NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

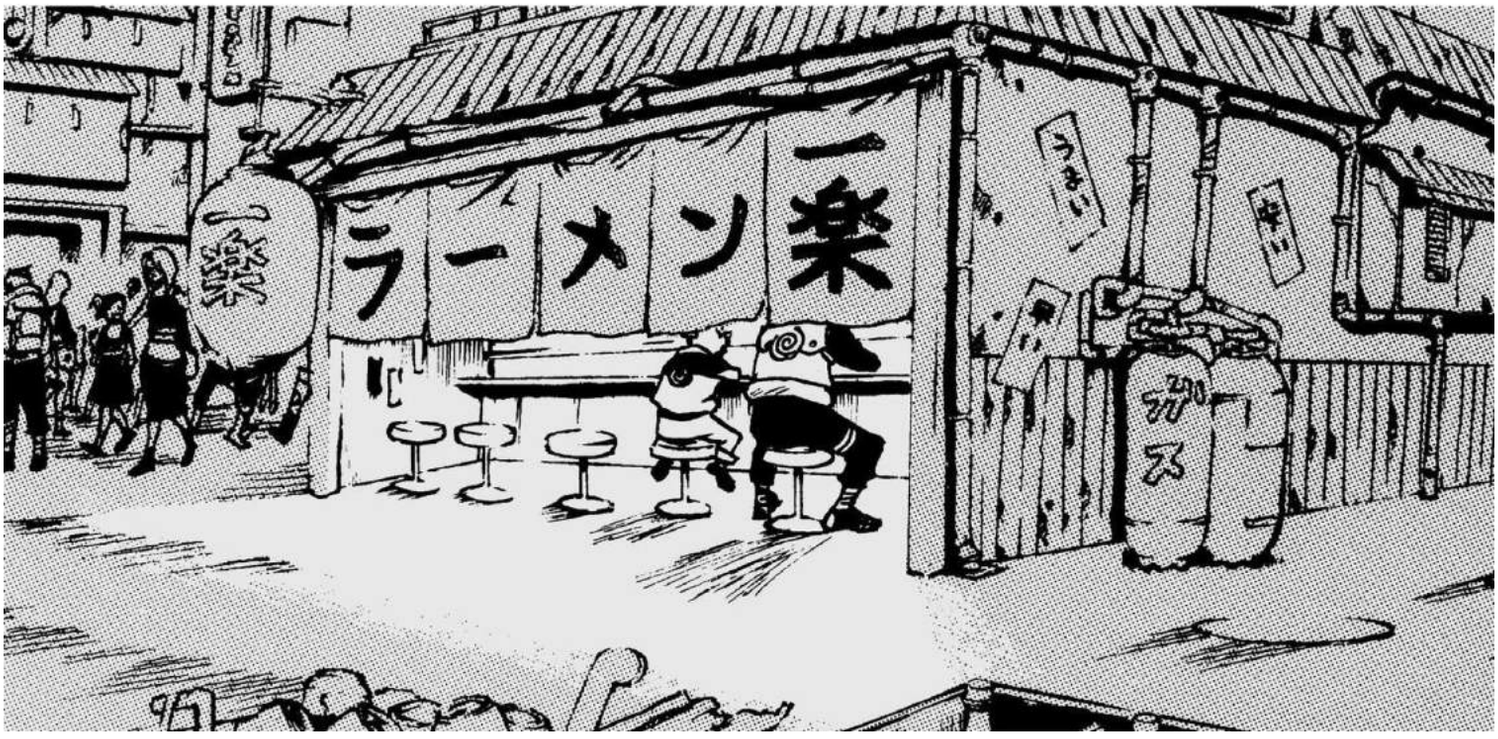
volume 15

岸本斉史

I'm starting to run out of things to write for this "Author's Comments" section...
Since going to the movies is practically my only hobby, I guess I'll write about movies...
Hmm. Some movies I've seen recently are...
...Oh man! I've been so busy recently that I haven't gone to the movies--!!
I want to see movies...

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2002*

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. 15
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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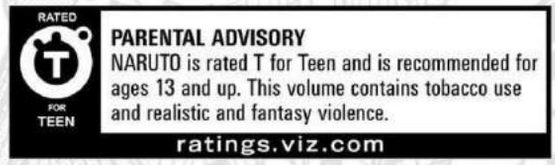
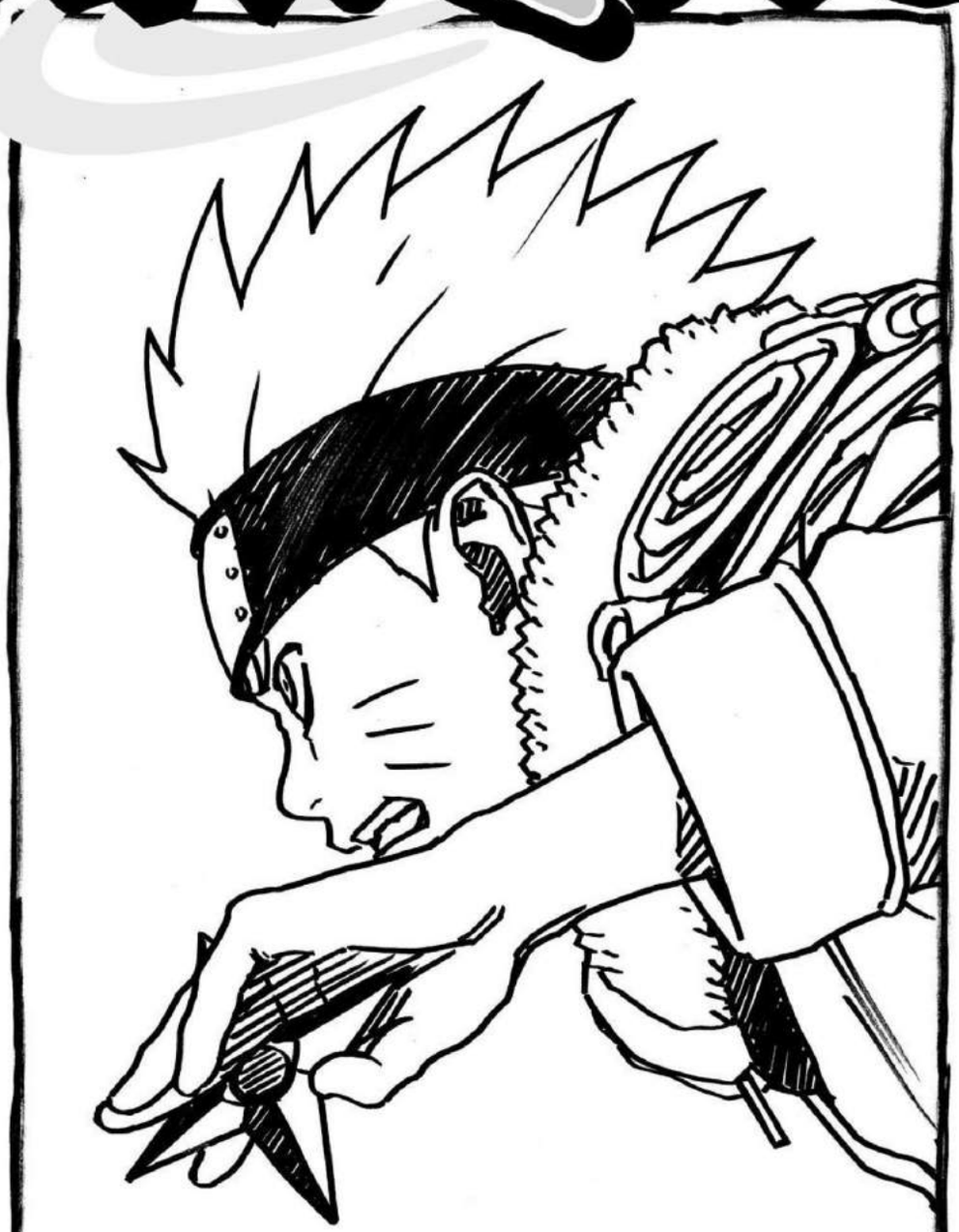


www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO



VOL. 15

NARUTO'S NINJA HANDBOOK!

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke
サスケ
Naruto
ナルト
Sakura
サクラ
Guy ガイ
Neji ネジ
Rock Lee
ロック・リー
Tenten
テンテン
Gamabunta
ガマブン太
Shikamaru
シカマル
Kiba & Akamaru
キバ&赤丸
Hinata
ヒナタ
Ino いの
Choji
チョウジ
Shino シノ

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

Naruto and company take on the Chûnin 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…

Then, during the finals of the Chûnin Exams, Orochimaru, disguised as Kazekage, takes the Hokage hostage and erects a barrier shield. *Operation Destroy Konoha* is under way as Naruto chases after Sasuke and Gaara, who have both disappeared.

NARUTO

VOL. 15
NARUTO'S NINJA HANDBOOK!

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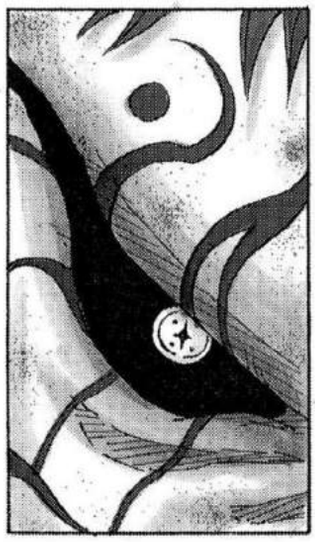
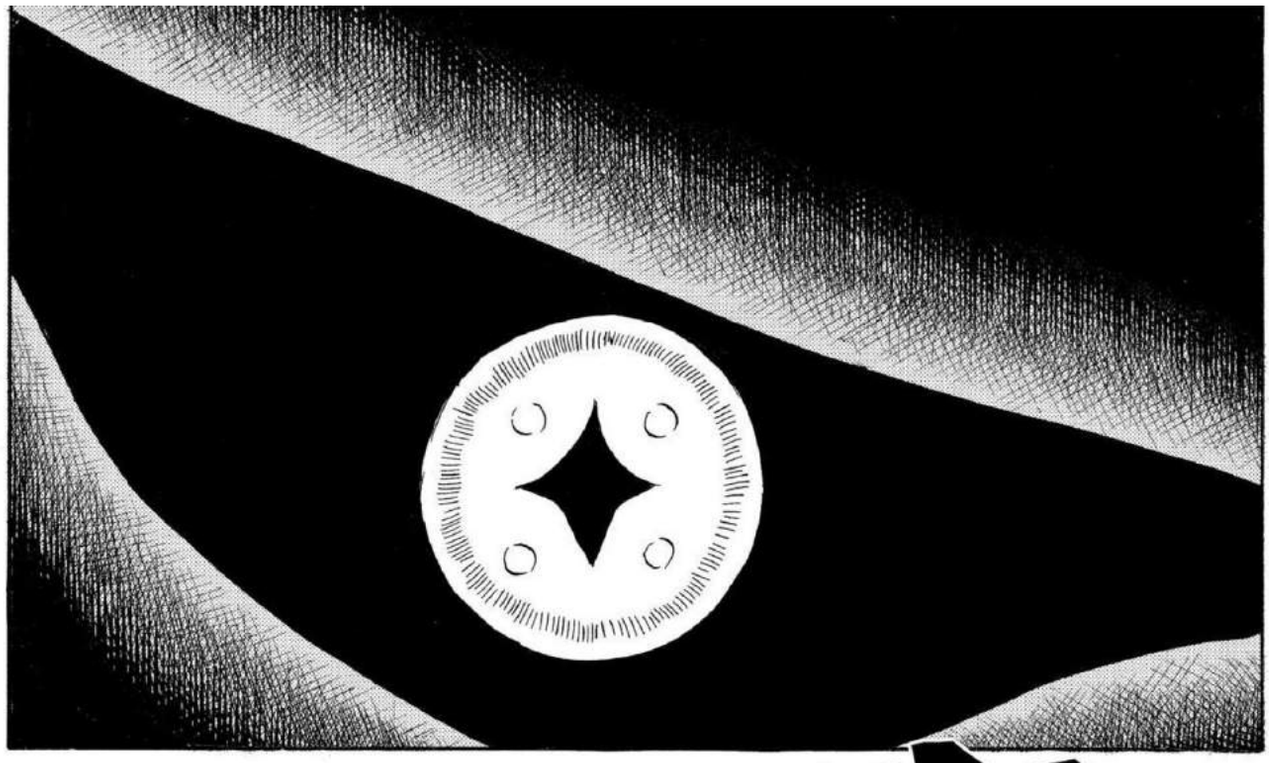
Number 127: To Feel Alive...!!

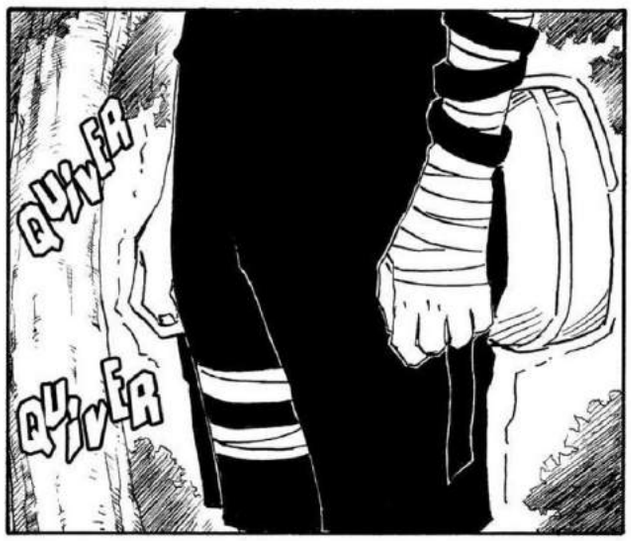


UZUMAKI NARUTO
UCHIHA SASUKE

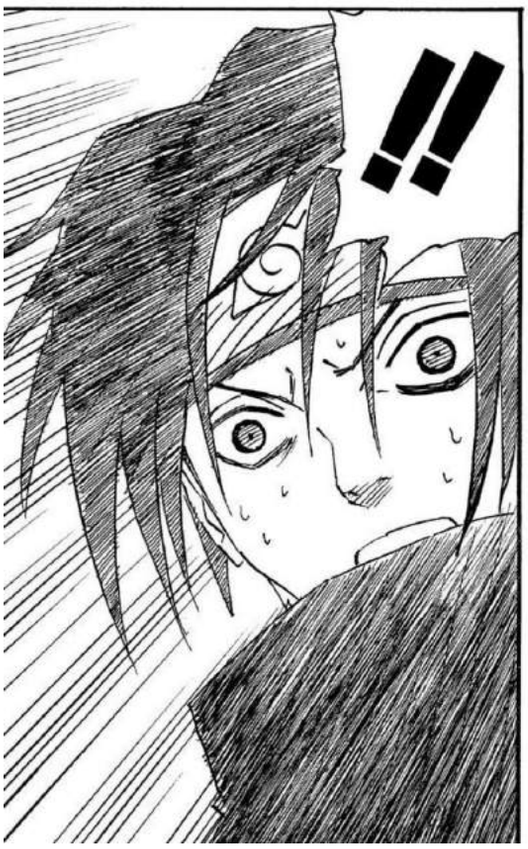
Number 127: To Feel Alive...!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-




QUIVER
QUIVER

SHUDDER
...AS EARLIER...!!
...IT'S THE SAME EYE...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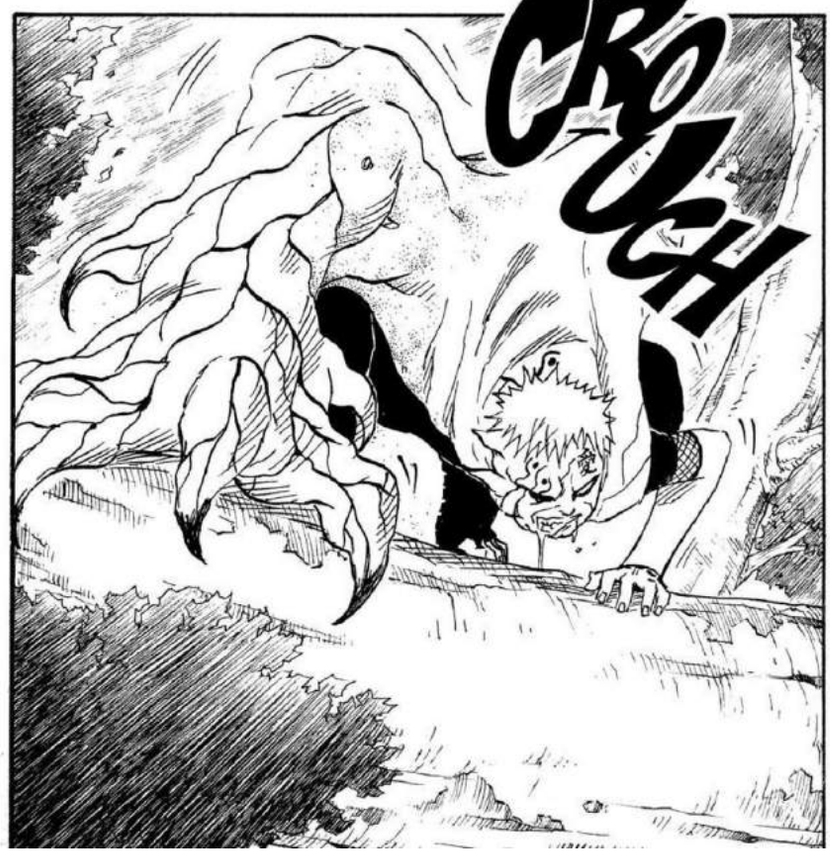
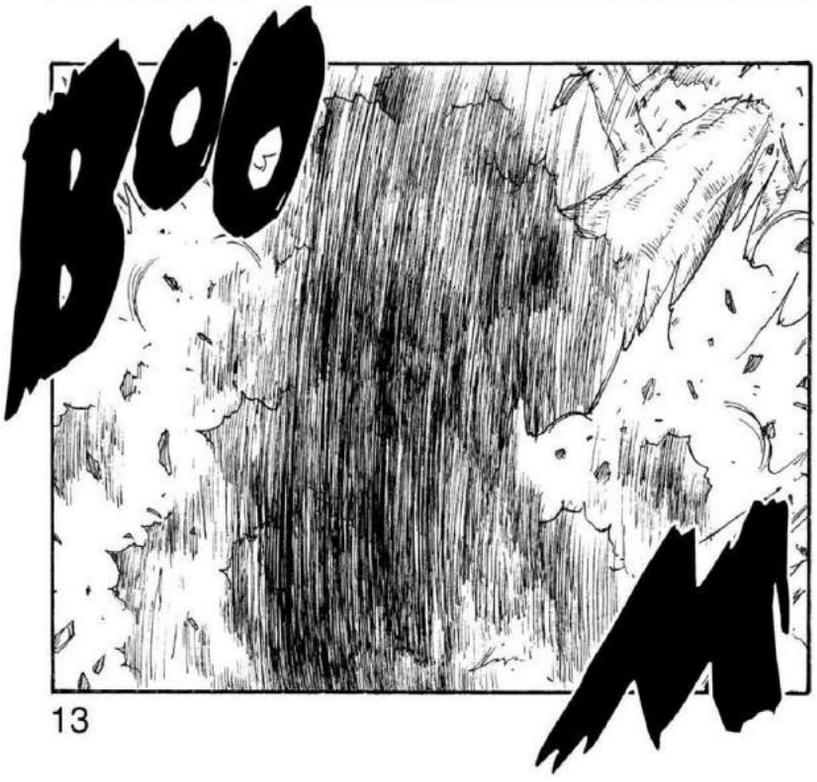

CROUCH

愛
RRRGAR!!

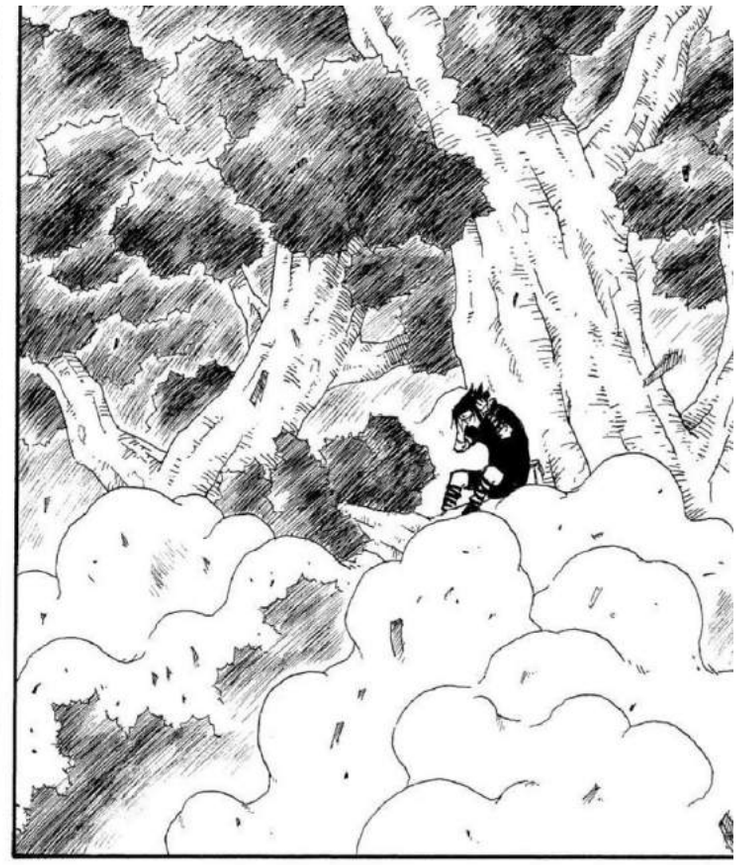
KA
BOOM

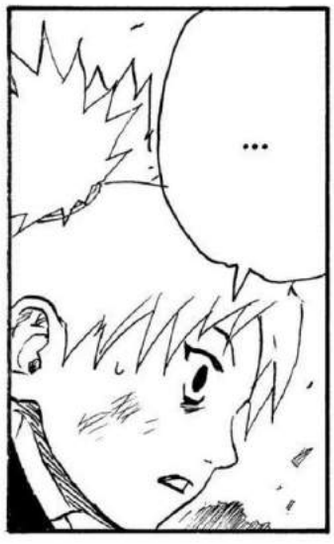
ROCK
SPLINTER

RRRUMBLE


BOO
M

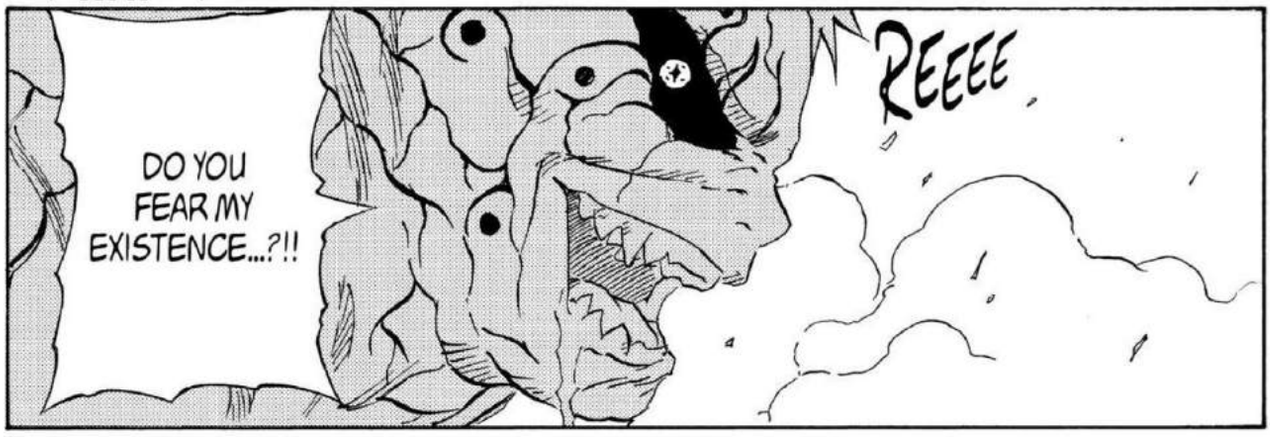
...HE... REALLY IS A MONSTER ...
HWOO HWUFFF




...

UCHIHA... SASUKE!

DO YOU FEAR ME?
愛


READ THIS WAY
DO YOU FEAR MY EXISTENCE...?!!
REEEE

YOU ARE MY PREY.
DO NOT FORGET ...

WHY... ARE YOU OUT TO GET ME?

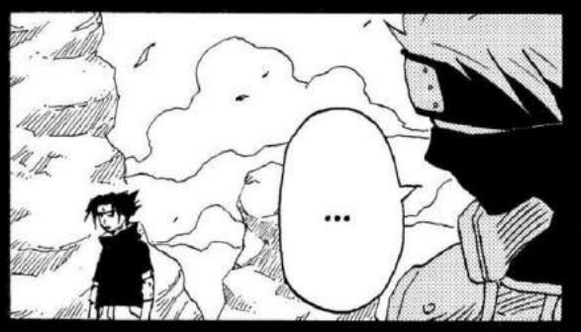
...WAIT!
!

...

...

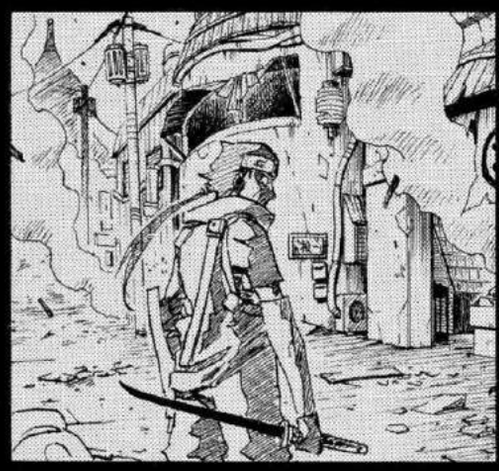
!!

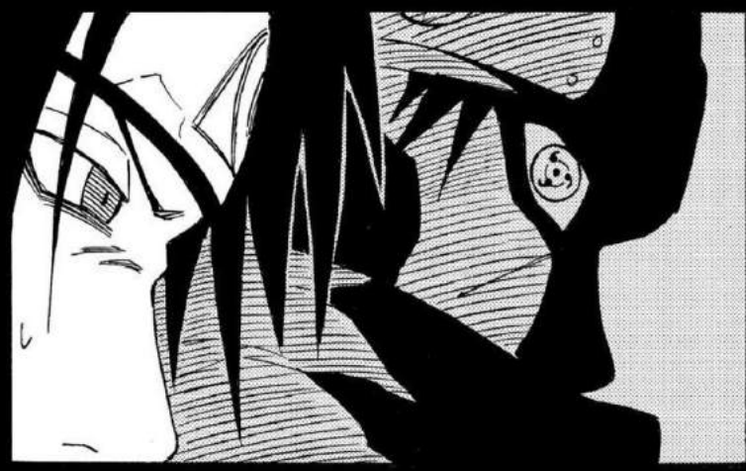
YOU'VE GOT EYES THAT KNOW REAL ISOLATION...
愛


...

...EYES THAT RECOGNIZE IT AS THE GREATEST PAIN IN THIS WORLD...
...AND...

READ THIS WAY
...EYES ITCHING TO KILL THOSE WHO DROVE YOU INTO THE TORTURE CALLED SOLITUDE...
JUST LIKE ME...
...
...EYES SEEKING STRENGTH, SPILLING OVER WITH HATRED AND INTENT TO KILL...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU. YOU HAVE EYES LIKE MINE...





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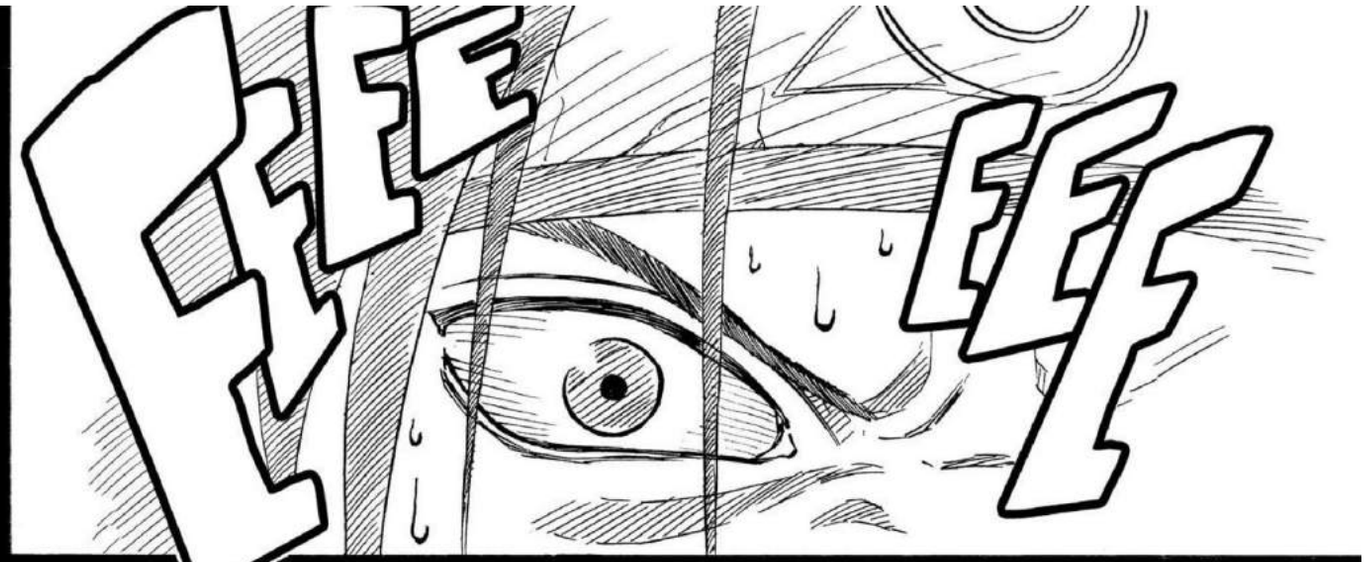

EEEE
EEEE

GAARA, RIGHT...?
ALL RIGHT, HOLD IT RIGHT THERE...
...!
!

THAT'S IT, THOSE ARE THE EYES...
愛

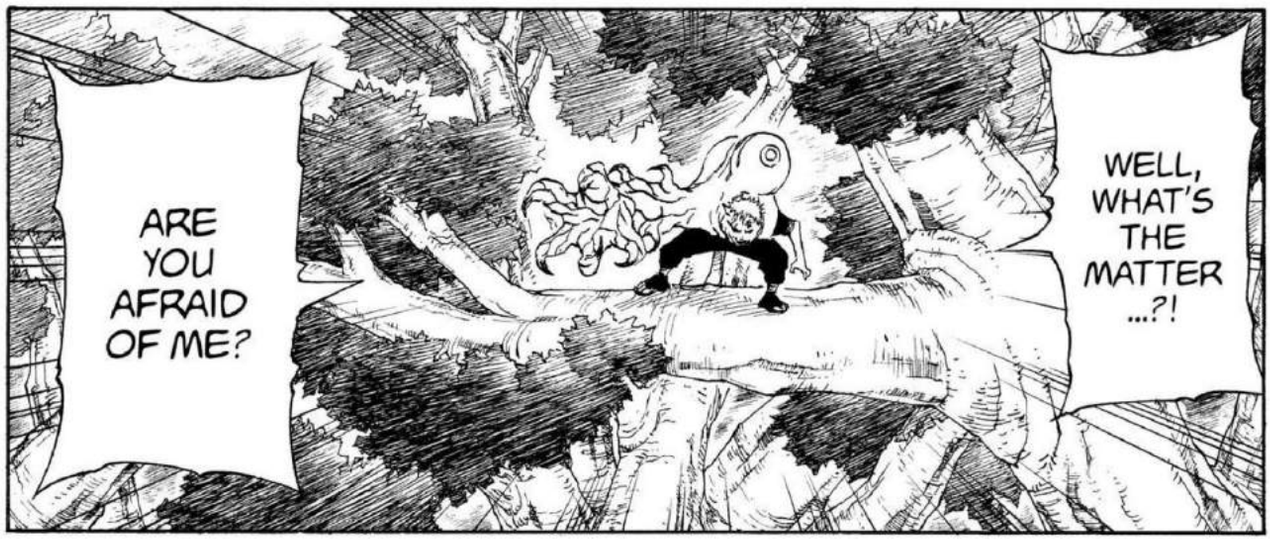
NOW, WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU WANT TO SAY TO HIM, TRACKING HIM ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE BEFORE THE FINALS?
...YOU SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN THROUGH HIM ENTIRELY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU THINK YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT SASUKE, BUT...

...WHERE ONE PITS ONE'S EXISTENCE AGAINST ANOTHER'S...
愛
A BATTLE IS A GAMBLE ...

...!
愛

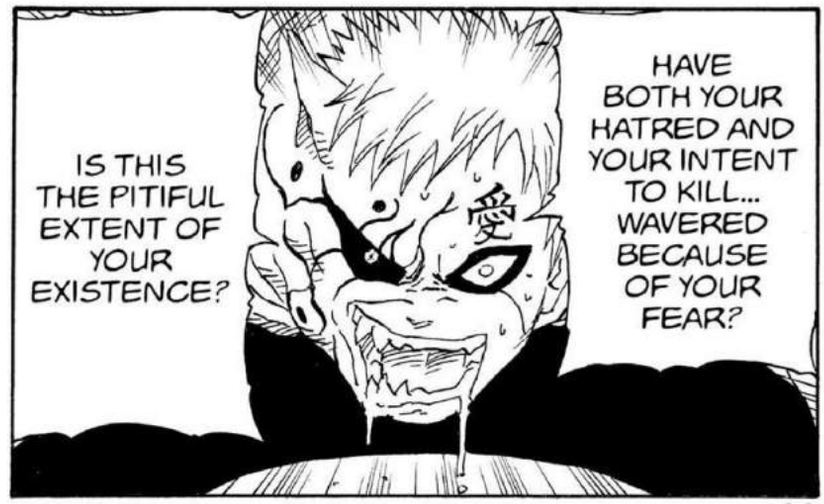
READ THIS WAY
AND WHERE ONLY THE VICTOR GETS TO SAVOR THE WORTH OF HIS EXISTENCE.
AND YOU TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER...
愛
"LET'S FIGHT A DEATH MATCH" AS OPPOSED TO JUST A MATCH, HMM?
...IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...
"AM I TRULY STRONGER THAN THE OPPONENT I FACE WITH THESE HATE-FILLED EYES OF MINE?"
DEEP INSIDE YOUR HEART...
UCHIHA... I KNOW... YOU ACTUALLY DESIRE IT TOO...
YOU'RE WONDERING, "AM I REALLY AS STRONG AS I THOUGHT?"
YOU WANT TO CONFIRM THE WORTH OF YOUR EXISTENCE...

...


ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME?
WELL, WHAT'S THE MATTER ...?!

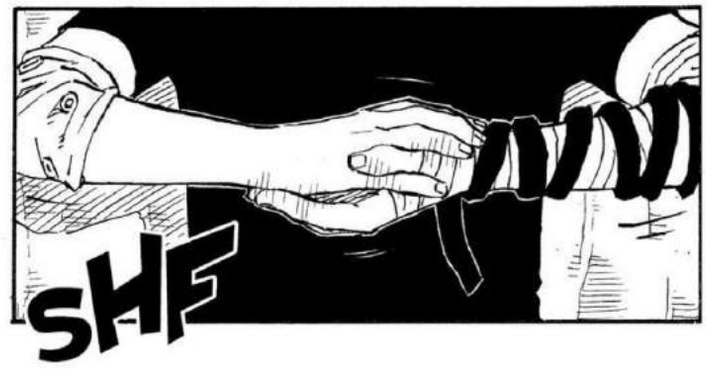
UMF

...


IS THIS THE PITIFUL EXTENT OF YOUR EXISTENCE?
愛
HAVE BOTH YOUR HATRED AND YOUR INTENT TO KILL... WAVERED BECAUSE OF YOUR FEAR?

COME ON!!
IF YOU WANT AN ANSWER...

!
CHIRP
CHIRP


SHF

...INTENTIONALLY... ALL BY MYSELF... FOR WHAT PURPOSE?!
I WAS LEFT ALIVE...
GRNCH

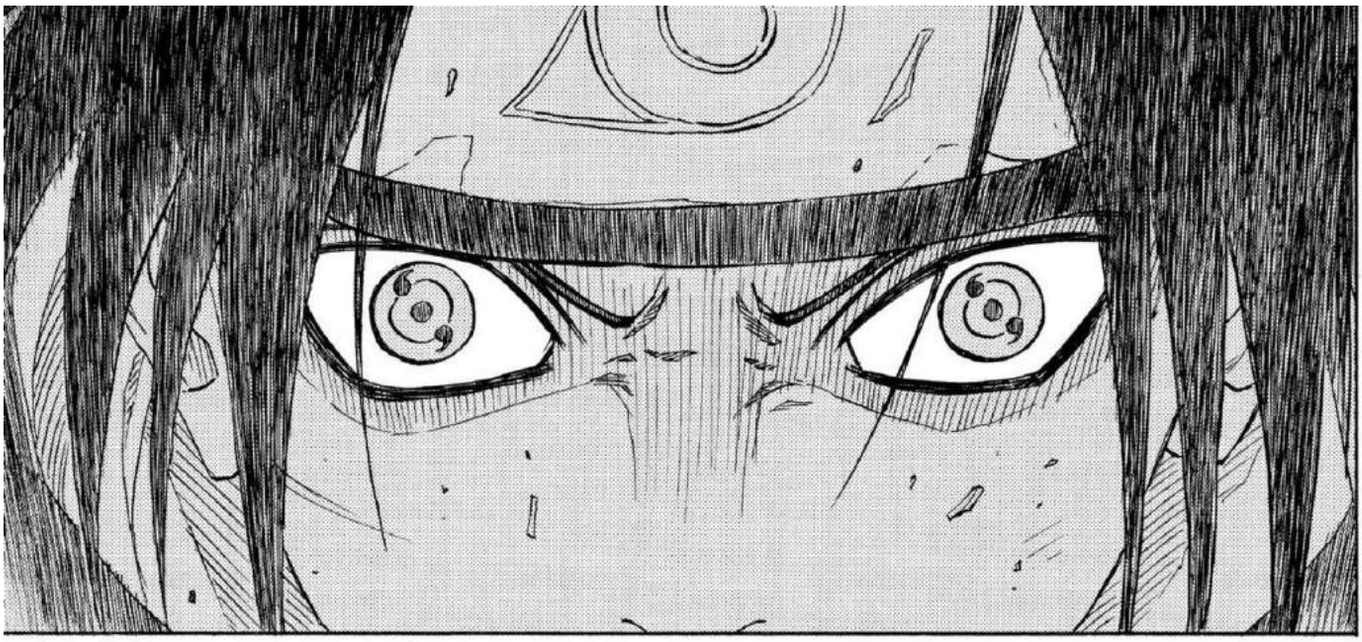
CRACKLE CRACKLE
HE LEFT ME ALIVE SO HE WOULDN'T BE TORMENTED BY THE GUILT OF ANNIHILATING THE ENTIRE CLAN...

CRACKLE
NAH... I KNOW THE REASON...
CRACKLE

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

...AS THE ONE WHO WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY HIM!

BIG BROTHER ITACHI CHOSE ME AS HIS AVENGER...



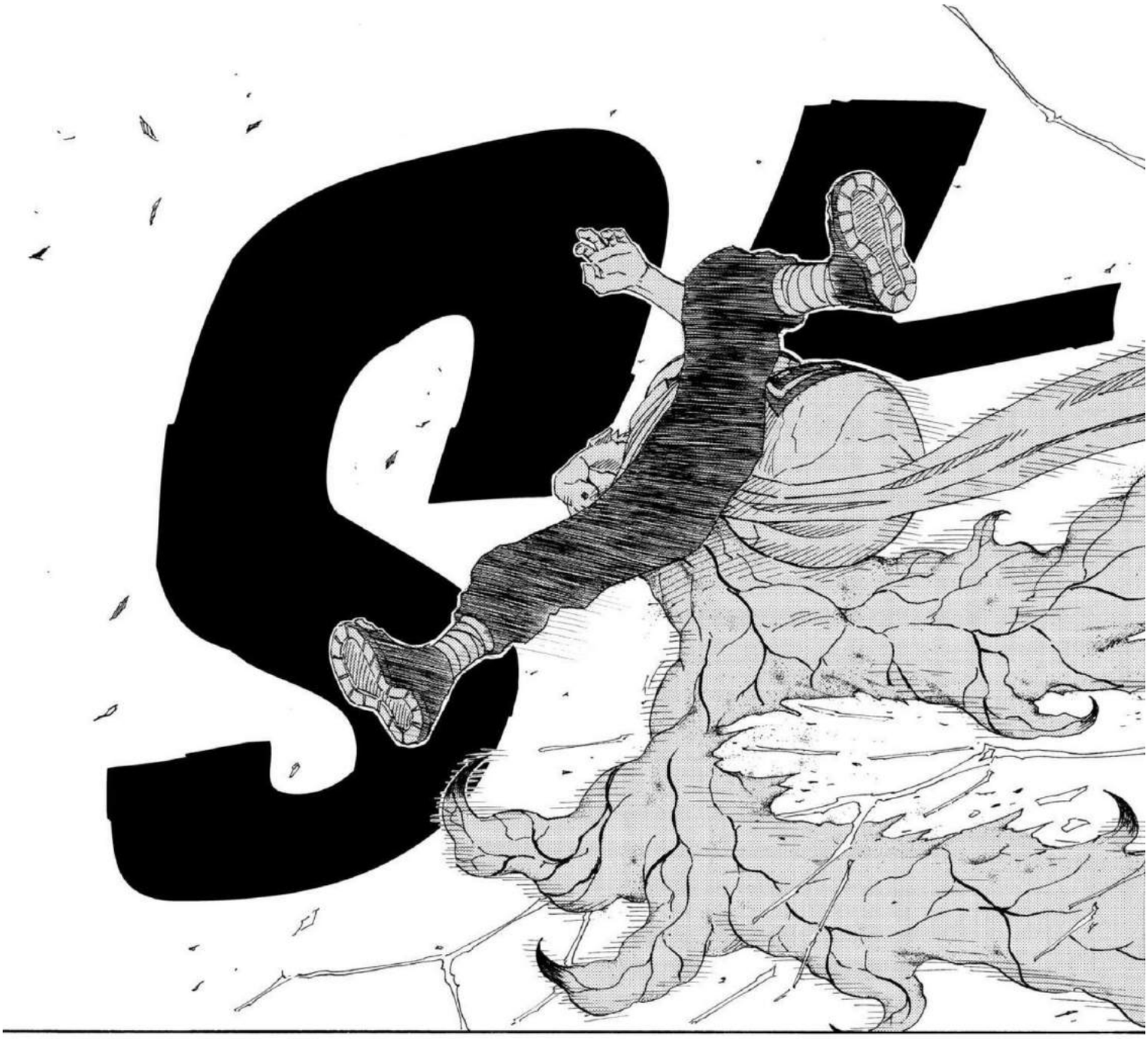
!!

LAUNCH
LAUNCH

RRRRROAR

ハッ

AAAARGH!!
...
...!!



A-HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
A-HA...

...?!

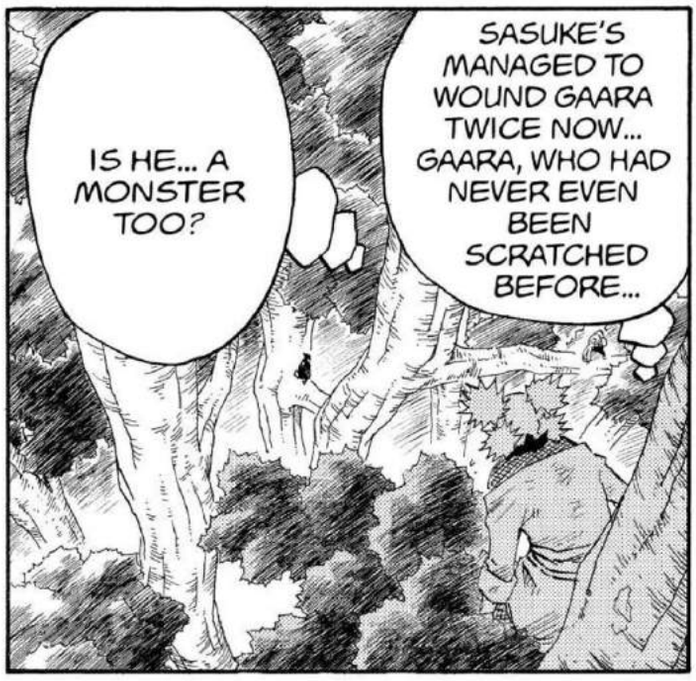
TAP
THUMP

Number 128:

Exceeding One's Limits...!!

A-HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

HAHAHAHAHA
...I'LL FEEL EVEN MORE ALIVE THAN EVER!
IF I CAN DEFEAT ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO WOUND ME, ROB HIM OF ALL THAT HE IS...


IS HE... A MONSTER TOO?
SASUKE'S MANAGED TO WOUND GAARA TWICE NOW... GAARA, WHO HAD NEVER EVEN BEEN SCRATCHED BEFORE...

...
HUF
HUF

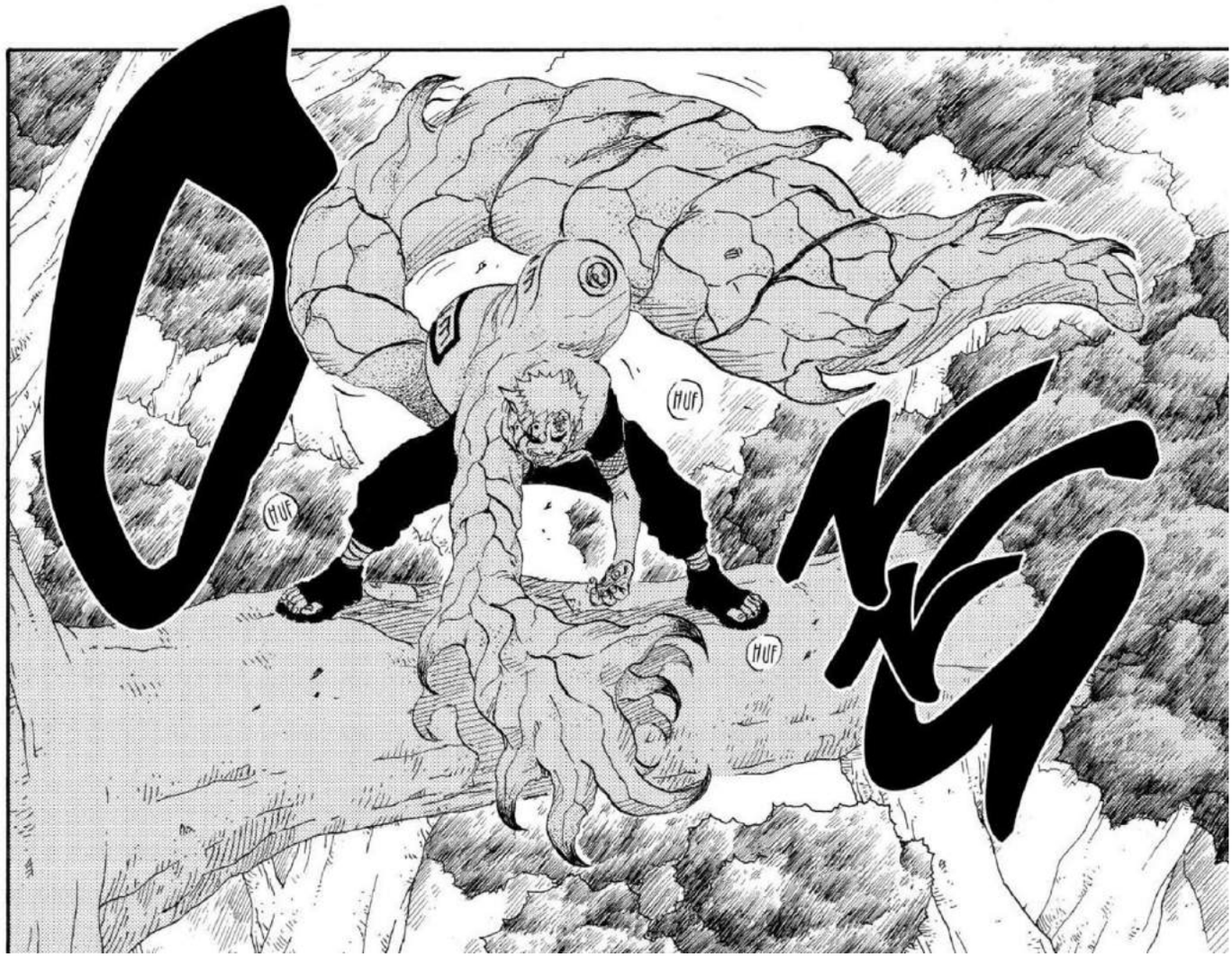
BUT ONLY HIS RIGHT ARM TRANS-FORMED...
NAH... THE REAL MONSTER IS INSIDE GAARA...

SLITHER
ARGH!!!

