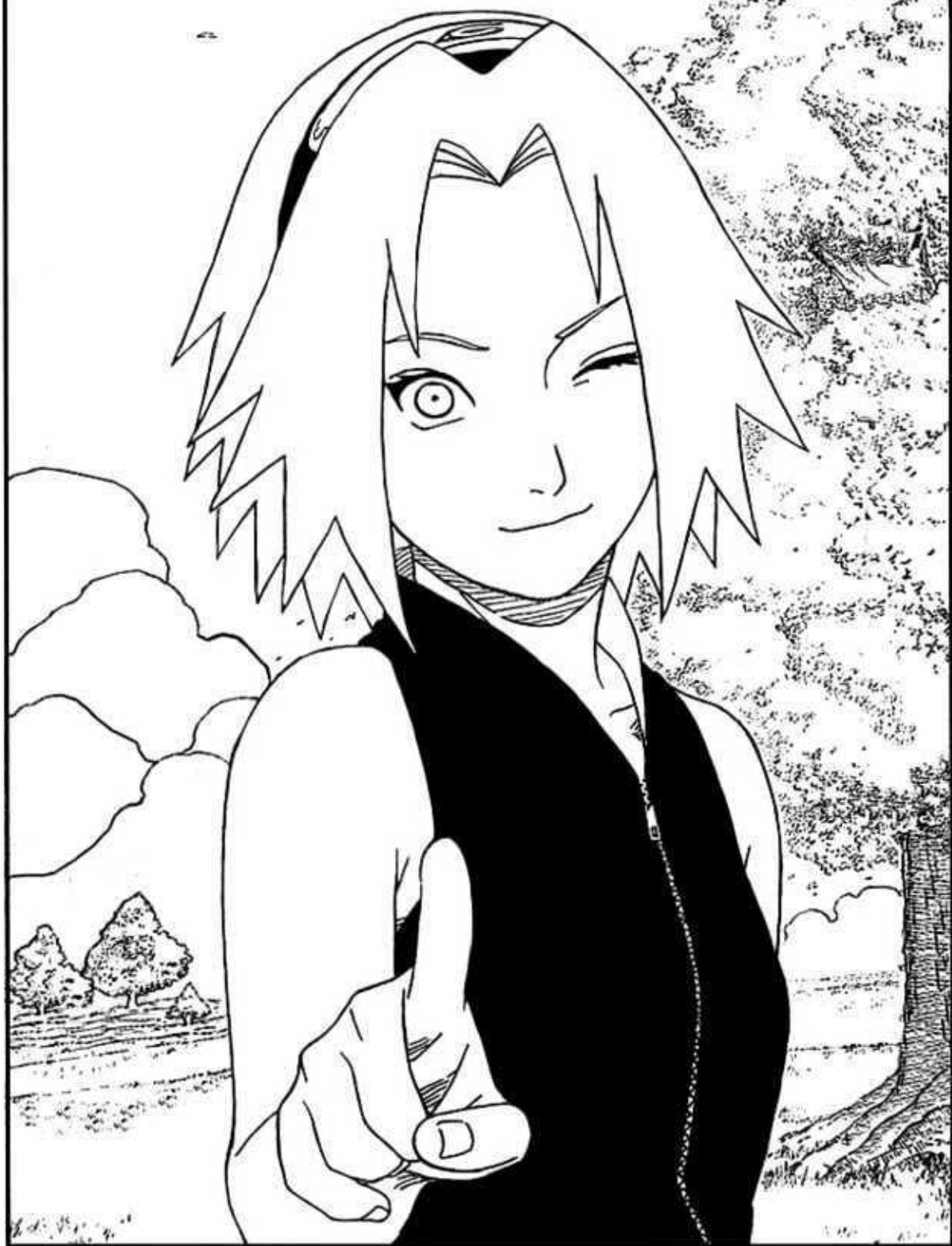




BEAUTY AND STRENGTH, PASSED ON FROM HER MASTER?!  
FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, "THIS ONE FINGER IS ENOUGH"...NO WAY! ♡



