



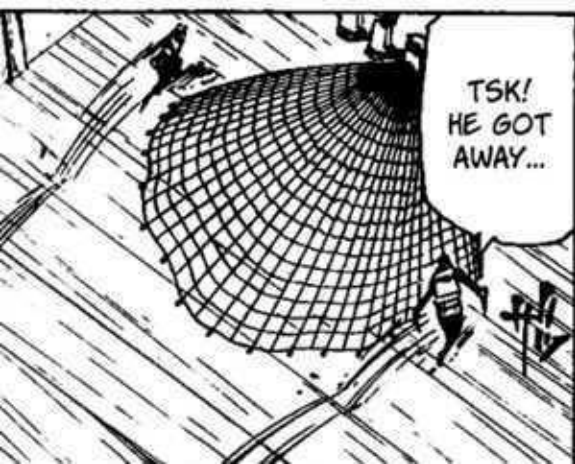
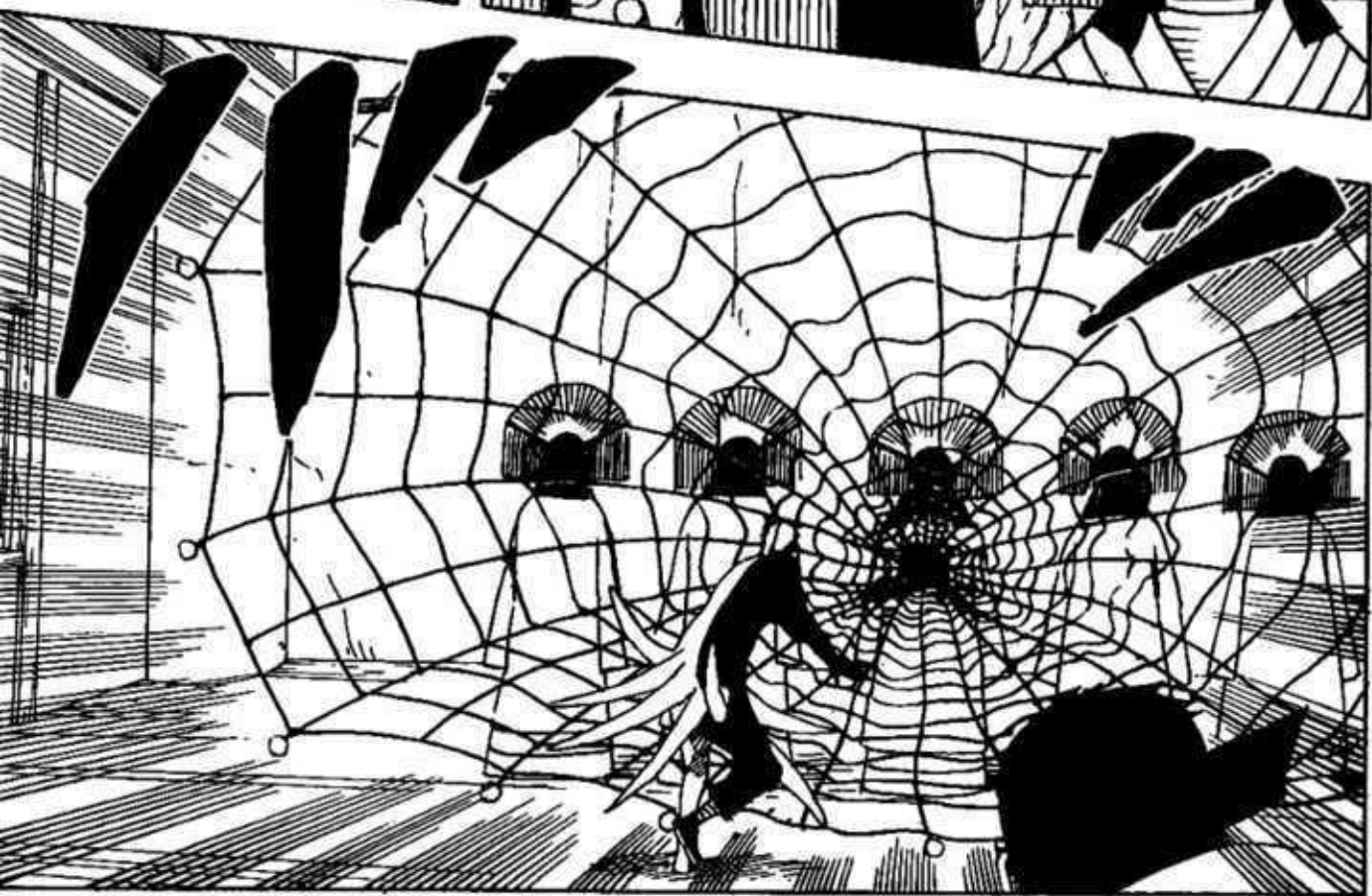
A P T A

