The background features several characters from the Naruto series. In the center, a young man with spiky yellow hair and red eyes, wearing a black headband with a leaf symbol and a black and orange outfit, stands with his arms crossed. To his left, a woman with long blonde hair and a red headband looks forward. Behind him, another character with red hair and a blue coat is partially visible, looking over their shoulder. A large green plant with long leaves is on the left side of the frame.

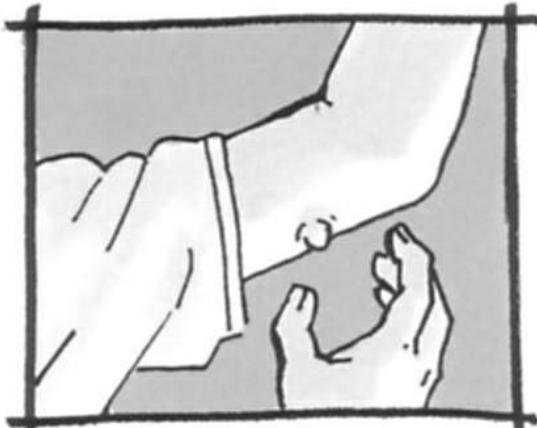
# NARUTO

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

Translation/Kyoko Shapiro, HC Language Solutions, Inc.  
English Adaptation/Ian Reid, HC Language Solutions, Inc.

Consultant/Mari Morimoto

Touch-up Art & Lettering/Inori Fukuda Trant

Design/Sean Lee

Editor/Joel Enos

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu

Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum

VP of Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye

VP of Sales/Gonzalo Ferreyra

Sr.VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola

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First printing, September 2008



[www.viz.com](http://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.

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

# NARUTO



VOL. 31  
FINAL  
BATTLE

STORY AND ART BY  
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

# CHARACTERS



Sakura  
サクラ



チヨ  
Granny Chiyo



Naruto  
ナルト



Gaara  
我愛羅



Kakashi  
カカシ



Itachi  
イタチ



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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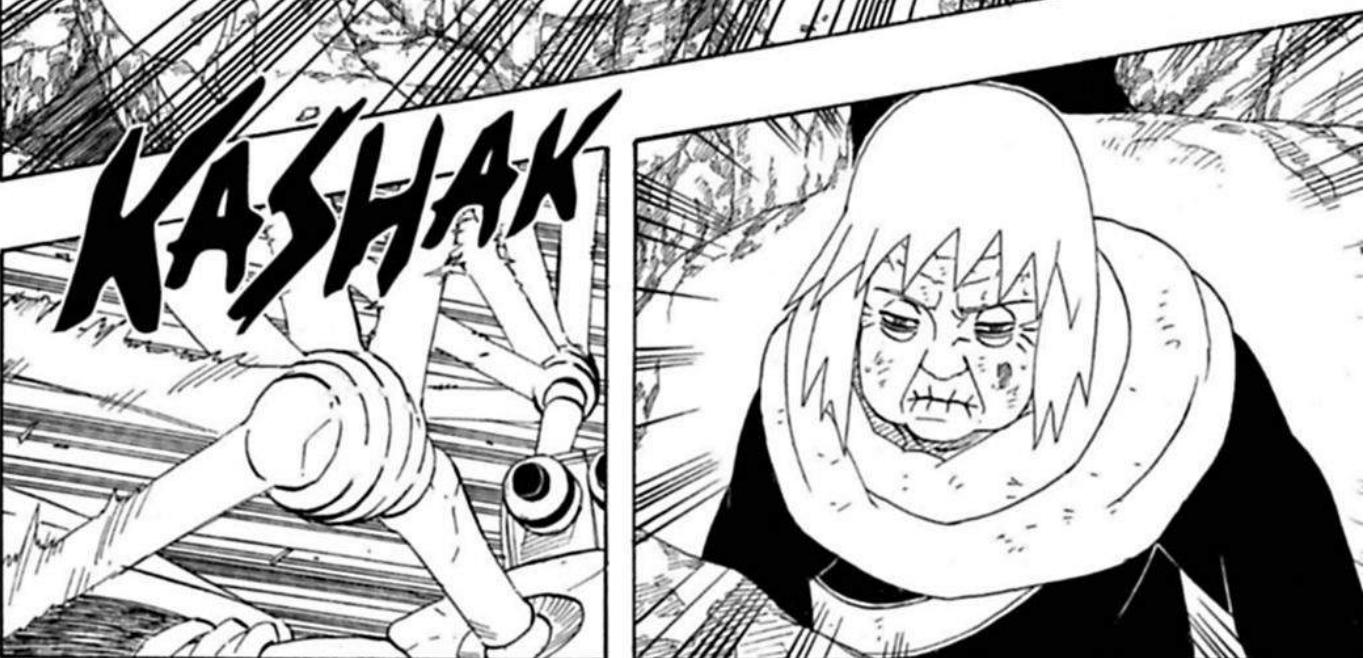
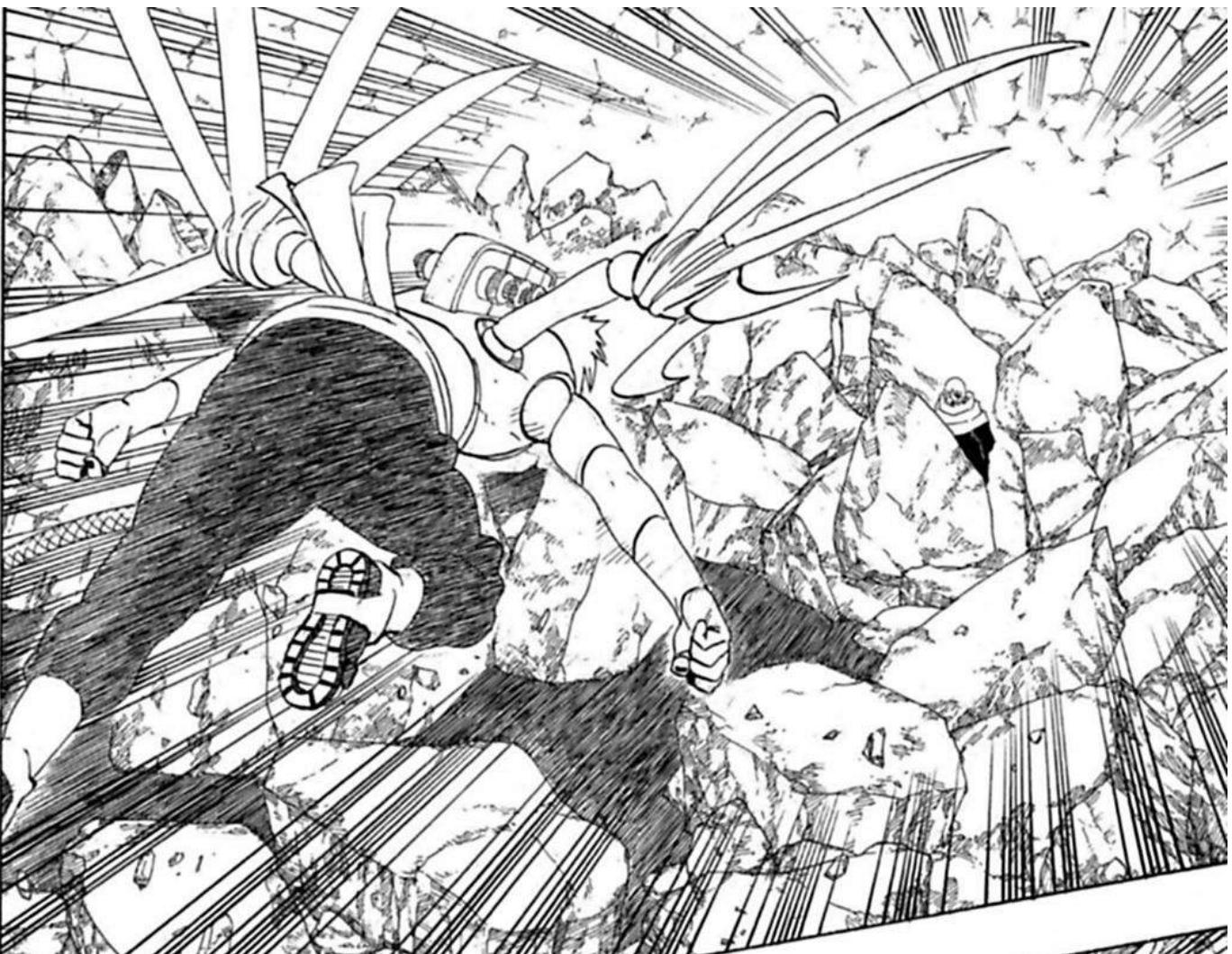


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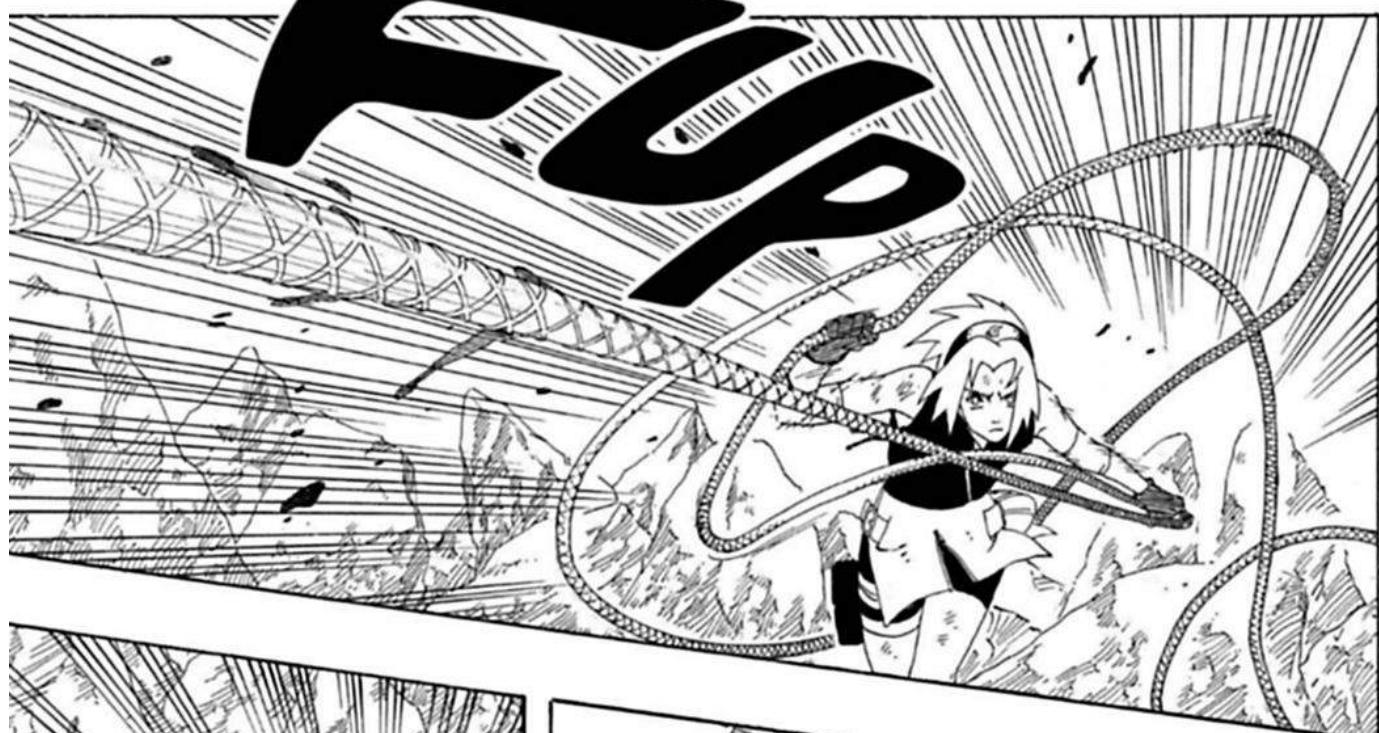
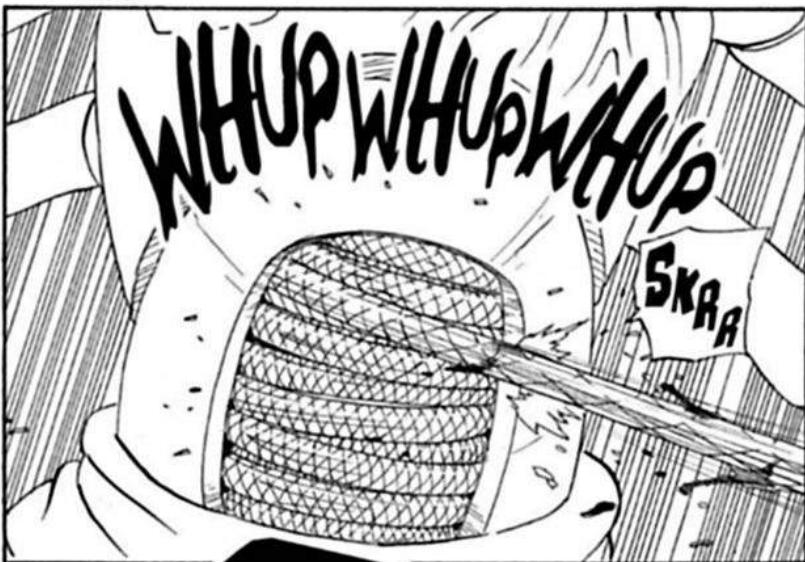
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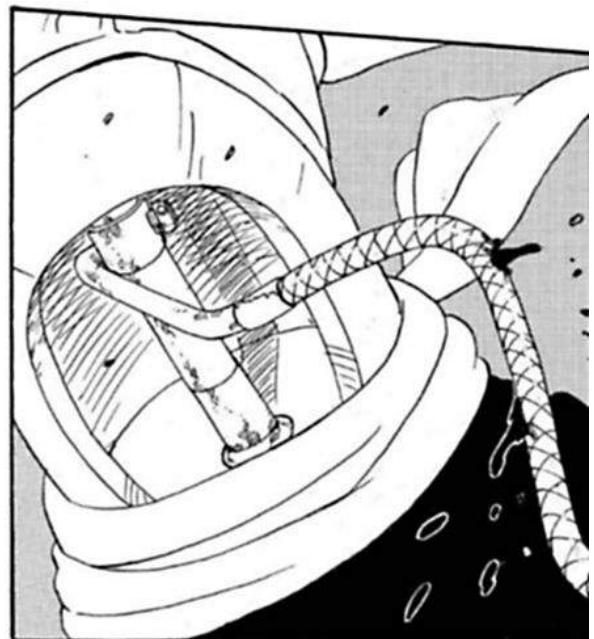
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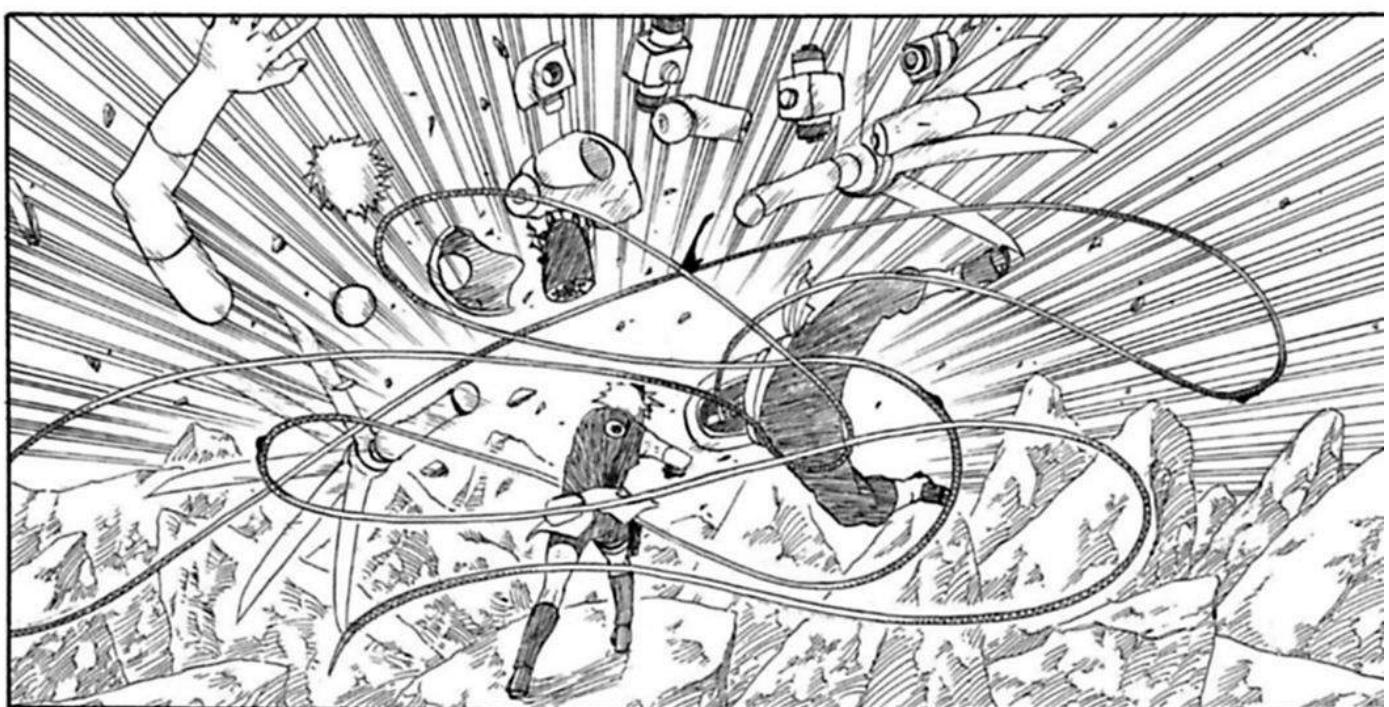
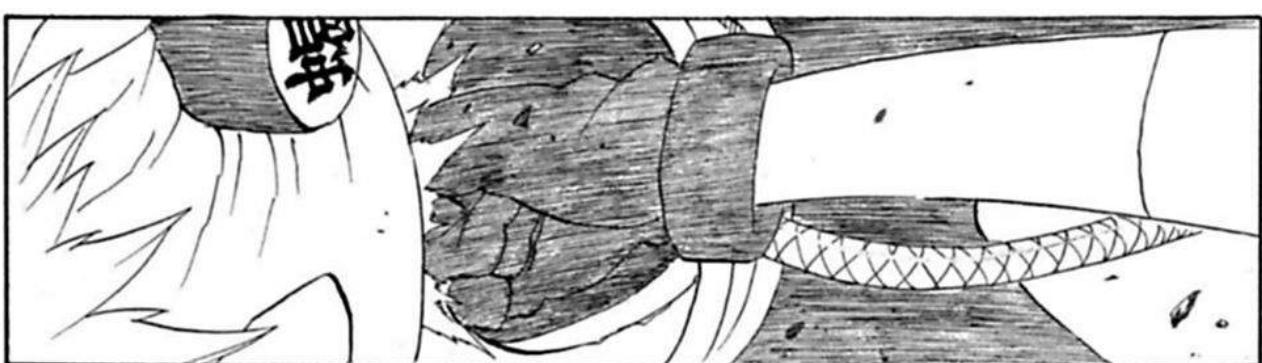


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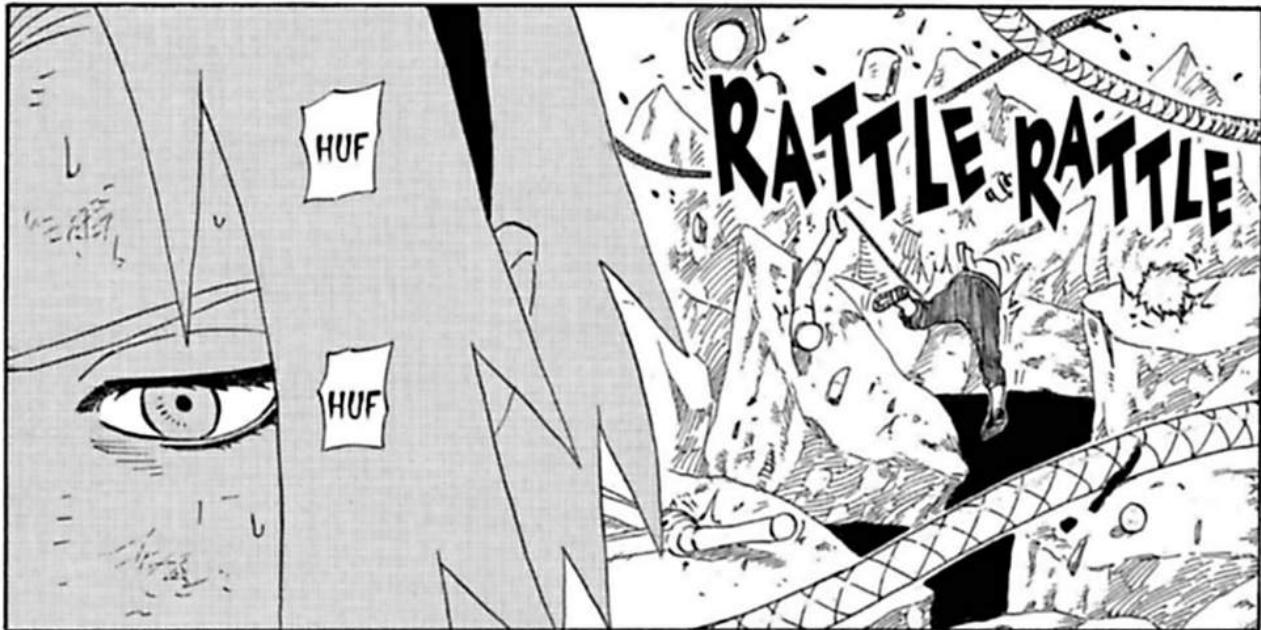


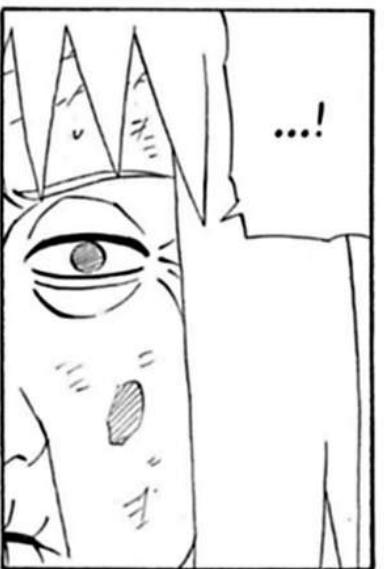






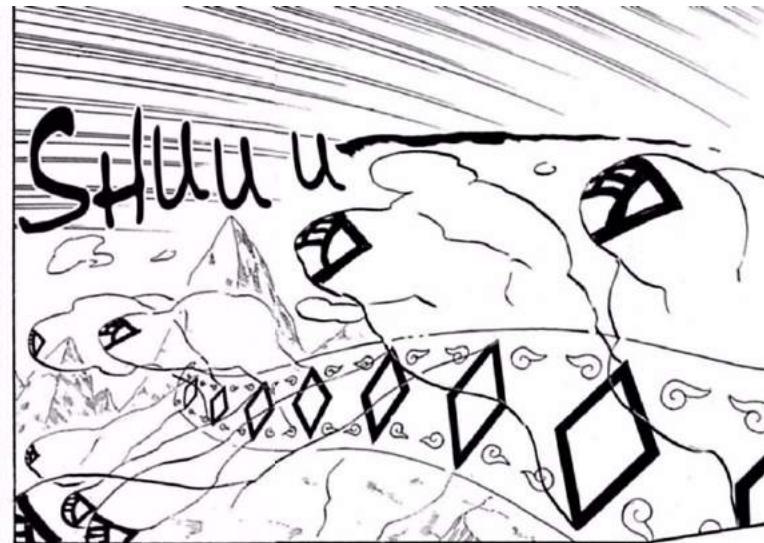
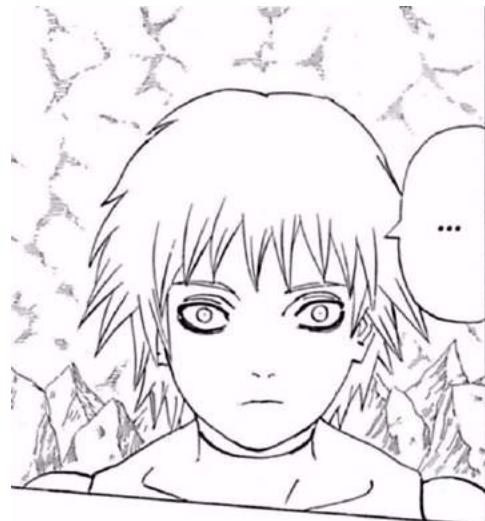
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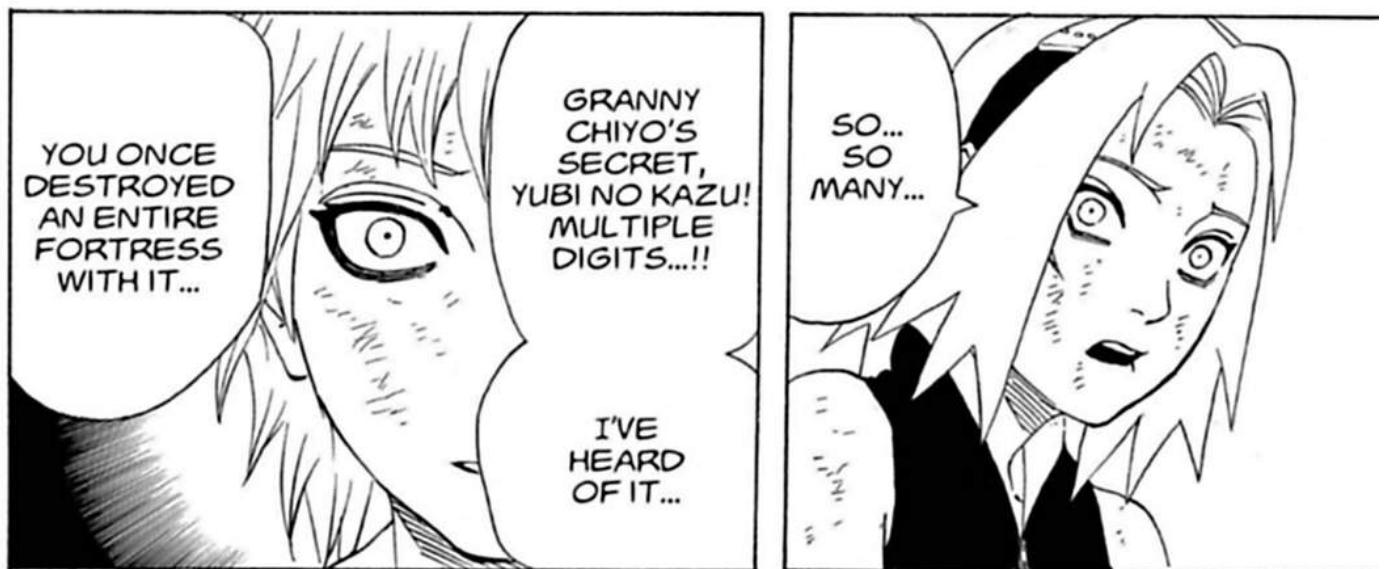




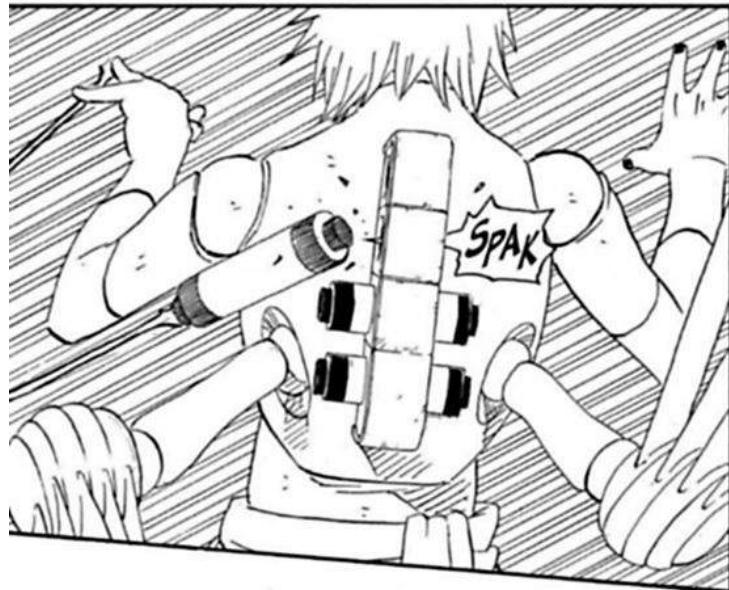
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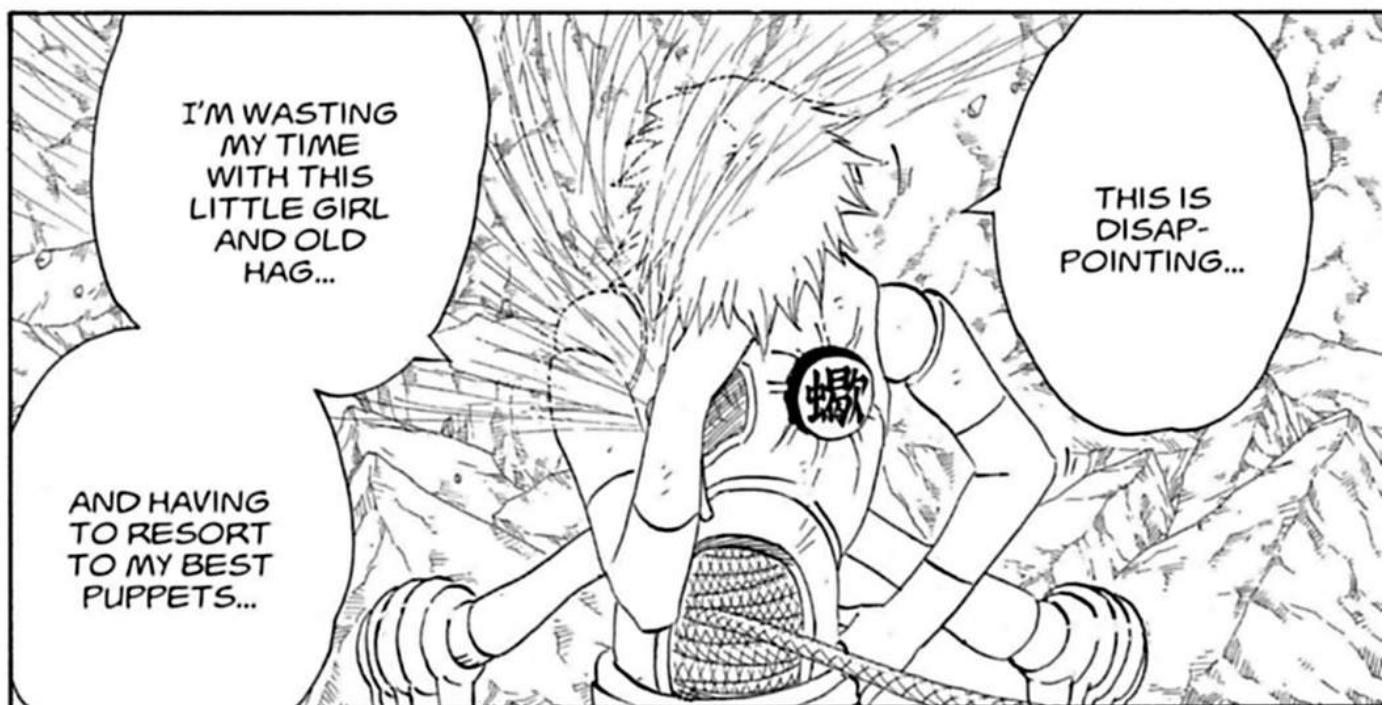
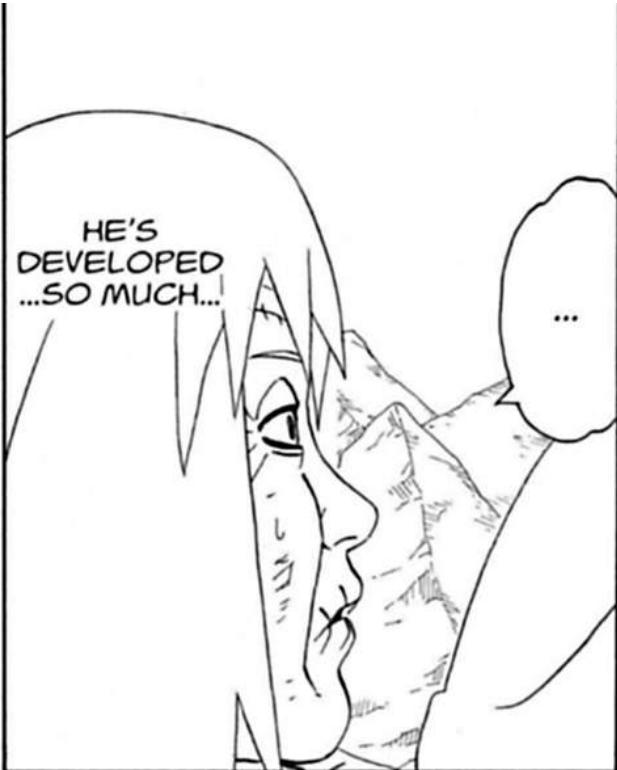


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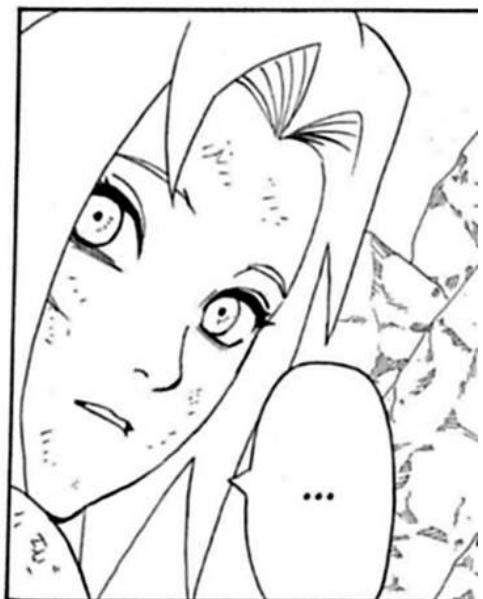


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AN ENTIRE  
COUNTRY  
WITH THESE.

