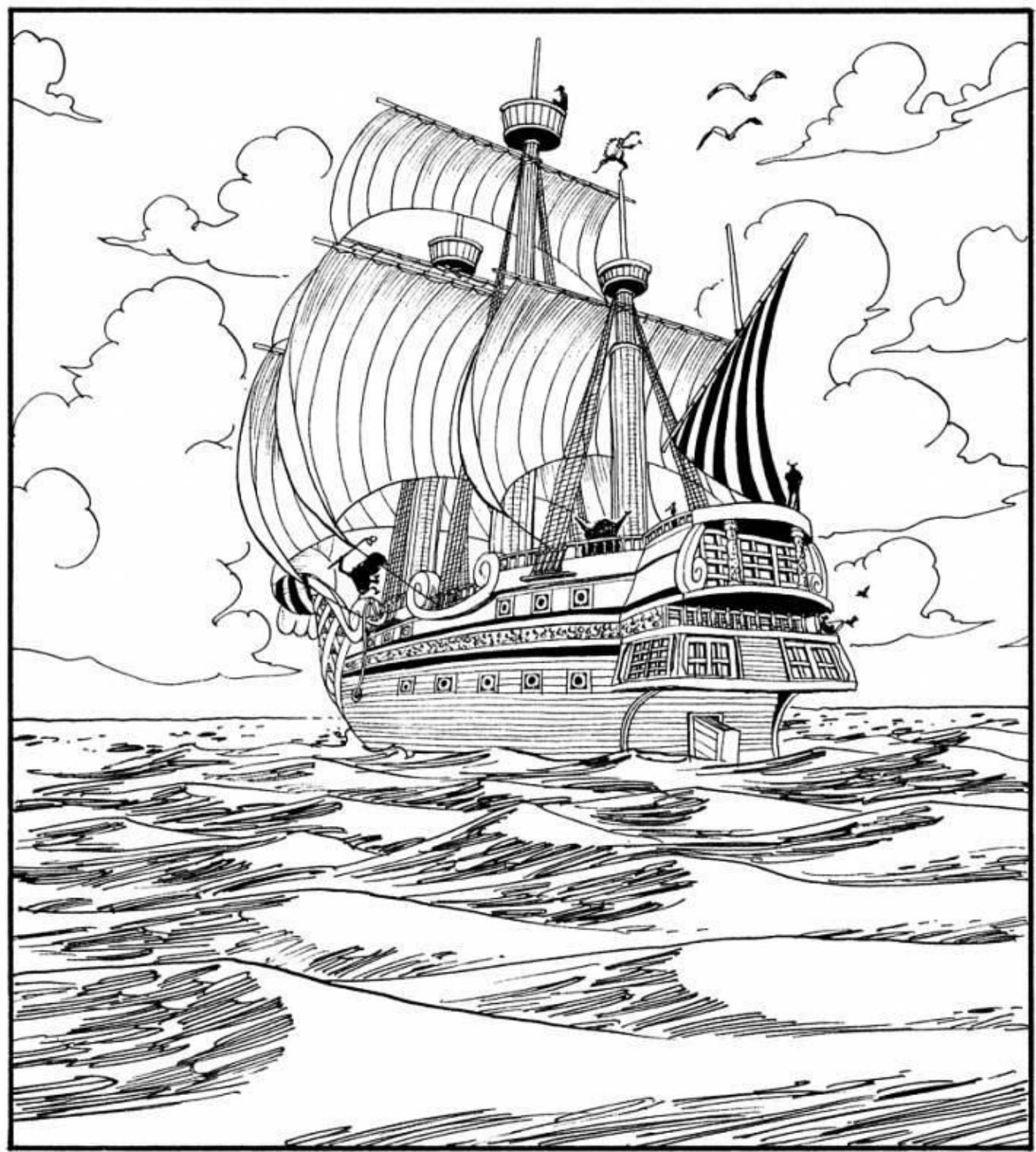


Chapter 517:

"BATH TIME"



CP9 INDEPENDENT ACTION REPORT VOL. 24:
"CP9 LEAVES SAINT POPLA."



LADY
HEBIHIME
!!!

HER BEAUTY
KNOWS NO
BOUNDS!!

KYAAAA
!!!

IT'S THE
GORGON
SISTERS!!

THEY'RE SO
COOL...!!

