

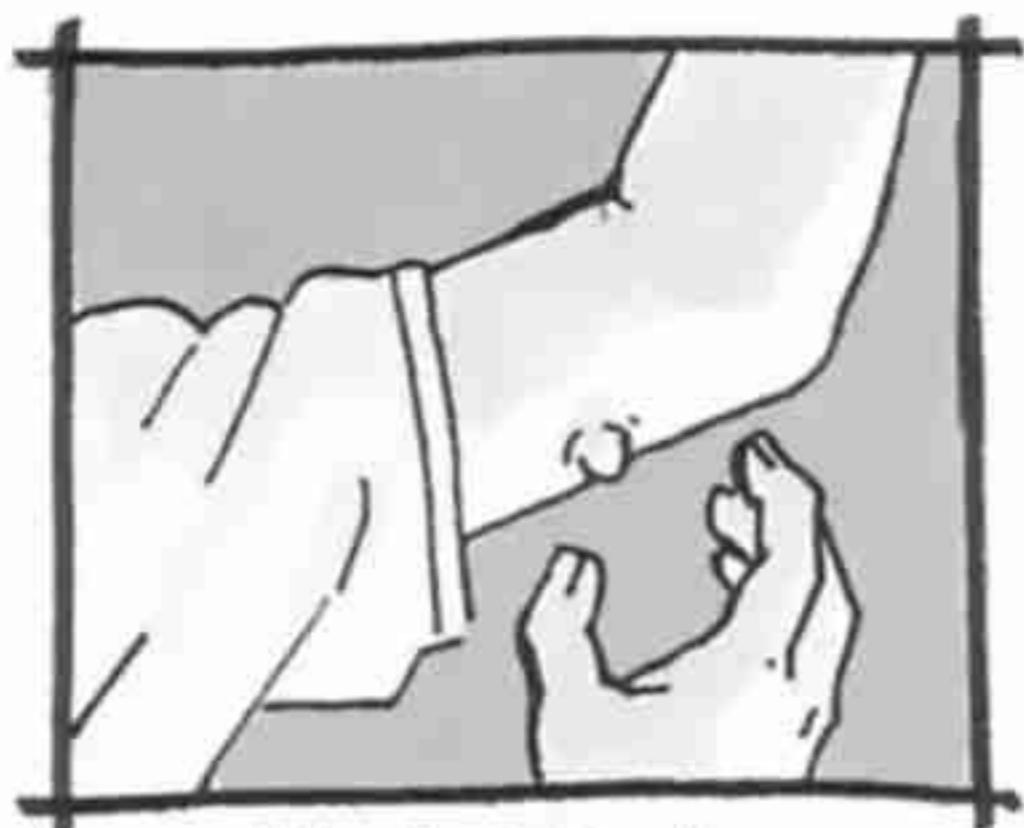
SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

volume

31



Recently I carelessly plucked a wart off of my upper arm. Gouging it out left that part of my skin damaged with a depression in it. The whole thing left me with a different kind of depression.

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2005*



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 31
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in SHONEN JUMP #67-68. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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www.viz.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY

NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

ratings.viz.com

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MOST POPULAR MANGA



www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 31
FINAL
BATTLE

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sakura
サクラ



Naruto
ナルト





Deidara
デイダラ



Rock Lee
ロック・リー



Might Guy
マイティ・ガイ



Sasori
サソリ



Neji
日向ネジ



Tenten
テントン

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates, Sasuke and Sakura. During the Chūnin Selection Exams, Orochimaru and his henchmen launch *Operation Destroy Konoha*. Naruto's mentor, the Third Hokage, sacrifices his own life to stop the attack, and Tsunade becomes the Fifth Hokage. Lured by Orochimaru, Sasuke leaves Konohagakure. Naruto fights valiantly against Sasuke, but cannot stop his friend from following the path of darkness...

Two years pass, and Naruto and his comrades grow up and undergo separate training programs, until Gaara falls into the hands of the Akatsuki. Naruto charges into the enemy's lair to rescue Gaara, but Deidara stops him. Sakura and Granny Chiyo remain in the cave locked in battle with Sasori!!

The Story So Far:



NARUTO

VOL. 31
FINAL BATTLE

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Number 272:

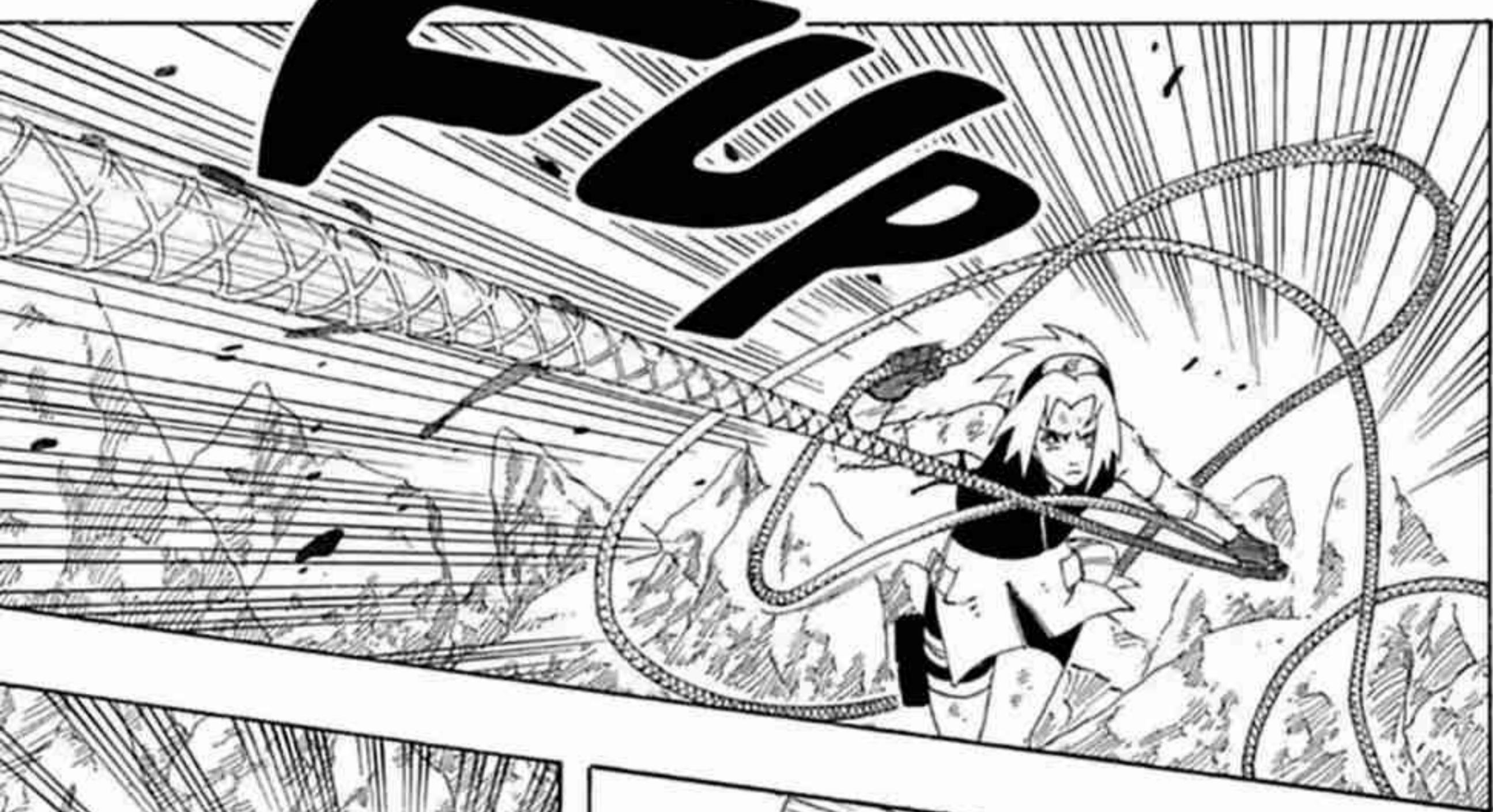
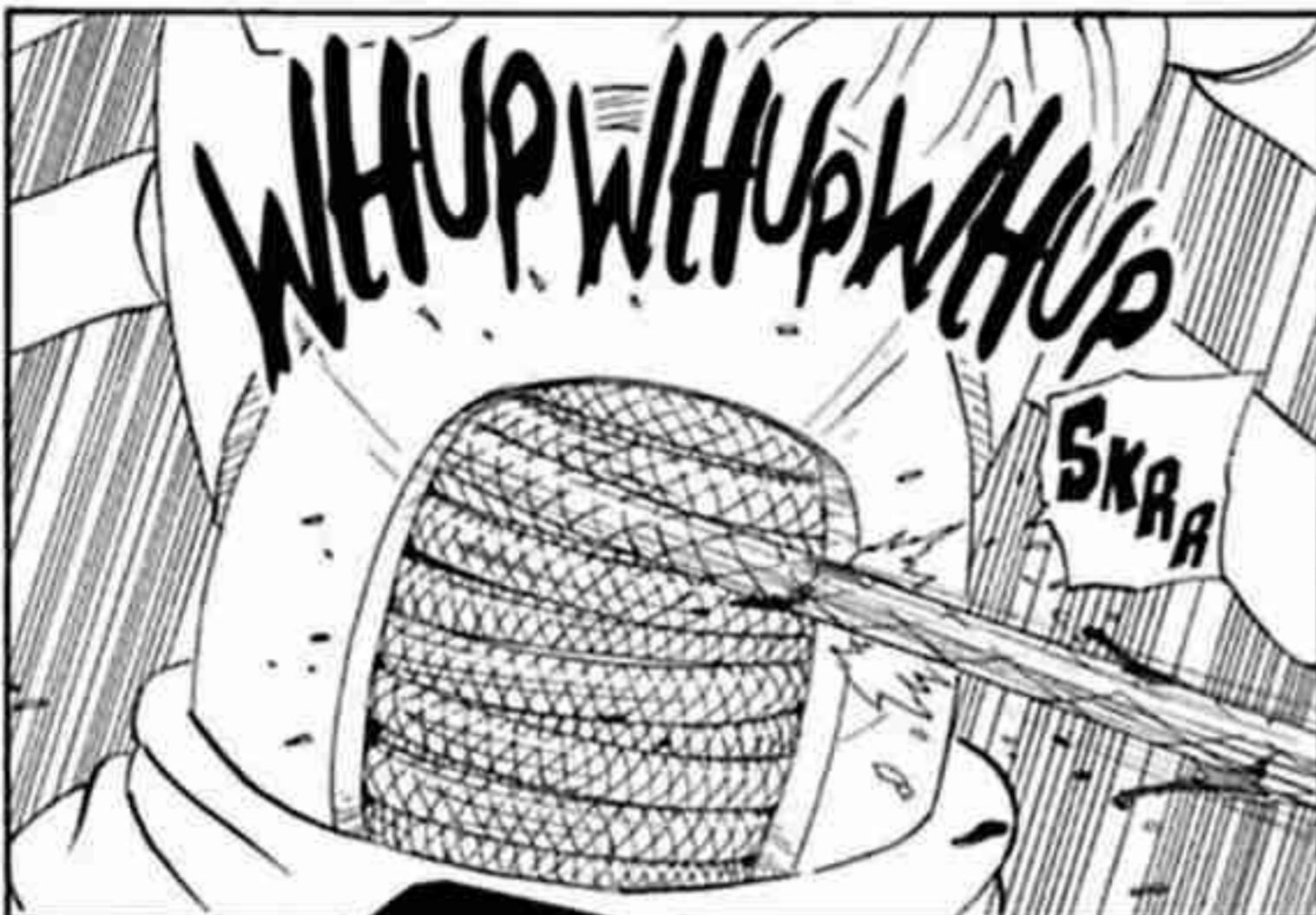
Granny Chiyo vs.

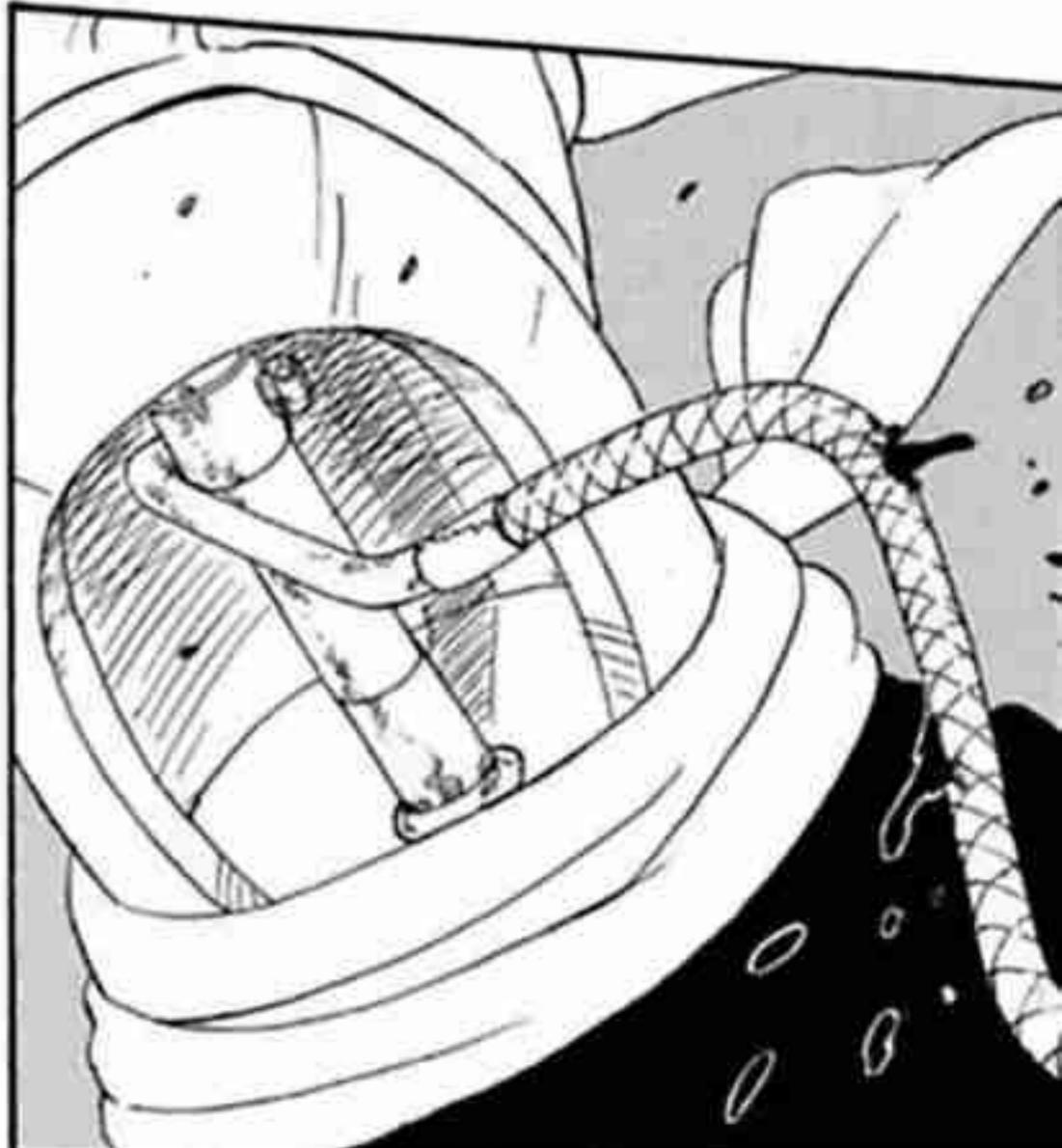
Sasori...!!

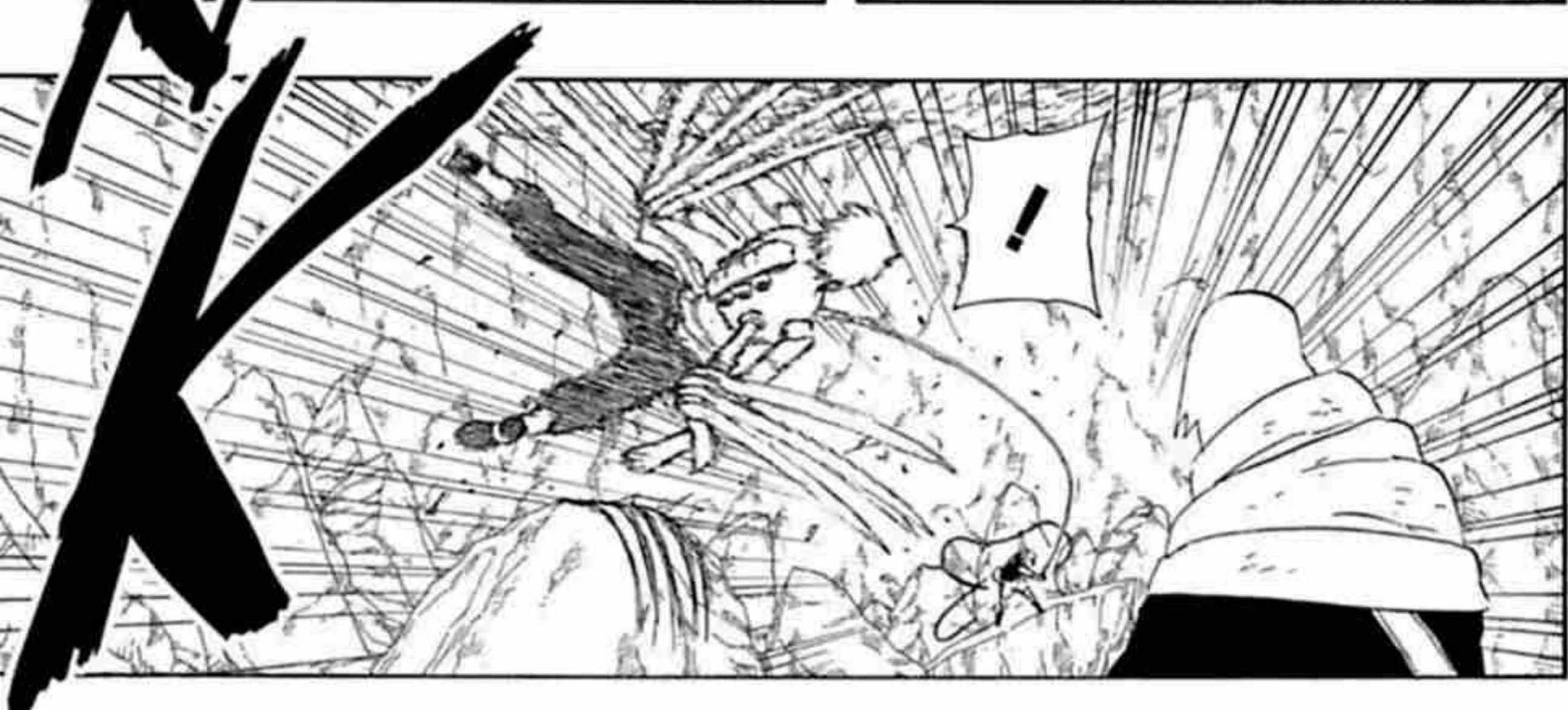


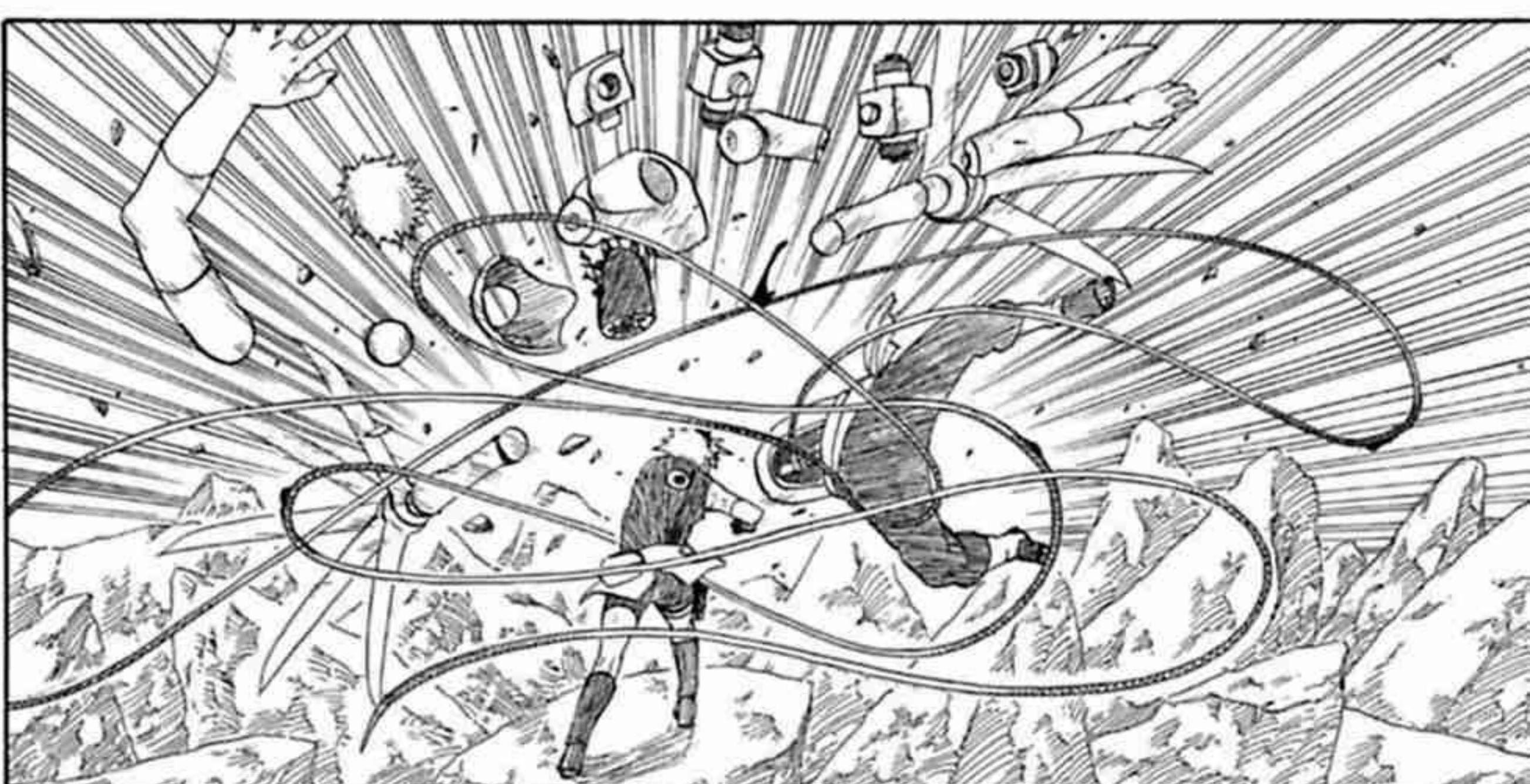
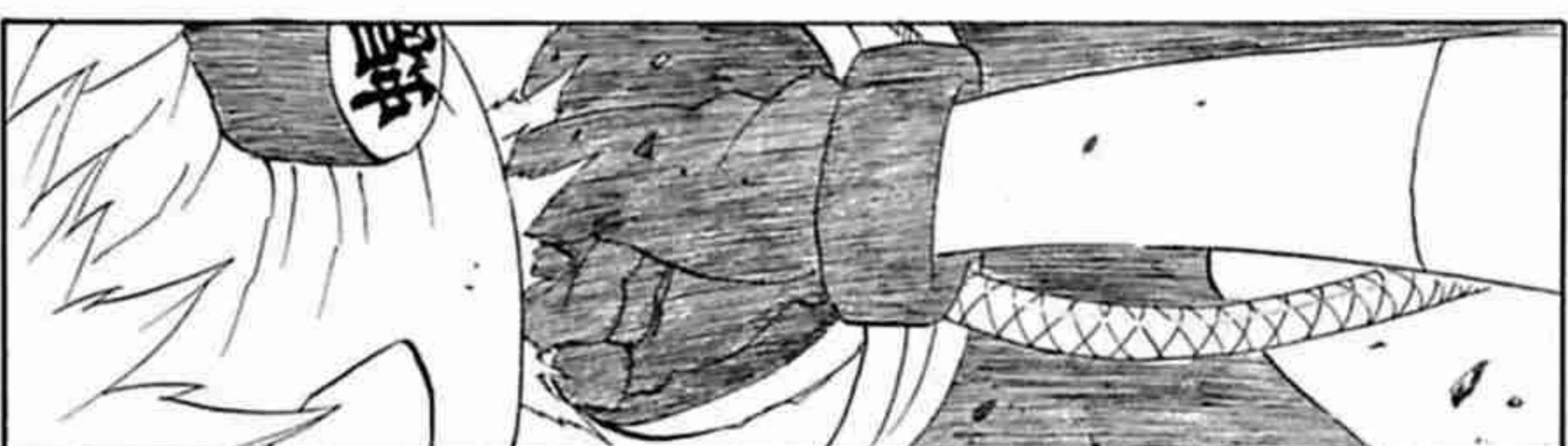


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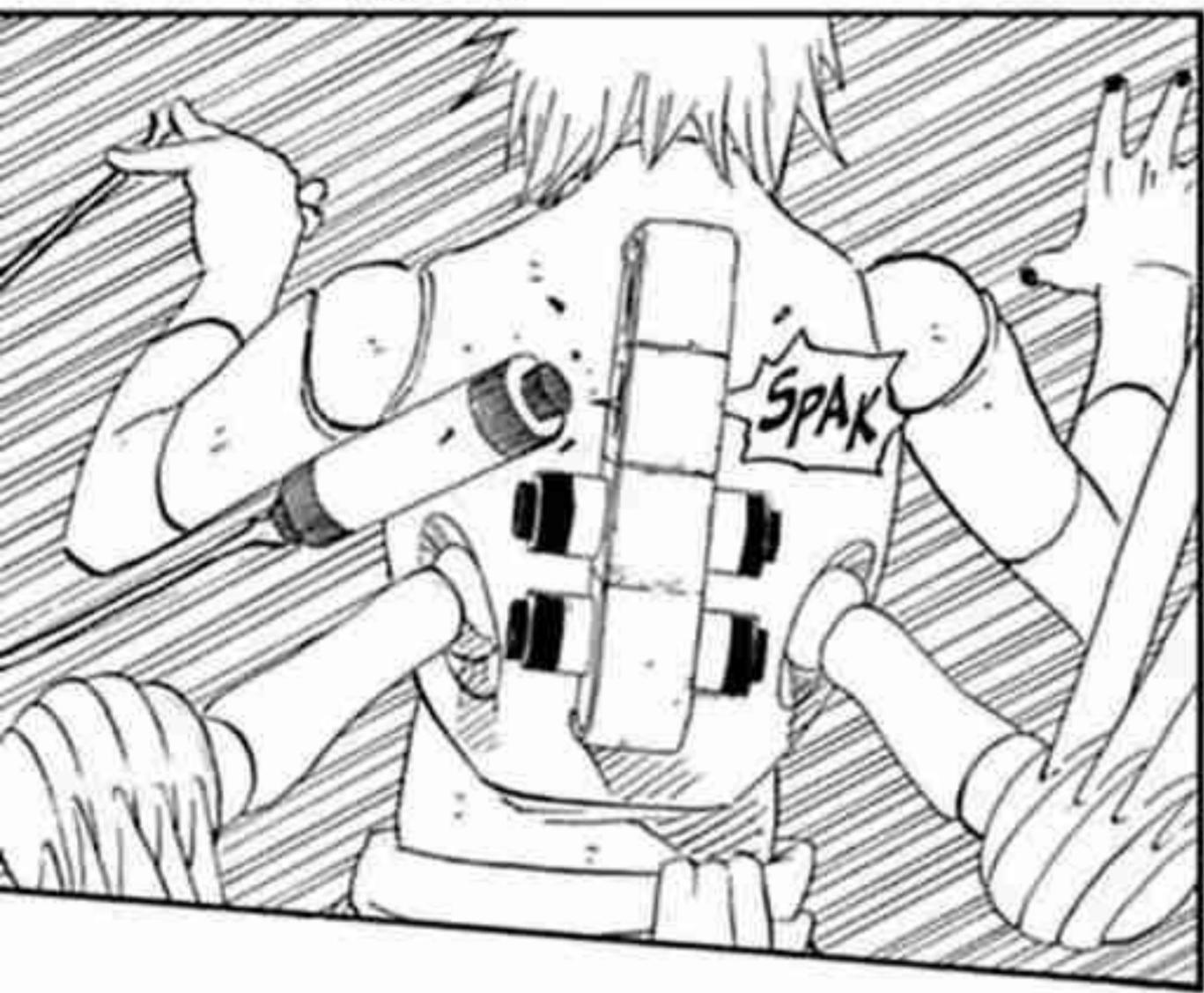
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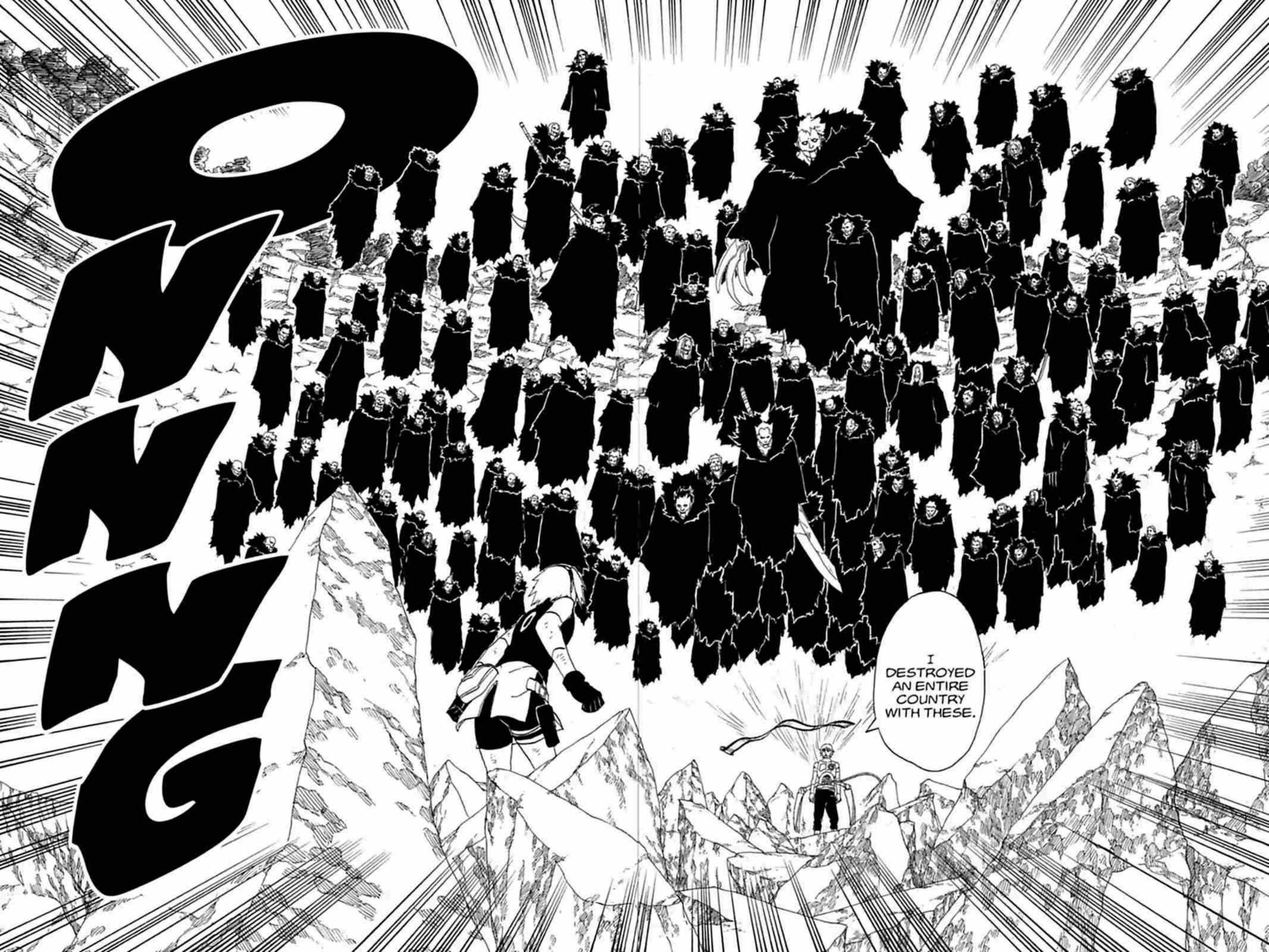


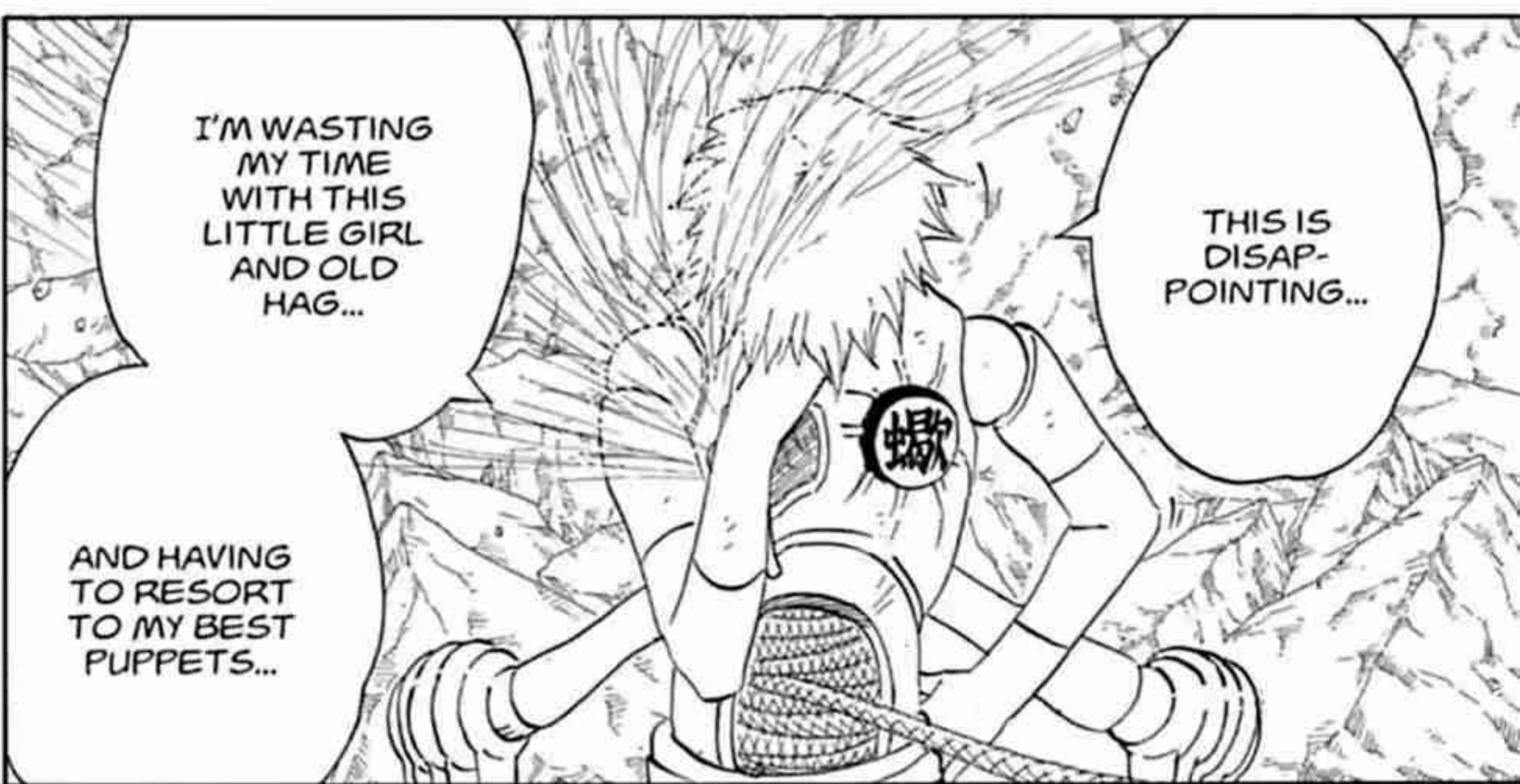


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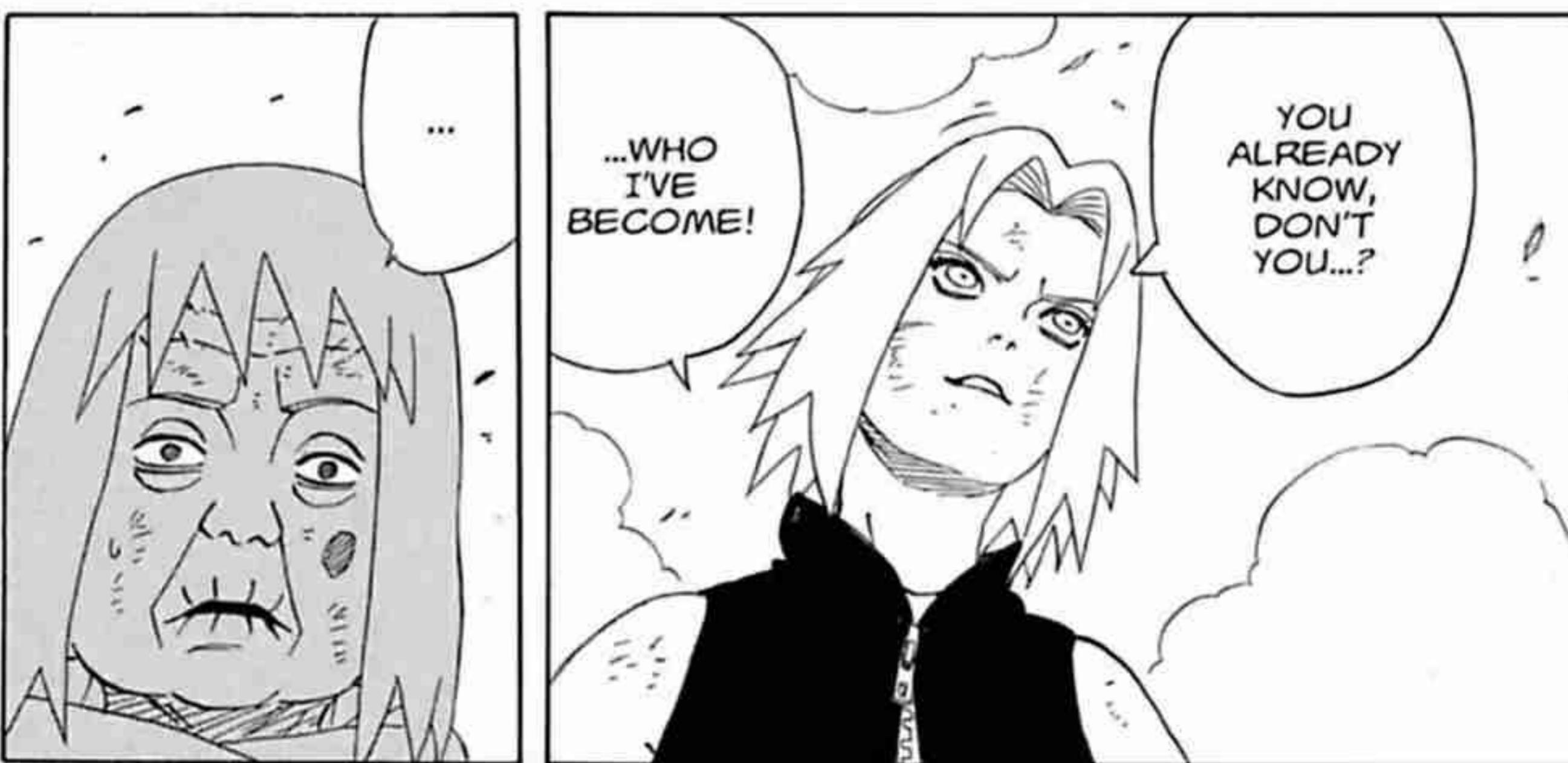


I
DESTROYED
AN ENTIRE
COUNTRY
WITH THESE.