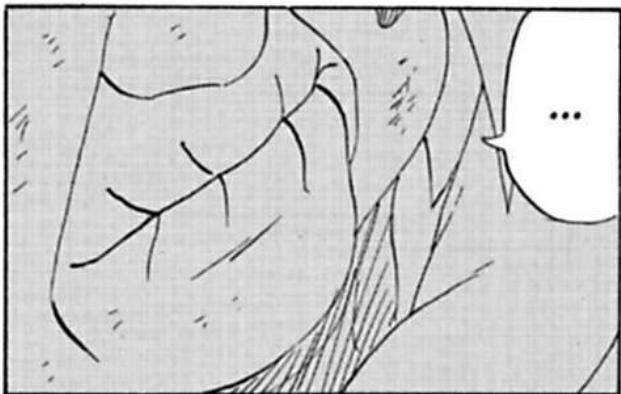








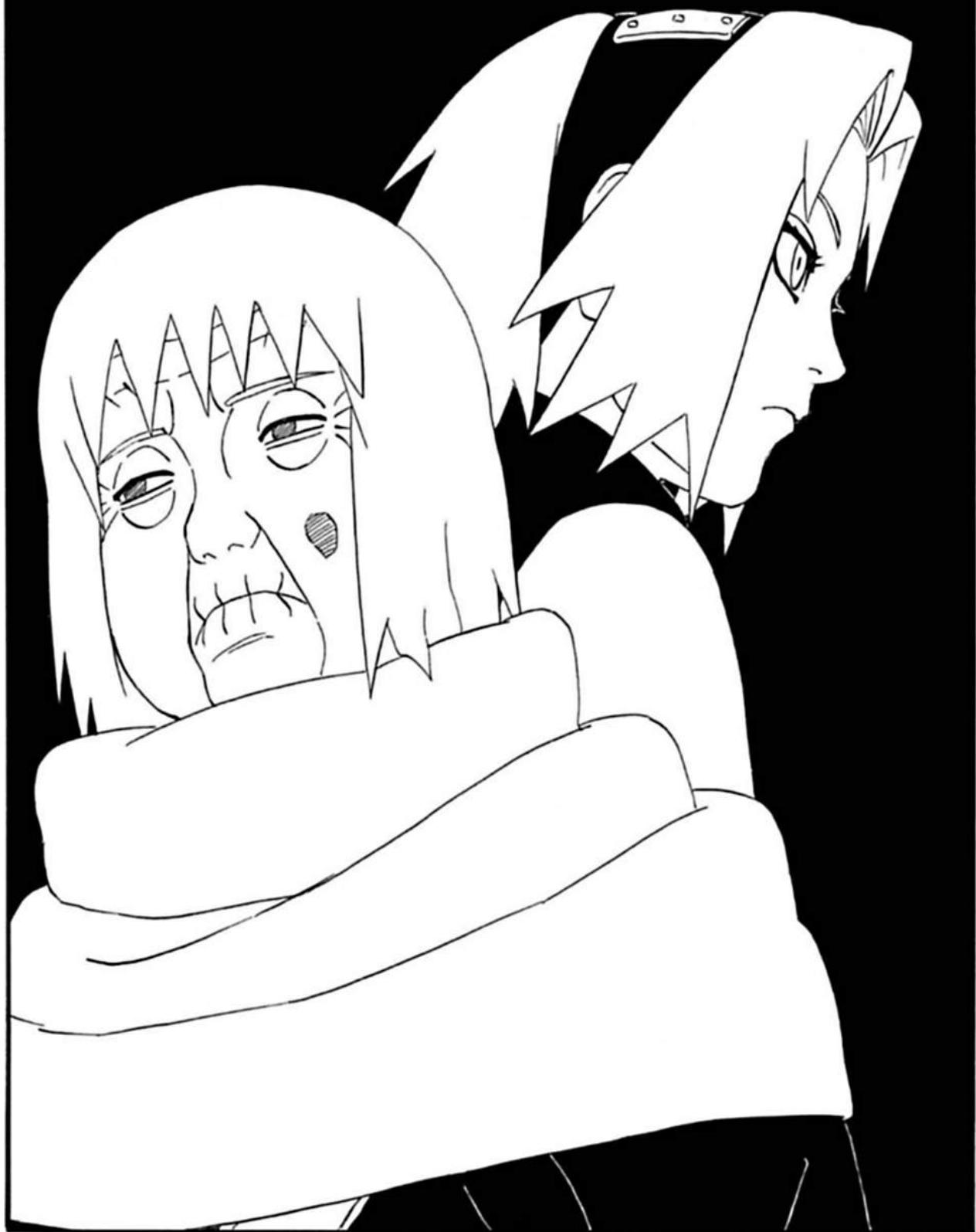
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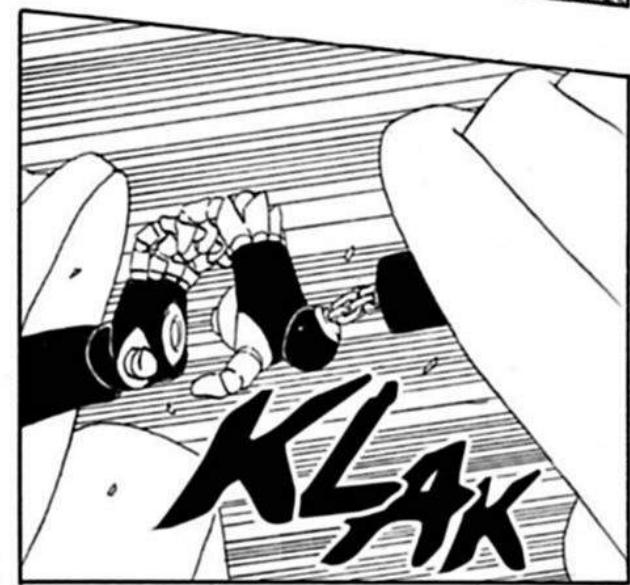
NARUTO

Number 273:

# Final Battle...!!









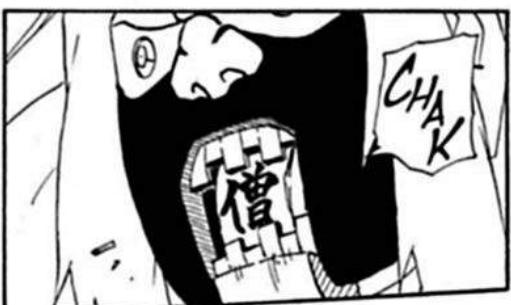




(Butsu: Buddha)



(Pou: Dharma)



(Sou: Monk)









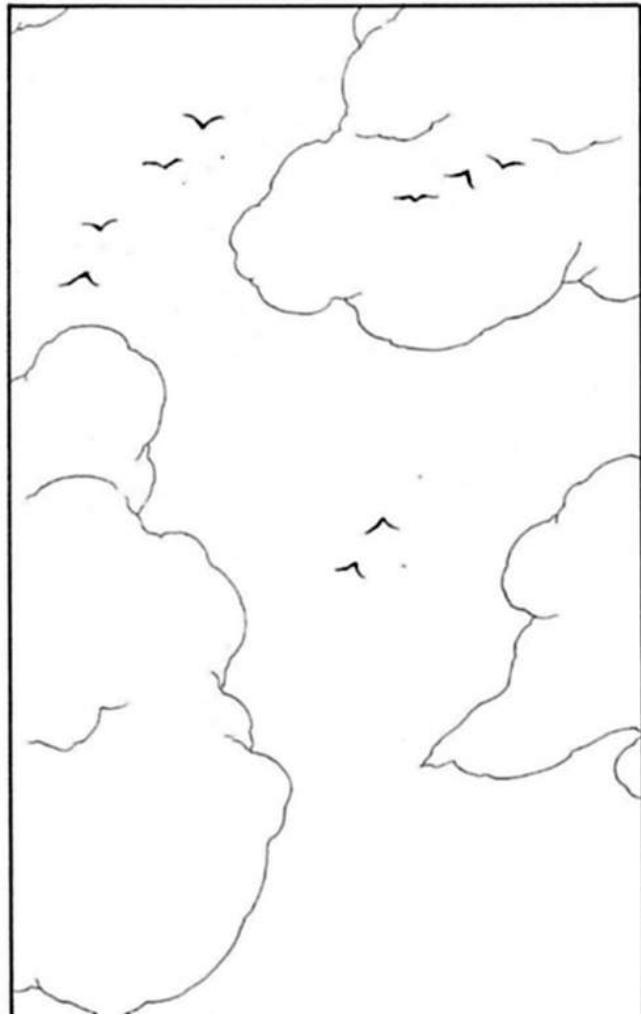


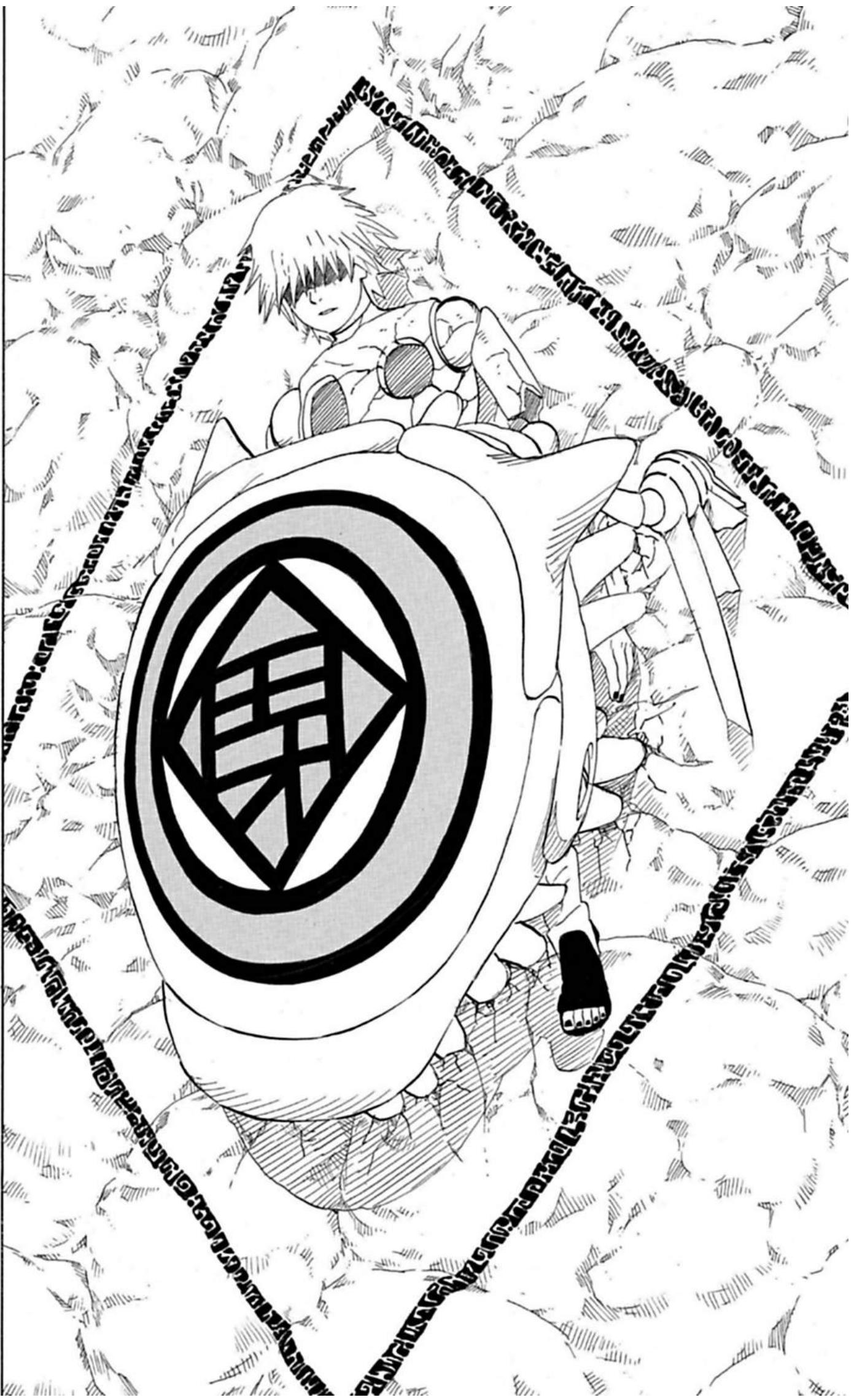
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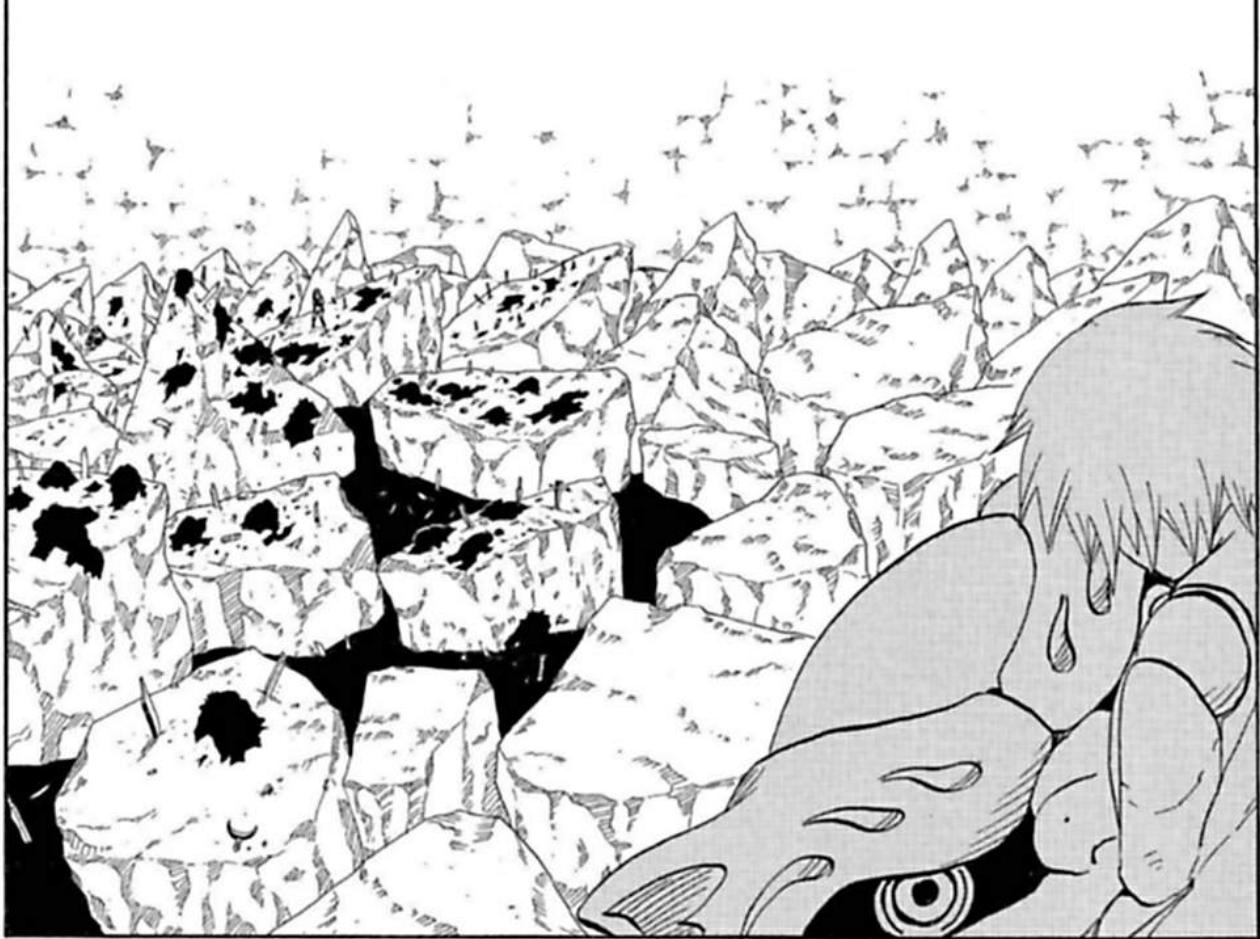


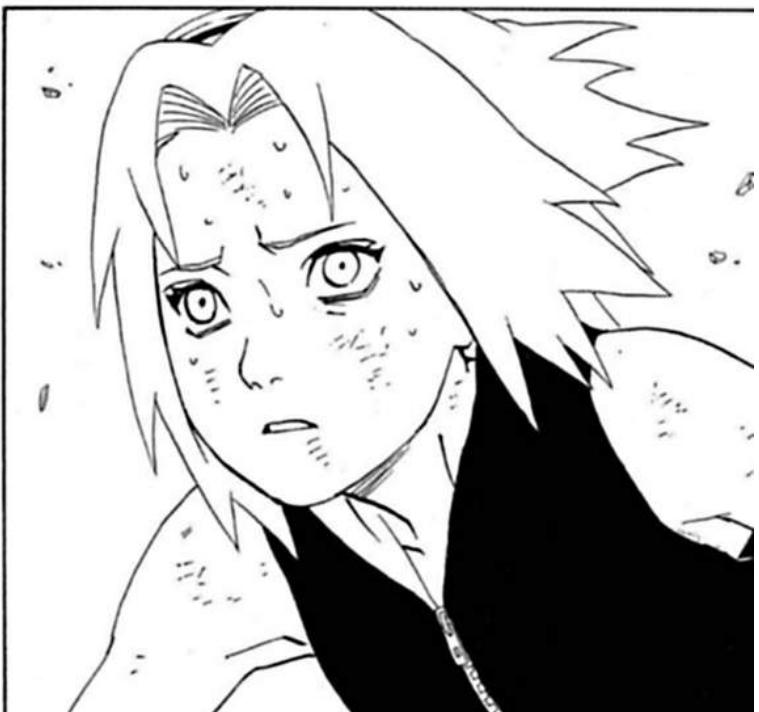
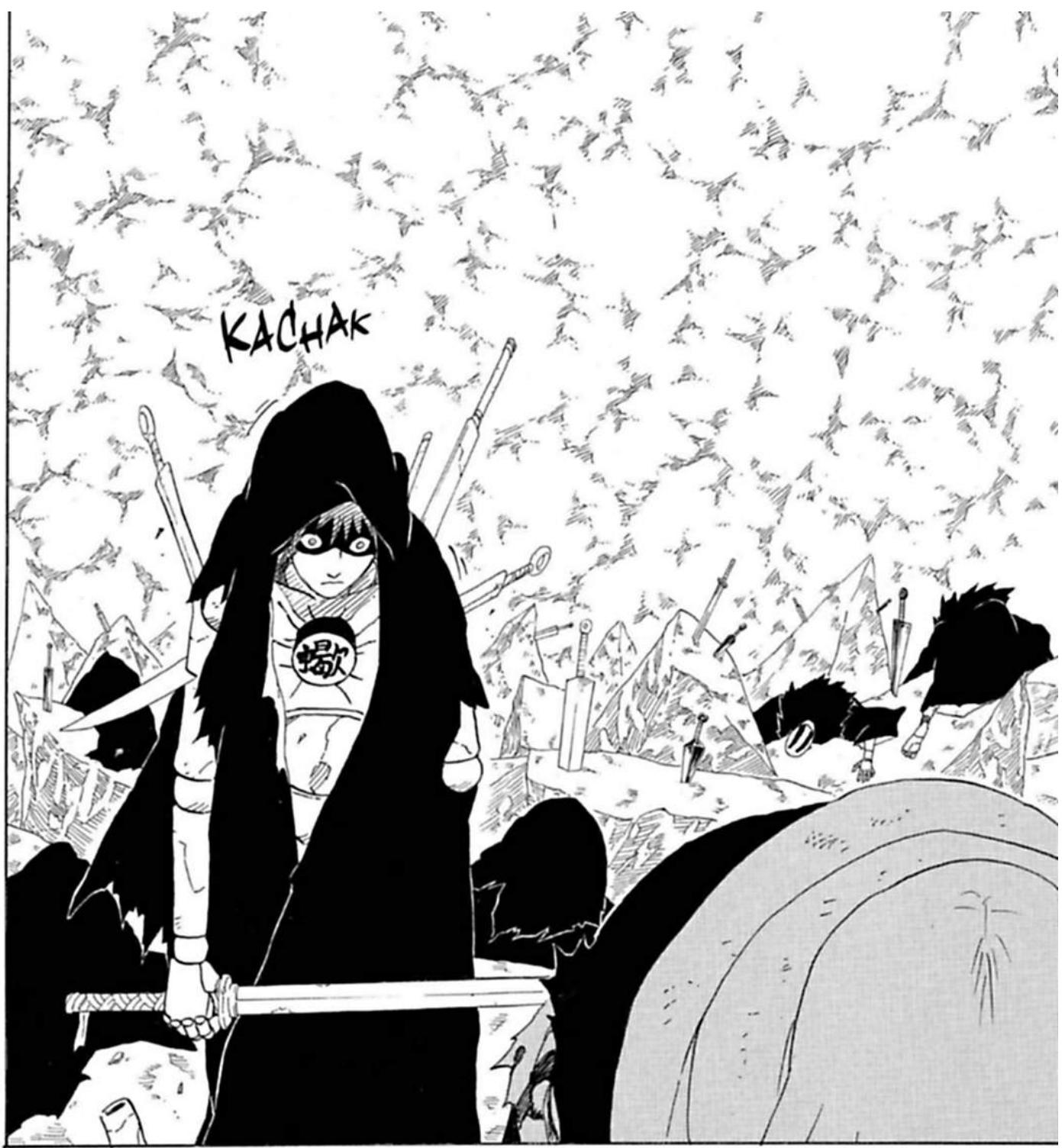


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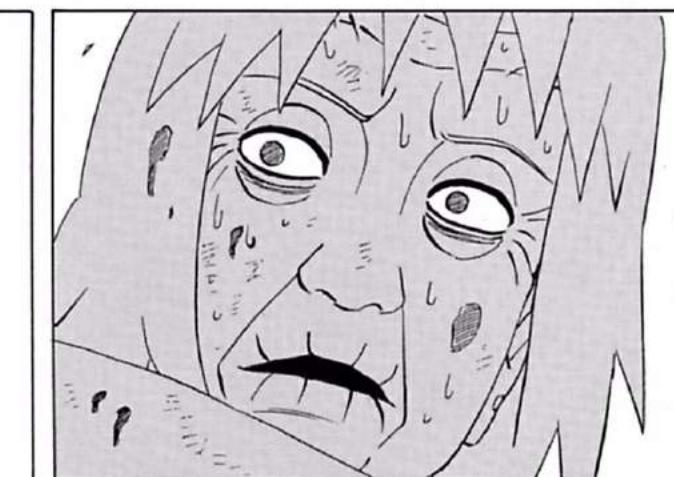
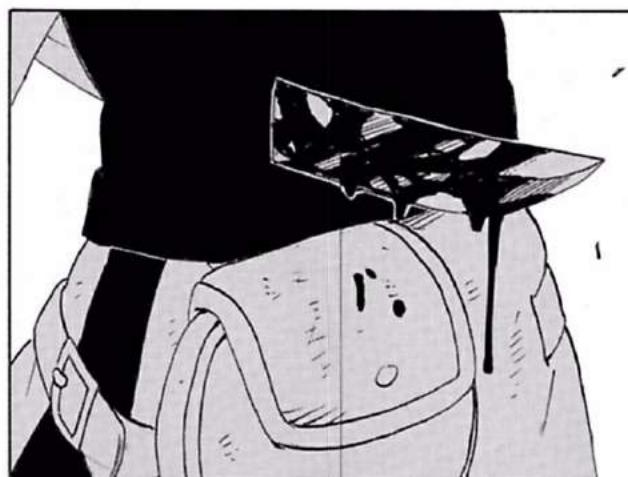
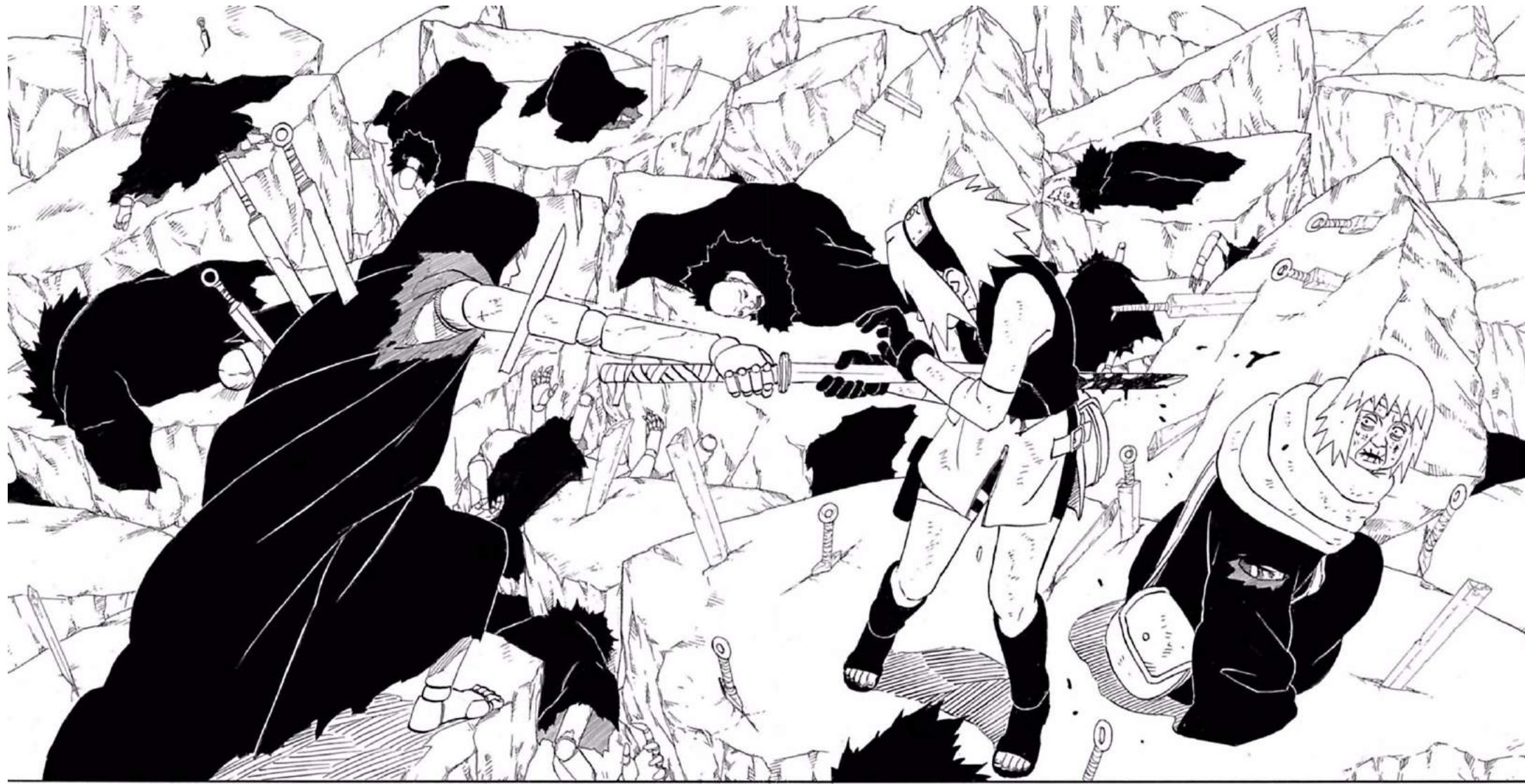






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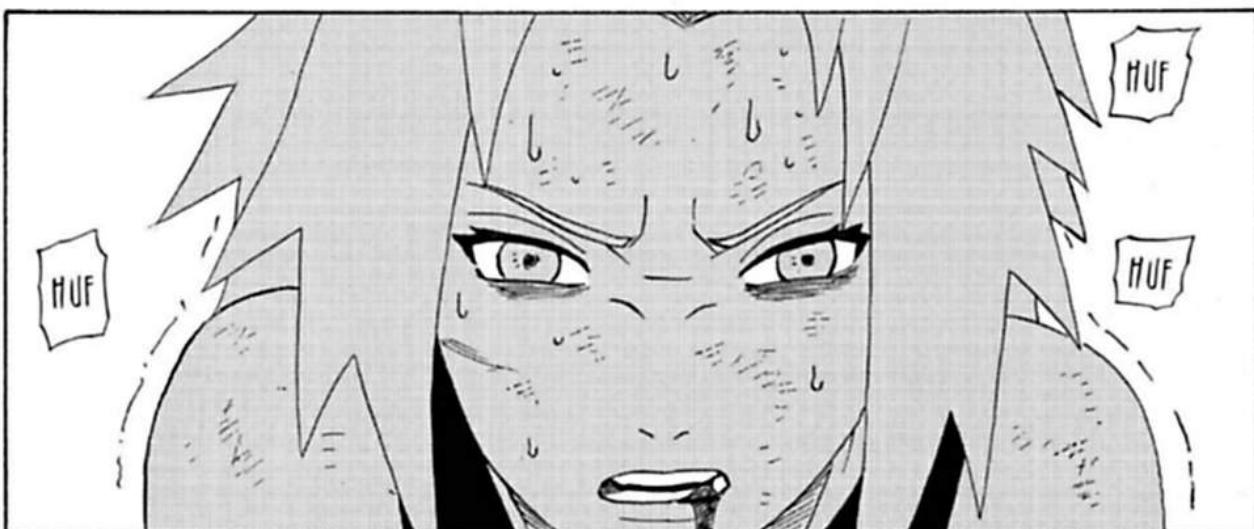
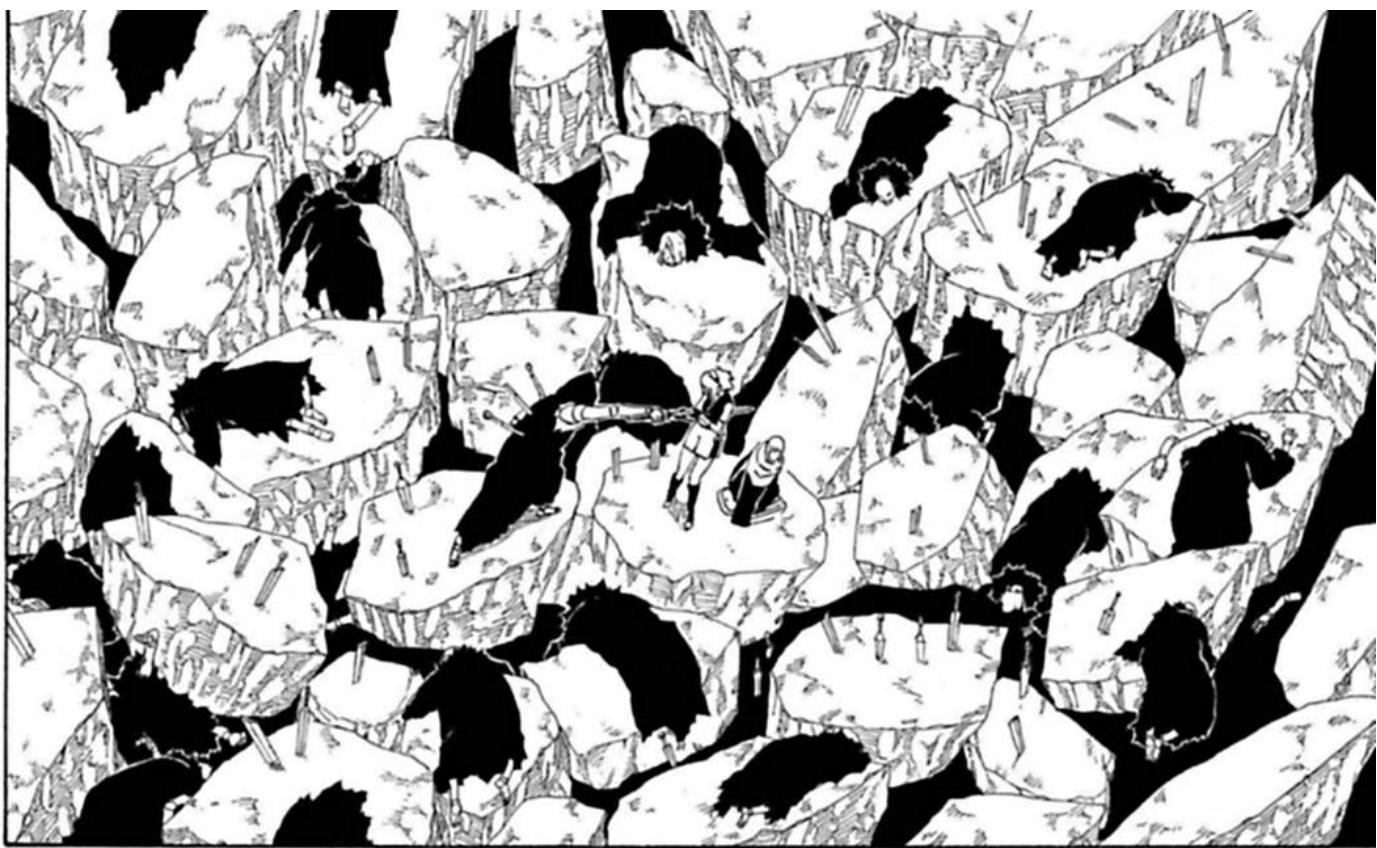




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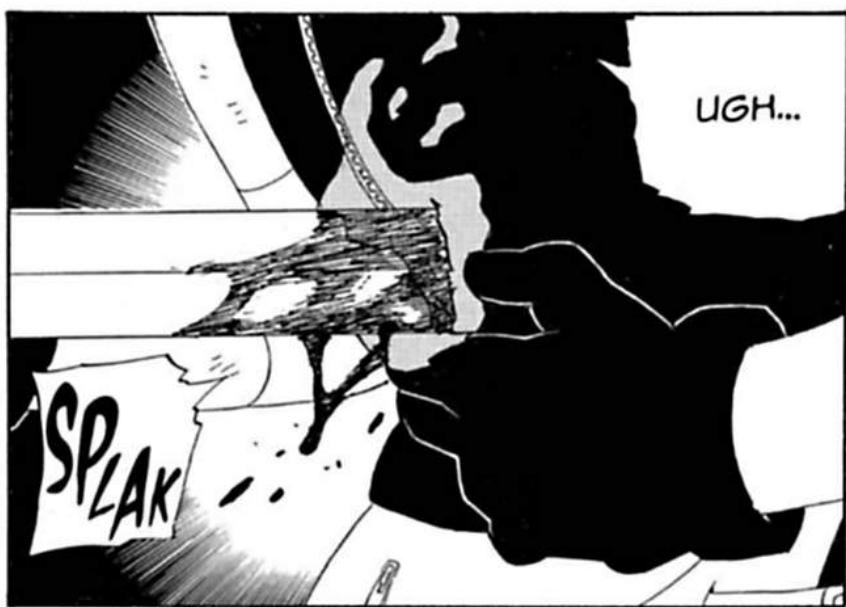
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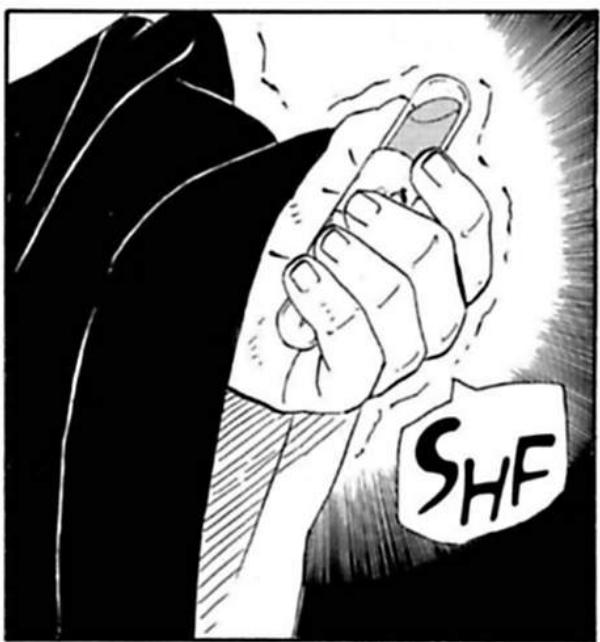
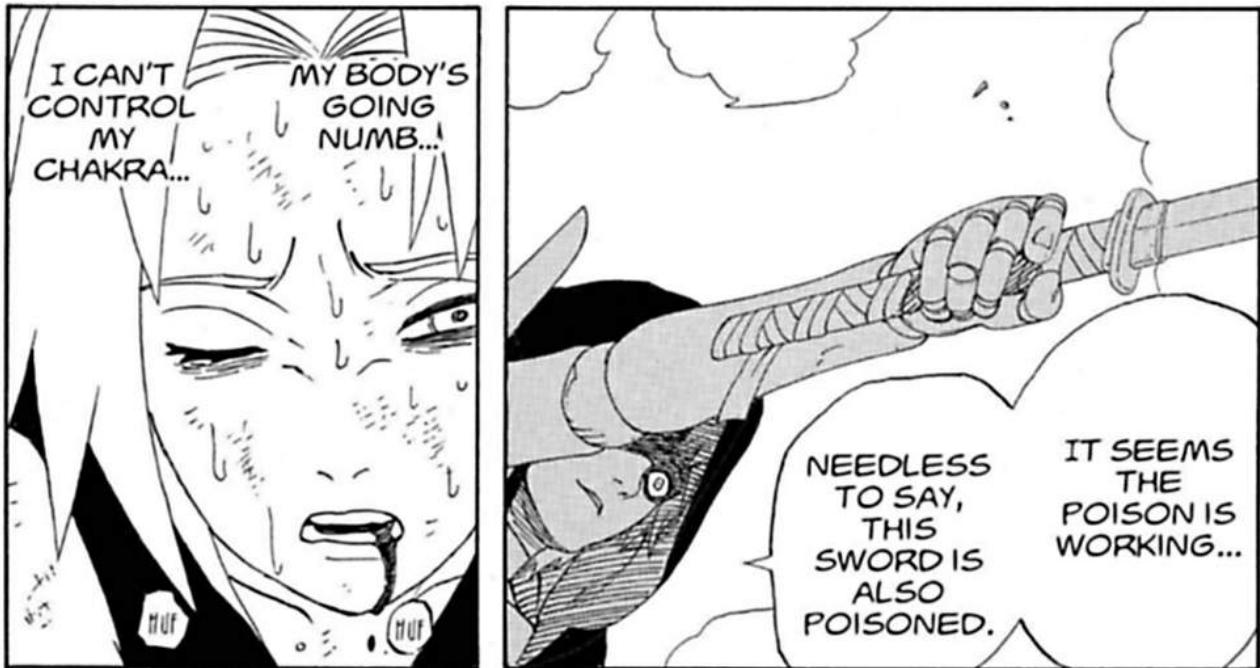


