



NARUTO

16

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume



岸本斉史

Recently, in movies... What?! Film commentary again?! ...But it's pretty much the only thing I can write about... Sorry. So, back to the story... These days, there are usually three performers per character or role. The first is the billed actor (the star). The second is the stunt man. And then there is the CGI stunt man for particularly dangerous scenes or difficult camera shots. They're very well constructed. At this rate, we may even eventually stop needing real actors...

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2003



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. 16 SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This manga contains material that was originally published in English
in **SHONEN JUMP** #56–57.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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Design/Sean Lee

Editor/Joel Enos

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Some artwork has been modified from the original Japanese edition.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

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store.viz.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY

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

ratings.viz.com





SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO

TM

VOL. 16
EPILOGUE



STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke サスケ

Sasuke サスケ

Naruto ナルト

Naruto ナルト

Sakura サクラ

Sakura サクラ

Neji ネジ

Rock Lee ロック・リー

Rock Lee ロック・リー

Guy ガイ

Guy ガイ

Tenten テンテン

Tenten テンテン

Kiba & Akamaru キバ&赤丸

Kiba & Akamaru キバ&赤丸

Itachi イタチ

Itachi イタチ

Shikamaru シカマル

Shikamaru シカマル

Shino シノ

Choji チョウジ

Choji チョウジ

Ino イノ

Ino イノ



Third Hokage
火影



Orochimaru
大蛇丸



Kankuro
カンクロウ



Gaara 我愛羅



Kakashi
カカシ



Jiraiya
自来也



Temari
テマリ

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 be a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his teammates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto and company take on the Chūnin Selection Exams but suffer a sudden attack from Orochimaru in the Forest of Death. Orochimaru leaves a curse mark on Sasuke's body and vanishes...

During the finals of the Chūnin Exams, Orochimaru, disguised as Kazekage, takes the Hokage hostage and erects a barrier shield. *Operation Destroy Konoha* is underway! Meanwhile, Naruto and his friends have been chasing after Sasuke and Gaara, who is undergoing a terrifying transformation. Now, to save Sasuke and Sakura, Naruto must face off against this monstrous new version of Gaara.

The Story So Far:



NARUTO

VOL. 16
EULOGY

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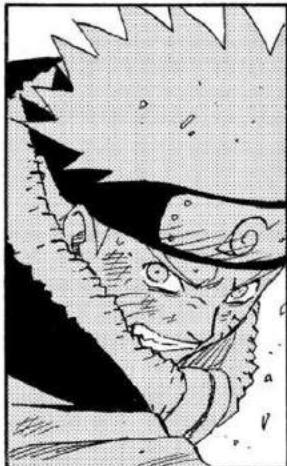


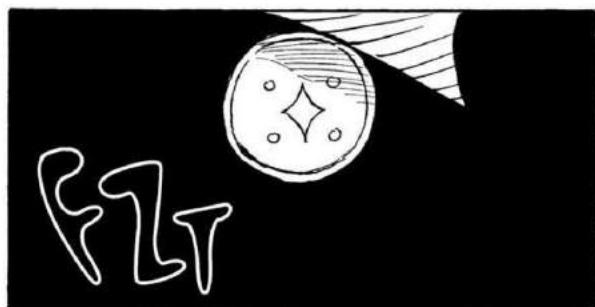
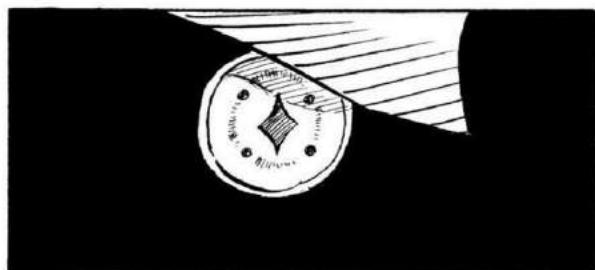
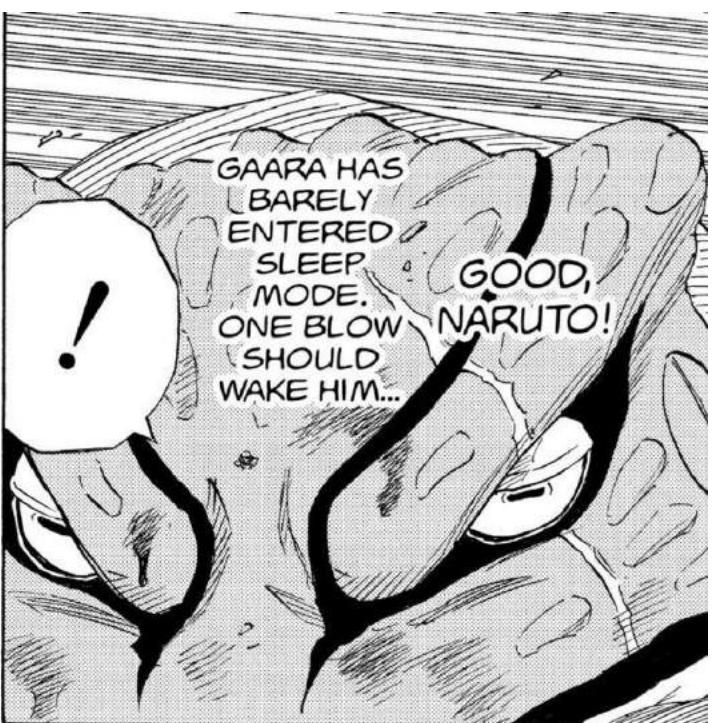
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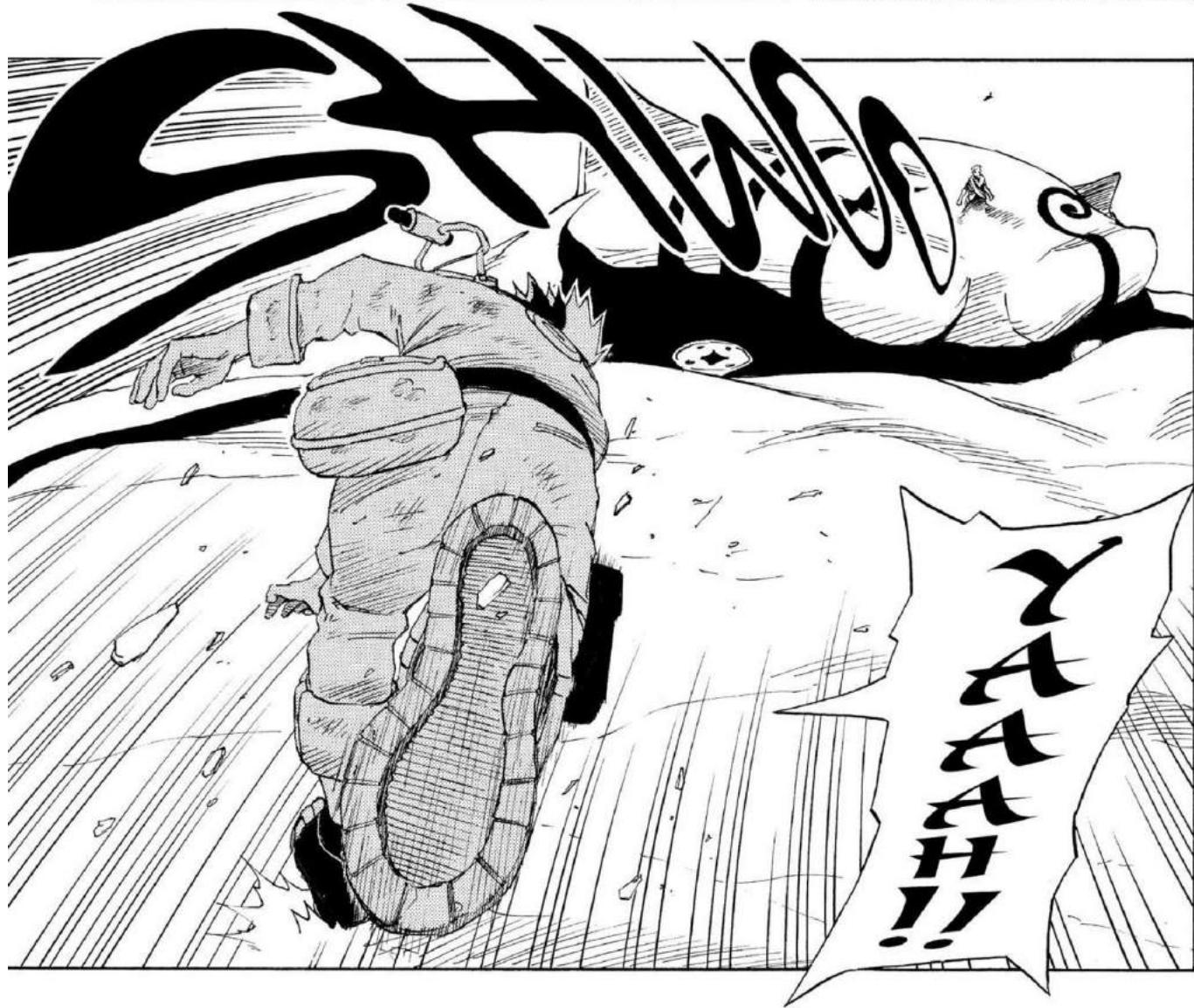
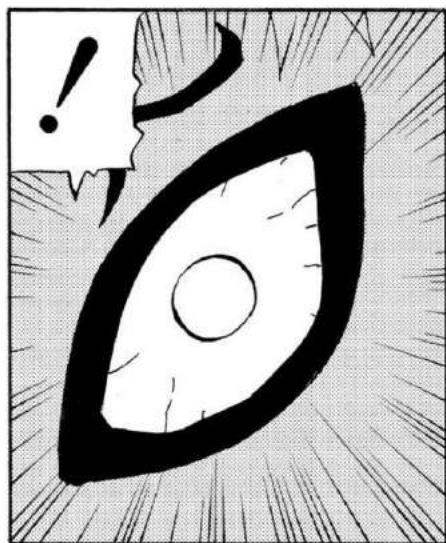


Number 136:

The Last Blow...!!





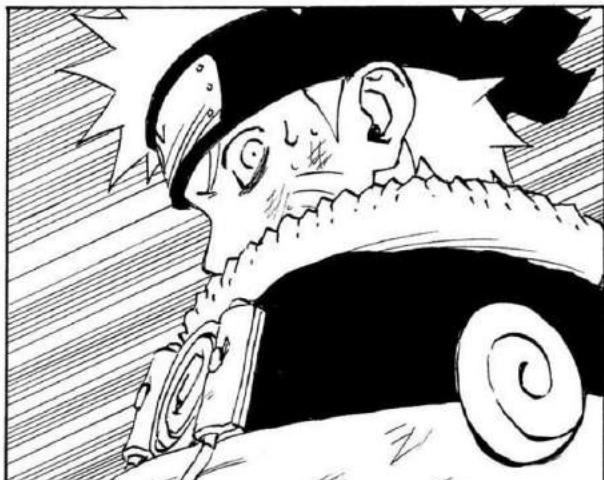




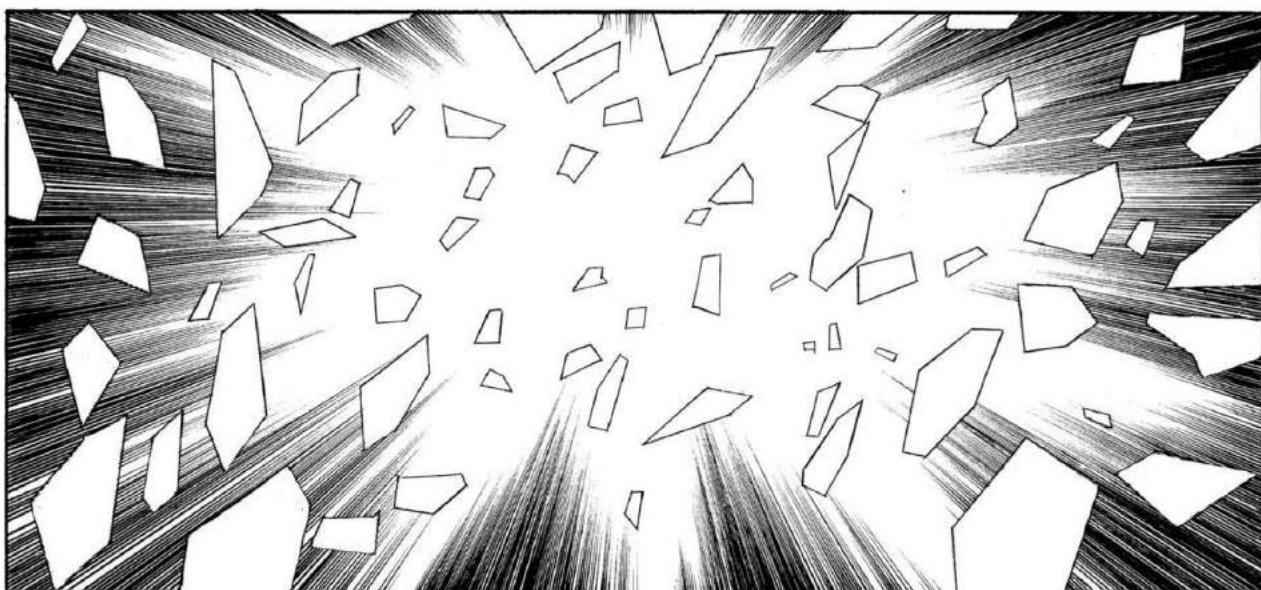
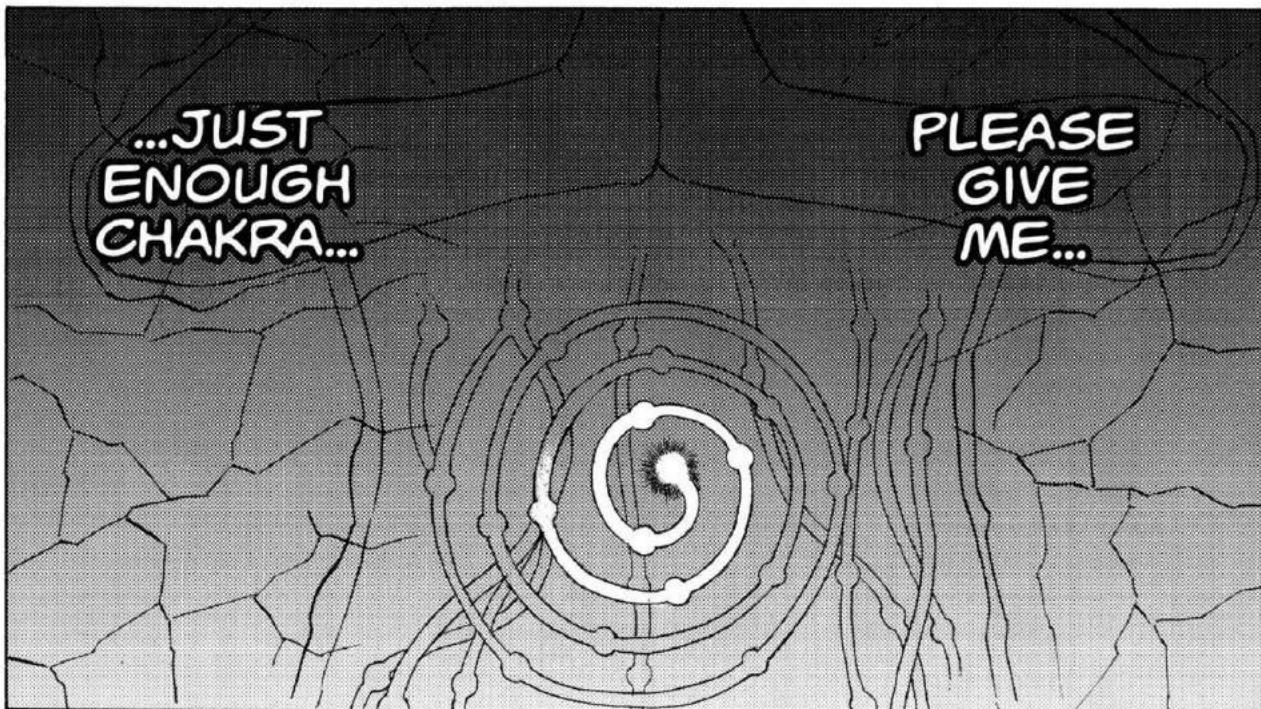


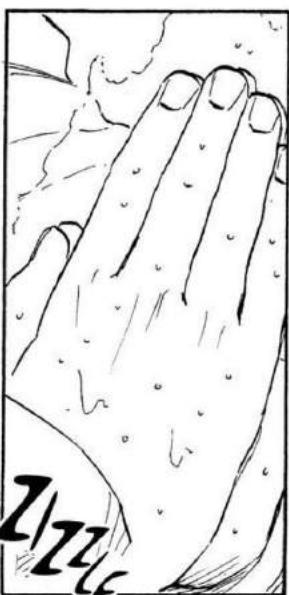


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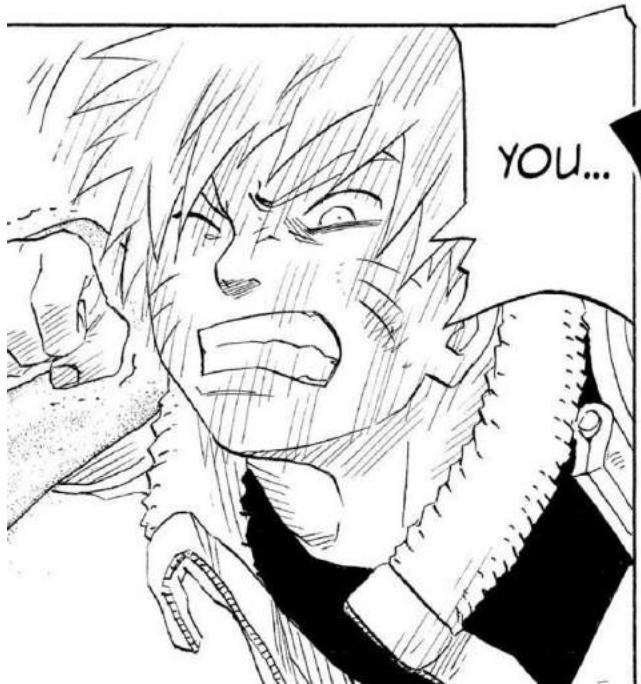
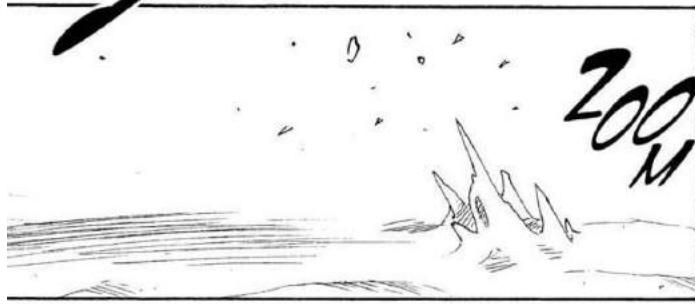




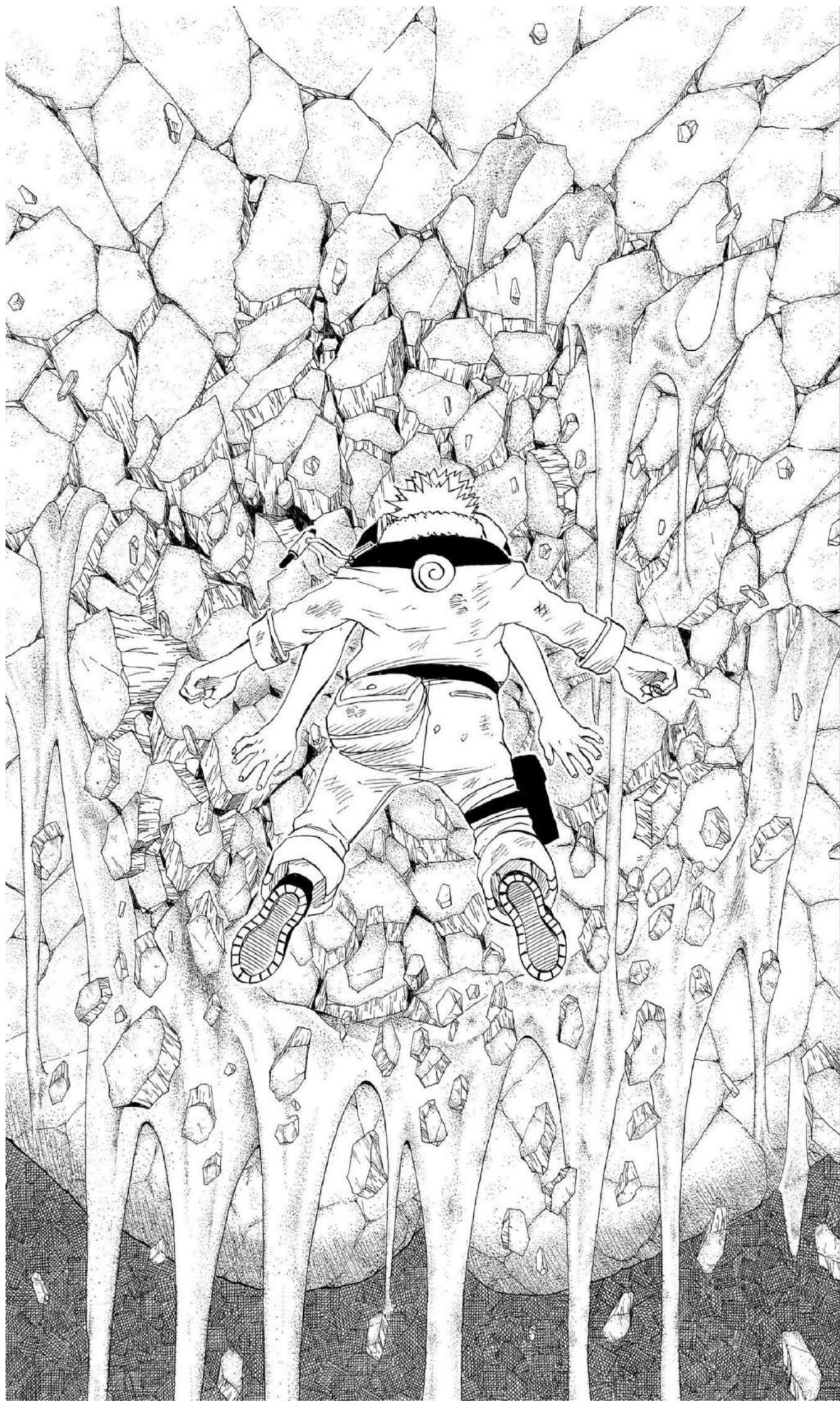




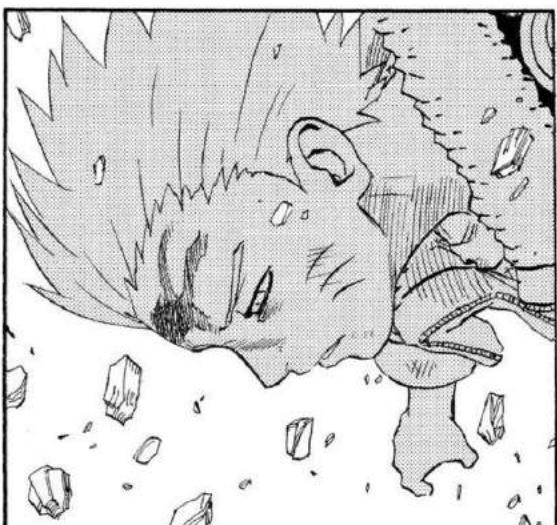
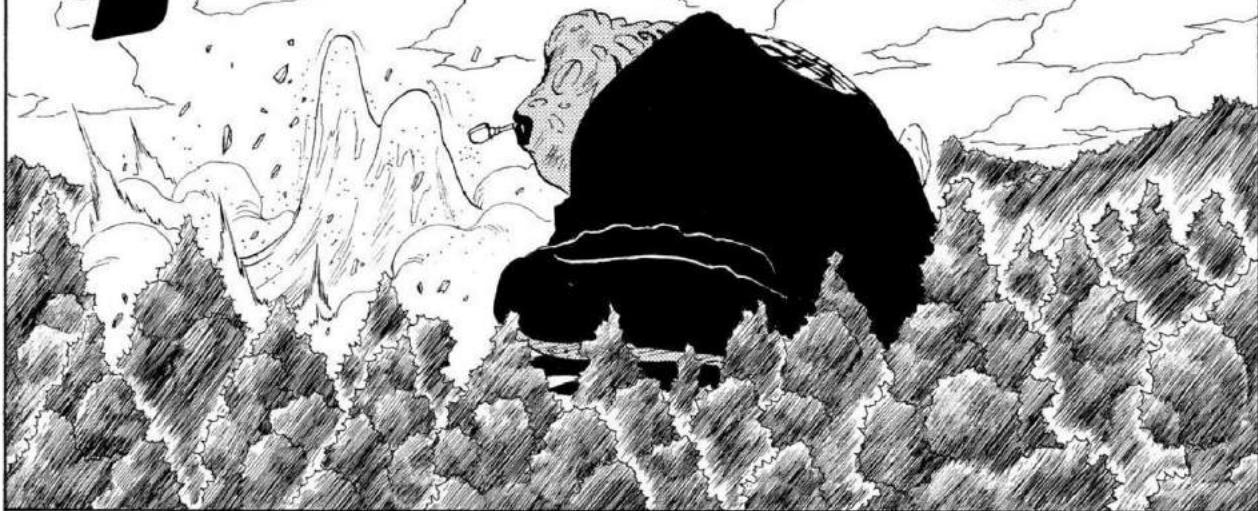
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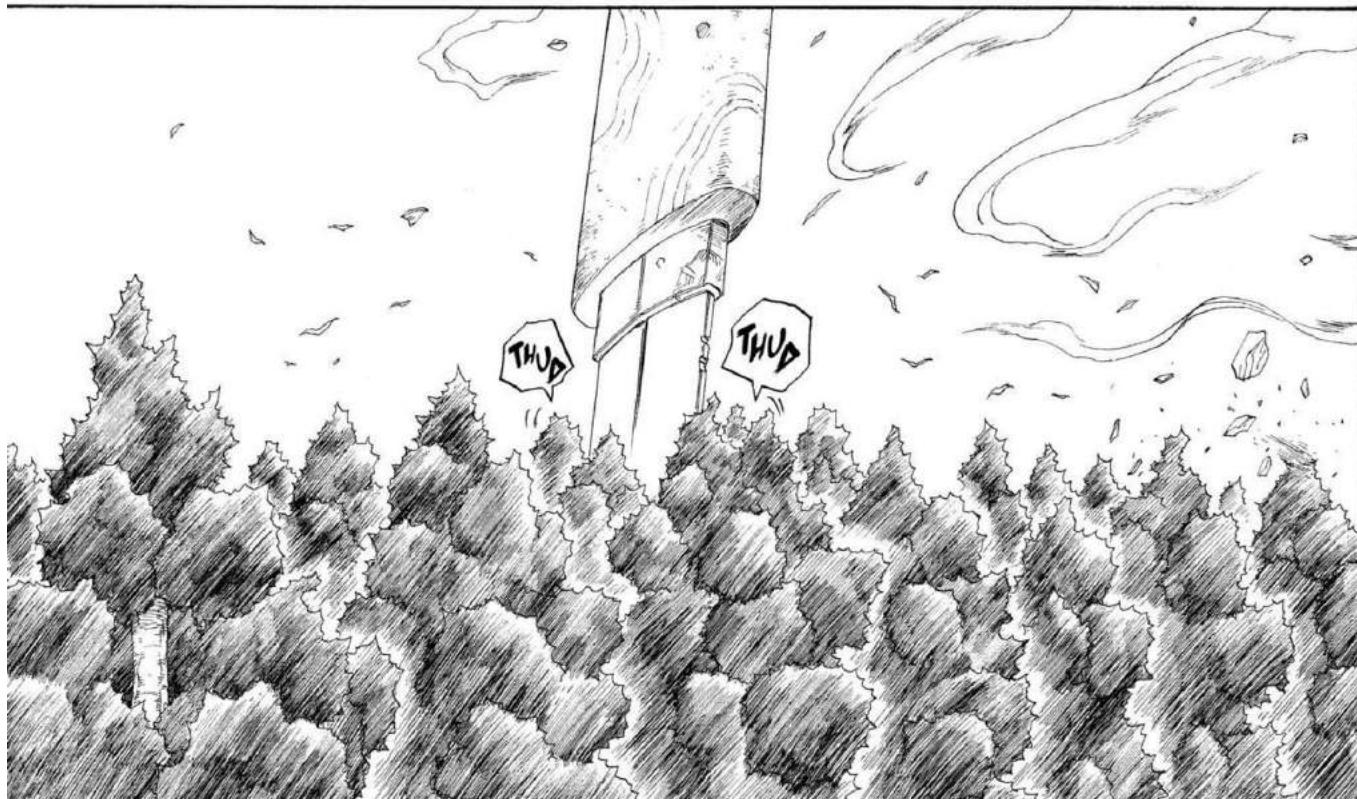


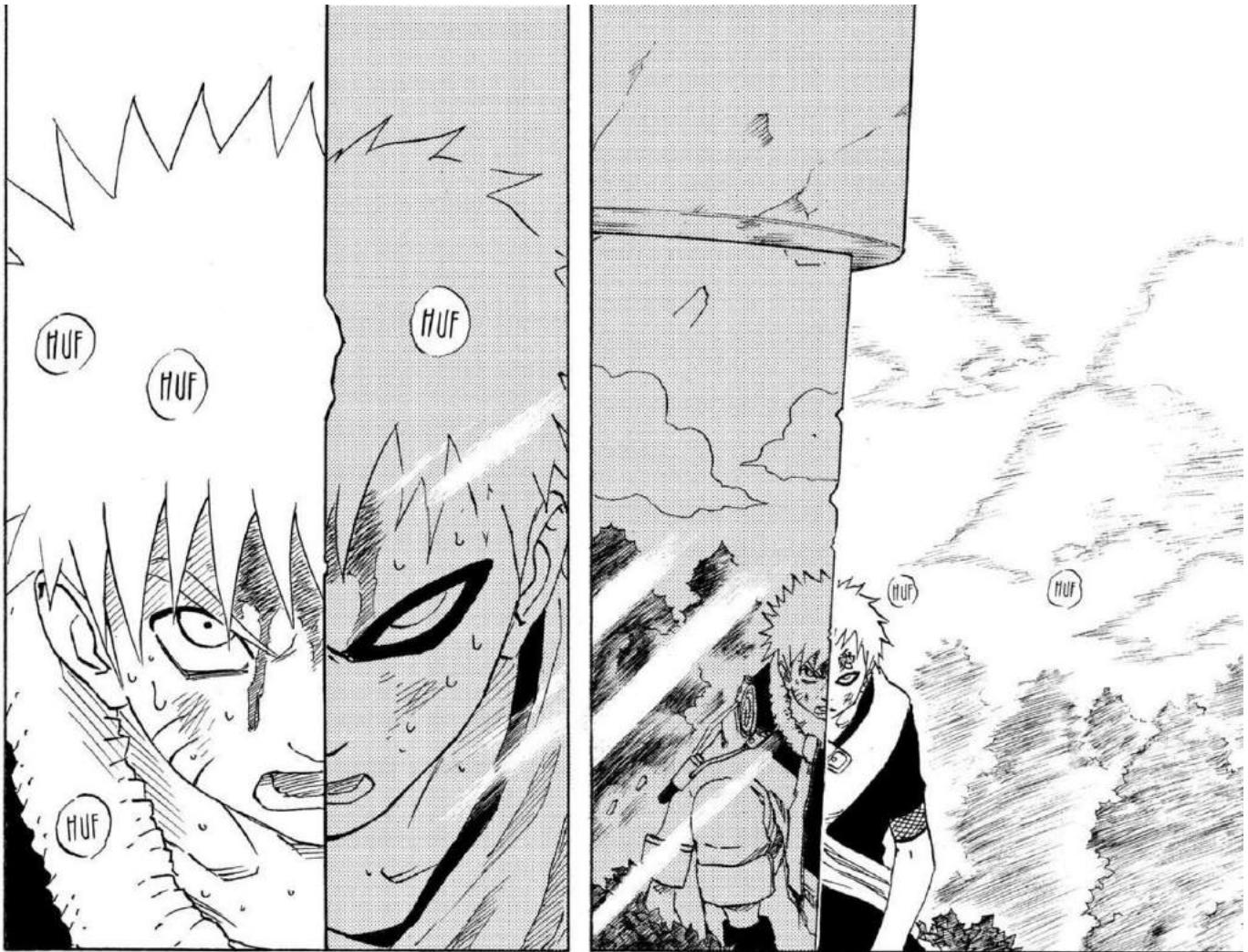


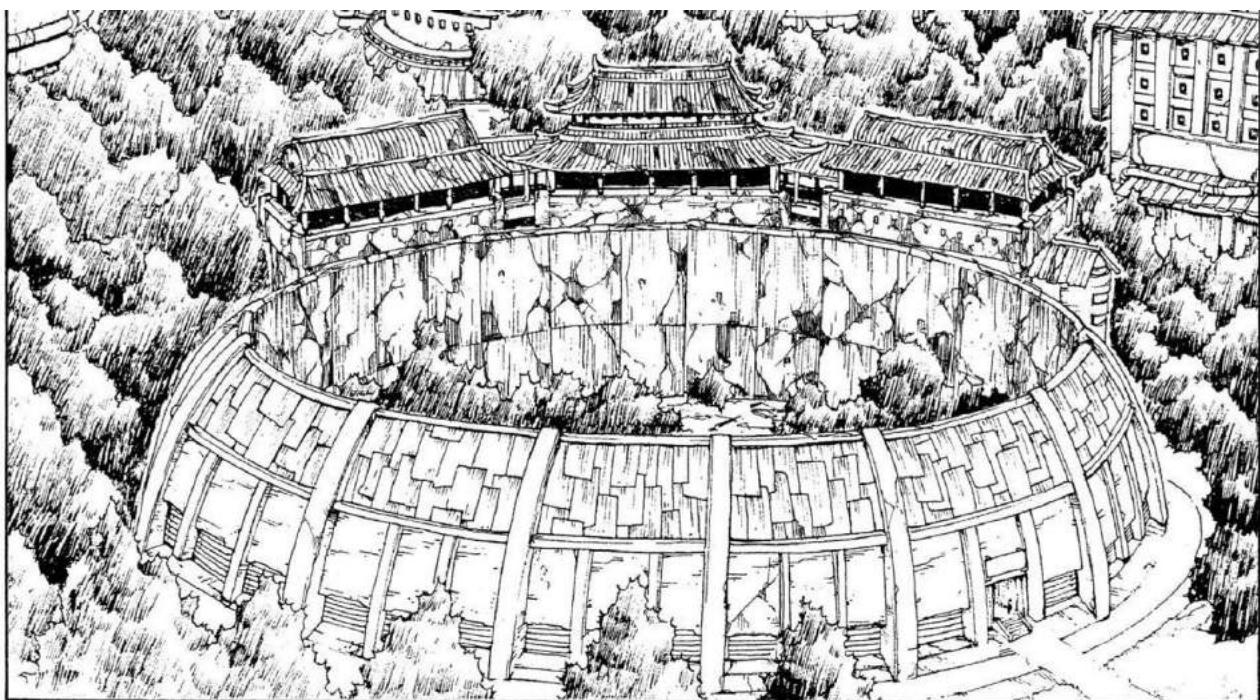


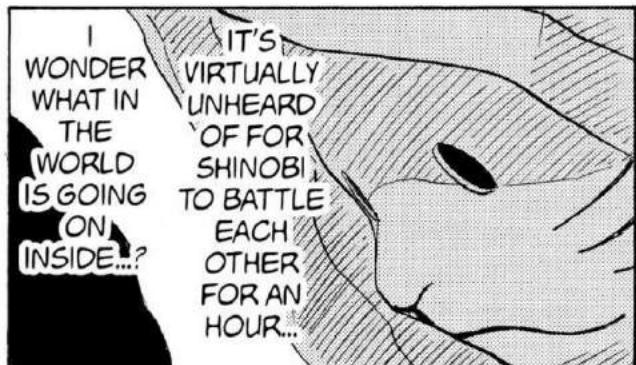
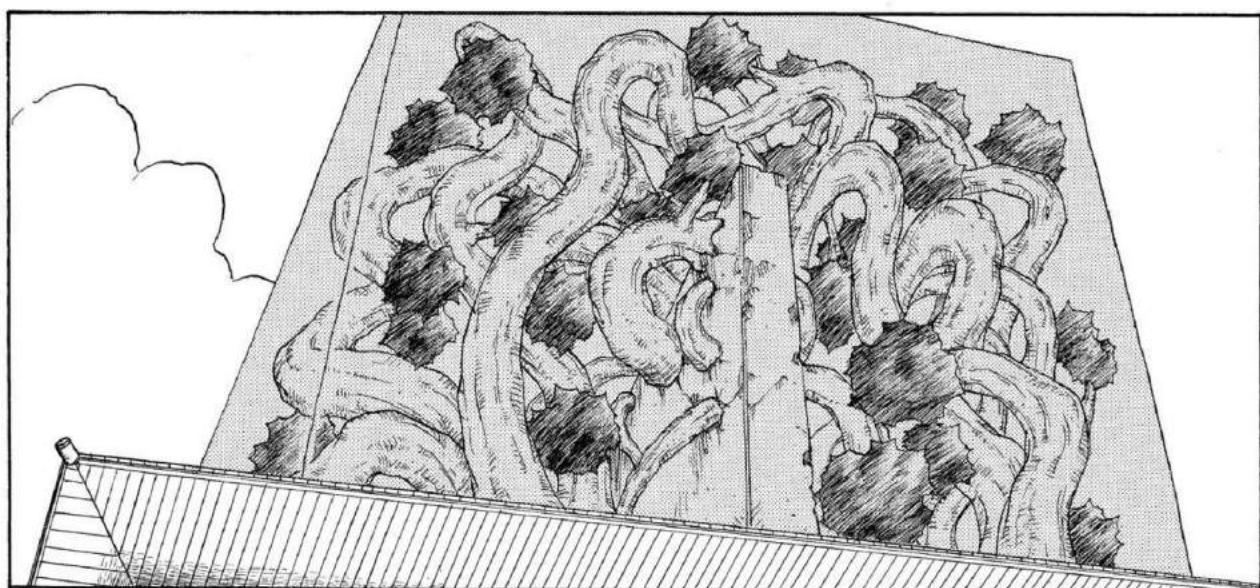
FUMP













THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 23

IN MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE, I GOT SERIOUS AND DECIDED TO SUBMIT MANGA FOR REAL, TARGETING SHONEN MAGAZINES. "NOW! WHAT SHALL I DRAW..." I STARTED OFF IN HIGH SPIRITS, BUT THEN IMMEDIATELY RAN INTO A BLOCK. THE STORY I HAD THOUGHT UP HAD TOO MANY PLOT POINTS, AND I COULDN'T FIT EVERYTHING INTO THE PAGE LIMIT. EARLY ON IN ONE'S CAREER, ONE OFTEN BECOMES OVERENTHUSIASTIC AND GREEDY, TRYING TO SQUEEZE ALL OF ONE'S IDEAS INTO A SINGLE PIECE. I WAS LIKE THAT TOO. THE STORY OFTEN BECOMES CLUNKY AND UNWIELDY, AND THERE ARE SO MANY CHARACTERS THAT NO ONE CHARACTER ENDS UP STANDING OUT AS THE MAIN CHARACTER.