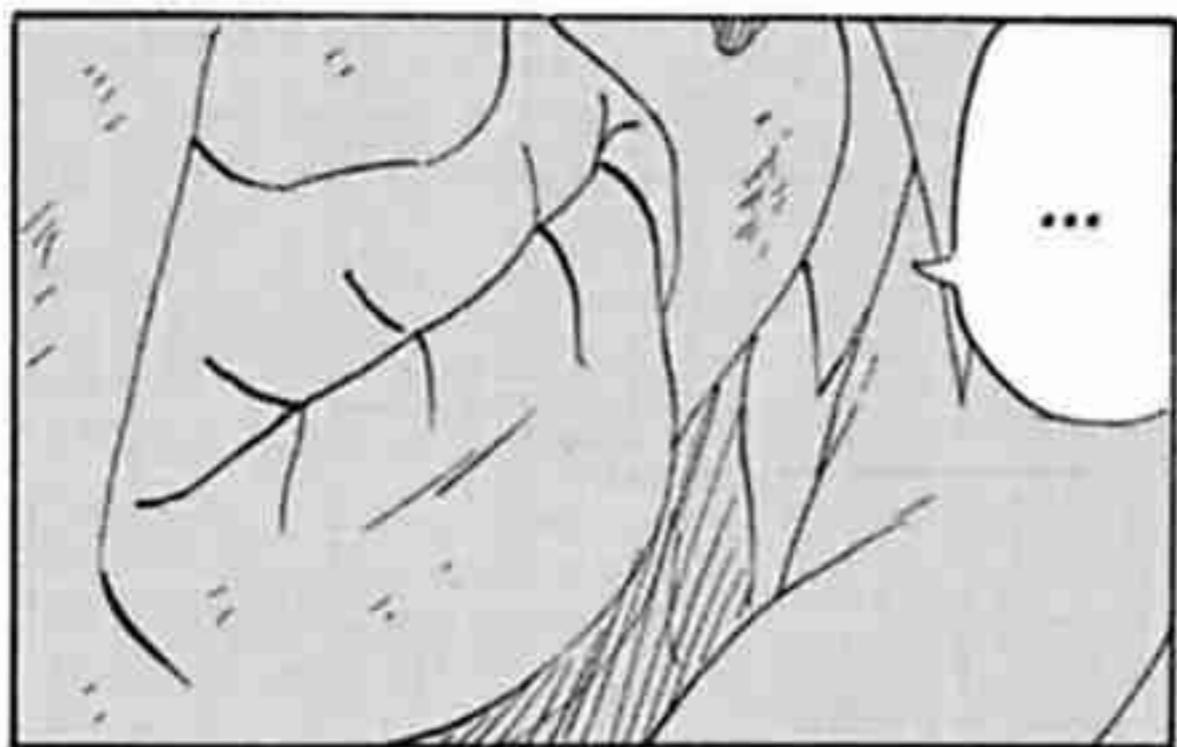








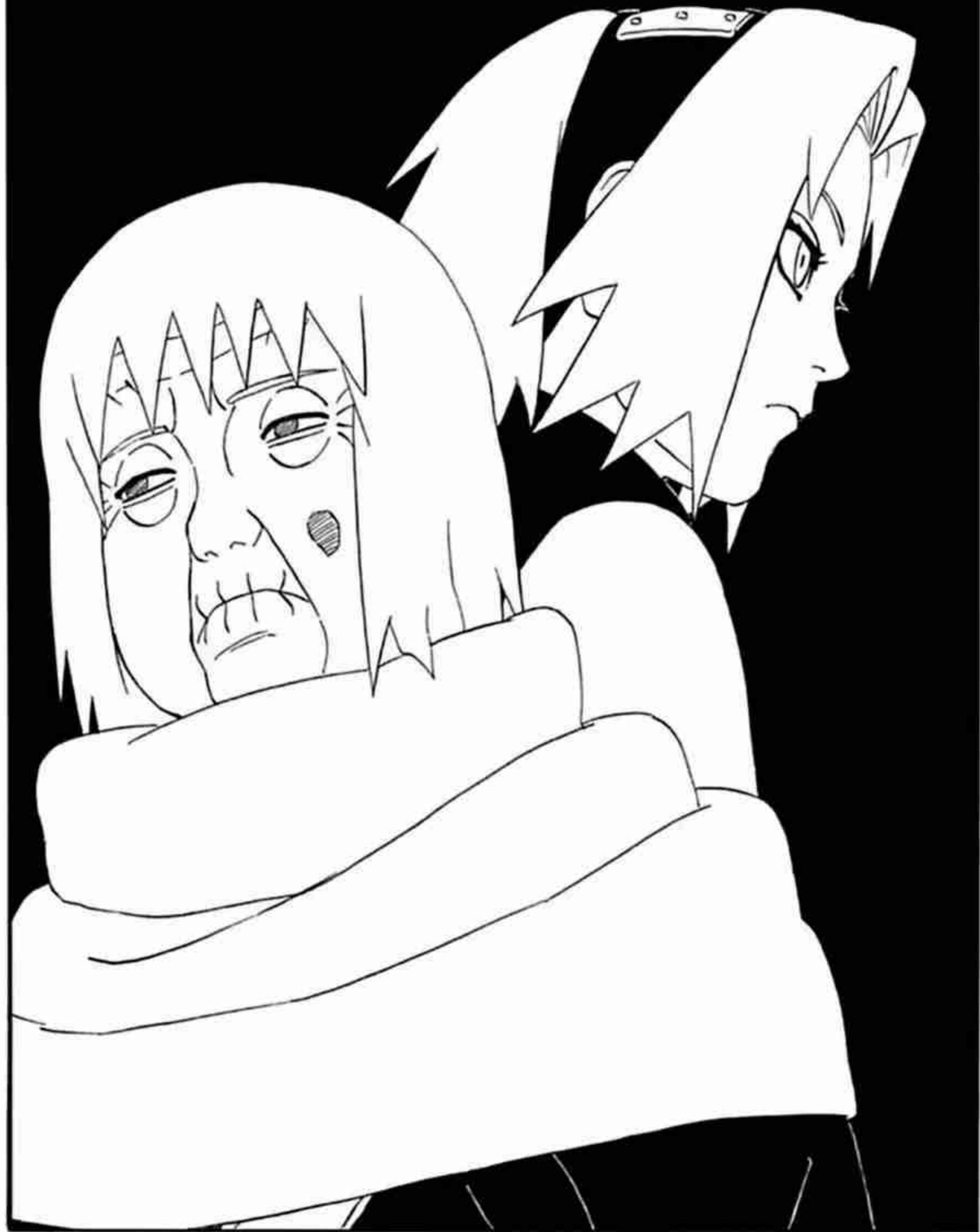
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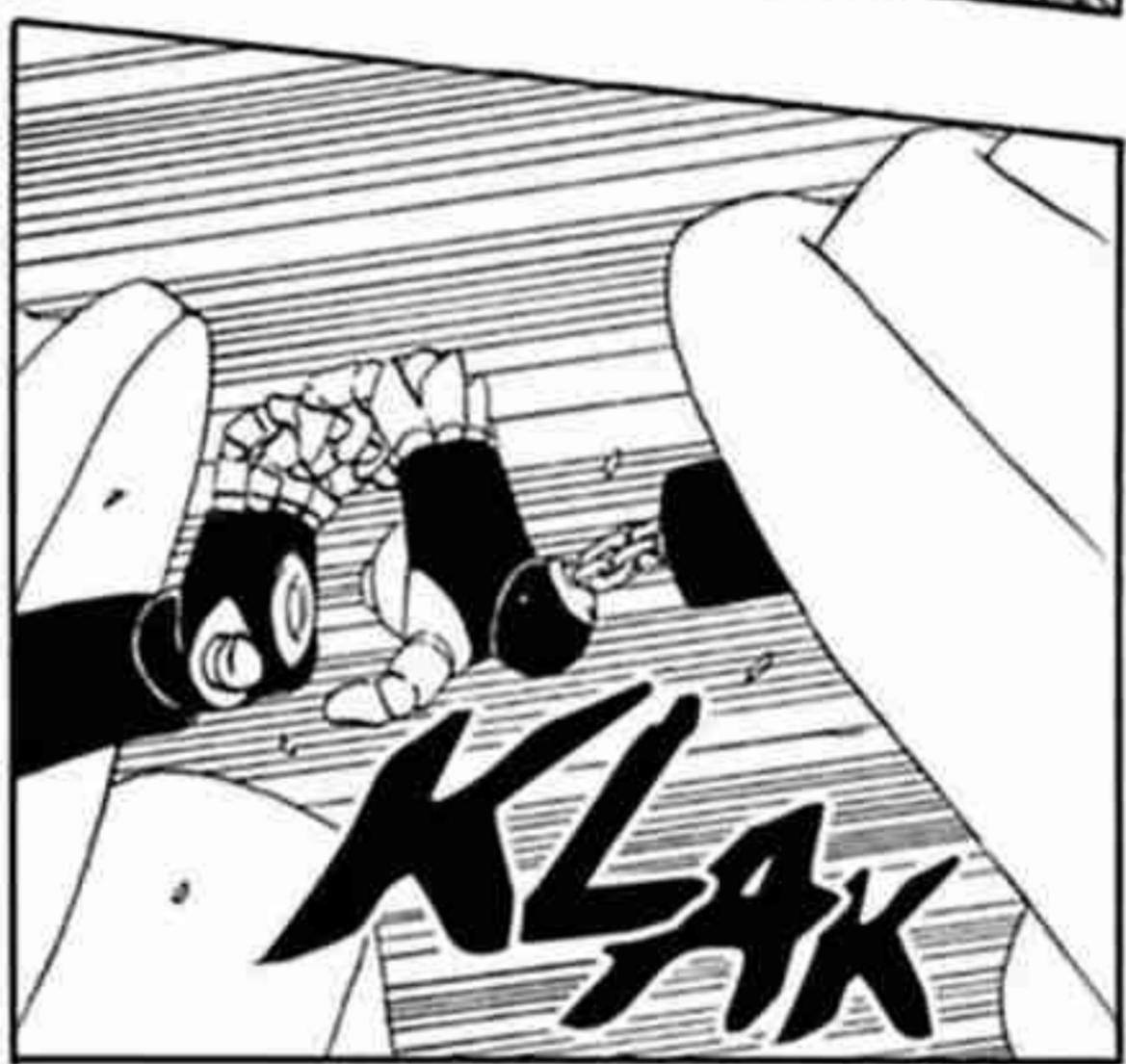
NARUTO

Number 273:

Final Battle...!!





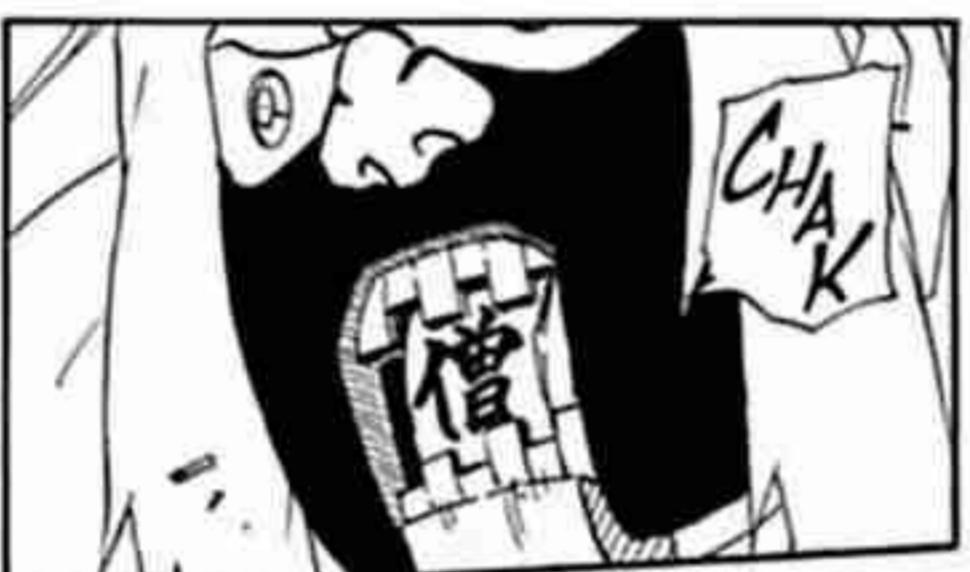








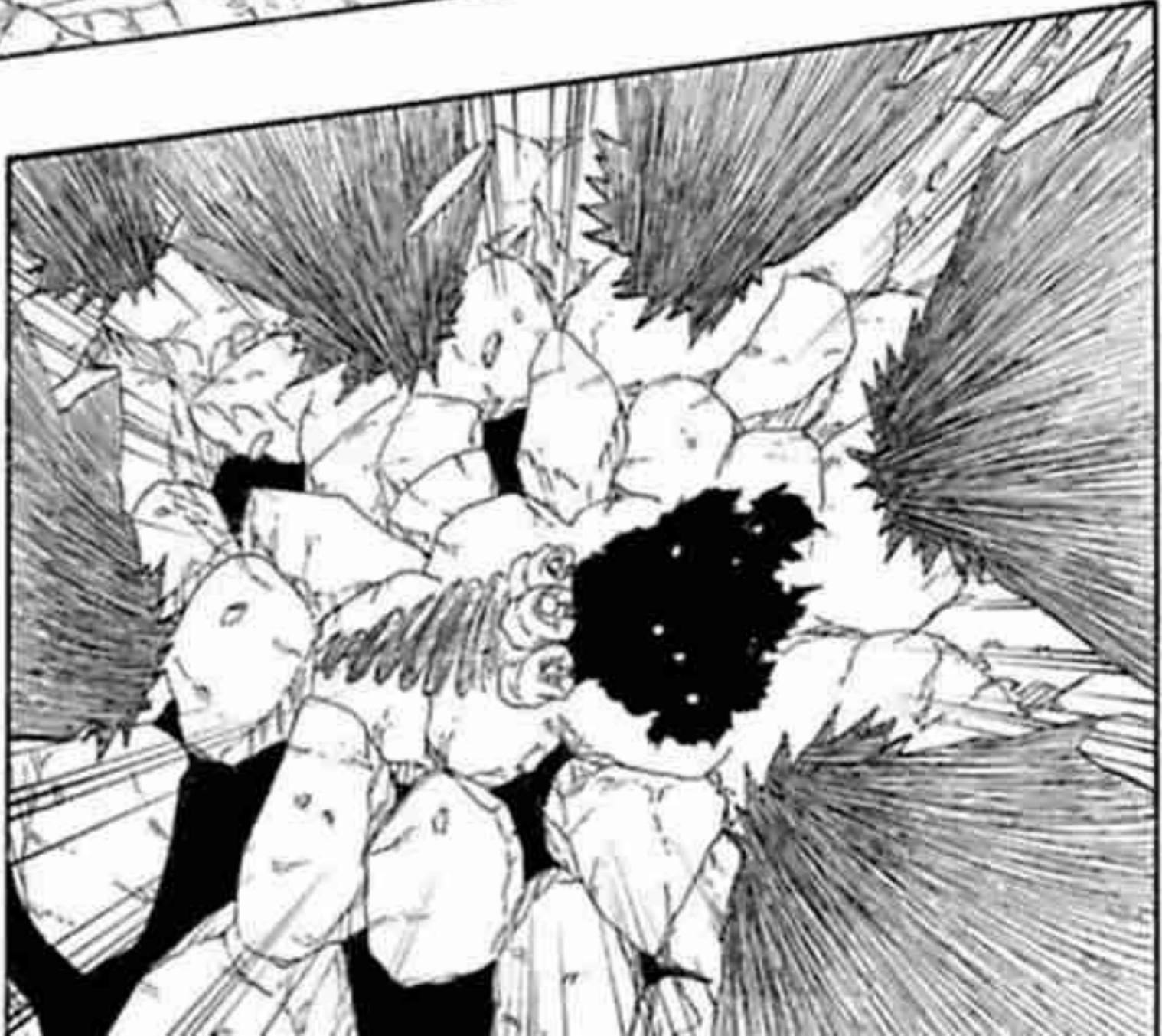
(Butsu: Buddha)



(Sou: Monk)



THUD







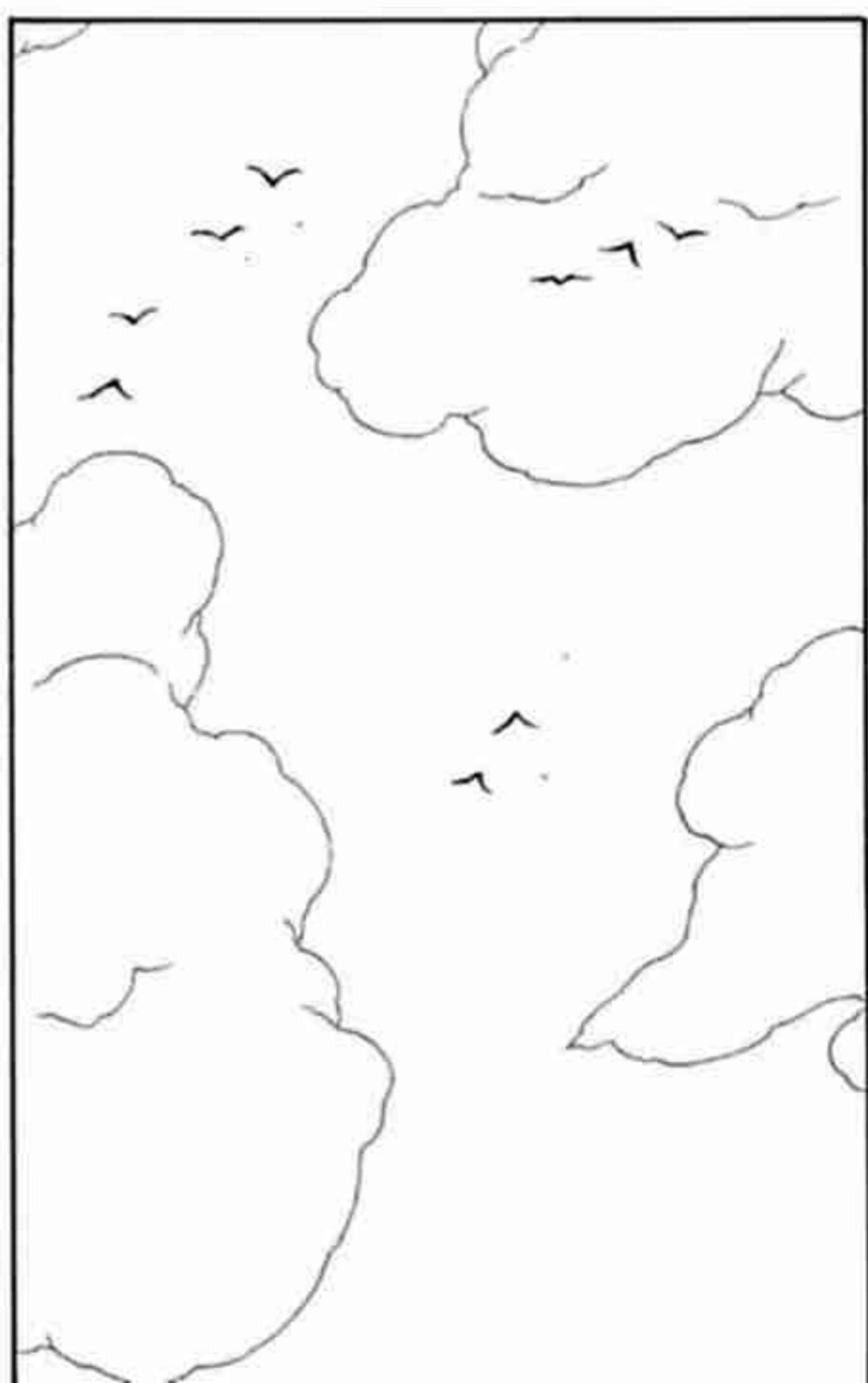


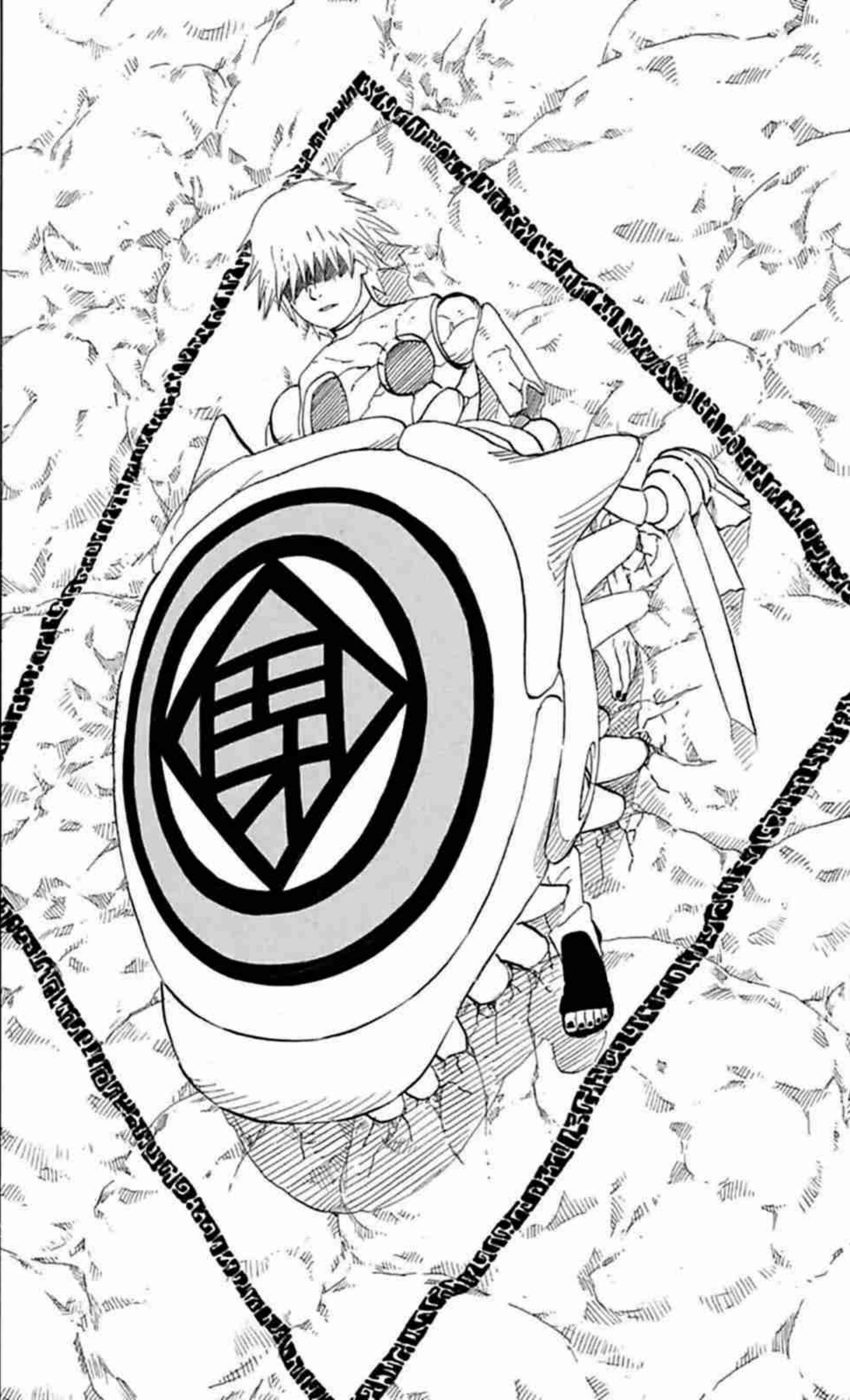
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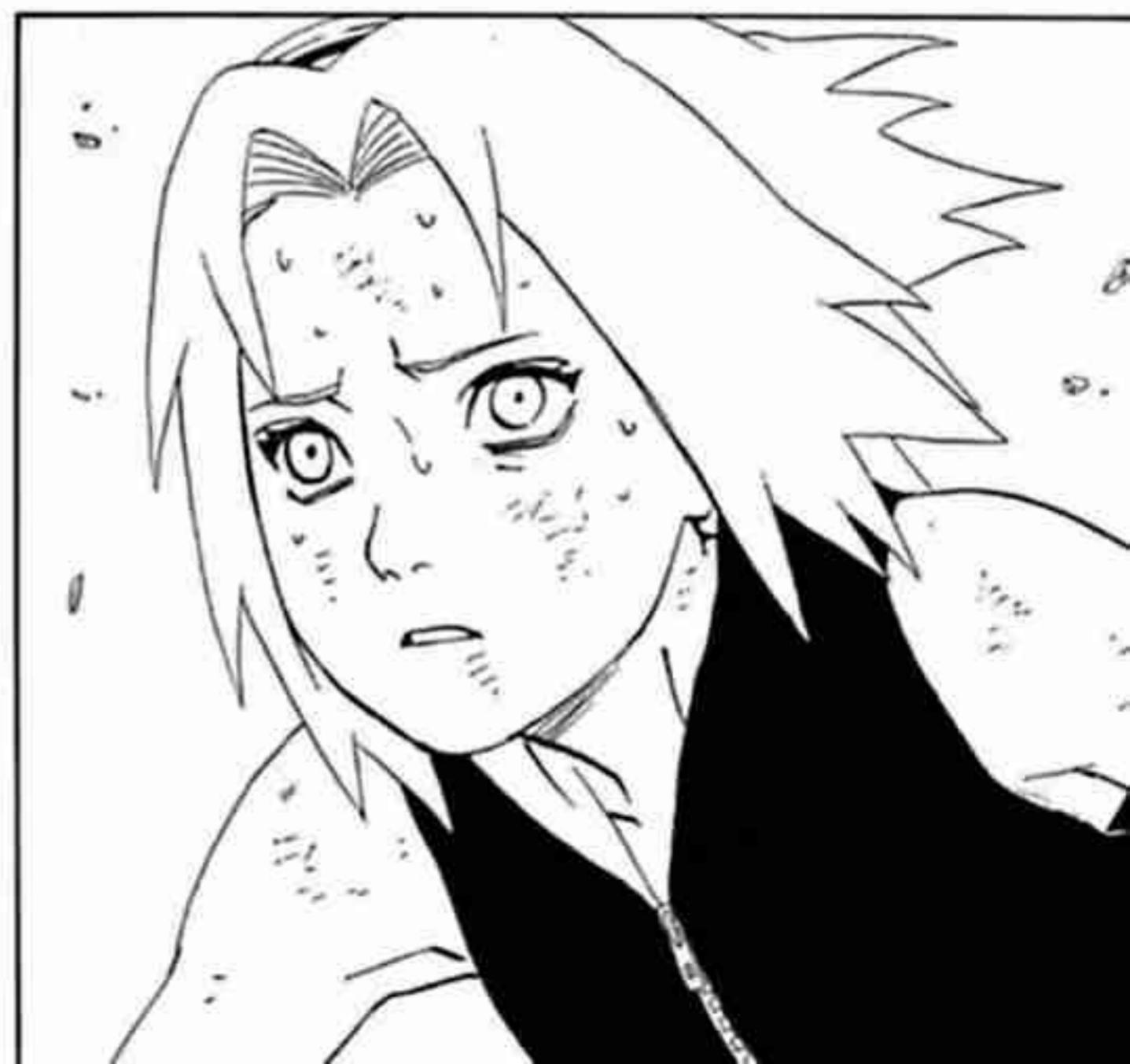


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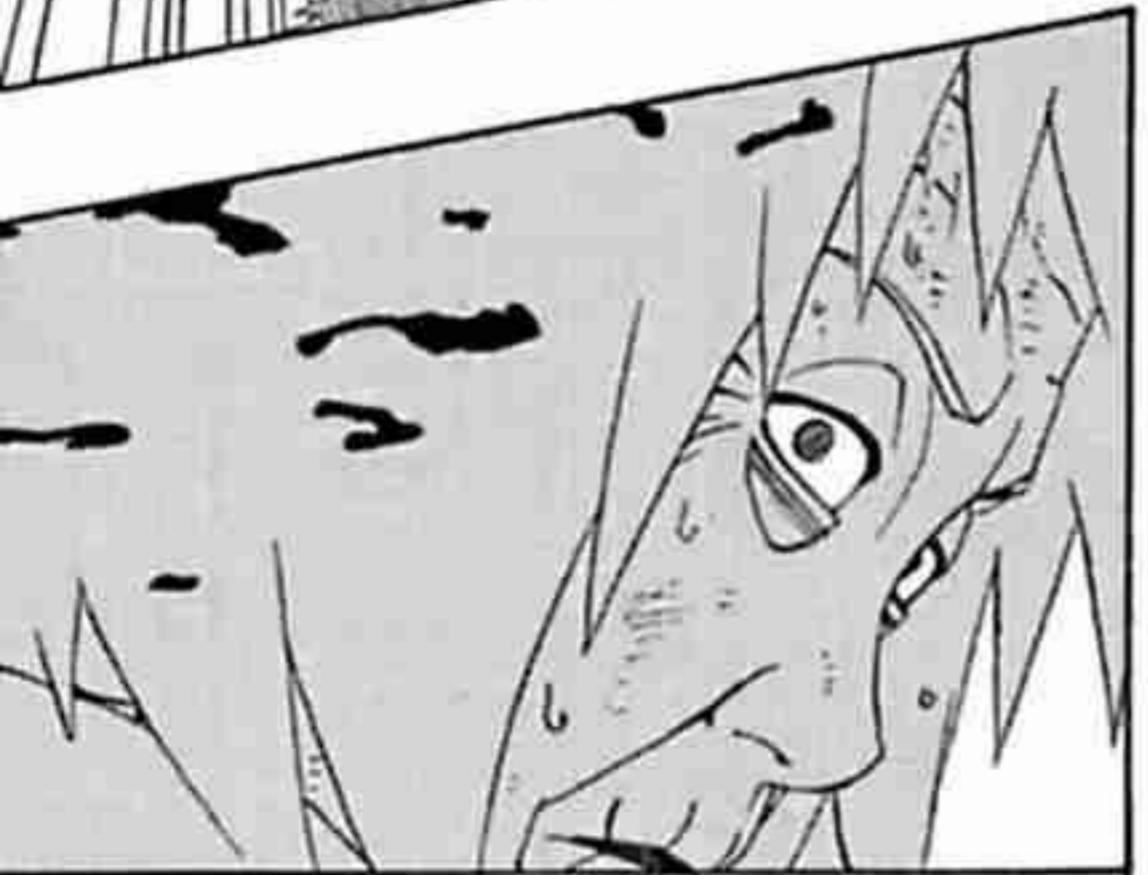








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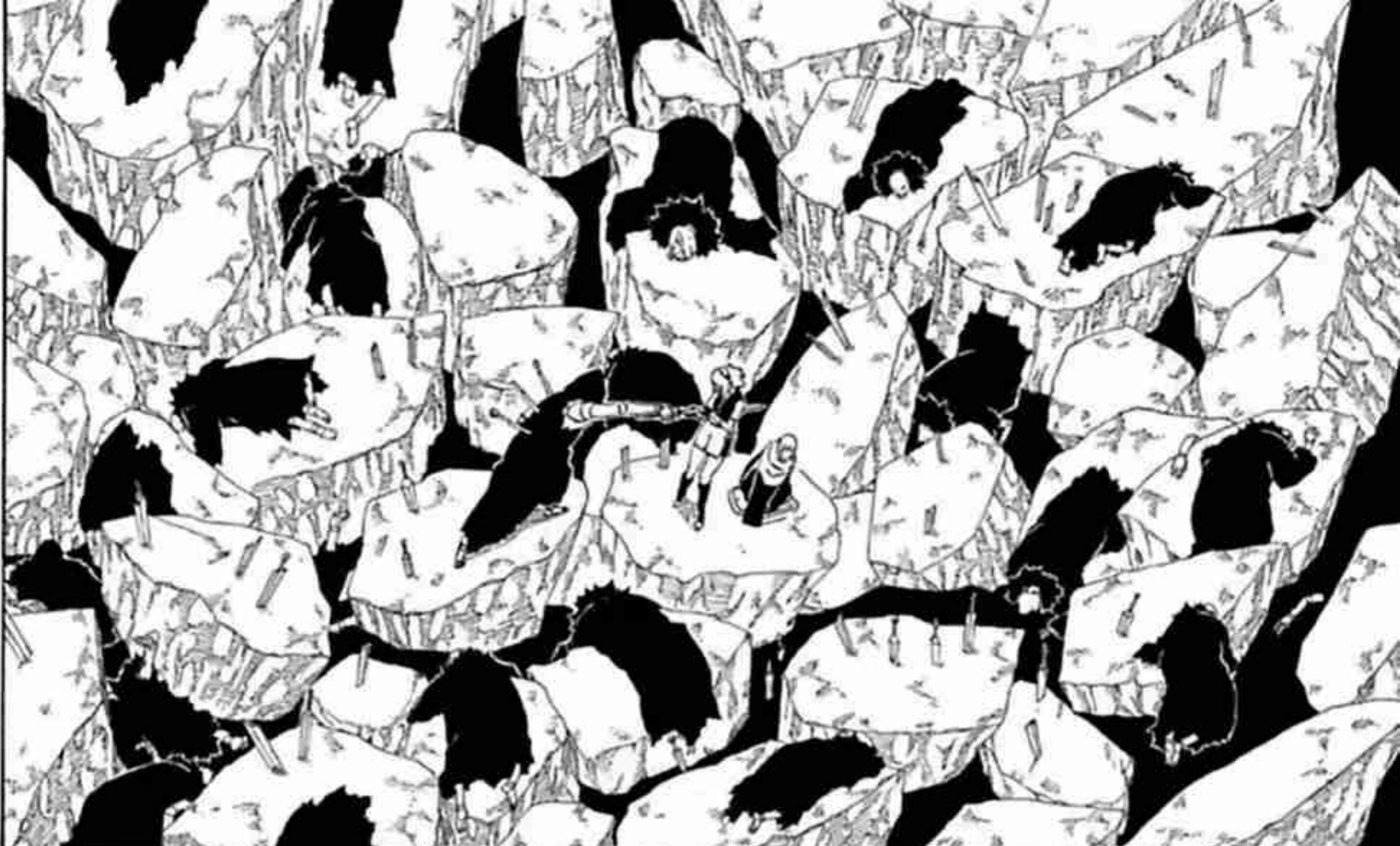


NARUTO



Number 274: Impossible Dream



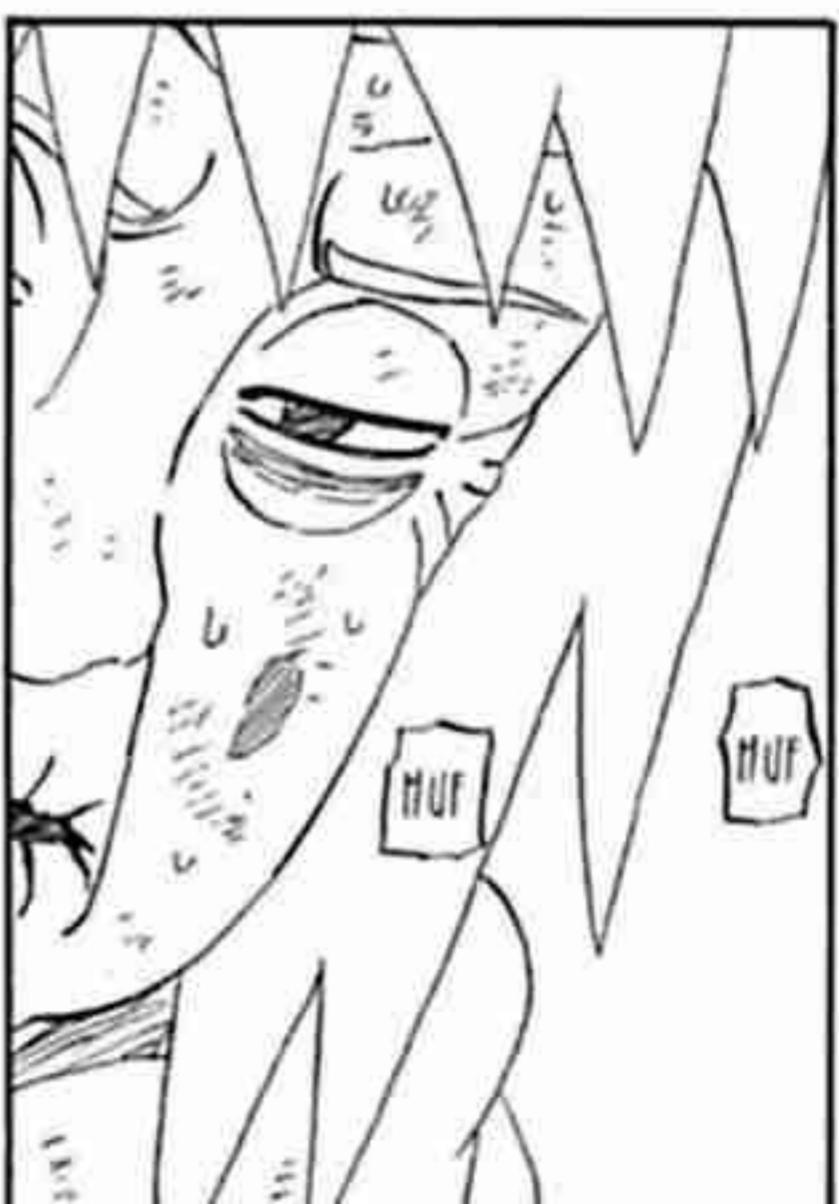


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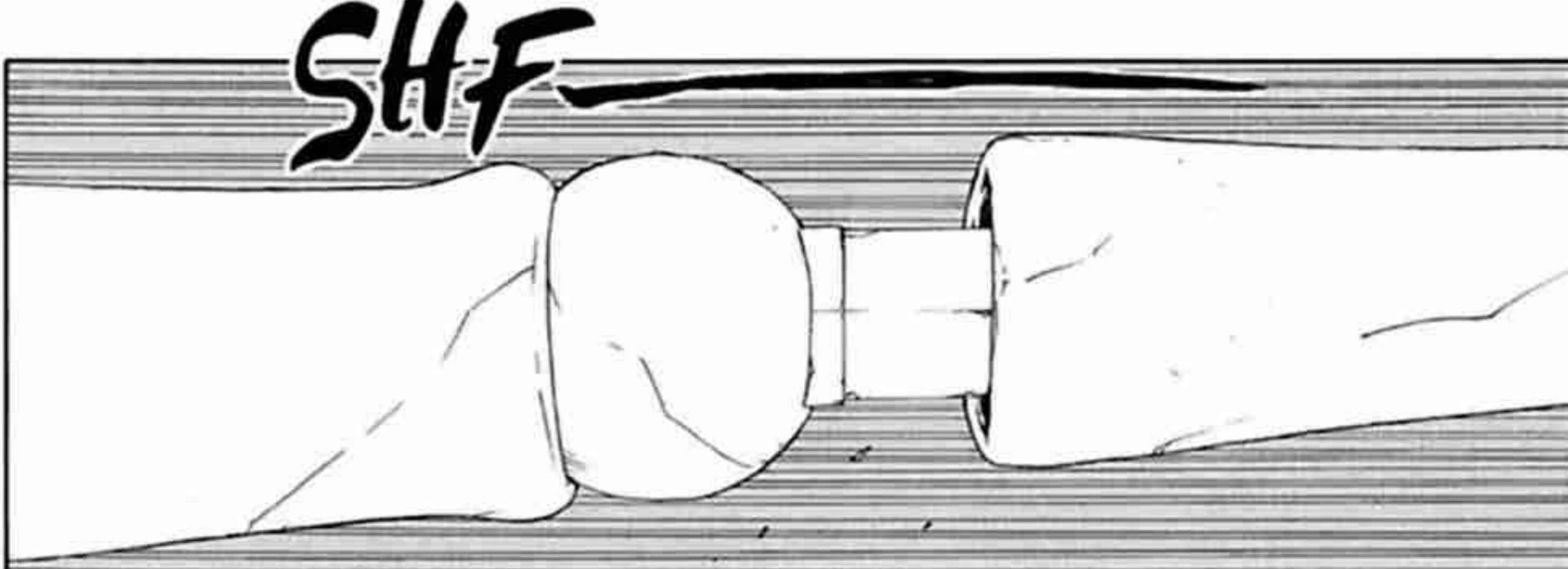
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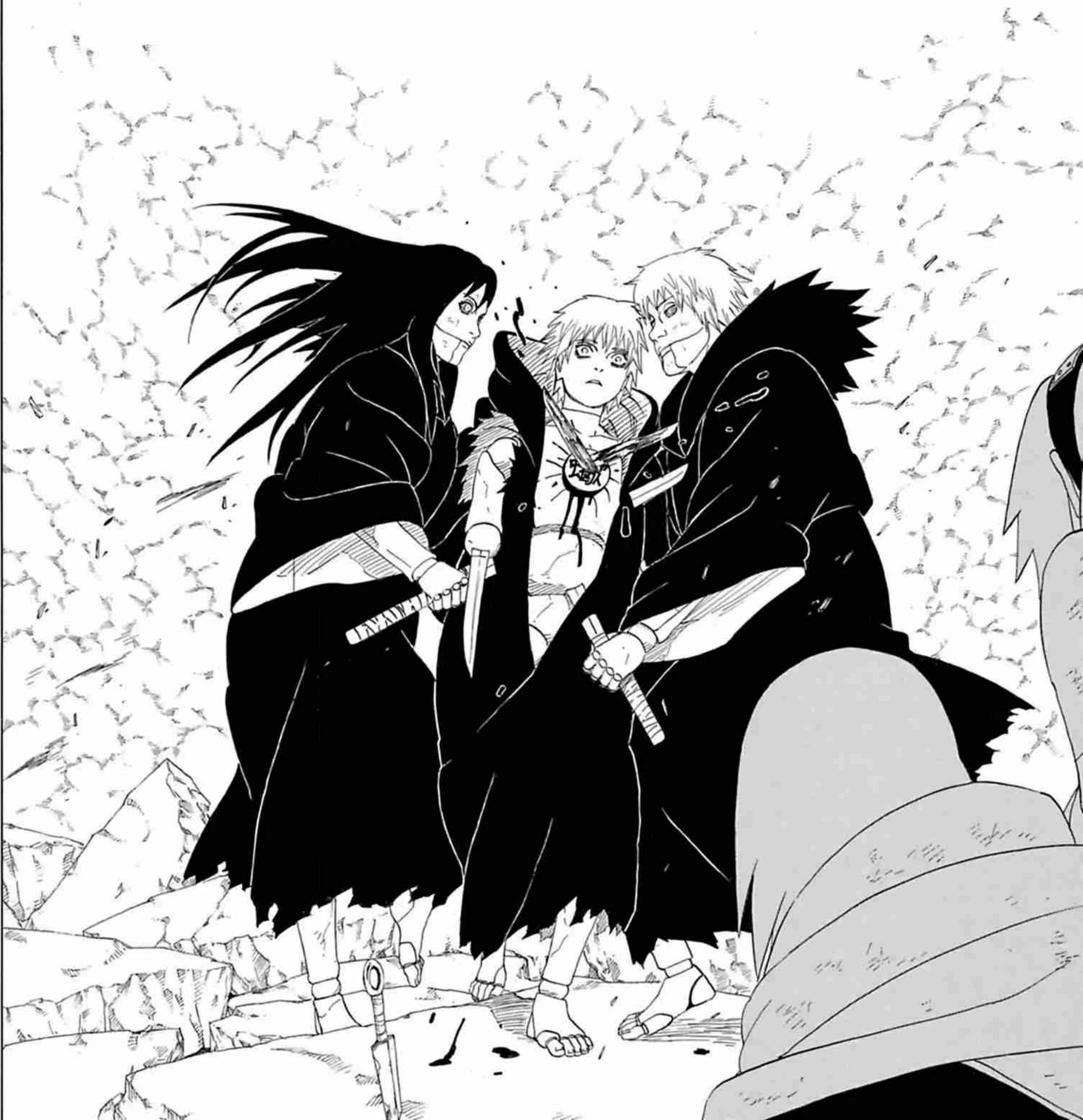
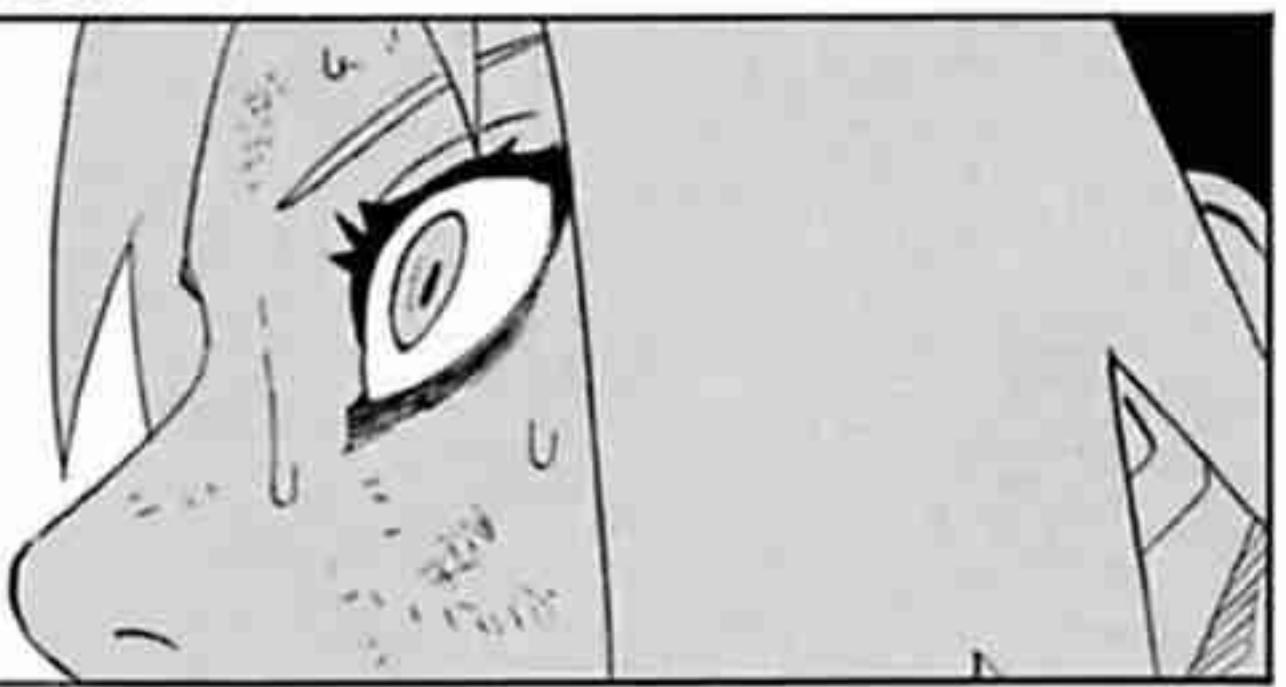


