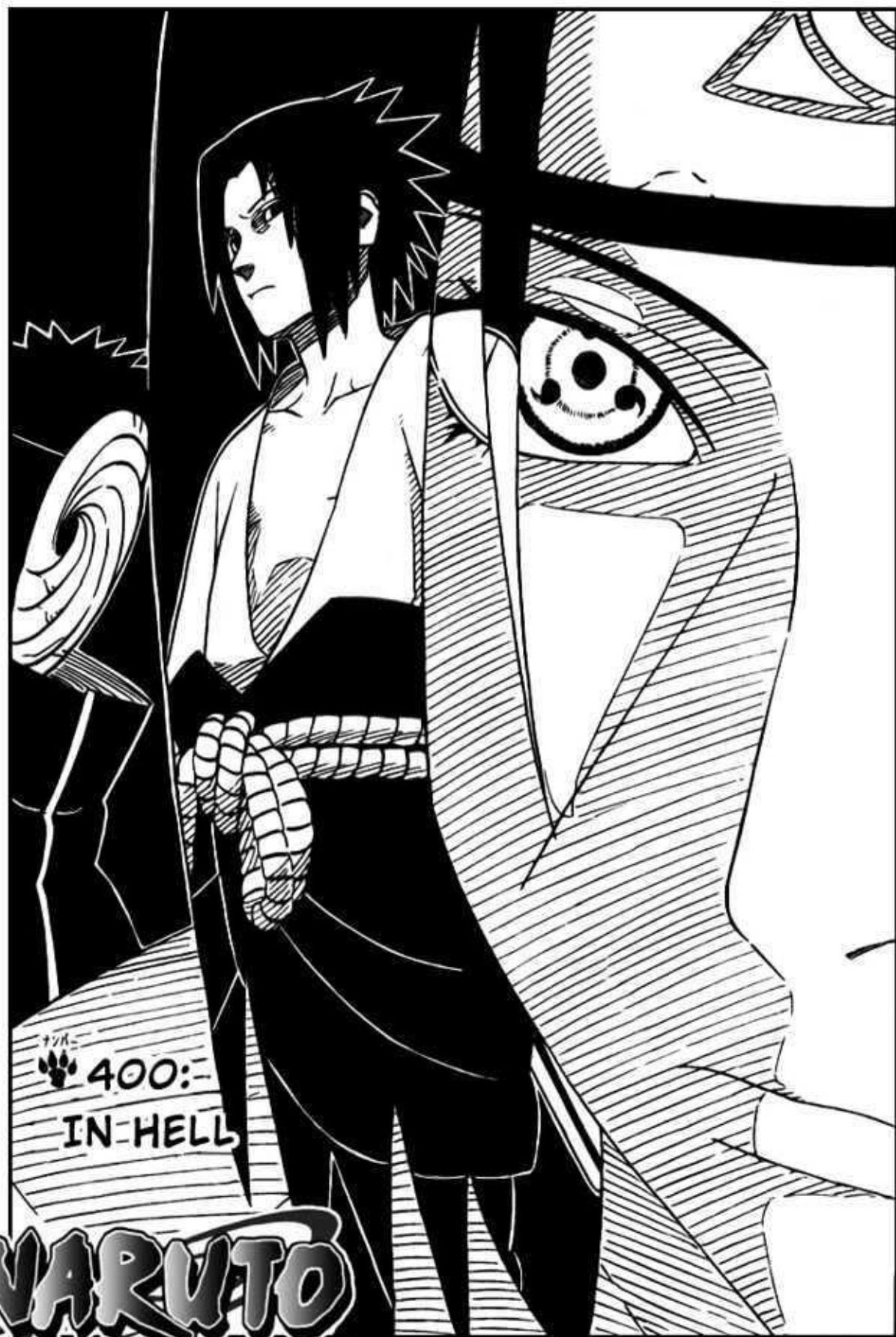


EVEN IN THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR... THOSE EYES HELD THE ONLY HOPE.



**NARUTO**  
-ナルト-



WITH

ITACHI—  
STUCK IN  
THE  
MIDDLE...



