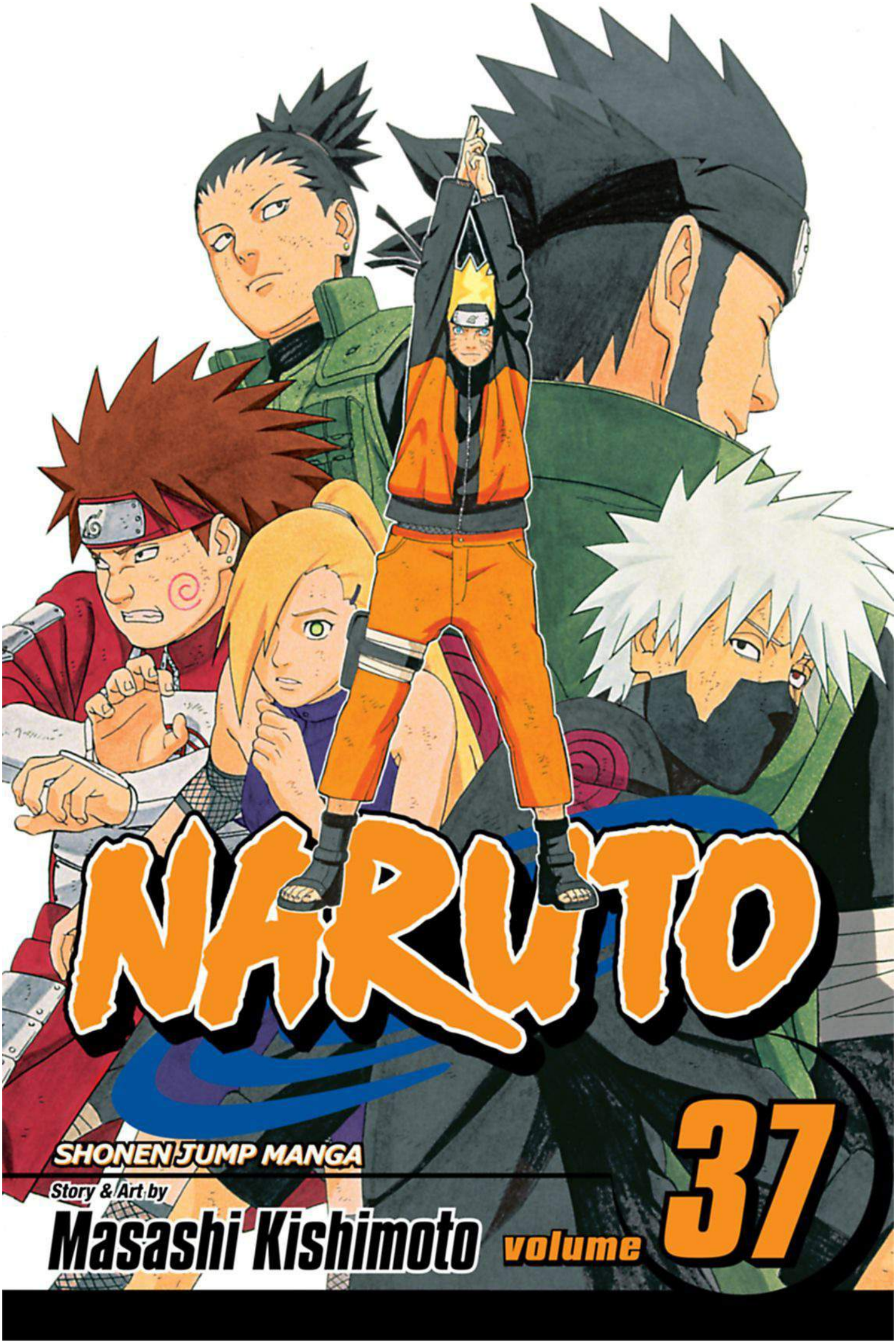
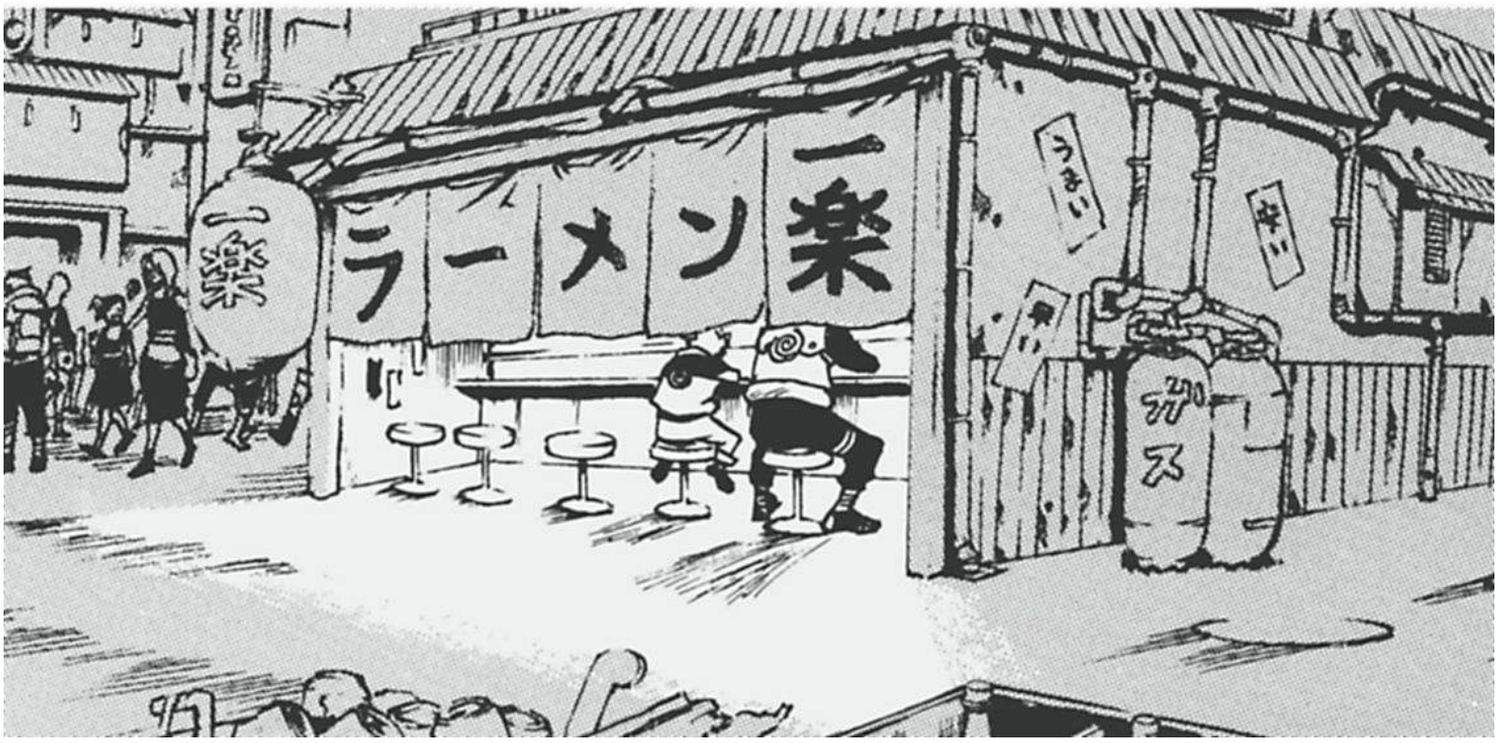

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 37

岸本斉史

It was fixed for the graphic novel, but when Number 334 ("The Black Metamorphoses...!!") was printed in *Jump* it was still in penciled format. I had herniated a disk for the first time in my life and just couldn't sit at my desk... Please forgive me for the hard-on-the-eyes manuscript.

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2007*

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. 37
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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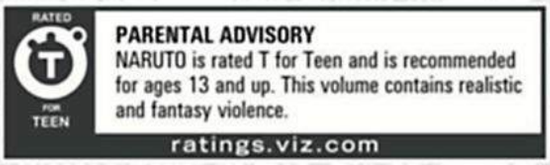
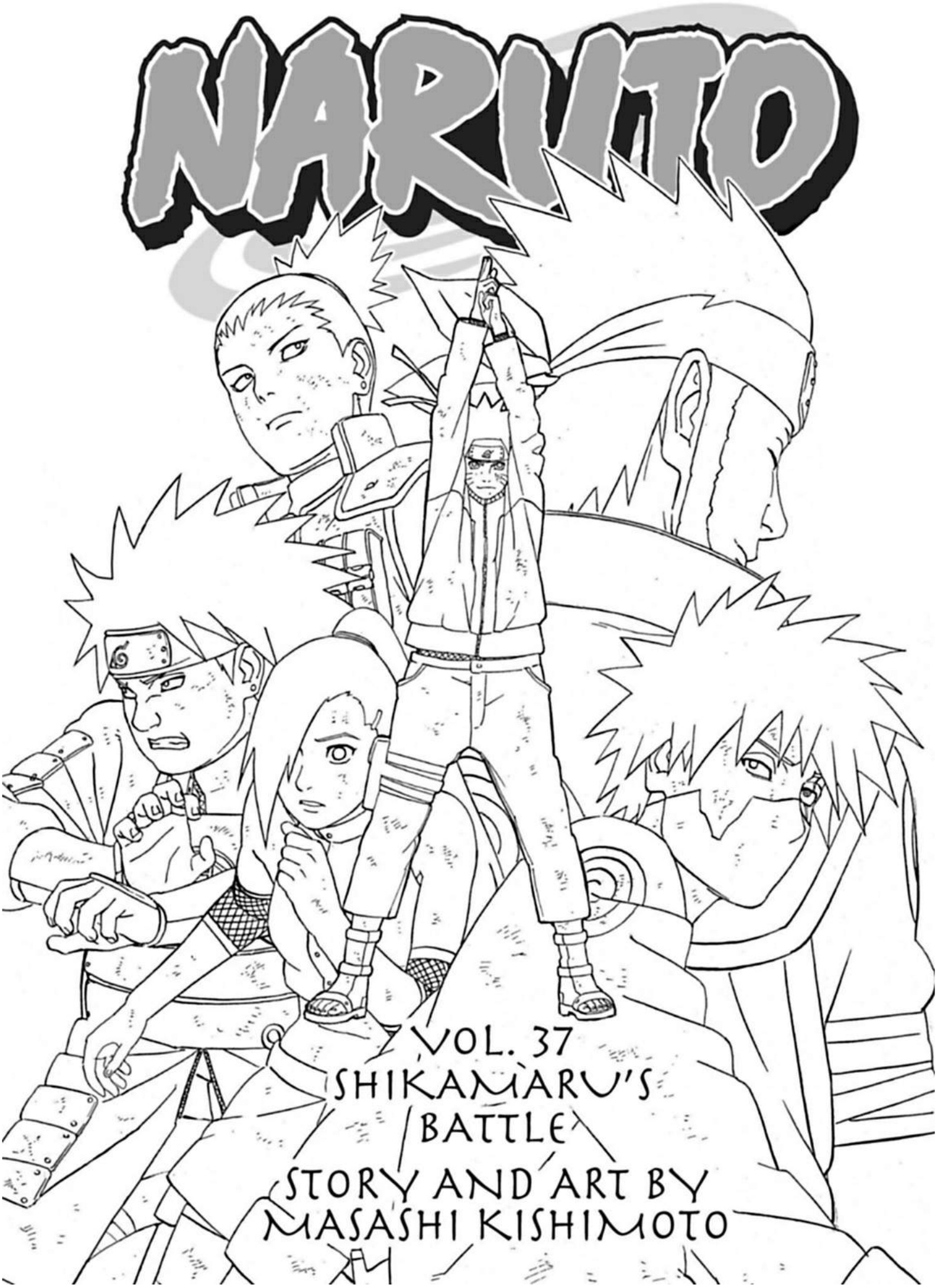


SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 37

SHIKAMARU'S BATTLE

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sakura
サクラ
Naruto
ナルト
Sasuke
サスケ
Sai
サイ
Yamato
ヤマト
Kakashi
カカシ

CHARACTERS

Sakura
サクラ
Naruto
ナルト
Sasuke
サスケ
Sai
サイ
Yamato
ヤマト
Kakashi
カカシ

The Story So Far…

Against all odds, Uzumaki Naruto, the student least likely to graduate from the Ninja Academy in Konohagakure, becomes a ninja along with his classmates—and closest friends—Sasuke and Sakura. During the Chûnin Selection Exams, however, the turncoat ninja Orochimaru launches *Operation Destroy Konoha,* forcing Naruto's mentor, the Third Hokage, to sacrifice his own life to stop the attack and save the village.

Further tragedy follows when Sasuke—now one of Konoha's best and brightest shinobi—falls prey to Orochimaru's schemes and becomes his hapless thrall. Though Naruto fights valiantly to stop Sasuke from becoming slave to one of their worst enemies, he ultimately fails. Sasuke flees to Orochimaru, and Naruto vows to rescue his friend someday…

Two years pass. Naruto and his comrades grow up and track down Sasuke. However, they are left in the dust again by Sasuke's immense power and he gets away once more.

In order to gain strength himself, Naruto trains with Kakashi again. Elsewhere, Asuma dies during a battle against an Akatsuki two-man team. What will the surviving Cell Number 10 do now?!

