NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

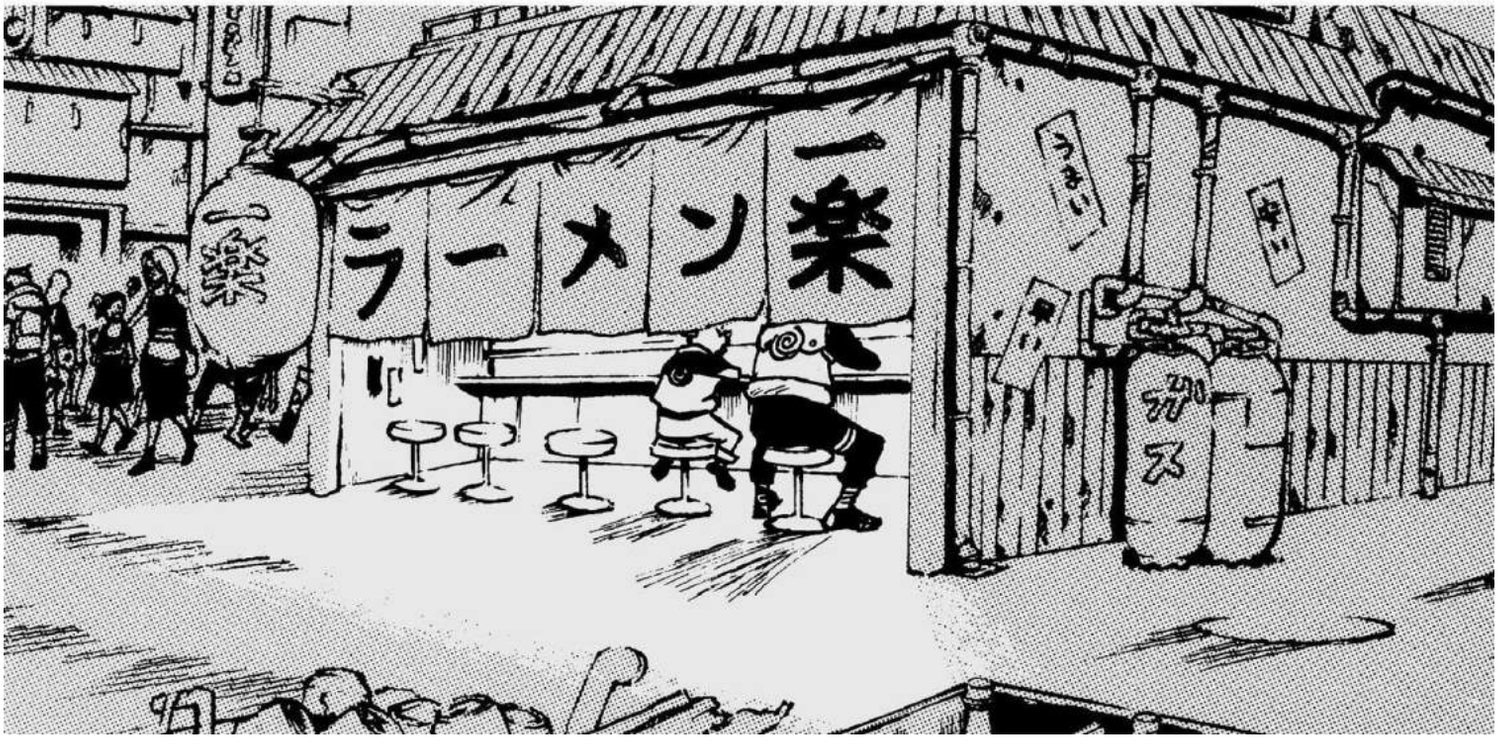
volume 17

岸本斉史

Recently, I haven't been exercising at all!! And so now, when I bike up even a slight incline, I get muscle cramps...And not just in my legs, but in my arms, too! Why?

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2003*

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



NARUTO VOL. 17
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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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 realistic and fantasy violence.

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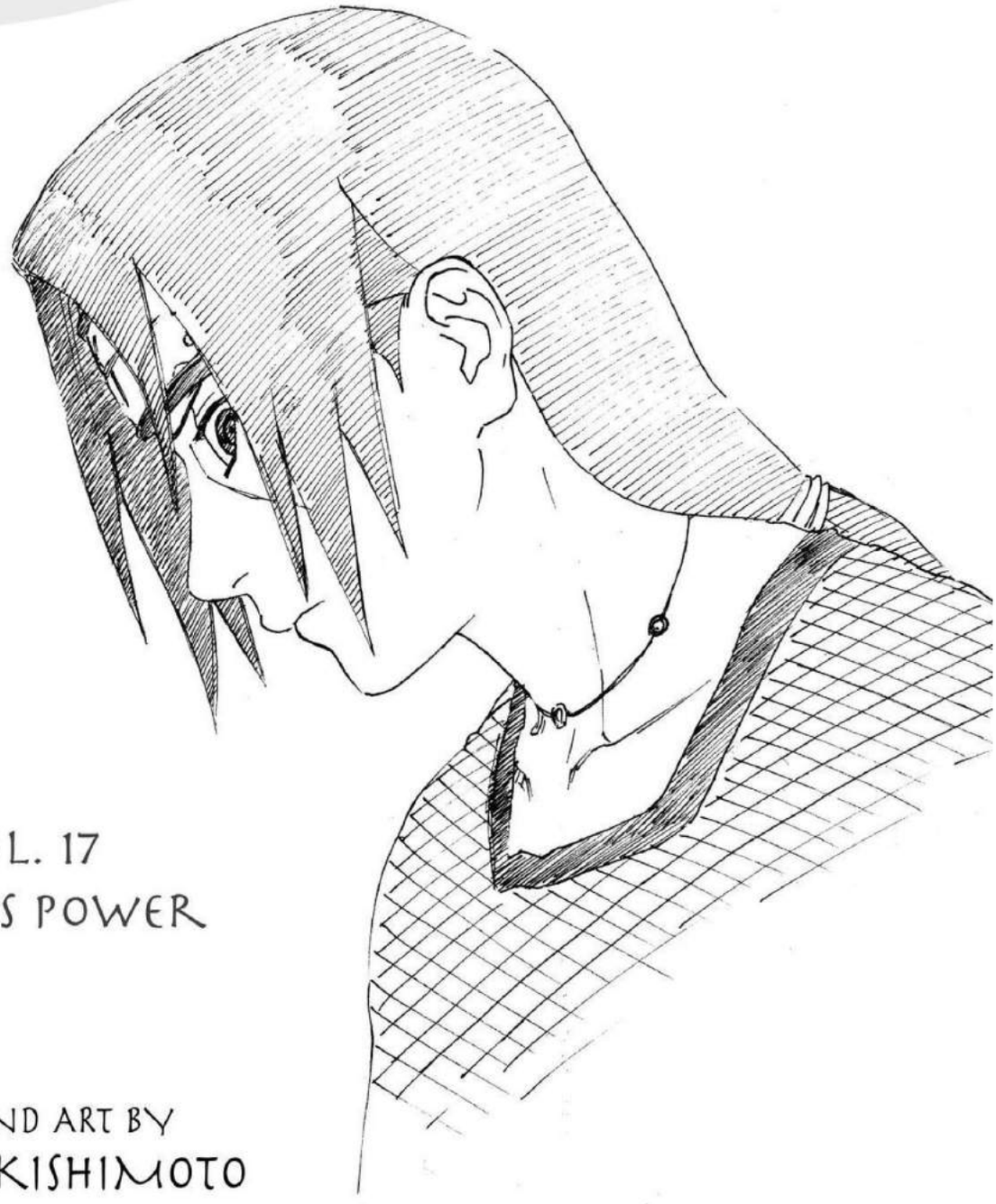
SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

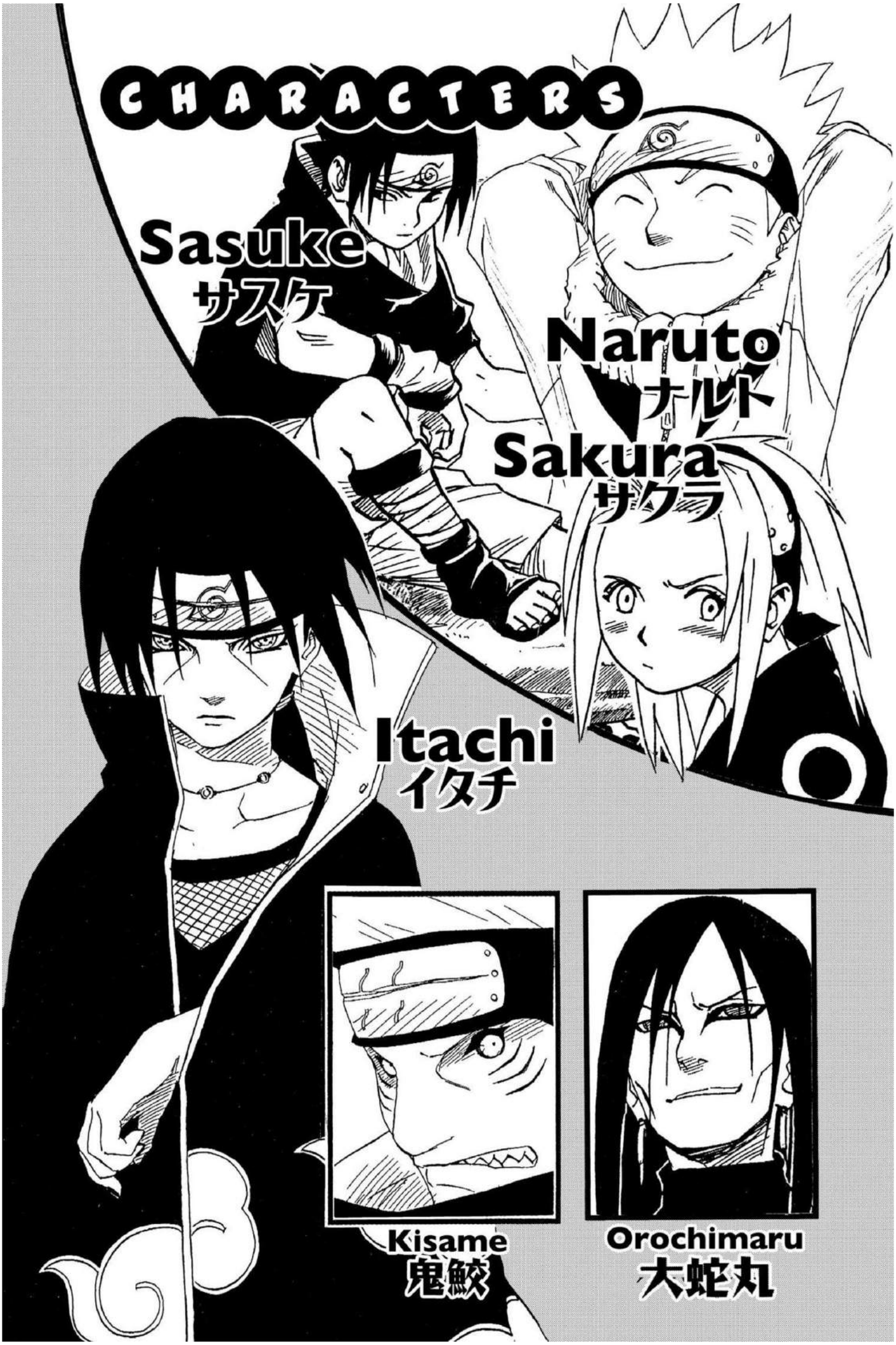
NARUTO



VOL. 17

ITACHI'S POWER

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO


CHARACTERS
Sasuke
サスケ
Naruto
ナルト
Sakura
サクラ
Itachi
イタチ
Kisame
鬼鮫
Orochimaru
大蛇丸

マイト・ガイ

はたけカカシ

Jiraiya 自来也

Tsunade 綱手

The Story So Far...

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

Naruto and company take on the Chûnin Selection Exams but suffer a sudden attack from Orochimaru in the Forest of Death. Orochimaru leaves a curse mark on Sasuke's body and vanishes, only to return during the final round to launch *Operation Destroy Konoha!*

While Naruto battles Gaara, the Third Hokage sacrifices himself to defeat Orochimaru. Konohagakure is saved, and Jiraiya and Naruto set out to hunt down the elusive Tsunade to fill the position of Fifth Hokage, but they are pursued by two menacing shadows…

NARUTO

VOL. 17
ITACHI'S POWER

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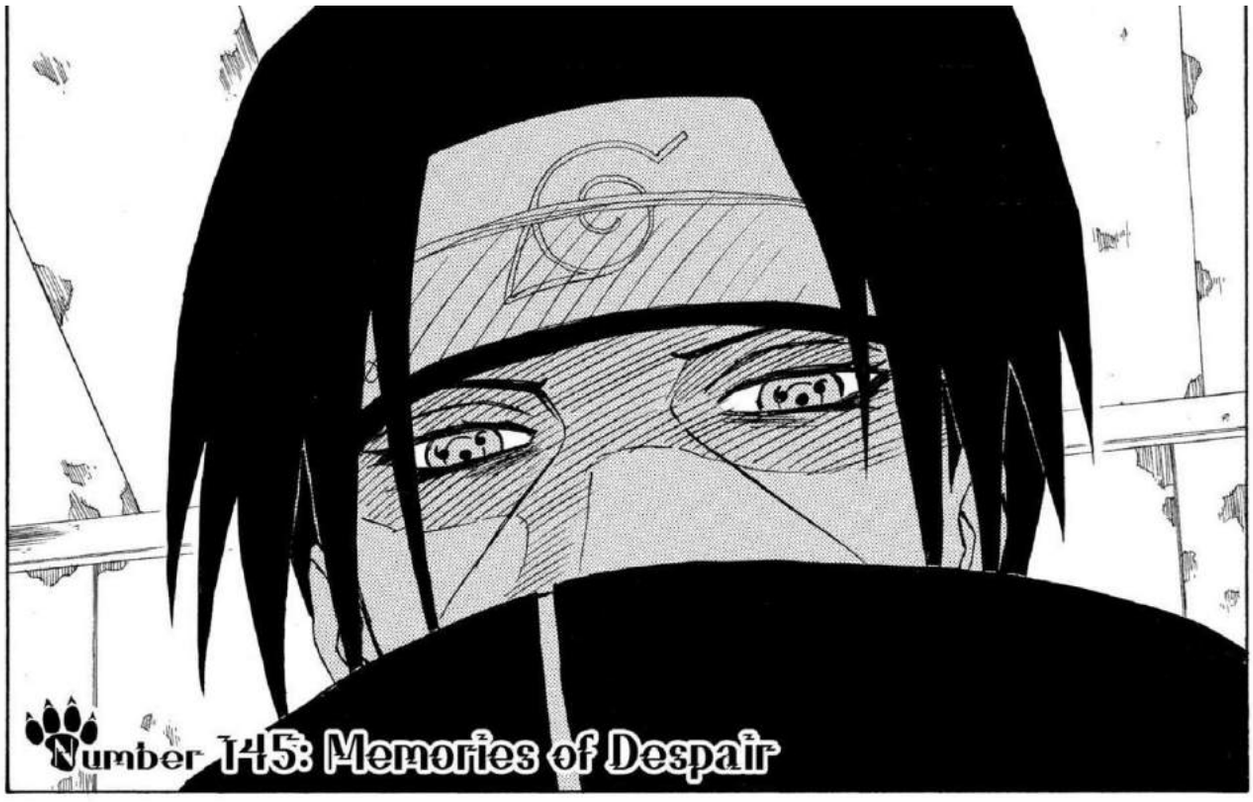

Number 145: Memories of Despair

SASUKE...!?!
!

HE'S GOT THE SHARINGAN, JUST LIKE SASUKE...

SHUDDER
NO, IT'S NOT... SO WHO?!

HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A CHILD CARRIES THE NINE-TAILED...

CHAK

Number 145: Memories of Despair

!!

NARUTO, WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US.

...HOW THE HECK DO THESE GUYS KNOW ABOUT NINE TAILS...?!

!

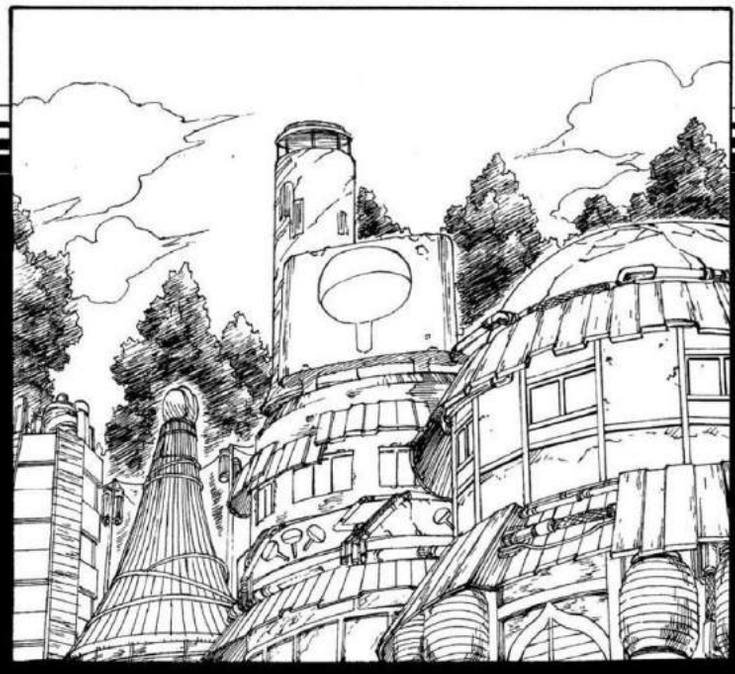
PSH...!

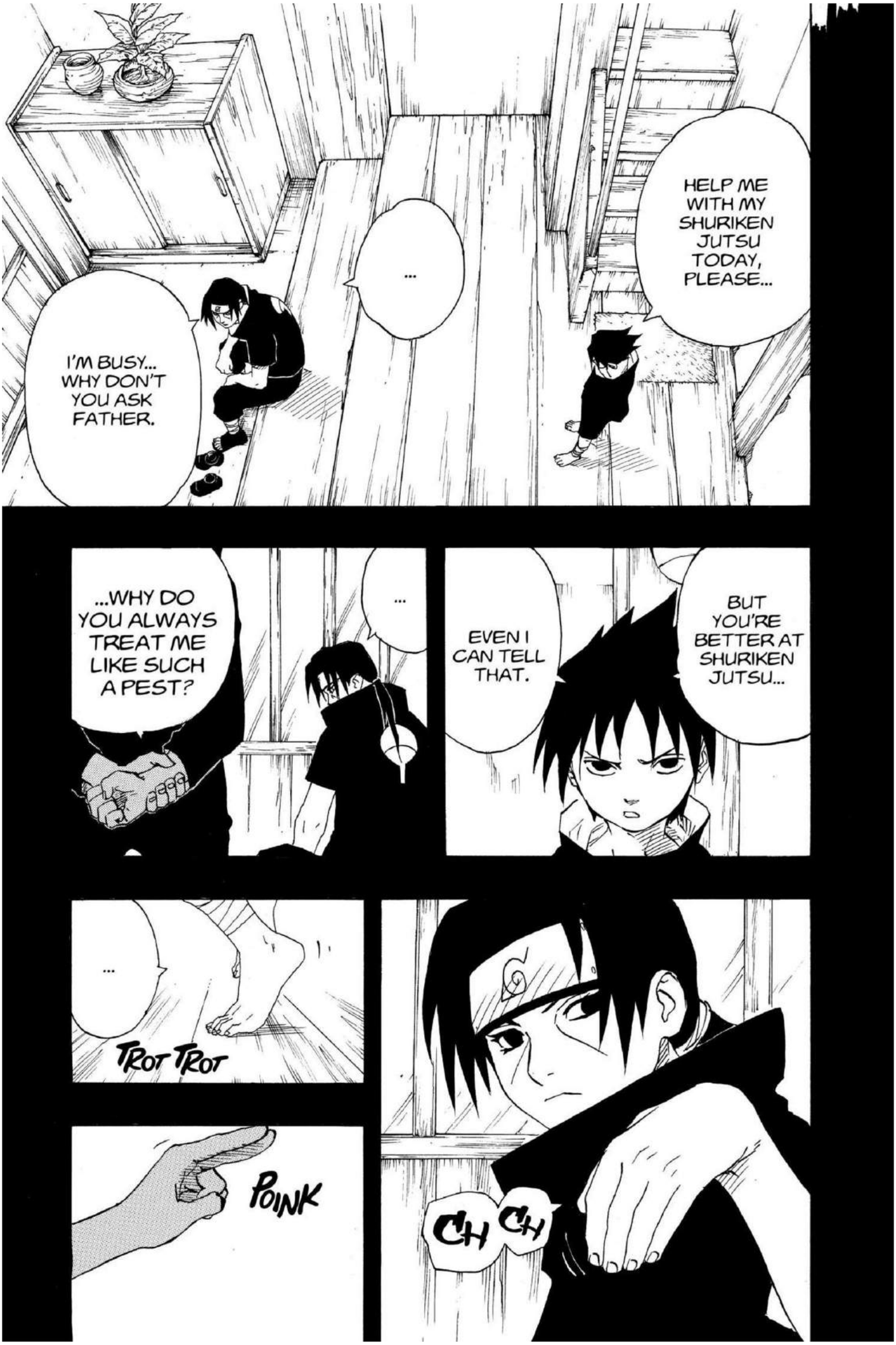
SHOO

BUT IT'S THE WRONG PAIR!
FOR SURE, IT'S A FOOL-FACED BLONDIE AND A BIG WHITE-HAIRED GUY...

HE'S CLOSE BY, I CAN FEEL IT!!

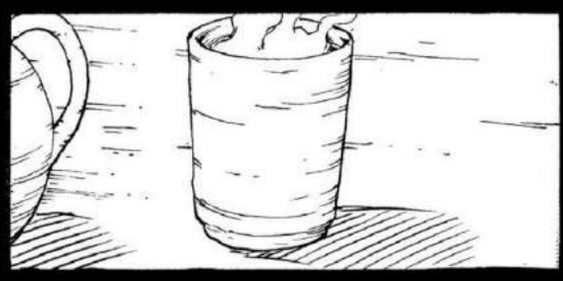
BIG BRO-THER...




HELP ME WITH MY SHURIKEN JUTSU TODAY, PLEASE...
...
I'M BUSY... WHY DON'T YOU ASK FATHER.
BUT YOU'RE BETTER AT SHURIKEN JUTSU...
EVEN I CAN TELL THAT.
...
...WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TREAT ME LIKE SUCH A PEST?
...
TROT TROT
POINK
CH CH

SORRY, SASUKE...
...MAYBE NEXT TIME.
WHAP
OWW!

READ THIS WAY
!
PF...
...
...AND YOU NEVER HAVE TIME. IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME STORY.
YOU ALWAYS SAY SORRY, SASUKE AND JAB ME IN THE FOREHEAD...
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
CHAK
SHU



CLATTER

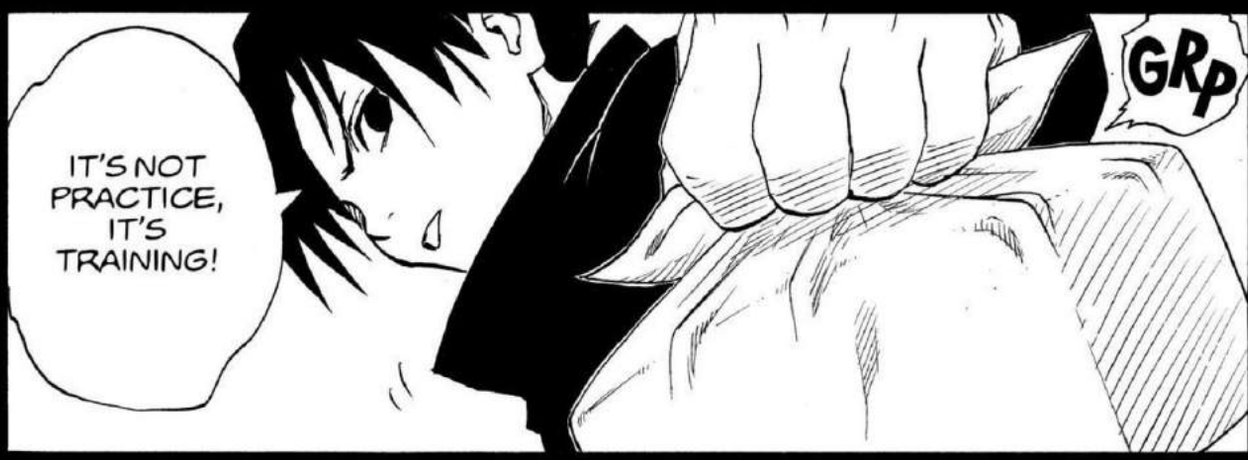
FATHER, WHY DOESN'T BIG BROTHER EVER LOOK AFTER ME?
EVEN THOUGH I'M HIS LITTLE BROTHER ...
CLINK CLINK

WHY?

HE DOESN'T LIKE TO GET TOO CLOSE TO PEOPLE.
YOUR BROTHER'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE DIFFERENT, SON...
...

IF YOU WANT SHURIKEN PRACTICE, I CAN HELP YOU WITH IT WHEN YOU GET HOME TODAY.
HERE, SASUKE! YOUR LUNCH.

I CAN'T EVEN READ HIM... HIS OWN FATHER...
WHO KNOWS...


IT'S NOT PRACTICE, IT'S TRAINING!
GRP

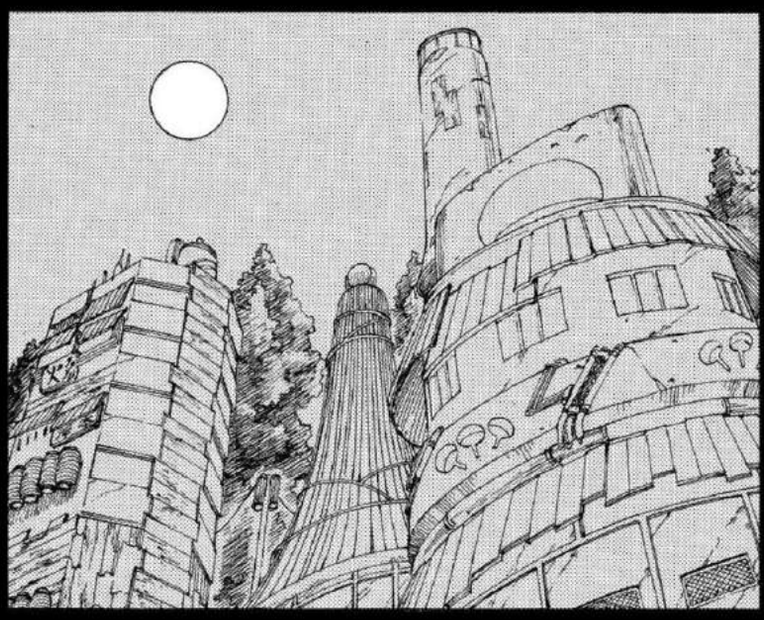
I'M ALREADY THE SAME AGE AS WHEN HE GRADUATED, BUT I'M NOT EVEN CLOSE...
BIG BROTHER GRADUATED TOP SEAT FROM THE ACADEMY WHEN HE WAS ONLY SEVEN... HE WAS ABLE TO USE THE SHARINGAN BY THE TIME HE WAS EIGHT... AND THEN WHEN HE WAS TEN, HE ROSE TO CHÛNIN RANK...

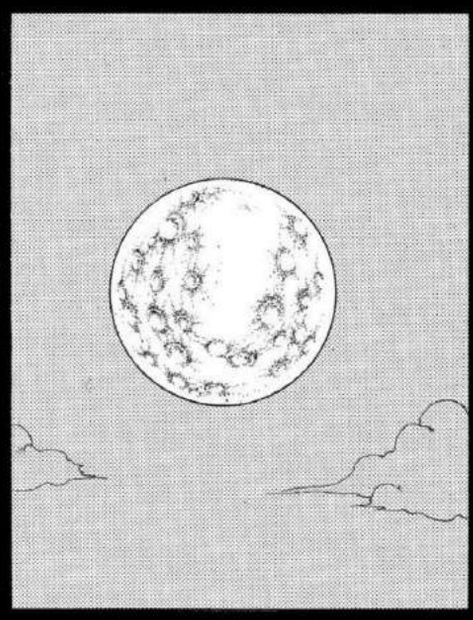
I'M OFF!

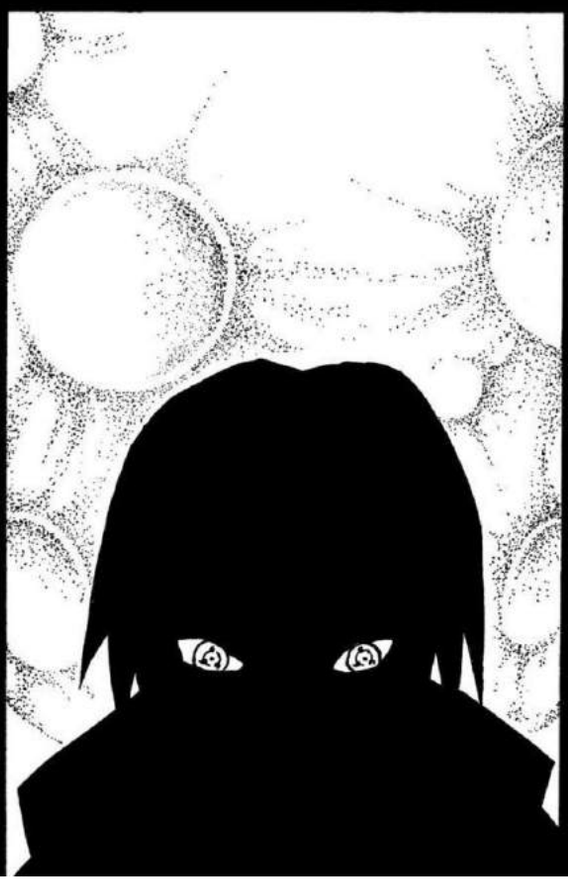
I WON'T LAG BEHIND BIG BROTHER!!

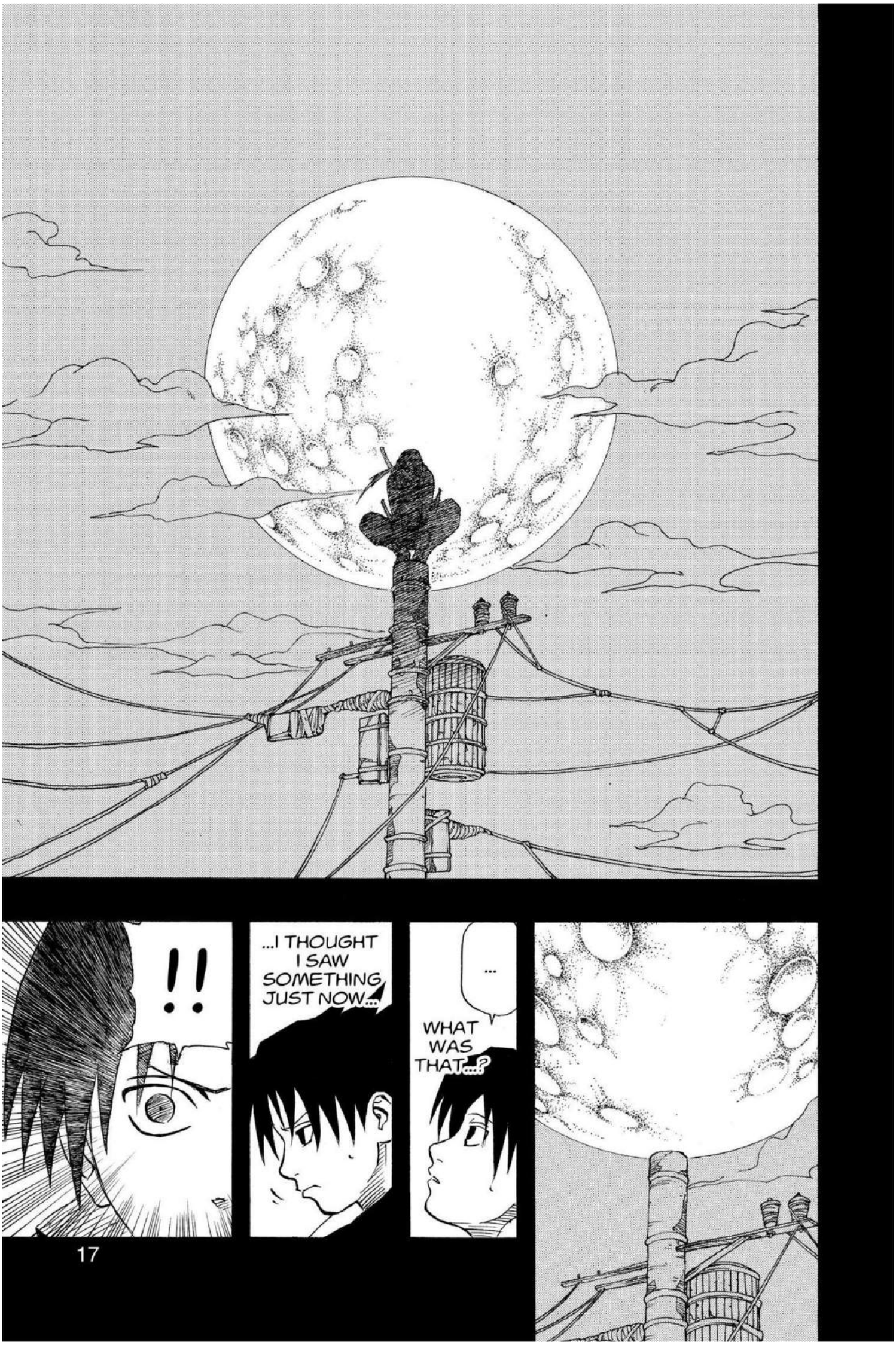
...BUT I'VE GOT THE SAME UCHIHA CLAN BLOOD FLOWING IN MY VEINS.

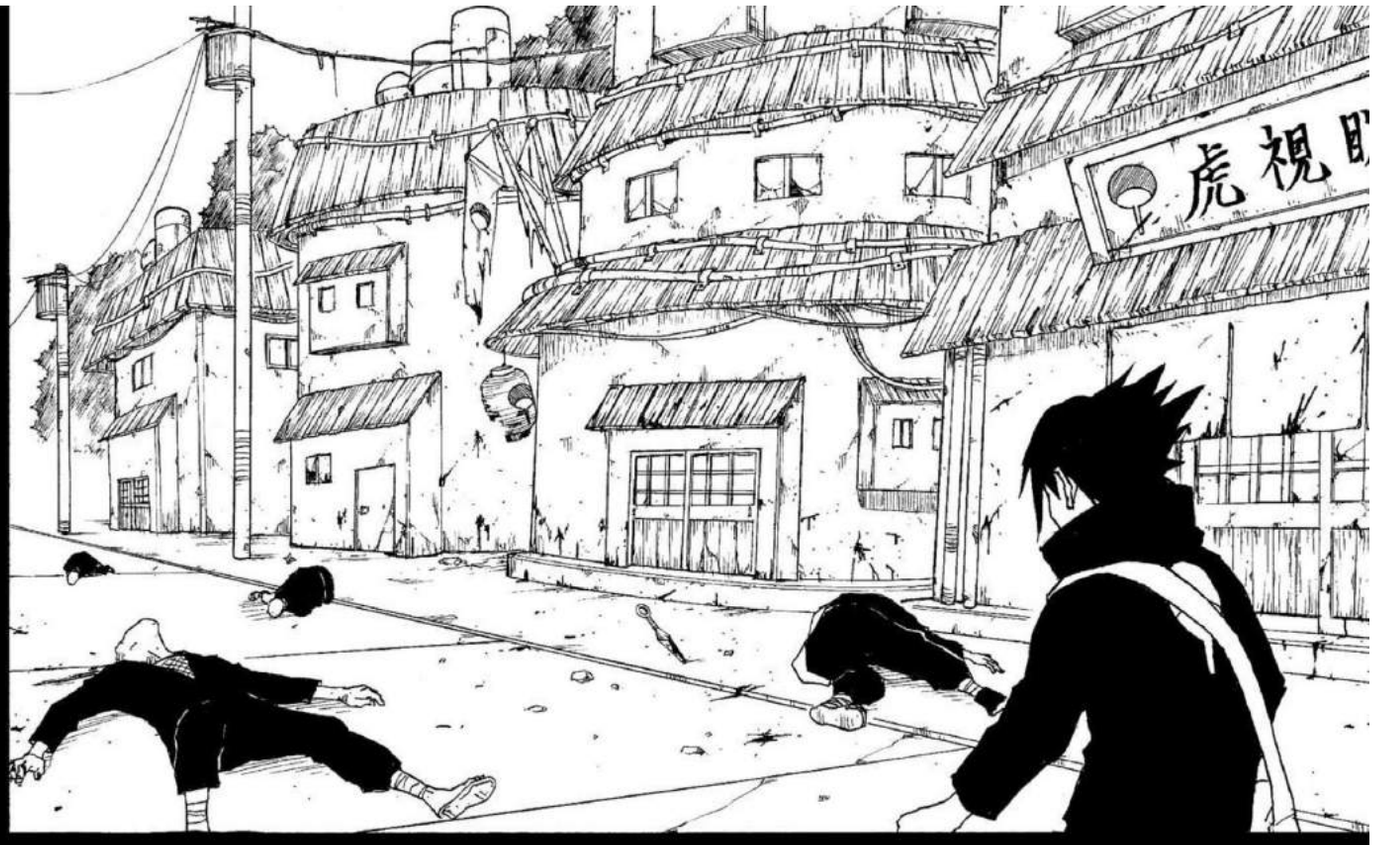
TROT TROT








!!
...I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING JUST NOW...
...
WHAT WAS THAT...?


虎視

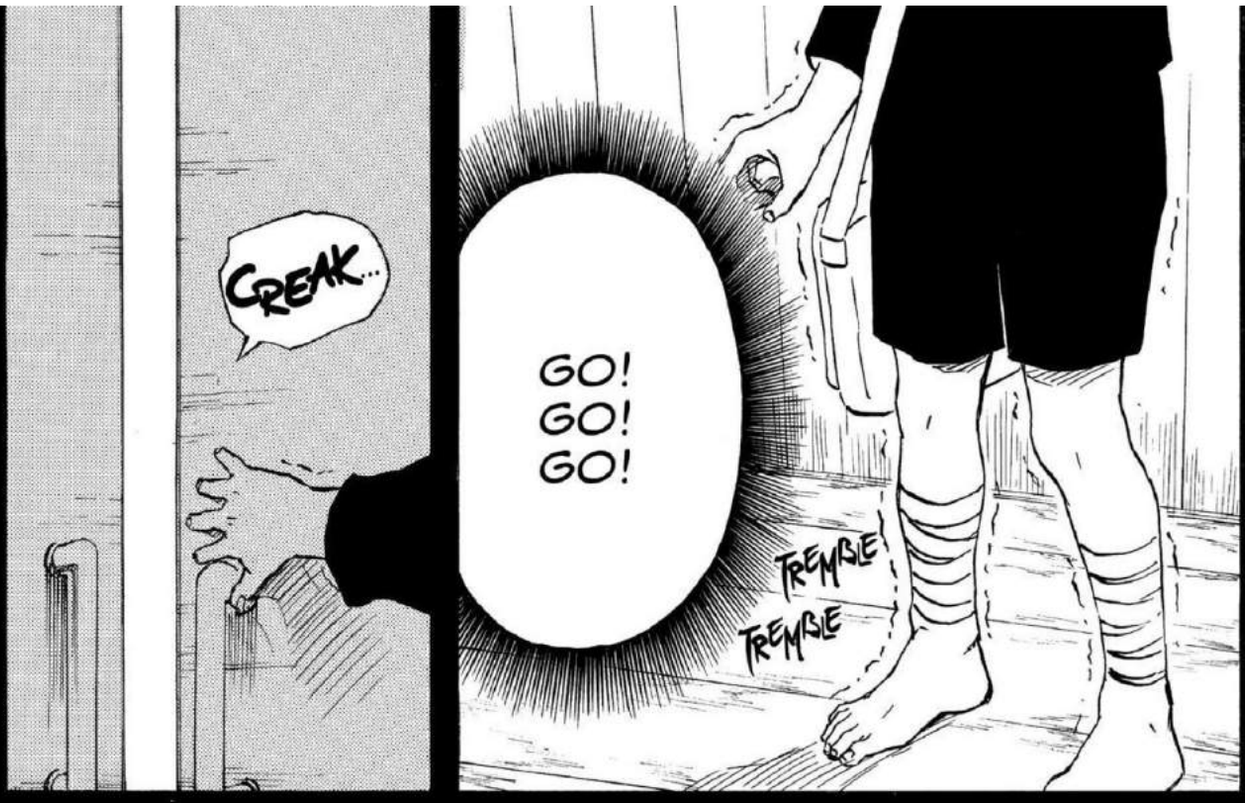
WHAT'S GOING ON...?!!
WHAT IS THIS!!

WH... WHAT...
IS THIS...

BRRRRR...
!!

SASUKE... DON'T COME IN!
FATHER! MOTHER!
SKREE

FWOSH


CREAK...
GO!
GO!
GO!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

FWIP
FATHER!!
MOTHER!!

HOW?! WHY?!!
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A...
...BIG BROTHER!! BIG BROTHER!! FATHER AND MOTHER ARE...!!

BIG BRO-THER!
!!

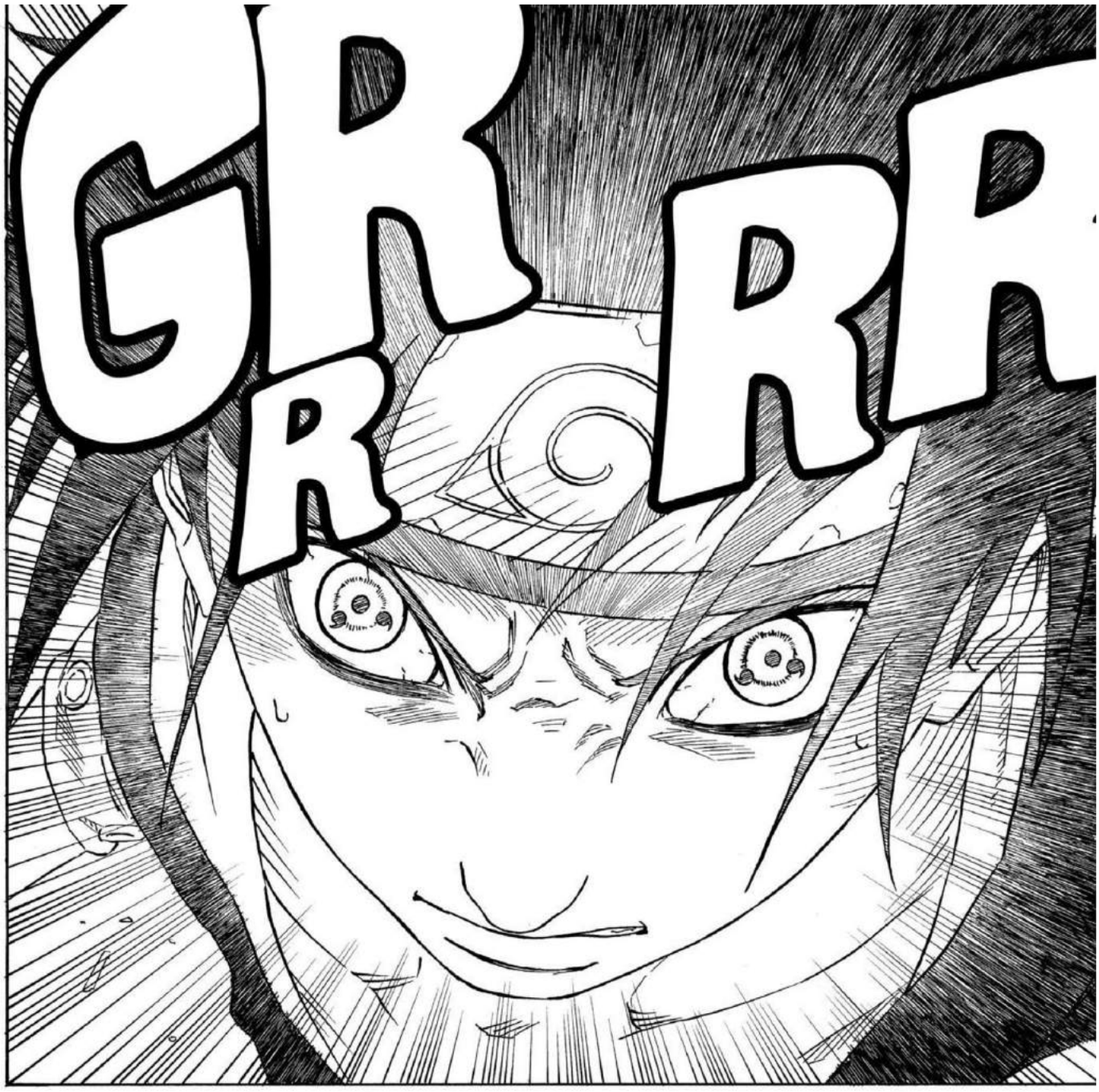
...?!

UGH...!
SLASH

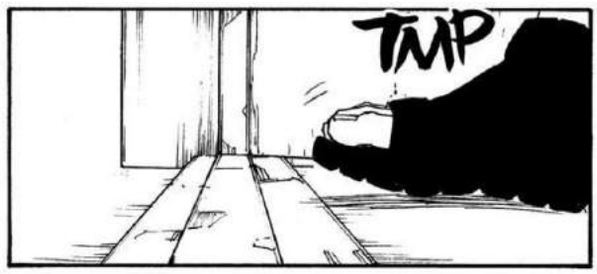
FOOLISH LITTLE BROTHER ...

!!
THOCK

MANGEKYO SHARINGAN!!
THROB
HUNH..
WHY?! ...NO!! ITACHI!! AAARRRGH!!
AAAARGH!! STOP IT!!
WAAAAAH!!
DON'T SHOW ME SUCH THINGS!!!
STOP!! BIG BROTHER!!
DON'T... FATHER AND MOTHER, AAAARGH!!

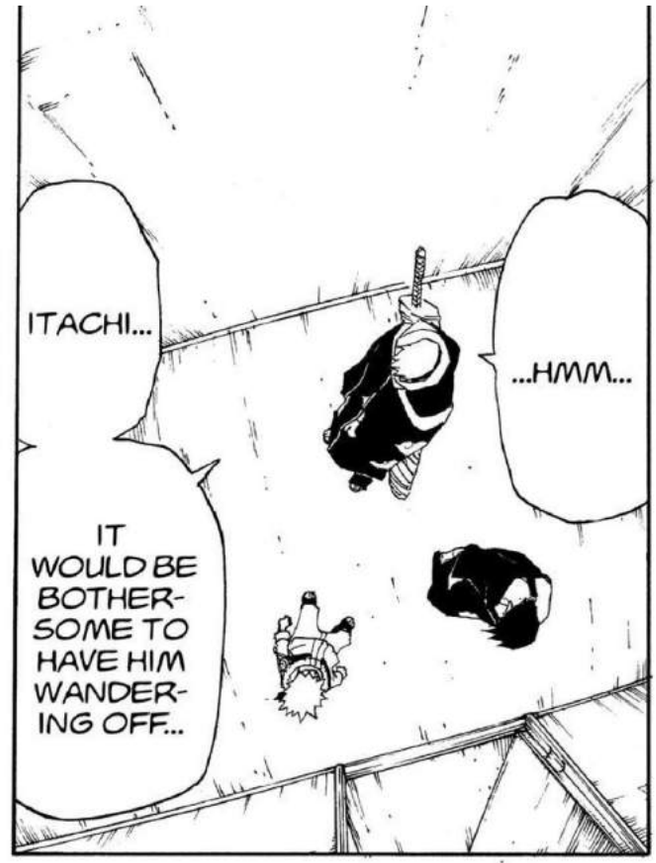

GR
R
RR

TH...THESE GUYS, THEY'RE NOT ORDINARY...


TMP

WHY DON'T YOU STEP OUT OF THE ROOM...?

CLENCH...
PERHAPS WE SHOULD CUT OFF ONE OF HIS LEGS OR SOME-THING...


ITACHI...
...HMM...
IT WOULD BE BOTHER-SOME TO HAVE HIM WANDER-ING OFF...

WH... WHAT?!
!!

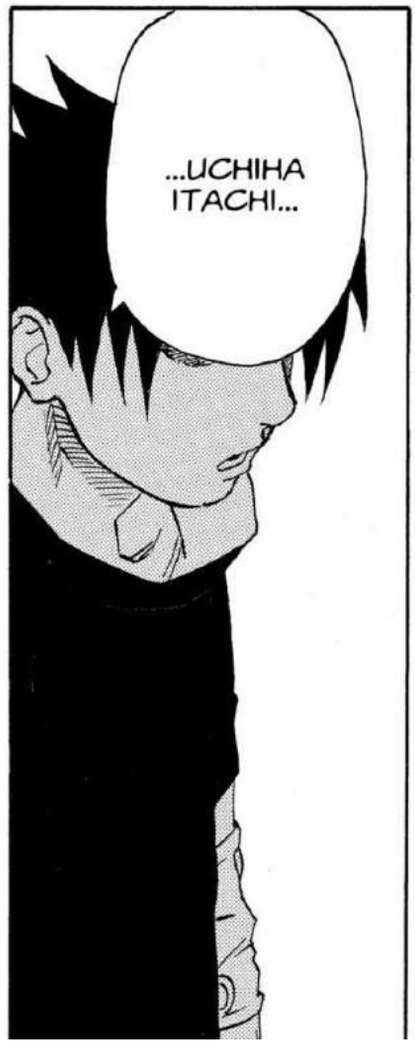
...!

TMP
TMP

WELL THEN...

...

LONG TIME NO SEE... SASUKE.



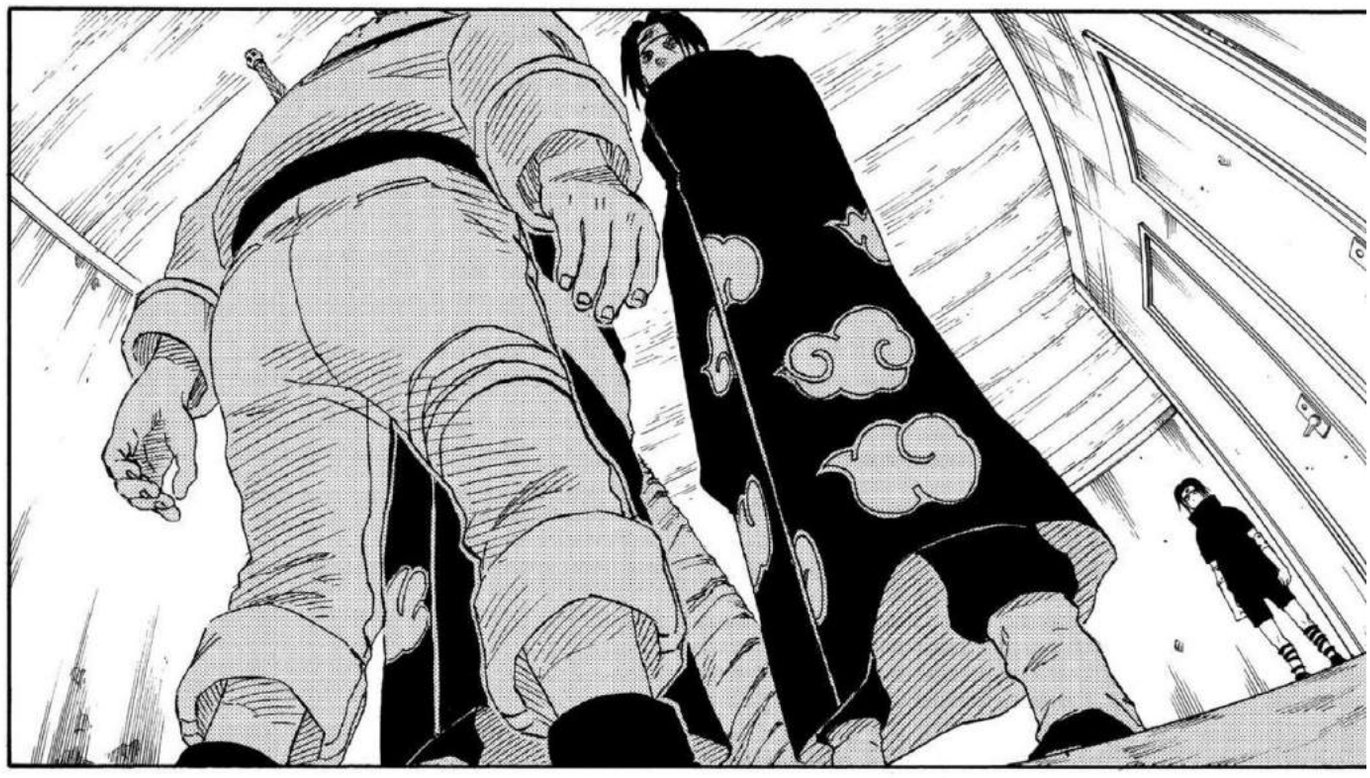
I WILL...
... KILL YOU!!

KISHIMOTO-SAN, WHO ALMOST EVERY DAY IS LIKE A STUDENT THE NIGHT BEFORE AN EXAMINATION.
PLEASE KEEP PUSHING THROUGH ENERGETICALLY.

NOVEMBER . 8. 田坂 亮
RYO TASAKA

Number 146: Along with Hatred...!!

UCHIHA... ITACHI...?
?!



...

...THE SAME UCHIHA... AS SASUKE...?

READ THIS WAY

...

AND HE LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE YOU...
WELL... SHARIN-GAN.
WHO IS THAT KID, ITACHI?

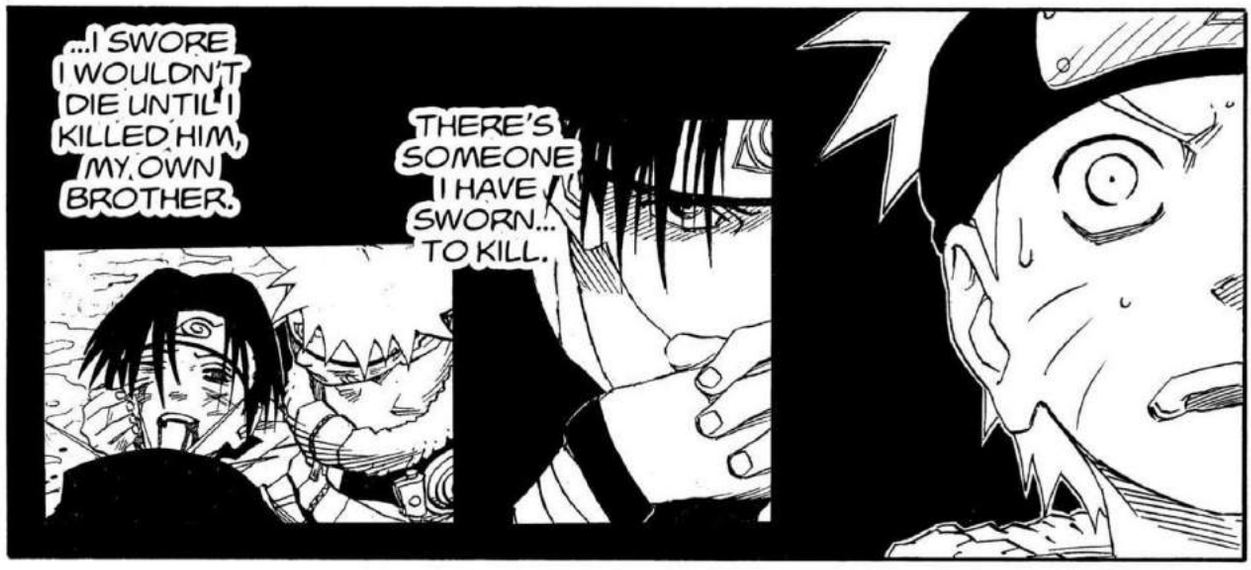
WHAT ARE THEY?!
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE...?!

HE'S... MY BROTHER.

...THAT'S FUNNY, CUZ THE WHOLE UCHIHA CLAN WAS WIPED OUT THE WAY I HEARD IT...

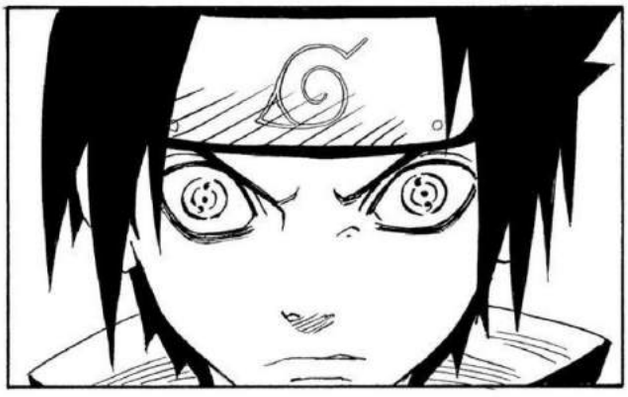
!!

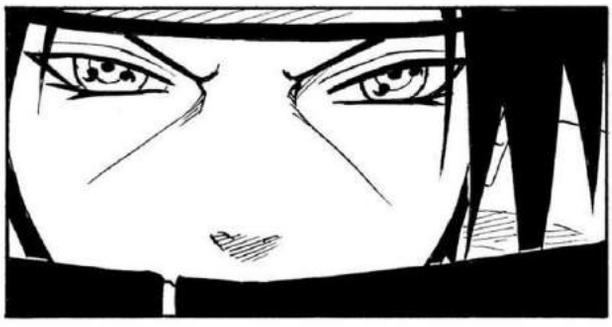
...BY YOU!

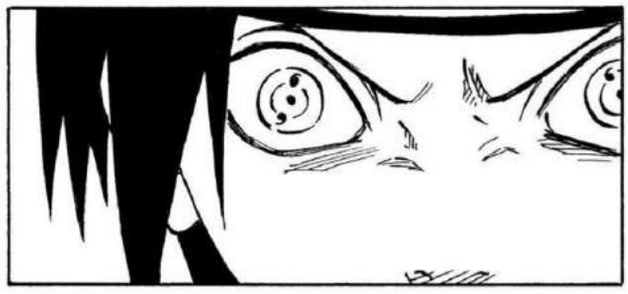

...I SWORE I WOULDN'T DIE UNTIL I KILLED HIM, MY OWN BROTHER.
THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN... TO KILL.