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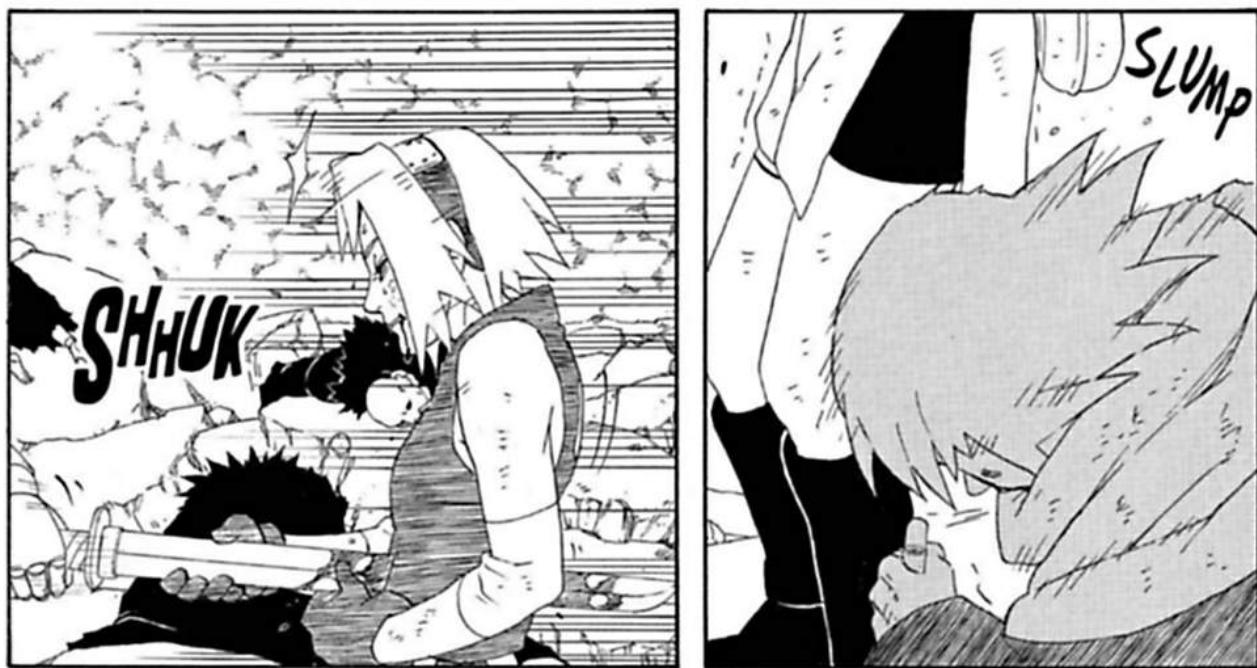


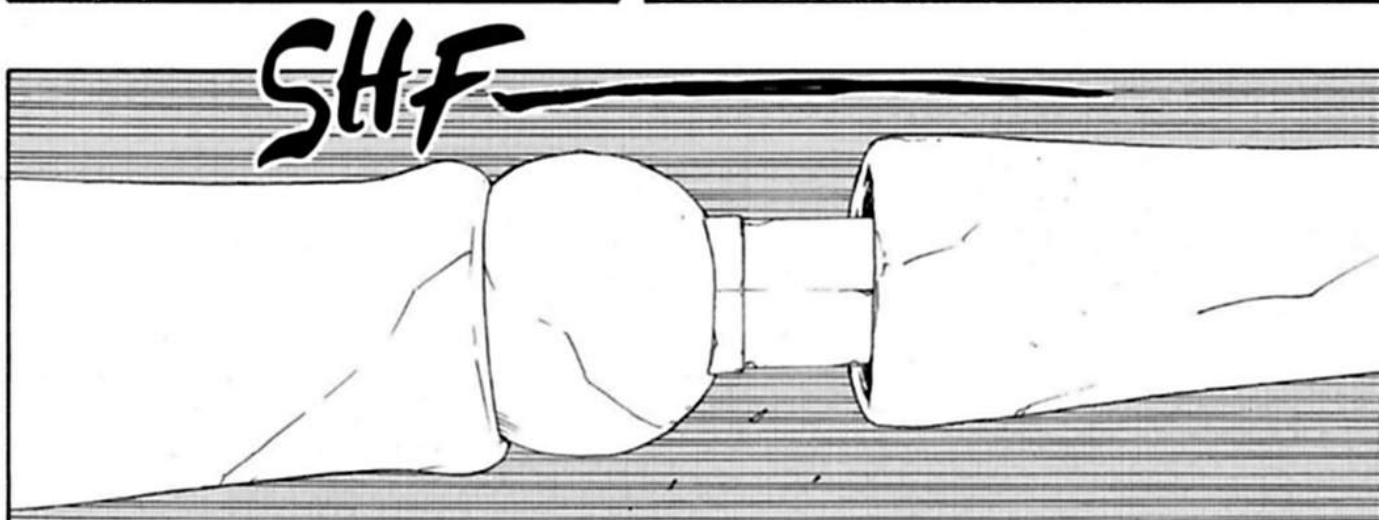
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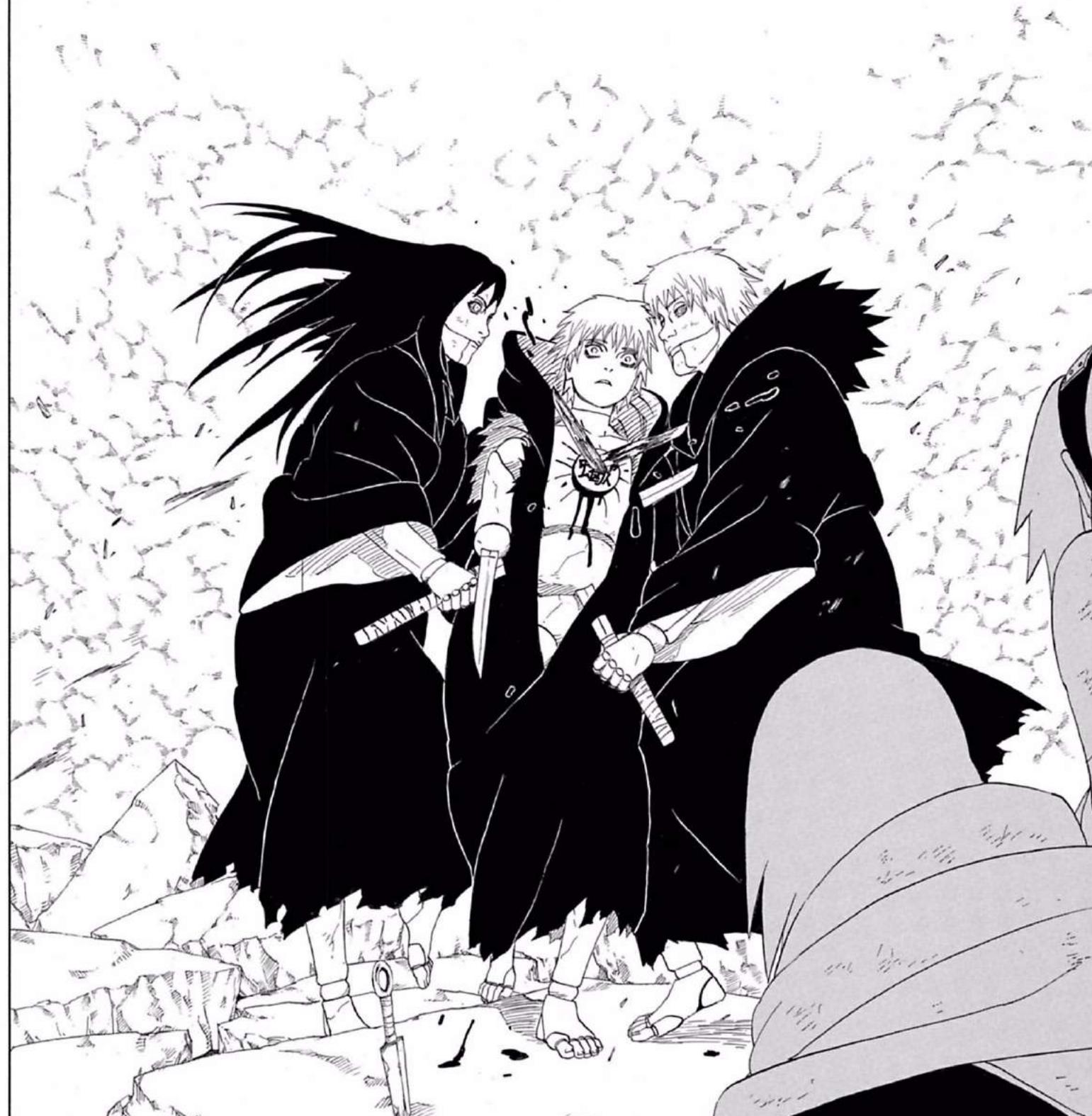
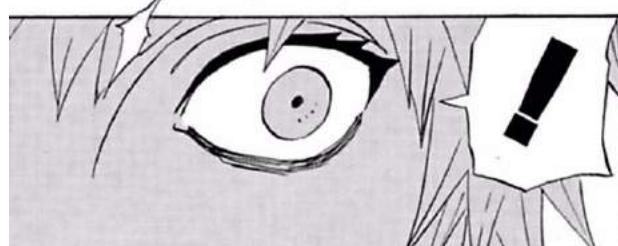
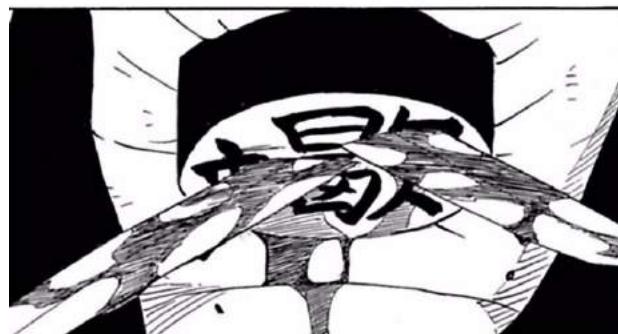
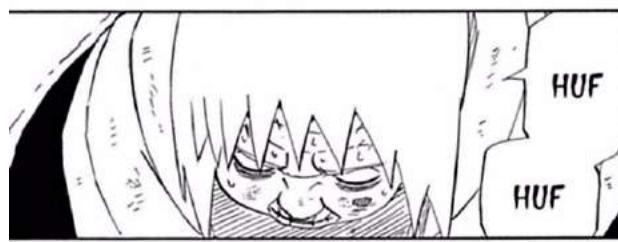
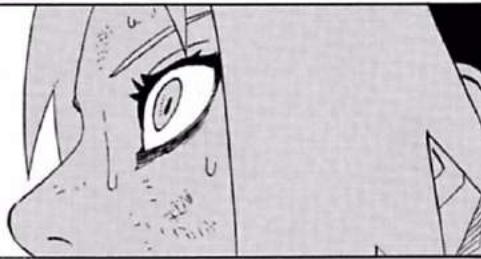


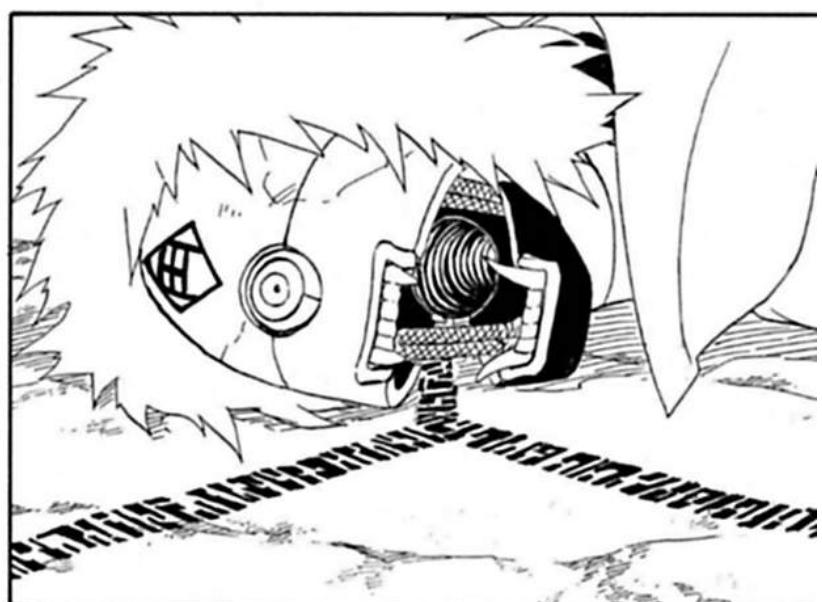


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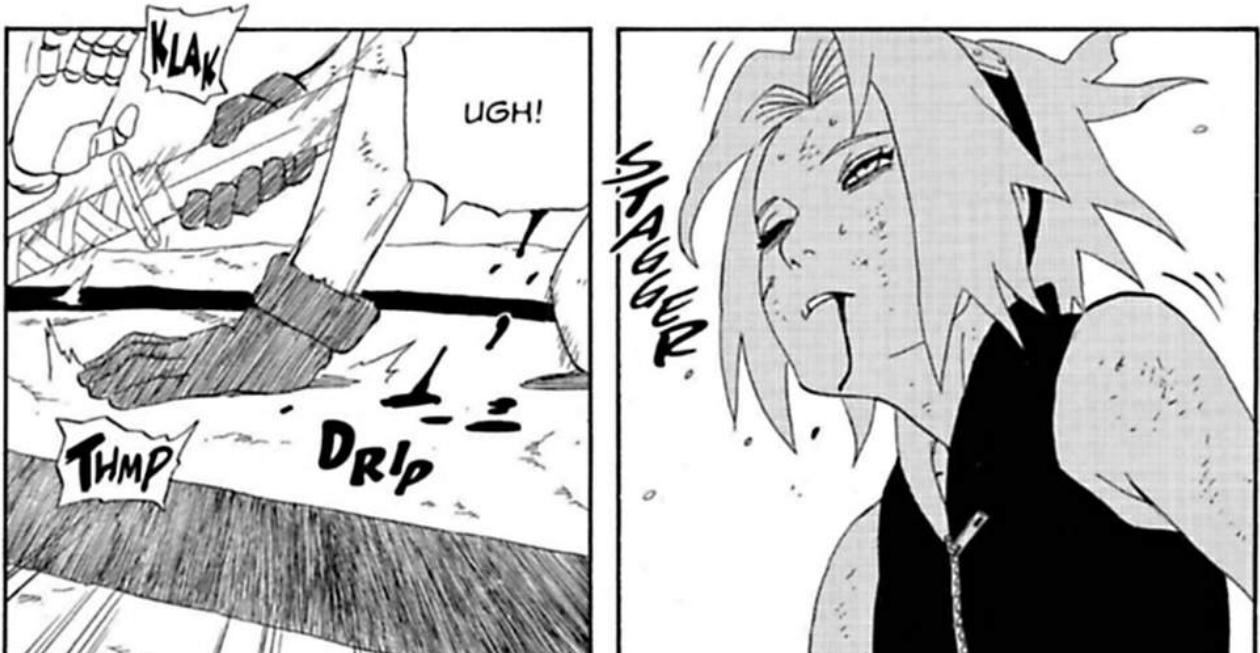
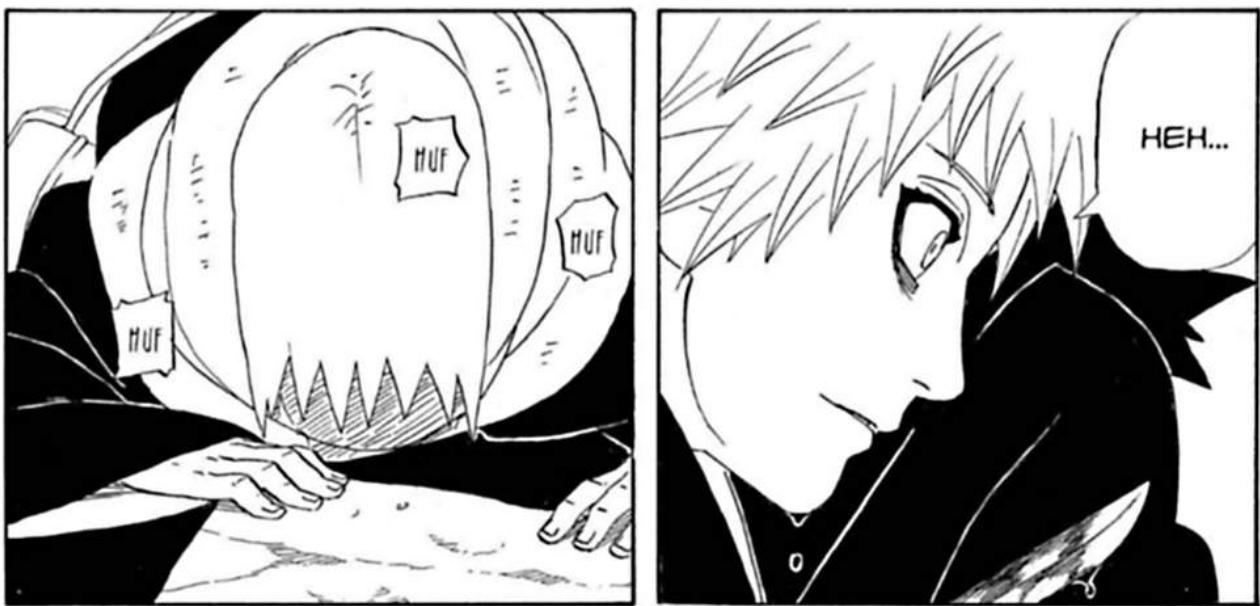
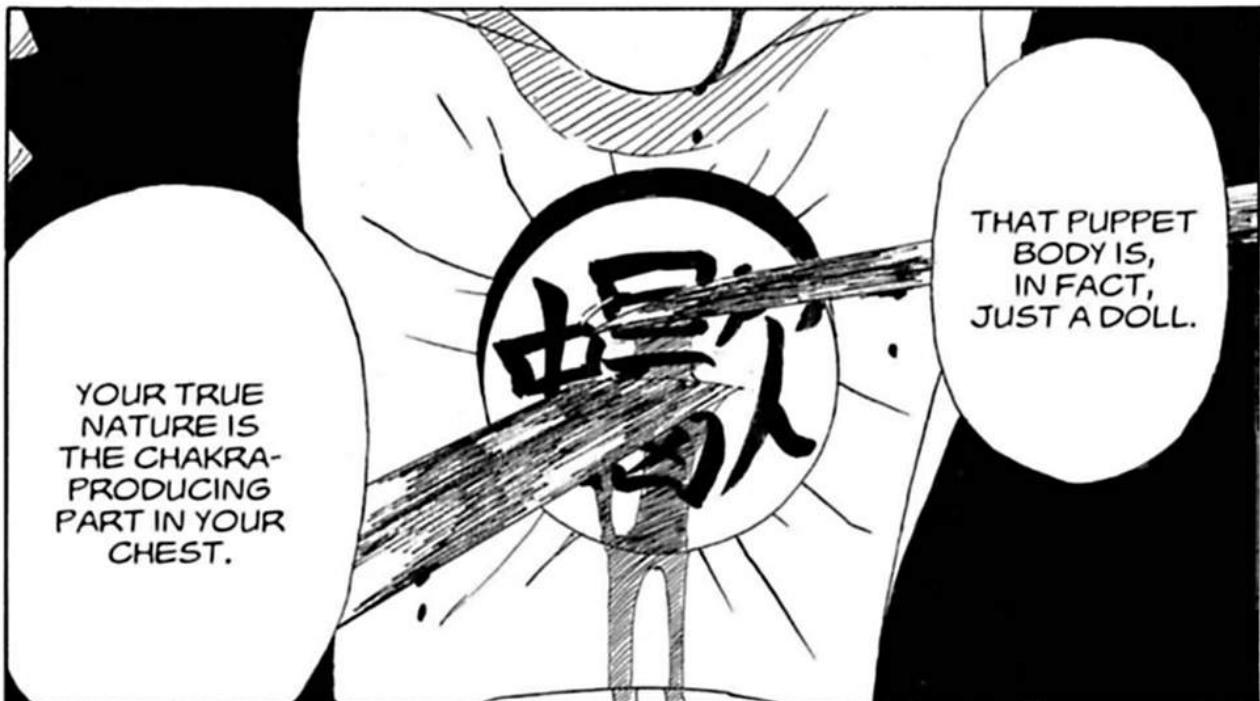


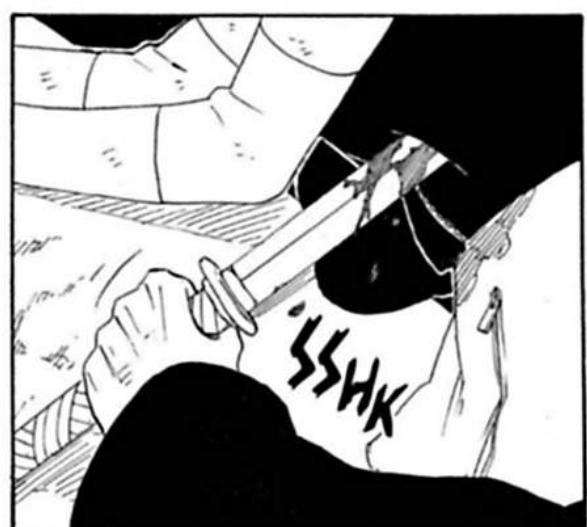
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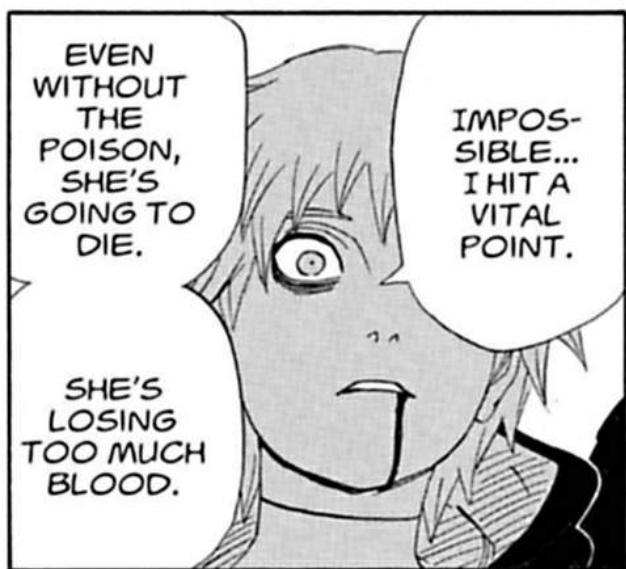


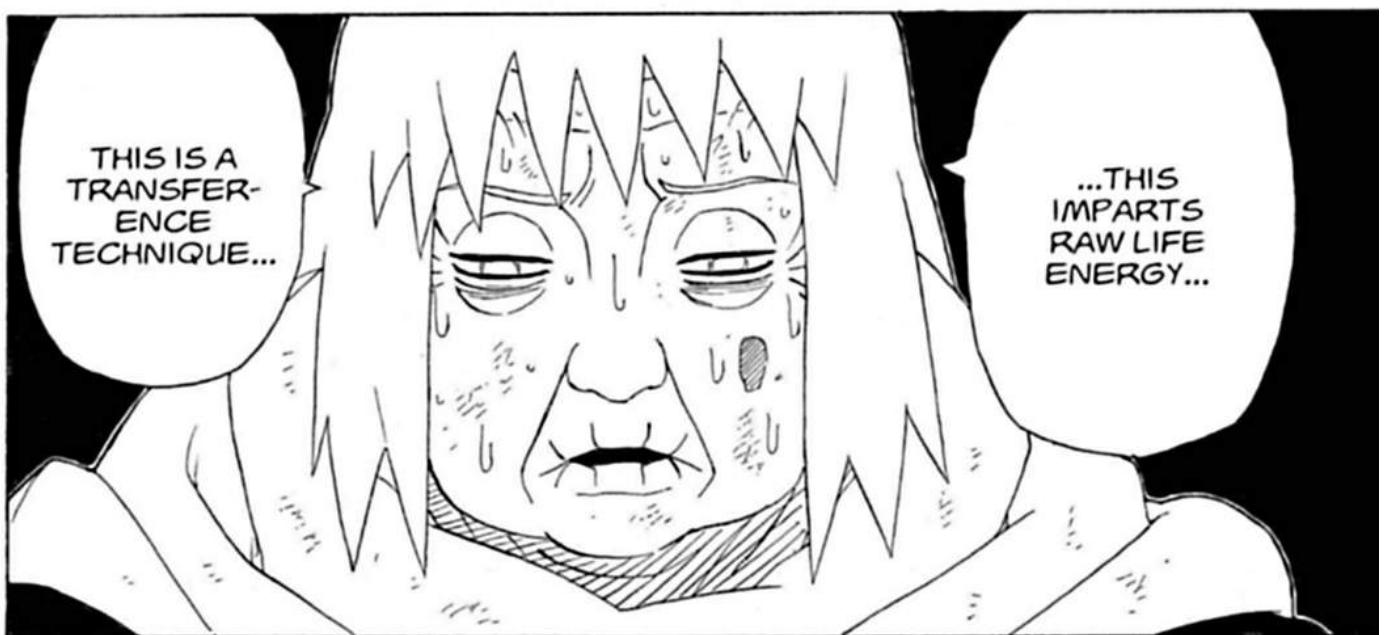
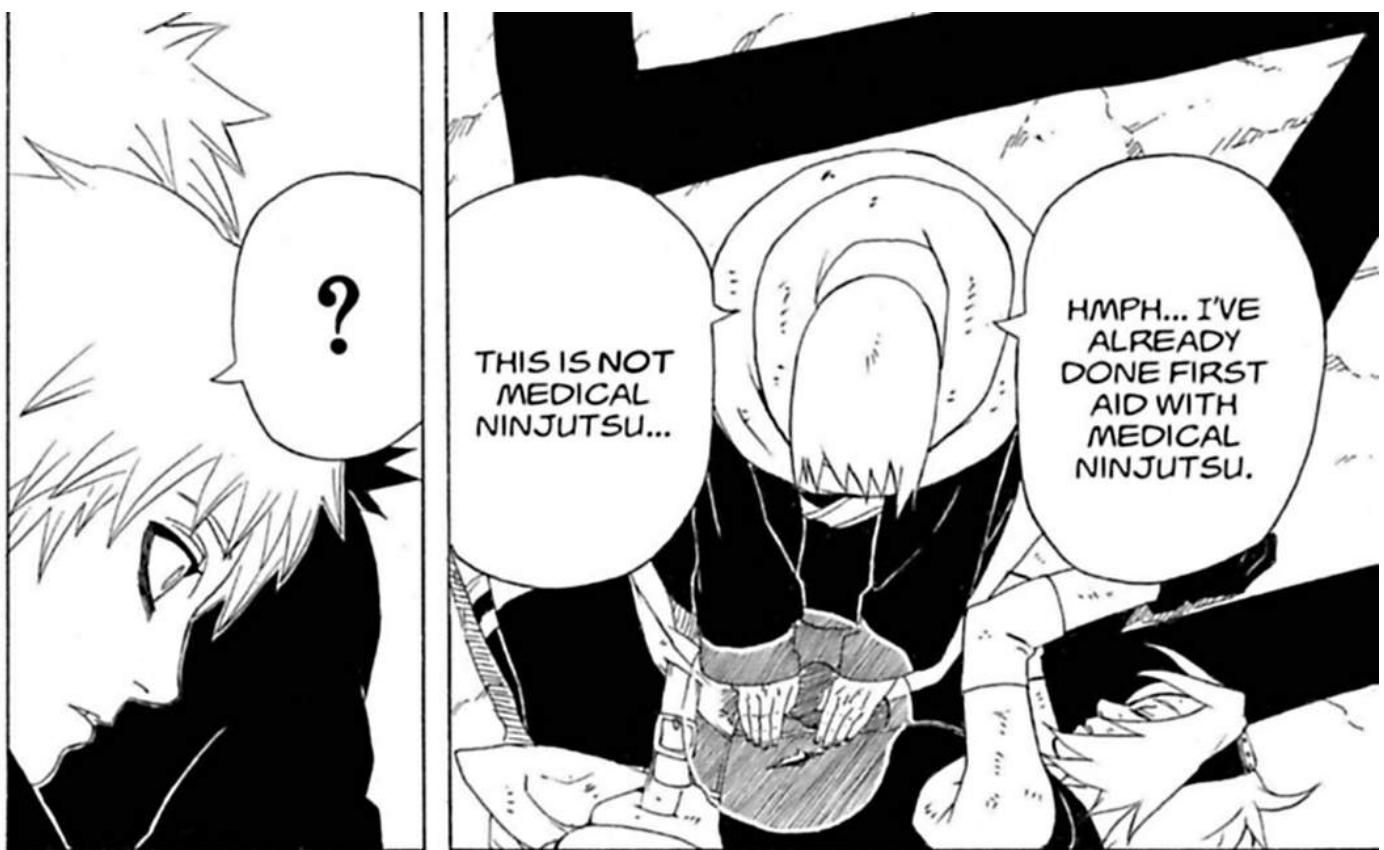
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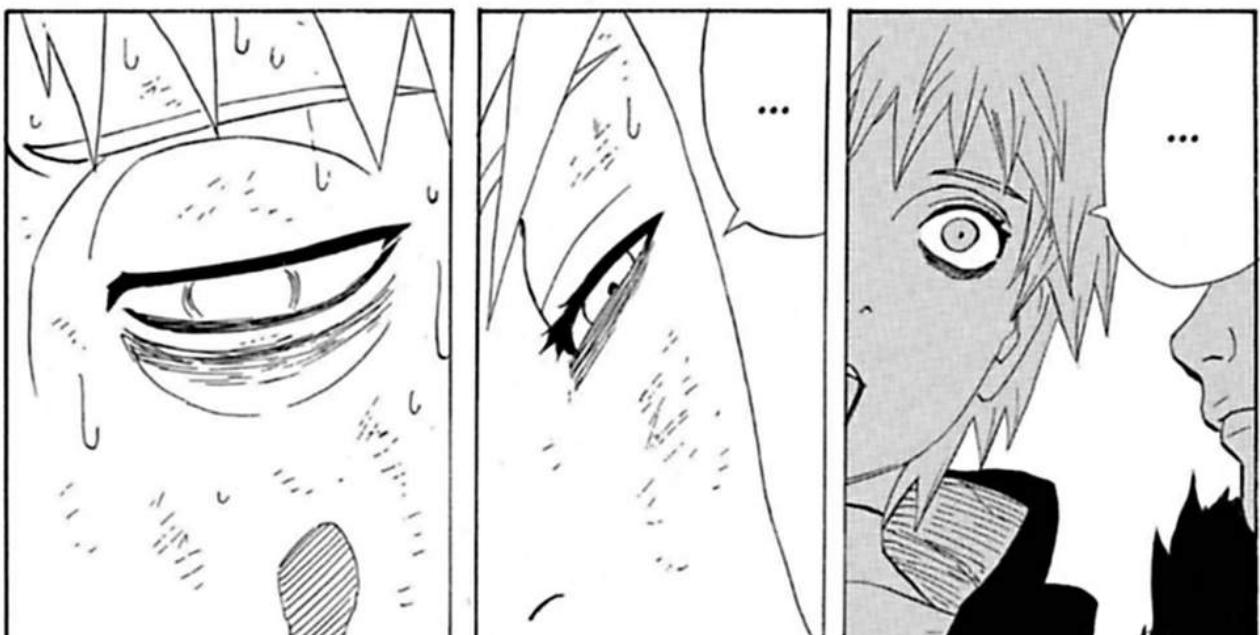
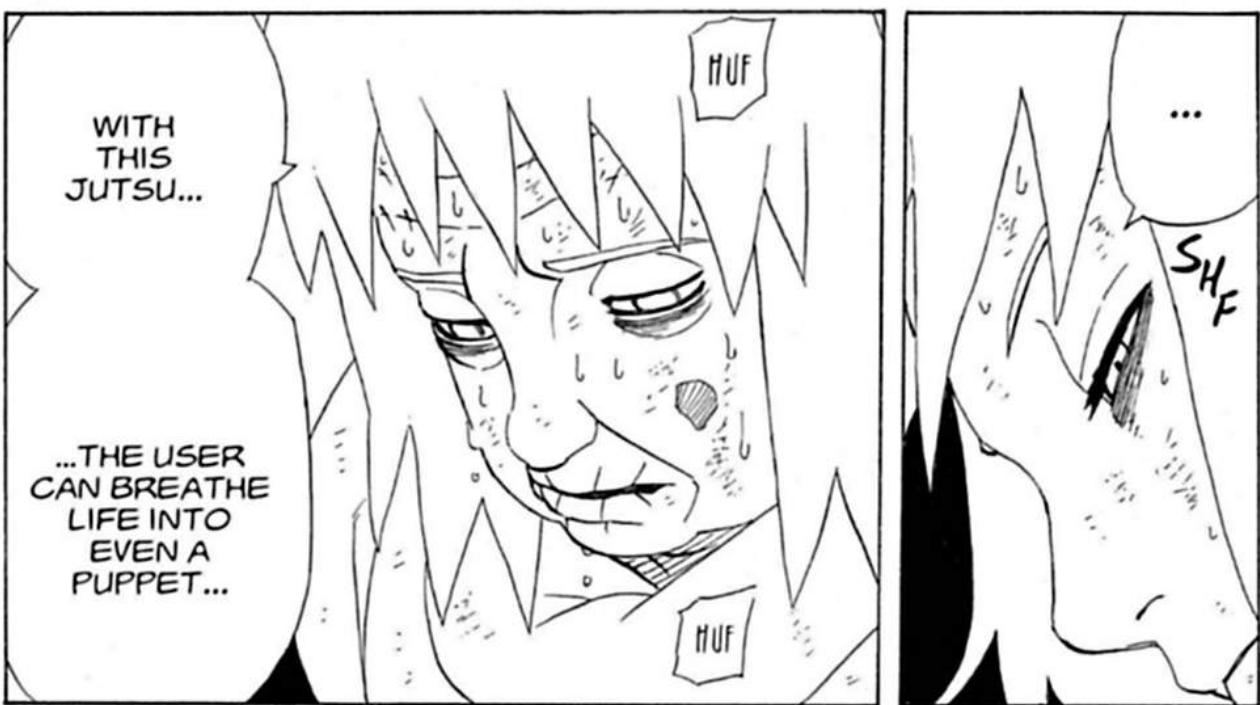
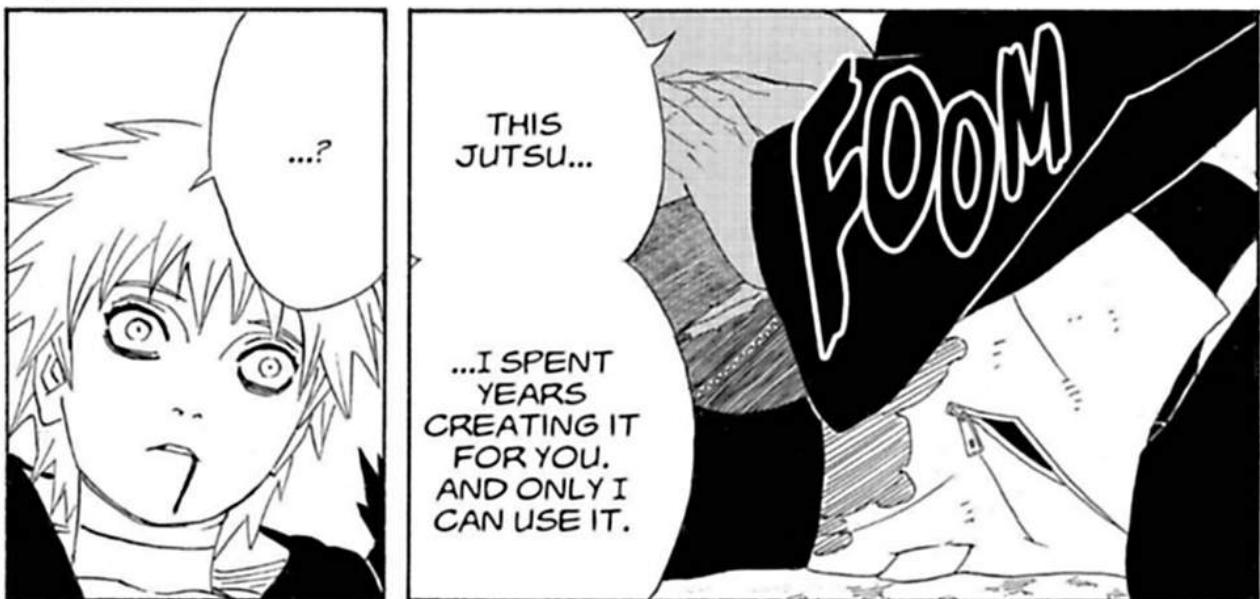


