



# NARUTO

**SHONEN JUMP MANGA**

Story & Art by

**Masashi Kishimoto** **volume 4**

**4**



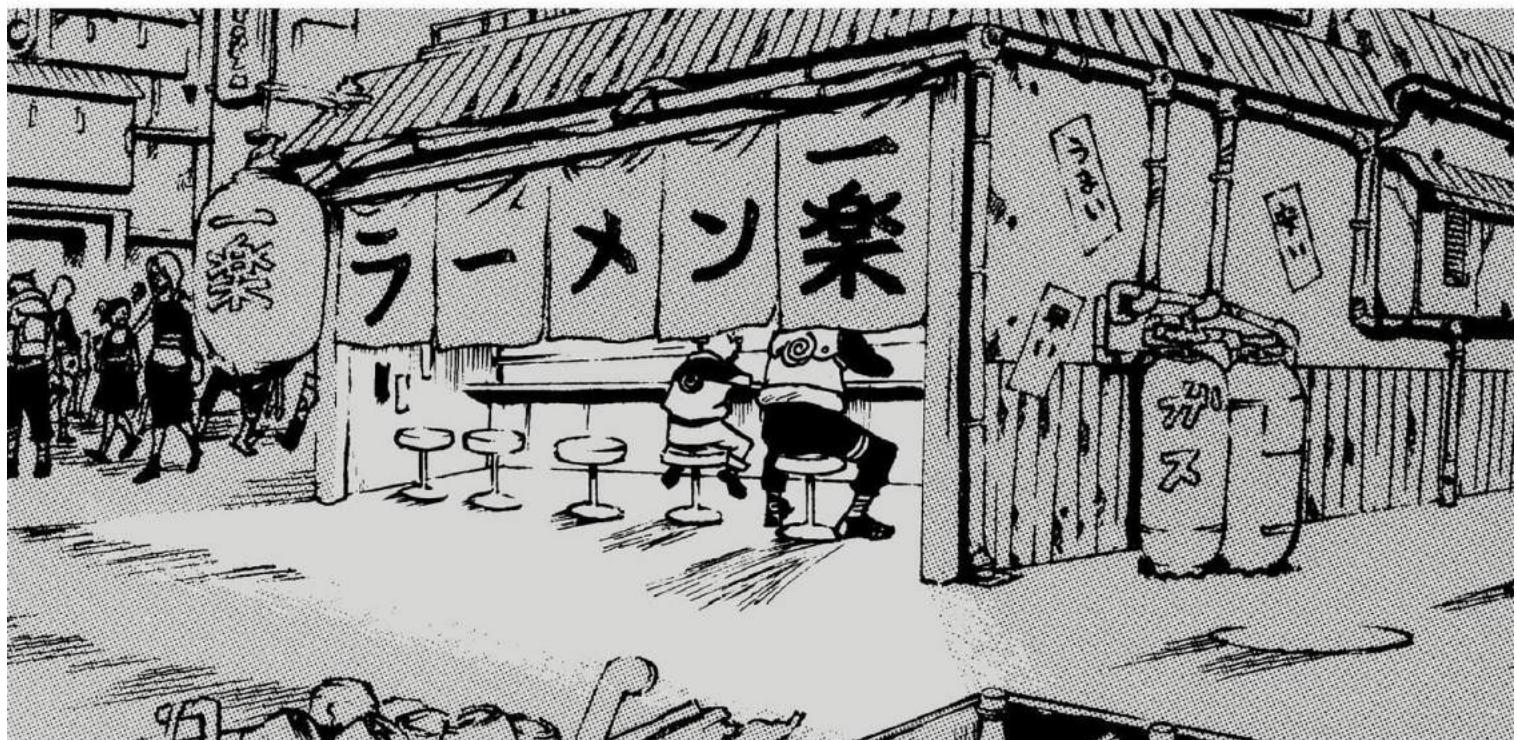
岸本斉史

Thank you for your constant fan letters.  
When I'm tired...  
When I'm bored...  
When I'm groaning in pain...  
When I'm sleepy...  
They always help to flip my heart's switch.  
I read them all.  
Thanks truly!!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000



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. 4

### The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #15-18.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

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

THE WORLD'S  
MOST POPULAR MANGA



[www.shonenjump.com](http://www.shonenjump.com)

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

# NARUTO

TM



VOL. 4

THE NEXT LEVEL

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

## SAKURA サクラ

Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

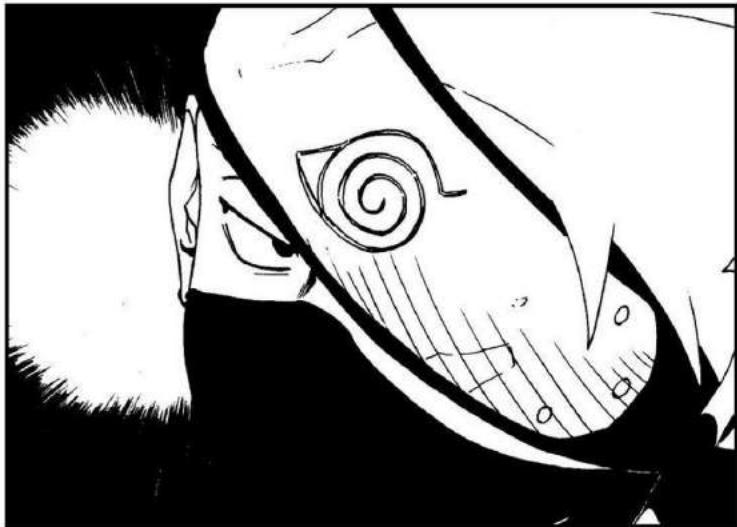
## NARUTO ナルト

When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking troublemaker. His goal: to become the village's next Hokage.

## SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.





## KAKASHI カカシ

The elite ninja assigned to train Naruto, Sasuke, and Sakura. His *sharingan* ("mirror-wheel eye") allows him to reflect and mimic enemy *ninjutsu*.



## ZABUZA 再不斬

A ruthless ninja assassin and mass-murderer known as "The Demon." He specializes in techniques involving water and mist.



## HAKU 白

A mysterious orphan who befriends Naruto. Naruto doesn't realize that his new friend is Zabuza's loyal masked assistant, who fights with chiropractic needles.



## TAZUNA タズナ

An old bridge-builder struggling to bring prosperity to the Land of Waves. The evil millionaire Gato has hired Zabuza to stop him from completing his newest bridge.

## THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The *Hokage*, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of *ninjutsu* with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke.

Tired of easy exercises, Naruto and his classmates make the mistake of asking their teacher, Kakashi, for a really hard assignment... and find themselves in the Land of Waves, protecting a bridge-builder named Tazuna. But the job turns truly dangerous when the notorious assassin Zabuza shows up. While Kakashi holds off Zabuza and Sakura protects Tazuna, Naruto and Sasuke face Zabuza's assistant Haku. In the battle, Sasuke sacrifices himself to save Naruto from Haku's deadly throwing needles. Now, watching his classmate fall, Naruto feels something terrible stir within him...

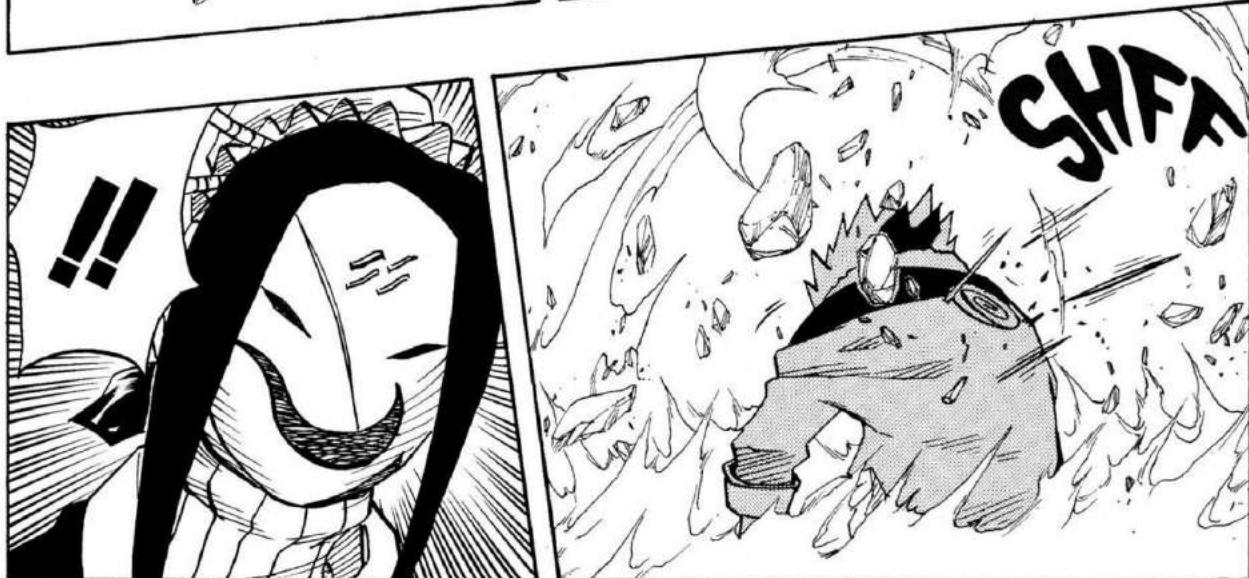
# NARUTO

VOL. 4  
THE NEXT LEVEL

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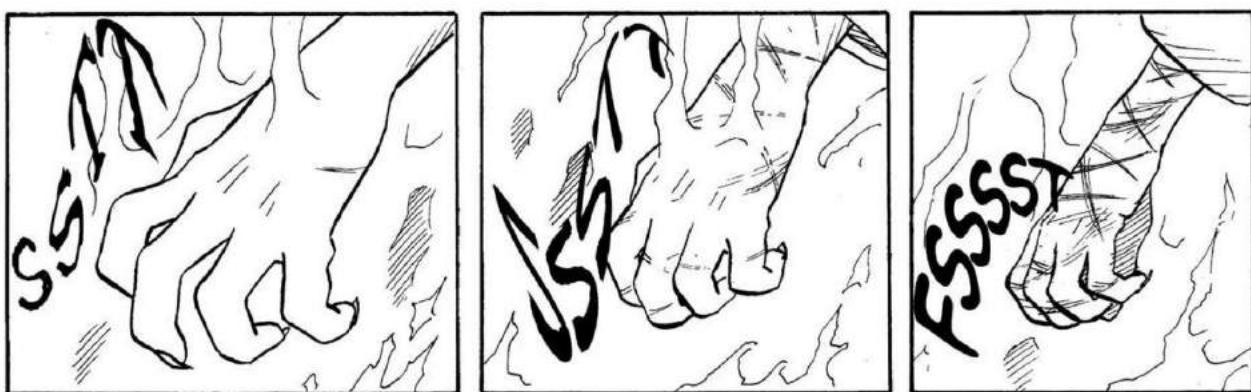




# Number 28: Nine Tails..!!



READ  
THIS  
WAY





UNBELIEVABLE.  
IT CAN'T BE!  
AFTER ALL  
THIS TIME--

NARUTO!!

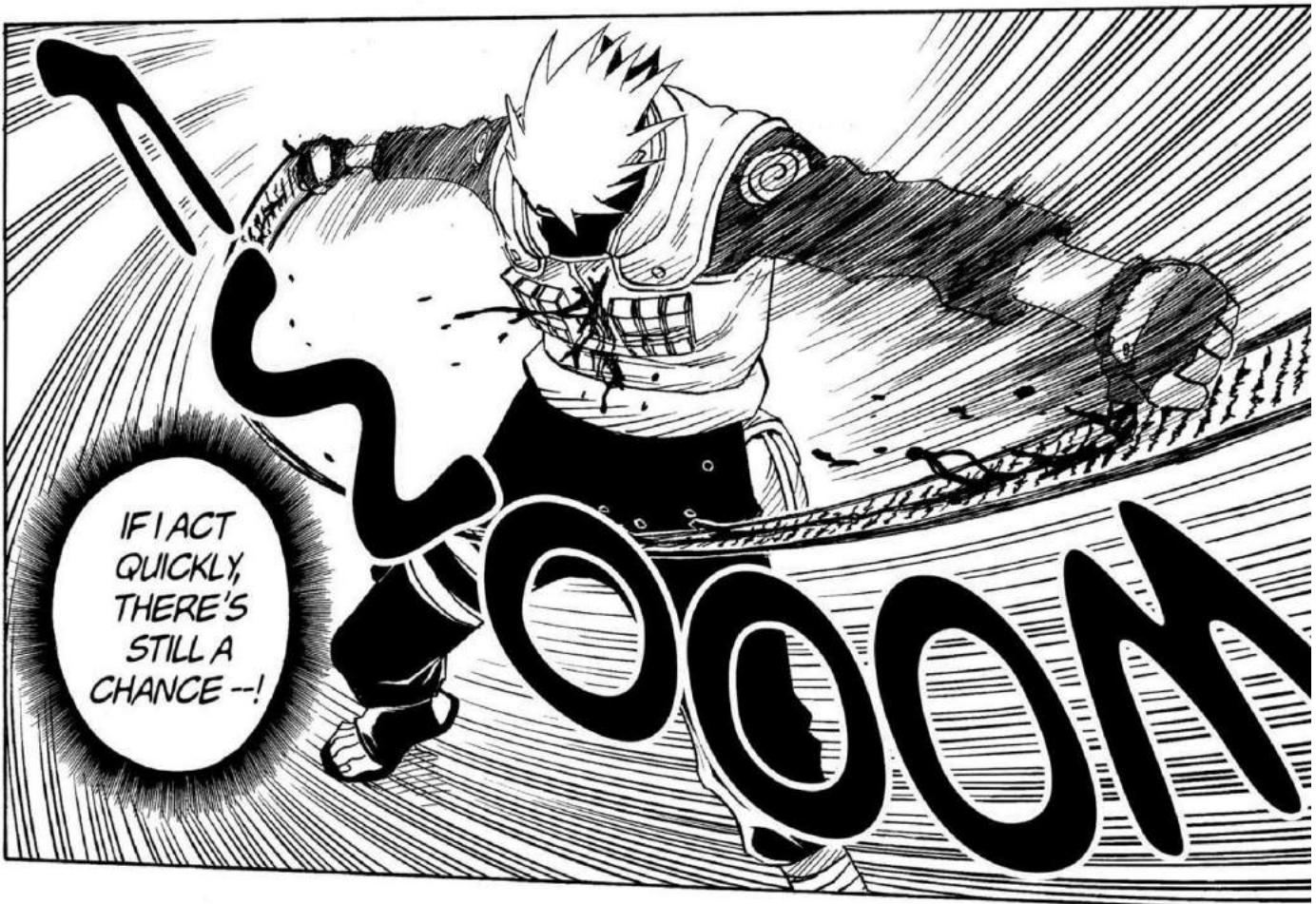


THIS CHAKRA I'M FEELING. SOMETHING ABOUT IT... FILLS ME WITH DREAD!

BUT THE SEAL HAS SLIPPED A LITTLE, OR CRACKED. AND THE POWER OF THE NINE-TAILED DEMON FOX IS BLEEDING THROUGH.

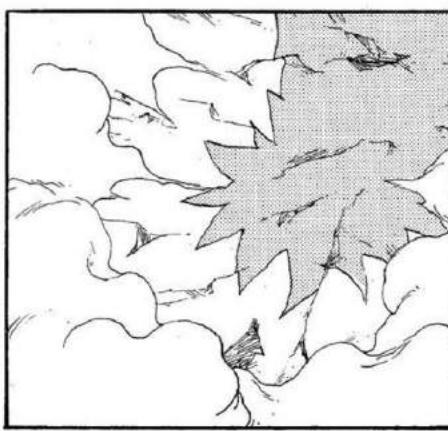
I SENSE THAT WE'RE SAFE - FOR NOW. IT HASN'T BROKEN THROUGH YET... NOT COMPLETELY.





READ  
THIS  
WAY





HE'S SO  
BLOODTHIRSTY!  
HE'S COMPLETELY  
CHANGED  
FROM THE BOY  
OF JUST  
MINUTES AGO!

**FWOOSH!**

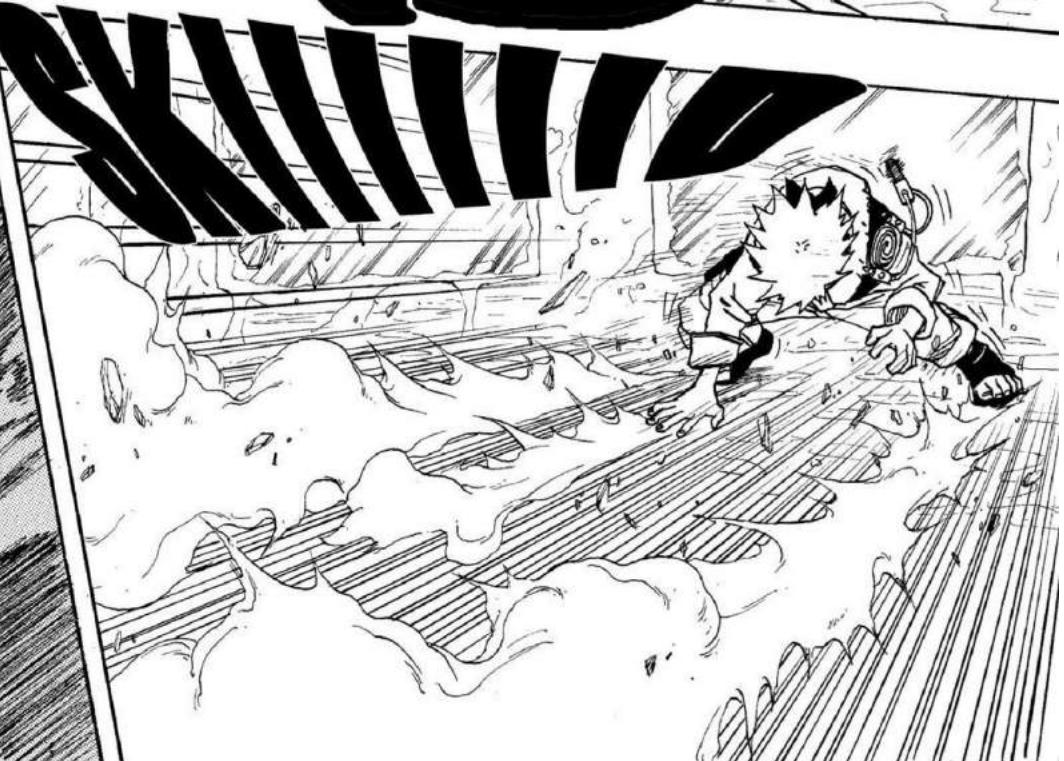
**POW!**

**SWOOSH**

HE... HE  
DEFLECTED  
THEM...  
WITHOUT EVEN  
TOUCHING  
THEM?!

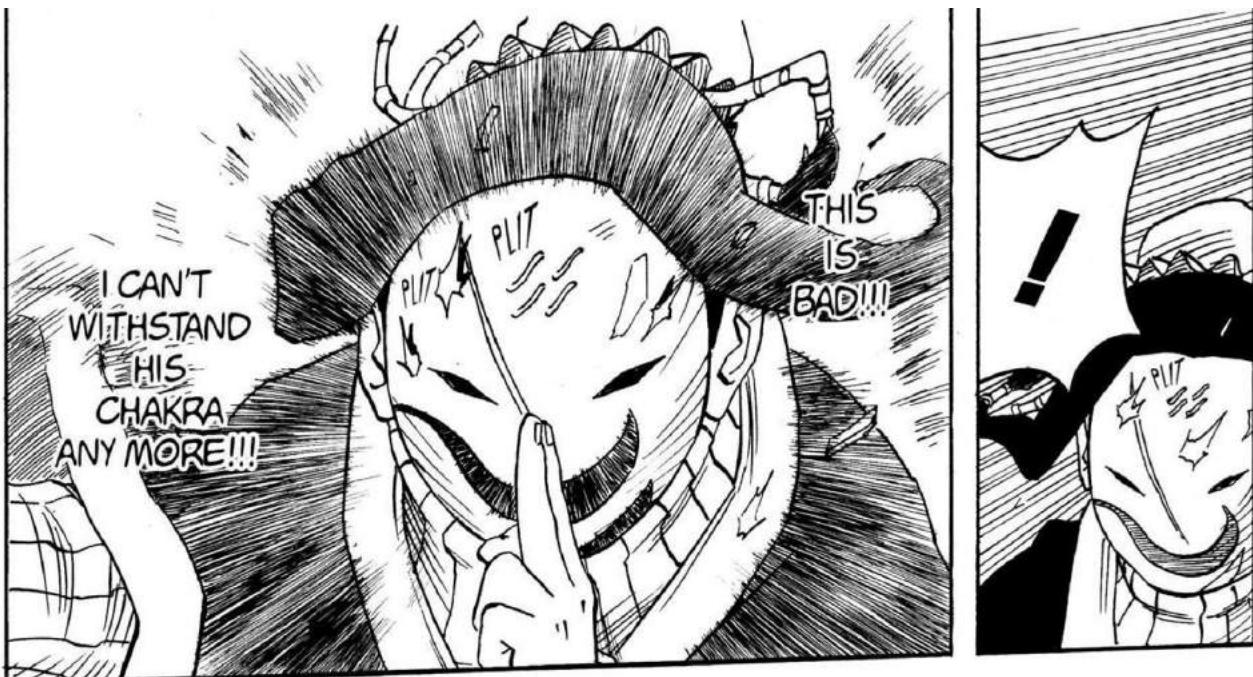
!

G-ARE



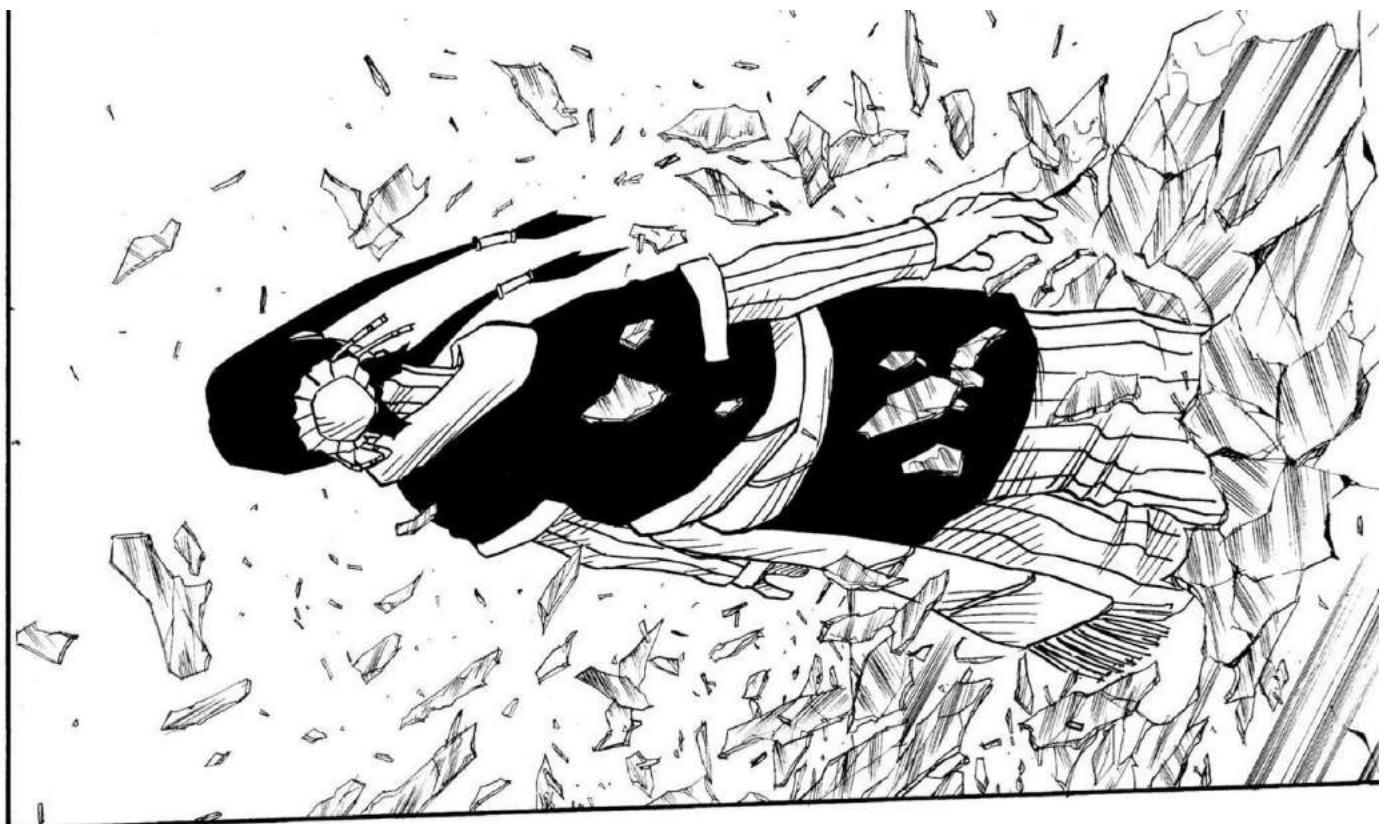




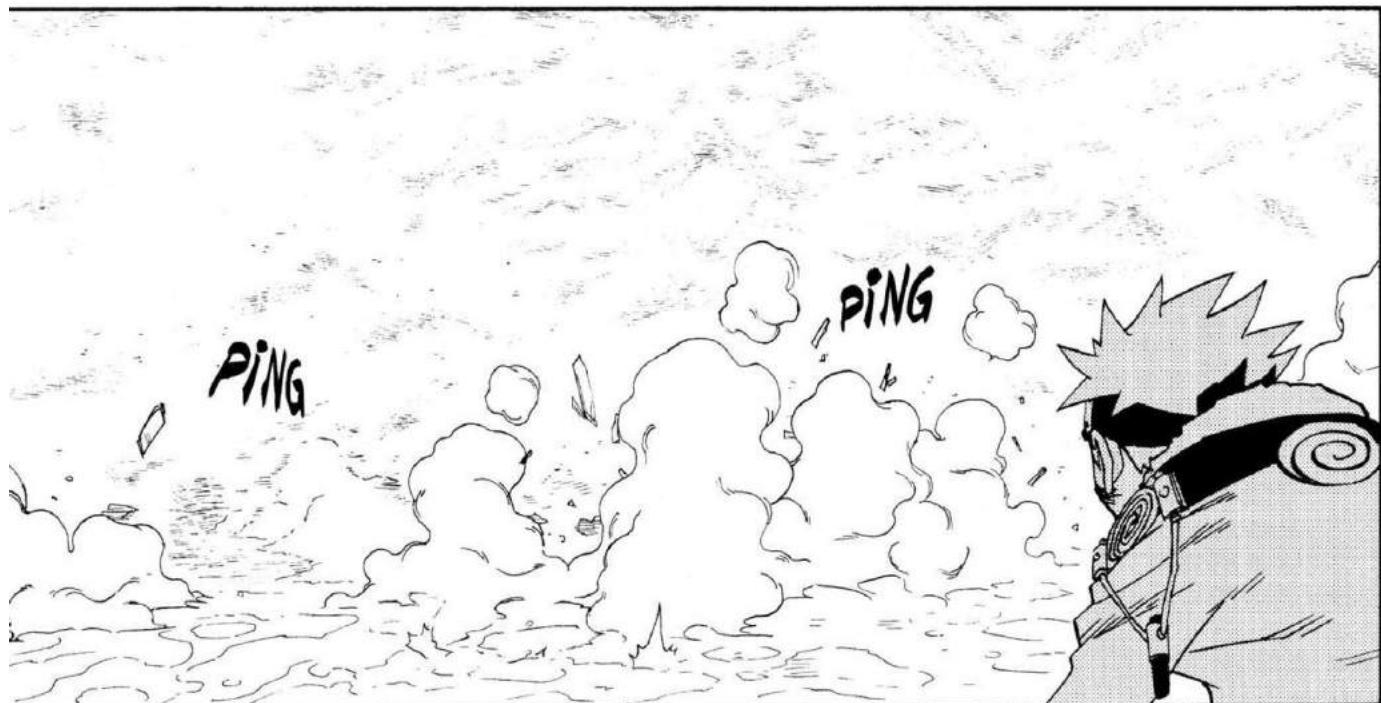
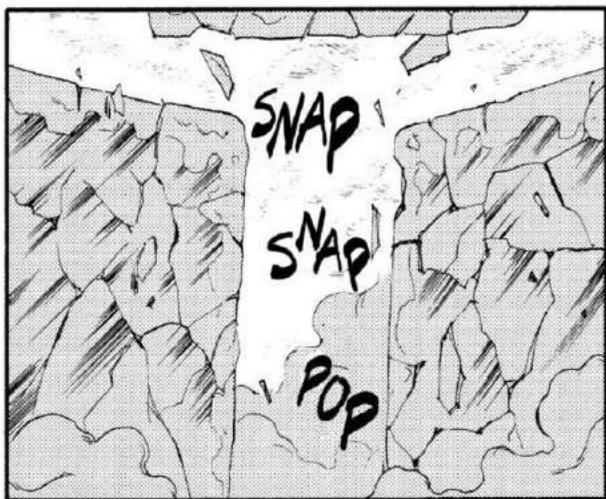




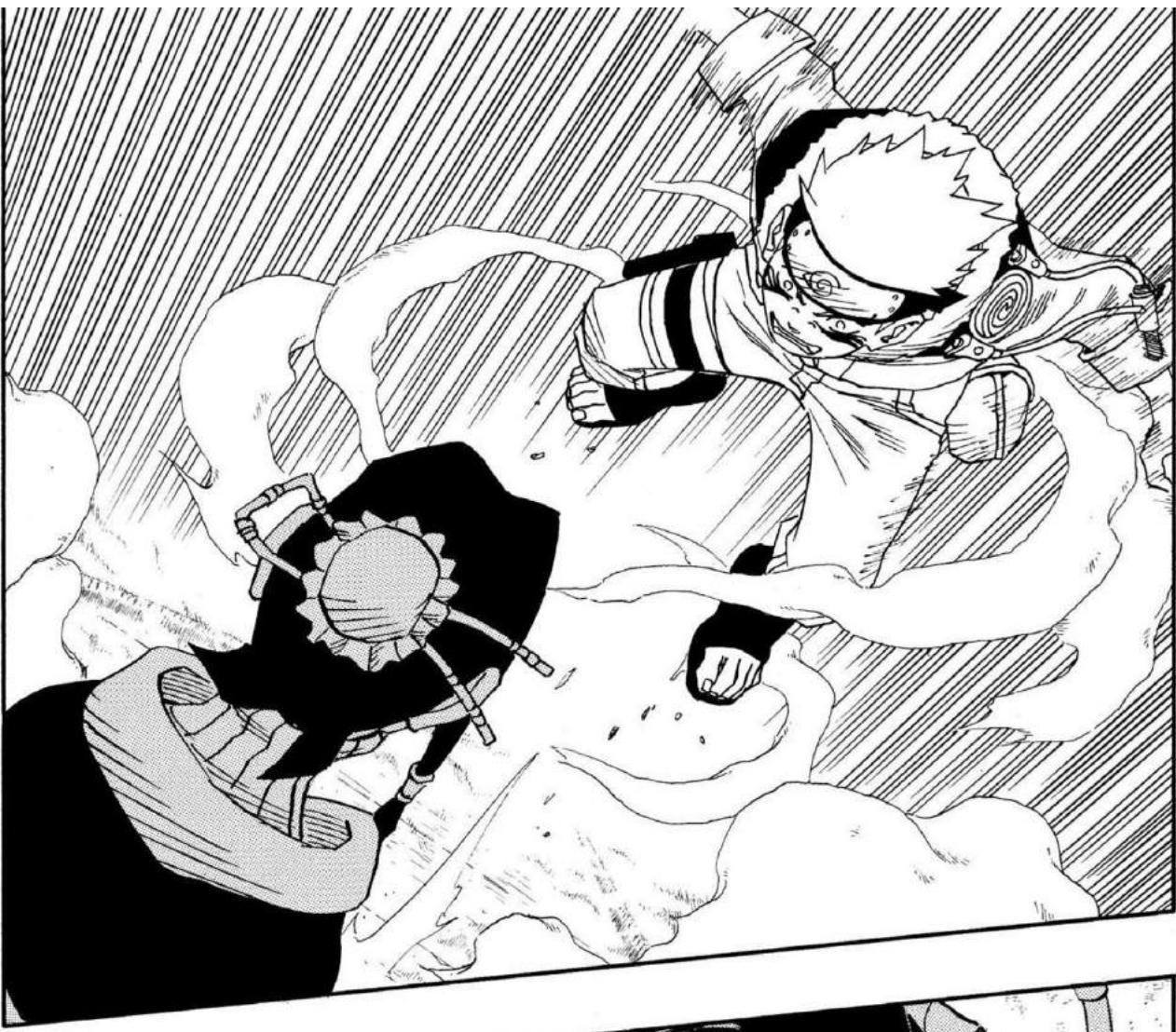




READ  
THIS  
WAY







# KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S FIRST MANGA REJECT SPECIAL!



AKIRA



YOUICHI



KAORU KATCHIN



YUMI

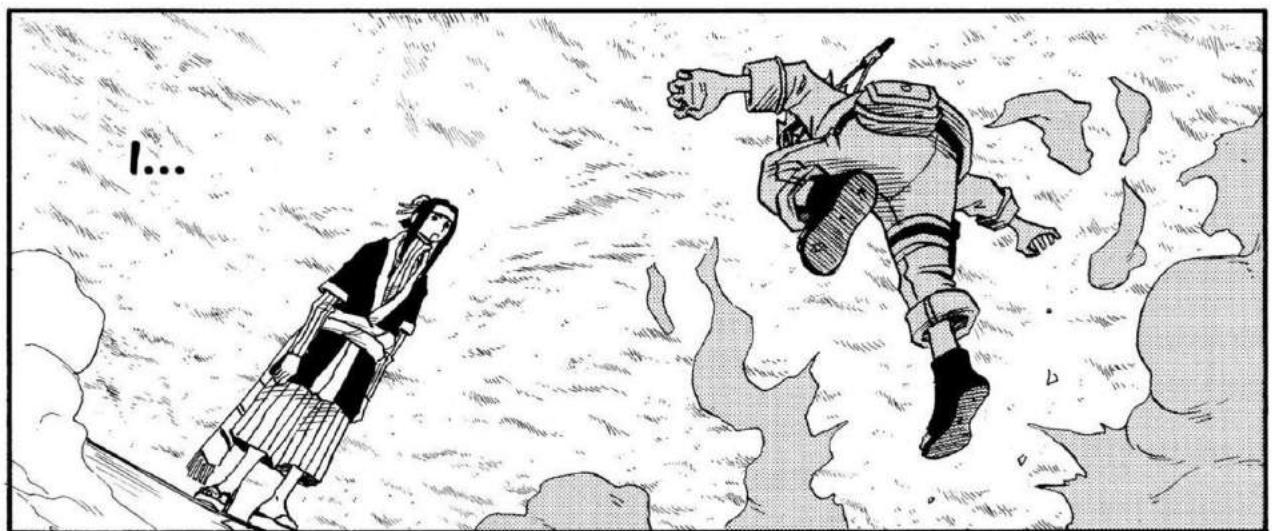
THE CHARACTER DESIGNS TO THE LEFT ARE FROM A FAILED PROJECT OF MINE CALLED "WANDERING DETOUR" THAT I CAME UP WITH RIGHT AFTER I WON THE HOP-STEP STAR AWARD.