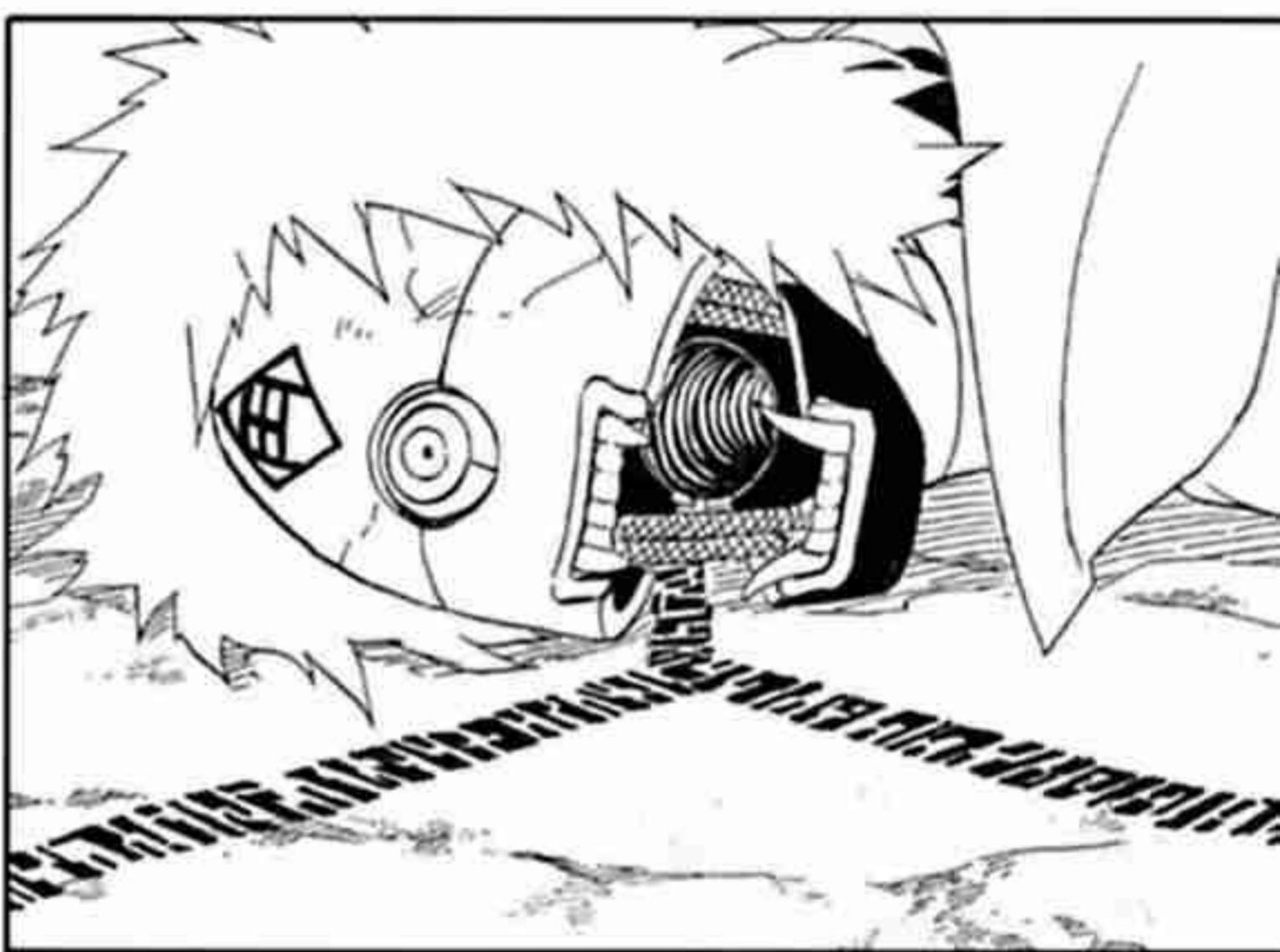


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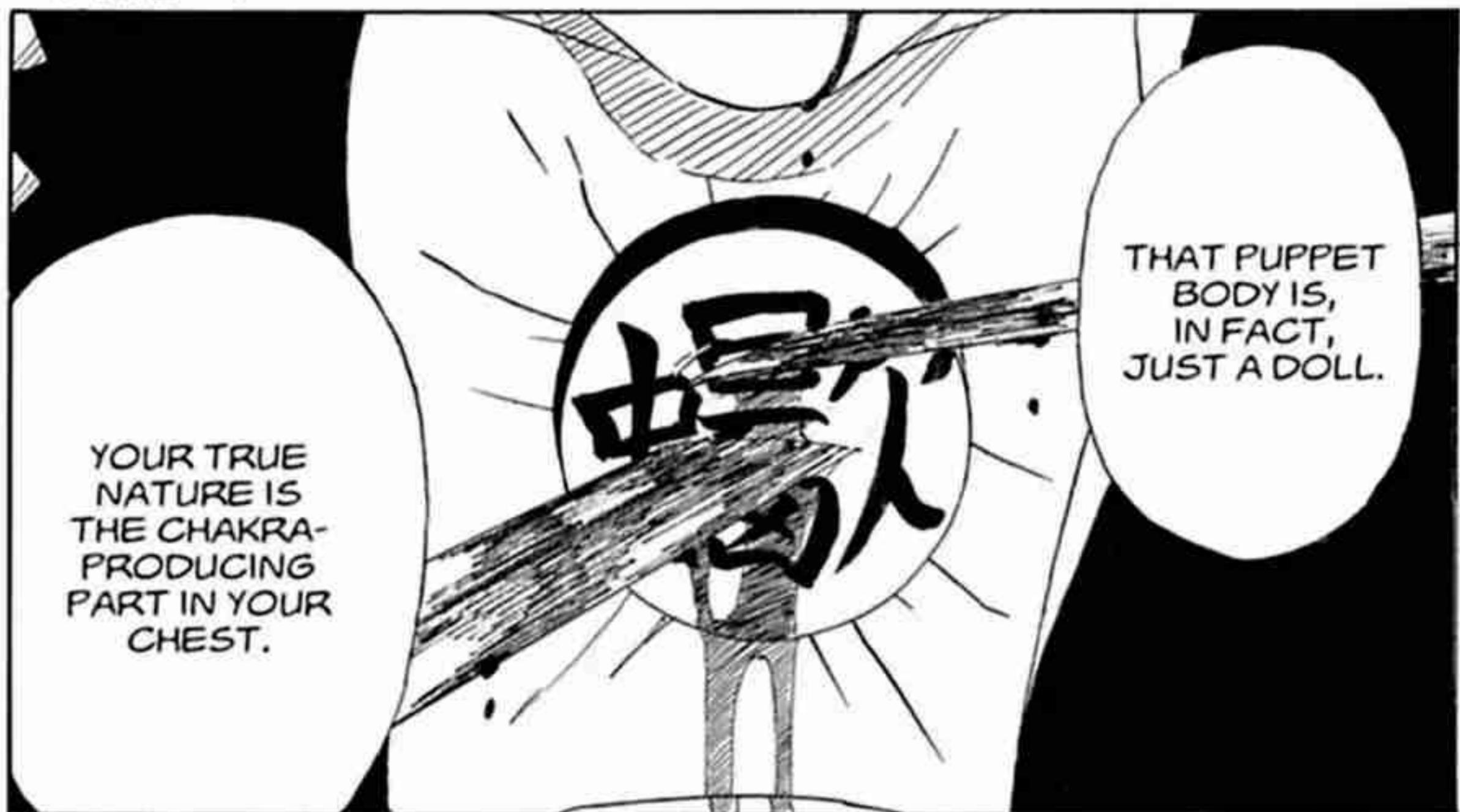


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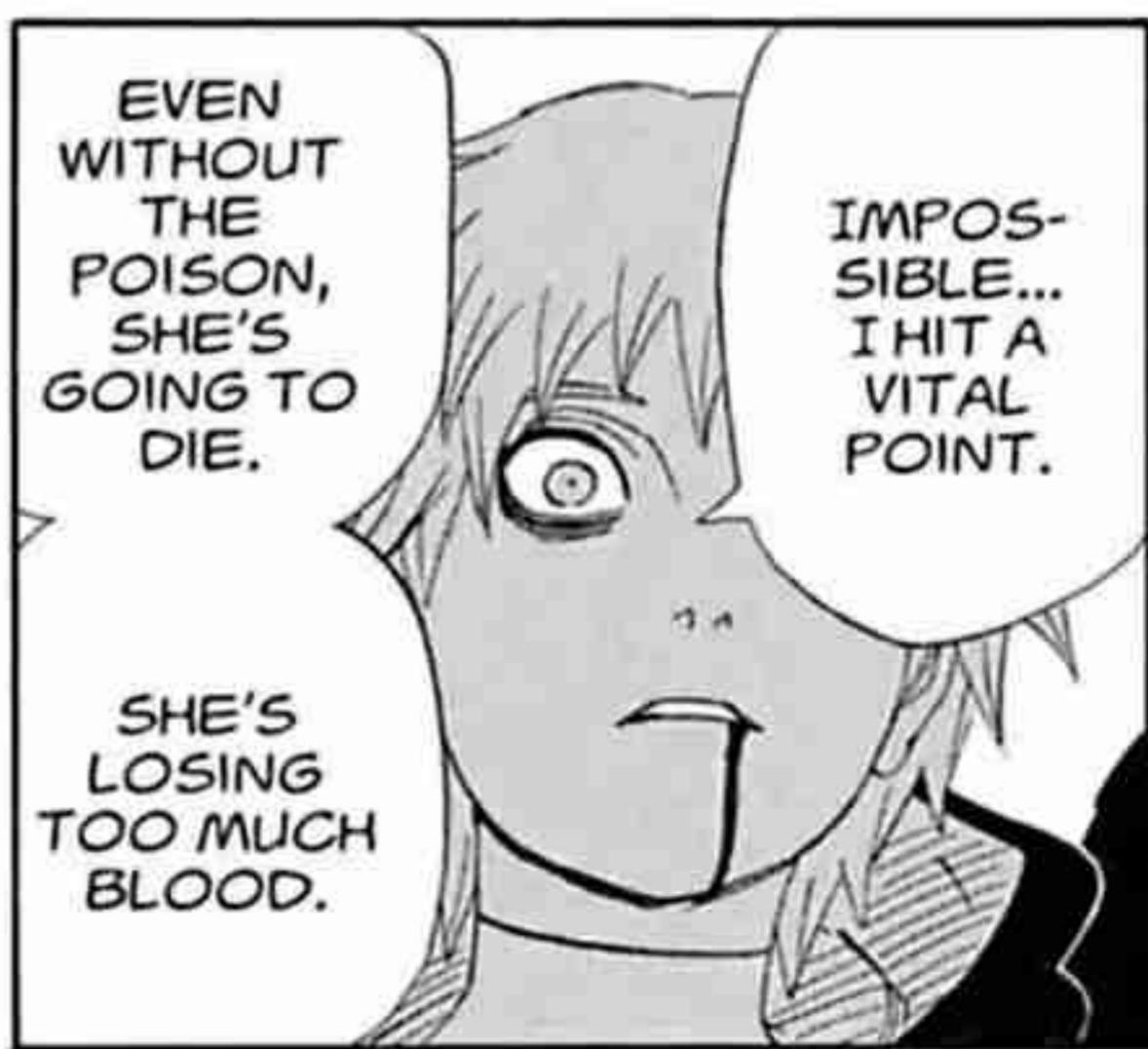




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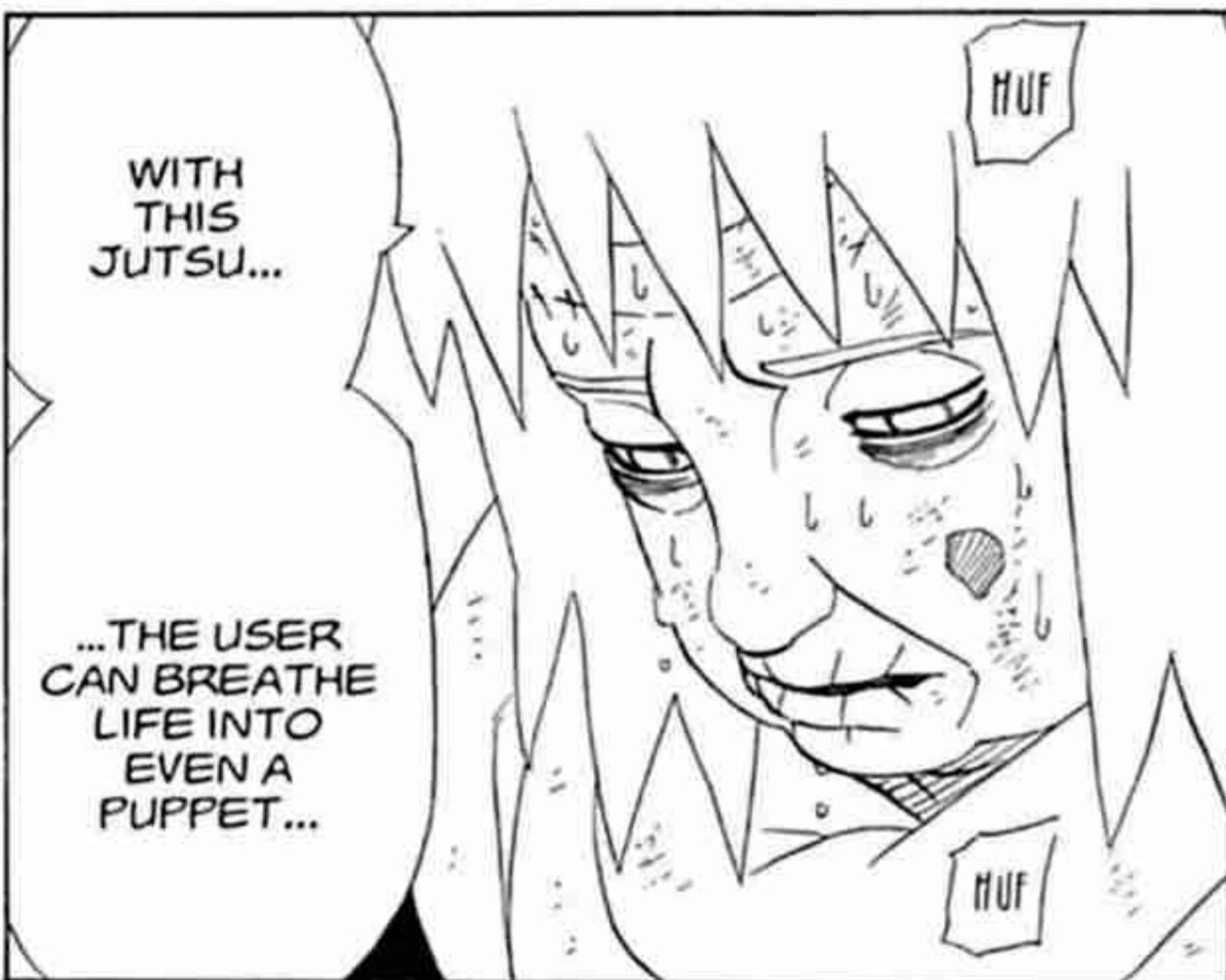


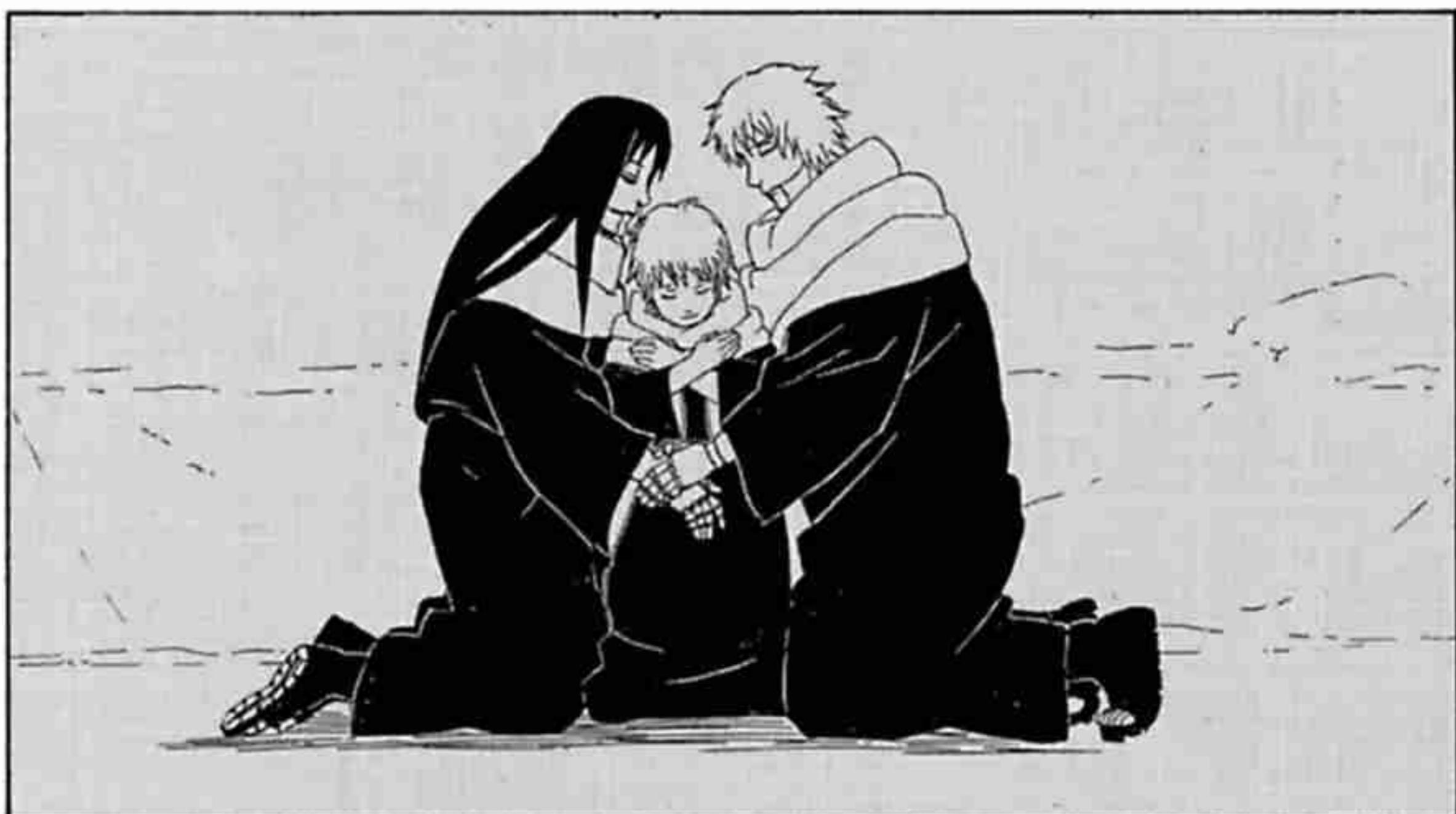




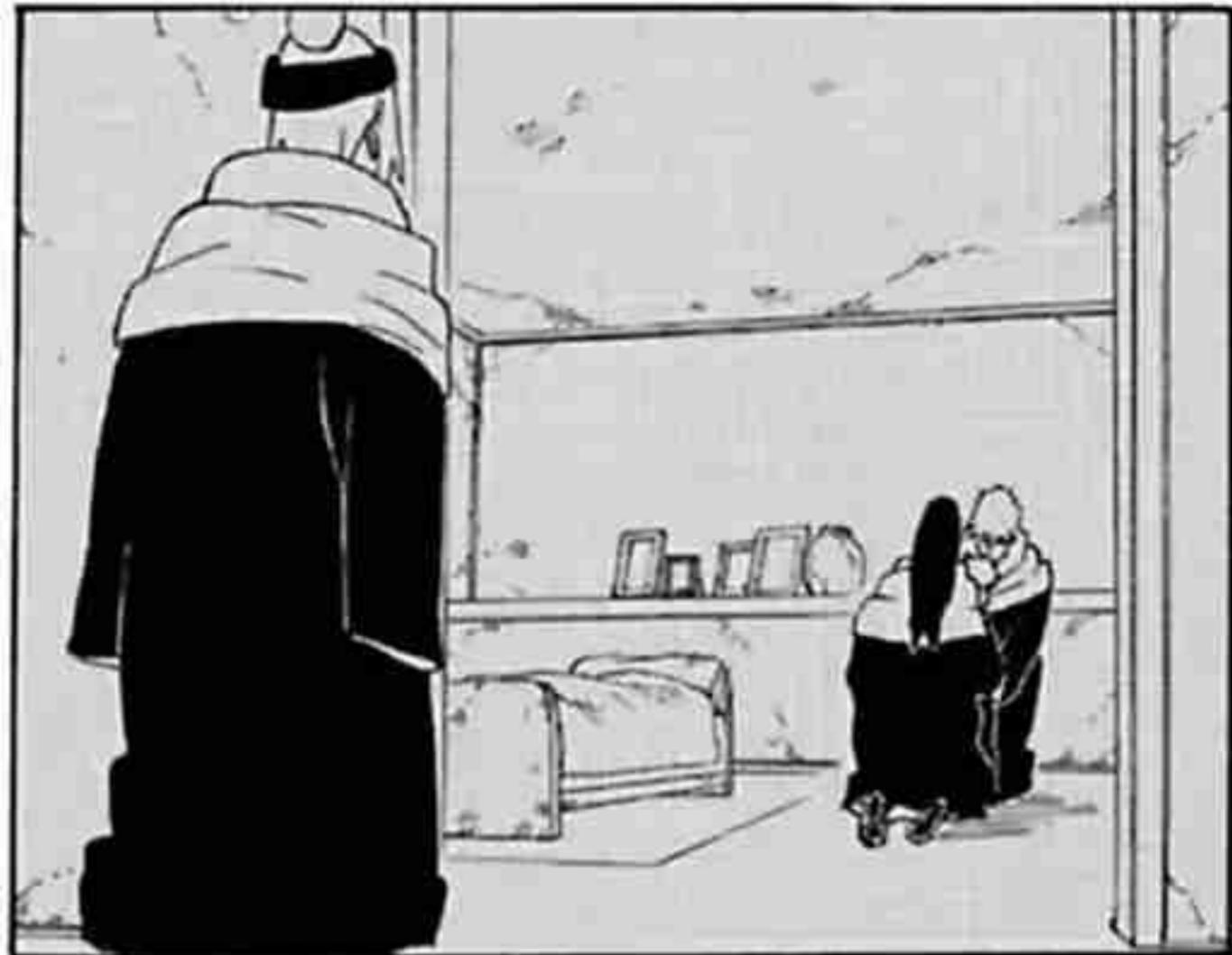


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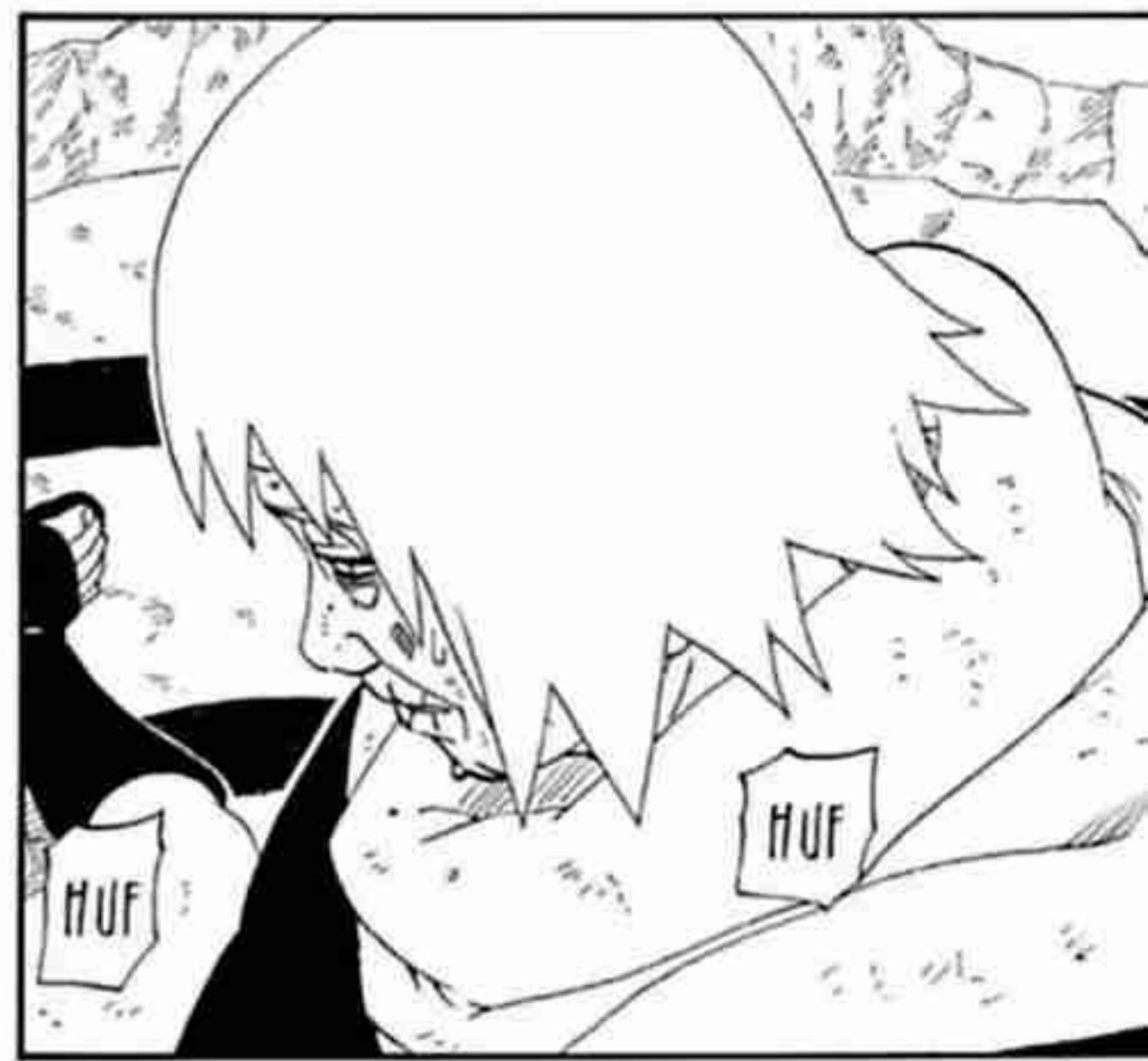
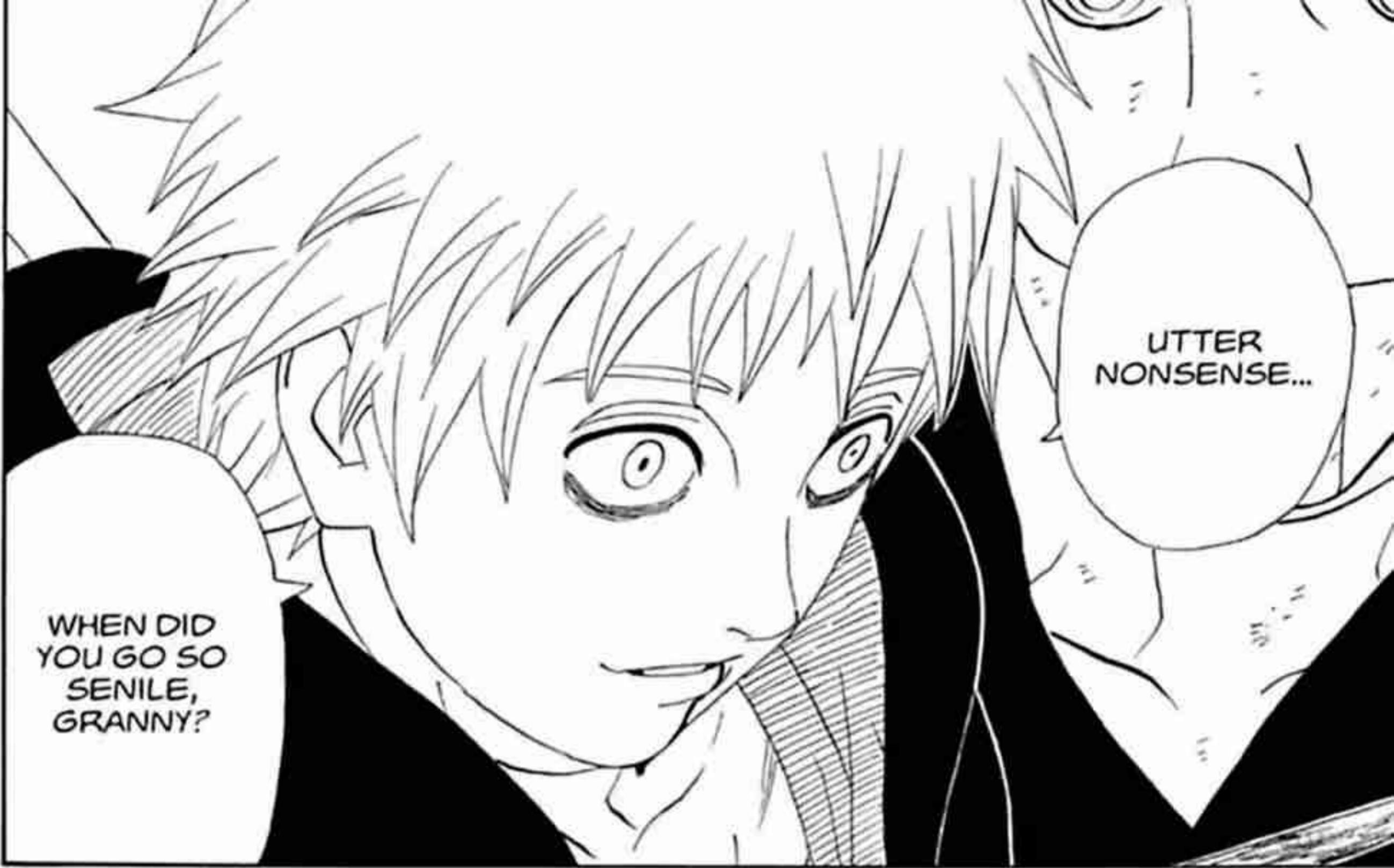




Number 275:

Reward...^{zz}





READ
THIS
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READ
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WAY



WOMEN...
THEY JUST
LOVE TO
DO...

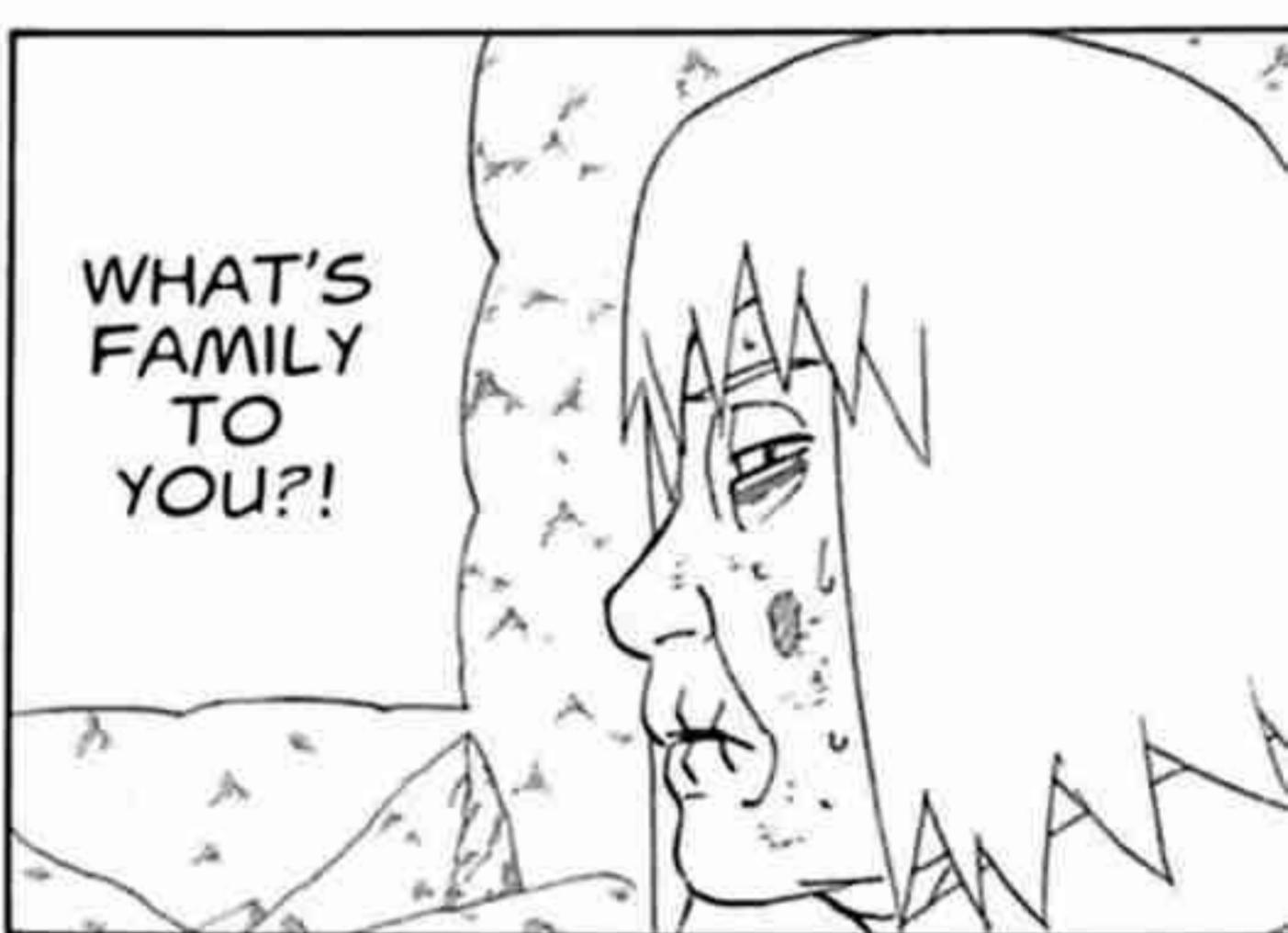
...COMPLETELY
POINTLESS
THINGS.
HEH HEH...



THINGS
ARE
SIMPLER
THAN YOU
THINK.

SHE'D
JUST BE
ONE MORE
AMONG THE
THOUSANDS...

