MAKOTO YUKIMURA

# VINLAND SAGA

BOOK · ONE

FROM THE DISTANT NORTH...
...THEY COME, BRINGING WITH THEM THE BLACK CLOUDS OF WAR.
BEYOND THE FROZEN SEA...

VINLAND SAGA
CHAPTER 1: NORMANNI
MAKOTO YUKIMURA

11TH CENTURY A.D.
FRANKISH KINGDOM
TERRITORY

VINLAND
SAGA

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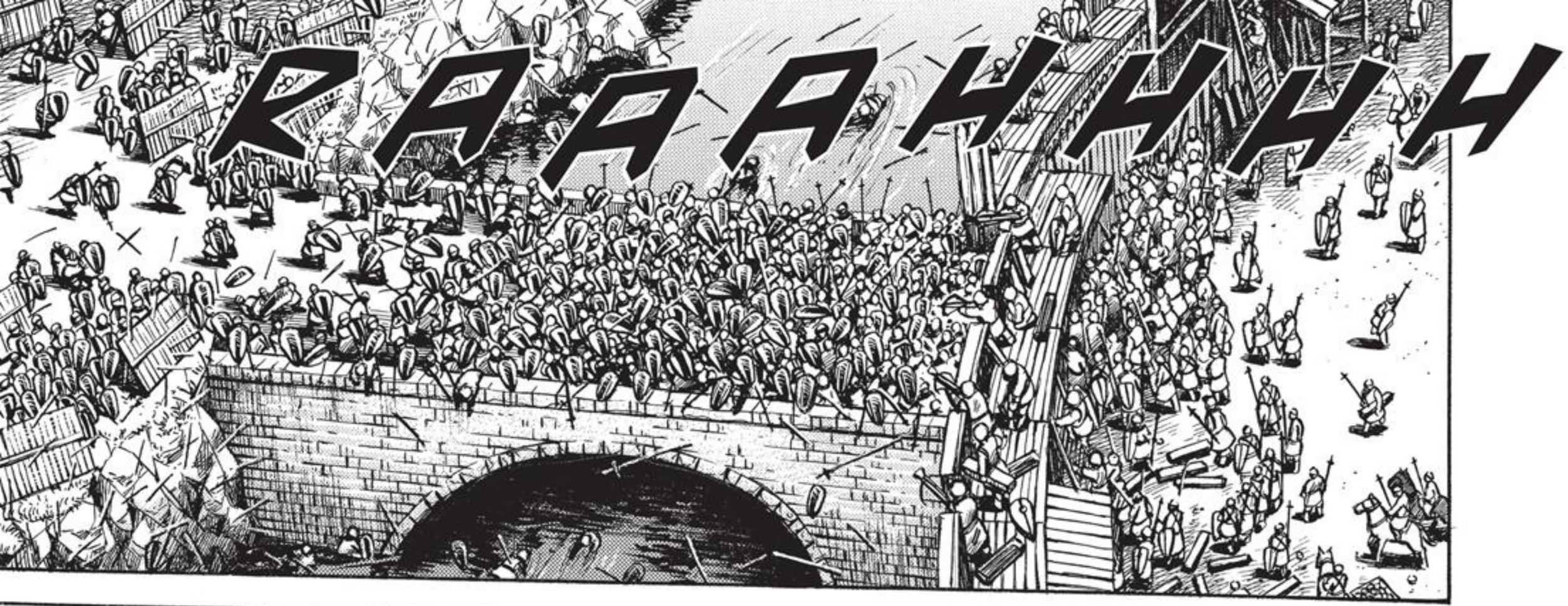

RAAAHHHH

SFF
SSFF
BAMM
BAM
SSFF
BABAM
ZWFF
RA
RA
RA

AAAAHHH
BABAM
BAM
BABAM
SSKFF
WSH
PYEW
DAAAA
DAAAA
DAAAA
DAAAA
DAAAA

WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' FOR?! BRING THE GATE DOWN NOW!!

FWSH

FZMM

SHIT!!

SHIELDS! WE NEED MORE DAMNED SHIELDS !!

FZMM

AAGH YAHH

DGOM

AAAAA

RAAAA
SHOOT IN ALTERNATING ROWS!!
FIRST ROW, NOCK!!
HYMM
PYEW
LOOSE!!
BSU
HHHH
IT'S A BATTERING RAM!!
DZZZZOO
CROSS-BOWS TO THE FORE!!

CRUNCH

RETREAT FOR NOW! PULL BACK, MEN!!

RETREAT !!

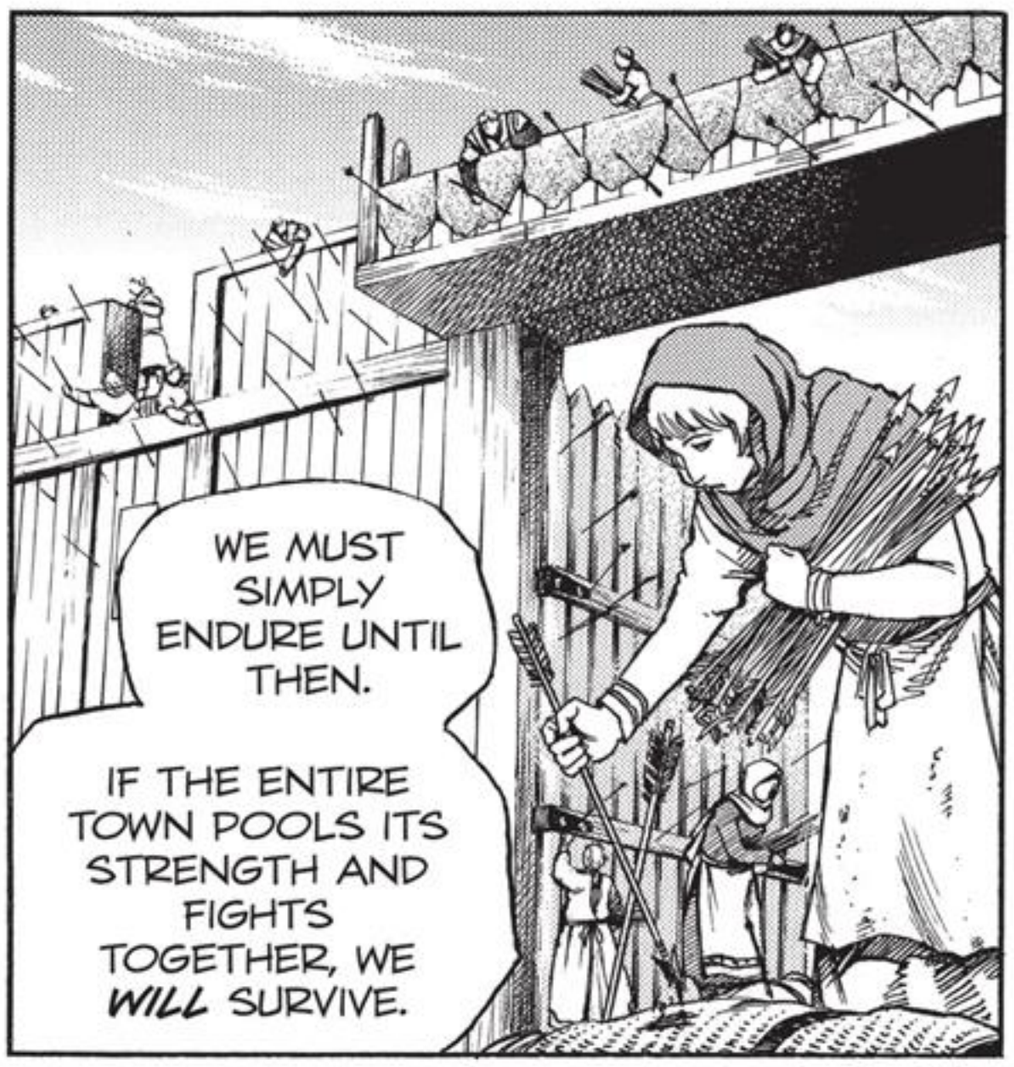
IT'S NO GOOD! REGROUP !!

RAAAHHH

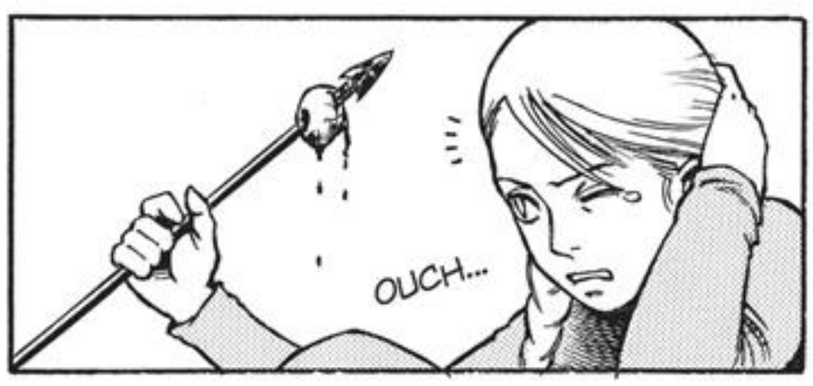
WOMEN! TEND TO THE WOUNDED!

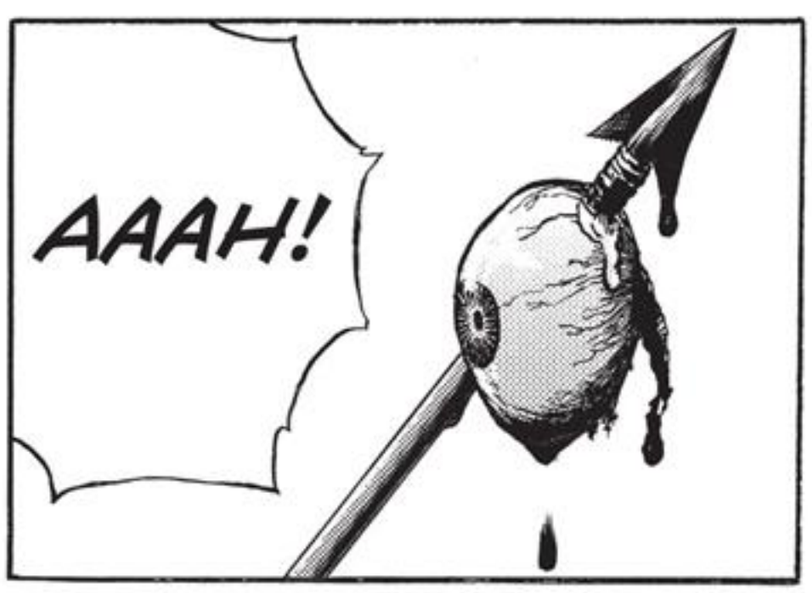
RETRIEVE ARROWS AND BOLTS NOW, WHILE YOU CAN!

WELL DONE, BOYS!!


WE MUST SIMPLY ENDURE UNTIL THEN.
IF THE ENTIRE TOWN POOLS ITS STRENGTH AND FIGHTS TOGEWTHER, WE *WILL* SURVIVE.

THE SNOW IS COMING SOON, AND THAT WILL FORCE THE ENEMY TO ABANDON HIS SIEGE.


OUCH...


AAAH!

ACK!
THWUP

HRRG...
RRGH...

WE ONLY NEED TO REINFORCE THE HILLSIDE GATE.
THE LAKE BEHIND US WILL KEEP OUR BACKS SAFE.

WELL, WELL, WELL.

THE SIEGE APPEARS TO BE BREAK-ING.

I'D PUT THE ATTACKERS AT ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED; FAR FEWER IN THE TOWN.

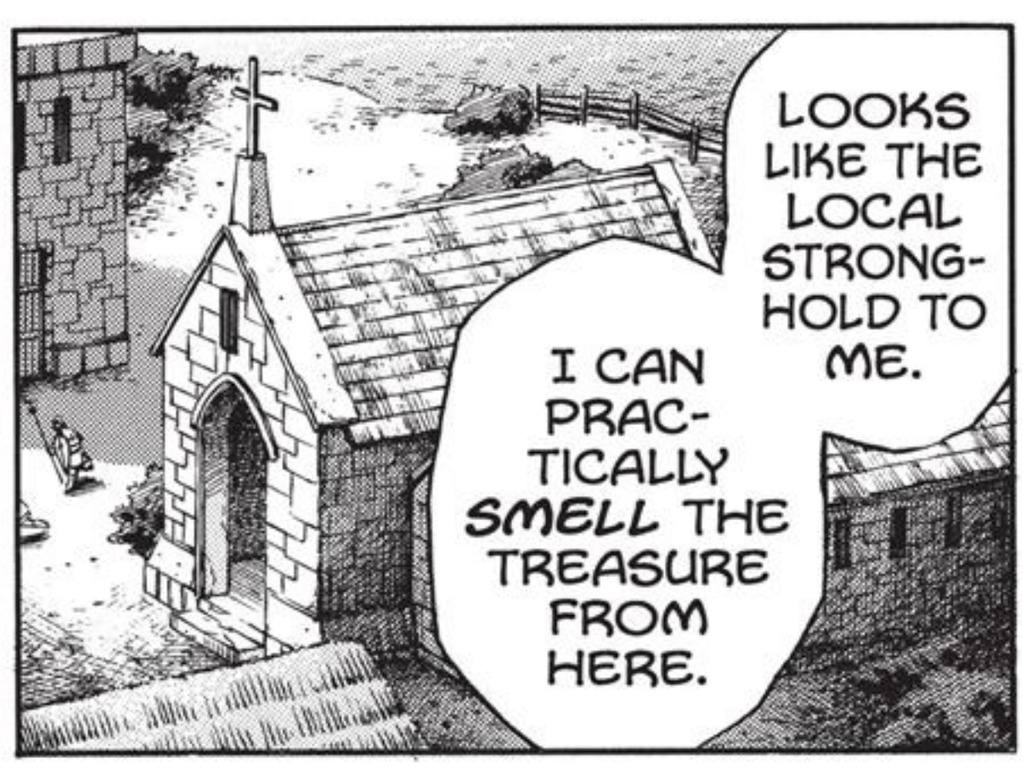
LIKE WE THOUGHT, IT'S A SKIRMISH BETWEEN FRANKISH TRIBES.

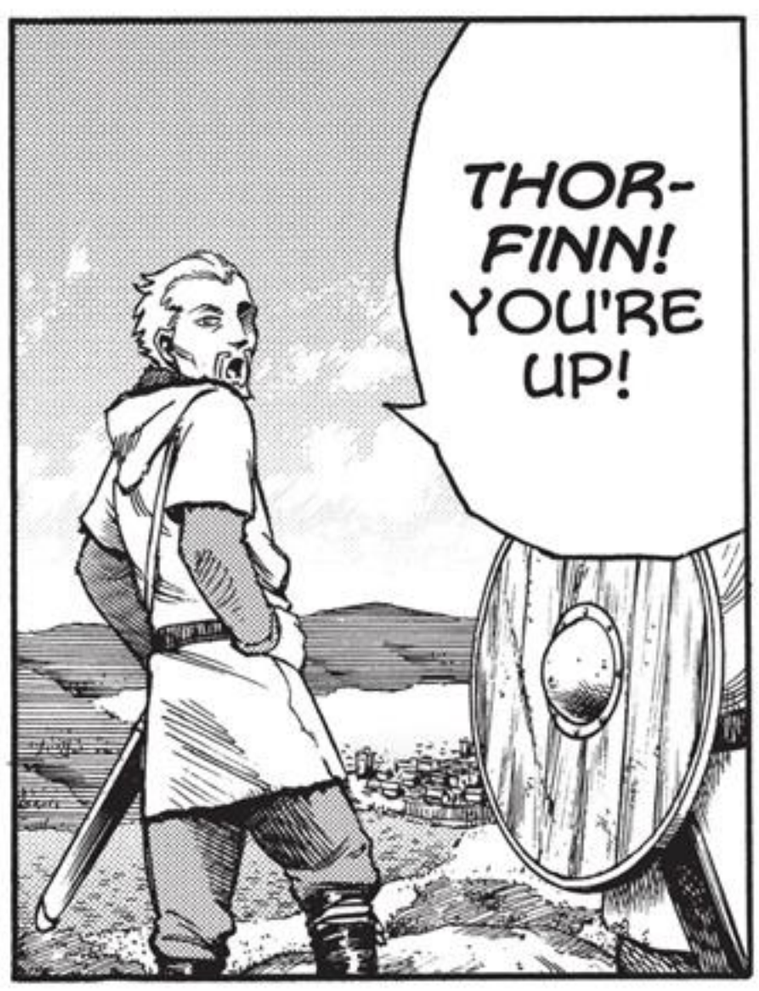
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ASKE-LADD?

LOOK AT THE FOOLS, DASHING THEIR HEADS STRAIGHT AGAINST THE WALLS.

HMM.

MORE IN IT FOR US THAT WAY.
YEP.
AHA! SO WE'RE IN?
WILL WE SIDE WITH THE ATTACK-ERS?


LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL STRONG-HOLD TO ME.
I CAN PRAC-TICALLY SMELL THE TREASURE FROM HERE.


THOR-FINN! YOU'RE UP!

BUT WE DON'T DO THIS FOR A PITTANCE. WE SMASH THE CHESTS OPEN AND SEIZE EVERY LAST COIN WITHIN.
NOW THEN...

SHKK

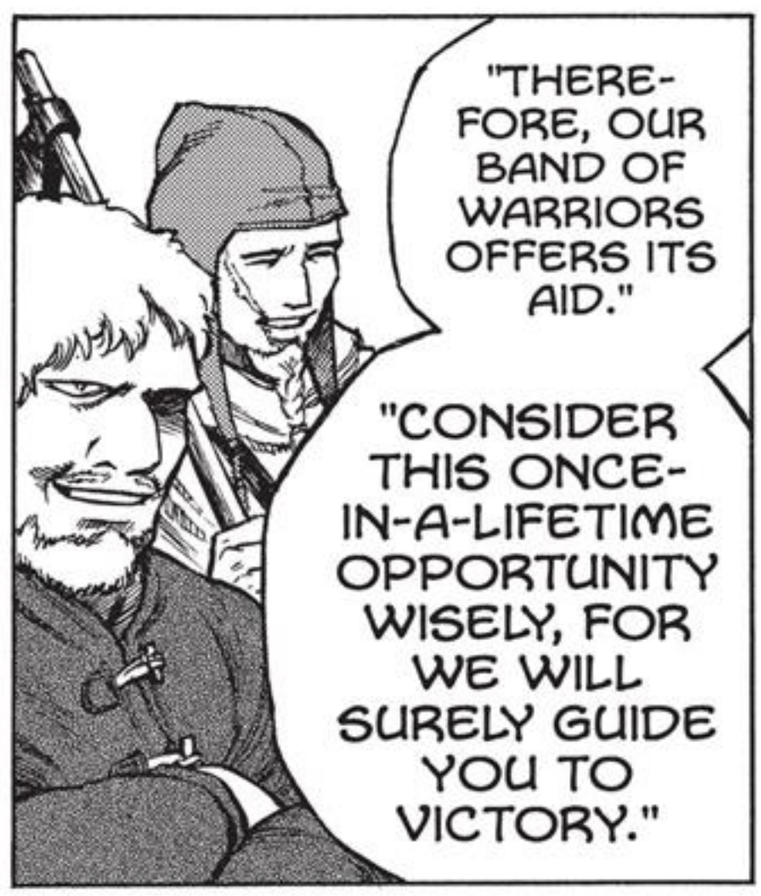
TUG

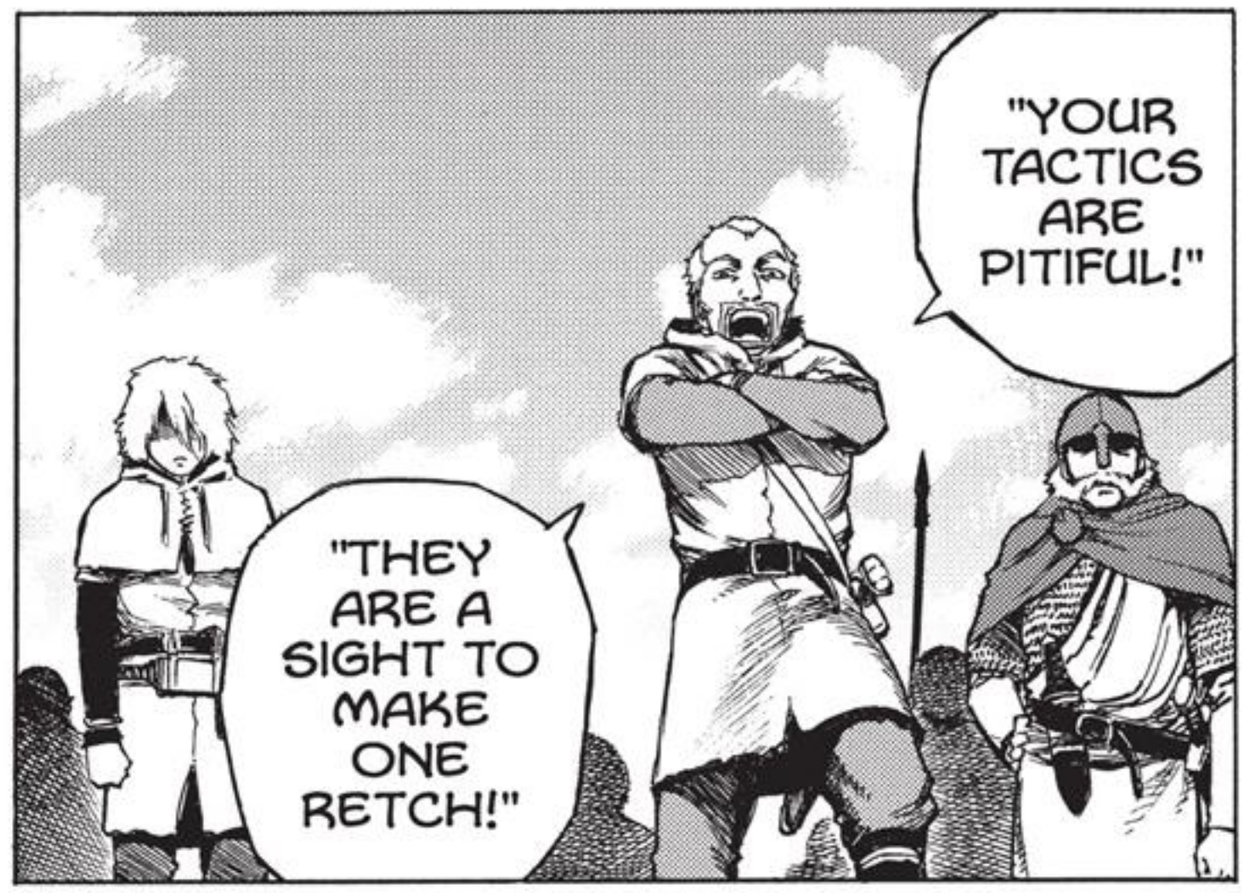
WE'RE JOIN-ING IN.

SEND A MESSAGE TO THE LEADER OF THE ATTACKING ARMY.

HERE'S THE TACK WE TAKE.

ZSHH

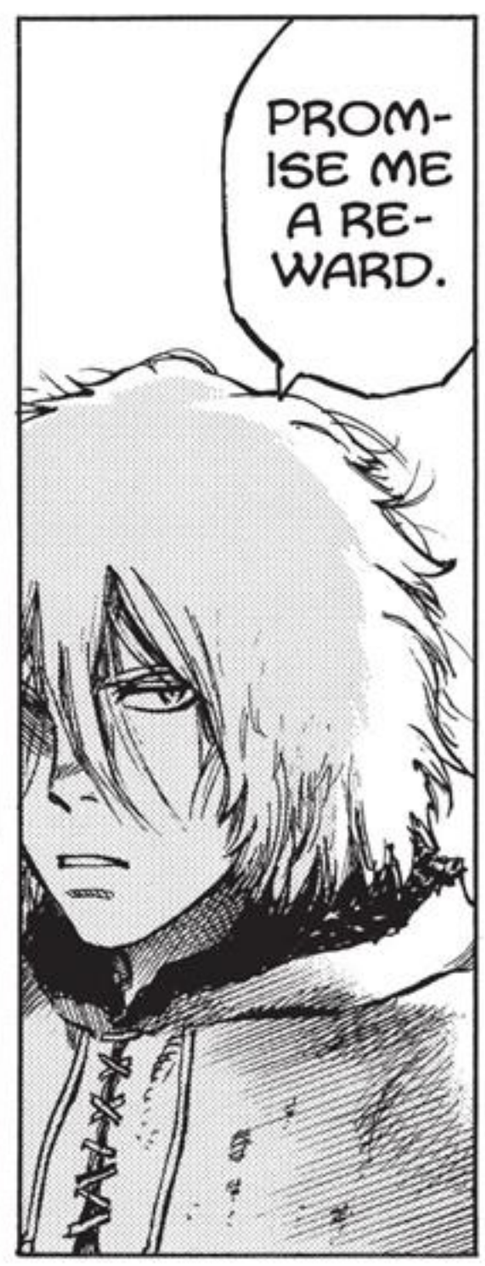

"THEREFORE, OUR BAND OF WARRIORS OFFERS ITS AID."
"CONSIDER THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY WISELY, FOR WE WILL SURELY GUIDE YOU TO VICTORY."


"YOUR TACTICS ARE PITIFUL!"
"THEY ARE A SIGHT TO MAKE ONE RETCH!"

ONCE YOU'VE GIVEN THEM THE MESSAGE, REMAIN AMONG THEM AND OBSERVE THE TIDE OF BATTLE.
UNDERSTOOD? NOW GO.

"ALL WE ASK IN RETURN IS HALF THE SPOILS OF WAR ON THE DAY OF THE FORTRESS'S FALL."
"RESUME THE SIEGE IN THE MORN."

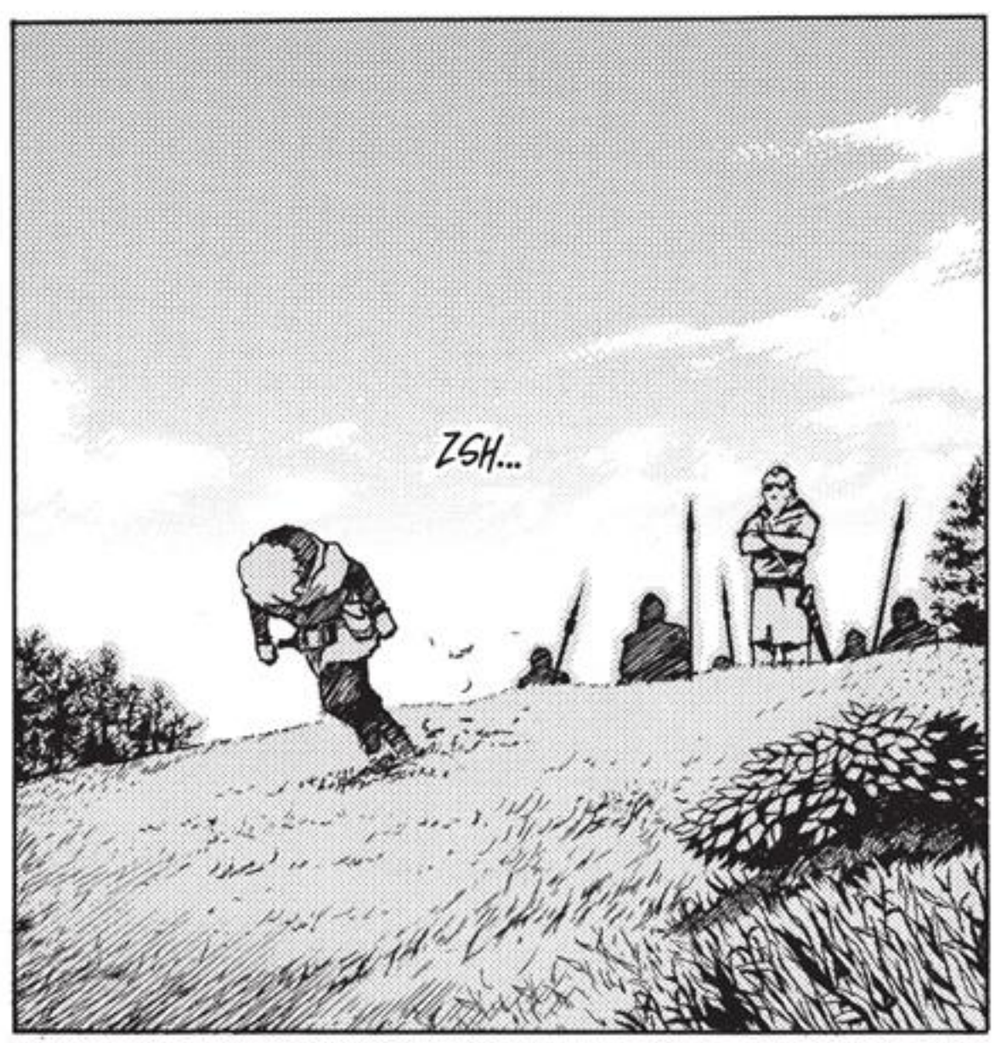
REWARD? IF THE NEGOTIATION'S A SUCCESS, YOU'LL HAVE THREE GOLD COINS.
I SWEAR UPON TYR.

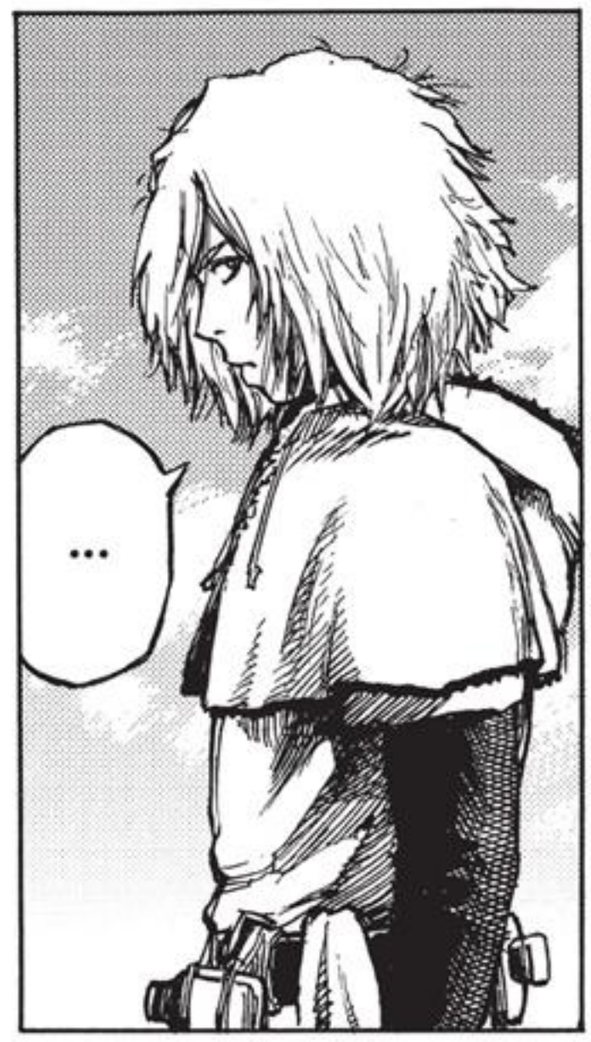

PROMISE ME A REWARD.

?
WHAT? I GAVE YOU AN ORDER, THORFINN.

WHO ASKED FOR THAT SHIT?

YOU KNOW DAMN WELL WHAT I WANT, ASKELADD.





THE LOSING SIDE WILL BE ON EDGE.

THE ENVOY MIGHT BE GUTTED BEFORE ANYONE EVEN GETS TO THE TABLE. HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

HM...

WHY DO YOU LET HIM HANDLE THE NEGOTIATIONS, ASKELADD?

LITTLE BASTARD'S GOT SUCH AN ATTITUDE.

AND WHO CARES IF WE LOSE ONE MEASLY BRAT WE PICKED UP ALONG THE WAY?

C'EST QUOI, CE GAMIN! (WHO ARE YOU, BOY?!)

HÉ! PAS POUR DES GOSSES ICI! (THIS IS NO PLACE FOR CHILDREN!)

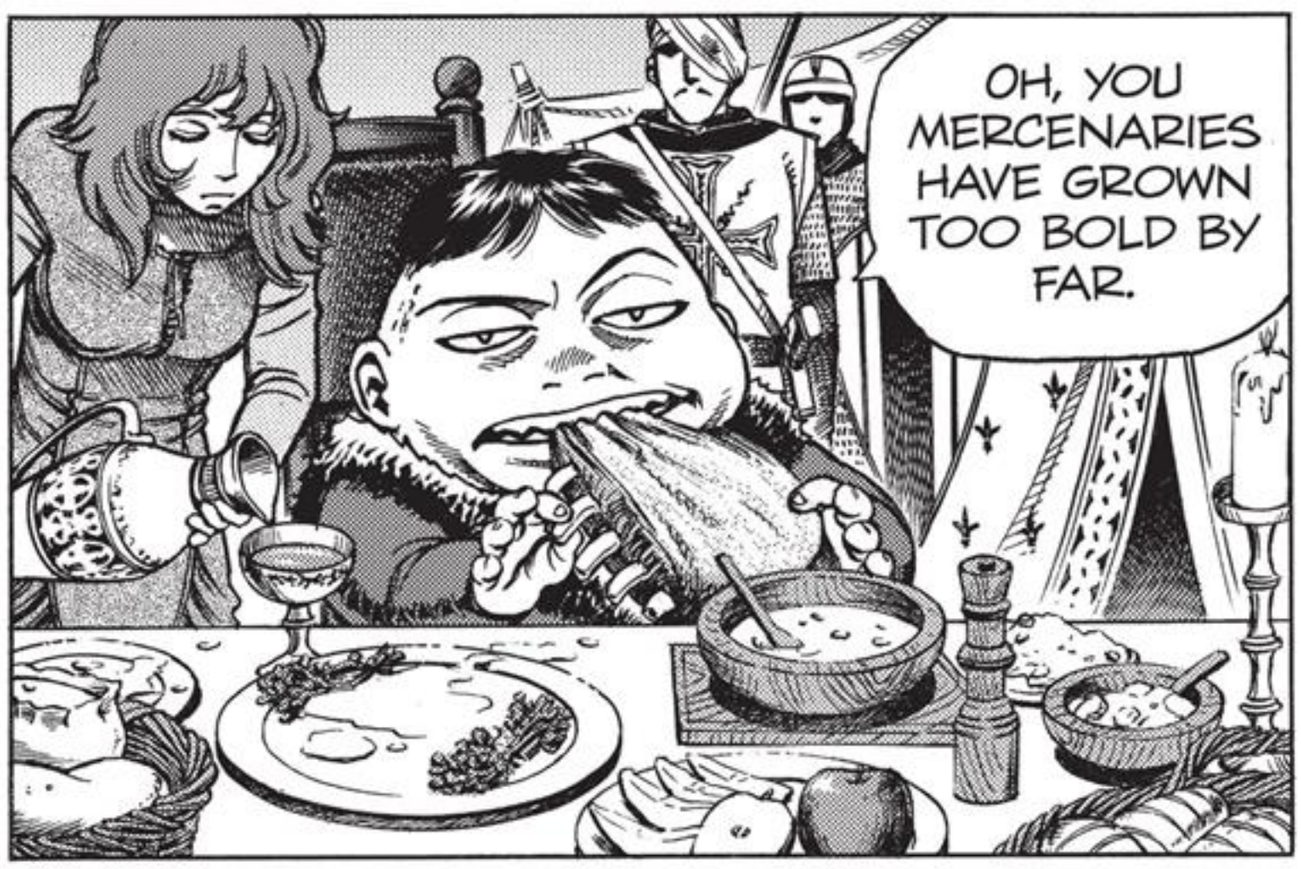
C'EST PAS UN FRANK. (HE SURE AIN'T A FRANK.)

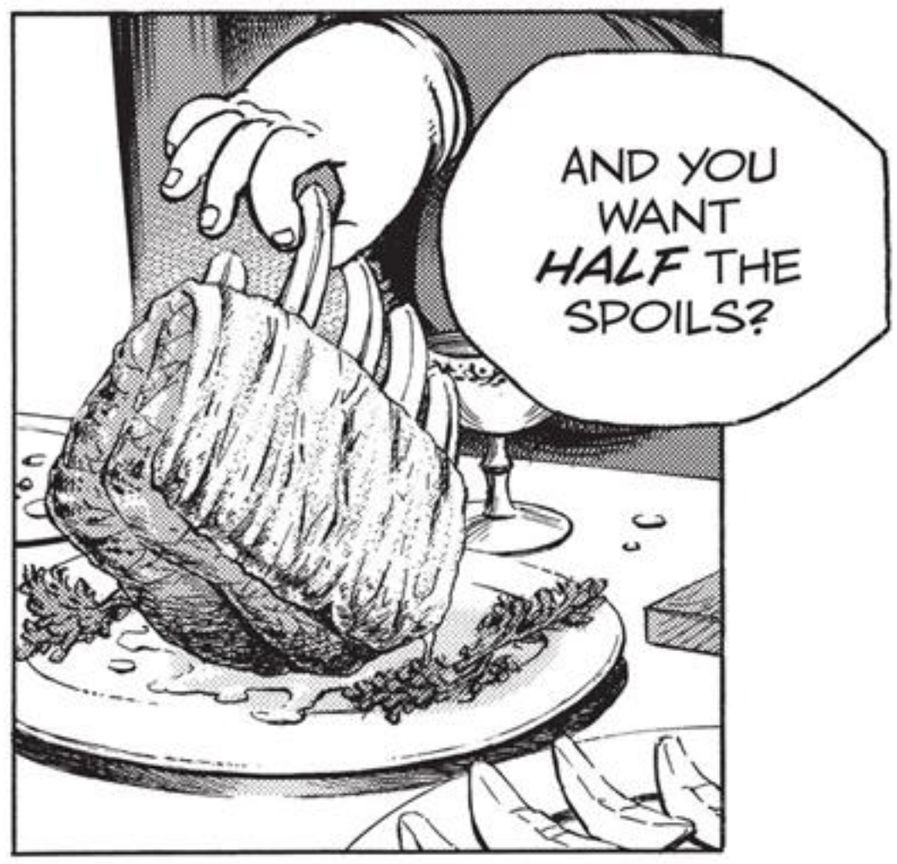
QU'EST-CE QU'IL DIT? (WHAT'S HE SPEAKING?)

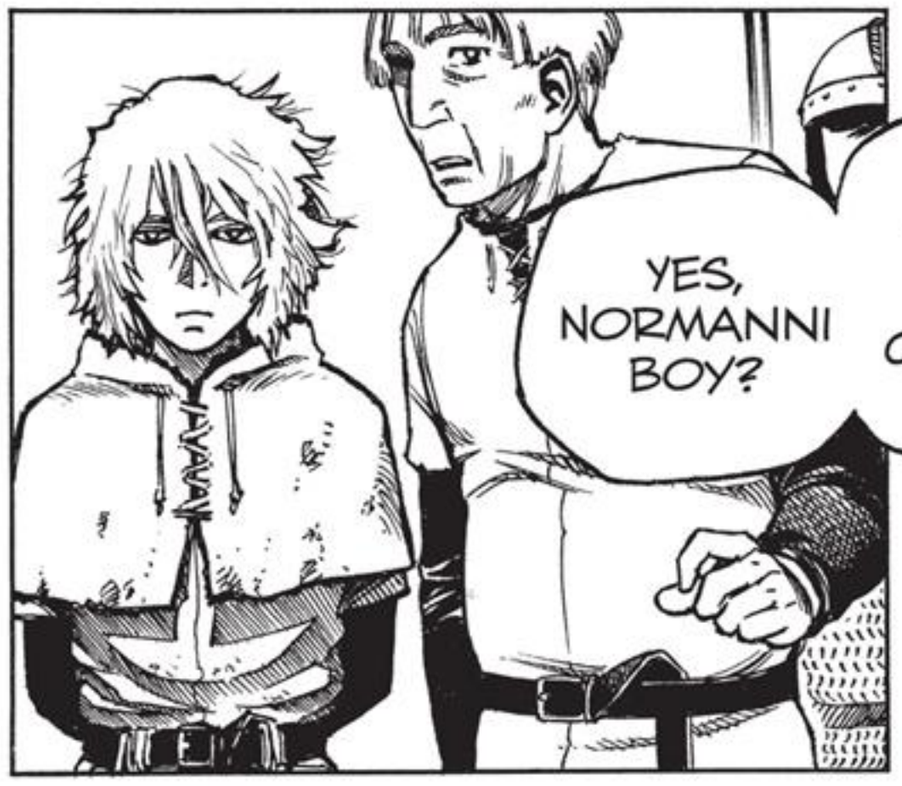
CAN ANYONE HERE SPEAK NORSE?