THE STORY IS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID NAMED AKIRA AND HIS FRIENDS KATCHIN AND KAORU FIND A WALLET ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, AND OF ALL OF THE TROUBLE THAT ENSUES WHEN THE THREE OF THEM DECIDE TO KEEP THE MONEY THAT THEY FIND AND SPEND IT ON THEMSELVES. MAYBE IT WAS TOO HARD TO FOLLOW, OR SIMPLY TOO DOWN-TO-EARTH FOR A BOYS' ADVENTURE MAGAZINE... BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, IT WAS SUMMARILY REJECTED.

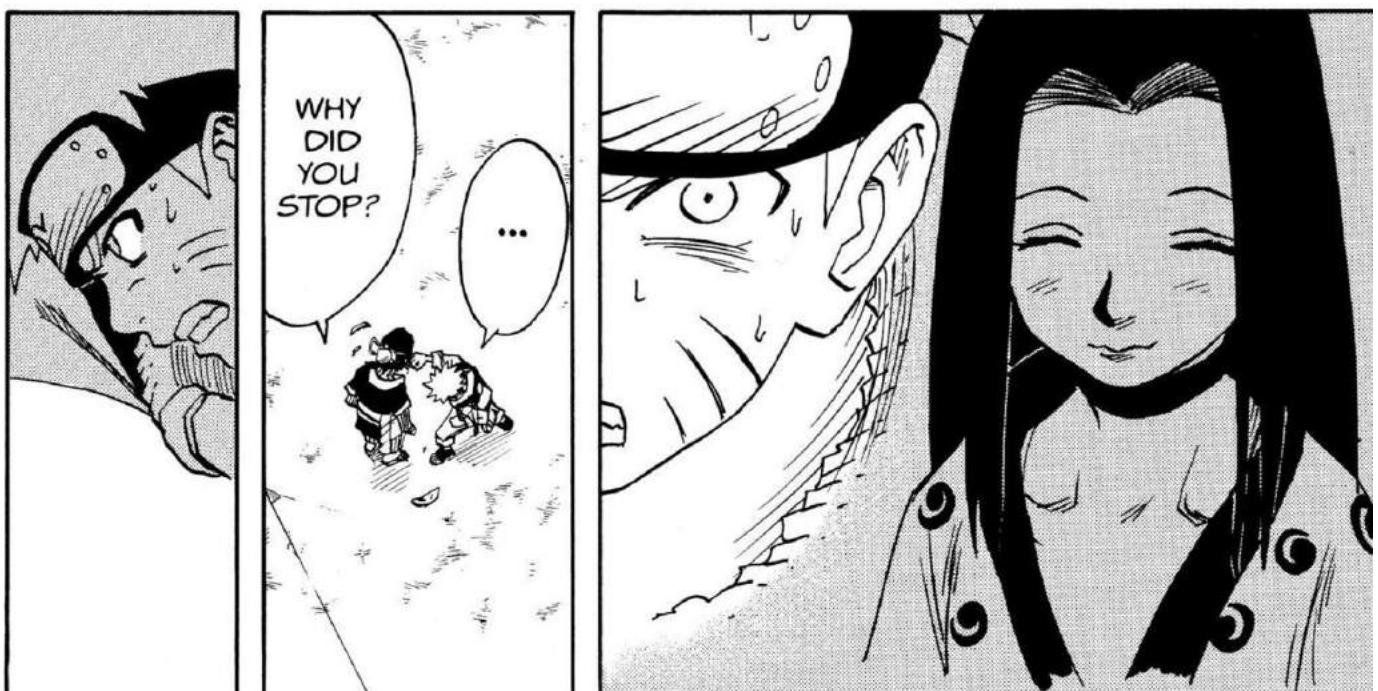
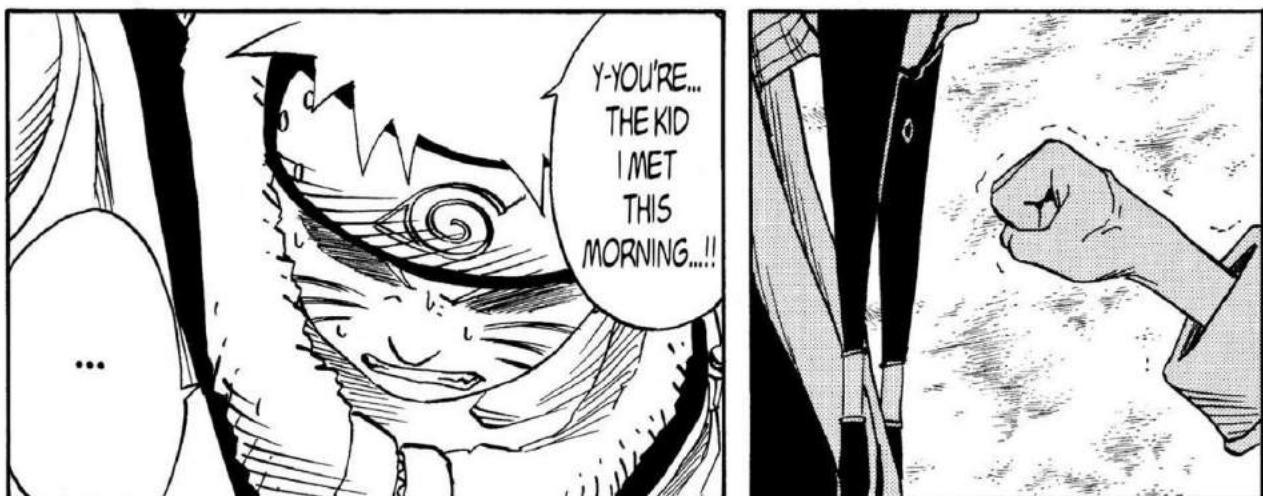
IT WAS MY FIRST REJECTION EVER. BUT I WAS SUCH A KID BACK THEN, EVEN GETTING MY FIRST REJECTION SEEMED LIKE A BIG DEAL, ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL MILESTONE I'D PASSED. FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I'D BEEN READING OTHER MANGA CARTOONISTS' TALES OF WOE ABOUT THE REJECTIONS THEY'D GOTTEN, AND I'D BEEN FEELING A LITTLE LEFT OUT. WITH "WANDERING DETOUR," I WAS FINALLY IN THE CLUB! I EVEN BRAGGED ABOUT IT A LITTLE. LIKE I SAID, I WAS A KID THEN. NOW, I'M A TRUE PROFESSIONAL, AND I AGREE WITH MY FRIENDS: "REJECTION SUCKS!" (LAUGHTER)

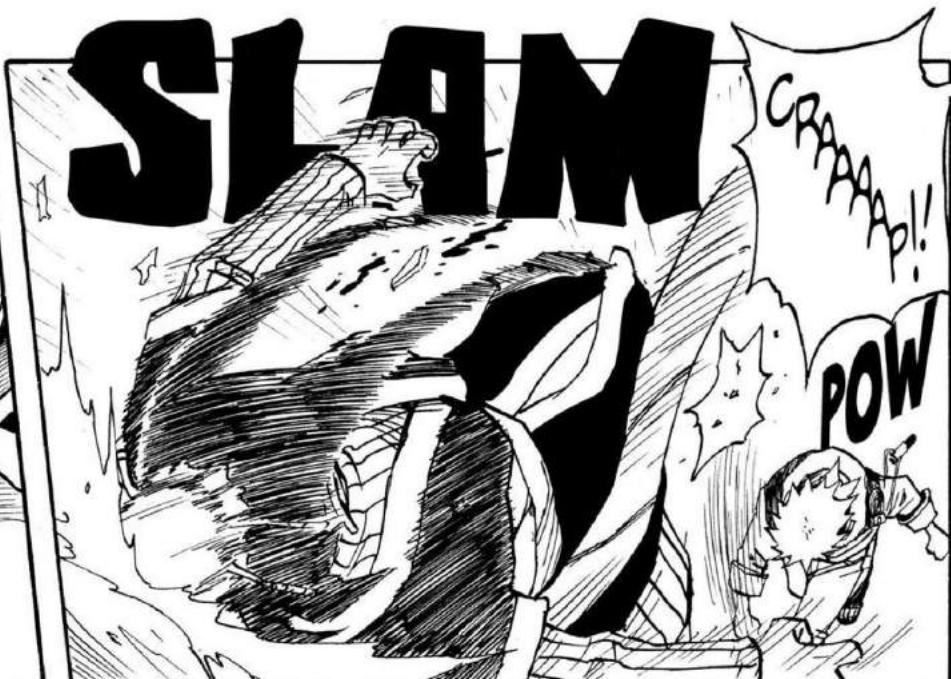


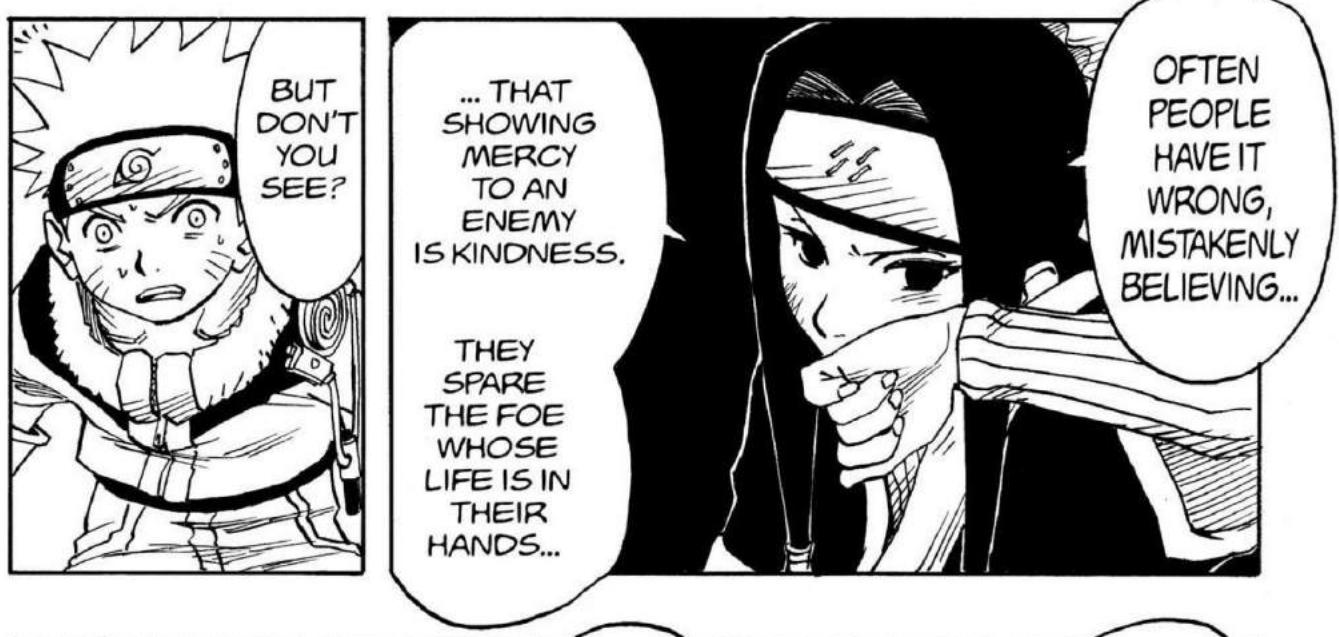
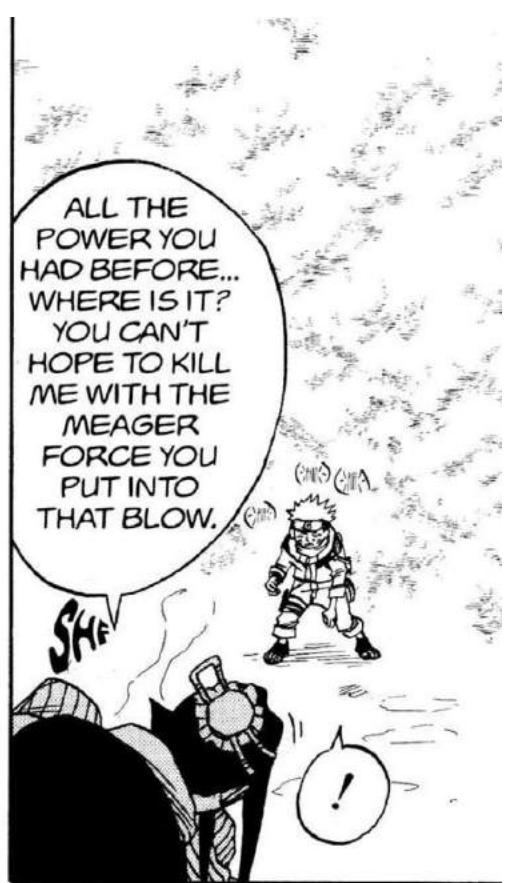
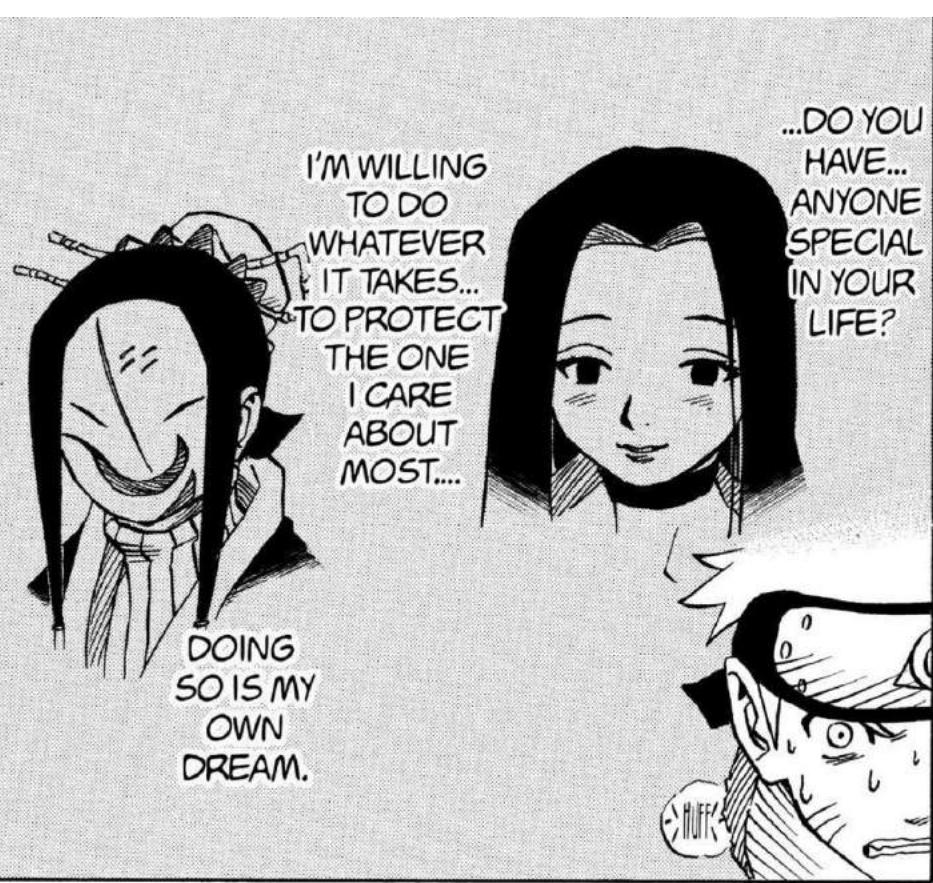
**Number 29:  
Someone Precious To You**

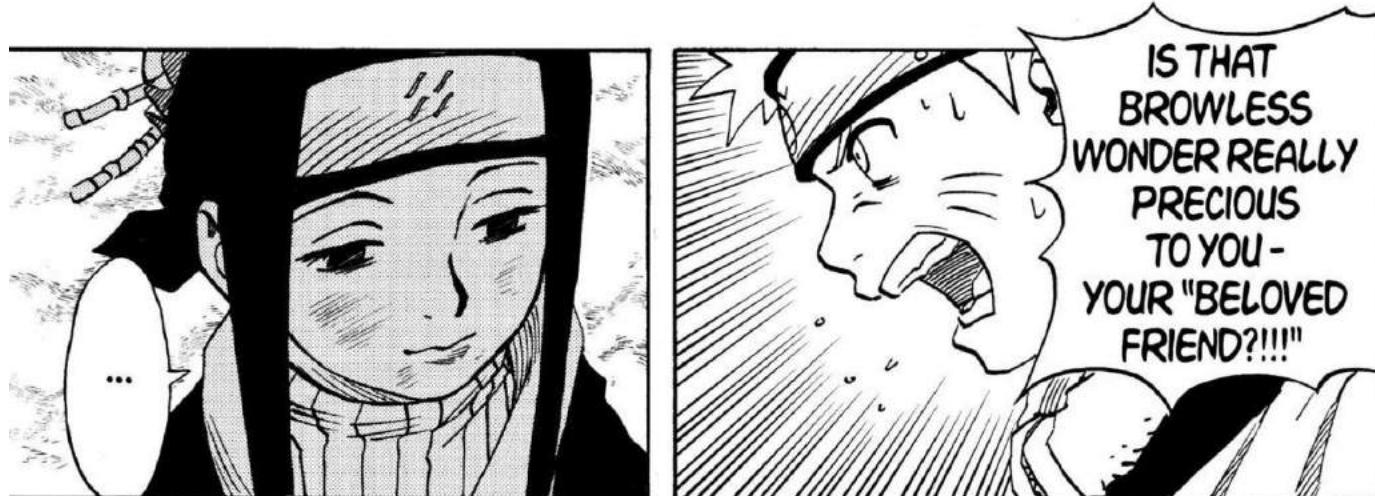


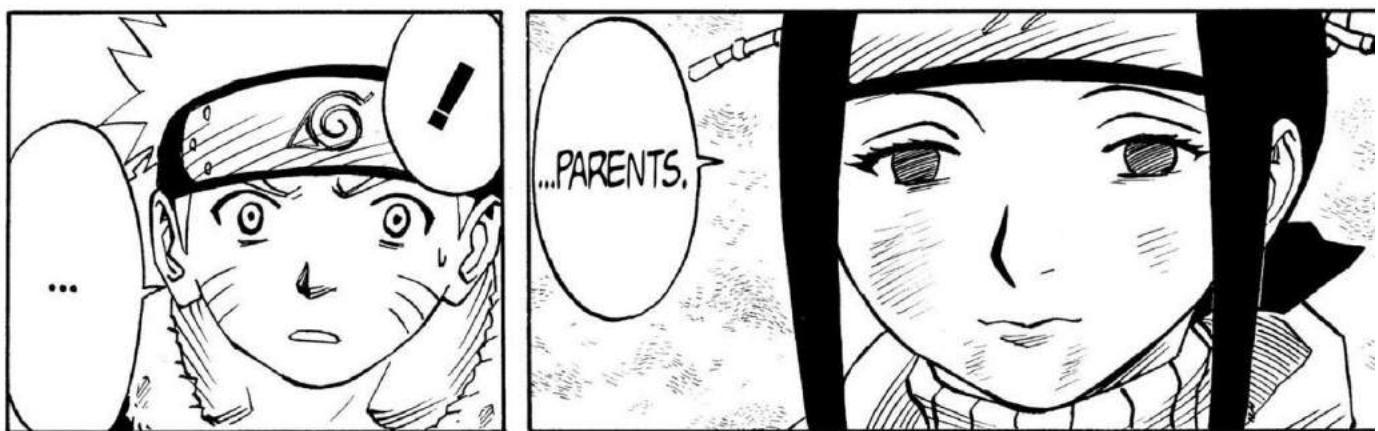


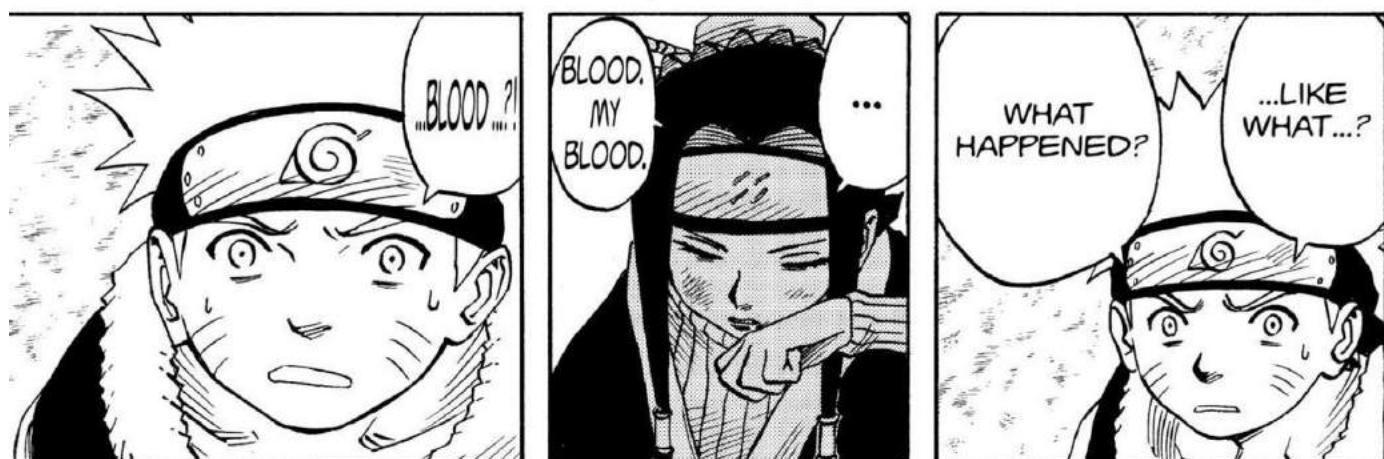


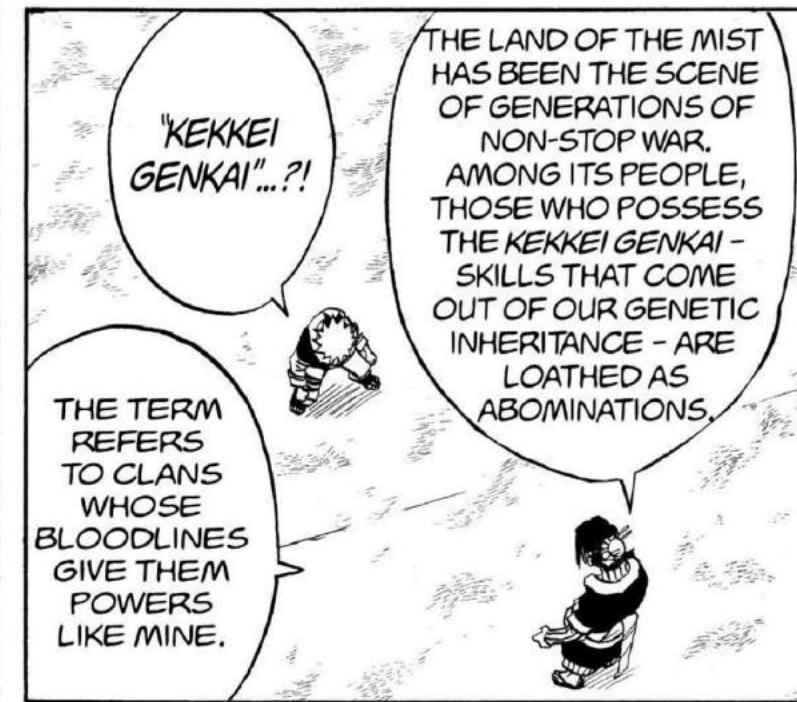
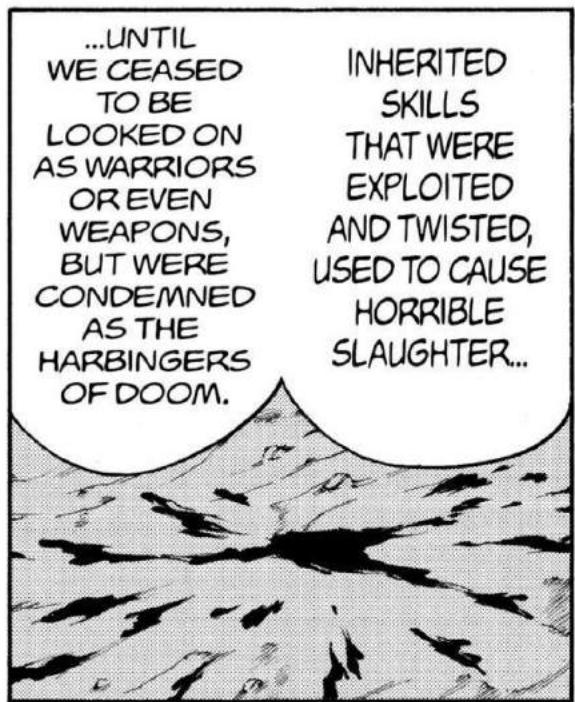












...CAME FROM  
SUCH A CLAN...  
AND BEFORE I  
EVEN REALIZED  
WHAT I WAS  
ABOUT TO DO...  
  
MY FATHER  
HAD DIED...  
BY MY HAND.

MY FATHER  
LEARNED...  
THAT MY  
MOTHER...

THAT  
WAS  
THE  
MOST  
PAINFUL  
THING...

AND I  
WAS  
FORCED  
TO  
ACCEPT  
IT.

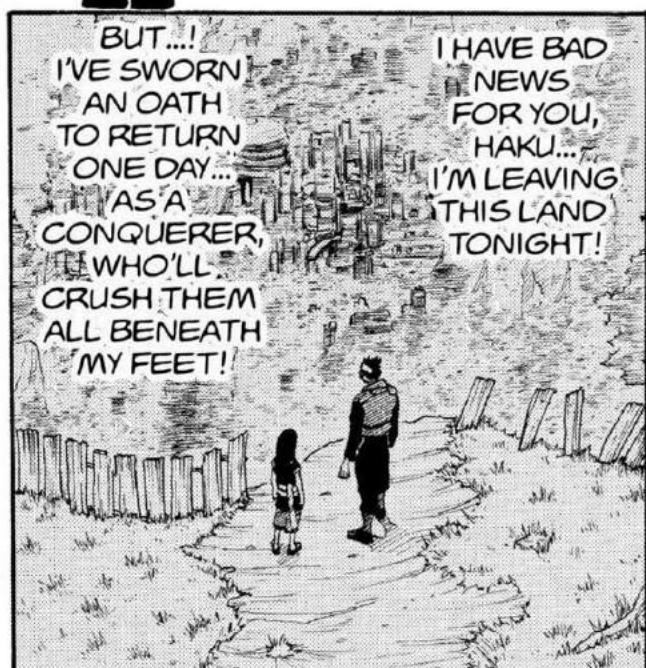
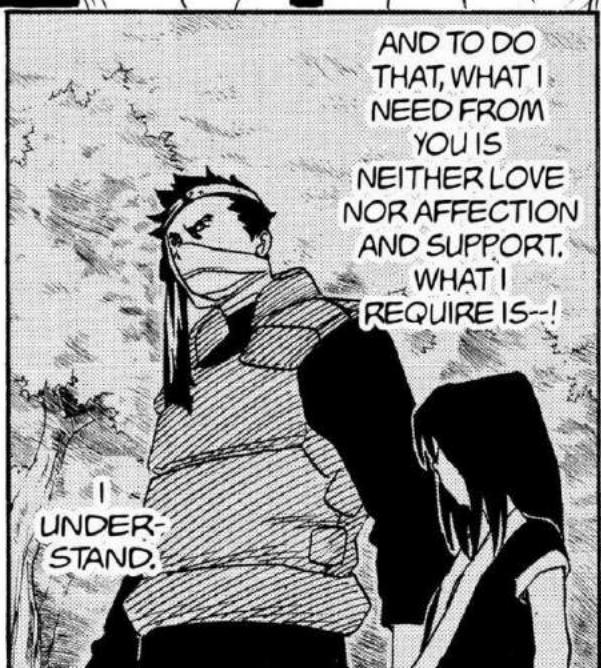
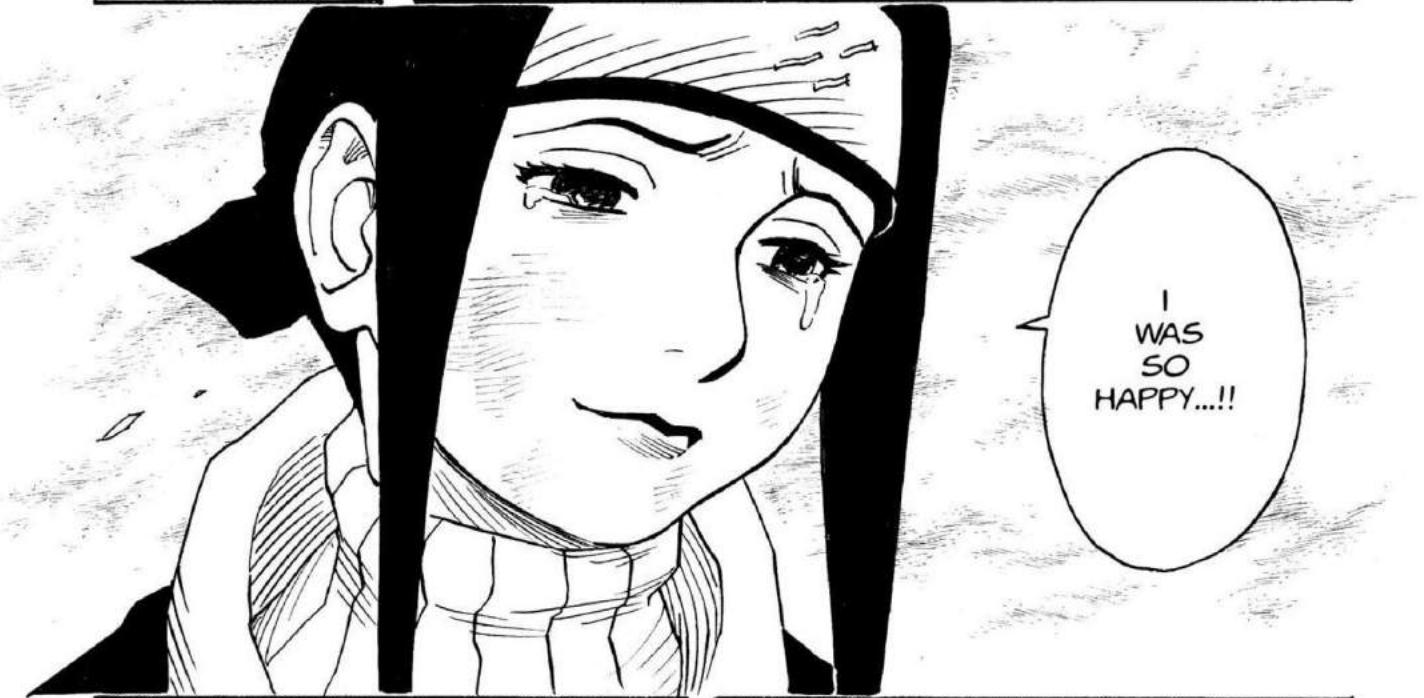
SUPERFLUOUS.  
UNWANTED.  
SHUNNED.

ACCEPTING  
THAT I WAS  
ALONE IN  
THE WORLD.

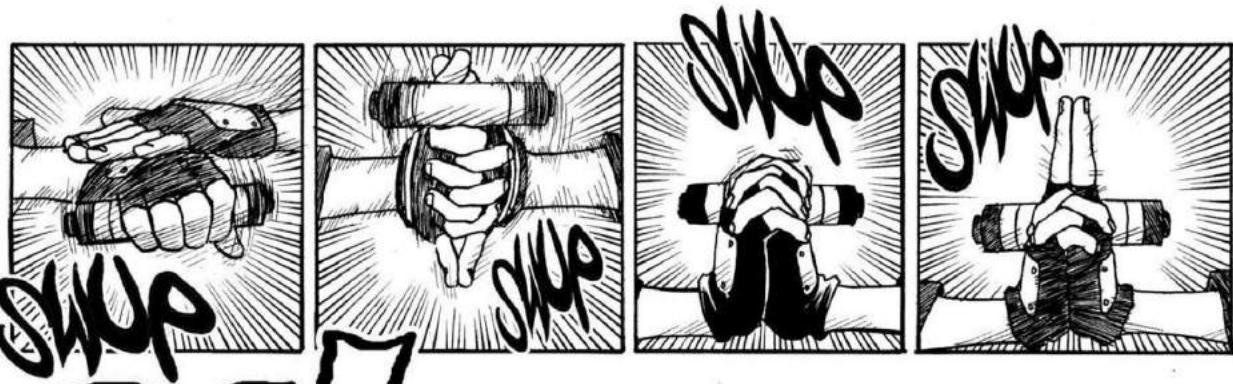
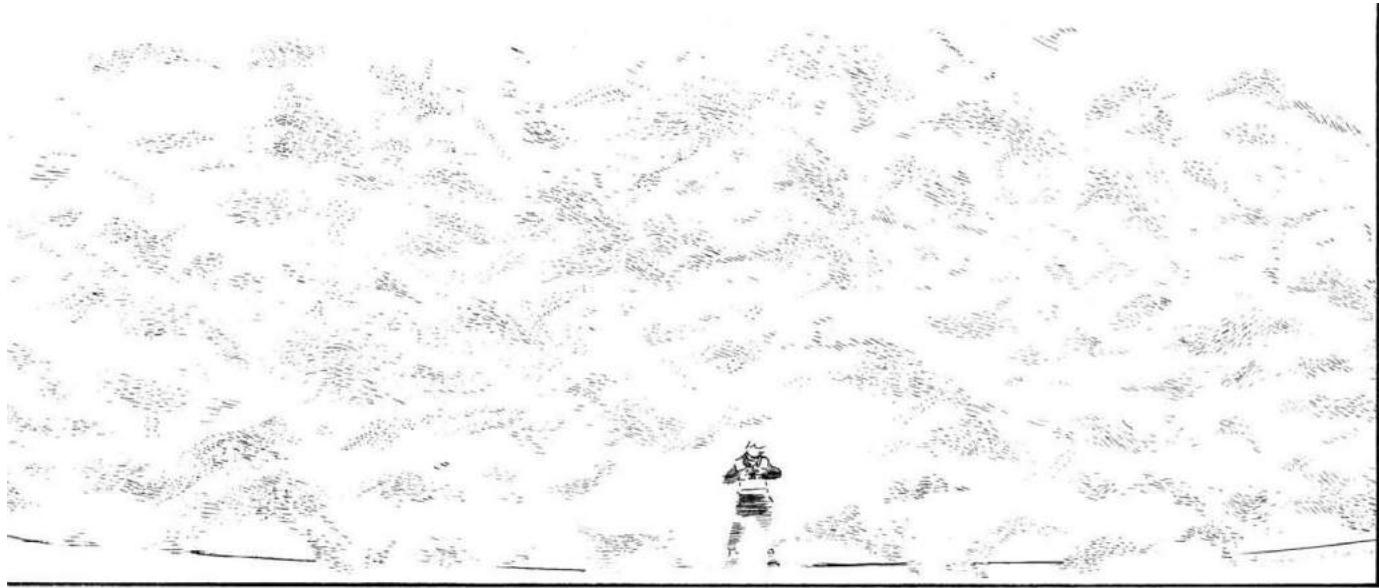
THE  
MOST  
PAINFUL  
THING...?