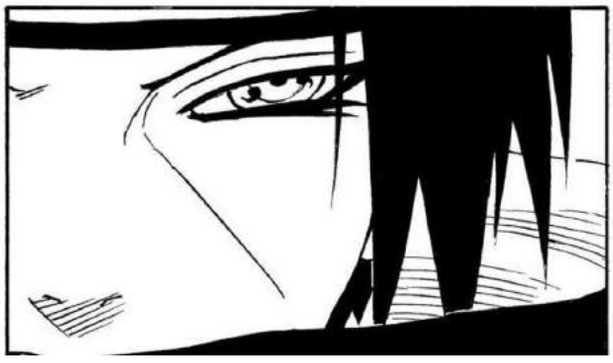
THE ONE HE WANTS TO KILL...

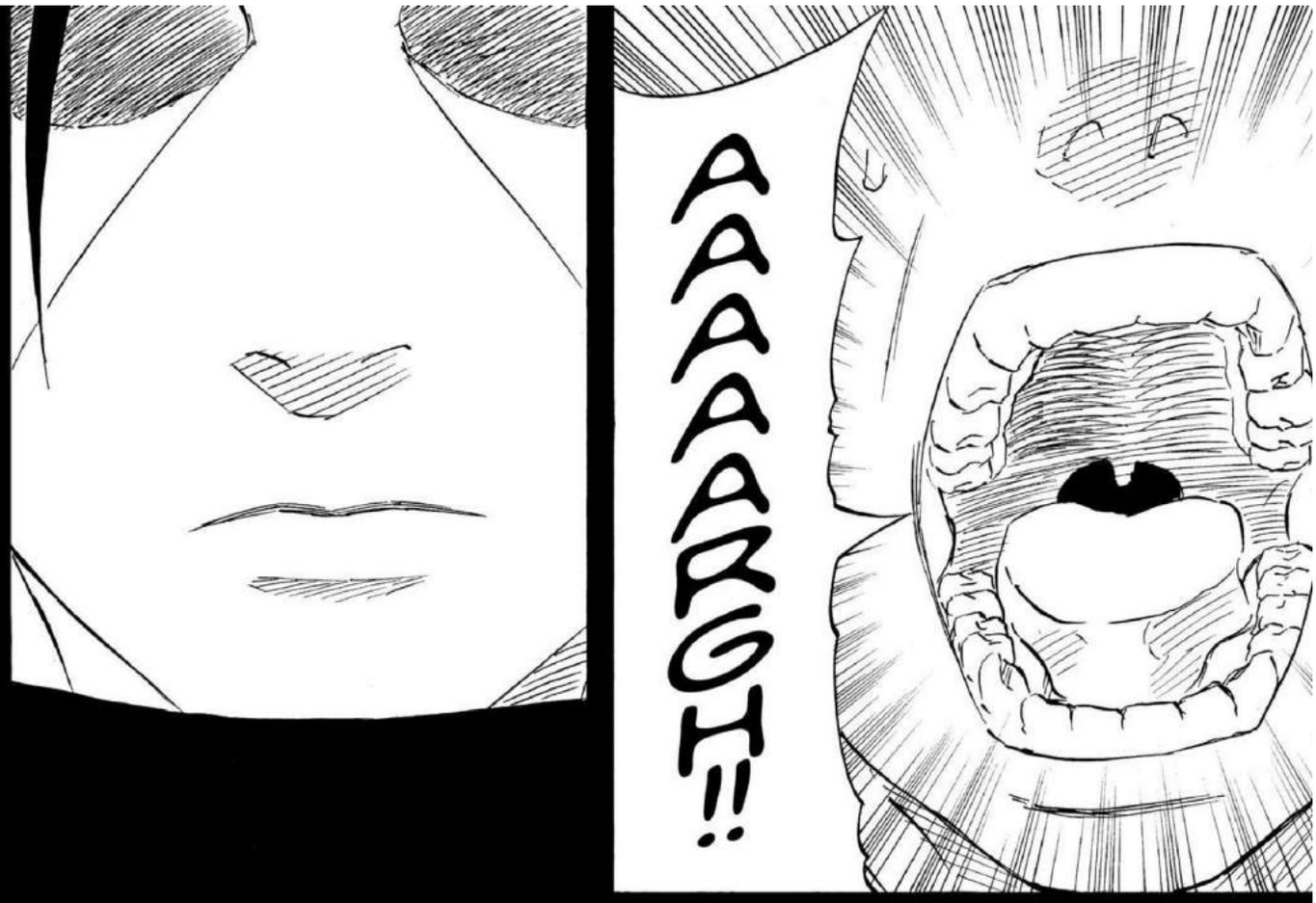
GRRRR
SO THIS IS THE GUY SASUKE WAS TALKING ABOUT!

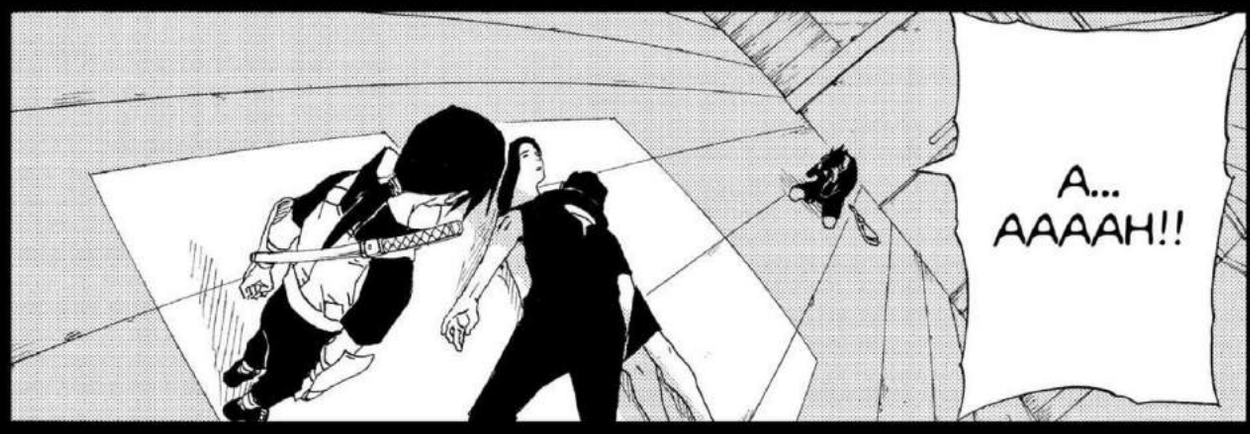




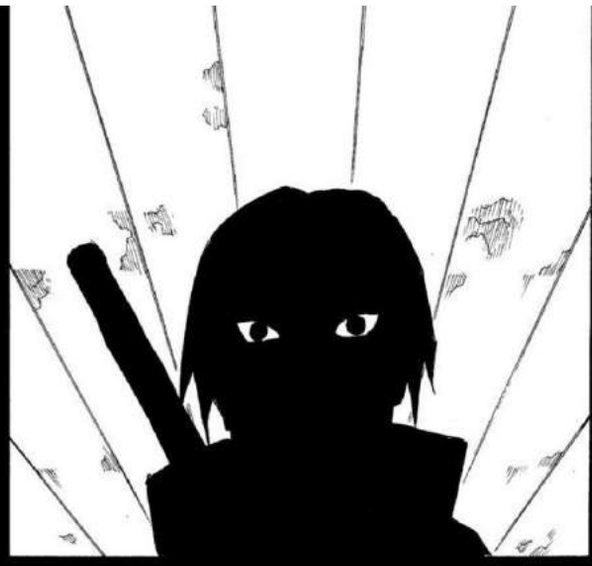





AAAAAAGH!!


A...
AAAAH!!

READ THIS WAY
HUF
HUF
FWMP

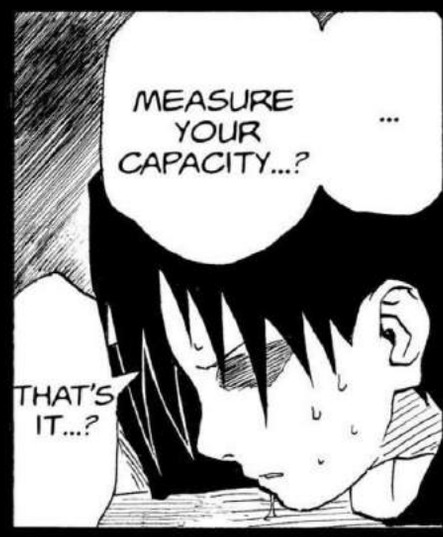


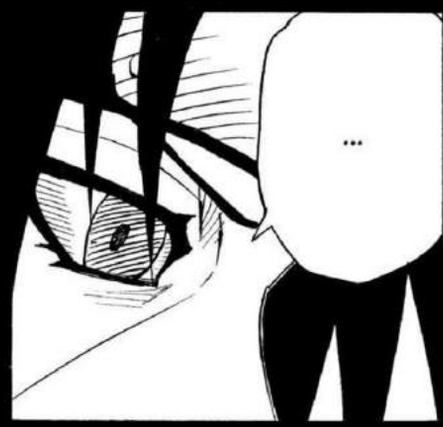
WHY...
...DID YOU...?

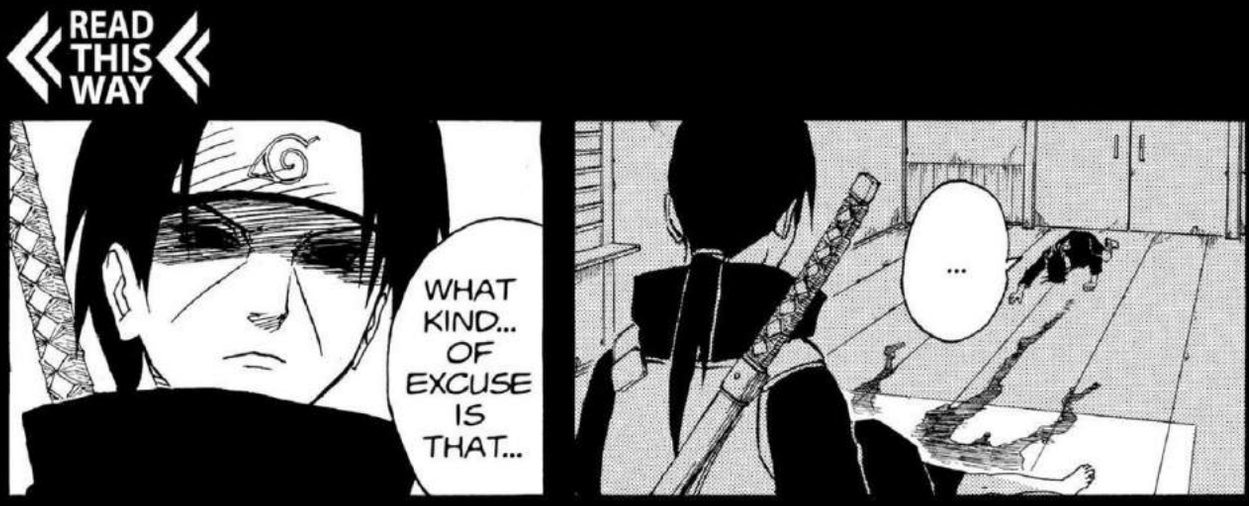
TO MEASURE MY CAPACITY.

I HAD TO.

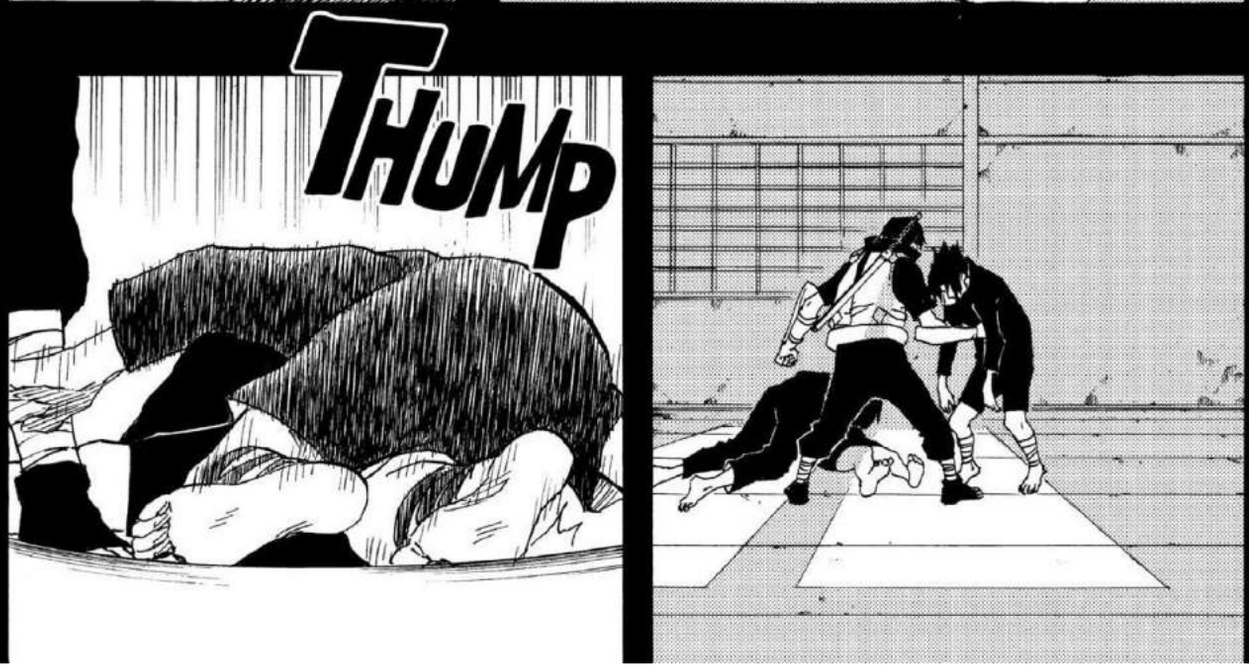
THAT'S... THE ONLY REASON... FOR KILLING... EVERYBODY...?
...


MEASURE YOUR CAPACITY...?
...
THAT'S IT...?


...

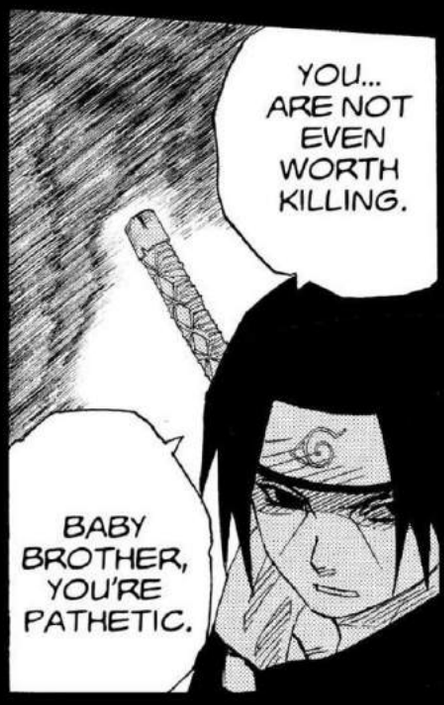

READ THIS WAY
WHAT KIND... OF EXCUSE IS THAT...
...

CLOD
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
FWEEE


THUMP

SHUMP
AFRAID!!

'FRAID...
CHAK


YOU... ARE NOT EVEN WORTH KILLING.
BABY BROTHER, YOU'RE PATHETIC.

SKREE

WAAAH! DON'T KILL ME!!
SHOO
SLAM
WHEEE

CLINGING TO LIFE WITHOUT HONOR!
HATE ME AND LIVE LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE!
... SETTLE FOR...
IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME...
... HATING ME...
AND LIVED SOLELY...
...JUST AS YOU TOLD ME TO... I'VE RESENTED AND HATED YOU...
FF
SH
CHIRP
CHIRP
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

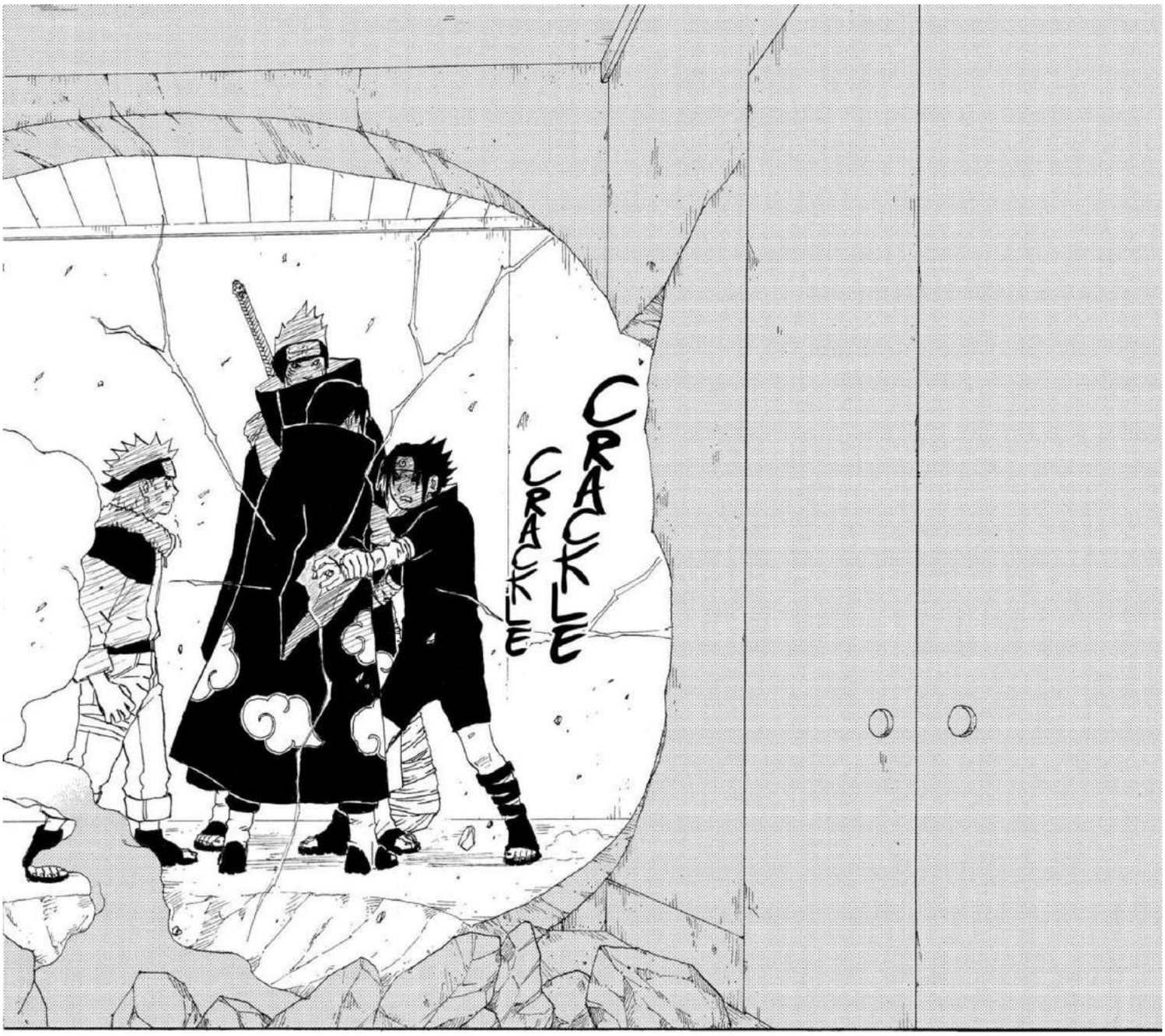
...TO KILL YOU!!

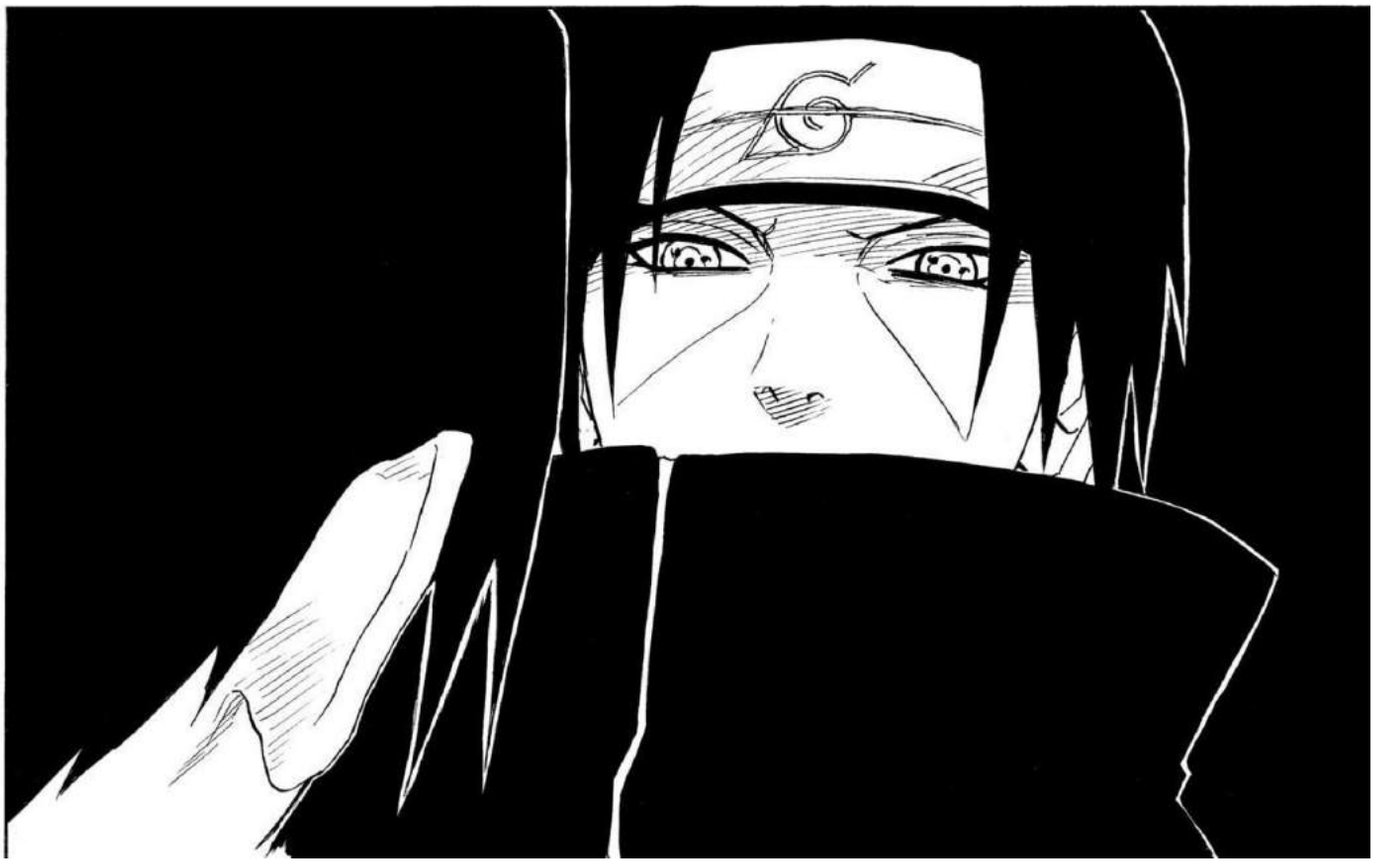
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

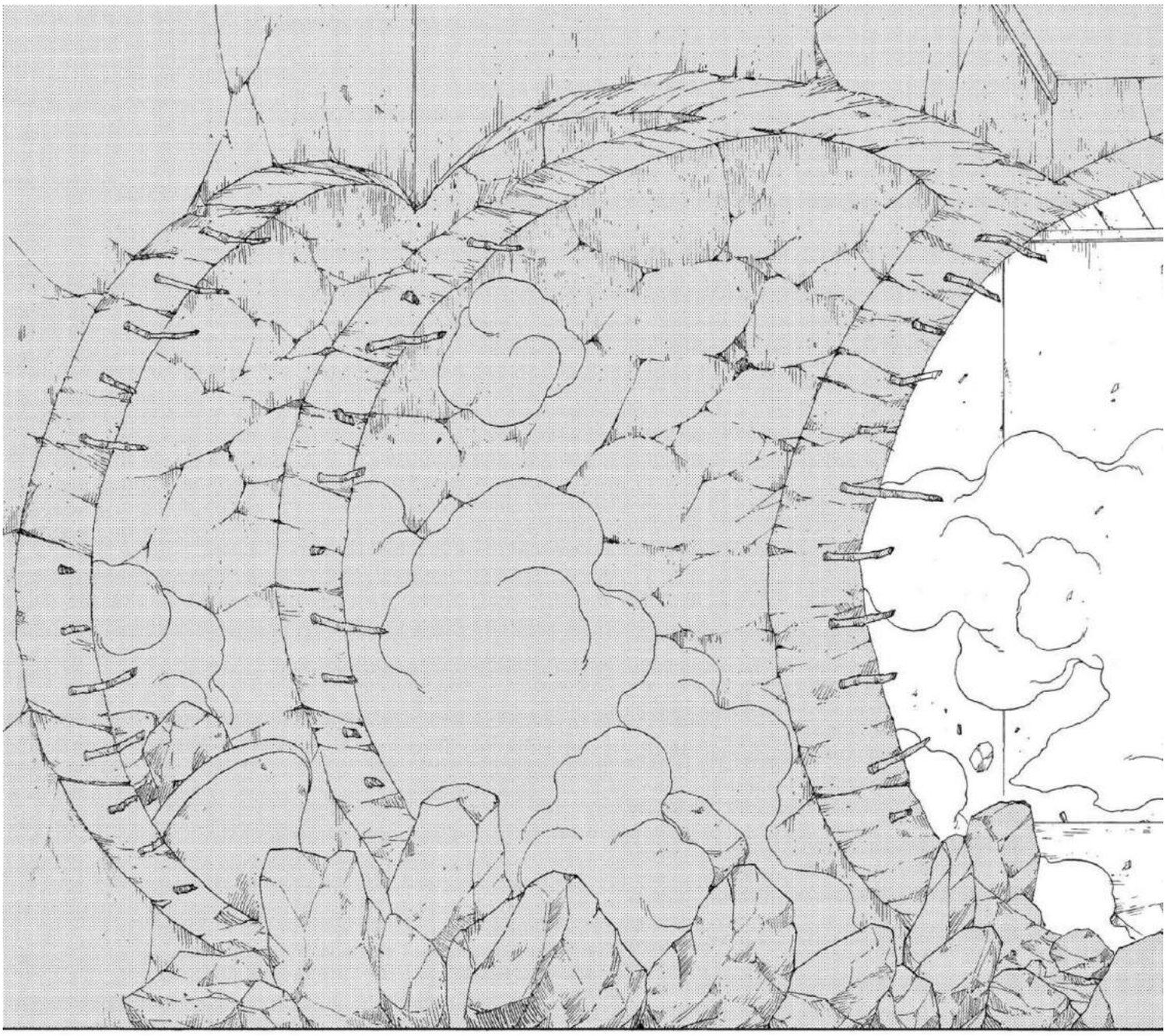
SHZZZ

SHZZZ

DRI-LL
DRI-LL
DRI-LL
DRI-LL
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
RRRRROAR!!!
ZAP
CLASH


CRACKLE
CRACKLE



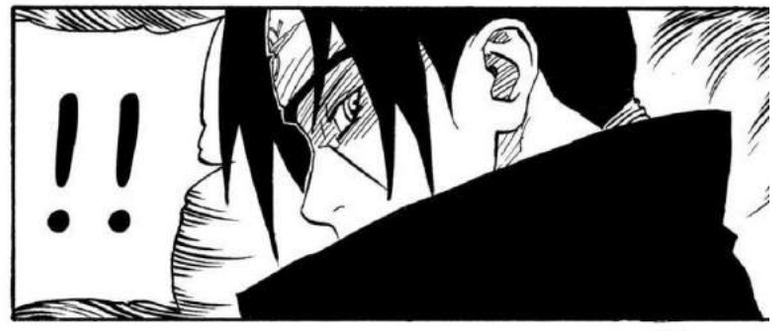


SHOOT!!

I GOTTA DO SOMETHING...!!
UNNNI!!

...THE POWER OF THE NINE-TAILED FOX...!!
THE AIR IS RIPE WITH CHAKRA... THERE'S NO MISTAKE...

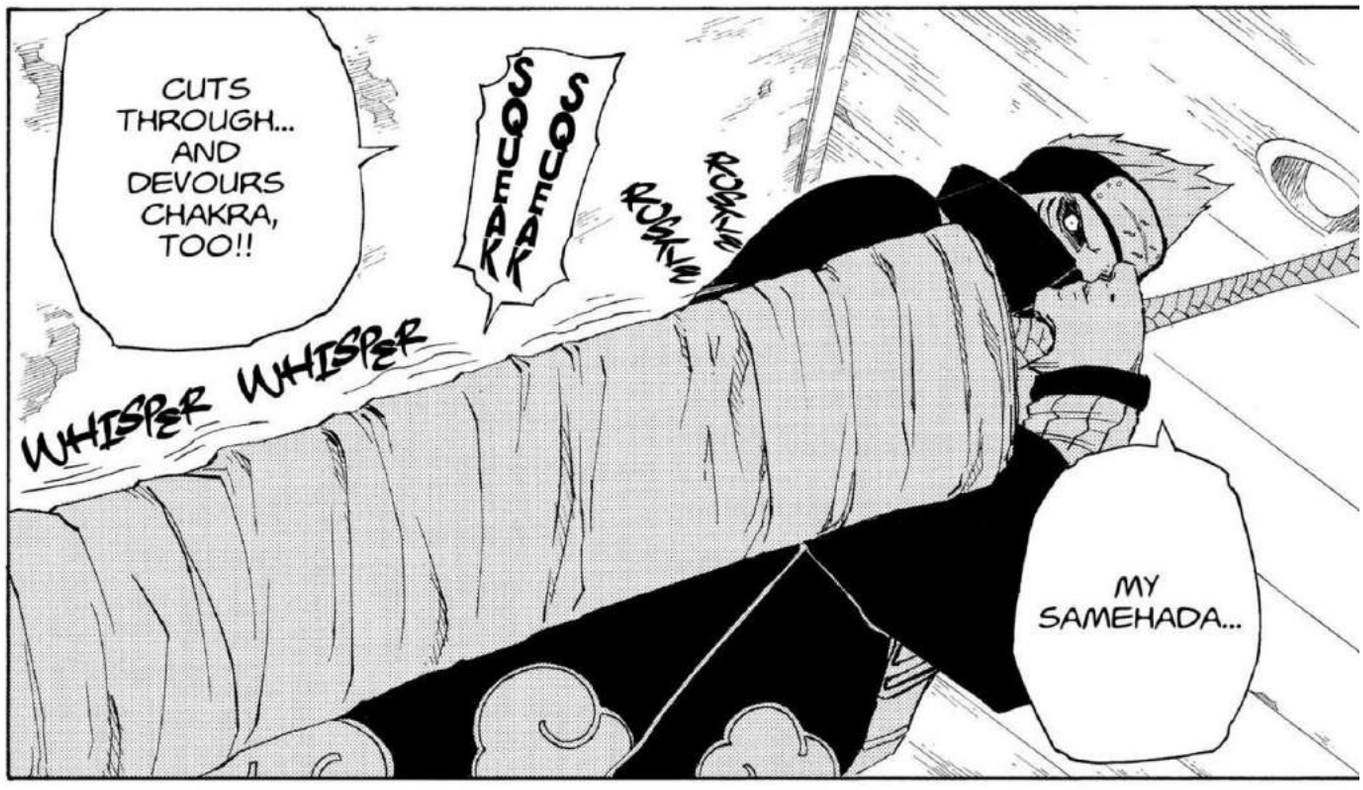
!


!!

READ THIS WAY
SNAP
YOU'RE IN THE WAY...
YOU...!!
AAAARGH!!
SHMP
SASUKE!!
ARGH!!
KUCHI-YOSE! SUMMON-ING...
FWIP
TOO SLOW!
SHOOOM
?!
OH!

REEEEE
ARGH! ARGH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

I CAN'T FEEL... MY CHAKRA?!
HUH...?!


CUTS THROUGH... AND DEVOURS CHAKRA, TOO!!
SOUEEK SOUEEK
ROWNE ROWNE
WHISPER WHISPER
MY SAMEHADA...

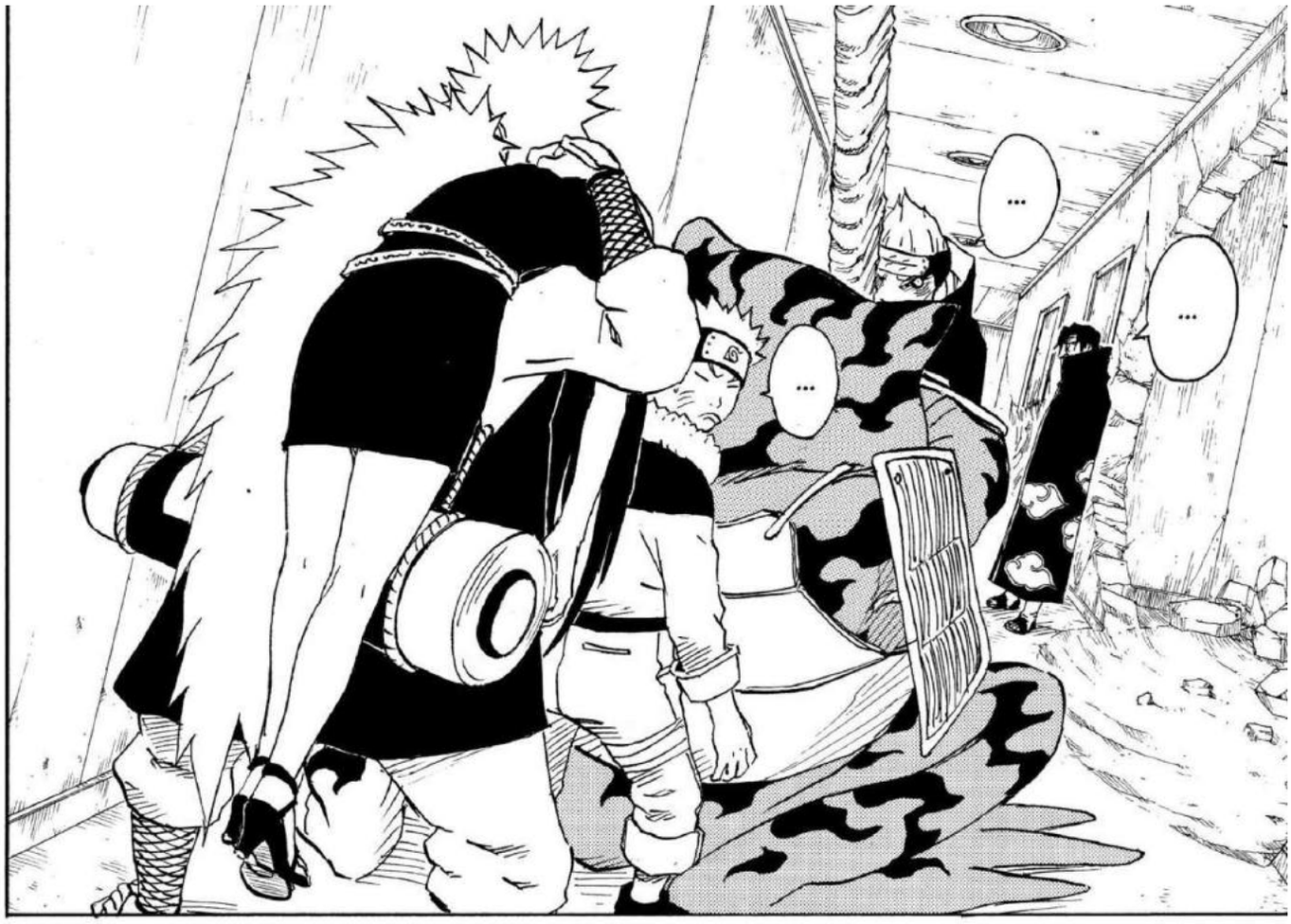
...FORGET THE LEGS. MAYBE I SHOULD START WITH THOSE ARMS.
SWIP

WE DON'T NEED THIS KID WHIPPING OUT ANY MORE JUTSU...
!

READ THIS WAY
URRRRR!
!
KACHINK
!!
POP
THE TOAD SAGE JIRAIYA FALLS VICTIM TO NO WOMAN'S CHARM.
BEAUTIES DROP FOR ME LIKE BLOSSOMS IN A STORM!
YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL. YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK...

池本幹雄
MIKIO IKEMOTO

WHEN YOU GET TO MY LEVEL, THE WOMEN ARE THE ONES WHO WRITHE AT MY CHARM!!
A MAN LIKE ME ISN'T WIRED TO JUST BLINDLY FOLLOW A WOMAN LIKE A DOG!!
Number 147: It's My Fight!!


...
...
...

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE ACTING SO HIGH AND MIGHTY! PERVY SAGE!!
YEAH, RIGHT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT EXCITED WHEN A WOMAN WINKED AT YOU!

UGH...

WE'VE GOT WORSE THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN WHAT THESE GUYS THINK OF YOU!
ARGH!! I REALLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T CALL ME THAT IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE!
GET ON WITH IT, PERVY SAGE!!

READ THIS WAY
...
!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF AN UNRIVALED WOMAN-CHASER YOU ARE, I DIDN'T THINK OUR DELAYING TACTIC WOULD SUCCEED THAT EASILY, BUT...
CACKLE CACKLE...
AAH, LORD JIRAIYA, TOUTED AS ONE OF THE LEGENDARY THREE GREAT SHINOBI.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE UNDONE THE GENJUTSU WE PLACED ON THAT WOMAN.
...
...ER, THAT'S NOT REALLY MY TRUE IDENTITY...
WHAT, YOU EVEN KNOW PERVY SAGE'S TRUE IDENTITY?!

SHP
BMP
PLACING A SAIMINGAN GENJUTSU ON A WOMAN TO SEPARATE ME FROM NARUTO...
WHAT KIND OF COWARD WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

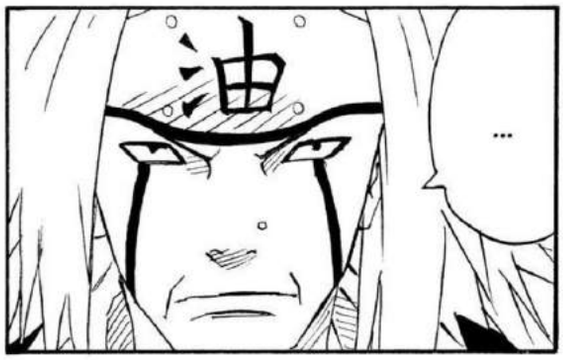
SEPARATE US... BUT WHY...?
...

...!!

I KNOW HE'S THE ONE YOU'RE REALLY AFTER.

...

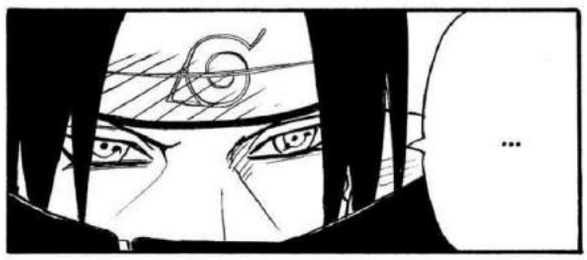
...?!

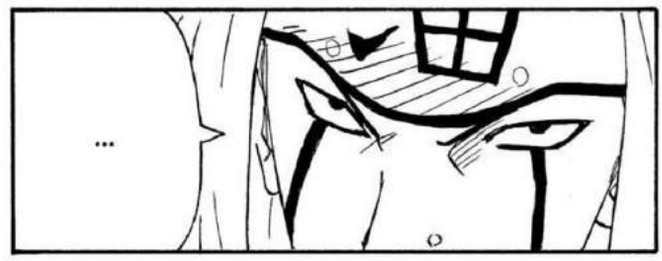

...

I SEE... SO YOU WERE HIS INFOR-MATION SOURCE ...
...NOW I KNOW HOW KAKASHI KNEW.

TO TAKE NARUTO WITH US...
...IS THE SUPREME ORDER GIVEN UNTO US BY THE AKATSUKI.

...


...


...

PU
FF

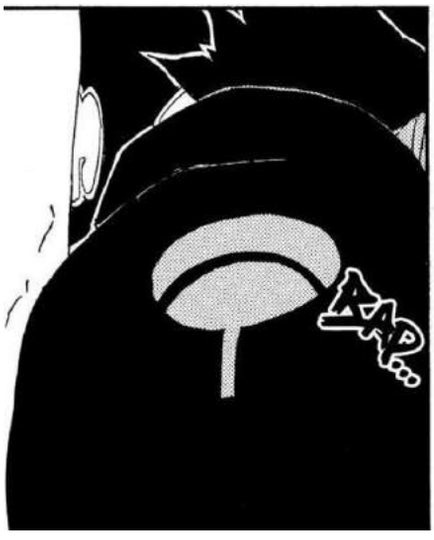
READ THIS WAY

I'LL JUST TAKE CARE OF THE TWO OF YOU RIGHT HERE!
FINE, JUST AS WELL...

SORRY, CAN'T GIVE YOU NARUTO...

REALLY...

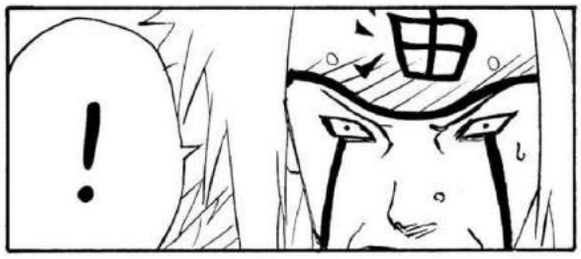
...STAY OUT OF THIS...


BAP...

...

!
DOINK

SASUKE...!
!!


!

...!

GO AWAY... I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN YOU!
...

(HUF)
(URRR)
(HUF)

...THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL DO ANY ELIMIN-ATING...
IS ME...!!
(HUF)
(URRR)
SHF

SLAM
!!

SASUKE!!

SKRRRR

YEA-
GGH!!
WHEEE

ARGH!
BAM

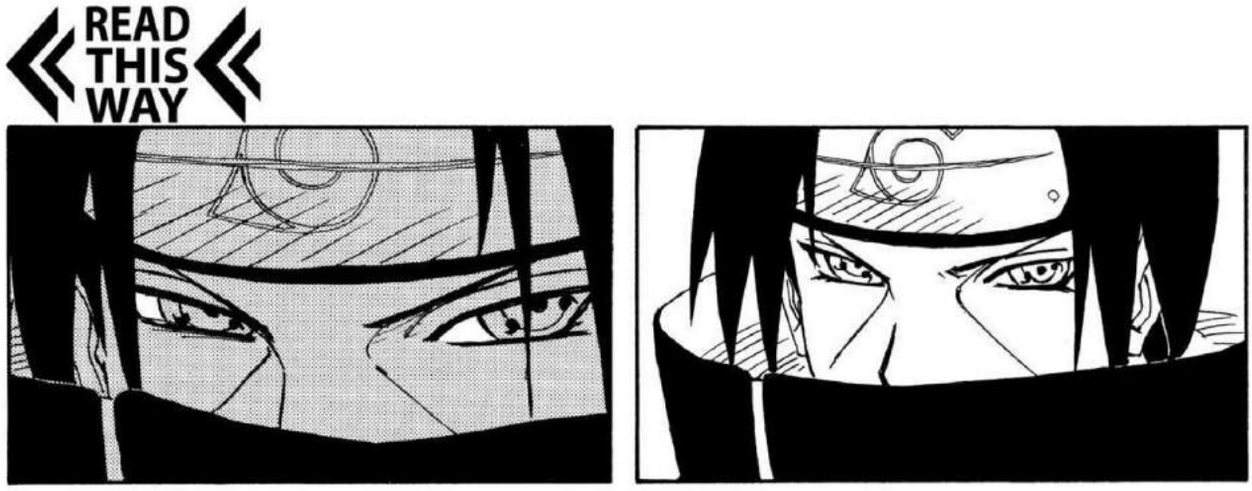
HUF
URRR
NARUTO!!!
...DON'T BUTT IN! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!!

...
AT THIS POINT, HE SHOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO WEAVE SIGNS...

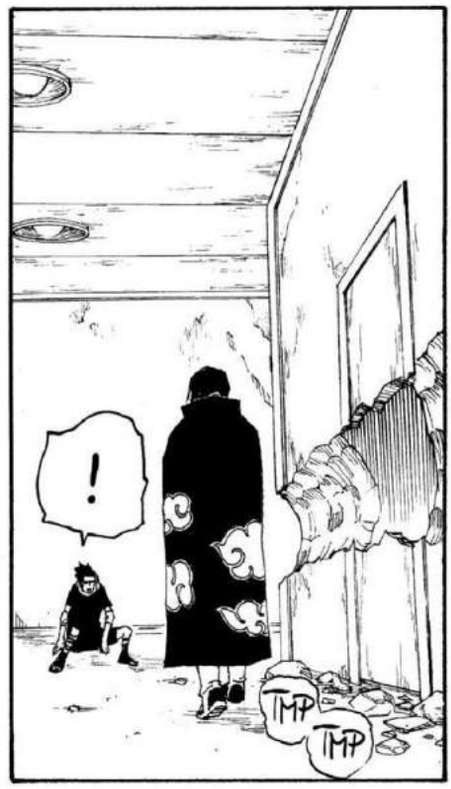
QUIVER
QUIVER

!
OONK
FREEZE

THIS IS MY FIGHT!!!

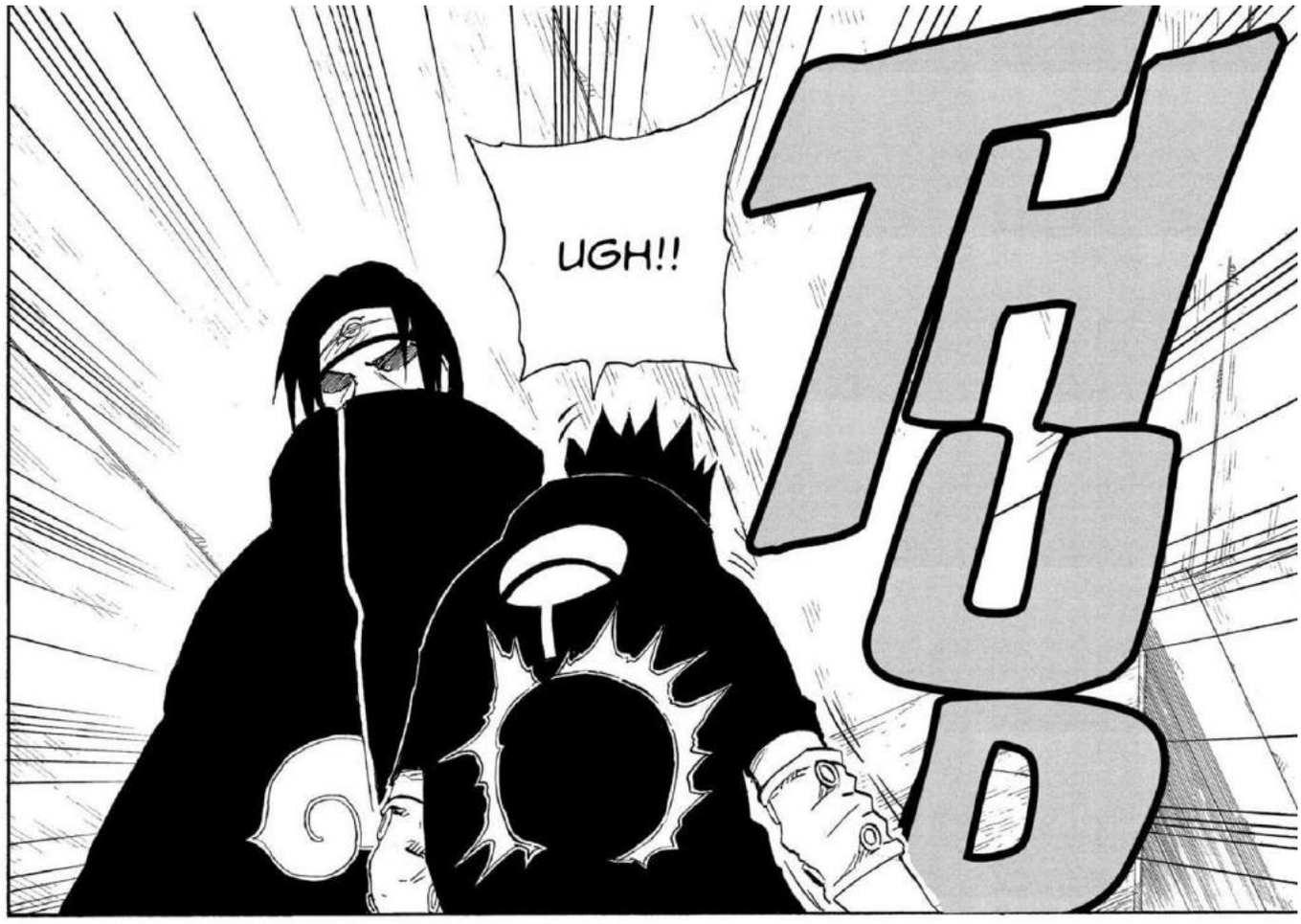

READ THIS WAY

TMP
HUF
HUF

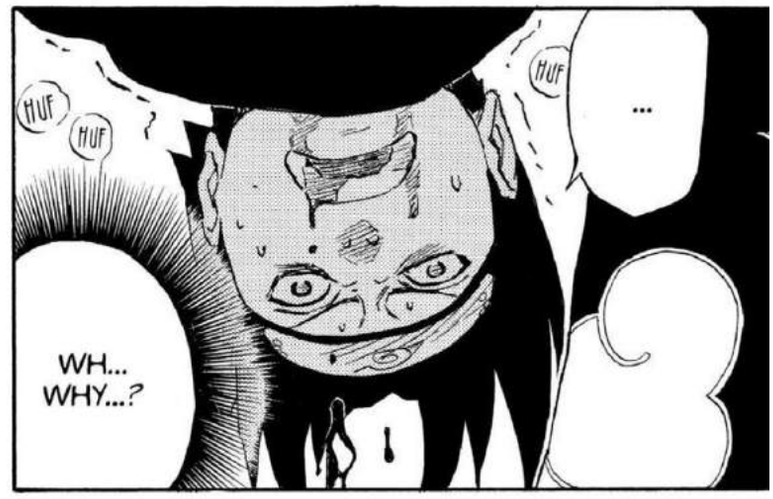

!
TMP
TMP

...
...REVENGE, HUH...

YOU'RE MINE!!!
WHEEE


UGH!!
THUD

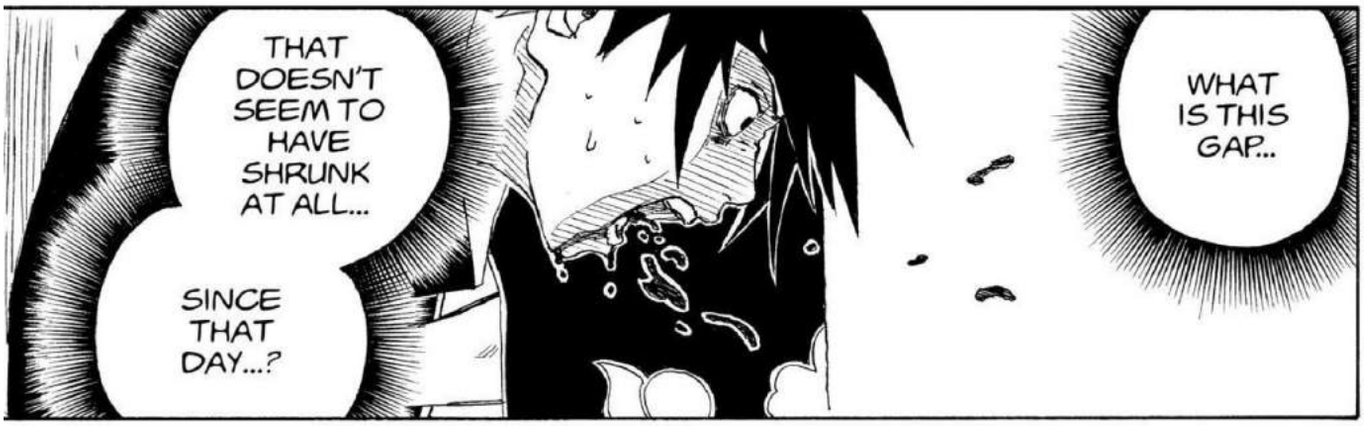
ARGH!!
THWACK


HUF
HUF
HUF
...
WH...
WHY...?

...
GNASH
GNASH

GAH!!
THWACK

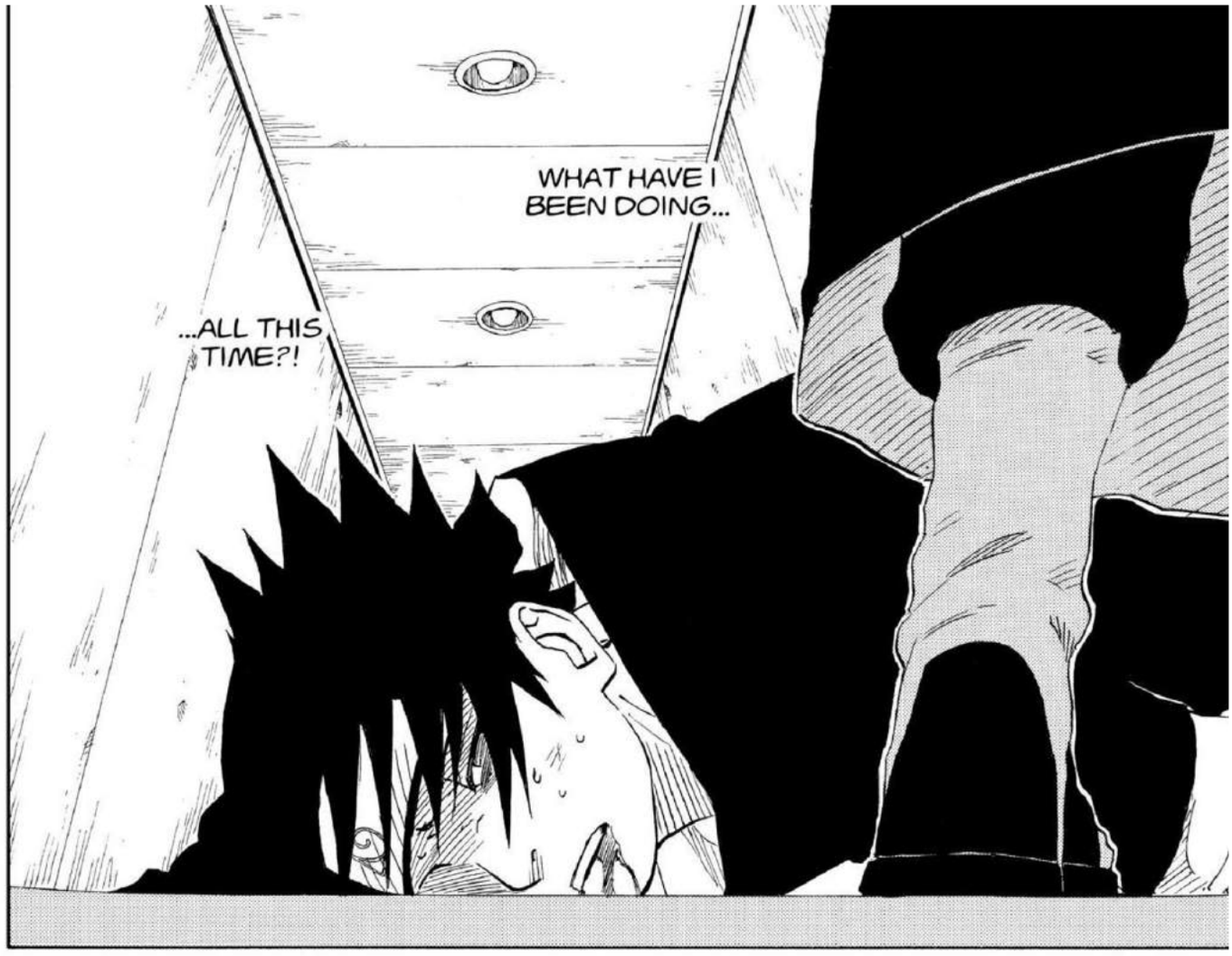
HACK!!
THUD


WHAT IS THIS GAP...
THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE SHRUNK AT ALL...
SINCE THAT DAY...?

...

UGH...

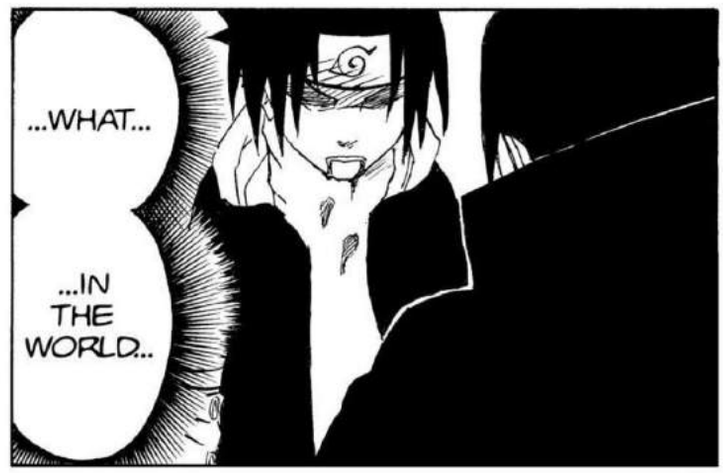
NO MERCY, EH...


WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING...
...ALL THIS TIME?!

