



I REQUESTED AID
FROM THE OTHER
KAGES MANY
TIMES, BUT THEY
ALL IGNORED ME.

...EXCEPT
FOR THE
FORMER
HOKAGE.

THOUGH AT
THIS POINT,
WITH SO MANY
HOSTS
CAPTURED, IT'S
TOO LATE FOR
AID.



ONCE IT'S STOLEN,
YOU CAN'T EXPECT
OTHER COUNTRIES
TO HELP YOU!

YOU SHOULD
HAVE TRIED TO
RECOVER IT IN
SECRET!



HMPH... IF A COUNTRY
HAS HAD ITS HOST
CAPTURED, IT HAS NO
BUSINESS GIVING
OTHER COUNTRIES
ORDERS!

IT'S AN
EMBARRASS-
MENT!

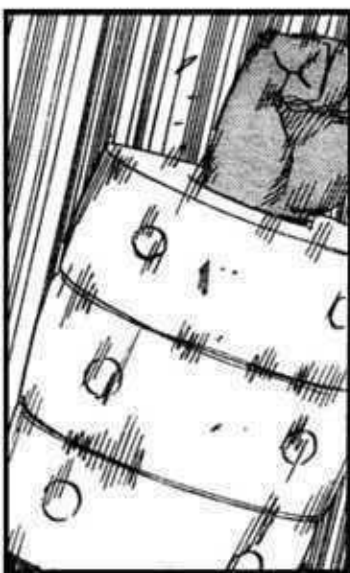


HMPH...
BRAT...



I DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR
THAT RIDICU-
LOUS OLD-
FASHIONED
THINKING.

APPEARANCE
... HONOR...





QUIT
YOUR
YAPPING
!!!







AND THAT'S
NOT ALL!!

KONoha! IWA!
SUNA! KIRI!

AKATSUKI IS MADE
UP OF MISSING-NIN
FROM YOUR
VILLAGES!



I HAD NO
INTENTION OF
SPEAKING WITH
YOU!

I DON'T TRUST
YOU!



USED
AKATSUKI...?



INCLUDING
FORMER KAGES,
WHO HAVE USED
AKATSUKI FOR
THEIR OWN
PURPOSES!!

I KNOW THAT
THERE ARE
THOSE AMONG
YOU,

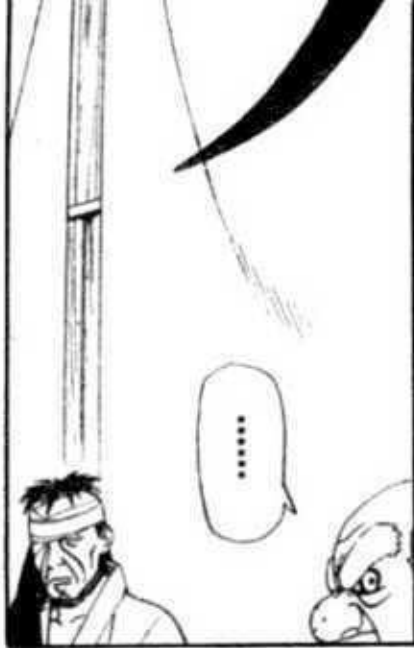


WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
"USED
AKATSUKI"
!?



TO FIND OUT
WHERE YOUR TRUE
LOYALTIES LIE!!!

I CALLED YOU
ALL HERE



YOU USED
AKATSUKI IN
YOUR OWN
WAR!

YOU'RE THE
KAZEKAGE,
HASN'T ANYONE
TOLD YOU
ANYTHING!?

GO ASK YOUR
ELDERS!



BUT
THERE'S A
RISK.

THEY'D LOSE
THE WAR.

AS TENSIONS EASE
BETWEEN THE
COUNTRIES, THE
THREAT OF WAR
GROWS SMALLER.

MILITARY
VILLAGES ARE
A DRAIN ON A
COUNTRY'S
RESOURCES...

THE GREAT COUNTRIES
ARE ENJOYING A TIME
OF RELATIVE PEACE...
THEY ARE MOVING
FROM MILITARY
EXPANSION TO
DISARMAMENT.



...LIKE
AKATSUKI?

SO ONE WAY OF
DEALING WITH THAT
WAS TO USE A
MERCENARY FORCE...

