



岸本斉史

My cover image for this volume was inspired by the Nine-Tailed Fox Naruto that appears in the GameCube game, *Clash of Ninja*. They did such an awesome job with the presentation that I couldn't resist imitating it.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2005



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





NARUTO VOL. 26
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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www.viz.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY

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

ratings.viz.com

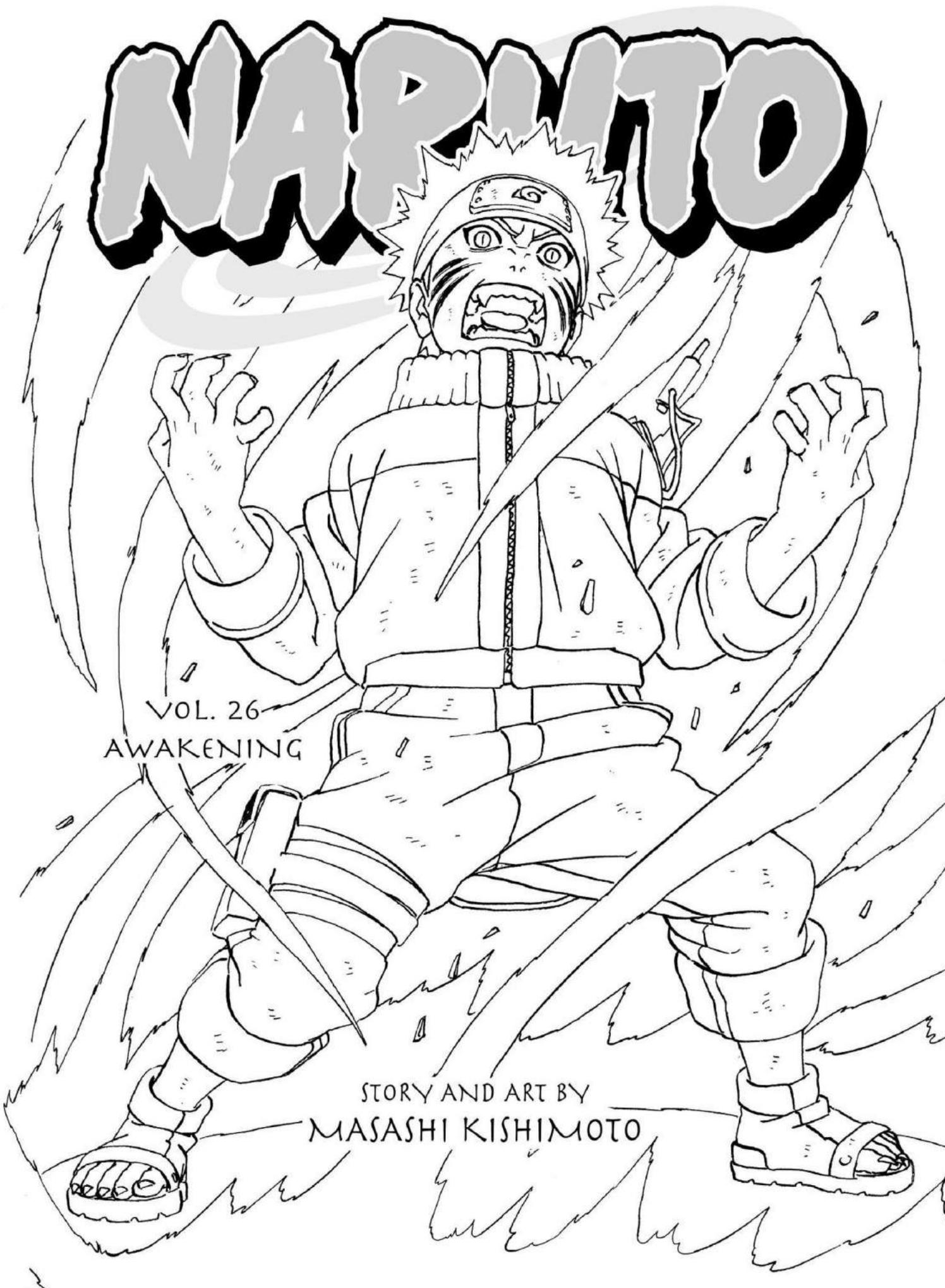


www.shonenjump.com



SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 26
AWAKENING

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sakura

サクラ

Sasuke

サスケ



Naruto

ナルト





Kakashi



Tsunade



Shizune



Temari



Shikamaru



Pakkun

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. That boy is Naruto, once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy.

Despite the rough start, he and his friends, Sasuke and Sakura, successfully join the ranks of the ninja. During the Chūnin Ninja Selection Exam, they are attacked by Orochimaru, who vanishes only after he places a curse mark on Sasuke. Halfway through the third exam, however, Orochimaru and his henchmen launch *Operation Destroy Konoha*. The attack is thwarted when the Third Hokage sacrifices his life. After the deadly battle, Tsunade steps up to become the Fifth Hokage.

Charmed by the power of Orochimaru, Sasuke departs Konoha in the company of the Sound Ninja. In pursuit of Sasuke, Shikamaru and his team weather desperate battles. As Naruto finally closes in on his friend, Sasuke's mind is struck by vivid memories of his brother, Itachi.

The Story So Far . . .



NARUTO

VOL. 26
AWAKENING

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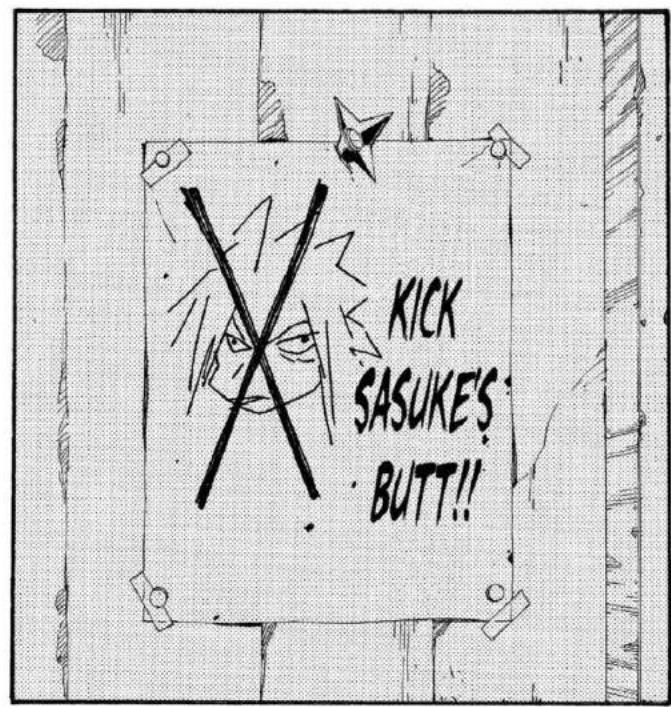


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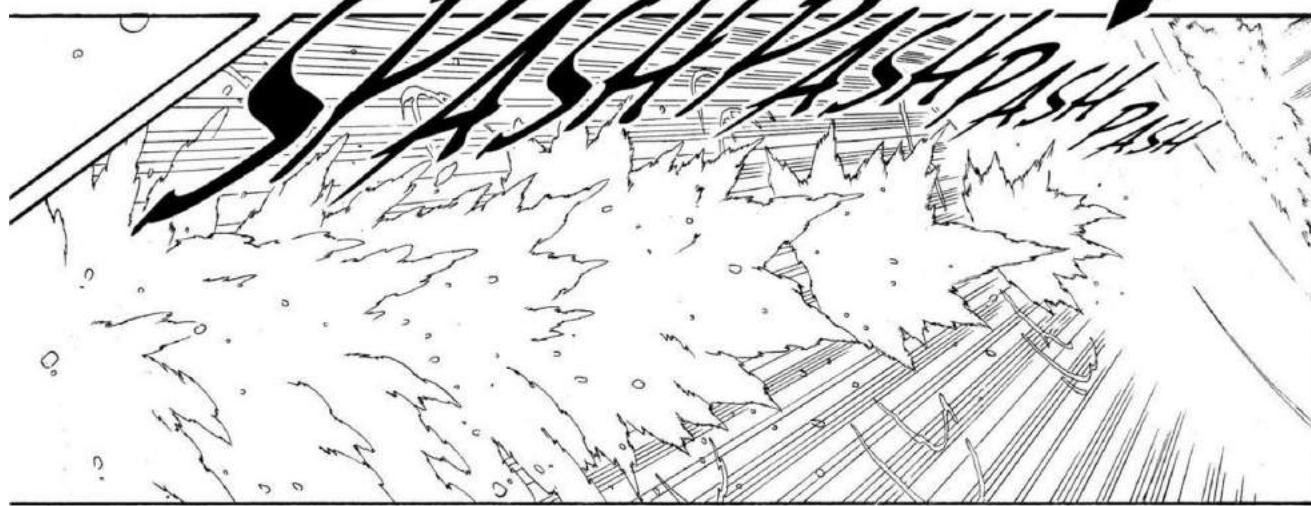


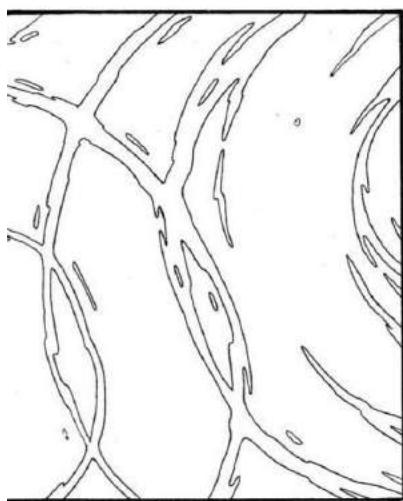
Number 227: Chidori vs. Rasengan!!

NARUTO

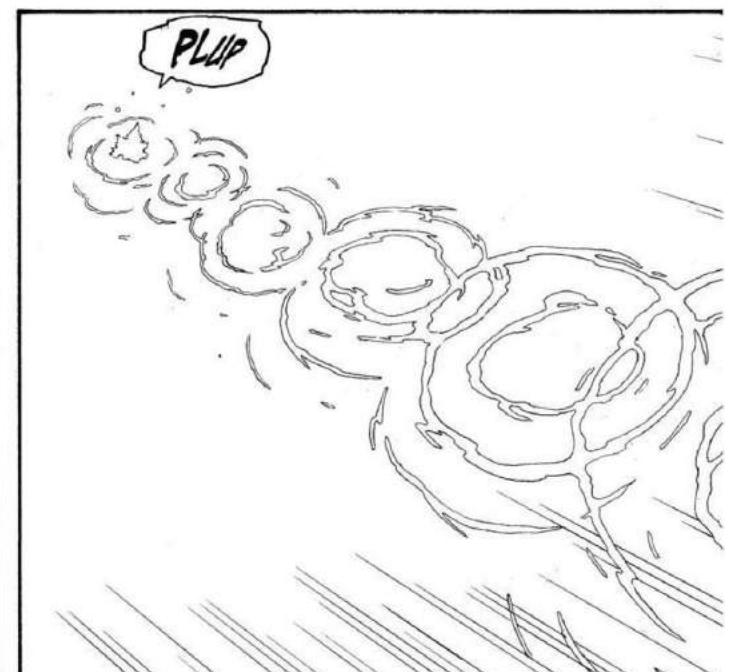


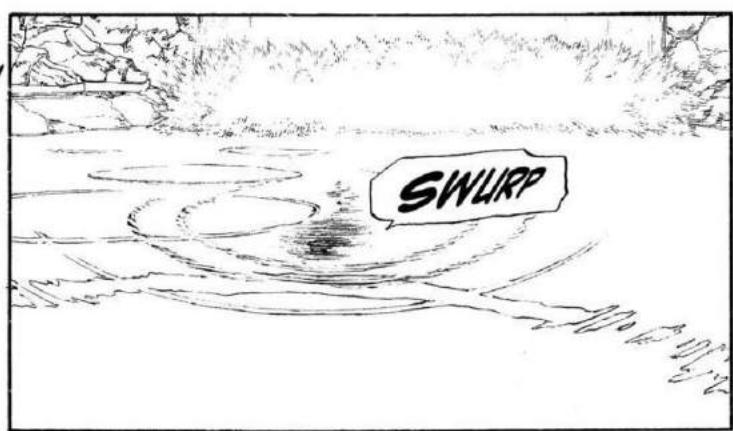
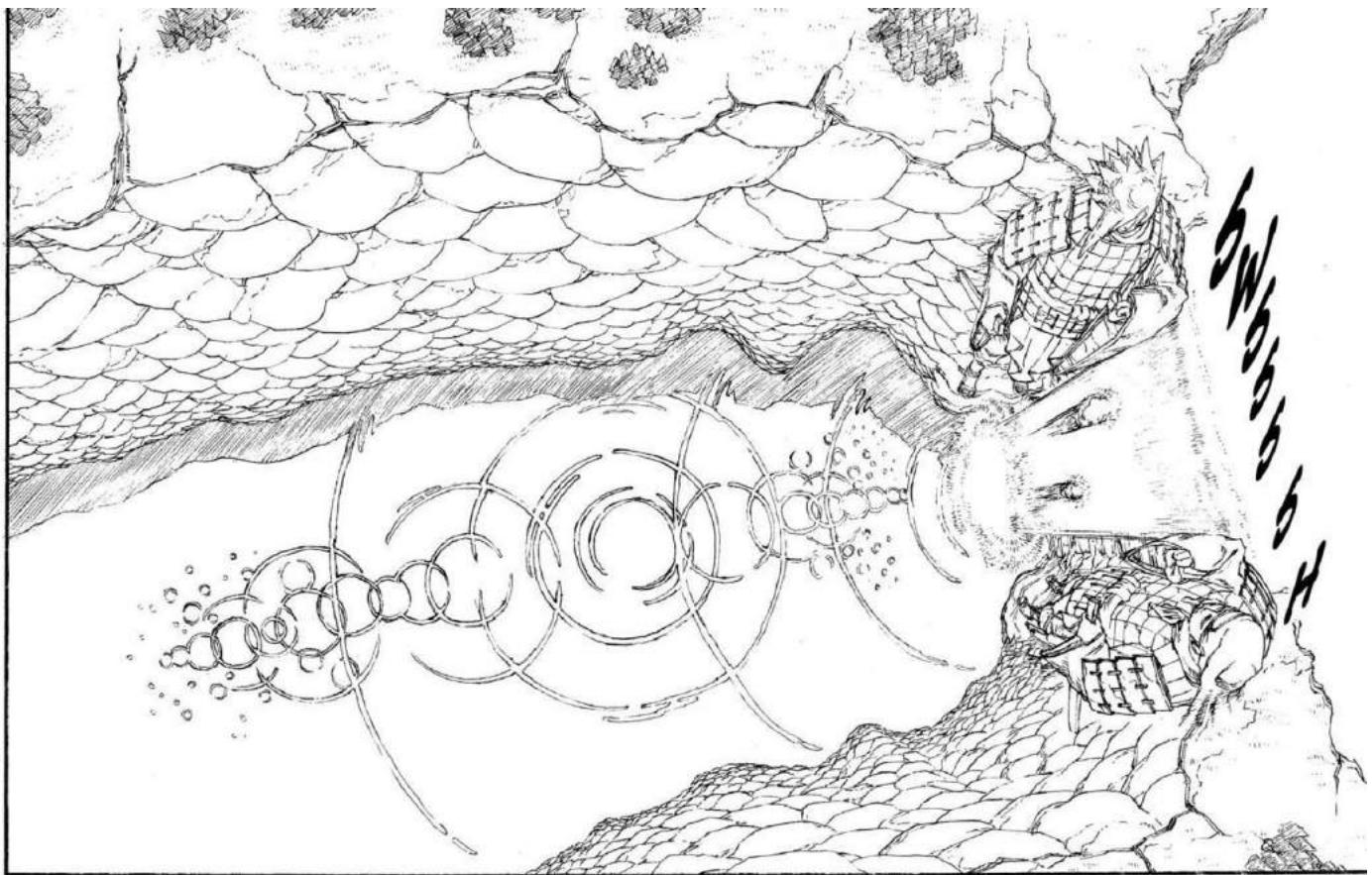




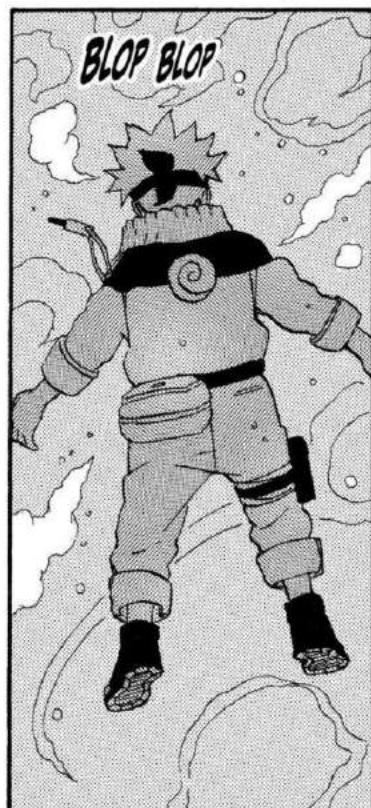
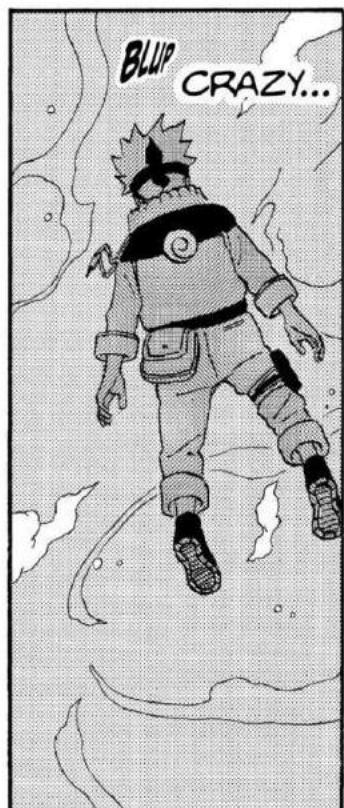
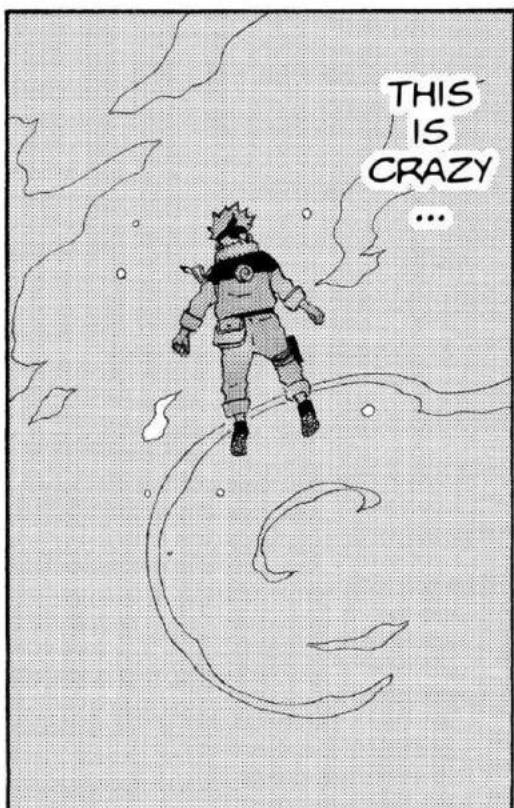
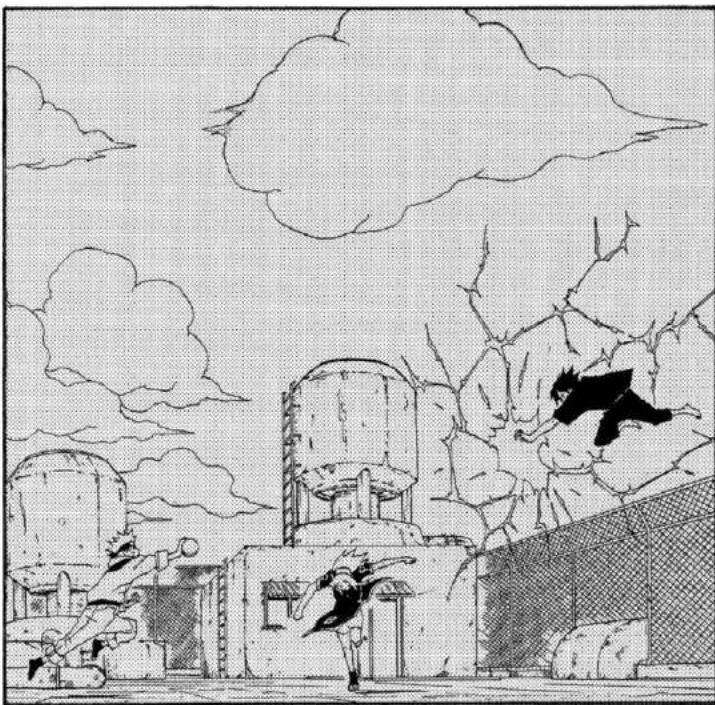
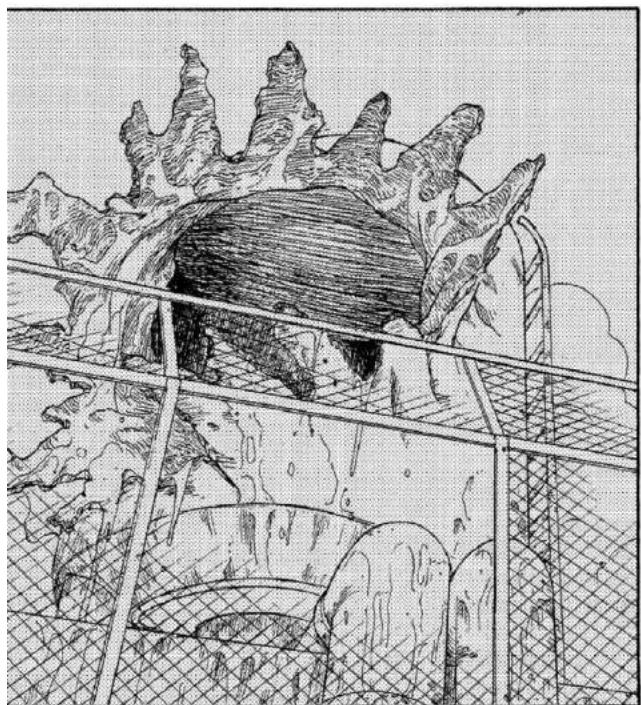


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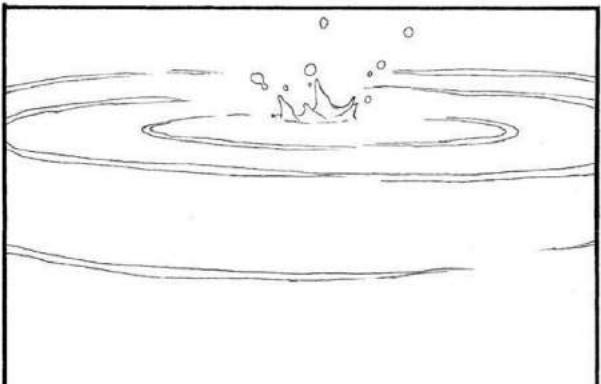
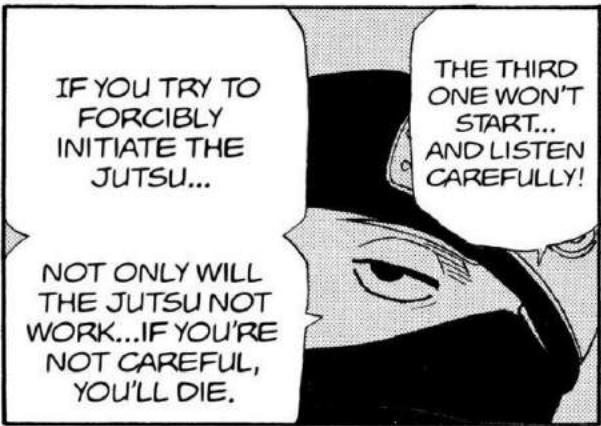


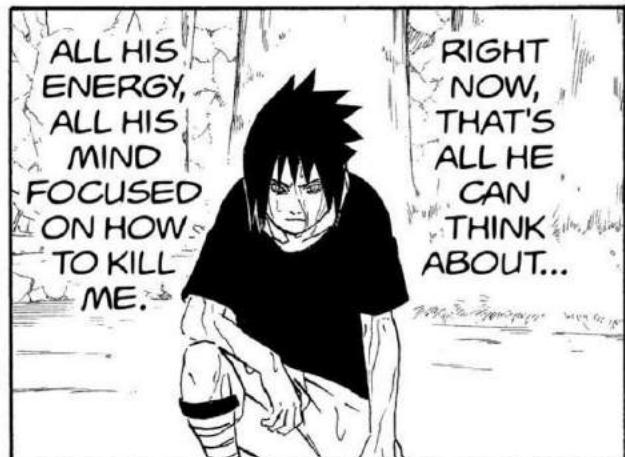
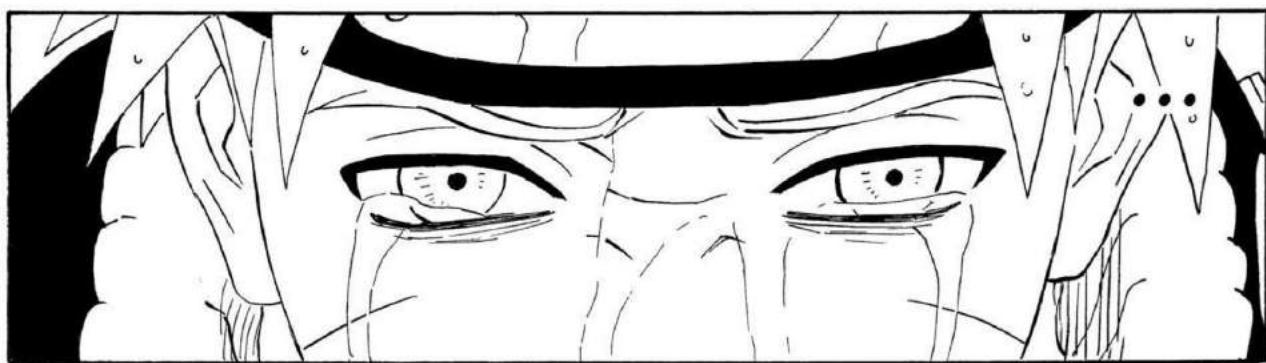
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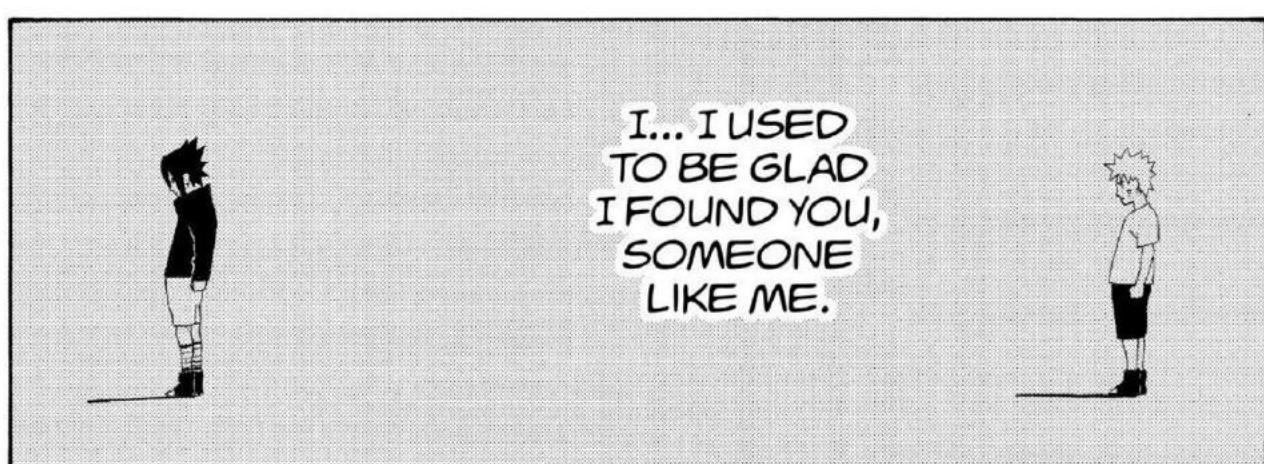
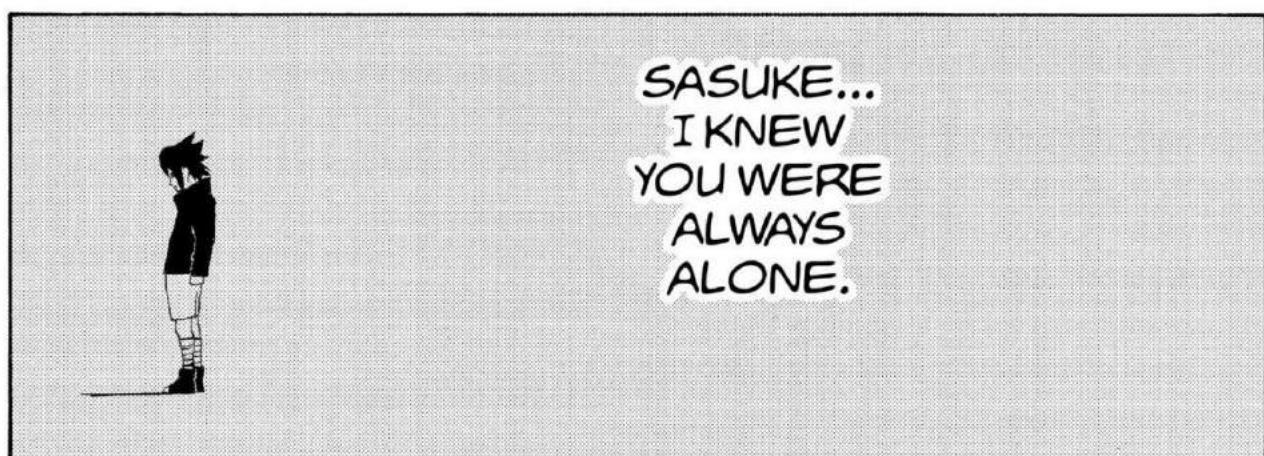
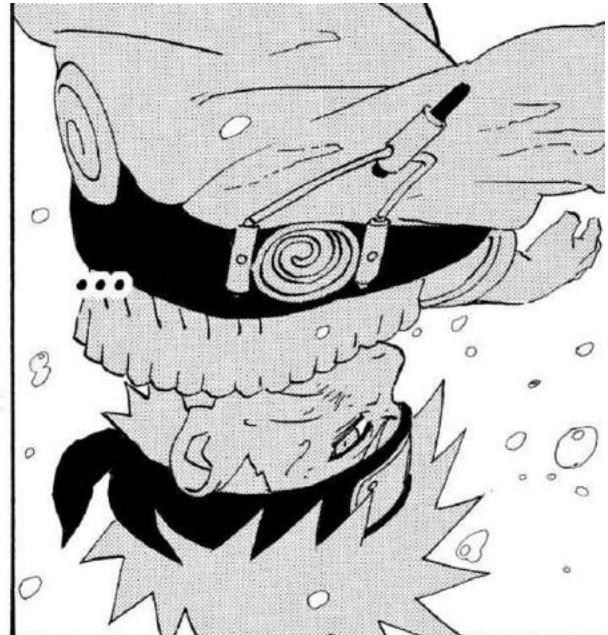
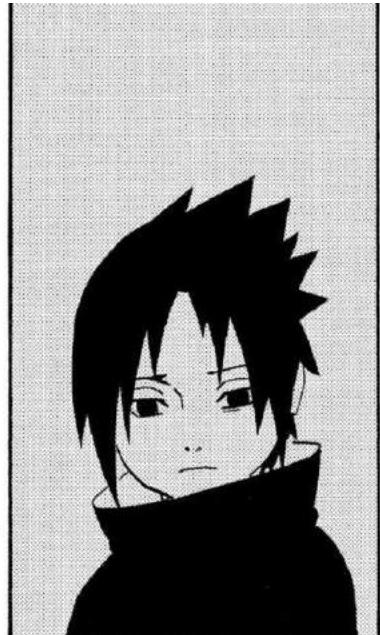


WHEN
TWO
SHINOBI
ARE OF
A HIGH
ENOUGH
LEVEL...

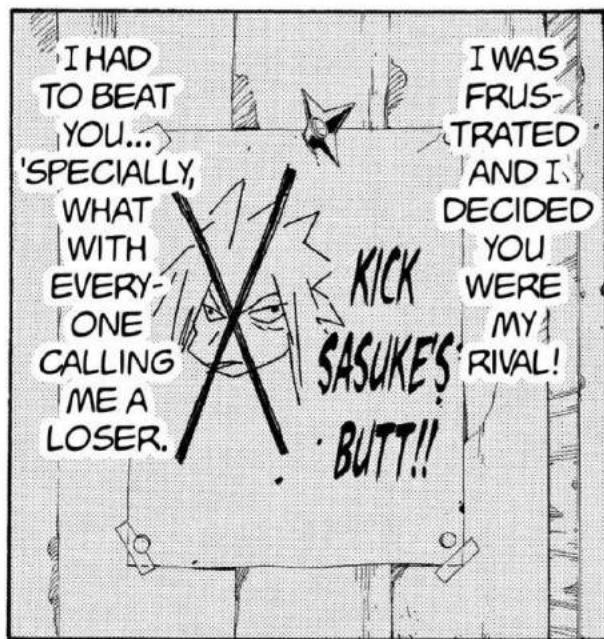
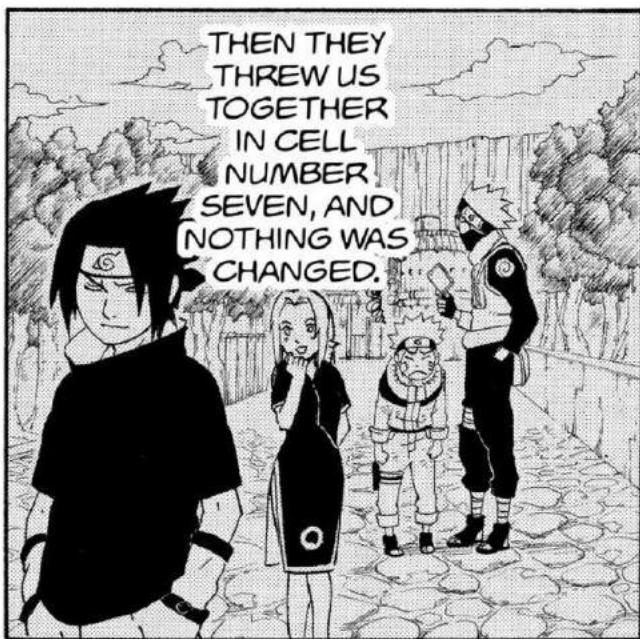
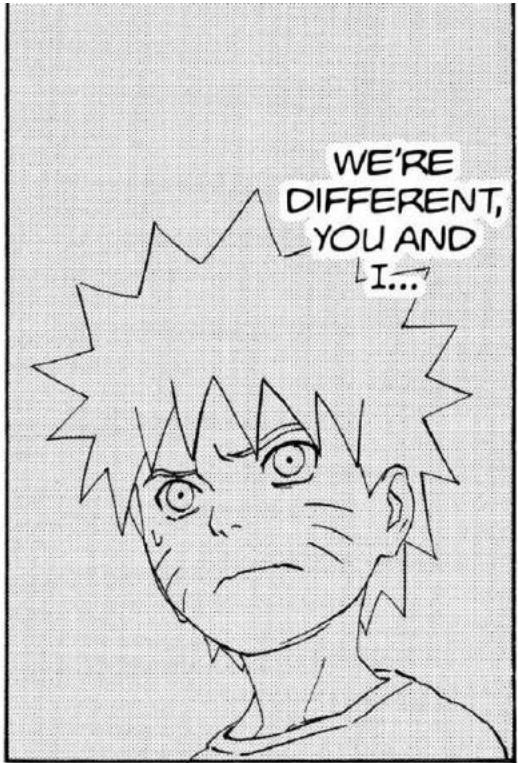












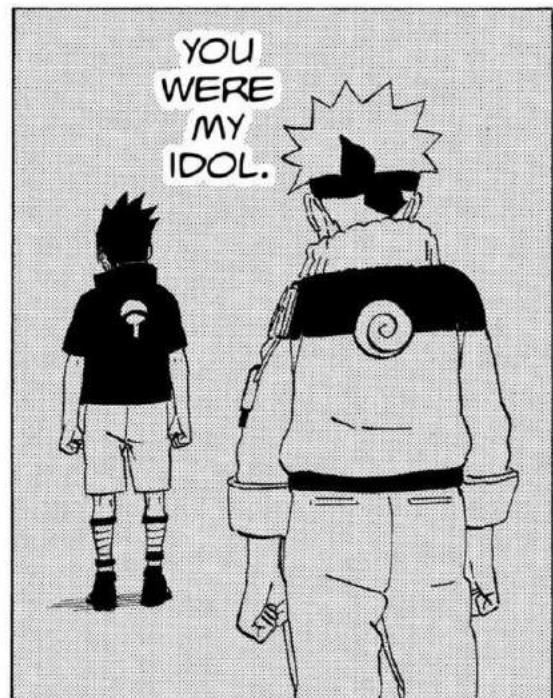
TRUTH
WAS,
I JUST
WANTED
TO BE
LIKE
YOU.



YOU'RE
ONE
OF THE
ONES I
WANT TO
FIGHT...

AND
SO...

YOU
WERE
MY
IDOL.



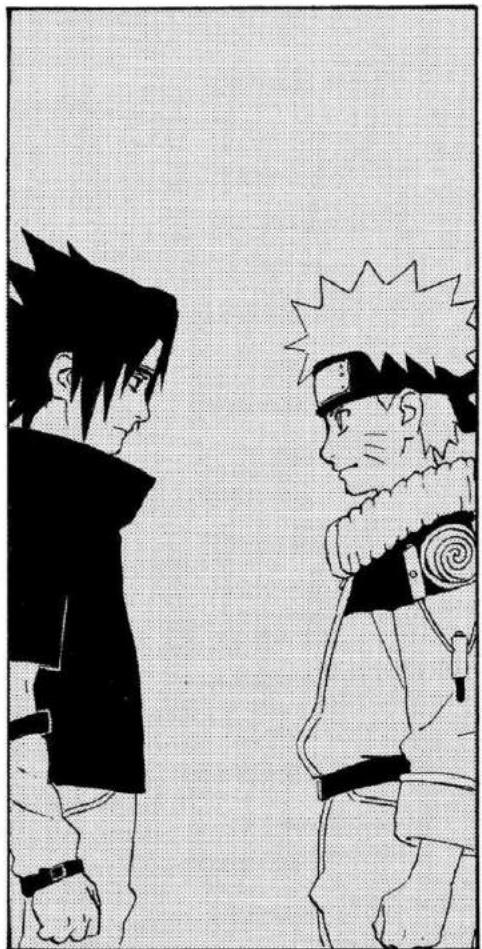
GRRR

YOU
ACKNOW-
LEDGED
I WAS
GOOD.

WITH
THOSE
WORDS,
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME...

I WAS HEARING
NEVER THAT...
HAPPIER.





...MY CLOSEST FRIEND.

IT'S NOT INSIGNIFICANT. TO ME, YOU'RE...

READ
THIS WAY

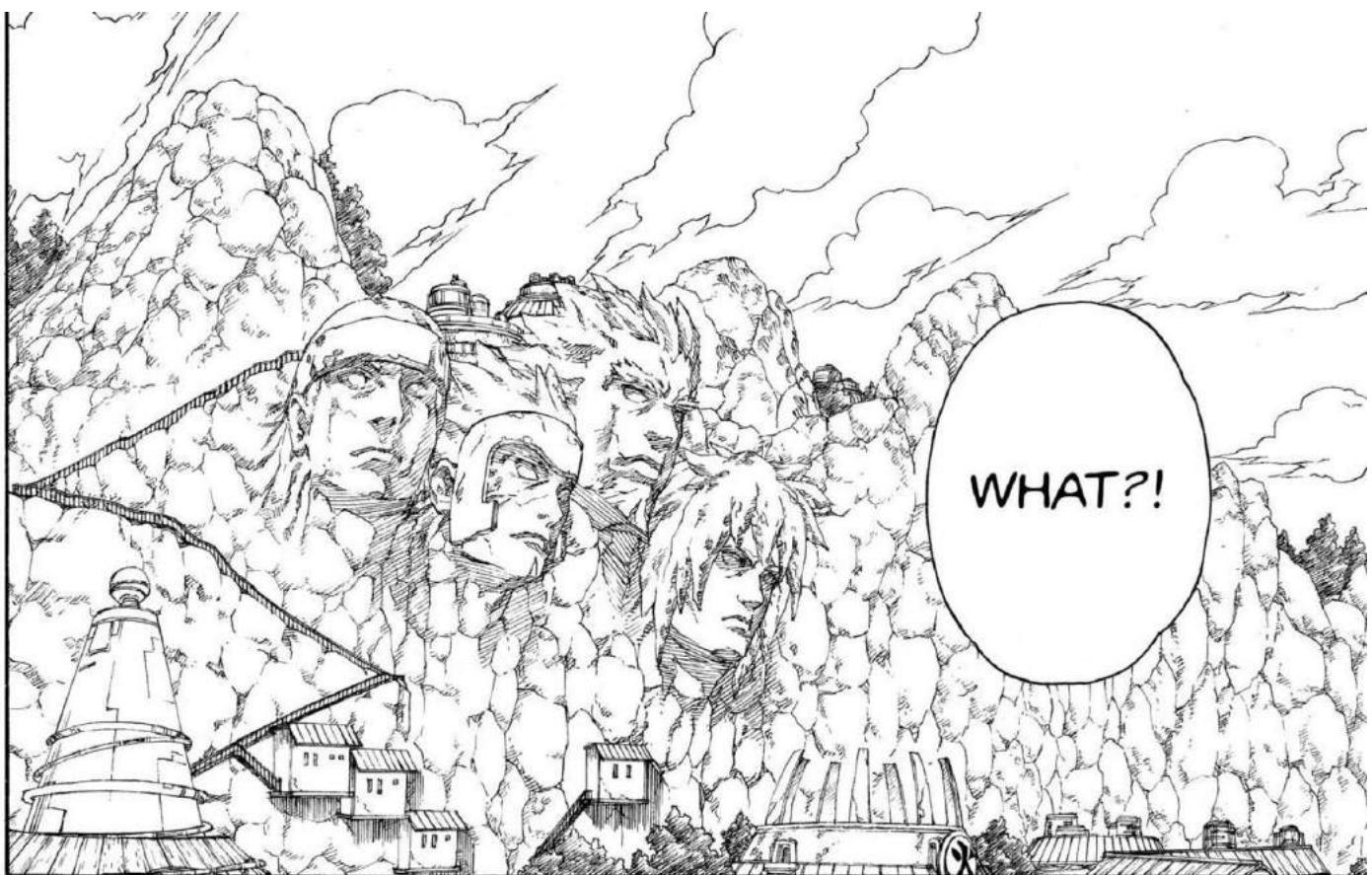




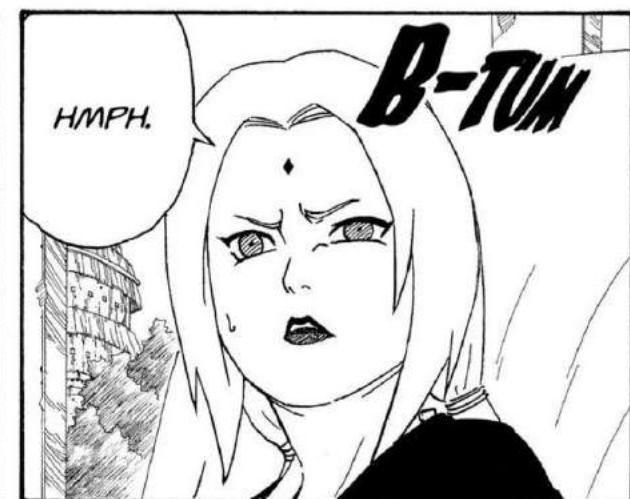
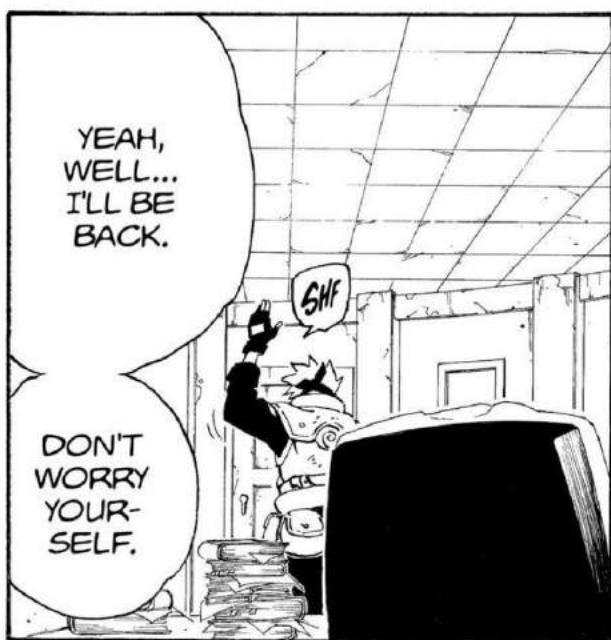
*There's nothing wrong with a bit of depression. It just shows you're human.
That said, I'm fond of Naruto and Mr. Kishimoto: characters unburdened by doubt,
who always try to bring out their best.*

