



624: AIKO

MASASHI KISHIMOTO



NARUTO

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CLEANED BY
PROSTYLE, IKORE



REDRAWS BY
JINN



TYPESETTING BY
SMOKY, JINN



TRANSLATED BY
MANKAI



PROVIDED BY
FRIEDRICH



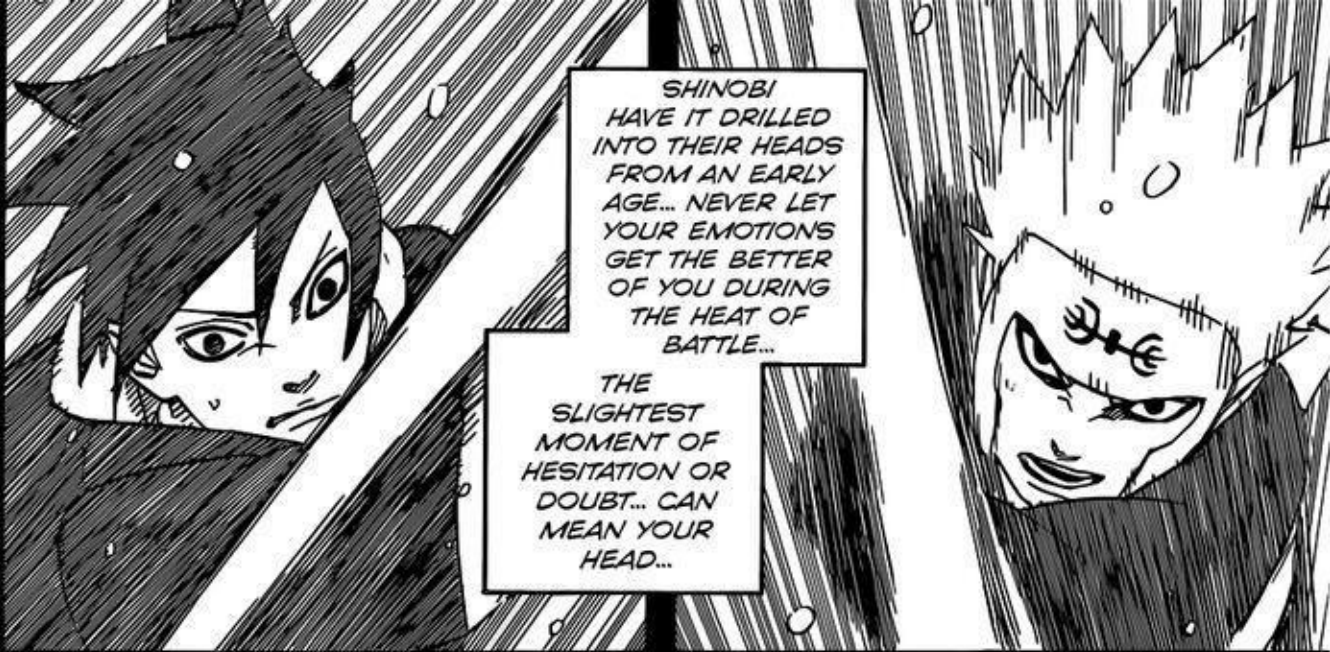
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WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR REGION.





A close-up of two characters, Sasuke on the left and Itachi on the right, looking intensely at each other. The background consists of diagonal hatching lines.

SHINOBI
HAVE IT DRILLED
INTO THEIR HEADS
FROM AN EARLY
AGE... NEVER LET
YOUR EMOTIONS
GET THE BETTER
OF YOU DURING
THE HEAT OF
BATTLE...

THE
SLIGHTEST
MOMENT OF
HESITATION OR
DOUBT... CAN
MEAN YOUR
HEAD...

A medium shot of Sasuke and Itachi facing each other, shouting. A large speech bubble is positioned between them.