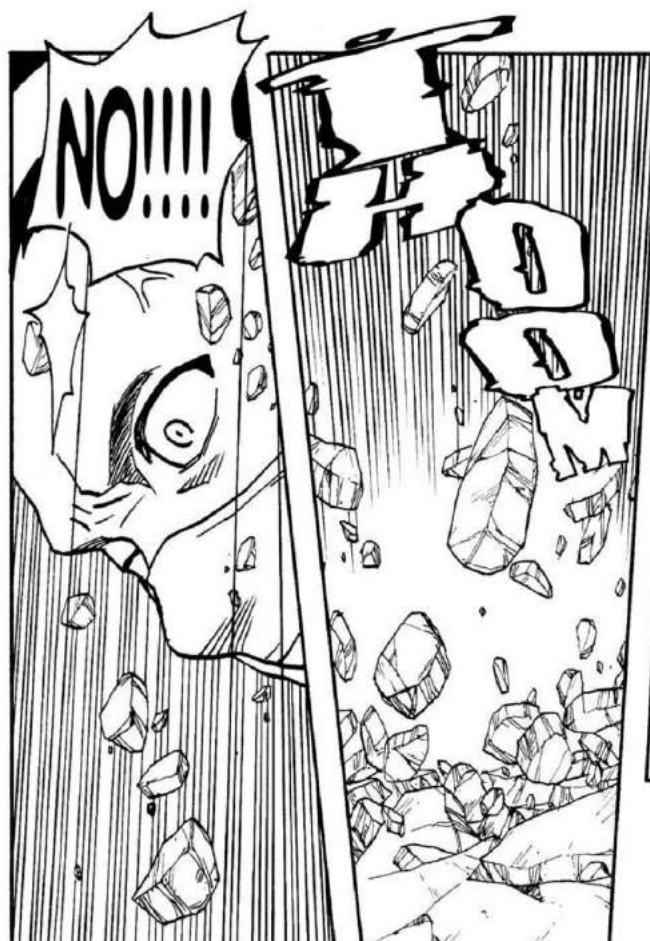






YOU  
CAN'T  
EVEN  
TELL  
WHERE I  
TRULY  
AM!!!

THIS  
POSTURING  
WILL GET  
YOU NOWHERE,  
KAKASHI!!









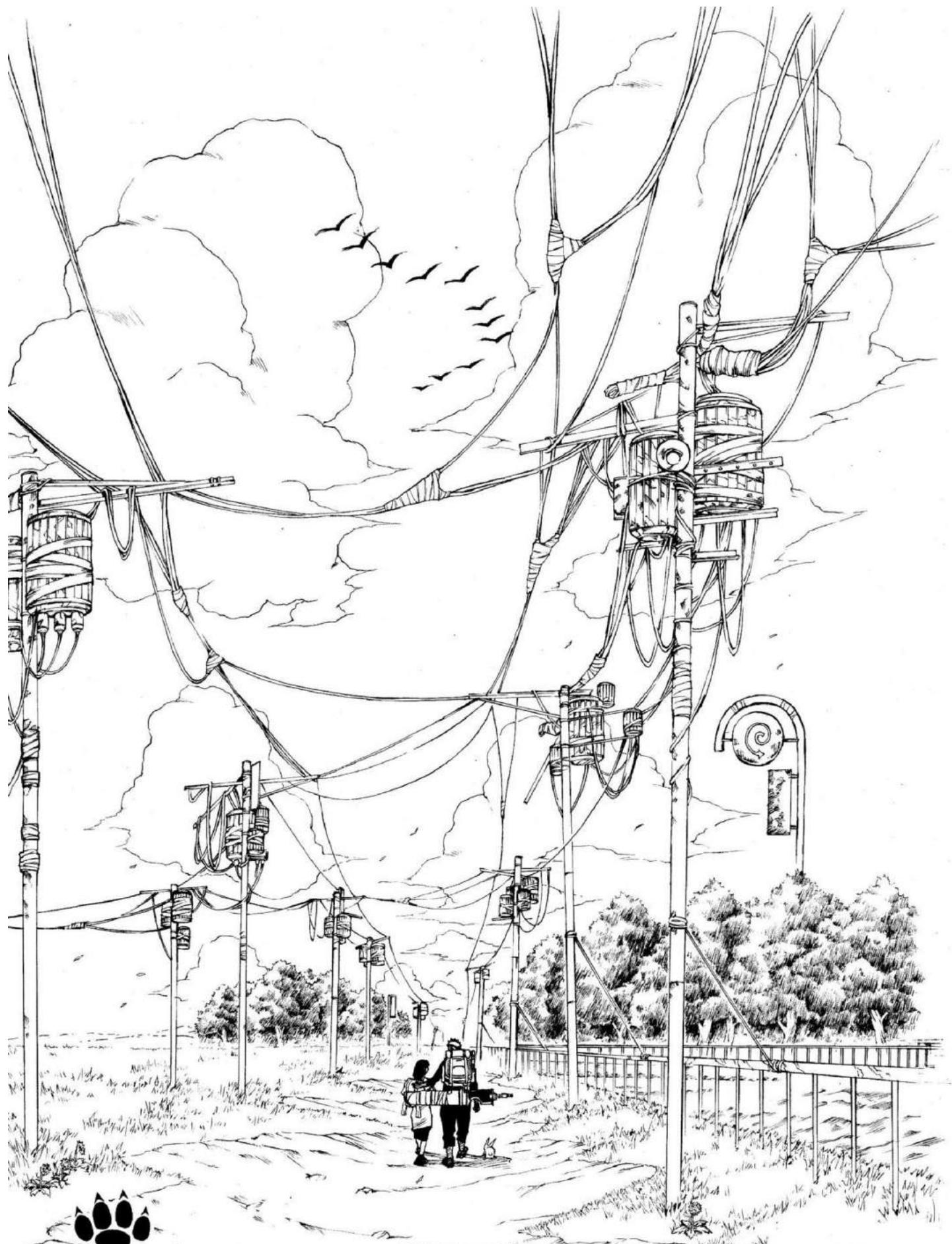
## KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S SECOND MANGA REJECT SPECIAL.



THE DESIGN TO THE LEFT IS FROM ANOTHER FLOP - A MANGA CALLED "ASIAN PUNK", THAT WAS RESOUNDINGLY REJECTED AT EVERY TURN. TO BE FRANK, THE PREMISE WAS-NOT COINCIDENTALLY-KINDA LIKE "GHOSTBUSTERS."

THE MAIN CHARACTER WAS A KID WITH AN AXE TAKING ON AN EVIL FENG-SHUI MASTER WHO COULD SUMMON AND CONTROL EVIL SPIRITS... AND THE MAIN CHARACTER WASN'T REALLY HUMAN HIMSELF, BUT HAD BEEN CREATED BY SOME GREATER POWER. THERE WAS MORE, BUT WE DON'T NEED TO GO INTO IT HERE.

THE THING IS, WITH THAT STORY, MY PRIZE-WINNING SERIES KARAKUR, AND NARUTO, IT OCCURS ME TO ME THAT MY HEROES ARE ALWAYS THESE YOUNG GUYS. I GUESS I'M JUST A SUCKER FOR BOYS' ADVENTURE TALES!



**Number 30: Your Future Is...!!**



WE KNOW ALL ABOUT THE FAILED COUP YOU AND YOUR FOLLOWERS STAGED, AND ABOUT THE ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE MIZUKAGE, THE WATER SHADOW, LEADER OF YOUR PEOPLE.

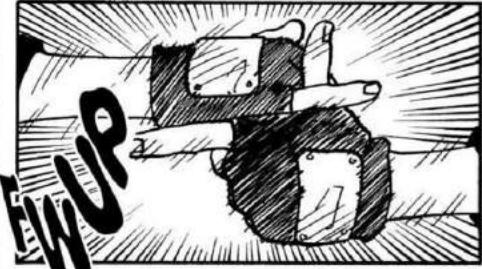
THE DAY YOU DESERTED THE LAND OF THE MIST AND BECAME A TURNCOAT AND RENEGADE, YOUR NAME AND YOUR ACTIONS WERE REPORTED TO US AT KONOHA VILLAGE.

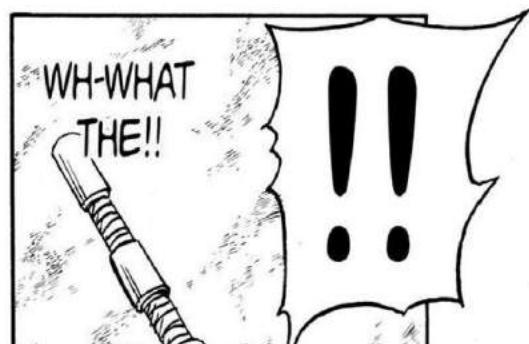
YOU SCHEMED YOUR SCHEMES...

...

IT'S WHY YOU'D STOOP TO WORK FOR A PARASITE LIKE GATÔ.

YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A SECOND ATTEMPT, AND BARELY STAYING A JUMP AHEAD OF THE SHINOBI HUNTERS... WHICH IS WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE.







THAT'S  
NOT  
WHAT A  
TRUE  
SHINOBI  
DOES.



YOU'RE  
WILLING TO  
SACRIFICE  
THIS PLACE  
AND EVERYONE  
IN IT, JUST  
TO ADVANCE  
YOUR OWN  
AMBITIONS.



AND  
I'M  
NOT  
ABOUT  
TO  
STOP.

SPARE  
ME THE  
CIVICS  
LESSON  
AND  
PHILOSOPHY.  
I'M  
FIGHTING  
FOR  
MY OWN  
IDEALS.

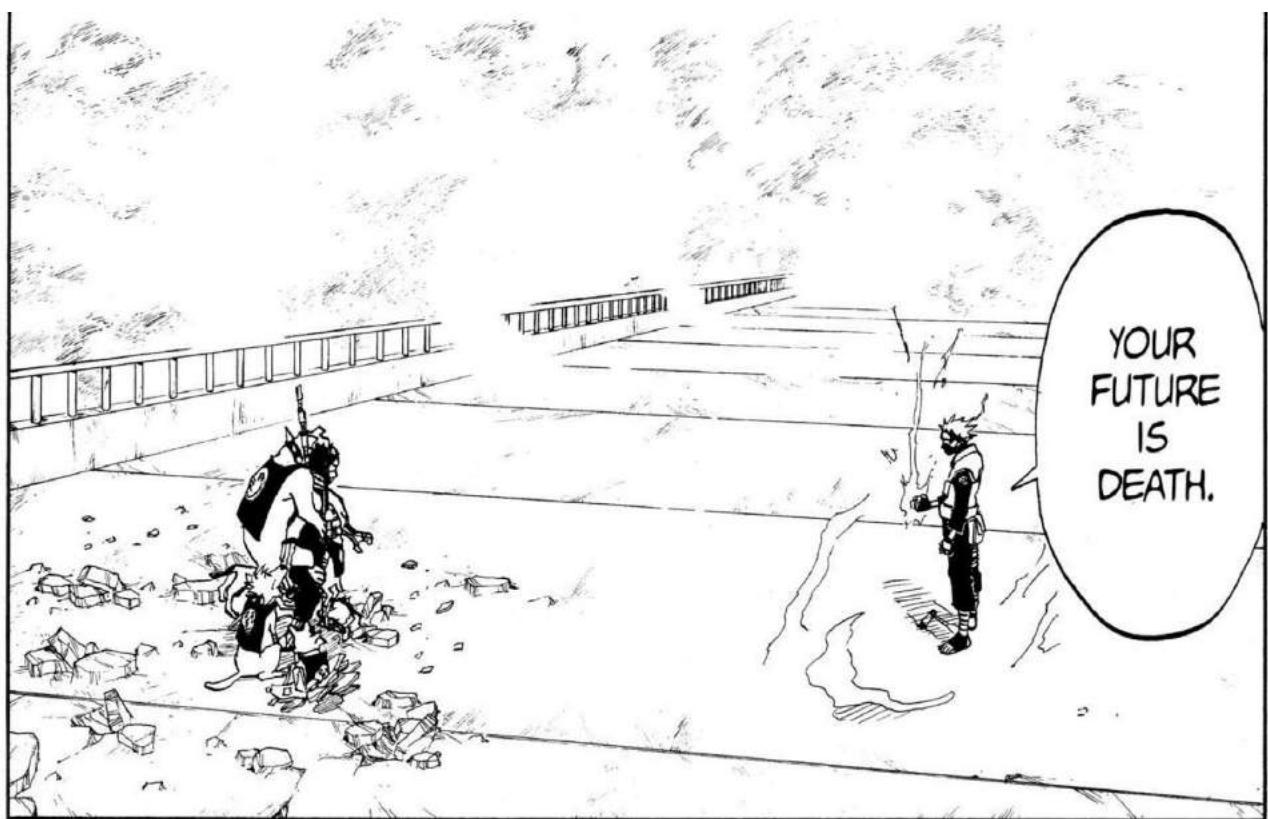


GIVE  
UP...

HUH?!

I'LL  
SAY  
THIS  
JUST  
ONCE  
MORE.



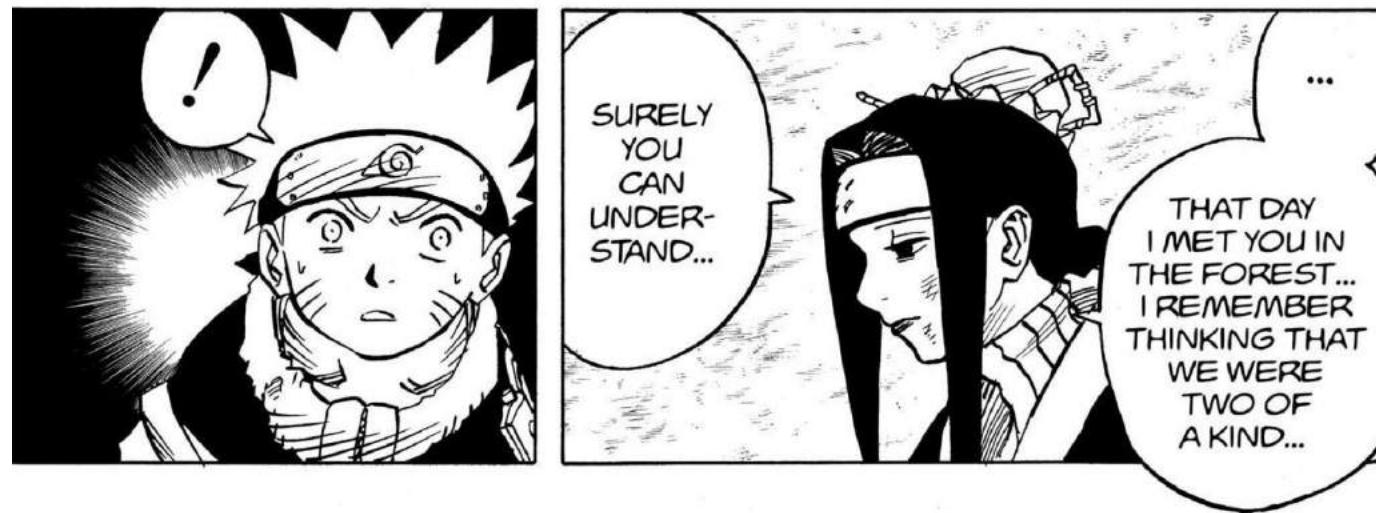


BUT  
WANTING  
TO DIE JUST  
'CAUSE  
SOMEONE  
BEAT YOU  
IS CRAZY!!

WHAT IS  
WITH YOU?  
YOU'RE USED  
TO BEING  
THE TOUGHEST.  
YOU DON'T  
LIKE TO LOSE.  
I GET THAT!

YOUR  
BOSS  
MUST LIKE  
YOU FOR  
MORE  
THAN JUST  
THAT...  
RIGHT?  
DOESN'T  
HE?

THERE'S  
MORE TO  
LIFE THAN  
JUST  
FIGHTING.  
THERE'S  
MORE  
TO YOU!

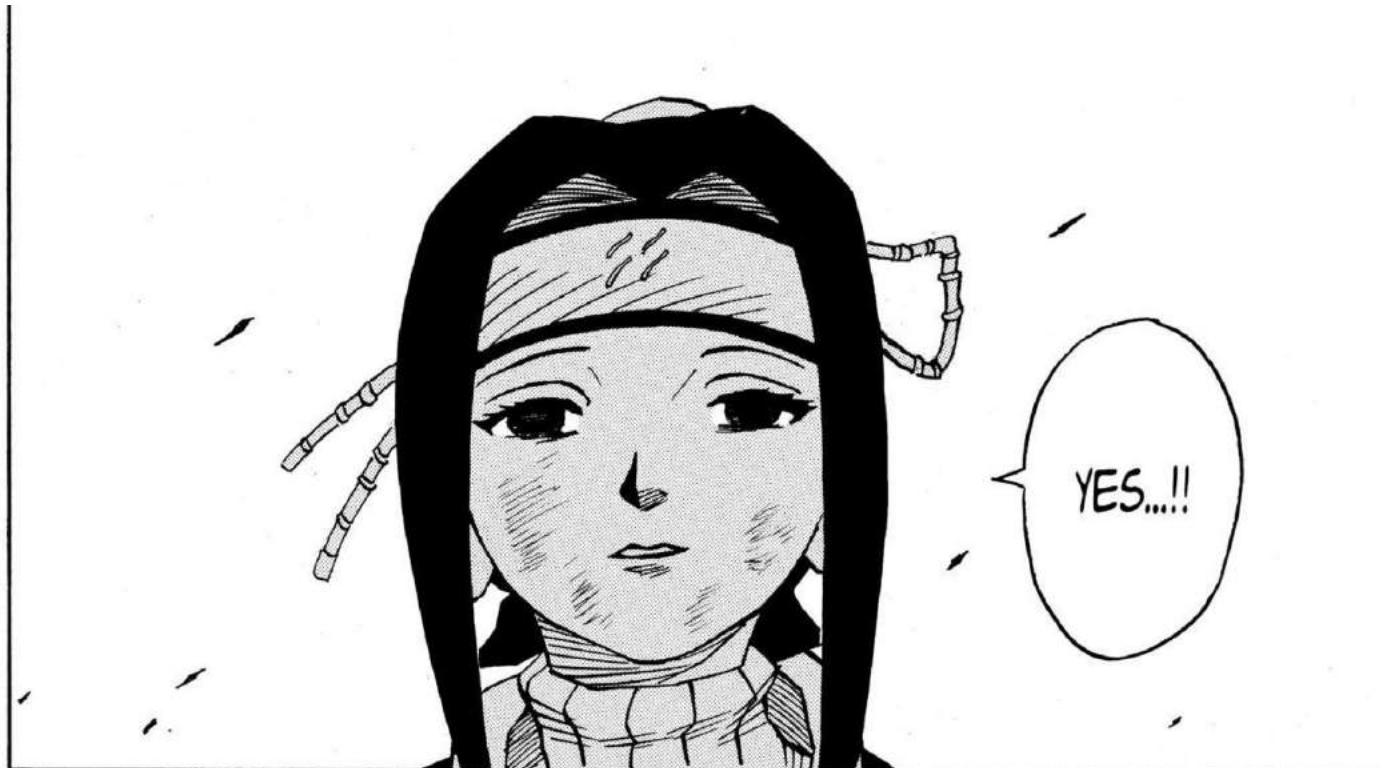


IS  
THAT  
THE ONLY  
WAY?  
NO  
OTHER  
OUTCOME?

IS  
THAT...

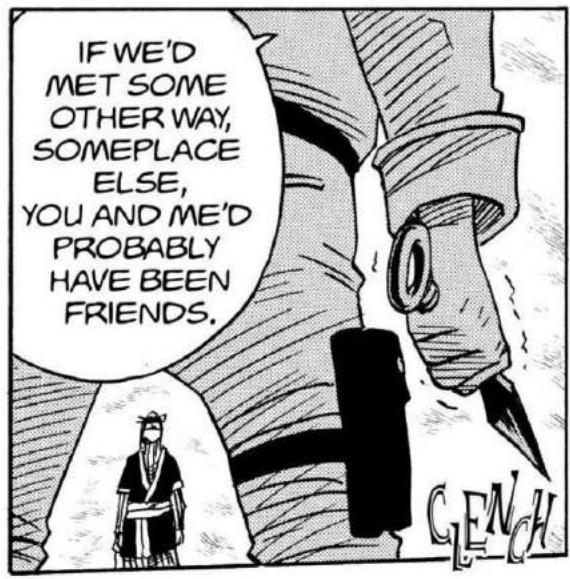
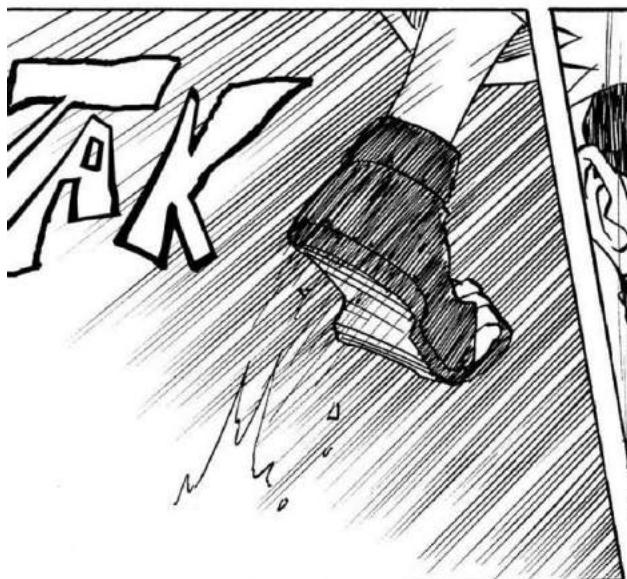
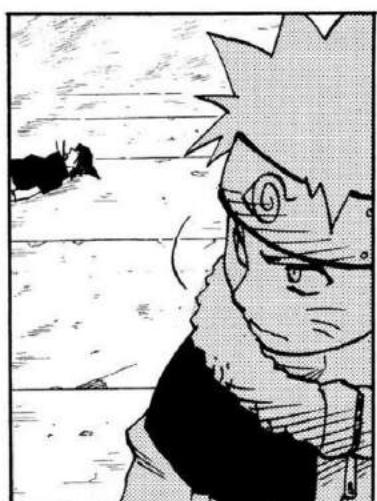
YOU'LL  
HAVE TO  
BLOODY  
YOUR HANDS.  
FORGIVE  
ME FOR  
THAT.

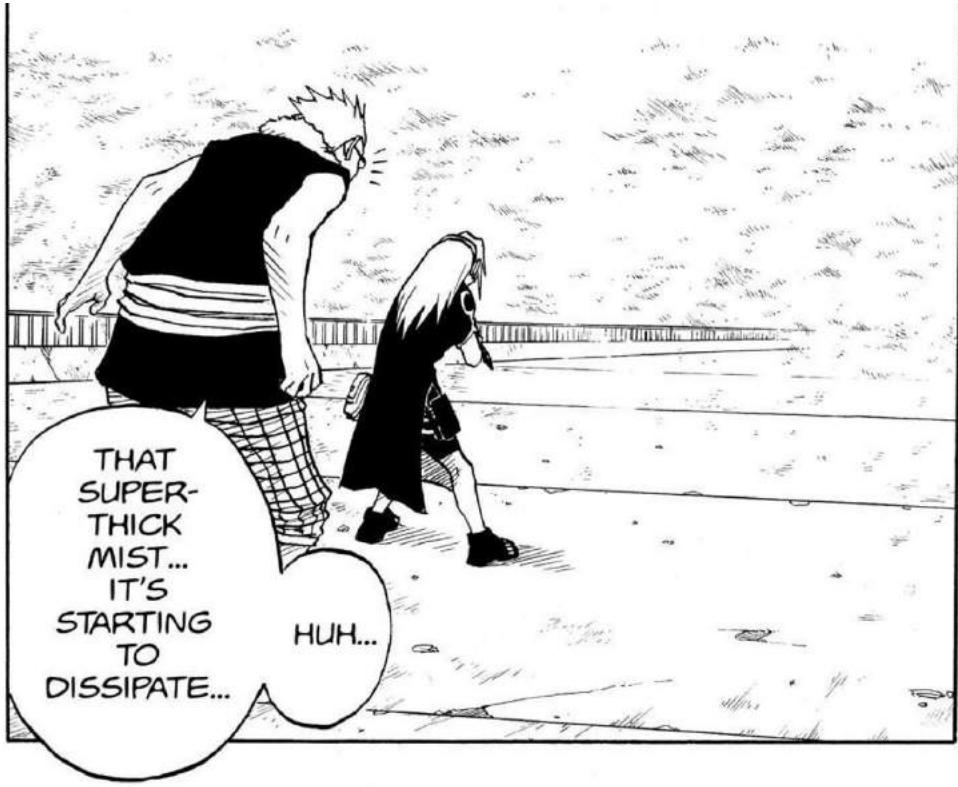


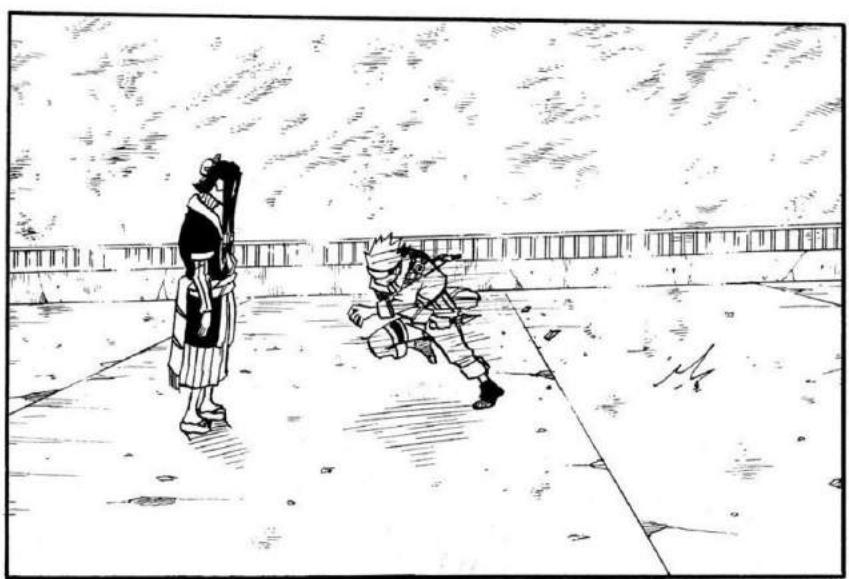


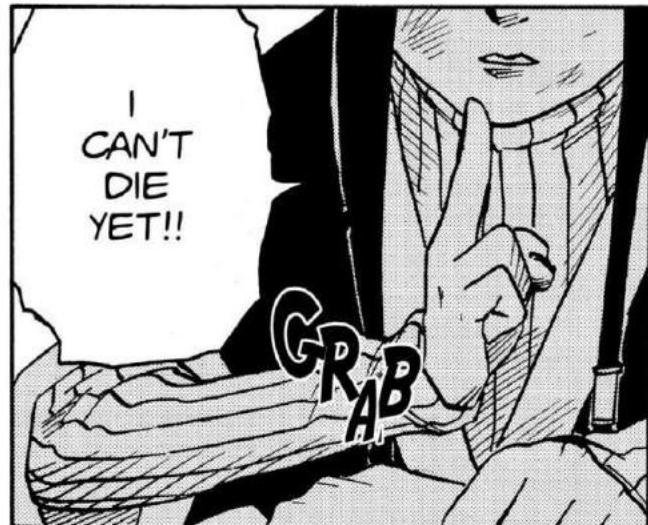
...SASUKE  
HAD  
A  
DREAM,  
TOO...

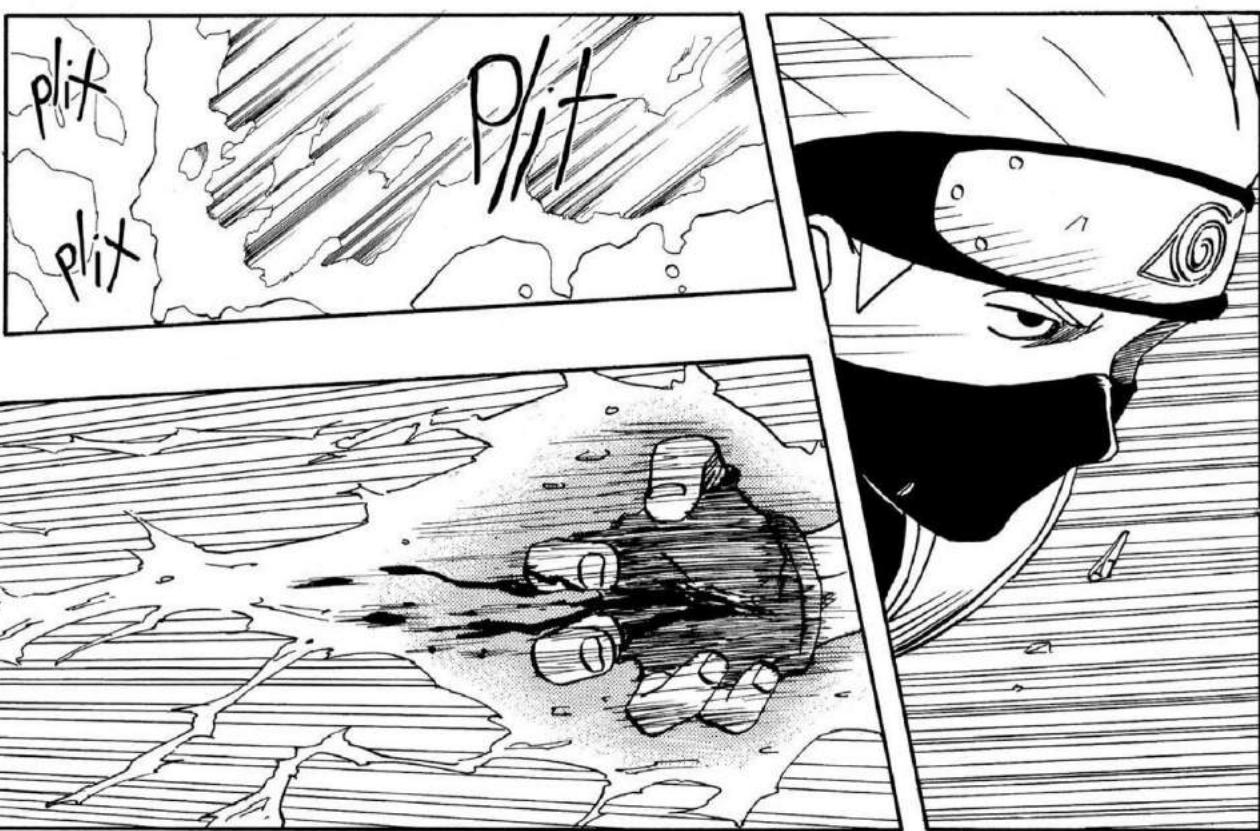
...HE...