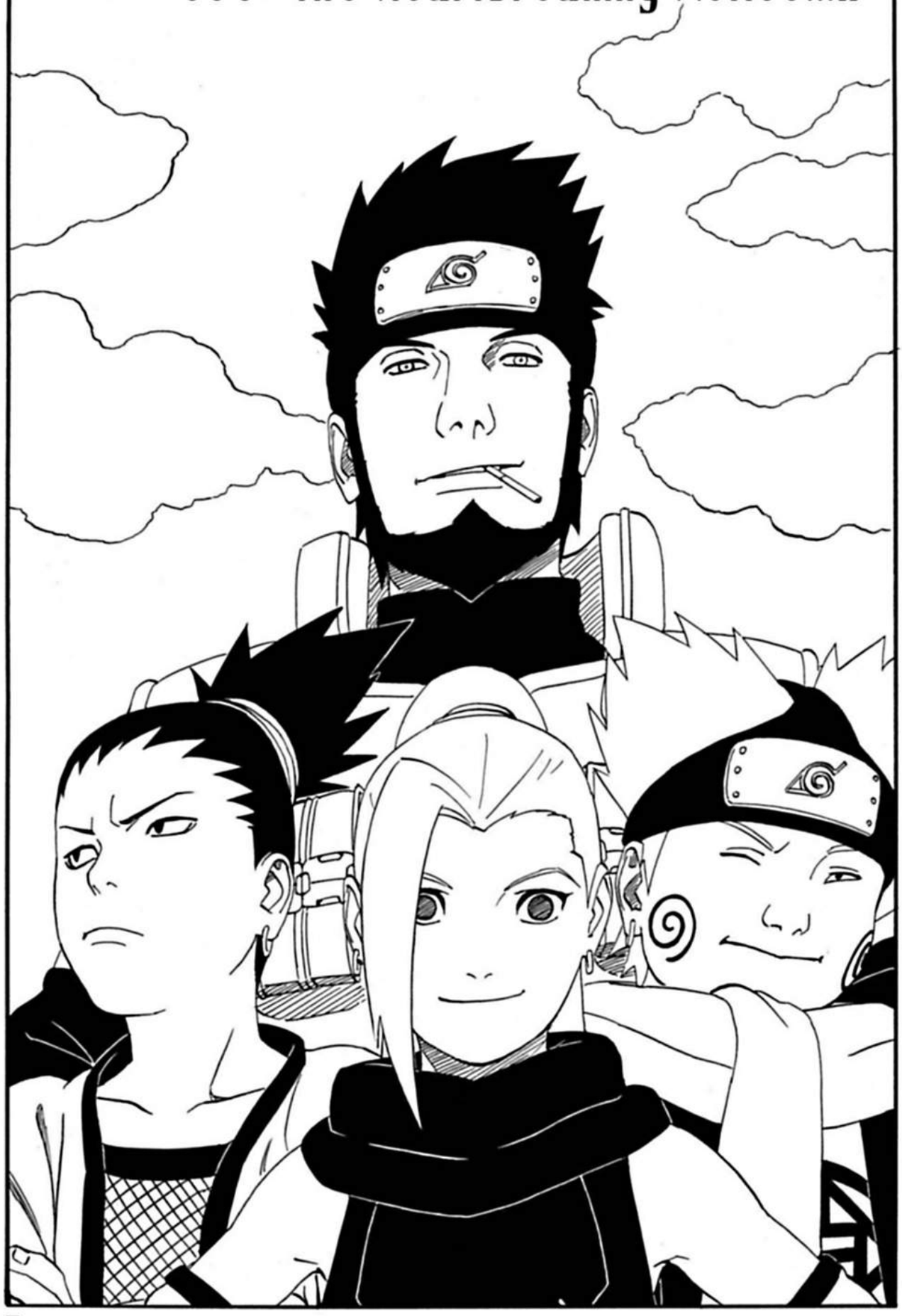
NARUTO

VOL. 37
SHIKAMARU'S BATTLE

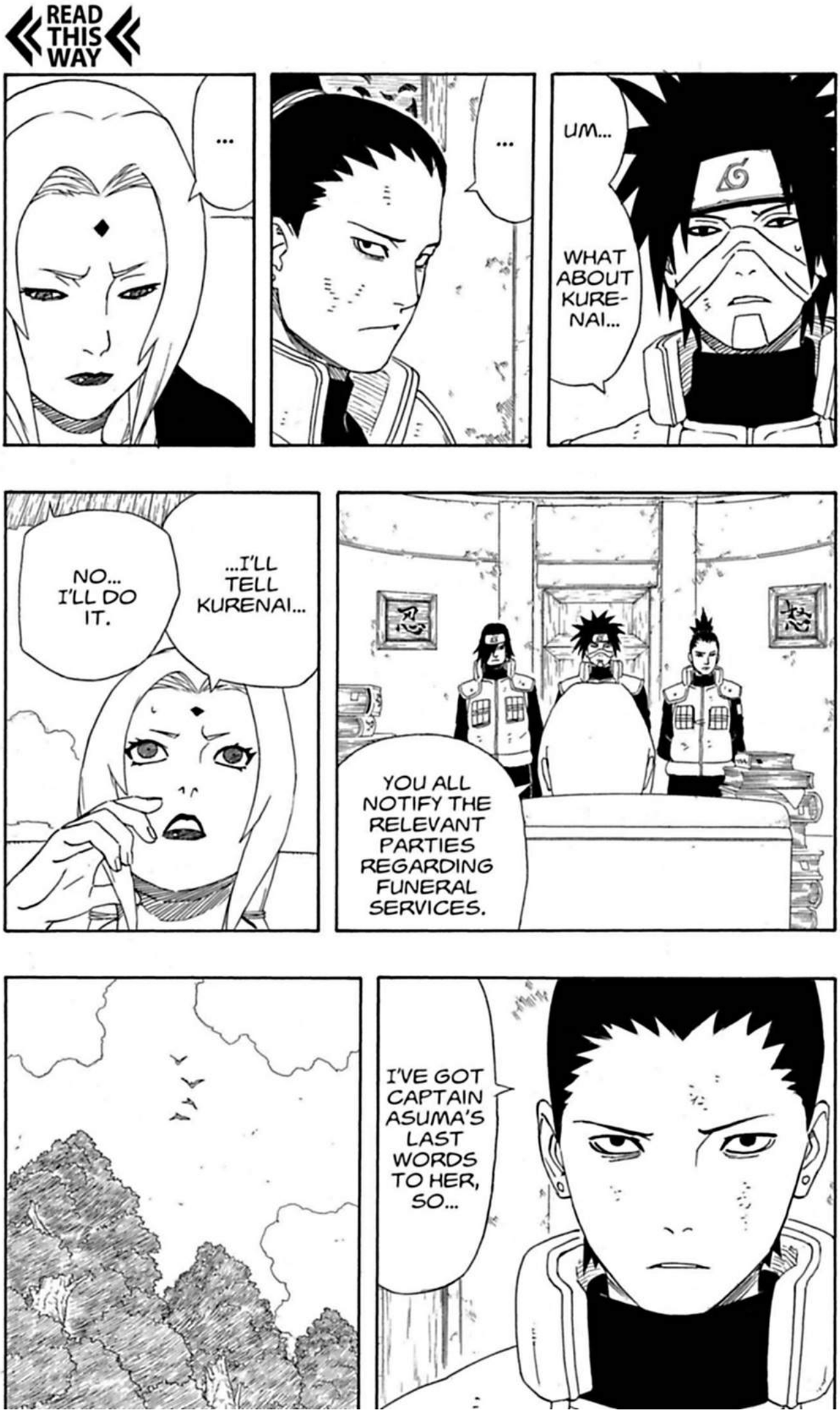
CONTENTS

NUMBER 330: THE HEARTBREAKING NOTICE...!! 7
NUMBER 331: CELL NUMBER 10 SETS OUT...!! 25
NUMBER 332: SHIKAMARU'S BATTLE!! 42
NUMBER 333: AFFINITIES...!! 63
NUMBER 334: THE BLACK METAMORPHOSES...!! 81
NUMBER 335: THE FEARSOME SECRET!! 99
NUMBER 336: TURNABOUT DILEMMA...!! 117
NUMBER 337: SHIKAMARU'S GENIUS!! 134
NUMBER 338: PAYBACK... 155
NUMBER 339: THE NEW JUTSU...!! 173

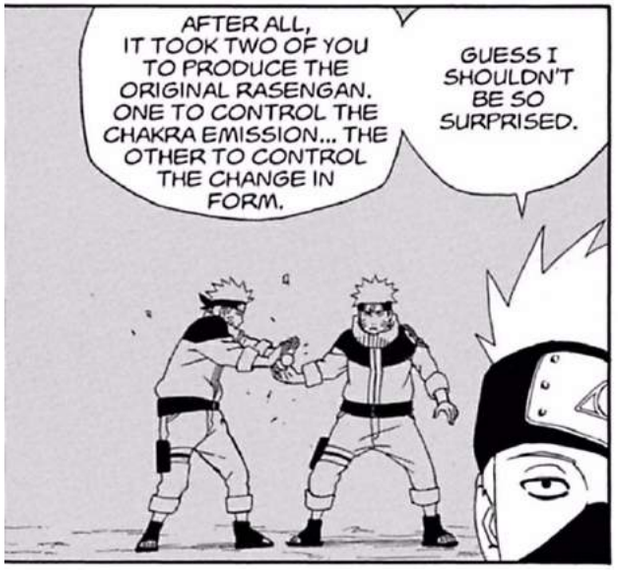
Number 330: The Heartbreaking Notice...!!



I SEE...


READ THIS WAY
...
...
UM...
WHAT ABOUT KURE-NAI...
NO... I'LL DO IT.
...I'LL TELL KURENAI...
YOU ALL NOTIFY THE RELEVANT PARTIES REGARDING FUNERAL SERVICES.
I'VE GOT CAPTAIN ASUMA'S LAST WORDS TO HER, SO...

READ THIS WAY
INTERESTING... SO THIS IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT UP.


AFTER ALL, IT TOOK TWO OF YOU TO PRODUCE THE ORIGINAL RASENGAN. ONE TO CONTROL THE CHAKRA EMISSION... THE OTHER TO CONTROL THE CHANGE IN FORM.
GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SO SURPRISED.

I SUPPOSE THIS IS JUST THE NATURAL PROGRES-SION.

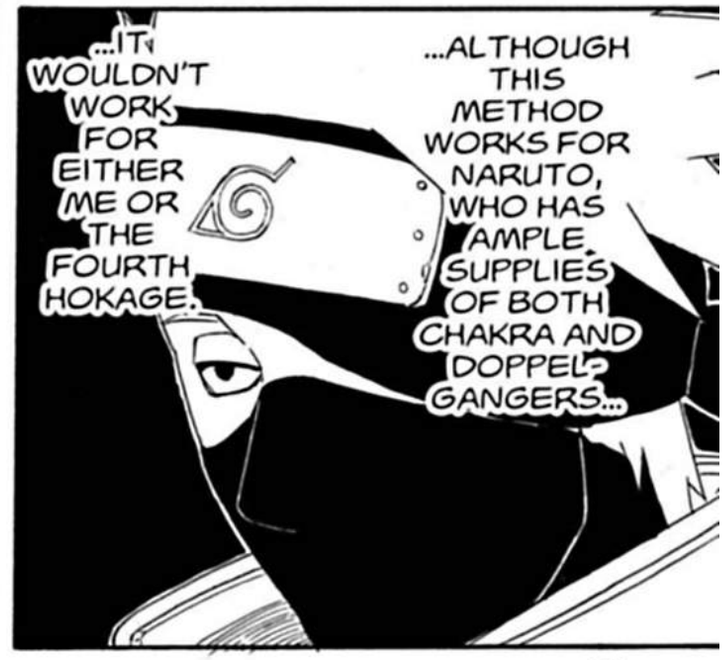
YES!
I'M STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF IT!

THAT'S RIGHT!
ALL I NEEDED TO DO WAS CREATE A THIRD ME TO CONTROL THE WIND CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE.

WITH MY DOPPEL-GANGER PROVIDING THE CLUE EARLIER.
...

...YOU NEED TO CREATE A DOUBLE WHO CAN CHECK OUT THE OTHER DIRECTION FOR YOU!
TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!
...LIKE YOU SAID, IF YOU CAN'T LOOK TO THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT AT THE SAME TIME...

YOU REALLY ARE SOME-THING ELSE...
HAVE TO ADMIT, NARUTO.
?


...IT WOULDN'T WORK FOR EITHER ME OR THE FOURTH HOKAGE.
...ALTHOUGH THIS METHOD WORKS FOR NARUTO, WHO HAS AMPLE SUPPLIES OF BOTH CHAKRA AND DOPPEL-GANGERS...

HUH???

I THINK...
...I'M FINALLY STARTING TO LIKE YOU!

!
WAH!
POP

NEVER-MIND!!
WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY IS...
OKAY, WAIT... THAT DIDN'T COME OUT RIGHT...
BOOF
BOOF

WOOSH
AW, MAN! NOW LOOK WHAT YOU DID!
YOU MADE ME LOSE CONTROL OF THE JUTSU!!

...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

SWISH
?!
REPORT-ING IN.

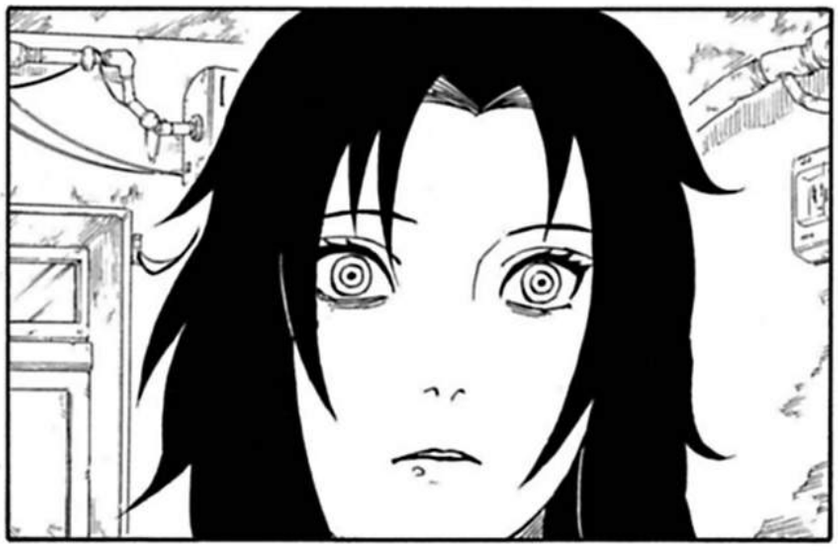
KAKASHI! WE NEED TO CALL OFF THE LESSON AND HEAD BACK TO THE VILLAGE!!

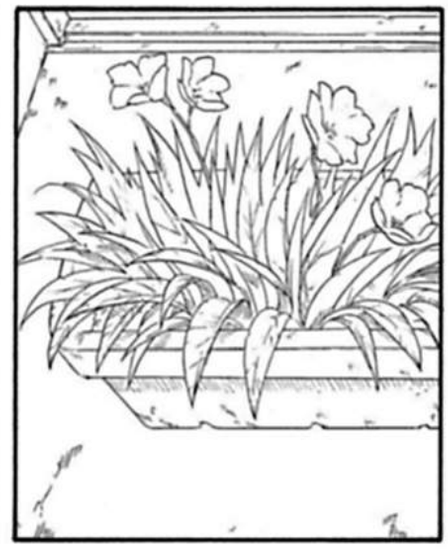
...

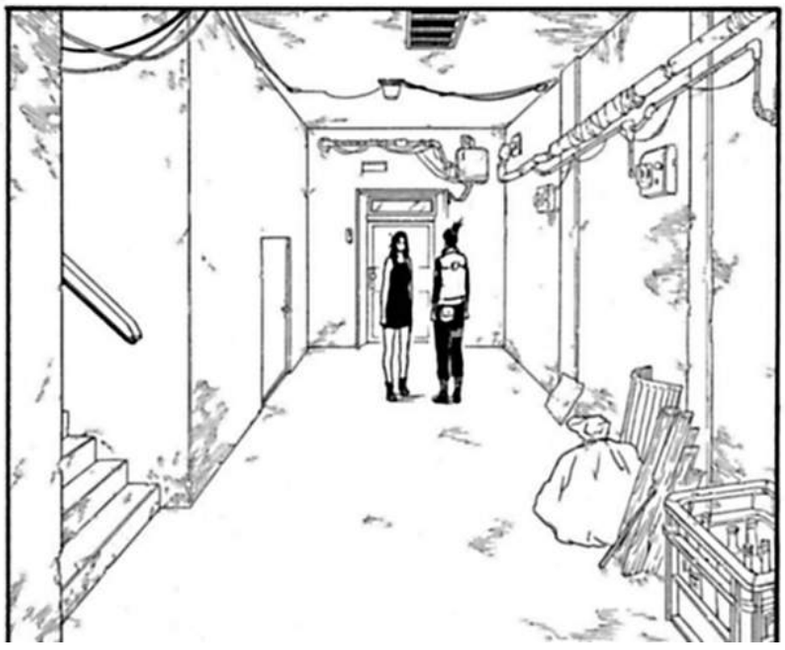
WHAT IS IT, YAMATO ?

WHAT ?!

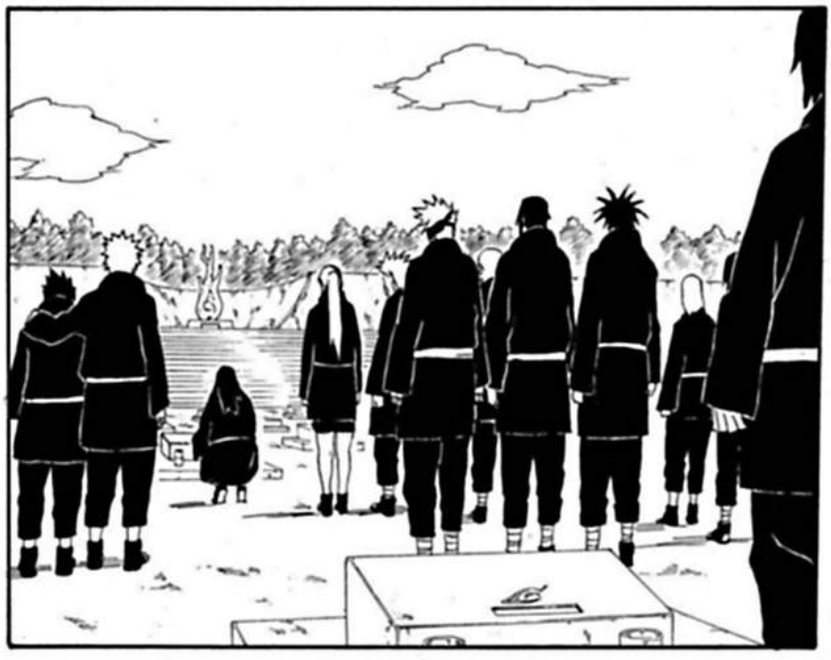
ASUMA SARUTOBI ...
...HAS BEEN KILLED...

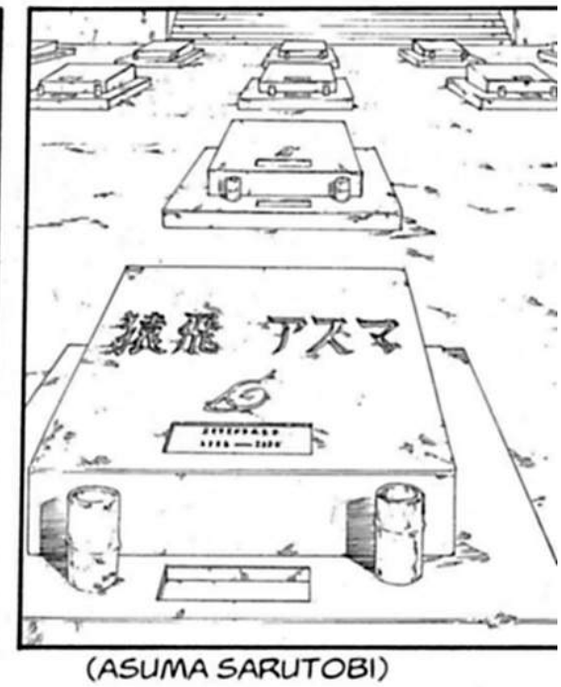




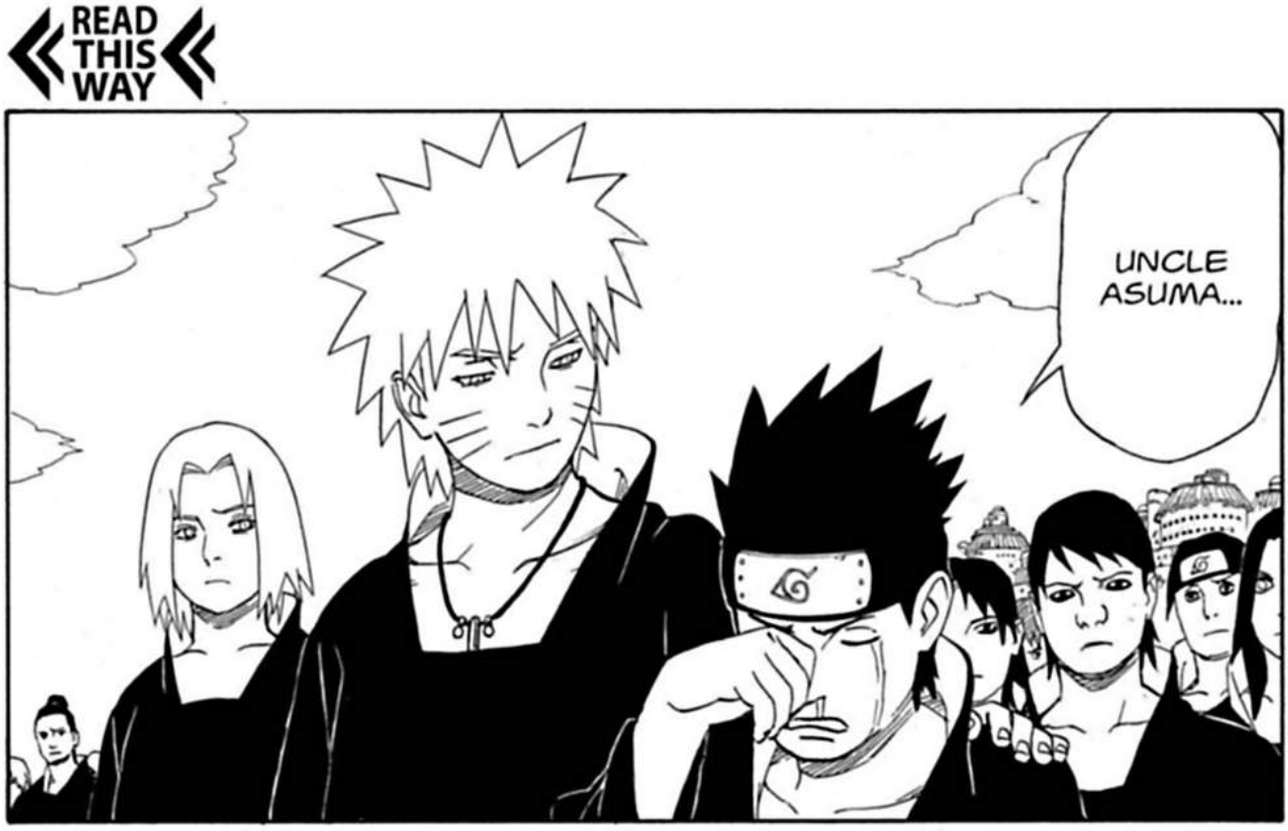


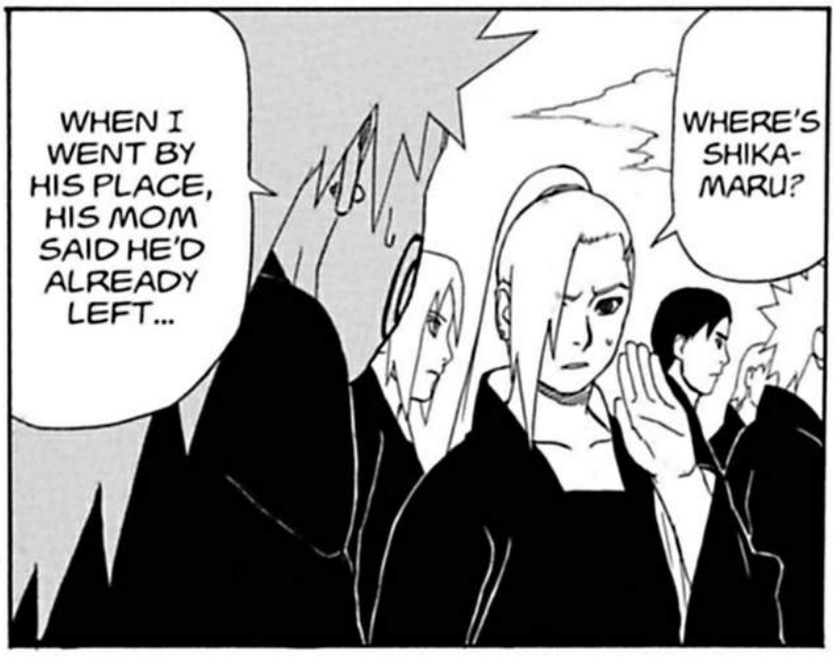
...