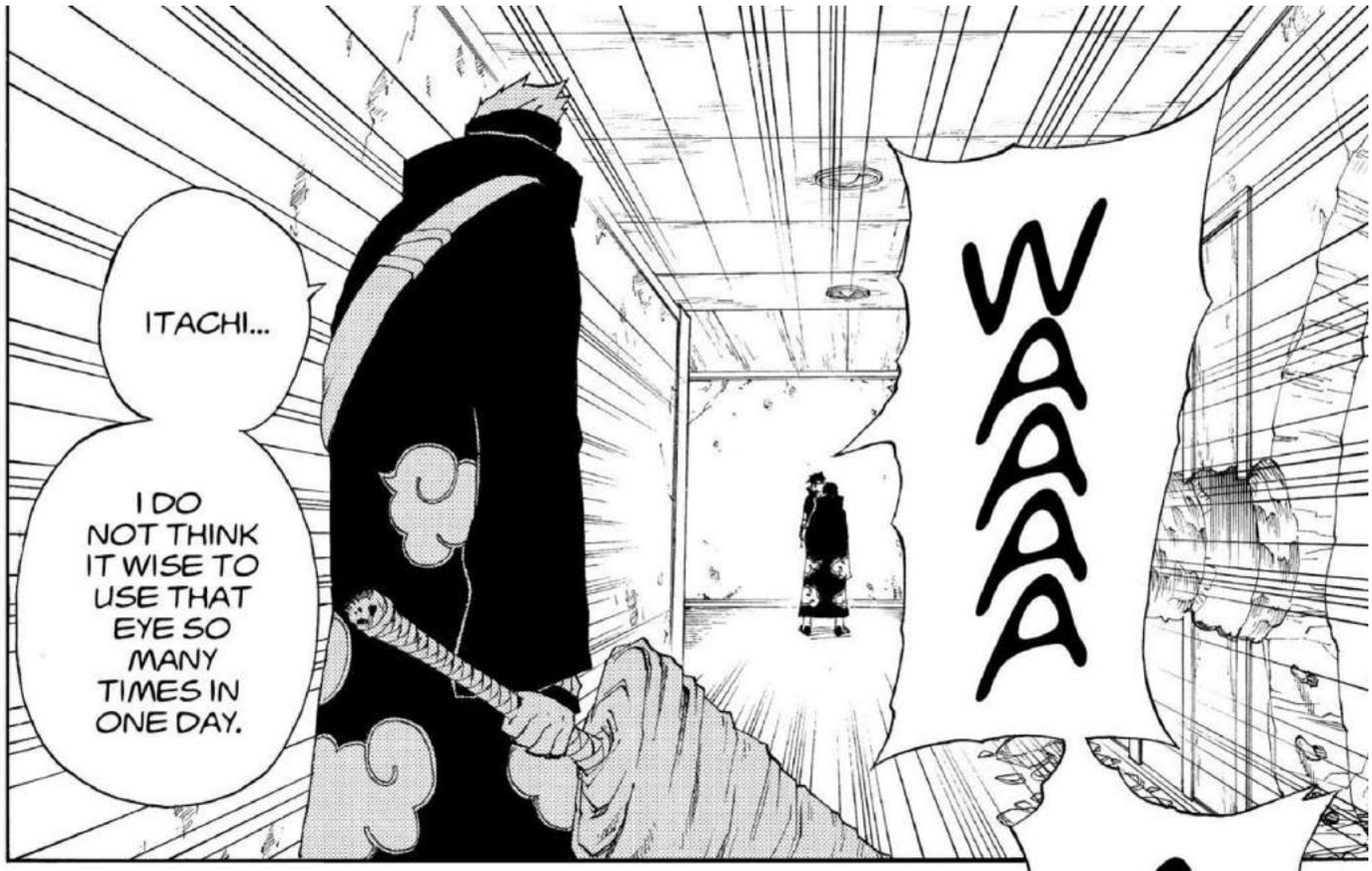
CHOK...

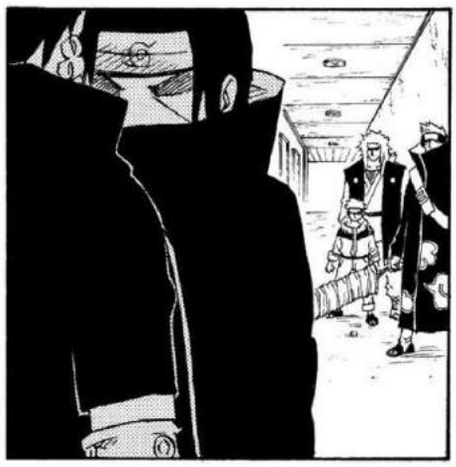
THOK

HUNH...


...WHAT...
...IN THE WORLD..

LAPDE
!!
...
...YOU ARE WEAK...
?!
FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS... RELIVE THAT DAY.
SLASH


ITACHI...
I DO NOT THINK IT WISE TO USE THAT EYE SO MANY TIMES IN ONE DAY.
WAAAA



AAAH!!!

SPRAA

THAT'S ENOUGH!!

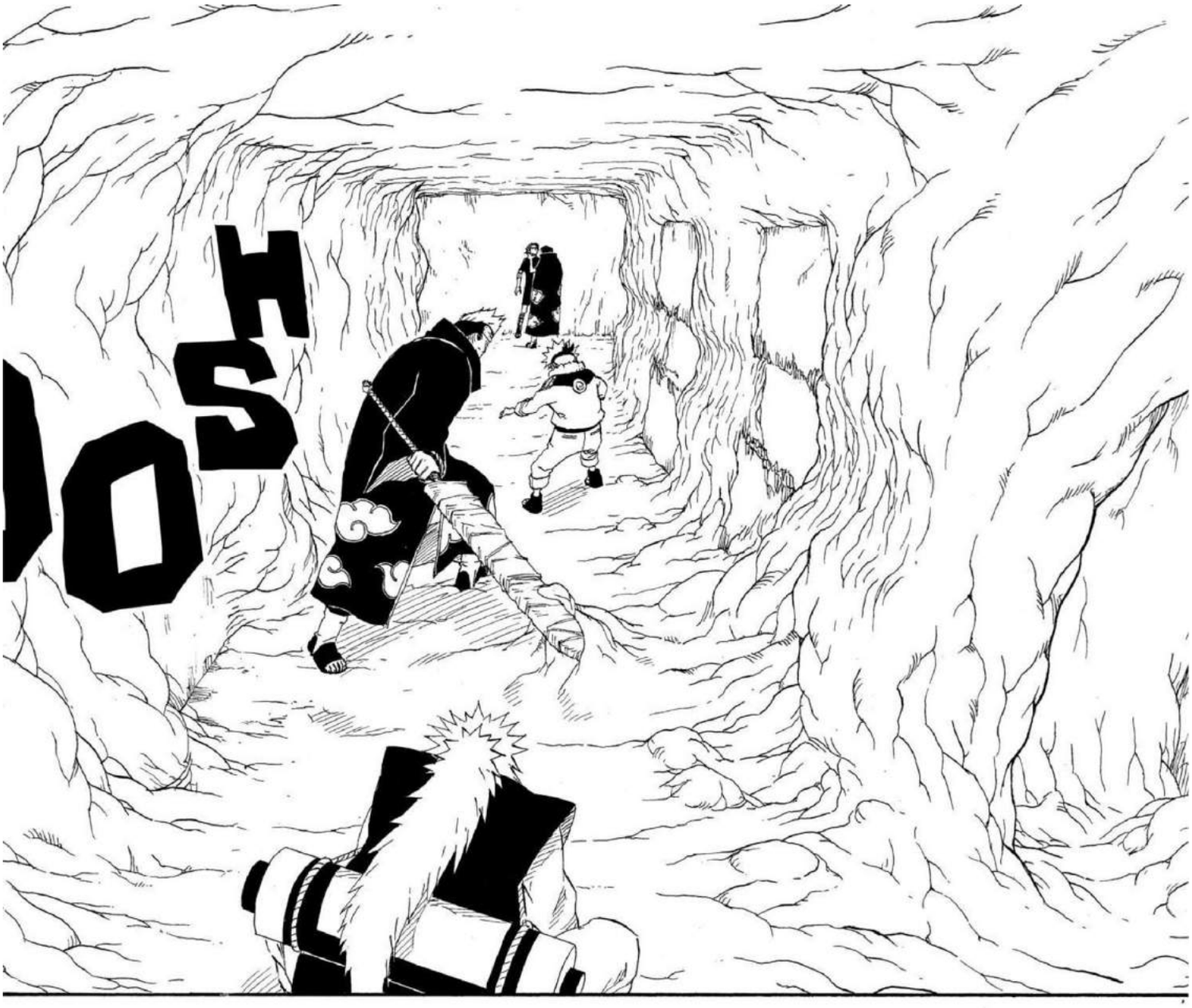
READ THIS WAY
!

SHF
SHF

SHOO

!!

!


HS
O

SSHUF
!

SSSSHUF
SHA

NINJA ART! GAMA-GUCHI SHIBARI! TOAD MOUTH TRAP.

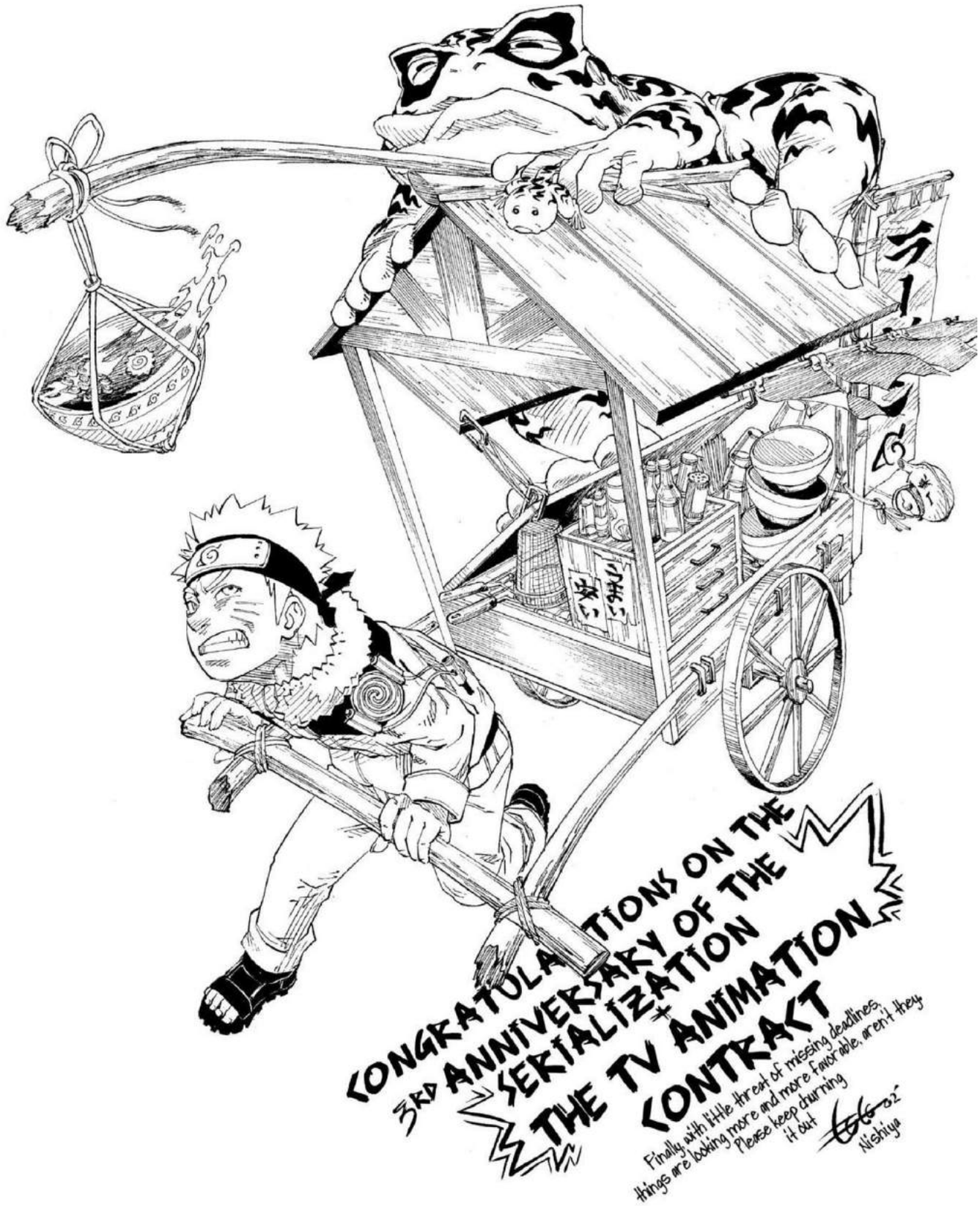
VOOO

YOU TRULY CAN'T ESCAPE ME NOW. YOU ARE IN ME!

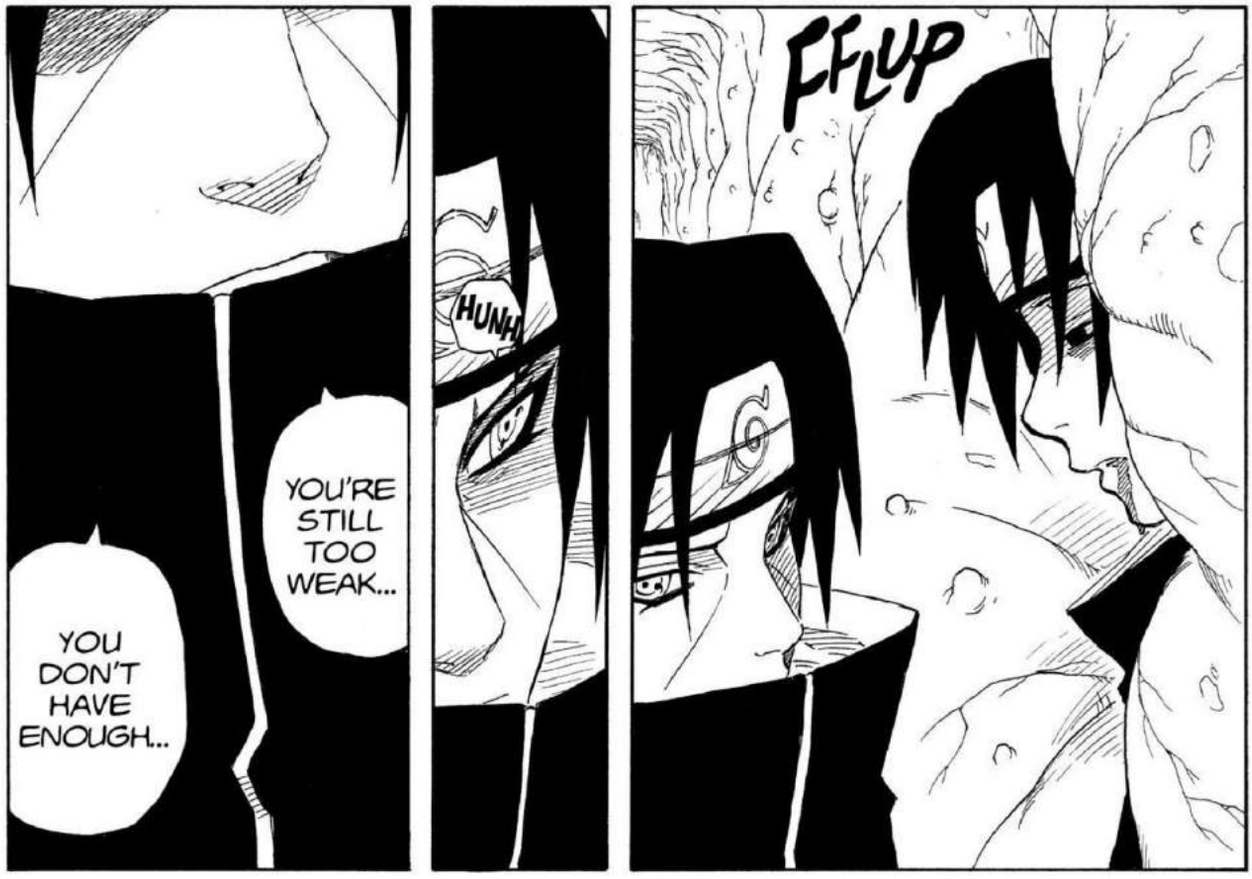
TOO BAD, ITACHI... AND KISAME.

SQUELCH

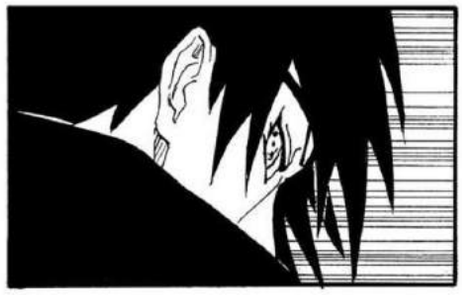
!

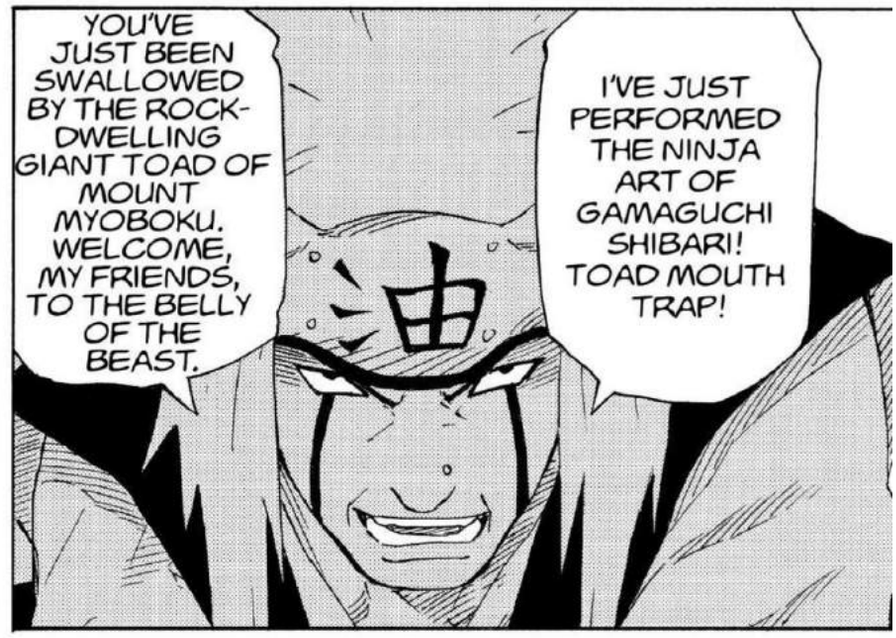

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE
3RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SERIALIZATION
THE TV ANIMATION
CONTRACT
Finally, with little threat of missing deadlines,
things are looking more and more favorable, aren't they.
Please keep churning
it out
'02
Nishiya

Number 148: Itachi's Power!!



Number 148: Itachi's Power!!



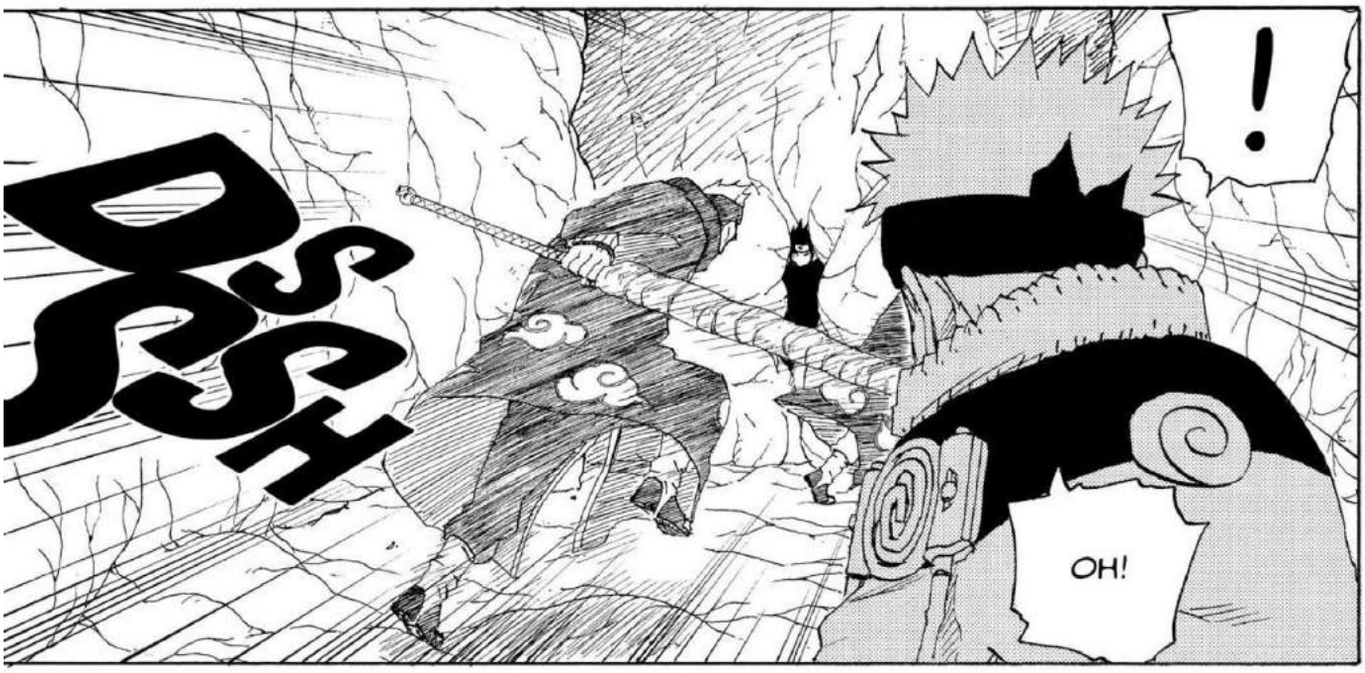


READ THIS WAY

SPLECH SPLECH

HMPH!
URRR

WHOOO
KISAME, LET'S GO!

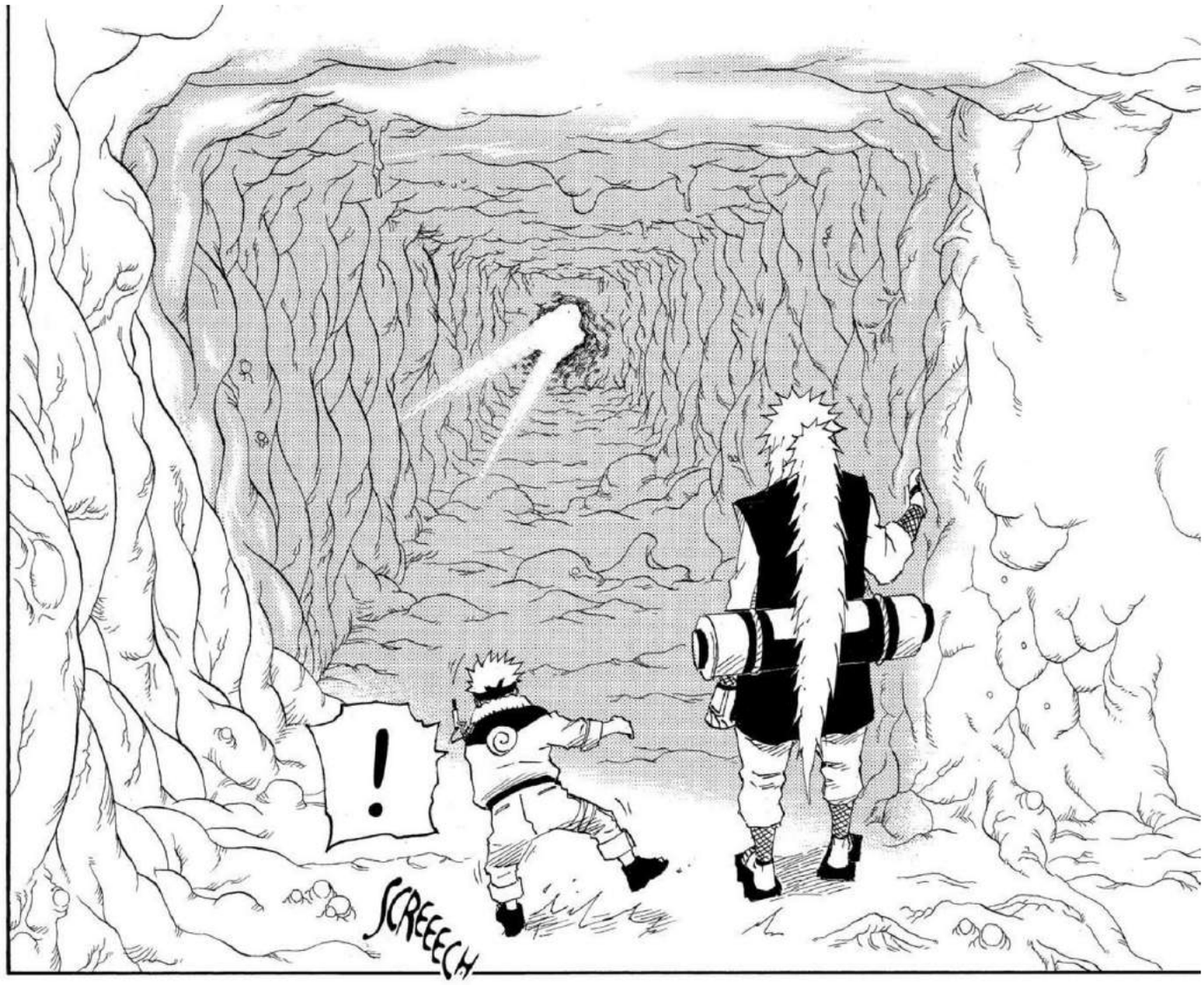

!
OH!
DSSSH

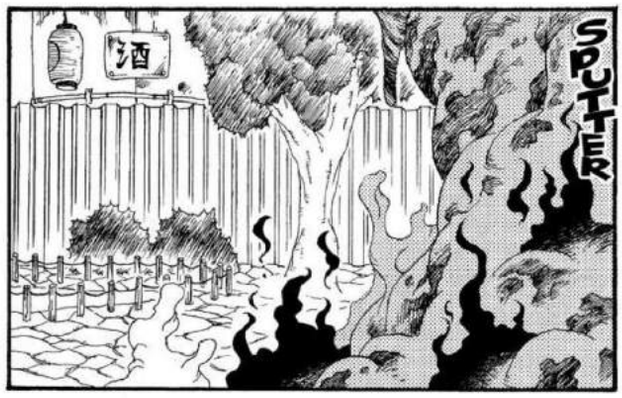
SMOOSH

NO ONE'S EVER SUCCESS-FULLY ESCAPED FROM THIS!

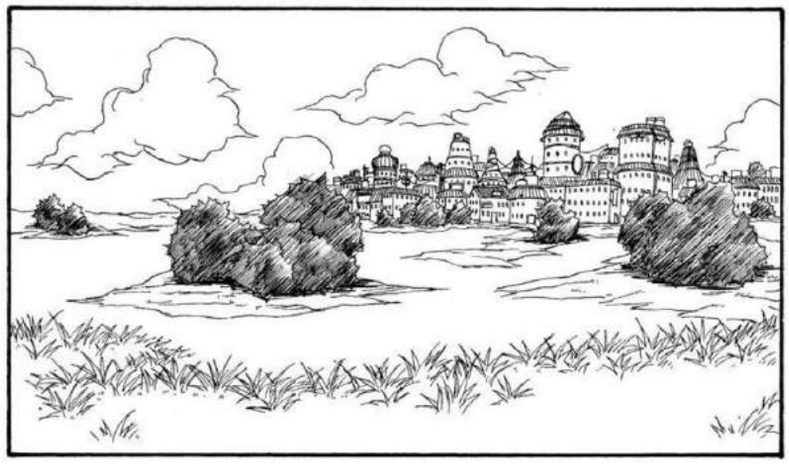
SHOOM
RRRR

READ THIS WAY
THACK
!
DON'T LOOK NOW BUT THERE'S A WALL OF FLESH COMING AFTER US....
GRRR...
...
!!
DSSSH
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
SHOO
!!
HUNH


!
SCREEECH


酒
SPUTTER

THEY'RE GONE!!
HEY!!

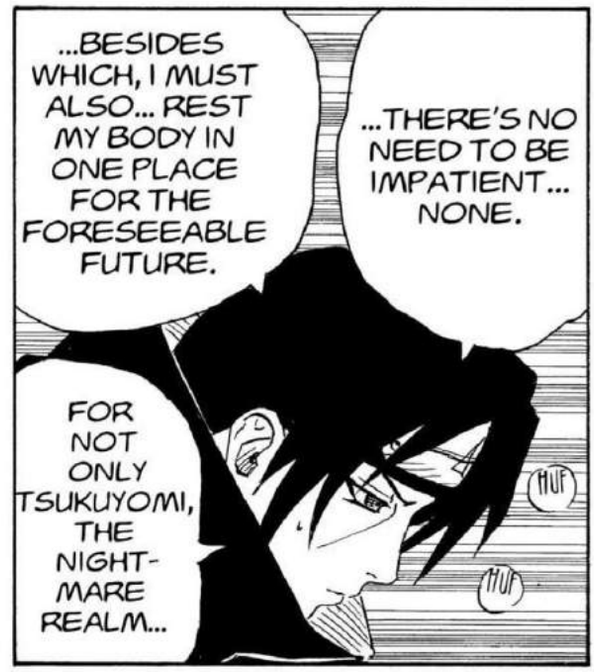


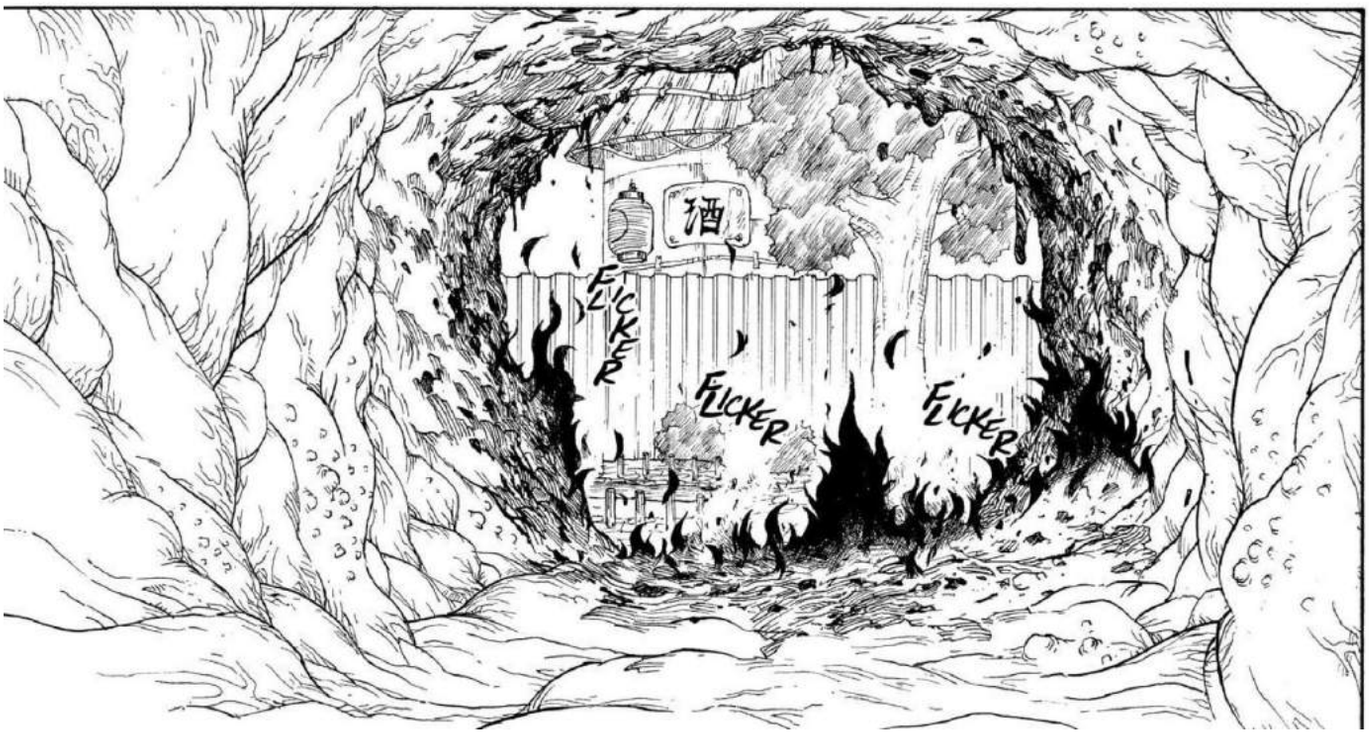
...THEY'RE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BURST THROUGH THIS WALL...

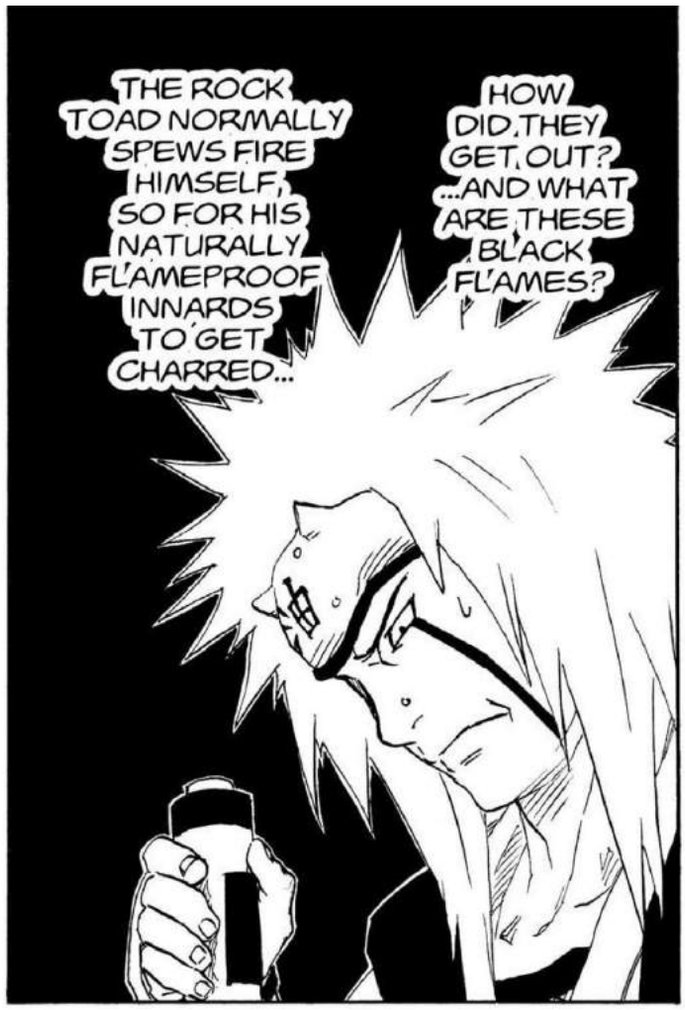
WHY DID WE HAVE TO RE-TREAT...?
...WITH YOUR POWER...

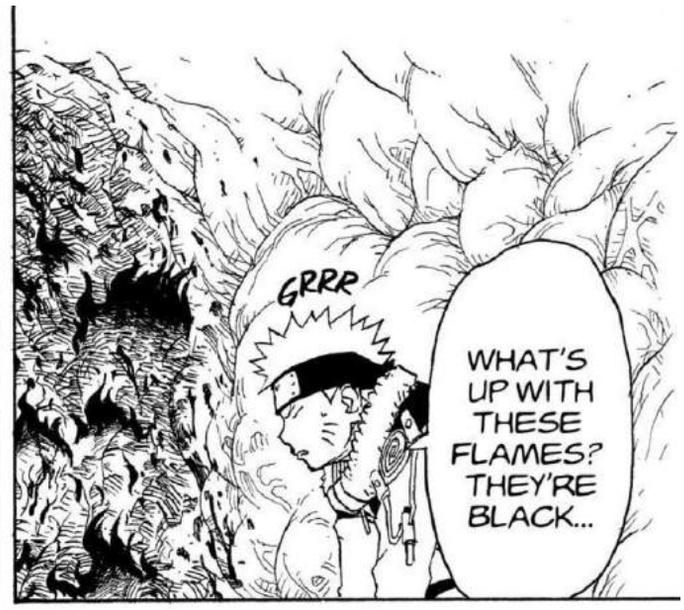
SPLASH
SPLASH

BUT I WAS FORCED TO USE THE AMA-TERASU AS WELL...
WHIR

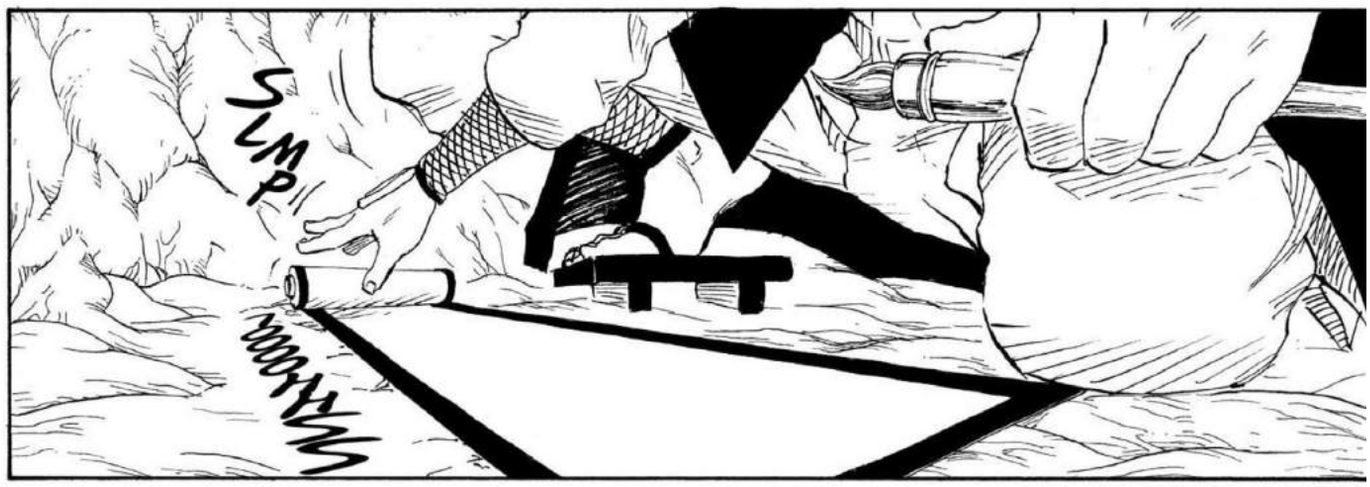

...THERE'S NO NEED TO BE IMPATIENT... NONE.
...BESIDES WHICH, I MUST ALSO... REST MY BODY IN ONE PLACE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
FOR NOT ONLY TSUKUYOMI, THE NIGHT-MARE REALM...
HUF
HUF


酒
FLICKER
FLICKER
FLICKER


THE ROCK TOAD NORMALLY SPEWS FIRE HIMSELF, SO FOR HIS NATURALLY FLAMEPROOF INNARDS TO GET CHARRED...
HOW DID THEY GET OUT? ...AND WHAT ARE THESE BLACK FLAMES?


GRRR
WHAT'S UP WITH THESE FLAMES? THEY'RE BLACK...

EH?!
DON'T GO NEAR THEM WITHOUT CAUTION!

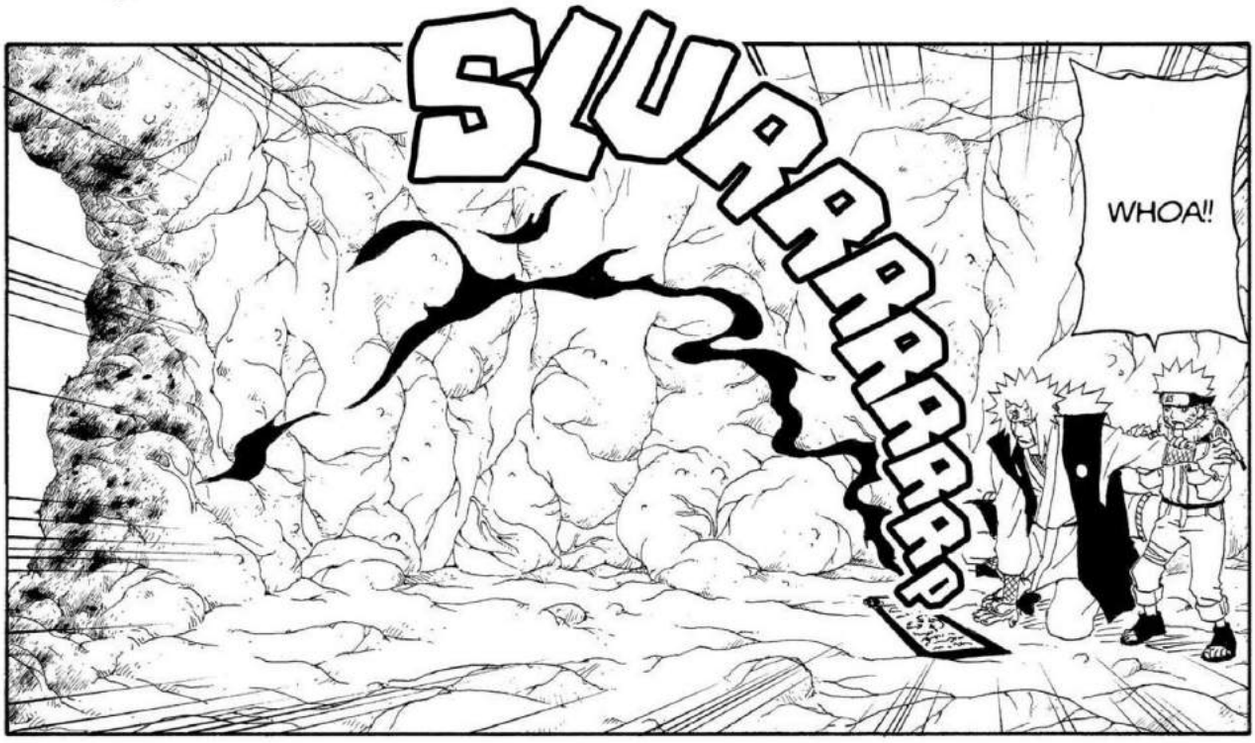

SLMP

ALL RIGHT!

scribble
scribble
scribble scribble
?

ST
AMP
FIRE SEAL!!

SEALING JUTSU!
FWIP
FWIP
油


SLURRRRRRP
WHOA!!

YANK!

封

...!

SASUKE!
TROT
TROT

SHWUP...

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS SASUKE.
ALL RIGHT! NOW WE'RE GOOD TO GO.
!
SCOW

KOOSH...

STOMP

BUMP

!
!!

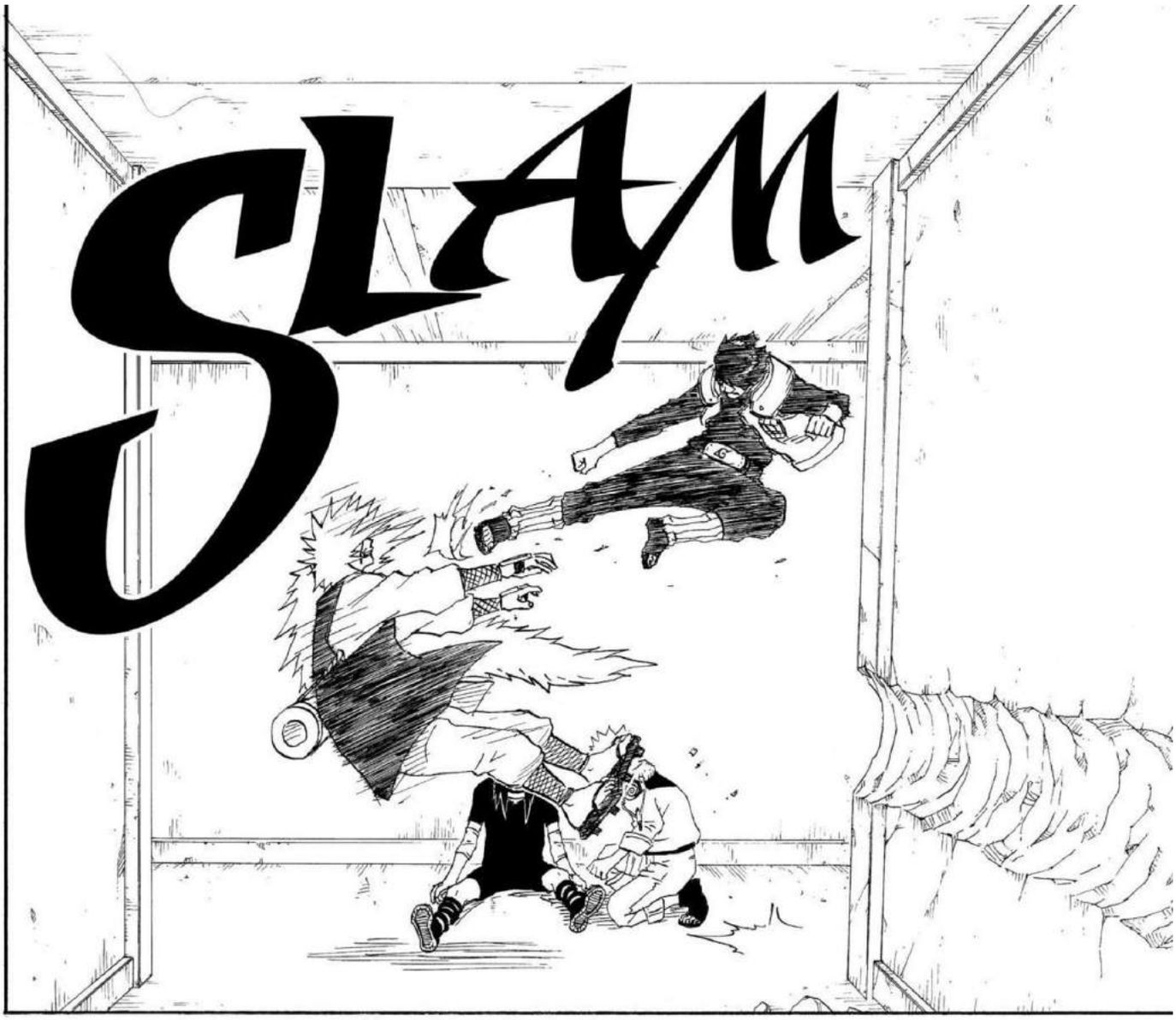
TMP

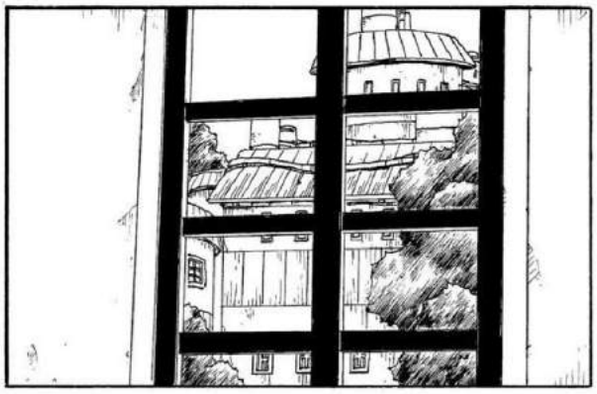
THOCK

SHA ROOM
DYNAMIC ENTRY!!

?!!

GUY...?!


SLAM

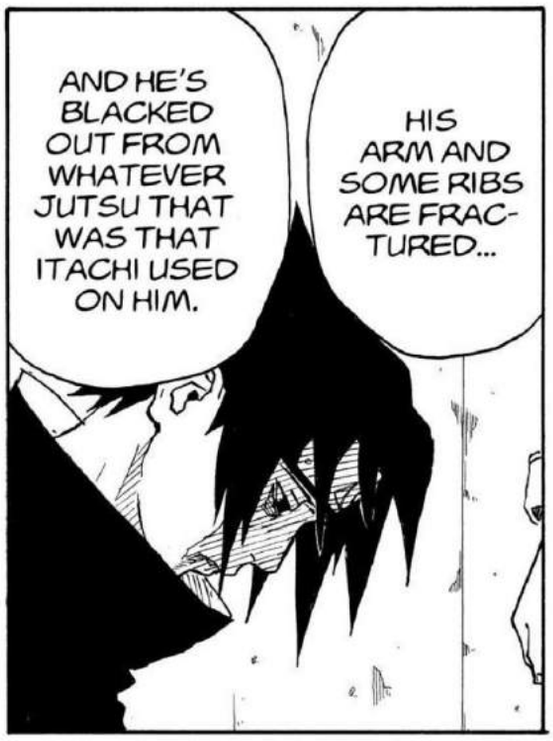


...HUH?

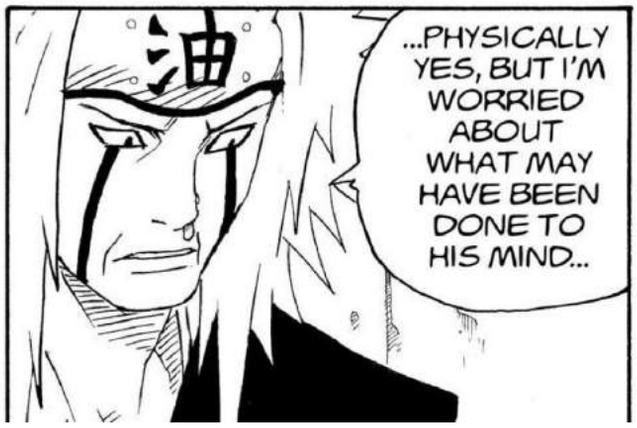
PF

酒
HEY... IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE AN APOLOGY?
TIP
OH MY... I'M SO SORRY... I WAS IN SUCH A RUSH I FORGOT MY HAND MIRROR... HA HA...
SO I USED MY HEADBAND INSTEAD, BUT IT DIDN'T GIVE ME THE CLEAREST IMAGE AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ENEMY...

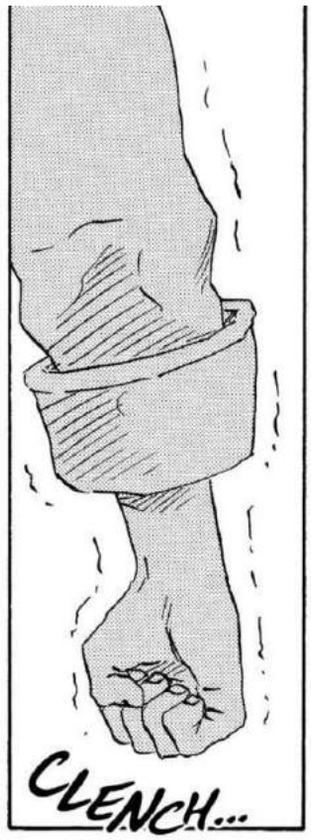
COULD IT BE THE SAME THING HE USED ON KAKASHI?
...

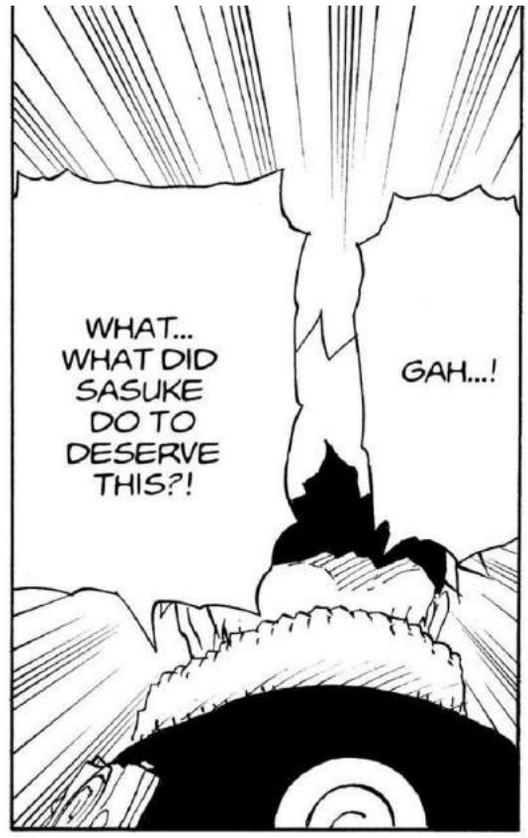

AND HE'S BLACKED OUT FROM WHATEVER JUTSU THAT WAS THAT ITACHI USED ON HIM.
HIS ARM AND SOME RIBS ARE FRACTURED...

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS GETTING SASUKE TO THE MEDICAL CORPS ASAP...
WELL, NEVER MIND...

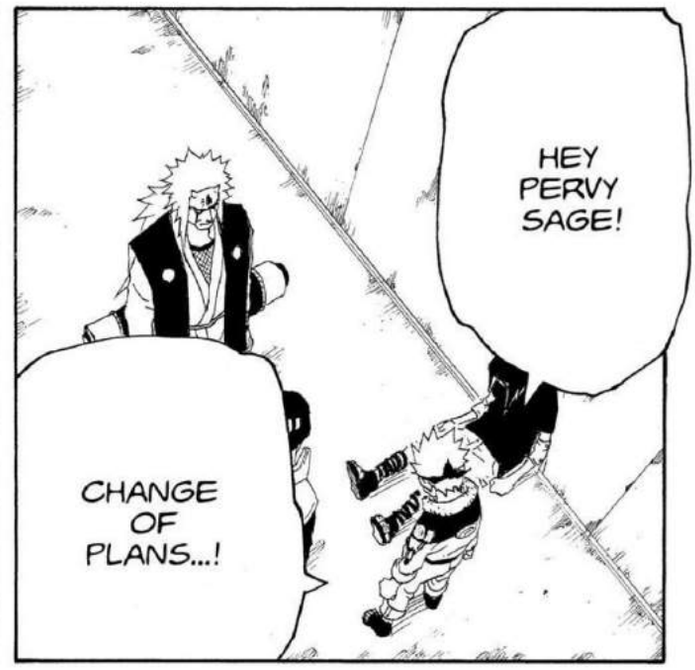

油
...PHYSICALLY YES, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN DONE TO HIS MIND...

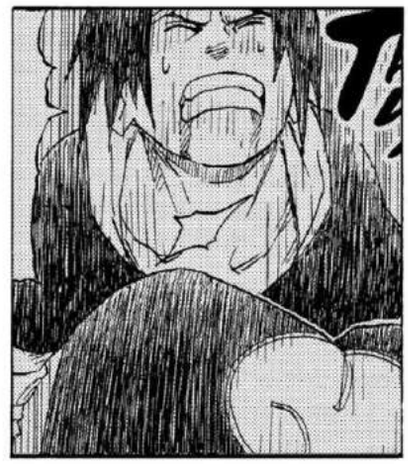
HEY PERVY SAGE! IS SASUKE... ALL RIGHT?

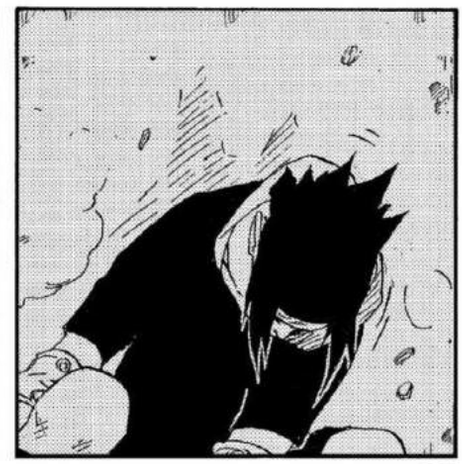

CLENCH...


WHAT... WHAT DID SASUKE DO TO DESERVE THIS?!
GAH...!

I SWEAR I'LL HUNT THOSE BLACK-CAPED CROOKS DOWN AND BEAT THEM UP!!
I WAS FREAKED EARLIER, BUT THIS TIME...


HEY PERVY SAGE!
CHANGE OF PLANS...!





THEY'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH ME, RIGHT?!
WELL I'LL GO SEE THEM THEN!!

I MEAN, IT EVEN TOOK ME A HUGE EFFORT JUST NOW ...
... JUST TO DISTANCE THEM FROM YOU...

HUMPH. IF YOU GO NOW, YOU'LL JUST BE KILLED...
THERE'S TOO MUCH OF A GAP BETWEEN YOU AND THEM.

LIVE EACH DAY SHIVERING IN FEAR?!!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING AND HIDING FROM THEM FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?!

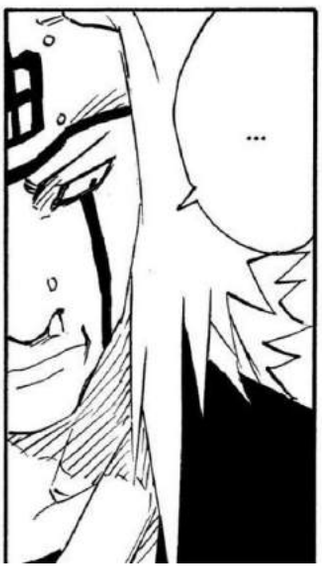
SLAP
!

GRRR
SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

...YOU ARE STILL WEAK.

...

I SHOULD HAVE STEPPED IN SOONER...
FORGIVE ME, GUY... I WAS TRYING TO HONOR THIS BOY'S FEELINGS, BUT...

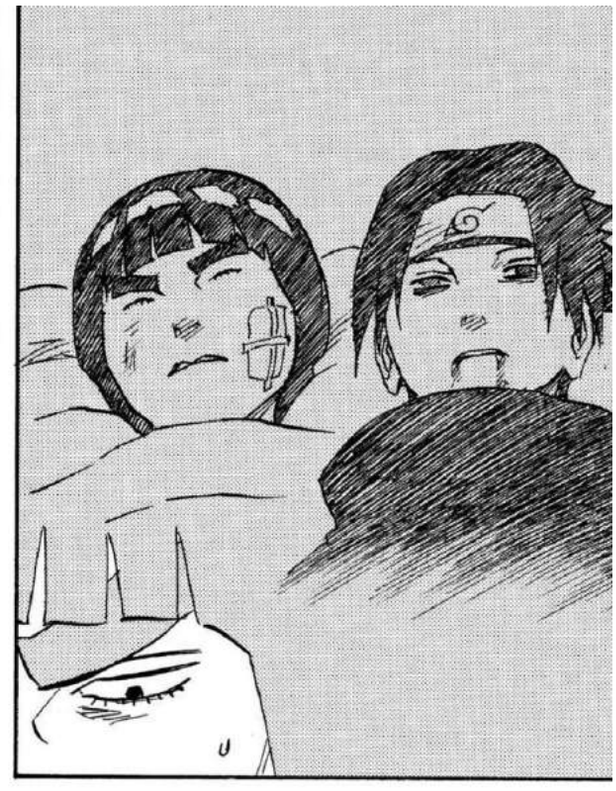

...