HA, HA, HA! MORE, I WANT MORE!
SLITHER SLITHER

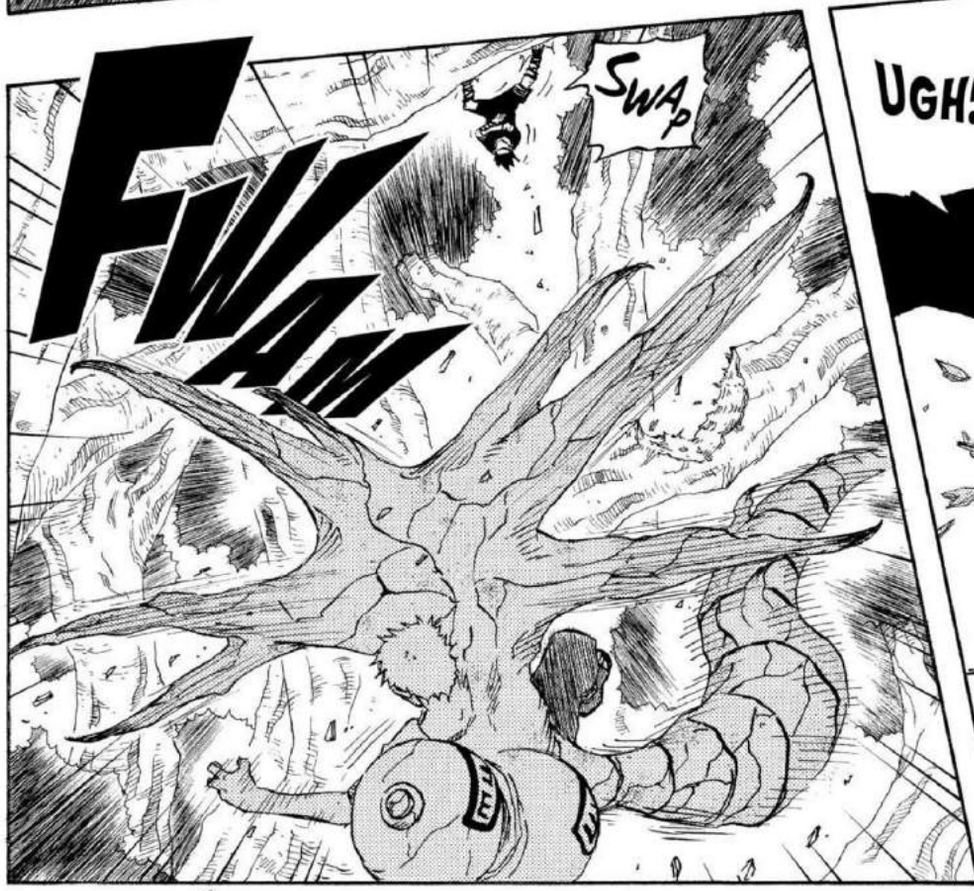
!!

!!


HUF
HUF
HUF

READ THIS WAY
READY FOR ME?!!
CLENCH
ONE AFTER ANOTHER ...
...WHAT IS HE?!!
LAUNCH
HE'S EVEN FASTER THAN BEFORE!

SHAAA

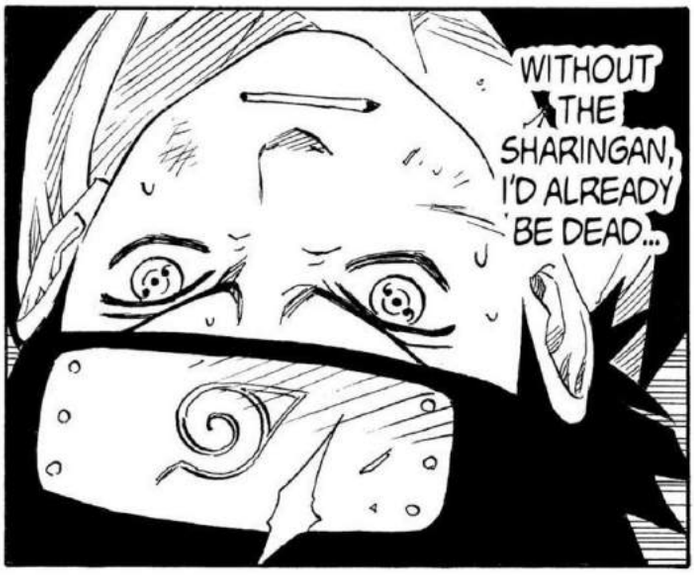

FWAM
SWAP

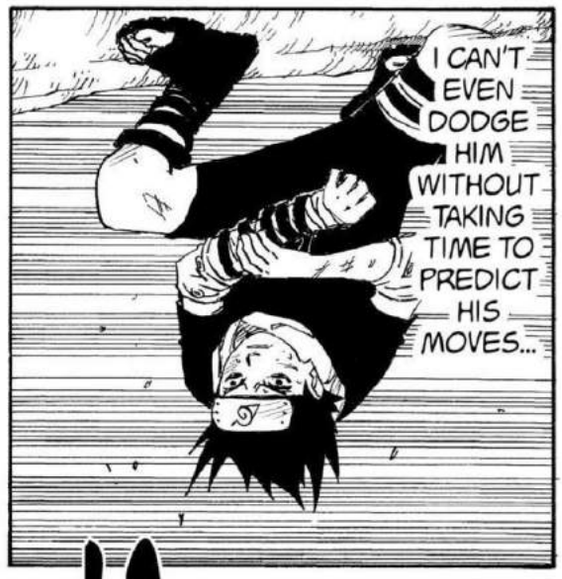
UGH!

KLAK

KLAK

STRETCH

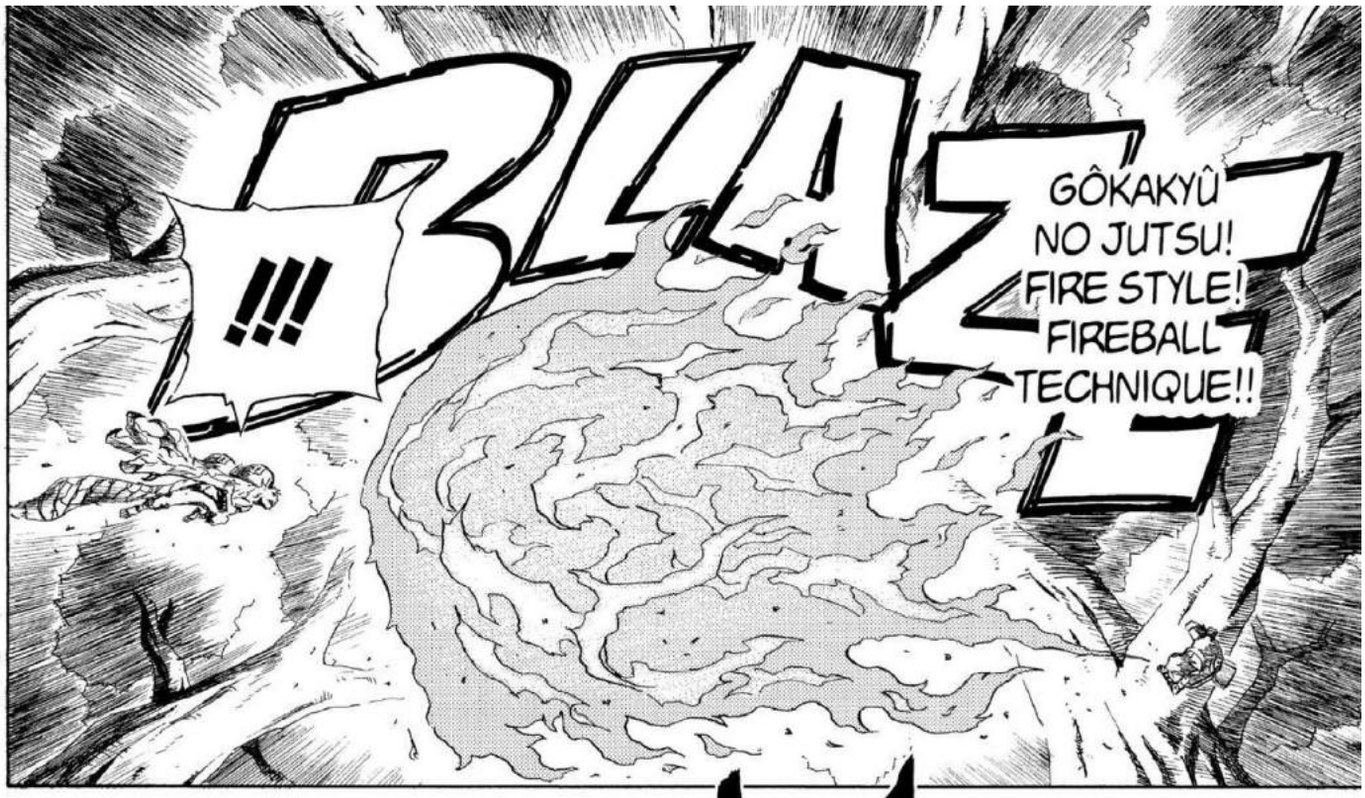

WITHOUT THE SHARINGAN, I'D ALREADY BE DEAD...


I CAN'T EVEN DODGE HIM WITHOUT TAKING TIME TO PREDICT HIS MOVES...

...I CAN'T USE THE CHIDORI ANYMORE...
FWIP
BUT... SINCE I ALREADY USED IT ONCE IN THE MATCH... AND AGAIN JUST NOW...

WHOOM!

FIRE STYLE...
HUF


BLAZ
!!!
GÔKAKYÛ NO JUTSU! FIRE STYLE! FIREBALL TECHNIQUE!!

DIE!

...THE JUTSU JUST ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH...
I GUESS FIRE IS INEFFECTIVE AGAINST SAND...

SKA
RINK

...
CHIDORI'S MY ONLY CHOICE.
I GUESS...
FAMP

WHAM
UGH!!

HUF
HUF
HUF

SLAM

IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR LIMIT IS TWO CHIDORI...
...AT LEAST FOR NOW.

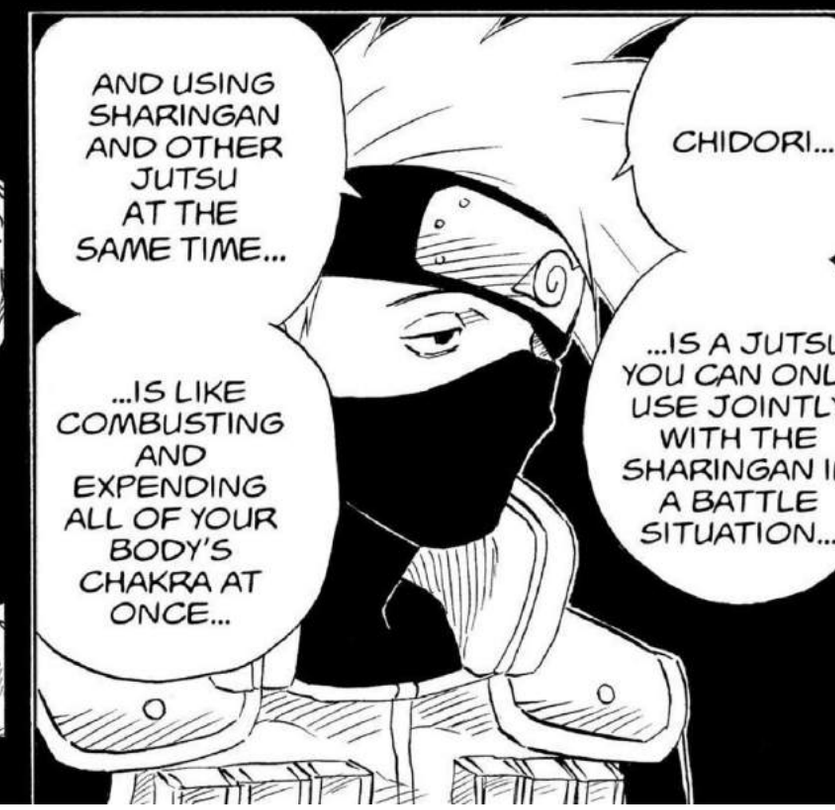
TWITCH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF

ARGH...!
!!
CRACKLE CRACKLE FIZZ...

HUF
HUF
RIGHT NOW, YOU ONLY HAVE ENOUGH CHAKRA TO EMIT TWO CHIDORI A DAY.

...
HUF
HUF
HUF
FIZZLE
FIZZLE


AND USING SHARINGAN AND OTHER JUTSU AT THE SAME TIME...
...IS LIKE COMBUSTING AND EXPENDING ALL OF YOUR BODY'S CHAKRA AT ONCE...
CHIDORI...
...IS A JUTSU YOU CAN ONLY USE JOINTLY WITH THE SHARINGAN IN A BATTLE SITUATION...

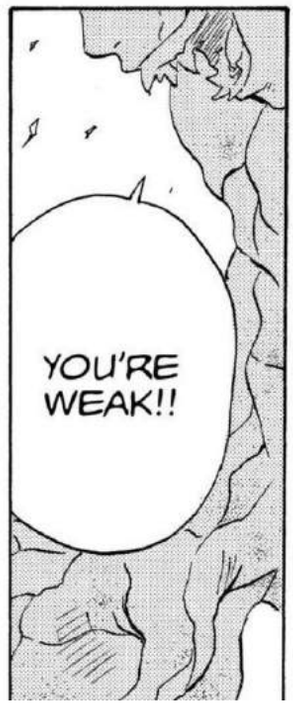
READ THIS WAY
...IF I TRY TO PUT OUT MORE THAN TWO?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ...
EVEN I...
IF I USE FOUR CHIDORI OR RAIKIRI IN THE SAME DAY, I'LL USE UP ALL OF MY CHAKRA...
BUT! YOU'RE STILL AMAZING...
...
THE THIRD ONE WON'T START... AND LISTEN CAREFULLY!
...
NOT ONLY WILL THE JUTSU NOT WORK, BUT YOUR CHAKRA WILL BE DRAINED TO ZERO...
IF YOU TRY TO FORCIBLY INITIATE THE JUTSU...

...ESPECIALLY FOR YOU...
EVEN IF YOU SURVIVE IT... I GUARANTEE THAT IT WON'T BE GOOD FOR YOU.

AND IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU'LL DIE.

(HUF)
(HUF)
HUF

FWUMP

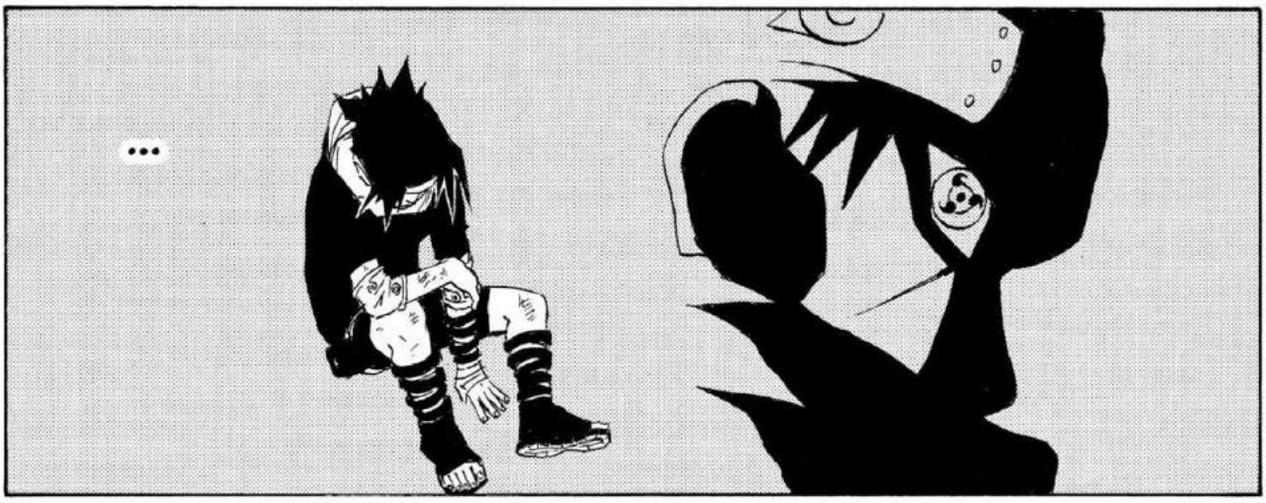

YOU'RE WEAK!!

LET ME TELL YOU...
IS THIS ALL YOUR EXISTENCE IS WORTH?

READ THIS WAY
THE STRENGTH OF ONE'S HATRED IS THE STRENGTH OF ONE'S WILL TO KILL...
AND THE STRENGTH OF ONE'S WILL TO KILL IS THE STRENGTH OF VENGEANCE.

...

'CUZ YOU'RE NAÏVE...
AND YOUR HATRED IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH.


...

DO YOU UNDER-STAND ME...?

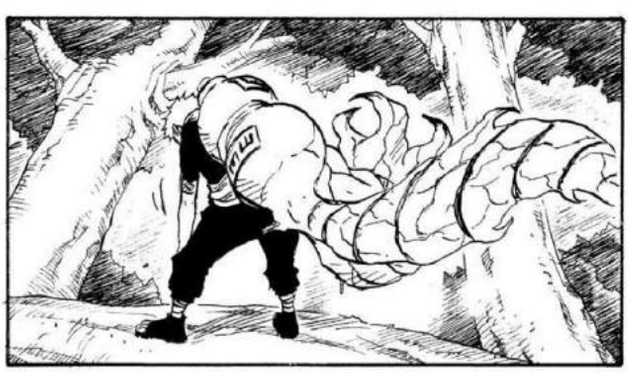
SHUT UP...

YOUR HATRED WILL NEVER MATCH MINE!!

YOU ARE WEAKER!!
IT MEANS...
LAUNCH
ZAP
FIZZ...
!
THUB

愛

CLASH

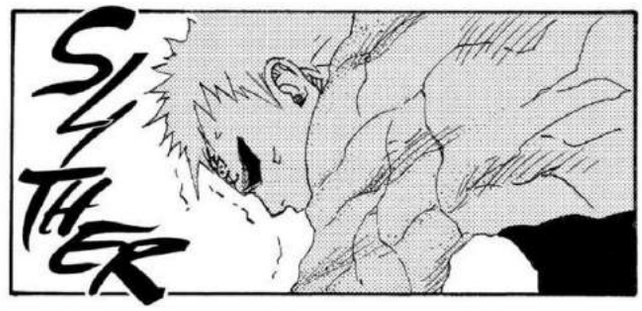


SLIP
THUNK

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

GLURRG
HUNH...

UGGGGH...!!


SLITHER

THROB
...THE CURSE MARK, AGAIN...

THUD
UGH!

AGH...! MY BODY, CAN'T MOVE...
!!

WHOOSH
RRRROAR!!

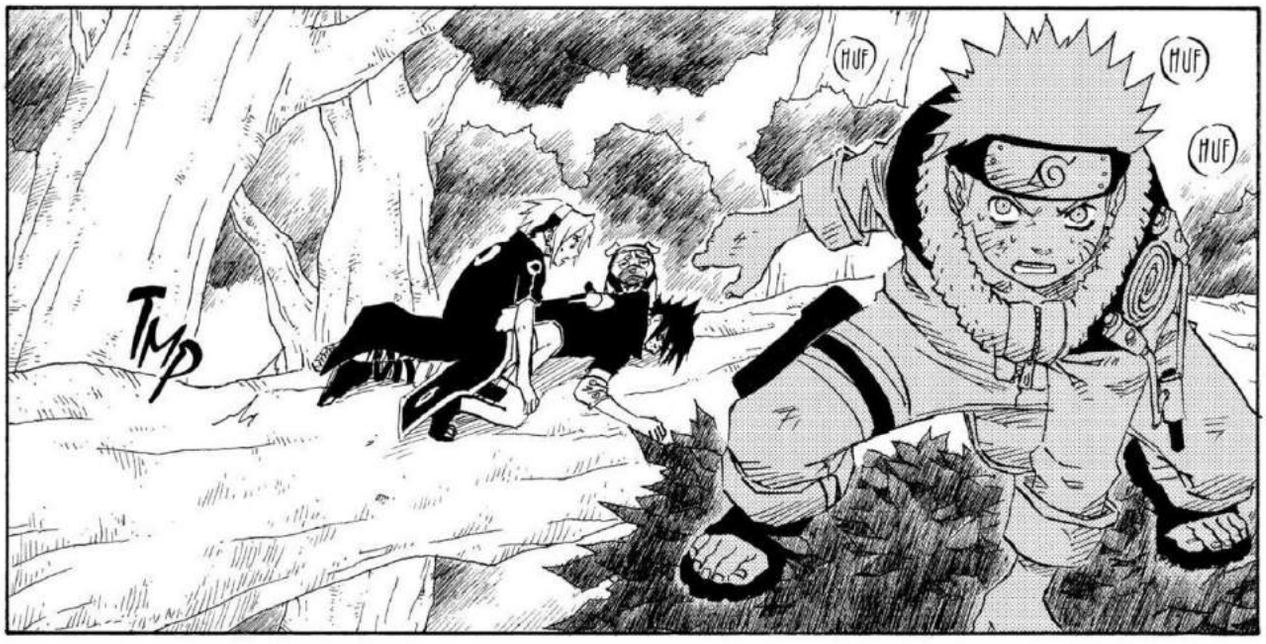
KA
WHAM!
...!!!

FUMP

KER THWACK

TAP
SASUKE!!

TUMP


HUF
HUF
HUF
TMP

!

...
HUF
HUF

Number 129: To Hurt...!! zz

UNH... UGH...

AND MASTER KAKASHI TOLD ME I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE MARK!
HE WAS PROBABLY FIGHTING RECKLESSLY... JUST LIKE THAT TIME!!
ARGGGGH...

TH... THIS IS...

WHAT IS IT!!

S... SAKURA...?
SAKURA!

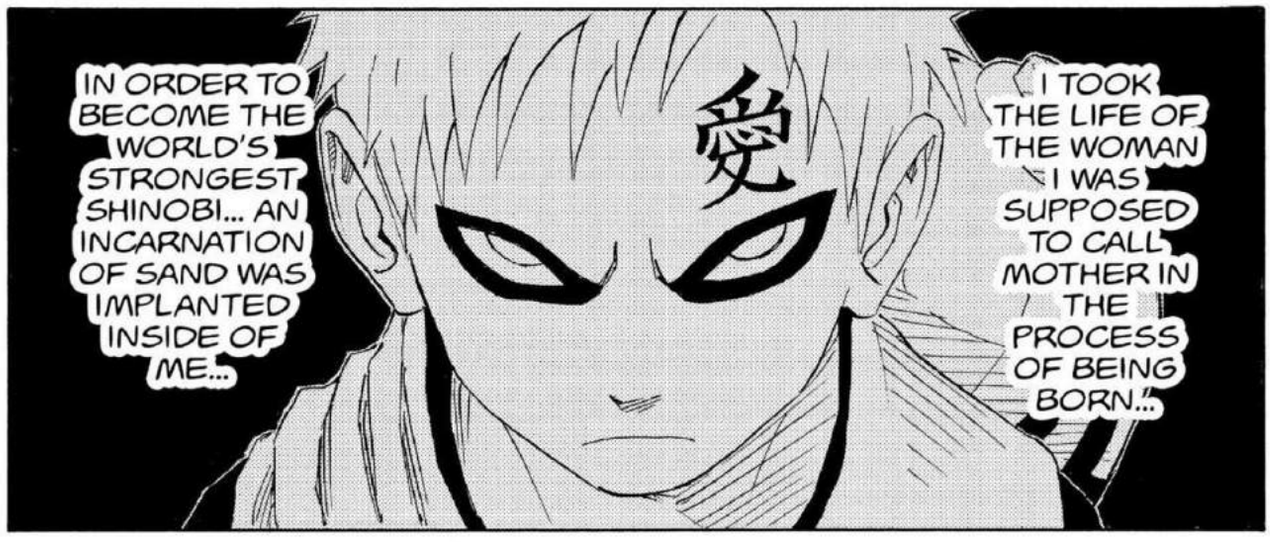
!
GRRRR

WHO'S... THAT?!!

HE'S THE ONE... WHO KNOCKED SASUKE DOWN...

!

HIS APPEAR-ANCE MAY HAVE CHANGED...
BUT IT'S THAT FELLOW, GAARA!
SNIFF
SNIFF


IN ORDER TO BECOME THE WORLD'S STRONGEST SHINOBI... AN INCARNATION OF SAND WAS IMPLANTED INSIDE OF ME...
愛
I TOOK THE LIFE OF THE WOMAN I WAS SUPPOSED TO CALL MOTHER IN THE PROCESS OF BEING BORN...

...A MONSTER!
愛
I WAS BORN...

I CAN SEE THAT!!
I'M NOT A BATTLE TYPE NINJA DOG, SO DON'T COUNT ON ME!!
HARRUMPH!

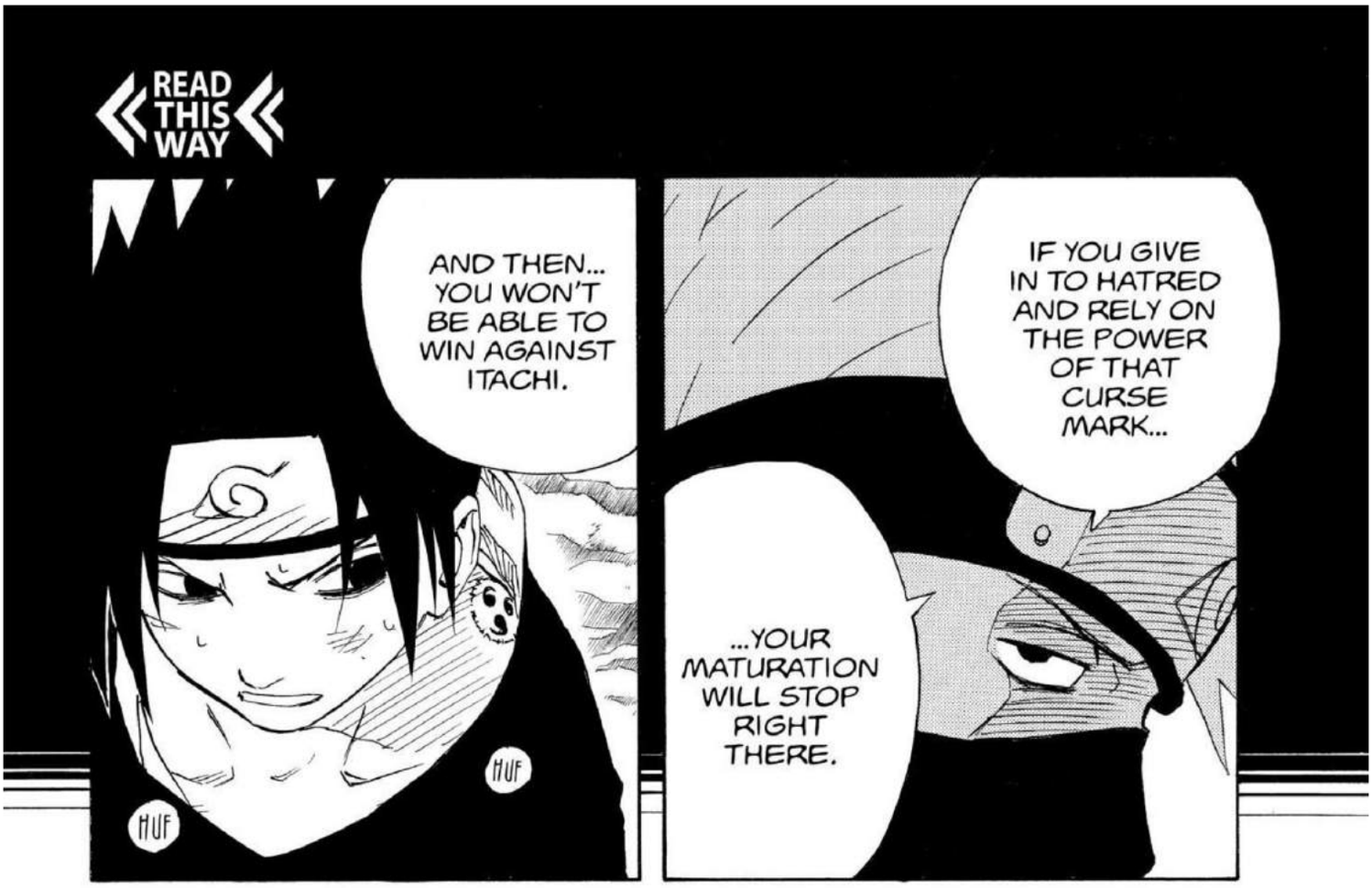
SO THAT'S... THAT "MONSTER," EH...

...AND SOMEHOW GET SASUKE TO MASTER KAKASHI...!!
IN ANY CASE, WE'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THIS CRISIS...
UGH... UNNH.

...

...ESPECIALLY FOR YOU...
EVEN IF YOU SURVIVE IT... I GUARANTEE THAT IT WON'T BE GOOD FOR YOU.
...YOU MEAN THE CURSE MARK...?

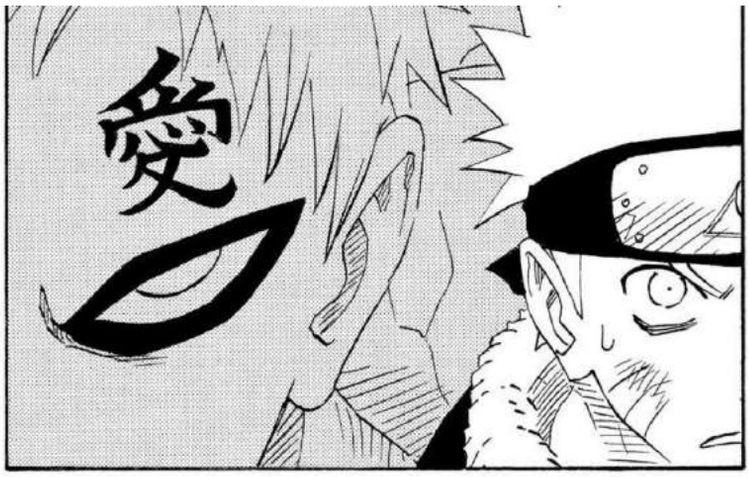
UGH... UNNH...


READ THIS WAY
AND THEN... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN AGAINST ITACHI.
HUF
HUF
IF YOU GIVE IN TO HATRED AND RELY ON THE POWER OF THAT CURSE MARK...
...YOUR MATURATION WILL STOP RIGHT THERE.

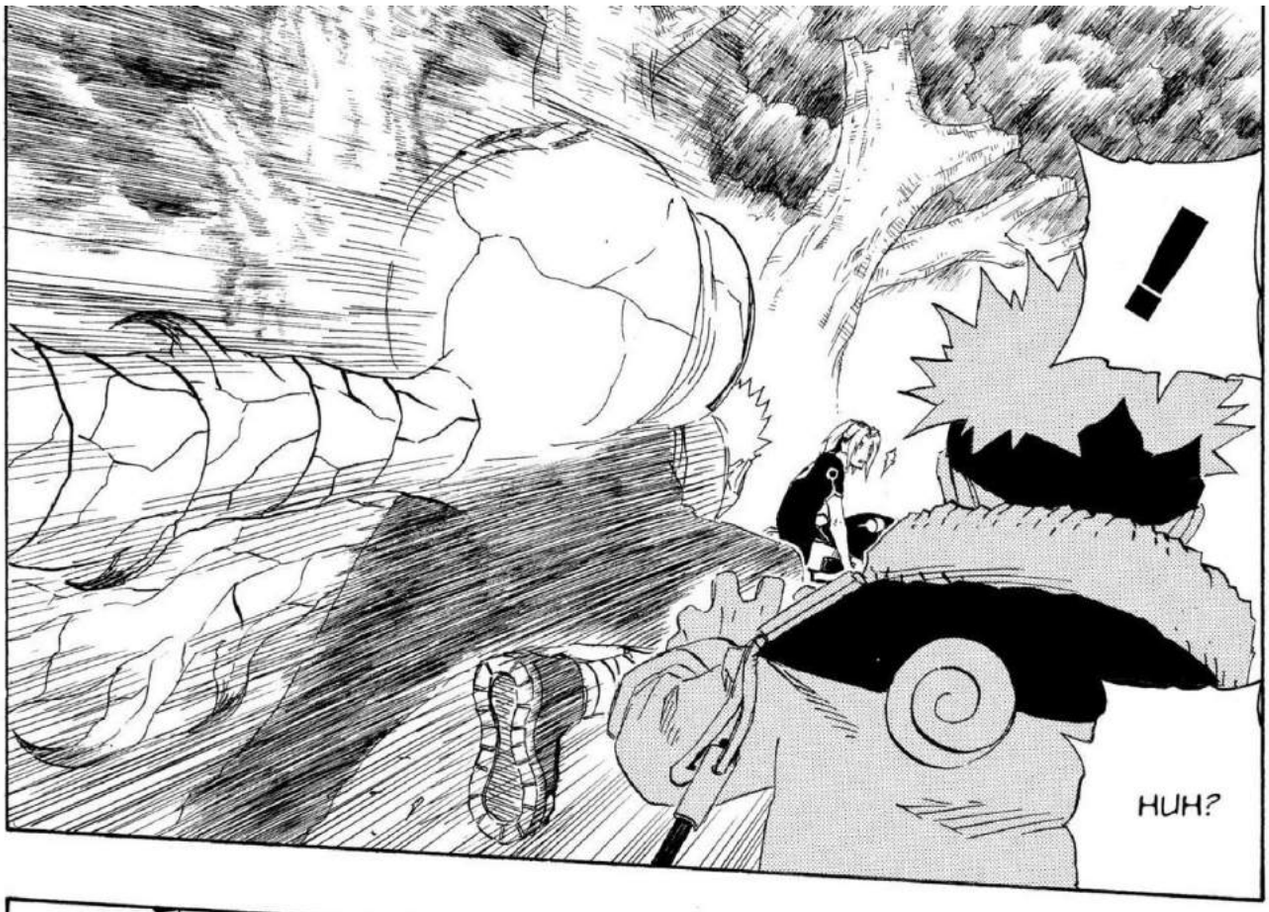
...I'VE GOT TO SUPPRESS THE MARK...!
HACK!!

...

SASUKE!!

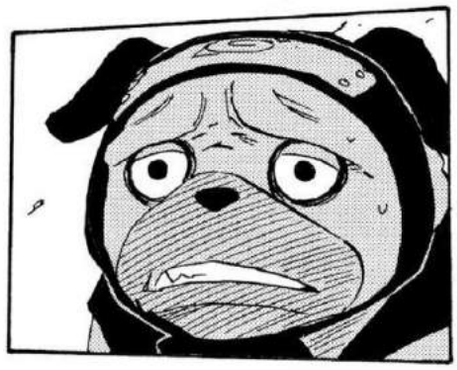


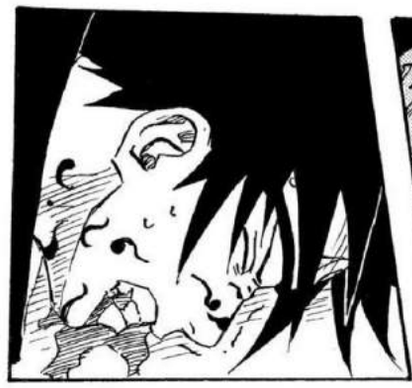
...THEN I WILL NOT CEASE TO EXIST.


!
HUH?

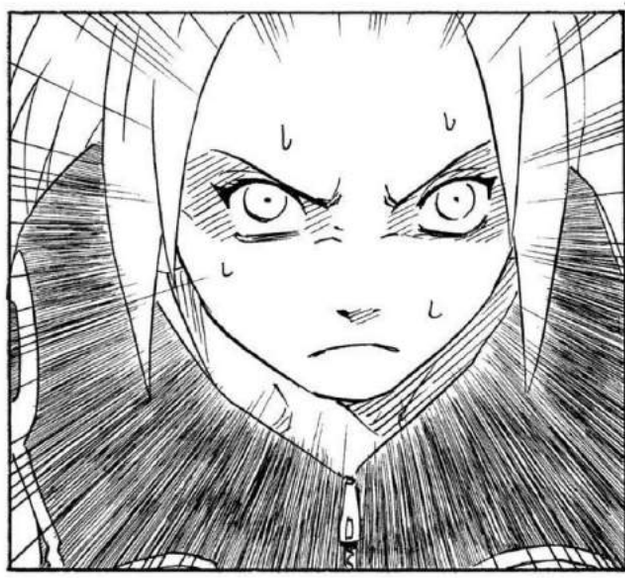
UCHIHA SASUKE!!
DIE!

!





SLASH

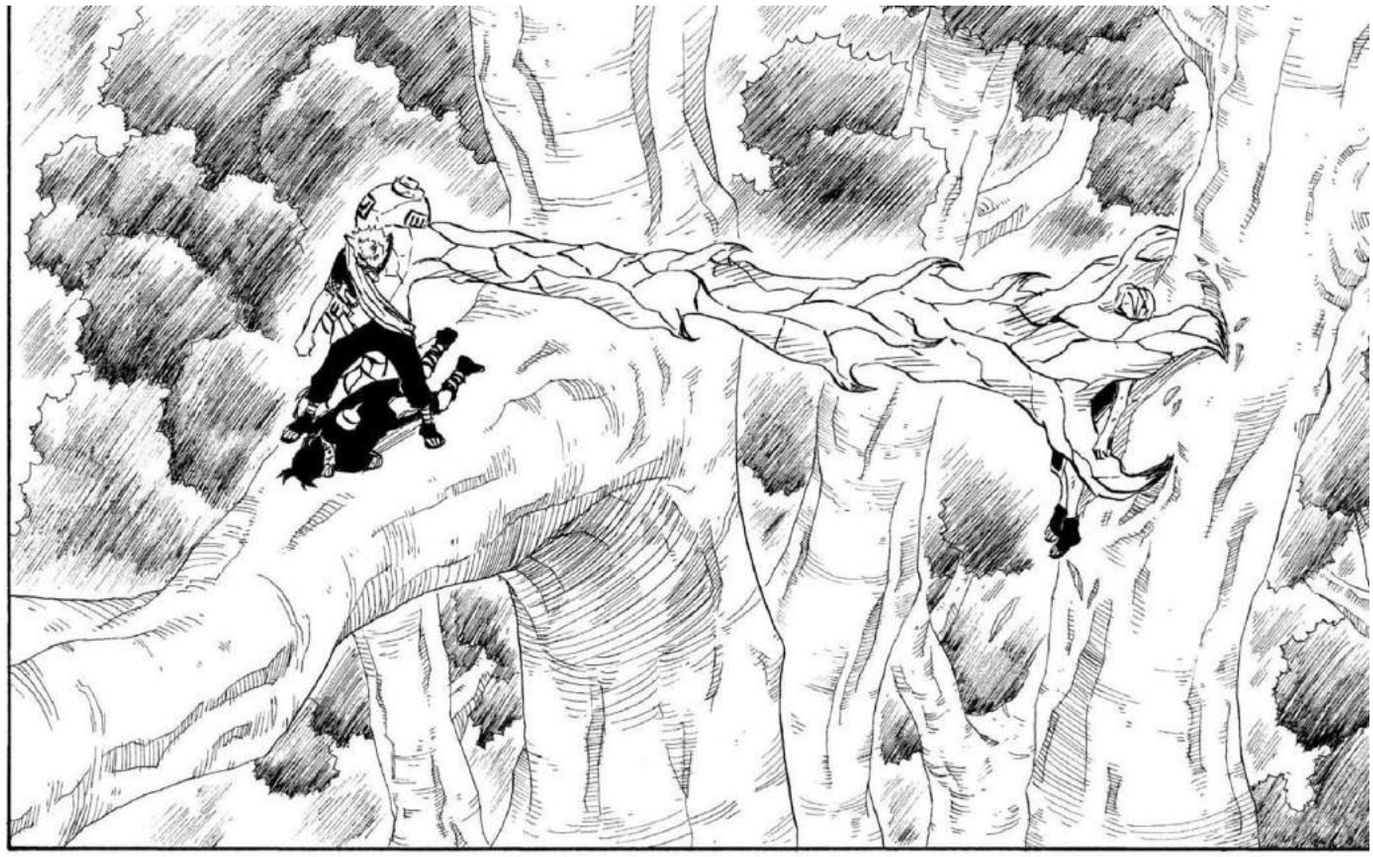


SAKURA!

AIEE!!
THWAK

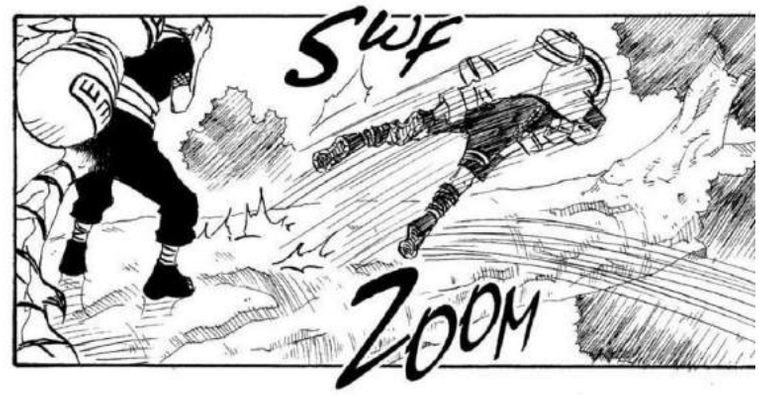
ARGH!!
SLAM

KLIP



TAK

THROB
愛
UGH!


SWF
ZOOM

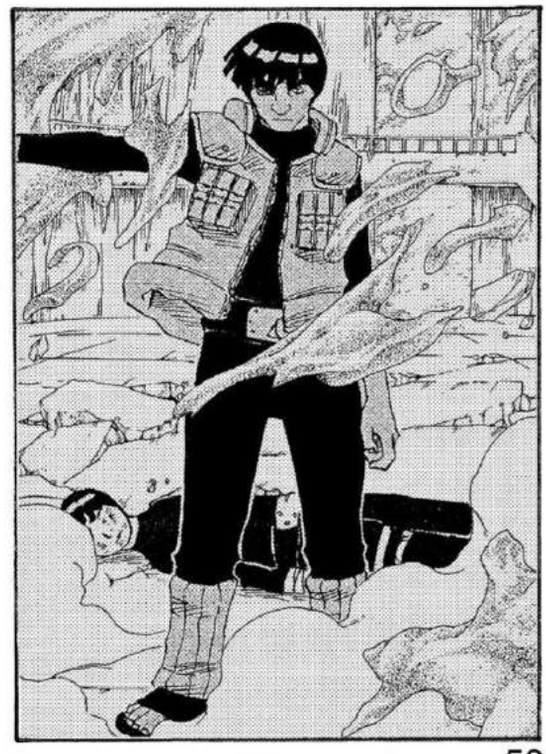
...THAT GIRL TRIED TO STAND UP TO GAARA...!

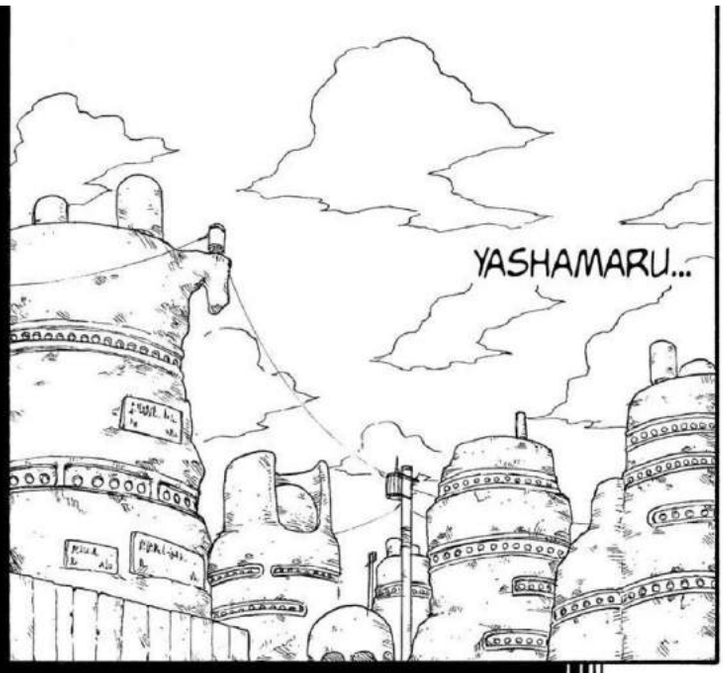
SAKURA!!

READ THIS WAY
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!!
DARN! DARN!
...!
...NOW, HELP ME FEEL ALIVE.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN HANDLE THIS GUY...
GULP

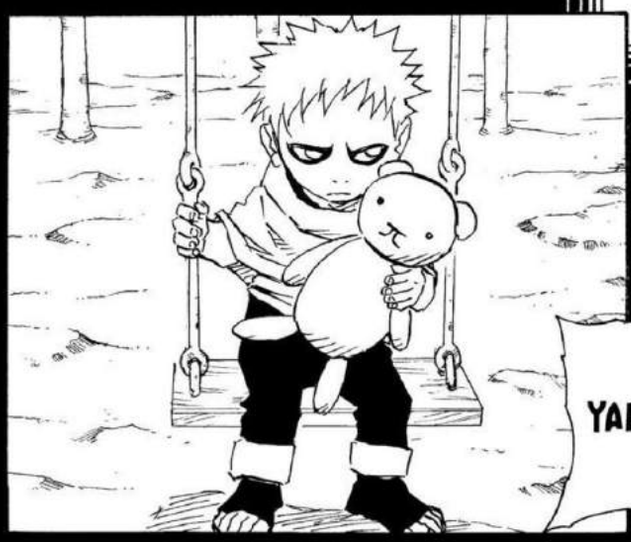
UNH...
UNH...
愛

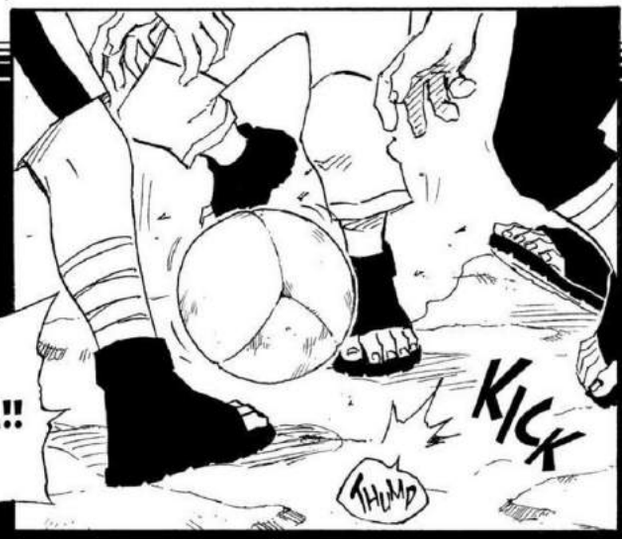
WHY...?
愛

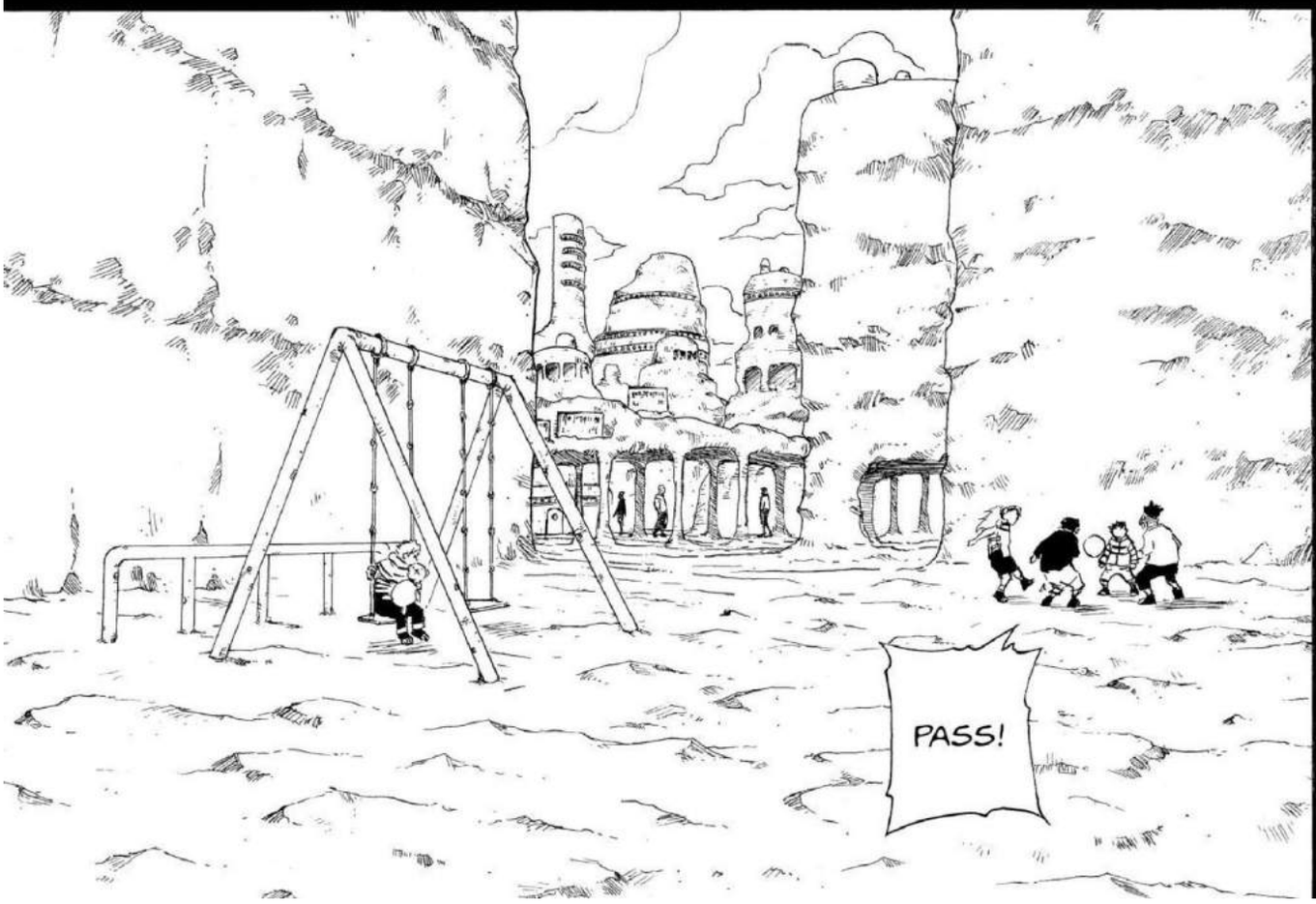



YASHAMARU...

