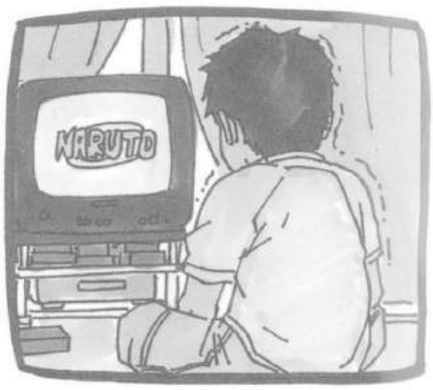
NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

volume 14



岸本斉史

Thanks to everyone's support, *Naruto* has finally become an animated series!

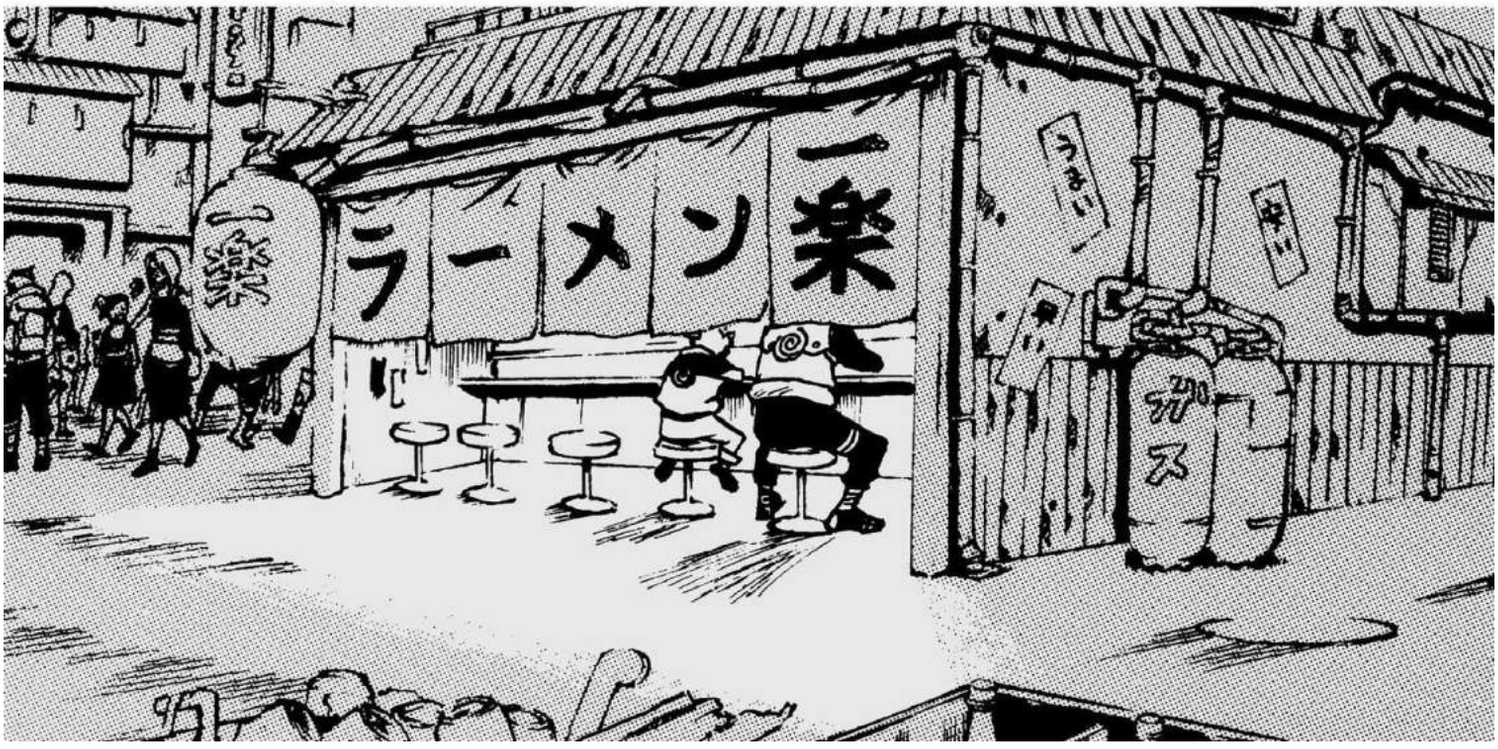
I wrote in the first manga volume, "The first time I won an award...I was so happy." And when my first comic book was published, I was 10 times happier still.

But the anime makes me 100 times happier! So please watch the *Naruto* anime *and* keep reading the manga.

Oh! But I guess I'm happiest knowing that people are still enjoying *Naruto*. Yup, that's it!

—*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. 14
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #51–53. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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

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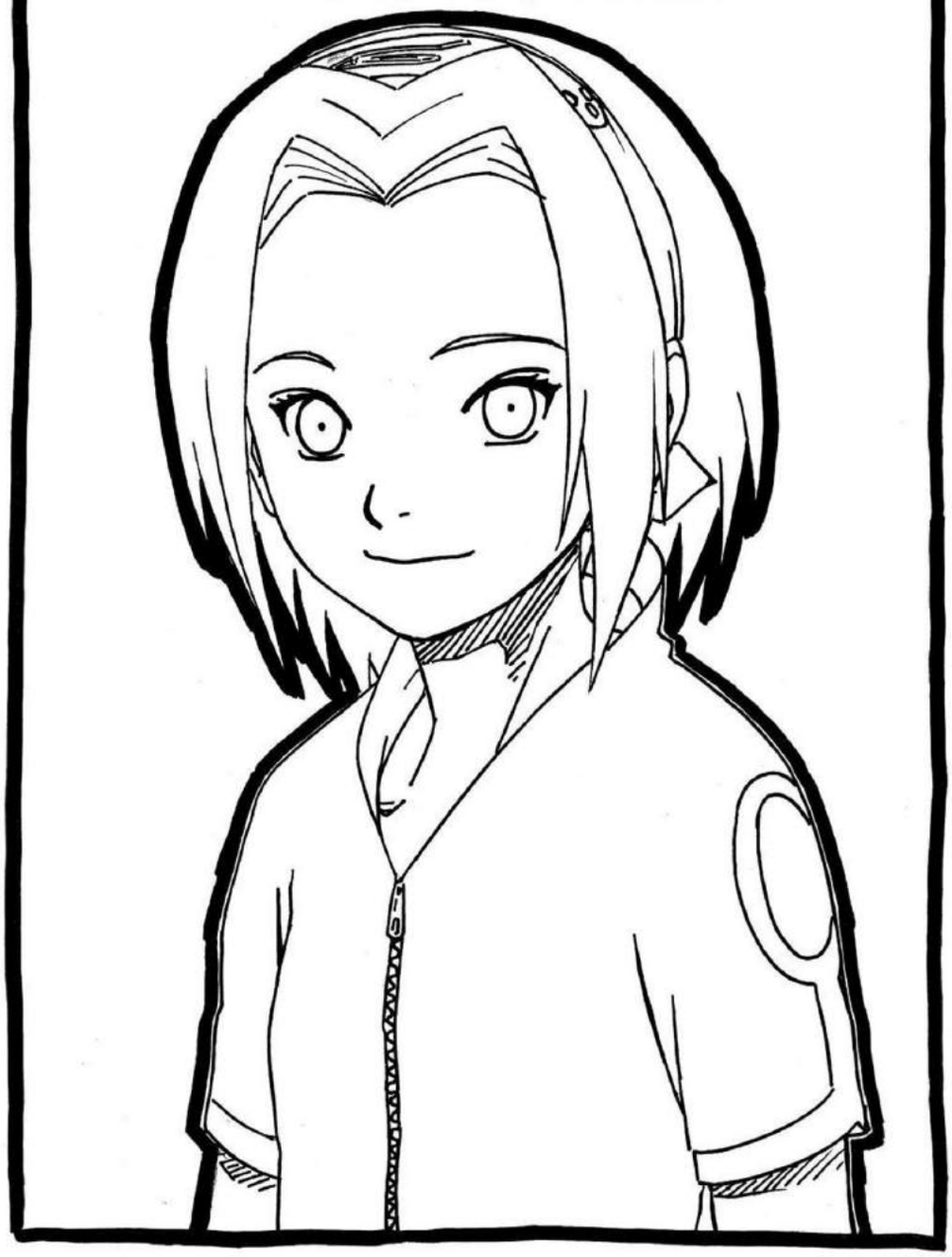
SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO

VOL. 14

HOKAGE VS. HOKAGE!!



STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

SAKURA サクラ

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

NARUTO ナルト

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

SASUKE サスケ

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

The Third Hokage
三代目火影
The leader of Konohagakure. He was retired, but stepped back into the position when the fourth Hokage was killed by the Nine-Tailed Fox.

Gaara 我愛羅
Mysterious, bloodthirsty Gaara is one of the scariest – and strangely familiar – ninja Naruto has ever encountered.

Orochimaru 大蛇丸
A nefarious master of disguise with a master plan of total revenge against the Third Hokage – for what exactly we have yet to learn.

Shikamaru シカマル
One of Naruto's classmates. He specializes in the Shadow Possession technique, and is a skilled ninja despite his lazy demeanor.

Pakkun パックン
A talking dog and excellent tracker who's also a loyal companion to Naruto's teacher Kakashi. Pakkun watches over his students whenever Kakashi can't.

Kakashi カカシ
Although he doesn't have an especially warm personality, Kakashi is protective of his students.

THE STORY SO FAR...

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

The Chunin Exams come to a shocking conclusion! As Sasuke and Gaara face off, an invasion commences, halting the exams for good. Sasuke takes off after the fleeing Gaara, and Kakashi sends Naruto, Sakura and Shikamaru after him. As Chaos Spreads, Orochimaru, disguised as Kazekage, takes the Third Hokage hostage. Orochimaru's *Operation Destroy Konoha* is under way, complete with a dastardly – and forbidden – secret weapon…

NARUTO

VOL. 14
HOKAGE VS. HOKAGE!!

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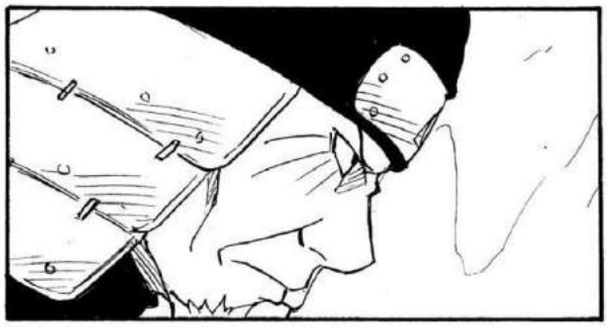
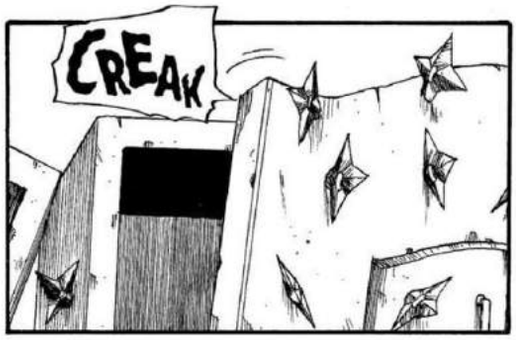
CREAK

CREAK

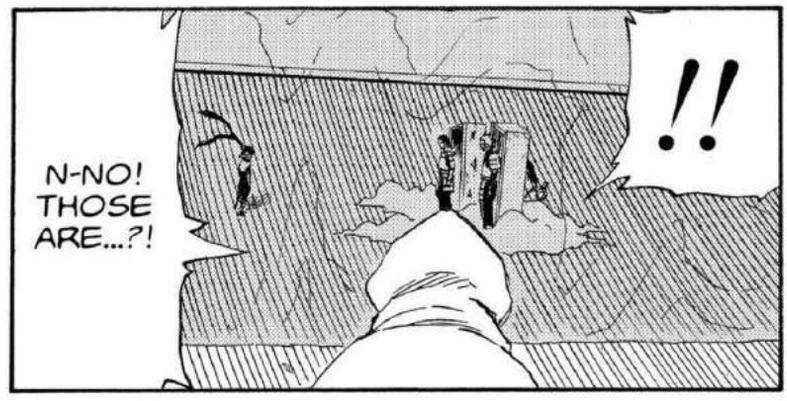
Number 118: Detainment...!!

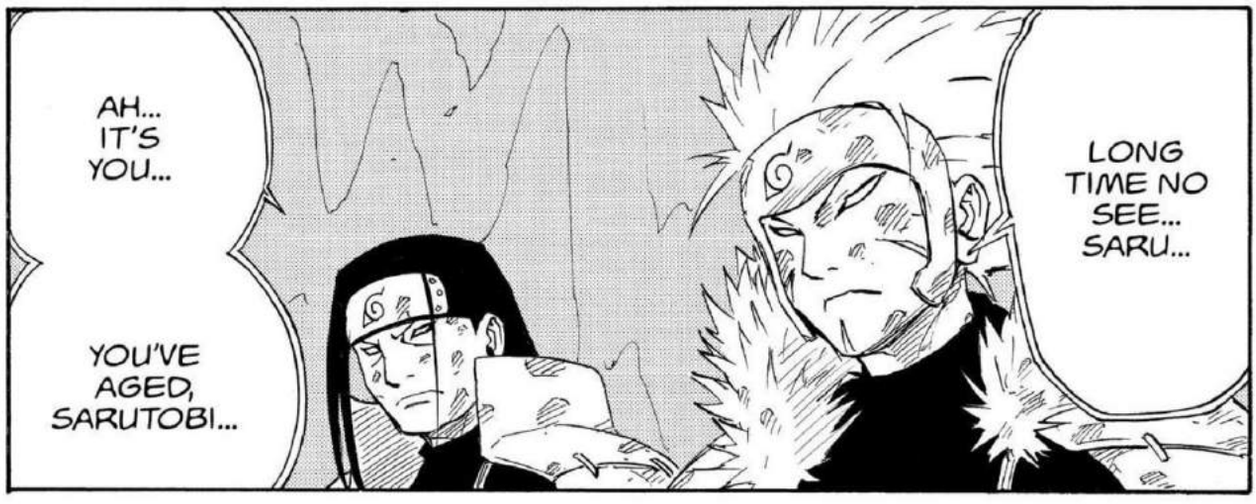




Number 118: Detainment...!!

THEY'RE WHAT...?
...?!


N-NO! THOSE ARE...?!
!!

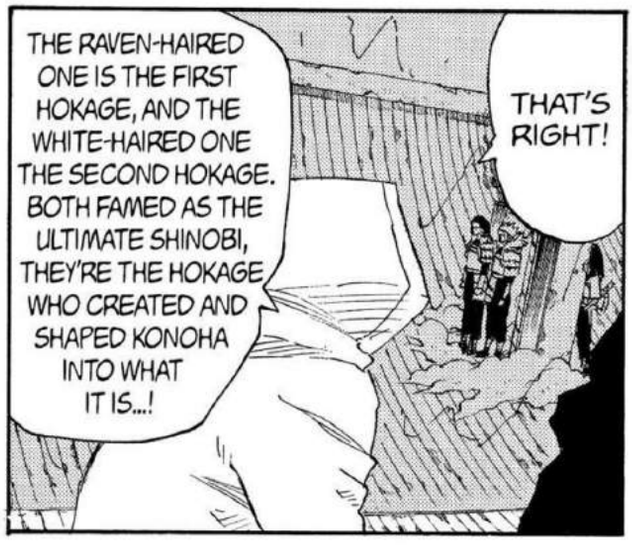

AH... IT'S YOU...
YOU'VE AGED, SARUTOBI...
LONG TIME NO SEE... SARU...

HE SUMMONED THEM... BUT WHO ARE THEY?!
THIS IS... NOT GOOD...

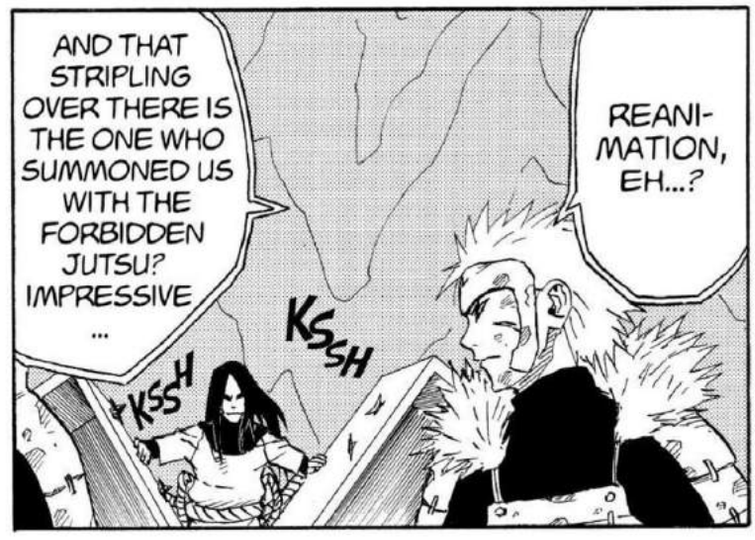
PLEASE PREPARE YOUR-SELVES...

I AM SO SORRY...
I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD SEE YOU TWO AGAIN. AND UNDER SUCH CIRCUM-STANCES...

FIRST HOKAGE! SECOND HOKAGE!!



WHICH MEANS, SARUTOBI...
...WE MUST FIGHT YOU...


AND THAT STRIPLING OVER THERE IS THE ONE WHO SUMMONED US WITH THE FORBIDDEN JUTSU? IMPRESSIVE ...
REANI-MATION, EH...?
KSSH
KSSH

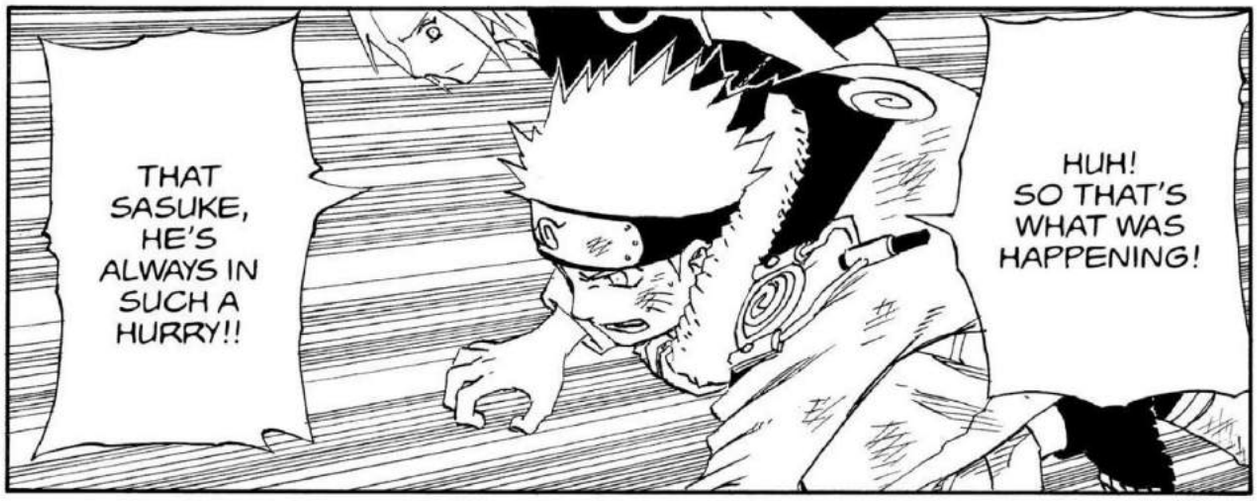
WHY DON'T WE GET STARTED?
CLUNK
CLUNK
ENOUGH WITH THE OLD FOLKS' SMALL TALK.

NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES FROM PLAYING WITH TIME.
MOCKING THE DEAD...

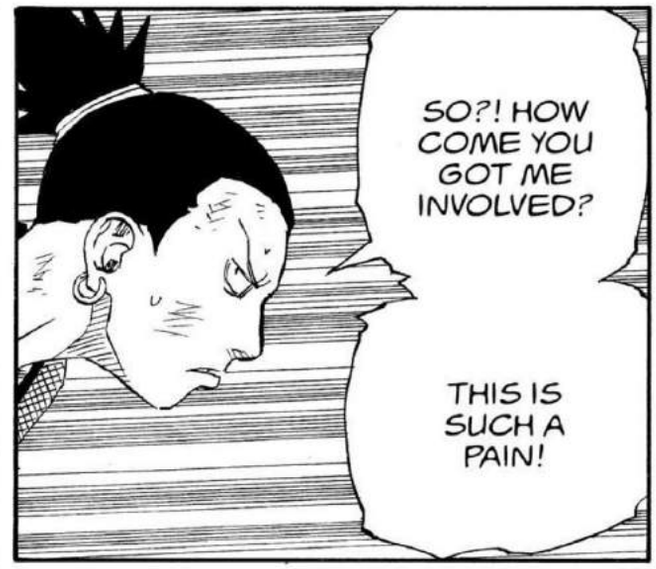
WAR... NO MATTER WHAT THE ERA...

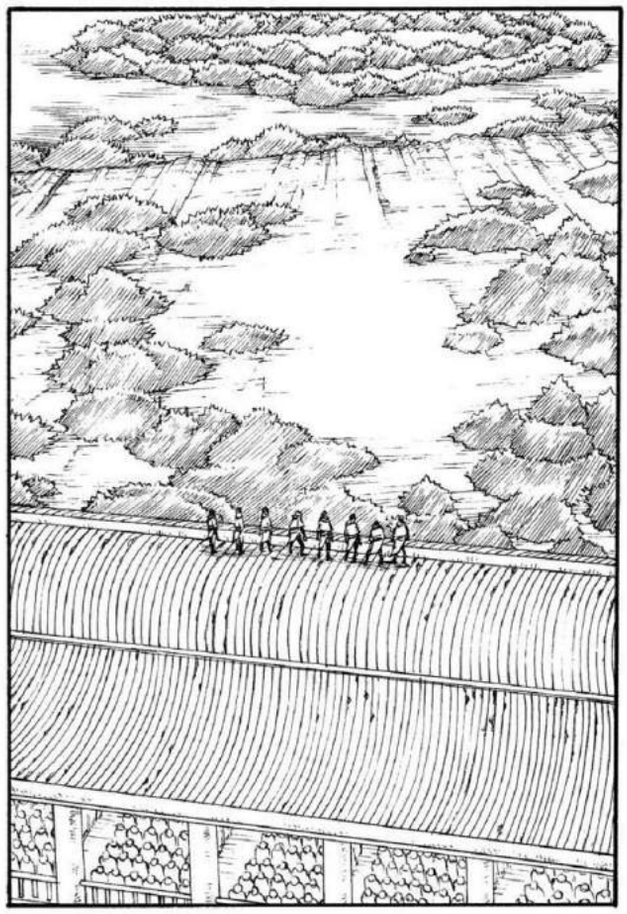
...HEH HEH HEH, YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT!

SHOOM


THAT SASUKE, HE'S ALWAYS IN SUCH A HURRY!!
HUH! SO THAT'S WHAT WAS HAPPENING!

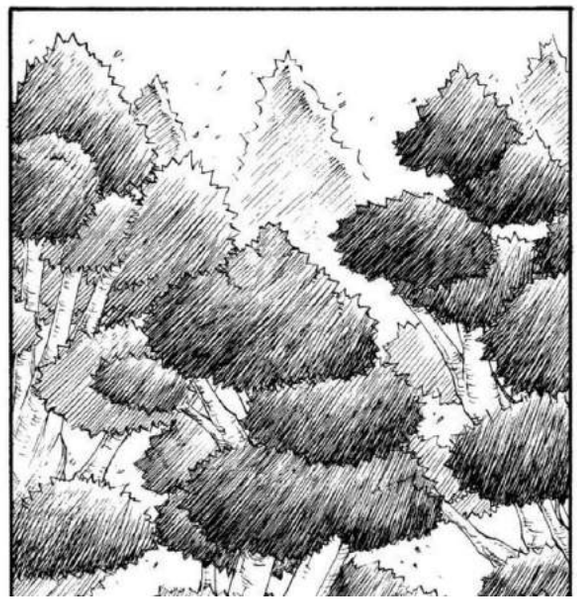
I HAD NO CHOICE! IT WAS MASTER KAKASHI'S COMMAND!


SO?! HOW COME YOU GOT ME INVOLVED?
THIS IS SUCH A PAIN!



SNIFF
SNIFF

THIS WAY!
SPROING



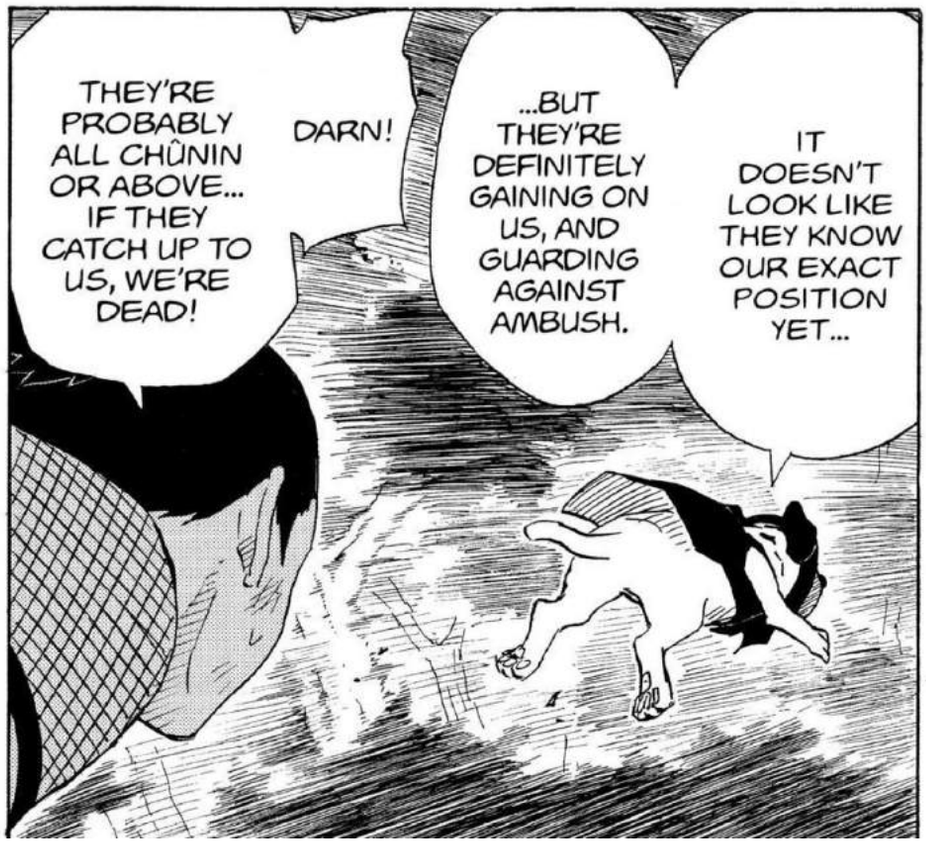
SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM

SNIFF
SNIFF
!!

SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM

HUH...? WHY?!
HEY!! ALL OF YOU, HURRY UP!

PLUS ONE MORE... NINE SHINOBI ON OUR TAILS!
THERE ARE TWO SQUADS, THAT MEANS EIGHT SHINOBI! ACTUALLY...


THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL CHÛNIN OR ABOVE... IF THEY CATCH UP TO US, WE'RE DEAD!
DARN!
...BUT THEY'RE DEFINITELY GAINING ON US, AND GUARDING AGAINST AMBUSH.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY KNOW OUR EXACT POSITION YET...

!!
HEY, ALREADY?! YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING!!

READ THIS WAY
AMBUSH... MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA...

DARN IT! THEN WHY DON'T WE AMBUSH THEM AND GET RID OF 'EM?!

DEAD...!!

EVEN IF THERE ARE TWICE AS MANY OF THEM AS US, AS LONG AS WE SURPRISE THEM...
IF WE LIE IN WAIT FOR THEM, WE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE THE UPPER HAND!

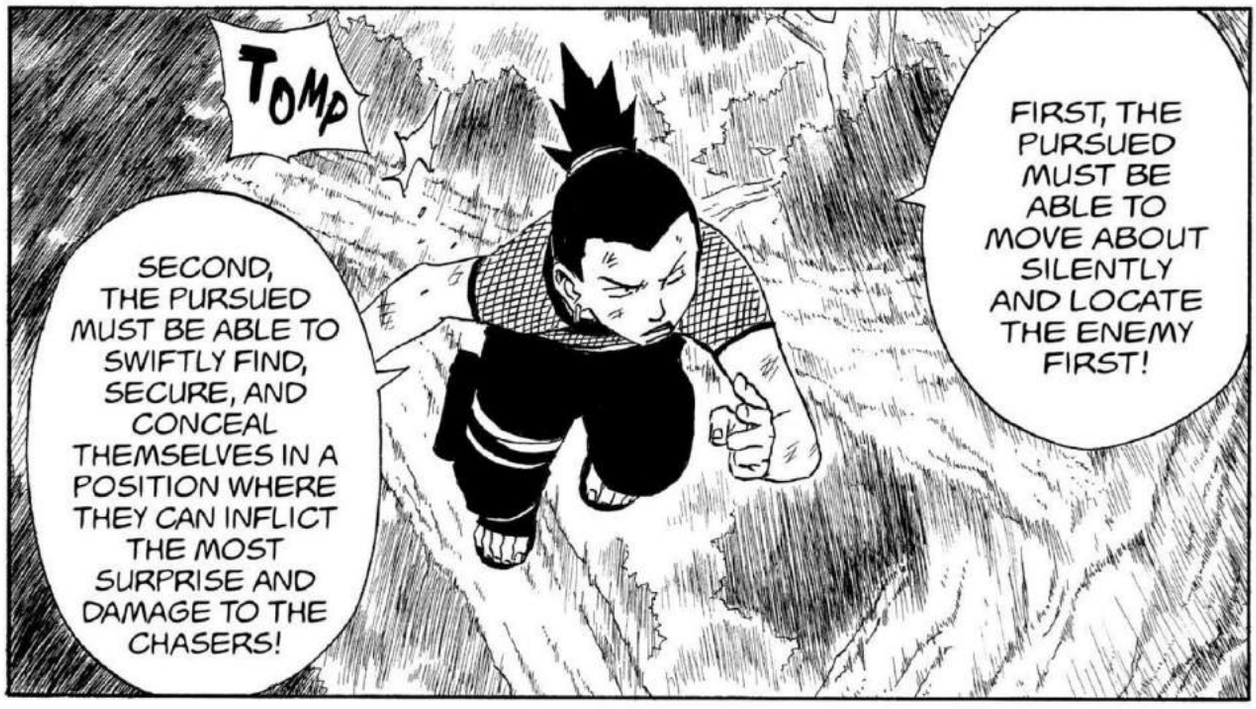
FEH... I THOUGHT WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE, BUT I GUESS NOT...

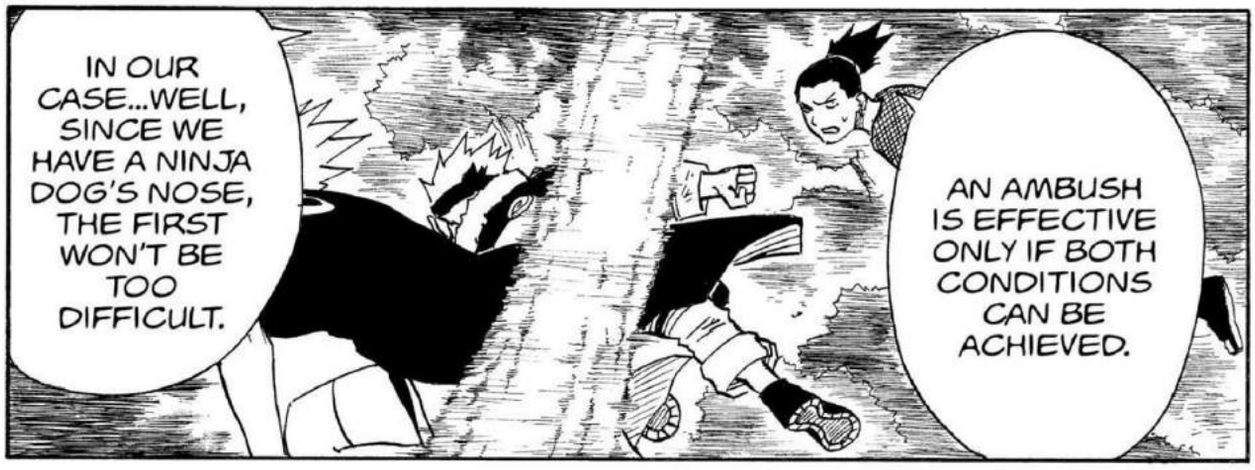
NOPE, WON'T WORK. THEY'RE ALL MINIONS OF OROCHIMARU, A FORMER KONOHA SHINOBI.

YEAH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
HUH?! WHY NOT? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT!

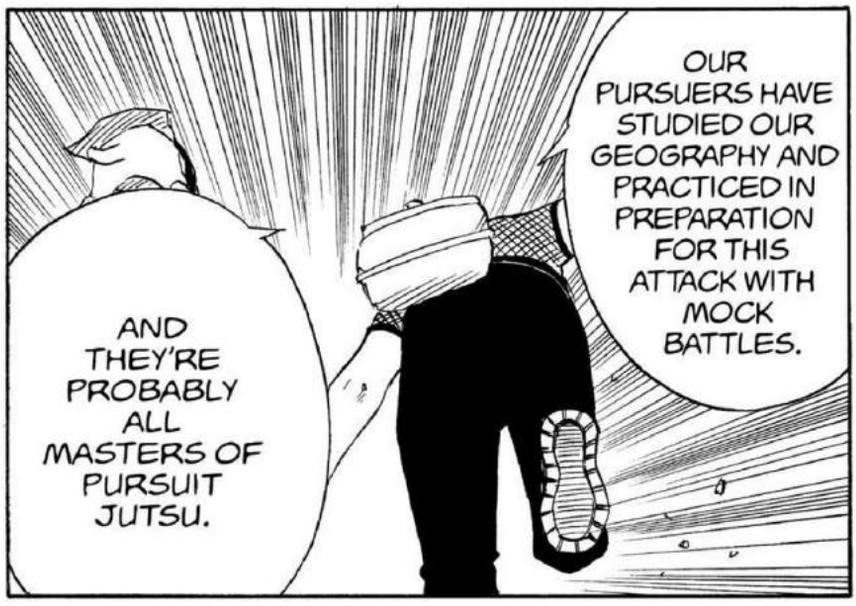
AMBUSHING THE ENEMY IS NORMALLY AN ADVANTAGEOUS BATTLE TACTIC, BUT ONLY IF THESE TWO ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS ARE MET...
LISTEN UP!

YOU ARE BOTH SO CLUELESS!


TOMP
FIRST, THE PURSUED MUST BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT SILENTLY AND LOCATE THE ENEMY FIRST!
SECOND, THE PURSUED MUST BE ABLE TO SWIFTLY FIND, SECURE, AND CONCEAL THEMSELVES IN A POSITION WHERE THEY CAN INFLICT THE MOST SURPRISE AND DAMAGE TO THE CHASERS!


IN OUR CASE...WELL, SINCE WE HAVE A NINJA DOG'S NOSE, THE FIRST WON'T BE TOO DIFFICULT.
AN AMBUSH IS EFFECTIVE ONLY IF BOTH CONDITIONS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

BUT THE SECOND... THE SECOND NORMALLY WOULDN'T BE IMPOSSIBLE, SINCE WE KNOW OUR OWN VILLAGE BETTER...
...AND CAN PINPOINT THE BEST POSITIONS FOR MAXIMUM SURPRISE.
BUT THAT WON'T FLY AGAINST MINIONS OF A FORMER FELLOW KONOHA SHINOBI!


OUR PURSUERS HAVE STUDIED OUR GEOGRAPHY AND PRACTICED IN PREPARATION FOR THIS ATTACK WITH MOCK BATTLES.
AND THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL MASTERS OF PURSUIT JUTSU.

?

EVEN SO, AN AMBUSH MIGHT STILL BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE...
...EXCEPT THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY UNCERTAINTIES!
BESIDES, OUR "FRIENDS" WERE ASSEMBLED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PLOT, WHILE OUR GROUP IS COMPOSED OF...

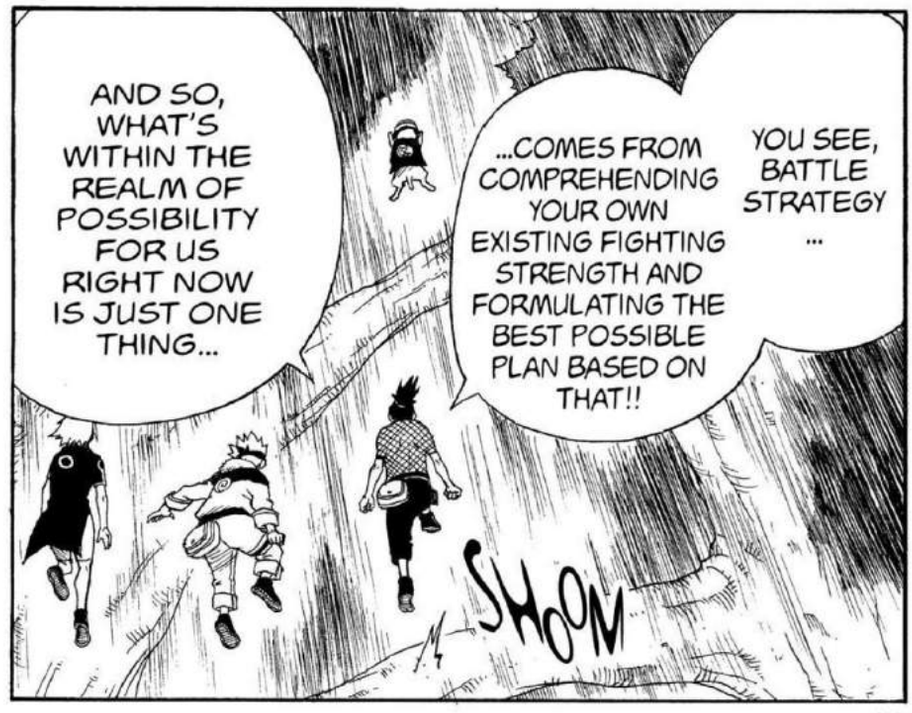
...A DOG...

IRK
...A KUNOICHI WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR TALENT...

IRK
...A DUNCE...

...AND THE NUMBER ONE SLACKER, ME!

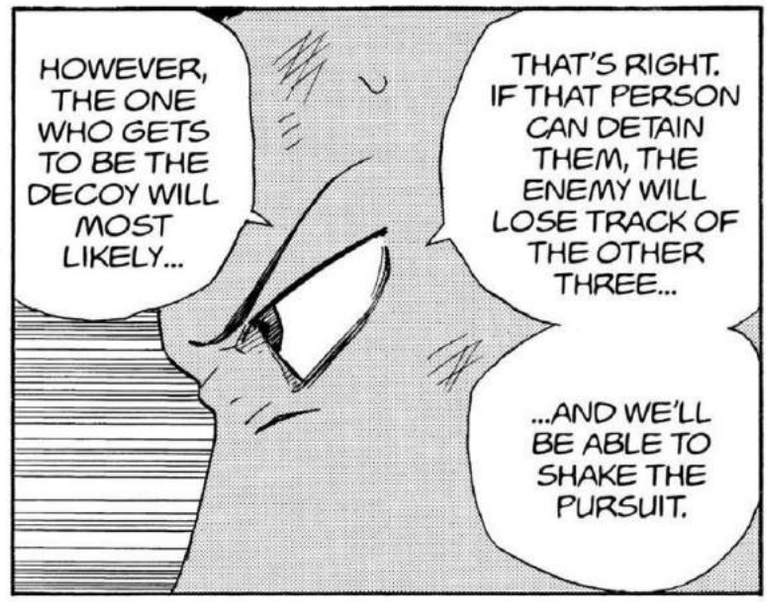
ONE THING...?!

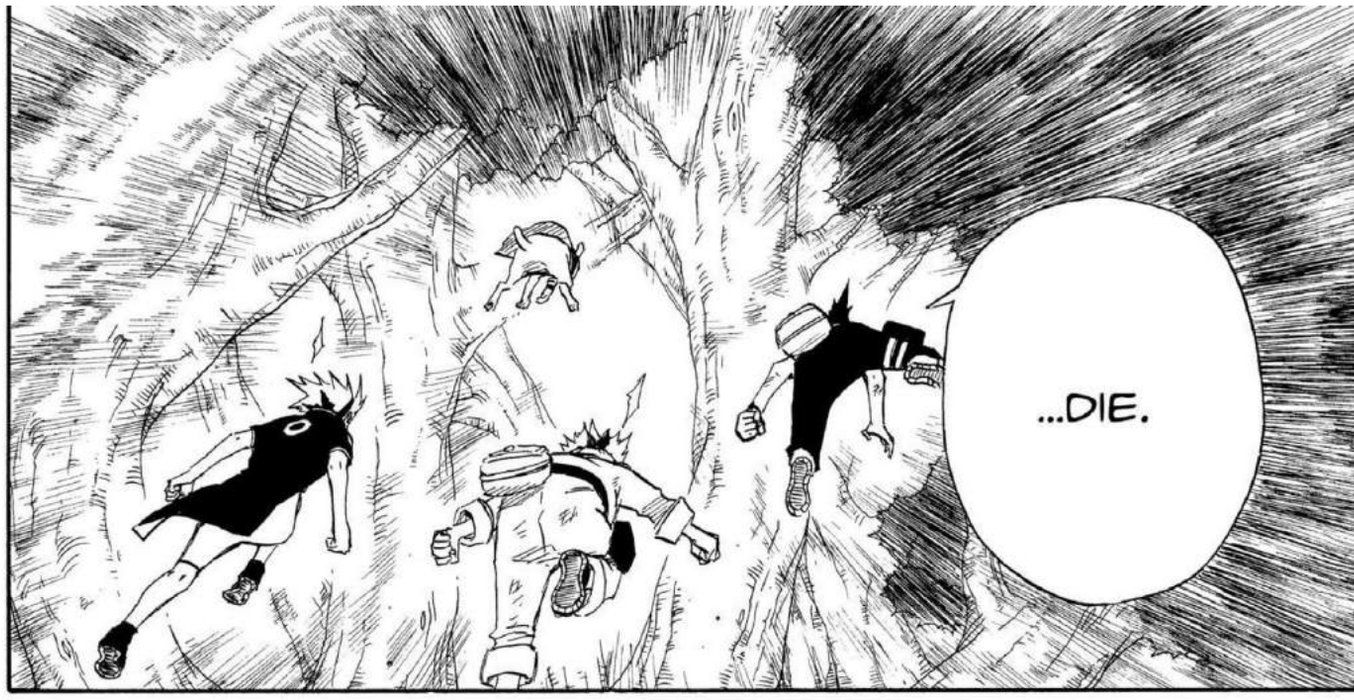

AND SO, WHAT'S WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY FOR US RIGHT NOW IS JUST ONE THING...
...COMES FROM COMPREHENDING YOUR OWN EXISTING FIGHTING STRENGTH AND FORMULATING THE BEST POSSIBLE PLAN BASED ON THAT!!
YOU SEE, BATTLE STRATEGY ...
SHOOM

...AND DELAYS THEM BY MAKING IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE LYING IN WAIT.
ONE OF US STAYS BEHIND...

A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC DISGUISED AS AN AMBUSH!

...A DECOY...
IN OTHER WORDS...


HOWEVER, THE ONE WHO GETS TO BE THE DECOY WILL MOST LIKELY...
THAT'S RIGHT. IF THAT PERSON CAN DETAIN THEM, THE ENEMY WILL LOSE TRACK OF THE OTHER THREE...
...AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO SHAKE THE PURSUIT.


...DIE.

WE NEED OUR DOGGIE GUIDE IN ORDER TO FIND SASUKE, WHICH MEANS...
SO... ANY VOLUN-TEERS?

...!

...!

I'M THE ONLY CHOICE...

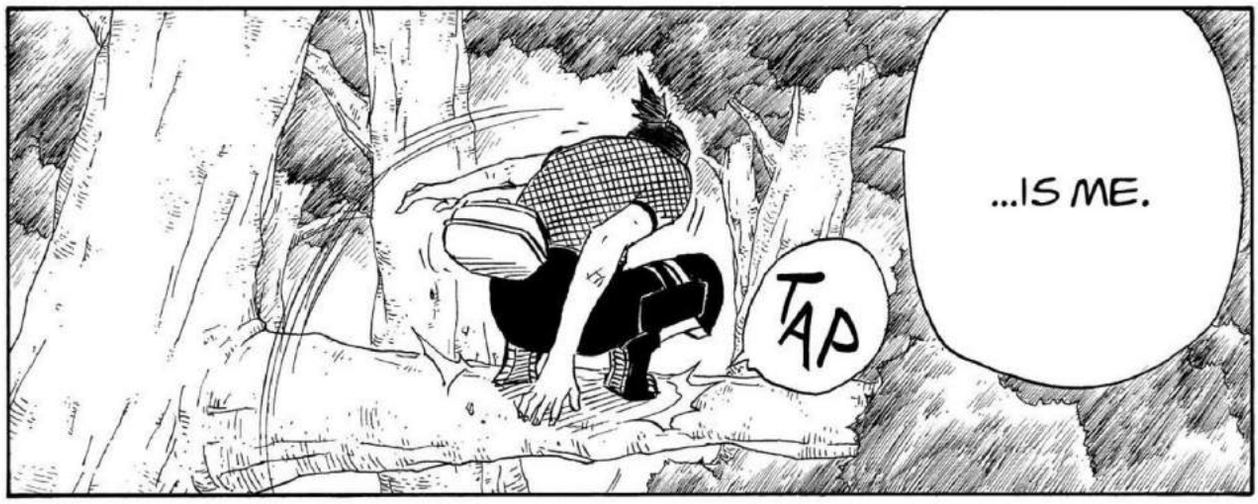
...

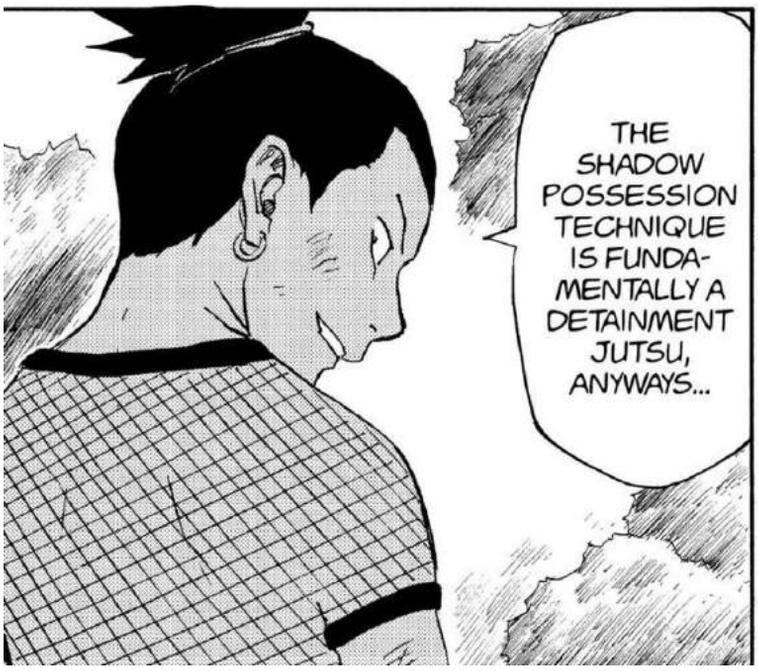
ALL RIGHT, I'LL...
GLARE

BESIDES, THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO HAS ANY CHANCE OF PULLING OFF THE DECOY ACT AND EVEN POSSIBLY SURVIVING...
IT'S BETTER THAN ALL OF US GOING DOWN TOGETHER.
SNAG!

YOU?!
!!

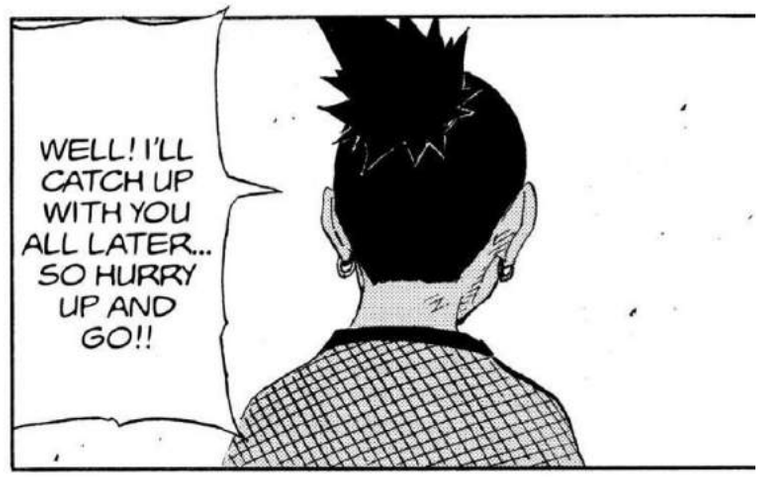
WHY YOU?!


...IS ME.
TAP


THE SHADOW POSSESSION TECHNIQUE IS FUNDA-MENTALLY A DETAINMENT JUTSU, ANYWAYS...

!
!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

SHA
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!