LADY
SANDER-
SONIA!!

LADY
MARIGOLD
!!

I'M GONNA
JOIN THEM
SOMEDAY!

NO,
NOT A
THING...

HAS
ANYTHING
CHANGED
HERE?

THANK YOU
FOR ALL
YOU'VE DONE.
WE HAVE
PREPARED
YOUR
CARRIAGE.

AND RIGHT BEFORE WE GOT BACK, WE TOOK THE CARGO OF A GOVERNMENT SHIP!

WE PLUNDERED TWO MERCHANT SHIPS AND A PIRATE SHIP.

THIS IS AN AMAZING HAUL!! STEEL, GUNPOWDER, SAKE, AND PRODUCE FROM THE NORTH!!



THEY CARRIED IT TO THE CASTLE VERY CAREFULLY, SO AS NOT TO BREAK IT. IT WAS VERY CUTE...

THEY EVEN PAINTED IT... I'M SURE THAT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM.

A CLAY STATUE OF YOU, LADY HEBIHIME, THAT THE CHILDREN FROM THE VILLAGE WORKED VERY HARD ON.

AH, THAT IS



IT'S RUINING THE DECOR OF THIS ROOM.

!!!

IT'S SO UGLY...!!!

I SEE...

THEY MADE ME OUT OF CLAY...

JUST THROW IT AWAY AND CLEAN UP THE FLOOR!!

DON'T BRING SUCH FILTHY THINGS INTO THE CASTLE!!

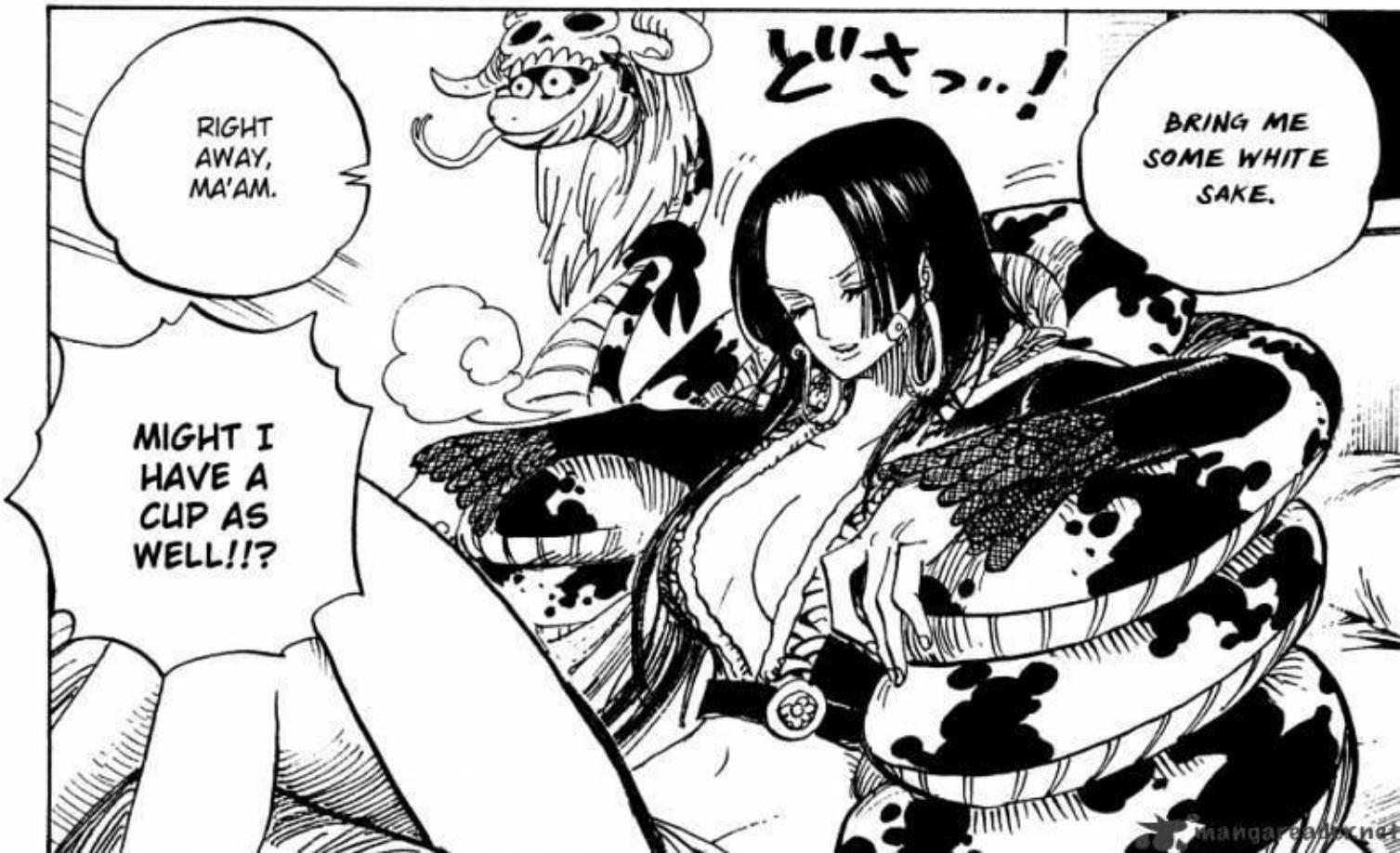
AAAHH, LADY HEBIHIME !?