KISHIMOTO MASASHI

#MANGAREADERS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

DO NOT DISTRIBUTE OUR RELEASES OUTSIDE IRC

INANE



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kishimoto &  
eikichi-

KISHIMOTO MASASHI

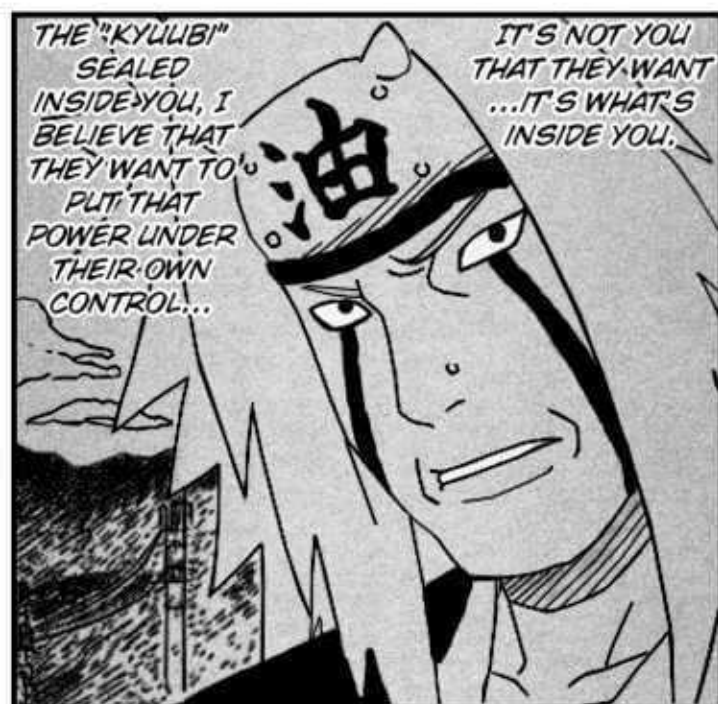
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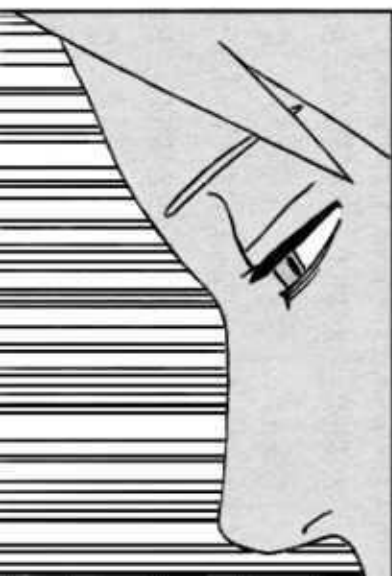
















THE  
EXACT  
SAME...

HE  
AND I  
ARE...




I WAS  
BORN A  
MONSTER.

A MONSTER...?  
IN THAT  
CASE... THAT'S  
WHAT I  
AM TOO.



AND HE  
WAS...

FIGHTING,  
HE WAS  
MORE  
LONELIER  
THAN I  
WAS...!



WHEN I  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT THAT,  
I FOUND NO  
ANSWER.

THEN,  
WHAT  
IS THE  
PURPOSE  
OF MY  
EXISTENCE?

TO THEM,  
I AM A  
MEMENTO OF  
A TIME GONE  
BY THAT THEY  
WANT TO  
DESTROY.



.....



.....



WITHOUT THAT,  
IT IS THE SAME  
AS BEING DEAD.

BUT, WHILE  
WE LIVE, THAT  
PURPOSE IS  
NECESSARY.





ALWAYS  
HIM  
ALONE?!!

EVEN  
SO!

WHY IS IT  
ALWAYS  
HIM  
ALONE  
THAT HAS  
TO HAVE  
SUCH A  
HARD  
ROLE?!!



...JUST LIKE  
I WAS  
BEFORE...!

...HE WAS  
TARGETED  
BY  
AKATSUKI.



THIS TIME,  
FOR  
DEFINITE,  
I WANT  
TO SAVE  
HIM!



THAT'S  
WHY I  
WON'T

JUST  
SIT  
AROUND  
ASKING  
"WHY"!

THAT'S  
WHY!