...
UNNH...


YAH!!

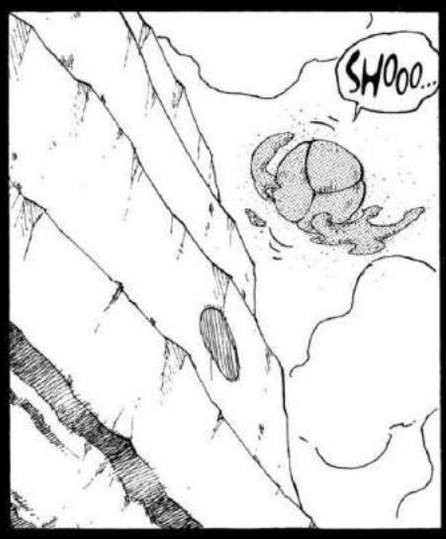

KICK
THUMP


PASS!

NONE OF US CAN DO THE WALL-CLIMBING TECHNIQUE...
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!

OH--! MAN!

SHOOO


SHOOO...

!

Y... YOU'RE...!
!!

READ THIS WAY
SHF
RUN--!
WAAAAH--!!
DASH
DASH
GAARA OF THE SAND...
I...IT'S GAARA!
R...
!
DON'T GO AWAY!!
WAIT!

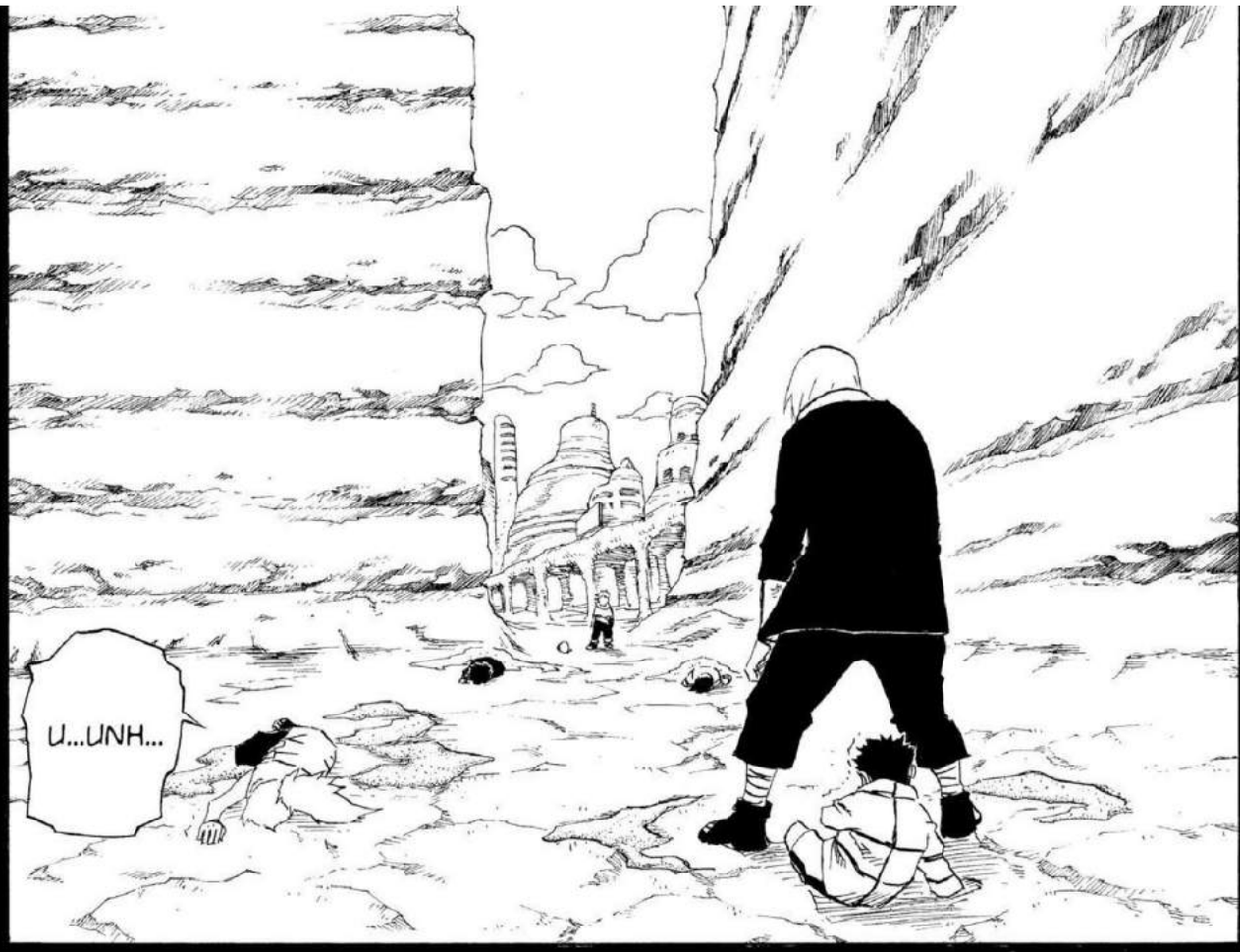
I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE
...
SLAM
WAAAH!
HELP--!
SLAM

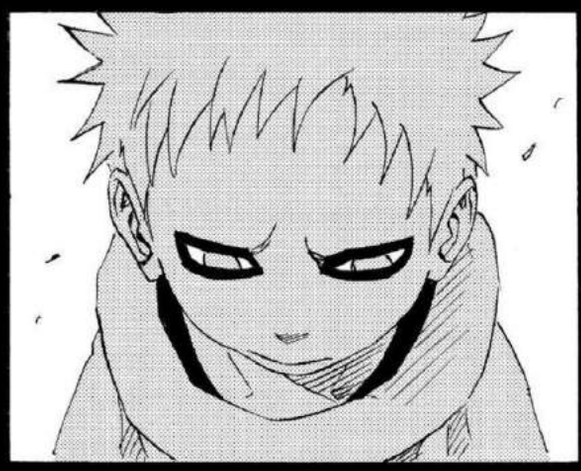
PUSH
BLOCK
UGH!!

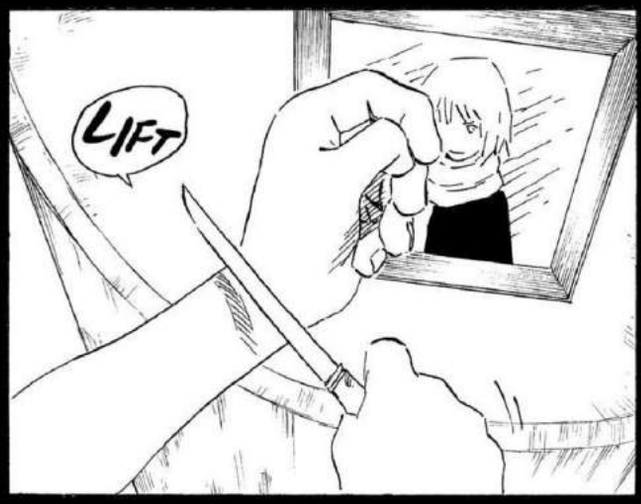
NO!

AAAAAH!
SNAP

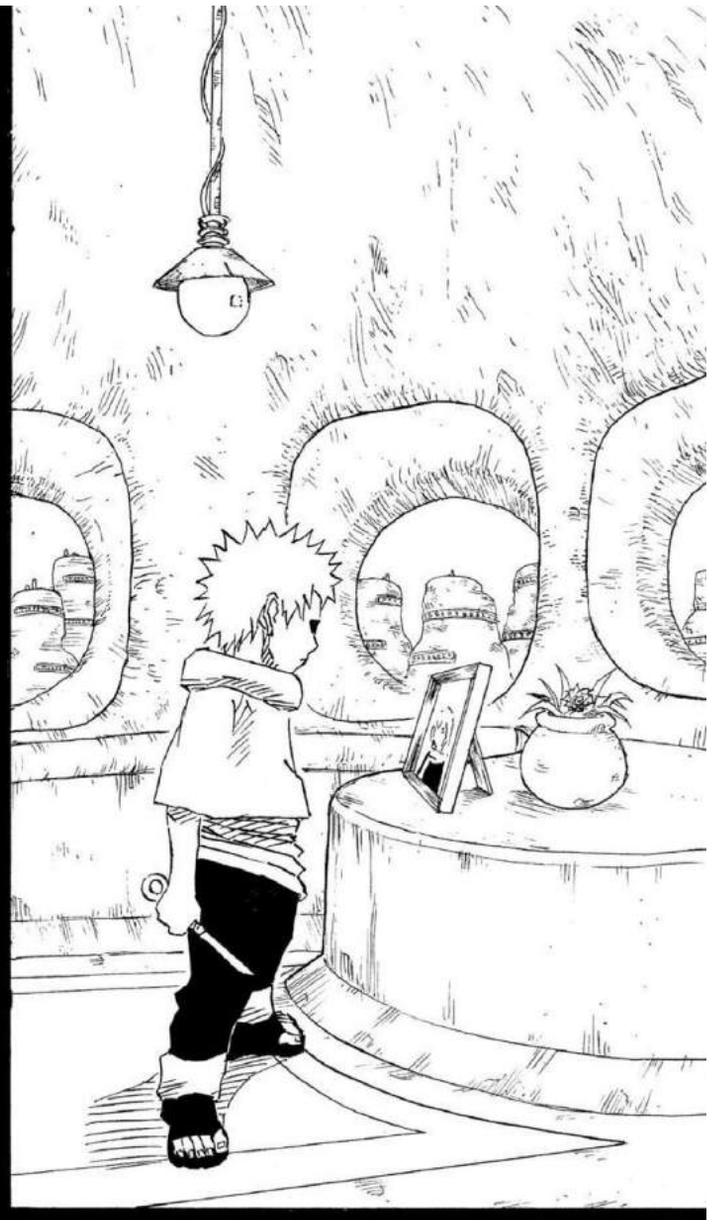
LORD GAARA, PLEASE CALM YOURSELF!!


U...UNH...



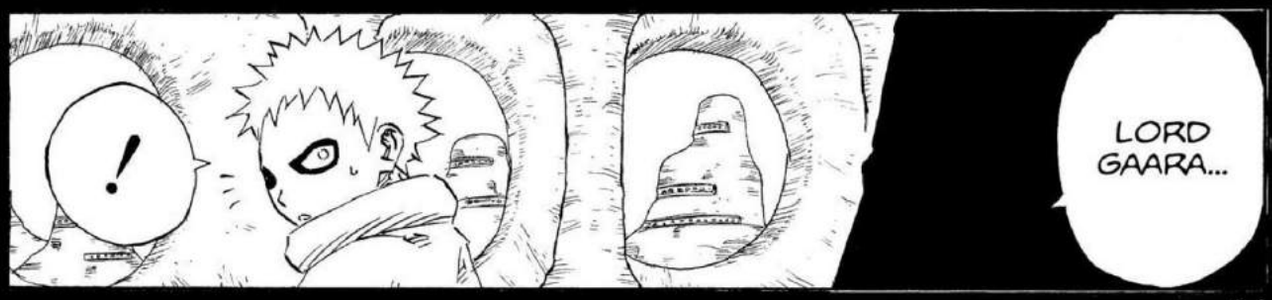

LIFT

SLOOSH...

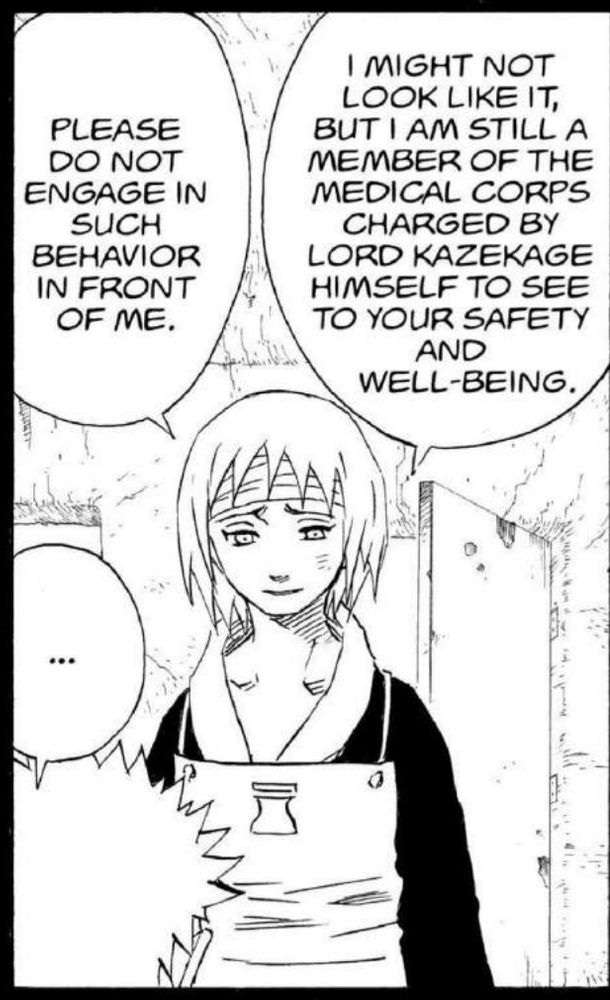


SLITHER SLITHER...
SLOOSH
THE SAND PROTECTS ME...

...IT'S STILL USELESS ...


!
LORD GAARA...

READ THIS WAY
...EVEN IF THE SAND PROTECTS YOU AS WELL...


PLEASE DO NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH BEHAVIOR IN FRONT OF ME.
I MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I AM STILL A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL CORPS CHARGED BY LORD KAZEKAGE HIMSELF TO SEE TO YOUR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING.
...

YOUR WOUND...
DOES IT HURT?
... YASHAMARU ...
I'M SORRY.

HMM?
YASHAMARU ...?

BUT IT'S ONLY A SMALL SCRATCH. IT'LL HEAL IN NO TIME.
WELL, JUST A BIT...
OH, THIS?

TO HURT?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 21

IN MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE, AFTER I GOT TO KNOW MY TWO MANGA-DRAWING UPPERCLASSMEN, I SELECTED THE TRADE PUBLICATIONS I WANTED TO WORK FOR, AND STARTED TO DRAW MANGA AIMED TOWARD THOSE MAGAZINES' CONTESTS.

EVEN AMONG THE NEWCOMER MANGA AWARDS, THERE'S A LOT OF VARIATION.

EACH MAGAZINE HAS A DIFFERENT STYLE OR THEME, AND IF YOU DON'T MATCH YOUR WORK TO THOSE THEMES, IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO GET SELECTED.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU DREW AND SUBMITTED A HOT-BLOODED BATTLE ACTION MANGA WITH ONLY STRAPPING MALE CHARACTERS TO A SHOJO MANGA MAGAZINE CONTEST, THE MOMENT THEY OPENED YOUR ENVELOPE AND SAW YOUR COVER ILLUSTRATION, THEY WOULD PUT IT BACK IN THE ENVELOPE, SEAL IT, AND EITHER THROW IT IN THE TRASH OR SEND IT BACK TO YOU. WELL, THAT MIGHT BE A RATHER EXTREME EXAMPLE, BUT UNLESS YOU REALLY TRY TO UNDERSTAND A MAGAZINE'S FLAVOR, YOU'LL JUST BE LABELED A "POOR MISGUIDED FOOL."

WHERE IT ESPECIALLY GETS TRICKY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEINEN AND SHONEN MAGAZINES. BECAUSE THEY ARE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR IN TASTES, IT'S VERY EASY TO GET THEM CONFUSED. I WAS A CASE IN POINT MYSELF. I OFTEN DREW HALF-AND-HALF MANGA THAT COULD HAVE QUALIFIED AS EITHER SEINEN OR SHONEN. THE REASON IS THAT THE MANGA THAT HAD INFLUENCED ME WERE THE SHONEN TITLE *DRAGONBALL* AND THE SEINEN TITLE *AKIRA*. THUS, I ACTUALLY WENT THROUGH A PERIOD WHERE I DEBATED WHICH FLOW I SHOULD GO WITH, AND EVEN IF I CHOSE ONE, ELEMENTS OF THE OTHER WOULD CREEP IN. BESIDES, BEYOND ANY SUPERFICIAL SIMILARITIES, THE ART DESIGN, DIALOGUE, TENSION, THEME, AND REPRESENTATION ARE QUITE DIFFERENT, SO (IN MY CASE!) I HAD TO DECIDE WHICH TYPE I WAS GOING TO DRAW AND GO WITH JUST ONE.

THUS, I MADE MY CHOICE, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS TO AIM FOR SEINEN MAGAZINES. AT THE TIME, THE *AKIRA* INFLUENCE WAS GREATER IN MY ART STYLE AND NAME [OUTLINE/STORYBOARDS], AND I THOUGHT THAT MY PERSONALITY WAS MORE SUITED TOWARD SEINEN MAGAZINES AS WELL. HOWEVER, WHEN I TRIED TO DRAW SEINEN-AIMED MANGA, I JUST COULDN'T GET RID OF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT, AND IT DIDN'T GO WELL... I REALIZED I HAD TO CONTEMPLATE WHAT I WANTED TO DRAW A LOT DEEPER, AND THE MORE I ANALYZED IT, THE "THING" THAT HAD PERMEATED THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART KEPT RISING TO THE SURFACE. IT WAS THAT INVINCIBLE MASTERPIECE OF SHONEN MANGA... *DRAGONBALL*... (AND YOU KNOW FROM *NARUTO* WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE ☺).

Number 130: Love...!!

...TO HURT?

...WHAT DOES IT MEAN...

...

...

I WAS WONDERING WHAT IT FELT LIKE...

...I... I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN INJURED, SO...

IT'S NO FUN, DEFINITELY...

I CAN'T REALLY DESCRIBE IT...

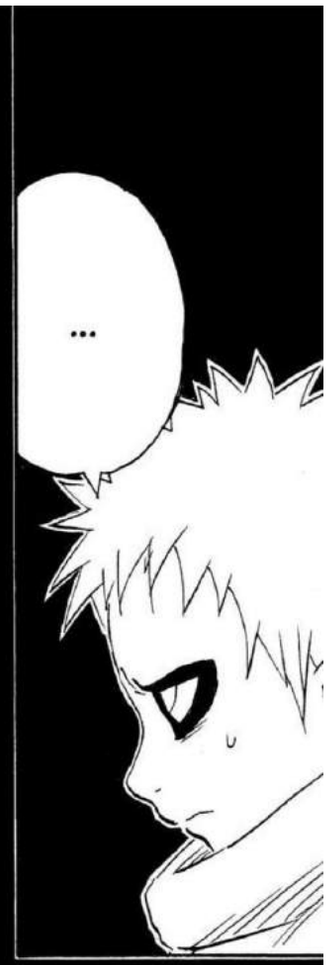
IT'S KINDA PAINFUL... KINDA UNBEARABLE...

IN SHORT, I GUESS YOU COULD IMAGINE... BEING HIT OR CUT AND YOU CAN'T HOLD IT IN OR BE YOURSELF ANY LONGER...

WELL... I'M NOT SURE HOW TO DESCRIBE IT...

!
YASHA-MARU...

YASHAMARU, DO YOU...
...THEN...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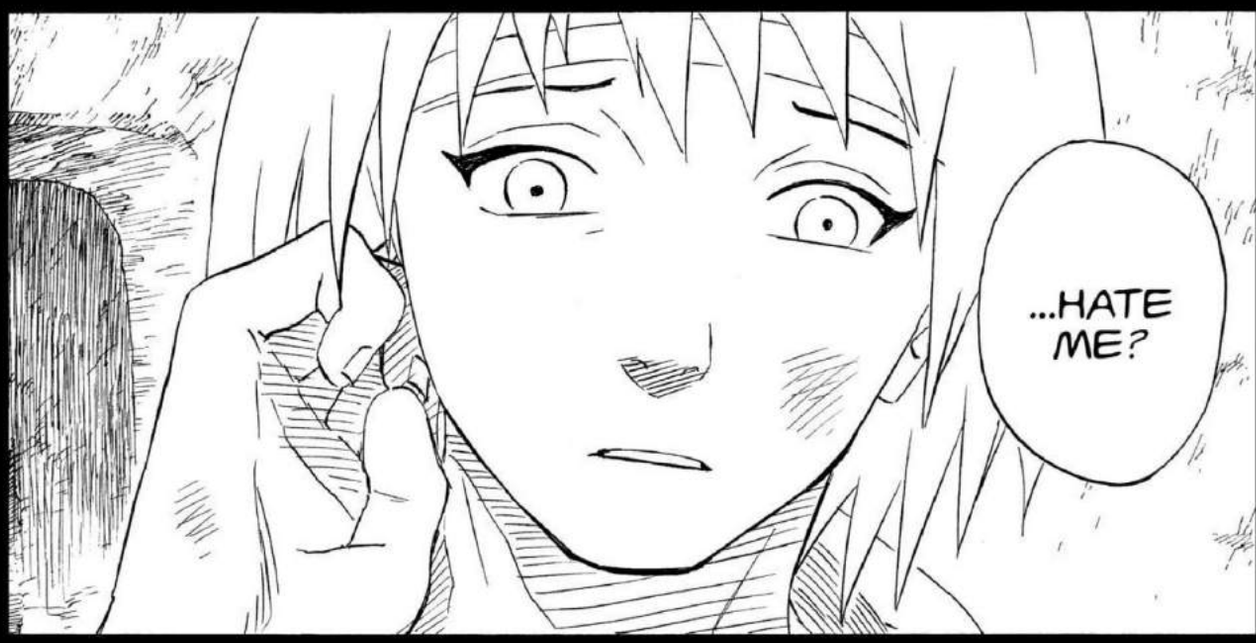

...HATE ME?

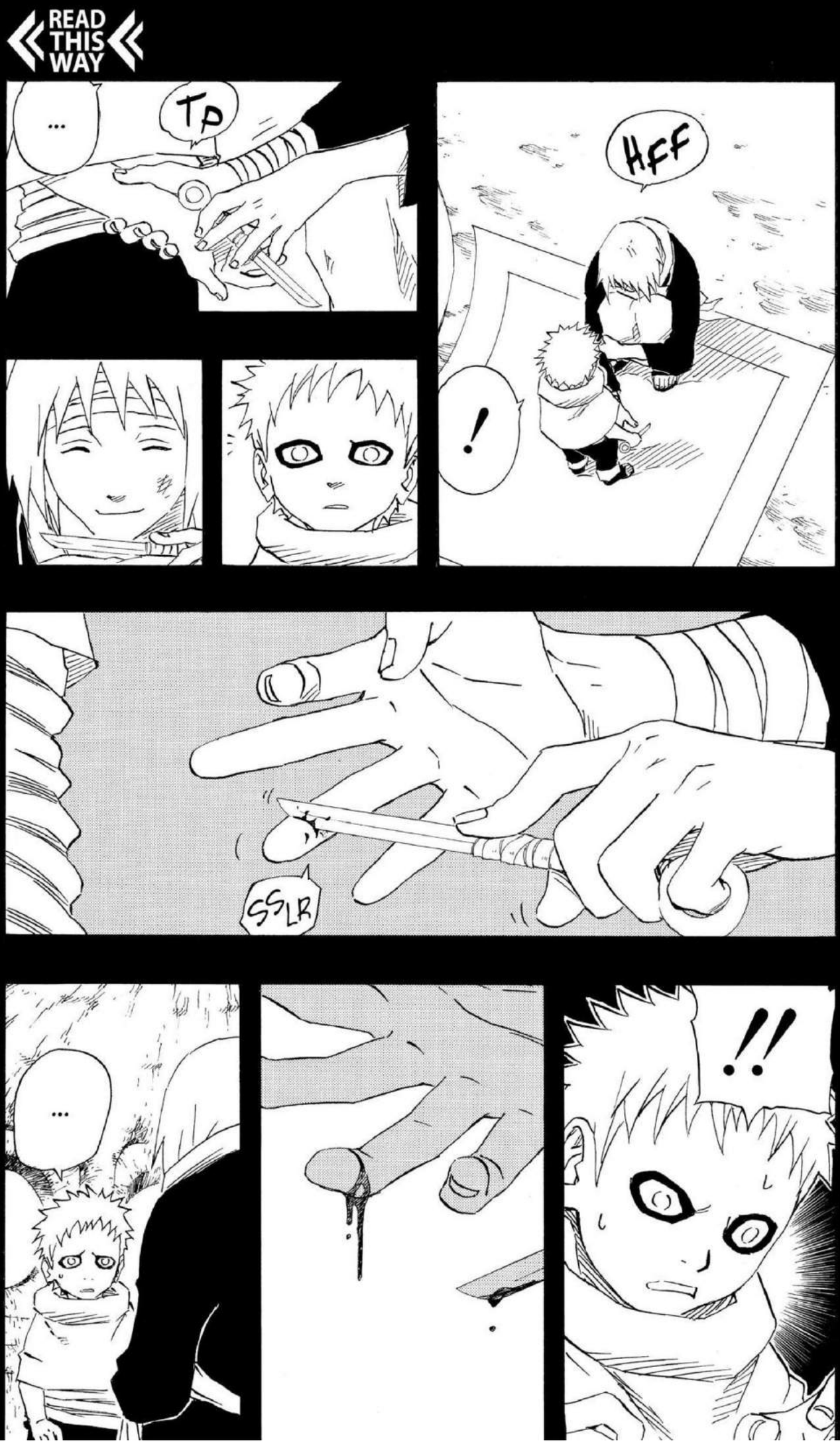
...

READ THIS WAY
BUT EVEN DESPITE ALL THAT...
HUMANS LIVE THEIR LIVES HURTING OTHERS AND BEING HURT IN RETURN.
...PEOPLE STILL LOVE MORE THAN THEY HATE...
SO... COULD I BE INJURED TOO?
...
JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...
MAYBE I AM STARTING TO UNDERSTAND... WHAT IT MEANS TO HURT, NOW.
...THANKS, YASHAMARU...
...IS THAT SO...?
...
...!
IT... ALWAYS HURTS.
?!

IT DOESN'T BLEED...

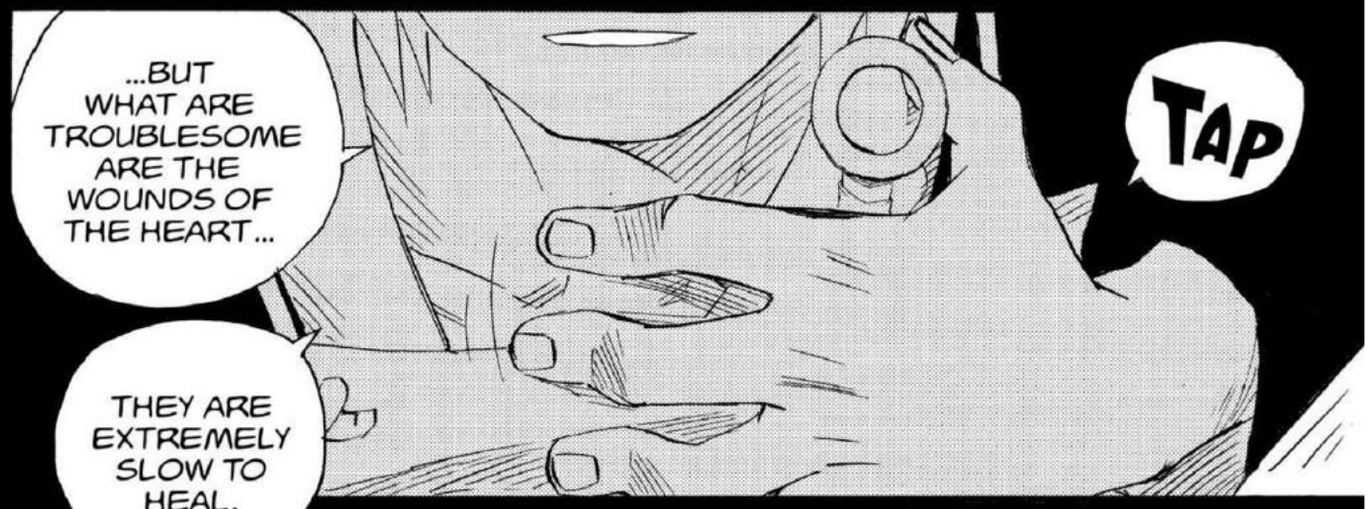
BUT IT HURTS RIGHT HERE.

SKRCH


READ THIS WAY
...
TP
HFF
!
SSLR
...
!!

...!

A WOUND OF THE BODY CERTAINLY BLEEDS...
AND CAN APPEAR PAINFUL.
BUT AS TIME PASSES, THE PAIN WILL FADE ON ITS OWN...
AND IF ONE USES MEDICINE, IT WILL HEAL EVEN FASTER.


TAP
...BUT WHAT ARE TROUBLESOME ARE THE WOUNDS OF THE HEART...
THEY ARE EXTREMELY SLOW TO HEAL.

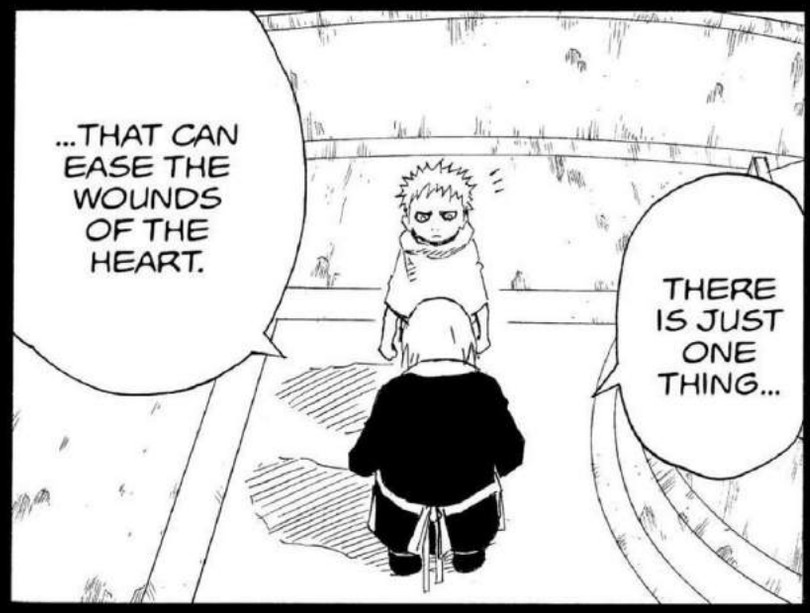
...

WOUNDS OF THE HEART ARE A BIT DIFFERENT.
UNLIKE WOUNDS OF THE BODY, THERE ARE NO MEDICINES THAT CAN HELP THEM GET BETTER...
AND SOMETIMES, THEY NEVER EVER HEAL.

...WOUNDS OF THE HEART?

...

READ THIS WAY
...?
...

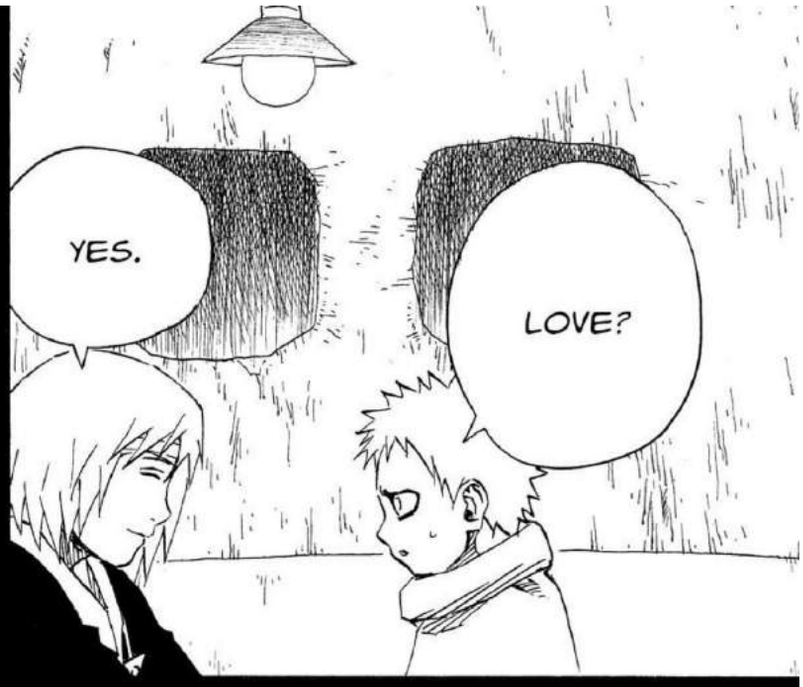

...THAT CAN EASE THE WOUNDS OF THE HEART.
THERE IS JUST ONE THING...

...
...WHAT IS IT?

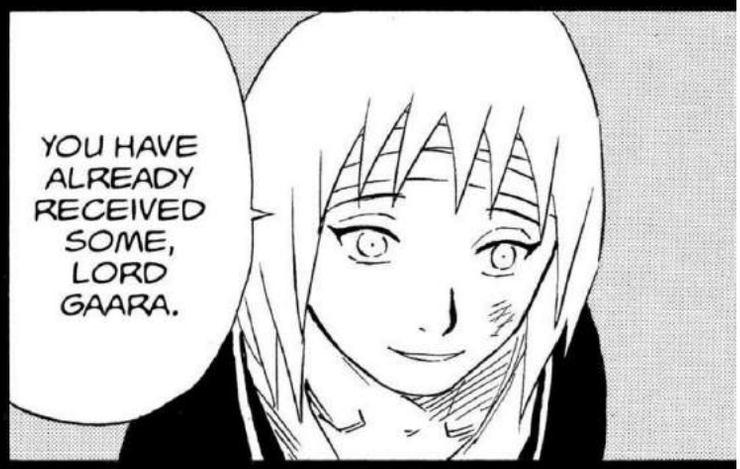
...FOR YOU CAN ONLY RECEIVE IT FROM ANOTHER.
UNFORTU-NATELY, IT'S A BOTHERSOME CURE...

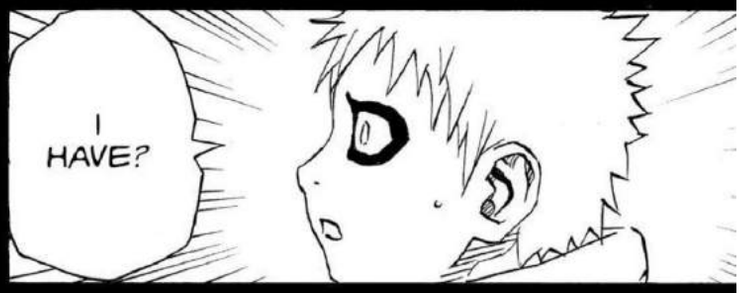
LOVE.

...B...BUT, SO HOW CAN ONE RECEIVE IT?
...


YES.
LOVE?

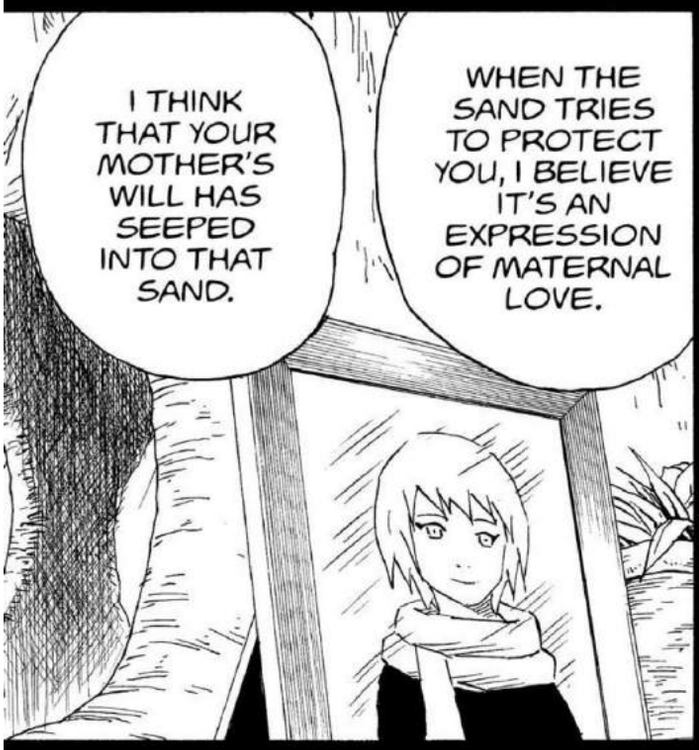
...THE FEELING THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO STRIVE FOR AND PROTECT THOSE AROUND YOU WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO YOU.
LOVE IS...


YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SOME, LORD GAARA.


I HAVE?

...JUST LIKE ELDER SISTER...

...


I THINK THAT YOUR MOTHER'S WILL HAS SEEPED INTO THAT SAND.
WHEN THE SAND TRIES TO PROTECT YOU, I BELIEVE IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF MATERNAL LOVE.

I TRULY BELIEVE ELDER SISTER LOVED YOU VERY DEEPLY, LORD GAARA.
SHUKAKU OF THE SAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE A WRAITH USED FOR OFFENSIVE ASSAULTS.

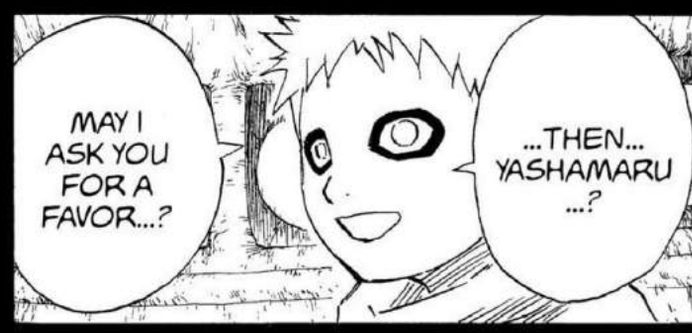
...EVEN UNTO HER DEATH...
...MUST HAVE WANTED TO PROTECT YOU...

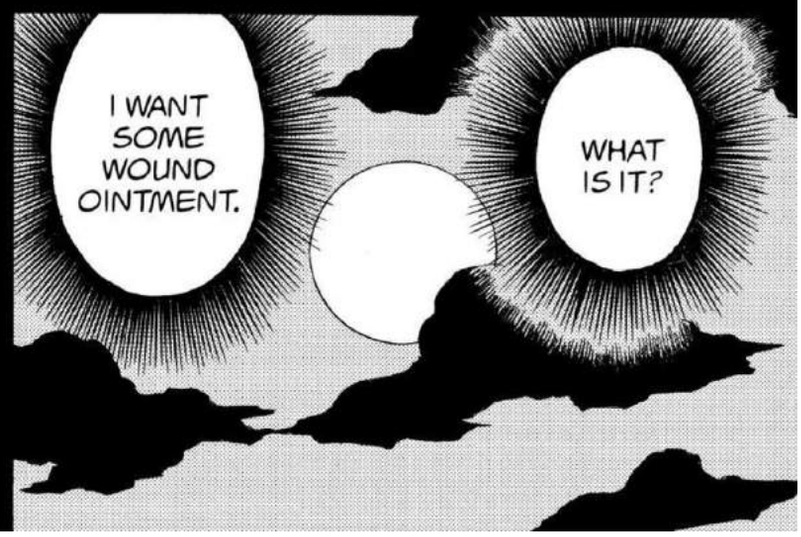
ELDER SISTER...
...

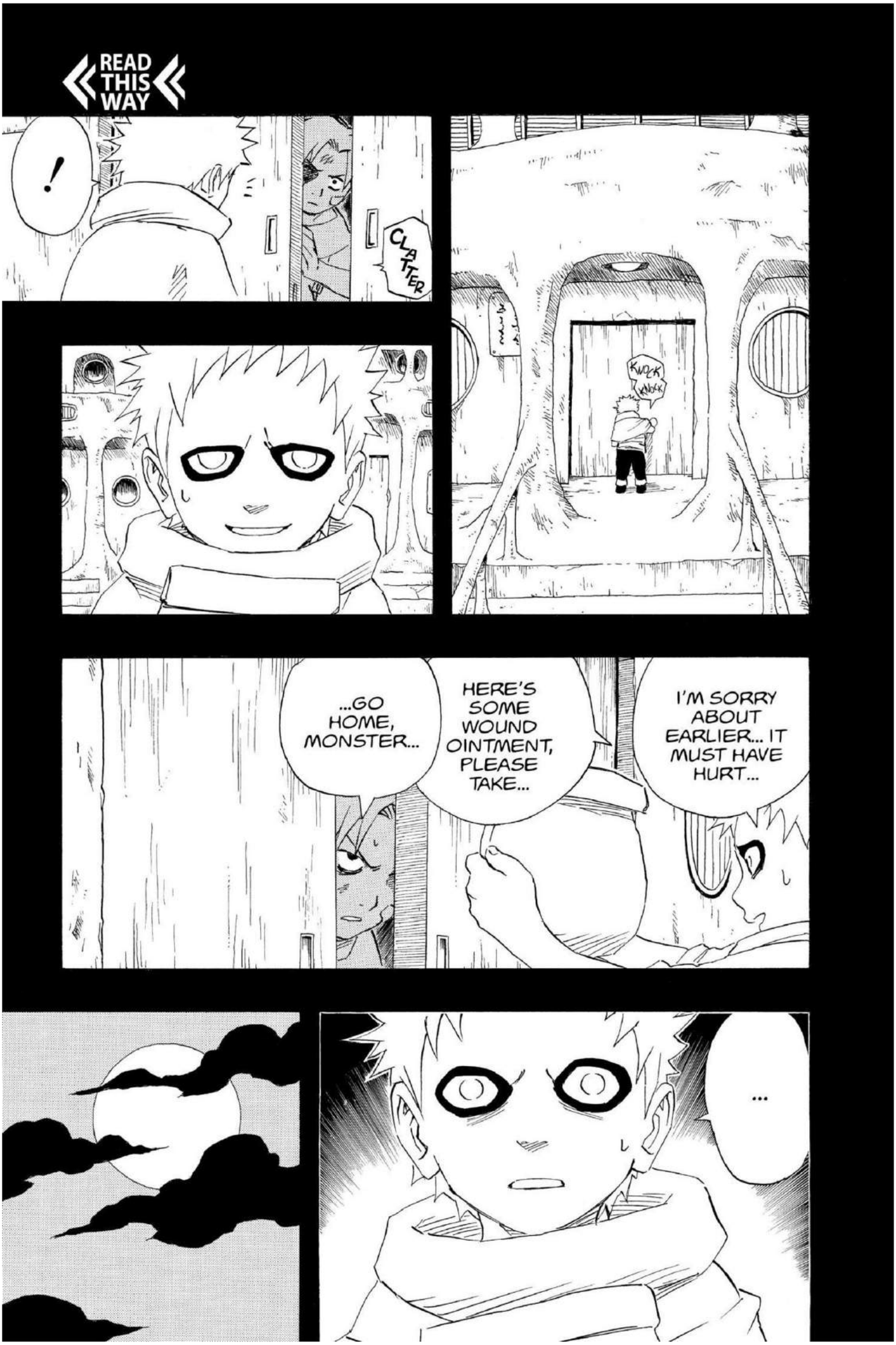
FOR STOPPING ME.

YASHAMARU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

OF COURSE.
OWW...
YOU ARE VERY PRECIOUS TO ME, LORD GAARA!

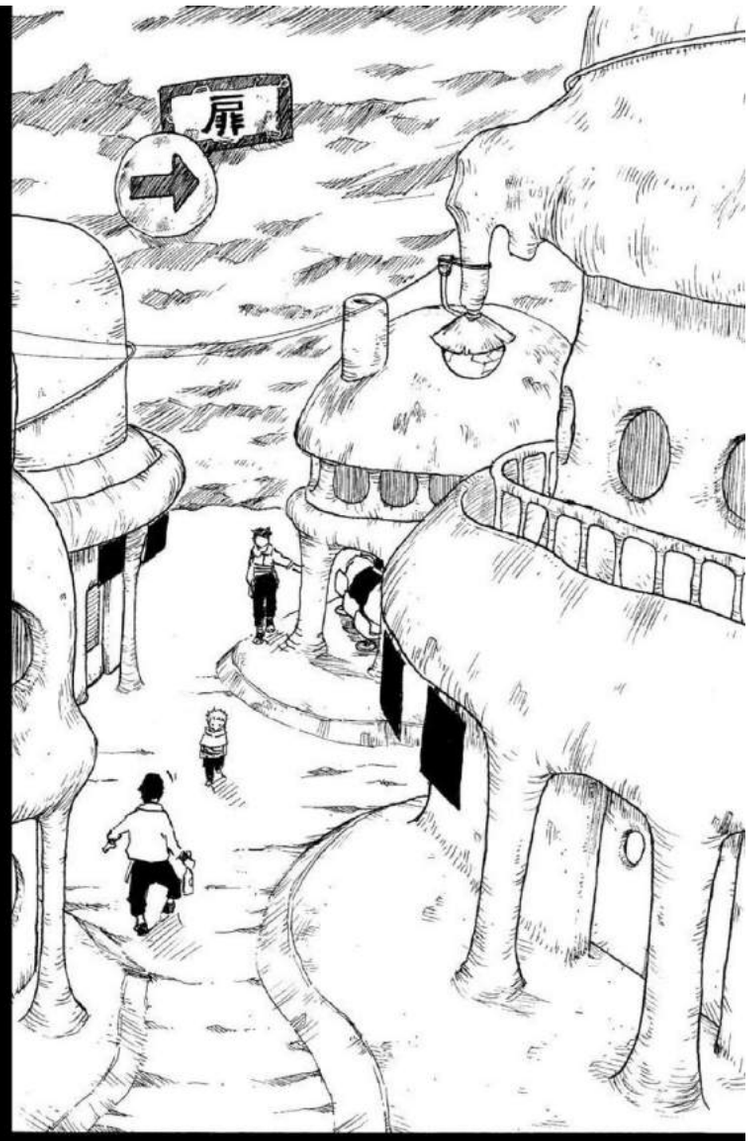

...THEN... YASHAMARU ...?
MAY I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR...?


WHAT IS IT?
I WANT SOME WOUND OINTMENT.


READ THIS WAY
!
CLATTER
KNOCK KNOCK
...GO HOME, MONSTER...
HERE'S SOME WOUND OINTMENT, PLEASE TAKE...
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER... IT MUST HAVE HURT...
...

HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BR...
BUMP

...UNH,
YOU'RE...
!!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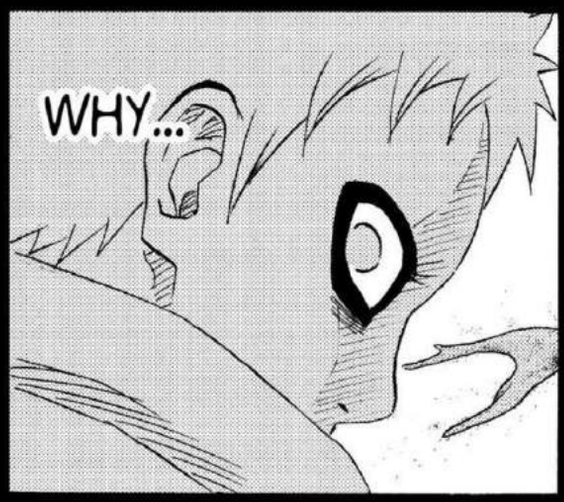
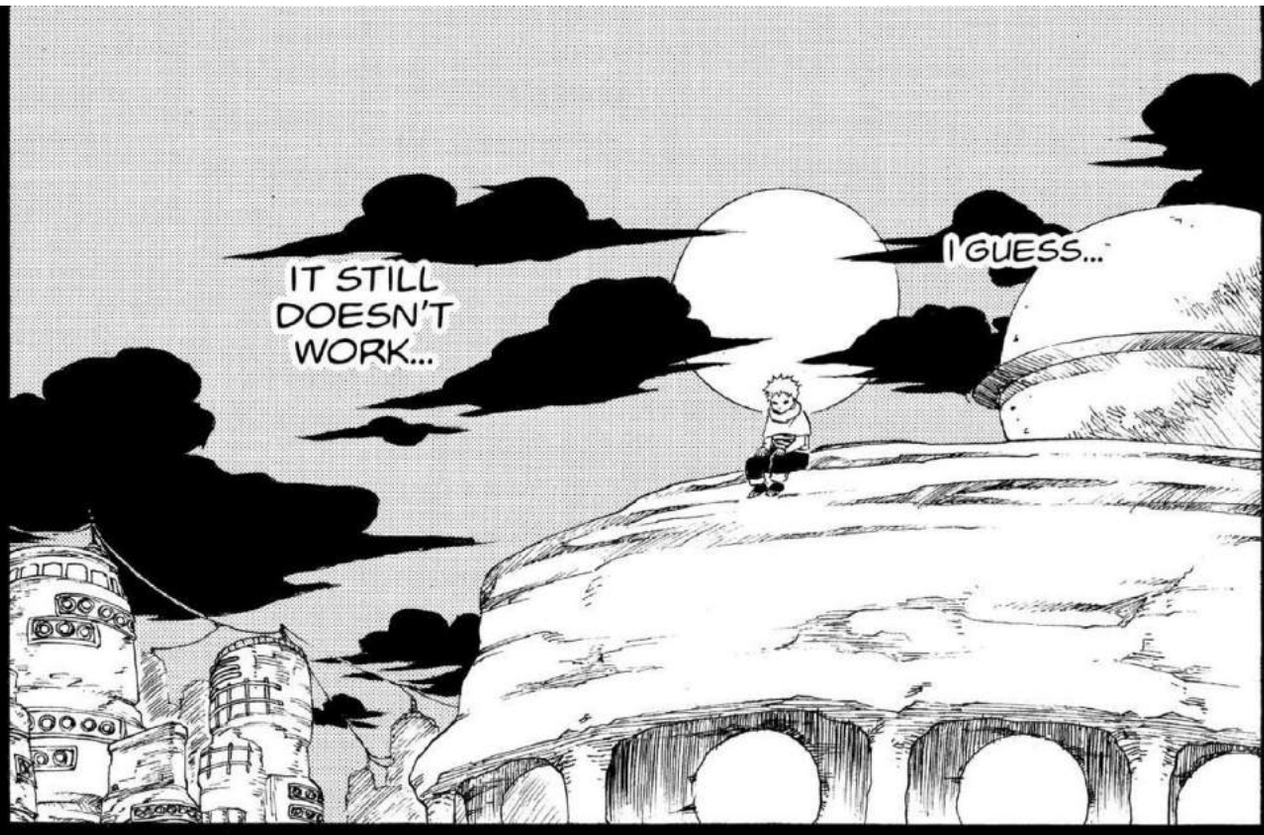

WHY...