**STOP
IT!**

A close-up of Itachi's face, looking down with a somber expression.A close-up of Sasuke's face, looking down with a somber expression.A wide shot of Sasuke and Itachi in a physical struggle on the ground. There is a large burst of energy or impact between them, with many motion lines radiating outwards.

BOTH
ADULTS,
HOWEVER,
WERE WELL
AWARE...



NO MATTER
THEIR STRICT
TRAINING AND
DISCIPLINE...EVEN
IF ONLY FOR A
BRIEF MOMENT...
THEY'D BECOME
FLUSTERED...

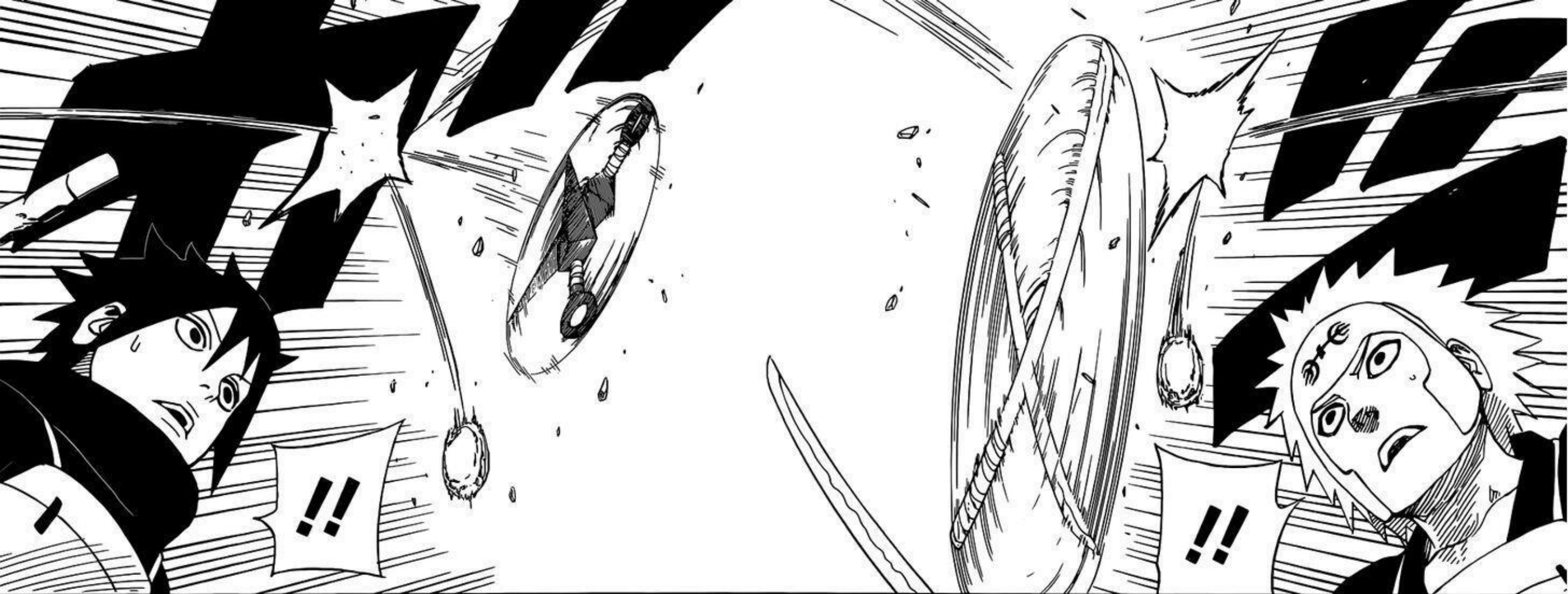
THAT IF
EITHER ONE
OF THEIR SONS
WERE KILLED
BEFORE THEIR
VERY EYES...



WHOEVER
SUCCEEDED
IN A PRE-EMPTIVE
STRIKE, WOULD BE
THE LAST MAN
STANDING....

