

THE AKATSUKI LEADER, PAIN, BRINGER OF STRIFE. WHAT IS THE AMBITION HE KEEPS WITHIN THOSE EYES...?



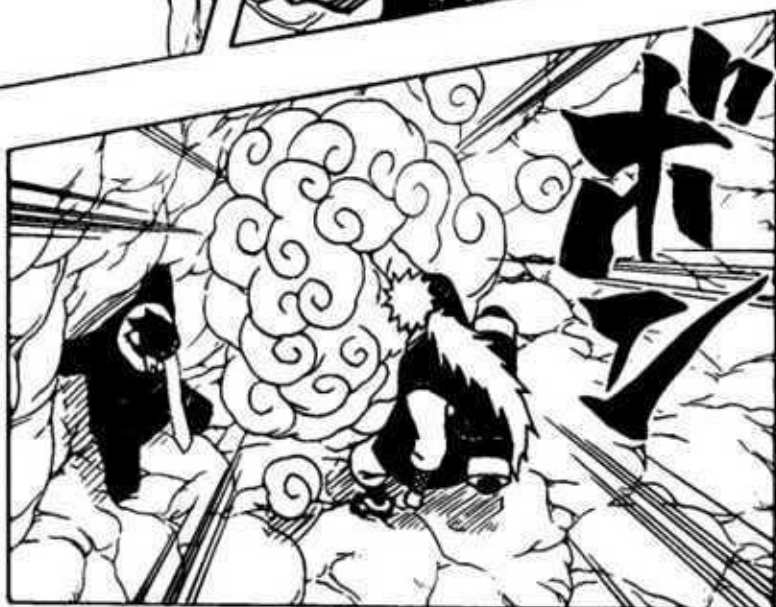




THE JAPANESE HERE IS A PUN, "TURN [YOU] INTO A FROG" = "KAERU NI KAERU", "FROG" AND "TURN INTO" BEING HOMOPHONOUS









PAIN-SAMA
RESIDES
WITHIN THE
TALLEST OF
THE WESTERN
TOWERS...
OR SO
THEY SAY



OH?
WHAT'S
THIS?

SEEMS YOU
BETRAYED
YOUR
COMRADES
QUITE
EASILY...
HUH...?



AND BY THAT
YOU MEAN?



... THE THING
IS... NOBODY
REALLY KNOWS
ALL THAT MUCH
ABOUT PAIN-
SAMA



WHAT
DID YOU
MEAN BY
"OR SO
THEY SAY"?

BUT
WHAT-
EVER...



BUT NO
ONE KNOWS
EXACTLY
WHAT HE
LOOKS LIKE,

IT'S
SAID HIS
BLOOD IS
THAT OF THE
FULMA-CLAN...

AND THERE'S
EVEN THOSE WHO
SUGGEST HE
DOESN'T TRULY
EXIST



IN THIS CITY
PAIN-SAMA IS
EFFECTIVELY
A GOD... WHETHER
HE PHYSICALLY
EXISTS OR NOT
ISN'T OF ISSUE...

HE LOOKS
OVER AND
PROTECTS US
AT ALL TIMES



DON'T
TRIFLE
WITH ME
NOW!

AH, BUT JUST
FROM STROLLING
ABOUT THIS CITY...
ALMOST EVERYONE
MENTIONED HIS
NAME, AND WITH
THE UTMOST
RESPECT...