...AGAIN...!
THAT LOOK...

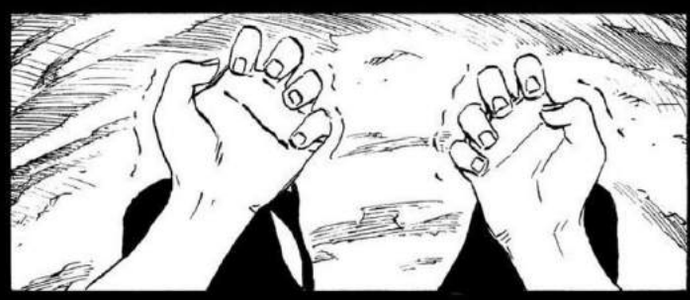
...H... HEY...!

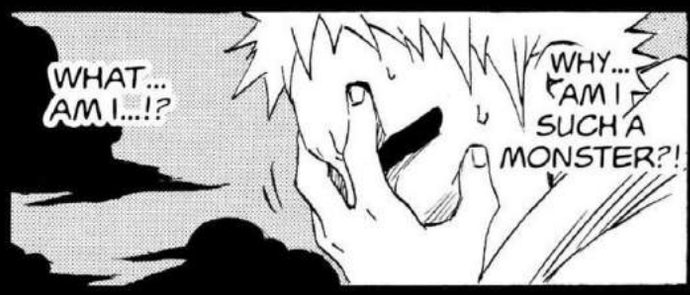
WHY...?!
SLITHER SLITHER

SMASH
WAAAAAH!!
PLOD
PLOD
I...IT WAS GAARA!
WH...WHAT HAPPENED?!
H...HEY, HE... HE'S DEAD!!
FLINCH
...!


IT STILL DOESN'T WORK...
I GUESS...

SKREEEE

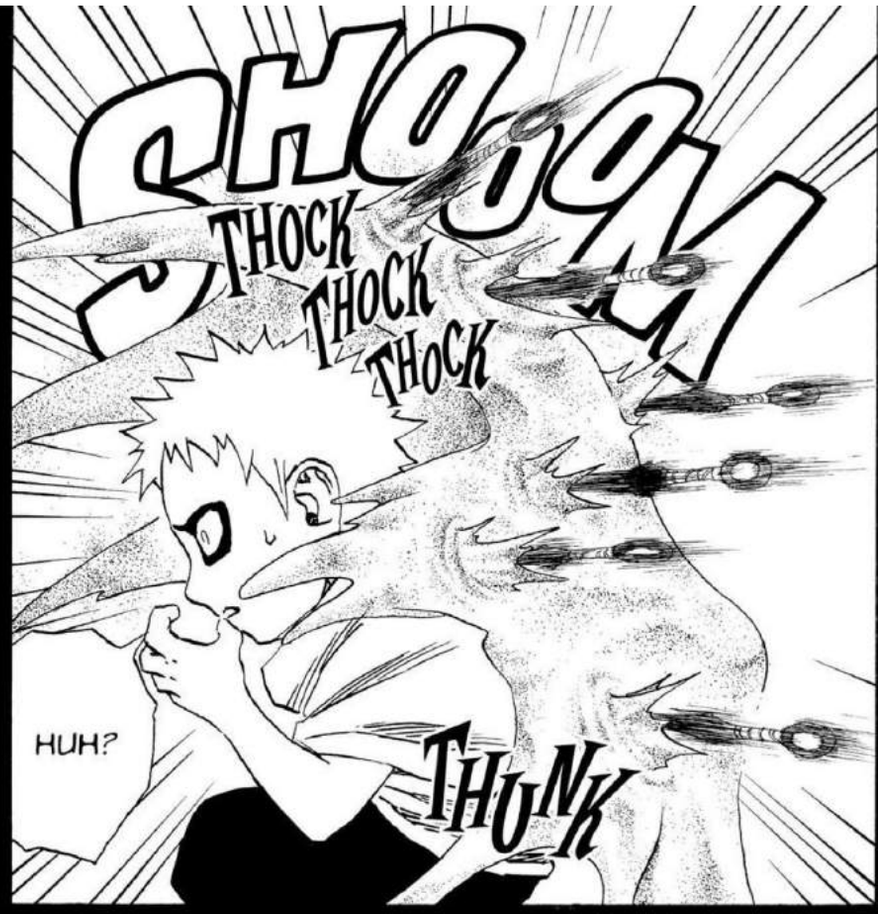



WHAT... AM I...!?
WHY... AM I SUCH A MONSTER?!

...YASHAMARU...
...

THERE IS JUST ONE THING THAT CAN EASE THE WOUNDS OF THE HEART.
LOVE.

!!


SHOOM
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
HUH?
THUNK

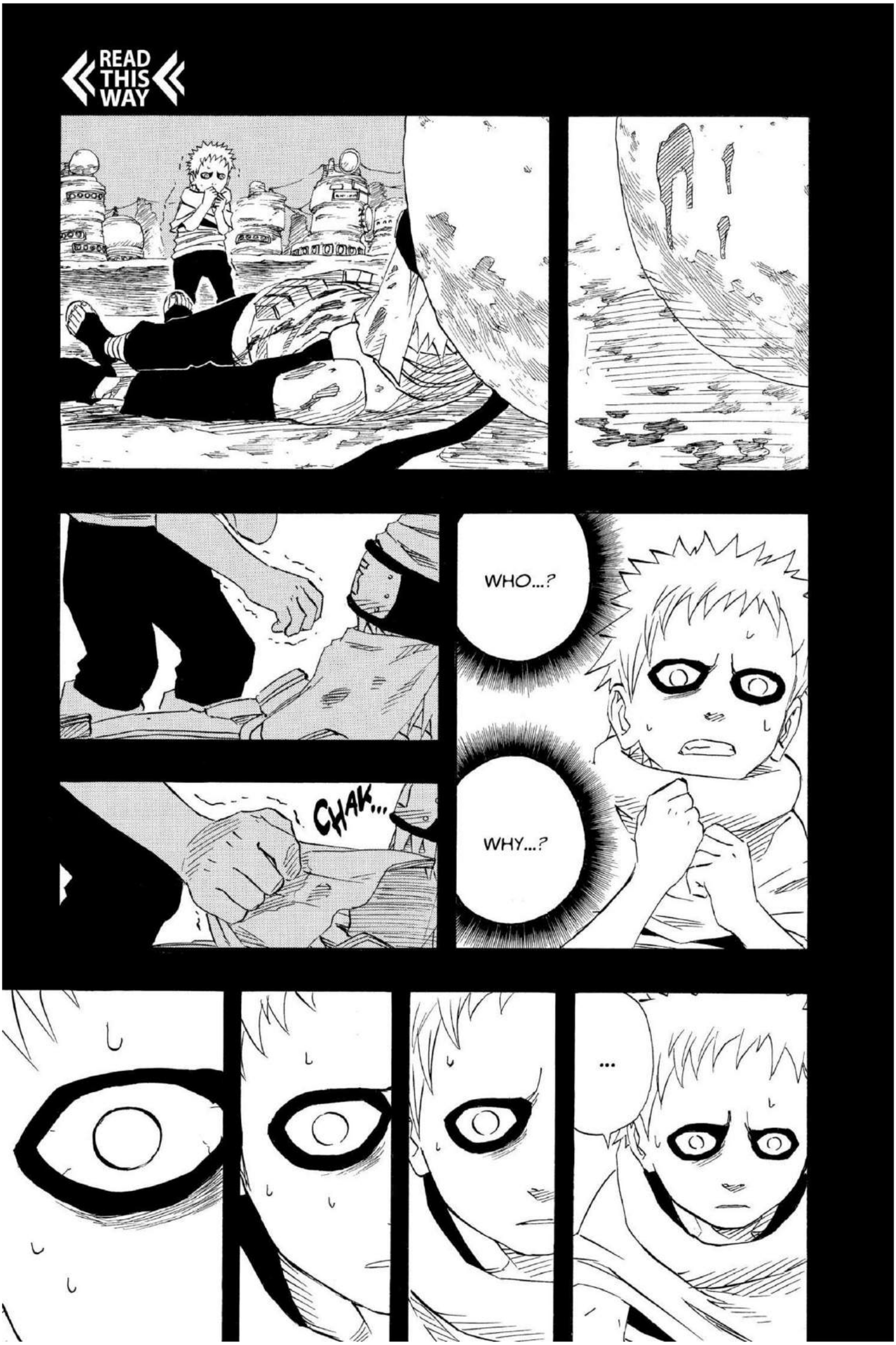
VMMM
VMMM
VMMM
VMMM
VMMM

ALWAYS ME!!

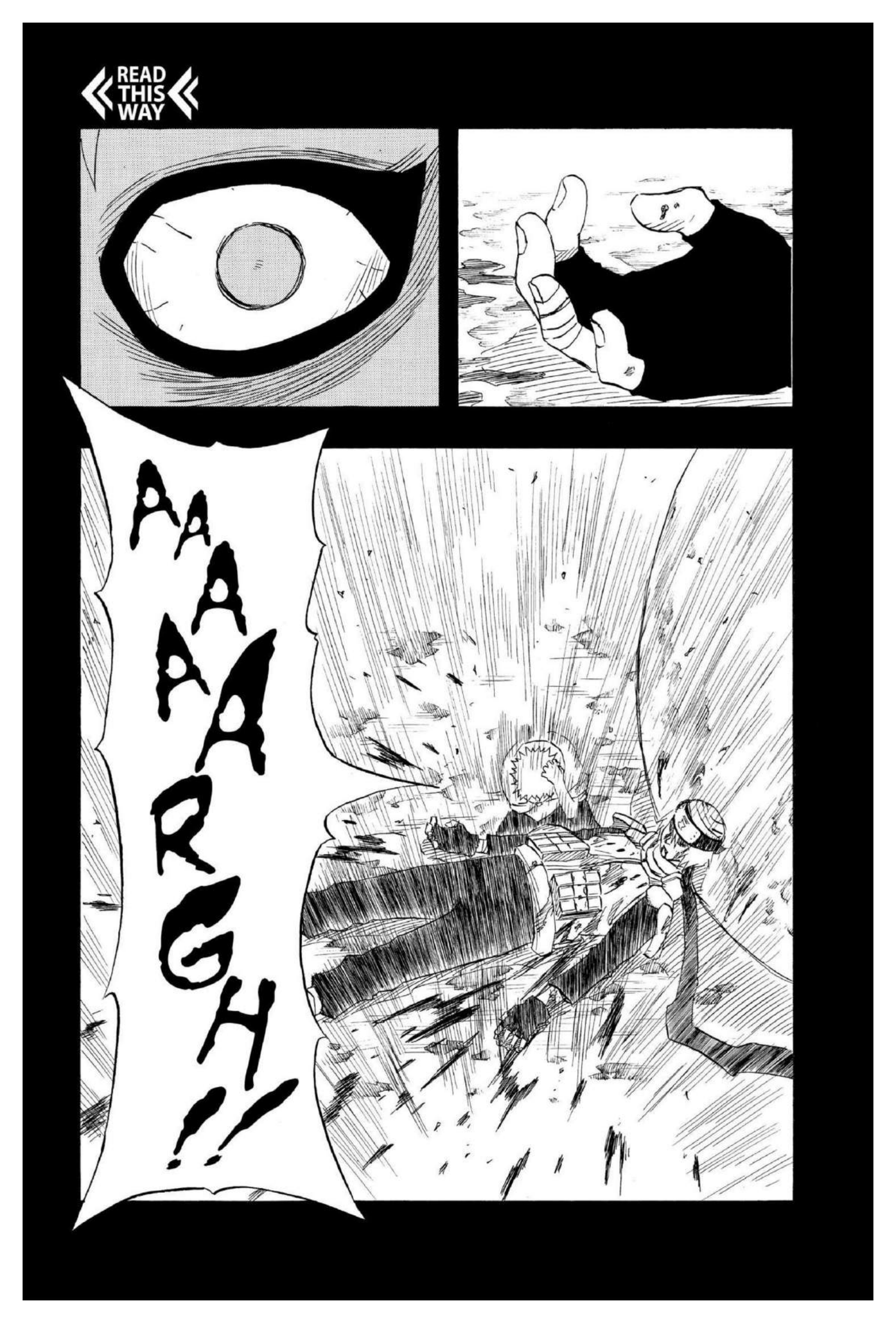
WHY ME...?!!

!!
...WHAT?!
...WHY?!

THOOM
FWSH
SLITHER SLITHER
!!
THOCK THOCK
THUNK THUNK
SPLUELCH
CLE
NCH


READ THIS WAY
WHO...?
WHY...?
CHAK...
...

YOU TRULY ARE IMPRES-SIVE...
LORD GAARA...
PANG
SKR EN CH
...YASHAMARU...


READ THIS WAY
AAAAARGH!!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 22

SO AFTER ALL THAT, HAVING DECIDED I WOULD AIM FOR SHONEN MAGAZINES, I IMMEDIATELY CHOSE WITHOUT ANY HESITATION THE SPECIFIC SHONEN MAGAZINE WHOSE CONTEST I WOULD ENTER. OF COURSE, I CHOSE *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP*, THE MAGAZINE IN WHICH *DRAGON BALL* APPEARED.

HOWEVER, I SUDDENLY RAN RIGHT INTO A WALL...

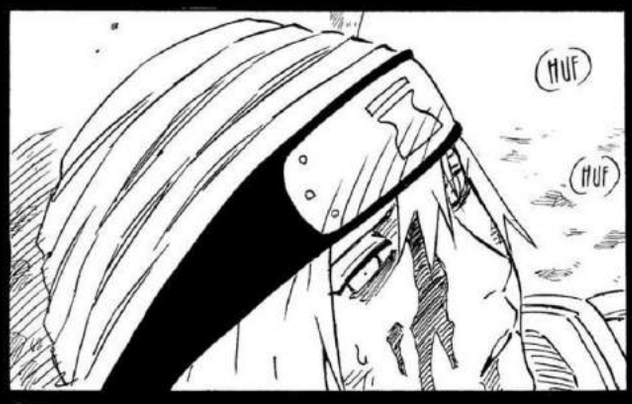
BECAUSE I HAD INITIALLY BEEN AIMING FOR SEINEN MAGAZINES, MY ART STYLE WAS NO LONGER SHONEN. WELL, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, I COULD STILL DRAW SHONEN-LIKE STYLE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T GET CRAZY ABOUT MY CHARACTER DESIGNS. I HAD BEEN GROPING ABOUT FOR AN ORIGINAL ART STYLE THIS WHOLE TIME, BUT THERE WAS ONE OTHER THING THAT WASN'T GOING WELL AT ALL FOR ME. I COULD DRAW PLENTY OF ROUGH SKETCHES OR STORYBOARDS, BUT THEN I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO EXPRESS THEM WELL WITH LINES; IN SHORT, HOW ONE DISTORTS AND EXPRESSES LINES REFLECTS THAT INDIVIDUAL'S SENSE.

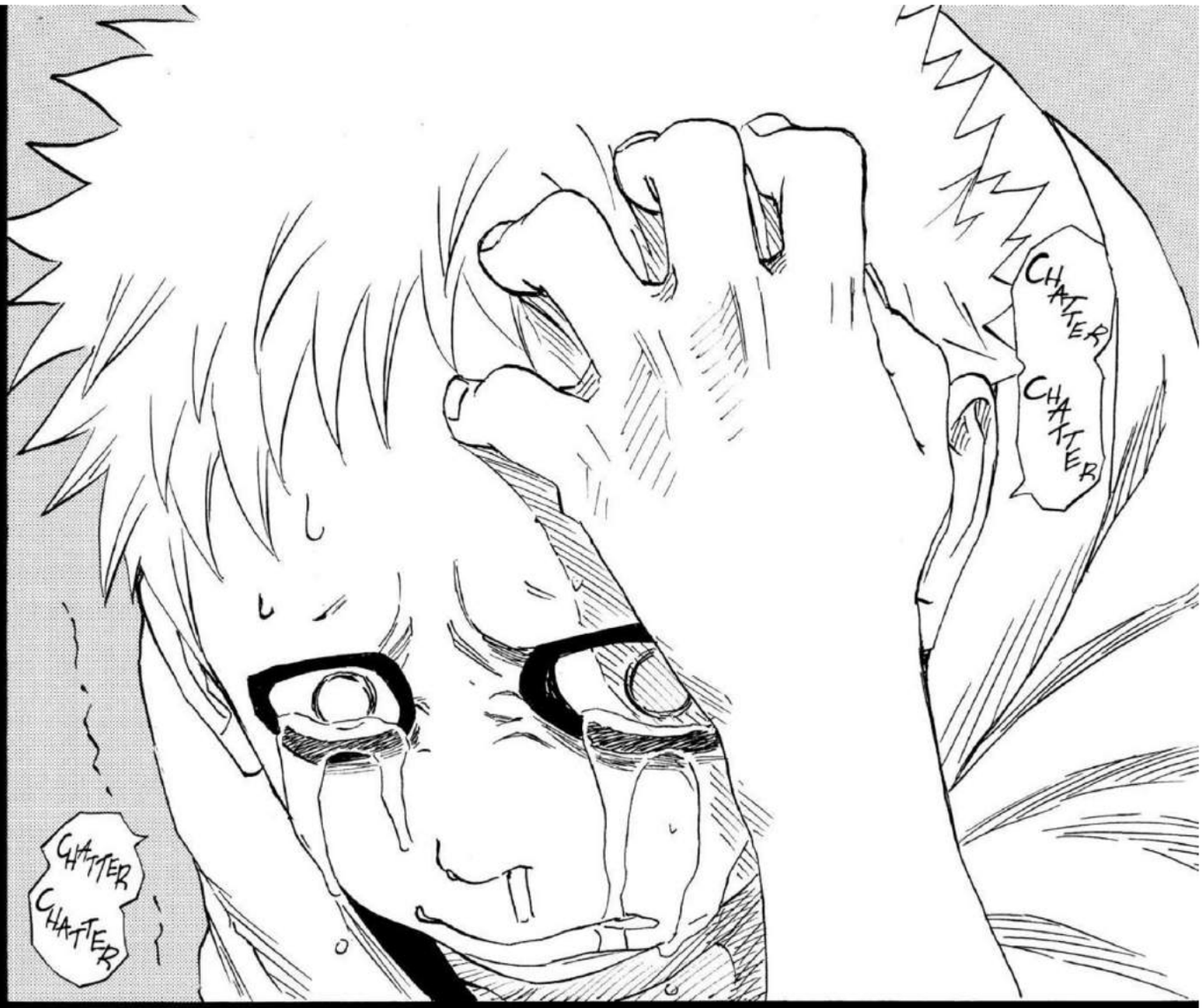
AT THE TIME, I HAD BEEN SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW WITHOUT SUCCESS FOR NEW DRAWINGS THAT HAD GOOD SENSE IN ADDITION TO BEING GREAT ART, BUT THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING SINCE *AKIRA* THAT HAD CAUGHT MY EYE.

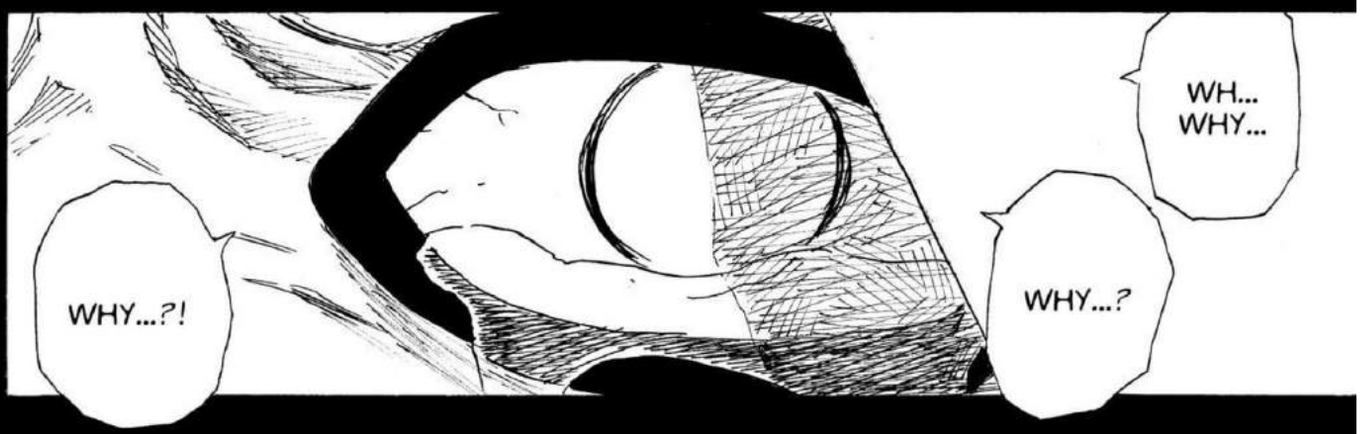
AND THEN ONE DAY, I SAW AN ANIME THAT TOTALLY BLEW ME AWAY... BECAUSE IT CONTAINED ALL OF THE ELEMENTS I HAD BEEN SEEKING. THAT ANIME WAS *HASHIRE MEROSU* [RUN, MELOS].

Number 131: The Name Gaara...!! zz

AAAAAARGH!!



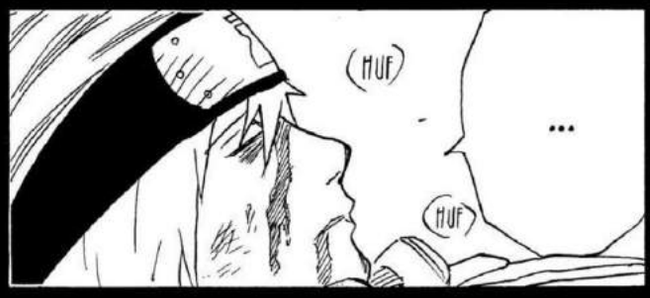

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER


WH... WHY...
WHY...?
WHY...?!

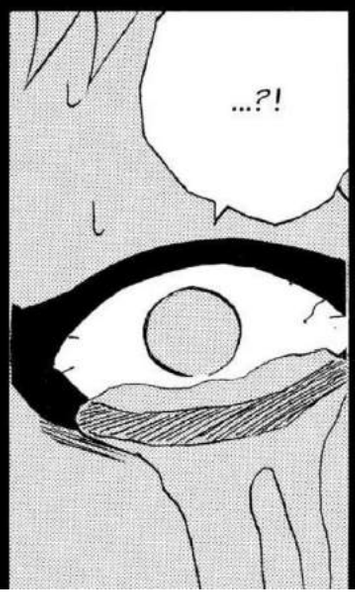
WHY YOU... YASHAMARU...
WHY...?!

WHY...?
LOVE IS... THE FEELING THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO STRIVE FOR AND PROTECT THOSE AROUND YOU WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO YOU.
YOU ARE SOMEONE VERY PRECIOUS TO ME, LORD GAARA!

IT WAS AN ORDER.
HUF


(HUF)
...
(HUF)

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO... EVER LOVED ME...
YOU...
YOU ALWAYS...


...?!

I WAS COMMIS-SIONED TO KILL YOU.

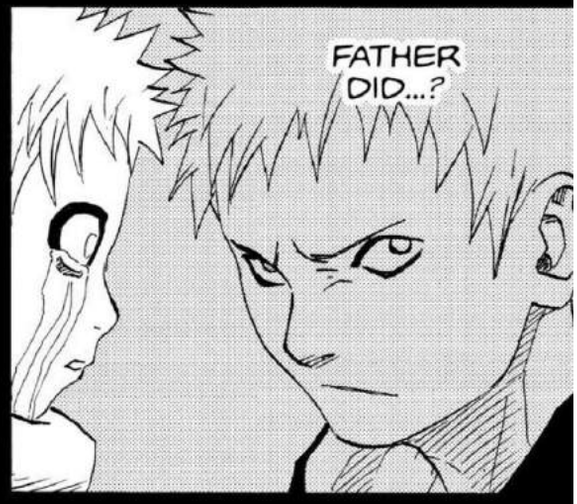
!

!!

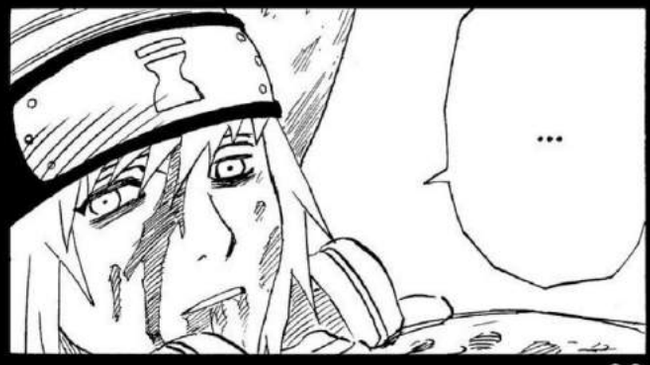
LORD KAZEKAGE...
BY YOUR FATHER...

GAH...!!
GACK

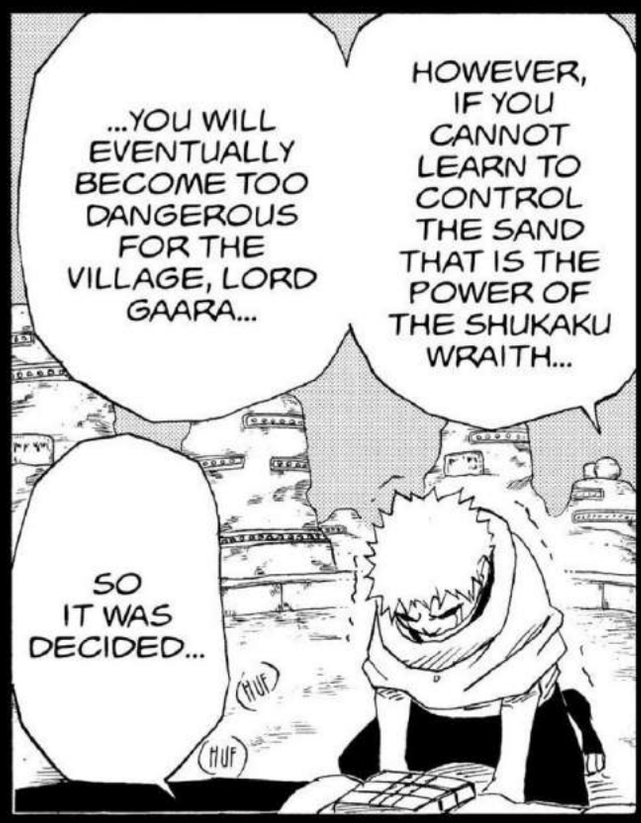
CLAP
ULP!

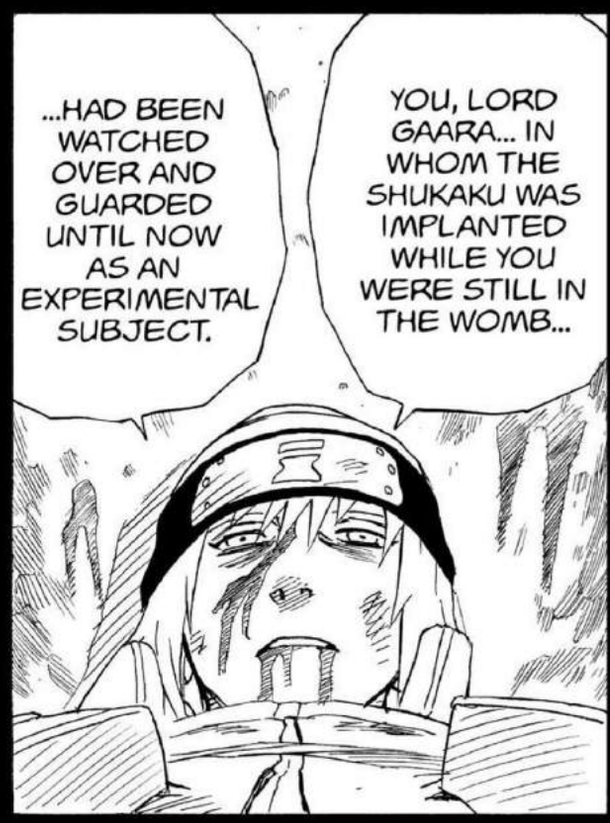

FATHER DID...?

HUF
HUF


...

WHY...
...WHY WOULD...
WHY WOULD FATHER...?
HUF


...YOU WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME TOO DANGEROUS FOR THE VILLAGE, LORD GAARA...
HOWEVER, IF YOU CANNOT LEARN TO CONTROL THE SAND THAT IS THE POWER OF THE SHUKAKU WRAITH...
SO IT WAS DECIDED...
HUF
HUF


YOU, LORD GAARA... IN WHOM THE SHUKAKU WAS IMPLANTED WHILE YOU WERE STILL IN THE WOMB...
...HAD BEEN WATCHED OVER AND GUARDED UNTIL NOW AS AN EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECT.

YOU HAD TO CARRY OUT FATHER'S ORDER ...
...THEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE, YASHAMARU...

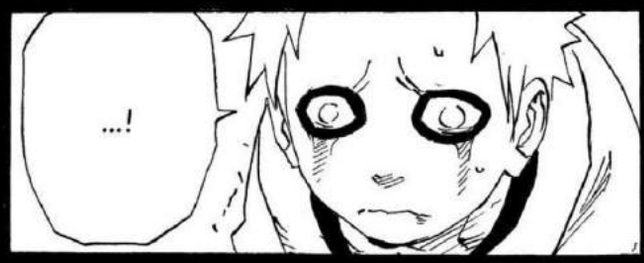
THEN...
...

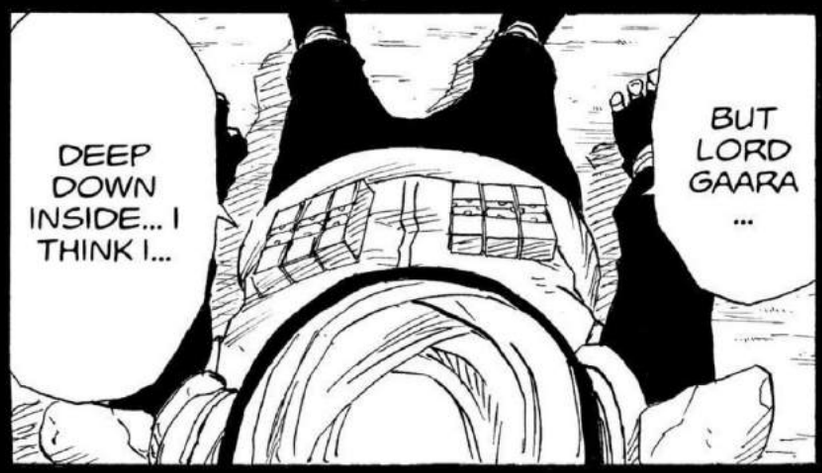
...

...THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...
NO...

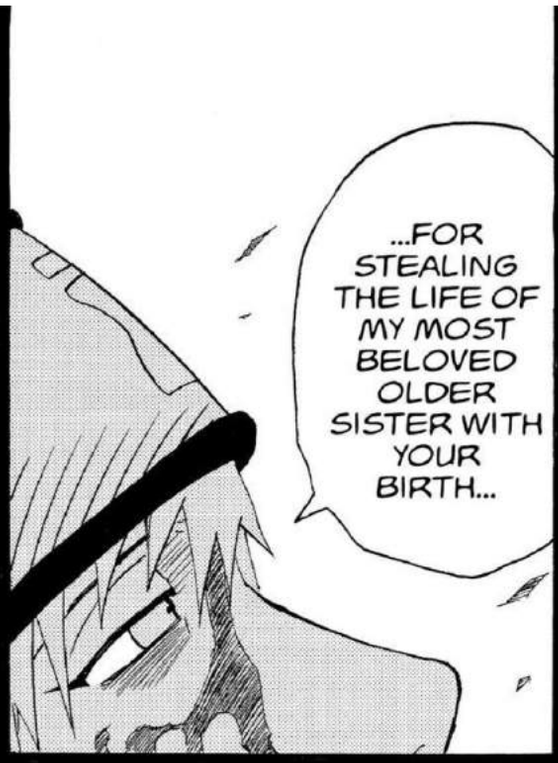
I PROBABLY COULD HAVE REFUSED IT IF I HAD THOUGHT TO...
... HOWEVER ...
I CERTAINLY DID... RECEIVE AN ORDER FROM LORD KAZEKAGE.

!!

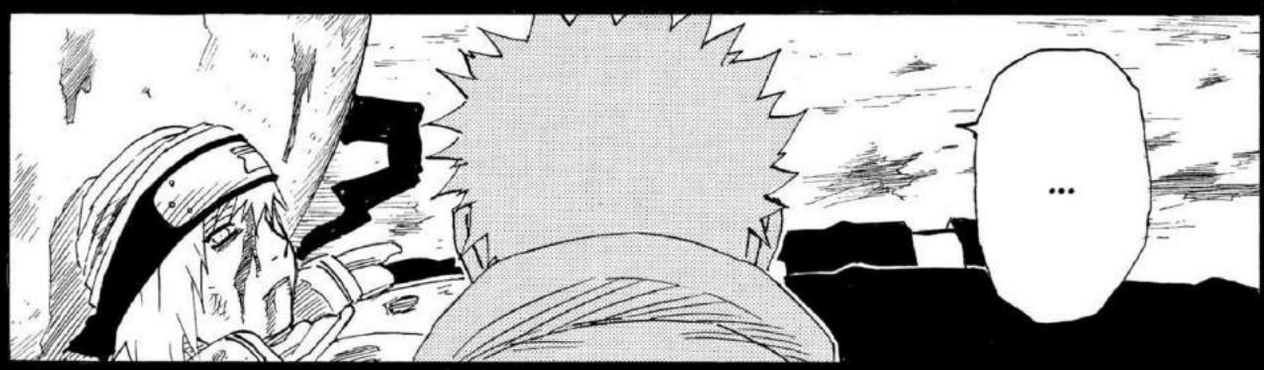

...!

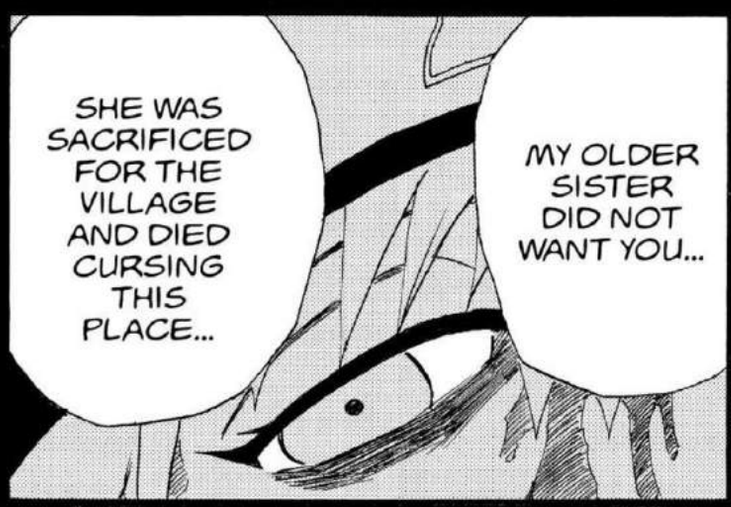

DEEP DOWN INSIDE... I THINK I...
BUT LORD GAARA ...

...

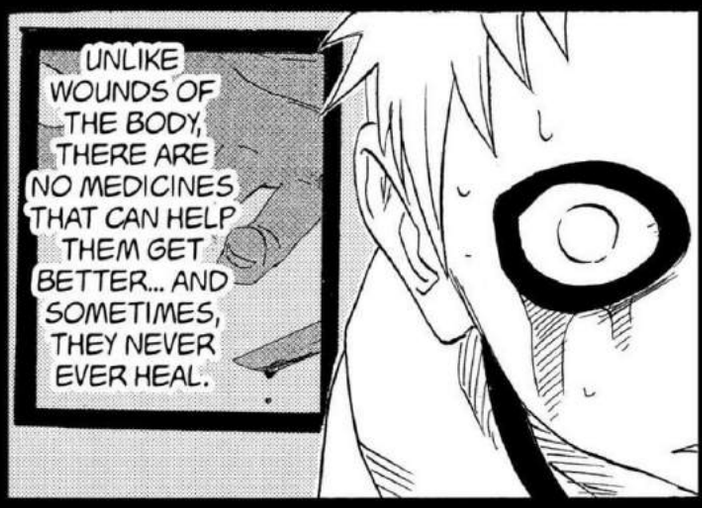

...FOR STEALING THE LIFE OF MY MOST BELOVED OLDER SISTER WITH YOUR BIRTH...

...RESENTED YOU...

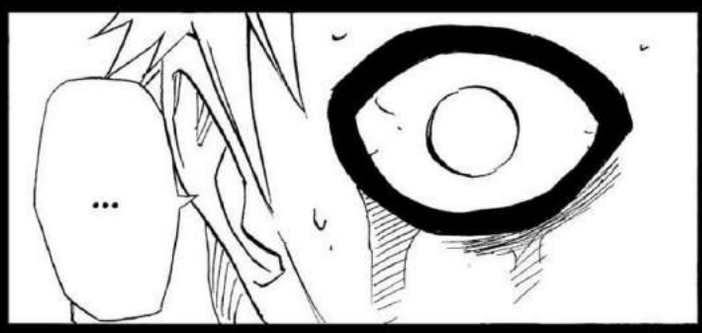

...

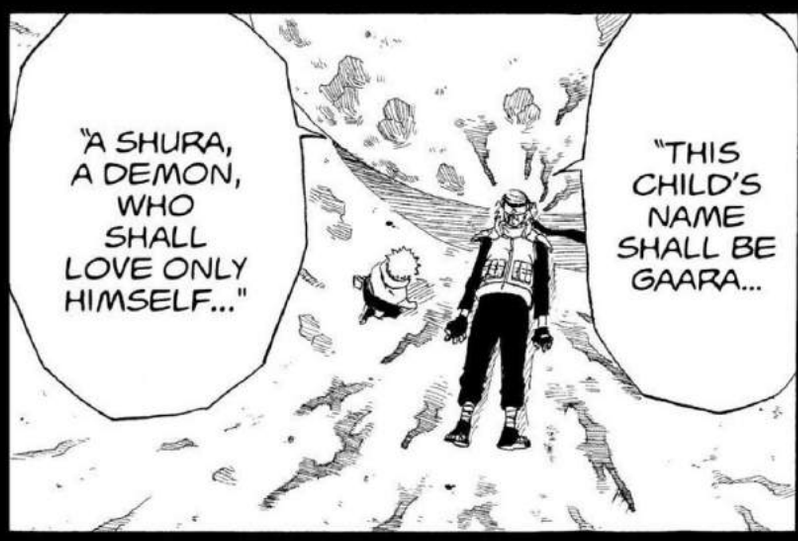

SHE WAS SACRIFICED FOR THE VILLAGE AND DIED CURSING THIS PLACE...
MY OLDER SISTER DID NOT WANT YOU...

...BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T ...
I TRIED DESPERATELY TO LOVE YOU... EVEN IF ONLY AS A MEMENTO OF MY OLDER SISTER...

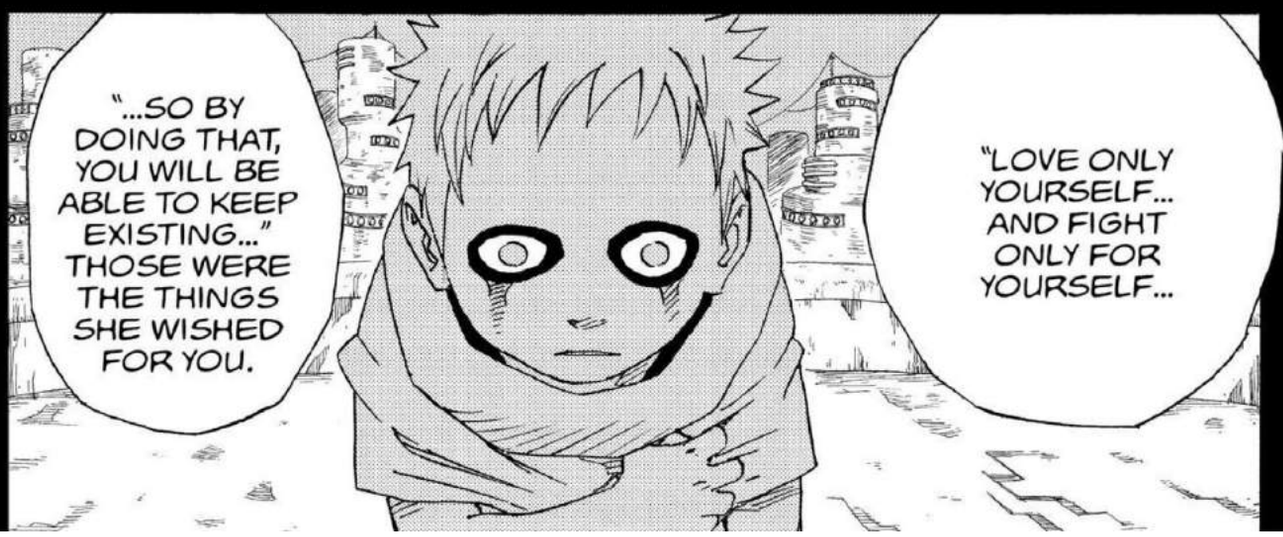

UNLIKE WOUNDS OF THE BODY, THERE ARE NO MEDICINES THAT CAN HELP THEM GET BETTER... AND SOMETIMES, THEY NEVER EVER HEAL.

AND SINCE THAT DAY...
I THINK I HAVE CARRIED A WOUND OF THE HEART THAT WILL NEVER HEAL...


...

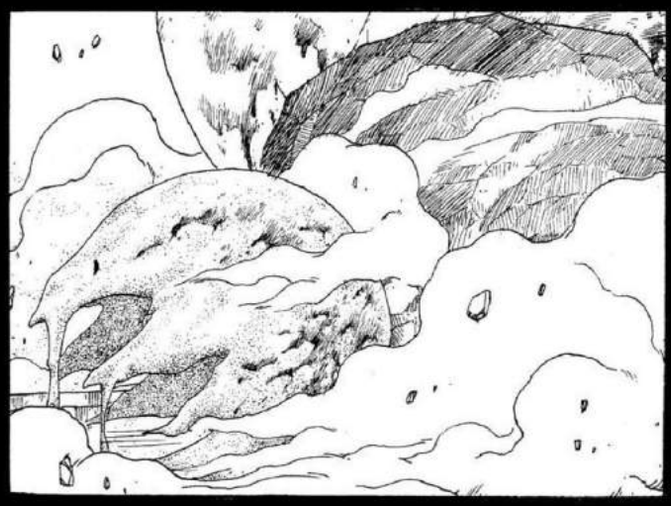

"A SHURA, A DEMON, WHO SHALL LOVE ONLY HIMSELF..."
"THIS CHILD'S NAME SHALL BE GAARA...

ELDER SISTER...
...GAVE YOU YOUR NAME, YOU KNOW.

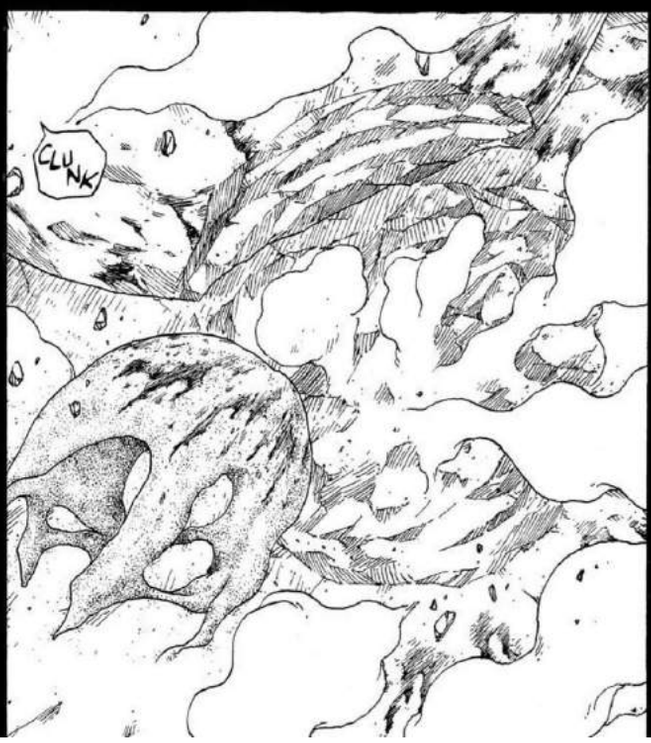

"...SO BY DOING THAT, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP EXISTING..." THOSE WERE THE THINGS SHE WISHED FOR YOU.
"LOVE ONLY YOURSELF... AND FIGHT ONLY FOR YOURSELF...

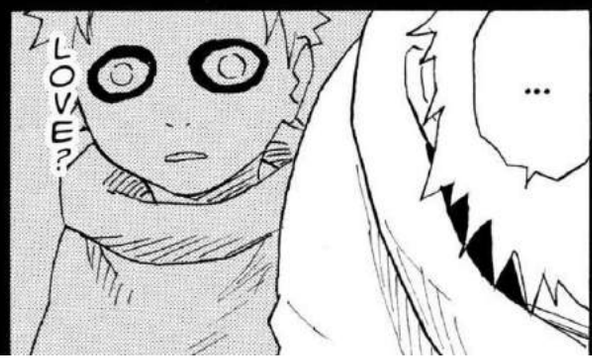
...A REMINDER OF HER HATRED, OF HOW SHE WENT TO HER DEATH LOATHING AND CURSING THE WORLD... REMIND THEM... AND SHOW THEM ALL...!
SHE GAVE YOU THAT NAME SO THAT YOU WOULD SURVIVE AND BE A REMINDER TO THE WORLD ...
HOWEVER... ELDER SISTER DID NOT NAME YOU THUS...
...BECAUSE SHE LOVED OR WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
NO, YOU WERE NEVER LOVED...!
PLEASE DIE WITH ME...
AND NOW...
SSSSSS
YANK
...