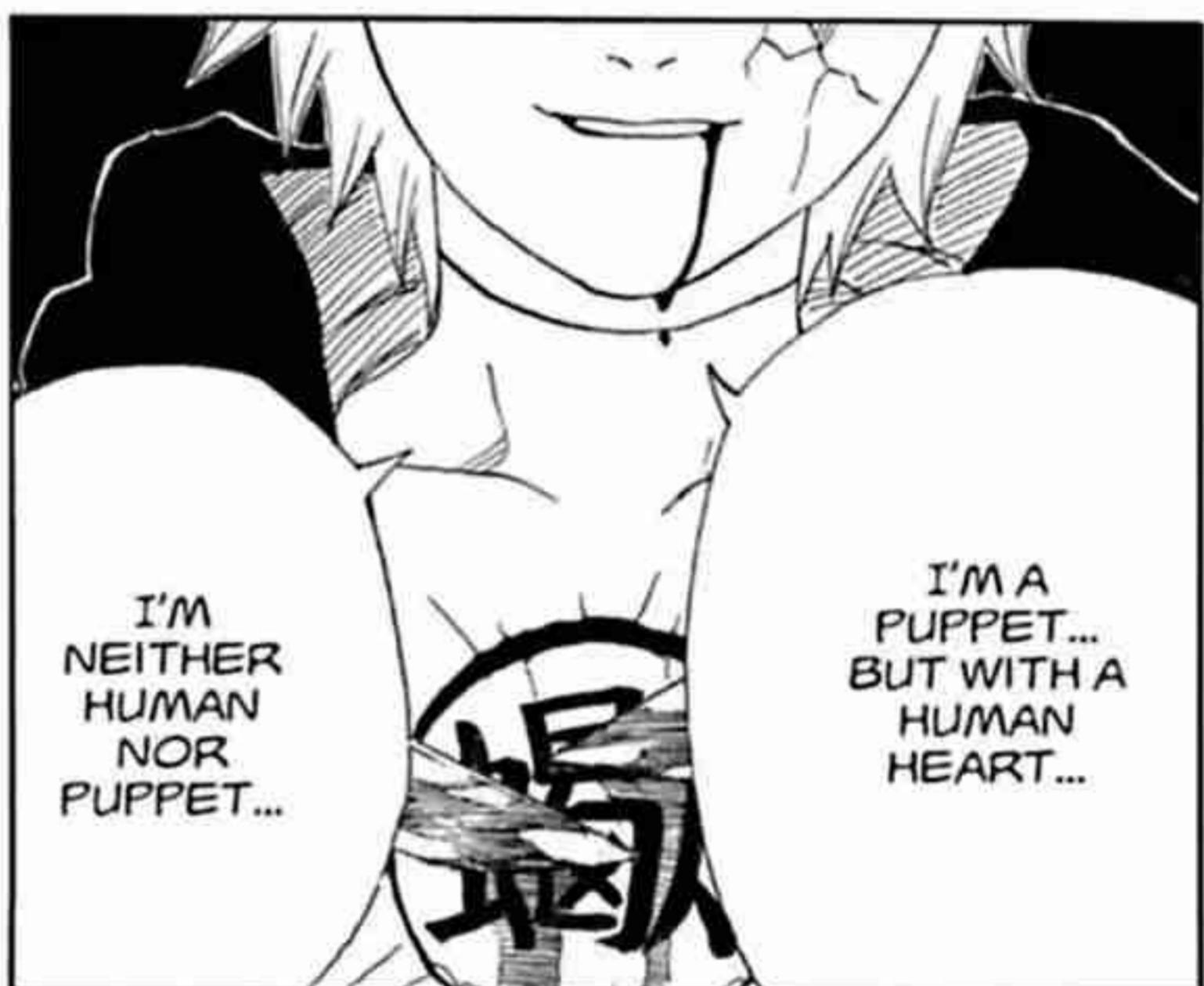
...I'VE
KILLED.







READ
THIS
WAY





YOU WANTED
TO KNOW
ABOUT
OROCHIMARU,
DIDN'T YOU?



...TEN DAYS
FROM NOW
AT NOON...

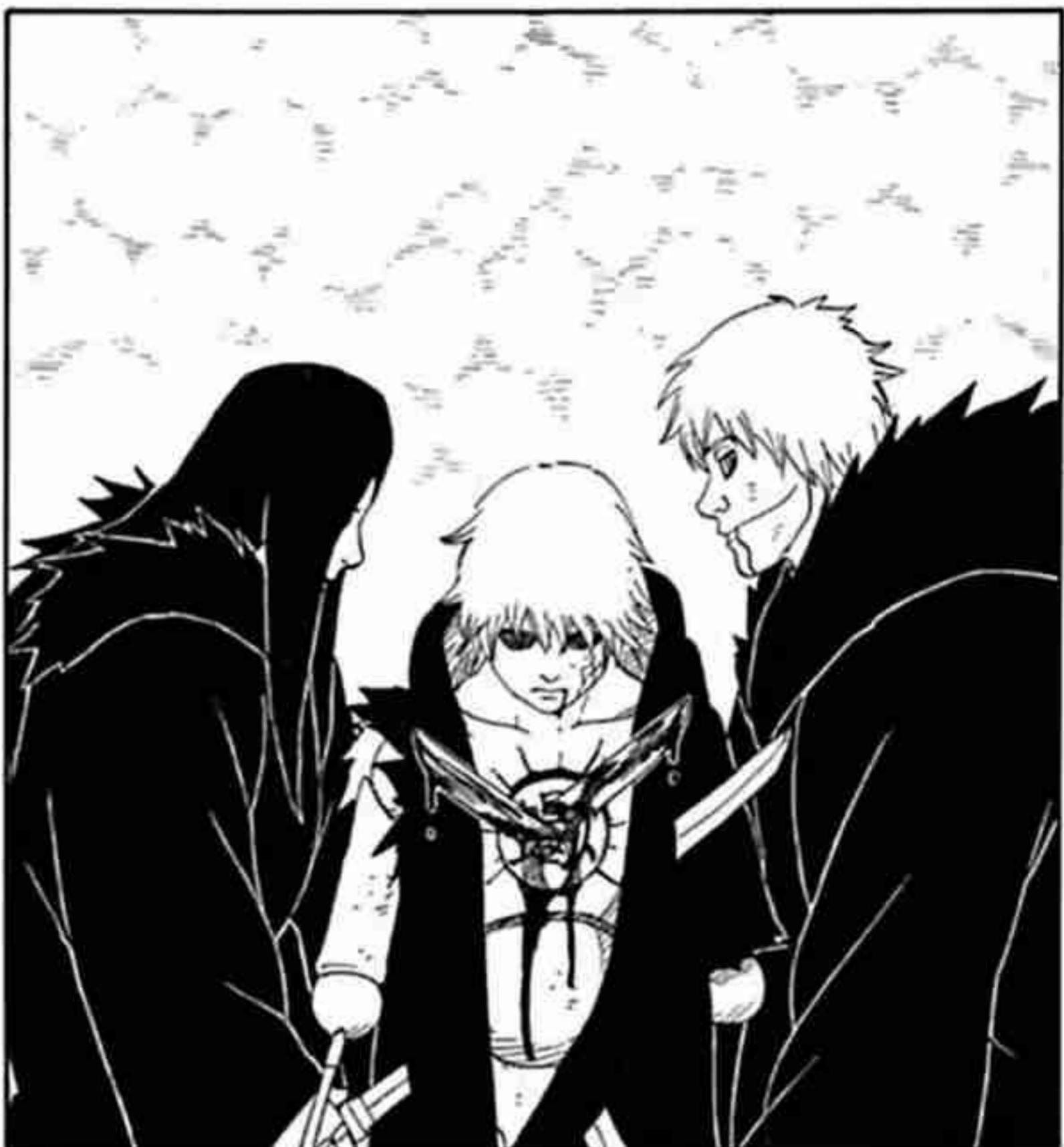


ONE OF
OROCHIMARU'S
HENCHMEN
IS A SPY OF
MINE...



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?!

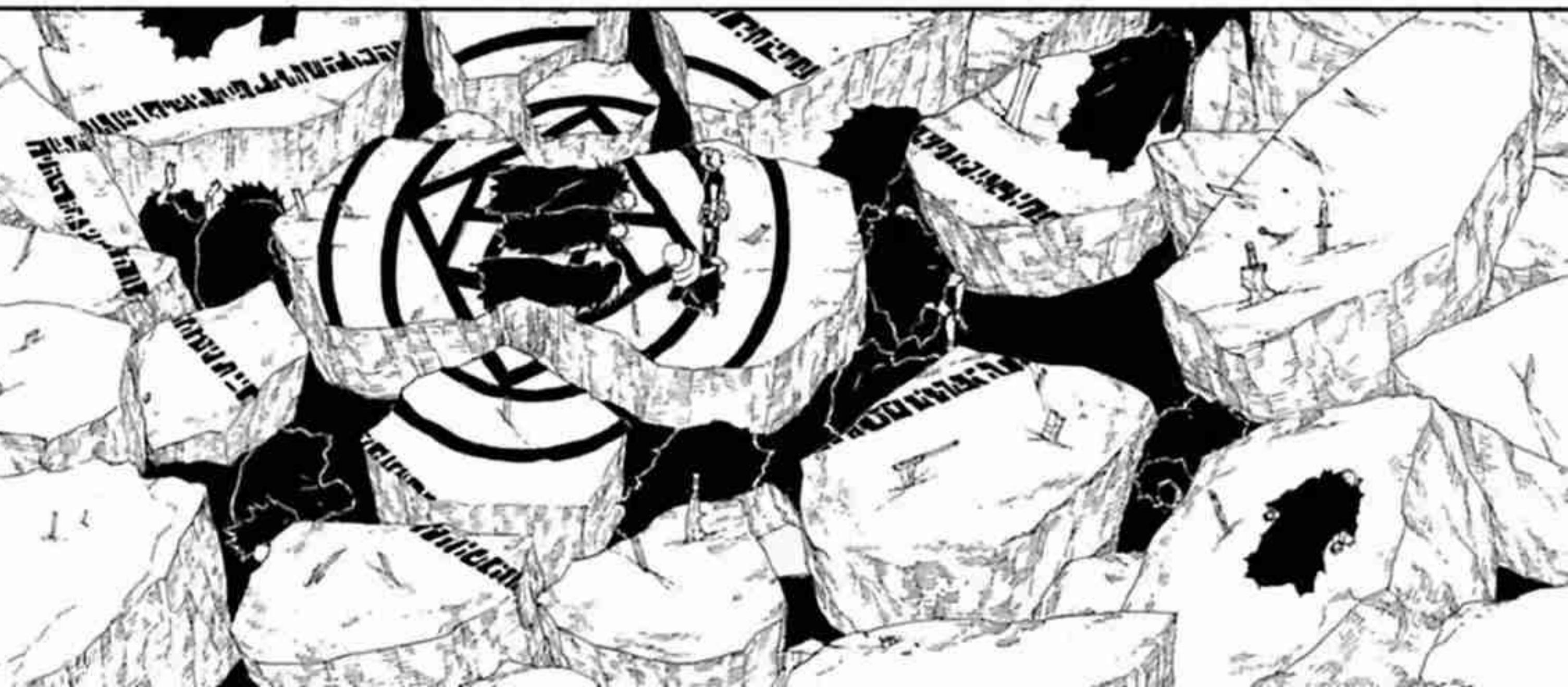
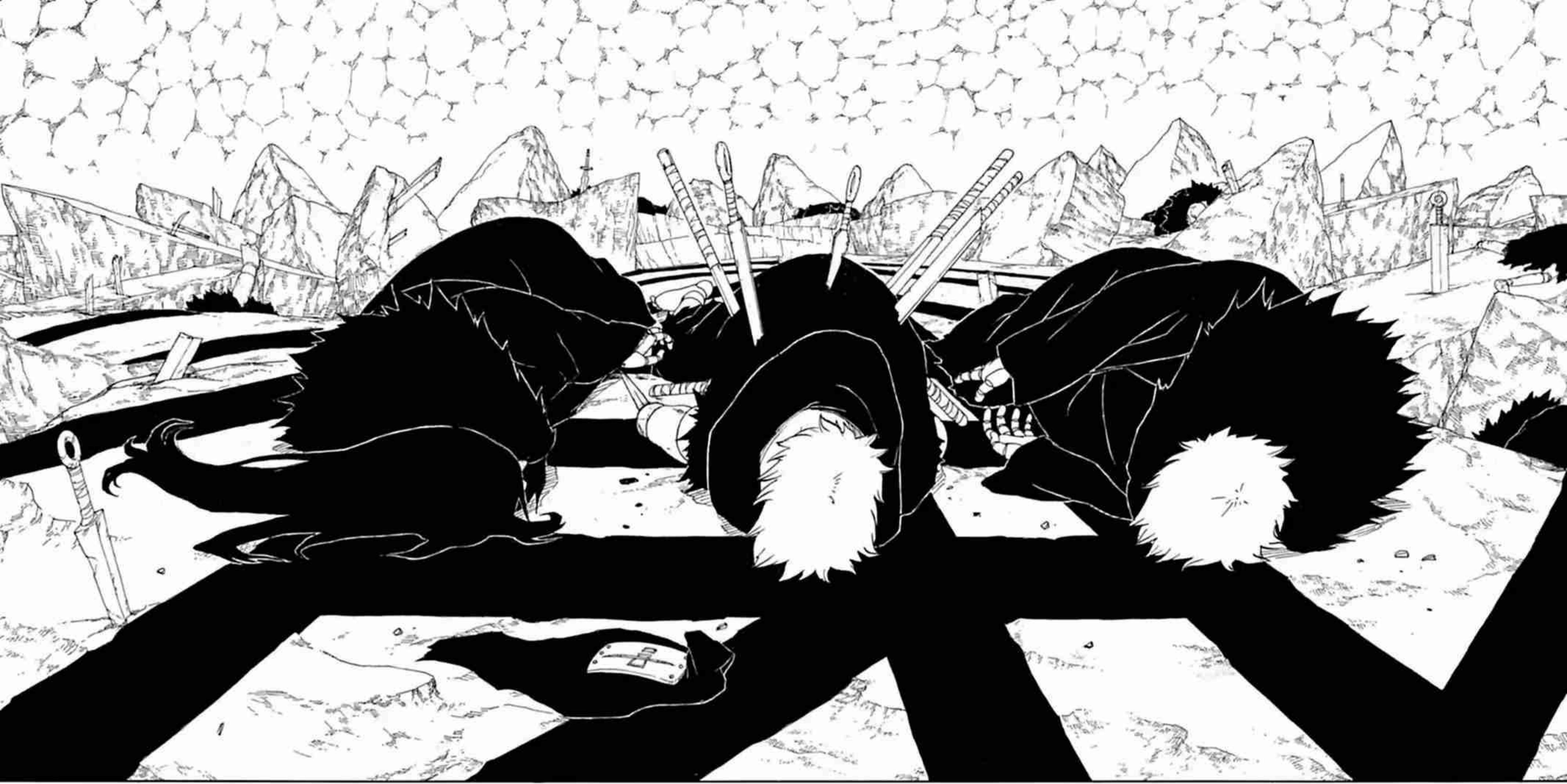
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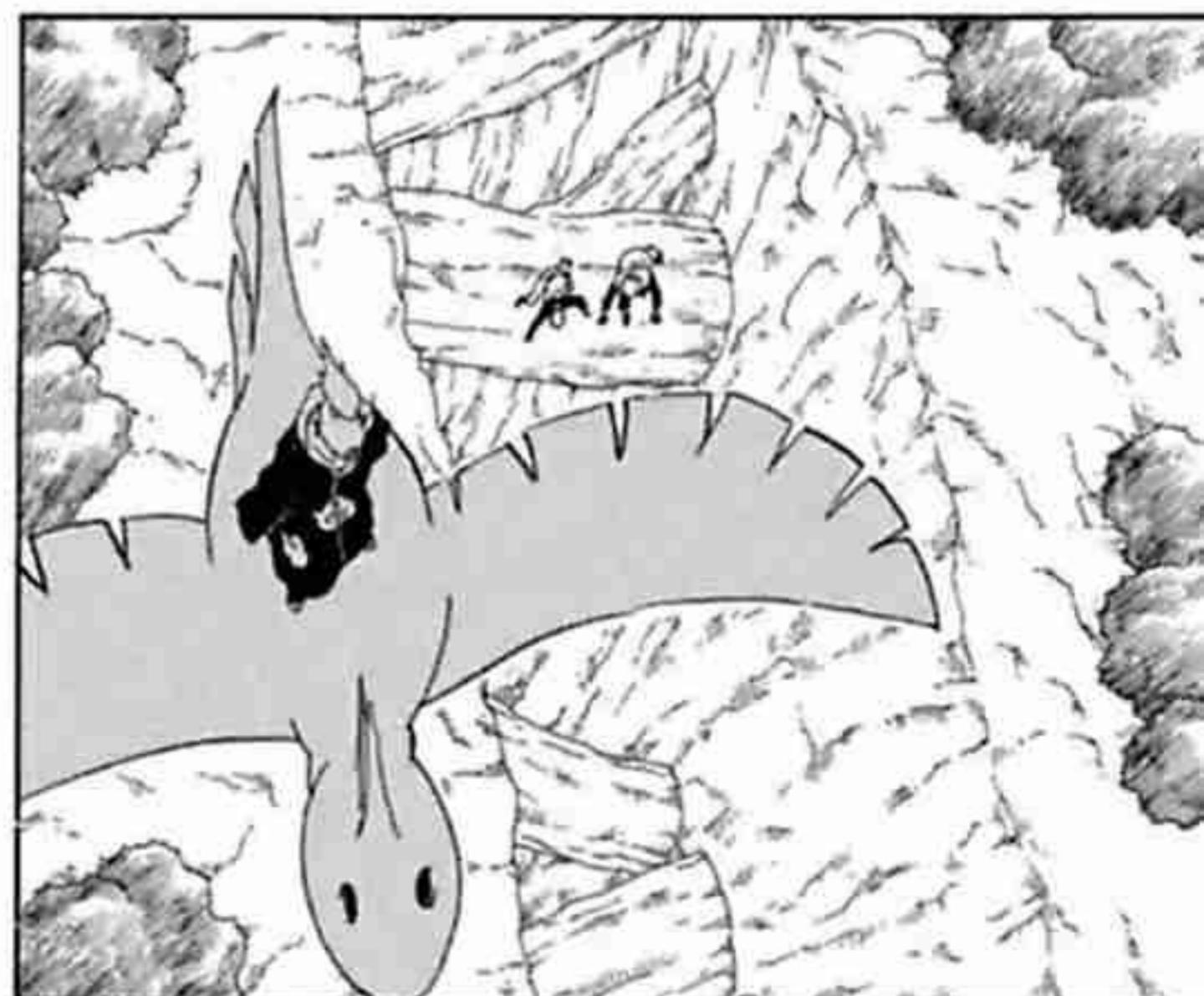
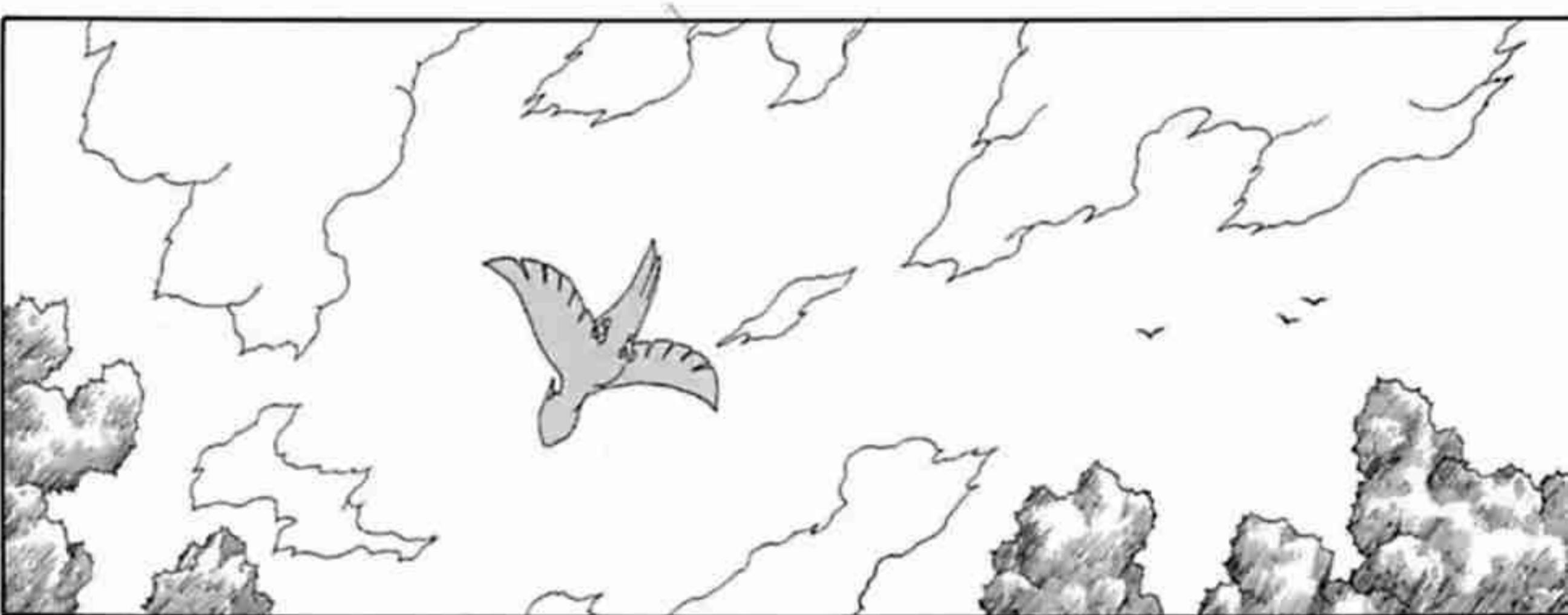




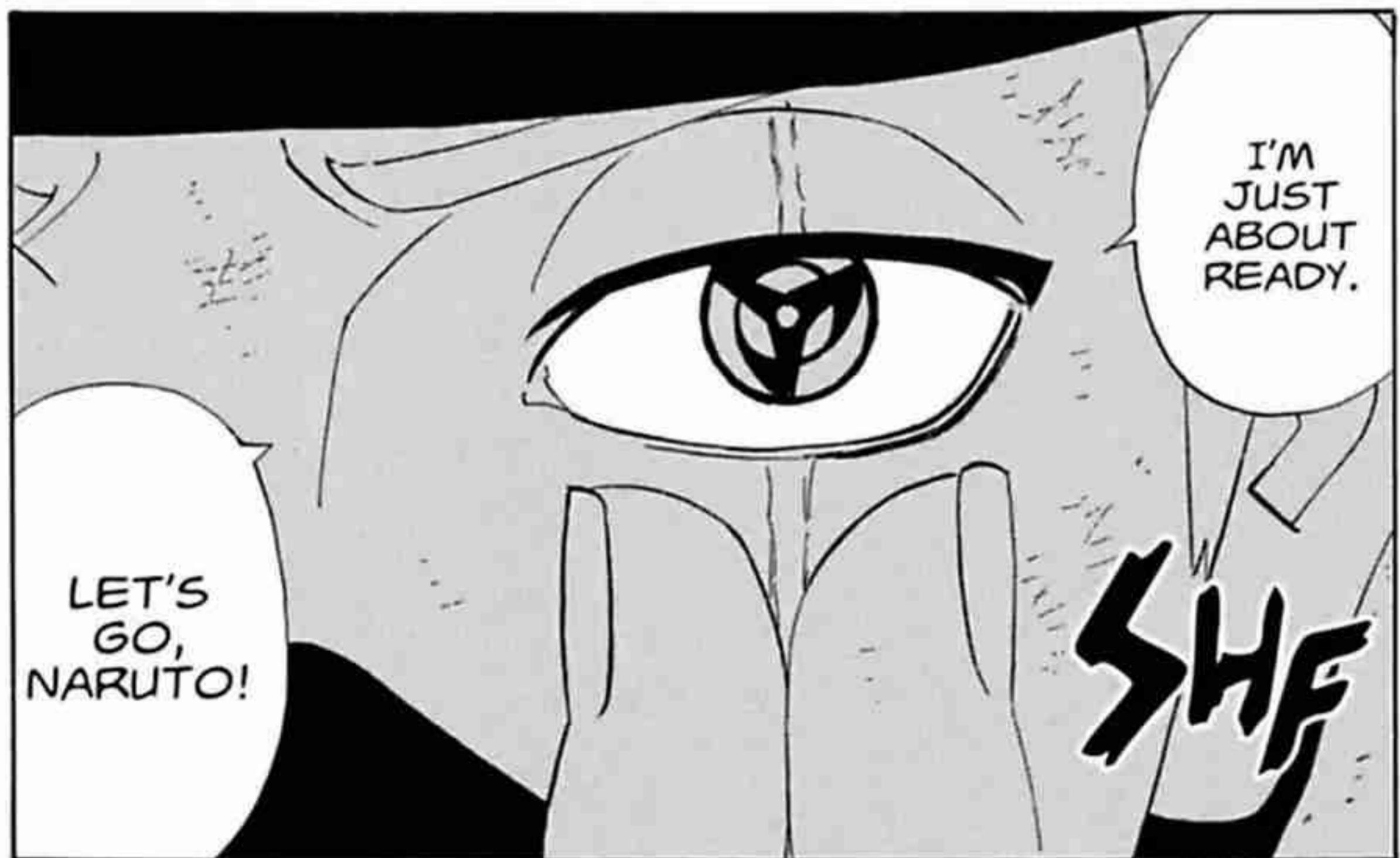


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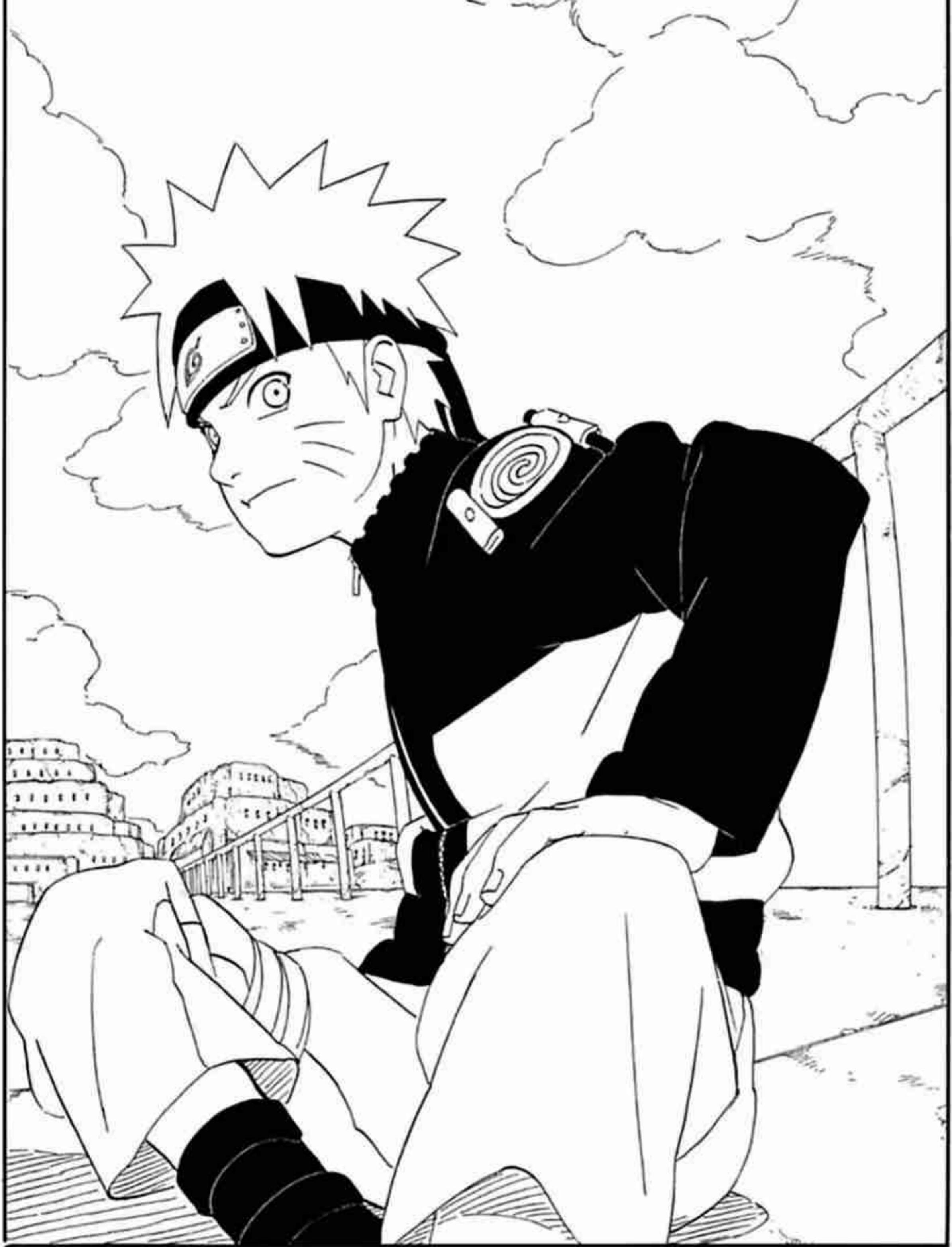
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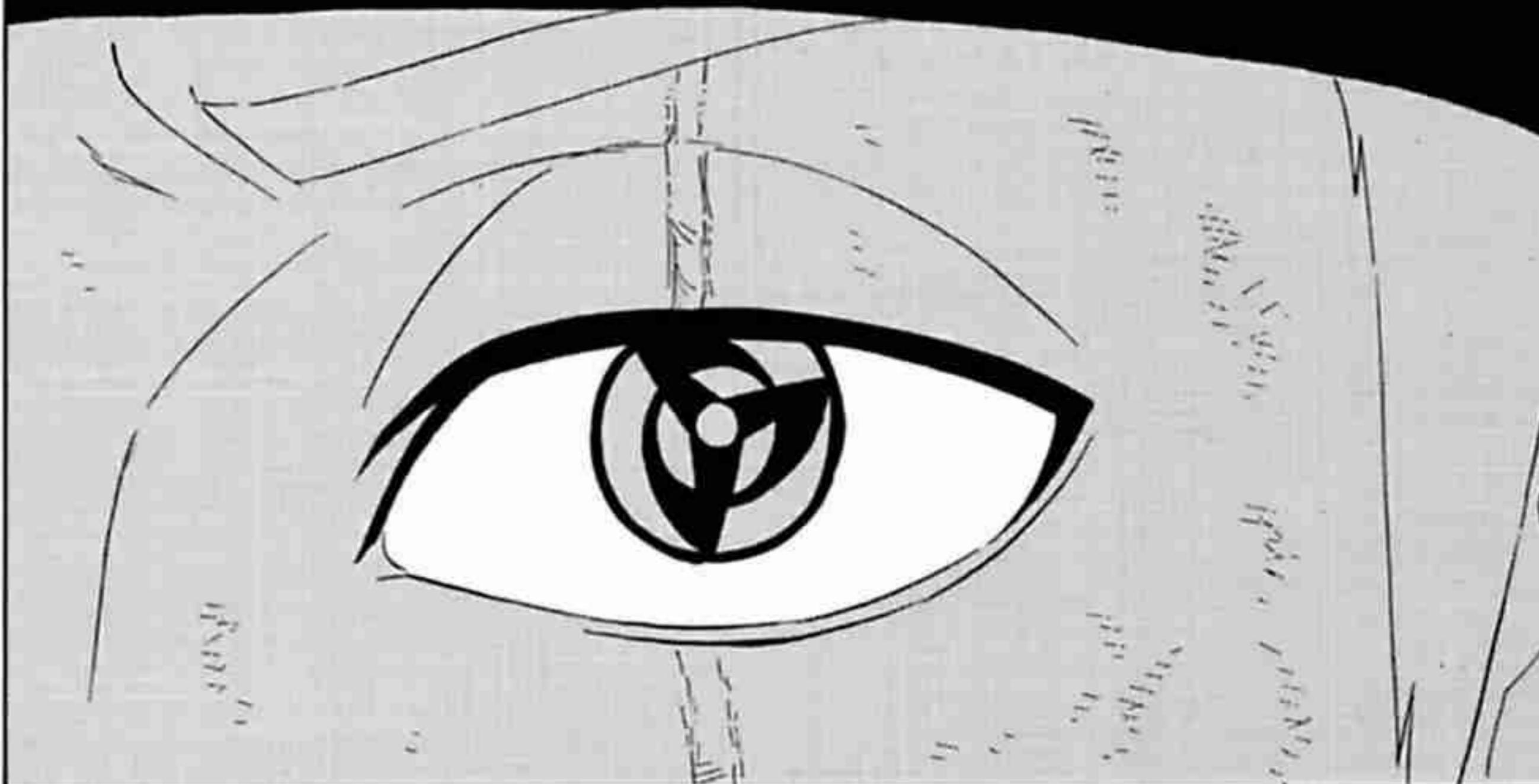


NARUTO

Number 276:

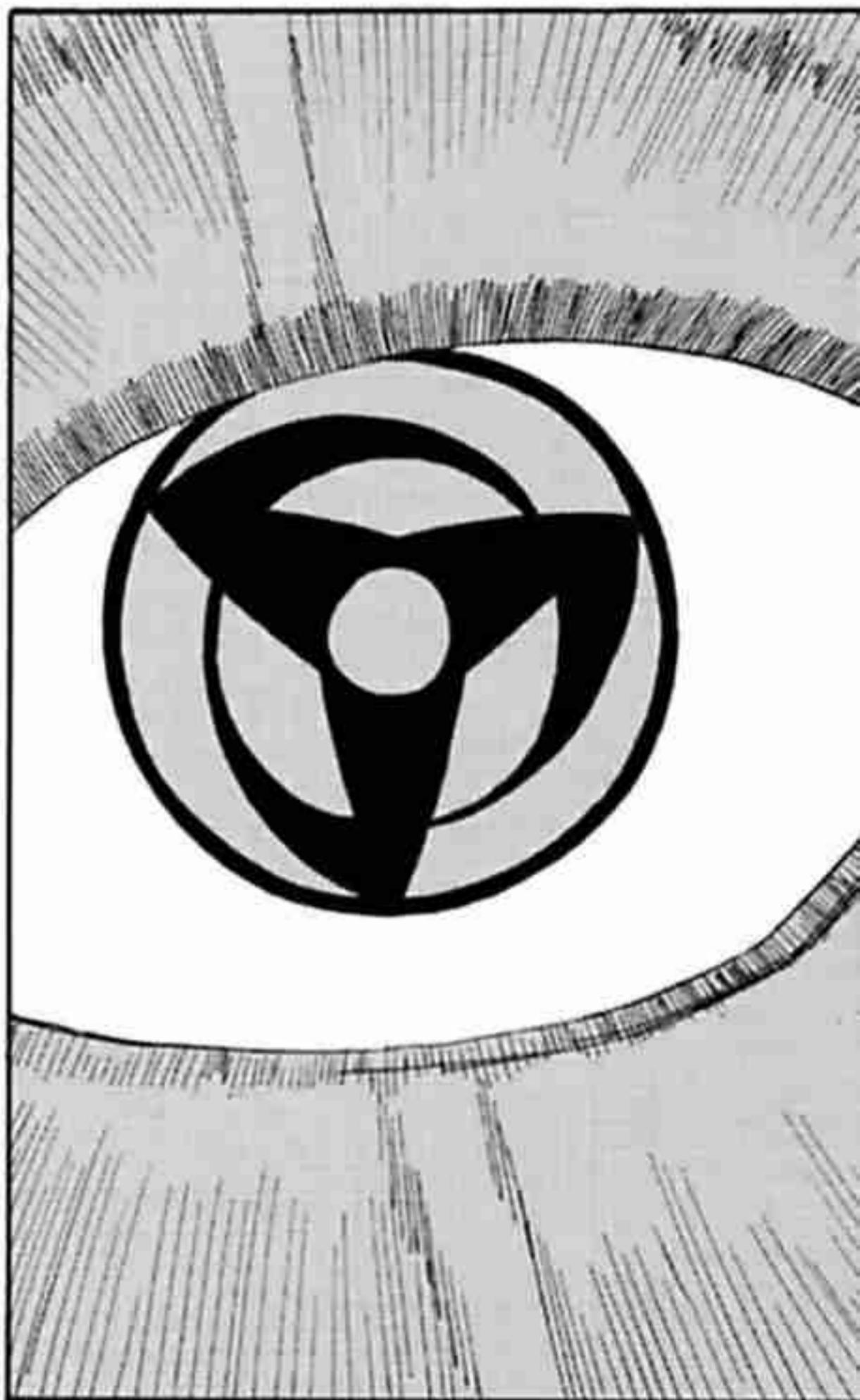
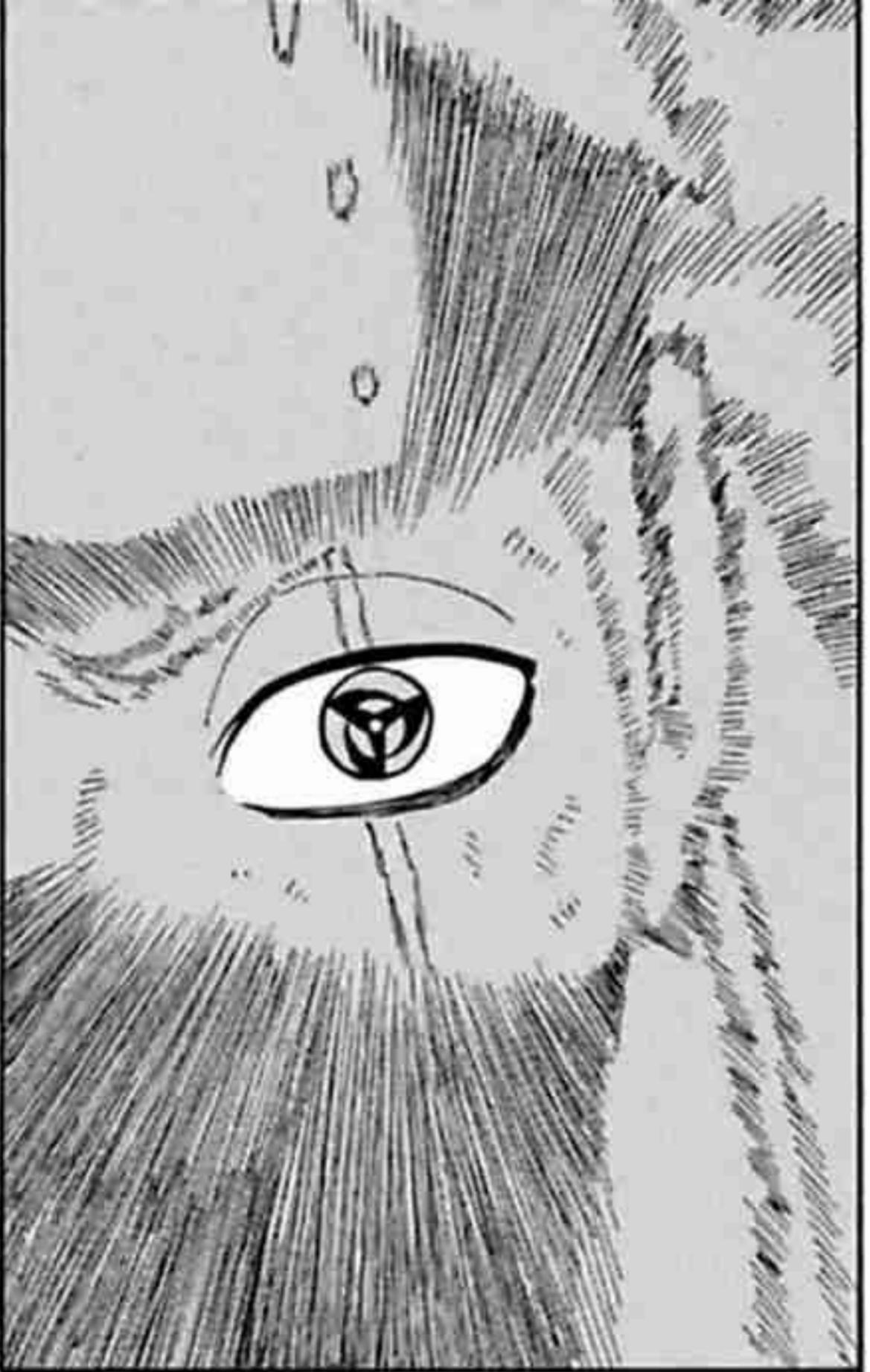
New Sharingan!!