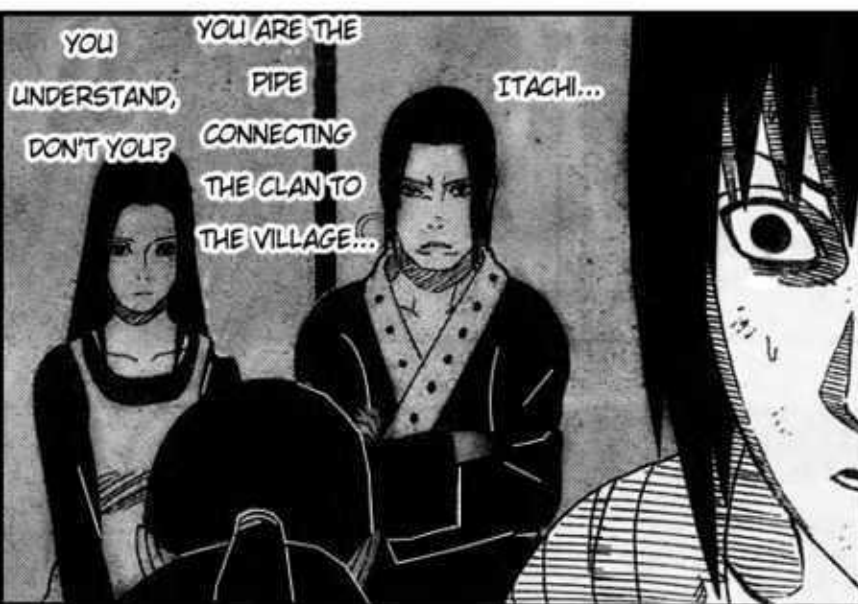
THOUGH YOU  
WERE PART  
OF UCHIHA,  
YOU WERE  
KEPT IN  
THE DARK.

YOU WERE  
TOO  
YOUNG.





YOUR FATHER,  
FUGAKU, WAS THE  
RINGLEADER  
BEHIND THE  
COUP D'ETAT.



YOU  
UNDERSTAND,  
DON'T YOU?  
YOU ARE THE  
PIPE  
CONNECTING  
THE CLAN TO  
THE VILLAGE...  
ITACHI...

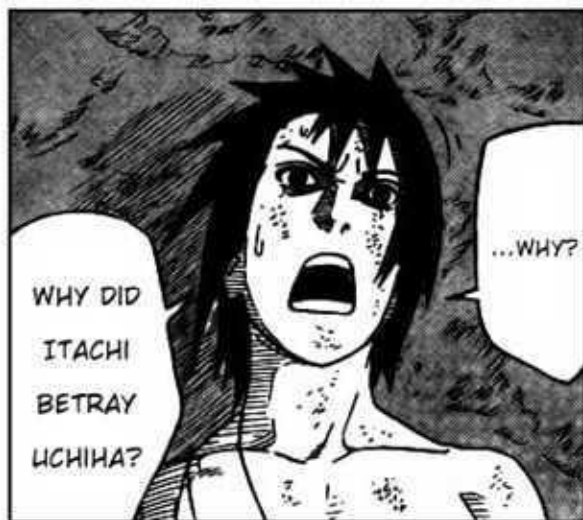


AND ITACHI  
ENTERED THE  
BLACK OPS AS  
A SPY ON YOUR  
FATHER'S  
ORDERS.



ITACHI  
GAVE THE  
VILLAGE INFO  
ON UCHIHA.  
HE WAS WHAT  
THEY CALL A  
"DOUBLE AGENT".

BUT... THE  
OPPOSITE  
HAPPENED.








THE VILLAGE  
ELDERS USED  
THAT TO  
THEIR  
ADVANTAGE.

HE LOVED  
THE VILLAGE,  
NOT WRAPPED  
UP IN CLAN  
DIFFERENCES.




THAT'S WHAT  
KIND OF MAN  
HE WAS.

HE PUT THE  
STABILITY OF  
THE VILLAGE  
FIRST AND WORKED  
TOWARDS PEACE...



AN EYE  
FOR  
AN EYE...


ONLY  
SOMEONE  
WITH THE  
SHARINGAN  
WOULD BE  
A MATCH  
FOR UCHIHA.