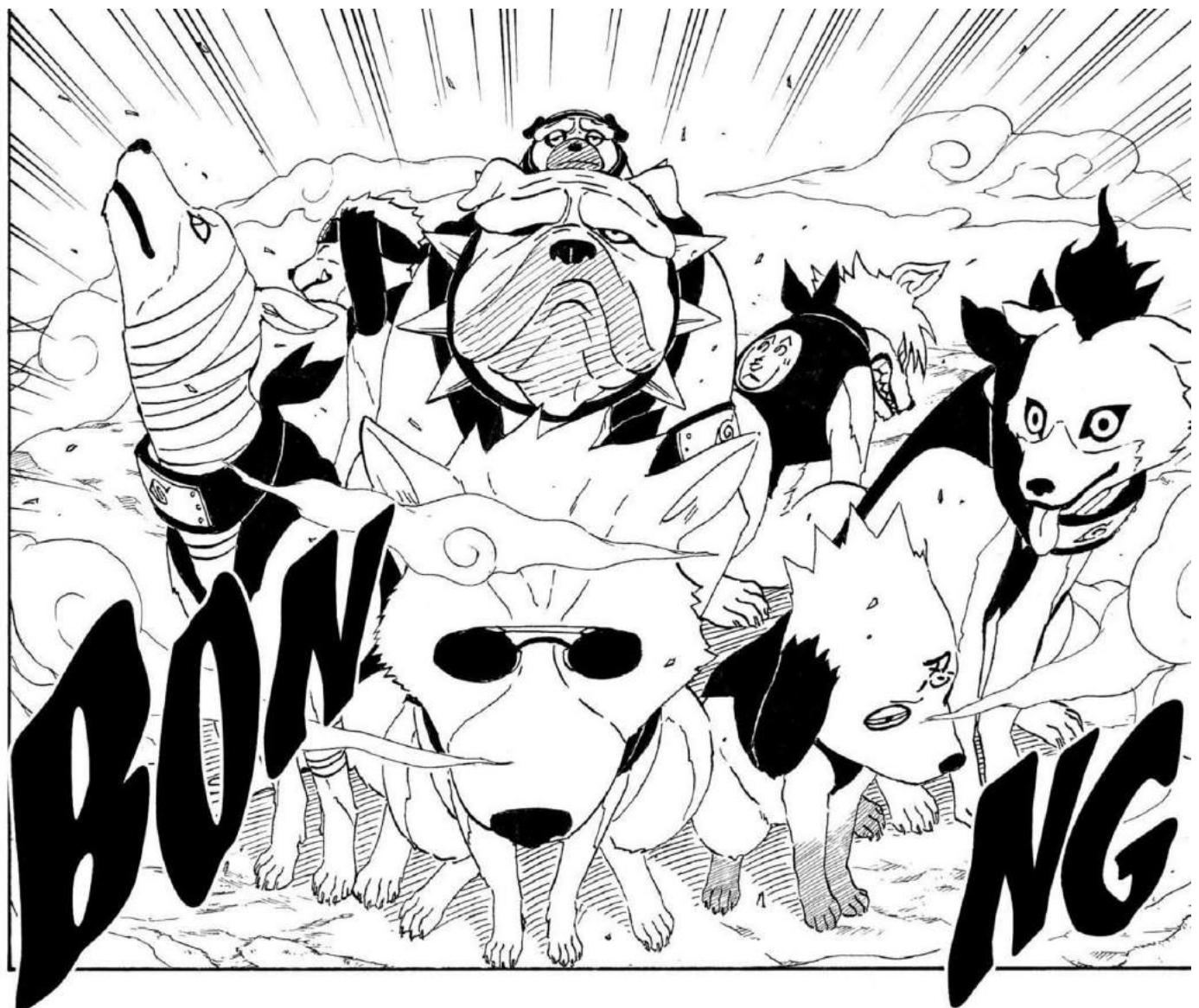
2004.11.8 竹原和也
Kazuhiro Takahashi



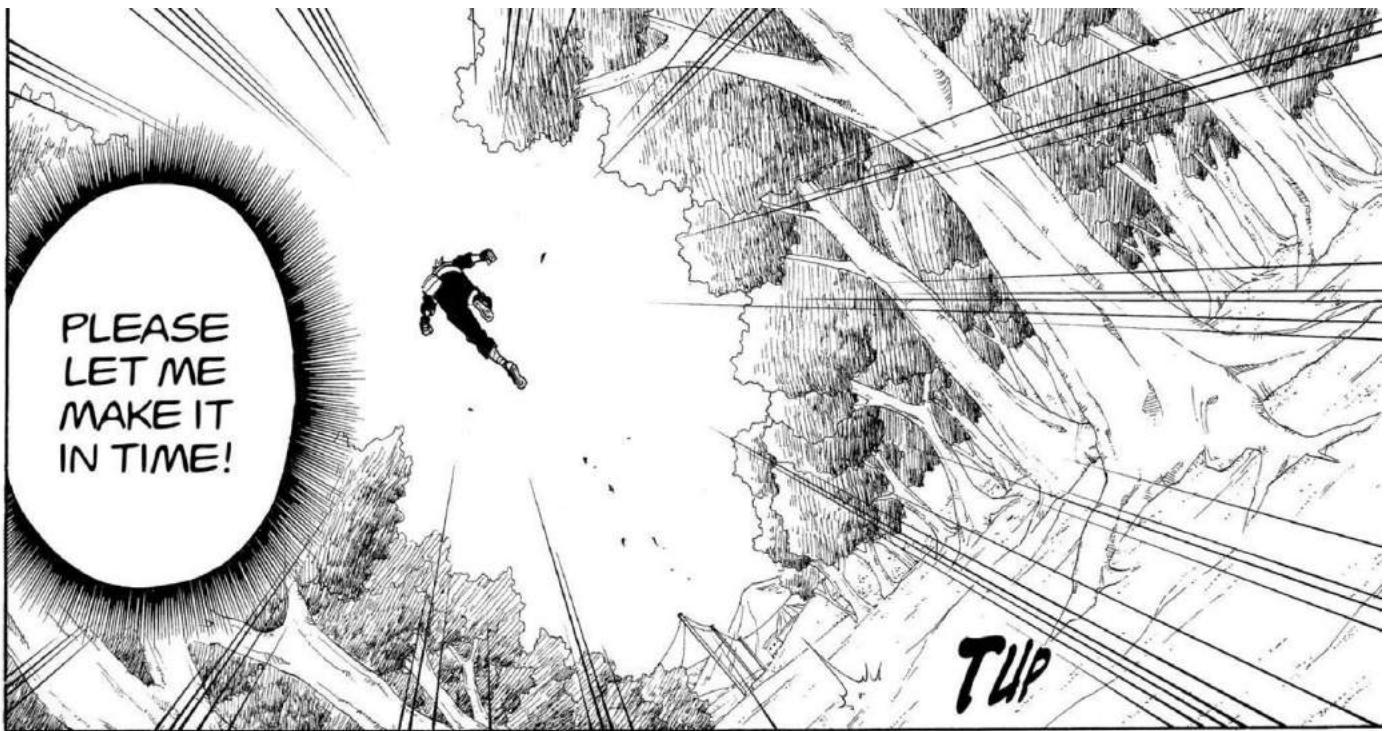


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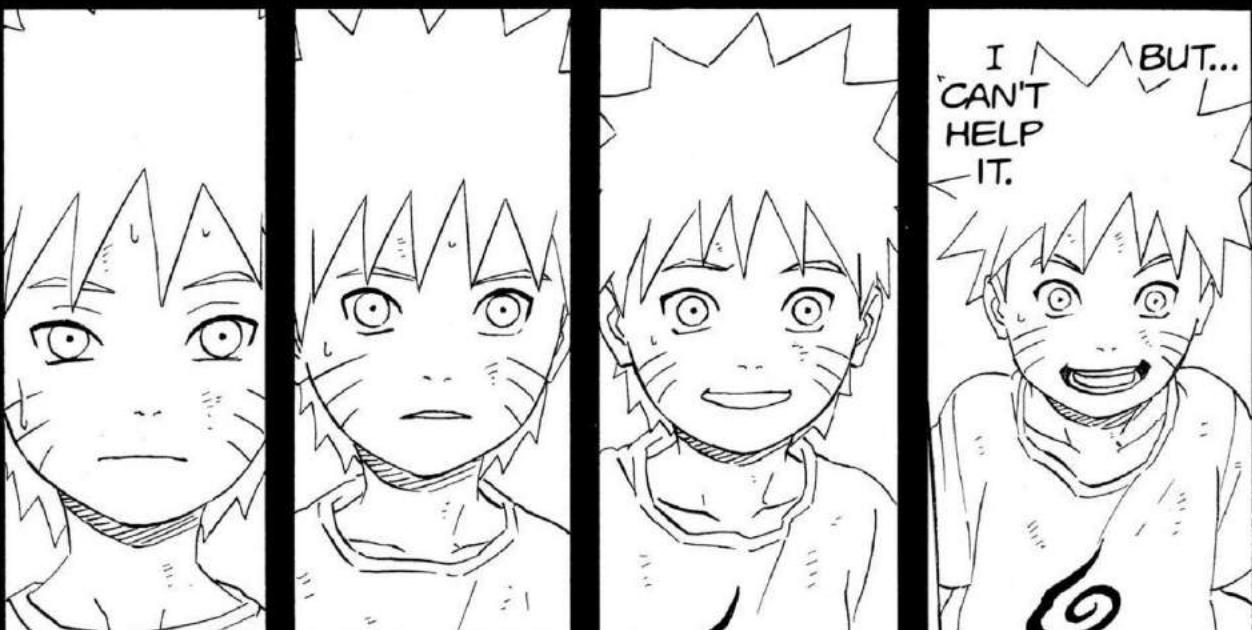
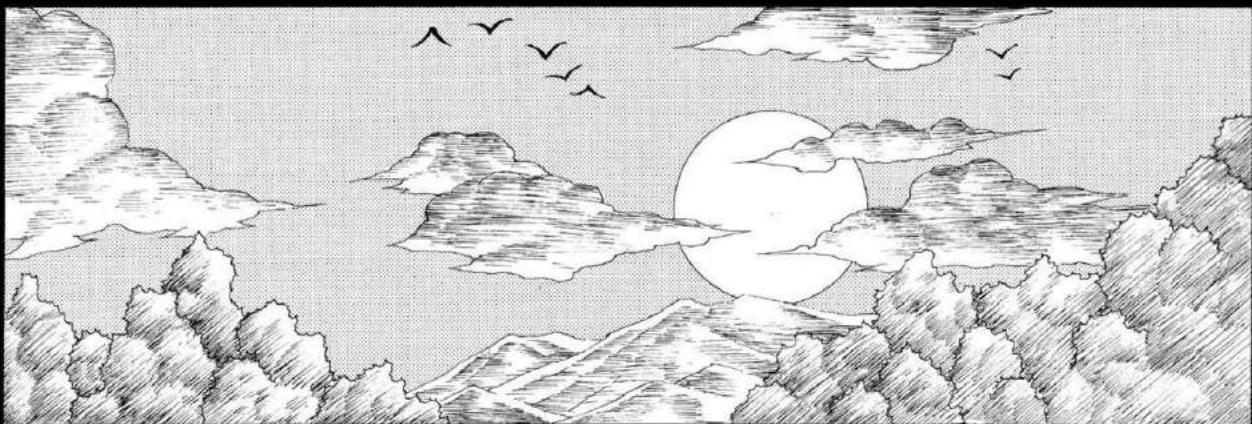


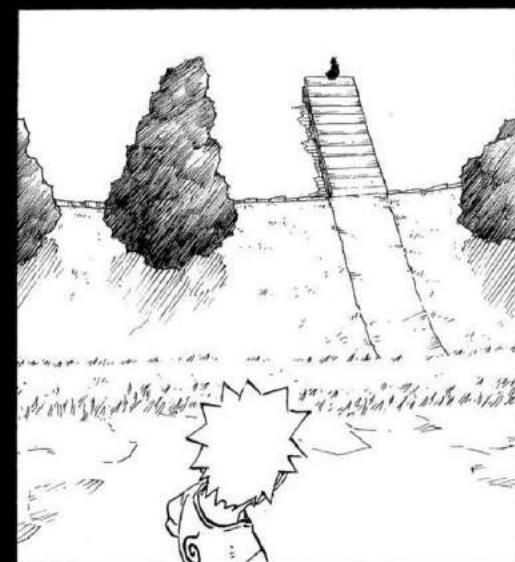
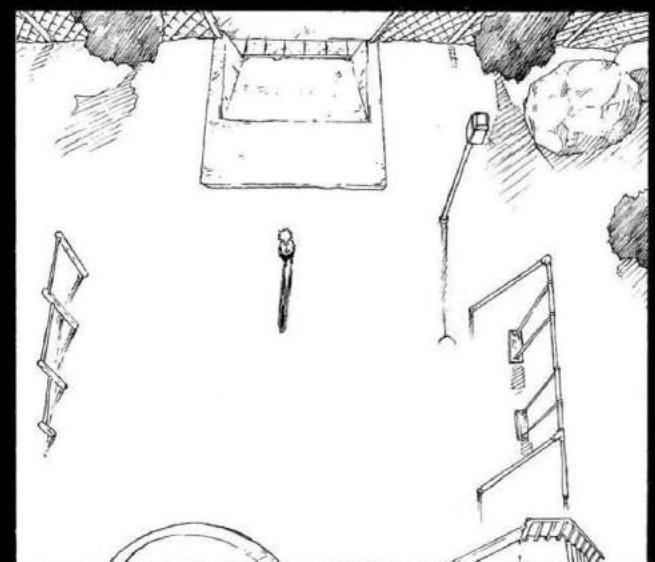
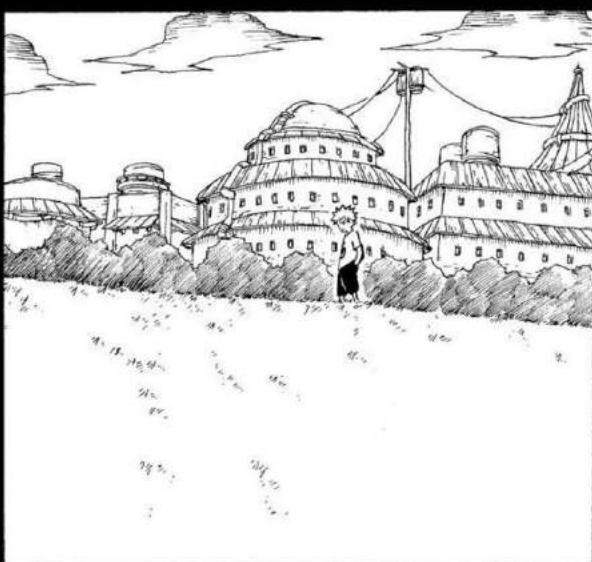
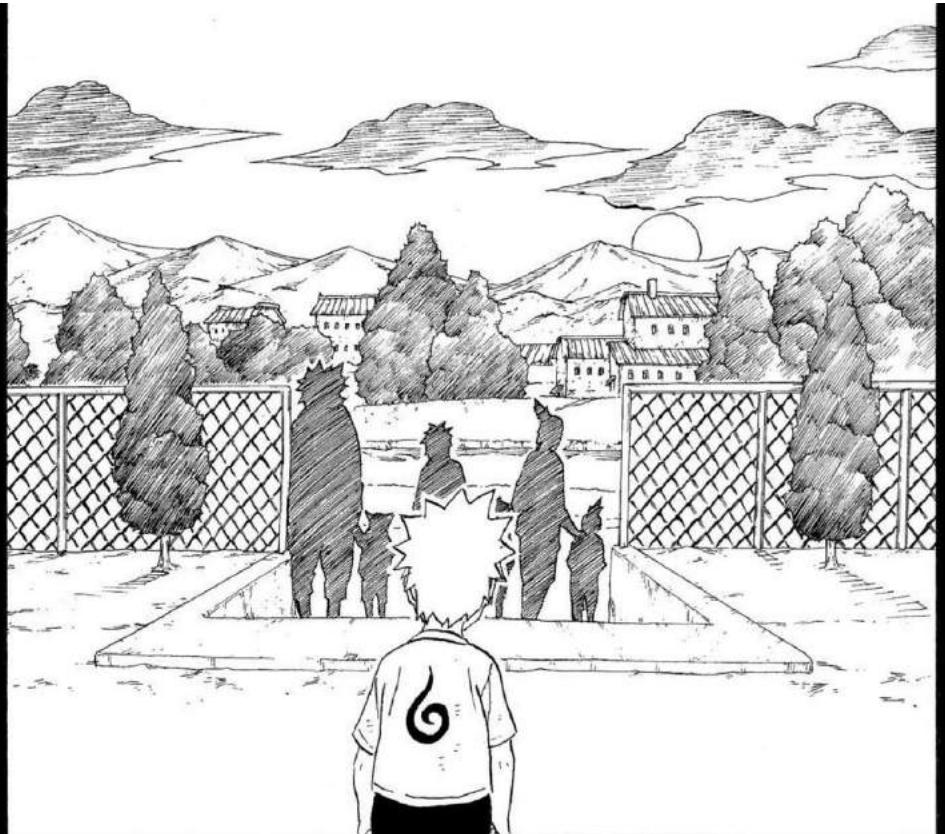






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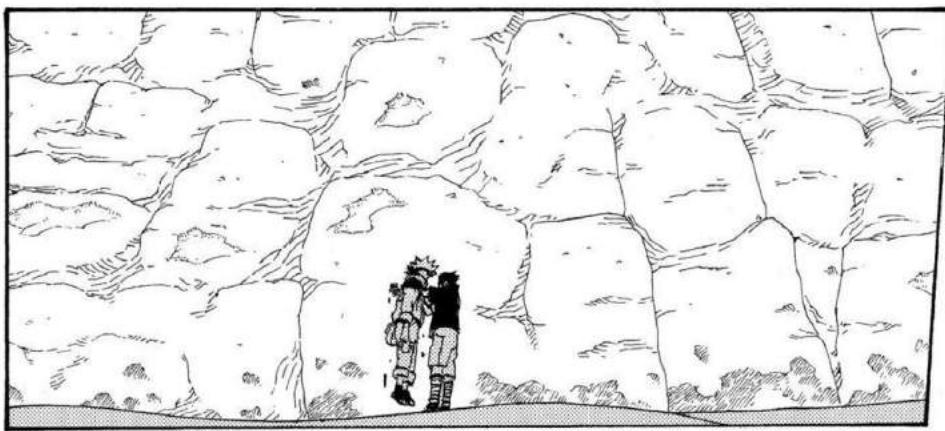
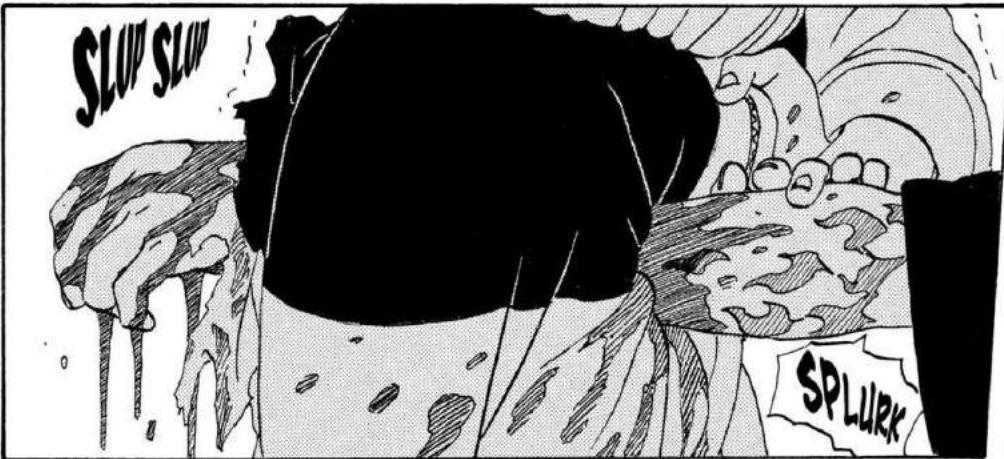


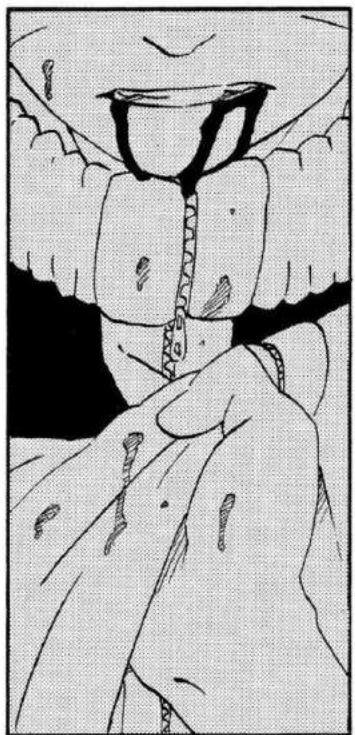
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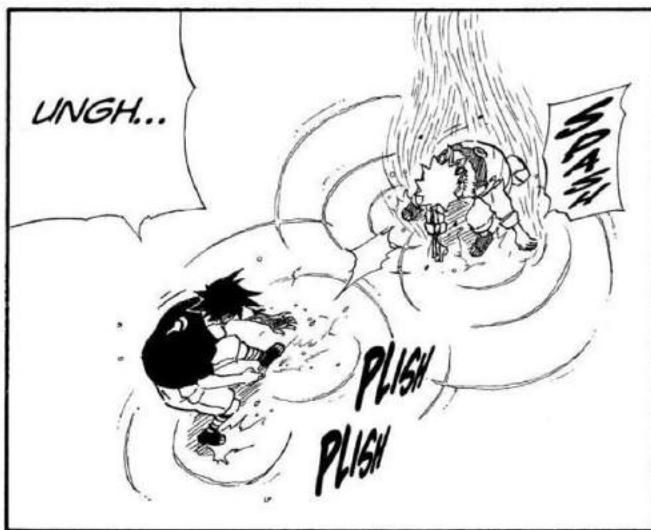
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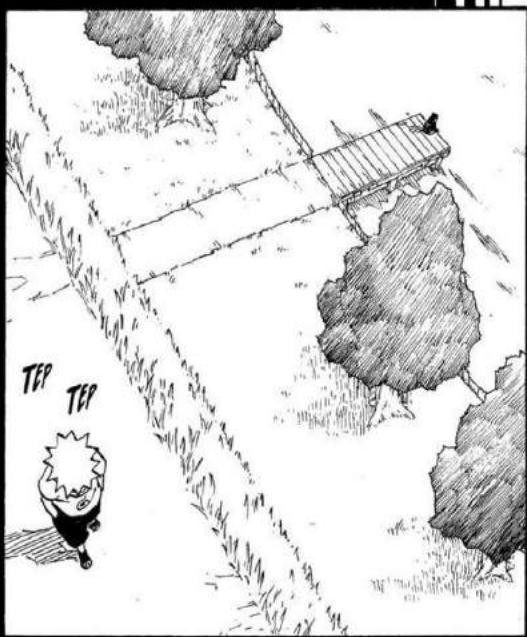


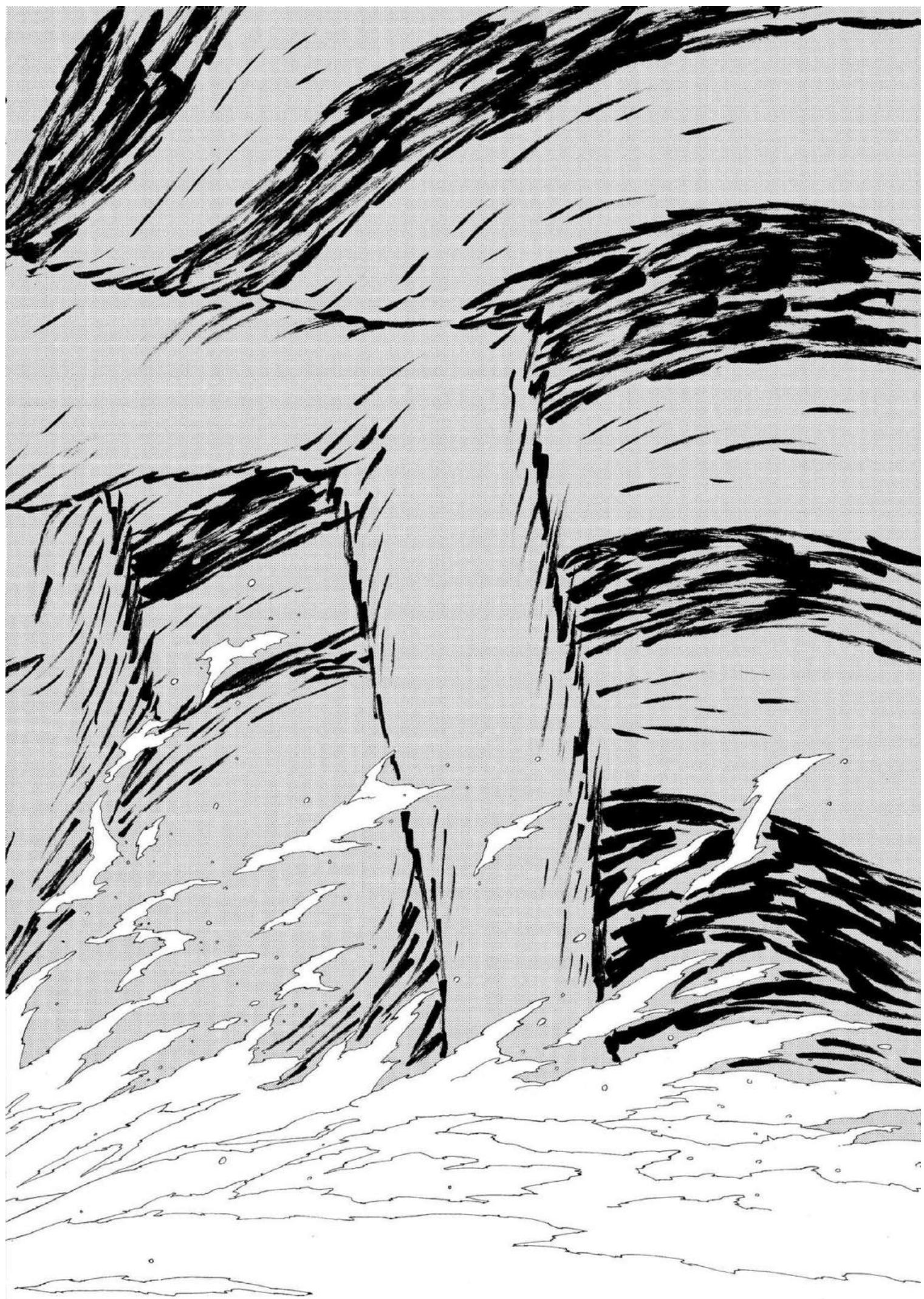
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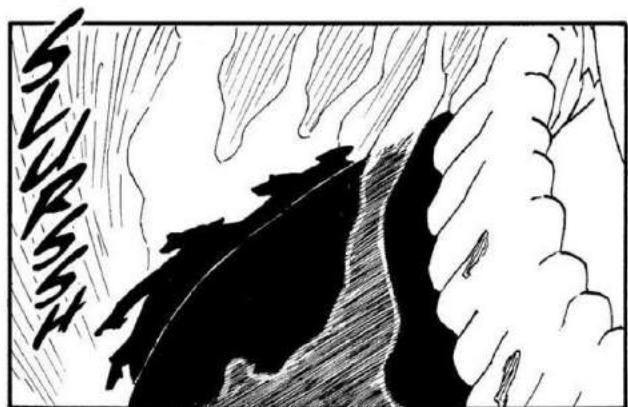


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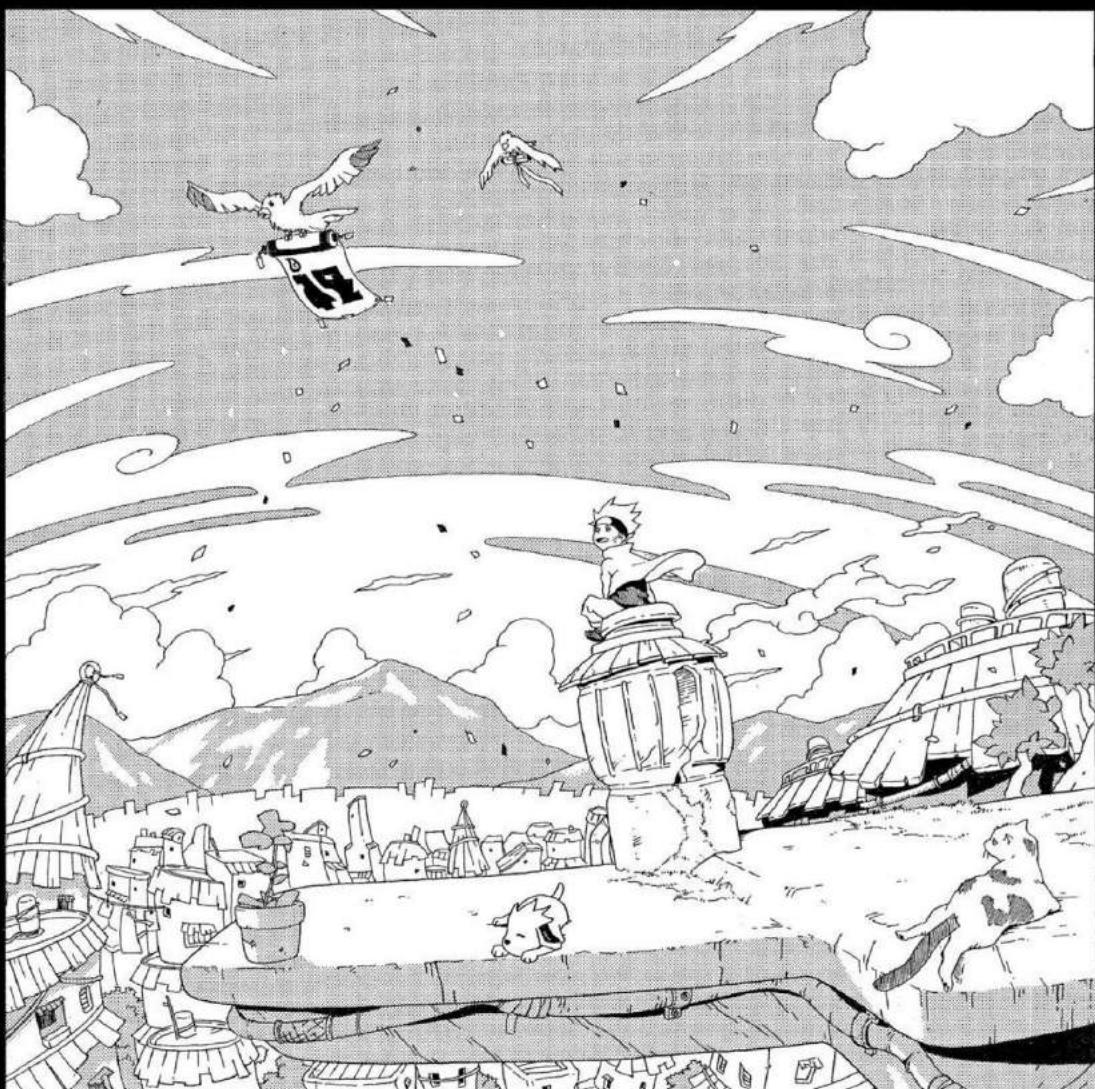






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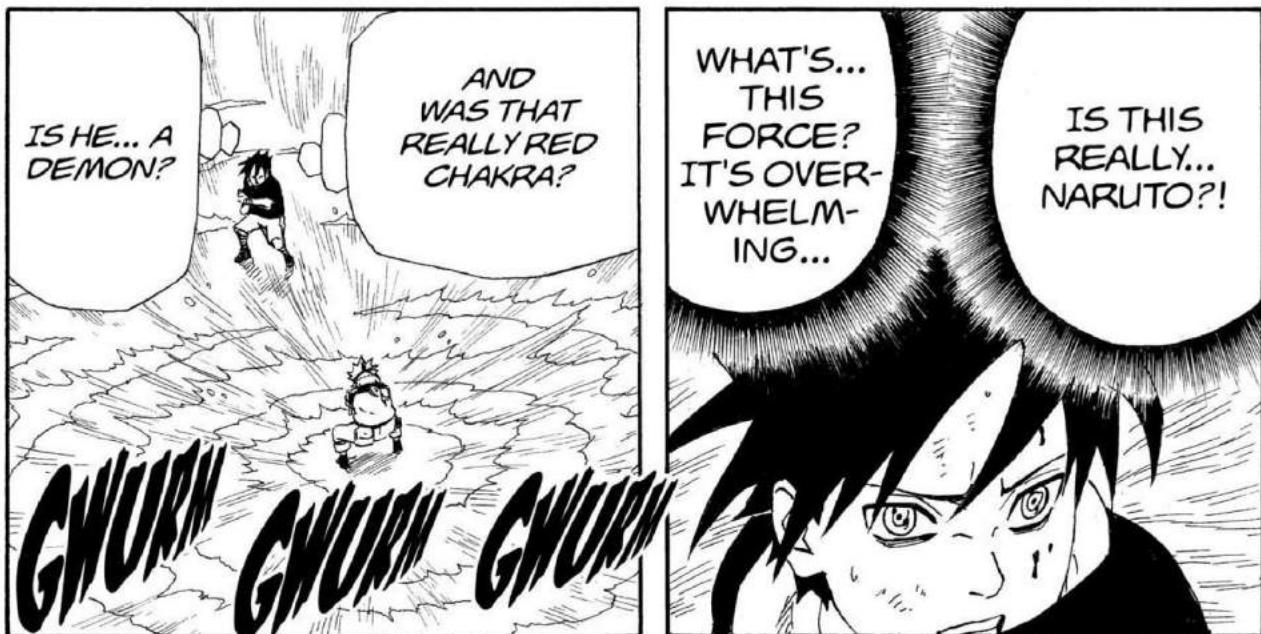
Akira
Okubo,
11/8/2004

大久保
彰

Mr. Kishimoto!
Congratulations on
the 5th anniversary
of Naruto!
Please stay healthy
and keep up the
good work!



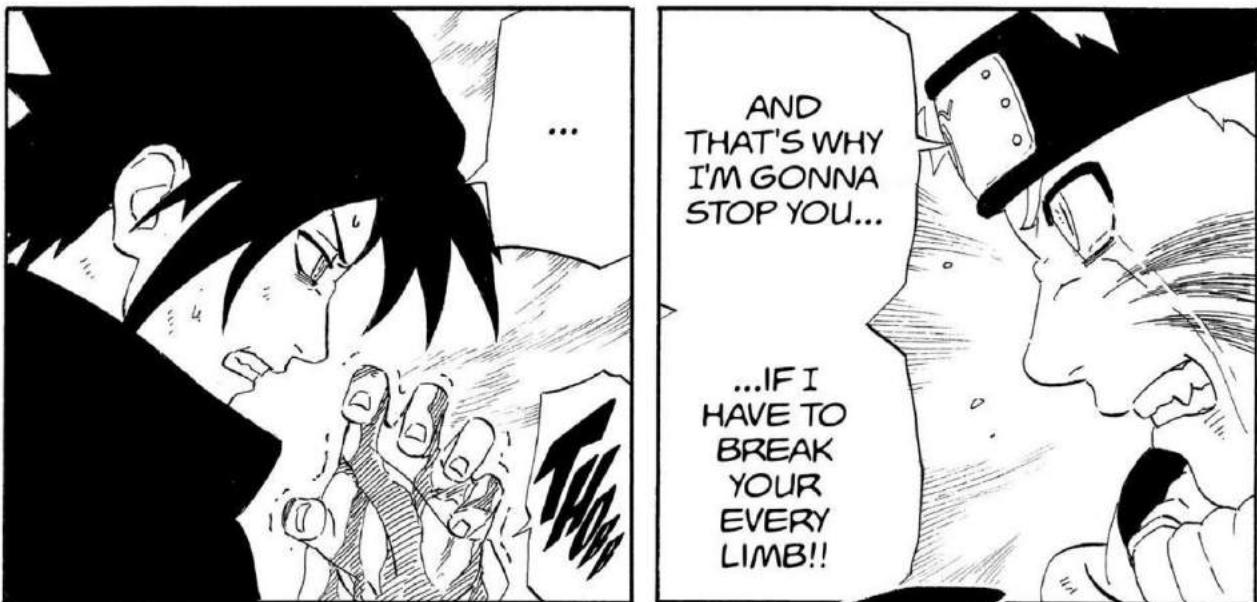
Number 229: The Bond...!!



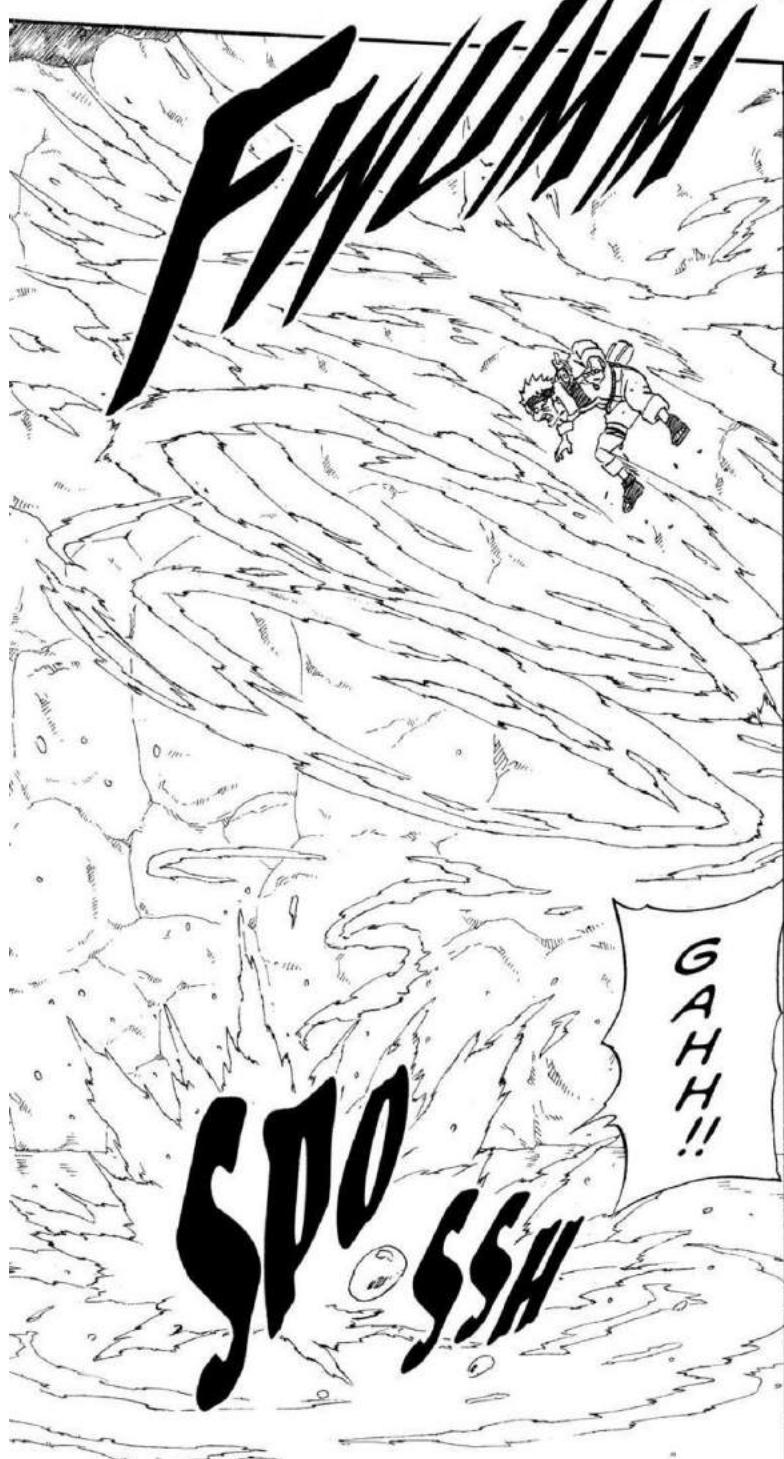


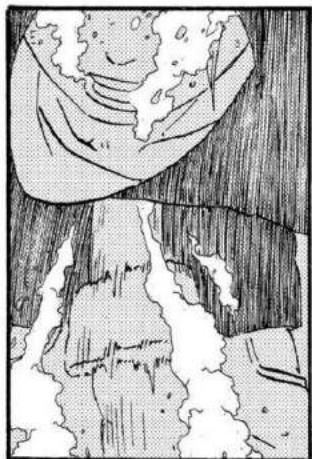
Number 229: The Bond...!!

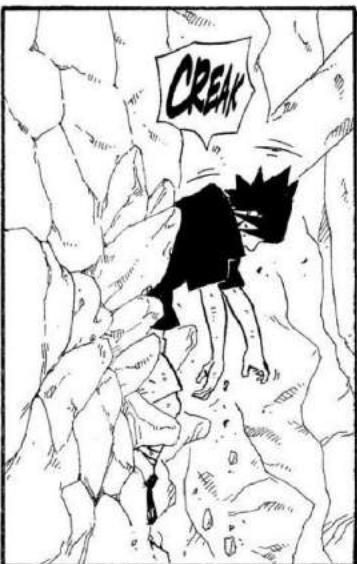
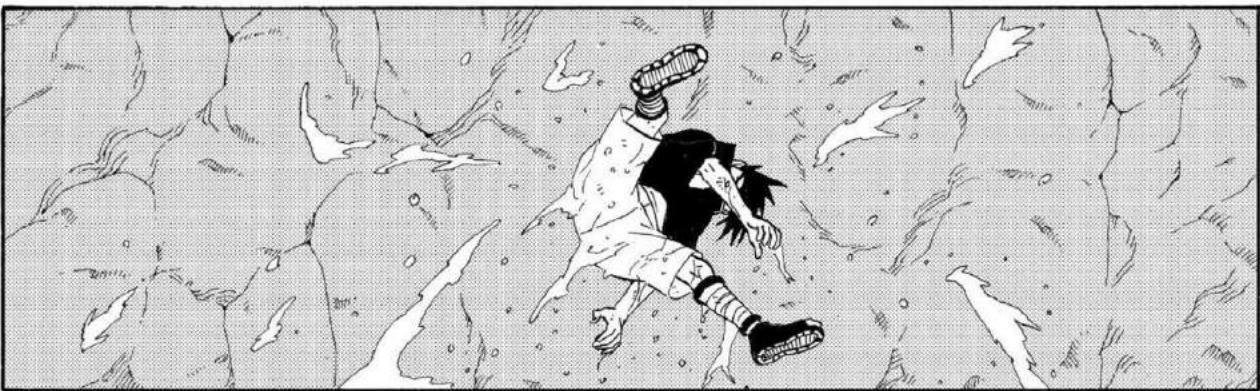
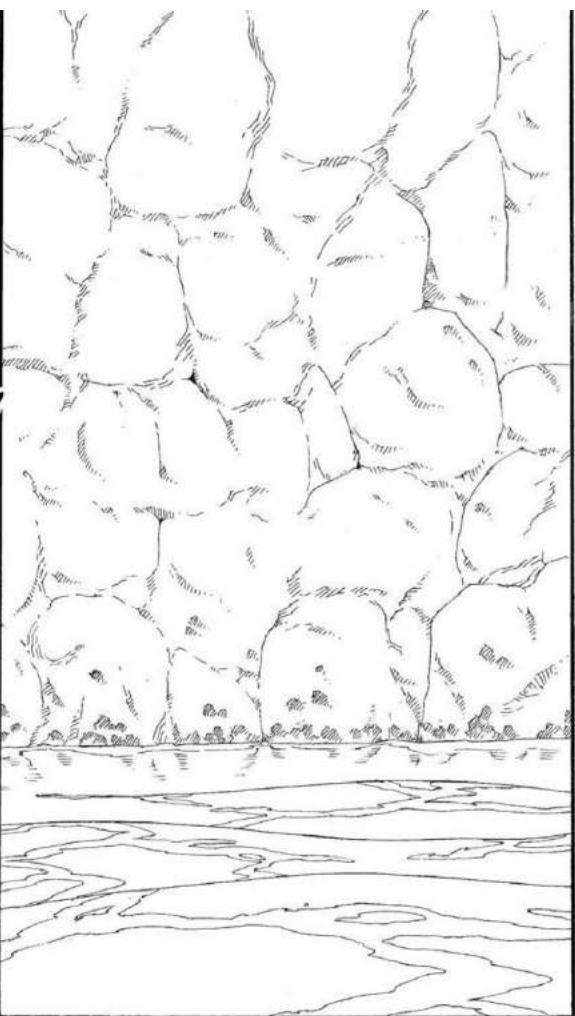


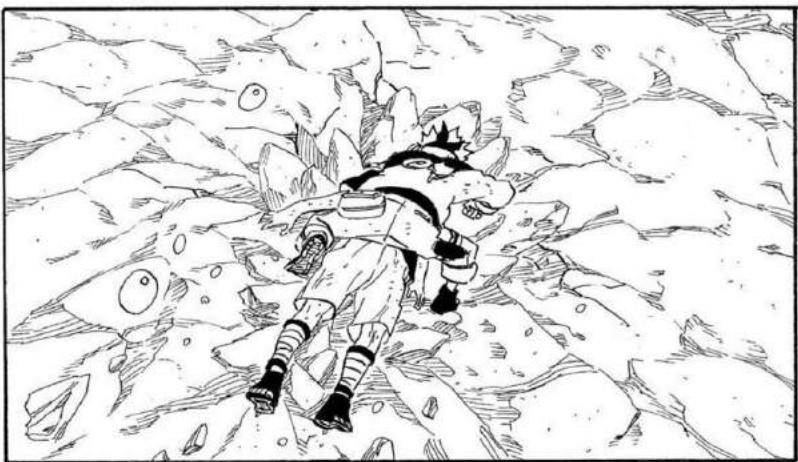
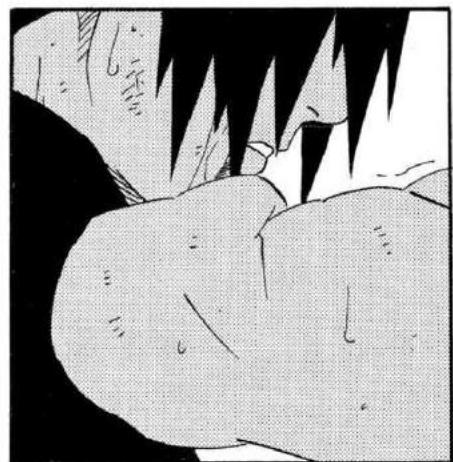
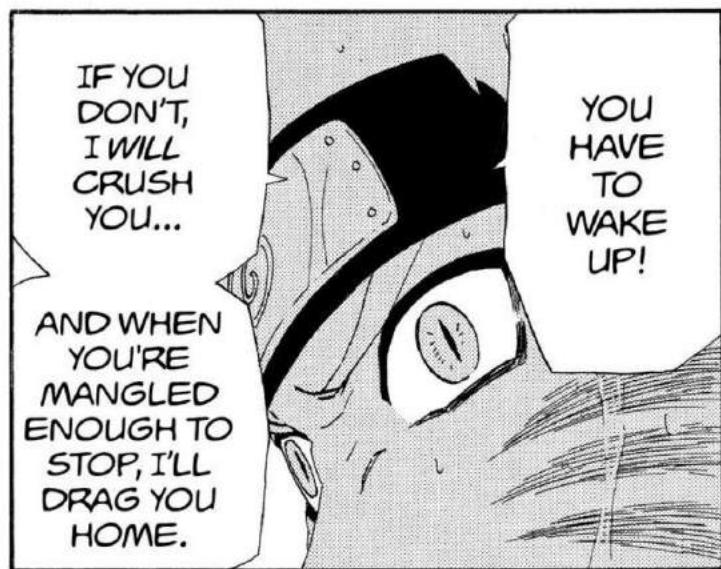


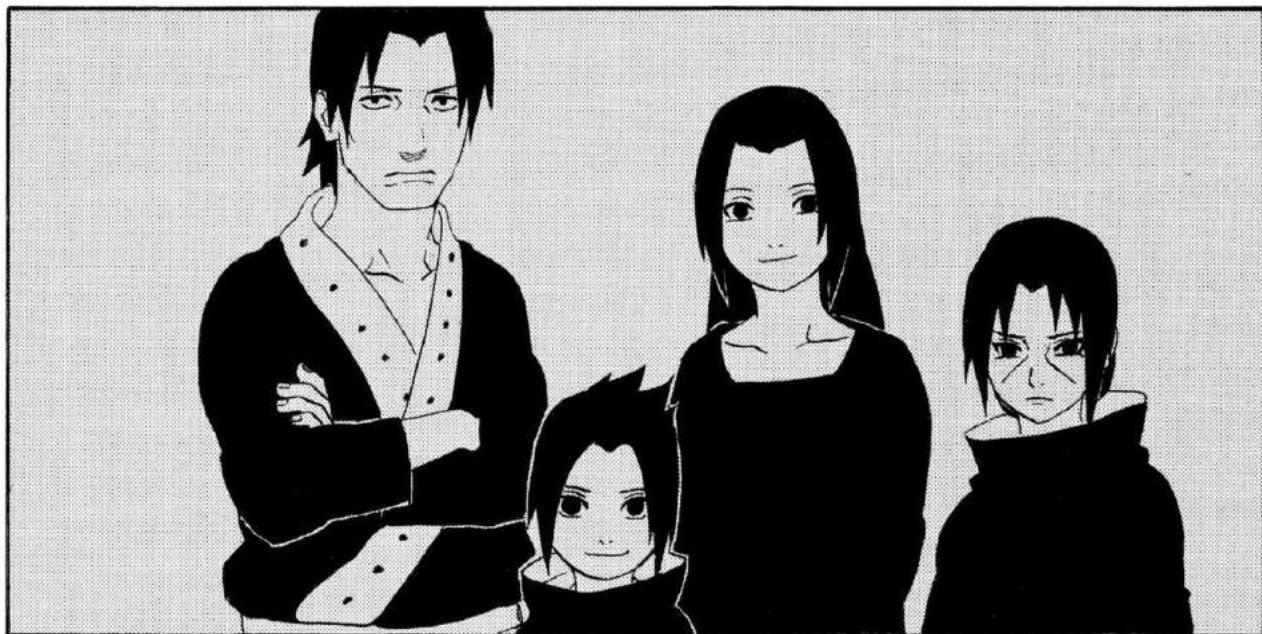
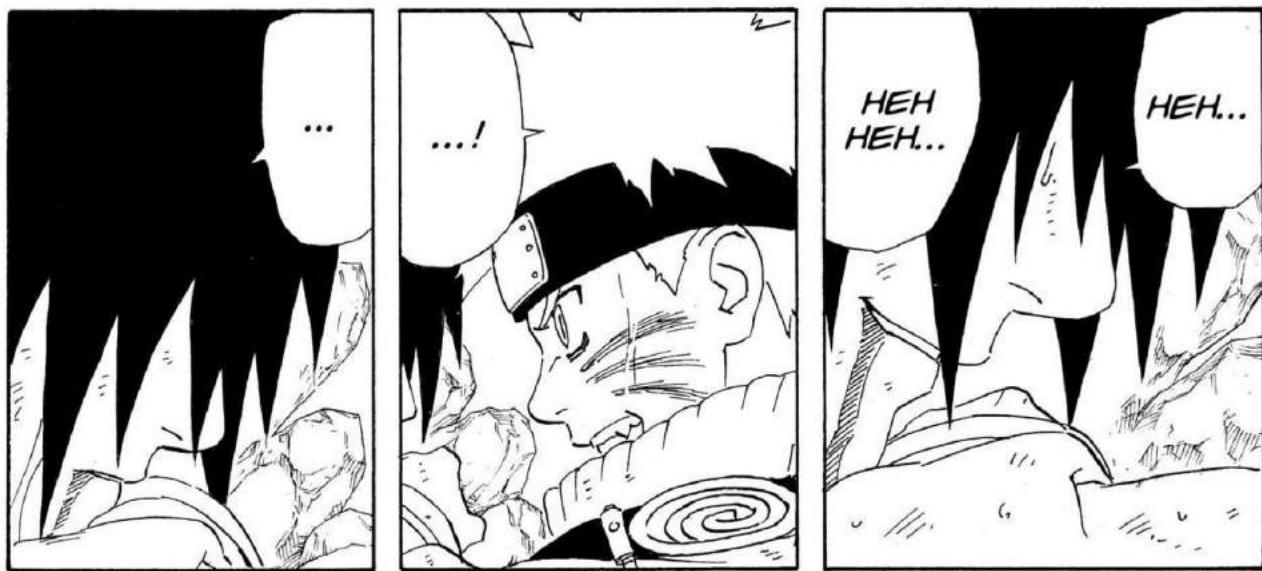