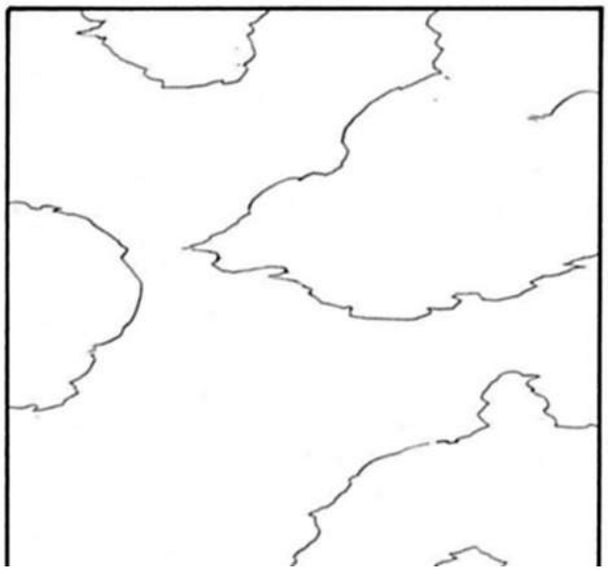


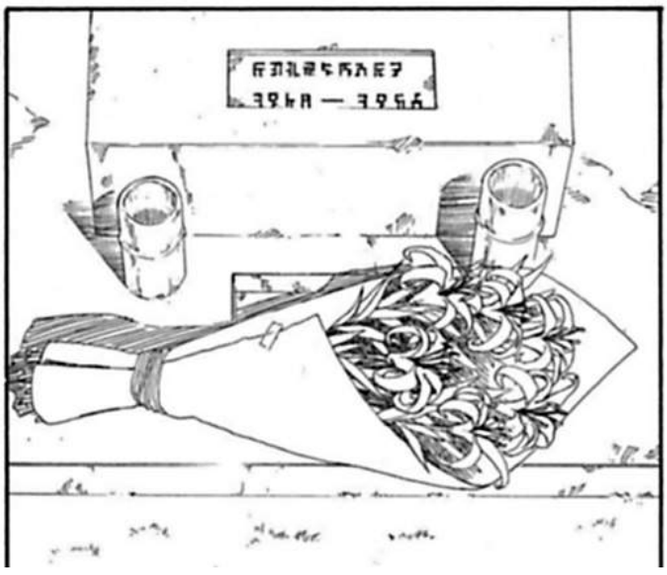
(ASUMA SARUTOBI)


READ THIS WAY
UNCLE ASUMA...


WHERE'S SHIKA-MARU?
WHEN I WENT BY HIS PLACE, HIS MOM SAID HE'D ALREADY LEFT...

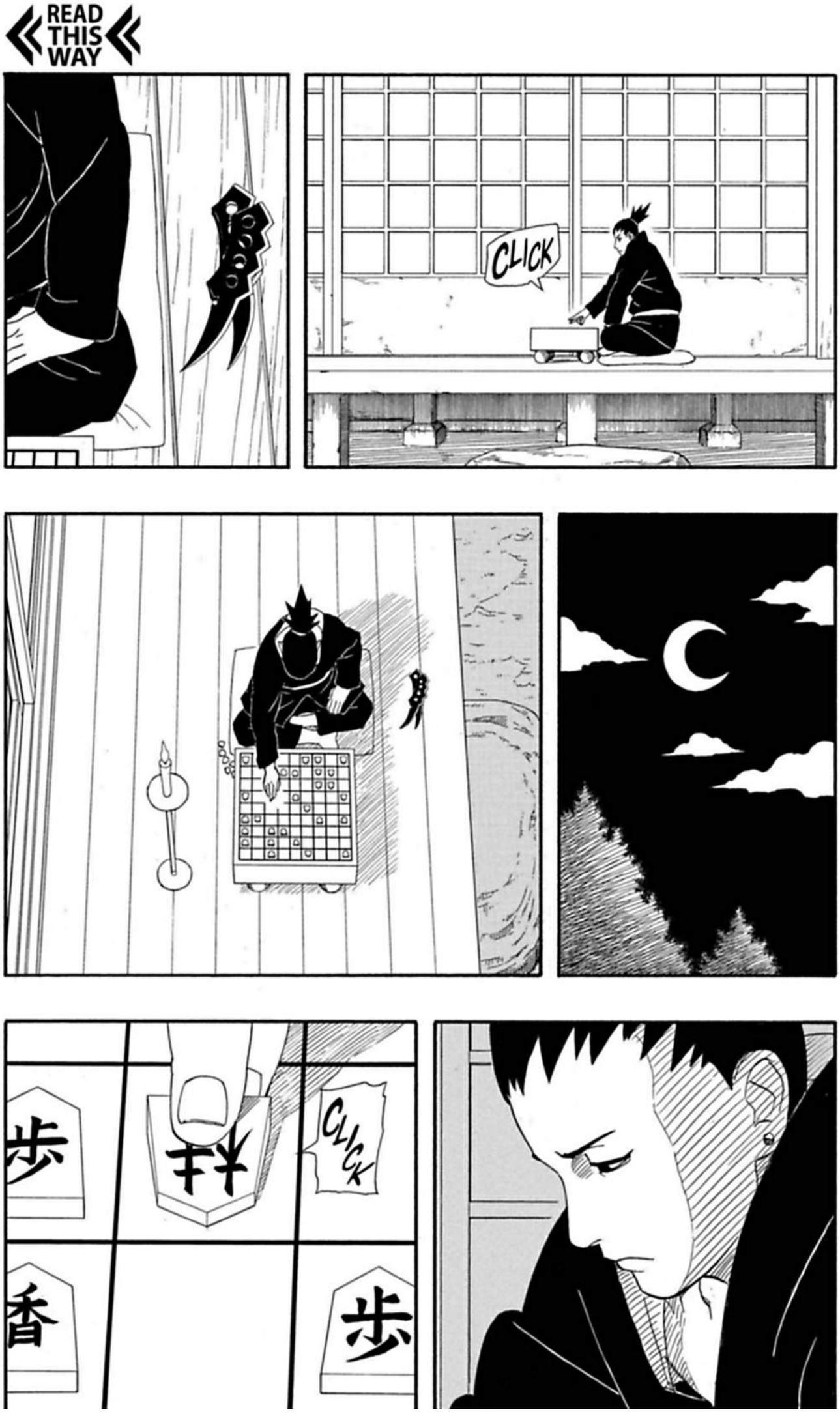
ASUMA...

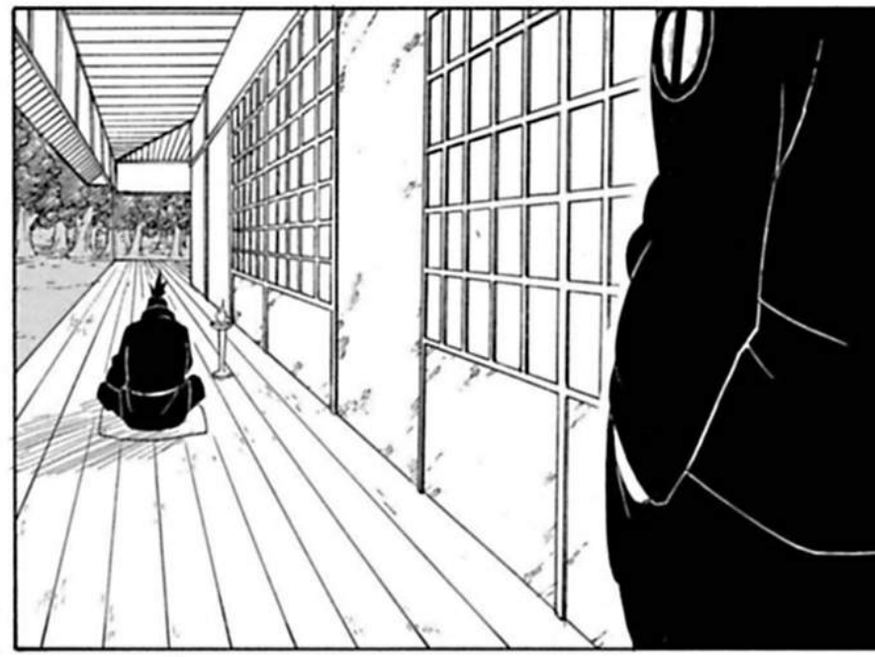


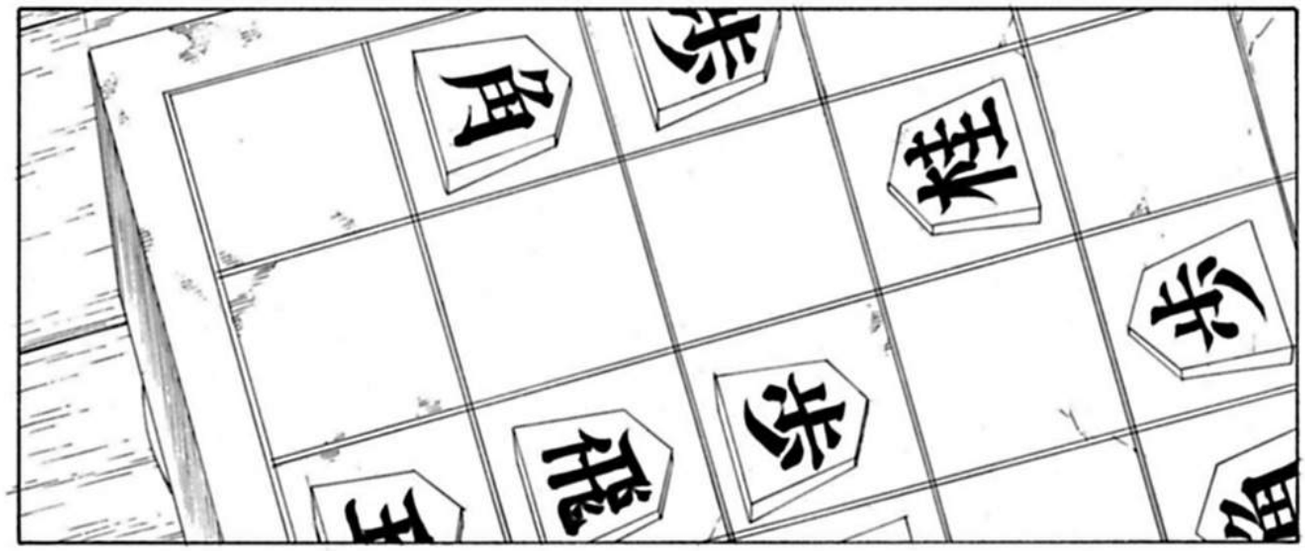


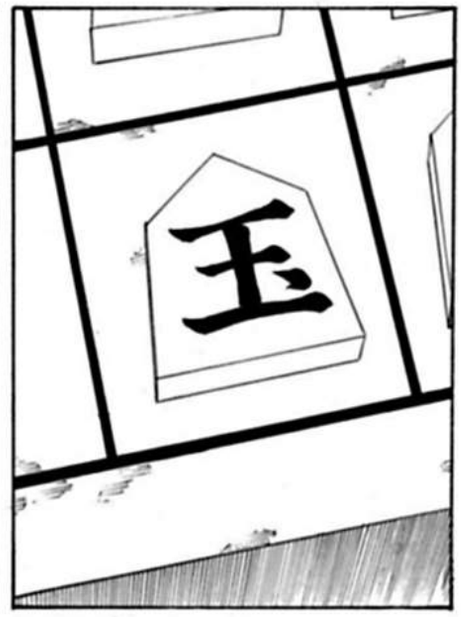
CLOP...

歩
歩
歩
歩
角
銀
香
桂
王


READ THIS WAY
CLICK
CLICK
歩
香
歩

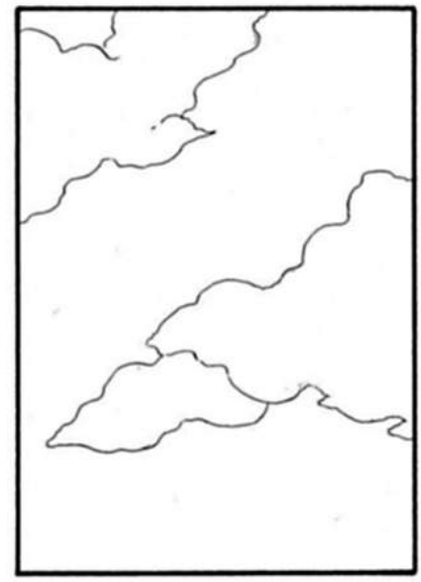


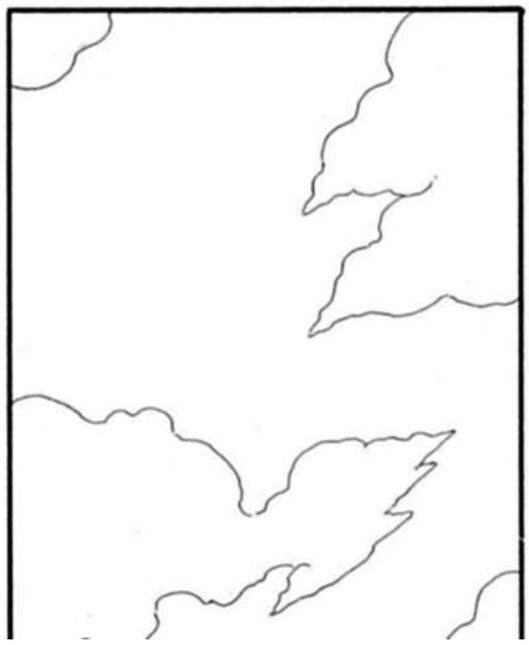




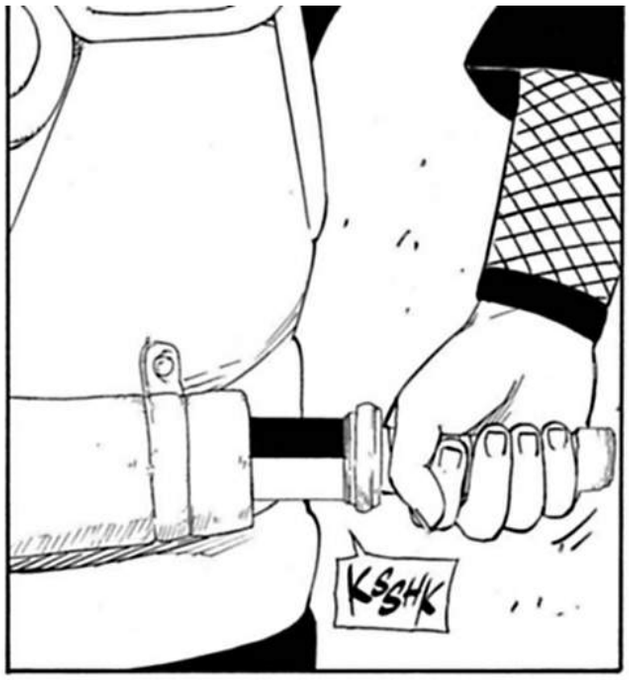
(KONOHA LIBRARY)