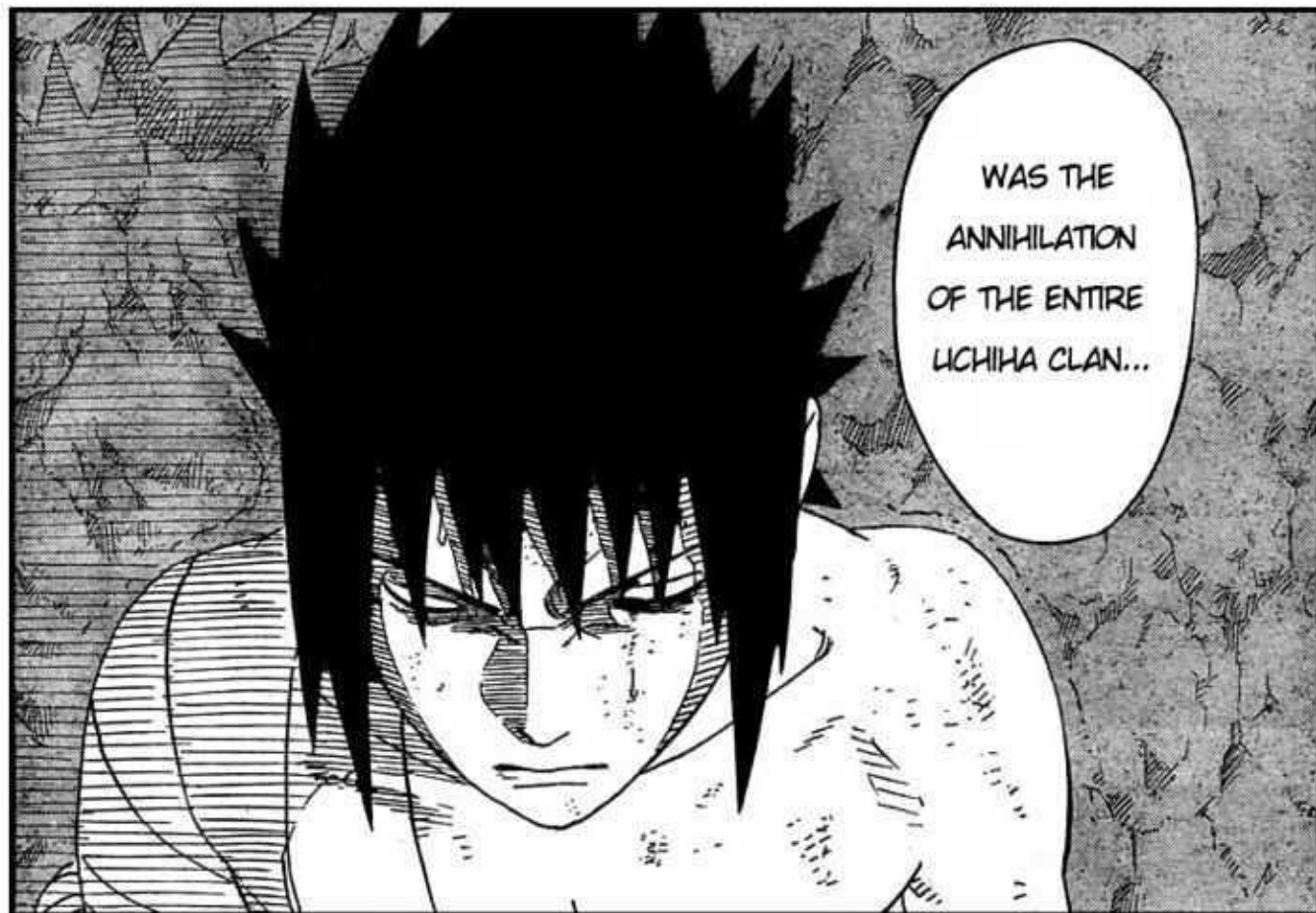
THEY GAVE  
HIM A SECRET  
MISSION.



HIS  
MISSION...



THAT'S  
RIGHT.



WAS THE  
ANNIHILATION  
OF THE ENTIRE  
UCHIHA CLAN...



HIS MENTAL  
STATE THEN.