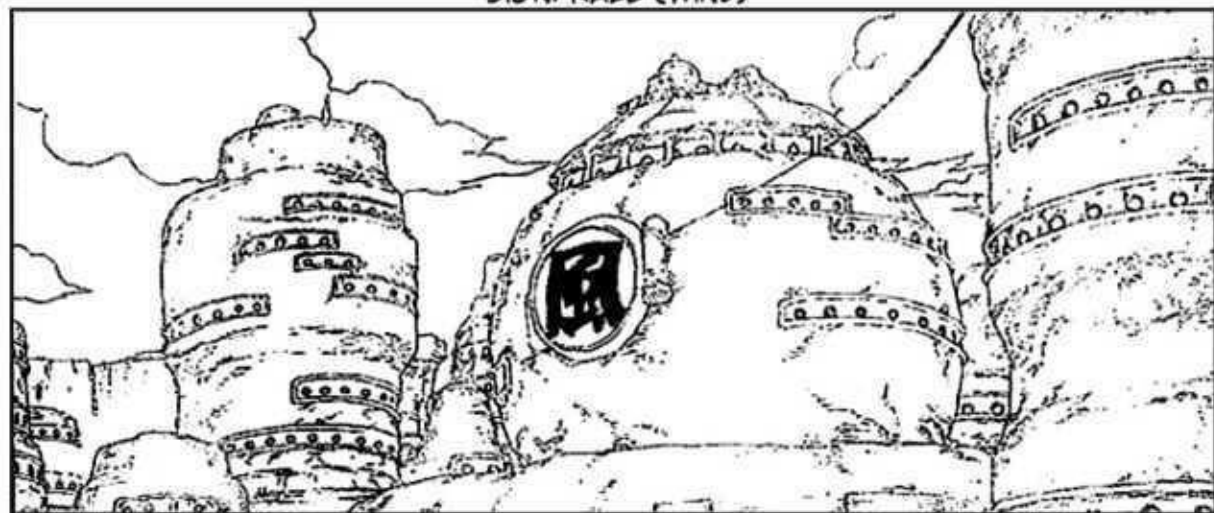


UZUMAKI  
NARUTO...

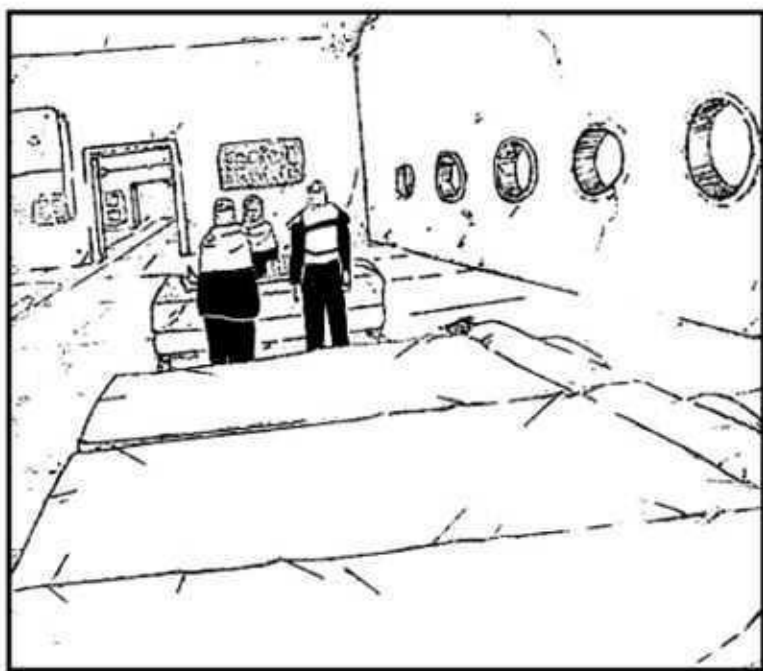




SIGN: KAZE (WIND)