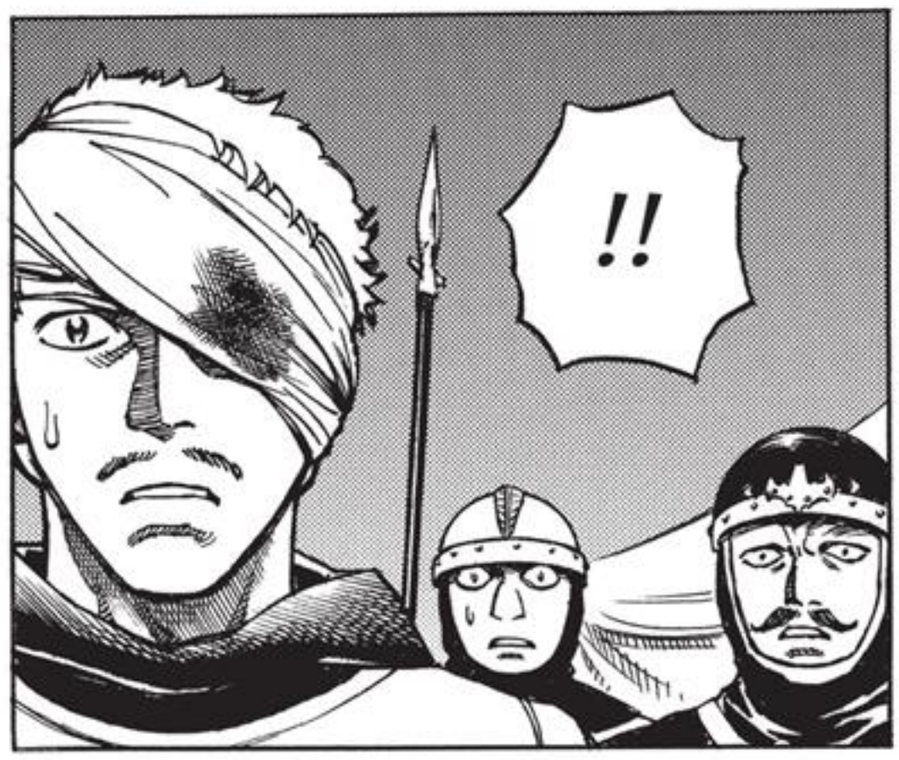
I'M A MESSENGER.

ZWIP
AIIEEEEE !!
QUOI ?!!
SPIN
CRIK...
?!
I'M A MESSEN-GER!!
CAN ANYONE HERE SPEAK NORSE ?!

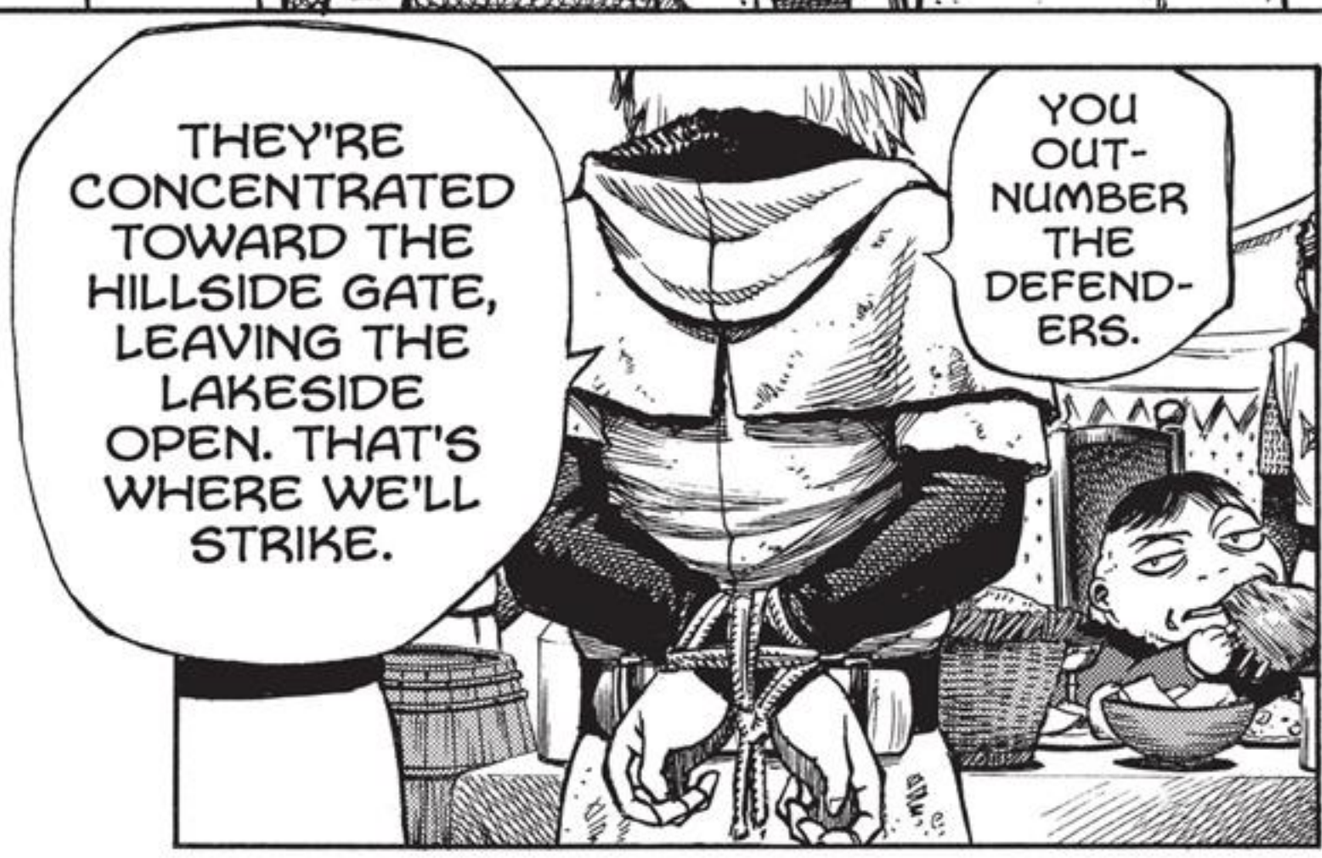

OH, YOU MERCENARIES HAVE GROWN TOO BOLD BY FAR.

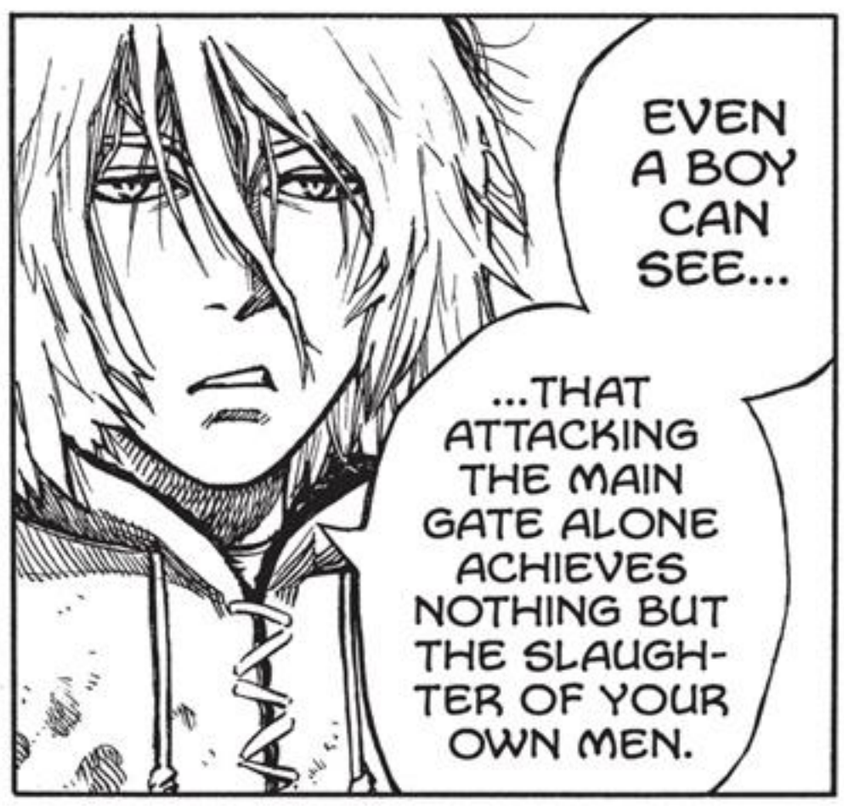

AND YOU WANT *HALF* THE SPOILS?


YES, NORMANNI BOY?
BUT SUCH BOLDNESS IMPLIES CONFIDENCE.


!!

NORMANNI...


THEY'RE CONCENTRATED TOWARD THE HILLSIDE GATE, LEAVING THE LAKESIDE OPEN. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL STRIKE.
YOU OUT-NUMBER THE DEFEND-ERS.


EVEN A BOY CAN SEE...
...THAT ATTACKING THE MAIN GATE ALONE ACHIEVES NOTHING BUT THE SLAUGH-TER OF YOUR OWN MEN.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAIL A SHIP INTO THAT LAKE!

IF IT WERE THAT EASY, WE'D HAVE DONE IT ALREADY!!
PAH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU SAVAGES WERE IGNORANT.

OUR SHIPS ARE MAROONED A MILE DOWNRIVER.

OTHERWISE WE *WOULD* ATTACK BY WATER.

THE NEAREST RIVER FLOWS FIERCER THE CLOSER YOU GET TO THE LAKE. THERE ARE EVEN WATERFALLS.

SO YOU *WON'T* ACCEPT OUR OFFER?

BECAUSE ASKELADD WILL TAKE HIS HUNDRED MEN RIGHT TO THE DEFENDERS.

...HE SAYS.

MUR-MUR...

HEIN?! (WHA?!)

FERMES-LA! (SHUT YOUR INSOLENT MOUTH!!)

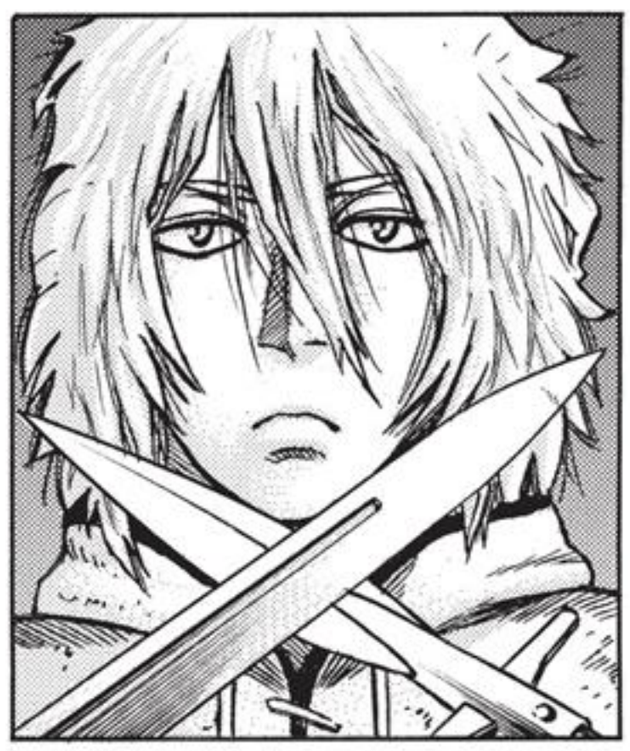
IF I DON'T GIVE THE ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL...

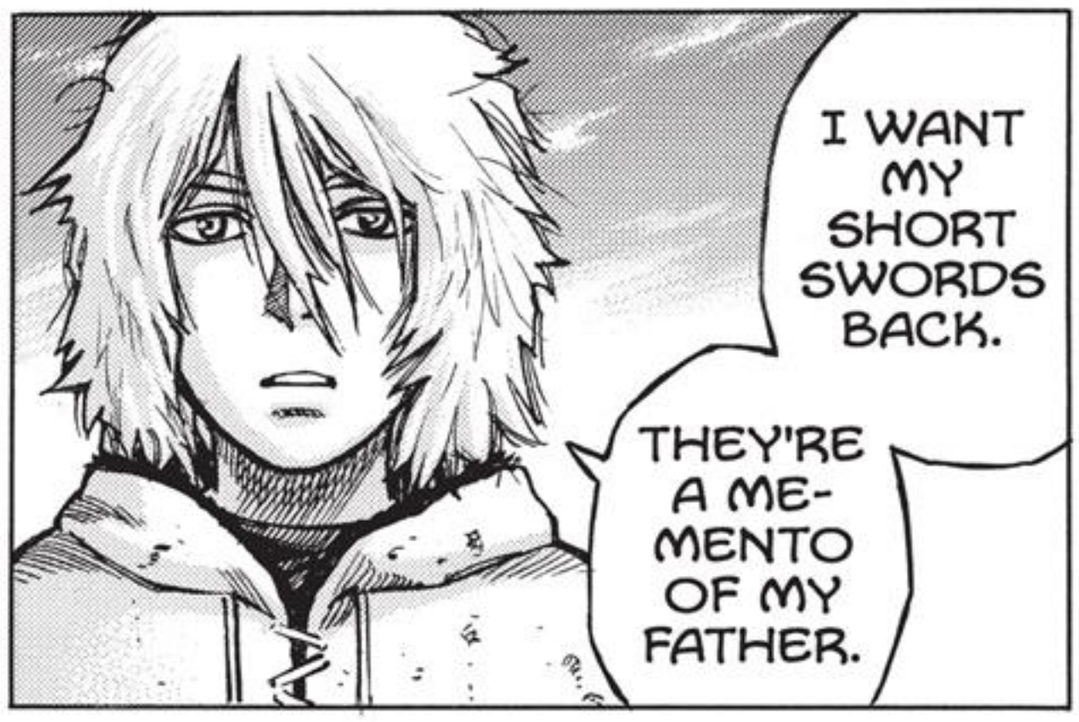
...YOU WILL INSTANTLY BE UP AGAINST A HUNDRED HARDENED WARRIORS OF THE NORTH.

THE SAME WILL HAPPEN IF I DIE.

...BAH.

DO AS YOU WISH.





KRRK...

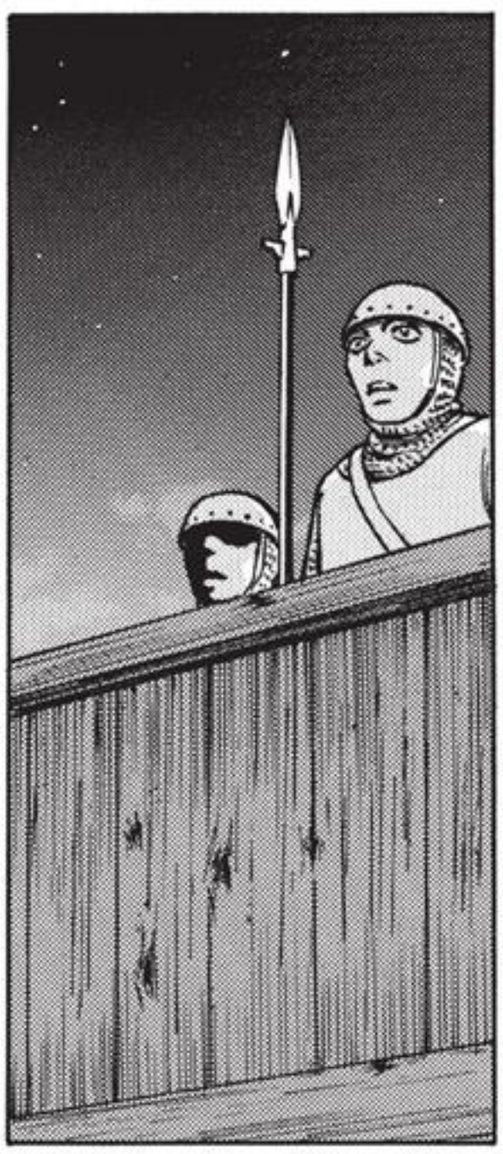
FYEWW

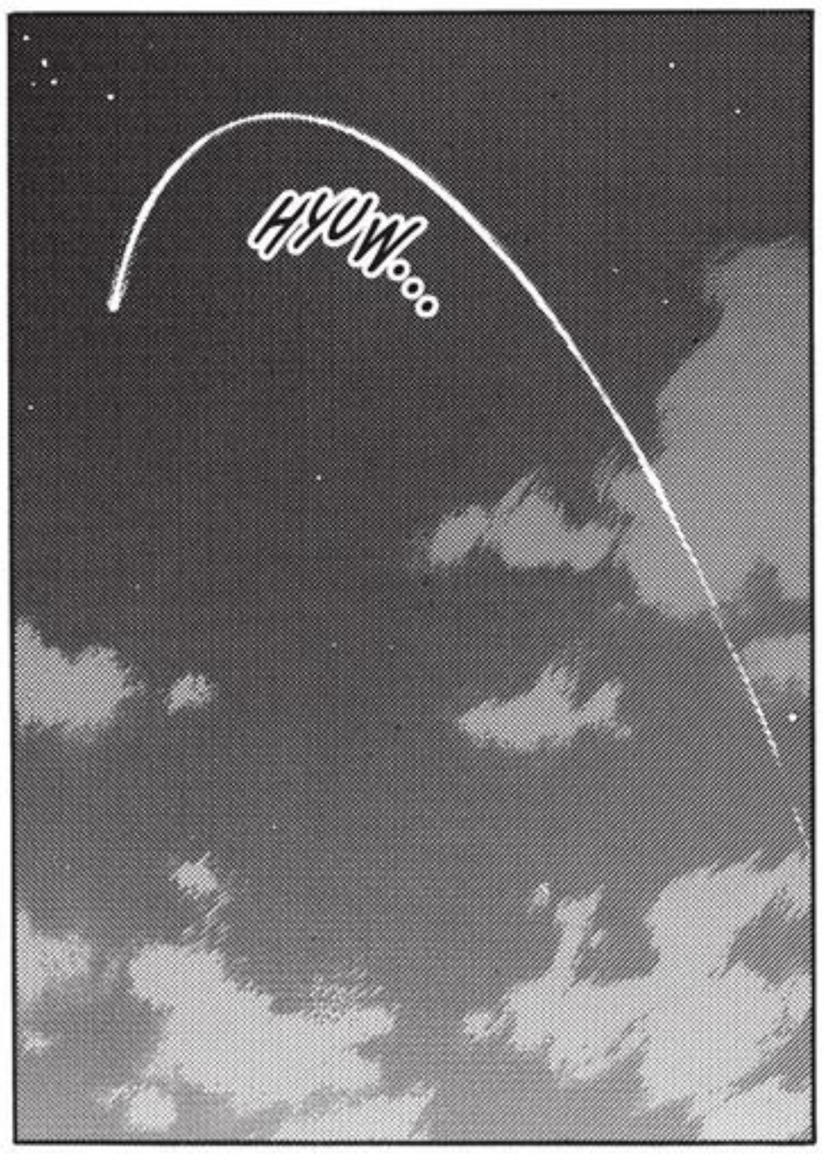
BAFF

HALF?
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HALF?

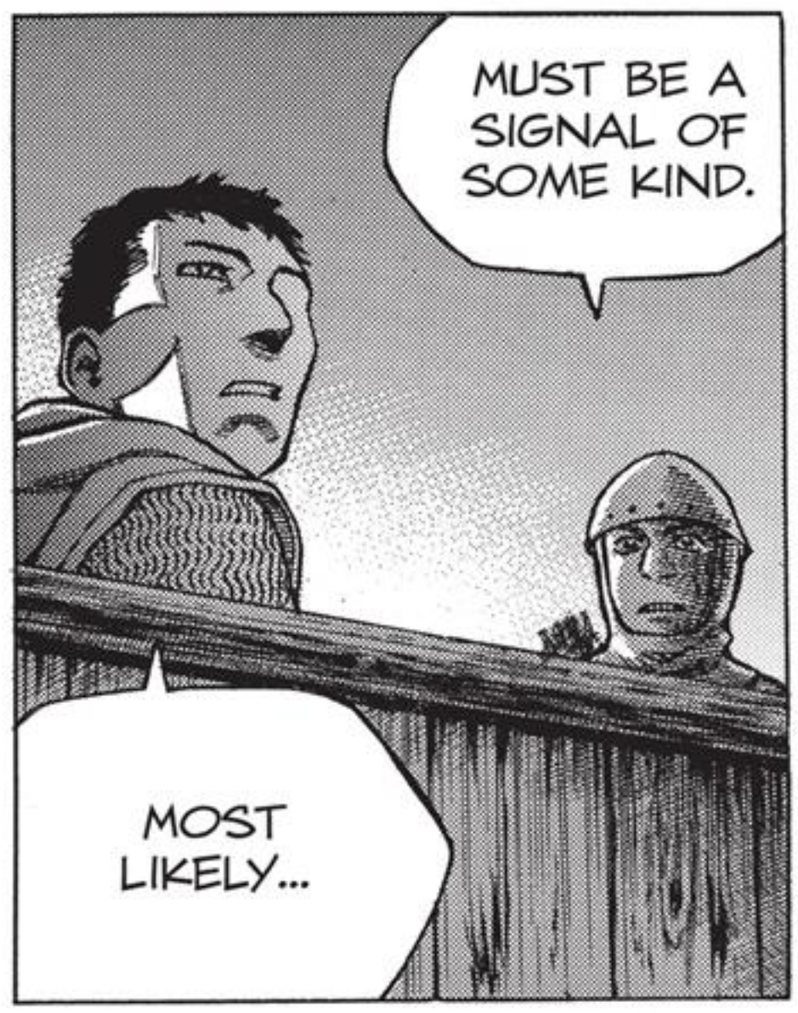
BUT, MY LORD...
BAM
TO PROMISE THEM HALF OF THE SPOILS OF WAR...

DAMN IT! IT'S HUGE!!!
THESE ARE UNCOUTH BARBARIANS FROM THE FAR NORTH.
GOD WILL NOT PUNISH A GOOD CHRISTIAN FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PAGAN HORDES.




HYUW...

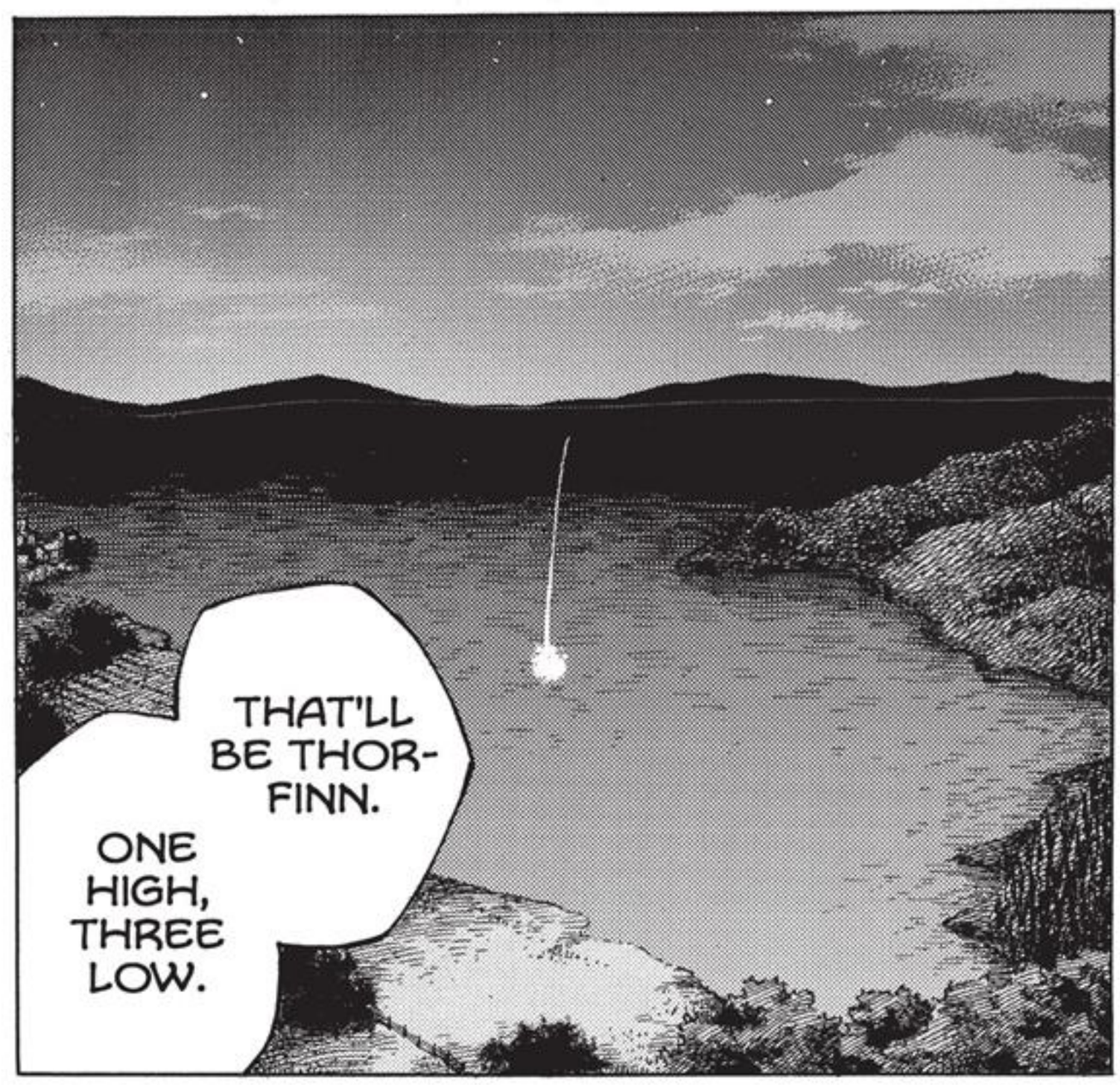
BAM
I CAN'T FEEL A THING. PUT MORE MUSCLE INTO IT, GIRL.
YES, M'LORD.

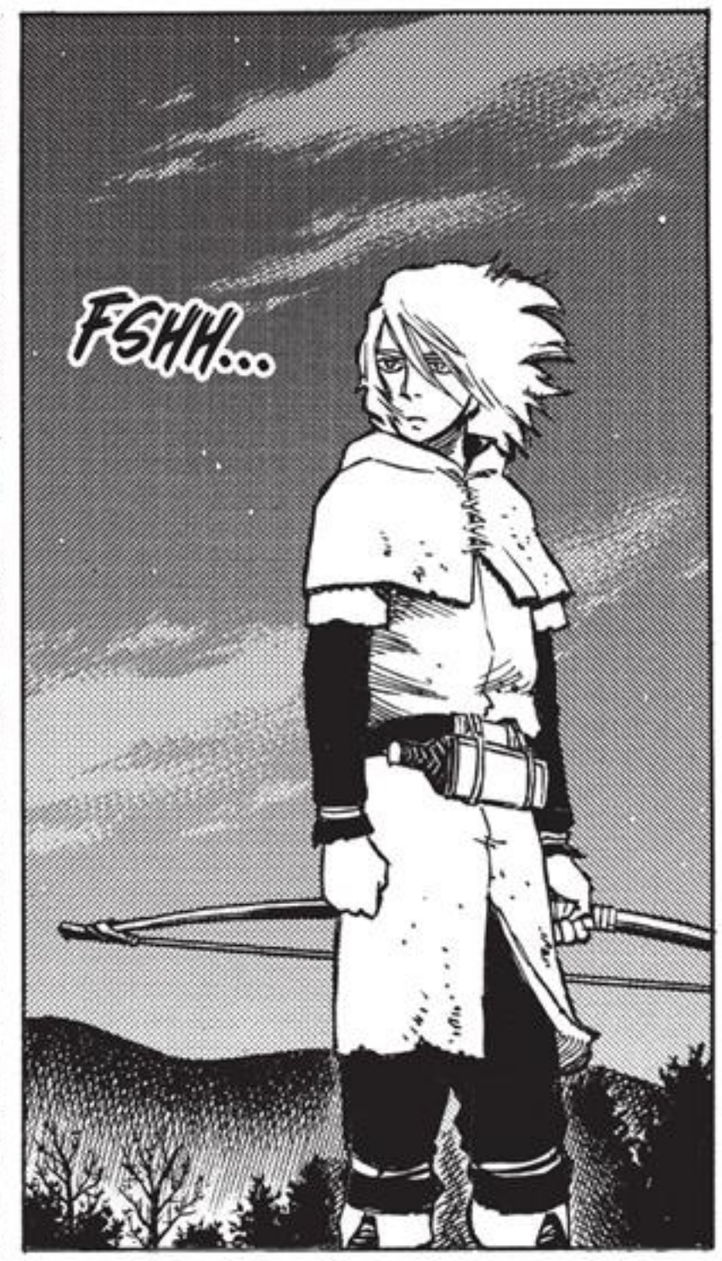

MUST BE A SIGNAL OF SOME KIND.
MOST LIKELY...

ANOTHER ONE.
THAT MAKES FOUR.

BE ON GUARD.
THEY'LL TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT TOMORROW.
YES SIR!

...
MAKING CONTACT WITH ANOTHER COMPANY, PERHAPS?


THAT'LL BE THOR-FINN.
ONE HIGH, THREE LOW.


FSHH...

GREAT. THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO KNOW.

THEY'LL BE STRIKING AT SUN-UP.

WE MUST BE OVER THE PEAK BEFORE THE MOON RISES.

ON THE DOUBLE, LADS!

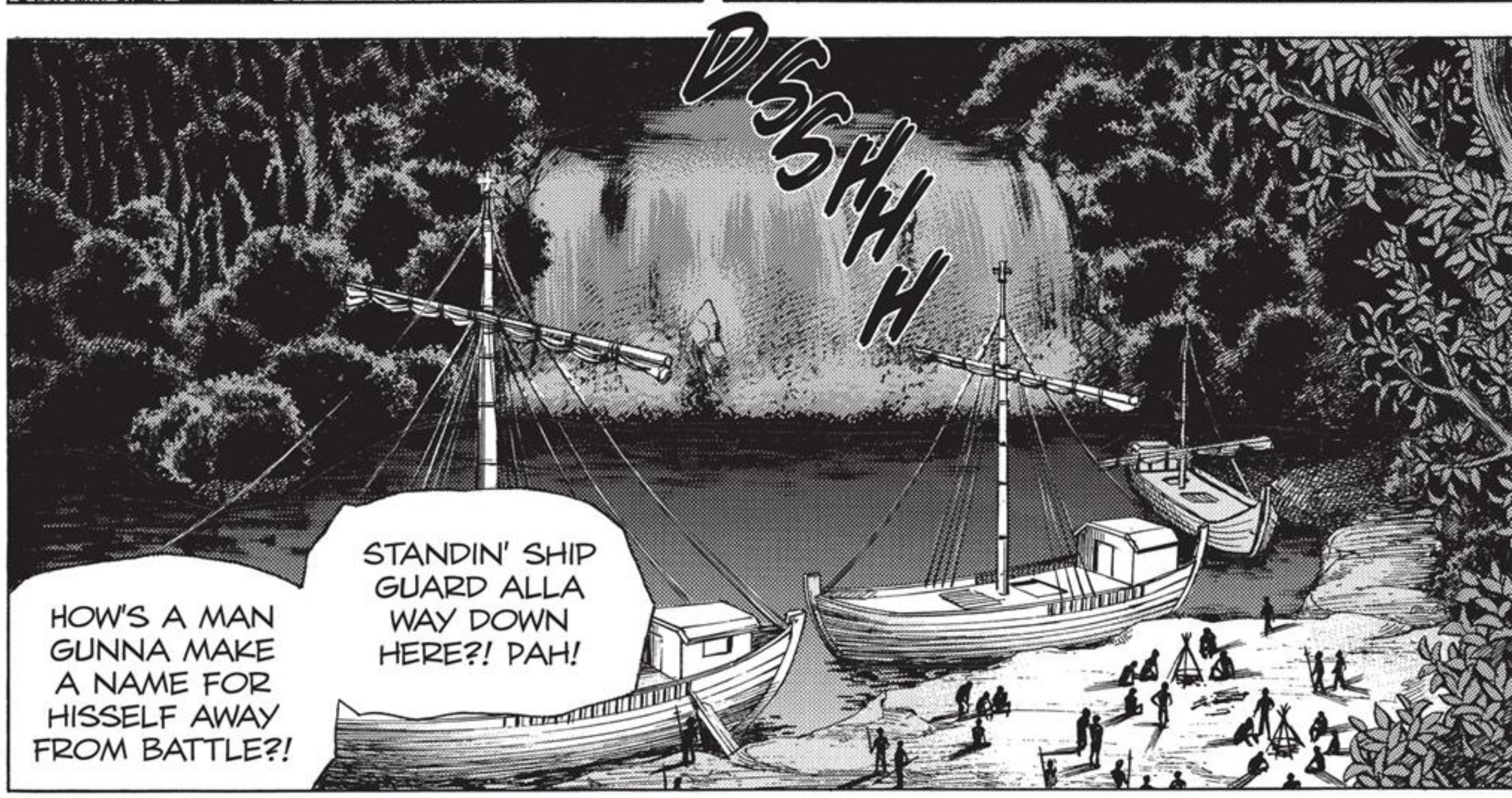
SHHHH

WHOOO...

WHOO...

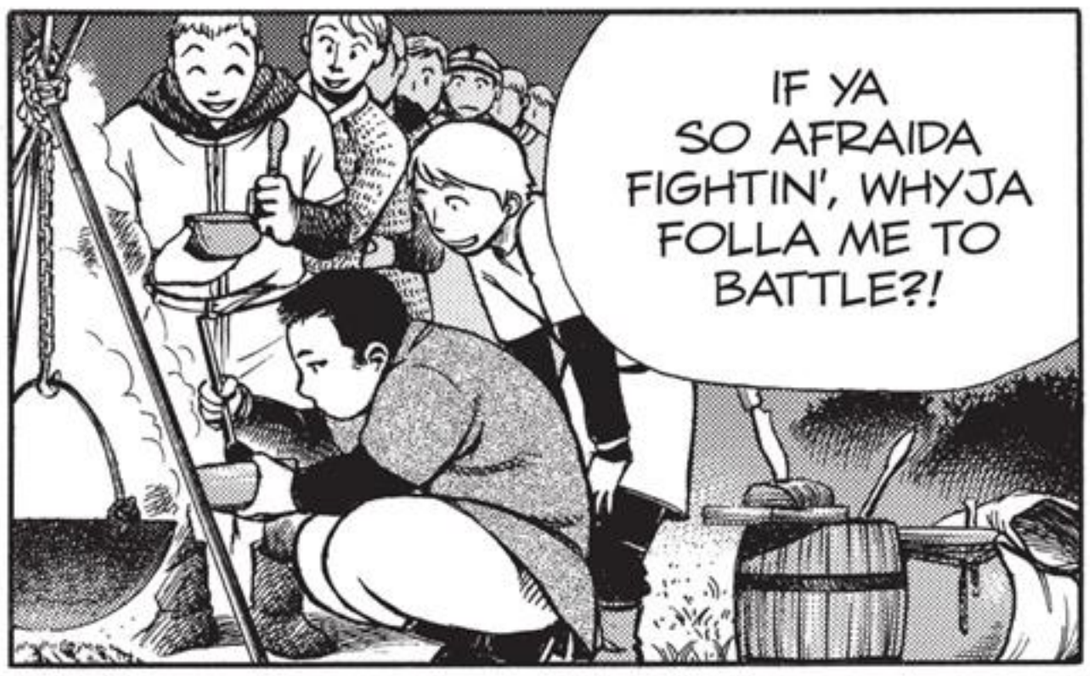
DAHH!!
I CAN'T TAKE ENNYMORE A'DIS!!

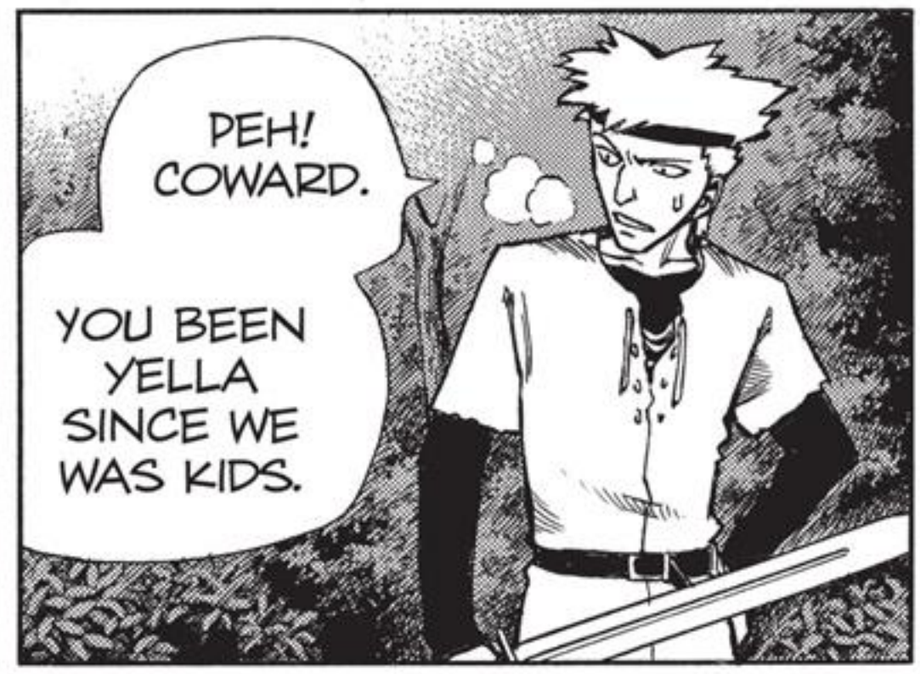
BSHH...


DSSHHH
HOW'S A MAN GUNNA MAKE A NAME FOR HISSELF AWAY FROM BATTLE?!
STANDIN' SHIP GUARD ALLA WAY DOWN HERE?! PAH!

OUR ARMY'S SCRATCHIN' TOOTH AN' NAIL CROSS THE FALLS, I HEAR.
LEAST WE'RE SAFE DOWN HERE.

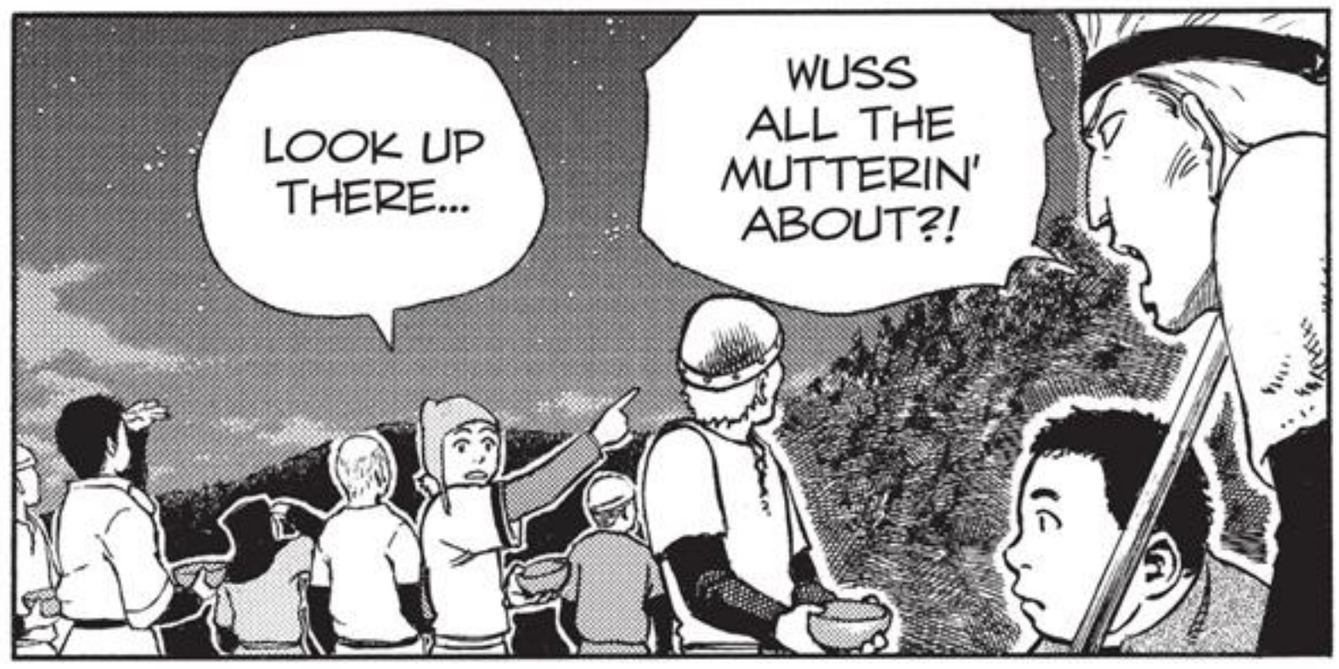
FERGEDDIT, YE'LL ONLY GET YERSELF KILT.
I LEFF HOME AN' TOLL EVERYONE I'D BE A KNIGHT!
PUT ME OUT ON THE FIELD AN' LEMME FIGHT, YA FAT PIG!!
CRUNK
CRAK SWASH
WHOOSH WHOOSH

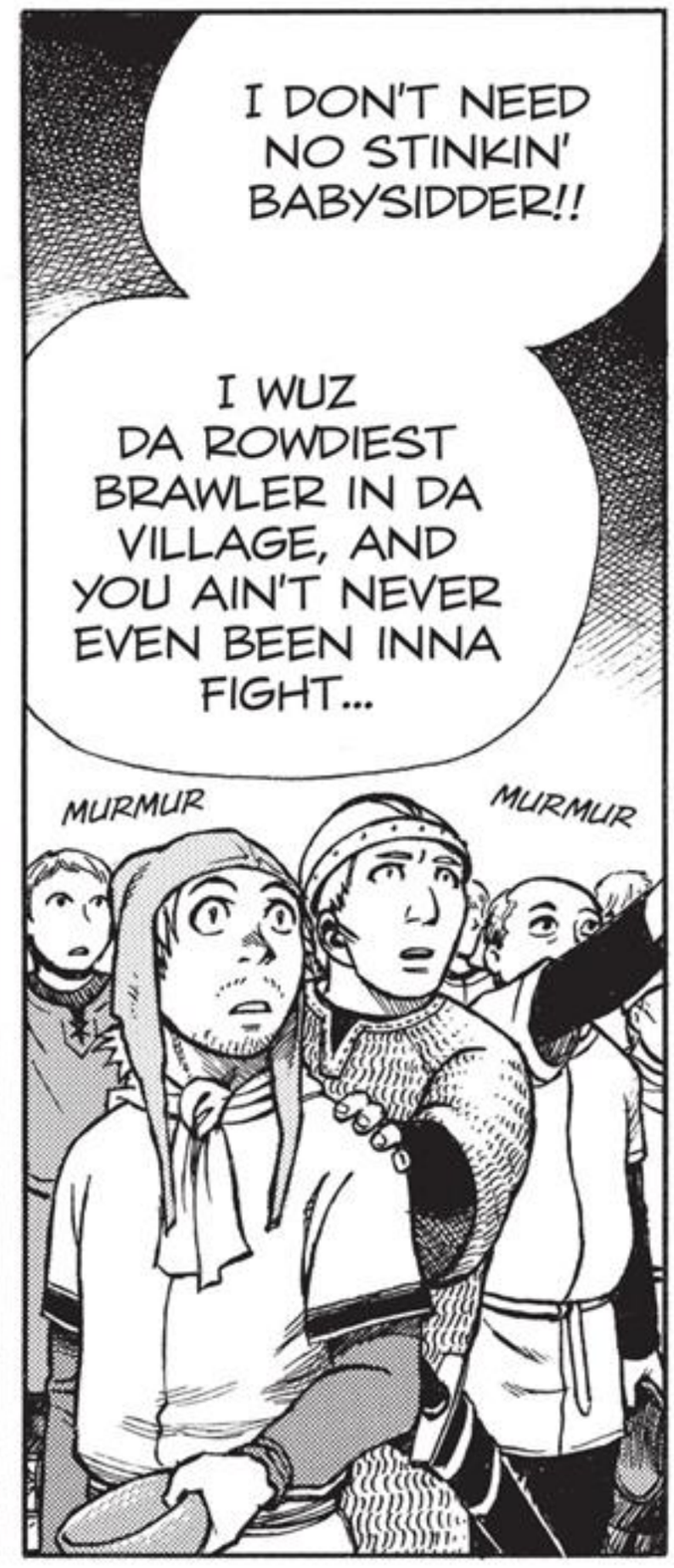

IF YA SO AFRAIDA FIGHTIN', WHYJA FOLLA ME TO BATTLE?!