THE OBVIOUS
CONSEQUENCE
OF ALL THIS
WAS...





T/L: LEAVE NOW. IT'S A TRAP.



T/L: RUN



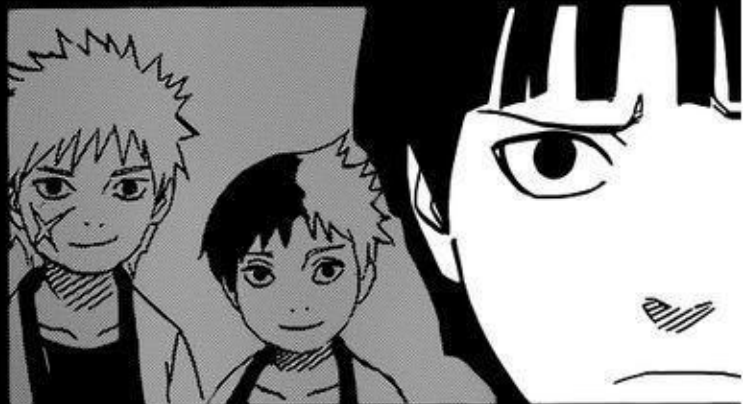


T/L: LEAVE NOW. IT'S A TRAP.

T/L: RUN









AND
WHEN THAT
TIME COMES
...YOU WILL
ADDRESS ME
AS MADARA
UCHIHA!



DID IT...JUST
AWAKEN...?

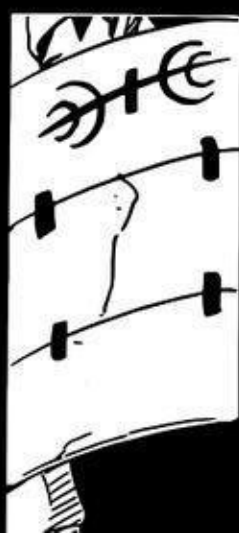
HIS
SHARIN-
GAN...



HEH...WE FAILED
TO GATHER ANY
USEFUL INTEL
ON THE SENJU...

YOU SEE
THAT FATHER!
BIG BROTHER'S
EYES HAVE...!!!

BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE WE DON'T
GO BACK COM-
pletely empty
handed...



AN
AWAKENED
SHARINGAN...

EVEN AT
THAT AGE...
I KNEW THE
IMPLICATIONS
OF...



WAS
DEAD TO
HIM...

FROM
THAT MOMENT
FORWARD...THE
FRIEND WHO
HE'D SHARED
SO MANY
MOMENTS
WITH...



CROSSING
BLADES ON
THE BATTLE-
FIELD ONE
DAY AFTER
THE NEXT...

NOW
WHEN WE
MET... IT
WAS AS
FOES...



AND, IN
THE BLINK OF
AN EYE, WE'D
BECOME THE
HEADS OF OUR
RESPECTIVE
CLANS...

THERE WE
BOTH STOOD...IN A
WORLD WHICH HAD
TURNED INTO THE
EXACT OPPOSITE
OF THE ONE WE
HAD DISCUSSED
AND FANTASIZED
ABOUT IN OUR
YOUNGER
DAYS...

T/N: HIRAISHINGIRI

FLYING
THUNDER
GOD SLASH
!!!

!!?

MADARA...
YOU CAN'T
WIN...

WE
SHOULD...

PANT

PANT

IZUNA!



PUT
AN END
TO ALL
THIS...

THE
DIFFERENCE
WAS...I STILL
BELIEVED
IT WASN'T
WISHFUL
THINKING...



THINK
ABOUT
IT...



IF THE
TWO MIGHTIEST
CLANS, THE UCHIHA
AND SENJU, WERE
TO JOIN HANDS...
EVERY NEIGHBO-
RING COUNTRY
WOULD...