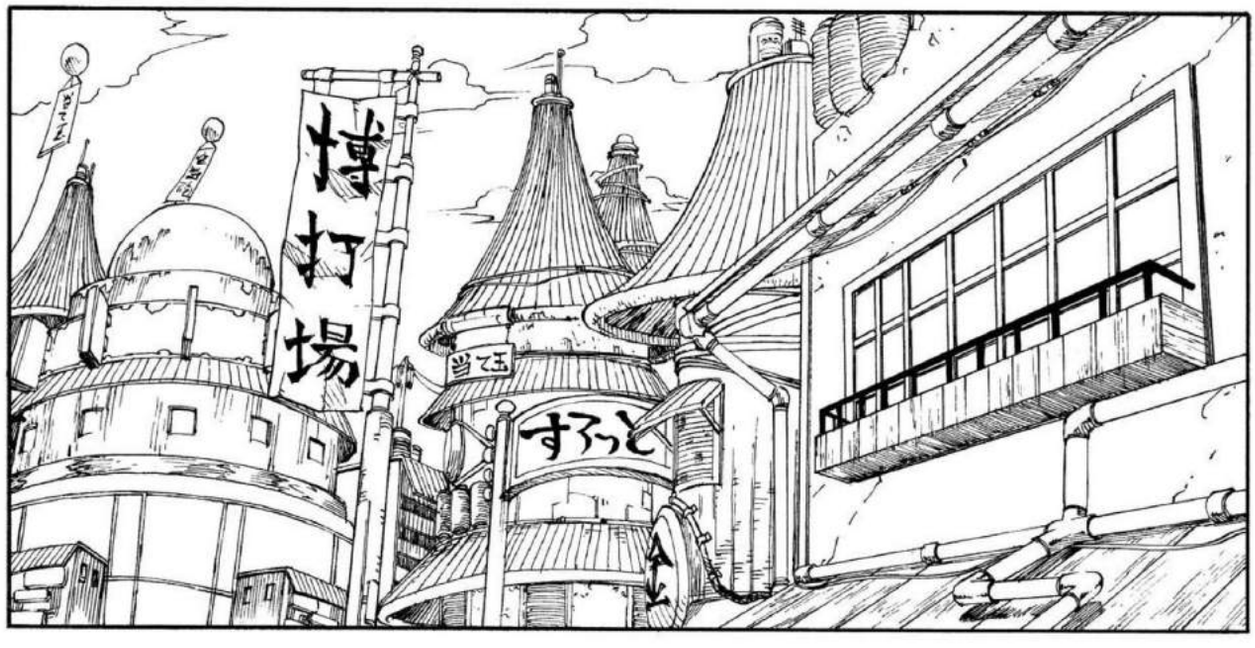
MASTER KAKASHI?!

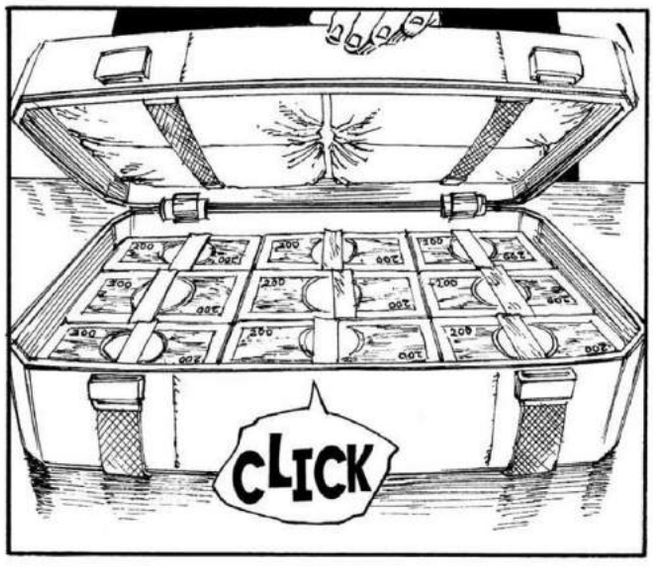
...RIGHT NOW... KAKASHI'S ALSO BEDRIDDEN FROM THIS SAME JUTSU... AND WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL WAKE UP...

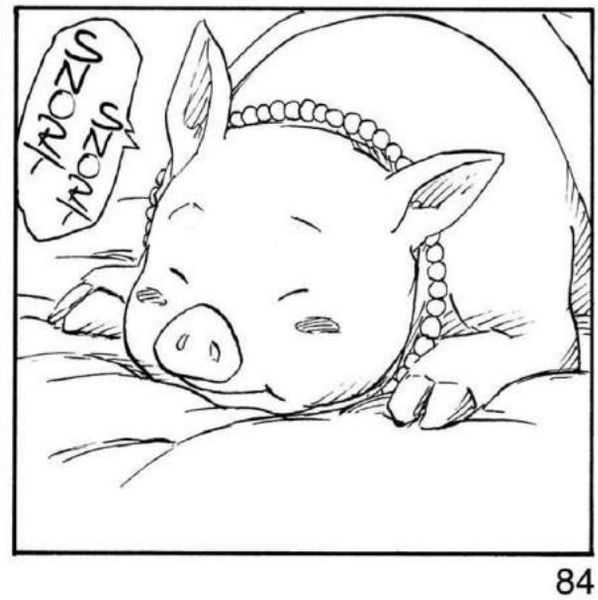
...

THAT THAT MEDICAL SPECIALIST WERE STILL HERE WITH US...
WHEN MY PUPIL WAS INJURED... AND SUCH TIMES AS THESE, I TRULY WISH...



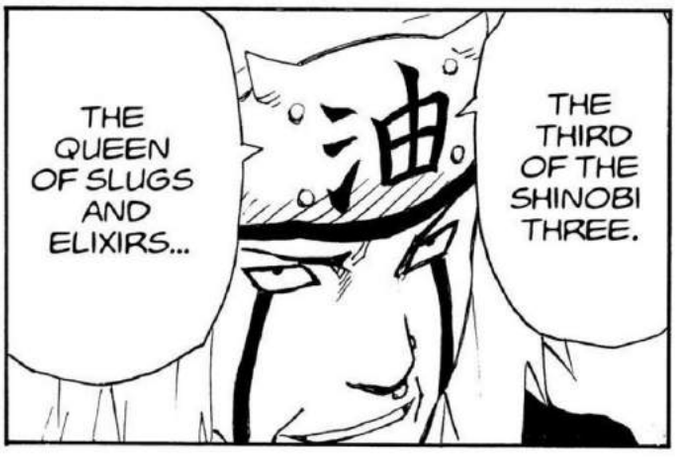

博打場
当て玉
すぷっと


CLICK


SZOIK
SZOIK

...THAT'S WHY... I'M ABOUT TO GO SEARCH FOR **HER.**

I BOR-ROWED IT!
WH... WHERE'D THAT MONEY COME FROM?!
STUTTER STUTTER
...AH, AIEE!

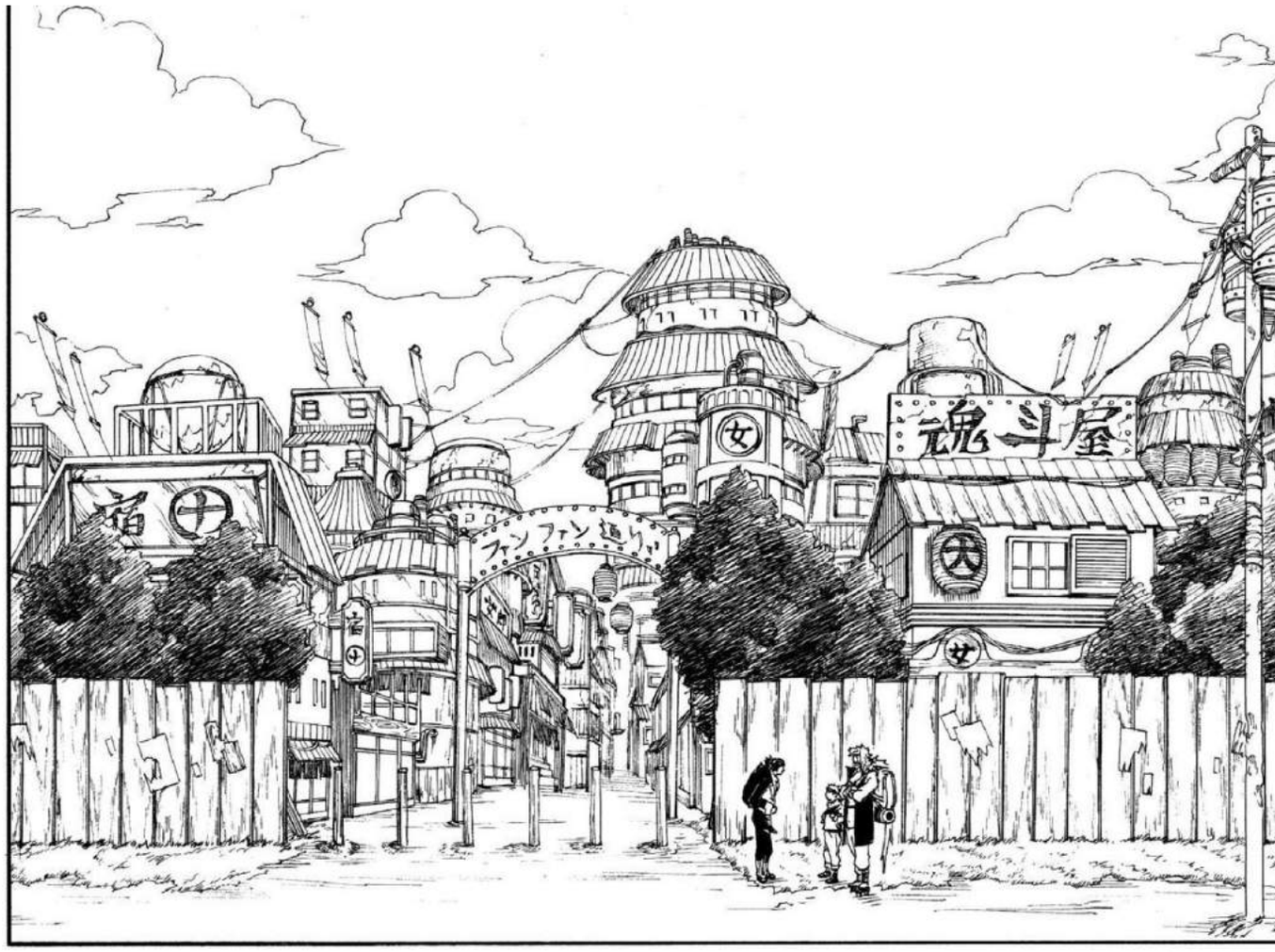

THE QUEEN OF SLUGS AND ELIXIRS...
THE THIRD OF THE SHINOBI THREE.

YOU MEAN... YOU'RE REALLY...
?

WITH THIS, I'M NOT JUST GOING TO WIN BACK MY LOSSES, BUT FLIP MY FORTUNES AS WELL!!
THE ONE WHO WEARS "BETTING" ON HER BACK, PRINCESS TSUNADE.
ALRIGHTY!
賭

CONGRATULATIONS ON
THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY!!!
WE DID IT ♡ 河原
KAWAHARA
02. 11. 8

Number 149: The Legendary...!!


魂斗屋

...

PLEASE DO...
FIND AND BRING BACK LADY TSUNADE.

LORD JIRAIYA ...
!

SO TAKE GOOD CARE OF SASUKE UNTIL THEN! MASTER ÜBER-BROWS!!
I PROMISE WE'LL FIND HER AND BRING HER BACK RIGHT AWAY!

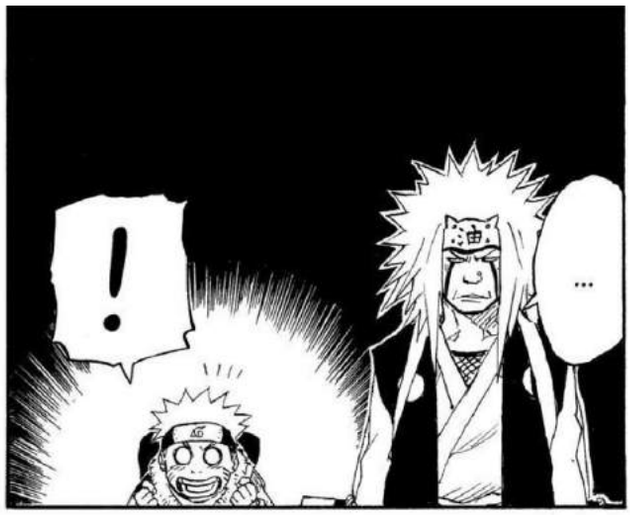
SPARKLE
WELL THEN, GUY.
I'M LEAVING SASUKE IN YOUR HANDS.

!
PAT
...

OH! WHAT IS IT?! WHAT IS IT?!

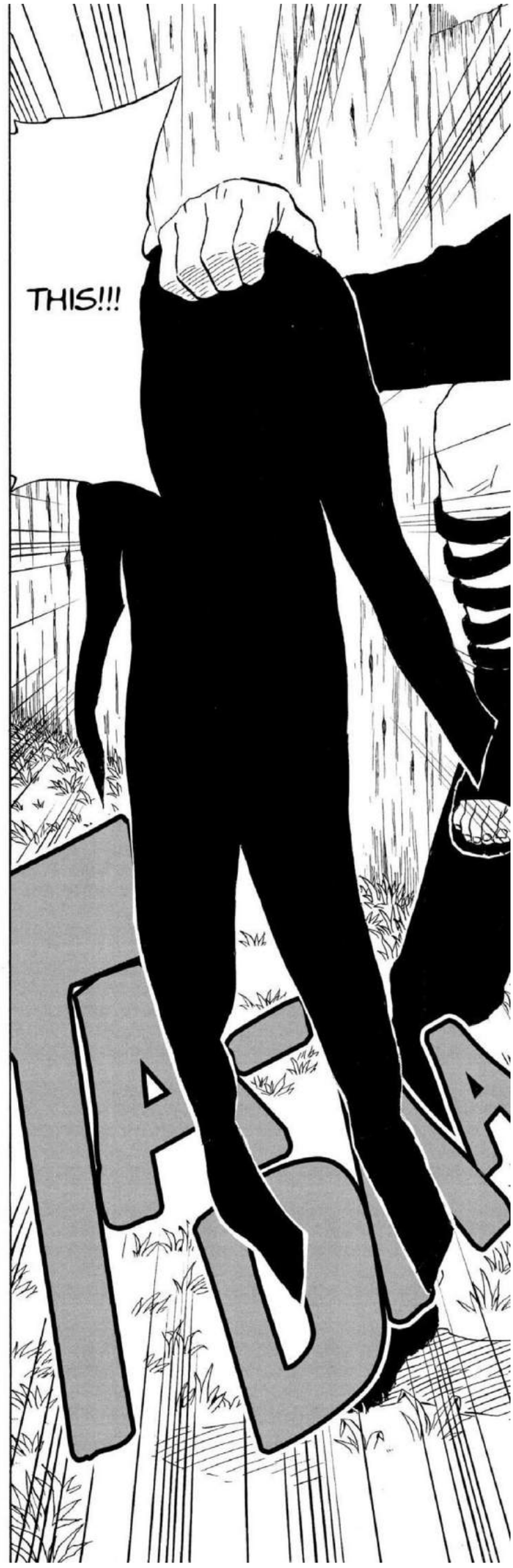
THIS HELPED LEE GET STRON-GER...
?

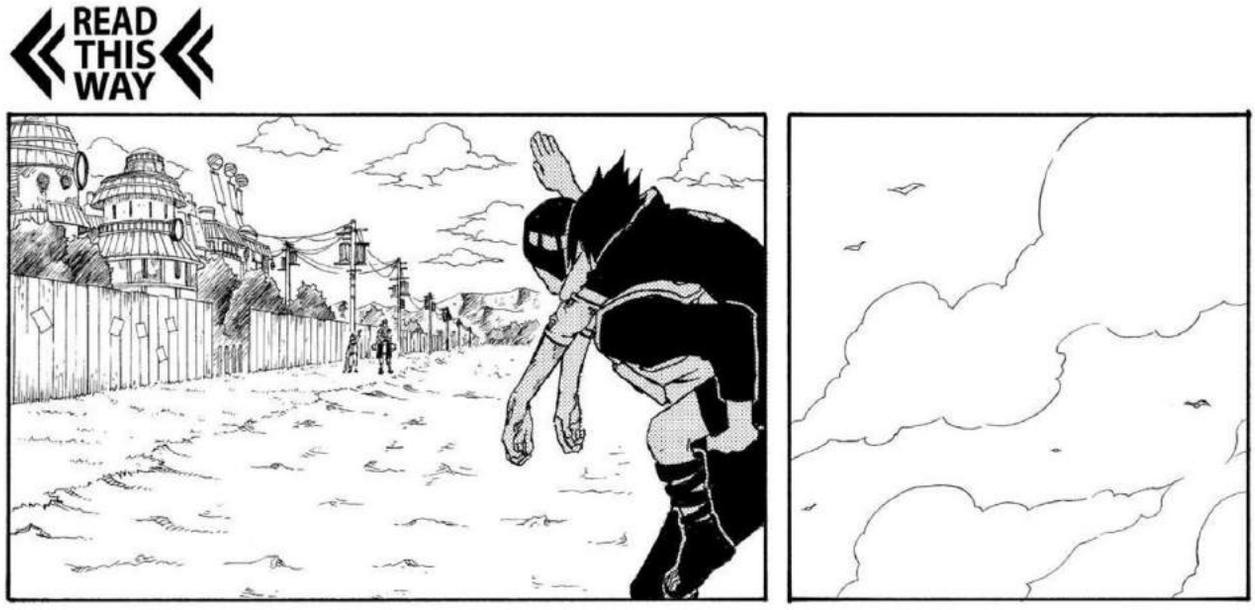
LET ME GIVE YOU THIS!
NOTHING INTRIGUES ME MORE THAN GUTS, KID!
SHFFLE SHFFLE


!
...

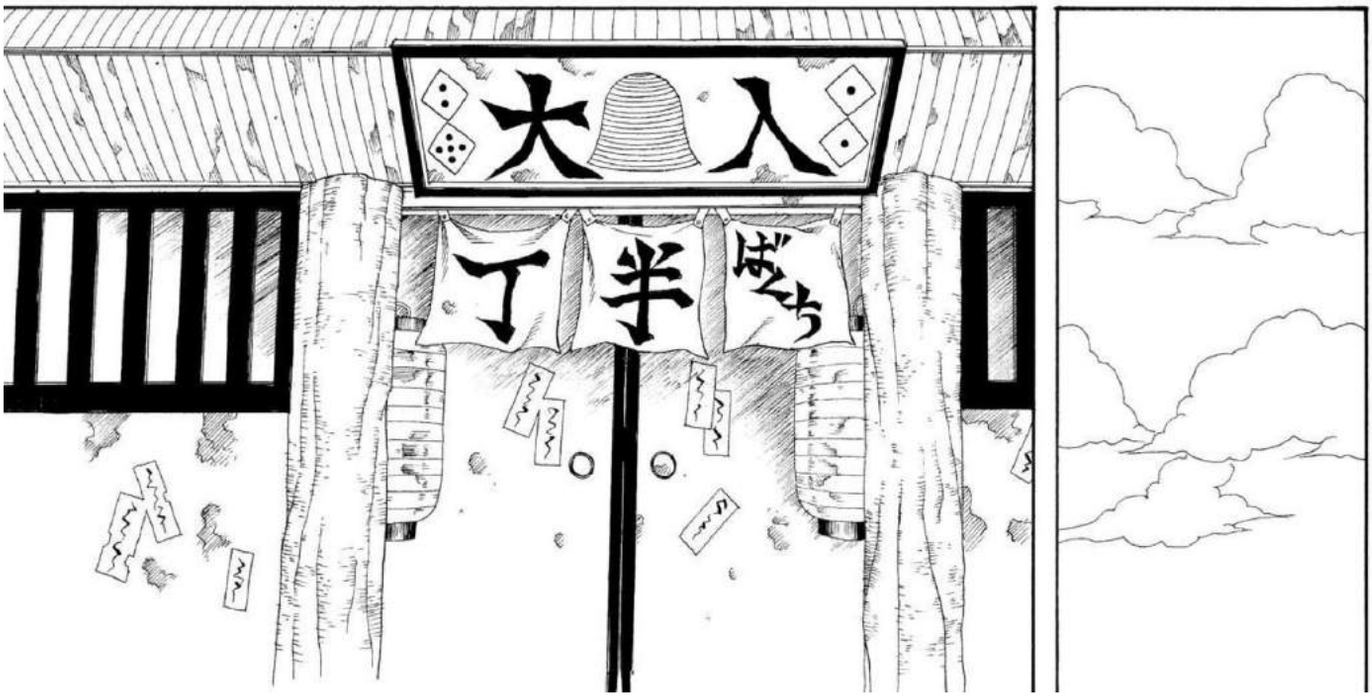
IT'S BREATHABLE, RETAINS MOISTURE, AND OFFERS COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ALL IN ONE SWEET PACKAGE!!
IF YOU WEAR IT WHILE YOU TRAIN, YOU'LL NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE **IMMED-IATELY**!!
SOON, YOU'LL START WANTING TO WEAR IT ALL THE TIME, JUST LIKE LEE!! I'VE GOT A BIT OF A THING FOR IT M'SELF!!
WOW!!

IF YOU CAN WALK AROUND CARRYING **THAT** THING, YOU OUGHT TO PACK A HAND MIRROR OR TWO, YOU IDIOT.
SPARKLE


THIS!!!
TADA


READ THIS WAY

DON'T... TELL ME YOU'RE PLANNING TO WEAR THAT THING?
WHADDYA THINK...?
JUST DON'T.
MAN, THAT IS GOOFY.
BYE-YA!


大入
丁半
ばくち

AIEE!

WILL YOU STOP FREAKING OUT. C'MON, I'M GOING IN...
FALIP

Y...YOU HAD TO CHOOSE THE ESTAB-LISHMENT WITH THE HIGHEST ANTE...!!

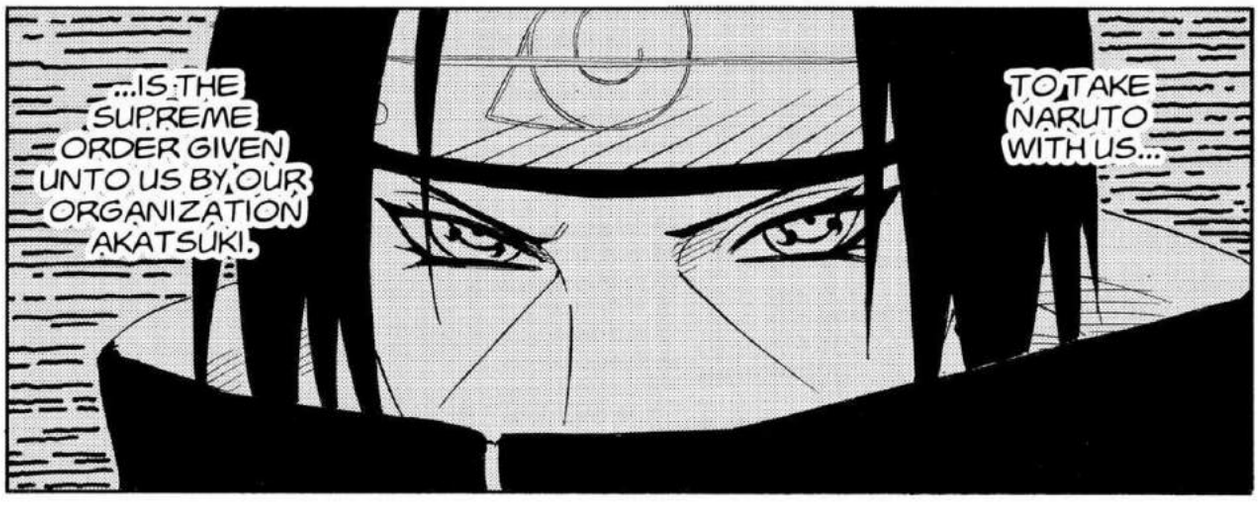
...
...
HMM?!

SH... SHE'S THE...!
!

元老院
美留
乱素
イカサマ禁止!!

...

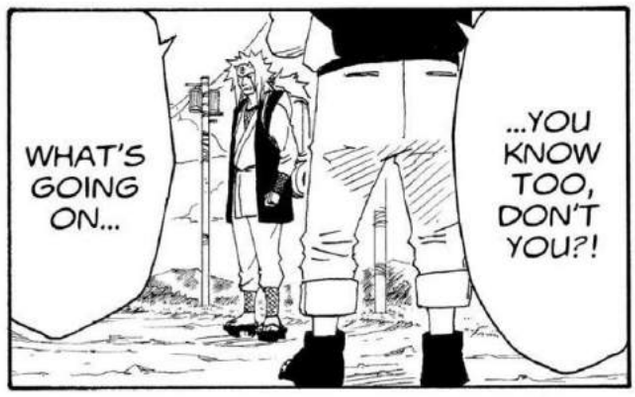
I KNOW, HE'S THE ONE YOU'RE REALLY AFTER.


...IS THE SUPREME ORDER GIVEN UNTO US BY OUR ORGANIZATION AKATSUKI.
TO TAKE NARUTO WITH US...

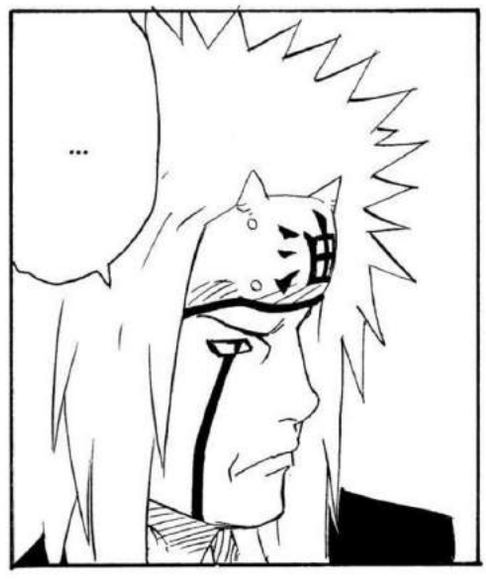
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
!

...

...PERVY SAGE...
WHY... DO THEY WANT ME...?

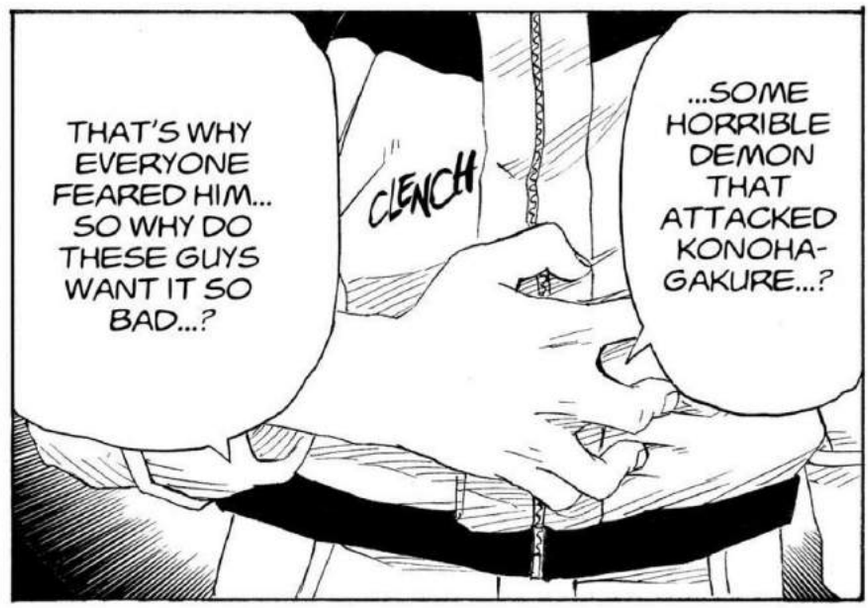

WHAT'S GOING ON...
...YOU KNOW TOO, DON'T YOU?!

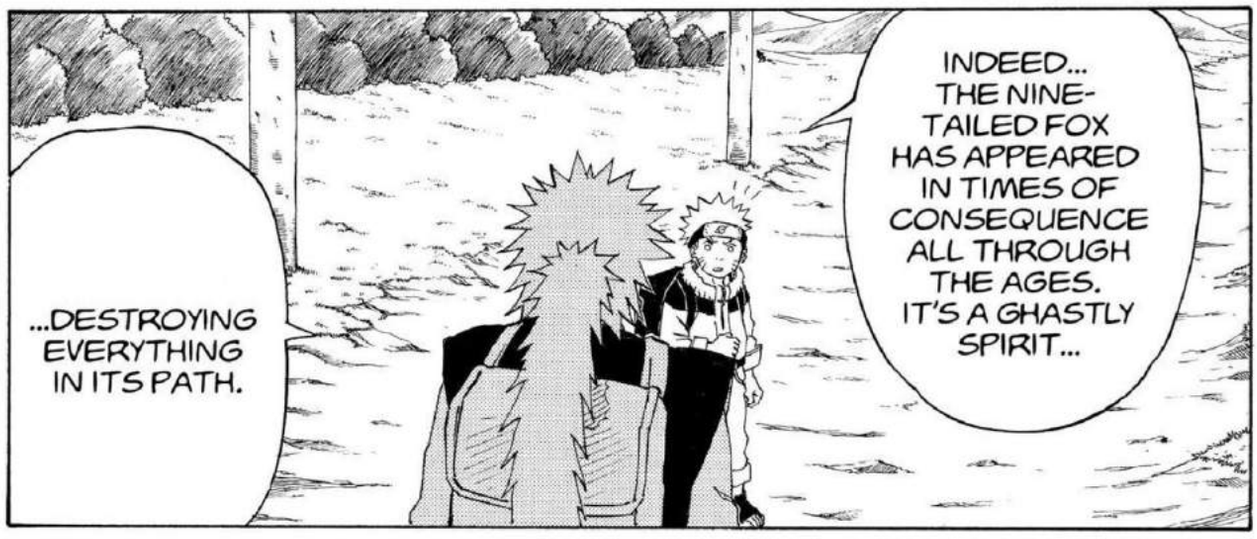
...IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE YOU.
...
IT'S NOT YOU THEY WANT...


...

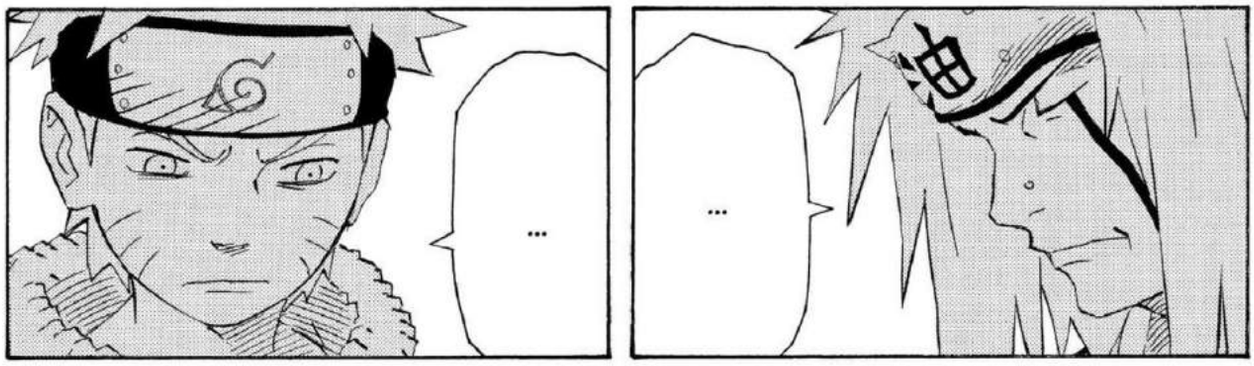
...WHAT IS THIS THING...?
PAT

READ THIS WAY
...


THAT'S WHY EVERYONE FEARED HIM... SO WHY DO THESE GUYS WANT IT SO BAD...?
CLENCH
...SOME HORRIBLE DEMON THAT ATTACKED KONOHA-GAKURE...?


...DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.
INDEED... THE NINE-TAILED FOX HAS APPEARED IN TIMES OF CONSEQUENCE ALL THROUGH THE AGES. IT'S A GHASTLY SPIRIT...

THAT'S WHY PEOPLE IN ANCIENT TIMES FEARED IT AS ONE OF THE DIVINE RETRIBUTIONS.


...
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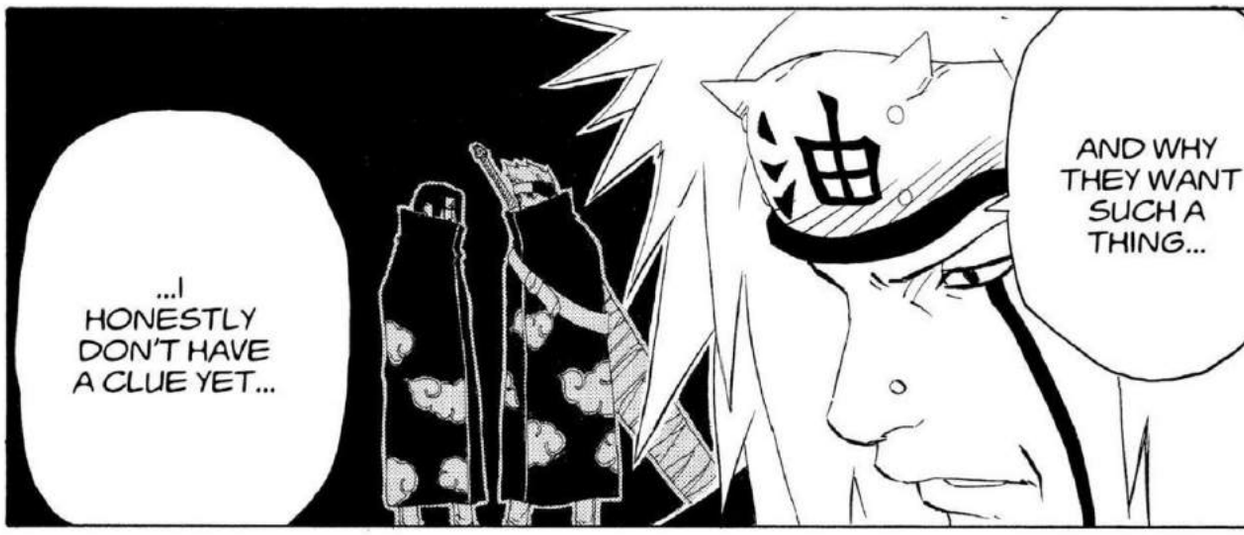
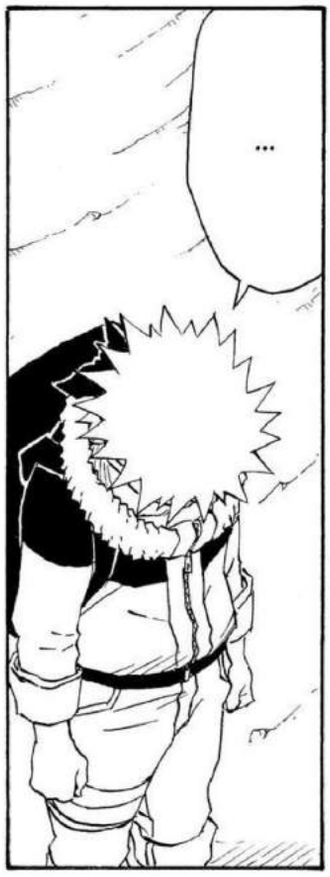

AND WHY THEY WANT SUCH A THING...
...I HONESTLY DON'T HAVE A CLUE YET...


...

THEY MIGHT BE THINKING OF PLACING ITS POWER UNDER THEIR CONTROL.
WHILE THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT IS STILL SEALED INSIDE OF YOU...

...

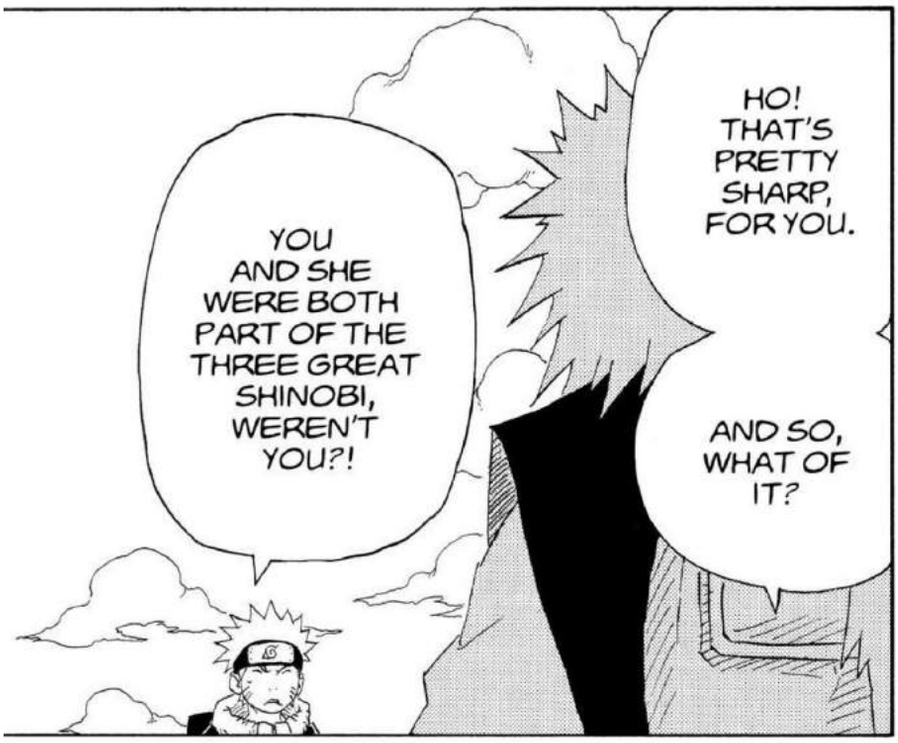
THEY'LL NEVER STOP COMING FOR YOU. IT IS YOUR DESTINY.
BUT, I'LL BE AROUND TO PROTECT YOU, SO DON'T WORRY...
THEN I'VE GOT TO HURRY UP ...
... AND GET STRONGER!

HAVE HER SAVE SASUKE, AND START TRAINING AGAIN!!
ALL RIGHT! SO LET'S FIND THIS TSUNADE LADY...

... WHAT?

HMM?!

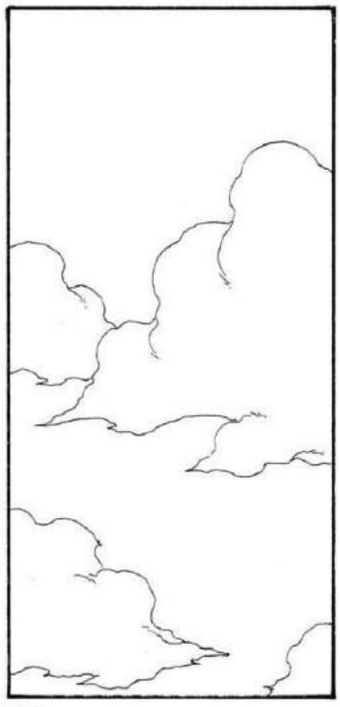
THAT'S SO LIKE HIM... ONE TRACK MIND!
HEH HEH...

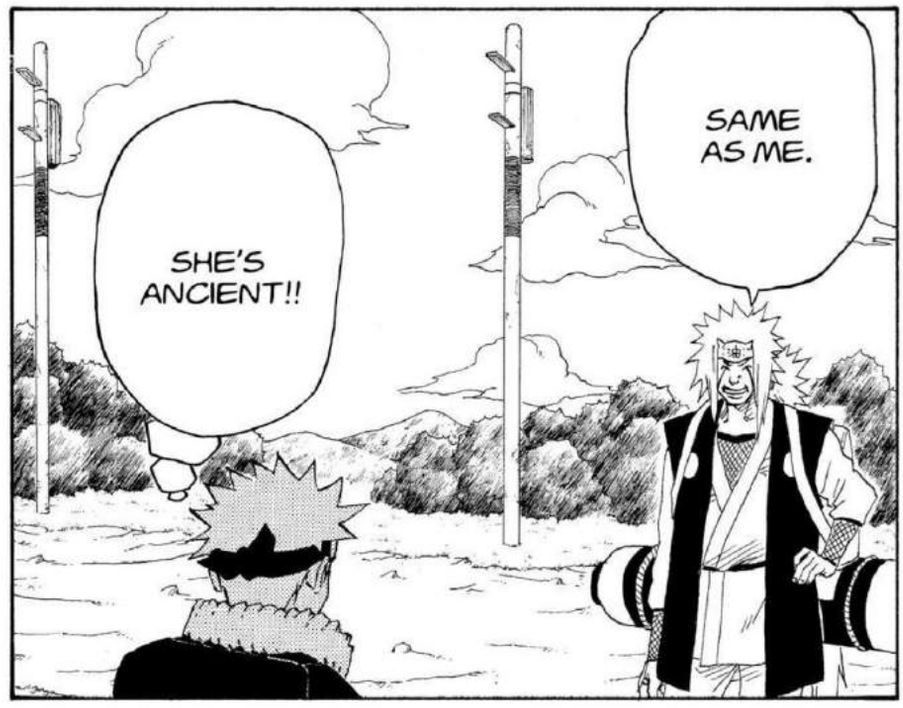

YOU AND SHE WERE BOTH PART OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI, WEREN'T YOU?!
HO! THAT'S PRETTY SHARP, FOR YOU.
AND SO, WHAT OF IT?

YOU MEANT THIS TSUNADE?
THAT BEAUTY YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LOOK FOR...

...HOW OLD IS SHE?

YEAH, SO?



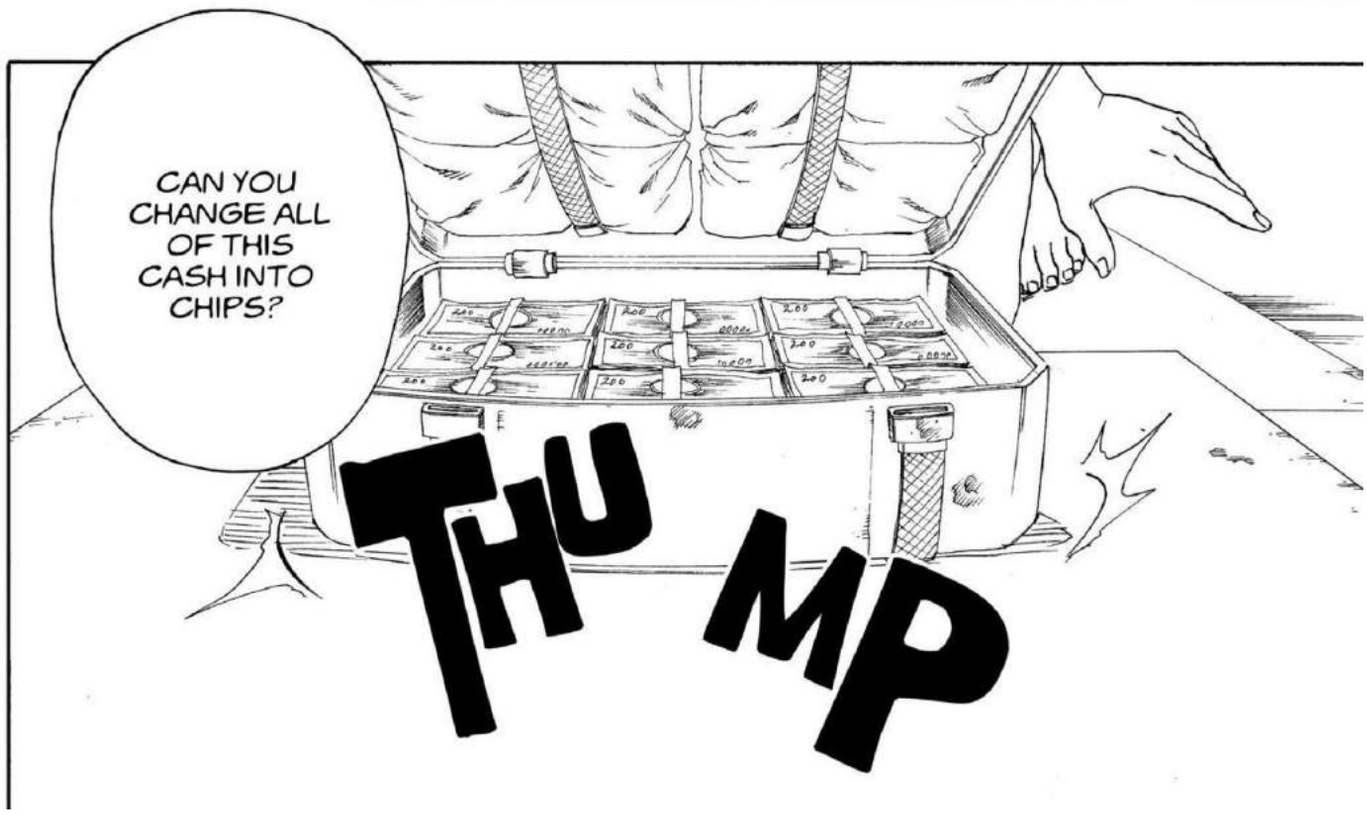

SAME AS ME.
SHE'S ANCIENT!!

HUH? YOU INTER-ESTED IN HER?
SHAKE
SHAKE
SO WHAT'S SHE LIKE?

SHE'S THE LEGEND-ARY...
SHE'S QUITE INFAMOUS...
LOOM
油

THEN SHE'LL BE EASY TO FIND! IF SHE'S SO FAMOUS...

IN ONE SENTENCE, SHE'S KINDA UNPLEAS-ANT...
HMM, LET'S SEE...
AND SHE'S ADDICTED TO GAMBLING, AND HER FACE IS WELL KNOWN IN NUMEROUS LANDS.


CAN YOU CHANGE ALL OF THIS CASH INTO CHIPS?
THUMP

イカサマ禁止!!
留
乱素
賭

YOU... DON'T KNOW OF HER...?
...SHE'S... THE ONE WITH THAT NICKNAME...
NICK-NAME?

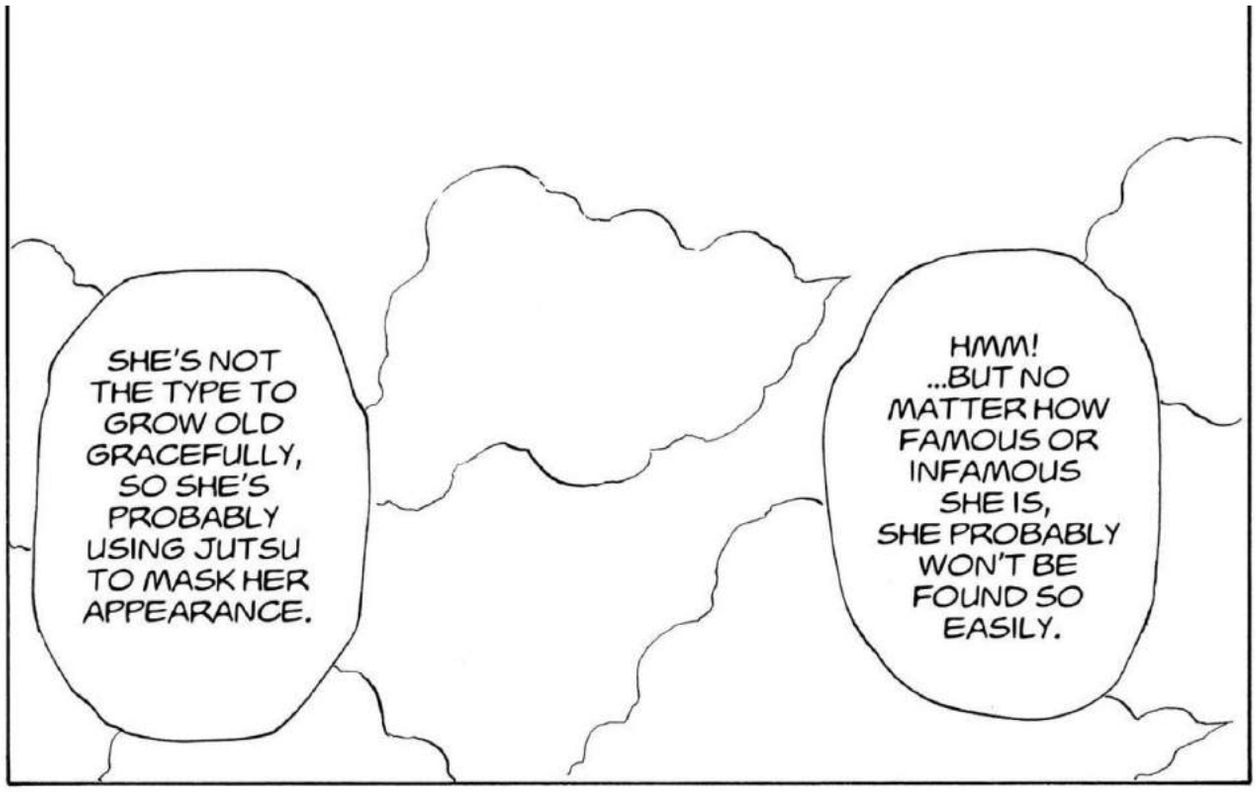
SH... SHE'S...

WHO OR WHAT THE HECK IS SHE? THIS LADY...

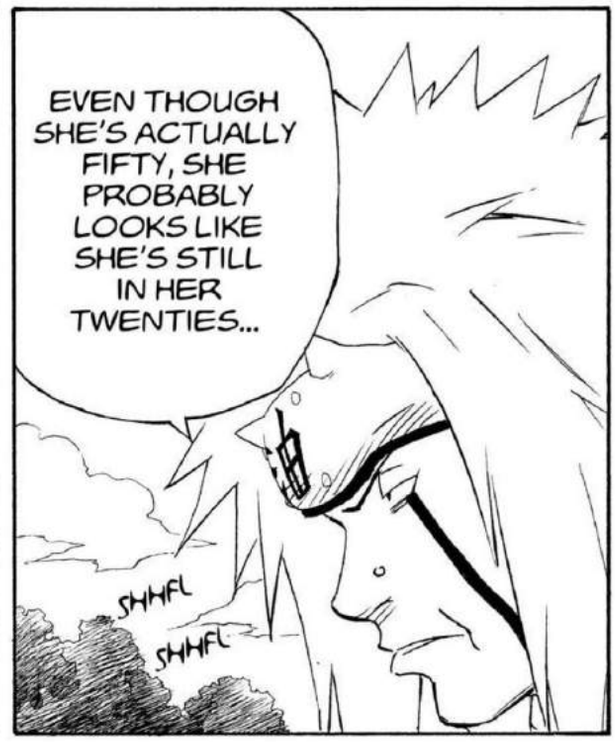
THE LEGEND-ARY...?

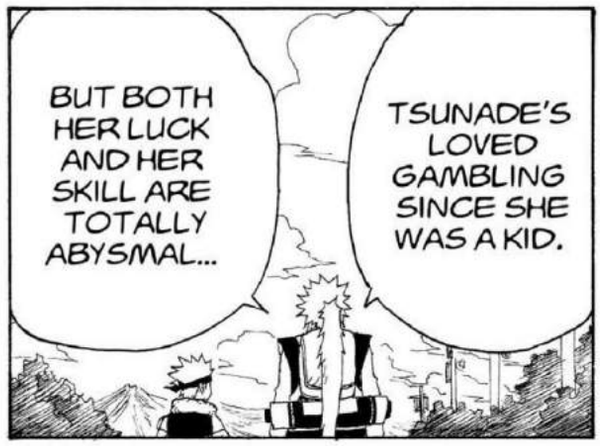
THE LEG-END-ARY...

THE LEGENDARY LOSER!!


SHE'S NOT THE TYPE TO GROW OLD GRACEFULLY, SO SHE'S PROBABLY USING JUTSU TO MASK HER APPEARANCE.
HMM! ...BUT NO MATTER HOW FAMOUS OR INFAMOUS SHE IS, SHE PROBABLY WON'T BE FOUND SO EASILY.

GOING FROM HER TEENS TO HER THIRTIES OR FORTIES, ALL SO SHE CAN CUT OUT ON ANY MONEYLENDERS SHE'S IN TOO DEEP WITH...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL. THE WORD I HEAR ON THE WIND OF LATE IS SHE'S STARTED TRANSFORMING ON THE FLY...


EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ACTUALLY FIFTY, SHE PROBABLY LOOKS LIKE SHE'S STILL IN HER TWENTIES...
SHHFL
SHHFL


BUT BOTH HER LUCK AND HER SKILL ARE TOTALLY ABYSMAL...
TSUNADE'S LOVED GAMBLING SINCE SHE WAS A KID.

THAT'S TERRIBLE... YEESH.
...
SHHFL
SHHFL

SO, HOW DO WE HUNT HER DOWN?!

AND SO SHE'S ALWAYS IN DEBT AND ON THE RUN... WOW.
BECAUSE SHE KEPT GETTING MARKED BY EVERYONE AROUND HER, THAT NICKNAME STUCK.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR TRIPS DOWN MEMORY LANE, OLD MAN!

OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO DO IT BY THE BOOK. BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS...
WHO KNOWS ...
油

THE TIME SPENT WON'T BE A COMPLETE WASTE.

ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LONG THIS IS GOING TO TAKE?!
WHAT?!

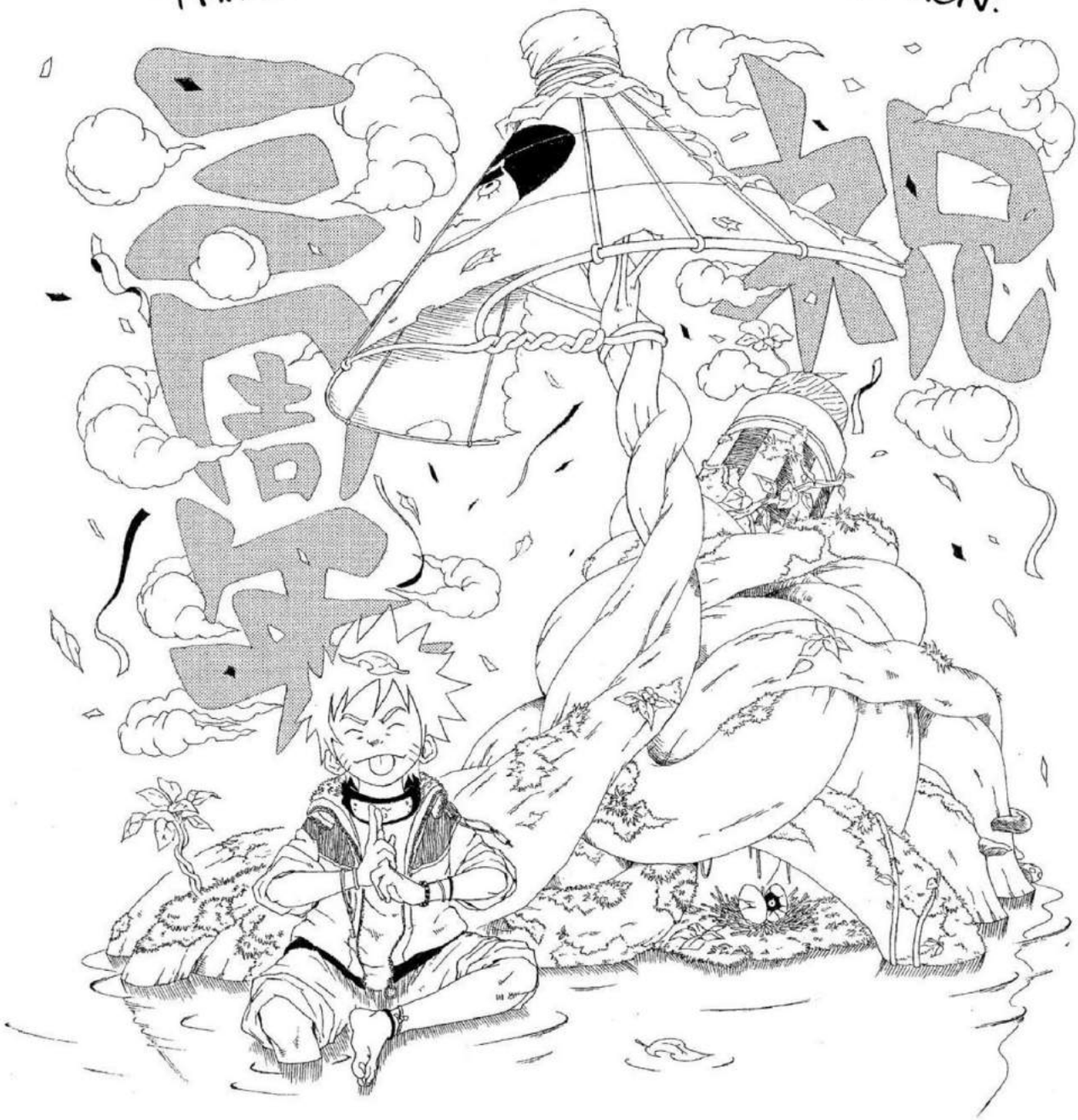
'CUZ THE WHOLE TIME WE'RE ON THE ROAD, I'M GOING TO FOCUS ON YOU!

TRAINING TIME!
IT'LL BE TIME SPENT ON MAKING YOU STRONGER ...
ME?

!!

NO, NO... I TOLD YOU, NOT THAT THING...
I DON'T WANT TO WALK NEXT TO SOMEONE WEARING THAT...
FASH
ALL RIGHT!!