THUS! I USED THE PAGE LIMIT AS MY CLEAR-CUT SOLUTION. I SHAVED OFF WHATEVER PLOT POINTS I FELT WERE EXTRANEous, AND GOT RID OF A BUNCH OF CHARACTERS. WHEN I FINALLY FELT I COULD TELL THE STORY WITHIN THE PAGE LIMIT, I SAT DOWN AND STARTED DRAWING IN EARNEST. ...HOWEVER, IT'S NOT LIKE THE STORY COULD STAY COMPLETELY THE SAME, SO A FEW MINOR DIFFICULTIES AROSE. ...BUT... THEY WEREN'T HUGE DIFFICULTIES! JUST THAT PLOT-WISE, I HAD ORIGINALLY wanted TO TELL THE TALE OF A NATIONAL DILEMMA STARRING A MAIN CHARACTER POSSESSING NATIONAL POWER, WITH GRAND SPECTACLE (!). BUT IN THE END, IT WAS A SMALL-SCALE STORY INVOLVING "SMALL-TOWN FOLK" THAT I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO WORK UP... IT'S LIKE THE FEW MINOR DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD CROP UP IF ONE FORGED AHEAD AND FILMED A SCI-FI MOVIE EVEN KNOWING ONE WOULDN'T BE GIVEN ANYTHING NEAR AN ADEQUATE BUDGET. THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS "A NEWCOMER'S COARSENess SHOWING THROUGH HIS INABILITY TO SNUGLY CONTAIN THINGS"!

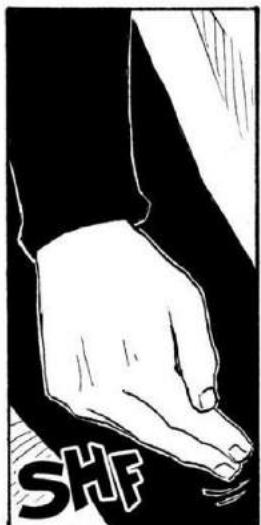
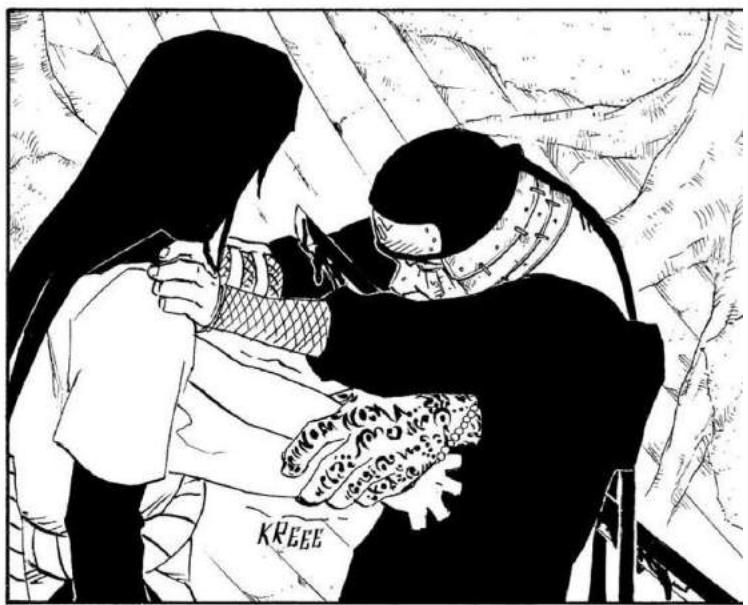
...IN ANY CASE! WHAT I AIMED FOR WAS WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP'S HOP★STEP AWARD, WITH ITS PRIZE MONEY OF 500 THOUSAND YEN [ROUGHLY \$5000] (TAKE-HOME)... OR RATHER... I WON!!!

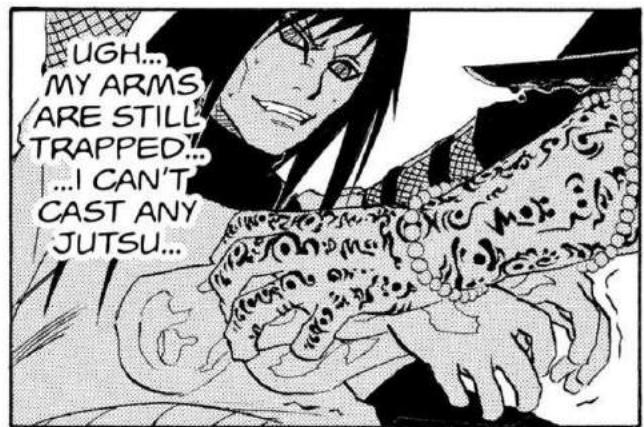
THE TITLE OF THAT MANGA WAS "KARAKURI" (MECHANISM). "KARAKURI" IS A POPULAR NAME FOR A SUPER-STRENGTH ANDROID OR ROBOT. I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT JAPANESE NAMING SCHEMES WERE COOL, SO I DECIDED I WOULDN'T USE ANY WEIRD WESTERN TERMS OR NAMES. THAT'S WHY I WENT WITH THE JAPANESE "KARAKURI" INSTEAD OF "CYBORG"! AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THIS STAND-ALONE STORY, "KARAKURI," WOULD GREATLY CHANGE MY DESTINY. BUT OF THAT, THE YOUNG KISHIMOTO WAS STILL UNAWARE.

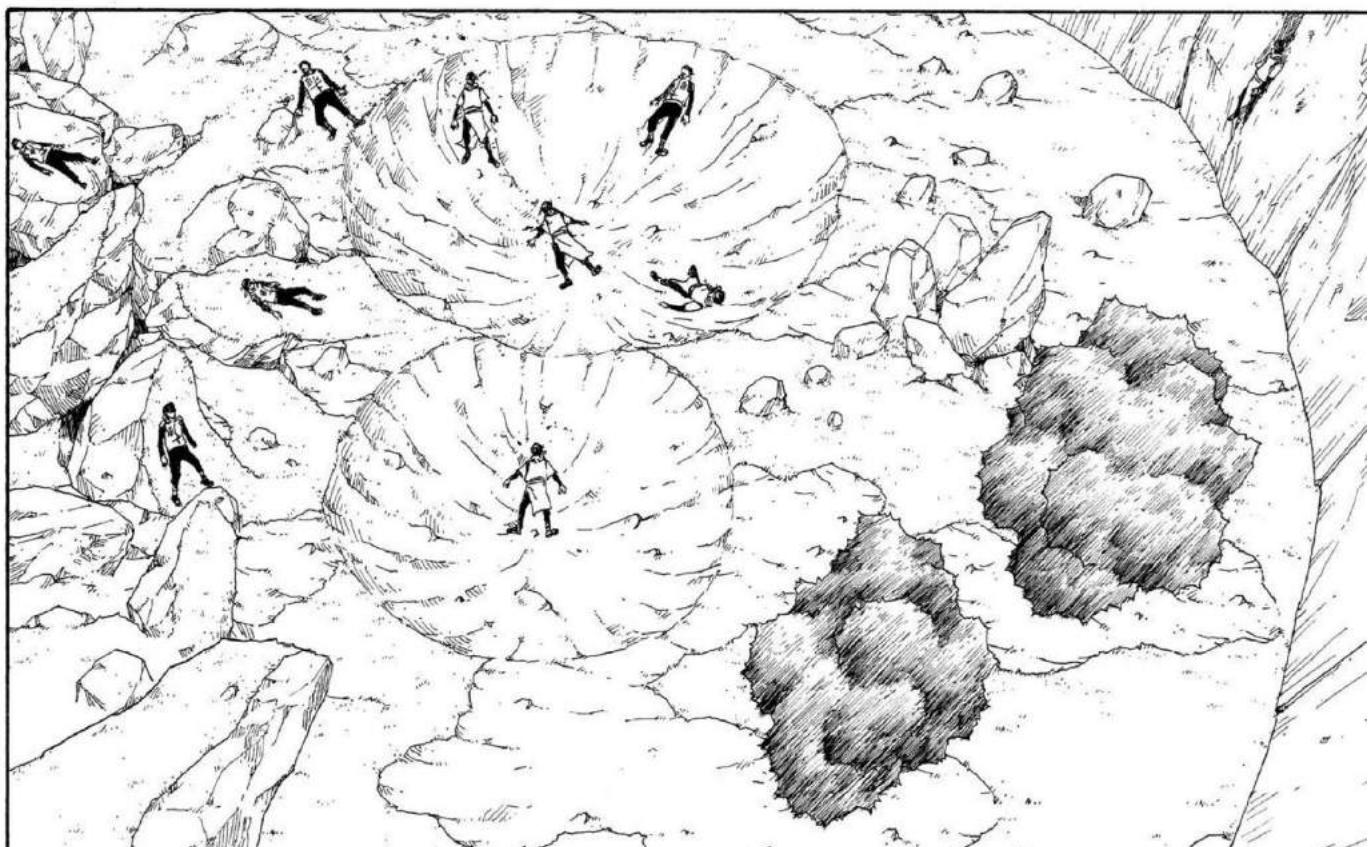
Number 137:



The Shinobi of Konoha...!!







OPERATION
DESTROY
KONOHA
SHALL BE
FULFILLED!

...SUNAGAKURE
SHINOBI HAVE
INVADED THIS
VILLAGE AS
WELL, YOU
KNOW.

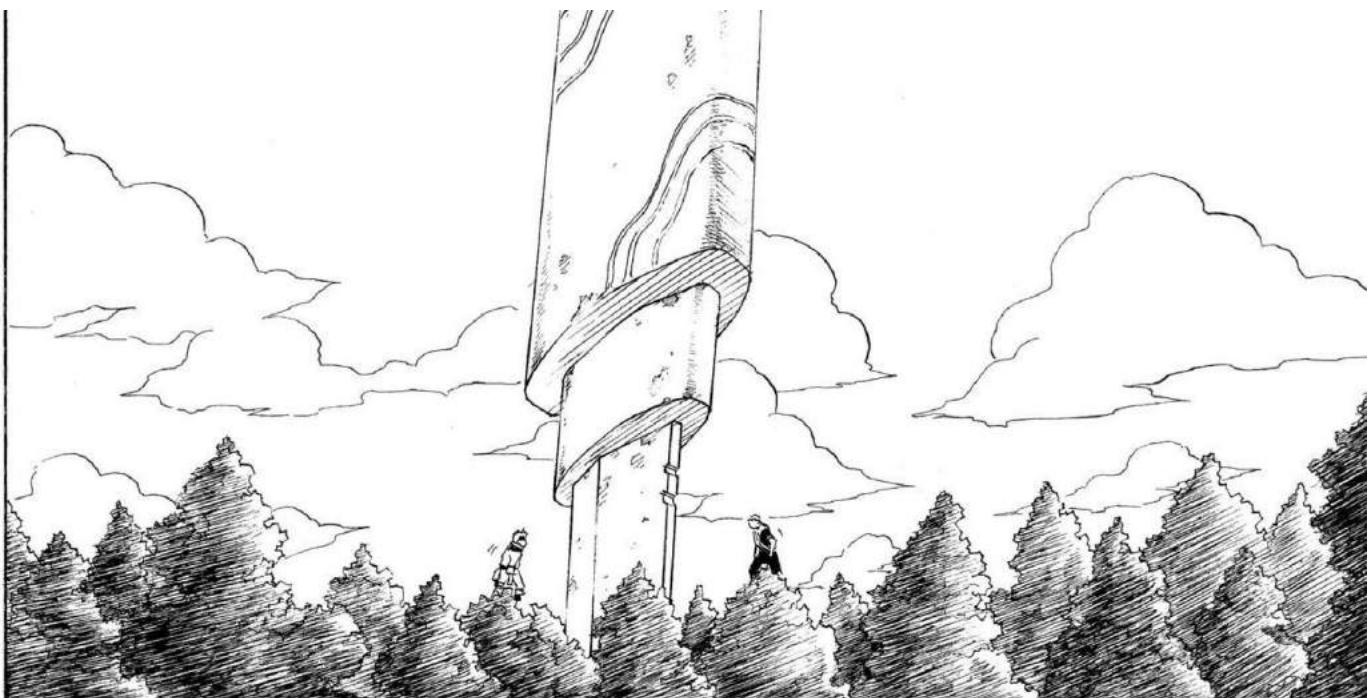
IN
ADDITION
TO MY
FOLLOW-
ERS...

...WILL BE
ANNIHILATED,
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
INCLUDED...

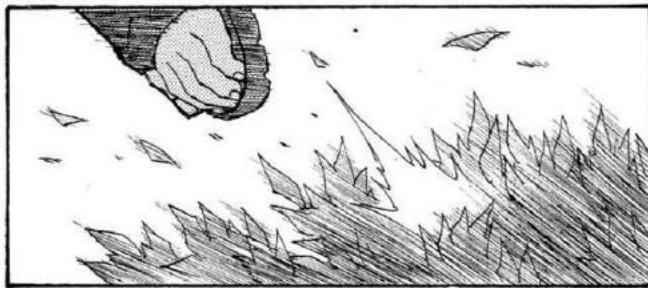
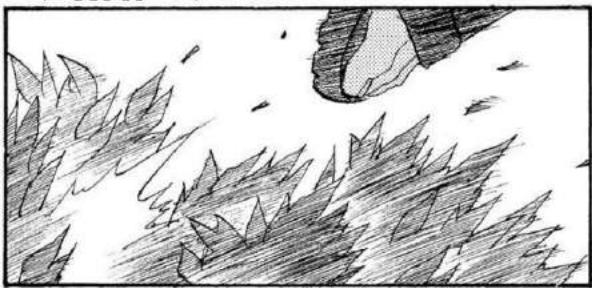
ALL
KONOHA
SHINOBI...

DON'T
UNDERESTI-
MATE THE
SHINOBI OF
THIS
VILLAGE...

YOU
REALLY DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
DO YOU,
OROCHIMARU.

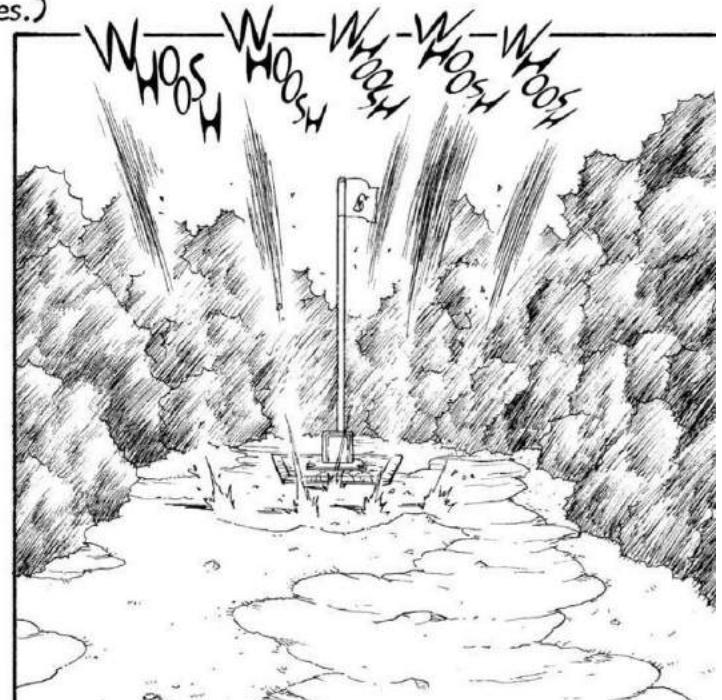
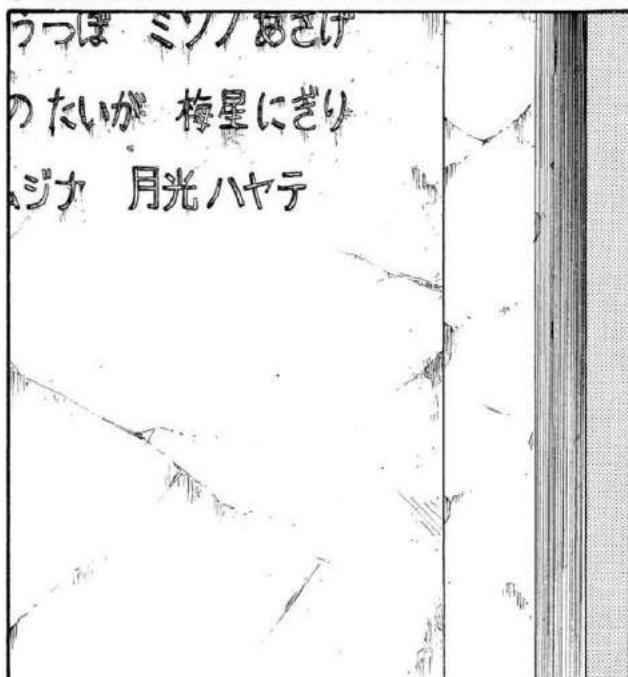


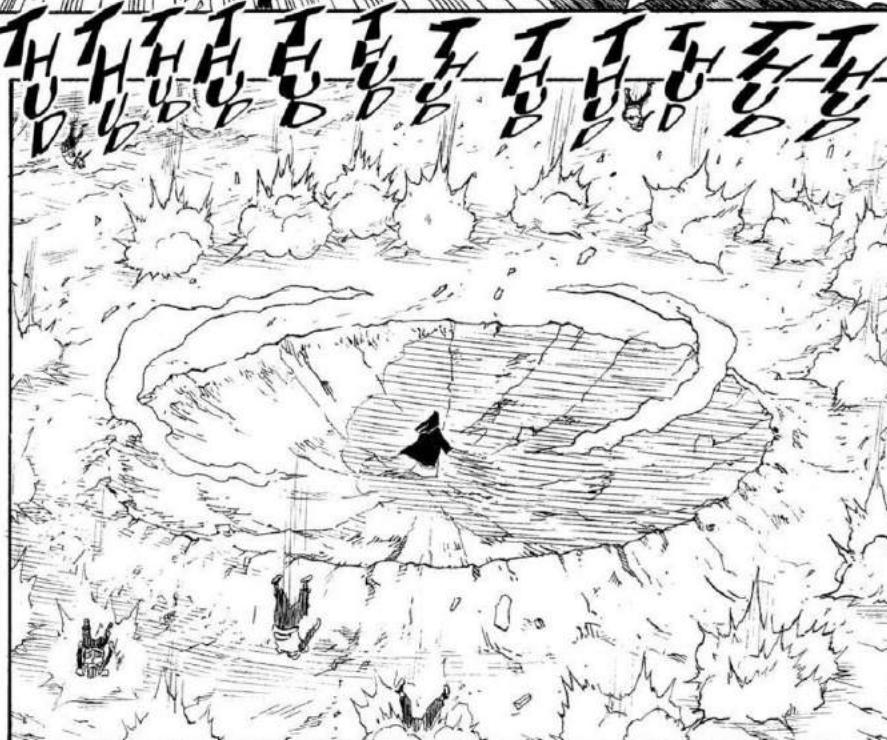
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WAY

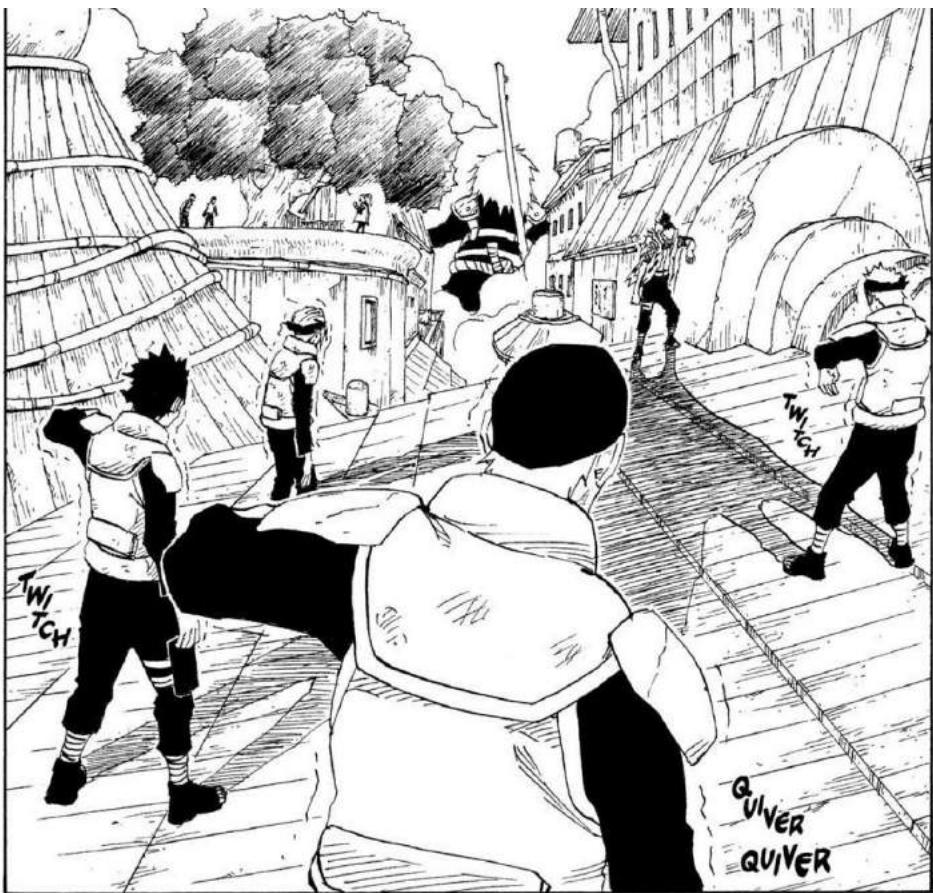


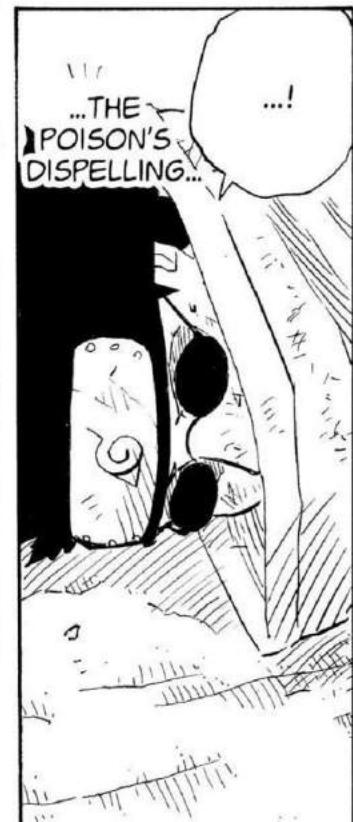
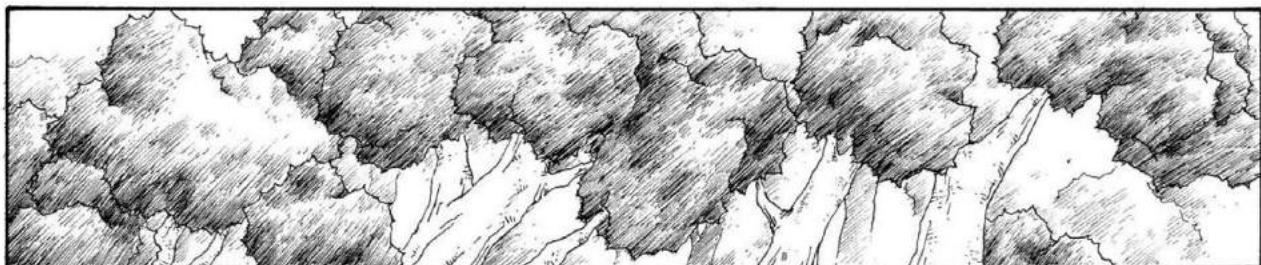


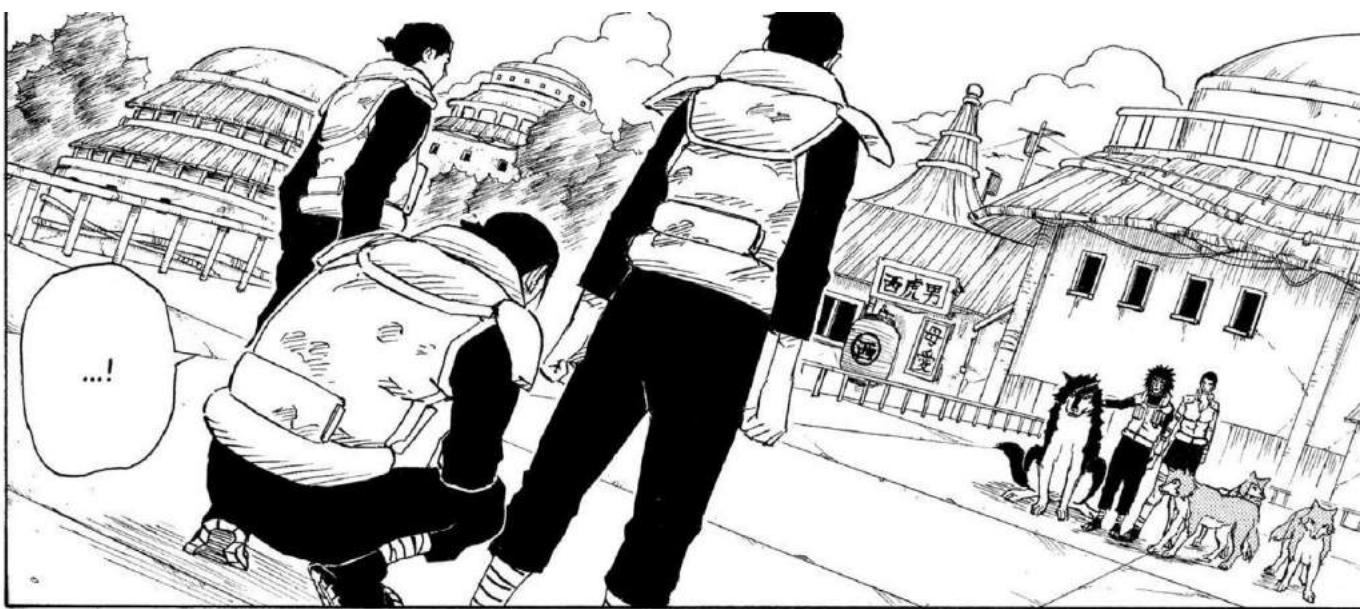
(Gravestone: the names of Konoha's fallen heroes.)



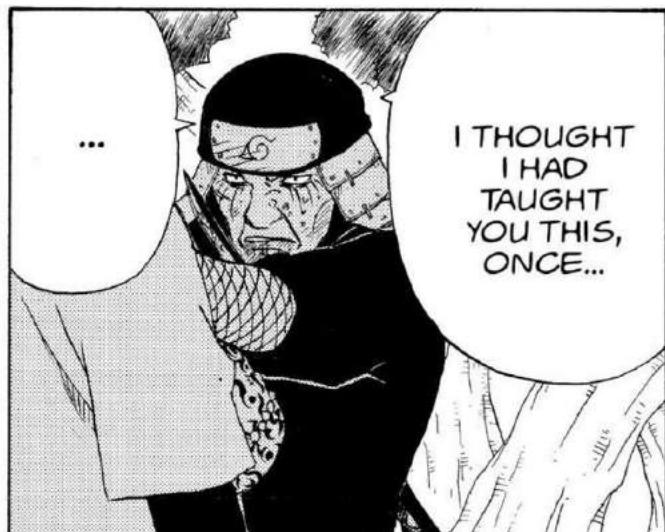
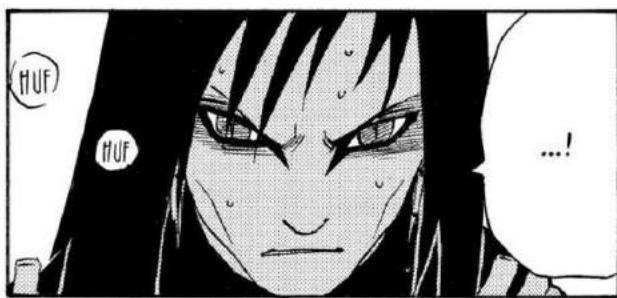


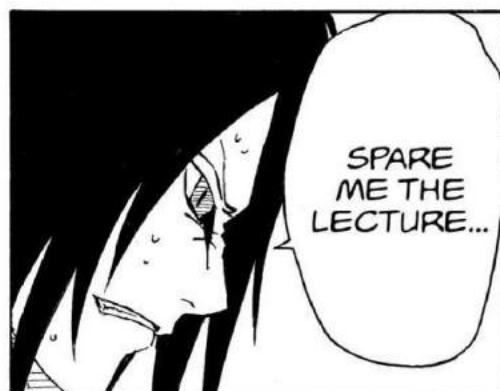
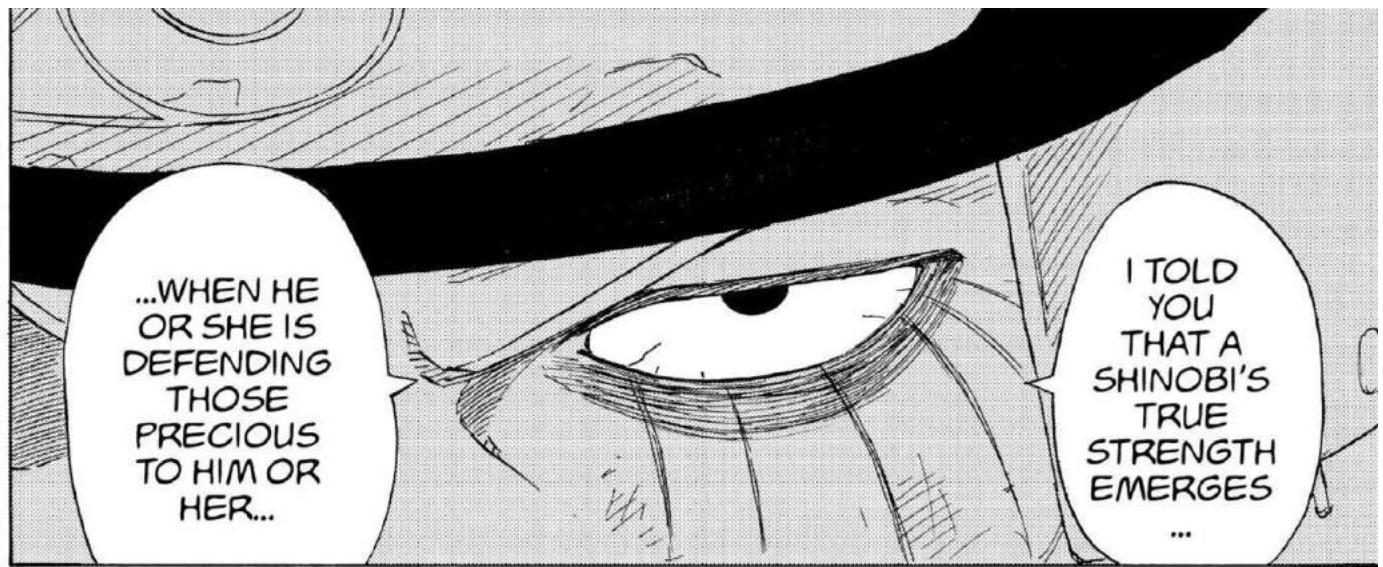




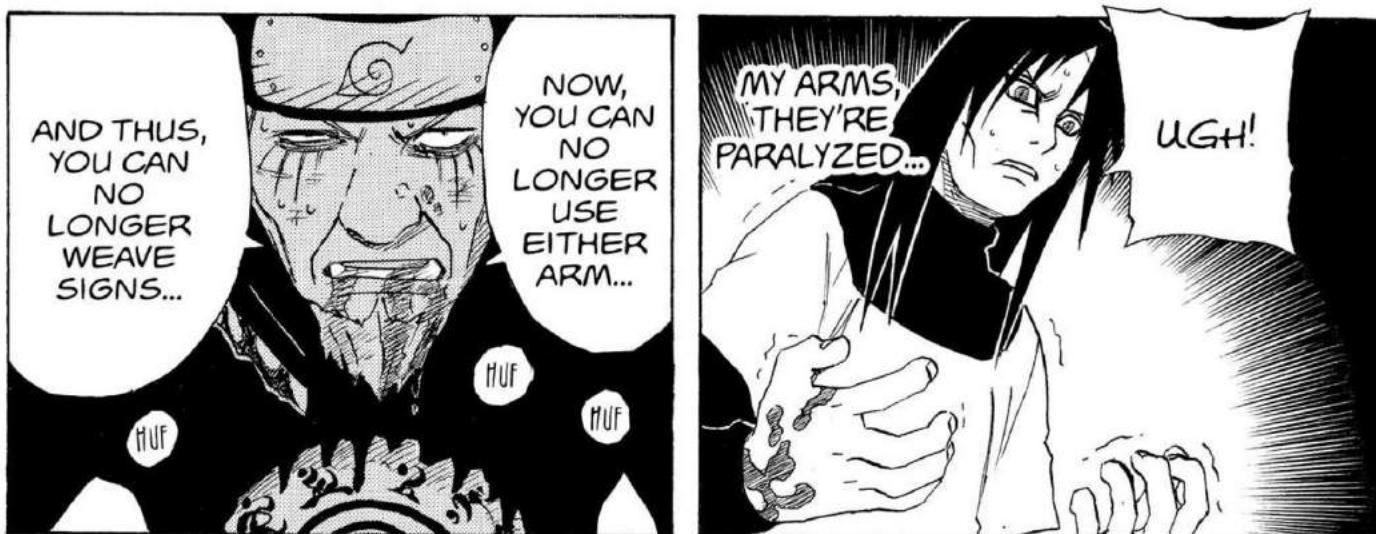


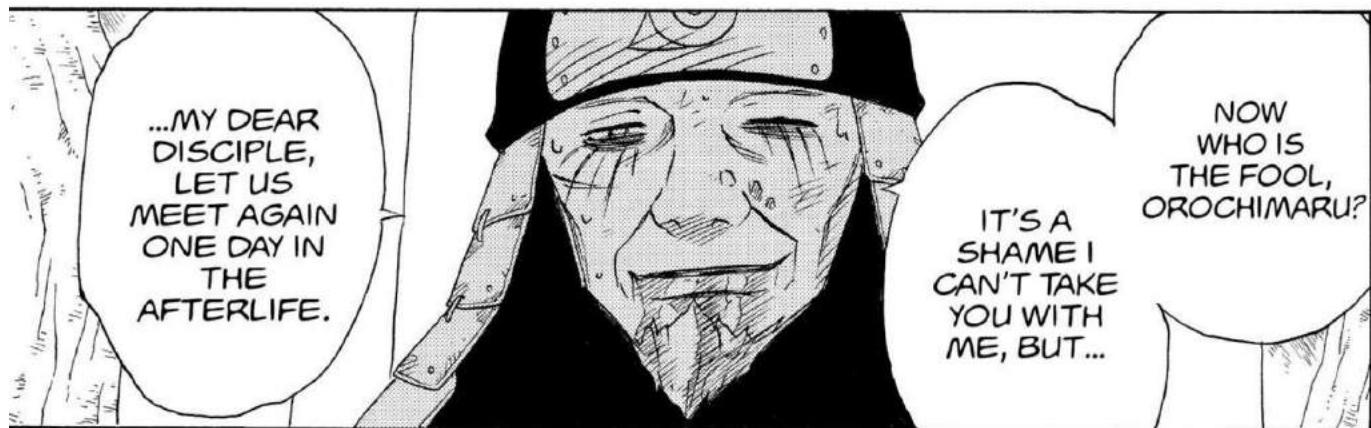
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...AND
ONCE
AGAIN
TREE
LEAVES
SHALL
BUD
ANEW.