WELL! I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU ALL LATER... SO HURRY UP AND GO!!

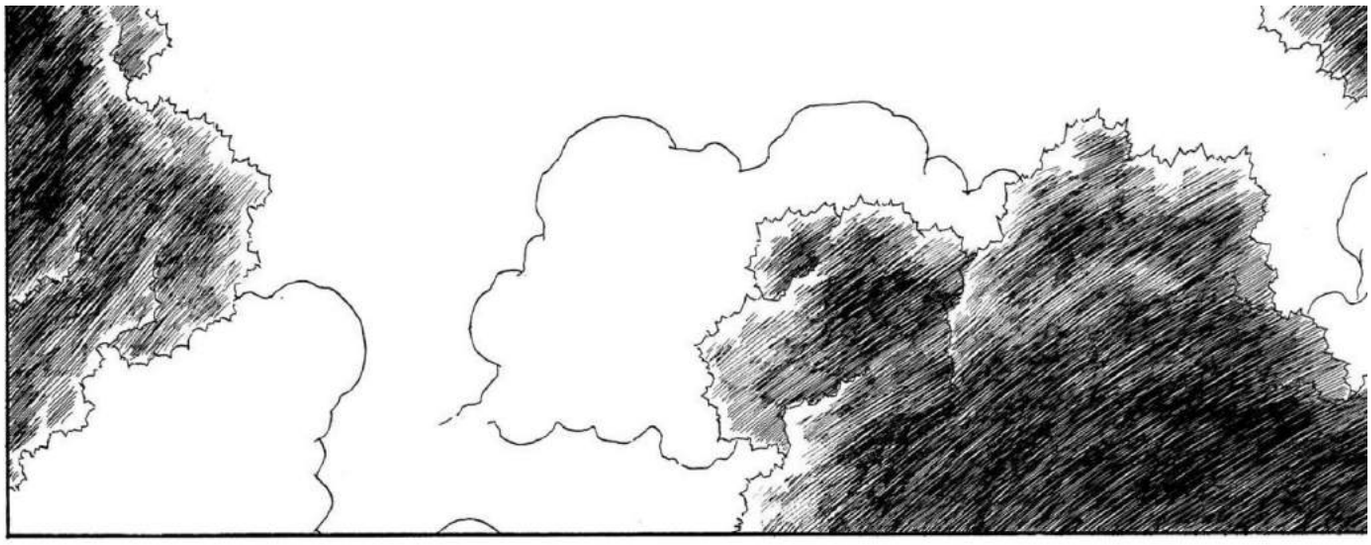
GLARE
SHIKAMARU...

SHOOM
I NEVER SAW SHIKAMARU AS THE RELIABLE TYPE...
...
SHOOM

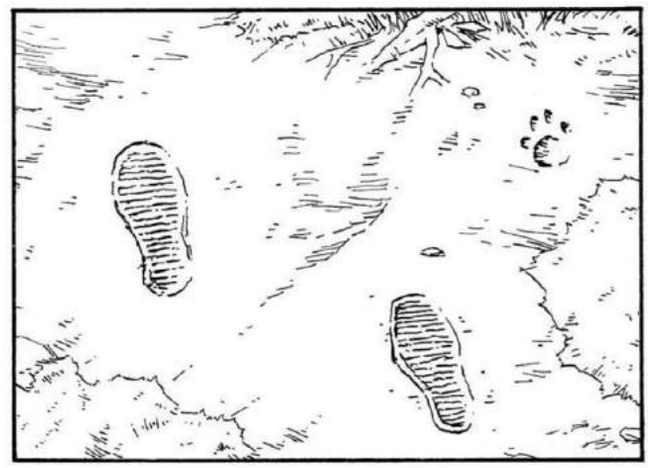
!

SHOOM

READ THIS WAY
HEH HEH... THEY'RE SO GREEN ...
FWEE
IS HE REALLY TRYING TO DELAY THEM?!
HEY, THE ENEMY'S STILL GAINING ON US!
...BUT HE'S NOT A TRAITOR!
SHIKAMARU MAY BE A SLACKER...
MAYBE HE'S RUN OFF!
!!
D-DON'T TELL ME...



PHEW... WE'VE MANAGED TO SHAKE THEM...



TMP
HEH

READ THIS WAY
CRUNCH
D!!! OOM
!!
OH! AND BY THE WAY... THIS IS THE WAY I MADE THE PAW PRINTS.
JUST KIDDING. THAT'S HOW I AM, YOU KNOW...
HUF
HUF

SNIFF
SNIFF

HUF
HUF

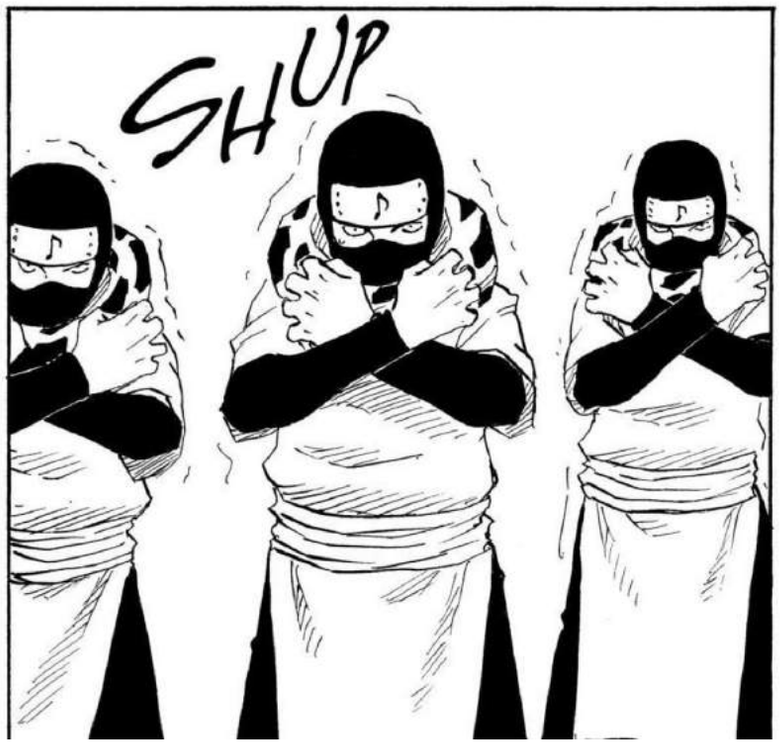
SO THIS IS KONOHA'S FAMED SHADOW PARALYSIS TECHNIQUE, HUH...?
WHAT THE...? HE'S STILL JUST A KID! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE FELL FOR SUCH A SIMPLE TRICK...!
Number 119: The Life I Wanted...!!

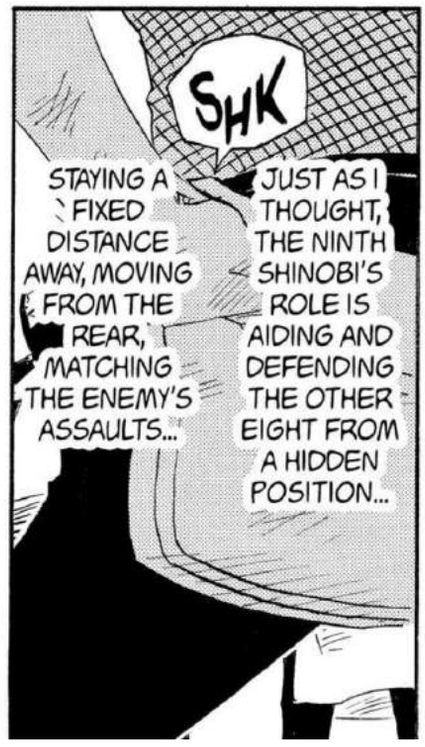
I'VE USED UP TOO MUCH CHAKRA... I'M NOT GOING TO LAST TOO MUCH LONGER...
DARN... IT WAS FOOLISH TO ENGAGE THEM LIKE THIS...
HUF

YOU GUYS ARE OUT OF DATE!

WE CALL IT THE KAGEMANE SHADOW POSSESSION TECHNIQUE NOW, MISTER!
HUF
TIMES HAVE CHANGED...
HUF

Number 119: The Life I Wanted...!!


SHUP


SHK
STAYING A FIXED DISTANCE AWAY, MOVING FROM THE REAR, MATCHING THE ENEMY'S ASSAULTS...
JUST AS I THOUGHT, THE NINTH SHINOBI'S ROLE IS AIDING AND DEFENDING THE OTHER EIGHT FROM A HIDDEN POSITION...

...LET'S SEE WHERE YOU'RE HIDING.
WELL, IN ANY CASE...

SHUK
...CLARIFY THINGS!!

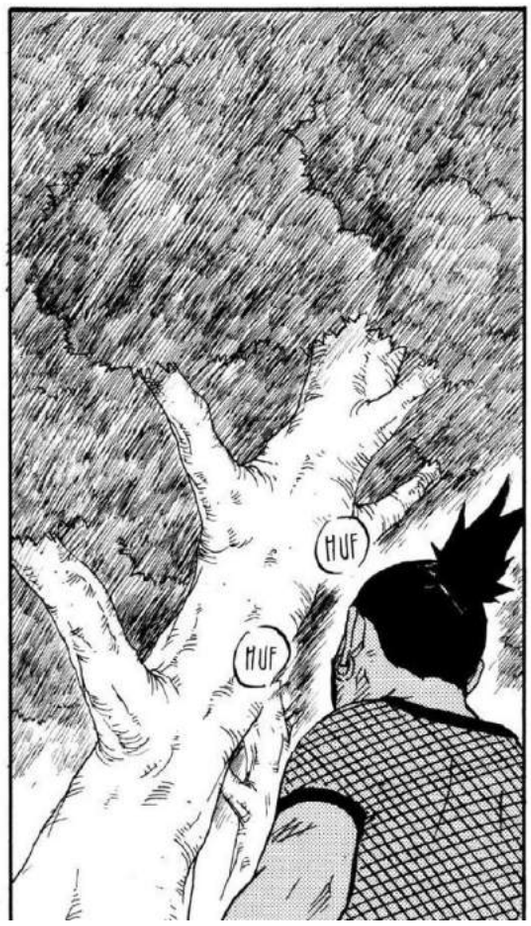
THIS SHOULD...
STRETCH

KA CHINK
KA CHINK
KA CHINK

SHUKK
KI NK

!!

OVER THERE!
HUF
...!
HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF

HEH HEH...

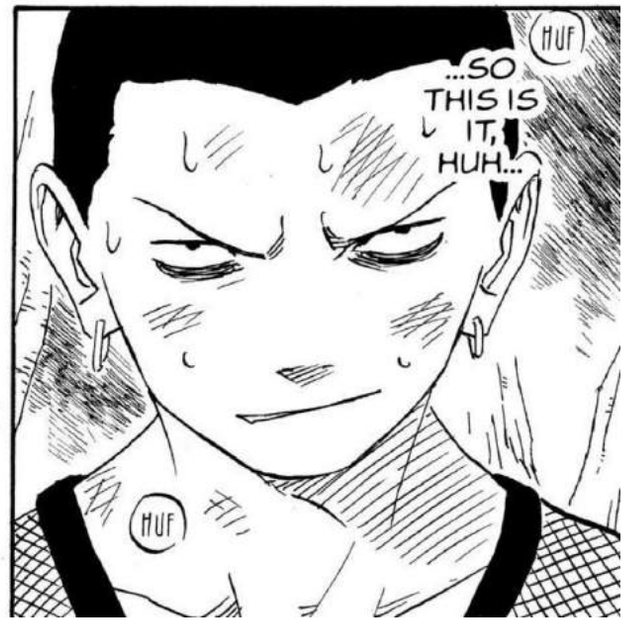
GYOOON

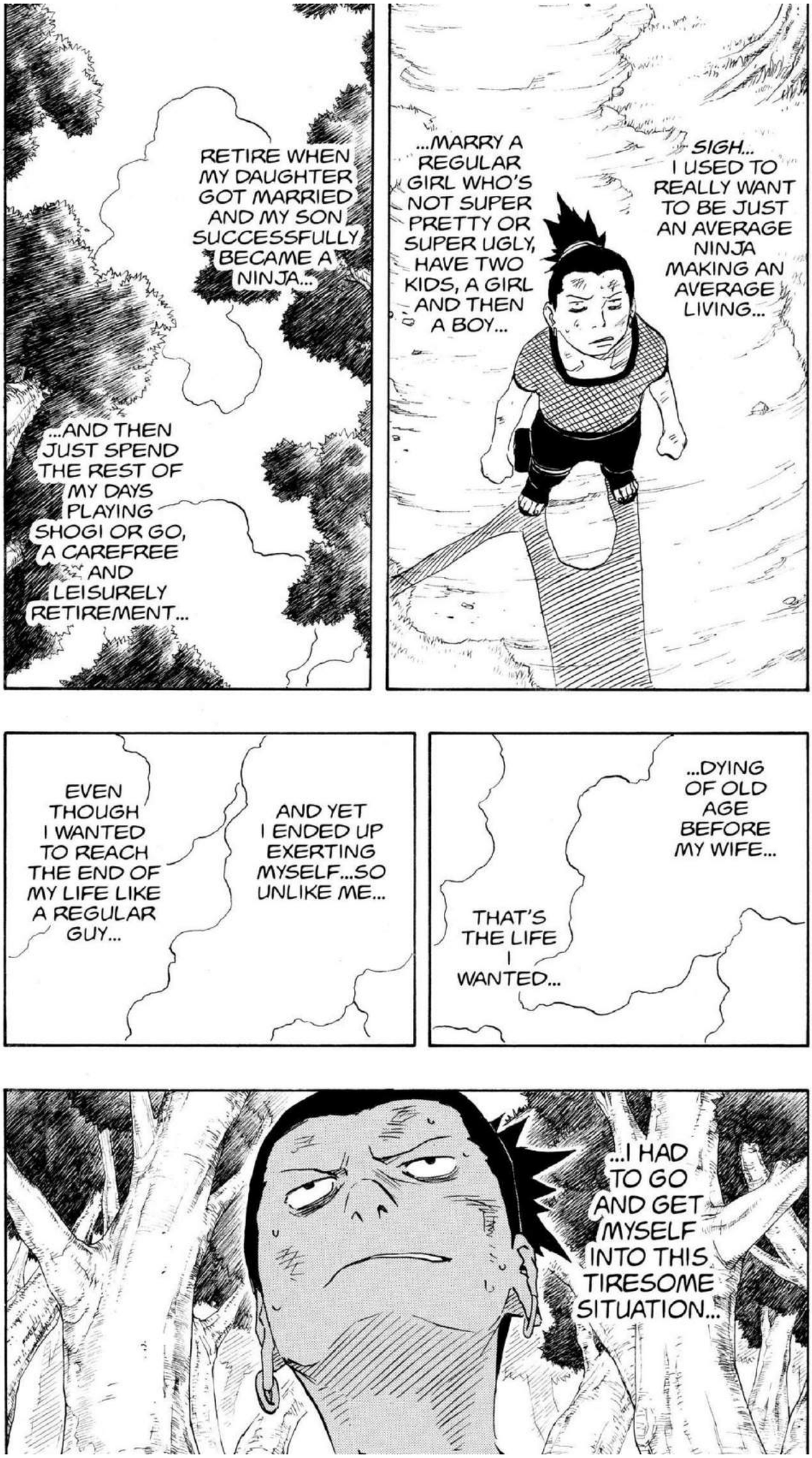
WE KNOW HOW YOUR TECHNIQUE WORKS.
IT'S USELESS ...

WHICH MEANS I HAVE NO ENERGY LEFT TO DIVERT TO MY CHAKRA...
DARN IT... I CAN'T MAKE MY SHADOW MOVE ANY FASTER...
HUF
HUF

FEH...
HUF

YOUR SHADOW POSSESSION, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, WILL FAIL SOON... SO PREPARE YOURSELF!
IT SEEMS YOU'VE REACHED YOUR LIMIT.


HUF
...SO THIS IS IT, HUH...
HUF


RETIRE WHEN MY DAUGHTER GOT MARRIED AND MY SON SUCCESSFULLY BECAME A NINJA...
...AND THEN JUST SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS PLAYING SHOGI OR GO, A CAREFREE AND LEISURELY RETIREMENT...
...MARRY A REGULAR GIRL WHO'S NOT SUPER PRETTY OR SUPER UGLY, HAVE TWO KIDS, A GIRL AND THEN A BOY...
SIGH... I USED TO REALLY WANT TO BE JUST AN AVERAGE NINJA MAKING AN AVERAGE LIVING...
EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO REACH THE END OF MY LIFE LIKE A REGULAR GUY...
AND YET I ENDED UP EXERTING MYSELF...SO UNLIKE ME...
...DYING OF OLD AGE BEFORE MY WIFE...
THAT'S THE LIFE I WANTED...
...I HAD TO GO AND GET MYSELF INTO THIS TIRESOME SITUATION...

HMM?!
OUR PURSUERS HAVE STOPPED!!

YOU MEAN SHIKA-MARU...?!

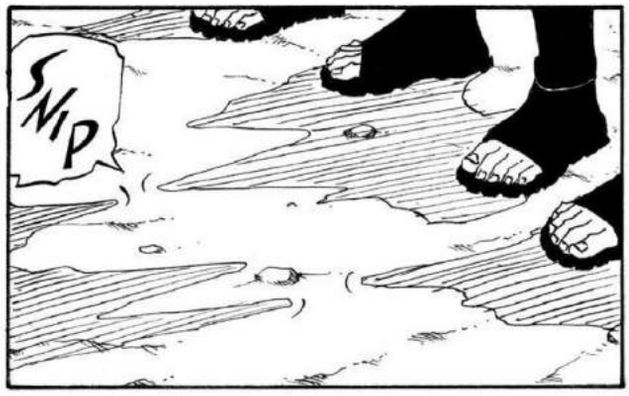
HIS TACTICS MUST HAVE WORKED!!
YES!

NICE! WE'RE ON OUR WAY, SASUKE!

...YOU BETTER SURVIVE AND COME CATCH UP TO US!!
AND SHIKAMARU...

HEY... IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO COME OUT.
SHHH

LIKE YOU WERE SAYING... IT SEEMS I'M AT THE END OF MY ROPE...
HUF
HUF


SNIP

AND TAKE THIS KID'S HEAD OFF WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

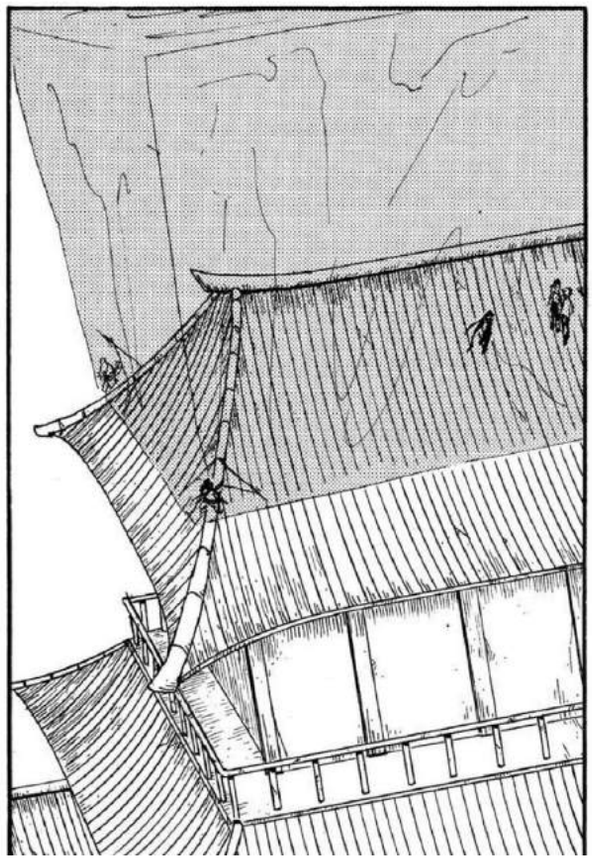
SHOOM
URK

SHUDDER
!!

TAÏDA

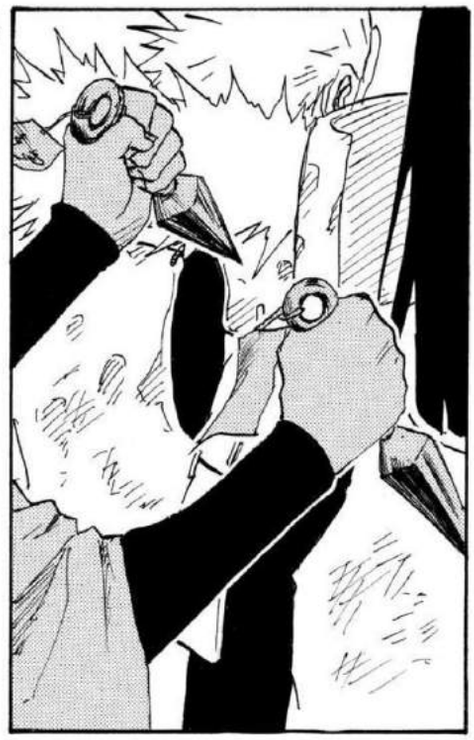
DASH
FWUMP
FWAK
SLUR
THUD!!
SIZZ
FLICK
SIGH...
TMP

THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD...



WELL THEN, SHALL WE BEGIN?

SHNK

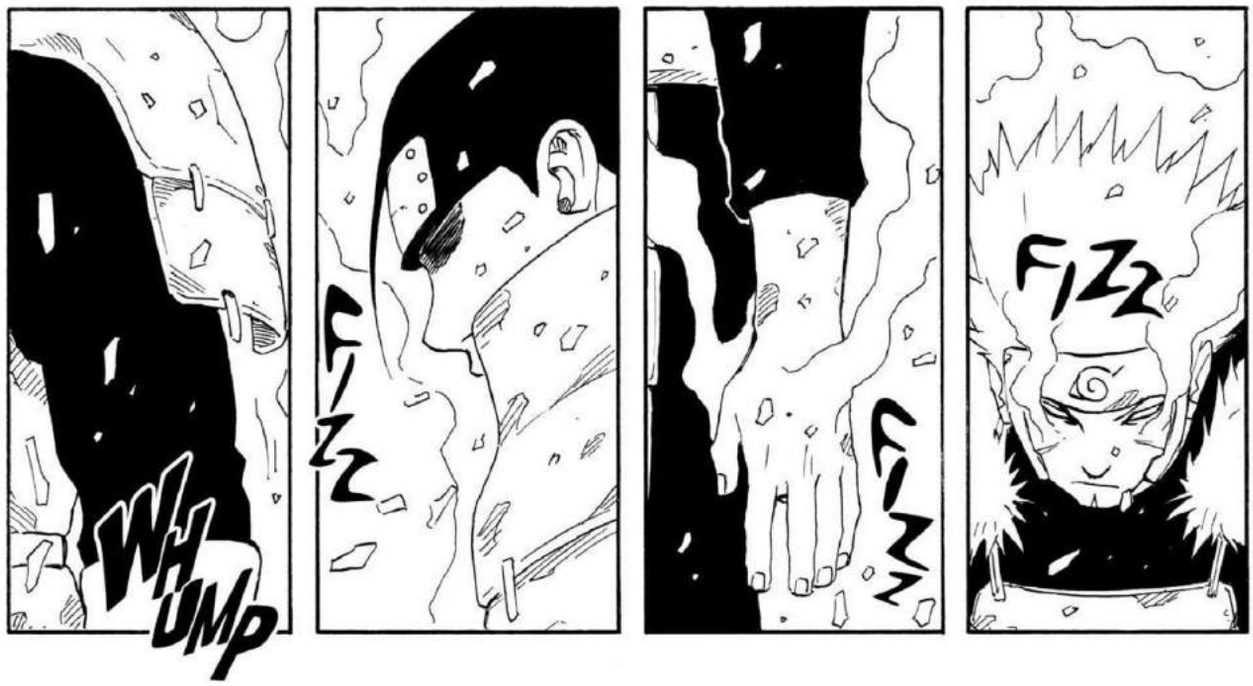


...

BUT FIRST, I NEED YOU RESTORED TO YOUR ORIGINAL FORMS...

SHOVE
SQUELCH

SQUICH


FIZZ
FIZZ
FIZZ
WHUMP

THEY'RE INFUSED WITH MORE LIFE FORCE...
WHAT IS THAT JUTSU...?!

THEY LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE THEIR OLD SELVES...

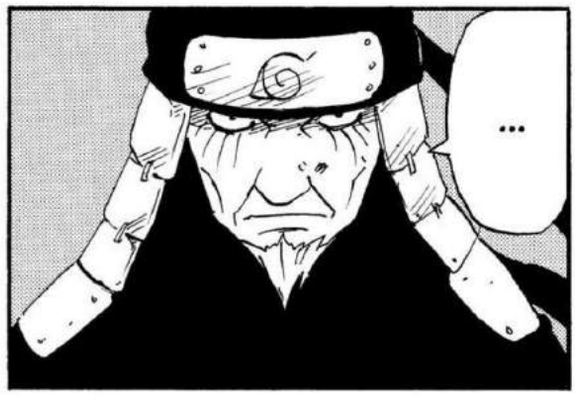
EDO TENSEI ...
IT'S A FORBIDDEN SUMMONING TECHNIQUE THAT RECALLS AND REVIVES THE DEAD INTO THIS WORLD...

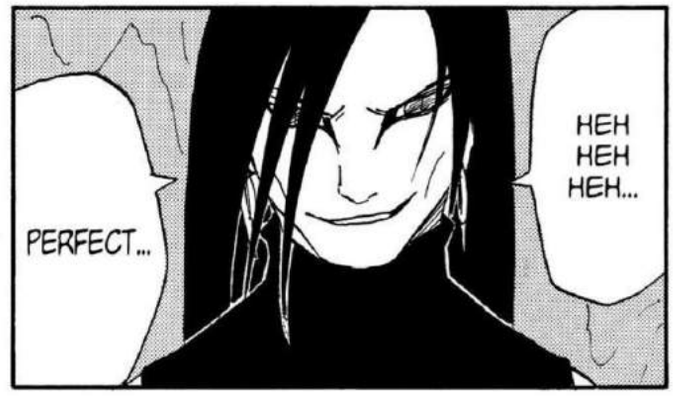
NORMALLY, SUMMONING REQUIRES A SMALL AMOUNT OF BLOOD AS PAYMENT...
...BUT I'VE HEARD THAT THIS JUTSU, BECAUSE IT INVOLVES CALLING FORTH AND KEEPING A SOUL OF THE DEAD IN THIS PLANE...
...REQUIRES THE SACRIFICIAL USE OF A LIVING BODY AS A VESSEL FOR THAT SOUL.

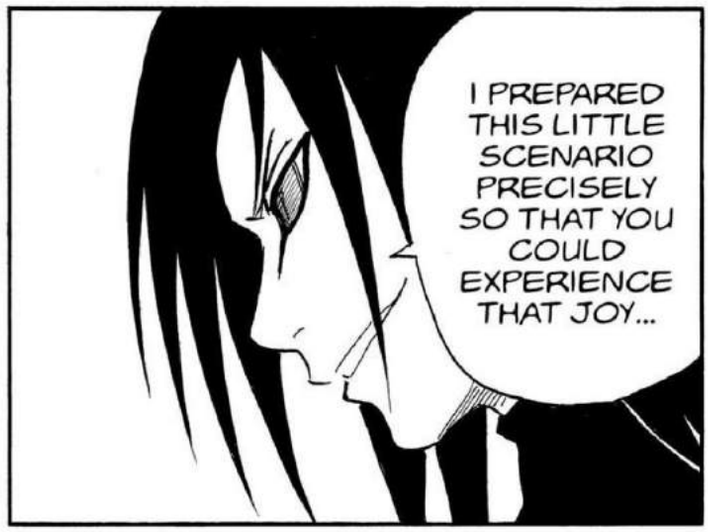
YEAH... I BELIEVE DUST AND ASH ENVELOP THE SACRIFICED BODIES...
...MOLDING THEM INTO THE LIKENESSES OF THE PEOPLE WHOSE SOULS WERE SUMMONED... AND THEN...

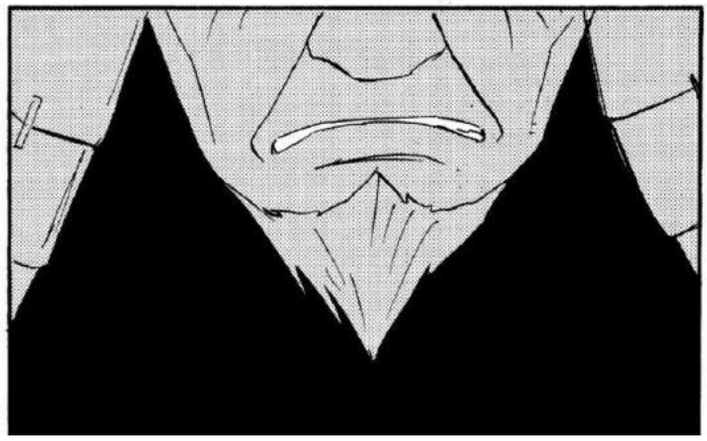
YOU MEAN THOSE BODIES WERE FROM OTHER PEOPLE...?!!

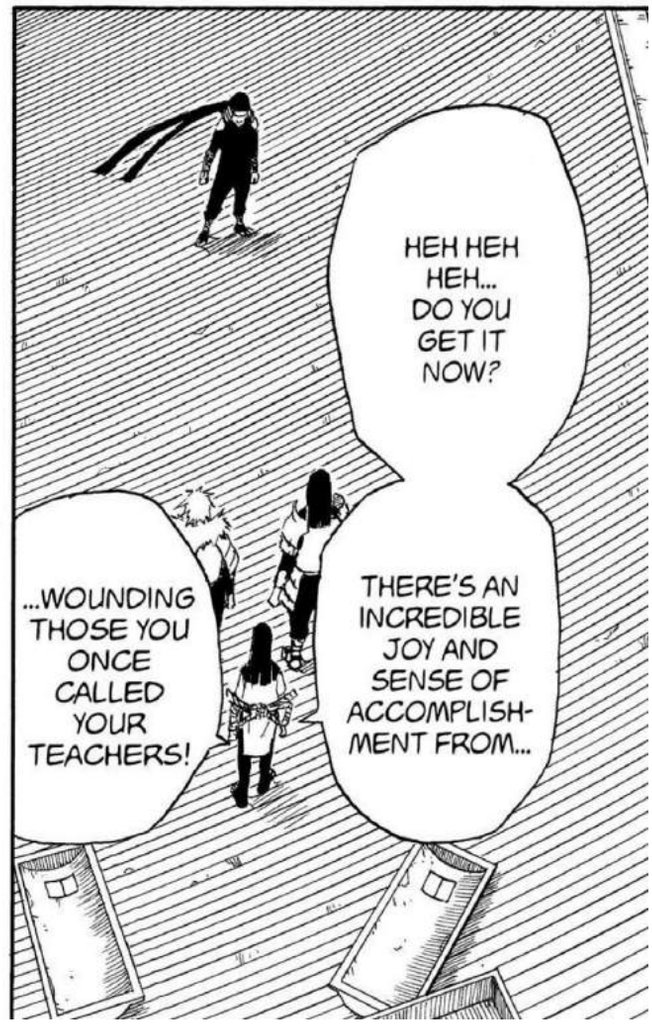
...THROUGH THE SPELL NOTES EMBEDDED INSIDE THE HEADS, THOSE SOULS' PERSONALITIES ARE SUPPRESSED, TRANSFORMING THEM INTO MERE KILLING MACHINES!!


...


HEH HEH HEH...
PERFECT...


I PREPARED THIS LITTLE SCENARIO PRECISELY SO THAT YOU COULD EXPERIENCE THAT JOY...




HEH HEH HEH... DO YOU GET IT NOW?
THERE'S AN INCREDIBLE JOY AND SENSE OF ACCOMPLISH-MENT FROM...
...WOUNDING THOSE YOU ONCE CALLED YOUR TEACHERS!

SHUP
SO PLEASE ENJOY IT!

GLARE

CHOOM

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 19

EVEN AS I WAS COMPLETING MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE, I STILL COULDN'T DRAW AN ADEQUATE MANGA. THAT'S WHEN I SUDDENLY ASKED MYSELF, "WHAT IS MANGA?" REALIZING THAT I HAD TO UNDERSTAND MANGA MORE THOROUGHLY, I DECIDED THAT I NEEDED TO TAKE IT APART AND ANALYZE IT. SO I CAME TO KNOW THAT THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF MANGA ARE CHARACTERS, MOTIF, STORY, THEME, DIRECTION IN THE FORM OF PICTURE COMPOSITION (WIDE ANGLE, ZOOM IF USING CAMERA ANGLES AS AN ANALOGY), SOUND (SOUND EFFECTS), ACTION, EFFECTS, ONE-, TWO- AND THREE-POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE FOR THE BACKGROUND, AND THEN TIMING, SENSE, AND MANY OTHER FACTORS. AND WHILE MY COMPREHENSION WAS GREAT, AS I CONTINUED MY ANALYSIS I STARTED SEEING MORE AND MORE THINGS THAT I WASN'T GOOD AT OR SKILLS THAT I LACKED. FEELING OVER-WHELMED BY THE AMOUNT OF LEARNING AND HONING I STILL HAD TO DO, I FELL INTO A SMALL PANIC. I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND THAT UNLESS I COMPREHENDED AND MASTERED ALL THOSE FACTORS MYSELF, I COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DRAW EVEN A SIMPLE "WELL, IT'S KINDA INTEREST-ING" LIGHT-READ TYPE OF MANGA.

SOMEHOW, I SUDDENLY BECAME TERRIFIED OF MANGA, THINKING OF THEM AS MONSTERS, AND BECAME AFRAID OF DRAWING MANGA. THAT PAINFUL PERIOD LASTED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND JUST AS I WAS SLIDING INTO AN EMOTIONALLY DRAINED STATE, A FRIEND OF MINE BOUGHT AN ISSUE OF JUMP AND STARTED READING *SLAM DUNK* IN MY ROOM... WHEN I LOOKED AT HIS FACE, I NOTICED THAT HE HAD AN AVID AND HAPPY EXPRESSION. AND THEN, WHEN HE FINISHED THE CHAPTER, HE EXCLAIMED, "WOW! *SLAM DUNK* IS SO COOL!!"

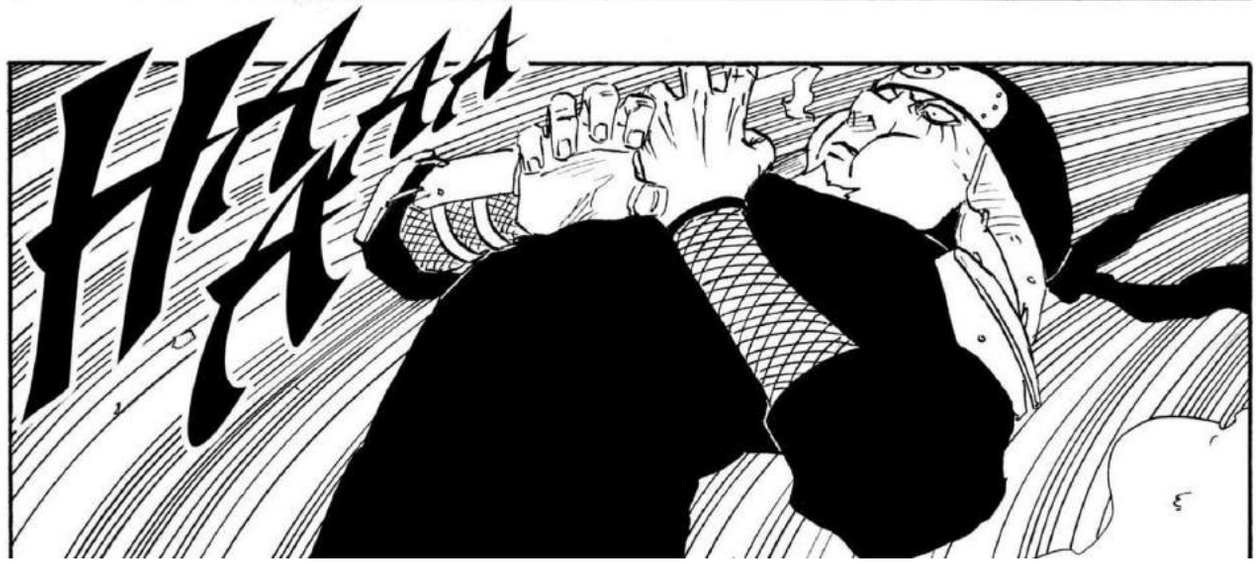
SUDDENLY, I HAD AN URGE TO ASK HIM A QUESTION. THIS QUESTION WAS A REALLY SCARY QUESTION FOR ME TO ASK. FOR THAT FRIEND WAS ONE WHO WOULD NEVER LIE TO ME, AND HE ALSO KNEW MANGA WELL. SO THIS IS WHAT I ASKED:

"WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *SLAM DUNK* AND MY MANGA? WHY IS *SLAM DUNK* SO COOL AND INTERESTING?"

OF COURSE, I MYSELF ALSO LOVED *SLAM DUNK*, AND WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT IT WAS VERY INTERESTING! I JUST WANTED TO GET AN OUTSIDE, OBJECTIVE VIEW OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN *SLAM DUNK* AND MY MANGA.
MY FRIEND REPLIED THUS:

"YOU CAN TELL FROM READING IT HOW MUCH MR. INOUE TAKEHIKO REALLY LOVES BASKETBALL. AND YOU CAN FEEL HOW MUCH FUN HE HAS DRAWING *SLAM DUNK*, AND IT'S LIKE MR. INOUE'S DRAWING IT WITH THE MESSAGE 'PLEASE READ IT, BASKETBALL IS LOTS OF FUN' TO THE READERS. WITH YOUR MANGA, I'M SURE YOU'RE DRAWING BECAUSE YOU REALLY LOVE IT TOO, BUT IT'S JUST NOT COMING THROUGH AS FUN... IT'S LIKE, YOU'RE HAVING ALL THE FUN BY YOURSELF AND WE'RE BEING LEFT OUT OR LEFT BEHIND. THERE'S NO SENSE OF 'PLEASE READ IT'..."

Number 120: Hokage vs. Hokage!!



SUIJINHEKI! WALL OF WATER!!
WATER STYLE!

Number 120: Hokage vs. Hokage!!

WHOOM
SSIIIZZZZ

IT SHOWS WHY HE WAS NAMED HOKAGE...

UNBELIEV-ABLE!!
HE INVOKED SUCH A TREMENDOUS WATER TECHNIQUE ON DRY LAND!

VOOM

WATER STYLE: SUIRYUDAN! WATER DRAGON ATTACK!!
SHUP

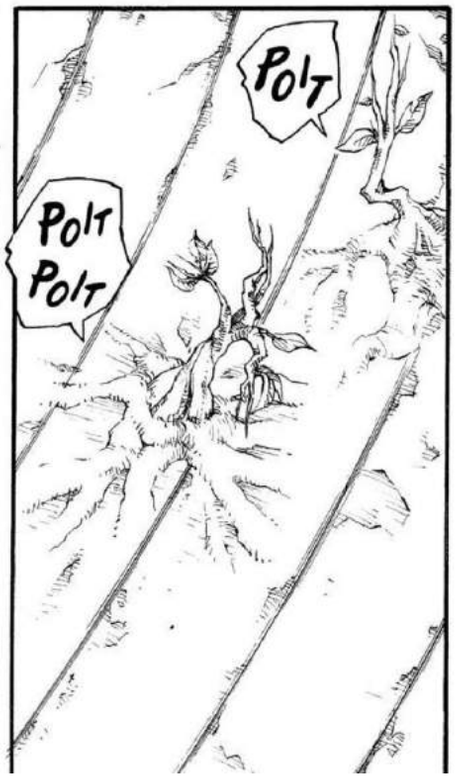
UGAAH
SHHUP
EARTH STYLE: DORYUHEKI! MUD WALL!
SHUP
KA BOOM
ZKKSH
SPLOOSH

SECRET JUTSU...
WOOD STYLE!
SHUP
SHUP

JUKAIKOTAN! DEEP FOREST EMERGENCE!

THIS IS THE FIRST HOKAGE'S SECRET JUTSU... NOT GOOD!!
!!
SNIK

SHUP
SHUP


POIT
POIT POIT

DASH

KA BOOF

TAP

GRRRR

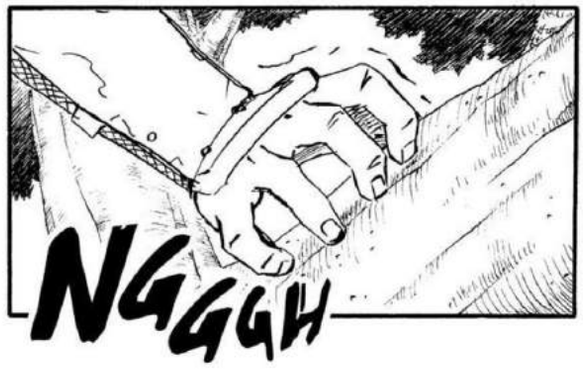
UGH!!

SLASH

WHIP

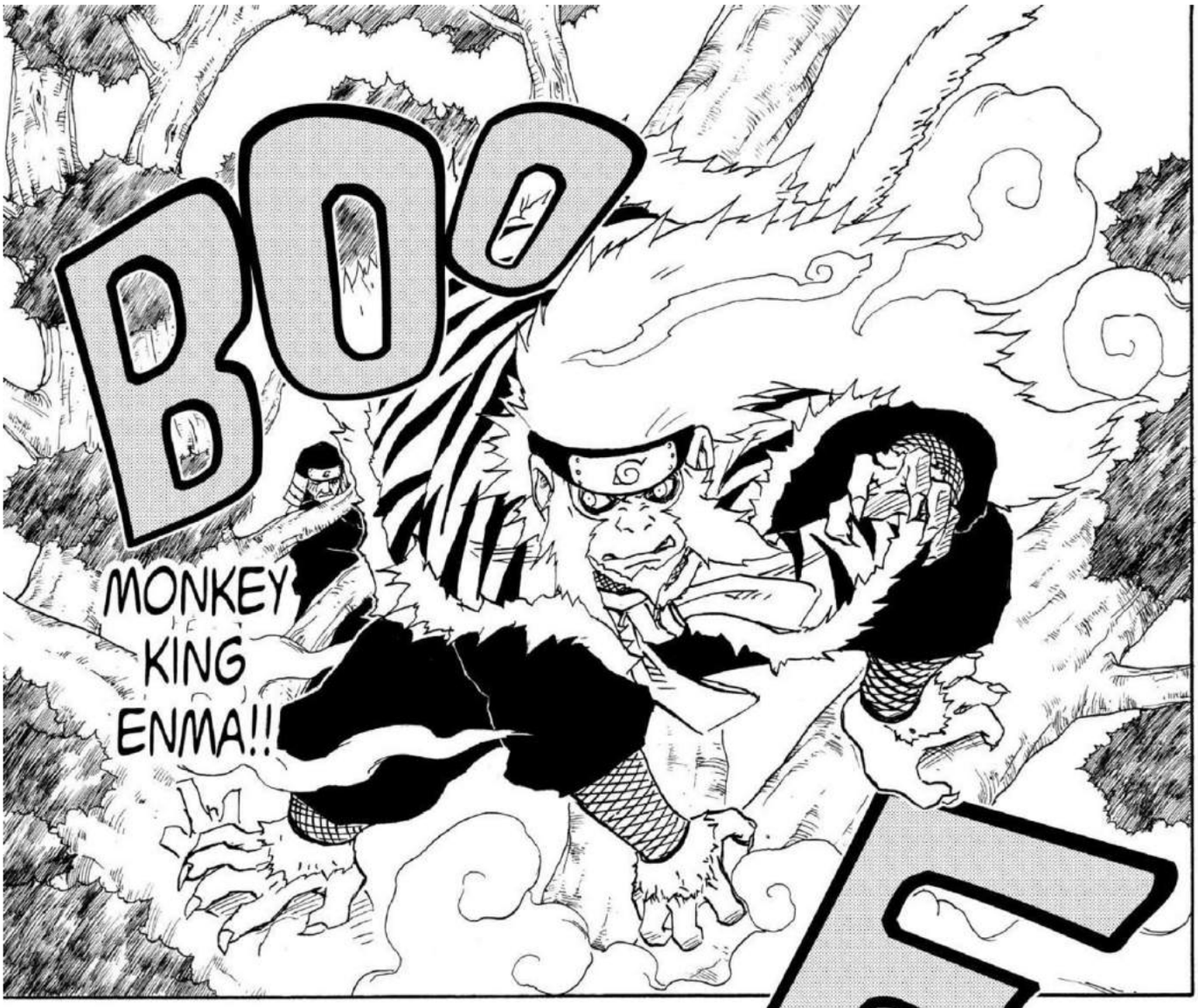
HE USED HIS CHAKRA AS A LIFE SOURCE...!! SO THIS IS THE FIRST HOKAGE'S LEGENDARY WOOD STYLE NINJUTSU THAT QUELLED TURBULENT TIMES AND CARVED OUT KONOHA...!!

HO HO... YOU'VE BEEN TRAPPED, MASTER SARUTOBI...


NGGGH

AARGH...
GGGH

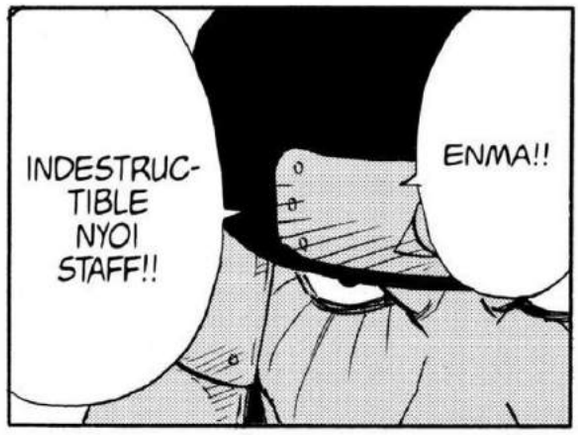
I CALL THEE...!!
NINJA ART: KUCHIYOSE! SUMMONING!!


BOO
MONKEY KING ENMA!!

'TIS SAD, SARUTOBI...
AND ALL BECAUSE YOU FAILED TO KILL HIM THAT DAY!!

HUMPH... A GERIATRIC MONKEY KING, EH...?

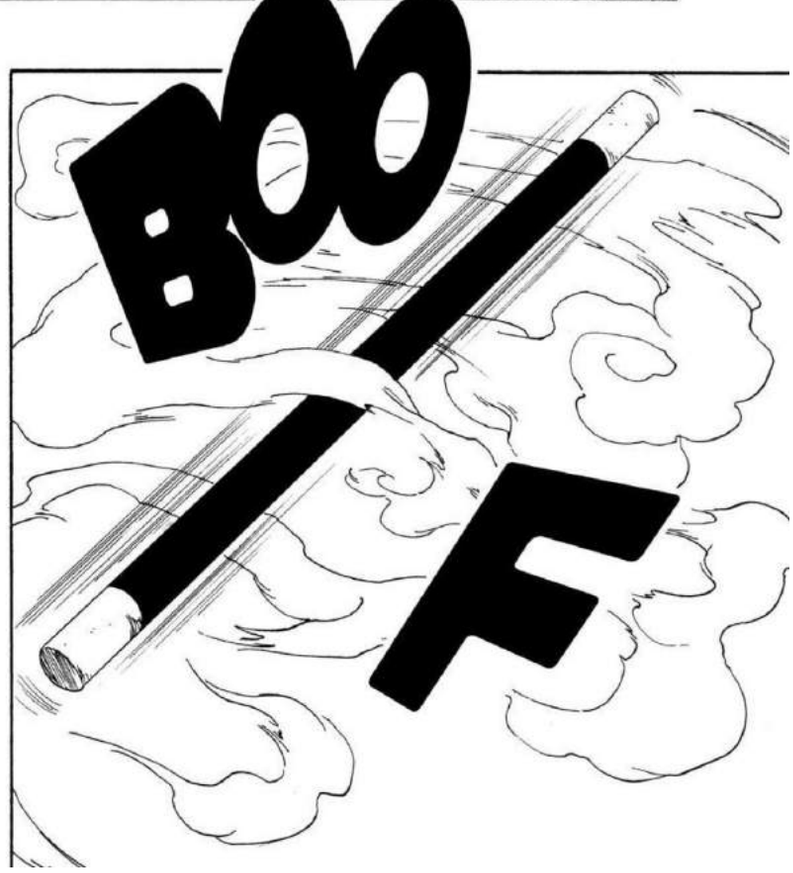
SO IT HAS COME TO THIS, AFTER ALL...!
OROCHI-MARU...


INDESTRUC-TIBLE NYOI STAFF!!
ENMA!!

TSK! TOO LATE!!
I'M GETTING TO IT RIGHT NOW...

WHOOSH
ALL RIGHT...
TRANSFORM!!