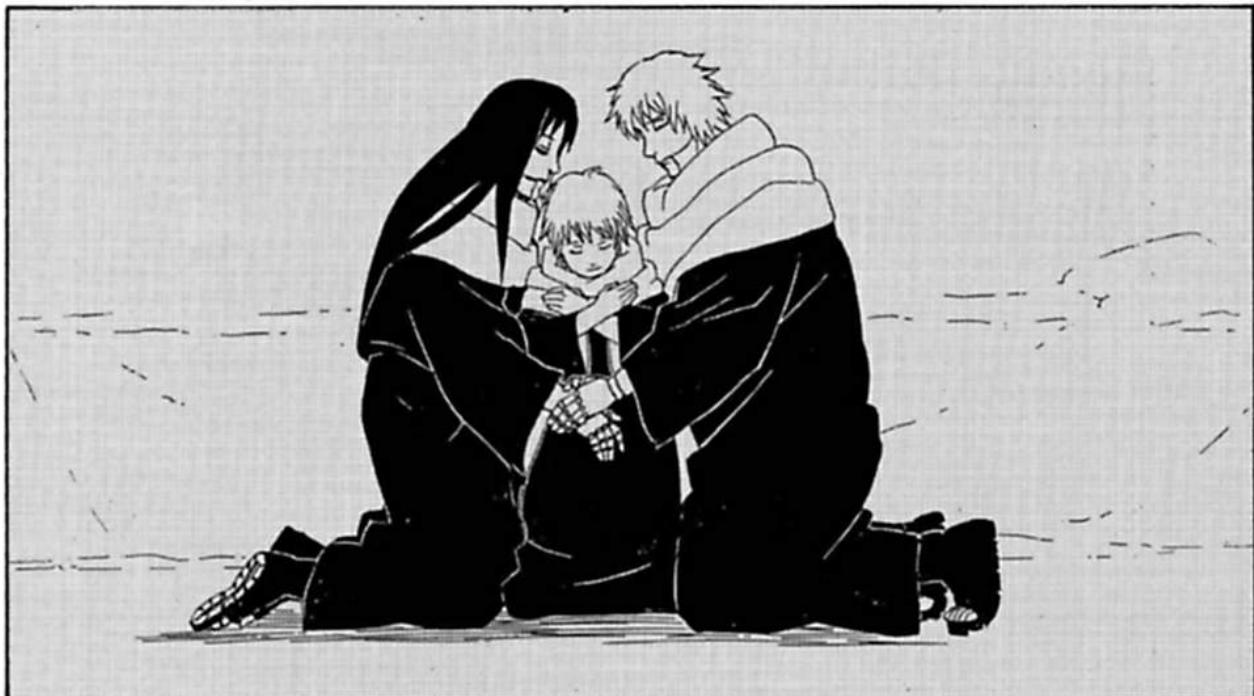
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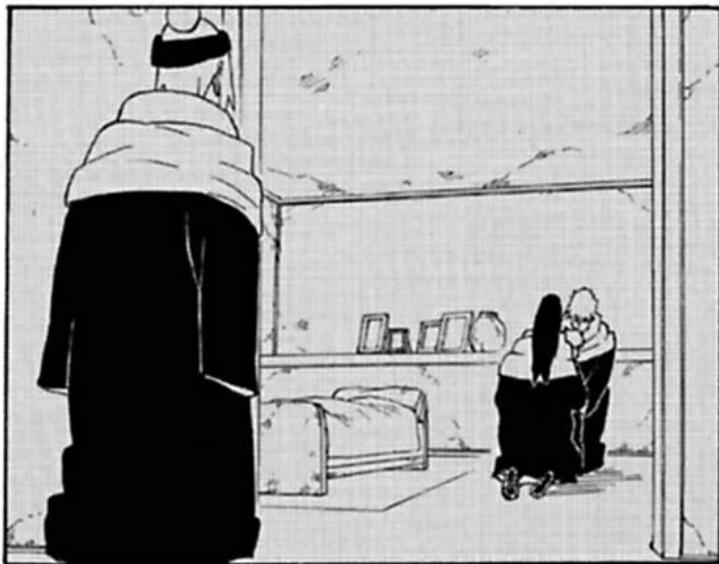




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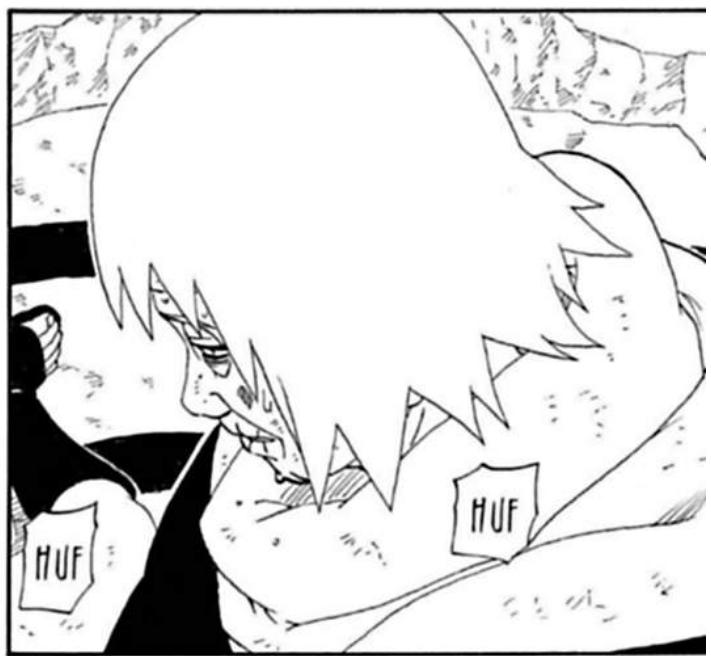
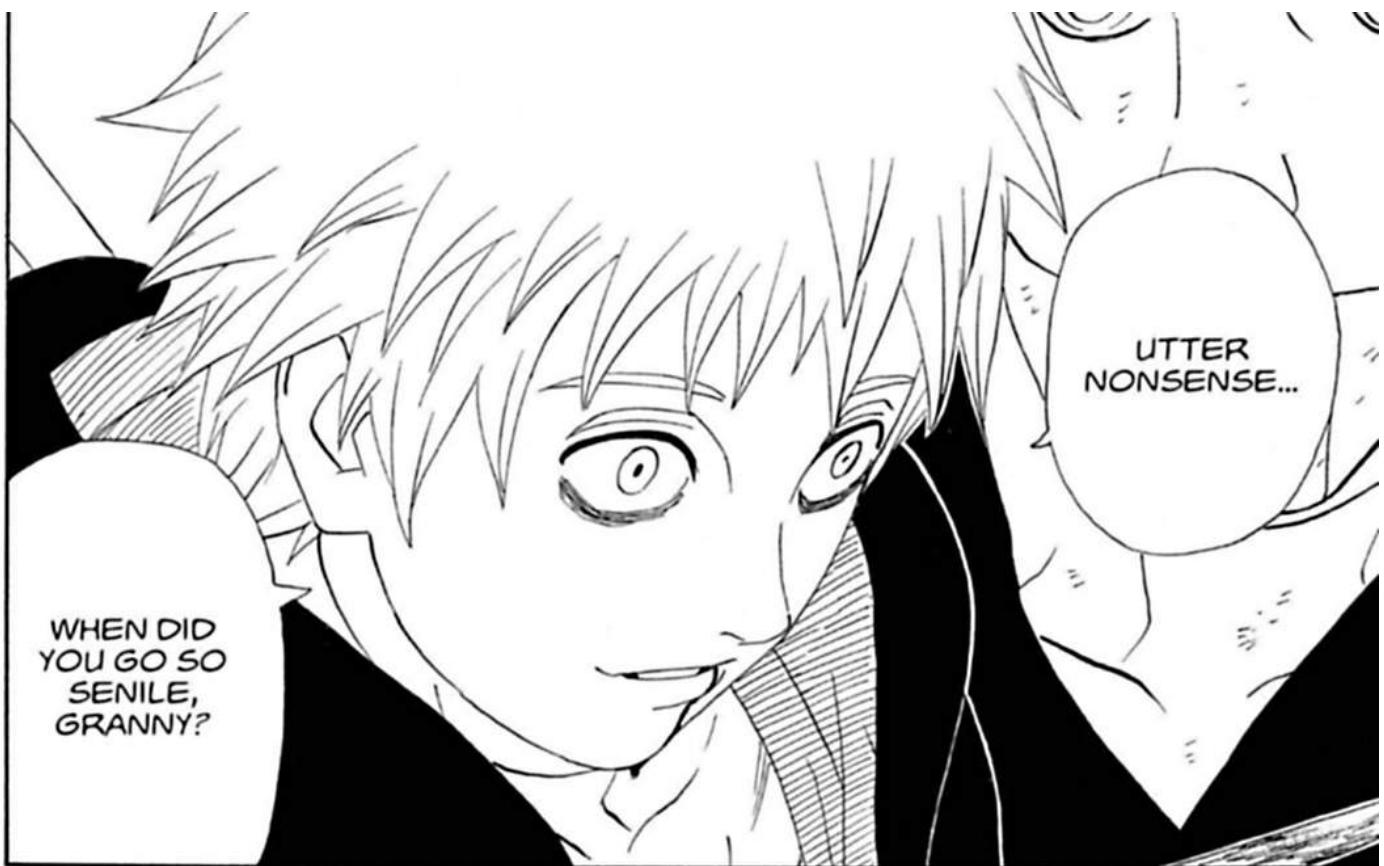




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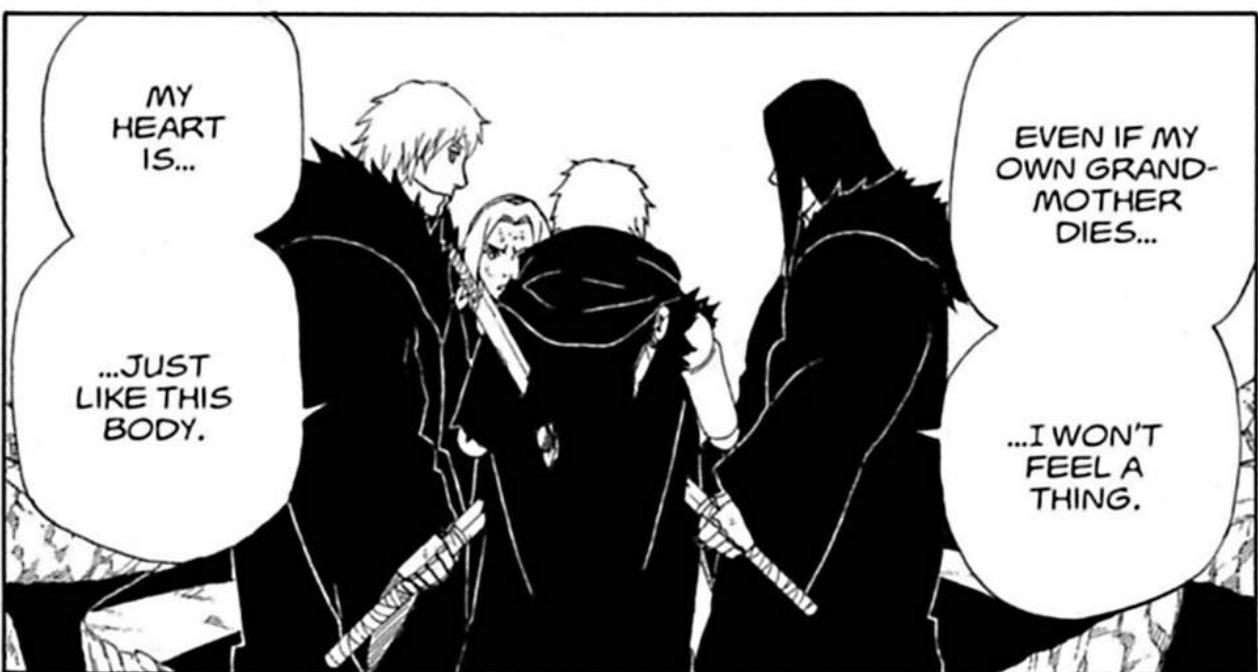


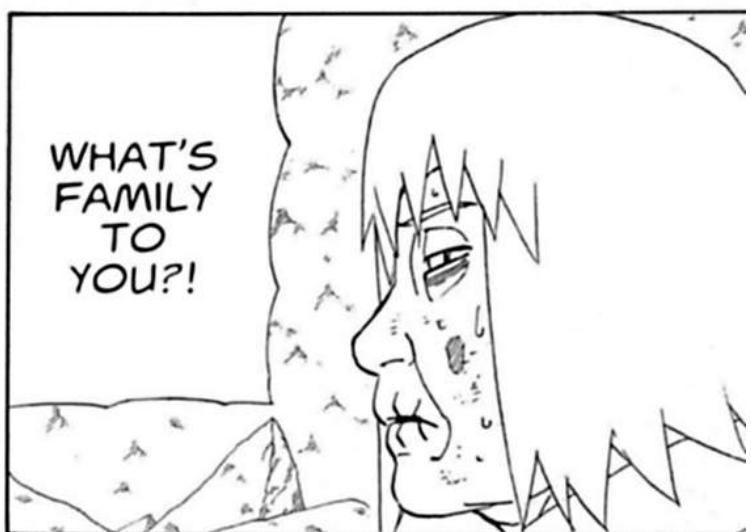


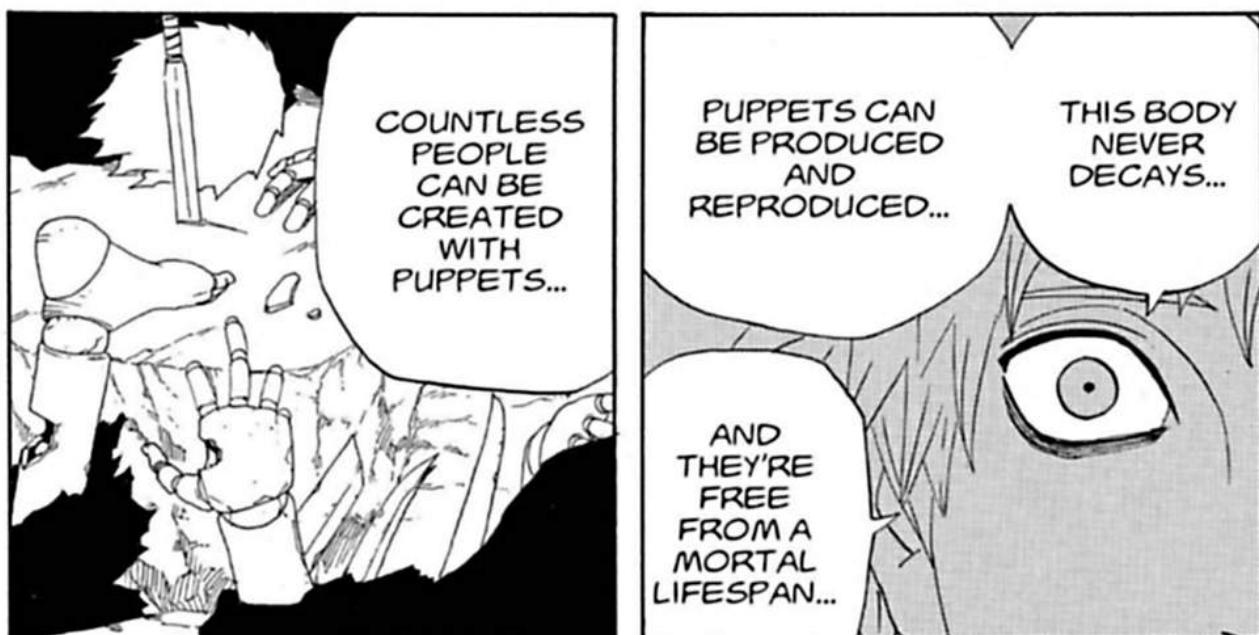
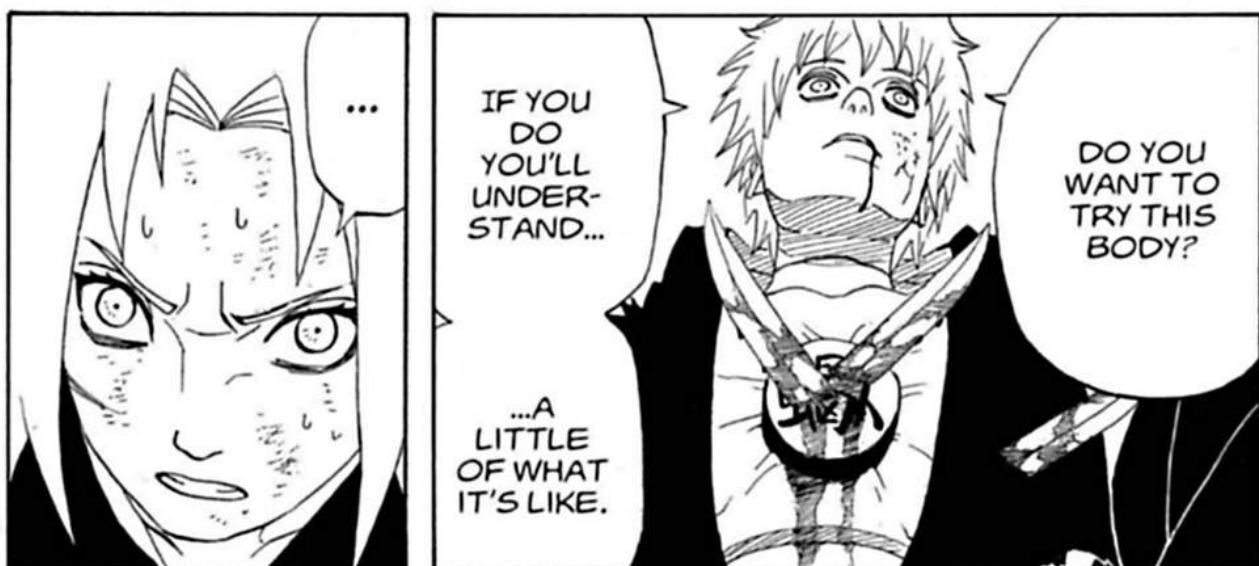
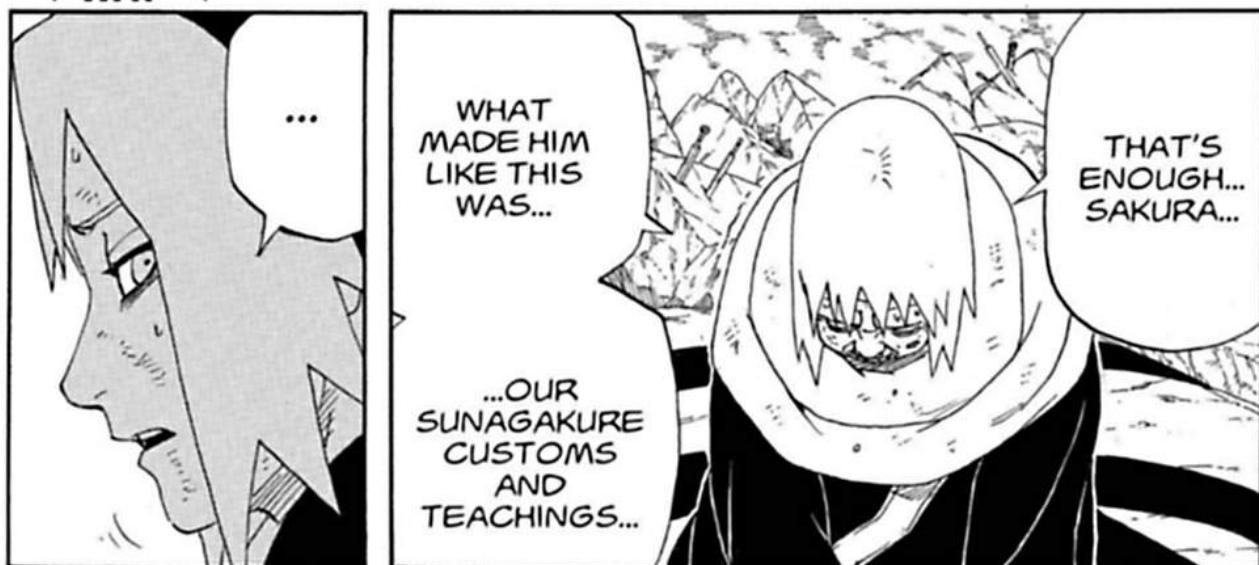


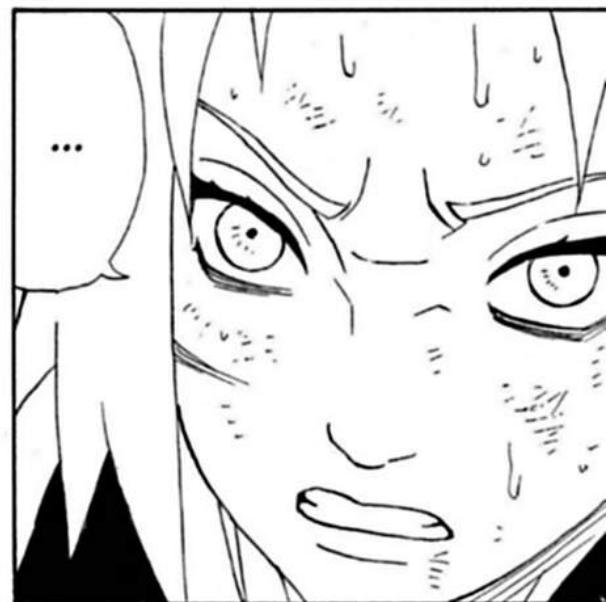
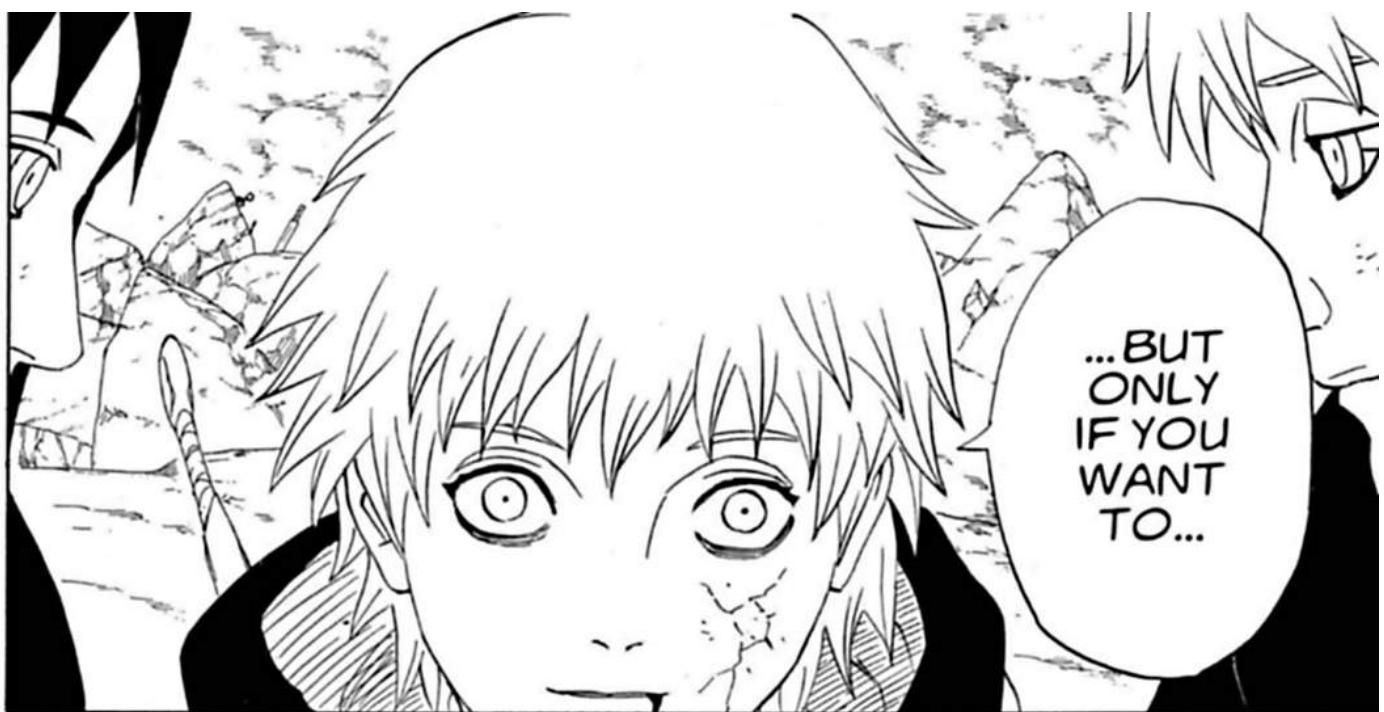


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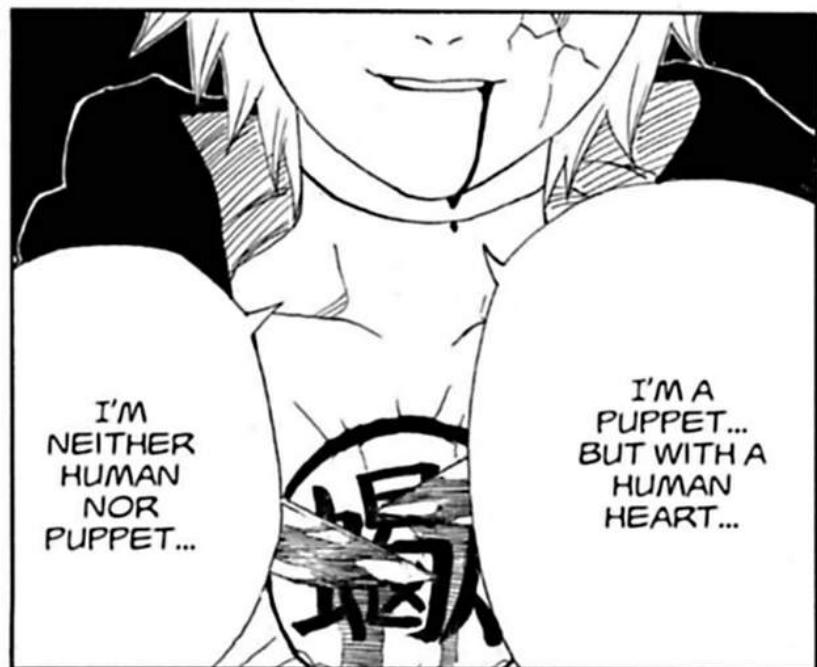


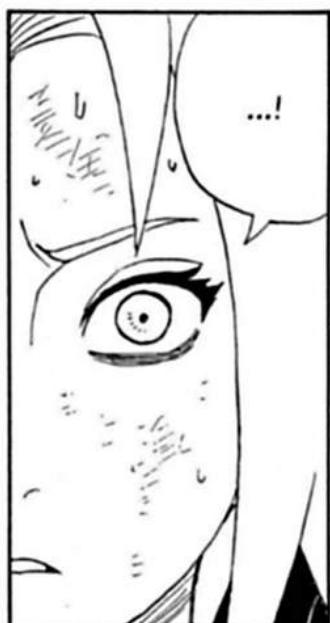






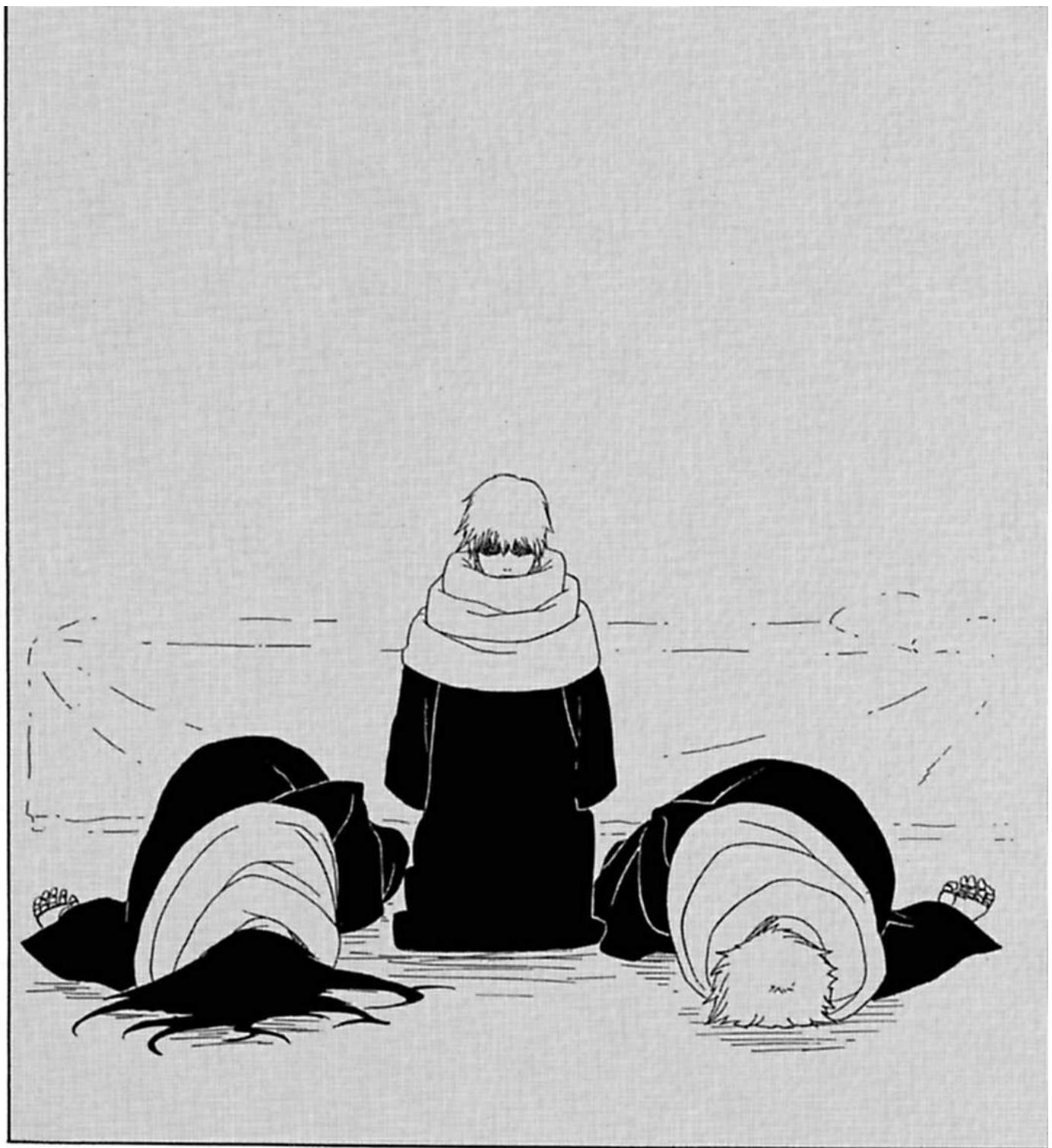
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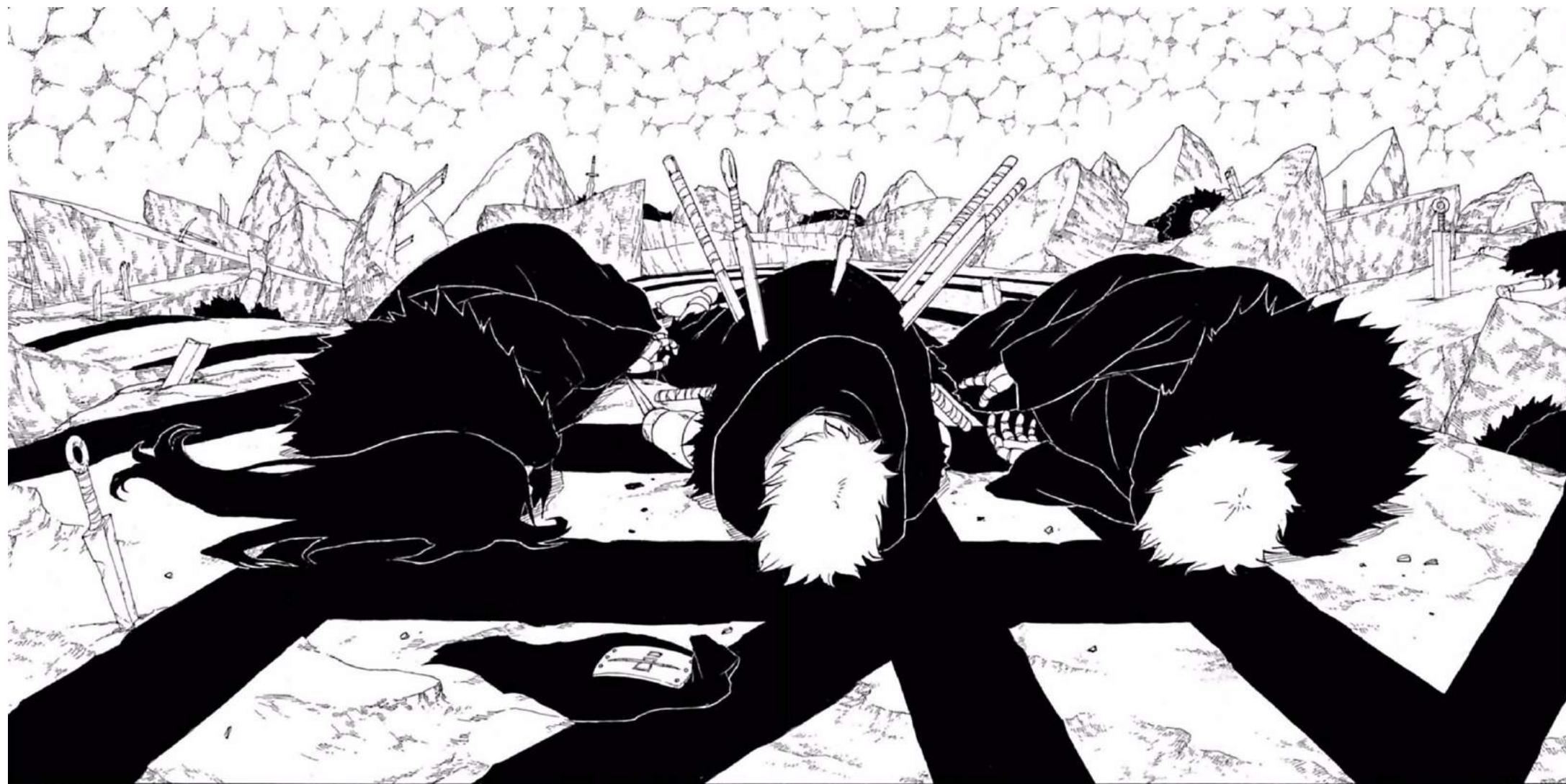
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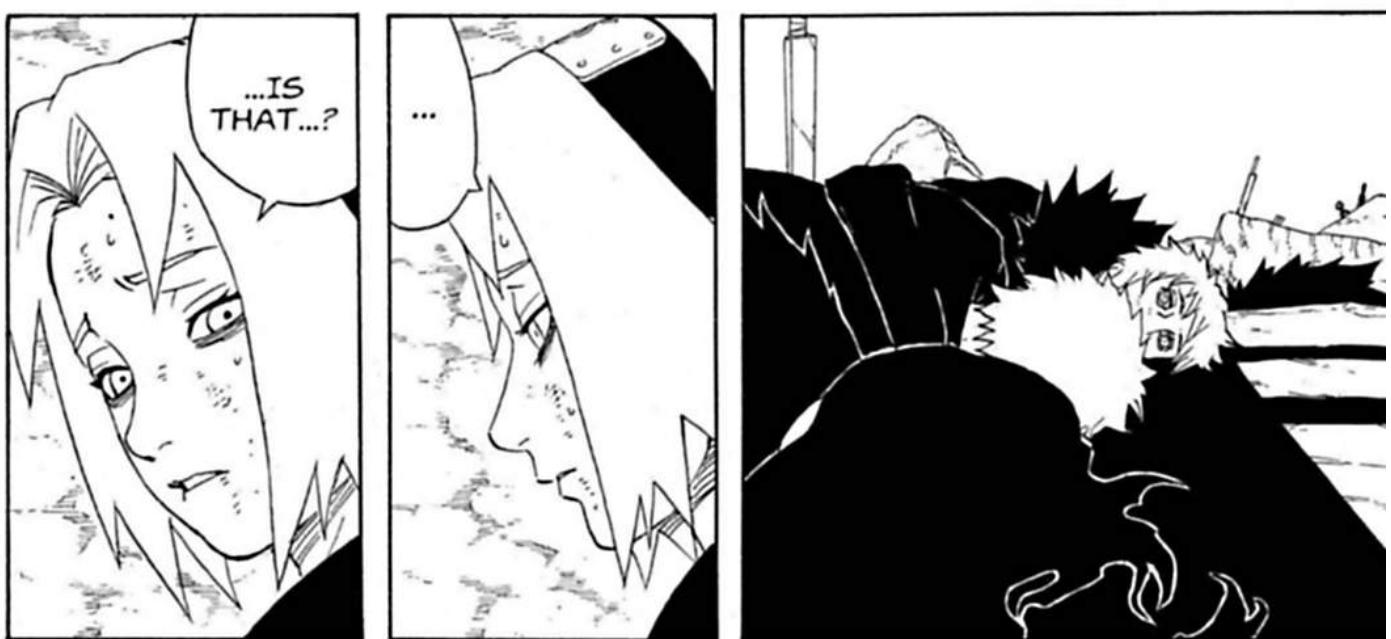
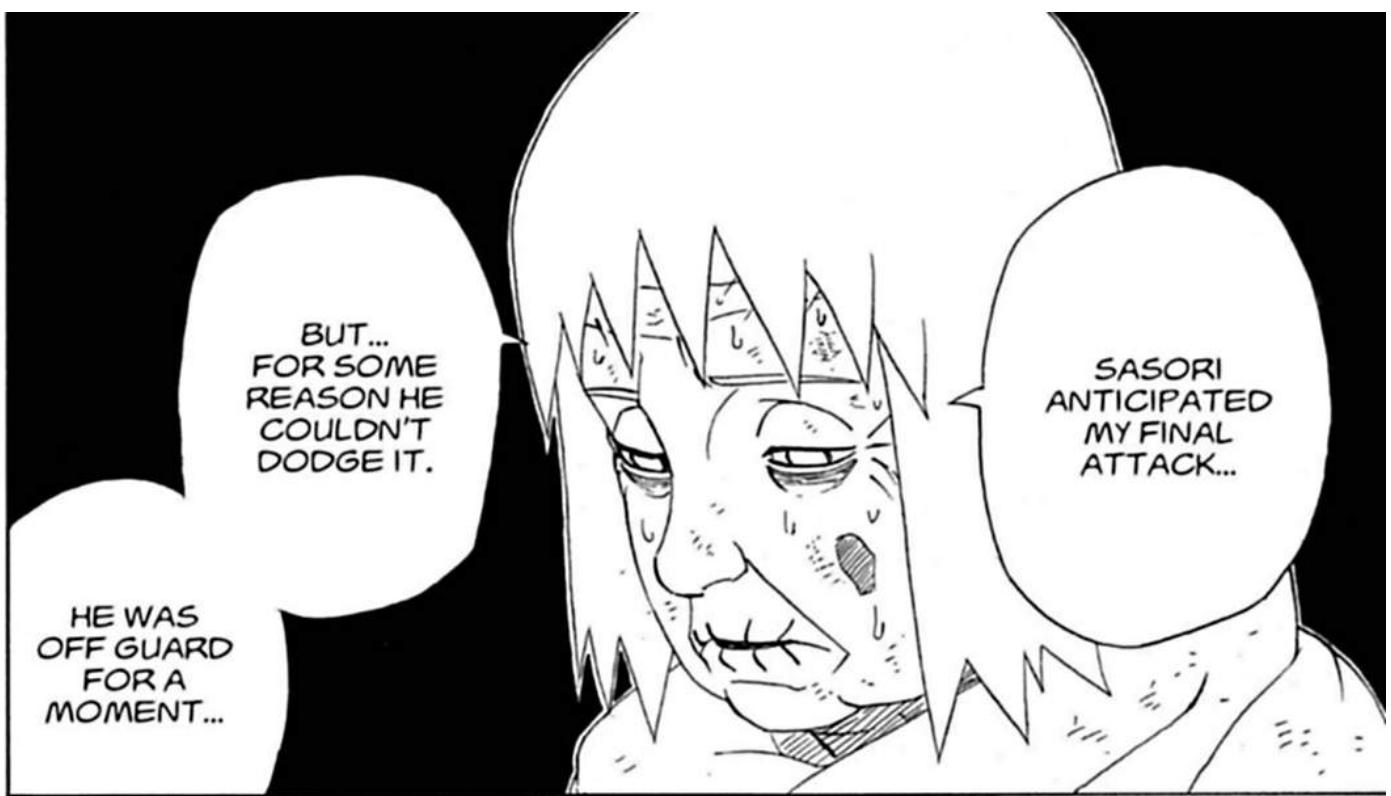




