW STRONG.

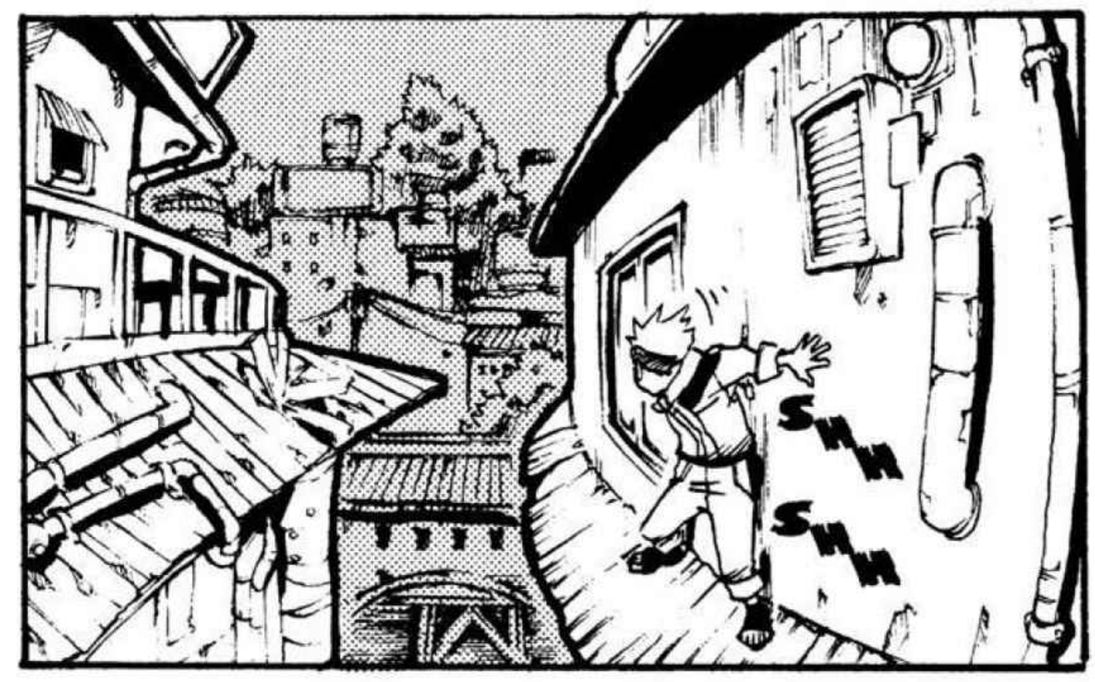

SO YOU REMIND HIM OF HIMSELF.


....ONE ORPHAN TO ANOTHER?....
TRY TO GIVE THE GUY A BREAK... CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE HE'S COMING FROM?


LET ME TELL YOU A SECRET THAT I'VE BEEN KEEPING FOR A LONG TIME.
HUNH?
THEN... I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE.

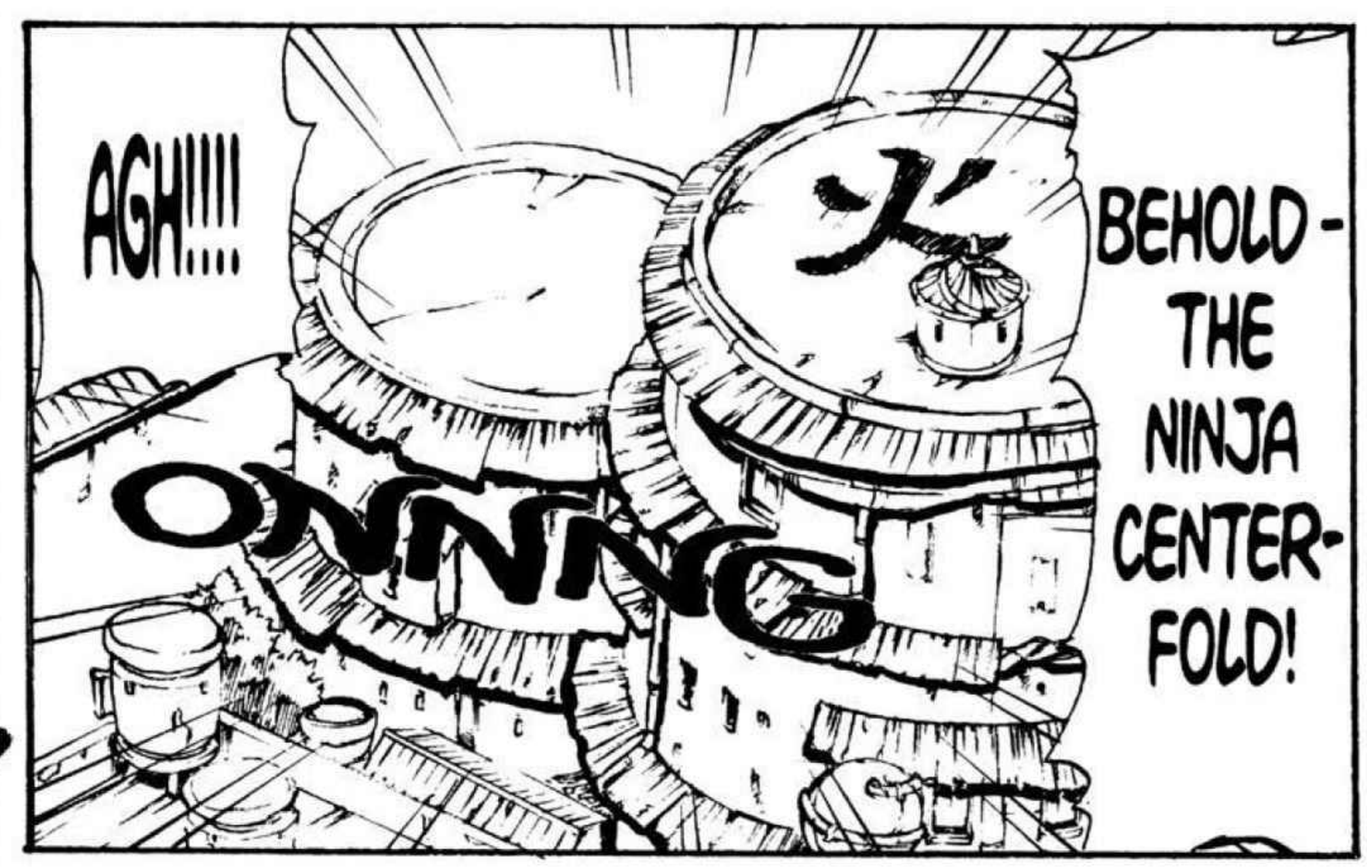
.....
BUT... I REALLY WANTED TO GRADUATE.




SHH
SHH

READ THIS WAY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!?
!
YIPE!

BLIT
GAAAAAHH

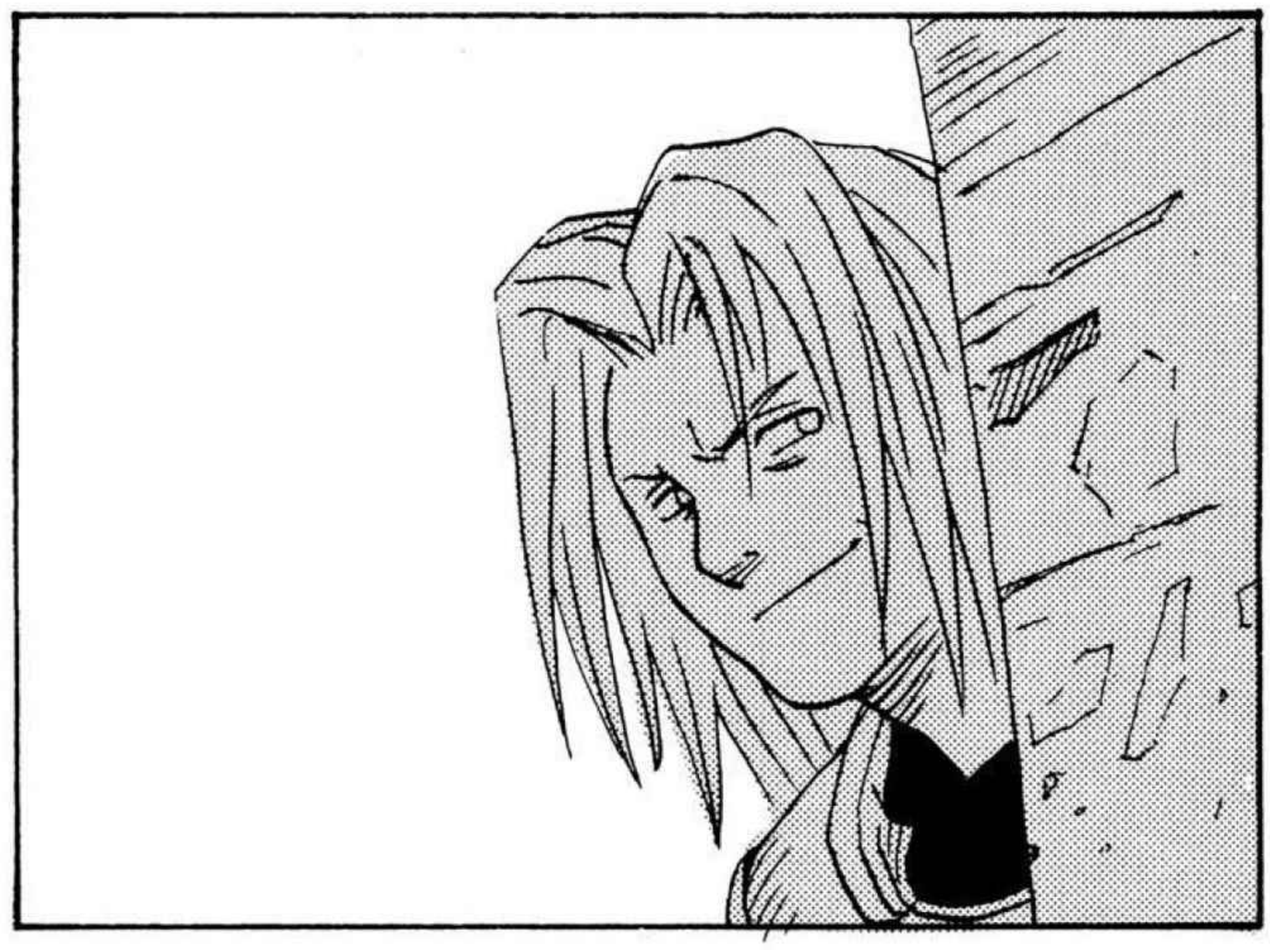

AGH!!!!
ONNNG
BEHOLD - THE NINJA CENTER-FOLD!

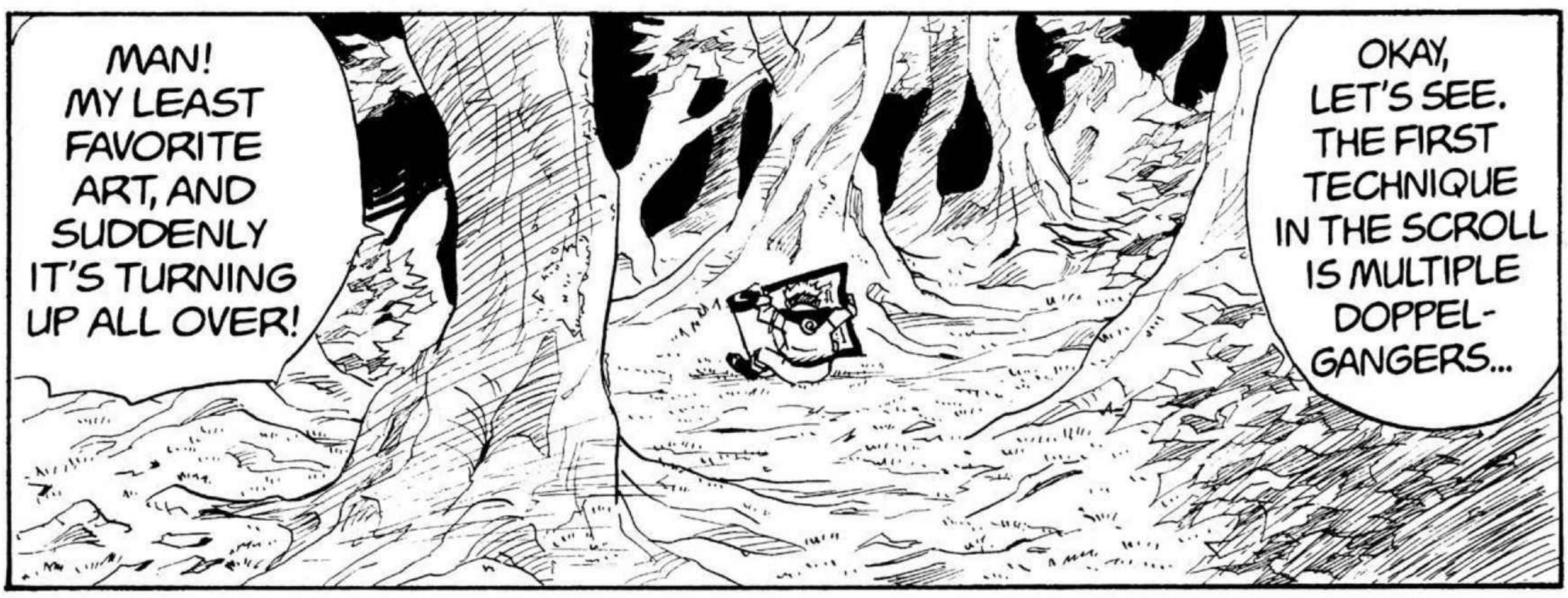
HOP!
TAK

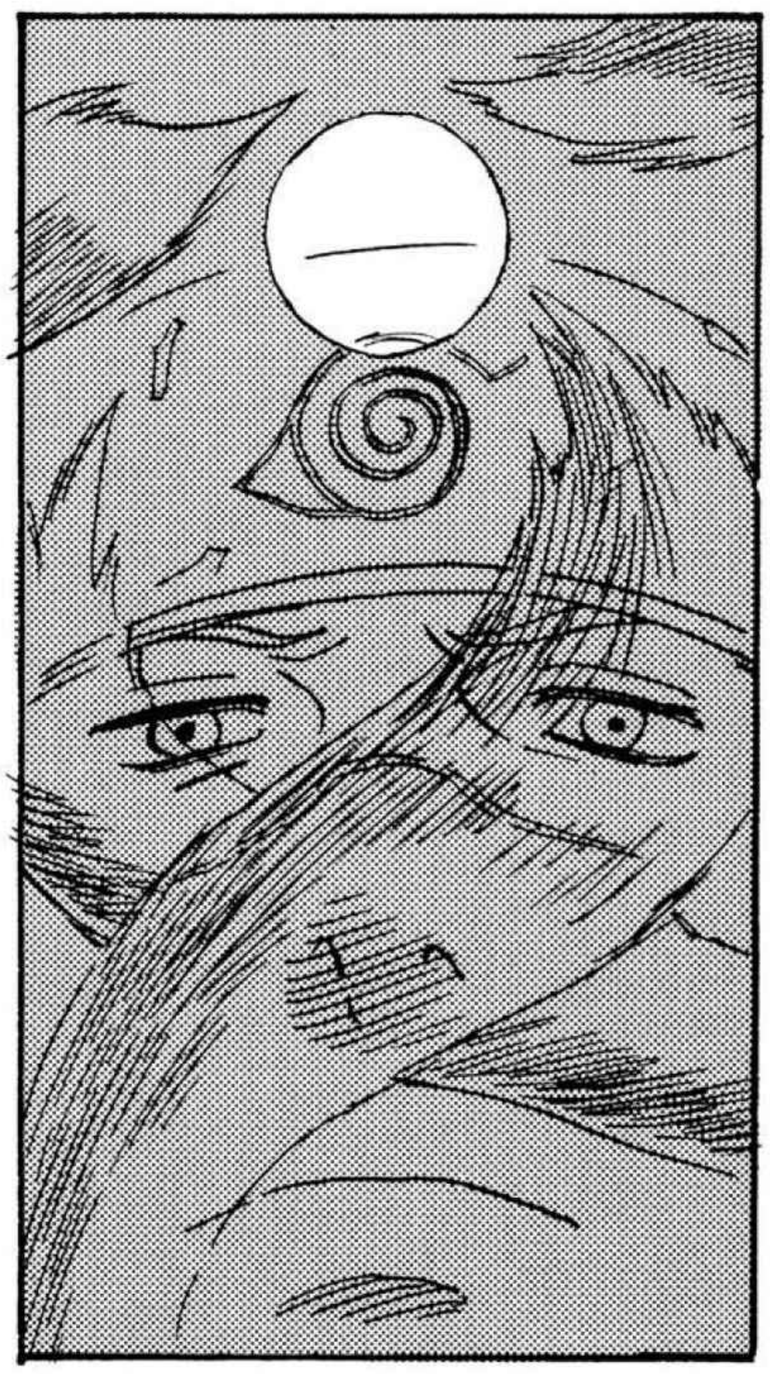
SHHHF

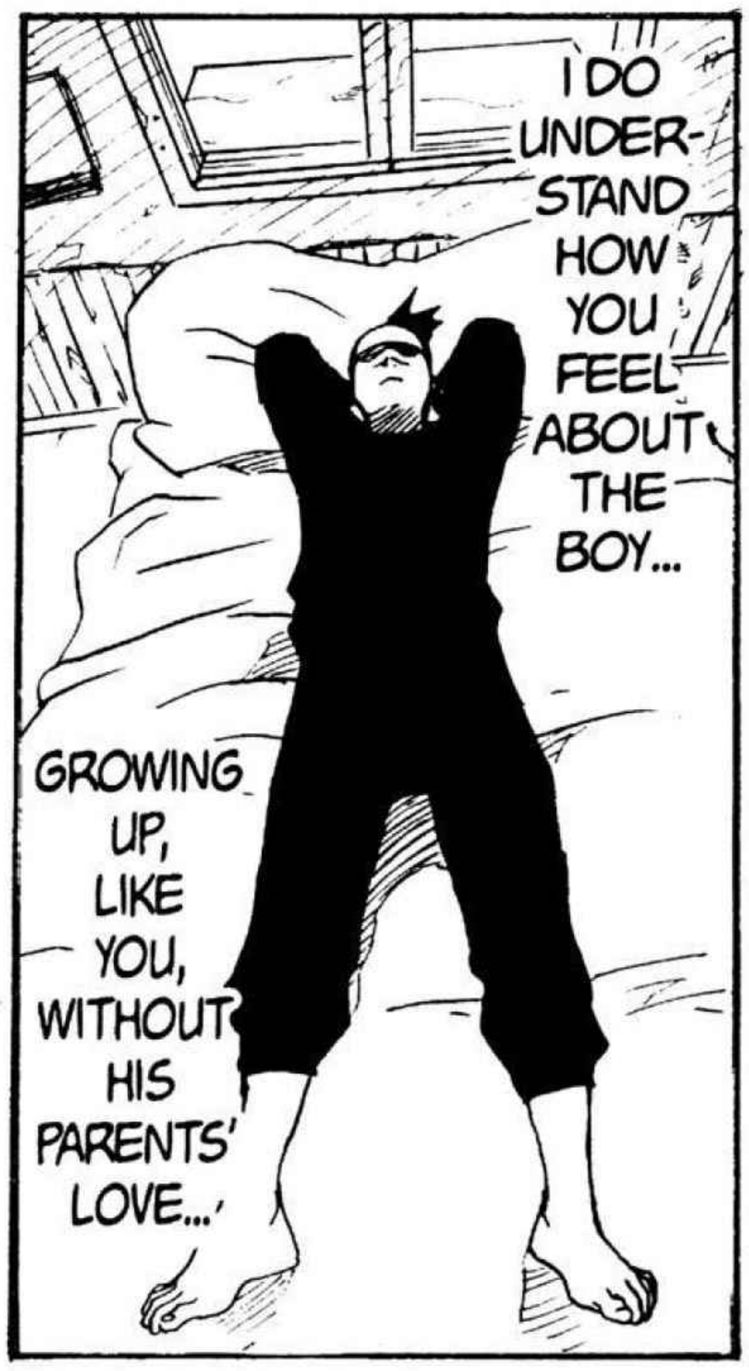
GOTCHA!
!

FWOOSH



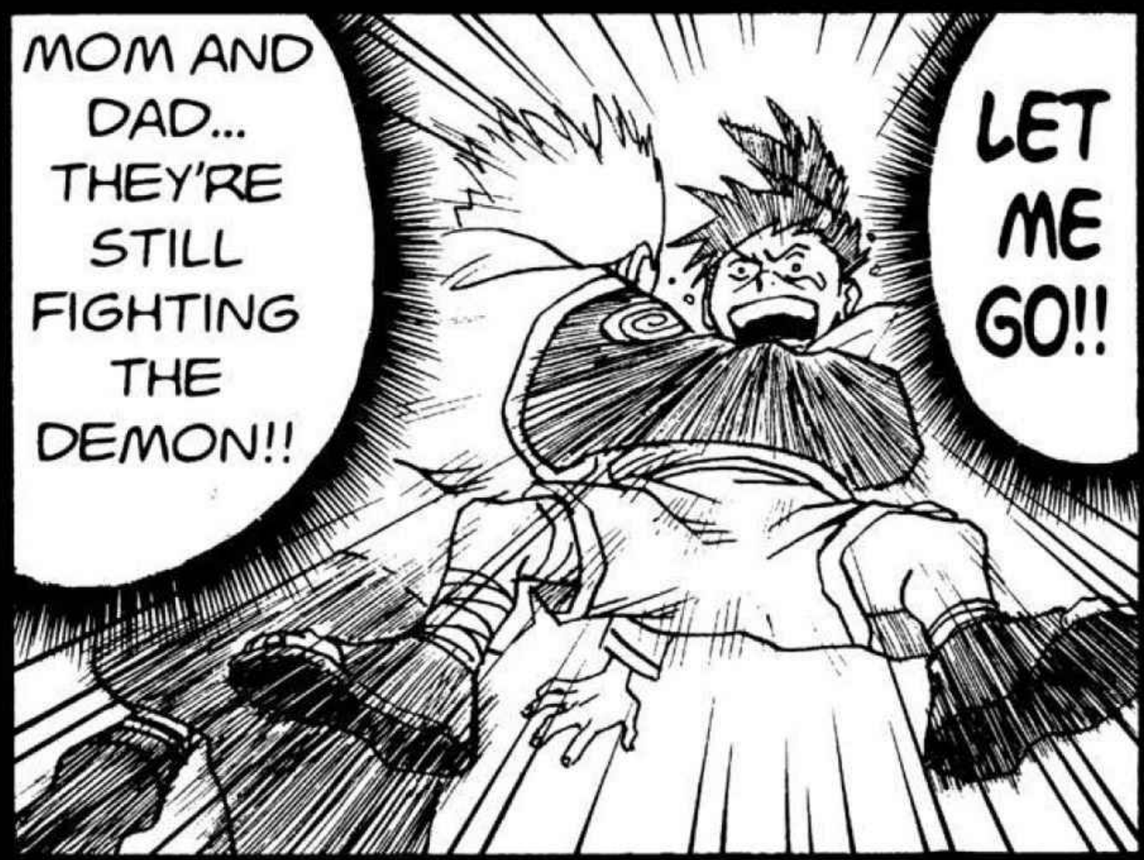

MAN! MY LEAST FAVORITE ART, AND SUDDENLY IT'S TURNING UP ALL OVER!
OKAY, LET'S SEE. THE FIRST TECHNIQUE IN THE SCROLL IS MULTIPLE DOPPEL-GANGERS...



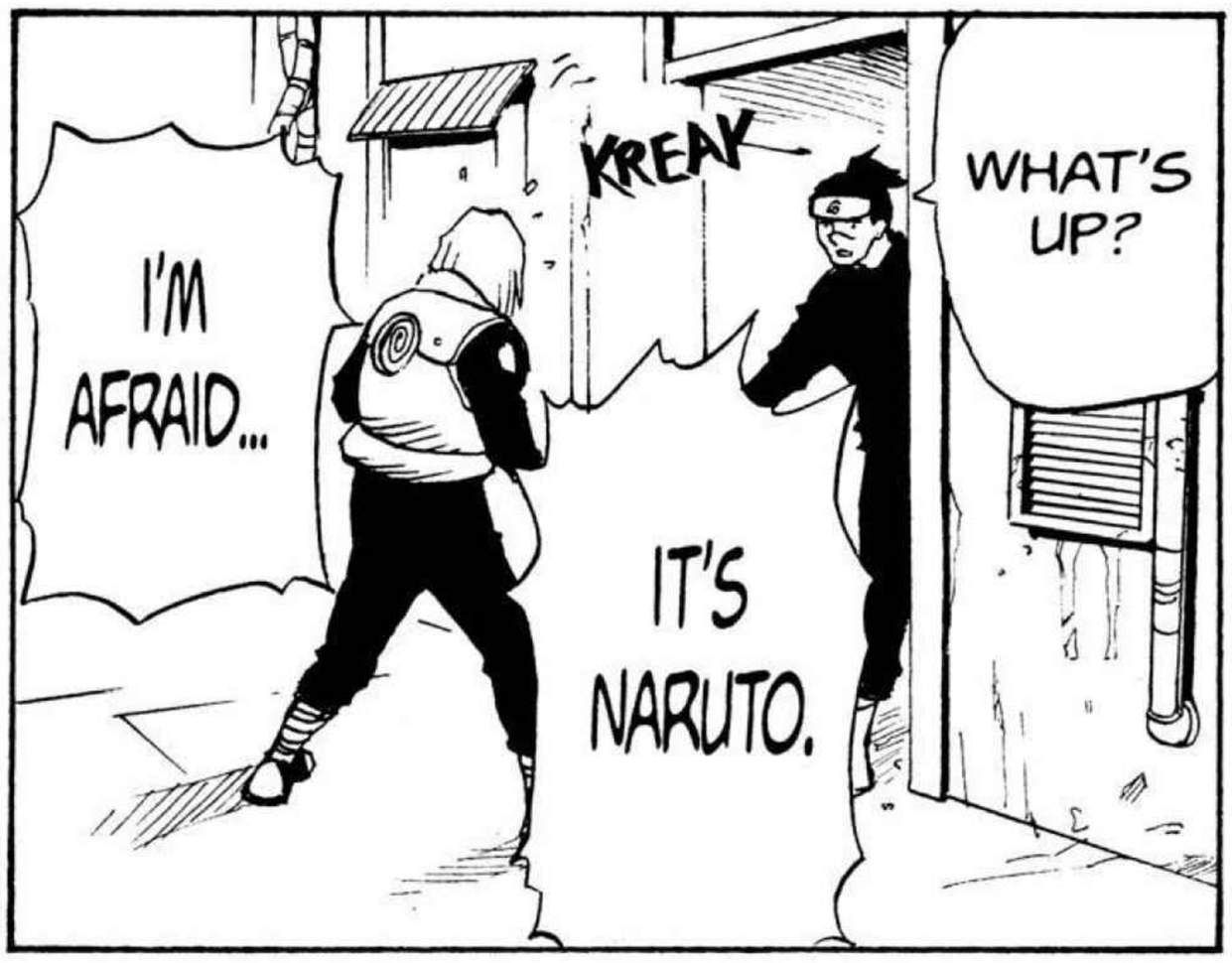

I DO UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE BOY...
GROWING UP, LIKE YOU, WITHOUT HIS PARENTS' LOVE...'

IRUKA...
YES, LORD HOKAGE?

AHUUGH--!

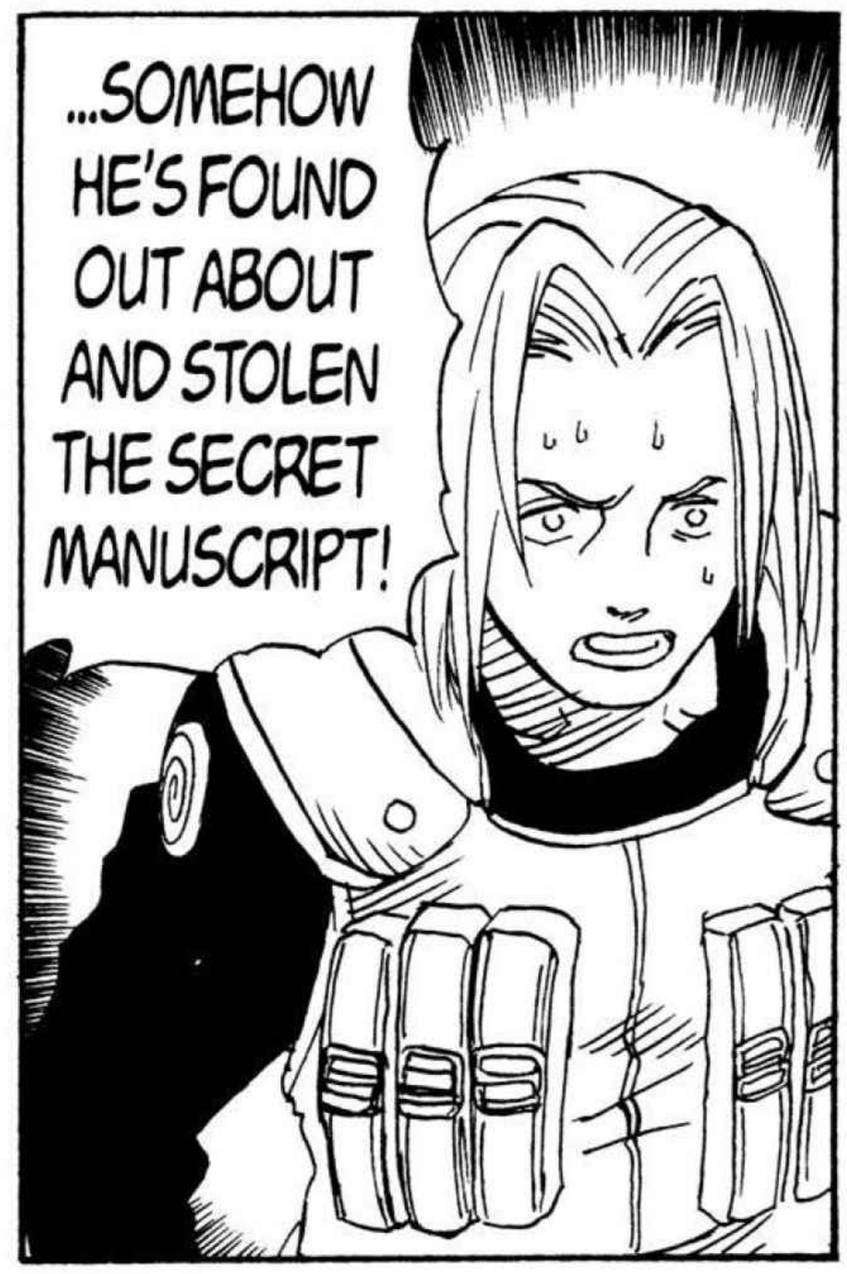

MOM AND DAD... THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING THE DEMON!!
LET ME GO!!