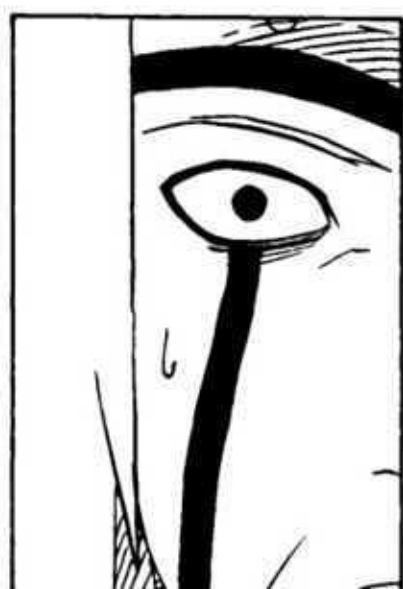
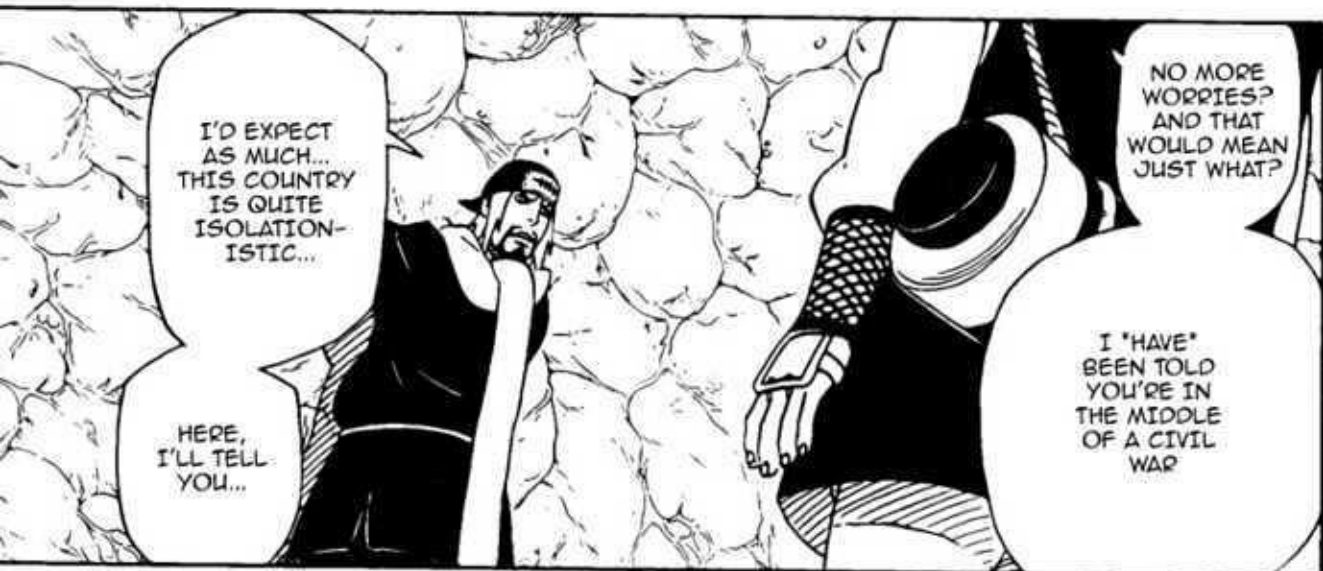
WHY WOULD
HE NEED TO
CONCEAL HIS
IDENTITY?