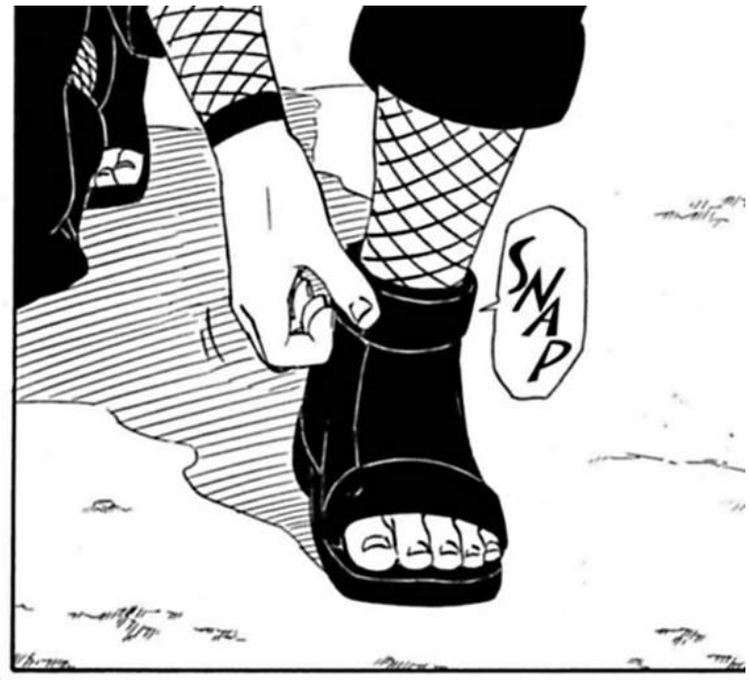
HAH!
CHAK



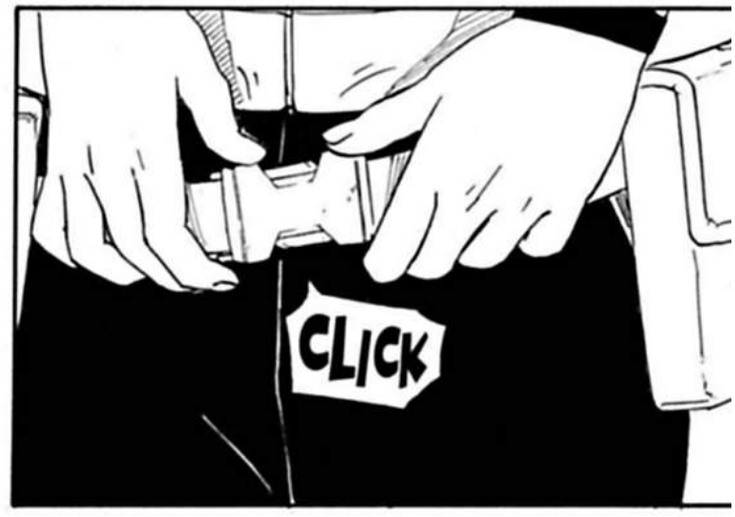


BZZZZ


KSSHK

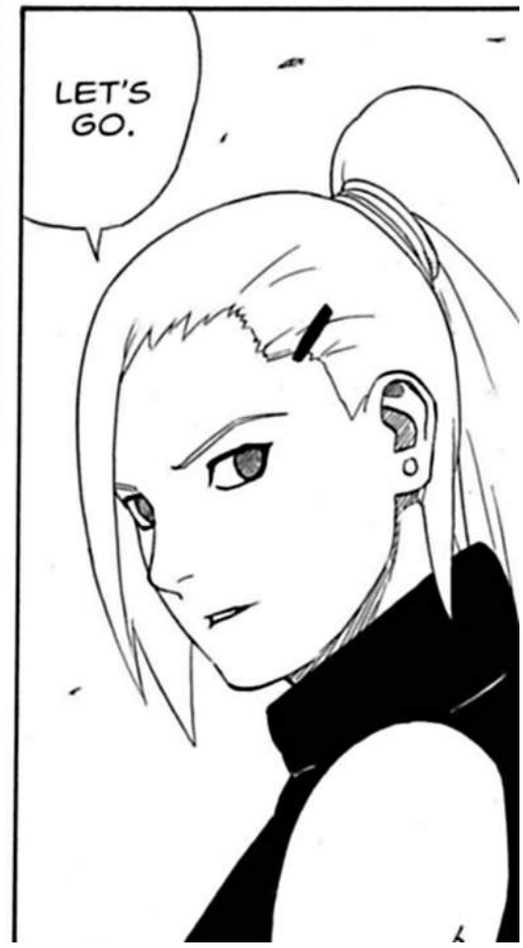

SNAP

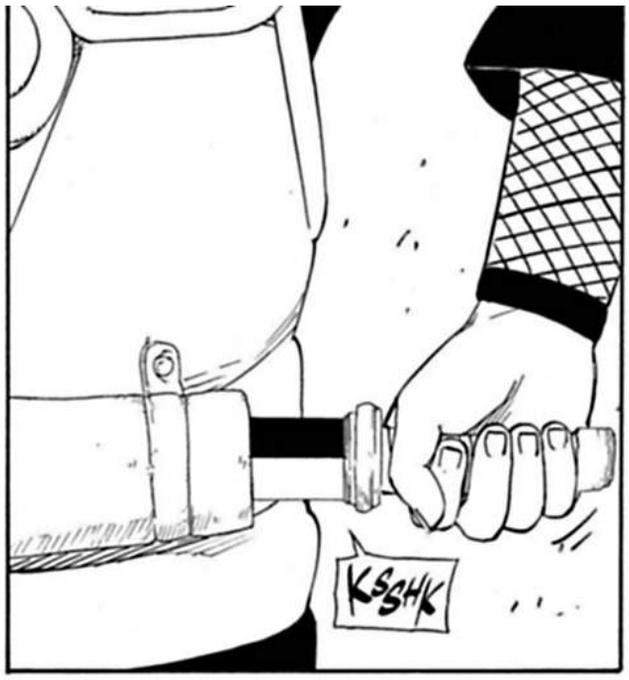
FOOSH

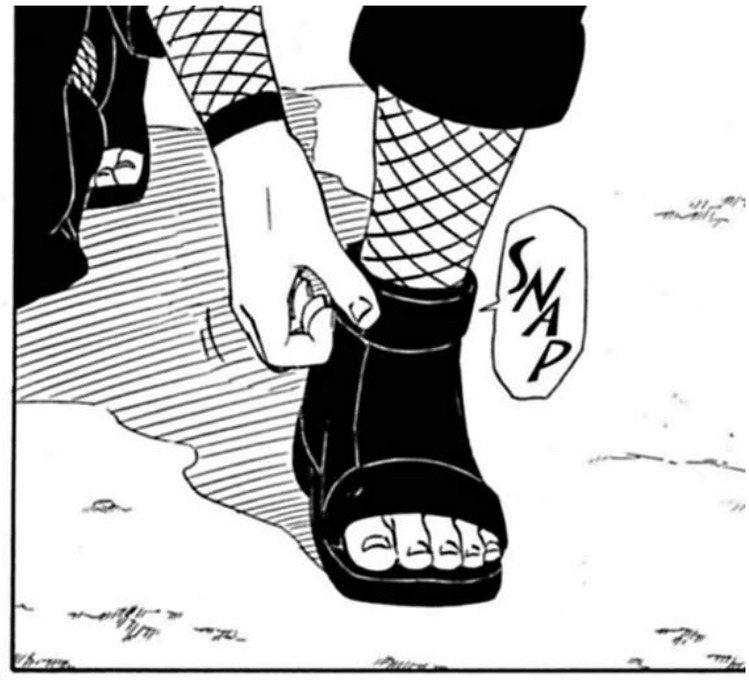

CLICK

...
KRUNCH

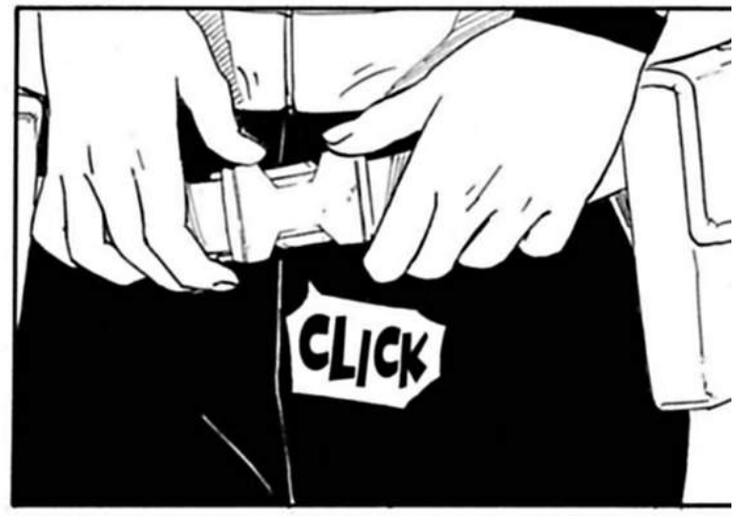
READY, SHIKA-MARU?


LET'S GO.


KSSHK

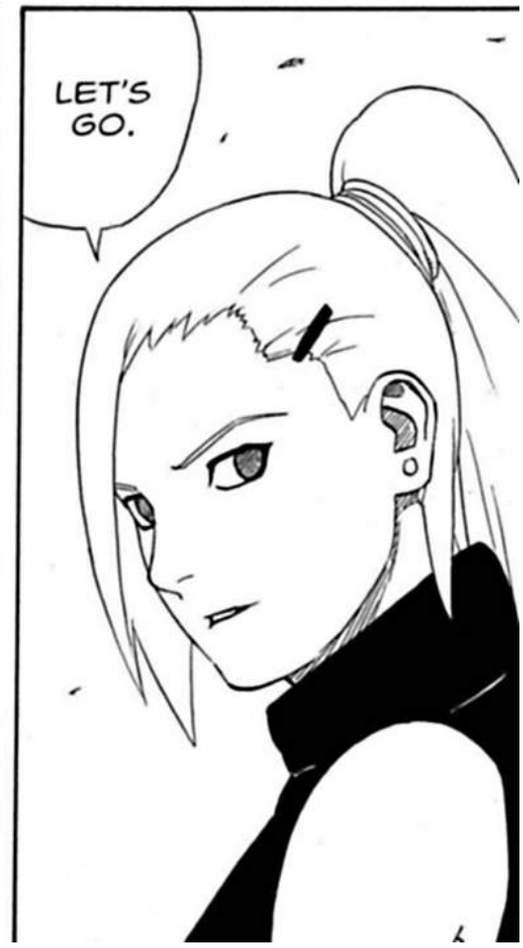

SNAP

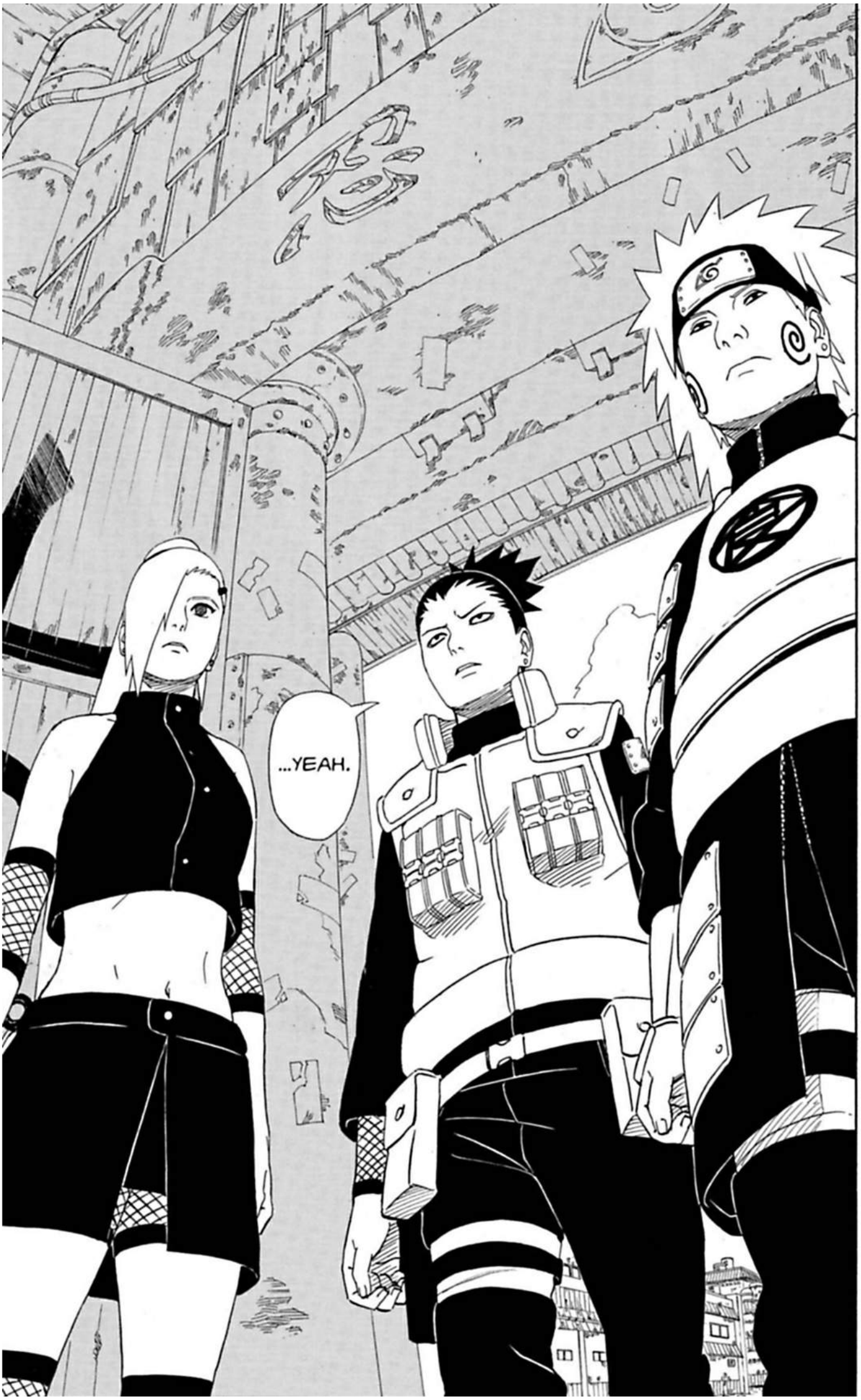
FOOSH


CLICK

...
KRUNCH

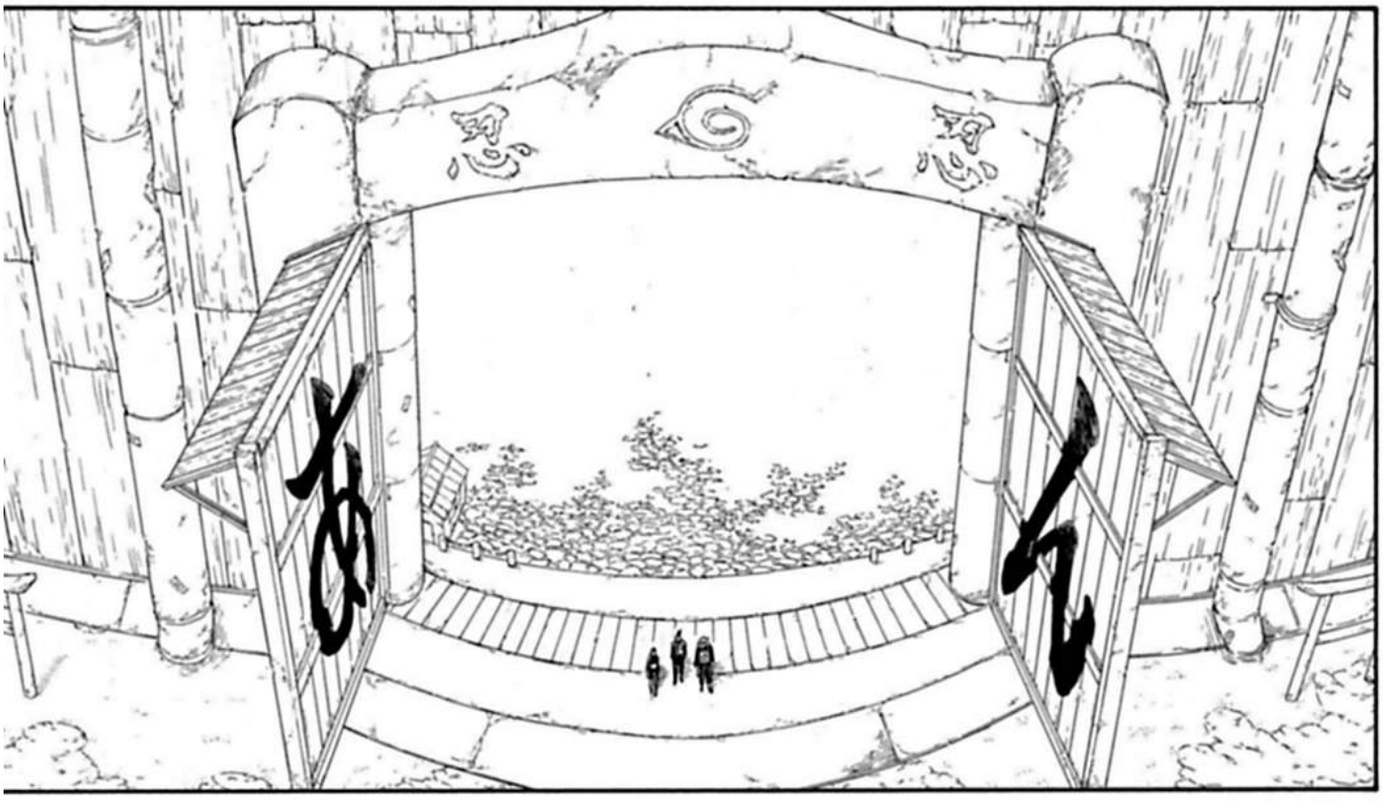
READY, SHIKA-MARU?