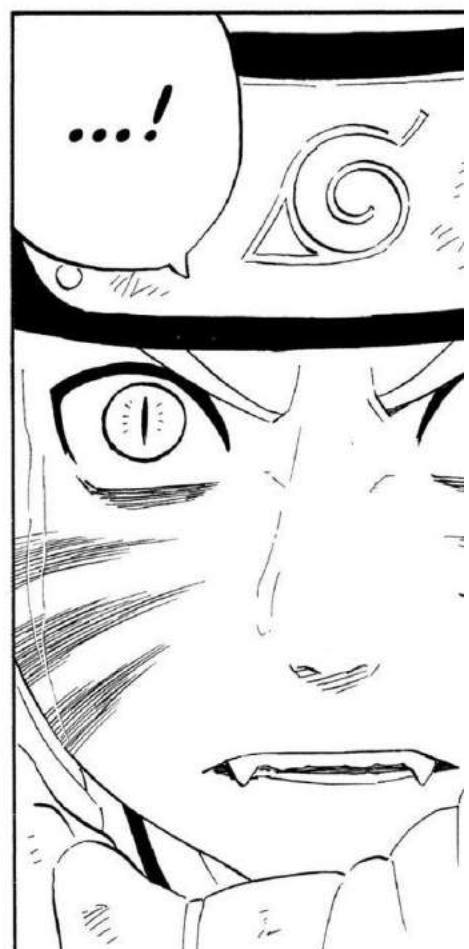




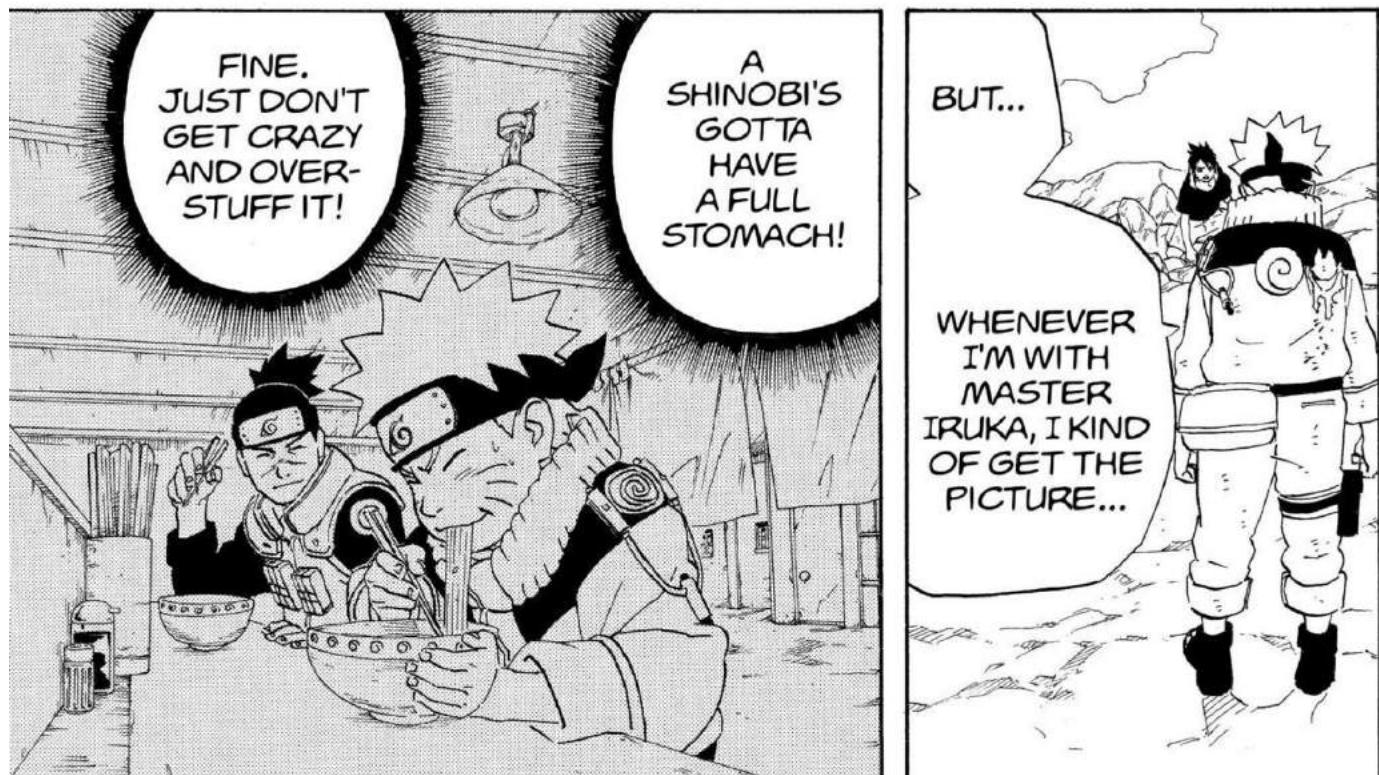
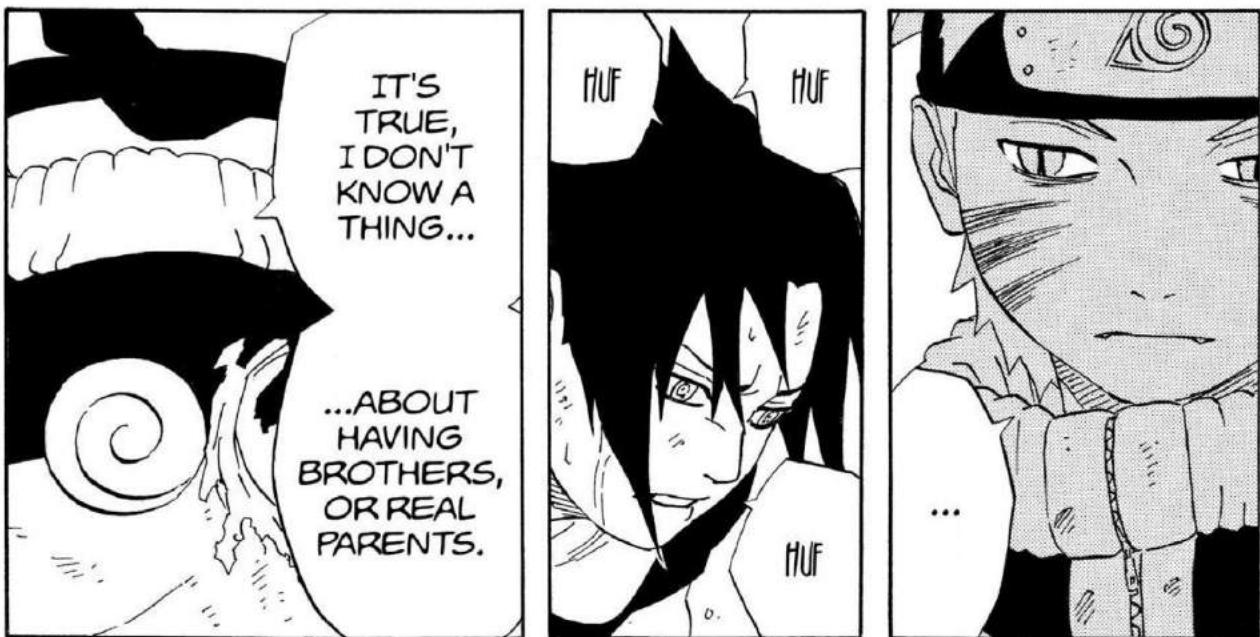


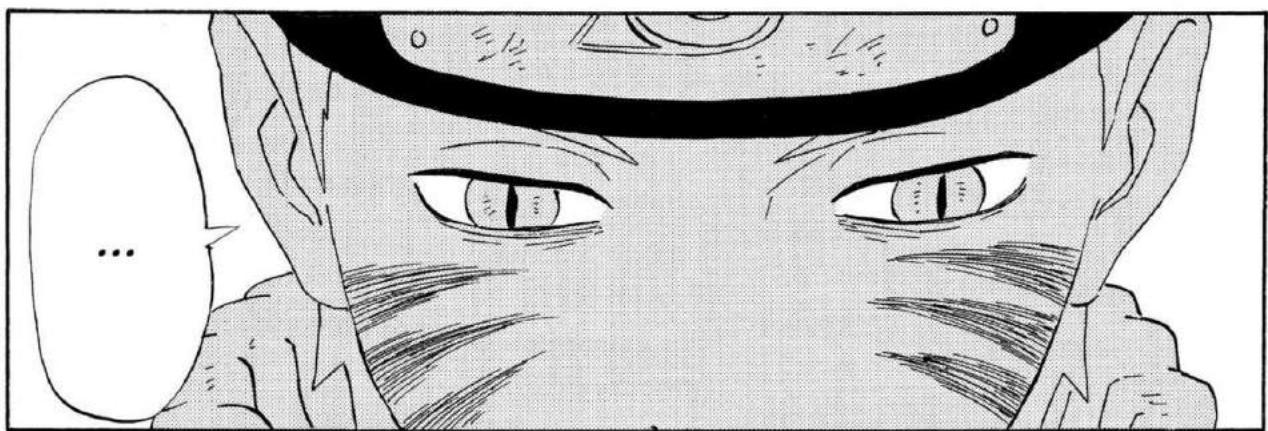


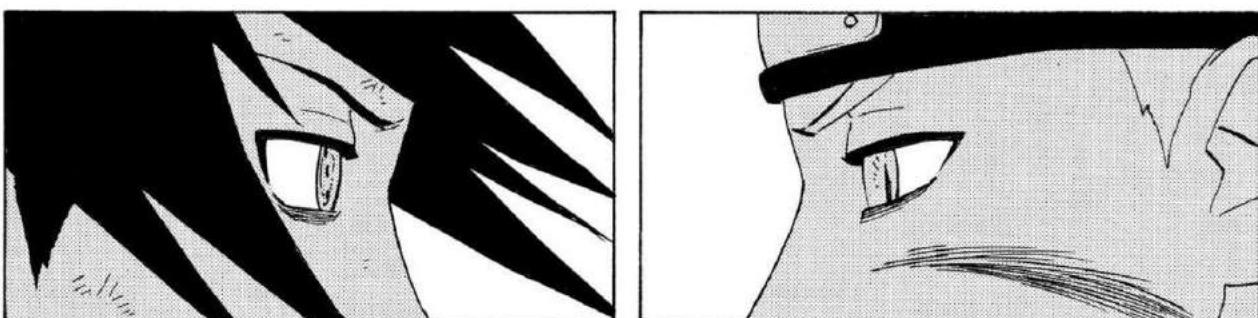
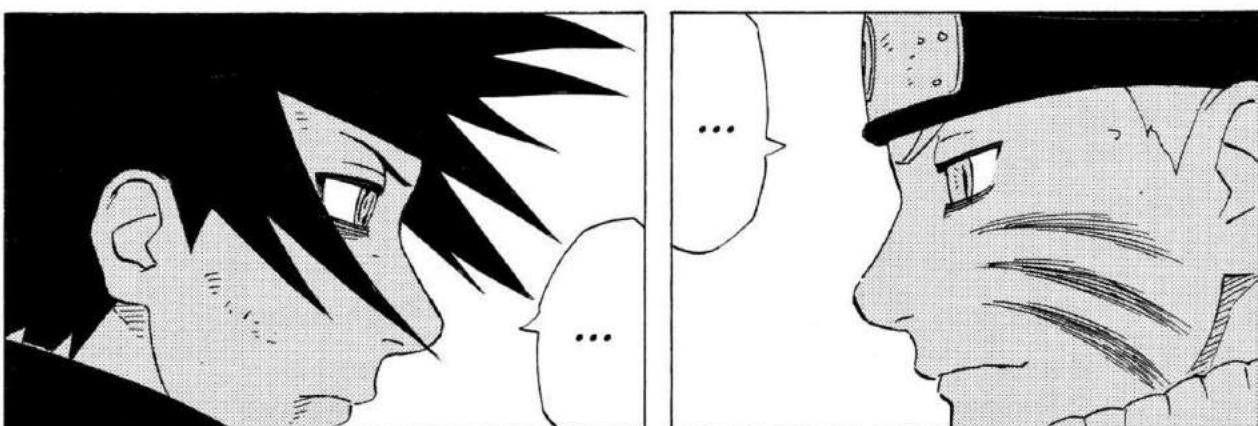
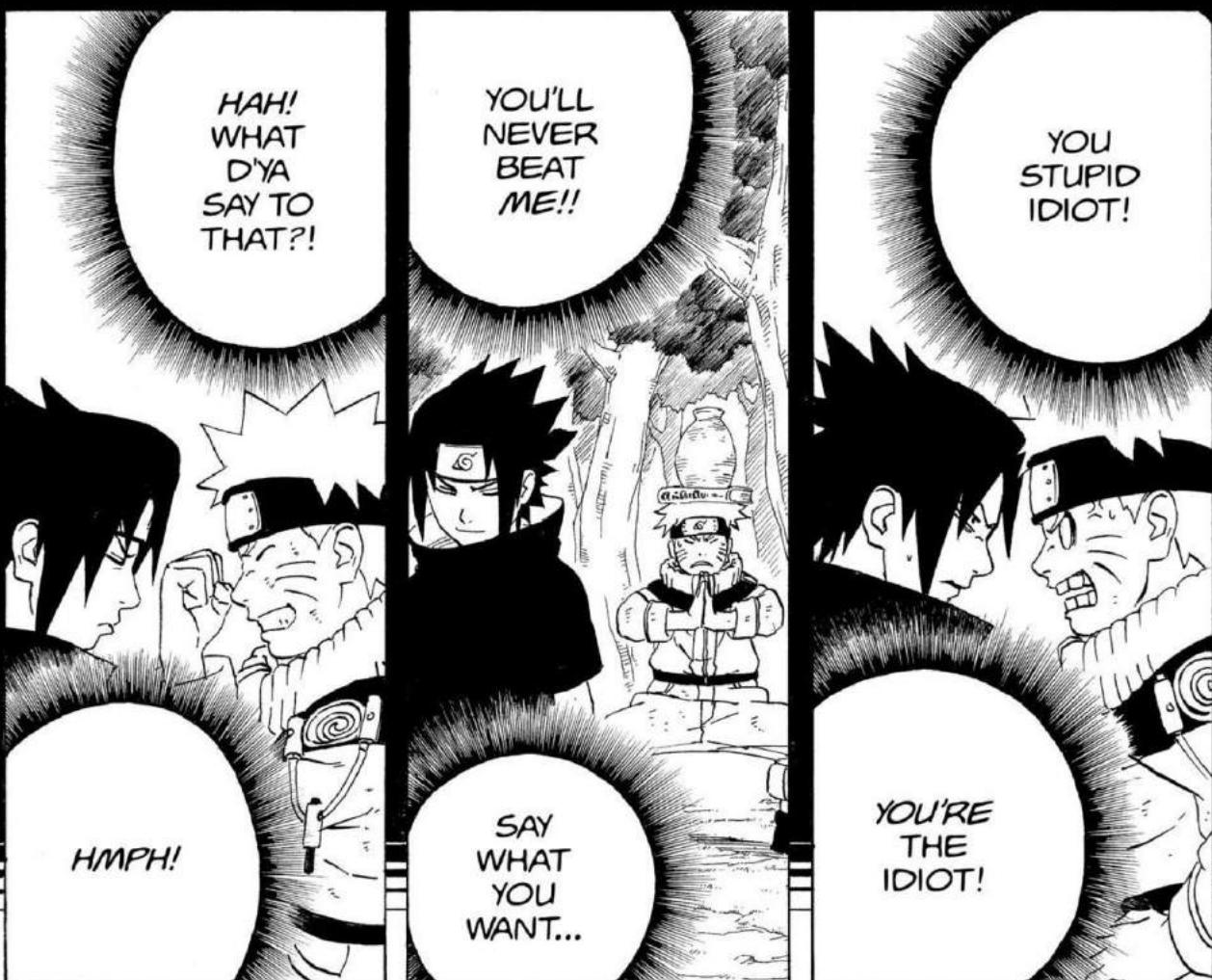




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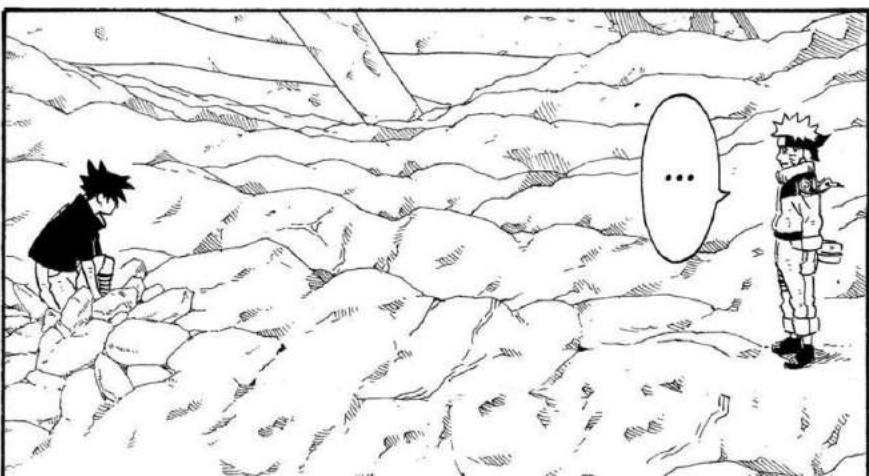
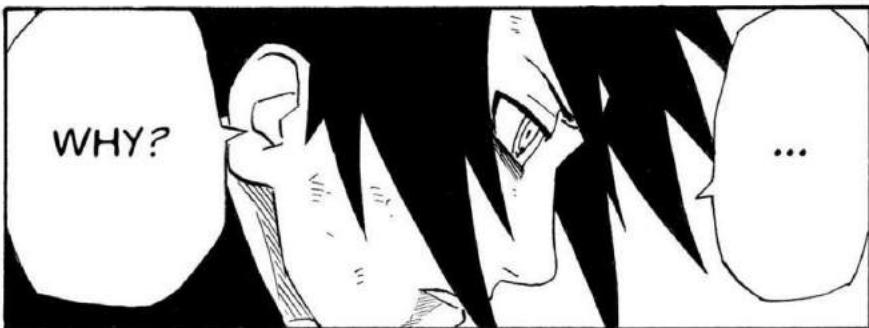
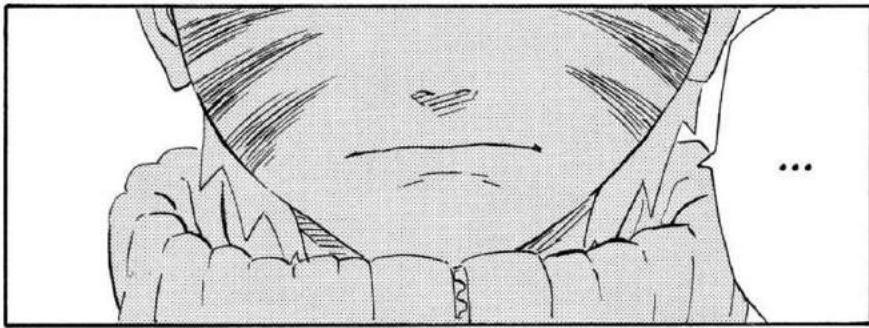


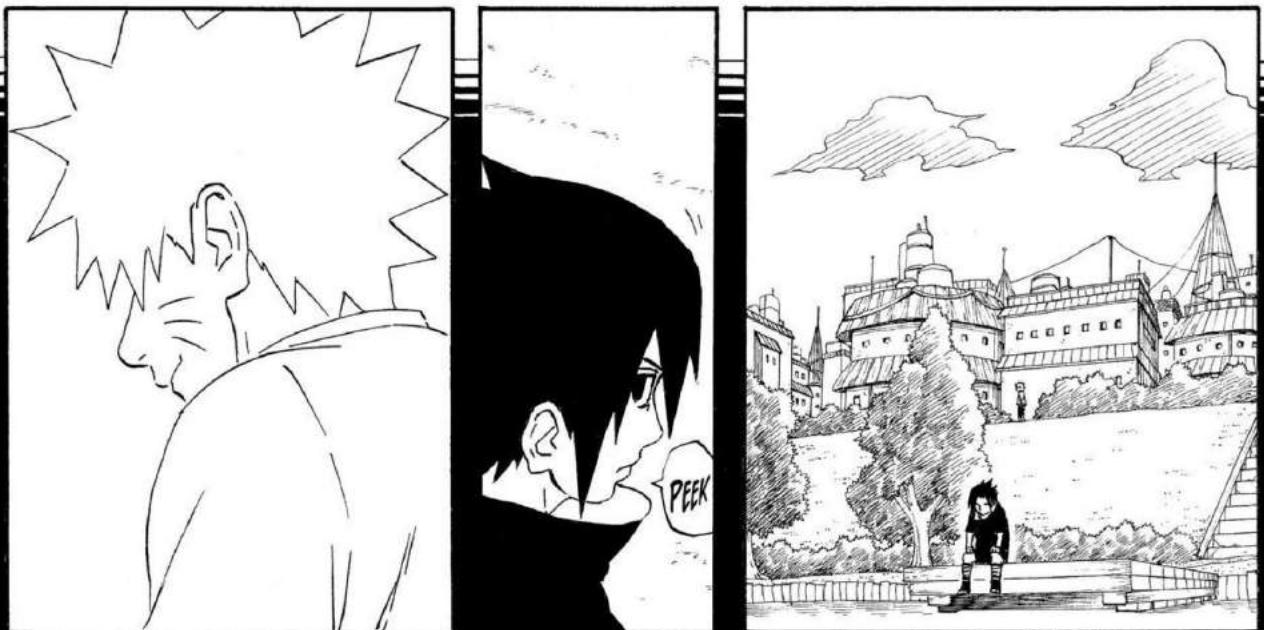




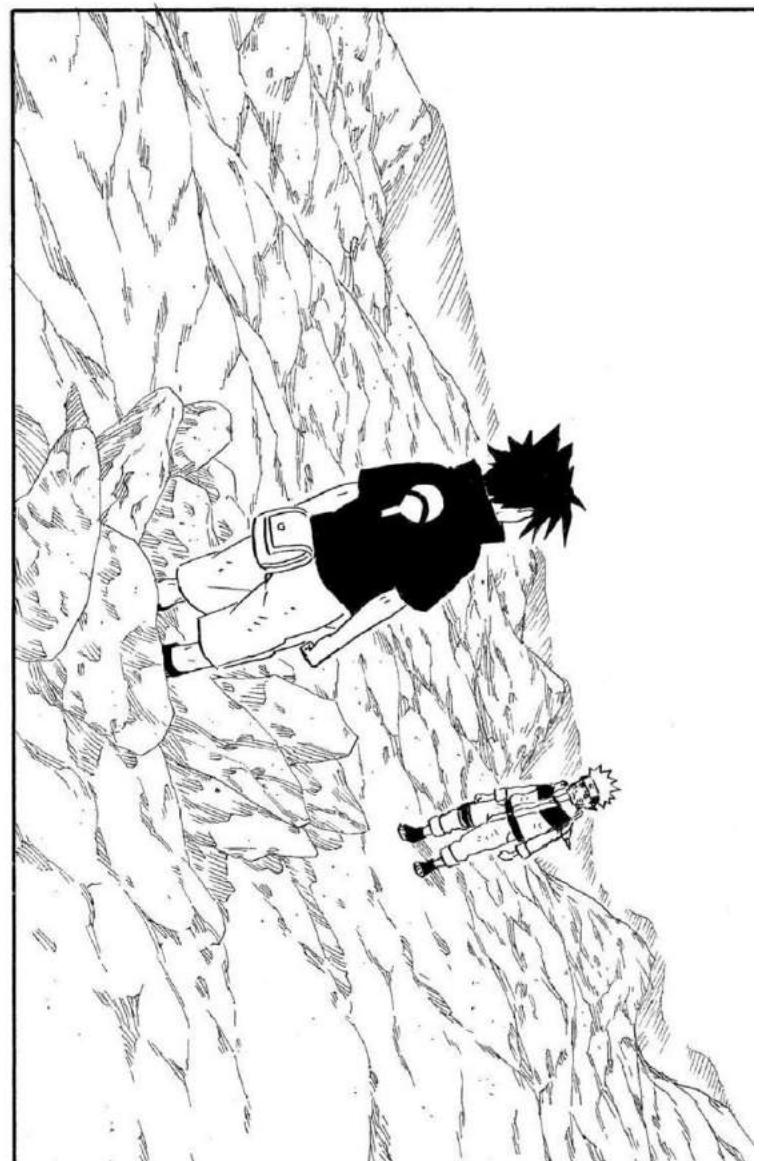
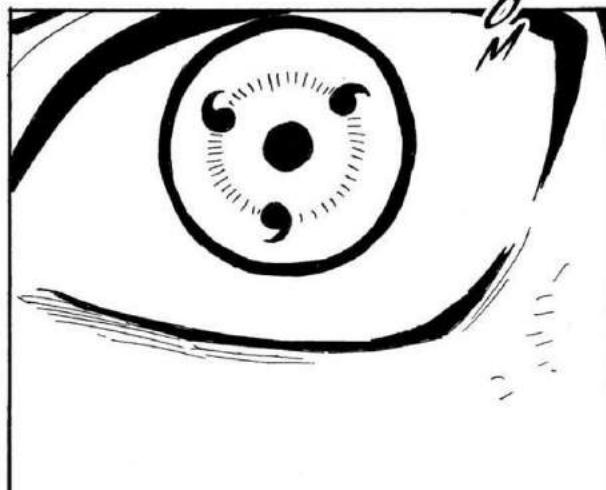
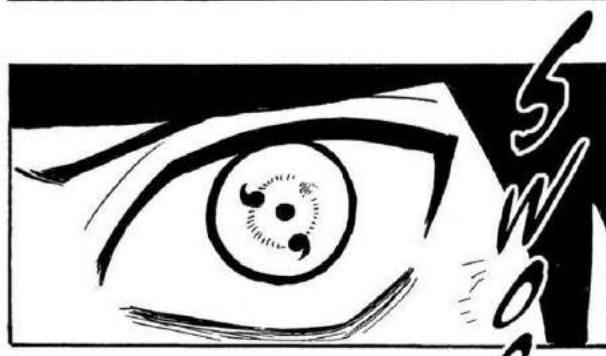
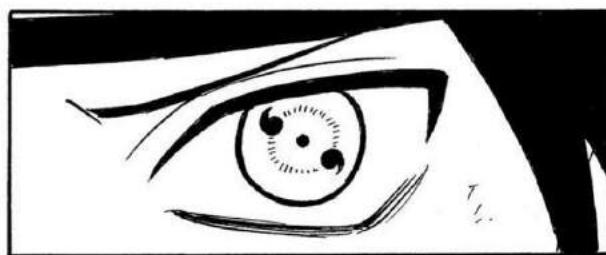
I
IMAGINE...
MAYBE
THAT'S
WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO
HAVE A
BROTHER.

READ
THIS WAY











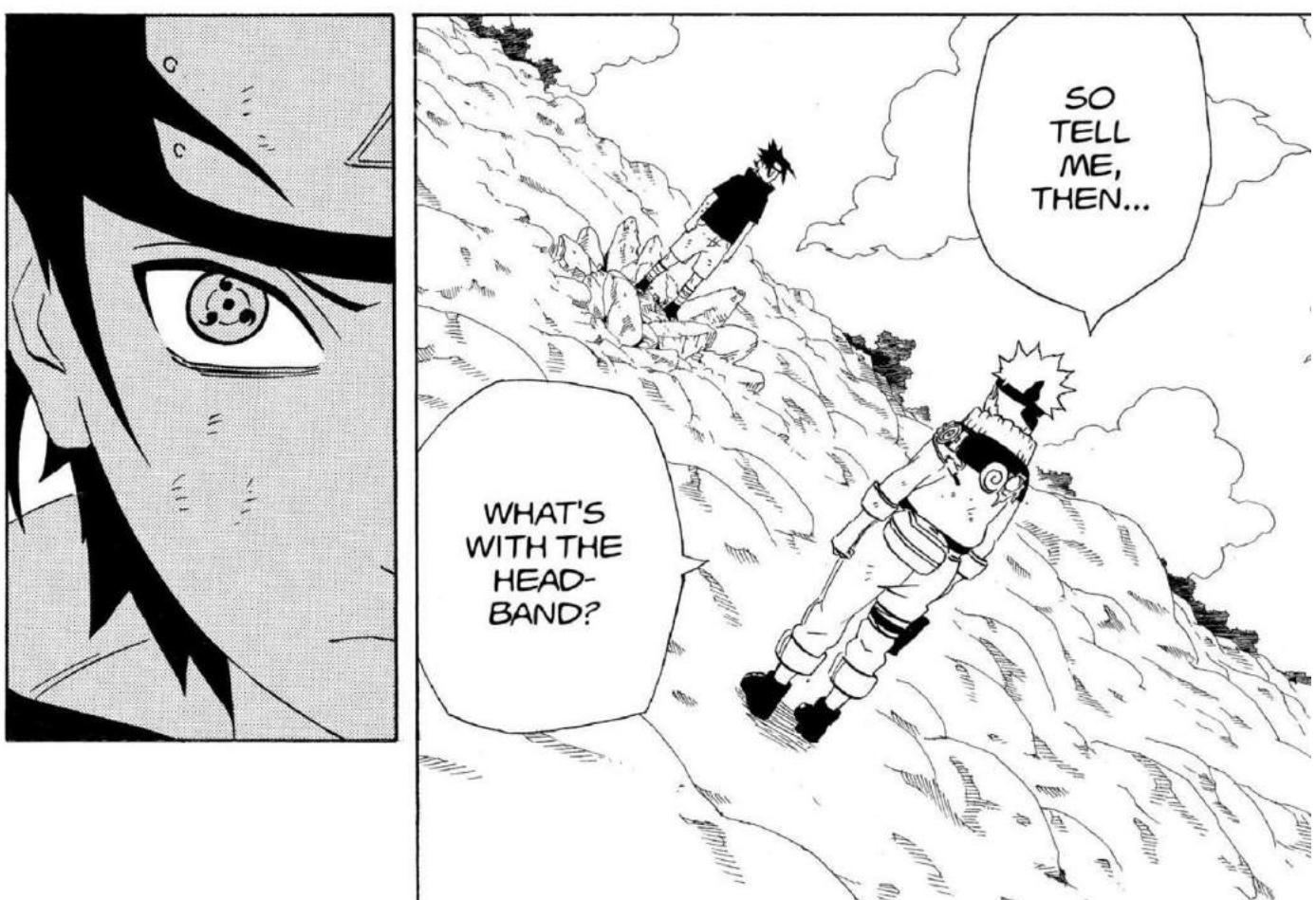


04.11.08

田坂亮
Ryô Tasaka

Number 230: Awakening!!



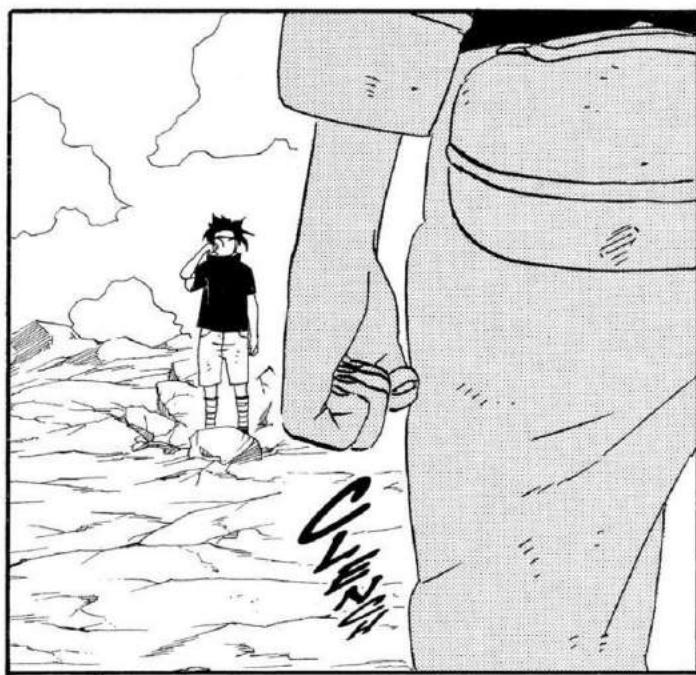


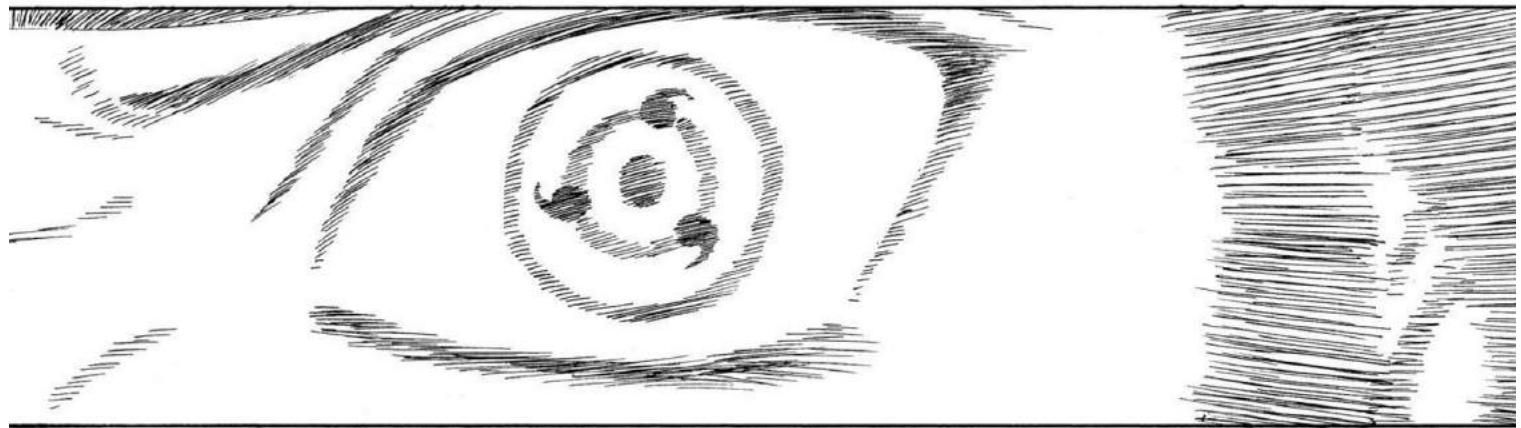
READ
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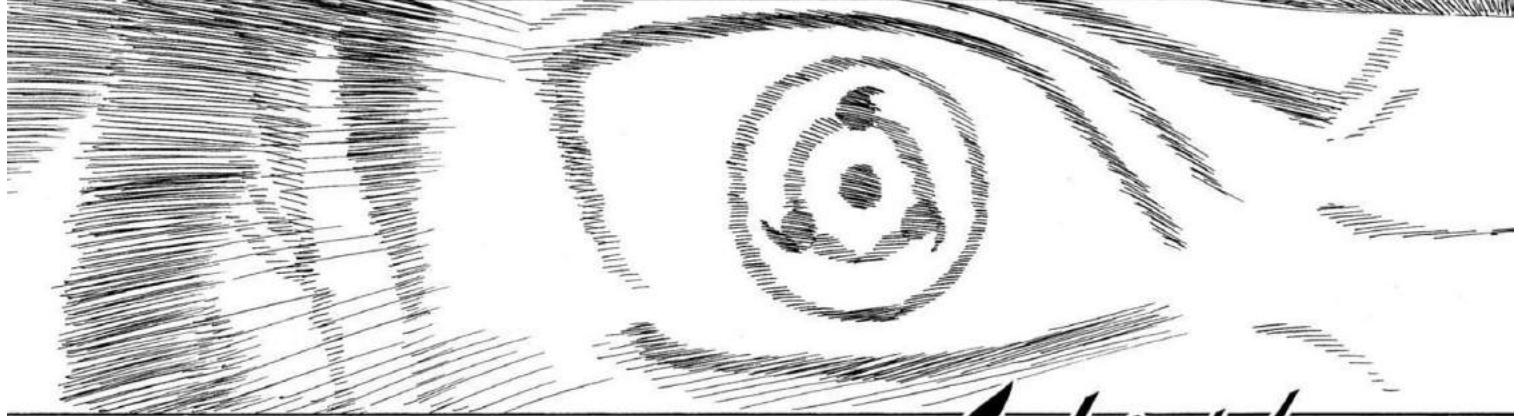
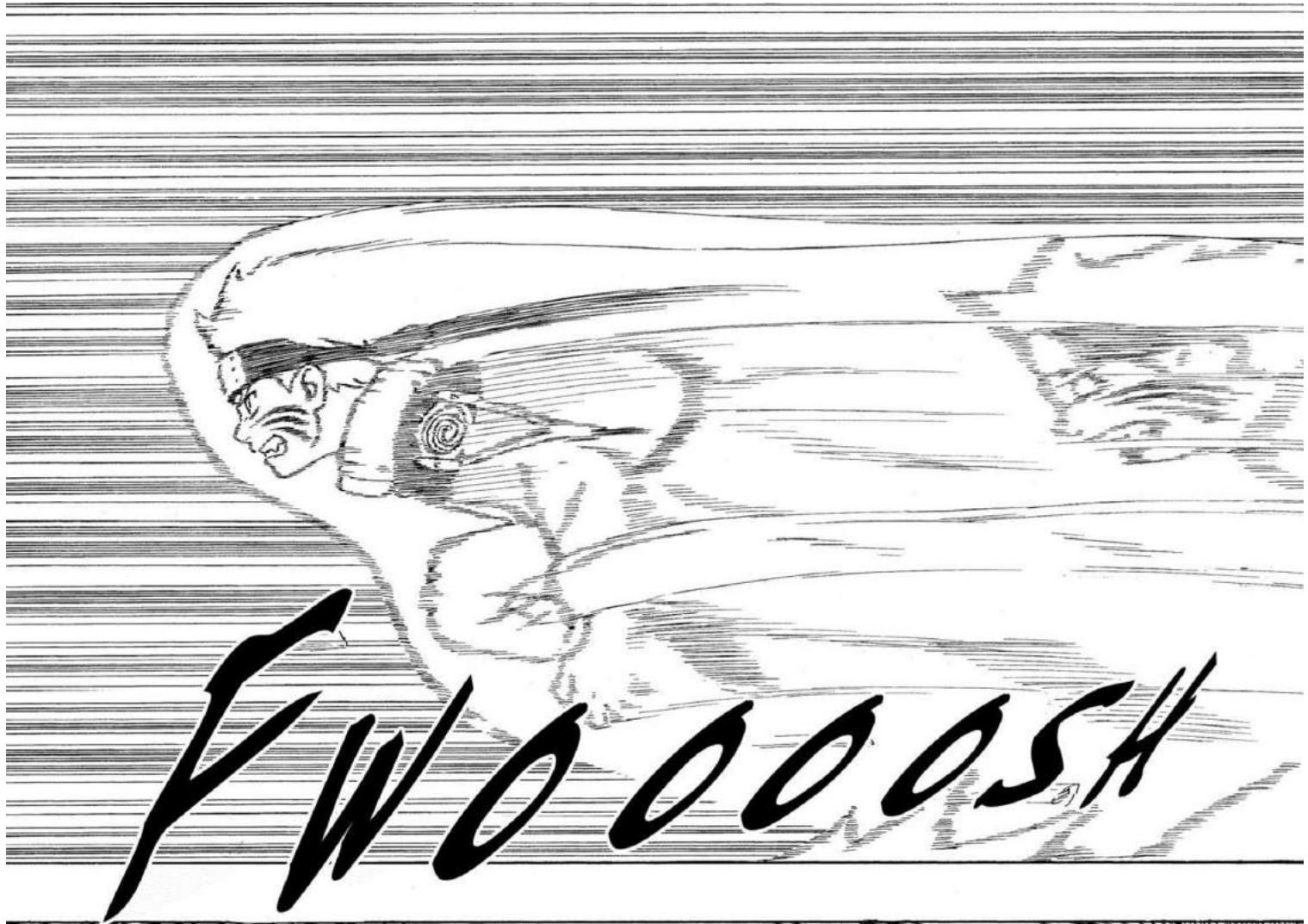




READ
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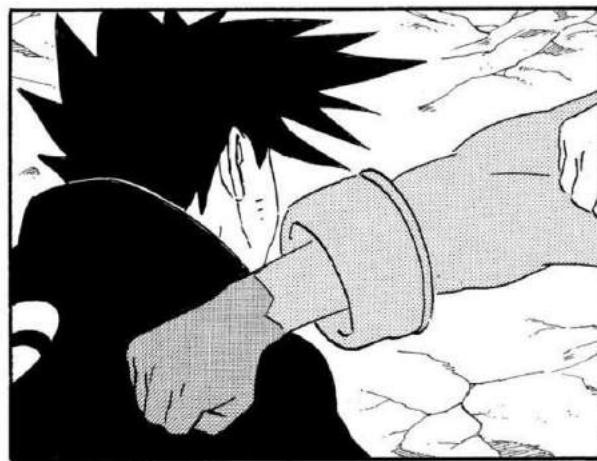


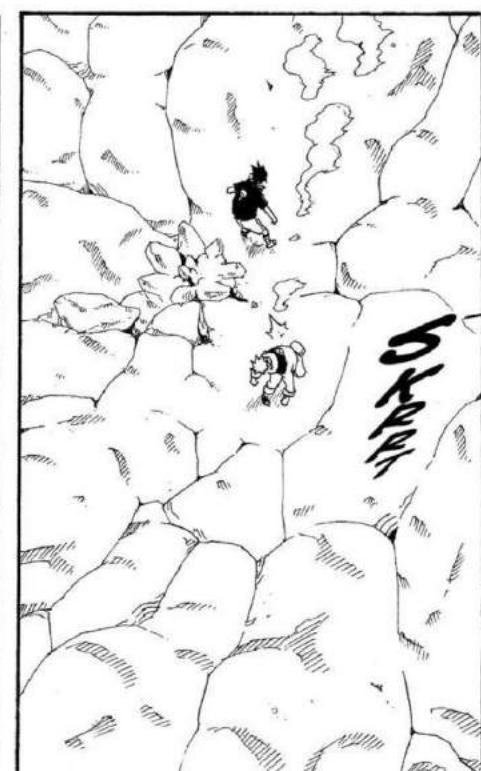


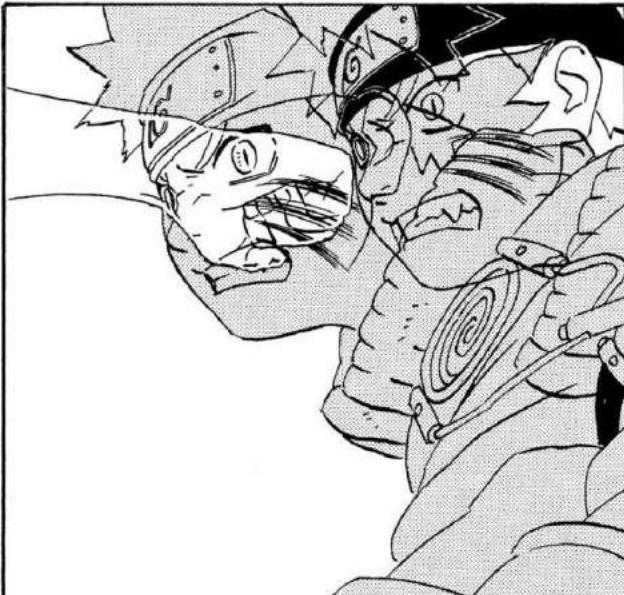
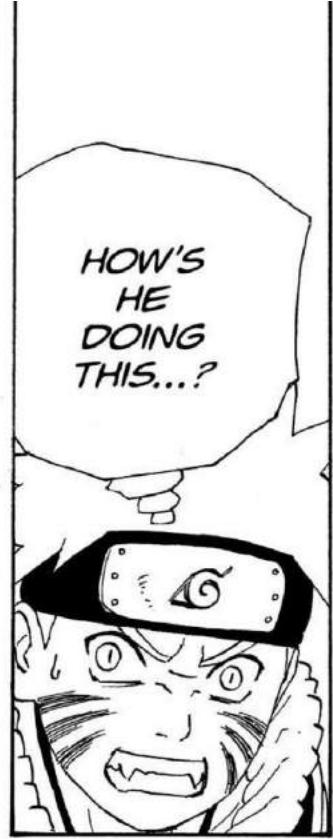


I CAN
TELL
WHAT
HE'S
GOING
TO DO
NEXT...