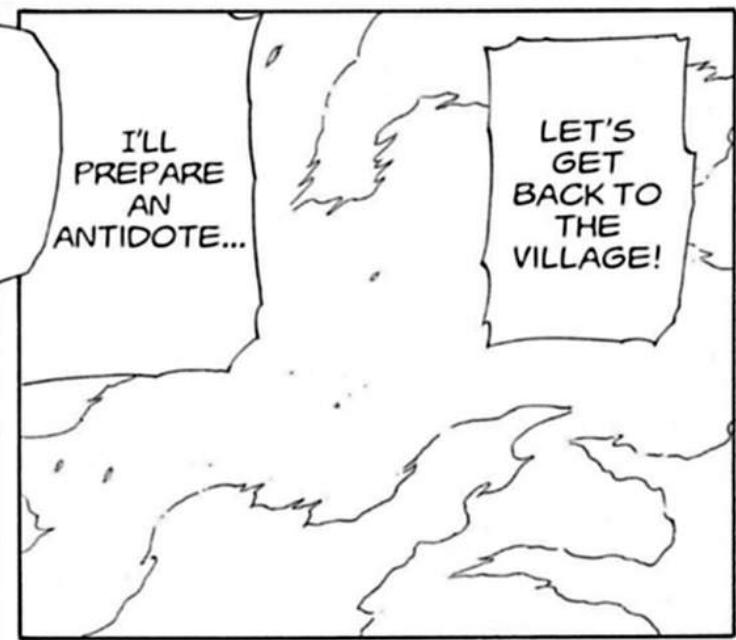
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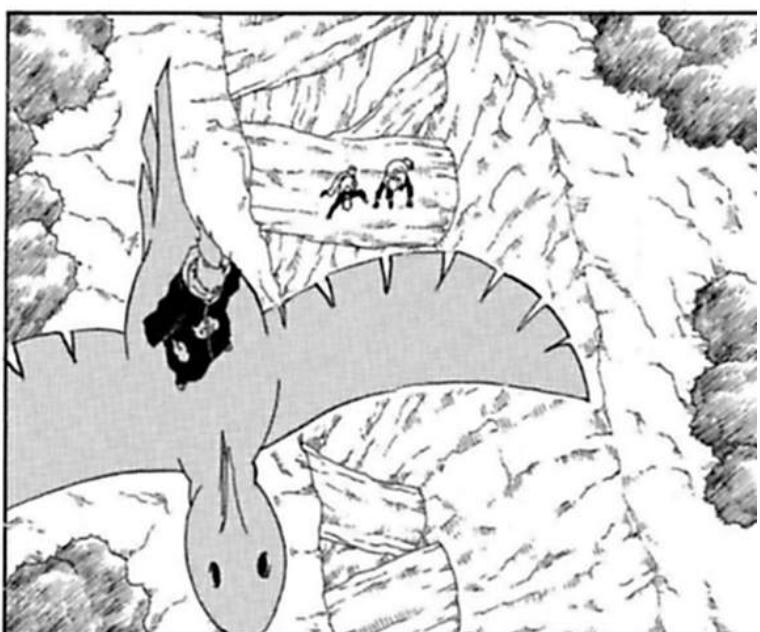
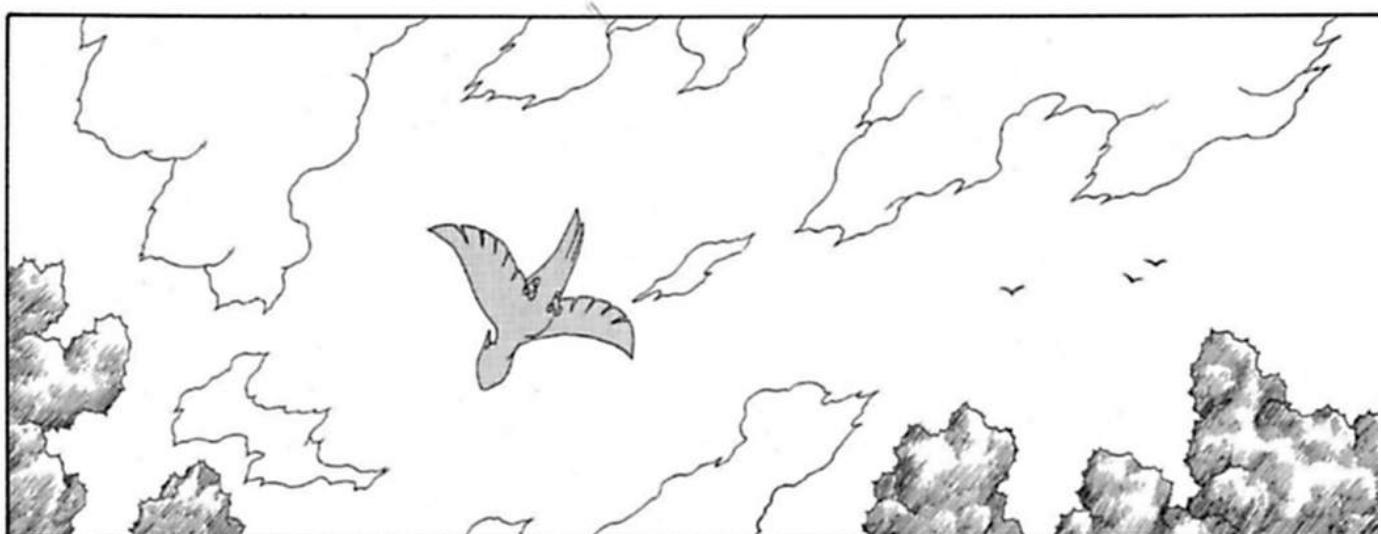






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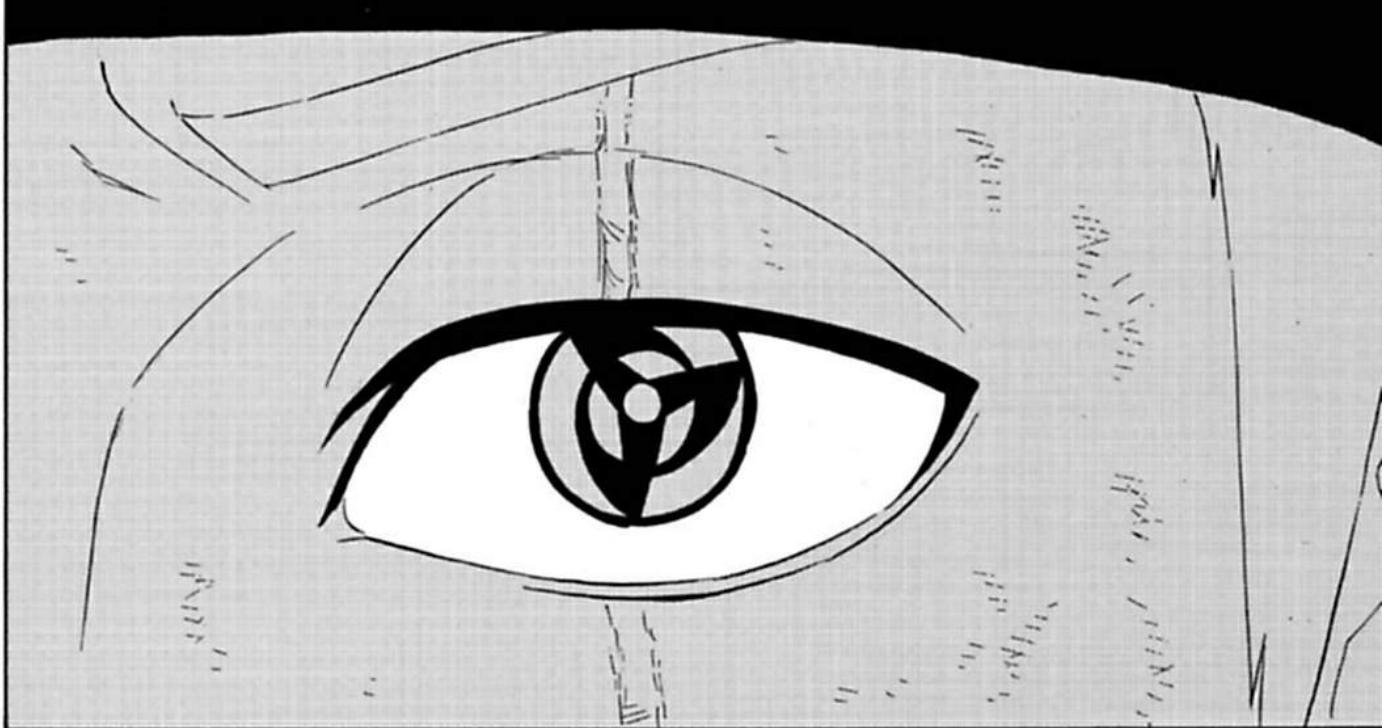


NARUTO

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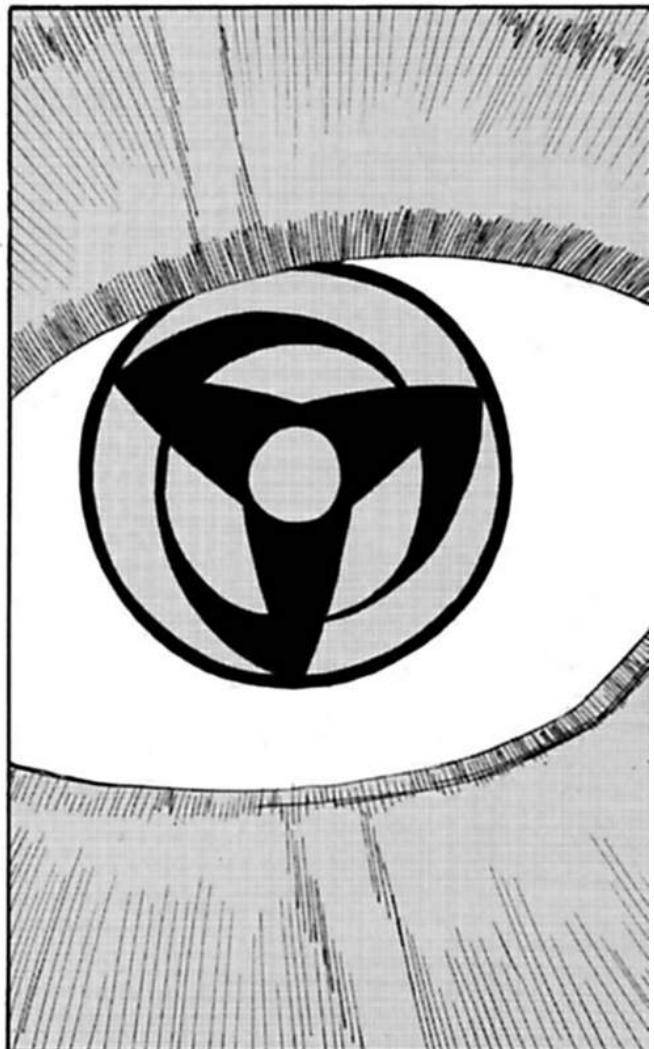
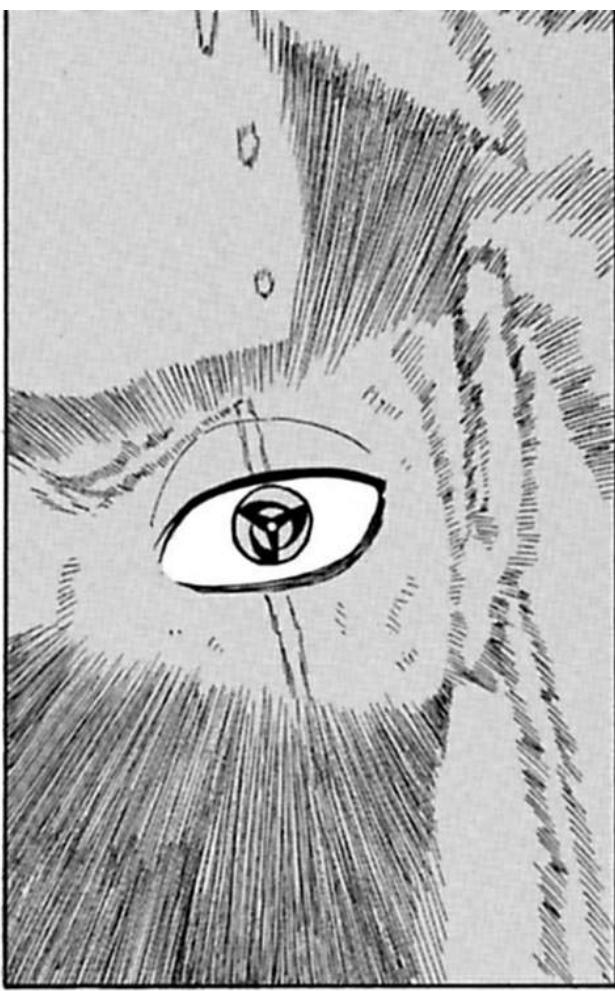
# New Sharingan!!





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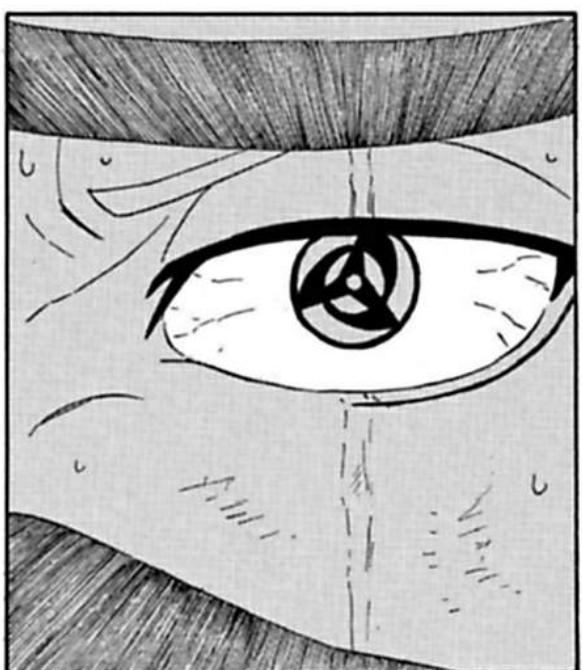


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IS || THIS?!

?! ?!









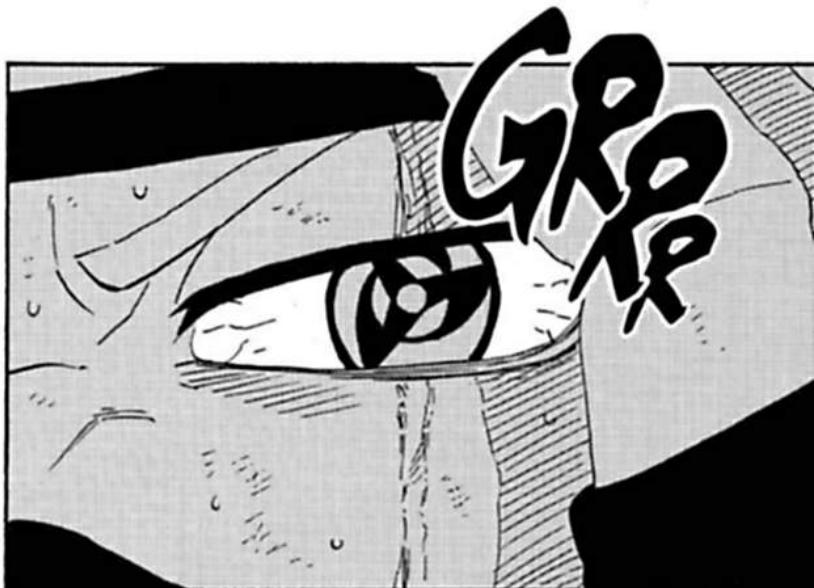
**SPLAK**

AAARGH!

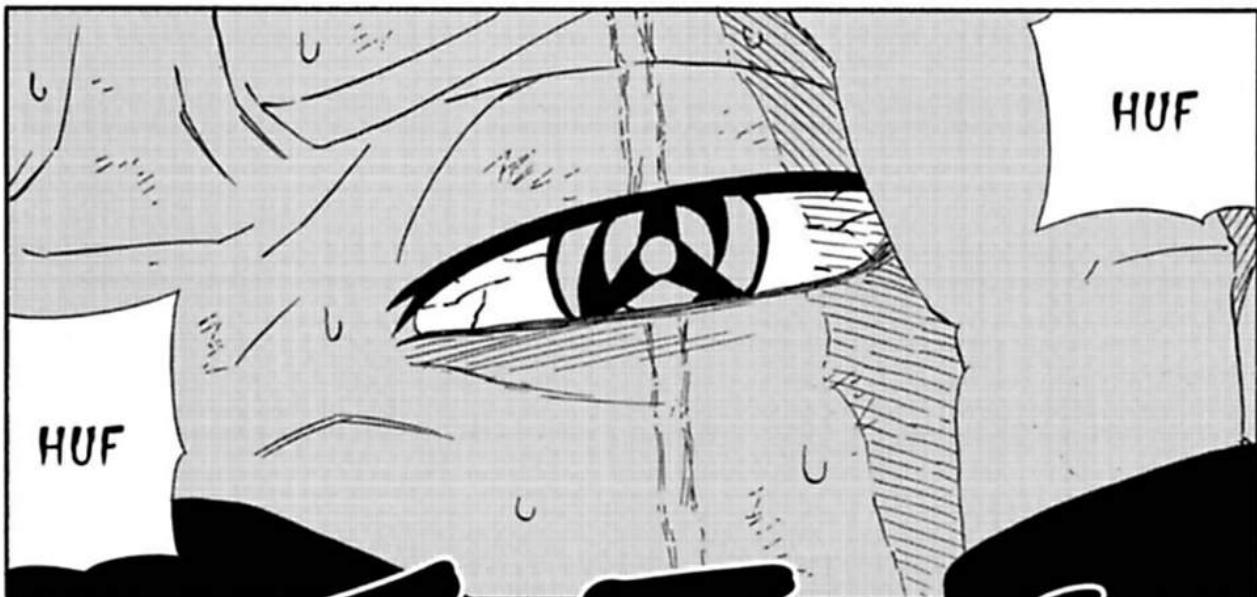


**ZZZH ZHZZH**



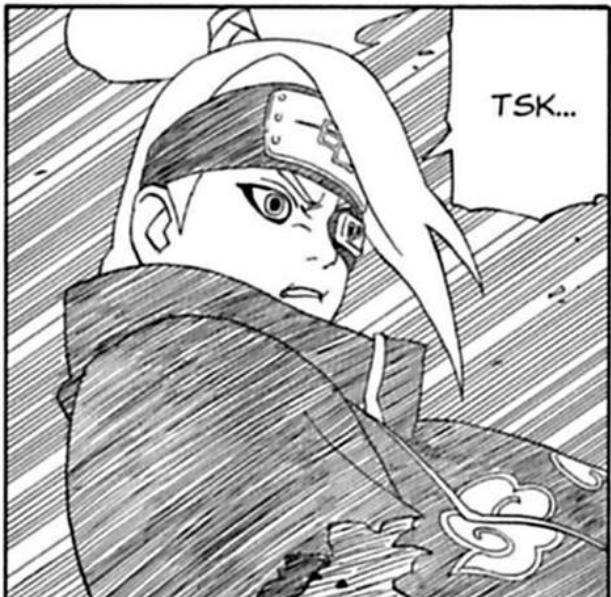
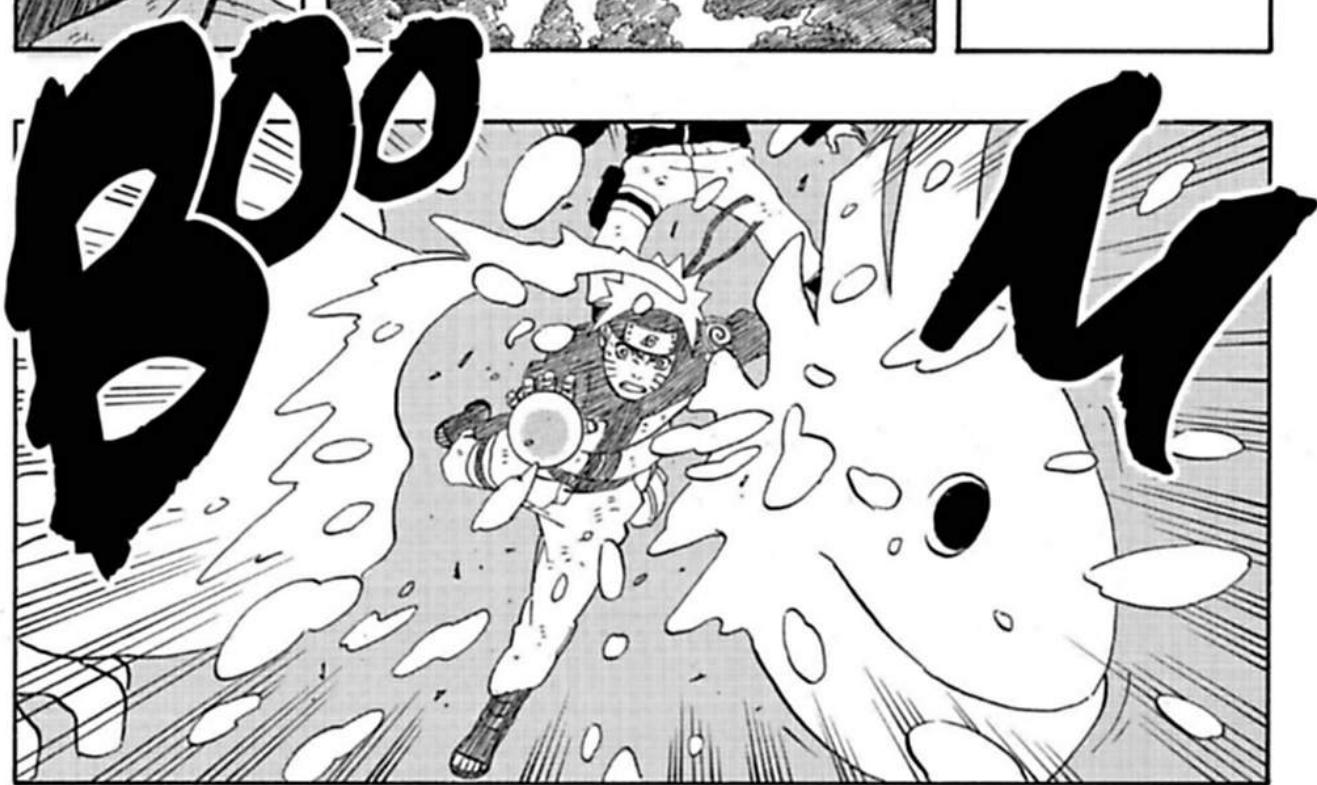


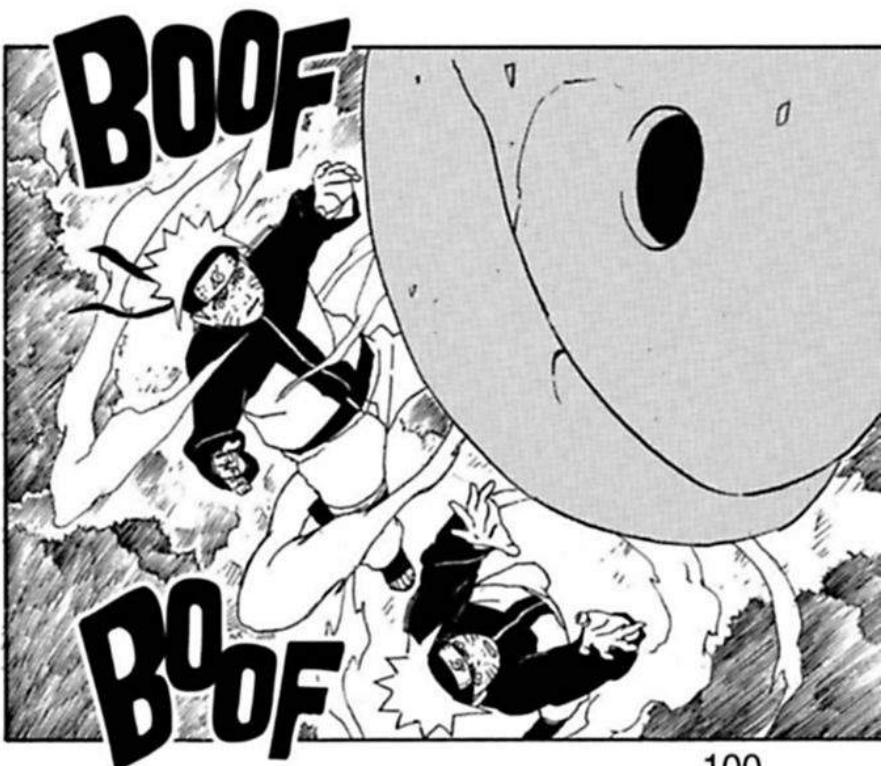
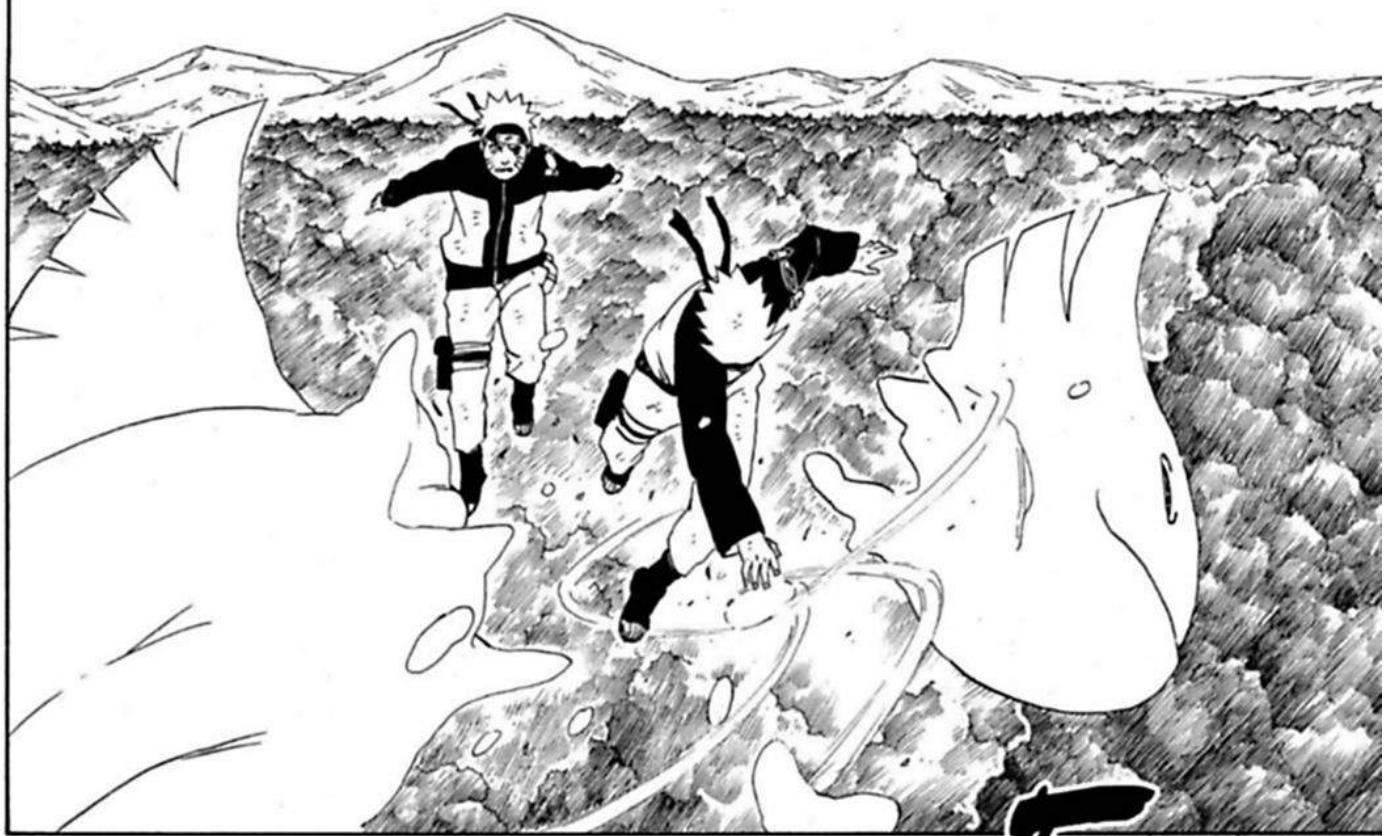
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WAY

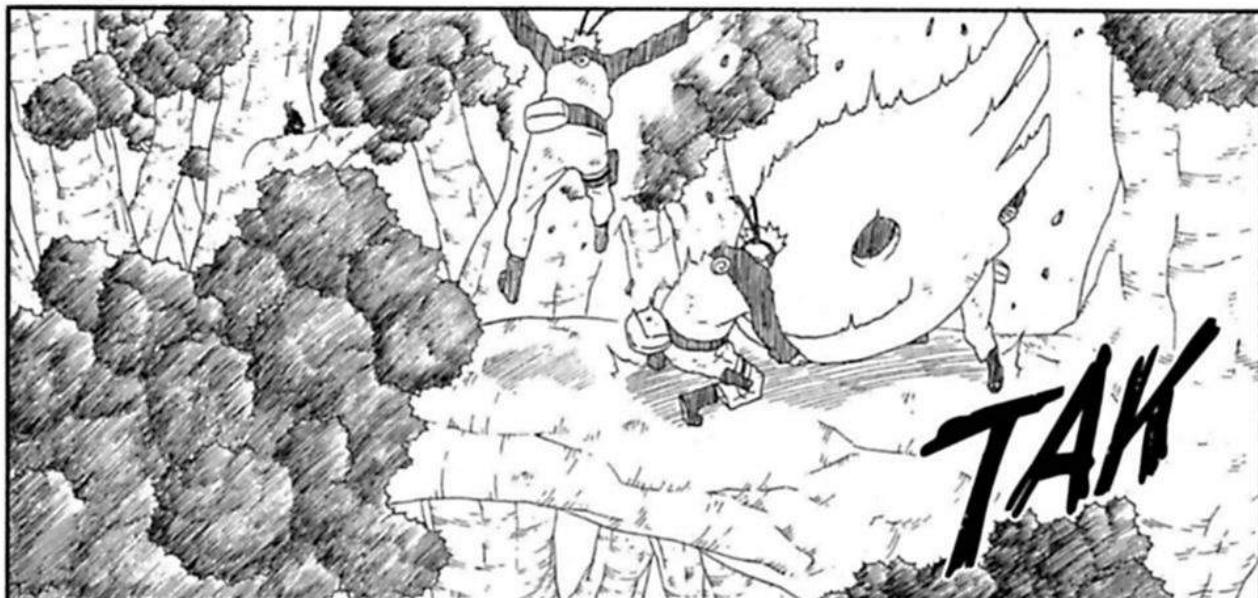




READ  
THIS WAY









READ  
THIS  
WAY





Number  
277:





READ  
THIS  
WAY









**Boof Boof Boof**



**Gub Gub Gub Gub**



IS THAT THE JINCHŪRIKI...?