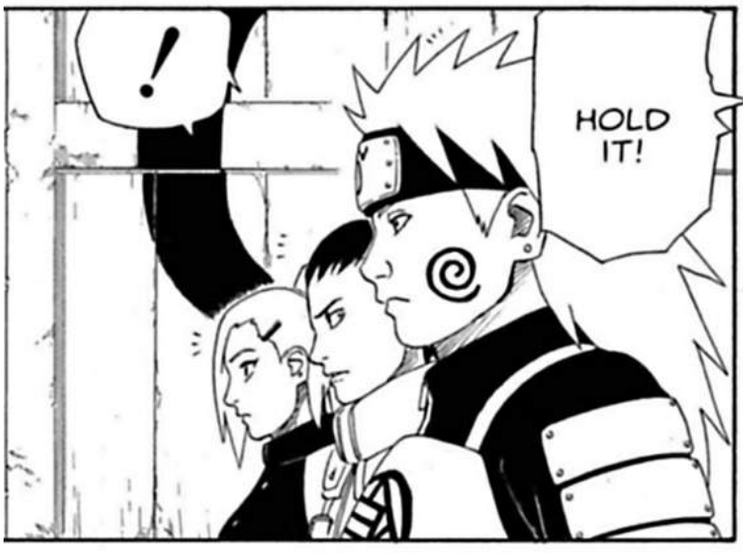

LET'S GO.

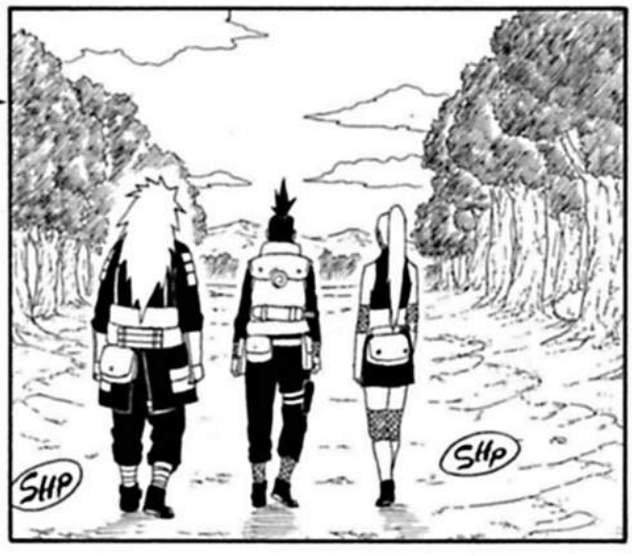

...YEAH.

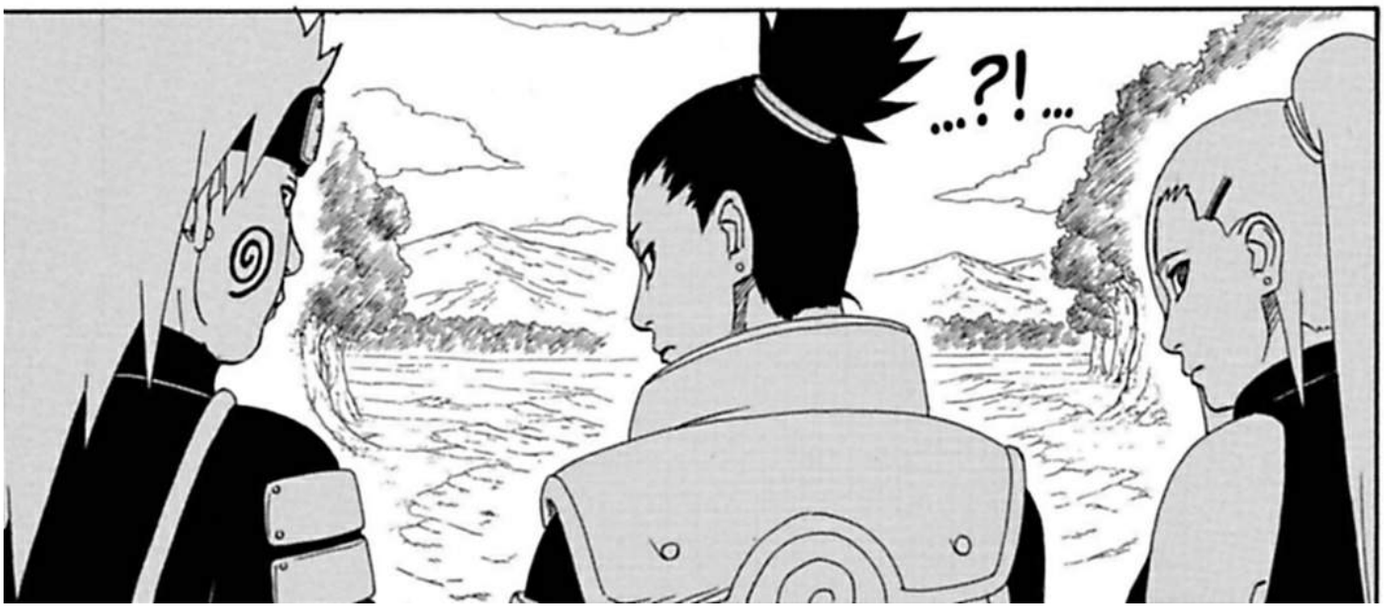
HUH???

Number 331: Cell Number 10 Sets Out...!!









Number 331: Cell Number 10 Sets Out...!!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

YOUR MISSION DIRECTIVE STILL STANDS...

...THERE ARE STILL 18 SQUADS OUT THERE ON THE MOVE.

WE'VE JUST ASSEMBLED A NEW TEAM...

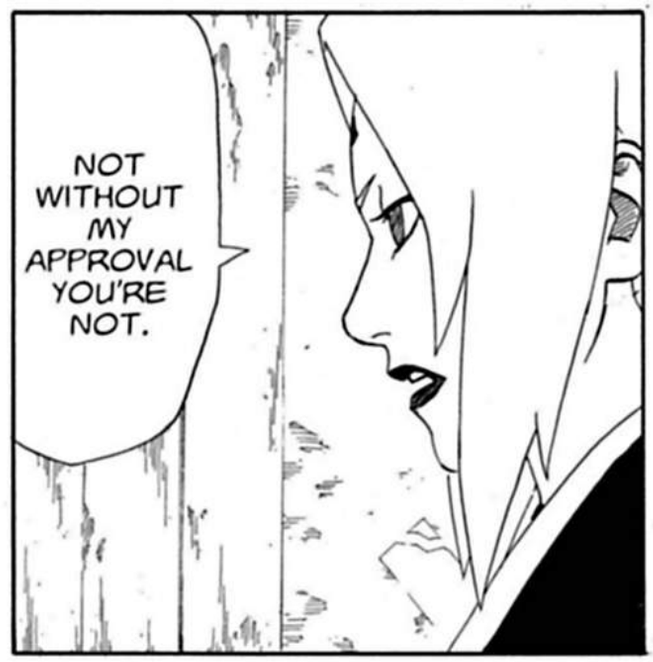
...AND ARE HEADING OUT TO COMPLETE THE MISSION.

KRUNCH...

...

LADY FIFTH...

I WILL DECIDE WHEN IT'S TIME TO SEND A PROPER SQUAD.
THE ENEMY SAID THEY WOULD RETURN.


NOT WITHOUT MY APPROVAL YOU'RE NOT.

...THAT WILL LEAVE ONLY AFTER DEVISING A SOLID PLAN OF ATTACK.
SHIKA-MARU...
...YOU WILL JOIN A TROOP OF MY CHOOSING...

...

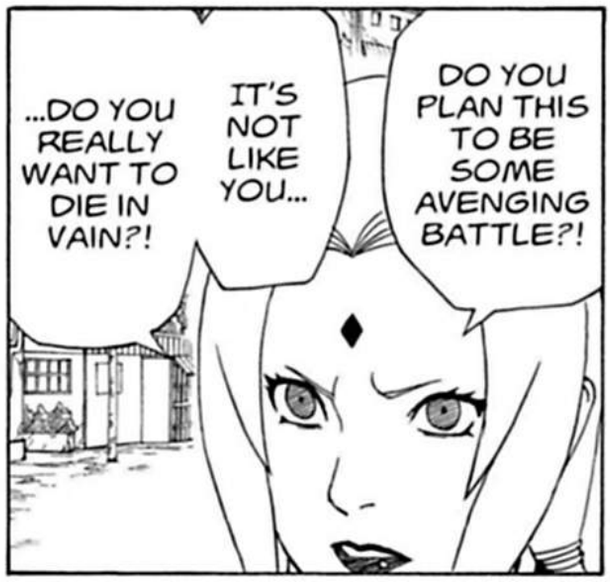
INO, CHOJI AND I HAVE ALREADY WORKED OUT OUR OWN STRATEGIES.
JUST SEND THEM AS REINFORCE-MENTS AFTER US.

ENOUGH!!

WITHOUT A SQUAD LEADER...
THE BASIC UNIT IS A FOUR-MAN CELL!

...

IT'S JUST THE THREE OF YOU NOW...
ASUMA'S DEAD.


...DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DIE IN VAIN?!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU...
DO YOU PLAN THIS TO BE SOME AVENGING BATTLE?!

ASUMA IS STILL WITH US.

READ THIS WAY

WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF RUNNING RIGHT TO OUR DEATHS.
WE'RE NOT STUPID.
Shinoo

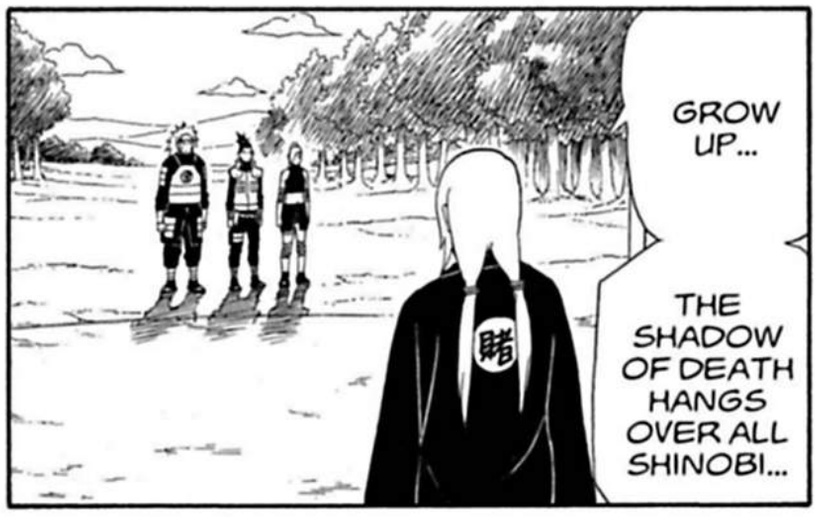
...WHAT?
JUST...

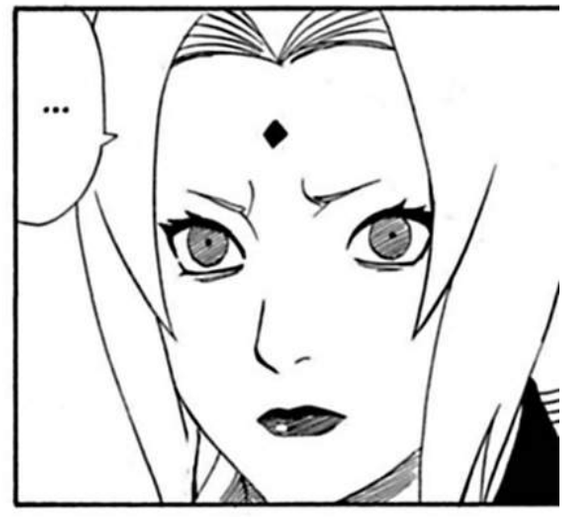
IT'S JUST...

...

...AND KEEP ON LIVING WITHOUT FULFILLING OUR DUTY...
WE DON'T INTEND TO RUN AWAY...

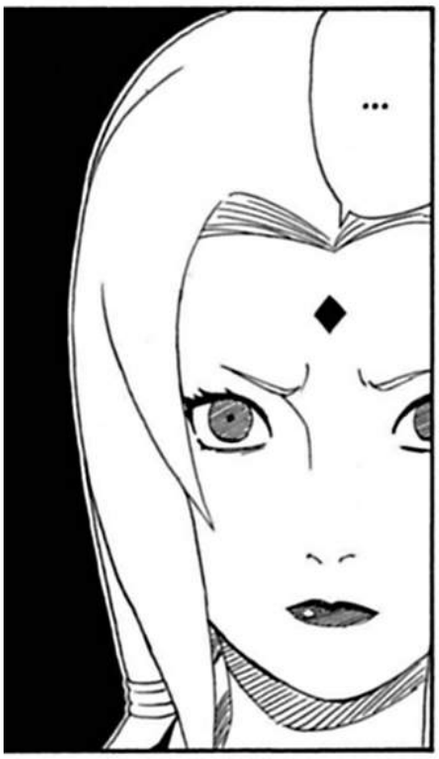
WE AREN'T GOING TO LIVE WITHOUT MEANING!


GROW UP...
THE SHADOW OF DEATH HANGS OVER ALL SHINOBI...
賭


...

BUT UNLESS ONE GETS PAST THAT, THERE CAN BE NO FUTURE...
SOME DEATHS MAY BE HARDER TO ACCEPT THAN OTHERS.

...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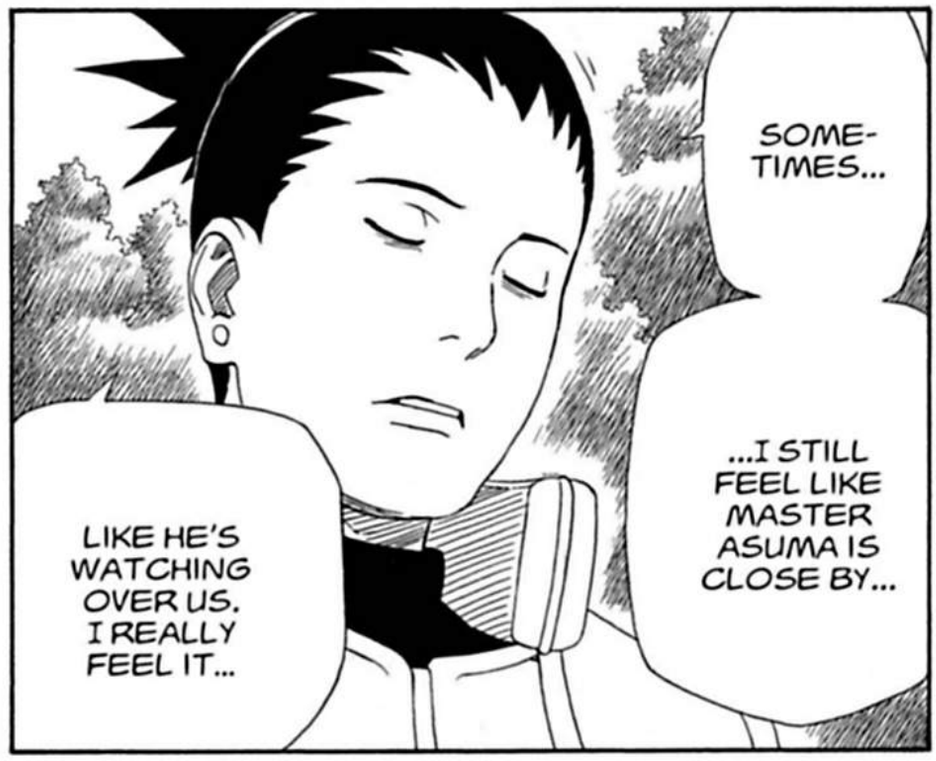
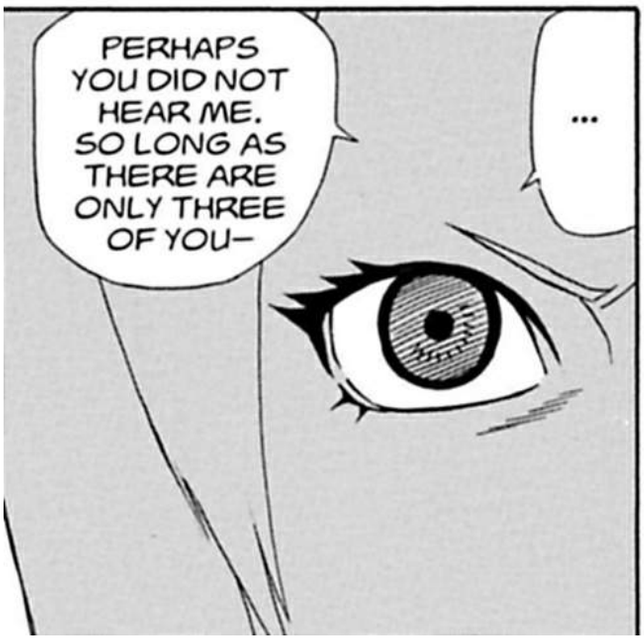
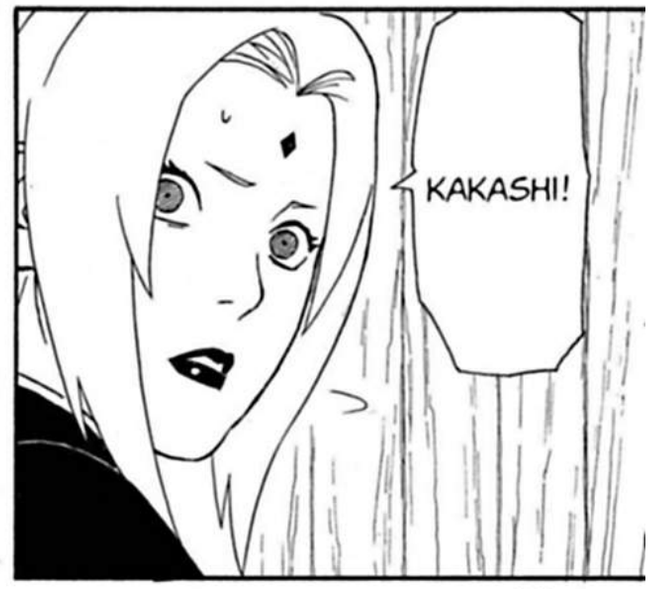

SOME-TIMES...
...I STILL FEEL LIKE MASTER ASUMA IS CLOSE BY...
LIKE HE'S WATCHING OVER US. I REALLY FEEL IT...


PERHAPS YOU DID NOT HEAR ME. SO LONG AS THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF YOU—
...

I WILL NOT REST...
...UNTIL THIS BATTLE IS RESOLVED!