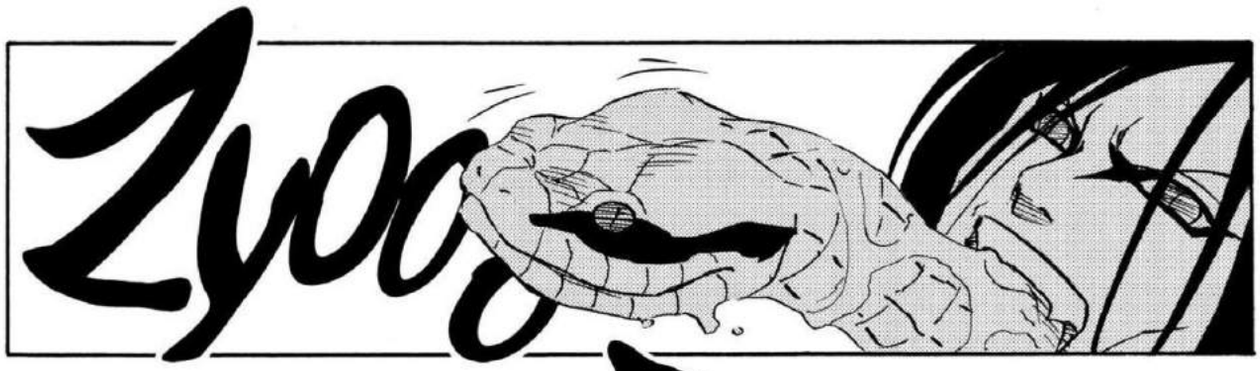
FWIK
YES!


BOOF

THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO BE HOKAGE...
WHAT A HIGH-LEVEL NINJUTSU CONTEST...!

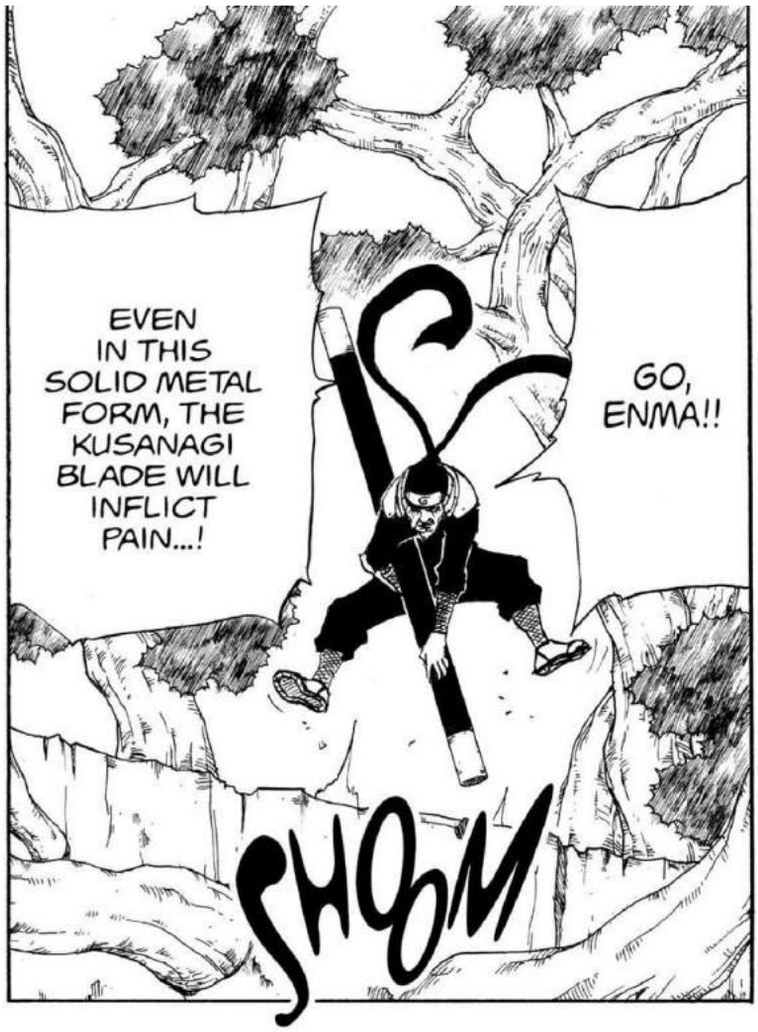
HO HO... IT'S FINALLY GETTING INTERESTING ...

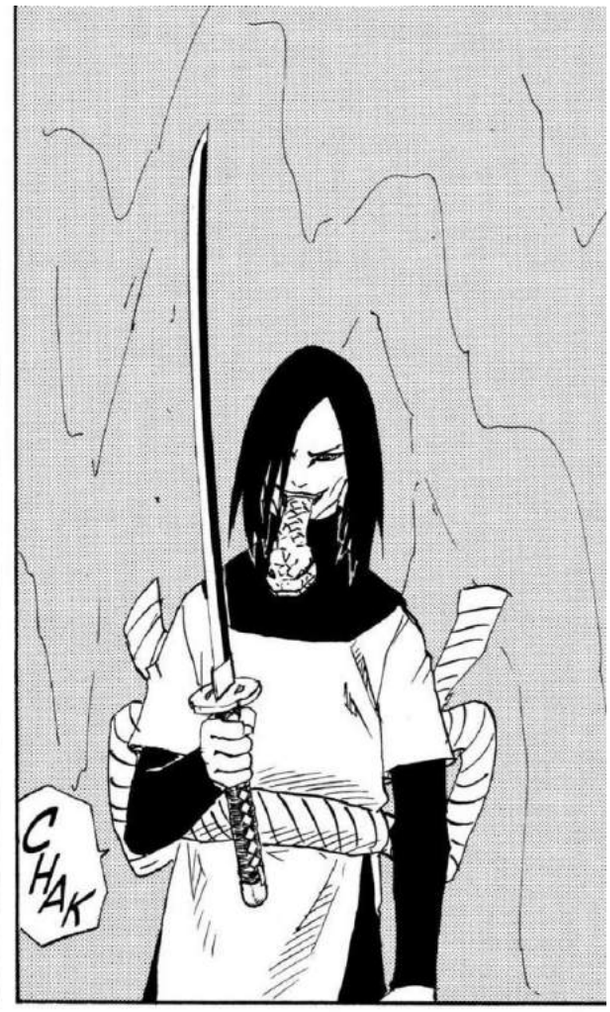
TAK
GSSH
TMP


ZYOOO

WITH ONE SWING OF KUSANAGI...

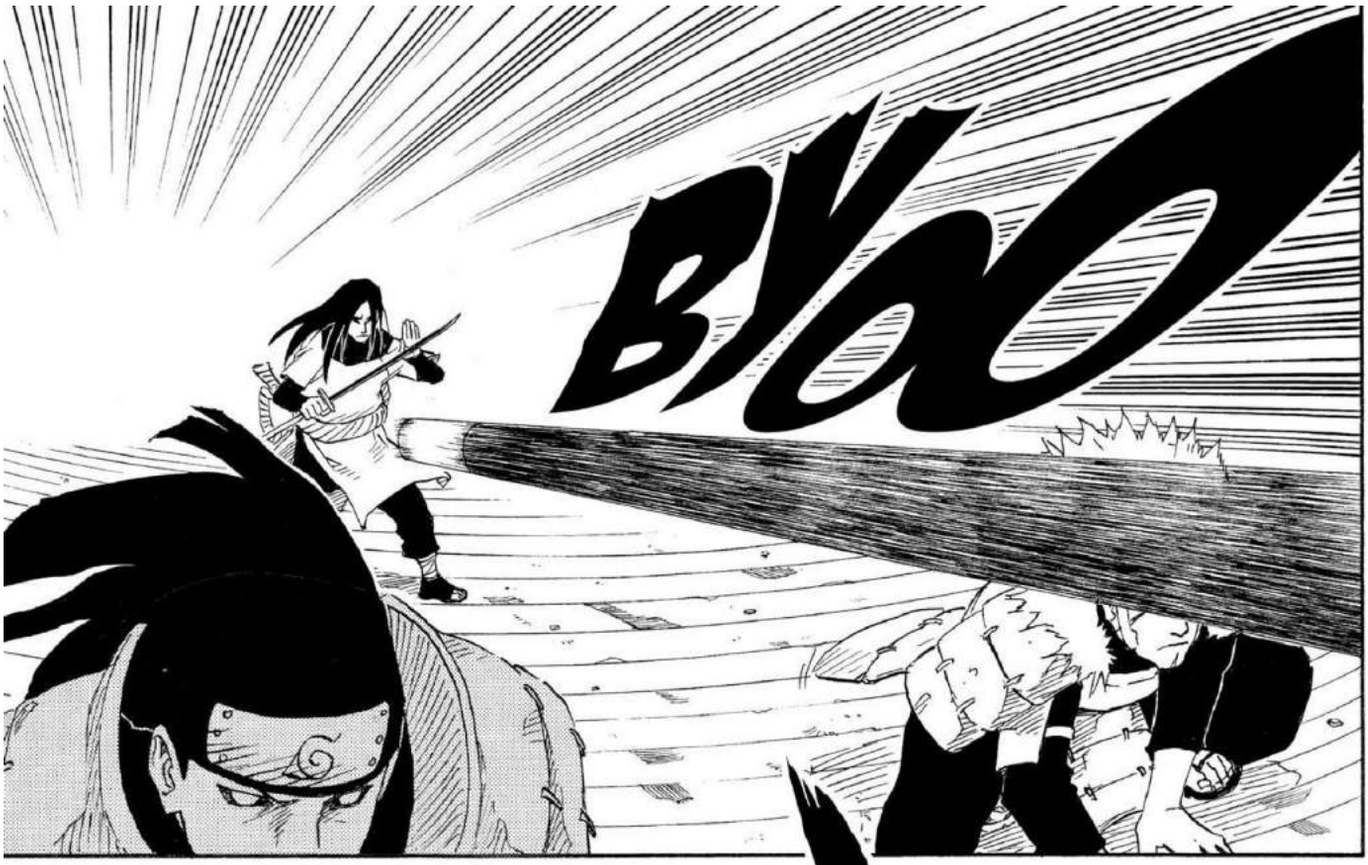
ZYUU


EVEN IN THIS SOLID METAL FORM, THE KUSANAGI BLADE WILL INFLICT PAIN...!
GO, ENMA!!
SHOOM

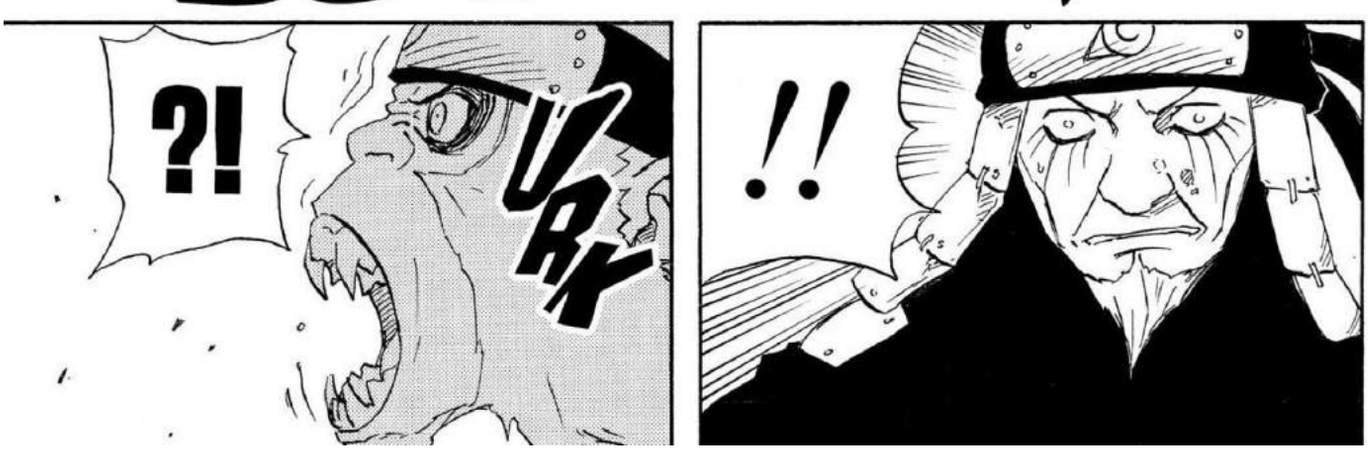

CHAK

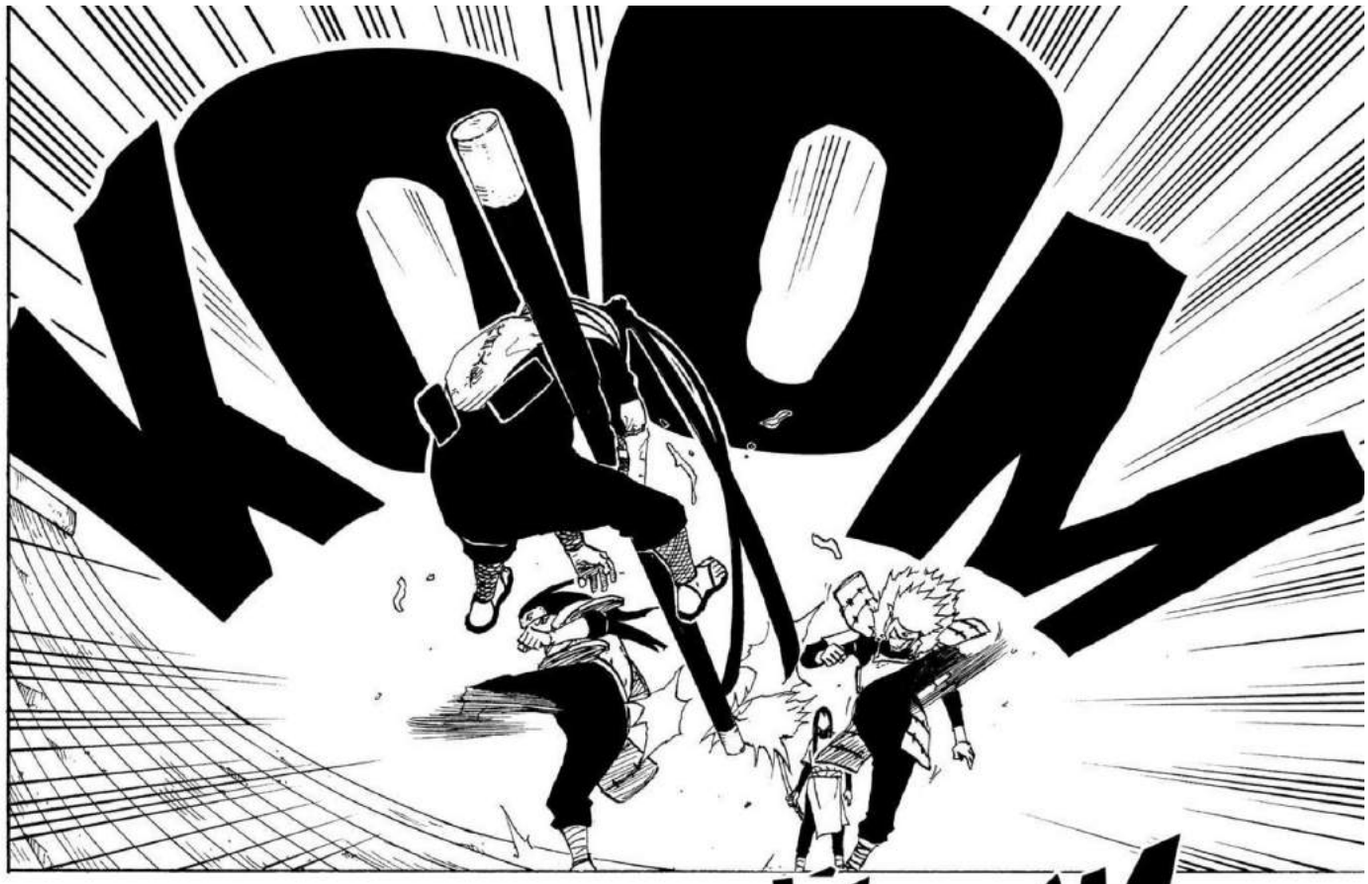
SWOOP

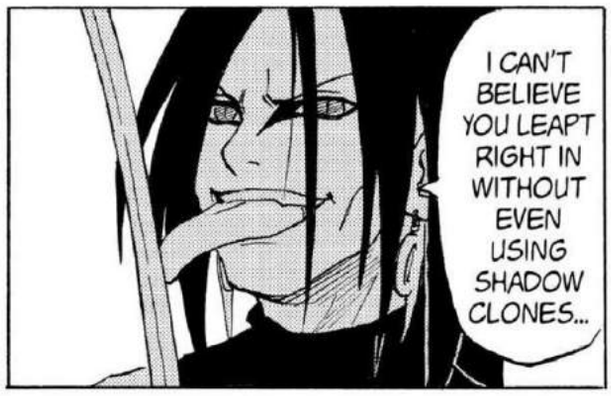
SWI


BLOO

!!
BOOSH
KSSSH


?!
URK
!!

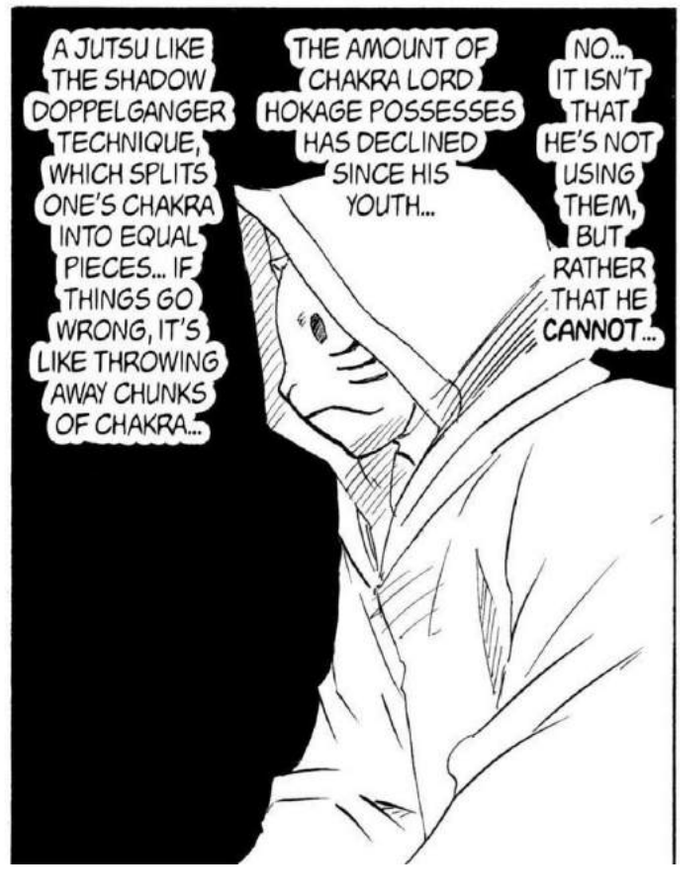


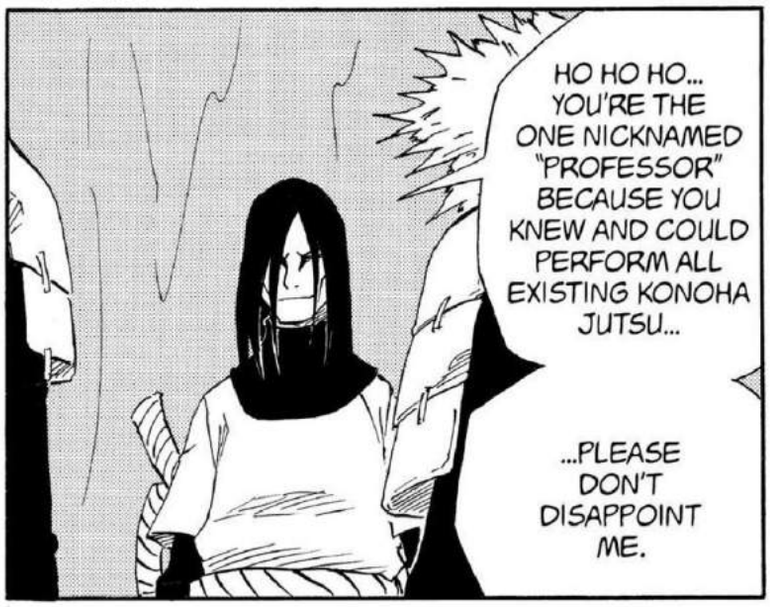

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEAPT RIGHT IN WITHOUT EVEN USING SHADOW CLONES...

WH
AM
SPLASH
SPLASH

AGE HAS CAUGHT UP WITH HIM...

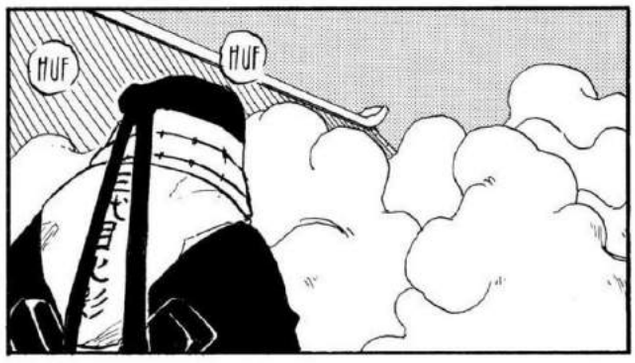
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU... WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUF
HUF

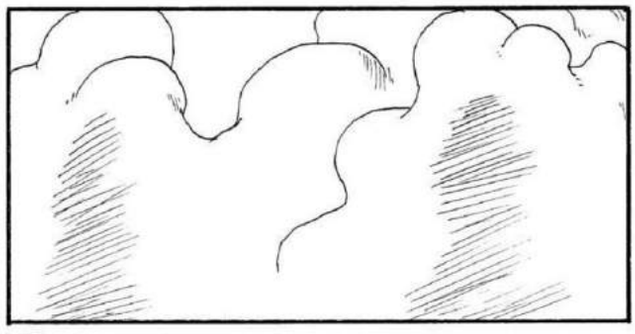

A JUTSU LIKE THE SHADOW DOPPELGANGER TECHNIQUE, WHICH SPLITS ONE'S CHAKRA INTO EQUAL PIECES... IF THINGS GO WRONG, IT'S LIKE THROWING AWAY CHUNKS OF CHAKRA...
THE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA LORD HOKAGE POSSESSES HAS DECLINED SINCE HIS YOUTH...
NO... IT ISN'T THAT HE'S NOT USING THEM, BUT RATHER THAT HE CANNOT...


HO HO HO... YOU'RE THE ONE NICKNAMED "PROFESSOR" BECAUSE YOU KNEW AND COULD PERFORM ALL EXISTING KONOHA JUTSU...
...PLEASE DON'T DISAPPOINT ME.

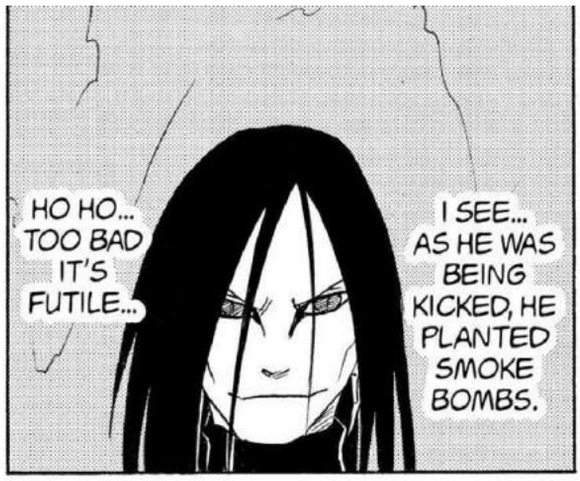
HUF
THE NYOI STAFF IS STARTING TO FEEL SO HEAVY...
UGH...
HUF
HUF

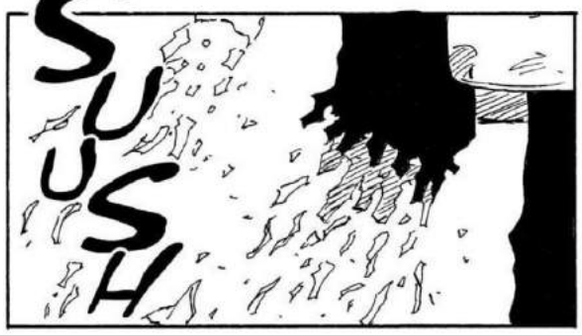
SHU
SHU

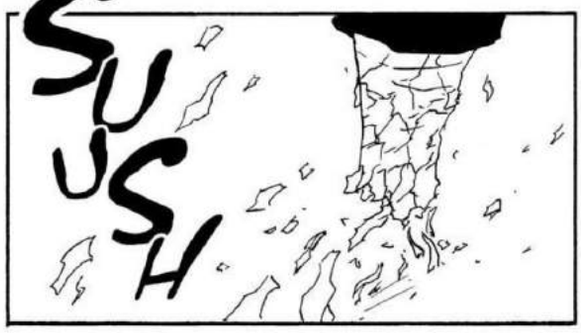

HUF
HUF

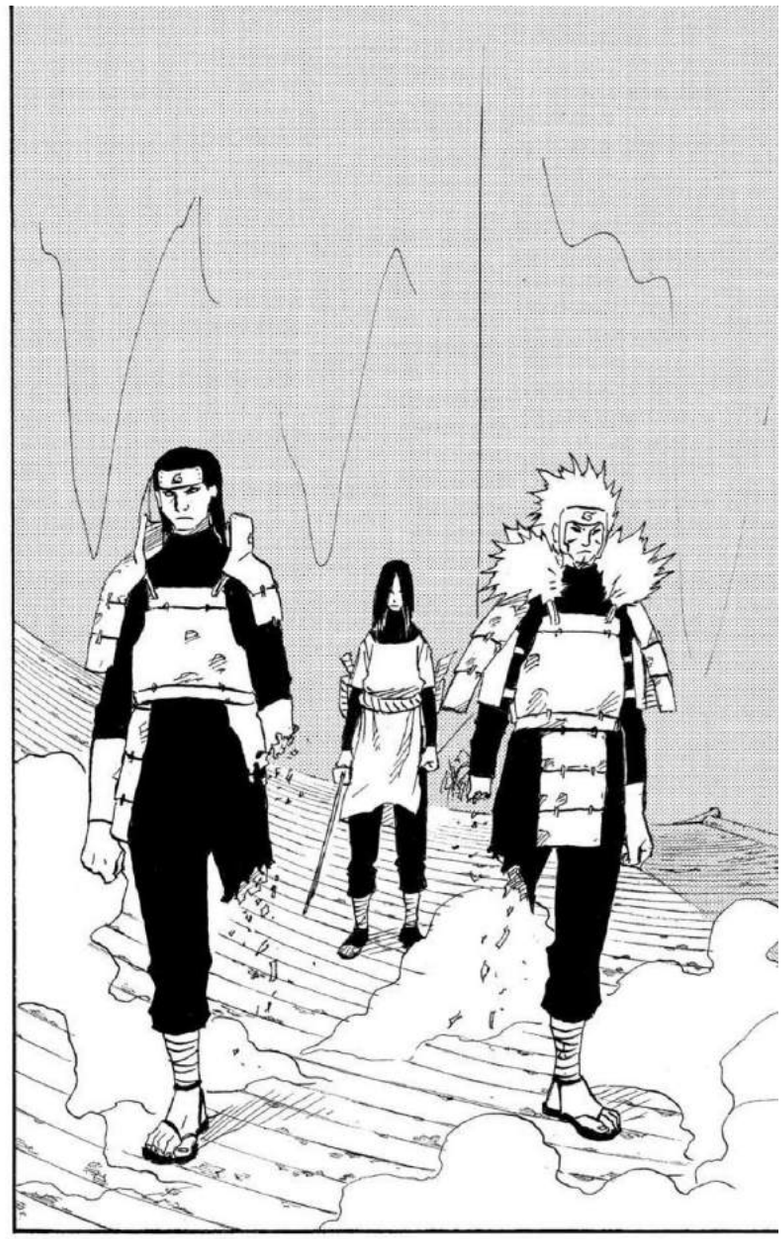


BOOM


HO HO... TOO BAD IT'S FUTILE...
I SEE... AS HE WAS BEING KICKED, HE PLANTED SMOKE BOMBS.


SUUSH


SUUSH



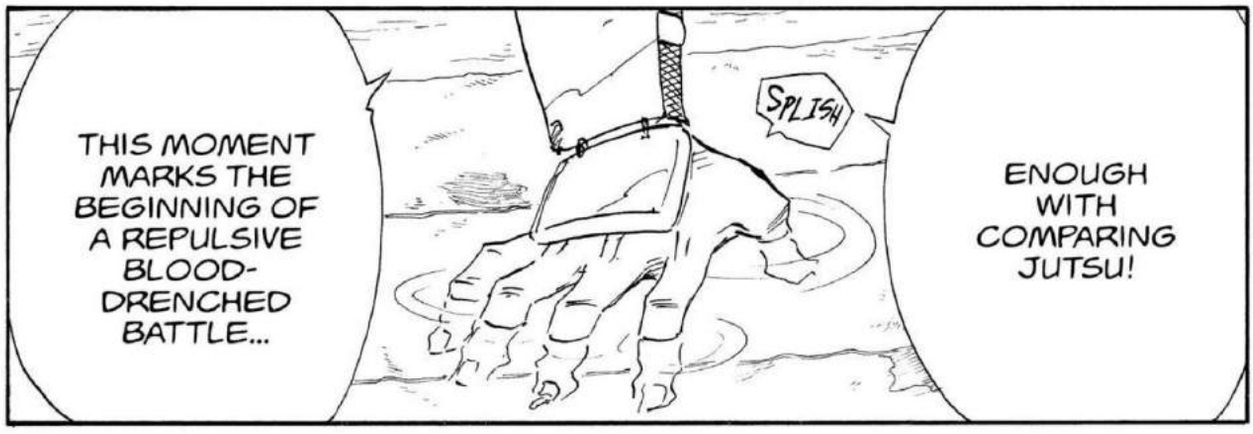
HUF
HUF
...NOTHING I DO WILL MATTER...
JUST AS I FEARED... UNLESS I DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BOUND SOULS THEMSELVES...

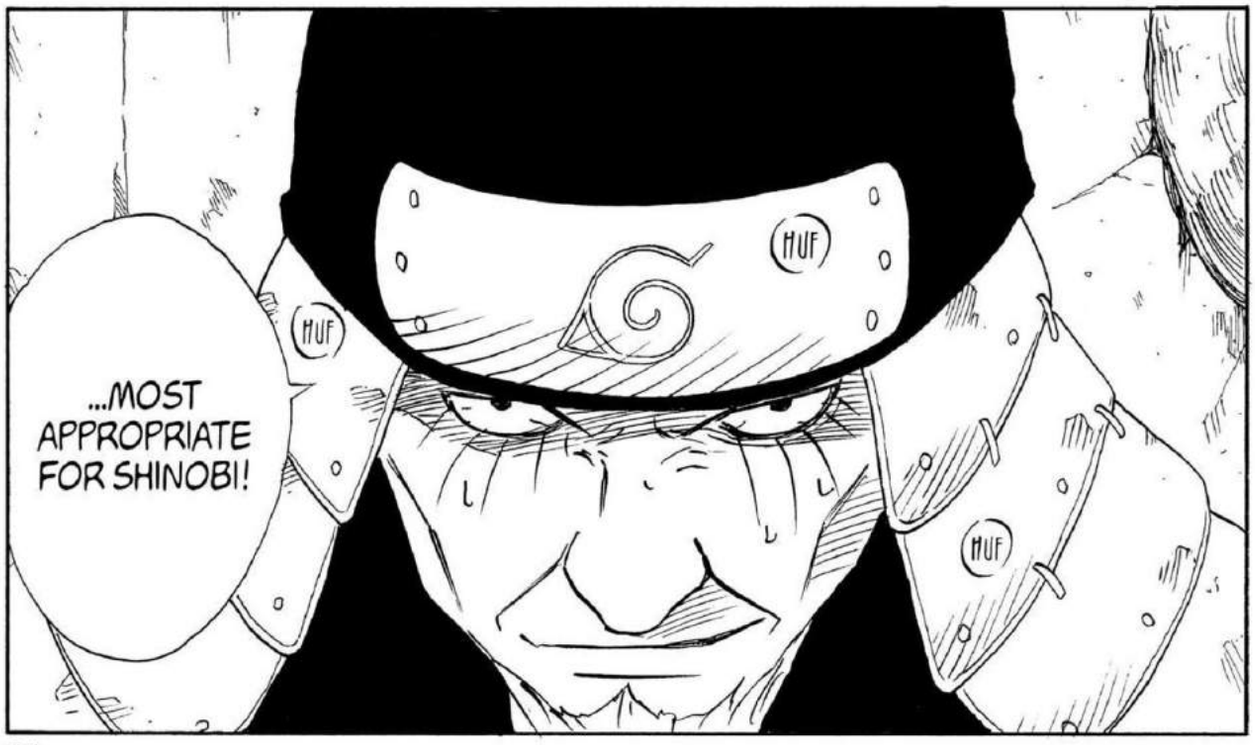
...IS GETTING RAGGED.
YOUR BREATH...

SUUSH

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

...THE FOURTH HOKAGE'S JUTSU AFTER ALL...
HUF
IN WHICH CASE, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE...
HUF


THIS MOMENT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A REPULSIVE BLOOD-DRENCHED BATTLE...
SPLISH
ENOUGH WITH COMPARING JUTSU!


...MOST APPROPRIATE FOR SHINOBI!
HUF
HUF
HUF

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 19 (CONTINUED)

WHEN I HEARD THE TRUTH, IT DID DEFLATE ME, BUT I CONTINUED TO POSE THE SAME QUESTION TO OTHER FRIENDS OF MINE. AND YET I KEPT GETTING SIMILAR RESPONSES FROM THEM AS WELL.

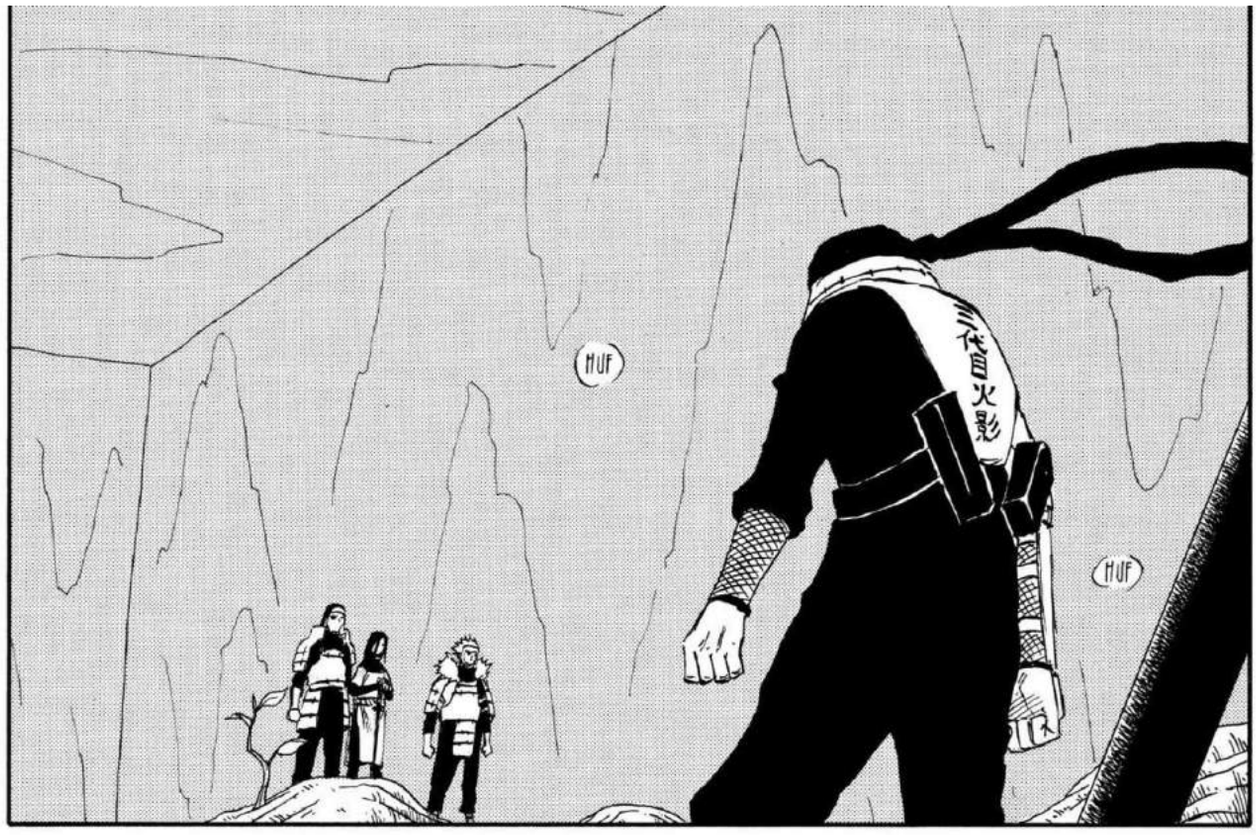
AND THEN, IT CAME TO ME. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT ELEMENTS TO DRAWING MANGA, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE IS...

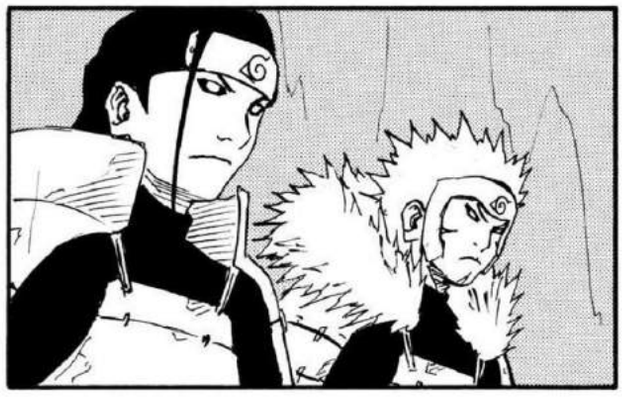
"ONE MUST HAVE FUN DRAWING ONE'S OWN MANGA. AND THEN, WHAT'S EVEN MORE CRITICAL IS TO BE AWARE OF ONE'S AUDIENCE AND DRAW FOR THE READERS' ENJOYMENT. EVERYTHING MUST BE FOR THE READERS. ONE MUST BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES AND MAKE THEM SAY 'WOW! THAT IS SO COOL!' WHEN THEY'VE FINISHED READING IT!!"

AND AFTER A LITTLE WHILE, I REALIZED THAT THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY "ENTERTAINMENT." IT'S IMPORTANT TO GRASP THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF DRAWING MANGA, BUT AS LONG AS ONE DRAWS THINKING "I'M GOING TO BE AN ENTERTAINER!!" I FEEL THAT THE OTHER THINGS WILL QUIETLY AND NATURALLY FALL INTO PLACE.

I AM STILL LEARNING NEW THINGS EVERY DAY.

Number 121:
The Terrible Experiment...!!


HUF
HUF



WHICH MEANS THE JUTSU WON'T UNRAVEL EVEN IF I KILL OROCHI-MARU...*
HUF
EDO TENSEI... REANIMATION...

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
SHHHH
SHHHH

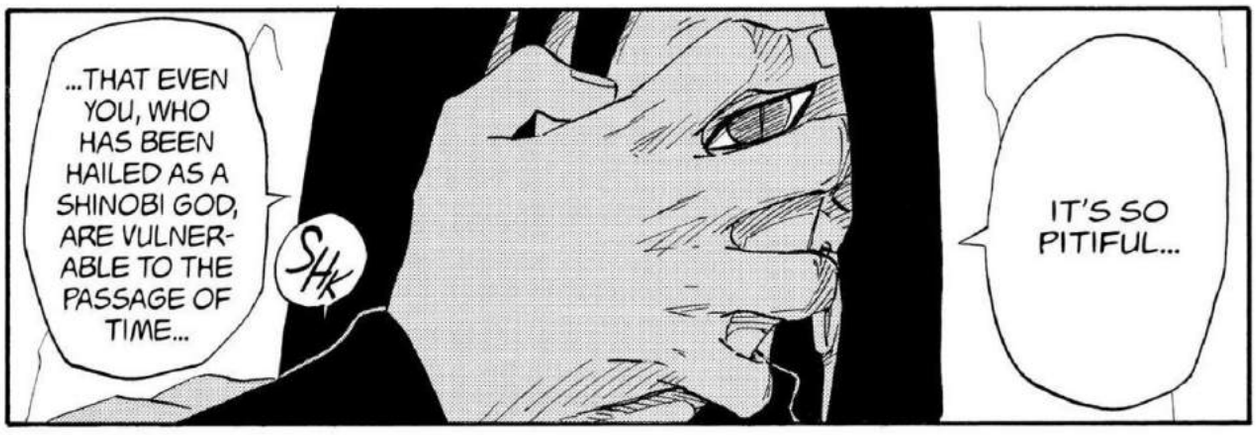
IN WHICH CASE... FIRST LORD, SECOND LORD, PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

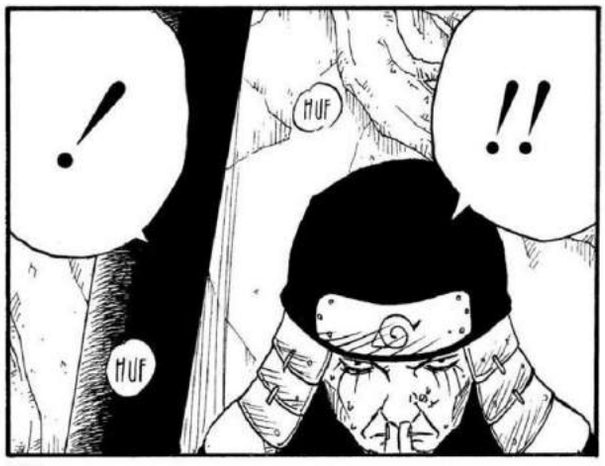
SHA
...I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CAST THIS JUTSU.

HEH HEH HEH HEH...

MY, MY, HOW WE'VE AGED.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU STRUGGLING LIKE THIS...

HUF
HUF
HUF
WHAT'S... SO FUNNY...?

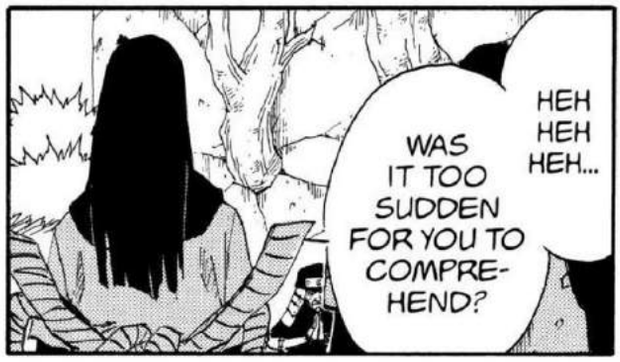

...THAT EVEN YOU, WHO HAS BEEN HAILED AS A SHINOBI GOD, ARE VULNERABLE TO THE PASSAGE OF TIME...
SHK
IT'S SO PITIFUL...


!
HUF
!!
HUF

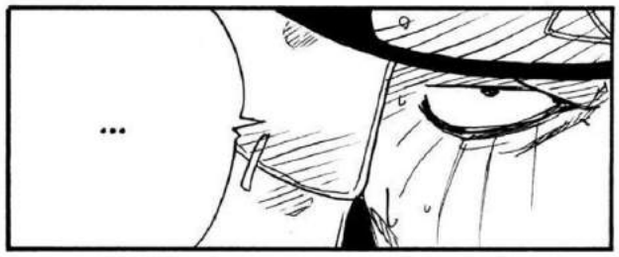
...!

RRIP RRIP

READ THIS WAY


HEH HEH HEH...
WAS IT TOO SUDDEN FOR YOU TO COMPRE-HEND?

...?!!
WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?!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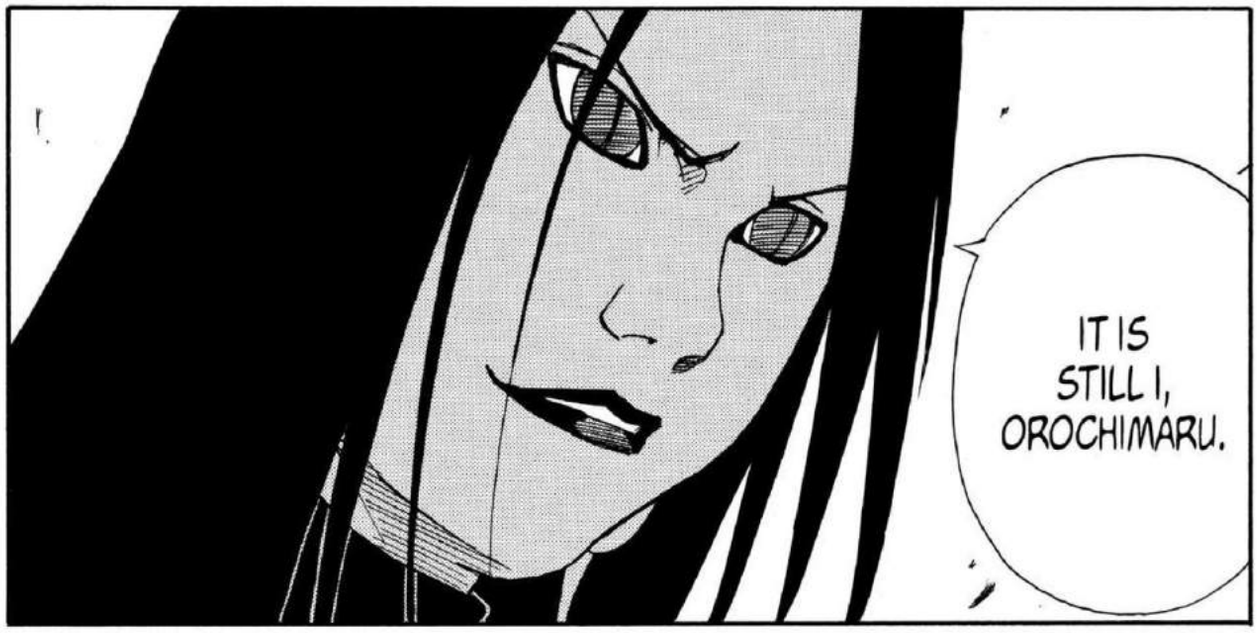
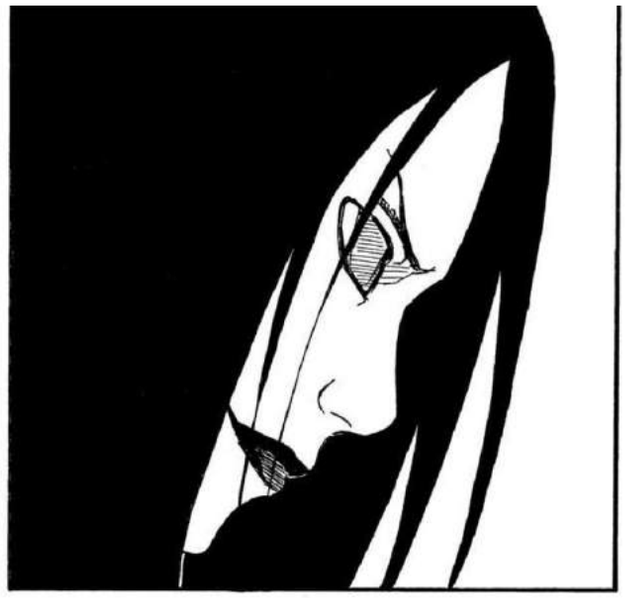
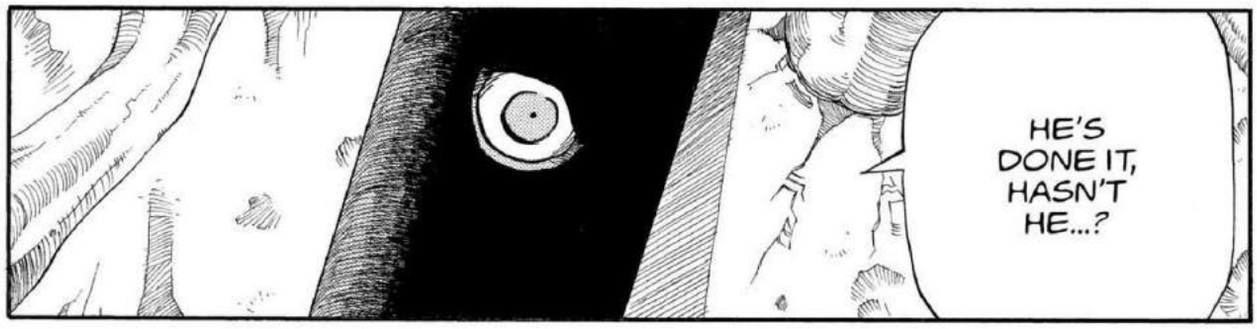

IT IS STILL I, OROCHIMARU.

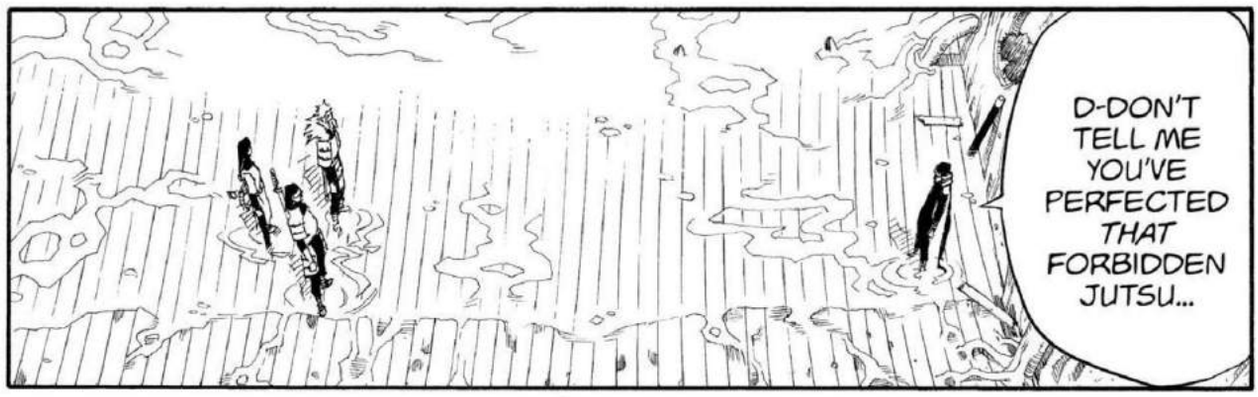
...!!