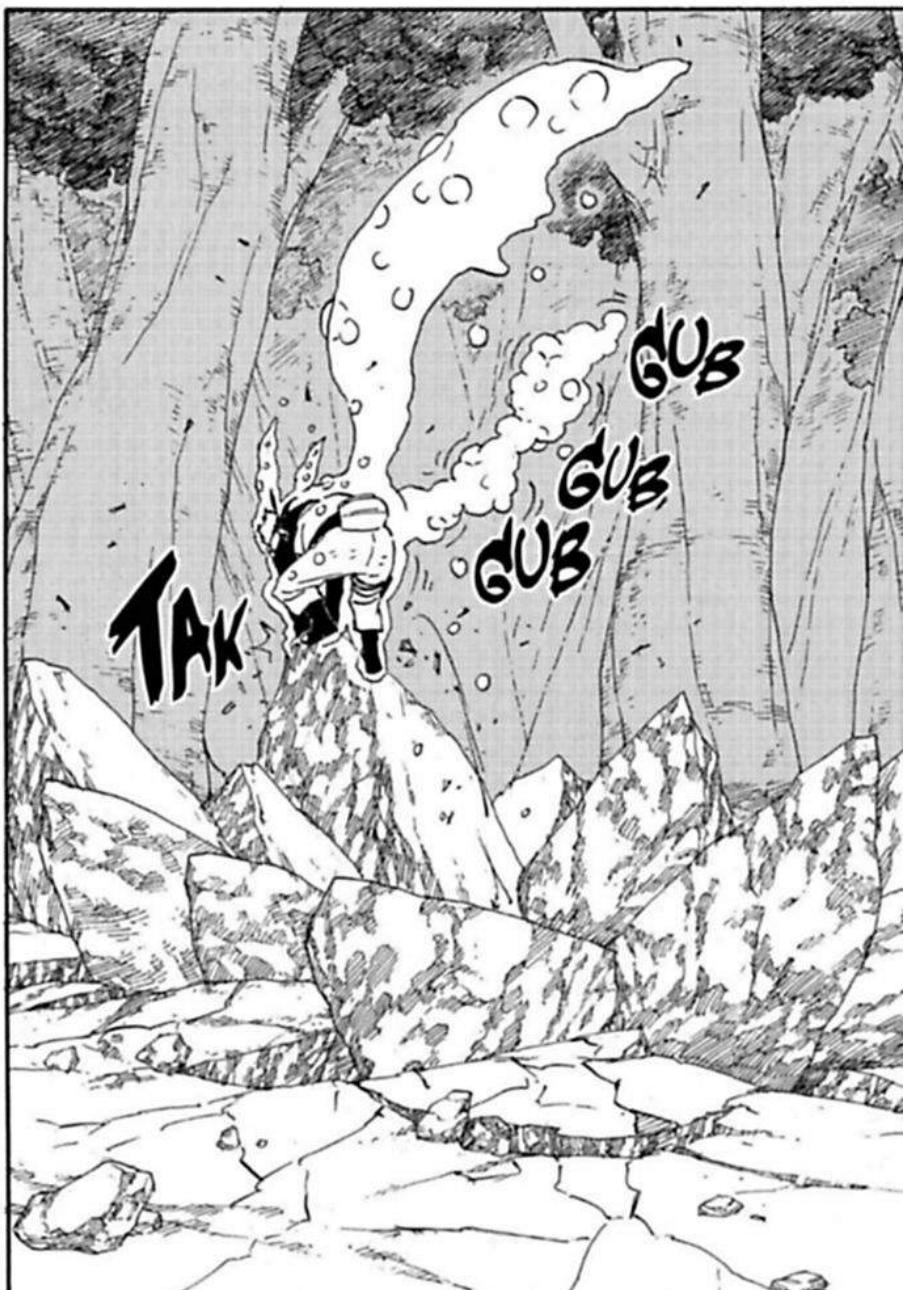
WHAT'S THAT...?

...!

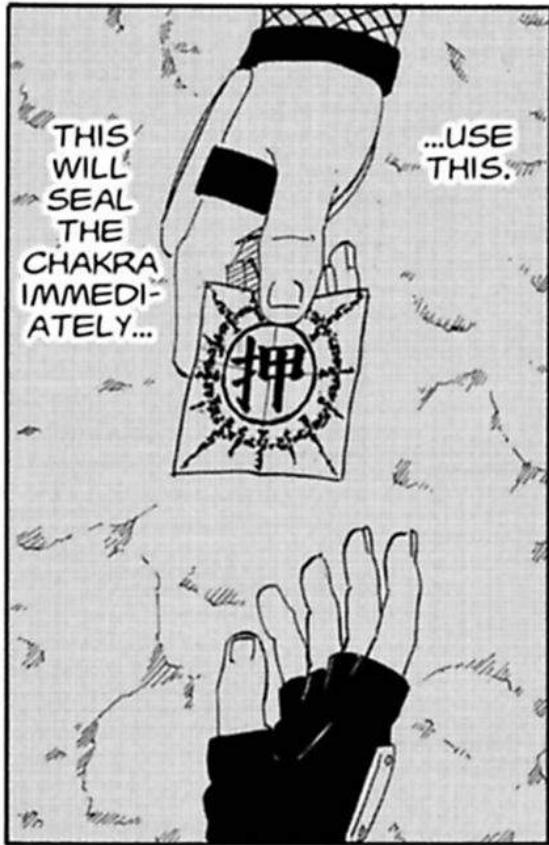


THAT'S... WHAT JIRAIYA WAS TALKING ABOUT!!

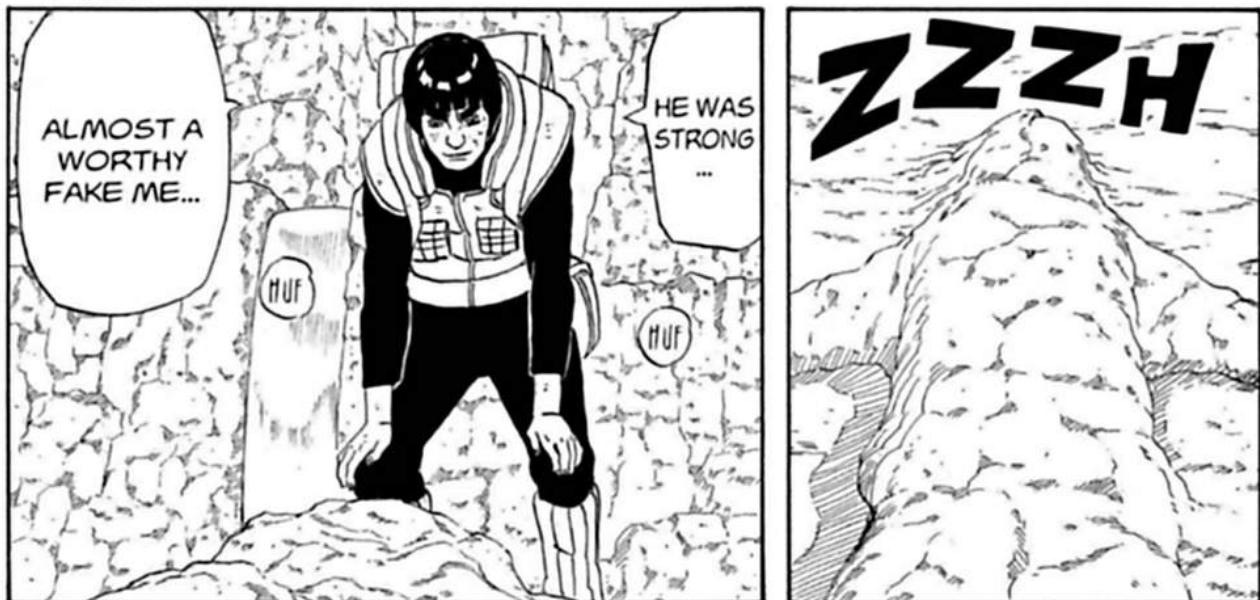




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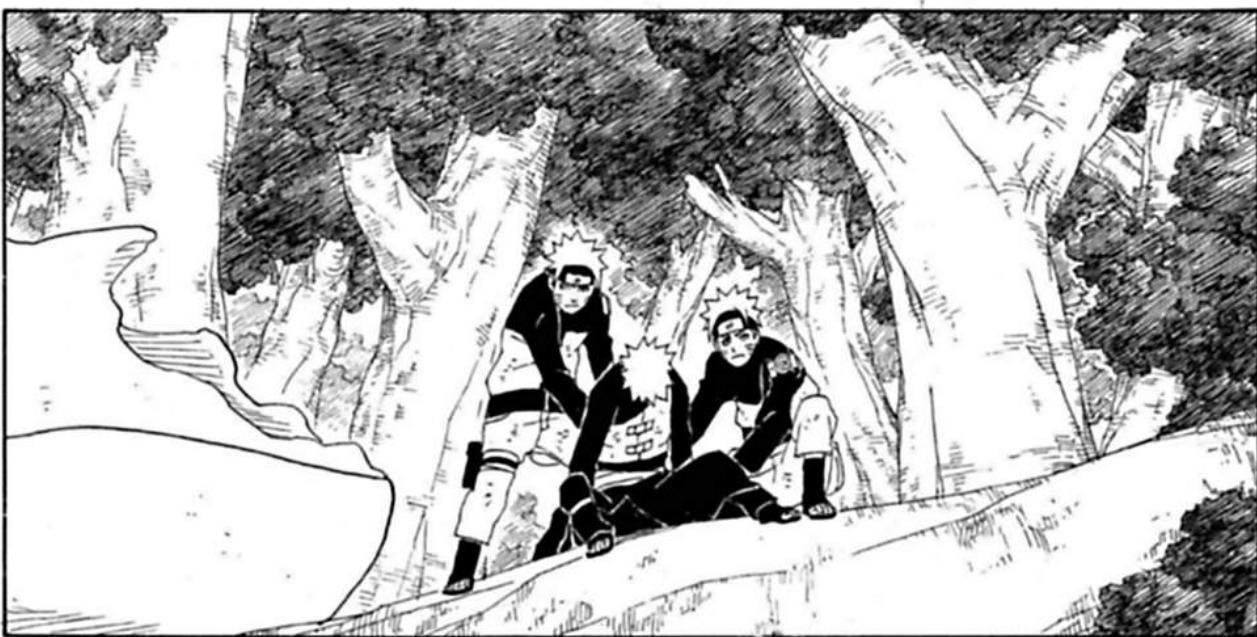








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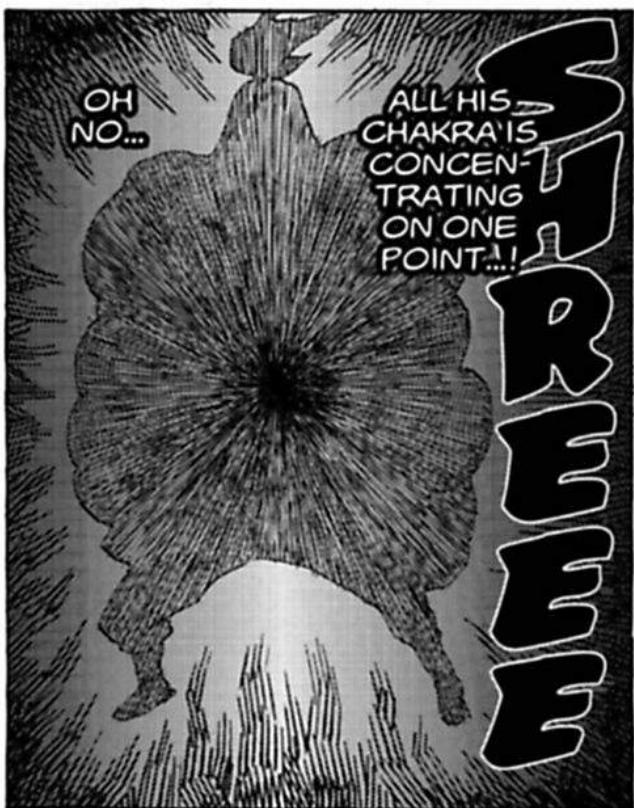






READ  
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WAY

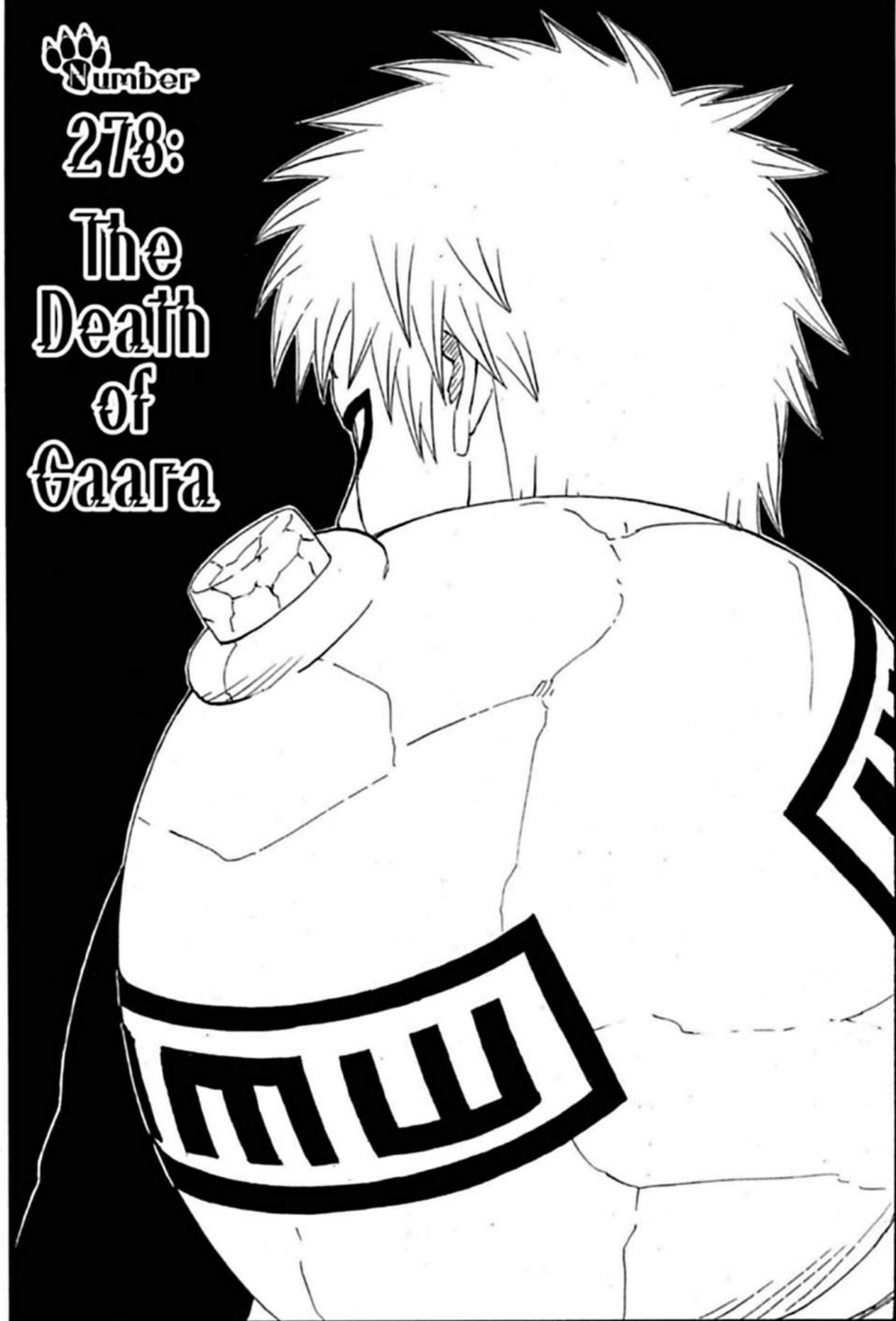


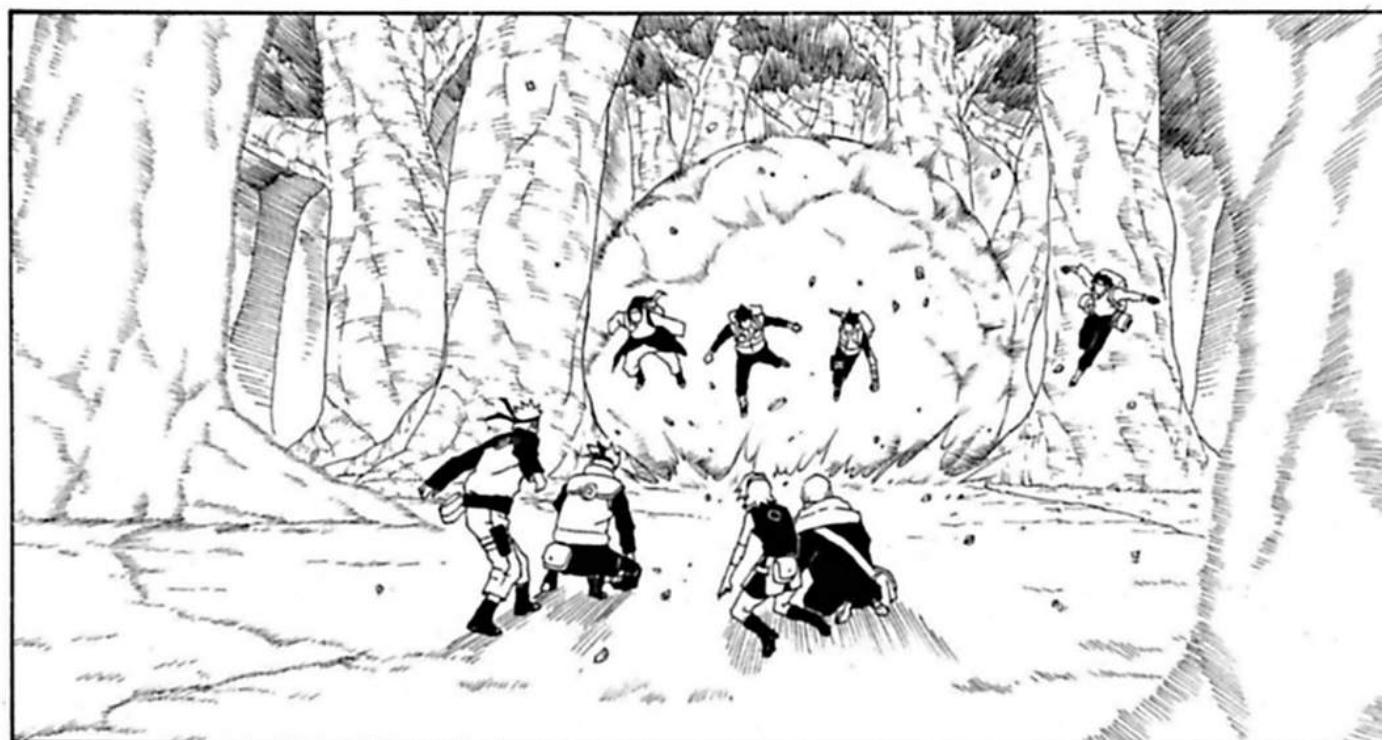
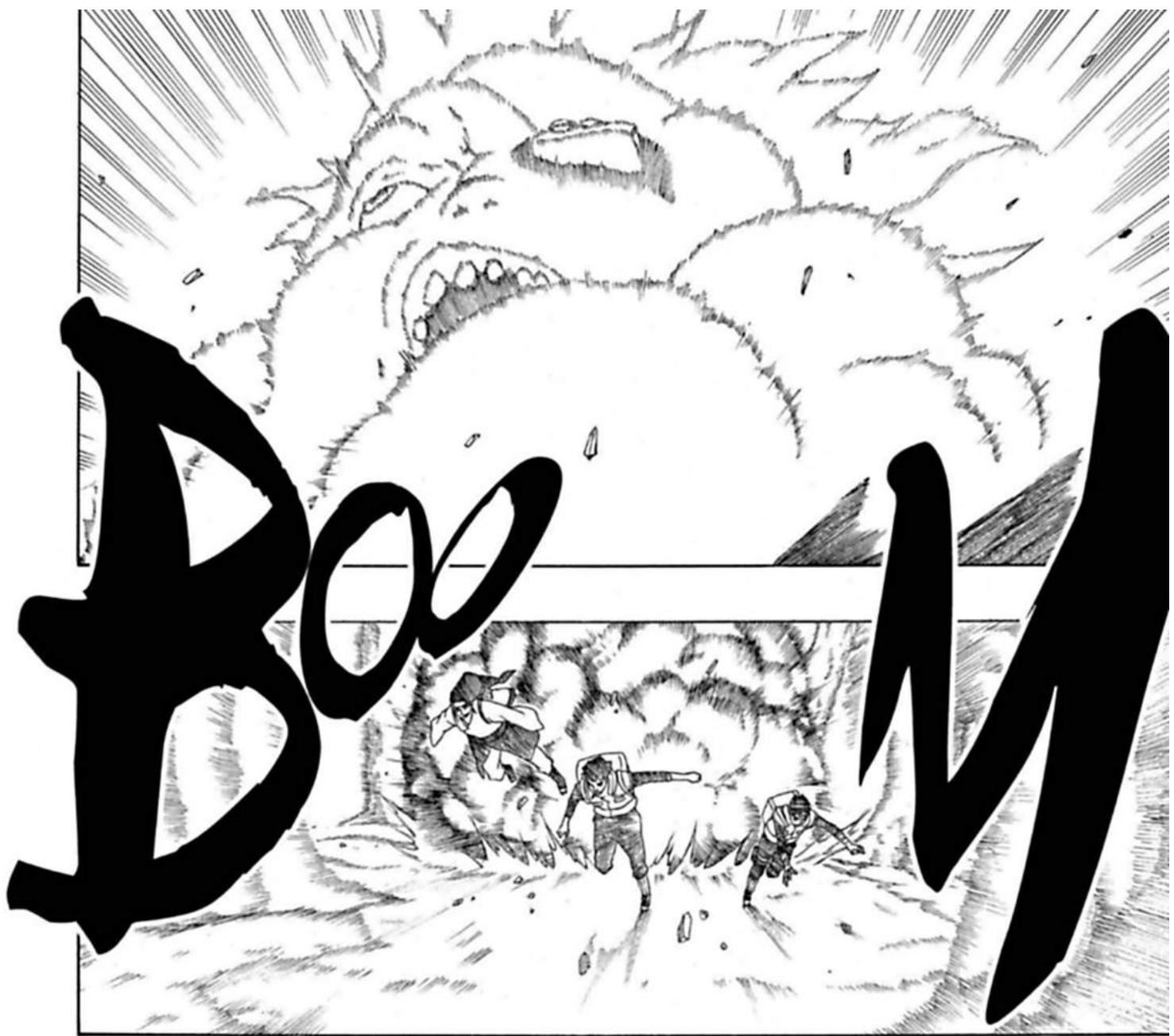




NARUTO

Number  
278:  
The  
Death  
of  
Gaara

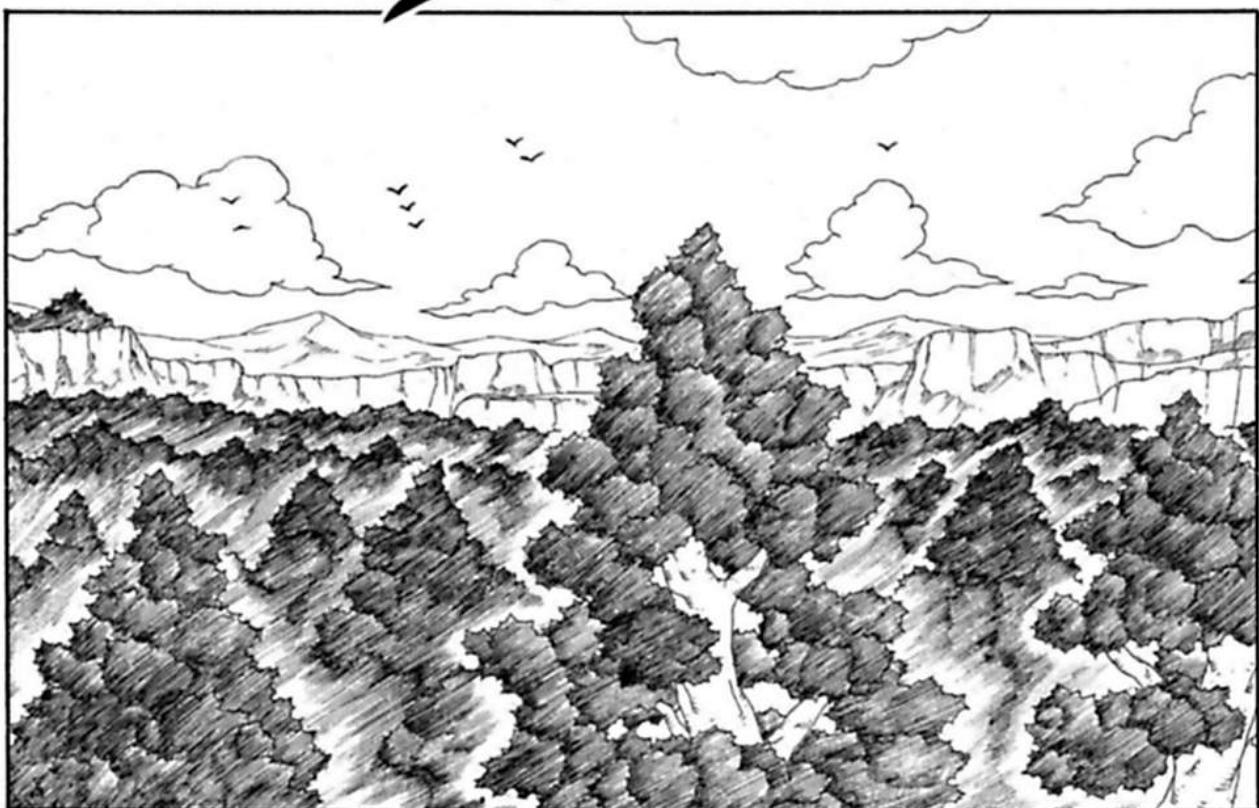


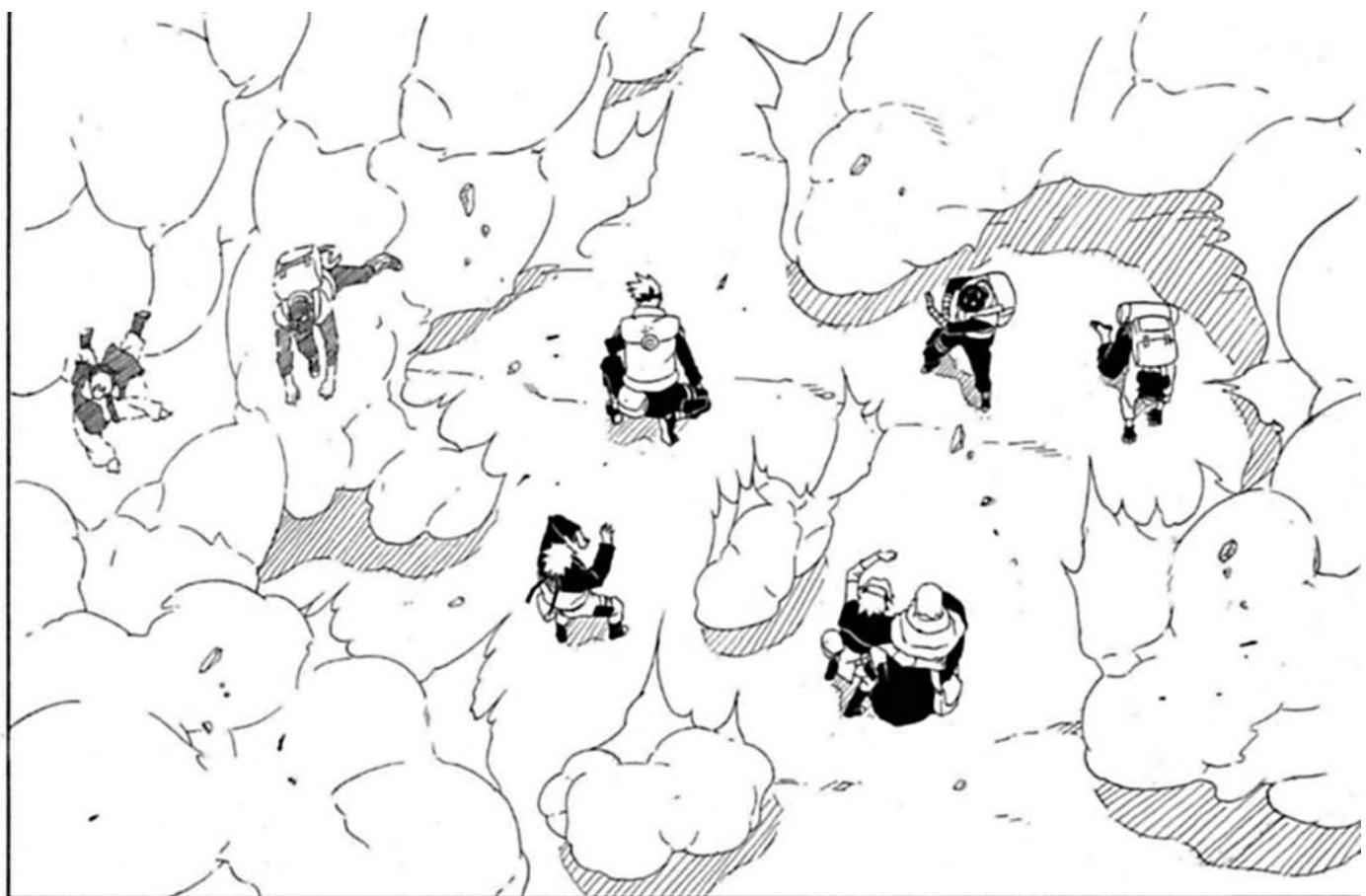


READ  
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WAY

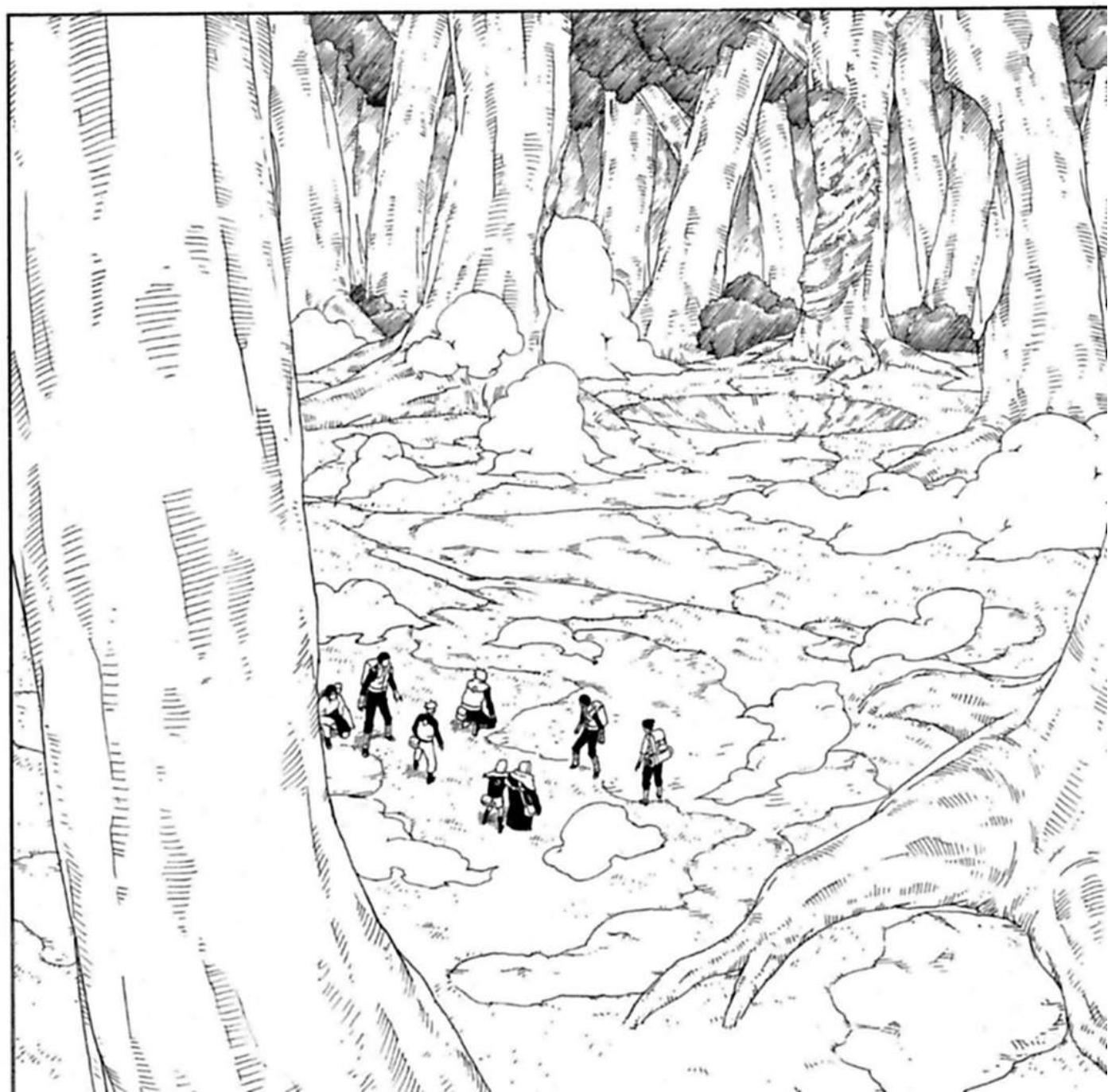
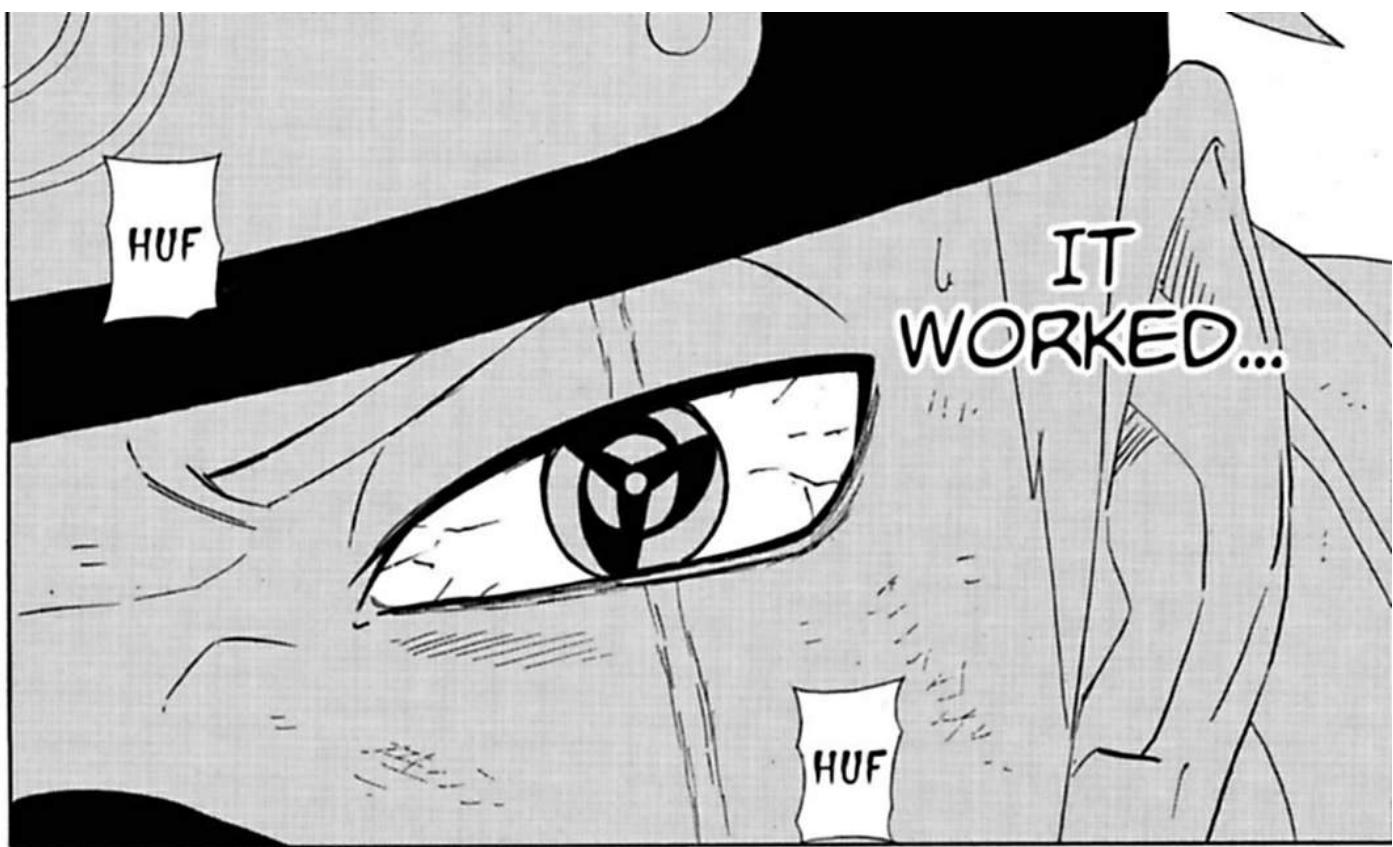