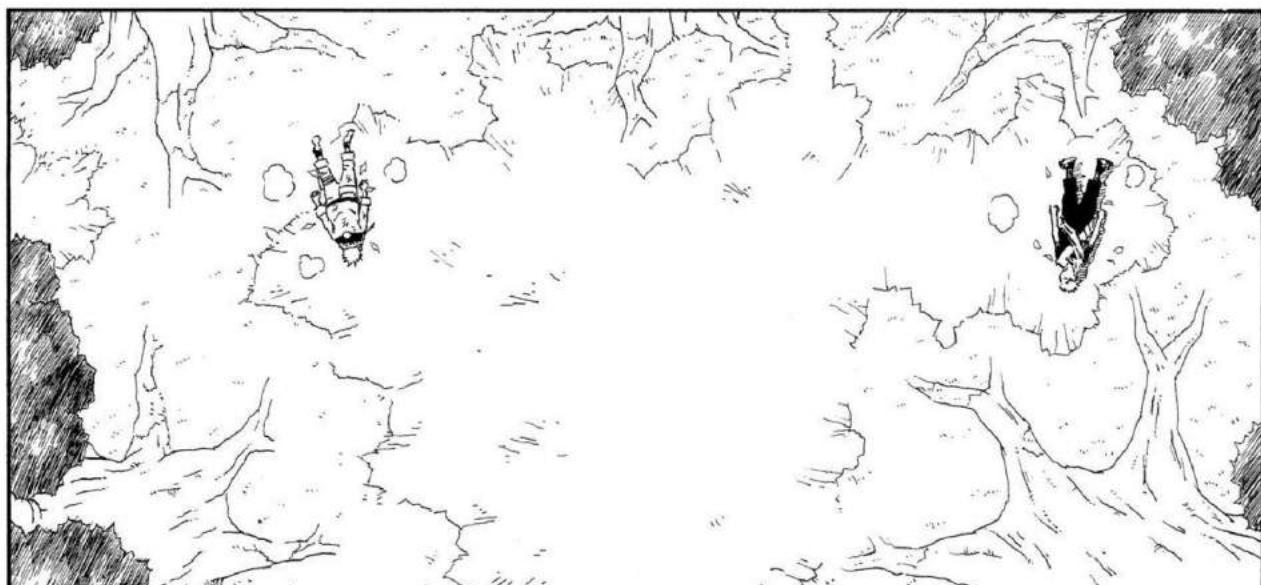




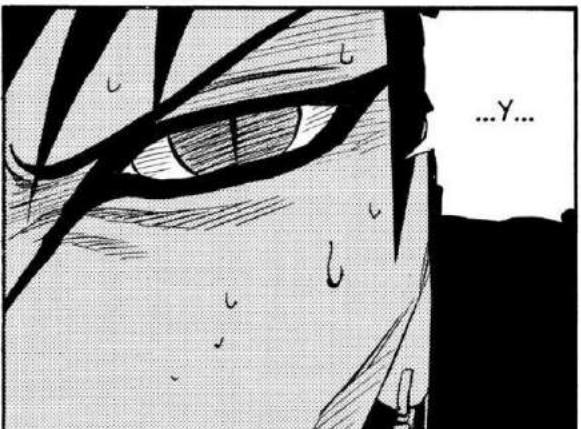
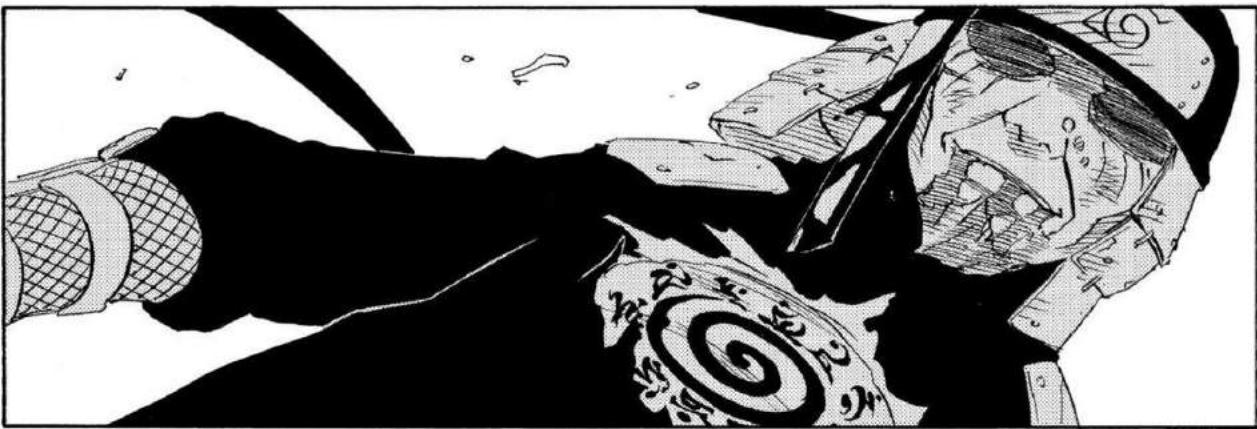
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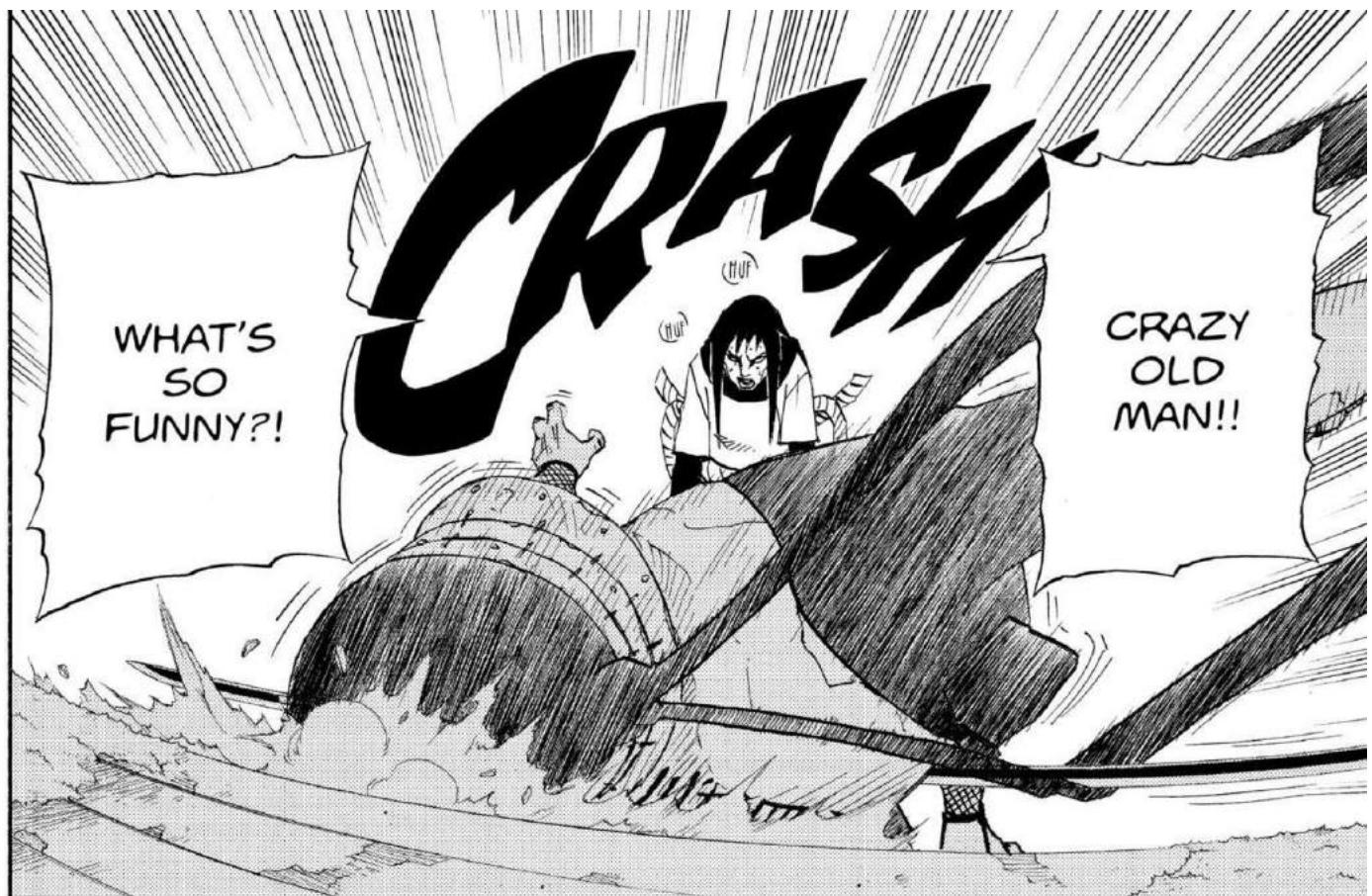


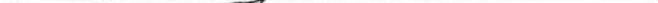
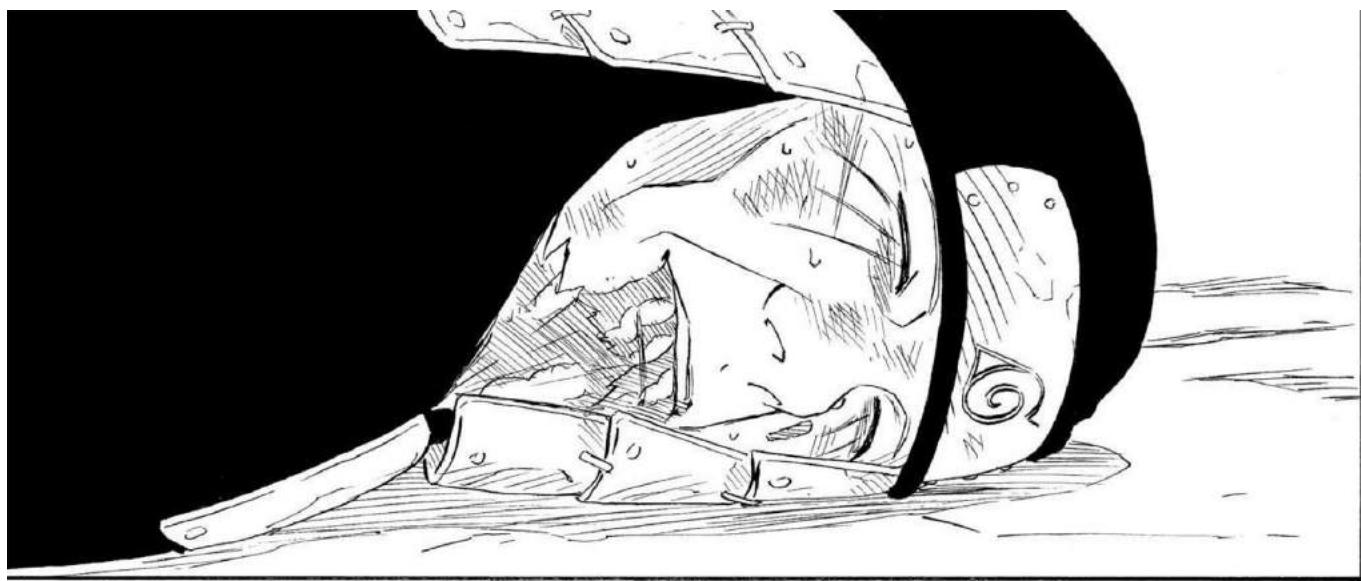
Operation Destroy Konoha, Terminated!!!

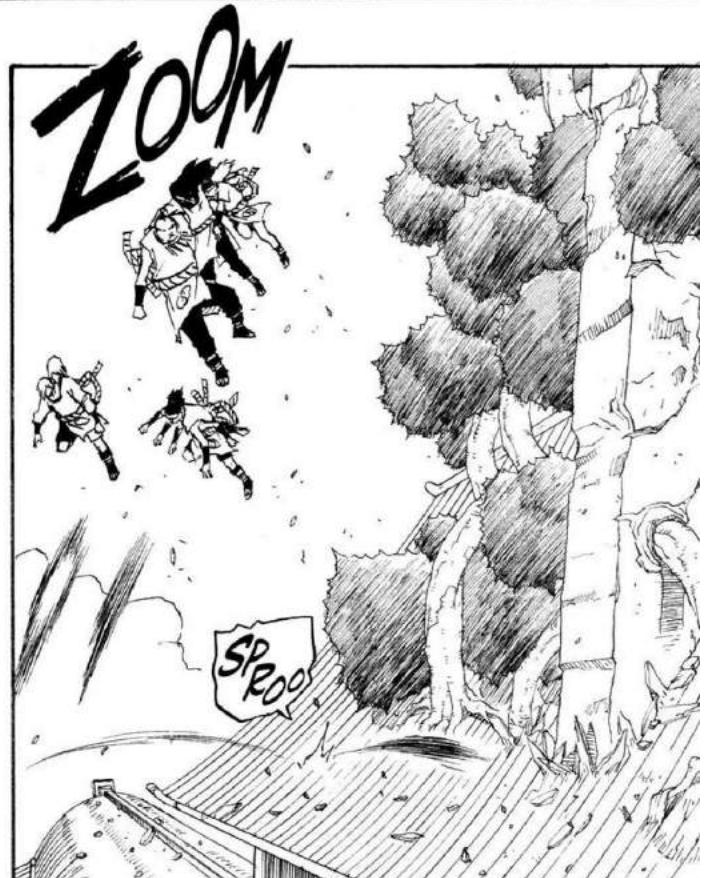
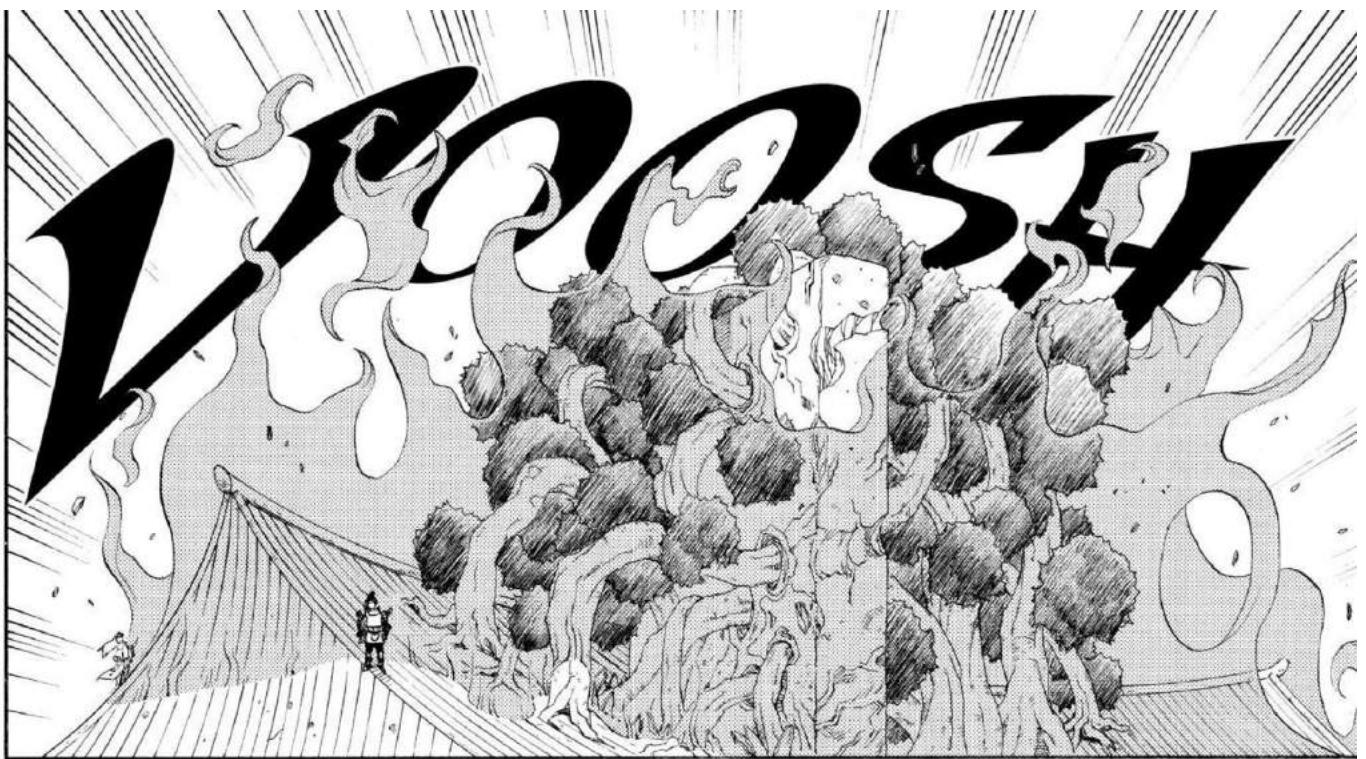


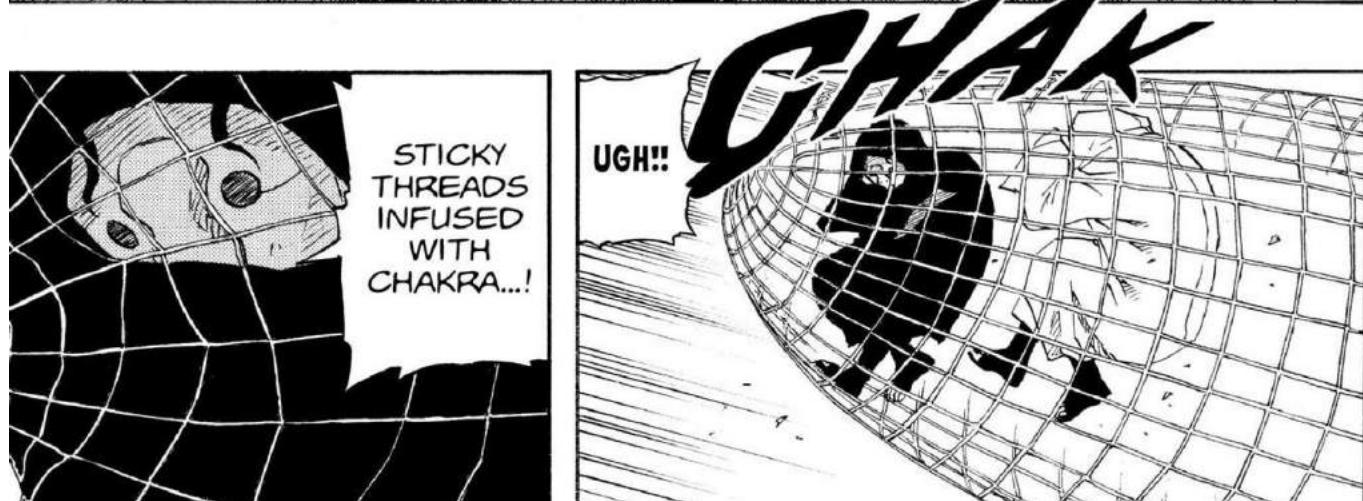
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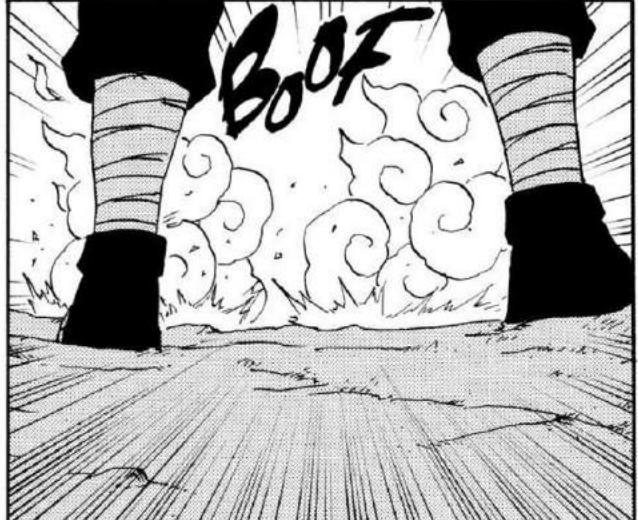


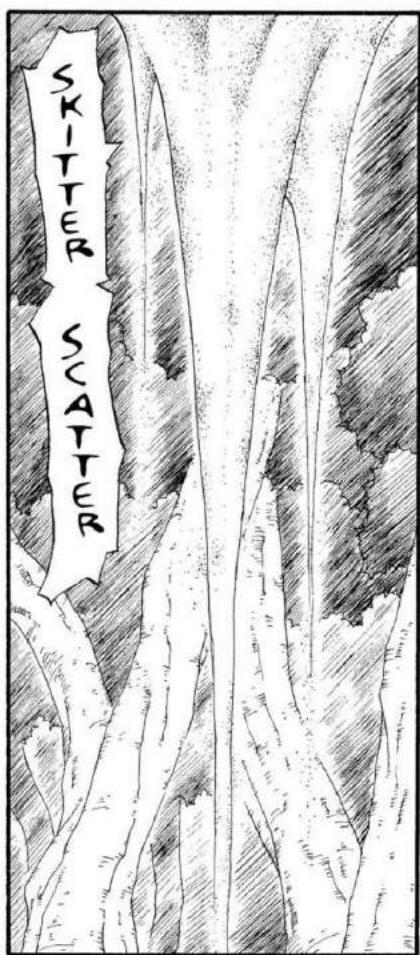
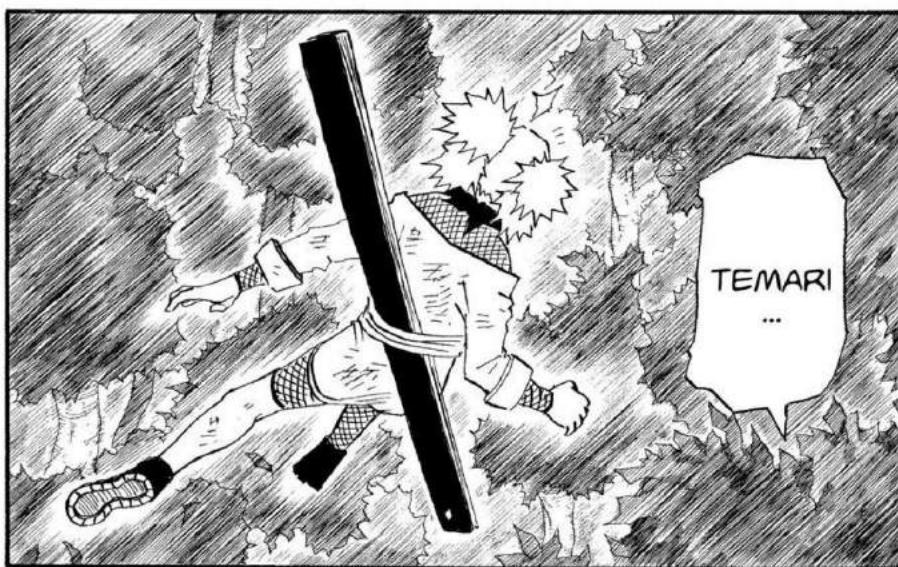


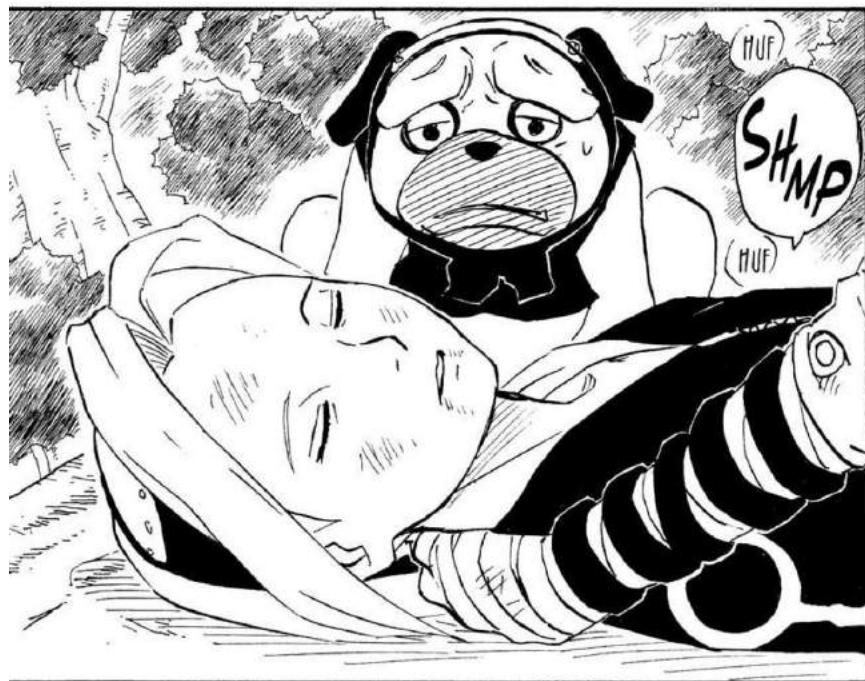




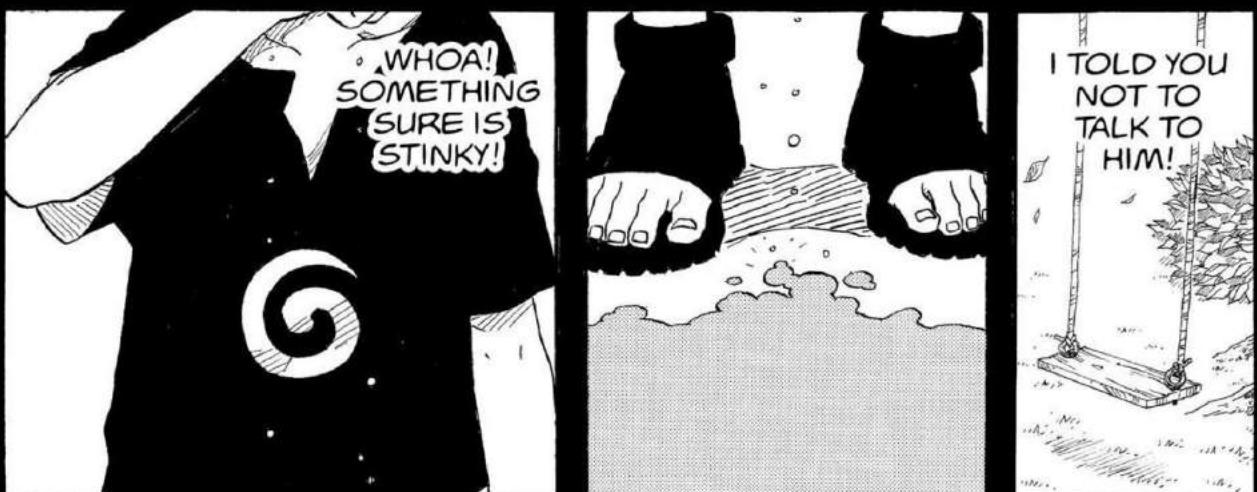
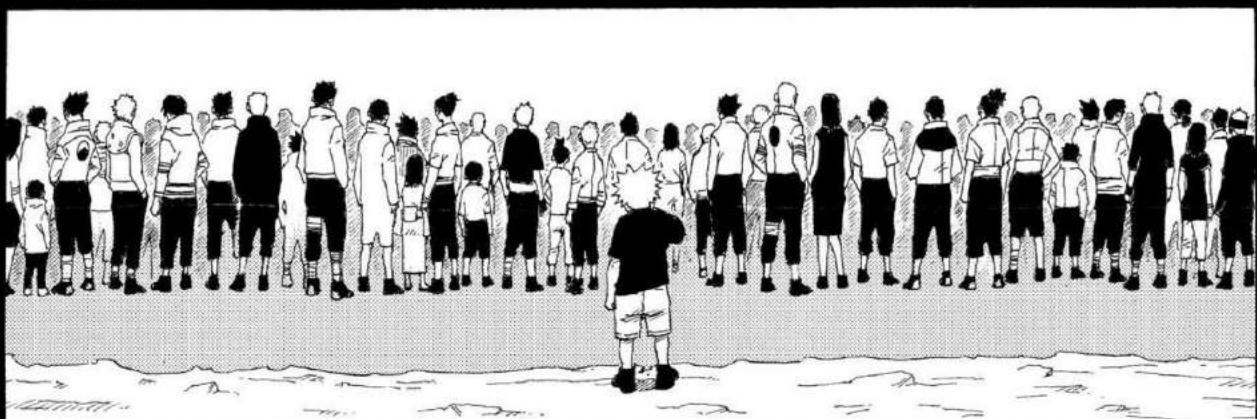


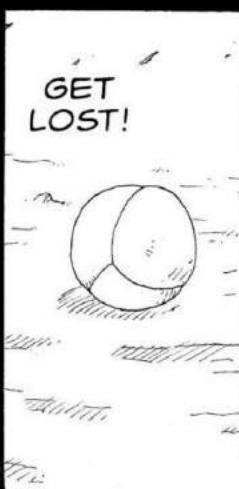
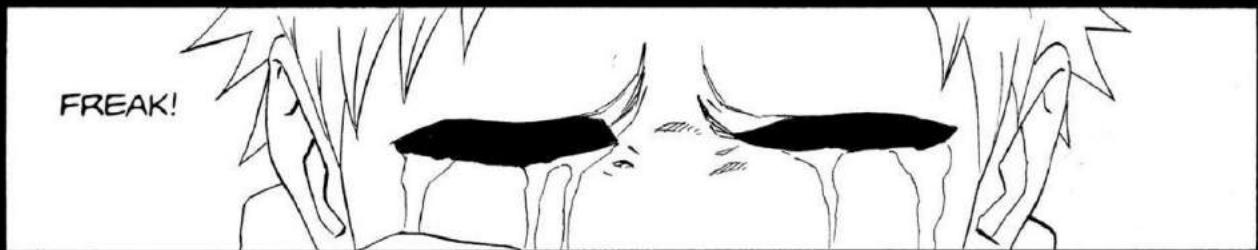












THAT
WAS THE
MOST
PAINFUL
THING...

AND THEN
IT CAME
TO ME...
I KNEW
WHAT I
WAS...
AND I WAS
FORCED
TO
ACCEPT
IT.

UGH...!

SO...
FOR WHAT
PURPOSE
DO I
EXIST?
WHY AM I
ALIVE?

TO THEM...
I AM NOW A
RELIC OF
THE PAST
THAT THEY
WISH TO
ERASE AND
FORGET.

SKRIZIP

SKRIZIP

...SUPERFLUOUS.
UNWANTED.
SHUNNED...

(HUF)
(HUF)

...ACCEPTING
THAT I WAS
ALONE IN
THE WORLD...

D...DON'T
COME
NEAR ME!!

SK
RIZIP

UGH...!

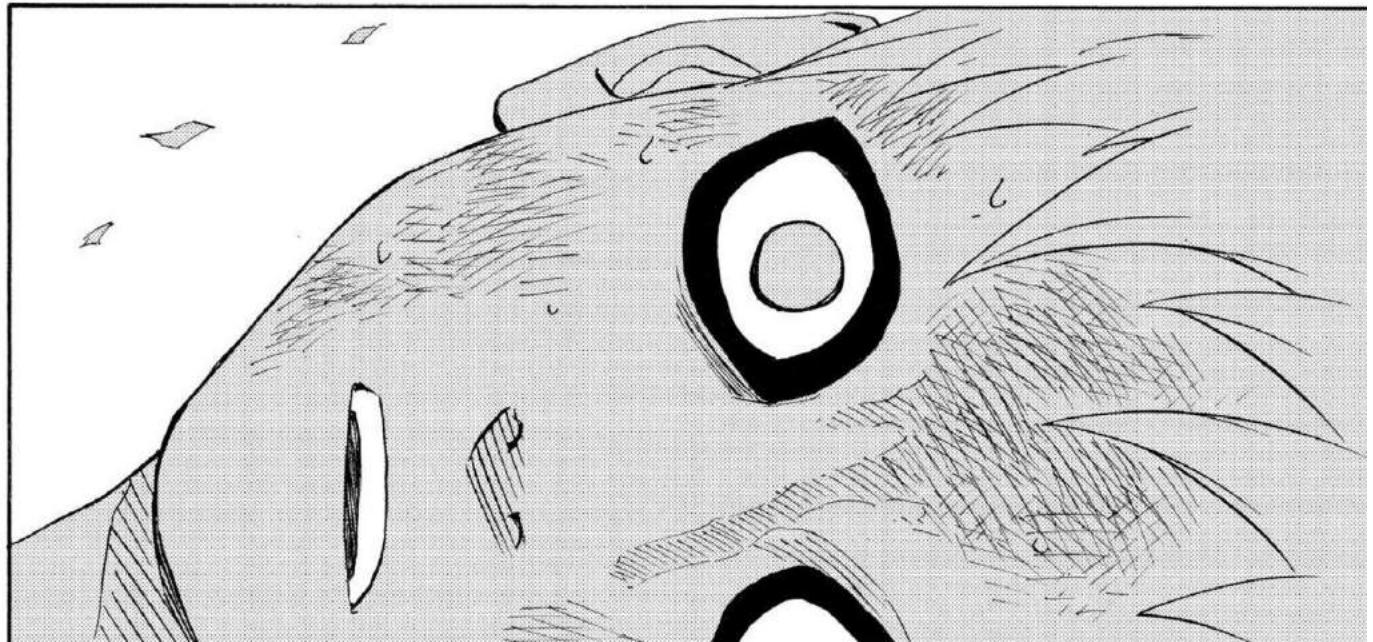
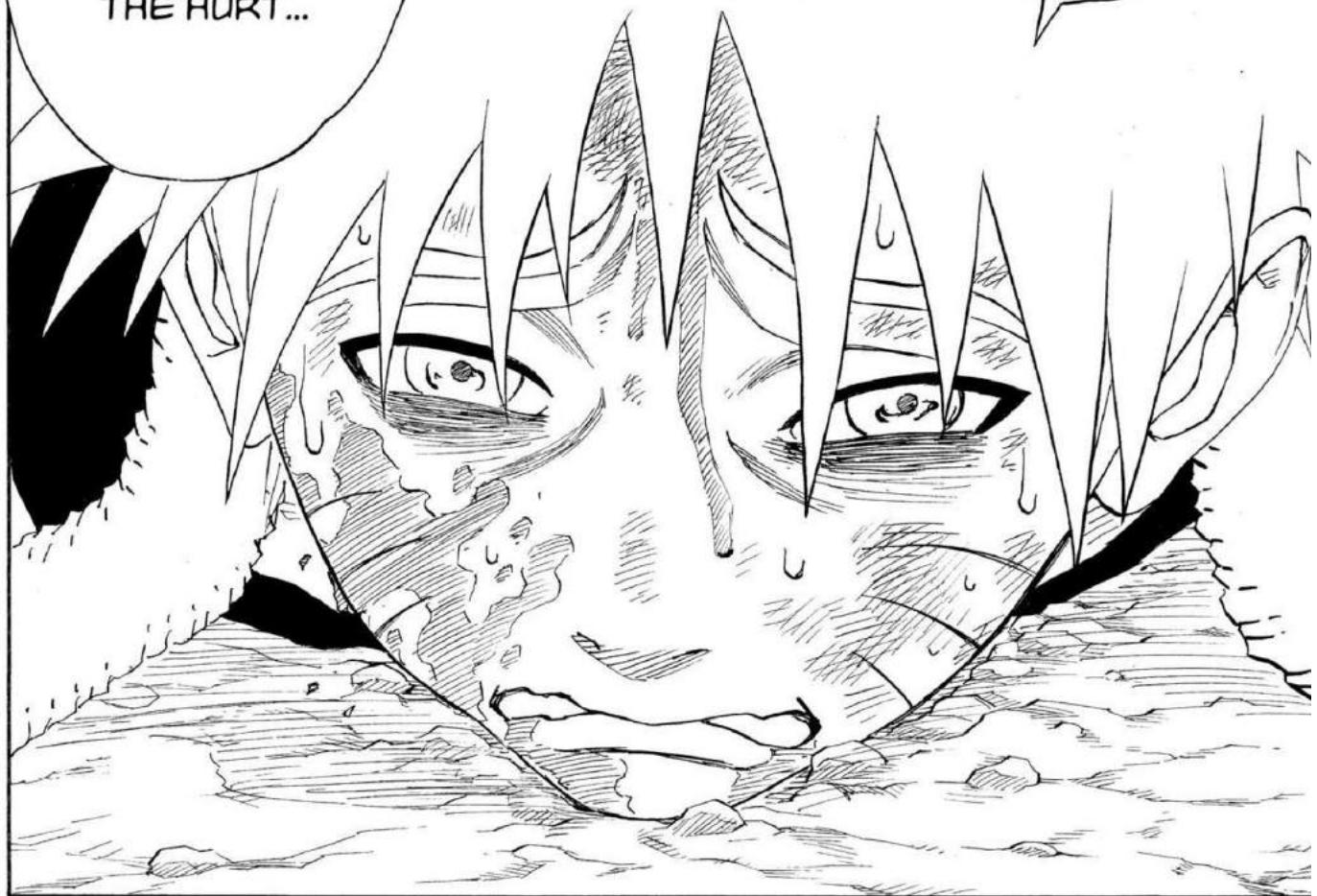
ZAP

SKRIZIP

...THE WAY
YOU FEEL...
I DUNNO WHY,
BUT... I
UNDERSTAND
IT SO WELL...
THE HURT...

...IT'S
NOT
TRIVIAL...

...THAT
PAIN...
OF BEING
ALL
ALONE...





AND THEY
UNDERSTAND
ME...I COULDN'T
LIVE WITHOUT
THEM...

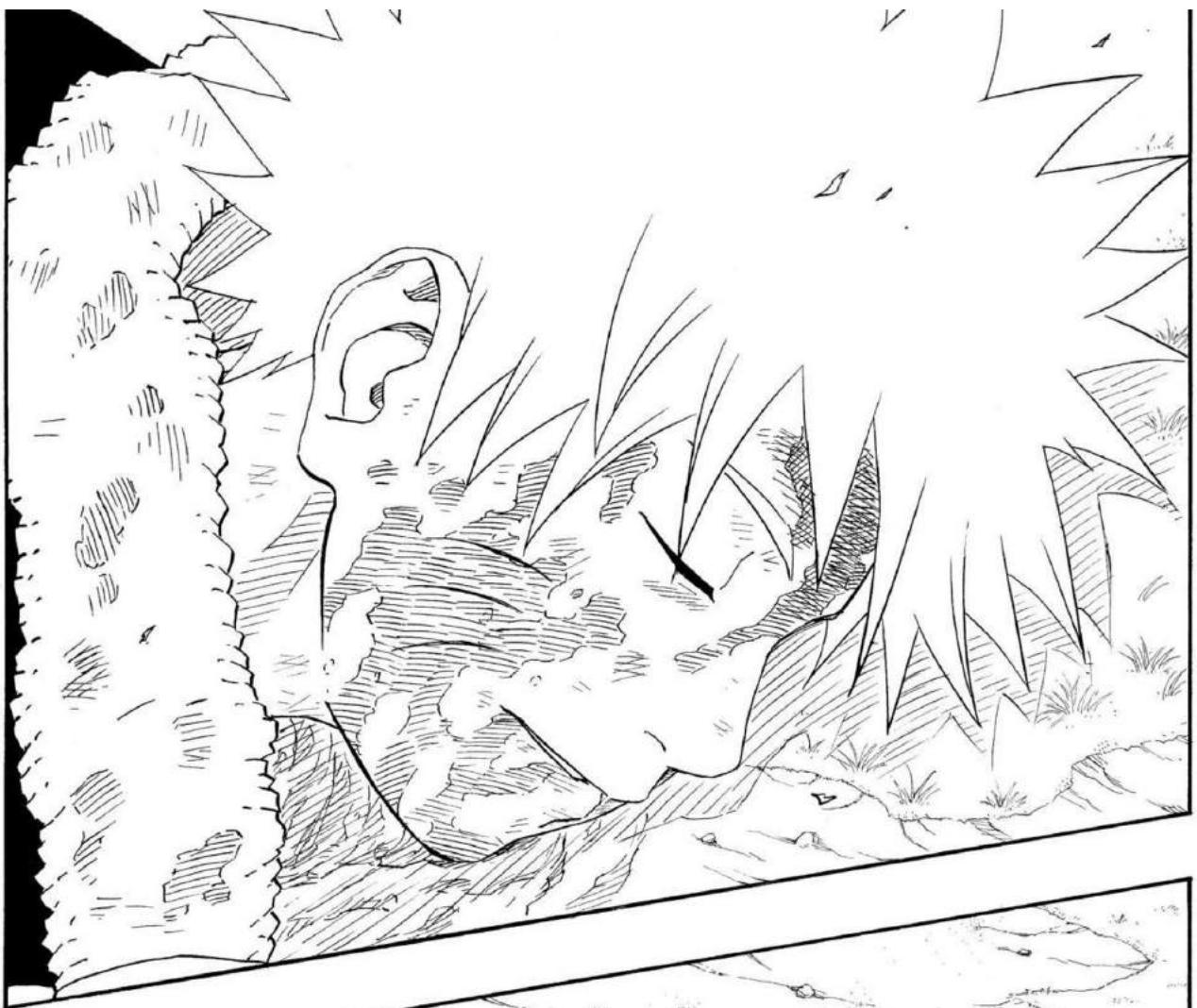
I LOVE
THEM.

THEY
SAVED ME
FROM MY
PIT OF
LONELINESS...

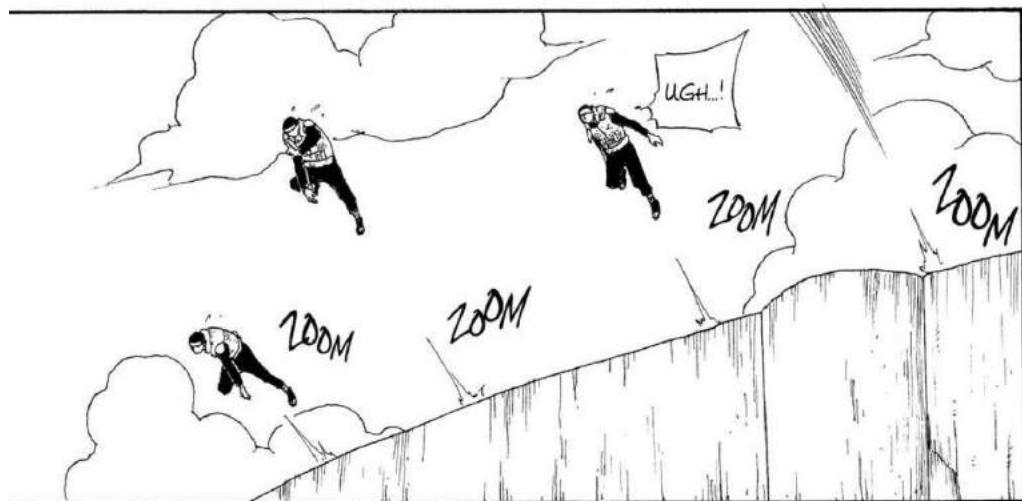












THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 24 CHAPTER 1

I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO FINISH DRAWING THE 31 PAGES OF THE STAND-ALONE "KARAKURI", AND THE DAY I HAD TO MAIL IT IN TO JUMP FINALLY ARRIVED. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT WAS RIGHT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, AND MY EXAMINER WAS ARAKI HIROHIKO* SENSEI.

I WENT TO THE POST OFFICE, NERVOUSLY HANDED OVER MY MANUSCRIPT, AND PUT MY HANDS TOGETHER SAYING "PLEASE LET ME WIN!" I WAS PRAYING TO THE GODS ONLY WHEN CONVENIENT, AS USUAL. BUT ALWAYS WITH UTMOST SINCERITY, OF COURSE! I WOULD CLOSE MY EYES AND WISH FERVENTLY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. I PROBABLY REPEATED MY WORDS, OFFERING THEM TO THE HEAVENS, 20 TIMES. I WAS PRAYING SO EARNESTLY THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE AT FIRST, BUT WHEN I CAME TO, THE POSTAL WORKER WAS FROZEN IN PLACE, ENVELOPE IN HAND, WITH AN INCREDIBLY COLD LOOK IN HIS EYES.

