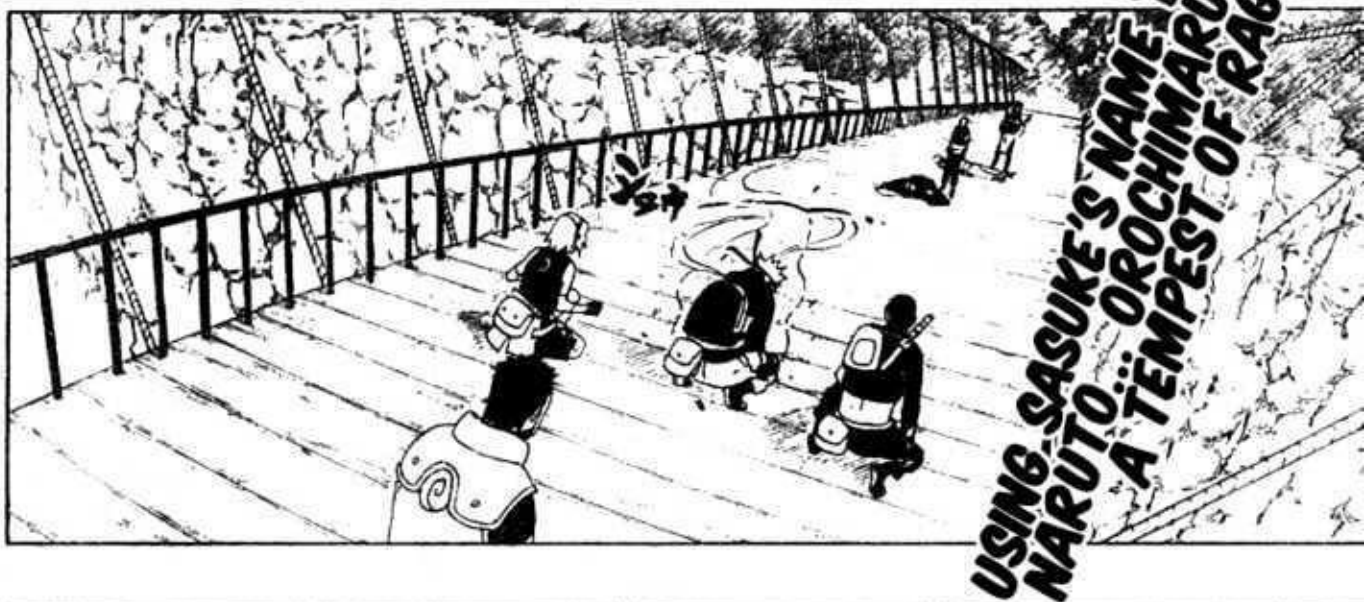


BEHIND THE OBEDIENT MASK OF THIS OBLIGING SERVANT LIES A FACE WITH A NEVER-ENDING SMILE.
AND LYING DEEPER STILL, HIS TRUE INTENTIONS REMAIN UNSEEN TO ALL.







IT'S ABOUT TIME
YOU GOT OVER IT
AND START TAKING
THE PAST FOR
WHAT IT IS...
JUST LIKE A REAL
MAN WOULD...

SASUKE-KUN
CAME TO US
UNDER HIS
OWN FREE WILL.



WHY
DON'T
YOU TRY
FORCING
US TO
SAY SOME-
THING?

IF YOU
WANT US
TO TELL
YOU ABOUT
SASUKE-
KUN...

IF
YOU CAN,
THAT IS...



YOU DON'T
KNOW A
DAMNED
THING
ABOUT
NARUTO'S
FEELINGS!

SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH,
FOUR-
EYES!!

I'VE HAD
MORE
THAN
ENOUGH
OF YOUR
"COOL"
ATTITUDE!



Kya!



GUH!



ガウウウウ











...THAT
WAS WHEN
I WAS
TRAINING
WITH
NARUTO,

AFTER
HAVING
WITNESSED
HIS KYUUBI
CHAKRA
FORM A
FOURTH TAIL.