WE'VE GOT TO HOLD ON UNTIL LORD HOKAGE GETS HERE!


I'M AFRAID...
KREAK
IT'S NARUTO.
WHAT'S UP?

NOK NOK
SNRRK

LORD HOKAGE!!
THIS TIME HE'S GONE TOO FAR!!
RIGHT!
YEAH!

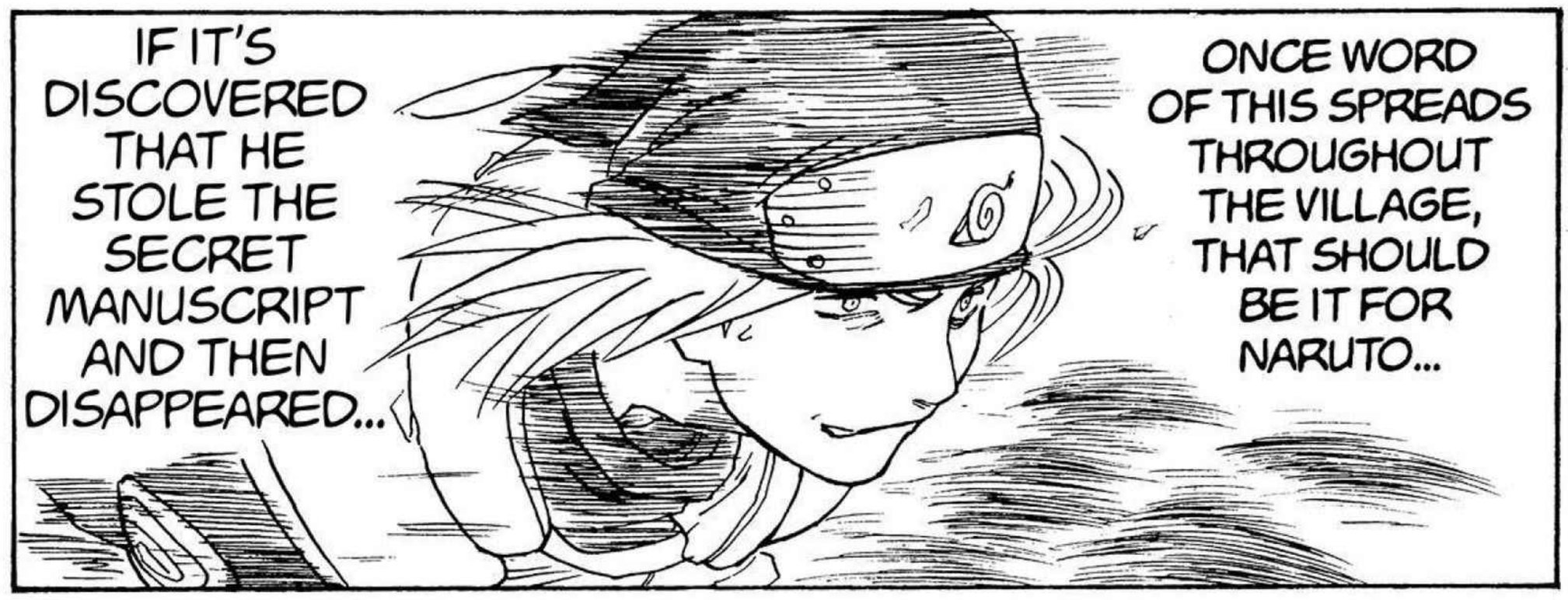

...SOMEHOW HE'S FOUND OUT ABOUT AND STOLEN THE SECRET MANUSCRIPT!

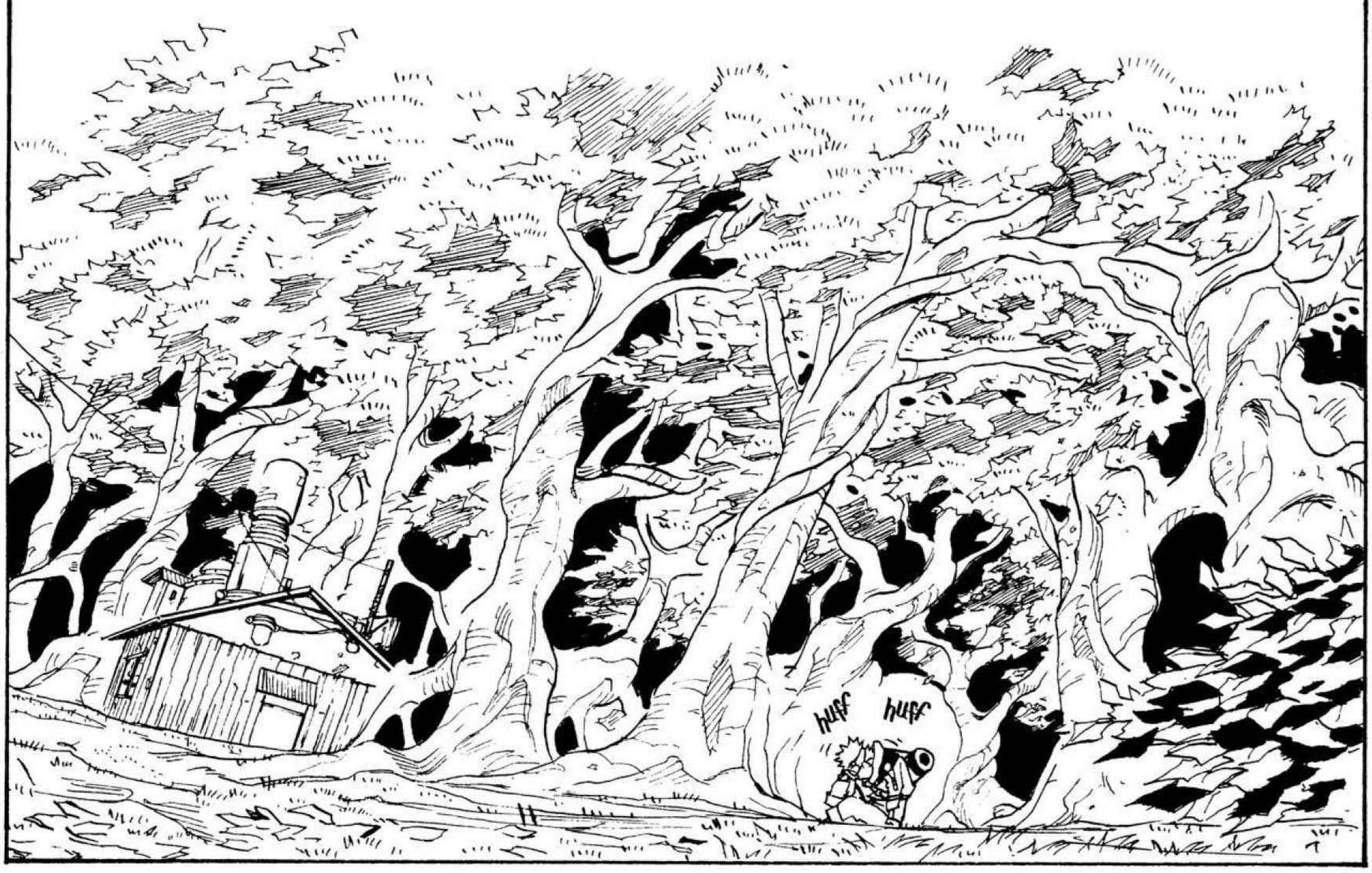
IF MISUSED, IN THE WRONG HANDS, IT COULD BE DEADLY!
THE SCROLL HE HAS TAKEN IS SO DANGEROUS THAT THE VERY FIRST HOKAGE SEALED IT AWAY!

HAAH!!!!
SHA
SHA
SHA

READ THIS WAY
IT WAS TAKEN HALF A DAY AGO.
WE HAVE TO FIND HIM!

huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
...!
I'LL TRY THE FOREST FIRST!


IF IT'S DISCOVERED THAT HE STOLE THE SECRET MANUSCRIPT AND THEN DISAPPEARED...
ONCE WORD OF THIS SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE, THAT SHOULD BE IT FOR NARUTO...

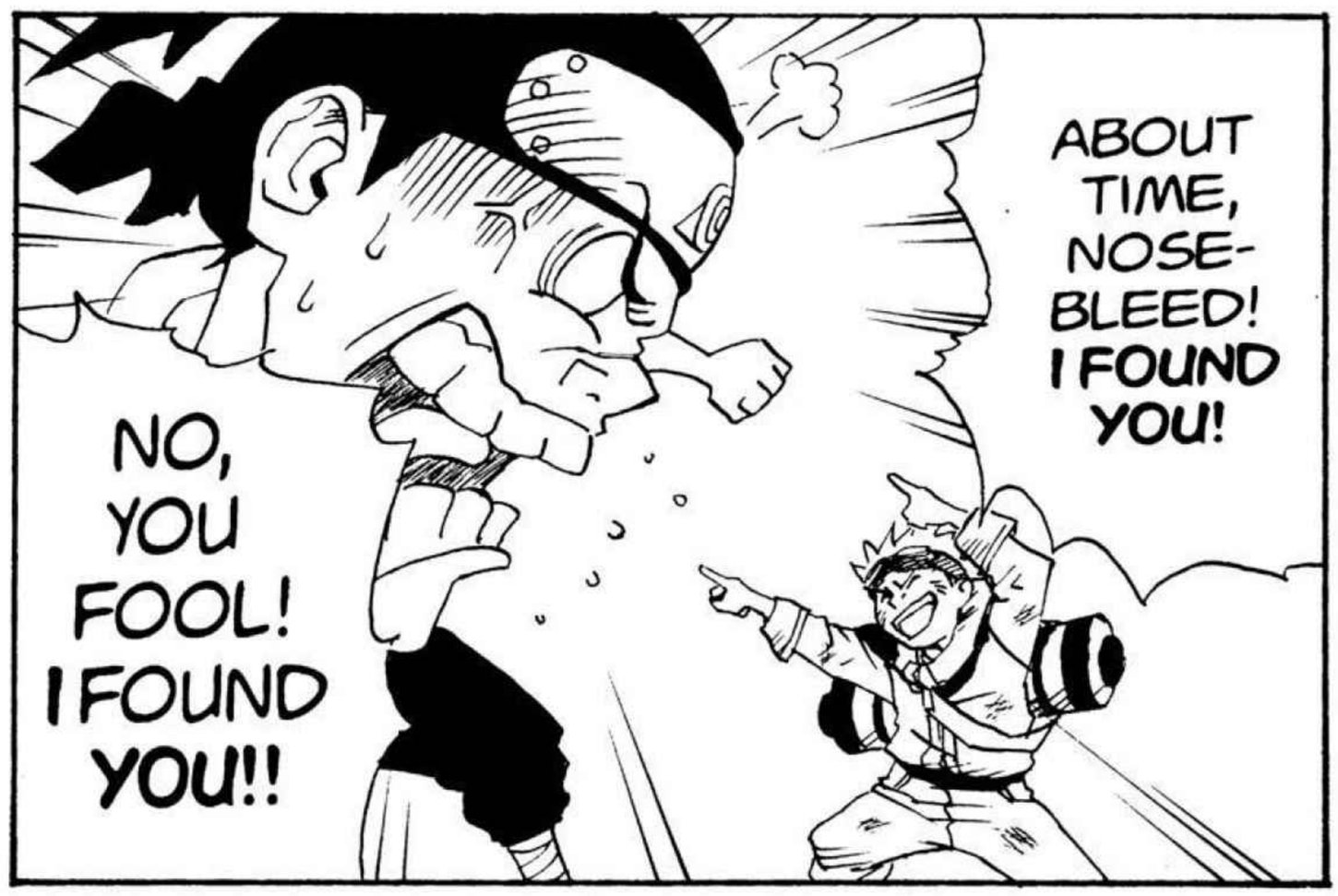

huff
huff

GOTCHA!

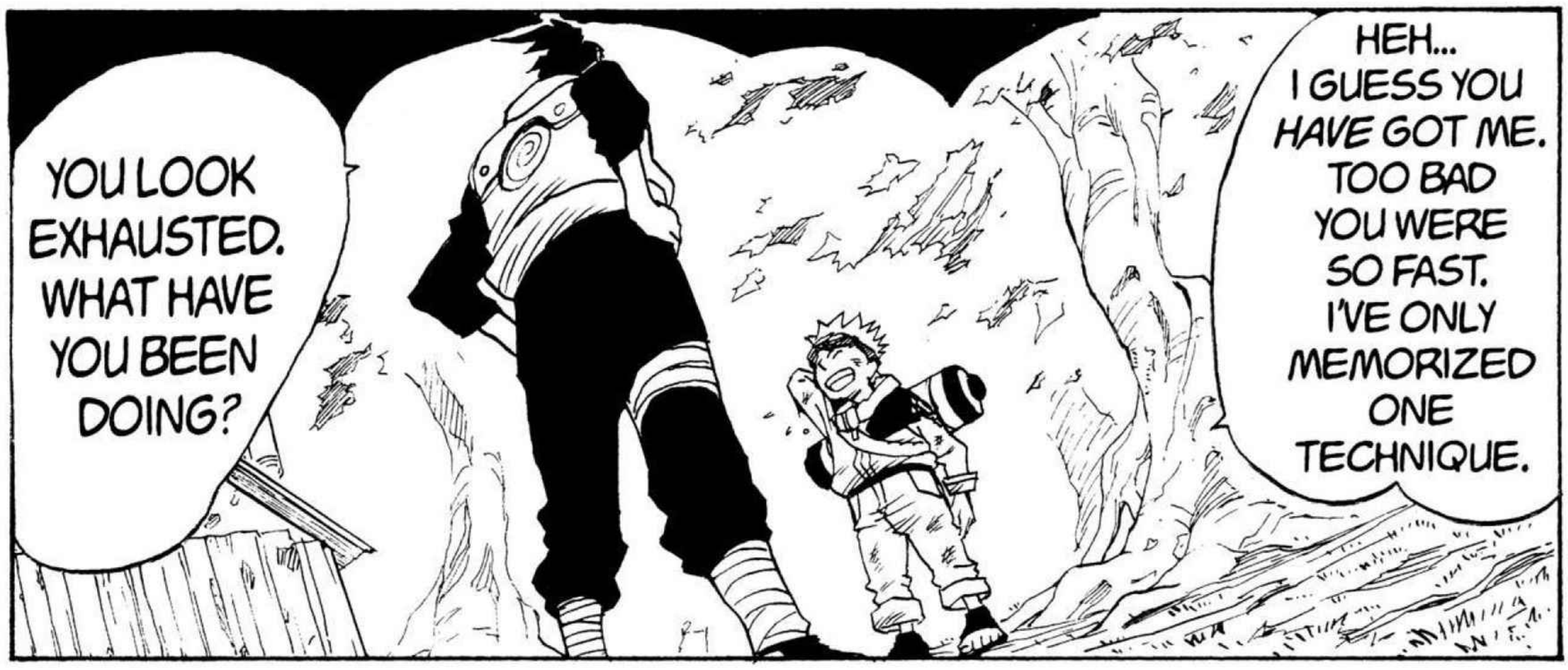
FLOP

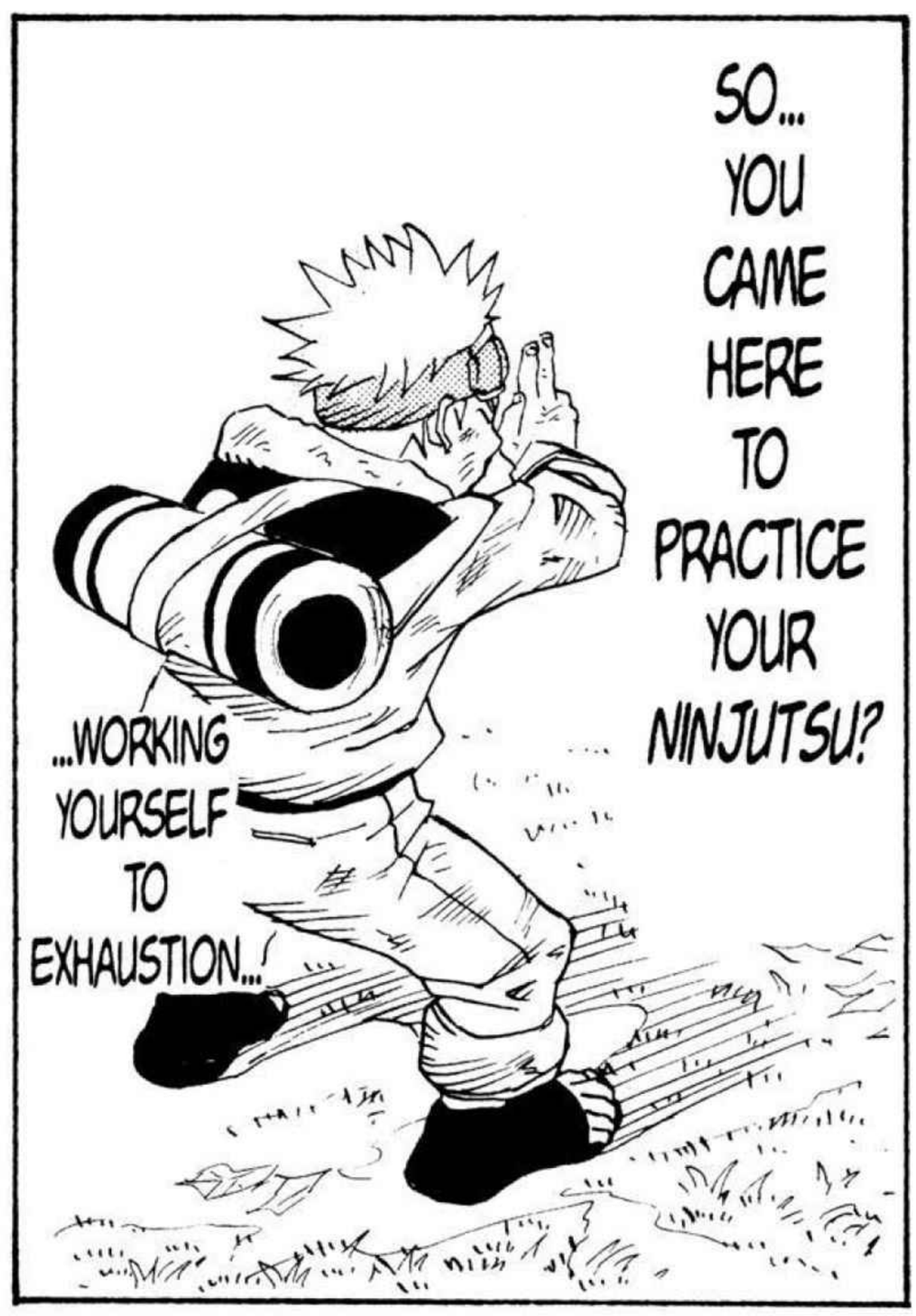
Puff
Puff
Puff

!

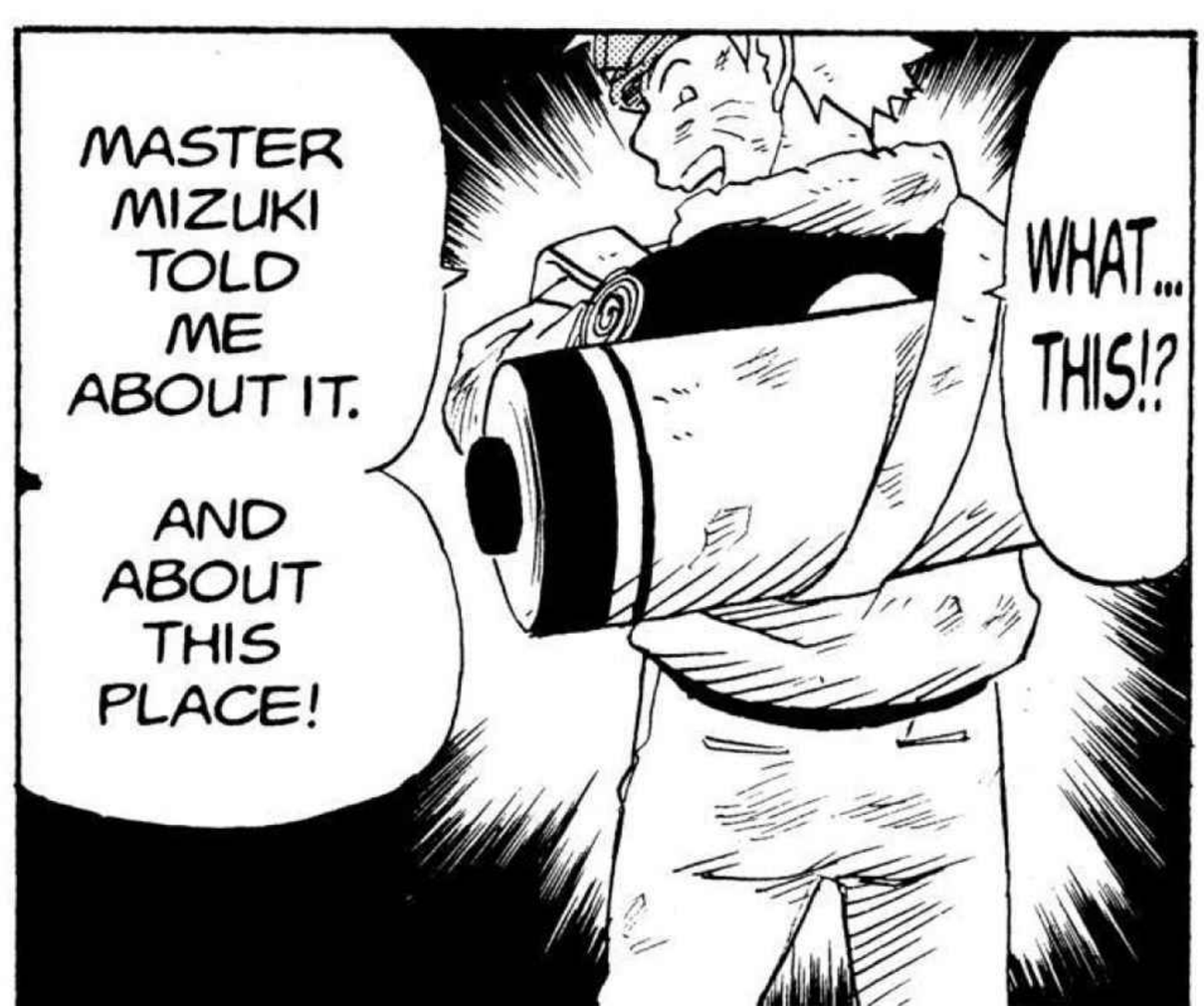

NO, YOU FOOL! I FOUND YOU!!
ABOUT TIME, NOSE-BLEED! I FOUND YOU!

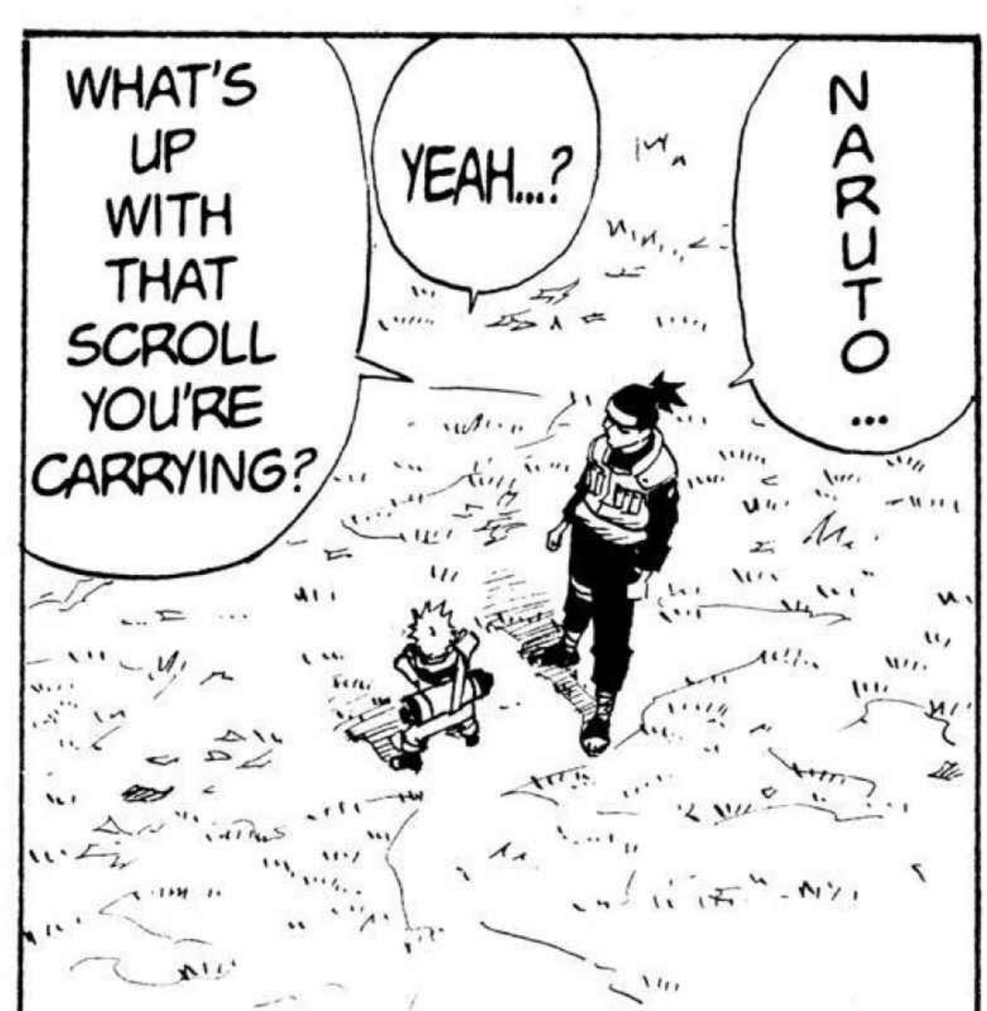
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

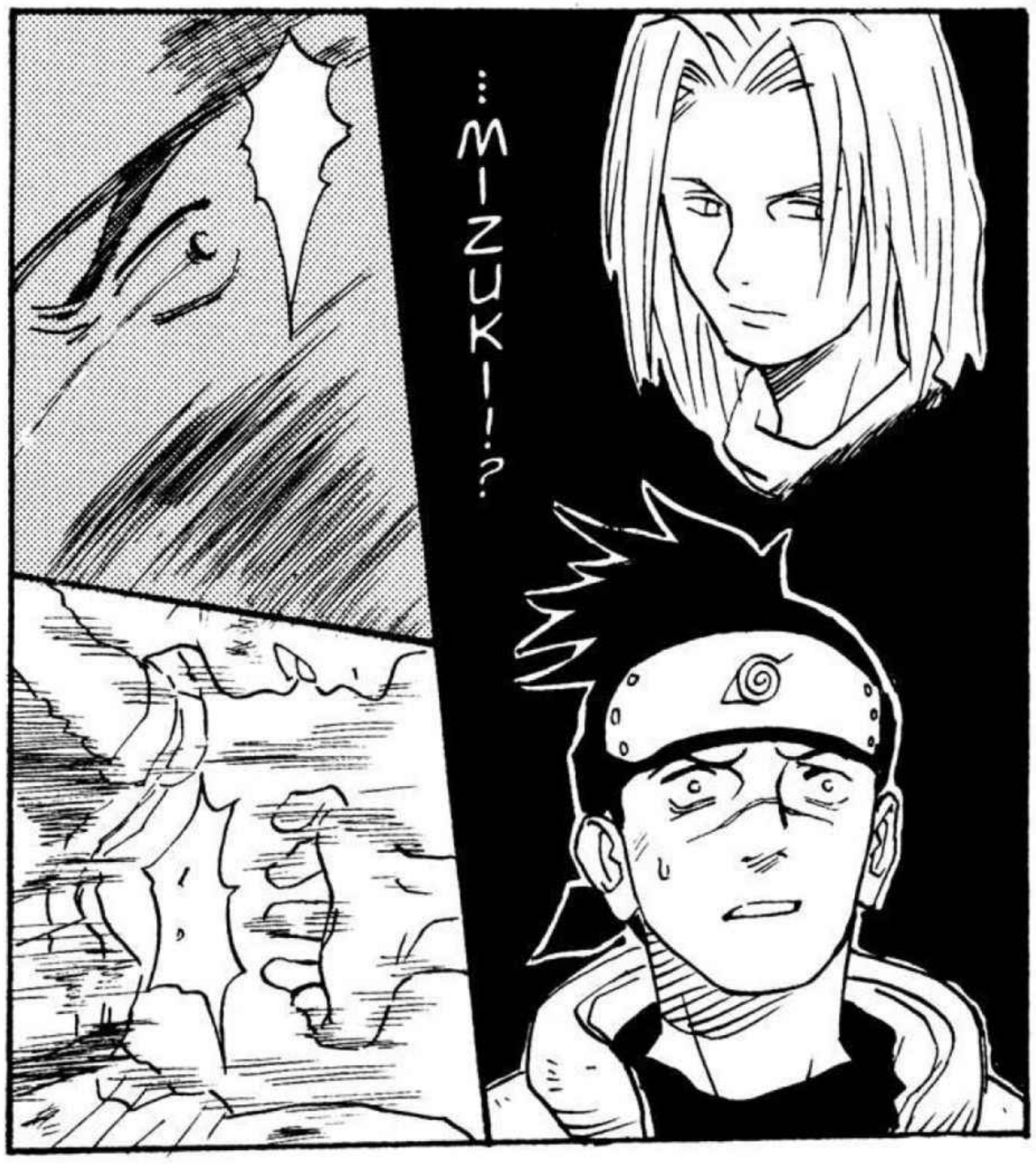

YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
HEH... I GUESS YOU HAVE GOT ME. TOO BAD YOU WERE SO FAST. I'VE ONLY MEMORIZED ONE TECHNIQUE.