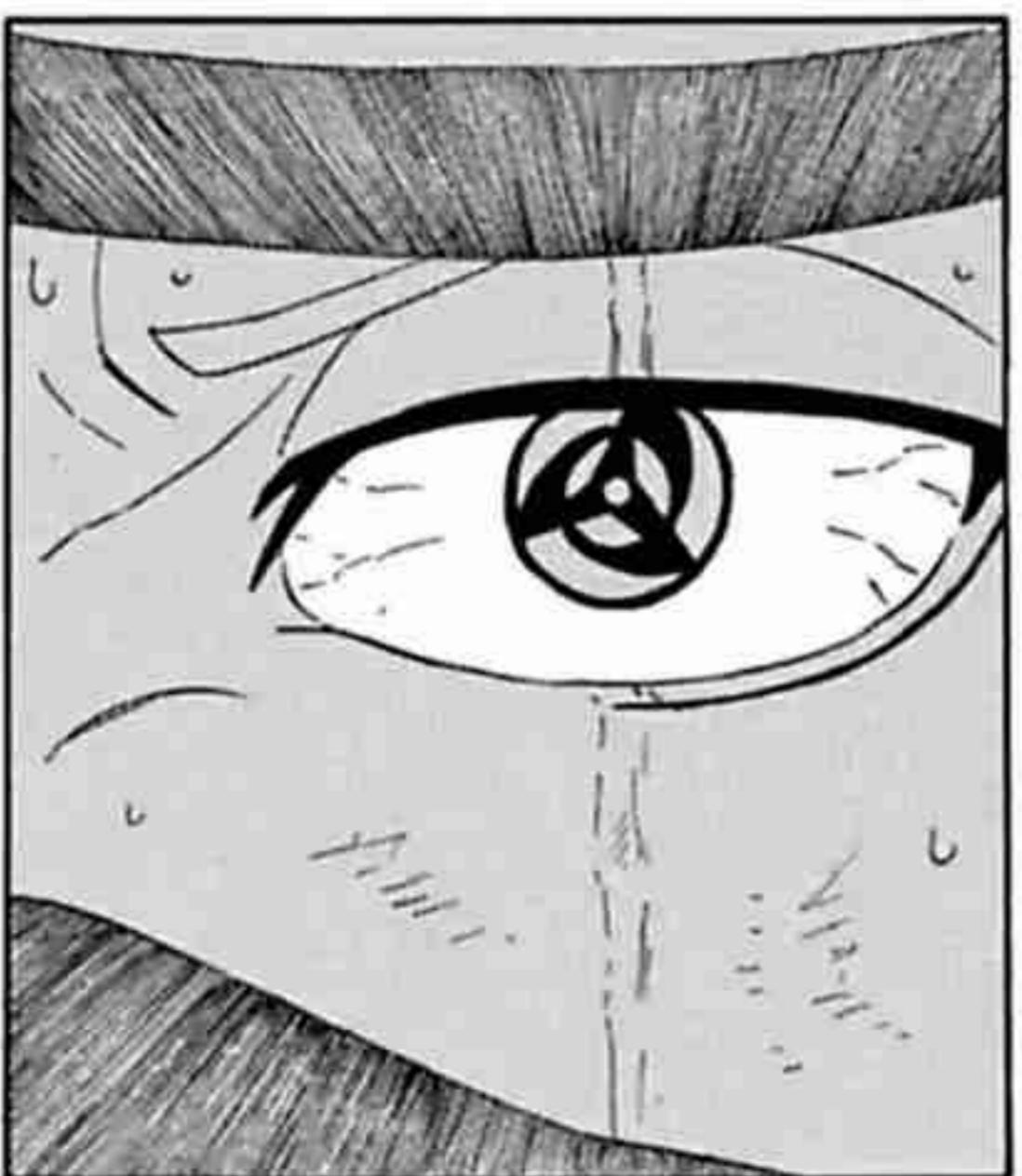


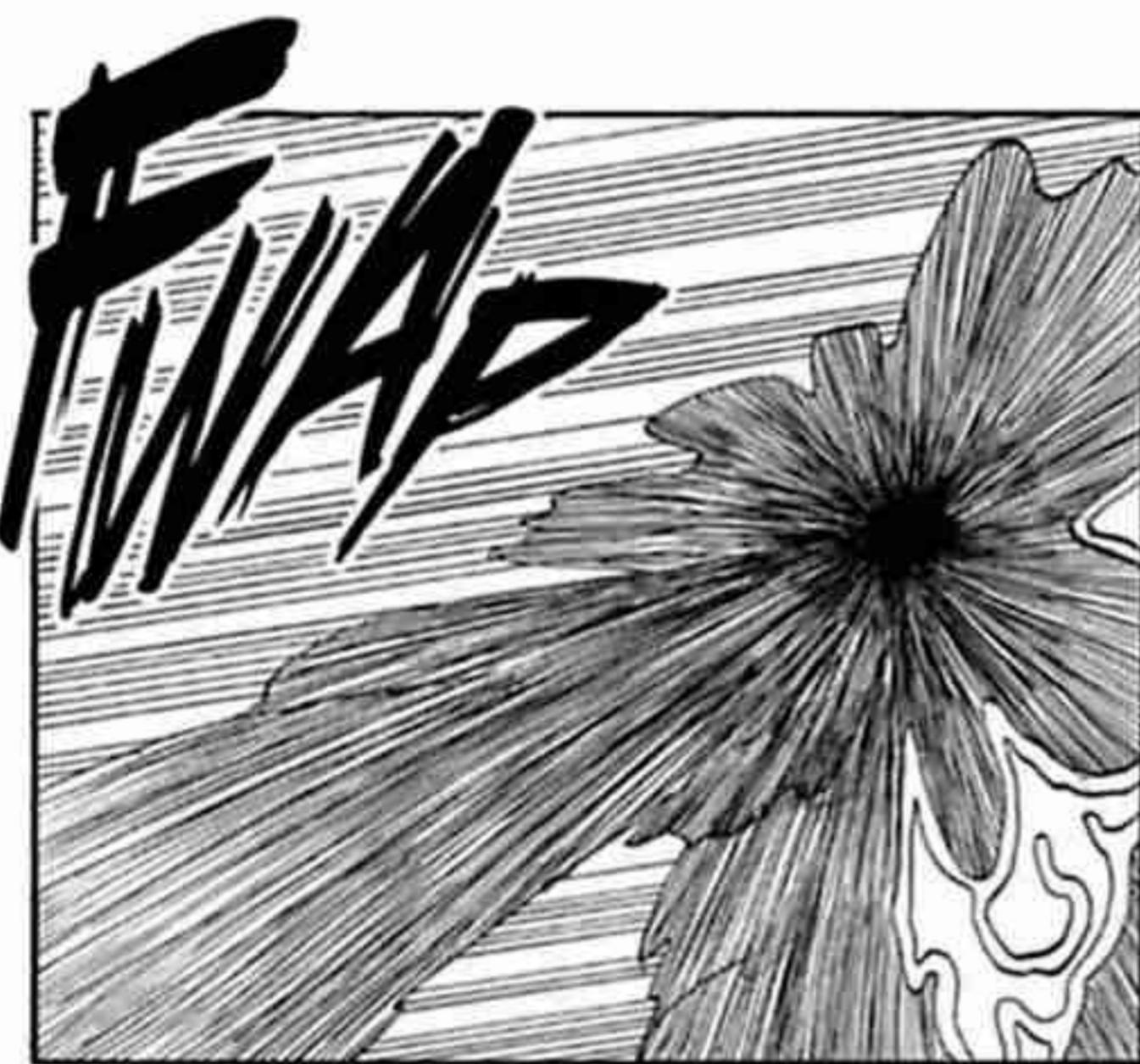
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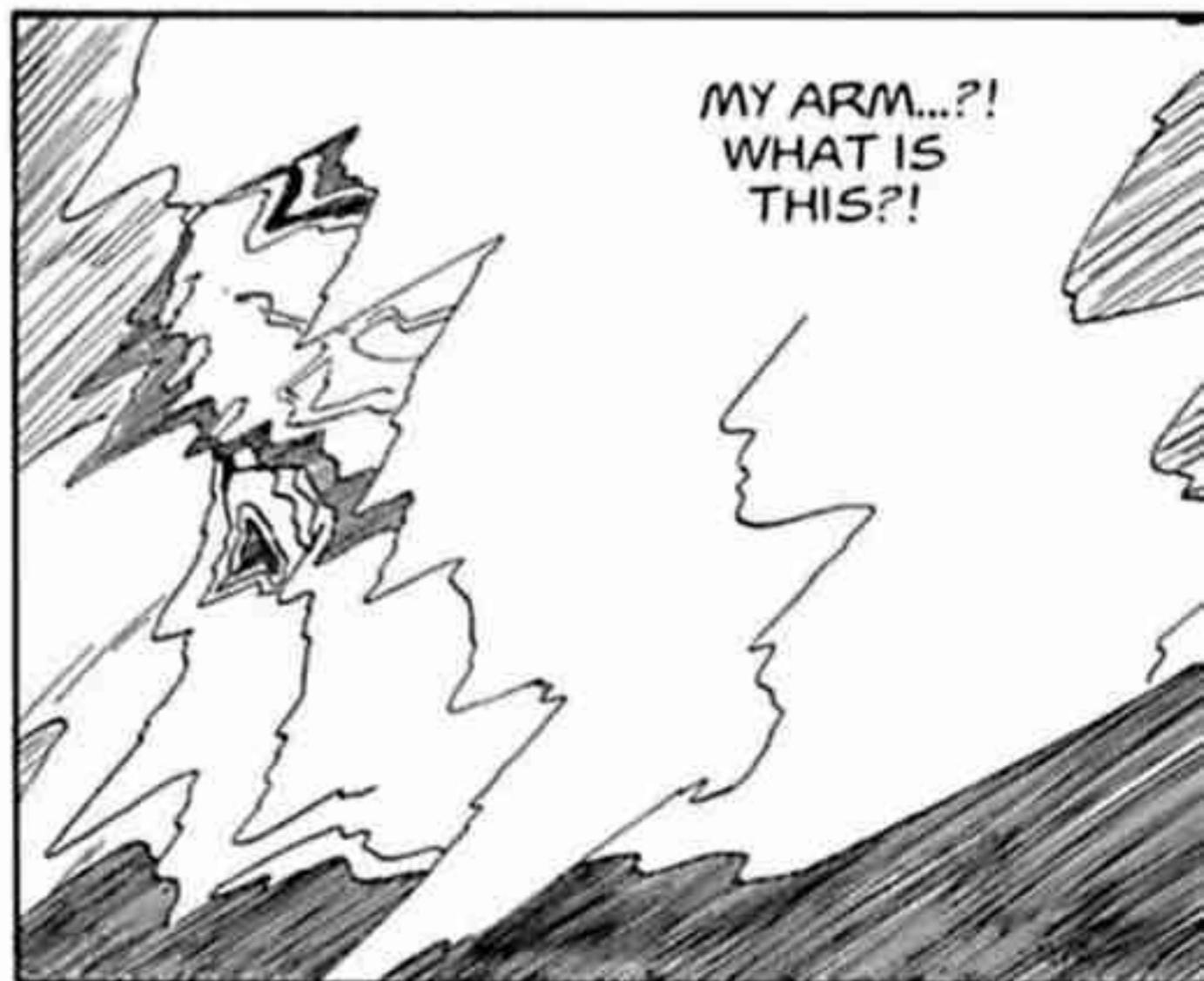








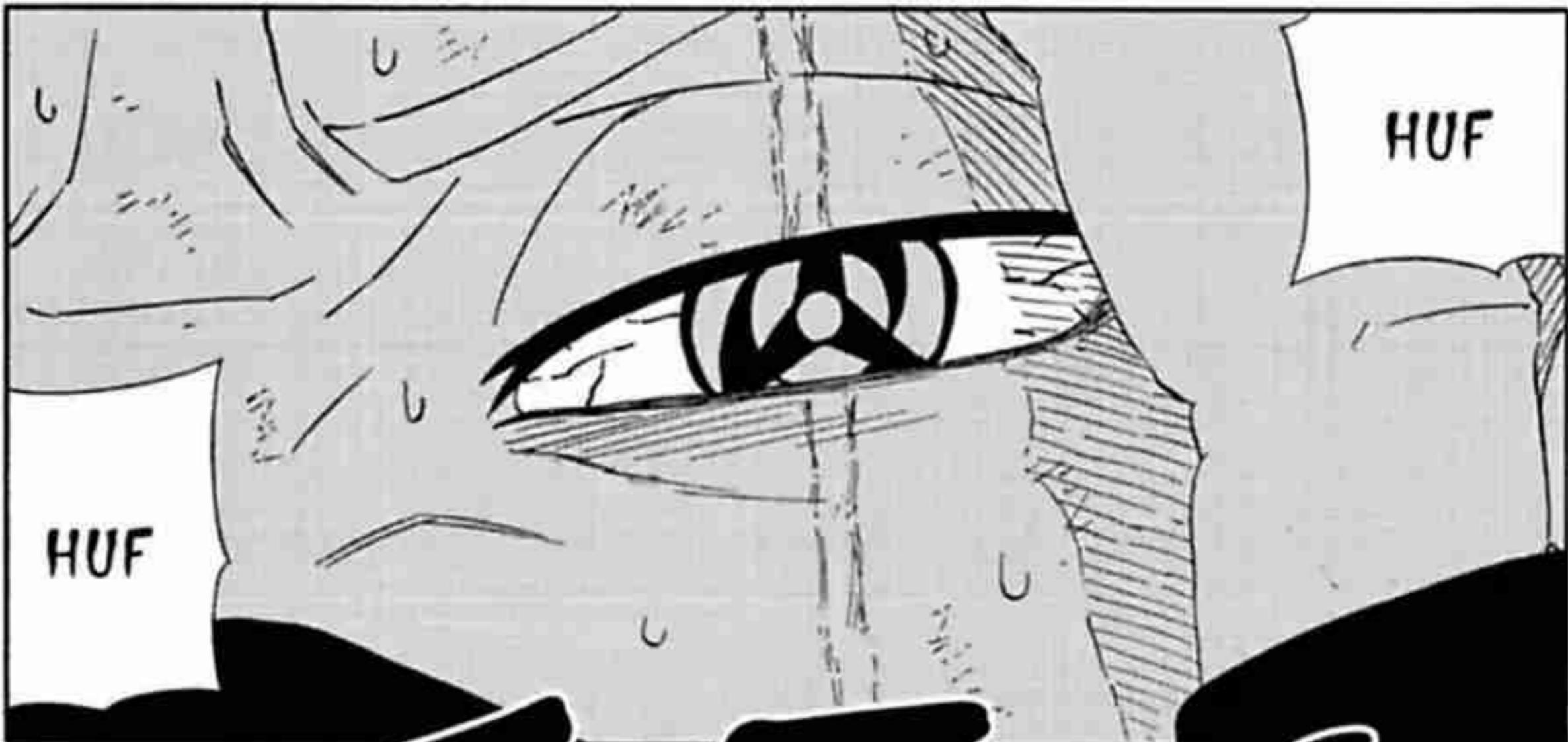








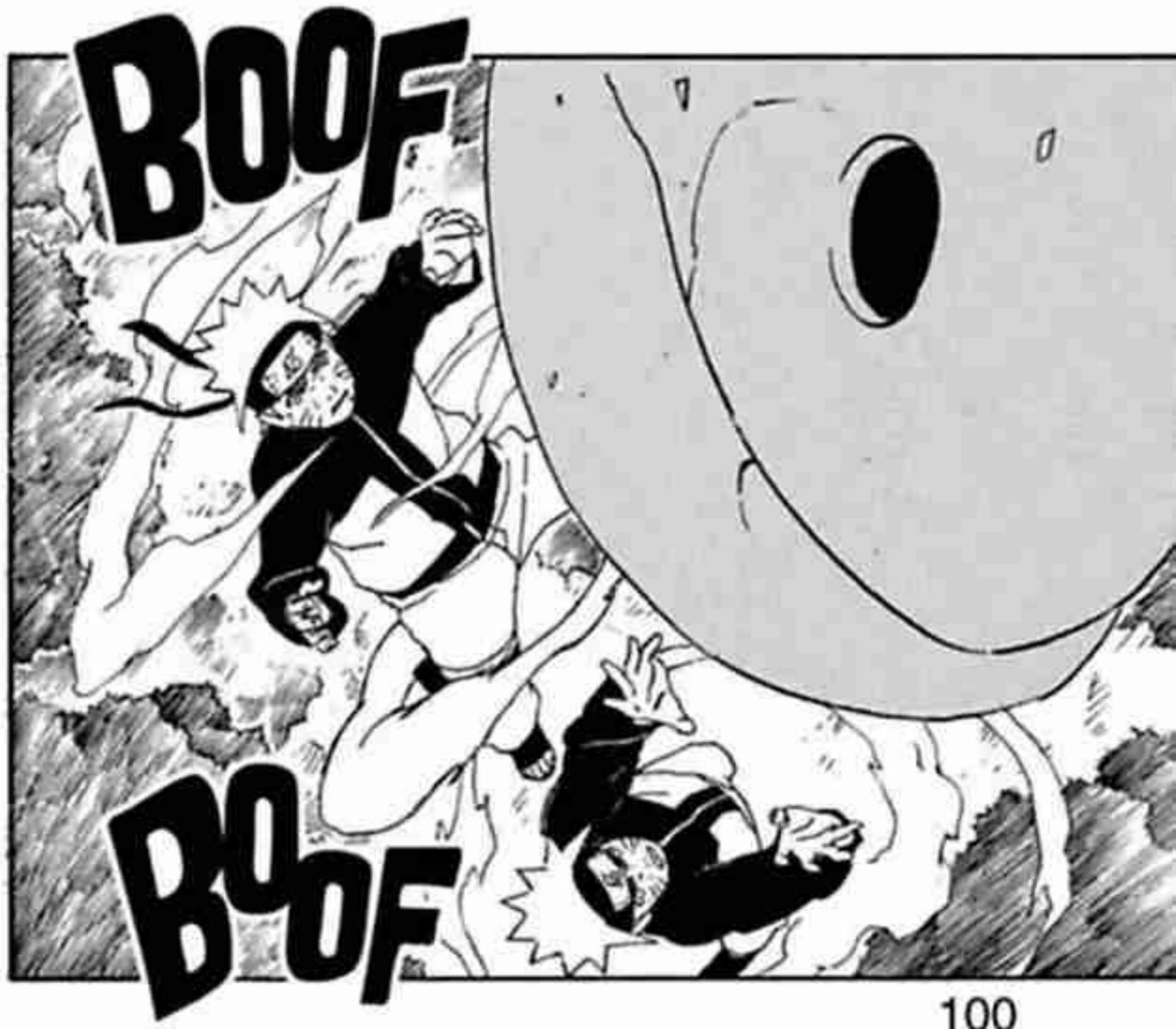
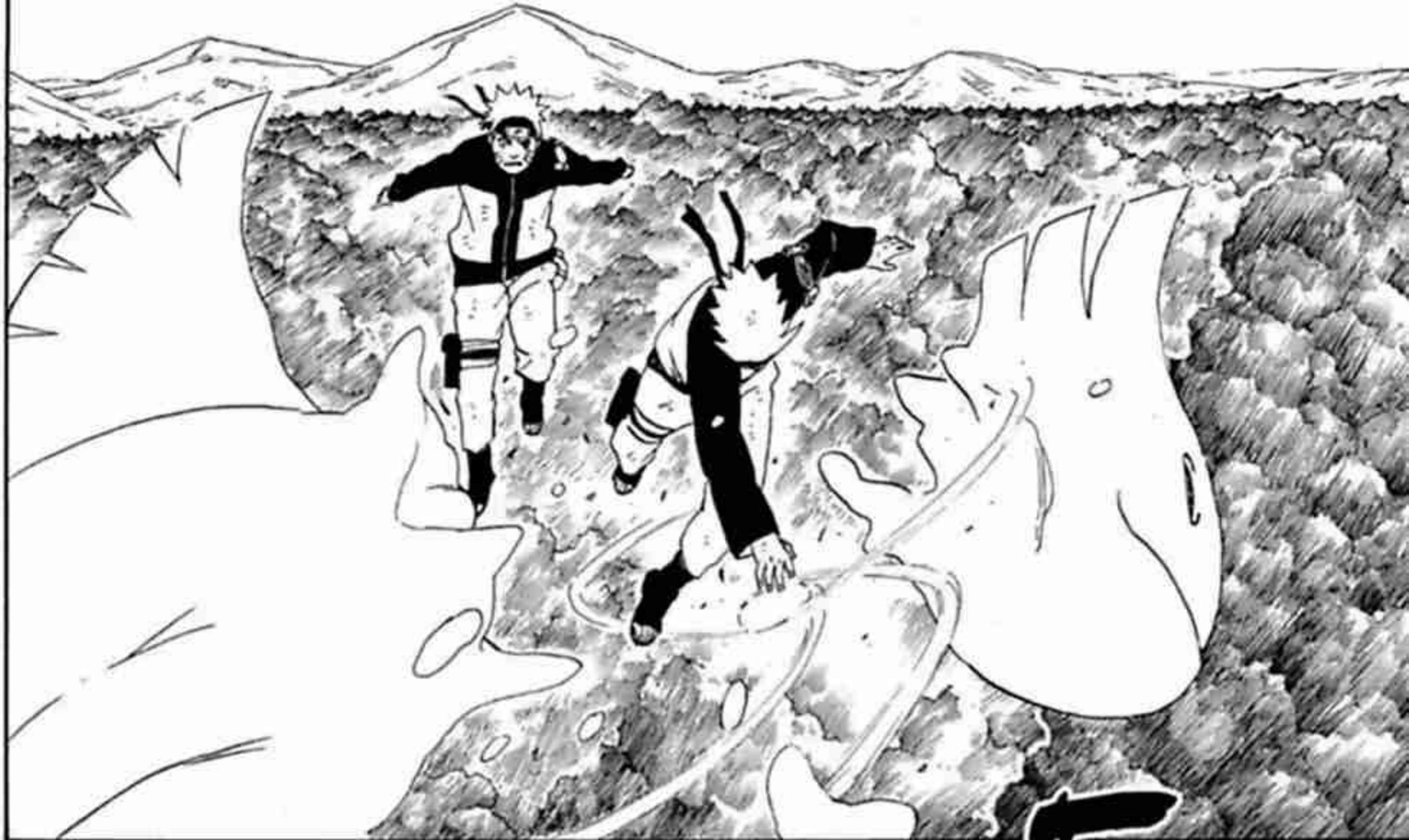
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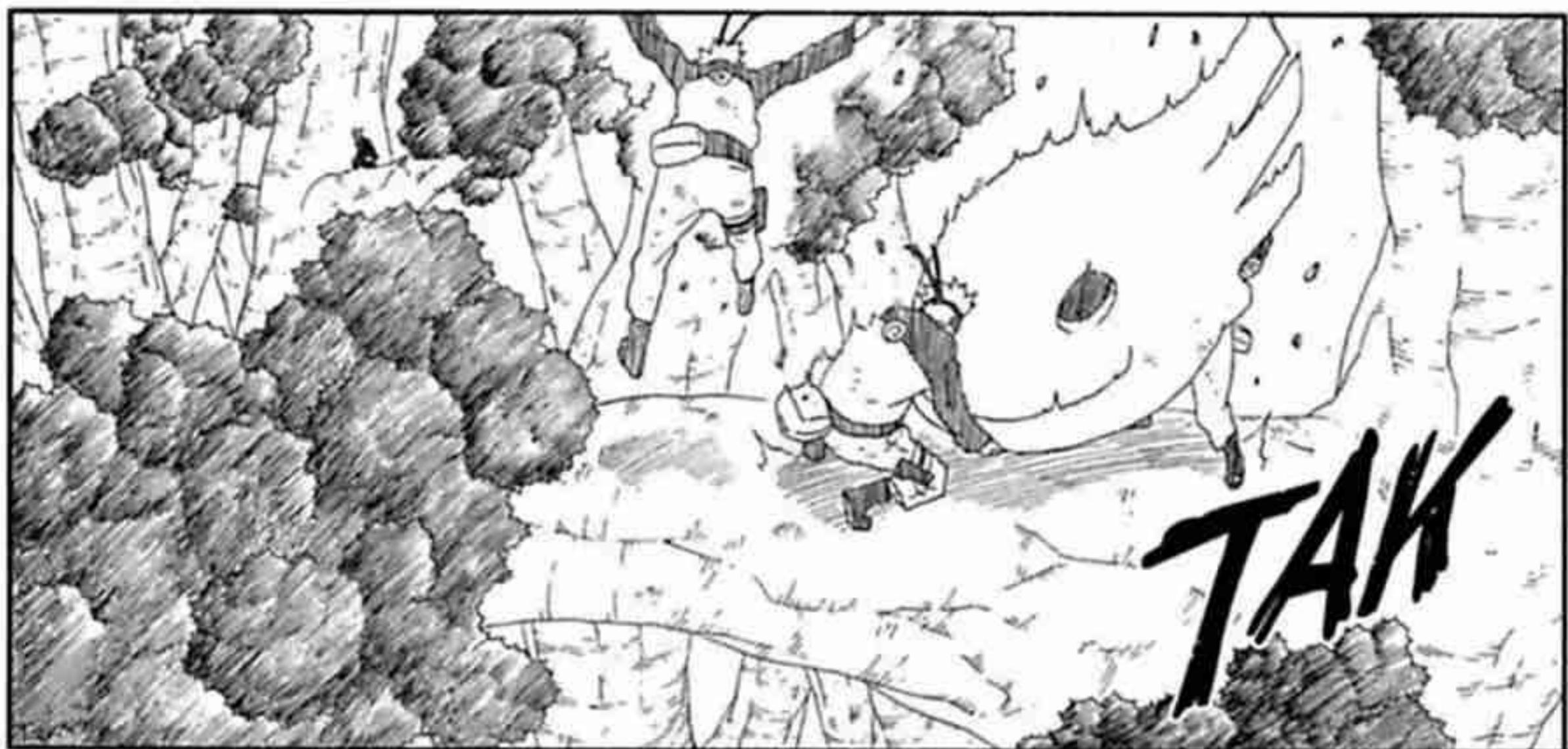


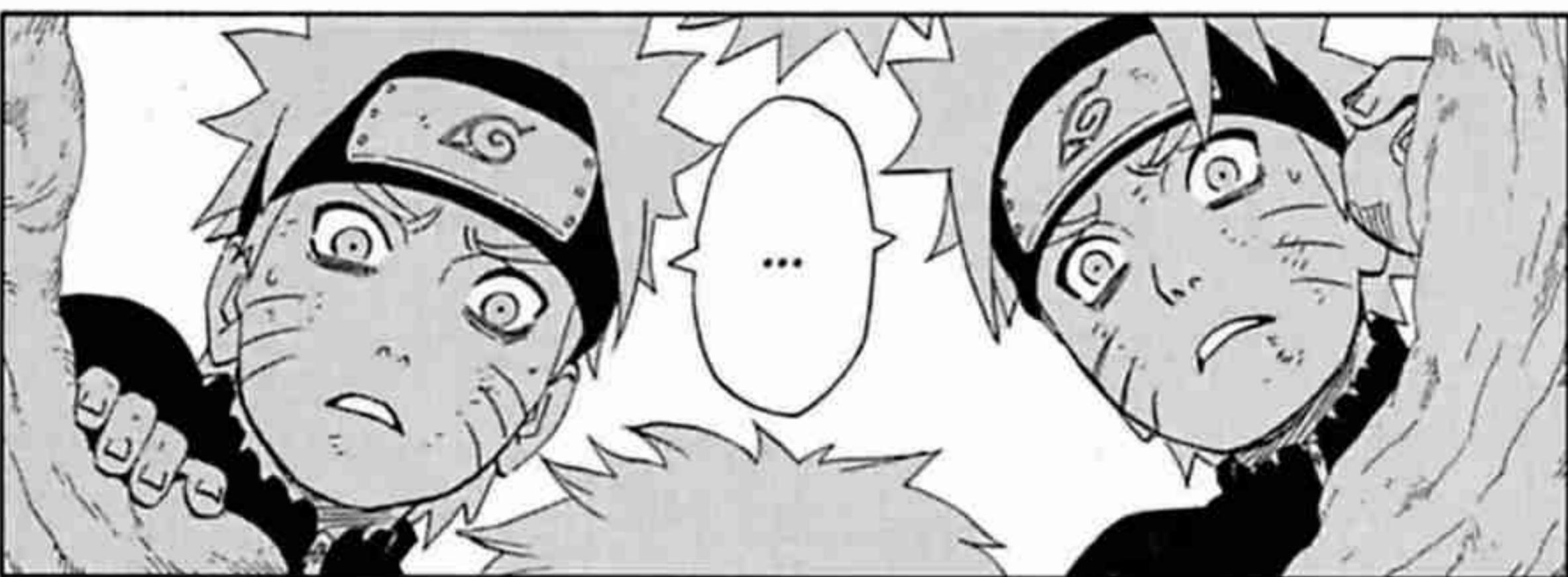
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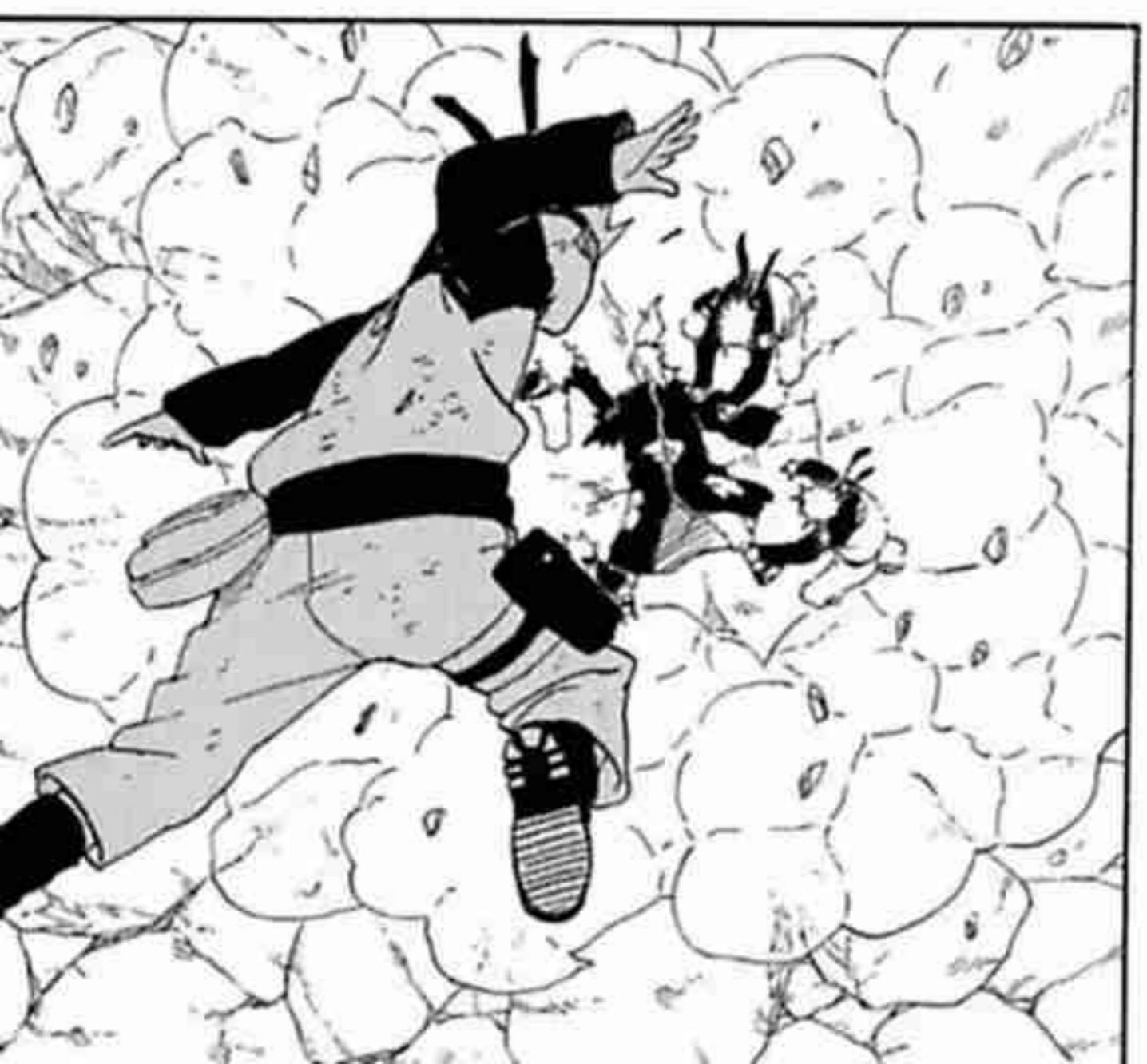
Number
277:



The
Ultimate
Art



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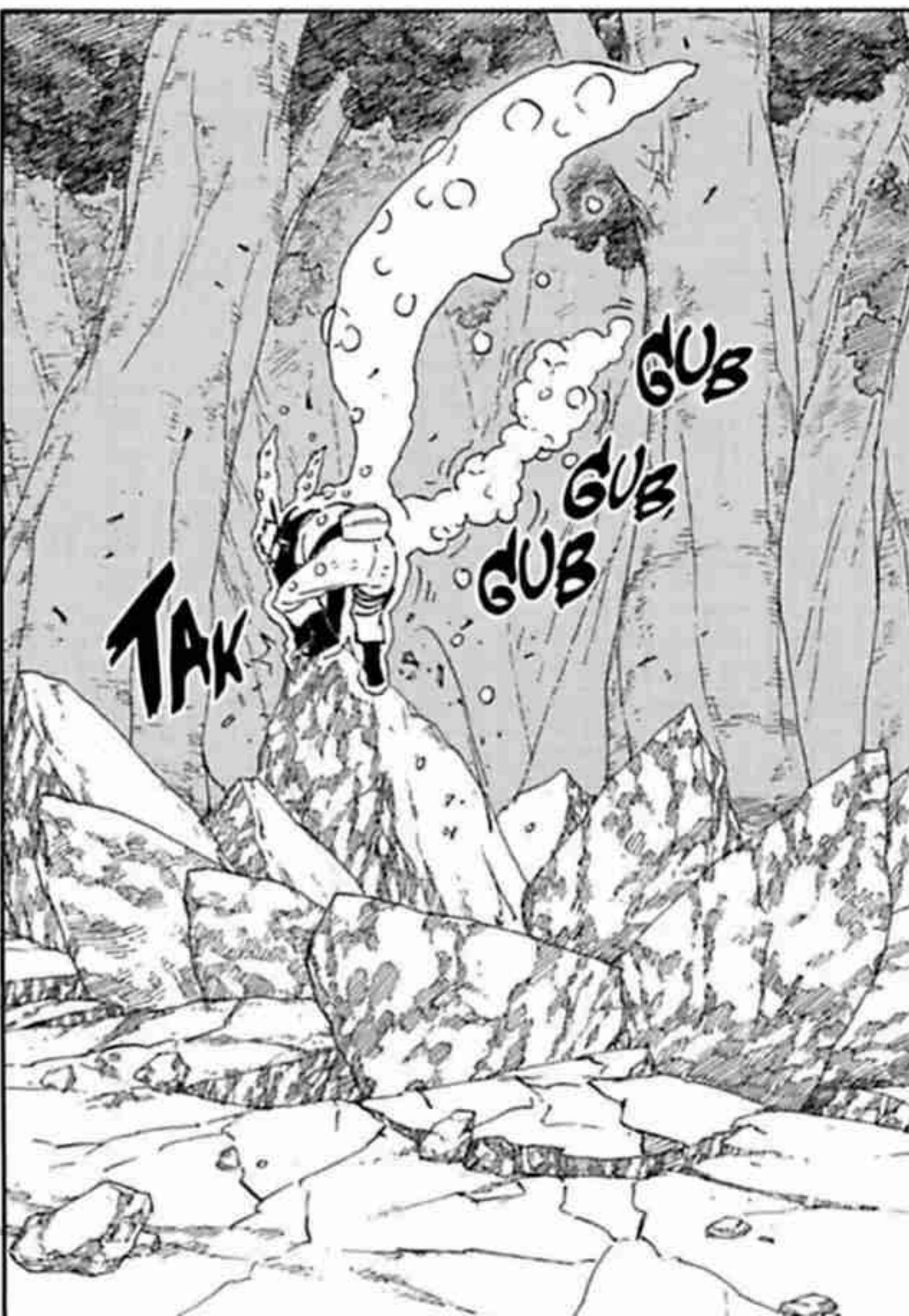