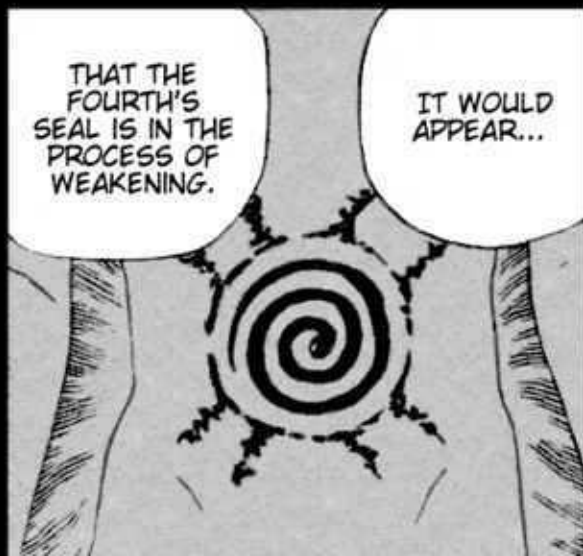
IT WAS
AS THOUGH
HE HAD
BECOME
A MINIATURE
KYUUBI
DEMON
FOX.

HE WAS ABLE
TO REMAIN
CONSCIOUS OF
HIS ACTIONS
WITH JUST
THREE TAILS
FORMED...

WITH RAGE
ACTING AS A
TRIGGER, THE
TAILS OF THE
DEMON FOX
INCREASED IN
NUMBER.

HE LOST ALL
APPRECIATION
FOR HIS OWN
ACTIONS AND
SUCCEMDED
TO PURE
DESTRUCTIVE
IMPULSE.

BUT
ONCE THE
FOURTH
TAIL
SPROUTED,



THAT THE
FOURTH'S
SEAL IS IN THE
PROCESS OF
WEAKENING.

IT WOULD
APPEAR...

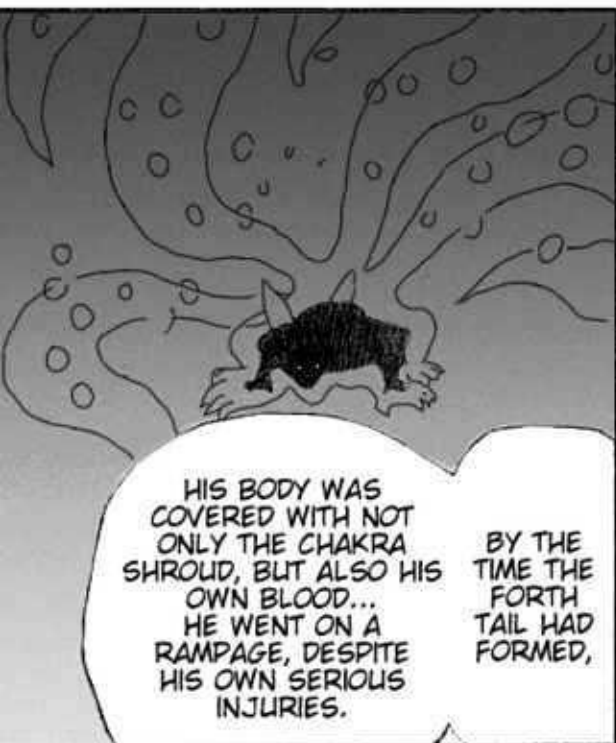


I'M NOT SURE
OF THE SPECIFICS,
BUT ONE THING
I CAN SAY...



BUT
HOW
COULD
THAT
HAVE
HAPPENED
...

WHAT
OF THE
FOURTH'S
SEAL...?



HIS BODY WAS COVERED WITH NOT ONLY THE CHAKRA SHROUD, BUT ALSO HIS OWN BLOOD... HE WENT ON A RAMPAGE, DESPITE HIS OWN SERIOUS INJURIES.

BY THE TIME THE FORTH TAIL HAD FORMED,



BUT IN ACTUALITY, IT WAS DOING QUITE THE OPPOSITE, THAT IS, CONSTANTLY CAUSING DAMAGE TO HIS BODY.

AND ANOTHER PROBLEM... IN HIS KYUUBI FORM, NARUTO IS ENVELOPED BY A FOX-SHAPED SHROUD FORMED OF CHAKRA THAT, AT FIRST SIGHT, LOOKS TO BE PROTECTING HIM...