ZOOM





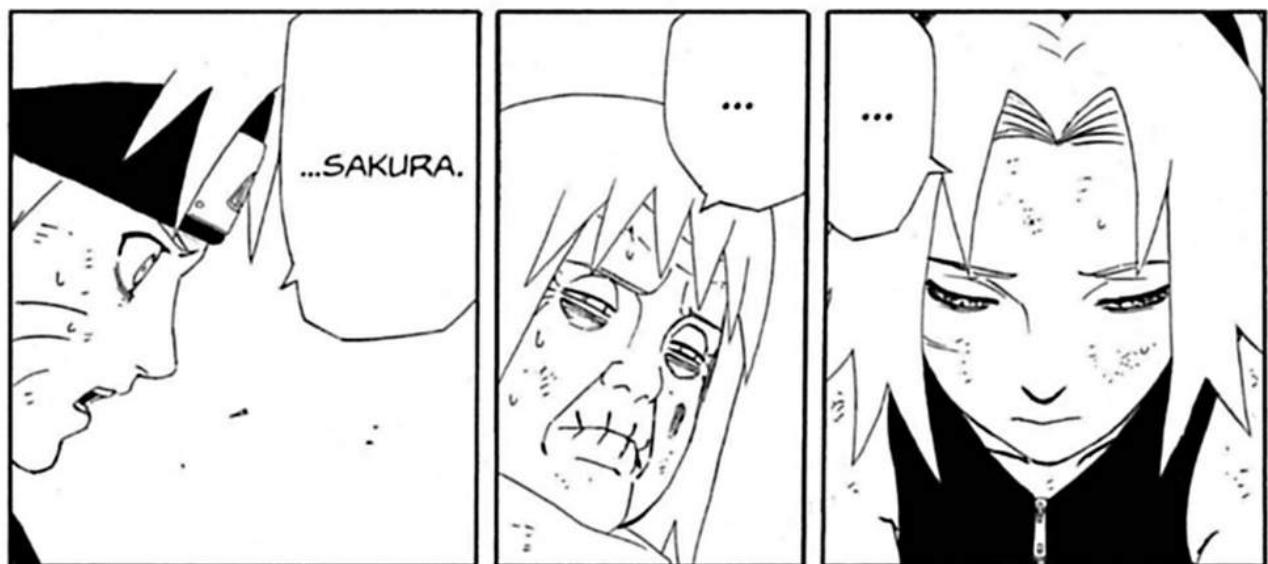
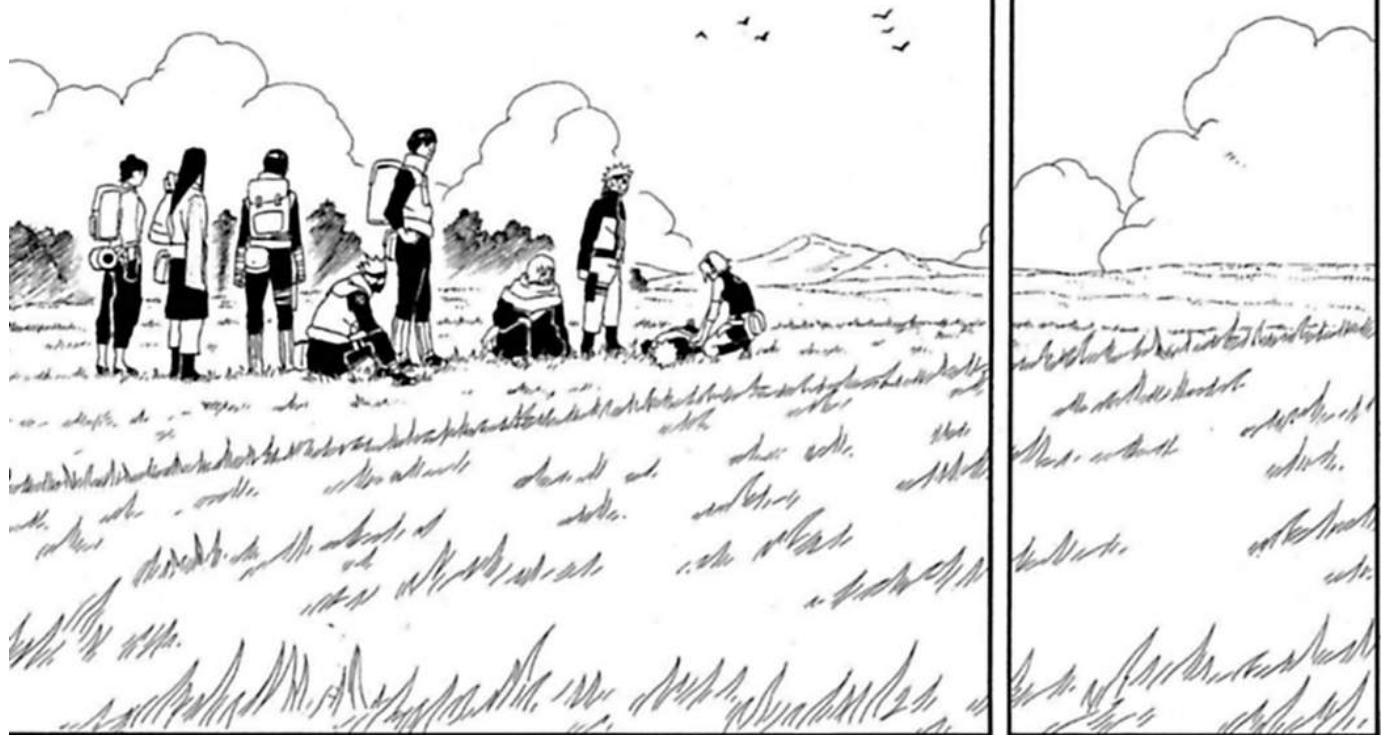




READ  
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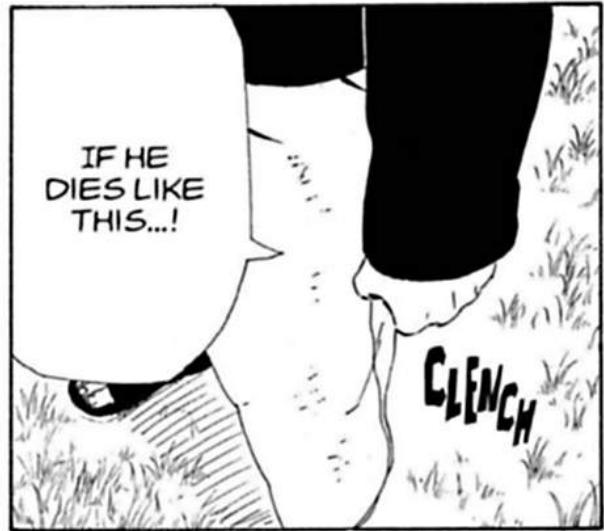








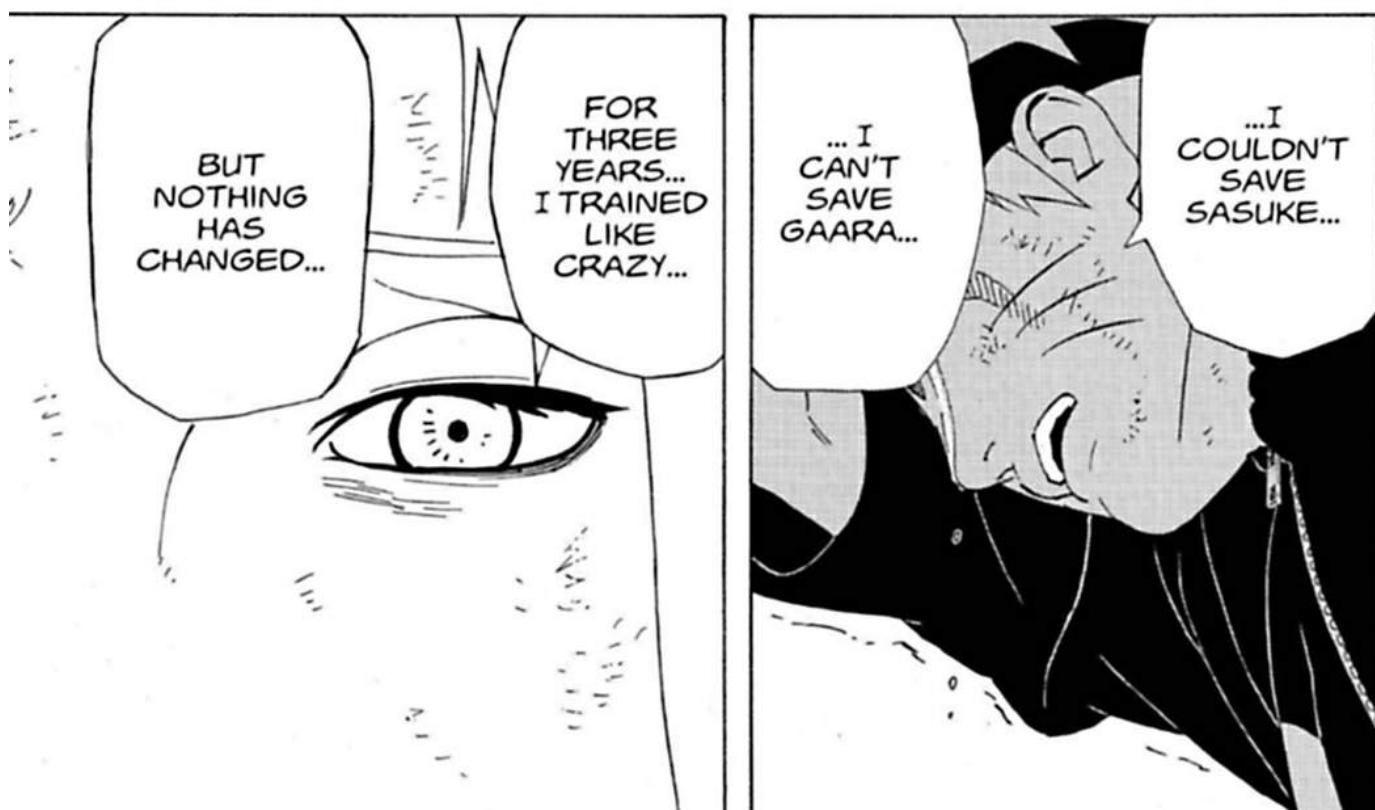
READ  
THIS  
WAY



SHUT  
UP!!!



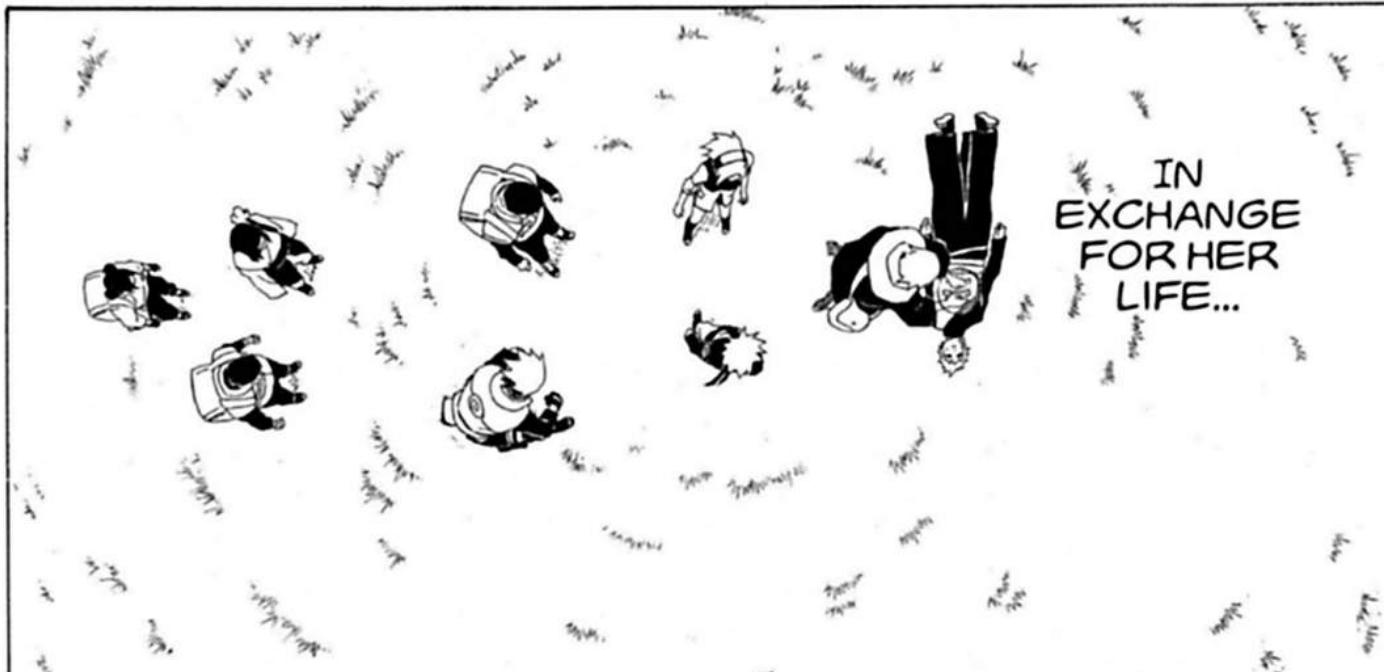
READ  
THIS  
WAY

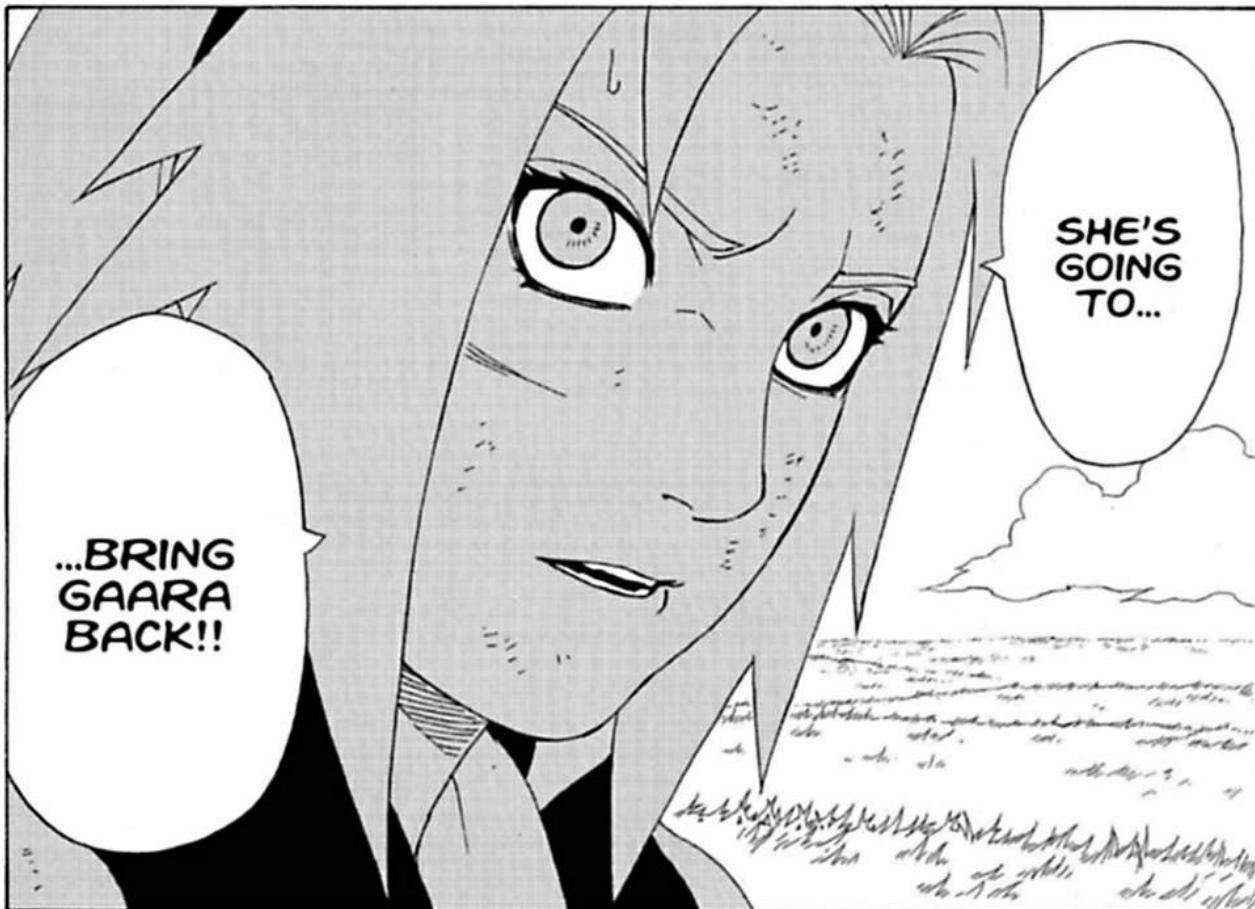




READ  
THIS  
WAY



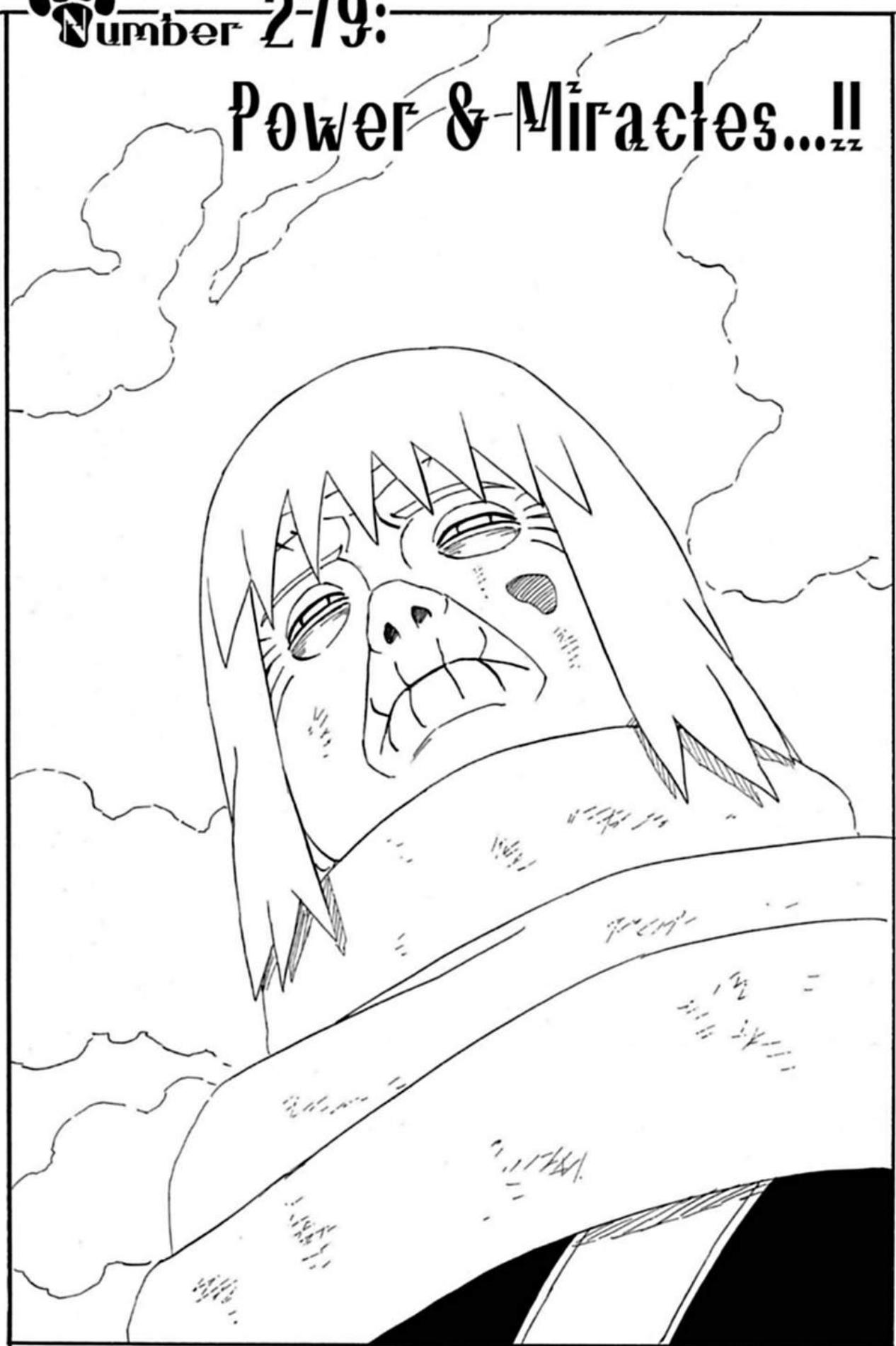


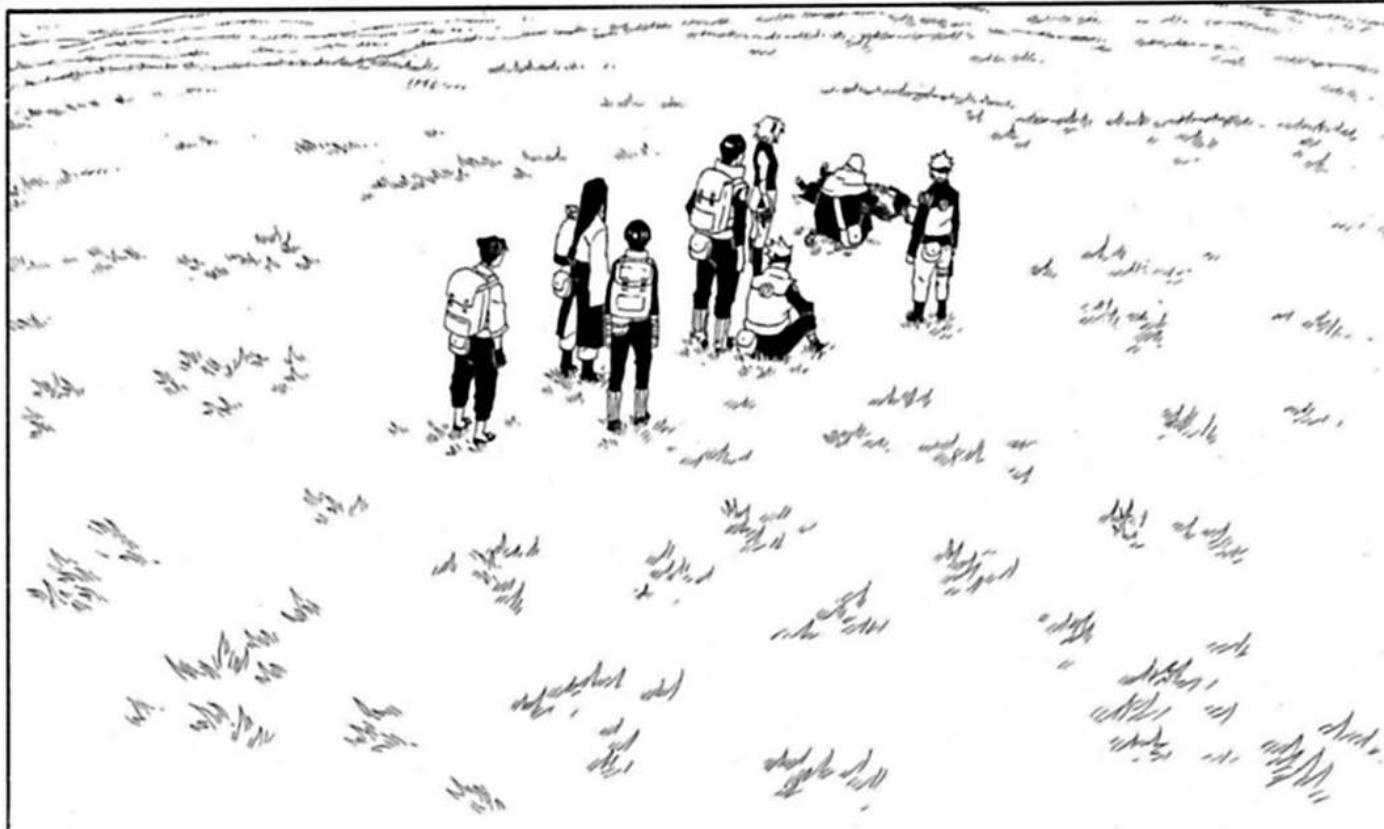


NARUTO

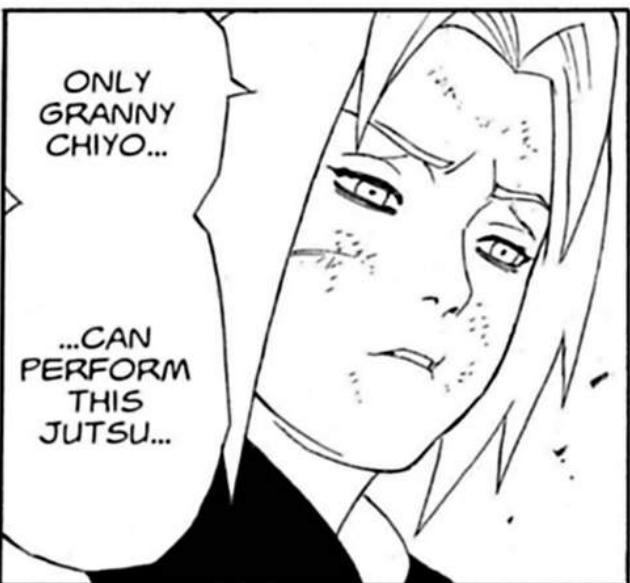
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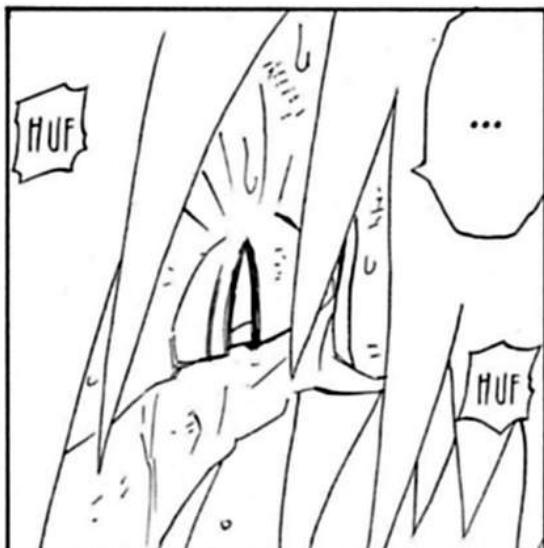
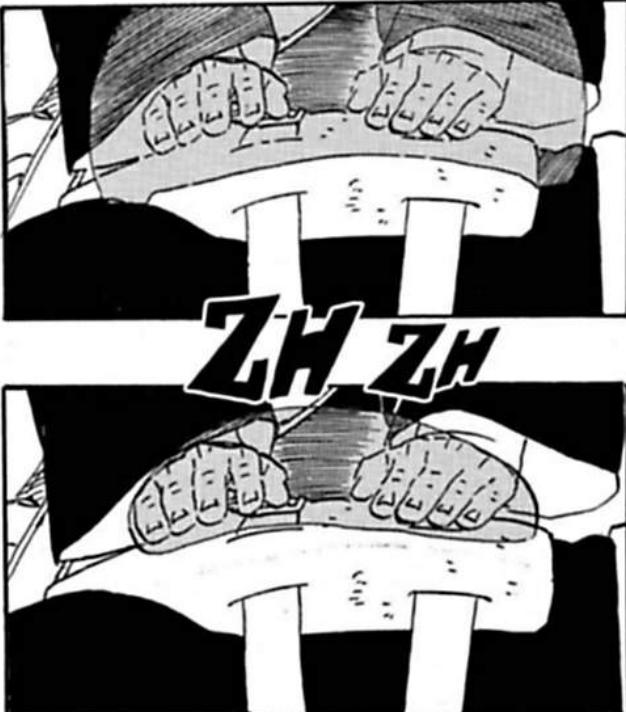
**Power & Miracles...!!**





READ  
THIS  
WAY

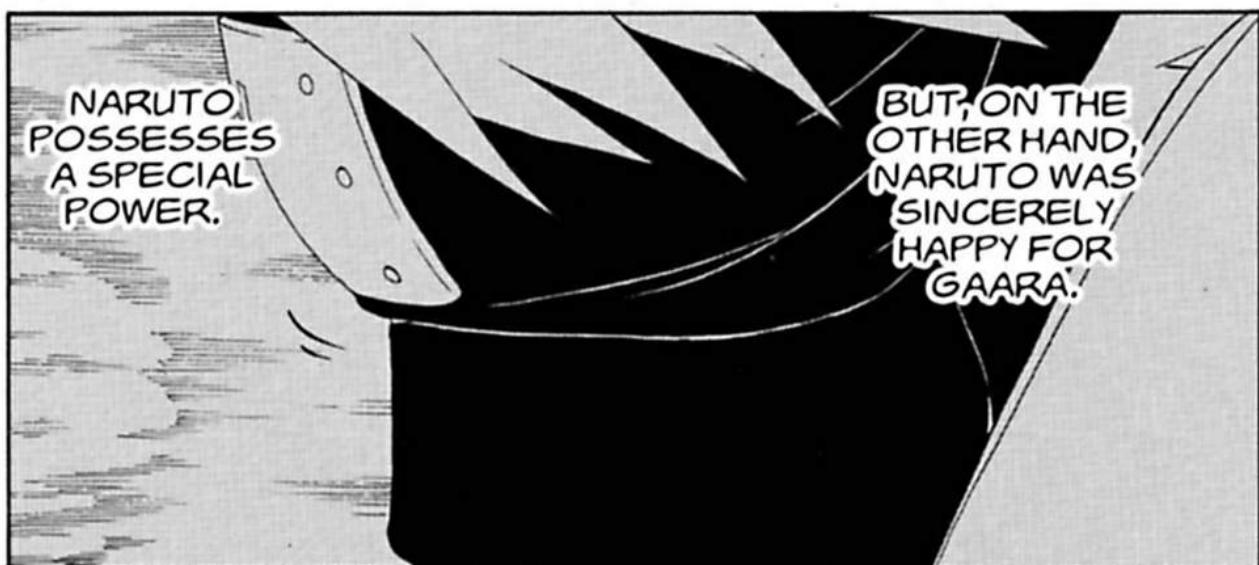
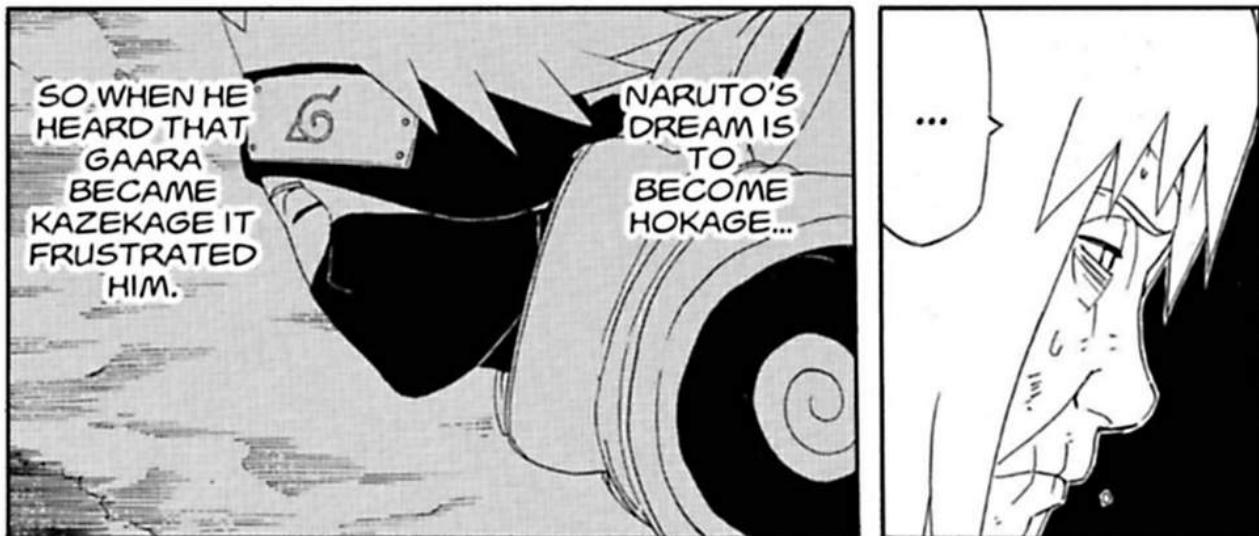


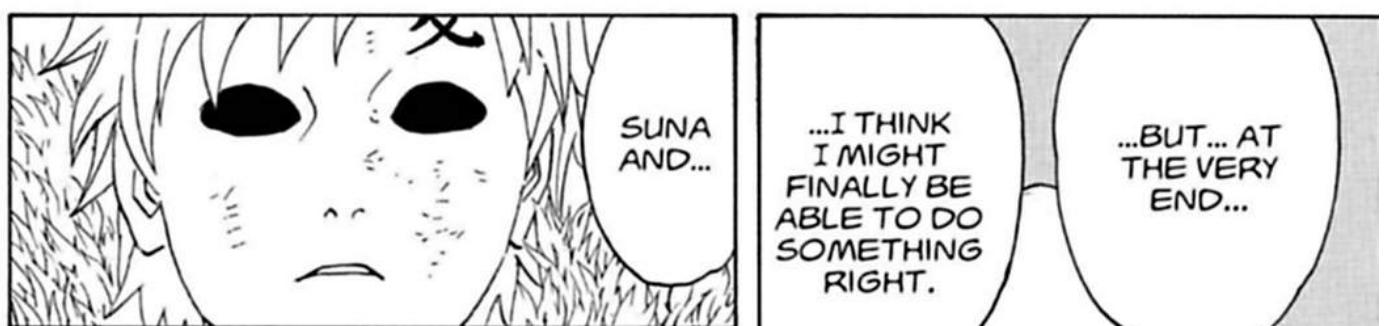


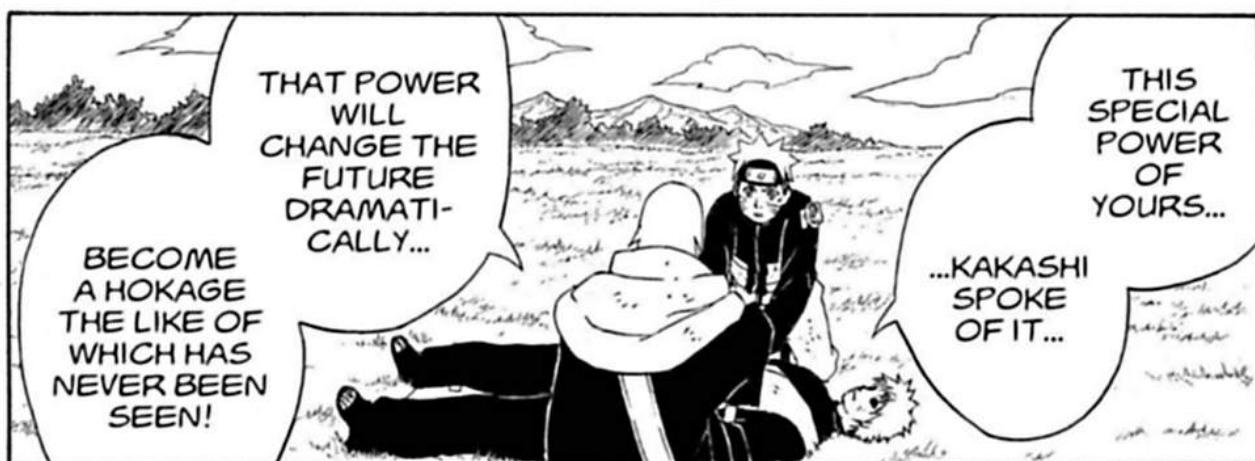
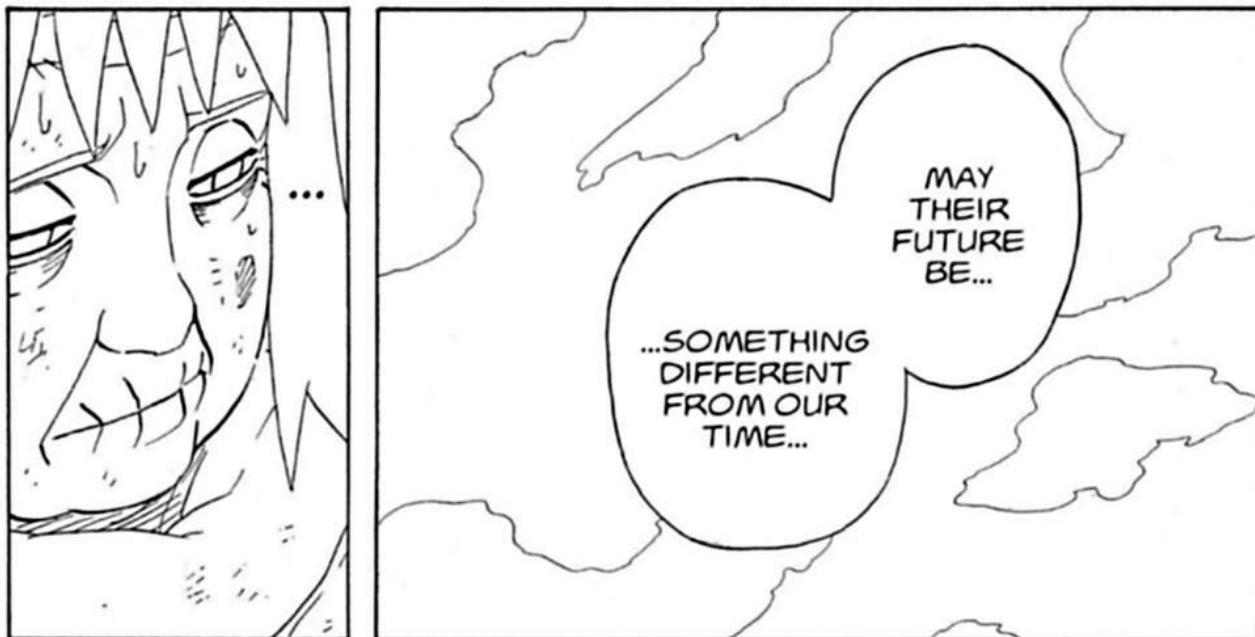
READ  
THIS  
WAY