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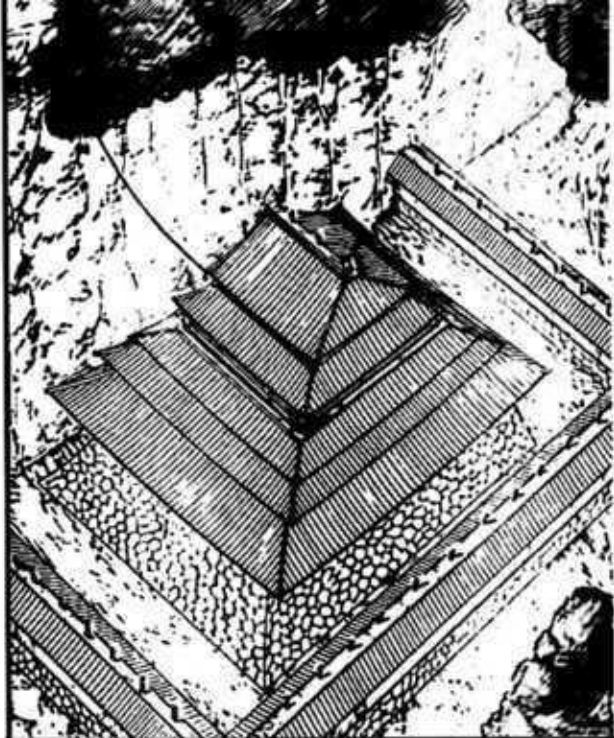






THE "SHINOBI
ALLIANCE OF THE
HIDDEN LEAF OF
THE FIRE AND THE
HIDEEN SAND OF
THE WIND AND THE
HIDDEN ROCK OF
THE EARTH AND THE
HIDDEN MIST OF
THE WATER AND THE
HIDDEN CLOUD OF
THE THUNDER"
MEDAL!!!

I HAVE
THOUGHT
UP A GOOD
NAME FOR
THE MEDALS!



THAT
IS NOT
FAIR!

BUT WHY
SHOULD THE
NAME OF THE
FIRE COUNTRY
COME FIRST?



I DON'T LIKE IT!
BESIDES, DON'T
YOU THINK THAT IT
IS TOO SHORT AND
THAT IT LACKS
SOLEMNITY?

DOESN'T
THE "SHINOBI
ALLIANCE" MEDAL
SOUND GOOD
ENOUGH?

THAT'S
TOO
LONG!



IF THERE AREN'T
MEDALS, WE WON'T
KNOW THE VALUES
OF OUR DEEDS.

YOU
SHOULD
NOT TAKE
MEDALS SO
LIGHTLY...

SOME
PEOPLE
MUST SET
THE CRITERIA
FOR THAT...