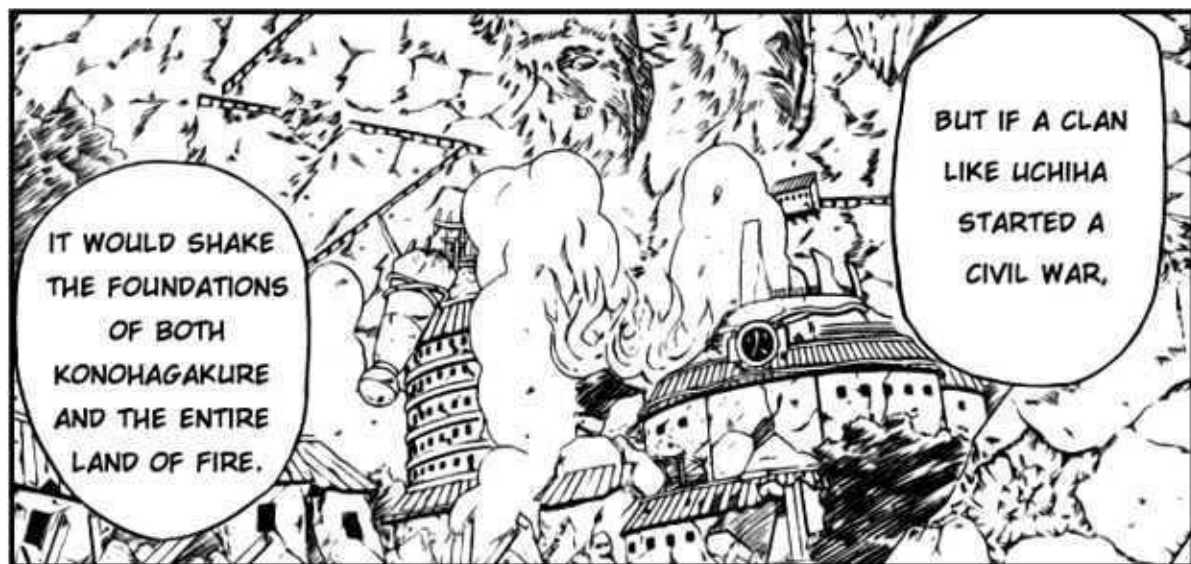
I CAN'T EVEN  
BEGIN TO  
IMAGINE...



THE BETRAYAL  
OF HIS FAMILY  
SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN AN  
INCONCEIVABLE  
CHOICE.

HE WAS FACED  
WITH A  
HORRIBLE  
CHOICE.





IT WOULD SHAKE  
THE FOUNDATIONS  
OF BOTH  
KONOHAGAKURE  
AND THE ENTIRE  
LAND OF FIRE.

BUT IF A CLAN  
LIKE UCHIHA  
STARTED A  
CIVIL WAR,



ALL FOR THE  
SAKE OF THE  
UCHIHA CLAN'S  
SELF-INTEREST.

MANY WOULD  
DIE, INCLUDING  
THOSE WITH NO  
TIES TO THE  
NINJA WORLD,



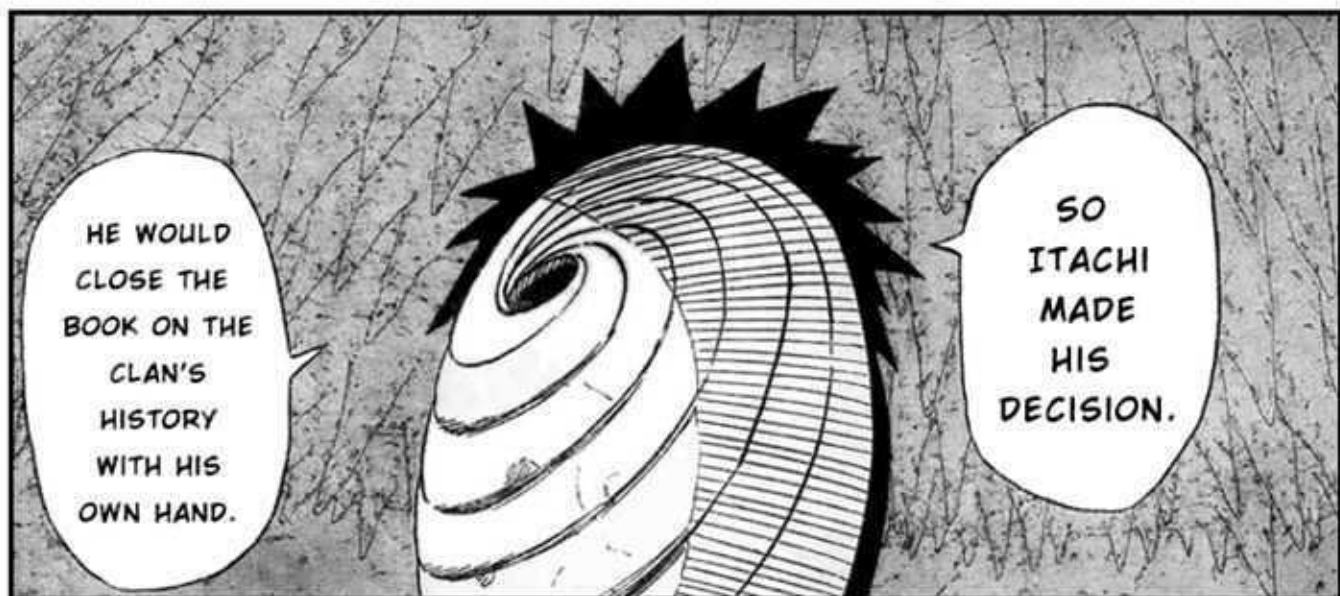
NO DOUBT  
IT WOULD  
TRIGGER A  
FOURTH  
NINJA WAR.