WHAT IS GOING ON...? AS ONE OF THE LEGEND-ARY THREE SHINOBI, HE'S GOT TO BE WAY PAST 50 YEARS OLD...
THIS GUY'S TOO YOUNG...
...PLUS, THAT IS NOT THE OROCHI-MARU FACE WE KNOW!!

!!

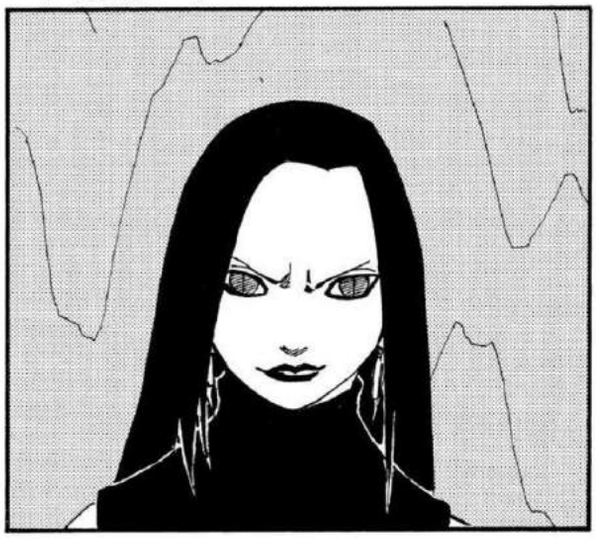


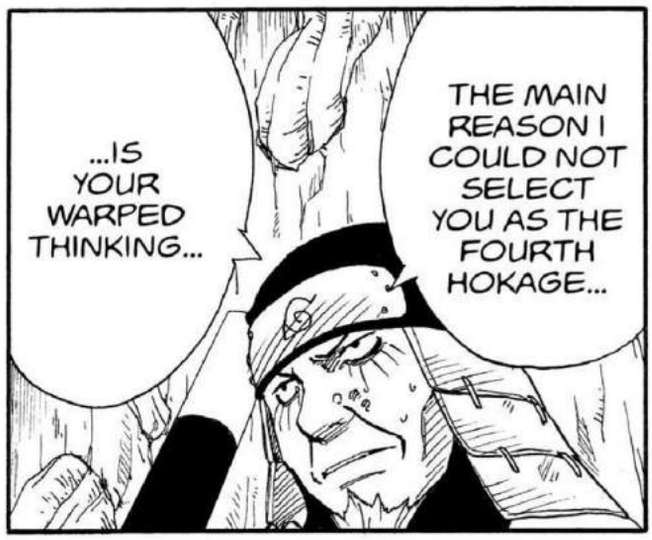

HE'S DONE IT, HASN'T HE...?


D-DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE PERFECTED *THAT* FORBIDDEN JUTSU...

YOU TERRIBLE, INHUMAN FELLOW...

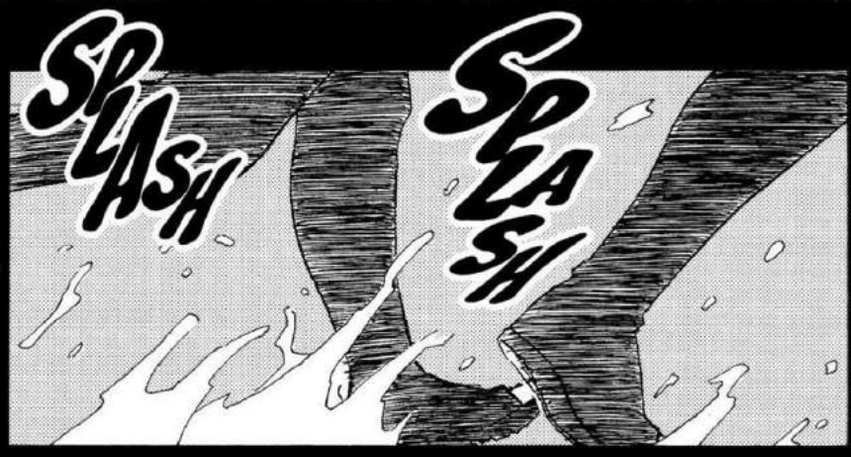
IN THE DECADE SINCE I LEFT THE VILLAGE, I'VE STRUGGLED...
HEH HEH HEH...



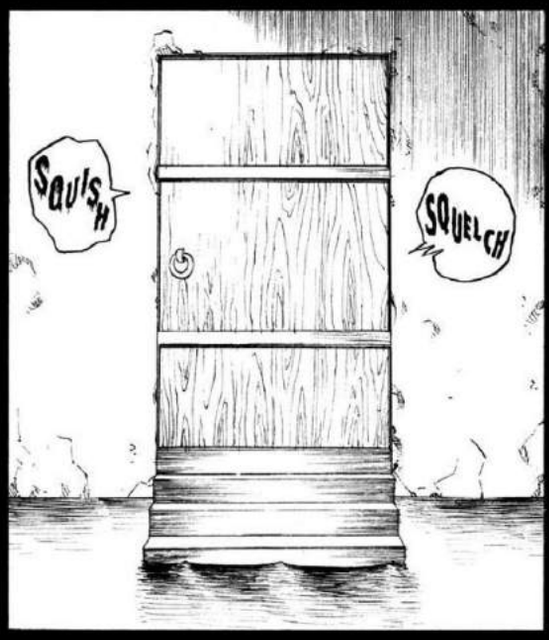

...IS YOUR WARPED THINKING...
THE MAIN REASON I COULD NOT SELECT YOU AS THE FOURTH HOKAGE...

SPLASH
SPLASH

SHUP


SPLASH
SPLASH

SPLASH
SPLASH

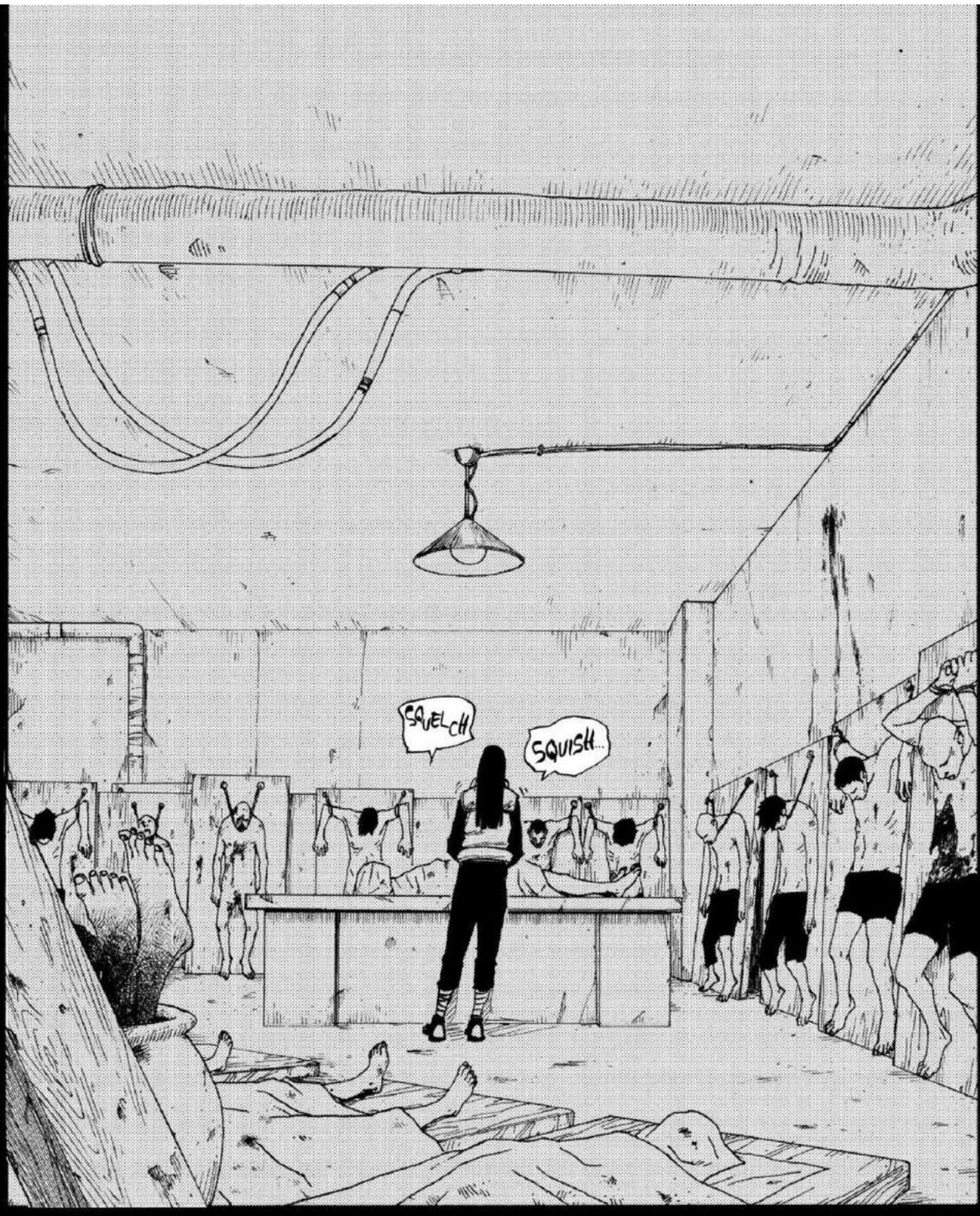

SQUISH
SQUELCH

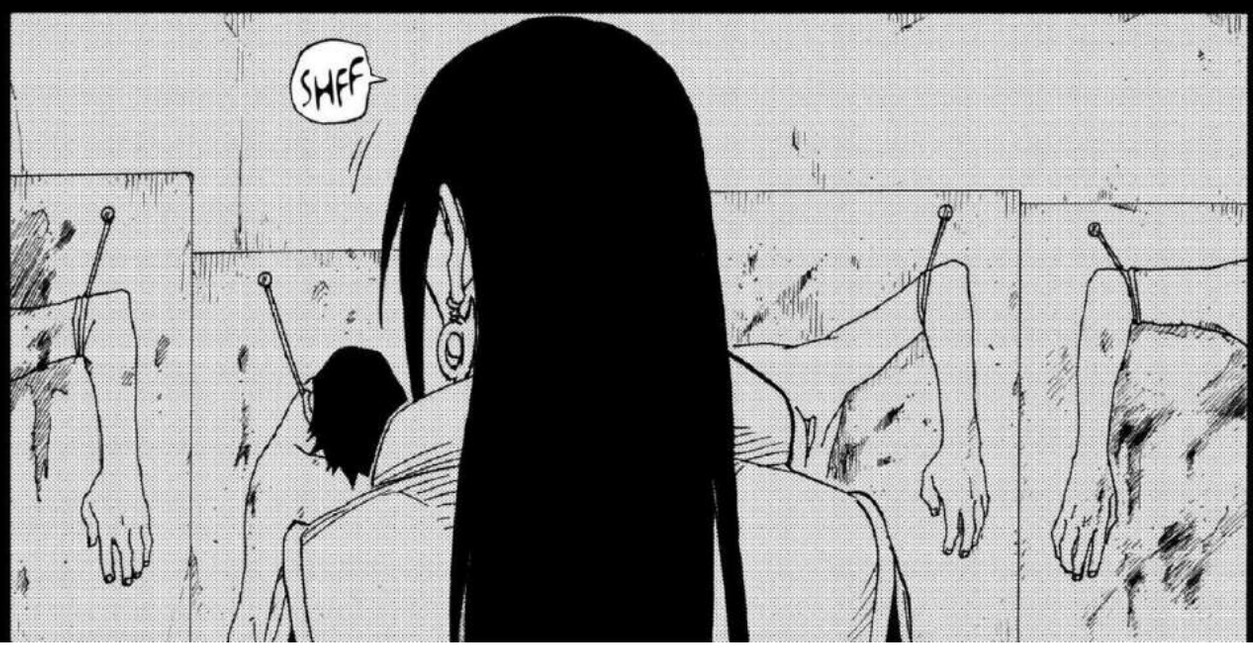
SHA
SHUP
SHA

SLAM

SQUISH
SQUICH

SHUP

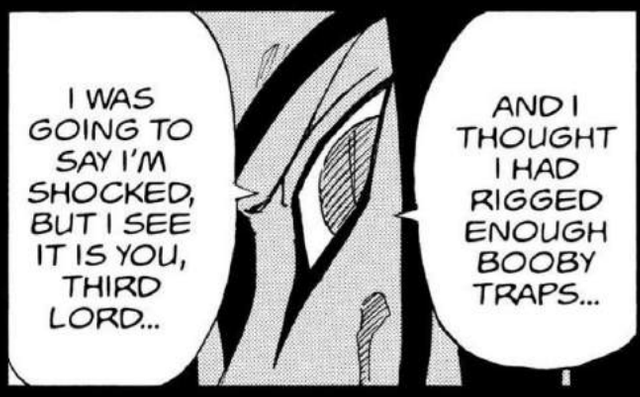

SQUELCH
SQUISH...


SHFF

HO HO HO... I'VE FINALLY BEEN FOUND OUT...
WHAT A SHAME.

THERE HAVE BEEN A SPATE OF DISAPPEARANCES RECENTLY, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, OF NOT JUST GENIN AND CHÛNIN, BUT EVEN SEVERAL BLACK OPS AGENTS...
AND WE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT **YOU'VE** BEEN ACTING IN A SUSPICIOUS MANNER...

OROCHIMARU...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!!


AND I THOUGHT I HAD RIGGED ENOUGH BOOBY TRAPS...
I WAS GOING TO SAY I'M SHOCKED, BUT I SEE IT IS YOU, THIRD LORD...

!

HEH HEH HEH... WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO KILL YOU TOO?
LORD OROCHIMARU... WHY WOULD A SHINOBI OF YOUR CALIBER ENGAGE IN SUCH THINGS...?!!

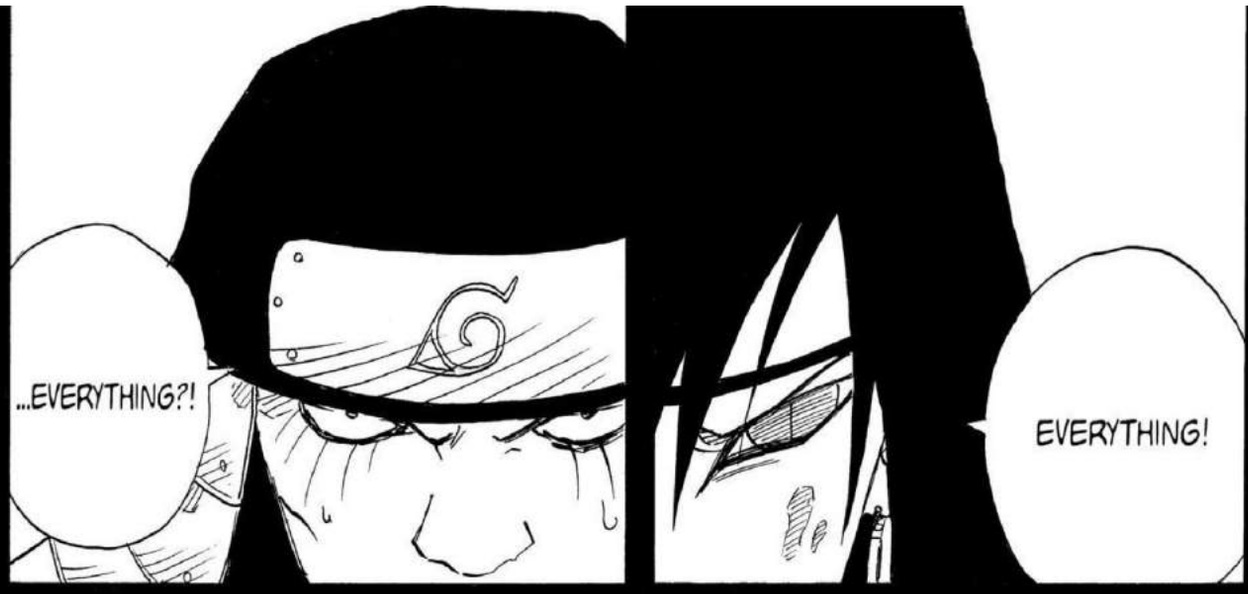
READ THIS WAY
I GUESS THERE'S NO USE HIDING IT ANYMORE...
AH WELL! NOW THAT THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG...
TELL ME!! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING HERE?!
OROCHIMARU!! SO IT HAS BEEN YOU...

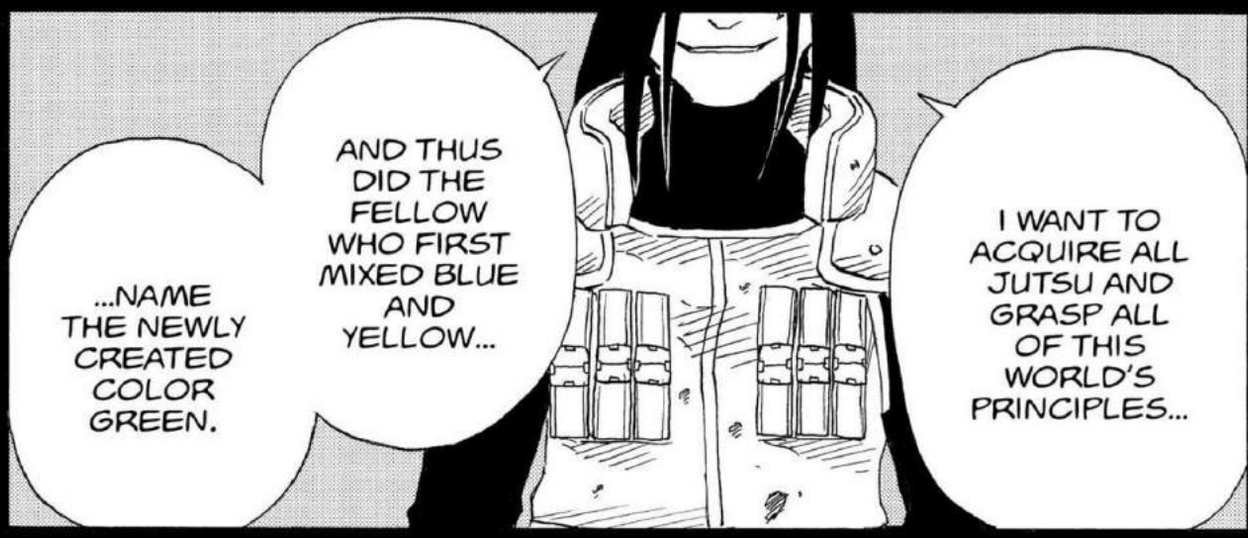
I'M EXPLORING JUTSU DEVELOPMENT!

FORBIDDEN JUTSU, EH...

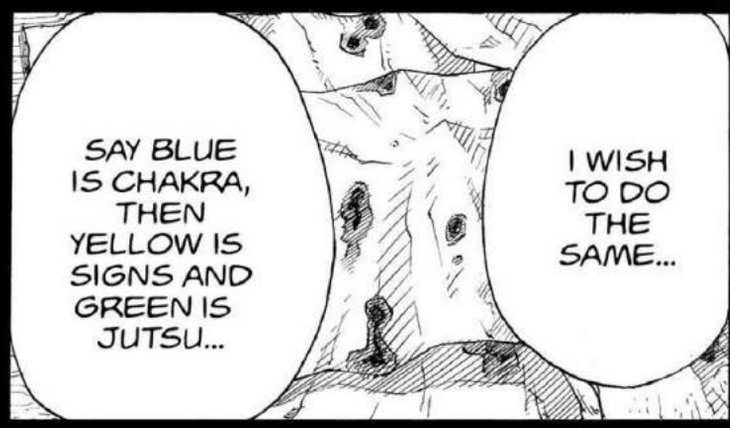
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SEEK?

YOU'VE BEEN CONDUCTING LIVE HUMAN EXPERI-MENTS...
OROCHI... YOU...


...EVERYTHING?!
EVERYTHING!

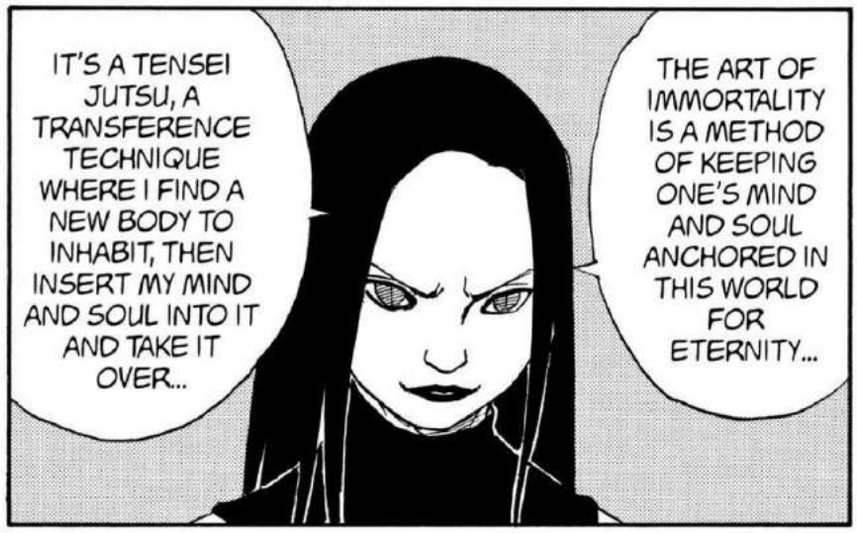

...NAME THE NEWLY CREATED COLOR GREEN.
AND THUS DID THE FELLOW WHO FIRST MIXED BLUE AND YELLOW...
I WANT TO ACQUIRE ALL JUTSU AND GRASP ALL OF THIS WORLD'S PRINCIPLES...

JUST AS THERE ARE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF COLORS, SO ARE THERE THOUSANDS IF NOT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JUTSU OUT IN THE WORLD...


SAY BLUE IS CHAKRA, THEN YELLOW IS SIGNS AND GREEN IS JUTSU...
I WISH TO DO THE SAME...

AND HE WHO MASTERS ALL IS TRULY WORTHY OF THE TITLE "THE ULTIMATE BEING"...
HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN EACH AND EVERY JUTSU THAT EXISTS, AND THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THEM, I NEED A LONG, LONG TIME...

READ THIS WAY
DON'T TELL ME THE JUTSU YOU WERE EXPERI-MENTING WITH HERE WAS...
OROCHI-MARU...
...EVEN IF I HAD BECOME HOKAGE. FOR ONCE ONE IS DEAD, IT'S ALL OVER...
FOR ME, THE LIFESPAN OF THE FLESH IS MUCH TOO SHORT...
YES... IT'S THAT WHICH YOU FEAR...
...
...
FURÔFUSHI NO JUTSU... THE ART OF IMMORTALITY!


IT'S A TENSEI JUTSU, A TRANSFERENCE TECHNIQUE WHERE I FIND A NEW BODY TO INHABIT, THEN INSERT MY MIND AND SOUL INTO IT AND TAKE IT OVER...
THE ART OF IMMORTALITY IS A METHOD OF KEEPING ONE'S MIND AND SOUL ANCHORED IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY...

...

I FEEL IT DEEPLY SEEING YOU LIKE THIS...
AGING IMPARTS A SENSE OF FUTILITY, DOES IT NOT?

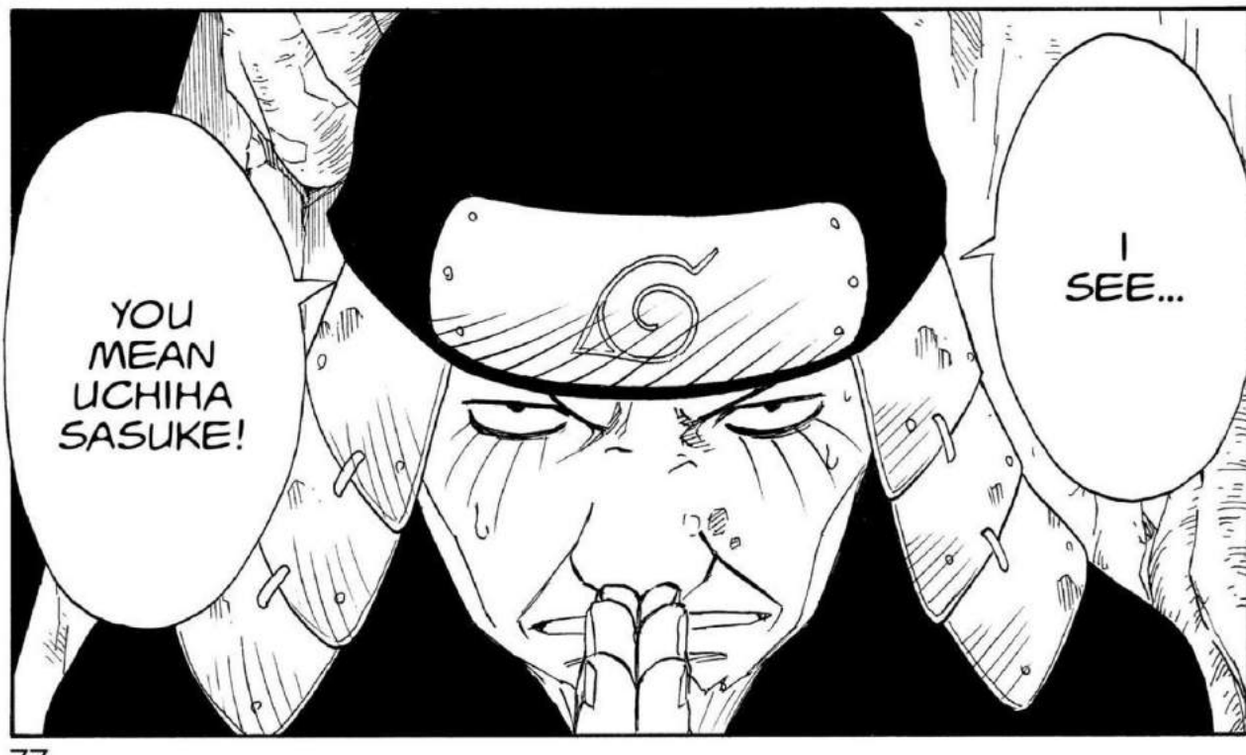
(HUF)
FEH...!

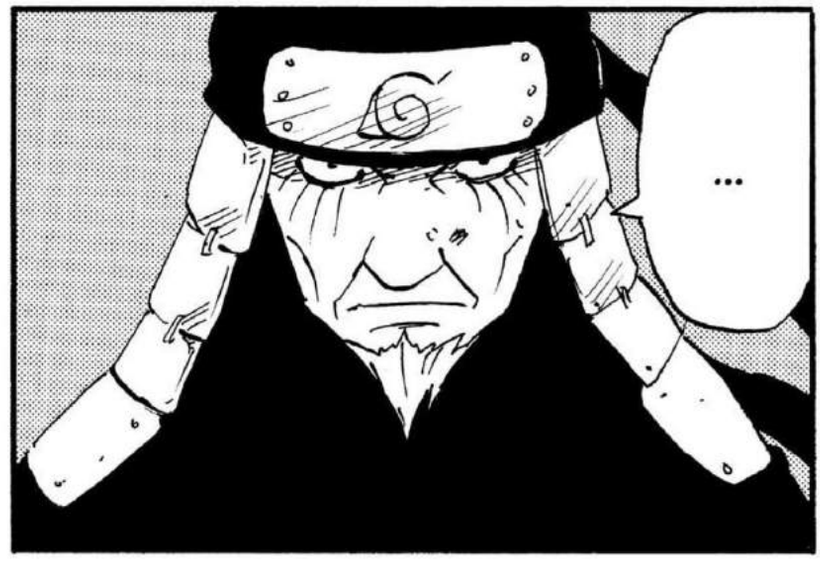
...WAS THAT I WANTED YOU TO FEEL NOSTALGIC ABOUT OUR REUNION, MASTER....
HEH HEH HEH... THE REASON I WAS ASSUMING MY OLD APPEARANCE UNTIL NOW...

KONOHA SHALL TRULY PROVIDE ME WITH MUCH ENJOYMENT...
YOU WILL DIE HERE AND I SHALL OBTAIN A BODY THAT IS EVEN YOUNGER, STRONGER, AND MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THIS ONE.

HEH

...

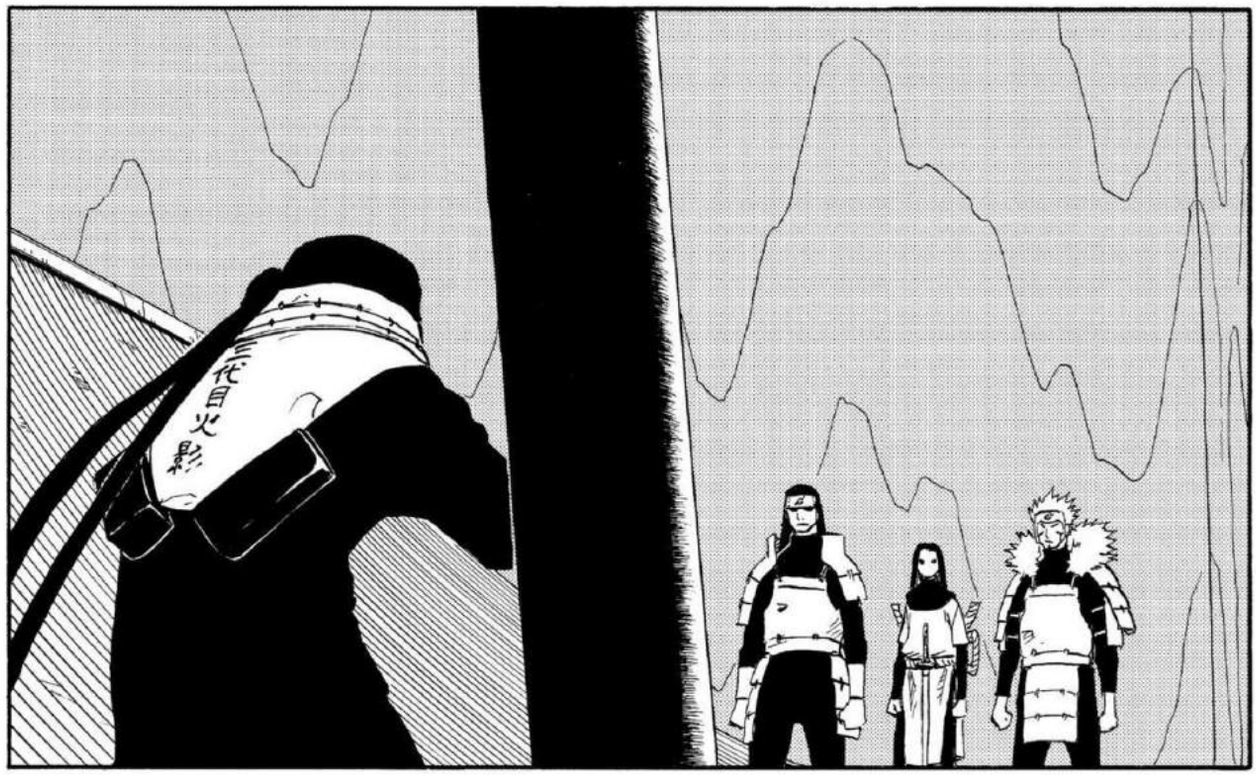

YOU MEAN UCHIHA SASUKE!
I SEE...

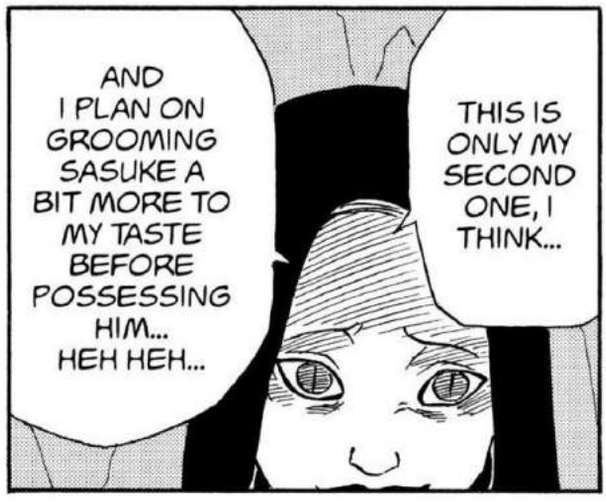


Number 122: The Bestowed Will!!

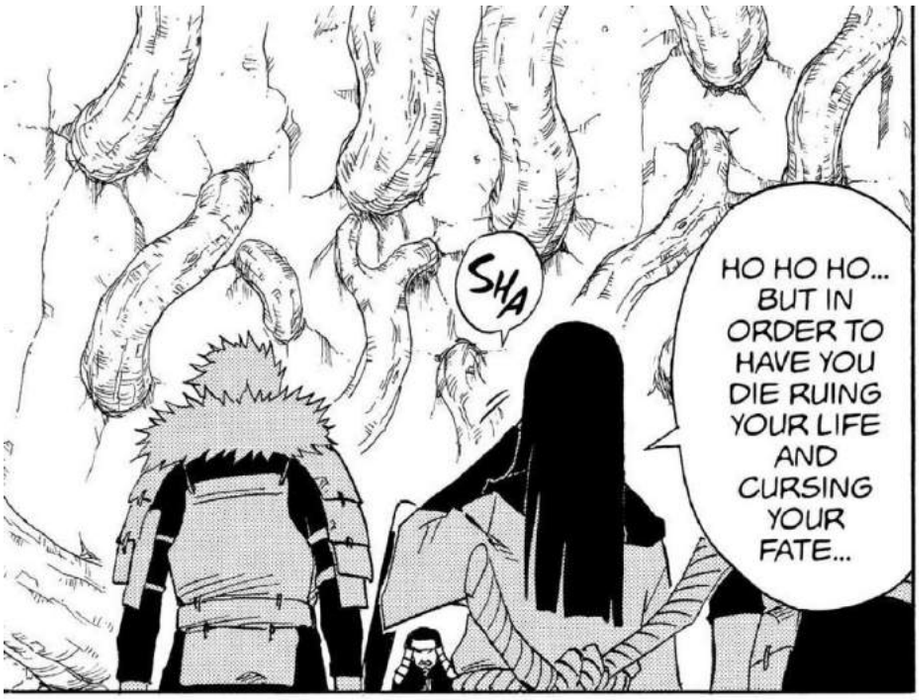
(HUF)
(HUF)
...

YESSS... THAT'S RIGHT...
DEAR LITTLE SASUKE...

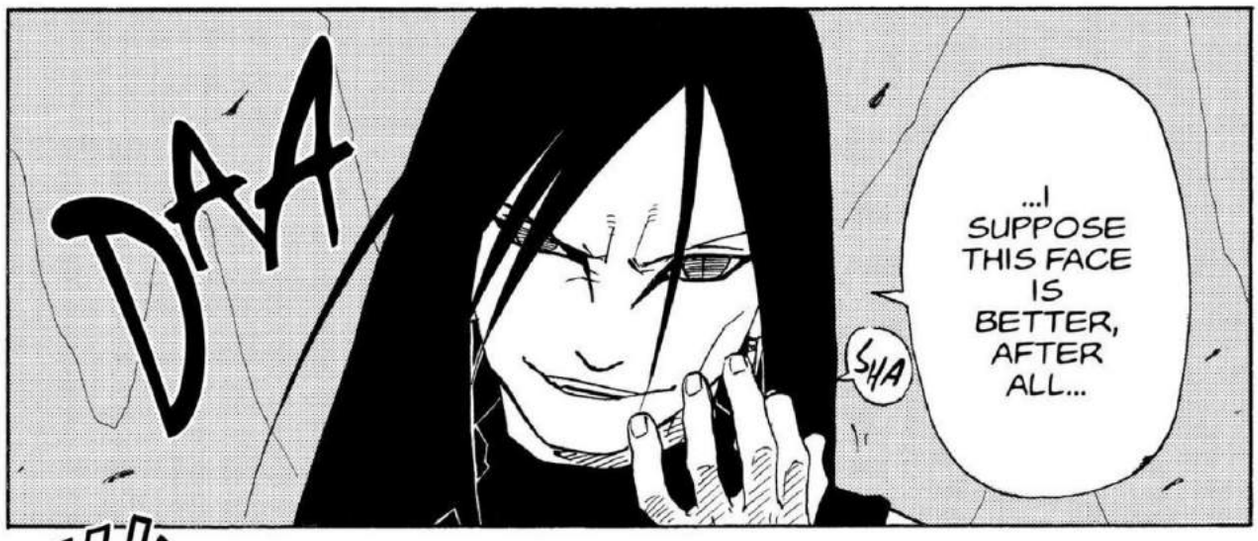

三代目火影


AND I PLAN ON GROOMING SASUKE A BIT MORE TO MY TASTE BEFORE POSSESSING HIM... HEH HEH...
THIS IS ONLY MY SECOND ONE, I THINK...

THAT FACE... THAT BODY... HOW MANY OTHERS HAVE THERE BEEN?
A TRANSFERENCE TECHNIQUE WHICH GIVES YOUR MIND AND SOUL IMMORTALITY THROUGH STEALING OTHERS' BODIES...


SHA
HO HO HO... BUT IN ORDER TO HAVE YOU DIE RUING YOUR LIFE AND CURSING YOUR FATE...

UGH...


DAA
...I SUPPOSE THIS FACE IS BETTER, AFTER ALL...
SHA

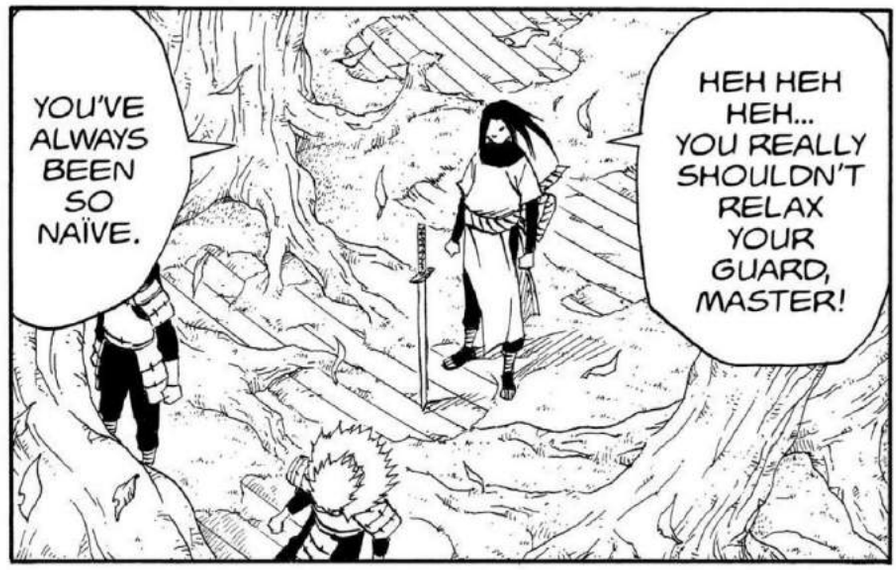
SHUD

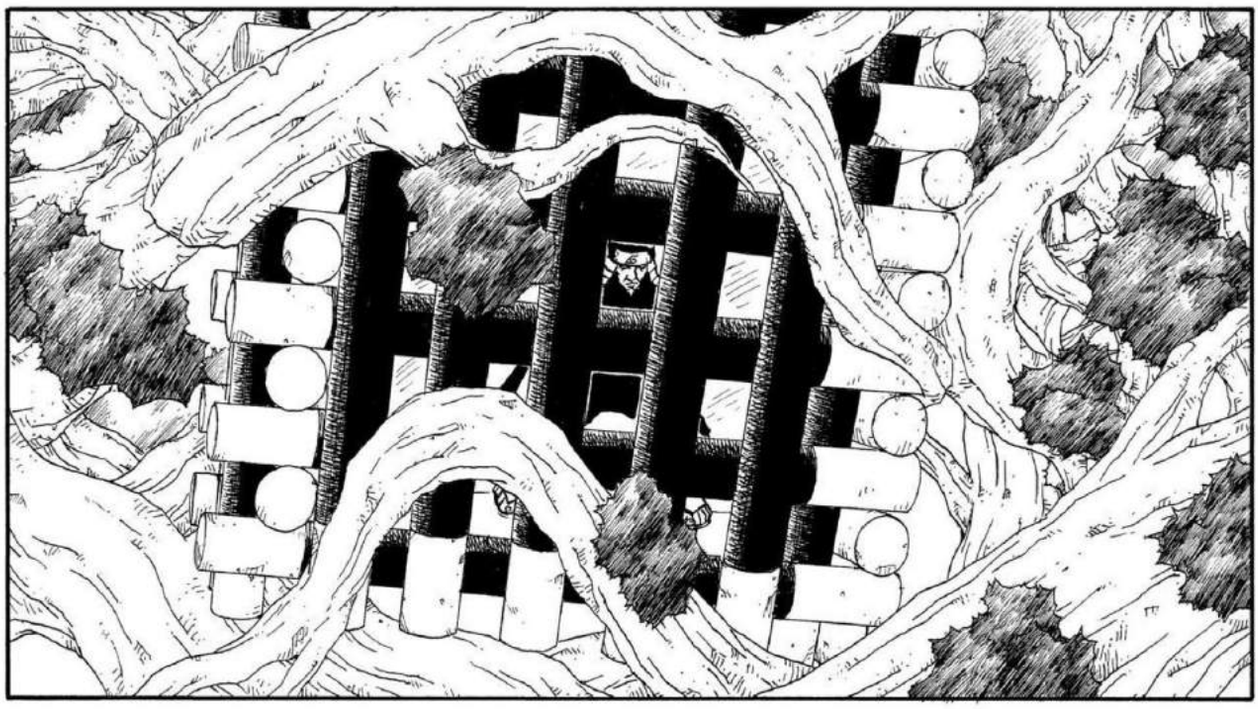
...

MONSTER!

!!
LORD HOKAGE!!!

DRIP
DRIP...


YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO NAÏVE.
HEH HEH HEH... YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T RELAX YOUR GUARD, MASTER!



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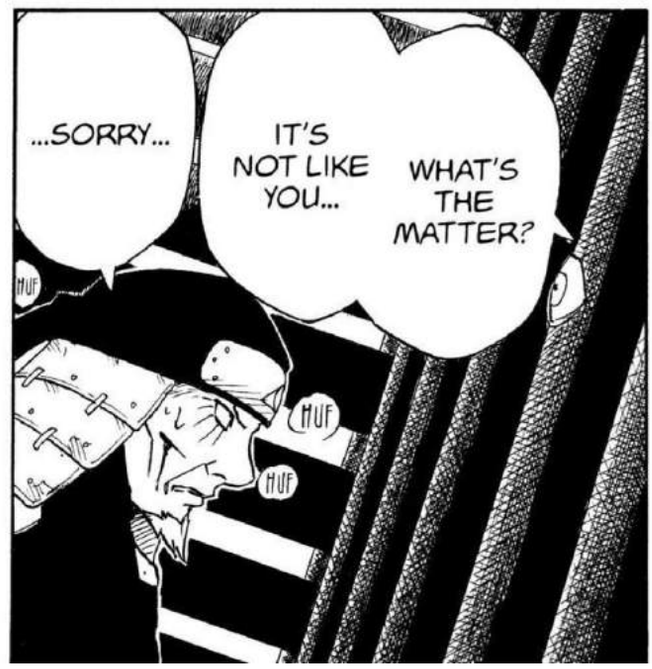
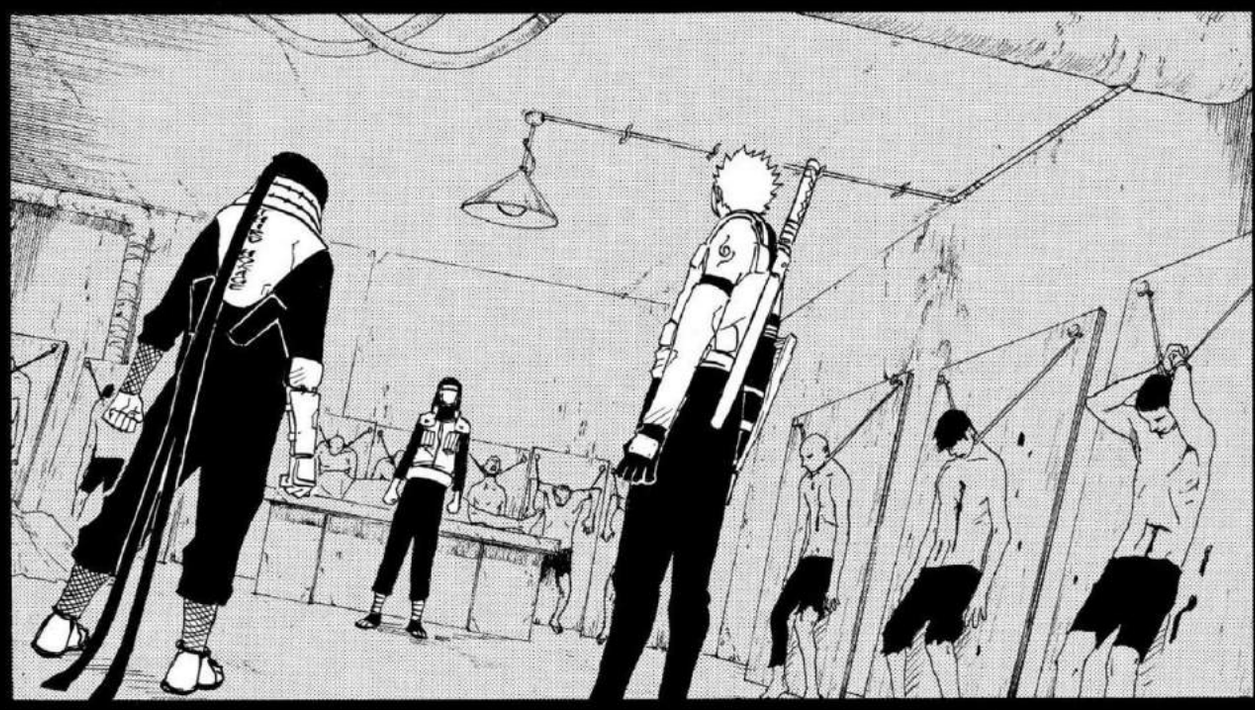
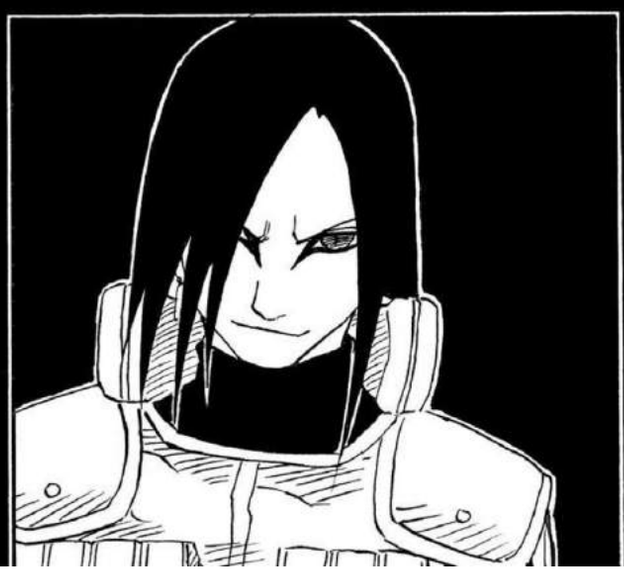
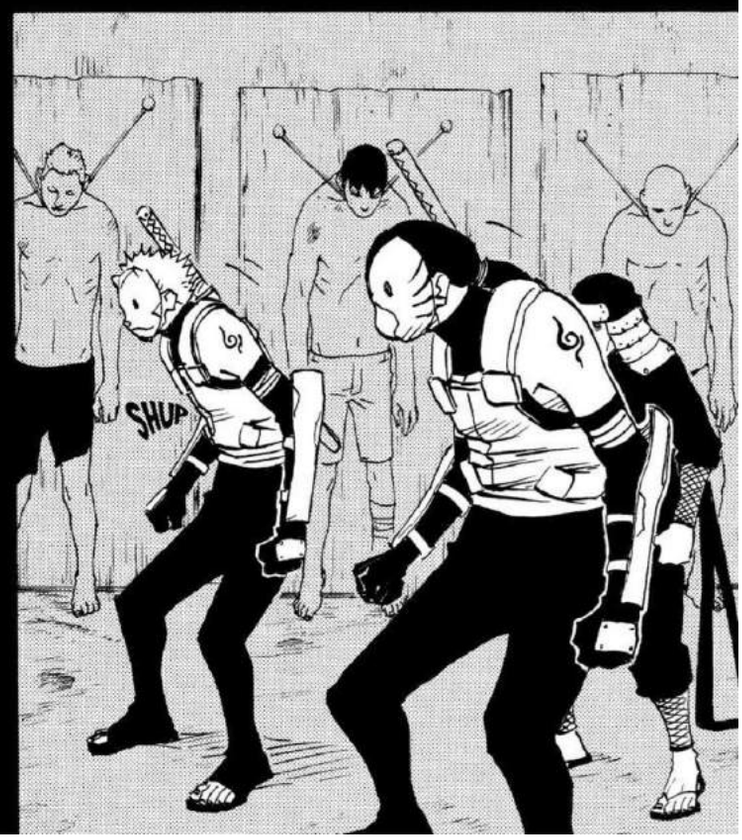

...SORRY...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUF
HUF
HUF



KRNCH



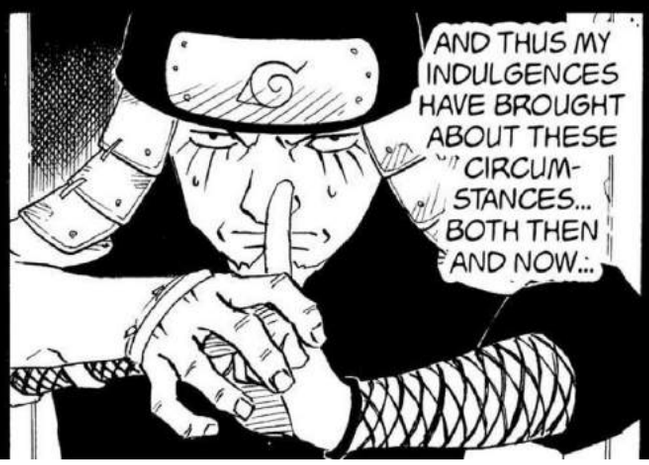

SHUP

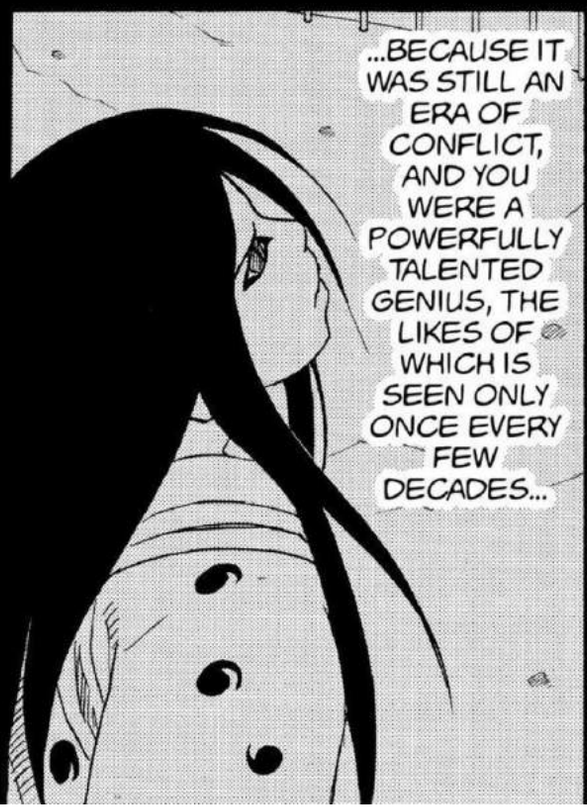
PUPILS WHO CONCEALED MALICE AND AMBITION...