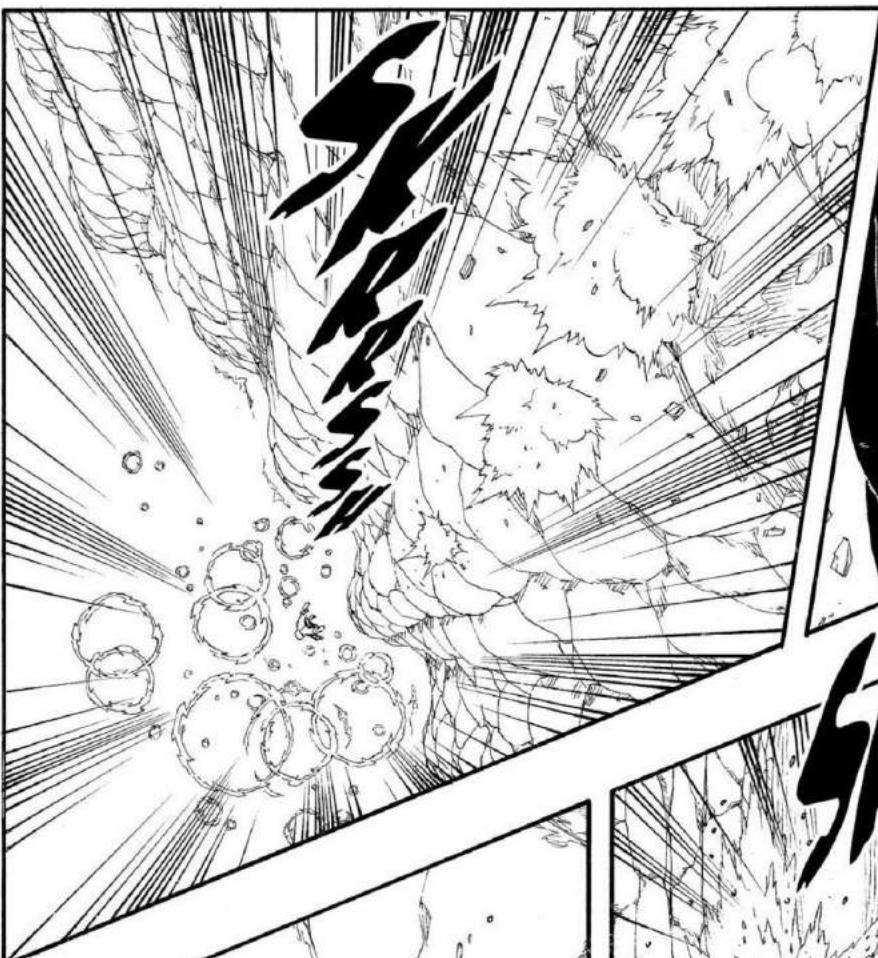








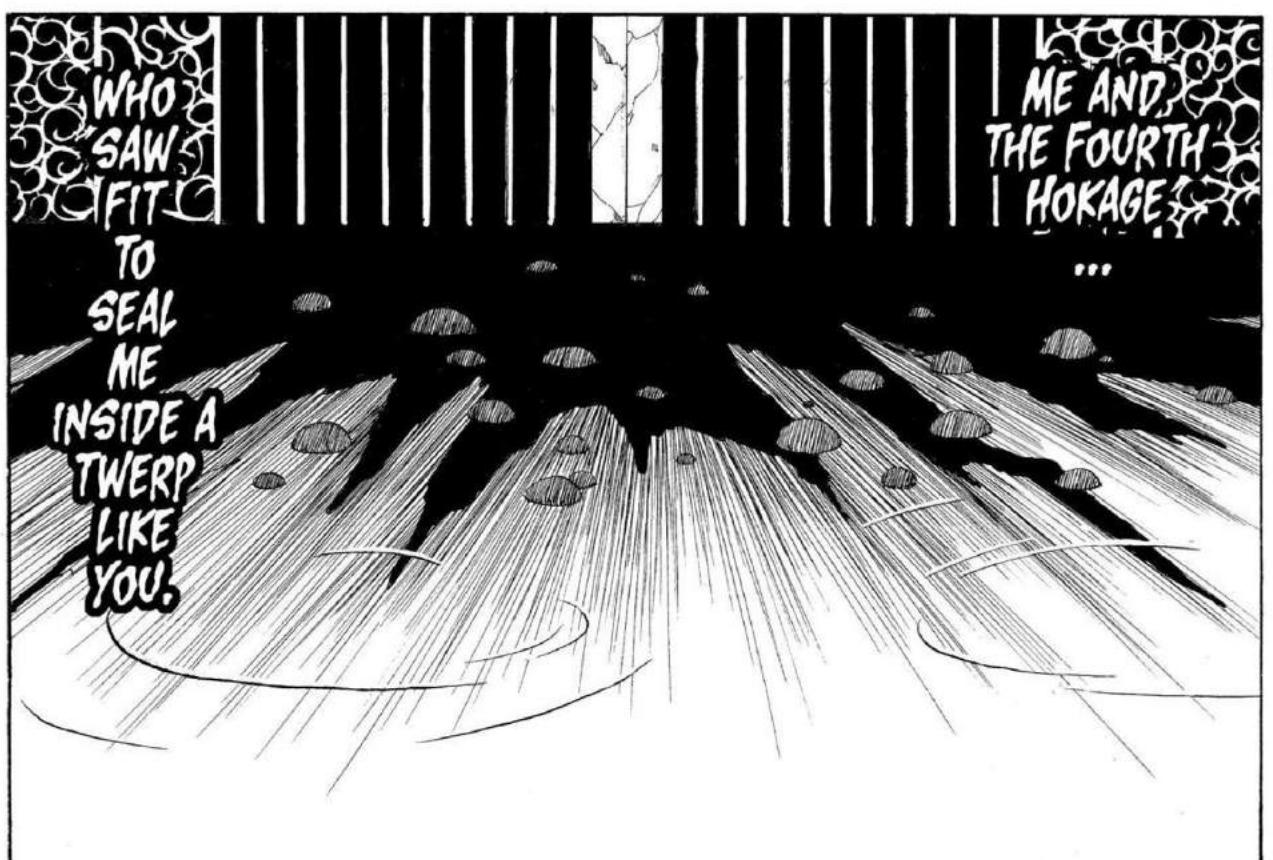
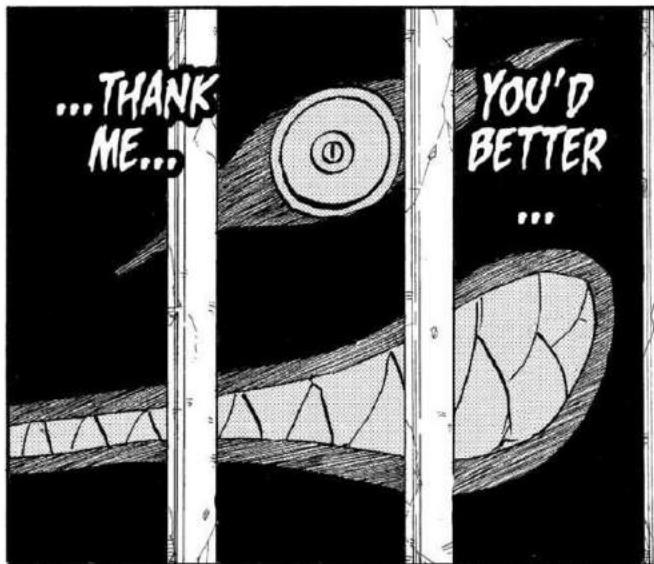
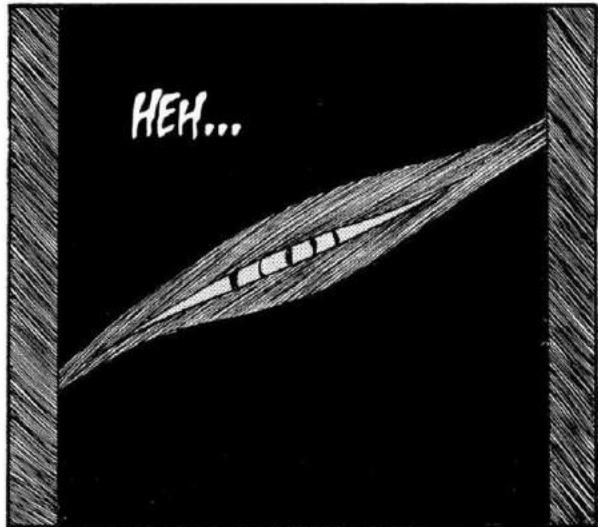
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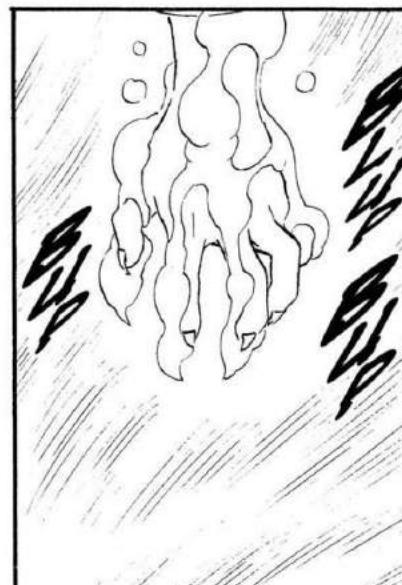
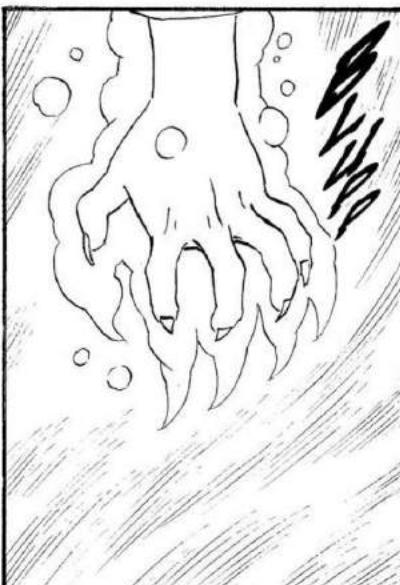




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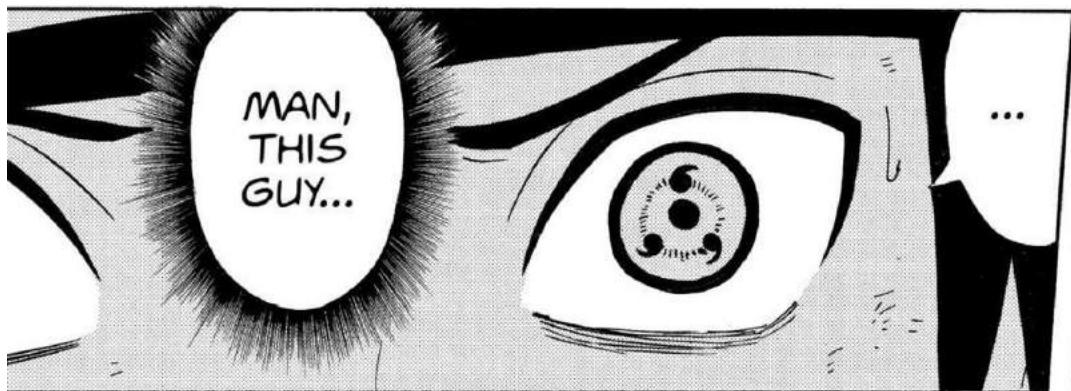
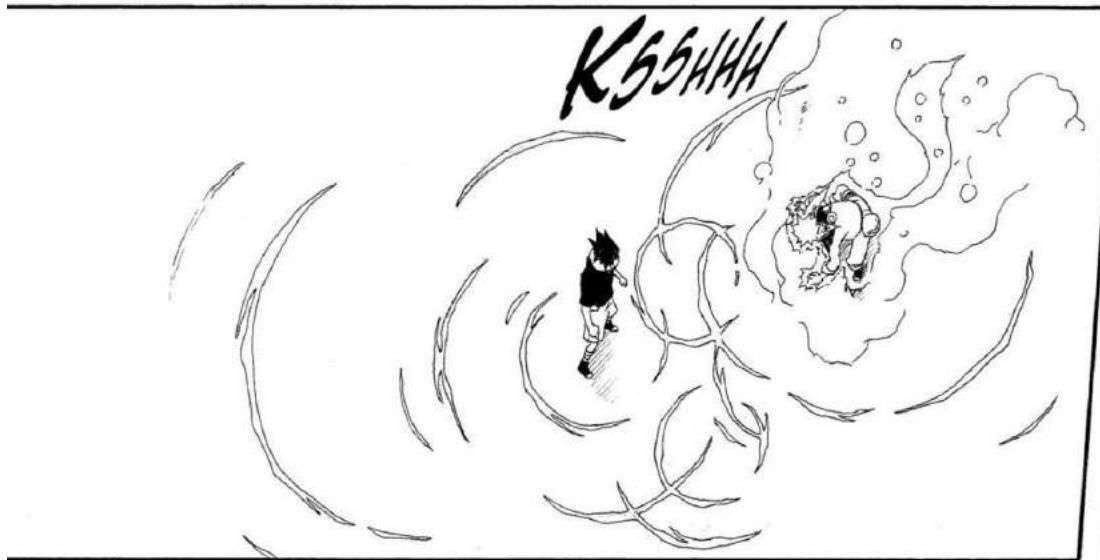
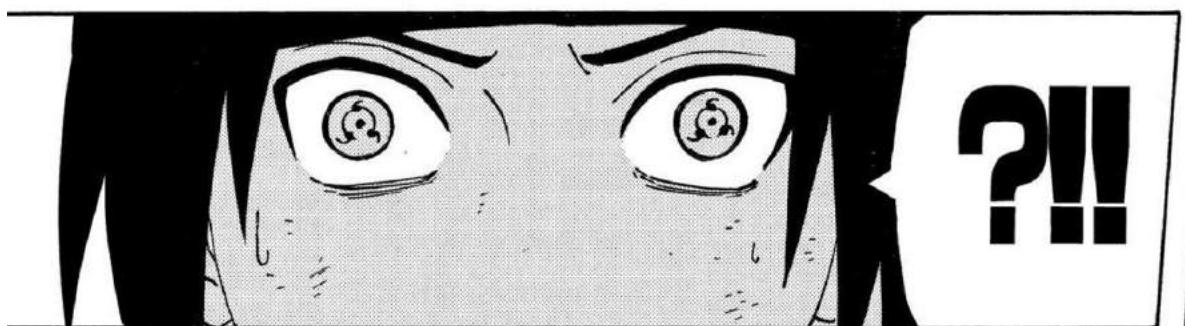








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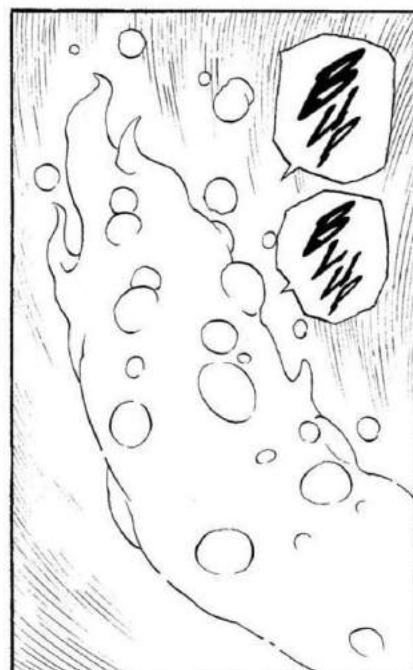
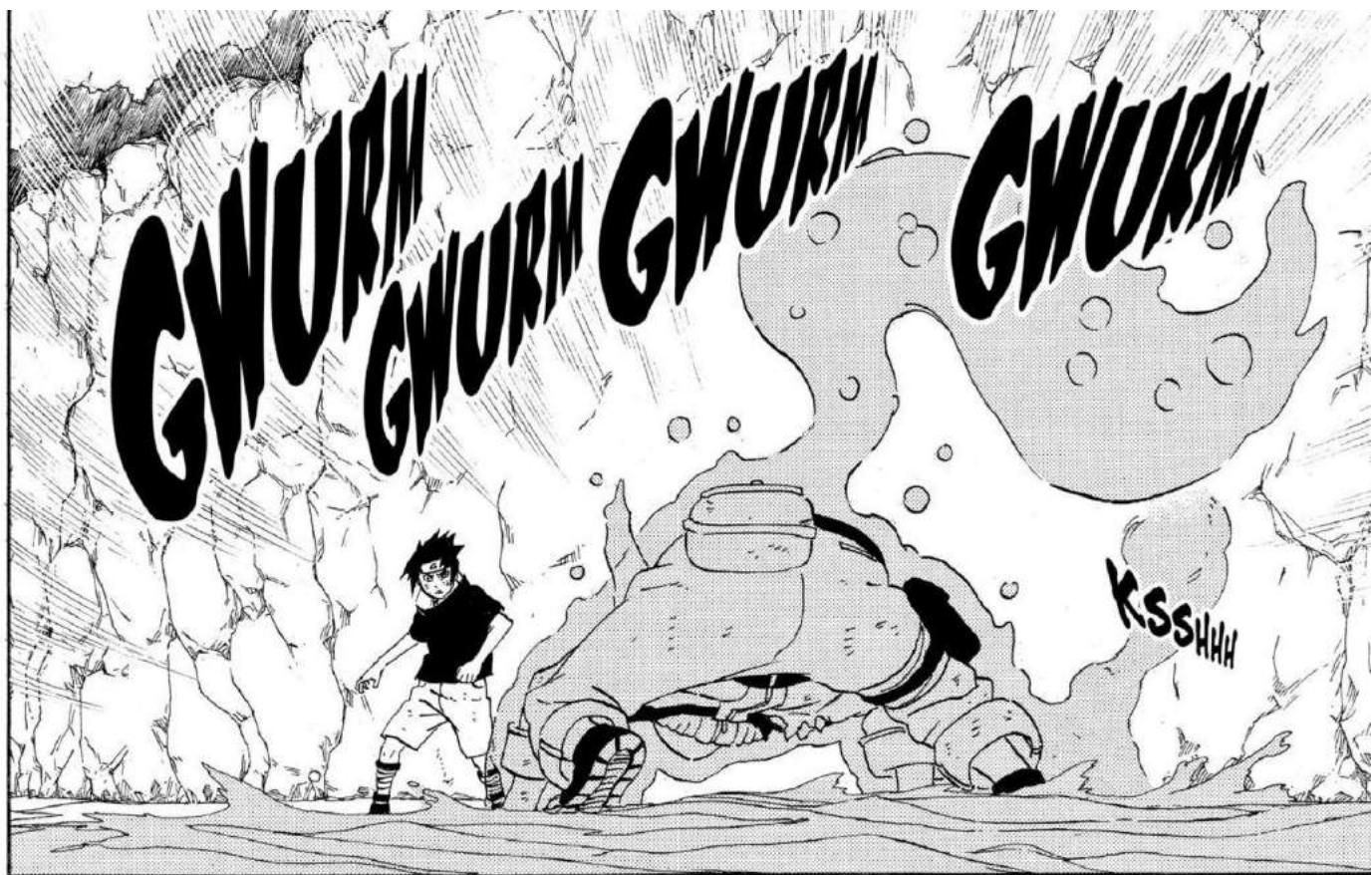


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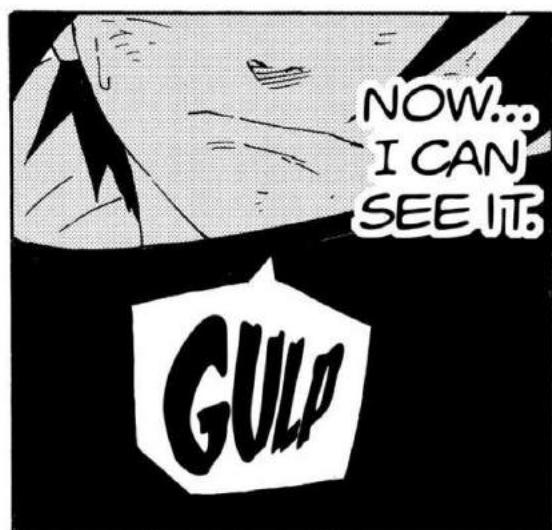
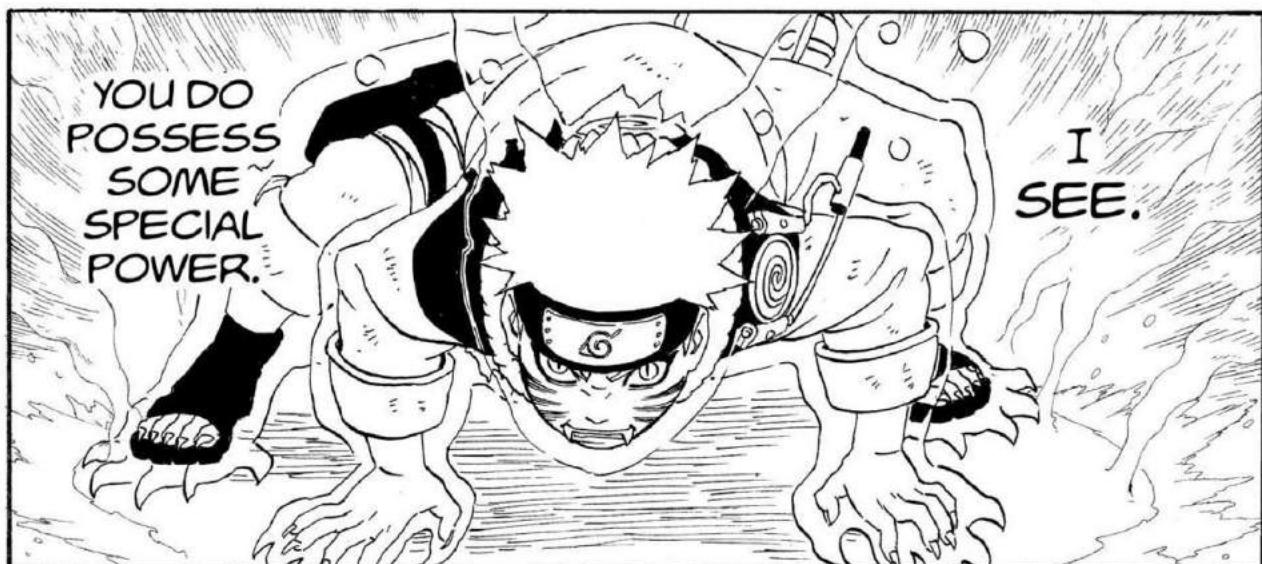
th. ANNIVERSARY
2004.11.8 池本幹雄
Mikio Ikemoto

Number 23-1: Special!!!

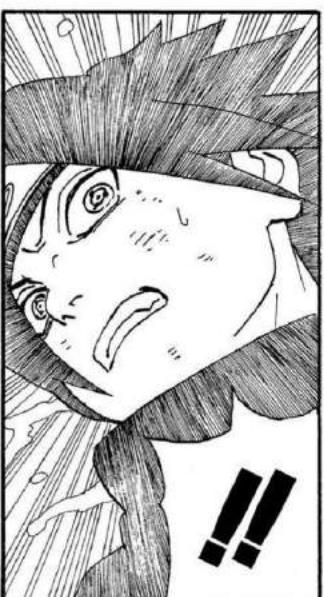


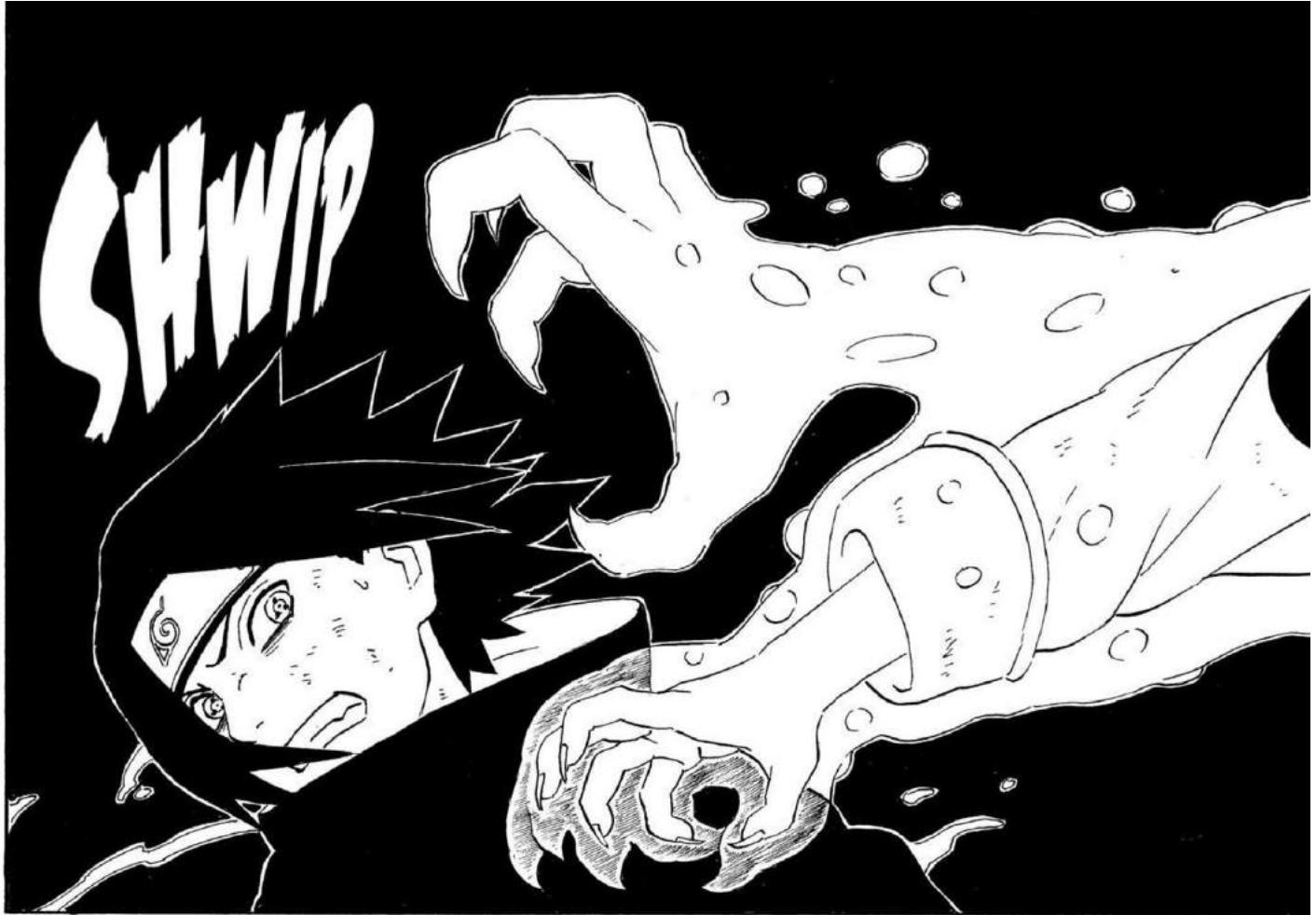


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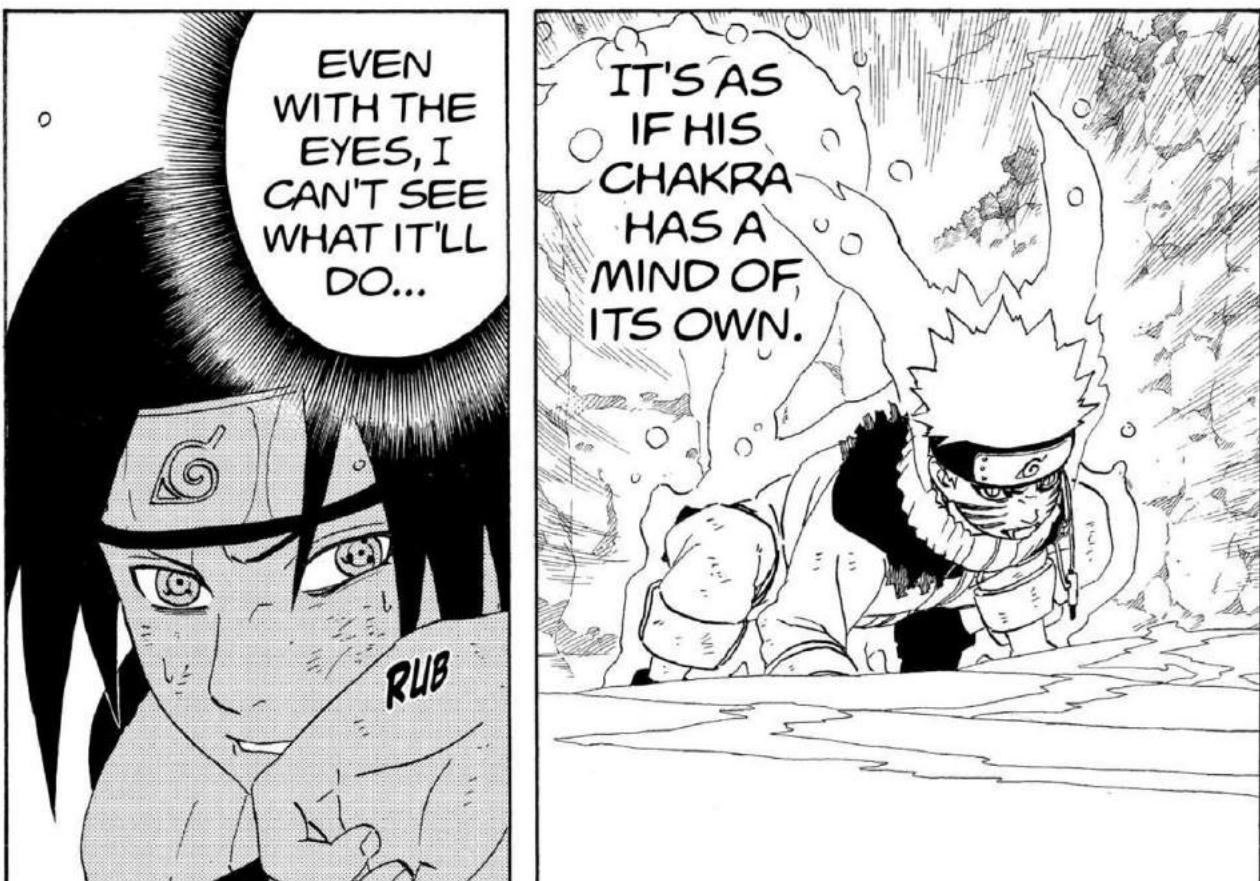
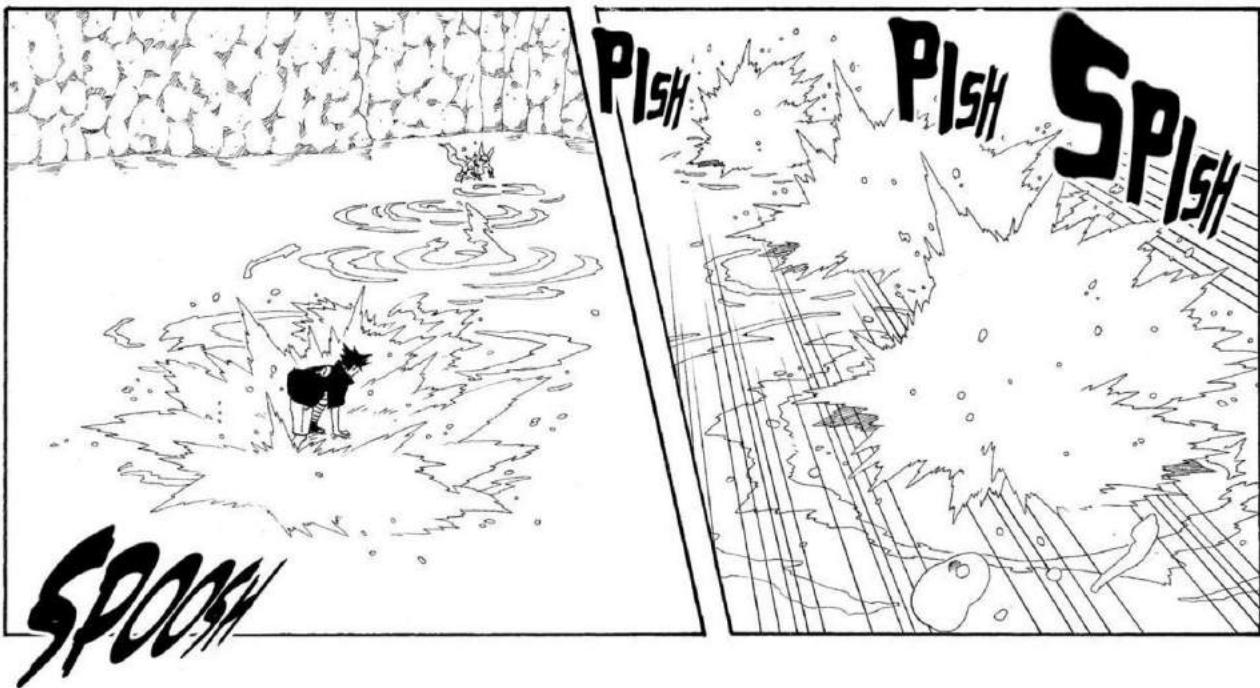


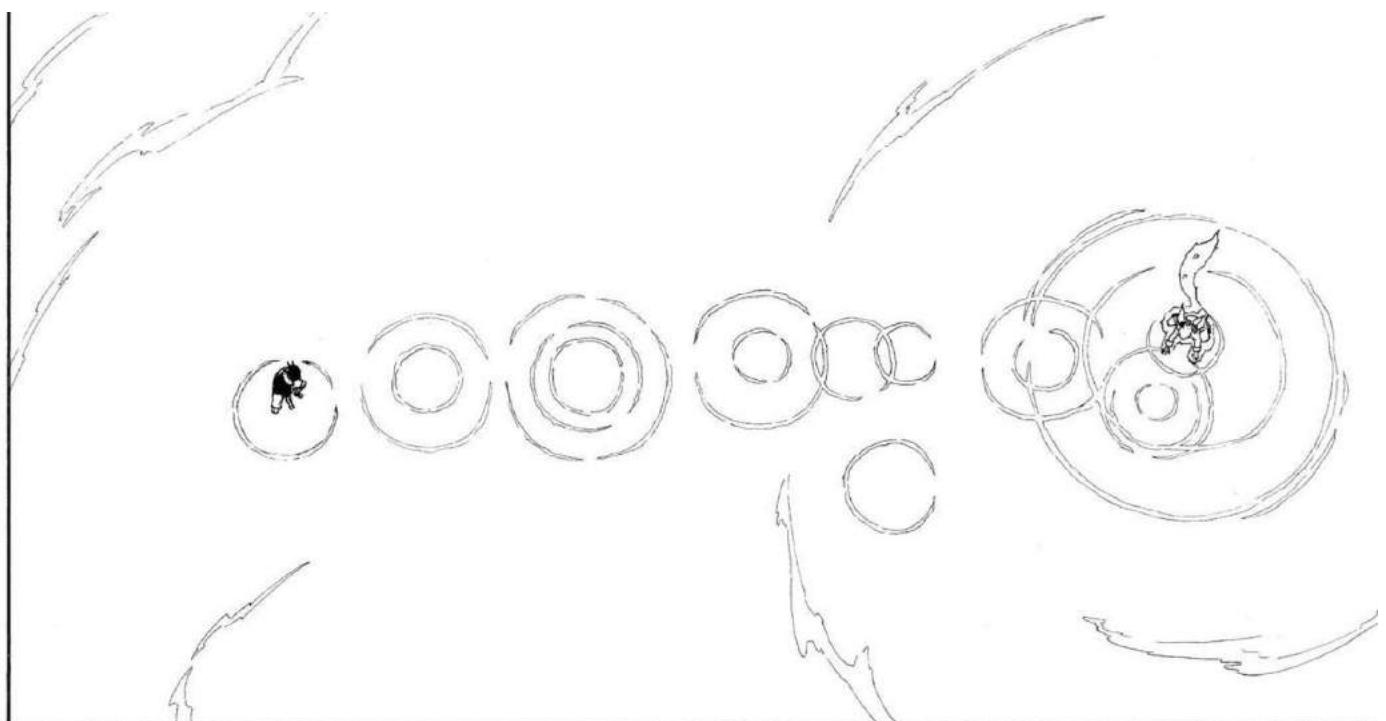


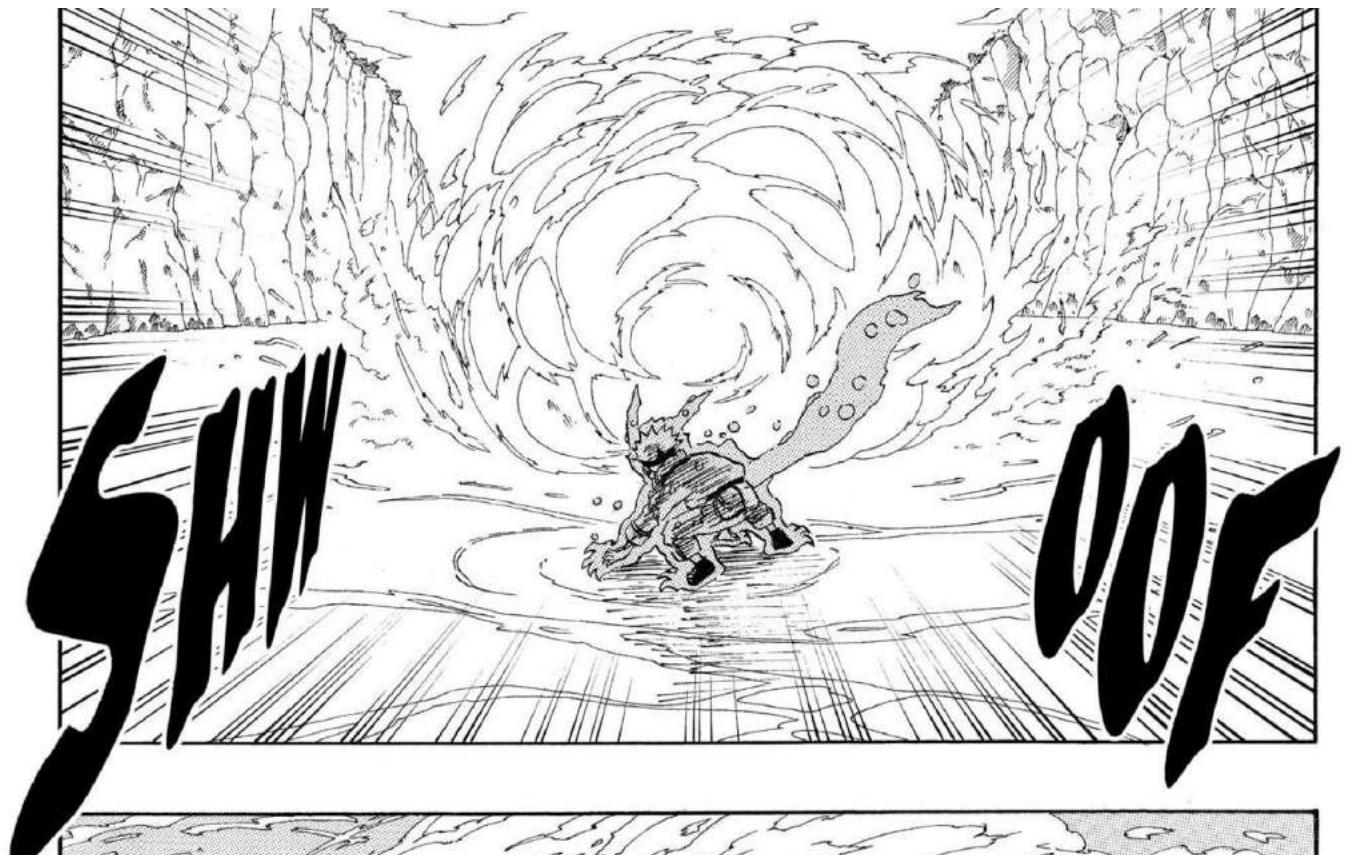




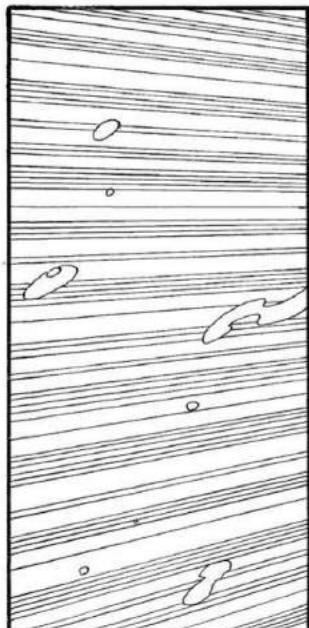
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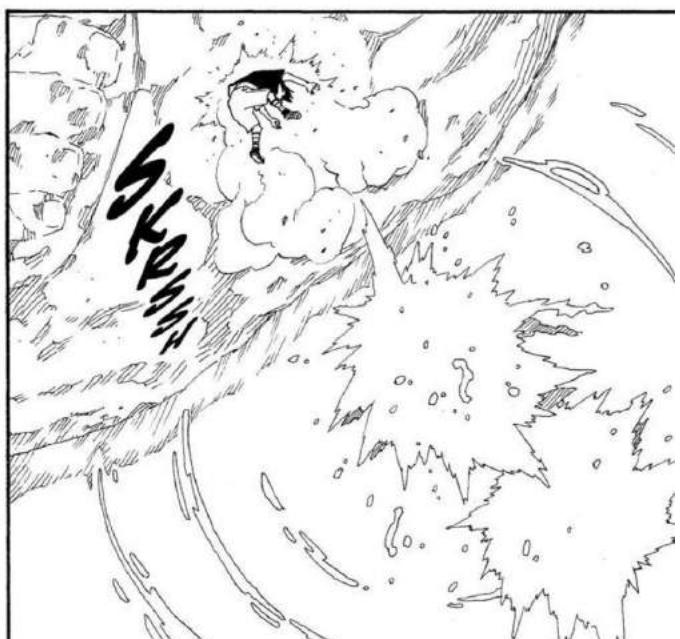
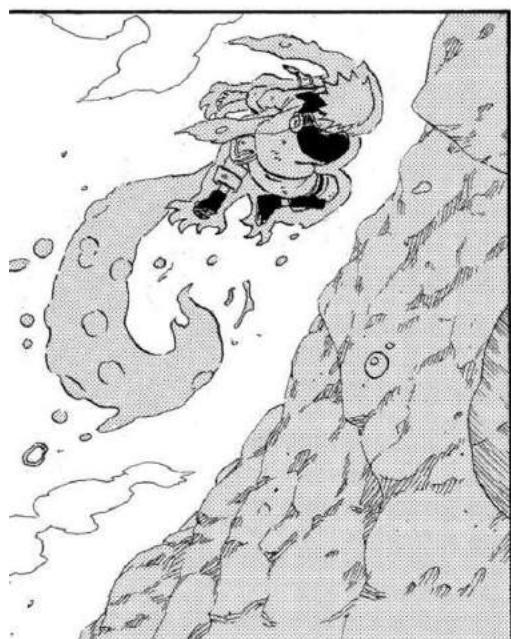
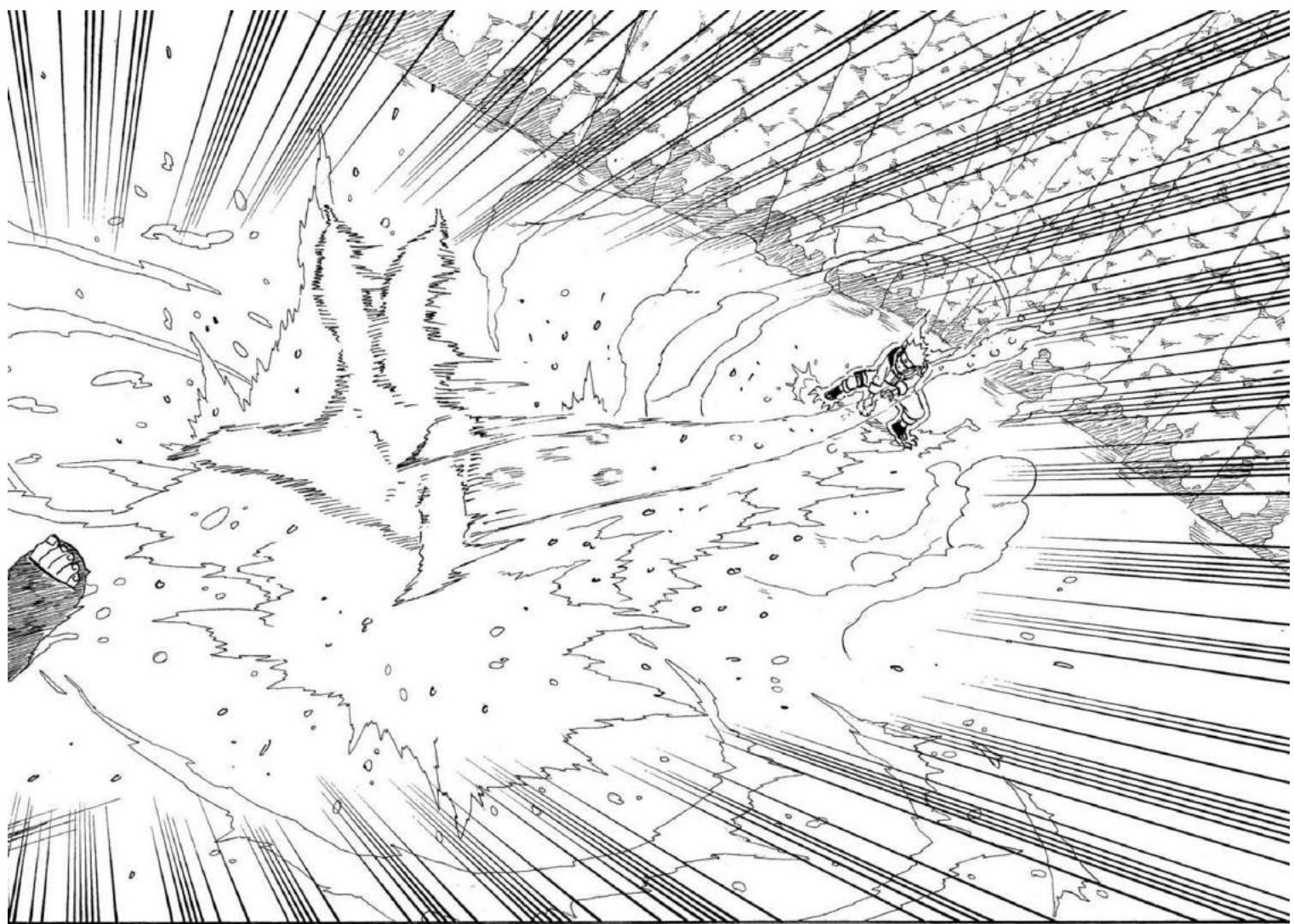






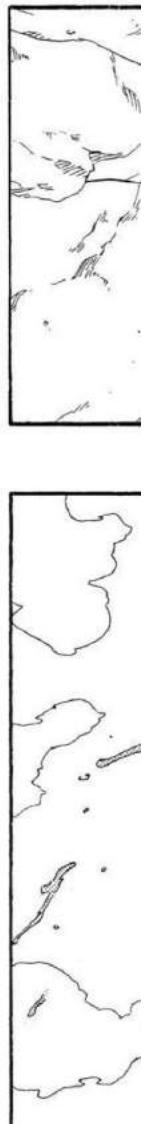


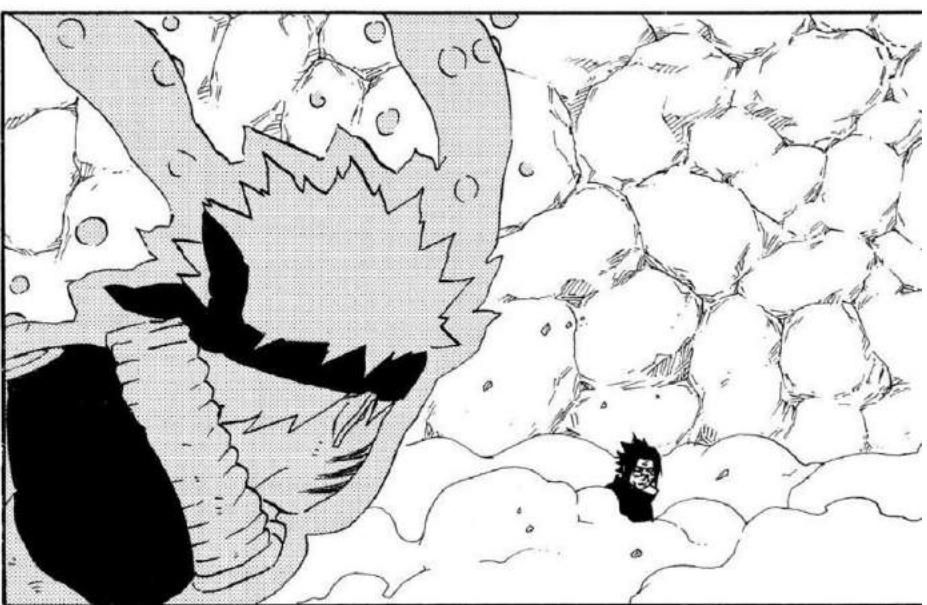




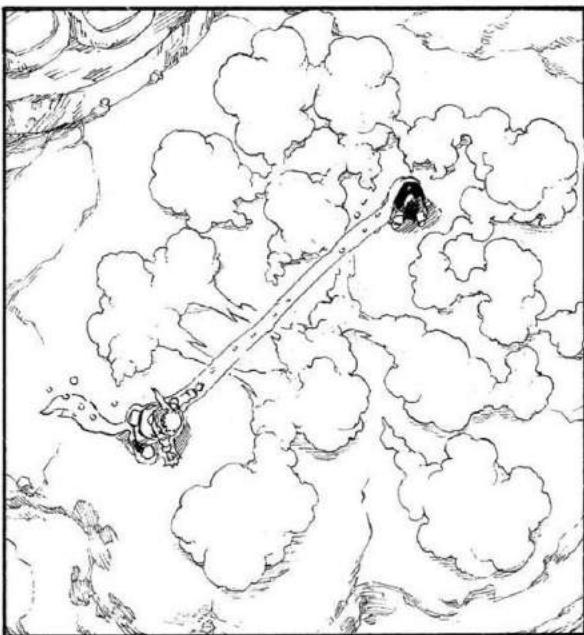


99



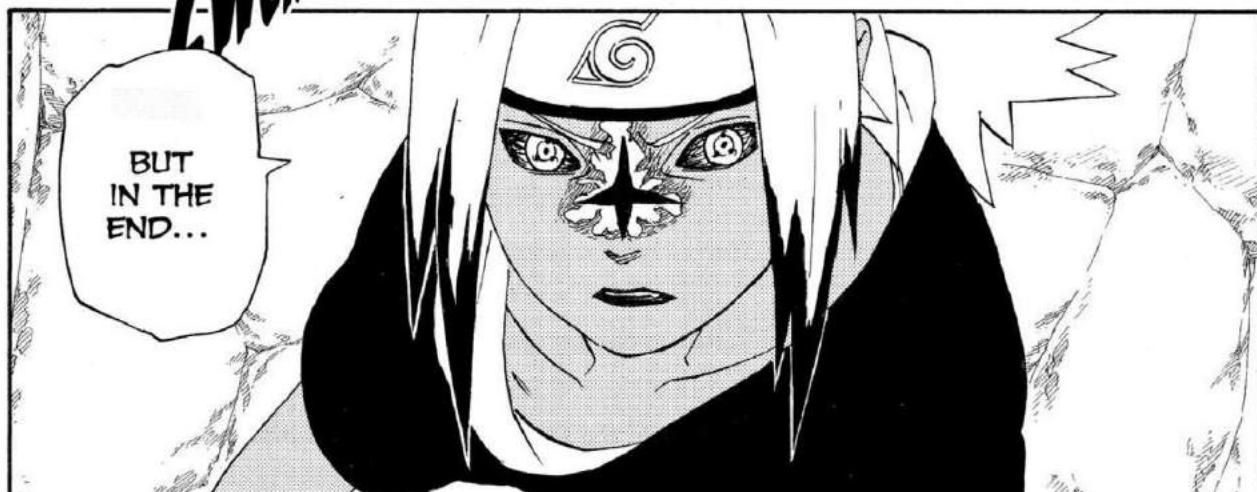
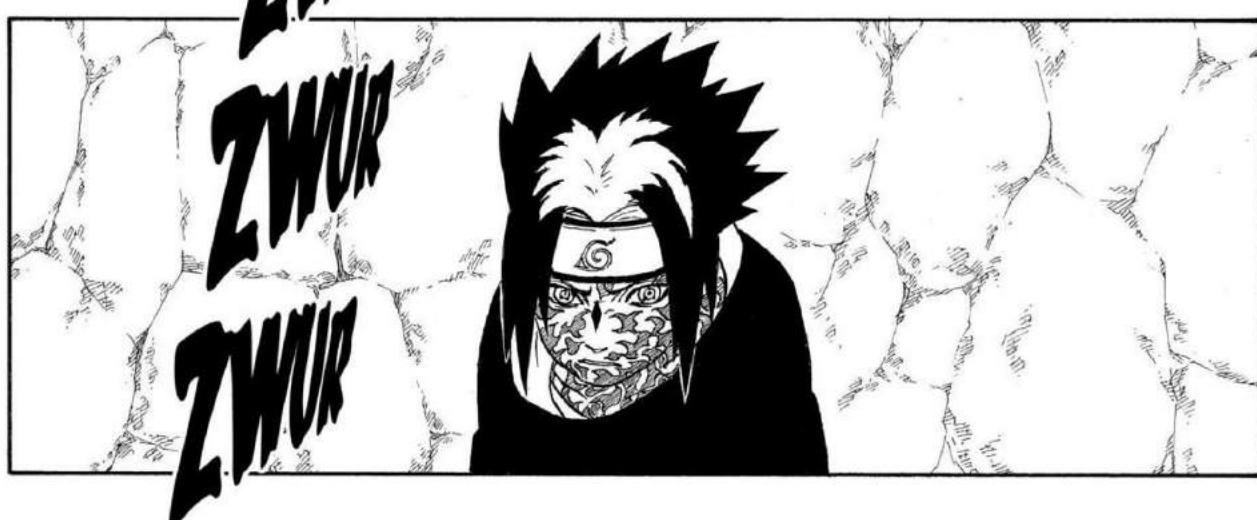