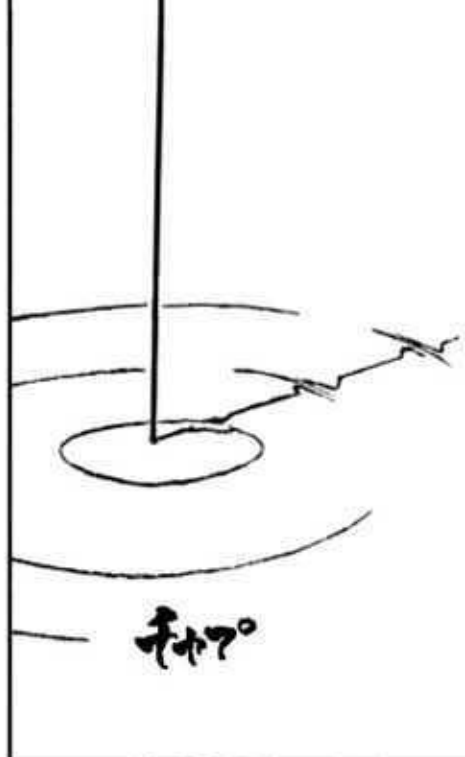




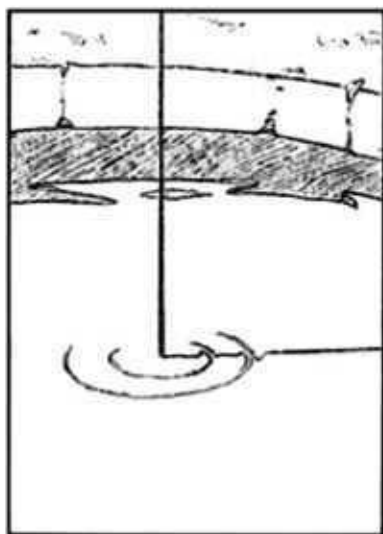


SFX: WHISPER





SFX: PLINK

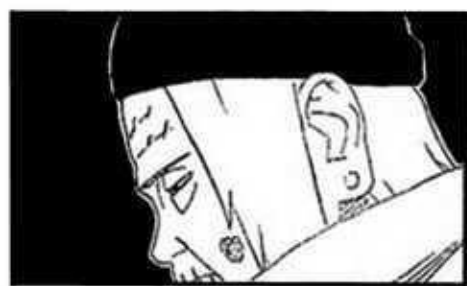




SFX: STEP

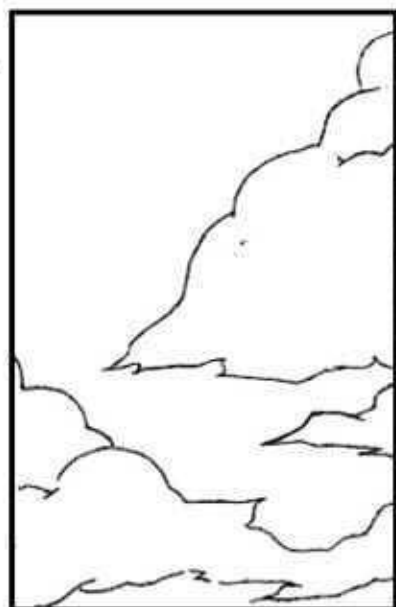
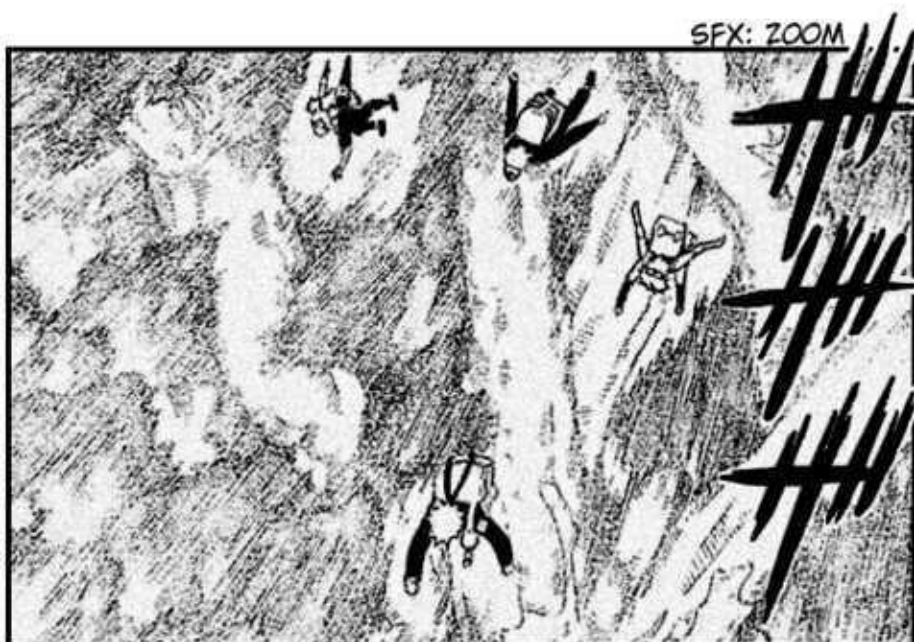