BUT IF THERE ARE FOUR, THEN IT'S ALL RIGHT. EH, LADY TSUNADE?

!



YOU...!
SHUP
I'LL TAKE OVER AS CELL NUMBER 10'S LEADER AND GO WITH THEM.
FAIR ENOUGH?

...

...AND STOP THEM FROM DOING ANYTHING STUPID.
MIGHT AS WELL SEND ME ALONG SO I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON THEM...
THEY'RE GOING TO GO, EVEN IF YOU TRY TO STOP THEM.

...

...

...

...

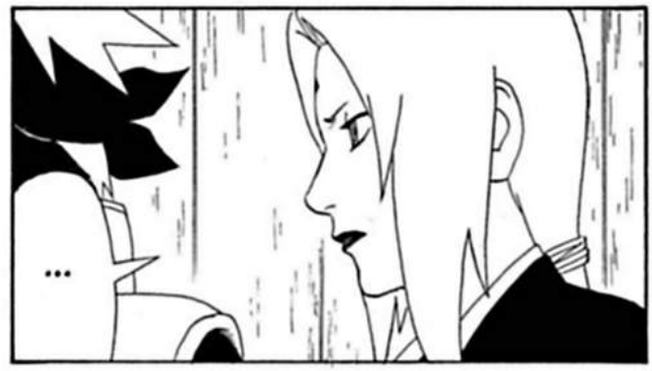
OH ALL RIGHT, AS YOU WISH!

YES!
...

MY THANKS!

...WHAT ABOUT NARUTO?
MASTER KAKASHI...

PLUS, HE'S GOT ANOTHER SQUAD LEADER WITH HIM NOW, SO...
OH, NOTHING... HE DOESN'T NEED ME AROUND ANYMORE.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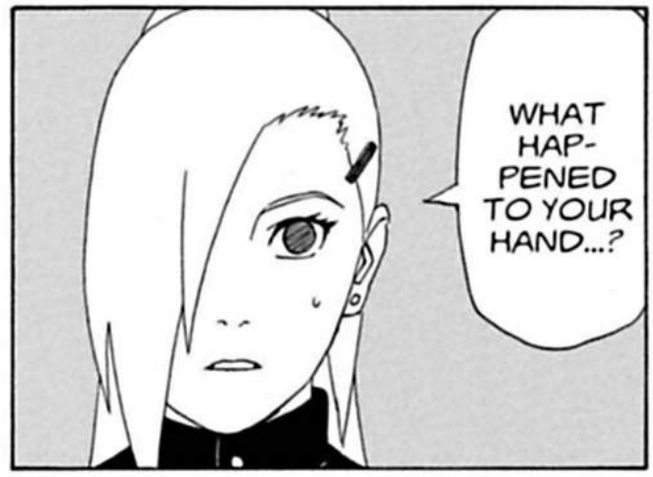
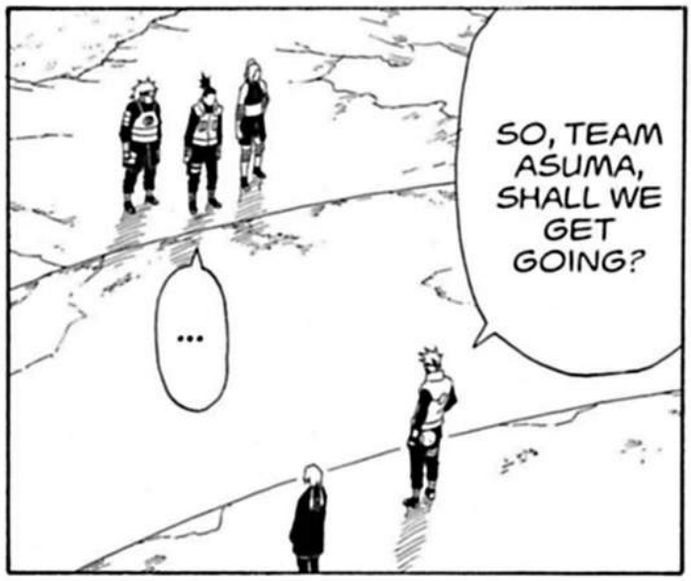
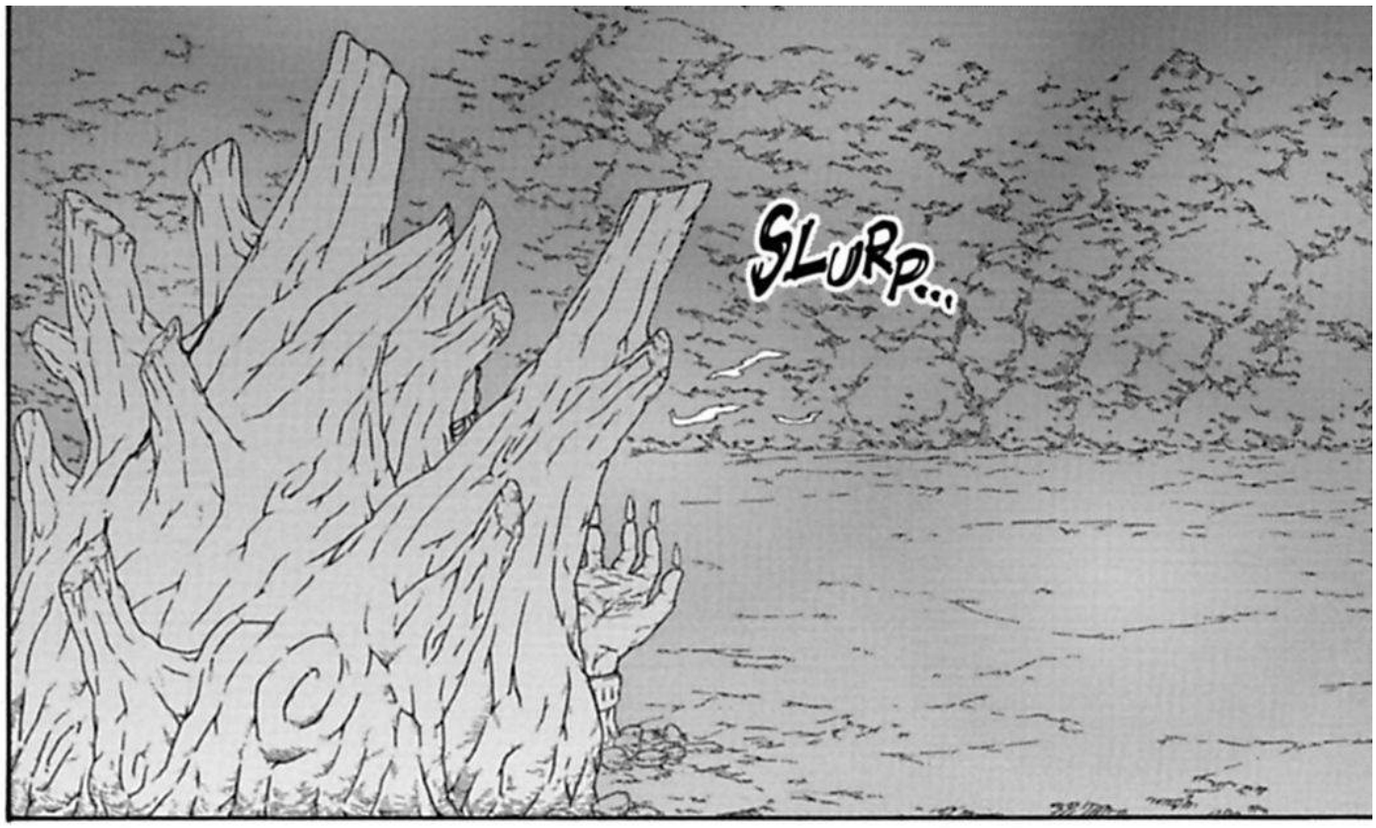
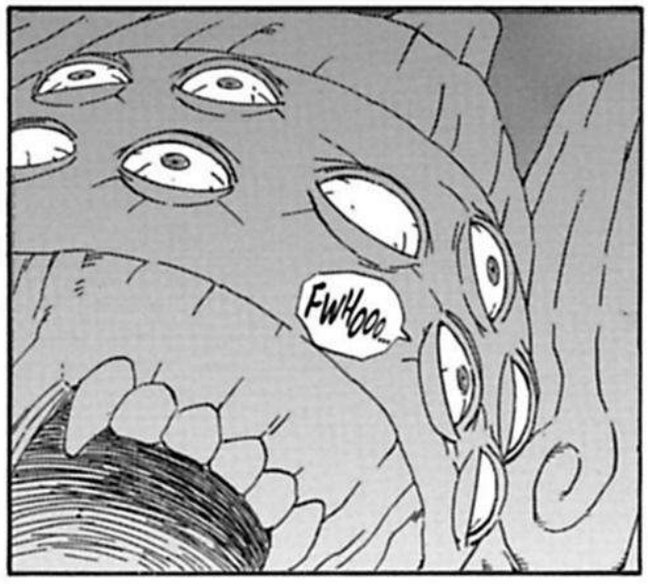

WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR HAND...?

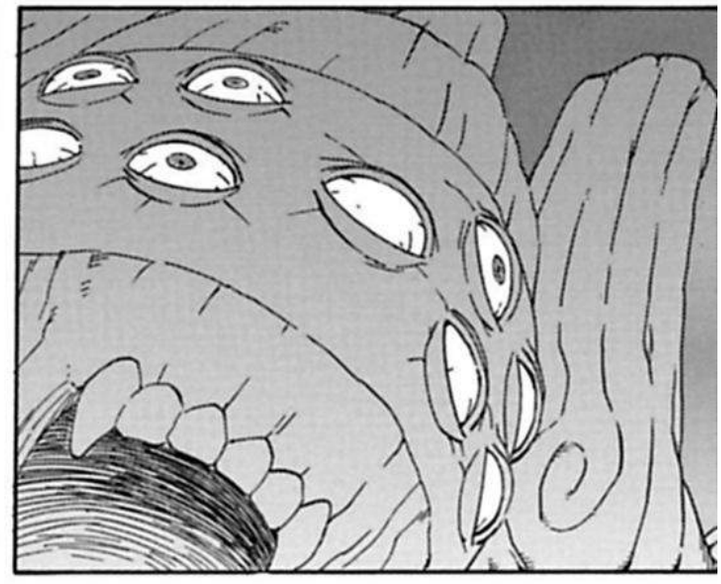

SO, TEAM ASUMA, SHALL WE GET GOING?
...

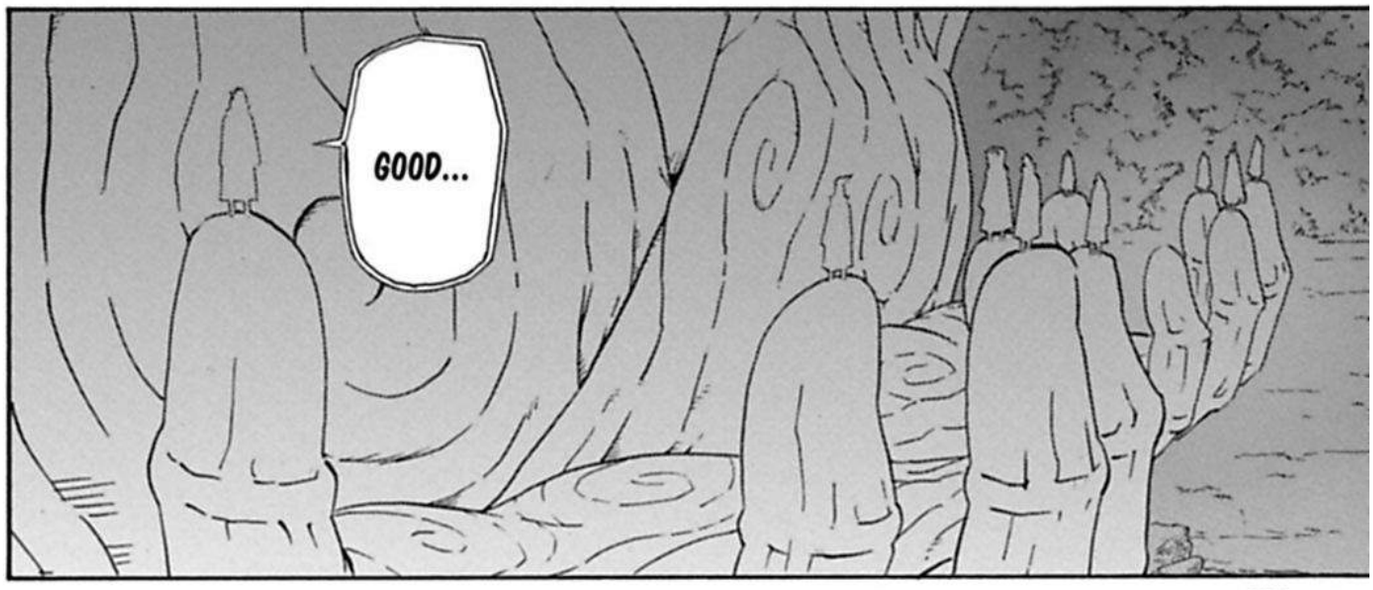
THAT NARUTO...
HUMPH ...

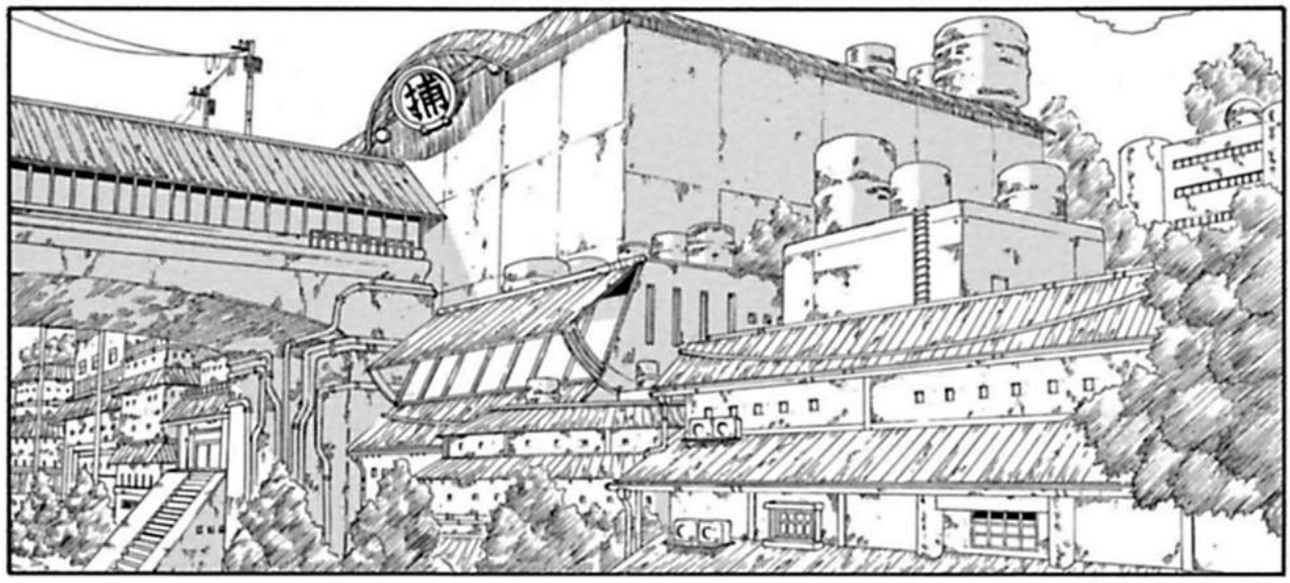
WE OWE YOU, MASTER KAKASHI! BIG TIME!

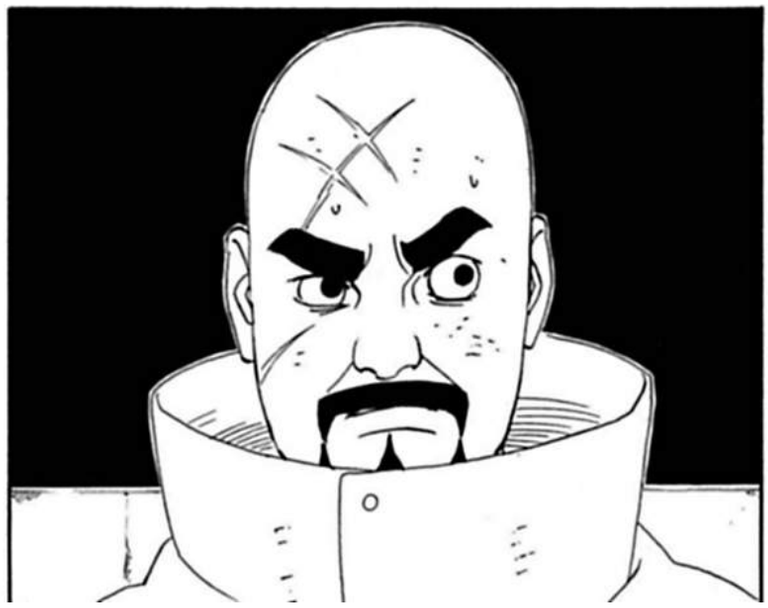

SLURP...