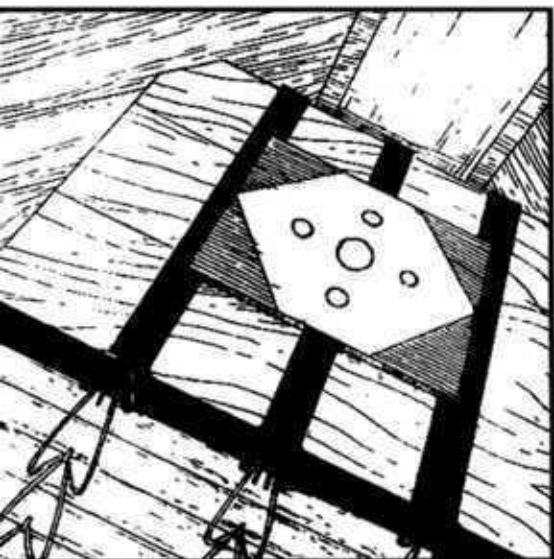


TO THINK
THAT THEY CAN
STILL TALK ABOUT
MEDALS IN THIS
SITUATION.

THE
DAIMYOS
SURE ARE
TAKING IT
EASY...

WELL,
THAT'S WHAT
THEY NEED TO
DO, AFTER
ALL...

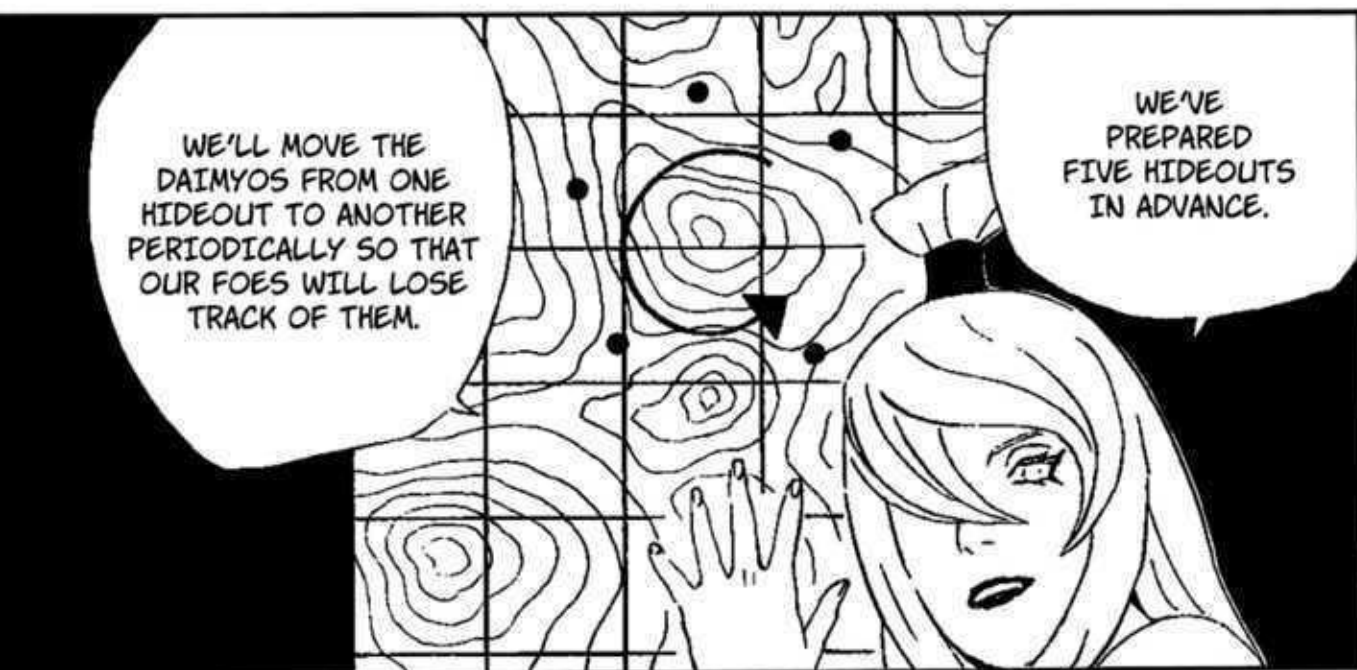




IF YOU'RE
INTERESTED
IN MEDALS
THOUGH, YOU
WON'T GET
ONE.