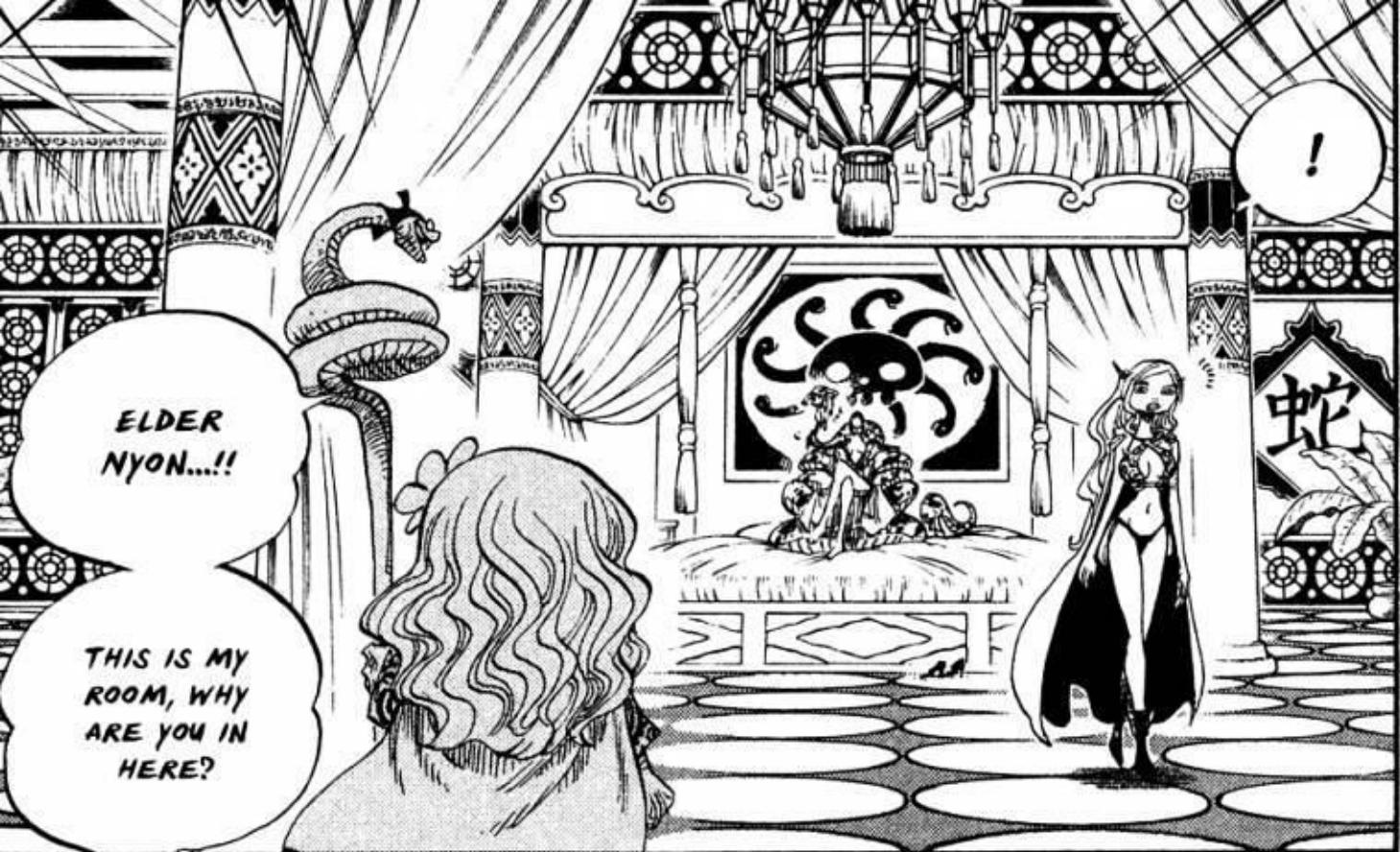
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ENISHIDA...