SO... YOU CAME HERE TO PRACTICE YOUR NINJUTSU?
...WORKING YOURSELF TO EXHAUSTION...!

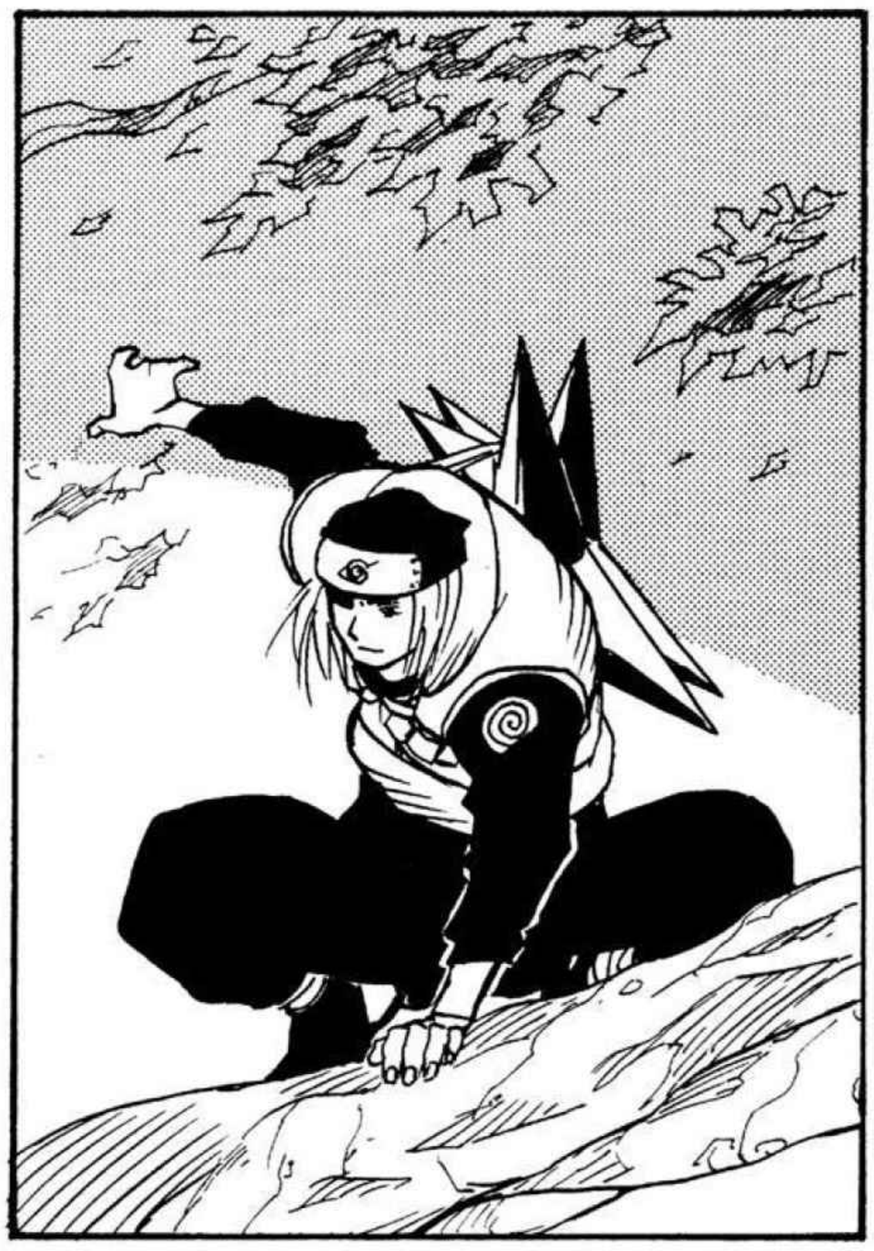
IF I SHOW I'VE MASTERED THESE TECHNIQUES, YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME GRADUATE!
WAIT'LL I SHOW YOU. I NEVER DREAMED... SOME OF THE SHINOBI ARTS ARE SO AMAZING!!!


MASTER MIZUKI TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
AND ABOUT THIS PLACE!
WHAT... THIS!?

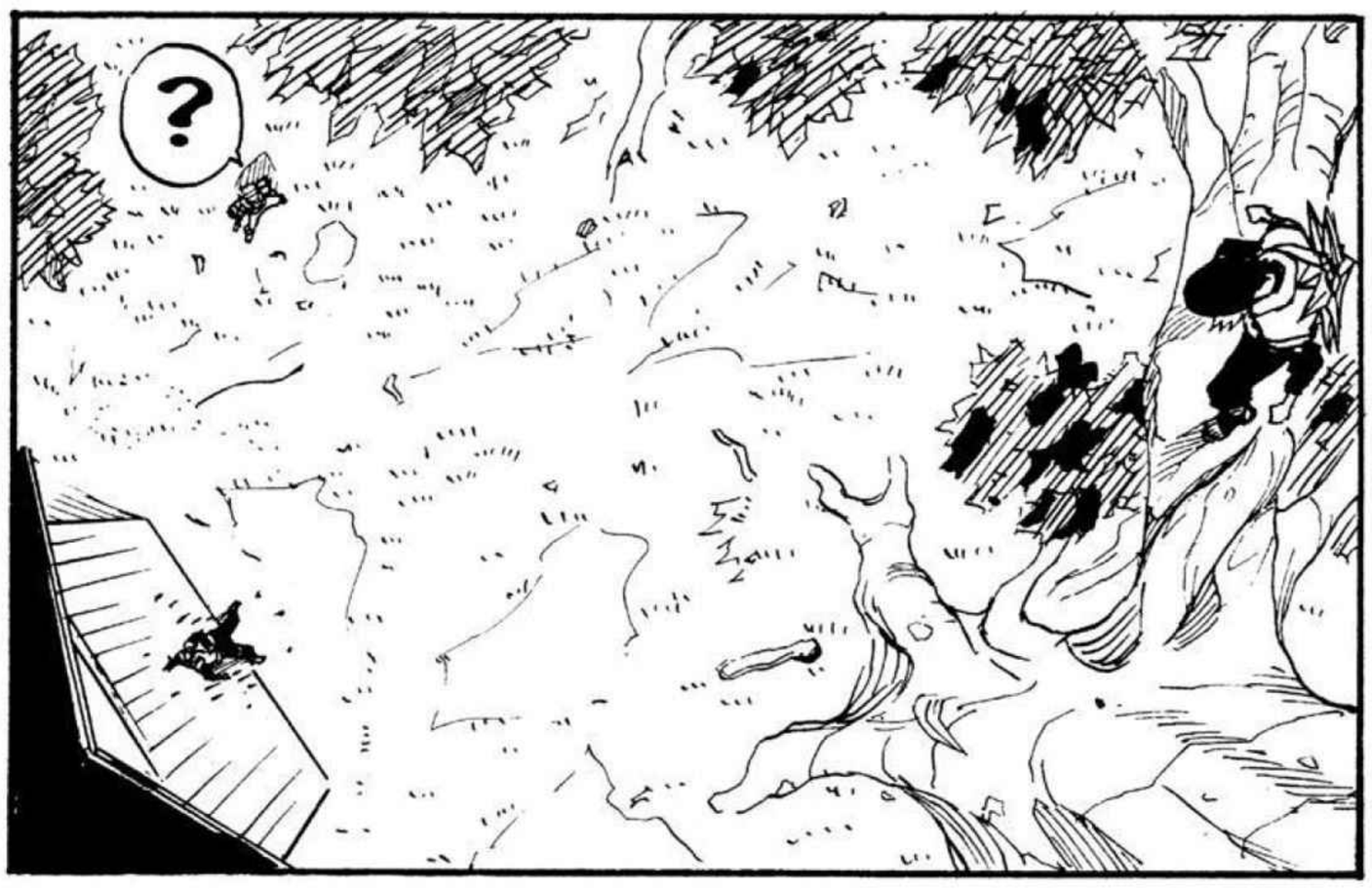

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT SCROLL YOU'RE CARRYING?
YEAH...?
NARUTO...



SHHOOOO
SHHOOOO
SHHOOOO



I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU FIGURED OUT WHERE TO GO.
THUNK
THUNK
NOW I UNDER-STAND!!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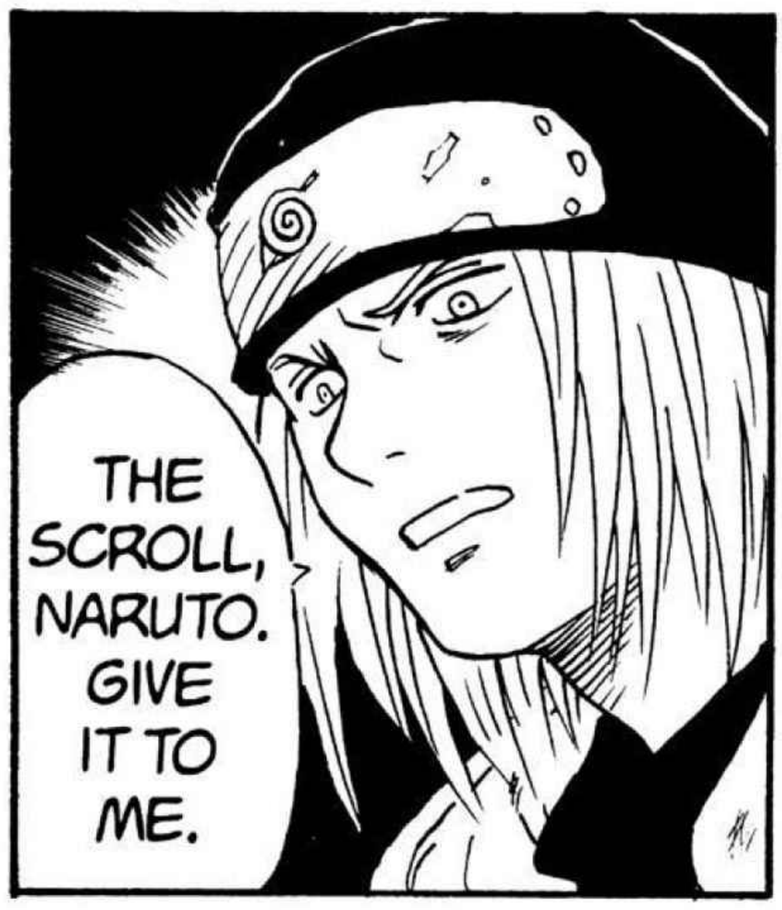
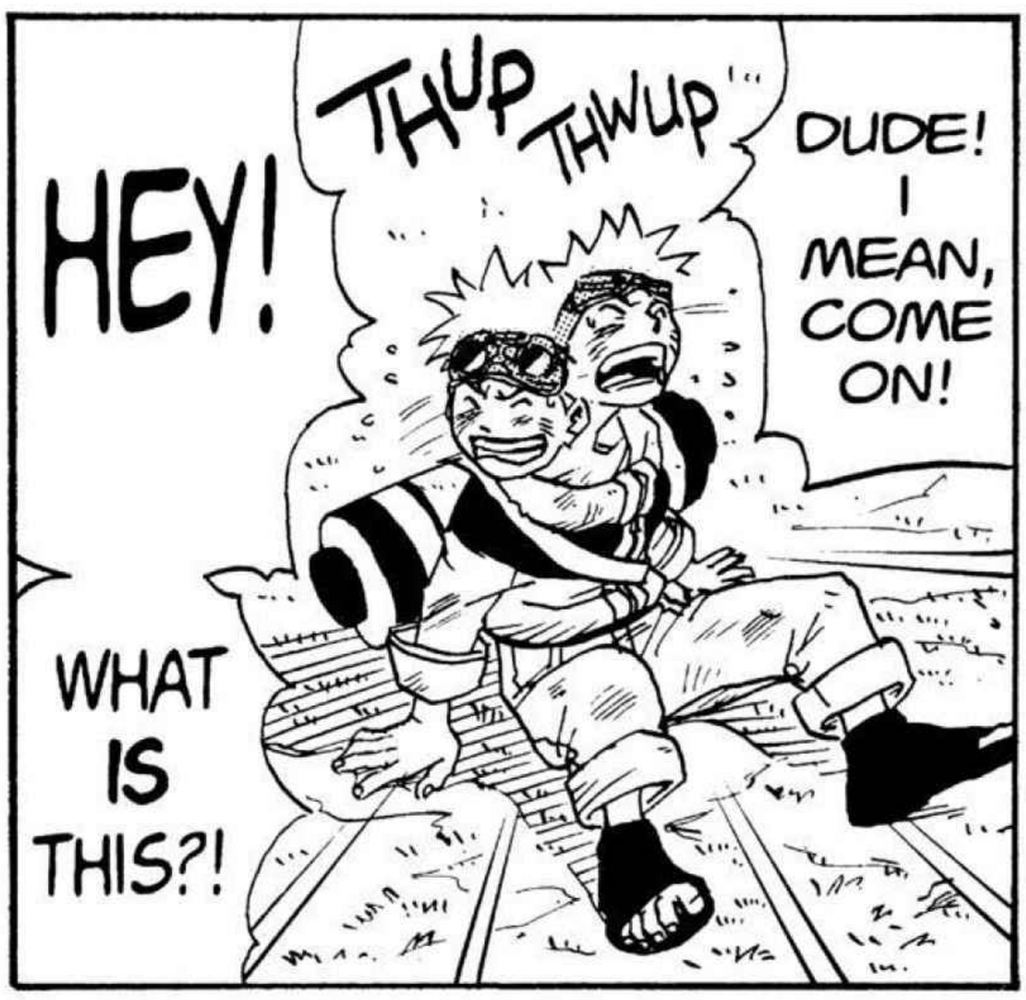
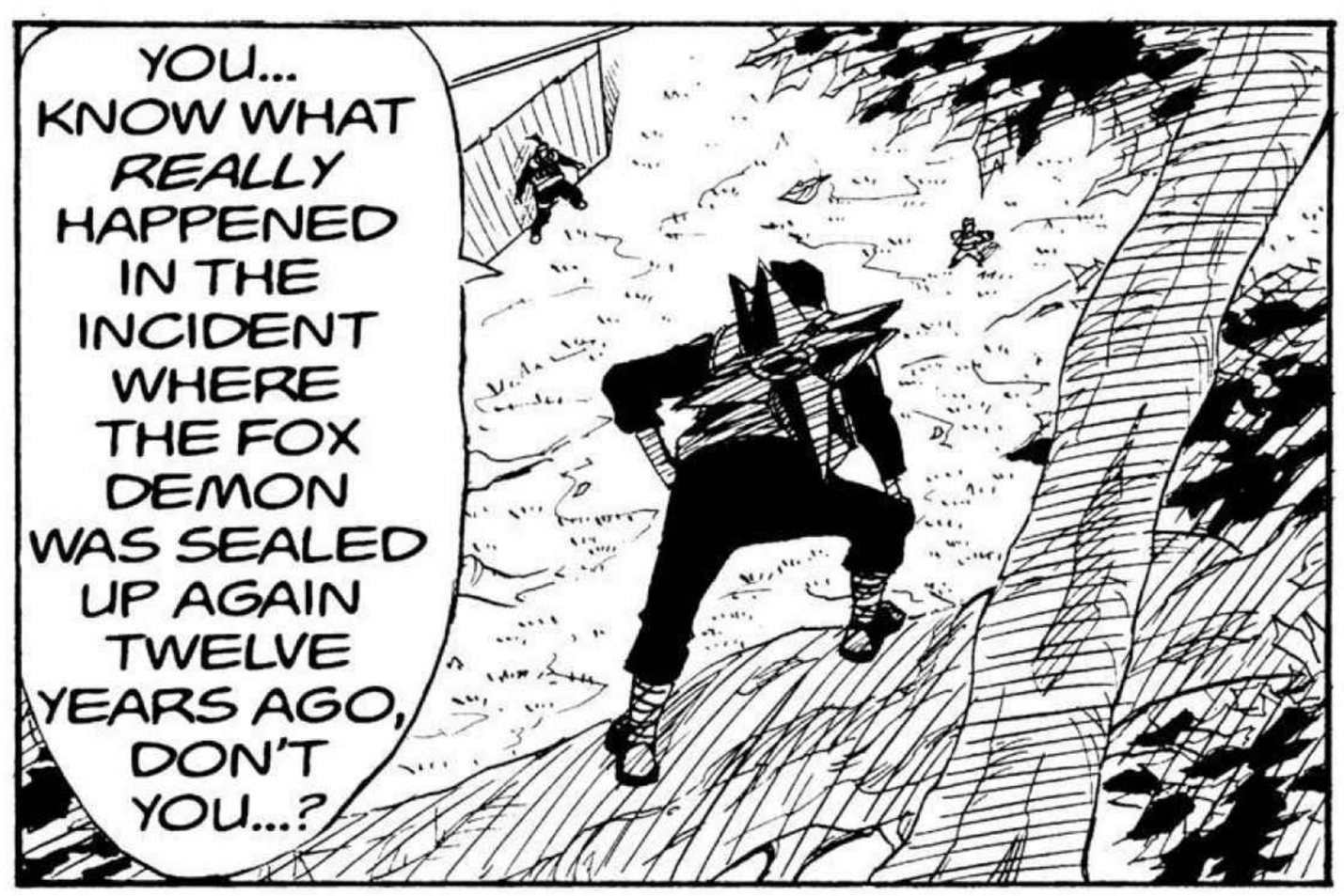

THE SCROLL, NARUTO. GIVE IT TO ME.

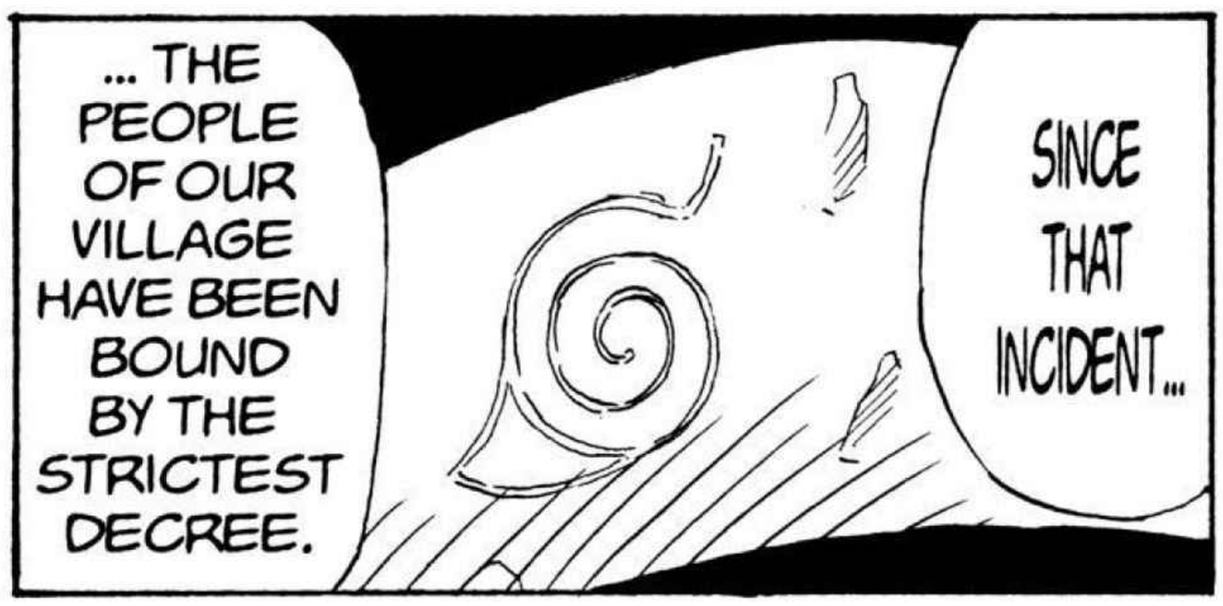

HEY!
THUP THWUP
DUDE! I MEAN, COME ON!
WHAT IS THIS?!

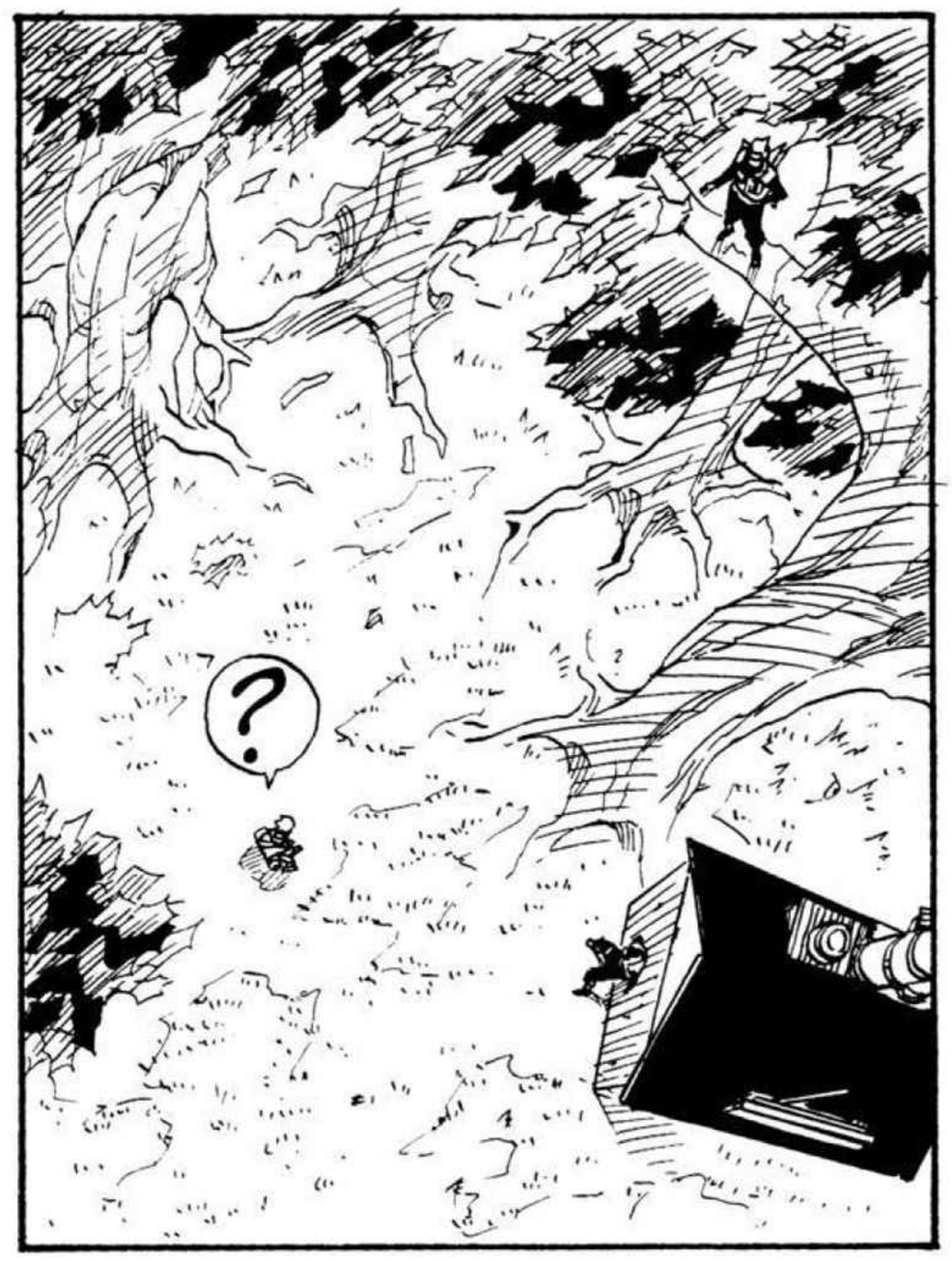
DON'T LET HIM HAVE IT, NARUTO! PROTECT THAT SCROLL WITH YOUR LIFE!
THUK

MIZUKI USED YOU BECAUSE HE WANTS IT FOR HIMSELF!!

IT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE - IT HOLDS THE RECORD OF A COMPLETELY FORBIDDEN NINJA ART!