WELL, IF YOU
PUT IT THAT
WAY...

DON'T LOSE
YOUR FOCUS!
WE'VE GOT TO
BE MOVING
SOON!!!



WE'LL MOVE THE
DAIMYOS FROM ONE
HIDEOUT TO ANOTHER
PERIODICALLY SO THAT
OUR FOES WILL LOSE
TRACK OF THEM.

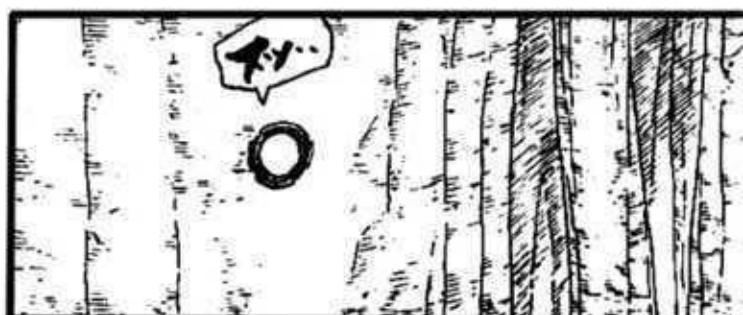
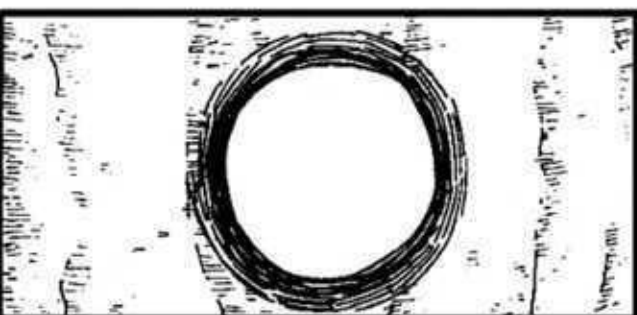
WE'VE
PREPARED
FIVE HIDEOUTS
IN ADVANCE.

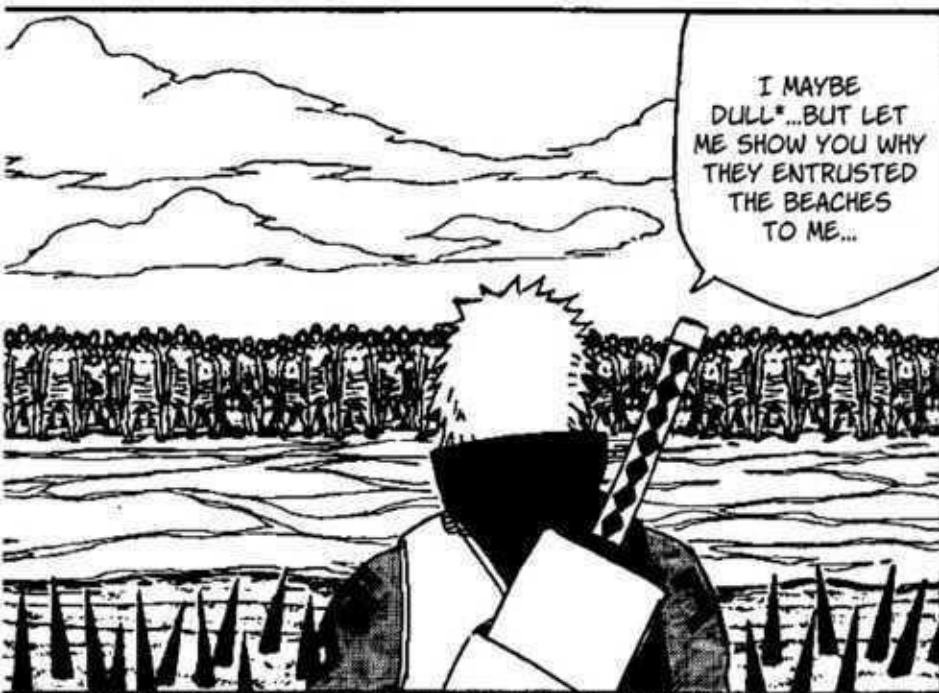


INDEED,
I FEEL
SLIGHTLY
RELIEVED...