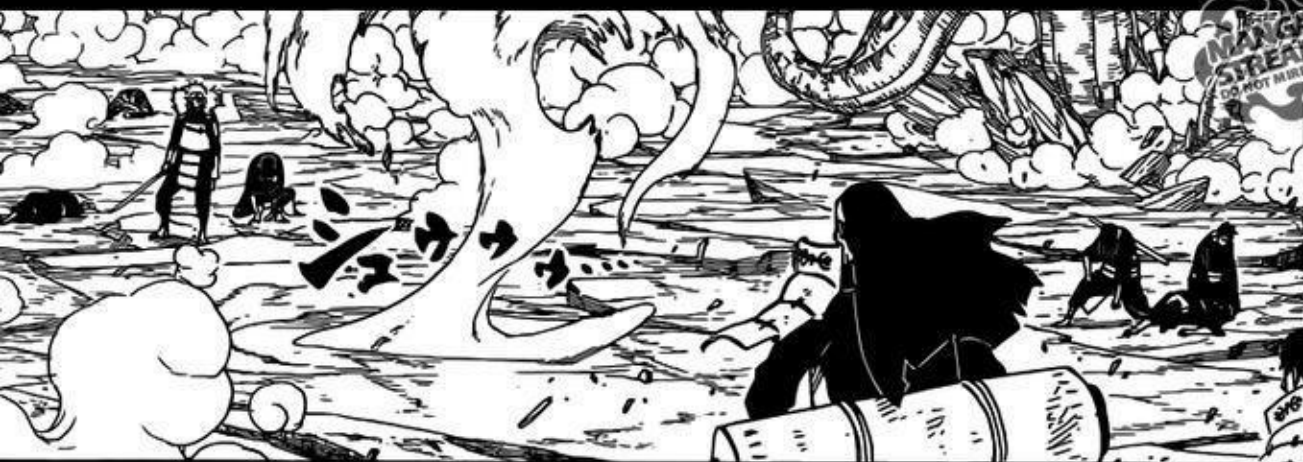
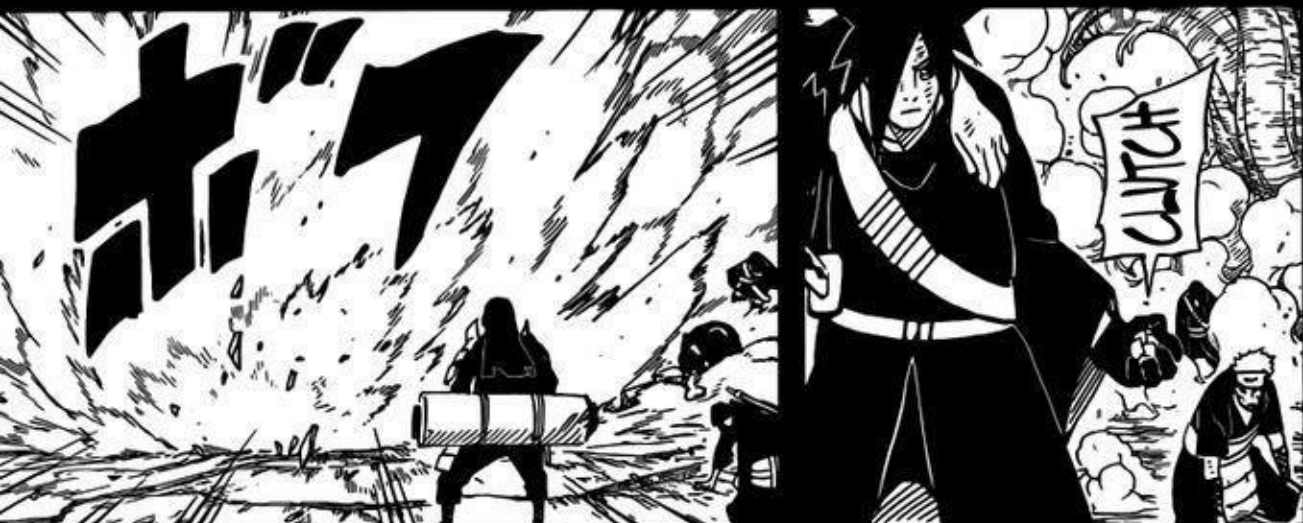
SEE HOW
FUTILE IT WAS
TO CHALLENGE
US...EVENTUALLY,
THE FIGHTING
WOULD CEASE...