... THE PEOPLE OF OUR VILLAGE HAVE BEEN BOUND BY THE STRICTEST DECREE.
SINCE THAT INCIDENT...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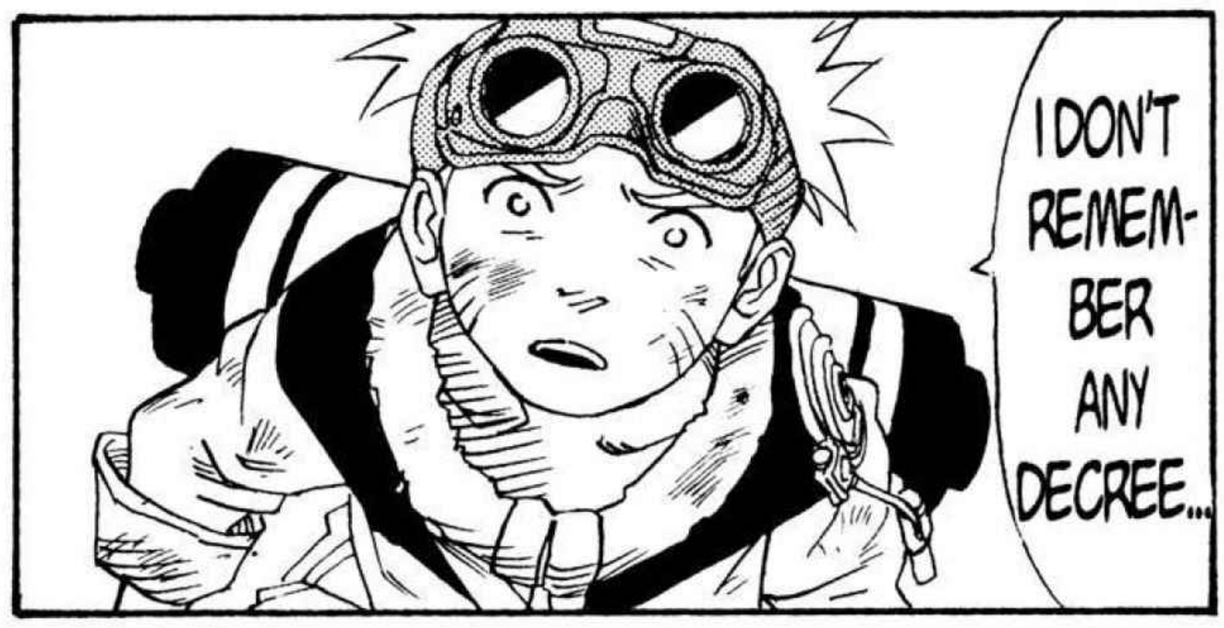
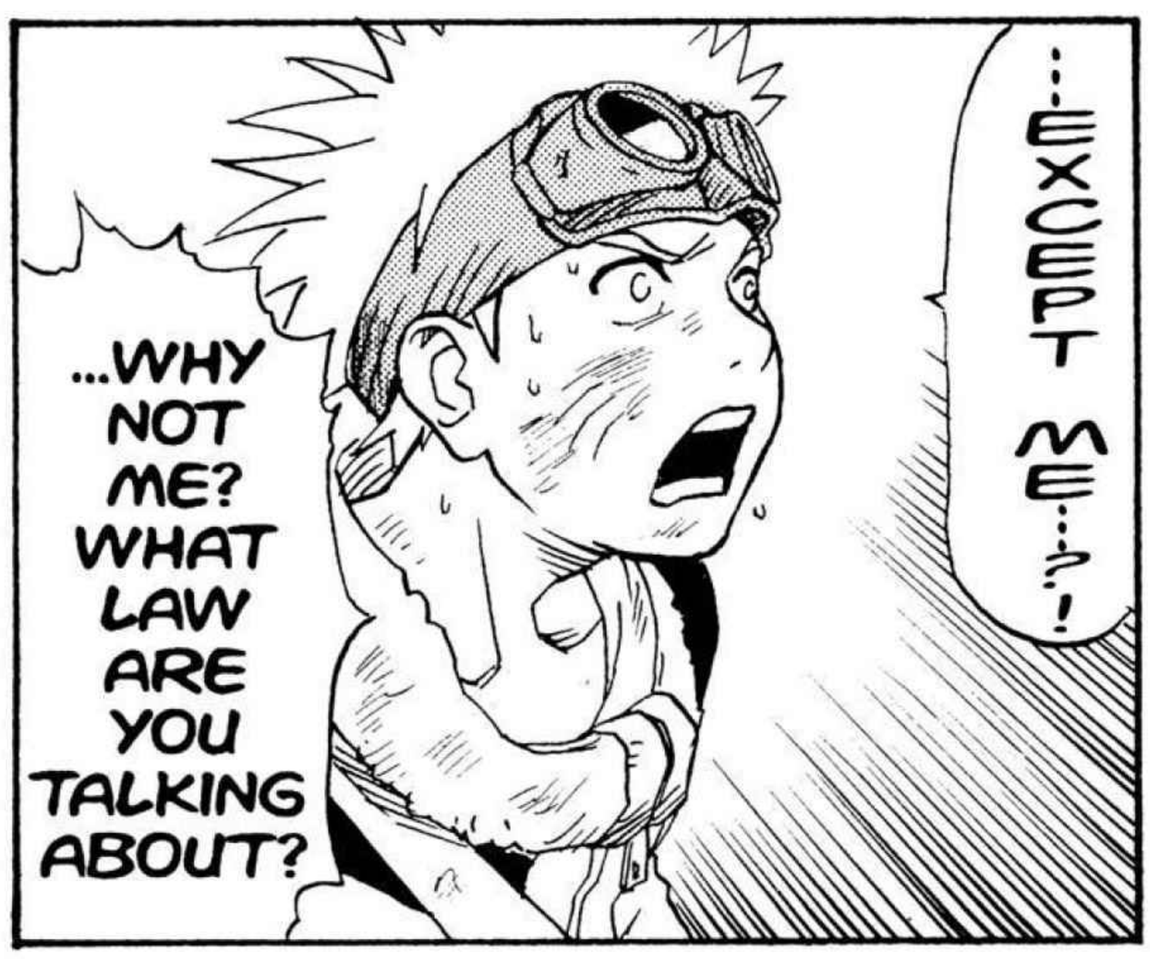
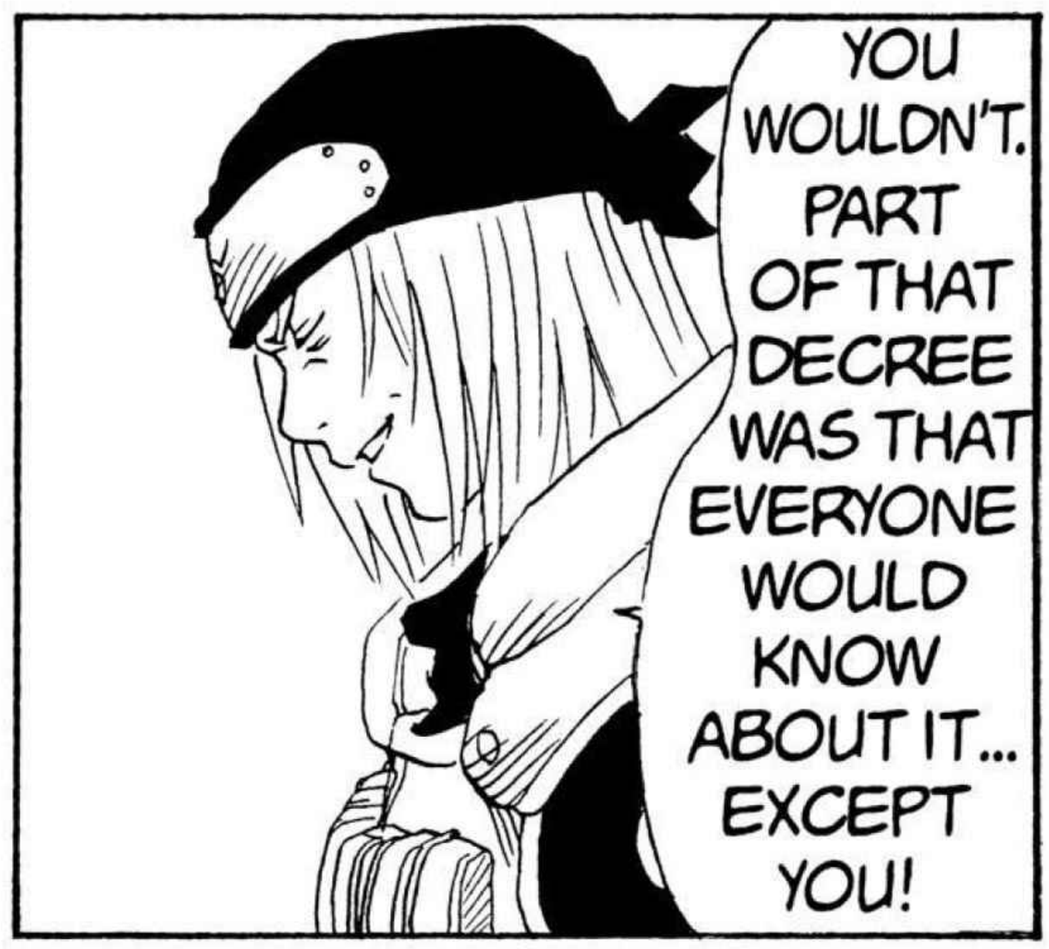
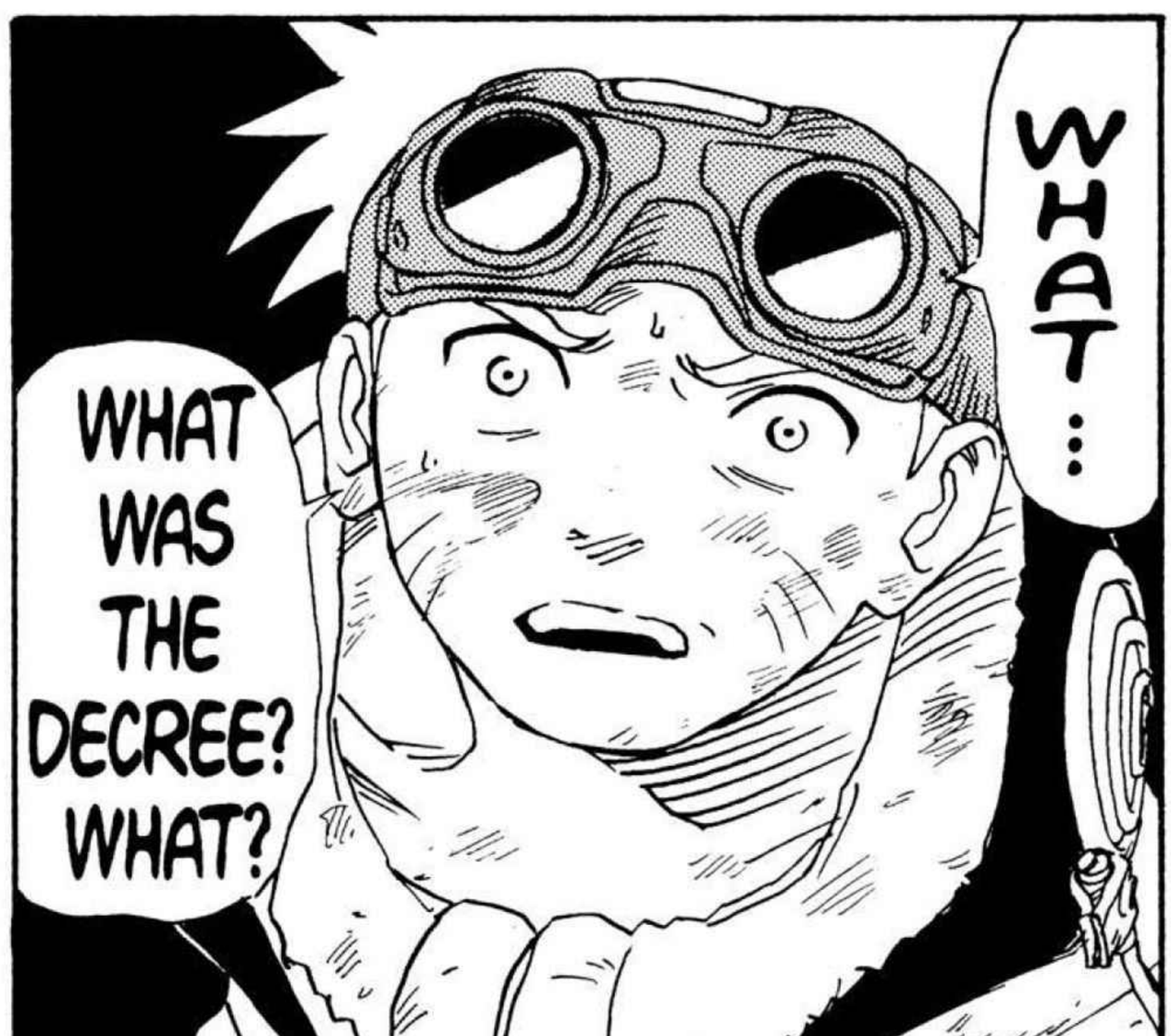

I DON'T REMEMBER ANY DECREE...


...EXCEPT ME...?!
...WHY NOT ME? WHAT LAW ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


YOU WOULDN'T. PART OF THAT DECREE WAS THAT EVERYONE WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT... EXCEPT YOU!


WHAT...
WHAT WAS THE DECREE? WHAT?

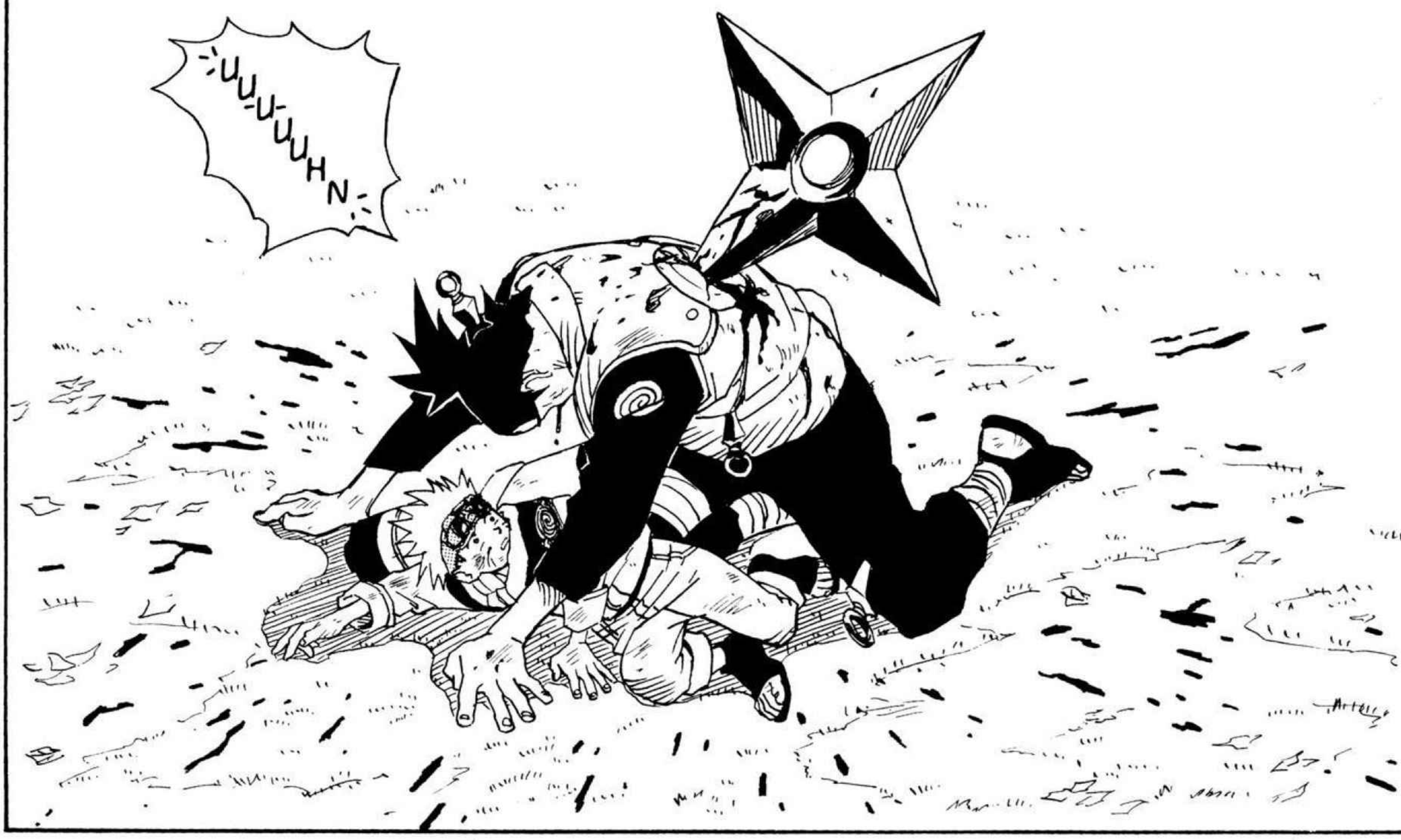
HA HA HA HA HA

THAT NO ONE MUST EVER TELL YOU... THAT WHAT YOU REALLY ARE... IS THE DEMON FOX!

WHAT?

READ THIS WAY
SINCE THEN, YOU'VE BEEN MADE A FOOL OF BY EVERYONE IN TOWN!
STOP IT!!
UNTIL, AT LAST, OUR BELOVED HERO, THE FOURTH LORD HOKAGE, TRAPPED AND BOUND YOU... IN THIS FORM.
FWP
FWP
FWP
IF HE WERE HONEST, EVEN NOBLE IRUKA WOULD ADMIT HE HATES YOU, TOO!!
DIDN'T YOU THINK IT WAS STRANGE? TO BE SO DESPISED, EVERYWHERE YOU WENT?
CRAP
CRAPDITY
CRAP
CRAP
CRAP
CRAP
CRAP
!!
NARUTO!

FFFFFFF
NO ONE WILL EVER ACCEPT YOU!
GASP!
YOU NEVER KNEW A PARENT'S LOVE...
SINCE THE DAY OF YOUR BIRTH YOU'VE BEEN SHUNNED BY OUR ENTIRE VILLAGE!
AND YOU DIDN'T CARE. YOU WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY CRITICISM, ANY CONDEMNATION, SO LONG AS IT MEANT THAT SOMEONE WAS PAYING ATTENTION TO YOU.
THE BEST YOU COULD EVER HOPE FOR WAS ATTENTION, NOT LOVE...
AND YOU COULD ONLY GET THAT BY DOING THINGS THAT WOULD GET YOU INTO TROUBLE!
IT WAS A BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE, NARUTO... BUT IT WAS ALL A SHAM, TO HIDE YOUR LONELINESS... AND PAIN!
NYAH NYAH, MASTER IRUKA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT SCROLL THAT YOU'VE STOLEN... IT WAS THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR BONDAGE!!

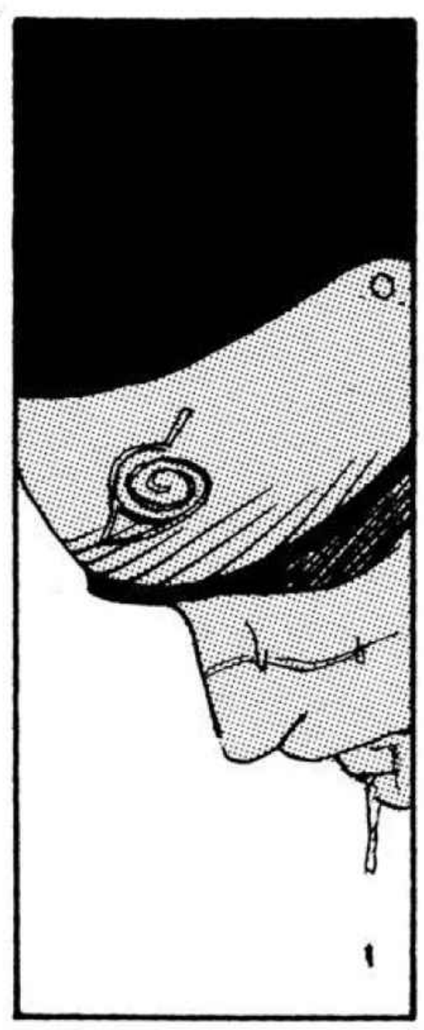

UUUUUUHN

!

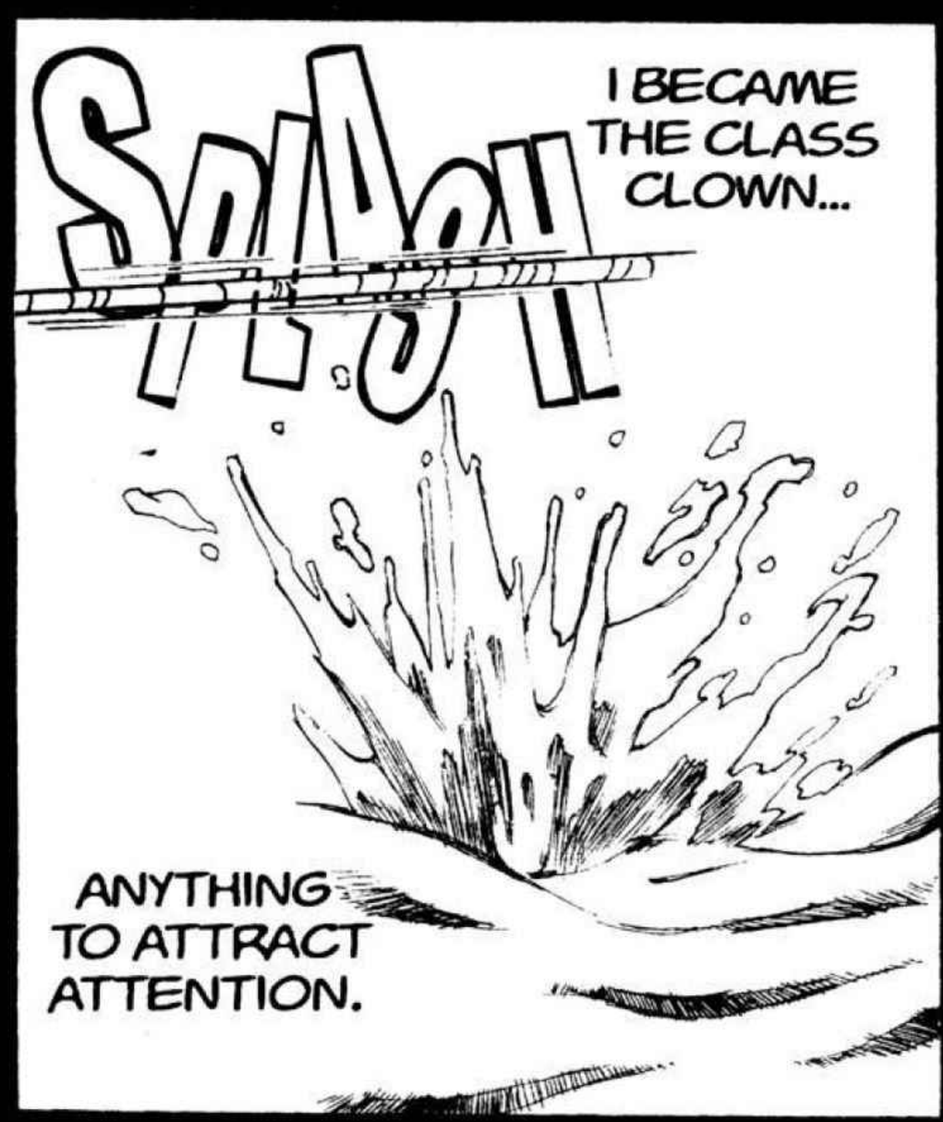
PLIT
PLIT

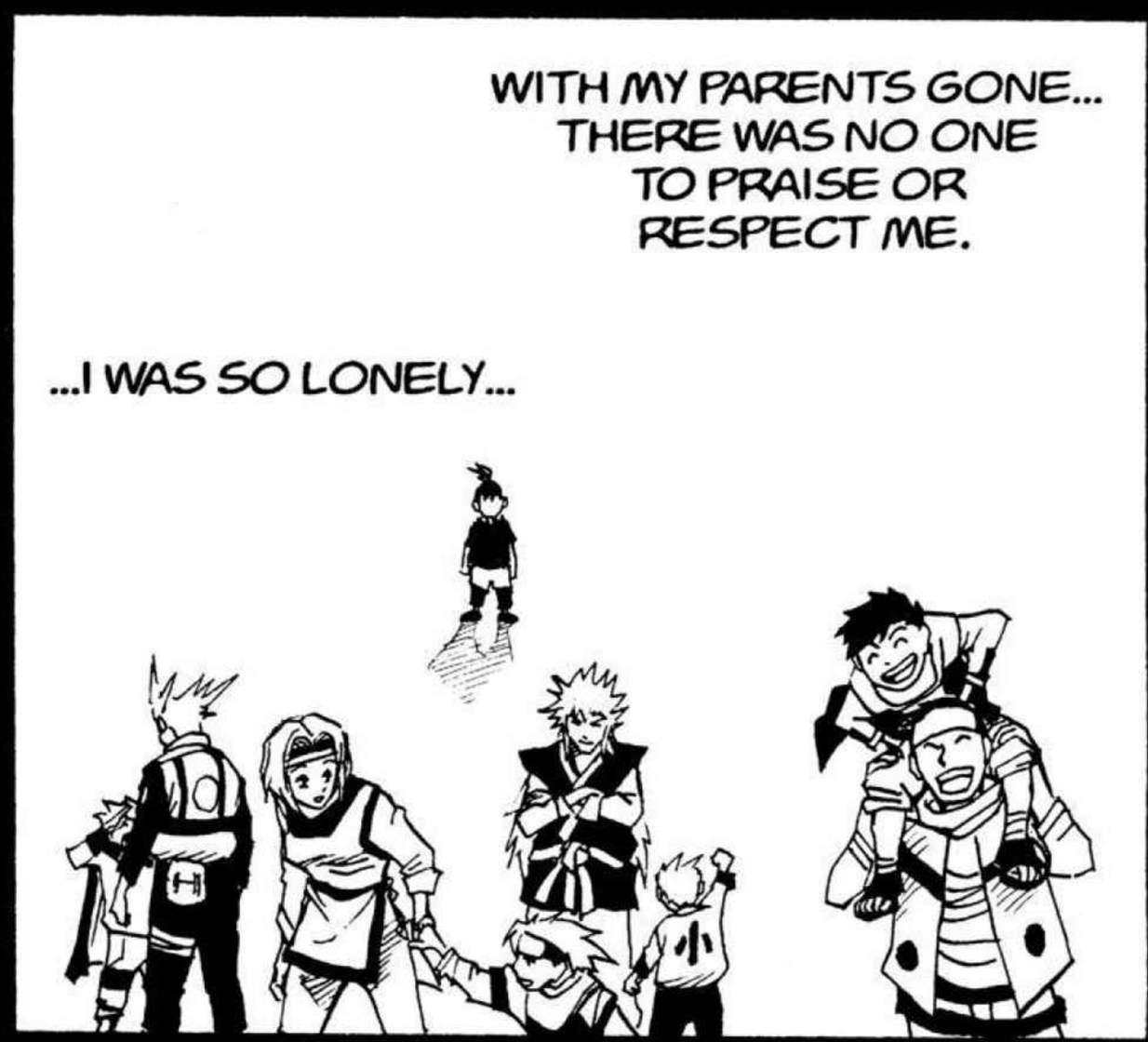
PLIT

...!...



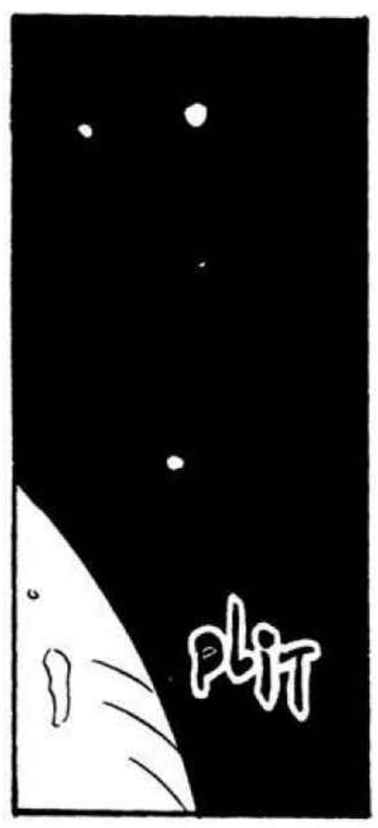
...
WHY
...?


SPLASH
I BECAME THE CLASS CLOWN...
ANYTHING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.


WITH MY PARENTS GONE... THERE WAS NO ONE TO PRAISE OR RESPECT ME.
...I WAS SO LONELY...

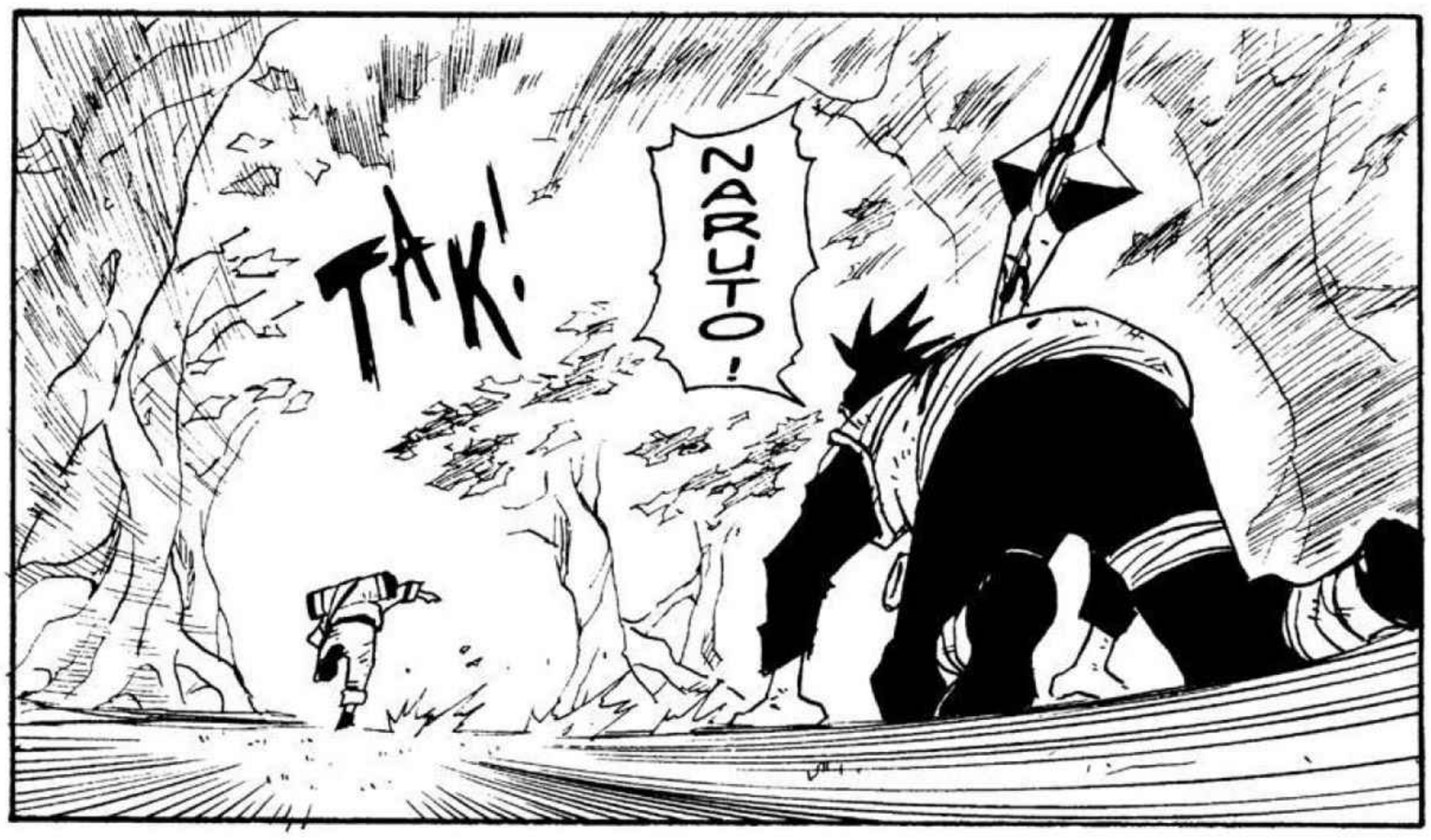
...WAS STILL BETTER THAN BEING A NOBODY.
BEING THE CLASS CLOWN ...
LUB-DUB
HA HA HA

I JUST WANTED SOMEONE TO NOTICE HOW GOOD I WAS...
TO BE PROUD OF ME.