I KNEW, AND YET PRE-TENDED I HADN'T NOTICED...
...THAT YOU HAD SUCH FOUNDATIONS WITHIN YOU...

I HAD PICKED UP...

I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD INHERIT MY WILL AND STRENGTH... THAT'S WHAT I WISHED.


AND THUS MY INDULGENCES HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THESE CIRCUM-STANCES... BOTH THEN AND NOW...

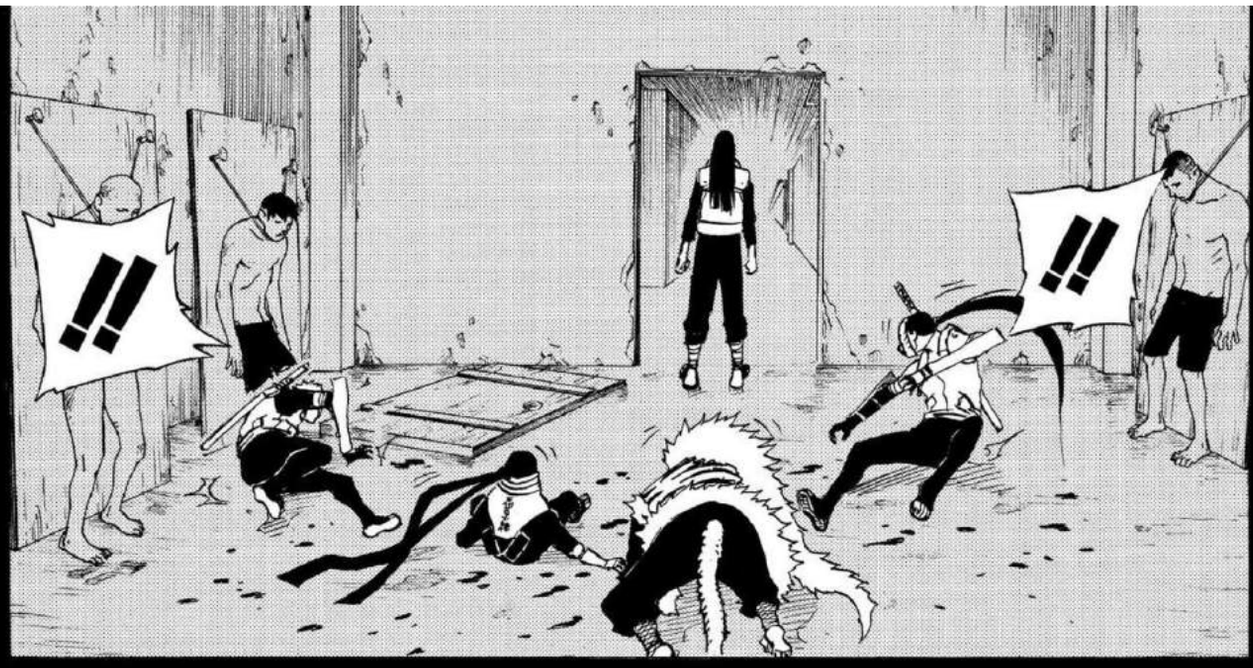

...BECAUSE IT WAS STILL AN ERA OF CONFLICT, AND YOU WERE A POWERFULLY TALENTED GENIUS, THE LIKES OF WHICH IS SEEN ONLY ONCE EVERY FEW DECADES...

POO
F

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME? ME...?

... MASTER SARUTOBI ?
SHA
CAN YOU REALLY DO IT...

THUNK
THUD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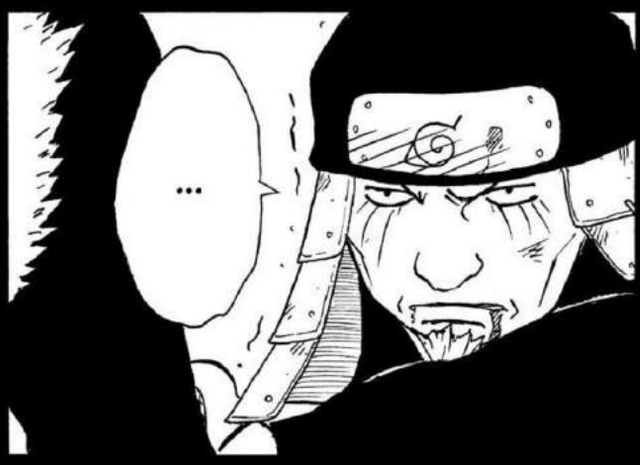

...

YOU WERE RIGHT... I COULDN'T KILL YOU...
SARUTOBI... YOU...

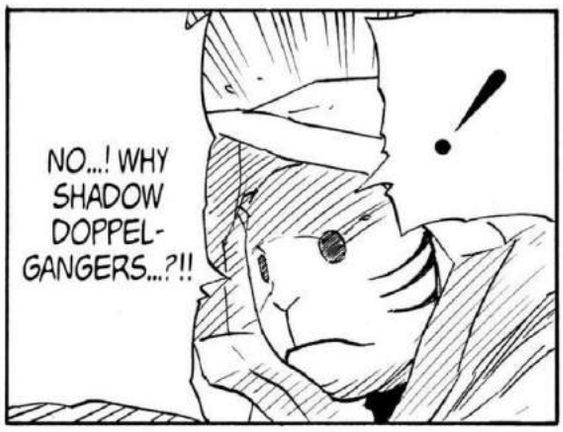
DASH

...

GRAB
HERE I COME!
TWITCH
!
BUT I SHALL KILL YOU AND RECTIFY THE ERRORS OF THE PAST RIGHT NOW!!
POOF
POOF
POOF
FOOSH
FOOSH
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!!

POOF!!
POOF
KAGE-BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!

HEH... YOU REALLY HAVE LOST YOUR MIND...
TO PURPOSELY SHORTEN YOUR LIFE IN YOUR HASTE...


!
NO...! WHY SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS...?!!

THUMP

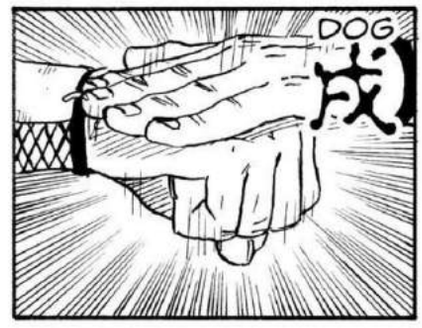
!!
D-DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE...?!

SHEEP
未

BOAR
亥

SNAKE
巳

RAT
子

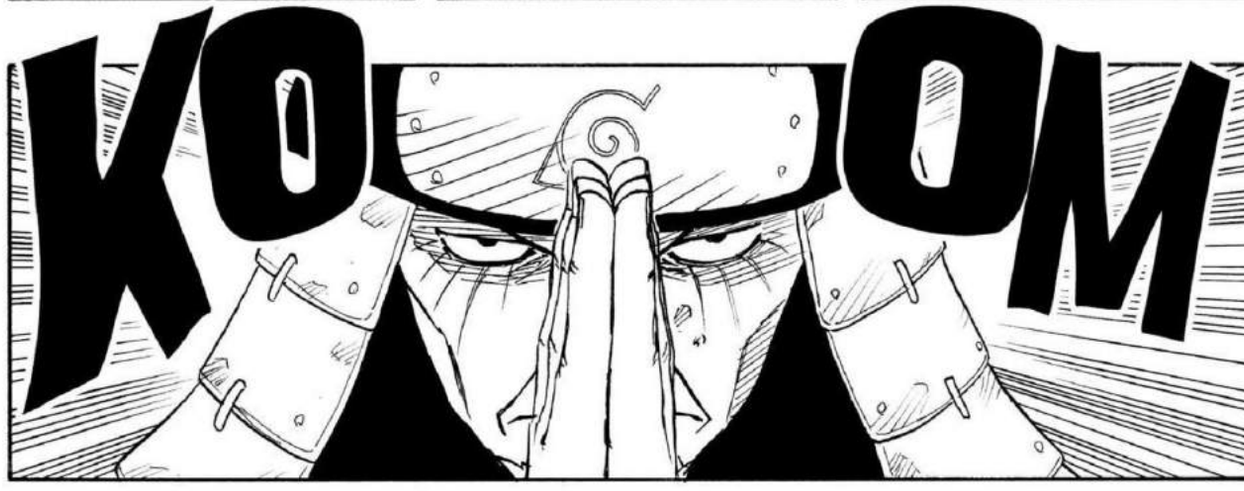

DOG
戌

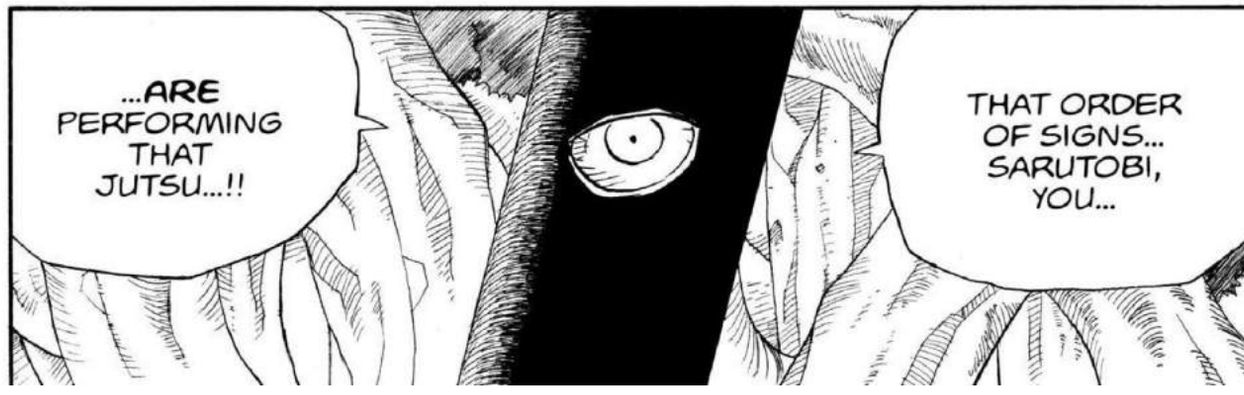
RABBIT
卯

SNAKE
巳

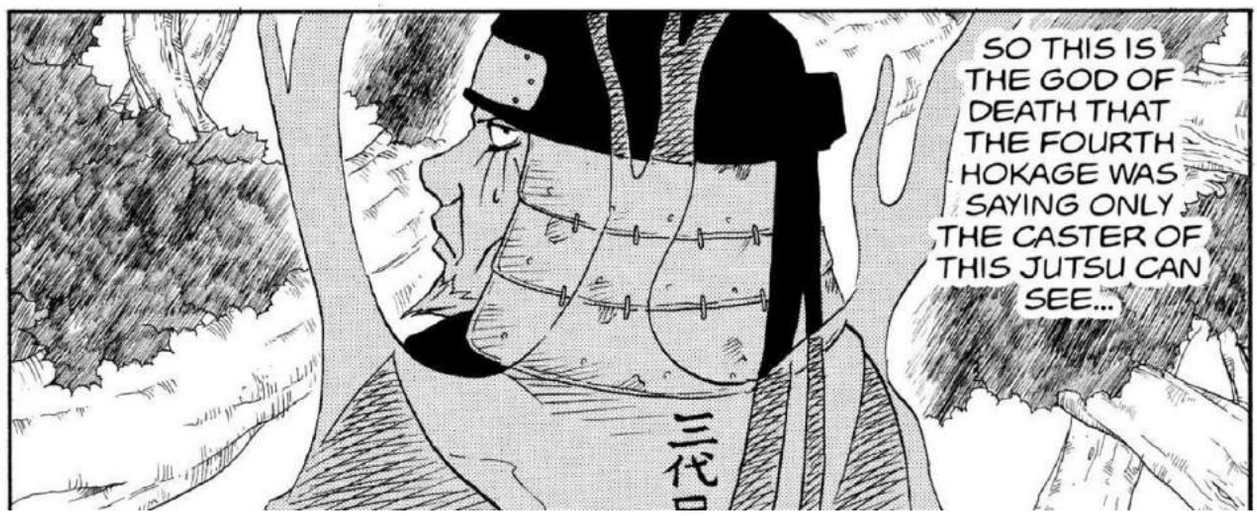
HORSE
午

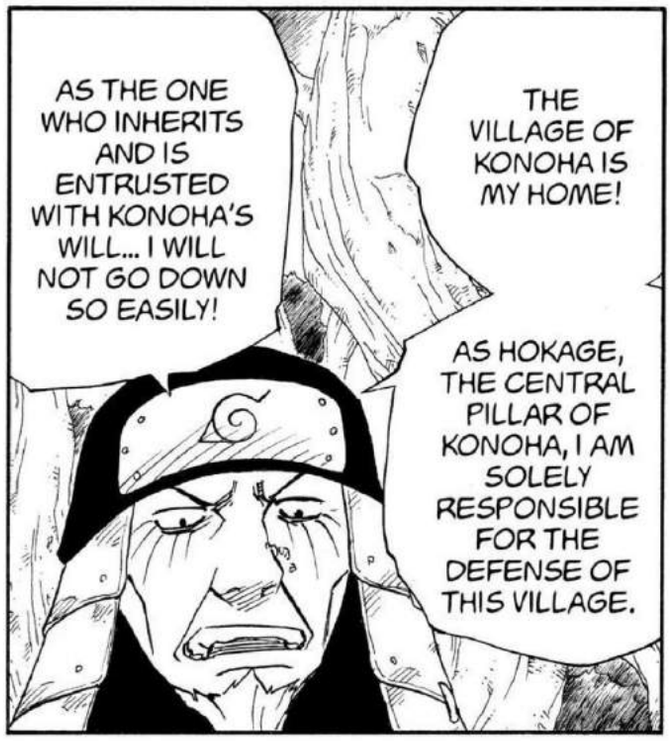
BIRD
酉


KO
OM


...ARE PERFORMING THAT JUTSU...!!
THAT ORDER OF SIGNS... SARUTOBI, YOU...

BO
M

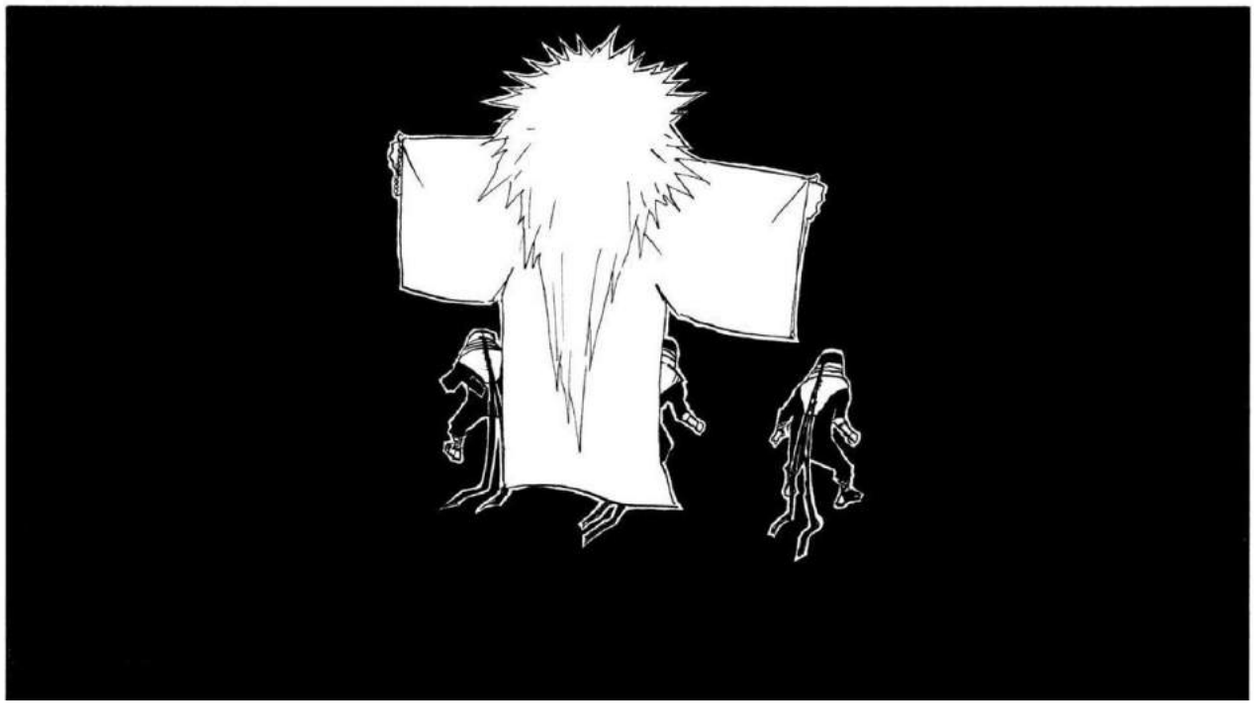

SO THIS IS THE GOD OF DEATH THAT THE FOURTH HOKAGE WAS SAYING ONLY THE CASTER OF THIS JUTSU CAN SEE...
三代目


AS THE ONE WHO INHERITS AND IS ENTRUSTED WITH KONOHA'S WILL... I WILL NOT GO DOWN SO EASILY!
THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA IS MY HOME!
AS HOKAGE, THE CENTRAL PILLAR OF KONOHA, I AM SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THIS VILLAGE.

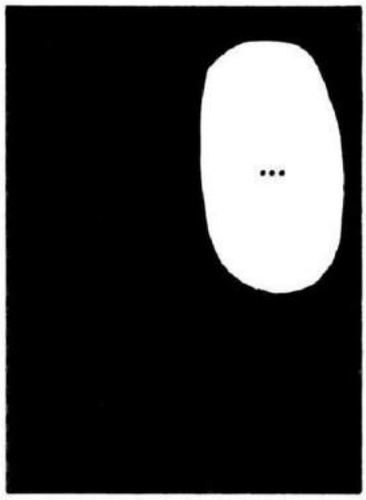
NO MATTER WHAT YOU TRY, IT'S TOO LATE... I HAVE WON.
KONOHA WILL FALL!

SHOO
!

KOKUANGYÔ NO JUTSU! THE ART OF INFINITE DARKNESS!
GENJUTSU!



THOOM
UGH!
YOU SPOUT NONSENSE. YOU'RE MERELY ONE LEADER IN A LONG LINE OF MANY FOR ONE LOWLY ORGANIZATION.
EVEN YOUR MOUNTAINSIDE IMAGE WILL EVENTUALLY WEAR AWAY AND BE OBLITERATED.
!!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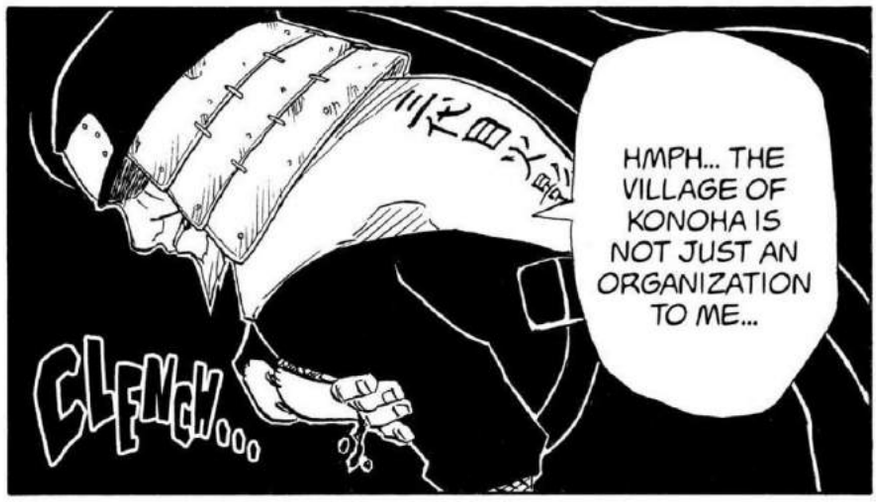
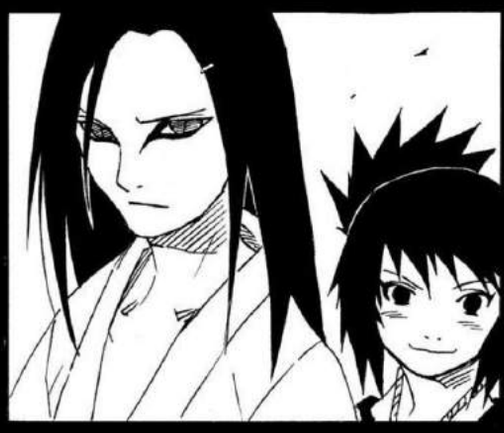
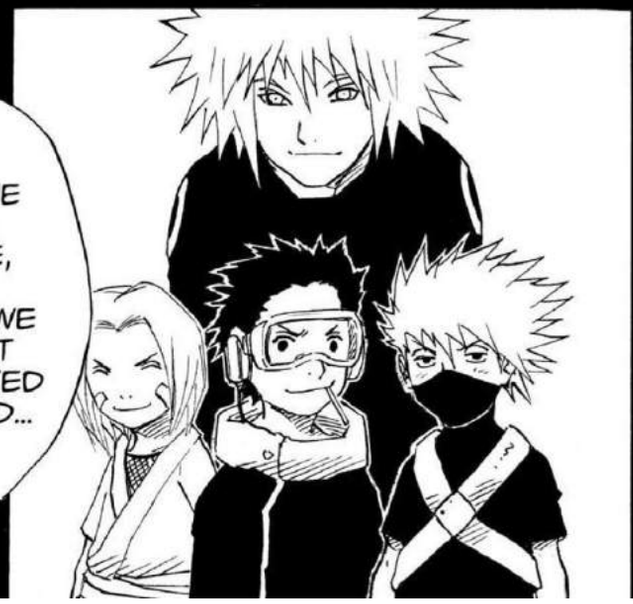

HMPH... THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA IS NOT JUST AN ORGANIZATION TO ME...
CLENCH...

IN KONOHA EVERY YEAR NEW SHINOBI ARE BORN AND RAISED...



THEY LIVE... FIGHT... AND DIE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE... AND THOSE WITHIN ITS WALLS...


EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE NOT CONNECTED BY BLOOD...

READ THIS WAY
...IS PRECIOUS TO ME... THEY ARE MY...
...FAMILY!

...AND DESTROY THE HOUSE OF KONOHA.
HEH HEH HEH... THEN I SHALL KNOCK DOWN AND BREAK YOU, THEIR PILLAR...
HMPH! EVEN IF YOU KILL ME, THAT PILLAR SHALL NOT BREAK!!
I INHERITED THE WILL OF THE FIRST LORD, THE SECOND LORD, AND OF KONOHA—
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO DESTROY KONOHA-GAKURE...
I AM THE THIRD HOKAGE !!!

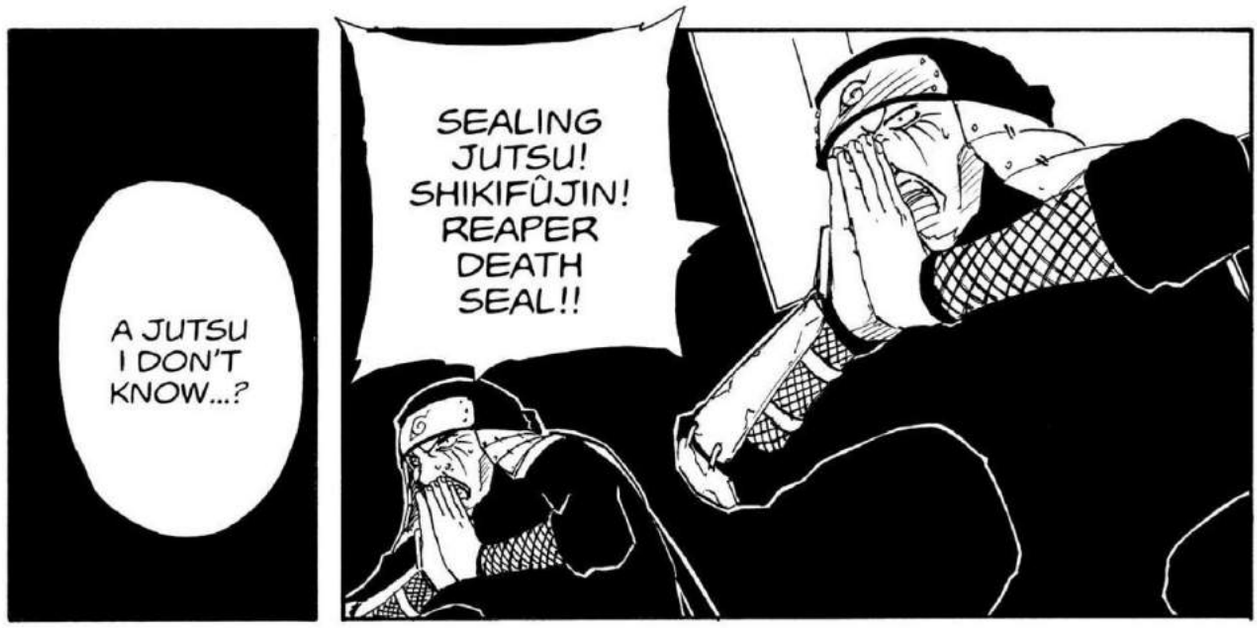
READ THIS WAY
...AND DEFEND THE HOUSE OF KONOHA!!
A NEW HOKAGE WHO INHERITS MY WILL SHALL EMERGE AS ITS PILLAR...

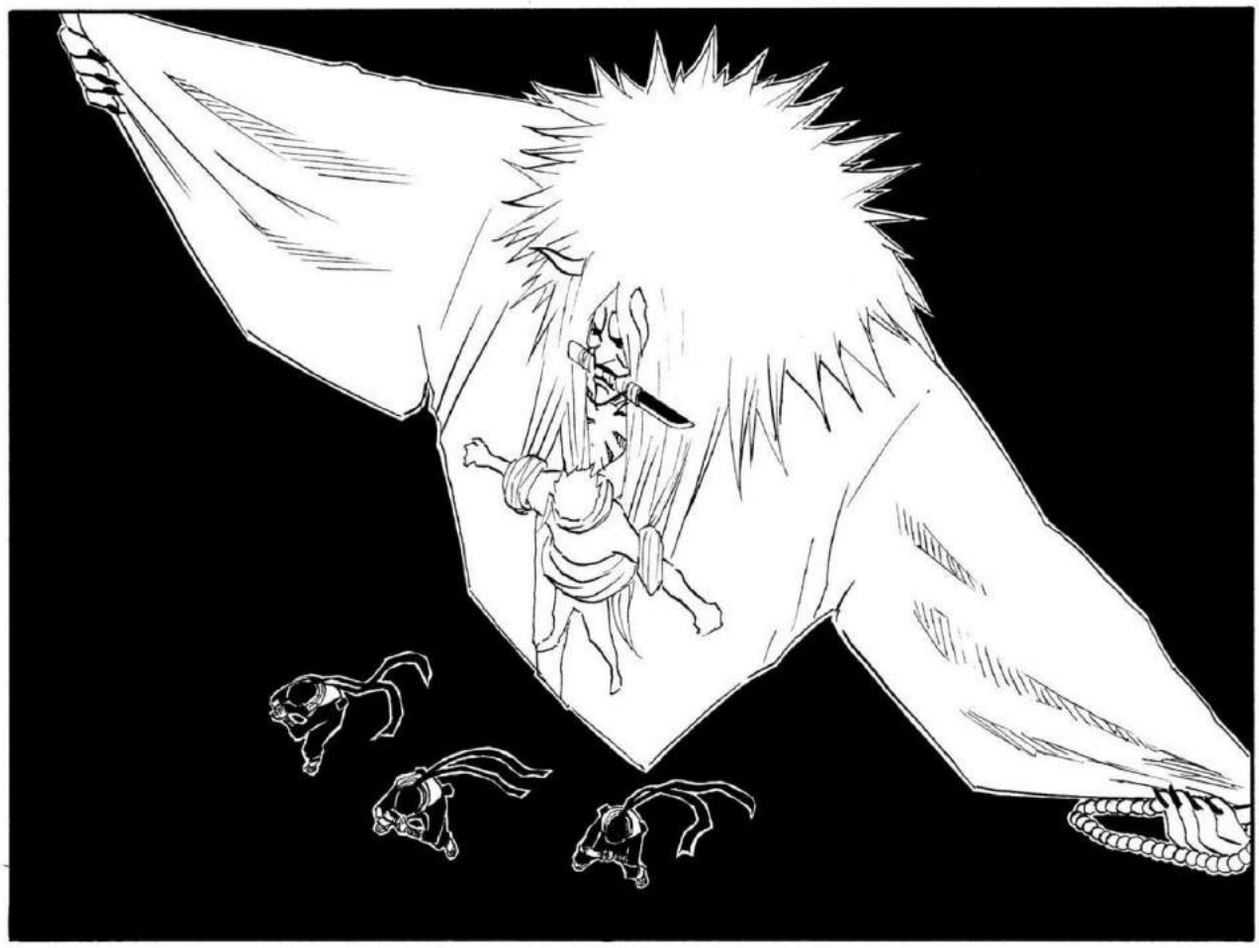
RIGHT... FOURTH HOKAGE...?

SEALING JUTSU! SHIKIFÛJIN! REAPER DEATH SEAL!!
OROCHIMARU!! LET ME REVEAL FOR YOU MY TRUMP JUTSU, ONE EVEN YOU DON'T KNOW!

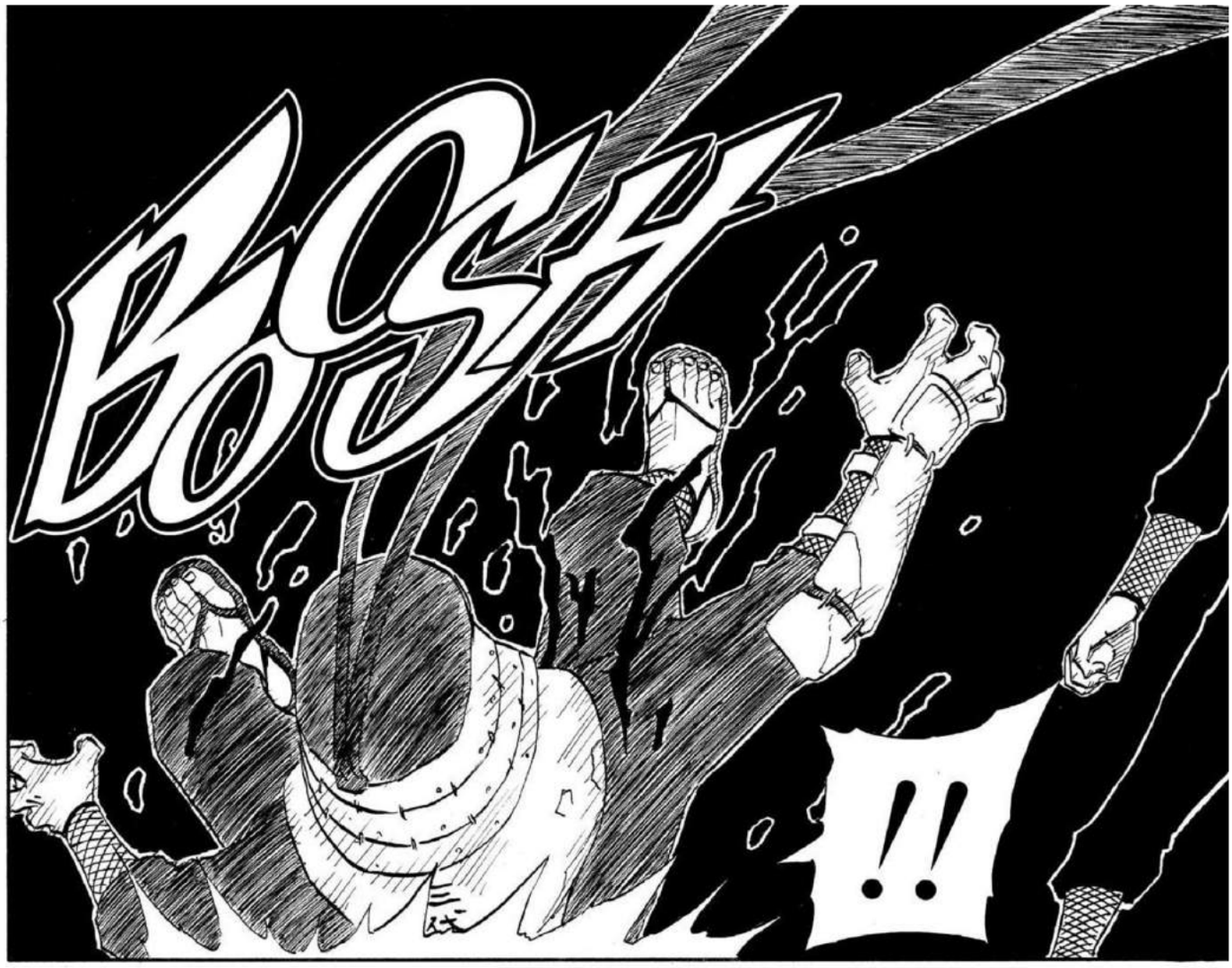
HEH

Number 123: The Final Seal


A JUTSU I DON'T KNOW...?
SEALING JUTSU! SHIKIFÛJIN! REAPER DEATH SEAL!!



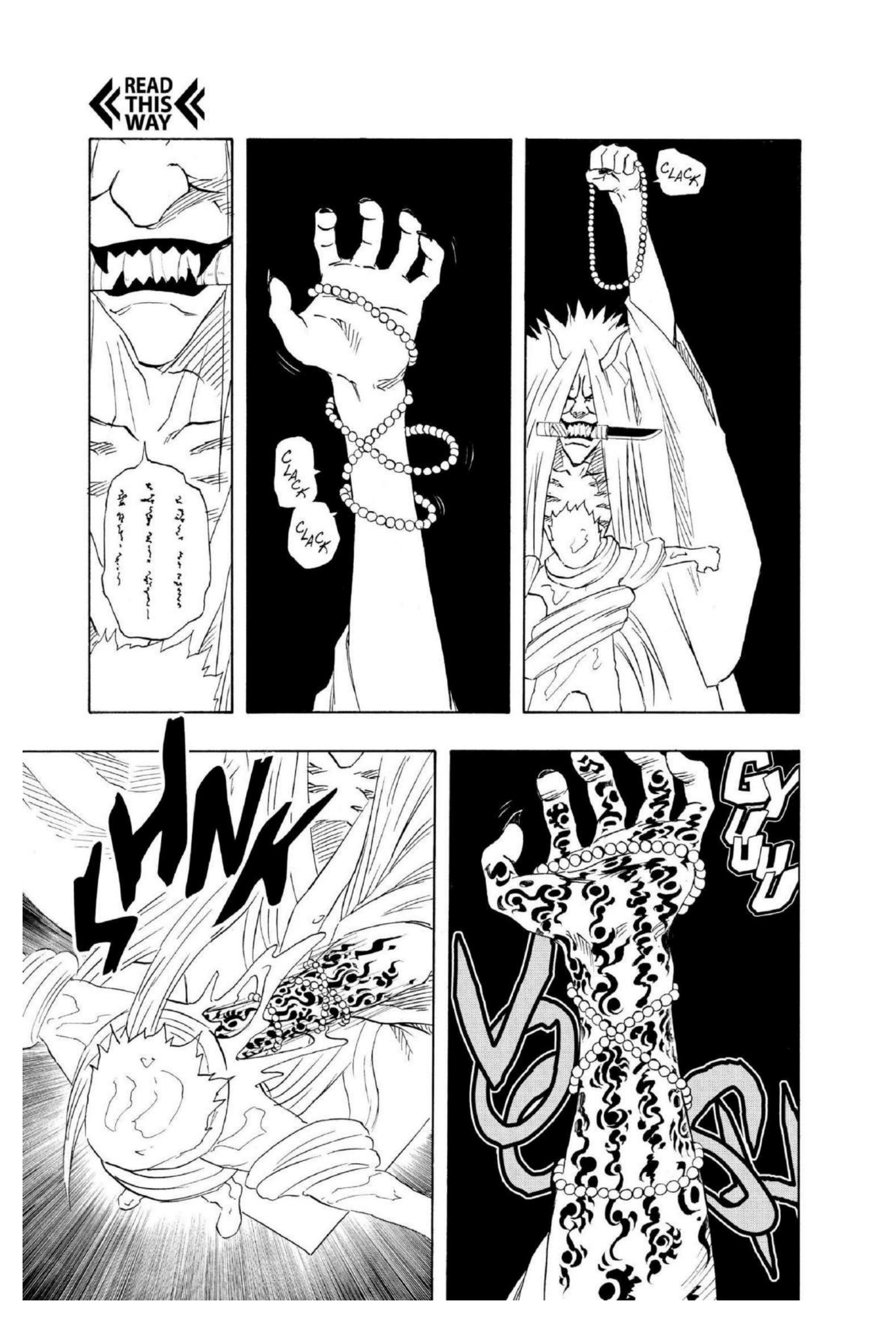
I'VE GOT TO HURRY... THIS DARKNESS IS DANGEROUS...
CLACK
THEN SHOW ME...
...THIS SUPPOSED JUTSU...!
UGH...
!!
UGH!!
KOM
KSSH
KSSH
KSSH
KSSH


BOSH
!!

PLEASE HURRY UP AND SHOW ME THIS JUTSU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU PLANNING TO JUST LET YOUR PREDE-CESSORS PUMMEL YOU TO DEATH?
UGH...

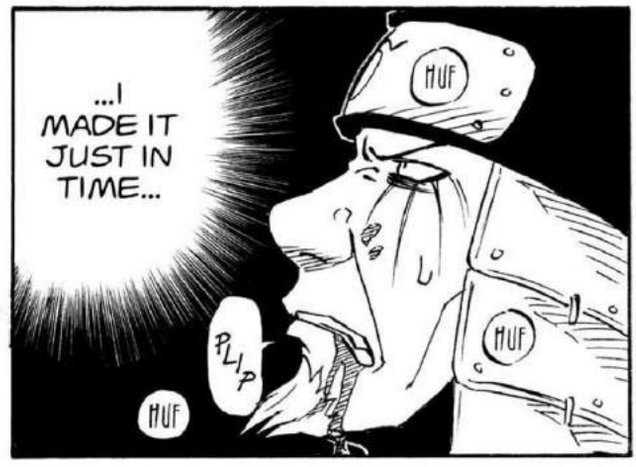
NOT READY YET ...

HUF
HUF
CLAMP

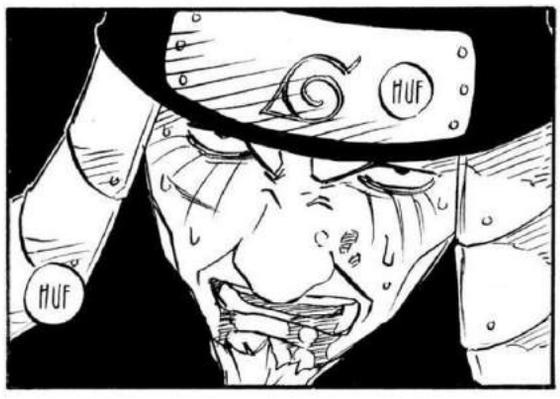

READ THIS WAY
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
GYUUU
SLINK

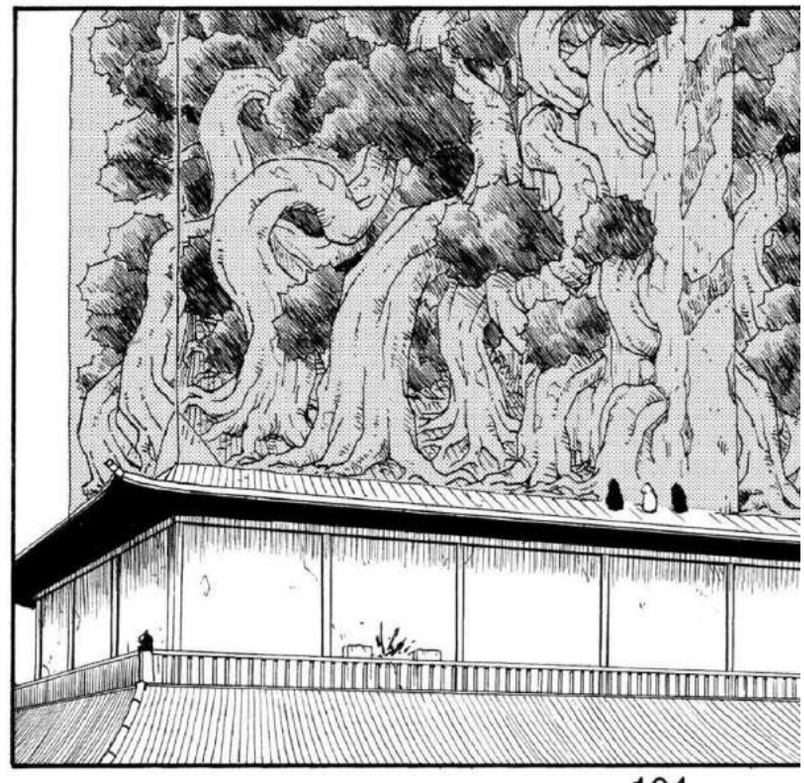
URK!
UGH!!

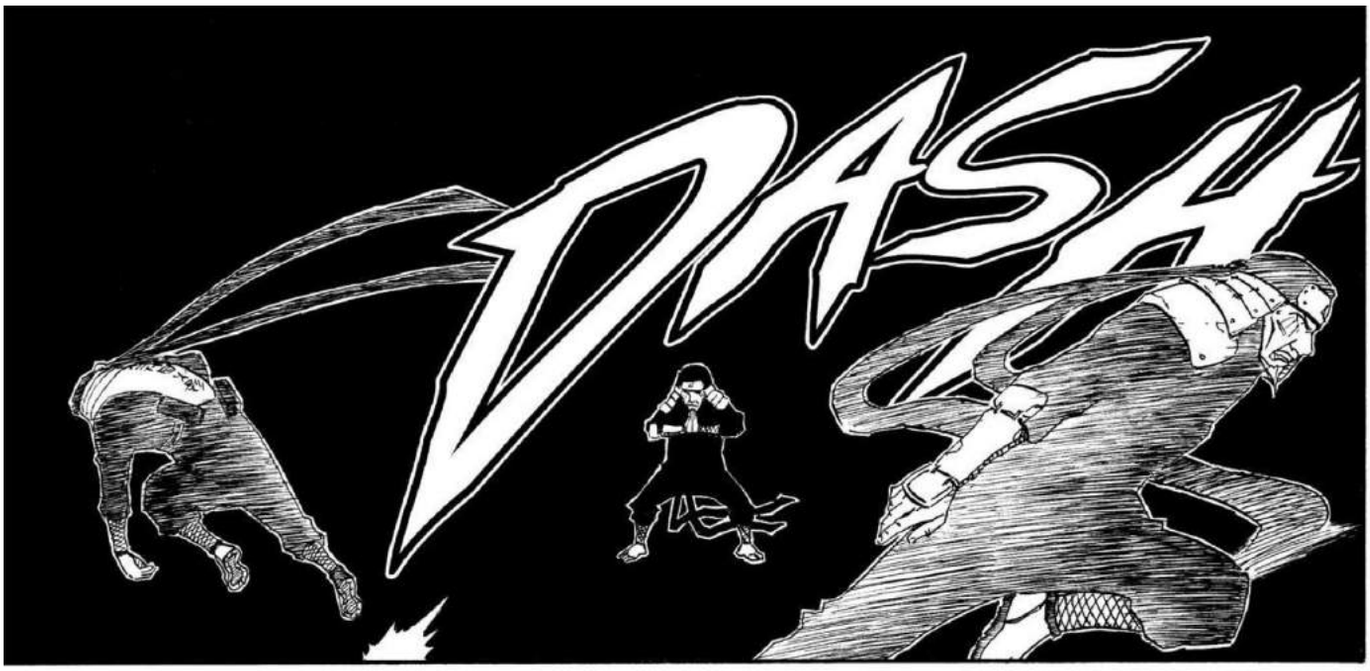
WHAT IS THE MATTER? REELING FROM FATIGUE ALREADY?


...I MADE IT JUST IN TIME...
HUF
HUF
PLIP
HUF

UNH... WHAT IS GOING ON IN THERE...?!


HUF
HUF




DASH

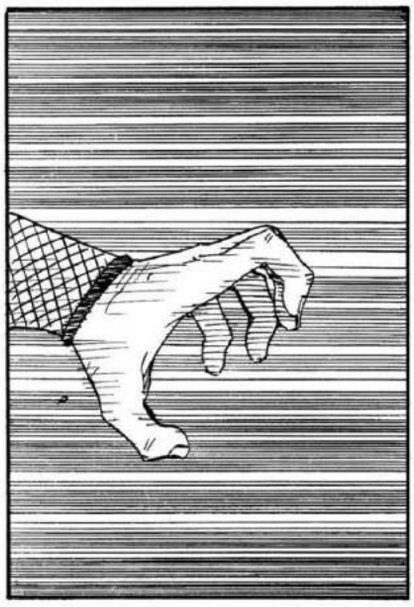
TMP

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO CAPTURE THEM...!!

!
SNIFF SNIFF

GOTCHA!!