FWHOO

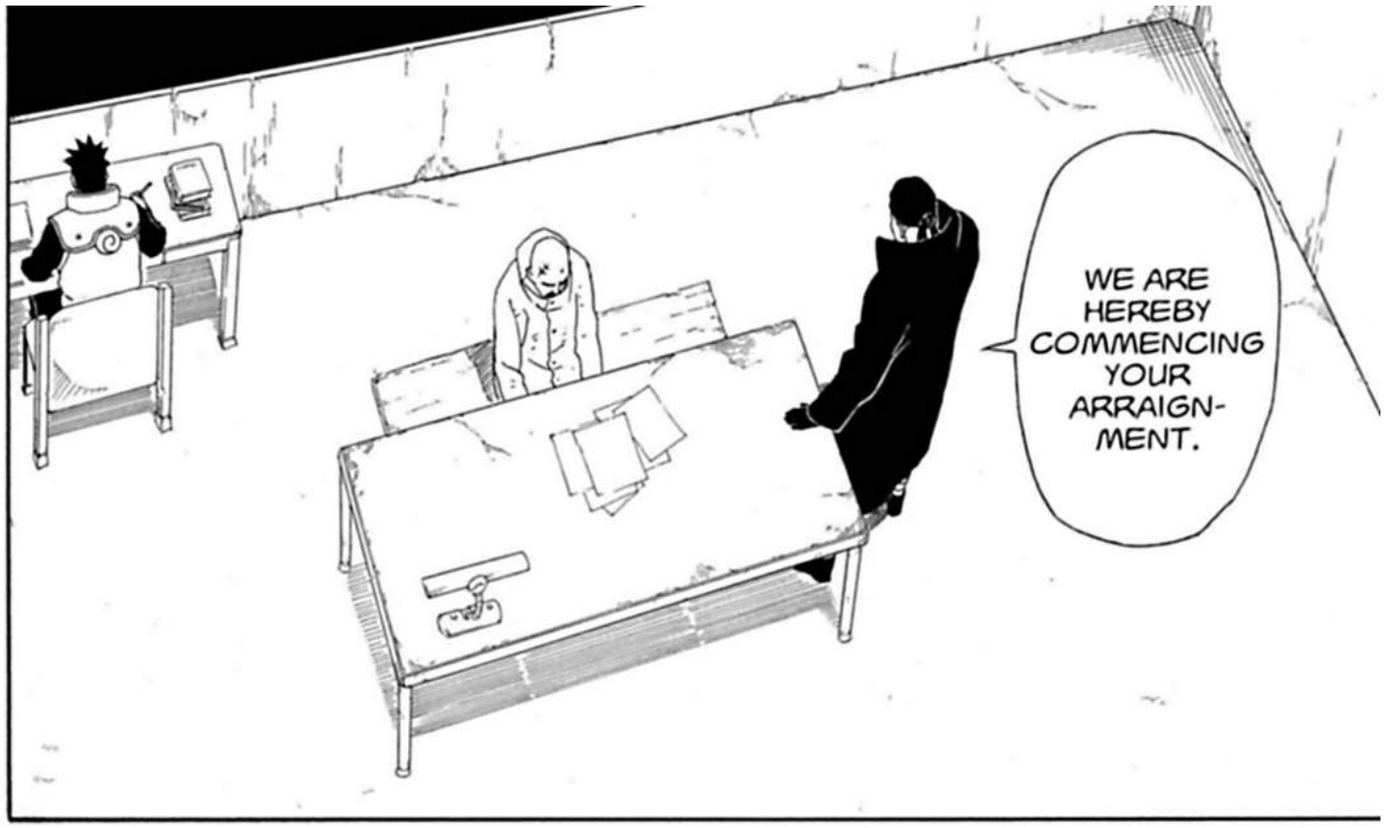



GOOD...





(INTERROGATION ROOM)

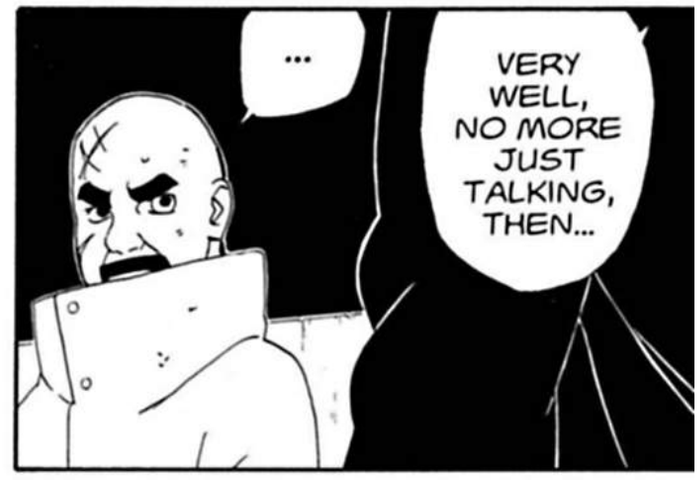

WE ARE HEREBY COMMENCING YOUR ARRAIGN-MENT.

HUMPH ...
...I'M NO RAT.

...

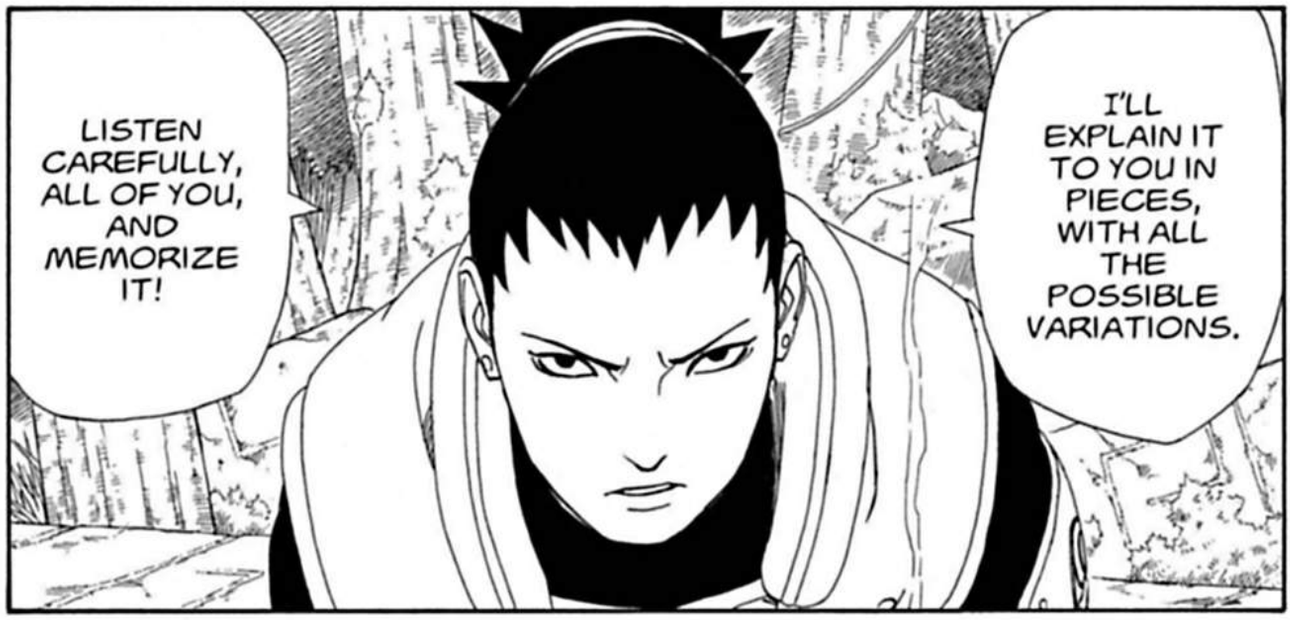
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS MAN...
...THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SEEN IN CONTACT WITH?
FWSH

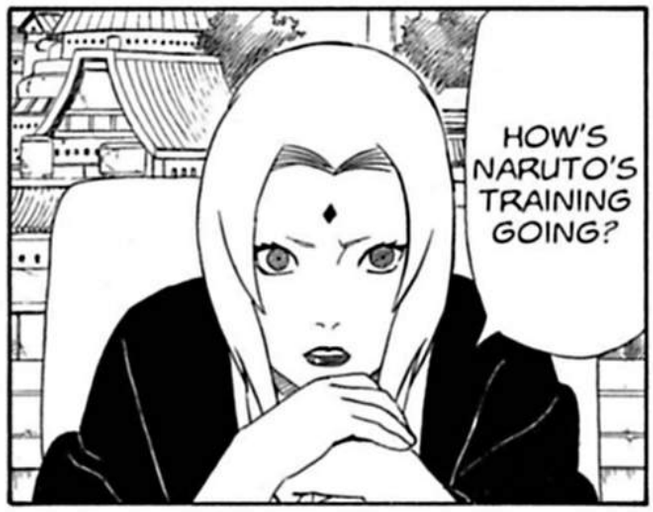
...BUT I WILL GET YOU TO CONFESS SOON ENOUGH. MY WAY...

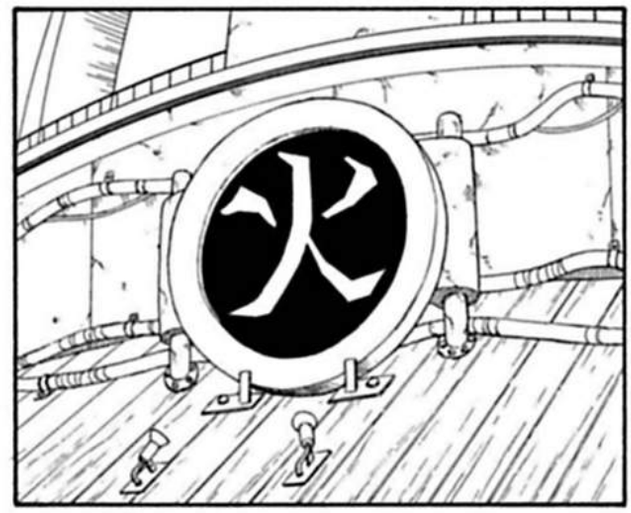

...
VERY WELL, NO MORE JUST TALKING, THEN...

I'D LIKE TO TWEAK IT NOW THAT YOU'RE WITH US, MASTER KAKASHI.
NO PROBLEM. GO ON.

OK, SHIKAMARU... LET'S HEAR THAT PLAN OF YOURS.


LISTEN CAREFULLY, ALL OF YOU, AND MEMORIZE IT!
I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU IN PIECES, WITH ALL THE POSSIBLE VARIATIONS.


HOW'S NARUTO'S TRAINING GOING?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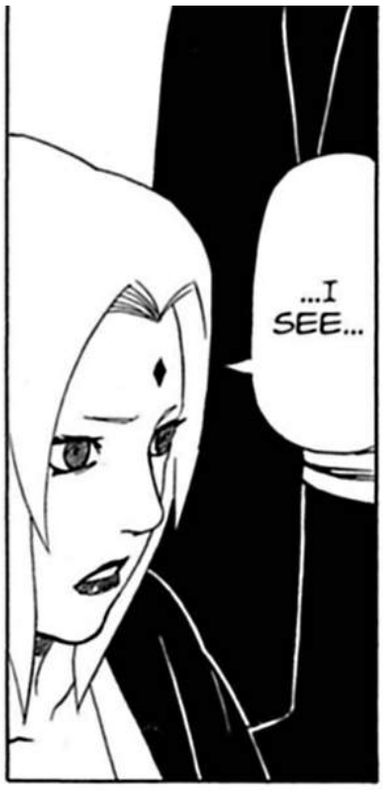
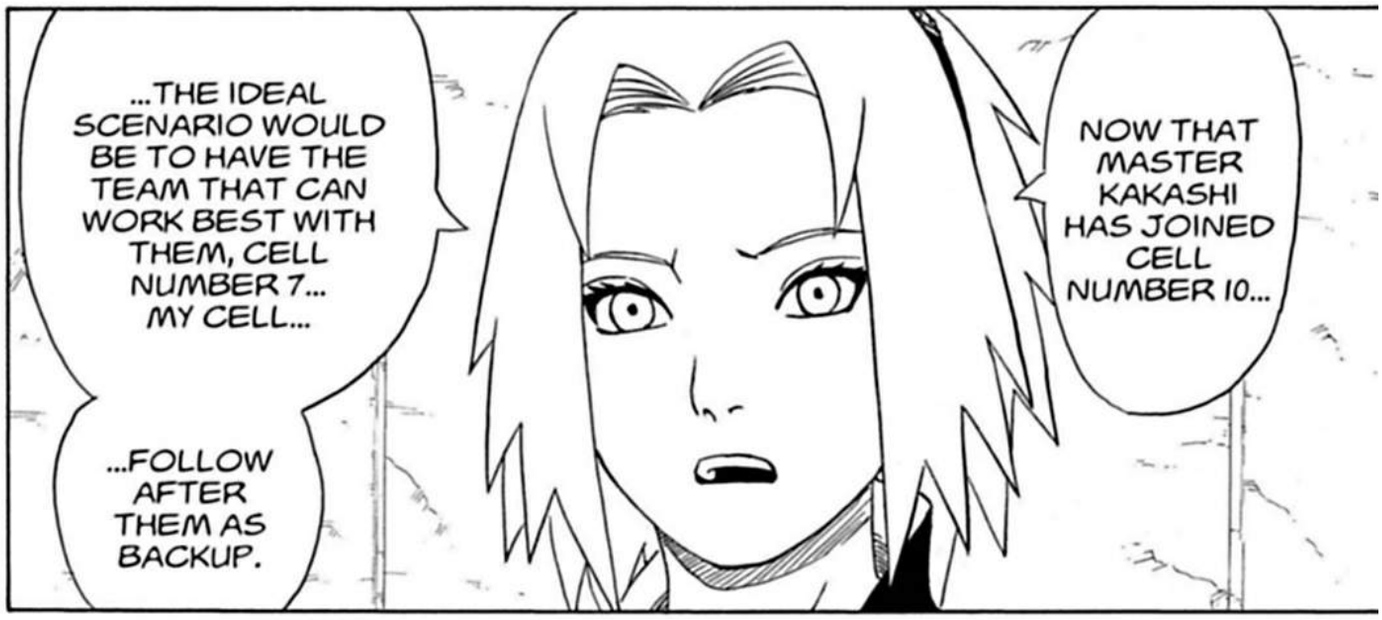
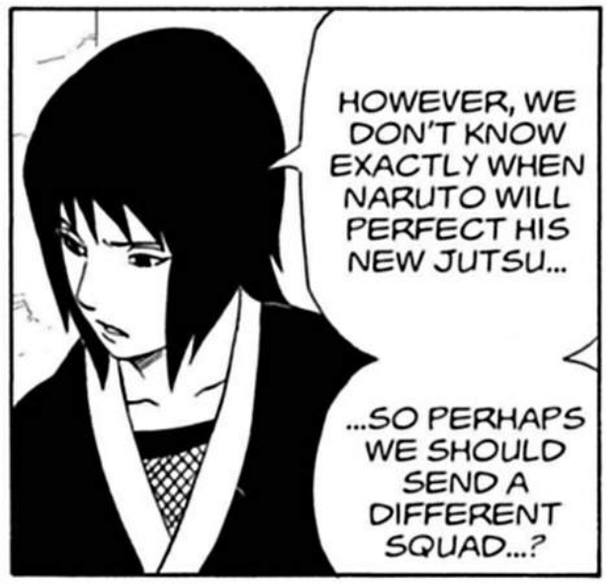

...I SEE...

...AND WILL ONLY REQUIRE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO PERFECT IT...
ACCORDING TO MASTER KAKASHI, HE SEEMS TO HAVE FINALLY GRASPED THE PRINCIPLES...


...THE IDEAL SCENARIO WOULD BE TO HAVE THE TEAM THAT CAN WORK BEST WITH THEM, CELL NUMBER 7... MY CELL...
...FOLLOW AFTER THEM AS BACKUP.
NOW THAT MASTER KAKASHI HAS JOINED CELL NUMBER 10...

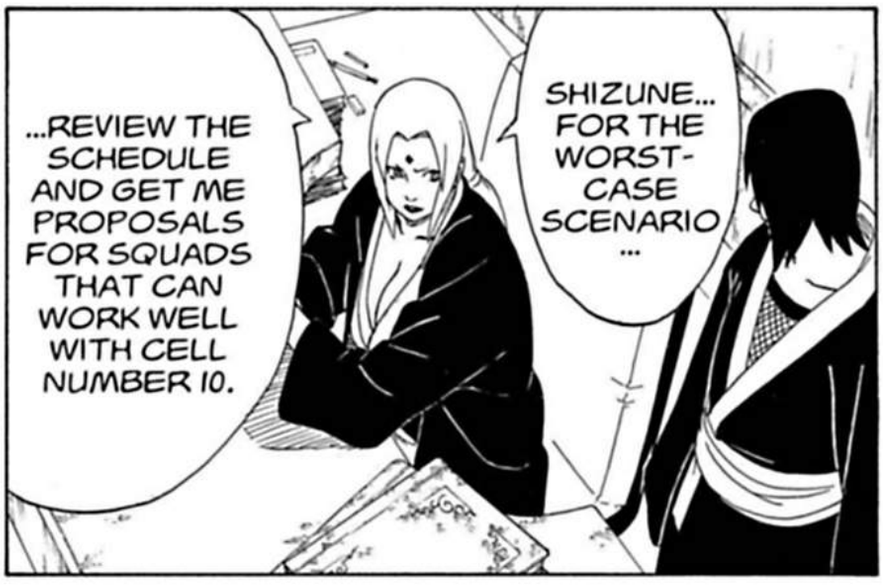
...


HOWEVER, WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN NARUTO WILL PERFECT HIS NEW JUTSU...
...SO PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEND A DIFFERENT SQUAD...?

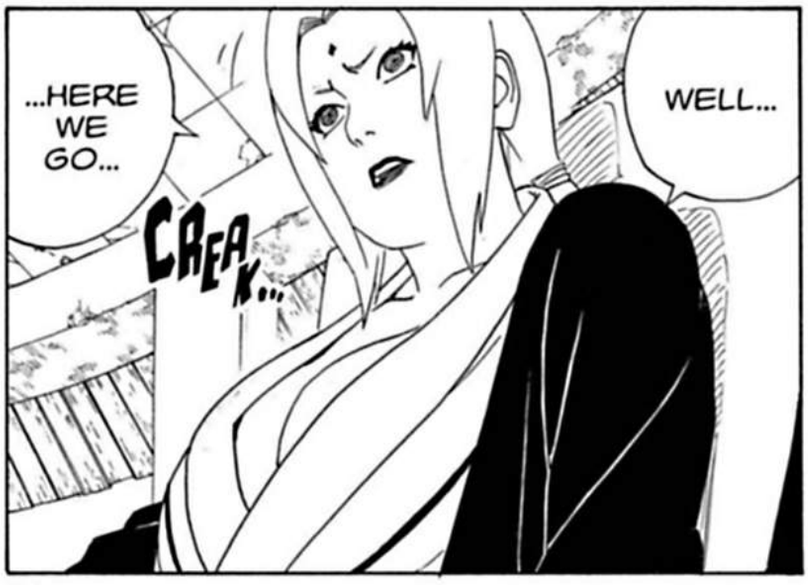
...AS ALWAYS.
...SHARP, SAKURA...