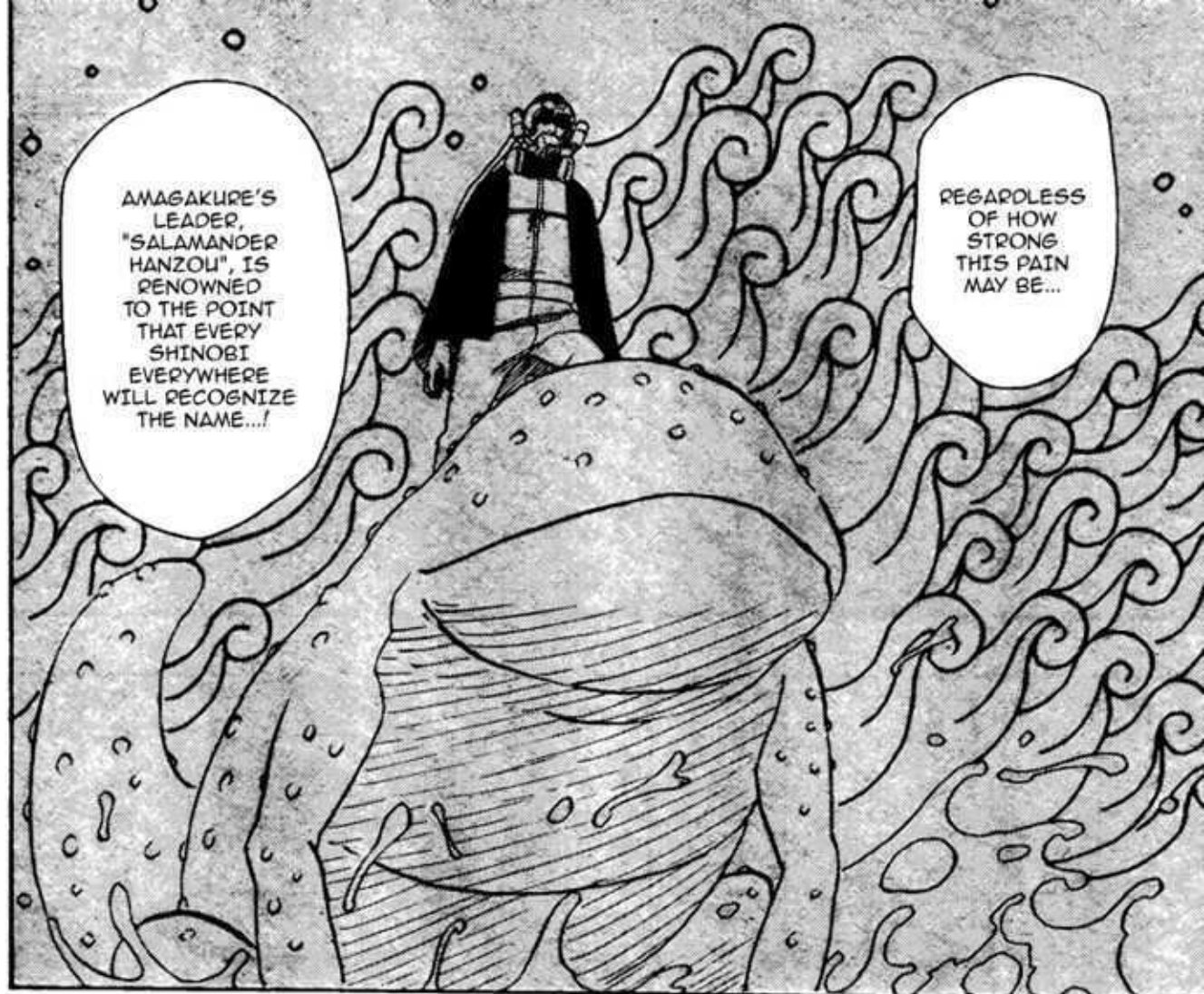
BUT HE'S
YOUR LEADER,
CORRECT?



EVENTS OF
CELEBRATION,
SPEECHES,
DECREES...
EVERY ONE OF
HIS WORDS ARE
TRANSMITTED
THROUGH PROXY







AMAGAKURE'S
LEADER,
"SALAMANDER
HANZOU", IS
RENOWNED
TO THE POINT
THAT EVERY
SHINOBI
EVERYWHERE
WILL RECOGNIZE
THE NAME....!

REGARDLESS
OF HOW
STRONG
THIS PAIN
MAY BE...



AND SECURITY
WAS TO THE
POINT THAT EVEN
CHILDREN WERE
SEARCHED BEFORE
MEETING HIM

PERSONAL
GUARDS WERE
STATIONED
RIGHT BY HIM
IN 24 HOUR
ROTATIONS



HANZOU
WAS HIGHLY
CAUTIOUS,
APPROACHING
HIS SIDE
BEING A FEAT
IN ITSELF

THAT'S
RIGHT... AND
POSSESSING
NOT ONLY
IMMENSE
POWER,



I TOLD YOU
ALREADY,

WE DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING!



WHAT ARE
PAIN'S
ABILITIES?

AND JUST
HOW WAS
HANZOU
KILLED?



JIRAIYA!
DON'T!!

I CAN
STILL
FIGHT!!

I DON'T
NEED YOUR
MERCY!