OTHER  
COUNTRIES  
WOULD SURELY  
TAKE THAT AS  
AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO ATTACK.



WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU HAVE  
DONE IF  
YOU WERE  
ITACHI?



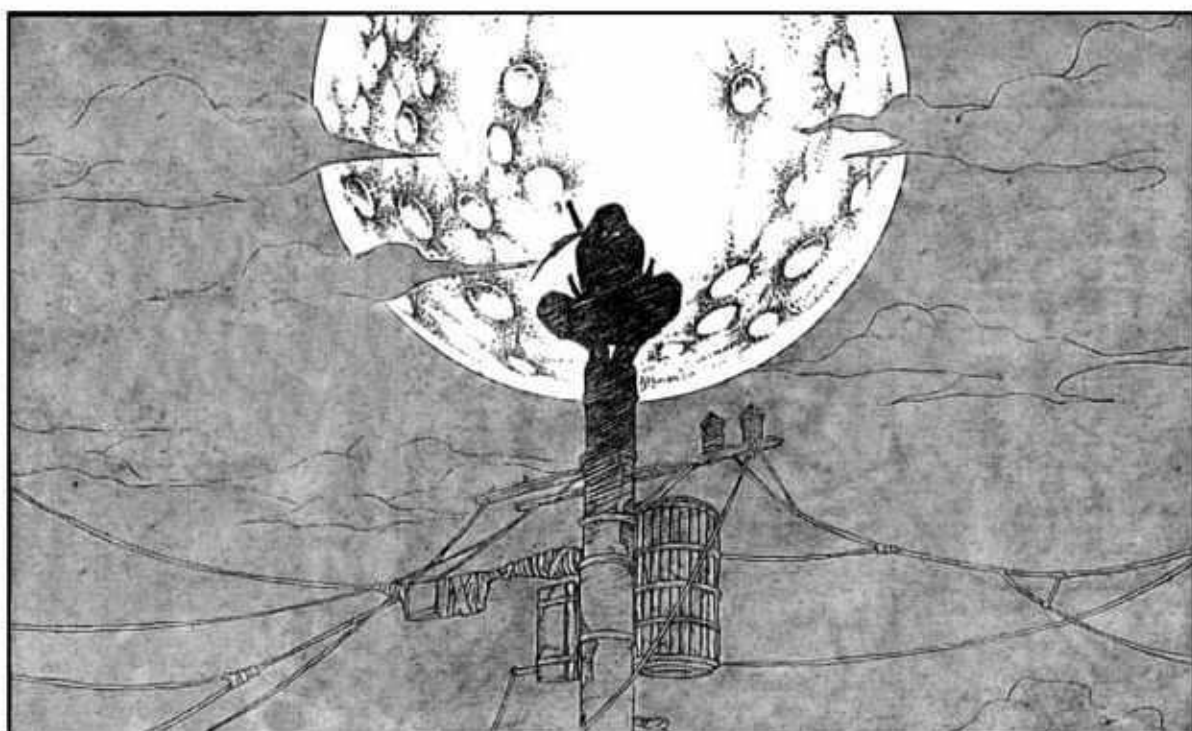









IT ALL LED  
TO THAT NIGHT.



IT WAS  
HIS DUTY.



A large, high-contrast black and white close-up of Itachi Uchiha's face. He has a somber expression, looking slightly to the side. His dark, spiky hair frames his face, and his eyes are visible, looking down with a heavy heart.