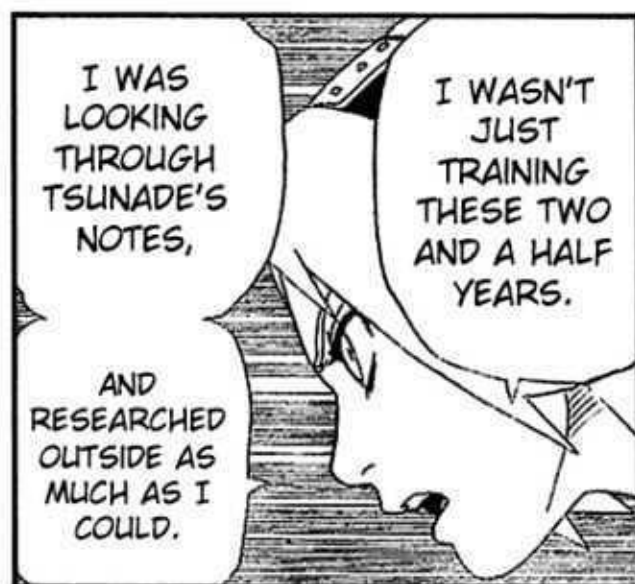
SFX: PLINK















A  
MEMBER OF  
AKATSUKI...

THE ENEMY  
SASUKE-KUN  
WANTS TO  
KILL...

IT'S REALLY  
HIS OLDER  
BROTHER,  
UCHIHA ITACHI,  
ISN'T IT...?



YOU ARE  
INDEED  
BROTHERS...  
YOUR EYES HOLD AN  
ABILITY GREATER THAN  
THAT OF ITACHI'S.



...THE  
ONE...  
WHO WILL  
KILL HIM...  
IS ME...!!

...DON'T  
DO A  
THING...



BECAUSE  
OF THAT,  
SASUKE IS  
NOW

WITH  
OROCHIMARU,  
TO GAIN  
POWER...



I WILL HAVE  
SASUKE-  
KUN!  
I WILL  
HAVE HIS  
POWER...



AND  
ALL WE  
HAVE LEFT  
IS HALF OF  
A YEAR...

BUT  
OROCHIMARU  
JUST WANTS  
SASUKE'S  
BODY,  
DOESN'T  
HE?



IS  
THIS.

IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
WHAT I'M  
TRYING TO  
SAY...



ORIGINALLY  
A MEMBER  
OF  
AKATSUKI...

AND  
OROCHI-  
MARU  
WAS



!!

SAKURA-CHAN  
...YOU TOO...



AND  
THEREFORE,  
WE GET  
CLOSER TO  
SASUKE-KUN.

AS WE GET  
CLOSE TO  
AKATSUKI, WE  
GET CLOSER TO  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT  
OROCHIMARU.



!?

TWO AND A HALF YEARS...THEY HAVE FOUGHT! SO THAT THEY COULD BE READY FOR THIS TIME!  
WITH EXCITED THOUGHTS, THE TEAM RACES!!



NARUTO -ナルト-

NO. 252  
... / End

NEXT, WITH OPENING COLOR PAGES,  
THE BATTLE BEGINS?!  
"RELIABLE REINFORCEMENTS APPEAR...!"