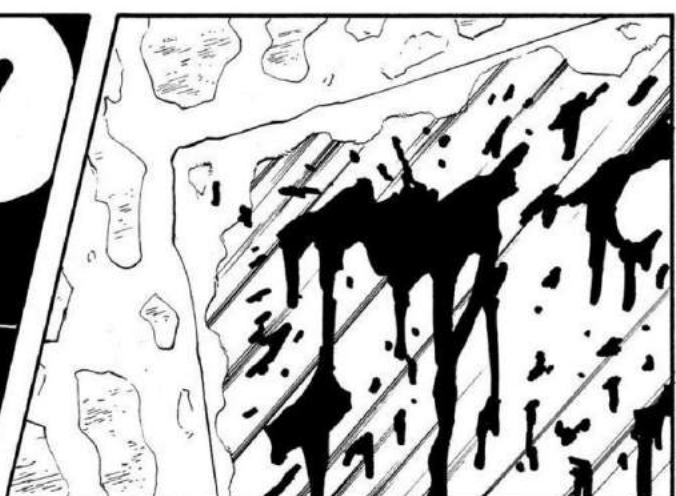
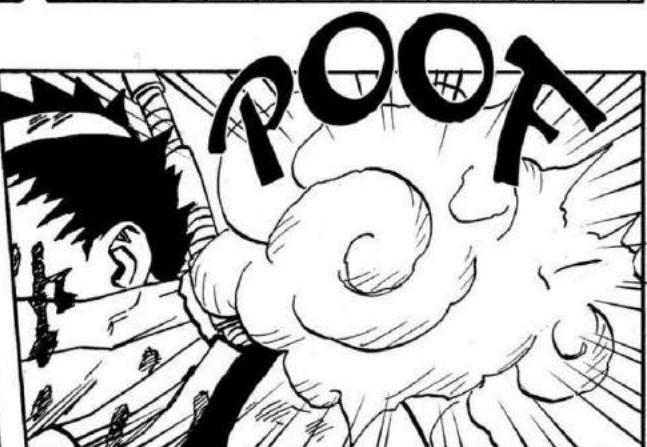
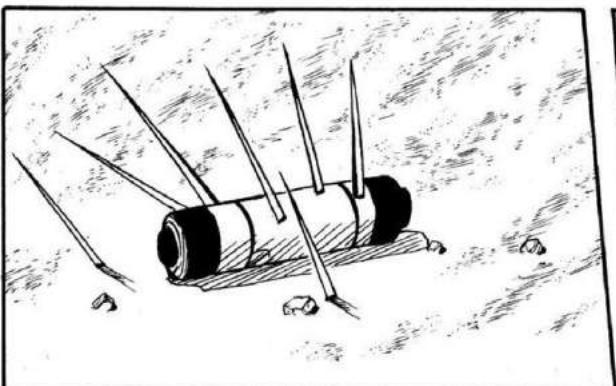


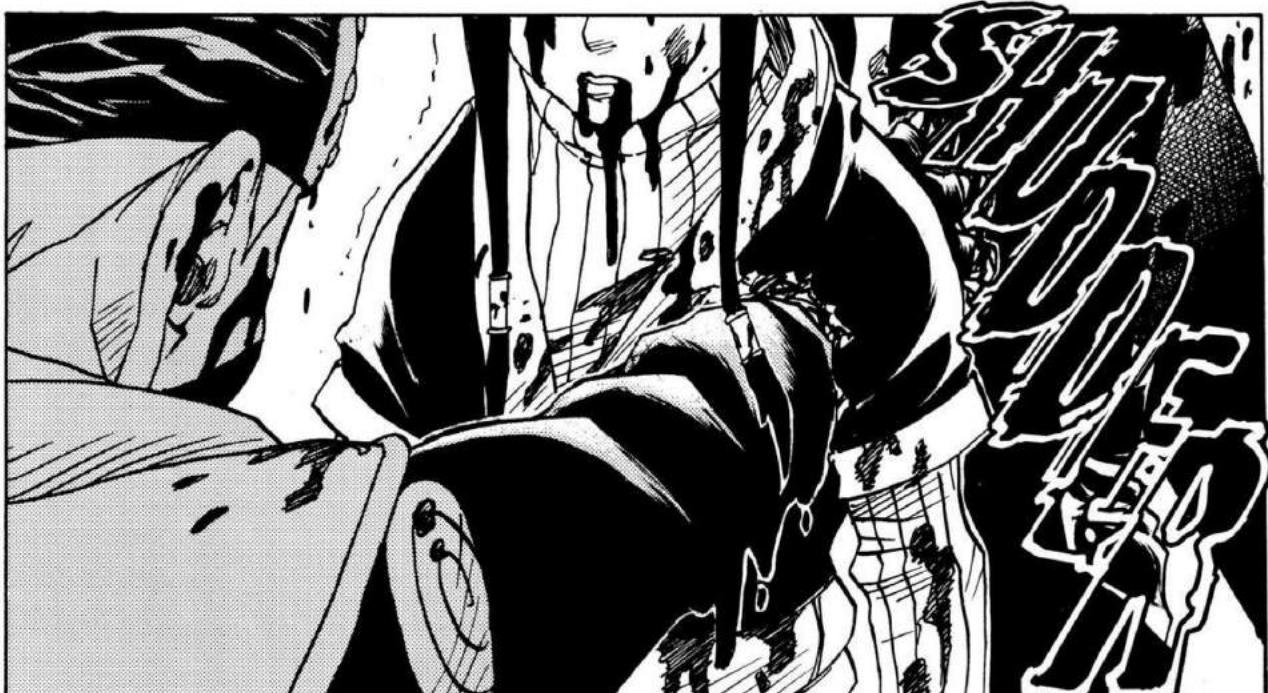












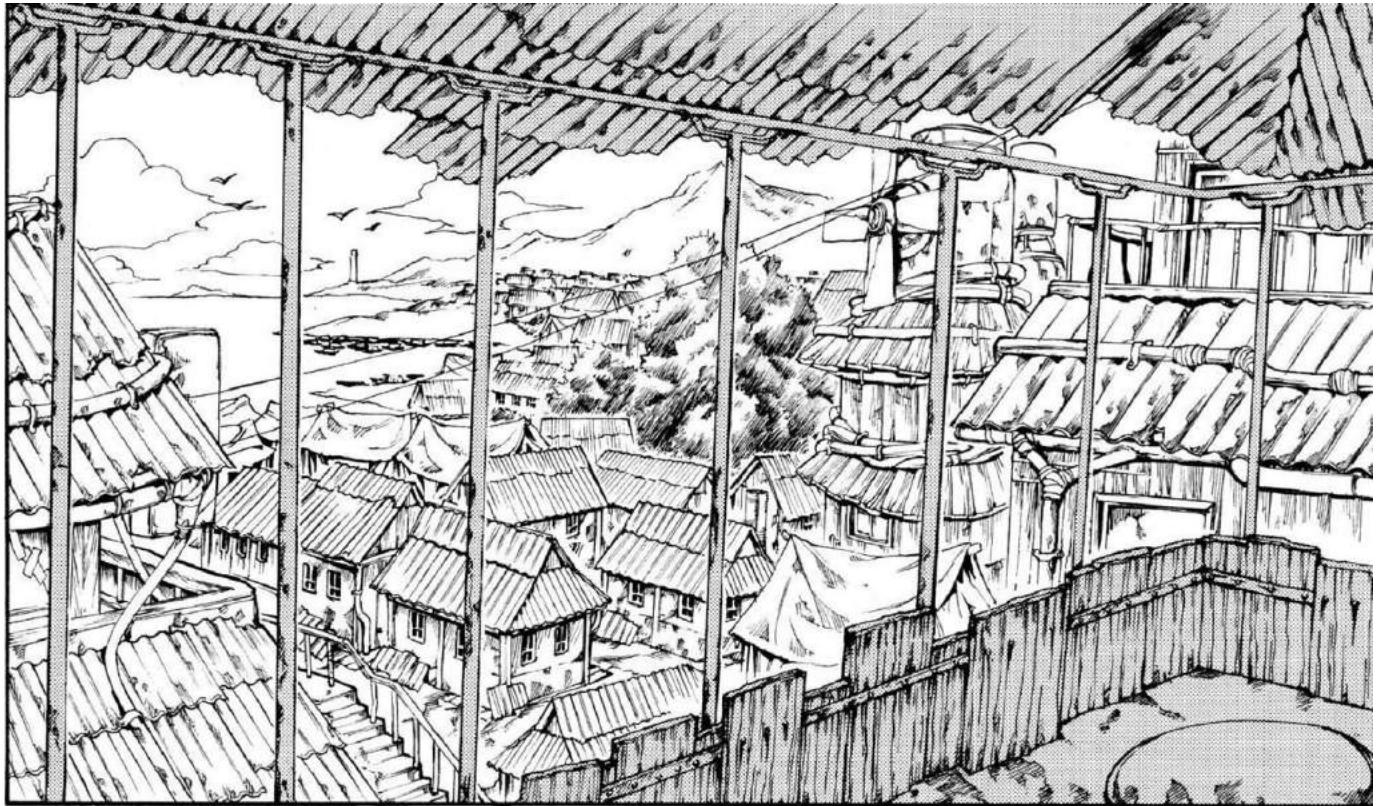


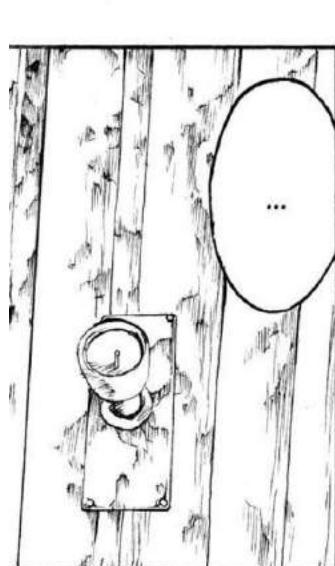
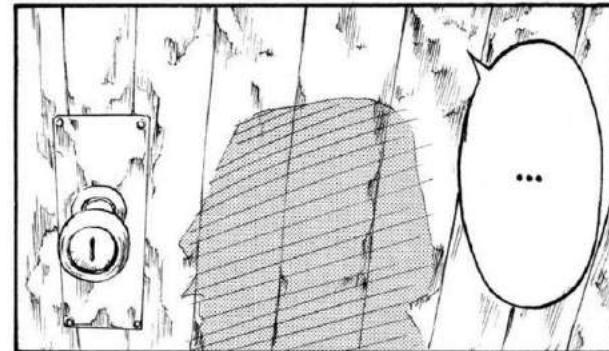




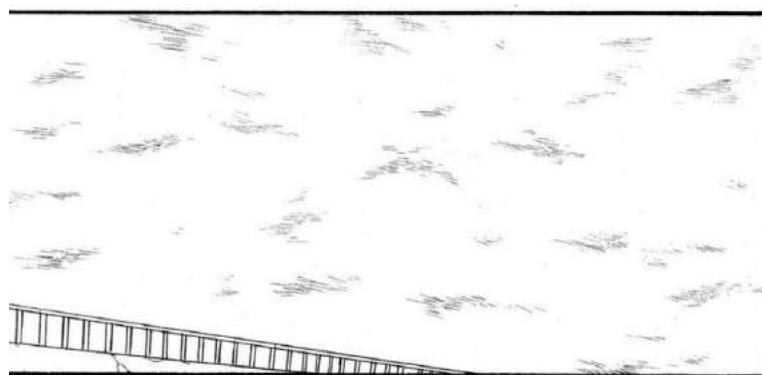
# Number 31: To Each His Own Struggle...



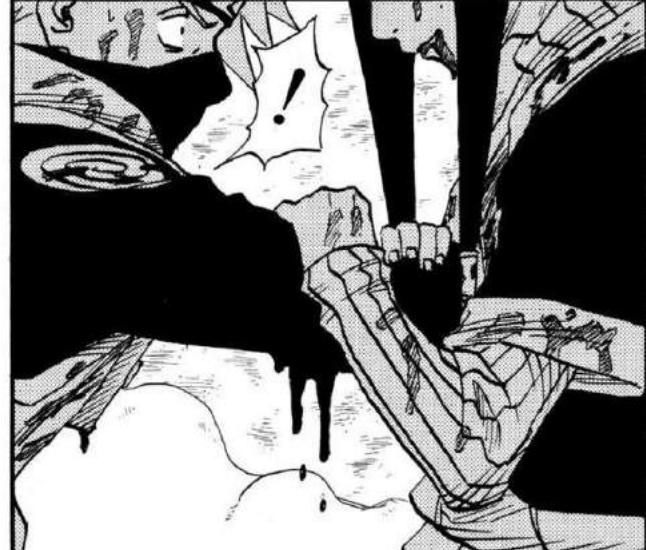
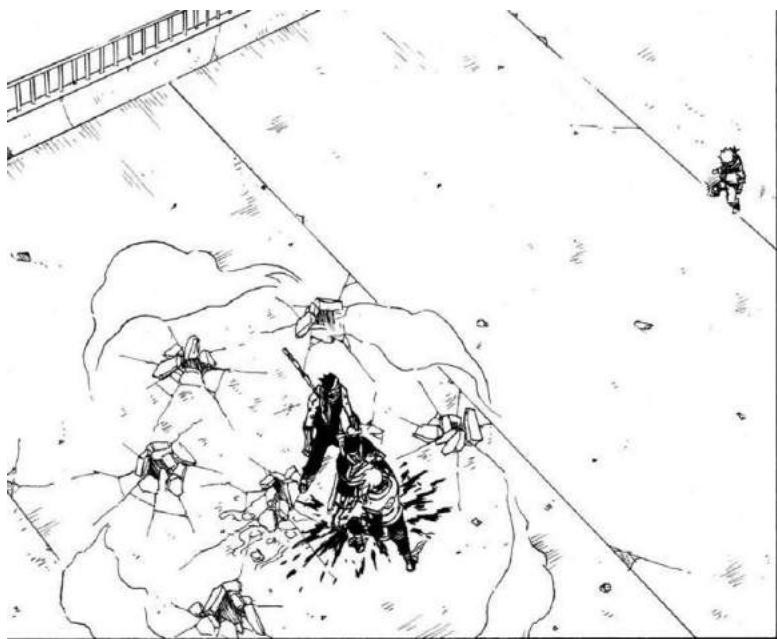






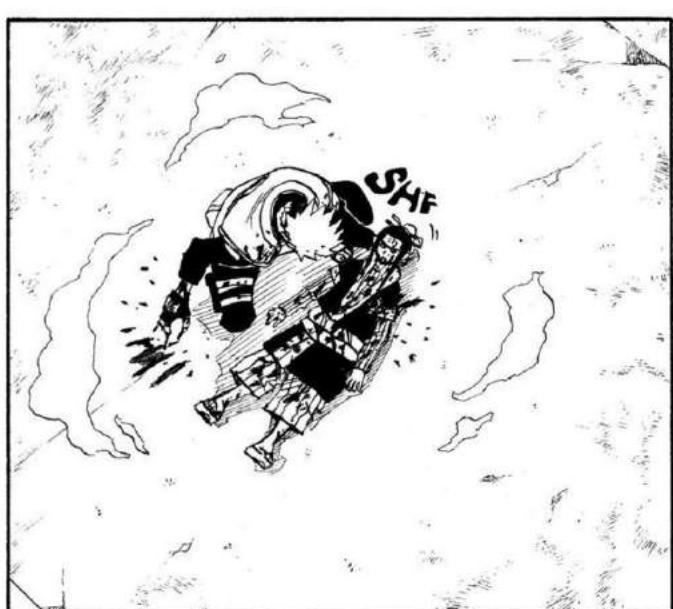


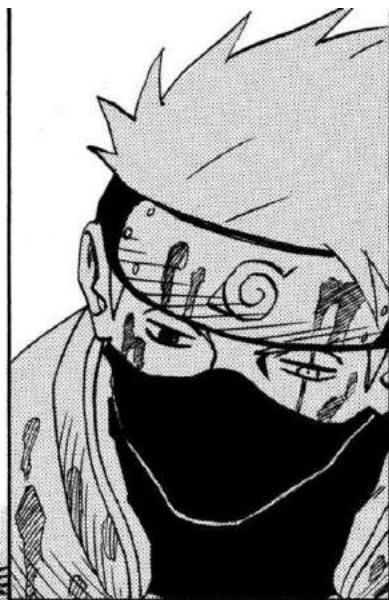


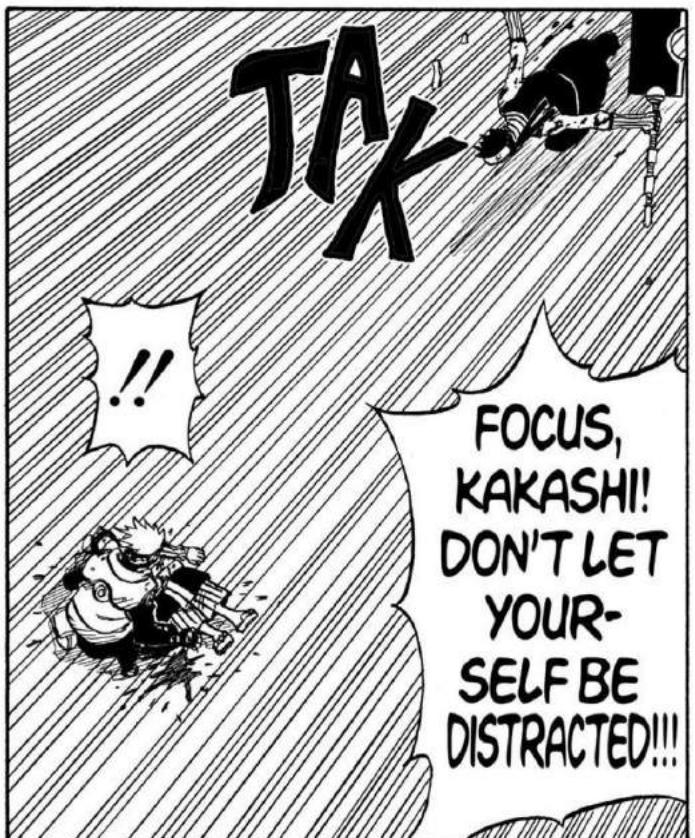




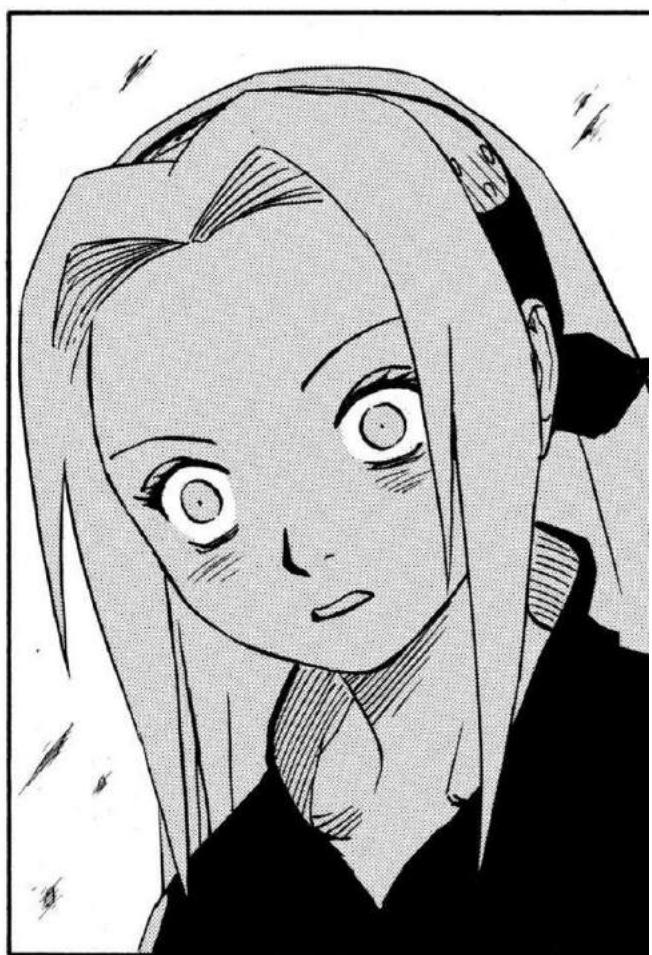
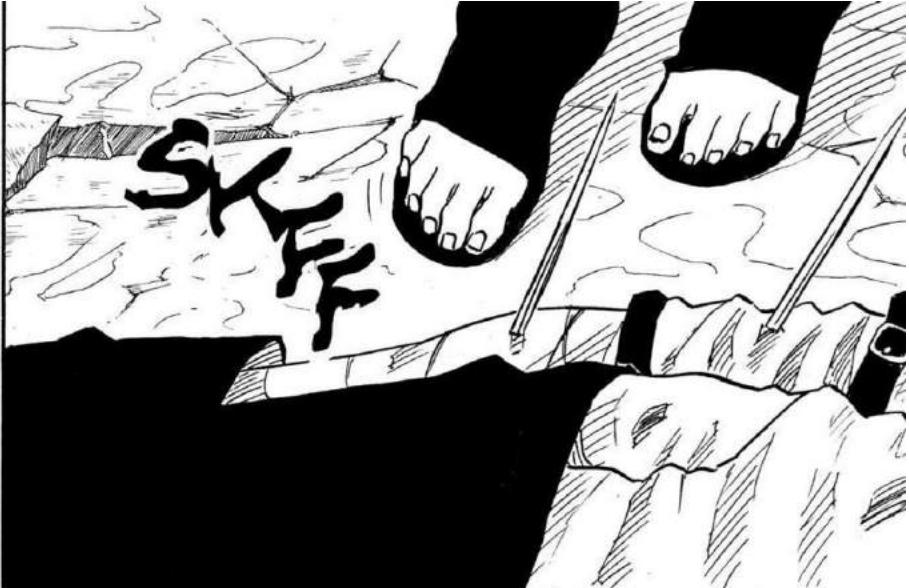












THIS  
ISN'T  
AN ILLUSION...  
IS IT....?

HE'S  
SO  
COLD.

... ALWAYS GOT  
PERFECT  
SCORES ON  
ALL MY TESTS  
IN SCHOOL.

I...

DON'T  
HOLD BACK  
FOR MY SAKE.  
THERE ARE  
TIMES IT'S  
RIGHT TO GIVE IN  
AND SHED  
SOME GOOD  
HONEST  
TEARS.

WE HAD A  
TEST ONE DAY.  
AND THE  
QUESTION  
WAS  
...

I MEMORIZED  
EACH  
AND EVERY  
ONE OF  
THE ONE  
HUNDRED  
RULES OF  
CONDUCT  
FOR NINJA  
AND SHINOBI.  
I USED TO WRITE  
THEM OUT  
WITH PRIDE.

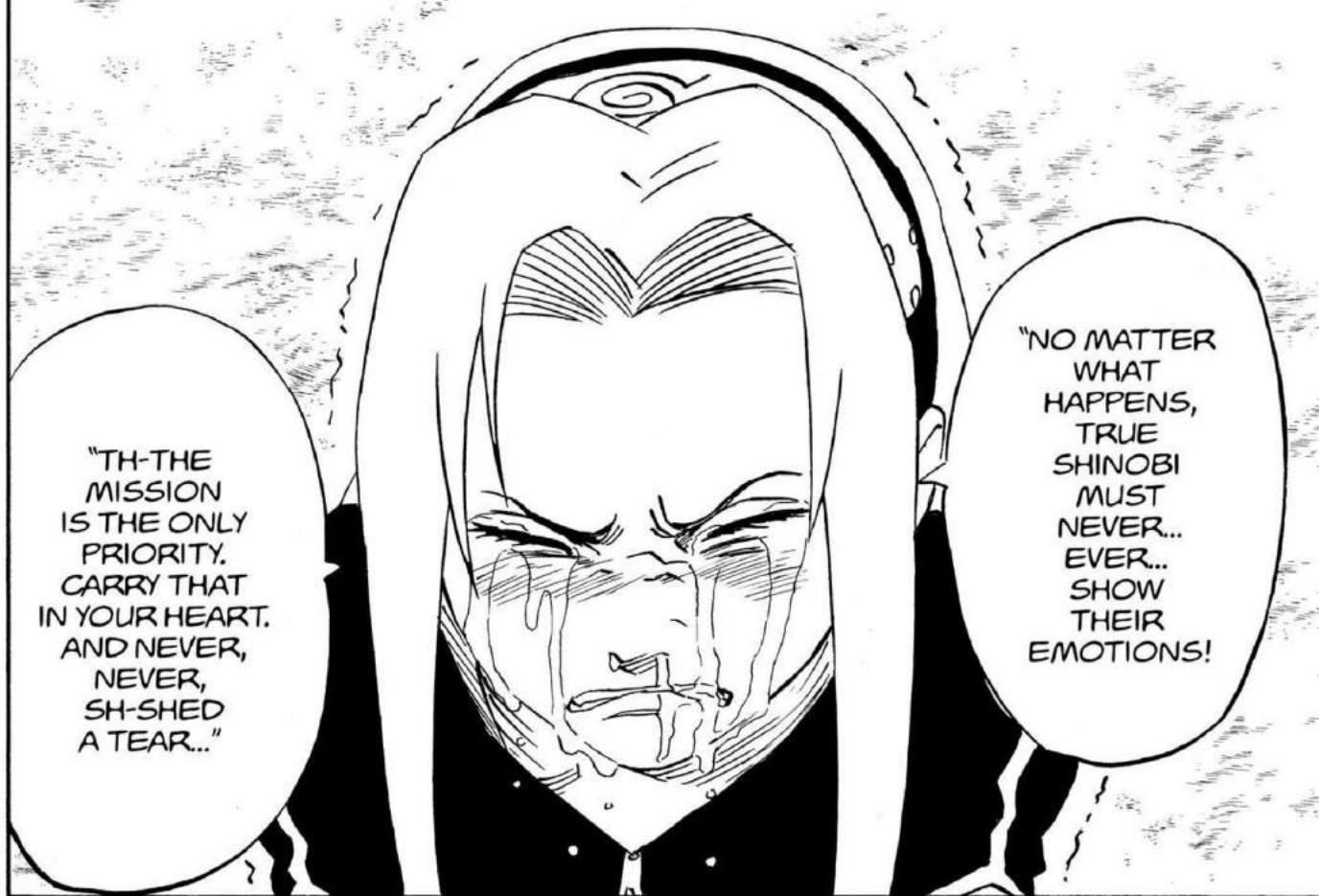
!

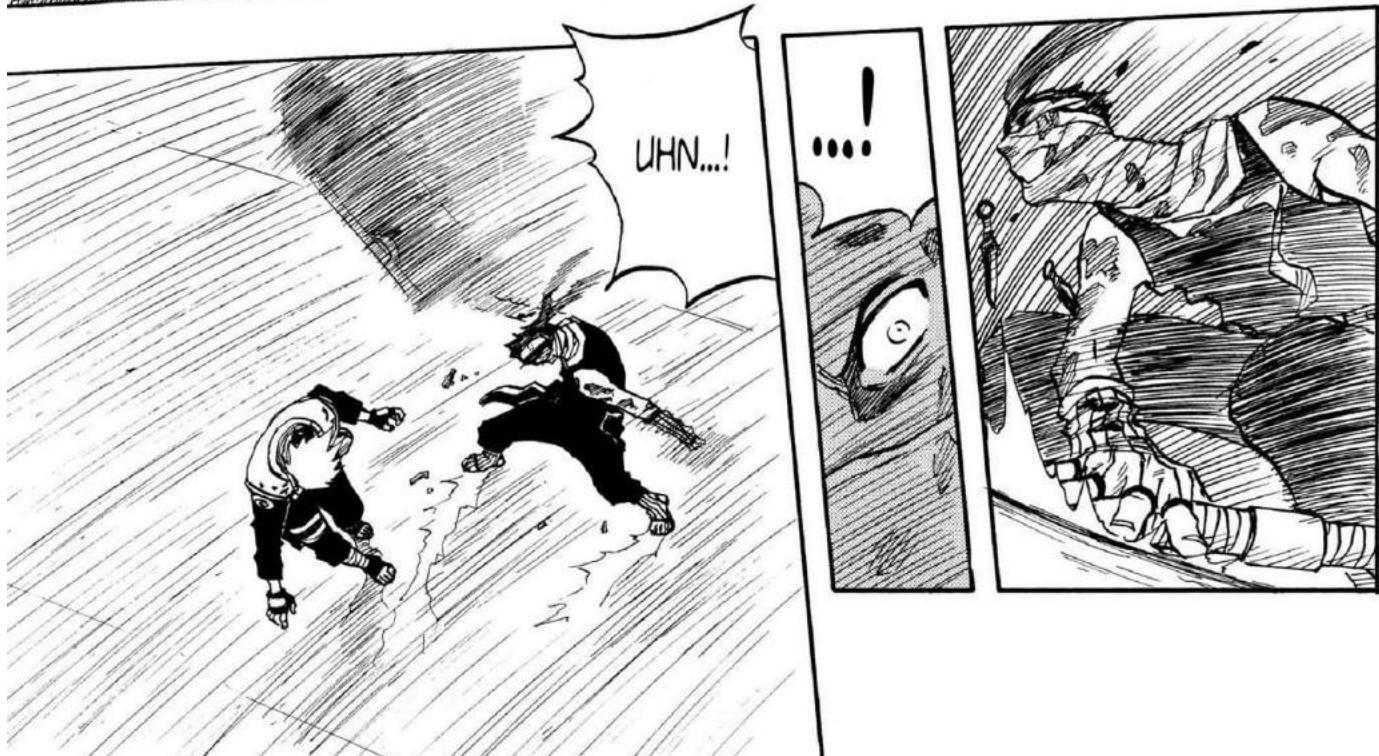
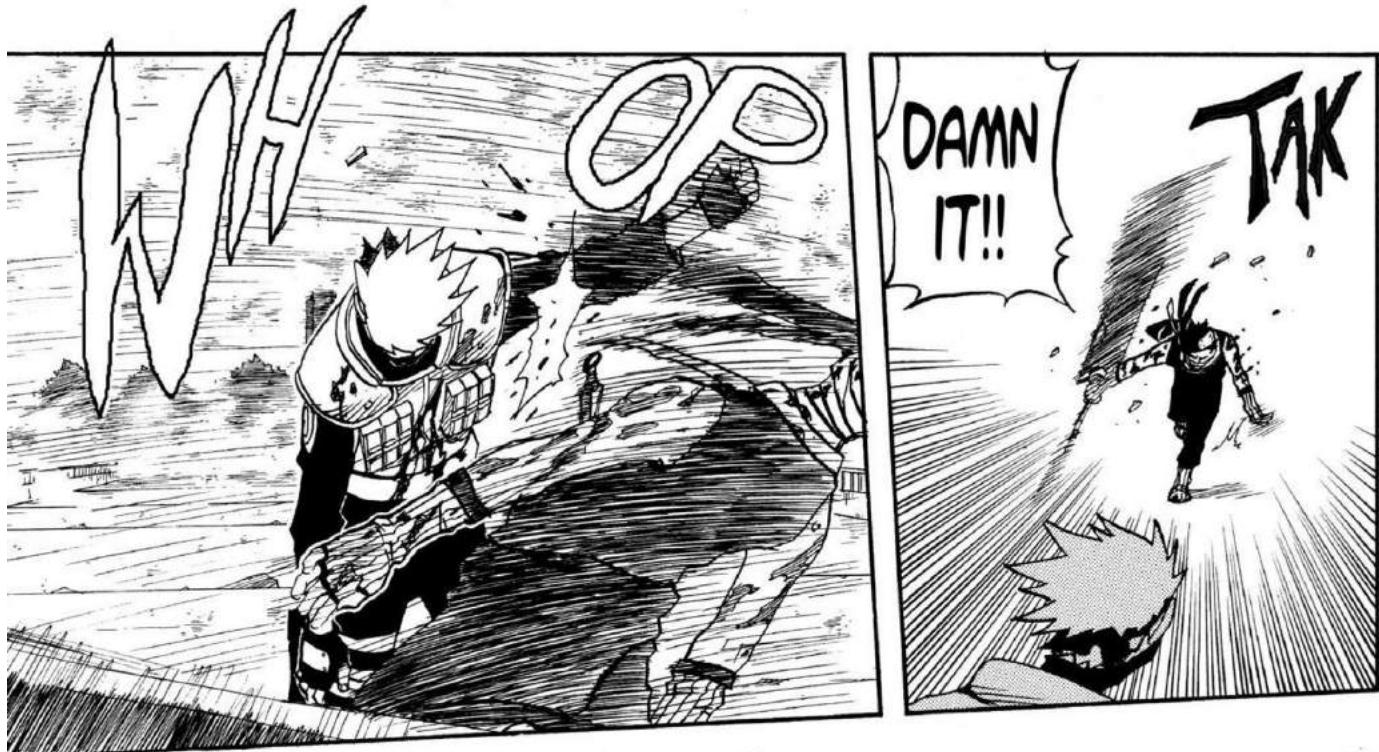
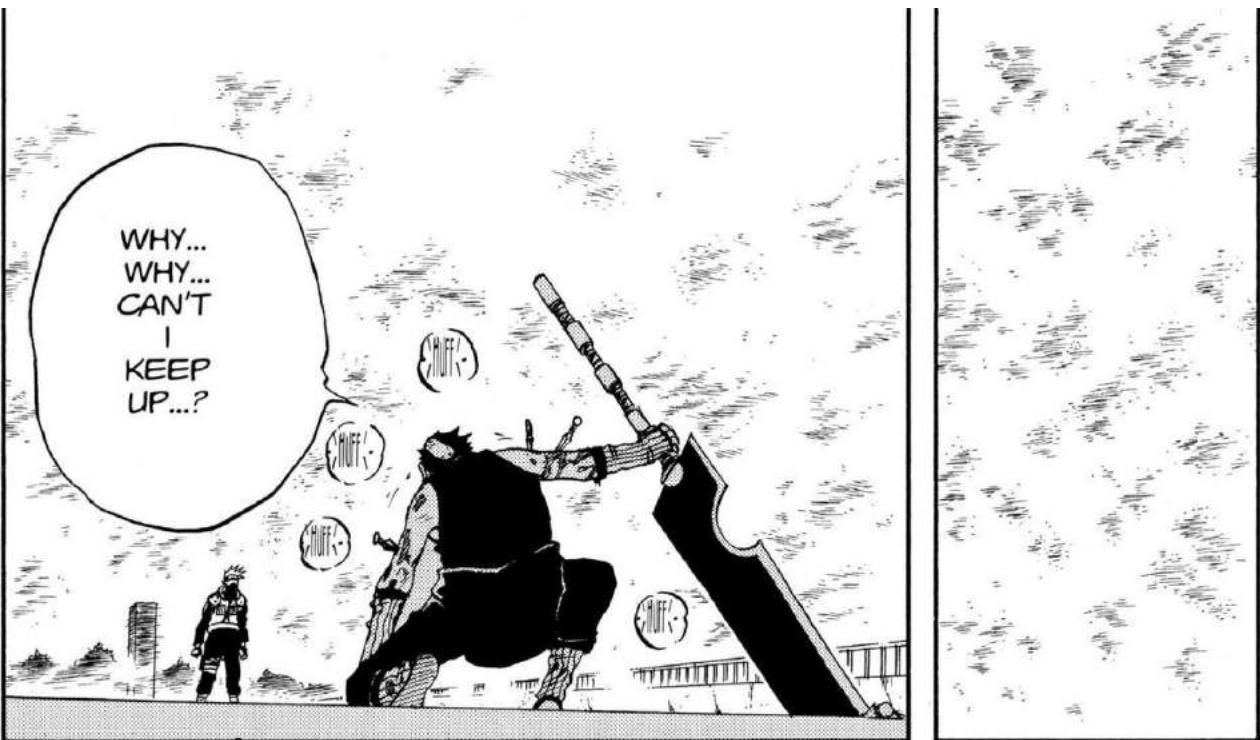
??

JUST  
LIKE  
ALWAYS,  
I WROTE  
IT DOWN.

"WHAT IS  
THE TWENTY-  
FIFTH RULE  
OF SHINOBI  
CONDUCT?"

...!

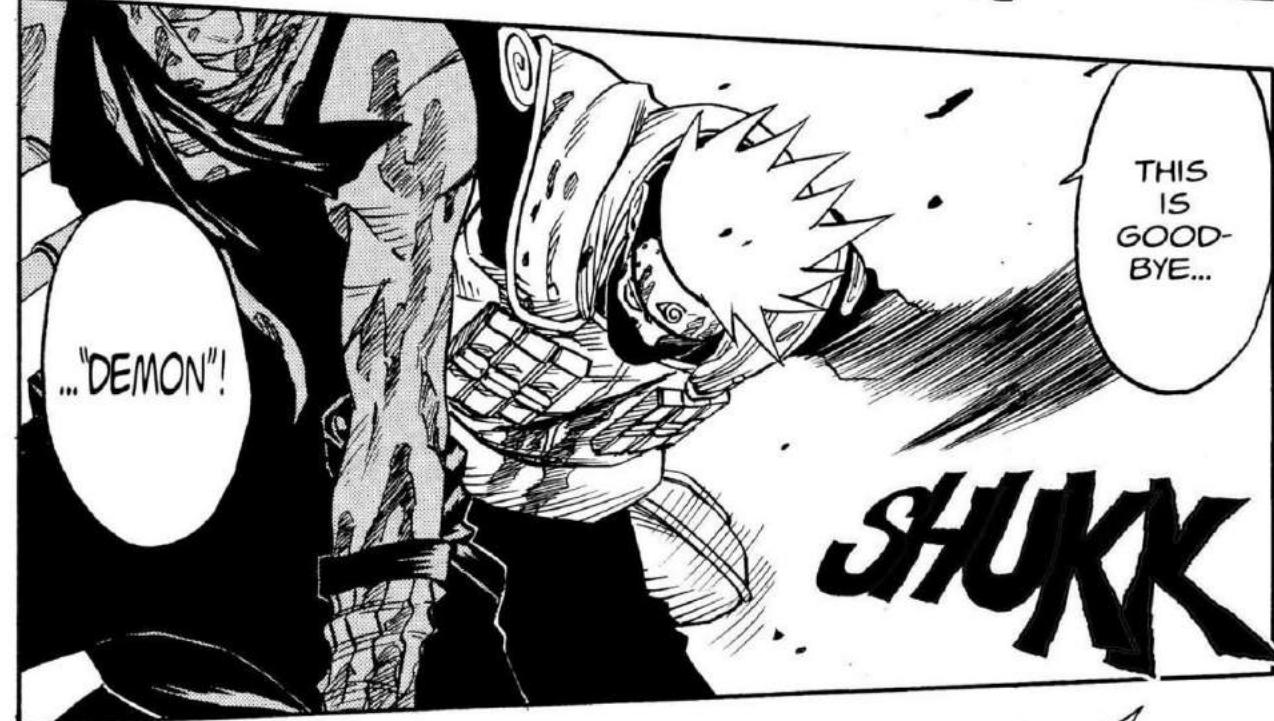






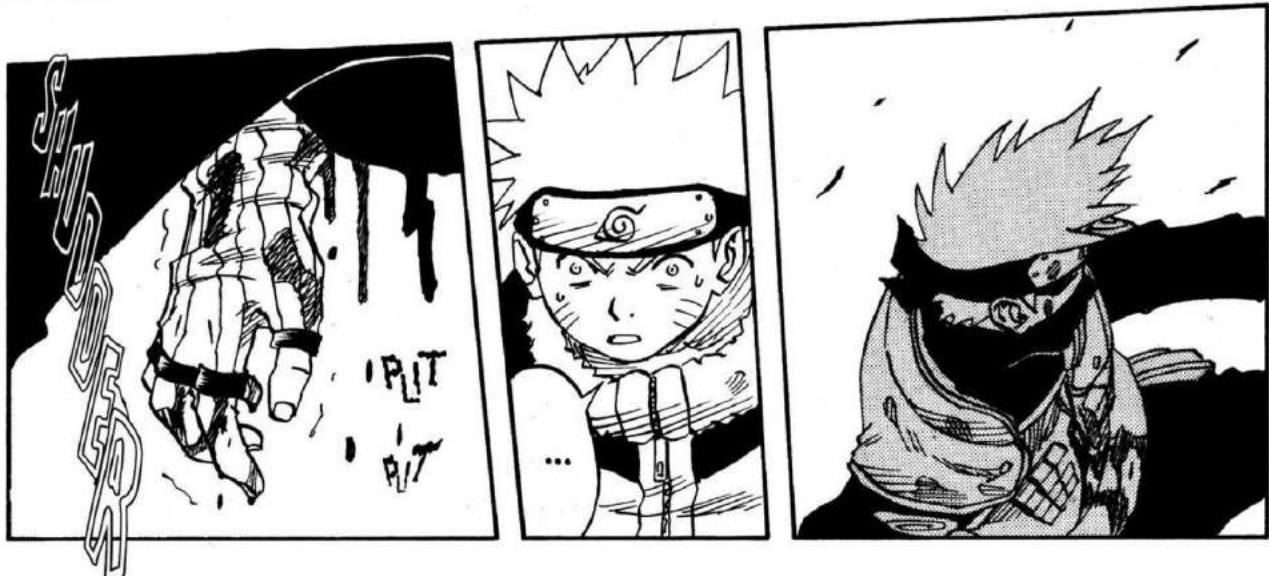
NOW THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT ME.