KA-BOM

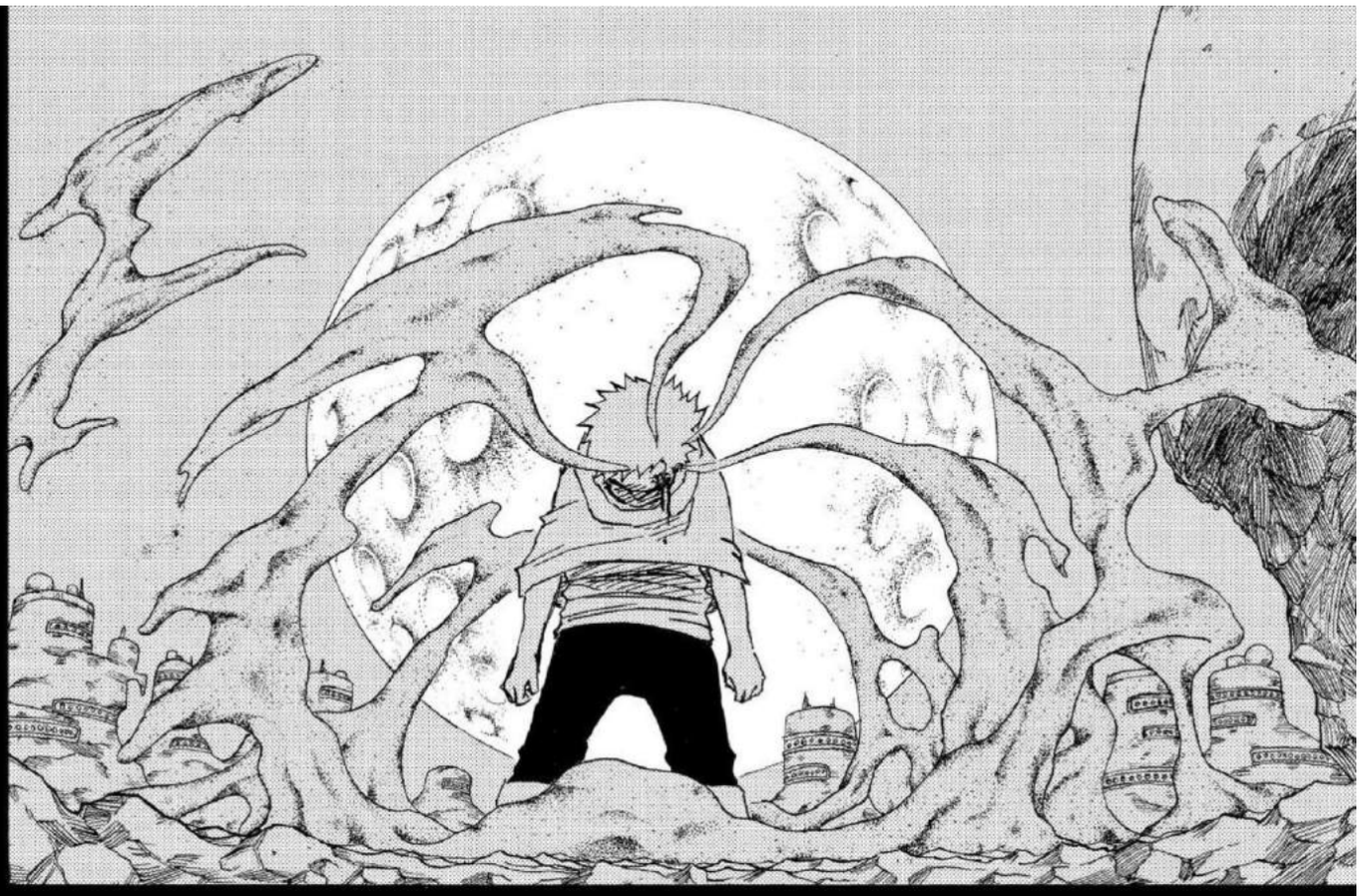


I TRULY BELIEVE ELDER SISTER LOVED YOU VERY DEEPLY, LORD GAARA.


CLUNK


LOVE?
...

READ THIS WAY
LOVE.
AAAAH --!!
I THINK THAT YOUR MOTHER'S WILL HAS SEEPED INTO THAT SAND.
WHEN THE SAND TRIES TO PROTECT YOU, I BELIEVE IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF MATERNAL LOVE.
...UNH... ...AAH...
RRRRRRRRRRRROAR!!!



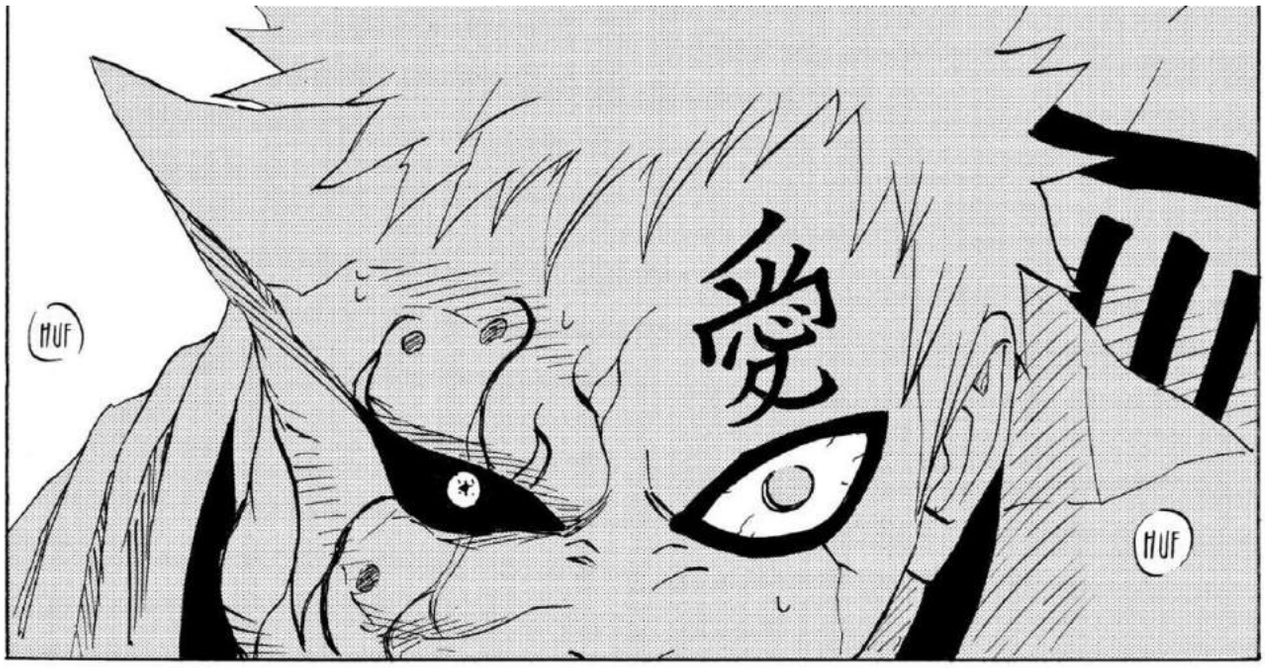
SO THAT'S GAARA.
ME...

"LOVE ONLY YOUR-SELF...
"AND FIGHT ONLY FOR YOUR-SELF...!"

HEH HEH... THAT'S RIGHT...
I'M ALL ALONE...

I AM ALONE.
I WON'T TRUST ANYONE ELSE ANY-MORE... WON'T LOVE THEM... I'M ALONE...

I FINALLY UNDER-STAND...

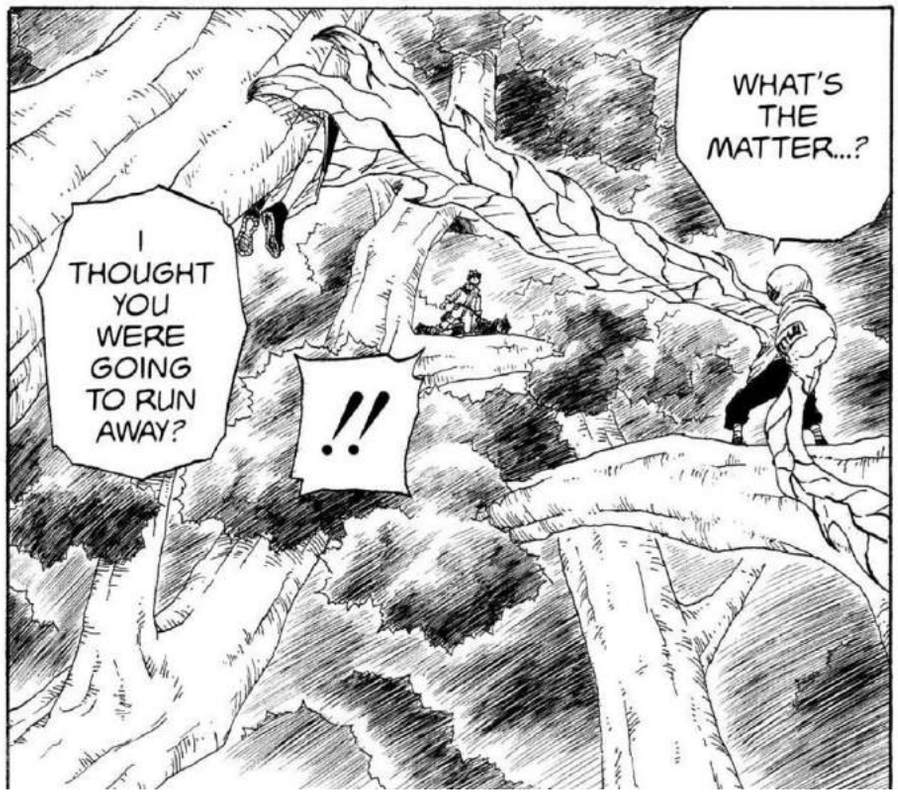

愛
HUF
HUF

GULP

愛
...OH... IT'S THAT LOOK...!!

...

...SASUKE...


WHAT'S THE MATTER...?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO RUN AWAY?
!!

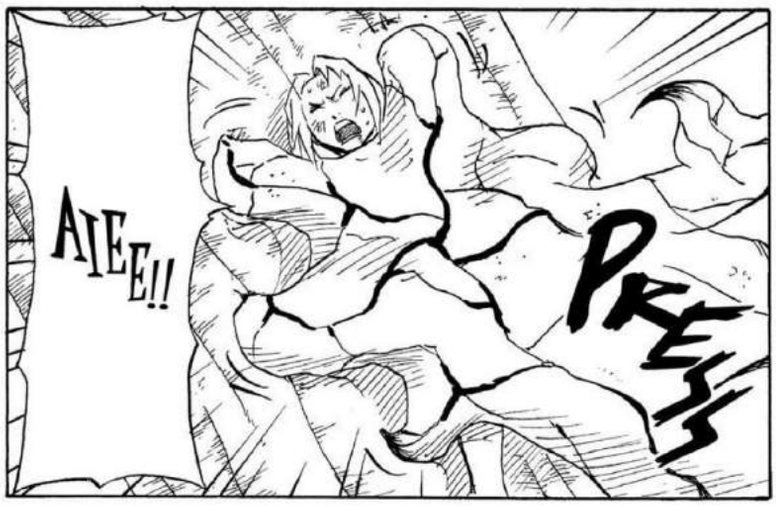
...NARUTO...

!!

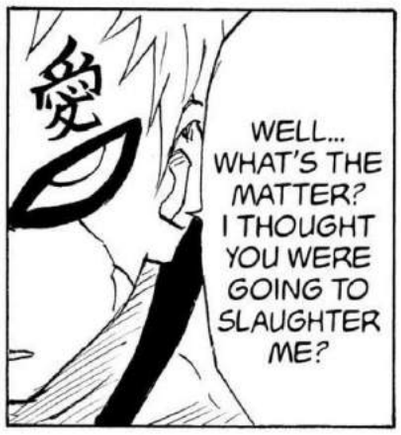
UGH...

愛
WHO ARE THEY TO YOU?

I'LL SLAUGHTER YOU!!
TH...THEY'RE MY FRIENDS!
IF YOU TRY TO TOUCH THEM AGAIN...


AIEE!!
PRESS

...
愛

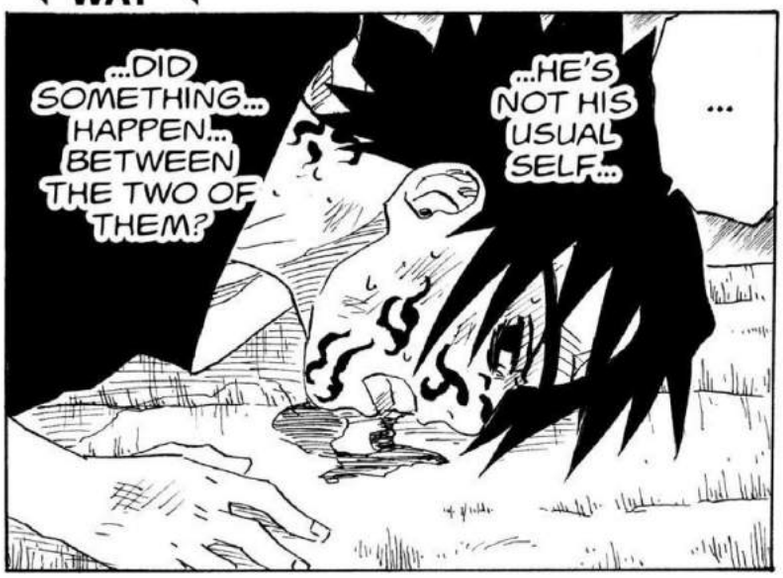

愛
WELL... WHAT'S THE MATTER? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SLAUGHTER ME?

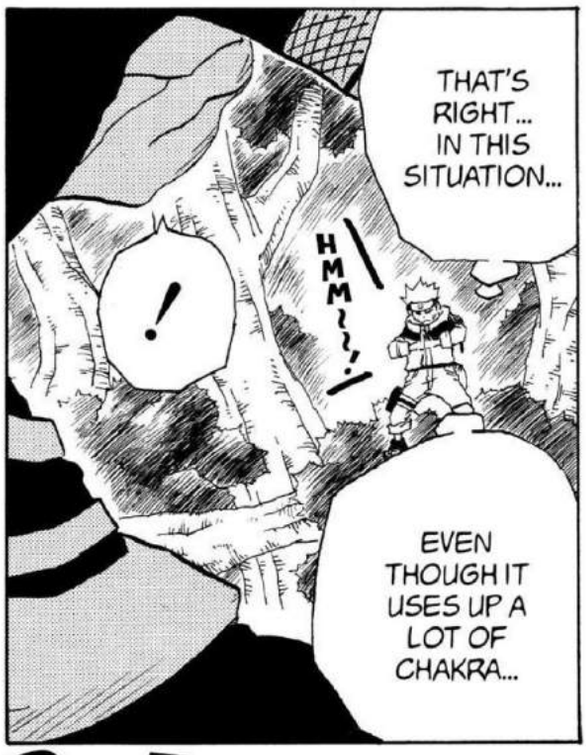
...!!

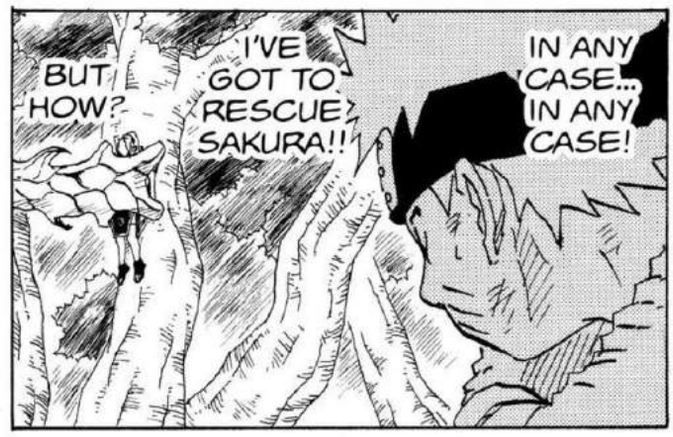
!!

COME ON, THEN.
UGH...

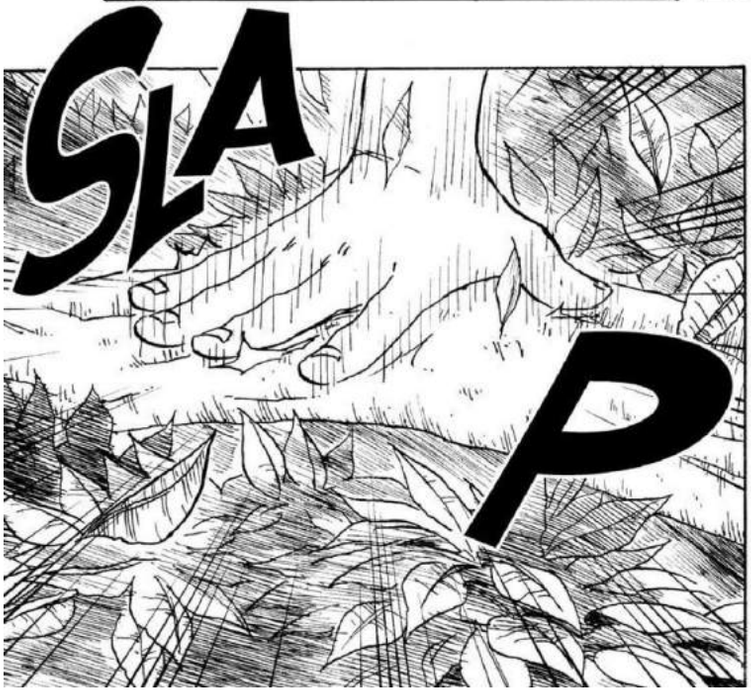
!
LEAP
DARN!
THWA
G
...DARN!
...!!
SLA
M


...DID SOMETHING... HAPPEN... BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM?
...HE'S NOT HIS USUAL SELF...
...


THAT'S RIGHT... IN THIS SITUATION...
HMM~~!
!
EVEN THOUGH IT USES UP A LOT OF CHAKRA...


BUT HOW?
I'VE GOT TO RESCUE SAKURA!!
IN ANY CASE... IN ANY CASE!

!


SLAP

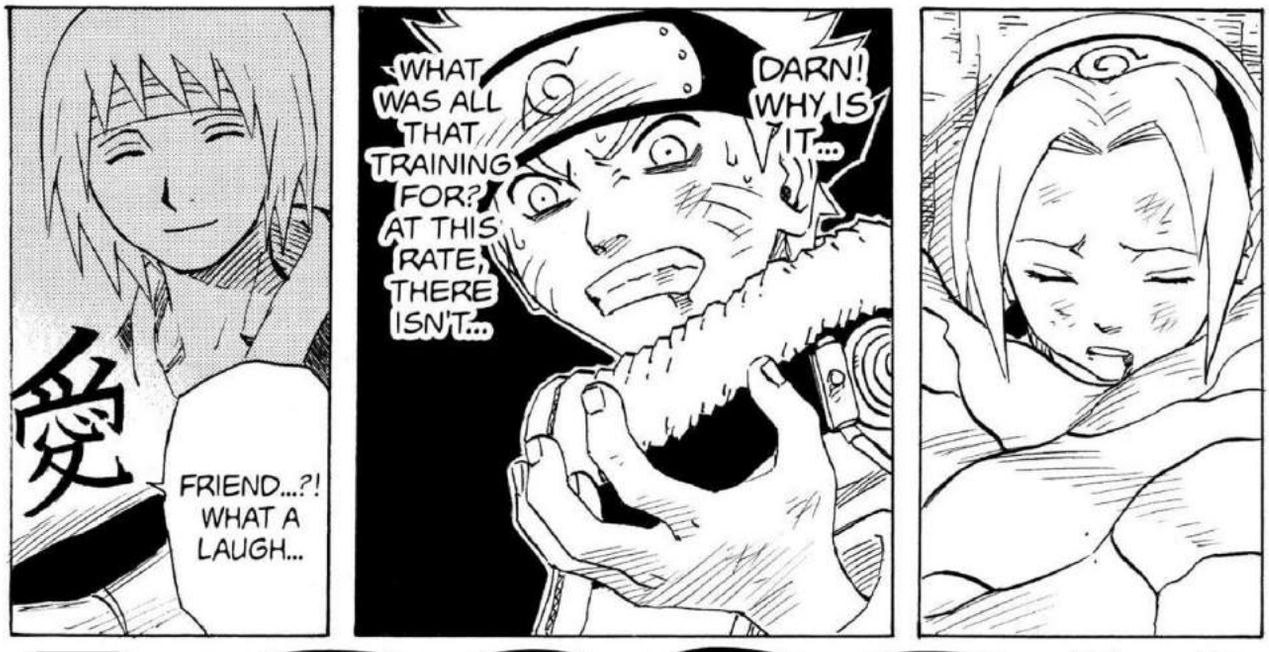
MY ONLY CHOICE IS TO SUMMON THAT TOAD!!
FWUP

KUCHIYOSE! SUMMONING!!
BOOF

IF YOU WANT MY HELP, GIVE ME SOME MUNCHIES!
OR ELSE I WON'T PLAY WITH YOU!
WHAT THE?! YOU'RE JUST A BRAT!!

...
愛

READ THIS WAY
THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR PLACE TO BE PLAYING AROUND, MINI-WART!
ARGH...
GRRR
FWP
WHAT?! DON'T YOU DARE MOCK AMPHIBIANS!!! EH!!!
Y'KNOW, I REALLY!! I REALLY REALLY HATE YOU FROGS!!!

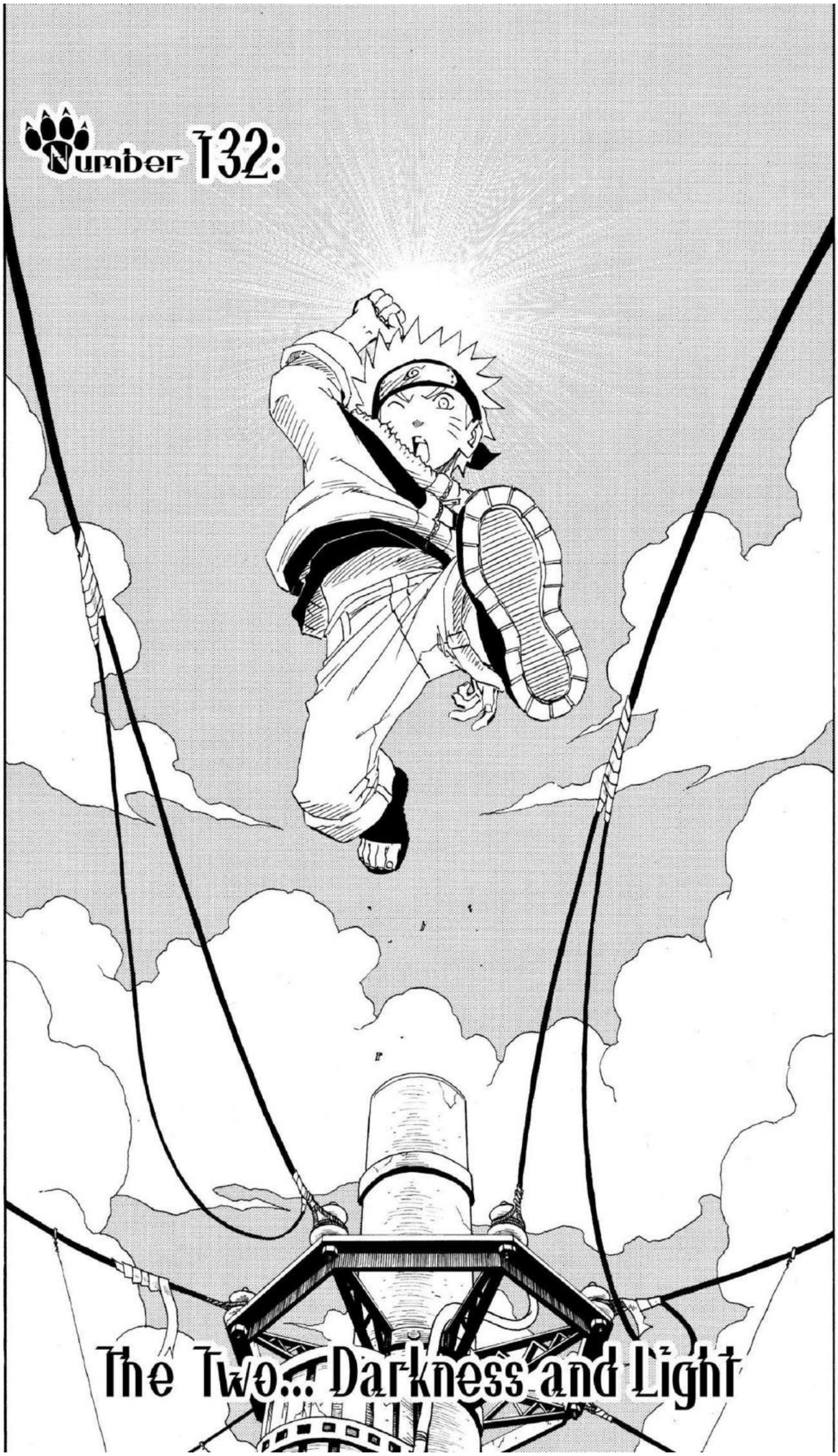

愛
FRIEND...?! WHAT A LAUGH...
WHAT WAS ALL THAT TRAINING FOR? AT THIS RATE, THERE ISN'T...
DARN! WHY IS IT...

LOOOOM
...ONLY FOR MYSELF!!
愛
I FIGHT...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 22 (CONTINUED)

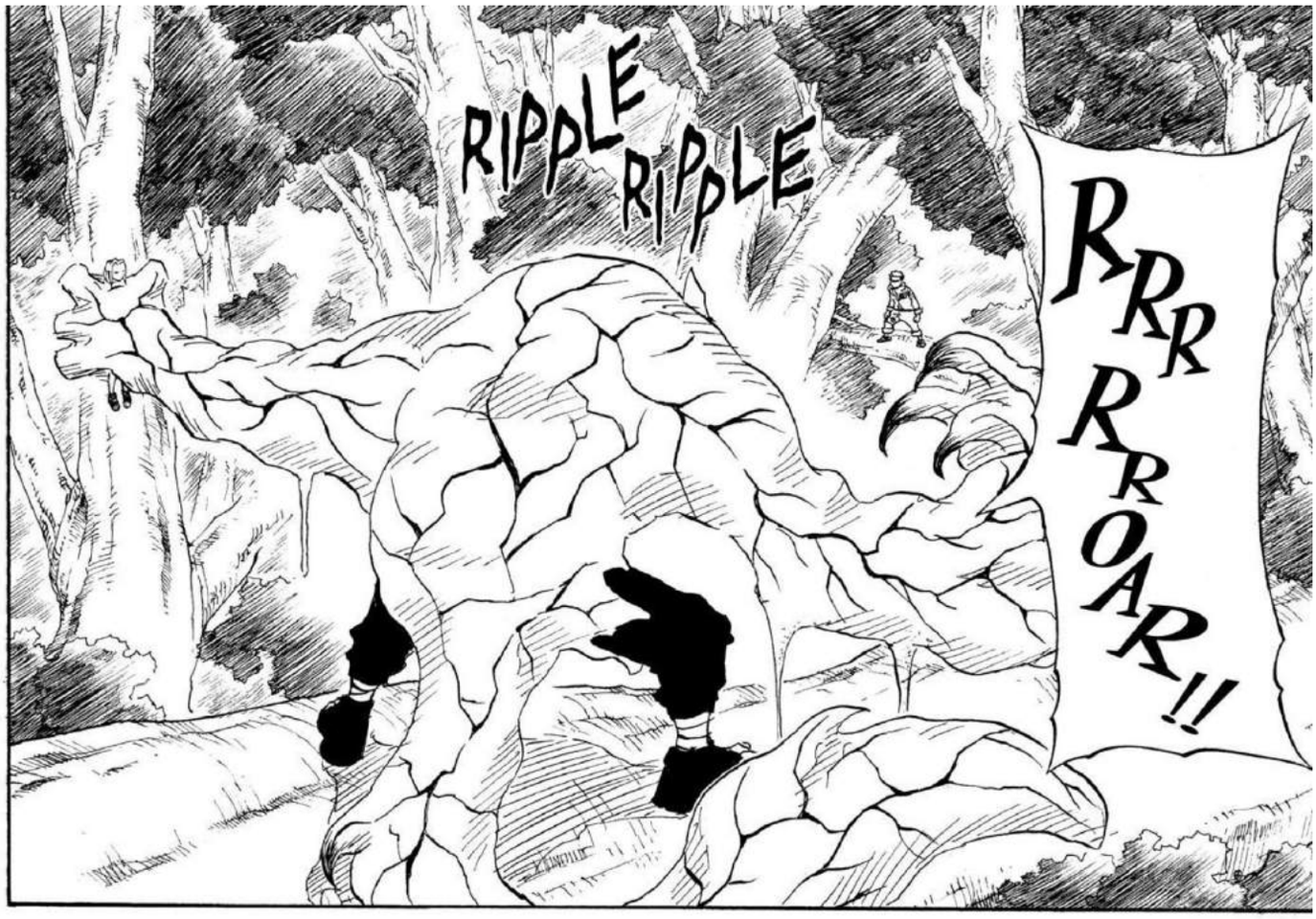
HASHIRE MEROSU (RUN, MELOS) REALLY AMAZED ME! THE MUSCLES AND BONE STRUCTURE WERE REPRESENTED WITH NEW LINE TECHNIQUES, AND THE DESIGNS FELT REALLY FRESH. NOT TO MENTION REALLY COOL. I IMMEDIATELY BECAME INTERESTED IN THE CHARACTER DESIGNER AND ANIMATION DIRECTOR OKIURA HIROYUKI, AND AS I RESEARCHED HIS FILMOGRAPHY AT THE LOCAL VIDEO RENTAL STORE, I STARTED NOTICING THAT SOME OF THE ANIMATORS' NAMES APPEARED AGAIN AND AGAIN IN MANY OTHER FILMS. "OH! THIS GUY, HE WORKED ON THIS FILM TOO. OH! THIS GUY TOO!" ...ALONG THE WAY, I GOT INTO ALL SORTS OF ANIME, AND STARTED MEMORIZING THE NAMES OF VARIOUS ANIMATION DIRECTORS AND ANIMATORS. AT THAT TIME, WHEN MANGA WERE MADE INTO ANIMATION, THE ANIME OFTEN HAD BETTER ART, SO I HAD STARTED FEELING THAT ANIMATORS WERE BETTER ARTISTS. AND THAT IS WHEN MY ENCOUNTER WITH A CERTAIN TITLE AND A CERTAIN ANIMATOR IMMENSELY INFLUENCED ME.

THAT TITLE WAS JUMP'S FAMOUS *NINKÛ*, A NINJA MANGA JUST LIKE MINE. AND THE ANIMATOR WHO INFLUENCED ME WAS NISHIO TETSUYA, THE CHARACTER DESIGNER AND ANIMATION DIRECTOR FOR THE ANIMATED VERSION.



Number 132:

The Two... Darkness and Light


RIPPLE
RIPPLE
RRR
RRROAR!!

SNIP

SLIP

HE... TRANS-FORMED AGAIN...

IN FACT, IT WILL SLOWLY CONSTRICT, EVENTUALLY SMOTHERING AND CRUSHING HER!
愛
UNLESS YOU TAKE ME DOWN, THE SAND AROUND THAT GIRL WON'T DISSOLVE.
SWIP...

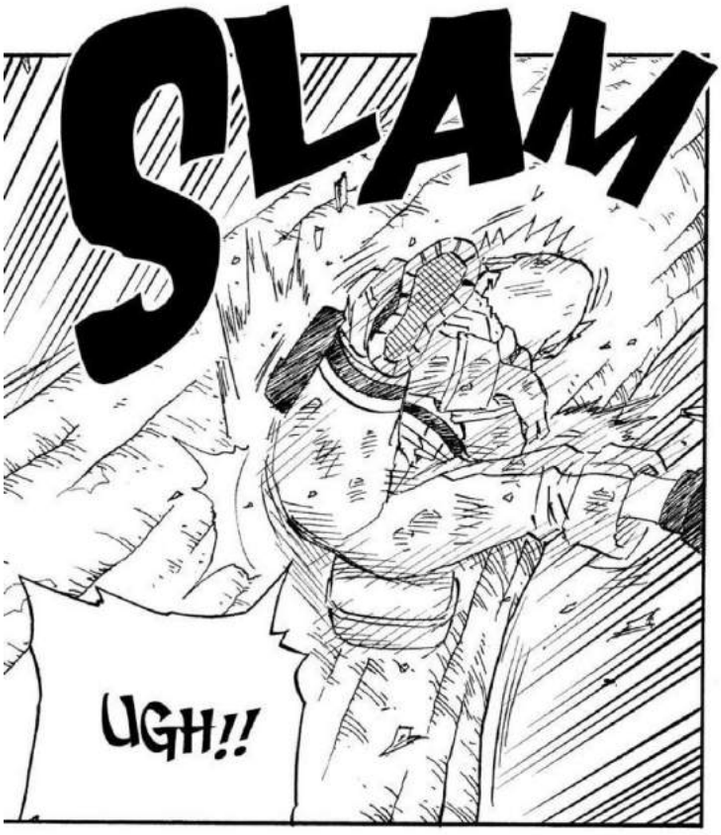
READ THIS WAY
BUT AT THIS RATE... EVEN I...
...HE HASN'T INITIATED THE TANUKI NEIRI NO JUTSU – THE PLAY POSSUM TECHNIQUE – YET, BUT...
SAKURA...
UGH...!
...HE'S SLOWLY APPROACHING PERFECT POSSESSION...
...THAT LOOK...
...
愛
SSHF
CCREEAK
SSHF

VOOSH
SAND SHURIKEN!!

CURL

SNATCH
!!

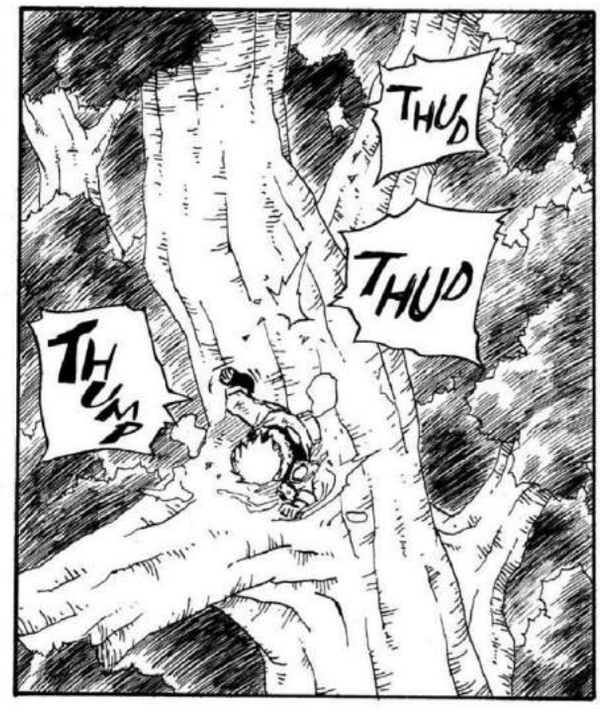
!


SLAM
UGH!!

!

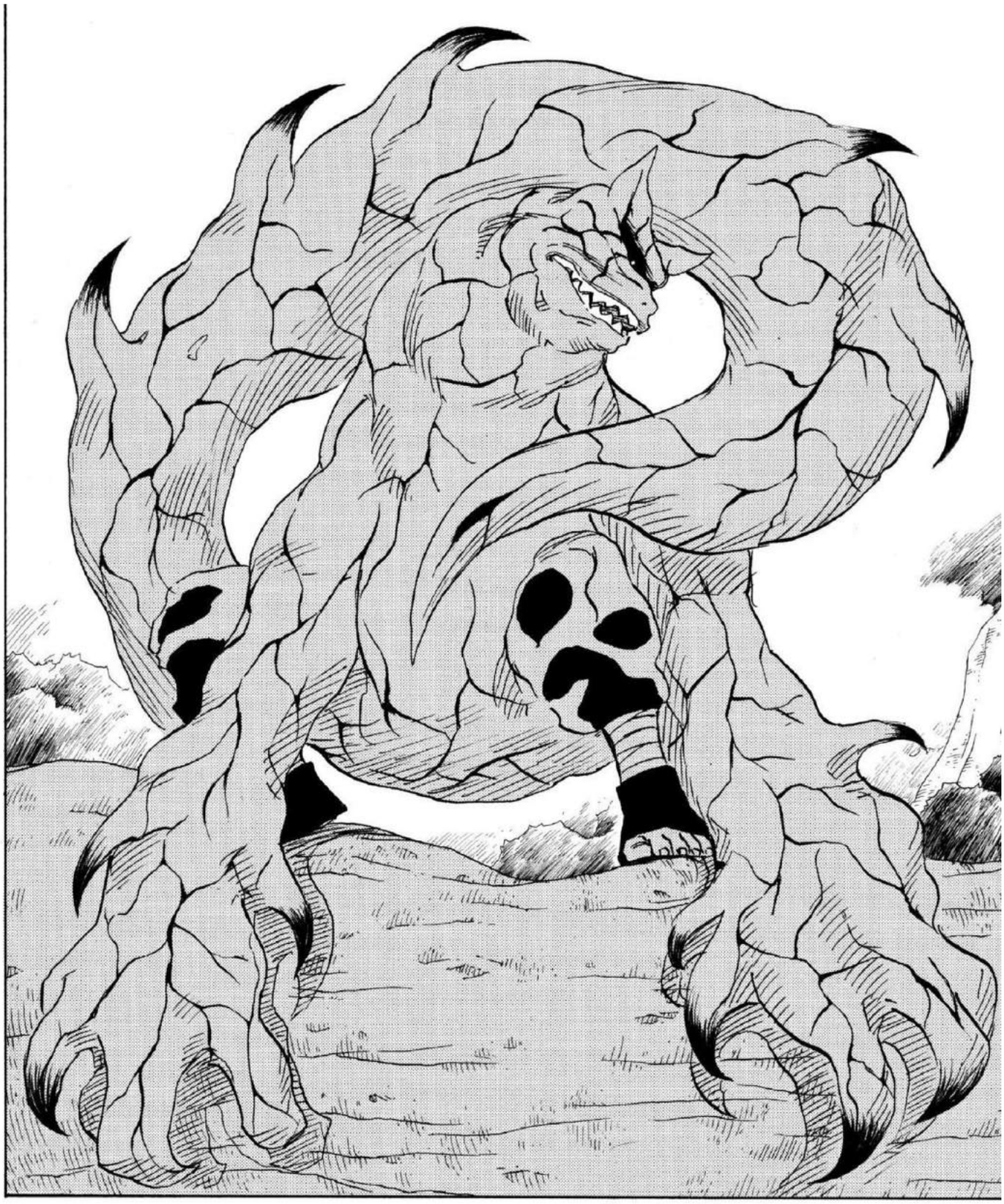
UGH...

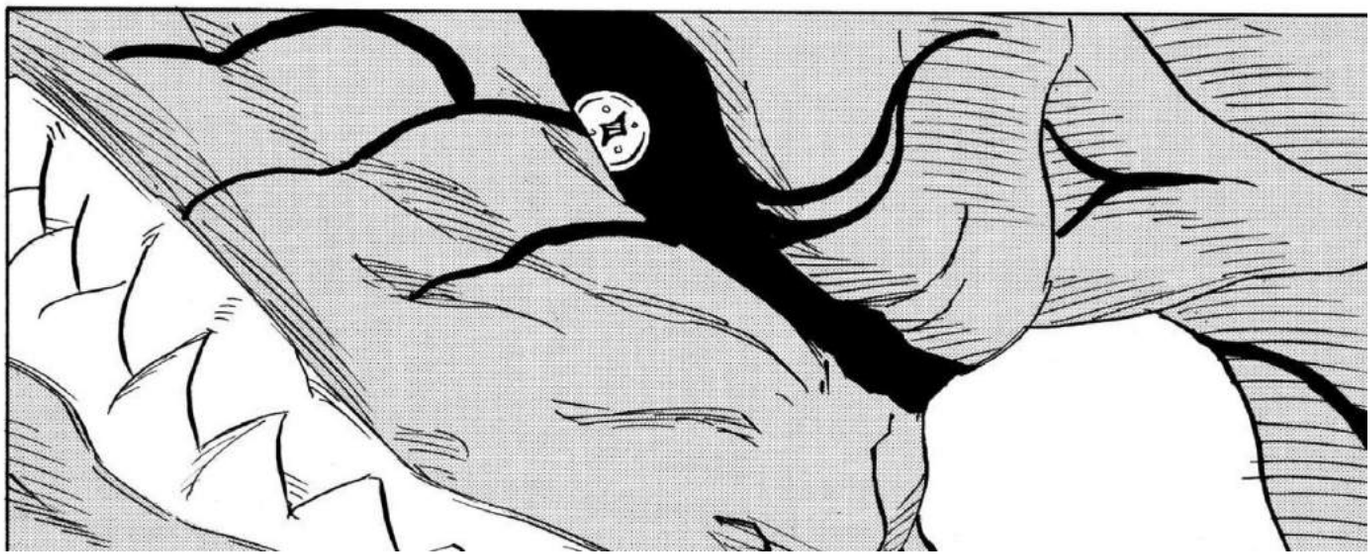
...UGH, SHUT UP!
YOU'RE WEAK!
DARN!! ...WHY DID THIS MINI-TOAD SHOW UP...?!

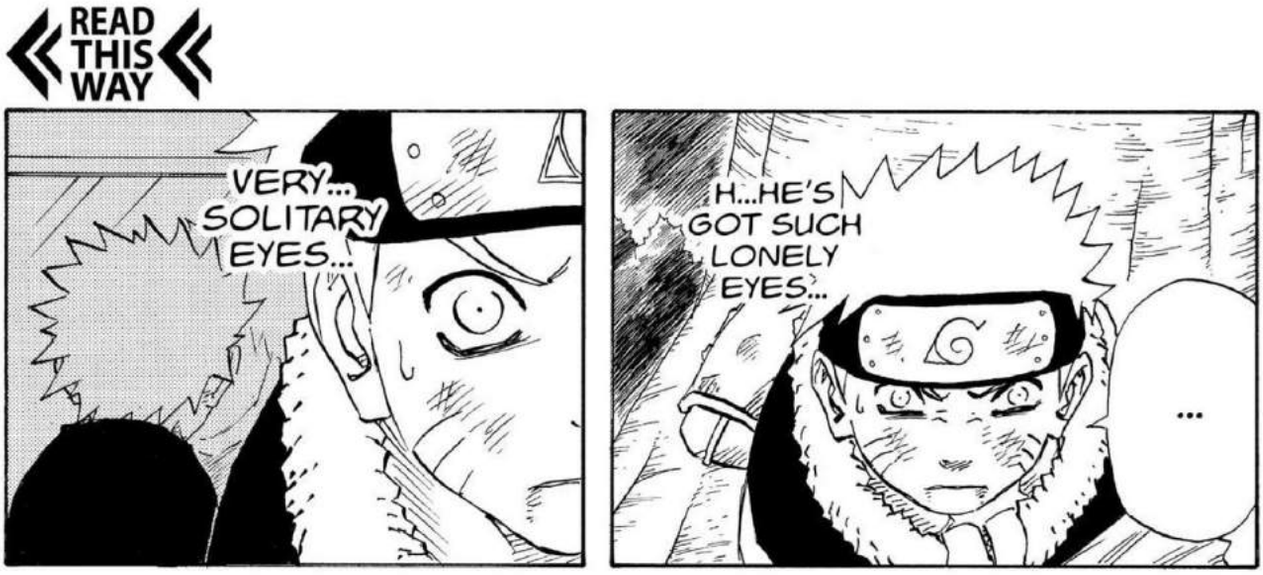

THUD
THUD
THUMP

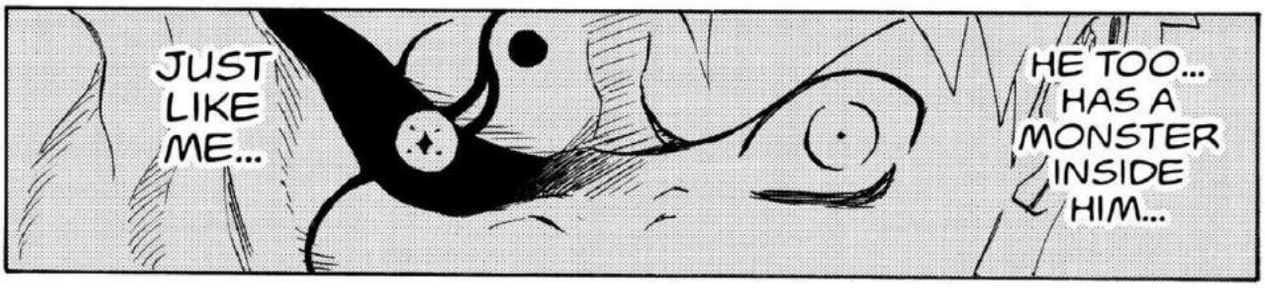
!

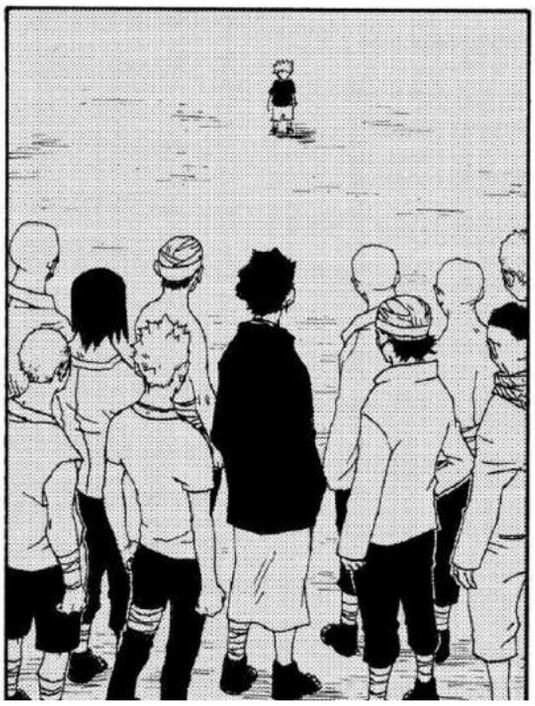
!!
BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT THING?

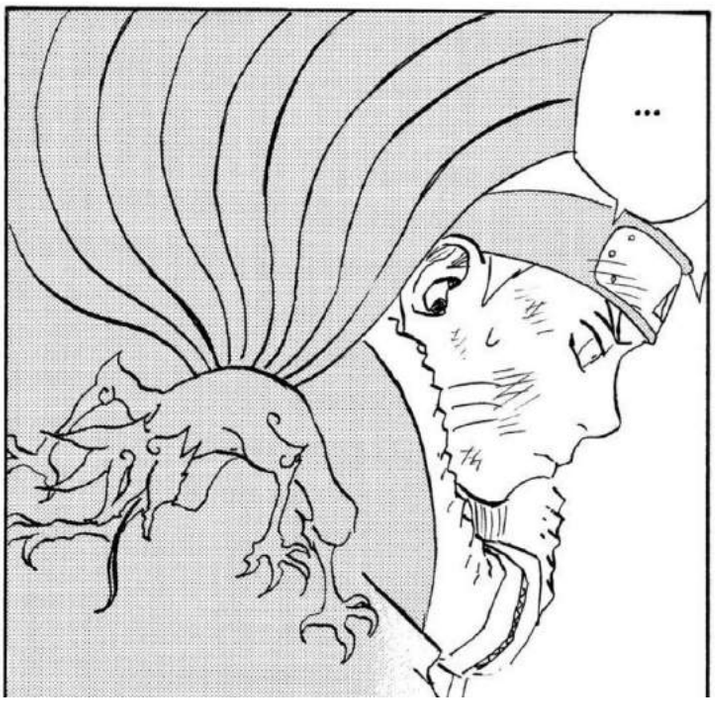




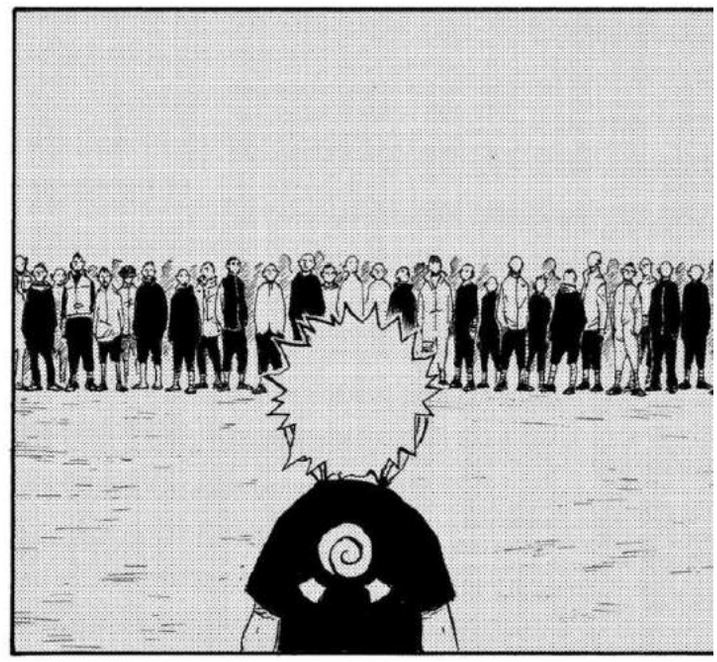

READ THIS WAY
VERY... SOLITARY EYES...
H...HE'S GOT SUCH LONELY EYES...
...


JUST LIKE ME...
HE TOO... HAS A MONSTER INSIDE HIM...

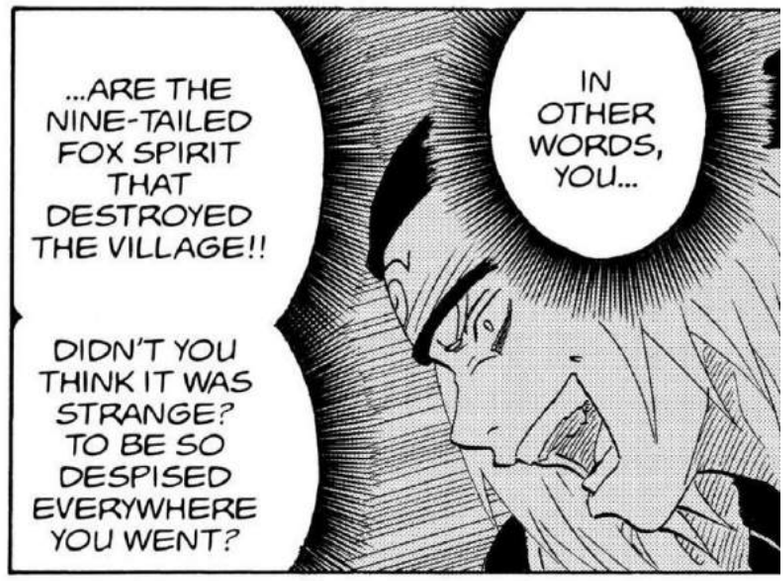



...

...I DIDN'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT I WAS TO DESERVE TO BE HATED SO MUCH, OR WHY I EXISTED...
...I HATED ALL OF THEM...