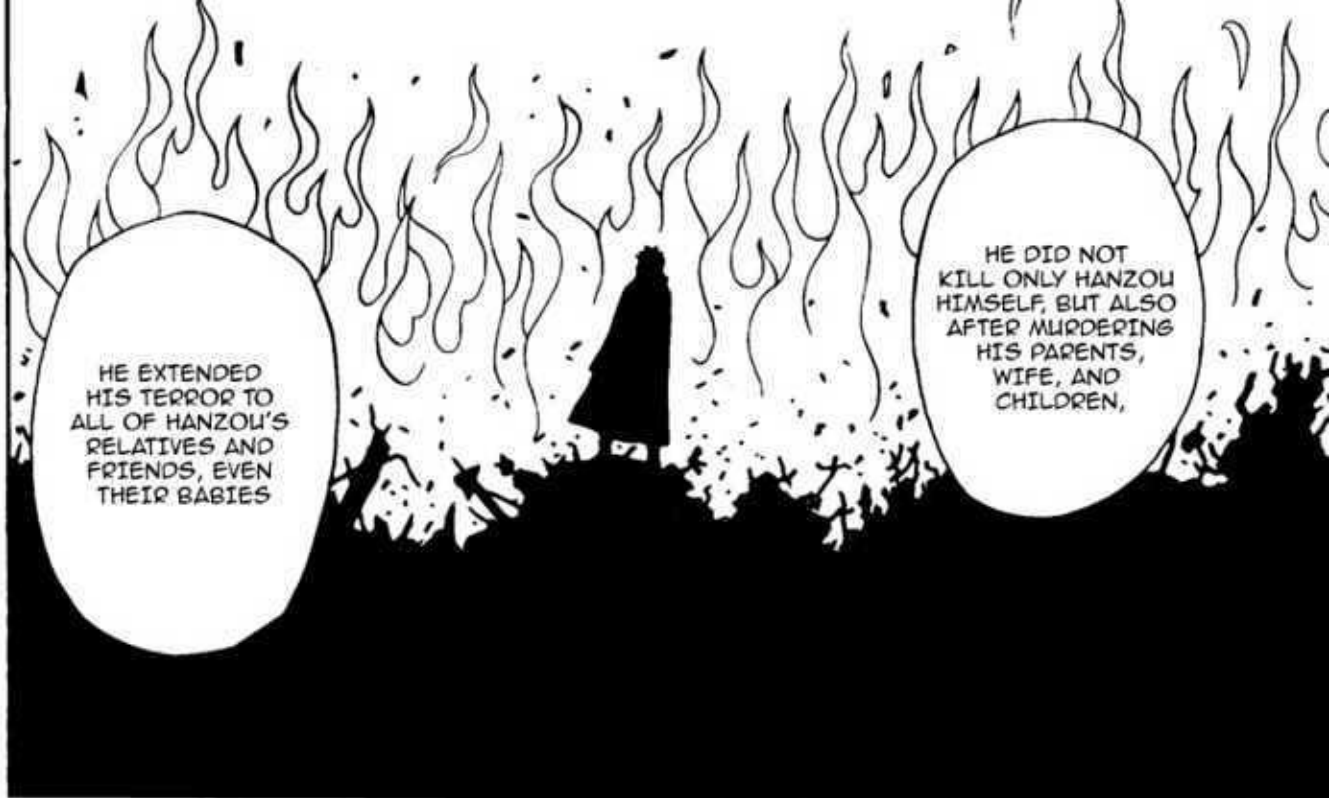


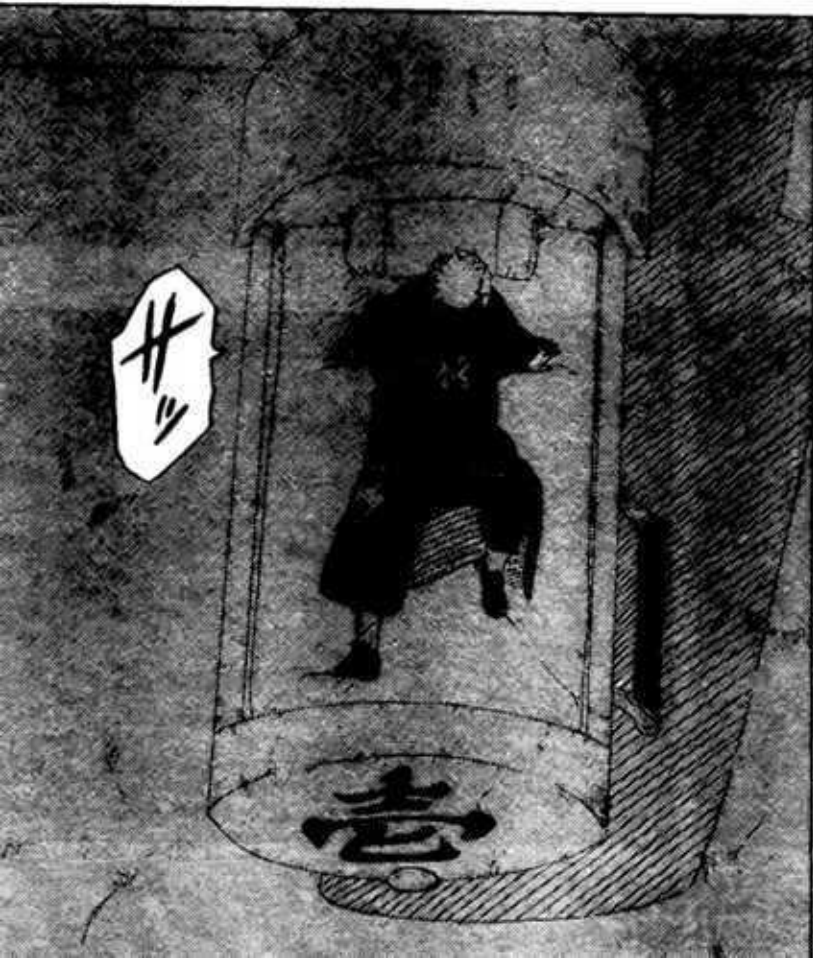
I'LL SPARE
YOUR
LIVES