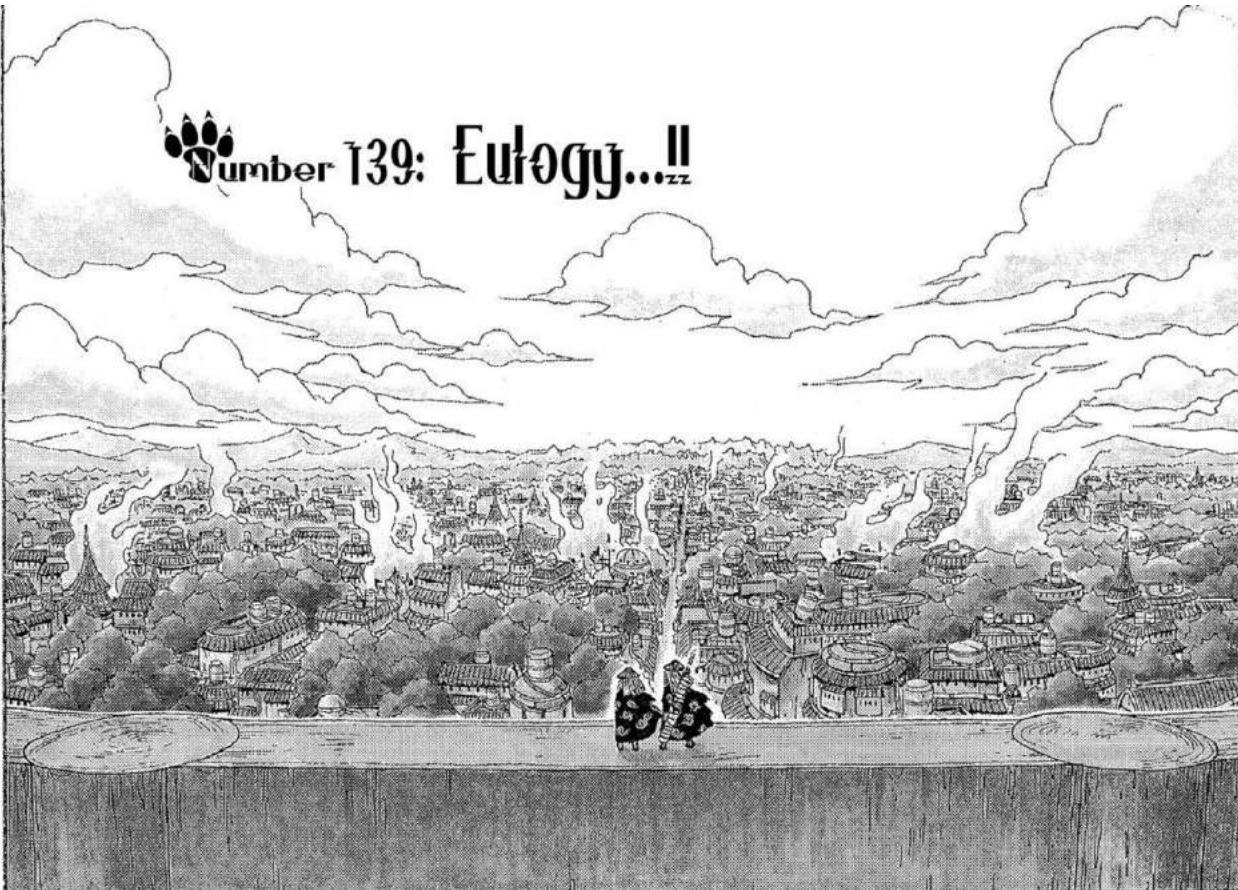
NOT THAT I BLAME HIM, FOR IF SOMEONE HANDS YOU AN ENVELOPE AND IMMEDIATELY FALLS INTO FERVENT WORSHIP, ANYONE WOULD THINK "THIS FELLOW'S WEIRD...". FURTHERMORE, I HAD STARTED MUTTERING UNDER MY BREATH, LOOKING ALL SERIOUS. SO FORGET WEIRD, HE PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS SCARY! BUT I DIDN'T CARE!! I WANTED TO WIN THE AWARD SO BAD, I COULDN'T HELP IT!!

AFTERWARDS, I HAD TO GO HOME AND WAIT THE LONG TWO MONTHS UNTIL THE WINNERS WERE ANNOUNCED. ...EVEN DURING FUN CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS, OR IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS, I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT. IT WOULD KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT IF I THOUGHT ABOUT IT RIGHT BEFORE BEDTIME. I WOULD SECRETLY PEEK BACK AT THE COPY OF MY MANUSCRIPT AND BE LIKE, "SHOOT! THIS WILL NEVER WIN!" OR, "HMM~! BUT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, IT WILL PASS..." ...I BECAME MENTALLY FATIGUED. AND SIX DAYS BEFORE THE RESULTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ANNOUNCED, ONE OF MY FRIENDS TOLD ME SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS!

THAT FRIEND WAS A HIGH SCHOOL FRIEND OF USUTA KYOSUKE* SENSEI. AND THIS IS WHAT HE TOLD ME.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

[NOTE: ARAKI HIROHIKO IS THE ARTIST OF JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE. USUTA KYOSUKE IS THE ARTIST OF SEXY COMMANDO GAIDEN.]



Number 139: Eulogy...!!

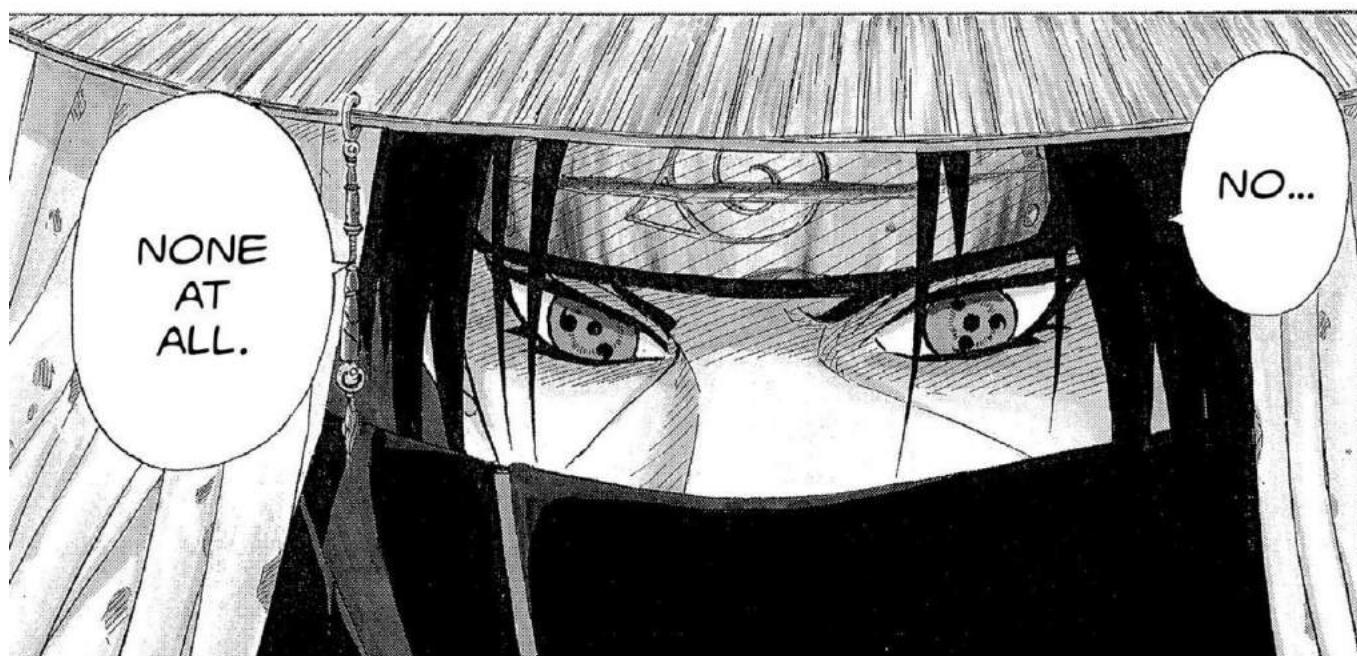
THAT'S
UNLIKE
YOU...

...

SO YOU
STILL HAVE
LINGERING
AFFECTION
TOWARDS
YOUR HOME-
LAND? EVEN
YOU HAVE
NOSTALGIA
...?

THEY'VE
ESCAPED
COMPLETE
ANNIHILATION.
BUT IT APPEARS
THEY'VE
SUFFERED HEAVY
LOSSES.

FOR
SUCH A
PATHETIC,
PROSPEROUS
VILLAGE...



NONE
AT
ALL.

NO...





Number 139:

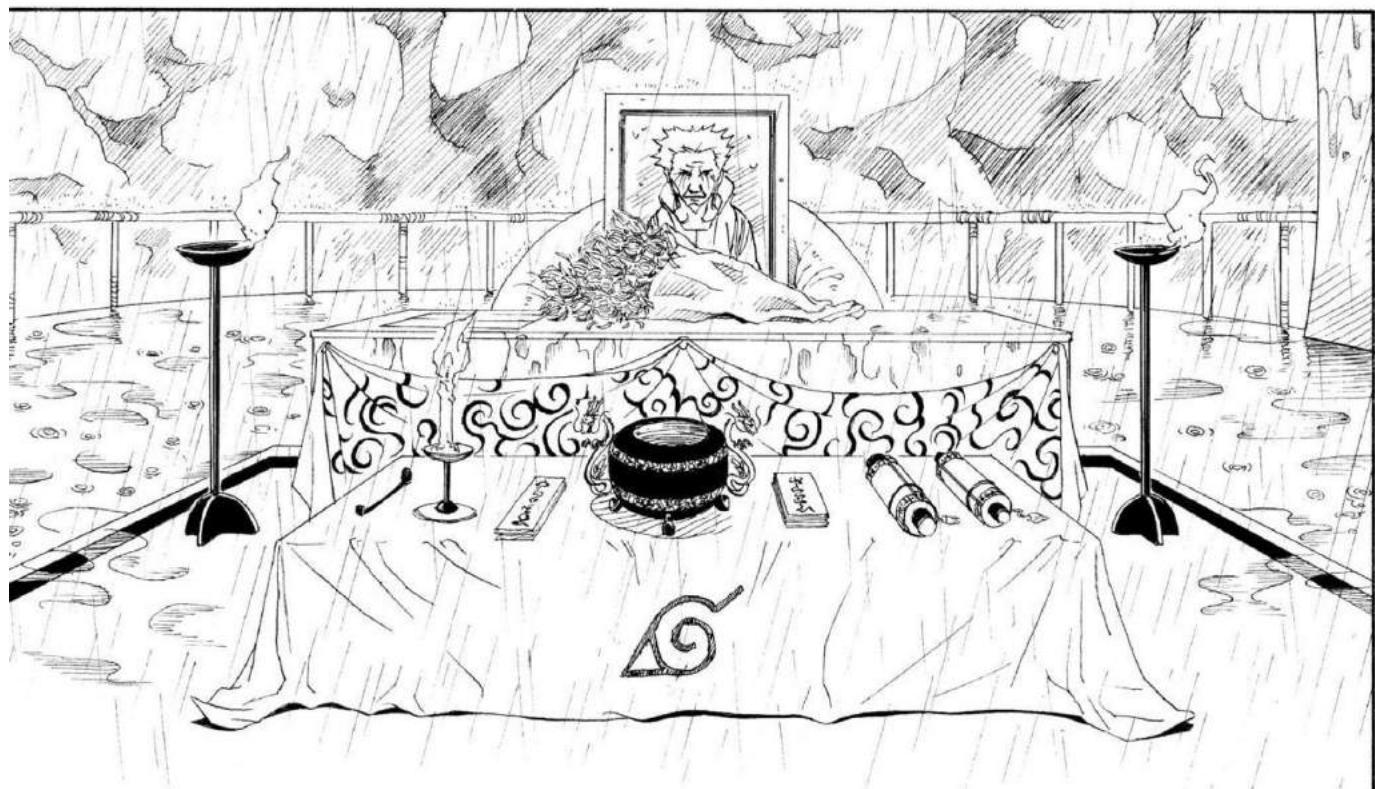
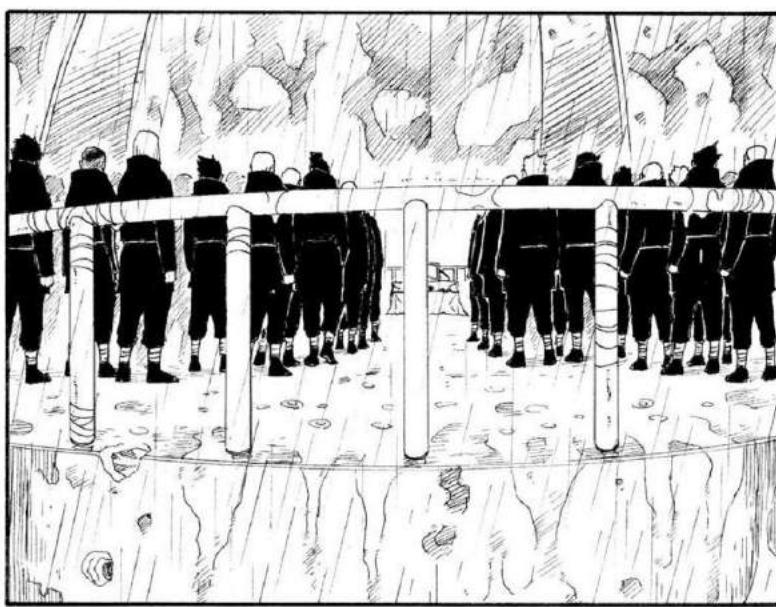


Eulogy...!!

NARUTO

ナルト







IT'S NOT
EASY TO HIDE
ONE'S GRIEF
AND PRETEND
TO LAUGH...

IT HAS
ALREADY
BEEN A
YEAR, EH...

SOB...
SNIFF...



...

I HAVE
HEARD
FROM YOUR
HOMEROOM
TEACHER...

...HELPED
DEFEND THIS
VILLAGE FROM
THE FOX
MONSTER AT
THE COST OF
THEIR LIVES...

BOTH
PA AND
MA...

THEY'RE
HEROES!!

櫻野アゲハ
真白ネズミ
あじヒラキ
芋井工
霜降に

...THAT
AT THE
ACADEMY...

...YOU'RE
THE BUTT OF
EVERYONE'S
JOKES...

IT IS
HONORABLE
FOR SHINOBI
TO DIE IN THE
LINE OF
DUTY!!

I...I'M
NOT SAD
AT ALL!

I'M
NOT SAD
BECAUSE
I'M NEVER
ALONE!!

AND
I AM
THEIR
SON!!

...HOWEVER,
AS YOU SAY,
YOU ARE
NOT
ALONE...

A BOY
HUGS HIS
KNEES
ONLY
WHEN HE
FEELS
TRULY
ALONE...

ENOUGH
...
AND
THESE,
THESE
ARE
TEARS
OF JOY...

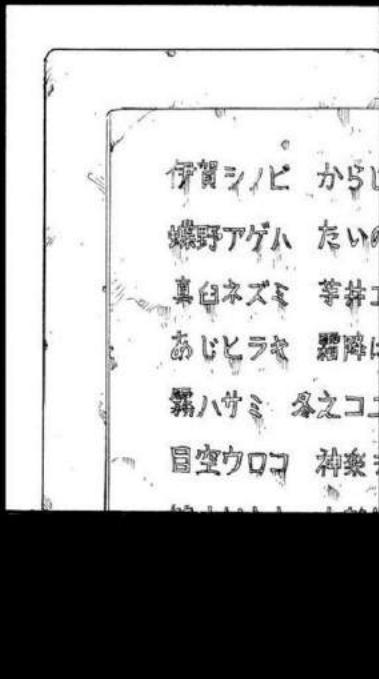
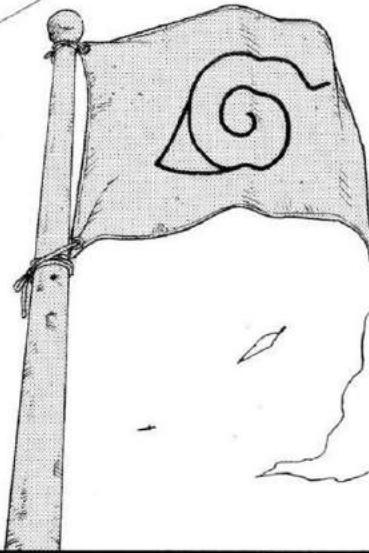
...WILL
OF
FIRE?

...CARRY
THE WILL
OF FIRE
WITHIN
THEM.

FOR
ALL OF
KONOHA'S
SHINOBI...

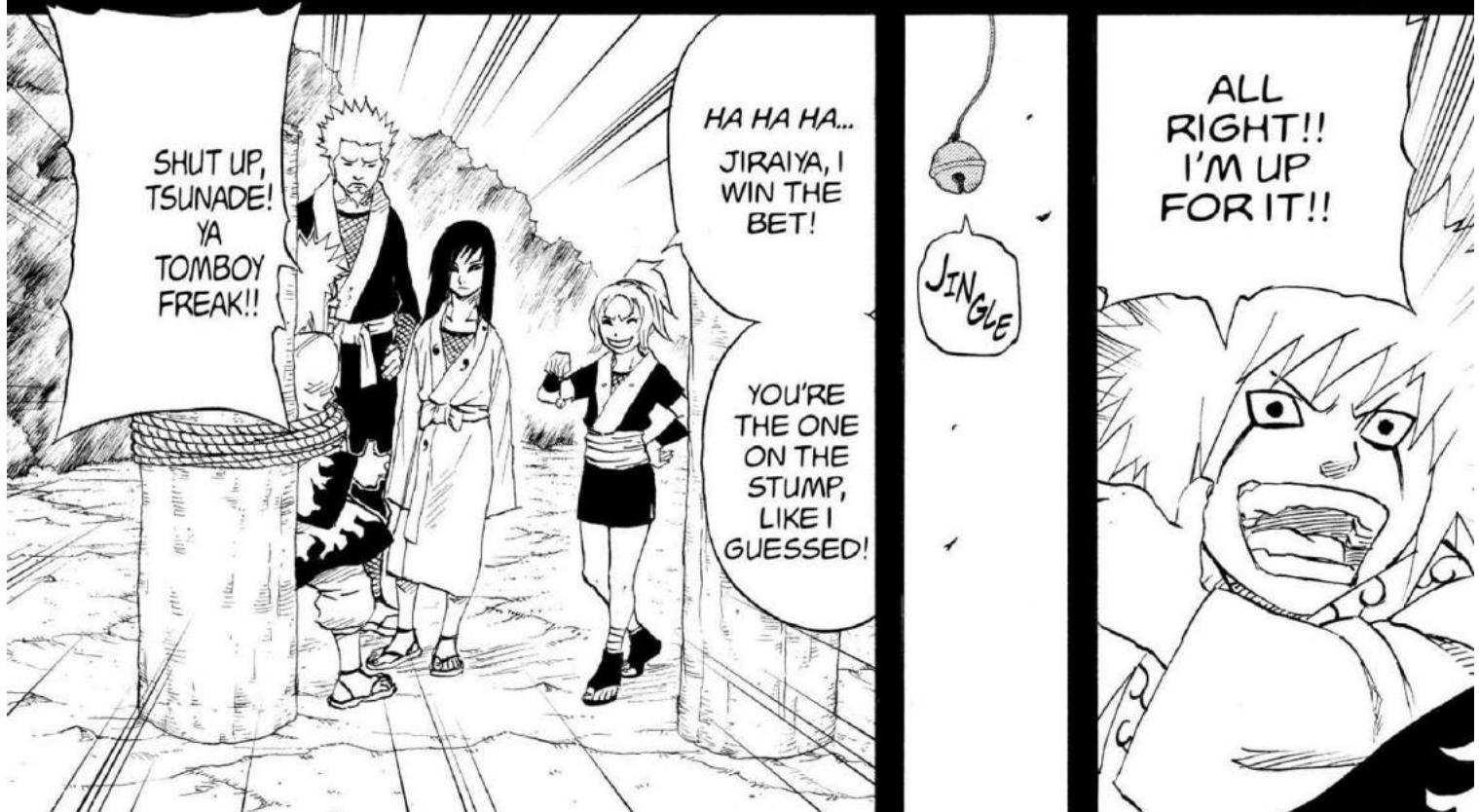
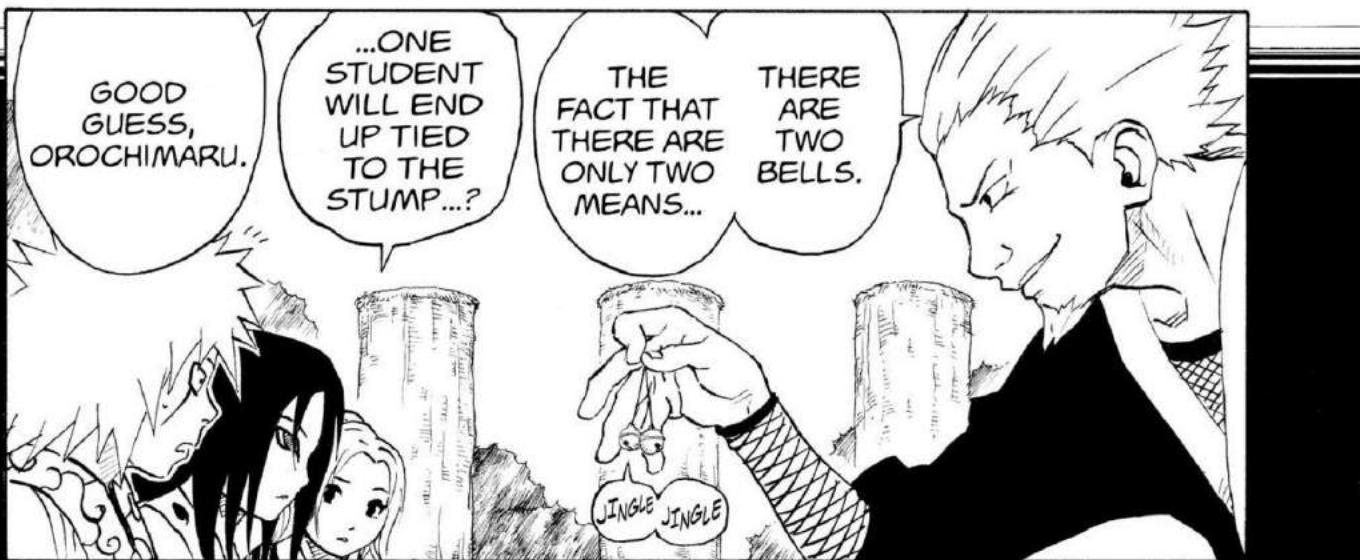


THE
BURNING
DESIRE TO
DEFEND
THIS
VILLAGE.









READ
THIS
WAY

KWF

YES,
SIR--
♥

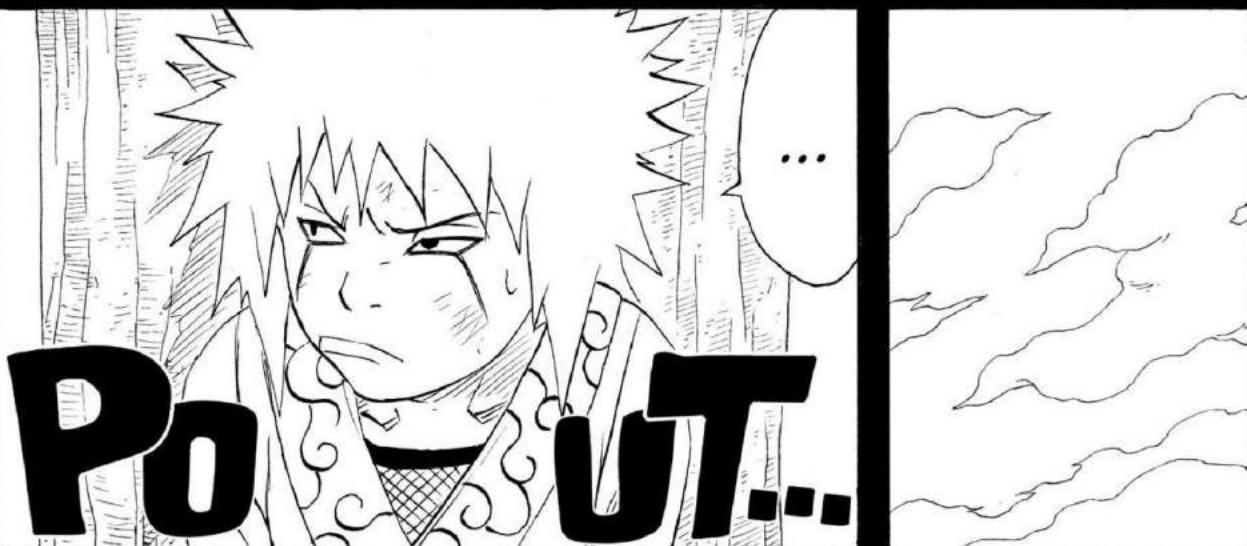
TSUNADE,
YOU AND
OROCHI-
MARU
CAN GO
HOME.

ALL
RIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT!
BREAK IT
UP NOW...

WHAT
DIDJA
SAY, YOU
EGGHEAD
PERV?!!

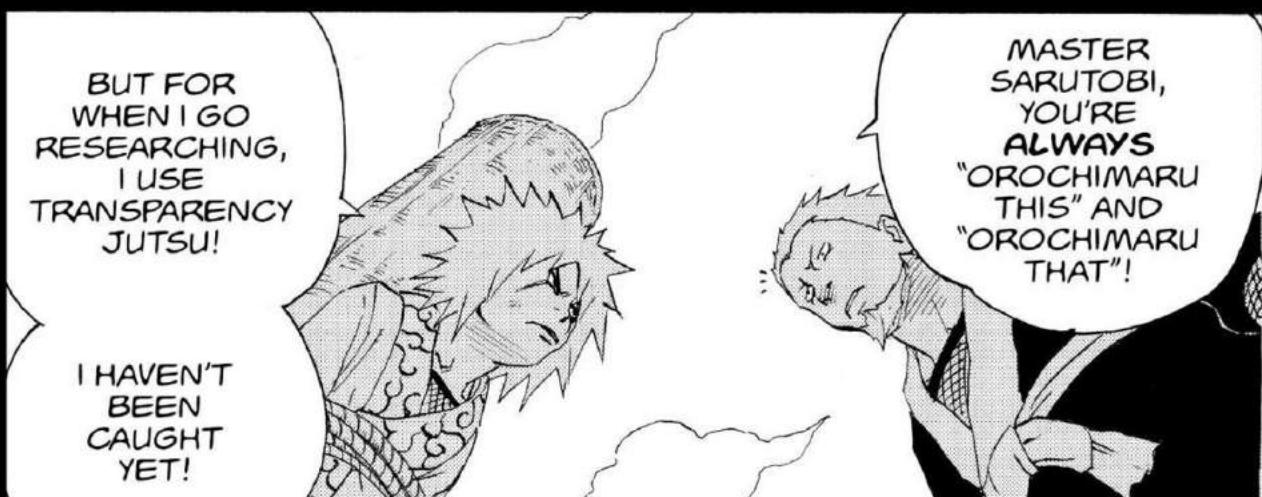
...HEH.

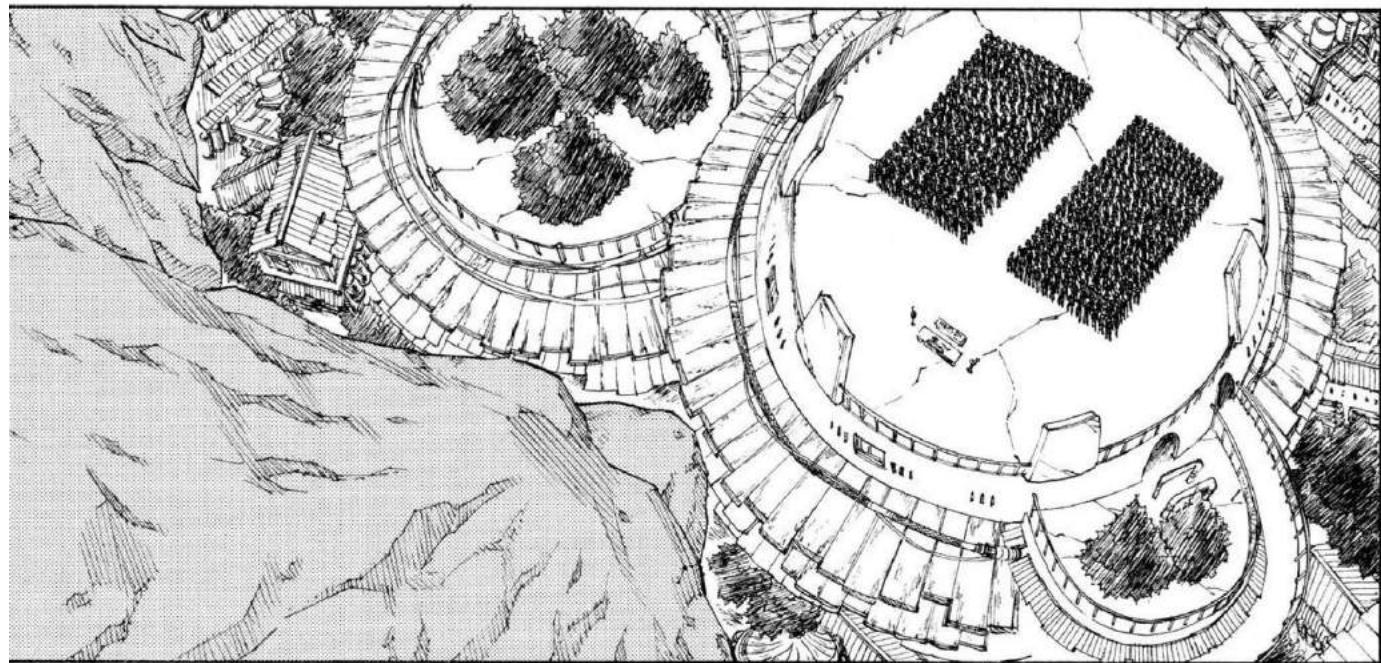
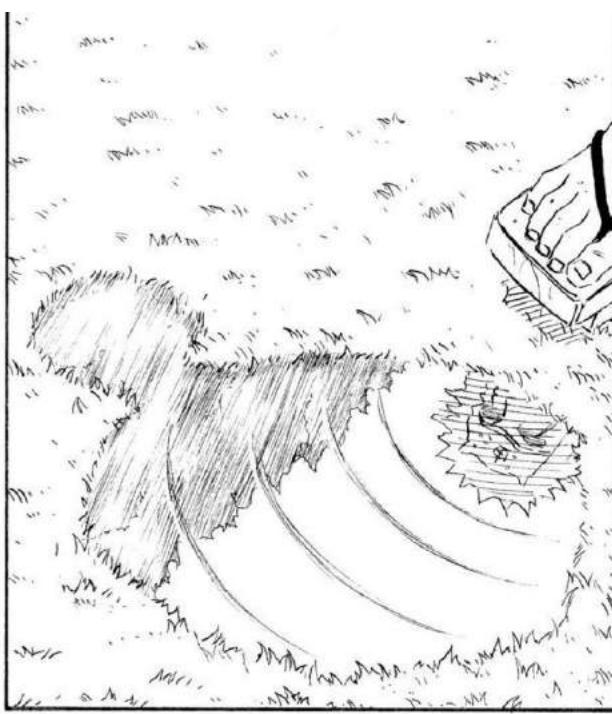
SHOOF

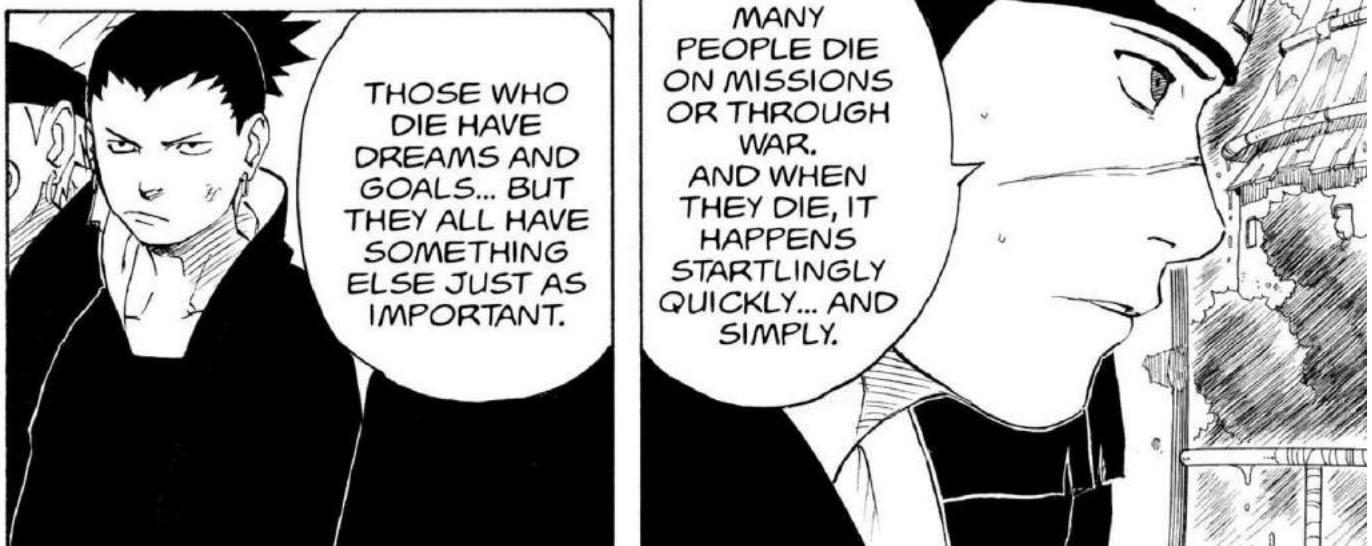
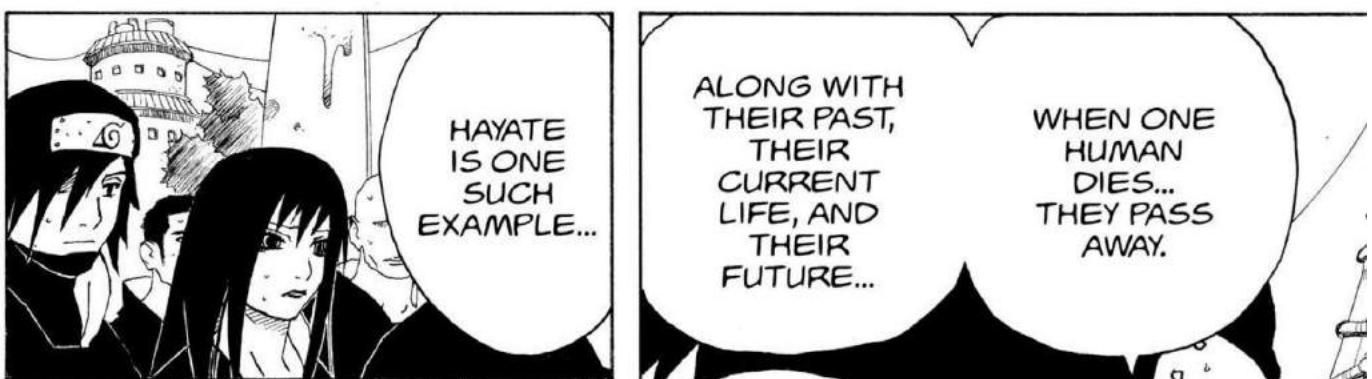
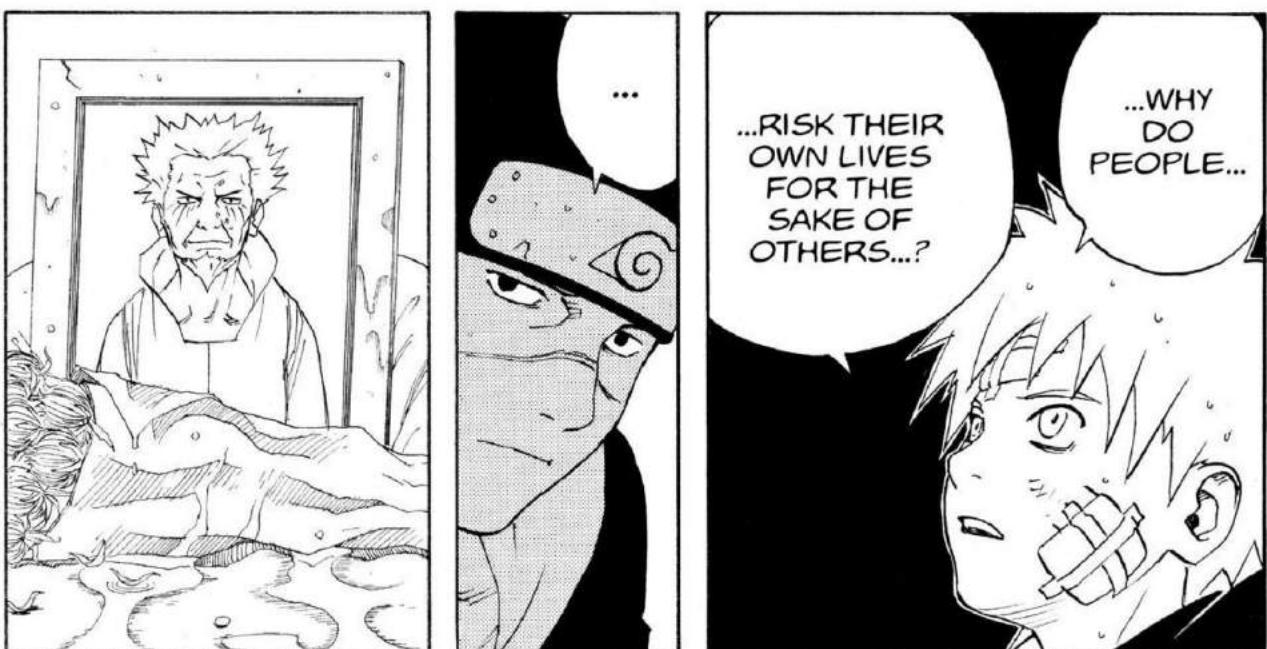


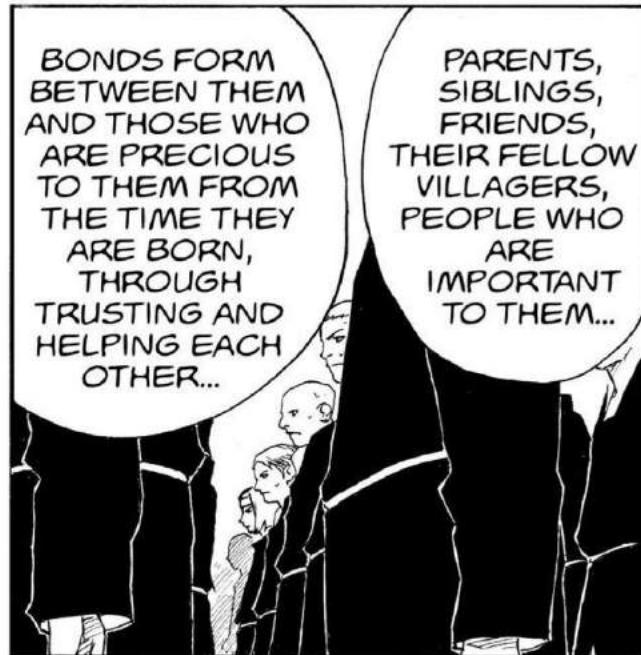
BUT...