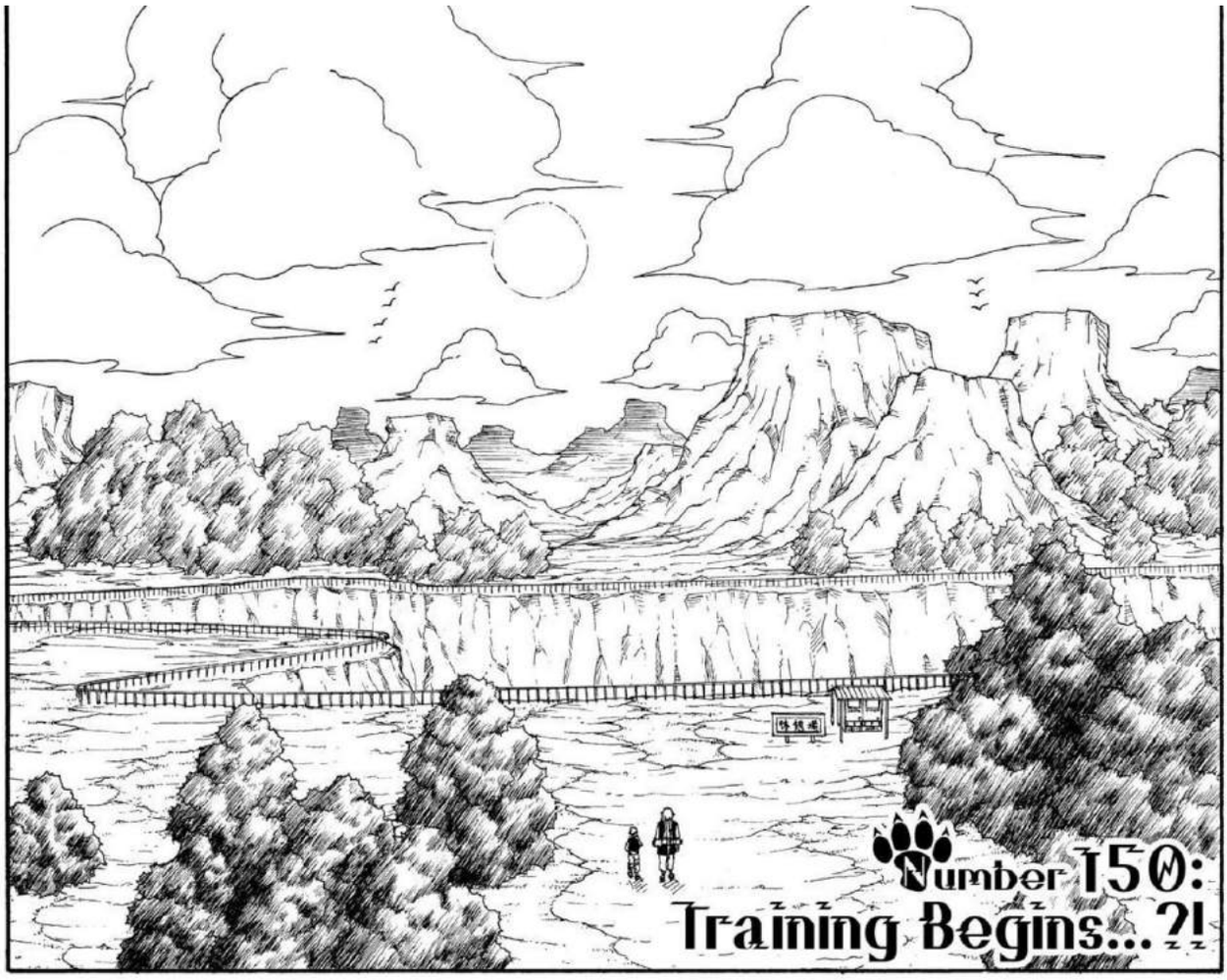
THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!



KISHIMOTO-SAN, PLEASE STAY HEALTHY
AND KEEP WORKING HARD

大久保 章

AKIRA OKUBO


Number 150:
Training Begins...?!

HURRY UP AND TEACH ME SOME-THING!!
AMBLE
AMBLE
SO, HEY! HEY! PERVY SAGE!

COLLECT INTELLI-GENCE?
SHIIL
SHIIL

IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO JUST TRAIN WITHOUT COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE ON TSUNADE AT THE SAME TIME.
SHIIL
SHIIL
NOW, NOW, STOP BEING SO IMPA-TIENT...

Number 150: Training Begins...?!

IN THIS CITY.

WHOA!!

WHF

SCREEECH

MMBL

MUR MUR

CHATTR

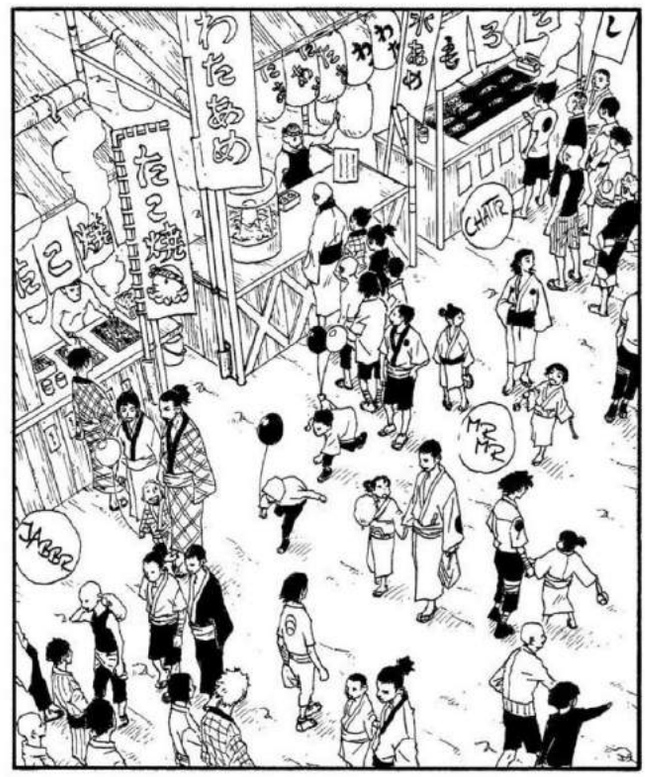
MUR MUR

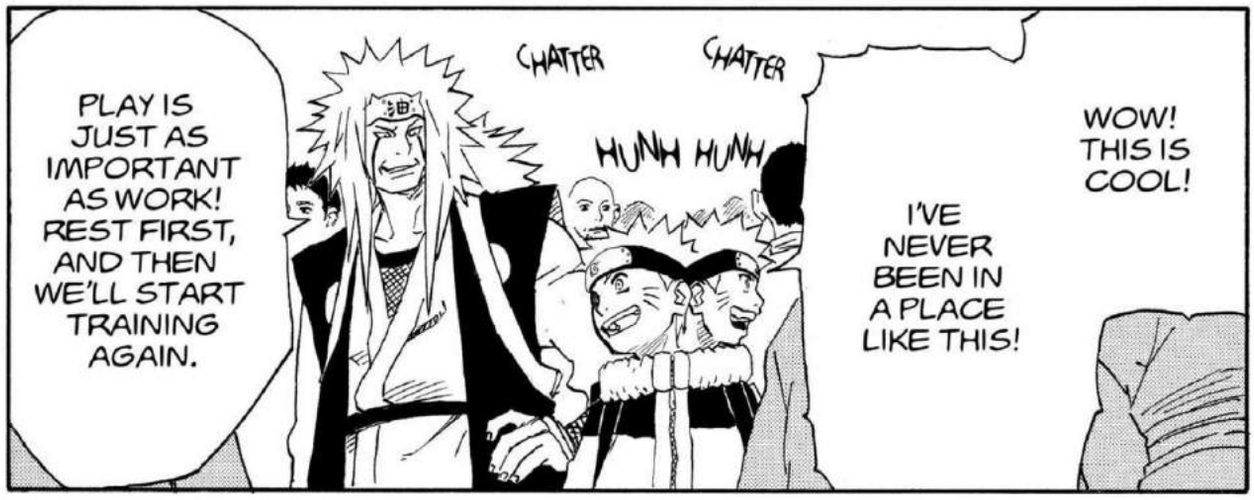
CHATTR

CHATTR

MUR MUR

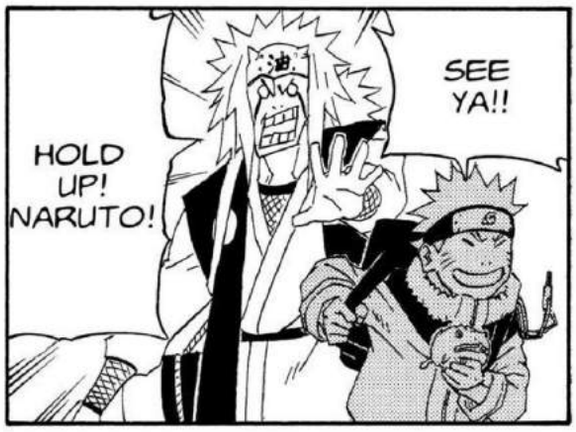
LOOK!
HEY!
CHATTER
CHATTER


わたあめ
たこ焼
CHATTER
HMPH
JABBER


PLAY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS WORK! REST FIRST, AND THEN WE'LL START TRAINING AGAIN.
CHATTER
CHATTER
HUNH HUNH
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
WOW! THIS IS COOL!

SHUUUUF
SCRREEP

WE'LL TRAIN HERE TOO.
YES!!
THIS FESTIVAL WILL PROBABLY GO FOR A WHILE, SO...
WE'LL STAY HERE WHILE IT'S GOING ON.



(*300 RYO IS APPROXIMATELY 3000 YEN, OR 30 DOLLARS.)

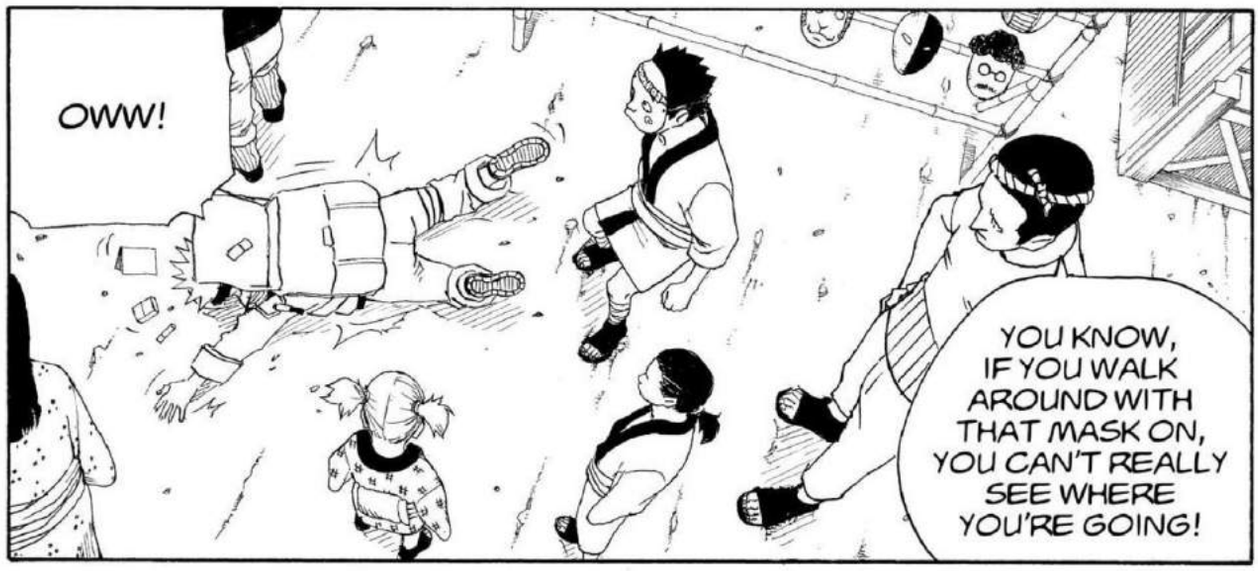
READ THIS WAY
AND THOSE THREE VICES ARE: DRINK, PRETTY GIRLS, AND COLD HARD CASH.
THE THREE PROHIBITIONS? WHAT'S THAT?!
WHAT! YOU DON'T KNOW THEM?!
THE THREE PROHIBITIONS ARE THE THREE VICES THAT CAN DESTROY A SHINOBI!
THEN IT DOESN'T REALLY AFFECT ME!
I CAN'T DRINK!
OR DATE!
AND I WORKED SO HARD TO SAVE THIS MUCH, I'M NOT REAL EAGER TO SPEND IT.
GAH!
FOOL! DO NOT MOCK BEING FRUGAL.
ONCE YOU START SPENDING MONEY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP!!
THE MAGICAL POWER OF MONEY IS A FEARSOME THING!
EVEN TSUNADE, WHOM WE ARE SEARCHING FOR, IS ON THE VERGE OF SELF-DESTRUCTING FROM IT!
YEAH, LIKE YOU'RE IMMUNE TO VICES, PERVY SAGE!
AND TAKE MY PACK INSTEAD! YOU CAN RELY ON MY TRACKER TOAD TO SNIFF OUT MY SCENT.
I'M GOING TO GO START COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE.

BLEH!

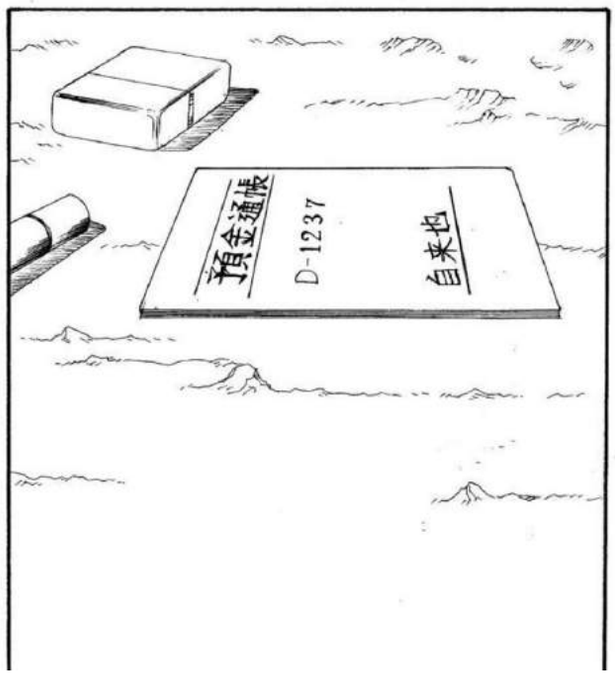
CHOK

FMP
!

そば
たこ焼
おでん


OWW!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU WALK AROUND WITH THAT MASK ON, YOU CAN'T REALLY SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

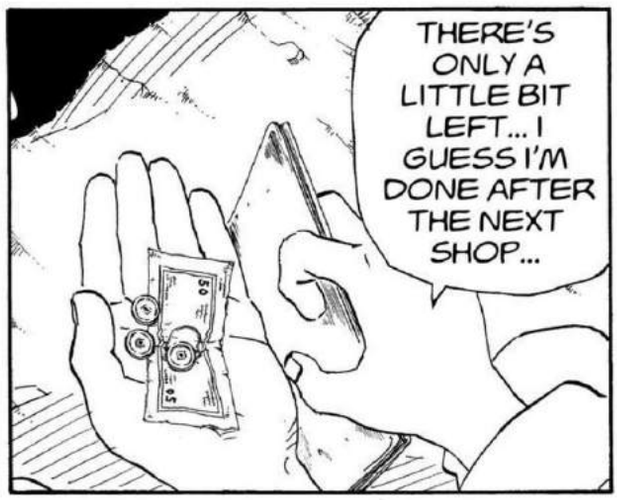
IT'S PERVY SAGE'S SAVINGS PASSBOOK...
RIFFLE


預金通帳
D-1237
自来也

HMM?!

THAT CHEAP-SKATE!!
IF HE HAD THAT MUCH, HE COULD HAVE BOUGHT ME SOME-THING!

IT'S FULL OF ZEROS!


THERE'S ONLY A LITTLE BIT LEFT... I GUESS I'M DONE AFTER THE NEXT SHOP...

...

GRIN

TRAINING TIME!
IT'LL BE TIME SPENT ON MAKING YOU STRONGER.

HERE, YOU CAN HAVE THE KID-SIZED ONE ON THE HOUSE! TAKE IT!!
SURE! RUNNING ERRANDS EH, LAD!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SHOO
HEY, MISTER! CAN I GET TWO OF THESE SKEWERED SQUIDS?!
MAKE ONE A BIG ADULT-SIZED ONE!

BUSTLE
BUSTLE
やき
いか焼

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN HAVE THE ADULT-SIZED ONE FOR HALF PRICE TOO!!
HA! YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
WOW, YOU'RE THE MAN, MISTER!

!
SHOP

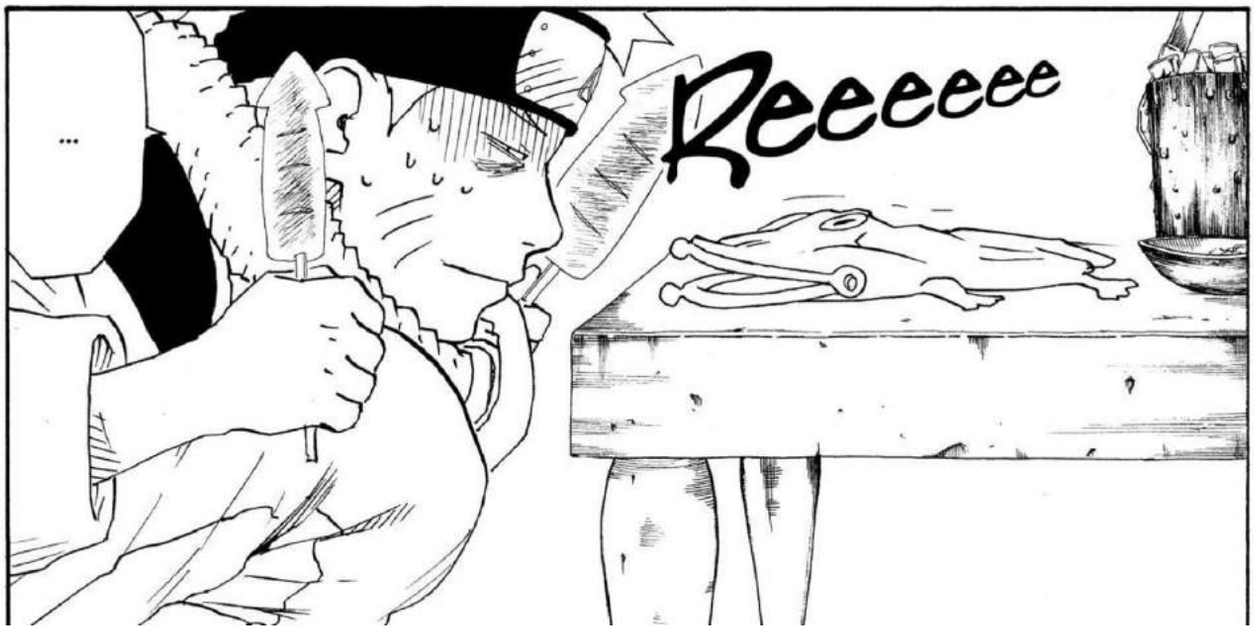
OH! THAT'S PERVY SAGE'S VOICE!
GYA-HA HA HA HA HA HA!

HUH, HOW FAR DID HE GET?!
HUNH
HUNH

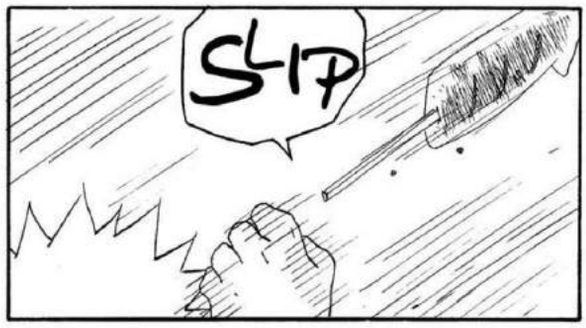
HAHAHA♡ HAHAHA♡
GYA-HA HA HA, GOTTA LOVE 'EM!
...

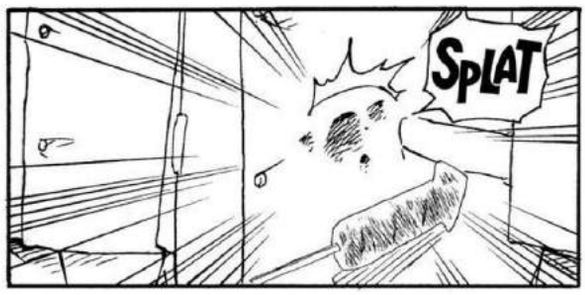
!

HEY... NARUTO! HAVE YOU HAD YOUR FILL OF THE FESTIVAL ALREADY?
!


...
Reeeeee

I THINK YOU GOT YOURSELF AN INSTANT TRIFECTA!!
TELL ME THOSE THREE PROHIBITIONS AGAIN!!


SLIP


SPLAT

IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SUCH A THING, YOU BETTER START TRAINING ME ASAP!!
SPENDING MY HARD-EARNED MONEY LIKE WATER!
BONK
BONK
N... NARUTO, STOP! I'M SORRY, OK, H...HEY!!

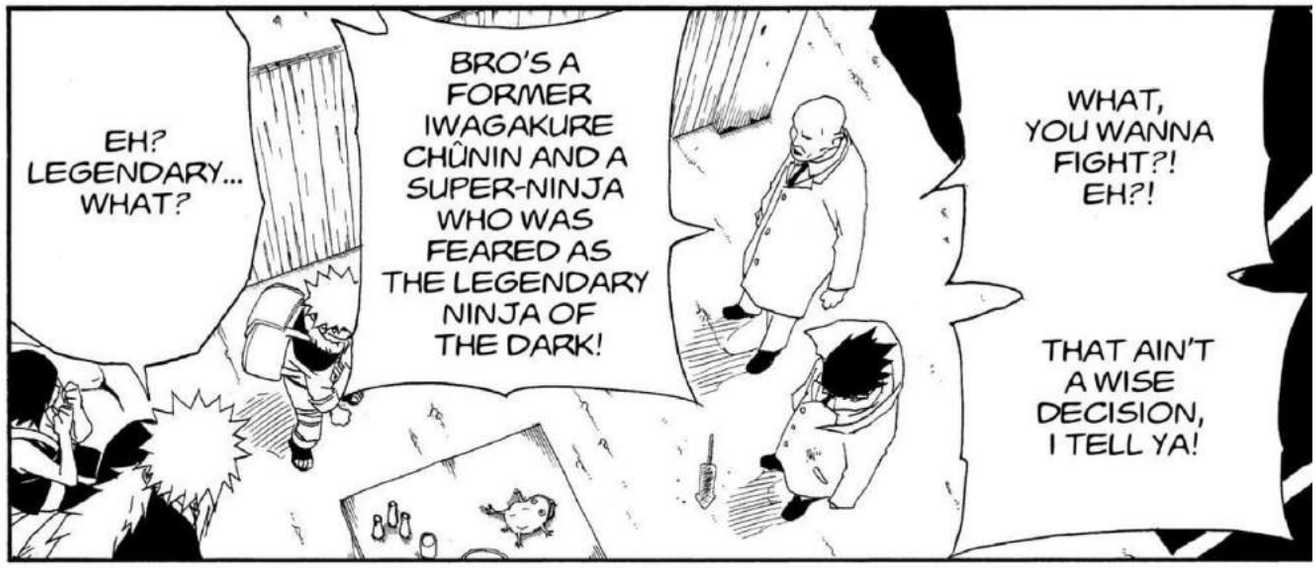
!

YO!! LOOKIE WHATCHA DONE, BRAT!

WHAT?!! THAT CHEAP-LOOKING COAT COSTS 100,000 RYO?!

DO YA KNOW HOW MUCH THIS HERE COAT COSTS?! PAY UP!
YOU'VE MUSSED UP MY BRO'S TOP-SHELF COAT!
100,000 RYO !!

100,000 RYO FOR SUCH AN UGLY COAT IS A BIT MUCH, DONCHA THINK...


EH? LEGENDARY... WHAT?
BRO'S A FORMER IWAGAKURE CHÛNIN AND A SUPER-NINJA WHO WAS FEARED AS THE LEGENDARY NINJA OF THE DARK!
WHAT, YOU WANNA FIGHT?! EH?!
THAT AIN'T A WISE DECISION, I TELL YA!

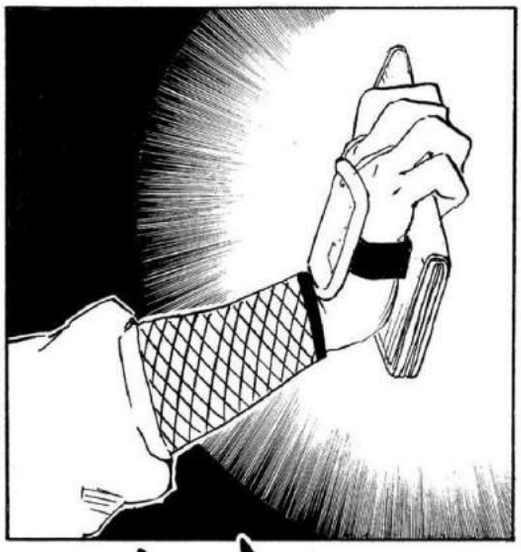
!
FWOOSH
NAR-UTO...

IT SEEMS YOU'RE ITCHING TO GET HURT!!
GRAHH

!
ZZWIRRRRRRRRLLTHUD
SO WATCH CLOSELY!
GREAT TIMING... I CAN SHOW YOU THE JUTSU THAT I'M GOING TO BE TEACHING YOU.
!!

SHHHH

BLAST
WAA AA AH!!

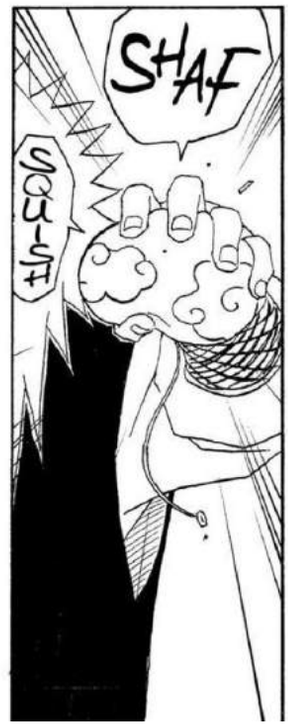


A... AWESOME!

쉬
쉭

HMM...

...


SHAF
SQUISH

BOING

...WH... WHO ARE YOU...
YOU KNOW, I HELD BACK QUITE A BIT ON THAT...
YOU ALL ARE WEAK.

HERE, TAKE THIS FOR REPAIRS. SORRY ABOUT THAT... DIDN'T MEAN TO DESTROY YOUR STAND...
TMP
TMP
...

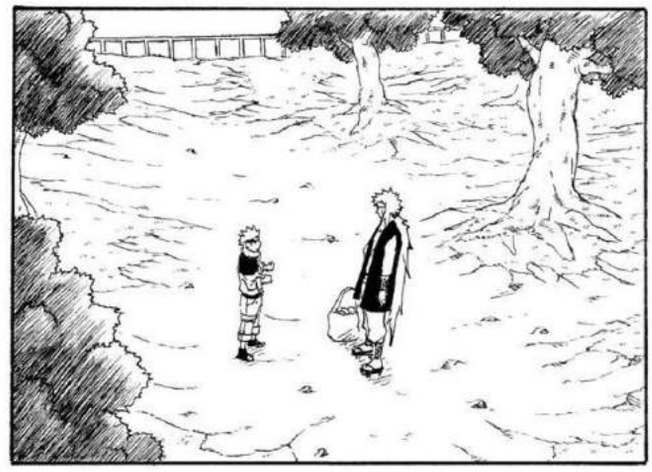
THAT WAS NO ORDINARY PALM PRESS...⇒ WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT, THAT JUTSU JUST NOW...?!!
...

HEY MISTER! CAN I BUY ALL OF YOUR WATER BALLOONS AND REGULAR BALLOONS WHILE I'M AT IT?
SURE, I GUESS...
...

YEAH!!

油
NARUTO! COME ON!
LET'S GO TRAIN!

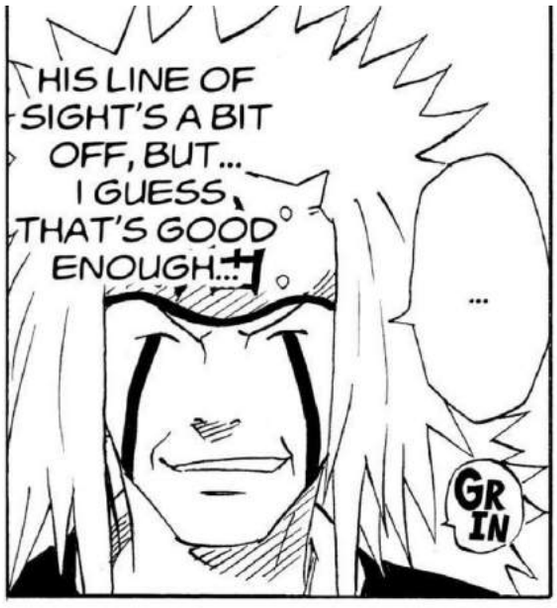
I'M STARTING TO FEEL IT!



HUH?! WHAT'S THIS FOR?!
Boing
Boing

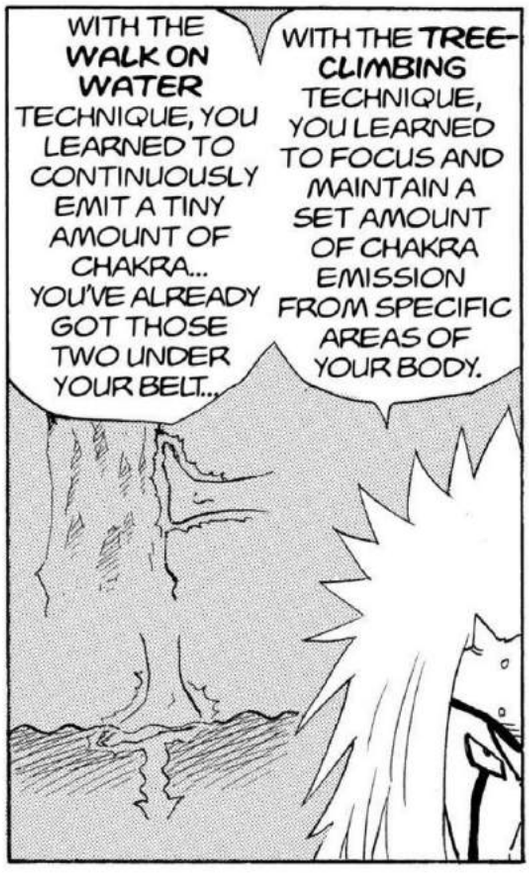
HERE! TAKE THIS WATER BALLOON!
!
Toss
BOING

WHAT DID THE JUTSU LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
YUP!
YOU WERE WATCHING JUST NOW, WEREN'T YOU?

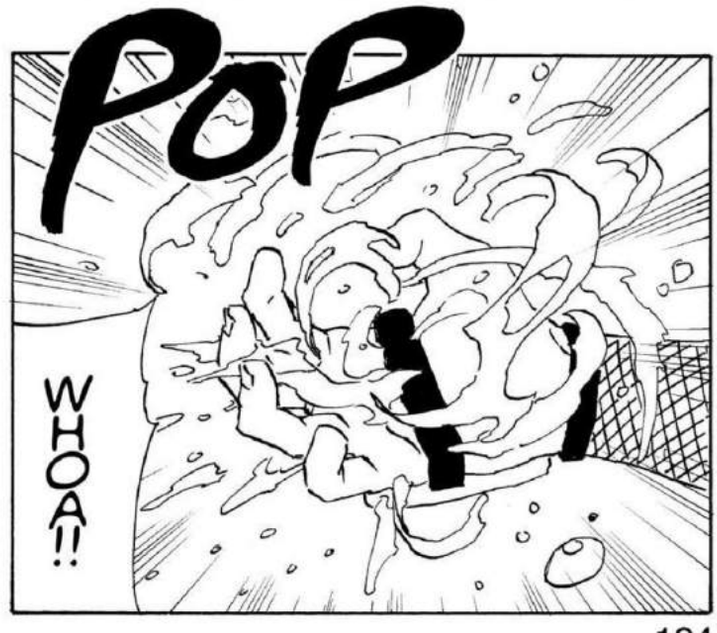

HIS LINE OF SIGHT'S A BIT OFF, BUT... I GUESS, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH...
...
GRIN

IT SEEMED LIKE THE ENEMY WAS SPUN AROUND A LOT...
MMM...

THAT'S RIGHT... ROTATION'S PROBABLY THE BEST WORD.
SPLISH SPLASH
PAK

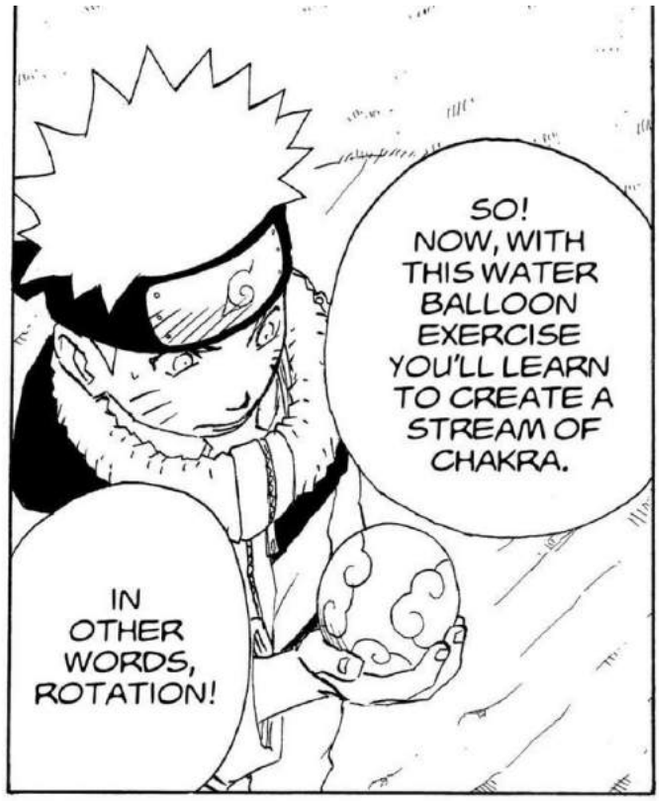

WITH THE **WALK ON WATER** TECHNIQUE, YOU LEARNED TO CONTINUOUSLY EMIT A TINY AMOUNT OF CHAKRA... YOU'VE ALREADY GOT THOSE TWO UNDER YOUR BELT...
WITH THE **TREE-CLIMBING** TECHNIQUE, YOU LEARNED TO FOCUS AND MAINTAIN A SET AMOUNT OF CHAKRA EMISSION FROM SPECIFIC AREAS OF YOUR BODY.

...WITHOUT MOVING HIS HAND?!
HE'S SWIRLING THE WATER INSIDE THE BALLOON...

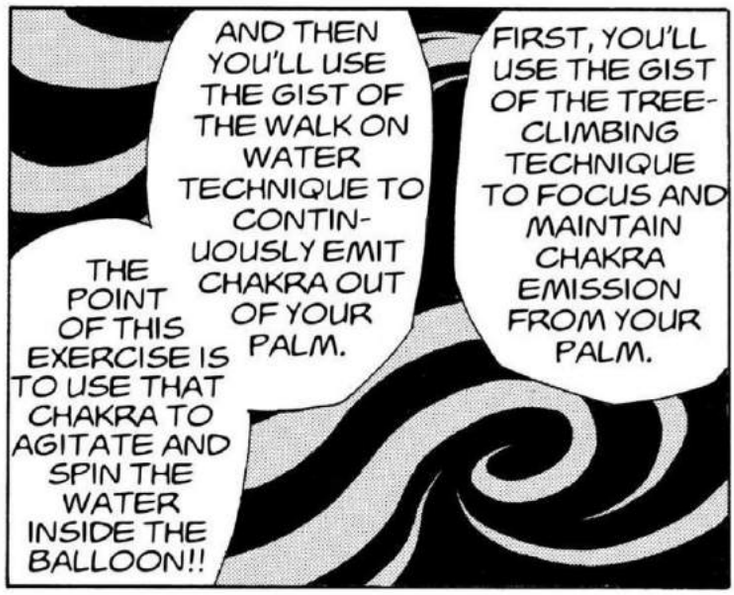

POP
WHOA!!

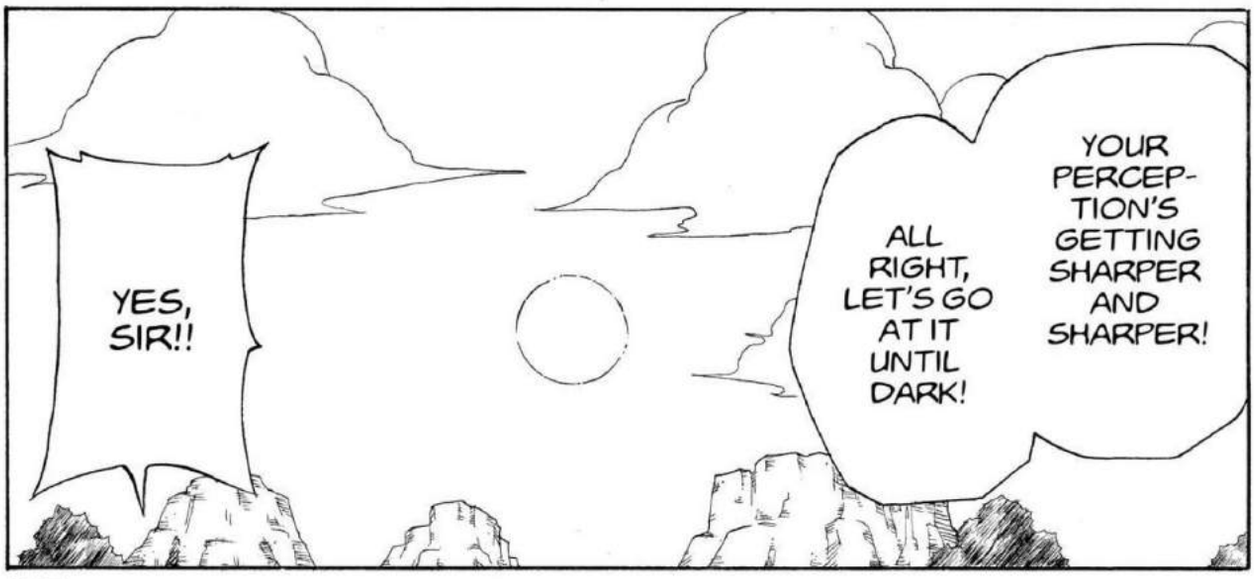
CREATE A STREAM OF CHAKRA...

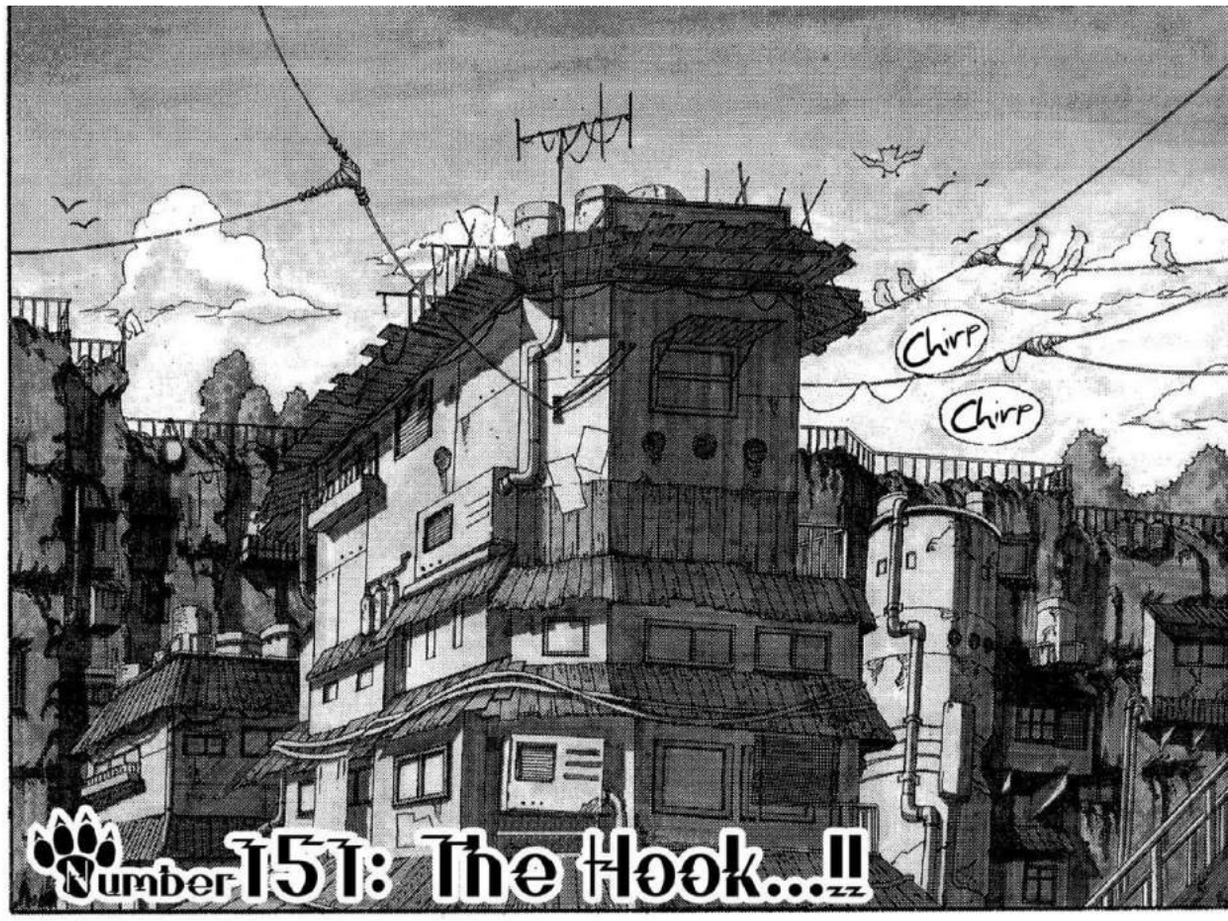
WELL, I'LL EXPLAIN THE JUTSU MORE FULLY AFTER YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED THIS FIRST STEP.

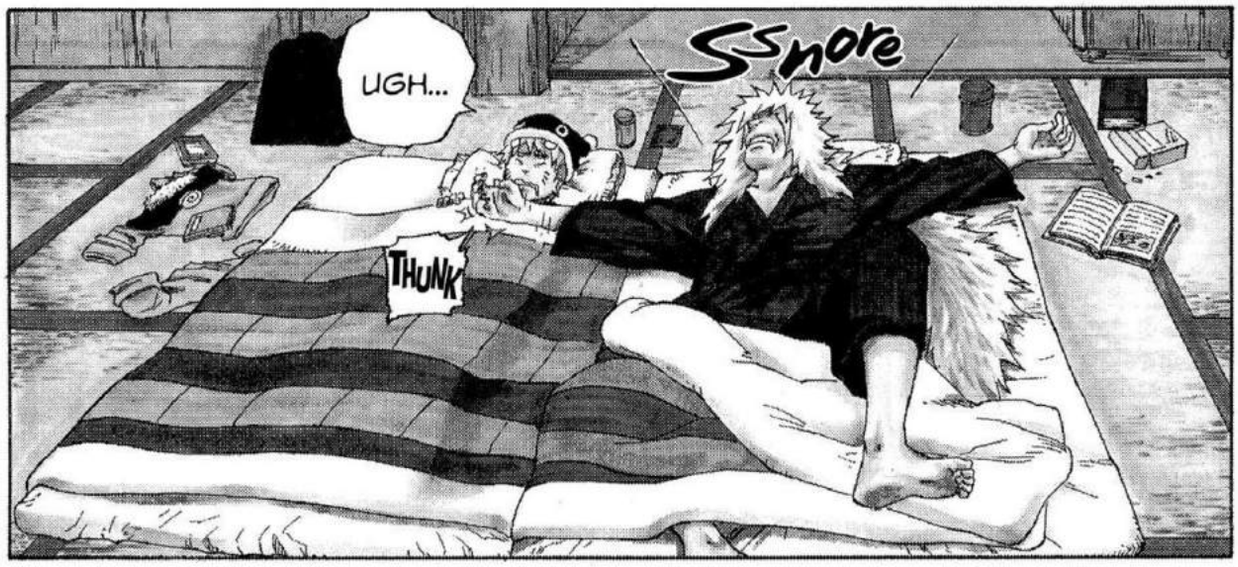

SO! NOW, WITH THIS WATER BALLOON EXERCISE YOU'LL LEARN TO CREATE A STREAM OF CHAKRA.
IN OTHER WORDS, ROTATION!

SO I NEED TO ROTATE THE WATER FAST ENOUGH SO THAT THE BALLOON POPS, RIGHT!!
GOT IT!

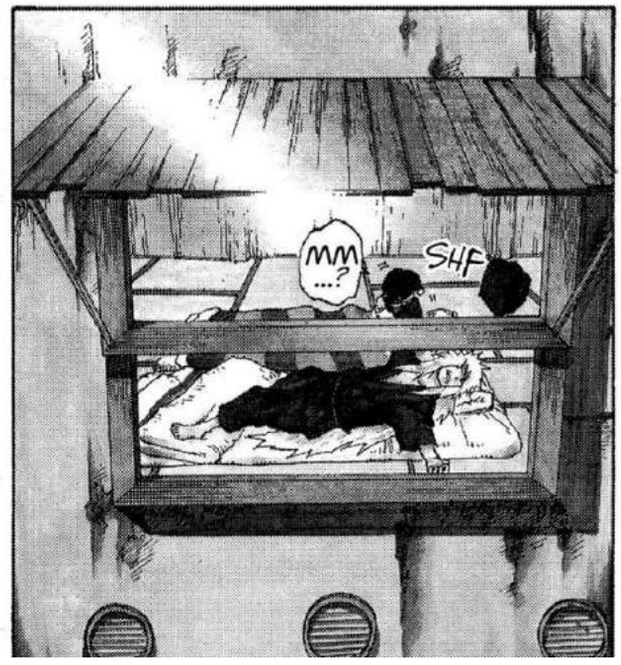

FIRST, YOU'LL USE THE GIST OF THE TREE-CLIMBING TECHNIQUE TO FOCUS AND MAINTAIN CHAKRA EMISSION FROM YOUR PALM.
AND THEN YOU'LL USE THE GIST OF THE WALK ON WATER TECHNIQUE TO CONTINUOUSLY EMIT CHAKRA OUT OF YOUR PALM.
THE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO USE THAT CHAKRA TO AGITATE AND SPIN THE WATER INSIDE THE BALLOON!!


YES, SIR!!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO AT IT UNTIL DARK!
YOUR PERCEPTION'S GETTING SHARPER AND SHARPER!


Chirp
Chirp
Number 151: The Hook...!!

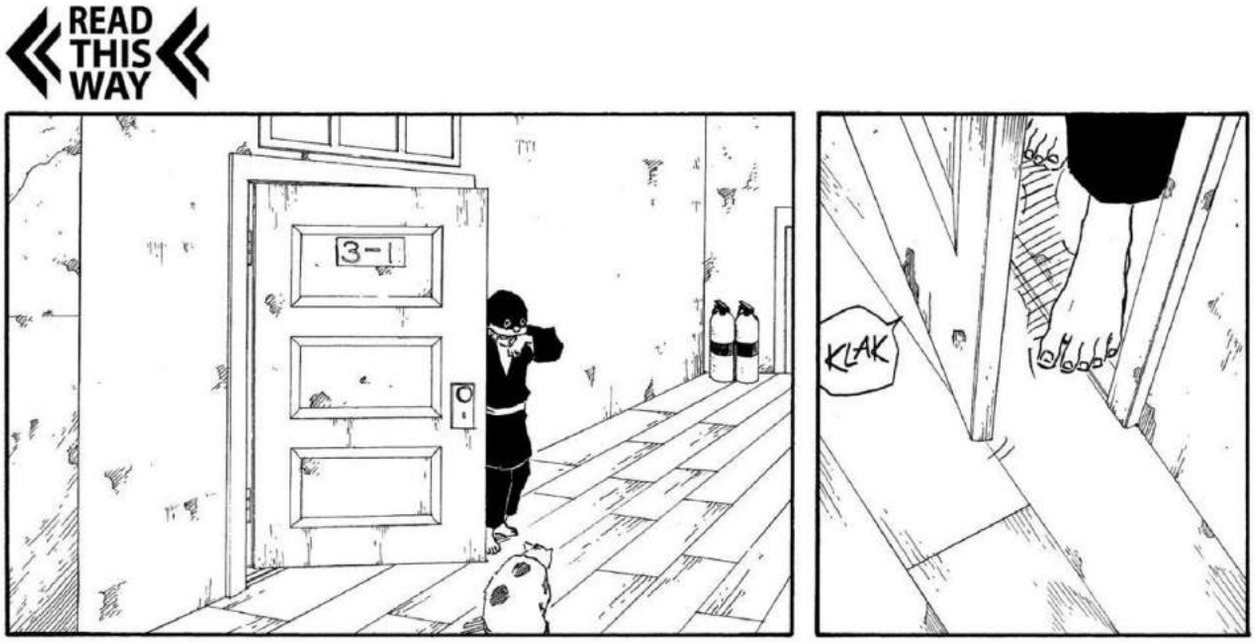

UGH...
Ssnore
THUNK

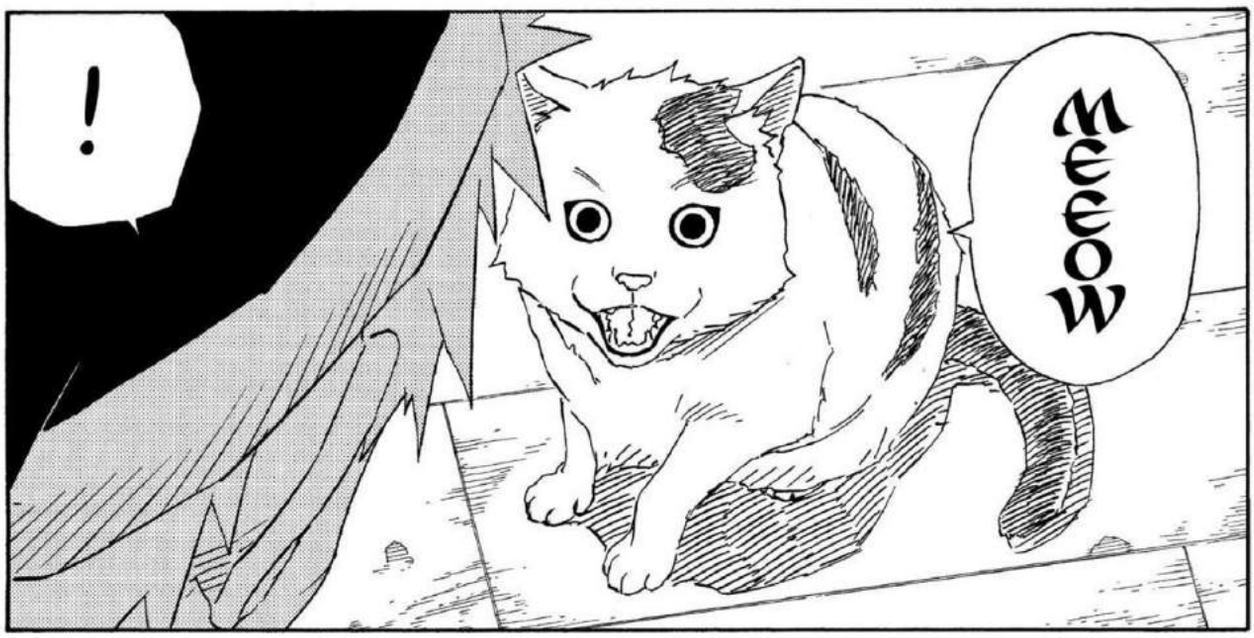
TWITCH
TWITCH


MM...?
SHF

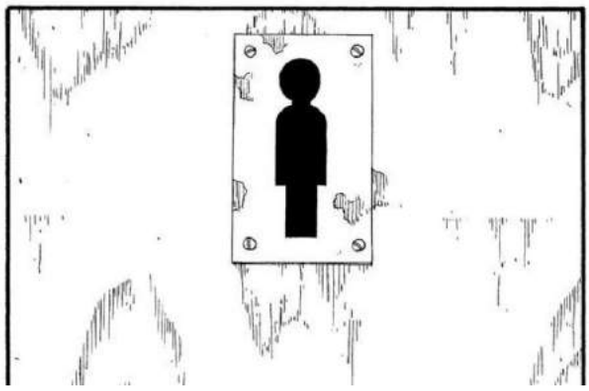
Number 151: The Hook...!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-


READ THIS WAY
3-1
KLAK

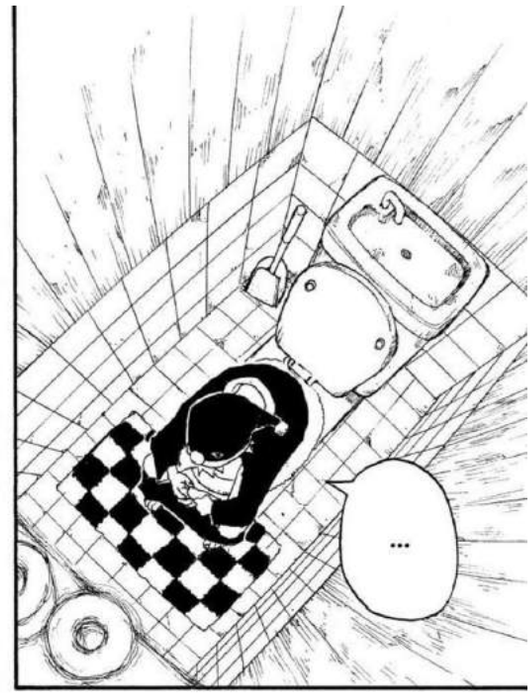

!
MEOW

HEY, WHERE'S THE BATH-ROOM?

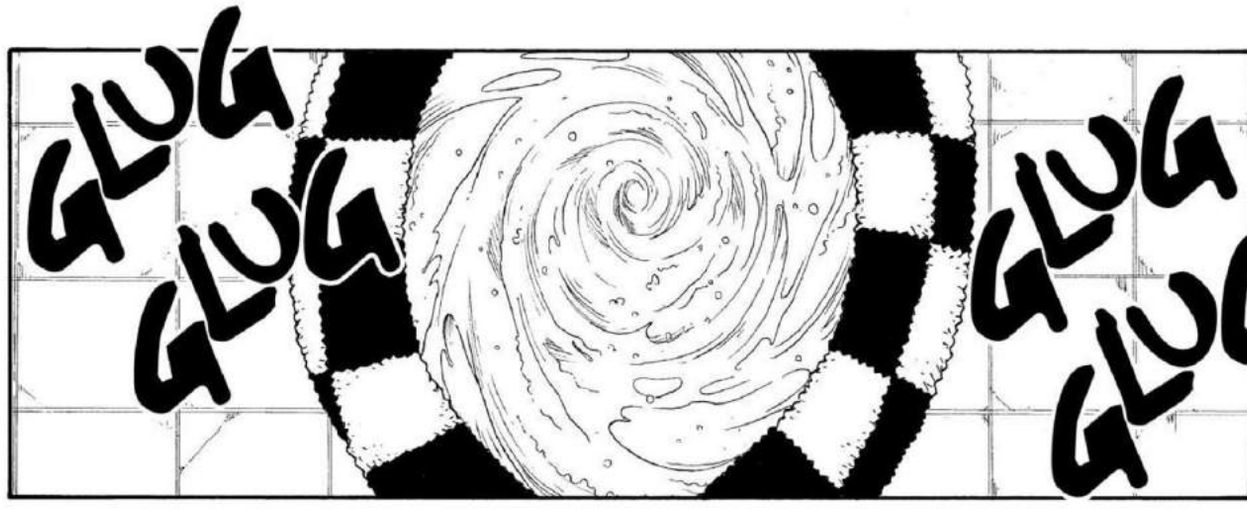


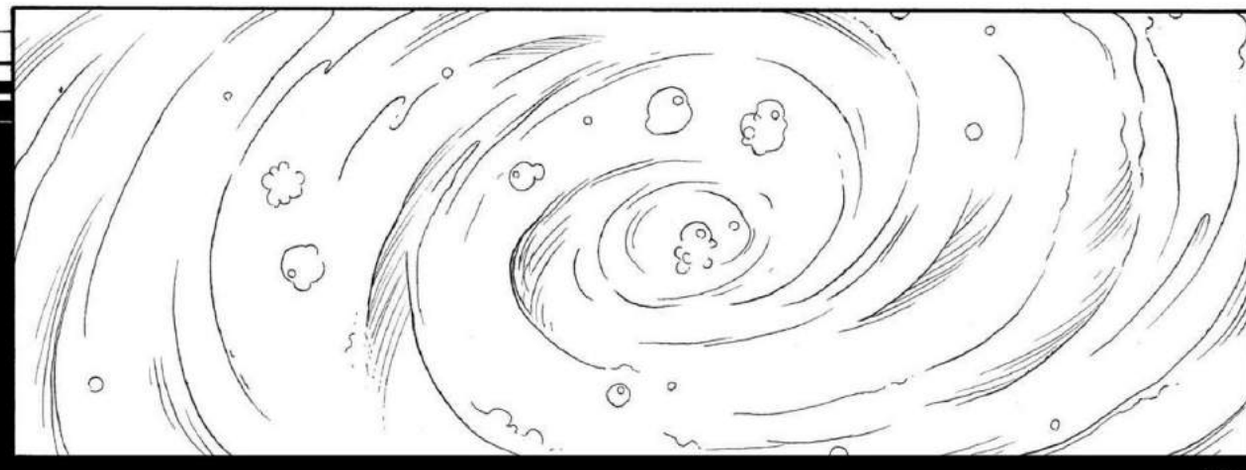
SHOO, TIME TO GO DOWNSTAIRS.
MEW

THIS IS BAD, EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE TO WEAVE SIGNS...
TWITCH TWITCH


...

SSSSHOO...


GLUG GLUG
GLUG GLUG



SPLISH SPLISH
THE WATER'S SWIRLING AROUND!!
SPLISH SPLISH
YES!
AT THIS RATE, YOU'RE NOT EVEN GONNA GET A NAP!
GRIN
WELL, I'M GOING TO GO CATCH SOME Z'S UNTIL YOU'RE DONE.
I THINK IT'S GONNA BE EASIER TO POP THIS THING THAN I THOUGHT!
WHOOO

NGA-HHH NGA-HHH...

CAW
CAW

...
Slich Slich

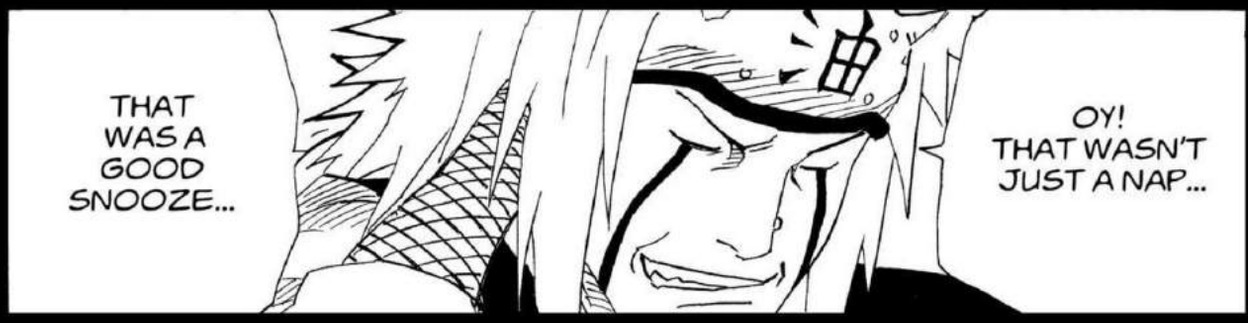
...!
HUNHH ...?