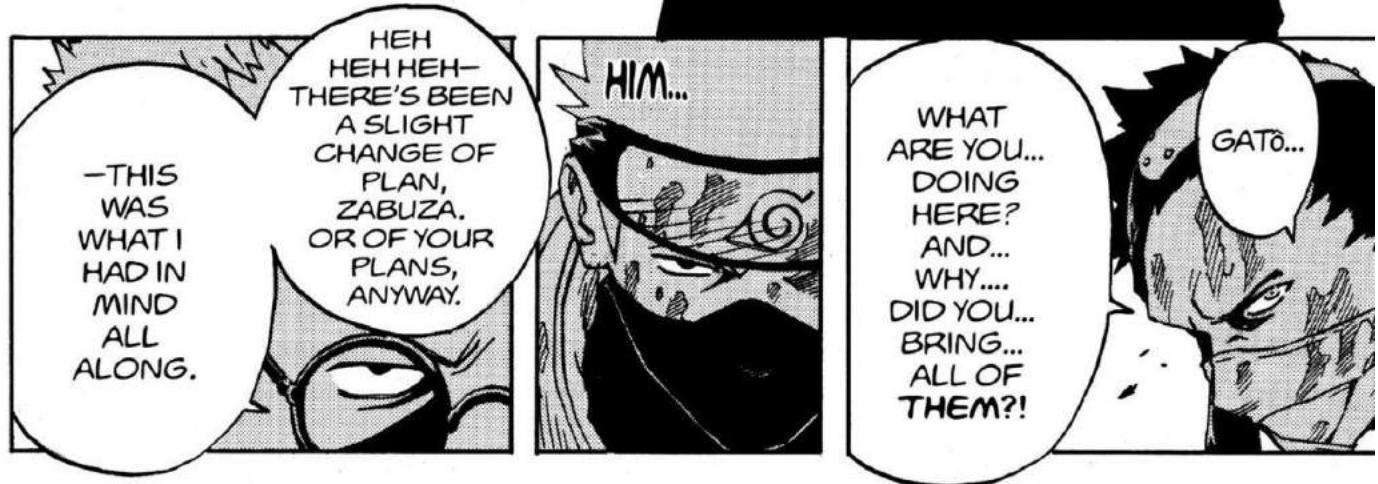






Number 328  
The Tools Called Shinobi





ALL OF YOU NINJA ARE SO EAGER TO FIGHT EACH OTHER. ONCE YOU'VE WORN EACH OTHER DOWN, COMMON THUGS CAN FINISH OFF THE REST.

IT'S SO MUCH SIMPLER TO HIRE UKENIN-RENEGADES—LIKE YOURSELF. NO ONE CARES WHAT I DO TO YOUR KIND ONCE THE JOB IS DONE.

...IT'S SUCH A BOTHER HIRING A SKILLED SHINOBI AFFILIATED WITH ONE OF THE TOP VILLAGES. IT'S EXPENSIVE... AND THEY TEND TO HAVE FRIENDS WHO OBJECT WHEN I BETRAY AND KILL THEM.

IT'S A GREAT BUSINESS PLAN—EFFICIENT AND INEXPENSIVE.

MORE LIKE A BABY DEMON, IF THAT.

HEH HEH... YOU'RE NO DEMON...

CALLING YOURSELF THE DEMON OF KIRIGAKURE IS JUST PLAIN FALSE ADVERTISING!

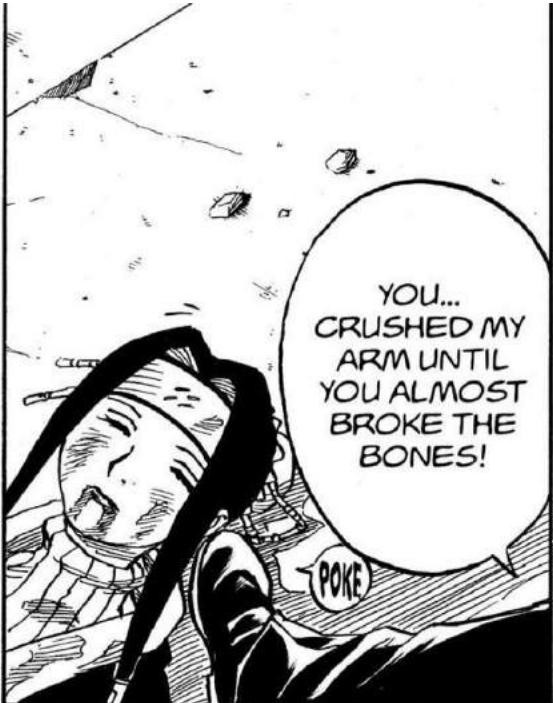
MY ONLY MISTAKE WAS HIRING YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THAT'S SOME CROWD!

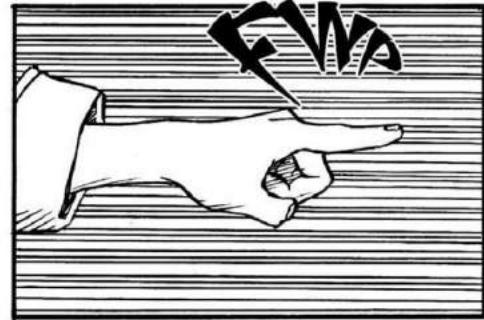
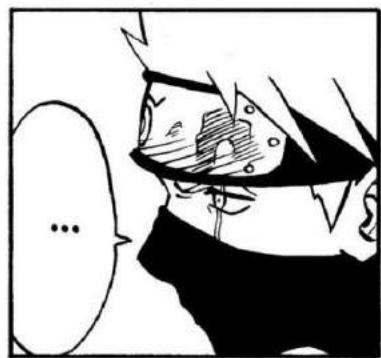
WHO THE HECK ARE THEY?

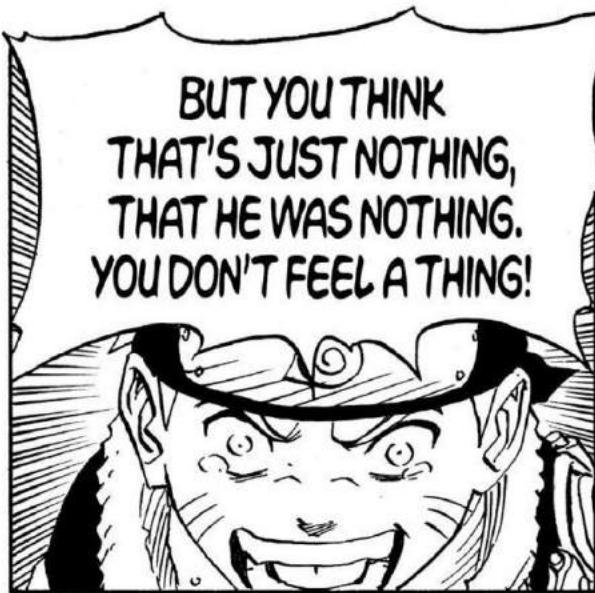
THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN, WE'LL TAKE YOU DOWN WITHOUT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT!

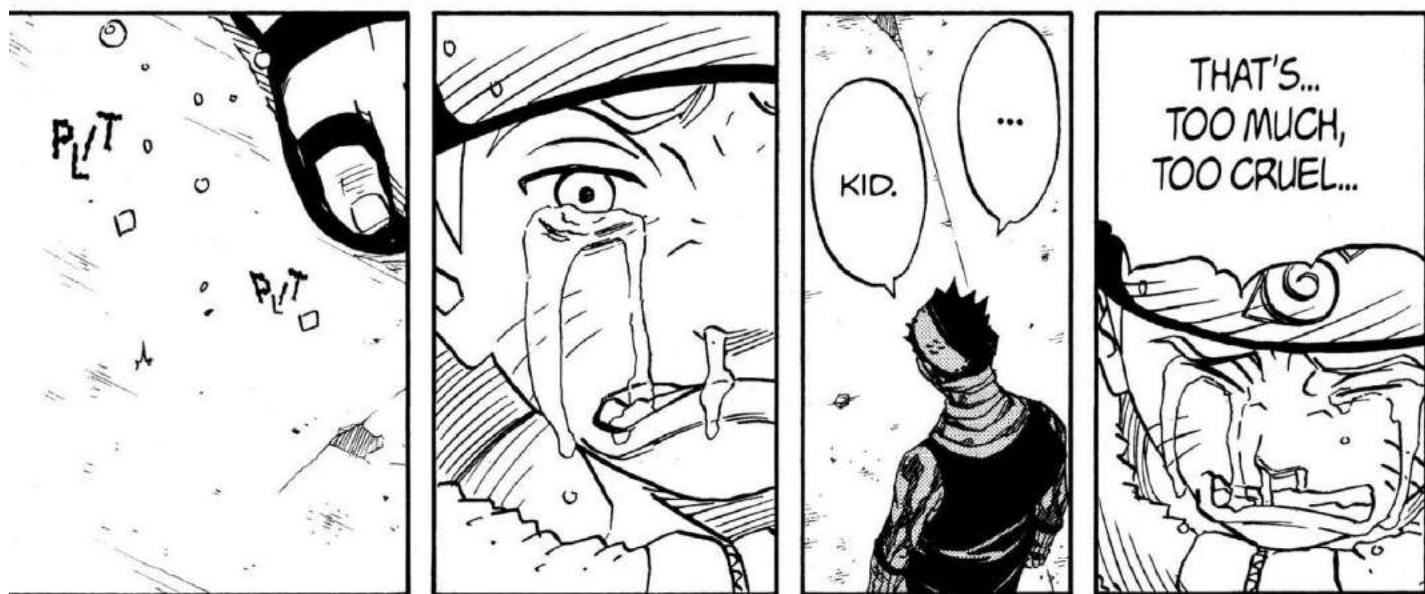
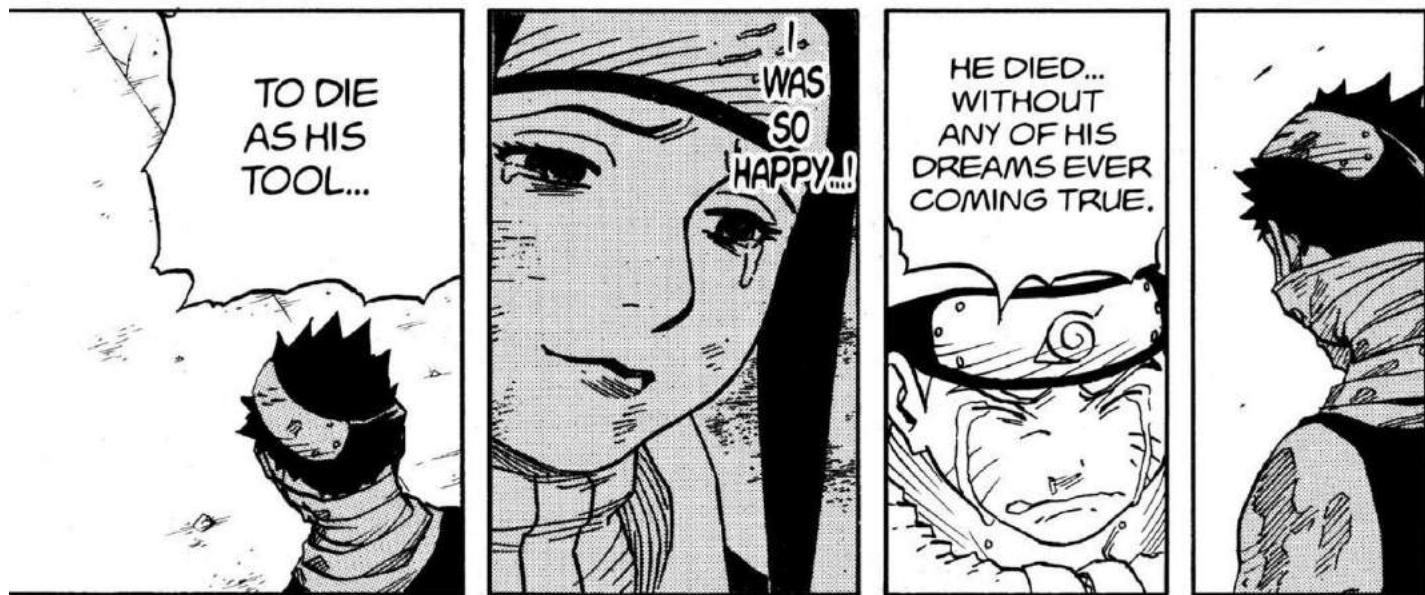
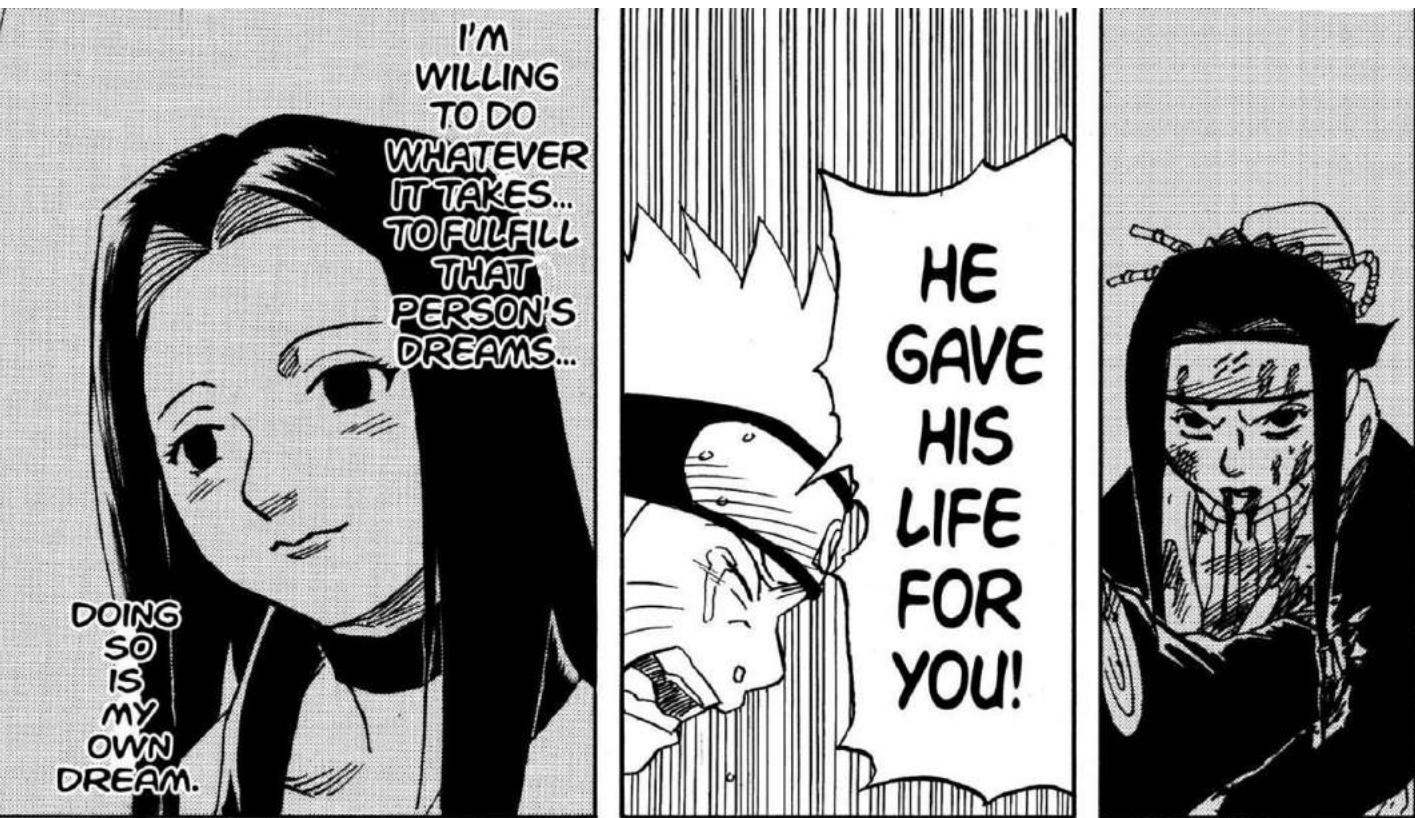














WHAT HAKU DID... WAS NOT JUST FOR ME.

WHILE WE FOUGHT, HE BROKE HIS HEART... OVER YOU... AND YOUR FRIENDS. THAT'S THE TRUTH.

...

KID...

YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

...I'M GLAD MY LAST BATTLE... WAS AGAINST YOU...BOY.

?

WOULD YOU LEND ME YOUR KUNAI KNIFE?

HUH?  
UH...

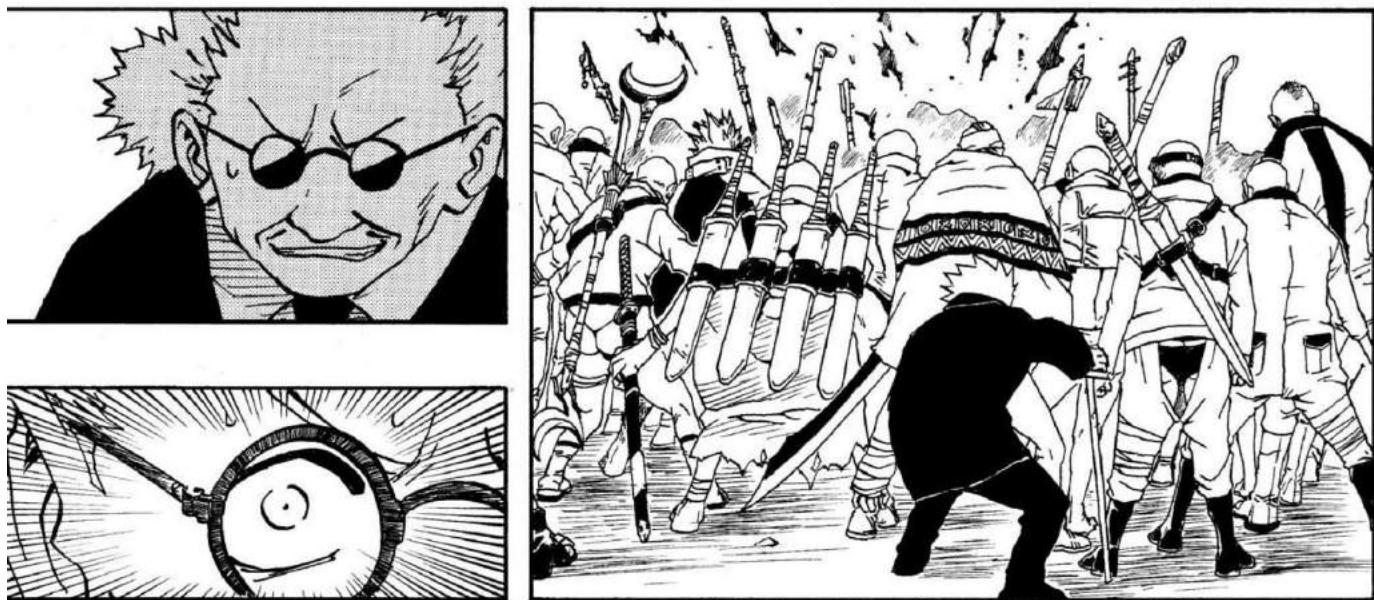
FUUTTER  
...  
AND I'VE LOST... EVERYTHING.

BITE  
SAY WHAT WE WILL, DO WHAT WE WILL.  
IN THE END, WE SHINOBI ARE STILL JUST PEOPLE AFTER ALL... WITH FEELINGS ALL-TOO-HUMAN.

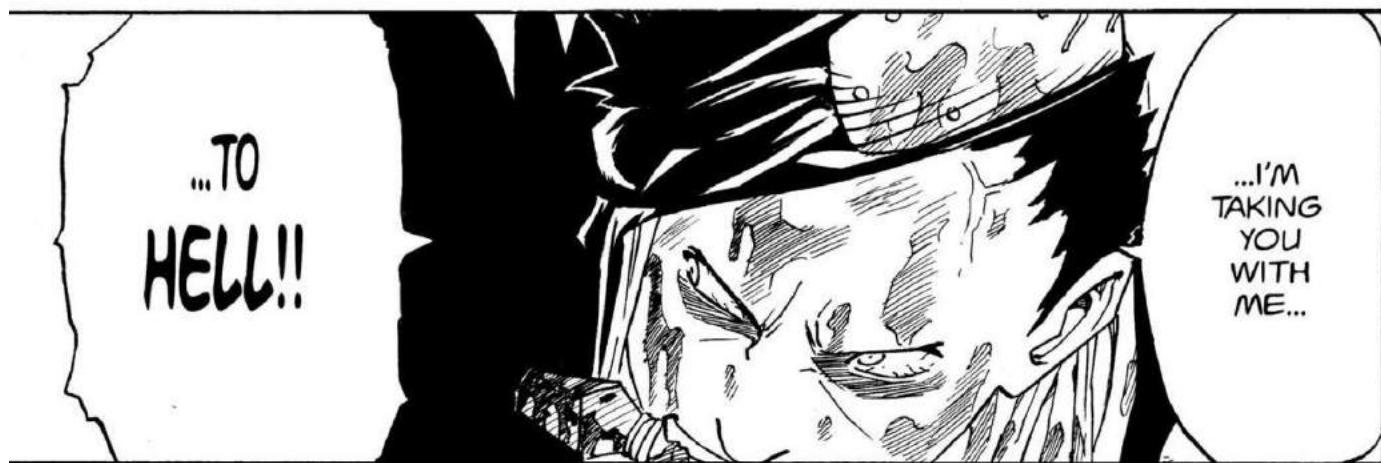
SURE.

!!













THANKS  
FOR  
EVERYTHING...

AND  
I'M  
SORRY...

IT'S...  
GOODBYE  
NOW,  
HAKU...



## KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S THIRD MANGA REJECT SPECIAL!



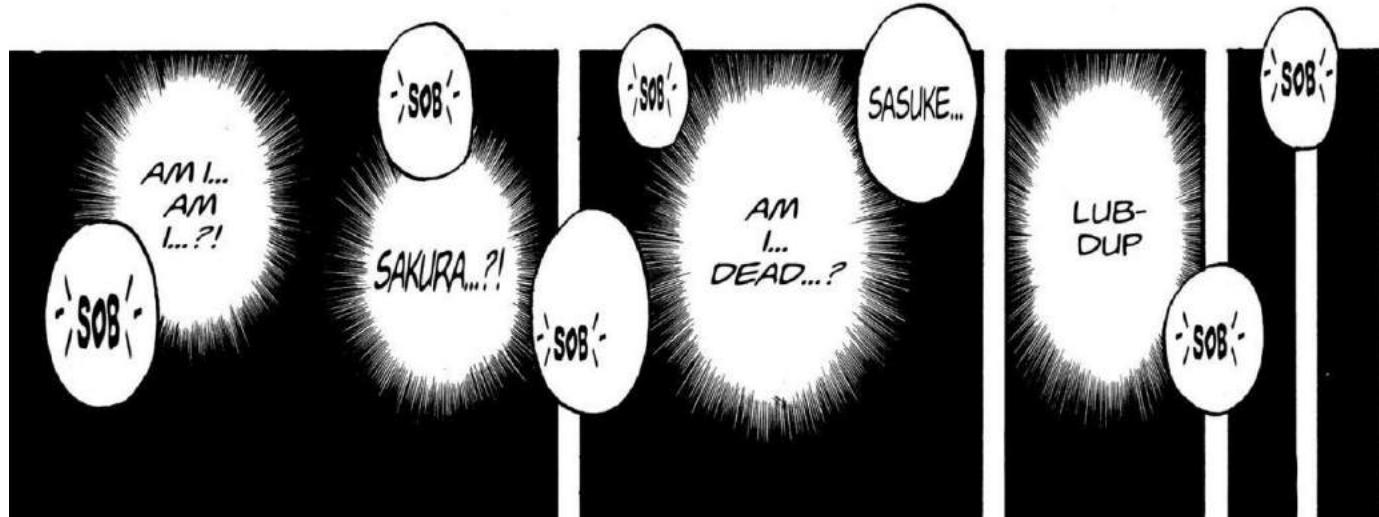
ONCE AGAIN, THE ROUGH SKETCH TO THE LEFT IS FROM ANOTHER REJECTED MANGA. IT WAS A BASEBALL MANGA, TITLED SIMPLY "BASEBALL KING." I PLAYED BASEBALL MYSELF, BACK IN MY STUDENT DAYS, SO I (MAYBE FOOLISHLY) THOUGHT I WOULD TRY MY HAND AT A BASEBALL STORY.

DURING THIS PERIOD, I WAS IN A SITUATION WHERE, NO MATTER HOW MANY CONCEPTS FOR ADVENTURE MANGA I SKETCHED OUT, I DIDN'T GET ANY GREEN LIGHTS, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD GO FOR A SPORTS THEME.

BUT WHEN I ACTUALLY TRIED TO DRAW ONE, PERHAPS BECAUSE I WAS WRITING FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, IT BECAME A MORE REALISTIC WORK THAN I HAD INTENDED.

THE REASON IT FAILED WAS THAT IT WAS TOO SERIOUS FOR A SHONEN PUBLICATION. IT WASN'T ENTERTAINMENT.

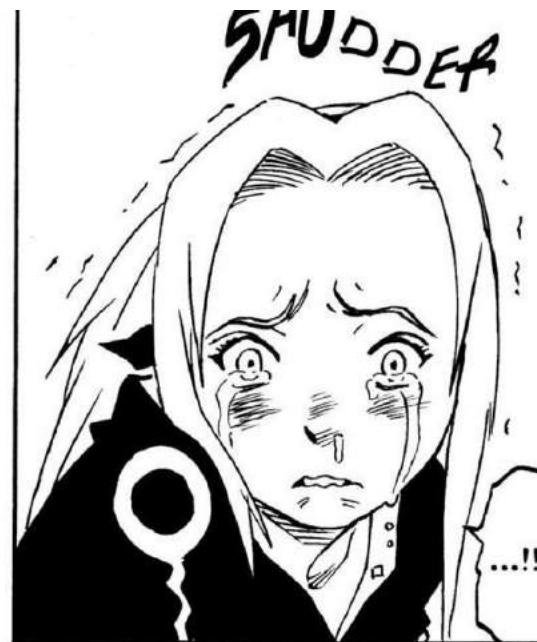
HOWEVER, "BASEBALL KING" ACTUALLY STILL HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART. I SOMETIMES FIND MYSELF THINKING, "THAT WAS SO FUNNY... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S A REJECT, DARN IT...!"

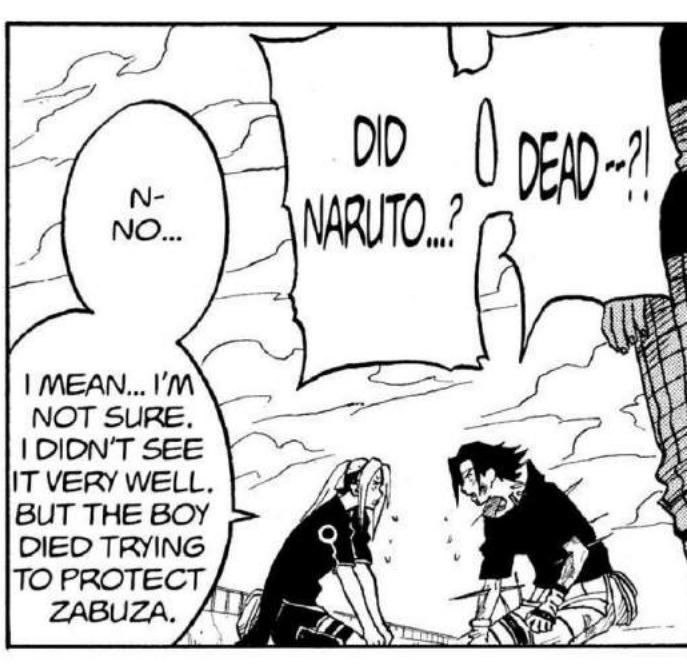
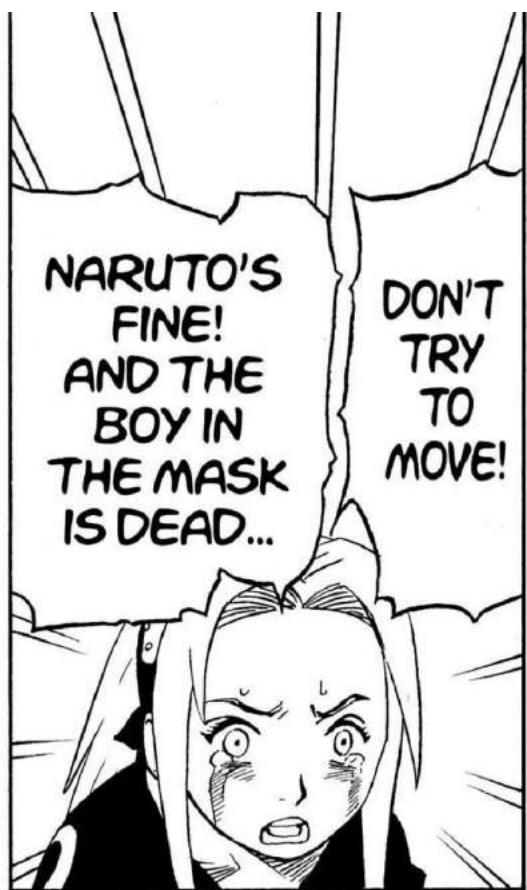


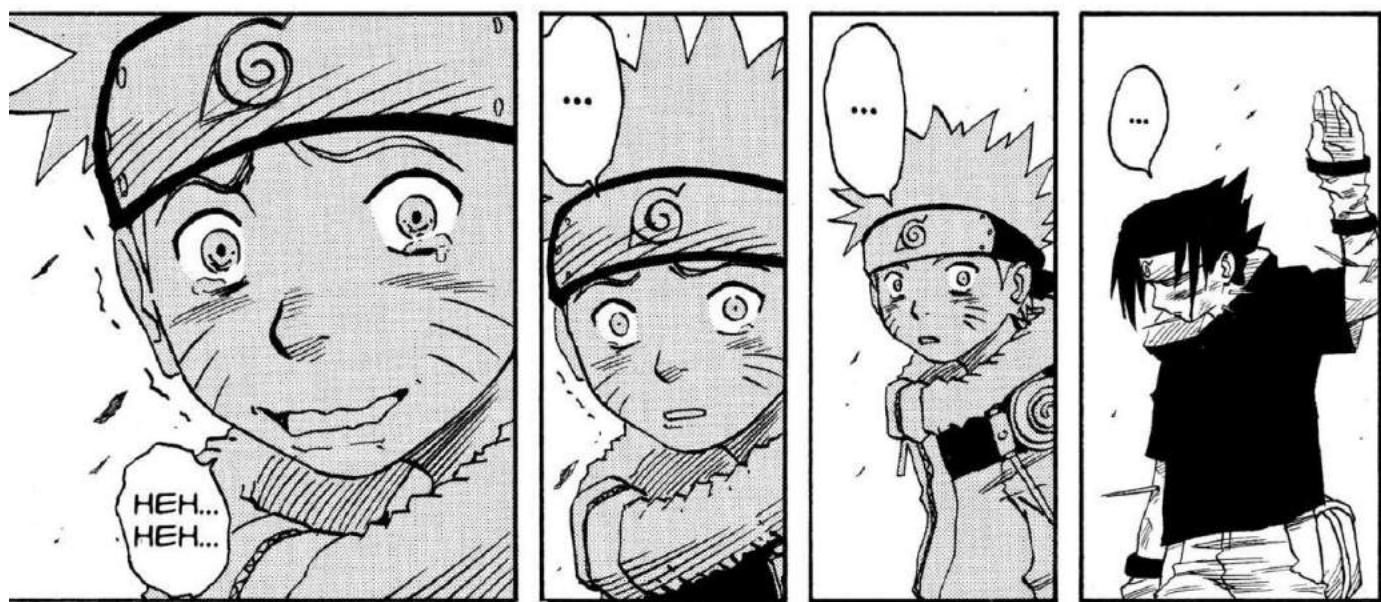
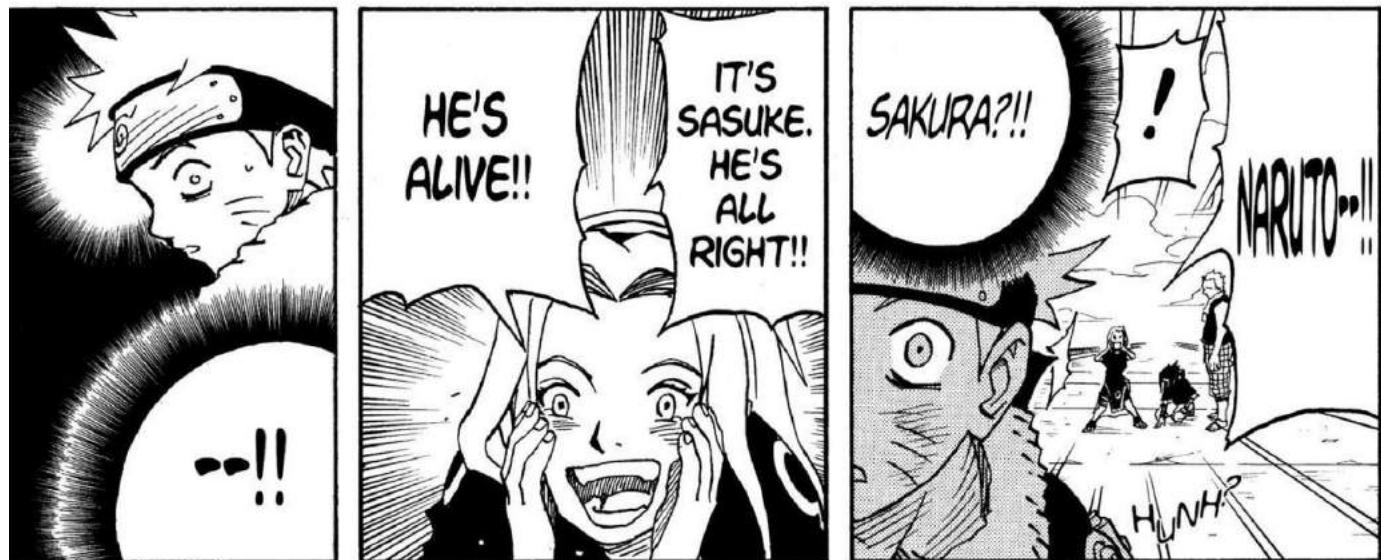