Y... YES, MA'AM!?



IT SEEMS
THAT A
DANGEROUS
"MONKEY"
WAS SPOTTED
IN THE
JUNGLE...





THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED YOU TO ASSEMBLE, AND HAS SENT THEM TO ESCORT YOU, RIGHT?

THAT SHIP HAS COME TO RETRIEVE YOU. AM I WRONG?

AS LONG AS YOU COOPERATE, THE TREATY WILL BE UPHELD. AND WITH YOUR POWERS,

YOUR LIFE WILL NEVER BE IN DANGER.

WHY DIDN'T YOU GO!!

YOU MUST GO WITH THEM!!!

YES, IT IS AN INVITATION TO WAR...

HAWAWA!! SHE'S JUST LIKE A PUPPY...♥

I'm so scared...

But...

ELDER NYON...

NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT!!!

LONG AGO,
THE CALM
BELT WAS OUR
GREATEST
DEFENSE,

PROTECTING
US FROM
FOREIGN
INVADERS.

RIGHT
NOW... OUR
COUNTRY...

IS BEING
PROTECTED
BY YOUR
STATUS AS A
SHICHIBUKAI.

THEY DO NOT
INTERFERE
WITH THIS
ISLAND,

IT IS
BECAUSE
YOU ARE A
SHICHIBUKAI
THAT

DESPITE
THE KUJA
PIRATES'
ACTIONS.

BUT NOW, THE
GOVERNMENT
HAS DEVELOPED
NEW
TECHNOLOGY

THAT ALLOWS
THEIR SHIPS
TO CROSS
THAT SEA...

TAKE A GOOD LOOK
INTO THIS CRYSTAL
BALL... IT WILL
ILLUMINATE YOUR
FUTURE.

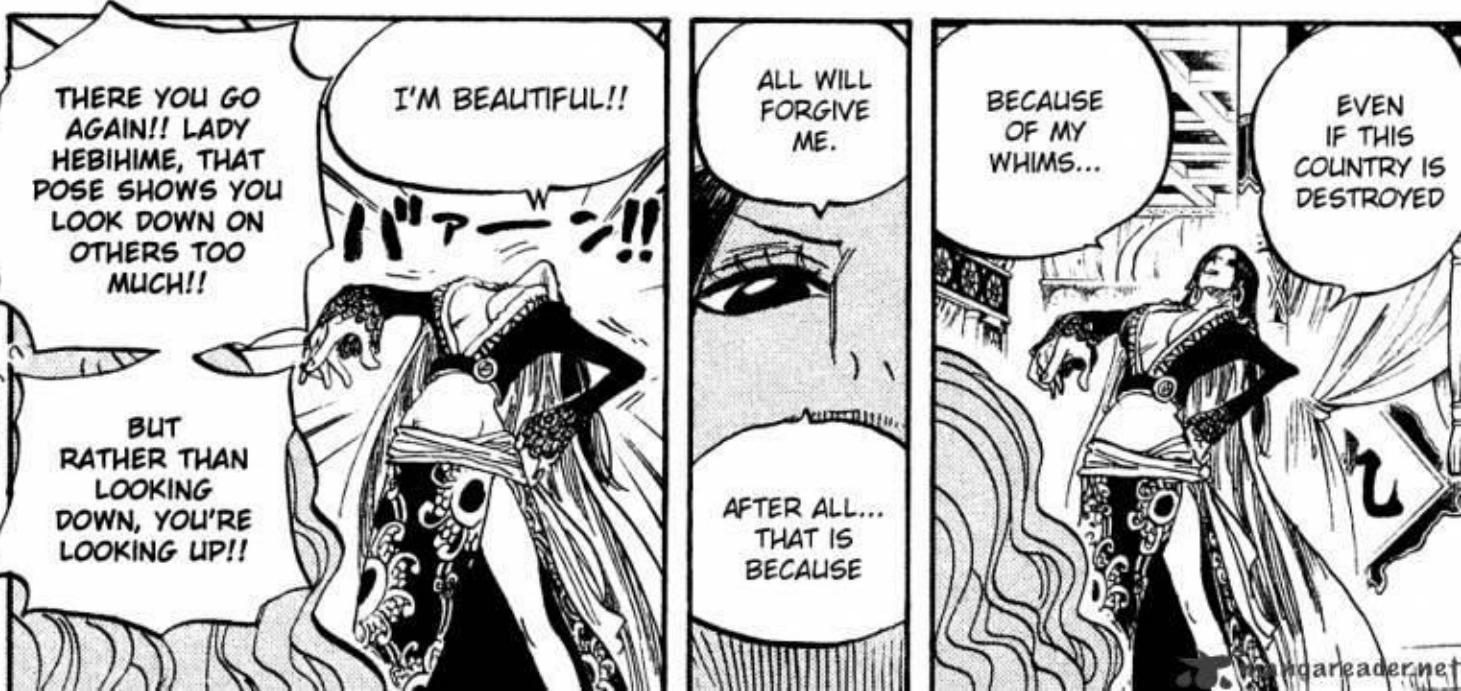
... I'VE LED
A GOOD LIFE,
AND I DON'T
CARE WHEN
I DIE...