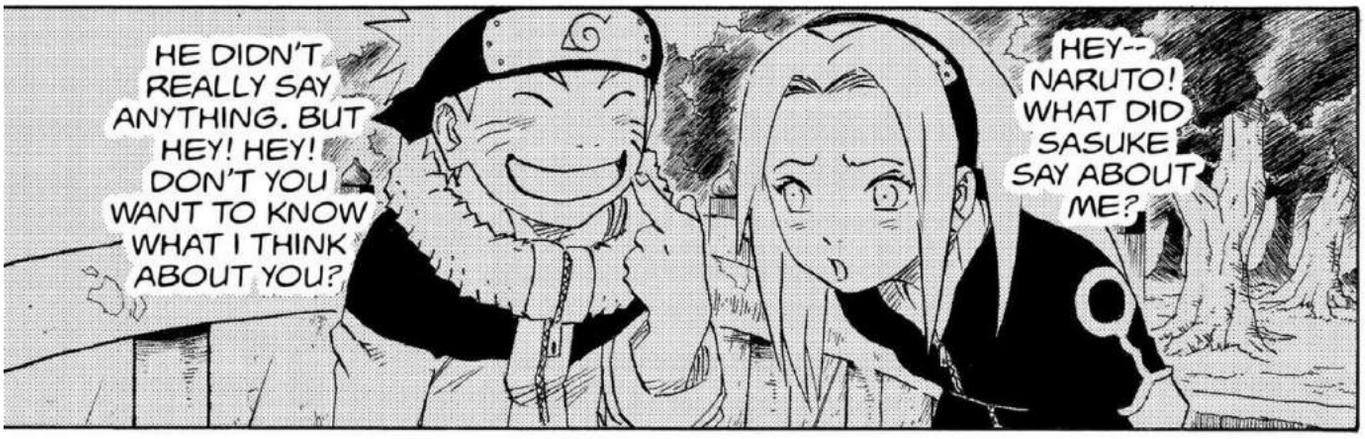
IT WAS SO PAINFUL...
EVER SINCE I FOUND OUT I HAD THE NINE-TAILED FOX INSIDE ME, EVERYONE'S EYES SEEMED EVEN MORE CALLOUS...

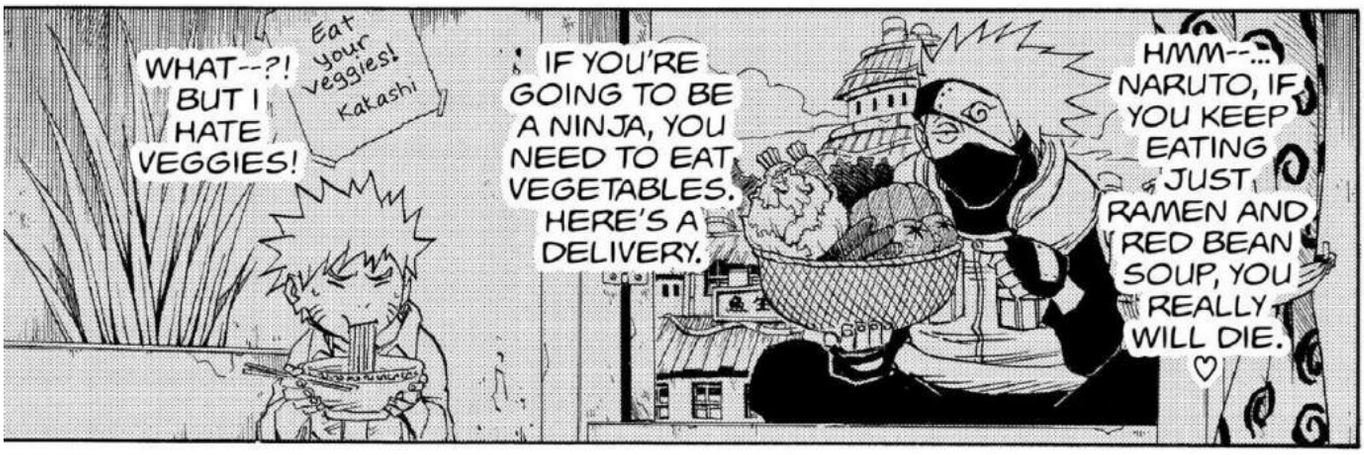

...ARE THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT THAT DESTROYED THE VILLAGE!!
DIDN'T YOU THINK IT WAS STRANGE? TO BE SO DESPISED EVERYWHERE YOU WENT?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU...

YAY! HEY! HEY! I WANT EXTRA PORK TODAY!!
NARUTO! IT'S BEEN A WHILE, WANT TO GO EAT RAMEN?!

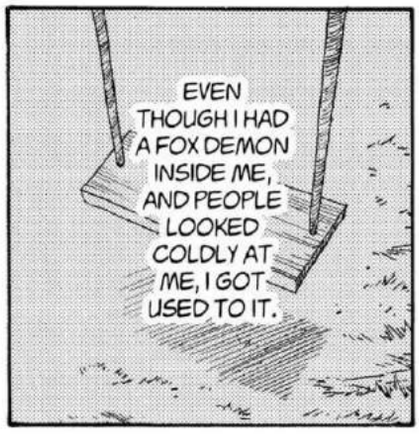
...BUT...
...

SHUT UP! I WON'T LOSE TO YOU!!
HUMPH! YOU IDIOT... IF YOU WANT TO WIN AGAINST ME, TRAIN HARDER.

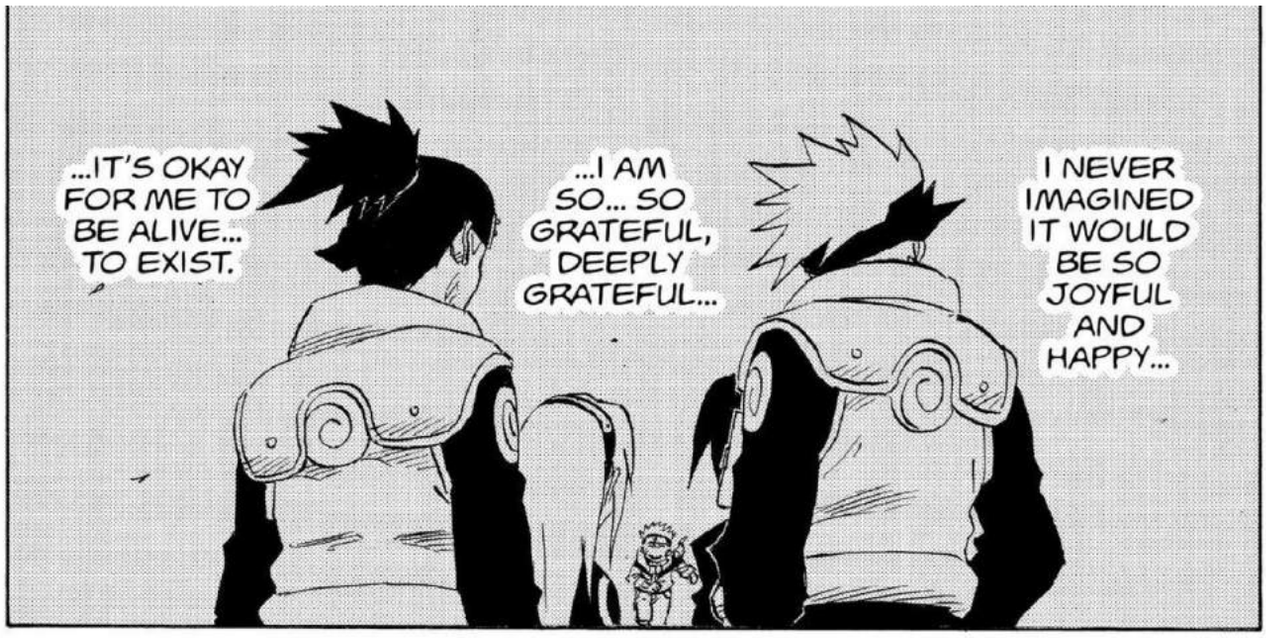

HE DIDN'T REALLY SAY ANYTHING. BUT HEY! HEY! DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK ABOUT YOU?
HEY-- NARUTO! WHAT DID SASUKE SAY ABOUT ME?

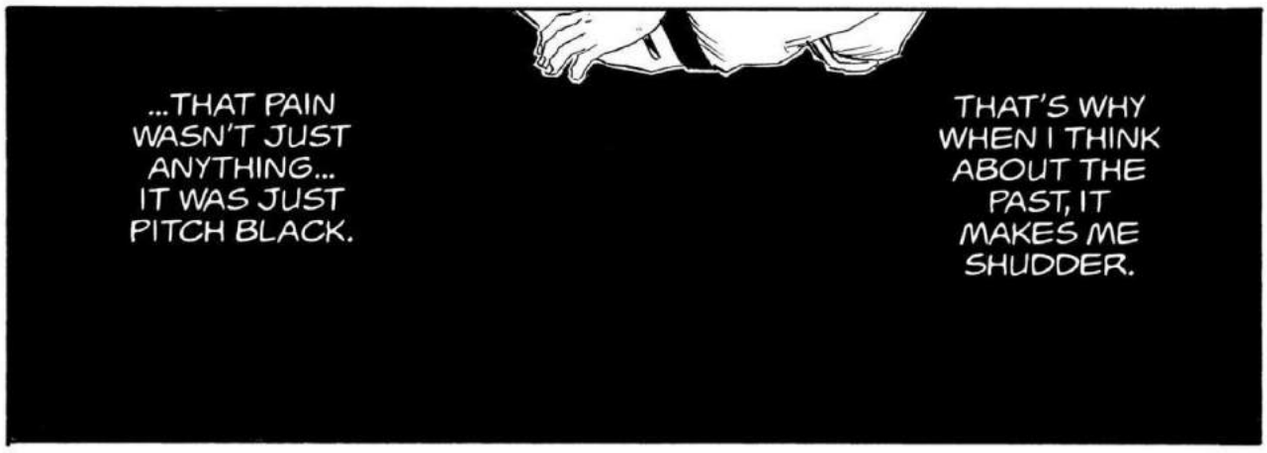

WHAT--?! BUT I HATE VEGGIES!
Eat your veggies! Kakashi
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A NINJA, YOU NEED TO EAT VEGETABLES. HERE'S A DELIVERY.
HMM--... NARUTO, IF YOU KEEP EATING JUST RAMEN AND RED BEAN SOUP, YOU REALLY WILL DIE. ♡

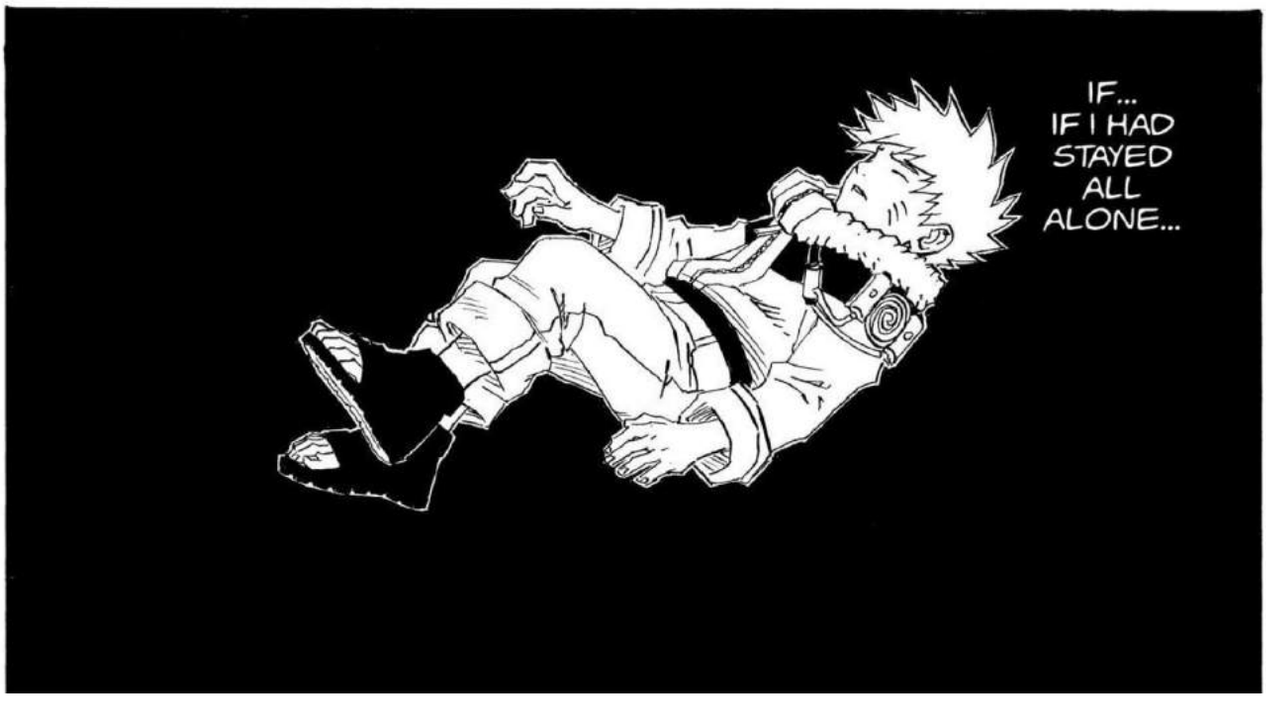
I WASN'T ALONE ANY-MORE!!
CUZ...

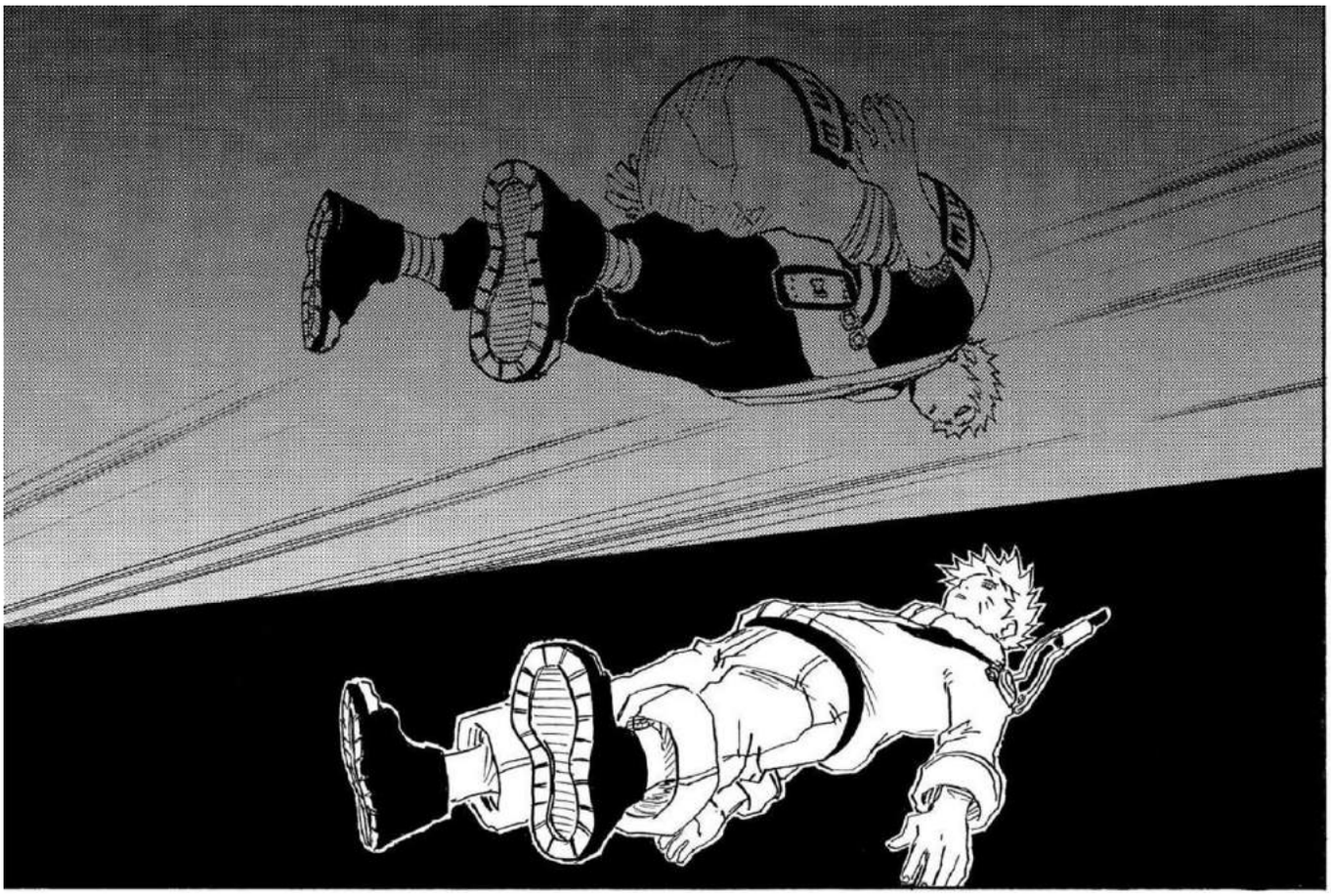

EVEN THOUGH I HAD A FOX DEMON INSIDE ME, AND PEOPLE LOOKED COLDLY AT ME, I GOT USED TO IT.

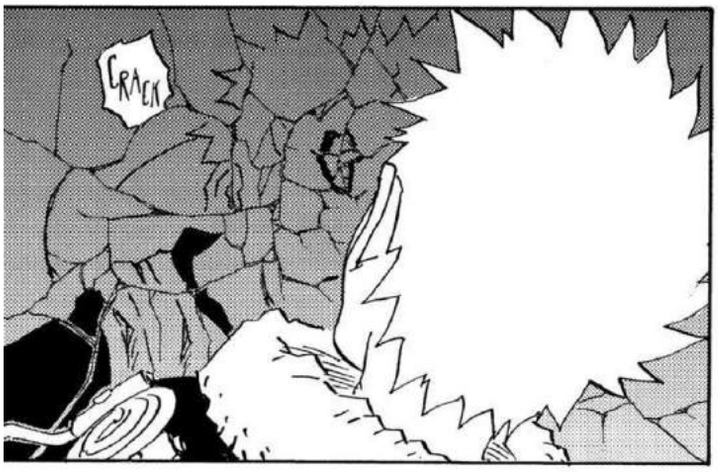
SO ...
I STARTED MEETING FOLK WHO WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE ME...


...IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO BE ALIVE... TO EXIST.
...I AM SO... SO GRATEFUL, DEEPLY GRATEFUL...
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE SO JOYFUL AND HAPPY...


...THAT PAIN WASN'T JUST ANYTHING... IT WAS JUST PITCH BLACK.
THAT'S WHY WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE PAST, IT MAKES ME SHUDDER.


IF... IF I HAD STAYED ALL ALONE...



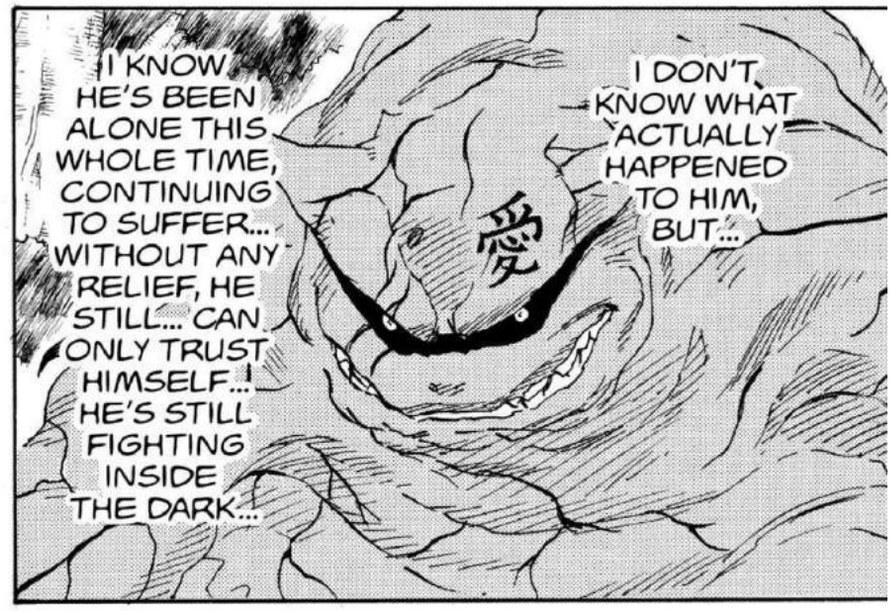


"I EXIST TO KILL ALL HUMANS OTHER THAN MYSELF."

SO THIS IS WHAT I CAME UP WITH...

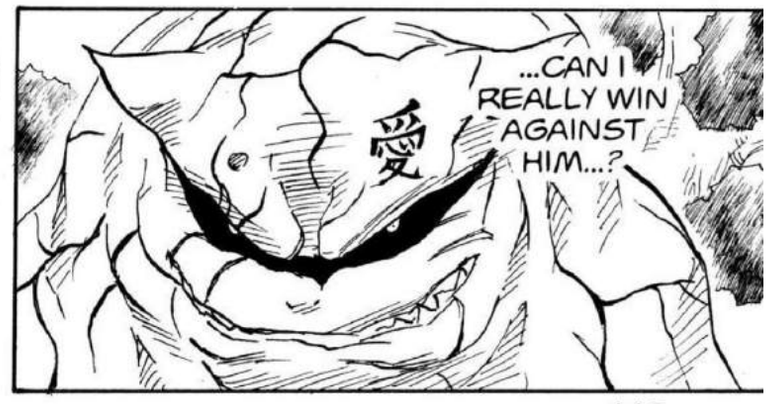
SO FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO I EXIST, WHY AM I ALIVE?

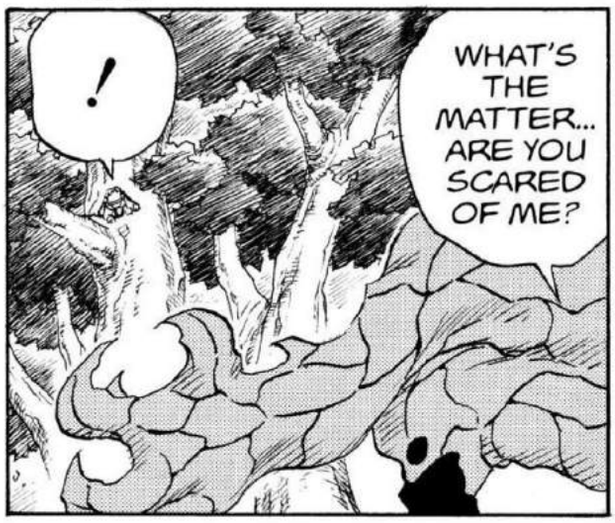
TO THEM, I AM NOW A RELIC OF THE PAST THAT THEY JUST WANT TO ERASE AND FORGET.


I KNOW HE'S BEEN ALONE THIS WHOLE TIME, CONTINUING TO SUFFER... WITHOUT ANY RELIEF, HE STILL... CAN ONLY TRUST HIMSELF... HE'S STILL FIGHTING INSIDE THE DARK...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO HIM, BUT...
愛

...THAT'S RIGHT...
IN HIS EYES, SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO HAS OTHERS THAT ACKNOWLEDGE HIM... MAY SEEM LIKE A COWARD WHO LIVES IN A CAREFREE, SUNNY WORLD...

UNH...
KRRSH


...CAN I REALLY WIN AGAINST HIM...?
愛


!
WHAT'S THE MATTER... ARE YOU SCARED OF ME?

...UGH!

THAT'S THE DEFINITION OF THE STRONGEST ONE!!
愛
YOU SHOULD ONLY LOVE YOURSELF!
ONLY FIGHT FOR YOURSELF!

...OR FOR OTHERS...
WHETHER YOU FIGHT FOR YOURSELF...
UGH...

...

I'LL GRIND THAT POWER INTO NOTHING-NESS!!
KLAKK
SHOW ME YOUR POWER, JUST LIKE WHEN YOU TOOK DOWN HYUGA!
NOW! FIGHT ME!!

IF YOU DON'T FIGHT ME, I'LL KILL THAT GIRL!
WELL?! WHAT'S THE MATTER!

...

(HUF)
(HUF)
FSSH
...UGH...

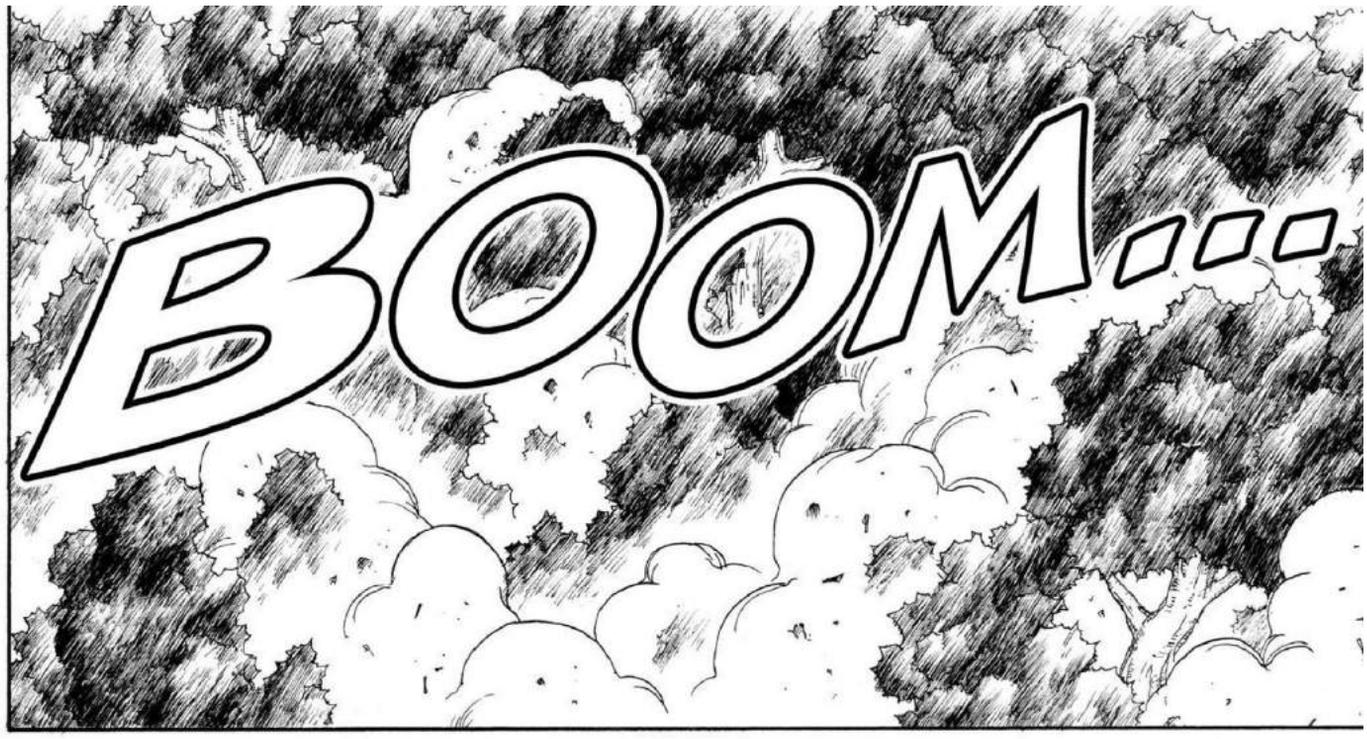
SLUMP

DARN!
LEAP

FSSSH
FWOOOO

BOOF
BOOF
MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!!

WIND STYLE: MUGENSAJIN DAITOPPA! INFINITE SAND DEVAS-TATION!!
WAAH!!
VOOSH


BOOM...

BUT YOU WON'T ESCAPE.
FIRST, I'M GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU WITHOUT LETTING YOU DIE.
I WANT TO SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR YOU TO GIVE UP ON YOUR FRIENDS AND TRY TO RUN AWAY.

UGH...
YIKES... THAT REALLY HURT...

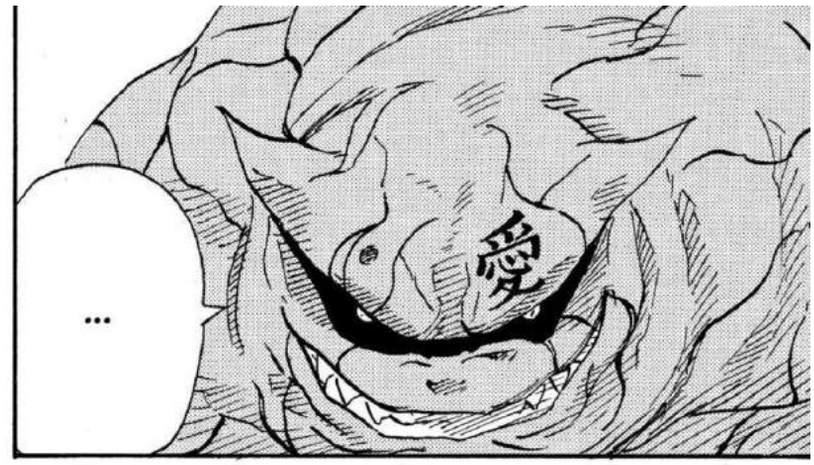
THUD
THUD

HUMPH...

...
SHF

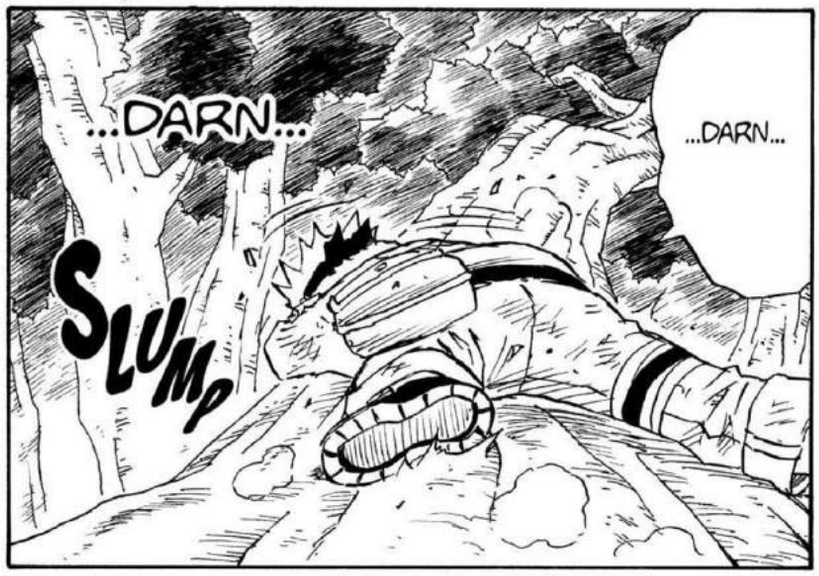
READ THIS WAY
...
THWACK
ARGH!!
MORE, MORE!!
LAST
...WHAT...
STAGGER...
...BUT...
...
BLAST
SLAM
UGH!!
CLOD

SLASH
SAND SHURIKEN!!
...ARGH...

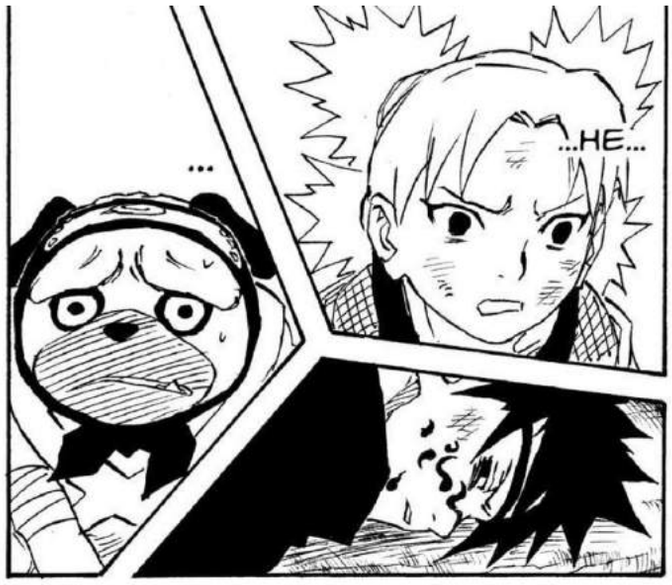

...

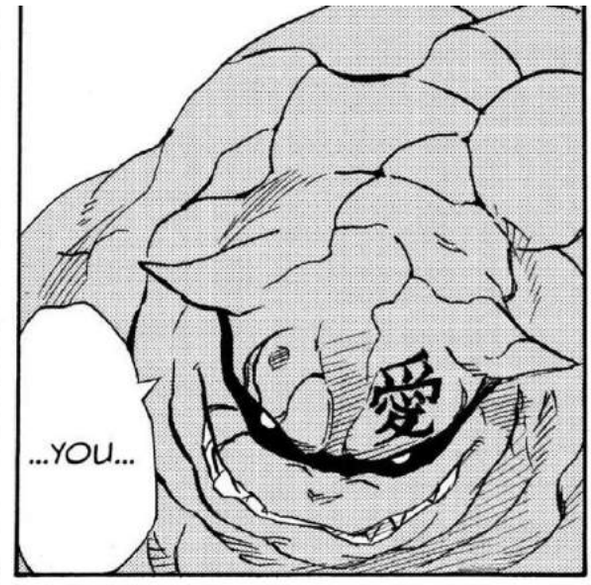
WHY...DO I FEEL LIKE THIS...
SHF
...

WHOO
OOOM
GAH!!


...DARN...
SLUMP
...DARN...

...!


...
...HE...


...YOU...
愛

...JUST... JUST AGAINST THIS GUY...
STAGGER...
...FOR WHAT-EVER REASON ...

...THIS FEELING WELLING UP...?
...WHAT IS IT...
...

GRRR

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO HIM EVEN IF I END UP DYING!!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 22 (PART 3)

REGULARLY MIMICKING THE ART STYLES OF MY FAVORITE ANIMATORS AT THE TIME, SUCH AS OKIURA-SAN AND MORIMOTO KOUJI-SAN, STARTED SHIFTING MY STYLE TOWARD SEINEN MAGAZINES AND AWAY FROM SHONEN MAGAZINES AGAIN. ...THAT'S WHEN I FORTUITOUSLY SAW IN MY TARGET MAGAZINE THAT THE SERIES THAT I LIKED EVEN AS A MANGA, *NINKÛ*, HAD BECOME ANIMATED, SO I DECIDED I WOULD WATCH IT WHILE EATING A SALMON BENTO AND PREPARED MY MEAL AND SAT MYSELF DOWN IN FRONT OF THE TELEVISION. THE MOMENT I STUCK THE DISPOSABLE CHOPSTICKS IN MY MOUTH TO SPLIT THEM APART, THE *NINKÛ* ANIME STARTED, AND I GOT DRAWN RIGHT INTO THE OPENING SEQUENCE WITH THE STILL UNBROKEN CHOPSTICKS FORGOTTEN IN MY MOUTH.

IT MADE SUCH AN IMPACT ON ME! FOR IT CONTAINED NEW DISTORTIONS, HAD GREAT SENSE, EVEN BETTER ART, AND ON TOP OF IT ALL, JUST INDESCRIBABLE, REALLY REFRESHING LINE TECHNIQUE THAT SEEMED LIKE A MIX OF SEINEN AND SHONEN STYLES. IN SHORT, IT WAS THE IDEAL ART STYLE THAT I HAD BEEN SEEKING.

"THIS IS IT!" I THOUGHT TO MYSELF.

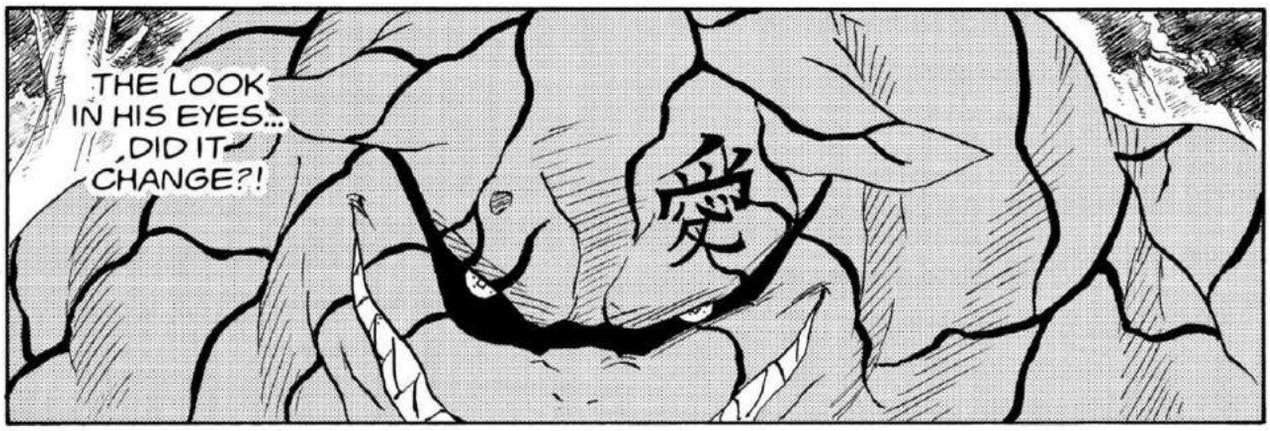
SINCE THEN, I STARTED MIMICKING NISHIO-SAN'S DRAWINGS, AND IT PRETTY MUCH WAS THE BASIS FOR THE ART STYLE OF THIS CURRENT *NARUTO*. AND AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, AMONG ONE OF THE CHARACTER DESIGNERS FOR THE *NARUTO* ANIME IS NISHIO TETSUYA-SAN HIMSELF. I AM A LUCKY MAN. THE MAN THAT I RESPECTED AND RECEIVED SO MUCH INFLUENCE FROM IS DOING DESIGNS FOR ME! IT WAS A REALLY HAPPY MOMENT FOR ME WHEN I HEARD THIS, LIKE ONE OF MY DREAMS HAD COME TRUE (AND IN THAT INSTANT, I INVOLUNTARILY PUMPED MY FISTS IN THE AIR.) PLUS, ANOTHER ONE OF THE CHARACTER DESIGNERS IS SUZUKI HIROFUMI-SAN. HE IS AN AWESOME FELLOW WHO HAS WORKED ON SOME OF MY FAVORITE ANIME. THEY ARE SUCH GREAT ARTISTS THAT I'M EMBARRASSED THAT THEY LOOK AT MY MANGA.

Number 133:

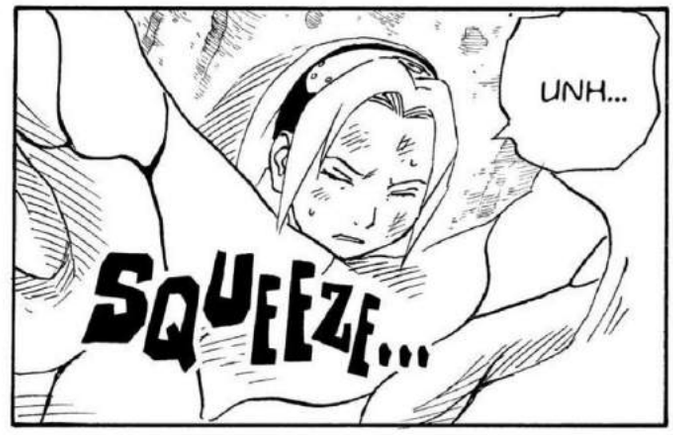
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

TREMBLE...

Those Who Are Strong...!!



SAKURA...


UNH...
SQUEEZE...

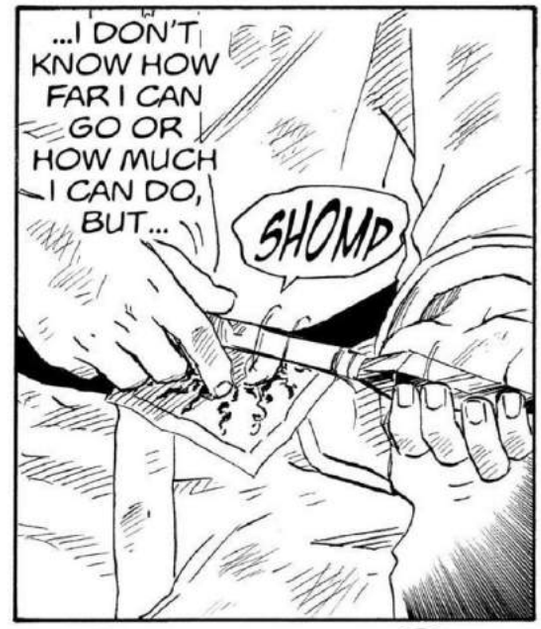
FOLD

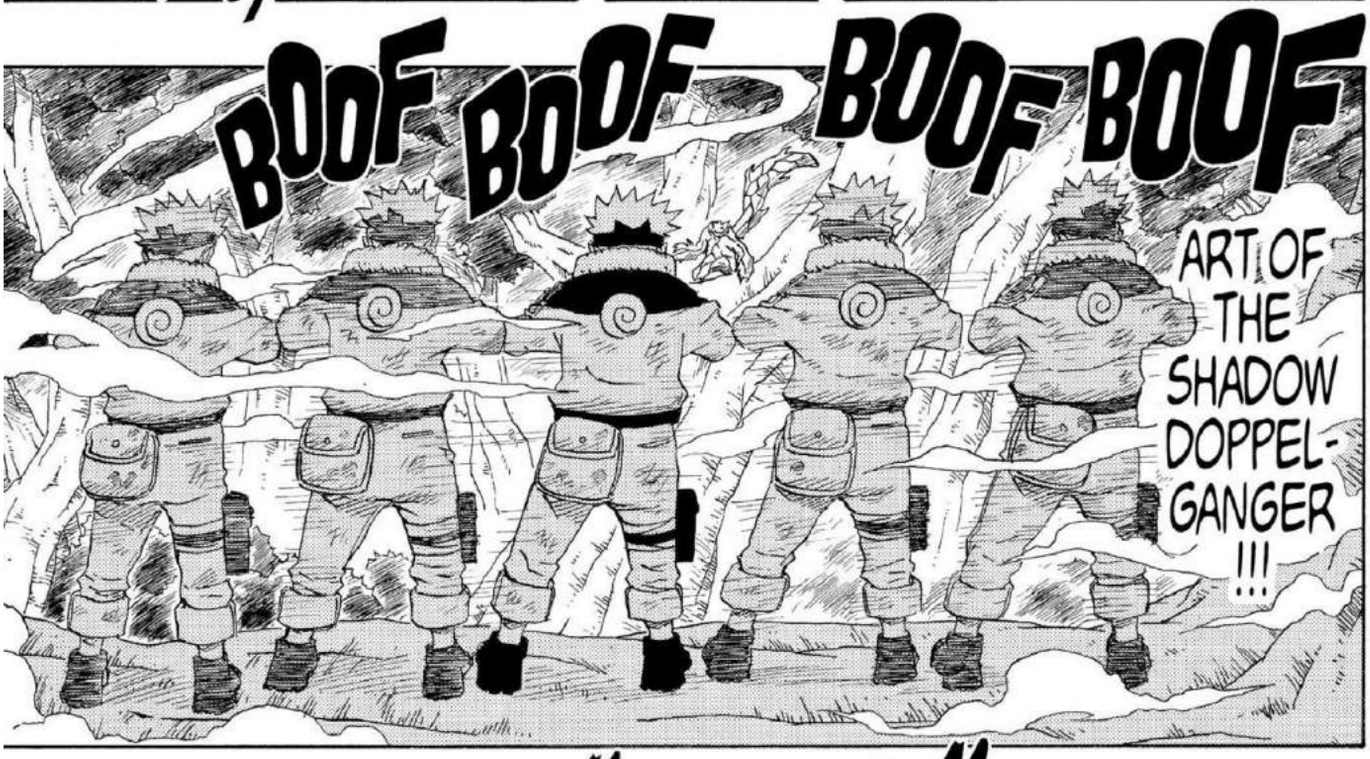
FWUP

YOU CAN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO TOUCHING ME...
WHAT'S THE MATTER...? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HUNTED ME DOWN. SCARED?
WHAT A JOKE...!

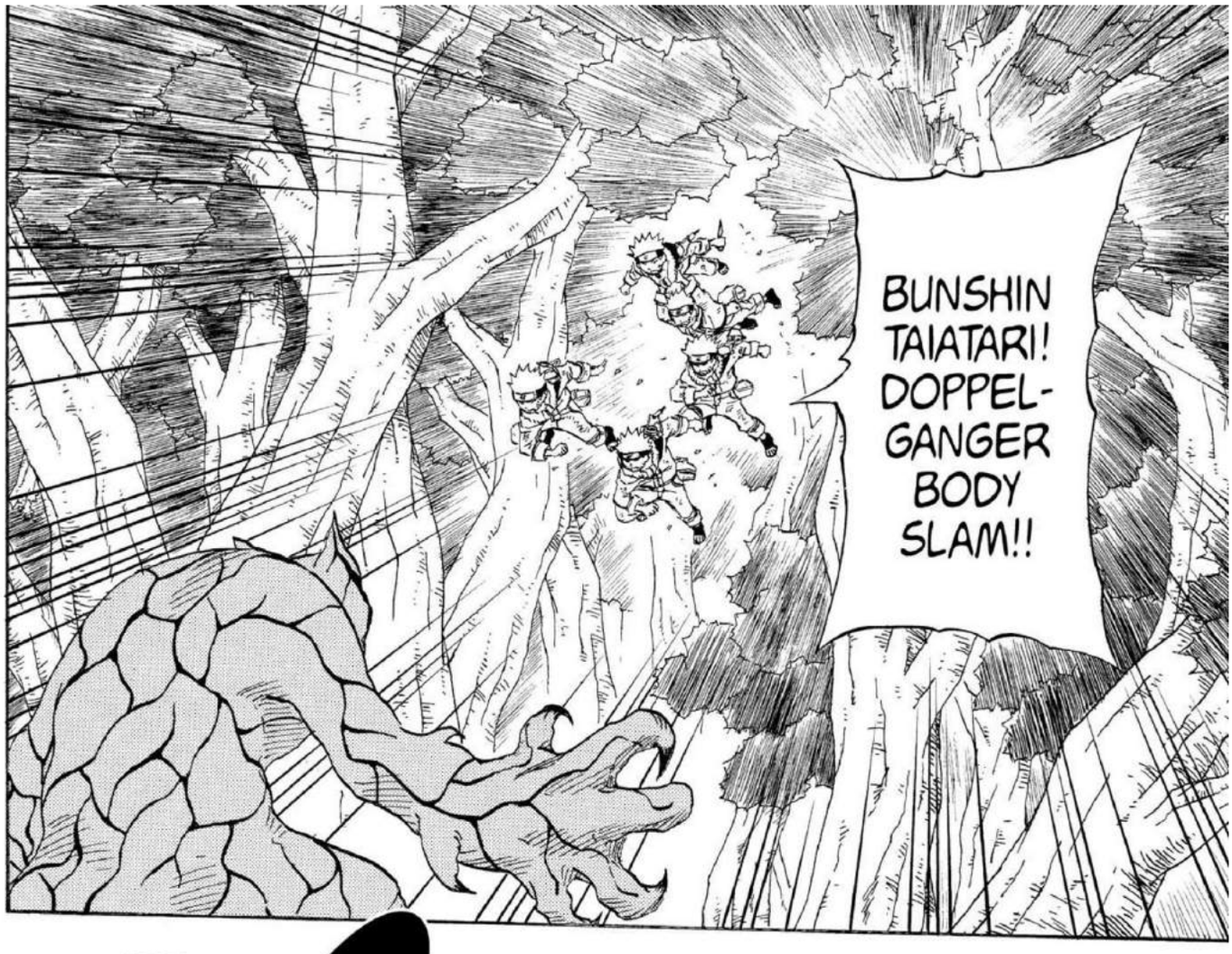
I'M GONNA GIVE IT EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!!
FWUP
FWUP

!
愛


...I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR I CAN GO OR HOW MUCH I CAN DO, BUT...
SHOMP


BOOF
BOOF
BOOF
BOOF
ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER !!!

LADIES AND GENTS, WE NOW PROUDLY BRING YOU A MOST SECRET AND SPECIAL TECHNIQUE!! THE UZUMAKI NARUTO...
FOOM
FOOM
FWOSH
FWOSH
HERE WE COME!!


BUNSHIN TAIATARI! DOPPEL-GANGER BODY SLAM!!

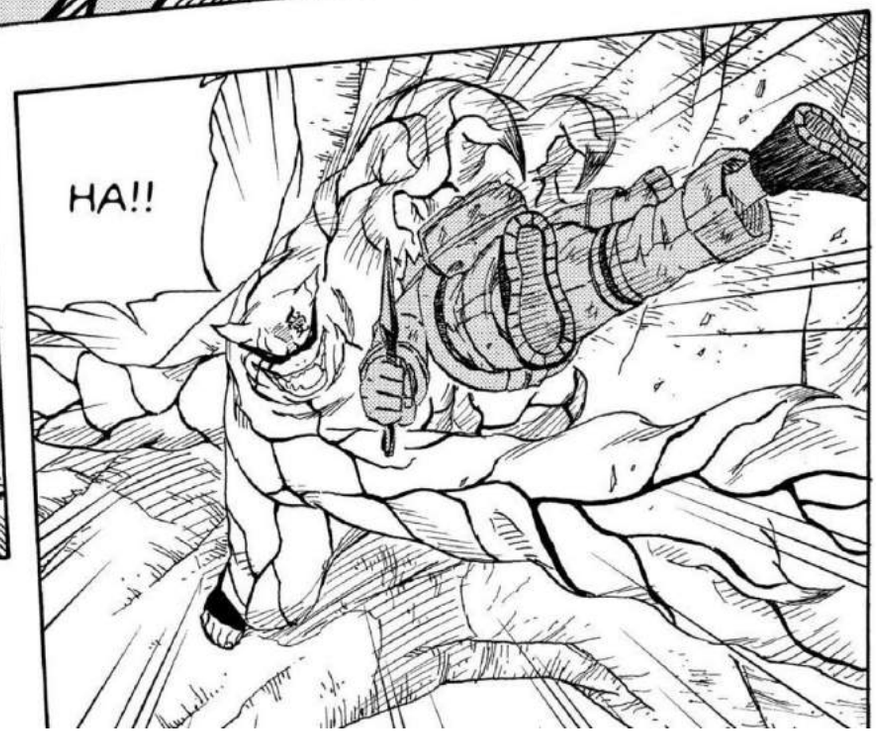
KRSH
SUU-OOSH

CLENCH
CLENCH

NOW!!
ROGER!!