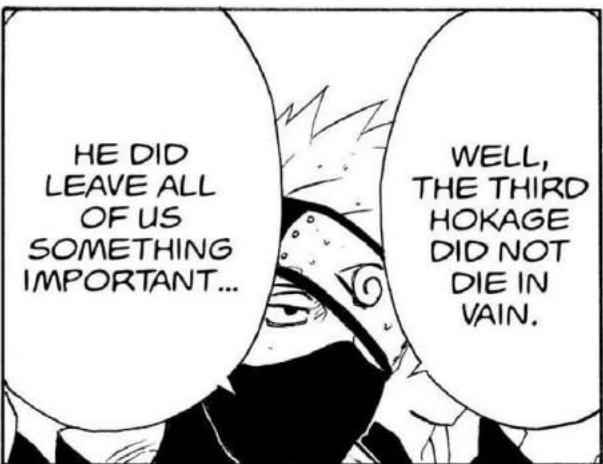
IT'S
DOWNRIGHT
EMBARRASSING
FOR A NINJA TO ...SHEESH...
FALL FOR SUCH
OBVIOUS TRAPS
OVER AND
OVER AGAIN!!







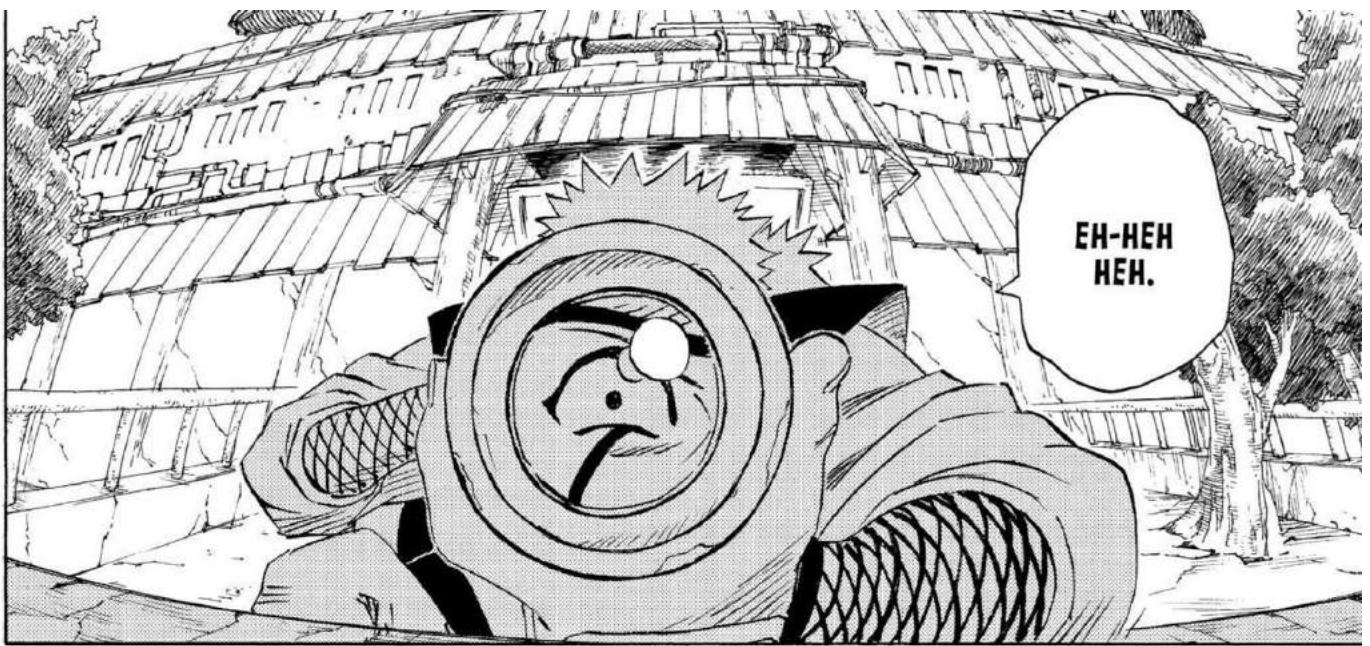


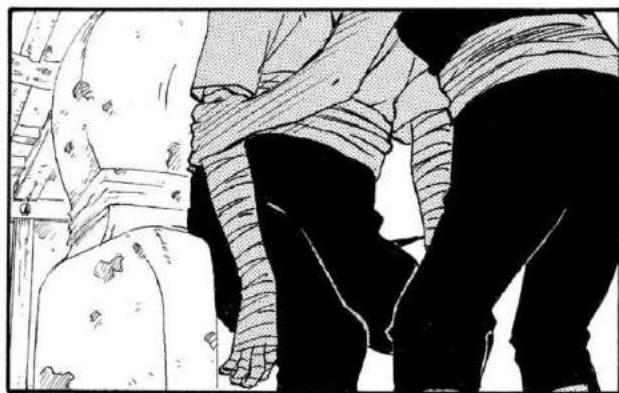
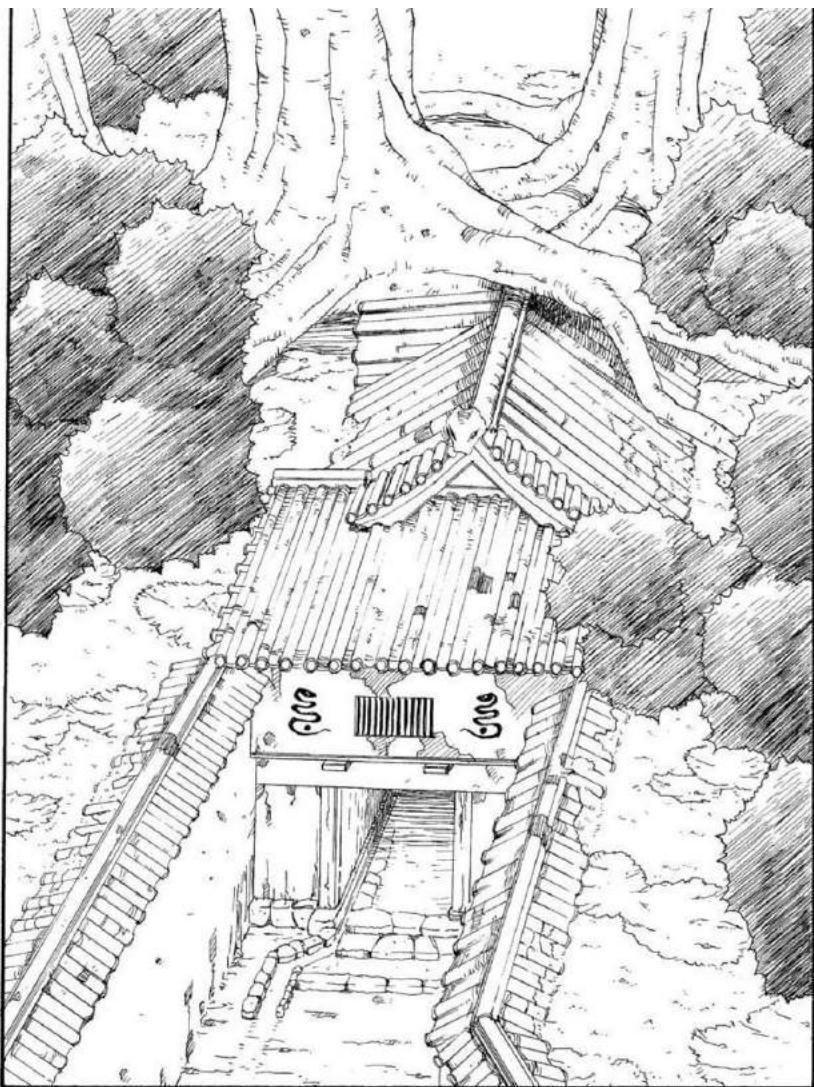
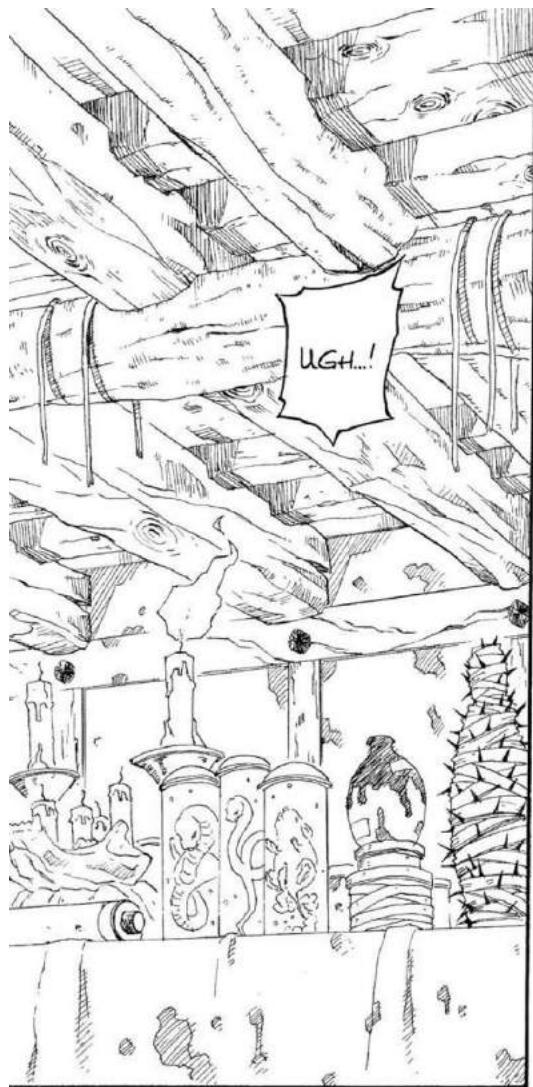


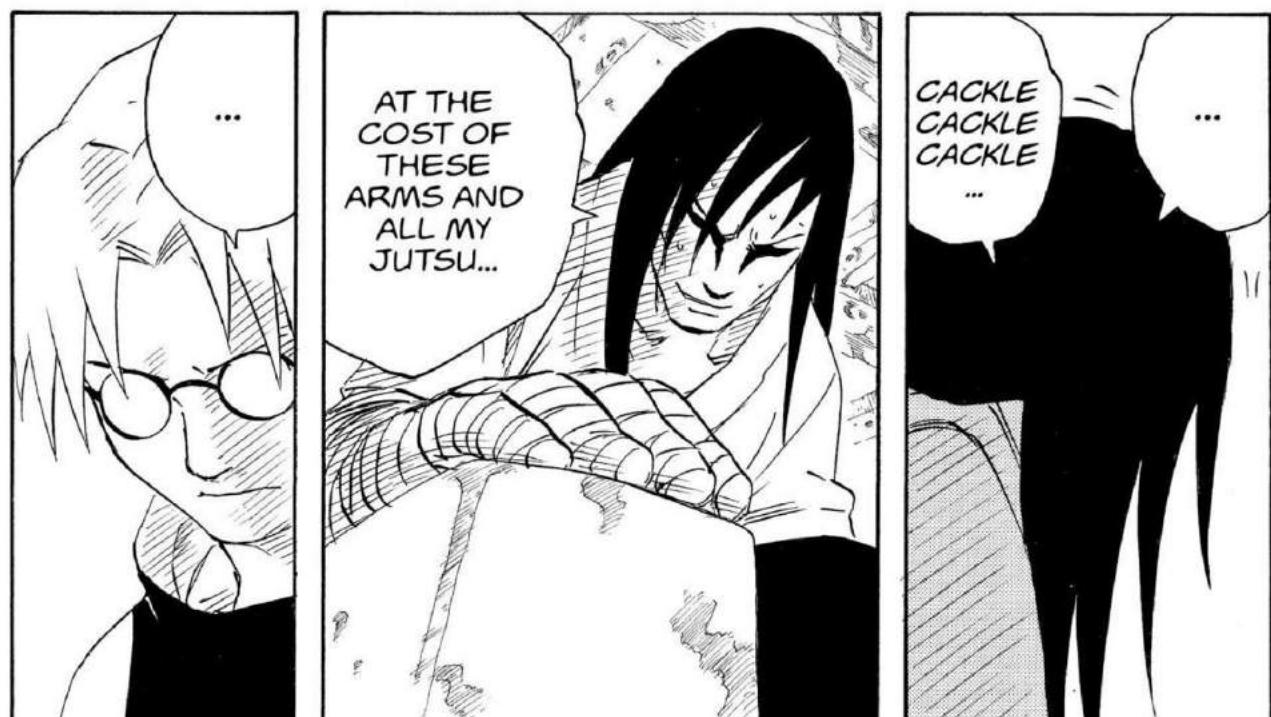
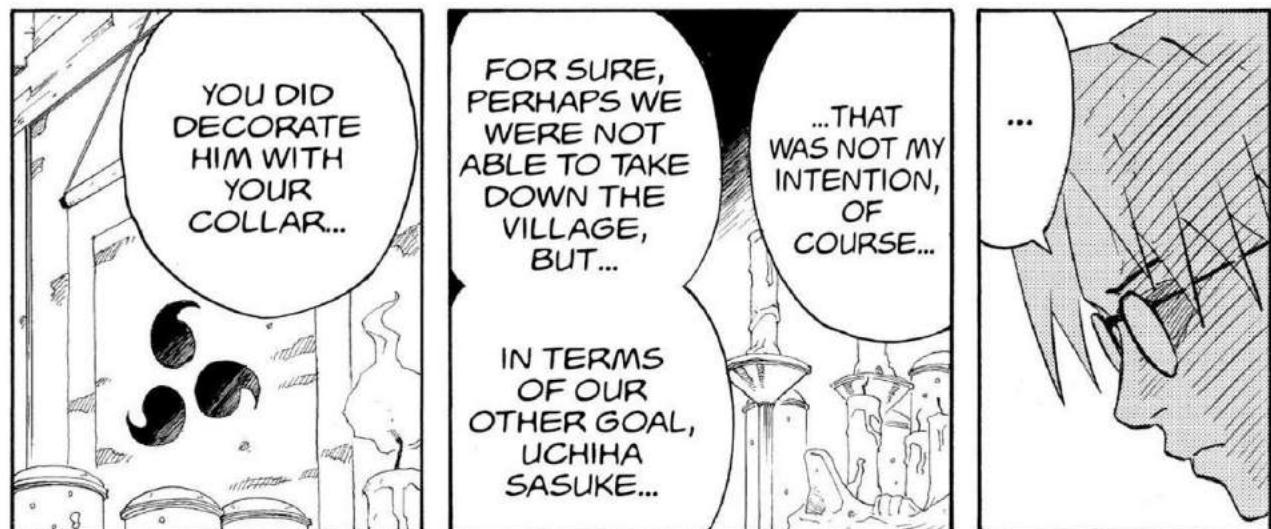














HE IS
STRONGER
THAN I...



BUT THAT
DREAM
HAS
DIED...

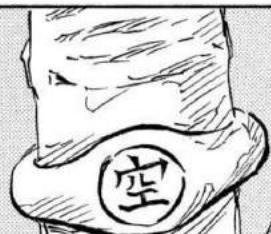
THIS ALL
WOULD NOT
HAVE BEEN
NECESSARY IF
WE HAD BEEN
ABLE TO ROPE
IN UCHIHA
ITACHI FROM
THE
BEGINNING...

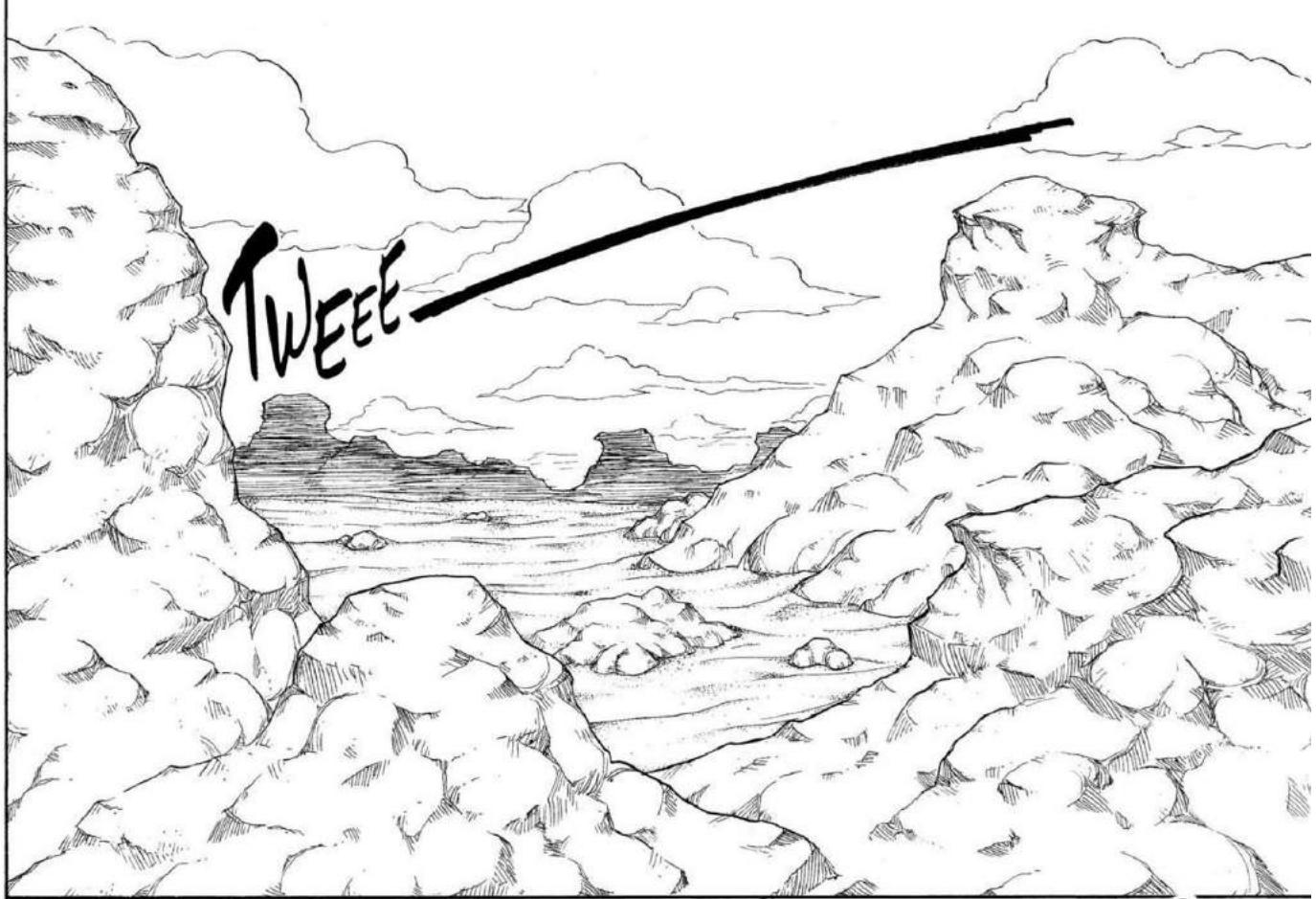


THAT'S WHY...
I BROKE
AWAY FROM
THAT ORGANIZATION...

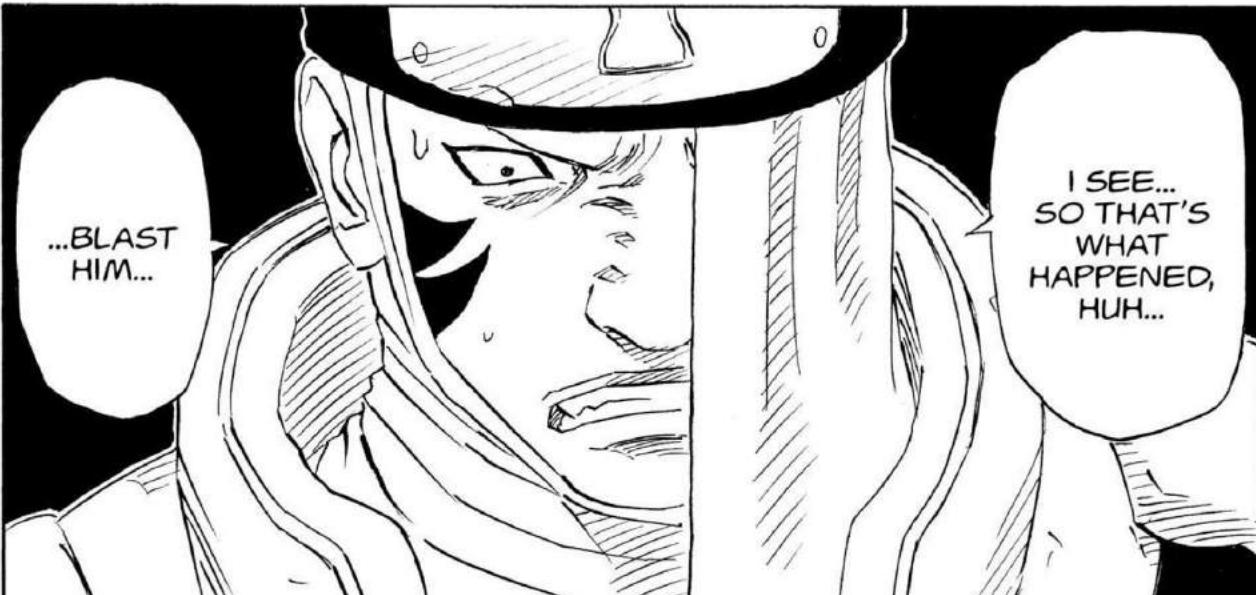
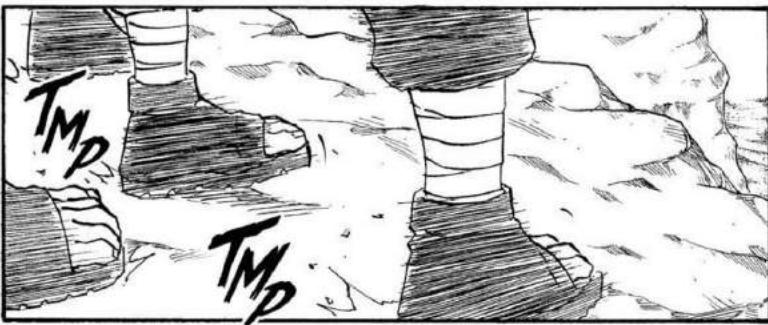


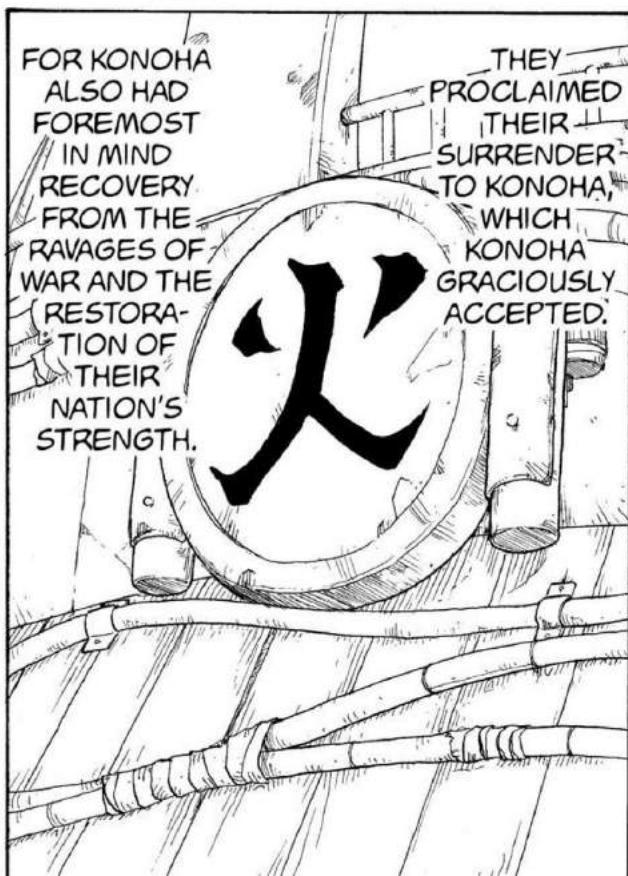
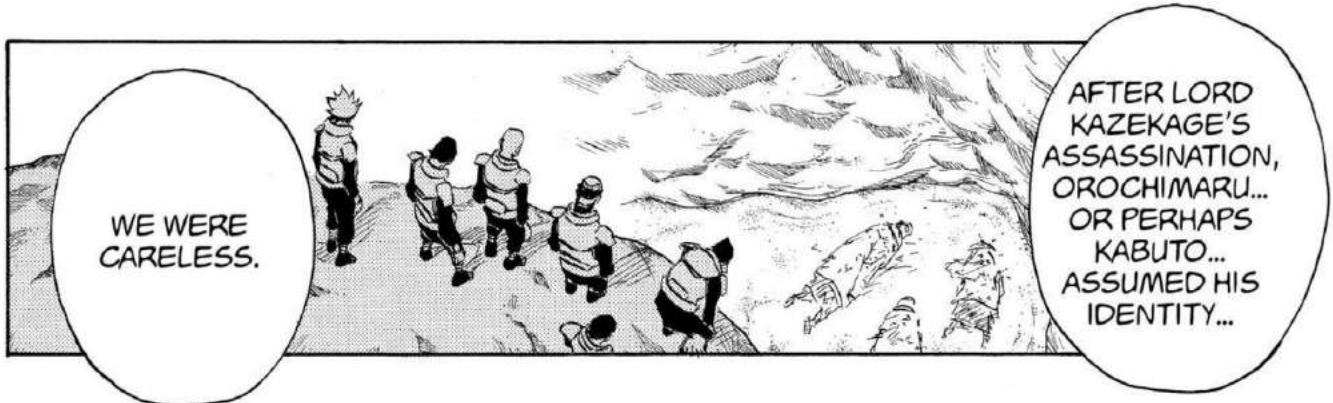
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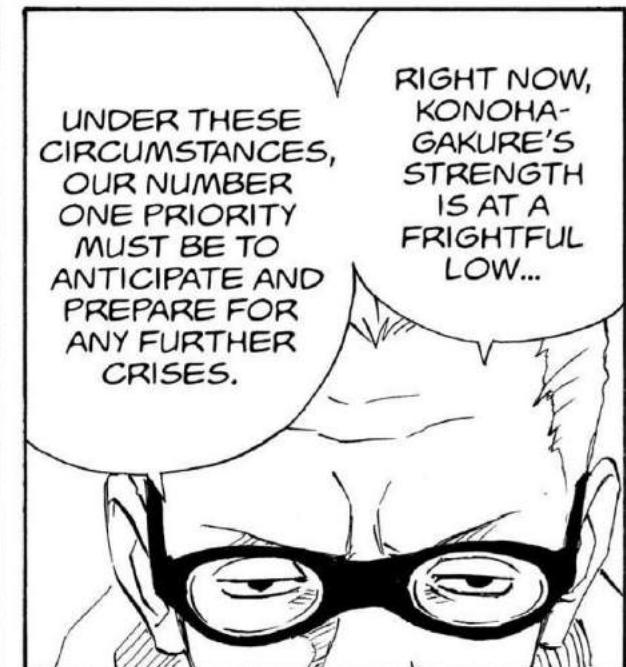
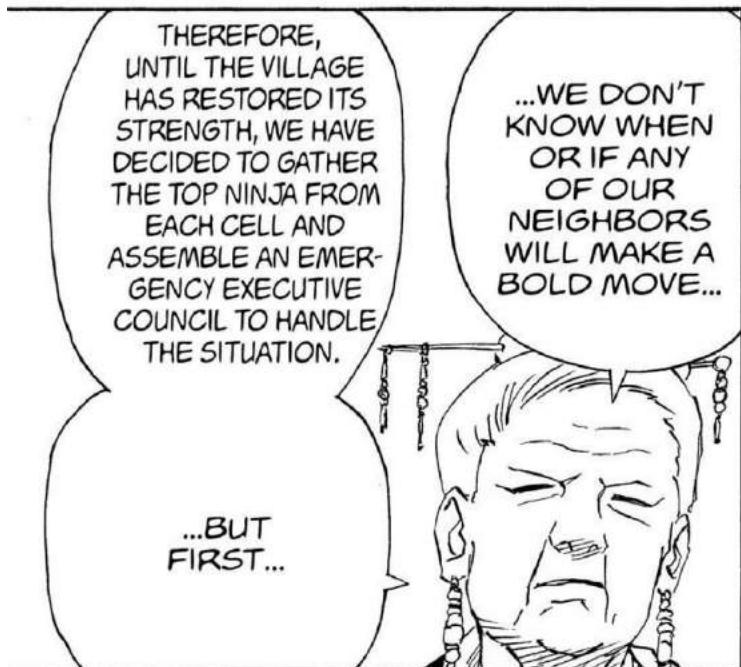


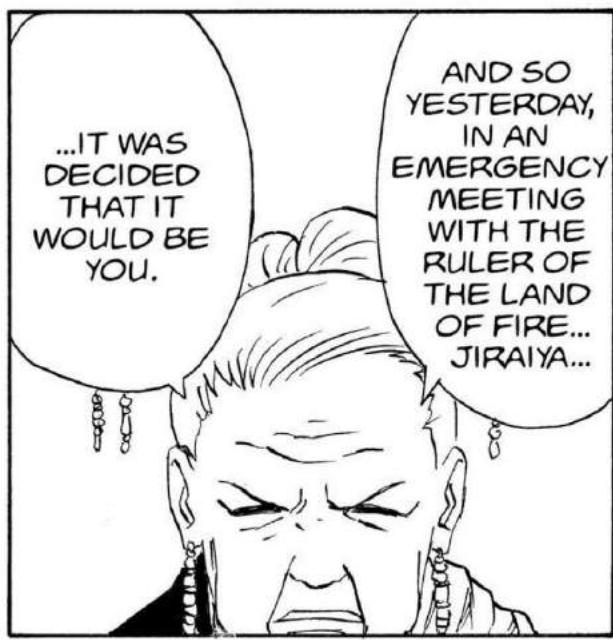


READ
THIS WAY

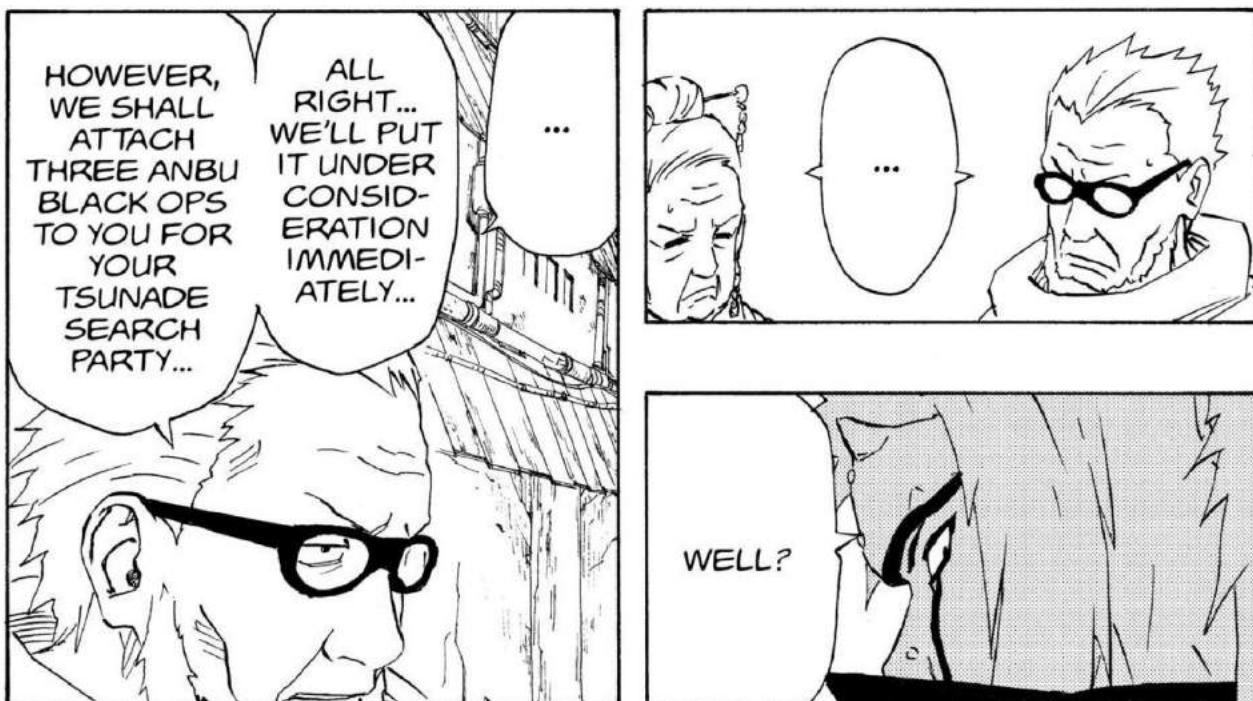


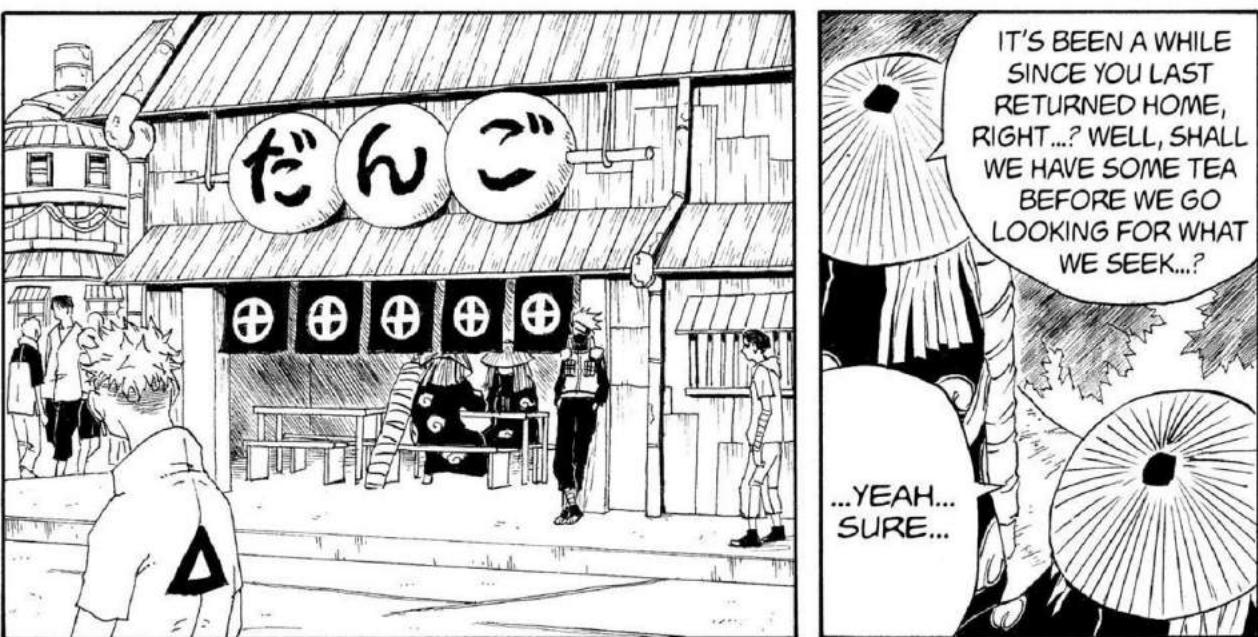
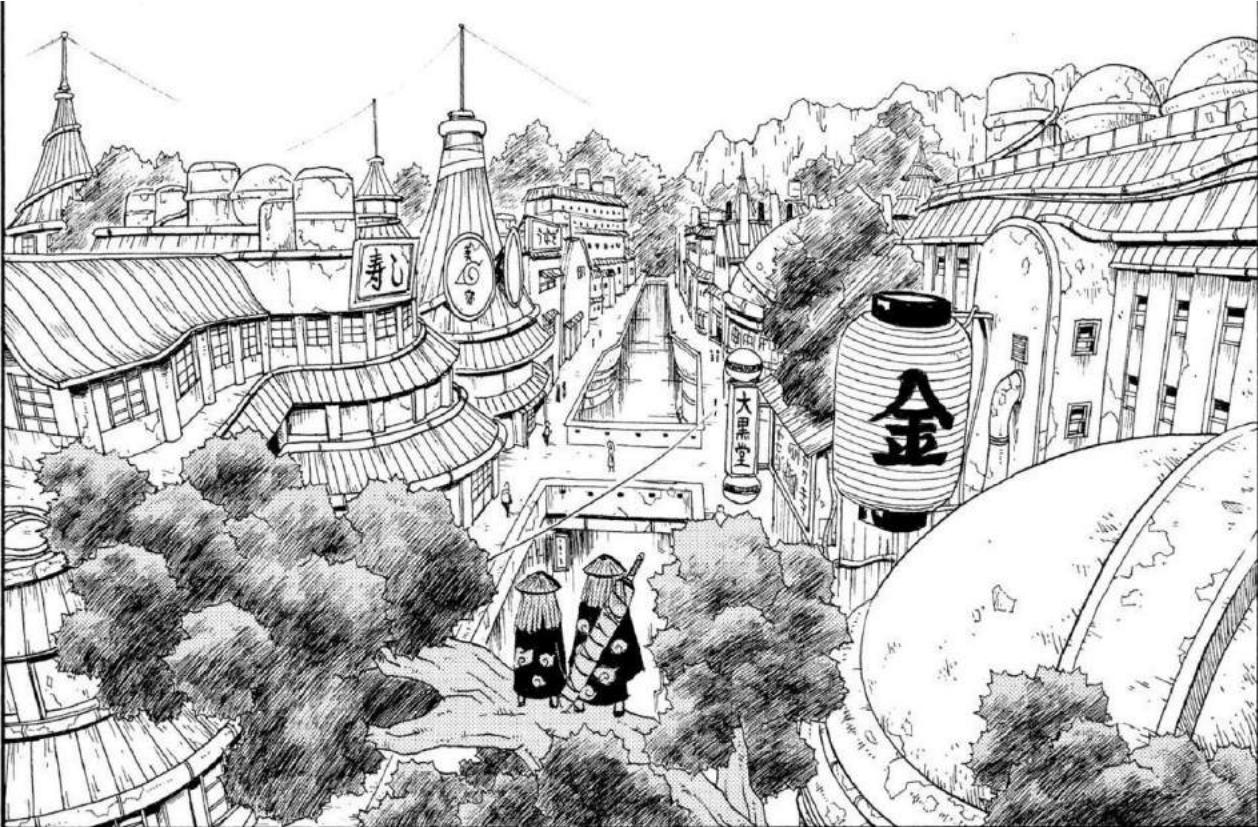