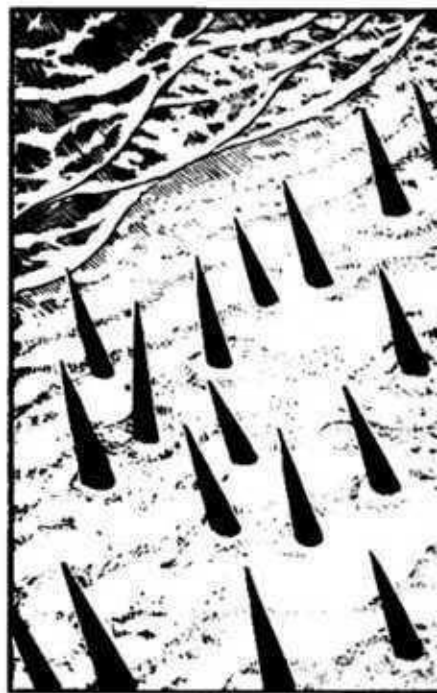


AND
THE ESCORT
SHINOBI'S ARE
ALL EXCELLENT
ONES...





I MAYBE
DULL*...BUT LET
ME SHOW YOU WHY
THEY ENTRUSTED
THE BEACHES
TO ME...

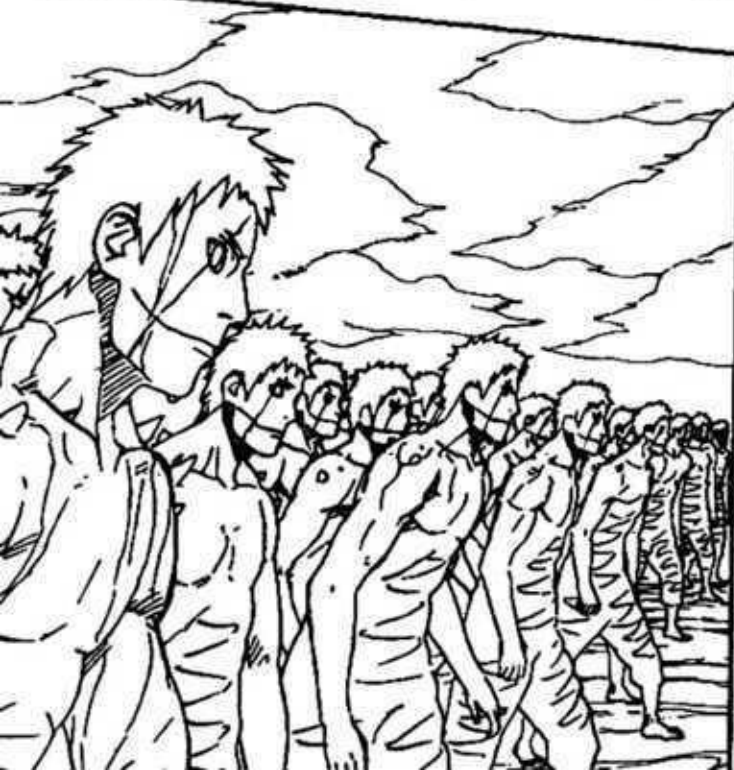


* T/N: "たるいけど" ("DARUI KEDO") MEANS EITHER "I'M DULL, BUT..." OR "I'M DARUI, BUT..."
IT'S BASICALLY A WORD PLAY (JOKE) ON DARUI'S NAME.



YES!

I'LL
GO FIRST...
EVERYONE,
FOLLOW
SUIT!