GO!!!!
SHMP
ZOOM

FWUP

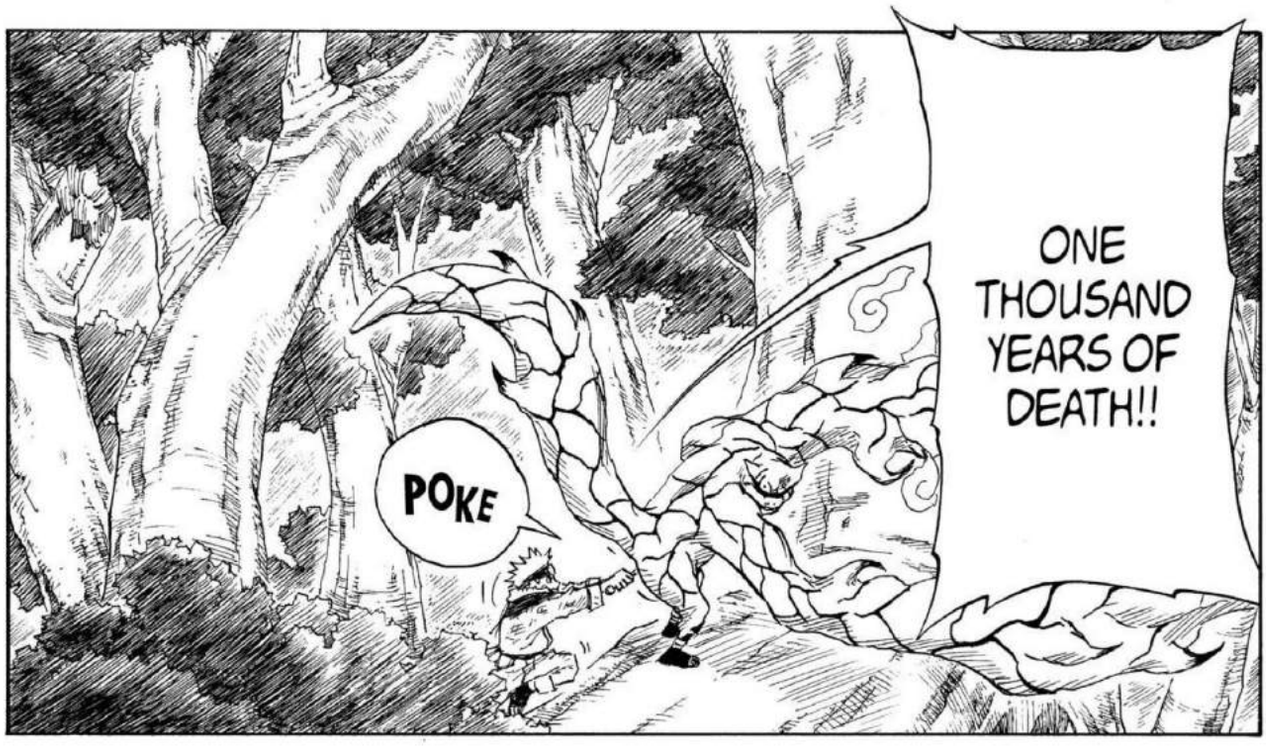

HA!!

SPIN
SPIN
BOOF
GRAB
!
KAGEBUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!

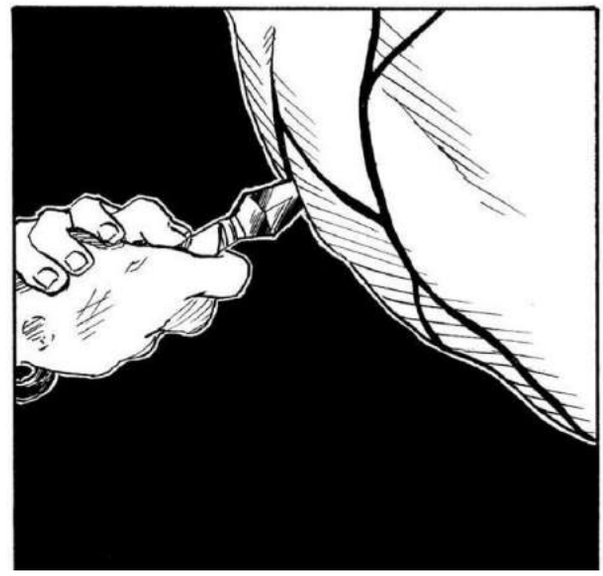
ZOOM
ONE MORE! ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!
BOOF

MASTER KAKASHI'S SPECIALTY... KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE'S MOST SACRED TECHNIQUE!!
TAKE THIS!!

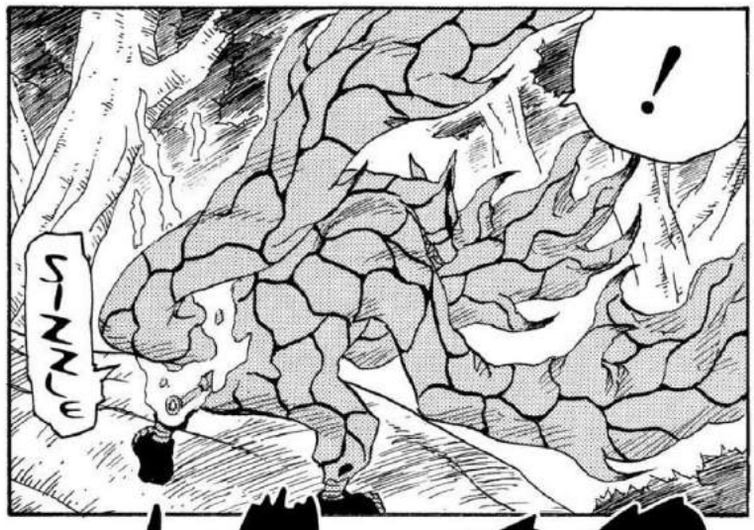
UGH!


ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF DEATH!!
POKE

...
...



WHAM

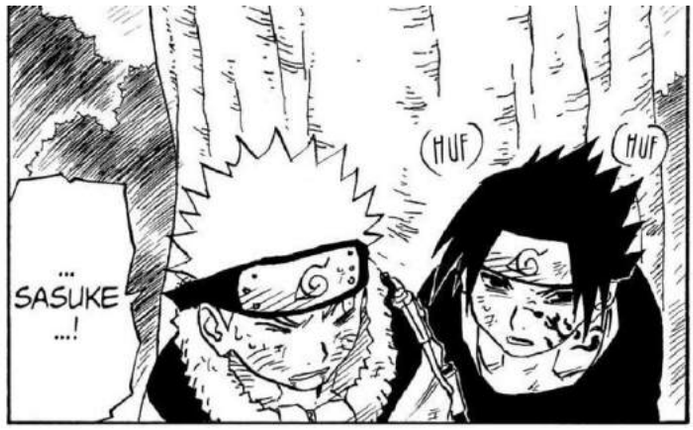

!
SIZZLE

SIZZLE

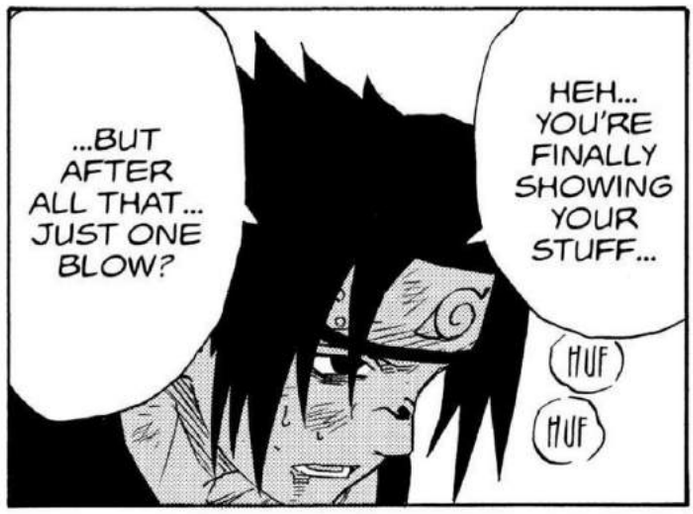
KABOOM

...KABOOM.

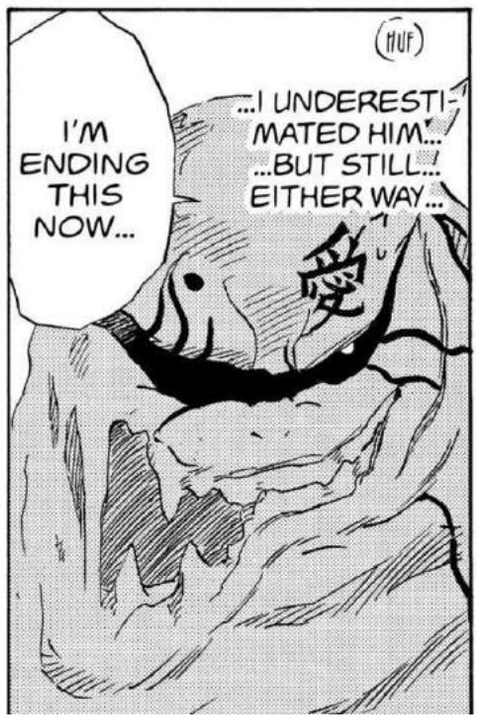
SLAM
SHMP
ARGH!!
UGH!!
THUD

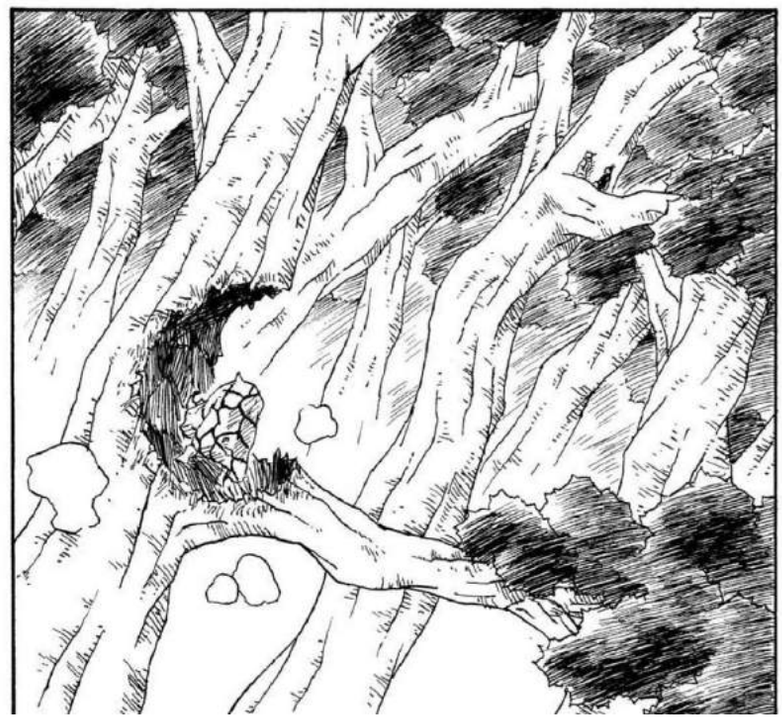

...SASUKE...!
(HUF)
(HUF)

...UGH... HE MANAGED TO TARGET THAT LETTER BOMB RIGHT AT MY WEAKEST SPOT—UNDER MY TAIL...
GRRR...
I CAN'T ABSORB ALL OF THE IMPACT...

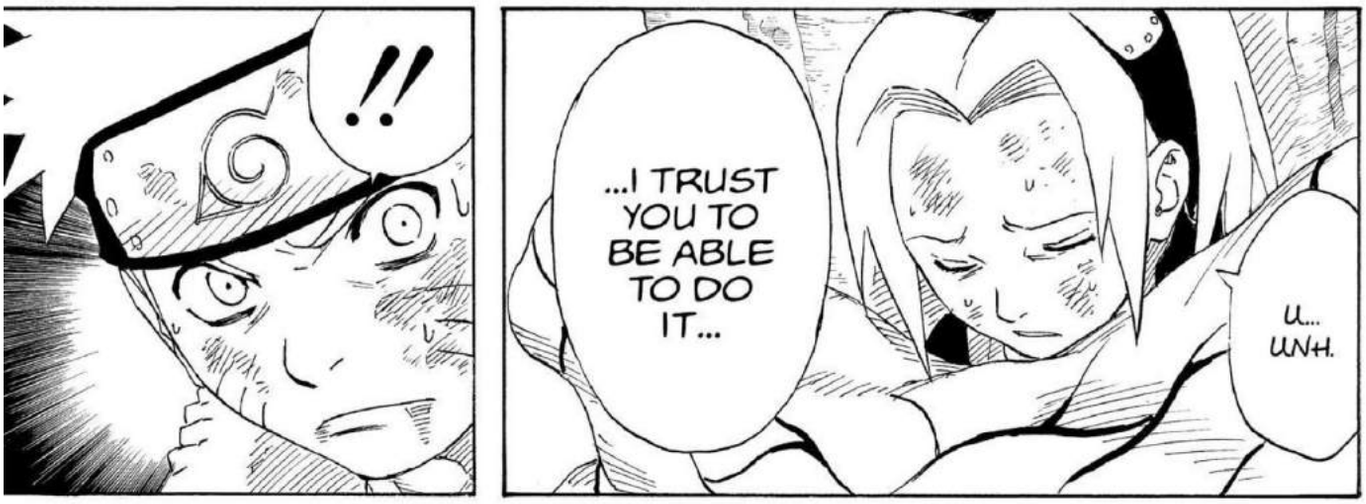

...BUT AFTER ALL THAT... JUST ONE BLOW?
HEH... YOU'RE FINALLY SHOWING YOUR STUFF...
(HUF)
(HUF)

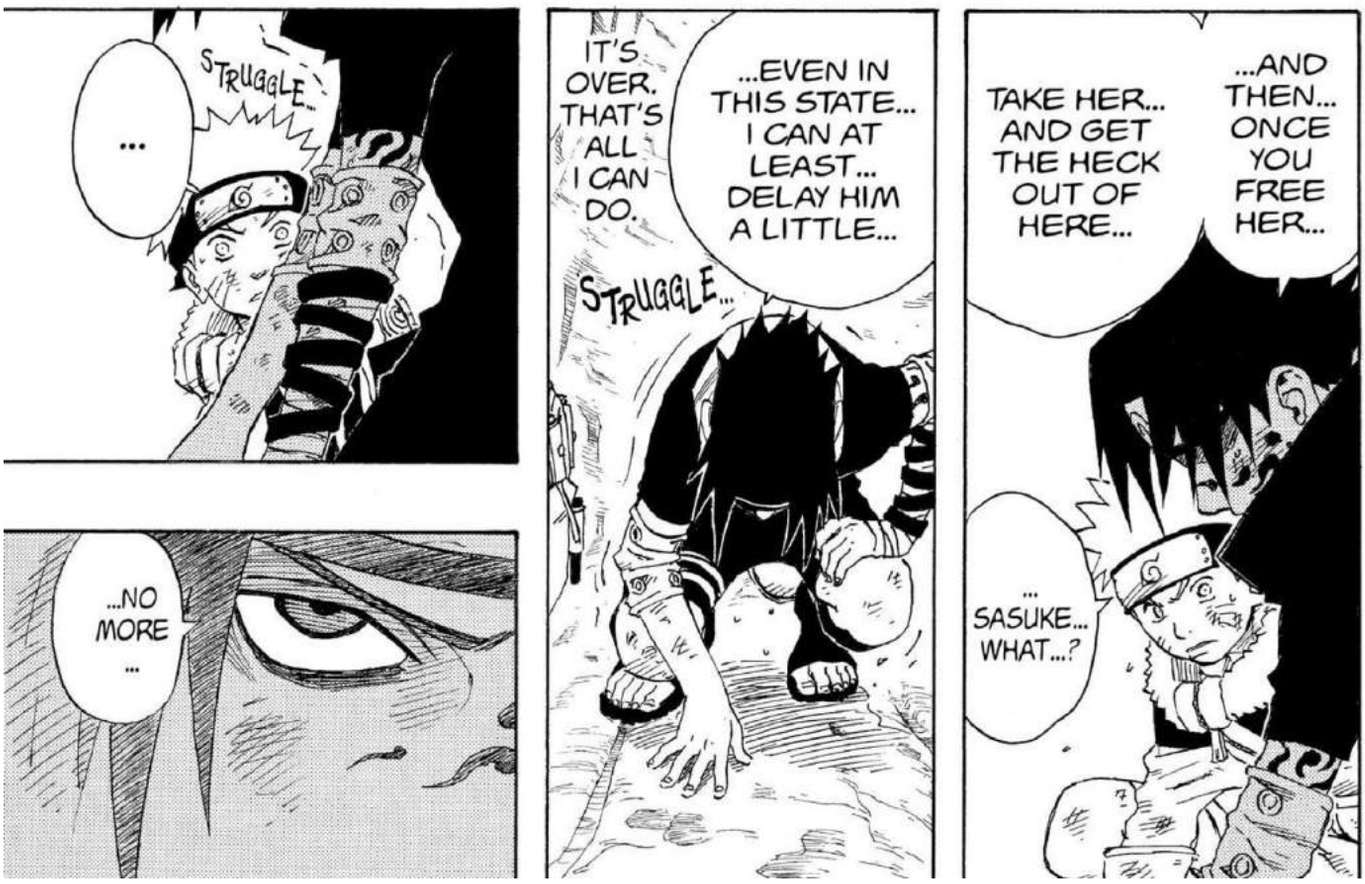
SH...SHUT UP...
...IDIOT.
...YOU GOTTA TRY HARDER... 'CUZ THIS TIME... I CAN'T HELP YOU... LIKE I DID IN THE LAND OF WAVES...


I'M ENDING THIS NOW...
(HUF)
...I UNDERESTIMATED HIM... ...BUT STILL... EITHER WAY...
愛



READ THIS WAY
...!!
...BETTER RESCUE SAKURA, NO MATTER WHAT!
YOU...
...!
...HEY... NARUTO.


!!
...I TRUST YOU TO BE ABLE TO DO IT...
U... UNH.

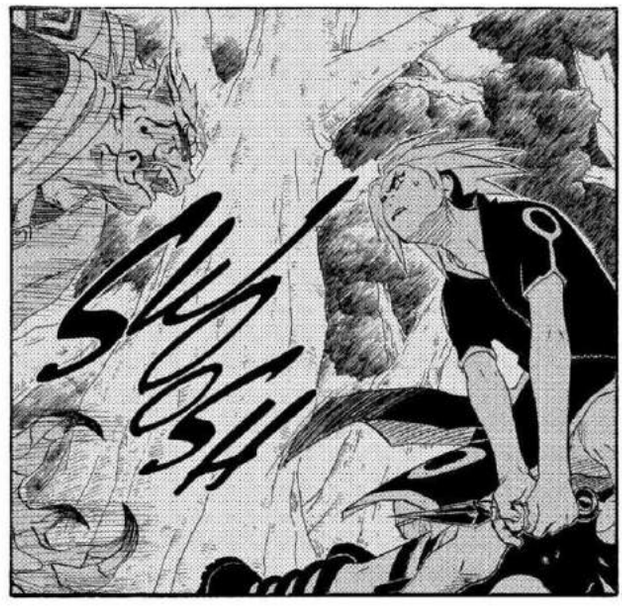

...
STRUGGLE...
...NO MORE ...
IT'S OVER. THAT'S ALL I CAN DO.
...EVEN IN THIS STATE... I CAN AT LEAST... DELAY HIM A LITTLE...
STRUGGLE...
TAKE HER... AND GET THE HECK OUT OF HERE...
...AND THEN... ONCE YOU FREE HER...
... SASUKE... WHAT...?

...WANT TO WATCH MY **PRECIOUS COMRADES** DIE IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN...
I'VE ALREADY LOST EVERY-THING ONCE BEFORE... I DON'T EVER...

...!

...PRECIOUS... COMRADES...

...RIGHT...
...


SLASH

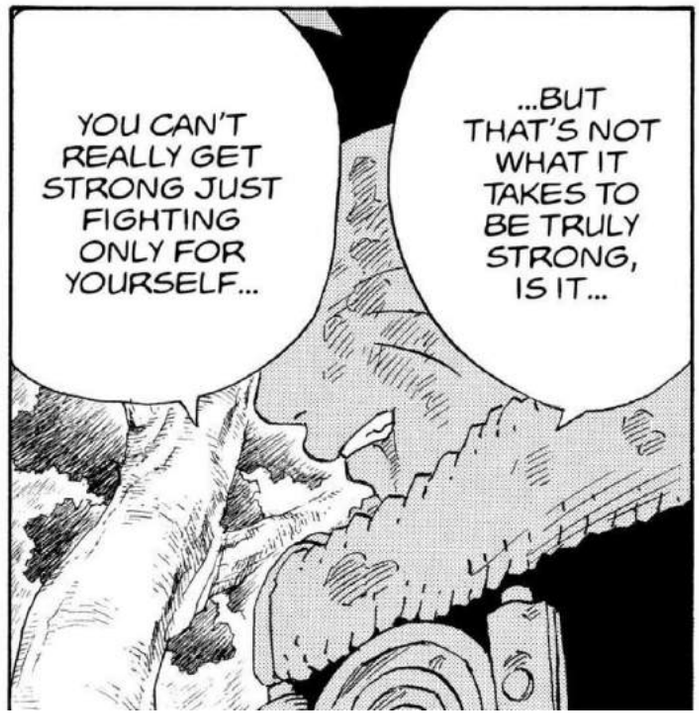
...

YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT...
...

I WILL NEVER LET MY COMRADES DIE!

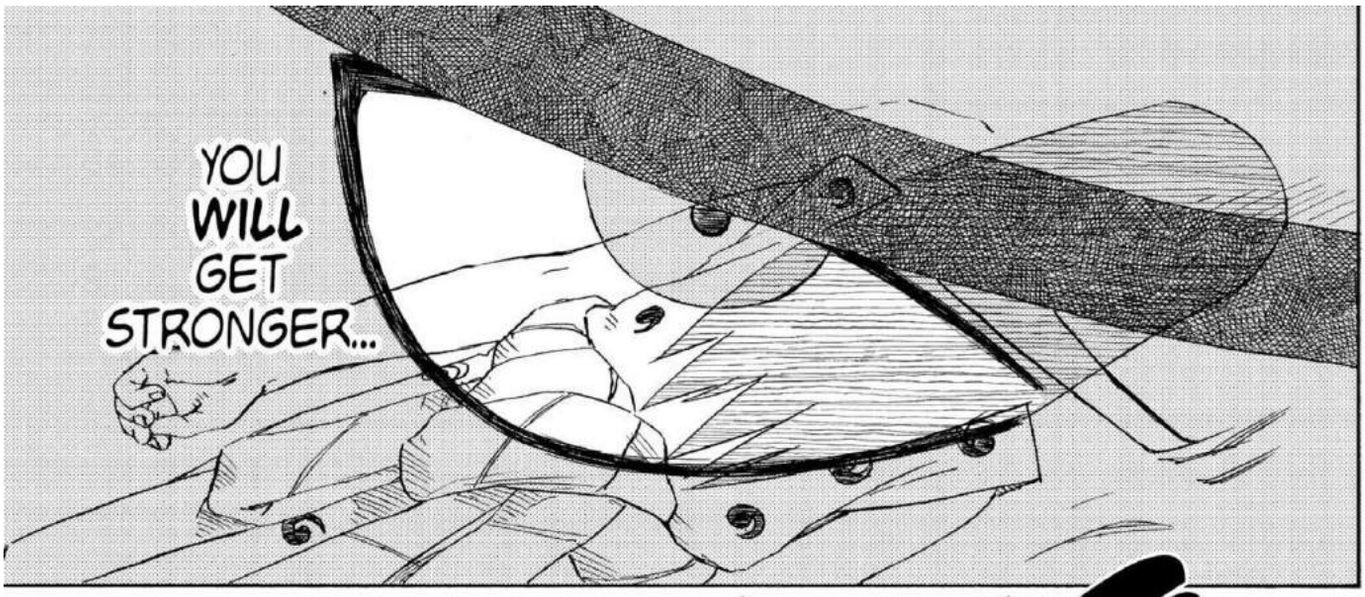
...AND YET HE KEPT FIGHTING FOR HIMSELF FROM INSIDE THAT CORE OF SOLITUDE...
...I THOUGHT OF HIM AS STRONG...
'CUZ LIKE ME, HE GREW UP WRAPPED IN LONELINESS AND SADNESS...
RISE

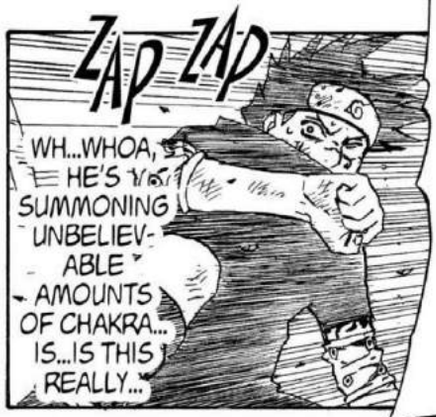
!


YOU CAN'T REALLY GET STRONG JUST FIGHTING ONLY FOR YOURSELF...
...BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE TRULY STRONG, IS IT...

!
HUF
HUF
...
NARUTO
...

...ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?
...DO YOU HAVE...
...
CROUCH
WHEN PEOPLE... ARE PROTECTING SOMEONE TRULY PRECIOUS TO THEM...
...THEY TRULY CAN BECOME AS STRONG AS THEY MUST BE!
愛
!
...NARUTO...

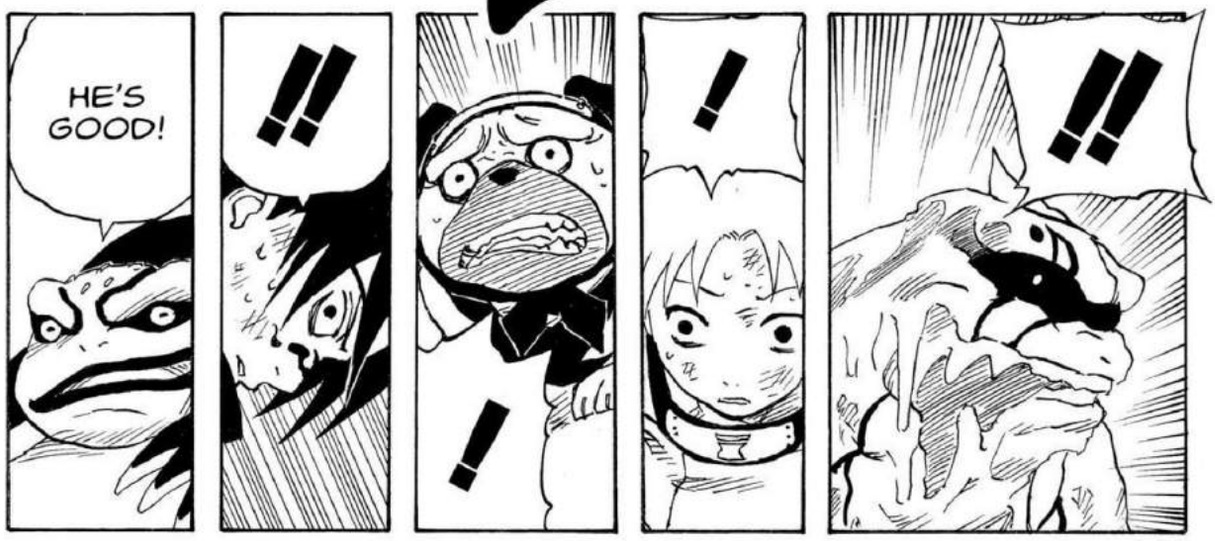

YOU WILL GET STRONGER...


ZAP ZAP
WH...WHOA, HE'S SUMMONING UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNTS OF CHAKRA... IS...IS THIS REALLY...

FSSSH
HAAAAA!
AAAAAAAH!!
UNH...?!

NARUTO?!
I SWEAR, I'LL PROTECT ALL OF YOU!!

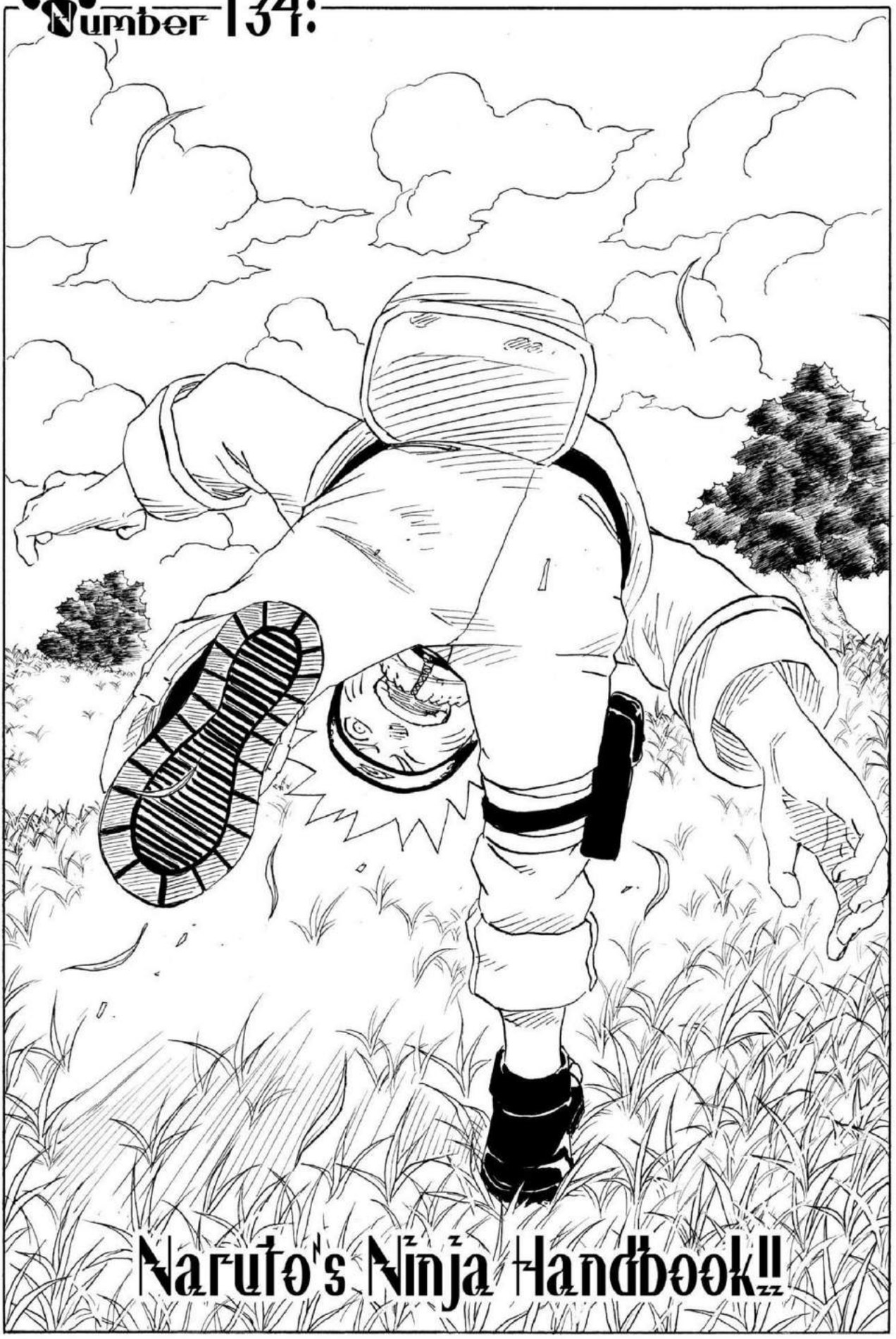
TAJÛ KAGE-BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!!!



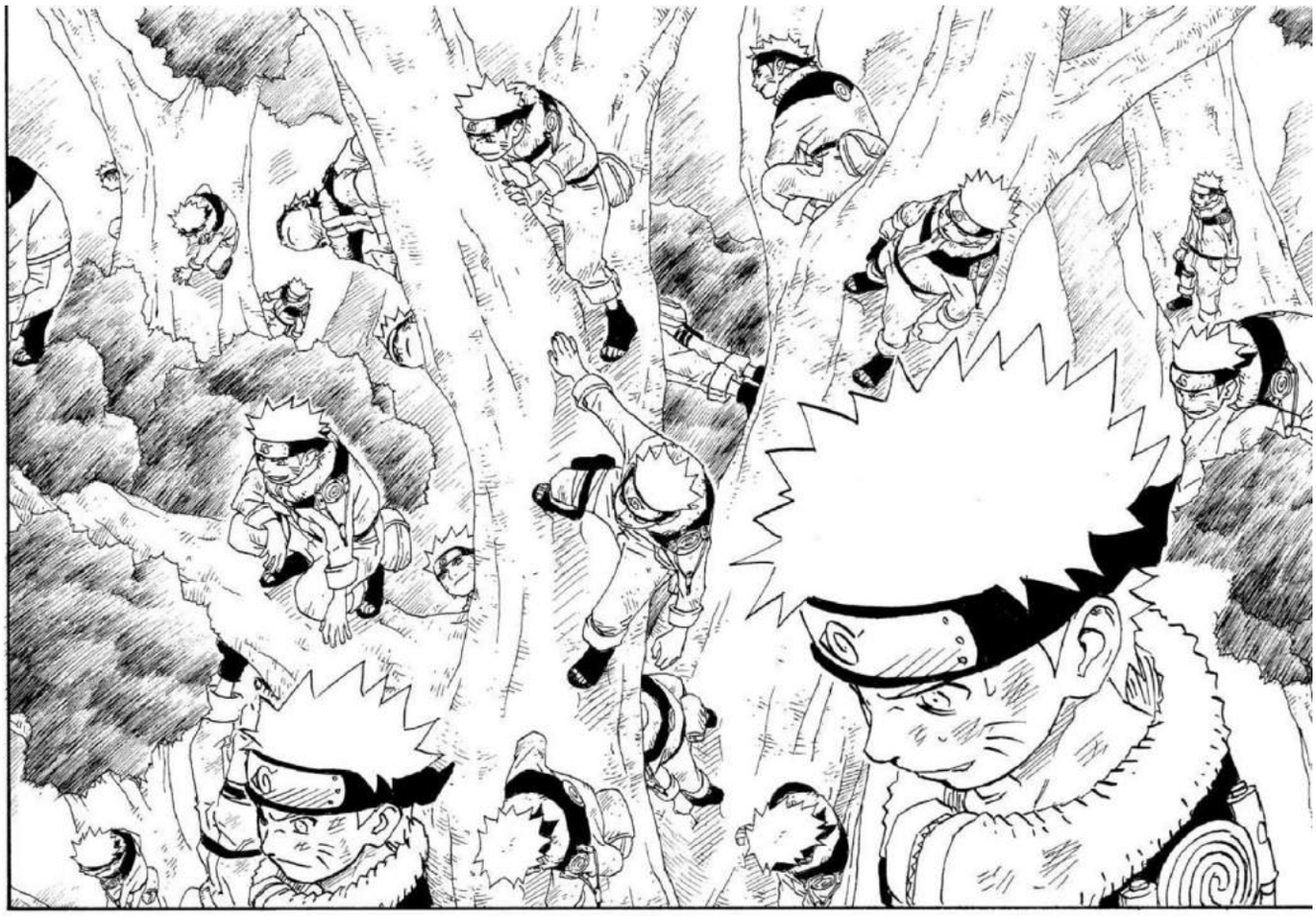
BO

WE NOW BRING YOU NARUTO'S WHIRLING SWIRLING NINJA HANDBOOK!!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, FOLKS!!

Number 134:

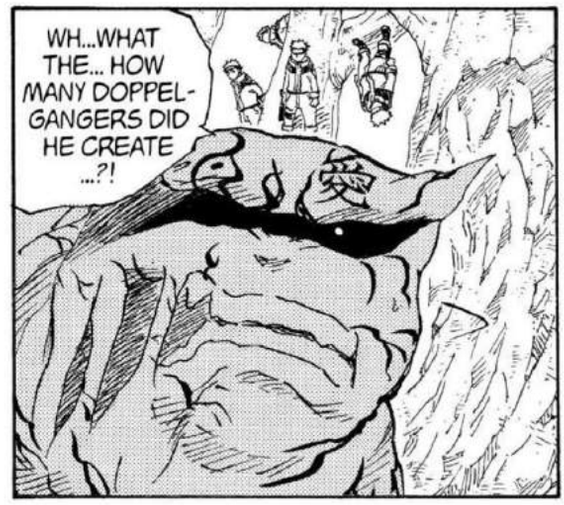


Naruto's Ninja Handbook!!



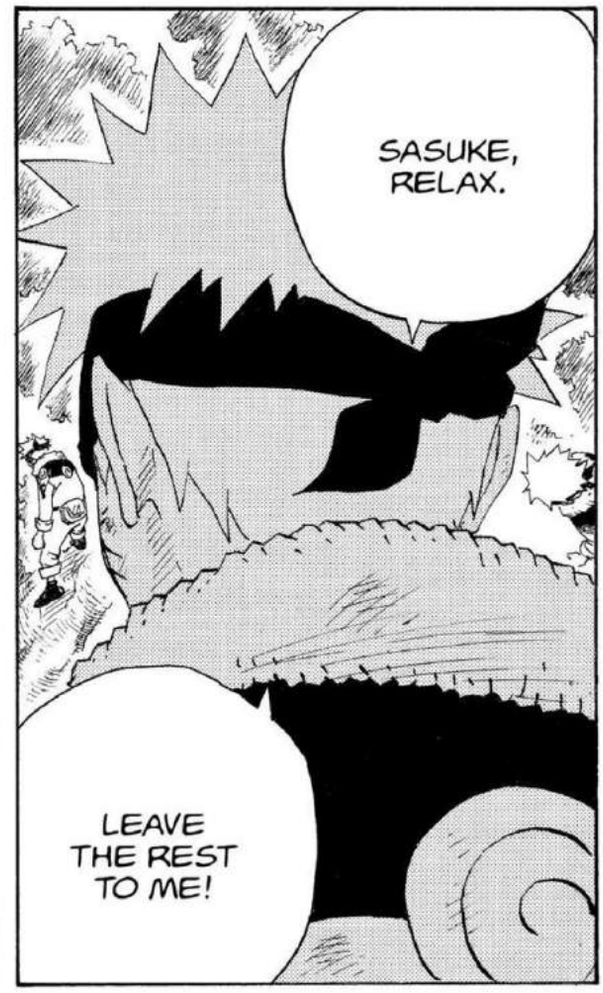
...WH...WHOA... INCREDIBLE ...

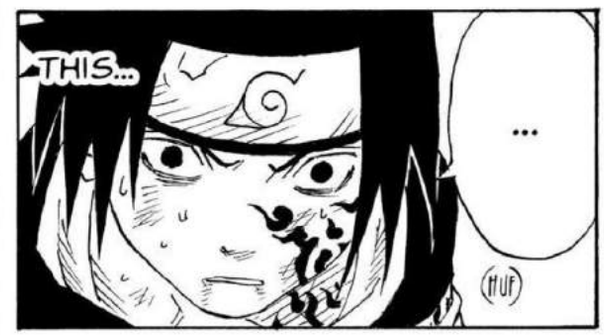
WH... WHAT IS THIS?!


WH...WHAT THE... HOW MANY DOPPEL-GANGERS DID HE CREATE ...?!

...
YOU... THIS...

ALL RIGHT, Y'ALL!!
TIME TO MOVE !!


SASUKE, RELAX.
LEAVE THE REST TO ME!


...
THIS...

GO!!
SHAA

!!

THIS IS NARUTO?!

NARUTO'S NINJA HAND-BOOK!

I CAN ONLY SHIELD MYSELF WITH THE SAND!!
I HAVEN'T RECOVERED FROM THAT LAST ATTACK...
!!

EVERY-WHERE SHURIKEN!!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
WHIP

SHOOF
SHOOF
SHOOF

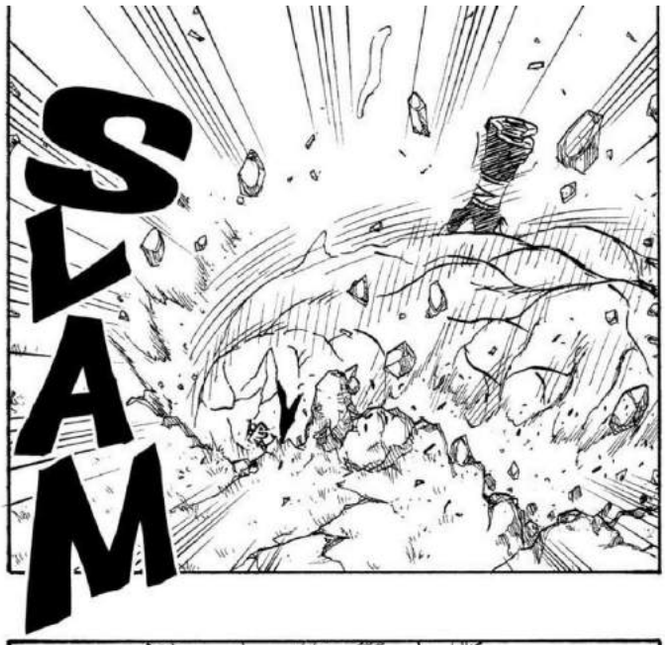
!!

THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK

THOCK
KI!
MA!
ZU!
U!

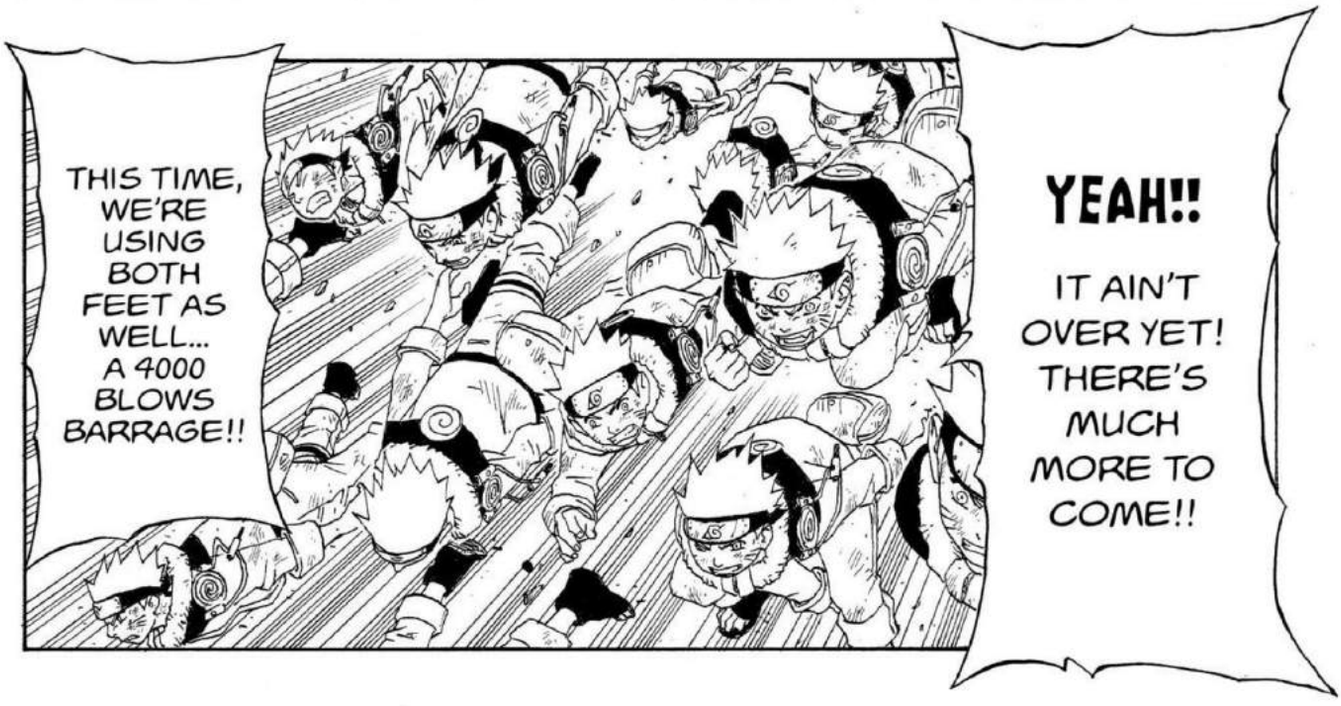
NARUTO'S 2000 BLOWS...

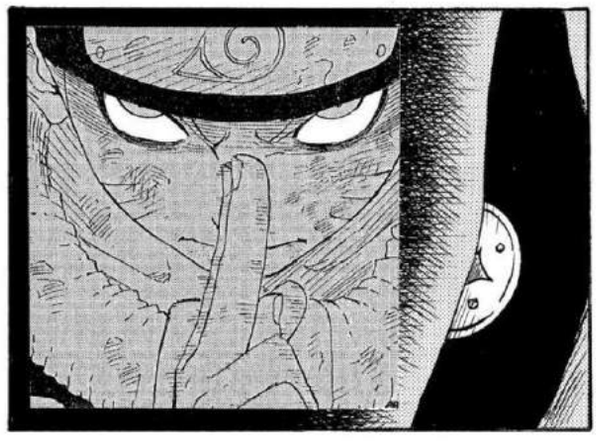
READ THIS WAY
!
愛
...
BARRAGE
!!


SLAM

THUD

ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
UGH... WH...WHAT IS HE...

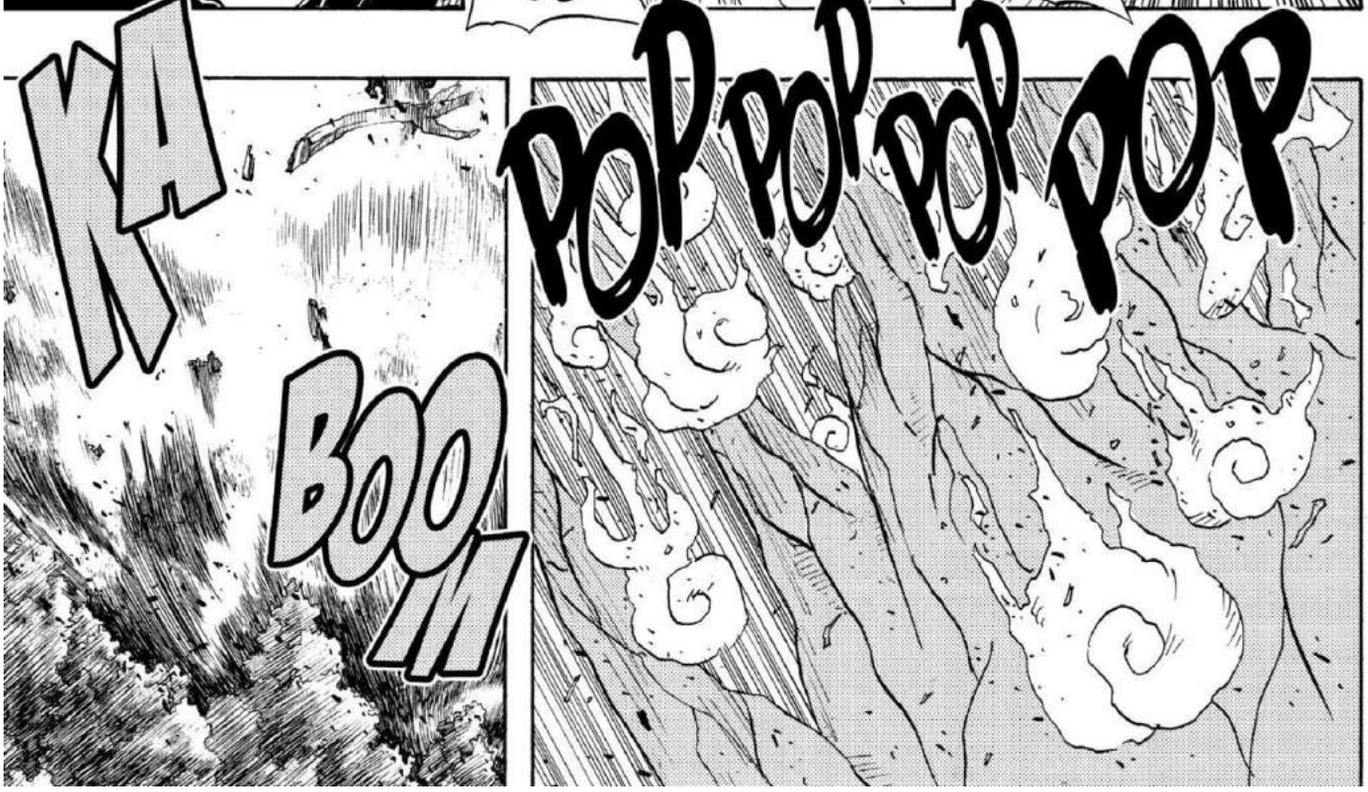

THIS TIME, WE'RE USING BOTH FEET AS WELL... A 4000 BLOWS BARRAGE!!
YEAH!!
IT AIN'T OVER YET! THERE'S MUCH MORE TO COME!!