PEH! COWARD.
YOU BEEN YELLA SINCE WE WAS KIDS.

PAT PAT
WHAAT?
WHAT'S DIS NOW, TUBBY?

CUZ I'M CON-CERNED FOR YA.
...


LOOK UP THERE...
WUSS ALL THE MUTTERIN' ABOUT?!

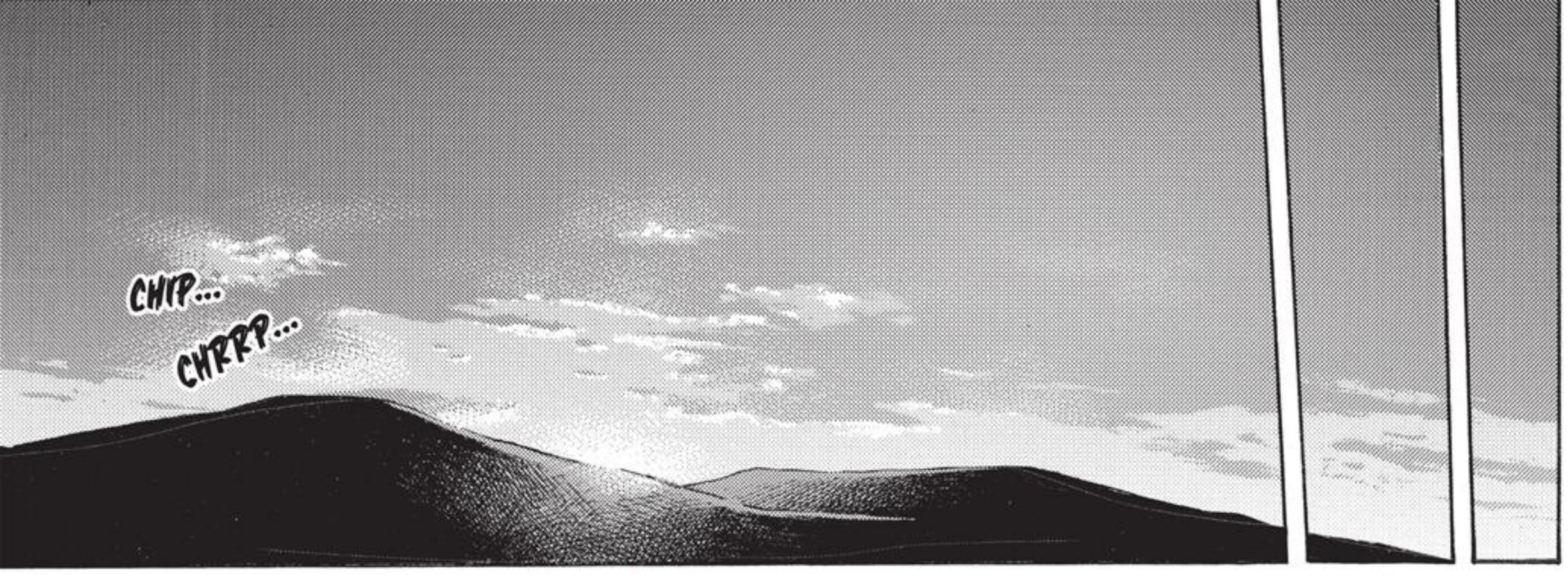

I DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' BABYSIDDER!!
I WUZ DA ROWDIEST BRAWLER IN DA VILLAGE, AND YOU AIN'T NEVER EVEN BEEN INNA FIGHT...
MURMUR
MURMUR

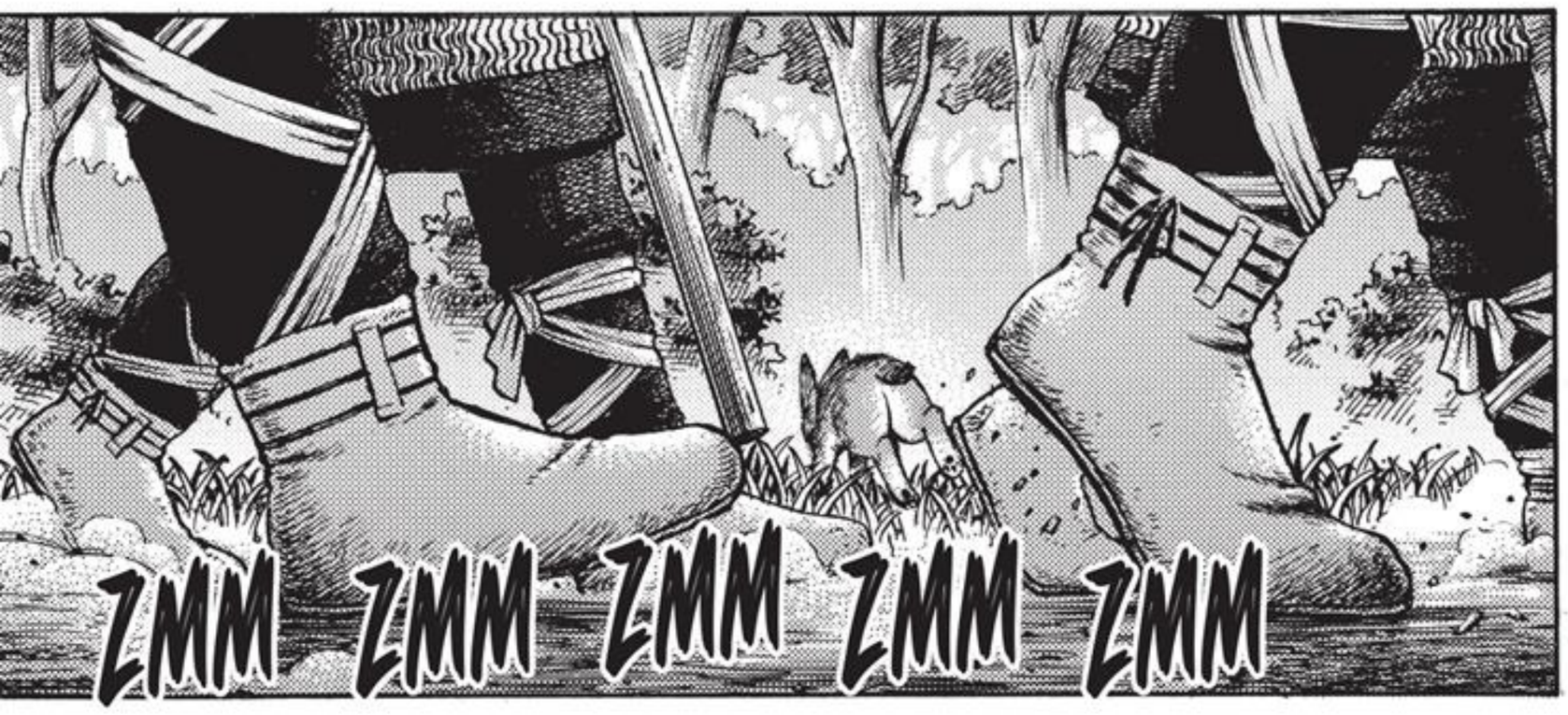
?

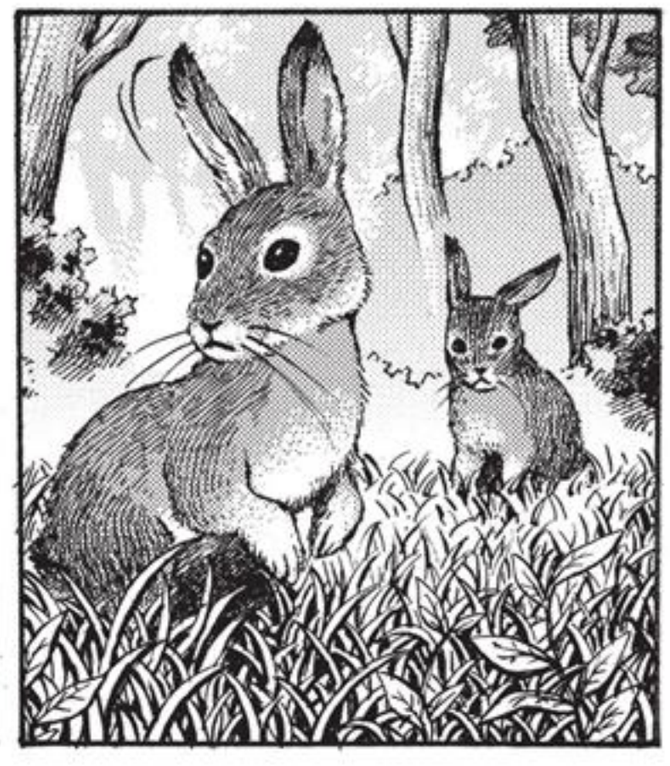
RIGHT NEAR THE PEAK.
SOMETHIN' POPPED UP FOR A SEC...

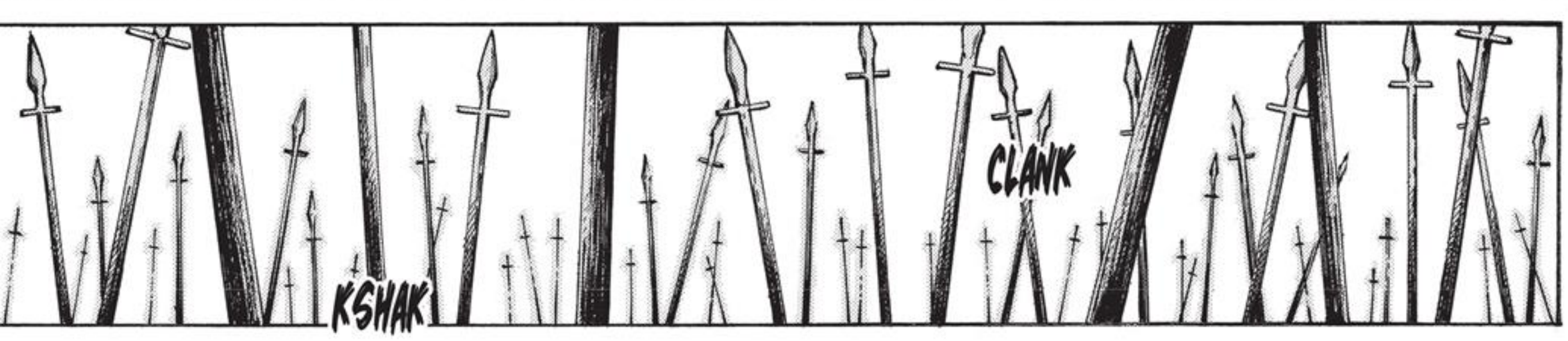
GRAH...
GRAH...

AAAHHH
A... A DRAGON ON THE MOUNTAIN-TOP!!
IT'S A DRAGON !!

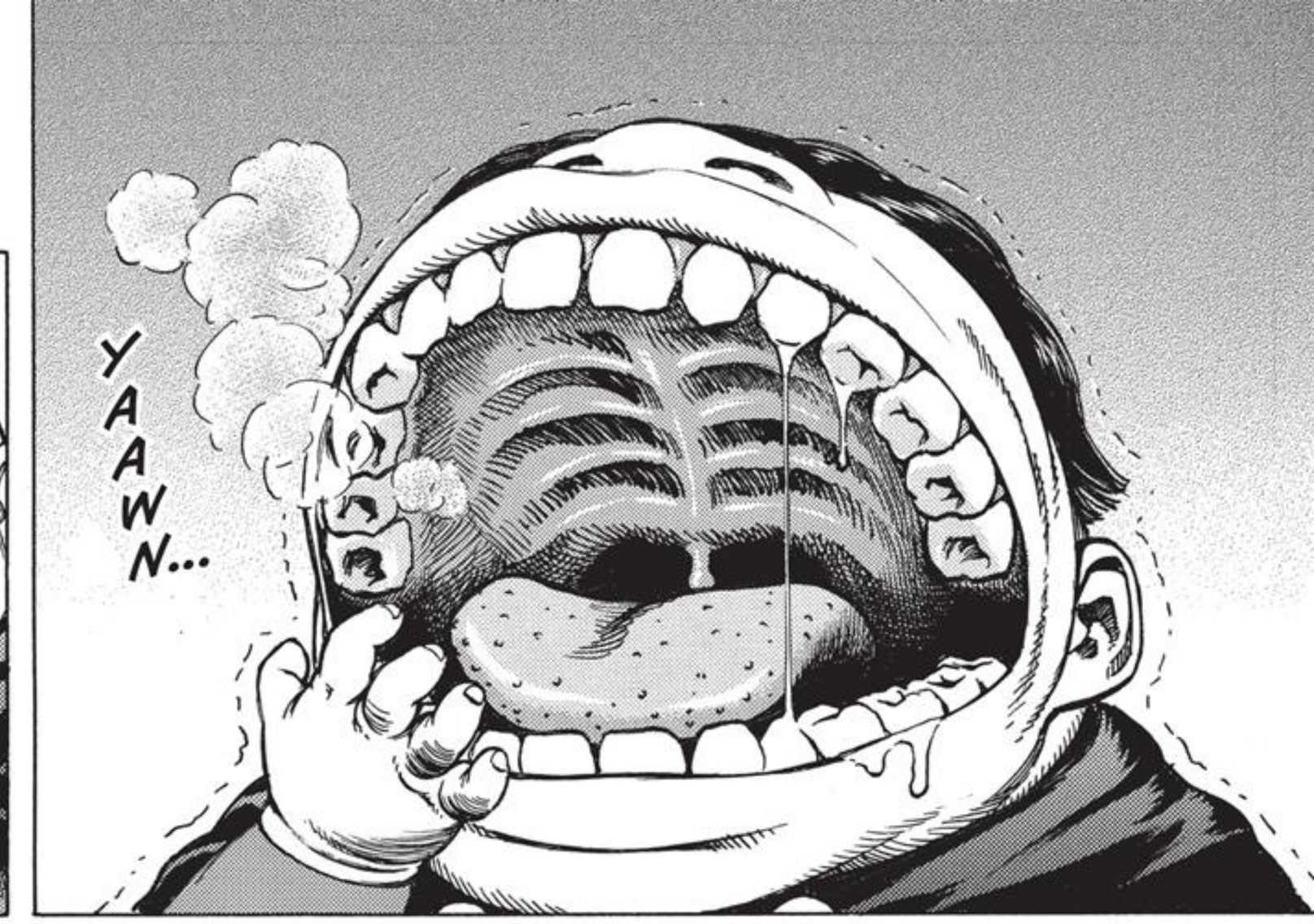

CHIP...
CHRRP...

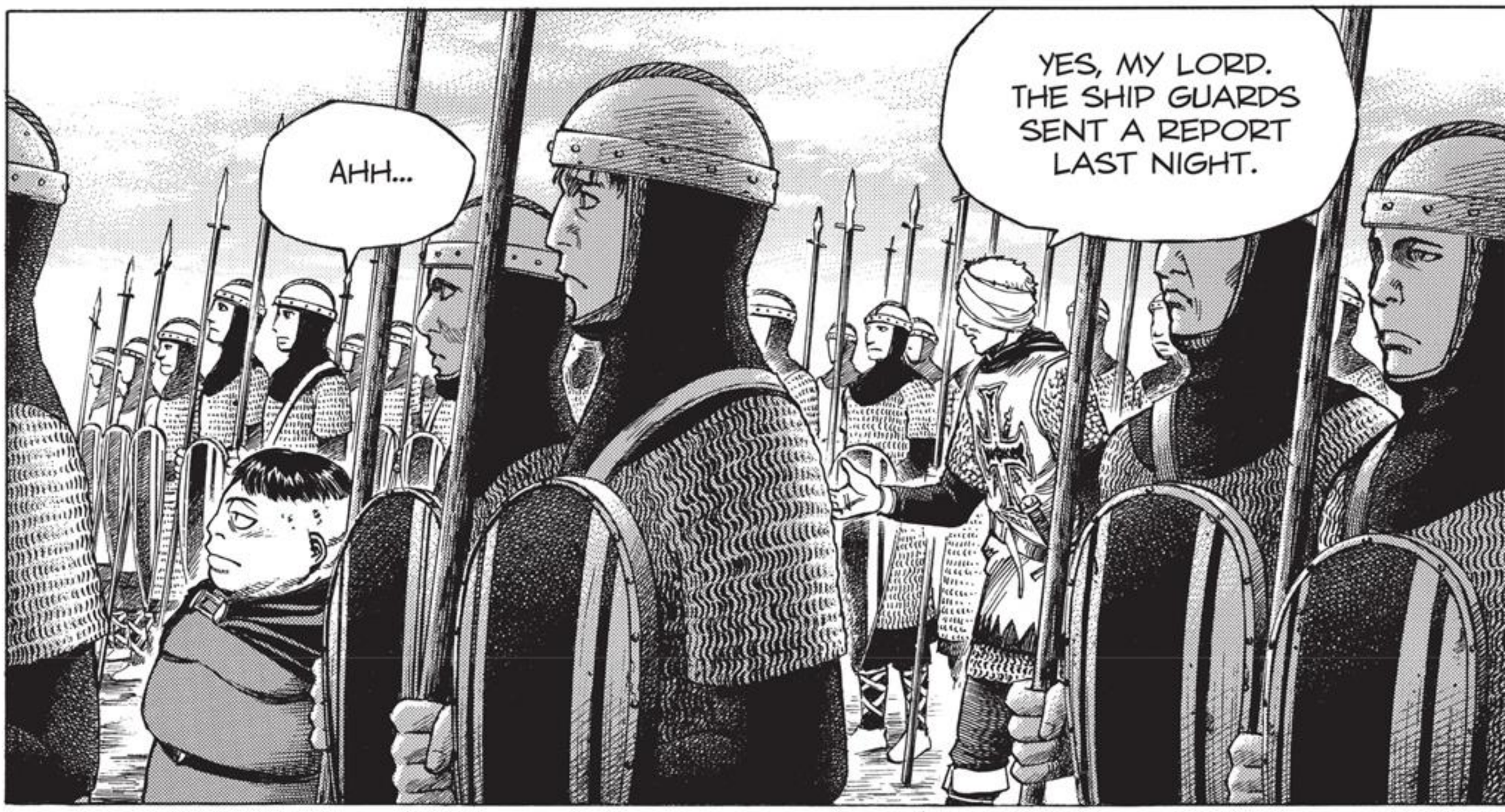

ZMM ZMM ZMM ZMM ZMM




KSHAK
CLANK

AHMM.
A DRAGON CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN?

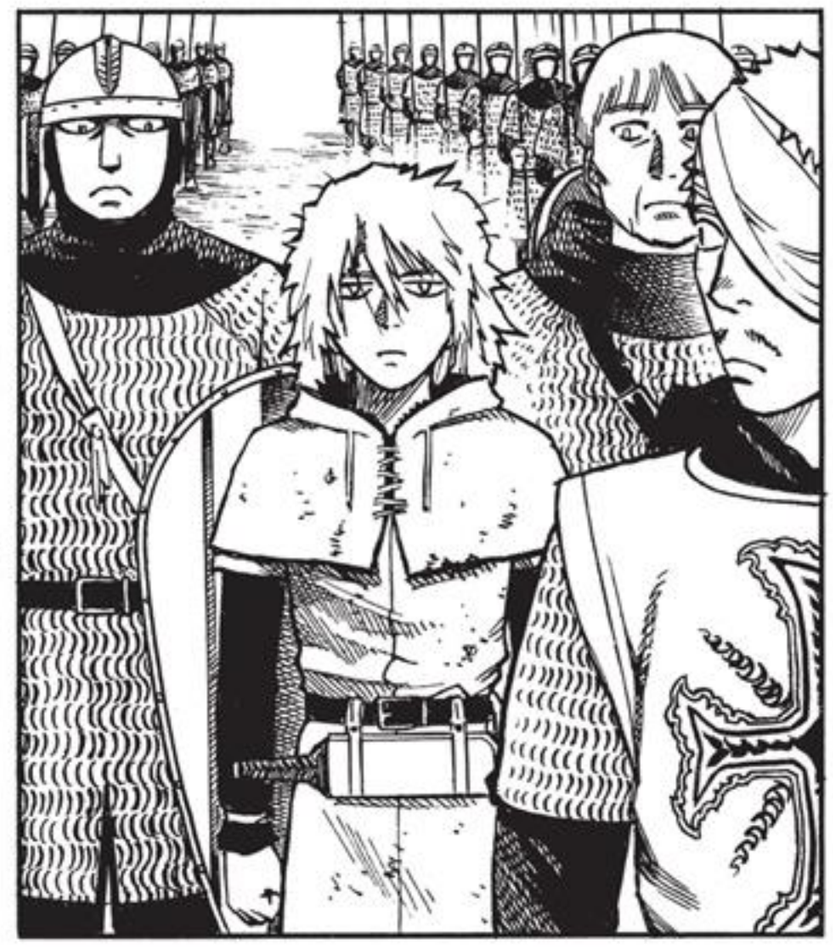

YAAWN...

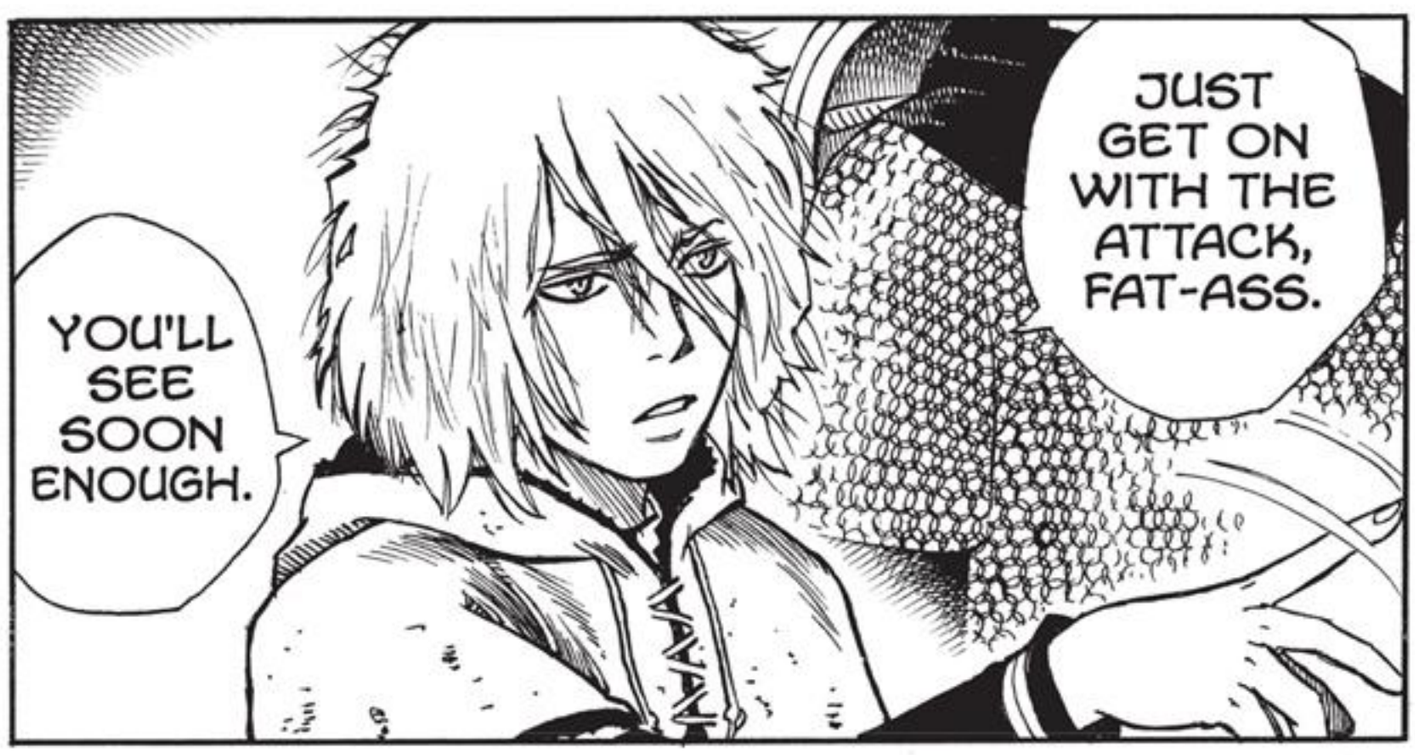

AHH...
YES, MY LORD. THE SHIP GUARDS SENT A REPORT LAST NIGHT.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT...
BOY!!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE A DRAGON!
HA HA HA!
IT IS AN ILL OMEN, MY LIEGE.

YOUR FRIENDS ARE NO-SHOWS.
THE SUN IS OUT AND RISING.



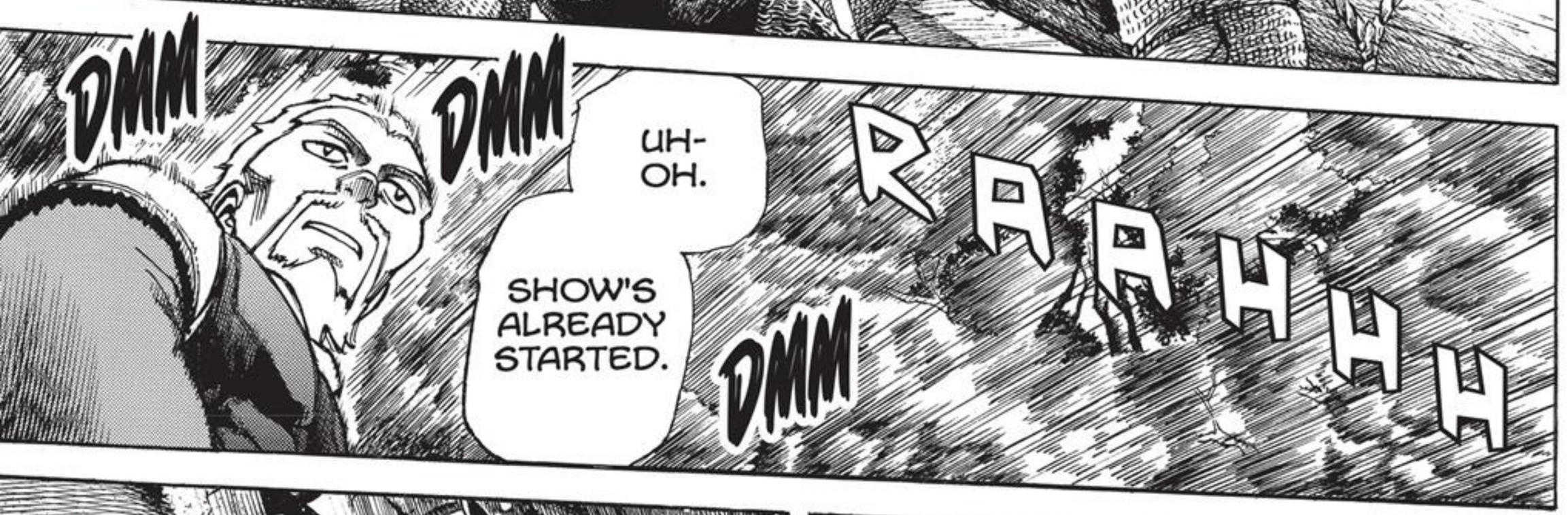

JUST GET ON WITH THE ATTACK, FAT-ASS.
YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.

IT SEEMS YOUR HEAD WILL BE THE CENTER-PIECE OF OUR VICTORY FEAST TONIGHT, BOY!!
PREPARE TO ATTACK!!

YOU JUST INSULTED ME, DIDN'T YOU?
I'VE AN EAR FOR THESE THINGS.
CHEEKY WHELP...

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
RAHH
TRY IT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE!!
HH
POKE 'EM FULL OF HOLES!!

BYUM
FWUM
BAM
FWUM
BYUM
BABAM
RAAAHHH
BAM
BAMM



AYE!!

YEOW!!

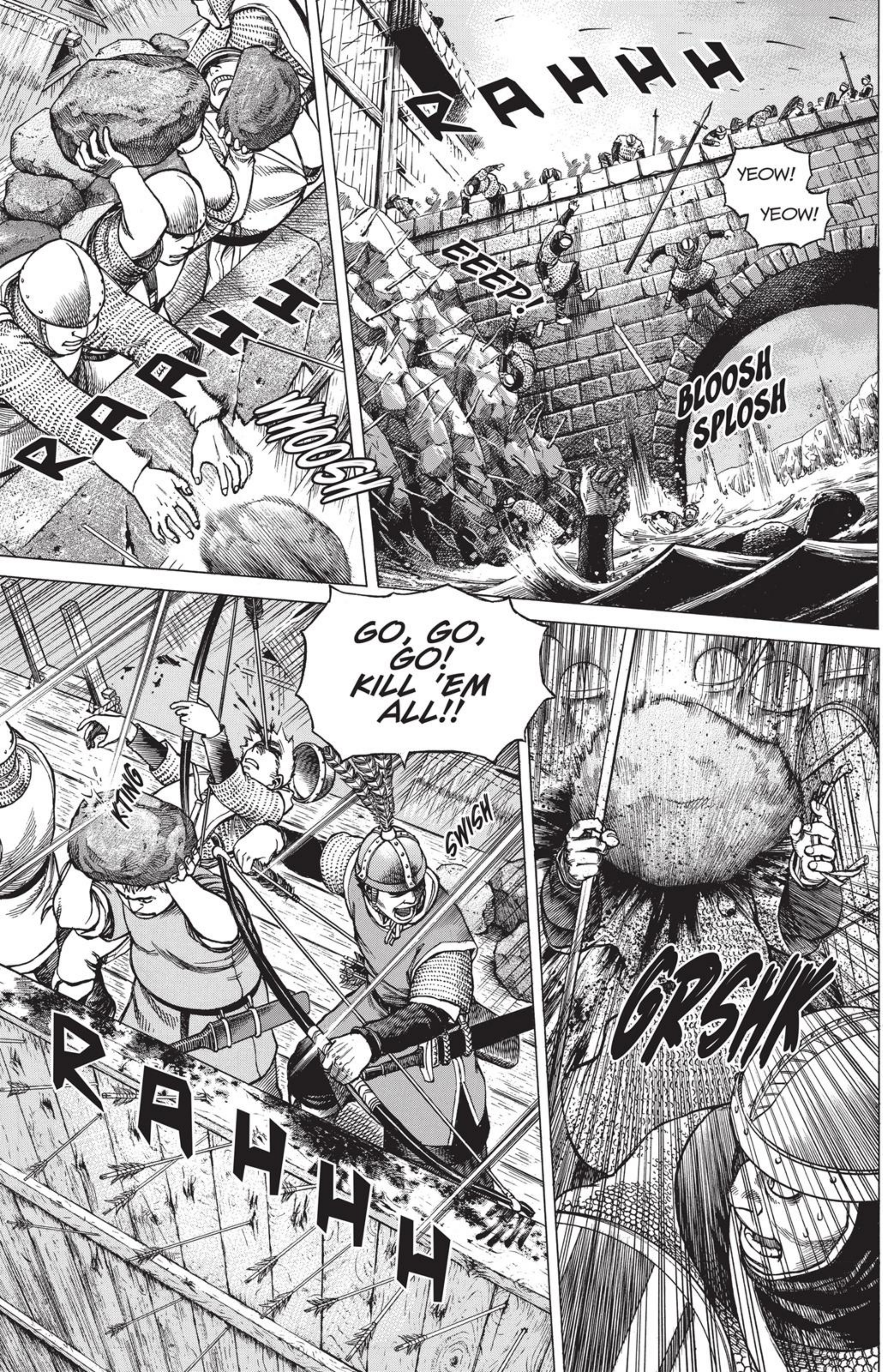
IT'S BOILING!!

PSHH

EEEK

AAGH

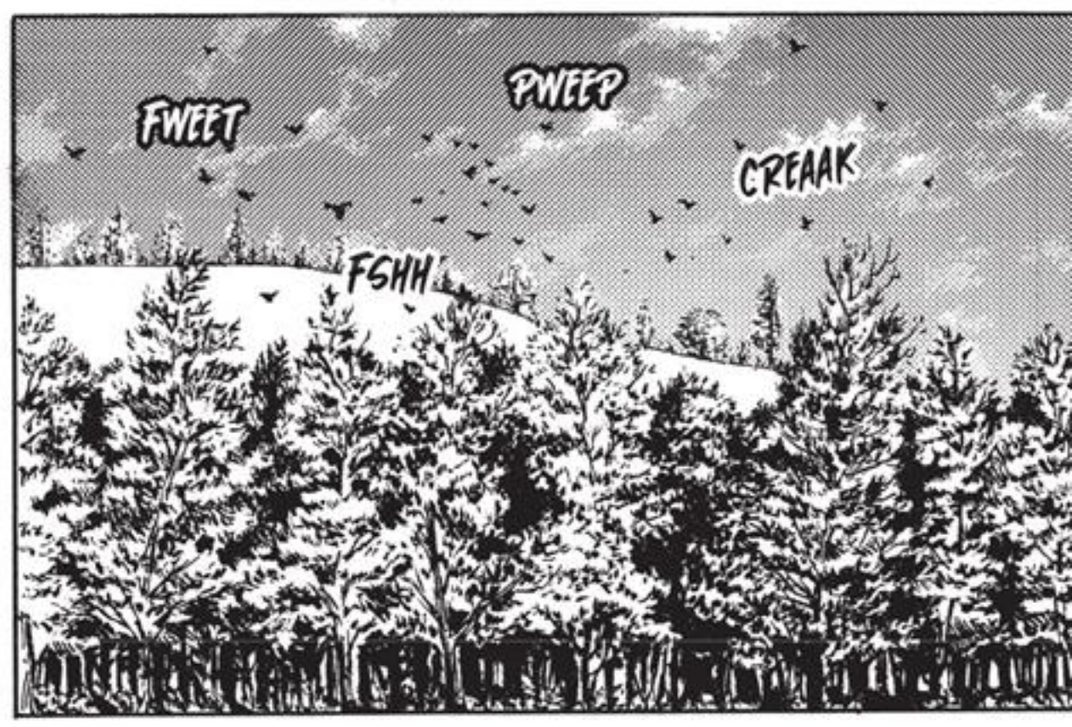
SPLASHH

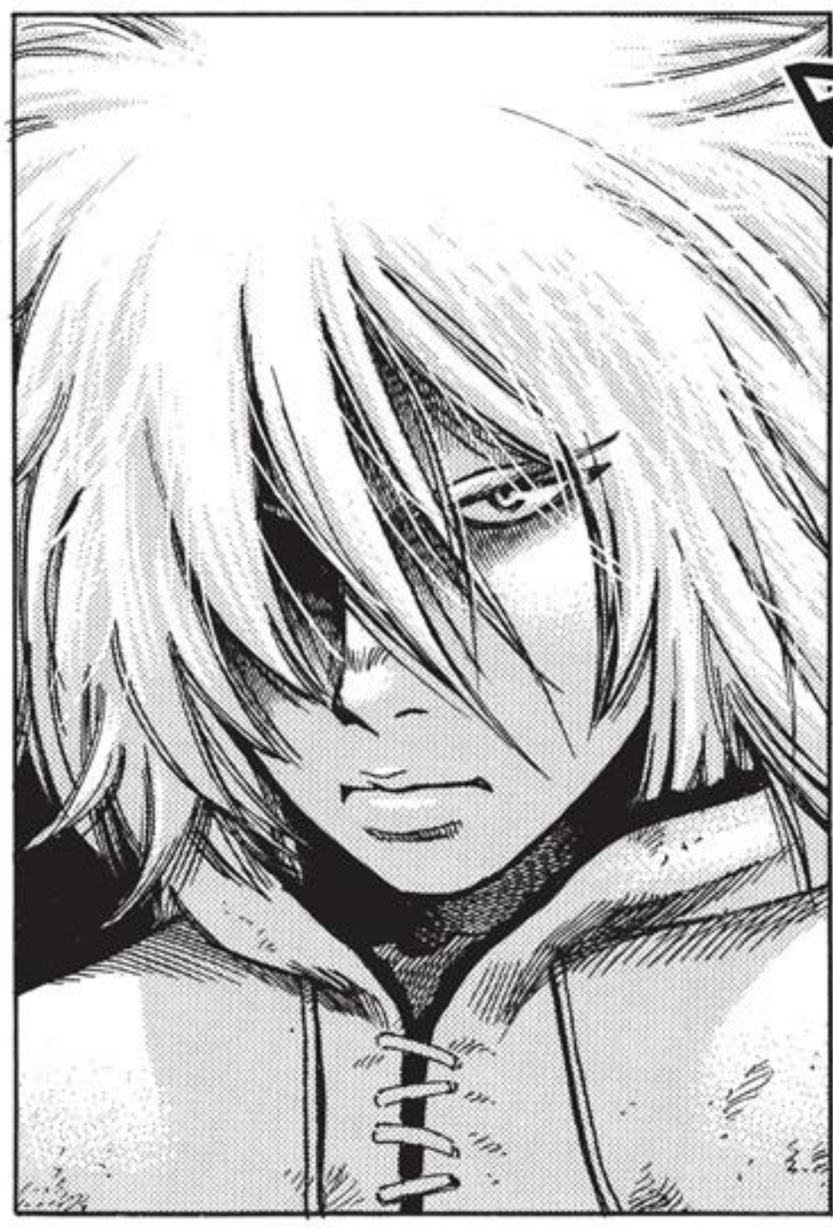

RAHHH
YEOW!
YEOW!
EEEP!
BLOOSH SPLOSH
HHH
HOOSH
GO, GO, GO! KILL 'EM ALL!!
KTING
SWISH
GRSHK
RAHHH

RAHHHH

SILENCE THOSE ARROWS!

I WANT LADDERS ON THE WEST FACE, CASUALTIES BE DAMNED!