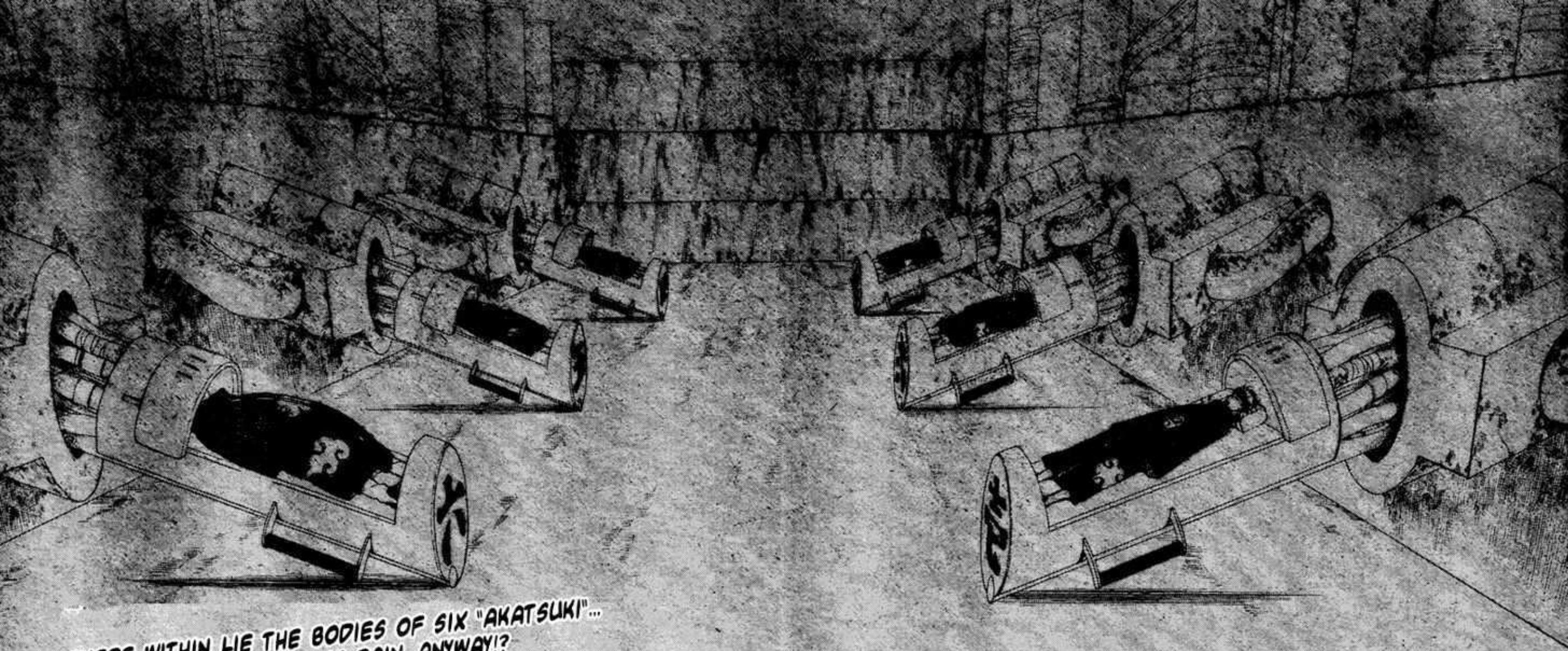
THIS BATTLE...
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD
WILL END IN
KONOHA'S VICTORY...