RAITON
KUROBANSÁ!!!

T/N "RAITON KUROBANSÁ" MEANS "LIGHTNING TECHNIQUE BLACK SPOTS VARIATION"
TS/N IT'S "LIGHTNING", NOT "THUNDER" BECAUSE "RAI" MEANS "LIGHT"
OR "LIGHTNING". PLUS, YOU CAN'T SEE THUNDER, YOU HEAR IT.

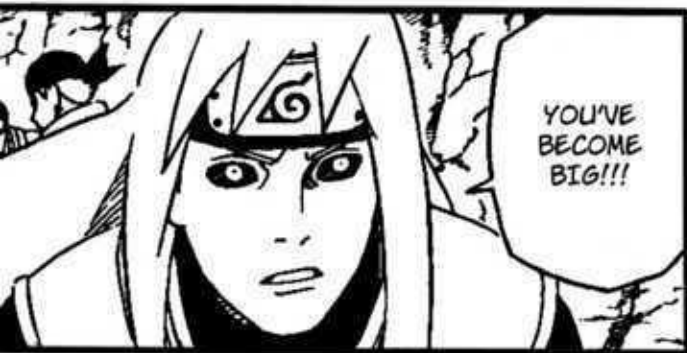
GOOOOOH!!!



CAPTAIN
DARUI IS THE
ONLY ONE WHO
HAS INHERITED
THE PREVIOUS
RAIKAGE'S
LIGHTNING!

B-BLACK
LIGHTNING!!!





YOU'VE
BECOME
BIG!!!



OH YEAH?
WELL, I'LL
GET EVEN
BIGGER!!!



CHOUZA-
SAN!!!



I AM SO
SORRY, BROTHER.
THE BRANCH FAMILY
IS SUPPOSED TO
PROTECT THE HEAD
FAMILY...

...YET HERE
I AM, NOW AN
ENEMY OF
YOURS...



THIS MUST
BE MY FATE FOR
IMPOSING ON THE
HEAD FAMILY...



IT WAS NOT BECAUSE
I WANTED TO PROTECT
THE HEAD FAMILY...

IT WAS BECAUSE I
WANTED TO PROTECT
NEJI, MY BROTHER, AND
THE VILLAGE!!!

IN THE END, I
DID NOT HEED YOU...
I CHOSE DEATH...

I CAN NOT CONTROL
MY BODY... THIS MUST
BE MY PUNISHMENT
FOR DEFYING THE
HEAD FAMILY...



YOUR
SON AND
MY DAUGHTER
ARE FIGHTING
TOGETHER TO
PROVE IT!

THERE IS
NO SUCH
FATE!!!



NOT AS
MEMBERS
OF THE HEAD
FAMILY OR
THE BRANCH
FAMILY!

THEY'RE
FIGHTING
TOGETHER AS
COMRADES!



YEAH,
THANKS...

ARE YOU
ALRIGHT, NEJI-
NIISAN?