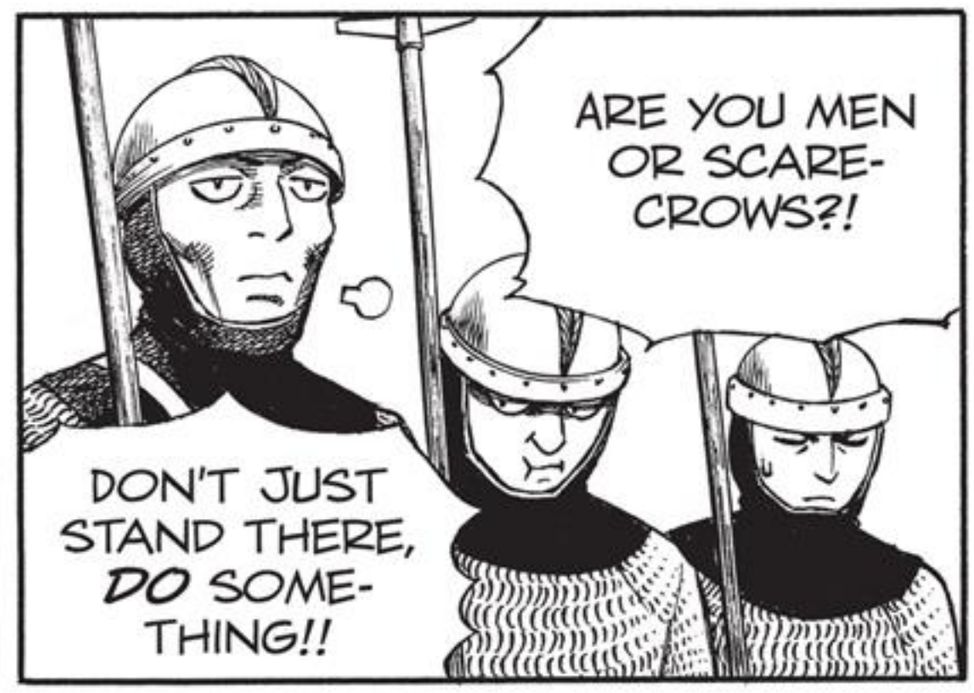
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
AHH?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BOY?!
DASH
KILL THE BRAT BEFORE HE ESCAPES!!
I KNEW HE WAS LYING!

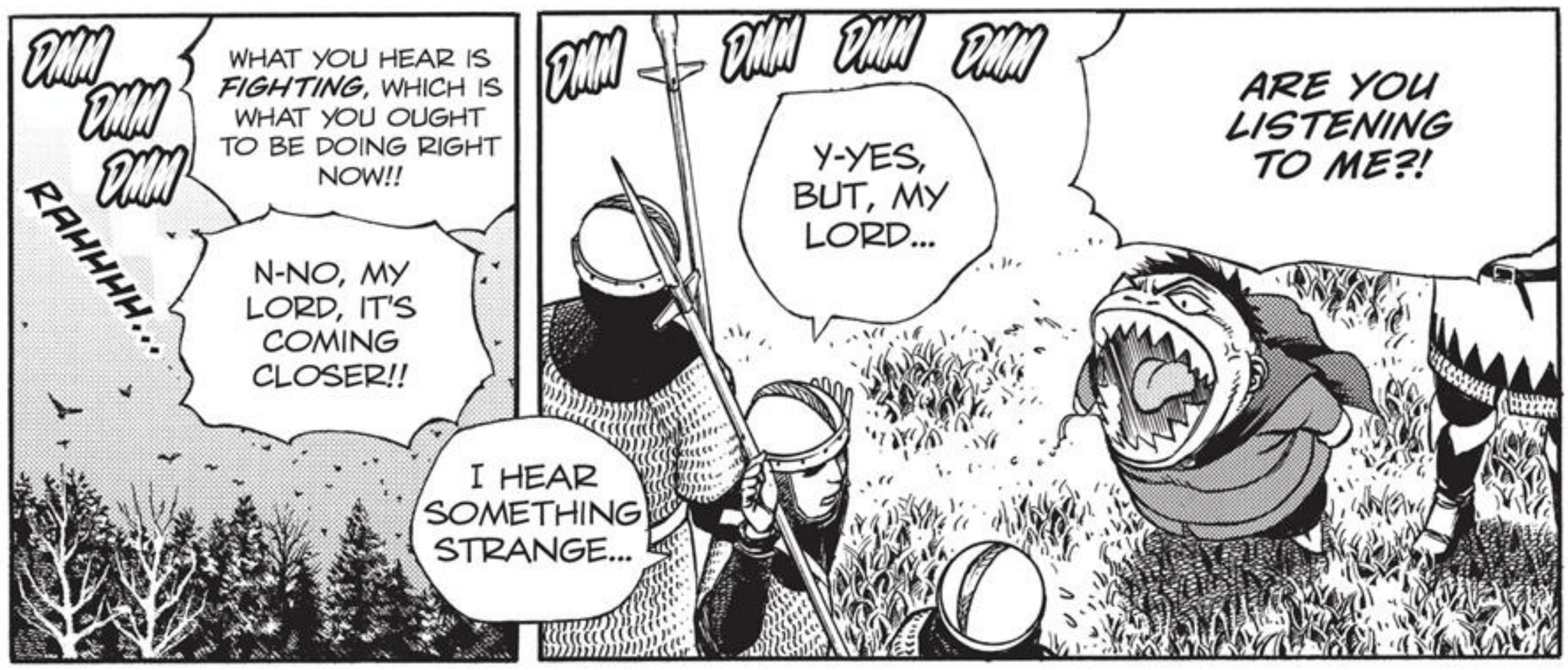
RAHHH
WHAT IN-CREDIBLE SPEED!
DAMN YOU!!
HE'S ALREADY LOST IN THE BATTLE...
BMM
MM!
DSH
DSH
KANG
DMFF
DUKK
DSH
DSH
THUK
ZWIP
ZWIP
ZWIP
RAHHH
THEY HAVE NO STRATEGY, COMMANDER.
IT SEEMS WE'VE OVER-ESTIMATED OUR FOE.
RAHH
HMPH. SUCH SIMPLE-MIND-EDNESS.
THEY REPEAT THE SAME POINTLESS STRATEGY, LOSING MORE MEN EVERY TIME.
EEEK
GYAAA
AAAHH
...

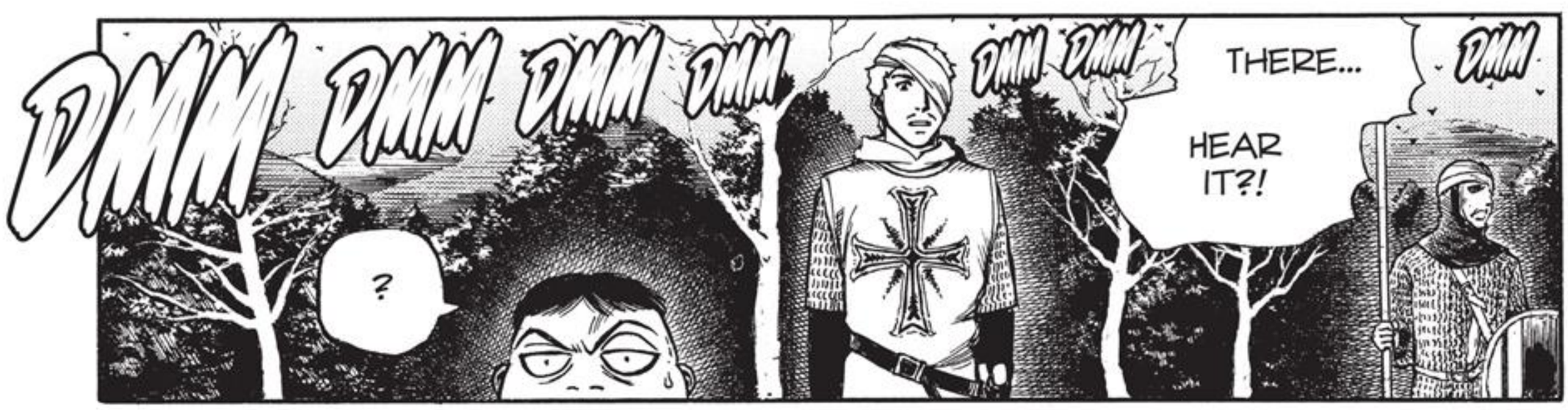
AAAA—RGH

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS STUPID ARMY?!

THE BOY RUNS OFF, THE FORTRESS STILL STANDS, AND THERE ARE NO ALLIES!!



DSHH

DSH
DSH
AIEEEE!!
DSH
DSH
DSH
EEP!

ドスドスドス

DSHHHH
RAAAHHH

RAAAHHH

SHIPS!!

THEY'VE GOT SHIPS!!

SHIPS COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS!!

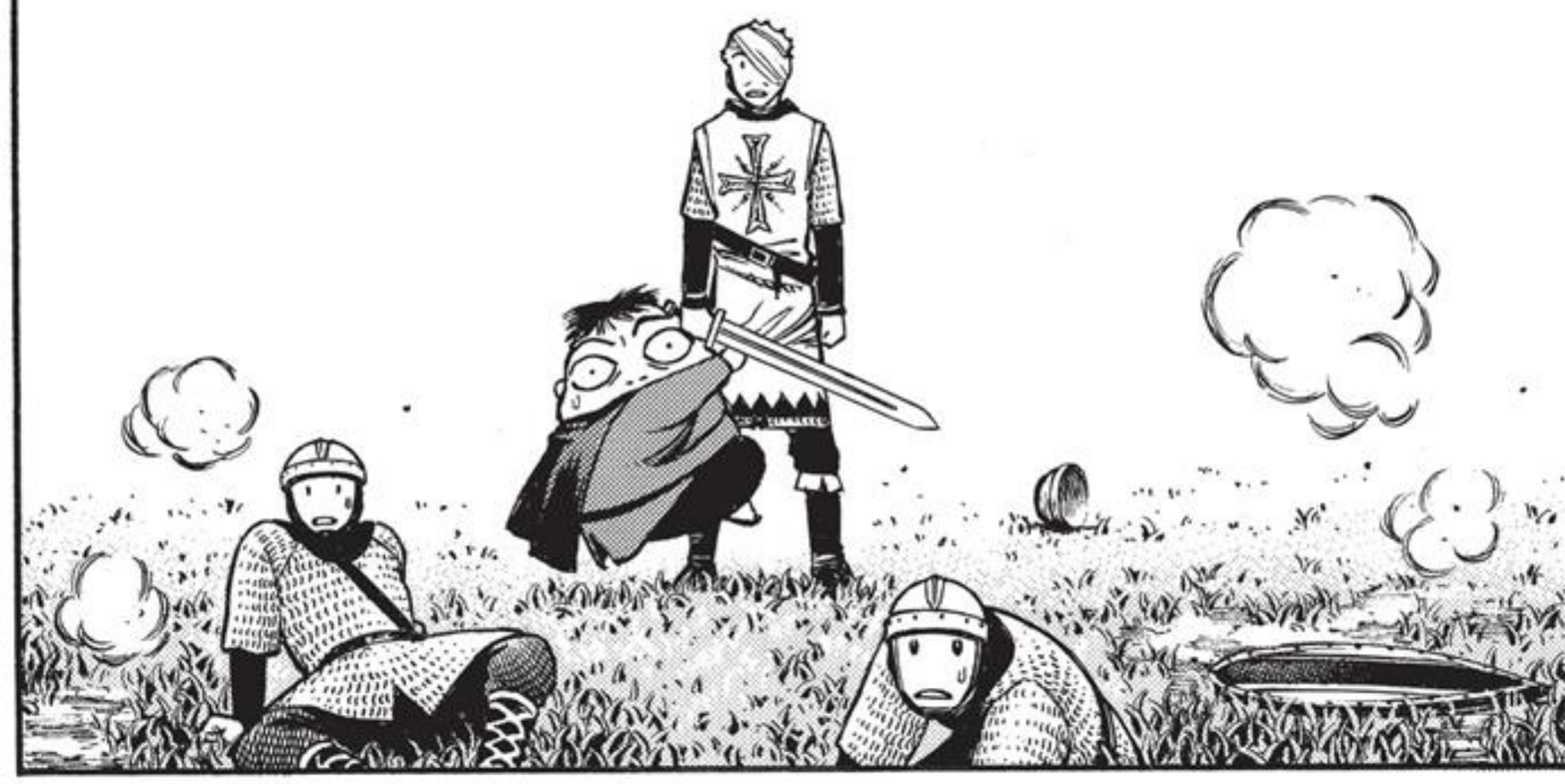
...

CLEVER BASTARDS...

CARRYING THEIR OWN SHIPS OVER THE MOUNTAIN...

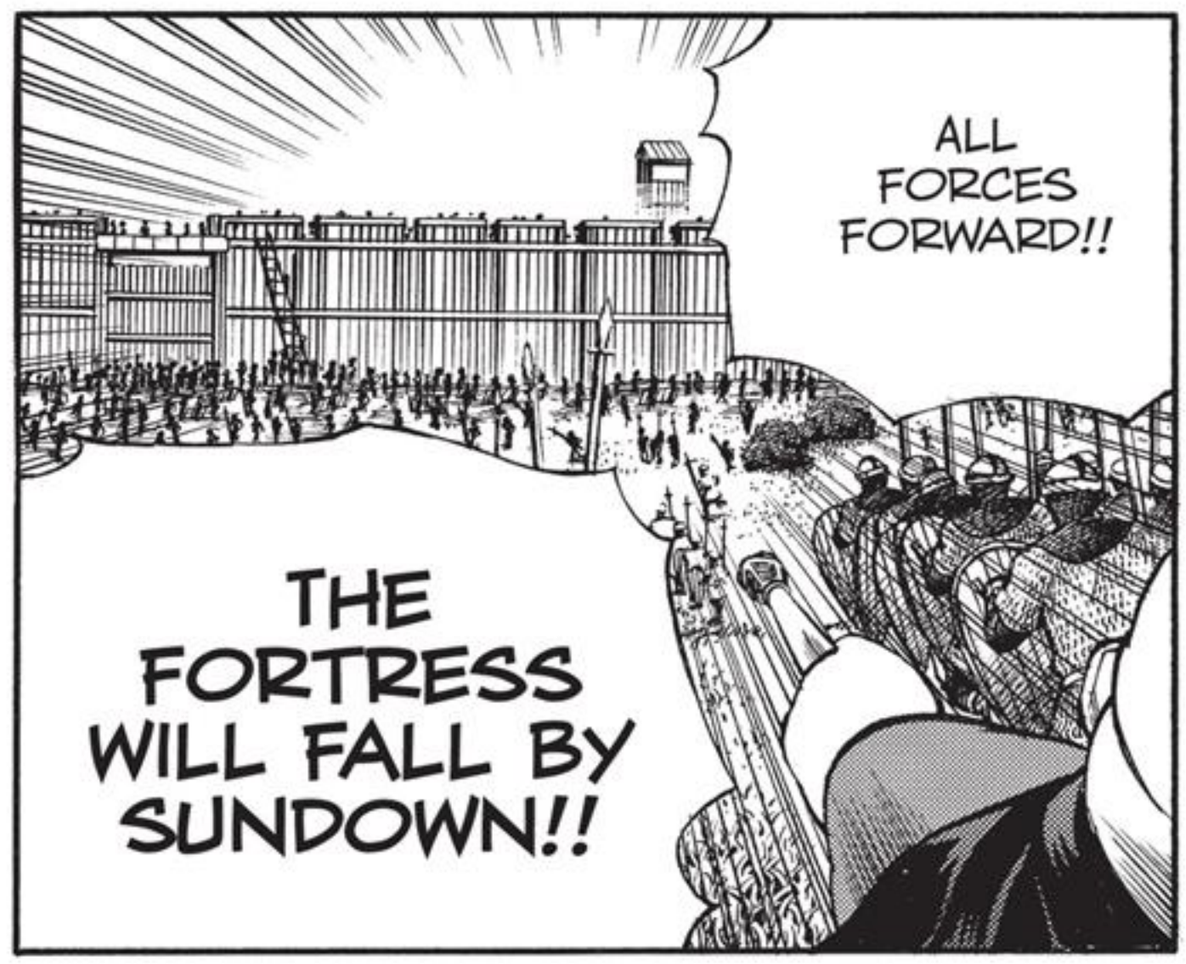
DMM DMM DMM DMM

CLONK
AHA!!



CALM THE SOLDIERS!!
IT'S THEM! THEY'RE THE ALLIES!!

Y-YES... THAT'S IT!!
DMM DMM DMM


ALL FORCES FORWARD!!
THE FORTRESS WILL FALL BY SUNDOWN!!

RAHHH
YES! YES! VERY GOOD!!
THE TIDE IS TURNING!!

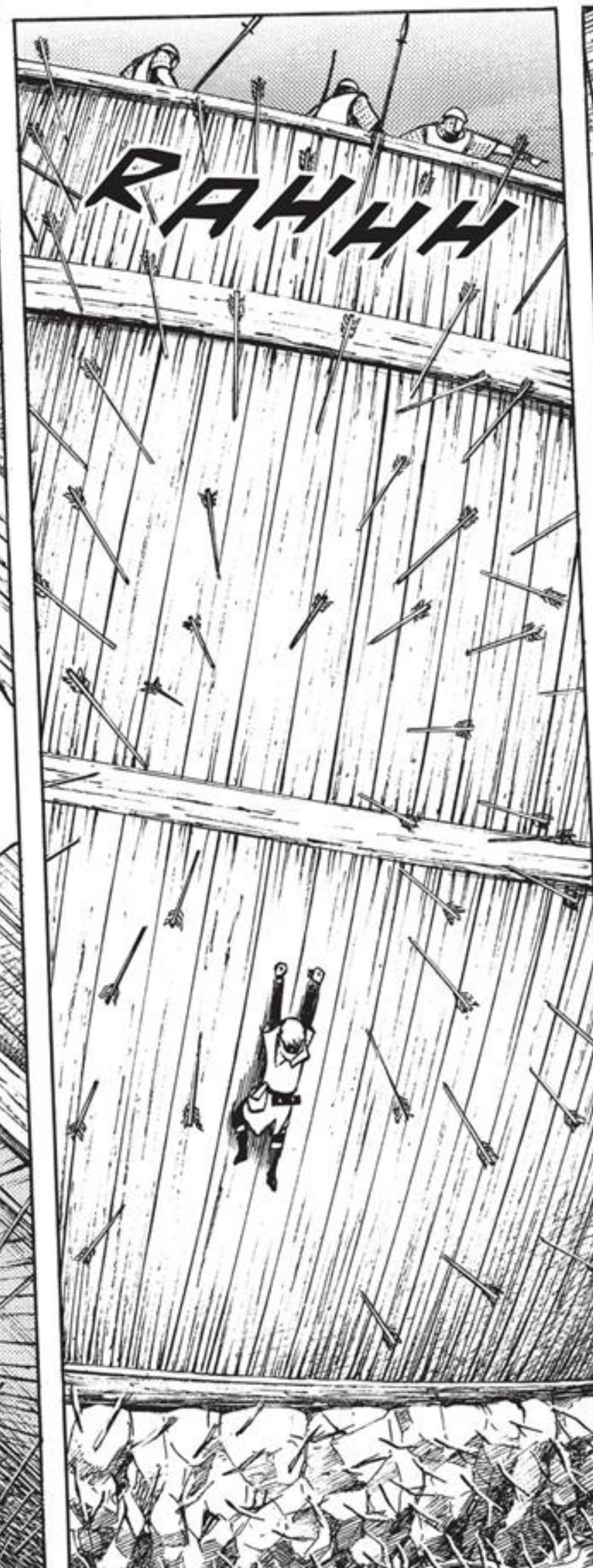
DWOSH
ZSHH
PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT! PULL!!
BOMM

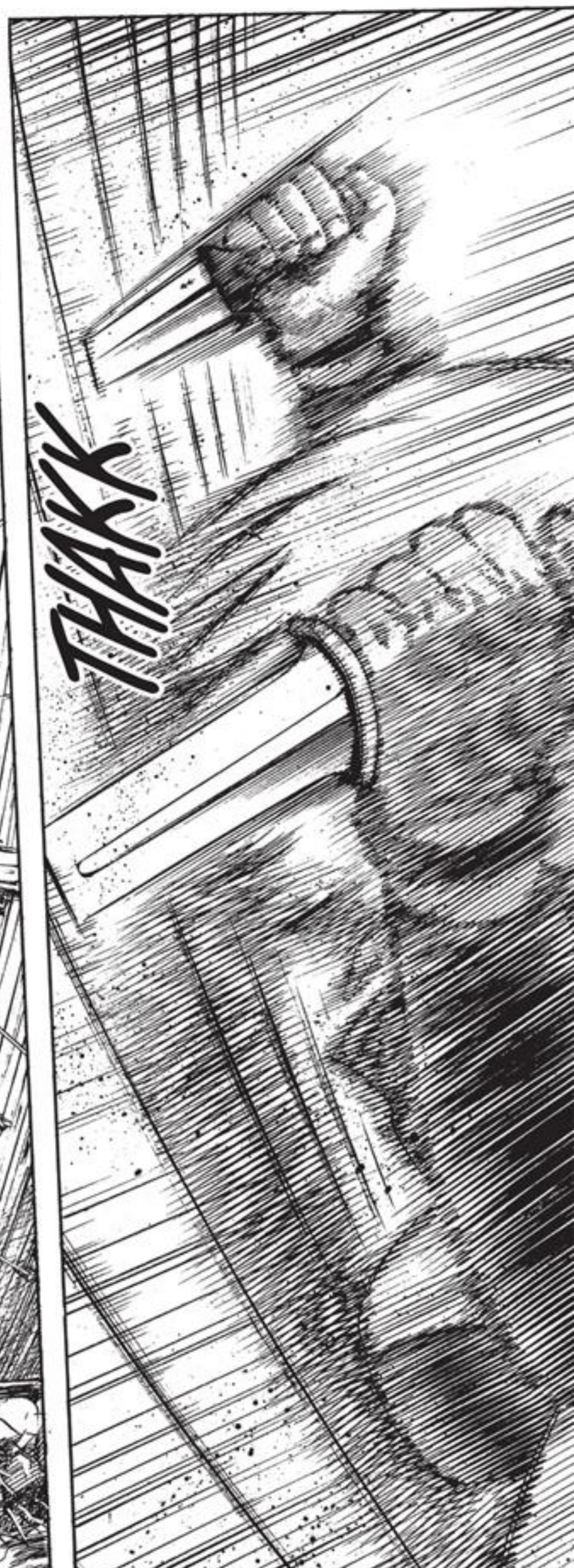
AYE!
DMM
ZSHAA
ZZZSHHH
THE FIRST SHIP TO REACH THE SHORE GETS A DOUBLE SHARE!!

ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
LEAP

SH

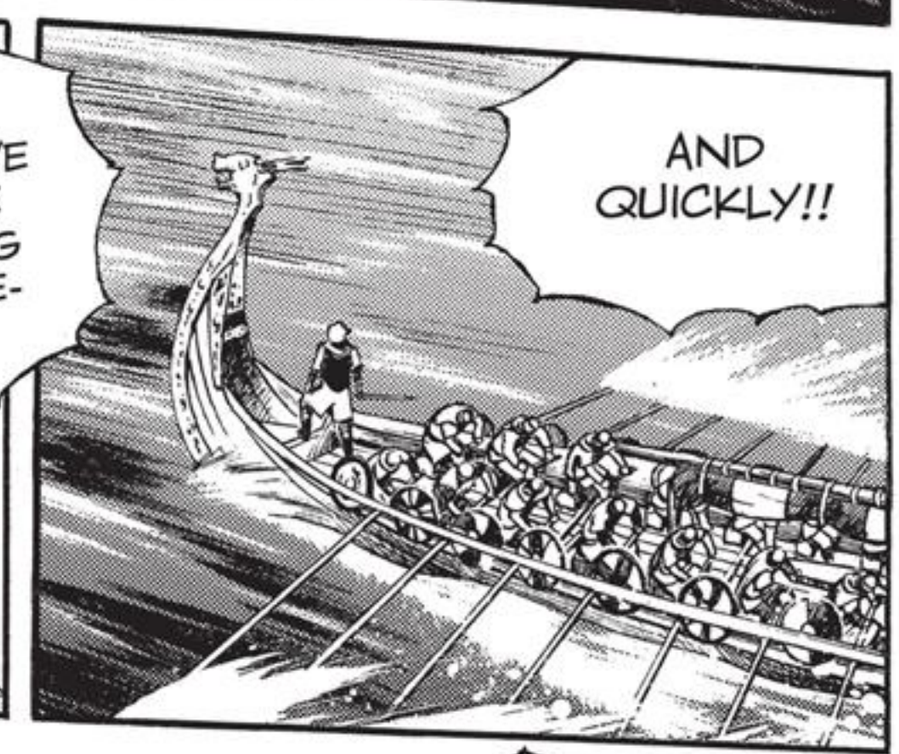
KAA



LONG-SHIPS!!

THEY'RE GOING TO SWING AROUND THE BACK!!



YES! WE GOT BEHIND 'EM!

PULL UP TO THE LAND-ING!

NOT A SINGLE LINE OF DEFENSE, JUST A GENTLE SLOPE TO GREET US.

KTANGG

THUD

AAAGH

!

TSK.

THUKK

KRSHK

CROSS-BOWS.

HYUM

A FAIR NUMBER, TOO.

HYUM

I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE CASUAL-TIES.

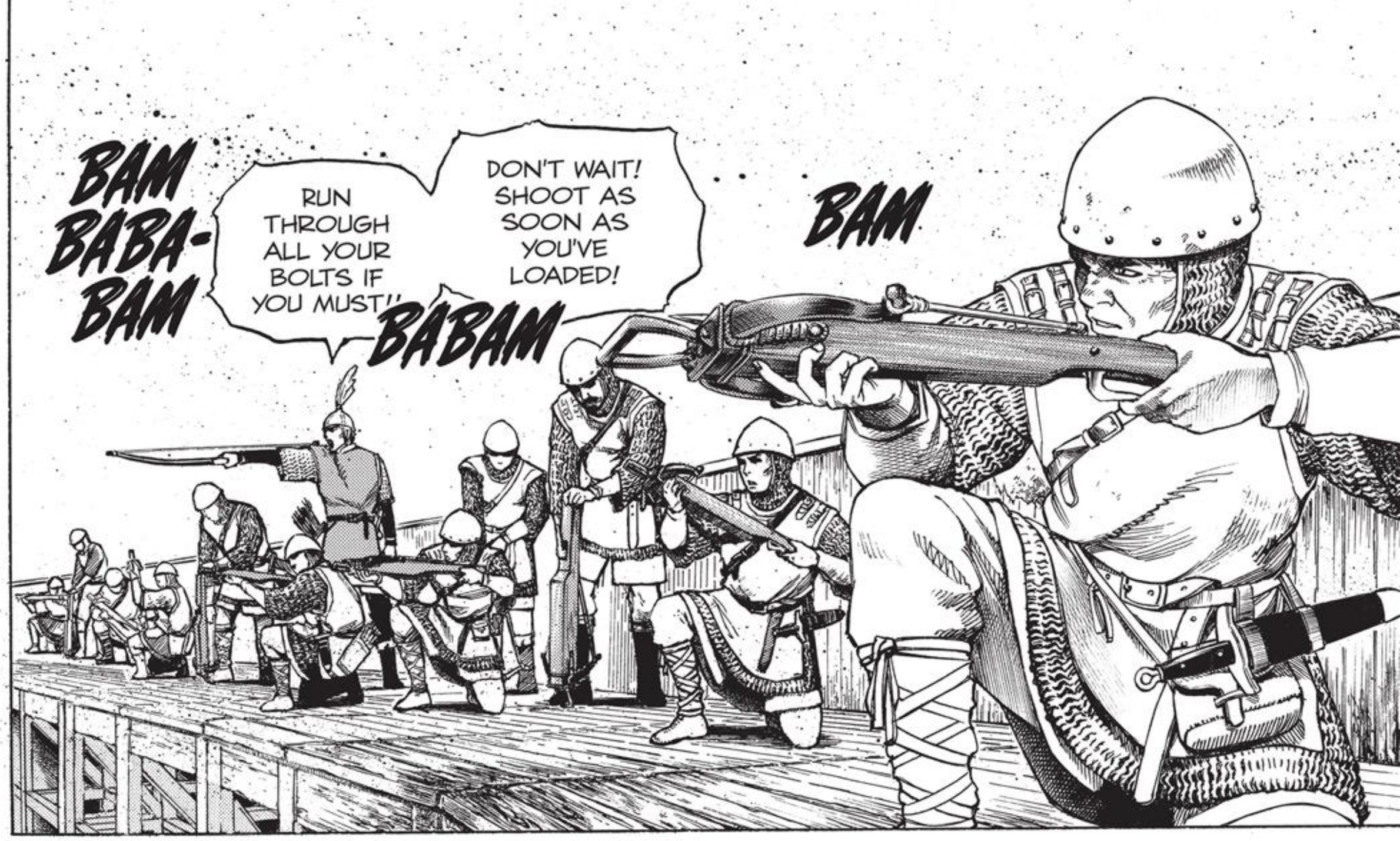
BYUM

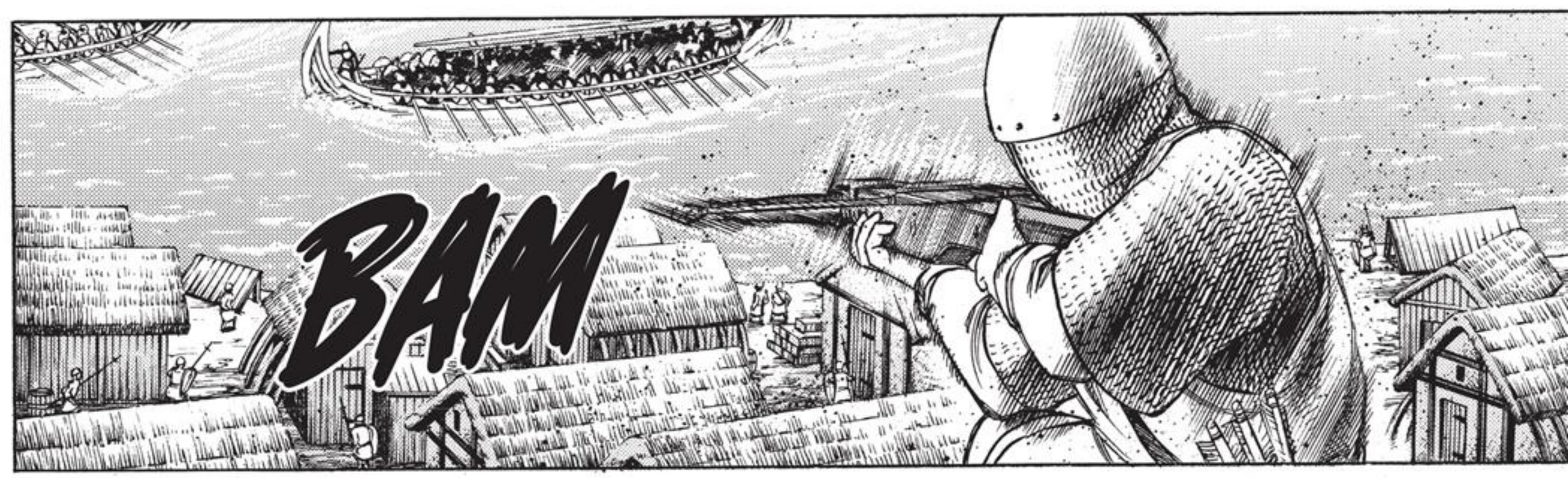
ASKE-LADD!!

WHAT WAS THAT?! THEY SPLIT MY SHIELD FROM *THAT* DISTANCE ?!

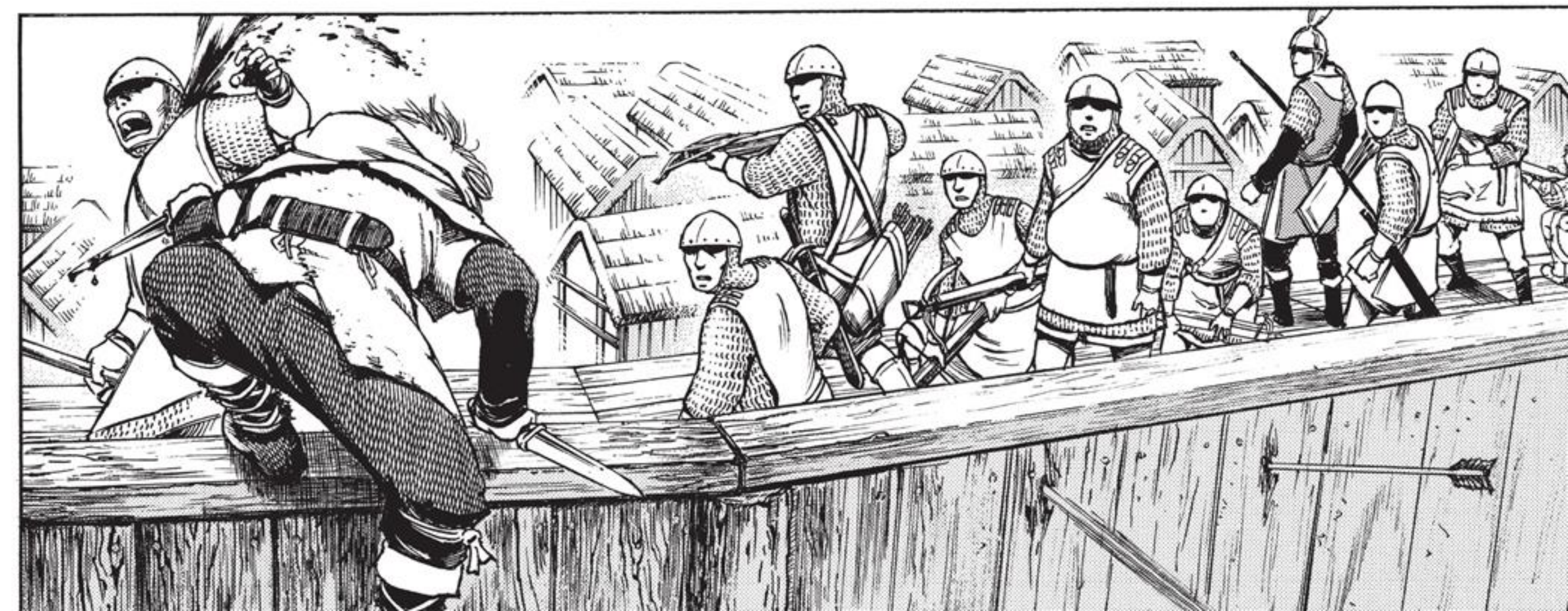
OLOV'S DOWN!!

BYUM


BAM BABA-BAM
RUN THROUGH ALL YOUR BOLTS IF YOU MUST!!
DON'T WAIT! SHOOT AS SOON AS YOU'VE LOADED!
BABAM
BAM


BAM

AAGH YAHH
TAKE OUT AS MANY AS YOU CAN BEFORE THEY DISEMBARK!!
THEY'RE SITTING DUCKS IN THE WATER!!



DIE!!
SHHK
A BOY...?

SWISH

WHOOM

SHP

?!

LITTLE DEVIL!!

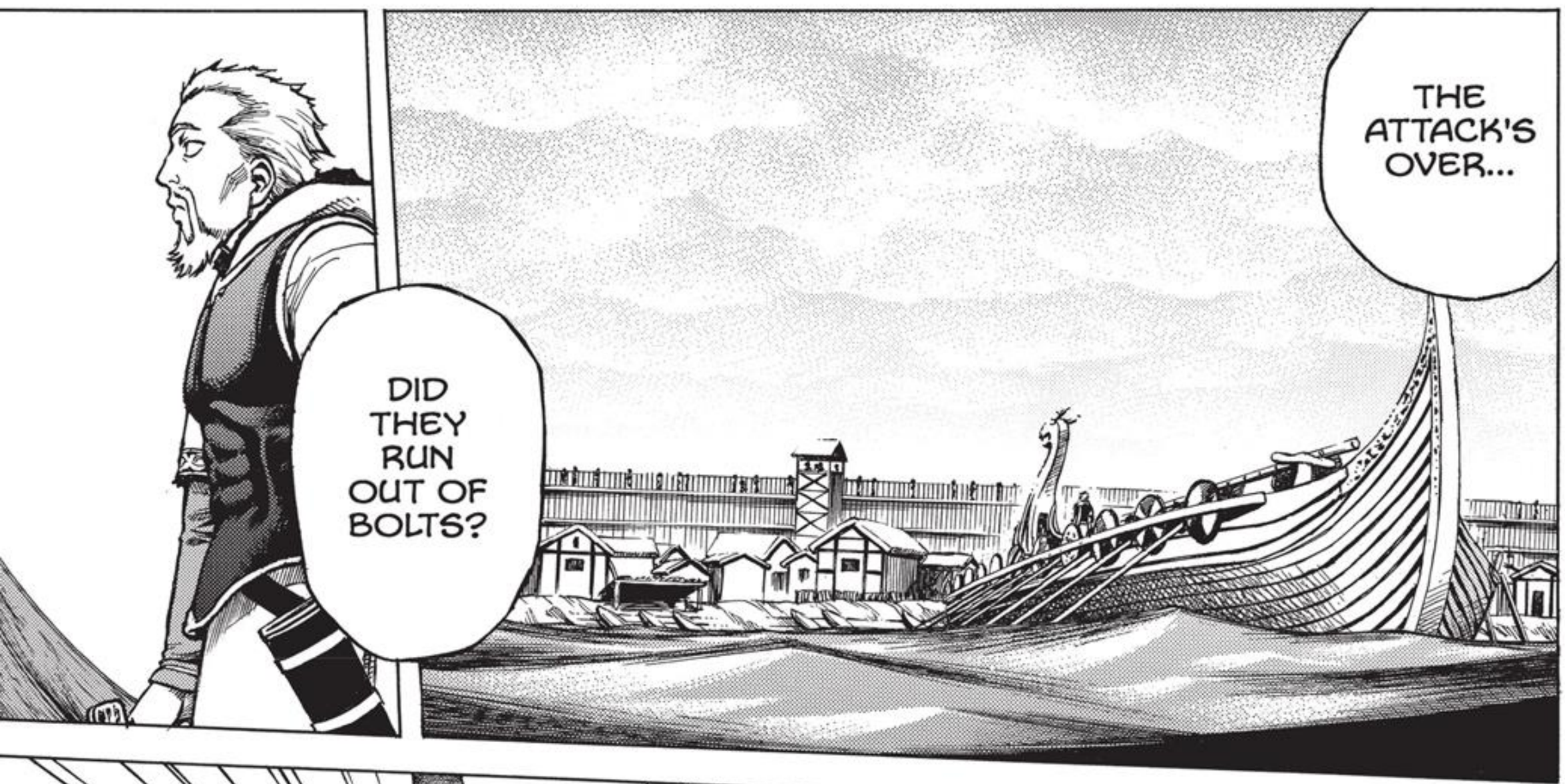
AA

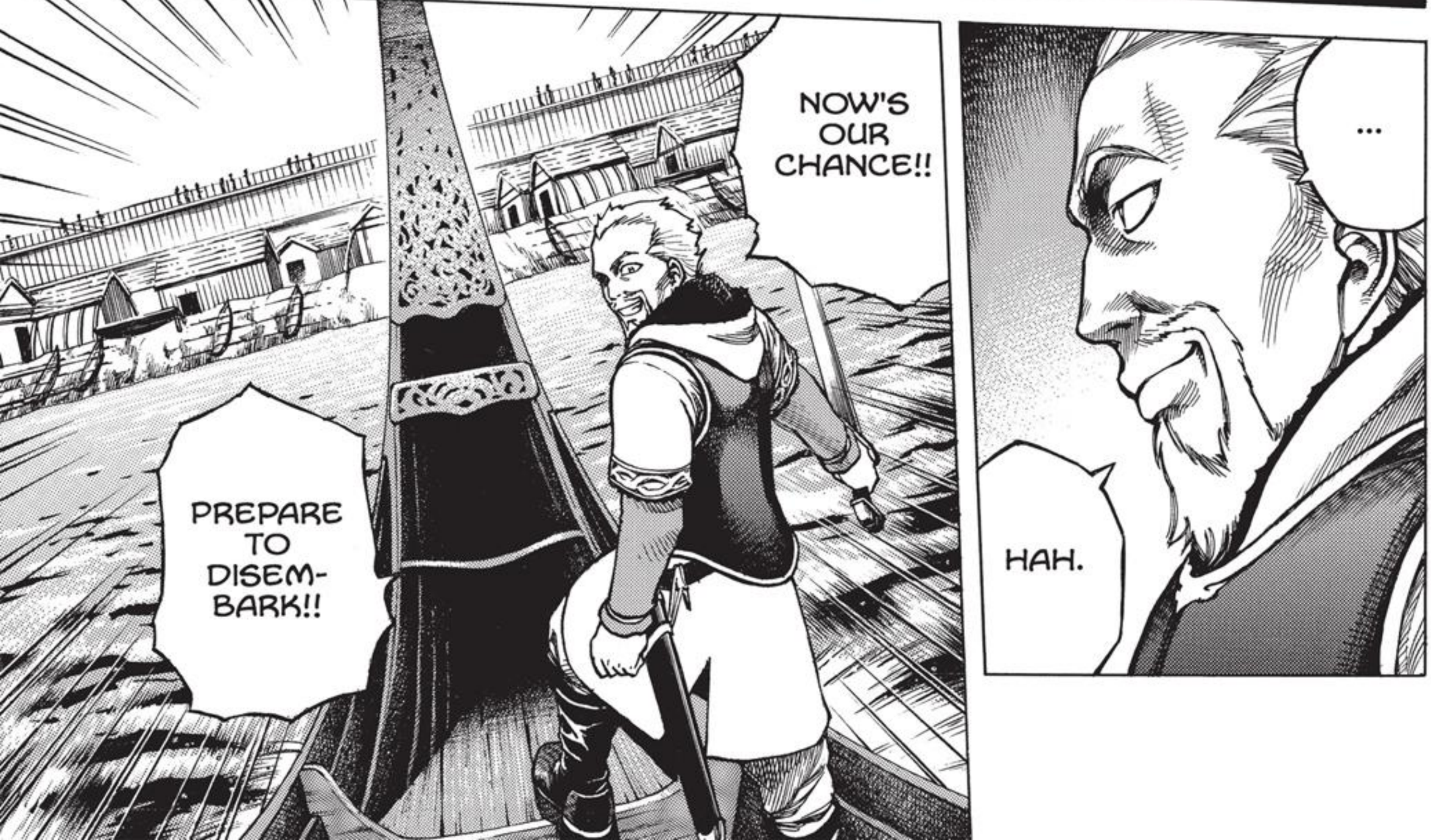
GH

SNATCH

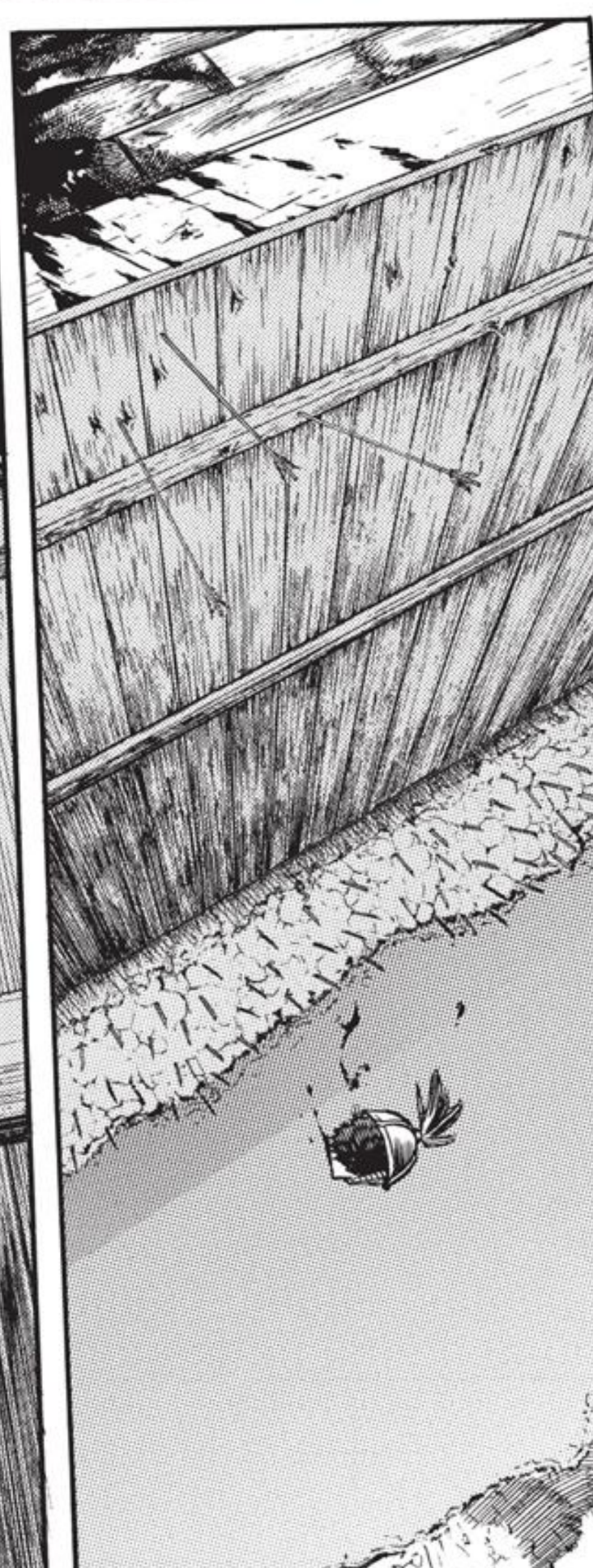
HUH?