DON'T
LET HIS
PRETTY
WORDS
DECEIVE
YOU...

BROTHER
...DON'T...





IT WAS
DURING THIS
TIME...THE DRASTIC
SHIFT IN MADARA'S
PERSONALITY
OCCURRED...



SO MUCH
SO, THAT HE
BEGAN HAVING
DEFECTORS
WHO THOUGHT
IT MORE PRU-
DENT TO JOIN
FORCES WITH
THE SENJU.

WHILE
THEY MADE A
STRONG SHOWING
THEMSELVES...IT
WAS PAINFULLY
OBVIOUS THAT THE
UCHIHA WERE
OUTCLASSED
DURING OUR
CLASHES...



THIS IS A
FINAL PRESENT
FROM HIM...TO
MAKE SURE I
PROTECT THE
UCHIHAS!!!

ON TOP
OF WHICH, HE
HAD ACQUIRED
THE ETERNAL
MANGEKYO
SHARINGAN...

YOU'RE
THE ONE...WHO
INFLECTED THOSE
MORTAL WOUNDS
ON MY YOUNGER
BROTHER...



IF YOU REALLY
HAVE THE BEST
INTEREST OF THE
UCHIHA IN MIND,
WE NEED TO STOP
ALL THIS SPILLING
OF BLOOD!

HAVE
YOU READ
THE TRUCE
I SENT
YOU?!



THERE
WILL NEVER
BE A TRUCE
BETWEEN
US!!!



HASHIRAMA!
WE'RE NO LONGER
CHILDREN PLAYING
WITH ONE ANOTHER!
I HAVE NO USE FOR
YOUR ADOLESCENT
IDEOLOGY!!!



MADARA
HAD FINALLY
FALLEN...

AFTER 24
HOURS OF
NON-STOP
FIGHTING...

ドドドド

NIANGA
STREAM
DO YOU MIND?



THIS
ENDS NOW...
MADARA...



WHY,
BROTHER
?!!

WE CAN
FINALLY END
THINGS RIGHT
HERE, RIGHT
NOW!!!



....



TOBIRAMA
...WAIT...

TOUCH
ONE HAIR ON
HIS BODY...I
DARE YOU...

PFFT...JUST...
MAKE IT QUICK
AND PAINLESS,
HASHIRAMA...

WAAAAH

IF WE PUT
OUR HEADS
TOGETHER-

LET'S
SETTLE
THIS...LIKE
WE USED
TO...

I
CAN GO IN
PEACE...

IF IT'S
YOU...

WHEN FACED
WITH THAT FORK
IN THE ROAD...
YOU AND I WENT
IN OPPOSITE
DIRECTIONS...

YOU
KNOW...THAT'S
NO LONGER
POSSIBLE...

YOU'RE
WRONG...

NO...NO
UCHIHA VIEWS
ME WITH SUCH
REGARD...NOT
ANYMORE...

IF I
KILL THE HEAD OF
THEIR CLAN...ALL THE
YOUNG UCHIHA WHO
HOLD YOU IN HIGH
ESTEEM WOULD GO
CRAZY...IT'LL BE
ANARCHY...

WILL
YOU DROP
THE TOUGH
GUY ACT
ALREADY...



TO
PROTECT WHAT
YOU LOVE, YOU
WILL BECOME
HATED...

ALONG WITH
FIGHTS FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF
PEACE, THERE ARE
ALSO BATTLES FOR
SELF INTEREST.