IT WAS  
ALL PART OF  
HIS DUTY.

KILLING HIS  
OWN CLAN

AND LEAVING  
THE VILLAGE  
IN DISHONOR...

A black and white panel showing Sakura Haruno from the back, looking towards two wooden barrels in a stone-walled room. She has her signature spiky black hair and is wearing a dark high-collared shirt.


AND ITACHI  
FULFILLED IT.

A close-up of Itachi's right eye, which is partially covered by a black cloth. The eye itself is visible, looking directly forward with a calm but intense gaze.

HE WAS  
UNABLE...

A black and white panel showing Sakura Haruno running away from the viewer. She is wearing a checkered scarf and dark pants, her body angled as if in motion.

EXCEPT FOR  
ONE MISTAKE.



TO KILL  
HIS OWN  
BROTHER.

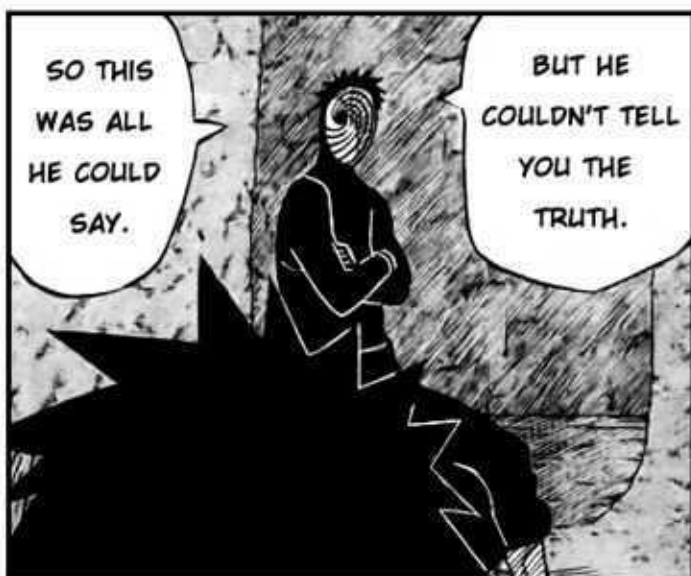




AFTERWARDS,  
ITACHI PLEADED  
WITH THE  
3RD HOKAGE



THEN AFTER  
THREATENING  
DANZO, HE  
LEFT THE  
VILLAGE.



SO THIS  
WAS ALL  
HE COULD  
SAY.

BUT HE  
COULDN'T TELL  
YOU THE  
TRUTH.





COME  
TO  
ME.

THEN WHEN  
YOU HAVE  
THE SAME  
"EYES"  
AS I DO,



IN ORDER  
TO MAKE  
YOU  
STRONGER.

HE GAVE  
YOU  
REVENGE  
AS YOUR  
GOAL.



NOT TO  
TELL YOU  
THE  
TRUTH.

HE  
BEGGED  
HOKAGE...