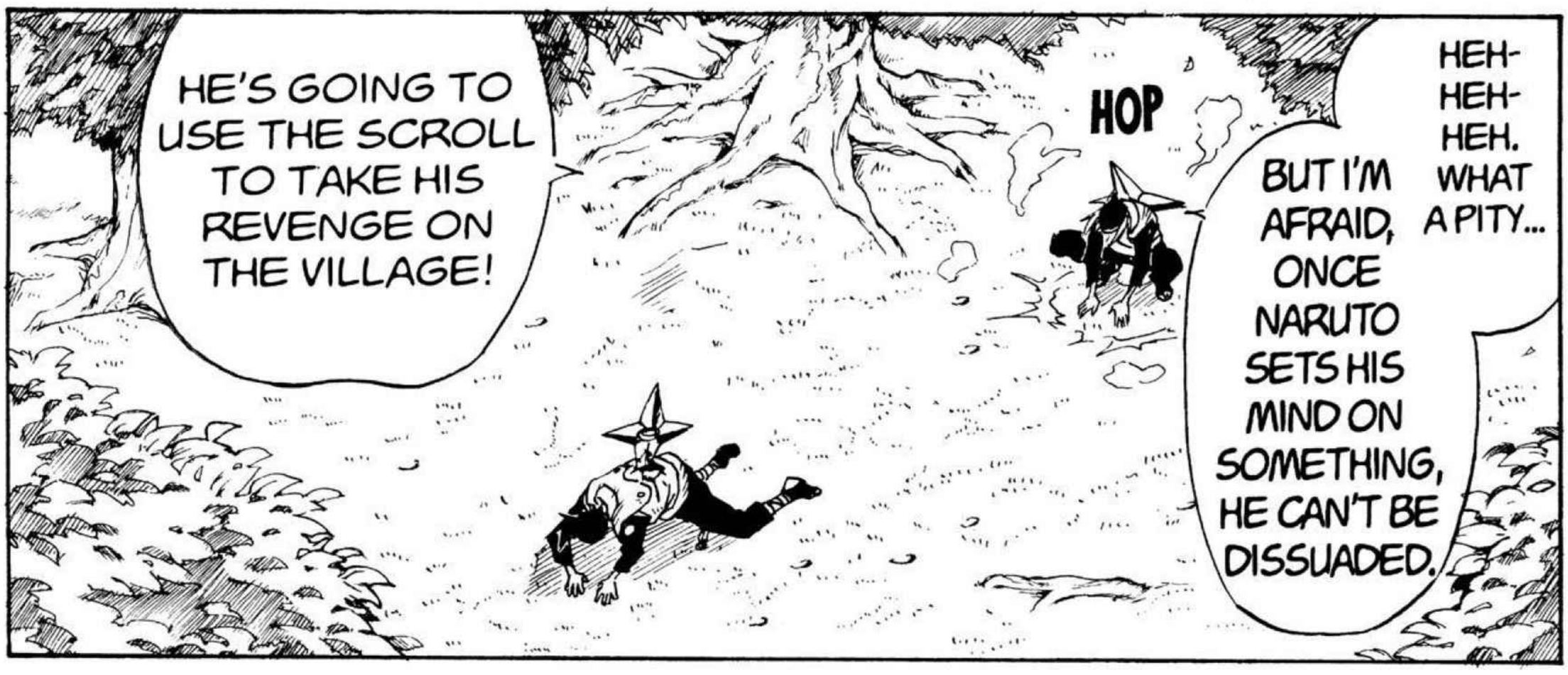

PLIT

IT... HURT SO MUCH.

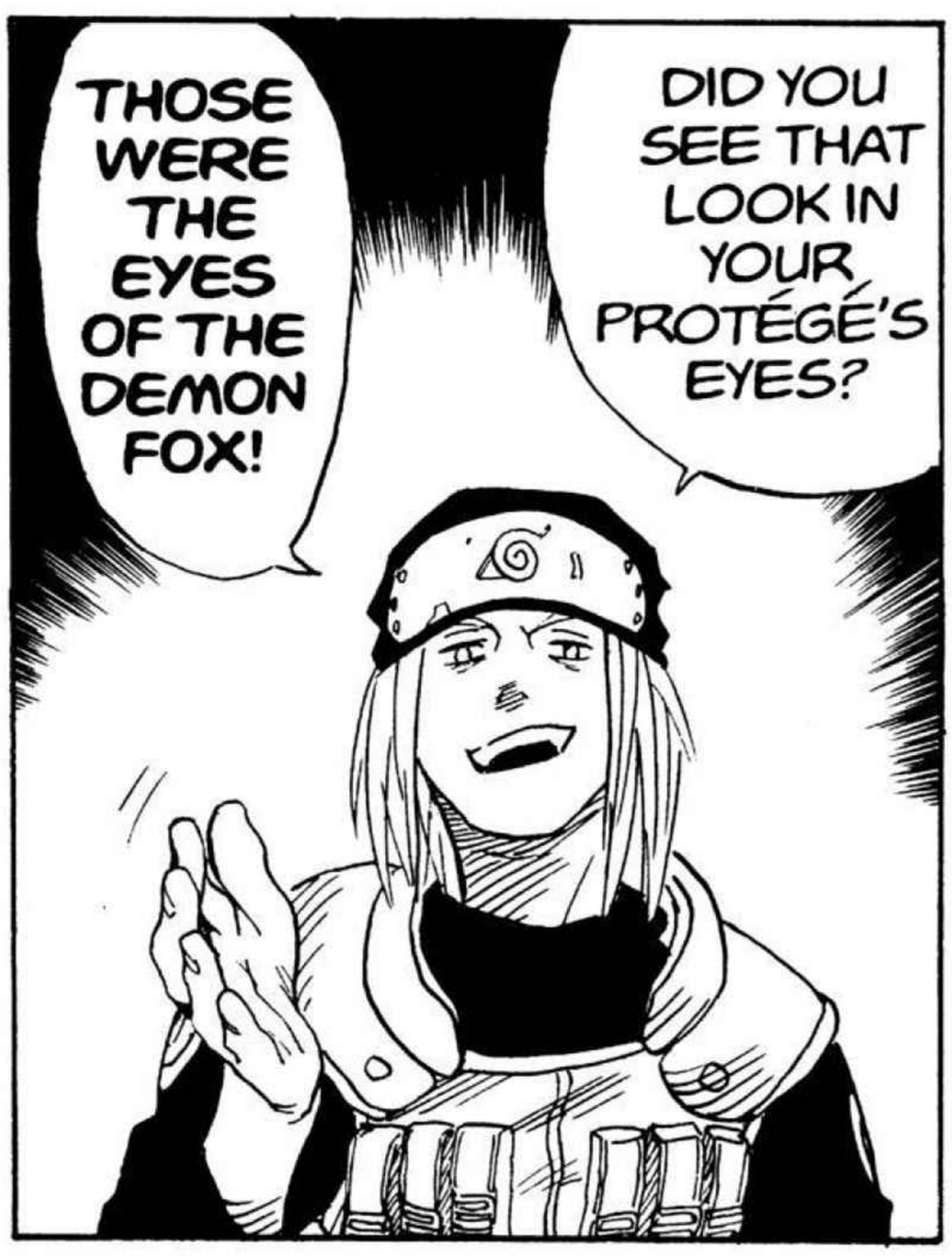
I KNOW THAT, NARUTO. I WAS SO HARD ON YOU, YELLING, SCOLDING... IT MUST HAVE HURT...


TAK!
NARUTO!

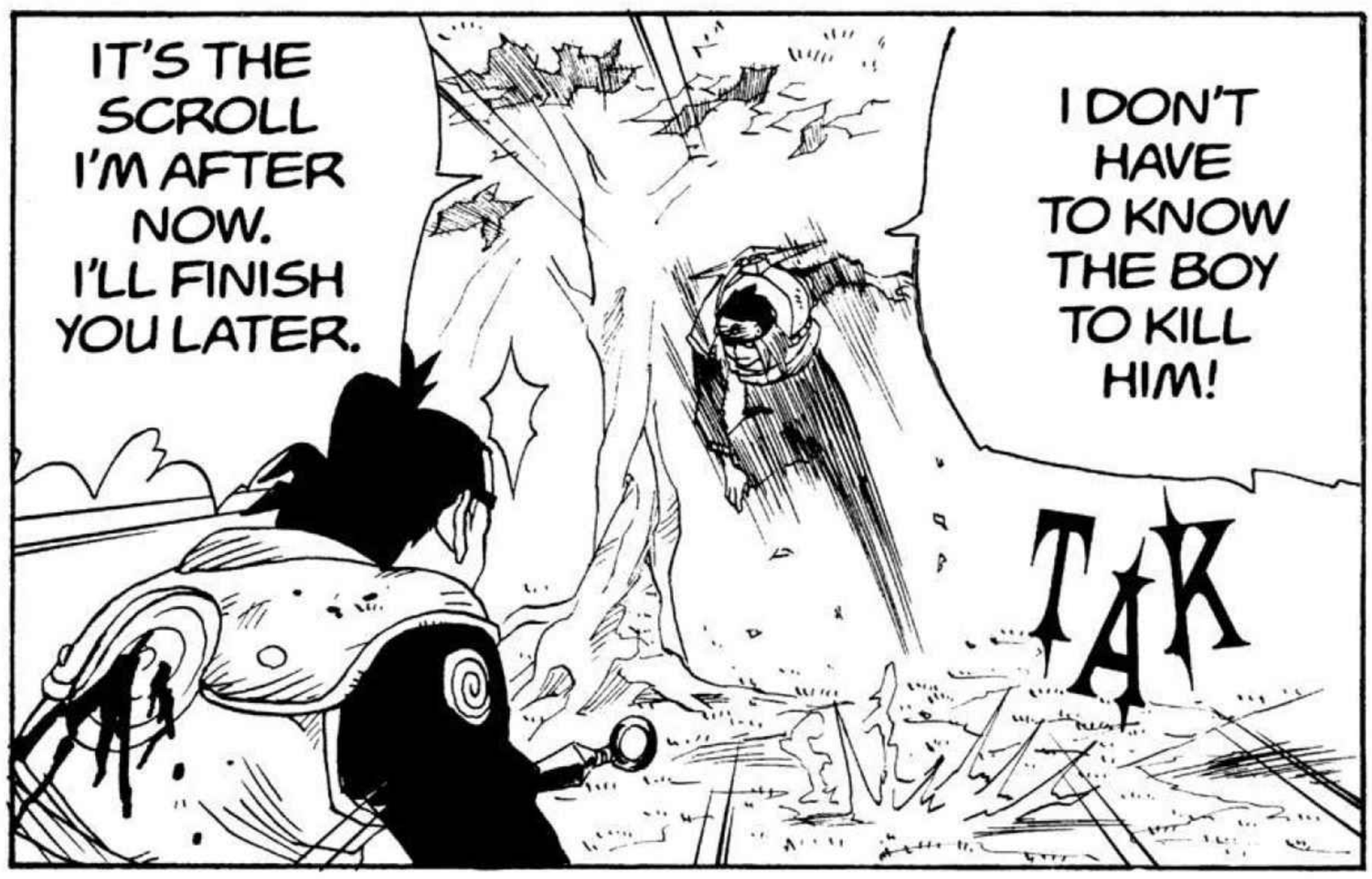
SHIFT

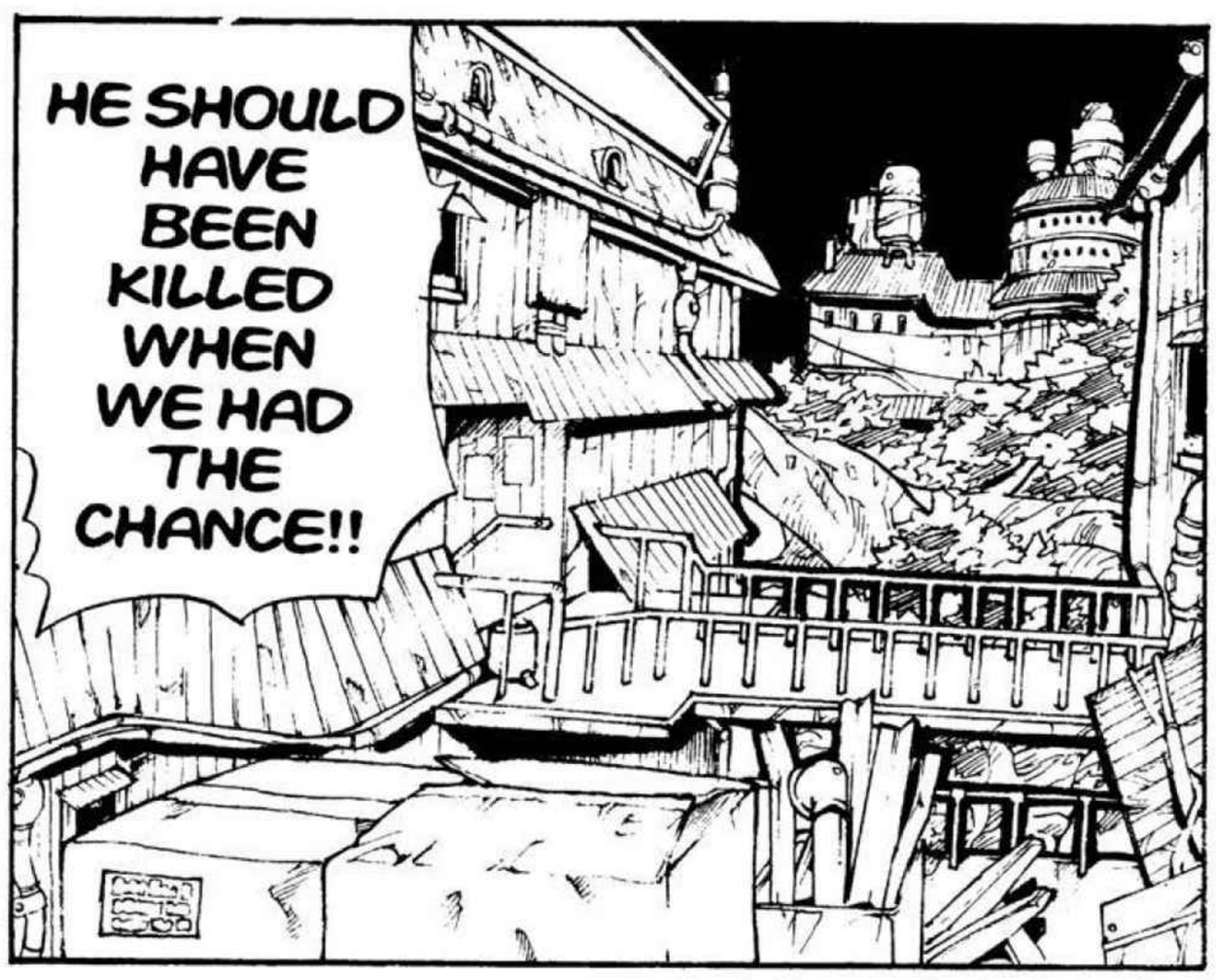

HE'S GOING TO USE THE SCROLL TO TAKE HIS REVENGE ON THE VILLAGE!
HOP
BUT I'M AFRAID, ONCE NARUTO SETS HIS MIND ON SOMETHING, HE CAN'T BE DISSUADED.
HEH-HEH-HEH. WHAT A PITY...

CCHHKH
-AAUUUH-


THOSE WERE THE EYES OF THE DEMON FOX!
DID YOU SEE THAT LOOK IN YOUR PROTÉGÉ'S EYES?

YOU... DON'T KNOW... NARUTO... AT ALL...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SPLIP

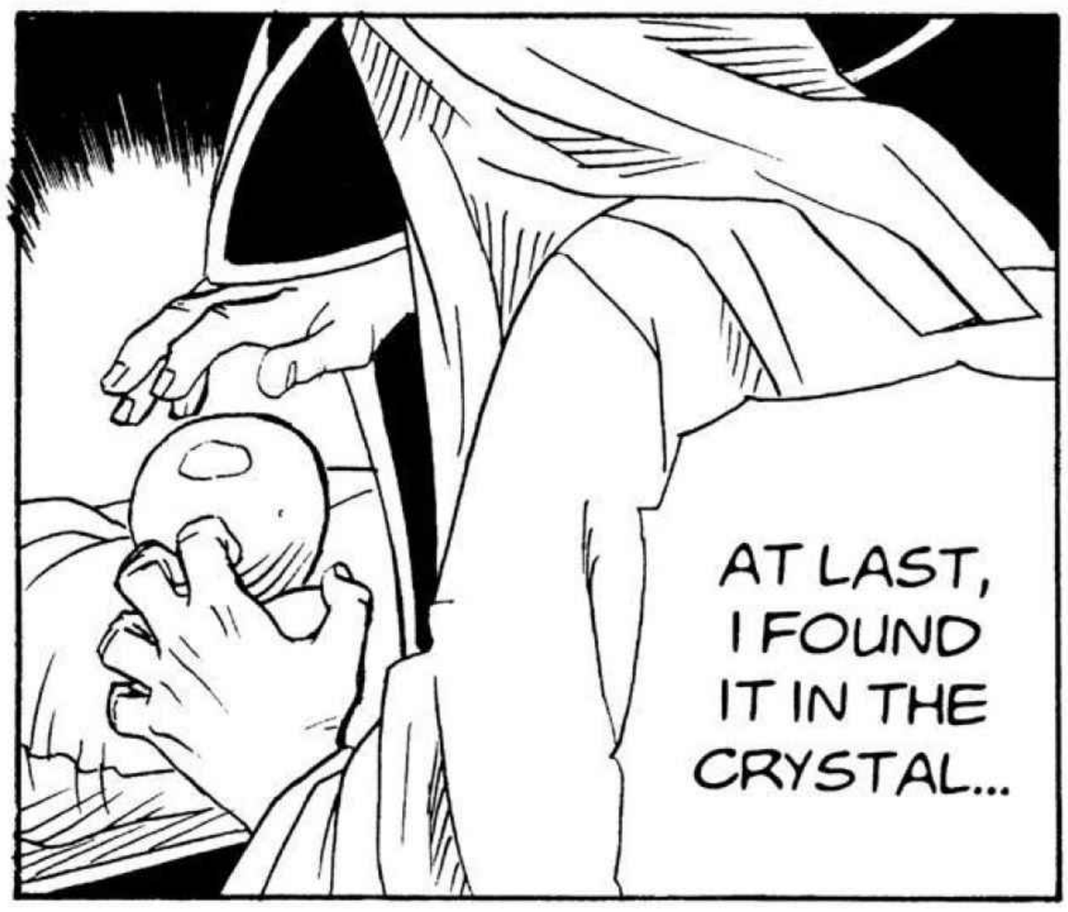

IT'S THE SCROLL I'M AFTER NOW. I'LL FINISH YOU LATER.
I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THE BOY TO KILL HIM!
TAK

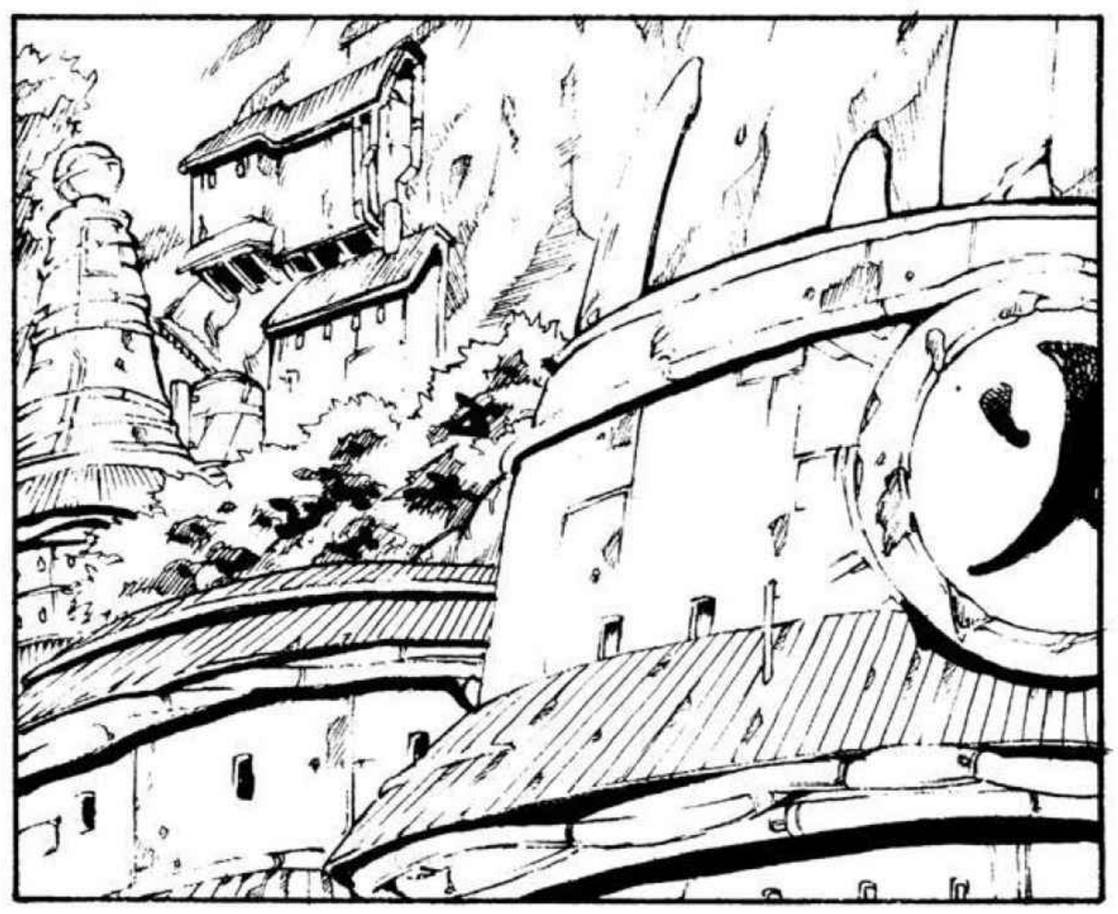

HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE!!

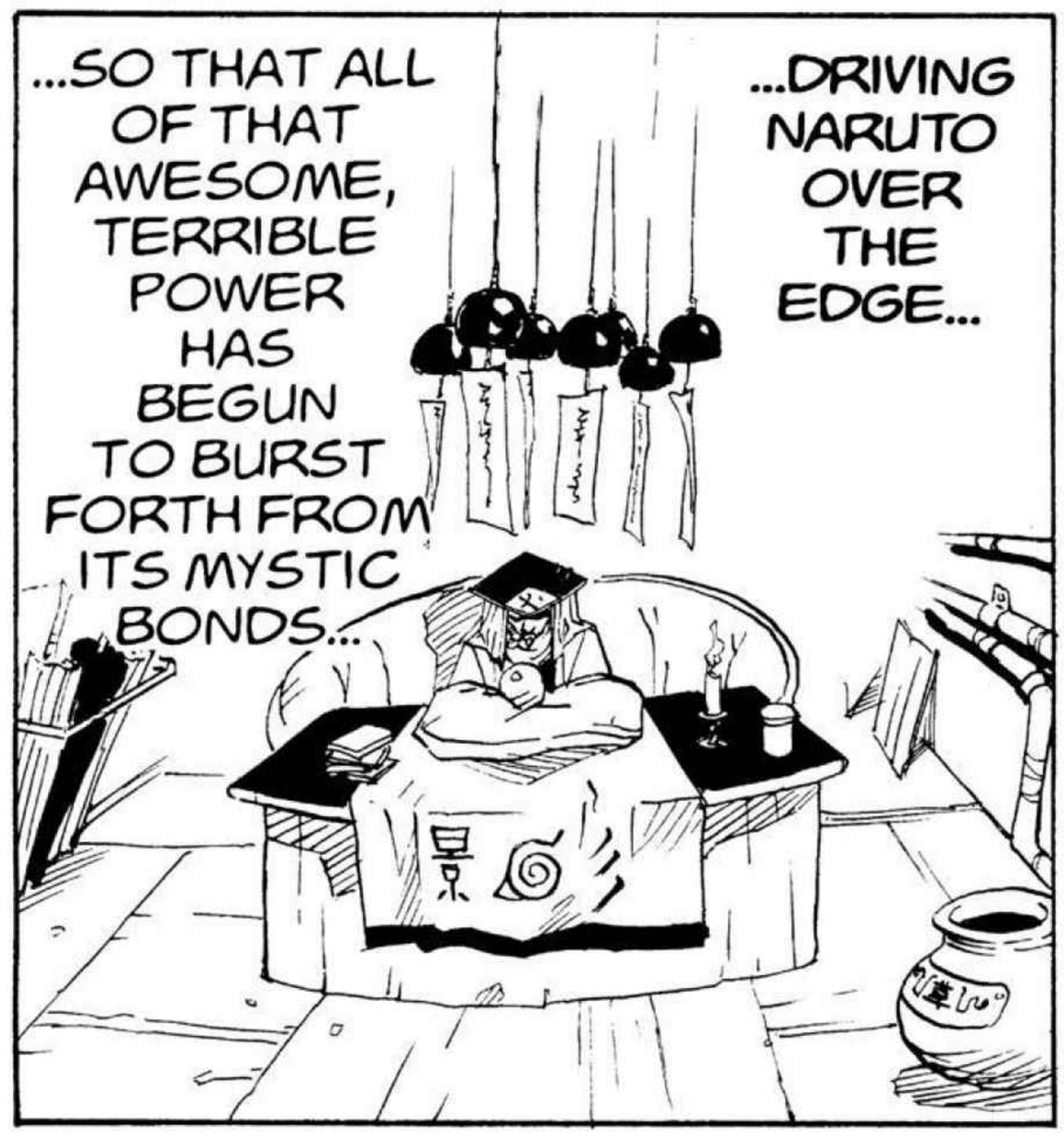
YOU CAN TRY.
UHNNG
TAK

YEAH!
DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING OF HIM AS ONE OF US. WHEN WE FIND HIM, HE HAS TO DIE!!

BUT WE CAN STILL SET THAT RIGHT IF WE ACT NOW, WHILE HE'S STILL A BOY... BEFORE THE DEMON SPIRIT BREAKS FREE!!

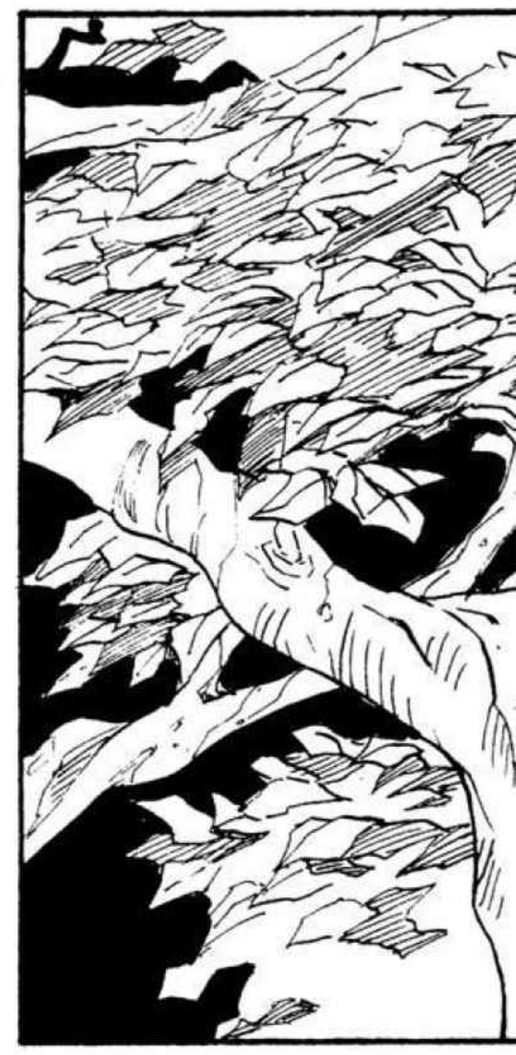

AT LAST, I FOUND IT IN THE CRYSTAL...