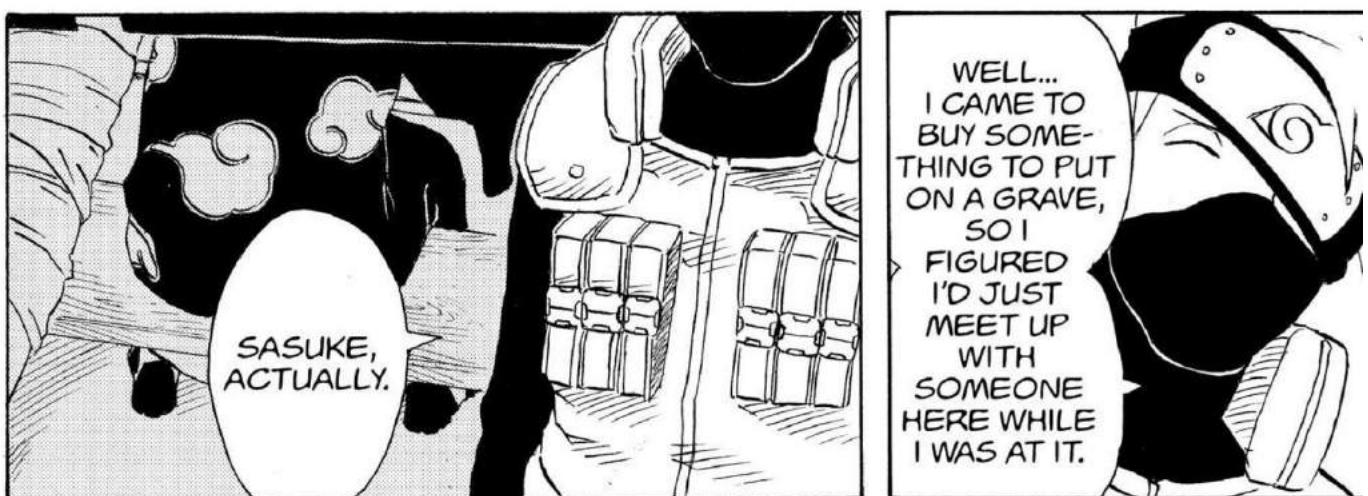


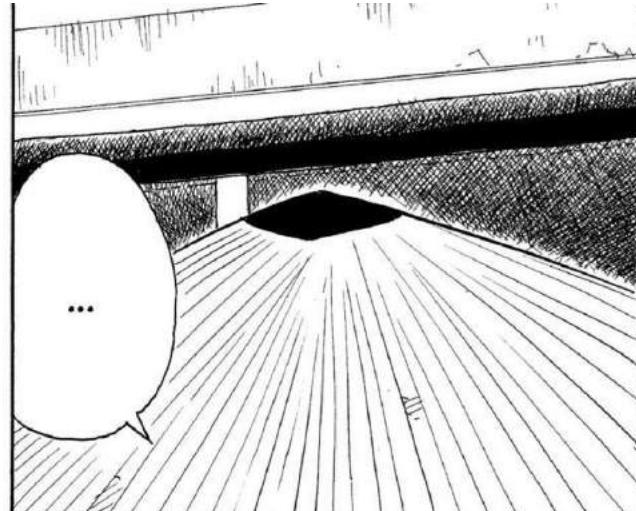
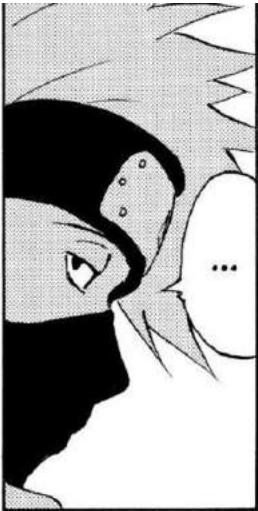


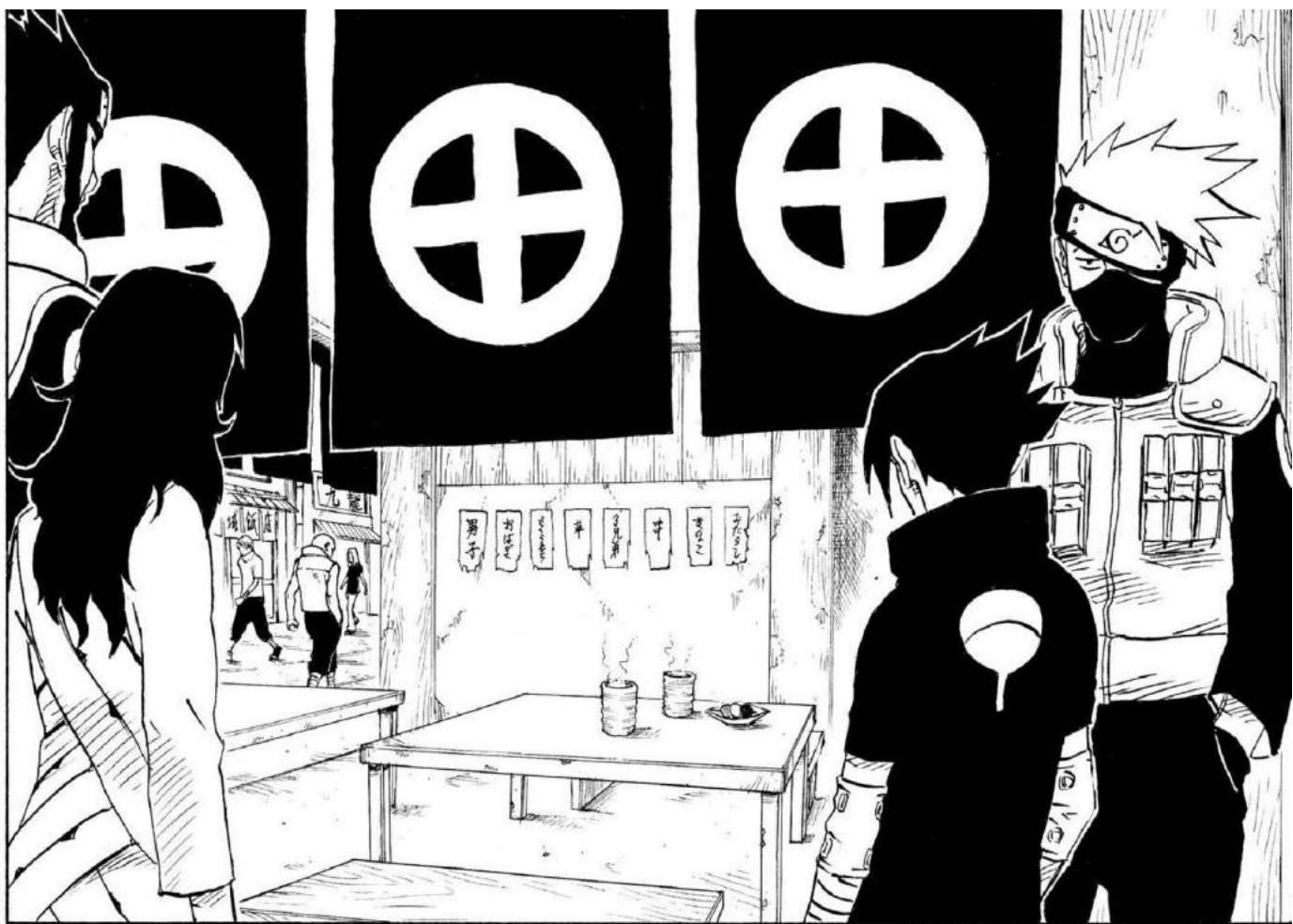


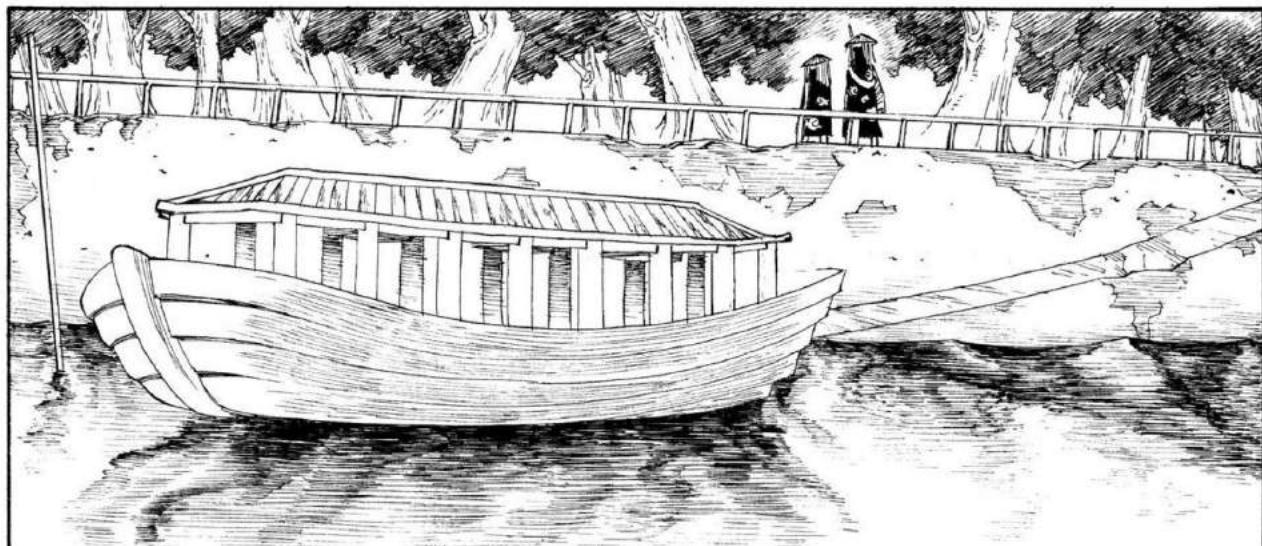
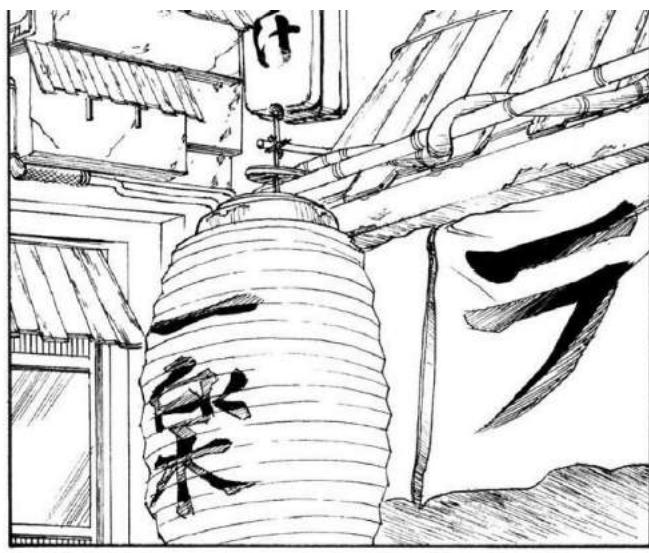


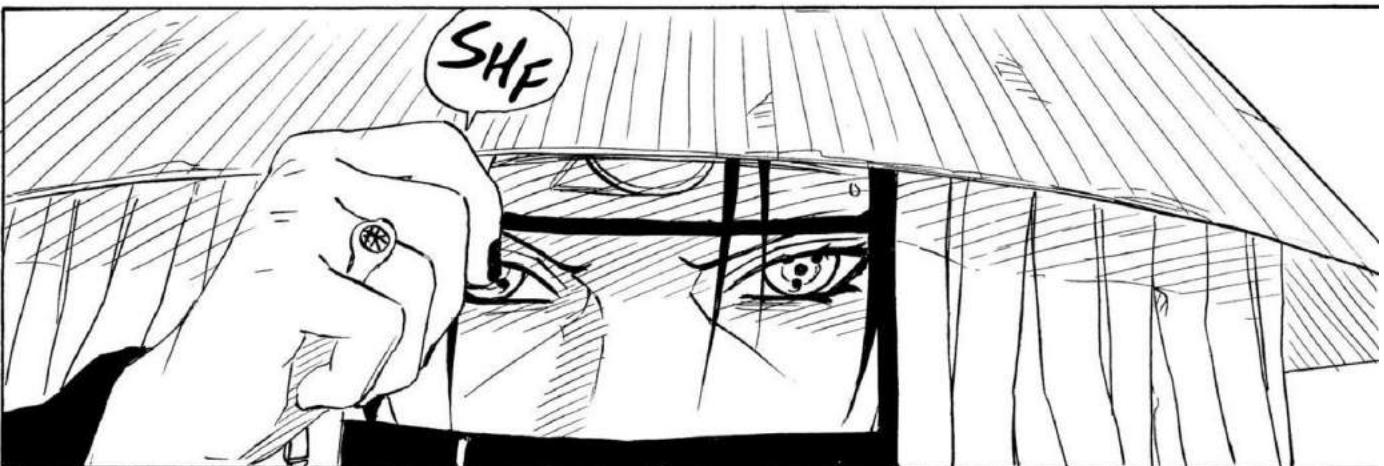
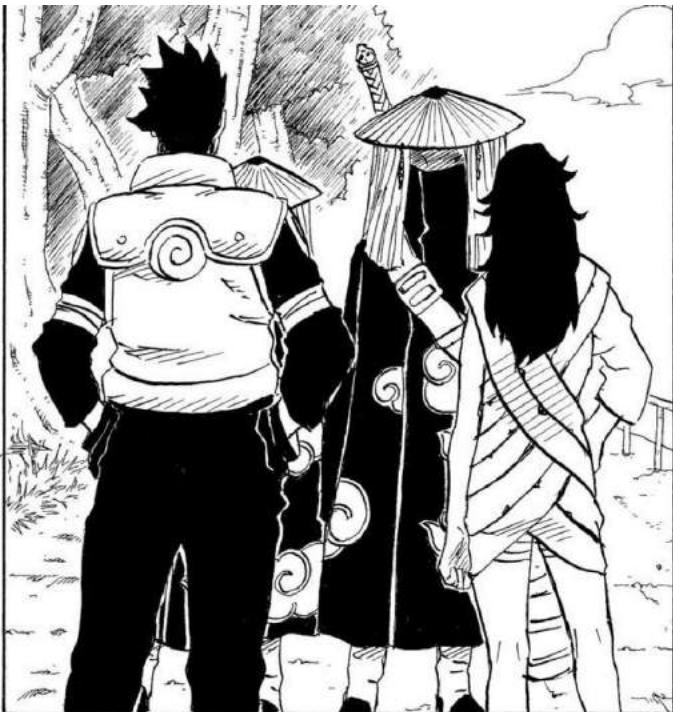


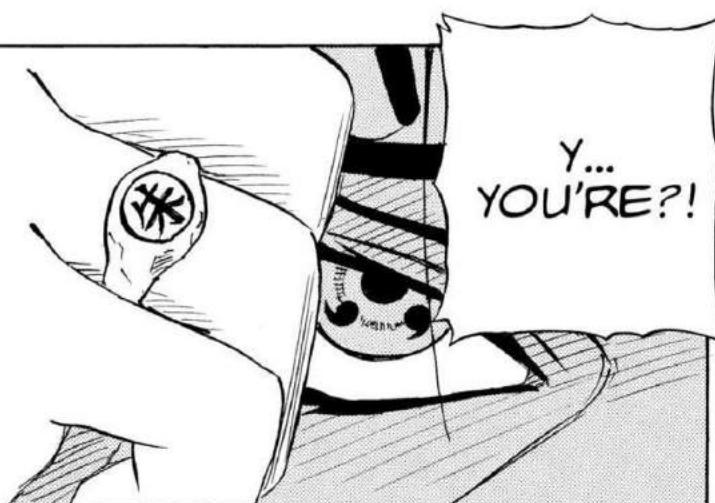












THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 24 CHAPTER 2

MY FRIEND TOLD ME, "USUTA SENSEI WAS CONTACTED BY THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO"!

"WHAT!" MEANS WHAT? AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN CONTACTED YET, THEN!?! DON'T TELL ME I DIDN'T MAKE IT?!! I FELT DEFLATED, TOOK OFF FROM SCHOOL, GOT SULKY, AND PLAYED VIDEO GAMES. HOWEVER, WHILE I WAS PLAYING VIDEO GAMES, IN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART... BUT IF WHOEVER WON IS CONTACTED TOO EARLY AND OUT OF BLIND ECSTASY POSTS HIS VICTORY ON THE INTERNET, EVERYONE WILL KNOW THE RESULT BEFORE IT'S ANNOUNCED IN JUMP! IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, THAT WOULD BE BAD! IT'S JUST NOT KOSHER! THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY DON'T CONTACT YOU UNTIL THAT DAY OR AT THE EARLIEST THE DAY BEFORE JUMP HITS THE BOOKSTORES! SURELY! I KEPT SILENTLY MAKING SUCH EXCUSES TO MYSELF AND PRAYED THAT I WOULD HEAR FROM THEM.

AND THEN, IT WAS FINALLY THE DAY BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT! I ENDED UP STAYING HOME THE WHOLE DAY, THINKING THAT I MIGHT GET A CALL, BUT THE DAY ENDED WITHOUT ANY WORD. THAT NIGHT, I HAD TROUBLE FALLING ASLEEP, STAYING UP UNTIL MIDNIGHT ALL ANXIOUS. AND THEN, JUST AS I STARTED FEELING MYSELF NOD OFF... THE PHONE RANG...

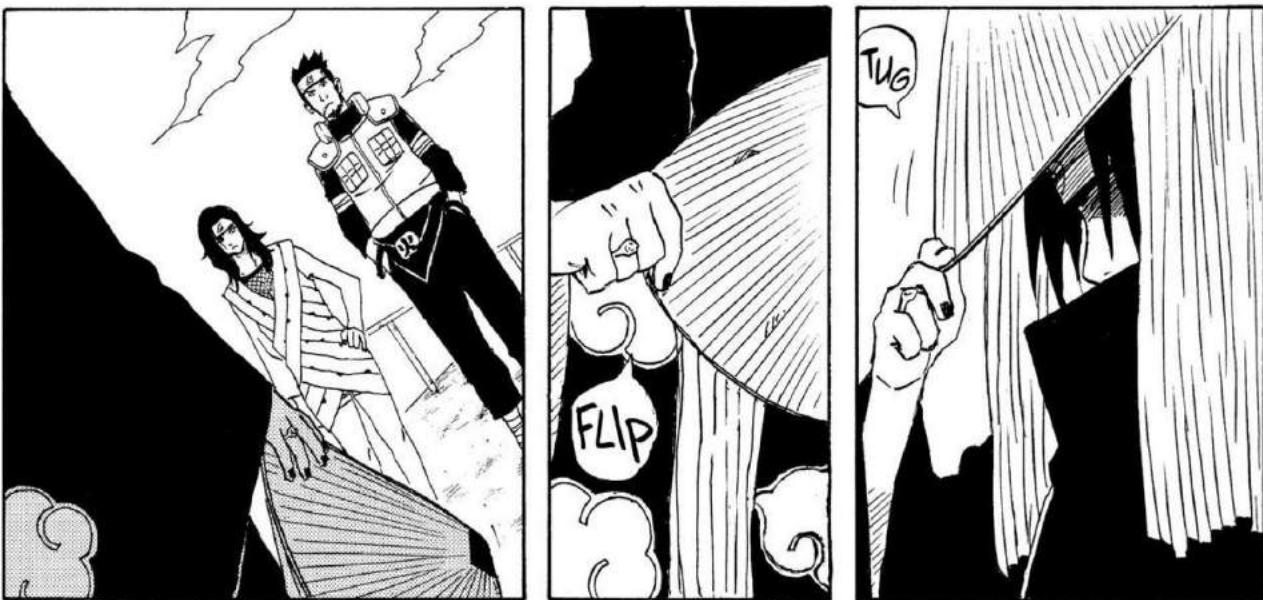
I PICKED THE RECEIVER UP AND PUT IT TO MY EAR. MY HEART FELT LIKE IT WAS GOING TO BURST! "HELLO... THIS IS KISHIMOTO." THEN... "HELLO, THIS IS WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP CALLING..." "...YES?!" I IMMEDIATELY BLURTED... "WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR "KARAKURI" HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THIS ROUND'S WINNER! CONGRATULATIONS!" WHEN I HEARD THAT, I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT MY HEART HAD BURST, IT POUNDED! SO HARD, AND THEN I WOKE UP...

...IT HAD ALL BEEN A DREAM. I'M DEAD SERIOUS!! I WAS SO BLUE ONCE I WAS COMPLETELY AWAKE!

AND THEN, FINALLY, ON THE ACTUAL MORNING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT DAY, "I WISH THAT DREAM WAS A PORTENT"... I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, AS I HEADED TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE. I HAD ALREADY RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE WORST. I MAY NOT HAVE MADE IT... I WANTED TO JUST KNOW THE RESULT AND GET IT OVER WITH AND YET I DIDN'T... WITH THAT CONFLICTED FEELING, I ENTERED THE CONVENIENCE STORE, WHERE A MOUNTAINOUS PILE OF WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP LAY STACKED RIGHT NEXT TO THE REGISTER. I DON'T THINK MY HEART EVER POUNDED THAT HARD. I FELT LIKE IT WAS GOING TO JUMP OUT OF MY THROAT.



Number 141: Uchiha Itachi



**Number
141:**

...
**UCHIHA
ITACHI.**

**U
c
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a**

**I
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a
c
h
i
—
—**



READ
THIS
WAY



HOSHIGAKI
KISAME,
A FORMER
KIRIGAKURE
SHINOBI...

I'VE
HEARD
OF
YOU...

...ITACHI... IT
SEEMS THAT
YOU TOO ARE
RATHER
DETESTED IN
YOUR HOME
VILLAGE.

...FOR CHARGES
SUCH AS
ASSASSINATION
AND SUBVERSIVE
MACHINATIONS
AGAINST THE
STATE.

AN OUTLAW
SHINOBI
CURRENTLY
BEING
SOUGHT BY
THE LAND OF
WATER...

...YOU TWO...
ARE MAJOR
FELONS THAT
HAVE BINGO
BOOK RANK S.

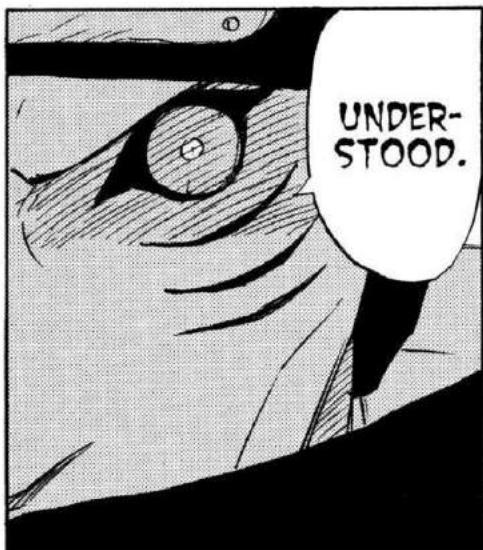
YOU'VE GOT
GUTS TO STEP
FOOT IN THIS
VILLAGE AGAIN
AFTER WHAT
YOU DID...

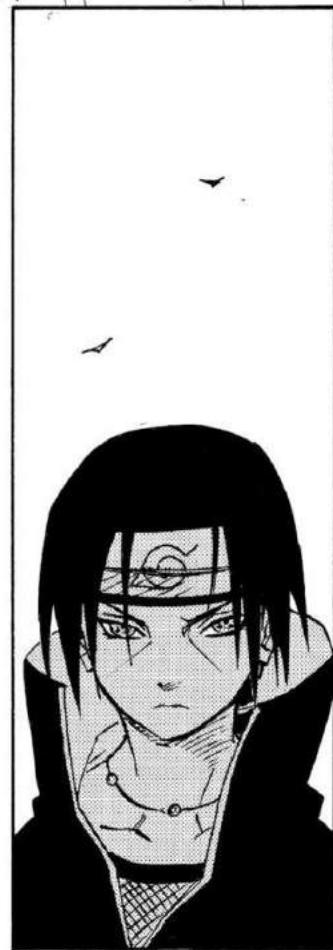
ITACHI
...

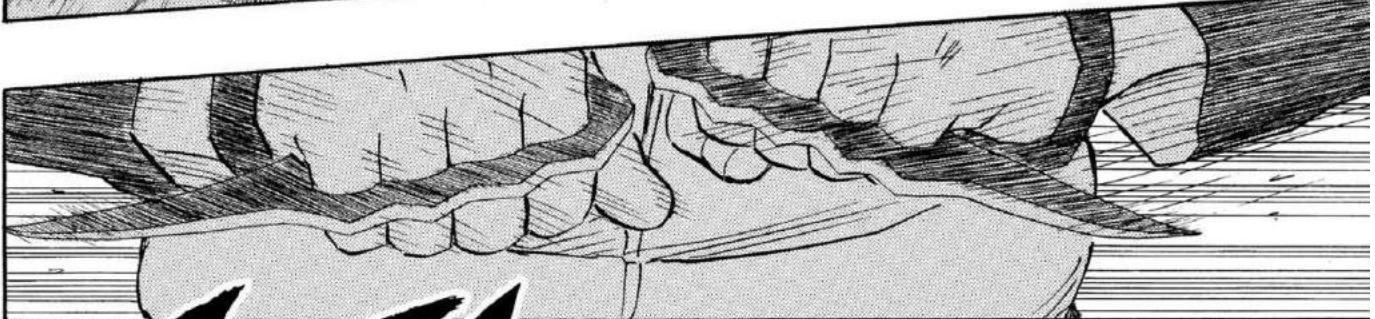
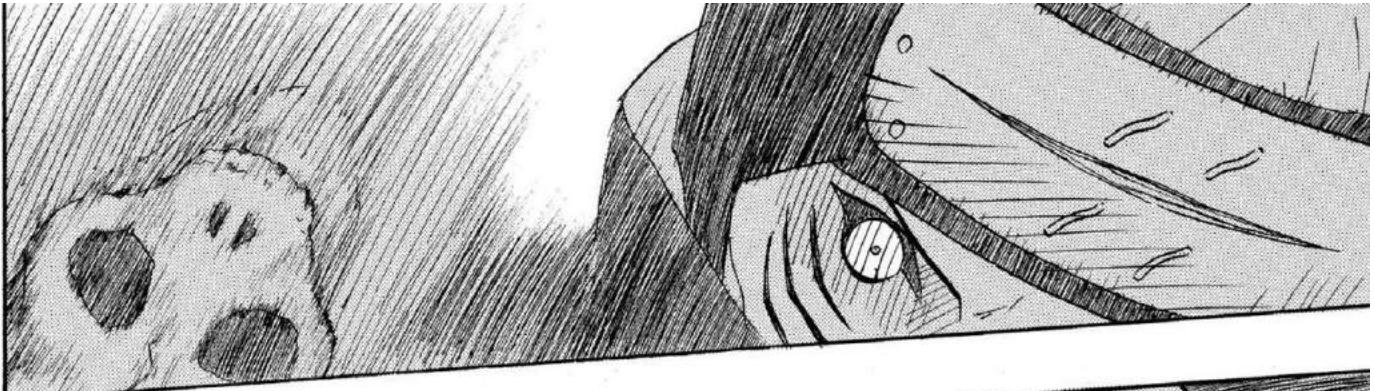
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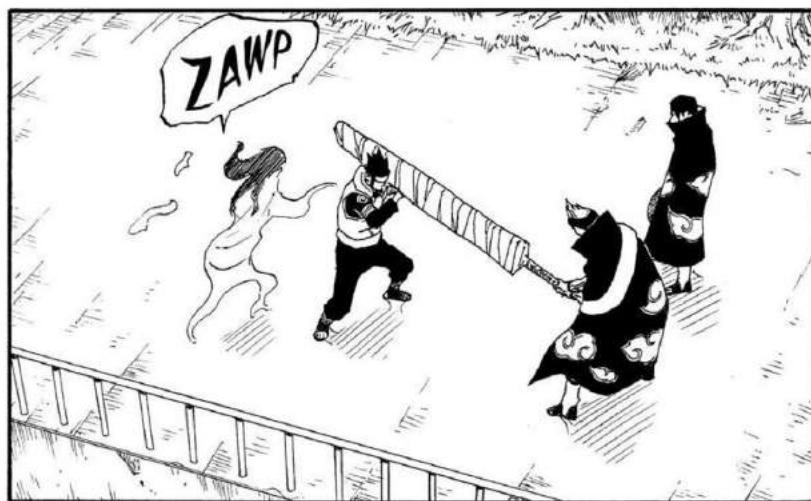


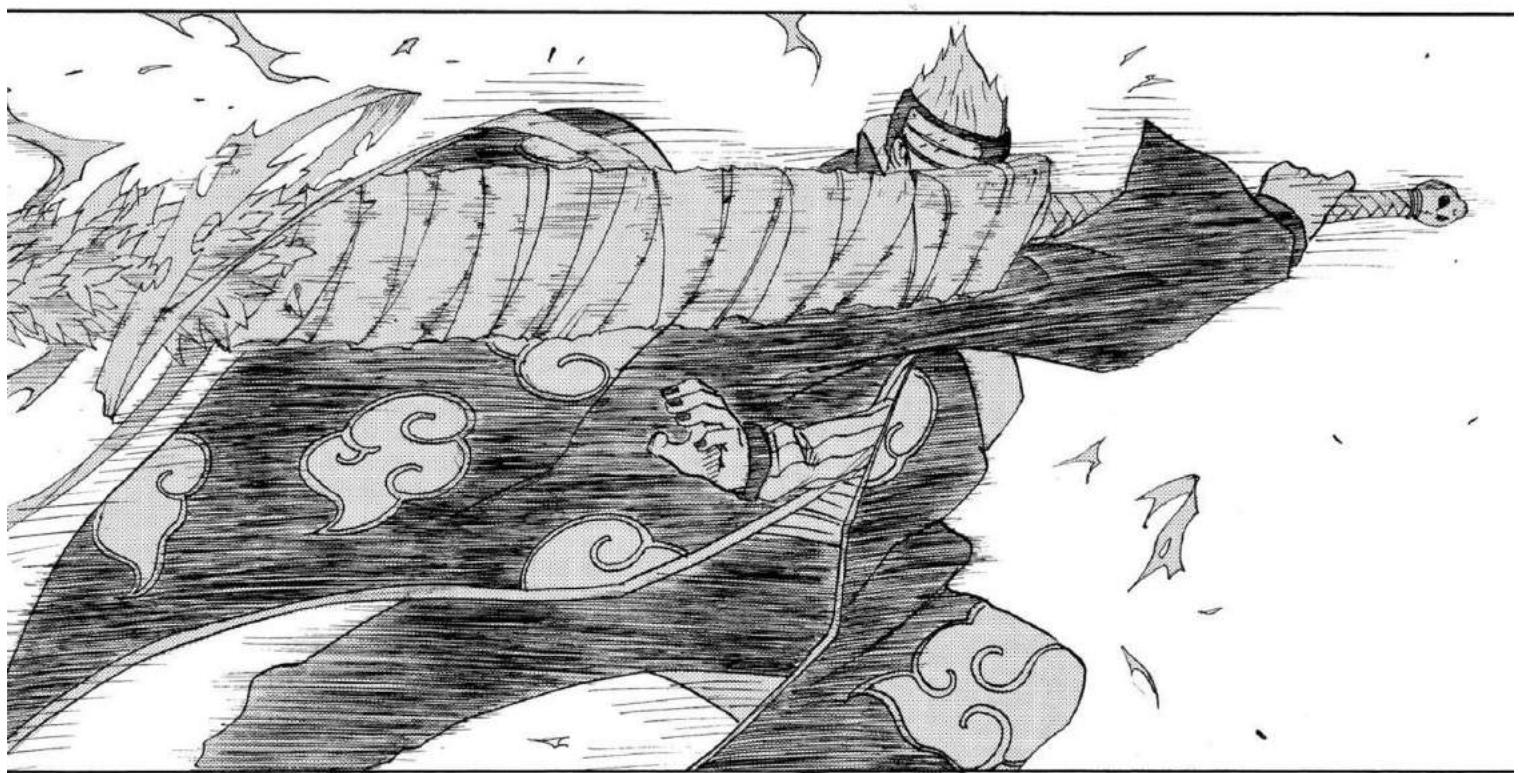
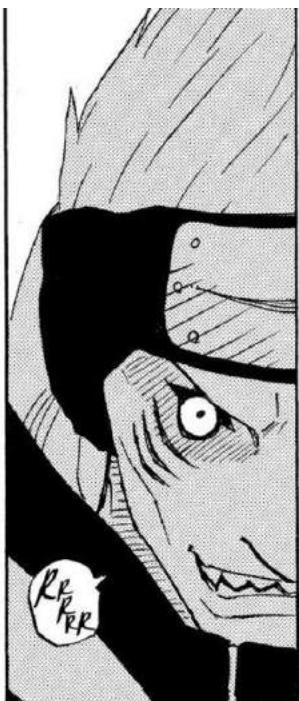




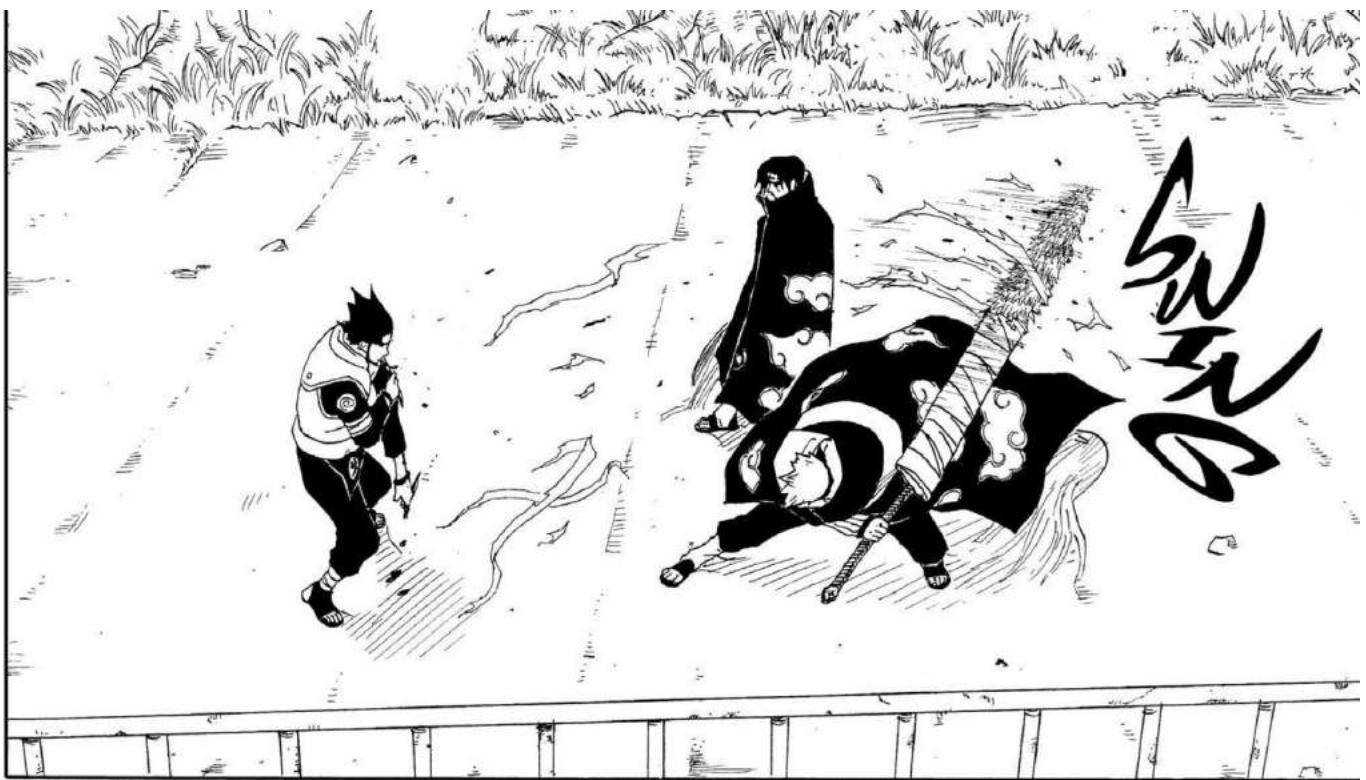




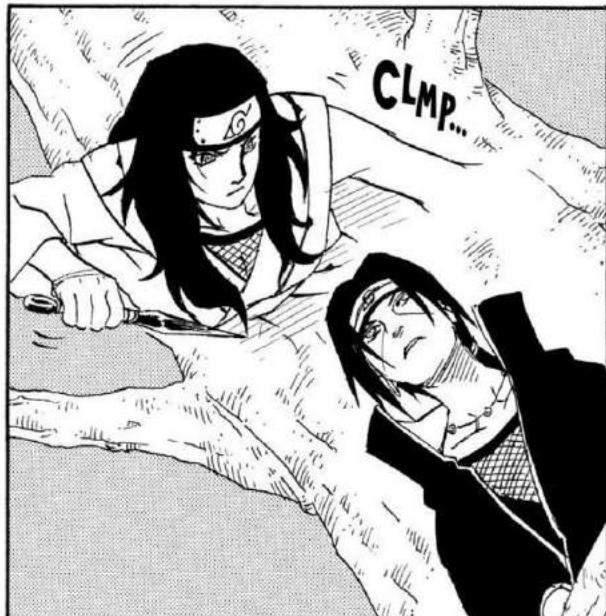


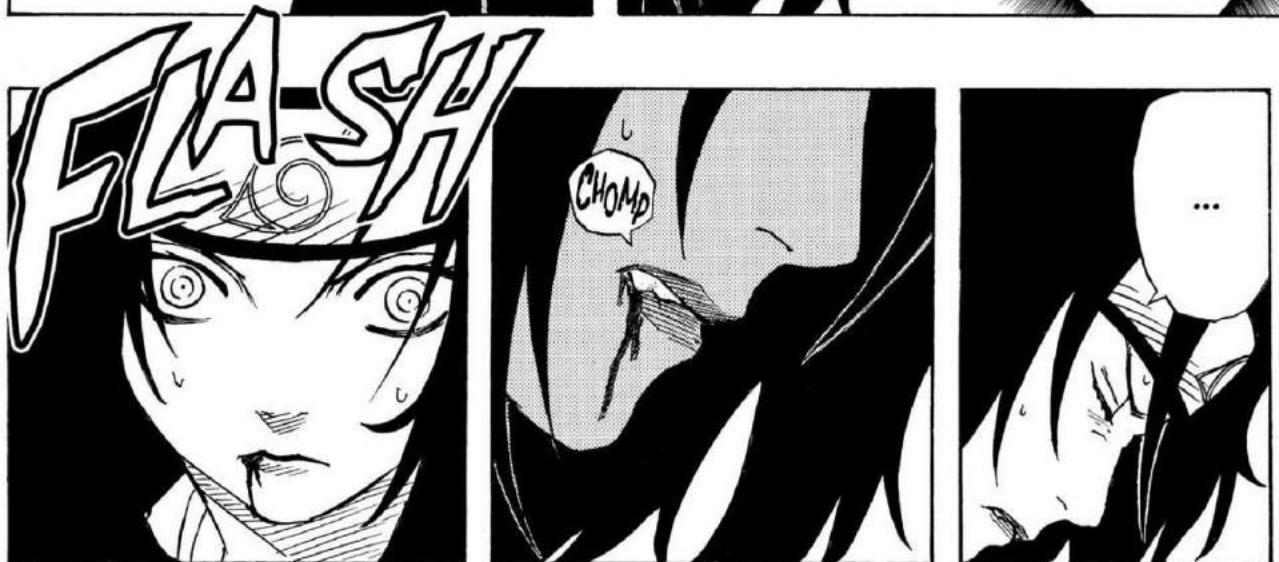
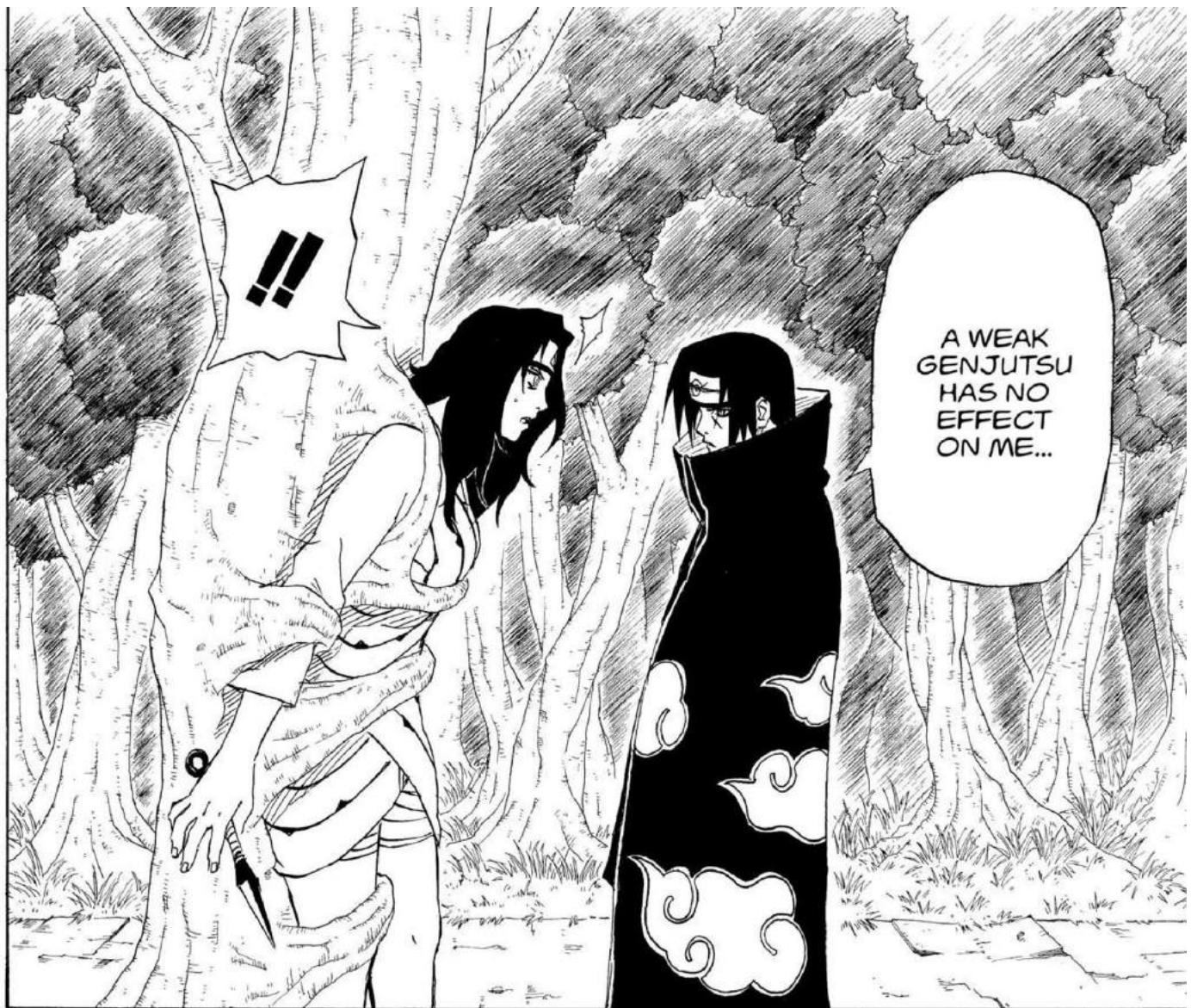