# Number 33: The Bridge of the Heros!!



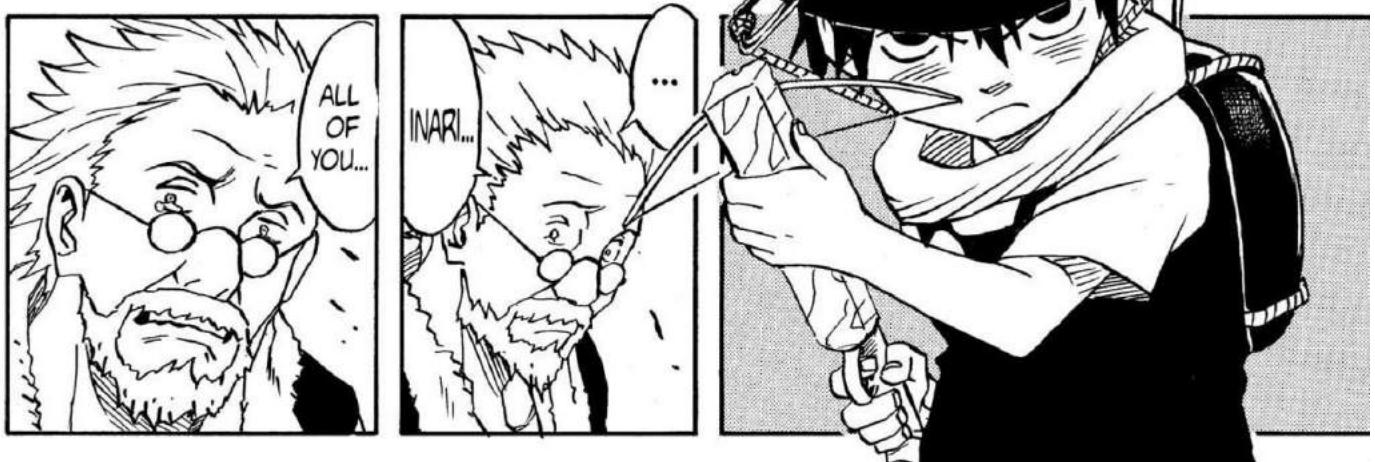


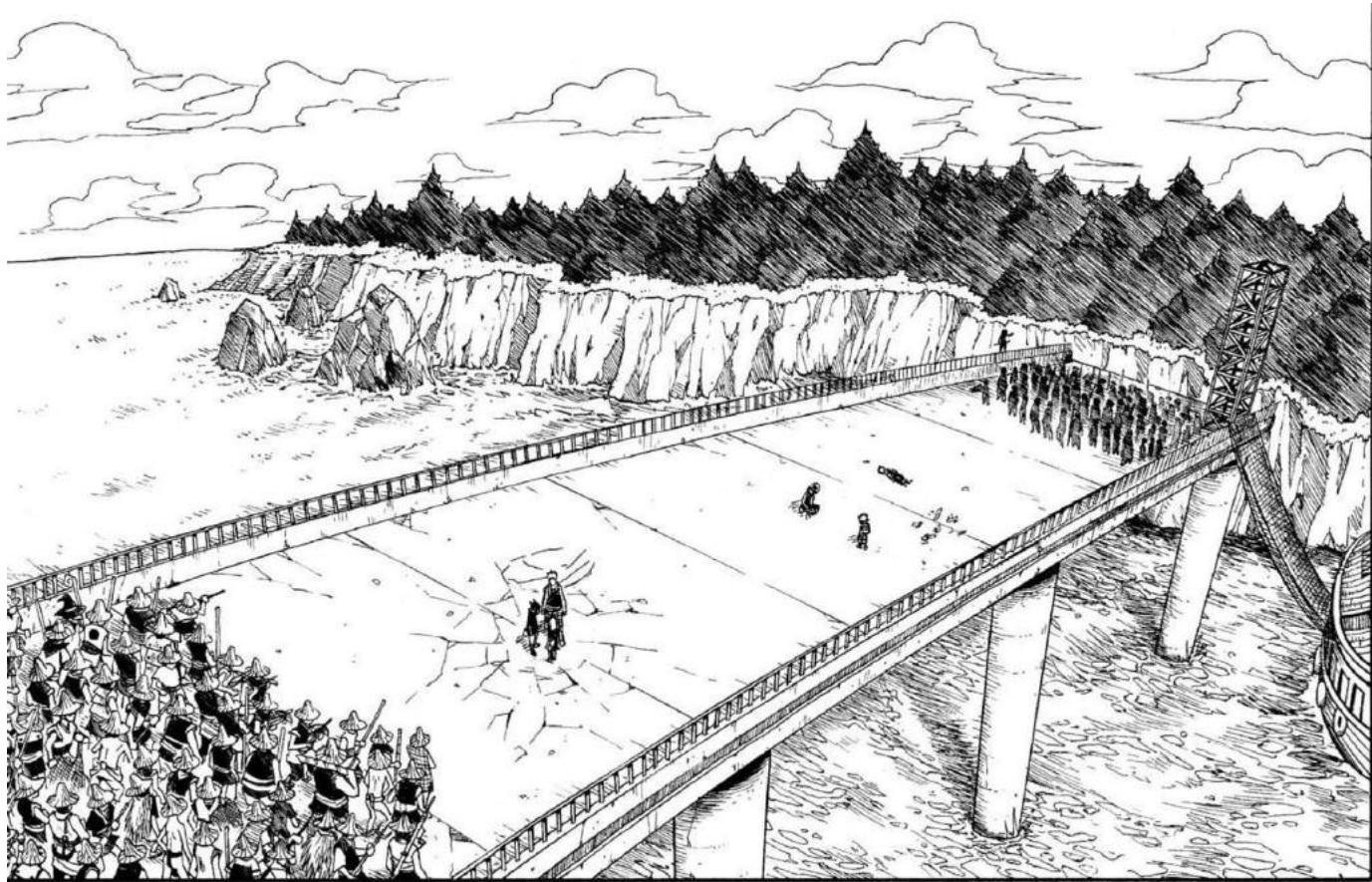












ONNNG









ARE  
YOU  
CRYING?

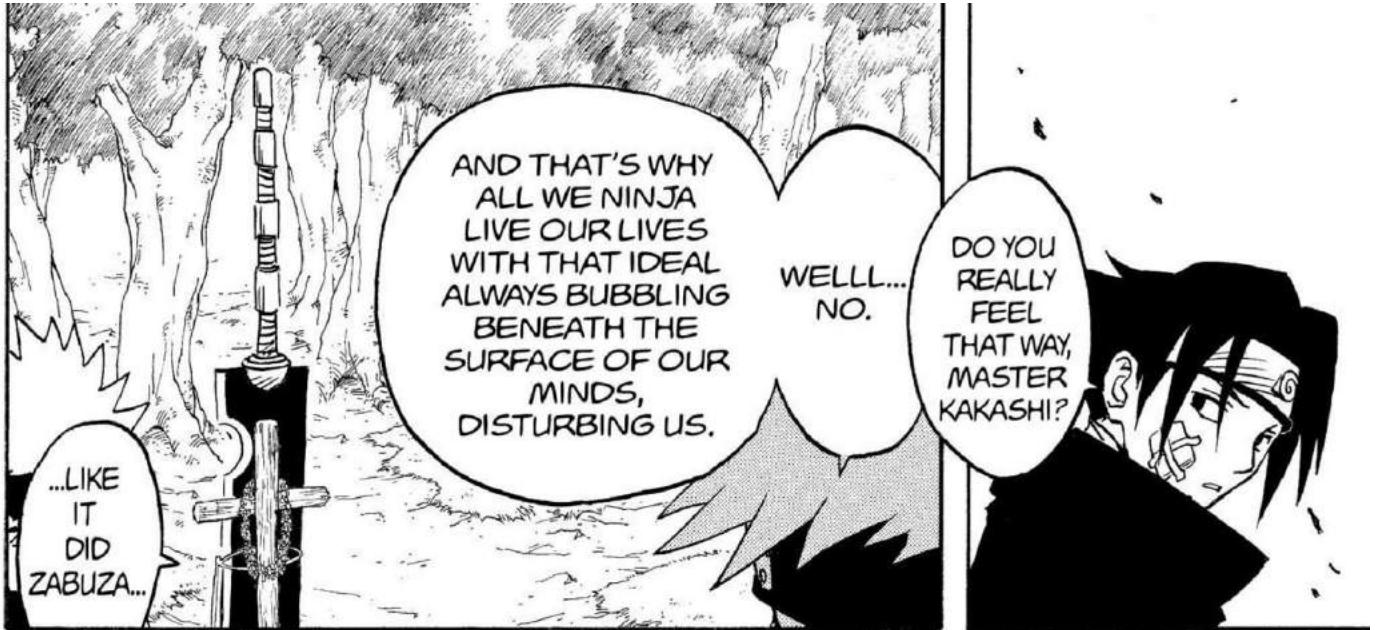
MY  
DEAR  
HAKU...

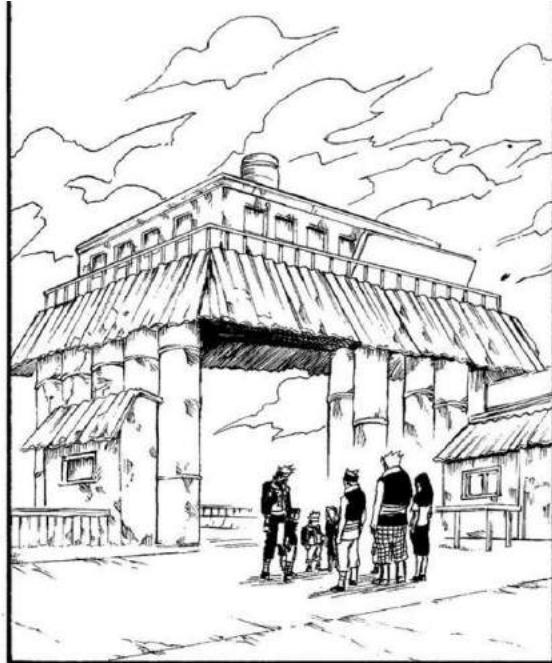
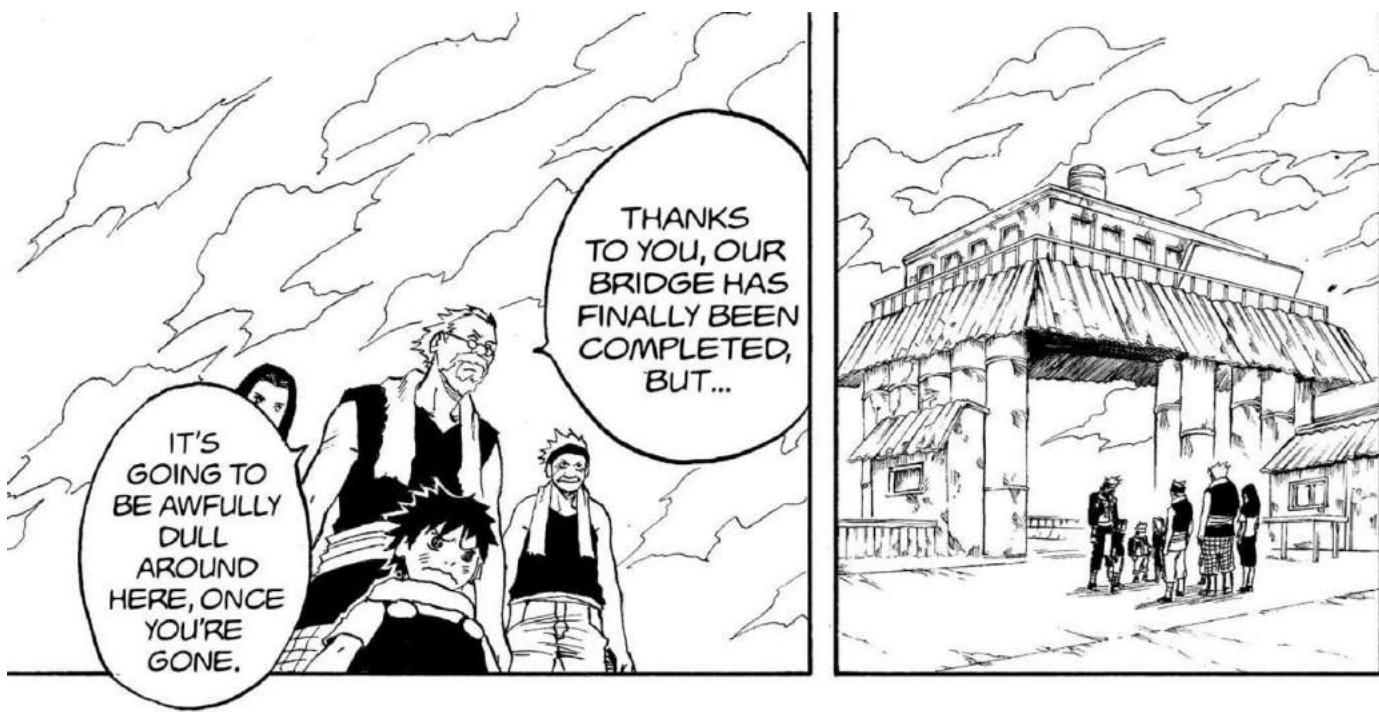
IN  
THE  
MIDDLE  
OF  
SUMMER...?

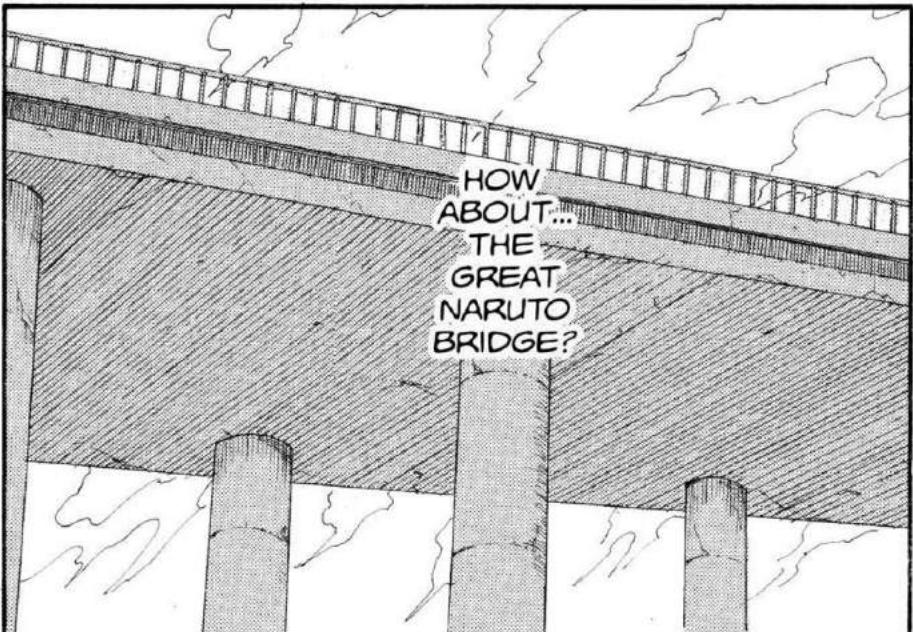
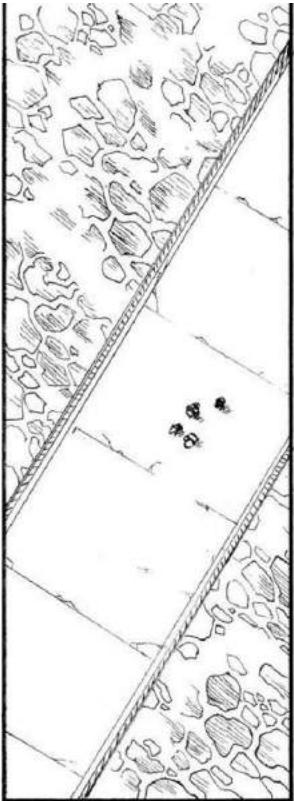








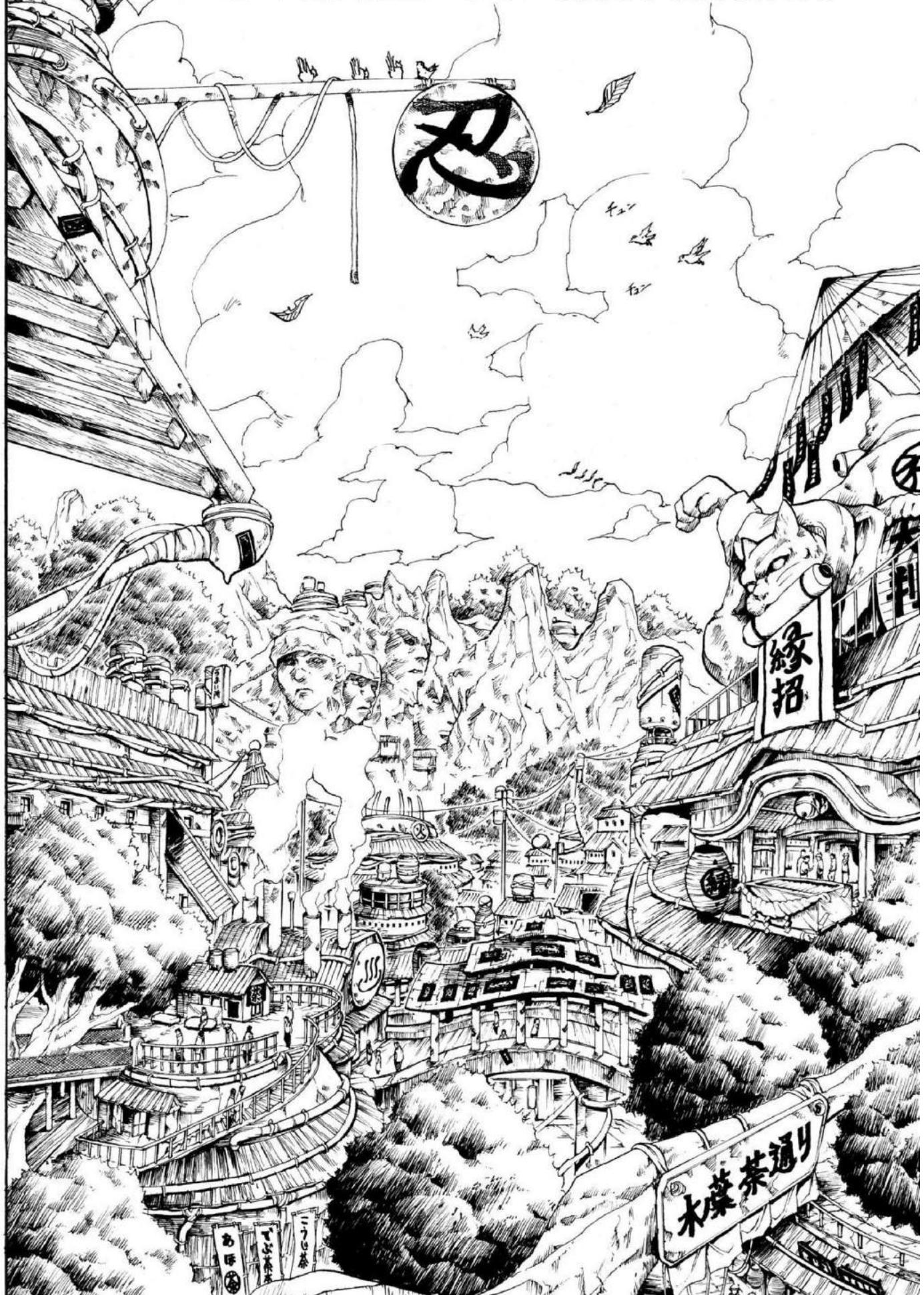


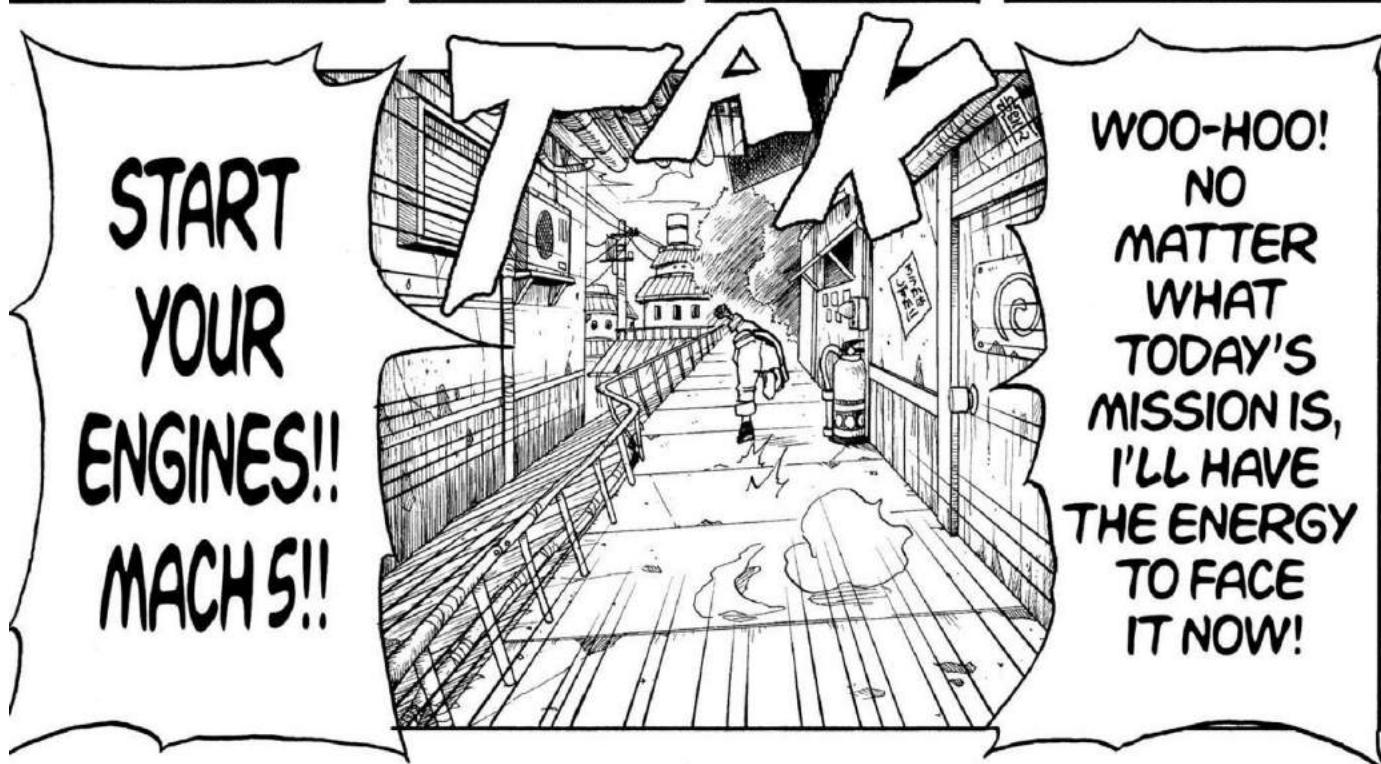
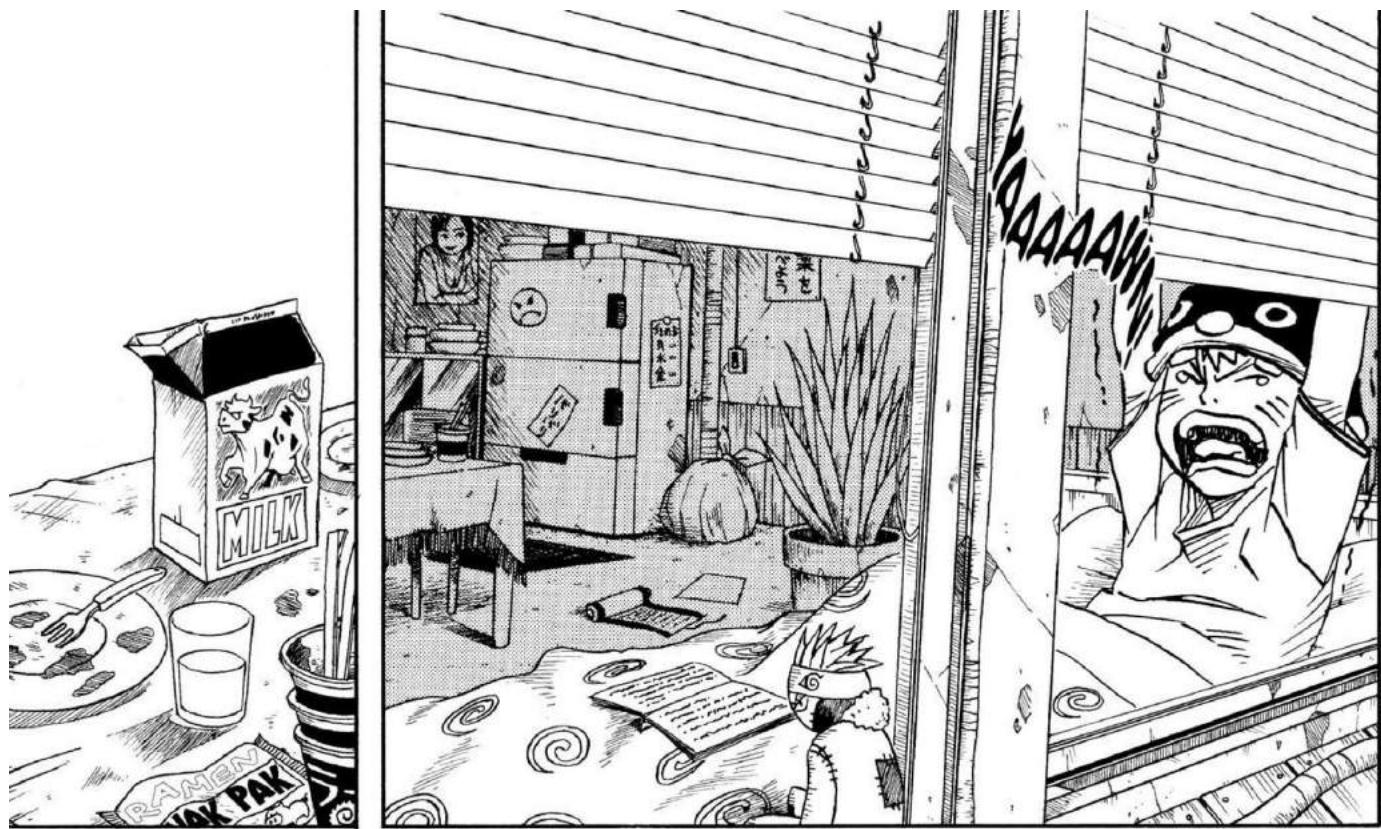


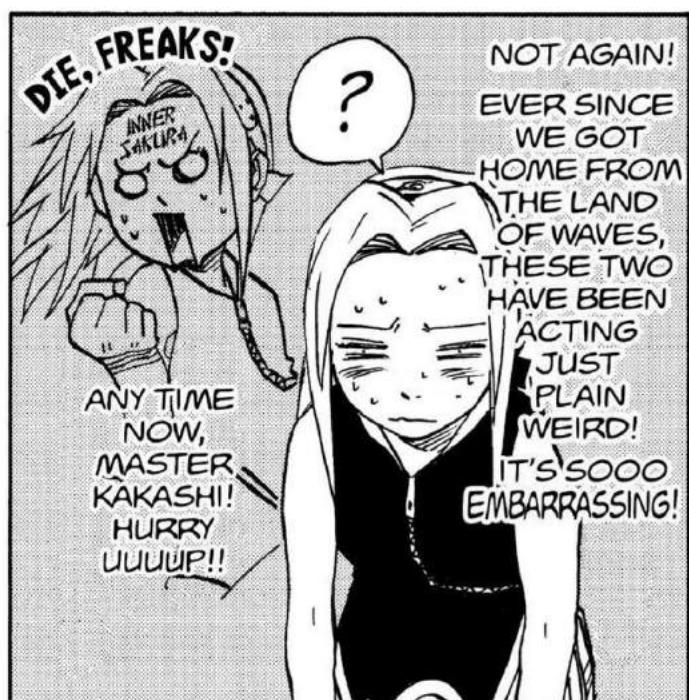
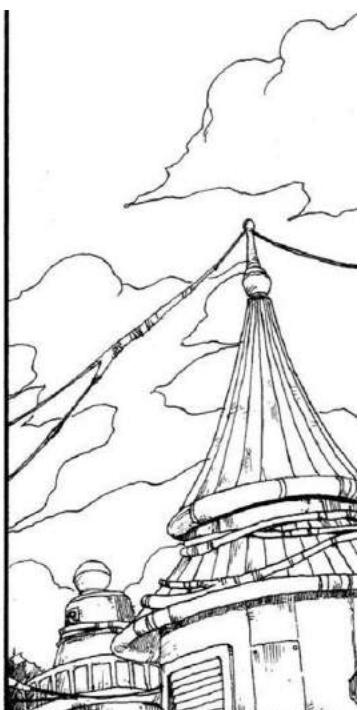




# Number 34: Intruders?







# YOUR NOSE IS GROWING, MASTER!!!

YOU ALWAYS LAY IT ON TOO THICK.



GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

THREE HOURS LATER...

WE WANT ACTION! A CHALLENGE! SOMETHING WHERE I COULD USE MY SKILL - LIKE THIS... AND THIS... AND - AND -

OH, REALLY?

I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS...

# SIZZLE

HEY, MASTER KAKASHI! ANY HOT NEW MISSIONS FOR THE 7TH CELL? WE'VE HAD NOTHING BUT GIMMES! BORRRRING!



SAVING YOU IS SUCH A NUISANCE, SASUKE!

THAT'S WHAT I'LL TELL 'IM!!

IT'S OVER, AS OF NOW!

WHIEW GAS! HUFF

TAK

EVERY TIME WE GO ON A MISSION, THEY END UP SHOWING ME UP AND SAVING ME. BUT NOT THIS TIME!

GRR... THOSE TWO...

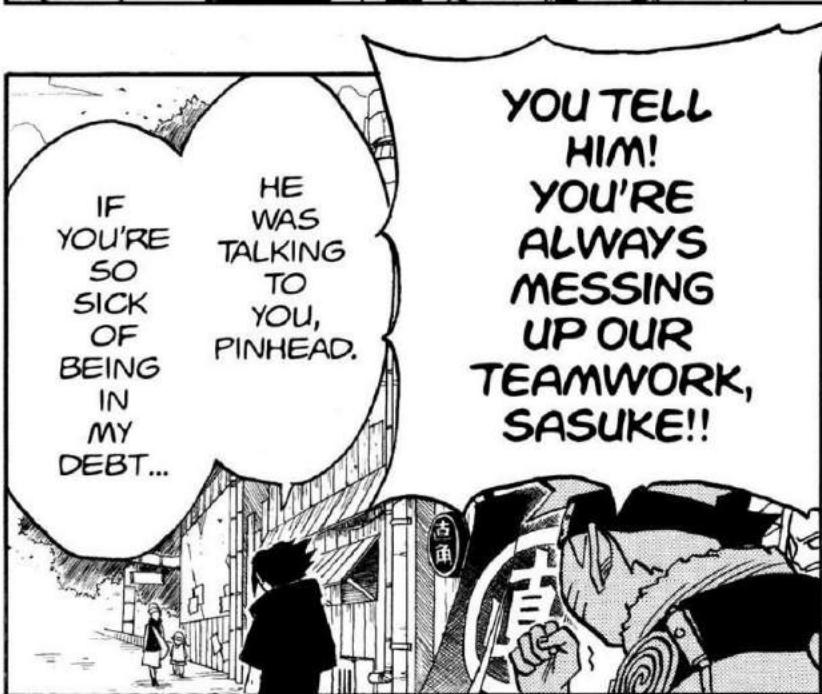
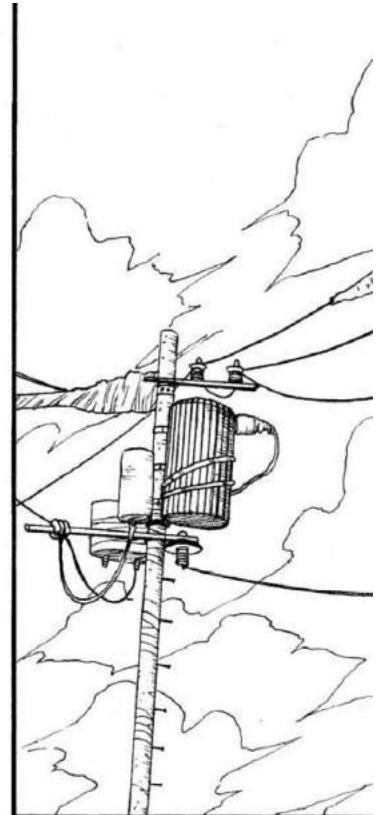
WOULD YOU CHILL?!

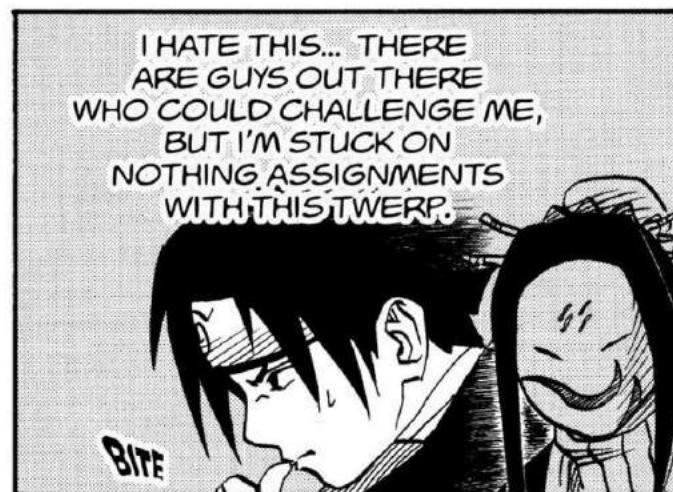
YESSIR!