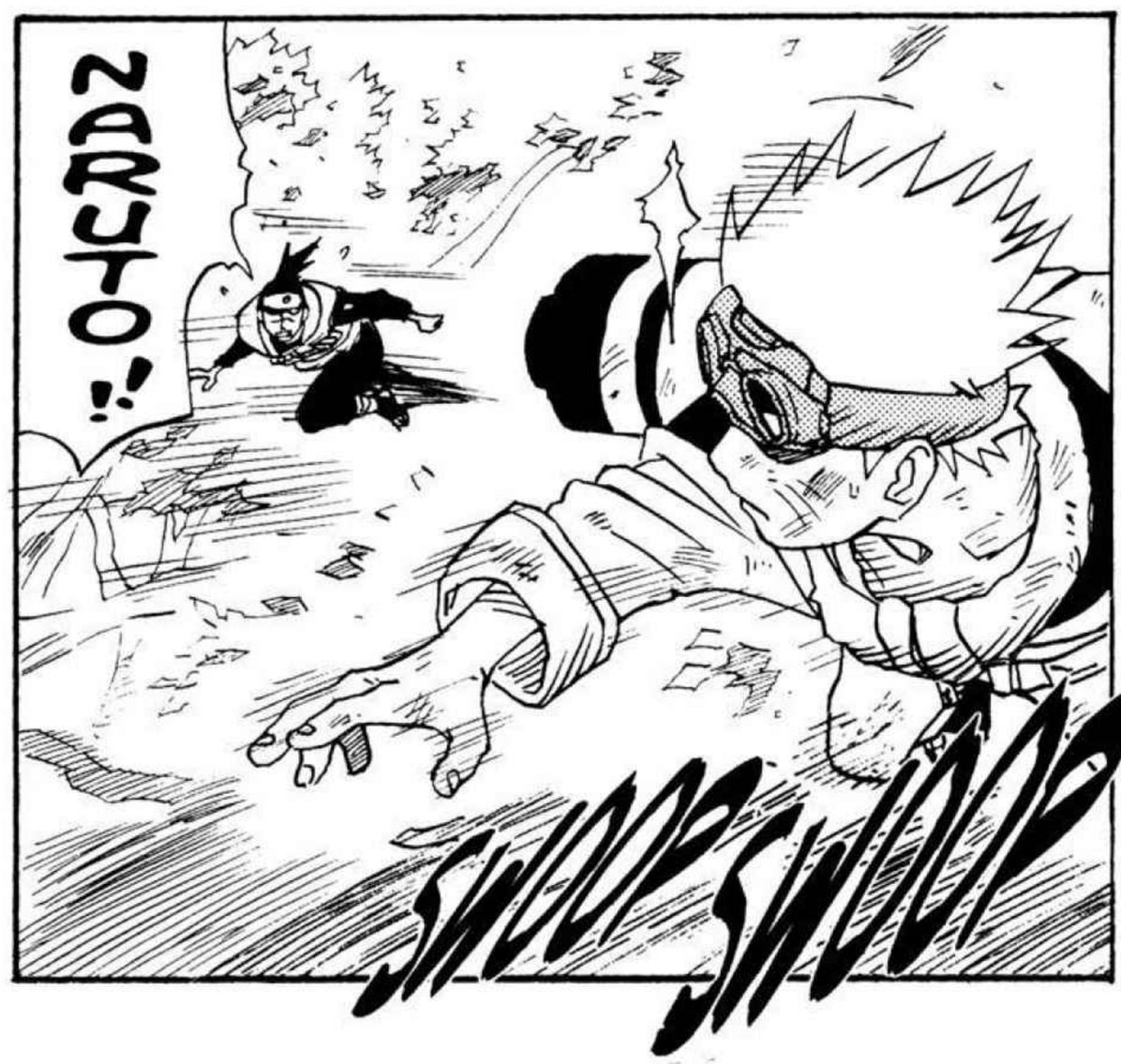

...SO THAT ALL OF THAT AWESOME, TERRIBLE POWER HAS BEGUN TO BURST FORTH FROM ITS MYSTIC BONDS...
...DRIVING NARUTO OVER THE EDGE...

SO, AT THE VERY MOMENT MY TEACHERS FOUND HIM...
MIZUKI SPOKE, REVEALING ALL...

AND TO TOP THAT, IF THE SECRET SCROLL IS IN HIS HANDS...
THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SPIRIT MIGHT ESCAPE...

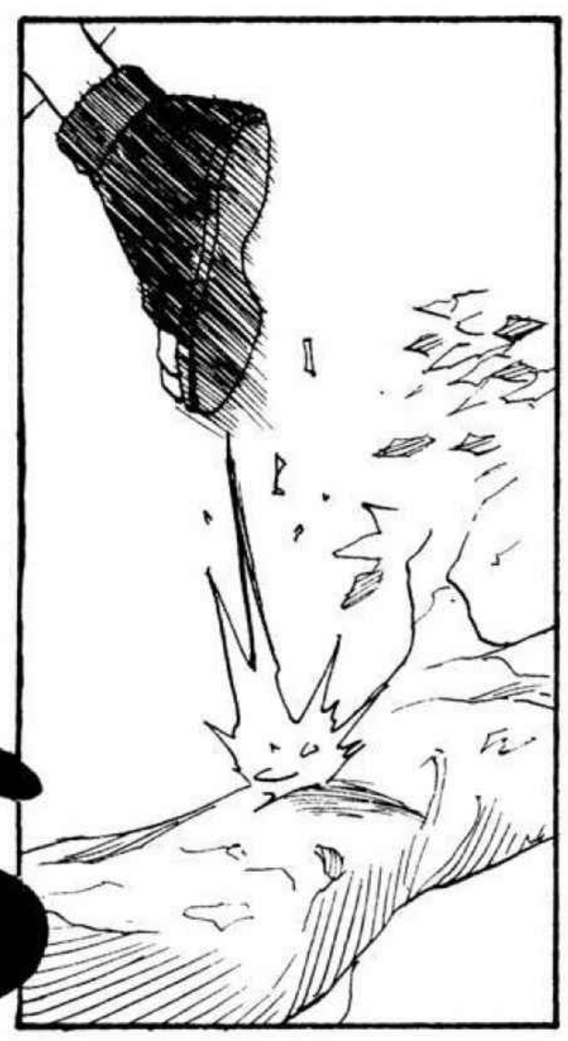


...
IT'S HIM !!


NARUTO!!
SWOOP SWOOP

IT'S WHAT MIZUKI'S AFTER!!
QUICKLY!! GIVE ME THE SCROLL!!
HOP
TAK

SUSSH



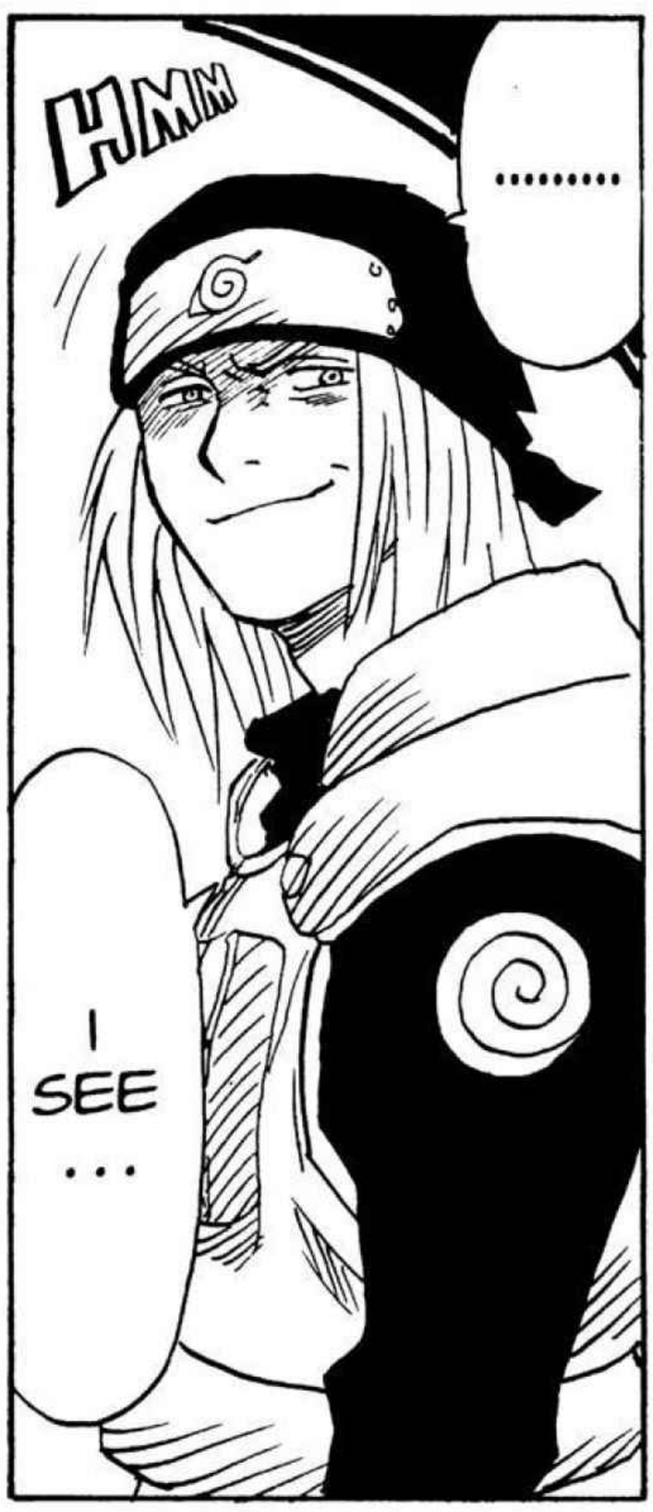
HUNH?

KRAAAK
CHAAAK
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S WRONG, NARUTO?
.....
...Y-YOU...
ZZZP
SKFF

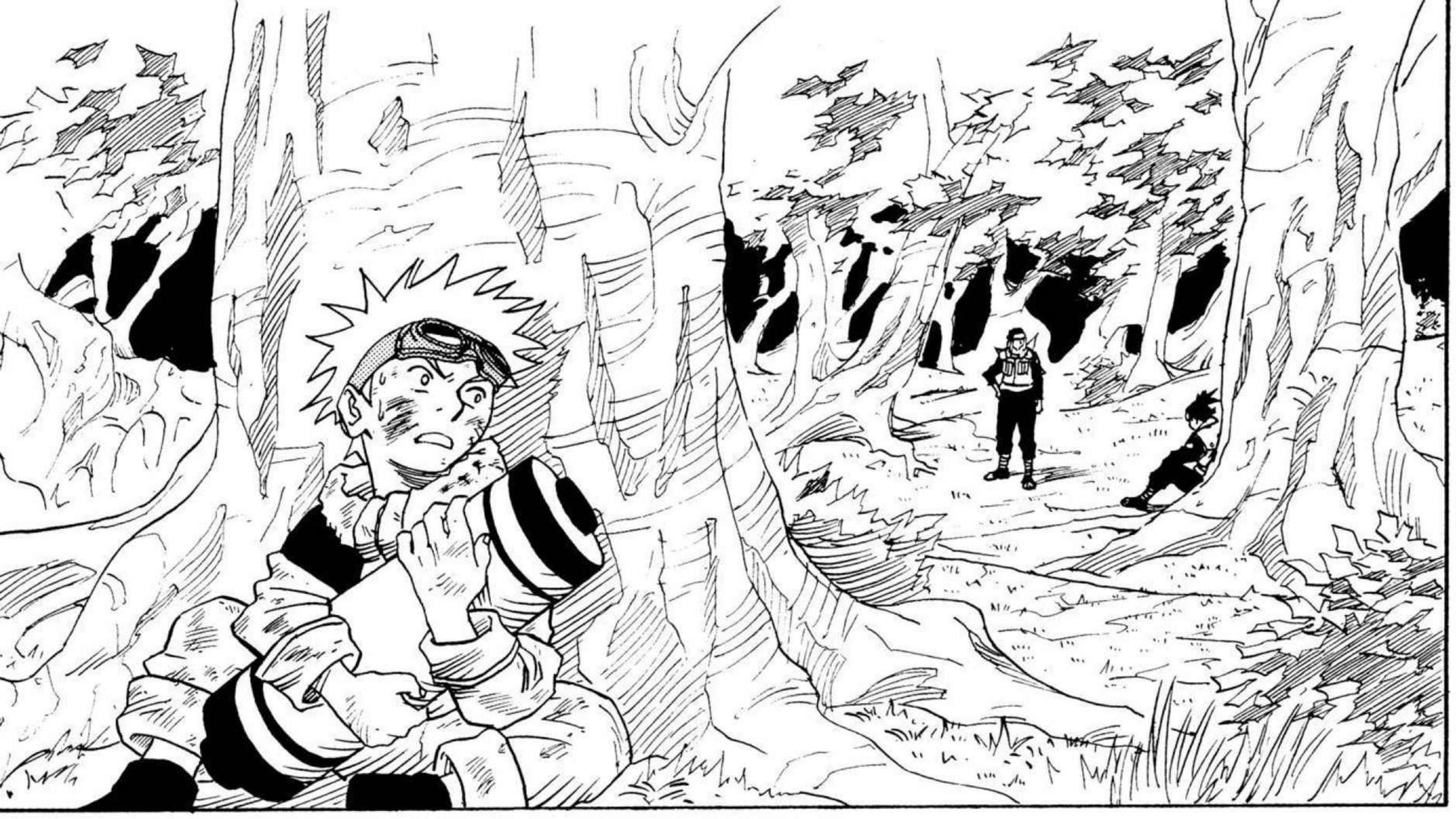
HEH HEH HEH HEH

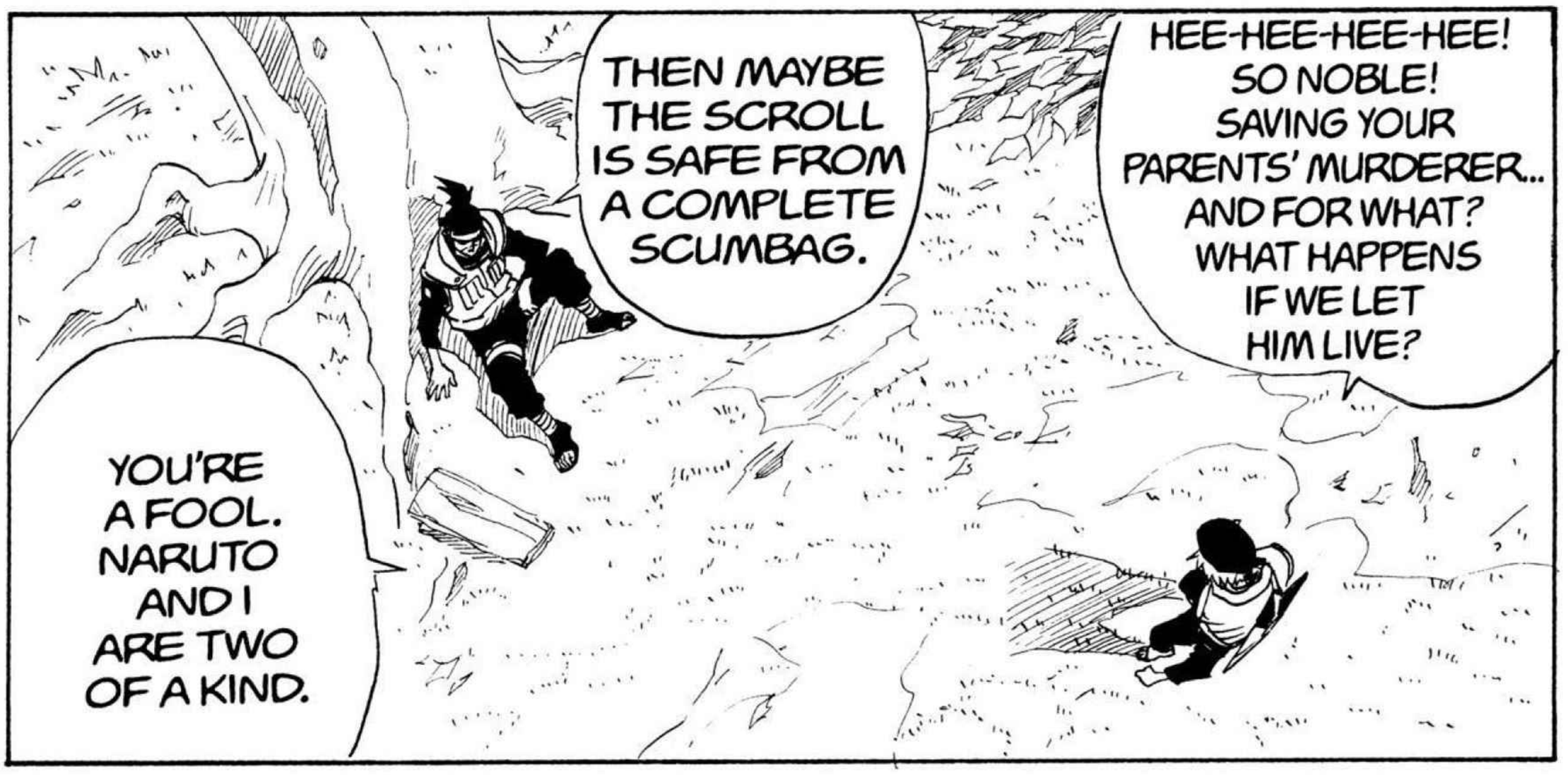
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WASN'T IRUKA?!

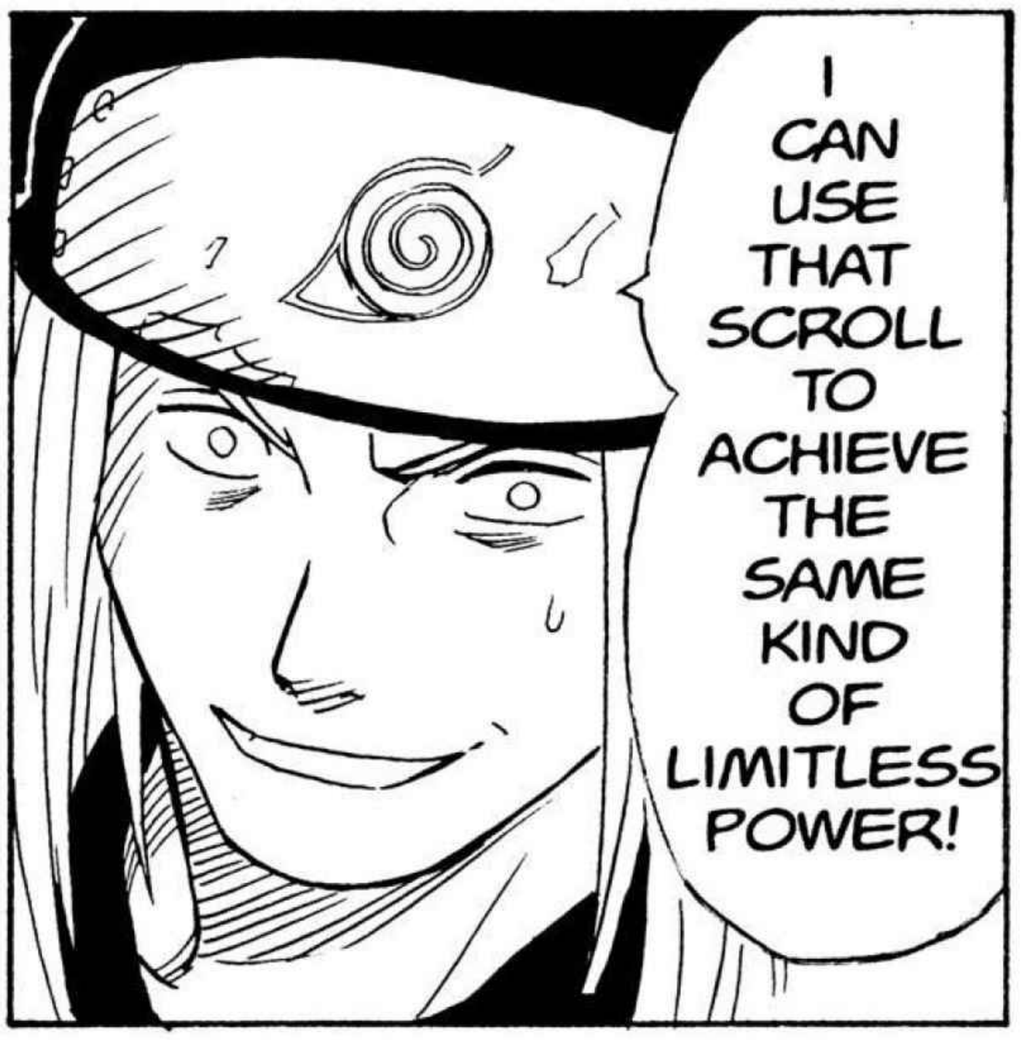
GNNNNG


HMM
.....
I SEE ...

BECAUSE I AM!

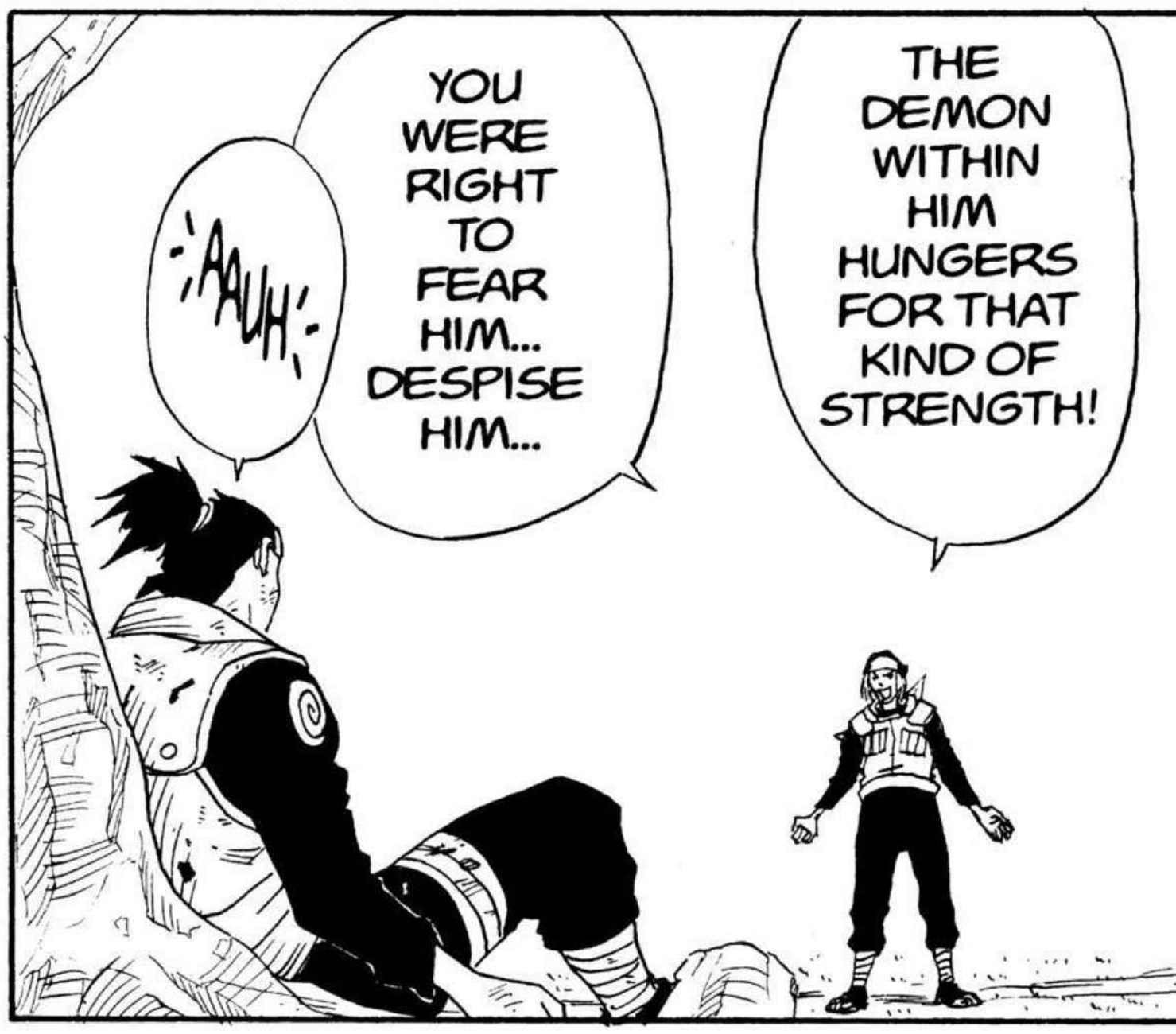


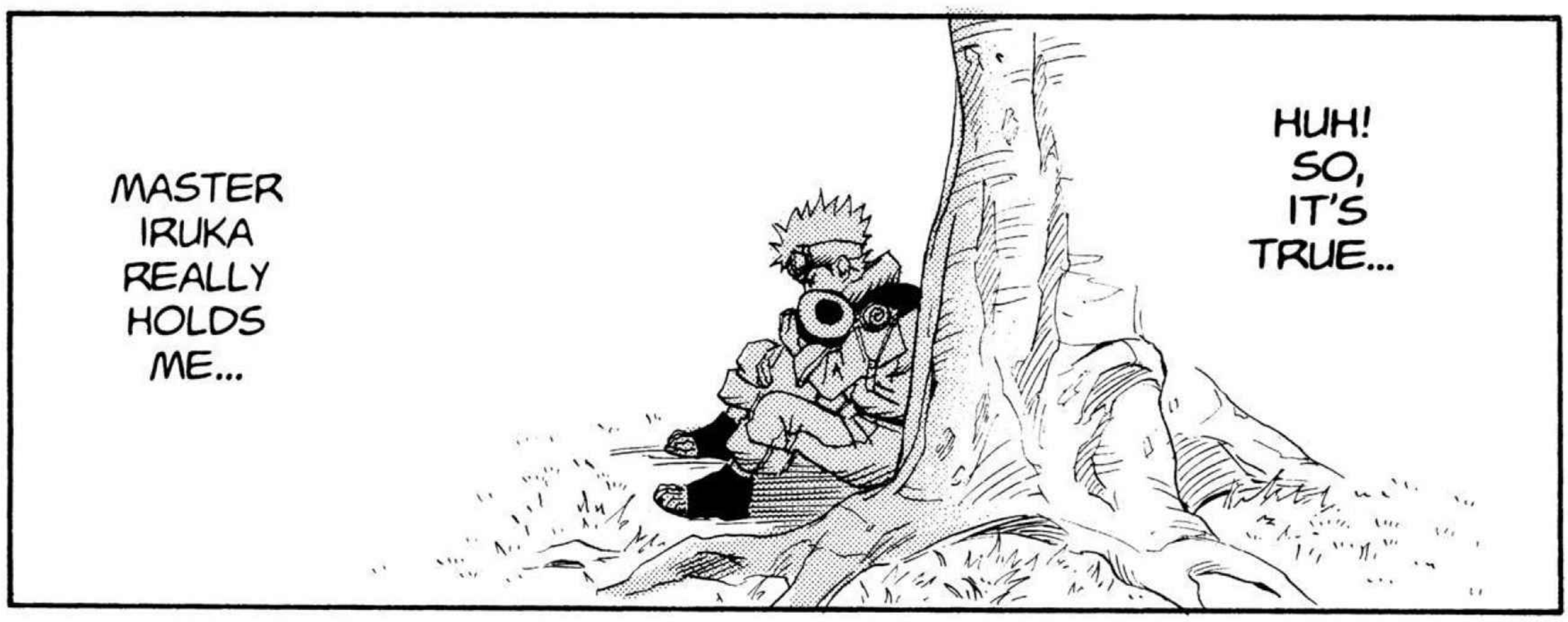

THEN MAYBE THE SCROLL IS SAFE FROM A COMPLETE SCUMBAG.
HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE! SO NOBLE! SAVING YOUR PARENTS' MURDERER... AND FOR WHAT? WHAT HAPPENS IF WE LET HIM LIVE?
YOU'RE A FOOL. NARUTO AND I ARE TWO OF A KIND.

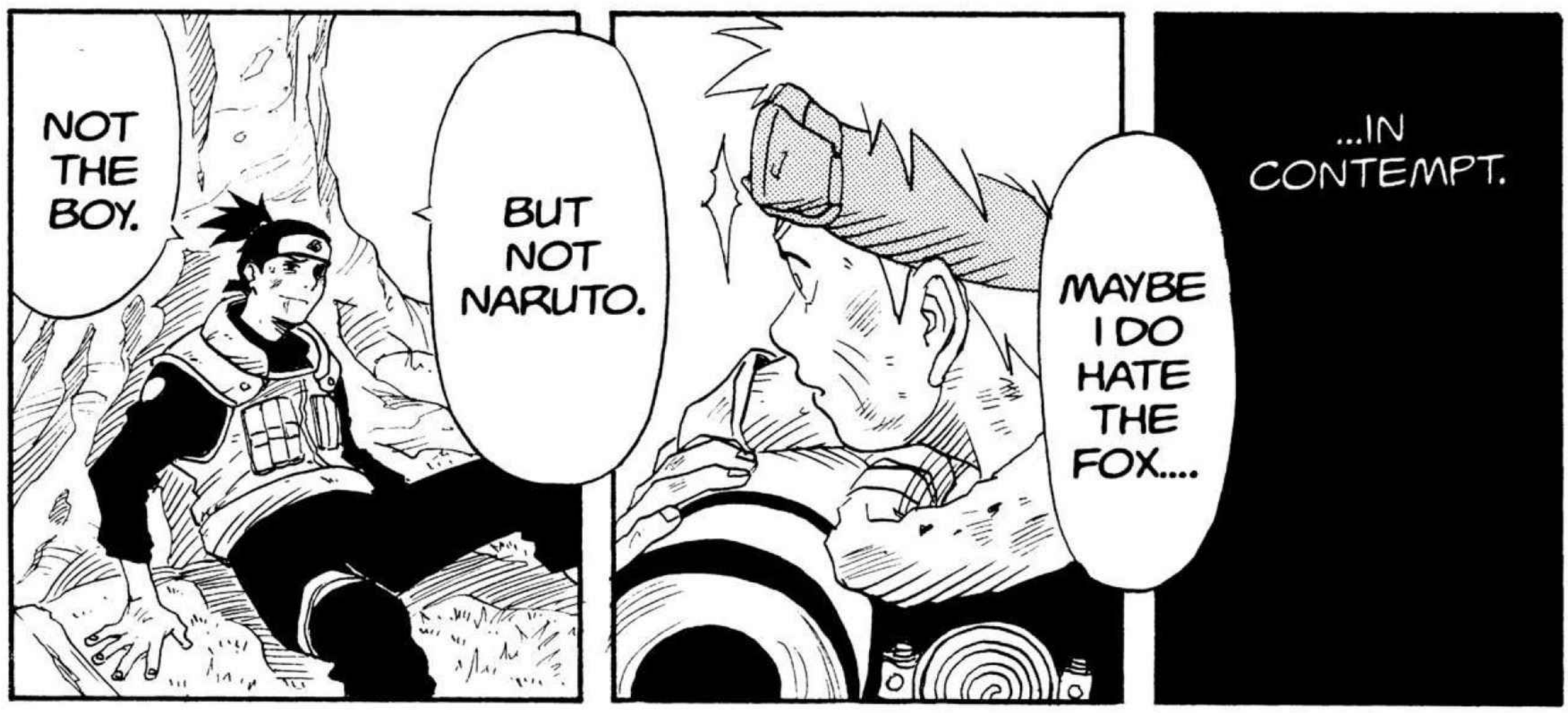

I CAN USE THAT SCROLL TO ACHIEVE THE SAME KIND OF LIMITLESS POWER!