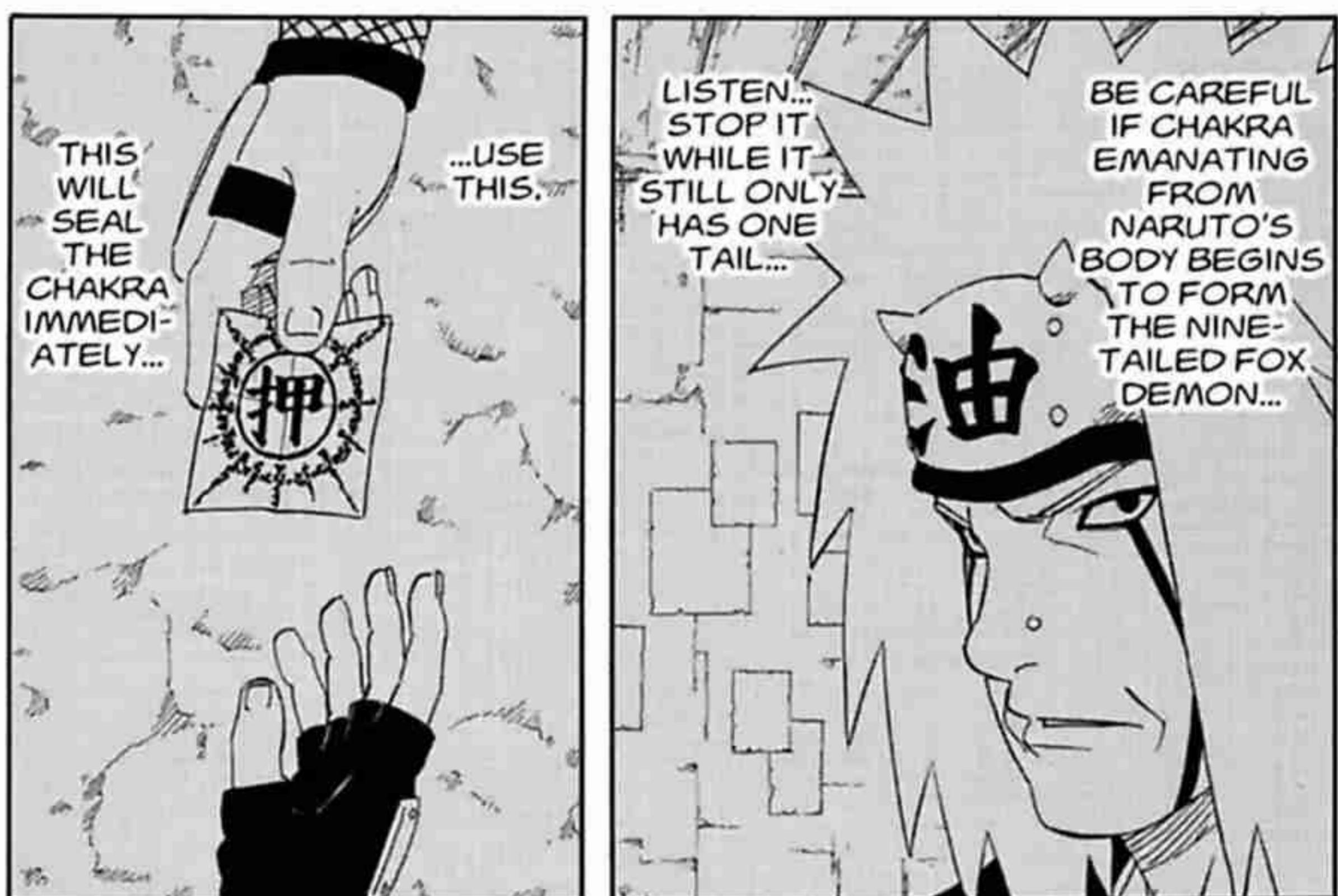


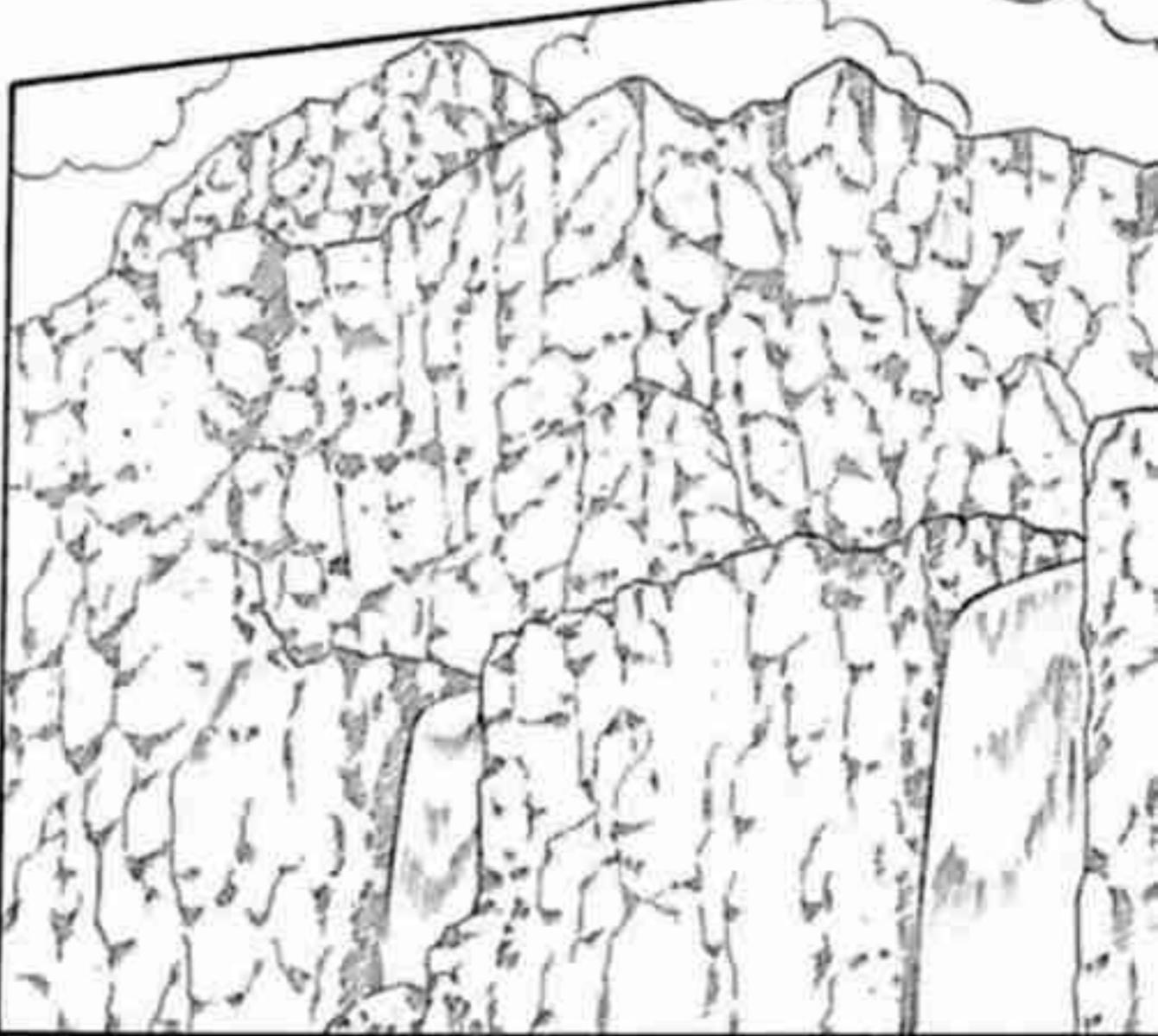






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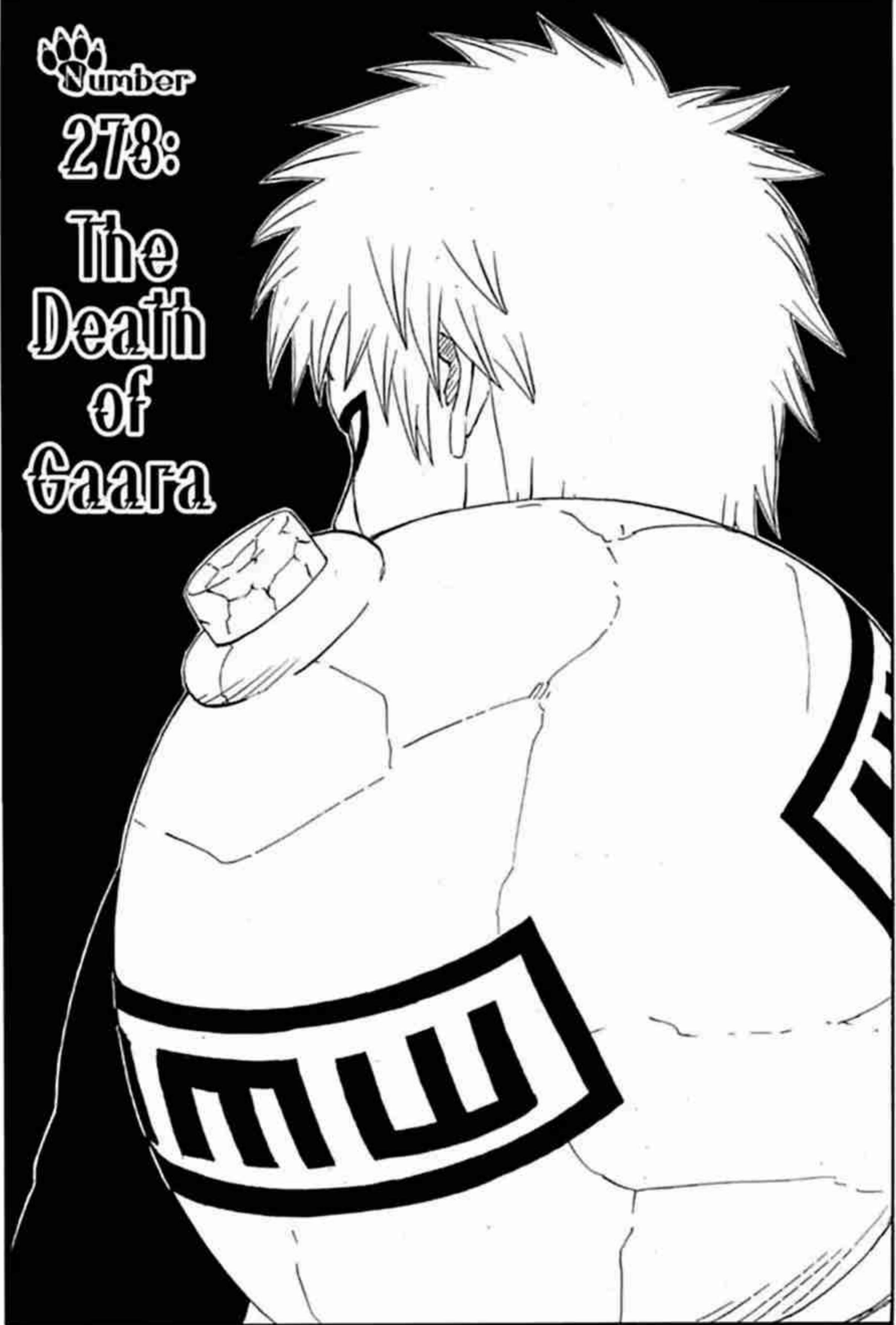


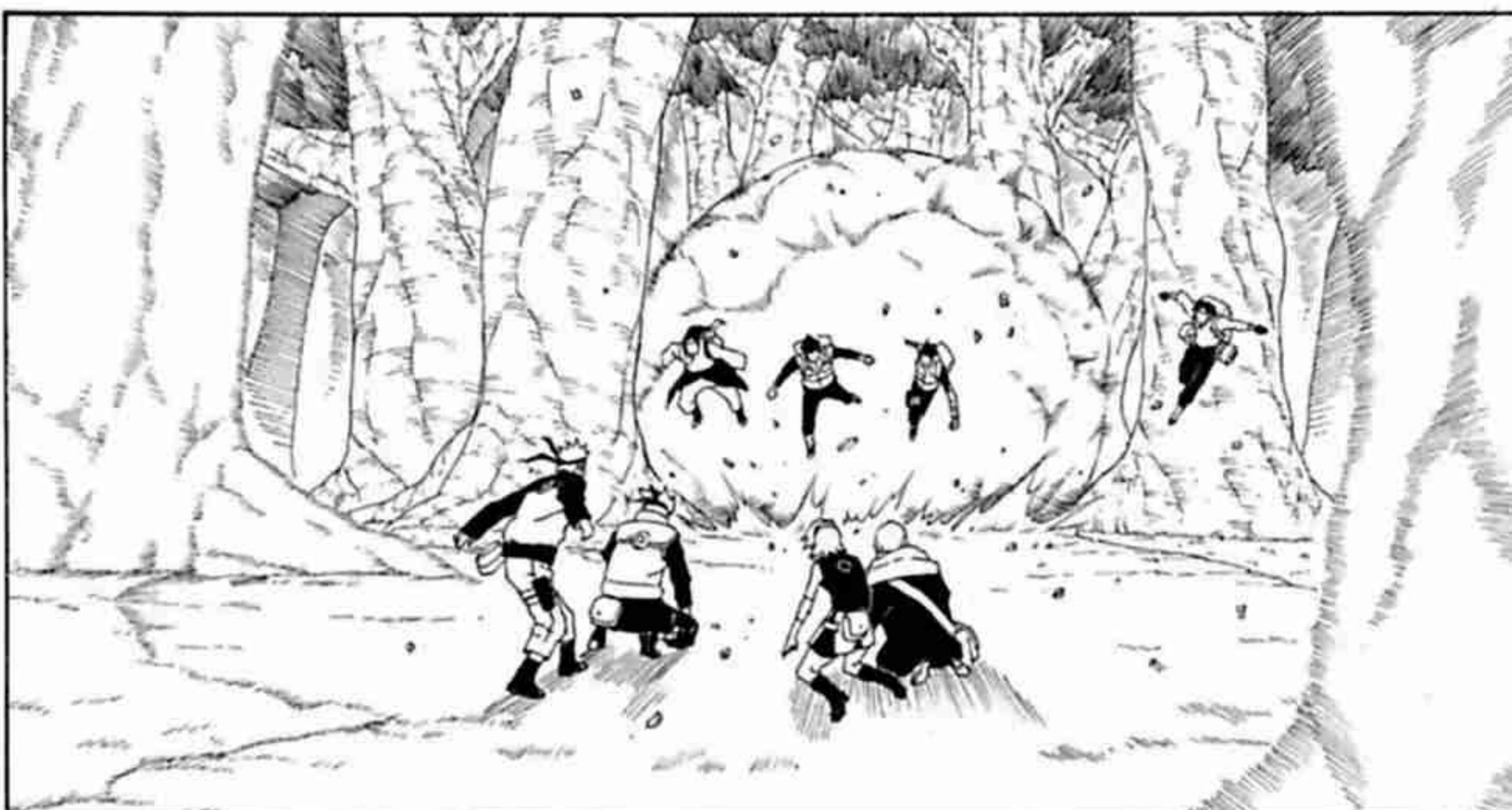




NARUTO

**Number
278:
The
Death
of
Gaara**



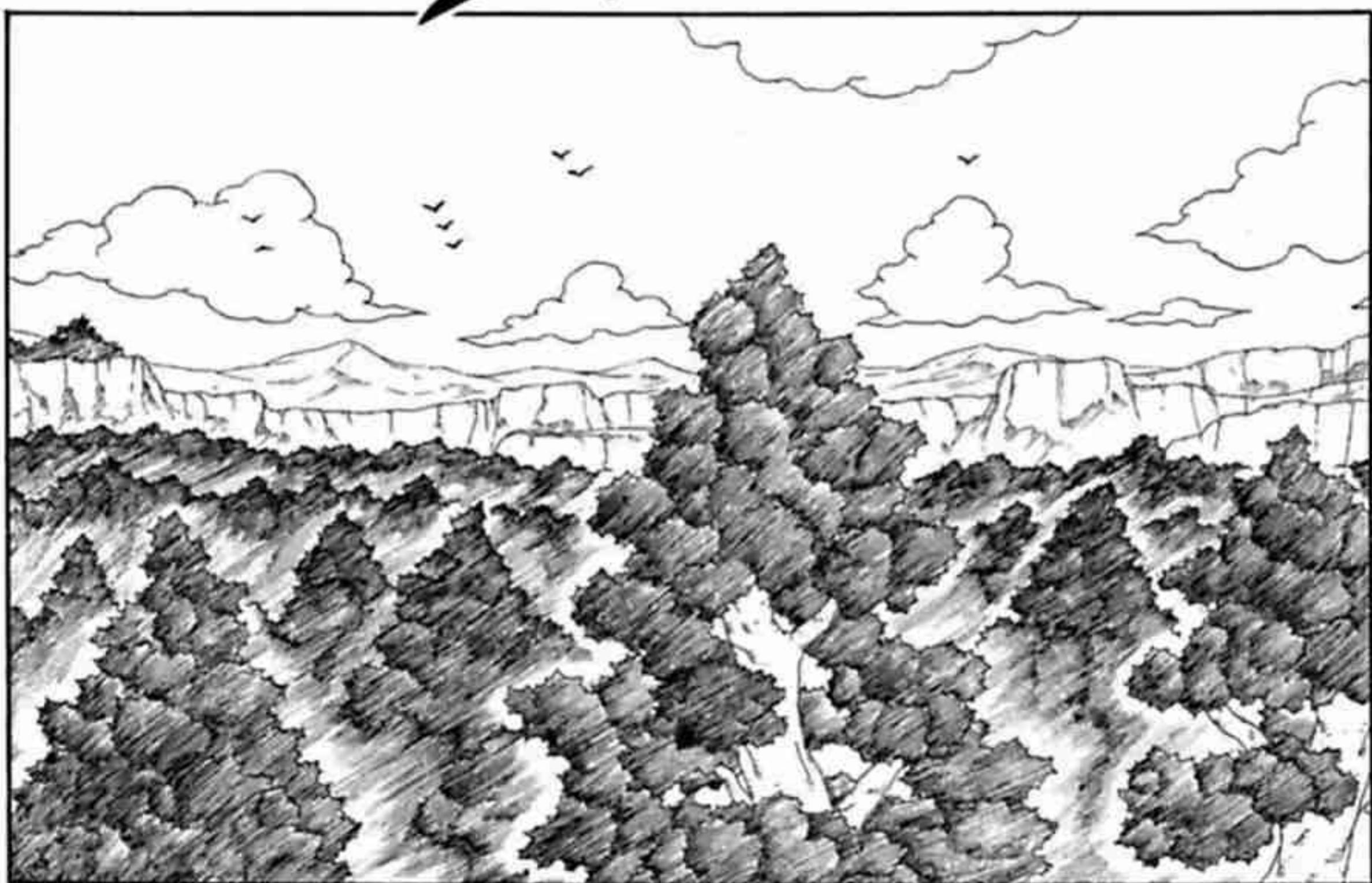




ZOOM



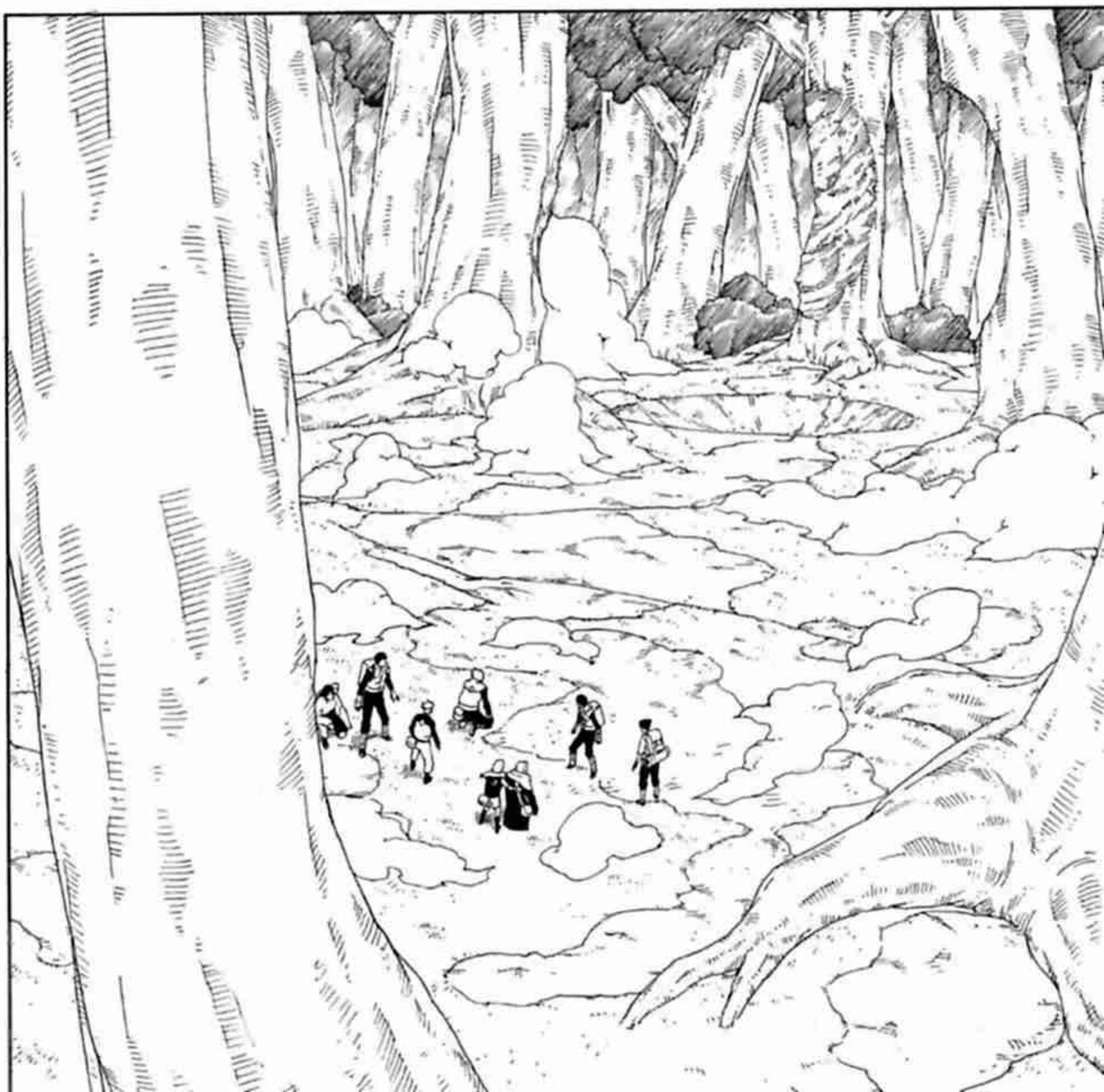
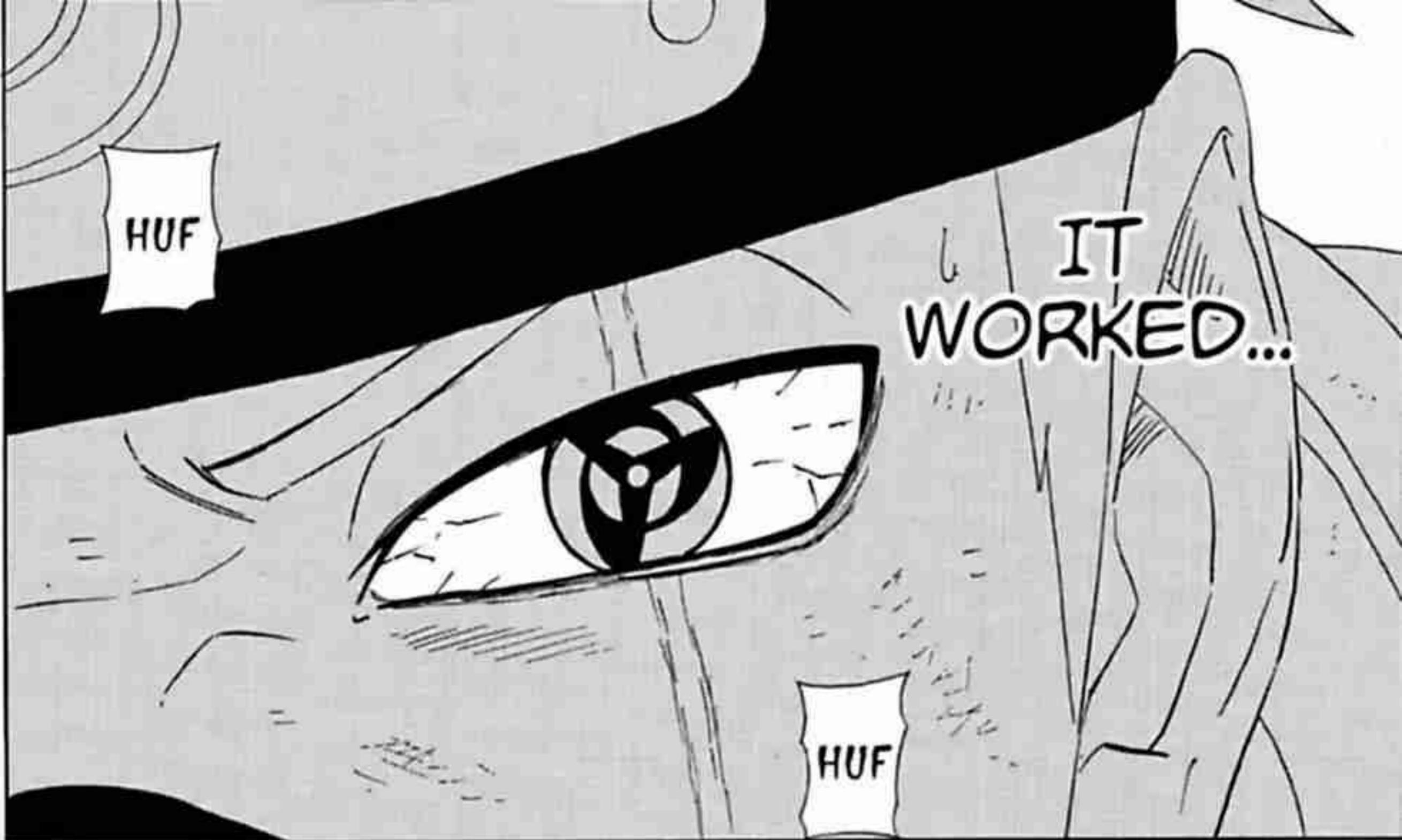
WE'RE
NOT
GONNA
MAKE IT!



FSSSH



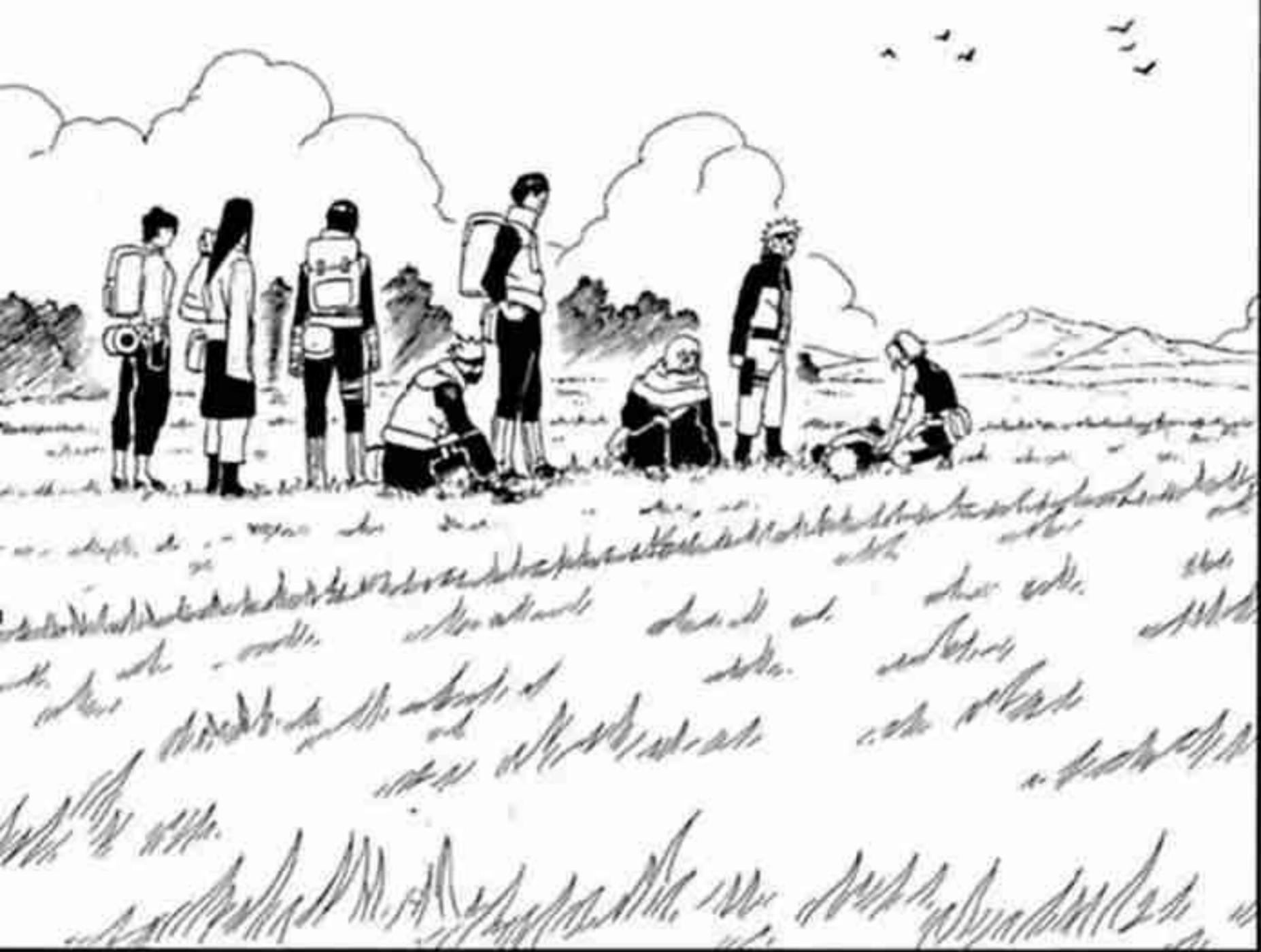




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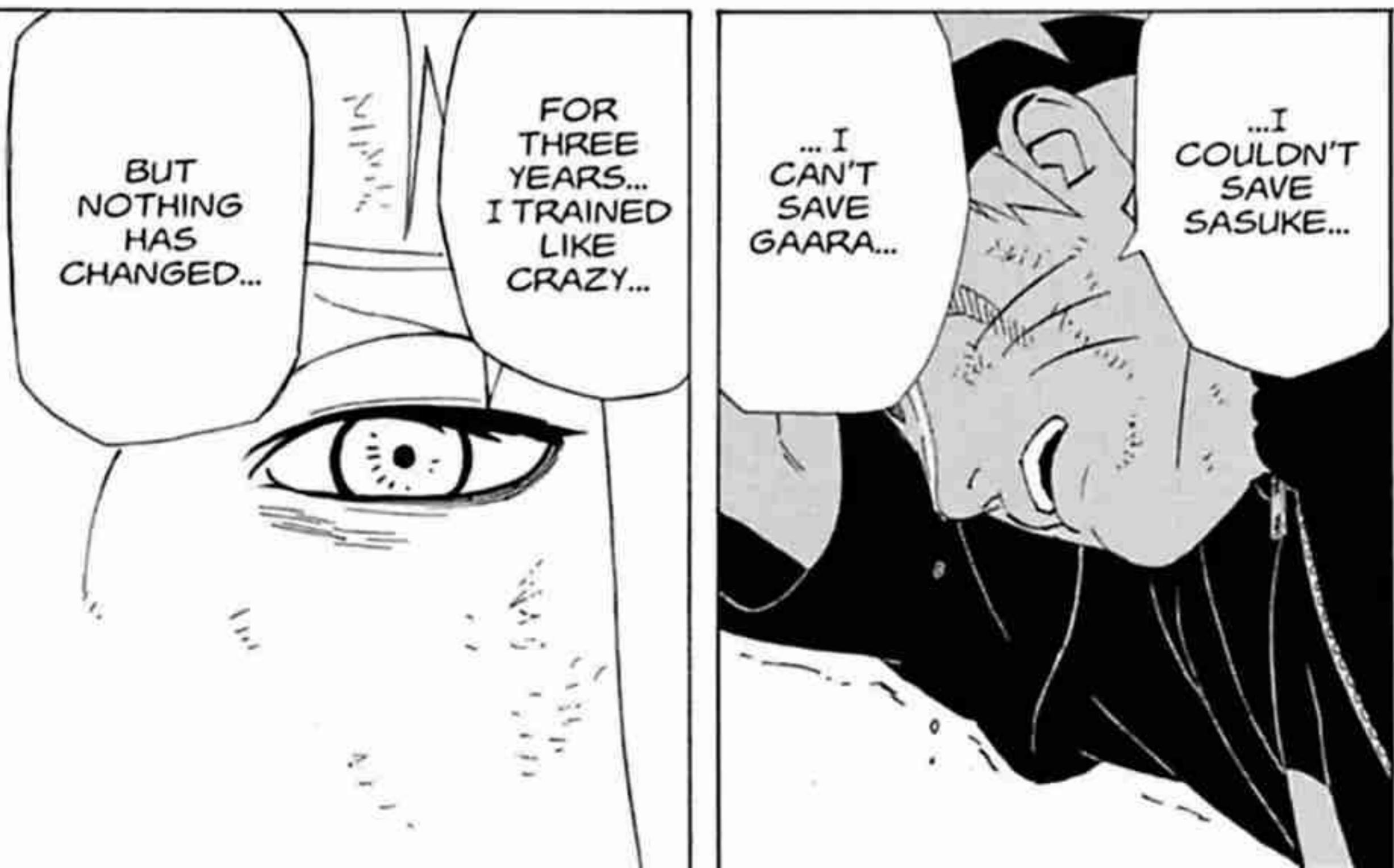
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**SHUT
UP!!!**



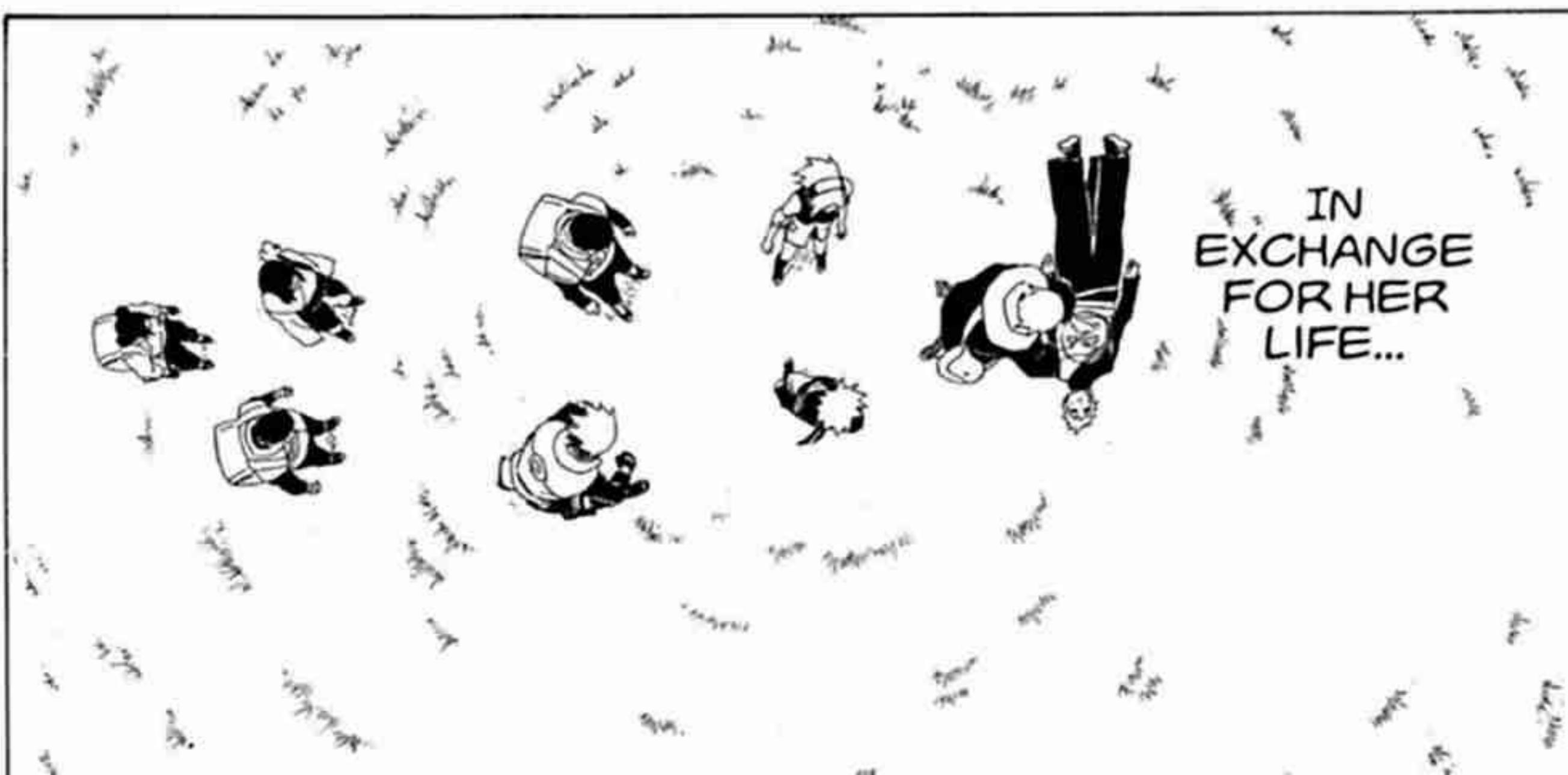
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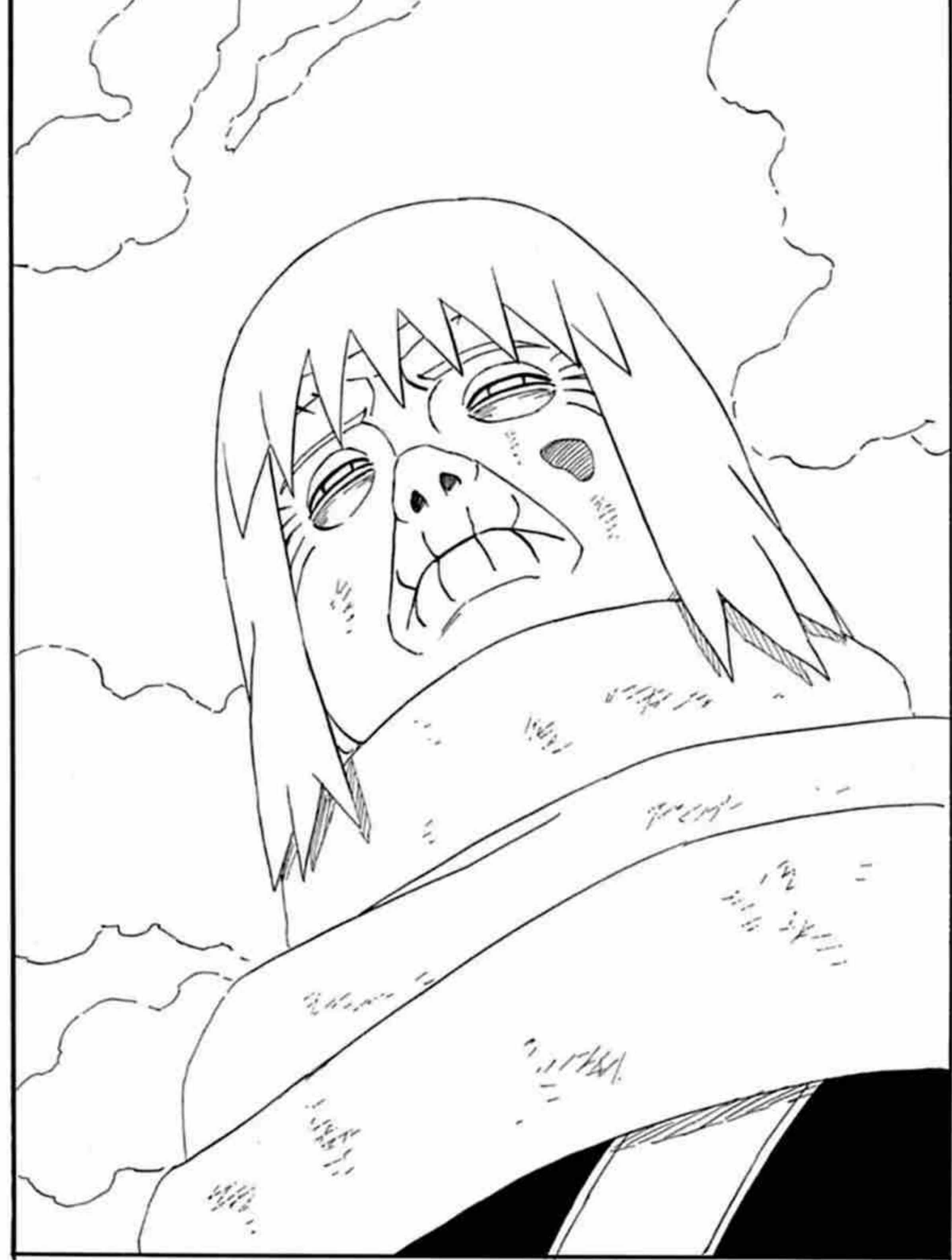
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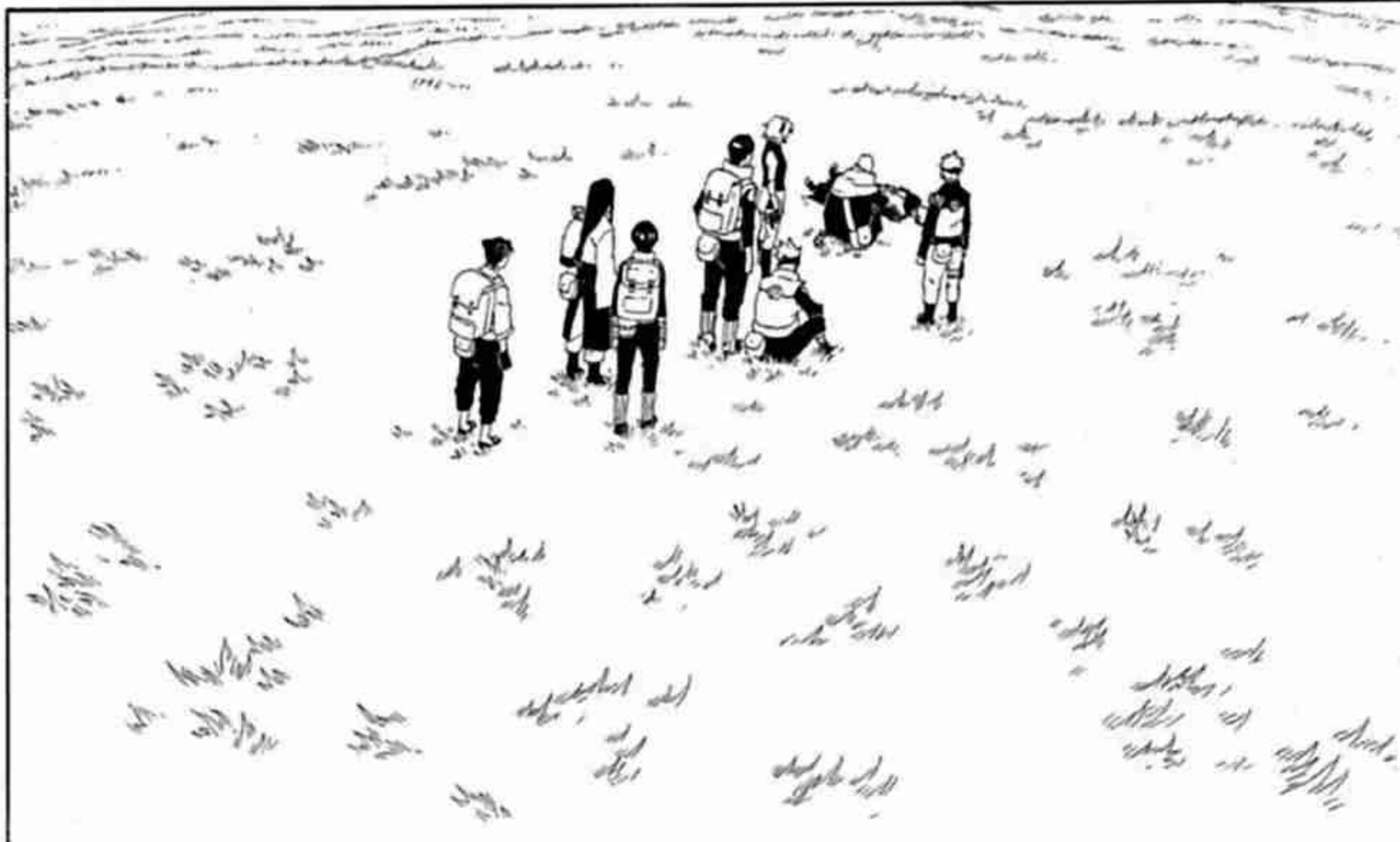


NARUTO

Number 279:

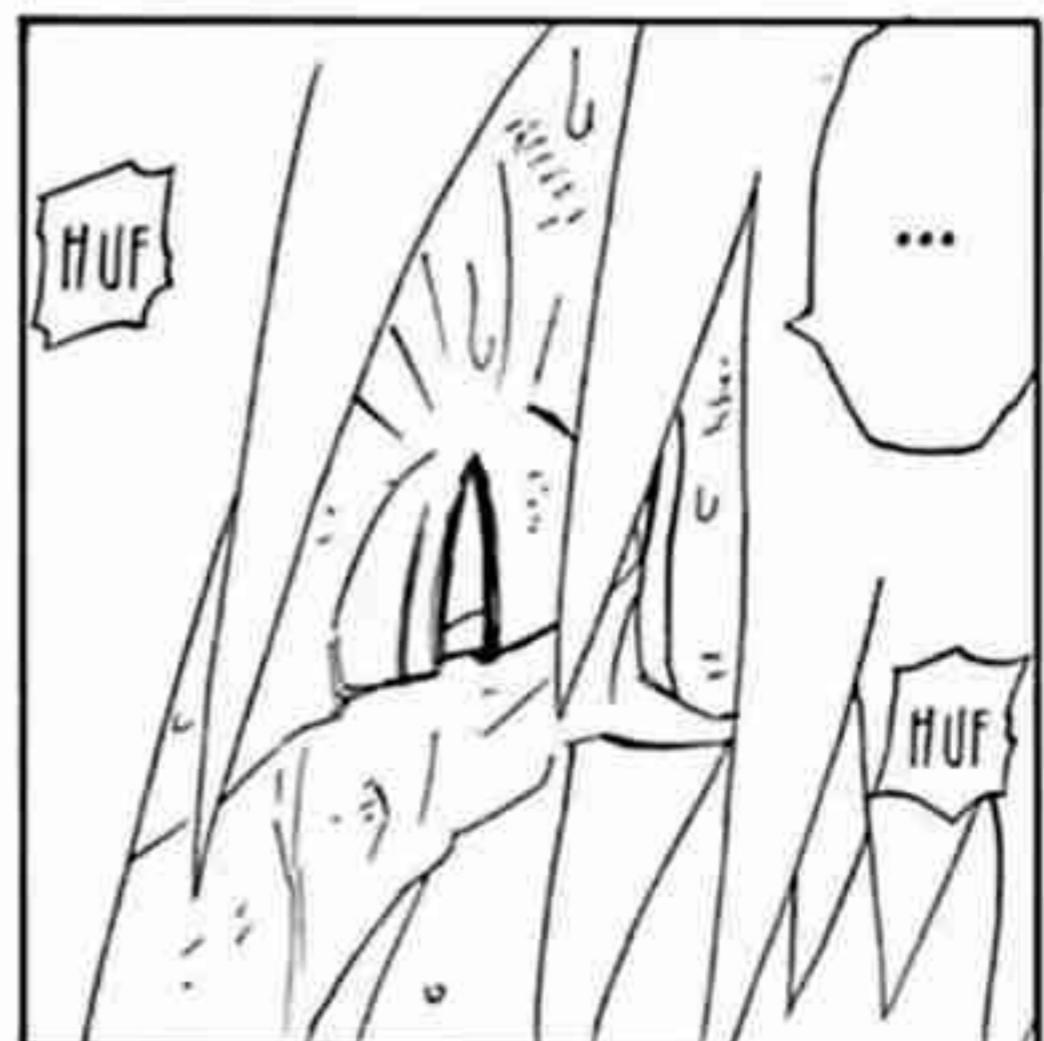
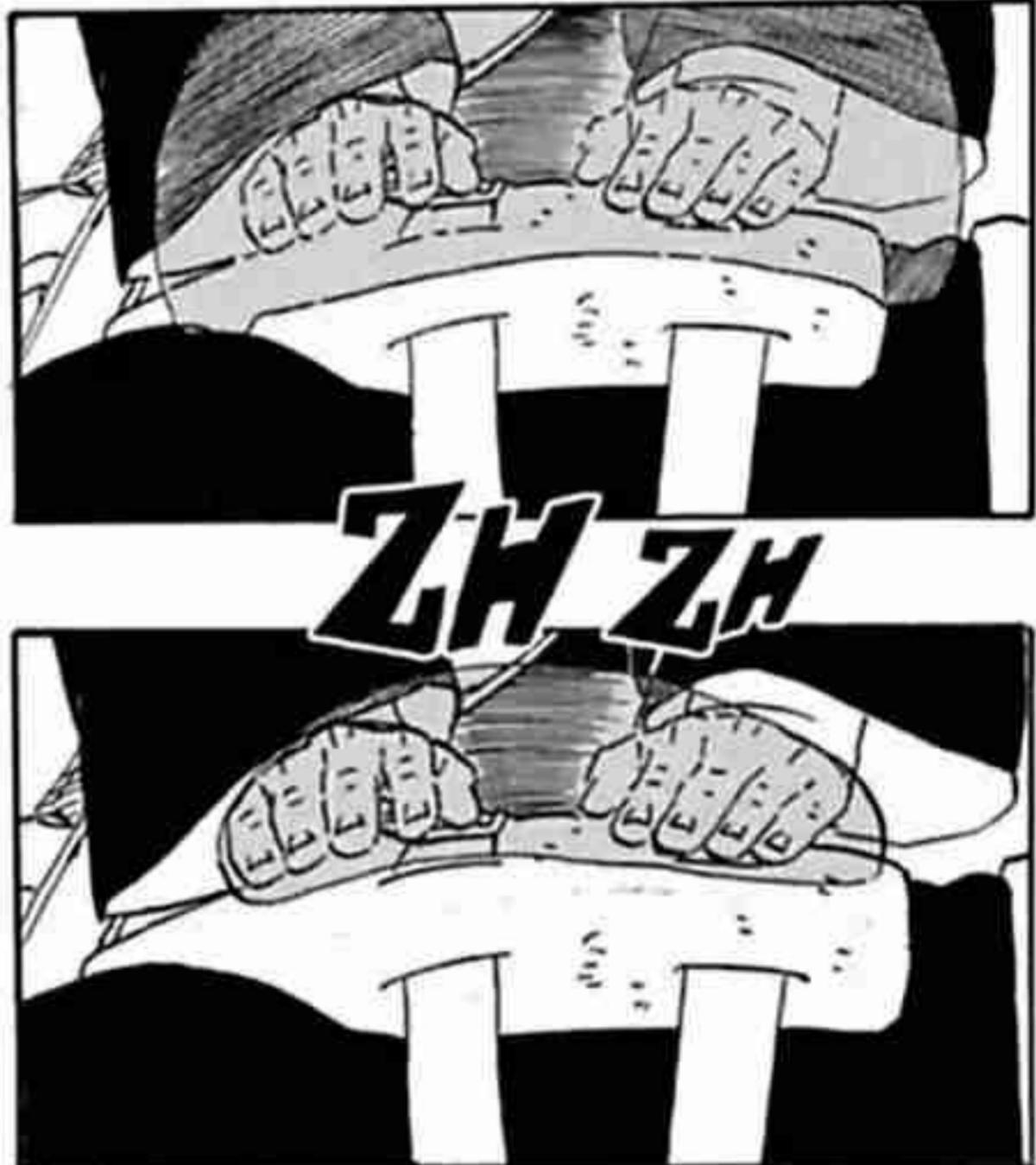
Power & Miracles...!!





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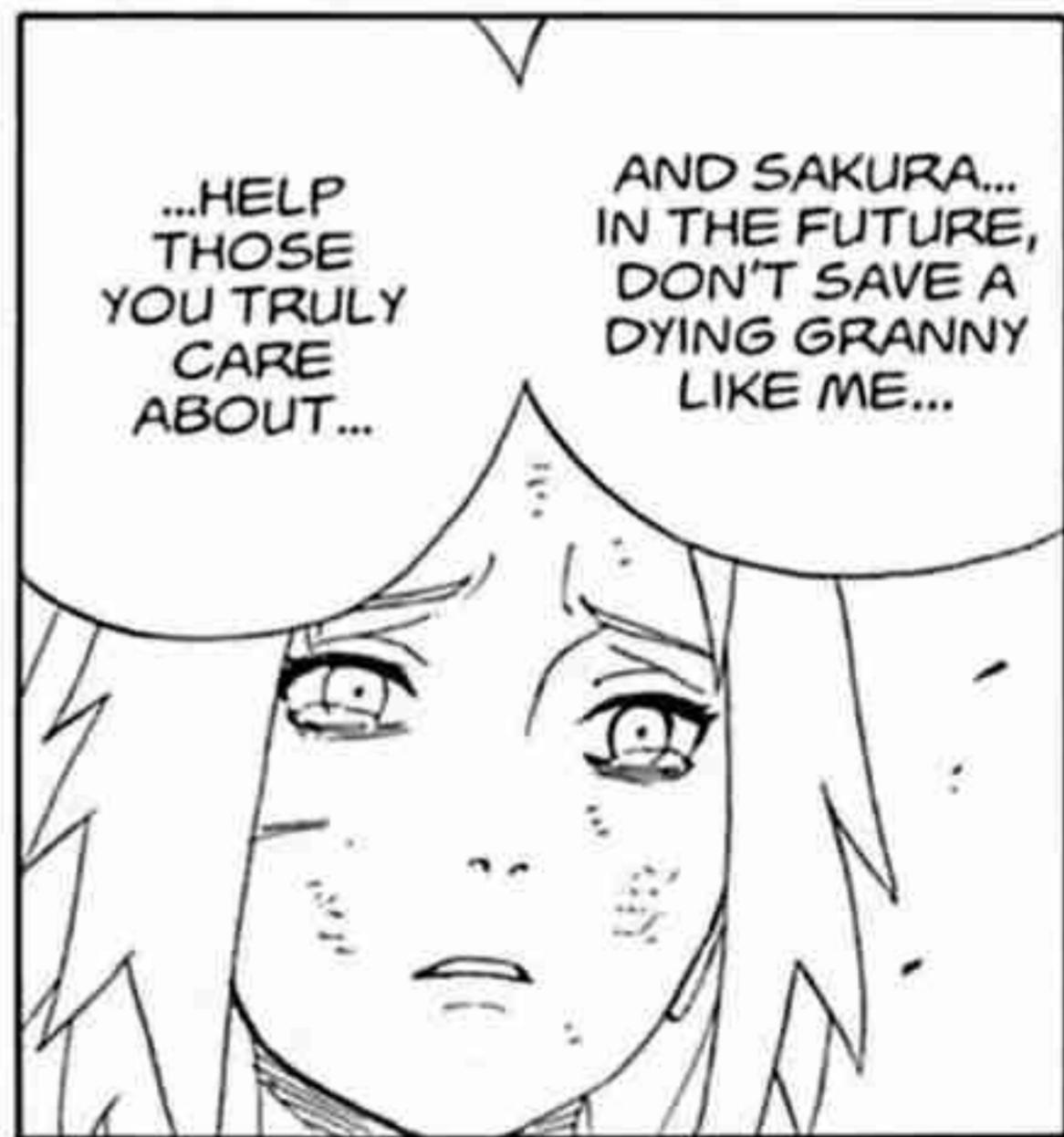
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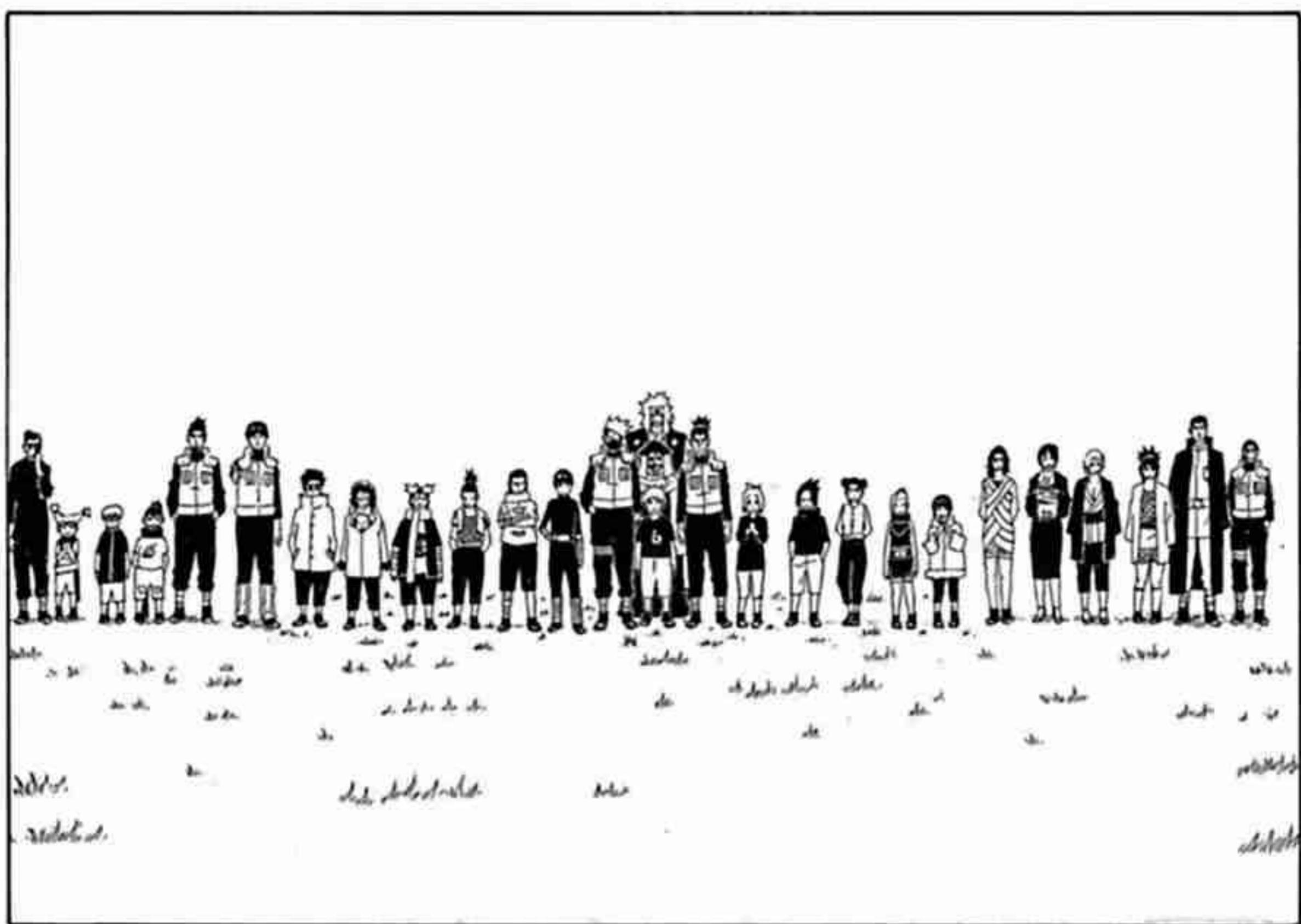
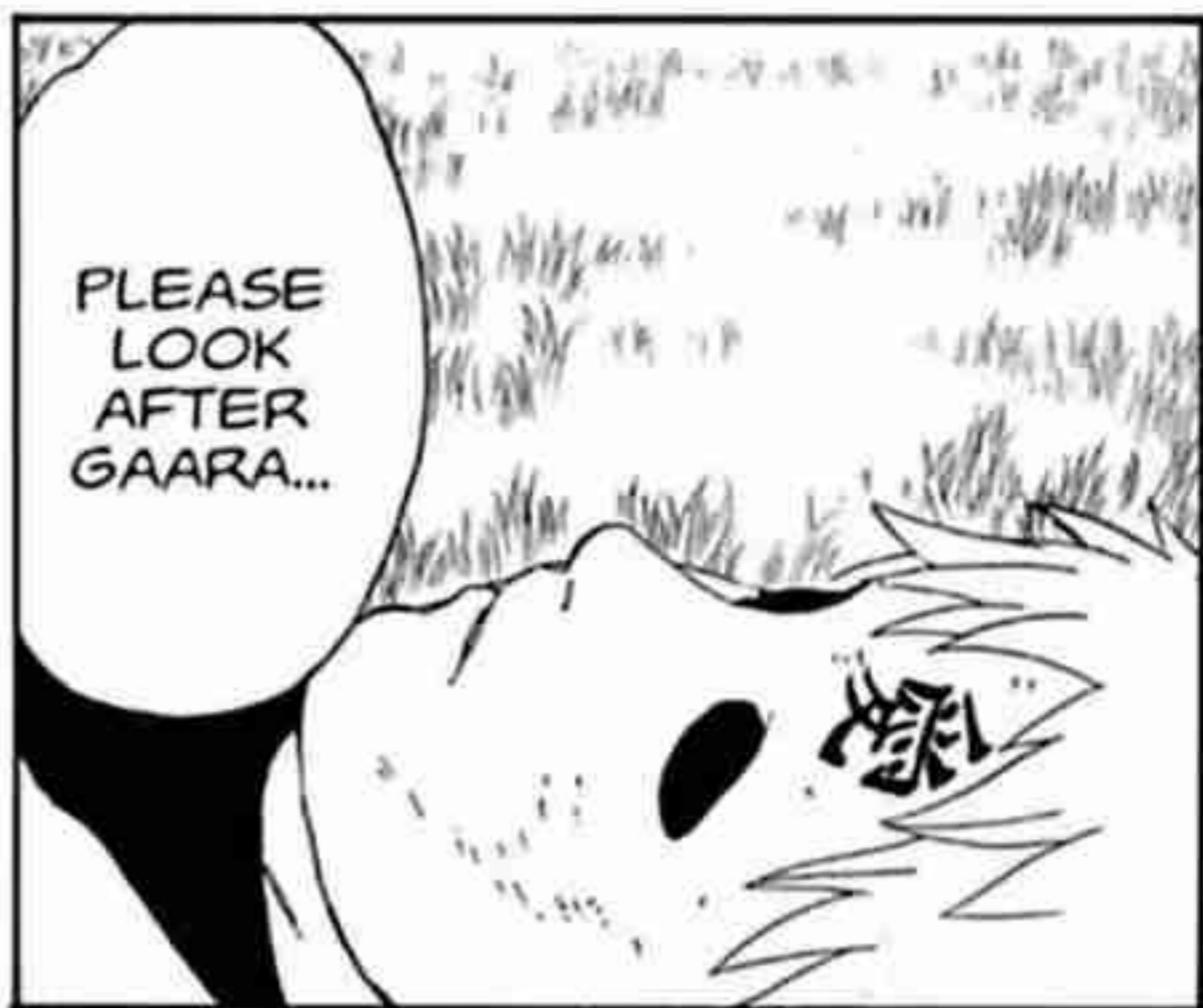


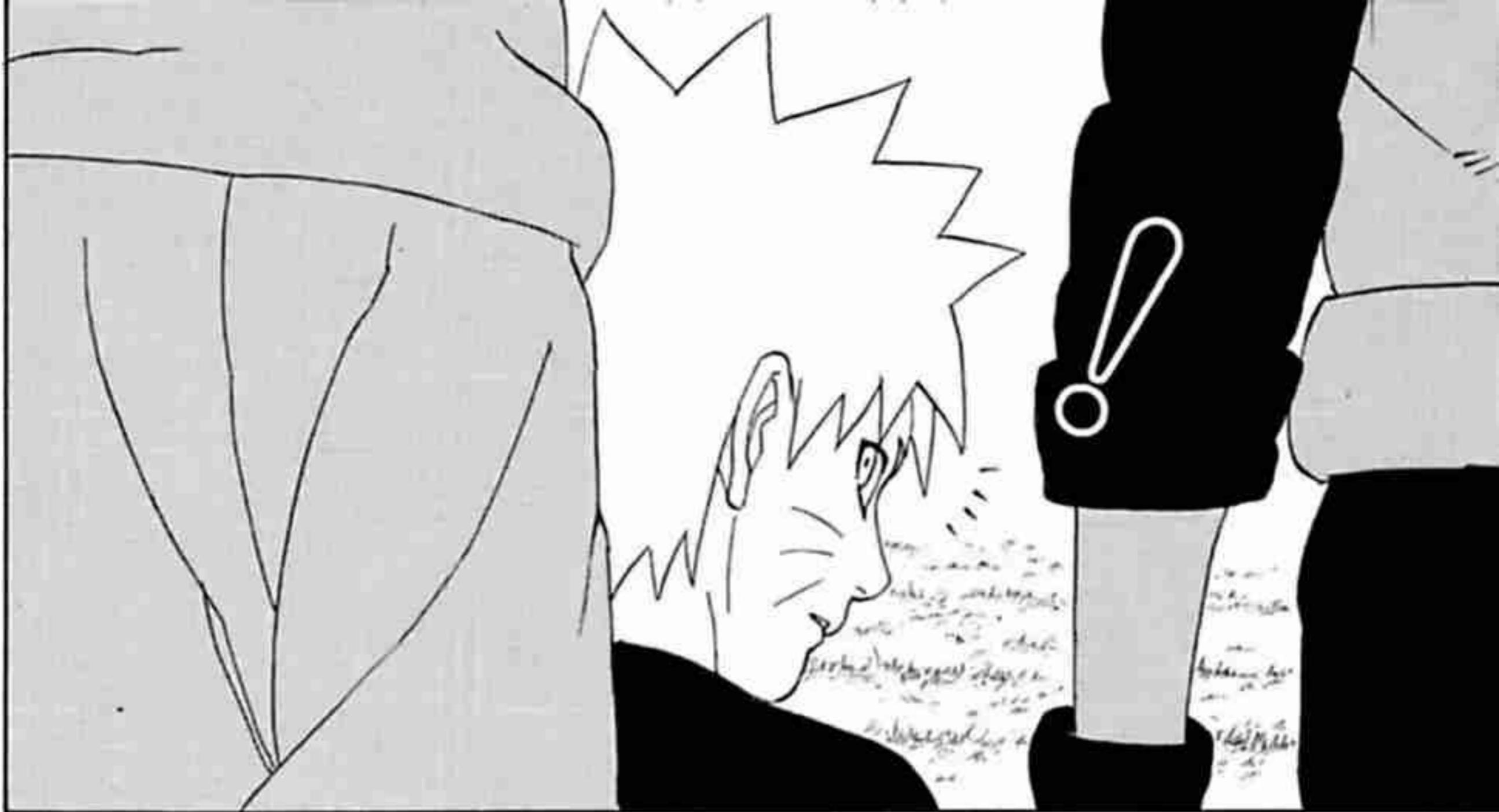




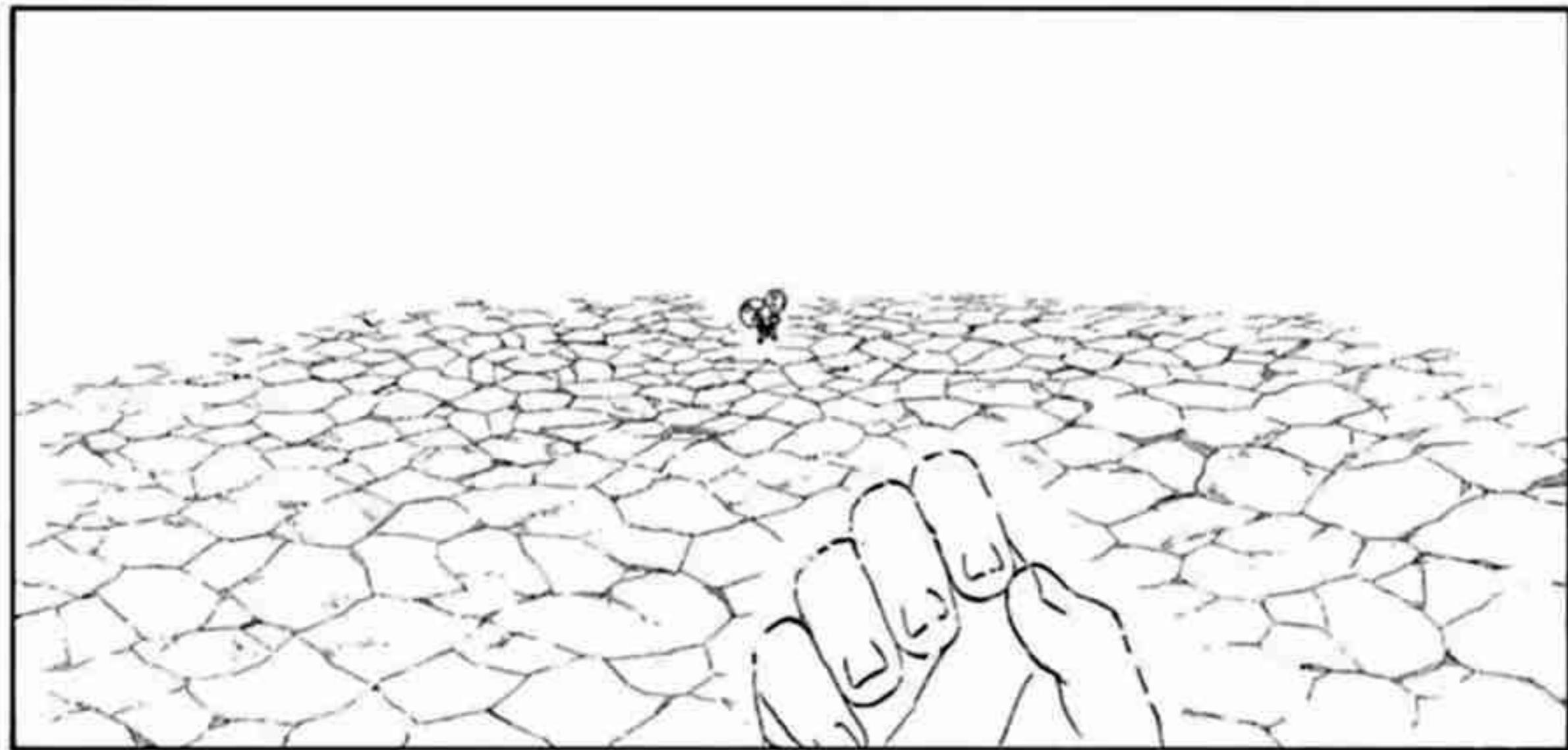


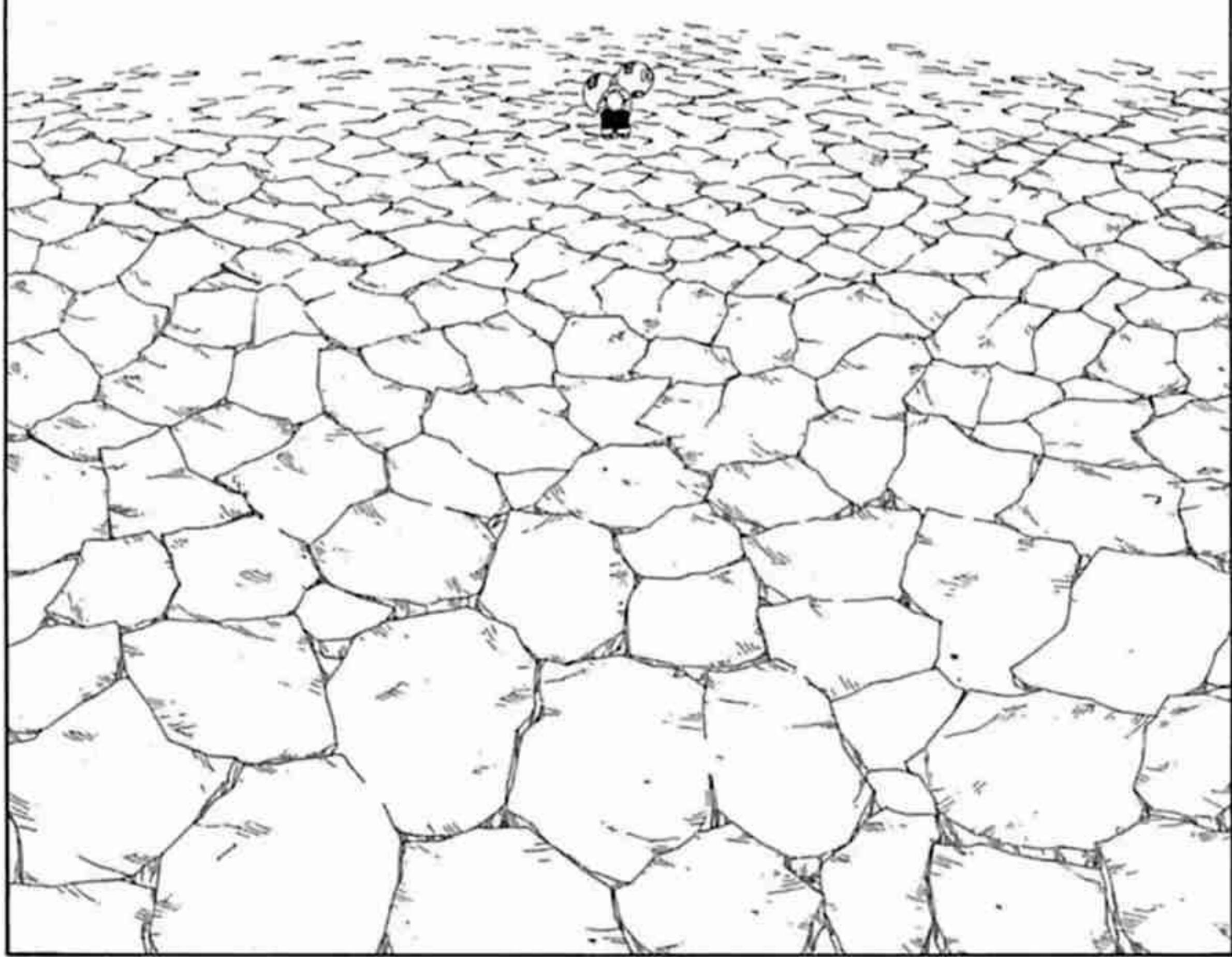




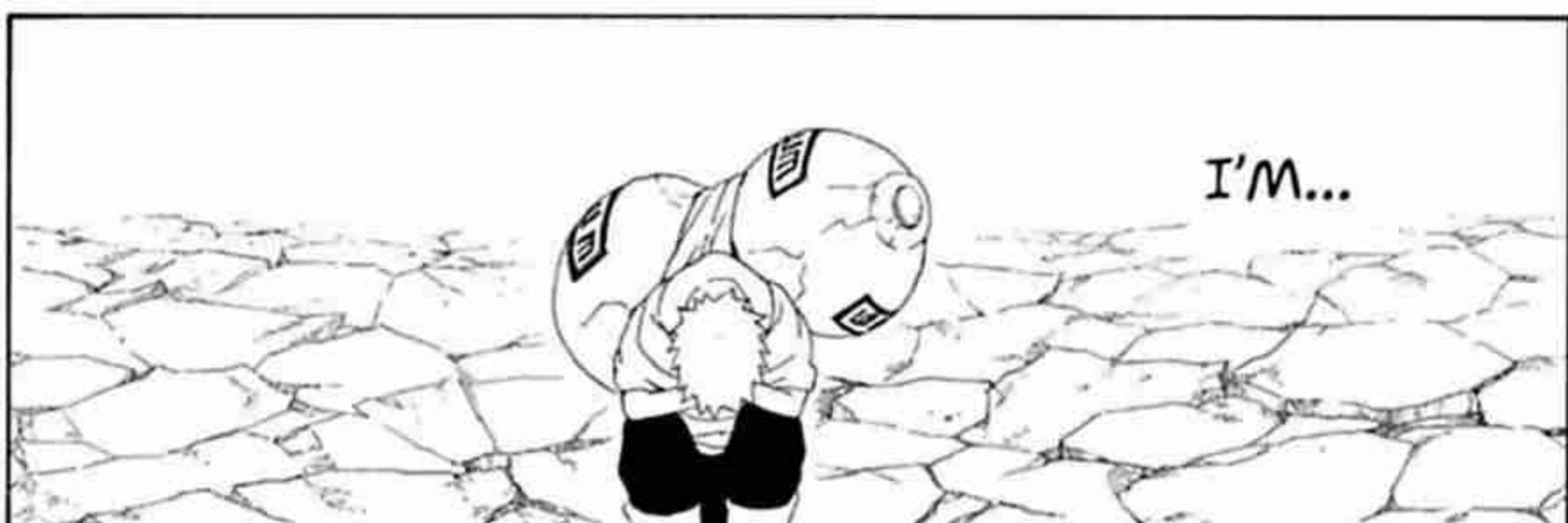


READ
THIS
WAY



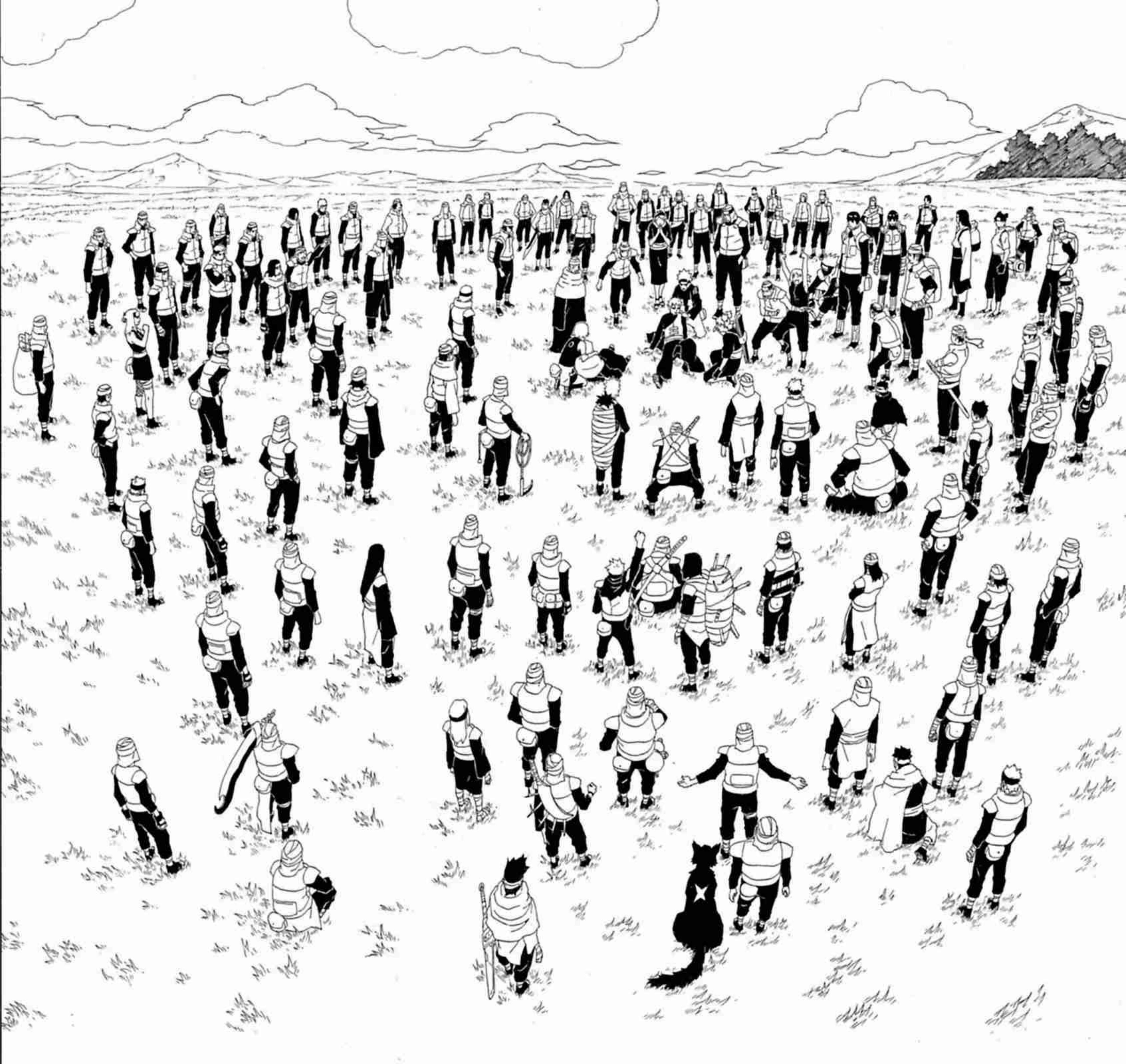


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GRATITUDE FOR FAN MAIL

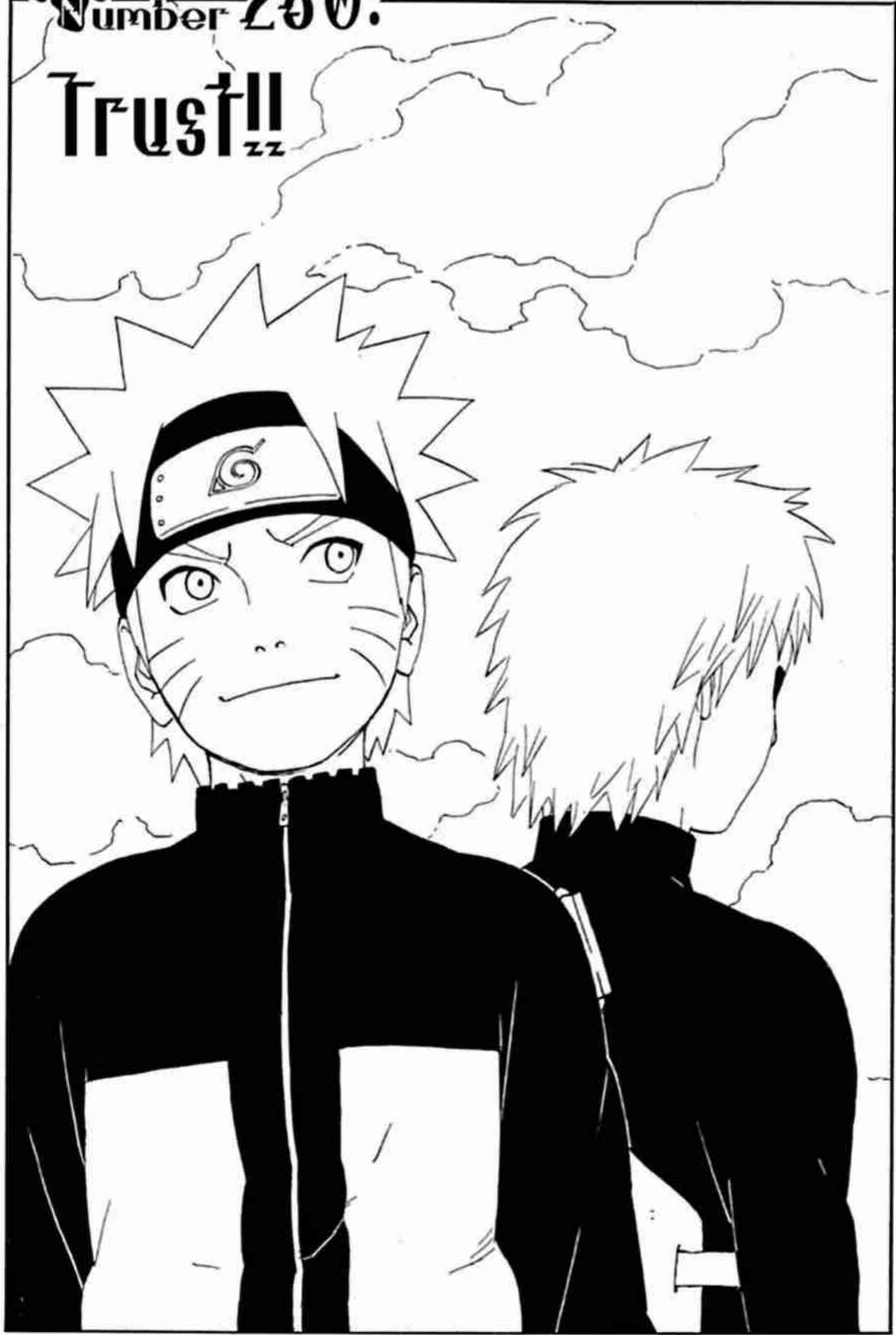
THANKS, EVERYONE, VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR FAN MAIL. I ALWAYS CREATE MY MANGA IN MY ROOM, NEVER KNOWING HOW READERS FEEL ABOUT IT. SO, BECAUSE FAN MAIL IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH MY READERS, I'M REALLY HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTERS. I READ YOUR LETTERS WHENEVER I HAVE TIME. SOME PEOPLE DOUBT WHETHER I REALLY READ THEM OR NOT, AND WANT ME TO PROVE THAT I DO. BUT DON'T WORRY. I REALLY AM READING THEM. I WISH I COULD WRITE BACK. HOWEVER, I RECEIVE SO MUCH THAT IF I WROTE BACK, I WOULDN'T HAVE TIME LEFT TO DO MY MANGA. THAT'S NOT THE WAY I'D LIKE IT, BUT I WANT TO MAKE UP FOR NOT REPLYING AND SHOW MY GRATITUDE BY CREATING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING MANGA. AFTER ALL, IF MY MANGA ISN'T INTERESTING, YOU'LL STOP SENDING FAN MAIL (LAUGH). FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WROTE TO ME, I'LL KEEP TRYING TO CREATE MANGA THAT YOU'LL ENJOY!