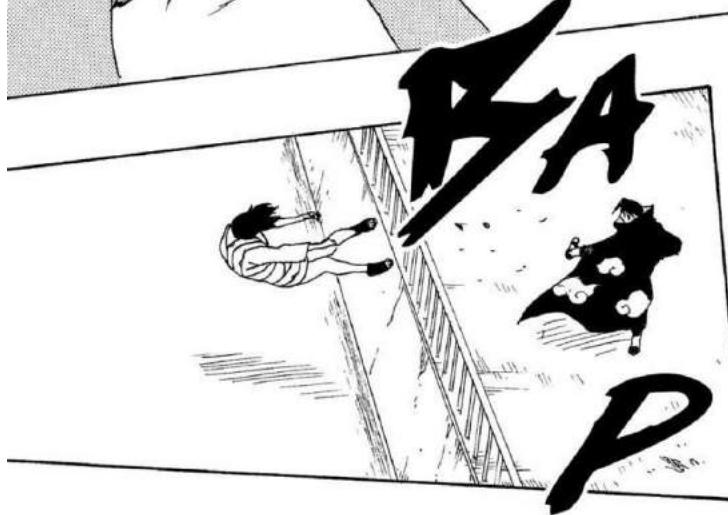


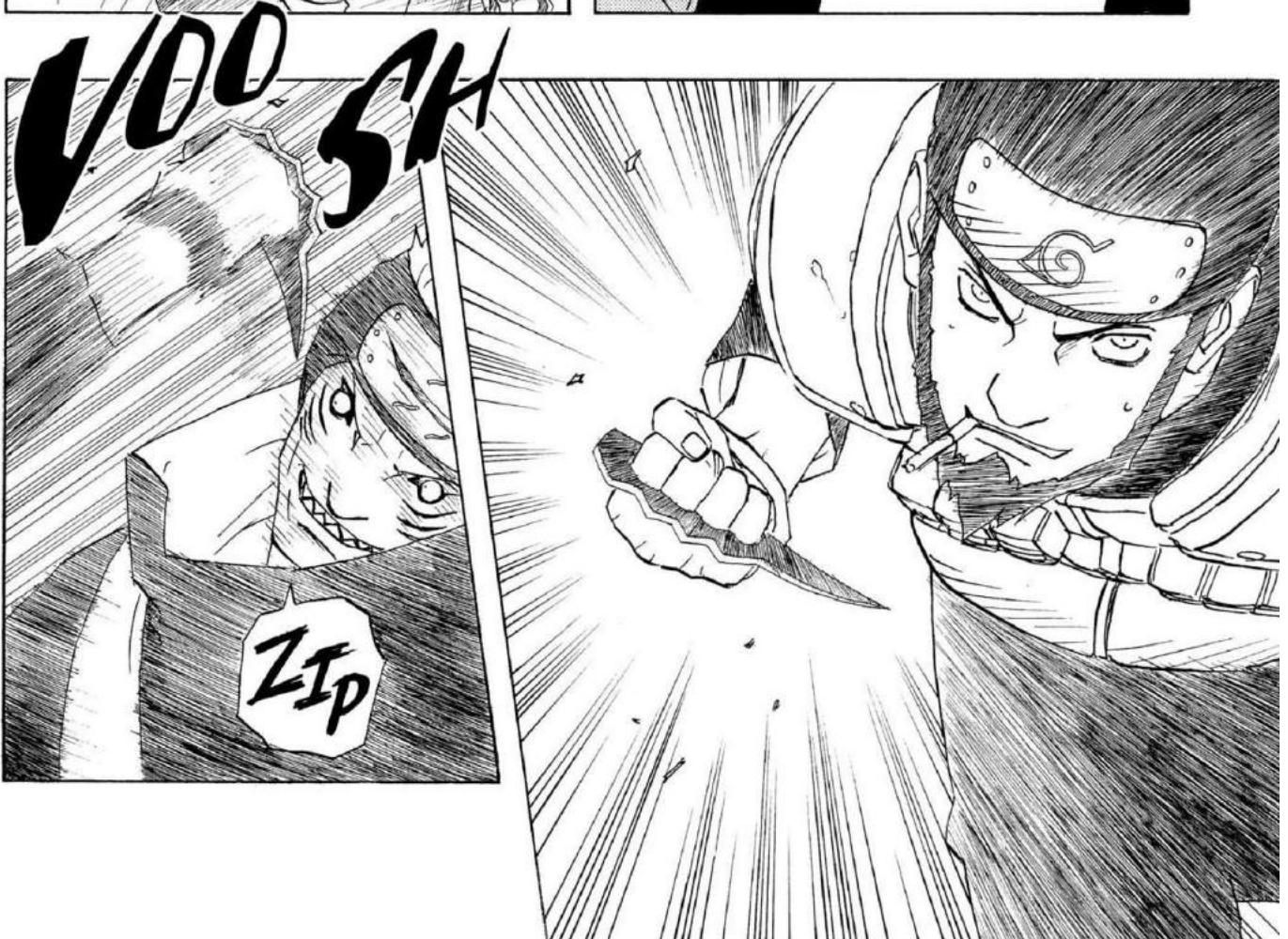
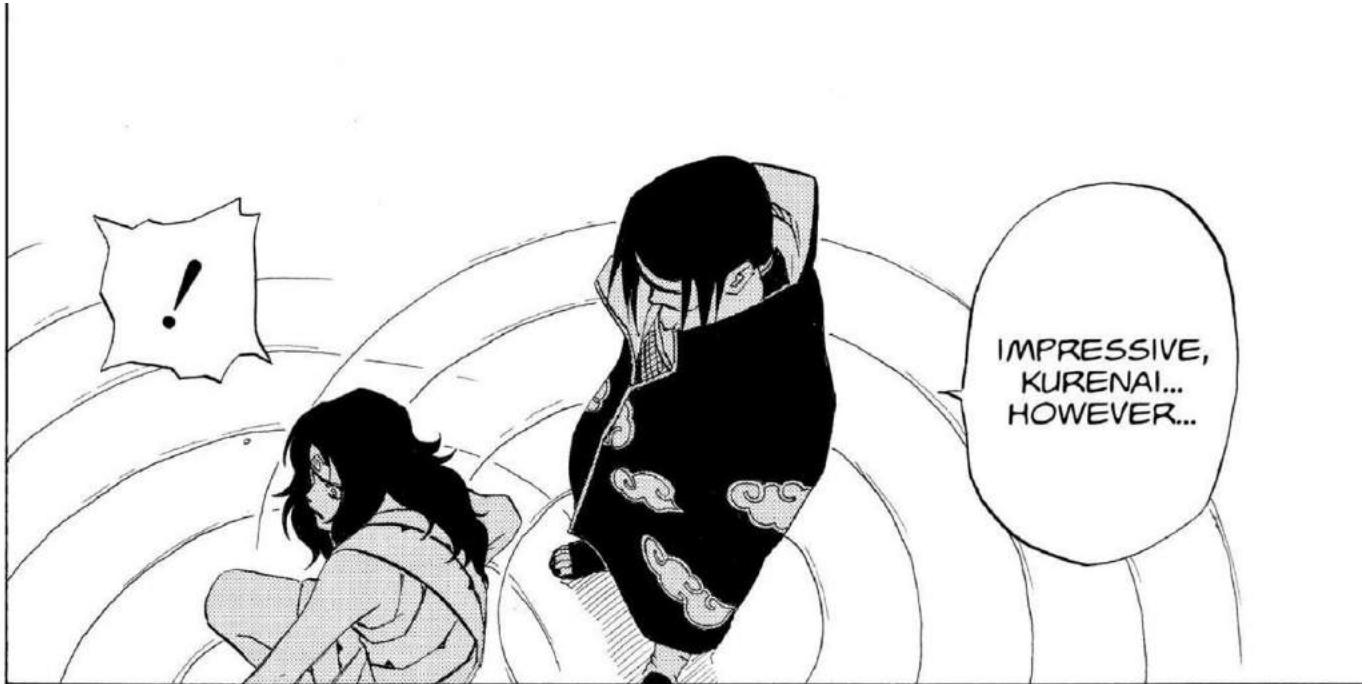
READ
THIS WAY





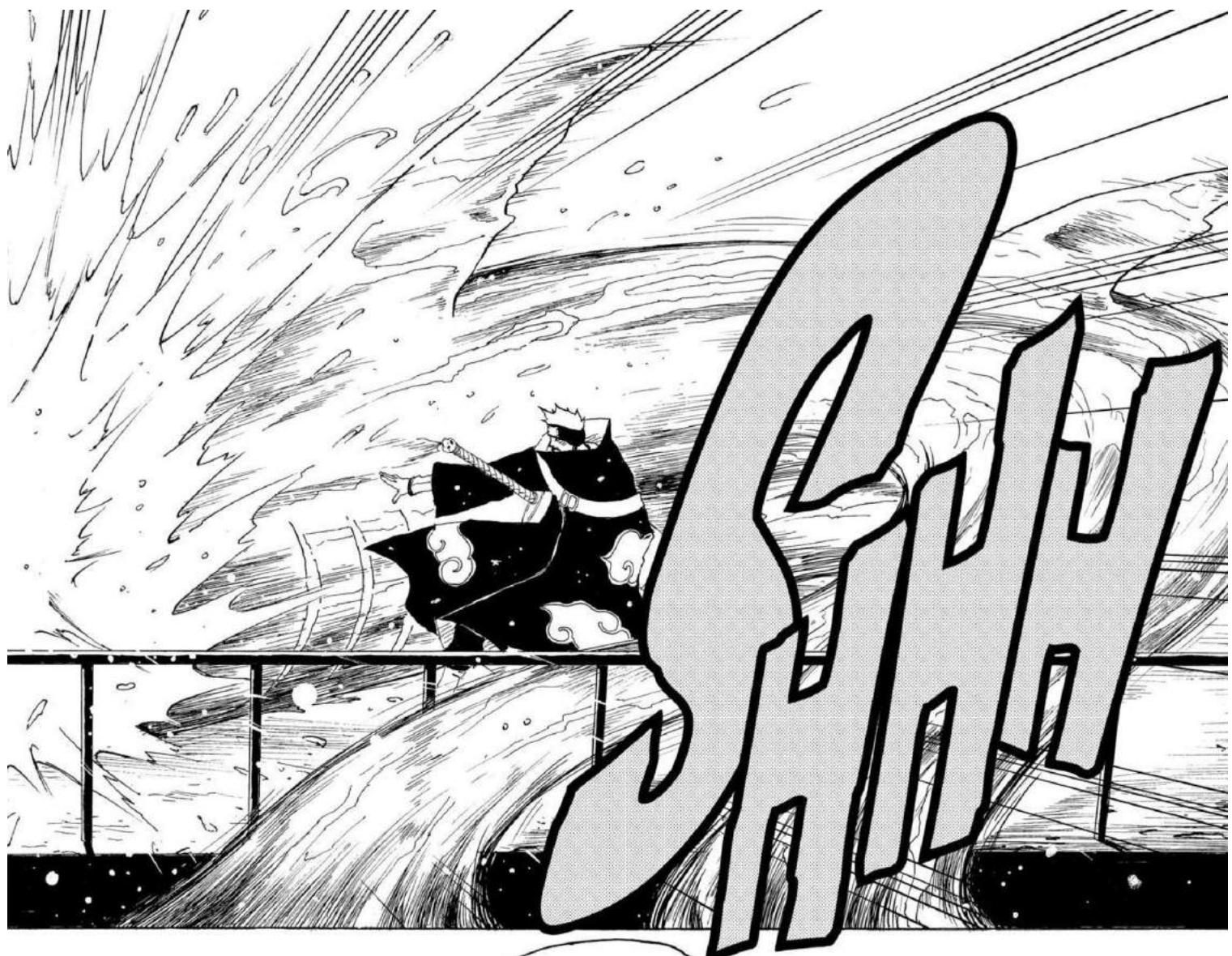
READ
THIS
WAY





READ
THIS
WAY





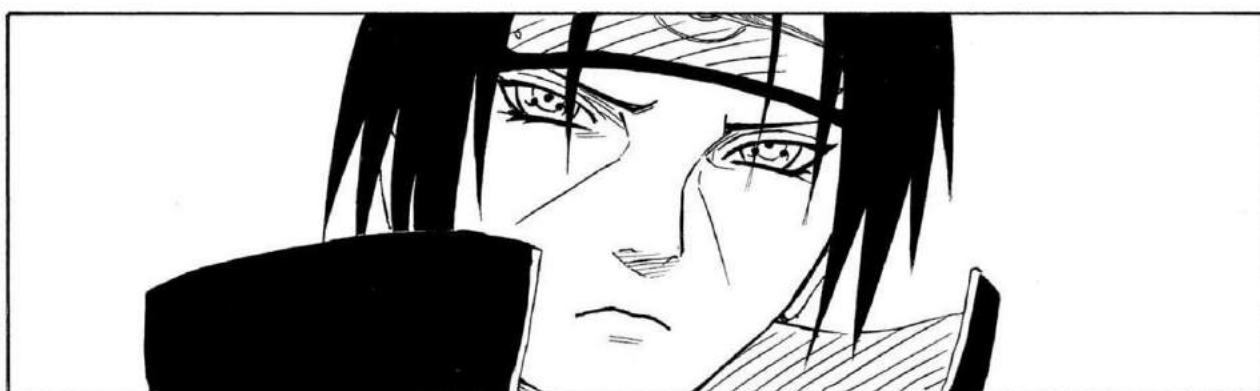


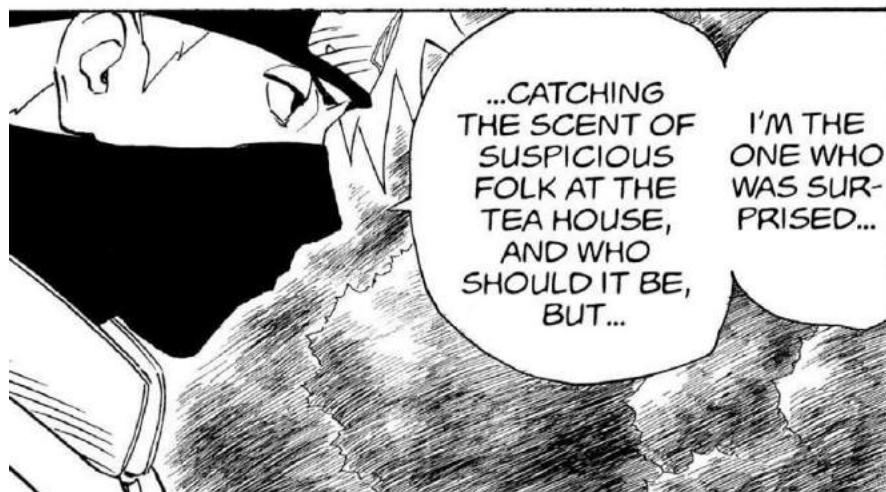


 Number 142:



Kakashi vs. Itachi







...AND THE SCOURGE OF KIRIGAKURE, HOSHIGAKI KISAME.

I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE UCHIHA ITACHI...



WHAT AN HONOR.

WELL, WELL... YOU EVEN KNOW MY NAME.



...I HAD HEARD THAT YOUNG ZABUZA HAD SPARRED WITH YOU...?

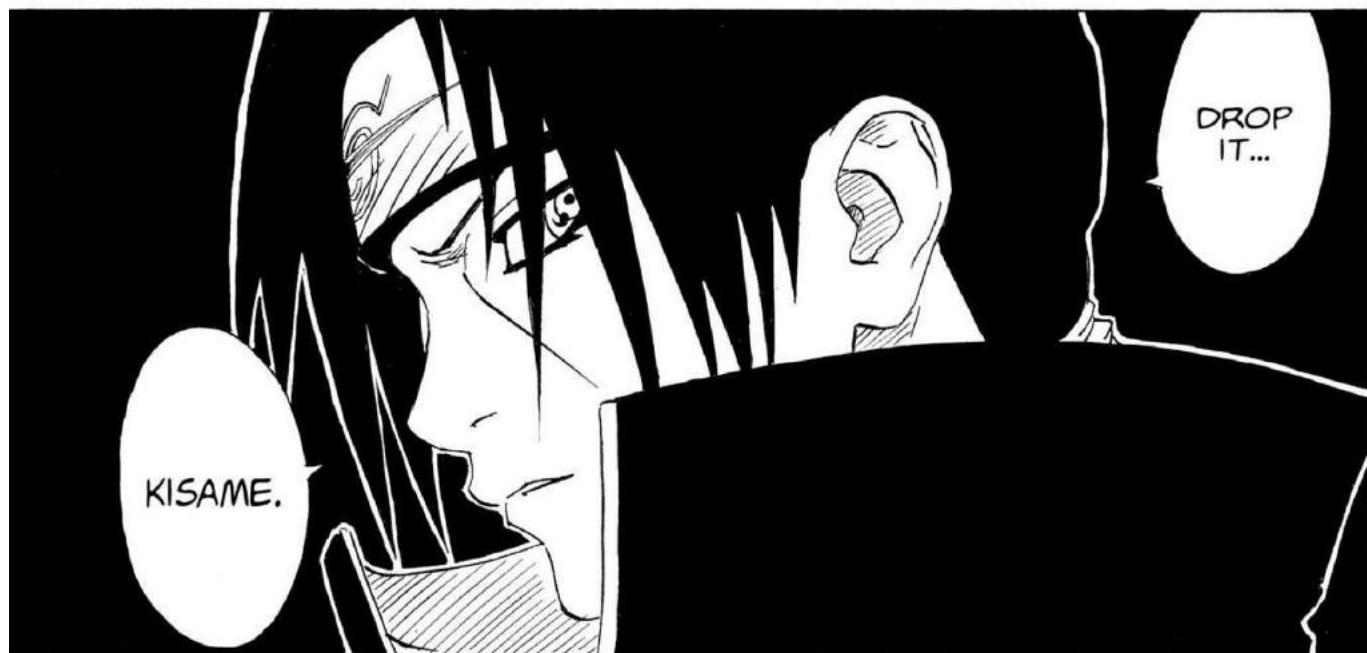


...I SEE, SO THAT GIANT BLADE OF YOURS BELONGS TO ONE OF THE SEVEN NINJA SWORDSMEN OF THE MIST, SAMEHADA, THE SHARKSKIN.

YEAH...



HEH HEH.



YOU DID
NOT COME
HERE TO
SUFFER
INJURIES!

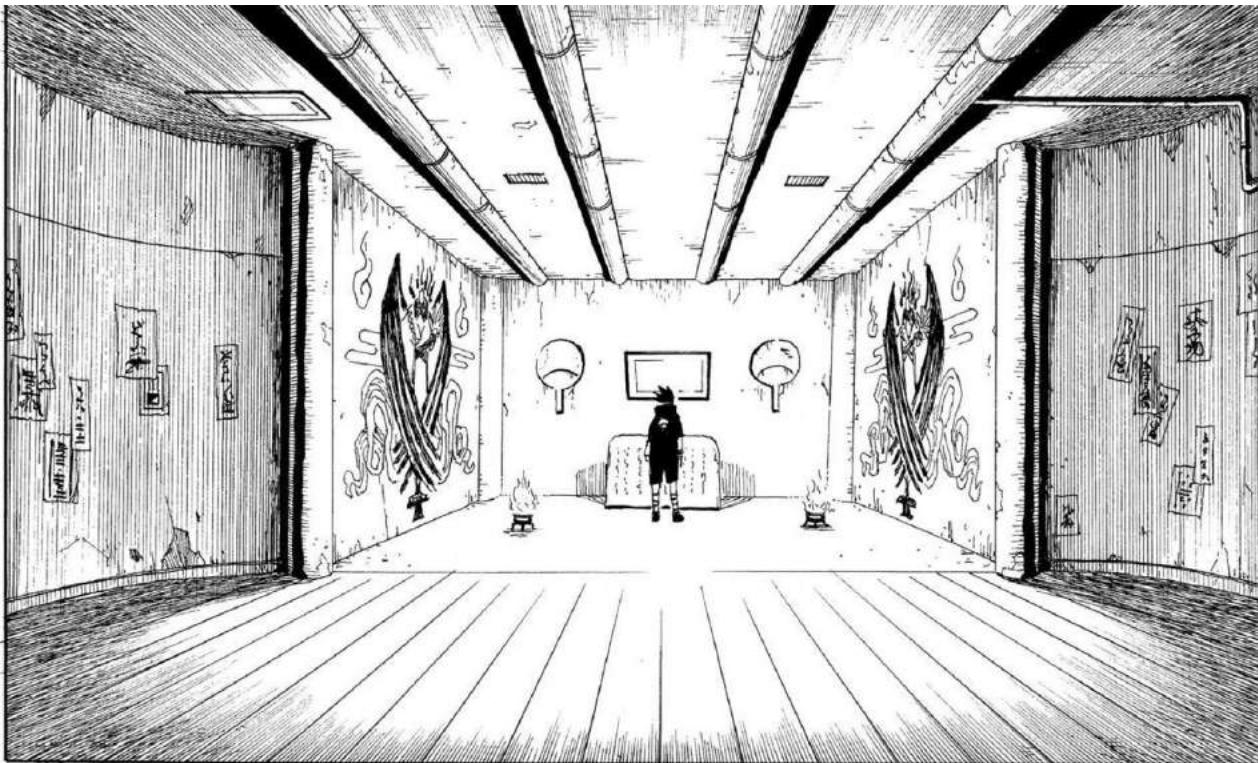
DO NOT
FORGET
OUR
PURPOSE...

AND IF YOU
TAKE TOO
MUCH TIME,
YOU'LL GIVE
OTHER
SHINOBI A
CHANCE TO
ARRIVE.

...IF YOU
SPAR WITH
HIM
HEAD-ON,
YOU WON'T
GET AWAY
SCOT-FREE...

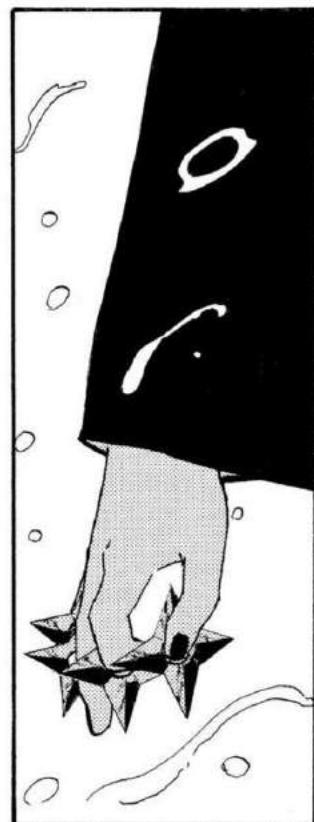
BUT...







READ
THIS
WAY









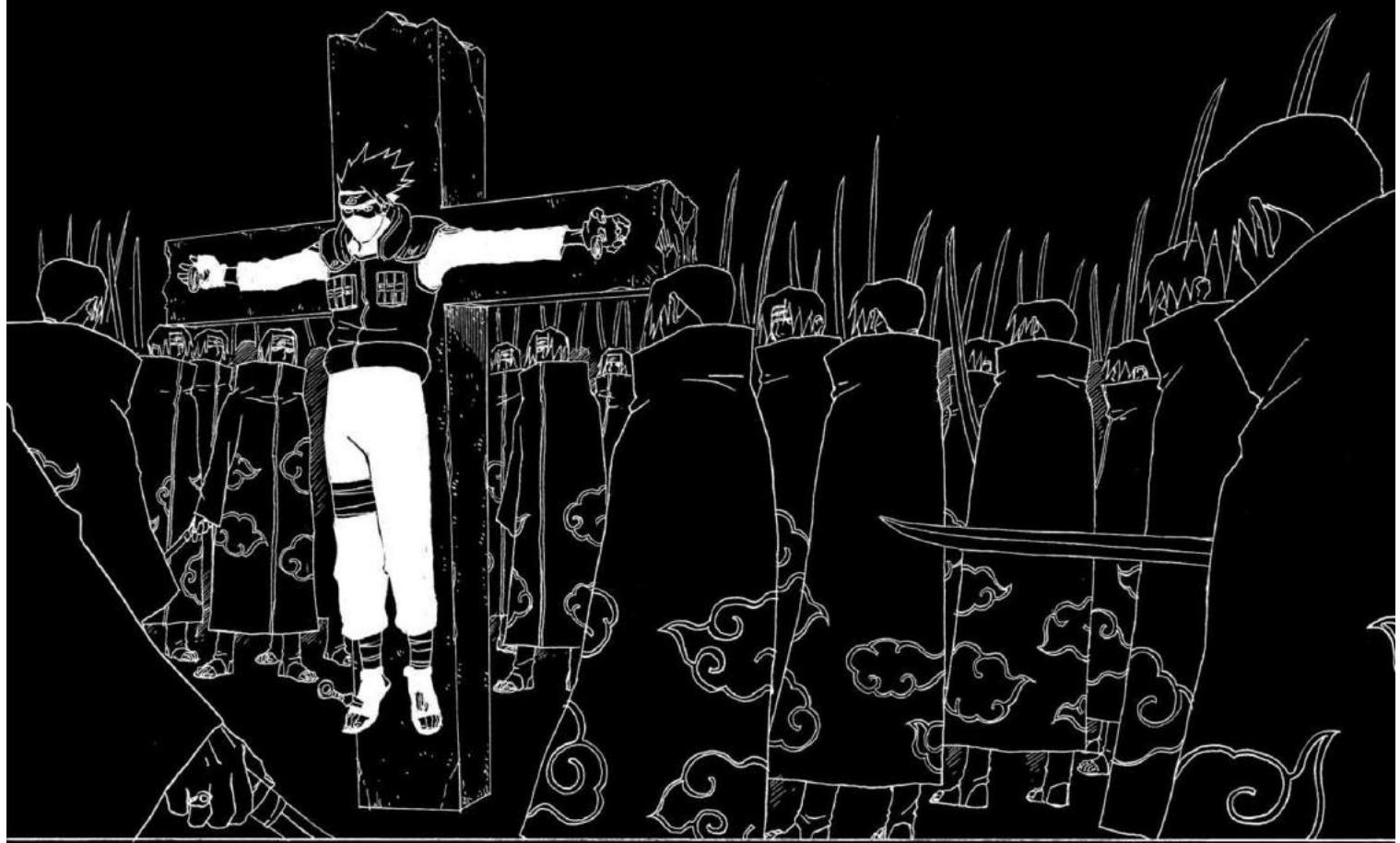


FWUUUUH...



READ
THIS WAY







AAAAA
ARGH!!!

Go Go

FOR THE NEXT
72 HOURS...
YOU WILL BE
CONTINUALLY
STABBED OVER
AND OVER
AGAIN...

LOOM

IN THE TSUKUYOMI
DREAMSCAPE,
I COMPLETELY
CONTROL TIME,
SPACE, AND EVEN
ALL SUBSTANCE.



READ
THIS
WAY



THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 24 CHAPTER 3

SO I IMMEDIATELY WENT TO BUY THE ISSUE OF JUMP, BUT MY HANDS WERE TREMBLING SO MUCH I COULDN'T HOLD ON TO IT VERY WELL. MY HEART WASN'T JUST POUNDING, IT WAS BOUNDING. I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO PAY FOR THE JUMP, AND I LOOKED FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENTS PAGE RIGHT AWAY. I SWEAR I ALMOST COLLAPSED!

WHICH IS IT?! DID I WIN?! DID I NOT WIN?! WHICH IS IT, DARN IT?! WITH SUCH IRRATIONAL TENSION, I EAGERLY FLIPPED THOUGH THE PAGES! (I BET I DIDN'T GET IT, DARN IT!!) AND SO, I FINALLY REACHED THE PAGE BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE FOR THE FEBRUARY HOP ☆ STEP AWARD, AND I SLOWLY TURNED THE PAGE.

THIS ART LOOKS KIND OF FAMILIAR...

THAT WAS MY FIRST IMPRESSION. ...THEN, IT STARTED SINKING IN...

...THESE DRAWINGS... THEY'RE MY DRAWINGS... THEY'RE MY DRAWINGS! ...WHICH MEANS...

AND THEN, OBLIVIOUS TO ALL THE FOLK WHO WERE IN THAT CONVENIENCE STORE, I SUDDENLY CRIED OUT:

"WHOA, WHOA"

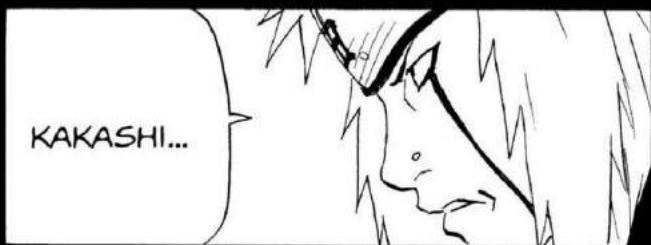
I SO COULDN'T SPEAK CLEARLY I MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE A DERANGED LUNATIC WHO WAS CHANTING SOME WEIRD SPELL ...PROBABLY. AND THEN, I STARTED QUIVERING. I WAS SO ECSTATIC I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO EXPLODE, AND I EXITED THE STORE. ...SUDDENLY, FOR NO EXPLAINABLE REASON, I VIOLENTLY THREW THE JUMP ACROSS THE ROAD. THE MAGAZINE FLEW THROUGH THE AIR, PAGES FLAPPING! I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A REMNANT SUBCONSCIOUS REFLEX FROM MY FORMER BASEBALL DAYS, BUT I DO REMEMBER RECEIVING QUITE A FEW COLD STARES FROM PASSERSBY. THEY WERE PROBABLY THINKING, (WHAT THE...! WHO IS THIS WHACKED-OUT GUY...?! WHAT A WEIRDO...!), BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT, I DON'T CARE AT ALL!! IT'S THE HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY 21 YEARS OF LIFE, SO TOUGH!!

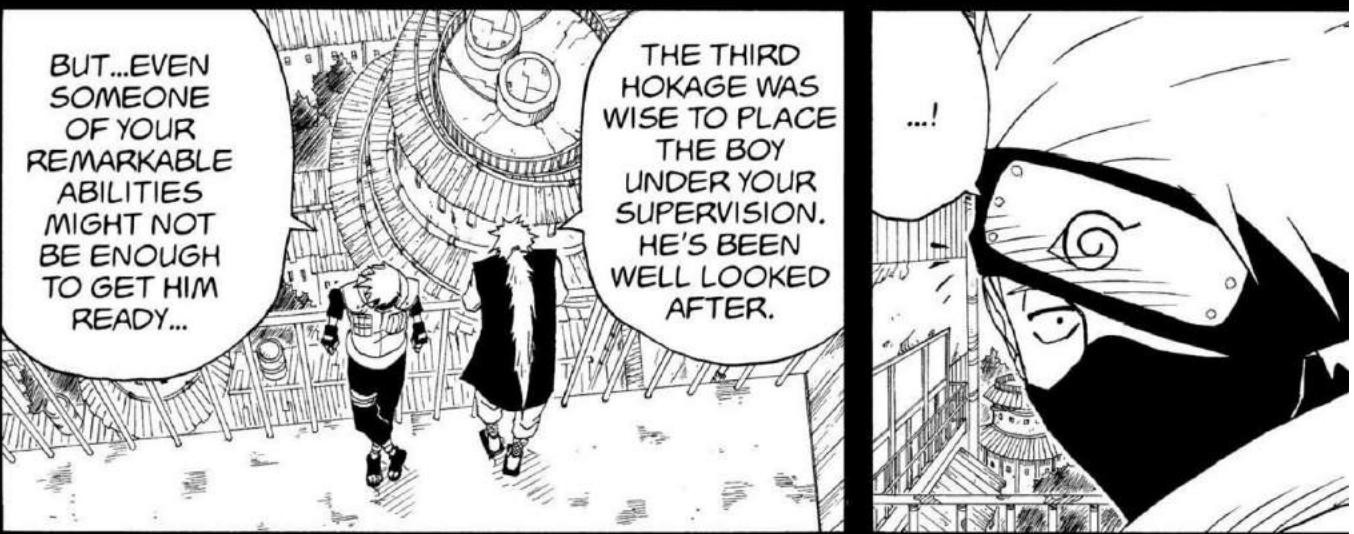
Number 143:



The Fourth Hokage's Legacy!!







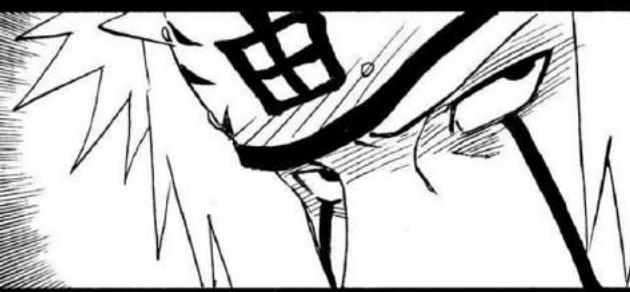
READ
THIS
WAY







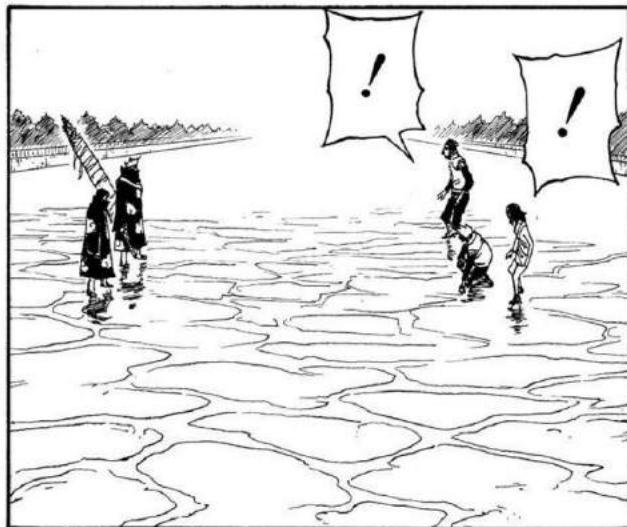
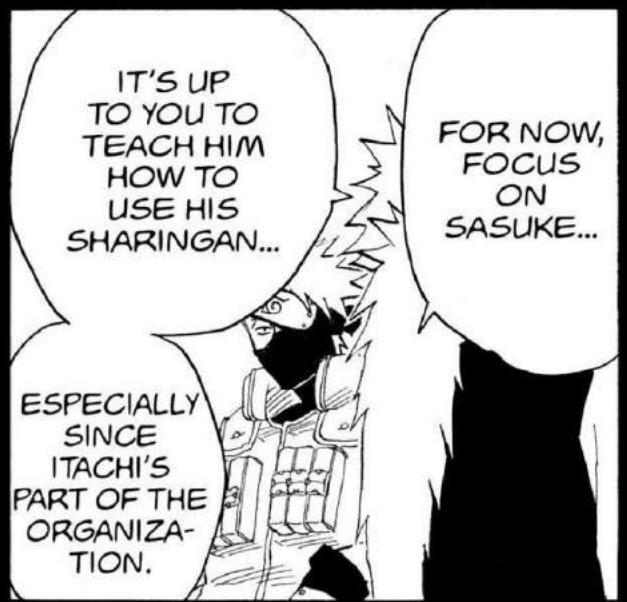
...ANY PROOF THAT ONE ITEM ON THEIR SHOPPING LIST HAS NINE TAILS?!



...IT'S A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.



IT MAKES SENSE. THE NINE-TAILED FOX DOES HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF CHAKRA...







KONOHA
GÔRIKI
SENPÙ!
SEVERE
LEAF
HURRI-
CANE!!

!!

WHO
ARE
YOU?!



SPLASH



READ
THIS
WAY

HE'LL
SNARE
YOU IN
HIS
JUTSU!!

DON'T
LOOK
ITACHI IN
THE EYE,
GUY!!

THAT HE
COULD
PUSH
KAKASHI
THIS
FAR...