!
TWO OF A KIND?

GRRR

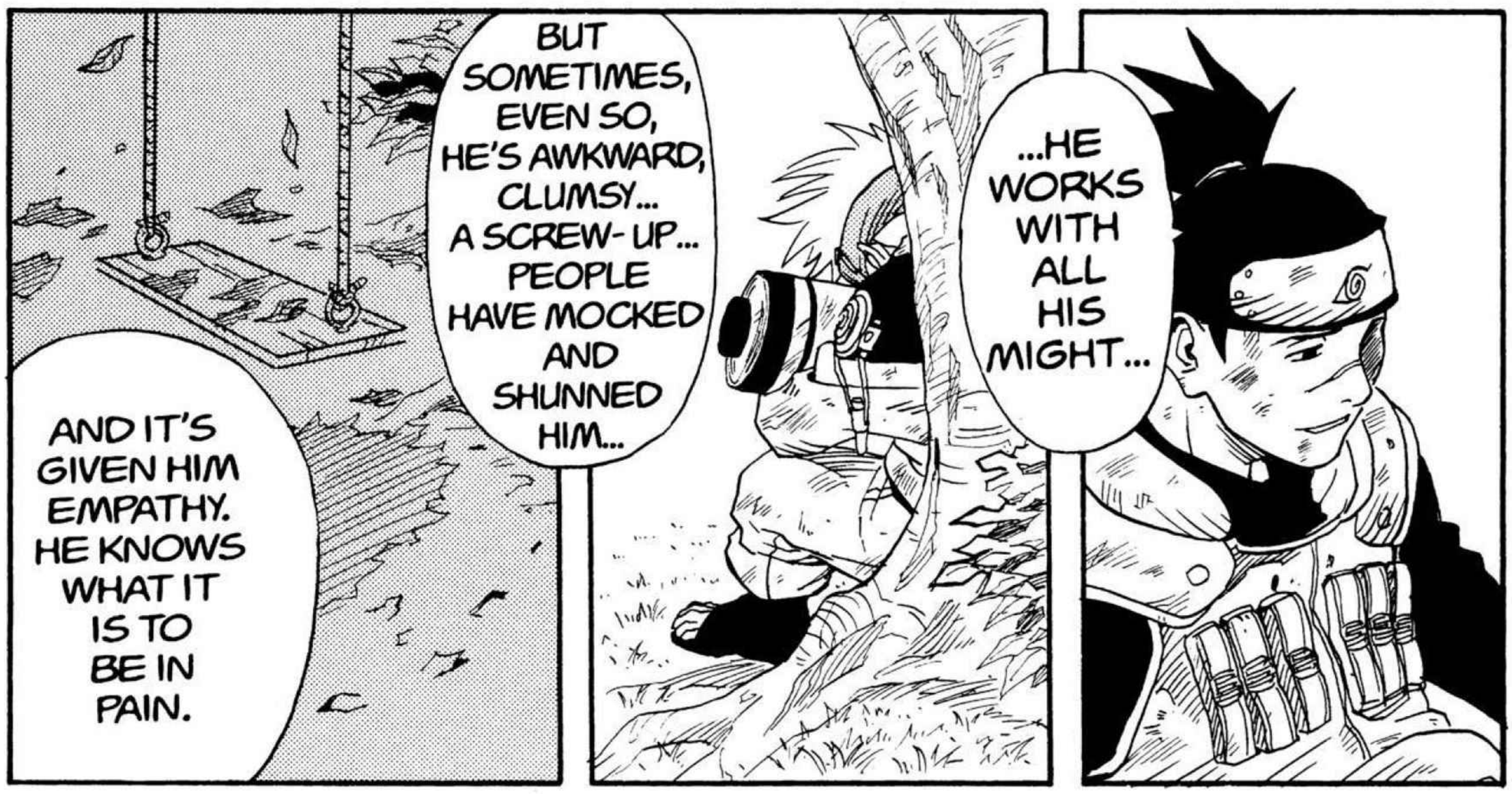

READ THIS WAY
AAUH
YOU WERE RIGHT TO FEAR HIM... DESPISE HIM...
THE DEMON WITHIN HIM HUNGERS FOR THAT KIND OF STRENGTH!

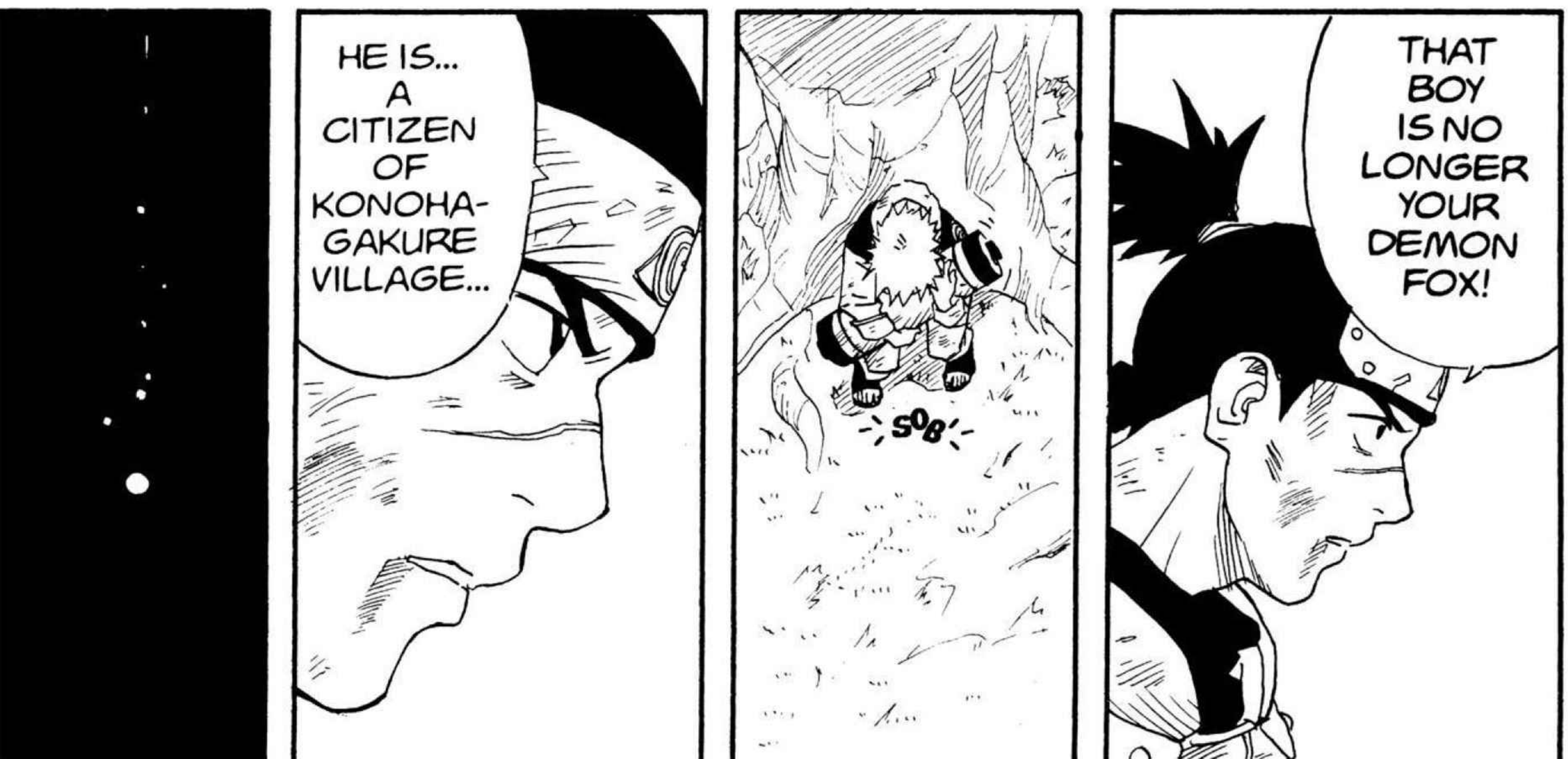

MASTER IRUKA REALLY HOLDS ME...
HUH! SO, IT'S TRUE...


NOT THE BOY.
BUT NOT NARUTO.
MAYBE I DO HATE THE FOX....
...IN CONTEMPT.

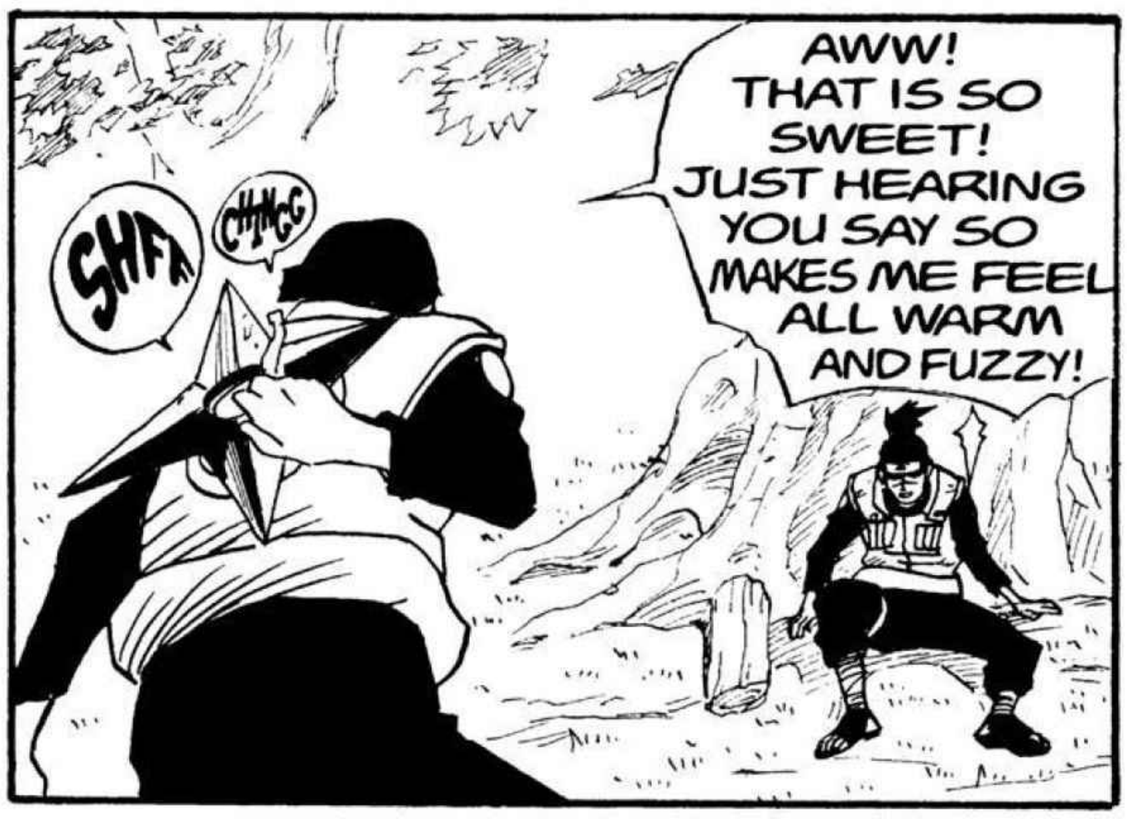
HE'S AN EXCELLENT STUDENT.

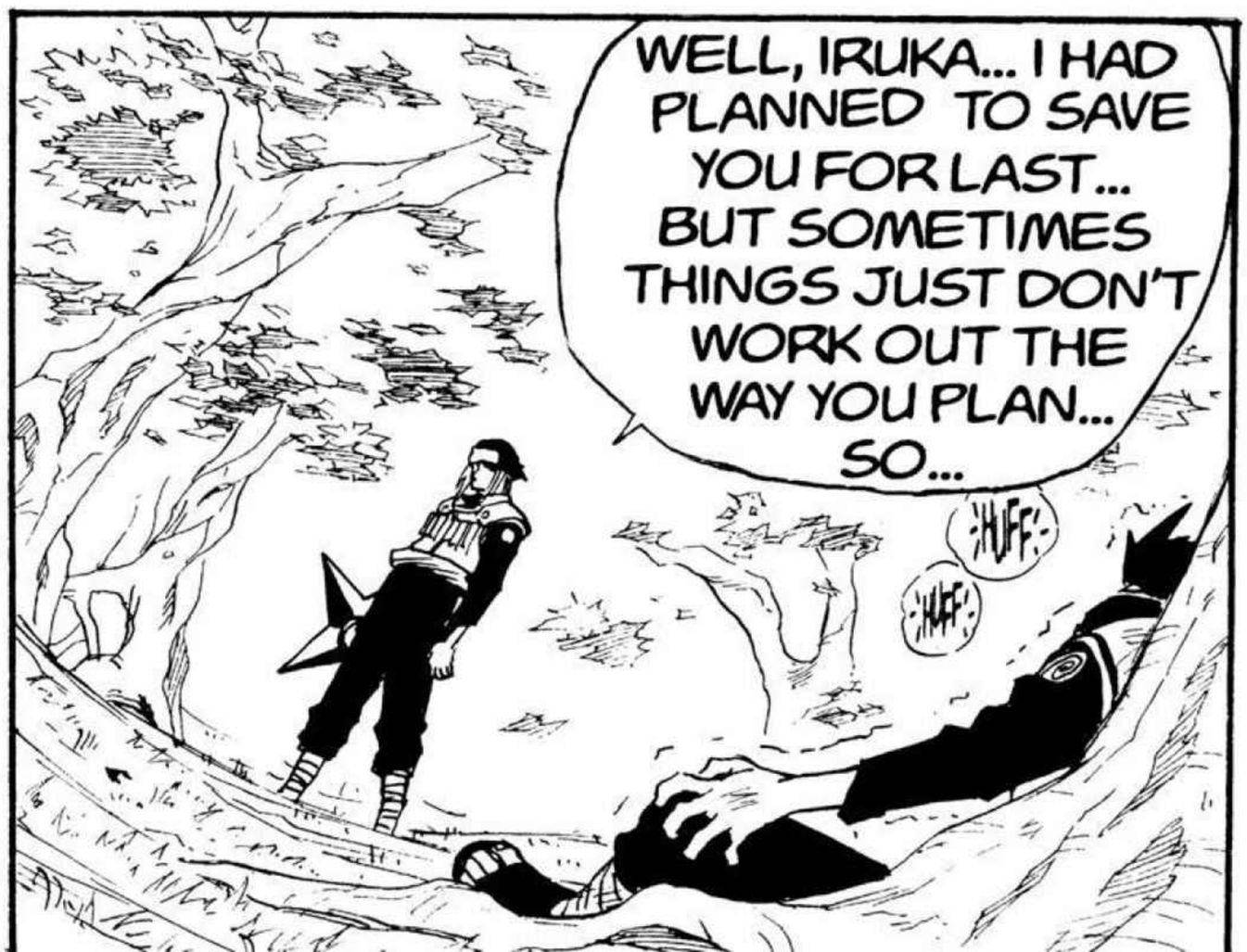
FOR HIM, I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT.



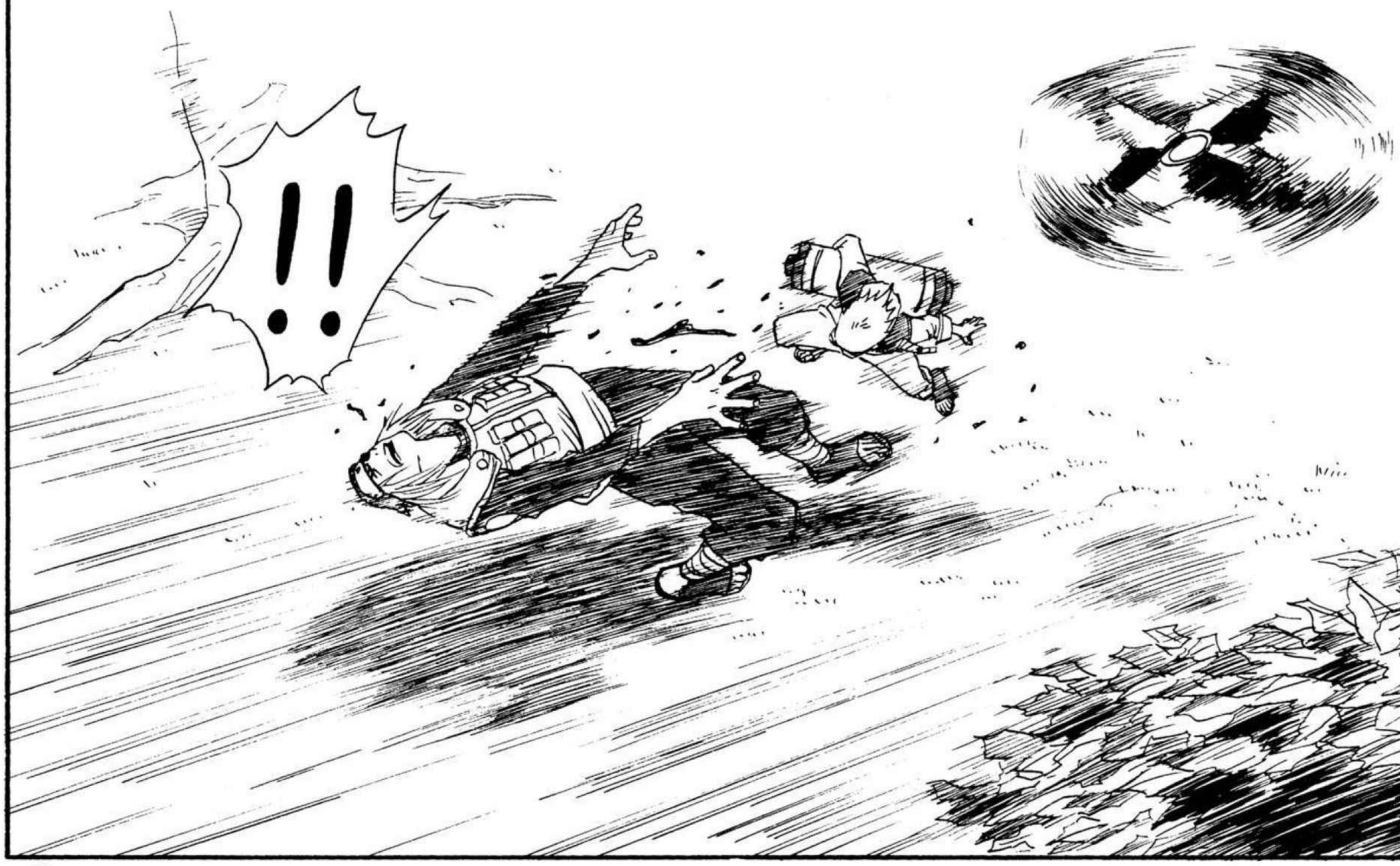


...UZUMAKI NARUTO!





CHING
SAY GOODBYE!
WHOOSH
UURRRR
SO, THIS IS IT...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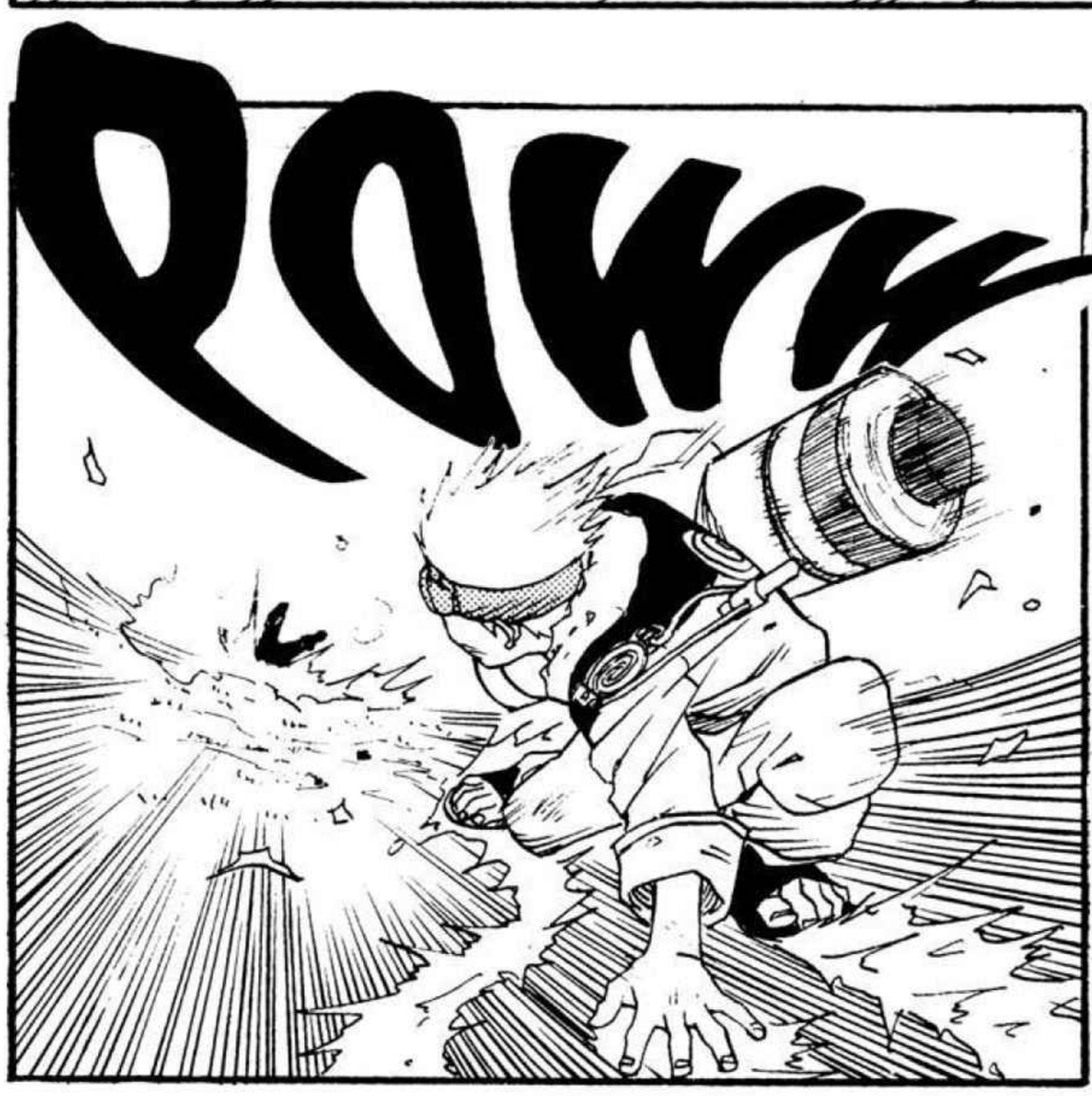
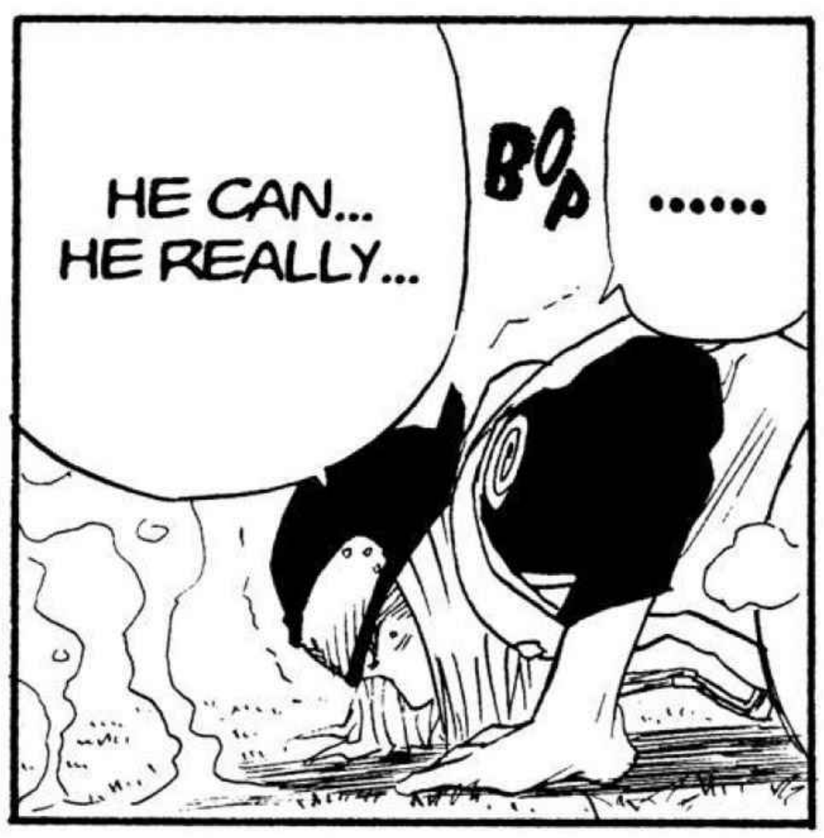

POW

!!

WHUNK


HE CAN...
HE REALLY...
BOP
.....

NARUTO...!?

READ THIS WAY

GET OUT OF HERE! SAVE YOUR-SELF!!

STUPID KID... SHOULD HAVE STAYED... AWAY!!

LOUDMOUTH BRAT!! I CAN KILL YOU WITH ONE BLOW!!

CRACK

...OR I'LL KILL YOU!

KEEP AWAY FROM MASTER IRUKA...

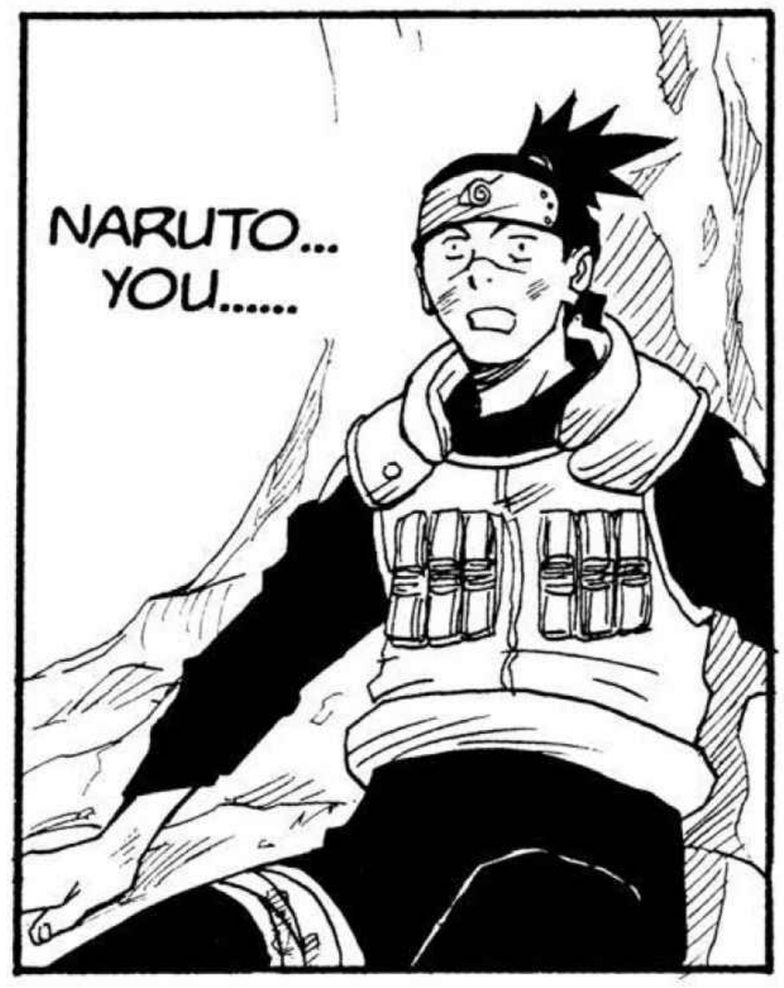
TAP

BRING IT ON, YOU JERK! ANYTHING YOU THROW AT ME I'LL GIVE BACK TIMES A THOUSAND!