THEN WITHOUT FAIL, NARUTO'S BODY WILL WEAKEN AND HIS LIFESPAN WILL BE SHORTENED.

BUT IF HE CONTINUES SUCH RAPID CYCLES OF INJURY FOLLOWED BY ACCELERATED HEALING,



ONCE THE CHAKRA SHROUD DISSIPATED,

NARUTO'S DAMAGED BODY RECOVERED THROUGH USE OF THE KYUUBI CHAKRA INTERNAL TO IT...

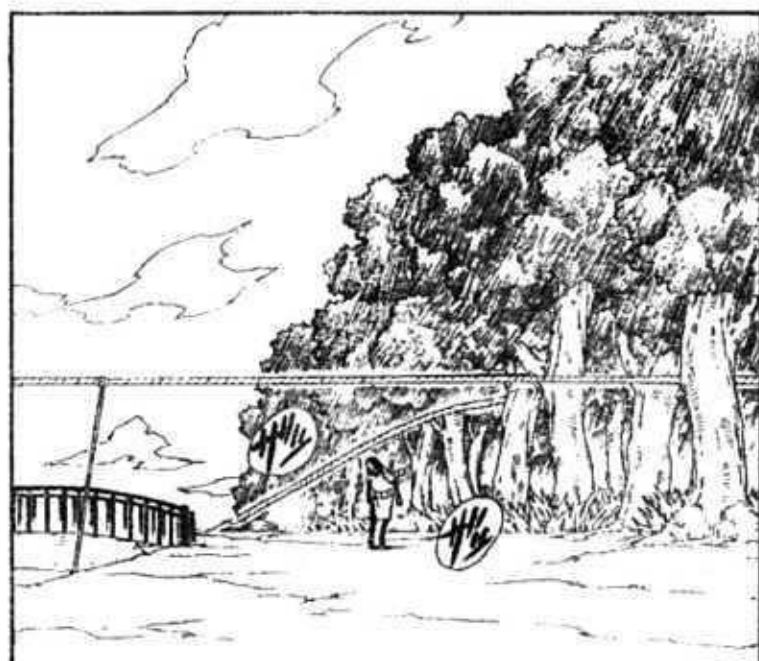
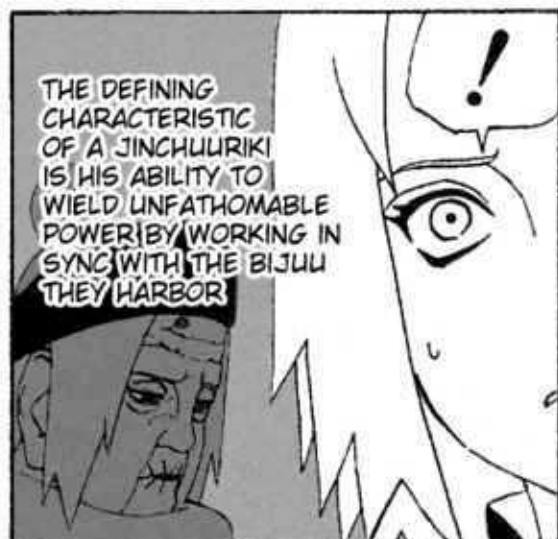
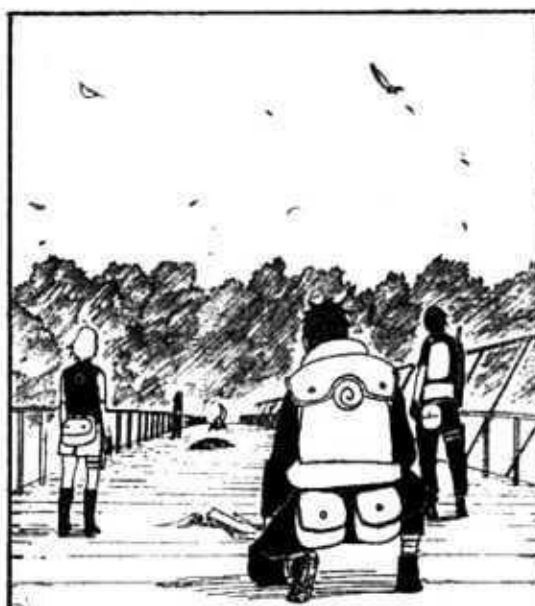
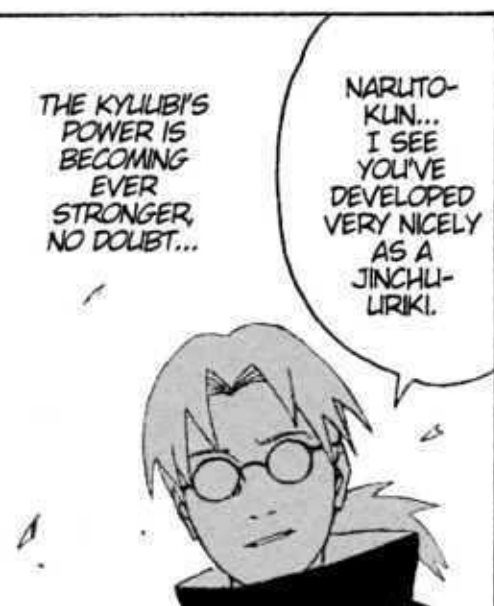