?


DID THEY RUN OUT OF BOLTS?
THE ATTACK'S OVER...


PREPARE TO DISEM-BARK!!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!!
HAH.
...

BSHOK



HOP

RAHHH

AVENGE THE CAPTAIN!!

KILL THAT BOY!!

HOW COULD HE KILL THE CAPTAIN?!

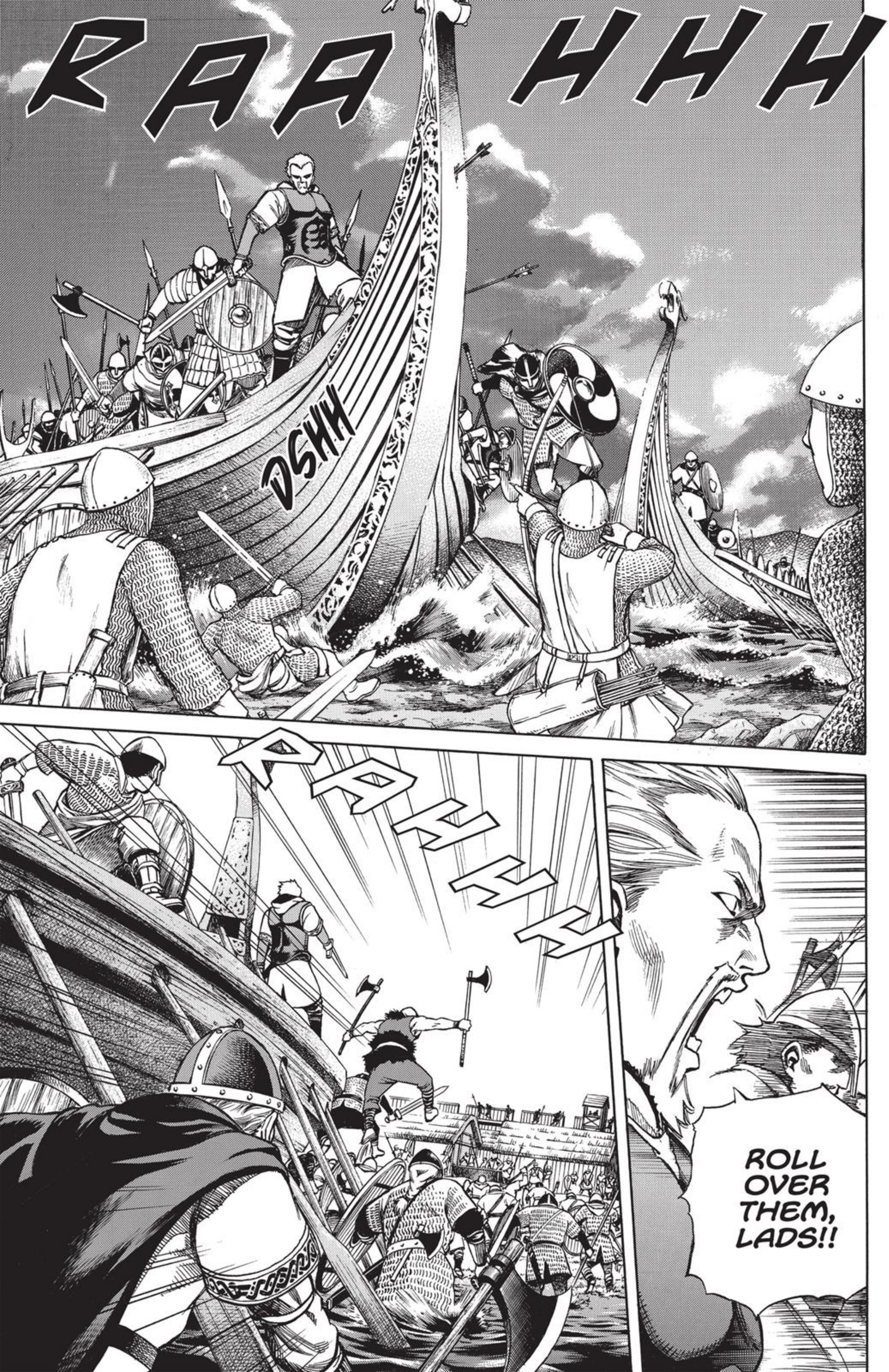
BAM

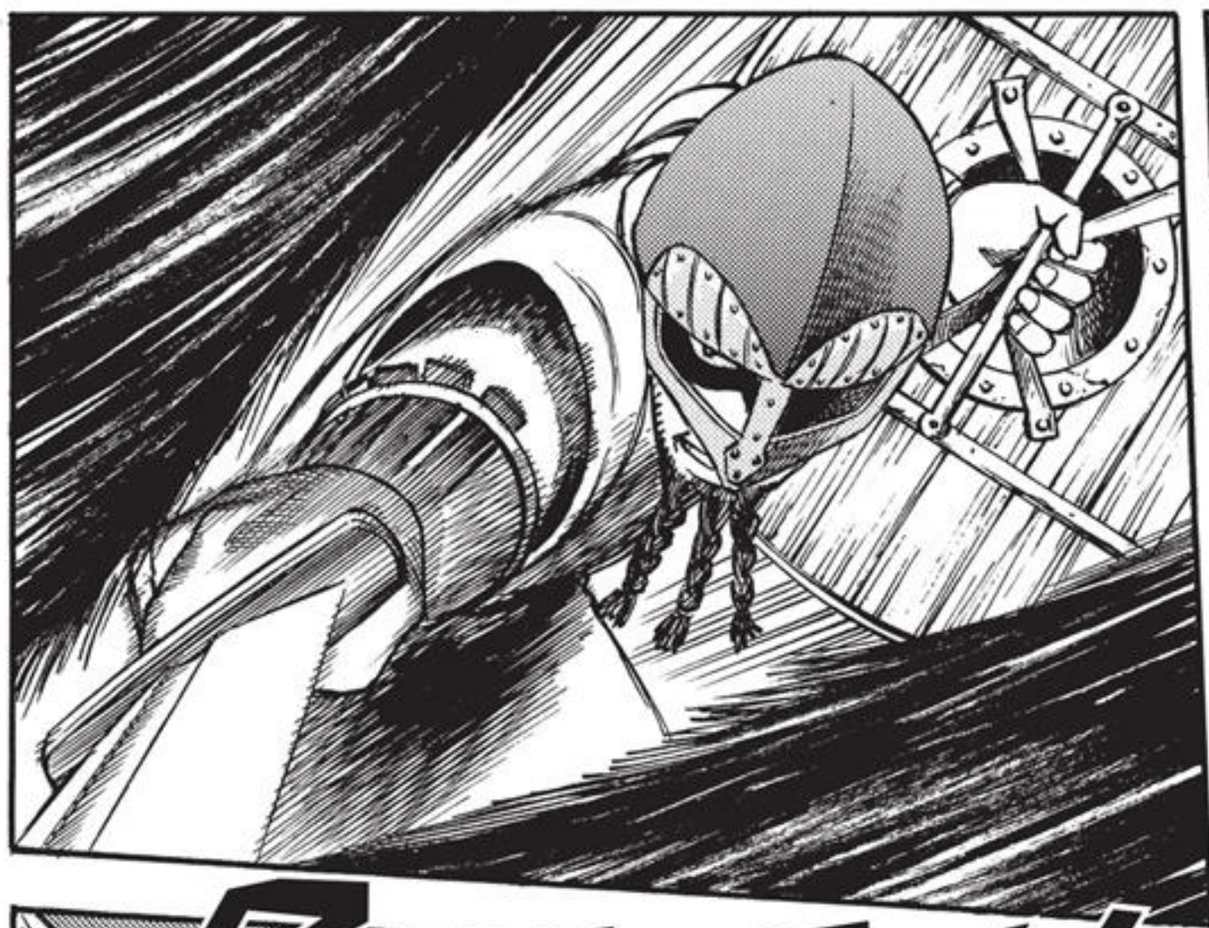
BABAM

DAMN IT!

HE'S JUST A *KID!!*

KABLOOSH


RAA HHH
DSHH
RAHHH
ROLL OVER THEM, LADS!!

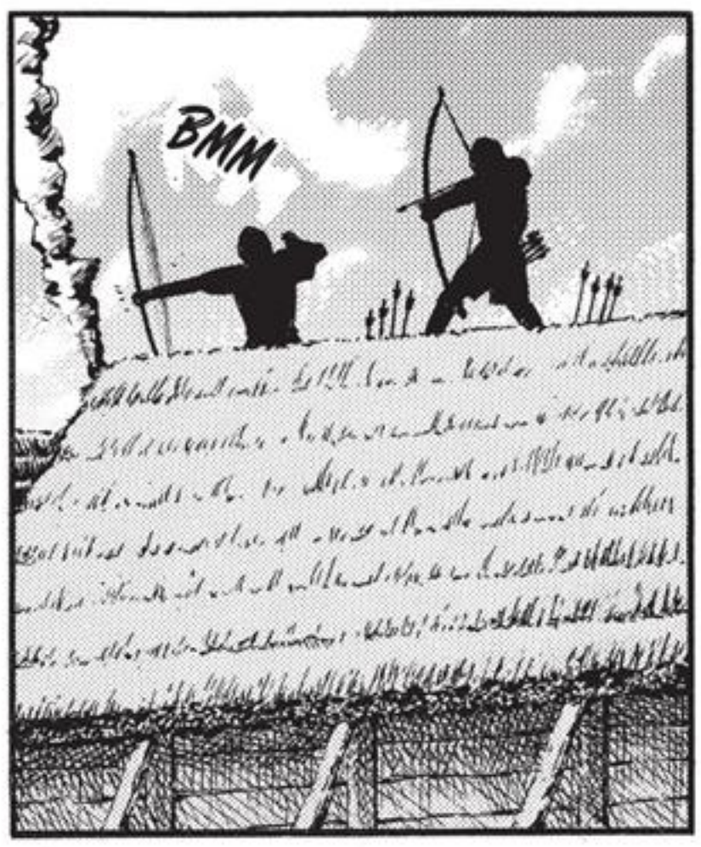


RAAHHH

RAISE SOME HELL!!

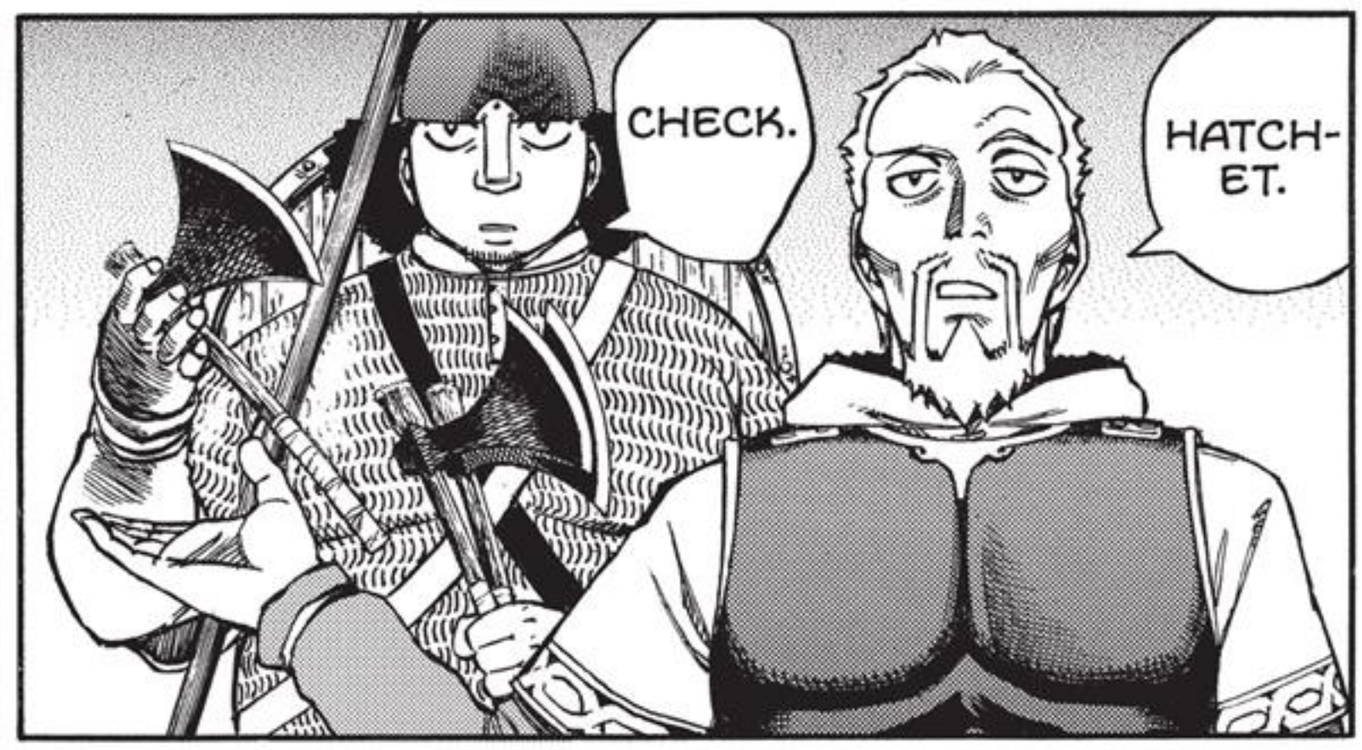
THEY'VE GOT THEIR HANDS FULL DEFENDING THE GATE, SO THEY WON'T BE COMING HERE!!

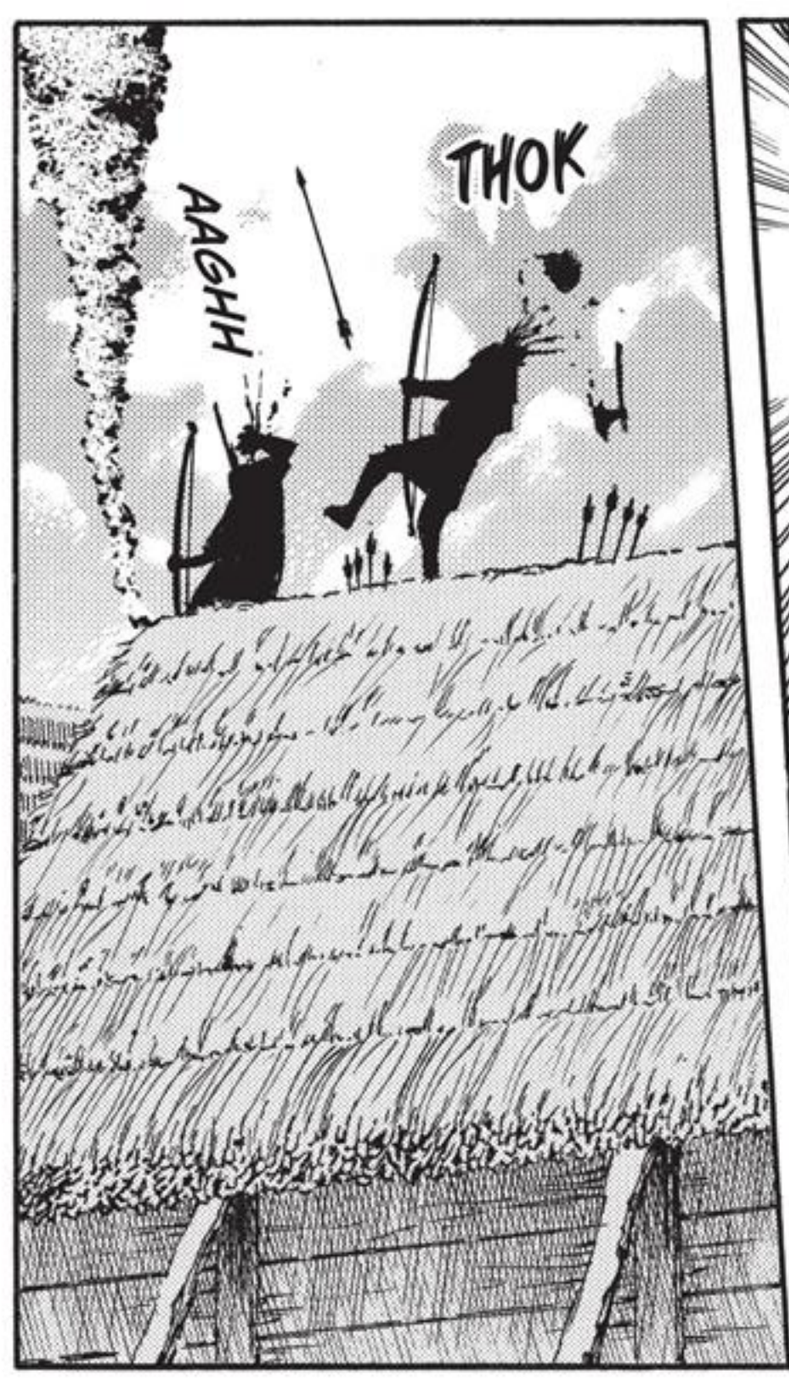
THEY'RE SORELY OUTNUMBERED!

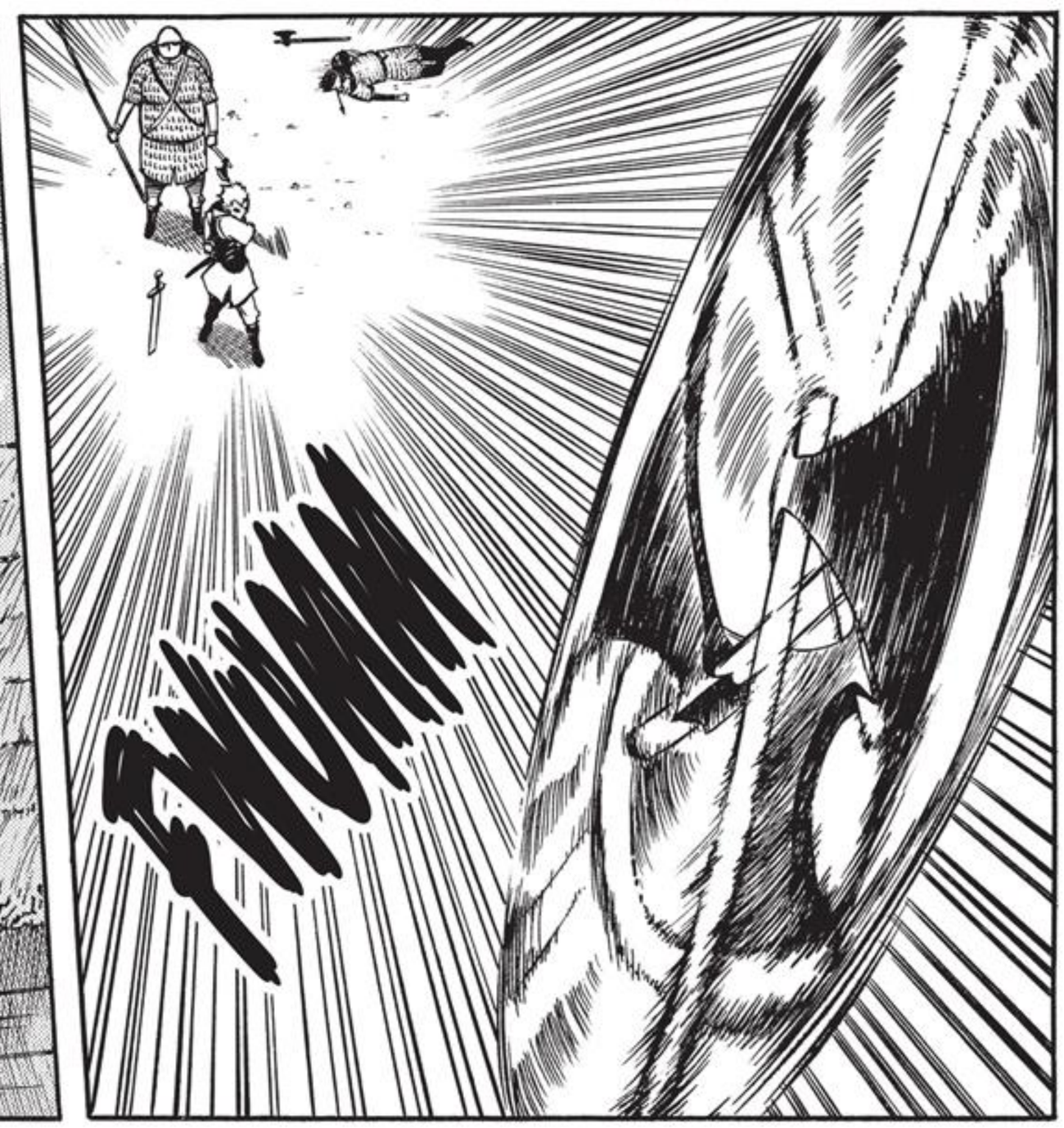

BMM

NOT MUCH RESIST-ANCE FROM THESE FOLKS...
GYAAA
THUK
HRM.

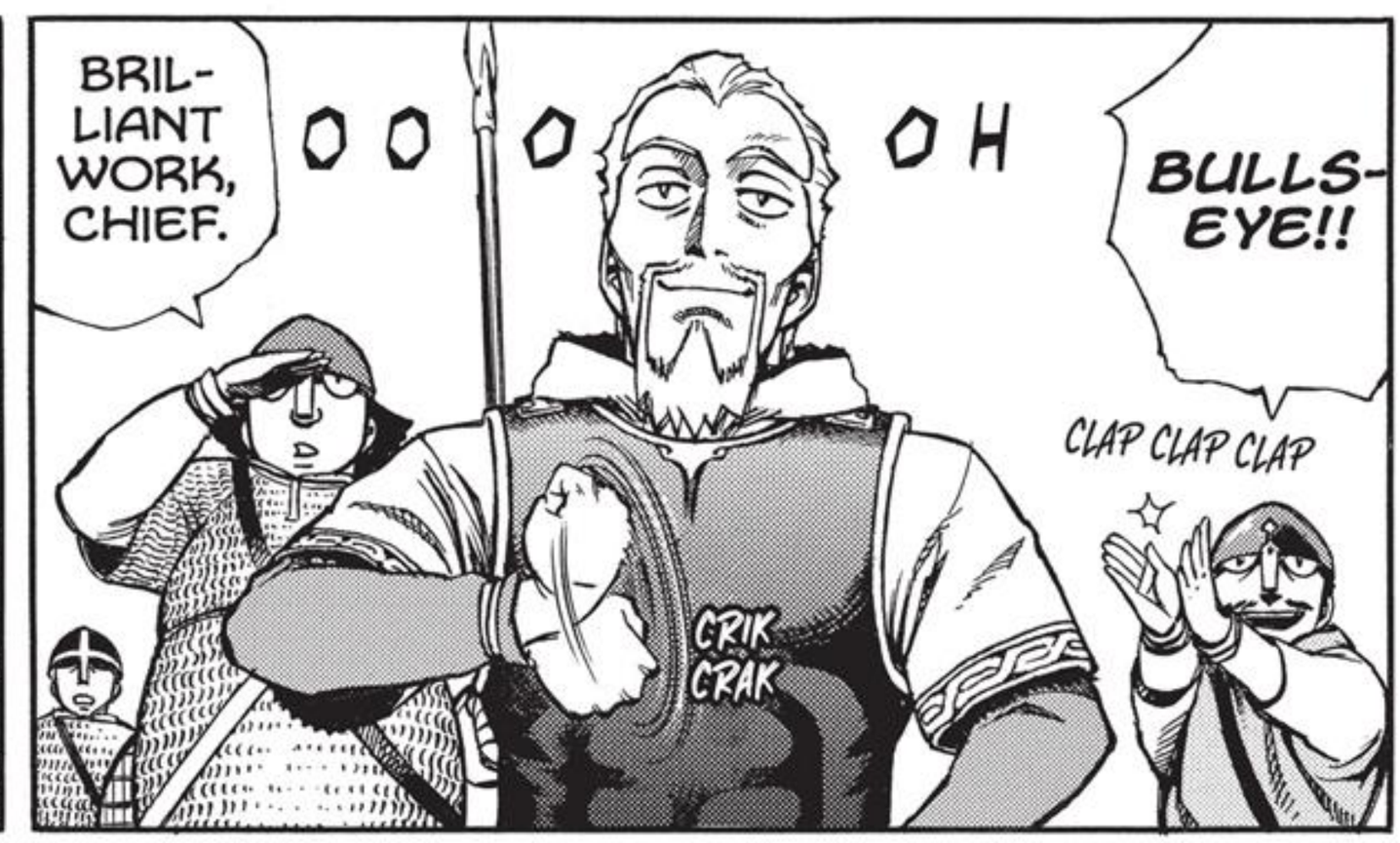
RRGH


CHECK.
HATCH-ET.


AAGHH
THOK

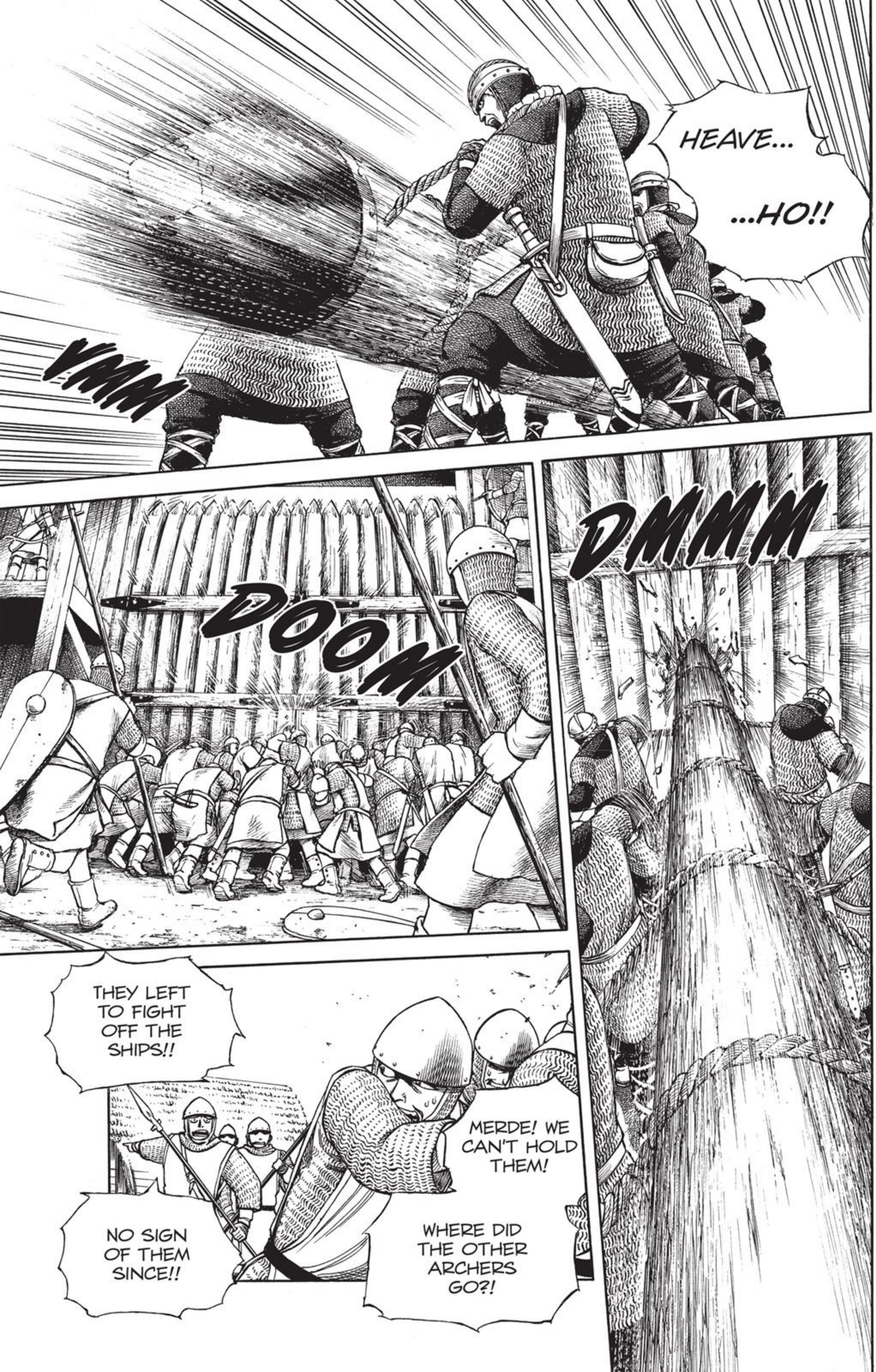


RAHHH

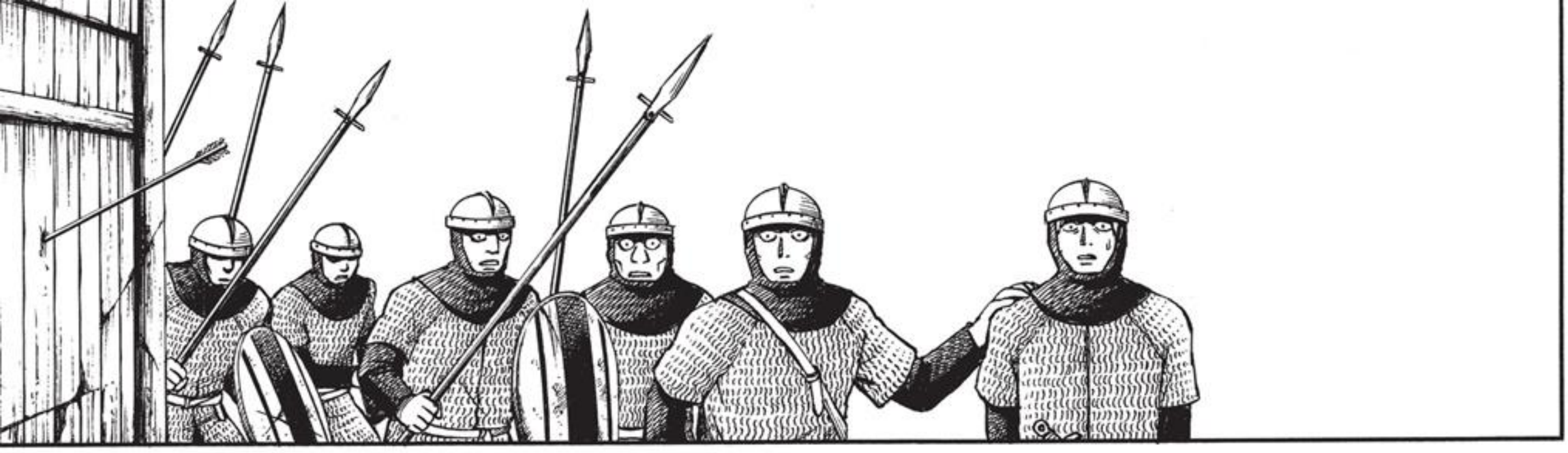

BRIL-LIANT WORK, CHIEF.
OOOOH
BULLS-EYE!!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
GRIK GRAK

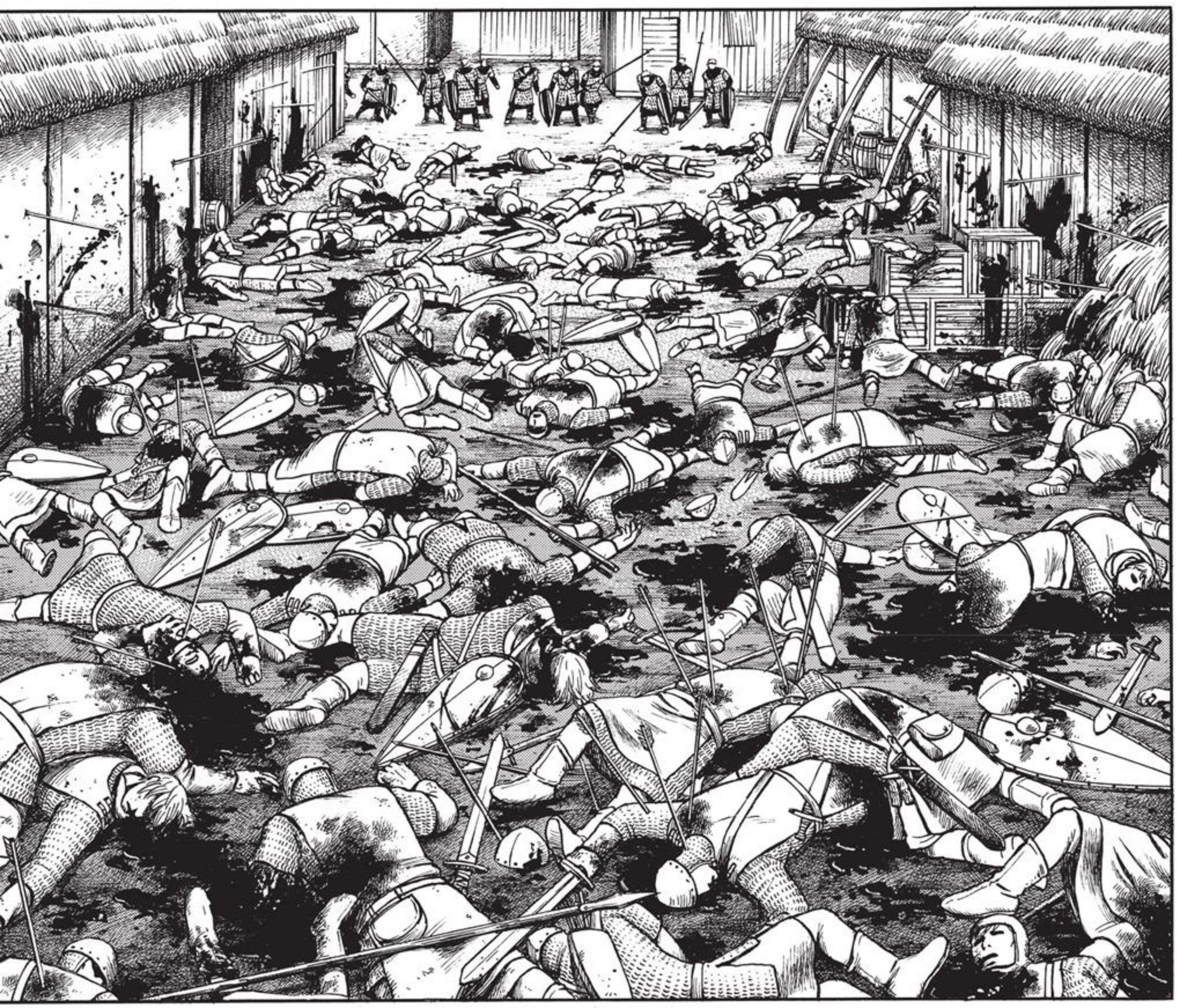
RAAHHHH
AND THEY'RE JUST GOING TO ABAN-DON THE FRONT GATE?
UH-OH, LOOKS LIKE THE MAIN FORCE IS ON THE WAY.

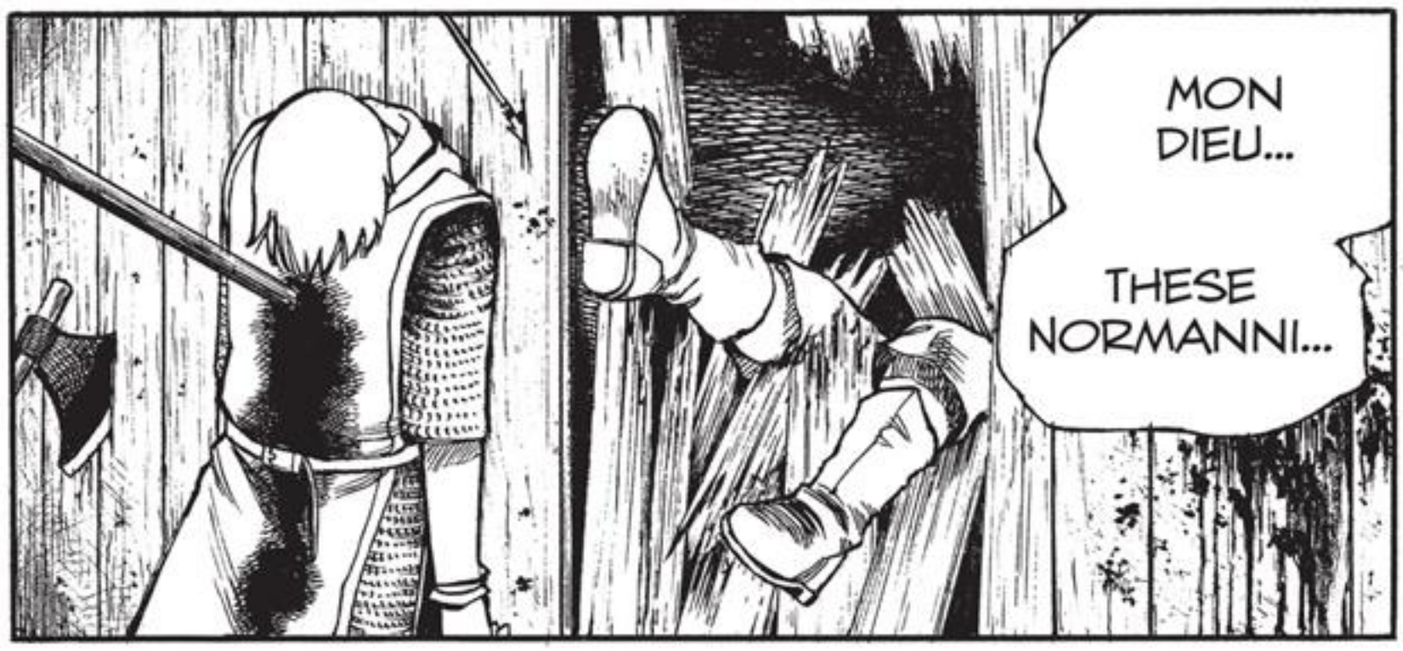
MAKE IT QUICK, OR WE WON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE FUN STUFF!!
ALL RIGHT. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A PROPER BATTLE, BOYS.