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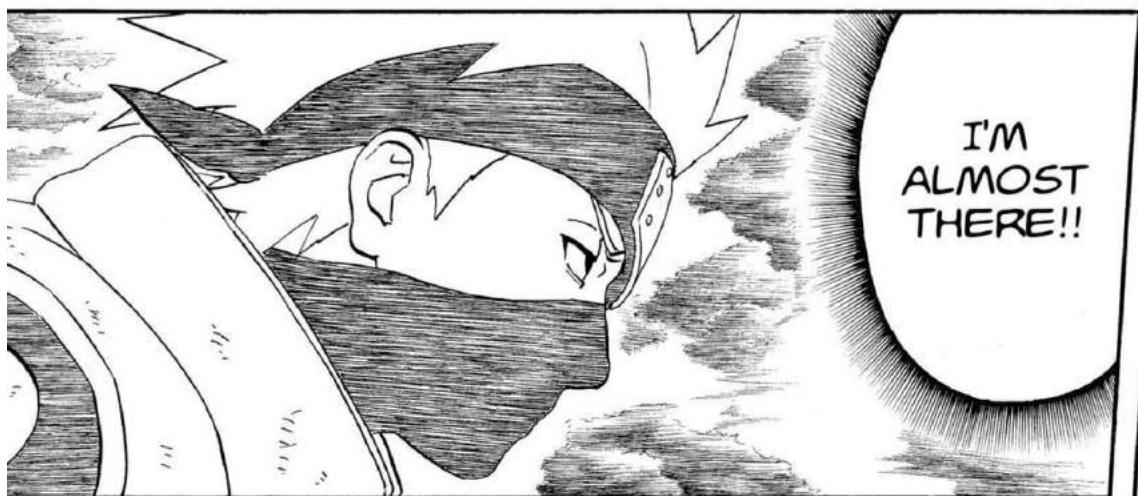
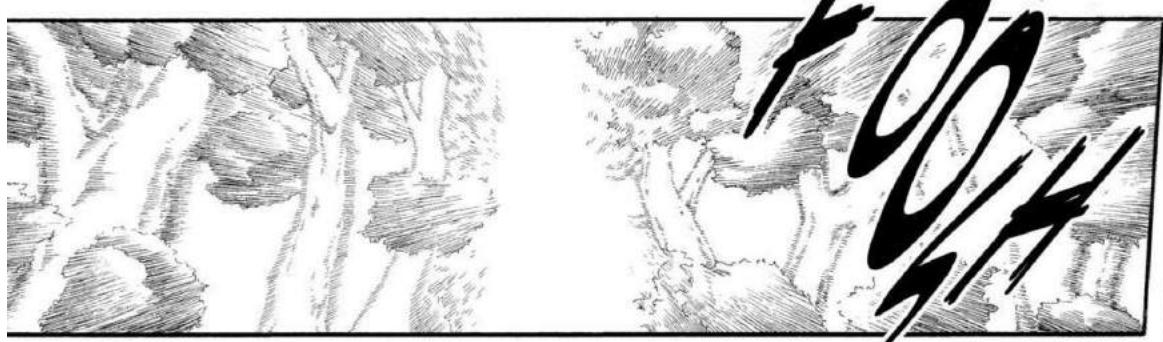
READ
THIS WAY





**I'M
STILL
MORE
SPECIAL
THAN
YOU!**

READ
THIS WAY



*Mr. Kishimoto, congrats on the 5th anniversary!
My hats off to you for the efforts you put in!!*

by. 西田浩一
Koichi Nishitani

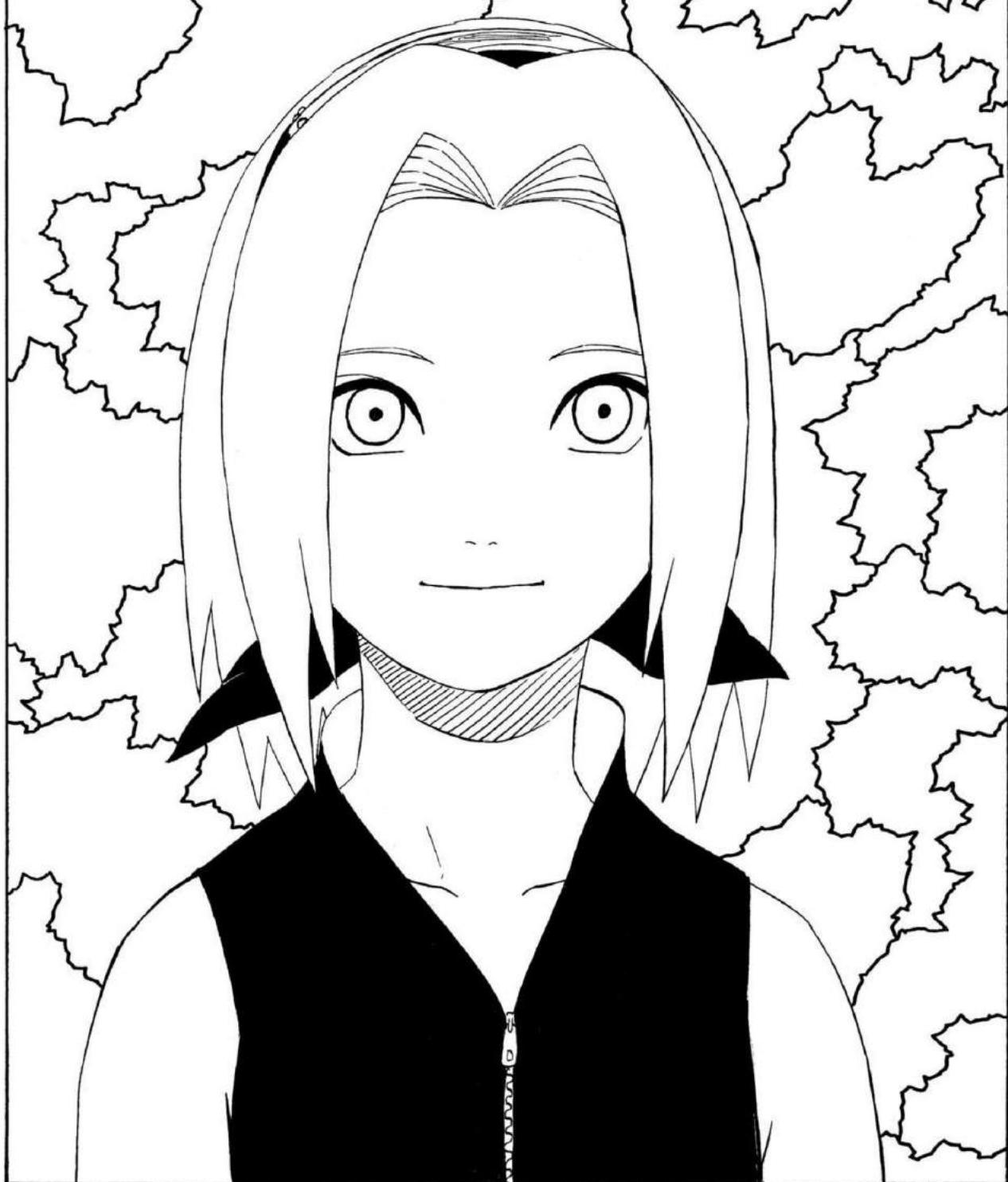


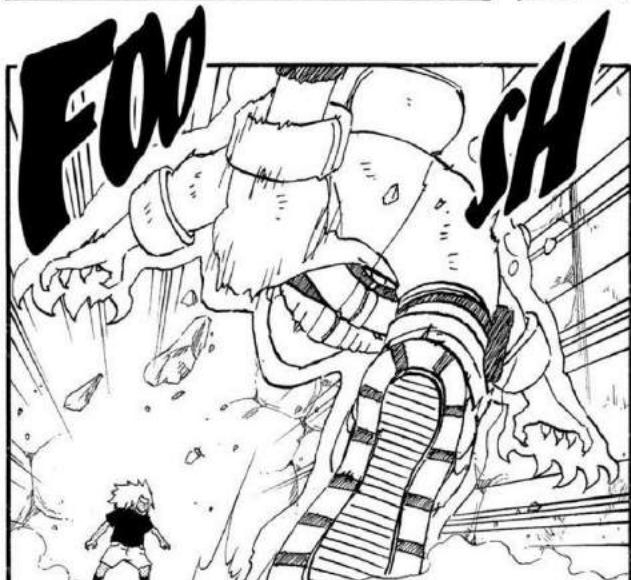
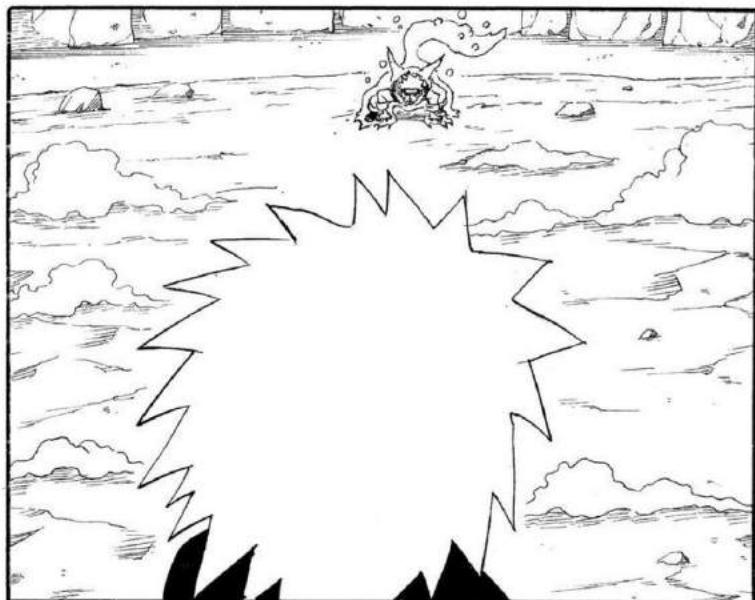


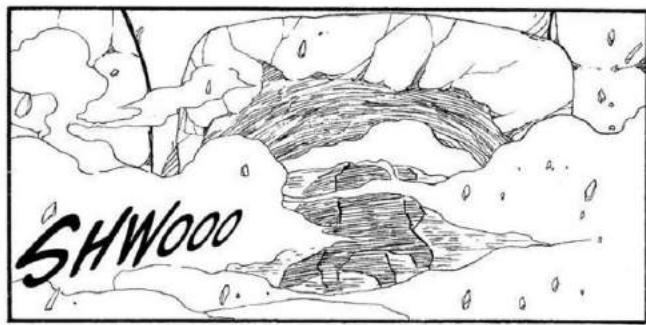
Number

232:

The Final Valley

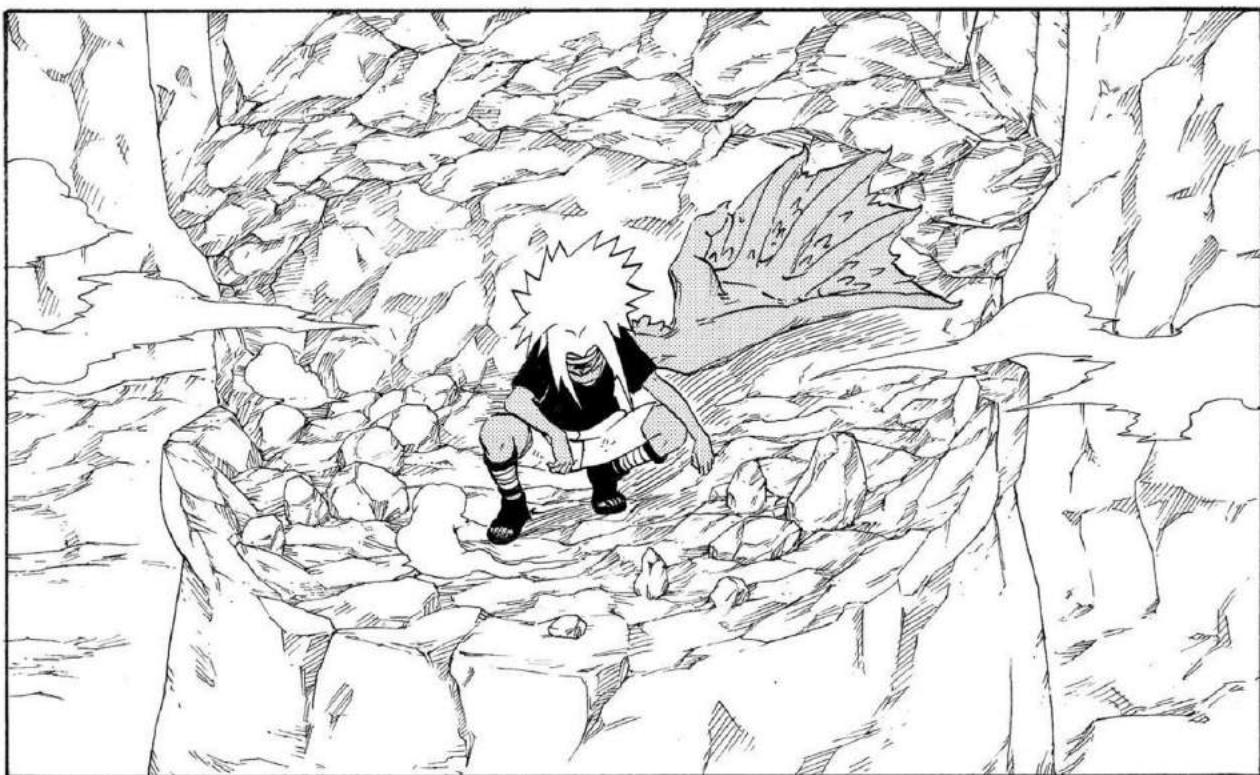


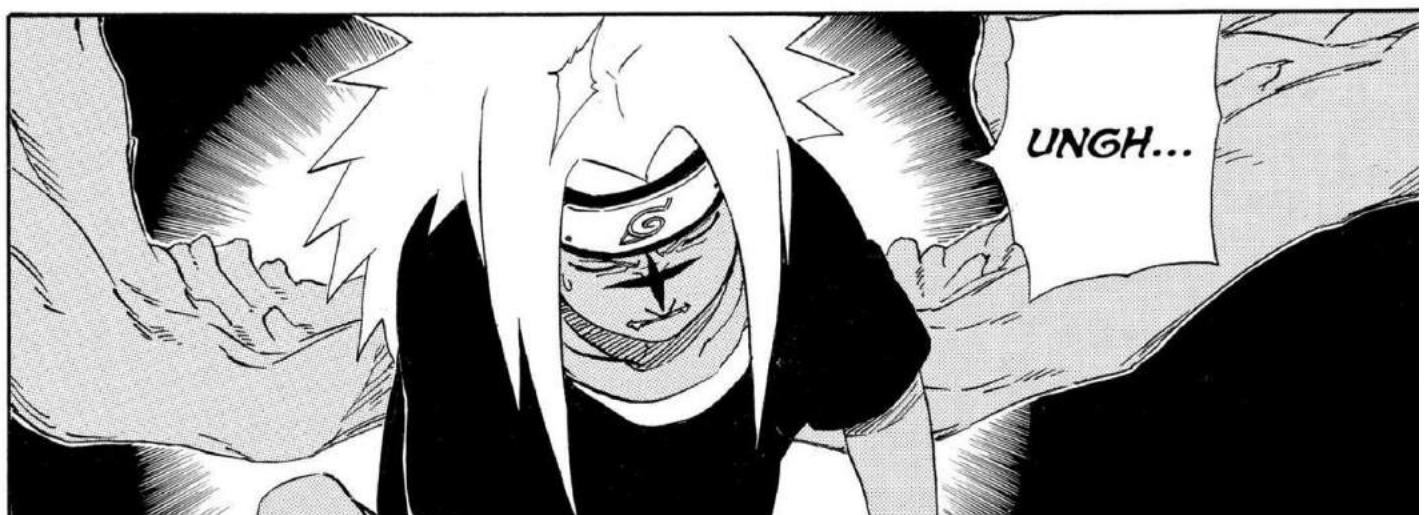


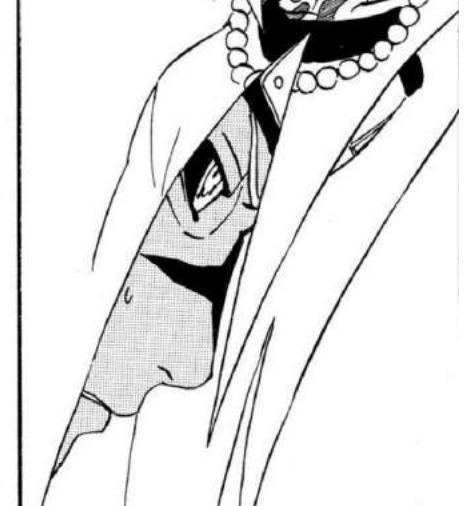
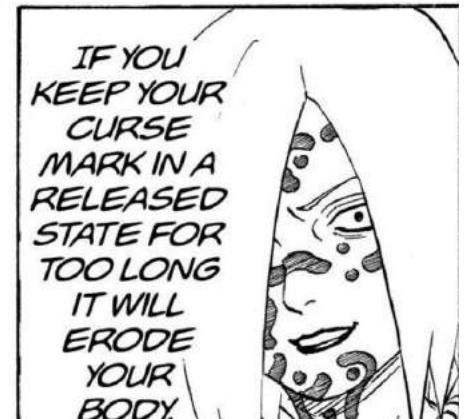
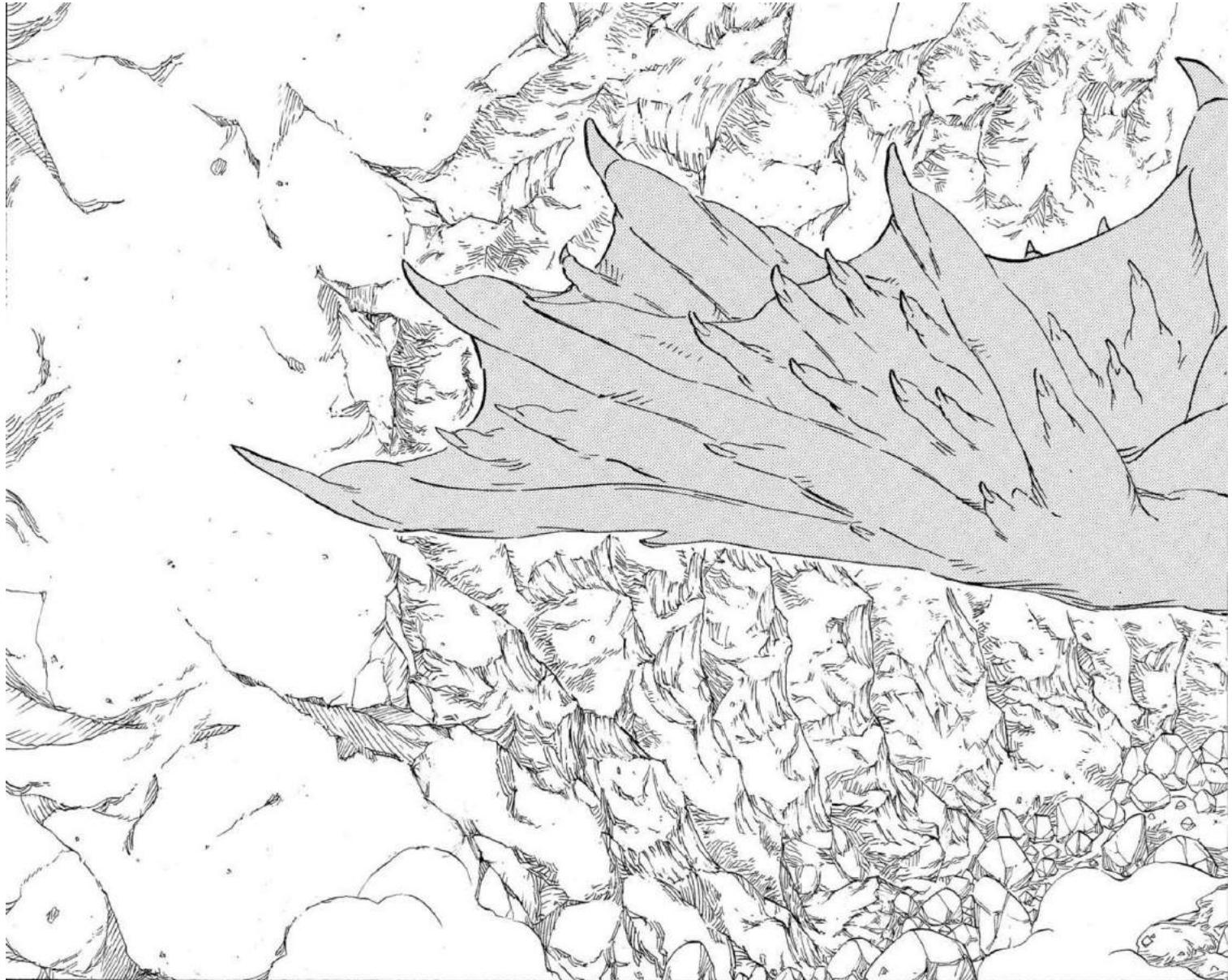


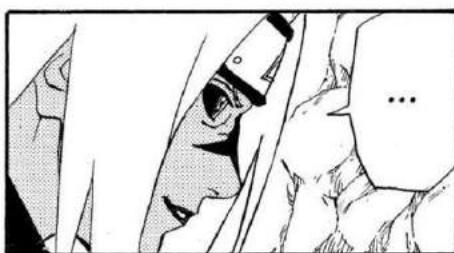
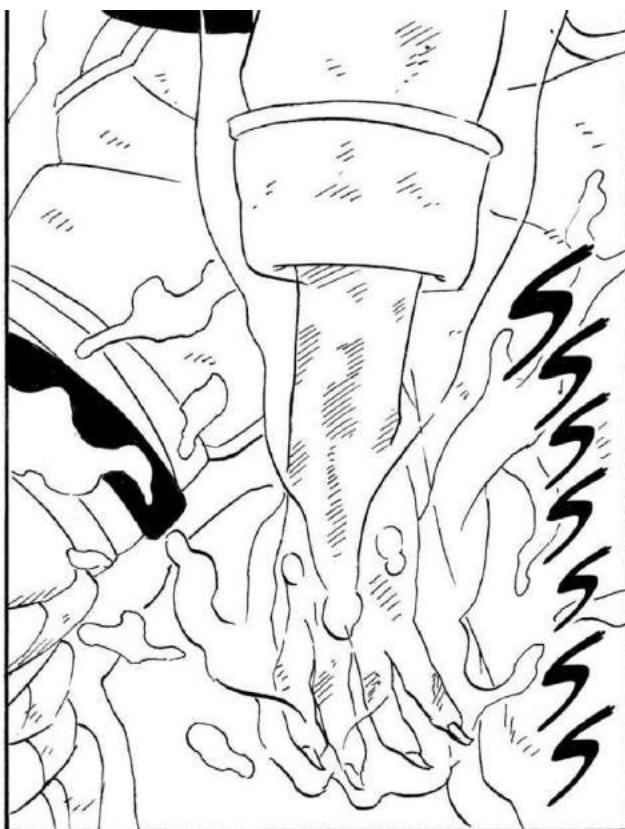


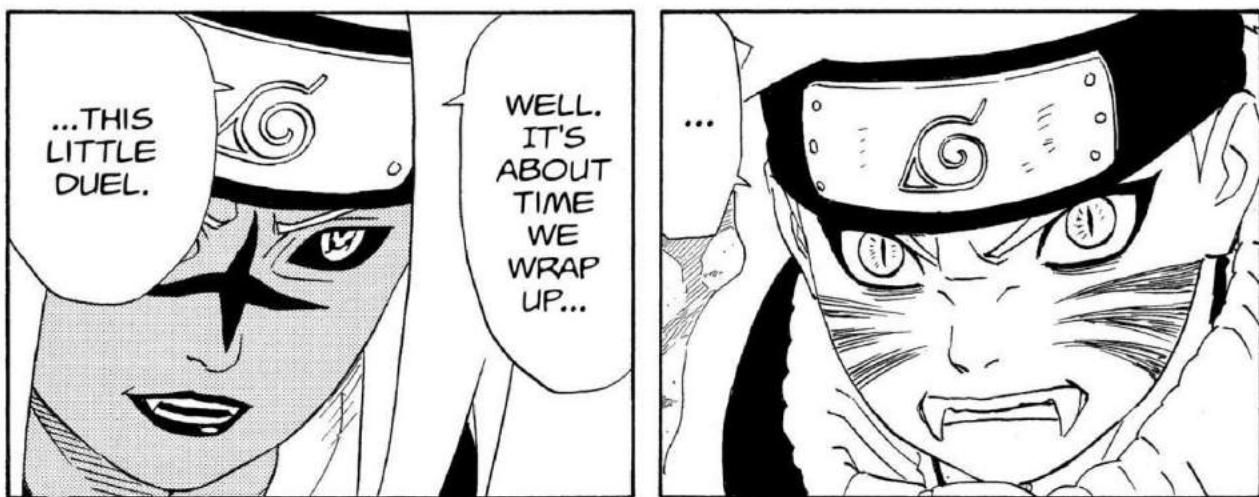
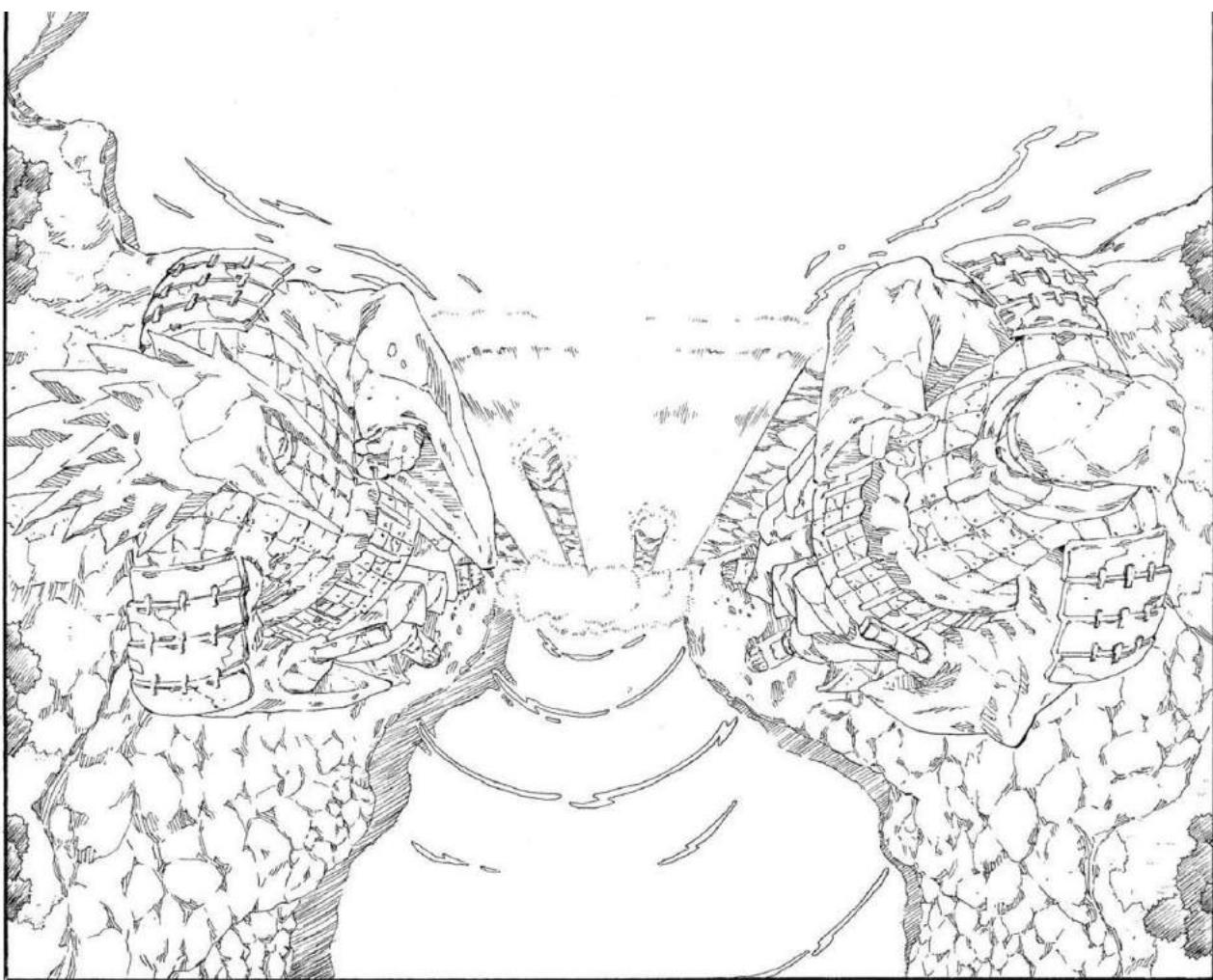
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BATTLES TO DATE...



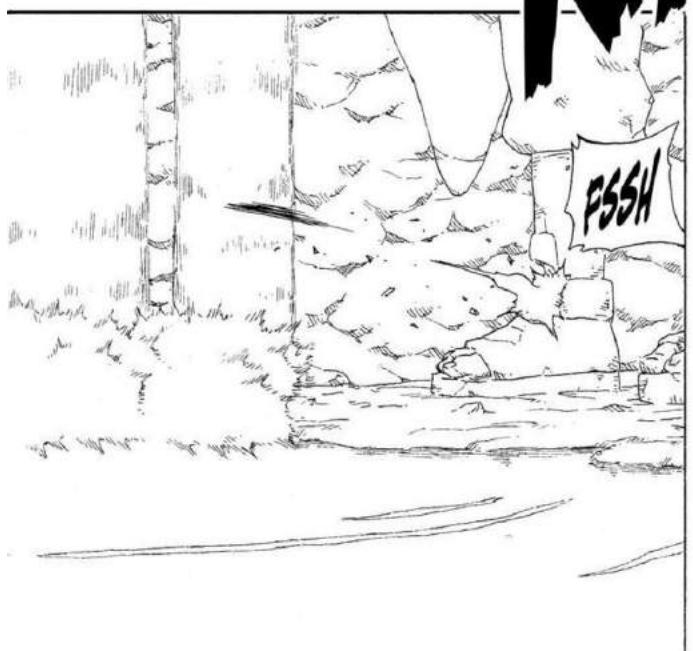
AND ALL THE

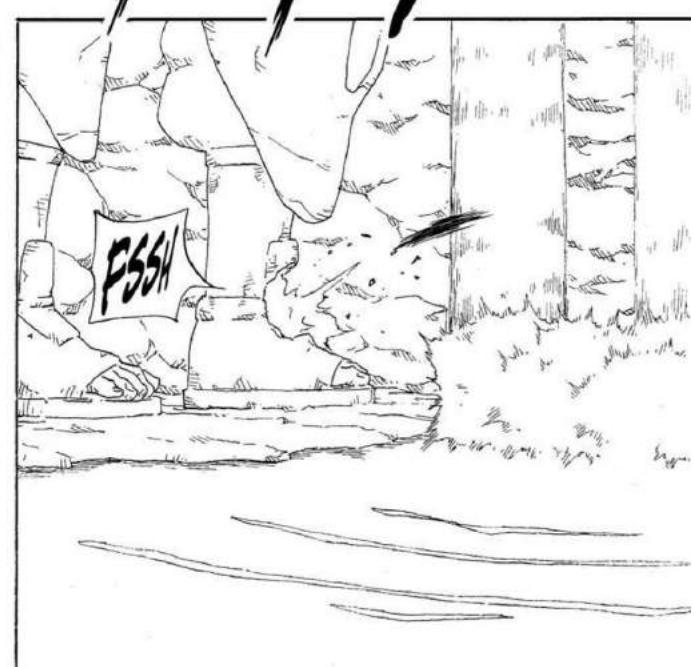
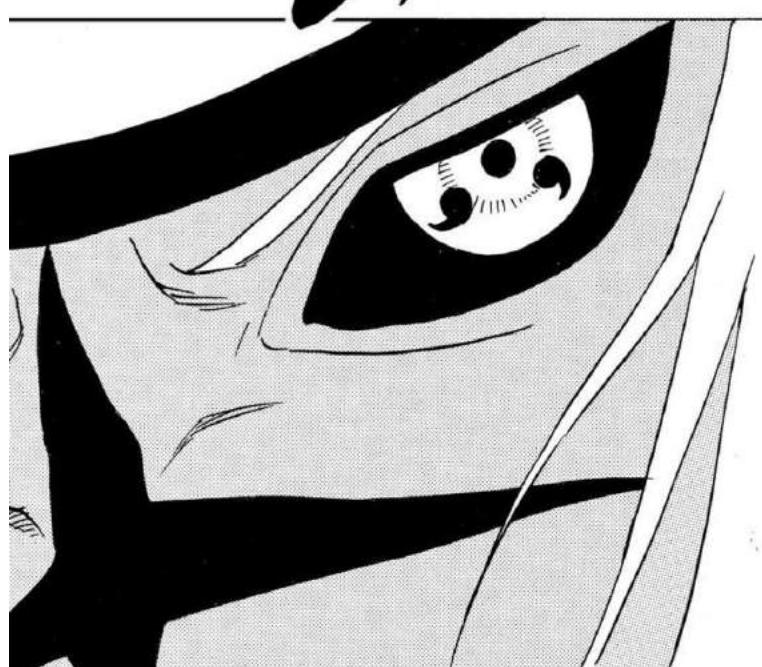
NOW...

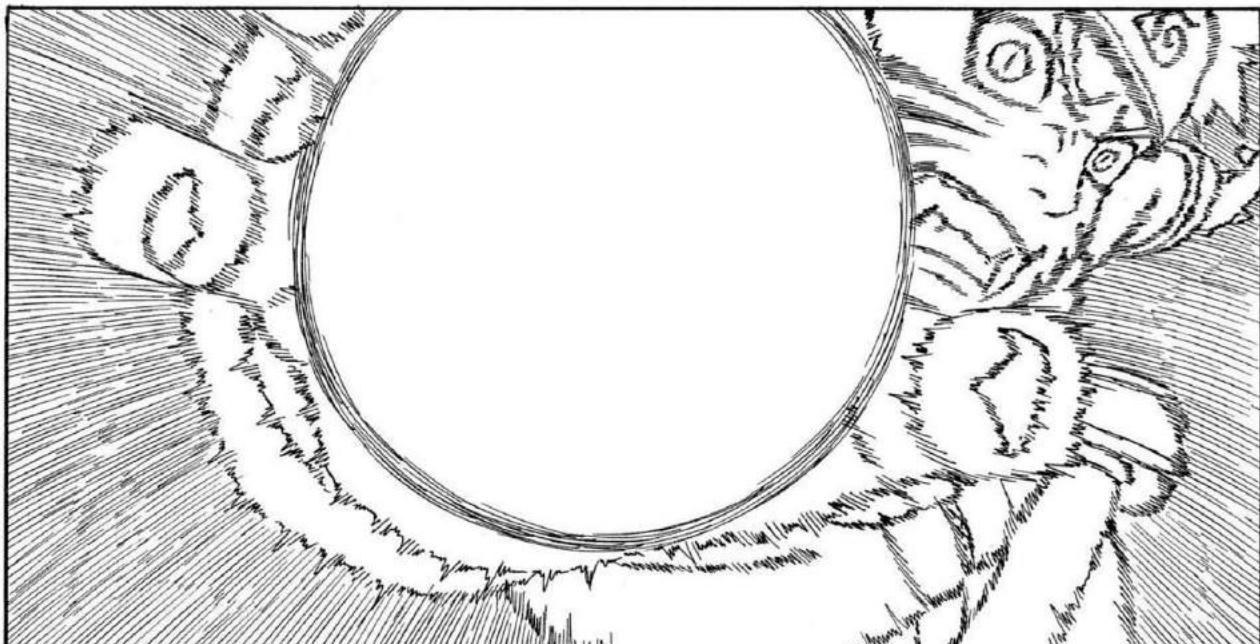
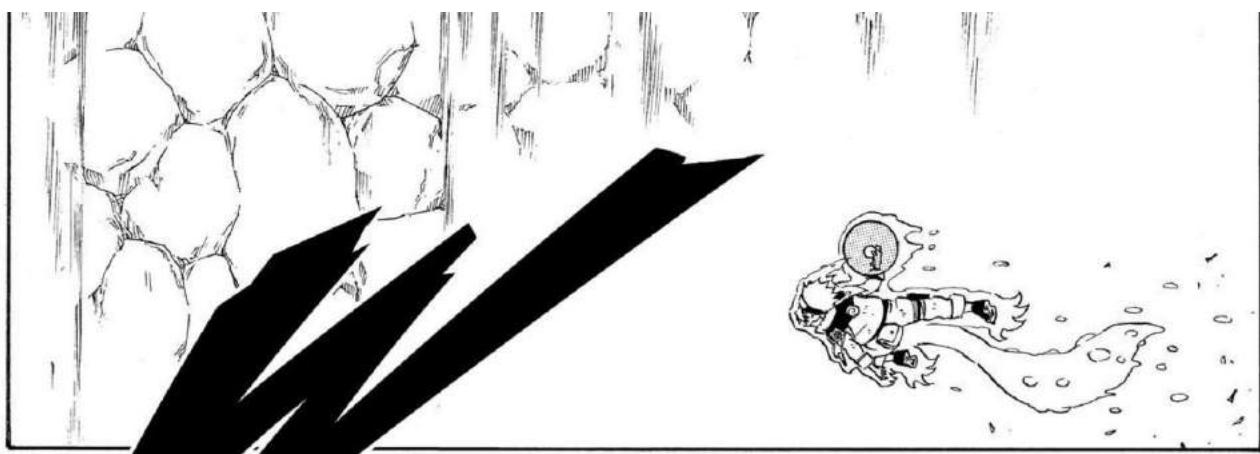


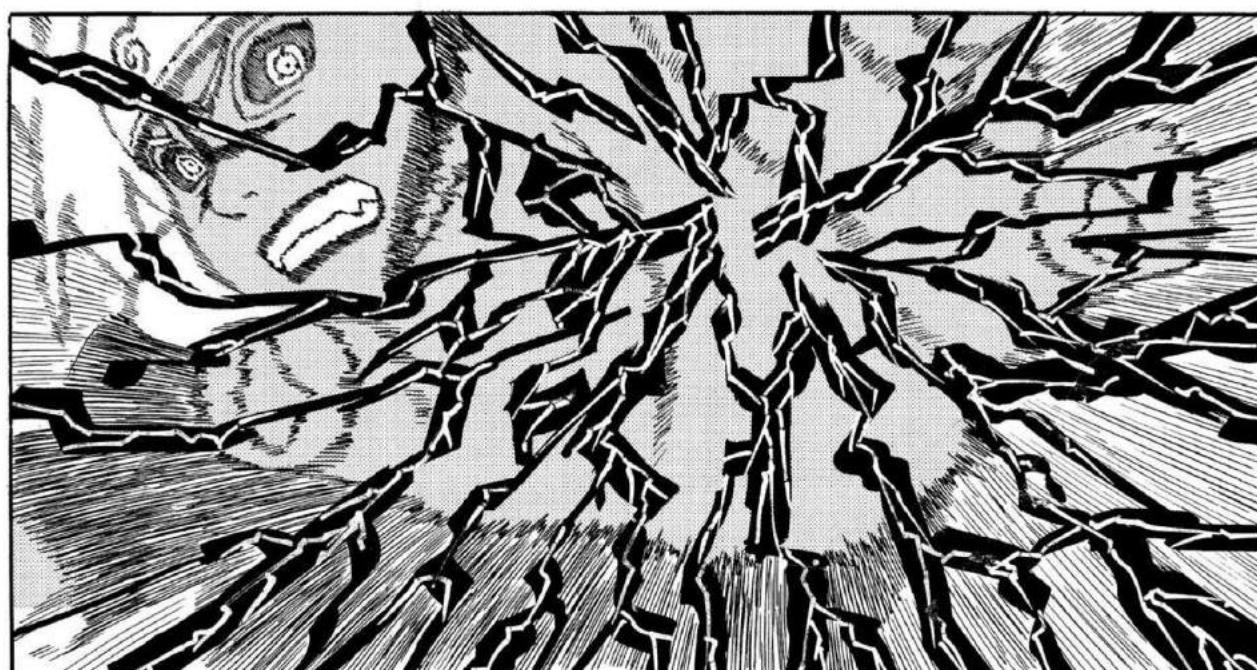
READ
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WAY











RASENGAN!
SPIRAL
CHAKRA
SPHERE!!



CHIDORI!
1000
BIRDS!!



St.

EXCITER

平成16年
11月8日

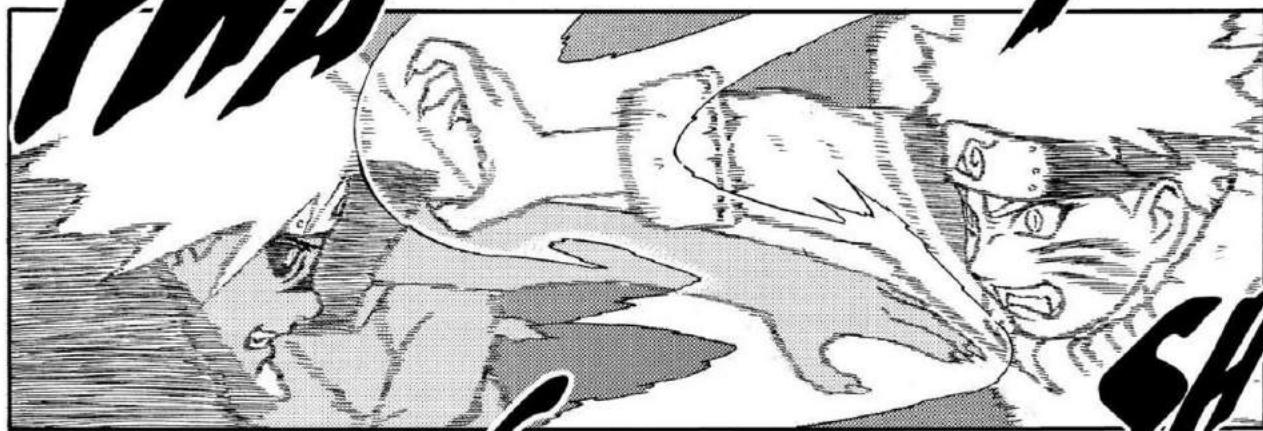
板倉大雄一

Yuichi Itakura, 11/8/2004

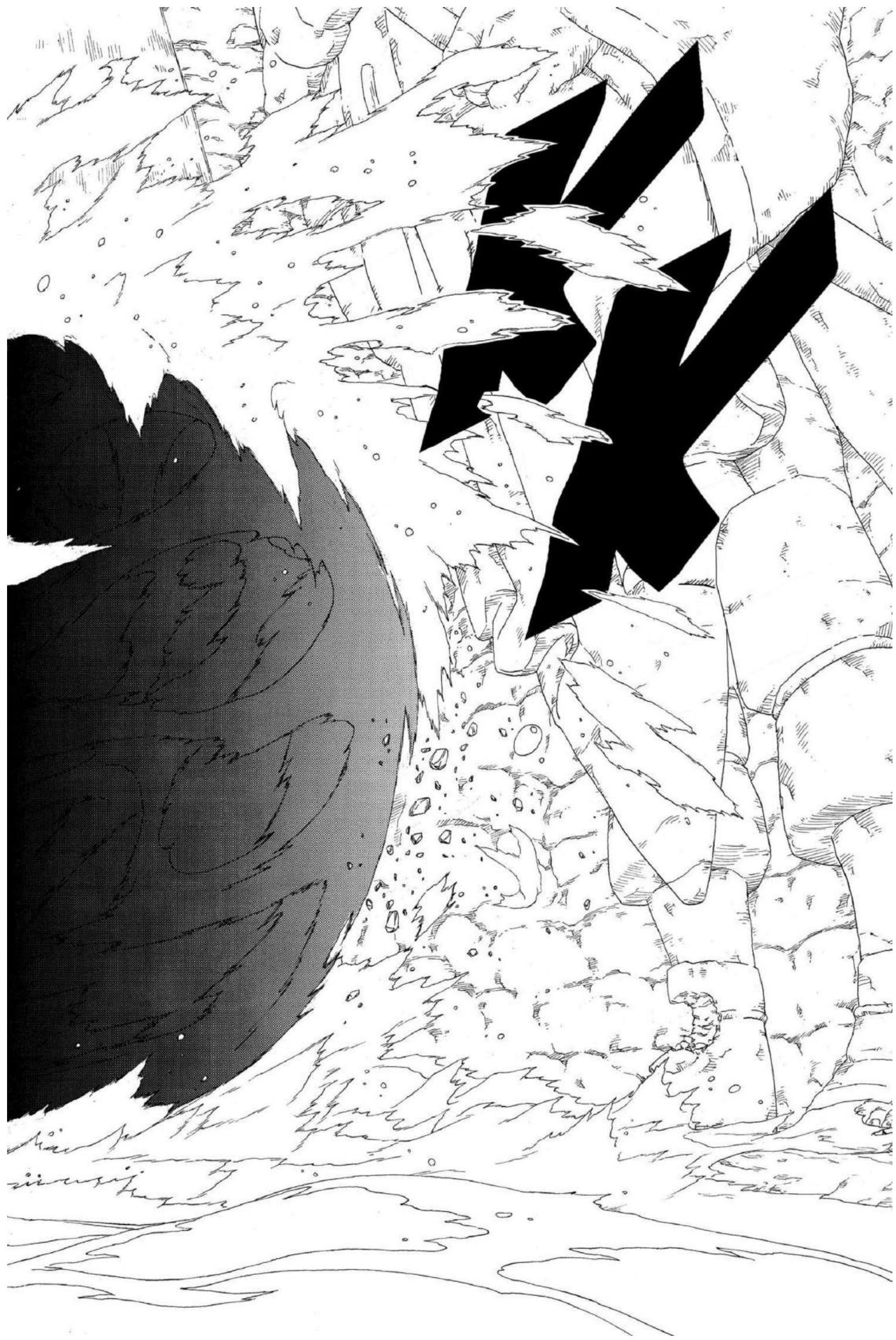




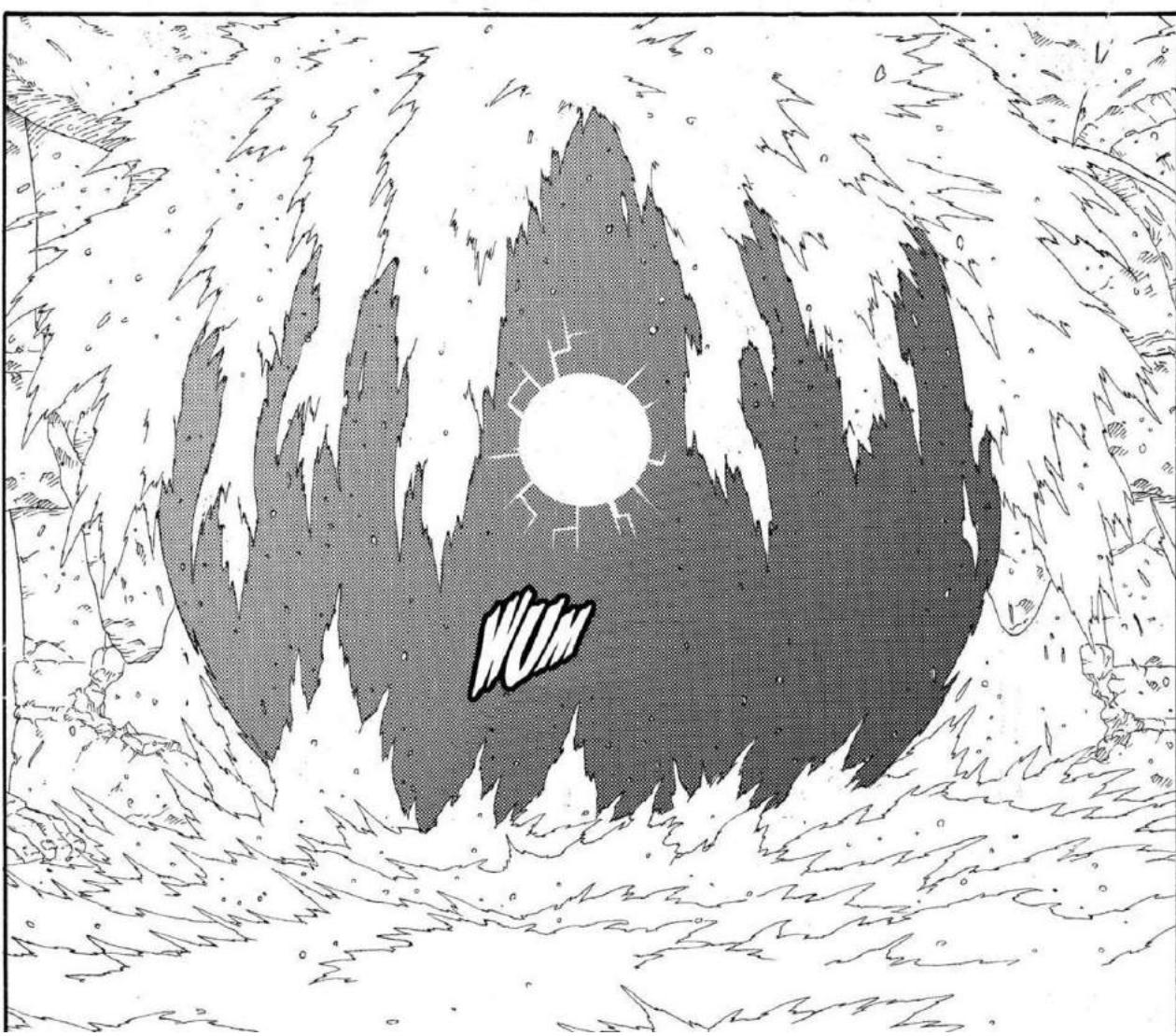
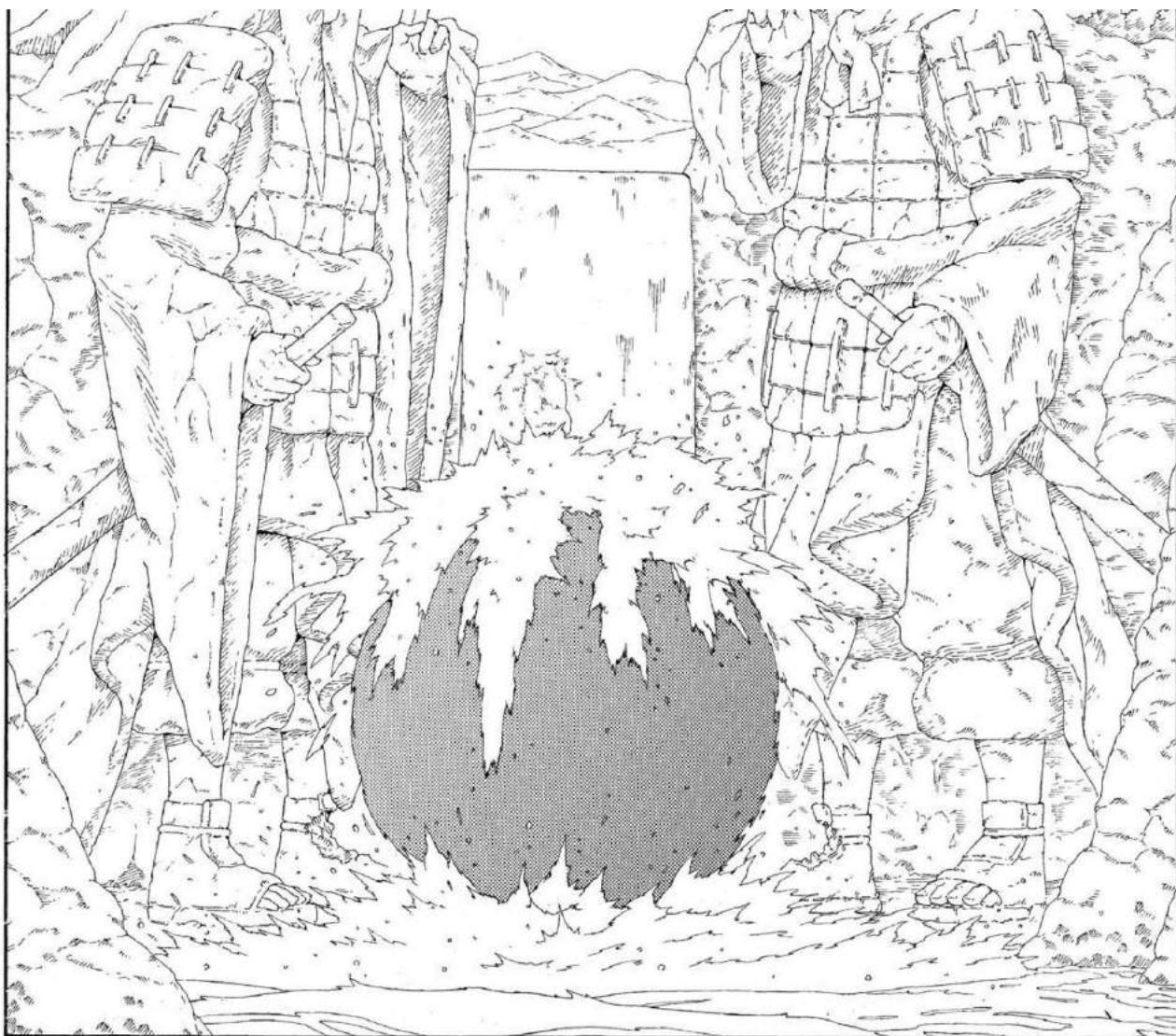
**Number 233:
The Worst Ending...!!**