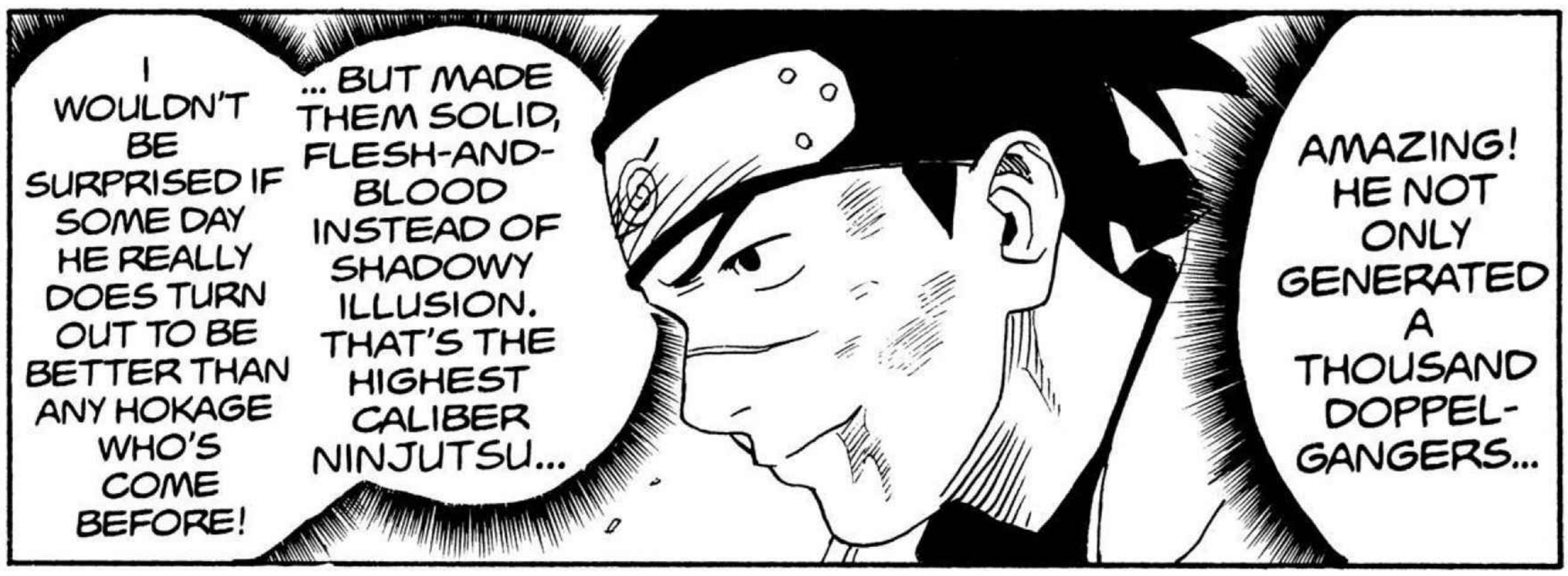
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME WITH ONE PUNCH, RIGHT? COME ON!
THUD
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TOUGH GUY? COME AND GET ME!

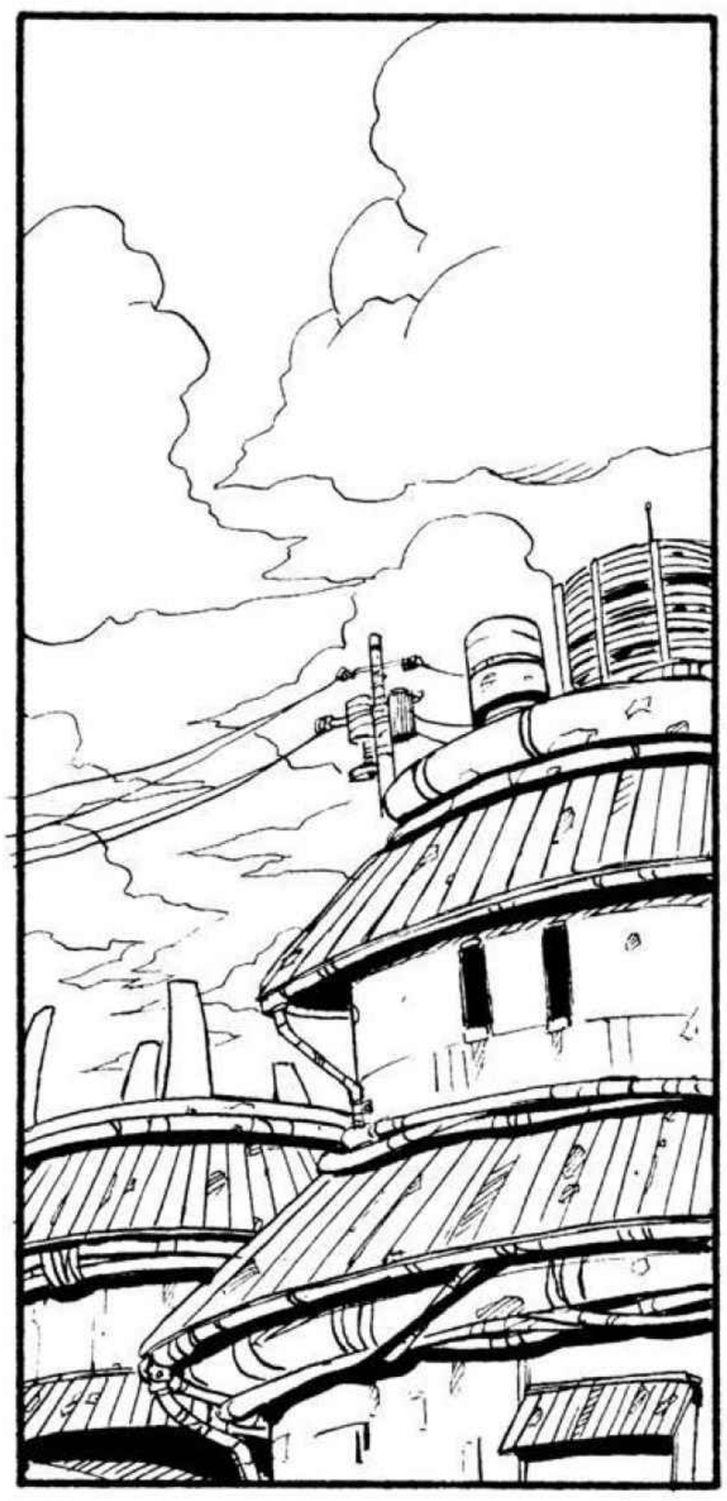
WHAT...?
HOW DID HE...?

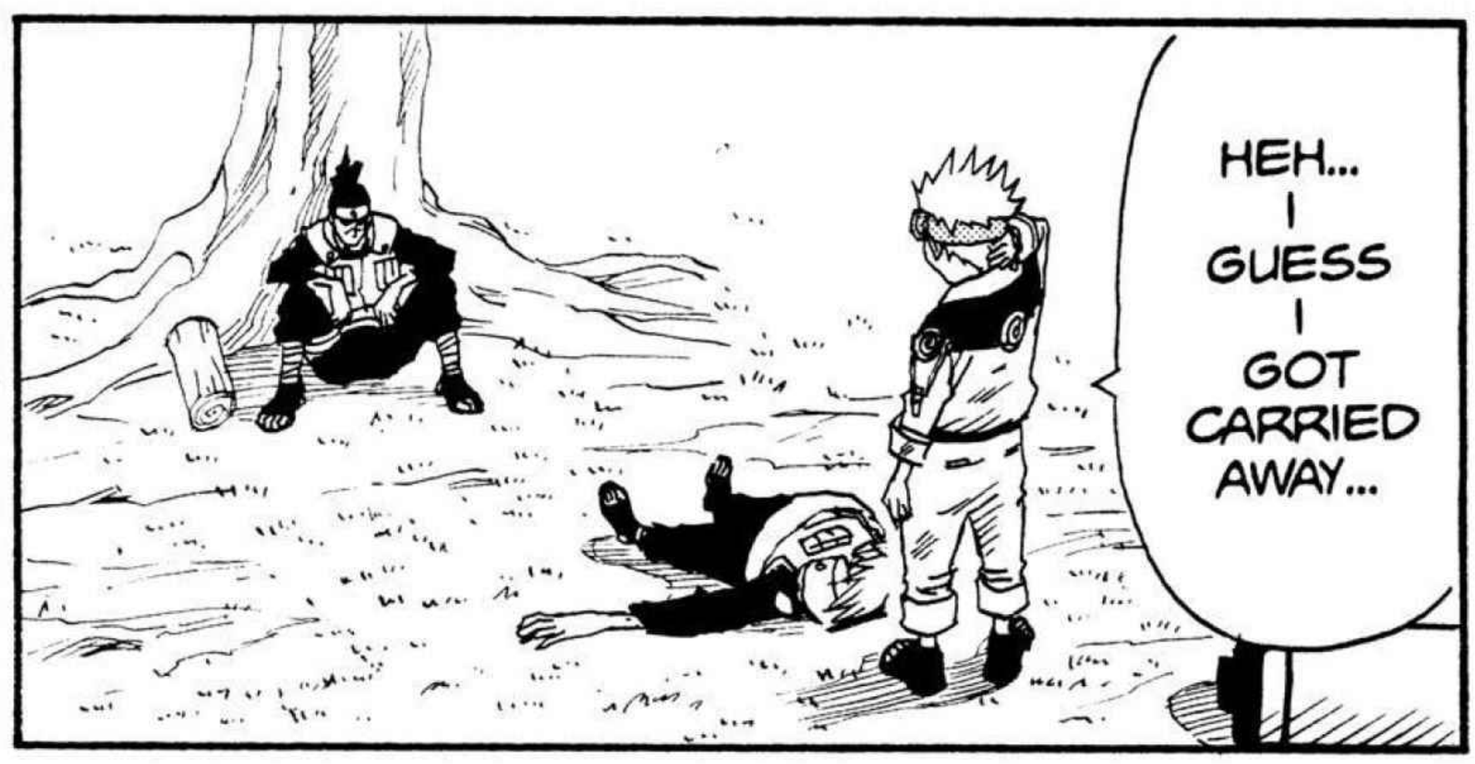
I'LL JUST HAVE TO ATTACK YOU!
ZZP
ZZP
WELL, THEN ...


NARUTO... YOU.....

AAIEEEE
WHACK
AAGGH
BAM
WHAP
THOK
SHIISH
WHAM
GUPP
BASH


I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SOME DAY HE REALLY DOES TURN OUT TO BE BETTER THAN ANY HOKAGE WHO'S COME BEFORE!
... BUT MADE THEM SOLID, FLESH-AND-BLOOD INSTEAD OF SHADOWY ILLUSION. THAT'S THE HIGHEST CALIBER NINJUTSU...
AMAZING! HE NOT ONLY GENERATED A THOUSAND DOPPEL-GANGERS...




HEH... I GUESS I GOT CARRIED AWAY...

I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU.
HUFF
NARUTO, COME HERE.

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

HE COULD BE MILES AWAY BY NOW!

BRAT

THIS IS AWFUL! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...?!

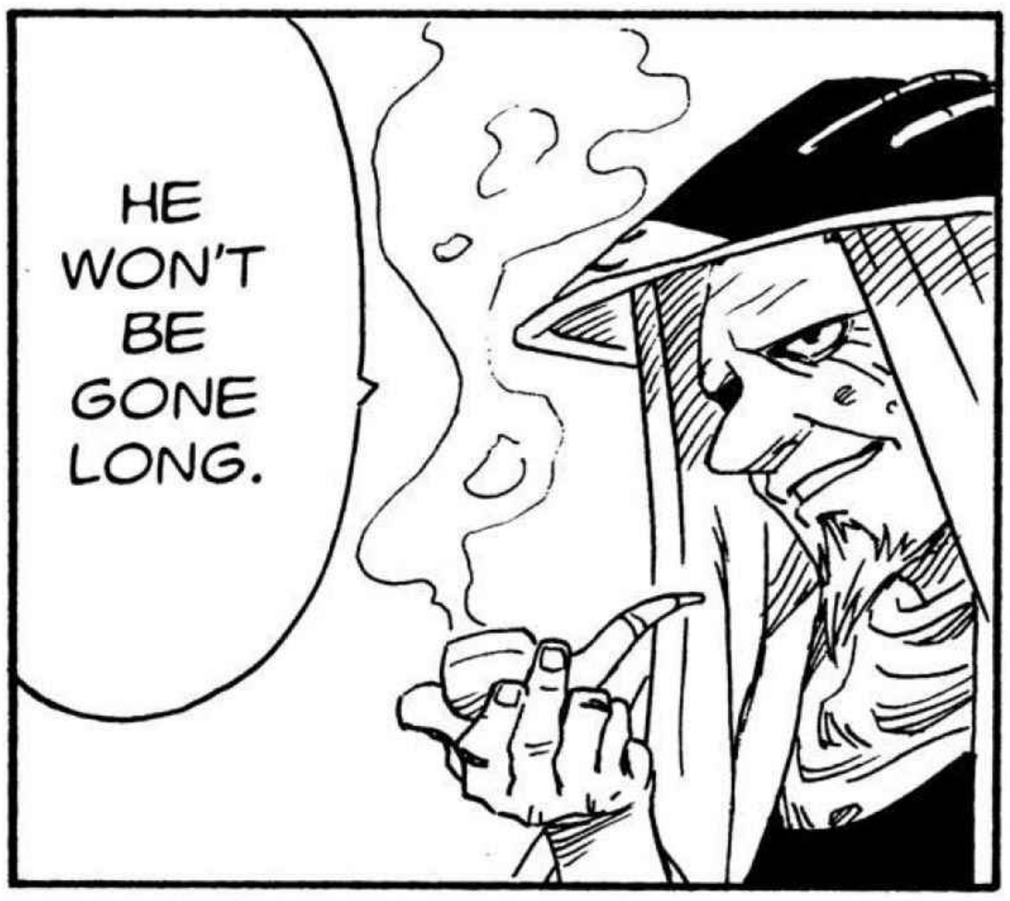
TROUBLE MAKER

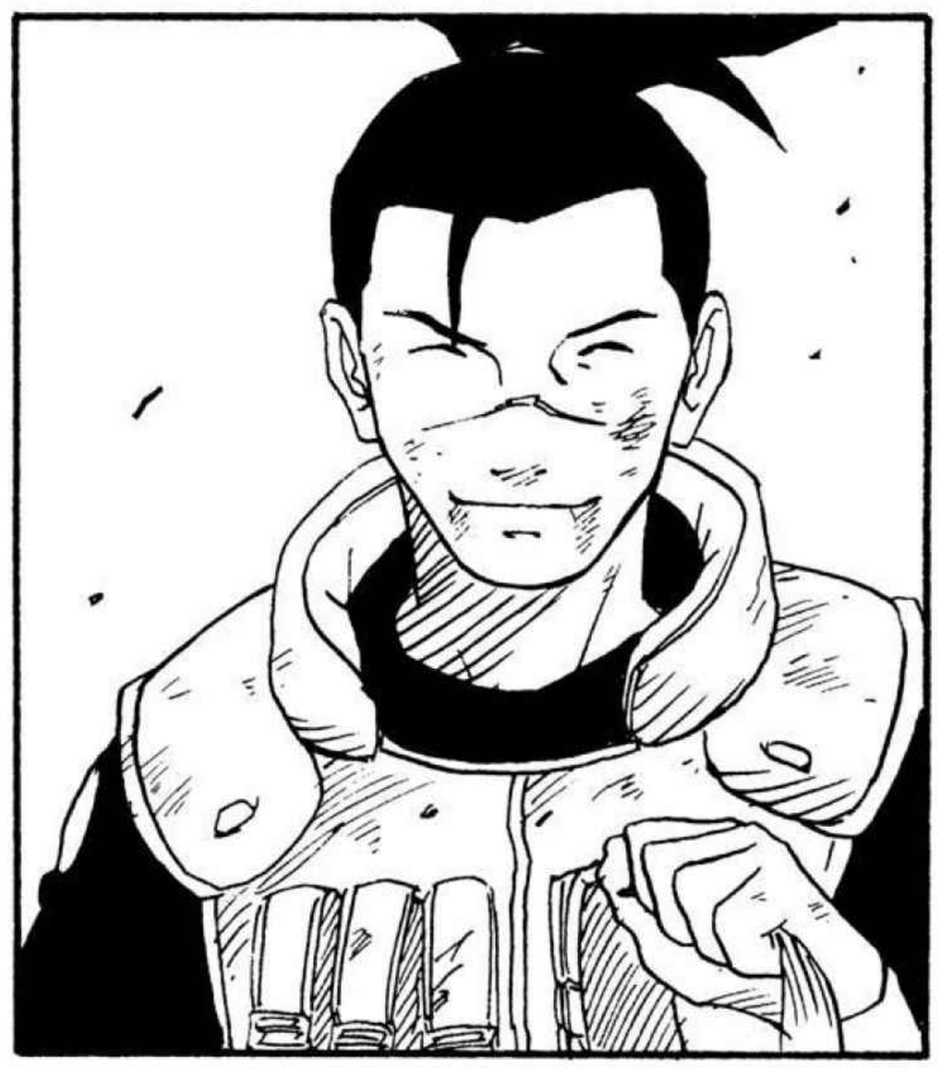
NOT YET!

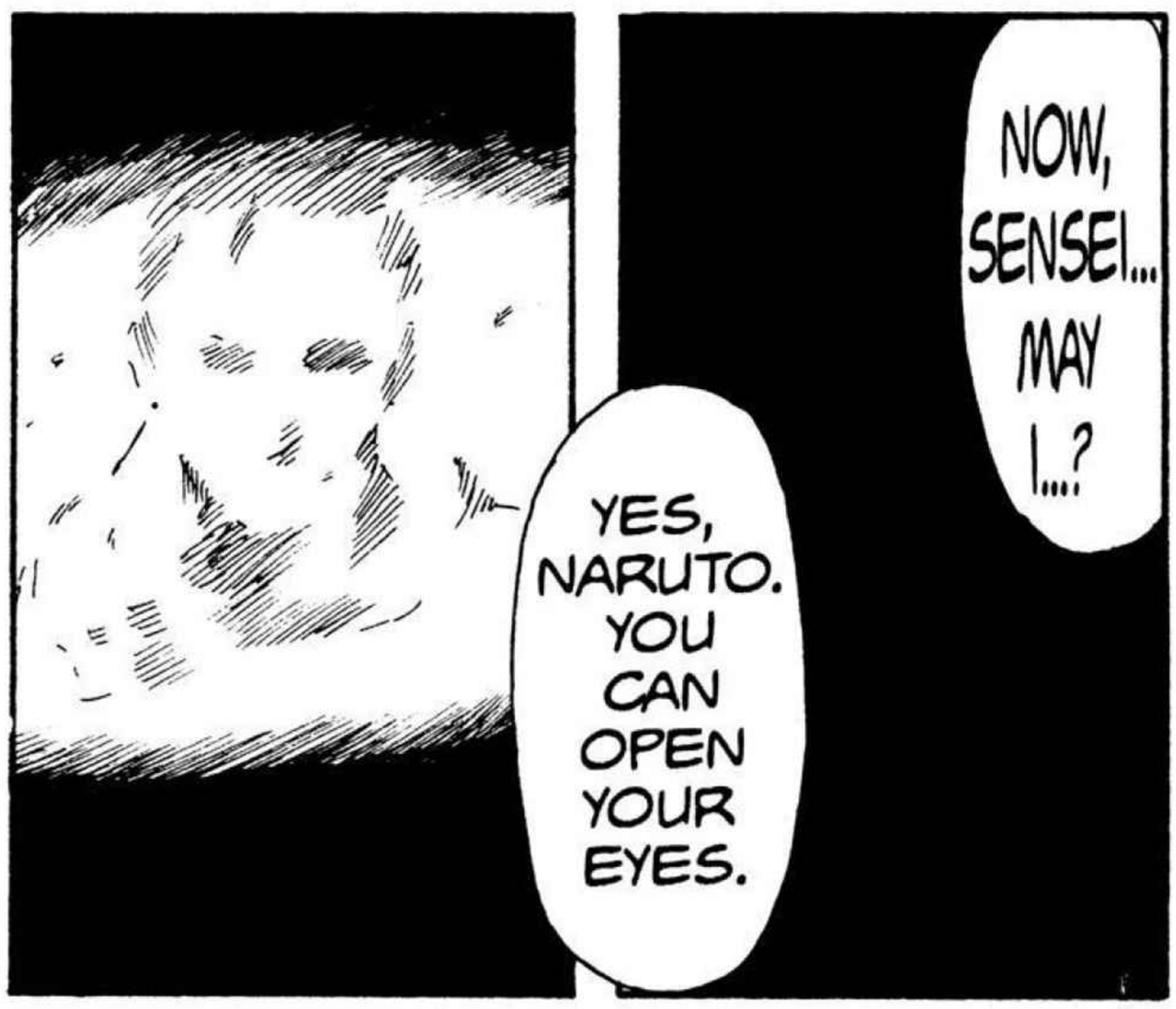
LITTLE CREEP

THAT GUY

DID YOU GUYS FIND NARUTO!?

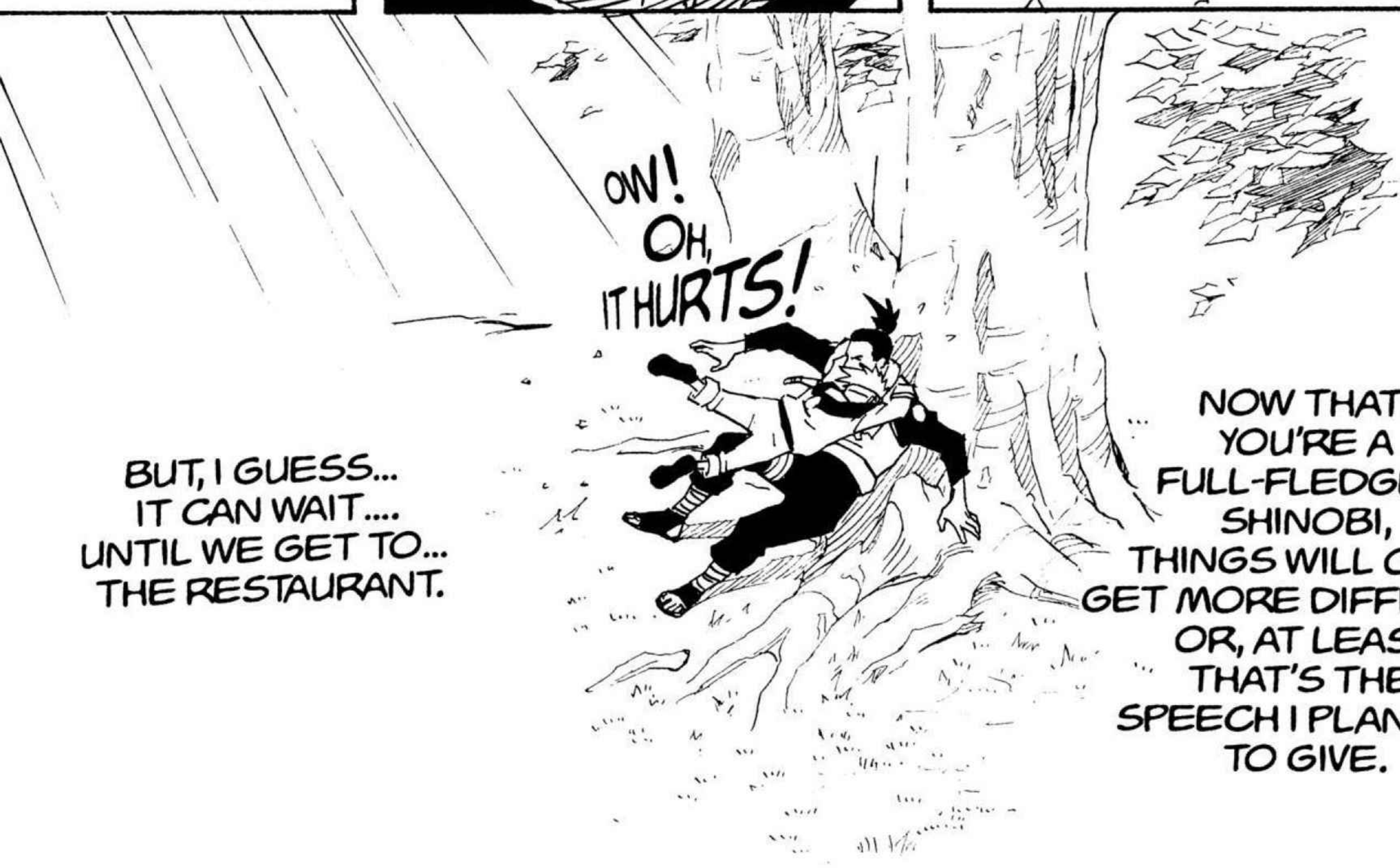


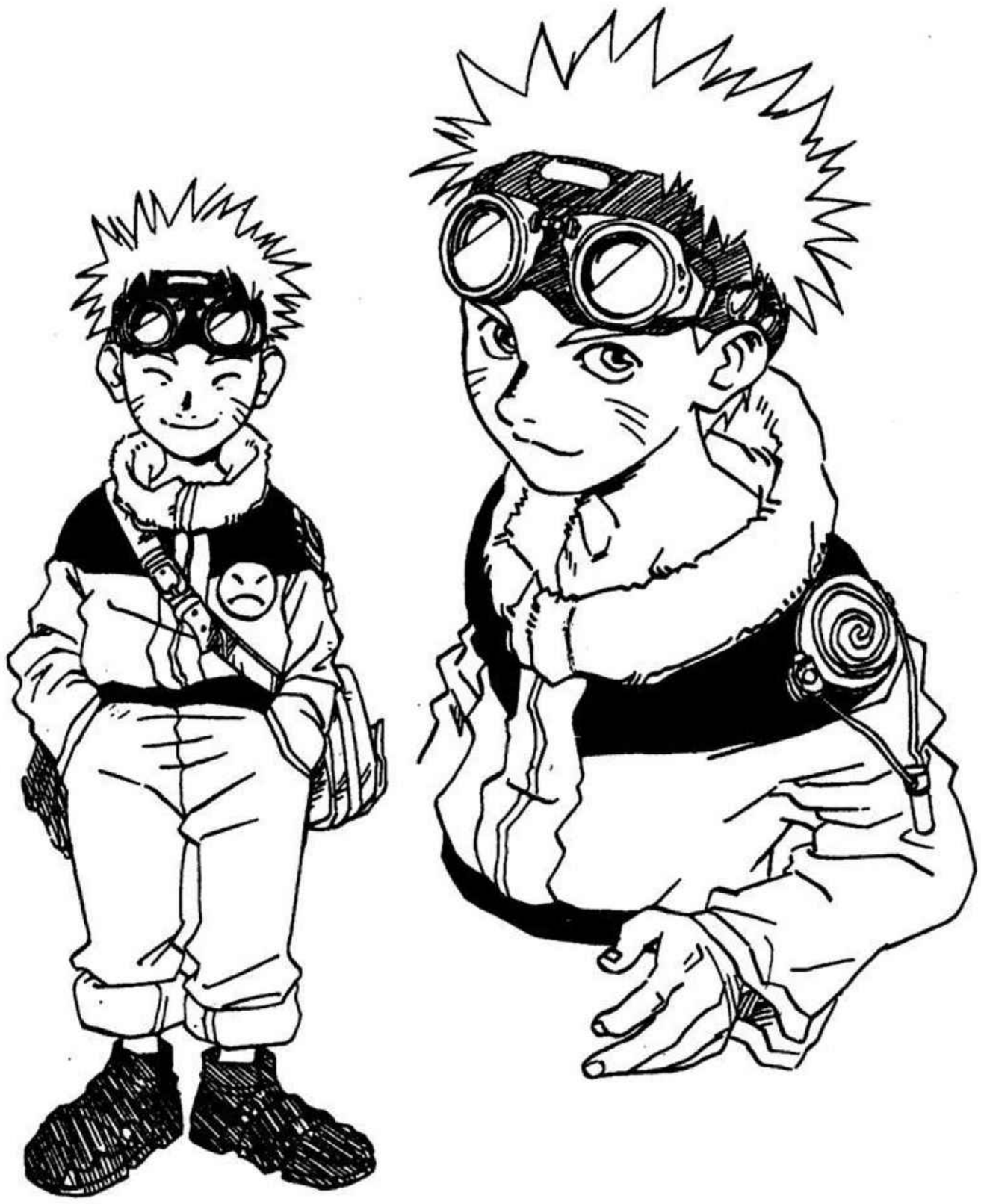




...GRADUATE!

CONGRATULATIONS...





This is the very first sketch of Naruto that I drew. It was for a one-shot story in the Japanese ***Weekly Shonen Jump***'s special seasonal edition, ***Akamaru Jump***. Notice that he wears boots instead of *zori* (traditional Japanese sandals).

In the one-shot story, ***Naruto*** wasn't a ninja comic at all, but just about magic and sorcery. Even though the setup was completely different from the current storyline, it was the very first character-driven manga that I ever drew, and I liked the character so I decided to keep using him. But drawing the goggles each time was a pain! That's why I came up with the idea for the ninja *hitai-ate* (headband).

NARUTO VOL. 1
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #2-5.

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
Naruto is rated "T" for Teen. It contains fantasy violence, language, partial nudity and tobacco usage. It is recommended for ages 13 and up.