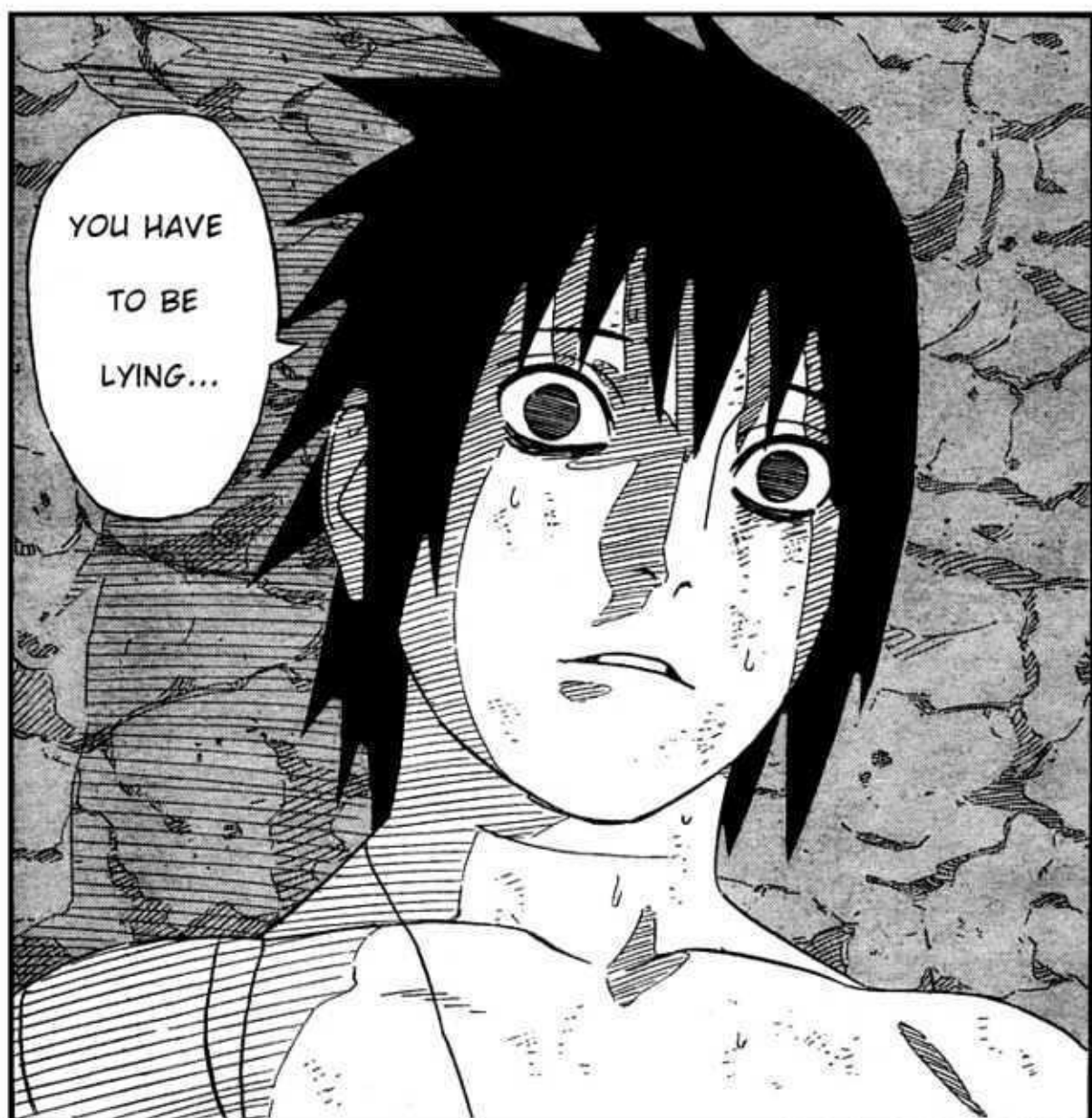
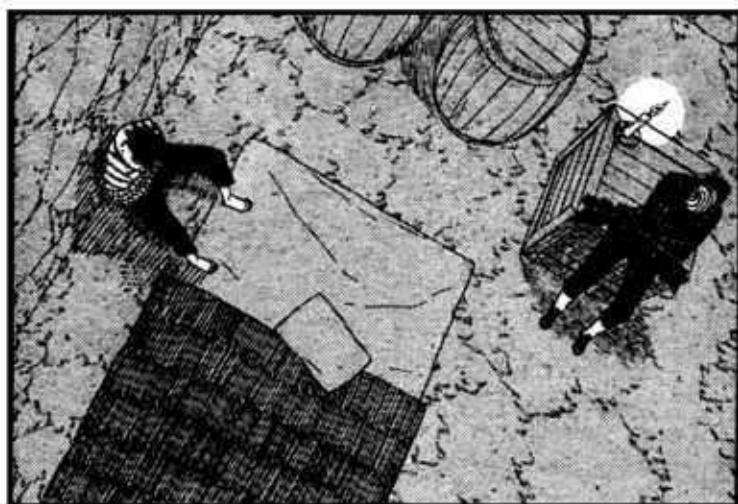
THAT UCHIHA  
WAS A CLAN  
KONOHAGAKURE  
WOULD BE  
PROUD OF.

HE  
WANTED  
YOU TO  
BELIEVE...





EVEN IN HELL... HE THOUGHT ONLY OF HIS LITTLE BROTHER. SASUKE WAS SHOCKED BY THE "TRUTH"...



**NARUTO** -ナルト-

ナンバー  
NO.400/  
... おわり

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE SHOCKED SASUKE AFTER LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS BROTHER!? NEXT ISSUE, "THE PLANNED BATTLE"!!



BY SLEEPY FANS SCANLATION  
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