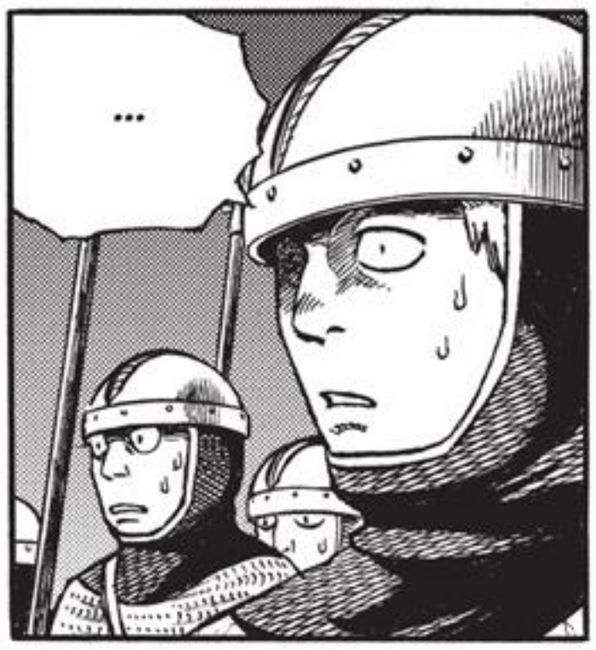

HEAVE...
...HO!!
YAAA
DOOM
DAAAA
THEY LEFT TO FIGHT OFF THE SHIPS!!
MERDE! WE CAN'T HOLD THEM!
NO SIGN OF THEM SINCE!!
WHERE DID THE OTHER ARCHERS GO?!

ZDUMM
CRACKCH
THERE ARE STILL A GOOD TWO HUNDRED OF THEM LEFT!!
DMM
DMM
DMM
DON'T LET UP! CRUSH THEM ALL!!
RAHH
WHY THE HELL DID YOU ST-
YEOW!
RAHH
THUMP



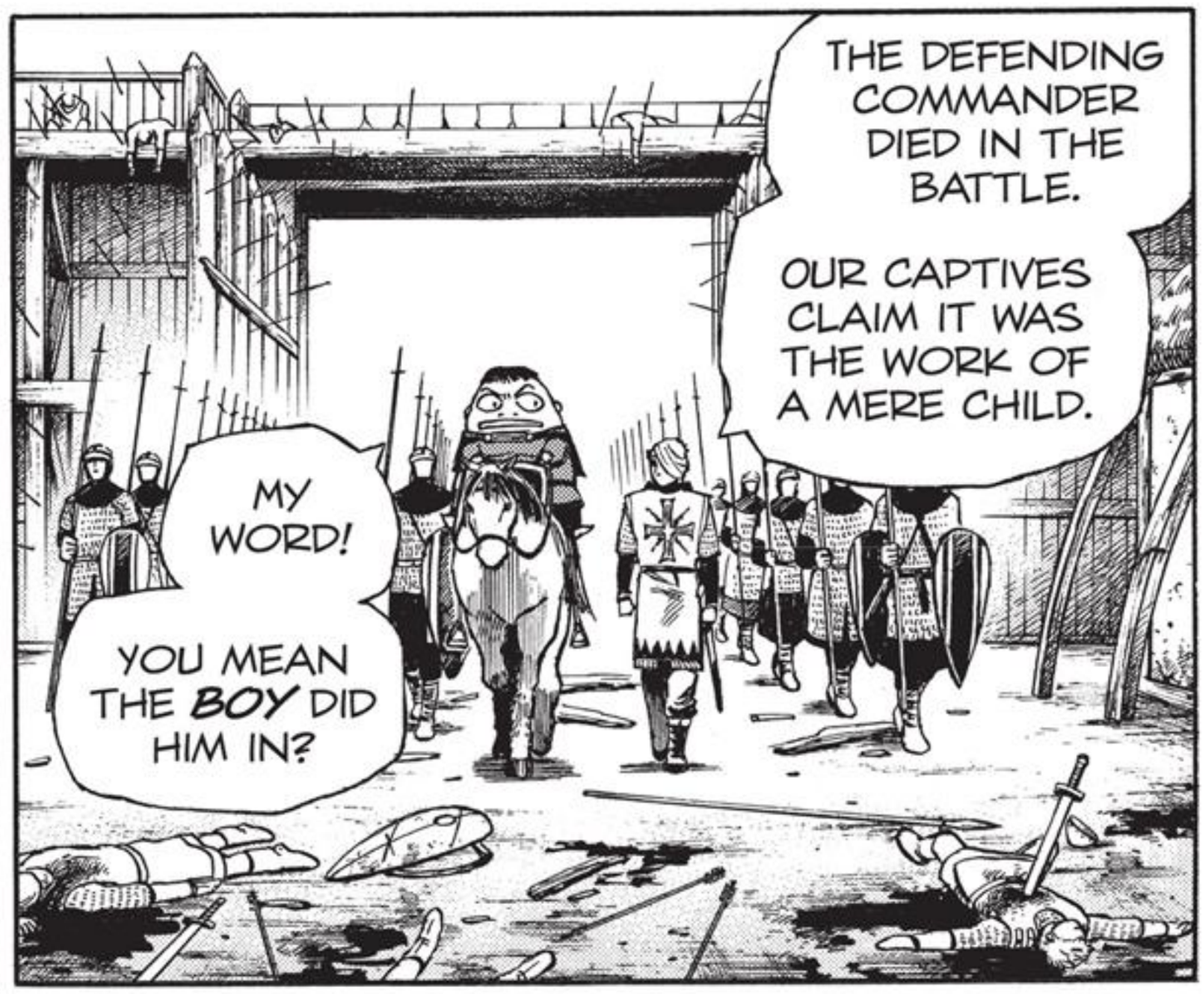


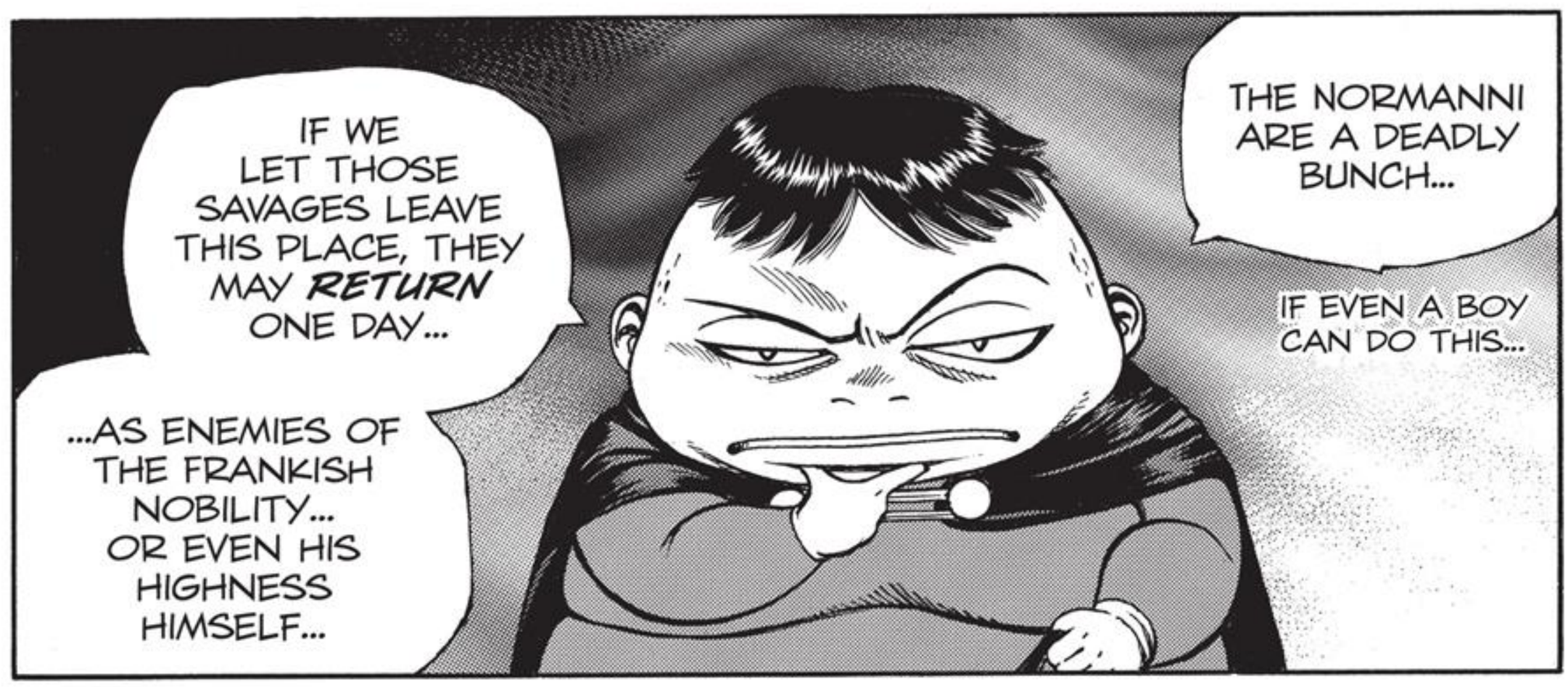

MON DIEU...
THESE NORMANNI...

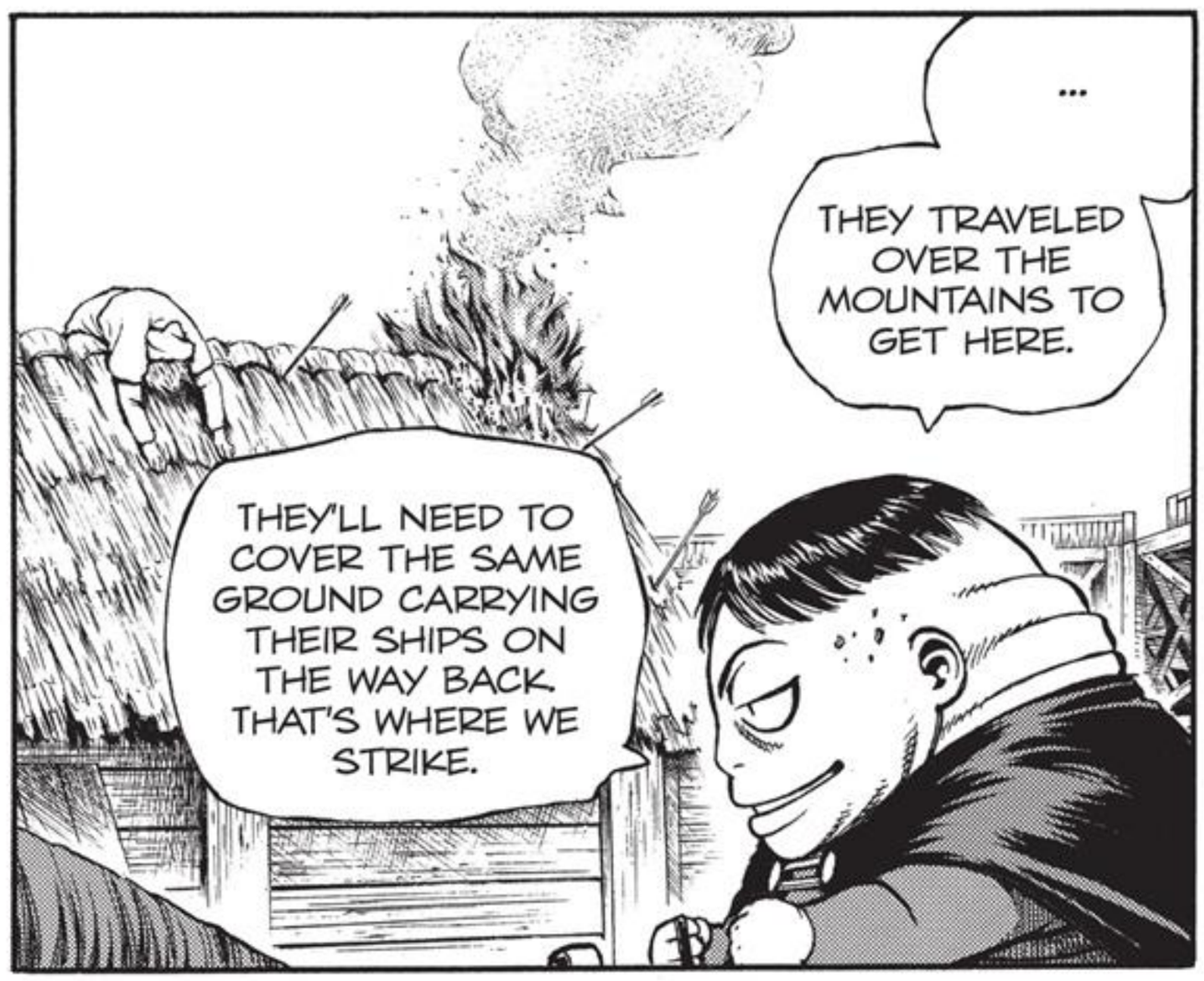

...

SEE? WITH THOSE MERCENARIES ON MY SIDE, A FORTRESS THIS MEASLY IS NO CHALLENGE AT ALL!

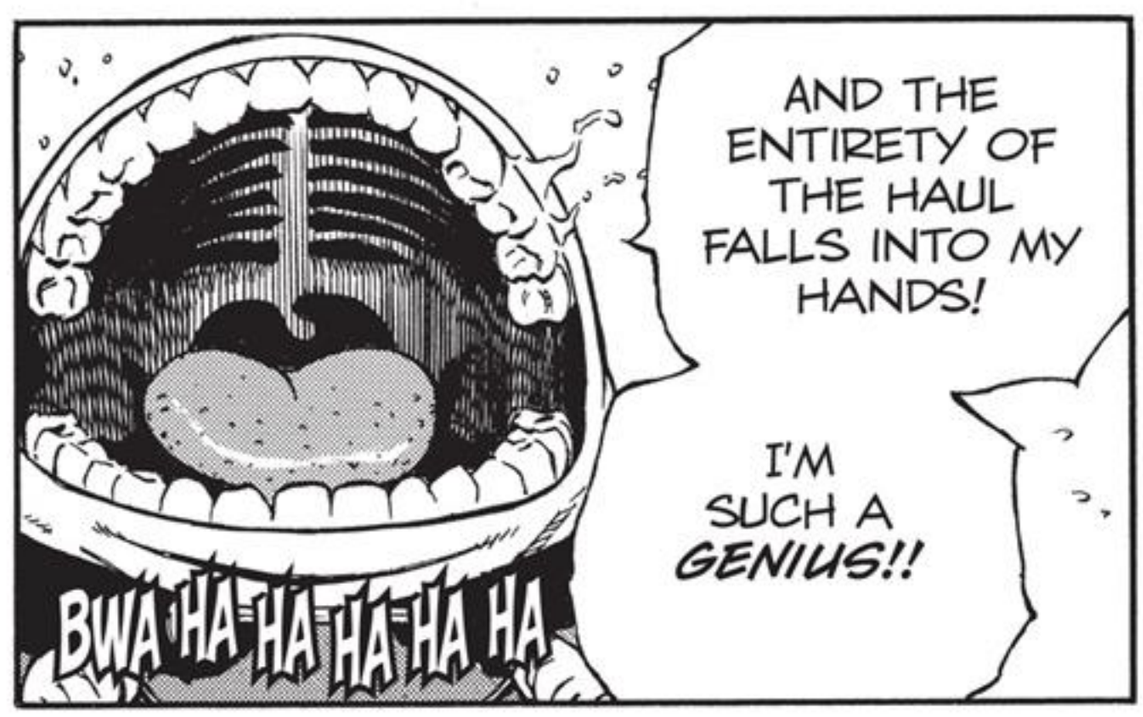
NGA HA HA HA HA!

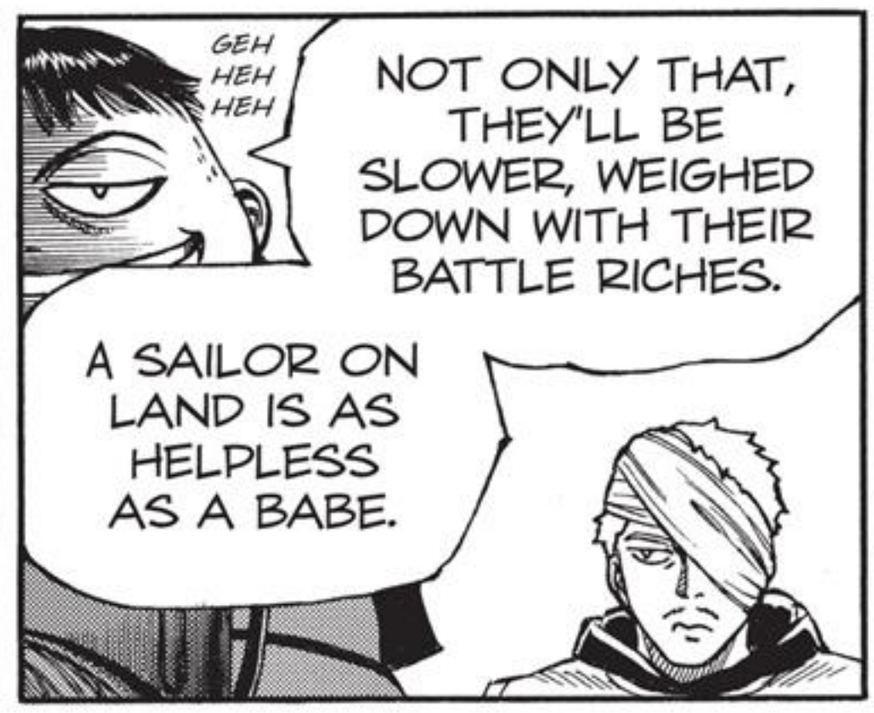


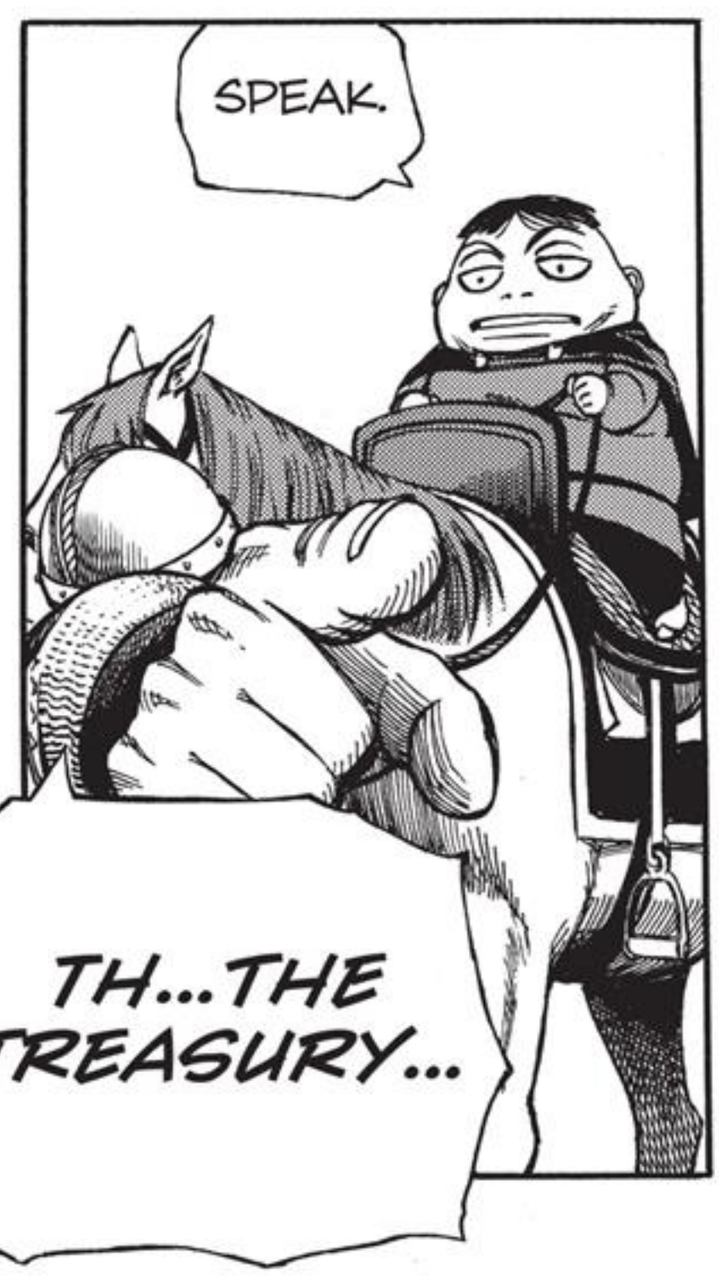



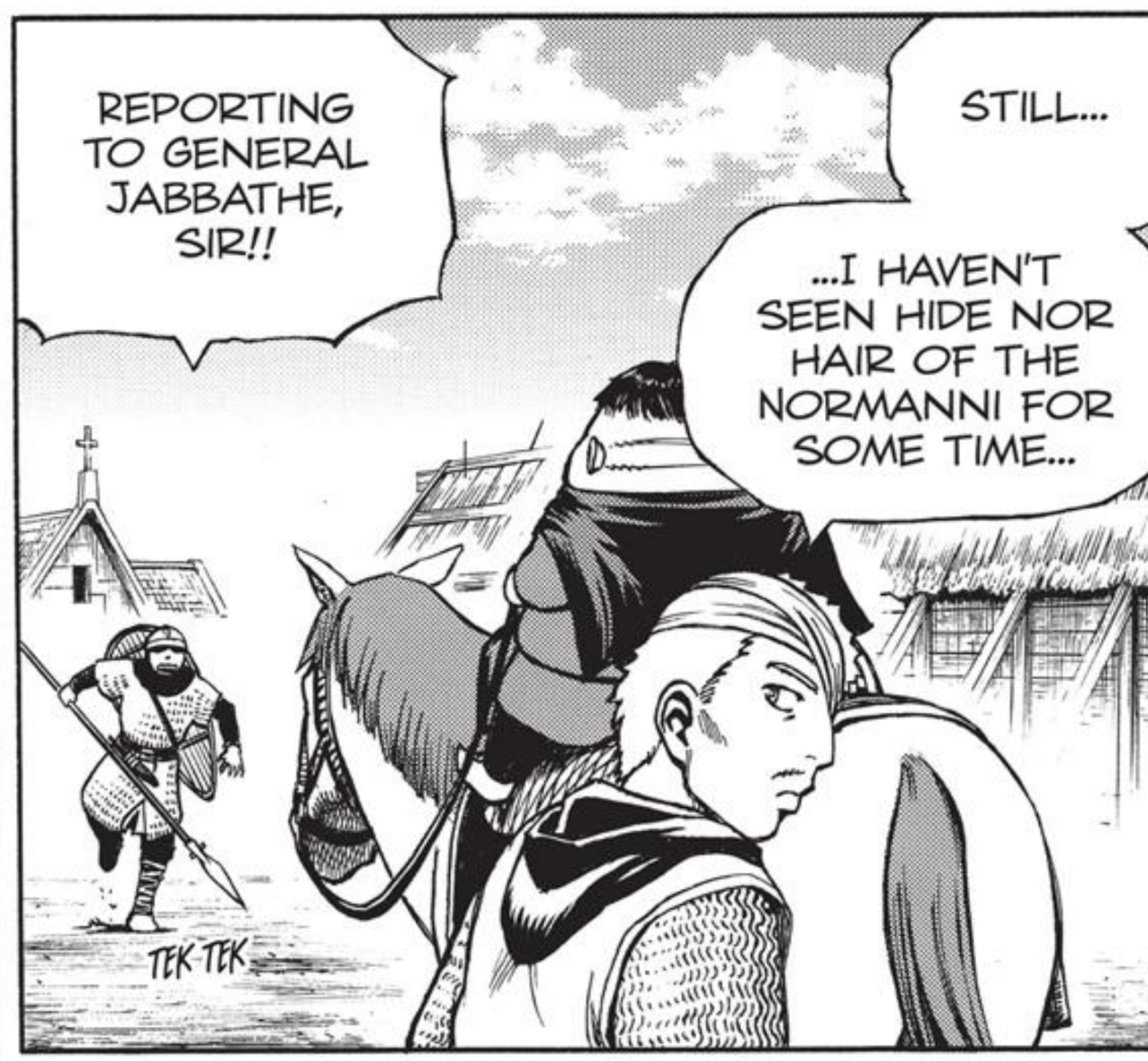

...
THEY TRAVELED OVER THE MOUNTAINS TO GET HERE.
THEY'LL NEED TO COVER THE SAME GROUND CARRYING THEIR SHIPS ON THE WAY BACK. THAT'S WHERE WE STRIKE.

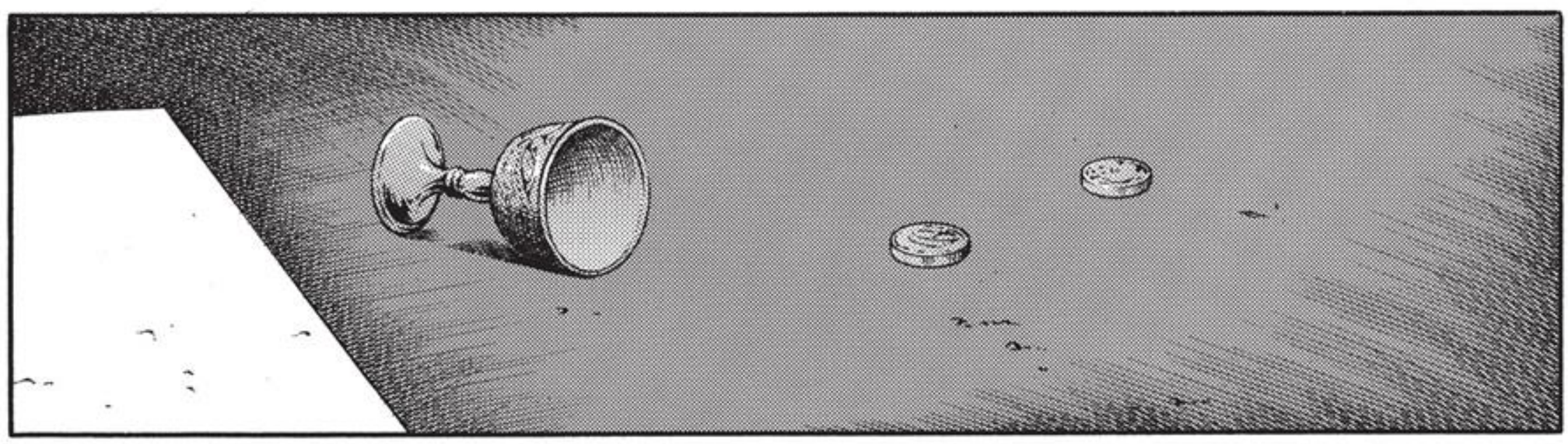
WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT THE NORMANNI?
HMM...

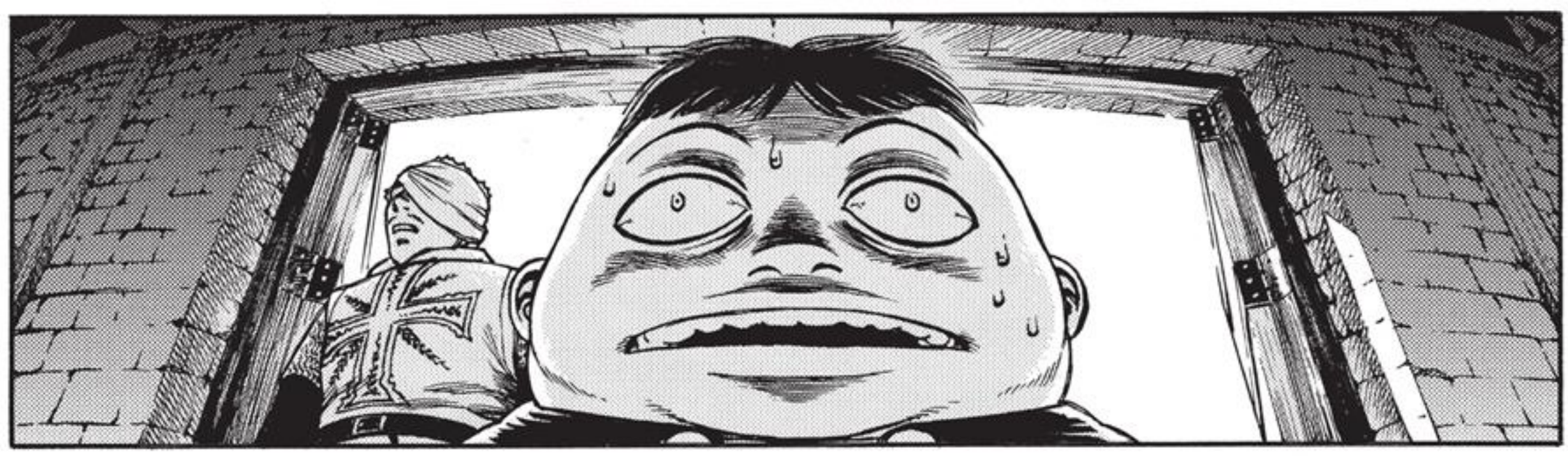

AND THE ENTIRETY OF THE HAUL FALLS INTO MY HANDS!
I'M SUCH A GENIUS!!
BWA HA HA HA HA HA

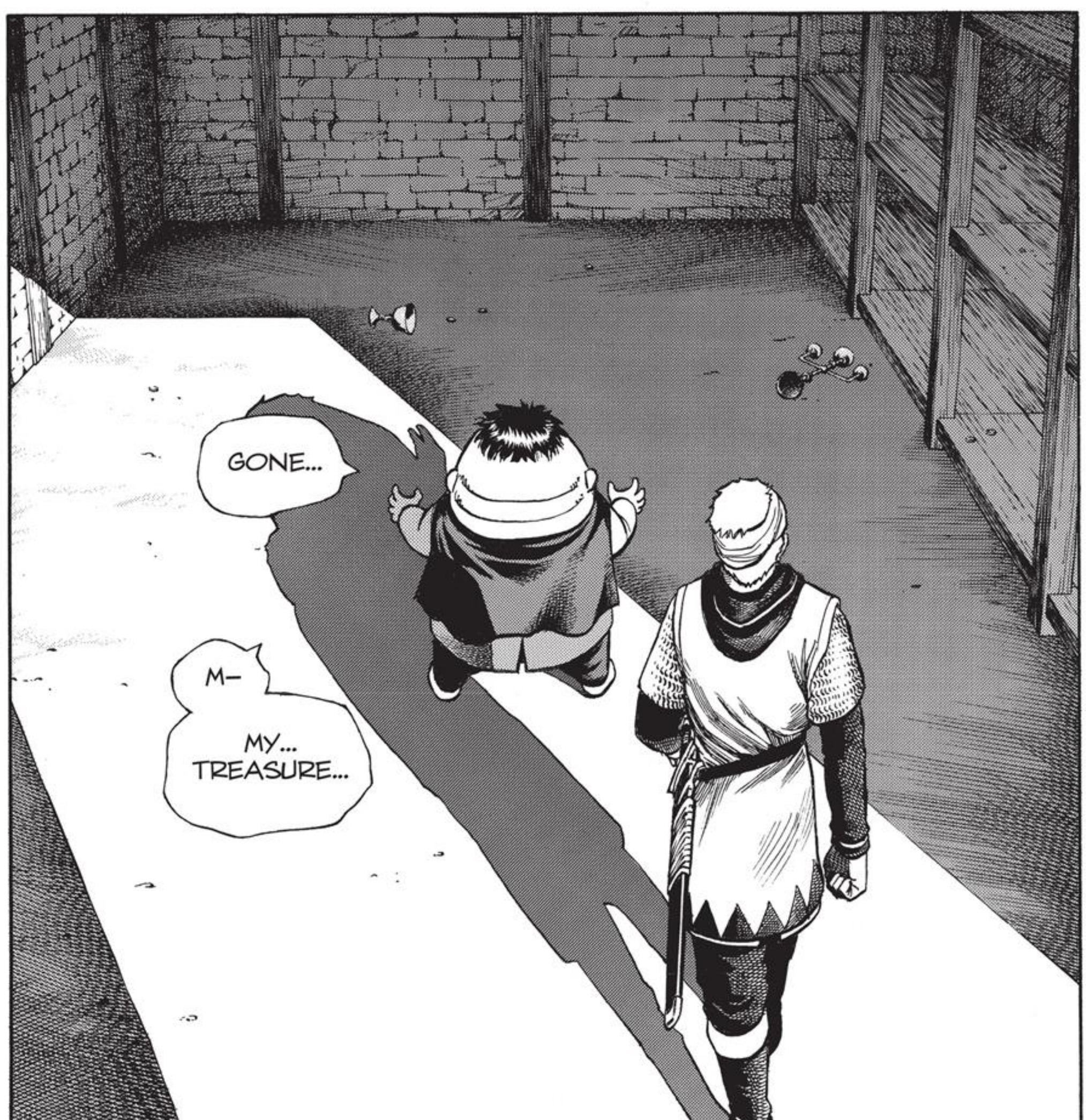

GEH HEH HEH
NOT ONLY THAT, THEY'LL BE SLOWER, WEIGHED DOWN WITH THEIR BATTLE RICHES.
A SAILOR ON LAND IS AS HELPLESS AS A BABE.

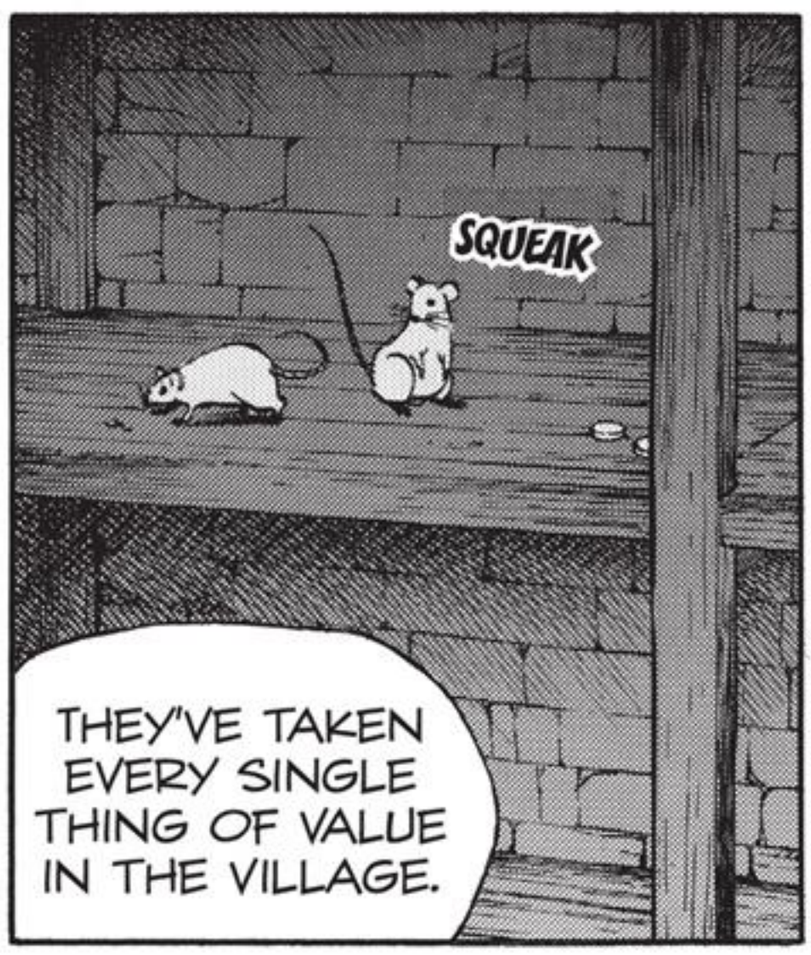

SPEAK.
TH...THE TREASURY...


REPORTING TO GENERAL JABBATHE, SIR!!
STILL...
...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF THE NORMANNI FOR SOME TIME...
TEK-TEK

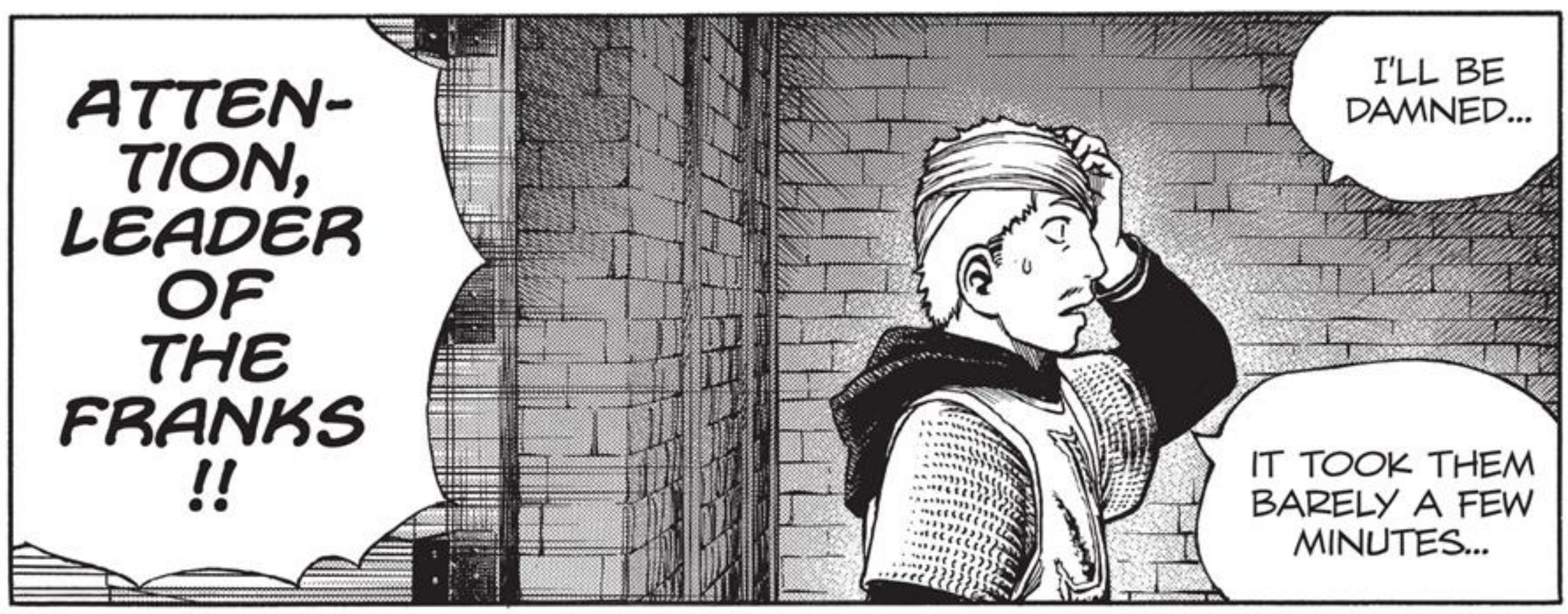


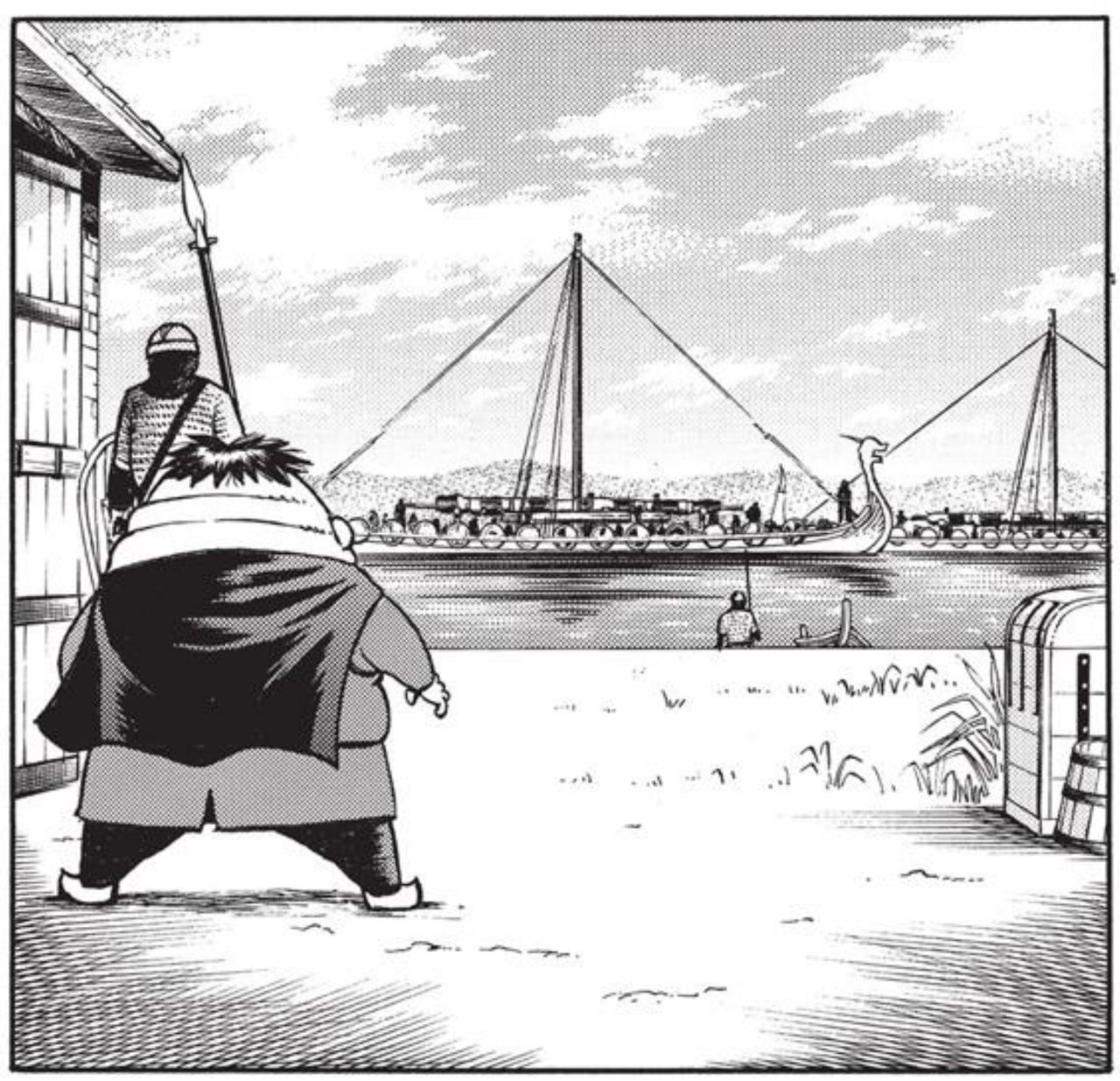



GONE...
M–
MY... TREASURE...