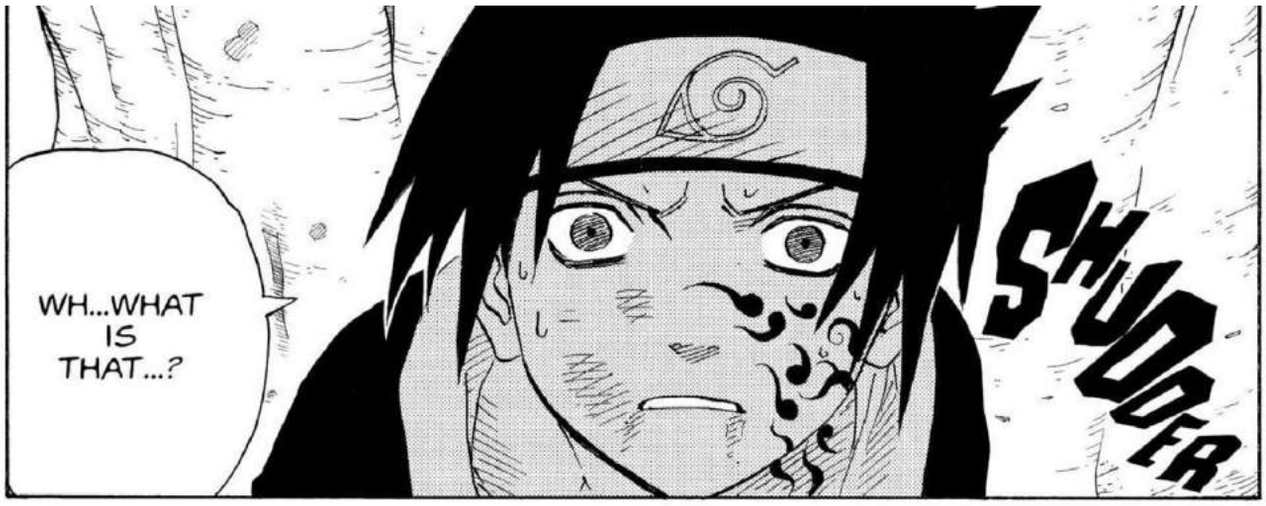


THERE'S NO WAY... I...I CAN'T...

NO WAY... HE'S REALLY GOT GAARA CORNERED...

I WILL NOT LOSE TO SOME-ONE LIKE YOU!
KOOOOOAK!!
O...OH NO, DON'T TELL ME... IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING?!

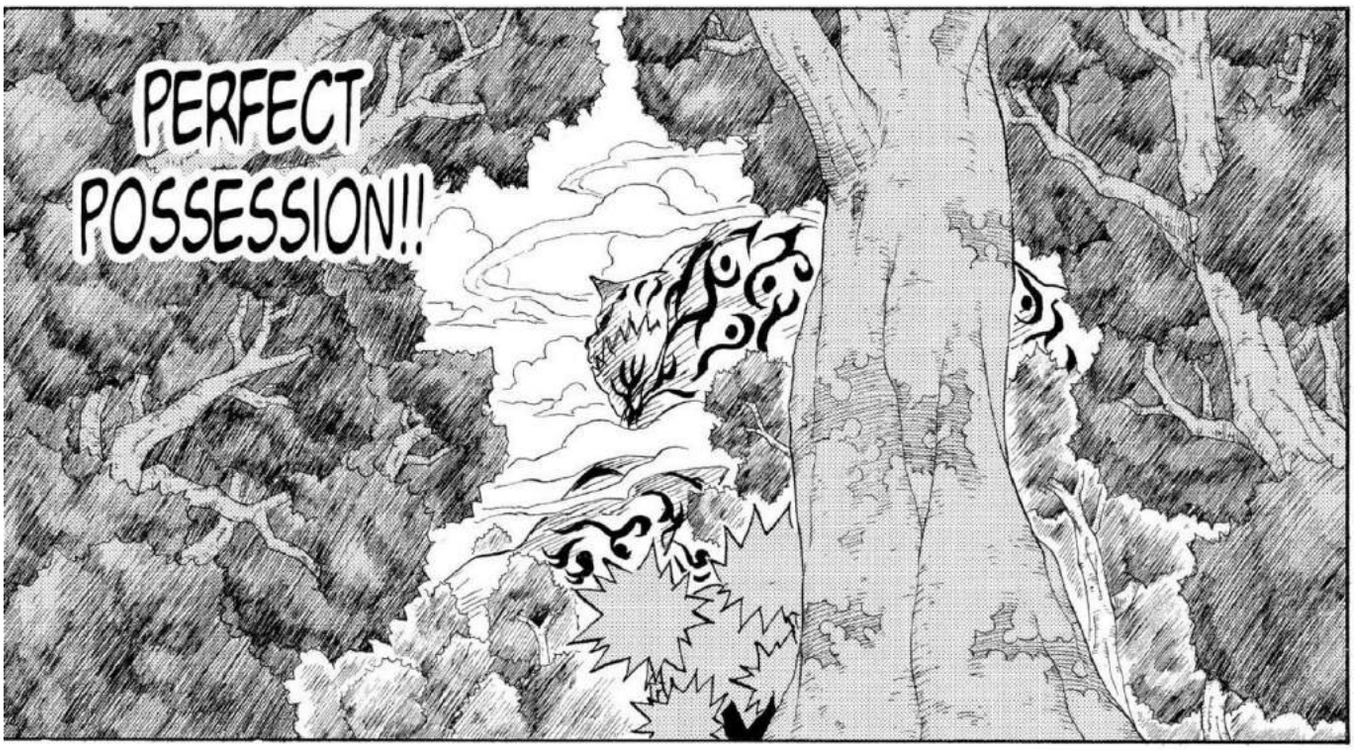

POP POP POP POP
KA
BOOM


WH...WHAT IS THAT...?
SHUDDER

IT...IT'S FINALLY EMERGED?

HIS OPPONENT IS QUITE GOOD!
CROAK!

...!


PERFECT POSSESSION!!

IT'S HUGE...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
SO THAT'S... THE MONSTER THAT'S INSIDE HIM, HUH...

SWIR
!!
HUF
HUF

WAAAH!!
SQSH

DARN IT... I USED UP MY CHAKRA WITH THOSE DOPPEL-GANGERS JUST NOW...
SLITHER SLITHER

SWSH
SNAP SNAP

!!

NARUTO!!
!

...
SLITHER
SLITHER

SLITHER
亥 戌
BOAR DOG
酉 申
ROOSTER MONKEY
未
SHEEP ...

SLITHER
SLITHER

CRUNCH

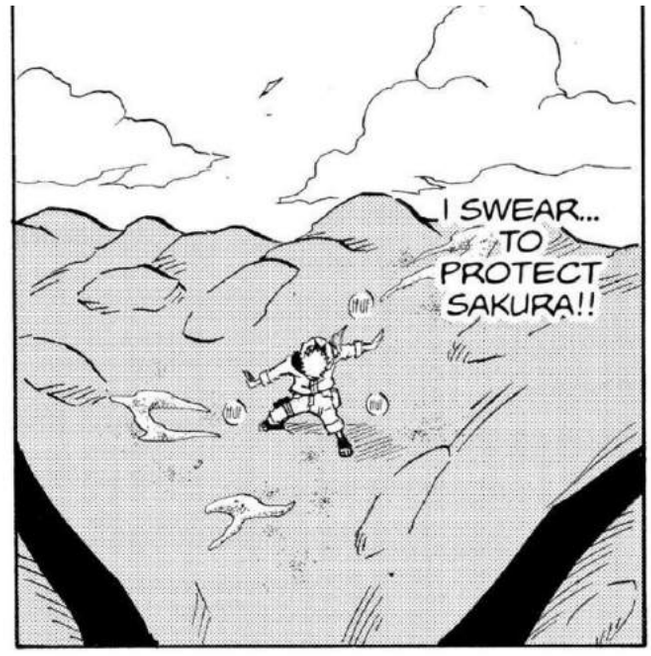
SABAKUKYÛ! THE COFFIN OF CRUSHING SAND!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS FORCED TO REVEAL MYSELF... BUT IT'S ALL OVER NOW...

DARN! CAN'T GET UP...!!
THROB
CREAK
THROB

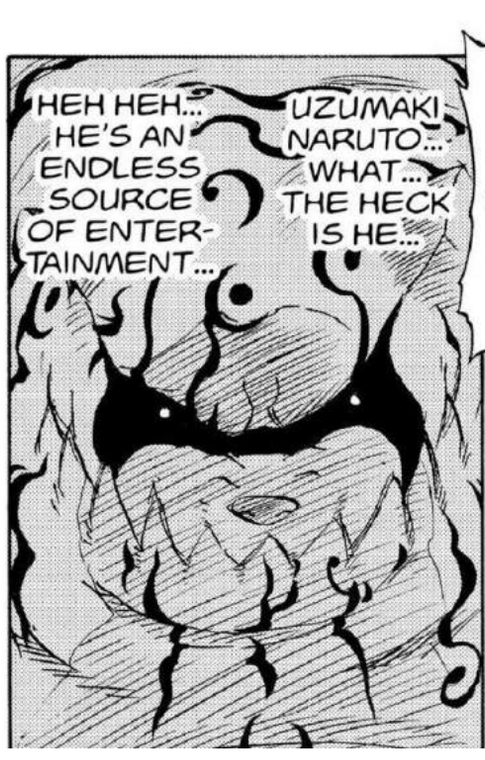
PO
D
SABAKU-SÔSÔ! IMPLODING SAND FUNERAL!
KUCHIYOSE NO JUTSU! THE ART OF SUMMONING!!
ONIFO

ハヤ

THE TRAINING'S FINALLY PAYING OFF! AWESOME! I CAN DO IT!!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME ?!
WHAT THE–? YOU AGAIN...?
PUMP


I SWEAR... TO PROTECT SAKURA!!
HUF
HUF

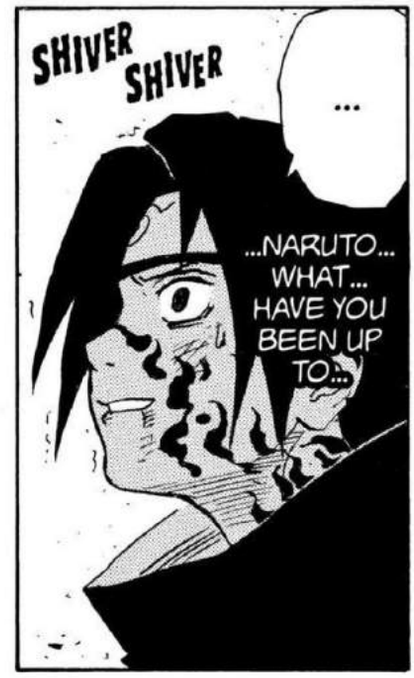
OH MY...
...!

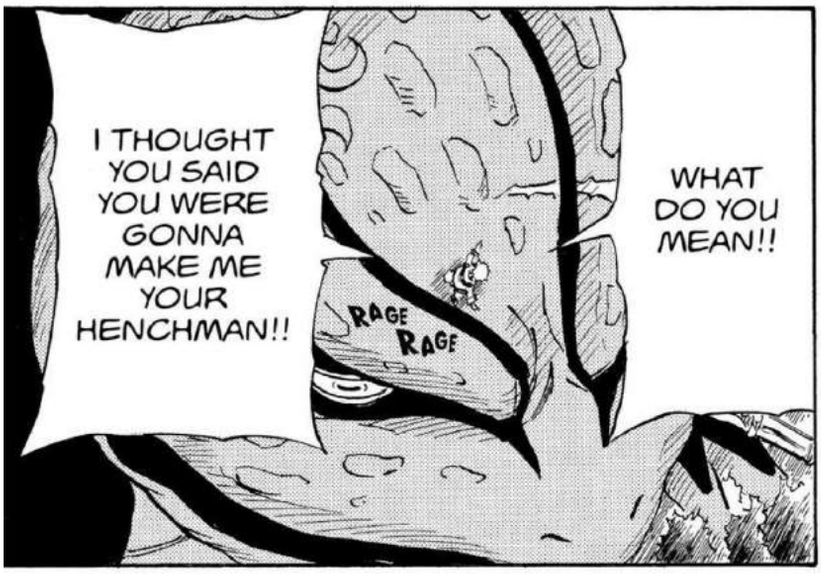

HEH HEH... HE'S AN ENDLESS SOURCE OF ENTER-TAINMENT...
UZUMAKI NARUTO... WHAT... THE HECK IS HE...

I'M REALLY COUNTING ON YA, CHIEF!!
HEY, CHIEF TOAD, SIR! FIGHT WITH ME, PLEASE, WILL YA?!!
HUF

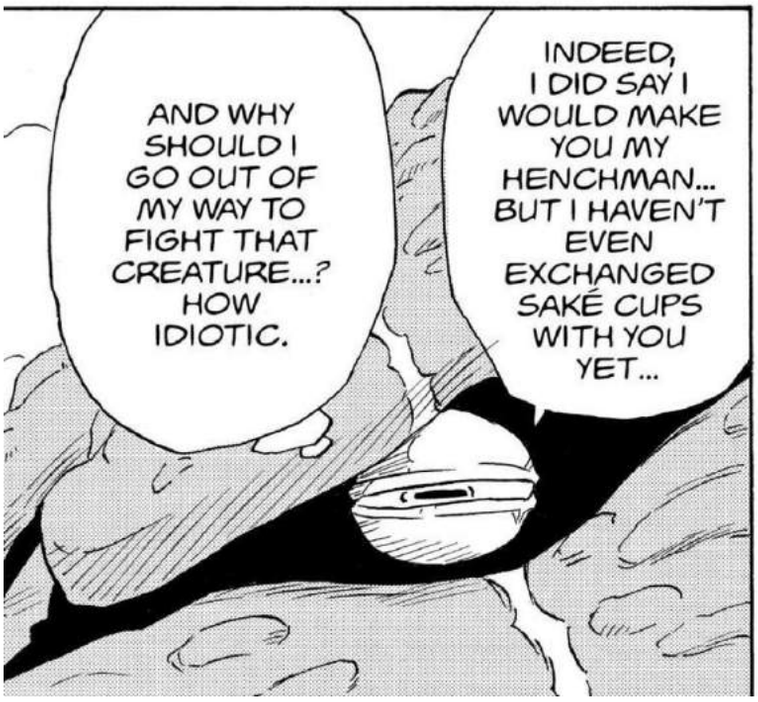
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... THAT'S SHUKAKU, THE SAND SPIRIT...

...NO THANKS!!


SHIVER SHIVER
...
...NARUTO... WHAT... HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO...


I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA MAKE ME YOUR HENCHMAN!!
RAGE RAGE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!!

WHAT ?!!

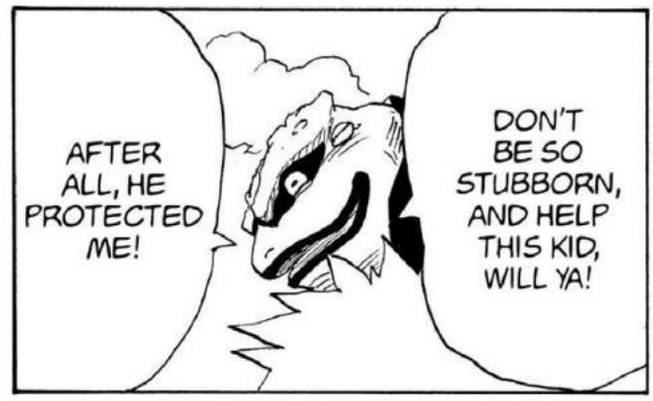

AND WHY SHOULD I GO OUT OF MY WAY TO FIGHT THAT CREATURE...? HOW IDIOTIC.
INDEED, I DID SAY I WOULD MAKE YOU MY HENCHMAN... BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN EXCHANGED SAKÉ CUPS WITH YOU YET...

THAT'S CALLED HONOR-BOUND DUTY!!
AND A BOSS HELPS HIS HENCHMEN WHEN THEY'RE IN TROUBLE, RIGHT!
WHAP
WHAP

I CAN'T DRINK!!
YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING! I'M STILL A KID!
HOP
HOP

PA!!
PA?!
EH?!

SQUISH
!


AFTER ALL, HE PROTECTED ME!
DON'T BE SO STUBBORN, AND HELP THIS KID, WILL YA!

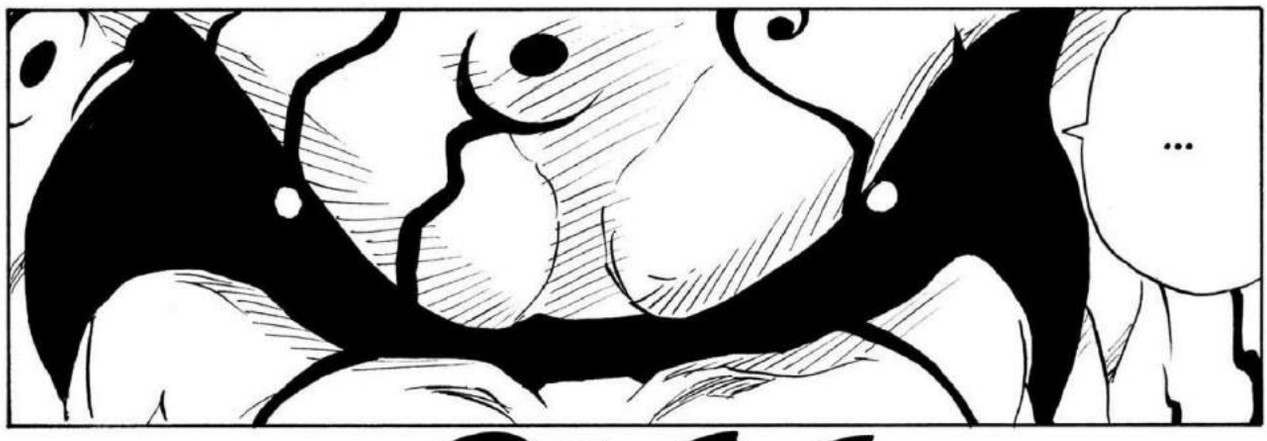
BUT HIM OVER THERE, HE TRIED TO BULLY ME!
I HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO, SO I CAME OUT TO HAVE SOME FUN.

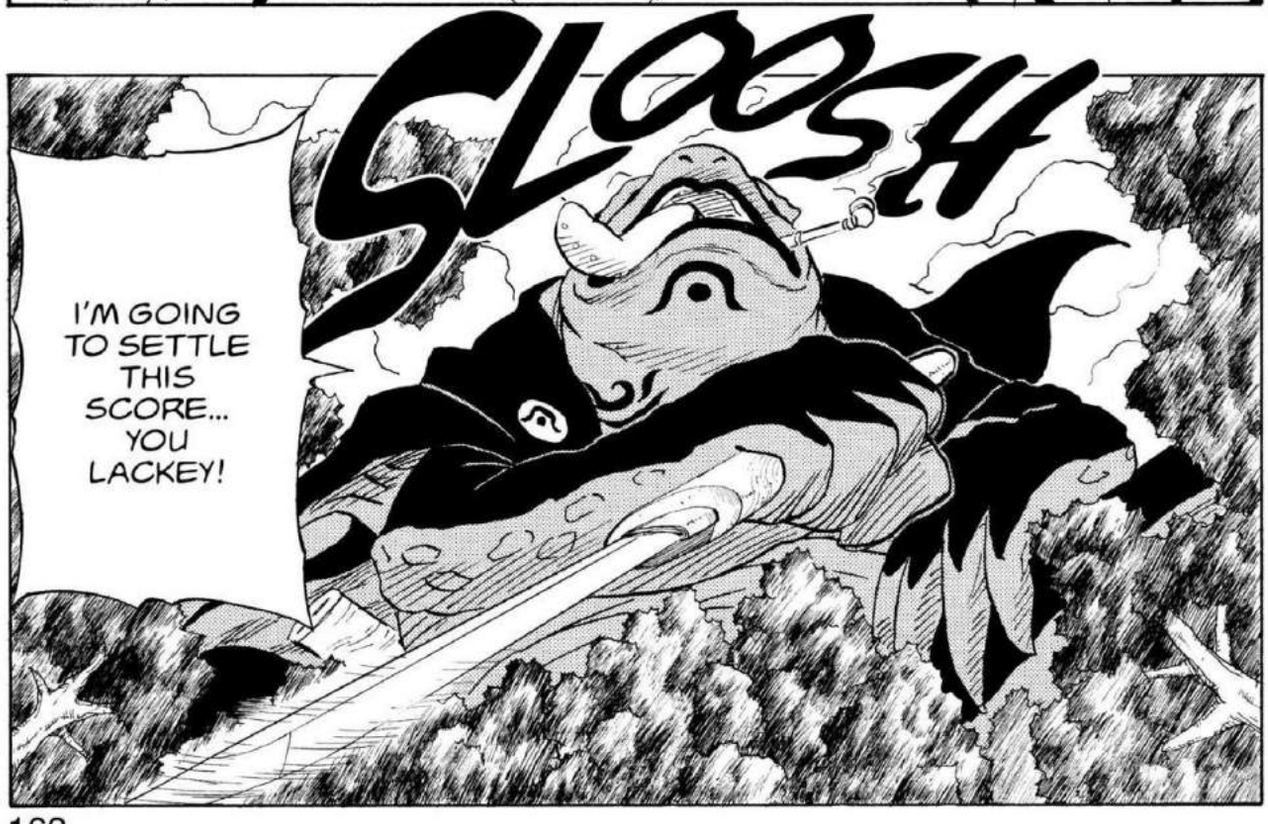
... GAMA-KICHI?!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING HERE...

EH? HUH? HE'S REALLY YOUR DAD?
YUP!

CLICK
AND I'LL SHOW YOU PLENTY OF HONOR-BOUND DUTY!!
...KID... I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS MY HENCHMAN!

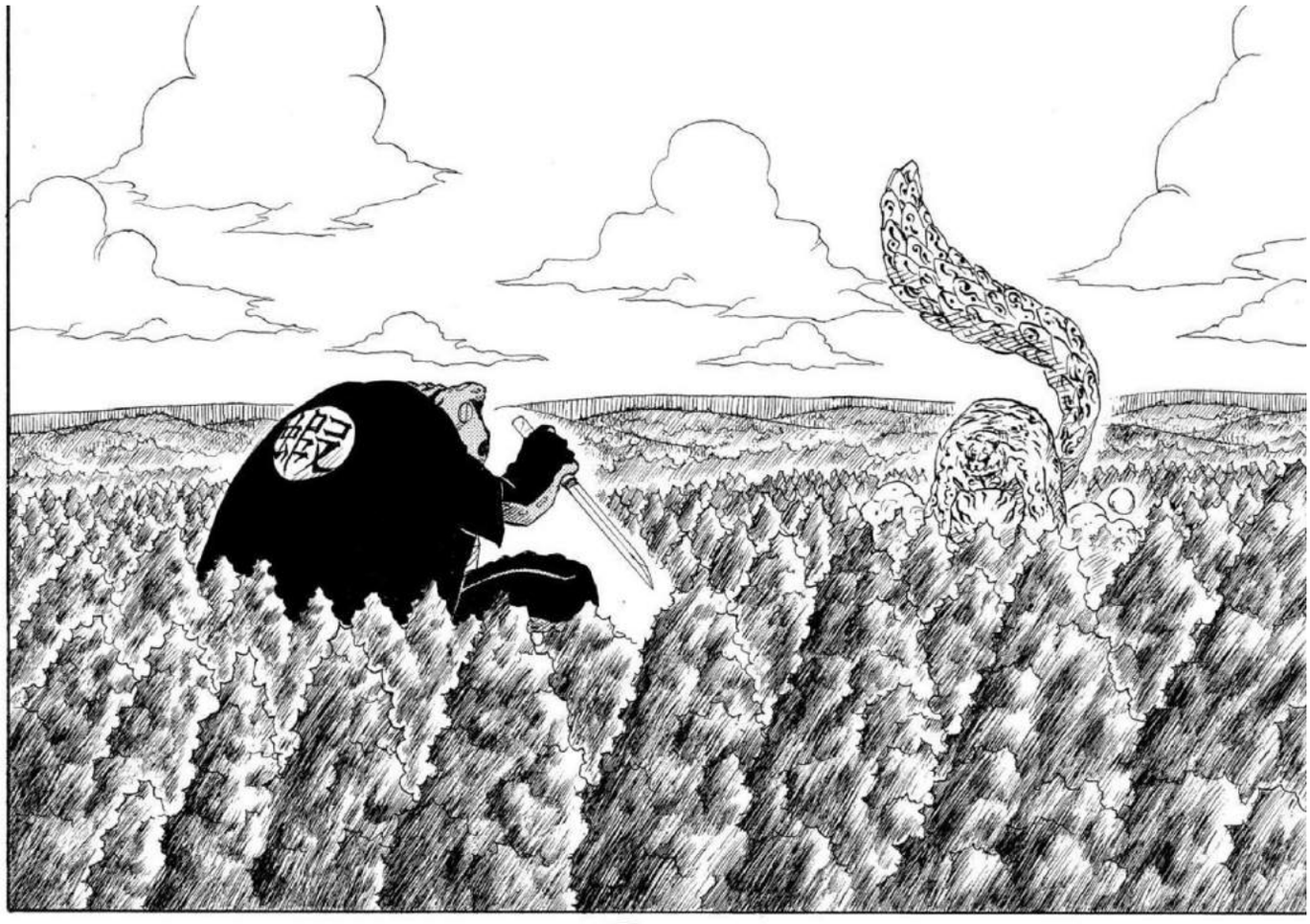
WHAT~~?!
GLARE


...


SLOOSH
I'M GOING TO SETTLE THIS SCORE... YOU LACKEY!

HE'S GOOD!

Number 135:
The Gale-Like Battle...!!



STOMP

!

HOLD ON TIGHT!
ZOOM

WHOA!
SWAY

FLAP

!
GAMA DOSUZAN! TOAD SLASH!!

SHWOOM

W...
WOW...

WHAT A TOUGH FELLOW... HE'S SO SOLID. I BARELY MANAGED TO PULL OUT THE SLASH...!

BOUNCE
CRASH

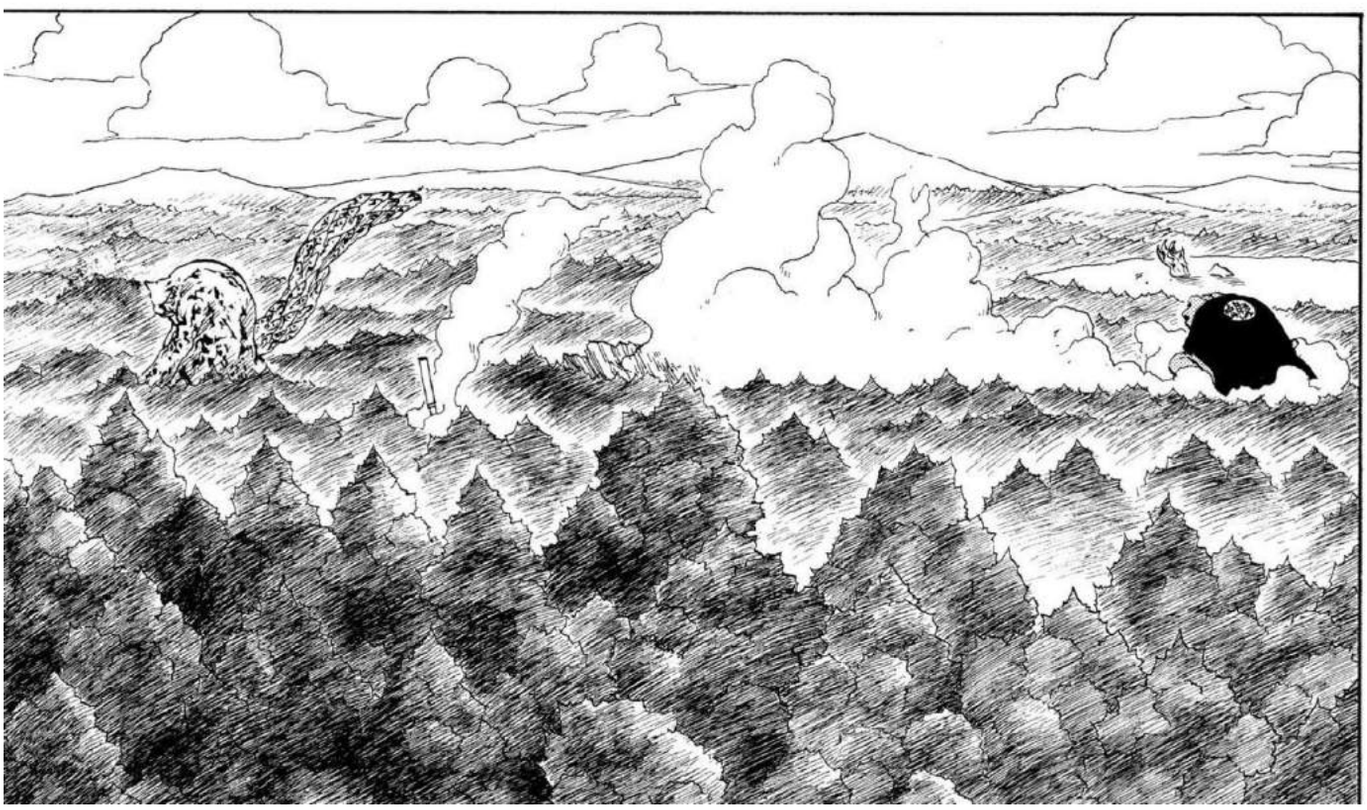
SLAM
SSSHH

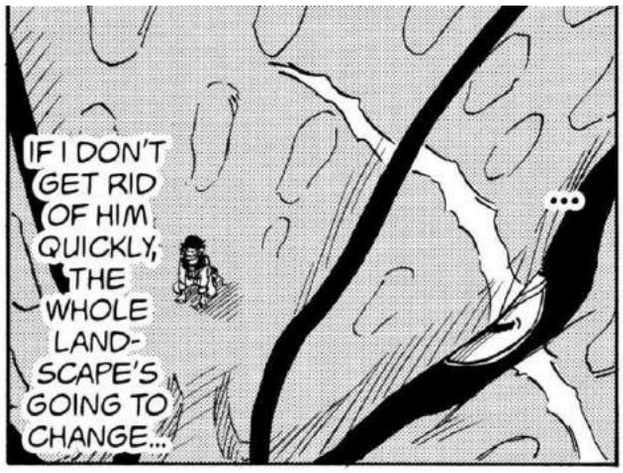
WHOA!

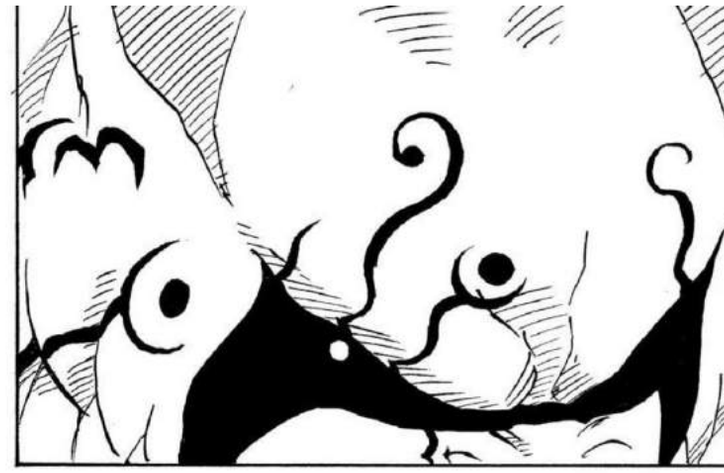
WAAH!!

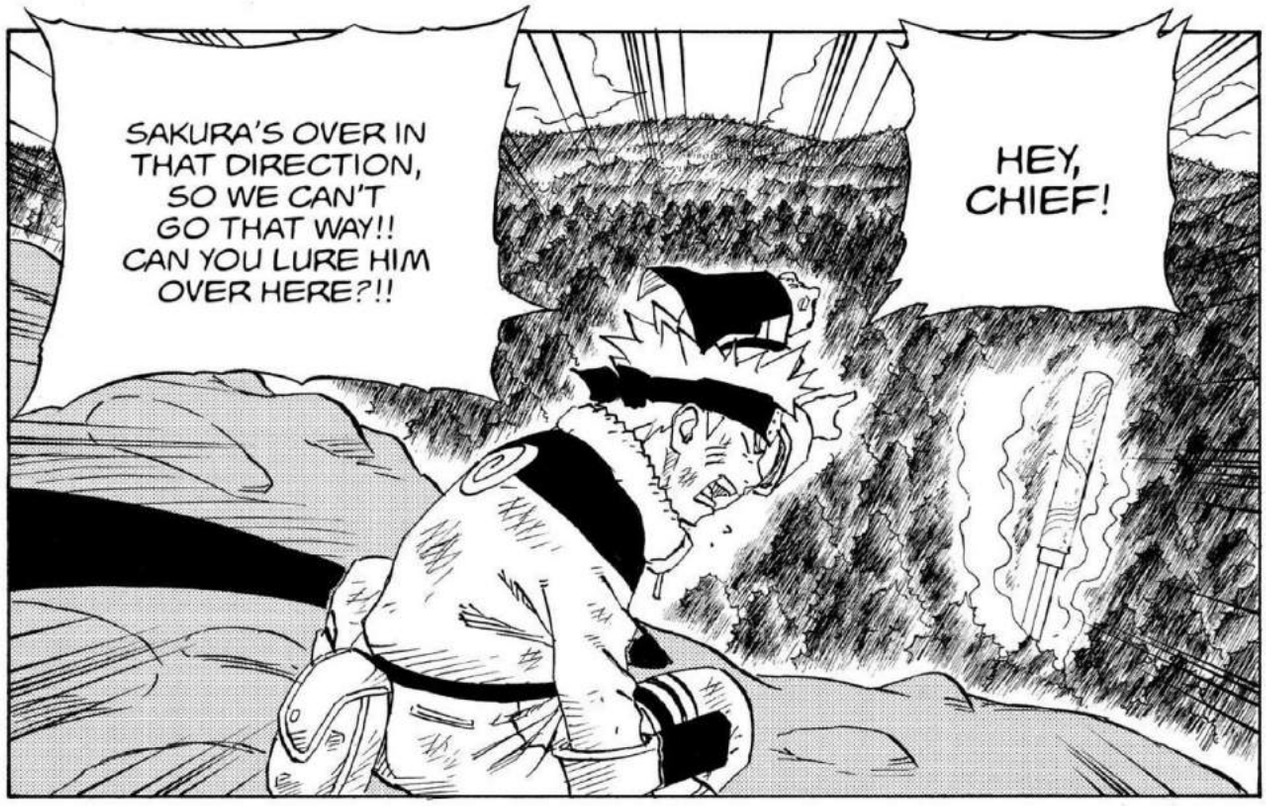
GAH!

THUD




IF I DON'T GET RID OF HIM QUICKLY, THE WHOLE LAND-SCAPE'S GOING TO CHANGE...
...




SAKURA'S OVER IN THAT DIRECTION, SO WE CAN'T GO THAT WAY!! CAN YOU LURE HIM OVER HERE?!!
HEY, CHIEF!

...

OTHERWISE, WE CAN'T SAVE SAKURA!
WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM DOWN!

SAKURA ?
...

...PA.
SHE'S HIS GIRL...

UZUMAKI NARUTO!!
FASCINATING! THIS IS GETTING FUN!!

HUH...

TH... THAT'S...!
...!

SHF

CRRK

...SO THAT'S THE HOST, HUH...

SH...SHOOT, GAARA'S PLANNING TO GO ALL THE WAY...! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE...!!
!!

KSSSSH

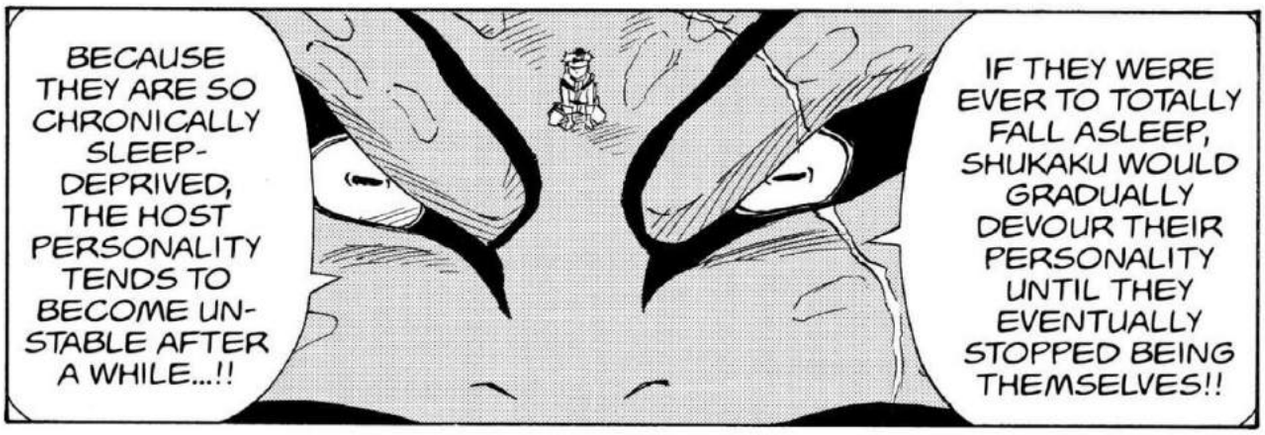
...

...I'LL SHOW YOU THE TRUE STRENGTH OF THE SAND SPIRIT.
IN GRATITUDE FOR GIVING ME SUCH A GOOD TIME SO FAR...

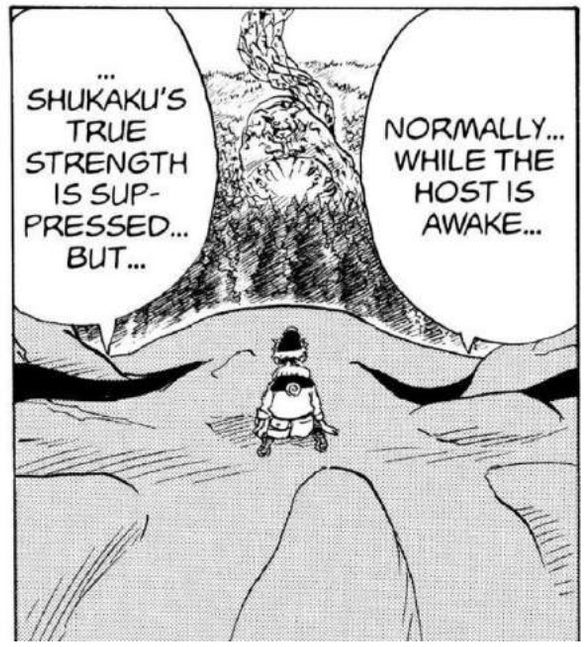
...OUT OF FEAR!
THOSE WHO BECOME POSSESSED BY THE DEMON SHUKAKU STOP BEING ABLE TO TRULY SLEEP SOUNDLY...

LOOK AT THOSE RINGS AROUND HIS EYES.
THAT POOR HOST, HE'S GOT CHRONIC INSOMNIA FROM BEING POSSESSED BY SHUKAKU ...
INSOMNIA?!

?!


BECAUSE THEY ARE SO CHRONICALLY SLEEP-DEPRIVED, THE HOST PERSONALITY TENDS TO BECOME UN-STABLE AFTER A WHILE...!!
IF THEY WERE EVER TO TOTALLY FALL ASLEEP, SHUKAKU WOULD GRADUALLY DEVOUR THEIR PERSONALITY UNTIL THEY EVENTUALLY STOPPED BEING THEMSELVES!!

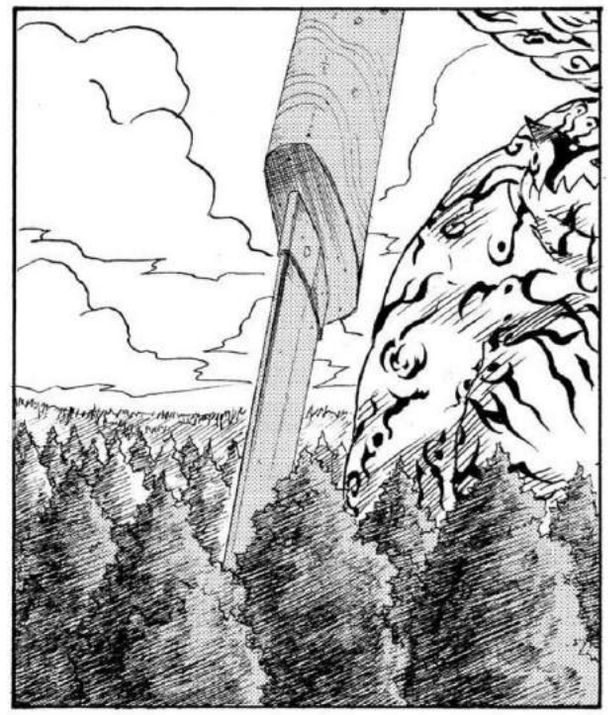
IF THE HOST VOLUNTARILY ENTERS SLEEP...


... SHUKAKU'S TRUE STRENGTH IS SUP-PRESSED... BUT...
NORMALLY... WHILE THE HOST IS AWAKE...

...

FSSS
SSF
TANUKI NEIRI NO JUTSU! THE ART OF PLAYING POSSUM !!

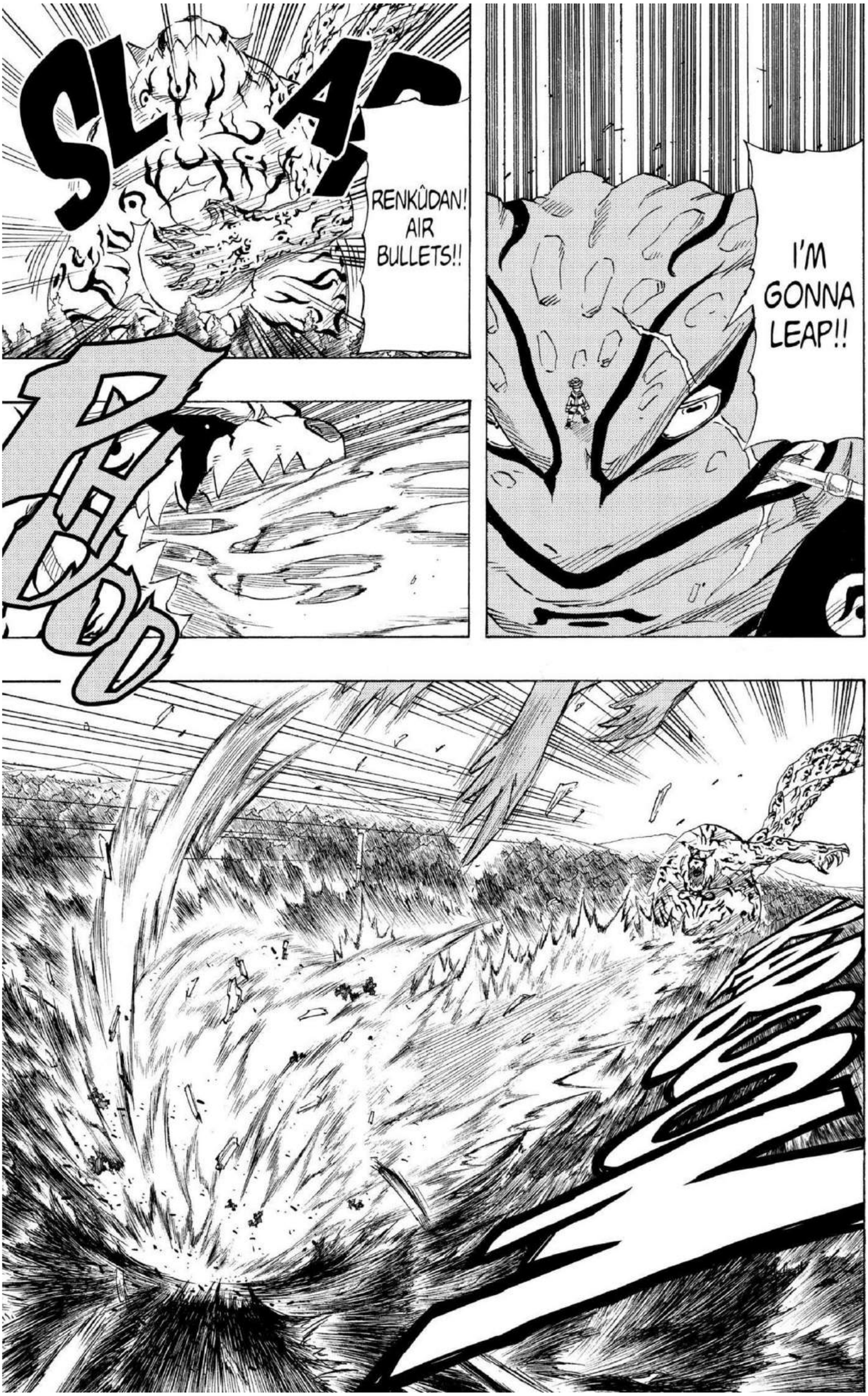
SLUMP
SWAY SWAY



FREE, I'M FINALLY FREE!!
WHA-HAHA-HAHA-HAA!!

WIND STYLE...!
FWUMP

OOH, STRAIGHT OUT THE GATE, I SEE SOMEONE I WANNA SLAUGHTER !!
! YEAH!


SLAP
RENKÛDAN! AIR BULLETS!!
I'M GONNA LEAP!!
FUUD

SKOOSH
WATER STYLE...!
SKOOSH

WAAH!
LIQUID BULLETS!!
THOOT THOOT
ZOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM
AIR BULLETS!!

SHA-WOOM

THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT!
WATCH OUT, CHIEF!!

PLOOSH
WHAT A BATTLE...
THIS IS LIKE A HURRICANE...

PLOOSH

UGH!!

KA
BOOM

CRASH

I KILLED 'EM, I KILLED 'EM!!
WHEE! I DID IT!

!

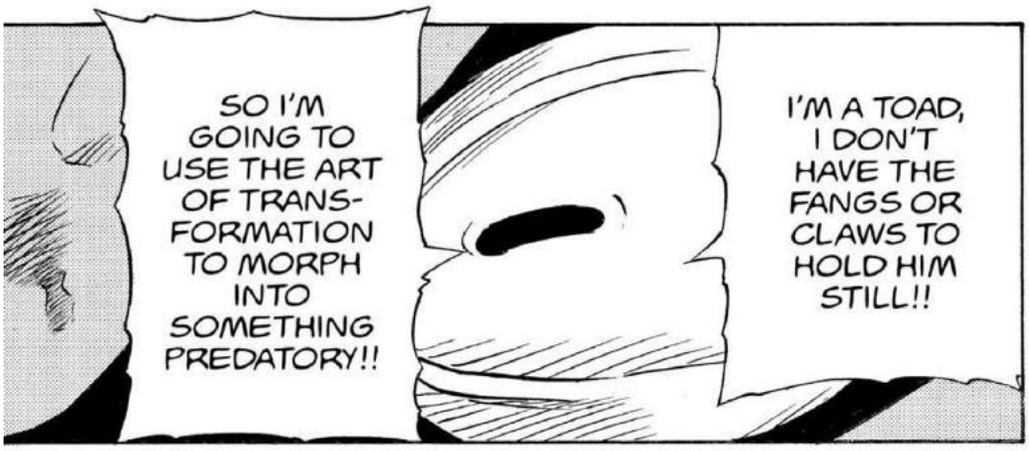
WHOMP
OWW, THAT HURT! THAT LITTLE BALL WAS PACKED WITH AN UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA!!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THERE IS! WE'VE GOT TO CLOBBER THAT HOST BRAT AWAKE!!
THEN THE JUTSU WILL COME UNDONE!!
FLWIP

EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN'T TAKE MANY MORE OF THOSE LITTLE BALLS!
SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!!

WE NEED TO GET UP CLOSE AND STOP THAT FOOL'S MOVEMENTS!
THAT'LL GIVE US THE OPENING TO STRIKE!!

HOW?!


I'M A TOAD, I DON'T HAVE THE FANGS OR CLAWS TO HOLD HIM STILL!!
SO I'M GOING TO USE THE ART OF TRANS-FORMATION TO MORPH INTO SOMETHING PREDATORY!!

AGAIN, HOW?!

'CUZ YOU USED UP THE LAST OF YOUR CHAKRA TO SUMMON ME, RIGHT?!!
SHF

I NEED YOU TO WEAVE THE SIGNS FOR ME... AND I'LL LEND YOU MY CHAKRA!!
TRANSFOR-MATION ISN'T MY STRONG SUIT!
IT'LL BE A COMBO TRANSFOR-MATION!!

GRRR...!

KA

BOOF

HERE WE GO!!
WAIT! OH, NO!

UHH! UHH!
EH?!! SOME-THING WITH FANGS AND CLAWS...

GRRAR

SLAM

GRA
A

CHOMP

GRRRR!!

A FOX?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL. 16!

VIZMANGA

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