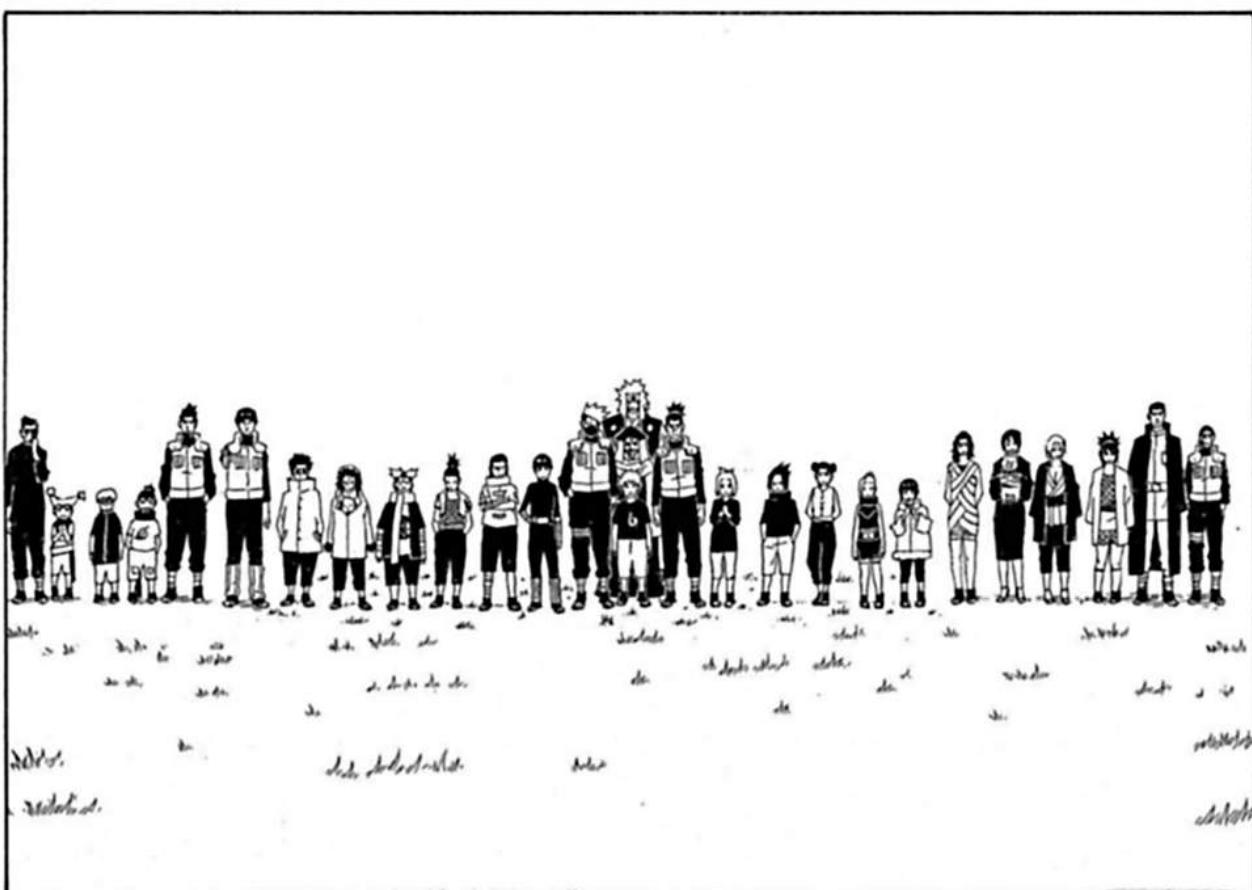


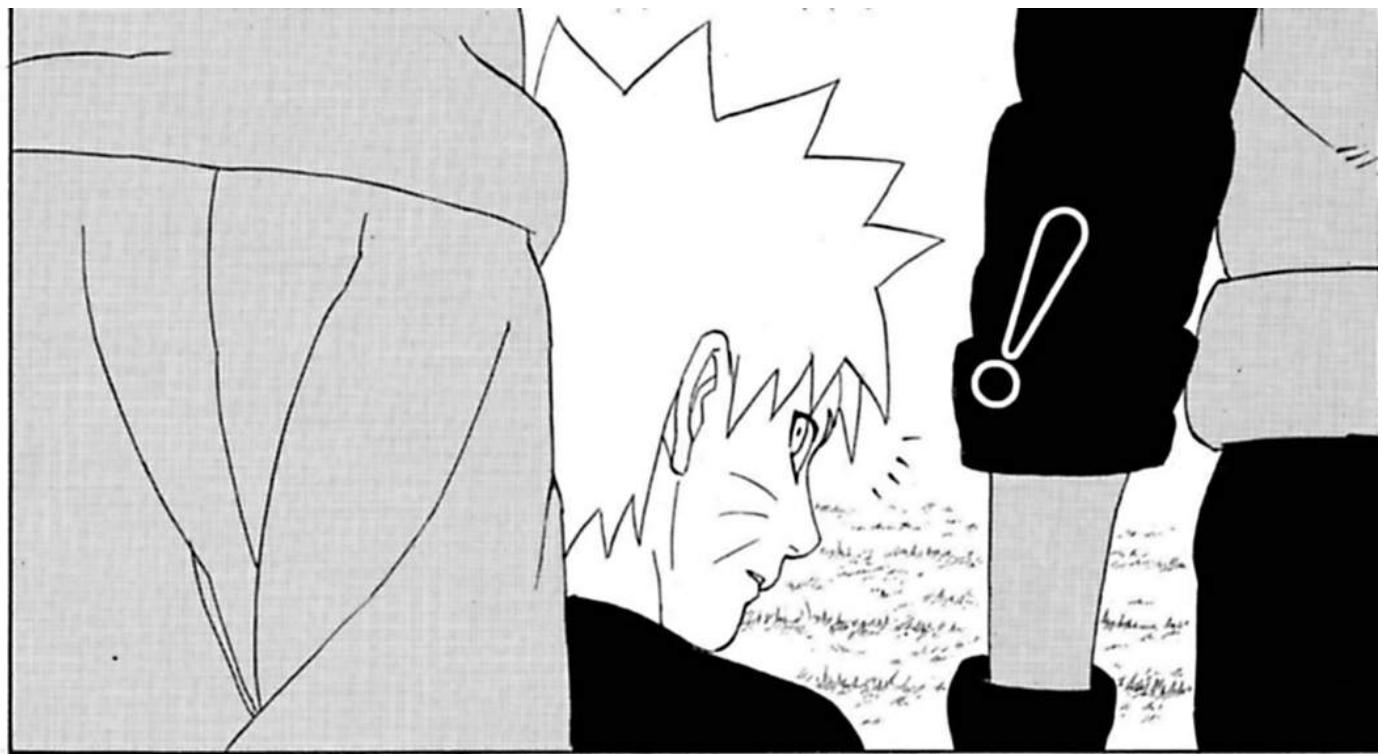




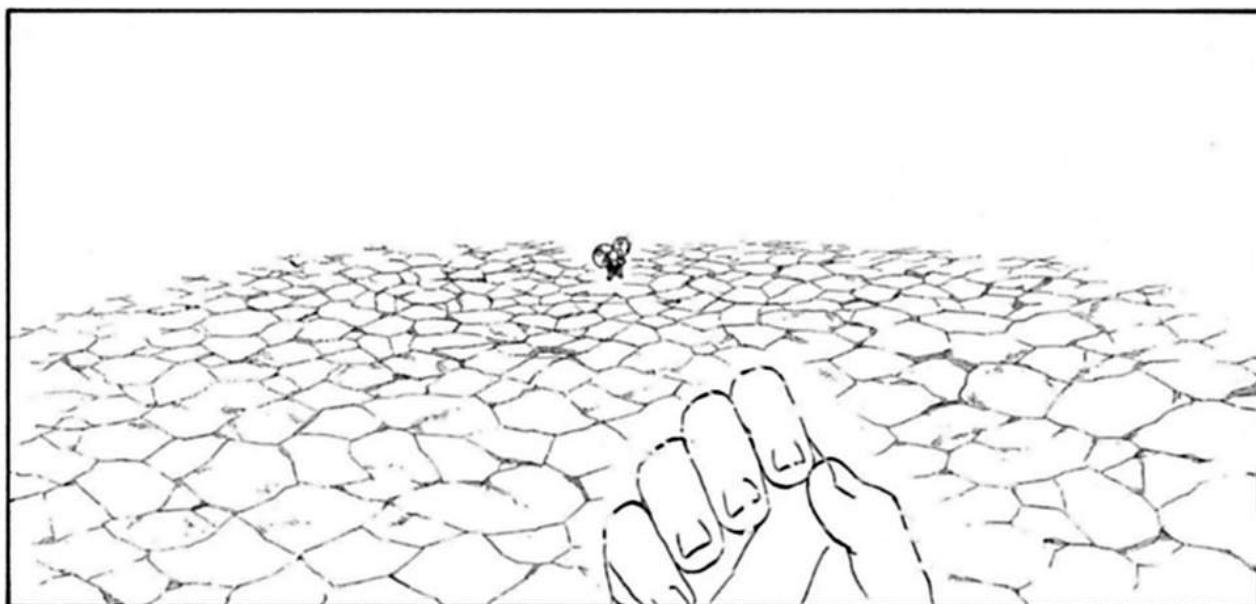


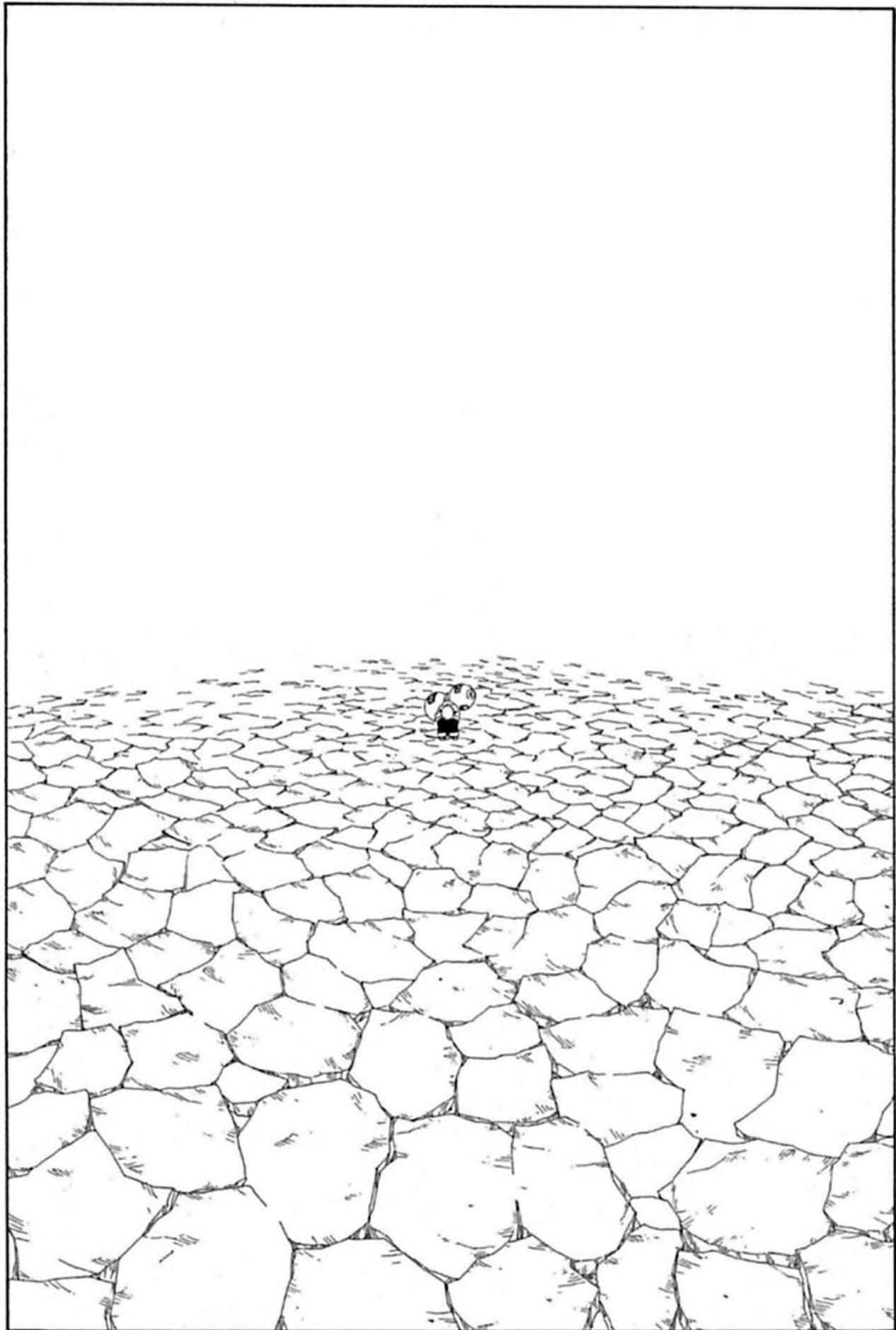






READ  
THIS  
WAY





READ  
THIS  
WAY

WHO...AM  
I...?

ME...

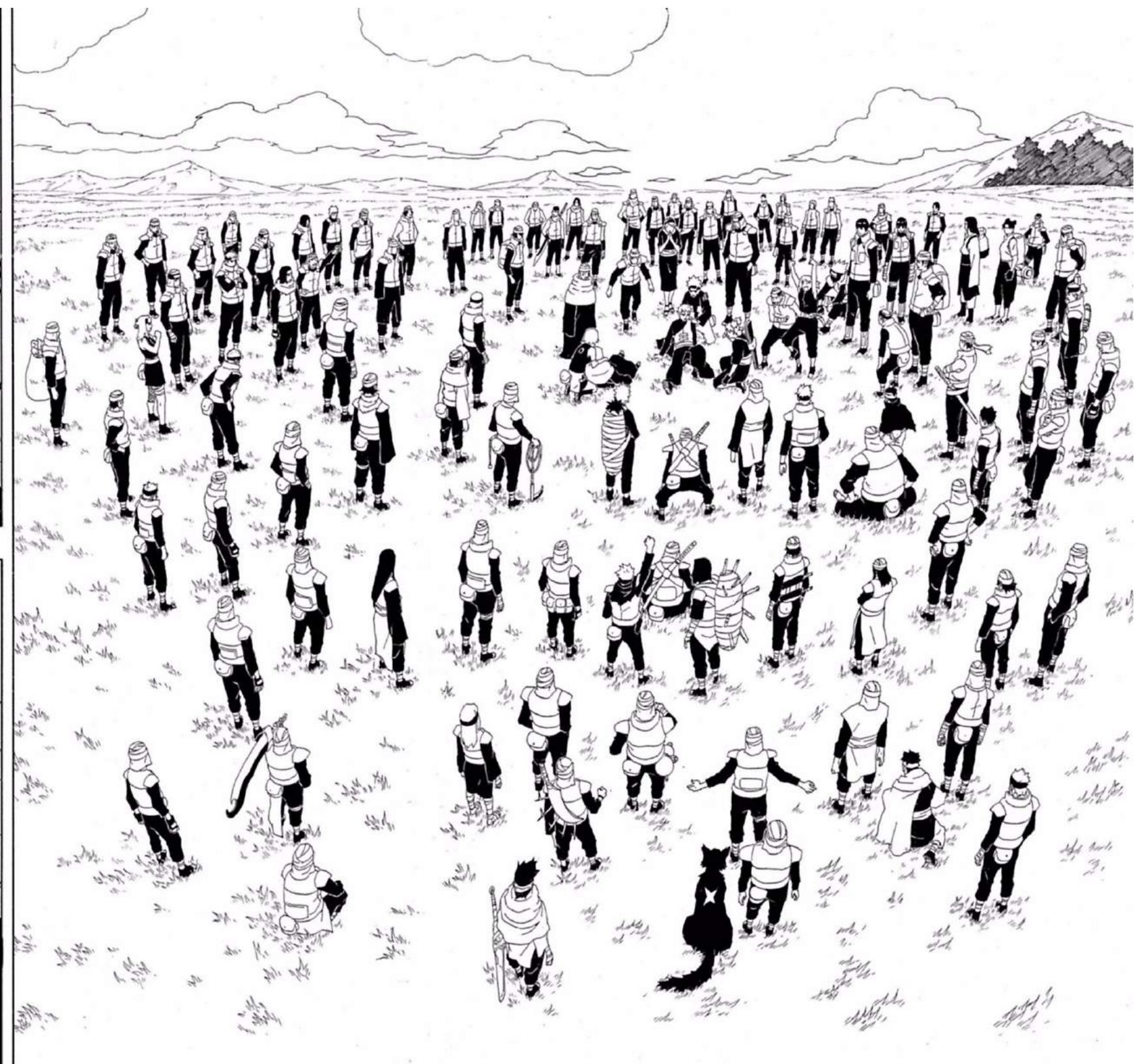


I'M...









## 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 

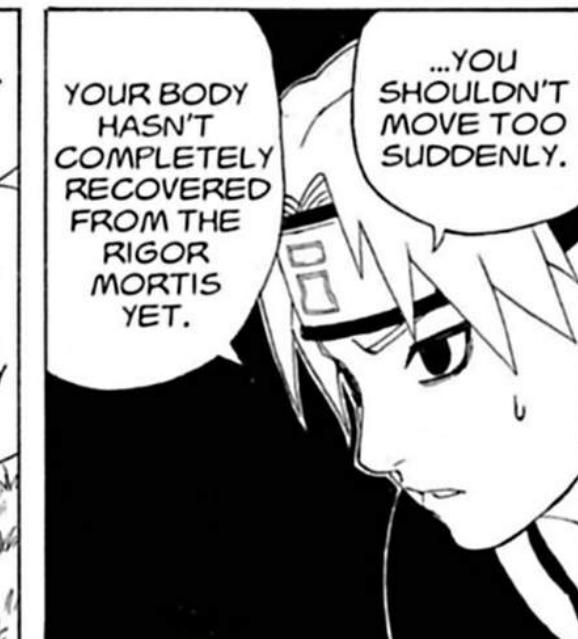
**Number 280:**

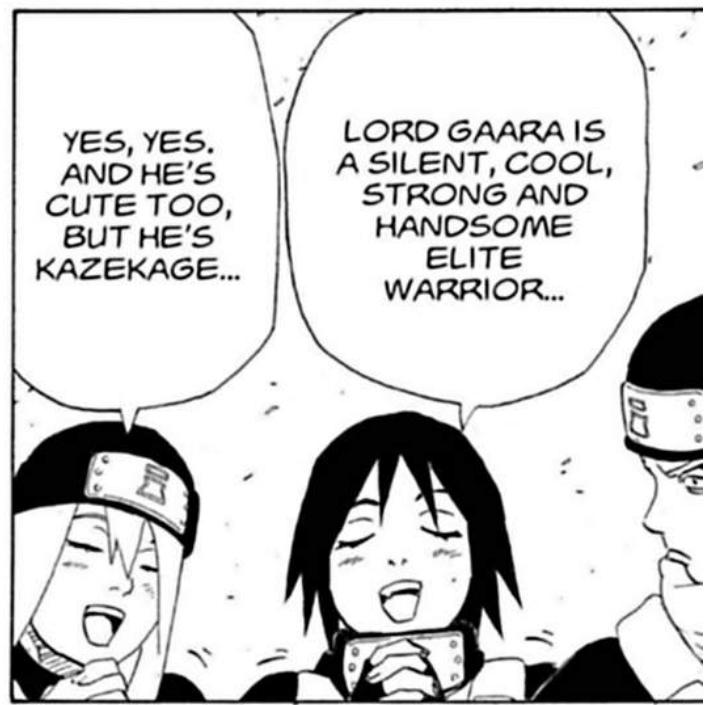
**Trust!!**





READ  
THIS WAY





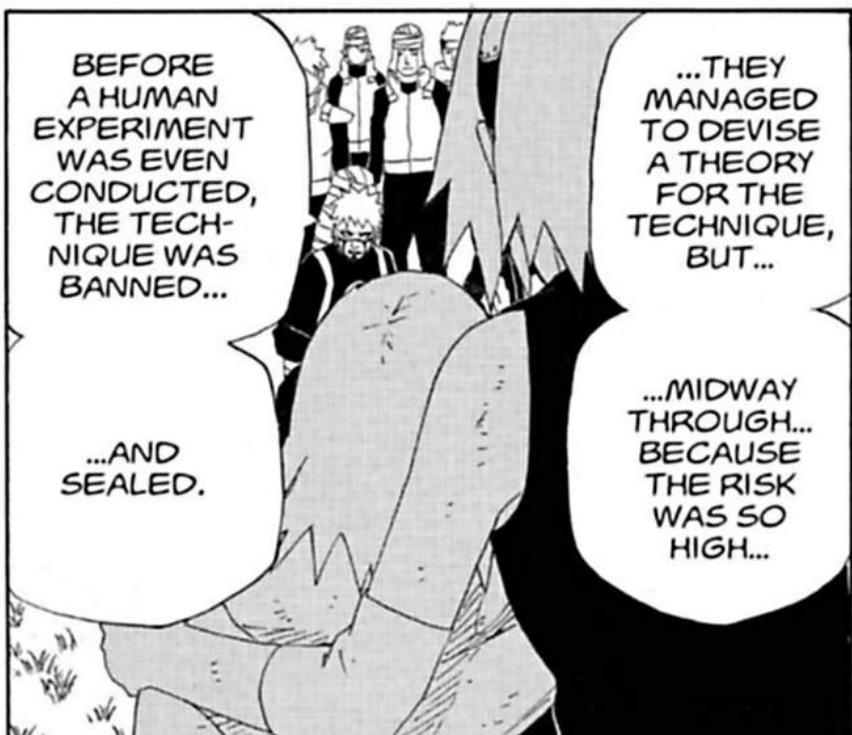
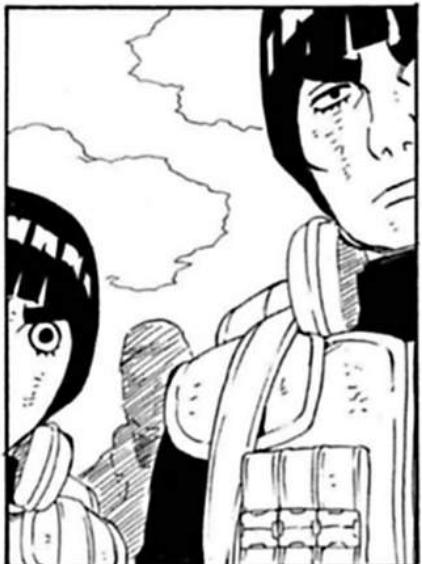








READ  
THIS  
WAY



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



SUNA AND KONOHA...



UP UNTIL NOW... EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN WRONG...



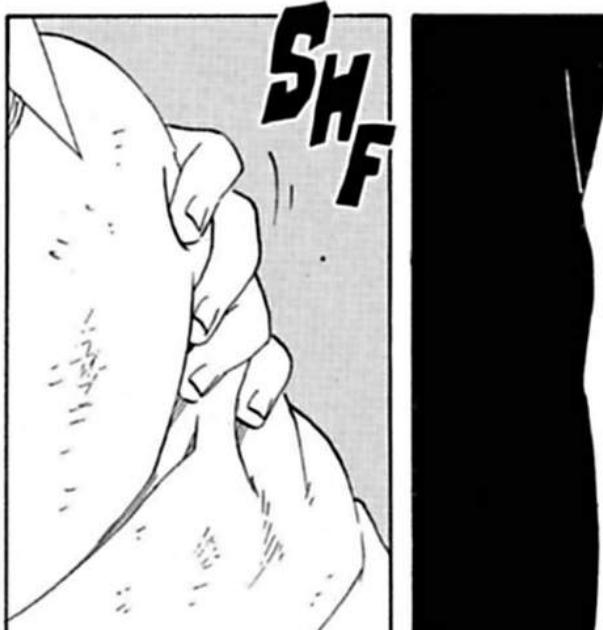
BECOME I A HOKAGE THE LIKE OF WHICH I HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN!



THAT POWER WILL CHANGE THE FUTURE DRAMATICALLY...

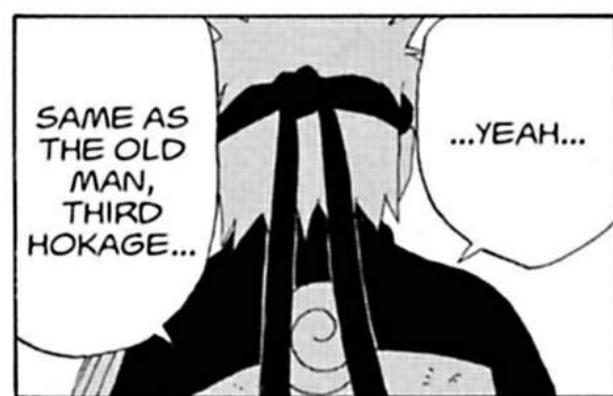
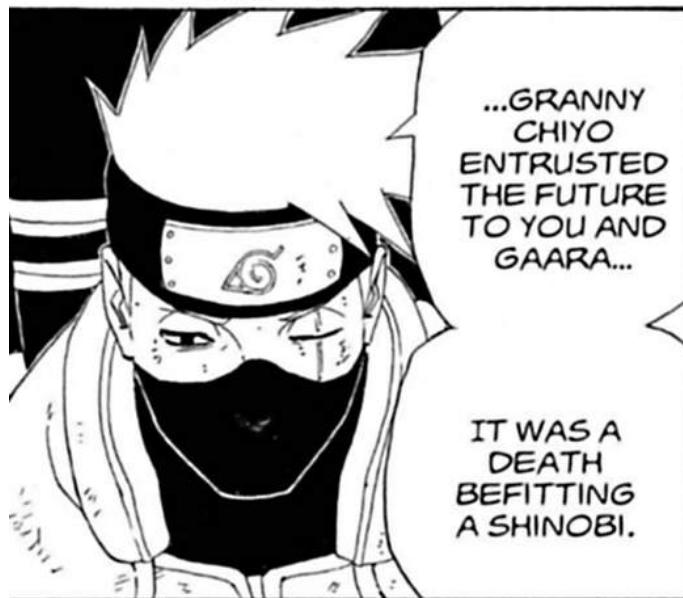
THIS SPECIAL POWER OF YOURS... KAKASHI SPOKE OF IT...

READ  
THIS  
WAY

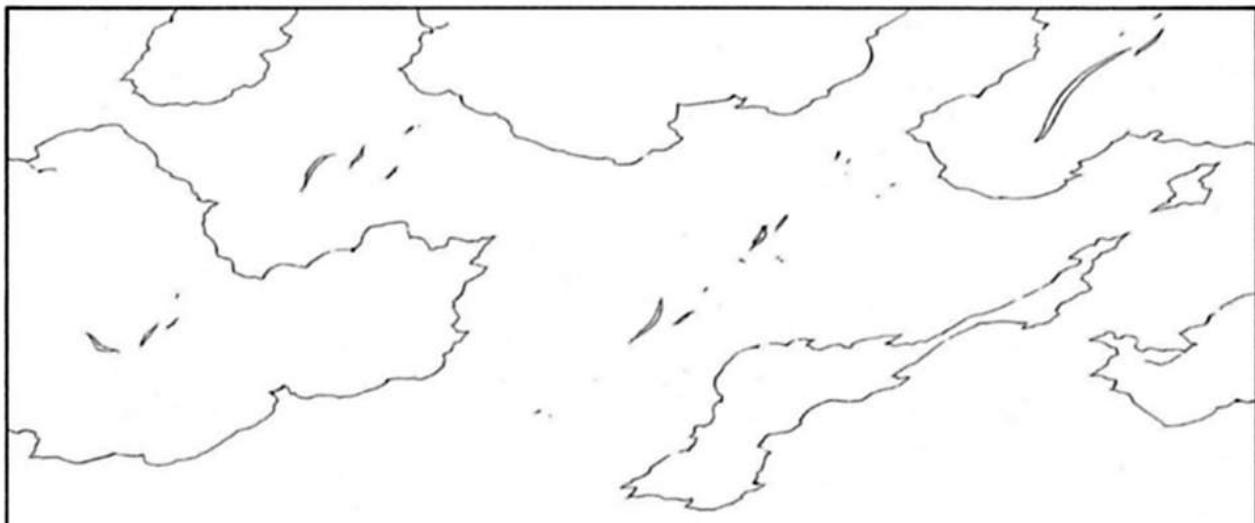


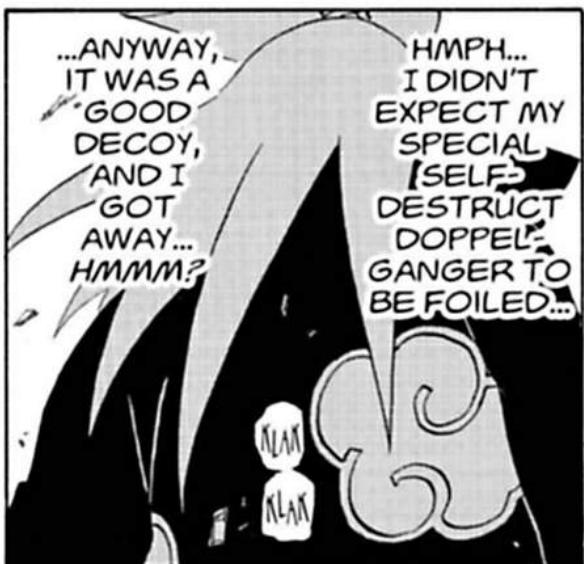


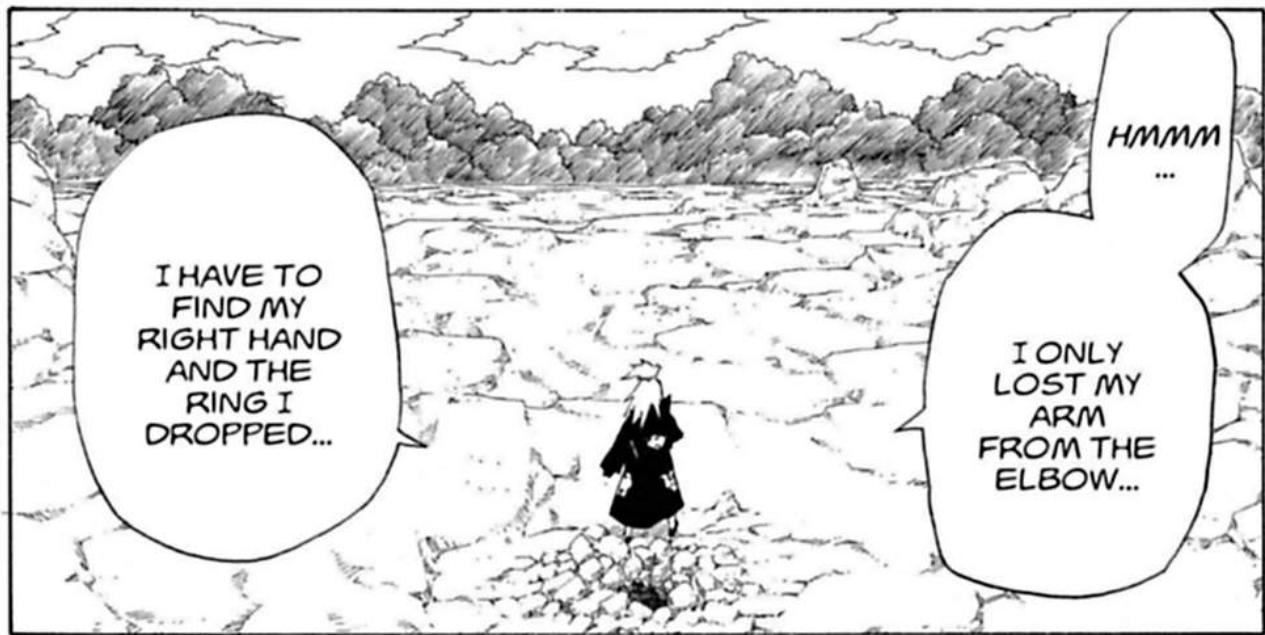
READ  
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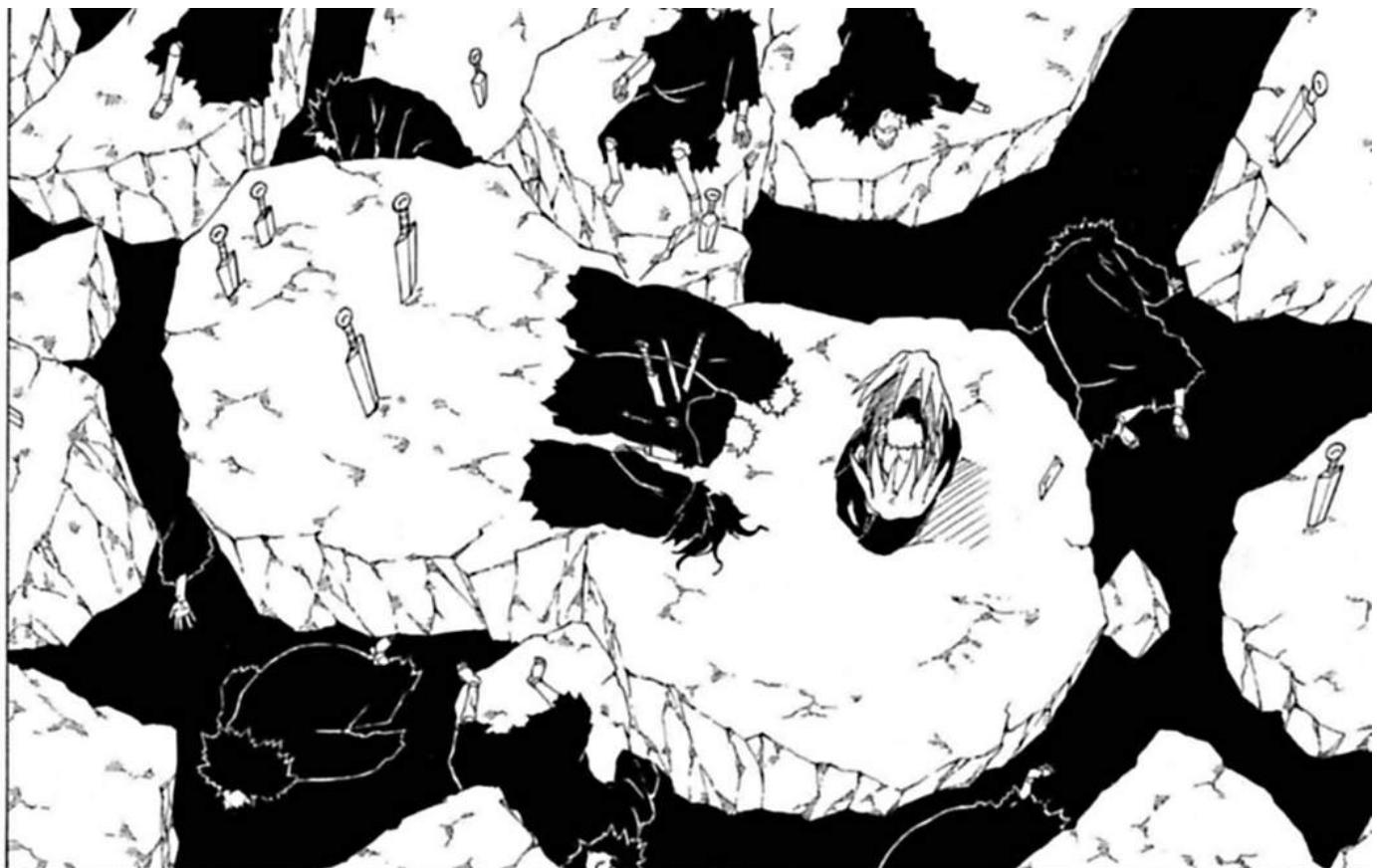












WHY  
NOT...?  
LET HIM  
JOIN...

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

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

FLIP

WHOOPS  
...

TOBI'S A  
GOOD  
BOY...

THERE'S  
NOW AN  
OPENING  
FOR  
ONE...

TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL.32!

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