SQUEAK
THEY'VE TAKEN EVERY SINGLE THING OF VALUE IN THE VILLAGE.

THE WEALTHIER HOUSES AND EVEN THE CHURCH WERE RANSACKED AS WELL.
WHA–
BUT–
THAT–

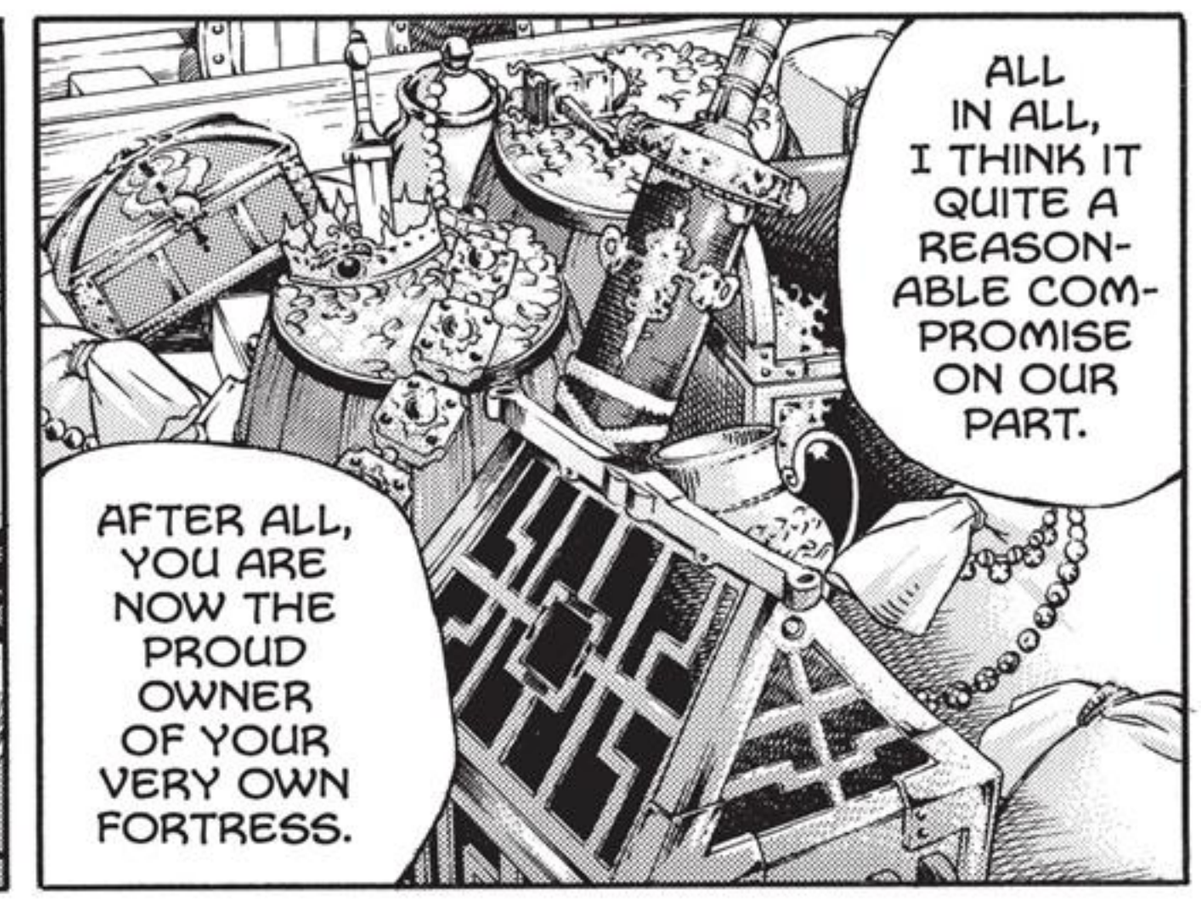

ATTEN-TION, LEADER OF THE FRANKS !!
I'LL BE DAMNED...
IT TOOK THEM BARELY A FEW MINUTES...



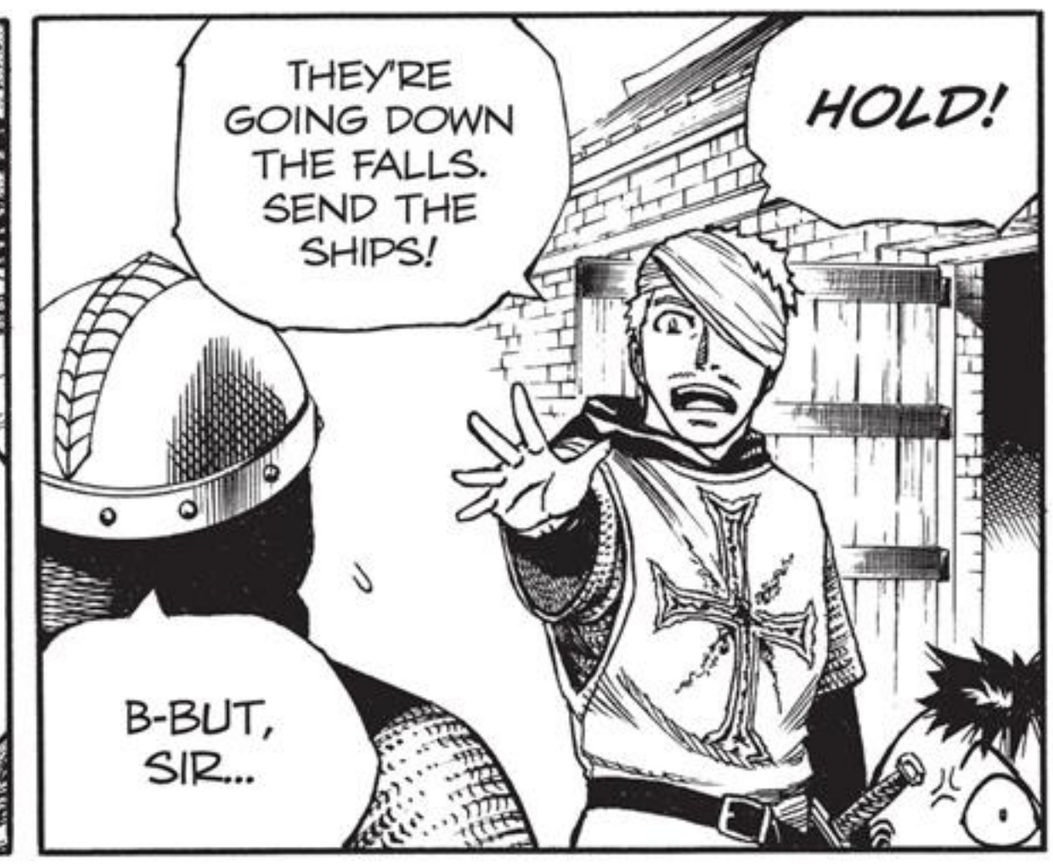
DASH

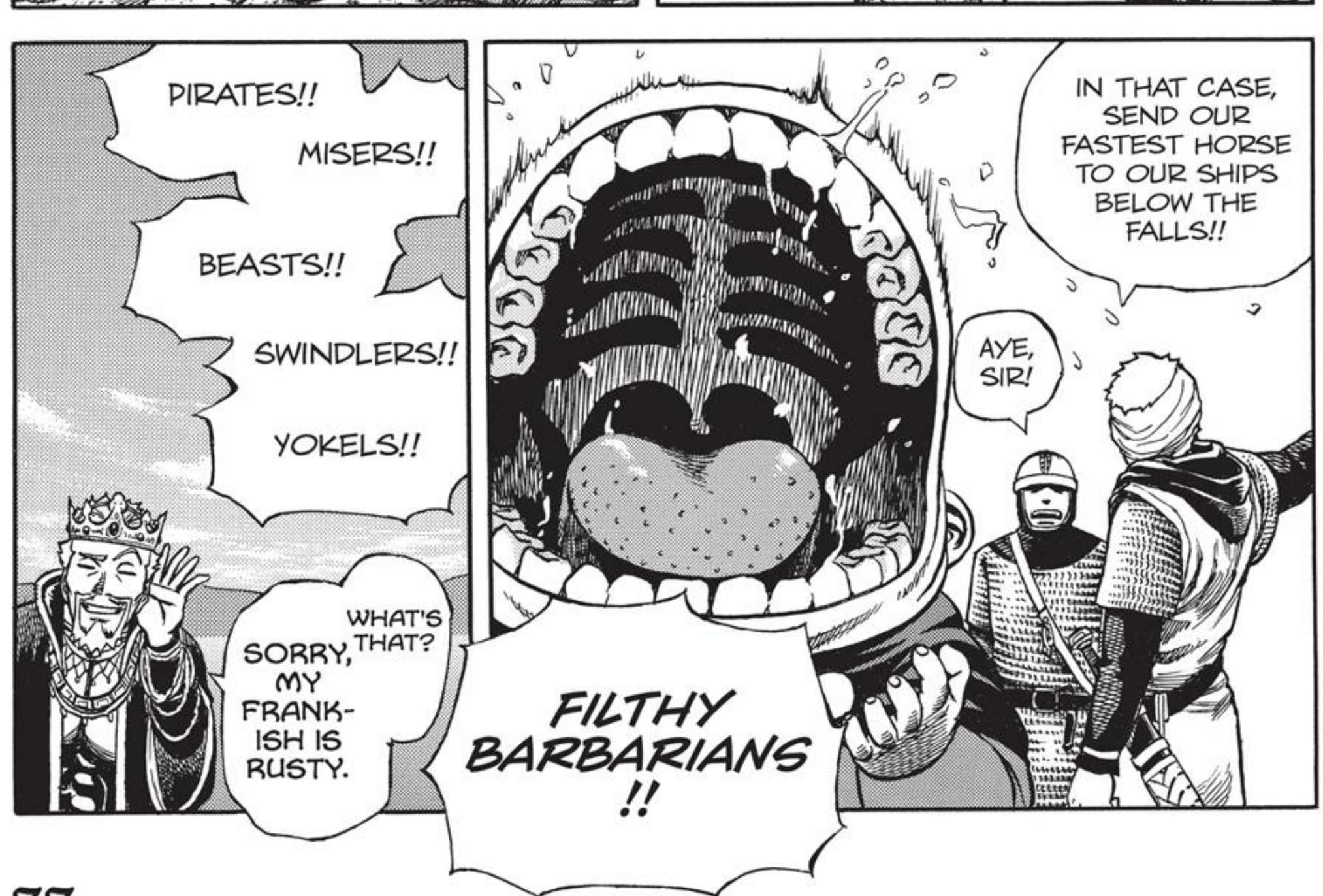
...WHILE WE HUMBLY ACCEPT THE TREASURE! I TRUST YOU HAVE NO COMPLAINTS?
IN THE INTEREST OF A FAIR SPLIT, WE GRANT YOU THE VICTORY...

WHHYYYY, YOOOUUU...
!!


ALL IN ALL, I THINK IT QUITE A REASON-ABLE COM-PROMISE ON OUR PART.
AFTER ALL, YOU ARE NOW THE PROUD OWNER OF YOUR VERY OWN FORTRESS.

THEY'VE SMASHED ALL OF THE FORTRESS'S SHIPS ALREADY...

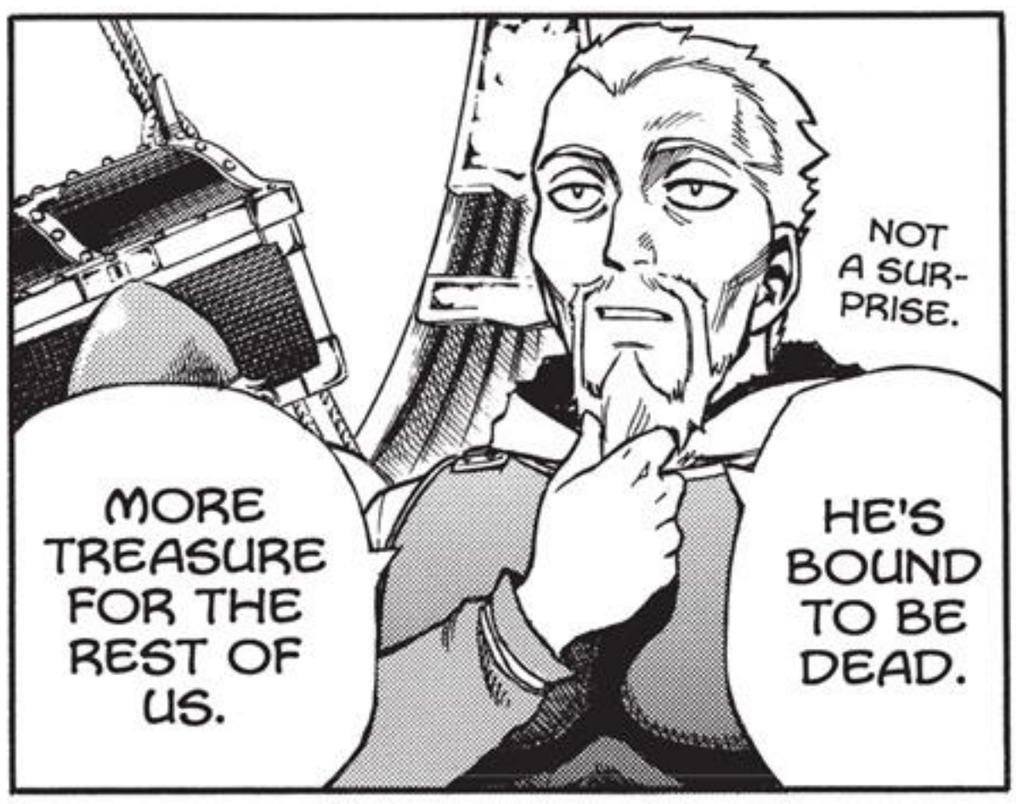

THEY'RE GOING DOWN THE FALLS. SEND THE SHIPS!
HOLD!
B-BUT, SIR...

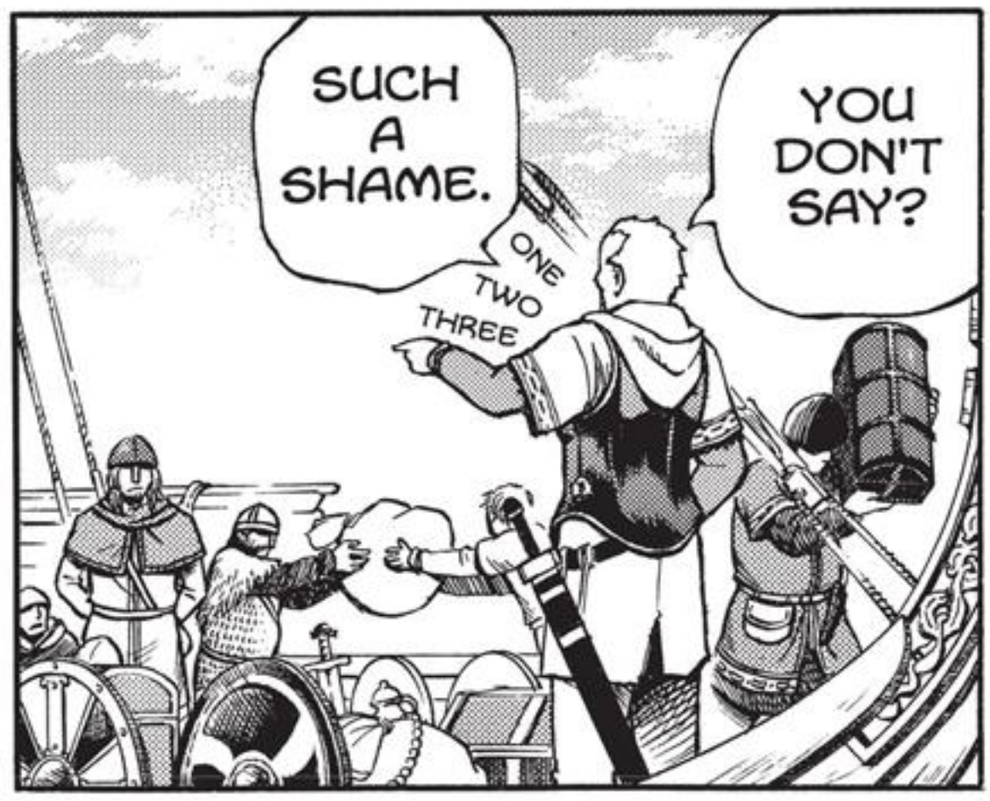

PIRATES!!
MISERS!!
BEASTS!!
SWINDLERS!!
YOKELS!!
WHAT'S THAT?
SORRY, MY FRANK-ISH IS RUSTY.
FILTHY BARBARIANS !!
IN THAT CASE, SEND OUR FASTEST HORSE TO OUR SHIPS BELOW THE FALLS!!
AYE, SIR!

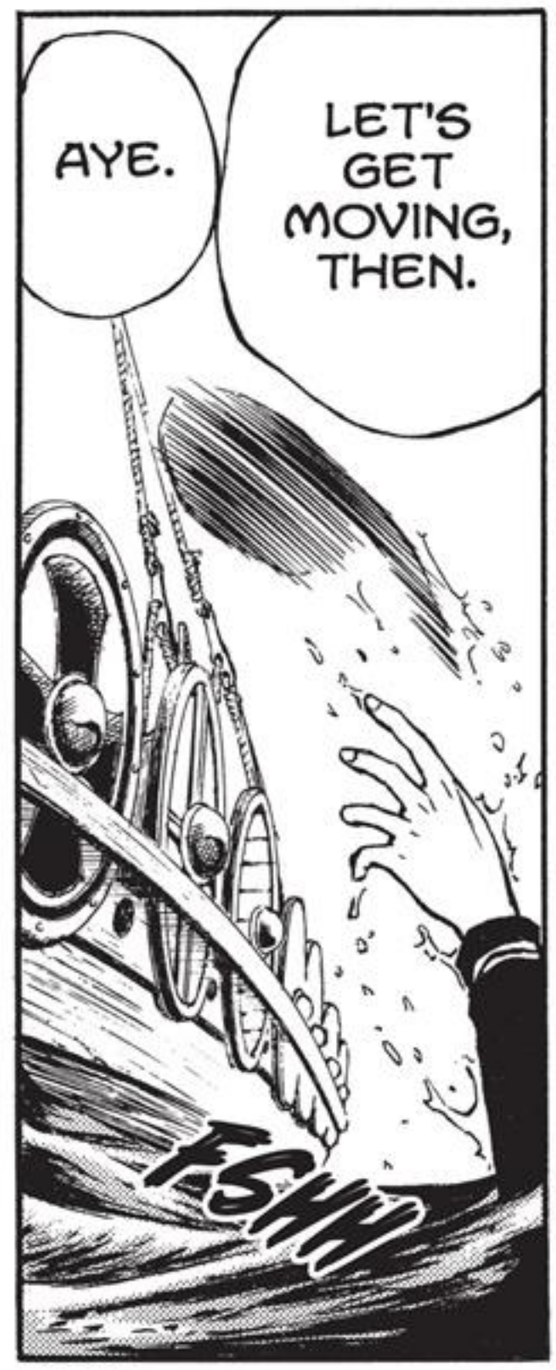
THOR-FINN HAS YET TO RETURN, ASKE-LADD.

STOW THE TREASURE IN THE BILGE, IT'S TIME TO LEAVE.

BUT ENOUGH FUN.

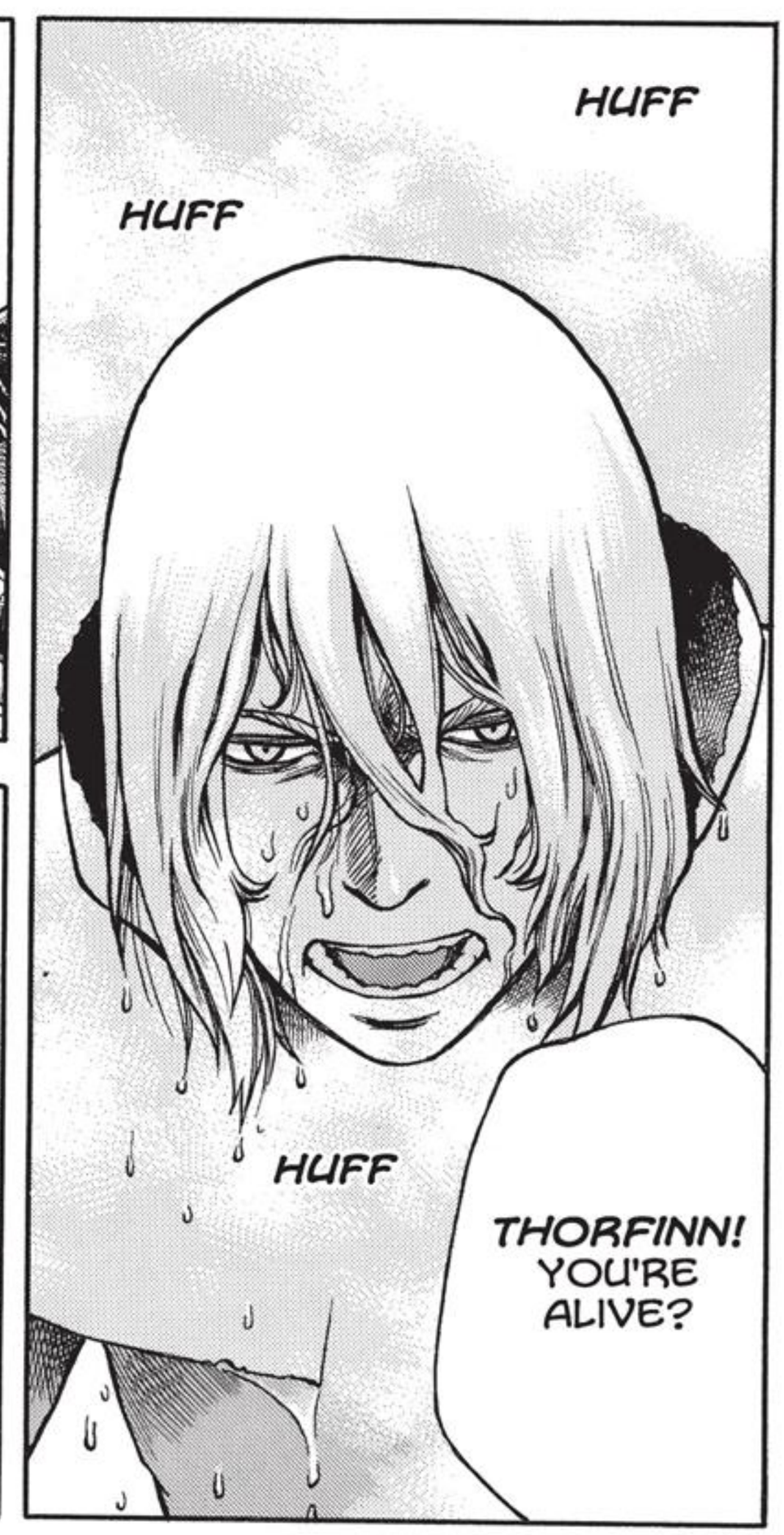


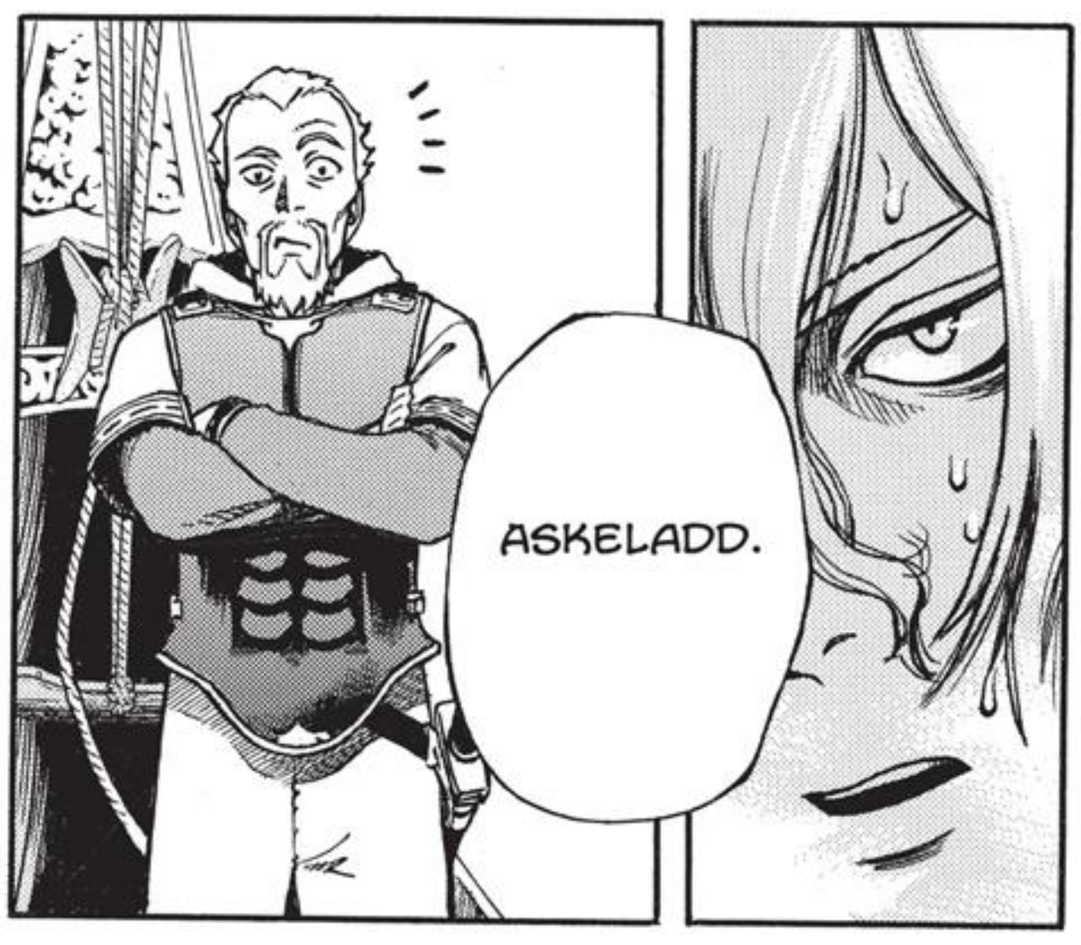





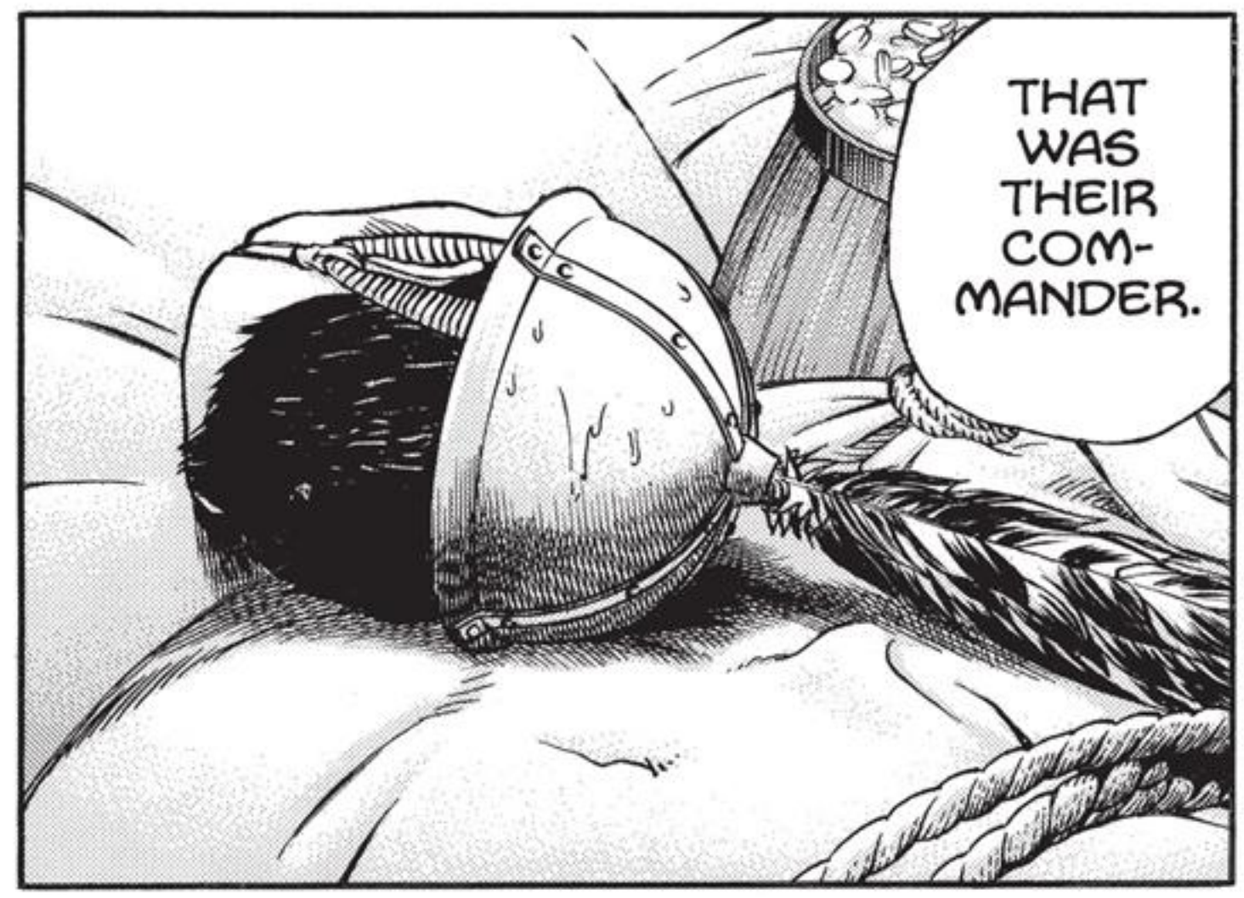
SPLA ASH

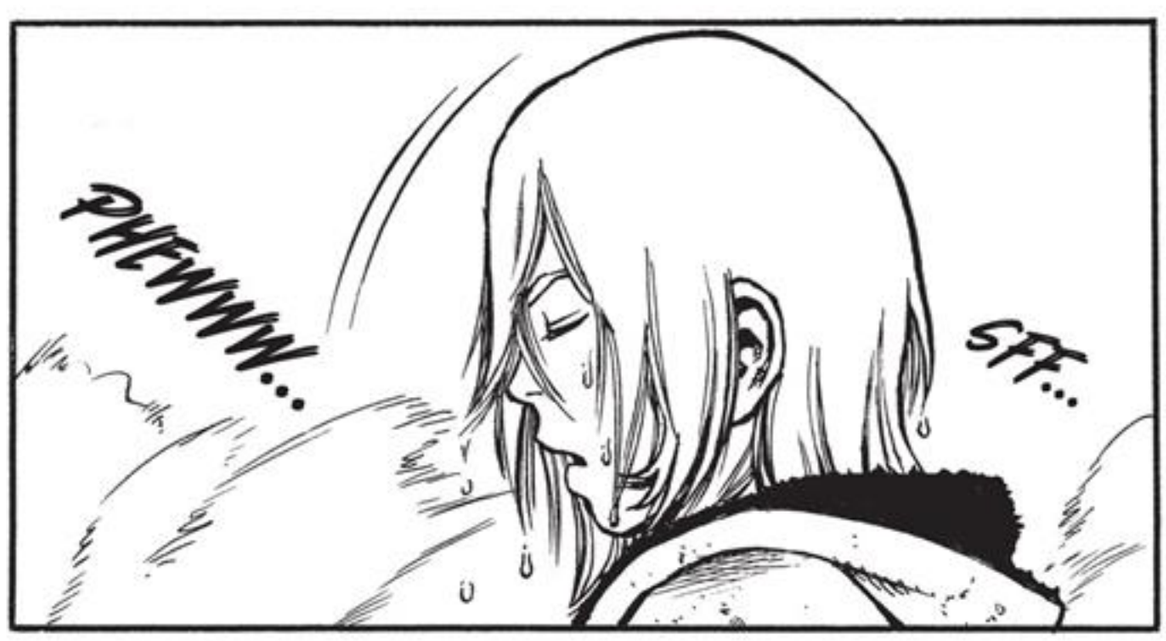
YOU HURT?
GOTTA SAY, THE KID'S TOUGH.
THAT'S FRIGID WATER TO SWIM THROUGH.

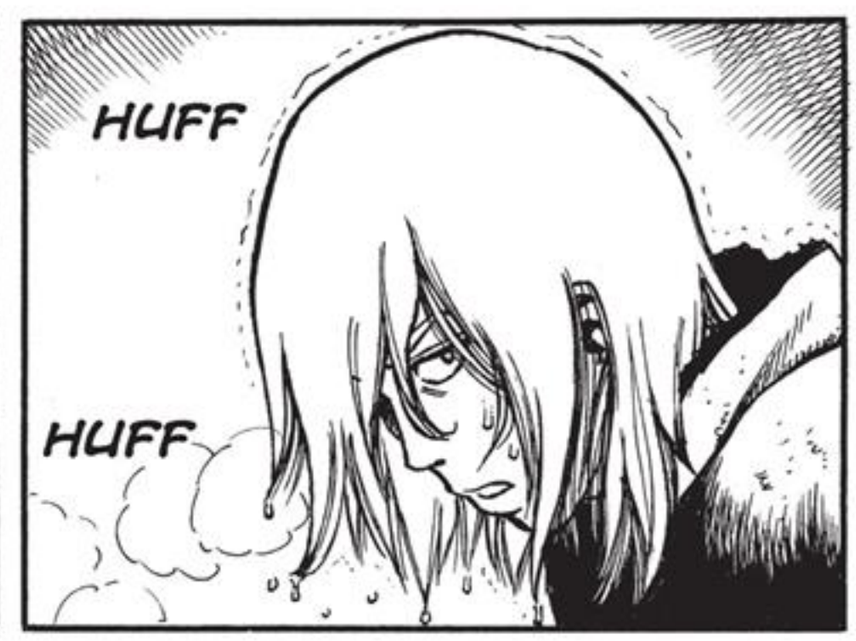

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THORFINN! YOU'RE ALIVE?


ASKELADD.

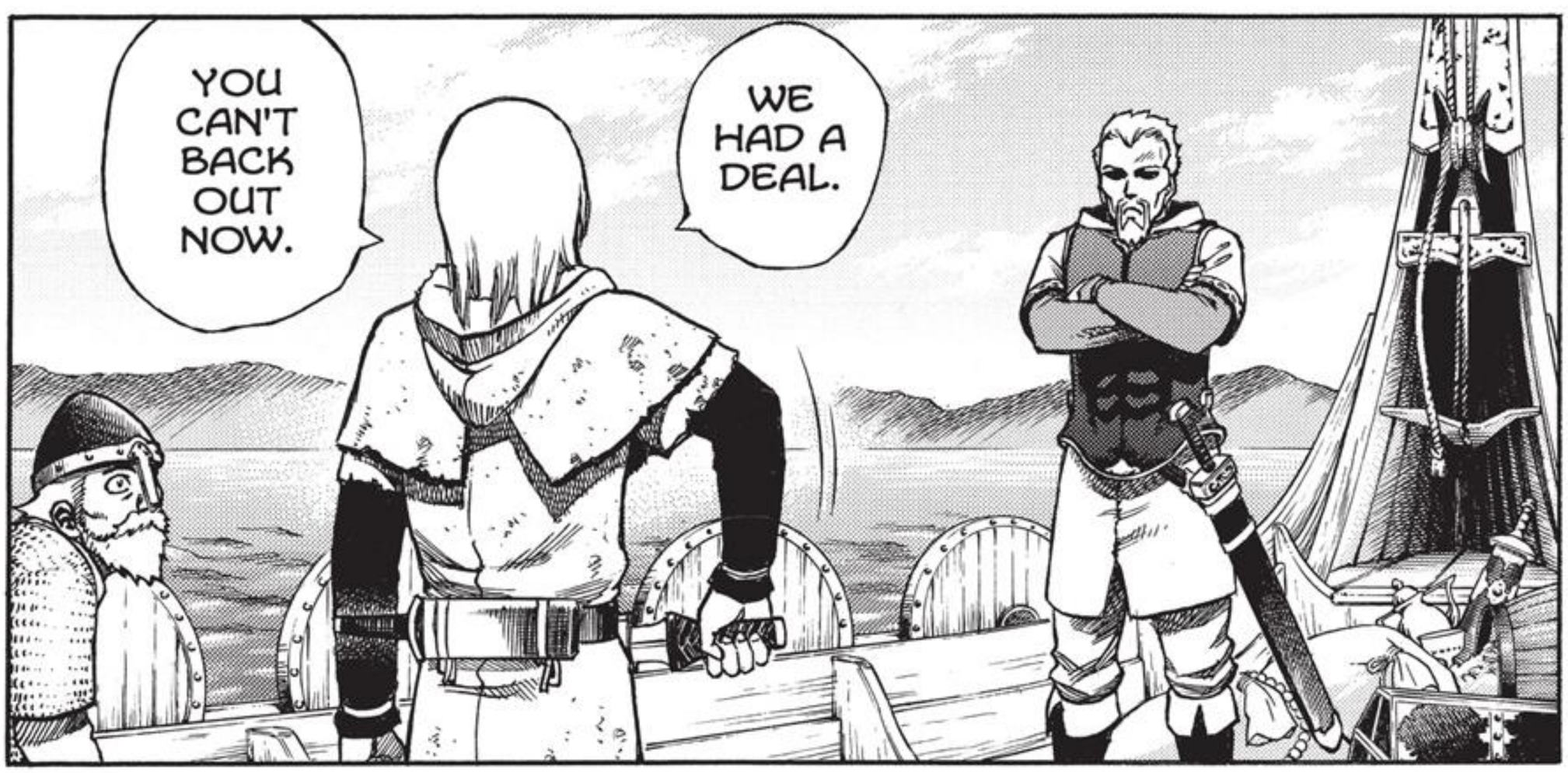
OHH!
SO YOU DID GET HIM.


THAT WAS THEIR COM-MANDER.


PHEWWW...
SFF...