ARGH! SHEESH! WHY WON'T YOU BURST, EH!
SQUEEZE
SPLASH

SSHOO SSHOO

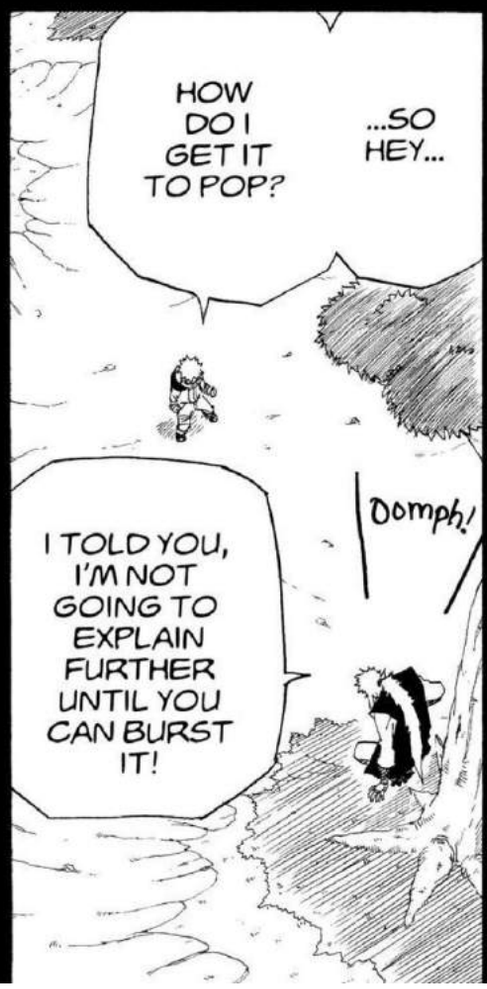
...

DOINK!
HO... DID YOU GET IT...?
UNF

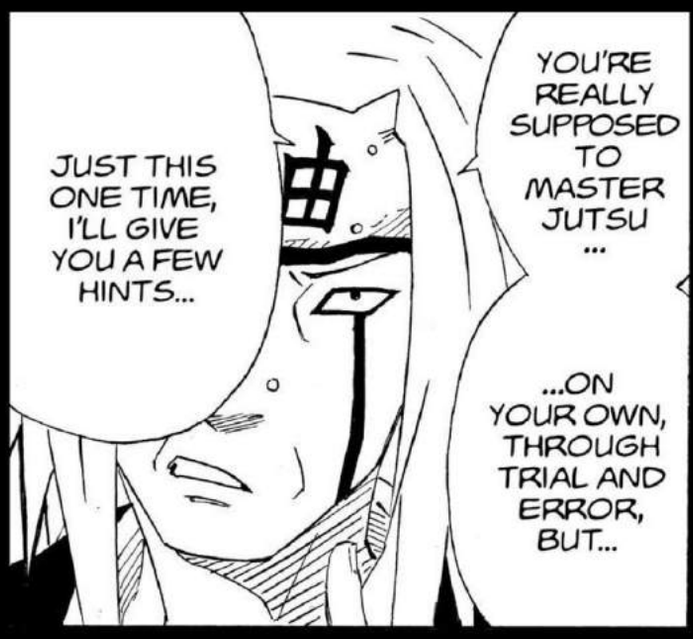

THAT WAS A GOOD SNOOZE...
OY! THAT WASN'T JUST A NAP...

...

...


HOW DO I GET IT TO POP?
...SO HEY...
Oomph!
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT GOING TO EXPLAIN FURTHER UNTIL YOU CAN BURST IT!

PF...


JUST THIS ONE TIME, I'LL GIVE YOU A FEW HINTS...
YOU'RE REALLY SUPPOSED TO MASTER JUTSU ...
...ON YOUR OWN, THROUGH TRIAL AND ERROR, BUT...

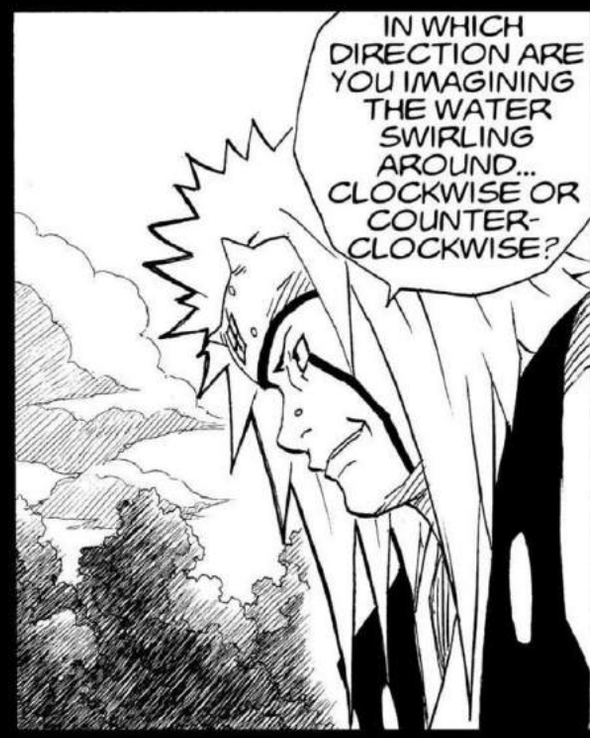
SIGH
AW, ALL RIGHT...

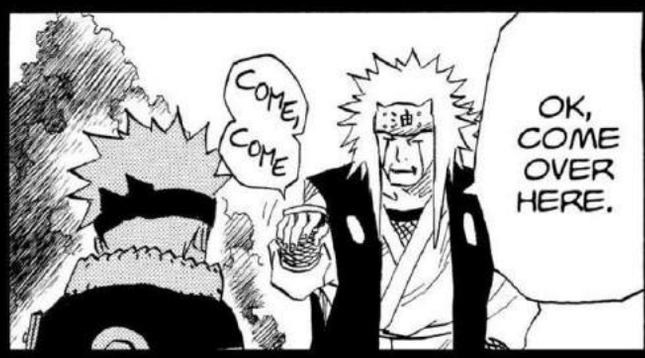
CHAK

!!
O-OK!
NOW MAKE THE WATER SWIRL AROUND!

ZPLASH
ZPLASH

READ THIS WAY
UH... COUNTER-CLOCK-WISE...


IN WHICH DIRECTION ARE YOU IMAGINING THE WATER SWIRLING AROUND... CLOCKWISE OR COUNTER-CLOCKWISE?


OK, COME OVER HERE.
COME, COME

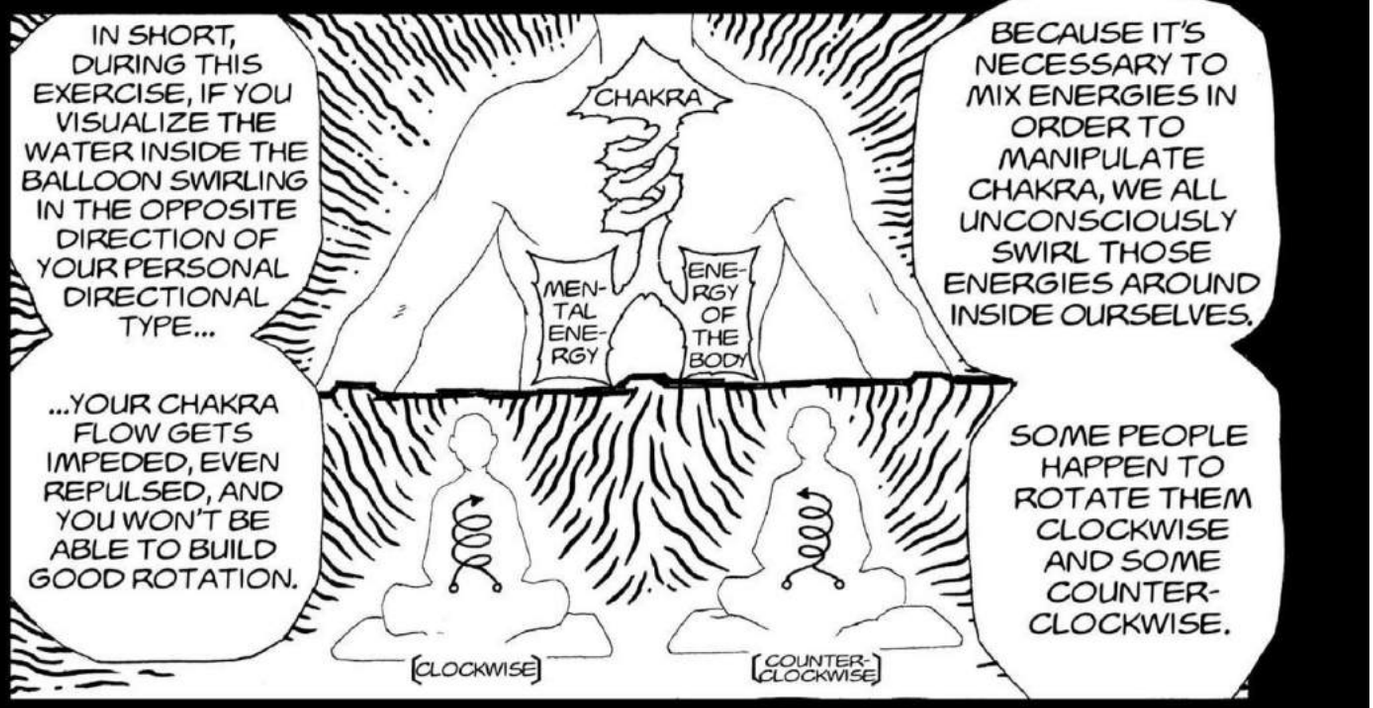
TAP
?
SHK

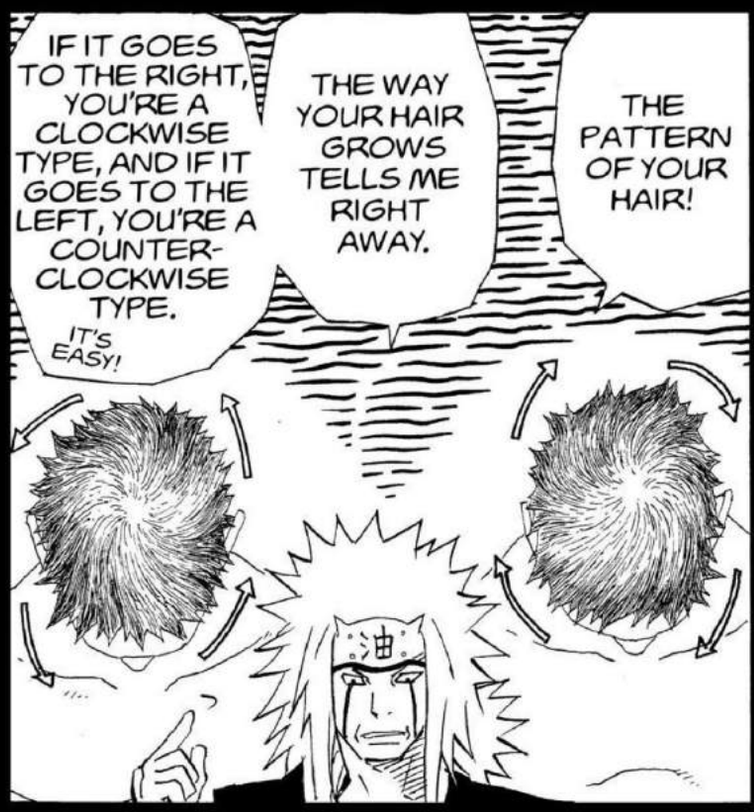
?!
WH... WHAT...?

HEH.
JUST AS I THOUGHT...

?!

YOU'RE A CLOCKWISE TYPE.

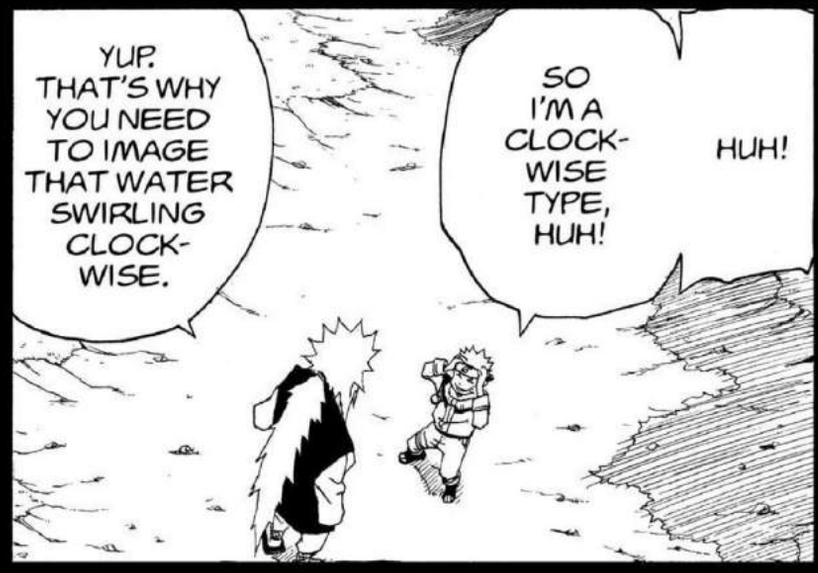

IN SHORT, DURING THIS EXERCISE, IF YOU VISUALIZE THE WATER INSIDE THE BALLOON SWIRLING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DIRECTIONAL TYPE...
...YOUR CHAKRA FLOW GETS IMPEDED, EVEN REPULSED, AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BUILD GOOD ROTATION.
CHAKRA
MEN-TAL ENE-RGY
ENE-RGY OF THE BODY
CLOCKWISE
COUNTER-CLOCKWISE
BECAUSE IT'S NECESSARY TO MIX ENERGIES IN ORDER TO MANIPULATE CHAKRA, WE ALL UNCONSCIOUSLY SWIRL THOSE ENERGIES AROUND INSIDE OURSELVES.
SOME PEOPLE HAPPEN TO ROTATE THEM CLOCKWISE AND SOME COUNTER-CLOCKWISE.


IF IT GOES TO THE RIGHT, YOU'RE A CLOCKWISE TYPE, AND IF IT GOES TO THE LEFT, YOU'RE A COUNTER-CLOCKWISE TYPE.
IT'S EASY!
THE WAY YOUR HAIR GROWS TELLS ME RIGHT AWAY.
THE PATTERN OF YOUR HAIR!

YOU KNOW, YOU OUGHT TO SENSE THESE KINDA THINGS ON YOUR OWN...

SO HOW'D YOU TELL I WAS A CLOCK-WISE TYPE SO EASILY?

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THESE THINGS BEFORE...


YUP. THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO IMAGE THAT WATER SWIRLING CLOCK-WISE.
SO I'M A CLOCK-WISE TYPE, HUH!
HUH!

YOU DON'T NEED TO WEAVE ANY SIGNS. ALL YOU NEED IS CHAKRA.
BUT YOU KNOW, THIS JUTSU IS IDEAL FOR YOU.

...

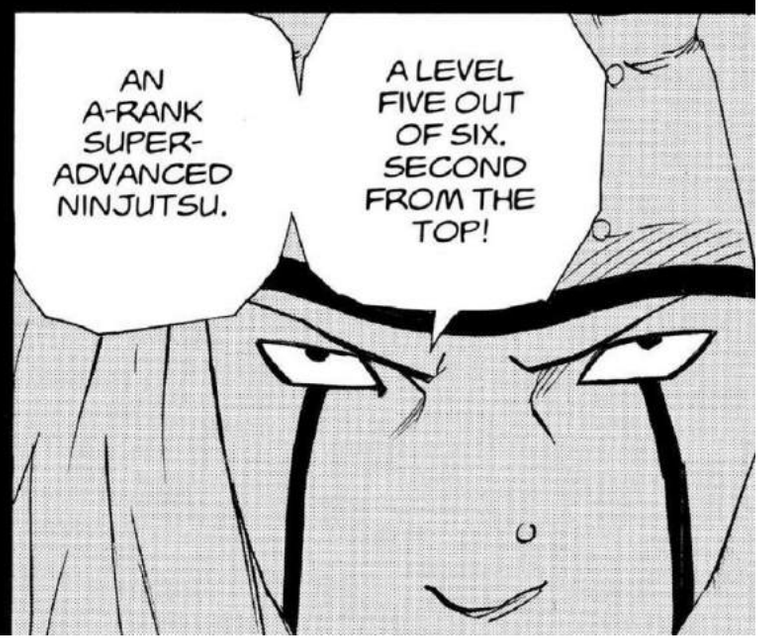
I'LL MASTER IT IN THREE DAYS!!
ALL RIGHT! NOW THAT I KNOW, THIS JUTSU WILL BE A PIECE OF CAKE...

NO COMPLICATED SEQUENCES TO MEMOR-IZE!
EVEN A DUNCE CAN DO IT!
JAB

THIS JUTSU IS ONE OF THE LEGACIES OF THE FOURTH HOKAGE!

IT TOOK LORD FOURTH A FULL THREE **YEARS** TO PERFECT THIS JUTSU...

...

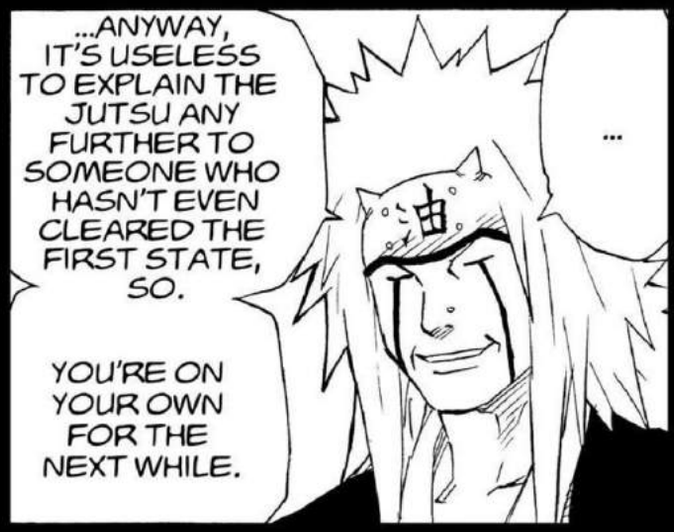

AN A-RANK SUPER-ADVANCED NINJUTSU.
A LEVEL FIVE OUT OF SIX. SECOND FROM THE TOP!

...
THIS "WATER BALLOON-BURSTING" IS THE FIRST STAGE.

YOU NEED TO WORK THROUGH THREE STAGES OF EXER-CISES.
IN ORDER TO MASTER THIS NINJUTSU ...

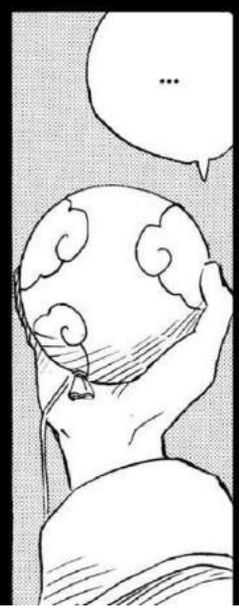
IT TOOK THAT GENIUS NINJA LORD FOURTH... THREE YEARS...
...

LATER! I'M GOING BACK TO OUR ROOM.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

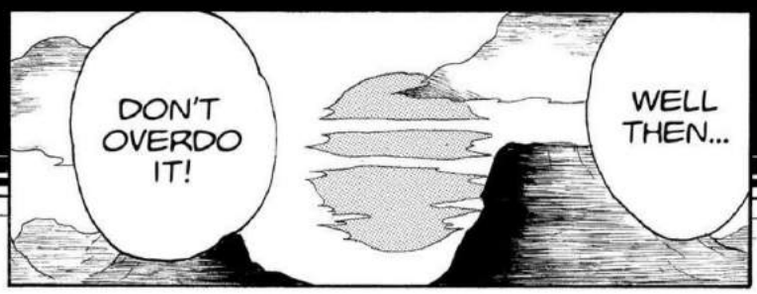

...ANYWAY, IT'S USELESS TO EXPLAIN THE JUTSU ANY FURTHER TO SOMEONE WHO HASN'T EVEN CLEARED THE FIRST STATE, SO.
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN FOR THE NEXT WHILE.
...

...

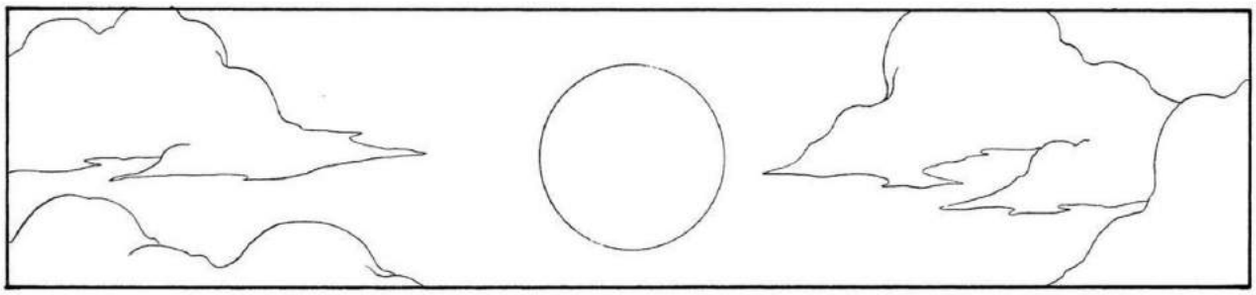
A LEGACY OF THE FOURTH HOKAGE...
AN A-RANK SUPER-ADVANCED NINJUTSU...

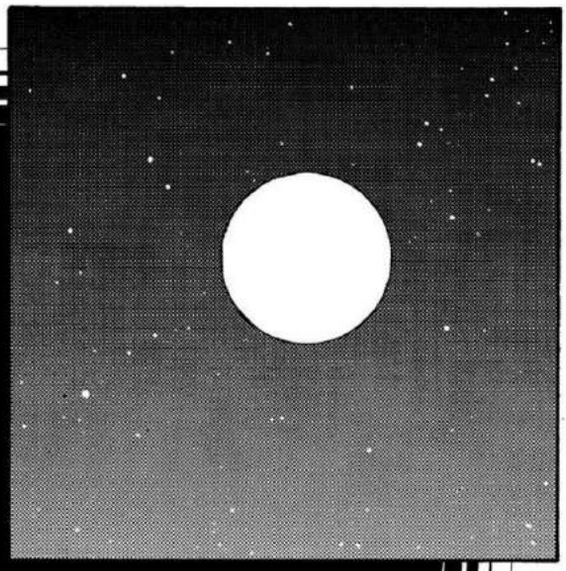

...

NAH, I'M GONNA STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER!


WELL THEN...
DON'T OVERDO IT!

SHIN





ZWIRL ZWIRL
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
I MUST STILL BE DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN PERVY SAGE...
WHY...?!
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
AND I CAN NOW STRETCH THE RUBBER THIS MUCH, SO WHY WON'T IT BURST?!
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS ALREADY SINCE PERVY SAGE GAVE ME THAT HINT...
GAH!
THAT'S NOT A TOY...
HEY!
SHOO
PURRR
Boing
Boin
PURRR PURRR
!

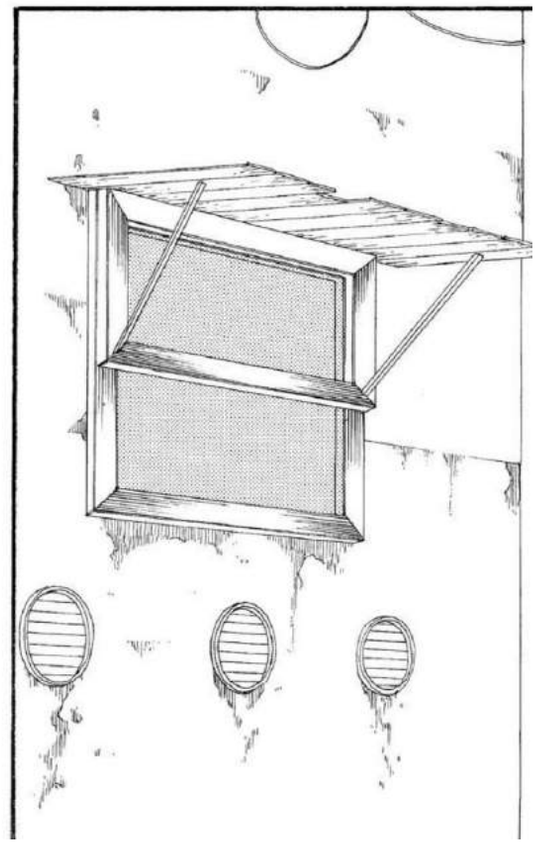
THWAP

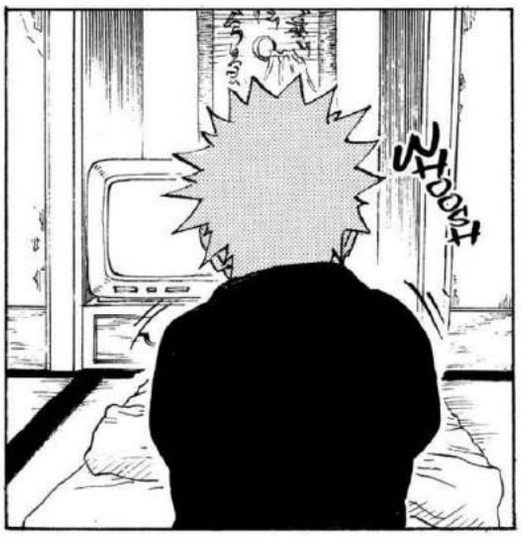
POP!
WHEEE
THACK
MEW!!

THWAP
THWAP
BOING BOING

...THAT'S IT...!

HEY! PERVY SAGE!!
WAKE UP ALREADY!




WHOOSH

HEH HEH HEH.

MM HH...?!

POP!
SPLATTER
WHA?!

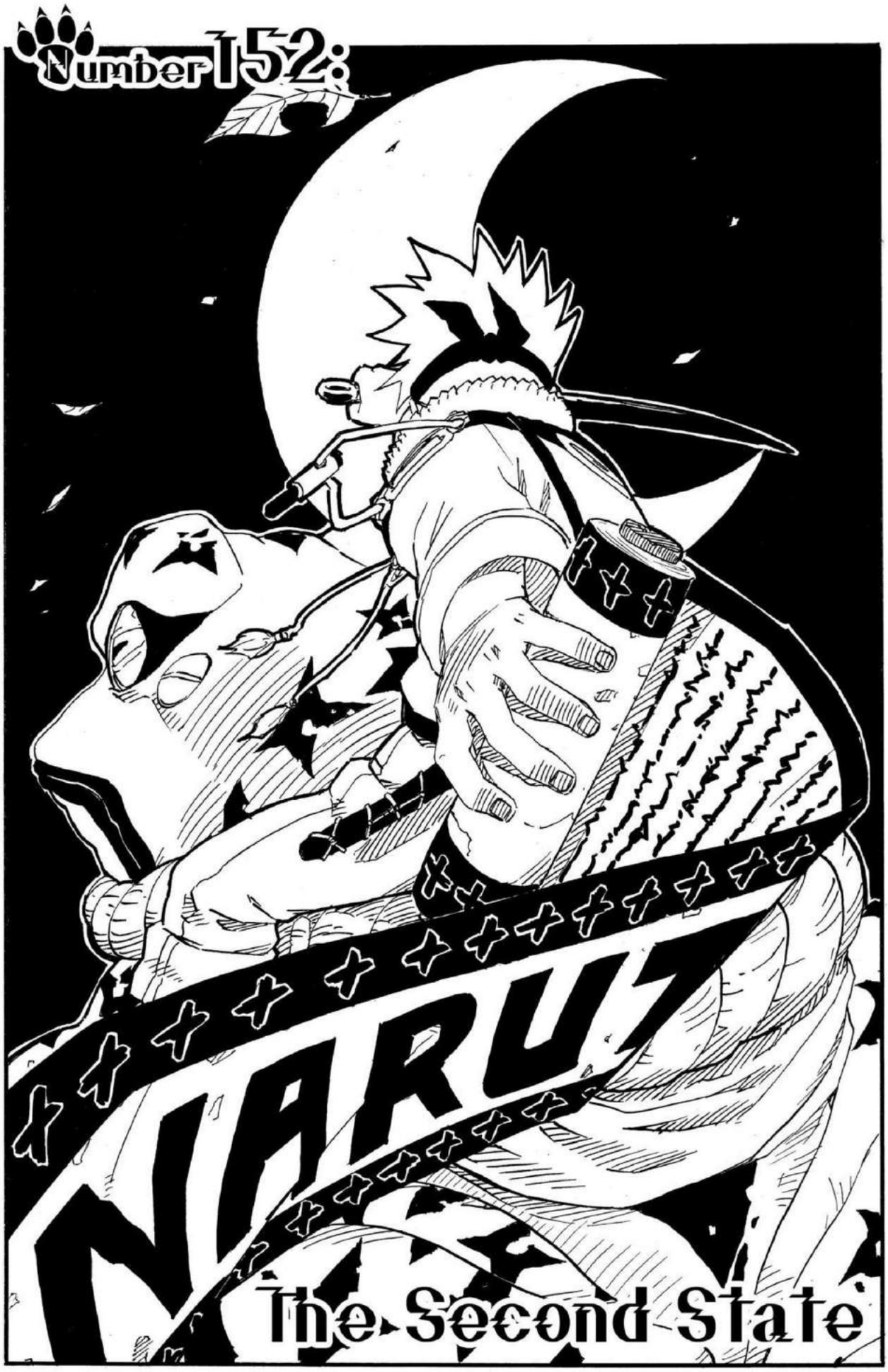
FIRST STATE CLEARED!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 25

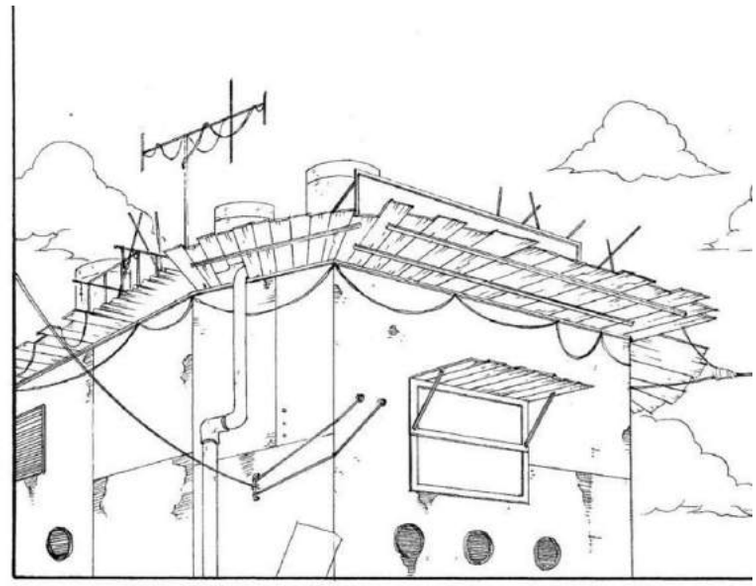
ACCEPTED FOR THE HOP☆STEP AWARD! I HAD WON! THE WINNING WORK FOR THAT MONTH'S HOP☆STEP AWARD WAS PROMISED PRINTING IN *AKAMURU JUMP*. "FINALLY, MY MANGA WILL BE SEEN BY THE WORLD!" I RECALL BEING SO OVERJOYED THAT I PRANCED AROUND, TALKING TO MYSELF IN A HIGH-PITCHED VOICE AND LAUGHING AT HOME. I WANTED TO TELL SOMEONE HOW HAPPY I WAS! SO I IMMEDIATELY CALLED MY PARENTS' HOUSE. MY MOTHER ANSWERED.

MASASHI: "MOM! I WON JUMP'S HOP☆STEP AWARD! I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED! ACCEPTED!"
MA: "WHAT? ACCEPTED FOR WHAT?"
MASASHI: "...UH...! UM... JUMP CHOOSES FROM AMONG SUBMITTED ENTRIES OF NEWCOMER ARTISTS AND GIVES THEM AN AWARD. I GOT PICKED FOR AN AWARD FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL ONE DAY BECOME MANGA ARTISTS!"
MA: "WHO?"
MASASHI: "ME, I DID!"
MA: "AHH, I SEE! GOOD FOR YOU..."
MASASHI: "SO NOW I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING A MANGA ARTIST! I'M GOING TO START DRAWING MORE AND MORE MANGA... AND..."
MA: "SO, ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?"
MASASHI: "...0"
MA: "DON'T YOU BE EATING THOSE GROCERY STORE RAMEN! YOU HAVE TO EAT YOUR VEGGIES!"
MASASHI: "..."
MA: "AND EAT STEWED THINGS! IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!"
MASASHI: "...ALL RIGHT... HEY, I GOTTA GO... MY CALLING CARD'S ALMOST EMPTY..."
MA: "SURE! WELL THEN... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!"
MASASHI: "YEAH..."

SHE DIDN'T REALLY GET MY HAPPINESS... IT SEEMS MY MA WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT MY HEALTH THAN ABOUT A MANGA AWARD. SO I THOUGHT I WOULD START CHURNING OUT MANGA WHILE WATCHING MY HEALTH. THAT HELPED COOL ME OFF FROM MY HIGH.


Number 152:
NARUTO
The Second State

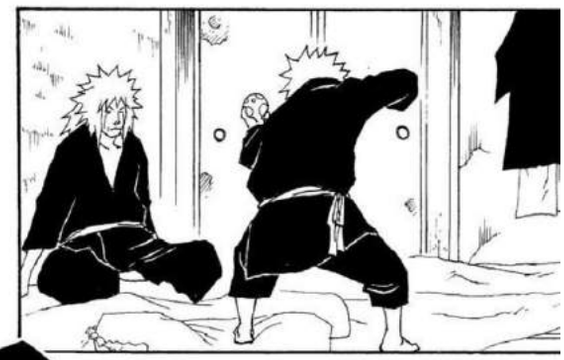
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME...
WELL THEN...



HERE WE GO! WATCH CLOSELY!!
WHSSH

SHUUF

...
HIS LEFT HAND...?



SWWW
WWWWR

GR
RRR
HAAH!!

SPURG
SPURG SPURG
GLU GLU GLUG
GLU GLUG
VWOOH
POP!
SEE! I DID IT!
YEAH!!

HEYYY! YOU FELL ASLEEP!

ZZZ SSS...

FMP

...YEAH, RIGHT, I BET YOU ARE!!

I'VE BEEN OUT SO LATE COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE, I'M BEAT.

AWW, SORRY, MY BAD...

CHIRP

CHIRP

...

TO MAKE THE WATER SWIRL AROUND BY HOLDING THE WATER BALLOON IN HIS LEFT HAND AND BRINGING HIS RIGHT HAND TO IT... IT'S A BIT UNORTHODOX, BUT... HE'S SUCH A FUNNY FELLOW.

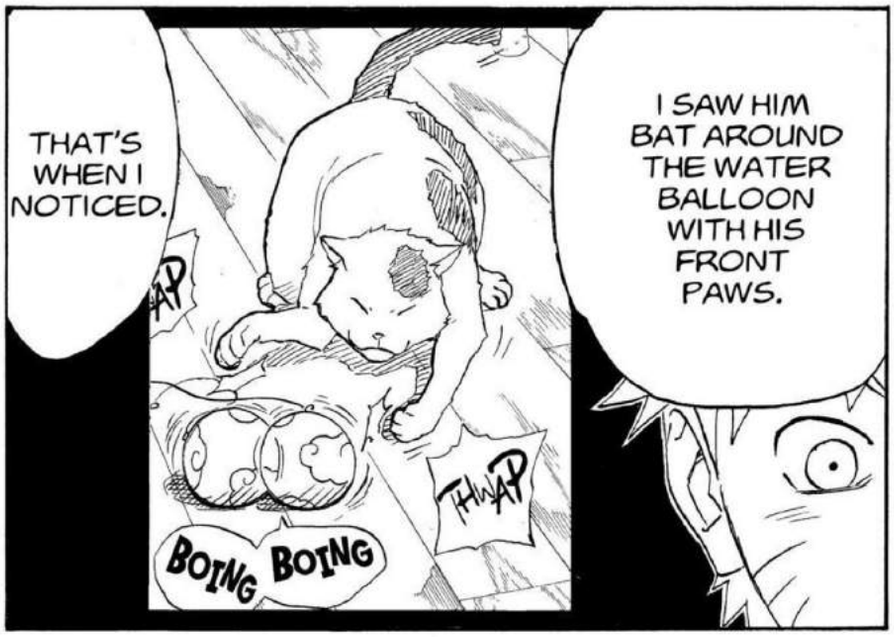
YAH!

ZPLISH ZPLISH ZPLISH

...HOWEVER...

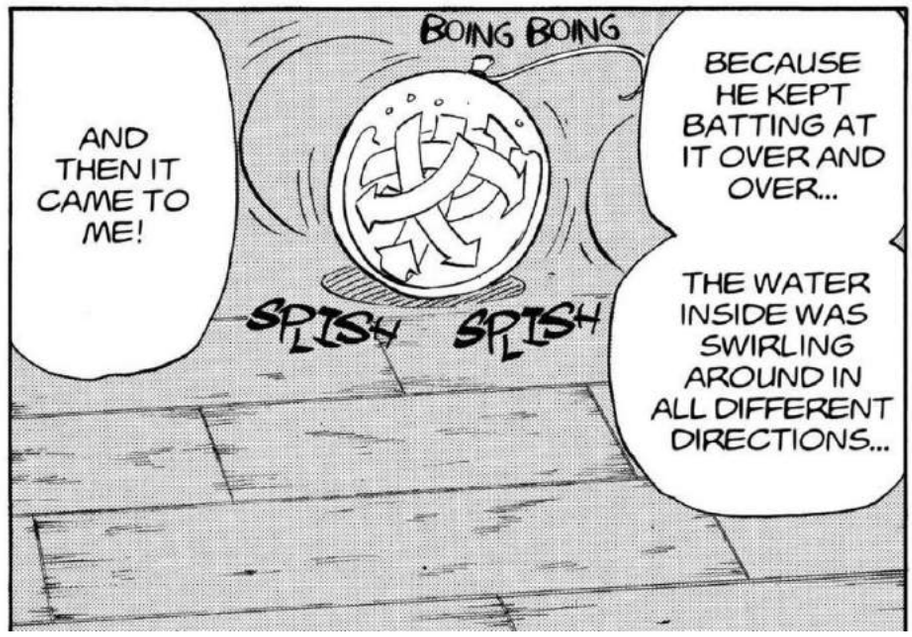
HIS NAME IS SHOO!
MEW
SWAY
SWAY

WELL... I DO HAVE TO SAY, I'M QUITE IMPRESSED YOU WERE ABLE TO GRASP THE TECHNIQUE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME...
IT'S ALL THANKS TO HIM!

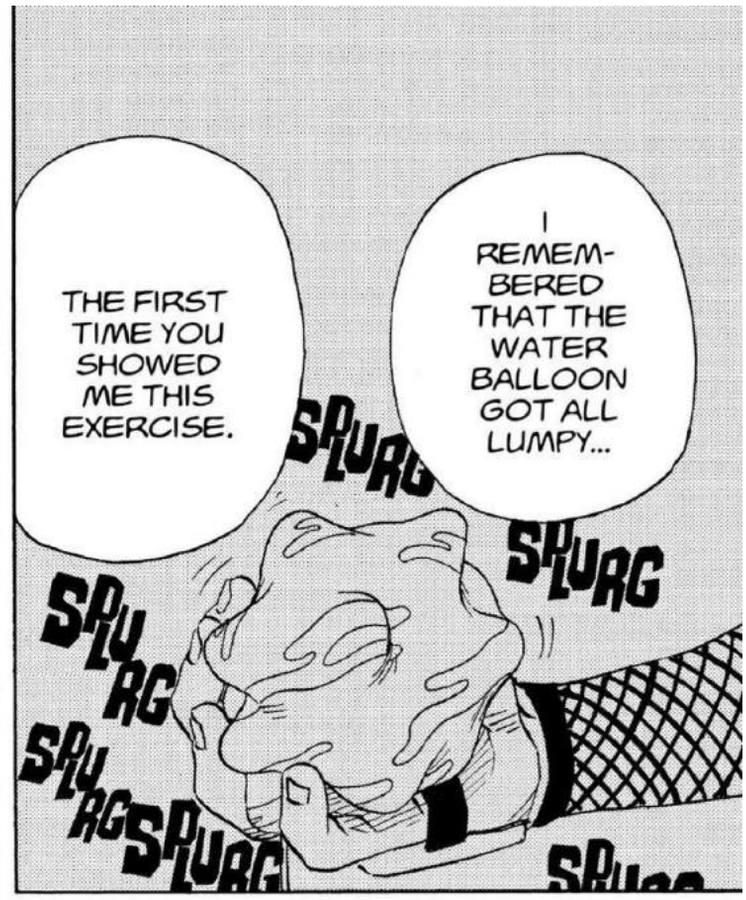

I SAW HIM BAT AROUND THE WATER BALLOON WITH HIS FRONT PAWS.
THAT'S WHEN I NOTICED.
THWAP
BOING BOING

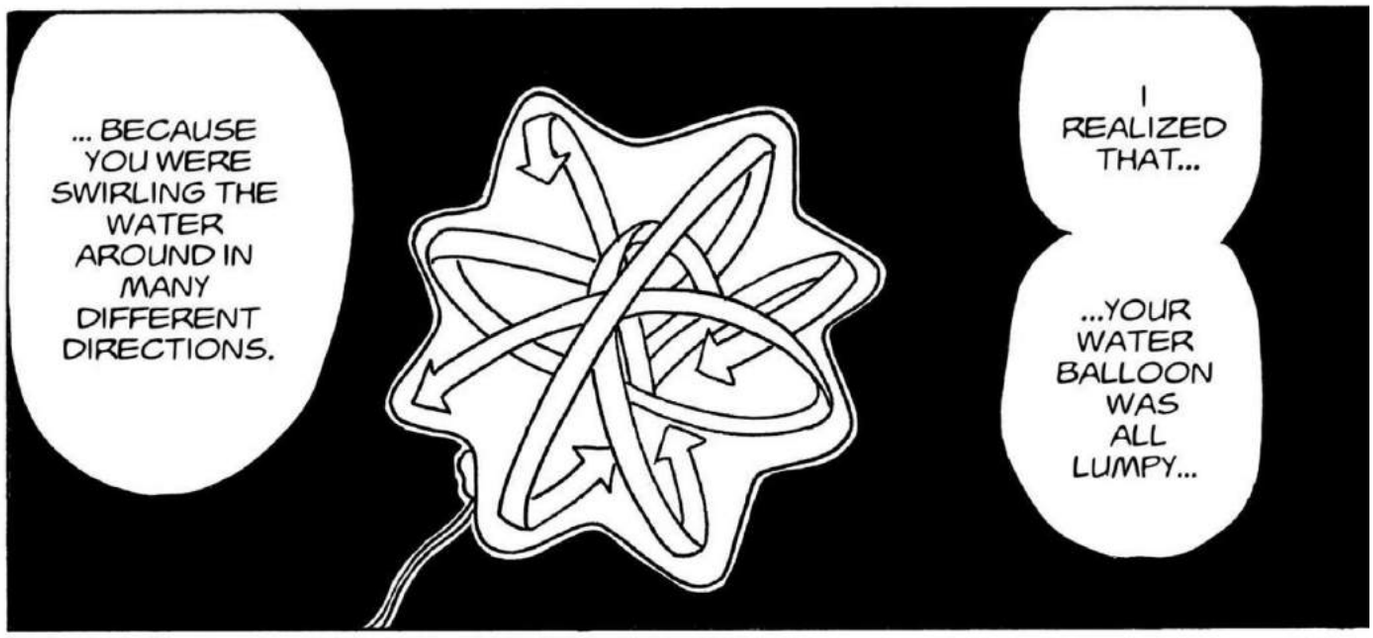
?

WHAT CAME TO YOU?


AND THEN IT CAME TO ME!
BOING BOING
SPLISH SPLISH
BECAUSE HE KEPT BATTING AT IT OVER AND OVER...
THE WATER INSIDE WAS SWIRLING AROUND IN ALL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS...

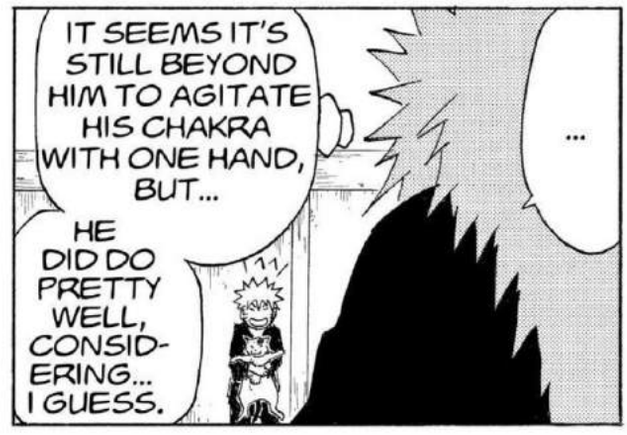
UNTIL NOW, I HAD BEEN FOCUSING ON SWIRLING THE WATER IN ONLY ONE DIRECTION...

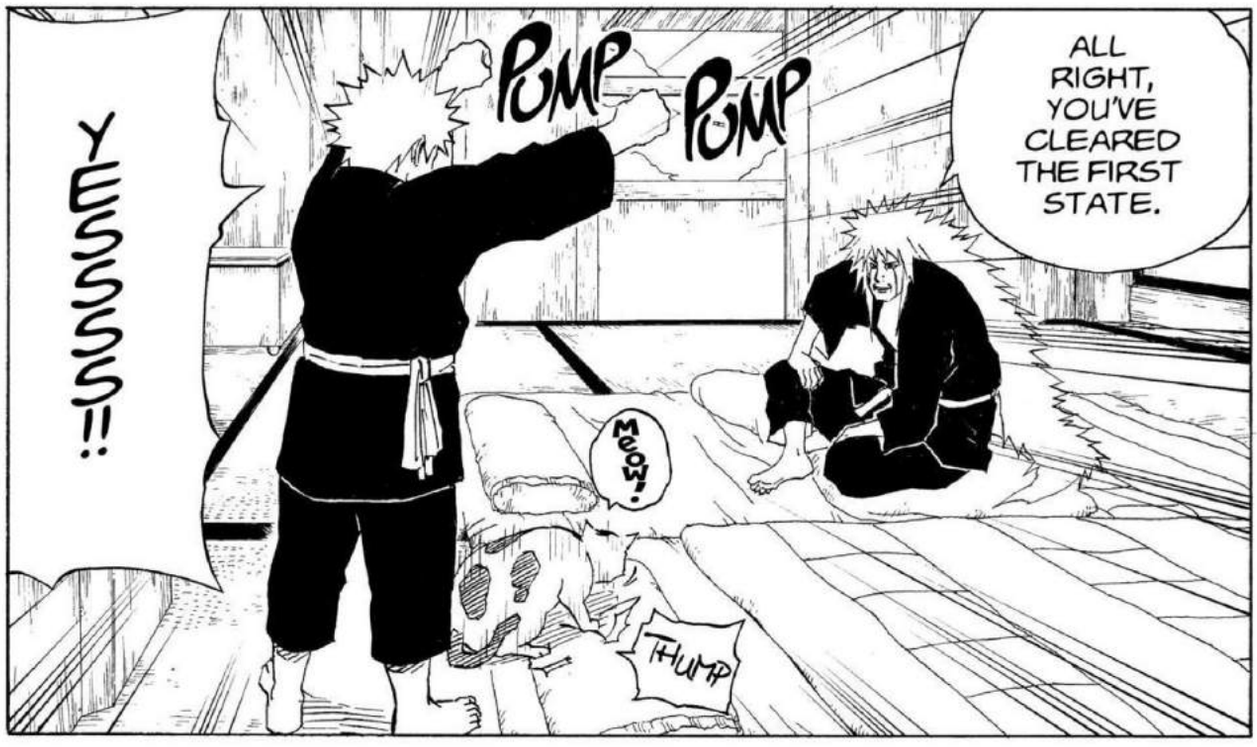

THE FIRST TIME YOU SHOWED ME THIS EXERCISE.
I REMEMBERED THAT THE WATER BALLOON GOT ALL LUMPY...
SPLURG
SPLURG
SPLURG
SPLURG
SPLURG


... BECAUSE YOU WERE SWIRLING THE WATER AROUND IN MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
I REALIZED THAT...
...YOUR WATER BALLOON WAS ALL LUMPY...

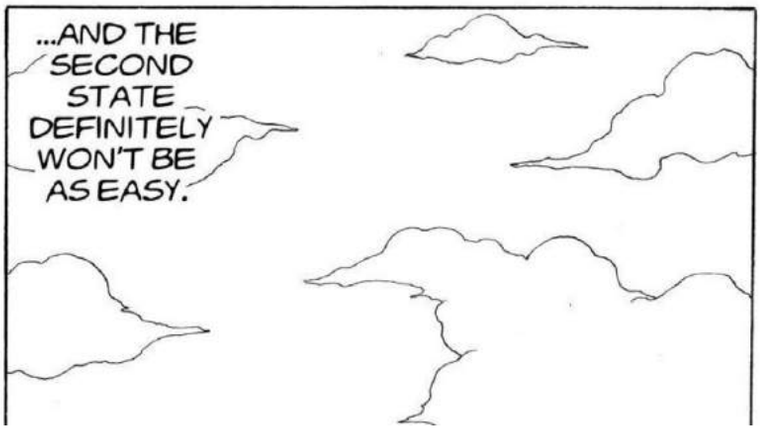
...IT BURST!
SO, I KINDA IMPROVISED, AND WHEN I TRIED IT OUT...

...

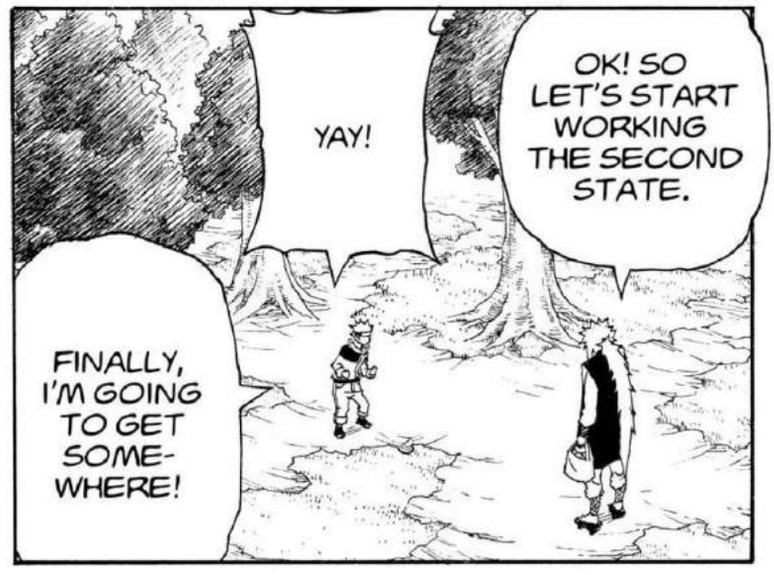




(*CHAKRA NETWORK)

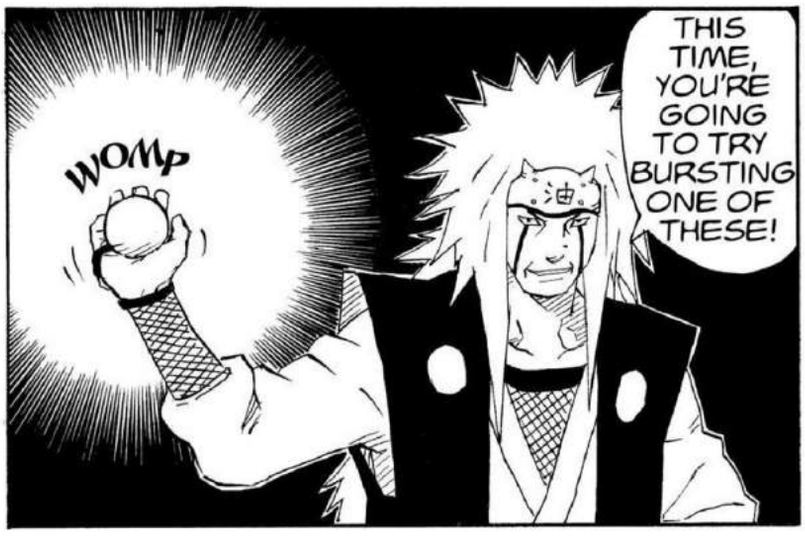


HERE.
TOSS
?!


OK! SO LET'S START WORKING THE SECOND STATE.
YAY!
FINALLY, I'M GOING TO GET SOME-WHERE!

NOT THIS AGAIN!
WHA!

...A RUBBER BALL...?
...!
SHAP
SQUSH

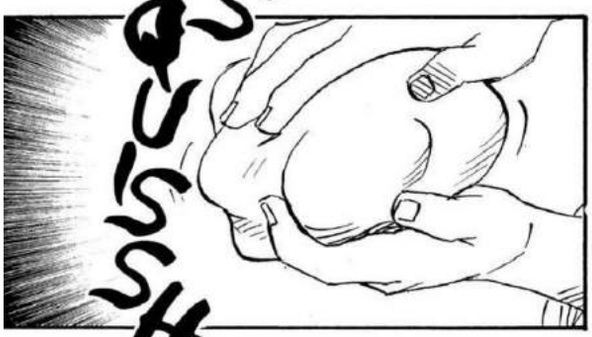

WOMP
THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO TRY BURSTING ONE OF THESE!

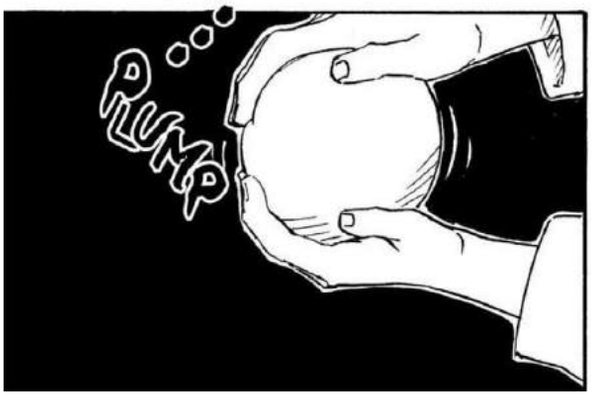
POP!
WHOA!

WHSSH
...

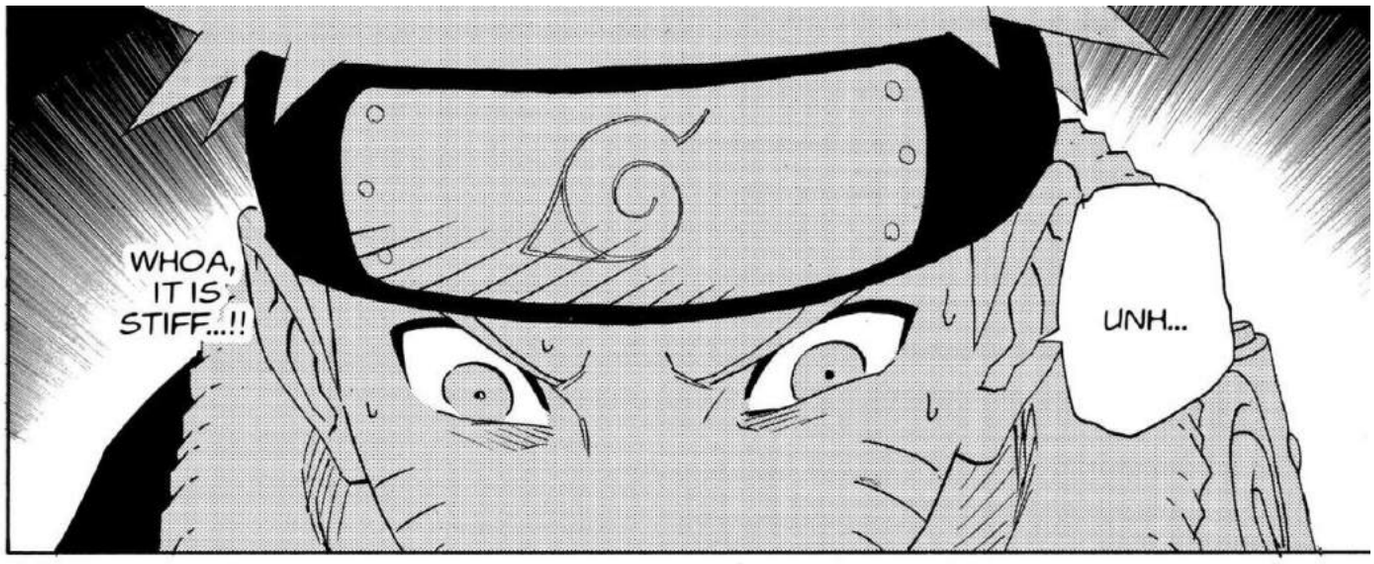
...

IT'S A HUNDRED TIMES STIFFER THAN A WATER BALLOON.

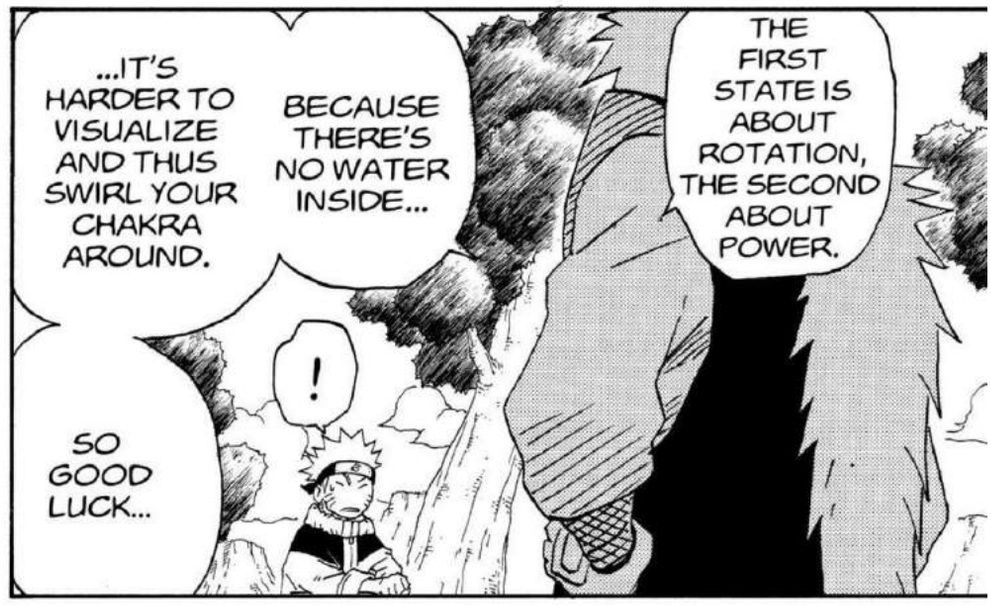

SQUISSH...