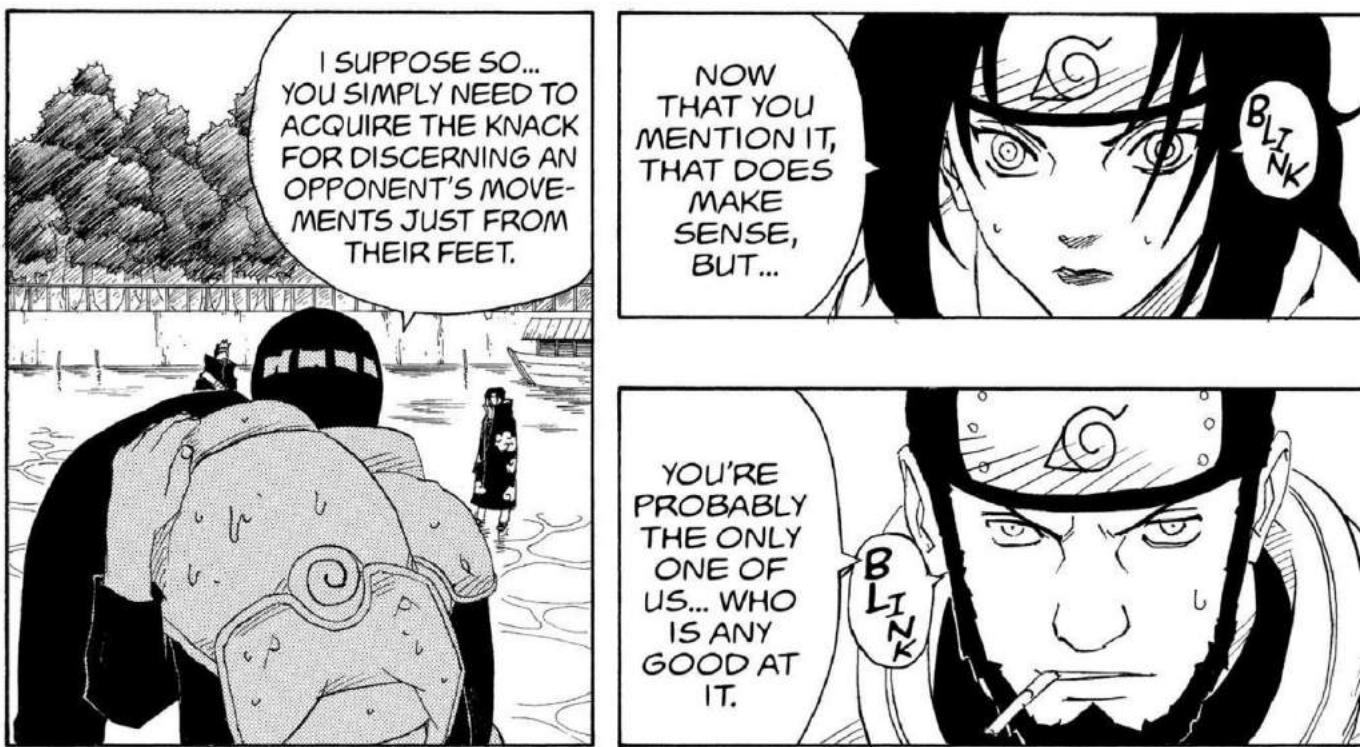
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB

I'VE ALREADY
MASTERED
COUNTER-
SHARINGAN
BATTLE
TECHNIQUES
FROM ALL MY
BOUTS
AGAINST
KAKASHI!!

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
TELL ME
THE
OBVIOUS!!

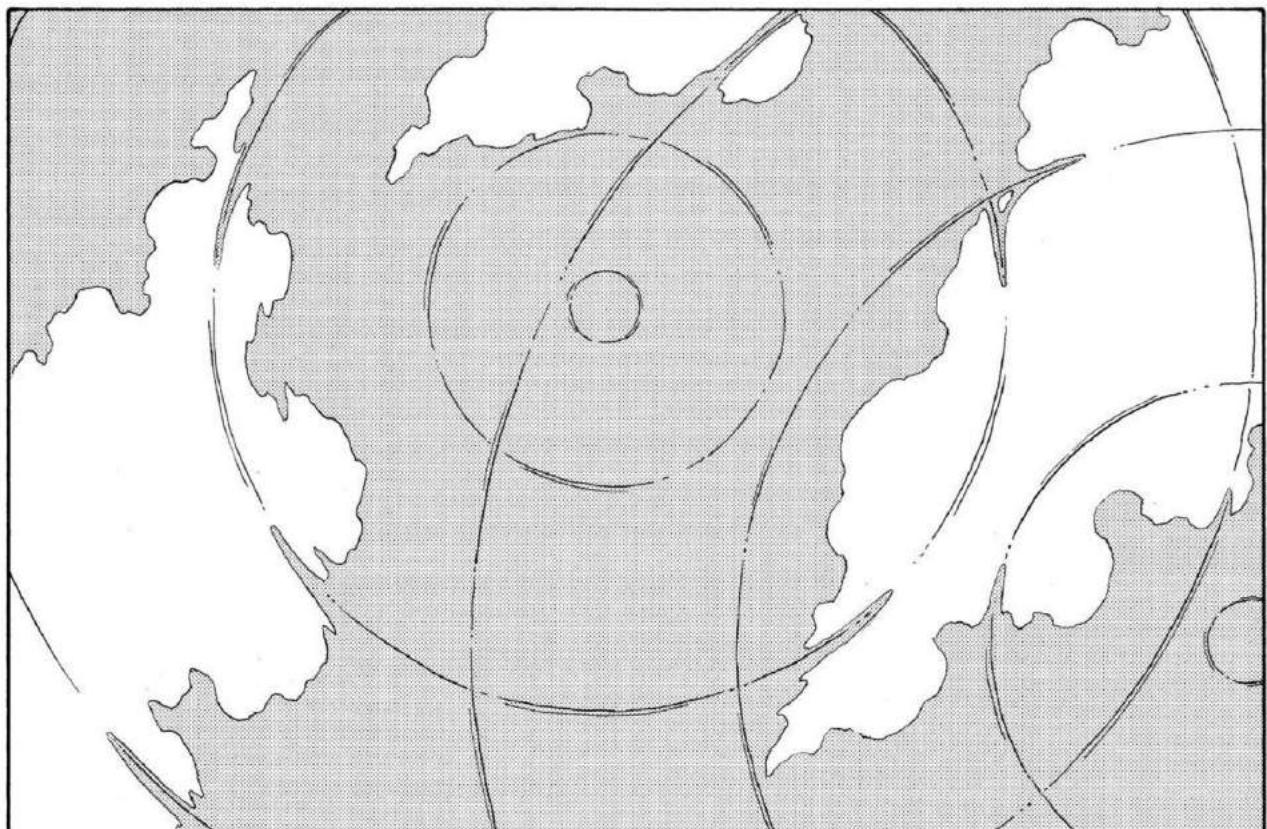
OPEN
YOUR
EYES,
BOTH OF
YOU!!





READ
THIS WAY





HOW COME
I GET STUCK
TAGGING
ALONG WHILE
YOU DO YOUR
RESEARCH
FOR ANOTHER
ONE OF YOUR
PERVY
BOOKS?!

WHY?!
WHY?!

W
H
A
T
?!!
:::

I'VE GOT
TO TRAIN...
MASTER
KAKASHI'S
GOING TO
TEACH ME ALL
SORTS OF NEW
JUTSU, LIKE
THE CHIDORI!!!

I DON'T
HAVE
TIME FOR
THIS!

THERE'S A
PARTICULAR
WOMAN I
WANT TO
COVER, SO
WE NEED
TO FIND
HER.

THIS
IS NO
ORDINARY
RESEARCH
JAUNT, YOU
KNOW.

I SWEAR,
MASTER
KAKASHI'S
BEEN PLAYING
FAVORITES
LATELY!

PLOD
PLOD

SIGH...
...I KNOW THIS
REAL COOL
JUTSU...
THAT'S SO MUCH
MIGHTIER THAN
THE CHIDORI...

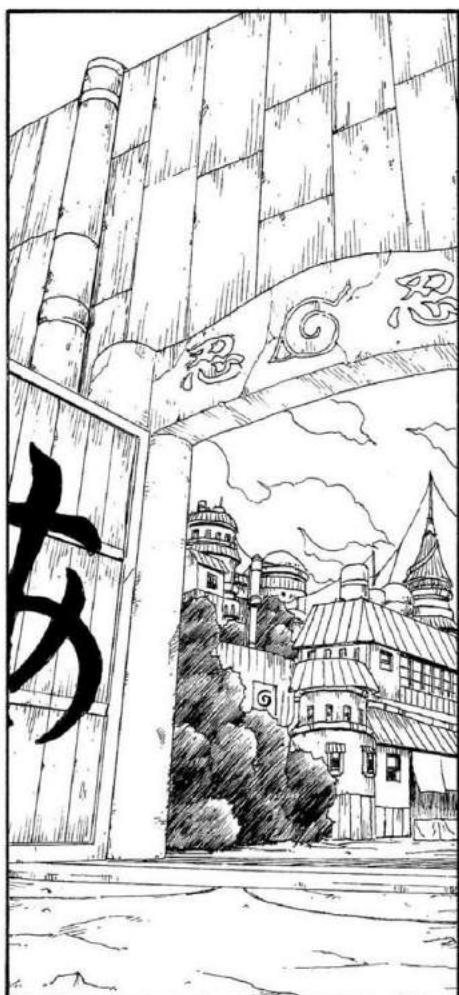
NO,
NO
THANKS
!!

LOOK PERVY
SAGE, WHAT
YOU DO ON
YOUR TIME IS
YOUR BUSI-
NESS! BUT
I'VE GOT
MORE
IMPORTANT
THINGS TO
DO THAN
CHASE YOUR
WOMEN!

OH WELL,
MAYBE I'LL
ASK SASUKE
TO TAG
ALONG.

BESIDES,
THIS WOMAN,
SHE'S A REAL
LOOKER... I
KNOW YOU'LL
WANT TO
MEET HER!

WELL... UH... I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO SAY
THIS NICELY,
BUT I DON'T
THINK THAT
YOU'RE CUT
OUT FOR THAT
MOVE...





MEET KISHIMOTO'S ASSISTANTS PART SEVEN

YET ANOTHER NEW, YOUNG ASSISTANT HAS JOINED OUR NARUTO STAFF. AS ALWAYS, WE'LL BE INTRODUCING HIM HERE.

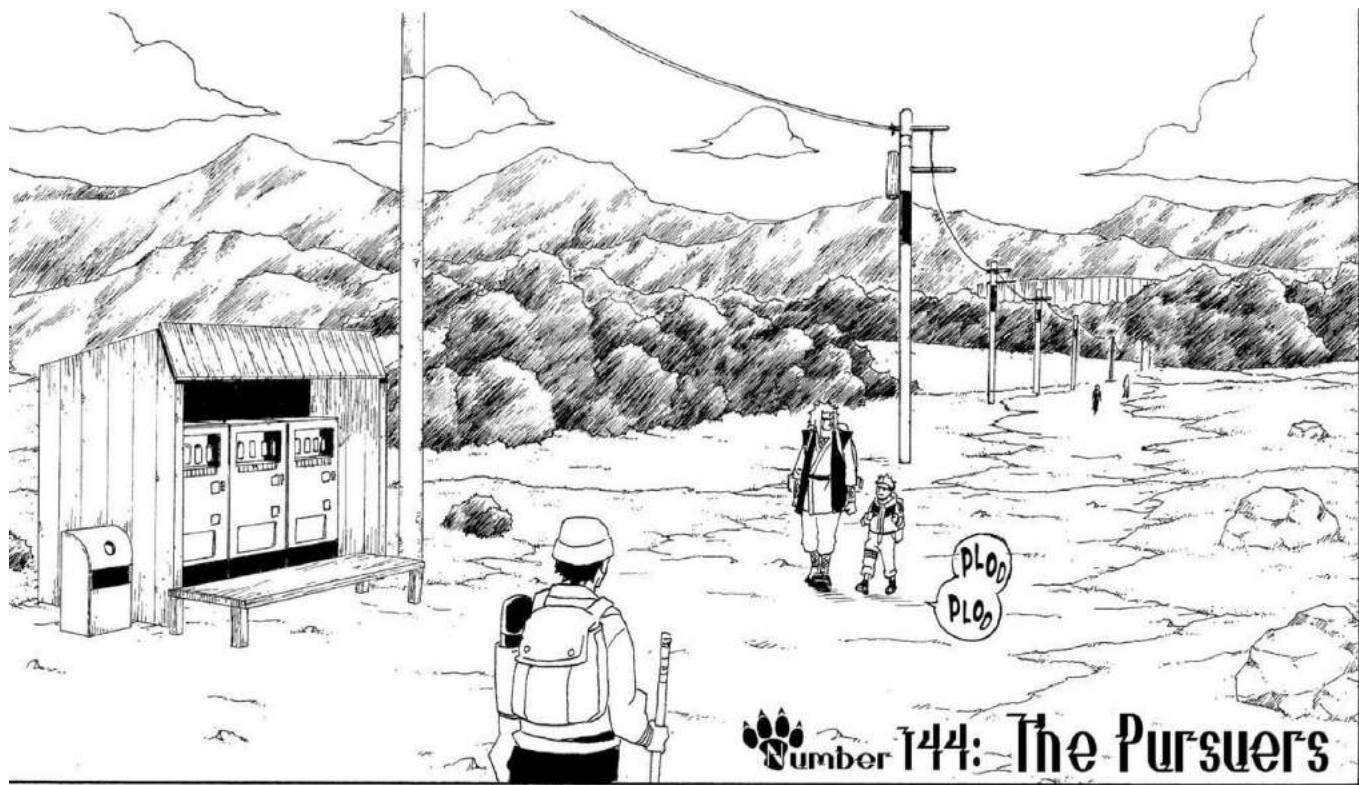
ASSISTANT NO. 7: OHKUBO AKIRA



PROFILE

- STILL FRESHLY SCRUBBED, YOUNG AND SPRIGHTLY.
- NO MATTER HOW STARTLED, MANAGES TO SAY "WOW" IN A NORMAL TONE OF VOICE.
- PRETTY SHARP-EYED.
- HAS BAGS UNDER HIS EYES.
- A SOCCER LAD WHO IS OBSESSED WITH SOCCER.
- MANLY IN A CASUAL WAY.

JOB: BETA [THE ARTIST THAT SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING], TONING, AND BACKGROUNDS.

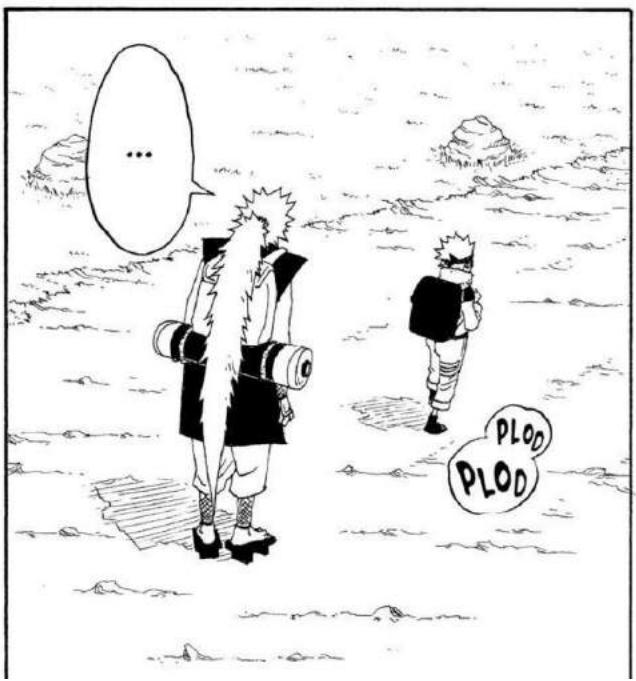


Number 144: The Pursuers





Number 144: The Pursuers



I TOLD YOU,
MY NAME IS
JIRAIYA...
SHEESH...

HEY!
HEY!
SO...

...THE FACT
THAT SUCH AN
IMPRESSIVE
PERVY SAGE
ASKED ME TO
BE HIS TRAVEL
COMPANION
MEANS
SOMETHING,
RIGHT?

RIGHT?

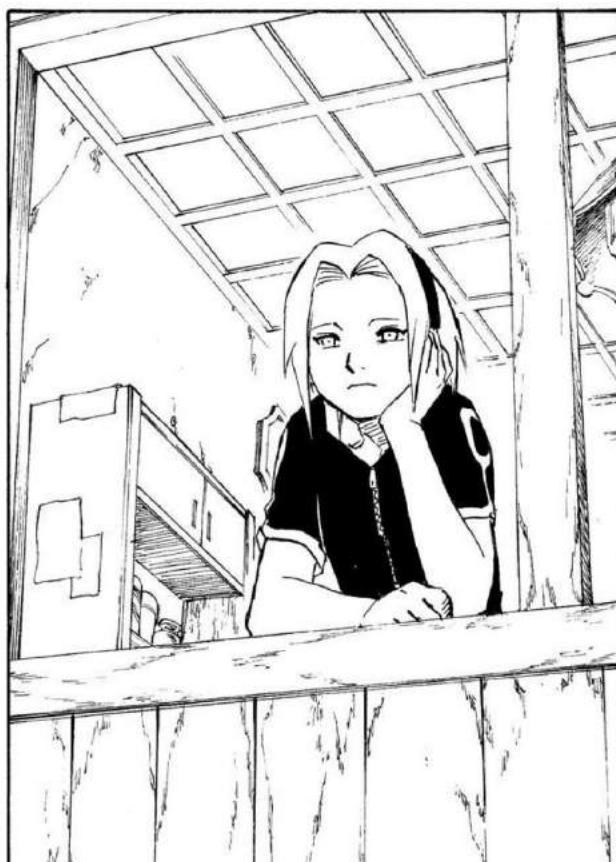
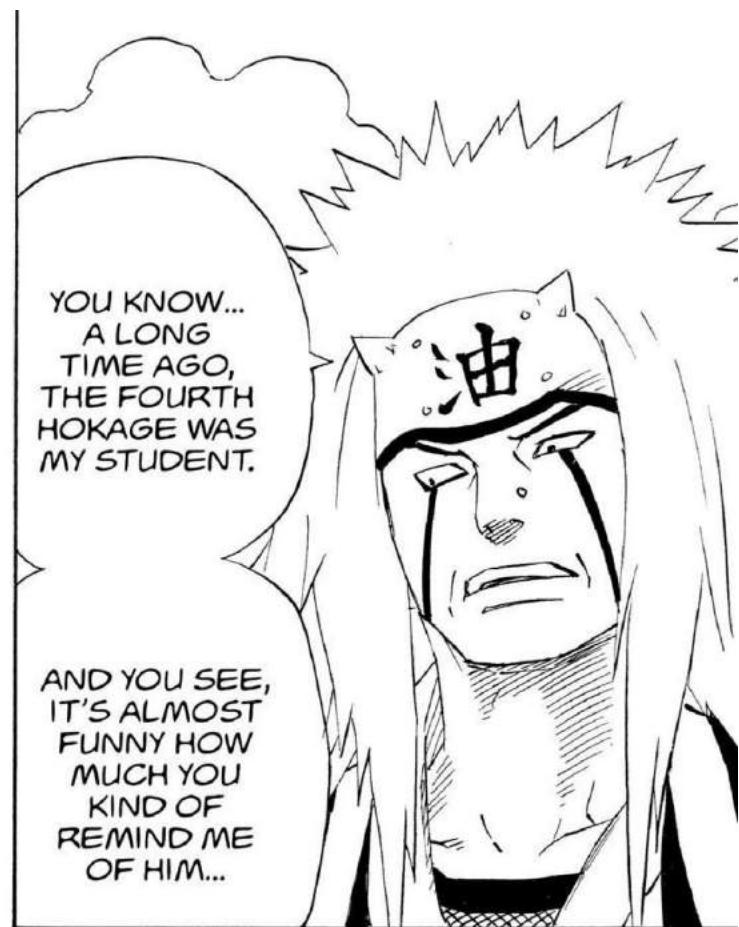
IT MEANS
I'VE GOT
SOME
INCREDIBLE
TALENT
HIDDEN
INSIDE ME,
RIGHT?

MAYBE CUZ
YOU HAVE TO
GET AS GOOD
AS ME IN
ORDER TO BE
INITIATED INTO
SAGE-LEVEL
SUPER-
JUTSU...?

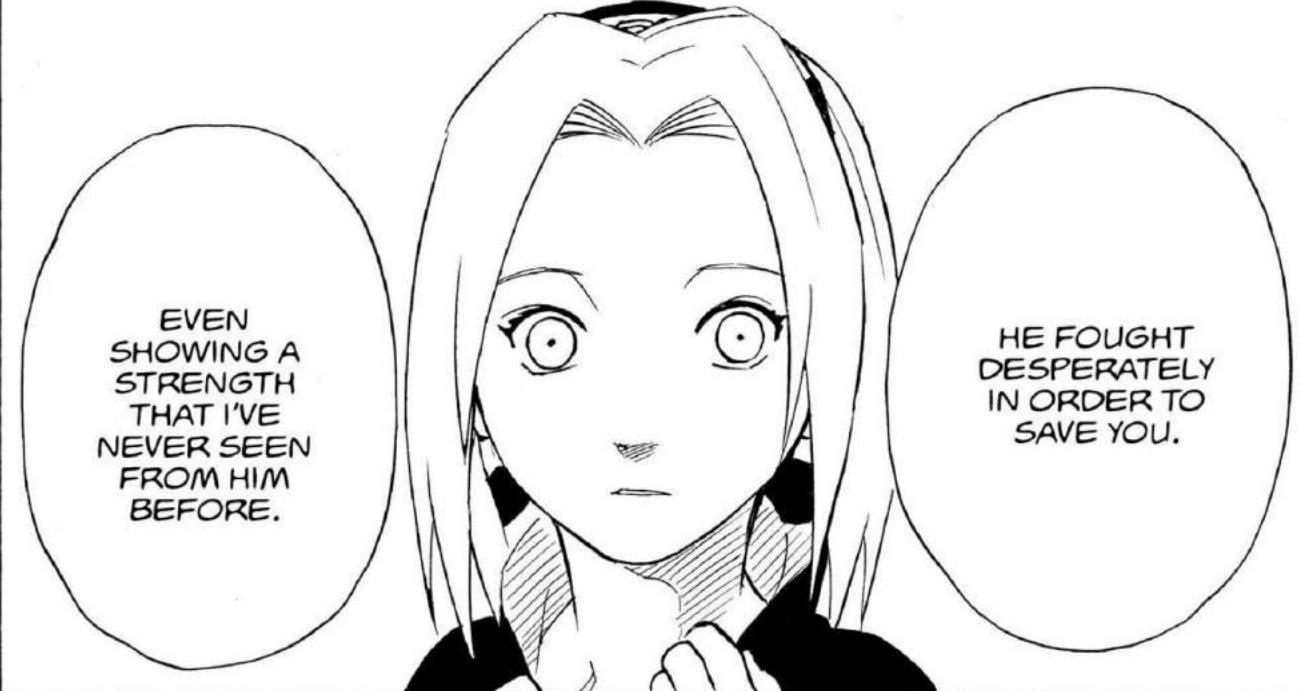
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH...

HEY!
HEY!

SO WHY
DID YOU
CHOOSE
ME?





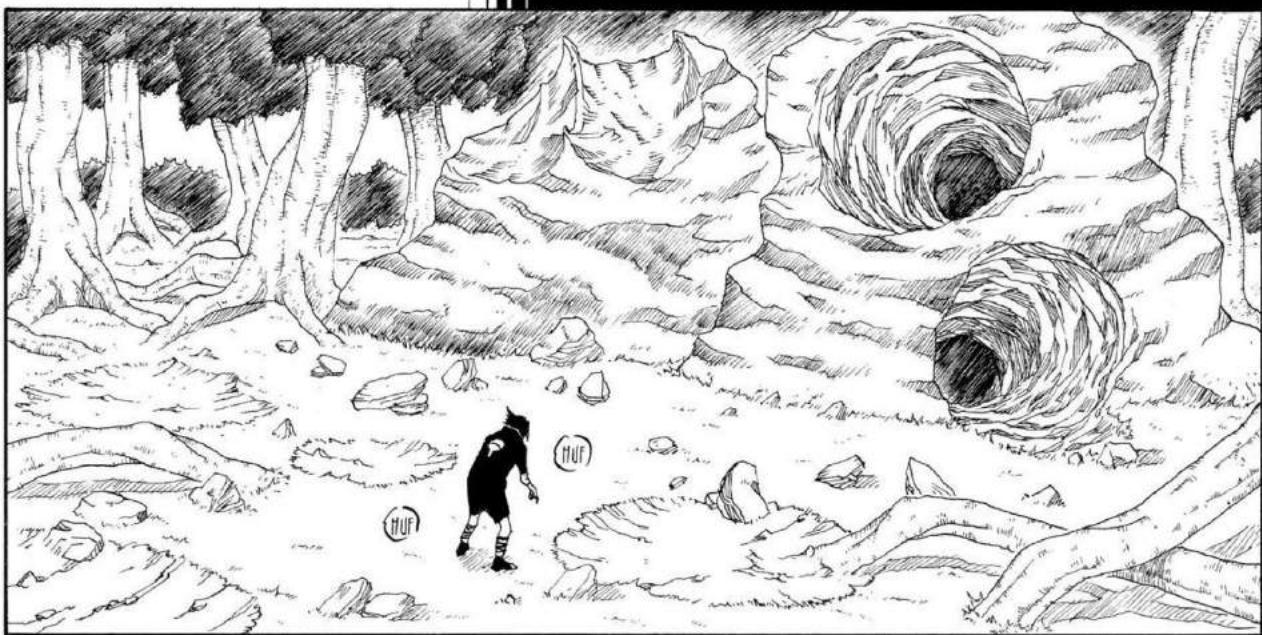
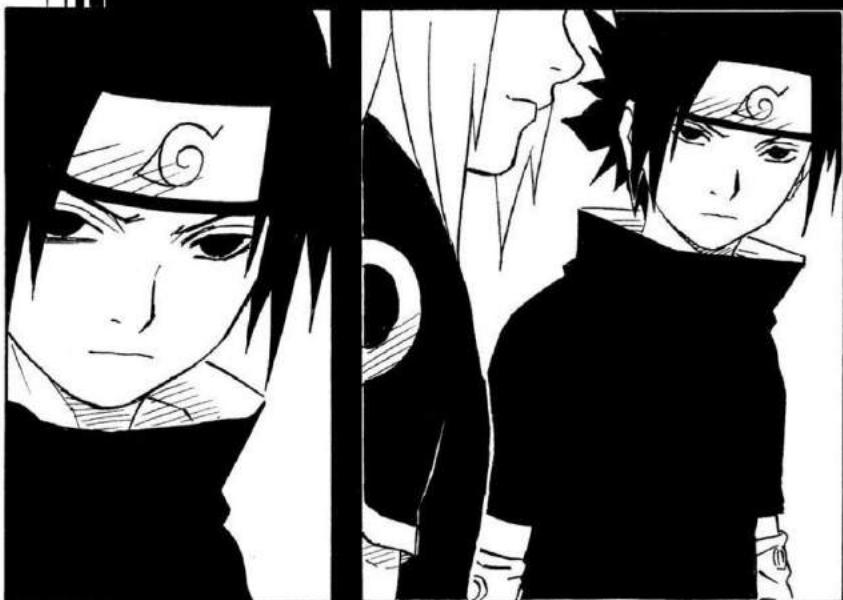


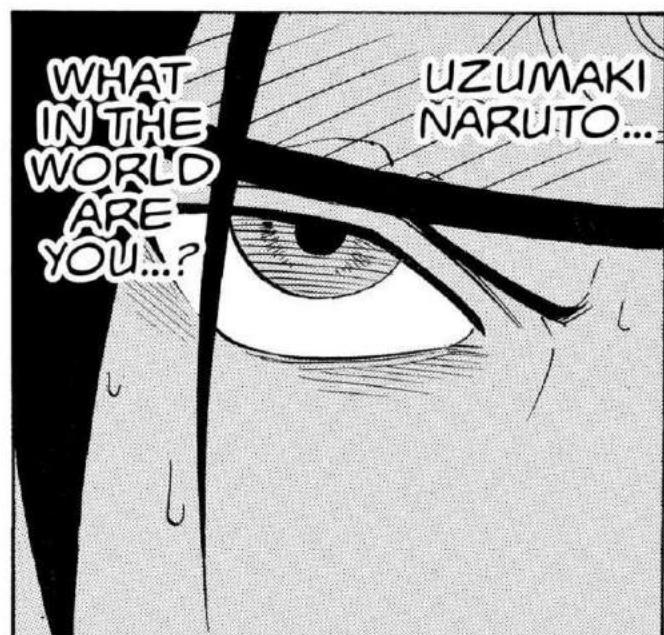
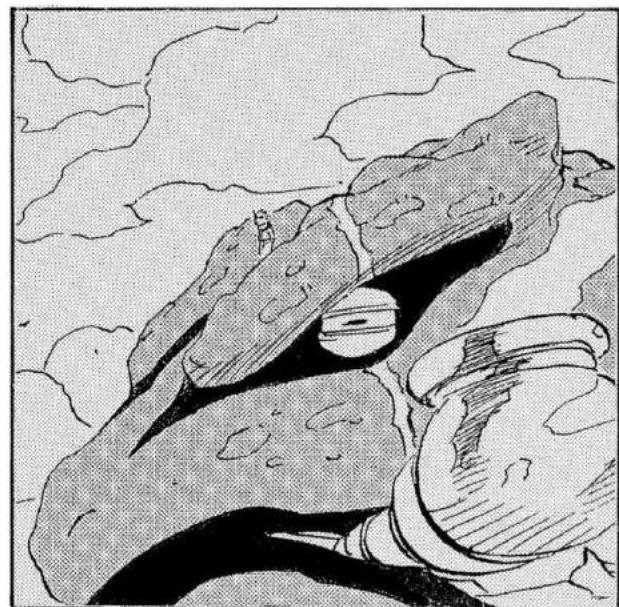
EVEN
SHOWING A
STRENGTH
THAT I'VE
NEVER SEEN
FROM HIM
BEFORE.

HE FOUGHT
DESPERATELY
IN ORDER TO
SAVE YOU.

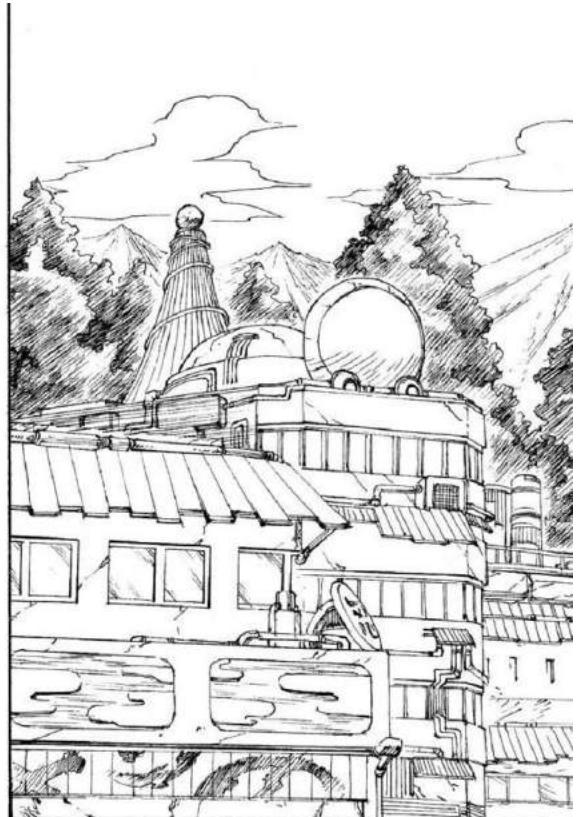


READ
THIS
WAY



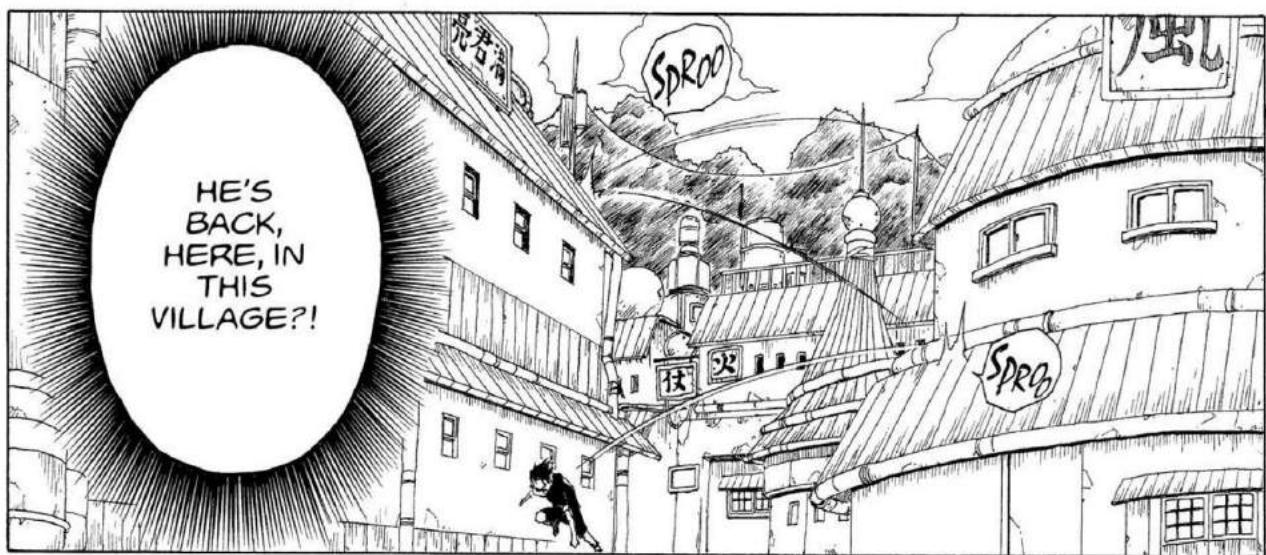






READ
THIS WAY







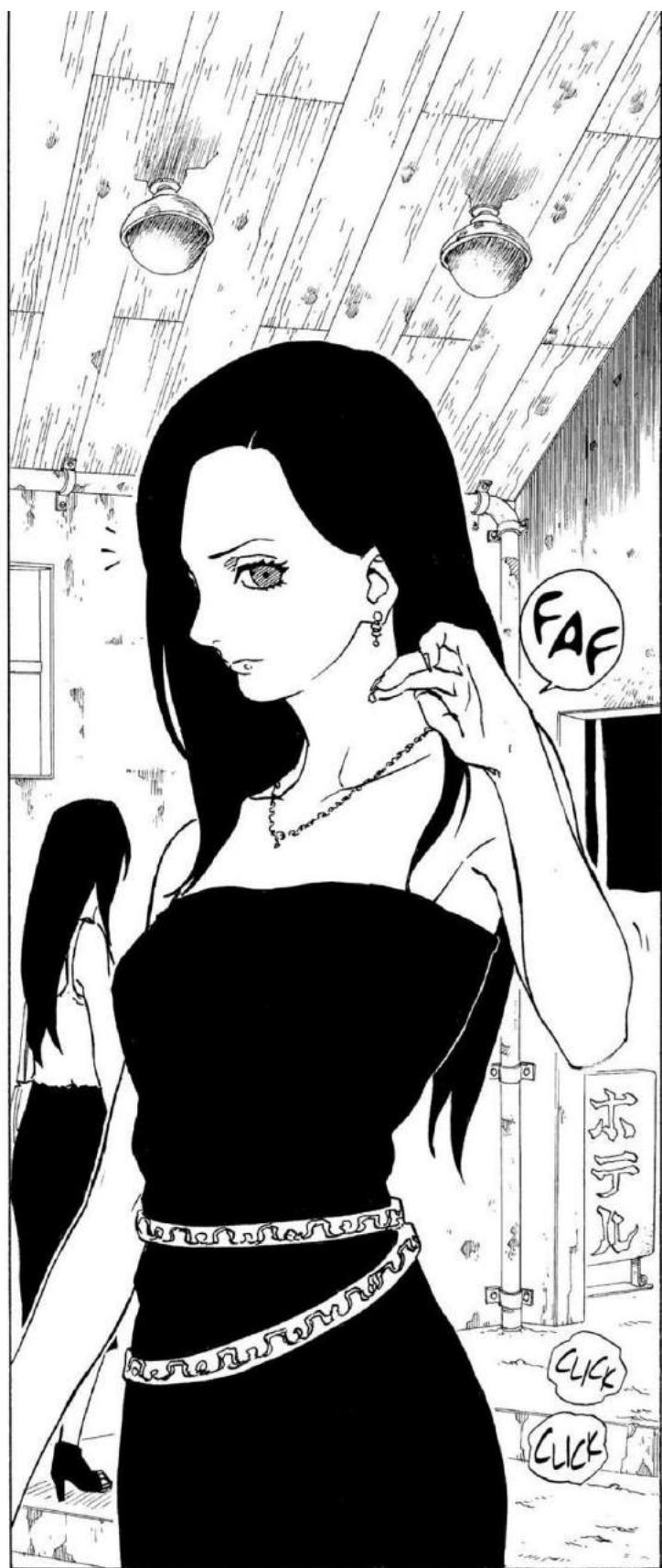


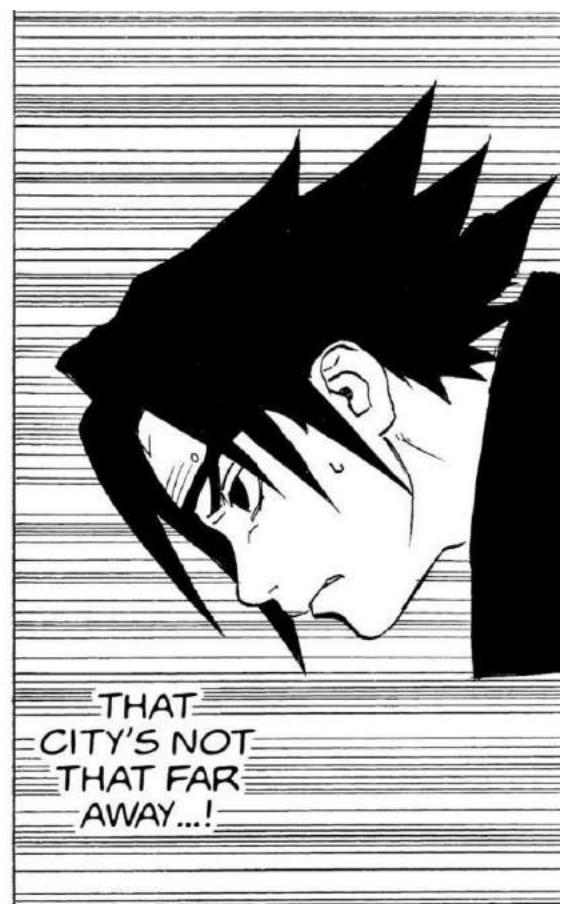
(Street Sign: Fun Fun Avenue)



READ
THIS
WAY

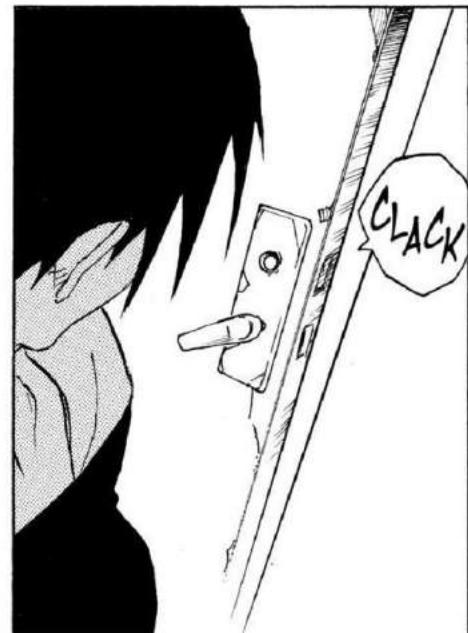
WHOA!!





(Forehead: Haku Hatsu Chun, or White Green Center which is a Mah Jong tile formation.)

READ
THIS
WAY







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