WE HAVE
CHILDREN
AND THE
ELDERLY
HERE, TOO!!!

IF YOU LOSE
YOUR TITLE AND
WE RETURN TO
BEING JUST
ANOTHER PIRATE
COUNTRY... IT
WILL END IN
TRAGEDY!!!



*CRYSTAL BALL: GO.



THE ONLY
REASON YOU
WERE ACCEPTED
BACK WAS
BECAUSE THE
PREVIOUS
EMPEROR
SHOWED YOU
MERCY.

AND THEN YOU
SHAMELESSLY
CAME BACK.

ABANDONED
THIS COUNTRY
AND WENT OUT
TO SEA!!!

YOU'RE A
TRAITOR TO
THE KUJA
WHO, WHILE
YOU WERE
THE EMPRESS,

!

THEN YOU
JUST GO ON
LIVING THAT
WAY...

I AM THE
EMPEROR NOW,
AND YOU HAVE
NO RIGHT TO
SPEAK TO ME!!

THAT'S WHY
I LIVE BY
MYSELF ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF
THE VILLAGE!!

OW OW
OW....!!

SO YOU
UNDERSTAND,
HEBIHIME... I'M
GLAD THAT I
SPOKE WITH
YOU!!

BUT, I CANNOT
HELP BUT
ADMIRE YOUR
PASSION.

THANK YOU!!
SO YOU'LL GO
FOR US!!!?

IT'S MY
LOSS...

LADY
HEBIHIME
!!!

!!?



LADY
HEBIHIME'S
BATH!!!

IT IS
NOW TIME
FOR...

KANKAN-
KANKAN
!!!

QUICKLY,
GET
OUTSIDE
...!!

NO, NO,
WE HAVE
TO
HURRY!!

... B.... BUT
I'M EATING.

LADY
HEBIHIME
IS TAKING
A BATH!

GET OUT
OF THE
CASTLE
AT ONCE!!

THE STORES
ARE GONNA GET
CROWDED WITH
EVERYONE FROM
THE CASTLE OUT
HERE.

OH, IT'S
BATH
TIME...

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ENTERING
THE CASTLE
IS FORBID-
DEN!!!

FROM
NOW ON,



... HOW
OLD ARE
YOU?

WELL, I'LL
LET YOU
IN ON THE
SECRET.

IT'S SUCH
A BIG
DEAL?

HOW COME
EVERY TIME
LADY HEBIHIME
TAKES A BATH

DOES SHE
NOT WANT
TO BE SEEN
NAKED THAT
MUCH...?

SHE WAS
A FEARSOME
MONSTER WHO
WOULD TURN YOU
TO STONE IF YOU
LOOKED HER IN
THE EYES.

THE "GORGON"
WAS A MONSTER
THAT LIVED LONG
AGO IN THE
CENTRAL SEA.