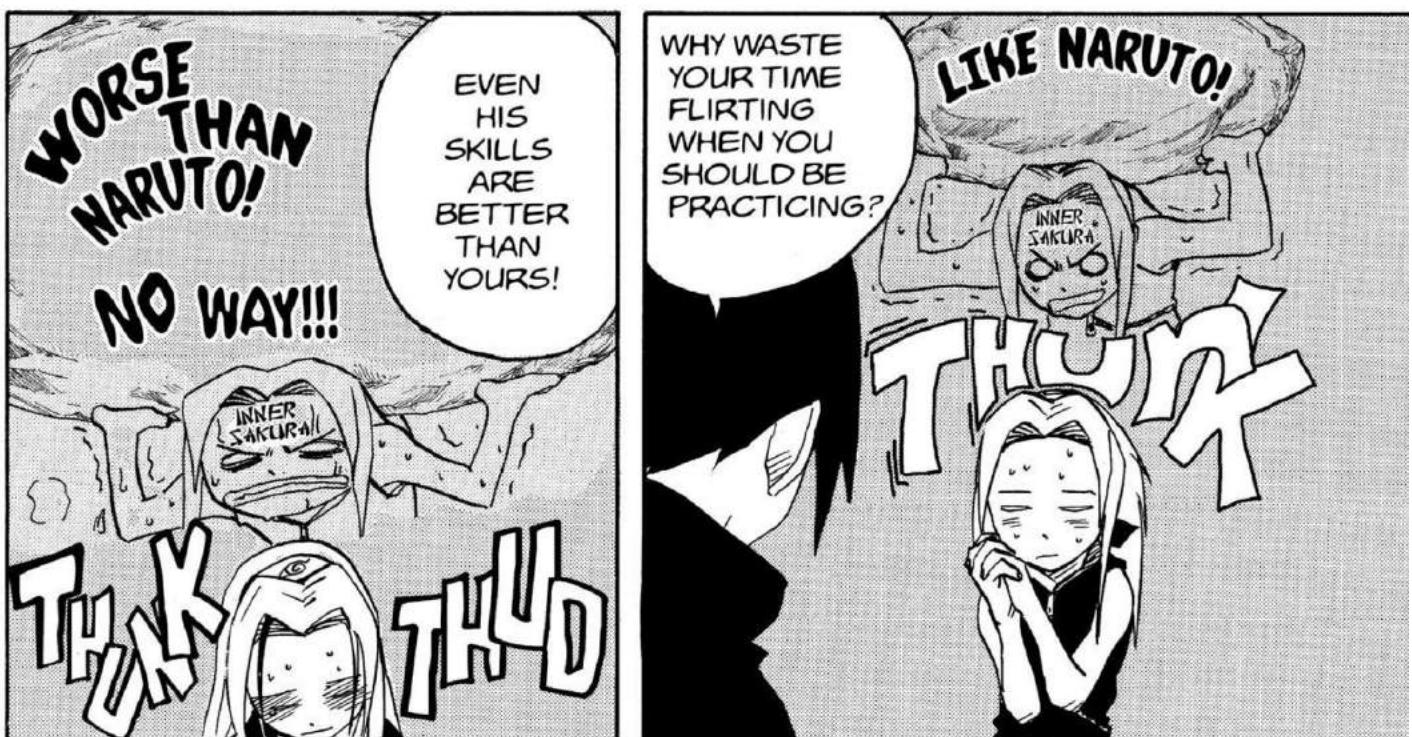
HEY, NARUTO! WAKE UP! WE'RE HEADING OUT ON OUR MISSION!

DOPE.

SKA





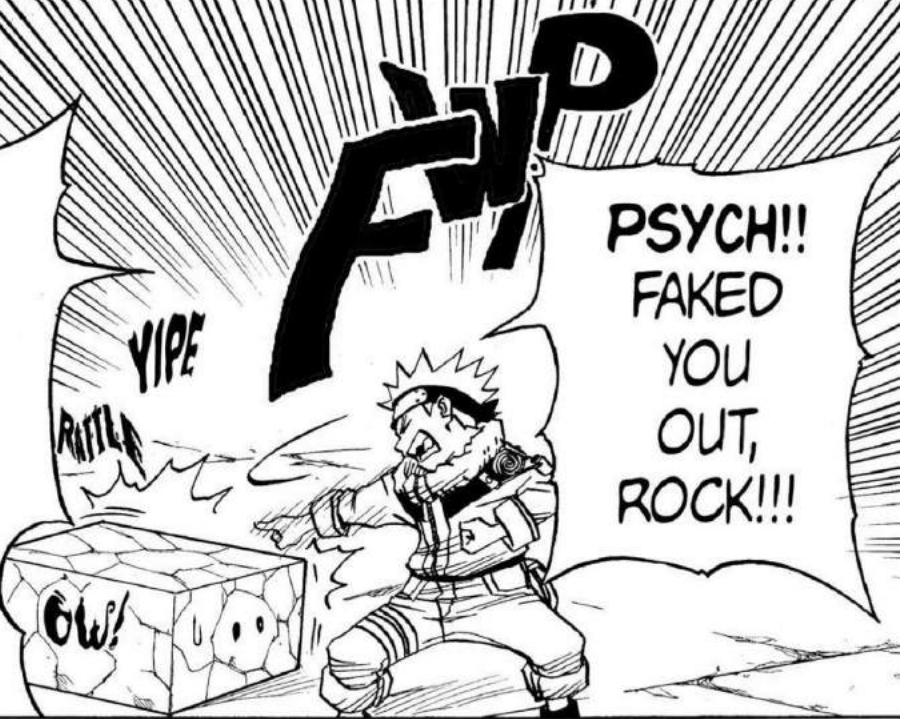


'CAUSE I'M  
ALWAYS  
THE WEAKEST...  
THE ONE WITH  
ALMOST NO  
SPECIAL  
SKILLS!

HE'S RIGHT...  
IT DOESN'T  
MATTER WHAT  
OUR MISSION IS.  
THEY'RE ALL  
THE SAME  
TO ME...



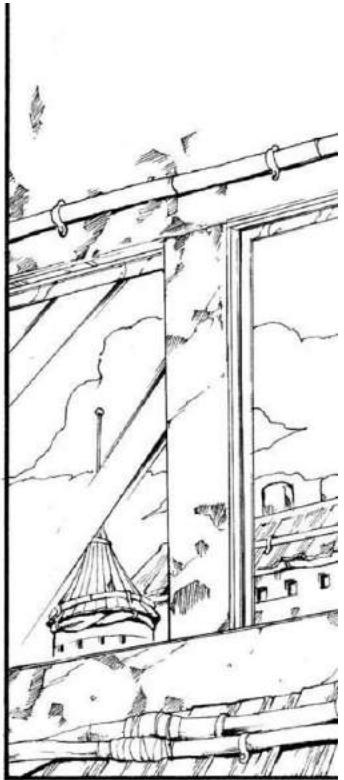
LITTLE HINT...  
NO ROCK HAS  
PERFECT ANGLES,  
PERFECT CORNERS...  
AND EYE HOLES.  
KIND OF A BIG CLUE.











YOUR TEAM'S SEEN A LOT OF ACTION LATELY.



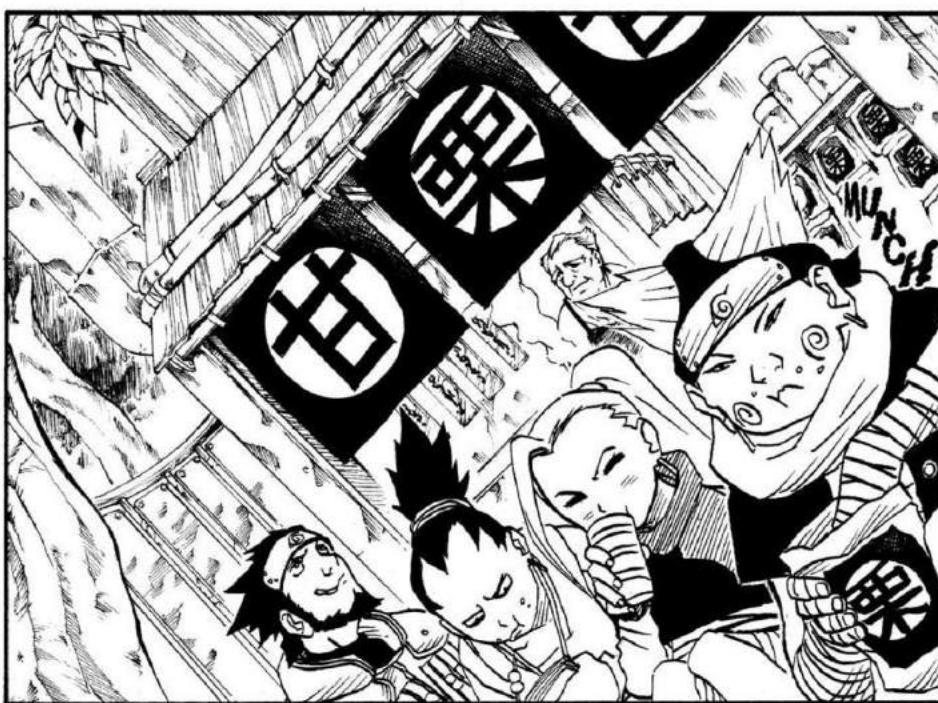


THAT'S  
GOTTA  
SMART!

COONG



TUHTWEET









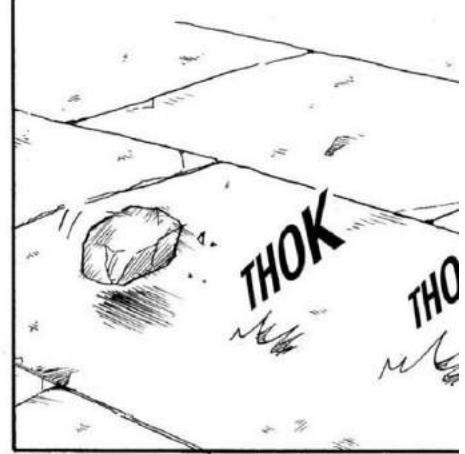


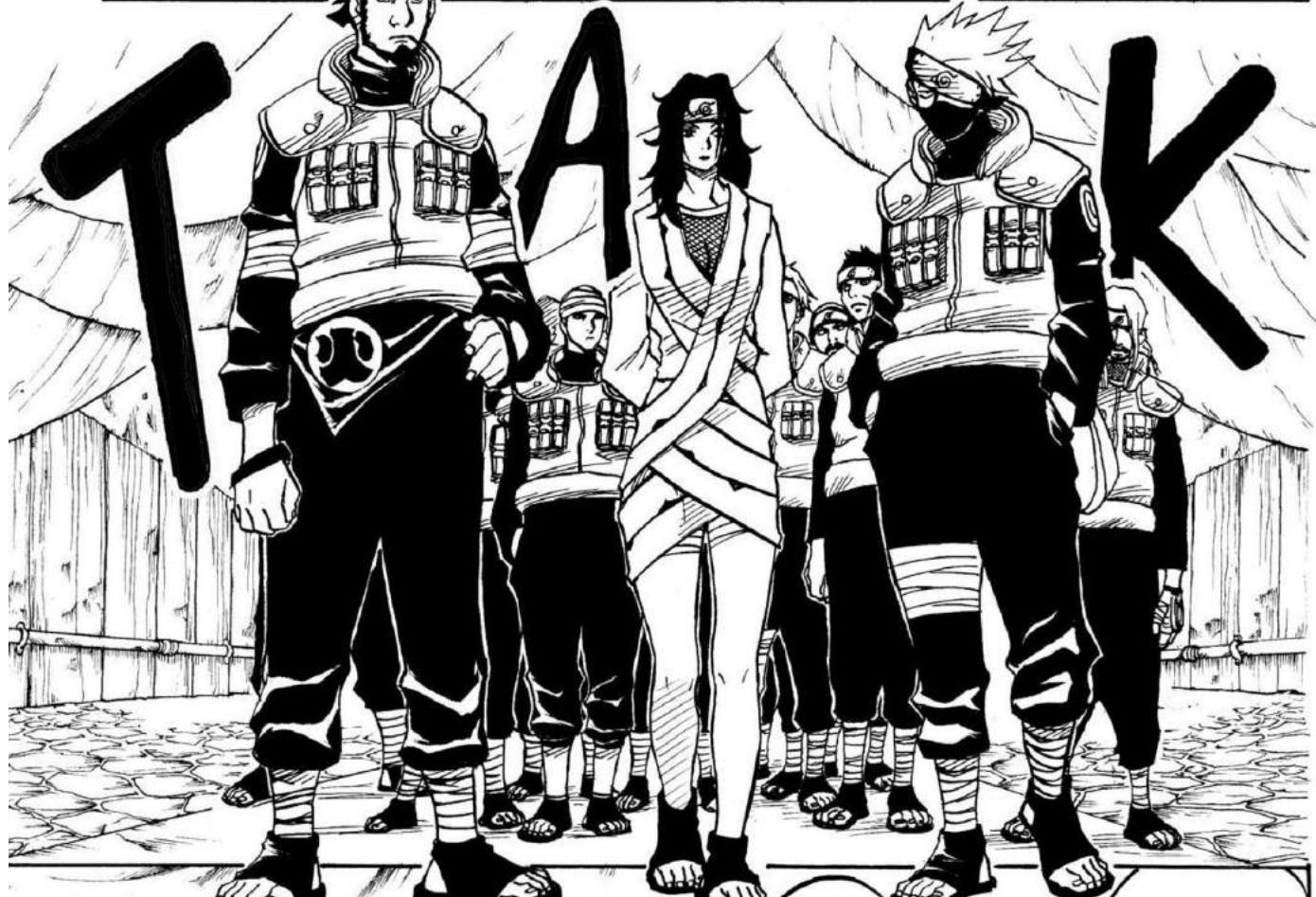
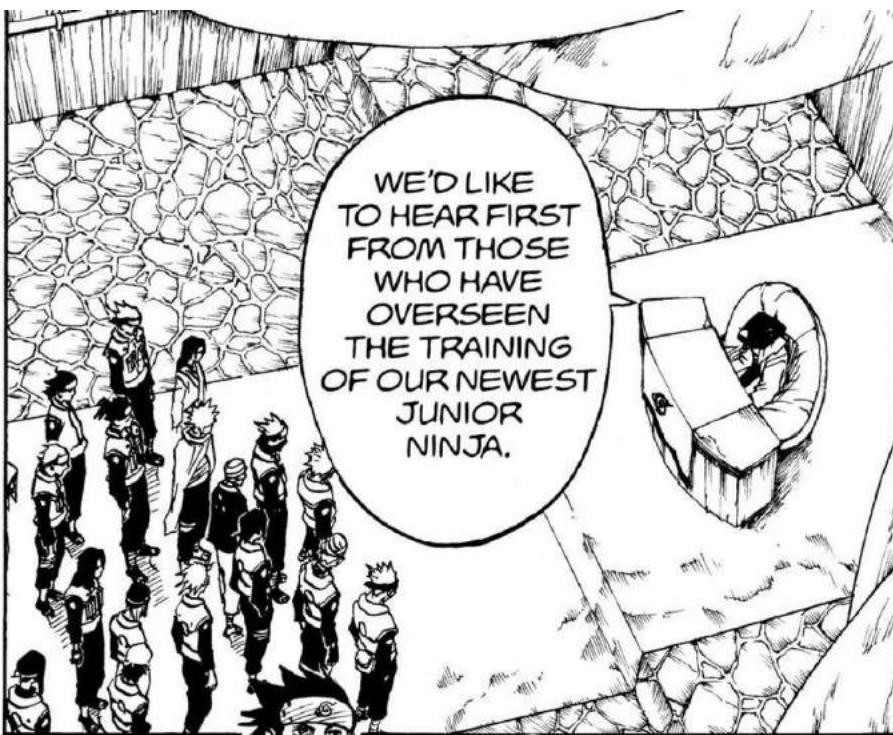
Number 35:

**Iruka vs. Kakashi**









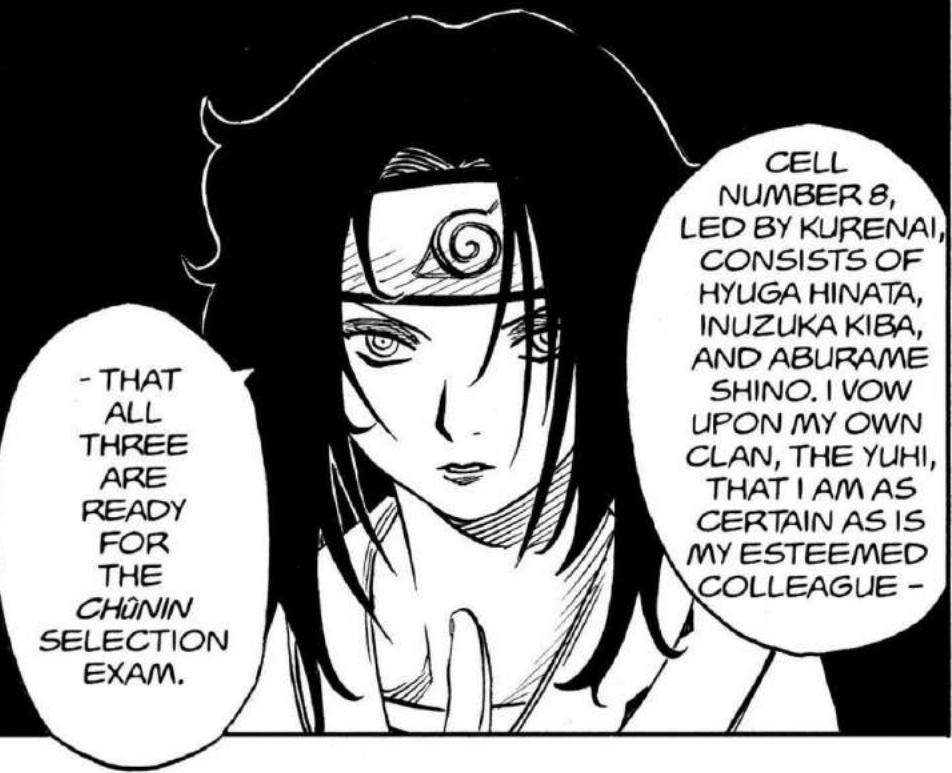


BEYOND THAT, EMPLOY YOUR OWN JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE READY TO ASPIRE TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

THEY MUST HAVE COMPLETED A MINIMUM OF EIGHT MISSIONS.

...THAT BEFORE WE CAN EVEN CONSIDER THEM,





- THAT ALL THREE ARE READY FOR THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAM.

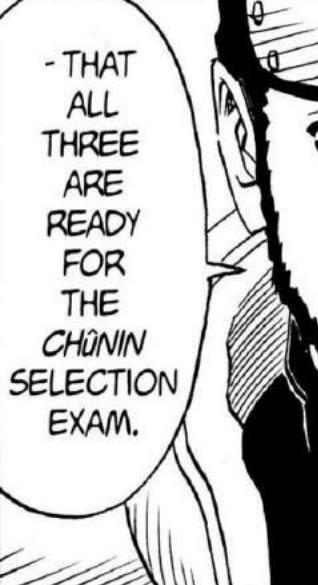
CELL NUMBER 8, LED BY KURENAI, CONSISTS OF HYUGA HINATA, INUZUKA KIBA, AND ABURAME SHINO. I VOW UPON MY OWN CLAN, THE YUHI, THAT I AM AS CERTAIN AS IS MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE -



WHAT?!



HOW UNUSUAL FOR ALL THREE OF YOU TO HAVE UNHESITATINGLY ASSENTED...



- THAT ALL THREE ARE READY FOR THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAM.

CELL NUMBER 10, LED BY ASUMA, CONSISTS OF YAMANAKA INO, NARA SHIKAMARU, AND AKIMICHI CHOJI. I VOW UPON MY CLAN, THE SARUTOBI, THAT I AM EQUALLY AS CERTAIN -



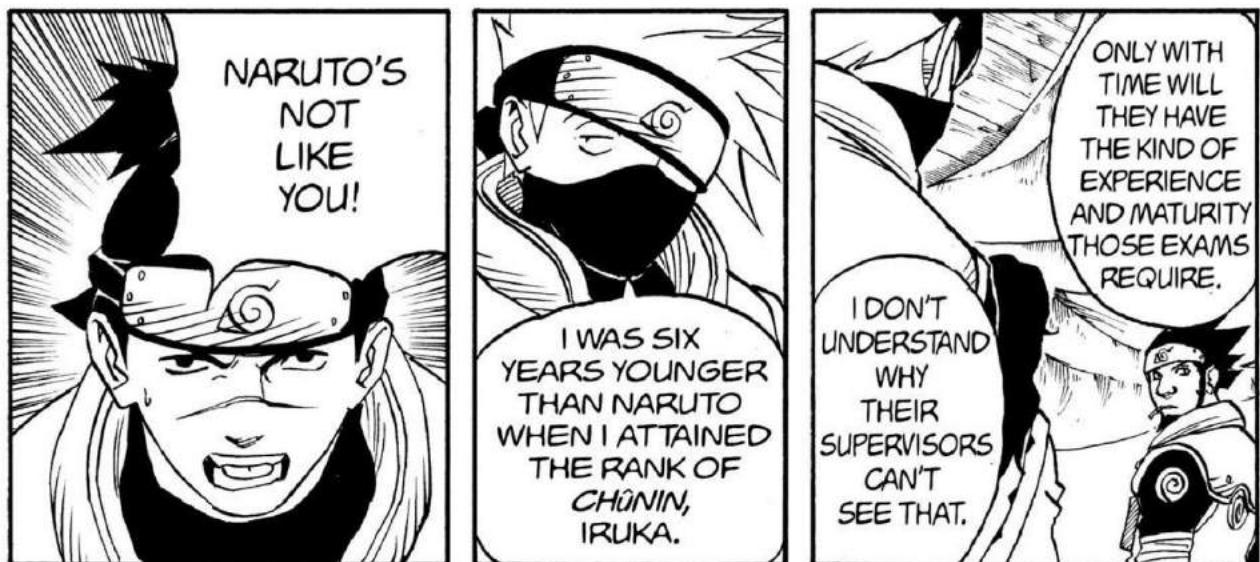
LORD HOKAGE!  
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SPEAK!!



YES, IRUKA?



J-JUST A MOMENT!!





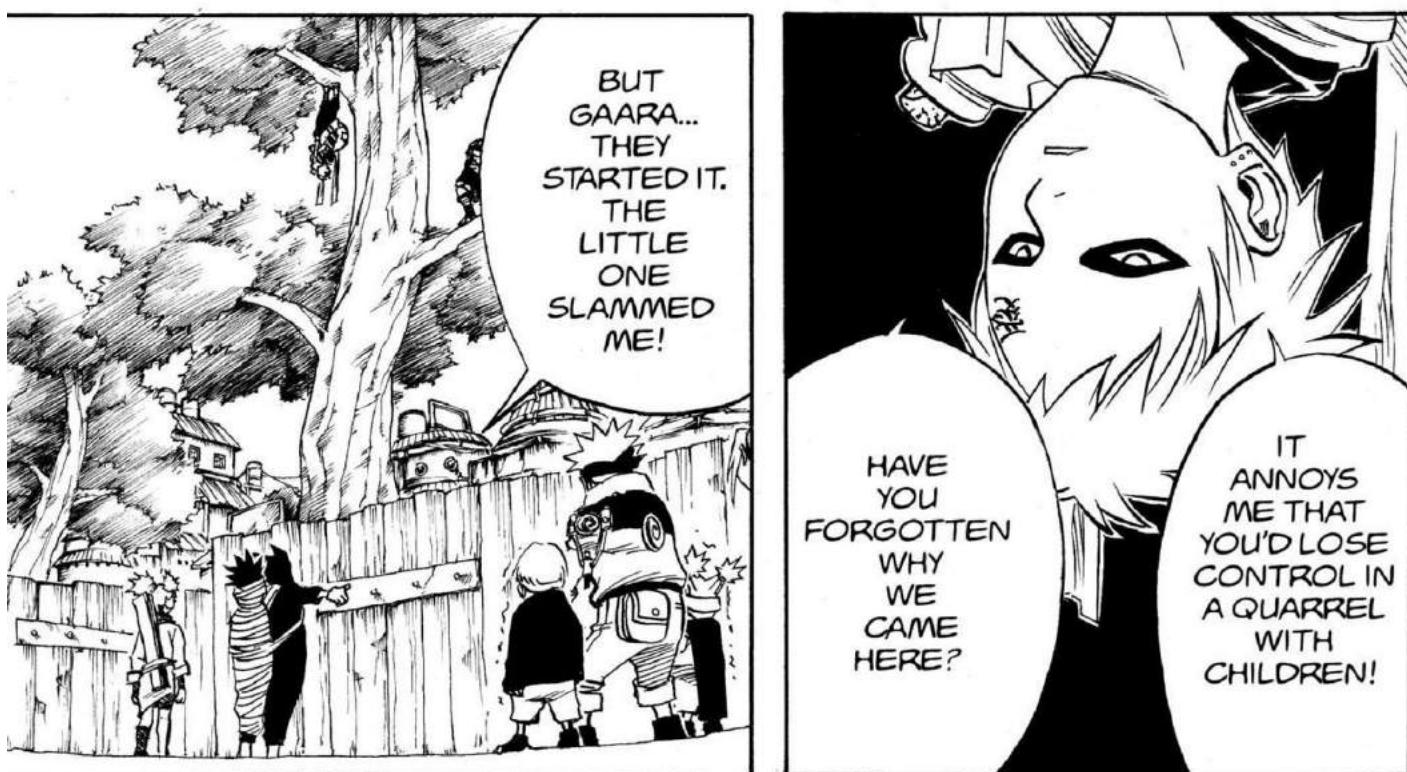
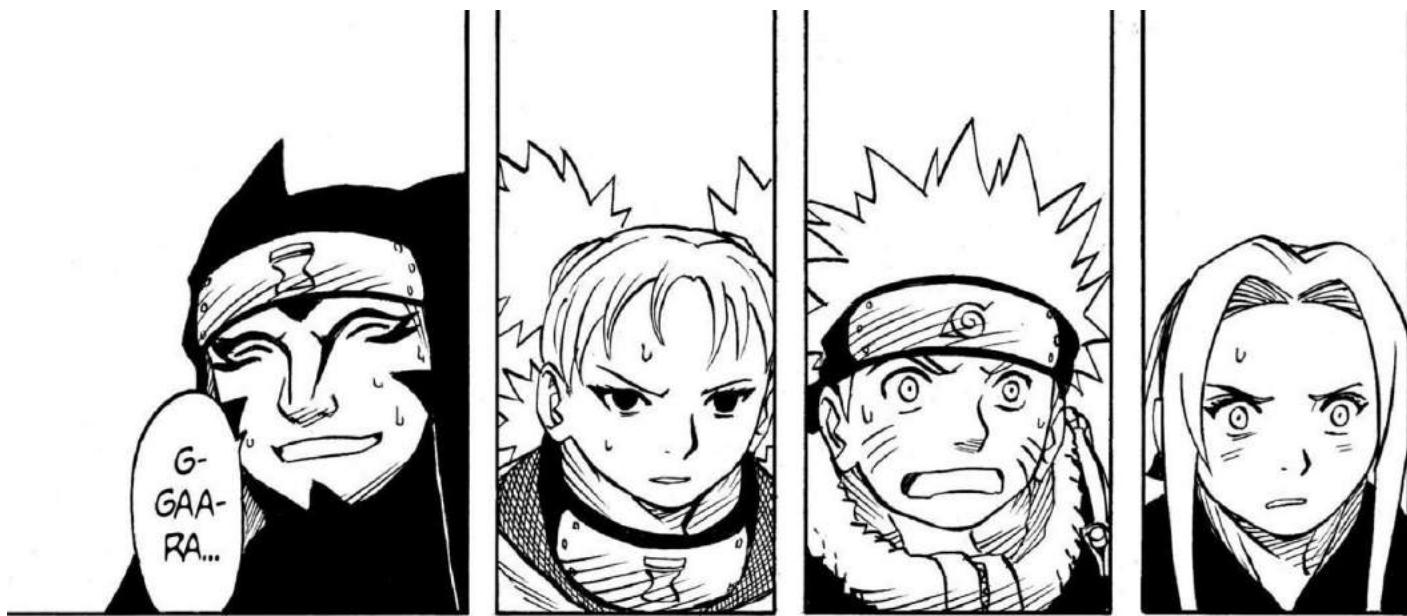


HE DID IT AGAIN - STICKING HIS NOSE IN AND MAKING ME LOOK BAD!!

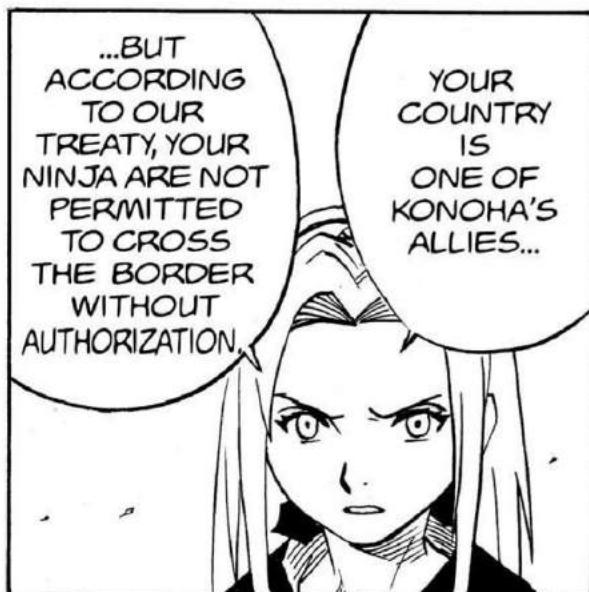


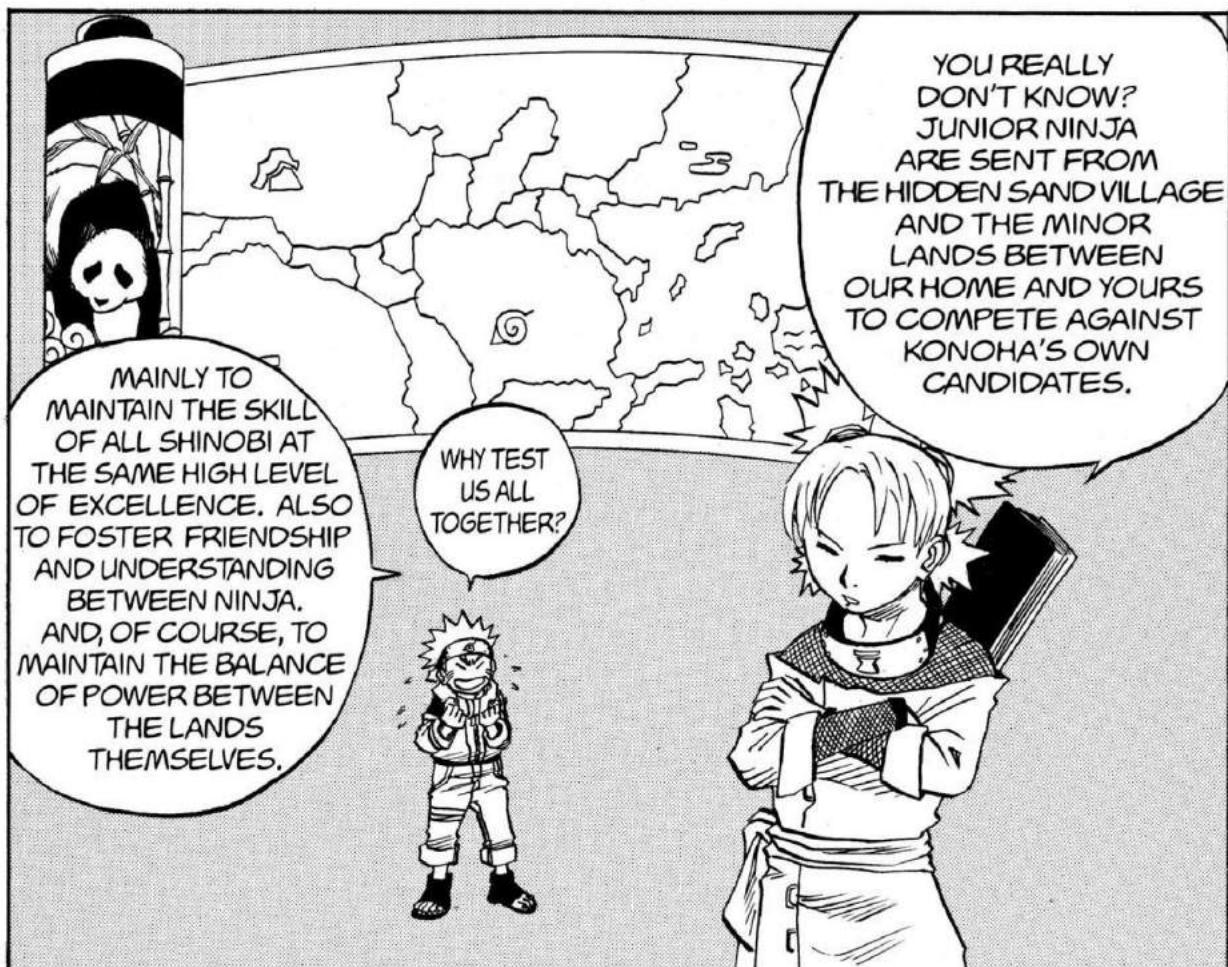
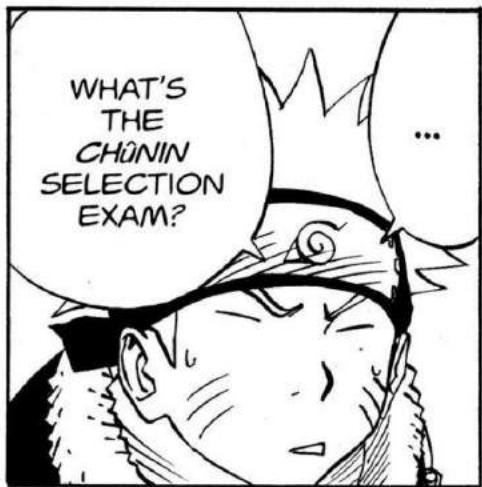
: GAARA'S TATTOO SAYS "LOVE."