I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
NARUTO!

MASASHI KISHIMOTO 

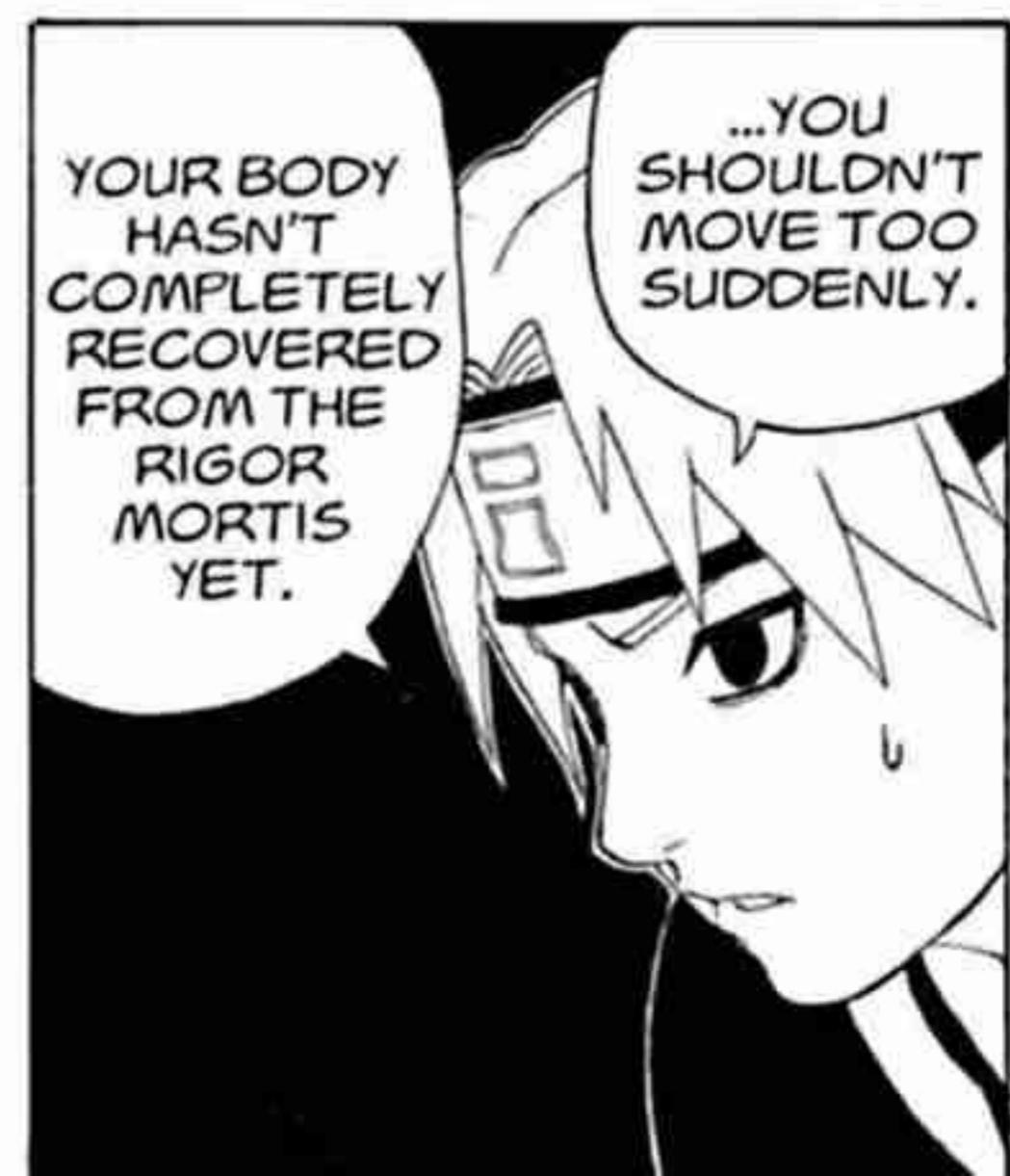
Number 280:

Trust!!



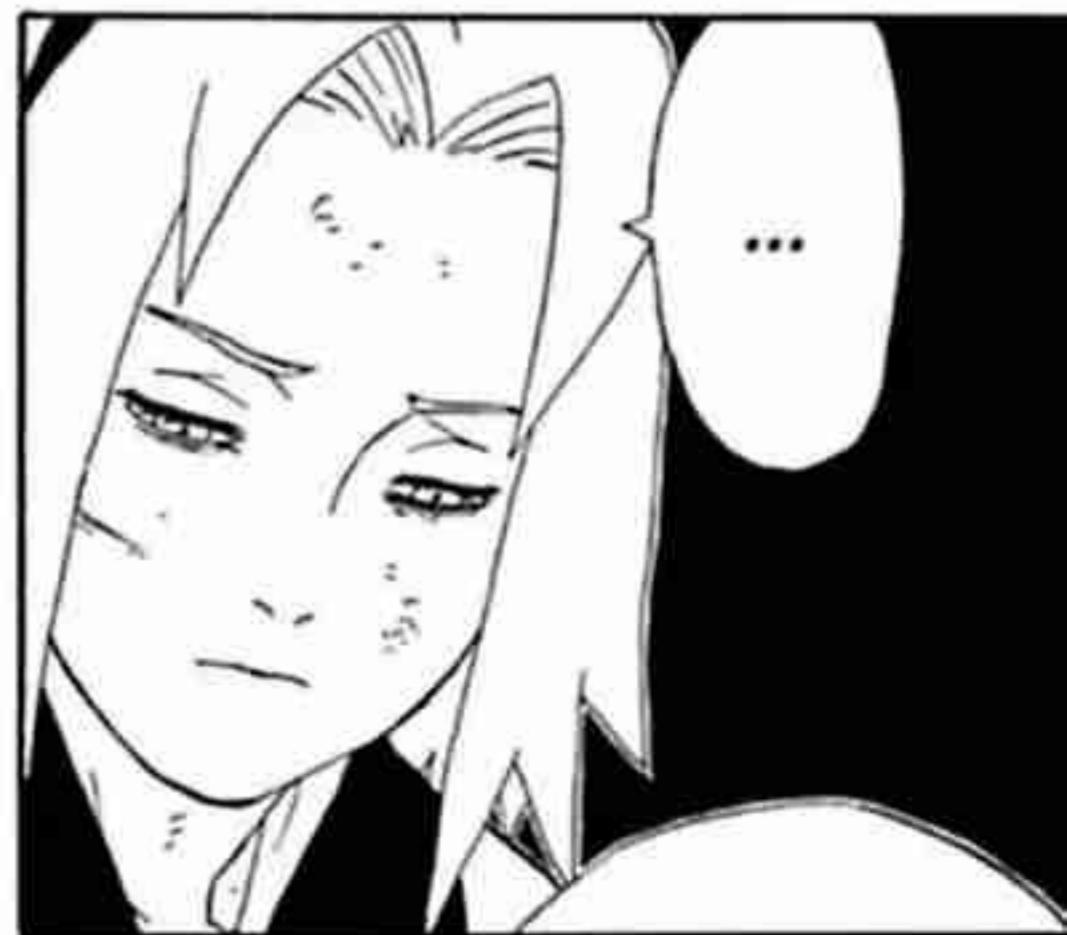


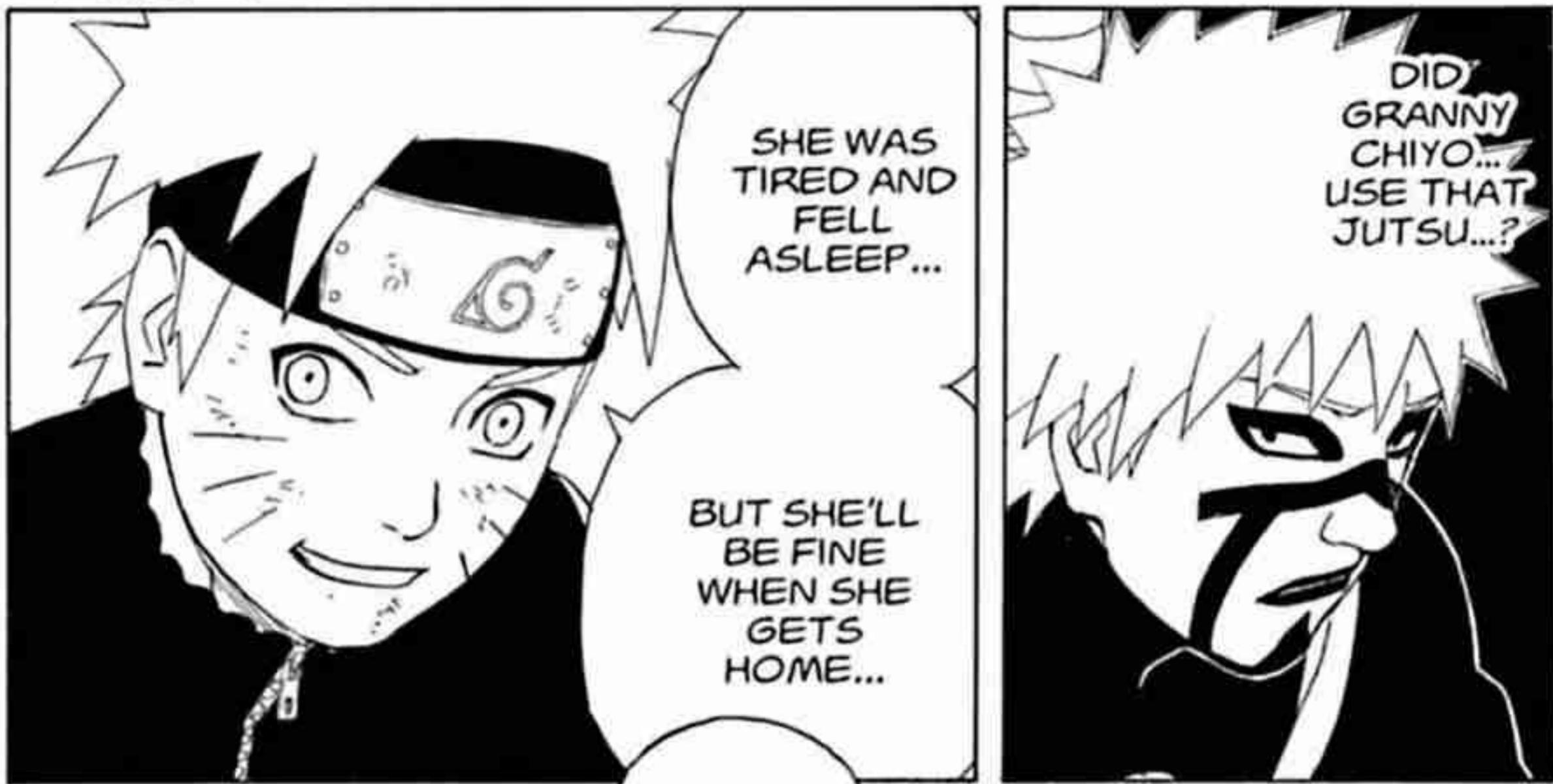
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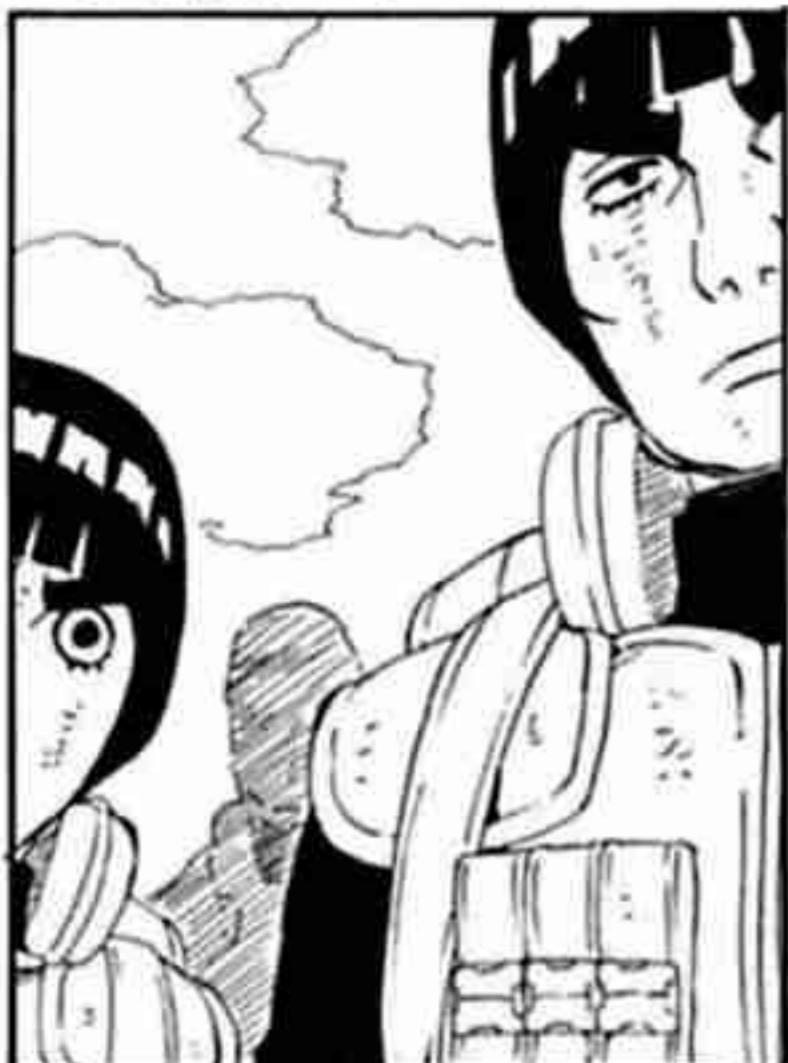








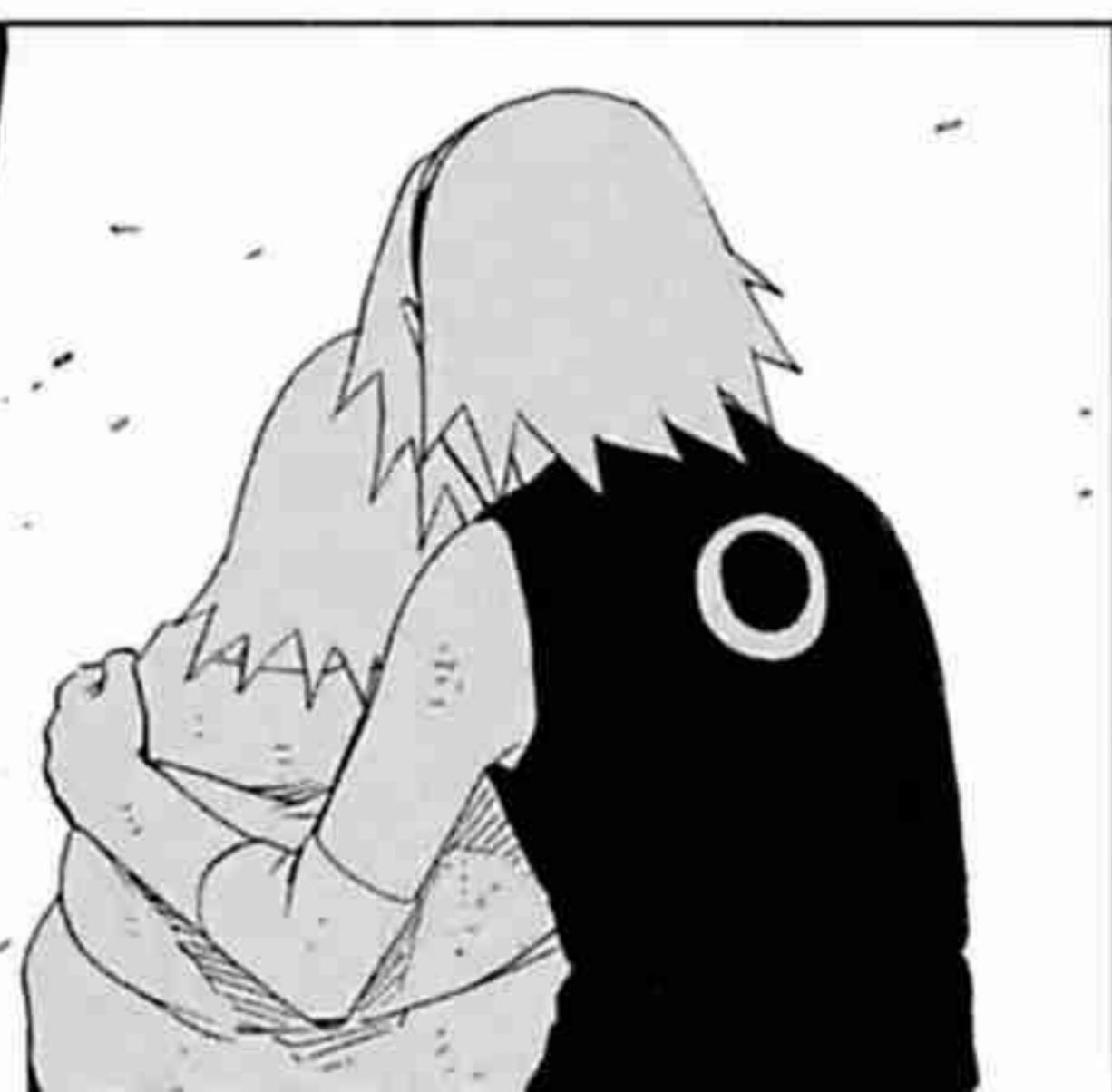
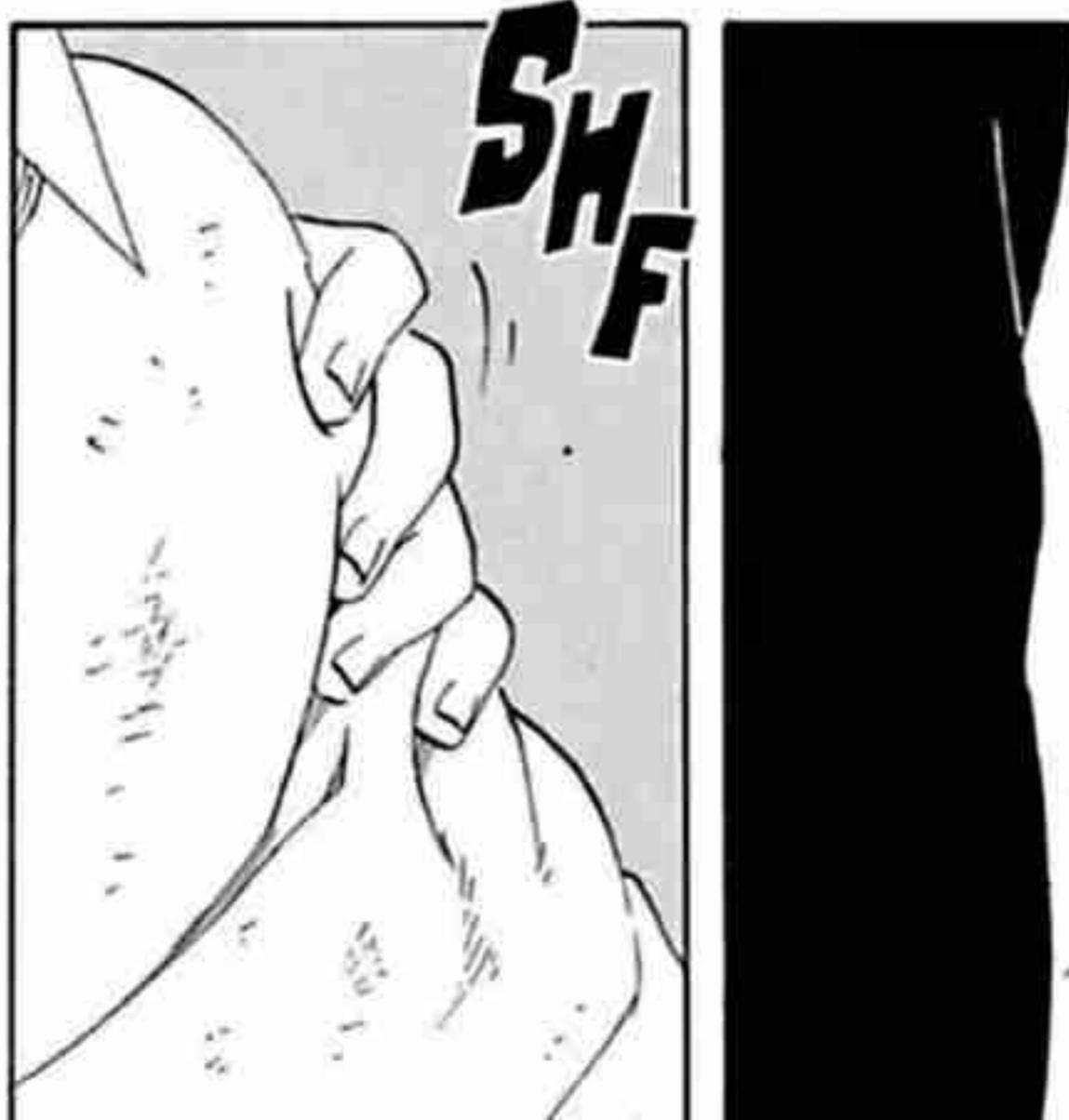
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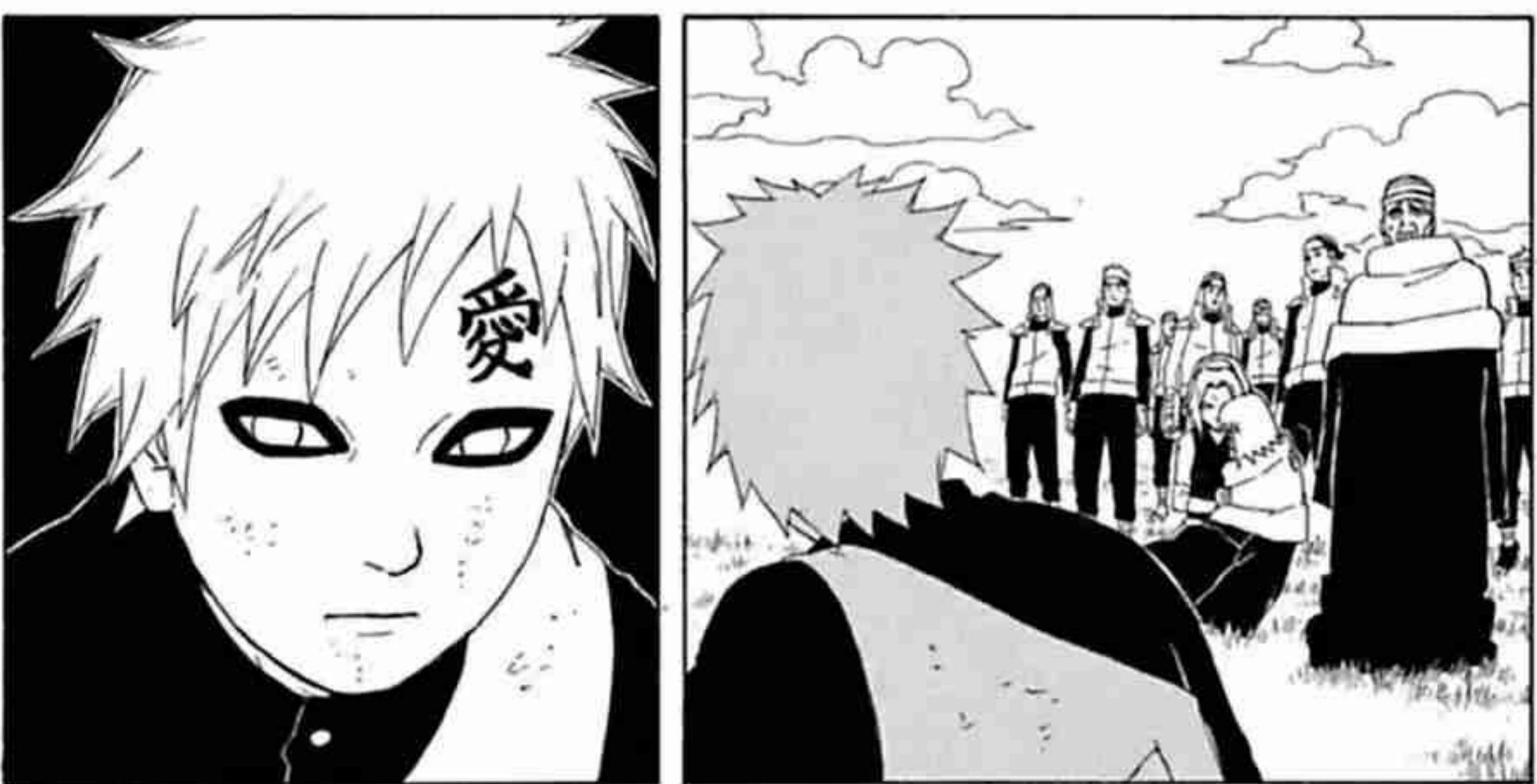


IN THIS SHINOBI
WORLD CREATED
BY FRIVOLOUS
OLD PEOPLE...
I'M GLAD NEW
SOULS LIKE YOU
HAVE COME
ALONG...

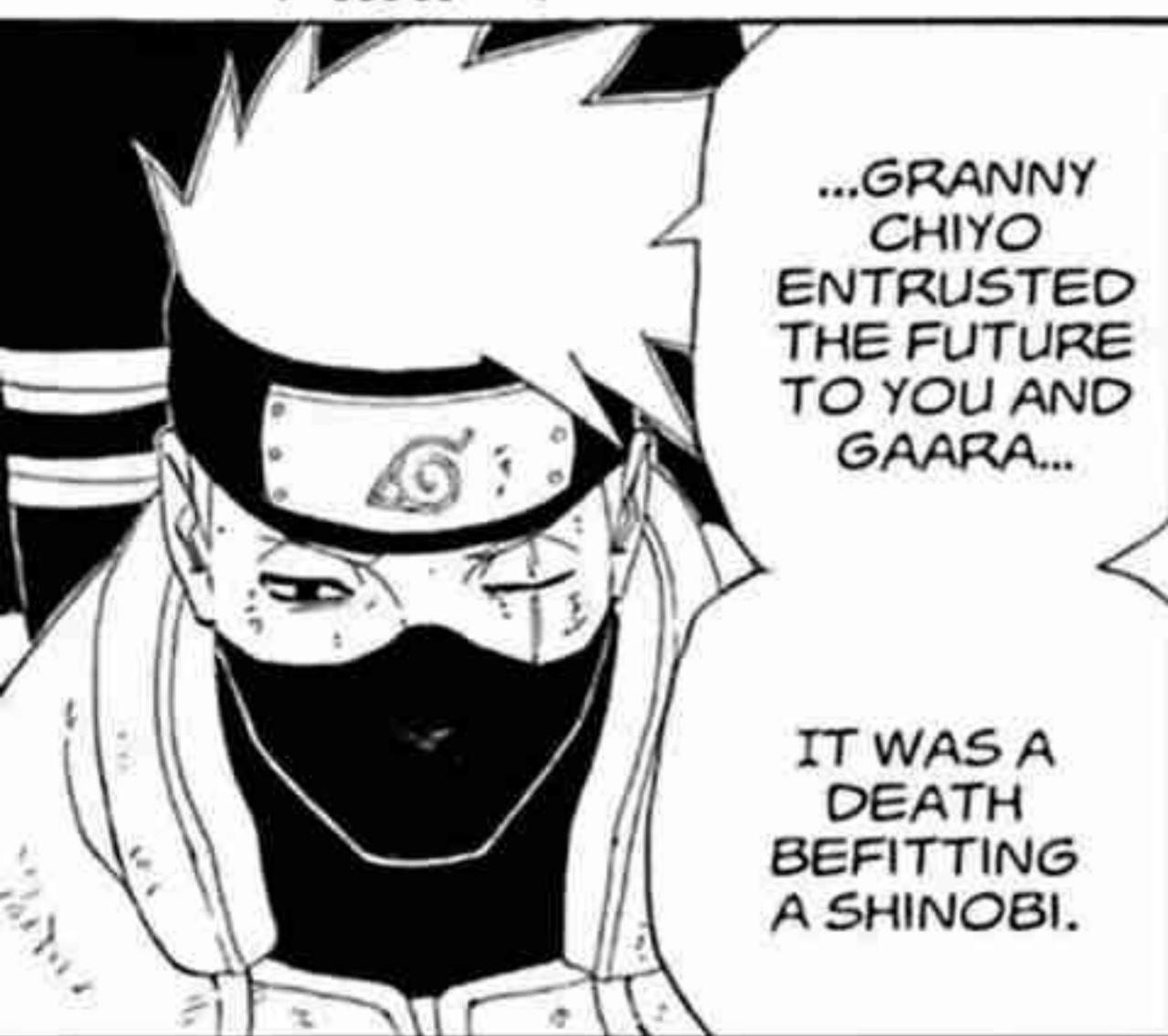


READ
THIS
WAY





READ
THIS
WAY



GRANNY CHIYO USED TO SAY THAT SHE DIDN'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT THE VILLAGE'S FUTURE...

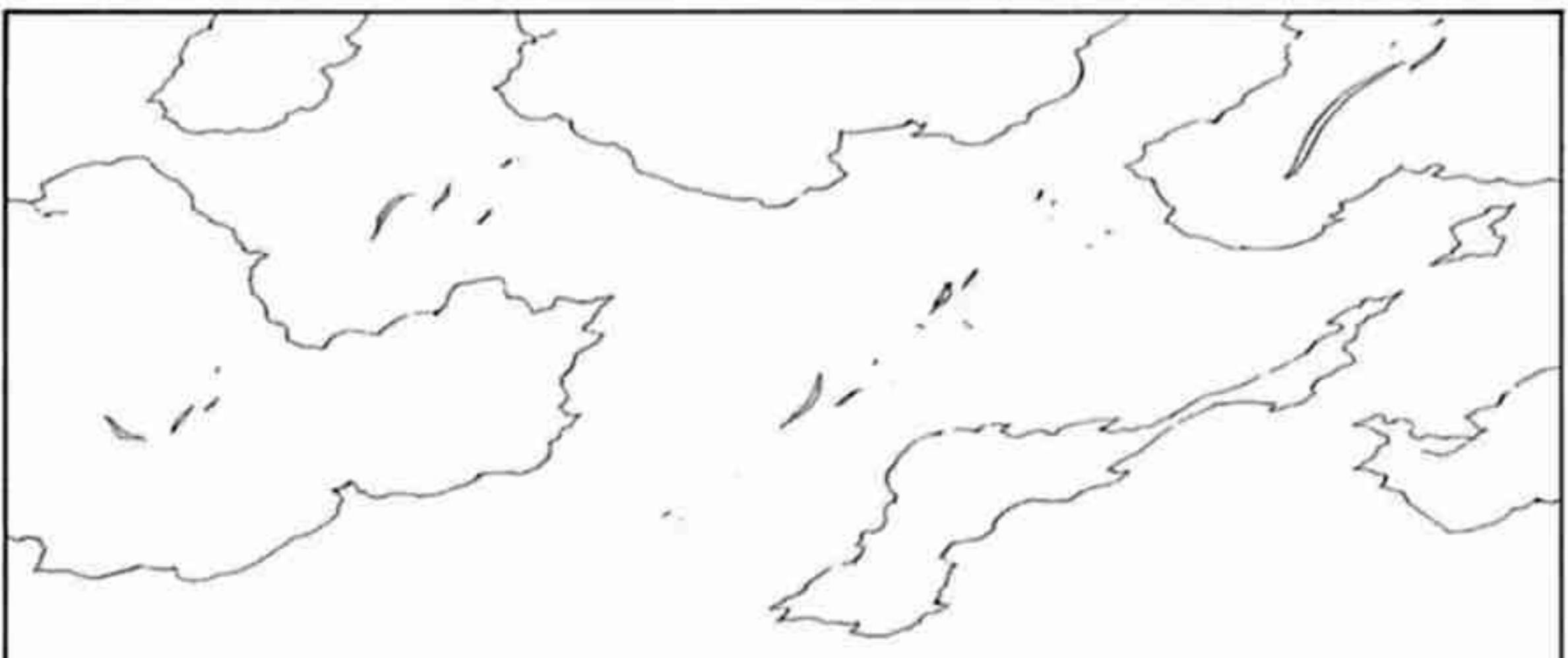


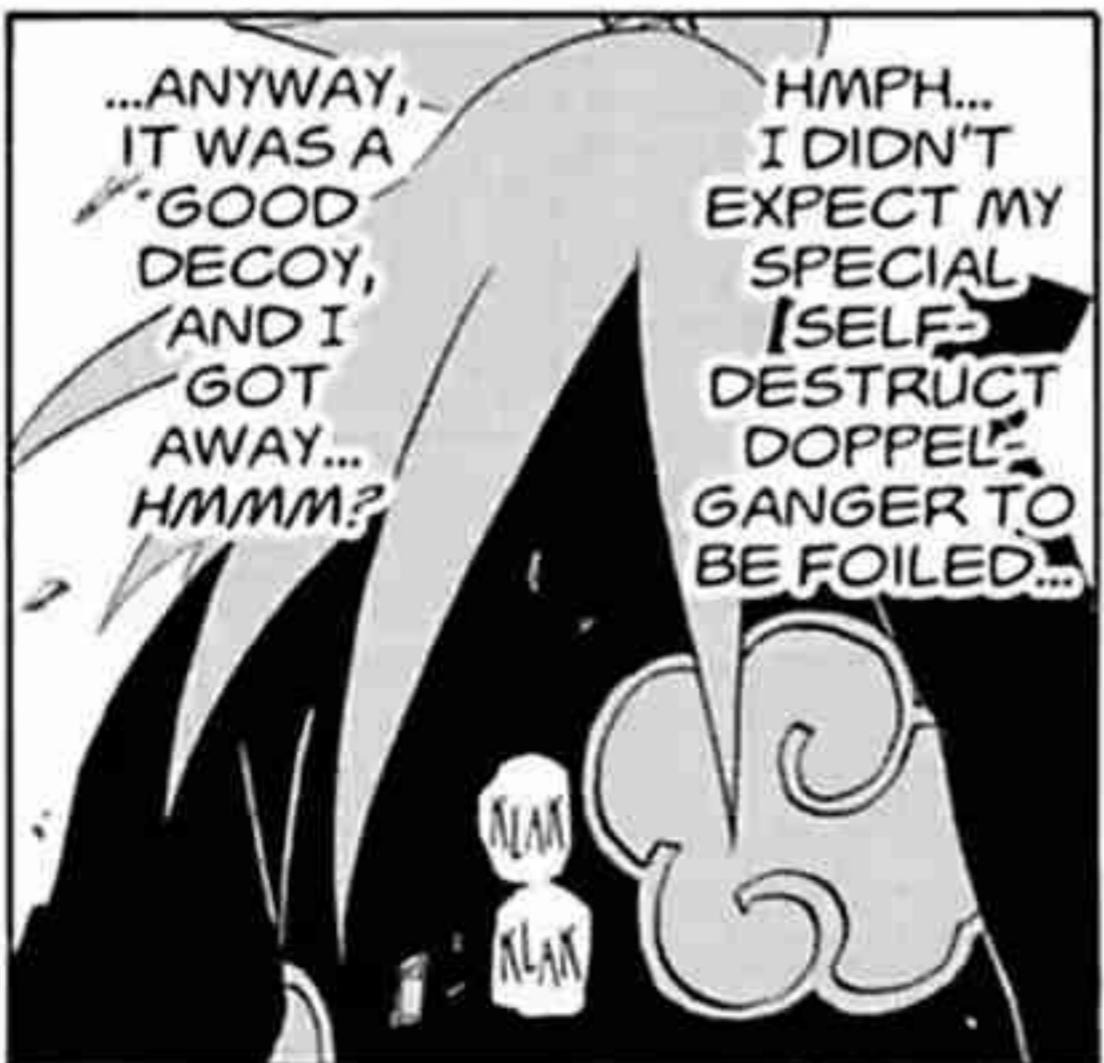
...YEAH...

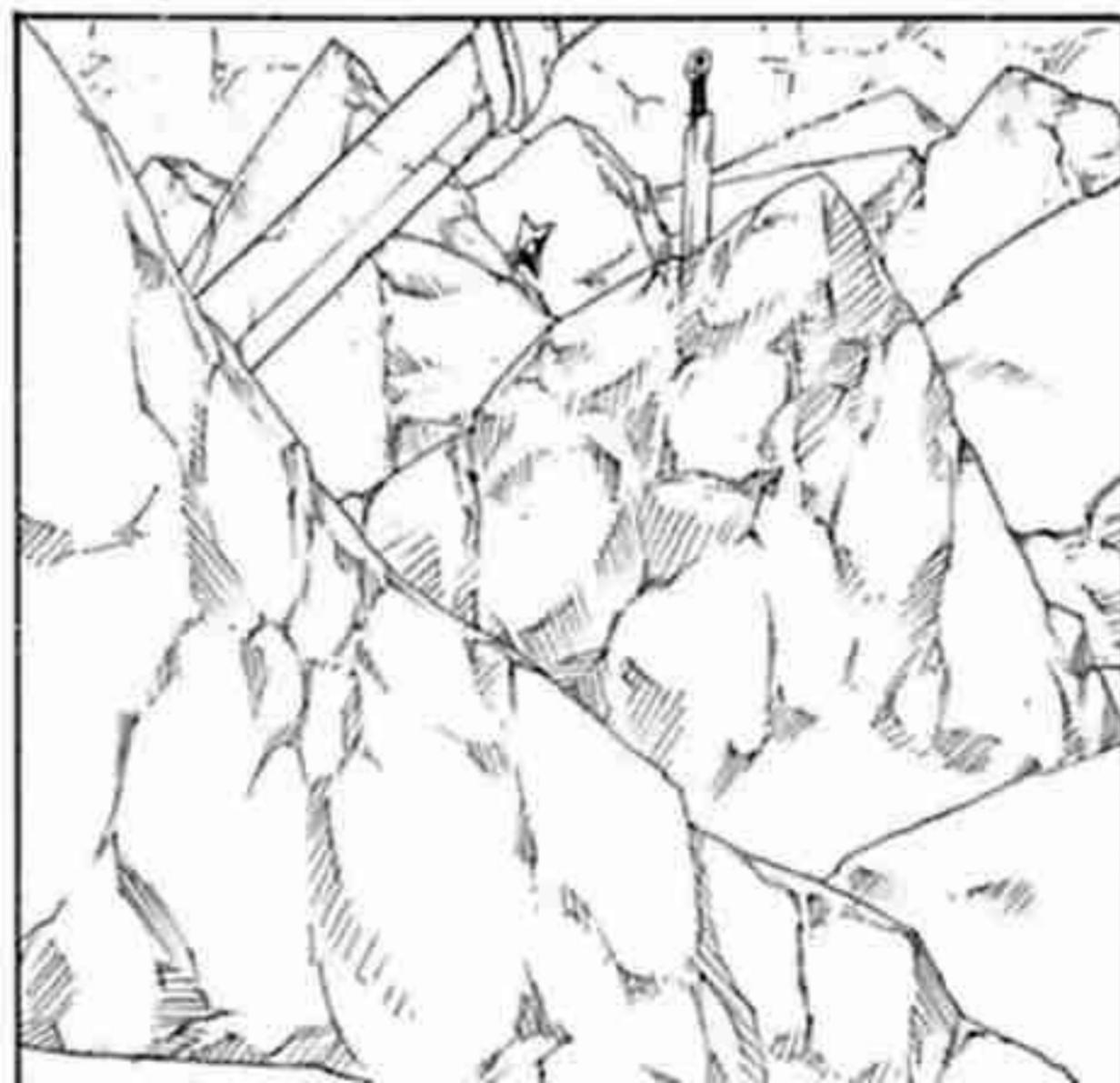
NOW I GET WHAT GRANNY WISHED FOR!













WHY
NOT...?
LET HIM
JOIN...

FOOL...
IT'S NOT
THAT
EASY...

WILL THIS
BE ENOUGH
FOR ME TO
JOIN THE
AKATSUKI...?

WHOOPS
...

TOBI'S A
GOOD
BOY...

THERE'S
NOW AN
OPENING
FOR
ONE...

TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL.32!