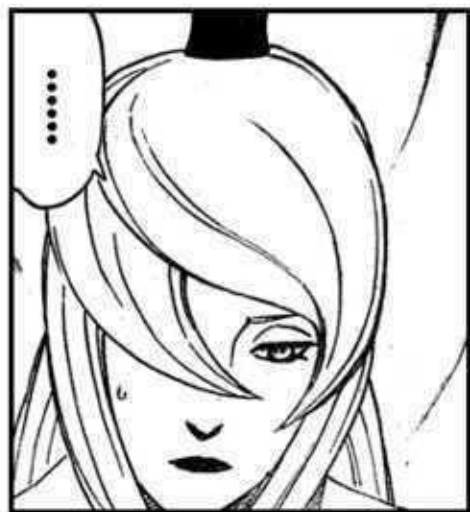
FURTHERMORE,
THEY ALWAYS
HAD GOOD
RESULTS.

AND THEY COULD
BE HIRED FOR
RELATIVELY
LITTLE.

BUT AKATSUKI
WERE PROFES-
SIONALS.

IT WOULD TAKE
TIME AND MONEY
FOR A VILLAGE TO
BUILD SUCH A
FORCE
THEMSELVES.









BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A SILVER LINING... IT'S RARE FOR THE FIVE KAGES TO COME TOGETHER LIKE THIS.

HE USED THE STABILITY... AND THE SUSPICION OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES TO INCREASE HIS OWN POWER...

WHAT DO YOU SAY...? UNTIL AKATSUKI IS TAKEN CARE OF...

AT THIS RATE, EVEN THE LAND OF IRON...



AS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY, I HAVE TO SAY,

THE LEADER OF AKATSUKI READ THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES...



WHAT WOULD YOU THINK OF FORMING... A FIVE-VILLAGE ALLIANCE?



THE QUESTION IS SO... WHO WILL HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THIS NEW ARMY...?



THE CHAIN OF COMMAND SHOULD BE UNIFORM.

WE WANT TO AVOID ANY FURTHER CONFLUSION.



...IT'S A GOOD IDEA.
WE'RE IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY... WE HAVE TO COOPERATE.

...I LIKE WHERE THIS IS HEADING.



AN ALLIANCE!?

NOW...
TSUNADE'S
TIME IS OVER.

I WILL DECIDE
WHO AMONG
YOU IS BEST
SUITED FOR
THE JOB.

侍

YOU WILL ONLY
FIGHT AMONGST
YOURSELVES...

SO I WOULD LIKE
YOU TO RESPECT MY
POSITION AS A
NEUTRAL PARTY.

SHE BEAT HIM
UP... BUT HE
STILL DIDN'T SELL
HIM OUT.

YEAH... HE
WAS
PROTECTING
SASUKE.

HE
WHAT...!?

IT'S PROBABLY
USELESS,
THOUGH...

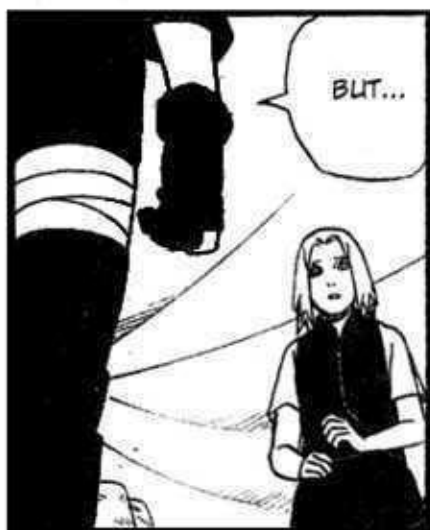
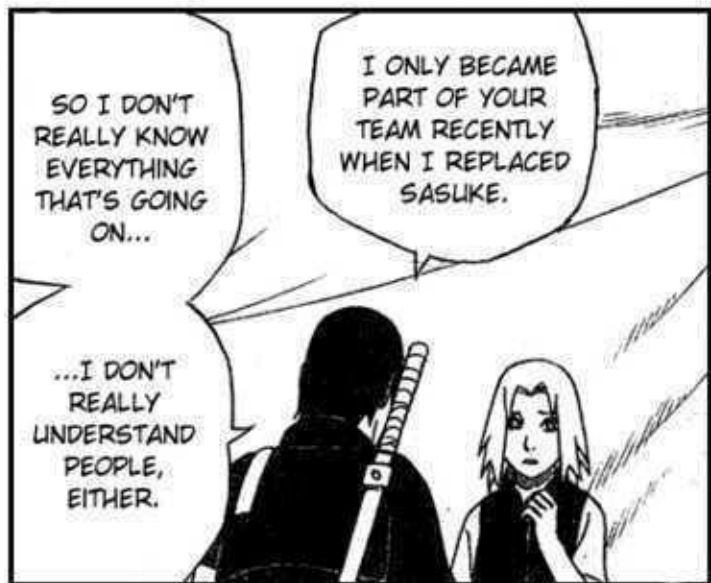
HE WENT TO ASK
THE RAIKAGE TO
FORGIVE
SASUKE...