YAMATO.

AND "THAT" IS WHY WE NEED YOU...











AND THAT
EXPLAINS...
WHY YOU WERE
CHOSEN TO
WATCH
OVER HIM.

IT WOULD
APPEAR MY
EXPERIMENT
WAS OF SOME
HELP AFTER
ALL...



.....
?

WOULDN'T
YOU
AGREE,

DEAREST
GUINEA
PIG OF
MINE?



I SHOULD
THINK KONOHA
WOULD BE
A BIT MORE
APPRECIATIVE...

HE WAS ABLE TO
BEND BIJUU TO
HIS OWN WILL...
OH HOW I COVETED
THOSE GIFTS OF HIS...

Heh heh...

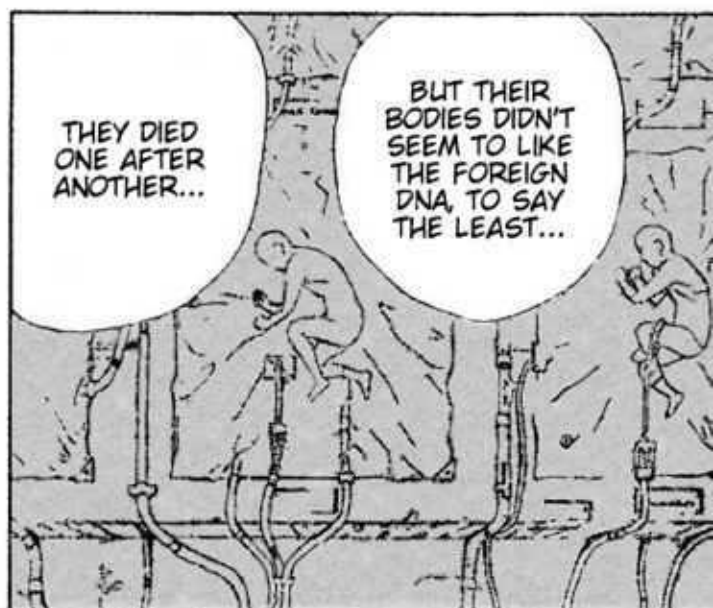
AND
WHAT'S
MORE
...

WELL, YOU SEE,
THE FIRST HOKAGE
WAS A SHINOBI
PROCESSING THE
MOST UNIQUE
OF ABILITIES...
HIS MOKUTON
NINJUTSU...

JUST WHO
IS THIS
PERSON?

GUINEA
PIG?







I WONDER
WHICH HAS
GOTTEN
STRON...

YES... BUT
BEFORE THAT,
I WOULD WISH
TO SEE OUR
SASUKE-KUN
FIGHT THE
KYUUBI BOY
ONCE.

HE ISN'T
YOURS...



DON'T
YOU DARE
TALK OF
SASUKE AS
THOUGH
HE
BELONGS
TO YOU!!

IN MY
PRESENCE

EXTREME POWER BORN
OF A RAGE VERGING ON MADNESS!
PREPARE YOURSELVES....!!