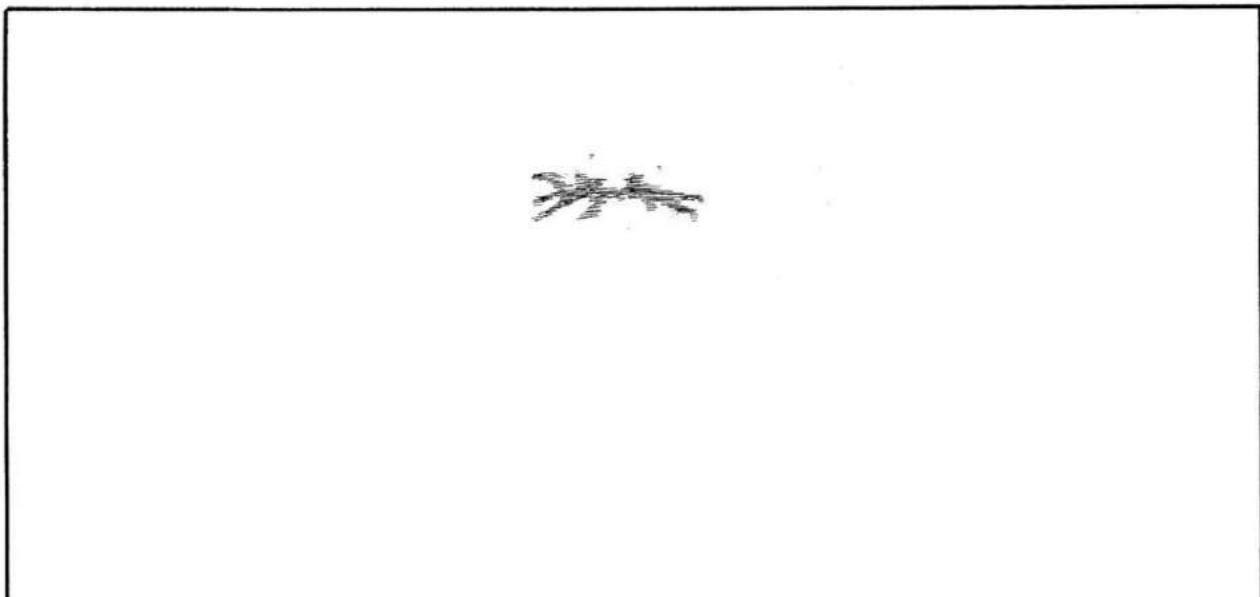
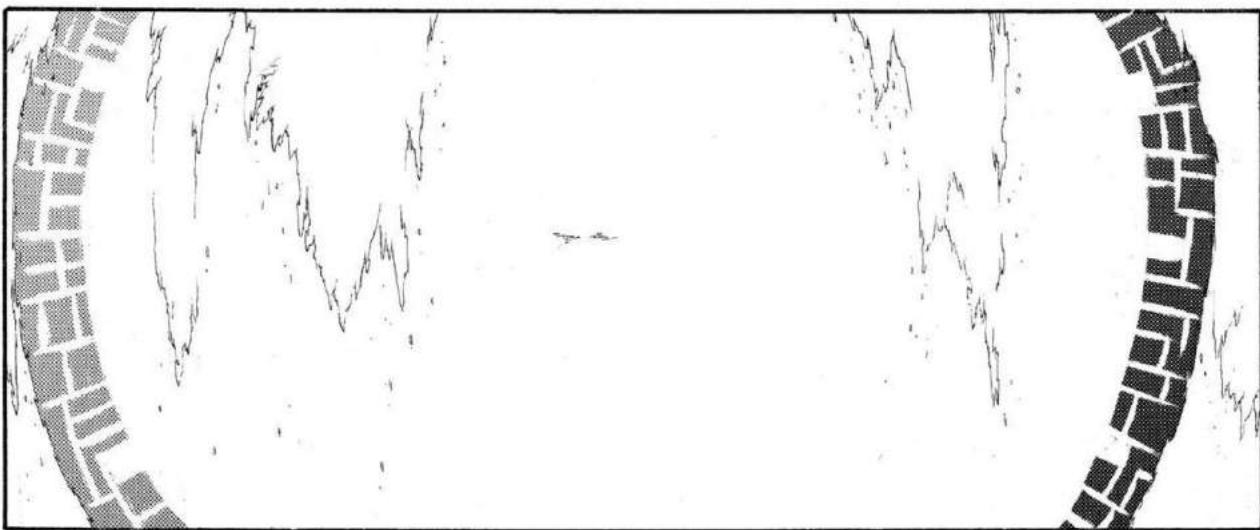
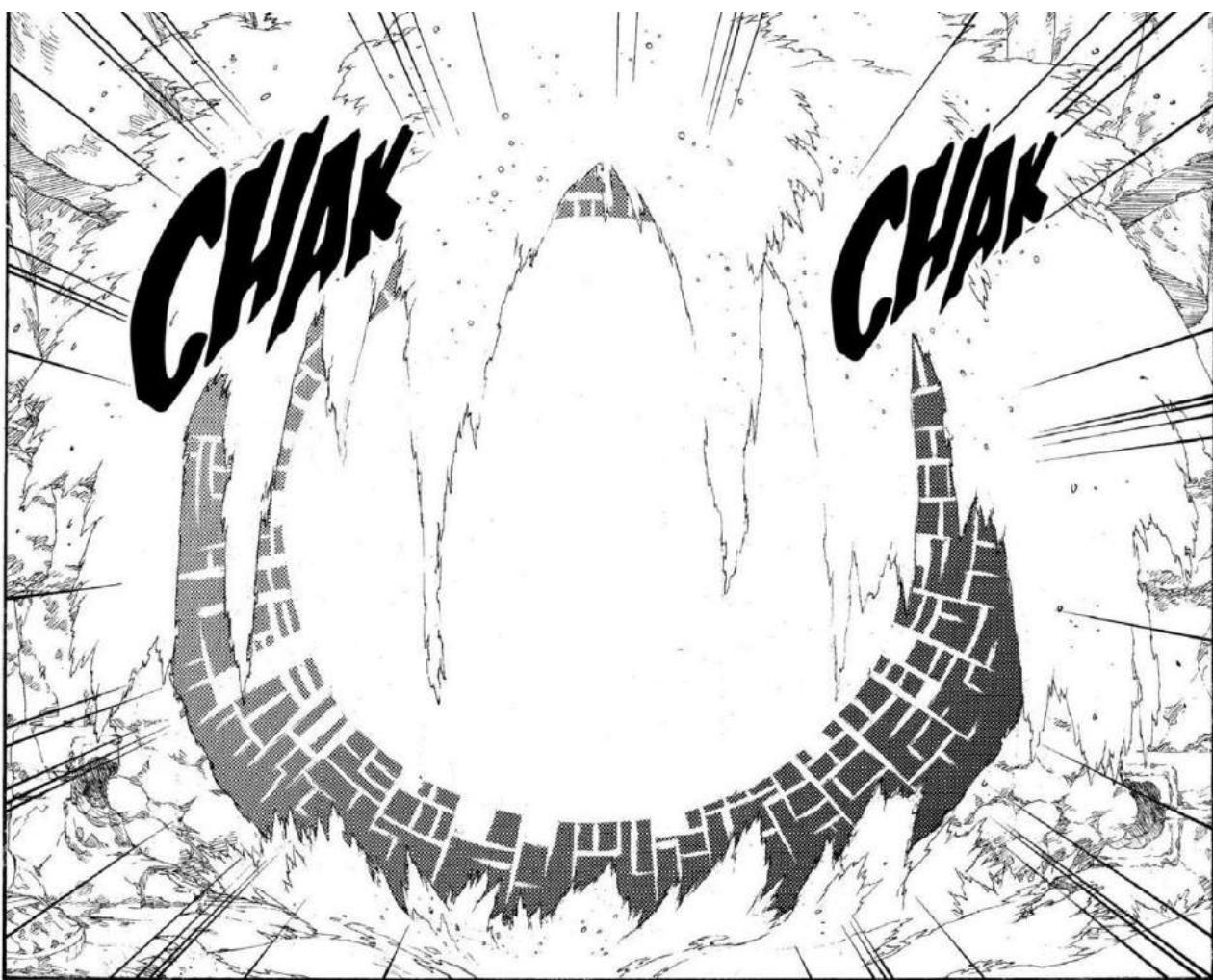


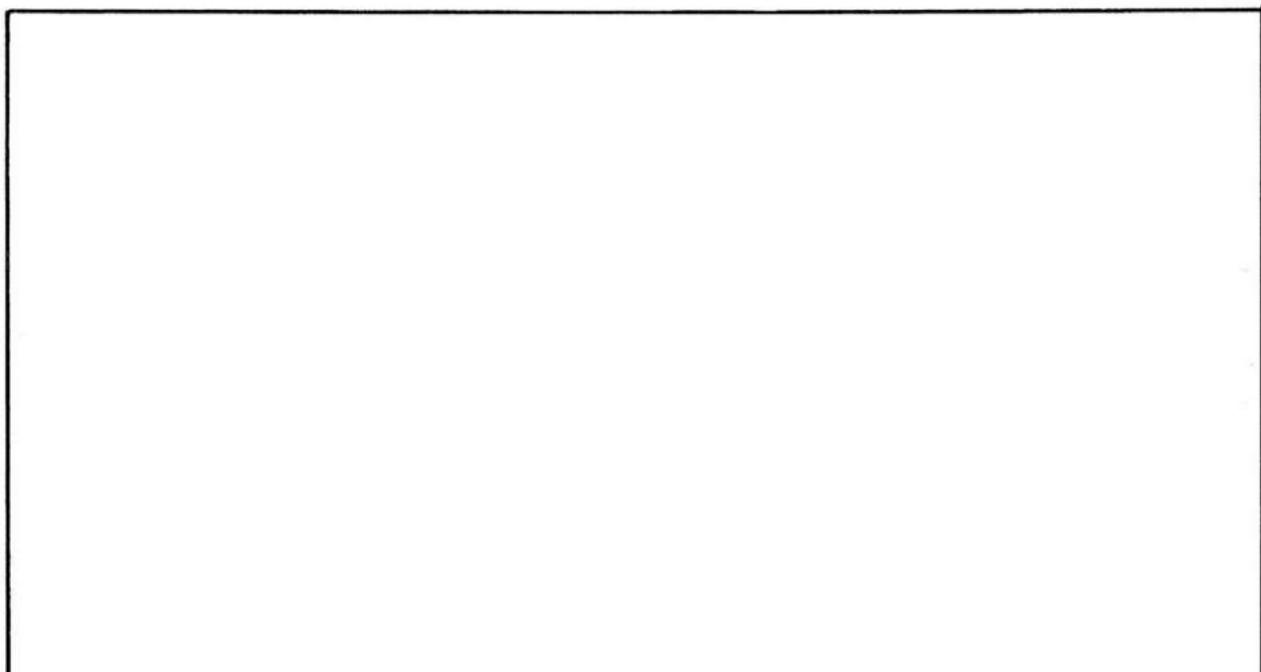
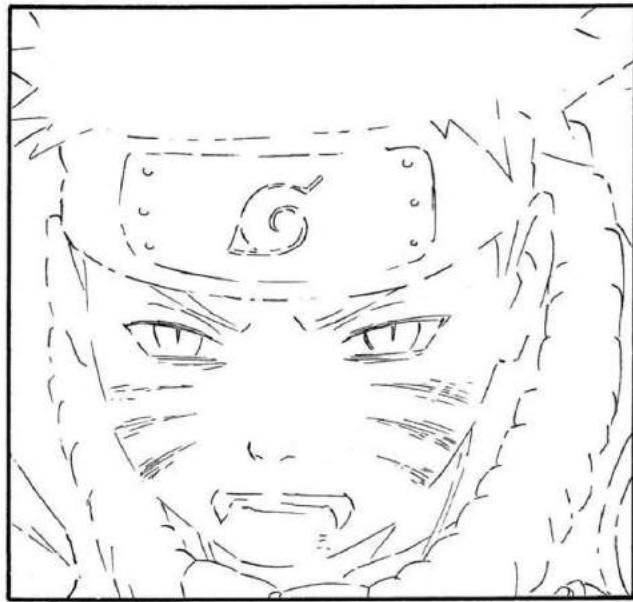
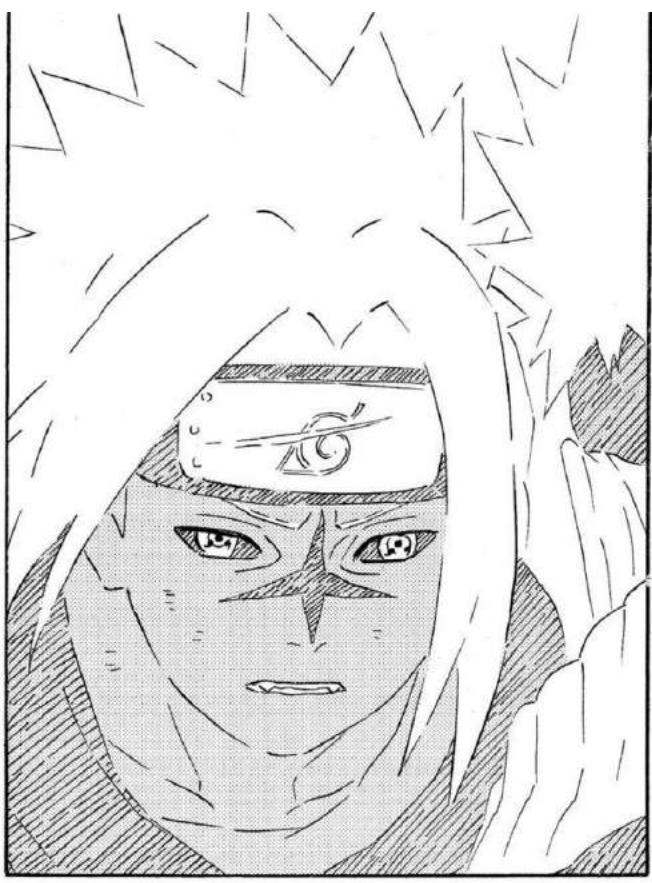




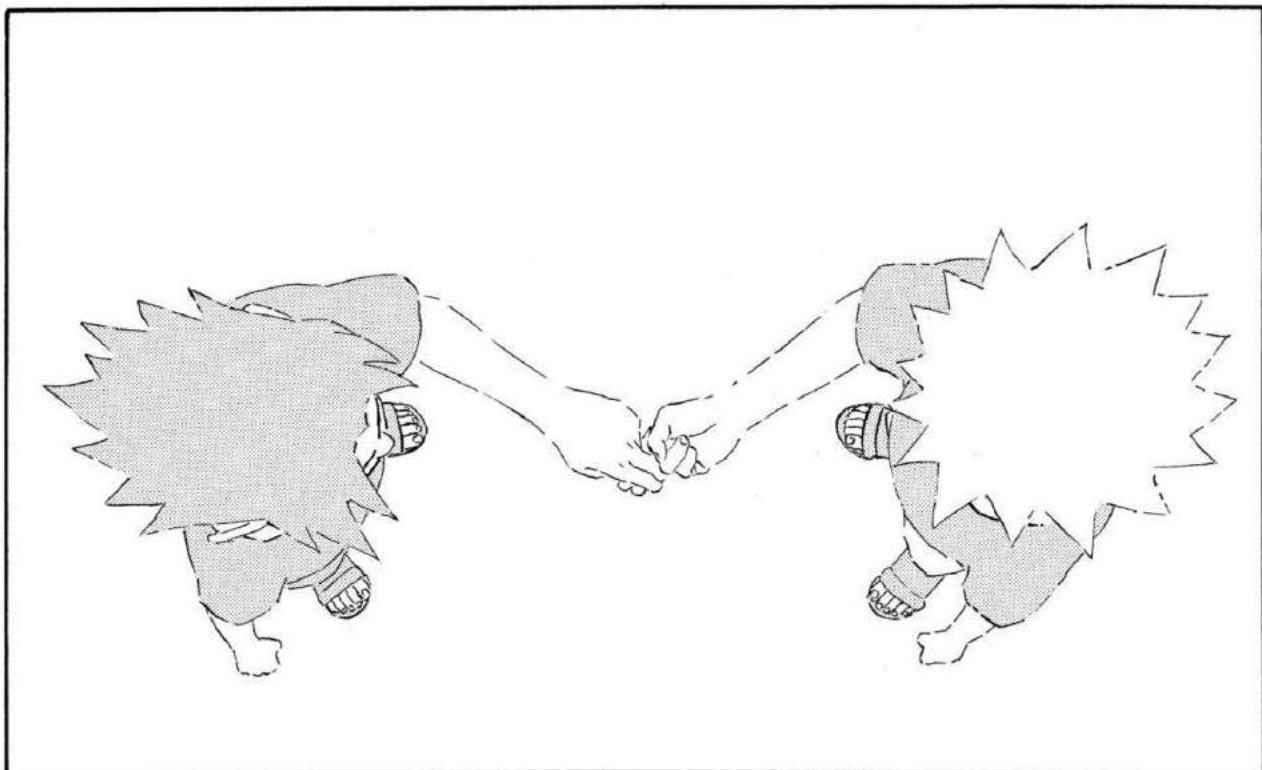
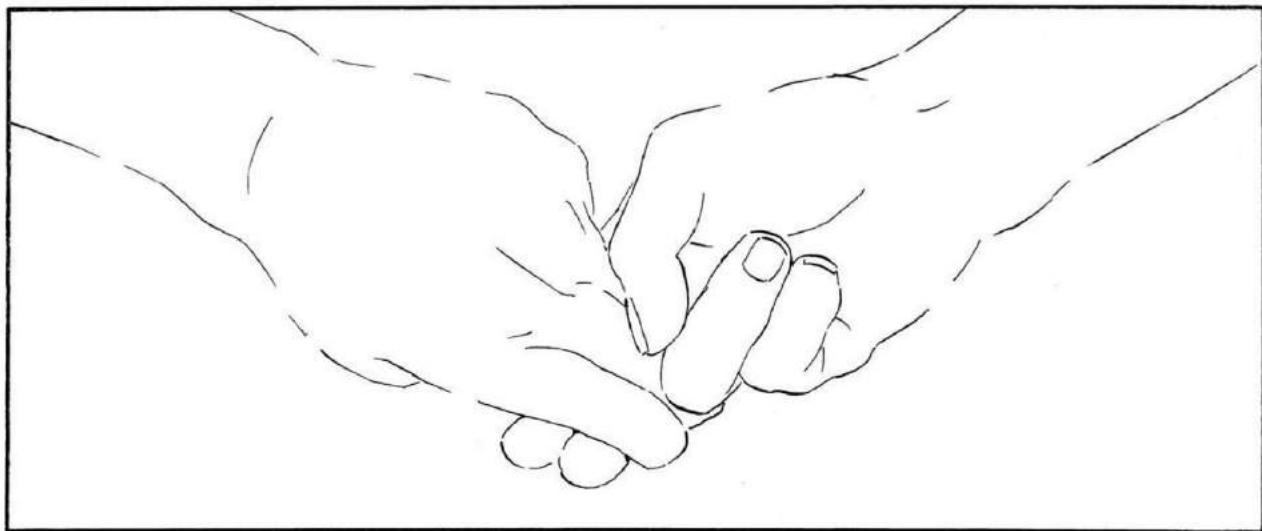




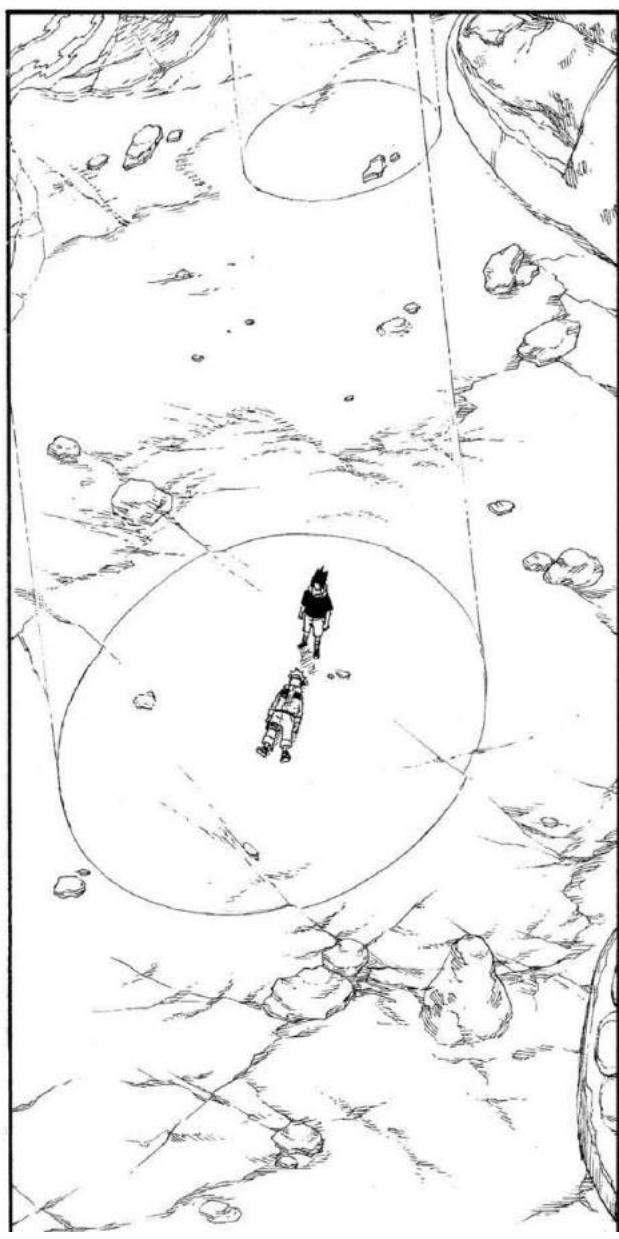
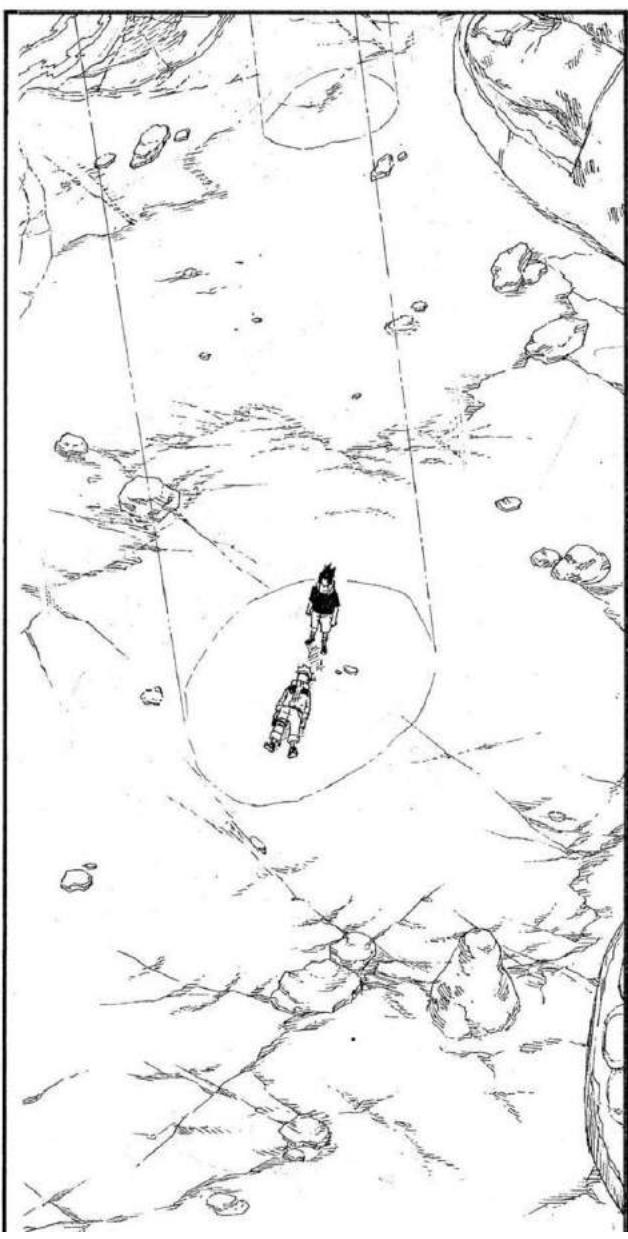
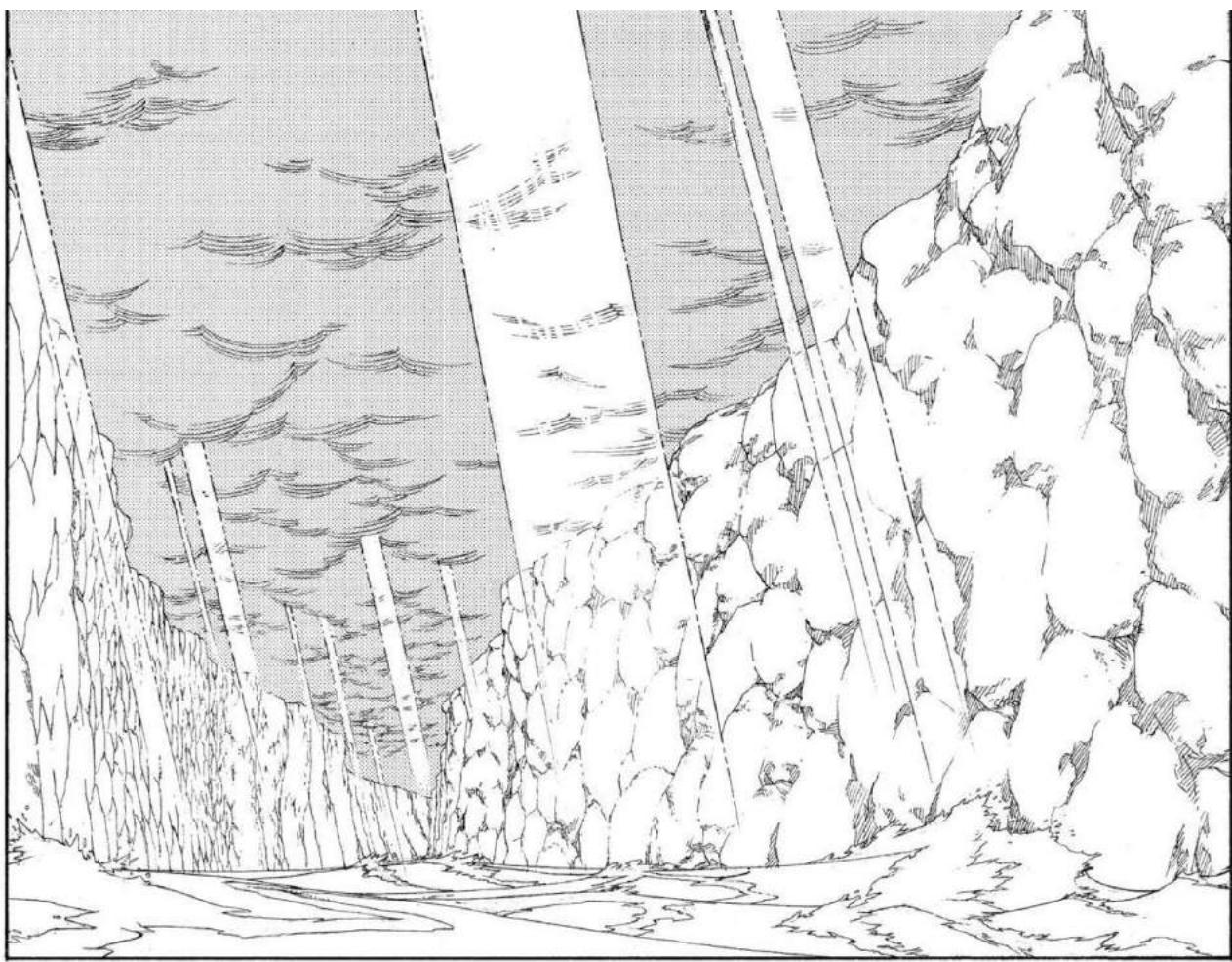


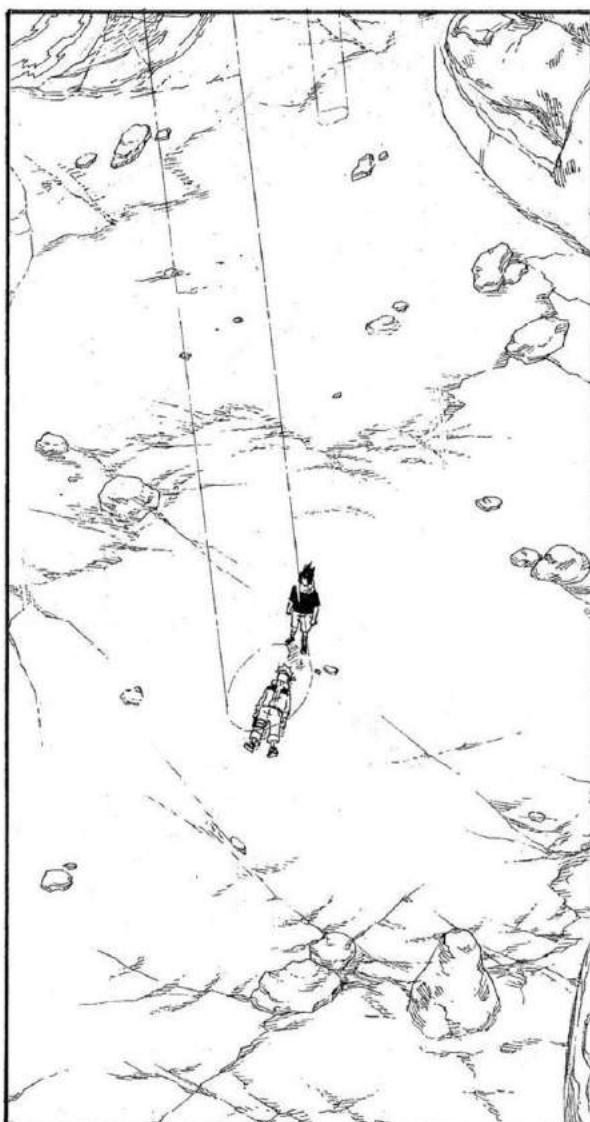


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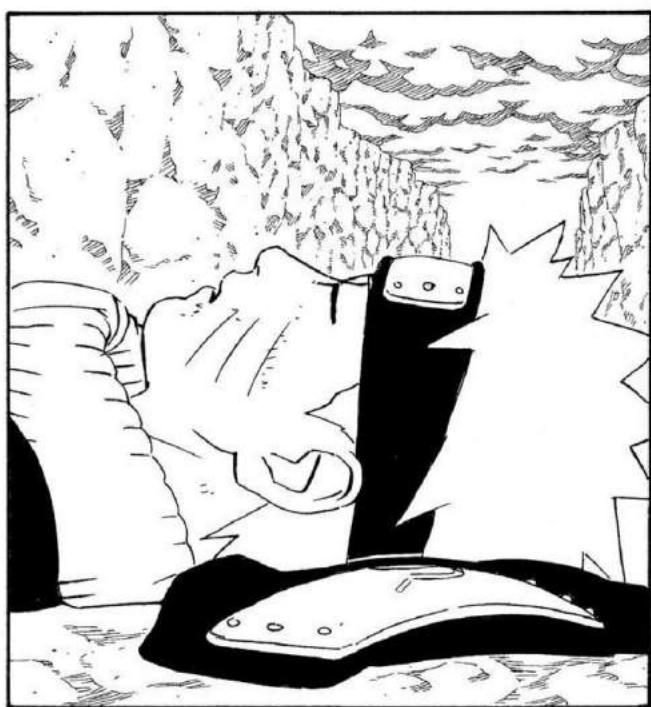
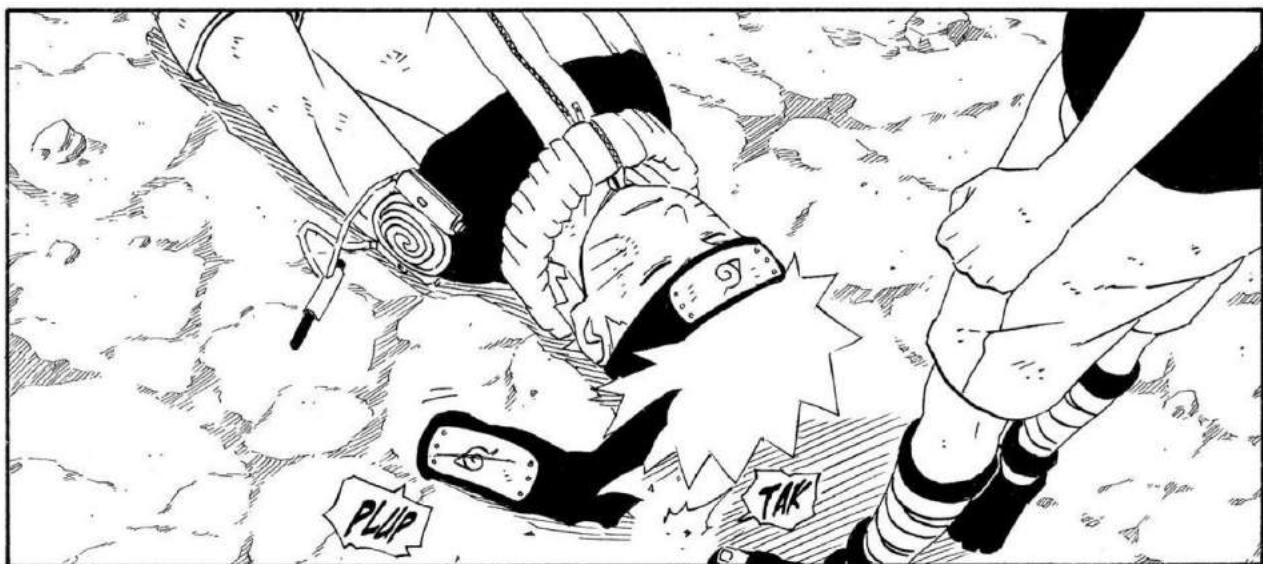


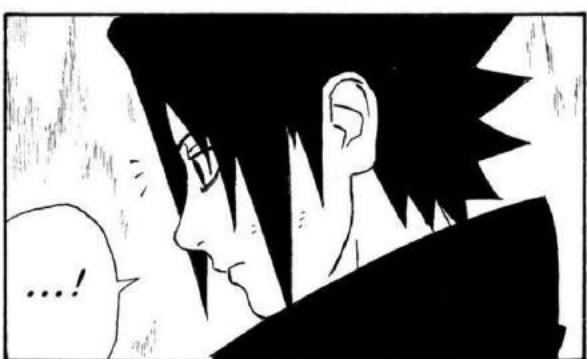


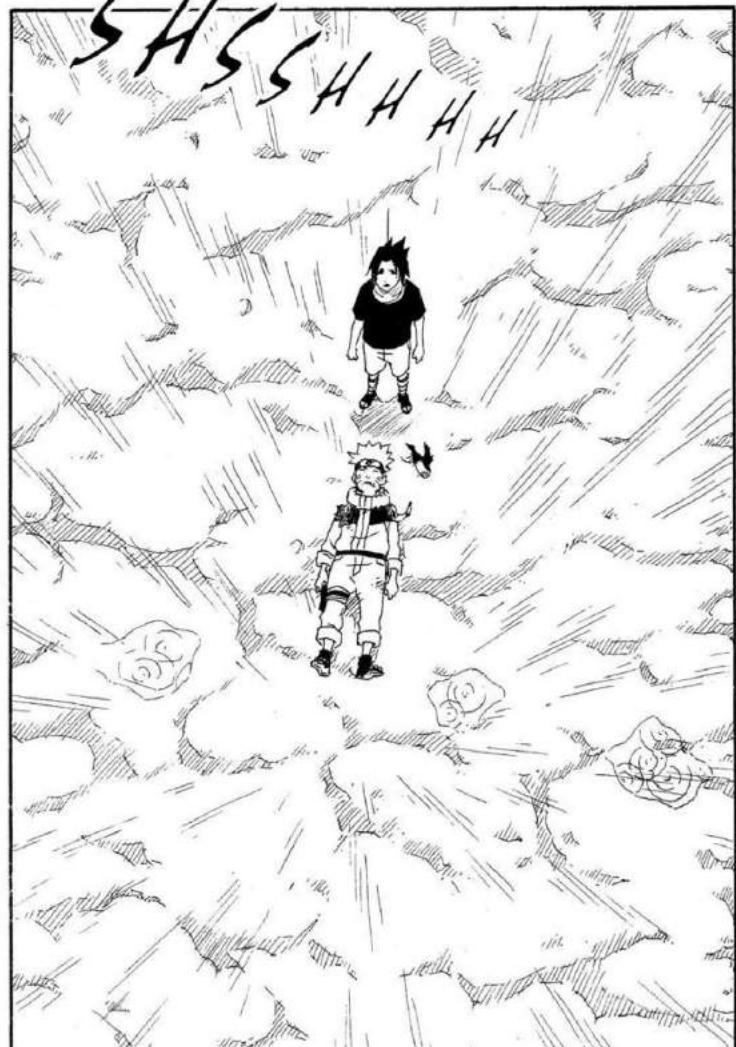
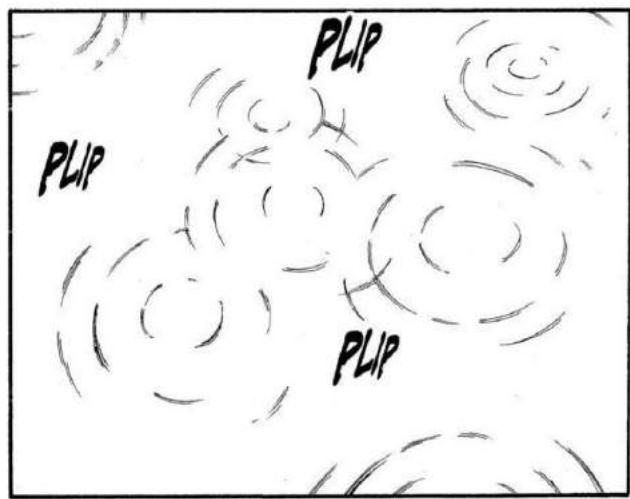
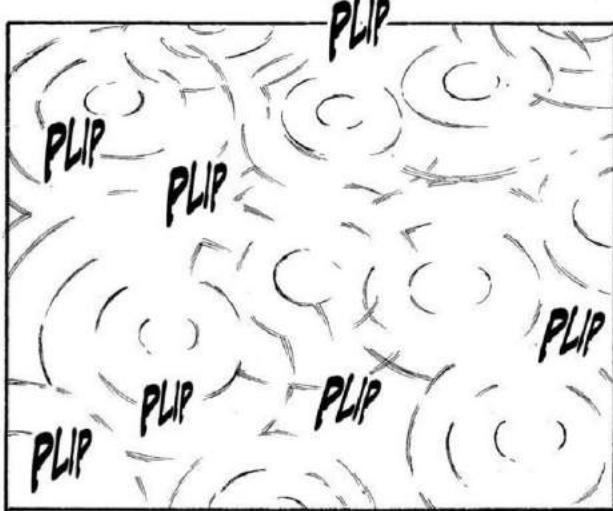


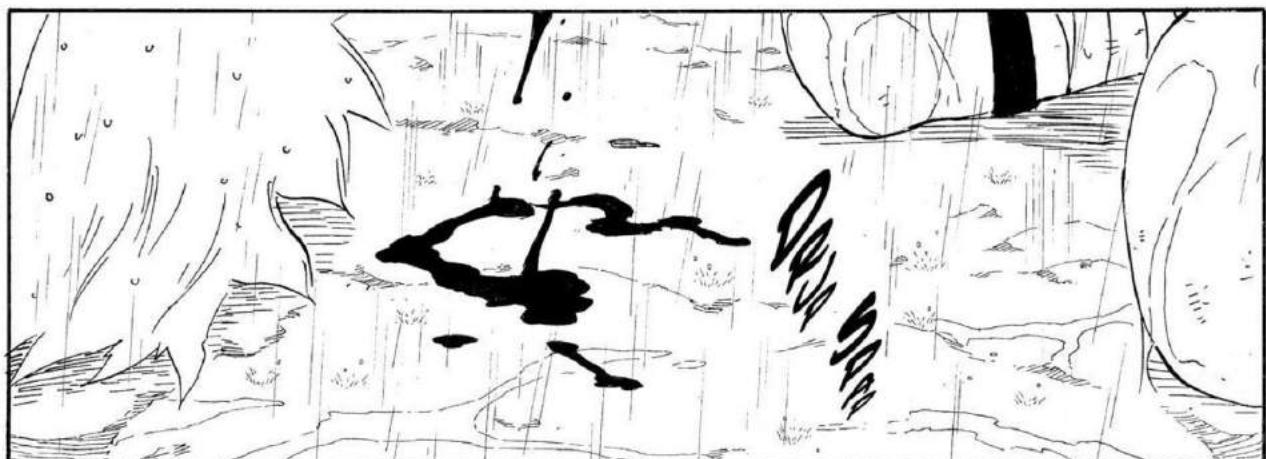


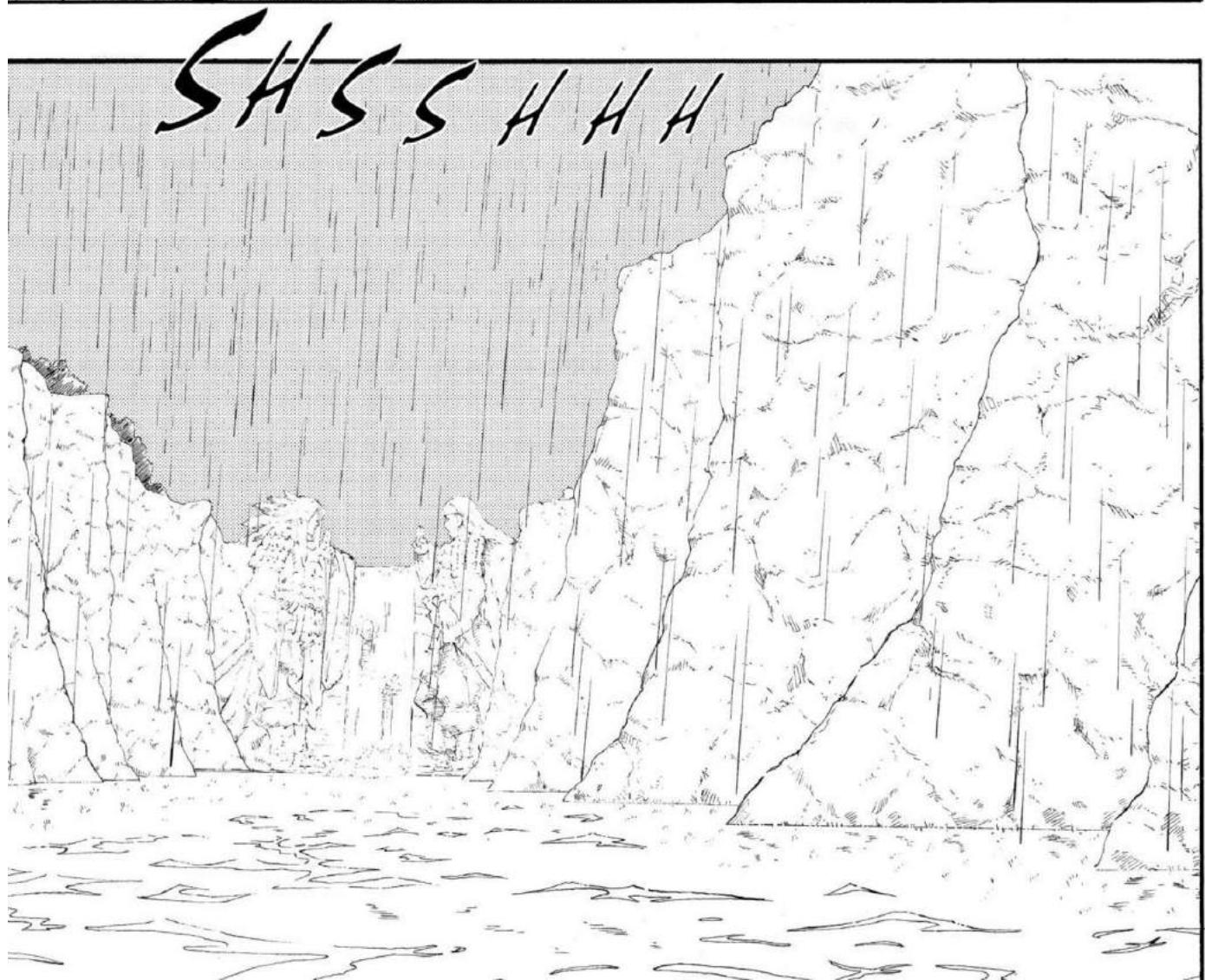
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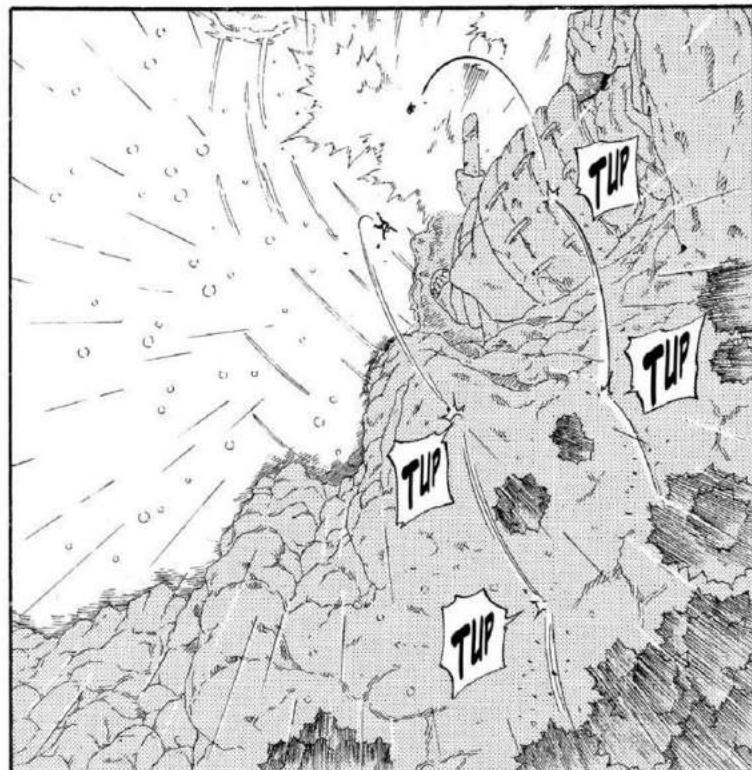




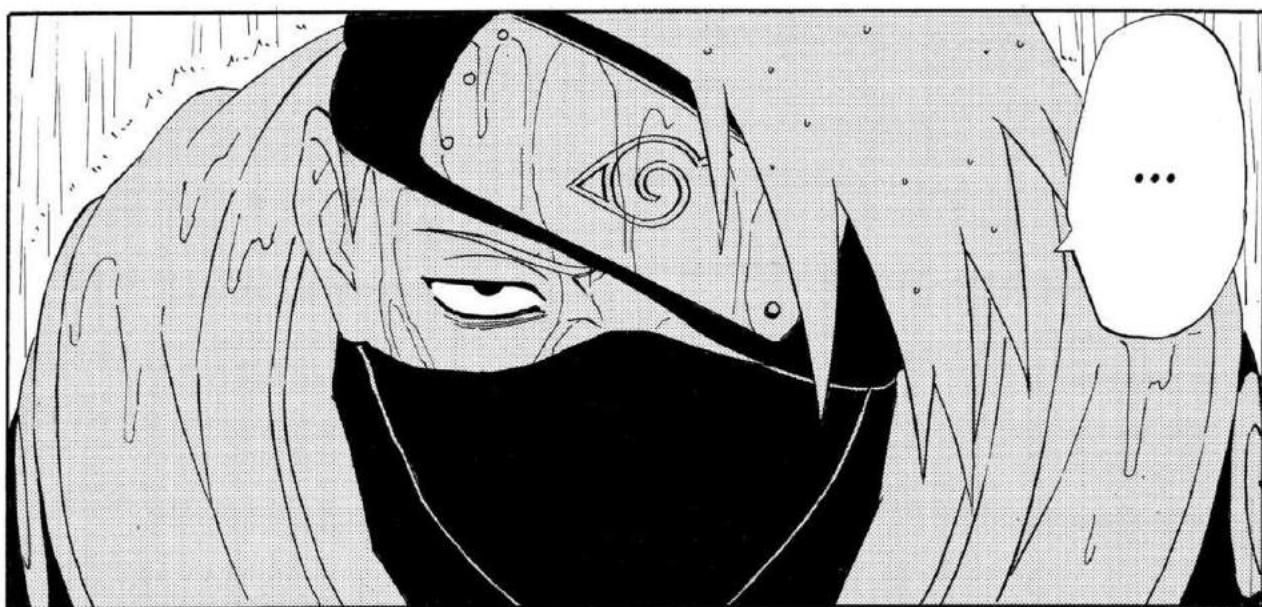








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Congratulations on the 5th Anniversary!!