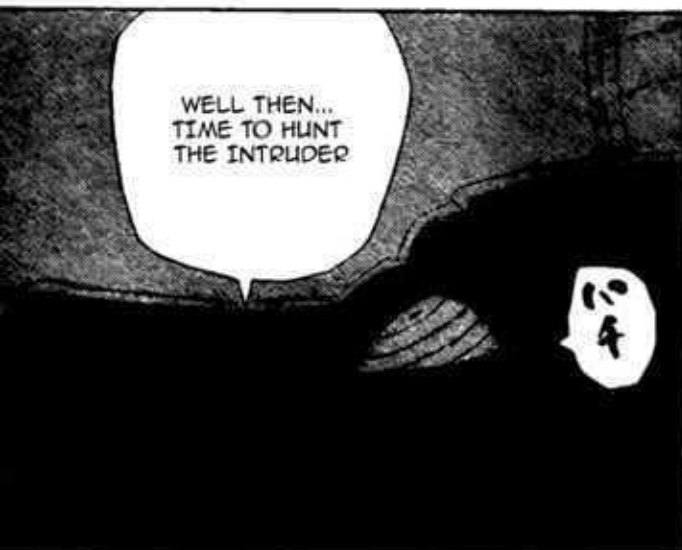




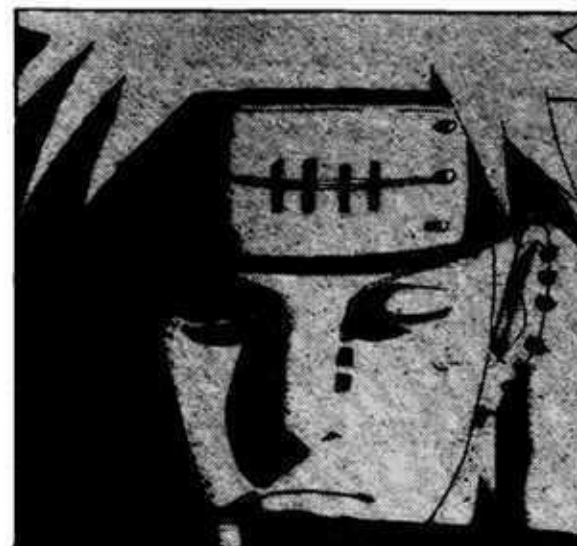




THERE WITHIN LIE THE BODIES OF SIX "AKATSUKI" ...
WHO EXACTLY IS PAIN, ANYWAY!?



WELL THEN...
TIME TO HUNT
THE INTRUDER



NARUTO—ナルト—

ナンバー
... NO.369 /
おわり

WITNESS THE HORROR OF PAIN AS HE
ATTACKS JIRAIYA! NEXT ISSUE, "FIND HIM...!"