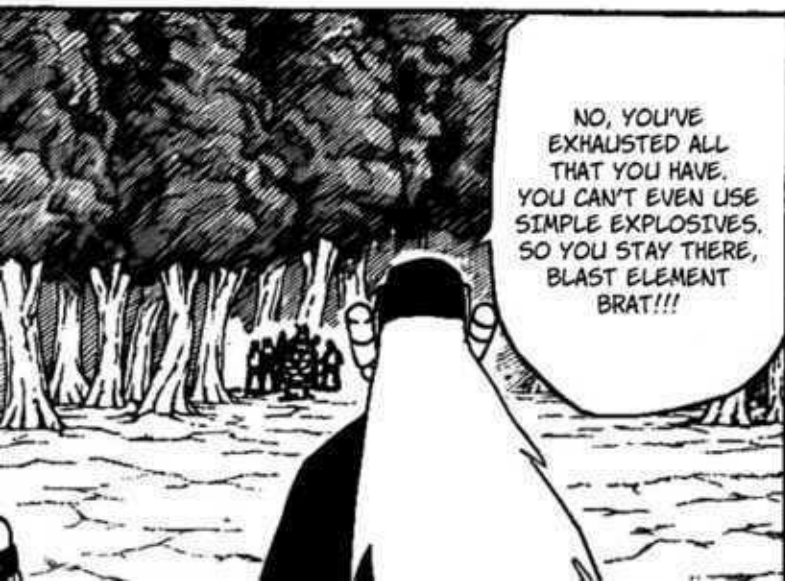
YOU'VE
BECOME
QUITE
GOOD,
KANKUROU

GOOD
ENOUGH
TO HAVE
STOPPED
SASORI...



AND...

GRAND-
MOTHER
CHIYO...



NO, YOU'VE
EXHAUSTED ALL
THAT YOU HAVE.
YOU CAN'T EVEN USE
SIMPLE EXPLOSIVES.
SO YOU STAY THERE,
BLAST ELEMENT
BRAT!!!



I MAY BE
TIRED,
BUT I
CAN
STILL
BLAST
THINGS
UP AND
FIGHT!

HEY, IF
YOU'RE THE
BACK-UPS,
THEN YOU
BETTER HELP
ME GET OUT
OF THIS
THING!!!

I DON'T
INTEND TO
HELP YOU, BUT
IT SEEMS I HAVE
NO CHOICE WITH
THIS TECHNIQUE
ON ME...

BOTH
YOU AKATSUKI
AND FIVE GREAT
COUNTRIES ARE
MY ENEMIES...

MY
BODY IS
MOVING ALL
ON ITS
OWN...



LIKE
HELL
I'D SAY
THAT!!!
HMMM!



UH,
YEAH...

IF YOU
SAY SO...



ROGER
THAT,
SIR.

RETREAT ON
MY SIGNAL.

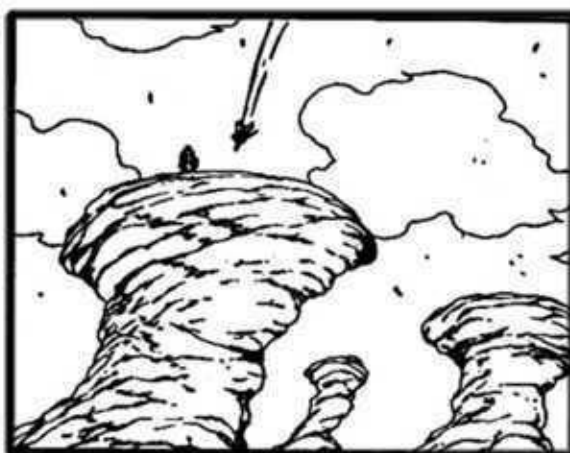


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MESSAGE
FROM THE
STRATEGY
PLANNING
DIVISION.







LOOK AT THAT BRAT'S
LEFT SHOULDER GINKAKU...
HE MUST BE THE KID WHO
HAS INHERITED THE THIRD
RAIKAGE'S LIGHTNING...HE
MUST HAVE SOME SKILL...



KINKAKU-SAMA, GINKAKU-
SAMA...I'M SORRY TO SHAME
THE TWO HEROES OF THE
CLOUD COUNTRY...



TO BE UNDER
THE TECHNIQUE OF
THE SAME HOKAGE WE'VE
DEFEATED, THIS SURE
SUCKS...RIGHT,
KINKAKU?



I COULD
PROBABLY
DAMAGE EVEN
BOTH OF YOUR
IMAGES...

IT'S QUITE
RUDE TO SHAME MY
SENPAIS* EVEN
A LITTLE...

* T/N: SENPAI = SENIOR/UPPERCLASS/PREDECESSOR



EVEN
IF I'M
DULL!!!

...WITH MY
LIGHTNING!!!

AS CAPTAIN,
HE CAN'T BE
DULL!!!



...NO. 526 J
/END