GRAB



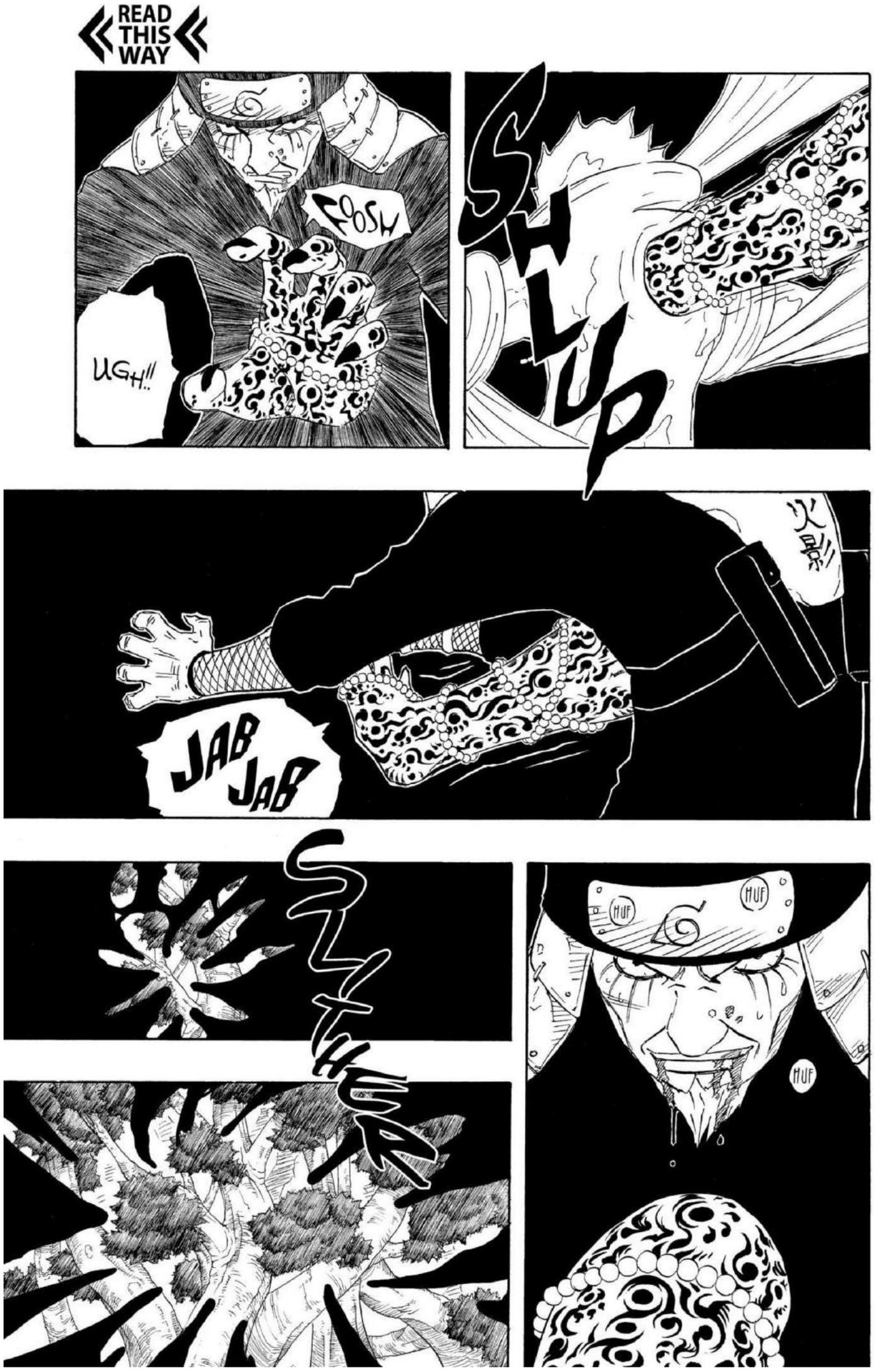
THUD!!
THUD THUD

...
UGH...

HURK

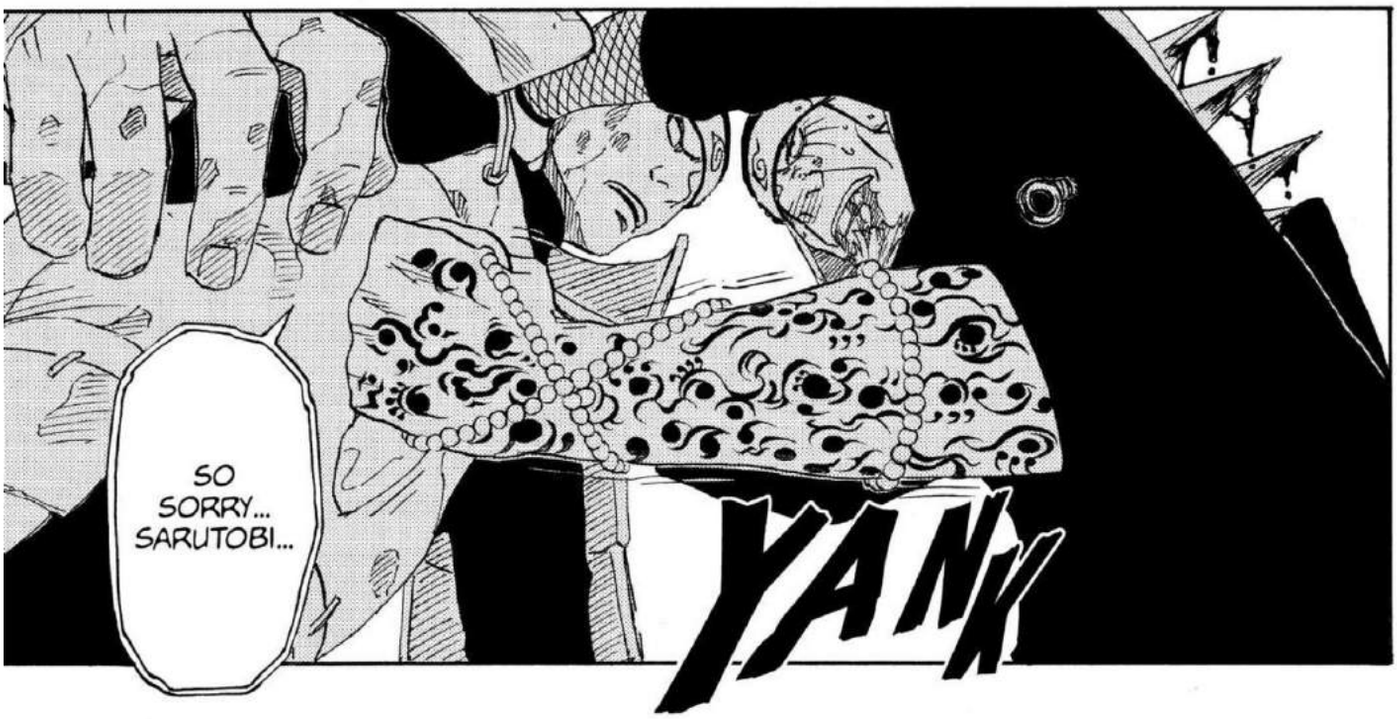
I SUMMON THEE!

GRRAMM
I WILL NOT LET GO OF YOU...!!


READ THIS WAY
FOOSH
UGH!!
SHUP
JAB JAB
SLITHER
HUF
HUF
HUF

SARUTOBI!!

THE DARKNESS VANISHED. WHAT IS THIS JUTSU?!
...!!

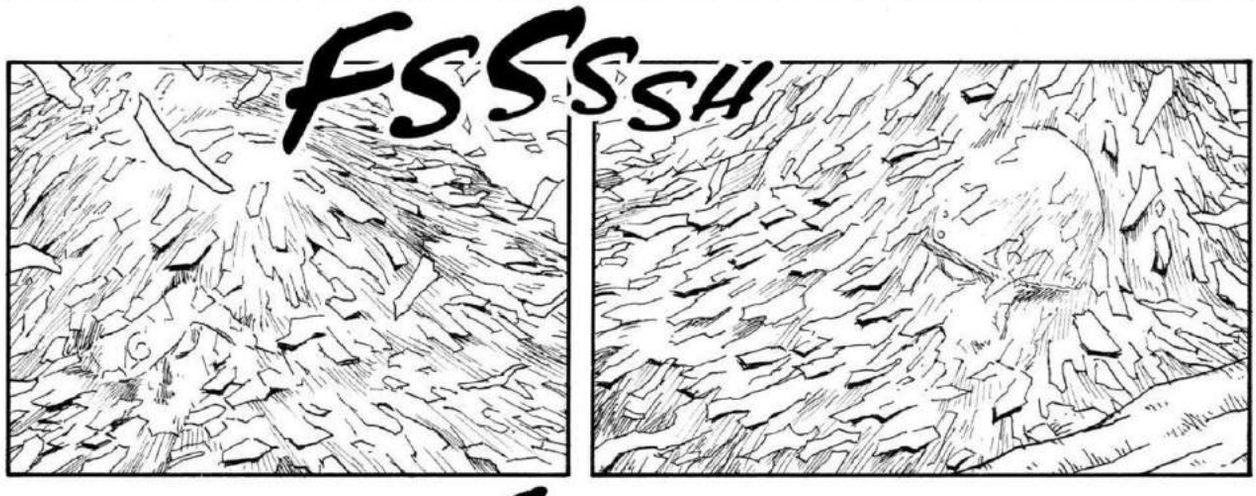

SO SORRY... SARUTOBI...
YANK

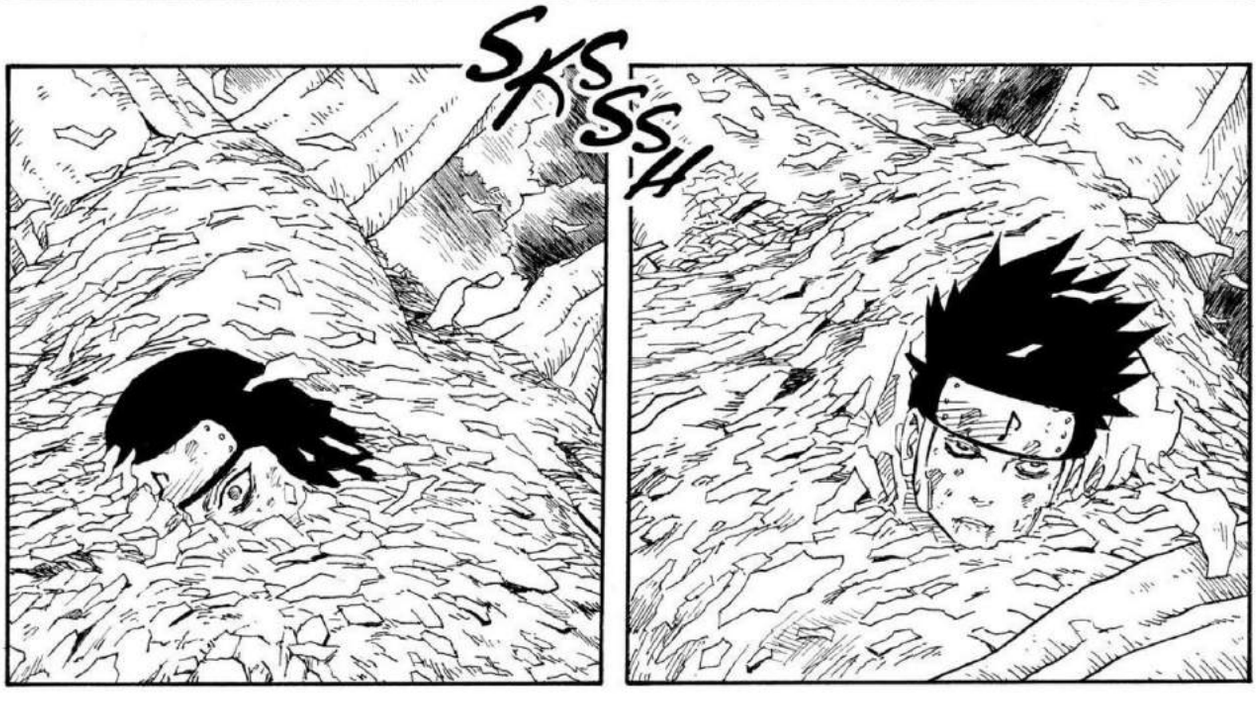
FIRST LORD!
SECOND LORD!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

FORGIVE US FOR TROUBLING YOU...

ブチッ
SEAL!!
UNH!!
UGH!!
SHUUUER

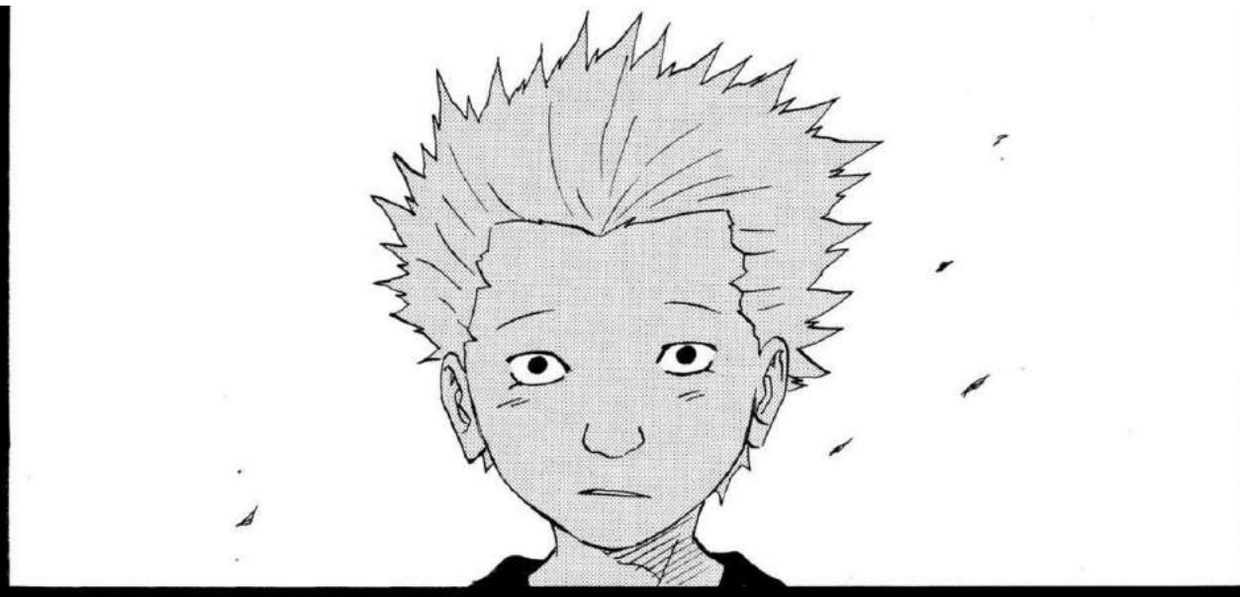
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

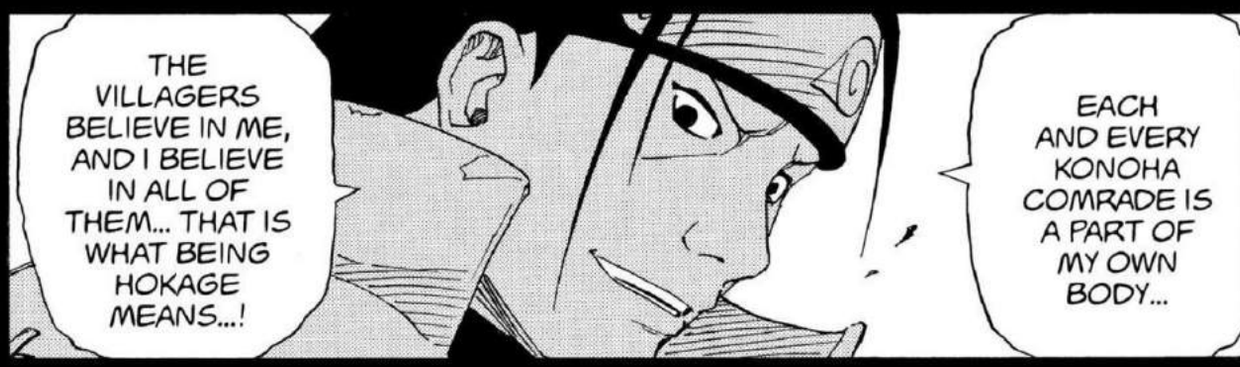

FSSSSH


SKSSSH

...

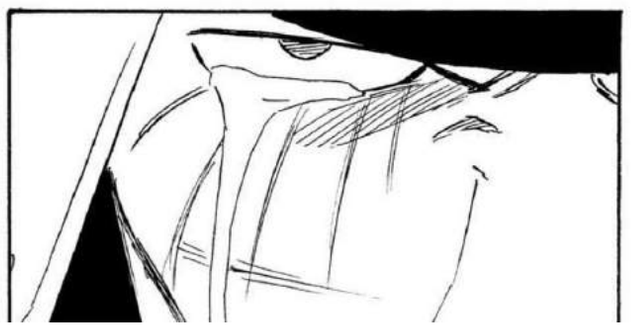
WILLFULLY TAKING EVEN YOUR OWN SUBORDINATES' LIVES... MAKING A MOCKERY...



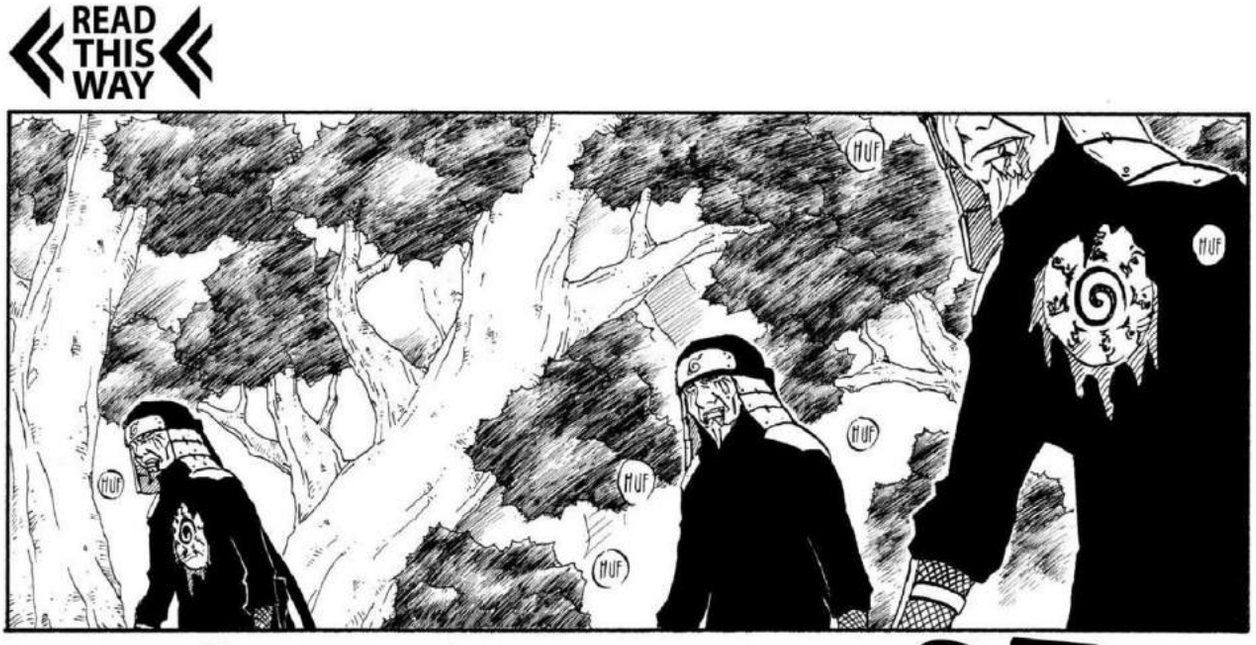

THE VILLAGERS BELIEVE IN ME, AND I BELIEVE IN ALL OF THEM... THAT IS WHAT BEING HOKAGE MEANS...!
EACH AND EVERY KONOHA COMRADE IS A PART OF MY OWN BODY...

FOR, STARTING TOMORROW, YOU...
SARU... YOU MUST LOVE THE VILLAGE AND PROTECT THOSE WHO TRUST IN YOU. AND THEN, YOU MUST NURTURE THEM, THOSE TO WHOM YOU CAN ENTRUST THE FUTURE...

...MY SUBORDINATES' LIVES? HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP SPOUTING SUCH NONSENSE...?!



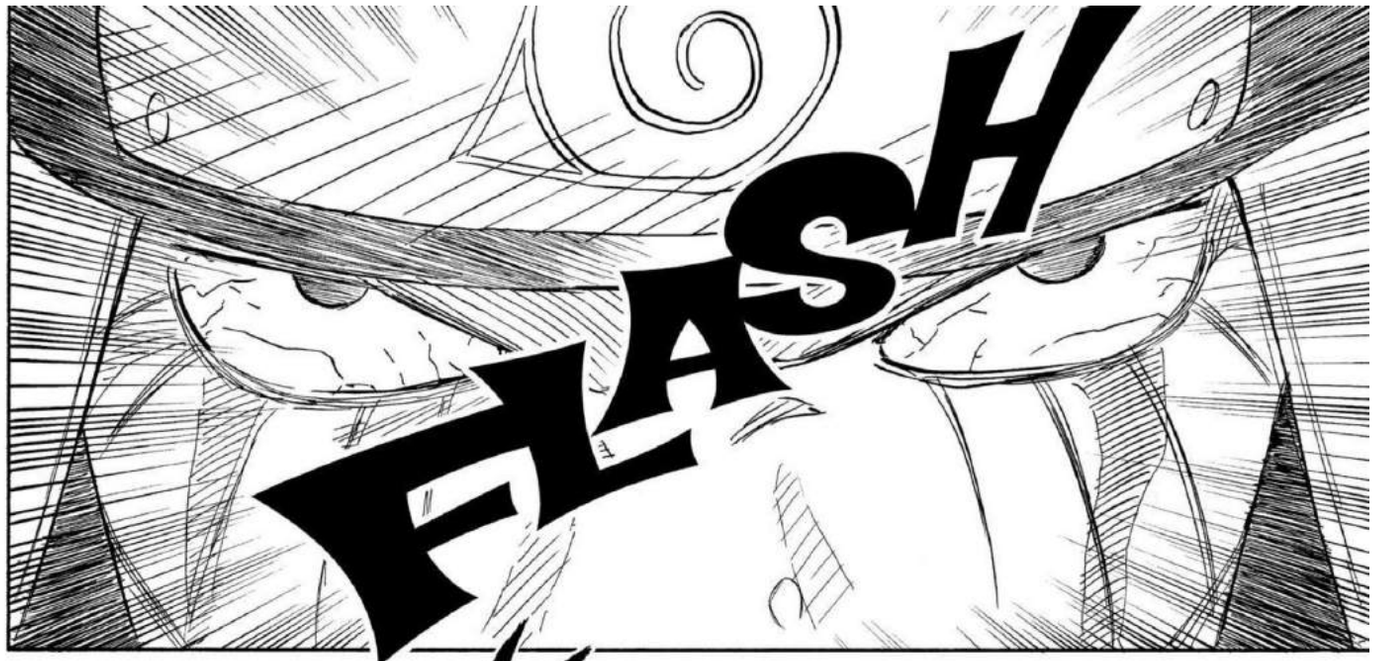
...ARE HOKAGE...!!


READ THIS WAY
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

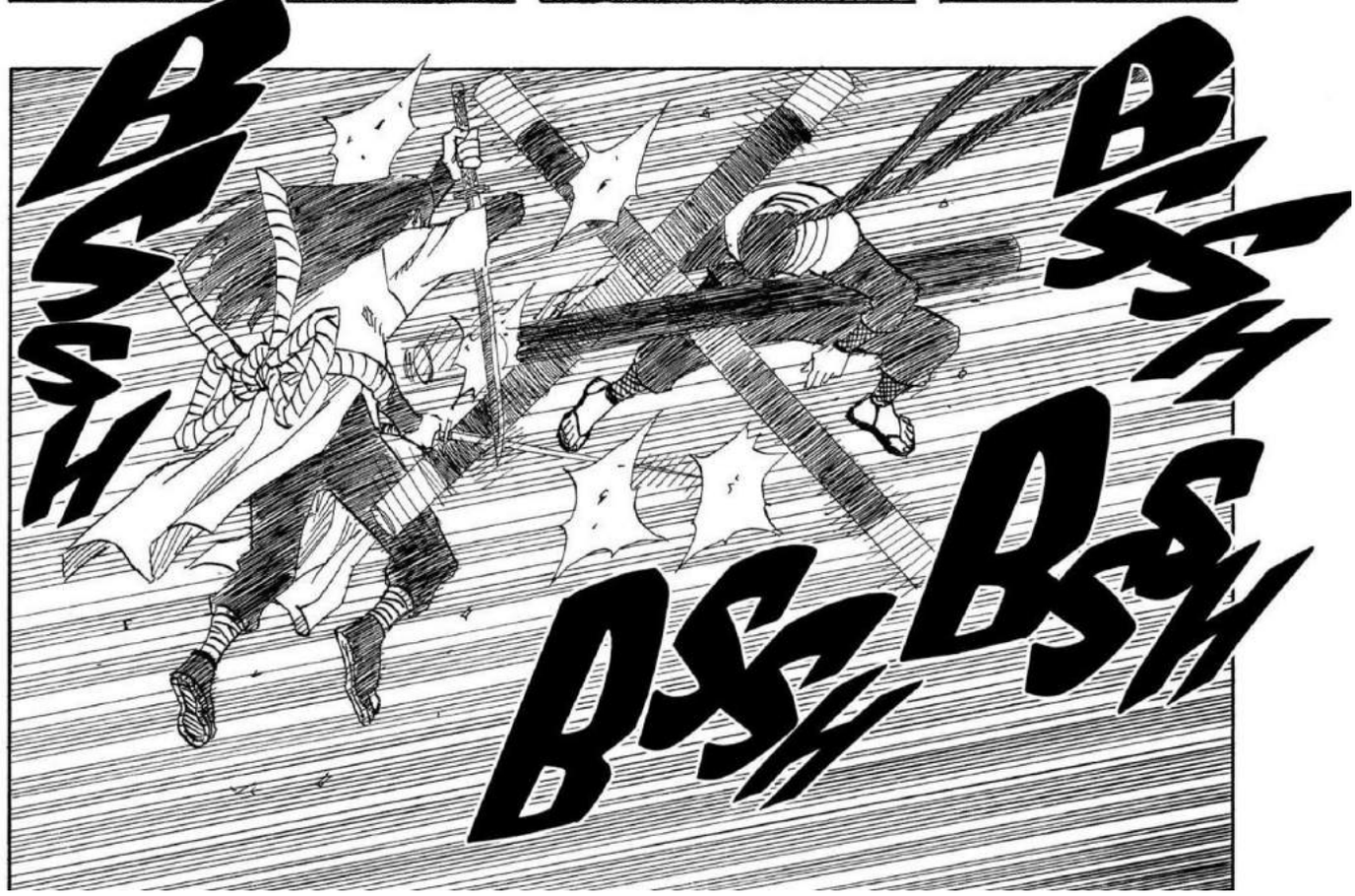
POOF
POOF
HUF
HUF
HUF

COME! ENMA!!

SNATCH


FLASH

KACHIK


BSH
BSH
BSH
BSH

GYUUUU
KACHING
SLITHER
SEN'EIJASHU! STRIKING SNAKE TECHNIQUE!!
SLAMD
AGHH! YOU!!
GRAB
FOOSH
!!

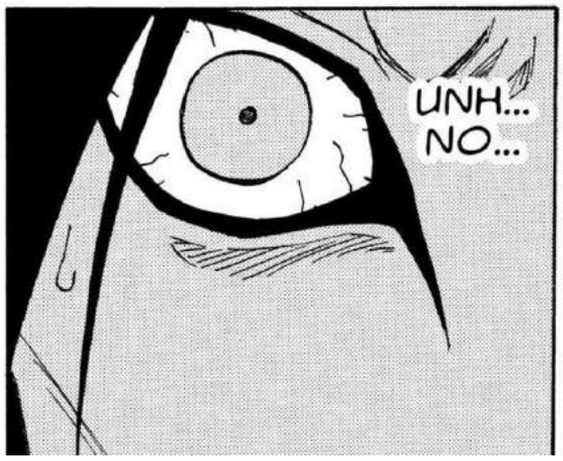
YANK
THIS IS IT, THE END!!
UNH!

KOSH

SHUNK

SHUDDER
UGH...
WHAT... IS HAPPENING TO ME...?

!!
JAB


UNH... NO...

READ THIS WAY
HYUU
SHA
DIE!!
GUSH
SHOOM

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 20

AROUND THE TIME OF MY THIRD YEAR IN COLLEGE, I STARTED WATCHING MOVIES A LOT. THERE ARE VARIOUS FILM CONCEPTS THAT APPLY TO MANGA, SO THEY ARE GOOD REFERENCES.

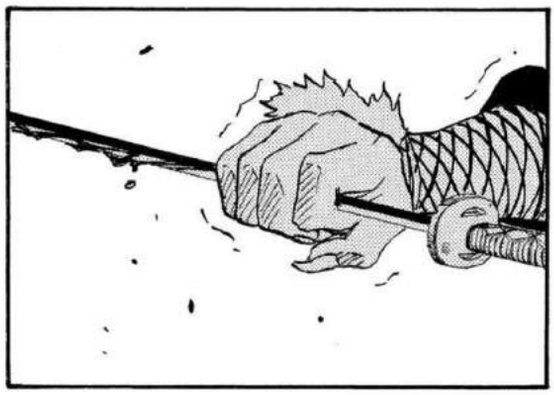
PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THAT, I STARTED RENTING VIDEOS MORE AND MORE, UNTIL I WAS WATCHING AT LEAST ONE MOVIE A DAY. EVENTUALLY, EVEN RENTALS WEREN'T ENOUGH, SO I STARTED GOING TO THE THEATER TO WATCH NEW RELEASES. ONE SUCH DAY, I STARTED HEARING RUMORS ABOUT THE BRAD PITT/MORGAN FREEMAN MOVIE "SEVEN." IT WAS A BLOCKBUSTER HIT THAT WAS SECOND IN BOX OFFICE TICKET SALES IN 1996. A PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER WHOSE TITULAR THEME REFERS TO THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS, IT RAISED MY EXPECTATIONS QUITE A BIT. "THIS IS A MUST! I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE THEATER!" MY DETERMINATION AND ZEAL KEPT ON CLIMBING! I EVEN DECIDED TO GO TO THE SALON FOR A CUT BECAUSE MY BANGS HAD GROWN SO LONG I WAS AFRAID IT WOULD MAKE IT HARDER TO SEE THE MOVIE SCREEN.

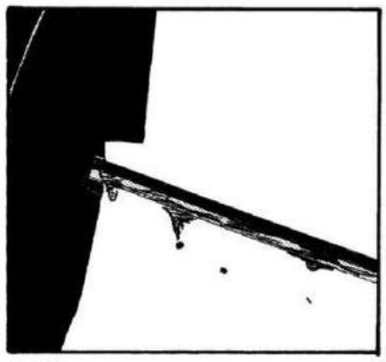
...HOWEVER!! KISHIMOTO WAS NOT YET AWARE AT THIS TIME THAT A FRIGHTFUL INCIDENT WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THAT SALON!!

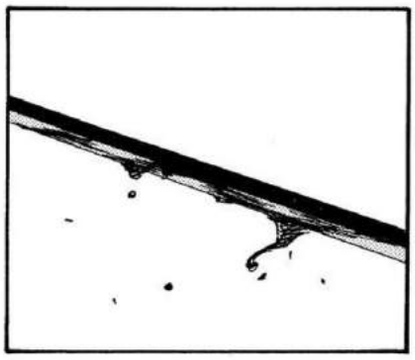
DUN-DA-DUN-DUN~~~DUN!!!

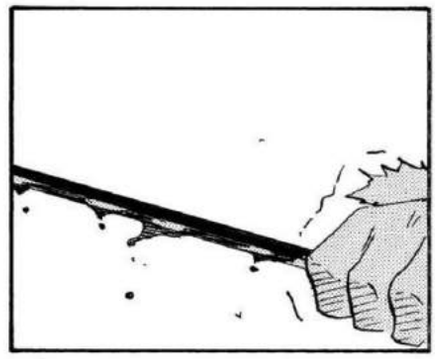
(I'M GOING TO STRETCH THIS OUT IN TYPICAL MYSTERY/SUSPENSE GENRE FASHION... HURRY ON TO PAGE 138!)

Number 124: The Eternal Battle...!!

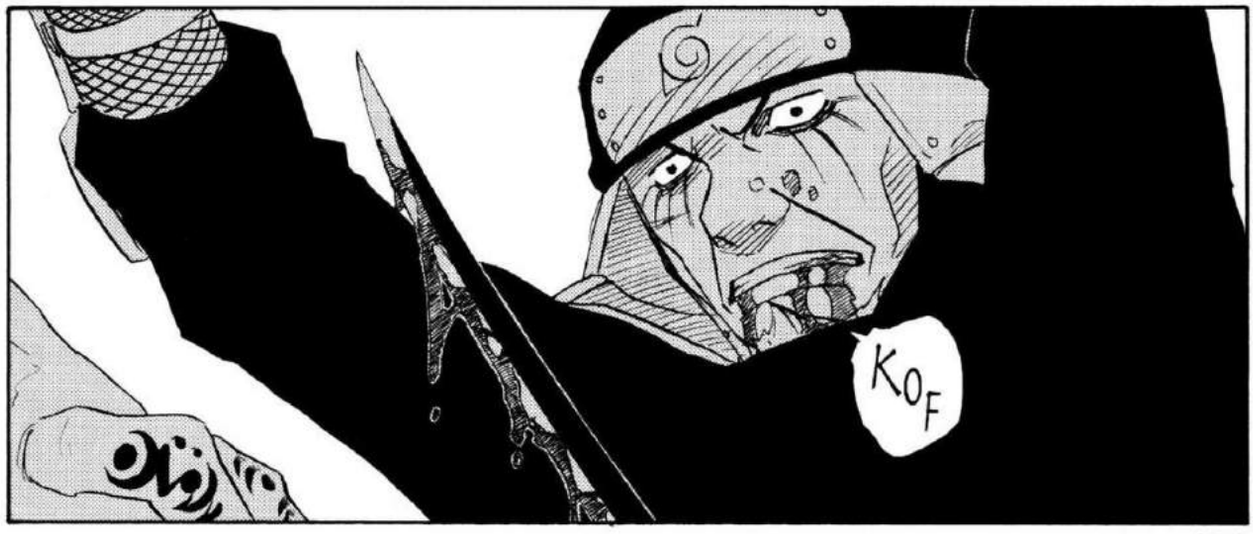


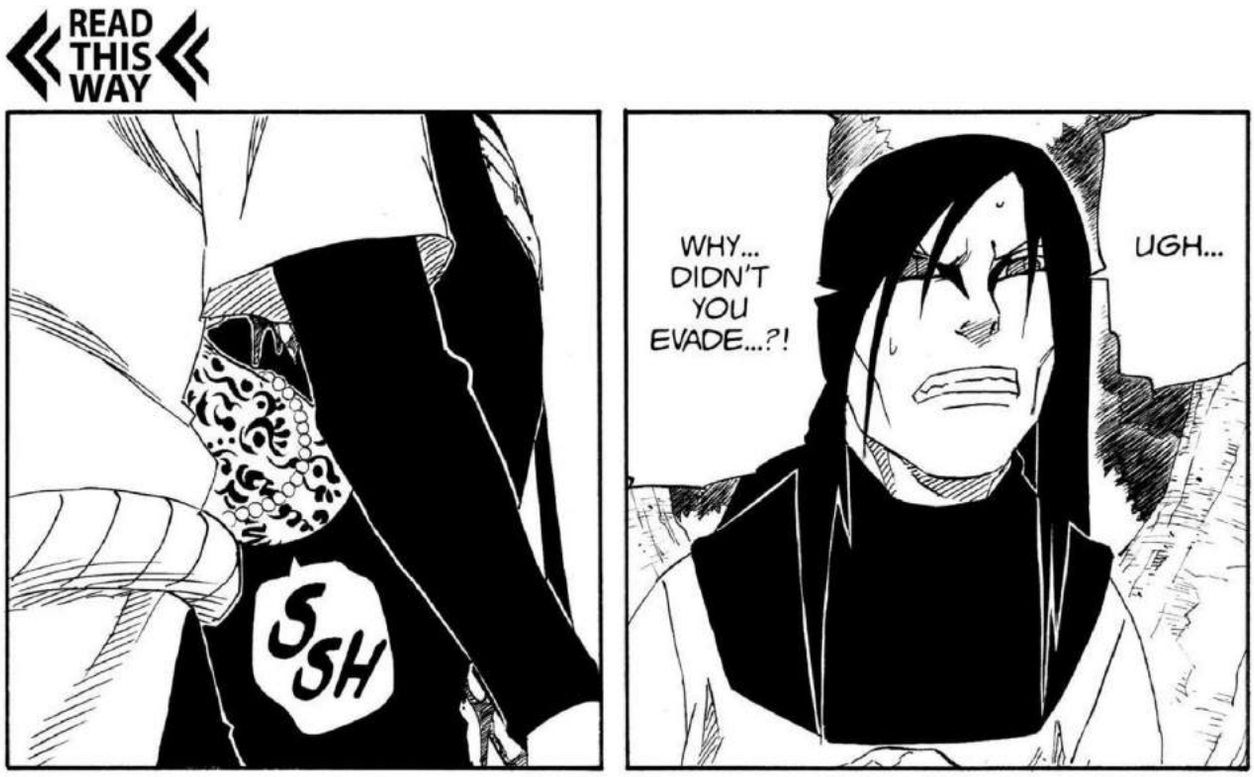


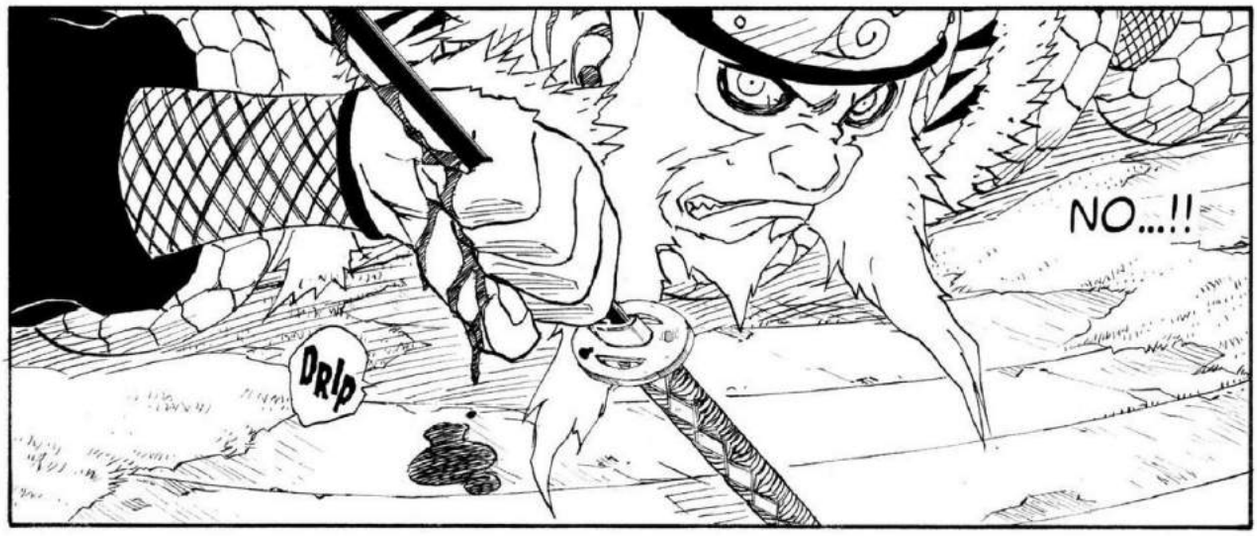


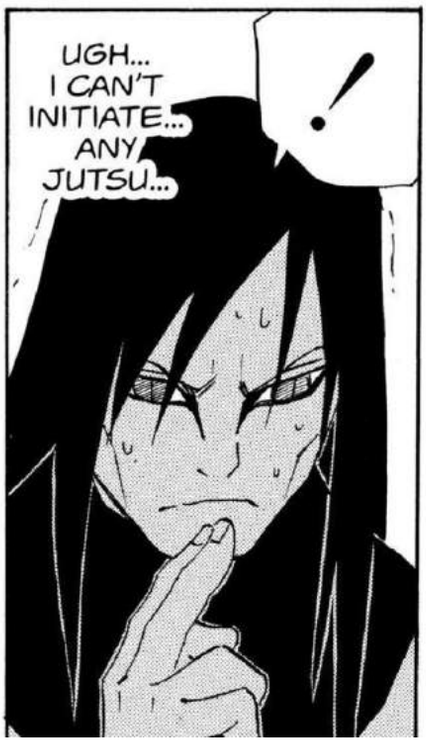


Number 124: The Eternal Battle...!!




READ THIS WAY
SSH
WHY... DIDN'T YOU EVADE...?!
UGH...


DRIP
NO...!!


UGH... I CAN'T INITIATE... ANY JUTSU...
!

HUF
HUF
...THIS... JUTSU, YOU SEE...

SSRR

HUF
HUF
HUF
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T EVADE YOUR BLADE...
I'M GOING TO DIE ANYWAY!!
THE CASTER MUST HAND OVER THEIR SOUL TO THE GOD OF DEATH FOR THE JUTSU TO WORK...
IT'S A SEALING JUTSU. IT REQUIRES THE COMPLETE SACRIFICE OF ONE'S LIFE.

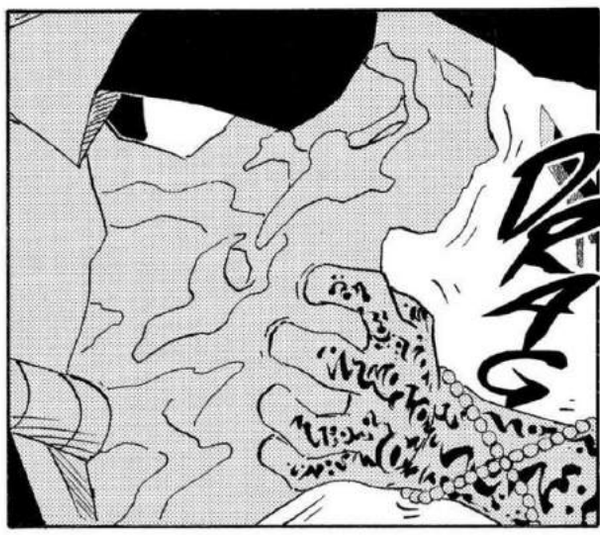
...AND THROUGH THIS JUTSU...
...THIS JUTSU BELONGED TO THE HERO WHO ONCE SAVED THIS VILLAGE.

UNH...
AS SOON AS THE SEAL IS COMPLETED, MY SOUL WILL BE DEVOURED.

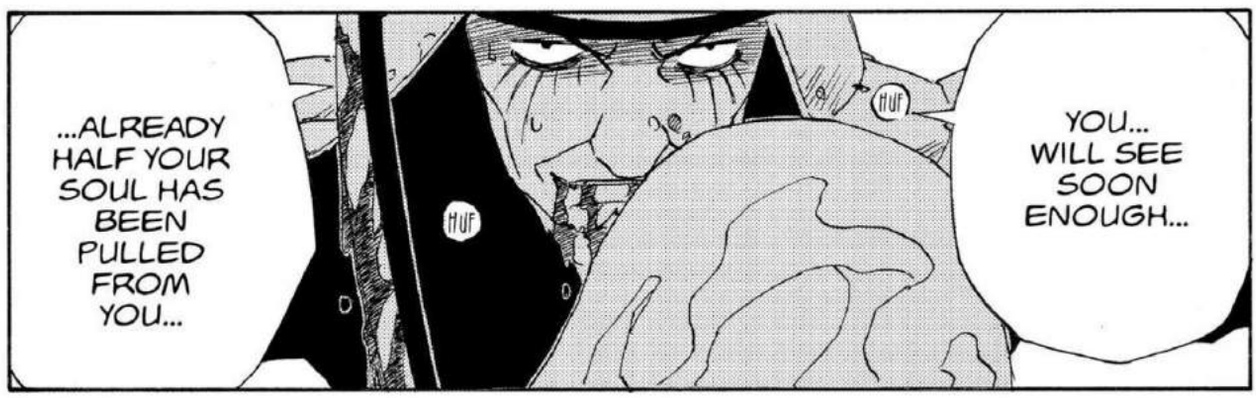
SO THIS IS WHAT WAS USED...
...TO SEAL THE NINE-TAILED FOX, EH...!!

YOU TOO SHALL DIE!!

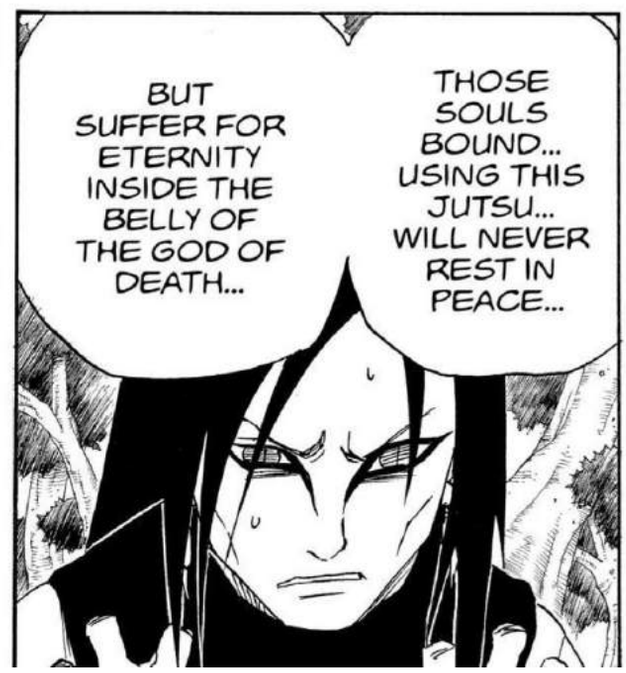
I CAN'T MOVE...
...!!


DRAG

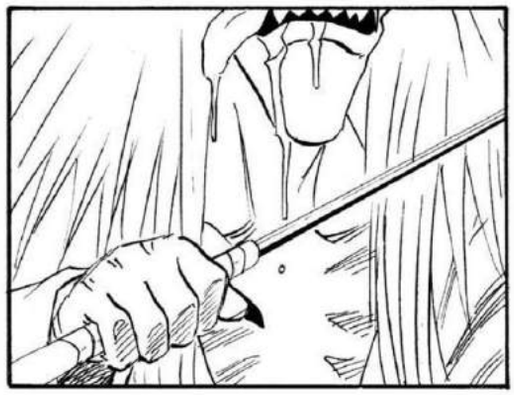
INDEED... I SHALL PULL YOUR SOUL OUT OF YOUR BODY...
AND BIND IT...!


...ALREADY HALF YOUR SOUL HAS BEEN PULLED FROM YOU...
HUF
HUF
YOU... WILL SEE SOON ENOUGH...

...THEIR SOULS SHALL TANGLE AND BATTLE EACH OTHER WITH DEEP HATRED FOREVER...
BOTH THE CASTER AND THE SEALED...


BUT SUFFER FOR ETERNITY INSIDE THE BELLY OF THE GOD OF DEATH...
THOSE SOULS BOUND... USING THIS JUTSU... WILL NEVER REST IN PEACE...

TAK

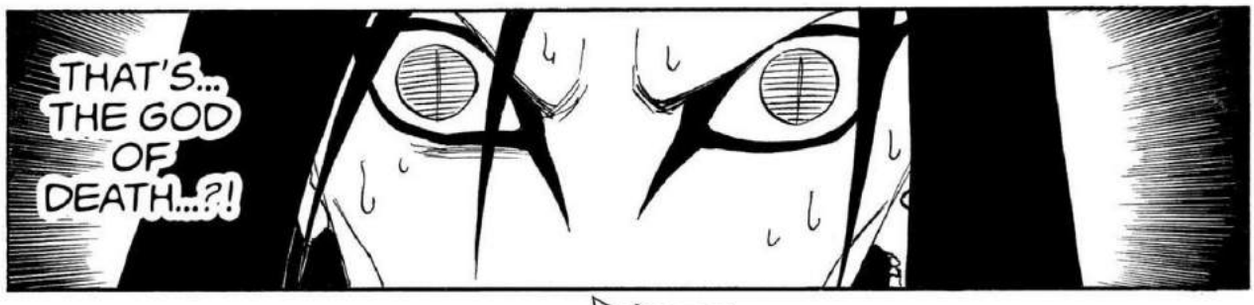


WHAT...?!!

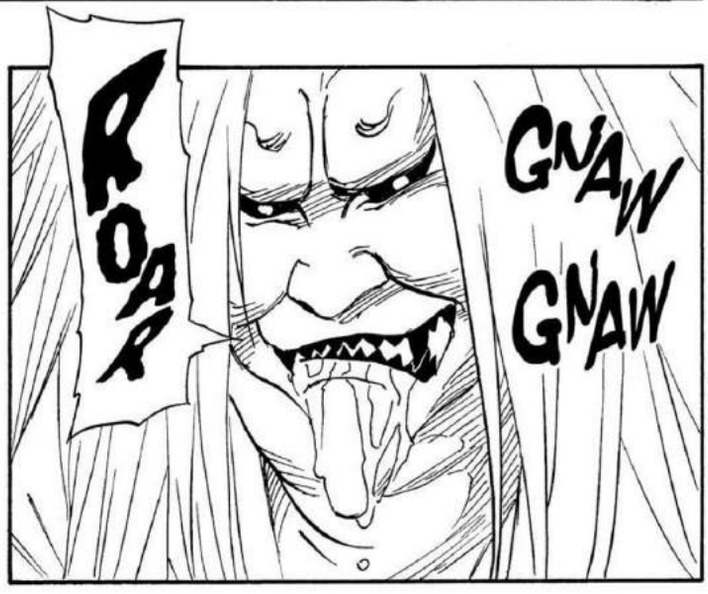
HOWL

RAAAAR!!!
CHOMP

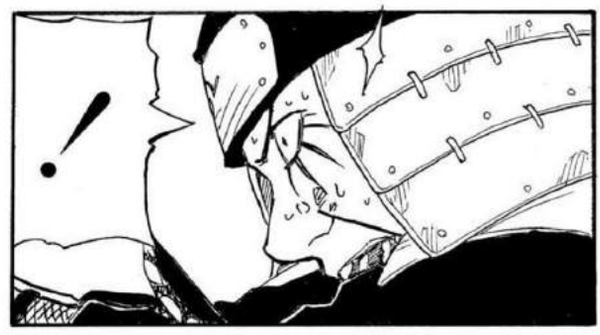
HOWL
SKRCH

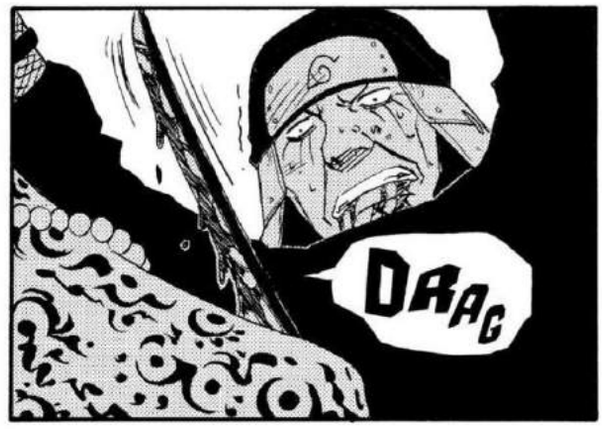

THAT'S... THE GOD OF DEATH...?!