2011.09 正樹 村上
Masaki Murakami

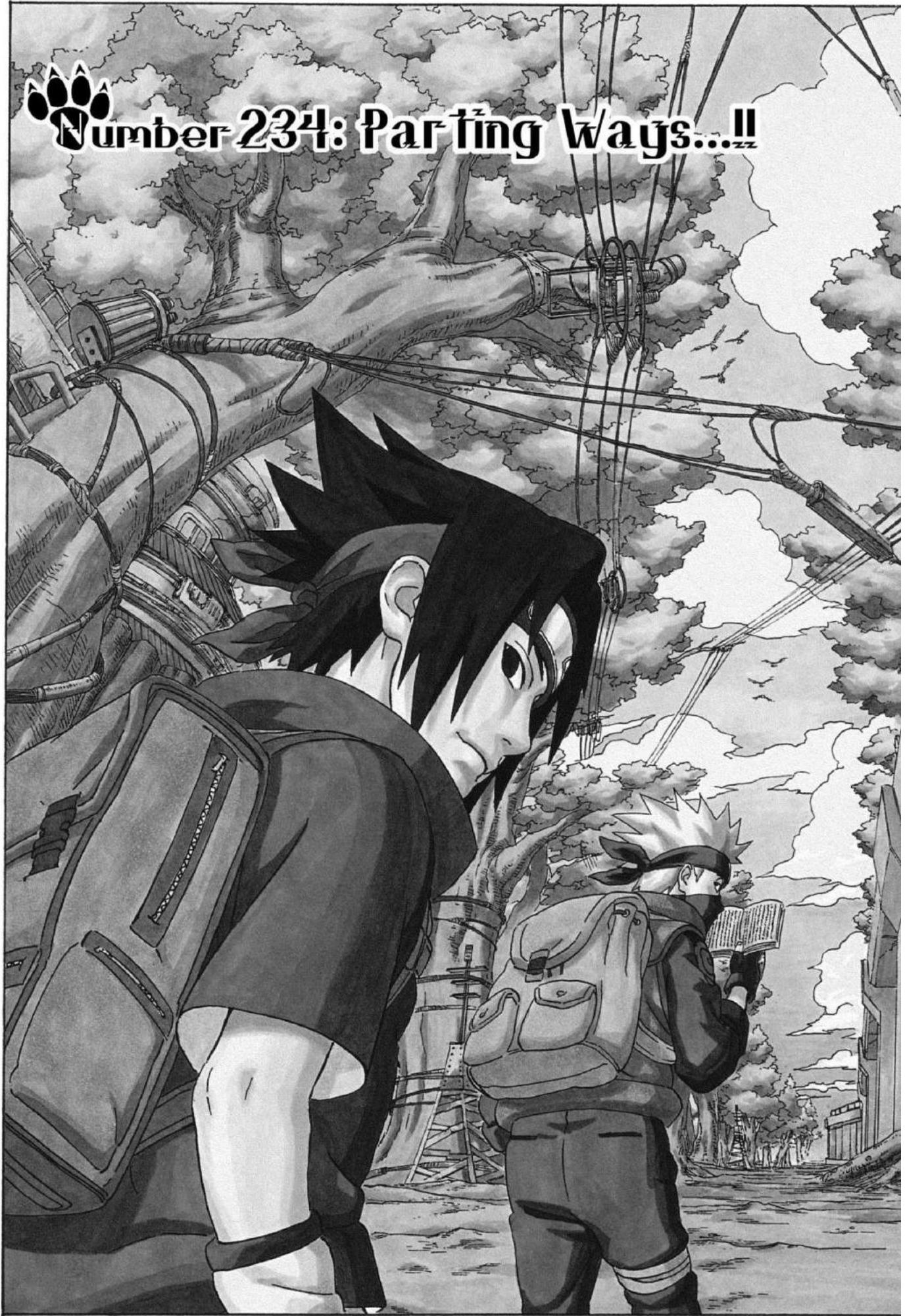
Number 234: Parting Ways...!!



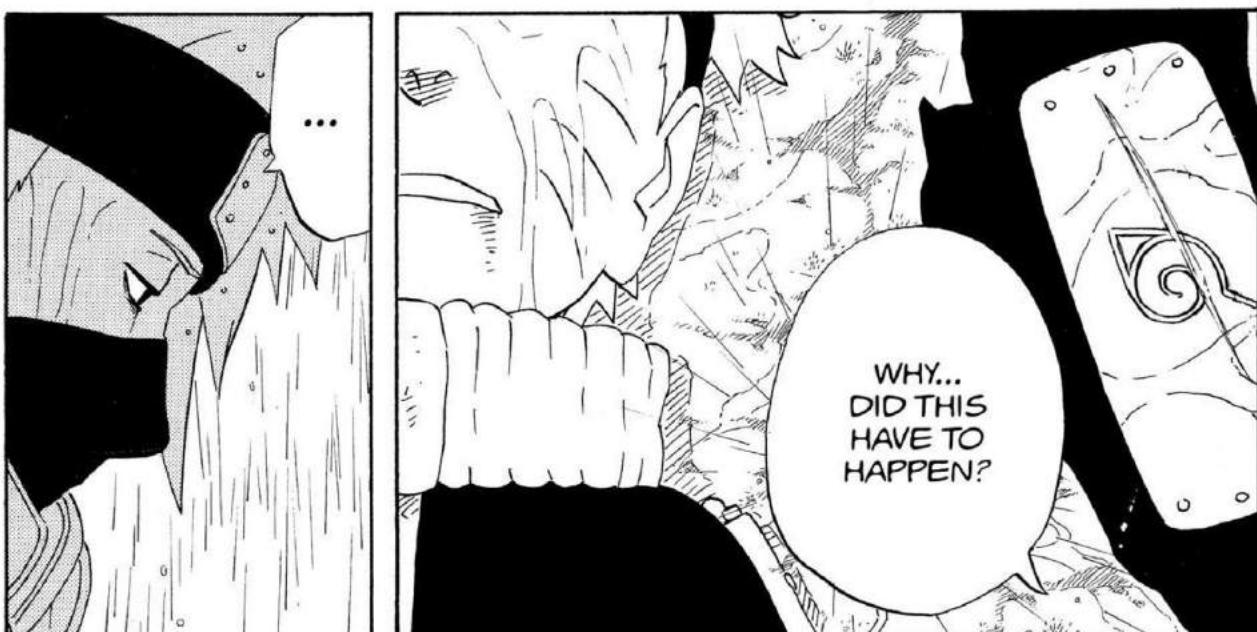


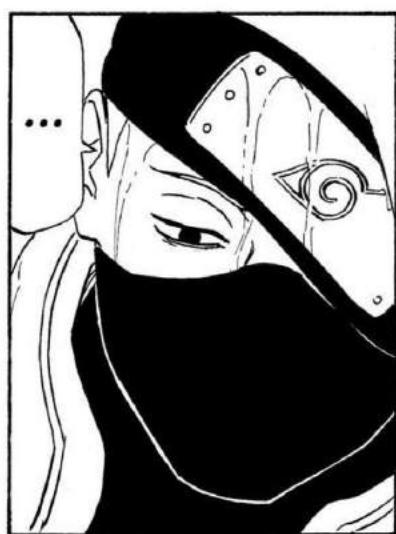


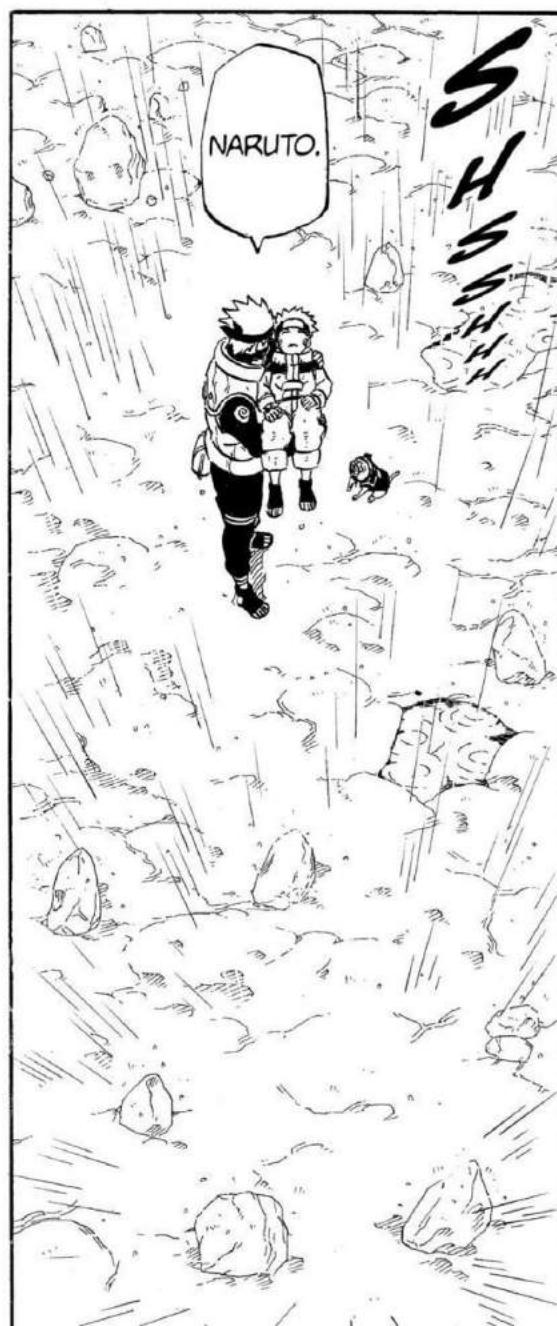
Number 234: Parting Ways...!!



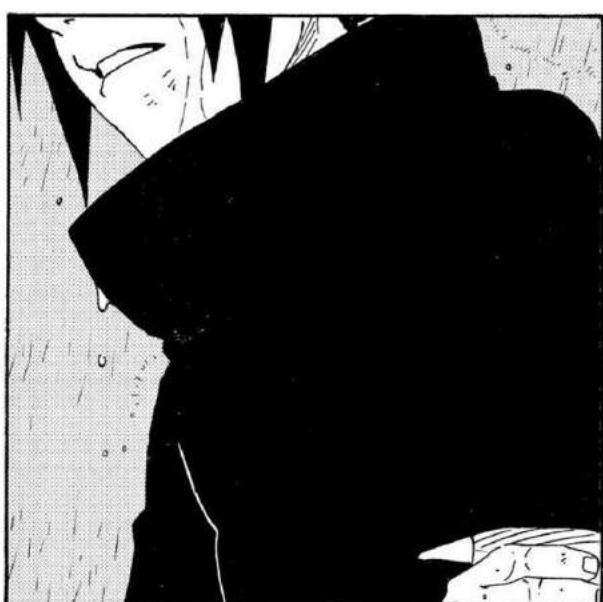


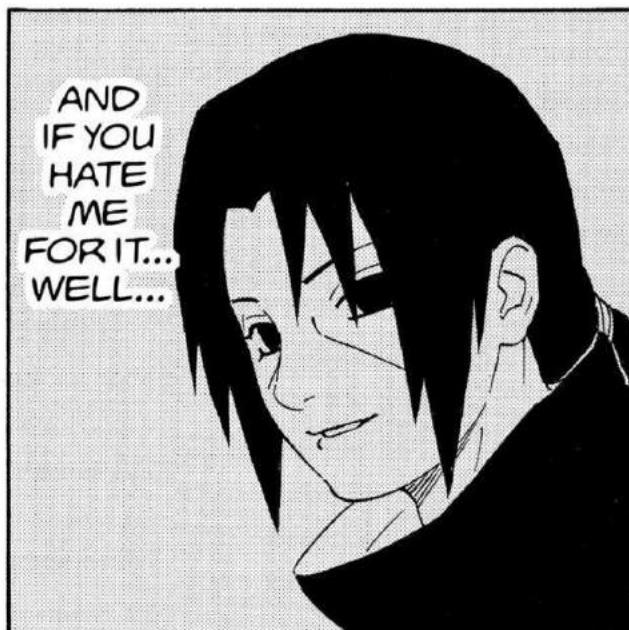
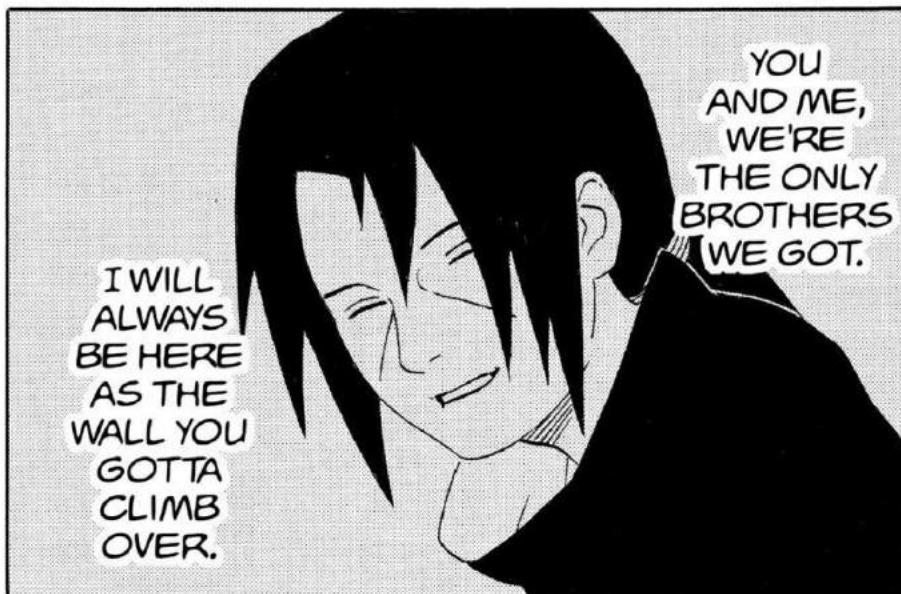
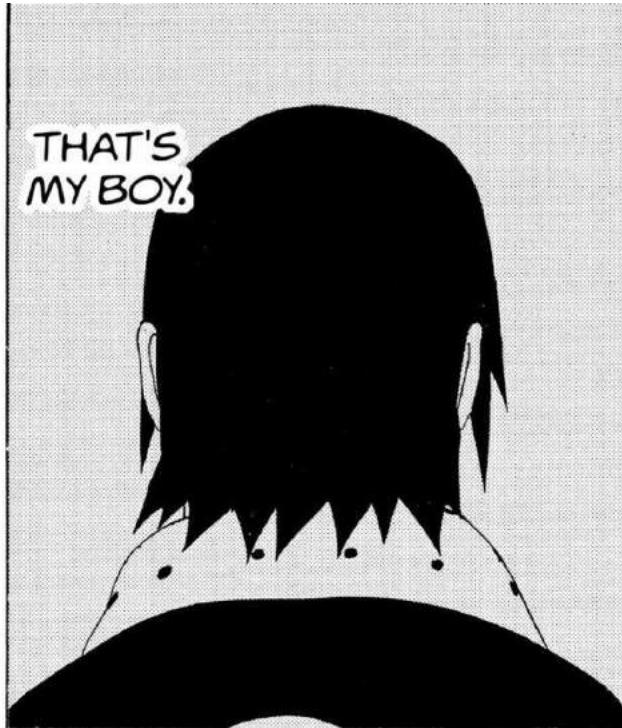




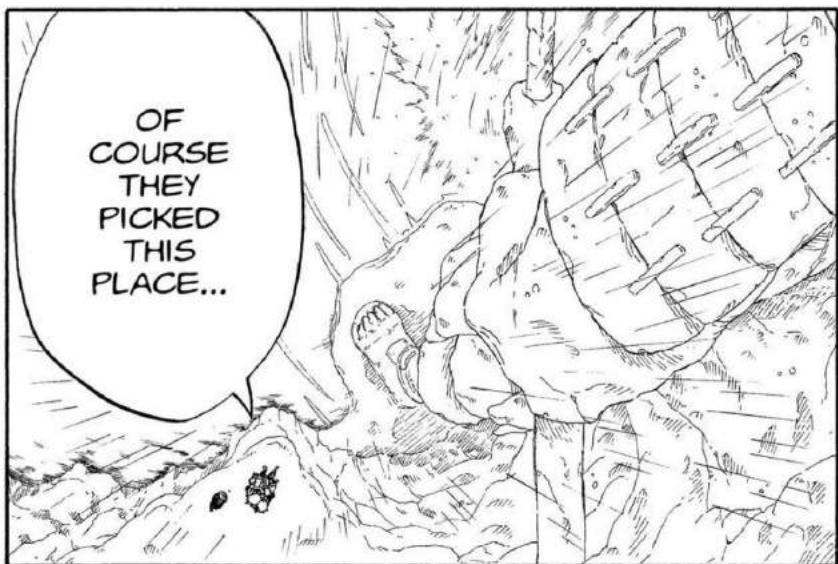
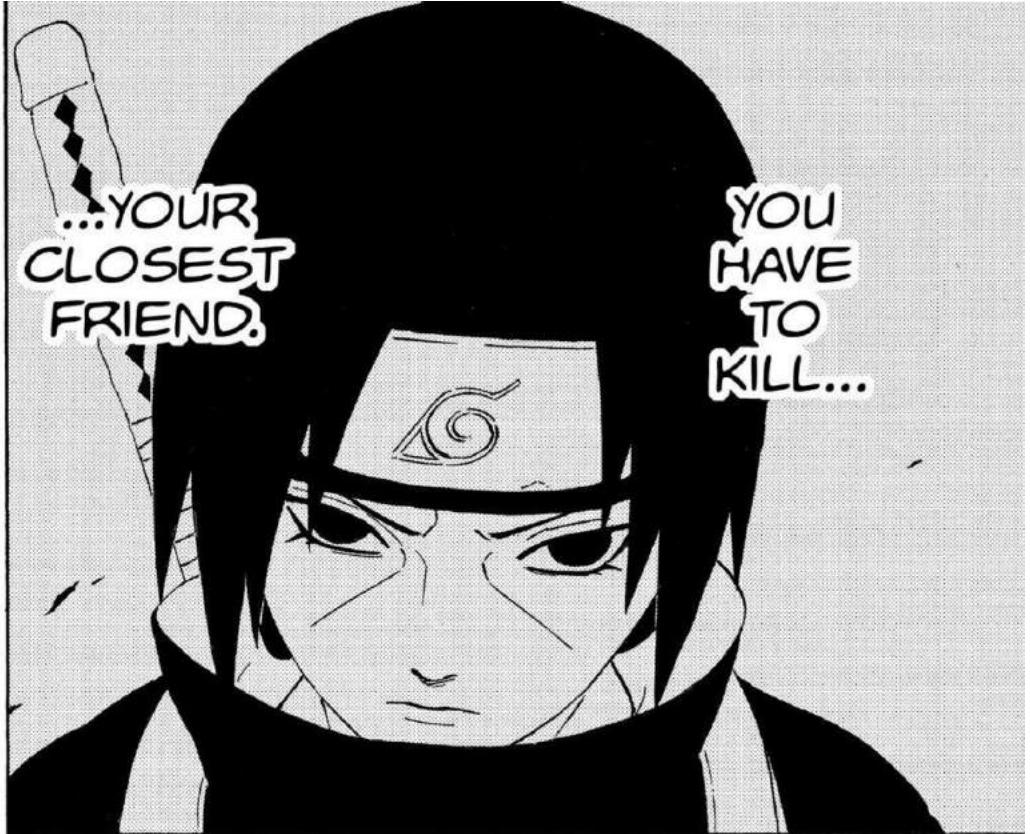




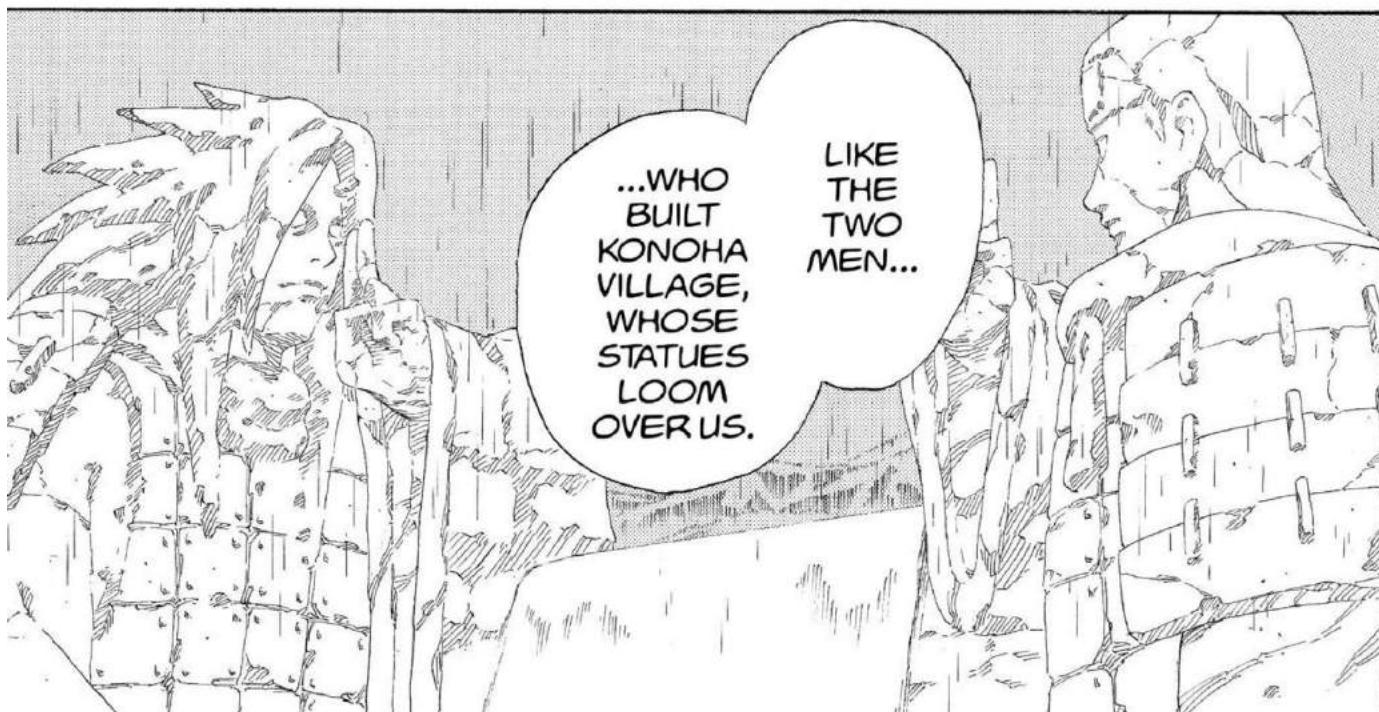
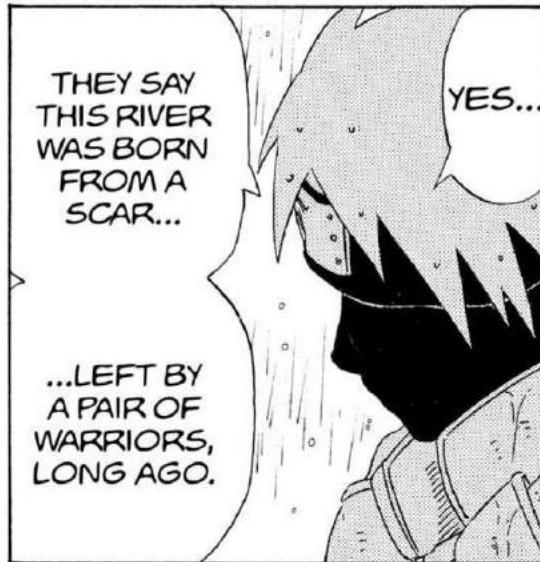


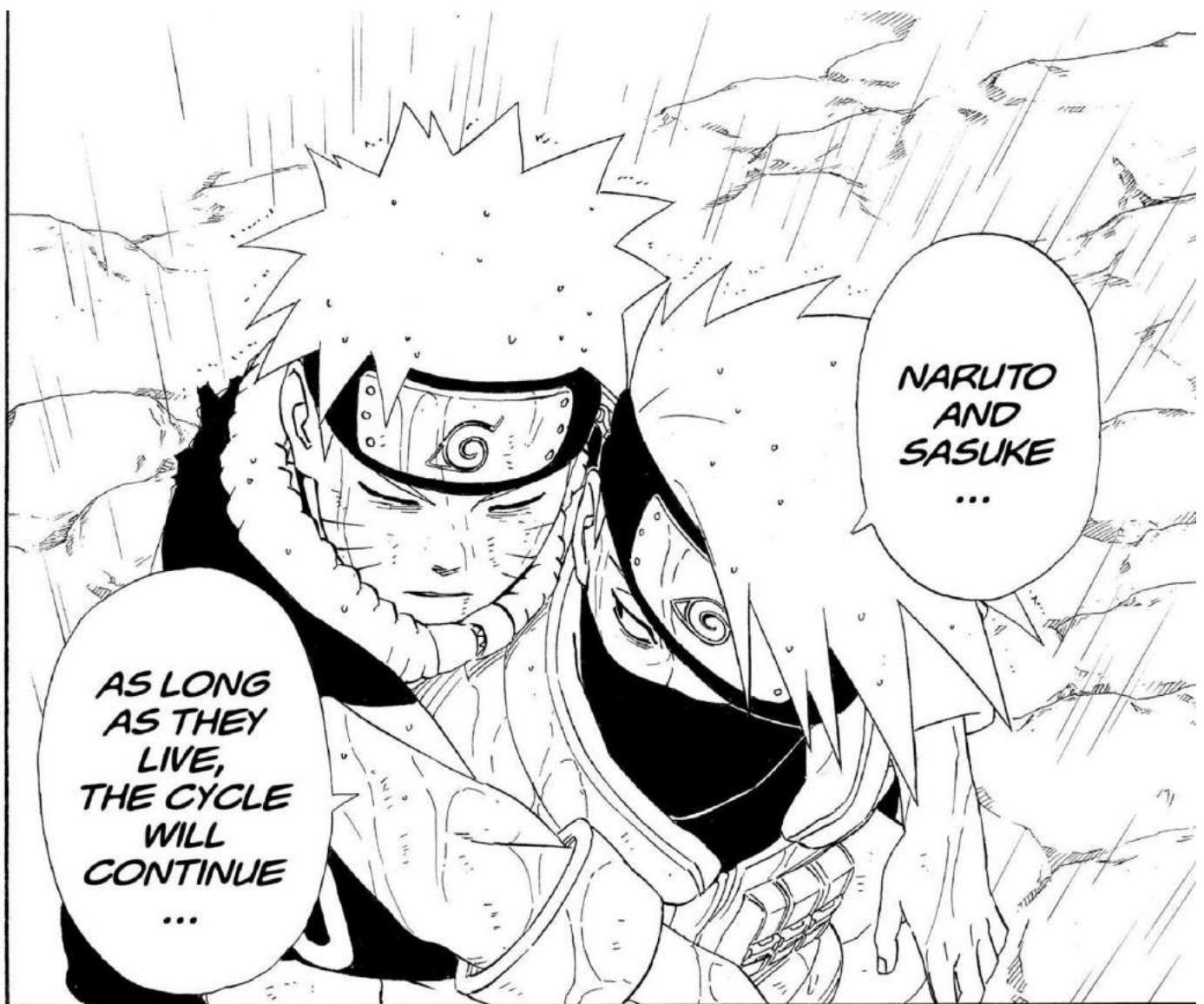


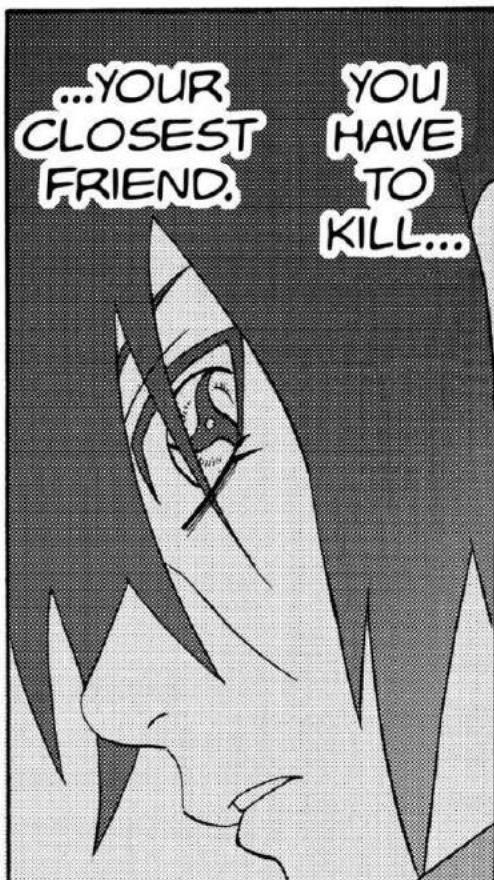




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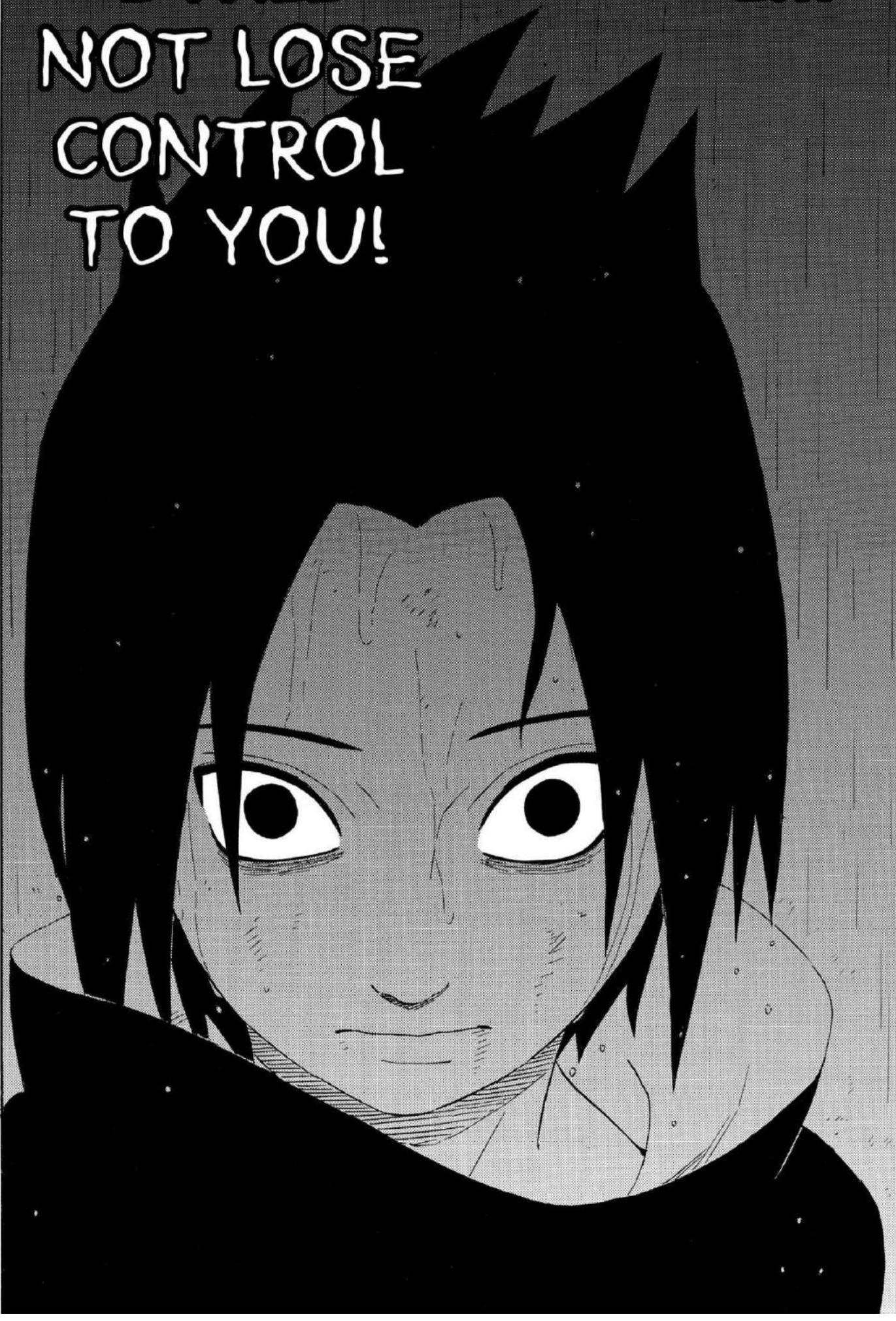


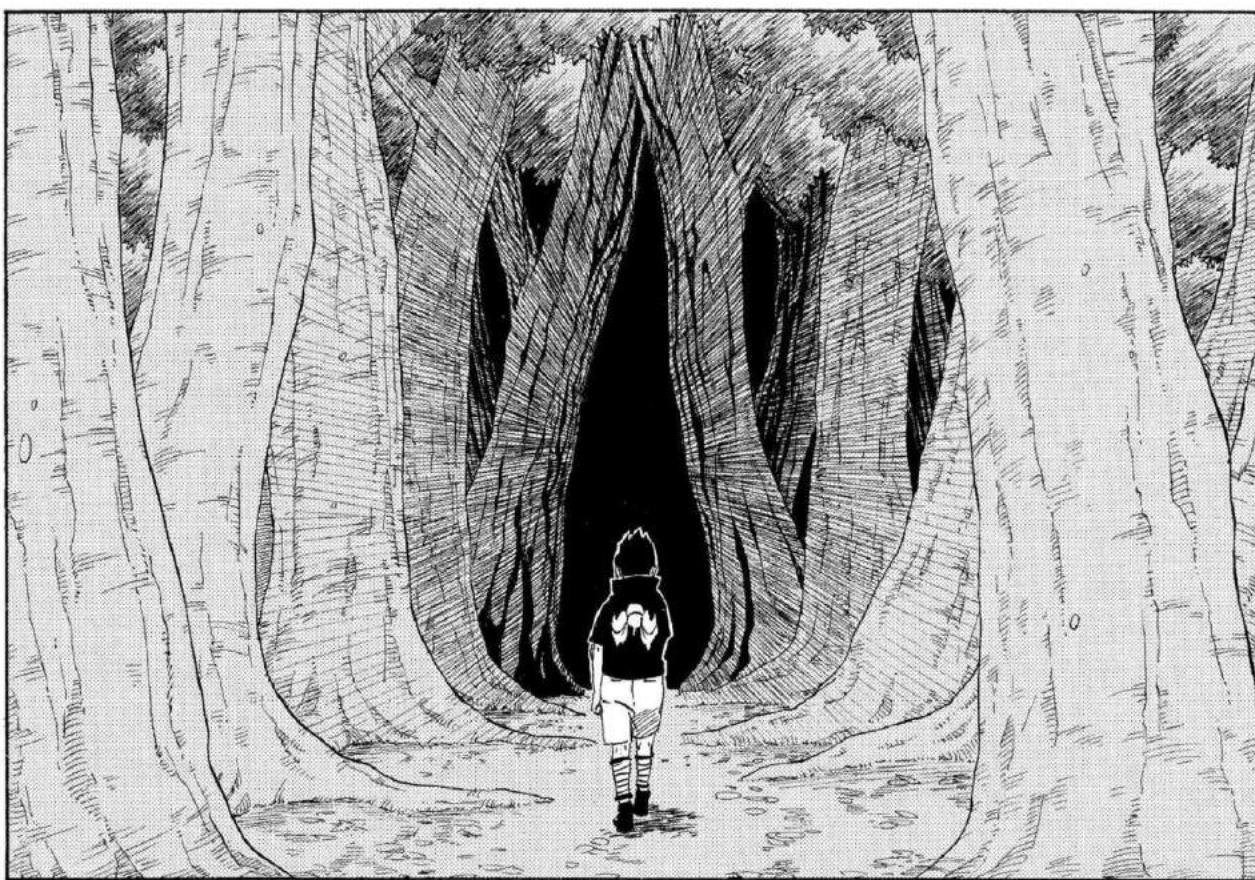


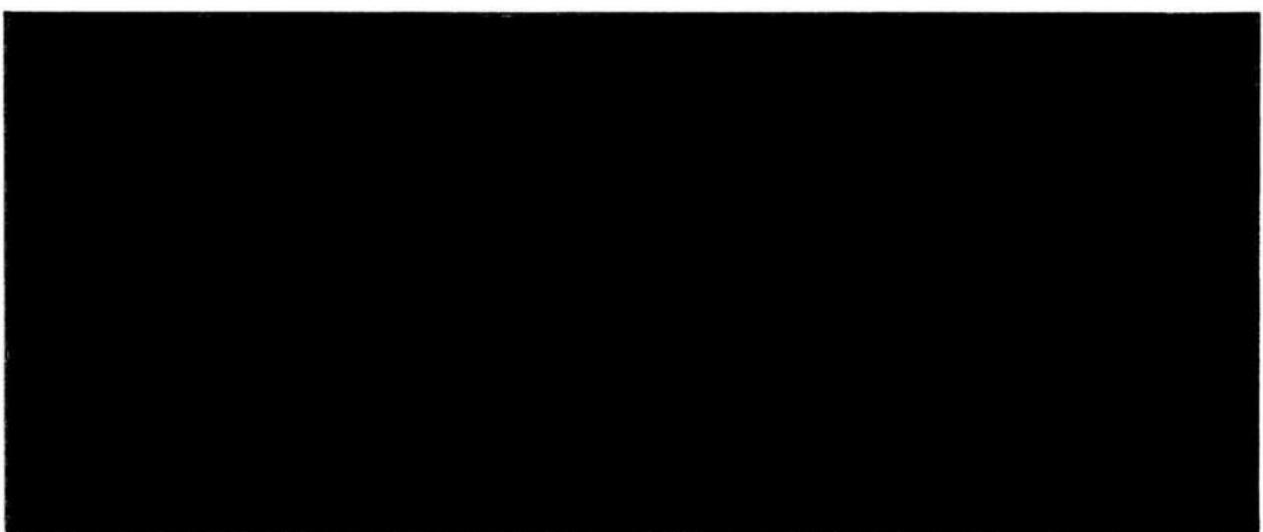


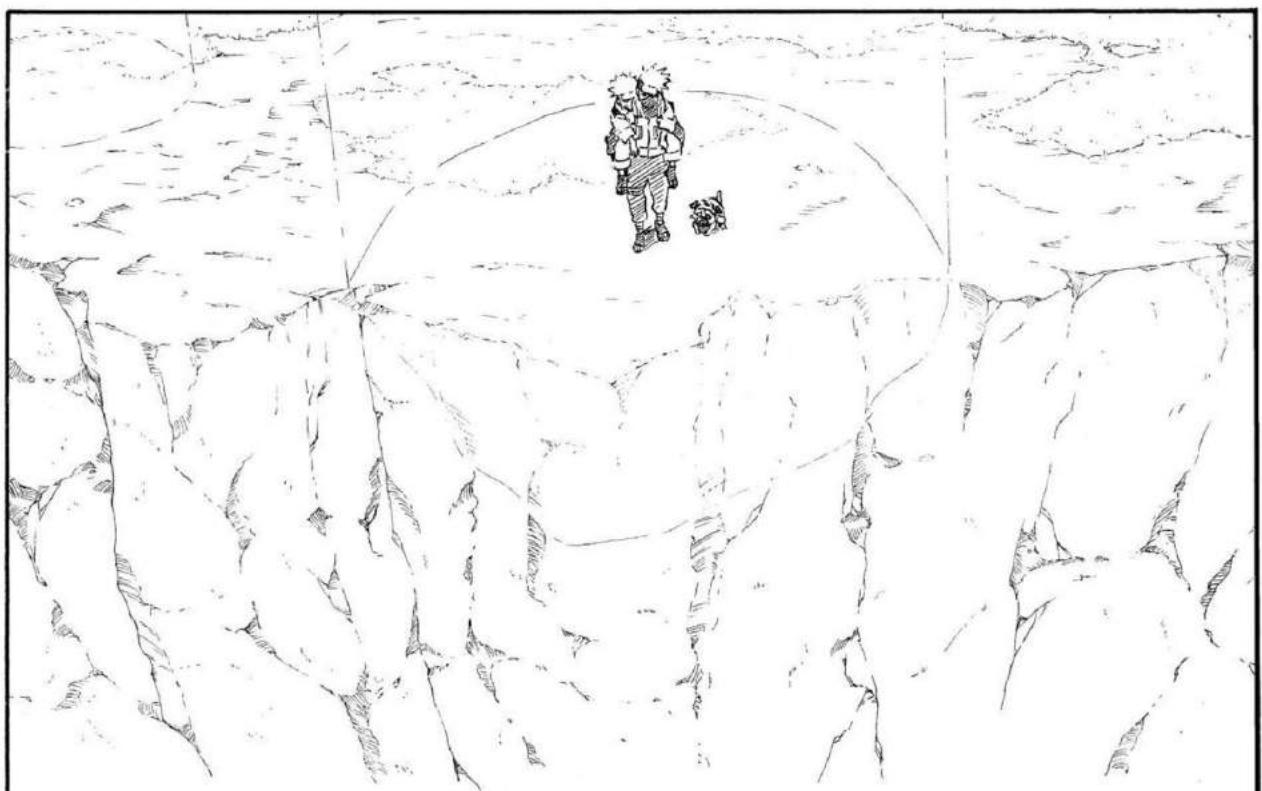
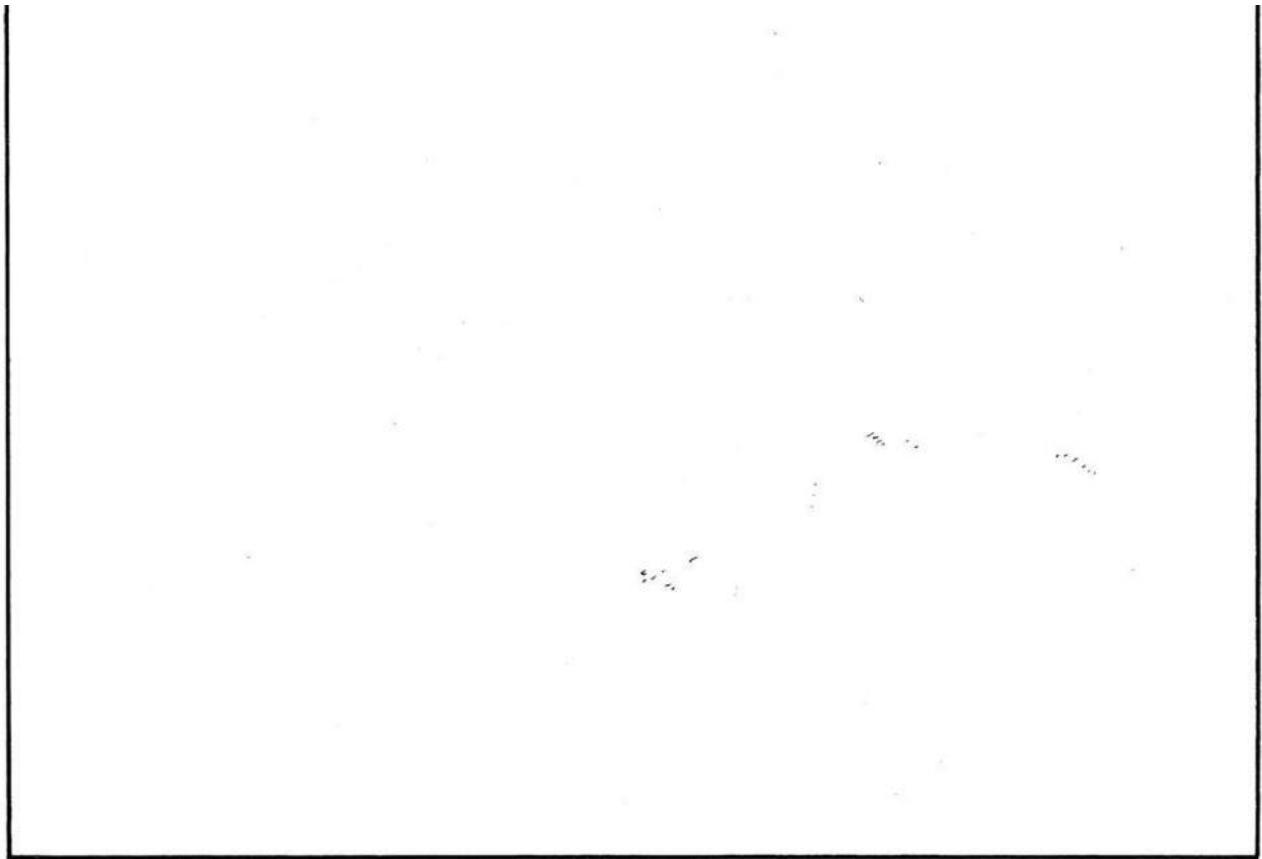
I WILL
NOT LOSE
CONTROL
TO YOU!