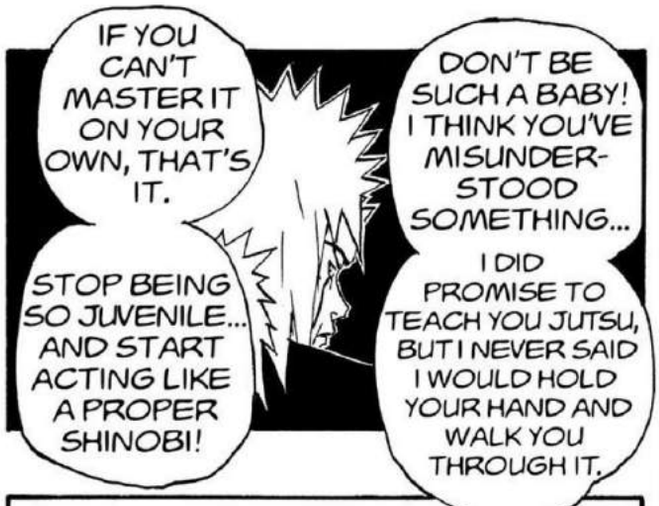

PLUMP

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

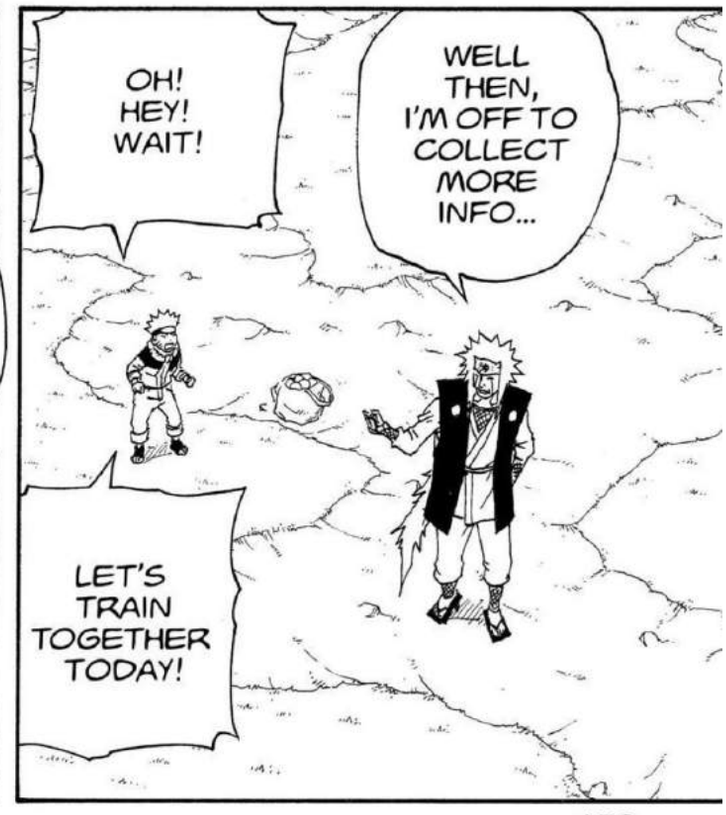

WHOA, IT IS STIFF...!!
UNH...

...I WONDER IF THERE'S A KNACK TO THIS TOO...
...

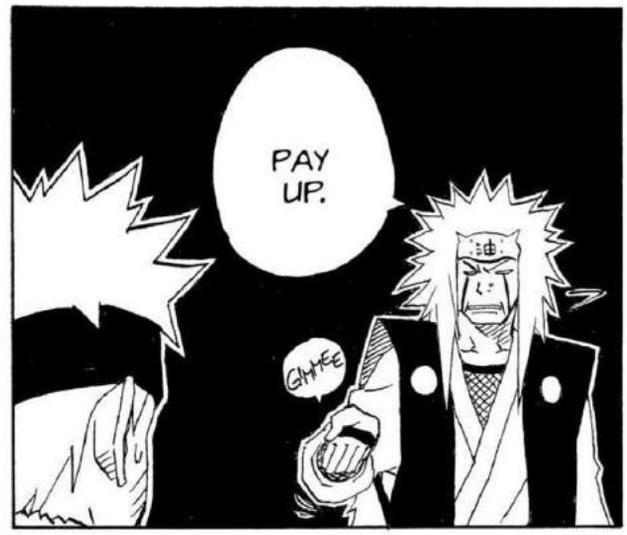

THE FIRST STATE IS ABOUT ROTATION, THE SECOND ABOUT POWER.
BECAUSE THERE'S NO WATER INSIDE...
...IT'S HARDER TO VISUALIZE AND THUS SWIRL YOUR CHAKRA AROUND.
!
SO GOOD LUCK...

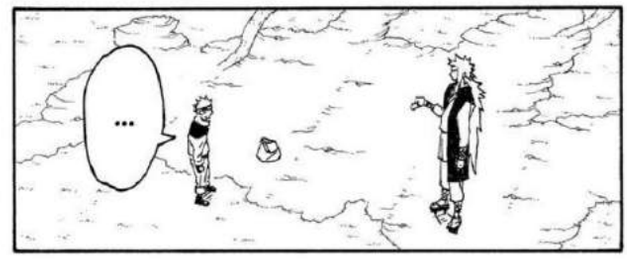

IF YOU CAN'T MASTER IT ON YOUR OWN, THAT'S IT.
DON'T BE SUCH A BABY! I THINK YOU'VE MISUNDER-STOOD SOMETHING...
STOP BEING SO JUVENILE... AND START ACTING LIKE A PROPER SHINOBI!
I DID PROMISE TO TEACH YOU JUTSU, BUT I NEVER SAID I WOULD HOLD YOUR HAND AND WALK YOU THROUGH IT.

SO WHAT ABOUT... GIVING ME SOME SORT OF HINT AGAIN, AT LEAST, EH...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...


OH! HEY! WAIT!
WELL THEN, I'M OFF TO COLLECT MORE INFO...
LET'S TRAIN TOGETHER TODAY!

YOU'RE NOT PROPER, EITHER!!
AND YOU'RE A DIRTY GROWN-UP!!
GRRRR


PAY UP.
GIMME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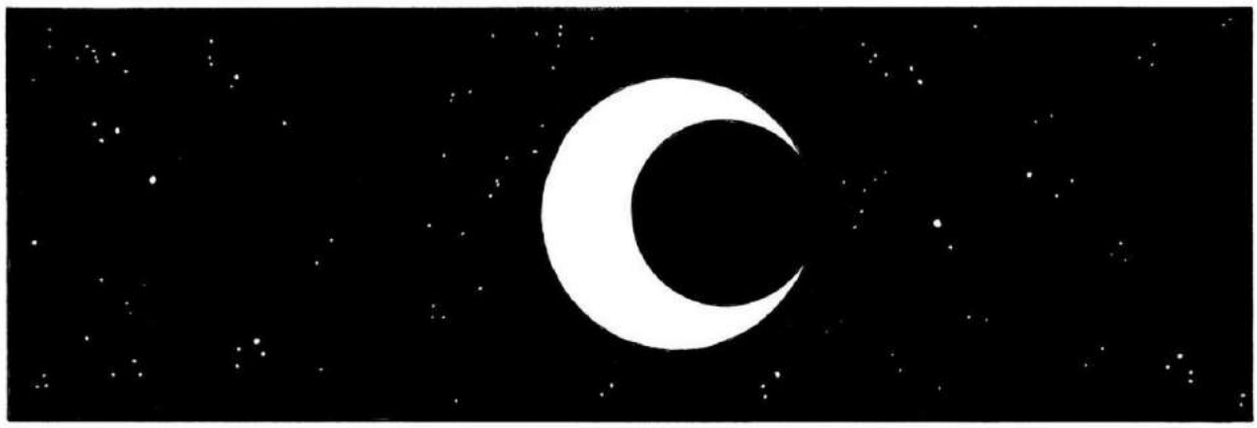
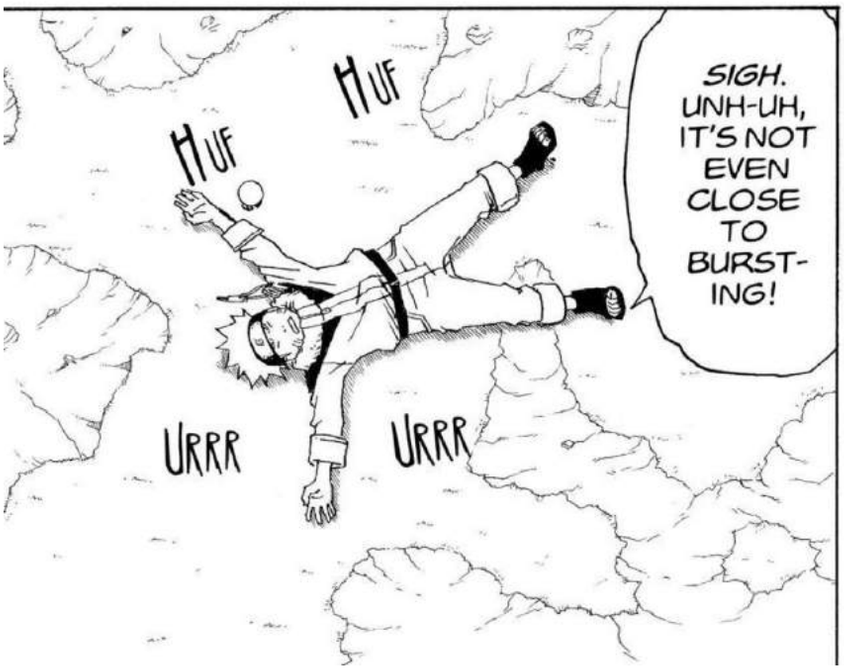
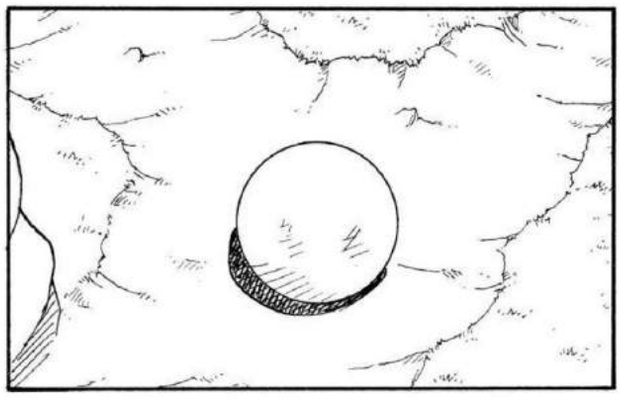
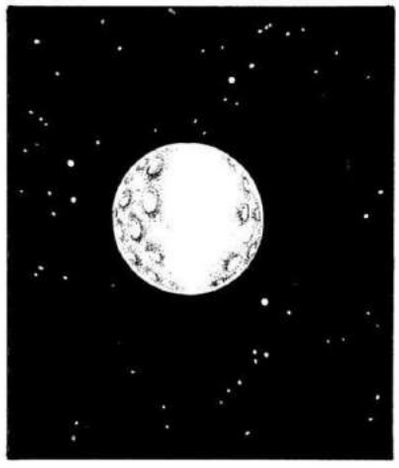



HUF
HUF
URRR
URRR
SIGH. UNH-UH, IT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BURSTING!

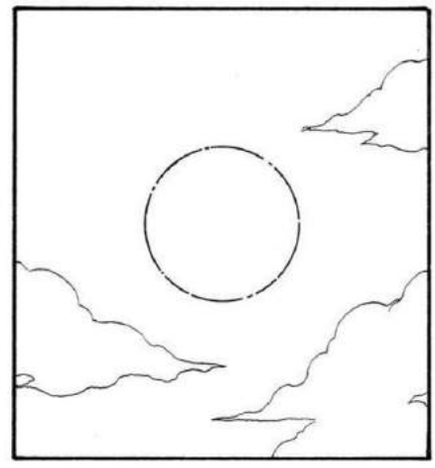
IT'S A WHOLE LOT HARDER THAN THE WATER BALLOON...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH

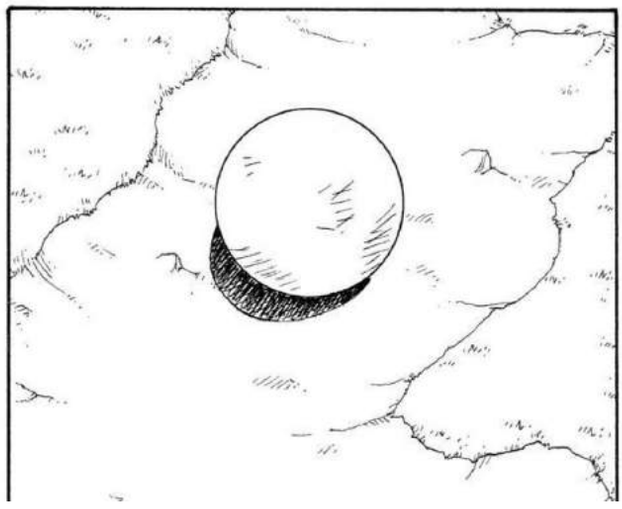


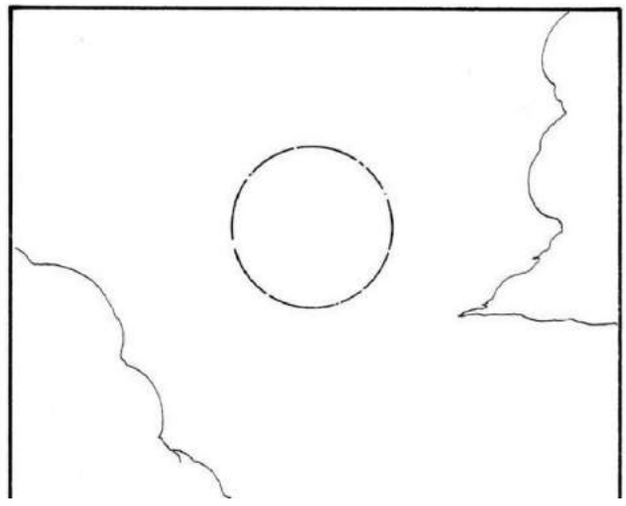
URRR
THROB
HUF
THROB
THROB
AND... BOTH OF MY HANDS AND ARMS HURT THIS TIME...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH TWITCH
HUF



HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

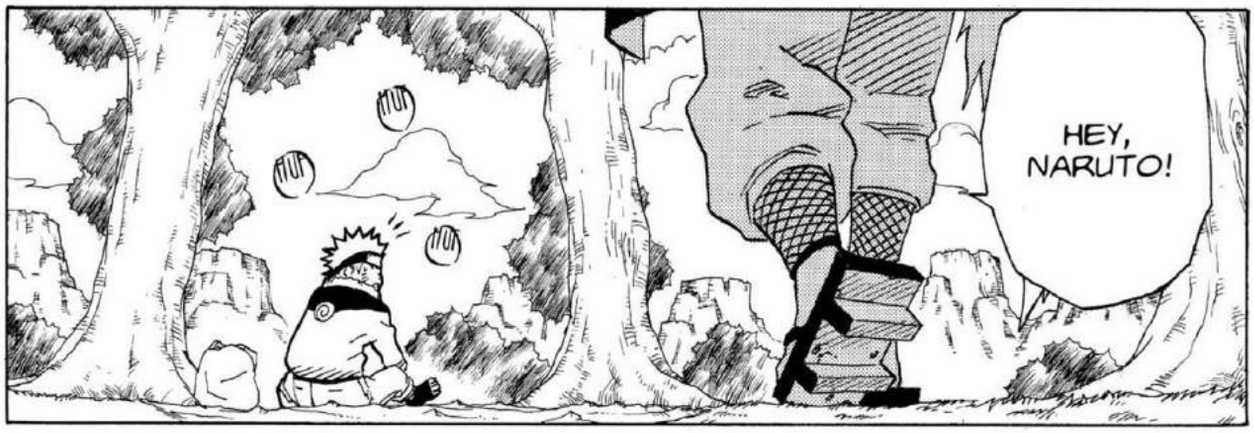




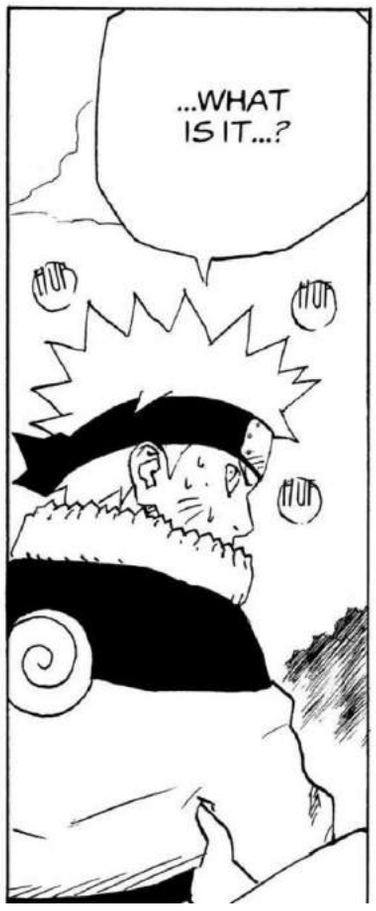


DON'T BE SUCH A BABY! I THINK YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD SOMETHING...
THAT'S WHY THIS JUTSU IS CONSIDERED A LEVEL FIVE OUT OF SIX. SECOND FROM THE TOP!

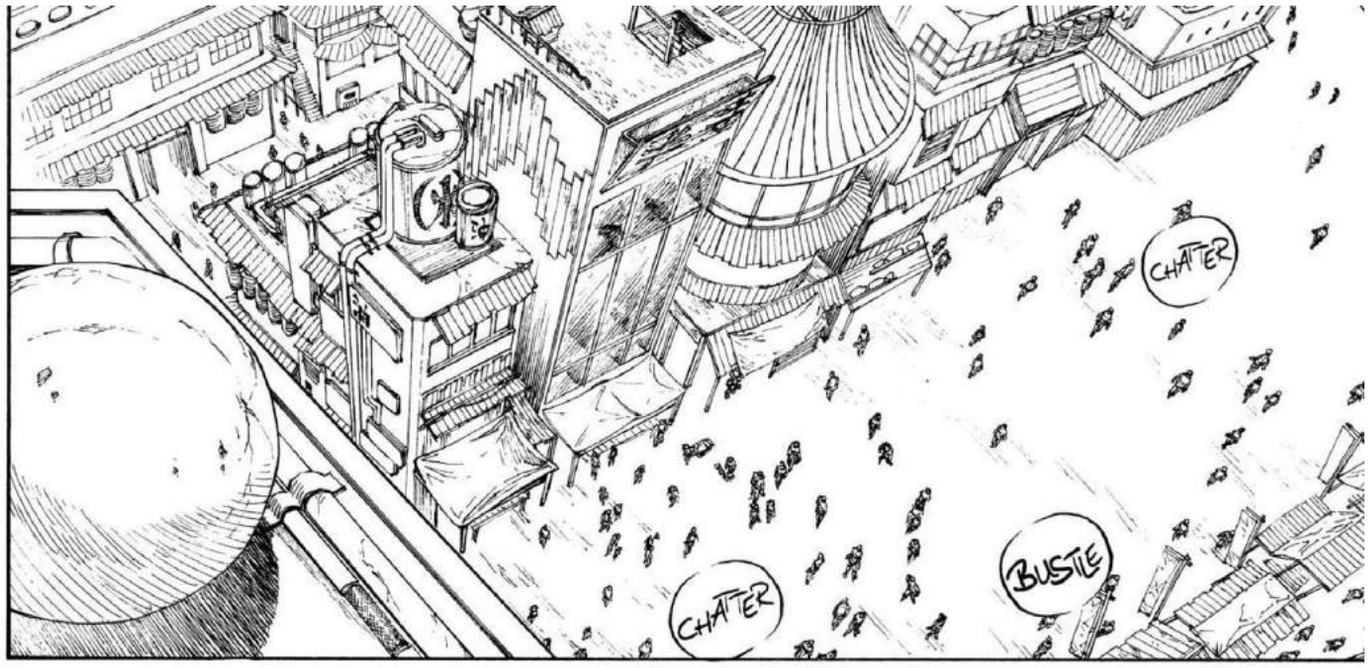
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE I BEEN AT IT ALREADY!!
URRR
HUF
HUF
DARN IT!


HUF
HUF
HUF
HEY, NARUTO!

WHO, ME!?!
GO DOWN INTO THE CITY
AND BUY US BOTH LUNCHES, WILL YA.

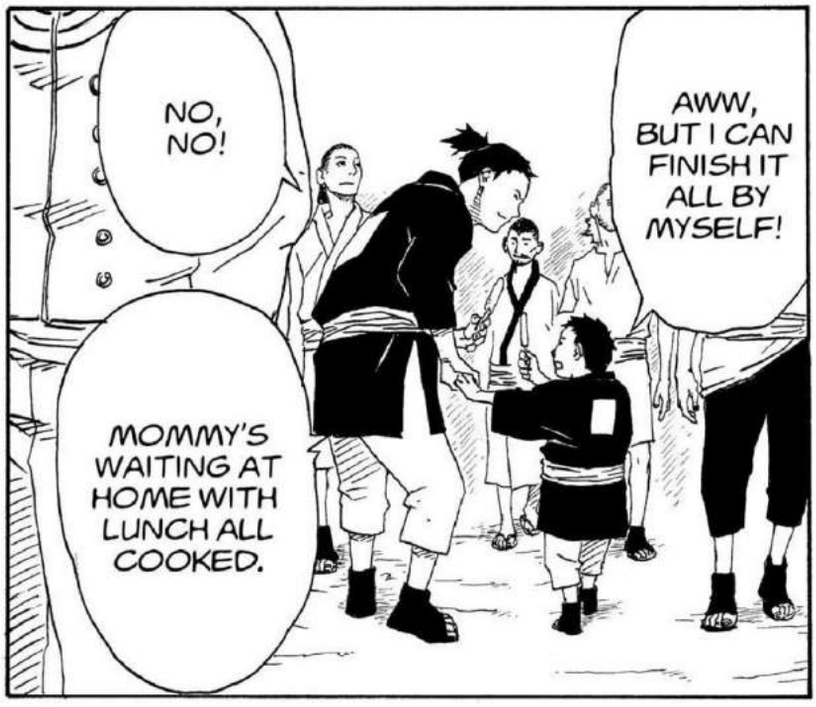

...WHAT IS IT...?
HUF
HUF
HUF

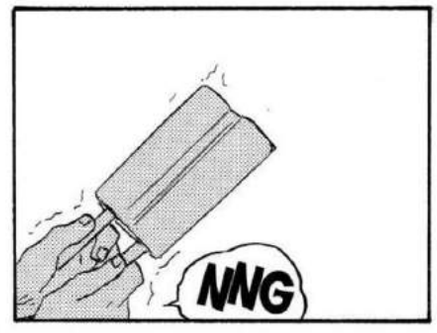
...
HUMPH!
YOU KNOW... YOU ARE MY DISCIPLE, AFTER ALL. ♡

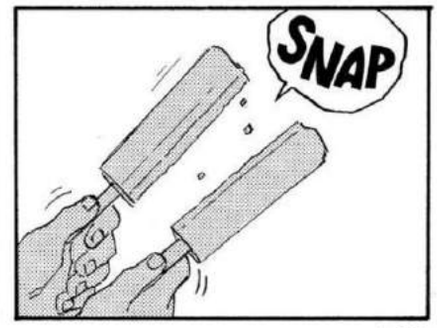

CHATTER
CHATTER
BUSTLE

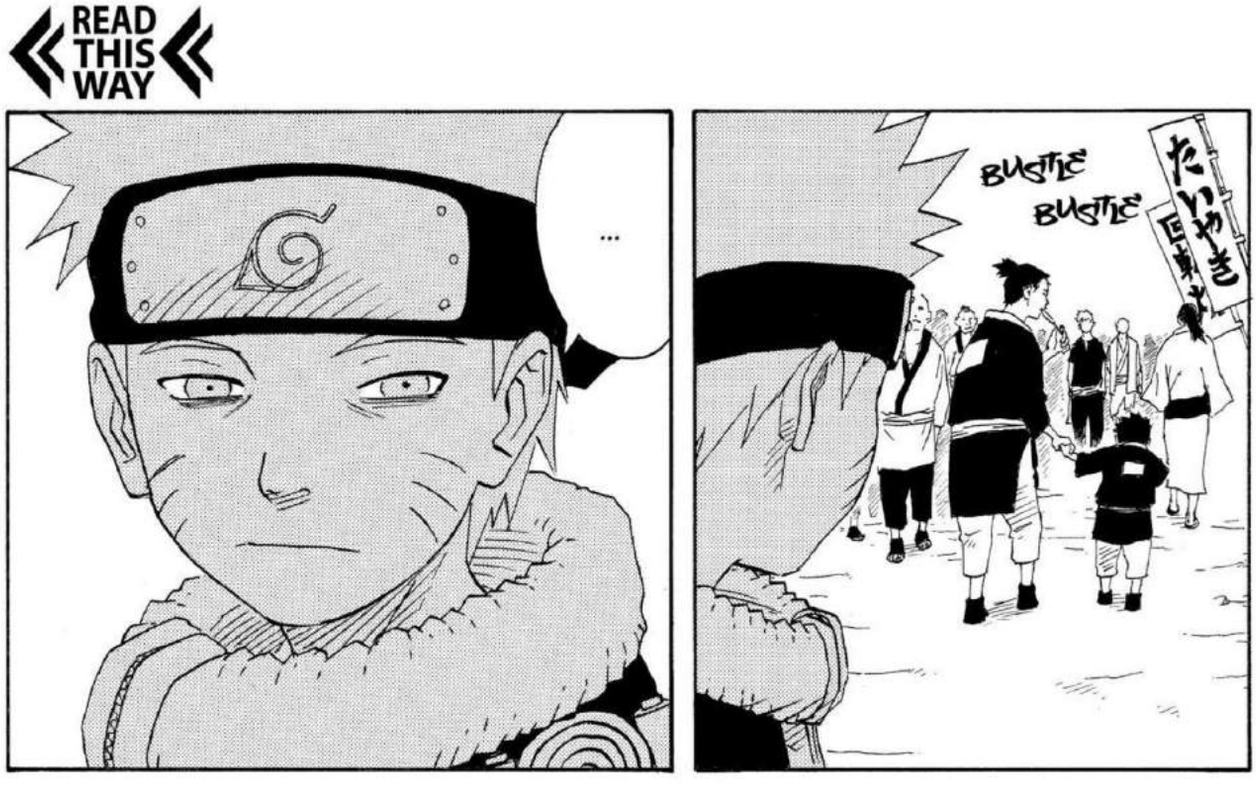
HEY, DADDY! CAN YOU BUY ME A POPSICLE?
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET THIS ONE, THEN... ONE THAT WE CAN SPLIT.
!

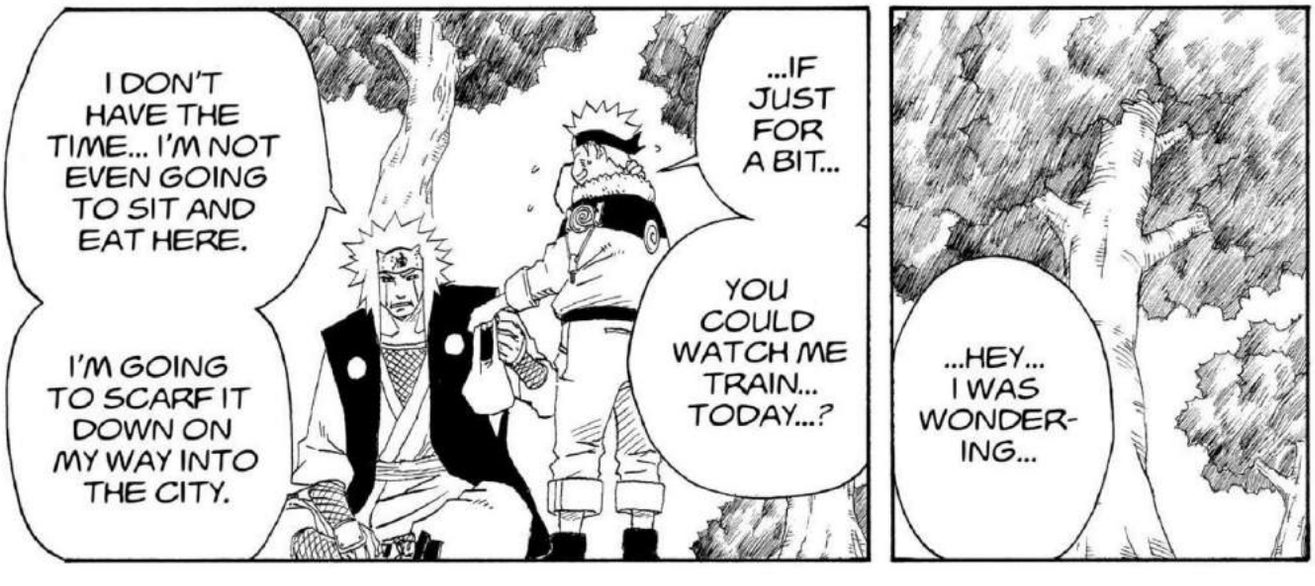
HE WON'T TEACH ME ANYTHING...
AND YET HE'LL PULL MASTER RANK ON ME.

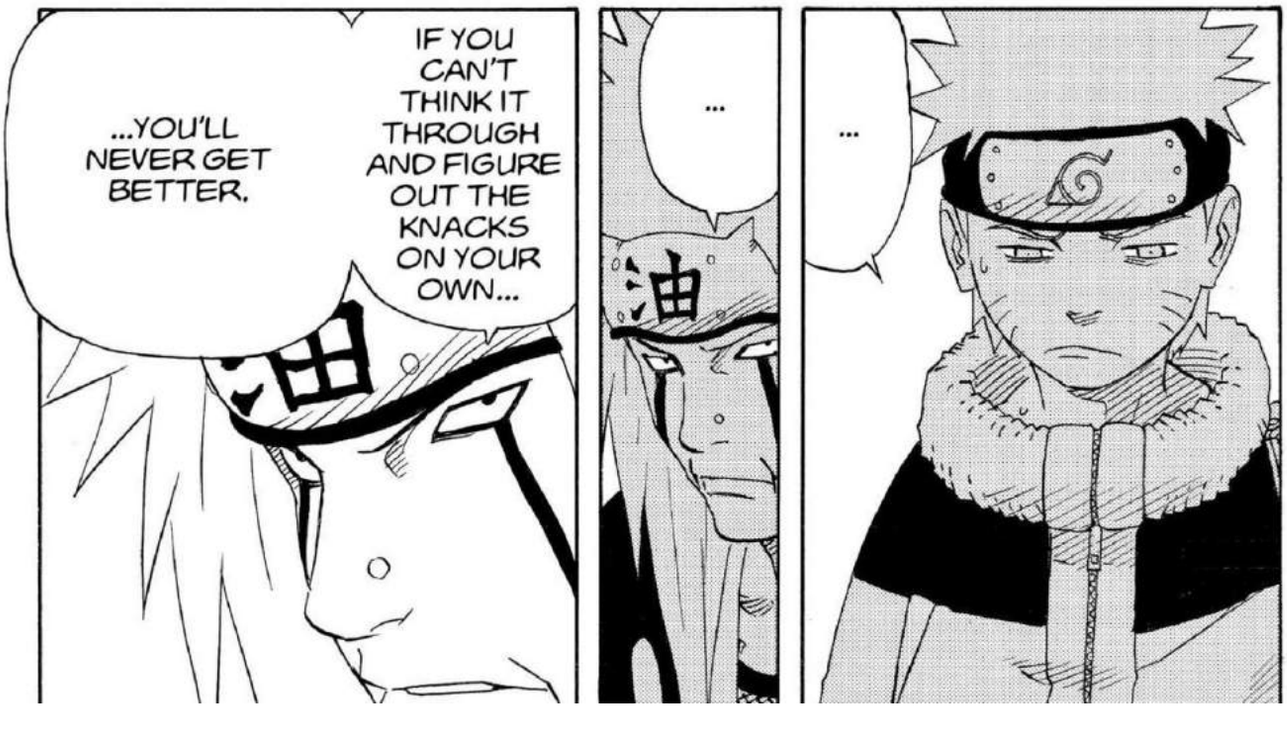

AWW, BUT I CAN FINISH IT ALL BY MYSELF!
NO, NO!
MOMMY'S WAITING AT HOME WITH LUNCH ALL COOKED.


NNG


SNAP


READ THIS WAY
...
BUSTLE BUSTLE

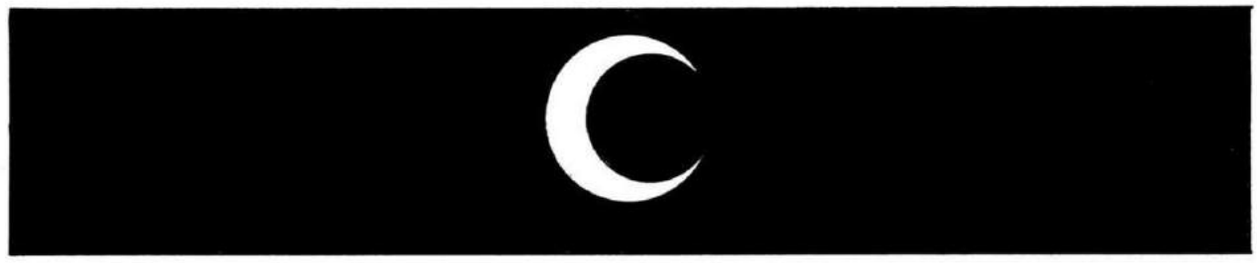

...HEY... I WAS WONDER-ING...
...IF JUST FOR A BIT...
YOU COULD WATCH ME TRAIN... TODAY...?
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME... I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO SIT AND EAT HERE.
I'M GOING TO SCARF IT DOWN ON MY WAY INTO THE CITY.


...
...
IF YOU CAN'T THINK IT THROUGH AND FIGURE OUT THE KNACKS ON YOUR OWN...
...YOU'LL NEVER GET BETTER.

OF COURSE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT!!
HEH HEH!

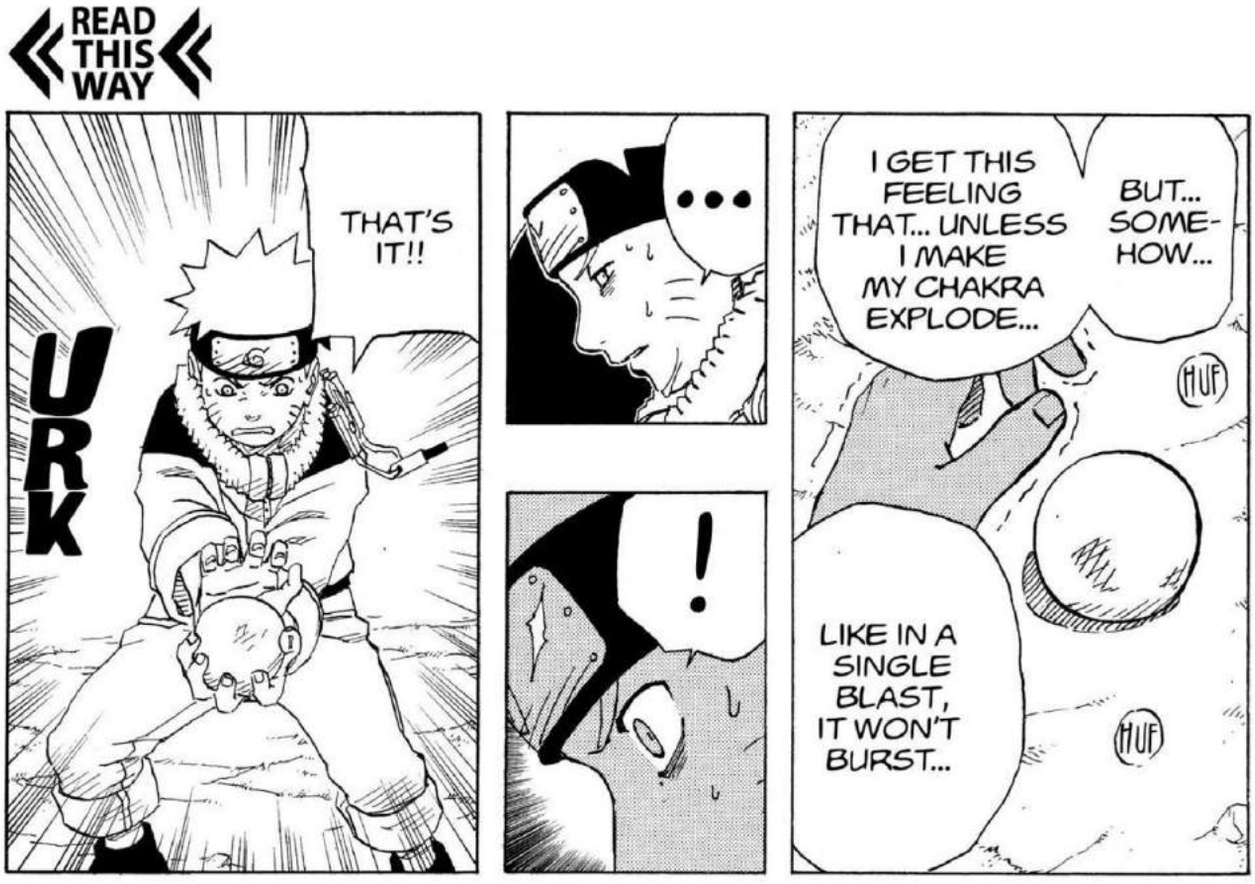
...

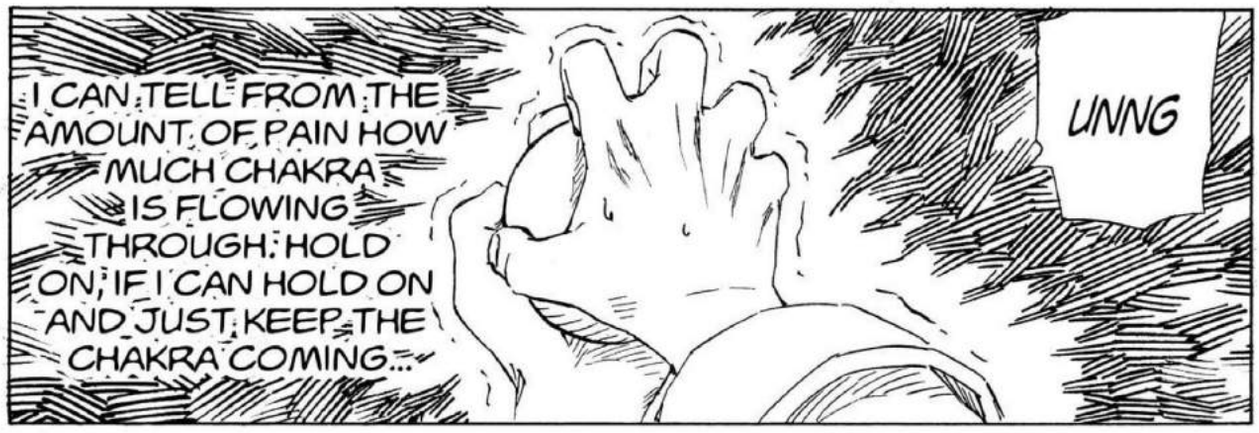
YOU'RE A NINJA!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU THREE WEEKS AGO, STOP BEING SUCH A BABY... DIDN'T I?



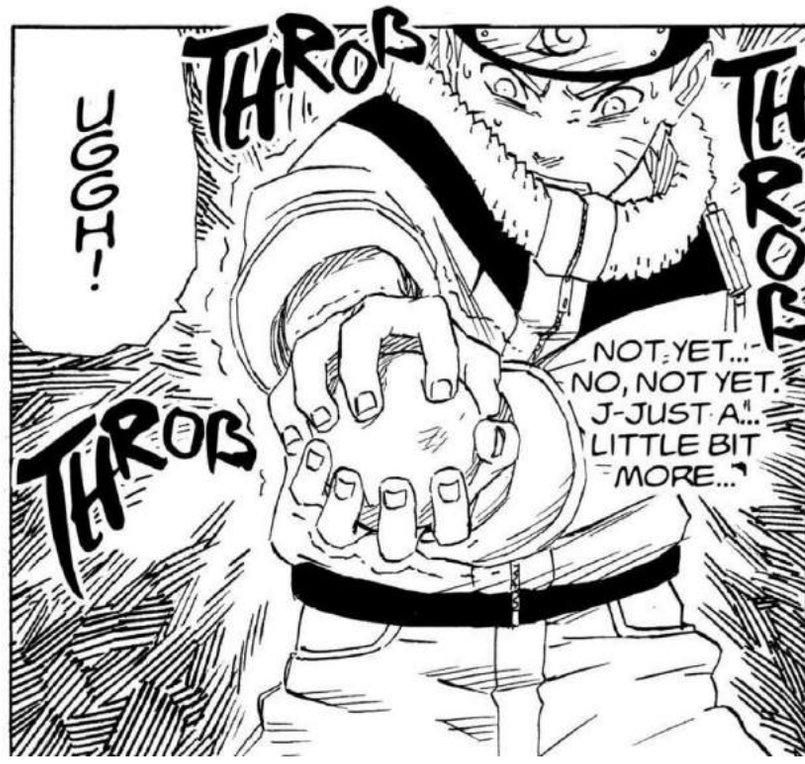
THE MORE I INCREASE THE VOLUME OF CHAKRA FLOW, THE WORSE THE PAIN...
AND EVERY TIME I LET MY CHAKRA FLOW, IT'S LIKE MY NERVES ARE GETTING STABBED, AND PAIN SHOOTS DOWN MY ARMS AND HANDS...
THROB
THROB
THROB

HUF
HUF
HUF
URRR
ALL I'M DOING IS JUST DRAINING MY CHAKRA.
DARN IT... NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T BURST IT...

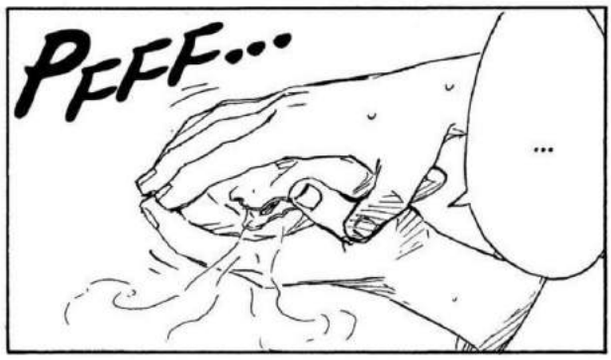

READ THIS WAY
THAT'S IT!!
URK
...
!
I GET THIS FEELING THAT... UNLESS I MAKE MY CHAKRA EXPLODE...
BUT... SOME-HOW...
LIKE IN A SINGLE BLAST, IT WON'T BURST...
HUF
HUF

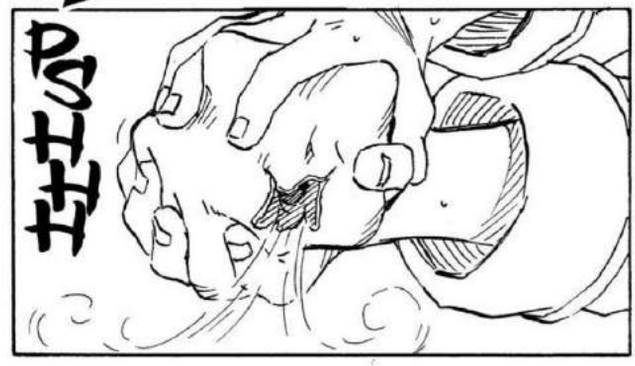

I CAN TELL FROM THE AMOUNT OF PAIN HOW MUCH CHAKRA IS FLOWING THROUGH. HOLD ON, IF I CAN HOLD ON AND JUST KEEP THE CHAKRA COMING...
UNNG

NOW!!
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

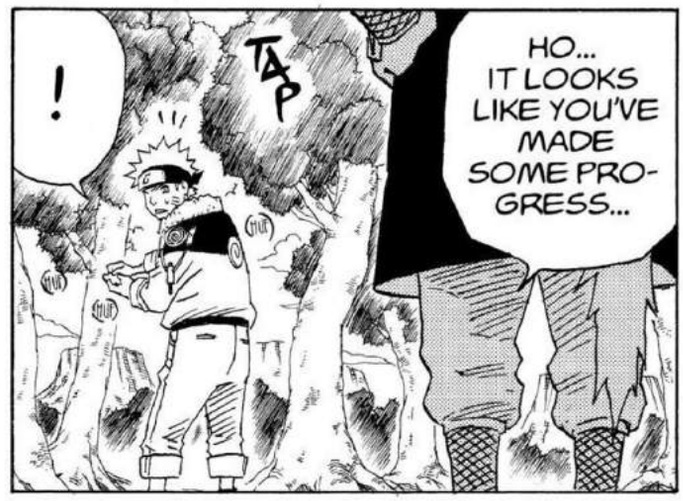

UGGH!
THROB
THROB
THROB
NOT YET... NO, NOT YET. J-JUST A... LITTLE BIT MORE...

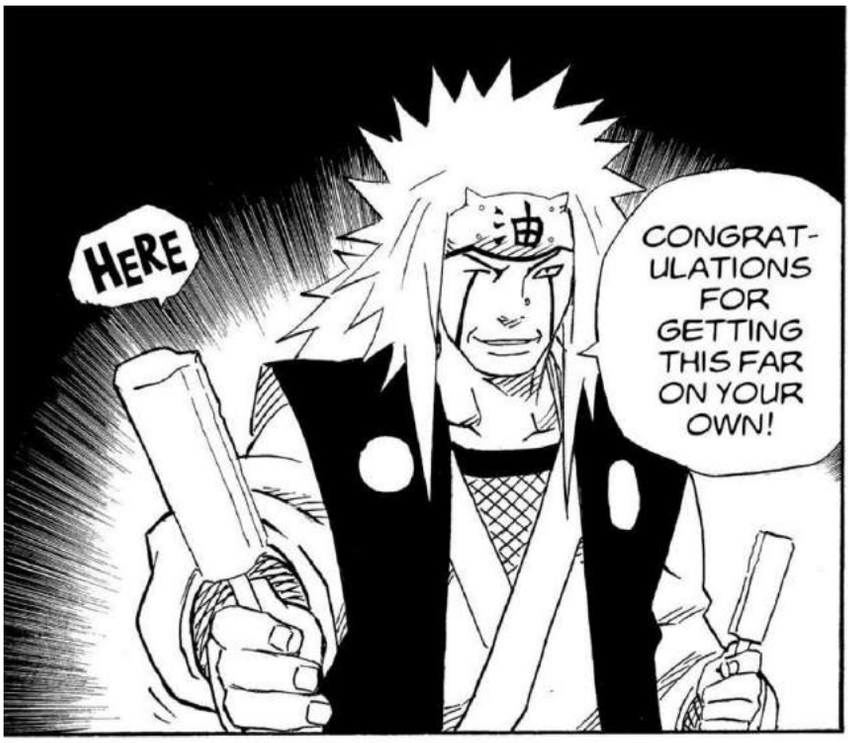
THROB
OWW!!
ARGH!
BOOP
BOOP
THROB


PFFF...
...


PSHH

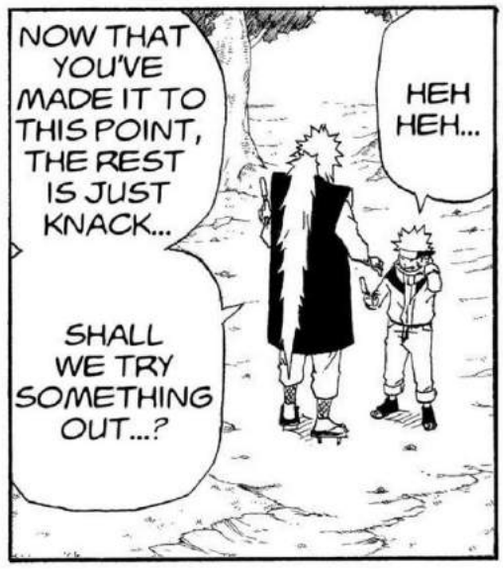
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT TO BURST YET!!
HUMPH! I'VE ONLY MANAGED TO MAKE A HOLE IN IT.


!
TAP
HO... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MADE SOME PROGRESS...

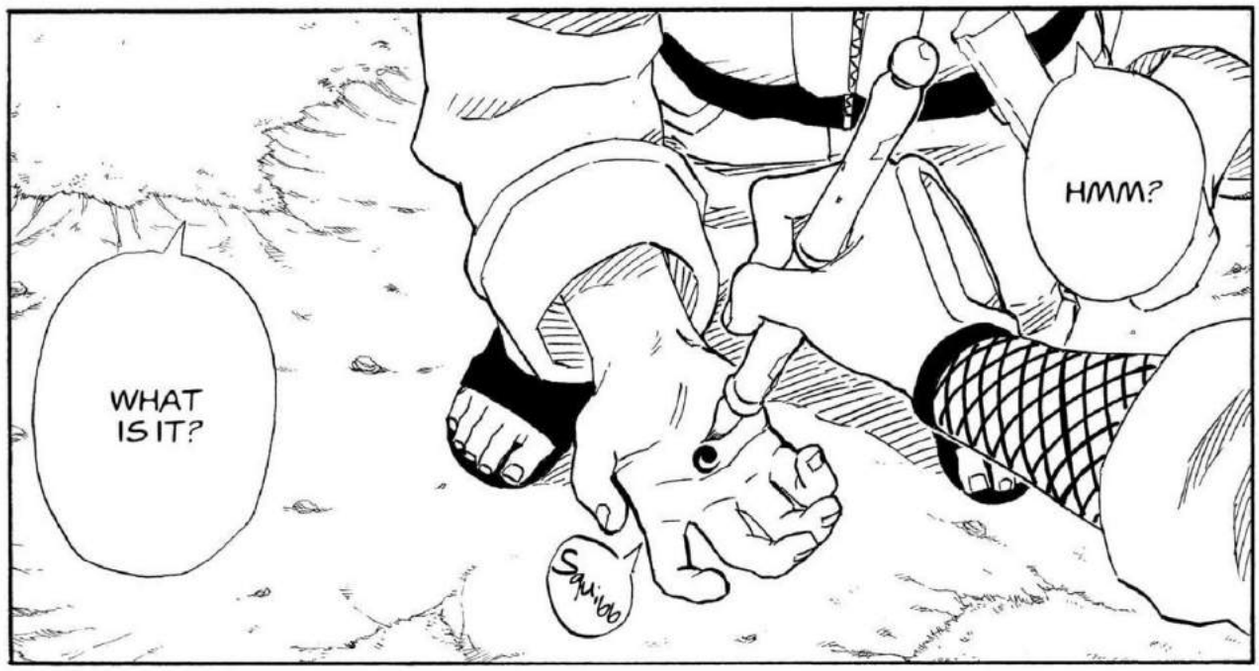

HERE
CONGRATULATIONS FOR GETTING THIS FAR ON YOUR OWN!

HERE!
AW, COME ON. DON'T BE SO HUFFY.
!

GIVE ME YOUR RIGHT HAND.
HUH?! WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?!


NOW THAT YOU'VE MADE IT TO THIS POINT, THE REST IS JUST KNACK...
SHALL WE TRY SOMETHING OUT...?
HEH HEH...

...


WHAT IS IT?
HMM?
Squish

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 26

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T HAVE A PHONE IN MY ROOM, SO I WAS MAKING AND RECEIVING CALLS FROM MY BOARDINGHOUSE LANDLORD'S PHONE. THE NIGHT THE AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS PRINTED IN *JUMP*, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM SHUEISHA'S *JUMP* EDITING DEPARTMENT.

"KISHIMOTO-KUN! I THINK YOU'VE GOT A CALL FROM A *JUMP* EDITOR," MY LANDLORD SAID WHILE STANDING OUTSIDE MY ROOM CLUTCHING THE EXTRA HANDSET OF THE HOME PHONE. (WH...WHAT?!) "UH, OK! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!" I KICKED OUT OF MY ROOM AND TOOK THE RECEIVER AWAY.

THE HOLD BUTTON OF THE HANDSET WAS BLINKING.

(SH-SHOOT! ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M CONNECTED TO A J...*JUMP* EDITOR RIGHT NOW?! THIS RECEIVER'S CONNECTED TO *JUMP!*)

I WAS SO NERVOUS THAT I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD BURST, AND I EVEN FORGOT TO BREATHE.

(...UM, WHAT SHOULD I SAY? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TALK TO HIM... U...UH... I-I'VE GOT TO PICK UP THE LINE... I SHOULDN'T KEEP HIM WAITING!) (...BUT I HAVE TO MAKE SURE NOT TO BE DISCOURTEOUS!...)

(OH, MAN, I'M SO NERVOUS! 'CUZ IT'S *JUMP!*)

(AARGH! IT'S NO USE DAWDLING! ONE GIANT NEW STEP FOR MEEE!)

AND WITH THAT, THE YOUNG KISHIMOTO PRESSED THE BUTTON...

BZZZZZZZZ...

I HAD MISTAKENLY PRESSED THE END BUTTON INSTEAD OF THE HOLD BUTTON, AND HUNG UP ON THE *JUMP* EDITOR THAT HAD TAKEN THE TIME TO CALL ME. BUT THE KIND AND GENTLE YAHAGI-SAN GENEROUSLY CHOSE TO CALL THIS INCREDIBLY DISCOURTEOUS FOOL BACK...

"HELLO? THIS IS YAHAGI OF *JUMP*. SORRY WE WERE DISCONNECTED. IS THE RECEPTION BAD WHERE YOU ARE...?"

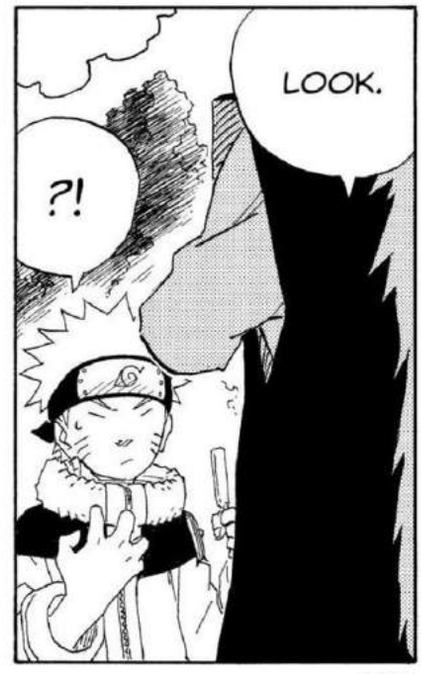
Number 153: The Searchers!!

TUG

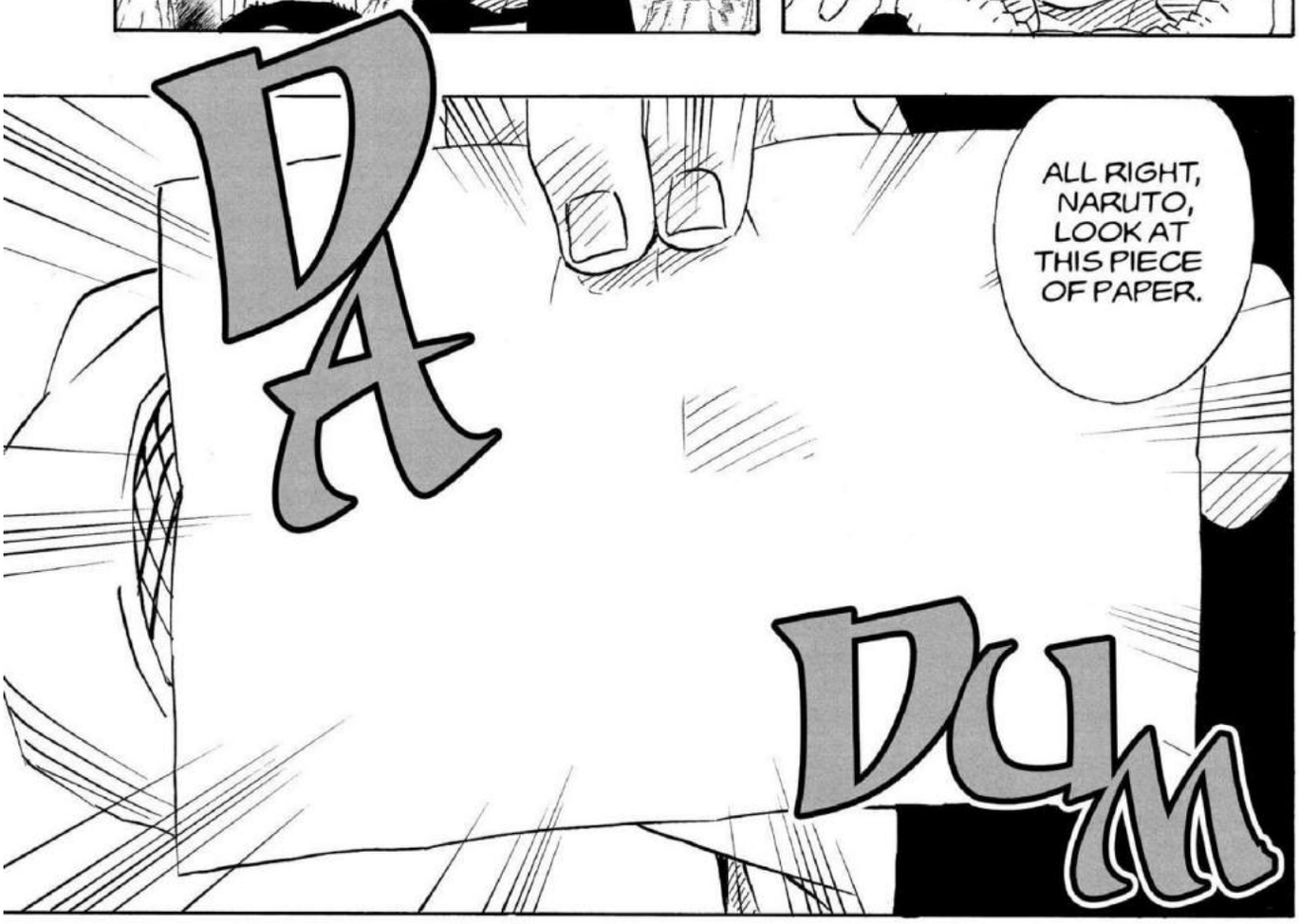
...WHAT IS THIS?