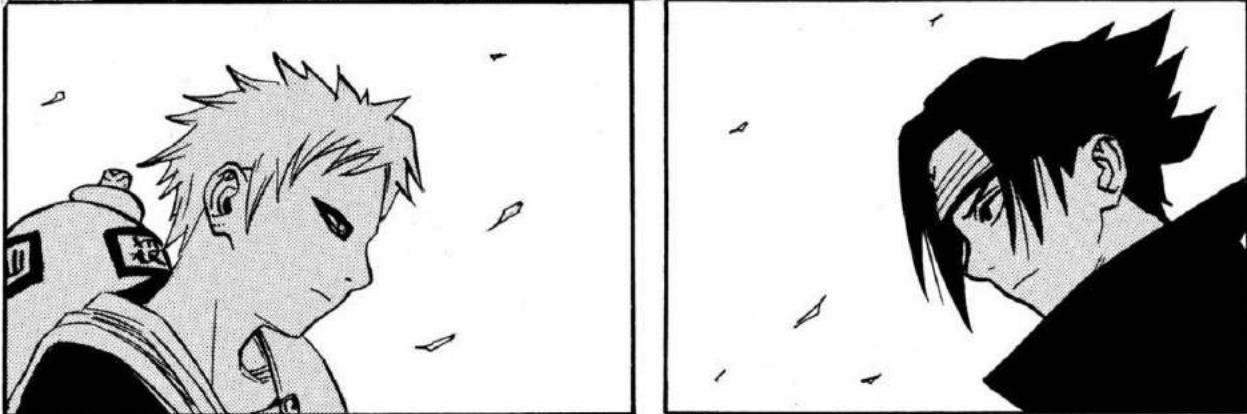


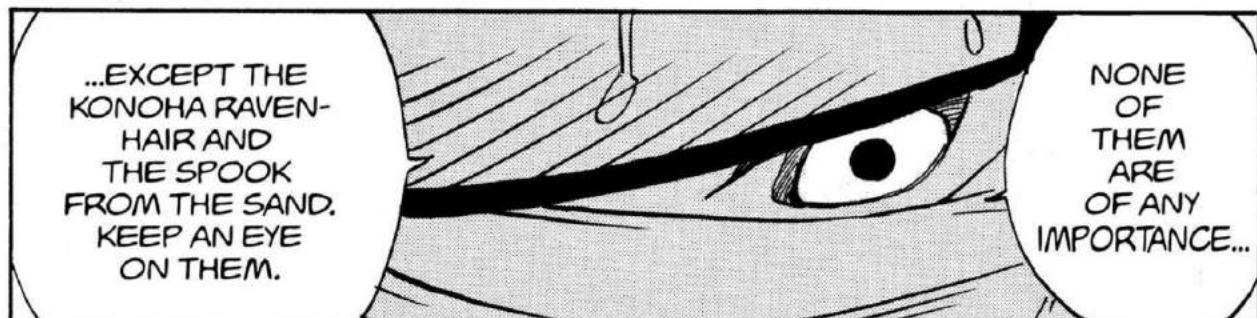






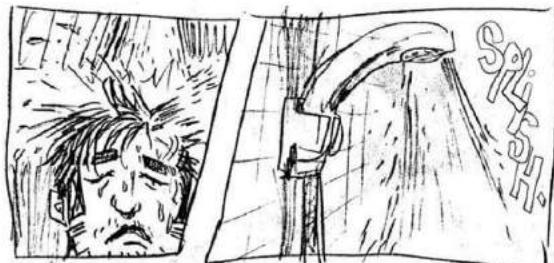
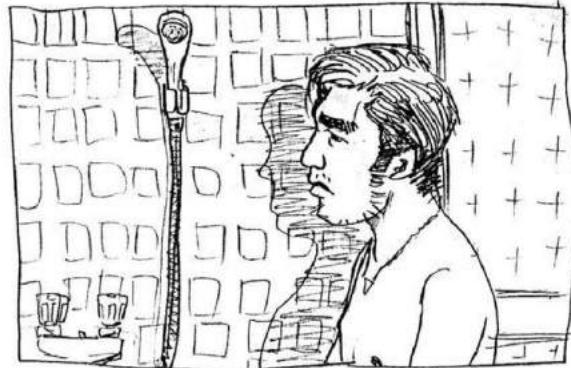






# KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S

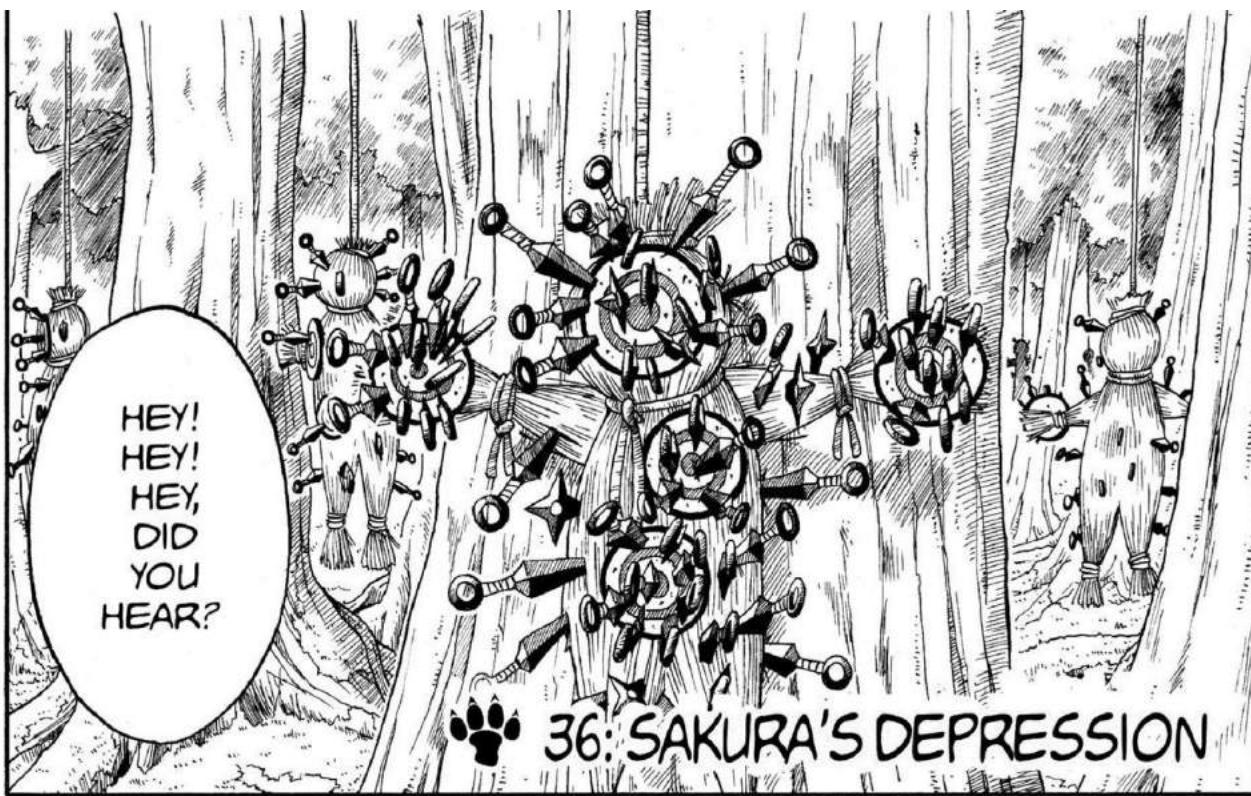
## POINTLESS LITTLE STORY



THE END

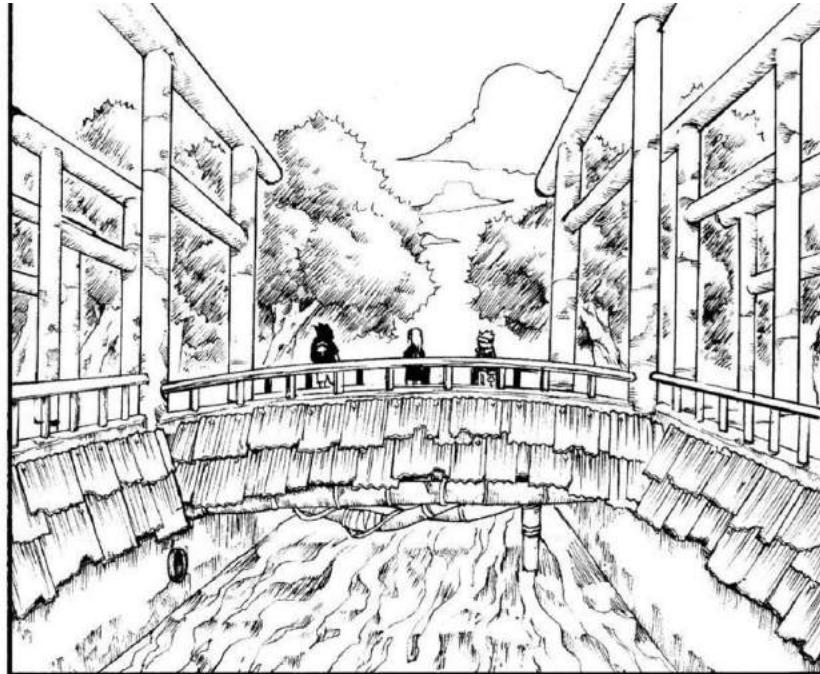
THE EIGHT-FRAME MANGA ON THE LEFT BRINGS BACK FOND MEMORIES FOR ME OF KOISHI, THE FRIEND WHO DREW IT FOR ME BACK IN COLLEGE. I HAD BEEN DRAWING MANGA SINCE MY HIGH-SCHOOL DAYS, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND WHO SHARED MY PASSION. IN COLLEGE, I HEARD OF A GROUP OF MANGA FANS AND ASPIRING ARTISTS WHO CALLED THEMSELVES THE MANKEN, OR MANGA LAB. BUT THEY WEREN'T SO MUCH DRAWING MANGA AS THEY WERE PATTING EACH OTHER ON THE BACK FOR DRAWING PIN-UPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS WITH NO ATTEMPT AT STORYTELLING WHATSOEVER. I AVOIDED THOSE PHONIES LIKE THE PLAGUE AND WENT MY OWN WAY, TRYING TO DRAW ACTUAL MANGA.

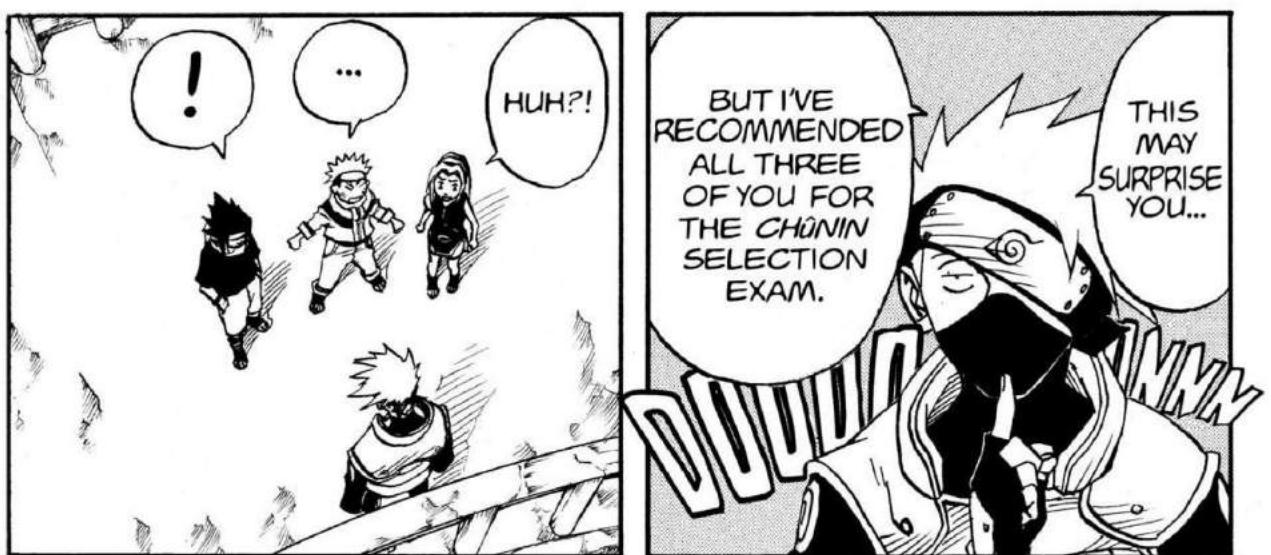
THEN, ONE DAY, I MET A MAN WHO CLAIMED HE HAD DRAWN AUTHENTIC MANGA BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL. I HAD DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER HE WAS ON THE LEVEL, SO I CHALLENGED HIM. I WAS DETERMINED TO FIND OUT WHETHER HE WAS A REAL MANGA ARTIST OR ANOTHER PHONY. I DEMANDED THAT HE DRAW A TWO-PAGE STORY FOR ME ON THE SPOT. SO HE DREW THE MANGA ON THE LEFT AND GAVE IT TO ME. IT WAS MOMENT OF INTENSE JOY FOR ME TO HOLD SOMEONE ELSE'S MANGA IN MY HAND LIKE THAT, FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, AND I TREASURE HIS MANGA TO THIS VERY DAY.

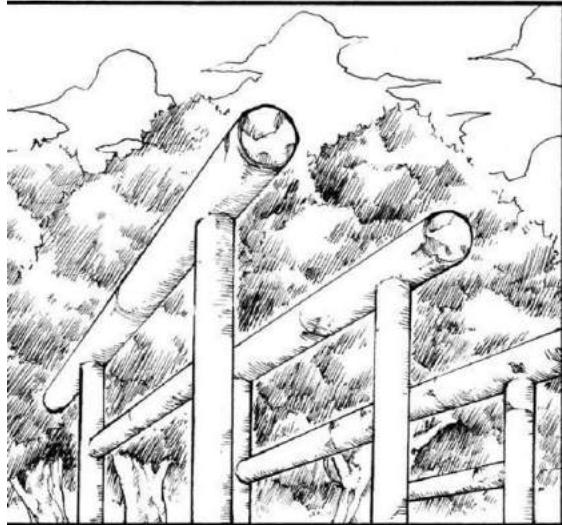
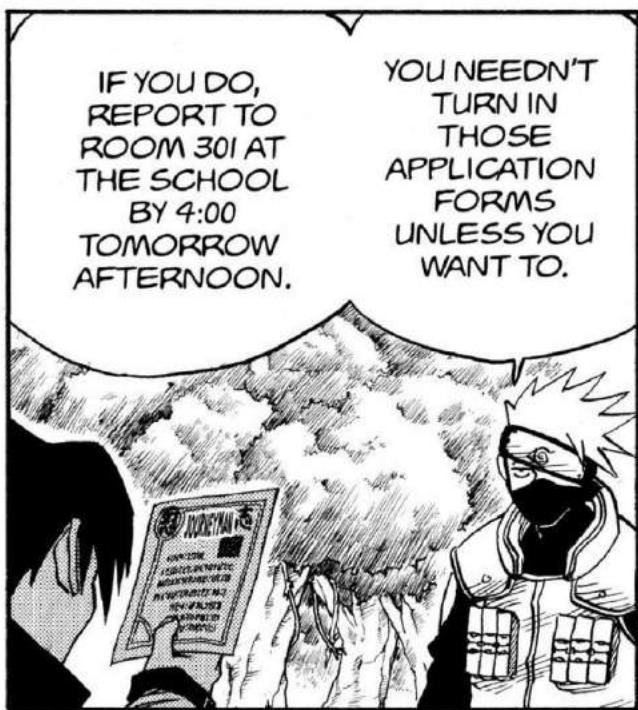




## Number 36: Sakura's Depression









I MIGHT  
GET TO  
FACE OFF  
AGAINST  
THAT  
SPOOK.

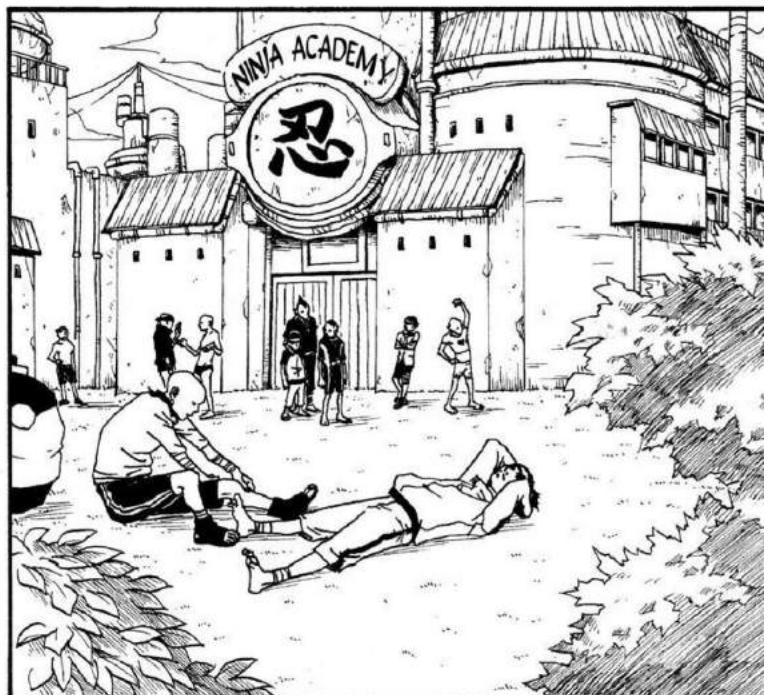
SHIVERED

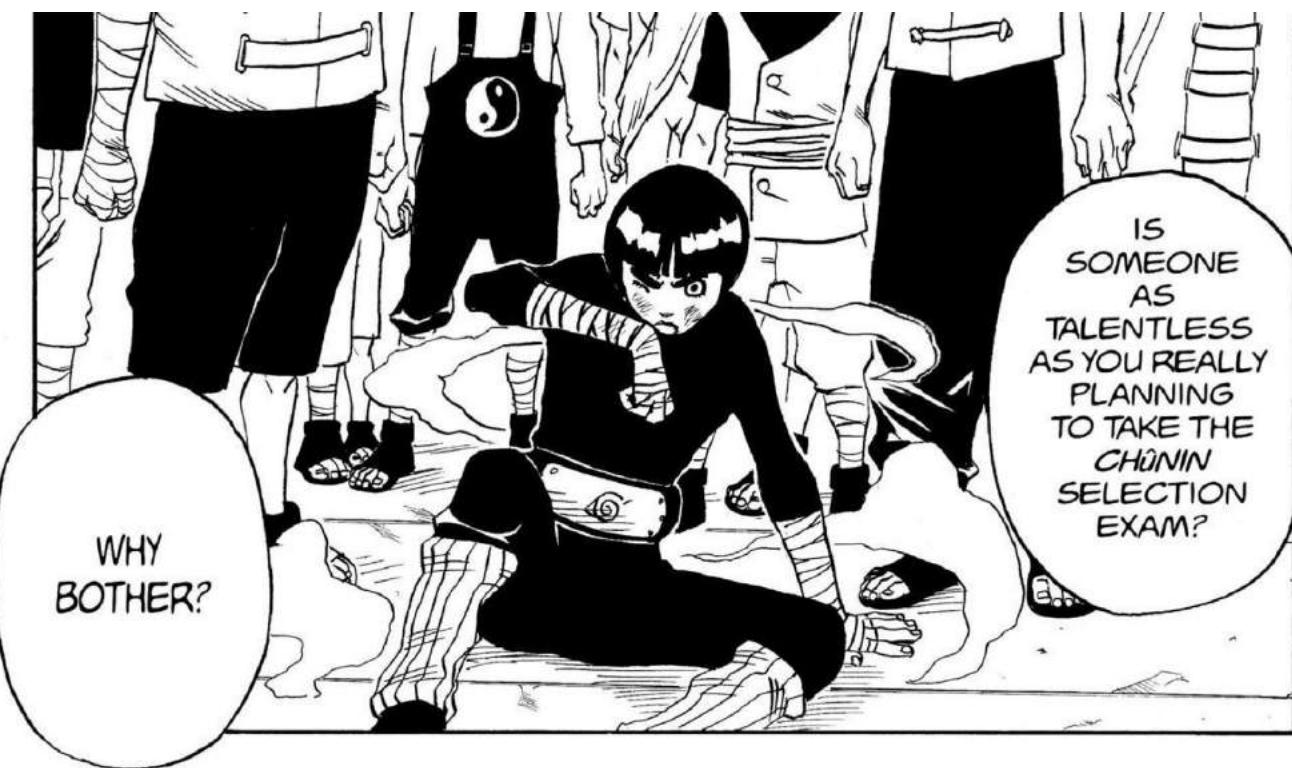
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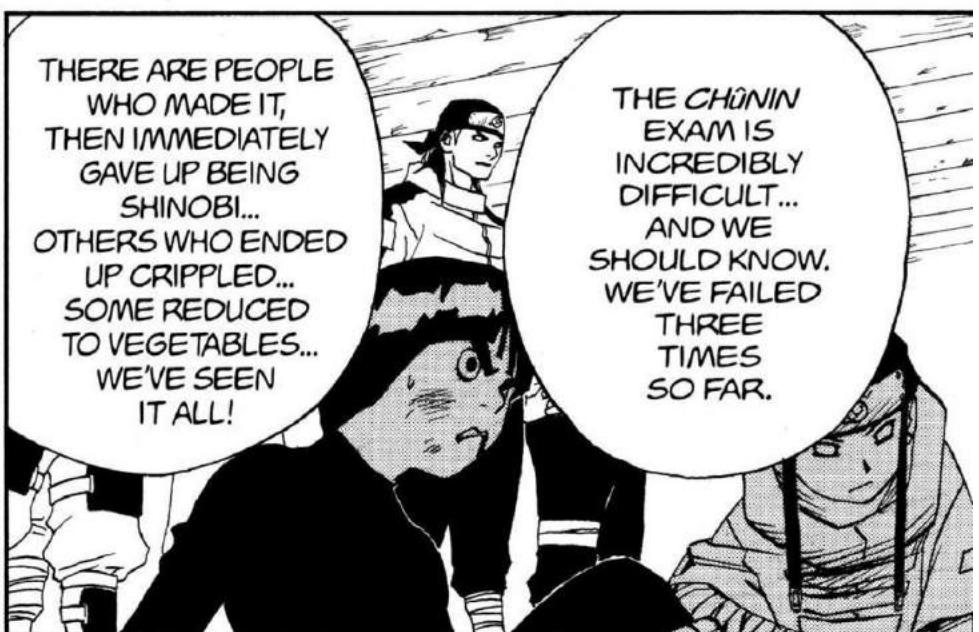
HAH!

THIS  
EXAM  
WOULD  
BE TOO  
MUCH  
FOR ME.

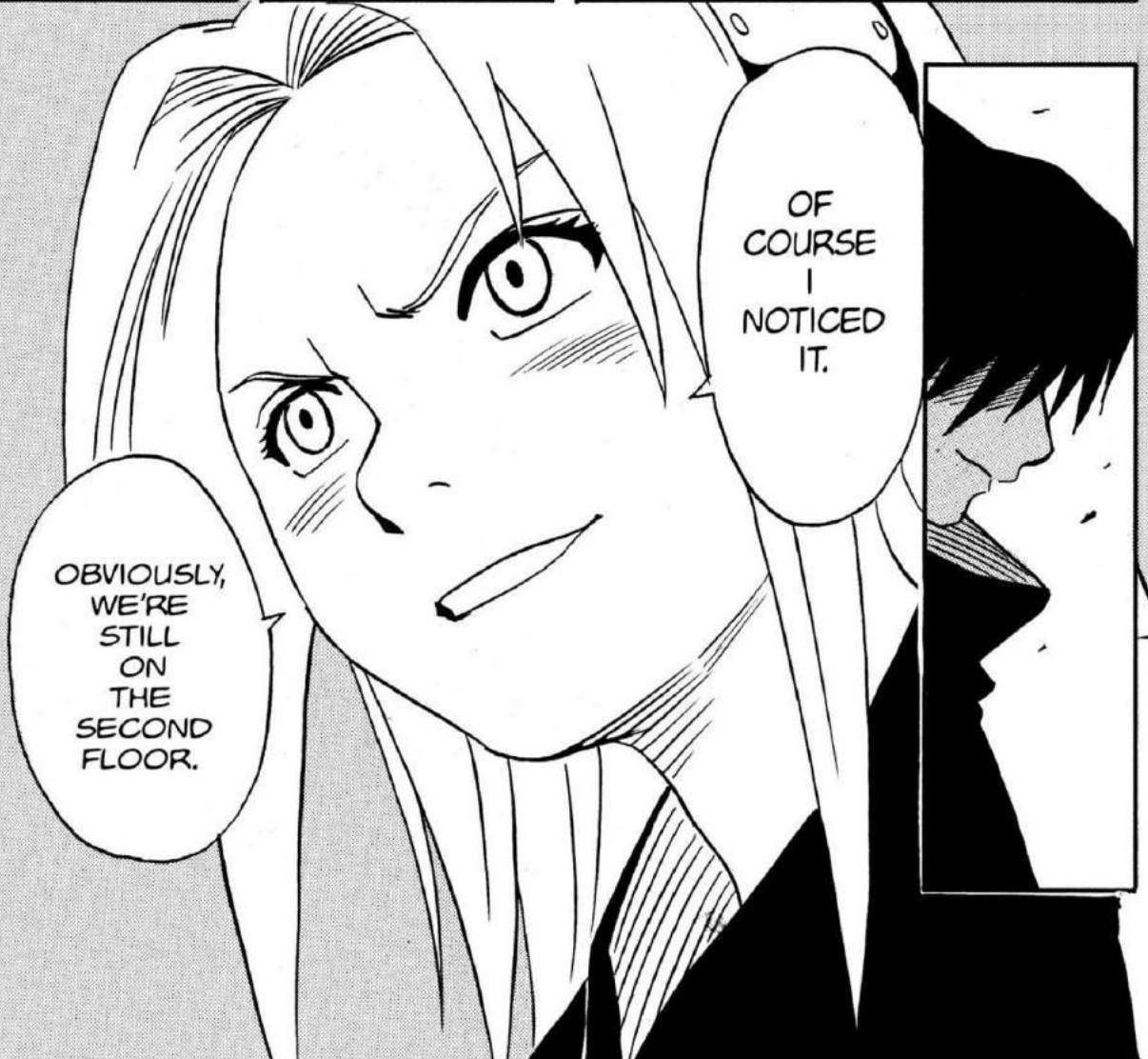
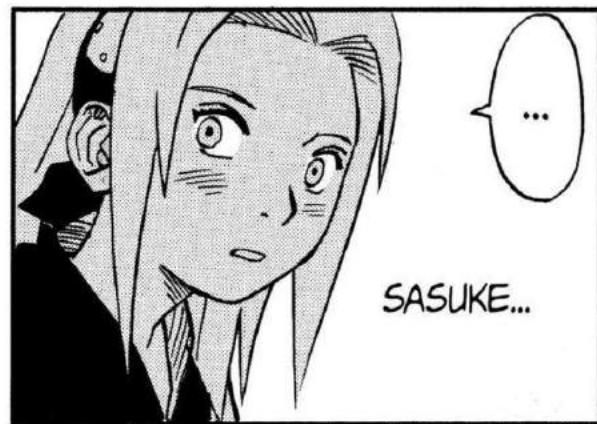
FORGET,  
SASUKE...  
I CAN'T  
EVEN  
KEEP UP  
WITH  
NARUTO.





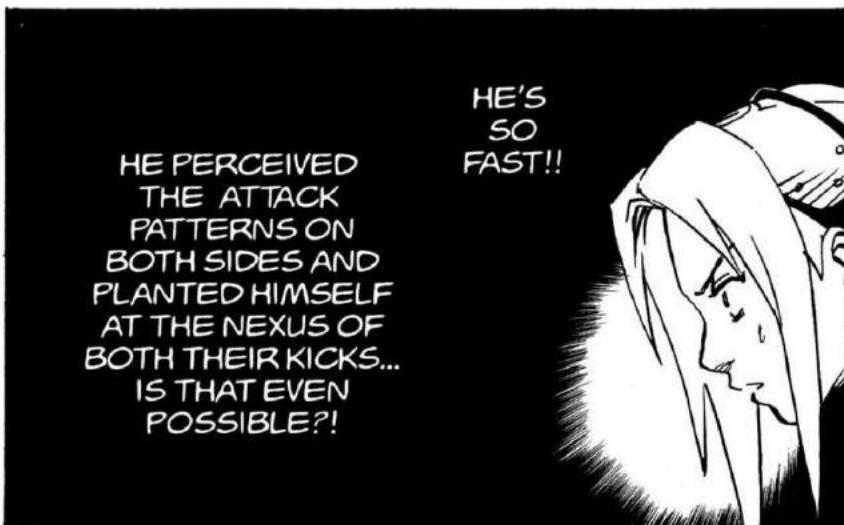




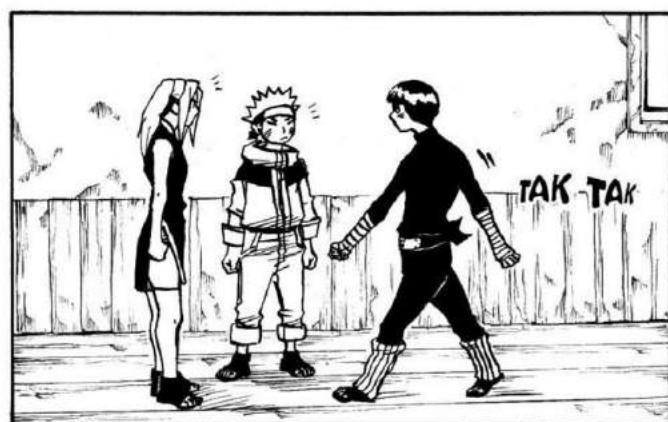


READ  
THIS  
WAY



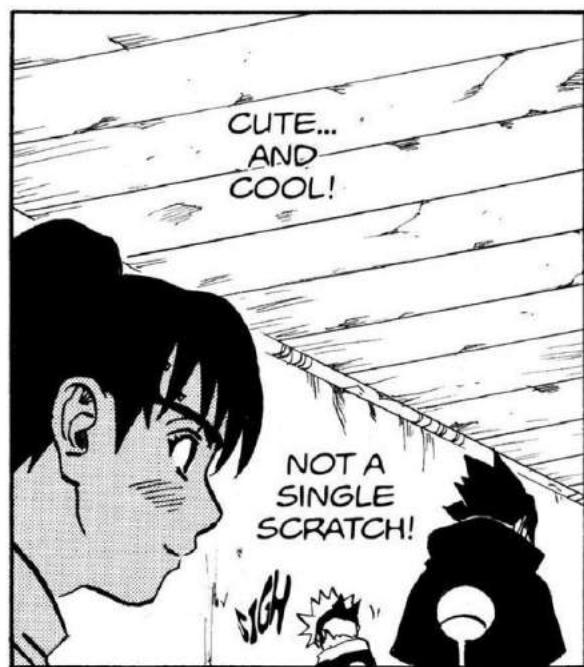


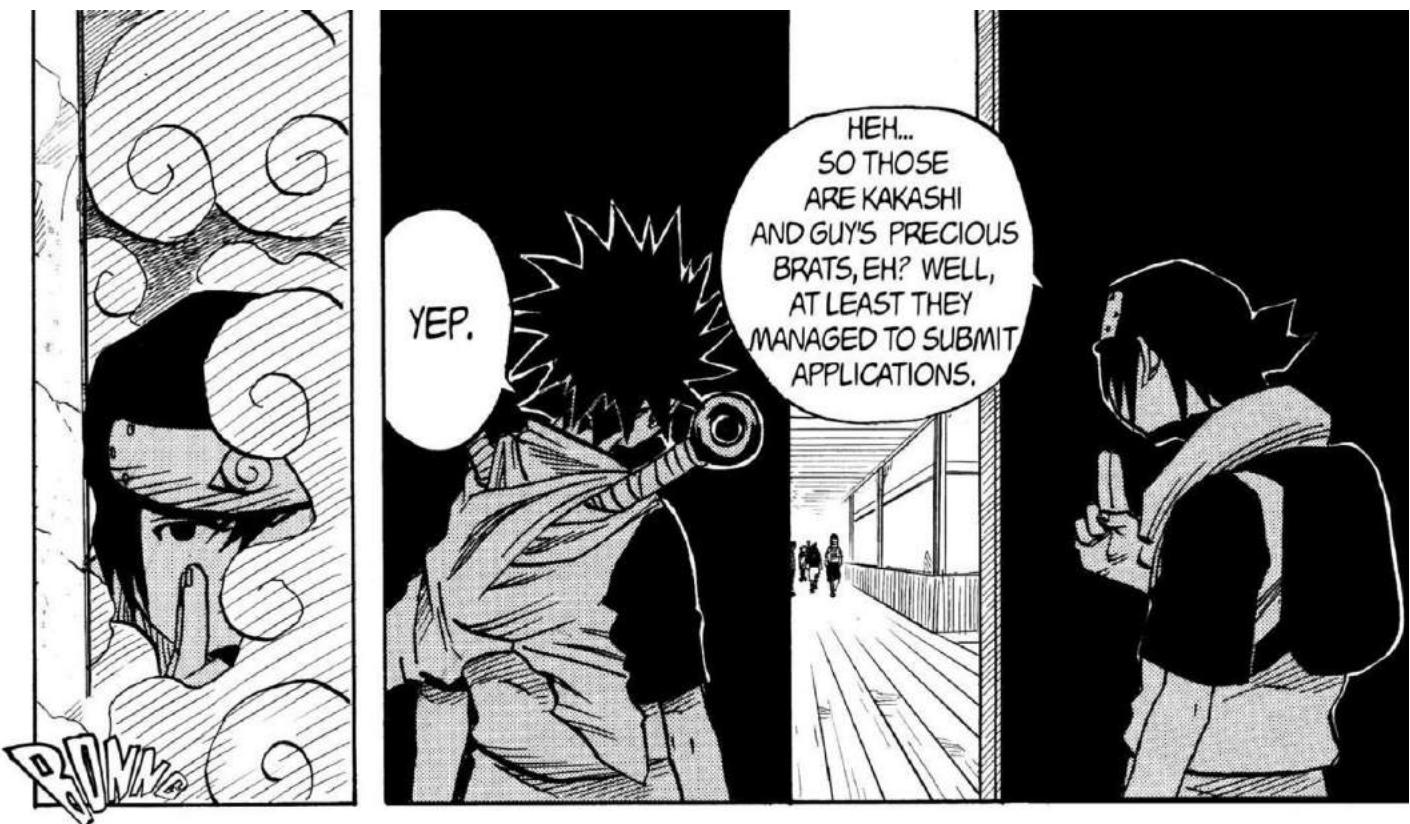
READ THIS WAY



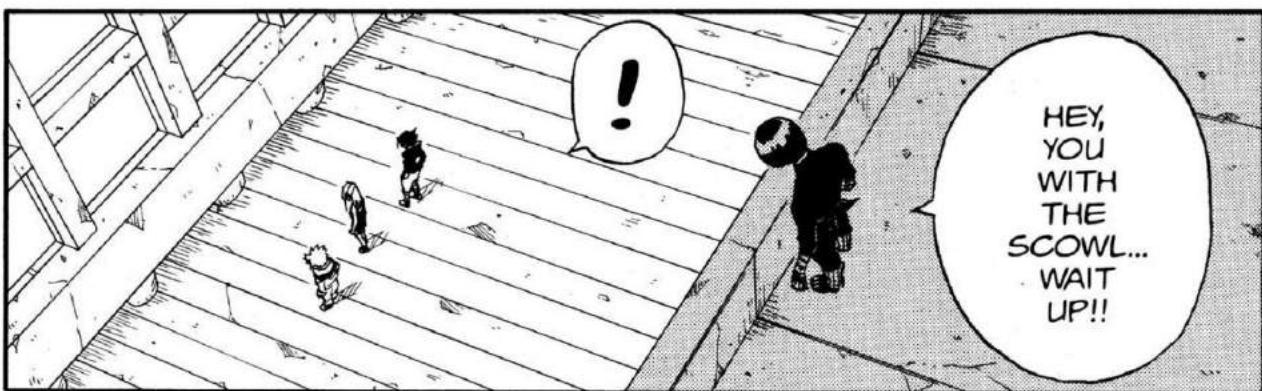
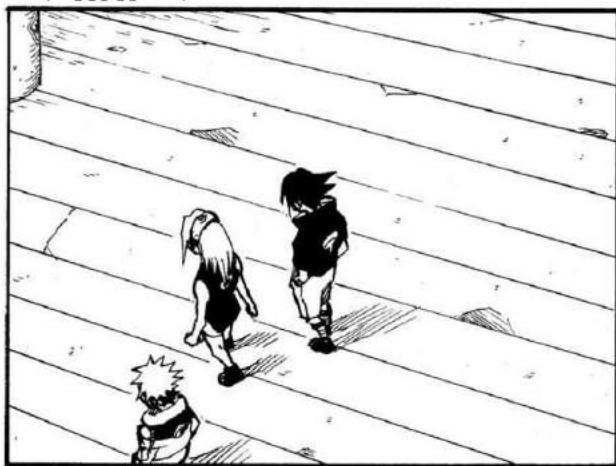


READ  
THIS WAY





READ  
THIS  
WAY



TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL.5!

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