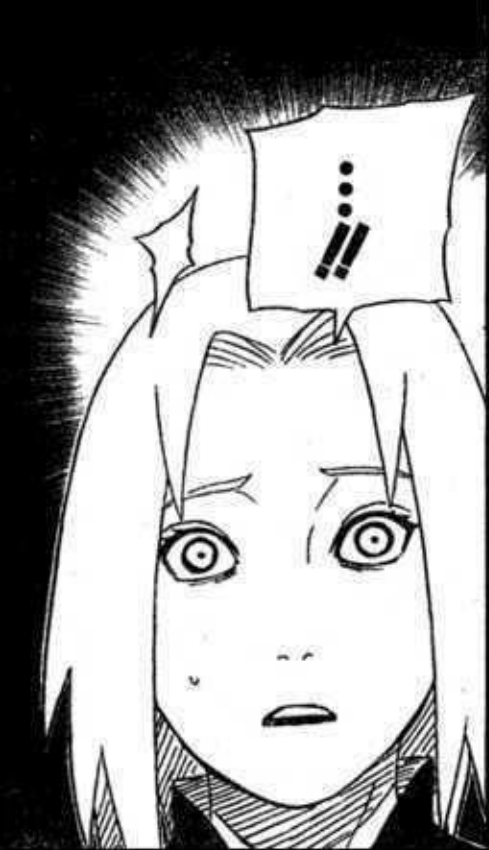
ISN'T
KAKASHI
WITH HIM?

WHY WOULD
HE DO
THAT!?

NARUTO...

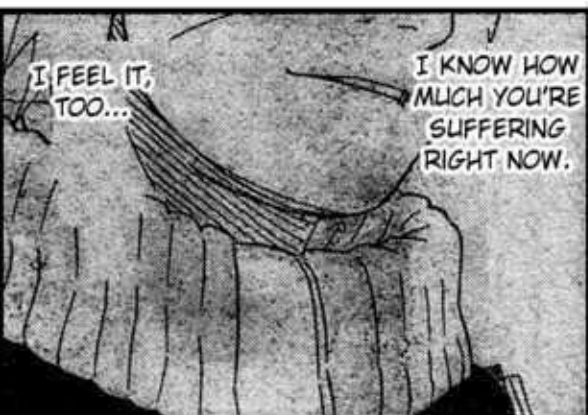
AND... HE TOLD ME
NOT TO TELL YOU
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T
WANT TO WORRY
YOU...





EVEN I CAN TELL

THAT HE REALLY
LOVES YOU!!



I KNOW HOW
MUCH YOU'RE
SUFFERING
RIGHT NOW.



I KNOW
YOU LOVE
SASUKE...

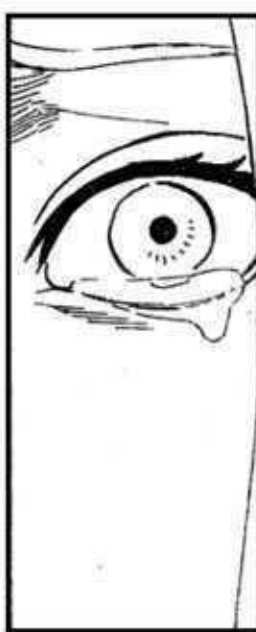


I SWEAR I'LL
KEEP MY
PROMISE.

...SASUKE
! I...

IS WHAT BEING A
NINJA MEANS TO
ME...

NOT GOING
BACK ON
YOUR WORD



I SWEAR
I'LL BRING
HIM BACK!

I
PROMISE!
!





BUT I THINK
YOU DO, TOO.



WHAT DO YOU
SAY? WILL YOU
ALLOW THE
HOKAGE TO
LEAD THE
ALLIANCE?



I THINK IT
WILL BE THE
KEY TO ALL
OF THIS...

THE ONLY
HOST LEFT IS
KONOHGA'S
NINE-TAILED
BEAST...



WHA
!?

WHAT!?

WILL THE
MEETING
BECOME A
BATTLEFIELD...!?



NARUTO-ナルト-

NO. 458

END



BY SLEEPY FANS SCANLATION
SCANNER: AGENT007
TRANSLATOR: SAKURA
EDITOR: GUMJIM, STRIDER
QC: STRIDER