?
THERE YOU GO...

TADA


LOOK.
?!

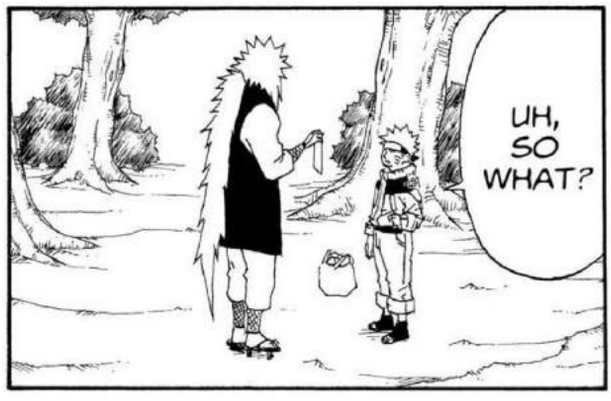
READ THIS WAY
RUSTLE
?
I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU.
BUT WHAT'S IT FOR...?!
YOU GOT ONE TOO...
CLENCH CLENCH


DA
DUM
ALL RIGHT, NARUTO, LOOK AT THIS PIECE OF PAPER.

NOW LOOK AT IT AGAIN!
GOOD!
I LOOKED!

...

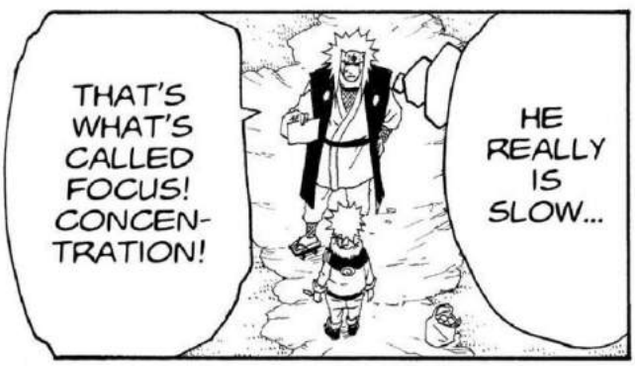
DAA



MMM...
I GUESS.

WELL THEN, WHERE WERE YOU LOOKING ON THE SHEET WITH THE DOT?
PROBABLY AT THE DOT, RIGHT?

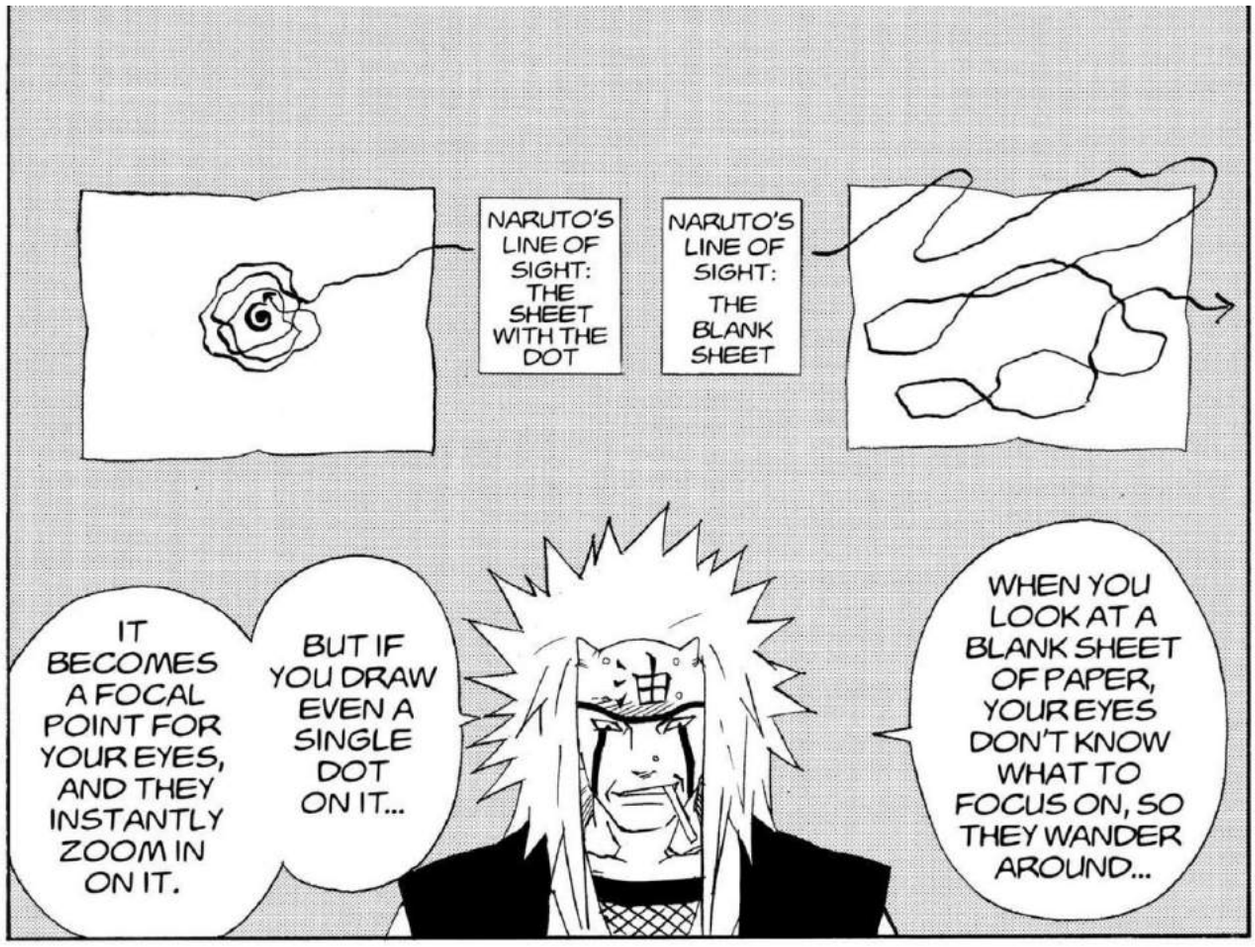
HO HO... IT'S NOTHING TOO COMPLI-CATED...
THE FIRST TIME, WHEN YOU WERE LOOKING AT THE BLANK SHEET...
YOU WERE KIND OF LOOKING ALL OVER AT THE ENTIRE THING RIGHT?


HE REALLY IS SLOW...
THAT'S WHAT'S CALLED FOCUS! CONCEN-TRATION!

...
FOCUS?

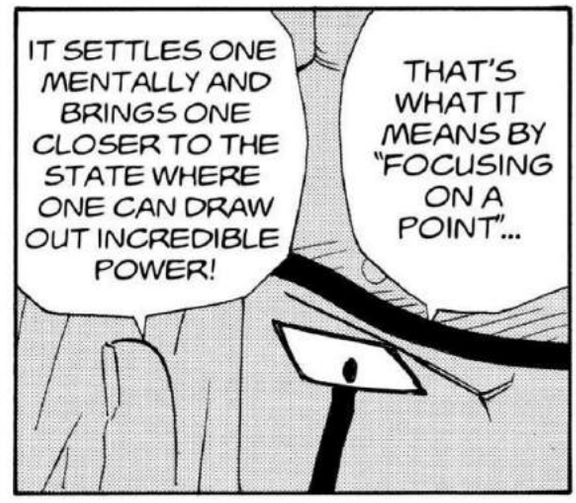
SO? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

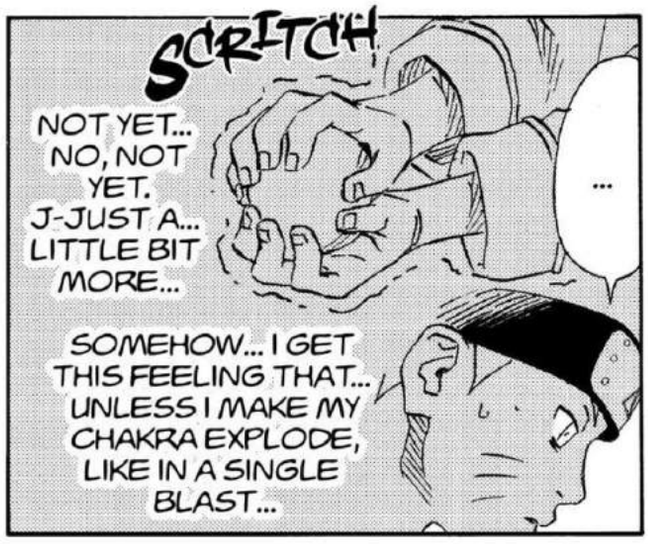
YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
NOD

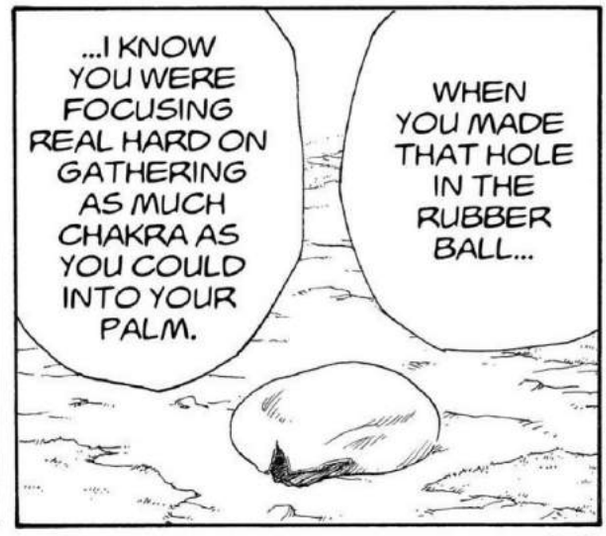

NARUTO'S LINE OF SIGHT: THE SHEET WITH THE DOT
NARUTO'S LINE OF SIGHT: THE BLANK SHEET
WHEN YOU LOOK AT A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER, YOUR EYES DON'T KNOW WHAT TO FOCUS ON, SO THEY WANDER AROUND...
BUT IF YOU DRAW EVEN A SINGLE DOT ON IT...
IT BECOMES A FOCAL POINT FOR YOUR EYES, AND THEY INSTANTLY ZOOM IN ON IT.

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS BY "FOCUSING ON A POINT"...
IT SETTLES ONE MENTALLY AND BRINGS ONE CLOSER TO THE STATE WHERE ONE CAN DRAW OUT INCREDIBLE POWER!

HUH.


IN SHORT, IT HELPS YOU CONCEN-TRATE!
I BET YOU WERE THE TYPE THAT GOT SCOLDED AT THE ACADEMY FOR LACK OF CONCEN-TRATION, EH.
DOINK


WHEN YOU MADE THAT HOLE IN THE RUBBER BALL...
...I KNOW YOU WERE FOCUSING REAL HARD ON GATHERING AS MUCH CHAKRA AS YOU COULD INTO YOUR PALM.


...
SCRITCH
NOT YET... NO, NOT YET. J-JUST A... LITTLE BIT MORE...
SOMEHOW... I GET THIS FEELING THAT... UNLESS I MAKE MY CHAKRA EXPLODE, LIKE IN A SINGLE BLAST...

LISTEN UP, NARU-TO!
FROM NOW ON, WHEN YOU'RE GATHERING YOUR CHAKRA INTO YOUR RIGHT PALM...

SO THEN WHAT?
YUP! OK!
SIGH... IT'S TIRING, TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO AN IDIOT.

FOCUS IT ON THAT MARK ON YOUR HAND!

FOCUS ...!

...

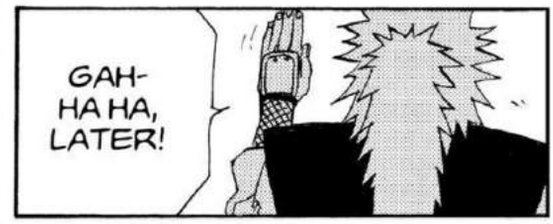
WELL THEN... I'M GONNA HEAD BACK TO COLLECT MORE INFO.
GAH HA HA HA
WHAT?!
NO FRIENDLY MASTER-DISCIPLE GAME OF CATCH?!
HURL
GRAB

ALL RIGHT!
I'M GONNA GO FOR IT!!
CLENCH

THERE! GAME OVER.
Peh
...

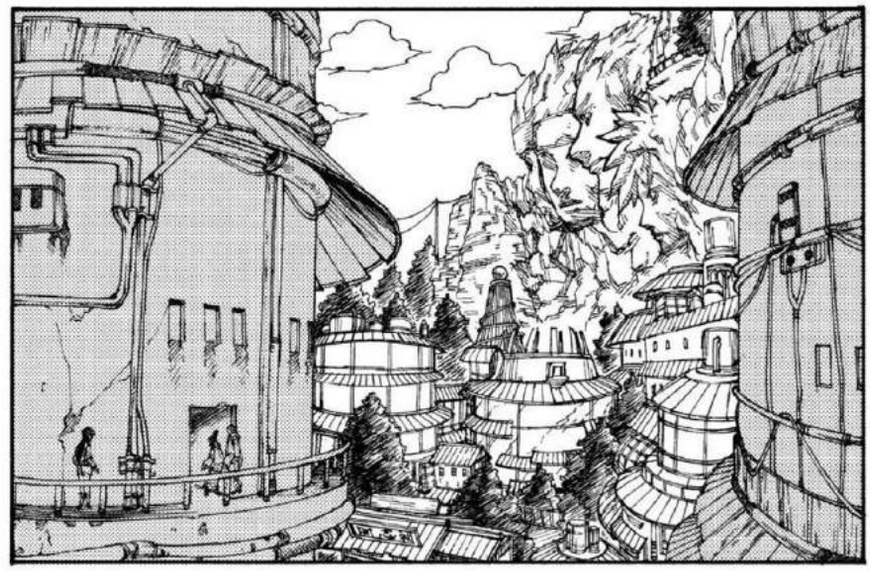
STRI——KE!!
CLAMP

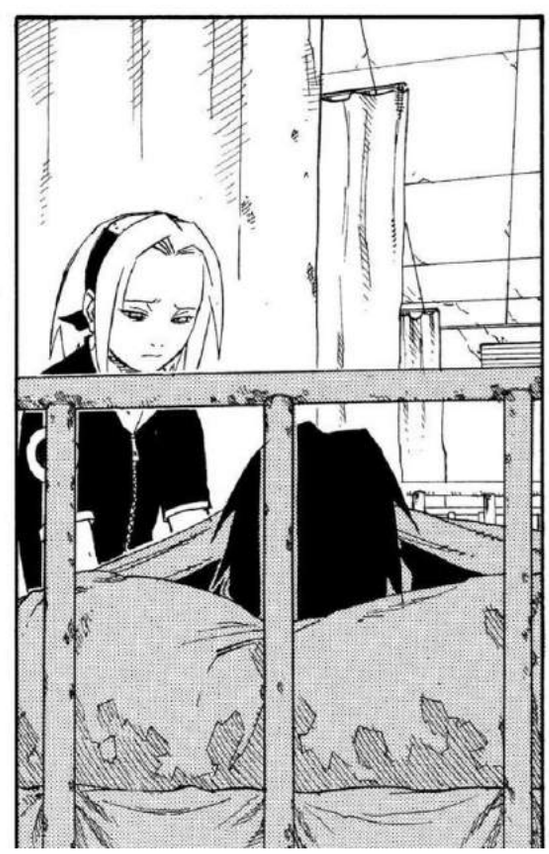
I don't need no Pervy Sage... I can do it, I can dooooo it!
YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF THE FOURTH HOKAGE... SO GO FOR IT.
PUMP
SORRY, NARUTO... YOU HAVE TO MASTER THIS EXERCISE ON YOUR OWN...

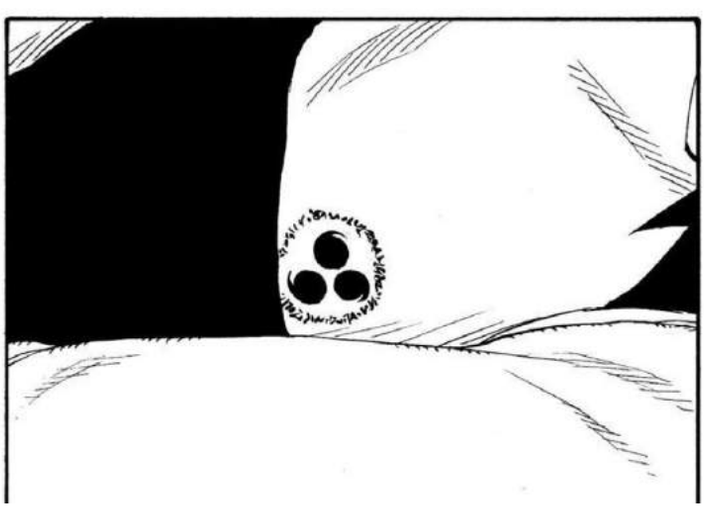

GAH-HA HA, LATER!

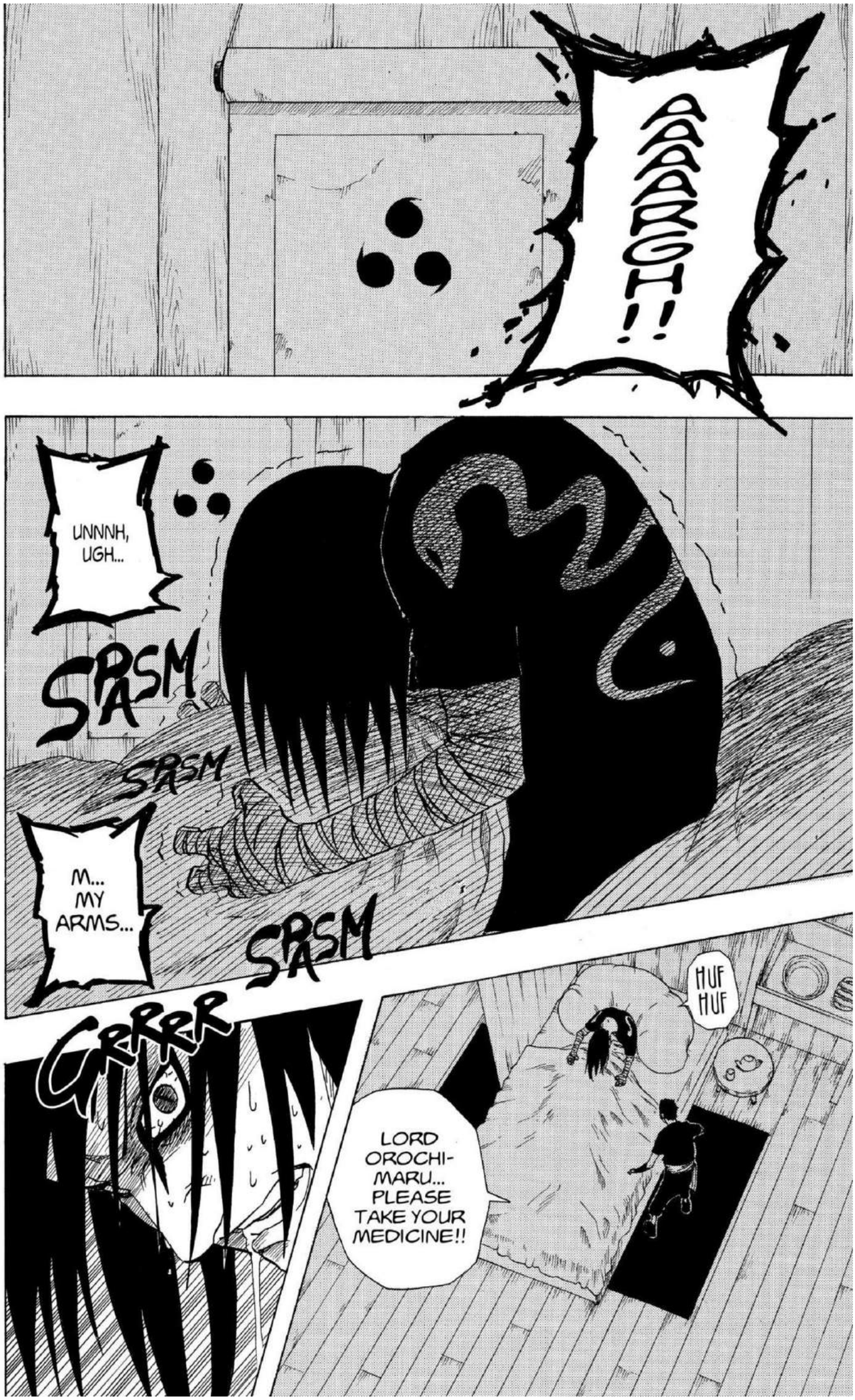
...

(SIGN: KONOHA HOSPITAL)







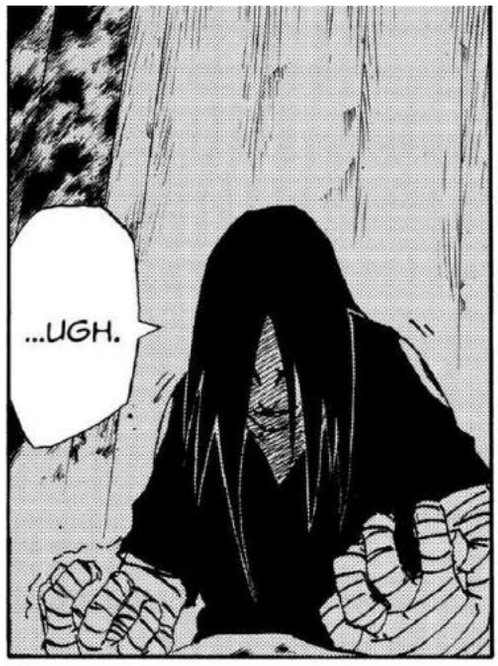

AAAAAGH!!
UNNNH, UGH...
SASM
SASM
M... MY ARMS...
SASM
GRRRR
HUF HUF
LORD OROCHI-MARU... PLEASE TAKE YOUR MEDICINE!!

SPLAT

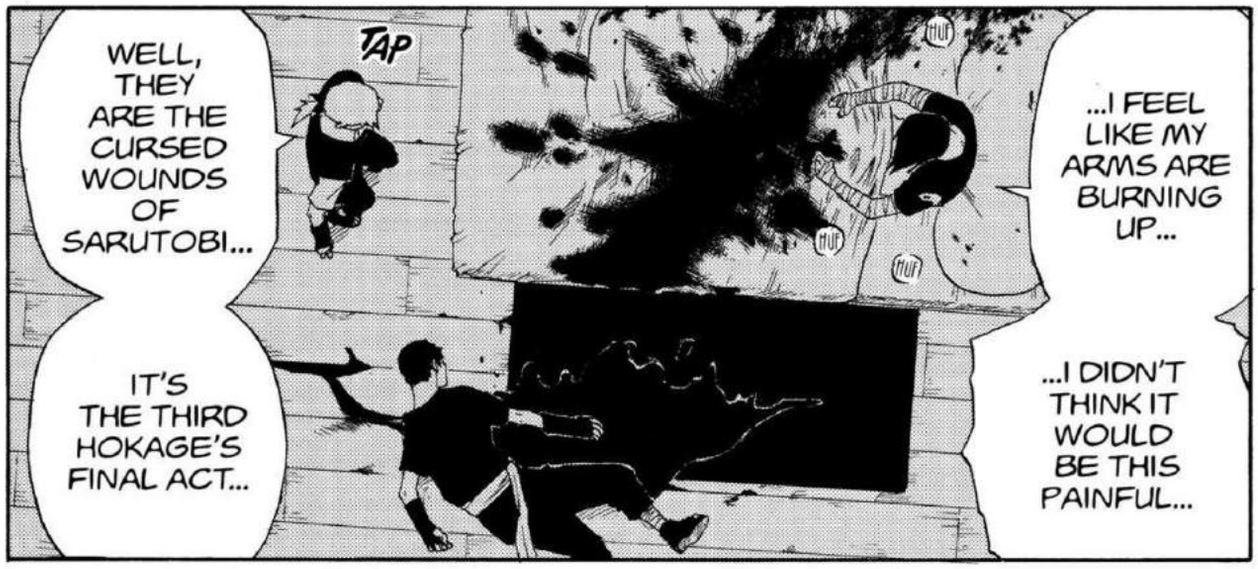
HUF
HUF
HUF

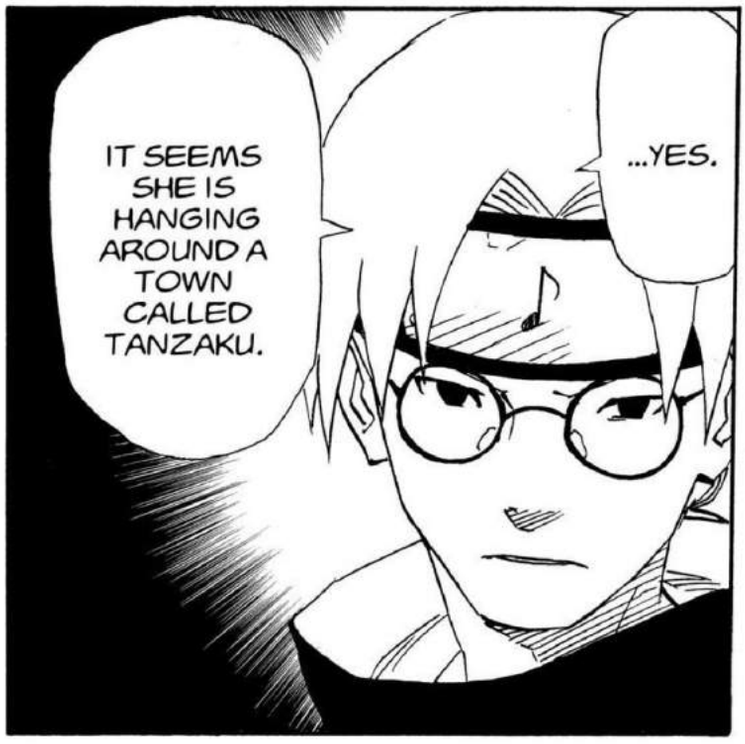
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

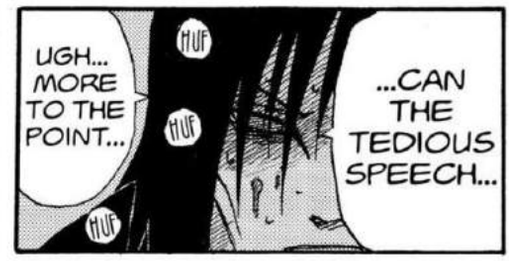
...OH DEAR, I GET BACK AND HAVE TO CLEAN THE ROOM RIGHT AWAY, EH.
DO PLEASE TAKE YOUR MEDICINE.

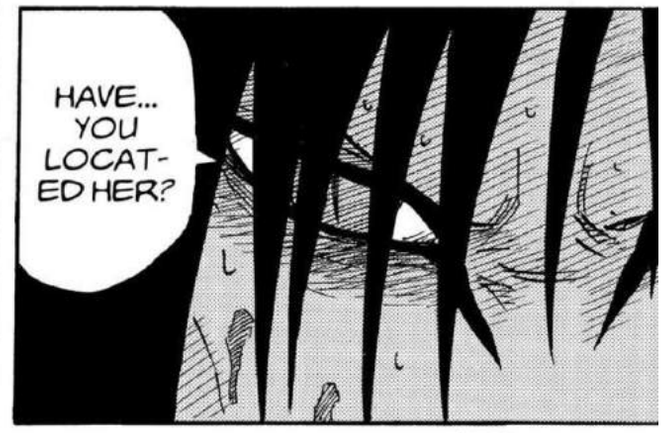

...UGH.

BUT I MADE THEM FOR YOU ALONE!
THEY SHOULD RELIEVE AT LEAST A LITTLE OF THE PAIN...
...I DON'T NEED YOUR USELESS MEDS...

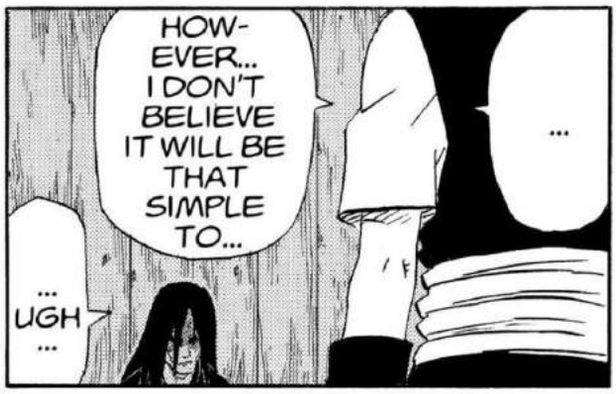

WELL, THEY ARE THE CURSED WOUNDS OF SARUTOBI...
TAP
IT'S THE THIRD HOKAGE'S FINAL ACT...
HUF
HUF
HUF
...I FEEL LIKE MY ARMS ARE BURNING UP...
...I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE THIS PAINFUL...

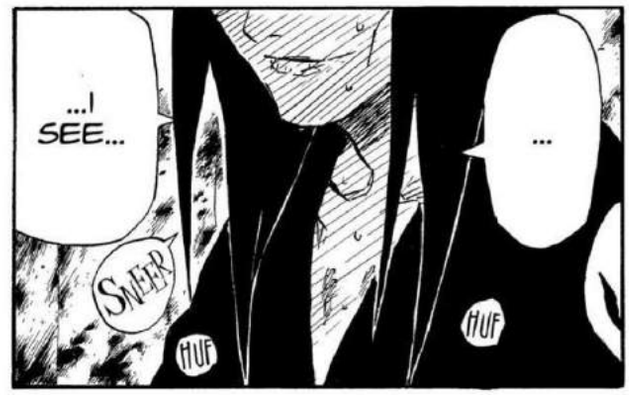

IT SEEMS SHE IS HANGING AROUND A TOWN CALLED TANZAKU.
...YES.


UGH... MORE TO THE POINT...
HUF
HUF
HUF
...CAN THE TEDIOUS SPEECH...

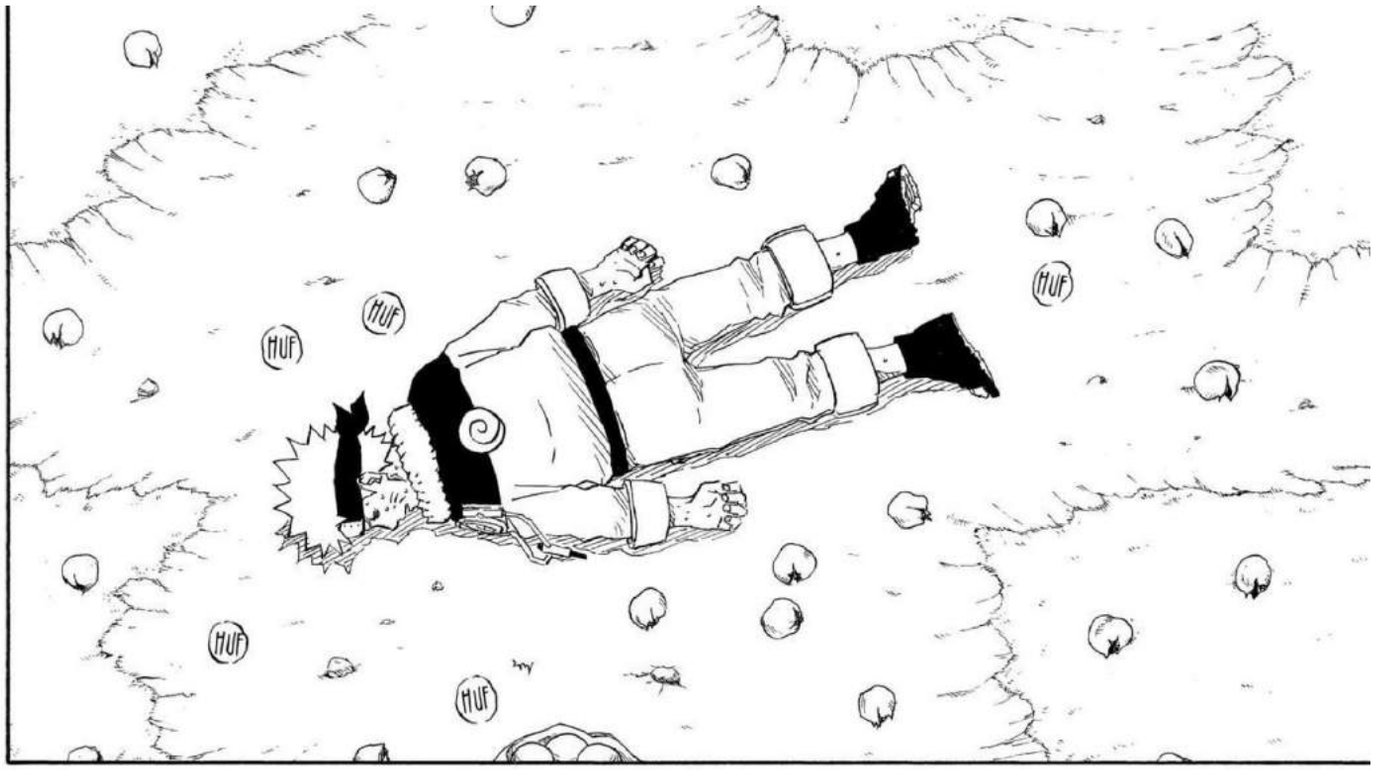

HAVE... YOU LOCAT-ED HER?

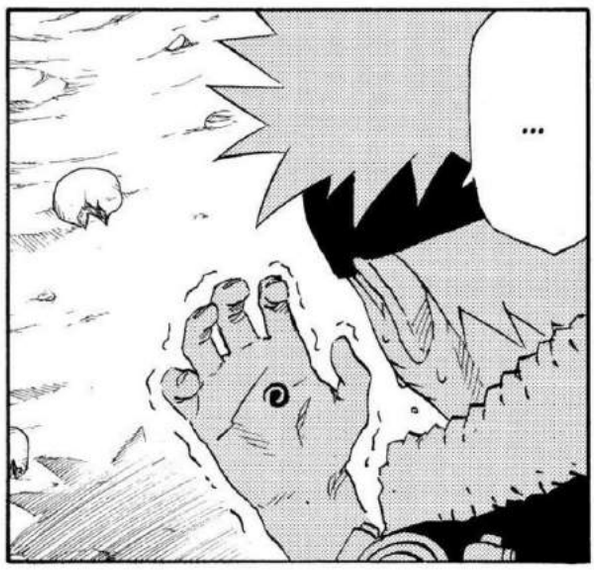
HUF
HUF
...TAN-ZAKU, EH...
HUF

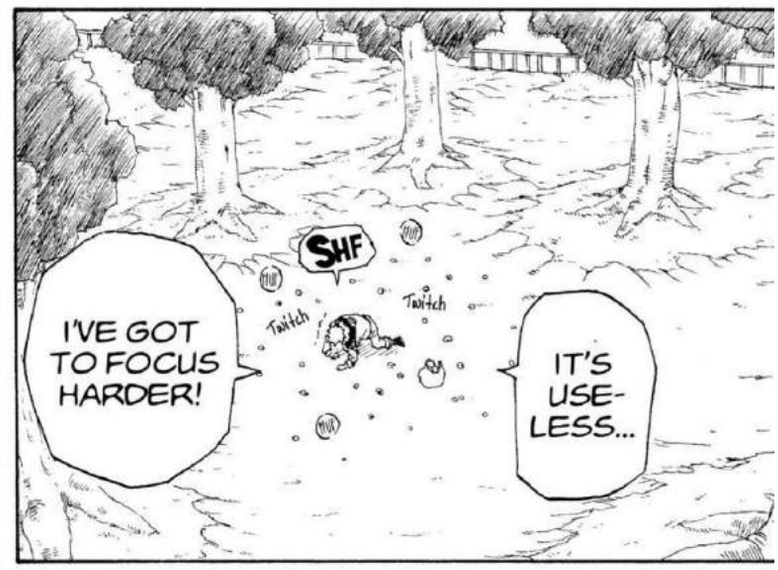

HOW-EVER... I DON'T BELIEVE IT WILL BE THAT SIMPLE TO...
...
... UGH ...


...I SEE...
...
SNEER
HUF
HUF

THE BEST MEDICINE ALWAYS TASTES BITTER, YOU KNOW...
... HUMPH...


HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

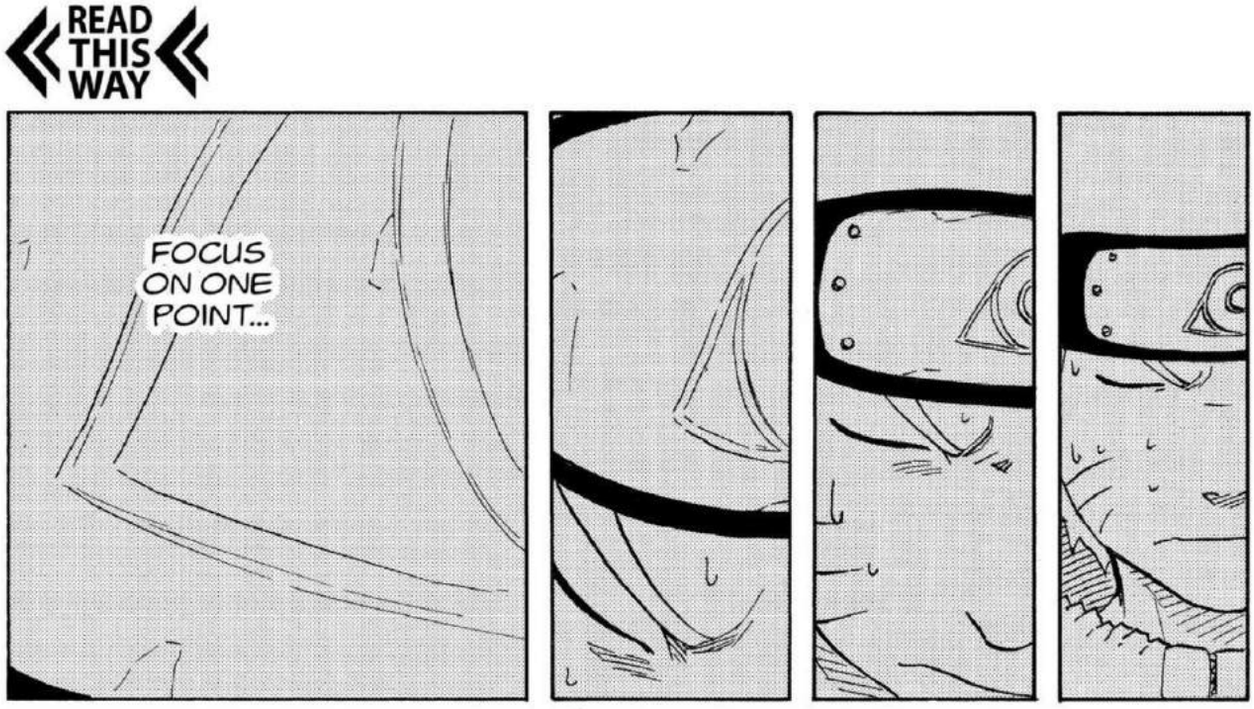

...


I'VE GOT TO FOCUS HARDER!
SHF
Twitch
Twitch
IT'S USE-LESS...

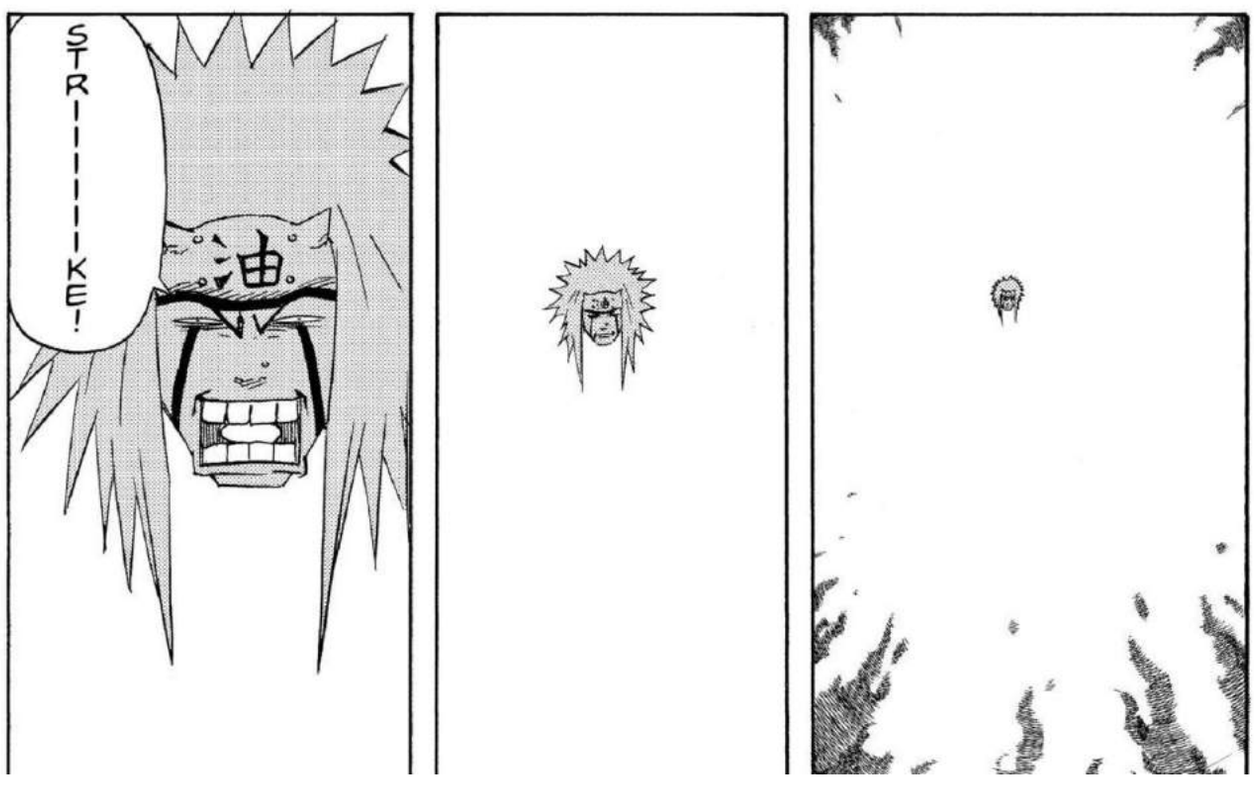
...

FOCUS... FOCUS!
SHUUUT

FOCUS ...!
HAA...


READ THIS WAY
FOCUS ON ONE POINT...

SHWOOM

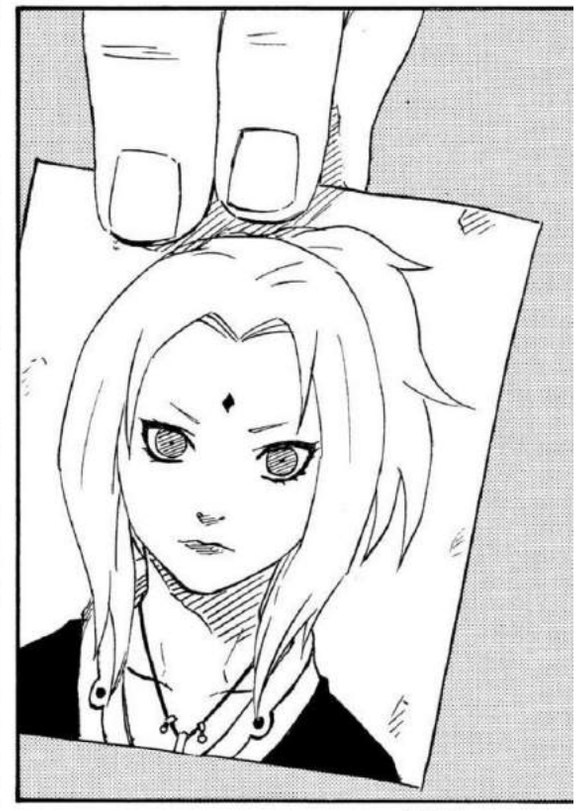

STRI-----KE!

NARUTO'S TRAINING IS STILL GOING ROUGHLY.
WHEN ALL I CAN SEE IS THAT PERVY FOOL'S FACE!!
HOW THE HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO FOCUS...
A-HA HA HA!!

TWITCH
TWITCH
...

I SEE...
HM, DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR...

!
...I KNOW HER.



I'LL BUY YOU A ROUND.

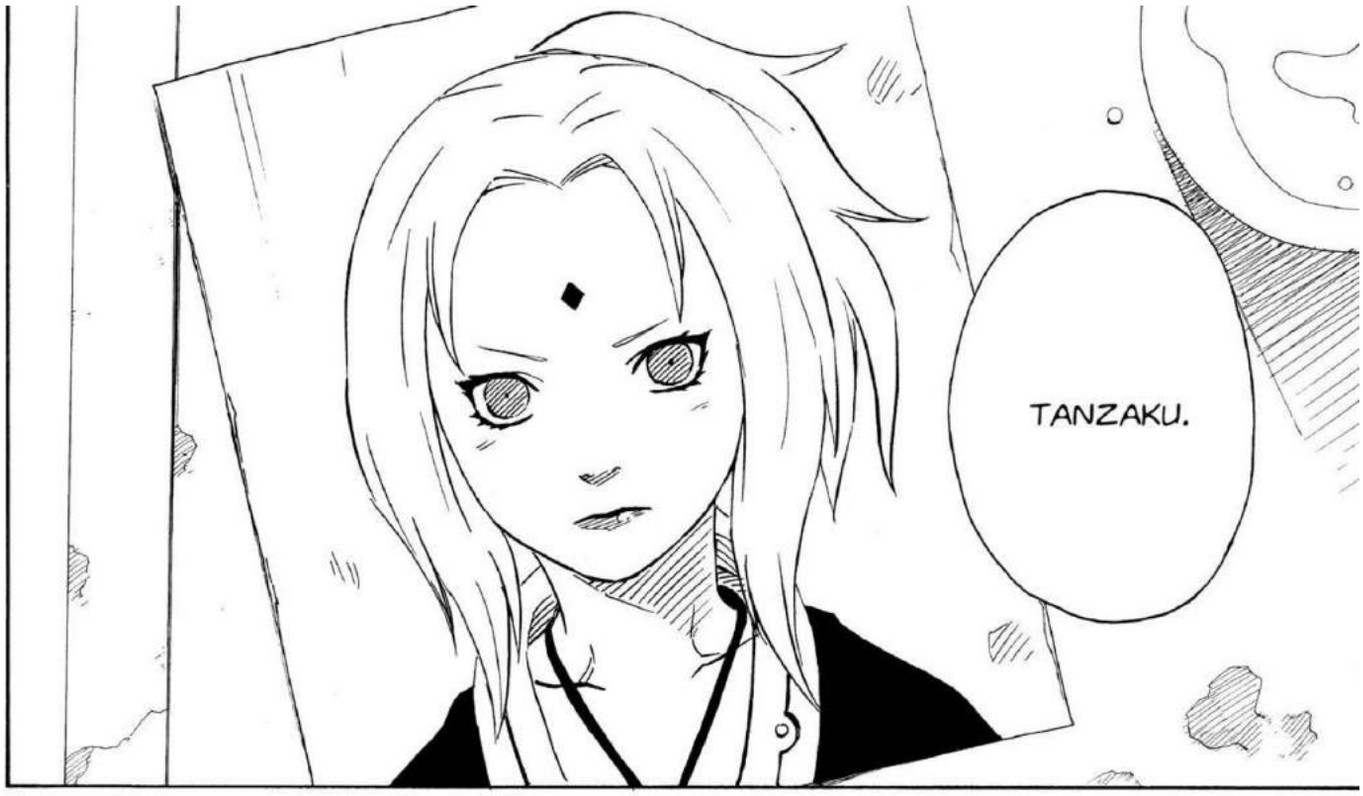
AND WHERE SHE'S AT, TOO.

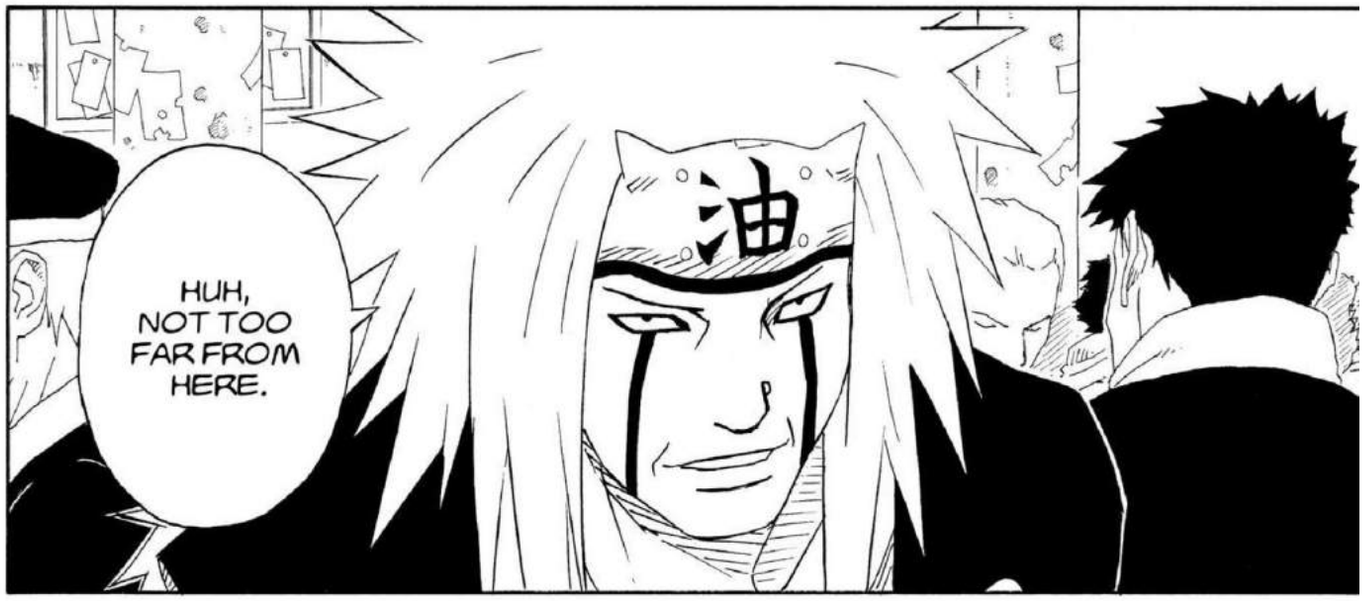
'CUZ THAT LADY EARNED ME A PRETTY SUM.
AIEE!
HMPH... SURE!

...WHERE?

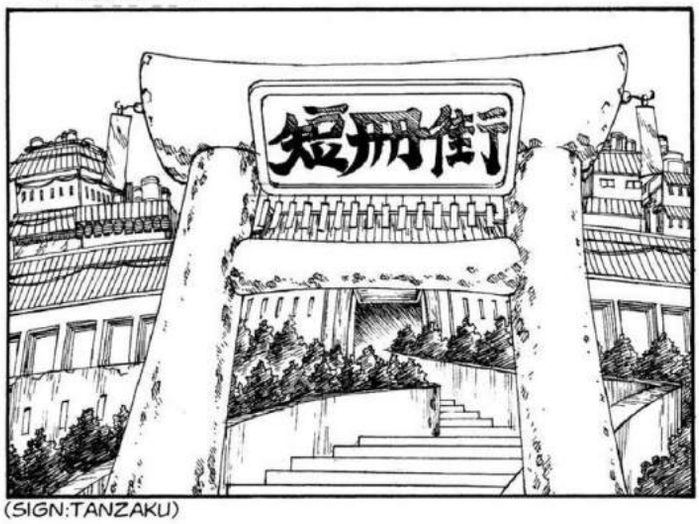
THAT LEGENDARY LOSER'S AT IT AGAIN...

油
AGAIN? HUNH...

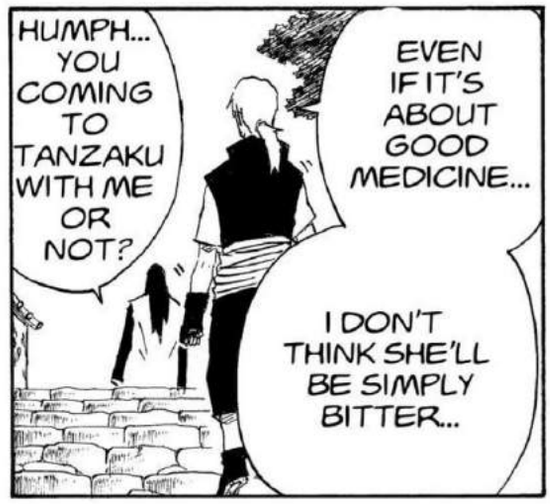

TANZAKU.

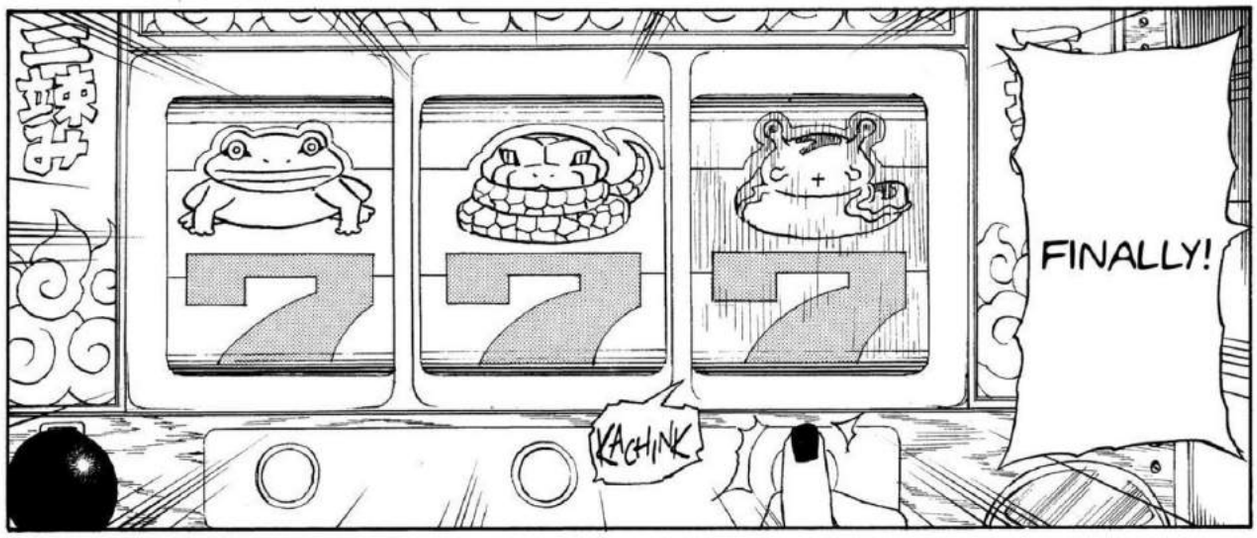

油
HUH, NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.

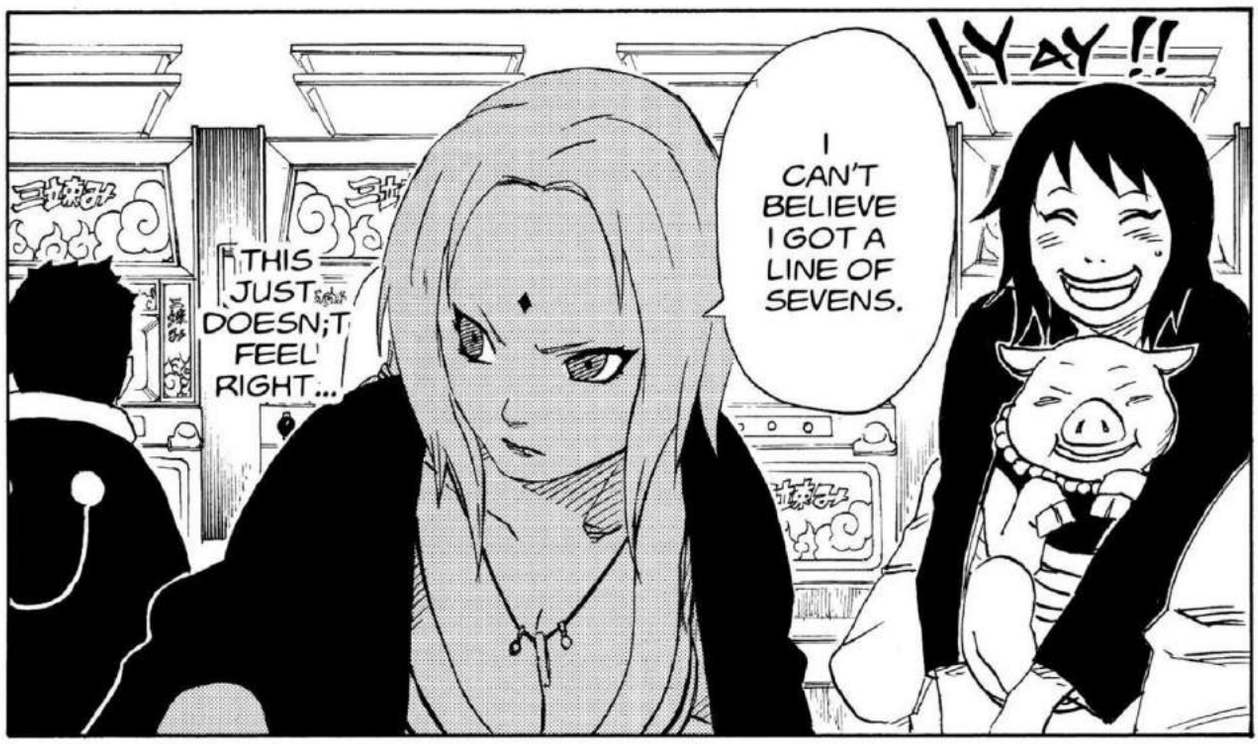
FINALLY... MY ARMS... WILL BE HEALED.



(SIGN:TANZAKU)







TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOL. 18!

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