YOU DO NOT GET YOUR WAY... OLD MAN!
NO!!


ROAR
GNAW GNAW

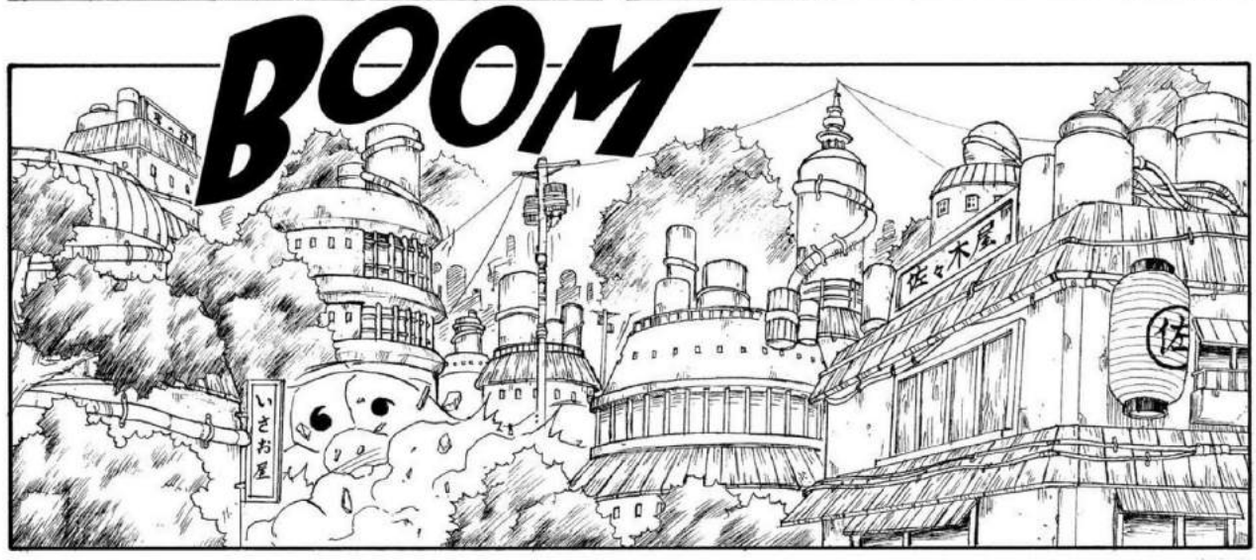
FWIP


!

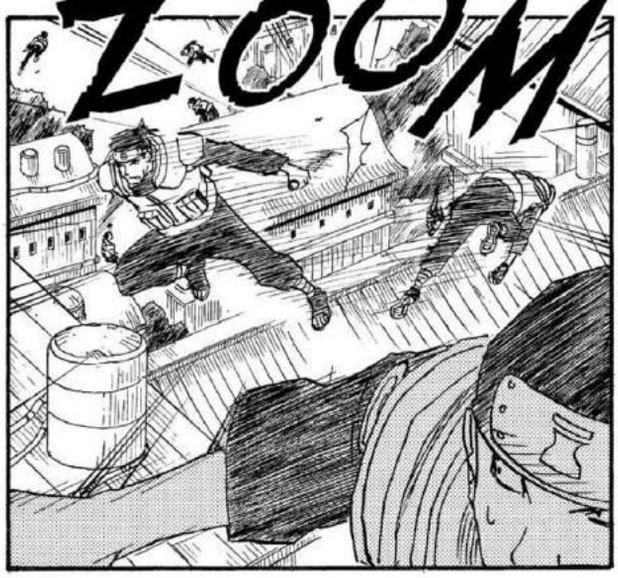

DRAG

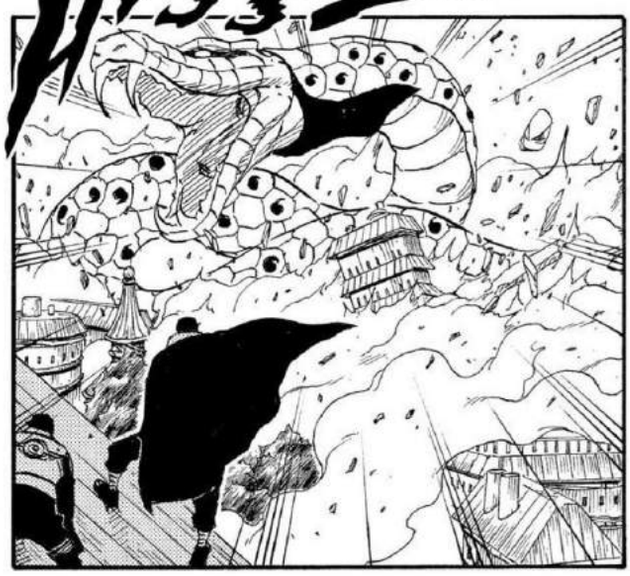
HUF
HUF
HACK

HUF
NOW...
DIE...
HUF


BOOM
佐々木屋
佐
いさお屋

SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER


ZOOM


HISS

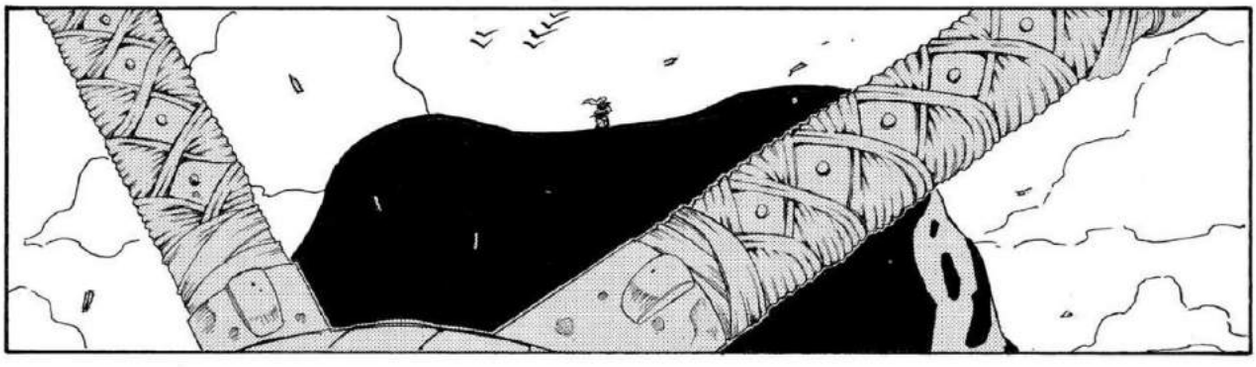
!!

NINJA ART: KUCHIYOSE! SUMMONING!! YATAIKUZUSHI NO JUTSU! MAYHEM TECHNIQUE!!

GRRR... THIS IS OUT OF CONTROL !!

SMASH
!!!

READ THIS WAY
SLAM
HACK
VOOSH
THIS... JUTSU...!!



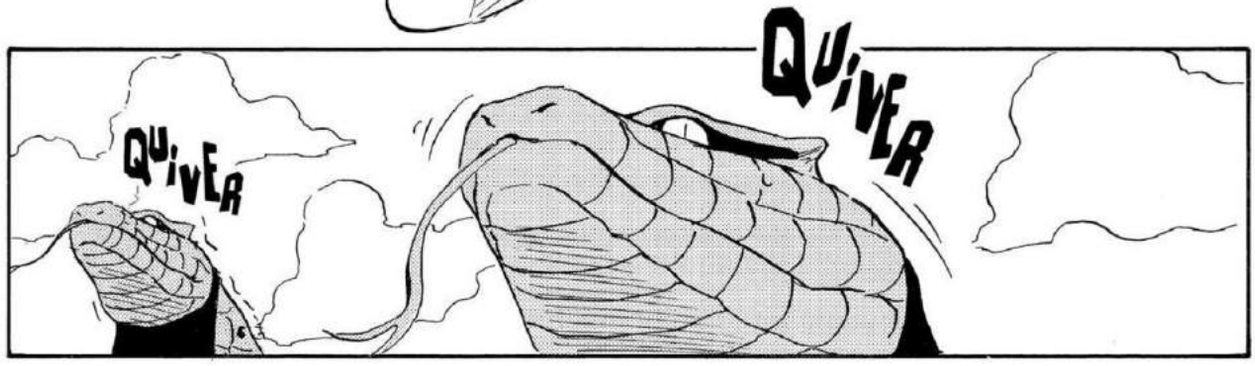
"LORD JIRAIYA"...?! YOU MEAN HE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI!?
...LORD JIRAIYA...!

SHEESH! IS THAT HULKING BULK OF YOURS THE ONLY THING THAT'S MATURED?! I COULDN'T JUST KEEP WATCHING!
IBIKI... LONG TIME NO SEE...!

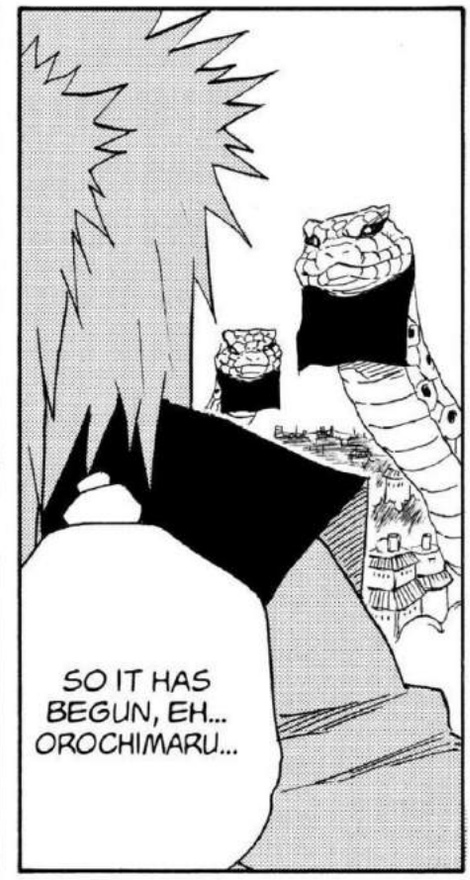
THANK THE HEAVENS!!

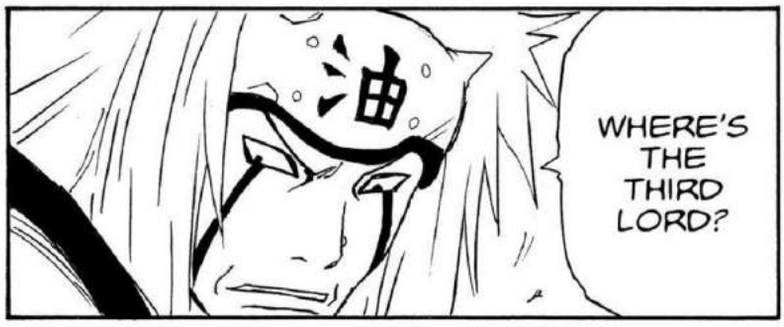
HERE COMES THE UNORTHODOX NINJA SAGE JIRAIYA! HERE TO RUN AMOK AMONG ALL THE OTHER-WORLDLY CREATURES!!

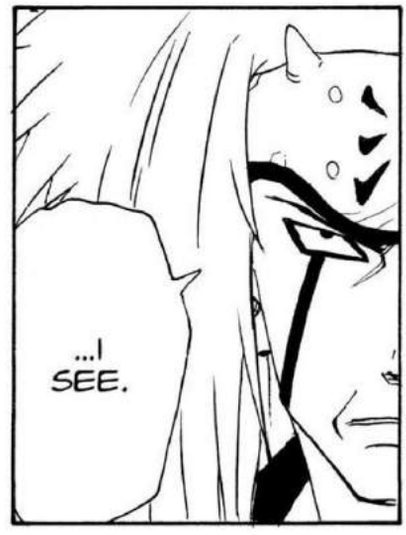
YOU BABY CHICKS!! OPEN WIDE THOSE BEADY LITTLE EYES OF YOURS AND WATCH CLOSELY!!

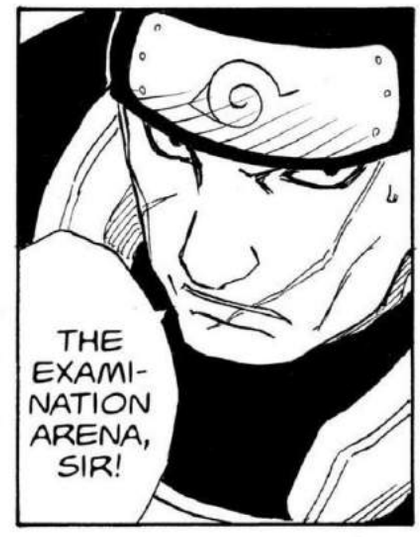


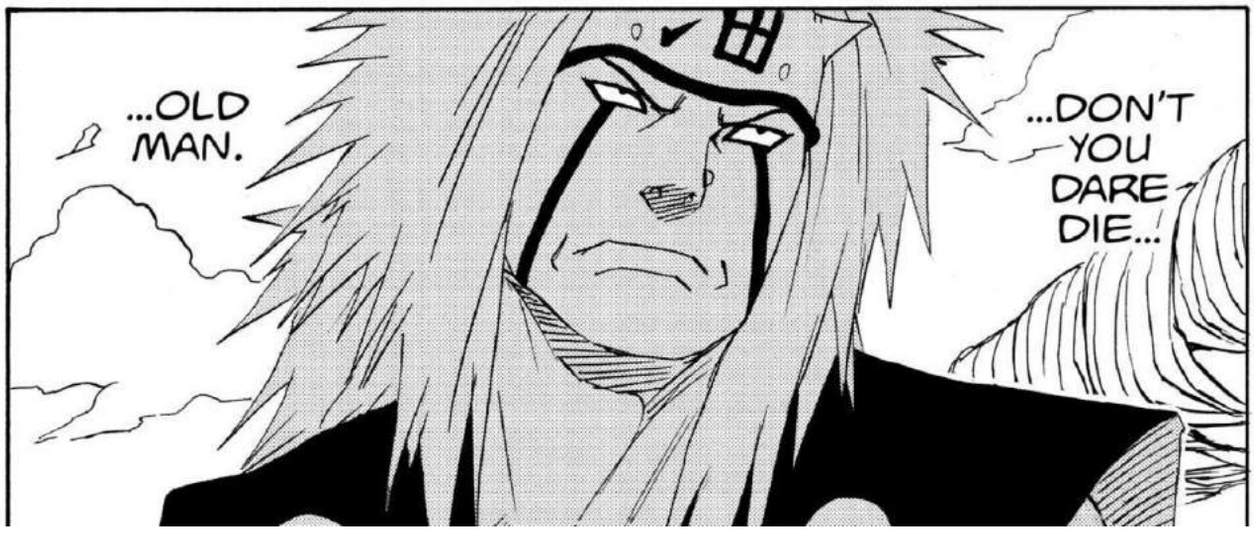
SHWE

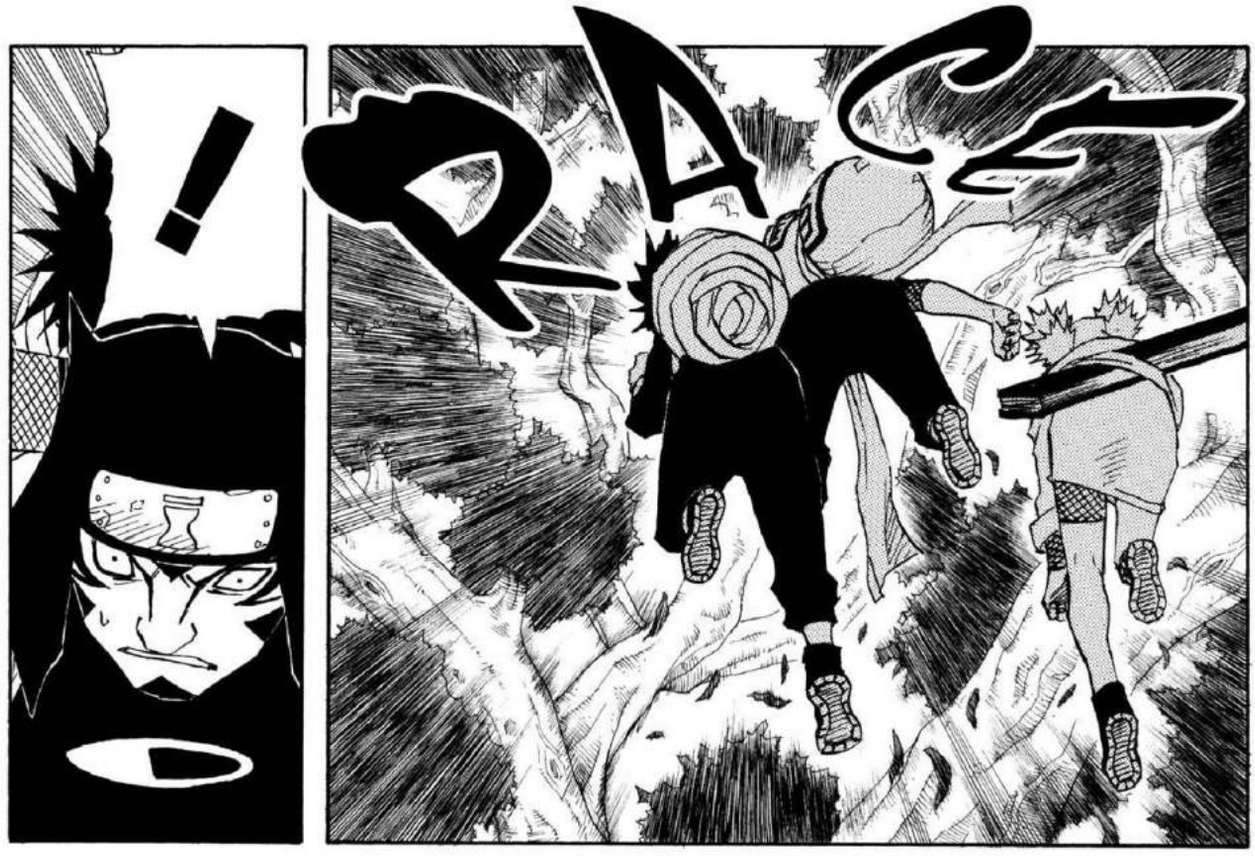

SO IT HAS BEGUN, EH... OROCHIMARU...


WHERE'S THE THIRD LORD?


...I SEE.

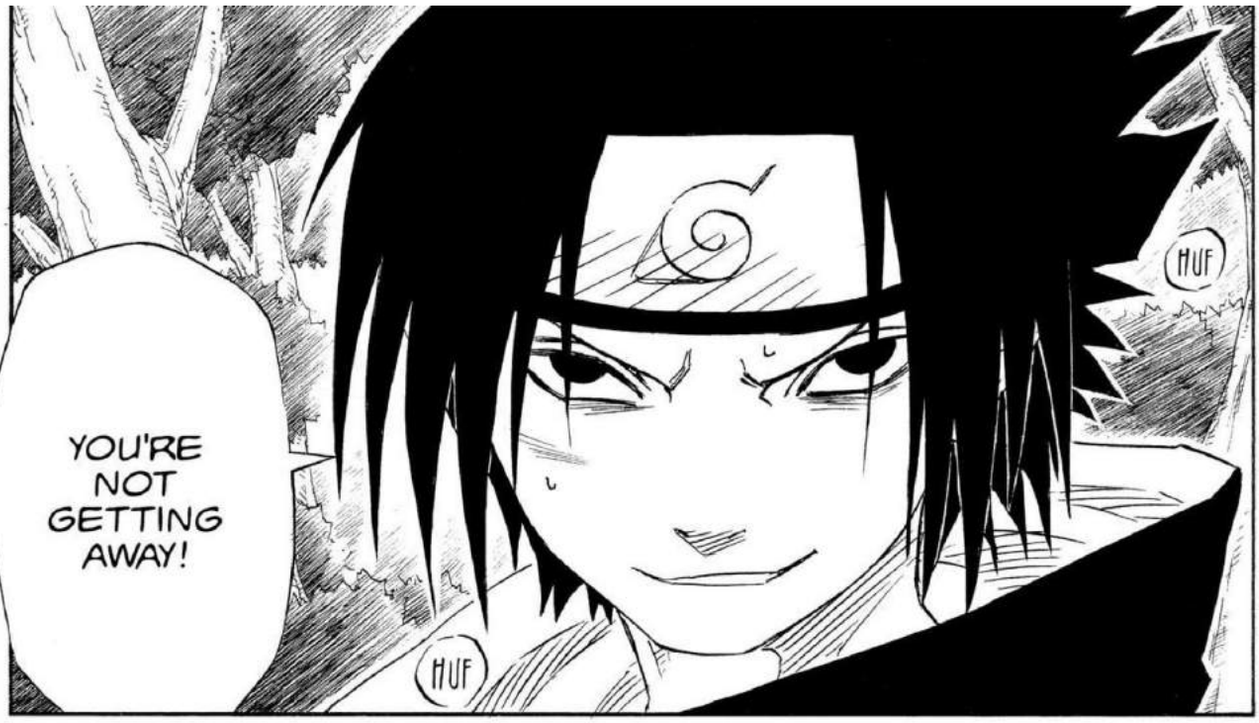

THE EXAMI-NATION ARENA, SIR!


...OLD MAN.
...DON'T YOU DARE DIE...!

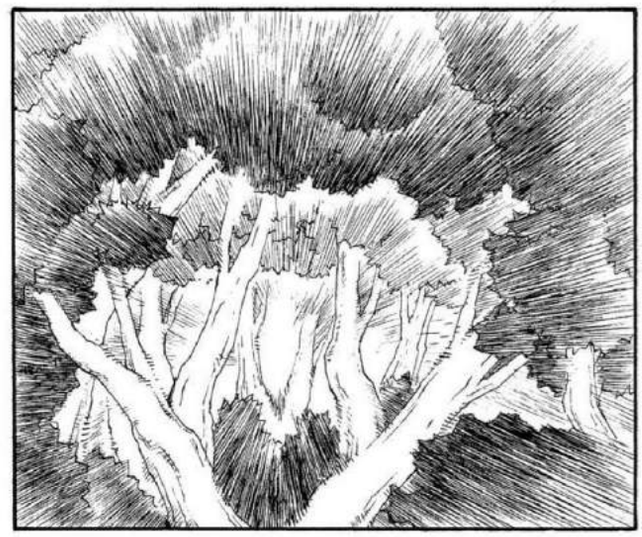

!
RA

!!
TAP

GRRRRR...!

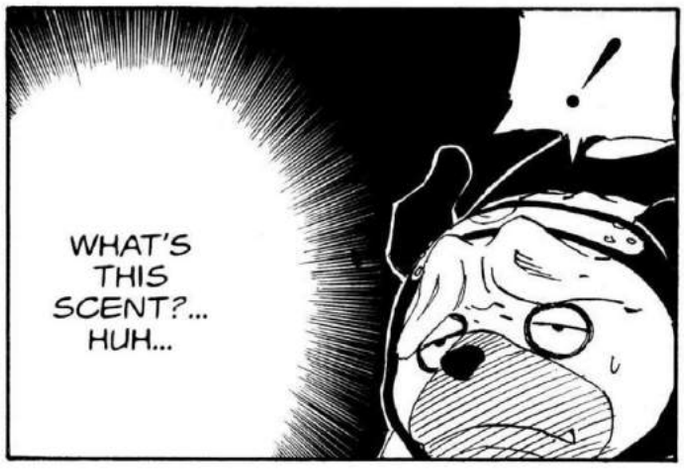

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!
HUF
HUF

SASUKE'S STOPPED MOVING...
!!
HE'S STILL TOO FAR AWAY...!



ALL RIGHT!!

!
!


!
WHAT'S THIS SCENT?... HUH...

COMRADES, THERE ARE OTHERS PURSUING SASUKE ALSO!

ARE THEY FRIENDS?! FOES?!
WHAT?!

THEY'RE NOT HUMAN!

JUST THAT...
...I CAN'T TELL...

?!

SHF
TEMARI, TAKE GAARA AND GO ON AHEAD!

!

BOING
I SUPPOSE WE HAVE NO CHOICE... I'LL TAKE YOU ON!

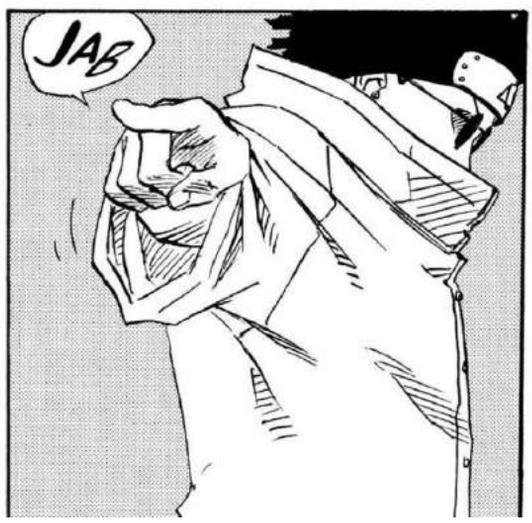
...

ALL RIGHT...

NO...! I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT...!
!

YOU'RE...

SHINO ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

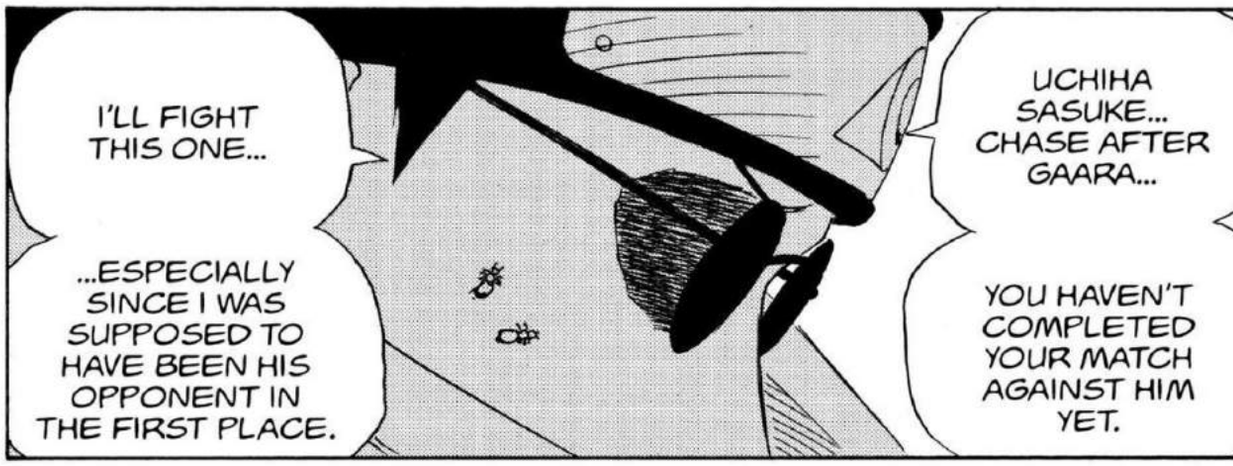

JAB

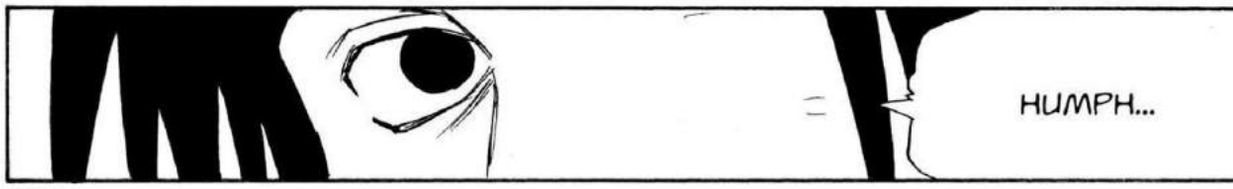
FOSH

READ
THIS
WAY

...THE MALE OF THE SAME SPECIES CAN STILL DETECT IT...
EVEN THOUGH IT IS ALMOST ODORLESS...
BEFORE YOU LEFT THE ARENA, I HAD MY BEETLES MARK YOU WITH A FEMALE SCENT.
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE

...UGH...!


I'LL FIGHT THIS ONE...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN HIS OPPONENT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
UCHIHA SASUKE... CHASE AFTER GAARA...
YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED YOUR MATCH AGAINST HIM YET.


HUMPH...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 20 (CONTINUED)

I WENT TO THE SALON TO GET MY BANGS TRIMMED, SO I SAT IN THE HAIRCUT SEAT. MY HEAD WAS FULL OF... "I'M GOING TO GO SEE *SEVEN* TOMORROW--! I WONDER WHAT THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS ARE--?! THE DIRECTOR IS DAVID FINCHER, SO I BET THE FRIGHT SCENES ARE GOING TO BE PRETTY AMAZING! WITH MORGAN FREEMAN AS THE VETERAN DETECTIVE AND BRAD PITT AS THE GREEN YOUNG DETECTIVE, WHAT A FANTASTIC TEAM! I HEARD IT HAS AN UNEXPECTED ENDING, A SUDDEN REVERSAL, BUT I WONDER WHAT IT IS..." I WAS ALL EXCITED. AND JUST AS THEY STARTED CUTTING MY HAIR, SOME WOMAN CAME IN FOR A HAIRCUT AND SAT DOWN IN THE NEXT CHAIR OVER. THIS WOMAN STARTED UP A FRIENDLY CHAT WITH HER STYLIST, BRAGGING, "I WENT ON A DATE YESTERDAY." I HAD NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH MY STYLIST, SO I WAS SILENT AND PRETENDED TO BE ASLEEP. TO MY DISGUST, THE LOUDMOUTHED WOMAN NEXT TO ME STARTED GOING INTO DETAILS ABOUT HER DATE. "GRODY~" I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, BUT... BECAUSE HER VOICE WAS SO LOUD, I ENDED UP HEARING HER BRAGGING TALE WHETHER I WANTED TO OR NOT. SUDDENLY, SHE STARTED SAYING SHE HAD GONE TO THE MOVIES WITH THIS GUY, AND THAT THE FILM THEY HAD SEEN WAS THE CURRENTLY POPULAR *SEVEN*.

JUST AS I WAS THINKING TO MYSELF "I'M GOING TO GO SEE IT TOO, TOMORROW...", OH NO! THAT CHATTERBOX GIRL STARTED DESCRIBING THE PLOT OF *SEVEN*!! NEEDLESS TO SAY, SHE WAS LOUD!! I WANTED TO COVER MY EARS, BUT MY HANDS WERE UNDER THE CAPE BECAUSE I WAS GETTING MY HAIR CUT...!! AND SO, IN THAT MOMENT, I BEGGED THAT WOMAN...

"PLEASE! THE CLINCHER... JUST DON'T SPILL THE CLINCHER, PLEASE~~~~~!!!"

"AND WHAT WAS INSIDE THAT BOX. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT... IT WAS THE HEAD OF BRAD PITT'S WIFE--! AND THEN--!"

...SHE HAD SPILLED IT...

THE NEXT DAY, I DECIDED NOT TO GO SEE *SEVEN*... (I CAN JUST RENT THE VIDEO... ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I KNOW THE WHOLE STORY...) FURTHERMORE, THEY HAD CUT MY BANGS TOO MUCH AND I ENDED UP LOOKING LIKE A BUSINESSMAN.

Number 125:
愛
The Time of Awakening...!!

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
...YOU SOUND PRETTY CONFIDENT, BUT...

UNH...

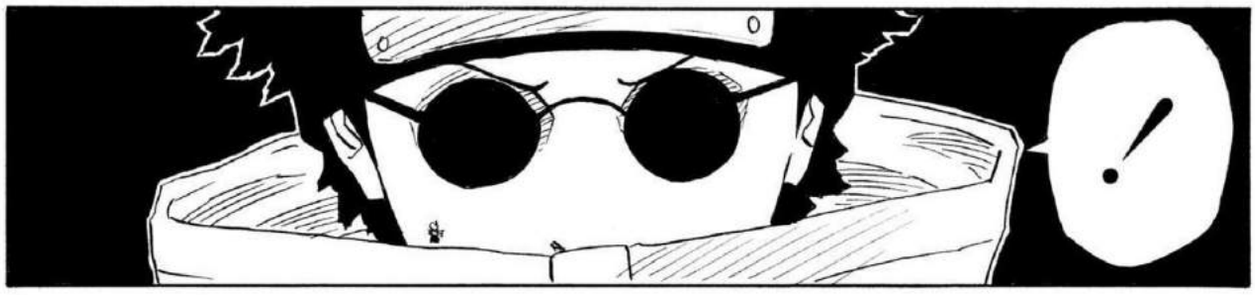
GO!
LEAVE HIM TO ME.

GIVE ME 10 MINUTES, AND I'LL COME HELP YOU.
I DON'T NEED YOUR CONCERN...

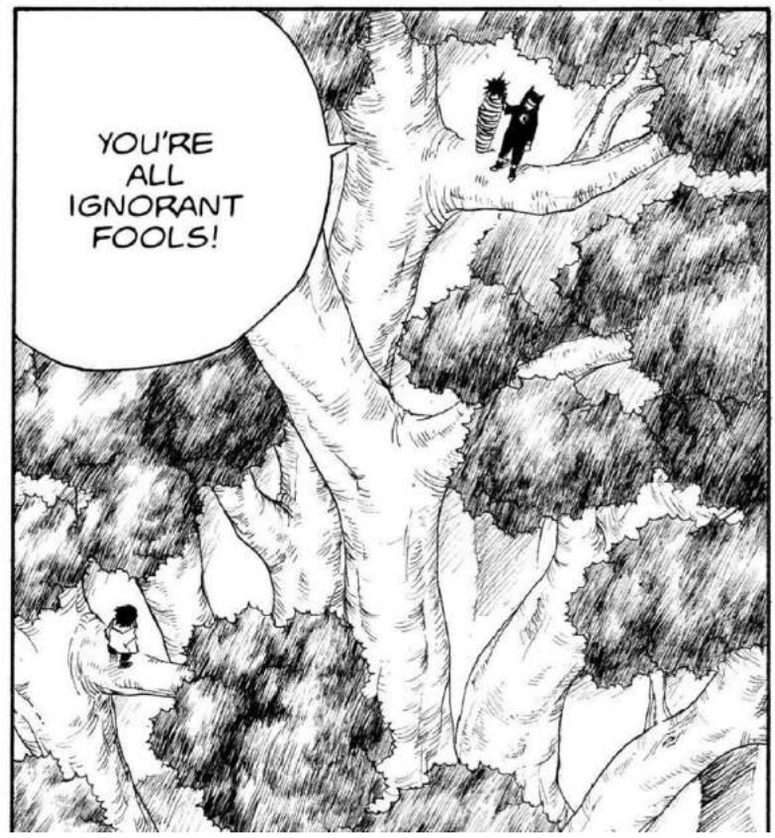
FWOO

HUMPH... I'LL BE DONE BY THEN TOO.
TURN

HEE HEE HEE ...


!

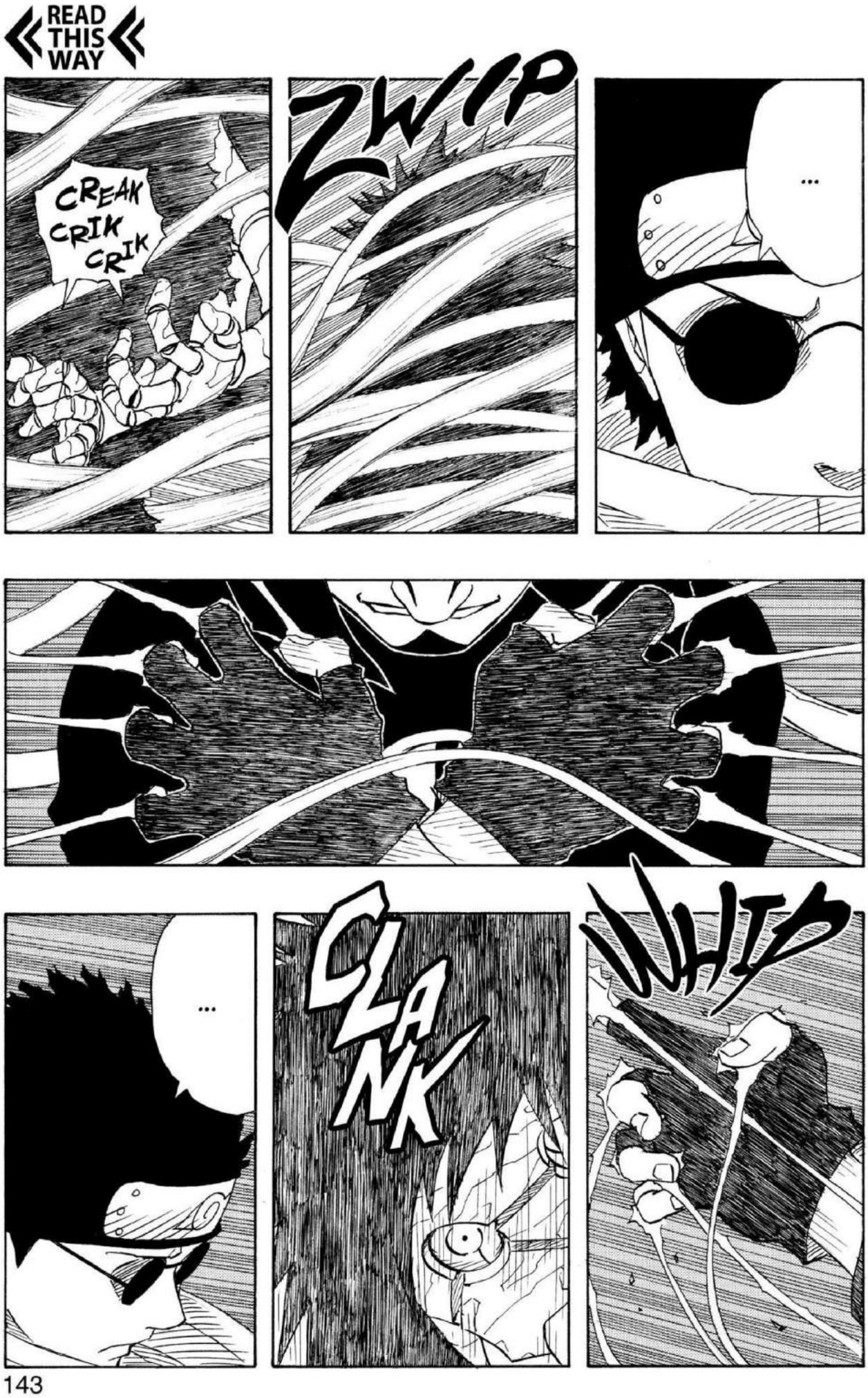
EH...
YOU ALL... HAVE NO CLUE WHAT TRUE TERROR IS...

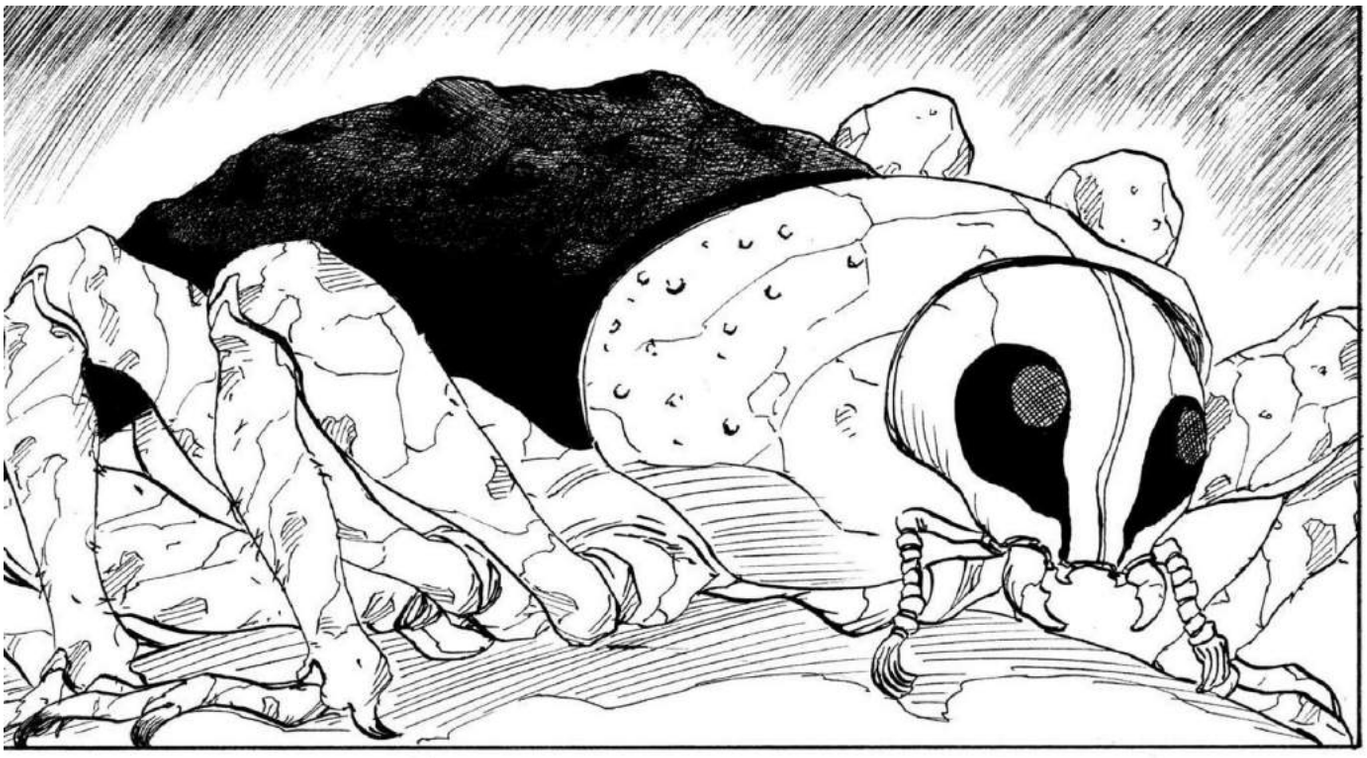

YOU'RE ALL IGNORANT FOOLS!

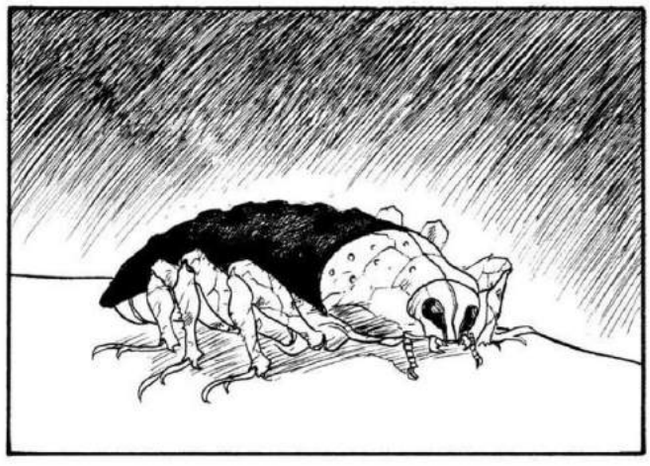
YOU'RE GOING TO TEACH ME WHAT THAT TERROR IS?
ZZF
AND YOU...
ZZF

IF YOU TAKE ME DOWN AND CHASE AFTER THEM, YOU'LL FIND OUT WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT...
THAT'S IF YOU CAN TAKE ME DOWN!
FWIP
NAH...

KUGUTSU NO JUTSU! ART OF THE PUPPET MASTER!!

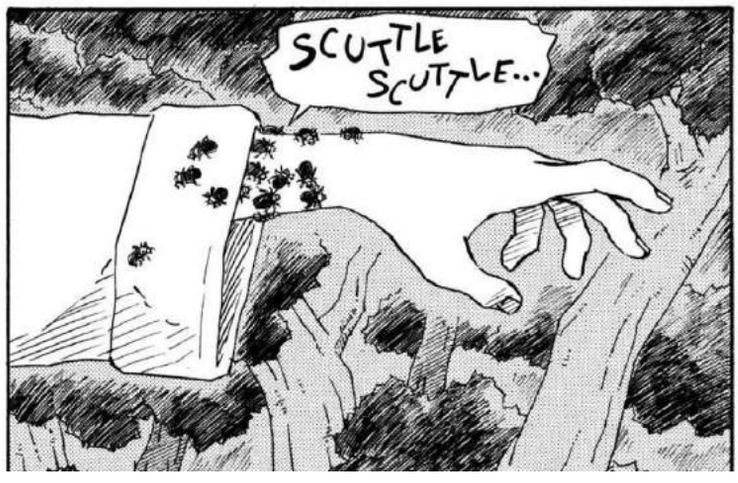

READ THIS WAY
CREAK CRIK CRIK
ZWIP
...
...
CLANK
WHIP





SWARM

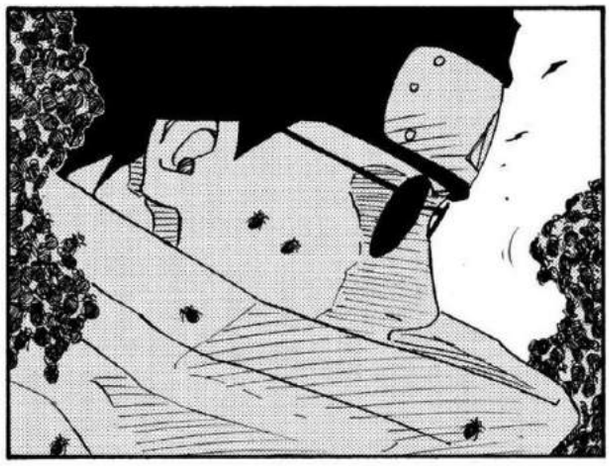
RUSTLE


SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE...

SWA

CLIK CLIK CLIK

CREAK CRIK CRIK CRIK



WHEN WE FIGHT, NO MATTER HOW PUNY A BUG OUR OPPONENT IS, WE DON'T MOCK THEM... WE FACE THEM FULL STRENGTH!
I AM A MEMBER OF KONOHA'S ABURAME CLAN...
HEH... THEN COME ON!

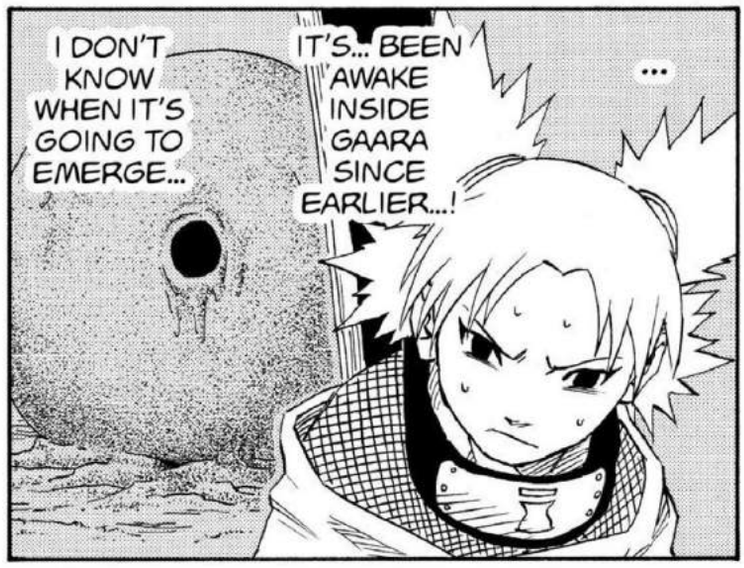
TWITCH

LEAP

!