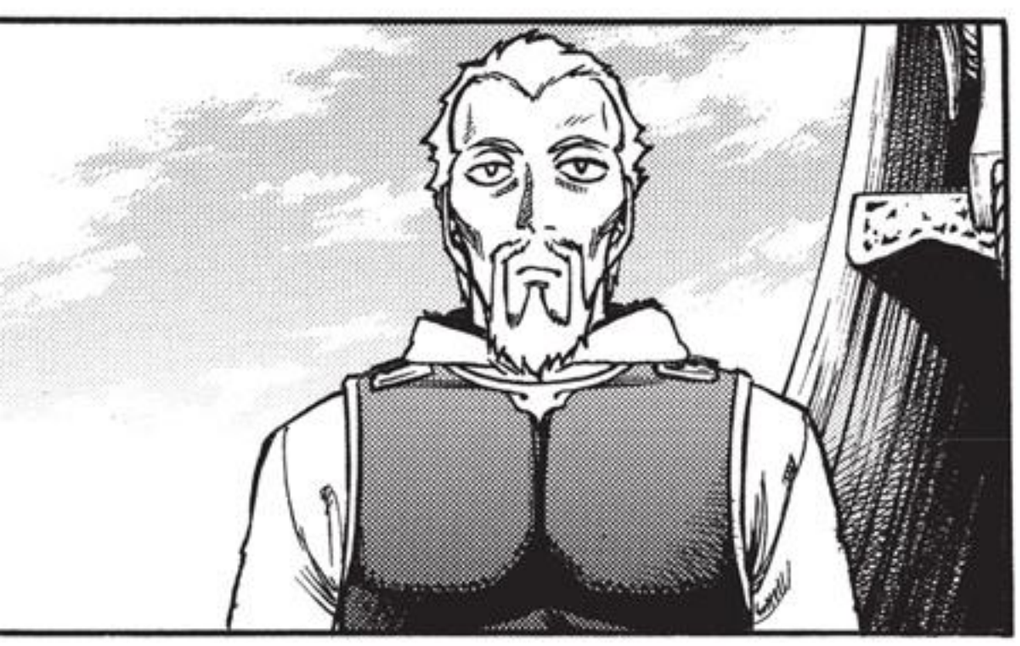

HUFF
HUFF

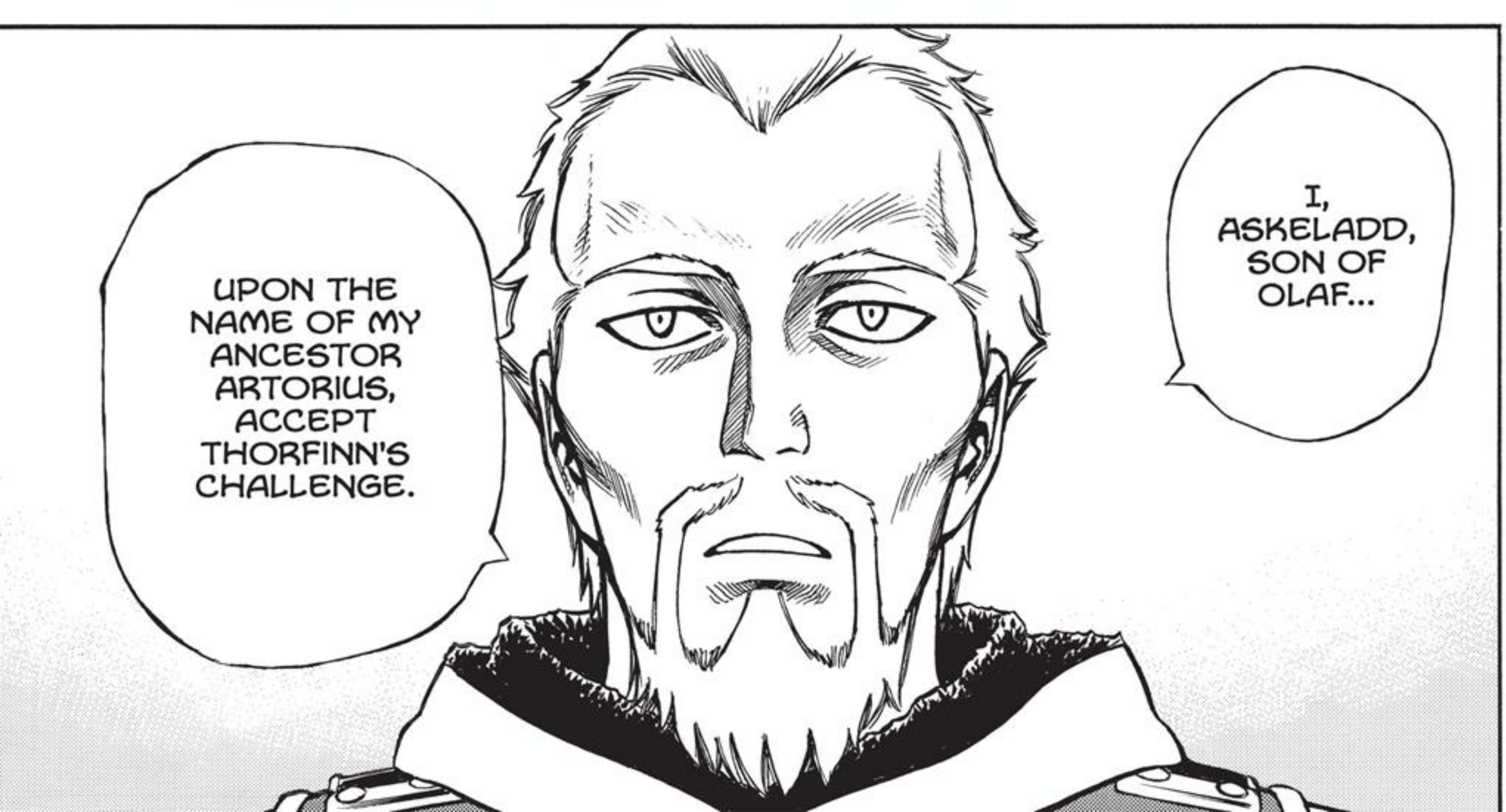
GLARE

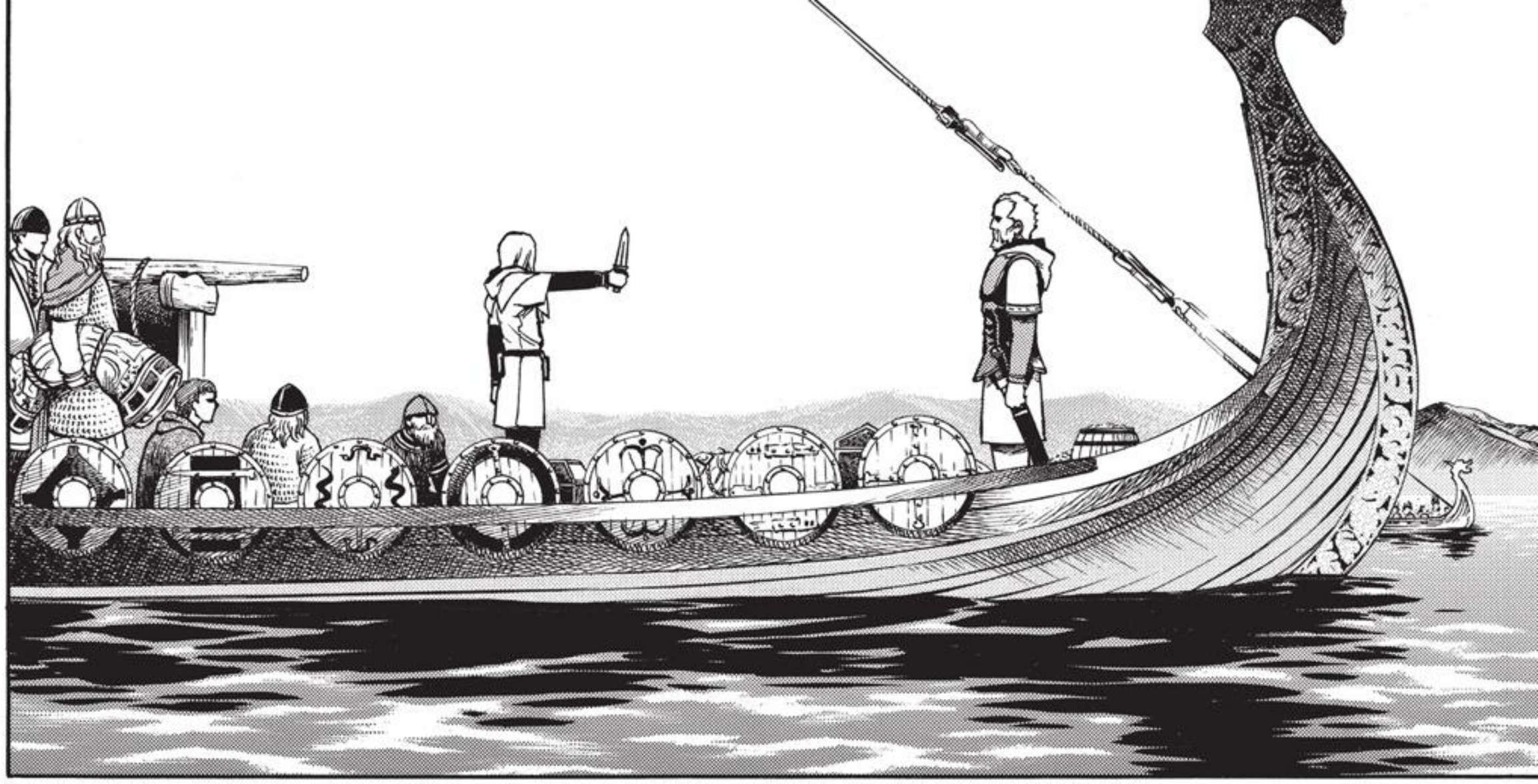

YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW.
WE HAD A DEAL.

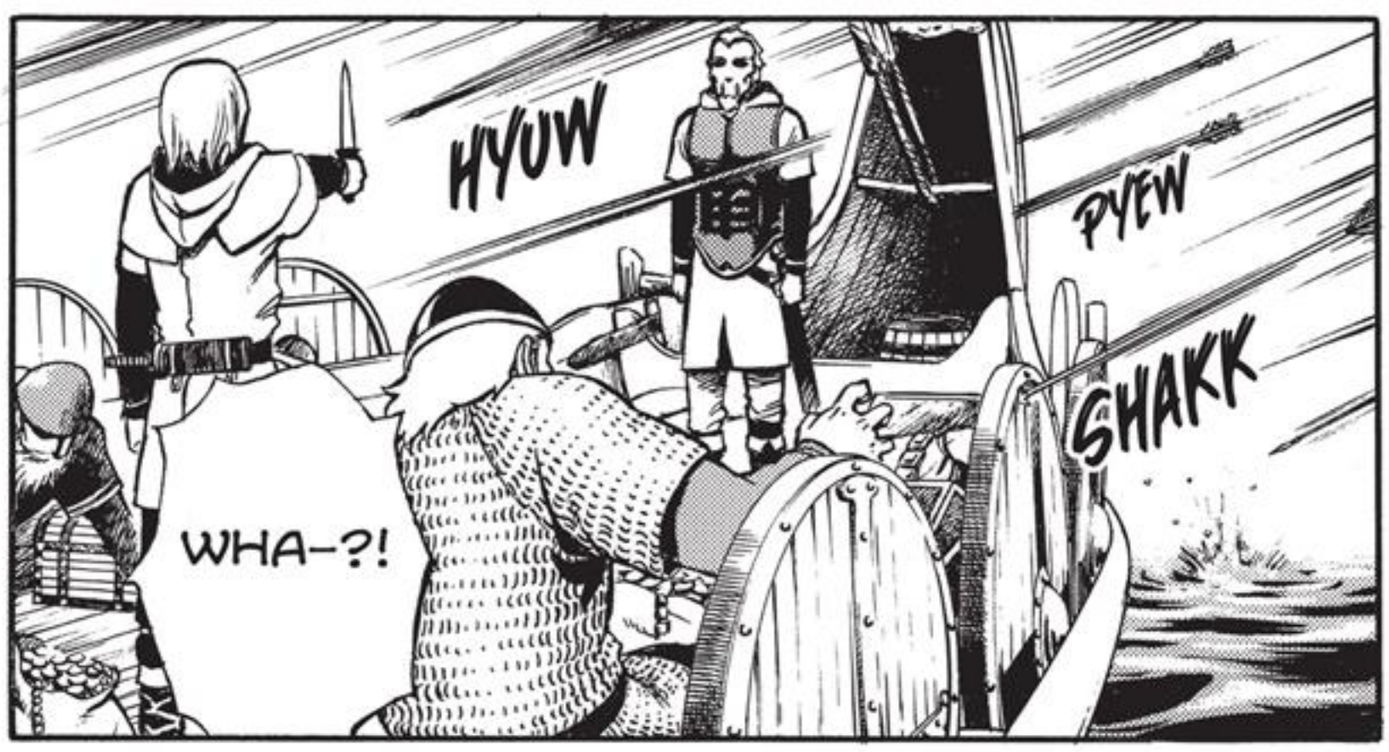
I, THORFINN, SON OF THORS, WARRIOR OF ICE-LAND...

UPON MY FATHER'S BLADE, DO SEEK A DUEL WITH ASKELADD.







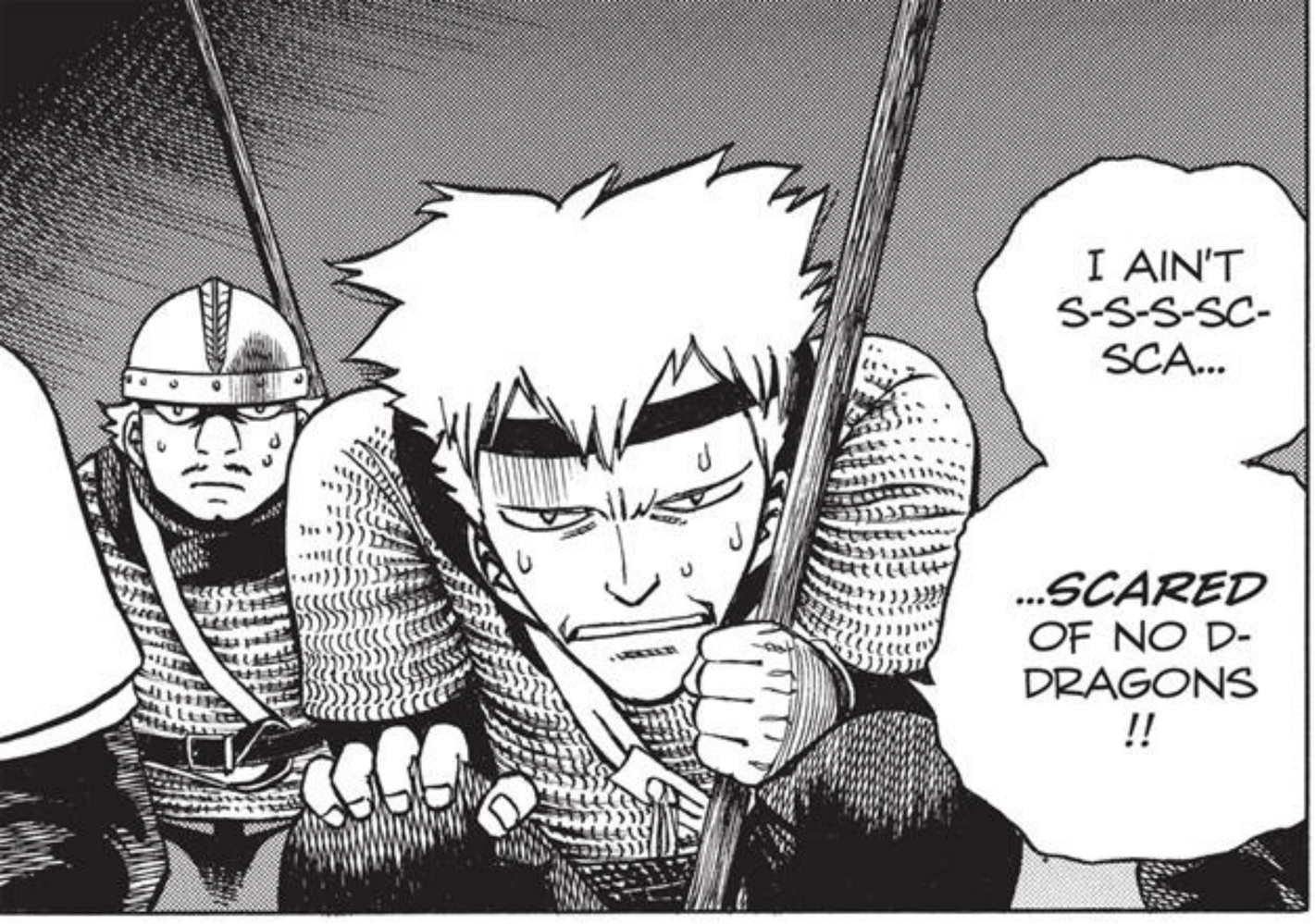

HYUW
PYEW
SHAKK
WHA-?!

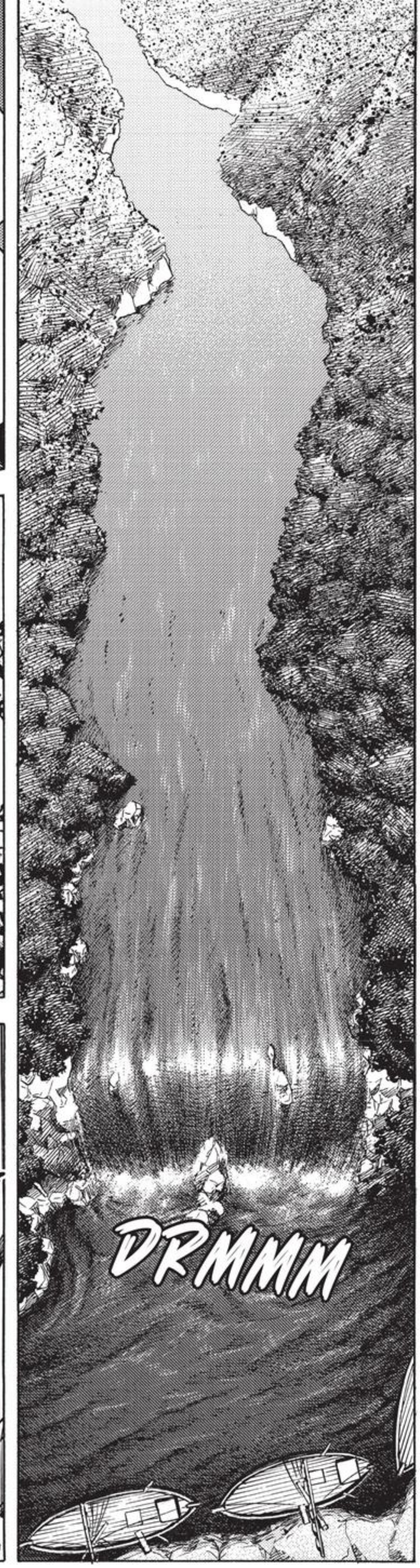
BUT.

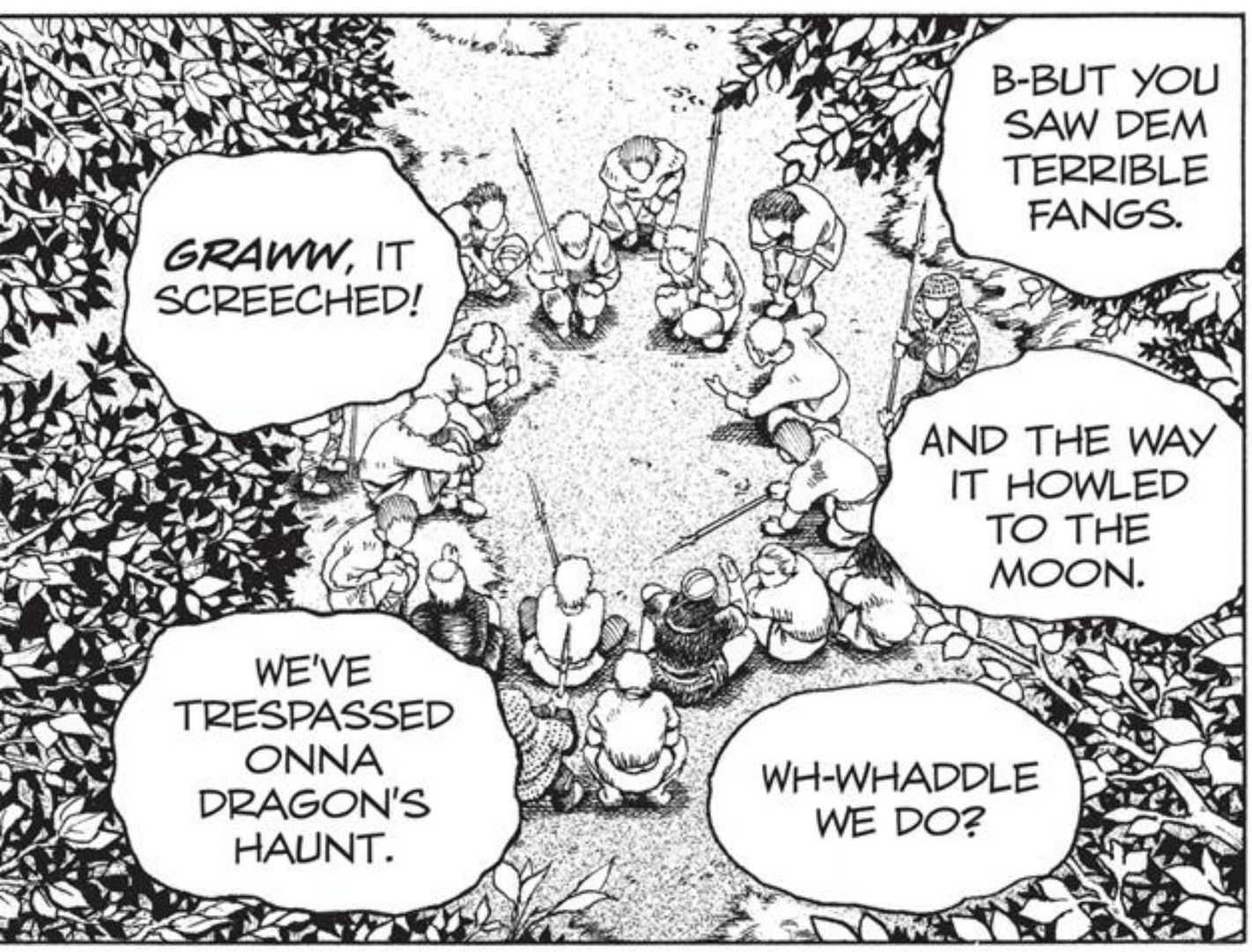
MAN OARS, YOU UGLY SHITS!!
NOT THIS INSTANT! RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO FLY!

BAM
BABAM

QUICK, BEFORE THEY CLOSE OFF THE RIVER!!
FSHH

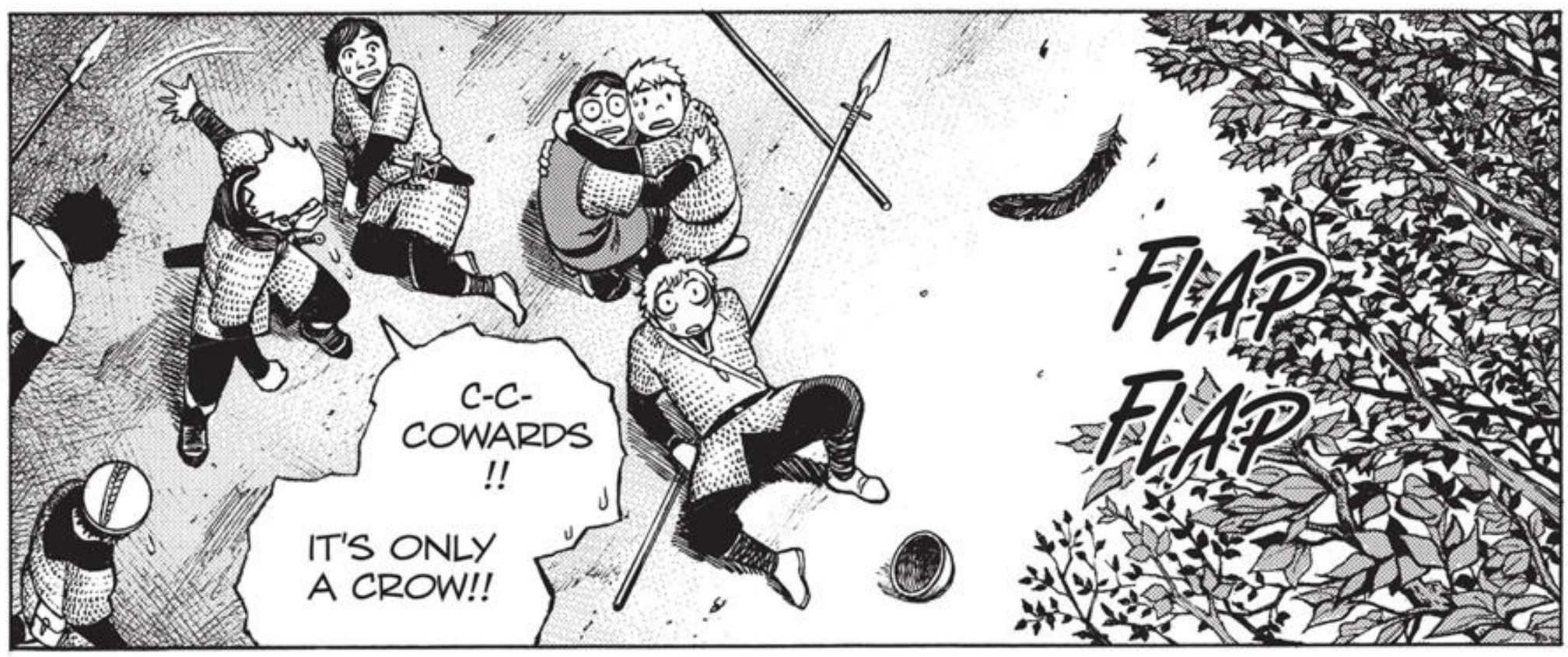

I AIN'T S-S-S-SC-SCA...
...SCARED OF NO D-DRAGONS !!


DRMMM


GRAWW, IT SCREECHED!
B-BUT YOU SAW DEM TERRIBLE FANGS.
AND THE WAY IT HOWLED TO THE MOON.
WE'VE TRESPASSED ONNA DRAGON'S HAUNT.
WH-WHADDLE WE DO?

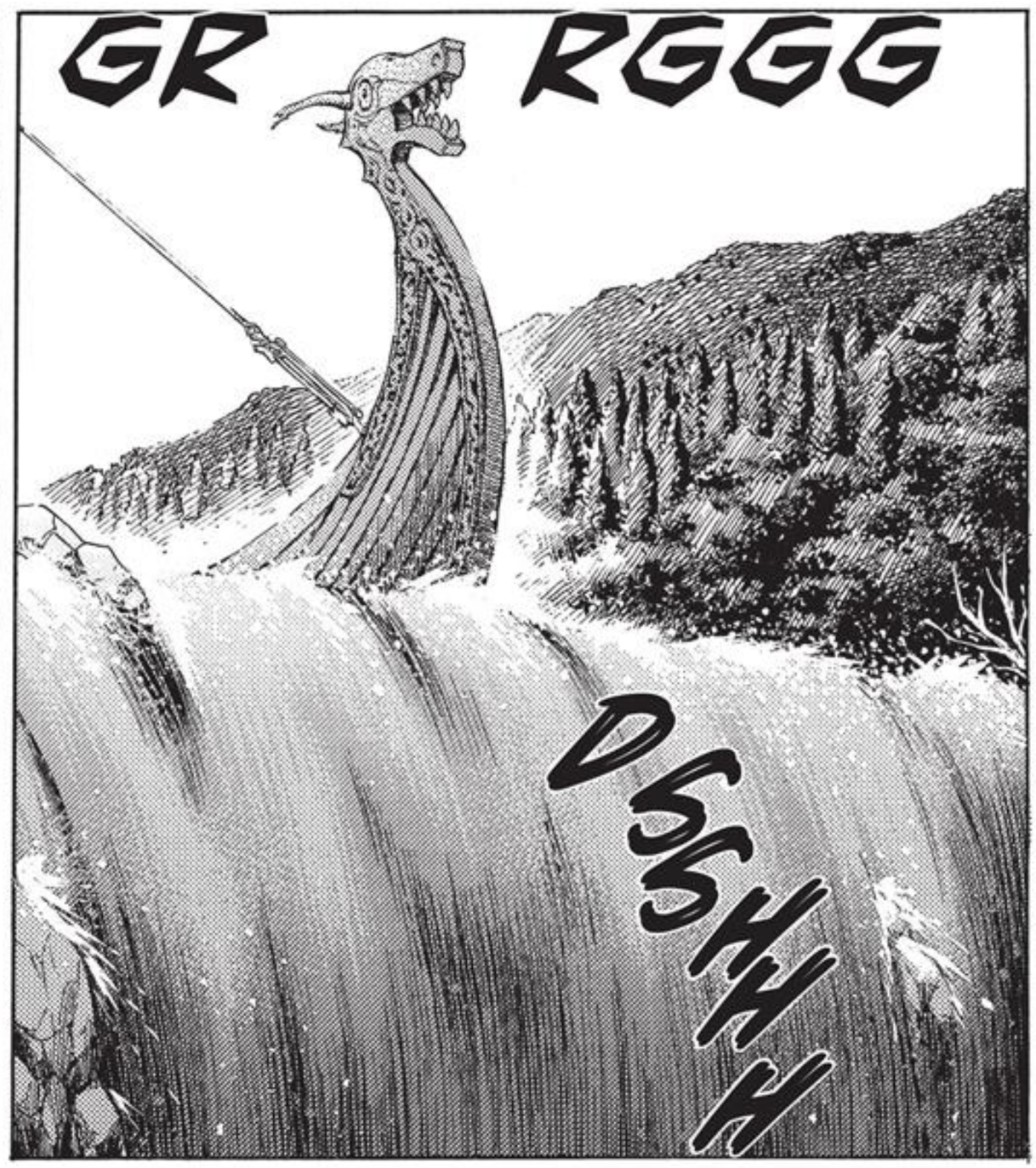
GRAWK...
FLAP FLAP

YAAAGH !!
FLINCH


C-C-
COWARDS
!!
IT'S ONLY
A CROW!!
FLAP
FLAP

DO YOUR
WORST, YA
HIDEOUS
BRUTE!!
S-STOP!
IT'LL
HEAR YA!!

BRING ON
ALL THE
DRAGONS,
I SAY!!
I ALWAYS
WANNED TO
CHOP OFF A
DRAGON'S
HEAD!!

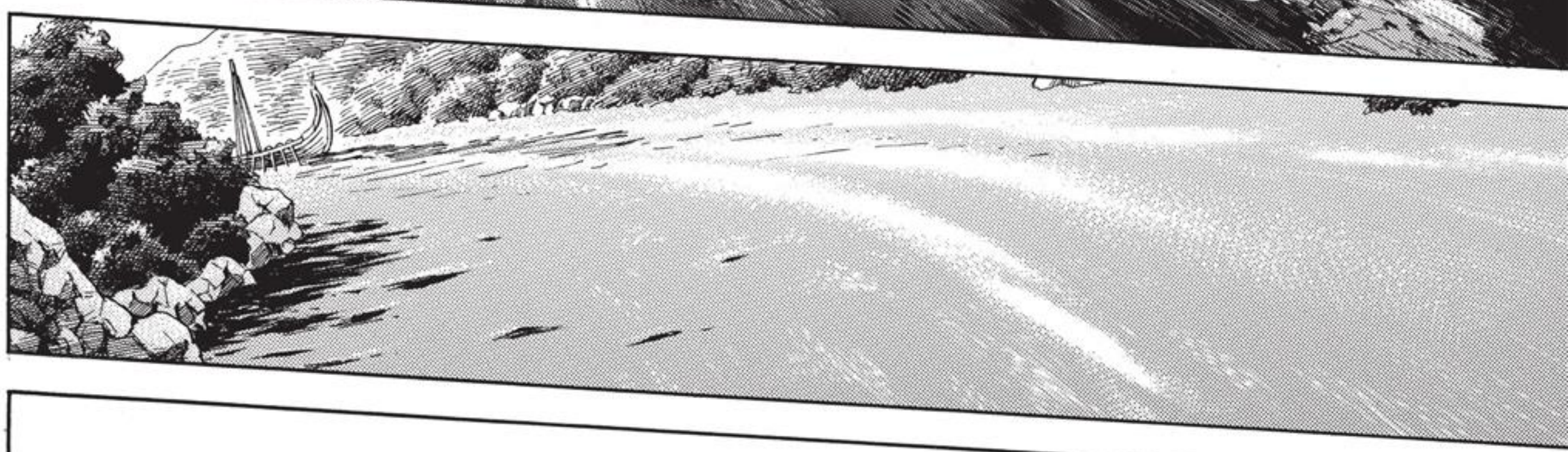

GR
RGGG
DSSHH

PPPPPP
GRAWR
RR
DRAGONNNN!!
AH
HH
ZSHAA
AIEEEE!!
GOD SAVE US!!
DSH

HA HA HA HA !!

FARE-WELL, LAND OF THE FRANKS!!

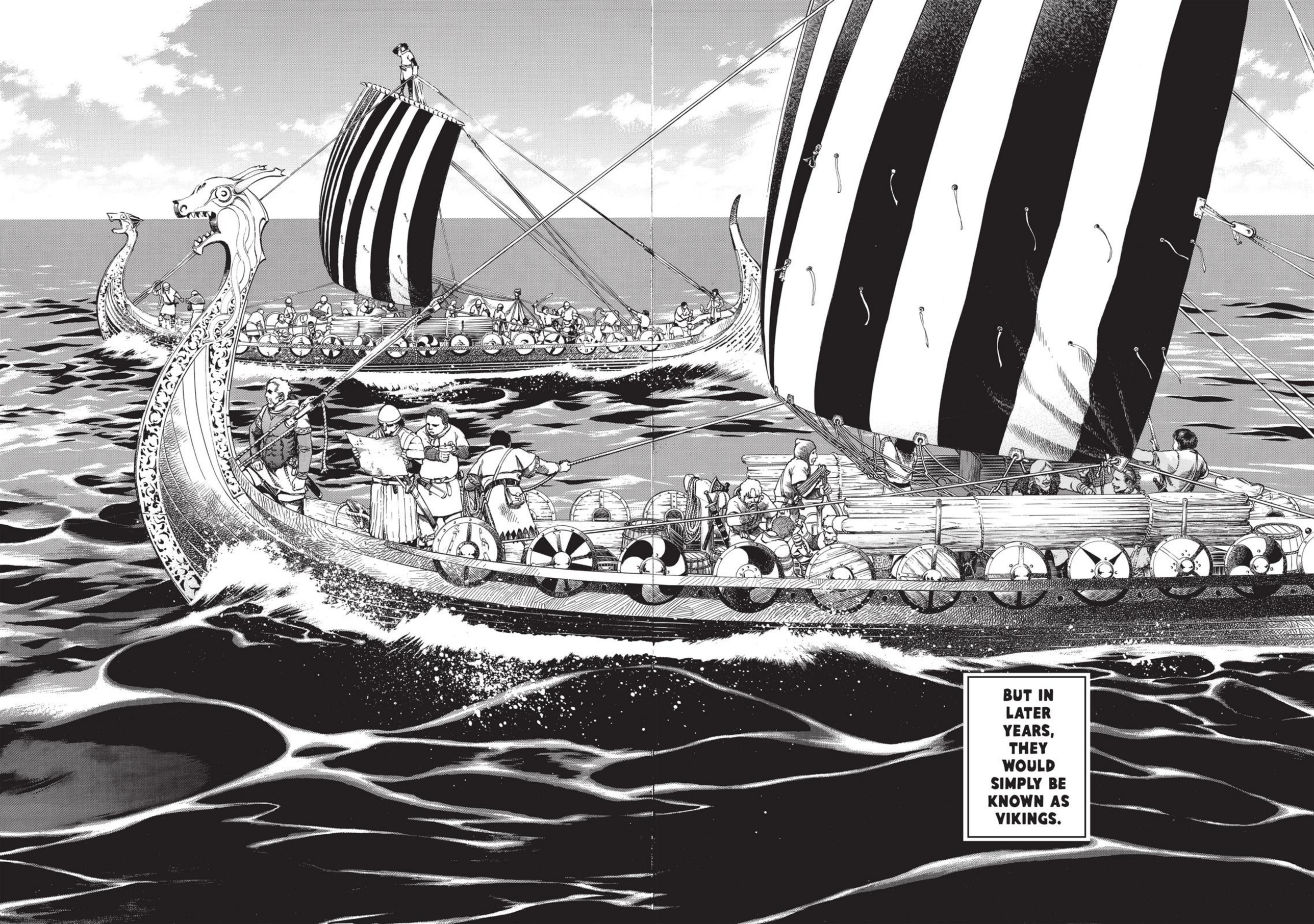
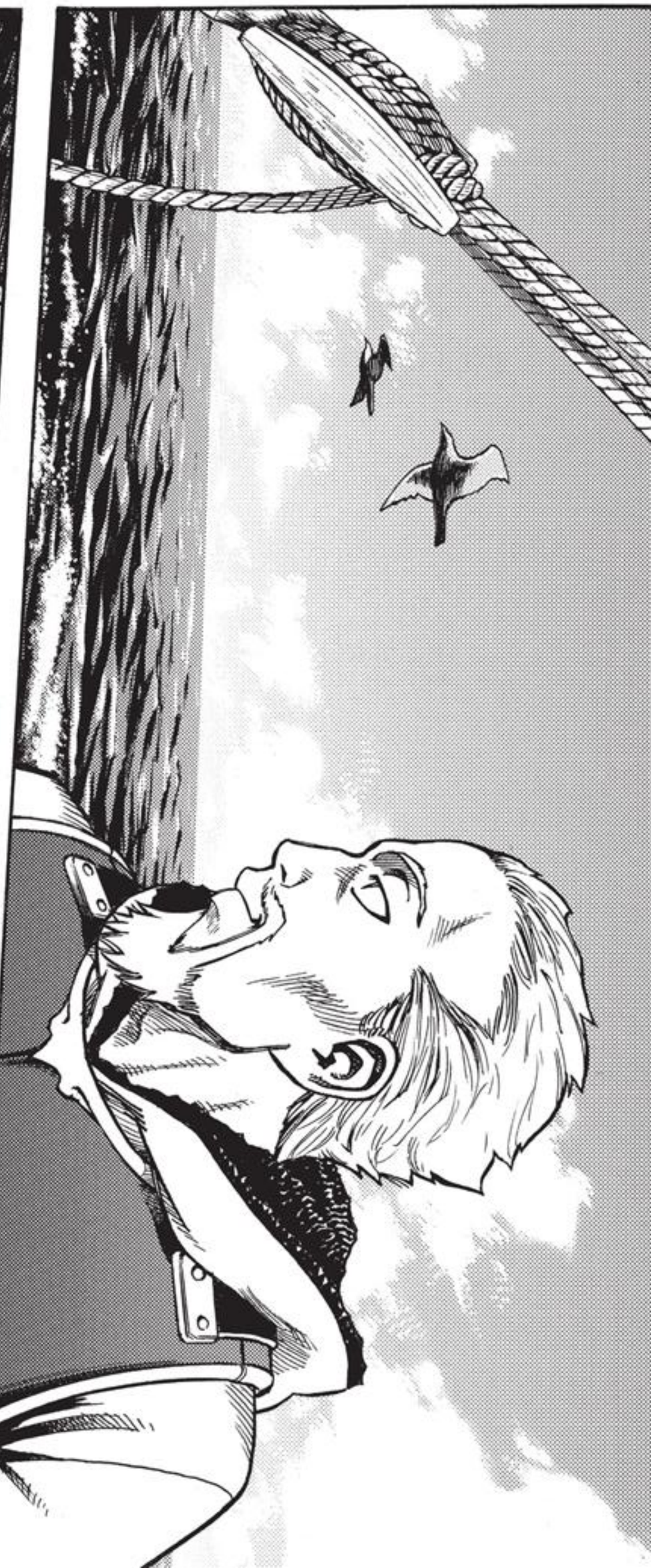
SHH



...A NORTHERN EUROPEAN PEOPLE TERRORIZED THE CIVILIZED WORLD IN THEIR DRAGON-HEADED SHIPS.

FOR ROUGHLY THREE HUNDRED YEARS, STARTING IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY A.D....

FROM WESTERN EUROPE TO RUSSIA, NORTH AFRICA, GREECE, TURKEY, EVEN THE MIDDLE EAST...
...THEY APPEARED FAR AND WIDE WITHOUT WARNING, PILLAGING AND SLAUGHTERING, ONLY TO LEAVE JUST AS SUDDENLY.
FSHH
IN ENGLAND, THEY WERE THE DANES; TO THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE, THE RUS OR ROS.
IN OLD FRANKISH, THEY WERE THE NORMANNI.


BUT IN LATER YEARS, THEY WOULD SIMPLY BE KNOWN AS VIKINGS.

## CHAPTER 1 - END