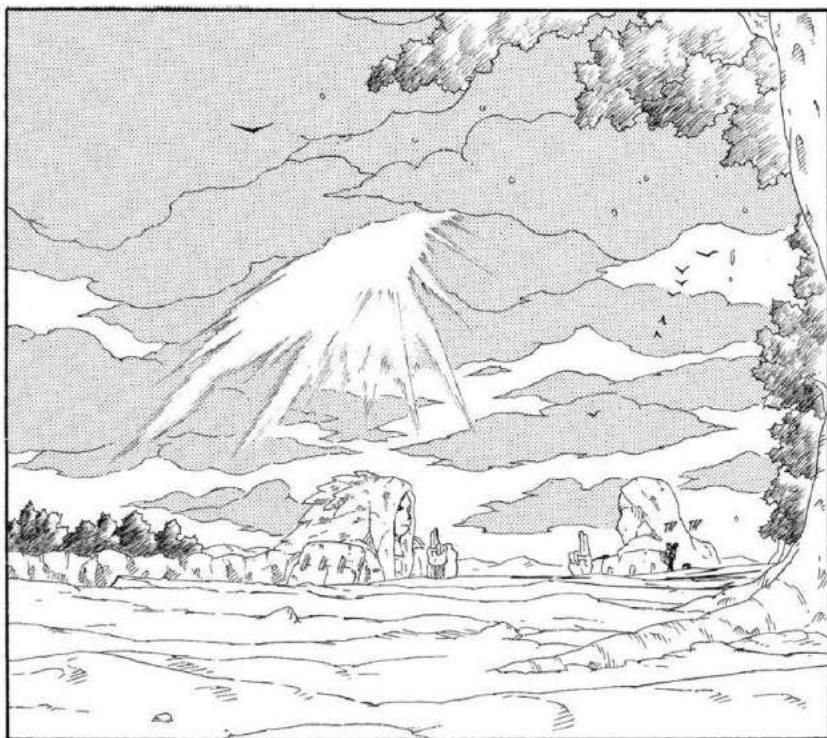
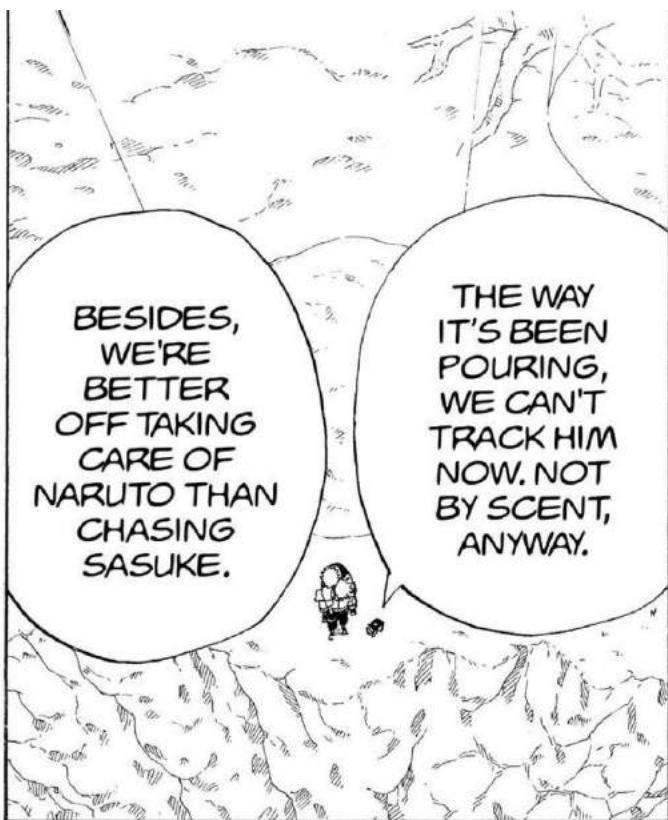
I...









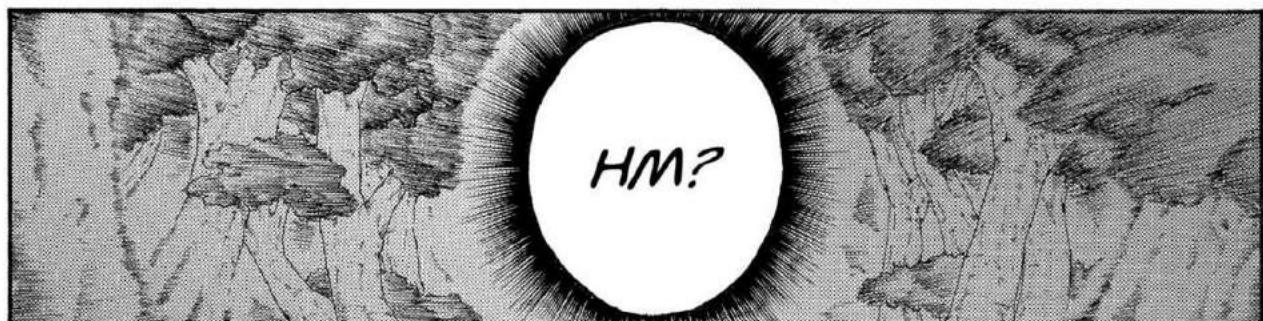




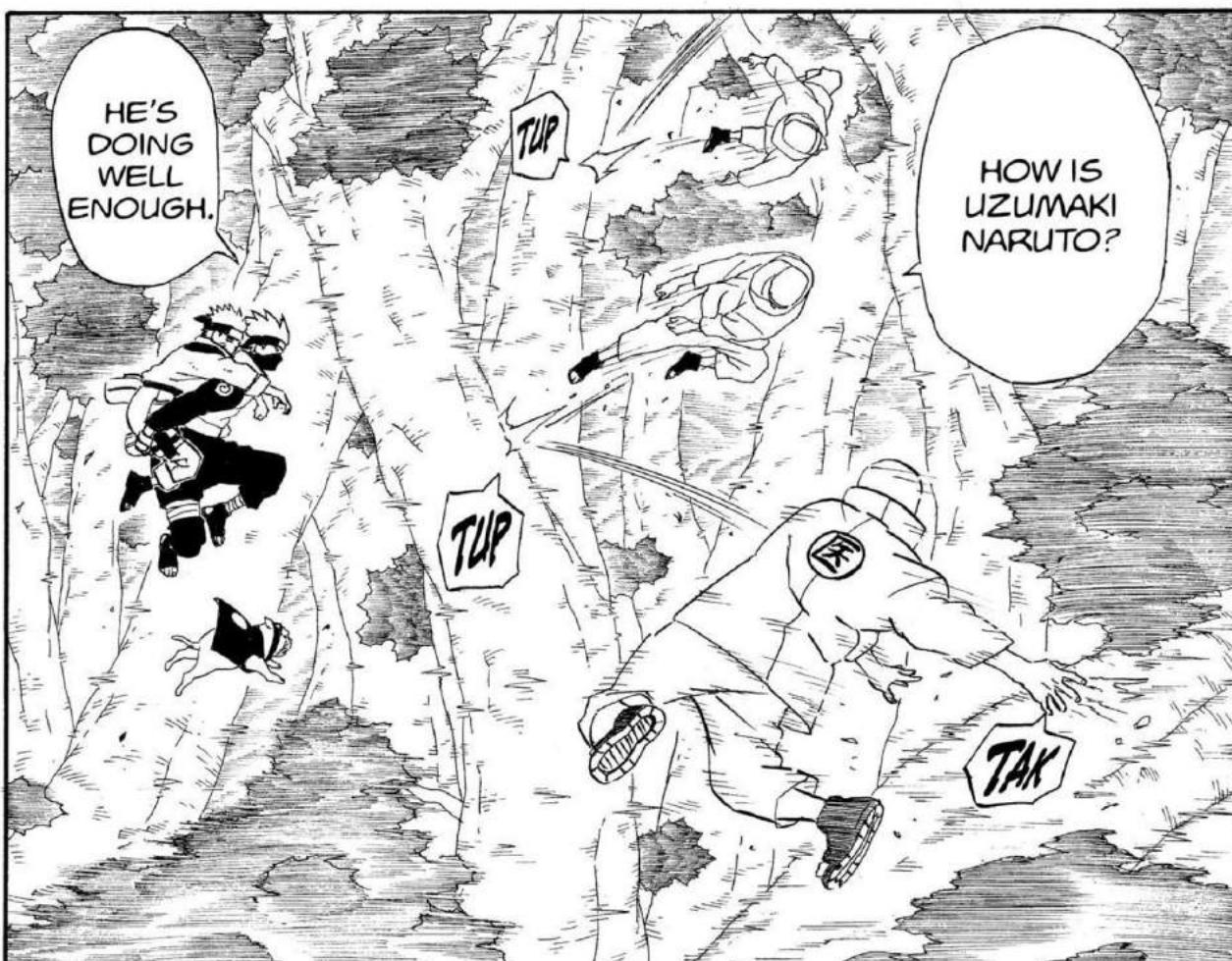
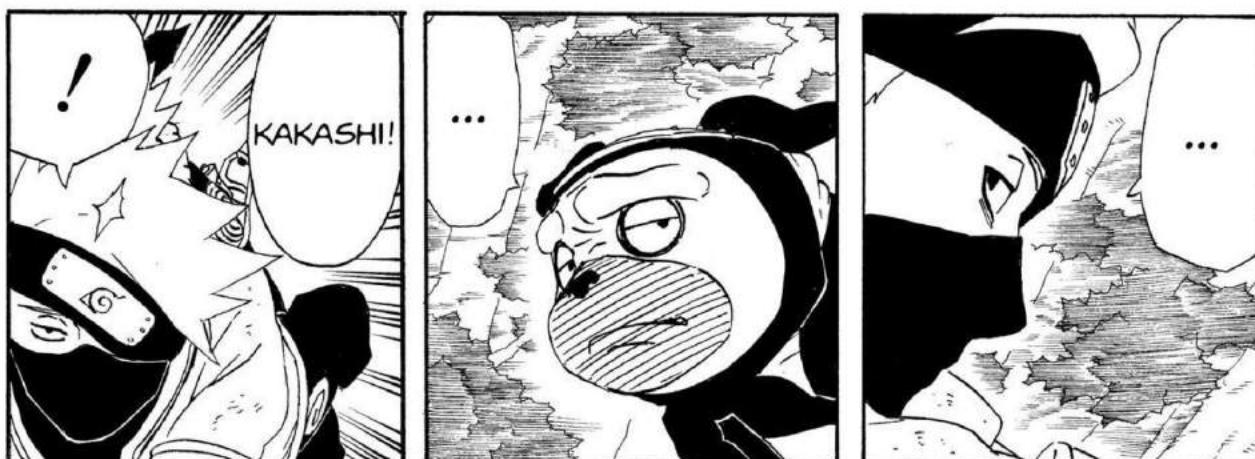
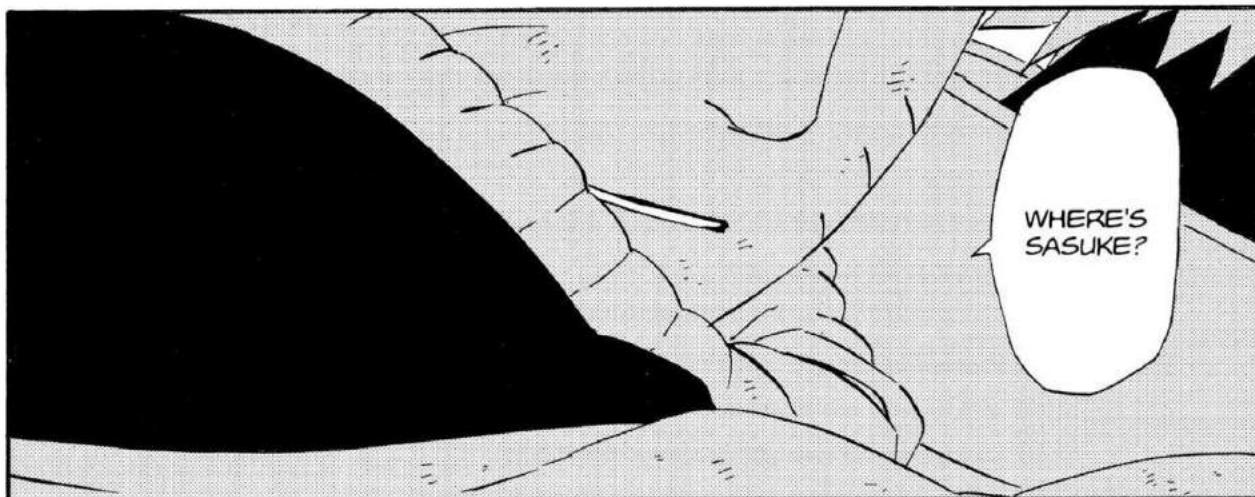
NARUTO

TM





READ
THIS
WAY





THEY FOUND
THE GENIN
IN VARIOUS
PLACES, ALL
INJURED.

THEY
PERFORMED
SIMPLE
FIRST AID
AND CARRIED
THEM BACK.

OH,
YES!

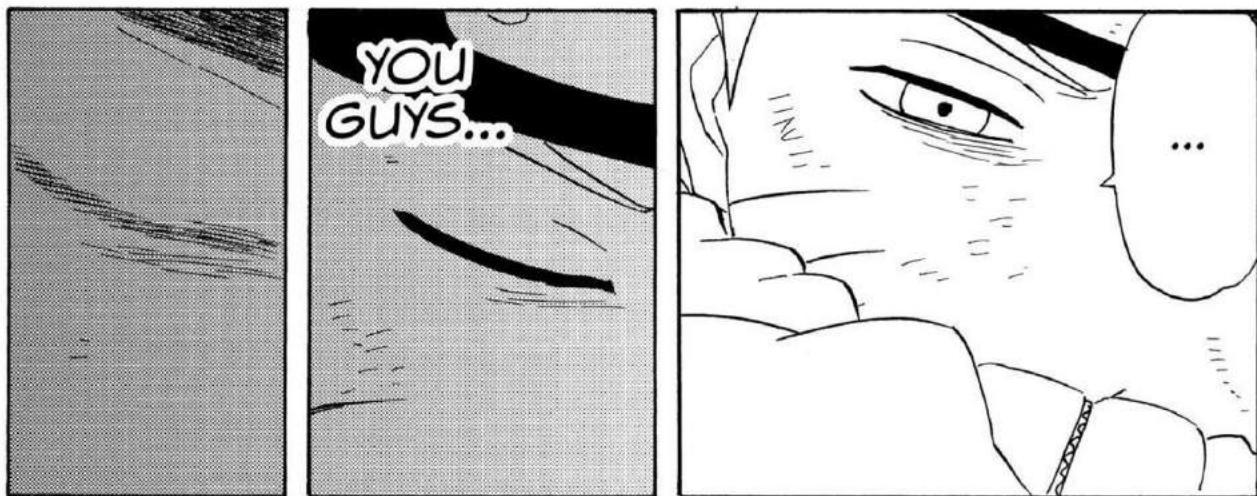
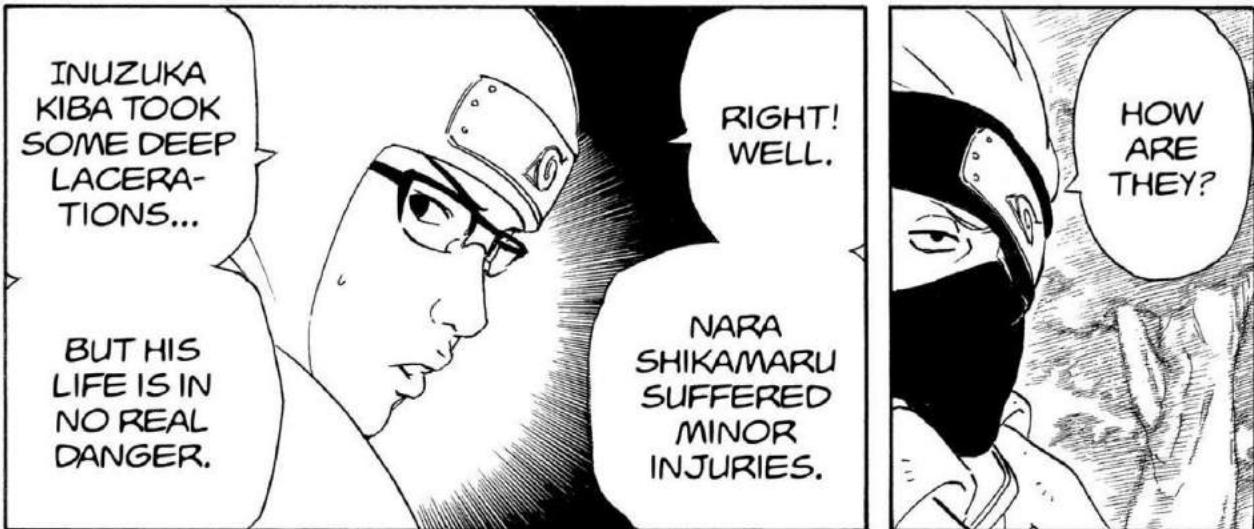
THE LADY
HOKAGE
DISPATCHED
MEDICAL
CORPS ONE
AND TWO.

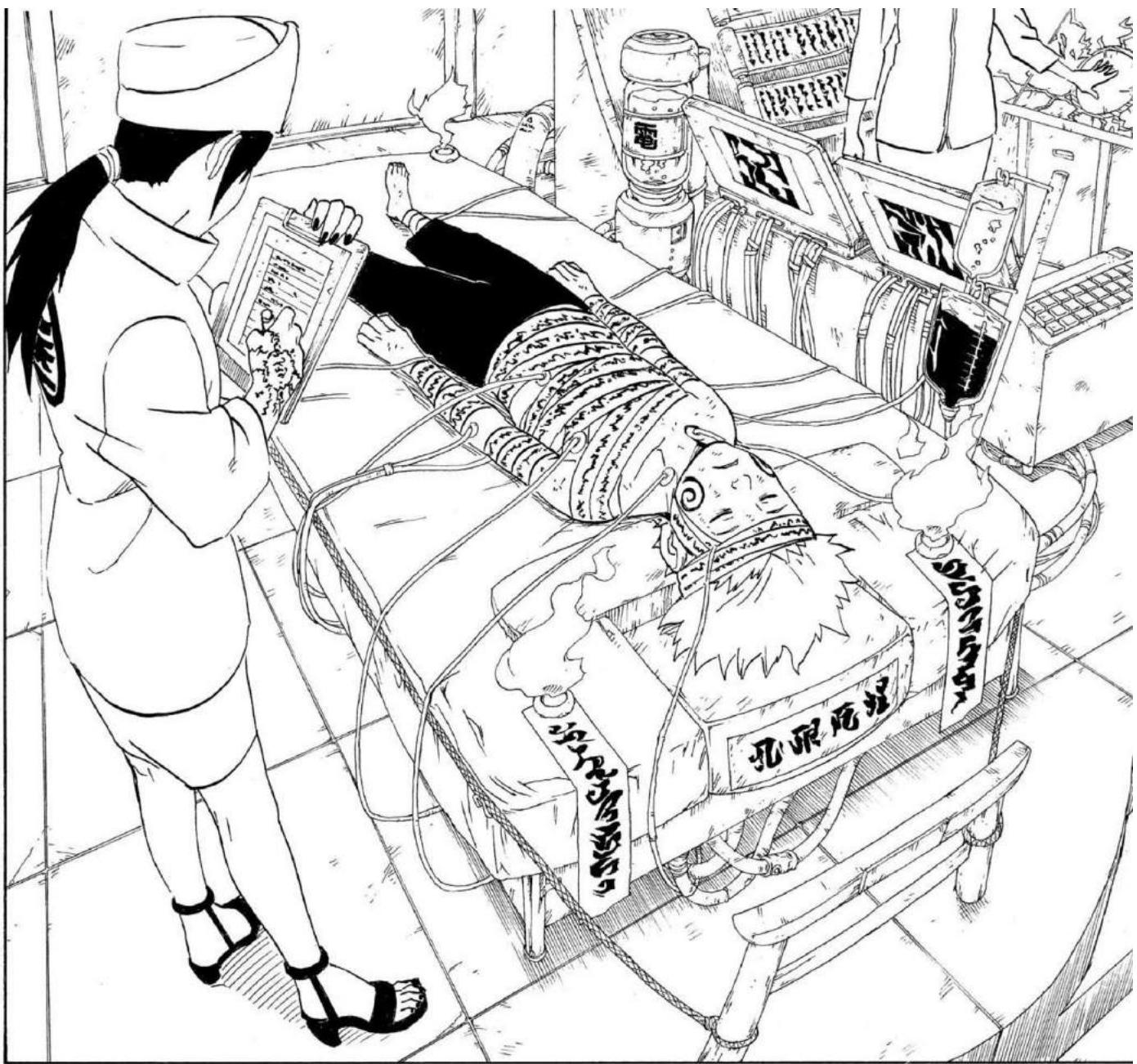


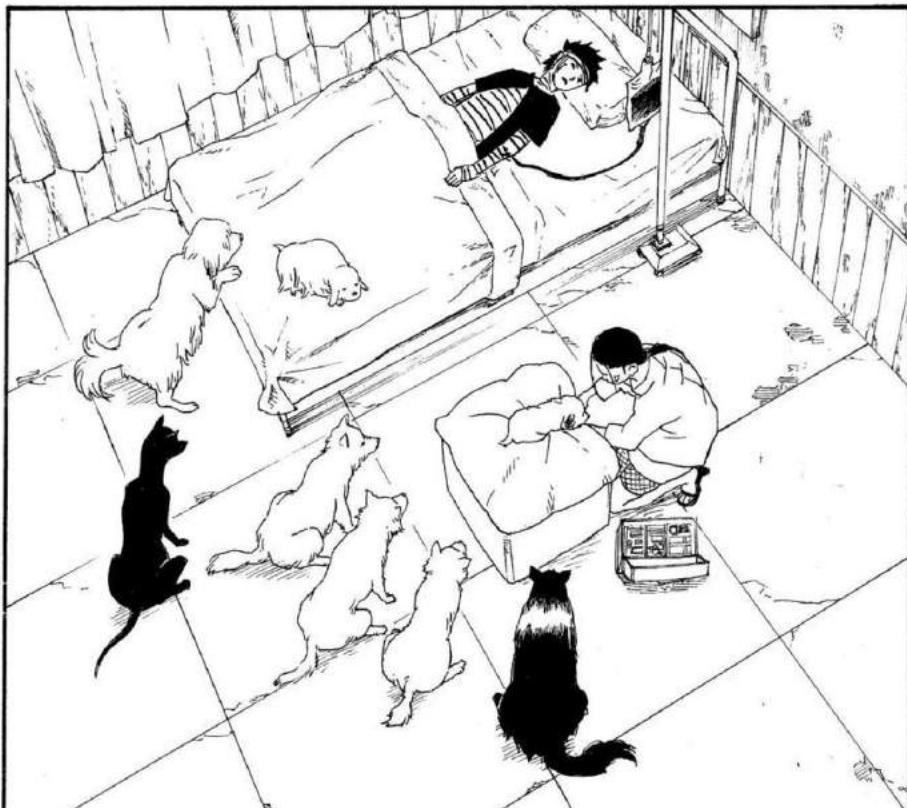
...



WHAT
OF THE
OTHER
GENIN?

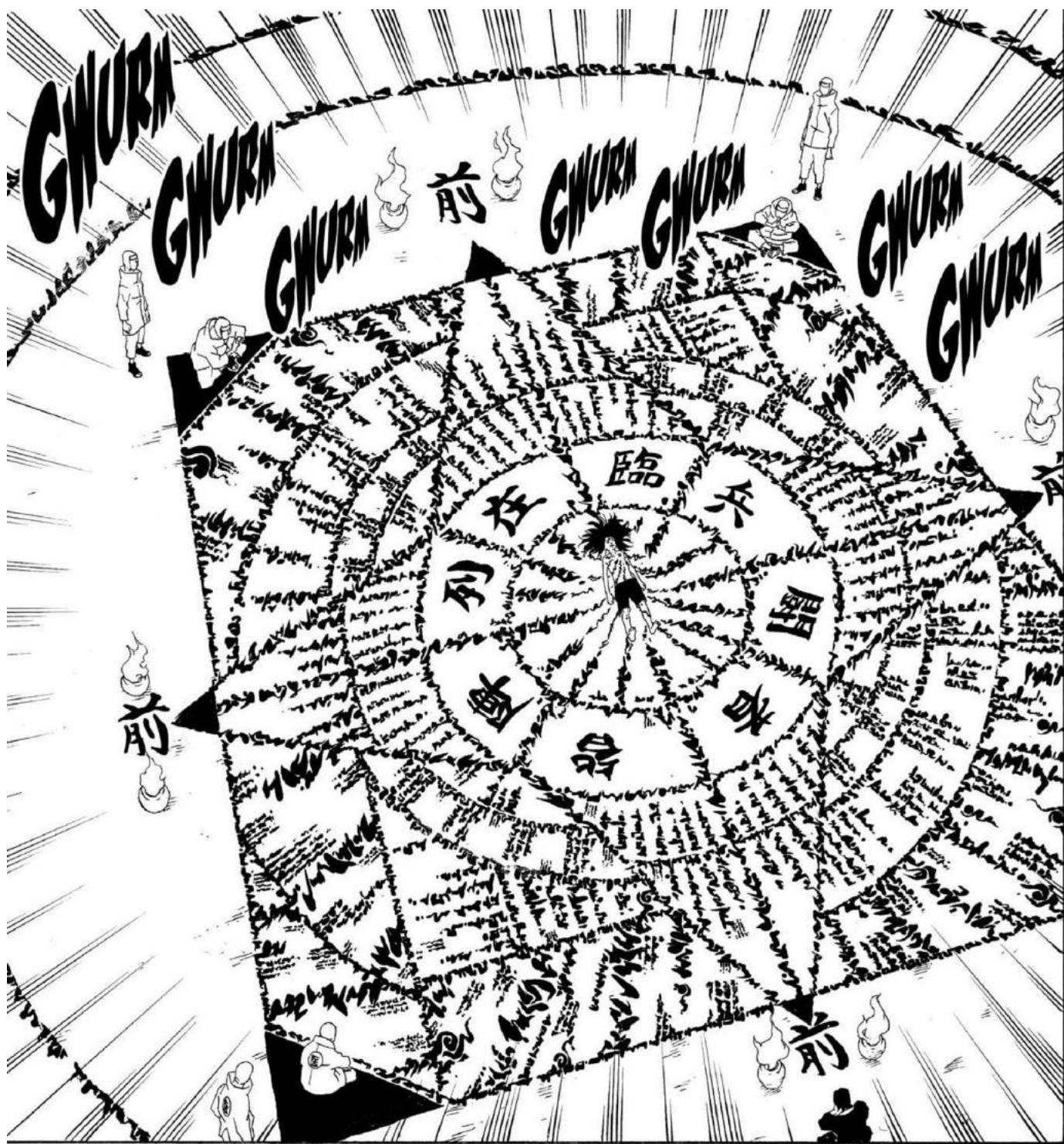








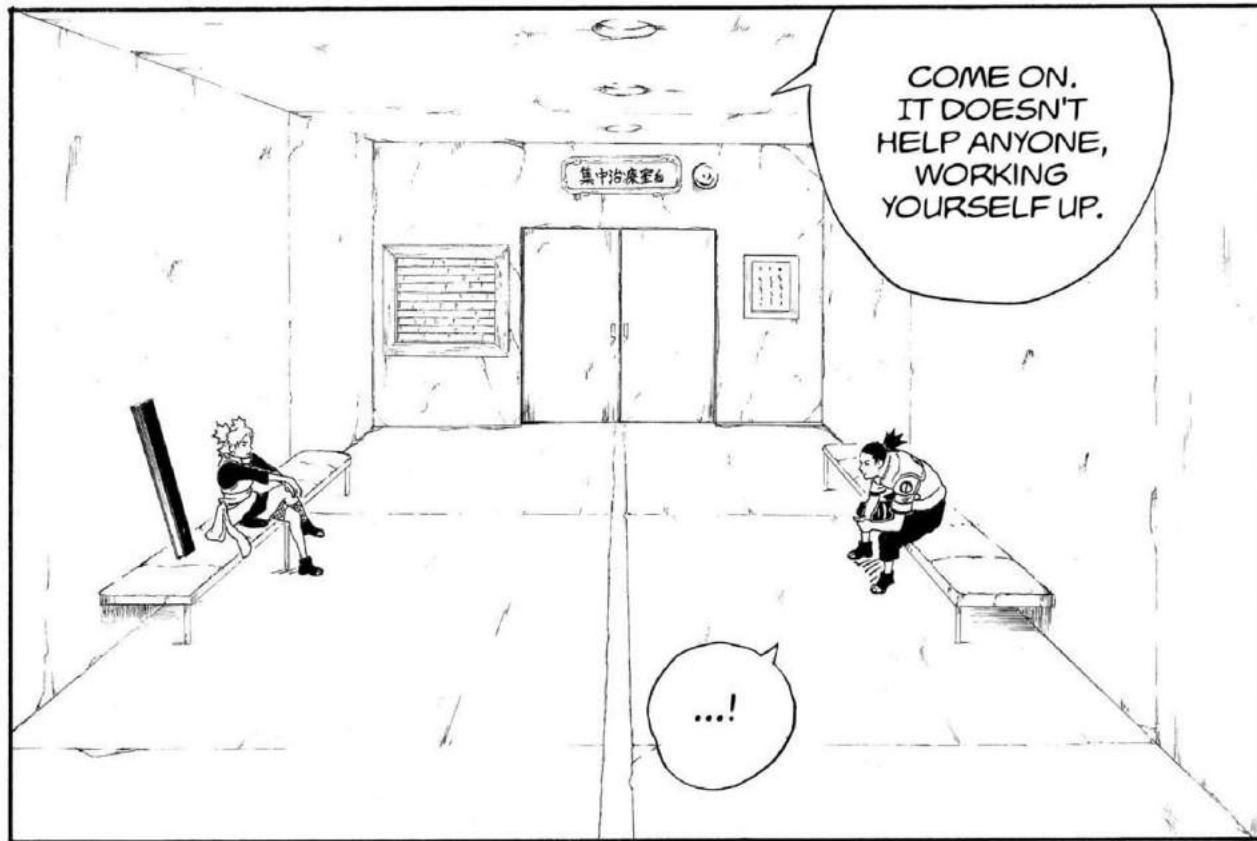
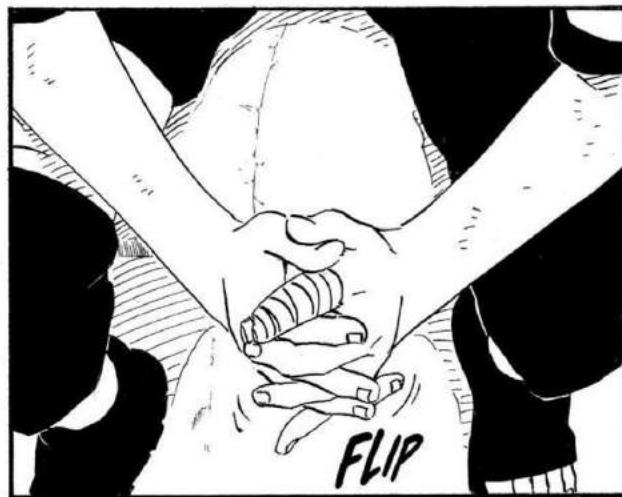
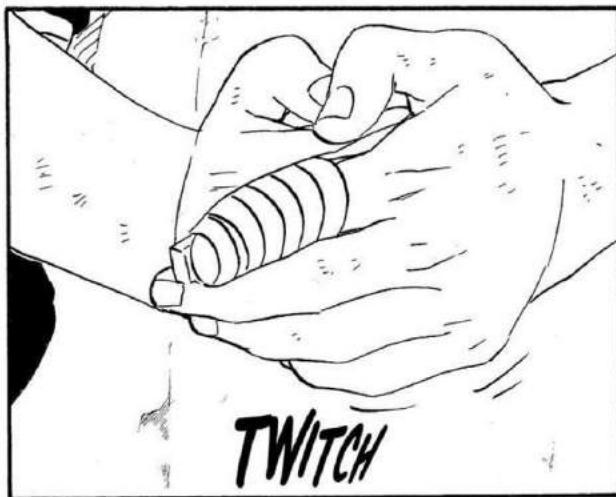
(INTENSIVE CARE WARD, ROOM 7)

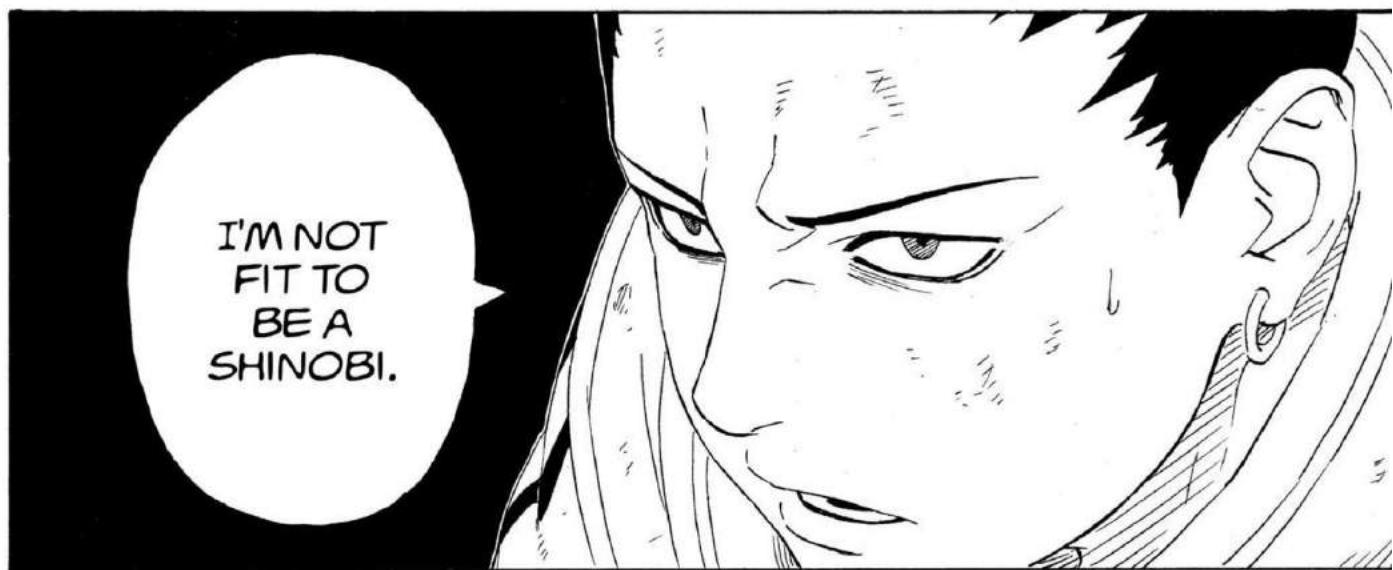




(THE SYMBOL PICTURED ABOVE, CALLED A MANJI,
IS TRADITIONAL IN BUDDHIST IMAGERY-ED.)

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THIS
WAY

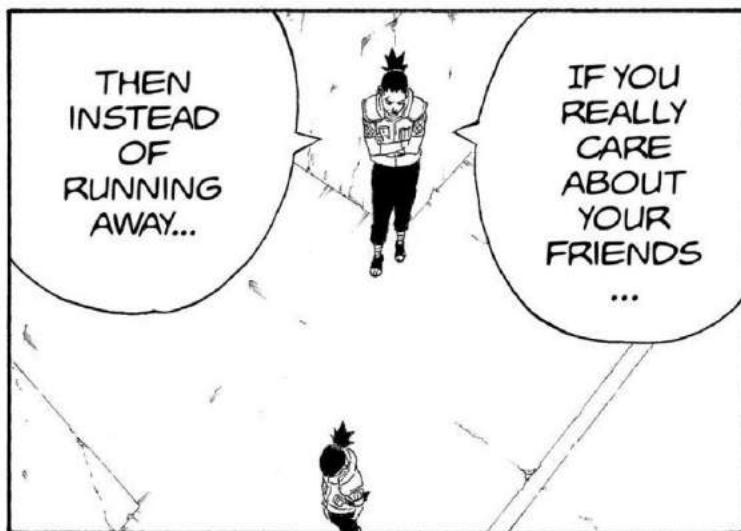


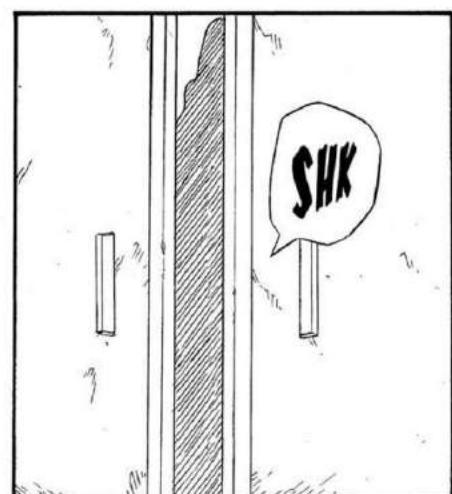
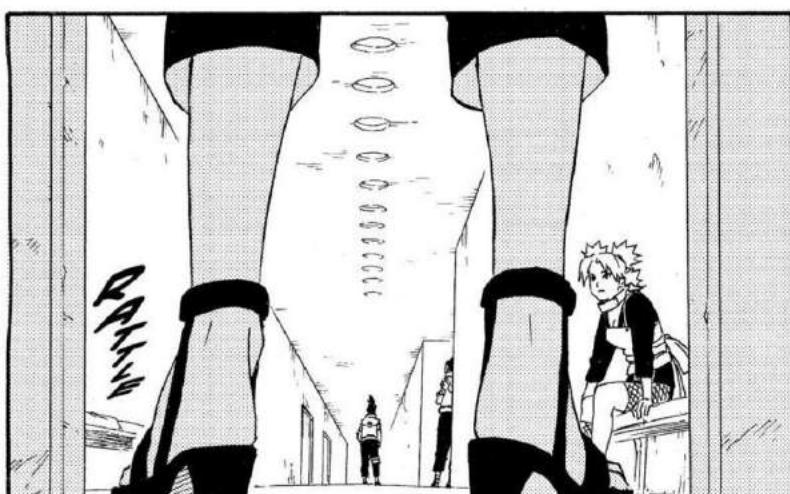
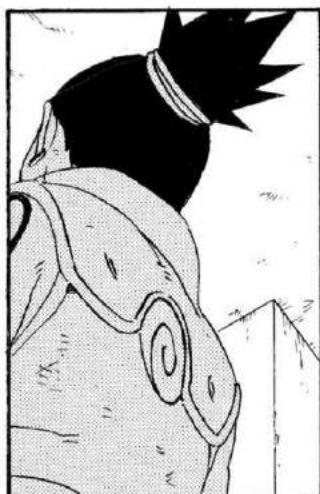


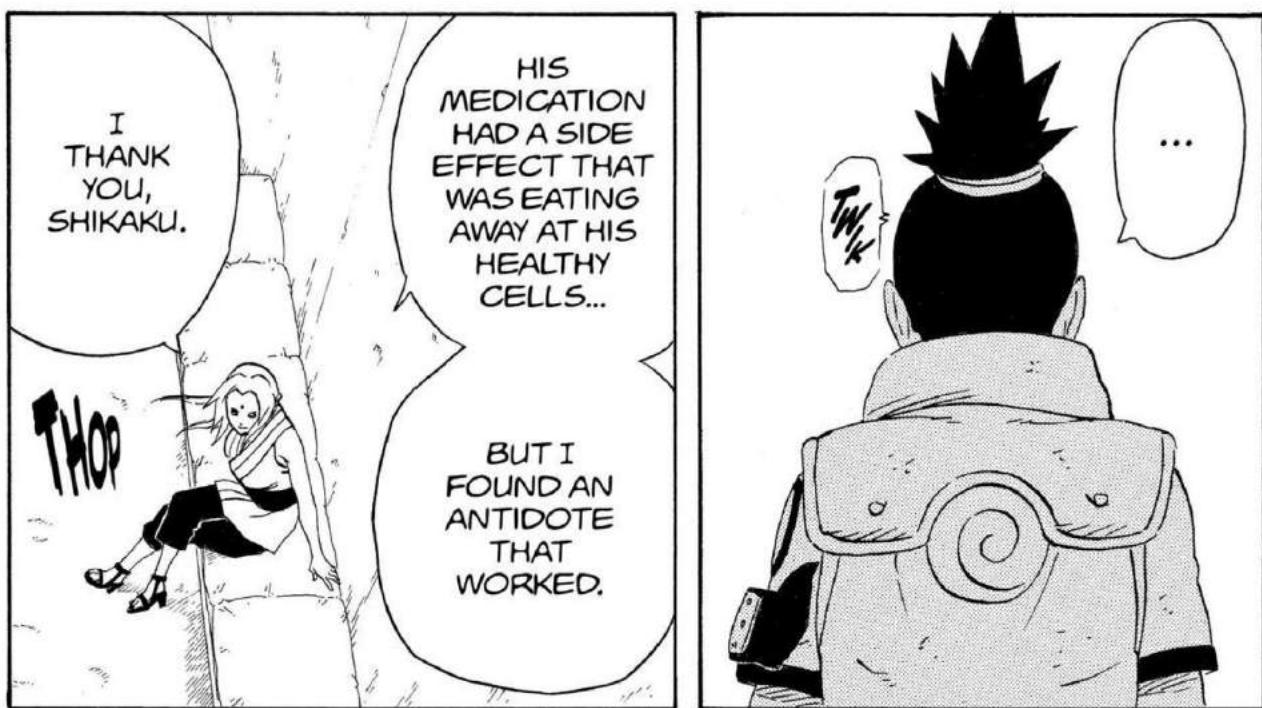
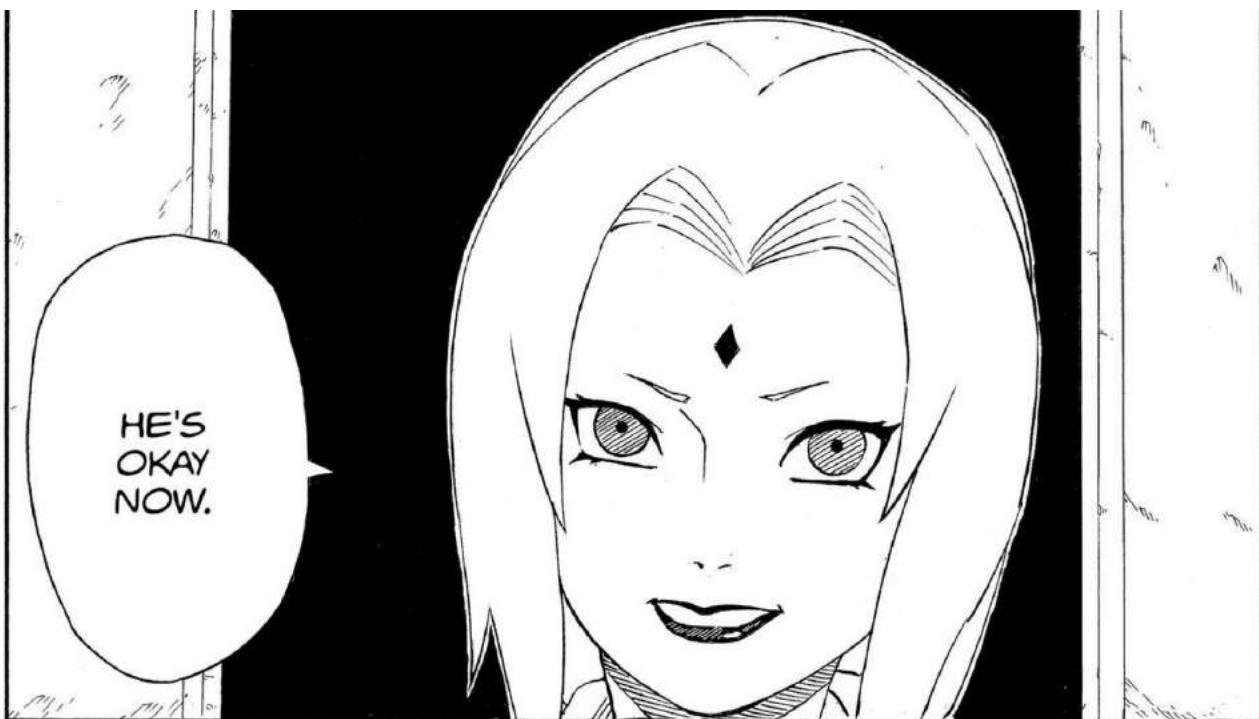


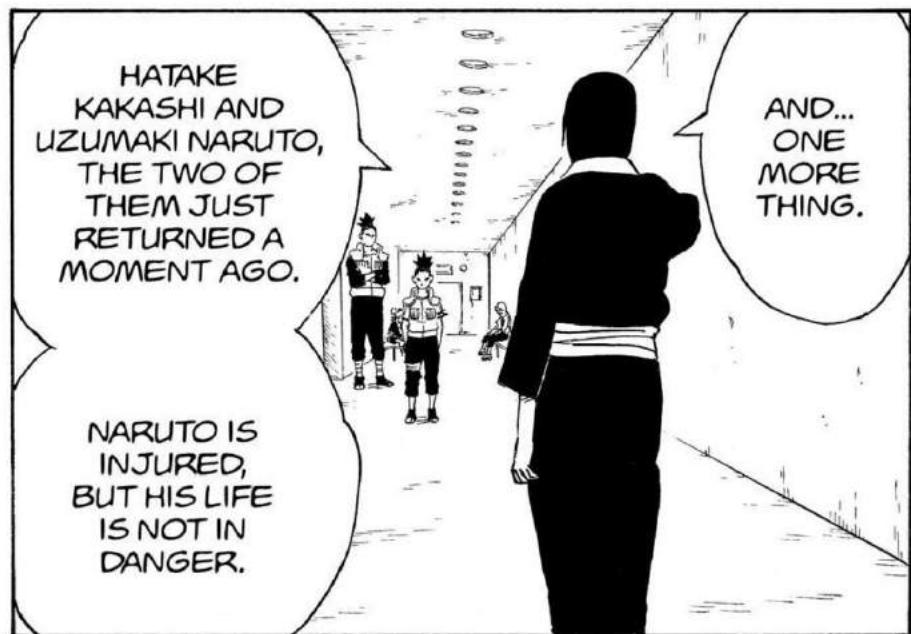
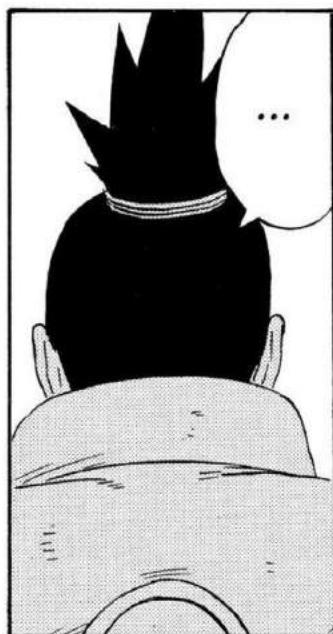
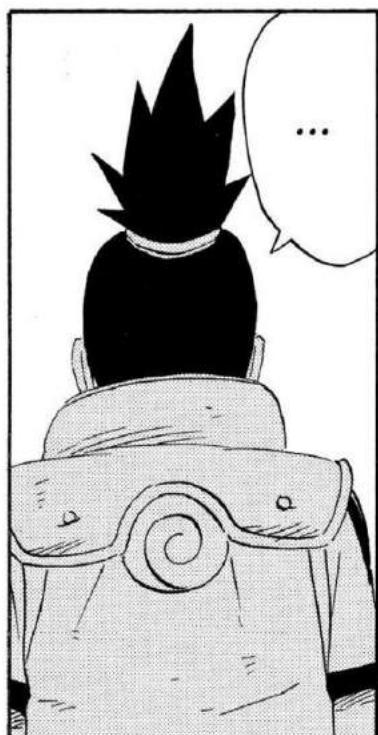


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