TAP
TAP

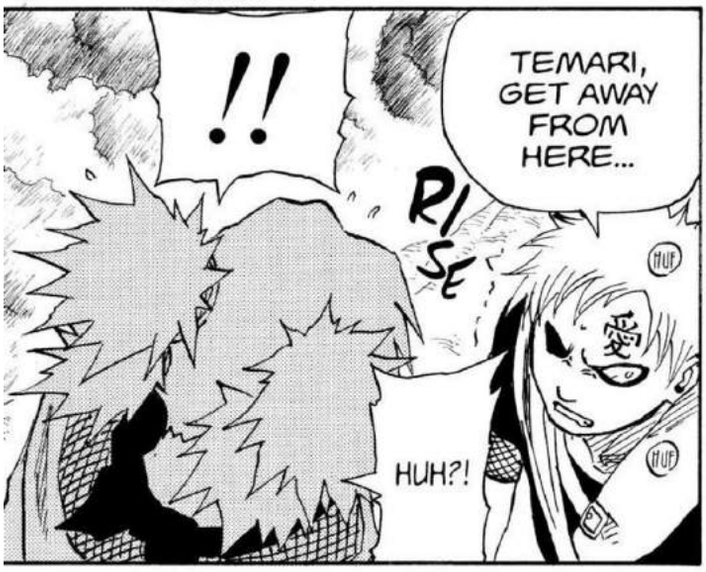
...LET ME DOWN... TEMARI...
YOU'VE COME TO, GAARA!?


I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT'S GOING TO EMERGE...
IT'S... BEEN AWAKE INSIDE GAARA SINCE EARLIER...!
...

UGH!
JERK

I CAN'T HANDLE IT BY MYSELF...
THIS IS BAD... IT'S JUST ME RIGHT NOW...

!


!!
TEMARI, GET AWAY FROM HERE...
RISE
HUH?!
愛

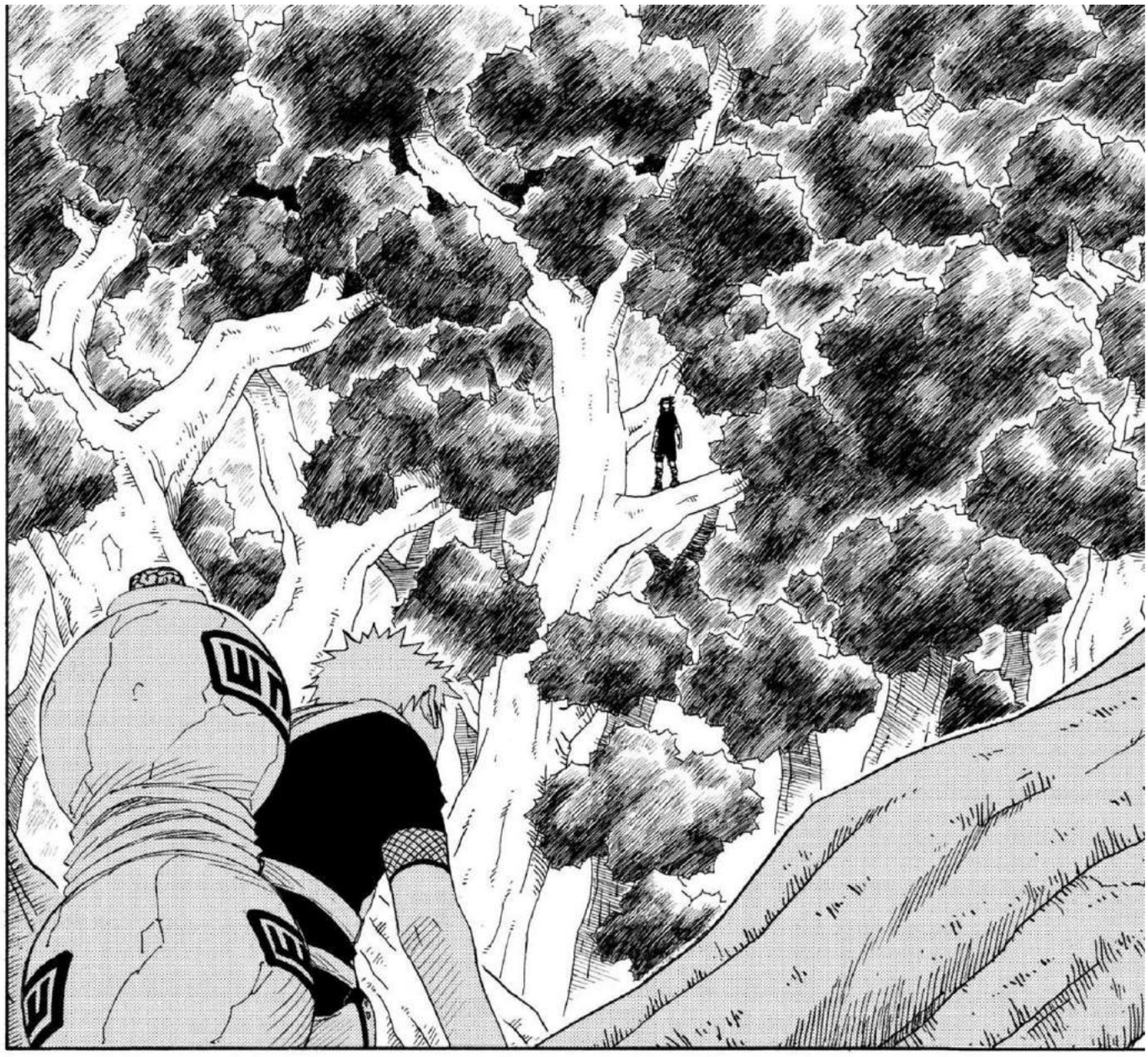
...!

YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
JUST HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!
SWAP
GRUNT!

愛

愛

SLAM



HUF
HUF
HUF

愛

YOU, I'M GOING TO STOP!

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SAND FELLAS ARE PLOTTING, BUT...

THROB

UNH...

UGH...

BESIDES...

WEAVE...

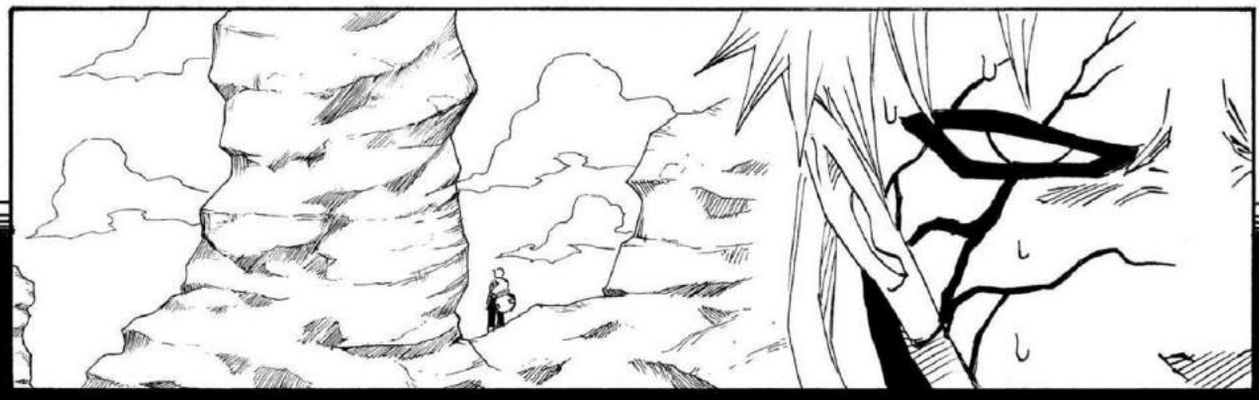
THAT'S... UCHIHA SASUKE... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

!

WHERE'S KANKURO...?!

GRRRR
愛

I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU REALLY ARE...



愛
WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVE?

WHY DO YOU SEEK STRENGTH?

READ THIS WAY
...
...
...
...
SHMP
GET LOST... YOU'RE IN THE WAY OF MY TRAINING!!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...

YOU'RE LIKE ME...

EYES FULL AND SPILLING OVER WITH HATRED AND INTENT TO KILL...

YOU'VE GOT EYES JUST LIKE MINE...

YOU'RE MY PREY.

DO NOT FORGET THAT...

HUF

HUF

YOU WHO ARE STRONG... WHO ARE CALLED UCHIHA... WHO HAVE FRIENDS...

AND HAVE A PURPOSE... JUST... LIKE ME...

PANT

PANT

PULSE

AND I CAN FEEL ALIVE!!

PULSE

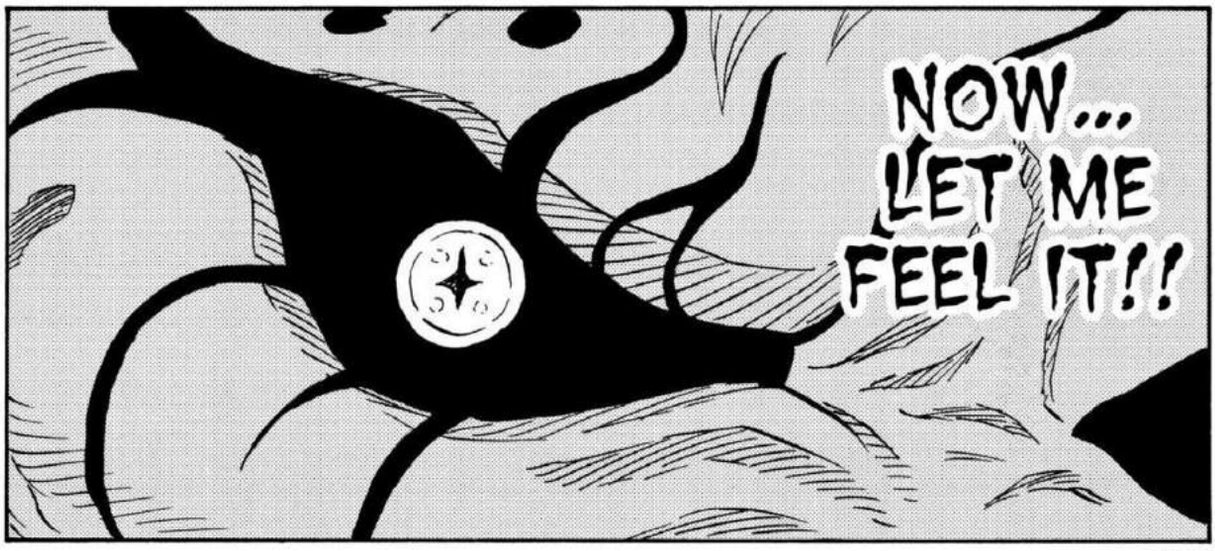
AND THEN I WILL TRULY EXIST...

I'LL ERASE ALL OF THAT...

BY KILLING YOU...

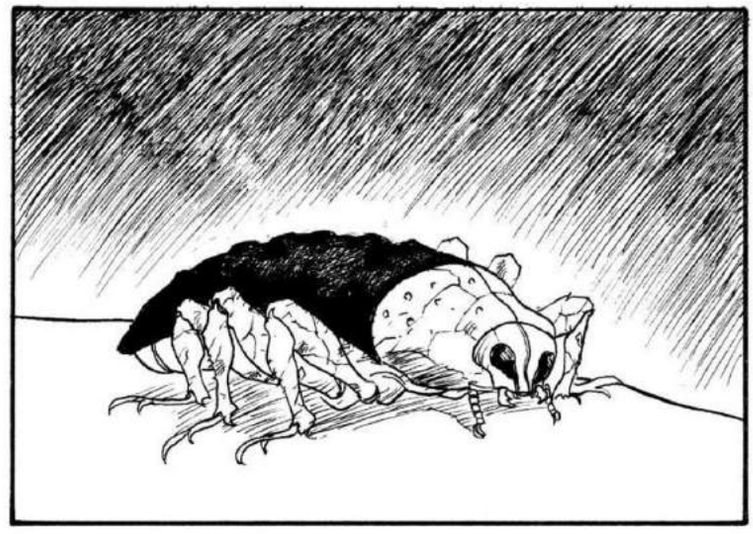
READ THIS WAY
...UGH...!
THUNK
THUNK
...!!
...!!
RRR...
!
AARGH-ROWL...

GRR...



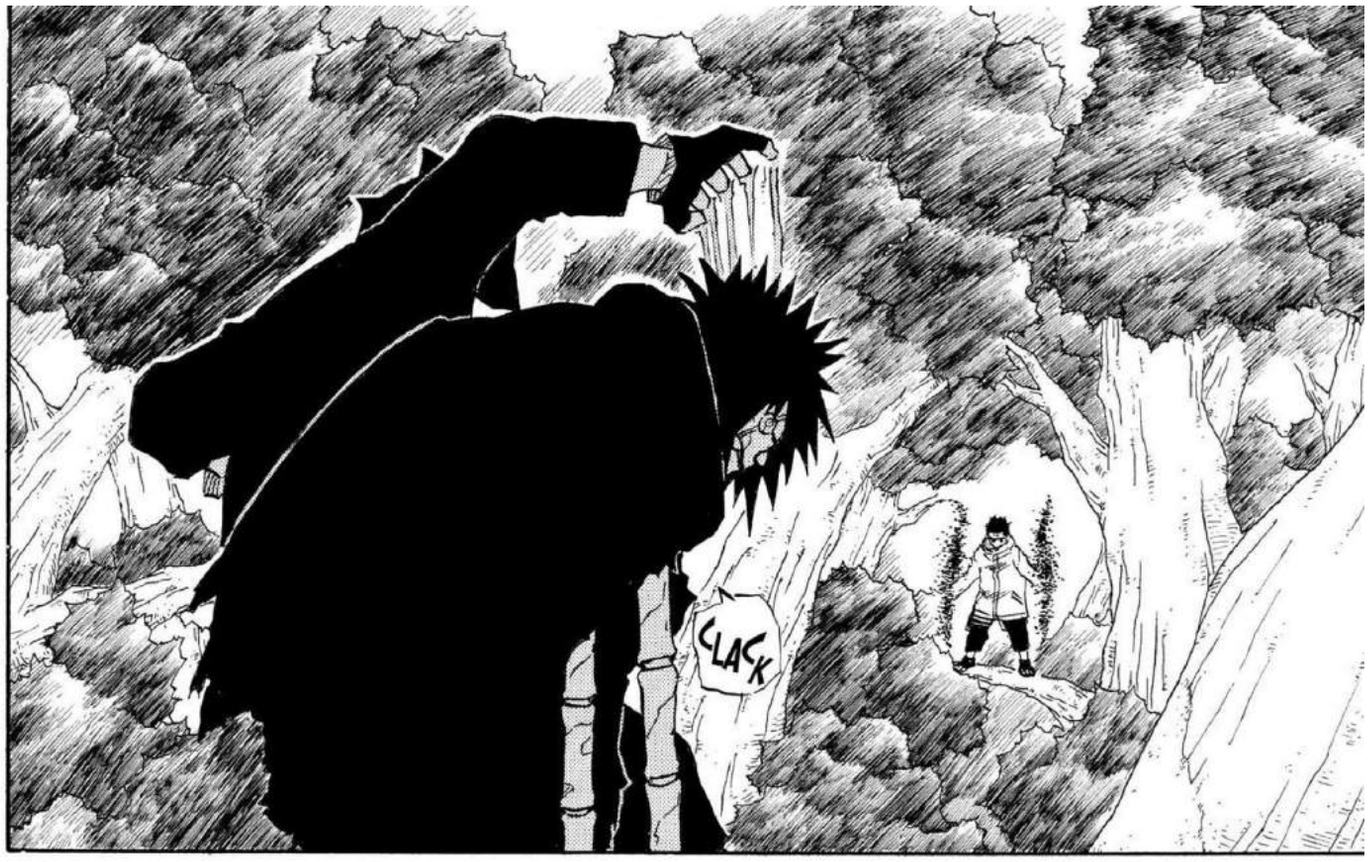
IT'S BEGUN...!!

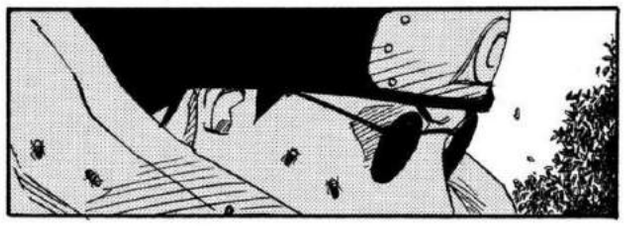
!!



BURBLE
BUBBLE
HUF
HUF
HUF
GRR...

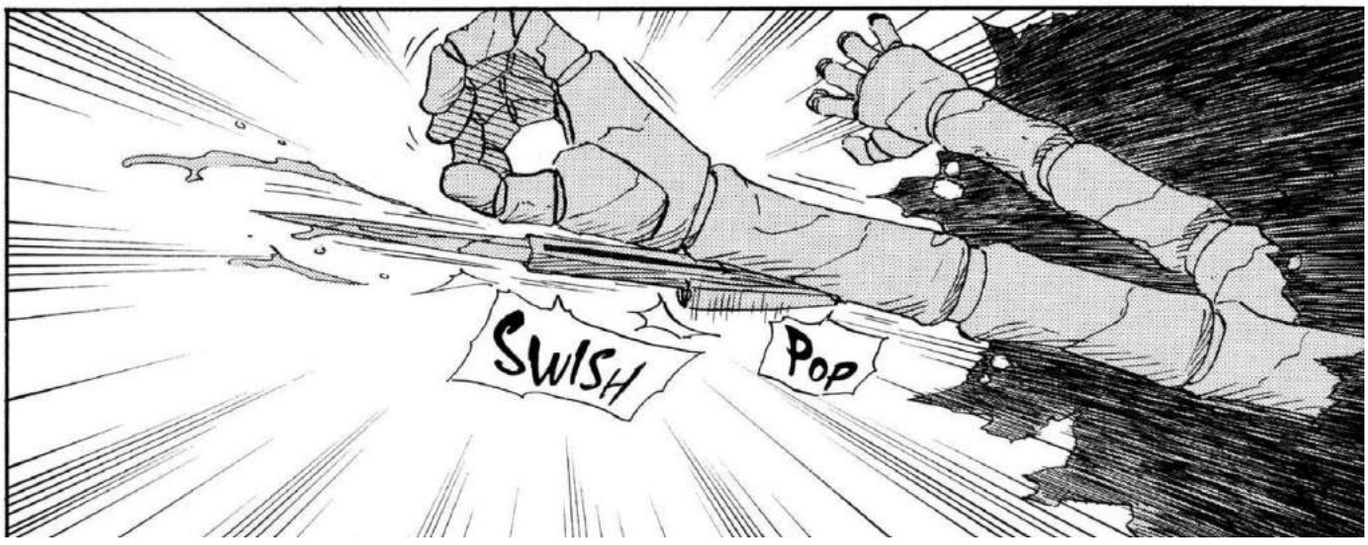
Number 126: Off Guard...!!


CLACK



LEAP

SWIPE

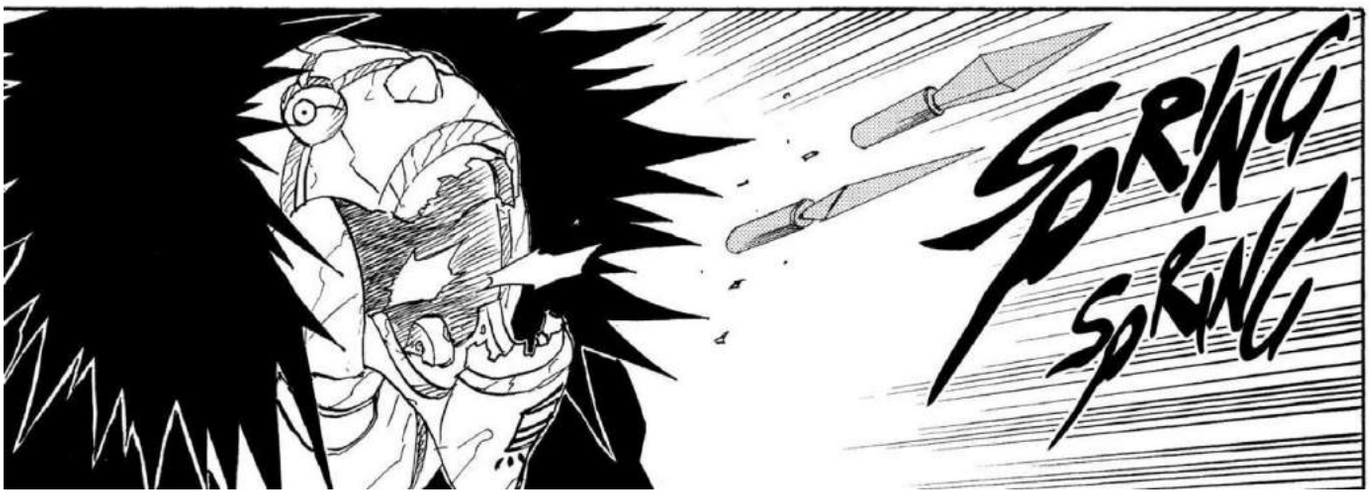

SWISH
POP

BOOO
KSSH

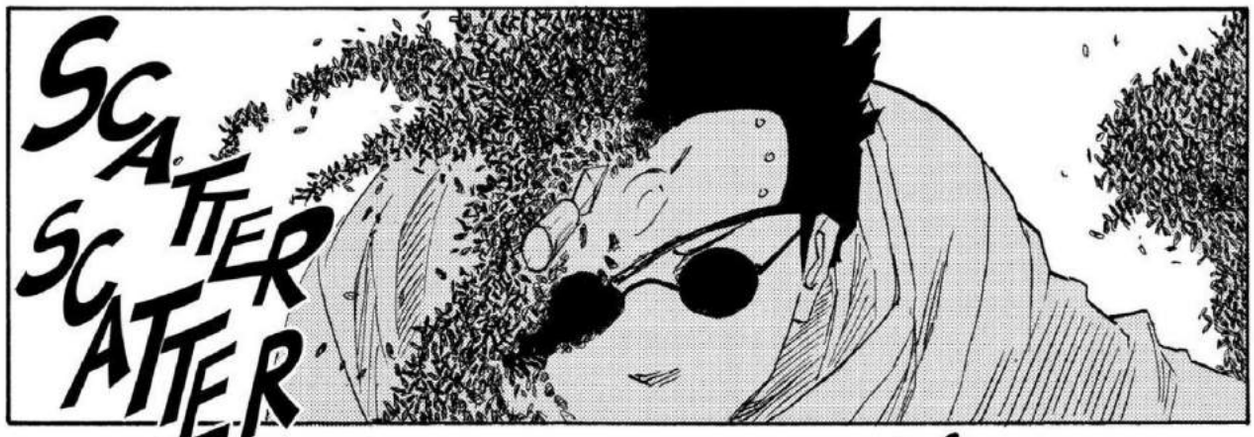
!
SWAM
CLOP

THE BLADE IS COATED WITH POISON...?!

TWEAK


SPRING
SPRING

THOCK
THOCK


SCATTER
SCATTER

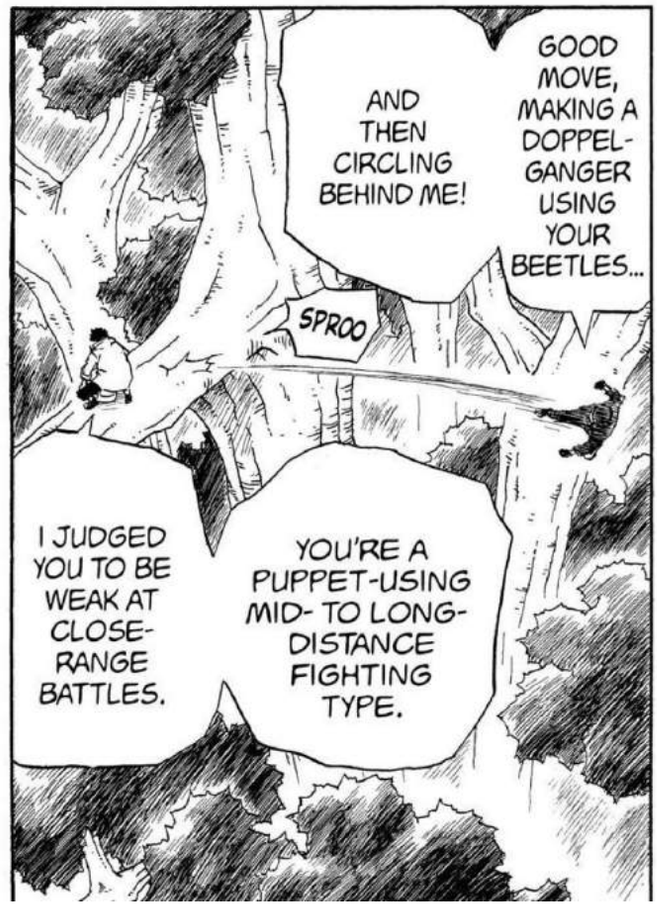
!
BEETLES?!

ZWHOOSH

!

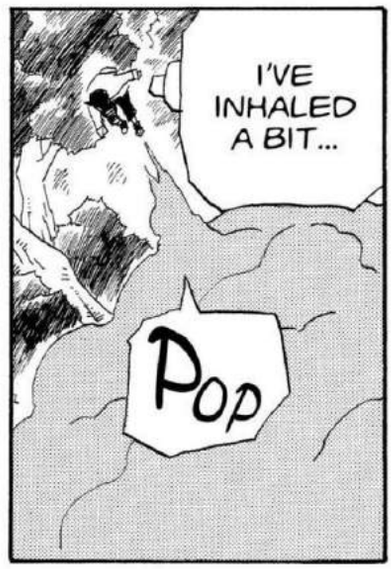
SWOOOOSH
!

THAT PUPPET MASTER TECHNIQUE OF YOURS REQUIRES YOU TO CONCENTRATE ON OPERATING THE PUPPET...
...MAKING IT EASIER FOR OPENINGS TO BE FOUND IN THE MASTER'S DEFENSES...


GOOD MOVE, MAKING A DOPPELGANGER USING YOUR BEETLES...
AND THEN CIRCLING BEHIND ME!
SPROO
YOU'RE A PUPPET-USING MID- TO LONG-DISTANCE FIGHTING TYPE.
I JUDGED YOU TO BE WEAK AT CLOSE-RANGE BATTLES.

...

NOW YOU'LL SEE WHAT KARASU CAN REALLY DO!
CLOP
HOWEVER, I'M NOW GOING TO SHOW YOU THE FUNDAMENTAL BATTLE TECHNIQUES USING THIS NINJUTSU!
YOU'RE PRETTY SMART...! KNOWING A PUPPET MASTER'S WEAK POINT!
THUD
WOOSH
BLAM
!
BOOM



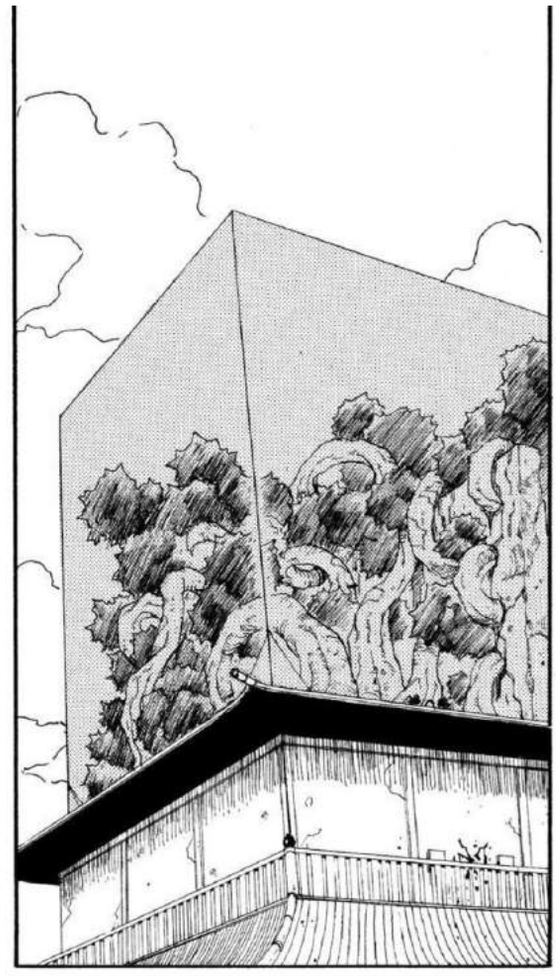
I SEE... AND THE CASTER HAS NOW HIDDEN HIMSELF, HUH...

FUM

CLACK
...

REEEE

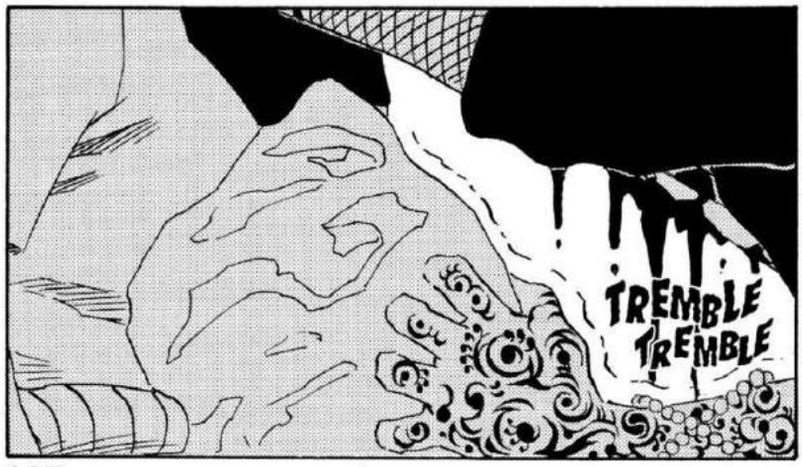
ZGASH



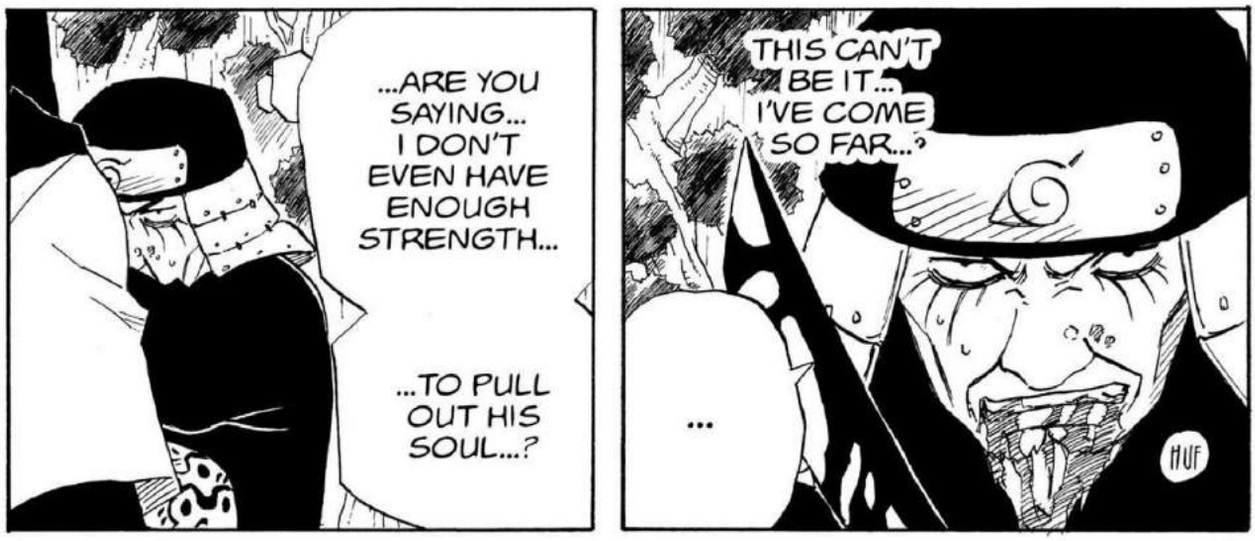
HACK

SKKRAPE

FWIP
FWIP


TREMBLE
TREMBLE

HUF
HUF


...ARE YOU SAYING... I DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH...
...TO PULL OUT HIS SOUL...?

THIS CAN'T BE IT... I'VE COME SO FAR...?
...
HUF

THAT THIS AGED BODY... IS TOO DECREPIT, EVEN THOUGH I HAVE RESOLVED TO DIE...?!

IF YOU HAD BEEN EVEN JUST 10 YEARS YOUNGER... YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KILL ME... HEH HEH...

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

YOUR JÔNIN AND CHÛNIN INSTRUCTORS WILL PROTECT YOU, EVEN AT THE COST OF OUR OWN LIVES!!
SHF
LISTEN UP...
ALL OF YOU, EVEN IF ENEMY SHINOBI SHOW UP, DO NOT PANIC. JUST KEEP PROCEEDING QUICKLY TO THE INNER SHELTERS!

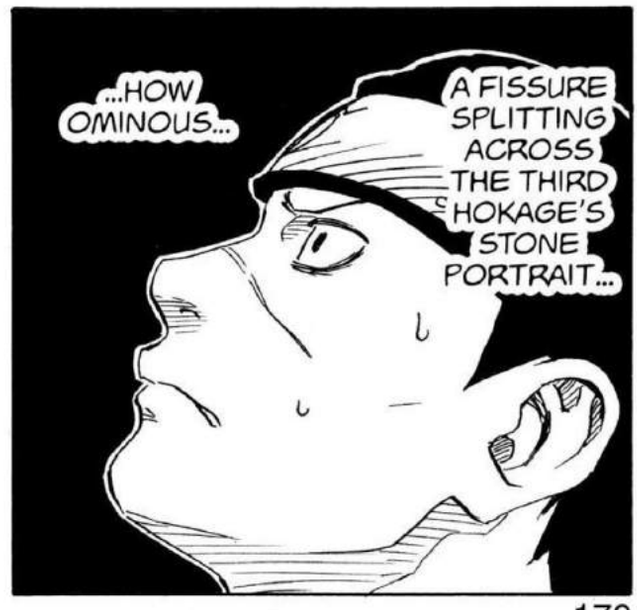
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

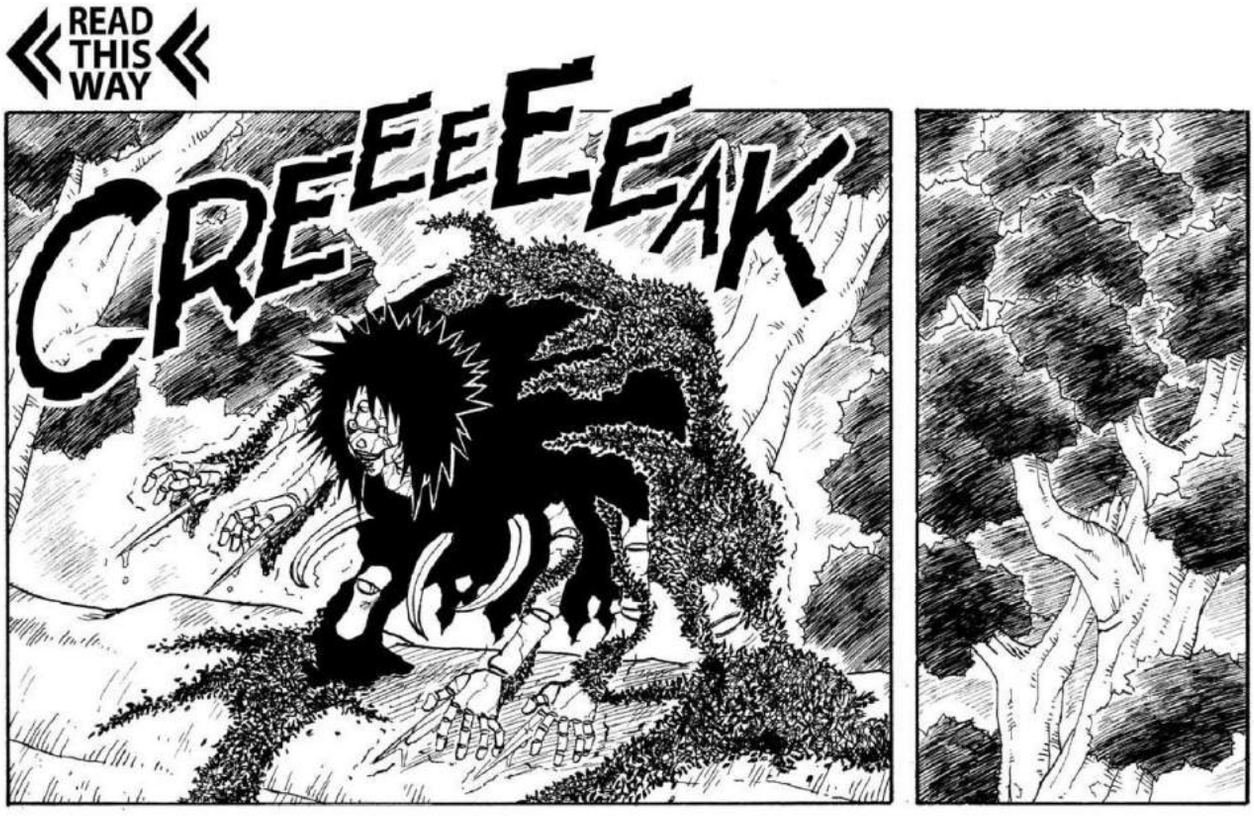
!!

Hunh?!

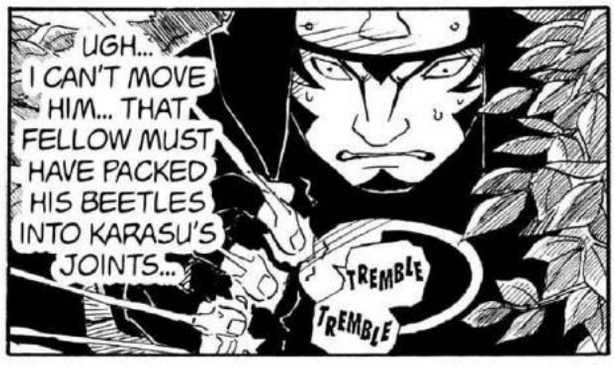
CRACK!!

...GRANDPA...


...HOW OMINOUS...
A FISSURE SPLITTING ACROSS THE THIRD HOKAGE'S STONE PORTRAIT...

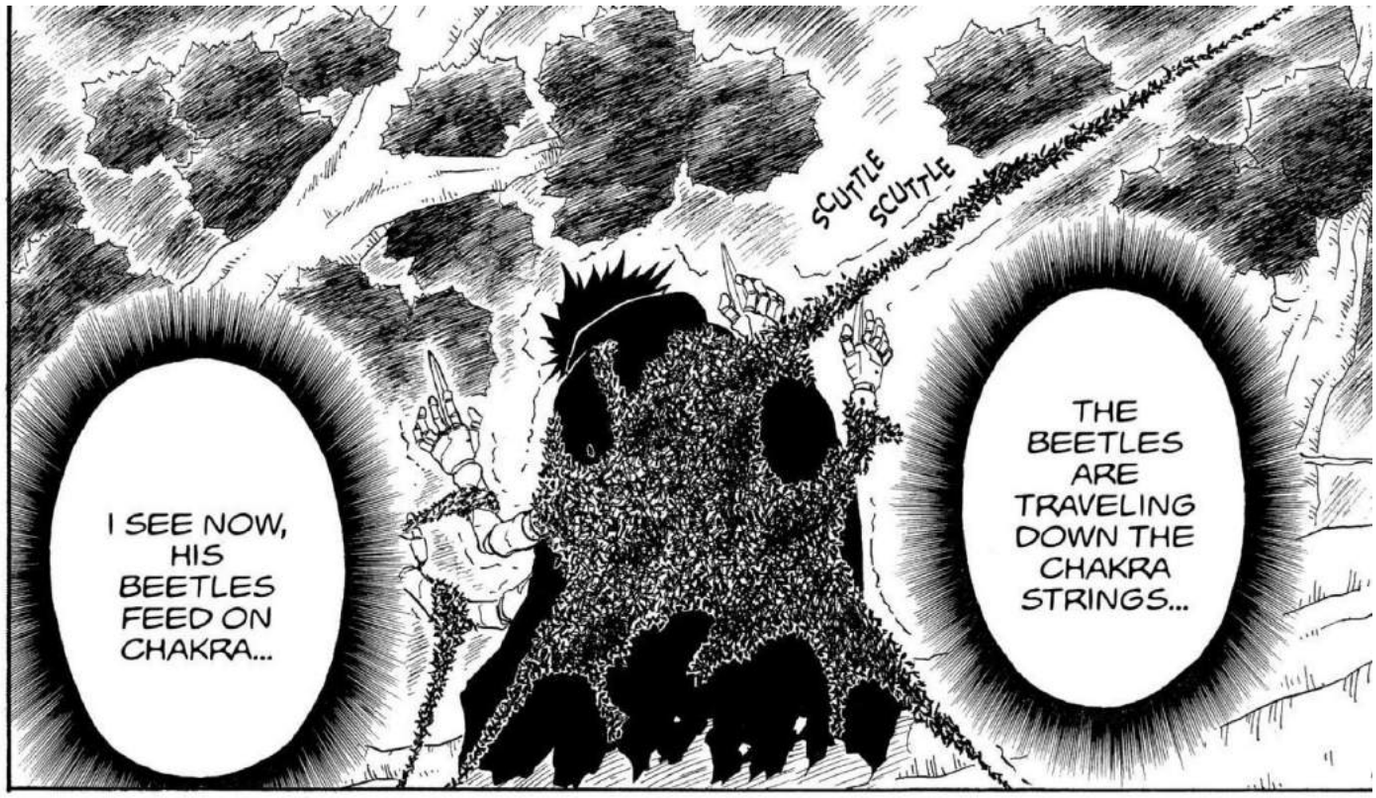

READ THIS WAY
CREEEEEAK

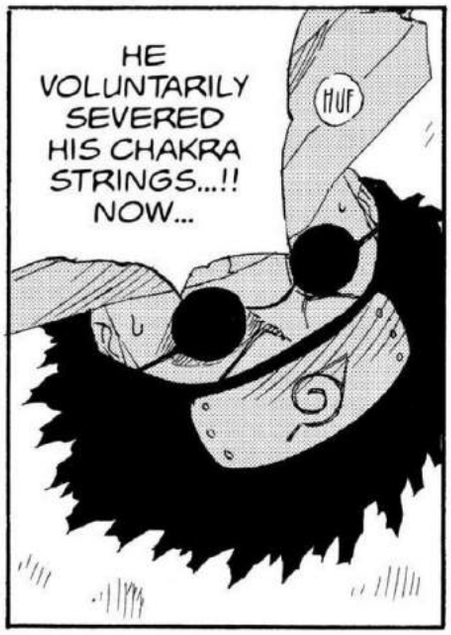
CREEEAK

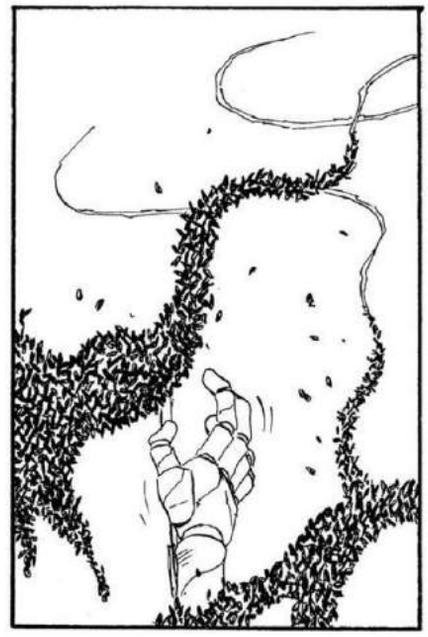

UGH... I CAN'T MOVE HIM... THAT FELLOW MUST HAVE PACKED HIS BEETLES INTO KARASU'S JOINTS...
TREMBLE TREMBLE

SCUTTLE

SWARM SWARM
SWARM


SCUTTLE SCUTTLE
I SEE NOW, HIS BEETLES FEED ON CHAKRA...
THE BEETLES ARE TRAVELING DOWN THE CHAKRA STRINGS...


HE VOLUNTARILY SEVERED HIS CHAKRA STRINGS...!! NOW...
HUF



UGH... AT THIS RATE, MY LOCATION WILL BE REVEALED...!
SNIP

SNIP
POP

READ THIS WAY
... EACH AND EVERY PART OF HIS BODY FROM HEAD TO TOE... HAVE WEAPONS CONCEALED WITHIN THEM--HE'S A RIGGED PUPPET!!
HEH... CAUGHT YOU OFF GUARD! IT'S MERE CHILD'S PLAY FOR A FIRST-RATE PUPPET MASTER TO REATTACH SEVERED CHAKRA STRINGS.
TWEAK
!
HUF
HUF
KA KLINK
CLOP
!!
HUF
DIE!!
WHOOM
THE NEEDLE'S COATED WITH POISON...

FAP

READ THIS WAY
!
SKTT
SKTT
SKTT
WHAT?!
?!
SPROING
!!
THE CHAKRA STRINGS HAVE BEEN CHEWED OFF...?!
SCUTTLE
HOW DID BEETLES GET ON MY HAND...?!
THUD!!
HUF
HUF
WAAAH!!

HUF
HUF
THEY'VE BEEN ON THE MOVE THIS WHOLE TIME... AIMING FOR YOUR HEADBAND...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DROPPED HIS GUARD... THE BEETLES CRAWLING DOWN YOUR CHAKRA STRINGS WERE DECOYS SO THAT YOU DIDN'T SEE THE OTHERS CREEPING UP BEHIND YOU...

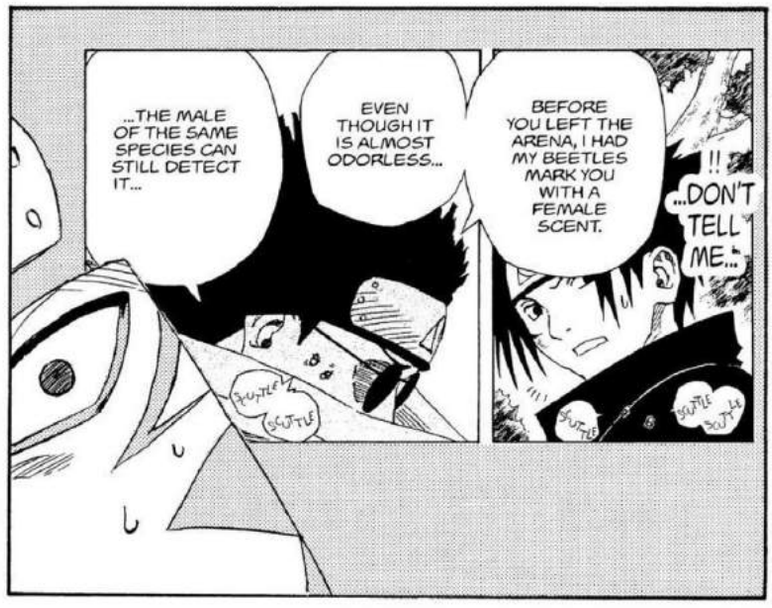
WHAT THE...?!! HOW... WHERE DID ALL THESE BEETLES COME FROM...?!!
SWARM!

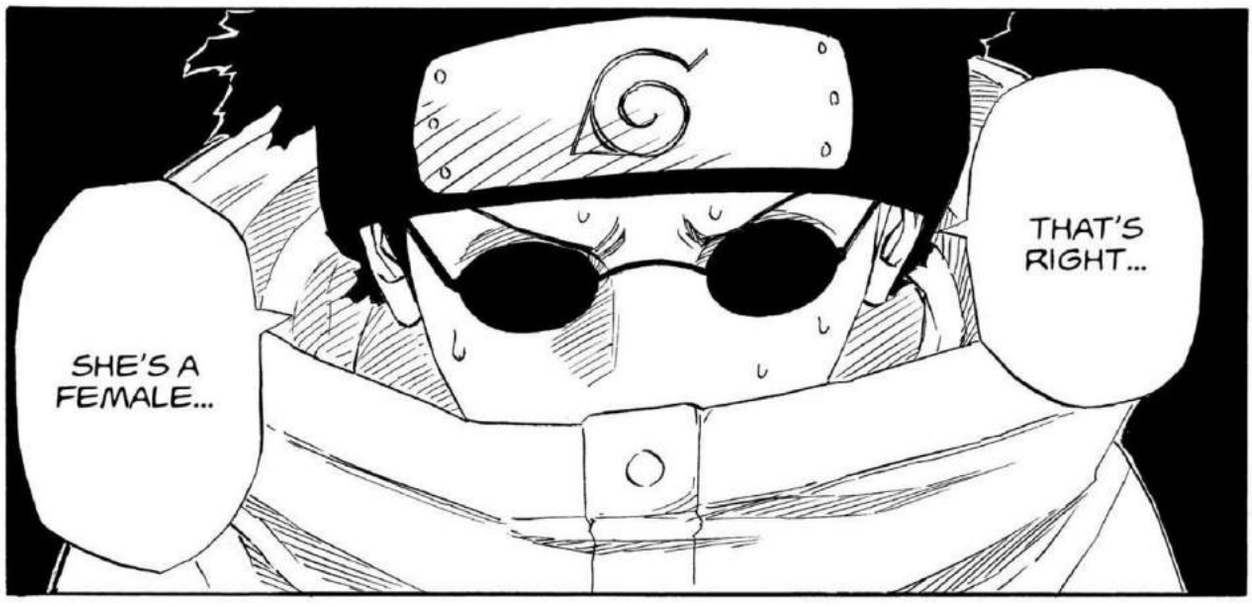
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
...WH-
...WHAT?!

BUT... HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO TELL MY LOCATION FROM JUST THIS ONE BUG...?
I HATE EXPLAINING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER.

HUF
HUF
THAT FIRST SWING I TOOK AT YOU... YOU THOUGHT I MISSED...
BUT I WAS ATTACHING A BEETLE TO YOU...

SWIIIIIISH





TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL. 15!

VIZMANGA

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