AT THE END OF
THEIR ADVENTURES,
LADY HEBIHIME AND
HER SISTERS

THE SECRET...
OF THE THREE
GORGON
SISTERS?

THAT'S
RIGHT!

PLACED A
TERRIBLE
CURSE ON
THEM.

THE MONSTER'S
HUGE EYES WERE
ENGRAVED ON
LADY HEBIHIME
AND HER
SISTERS' BACKS.

SOMEHOW
MANAGED TO
DEFEAT THE
GORGON
MONSTER!

BUT WITH HER
LAST BREATH,
THE GORGON

AND THAT'S
WHY WHEN
THEY BATHE,
WE PREVENT
ANYONE FROM
COMING CLOSE

THAT'S WHY THE
GORGON SISTERS
NEVER TAKE OFF
THEIR CLOTHES
WHEN THERE'S
ANYBODY AROUND.

ALL THOSE
CLOSE BY ARE
TURNED TO
STONE BY
THE CURSE.

WHEN THEY
TAKE OFF THEIR
CLOTHES AND
REVEAL THE
EYES...

BY PUTTING
UP THESE
BARRIERS.

DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND?

AND SO IT'S
ALSO THE
PRIDE OF THE
KUJA AND
OUR WARRIOR
NATION.

IT'S
A CURSE
THAT THEY
RECEIVED
BY FIGHTING
BRAVELY.

YEAH!!
I UNDER-
STAND!

LADY
HEBIHIME
SURE IS
AMAZING.

...!! SO
THAT'S
WHY...



HE COULDN'T
HAVE GONE
BACK INTO
THE VILLAGE,
COULD HE!?

HE
CLIMBED
UP THE
MOUNTAIN
!!

WHERE
DID HE
GO!?

Island of
Women,
Jungle

HE WAS
LOOKING FOR
A BOAT!!

... NO, NAMI'S
NOT HERE.
IF I SET SAIL
ON MY OWN,
I'D JUST BE
ADRIFT.

IF I COULD
BORROW IT,
THAT WOULD
BE GREAT...

SHE SAID
THEY HAD
A PIRATE
SHIP.

... WHAT
DO I DO
NOW...?

I'LL JUST
ASK THEM IF
THEY'LL TAKE
ME TO THE
SHABONDY
ARCHIPELAGO!!

IT WOULD
BE BEST IF
I CAN HITCH
A RIDE WITH
THEM.

IF I JUST
STAY HERE,
THEY'LL FIND
ME AGAIN.



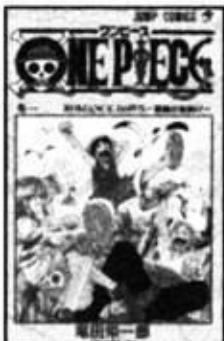






R: Oda, here's my question! In a SBS somewhere, you said that One Piece's release schedule went like two months, two months, three months, right? But then... you know... How come lately, it's been more like three months, three months? Is there some situation on your end? Was it just too much trouble? Please answer me! If you don't, I'll burn all of your adult books! They'll all turn to ash! Are you okay with that?

-SYOUYA



O: It's research material! Just research materials...!! Well, it kinda is, so I won't hide it. It's true that three month intervals have been pretty common lately. The reason is that I ask Jump for some time off every now and then (but while I'm on break in Jump, I'm doing other work), so the number of chapters released in two months usually isn't enough for an entire book. From now on, you should think of the release schedule as three months, and occasionally two months. Also, I'd like to tell you one more thing. I said that I'd try to put in a SBS up through the eleventh chapter in a book, but I don't think I'll be able to. I think it was with the previous volume that all of Jump Comics' books have gotten 20 yen more expensive. All the old volumes are getting 20 yen more expensive too, so it's not really a service any more. So from now on, there will only be up to ten chapters of SBS. Thanks!

R: Oda!! I've found you. In volume 52, page 39, in the second panel, one of the slaves who's rejoicing over being freed is the pirate who bit his tongue in volume 51 and lost consciousness, Rakyuba!! What's more, he looked totally fine!!! What's more and more, his tongue isn't even cut!!! When I saw that, I was surprised, but he looked happy, so I was glad too.

-Trafalgar Tomo



O: Yup, it's great that he didn't die. But if you bite through your tongue, you really will die, so be careful!