TELL HIM TO HAVE NARUTO WRAP IT UP IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS!
IF HE CAN'T, WE'LL HAVE TO SEND A DIFFERENT SQUAD AS BACKUP!

SAKURA, PASS THIS ON TO YAMATO.
!

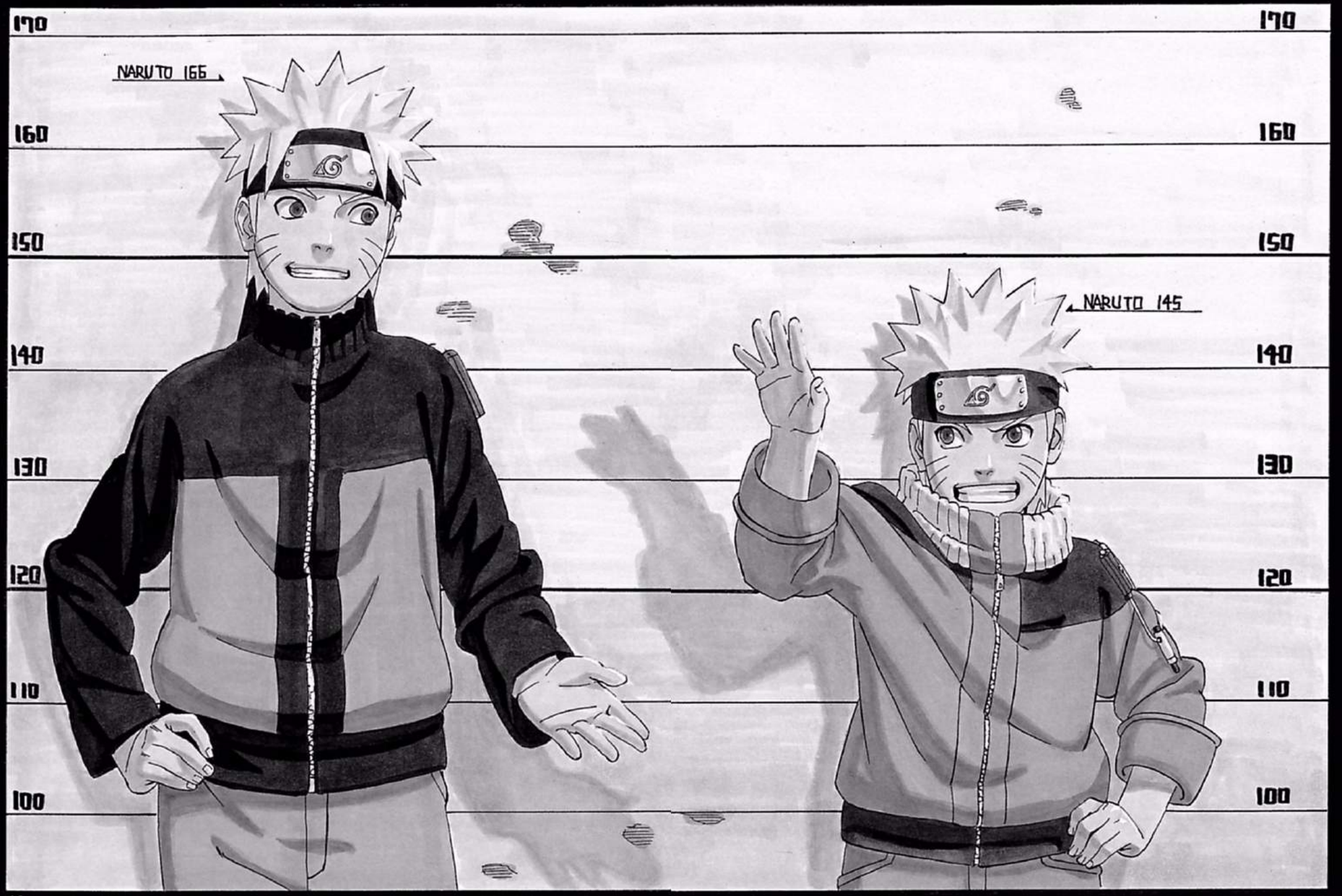

...REVIEW THE SCHEDULE AND GET ME PROPOSALS FOR SQUADS THAT CAN WORK WELL WITH CELL NUMBER 10.
SHIZUNE... FOR THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO ...

YES, MA'AM!

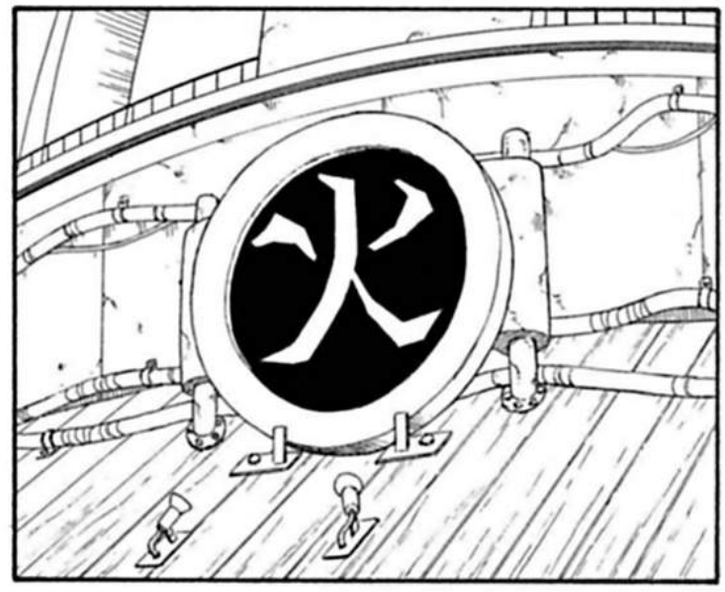

...HERE WE GO...
CREAK...
WELL...

UNDER-STOOD.

Number 332: Shikamaru's Battle!!



NARUTO



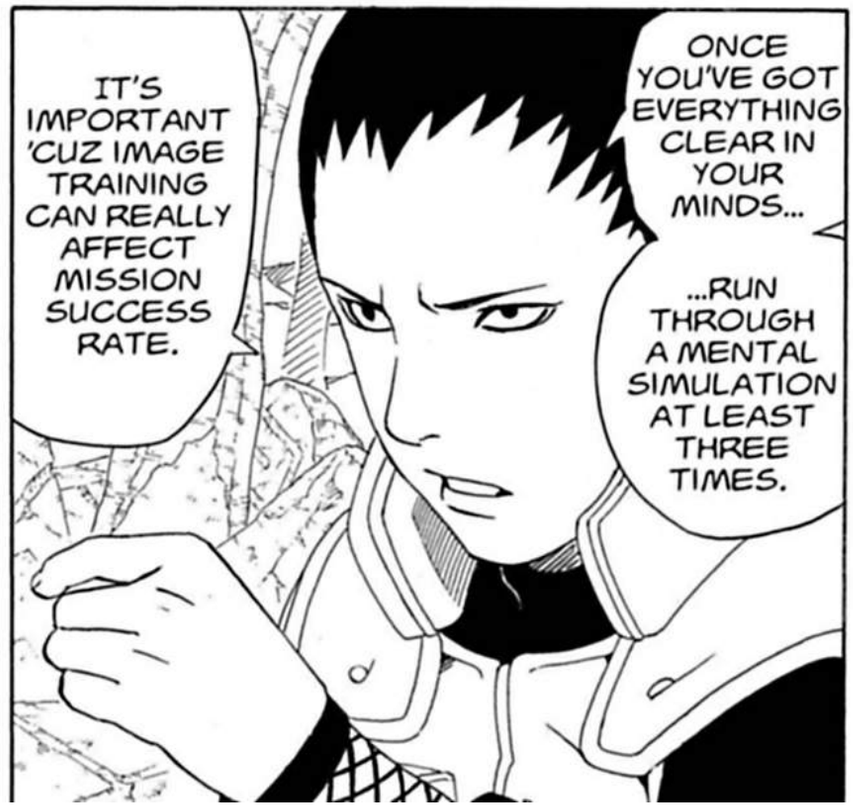
SO... PLEASE USE THIS WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE.
HOLD ONTO IT UNTIL THEN.

HE REALLY IS IMPRESSIVE, RAPIDLY MODIFYING HIS STRATEGY TO ACCOMMODATE MY SUDDEN ADDITION TO THEIR GROUP.
...

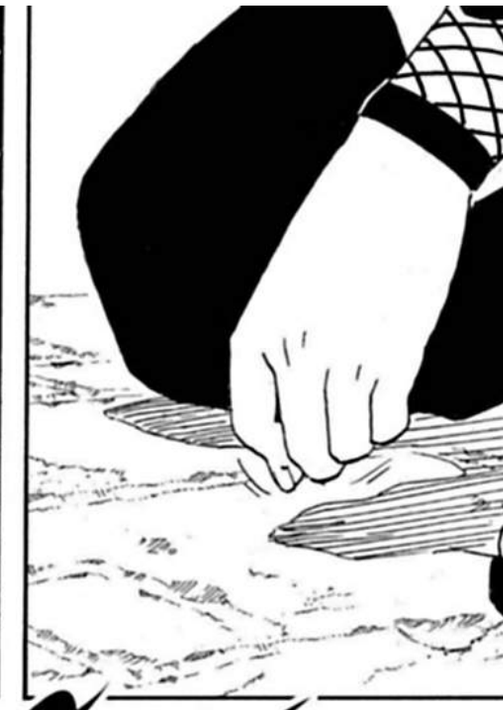
UNDERSTOOD.

YUP!

OK!


IT'S IMPORTANT 'CUZ IMAGE TRAINING CAN REALLY AFFECT MISSION SUCCESS RATE.
ONCE YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING CLEAR IN YOUR MINDS...
...RUN THROUGH A MENTAL SIMULATION AT LEAST THREE TIMES.

FAP



LET'S DO IT.

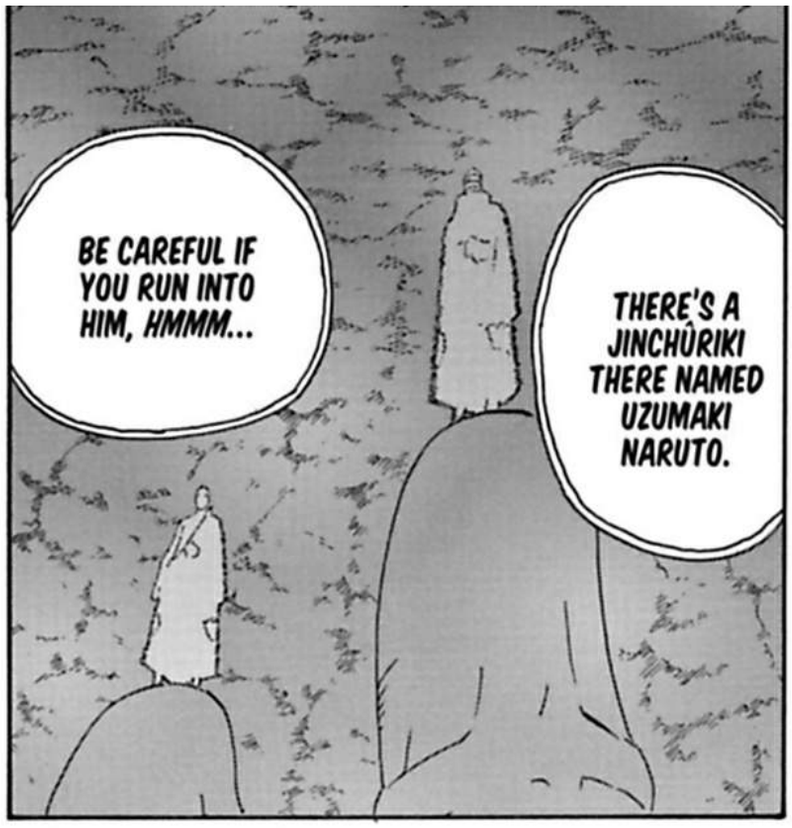
ONLY THREE MORE TO GO...
NOW TWO TAILS HAS BEEN SEALED AWAY TOO...

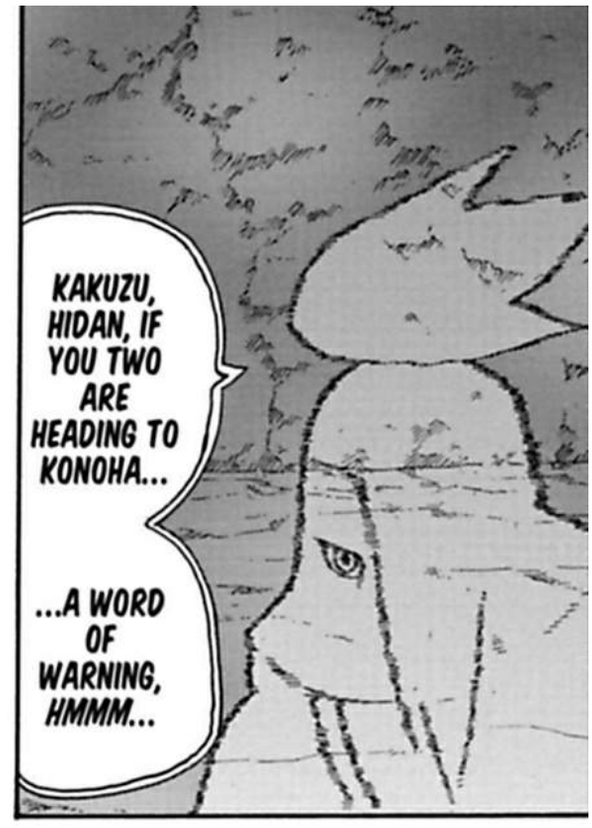
THUS

LET'S GO TO KONOHA, HIDAN.
FINALLY!

GO.

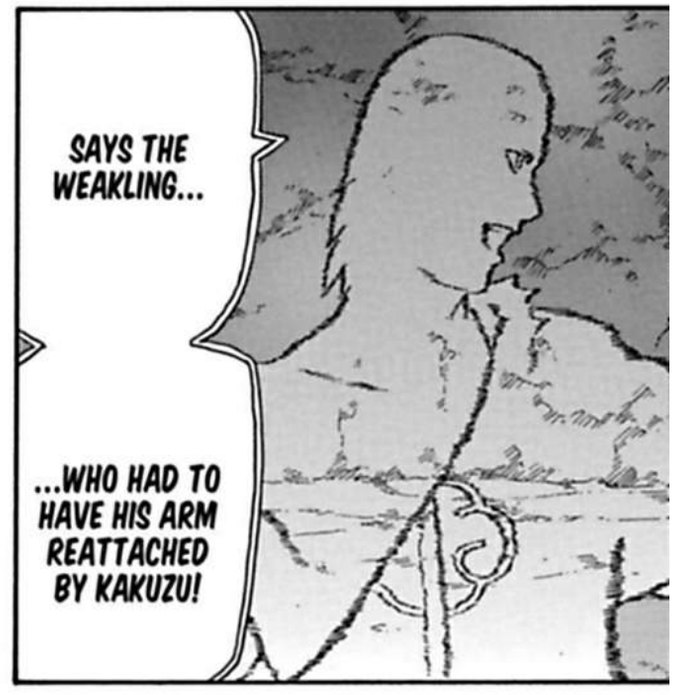
FWHOO...

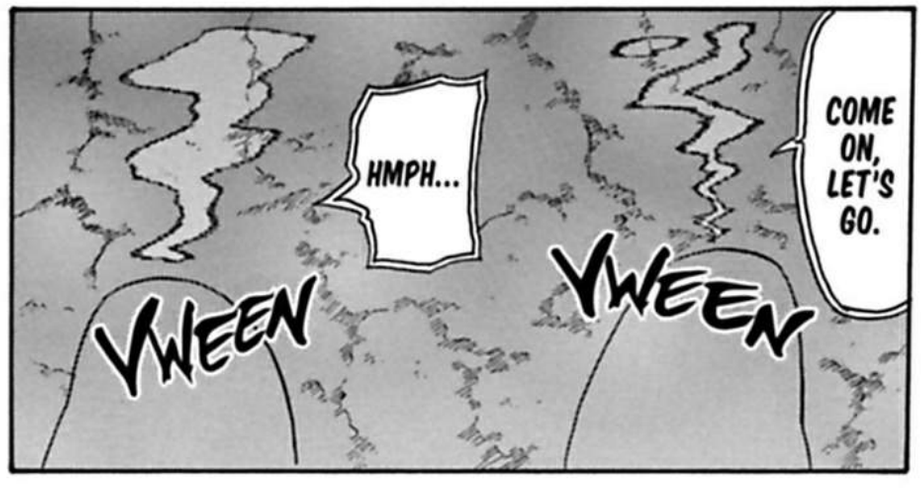

BE CAREFUL IF YOU RUN INTO HIM, HMMM...
THERE'S A JINCHÛRIKI THERE NAMED UZUMAKI NARUTO.

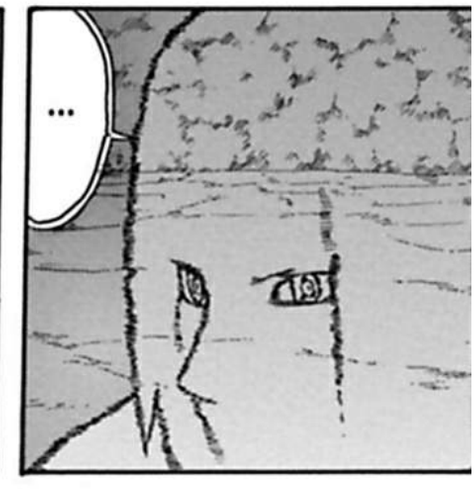

KAKUZU, HIDAN, IF YOU TWO ARE HEADING TO KONOHA...
...A WORD OF WARNING, HMMM...

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?!
HEY! KAKUZU!

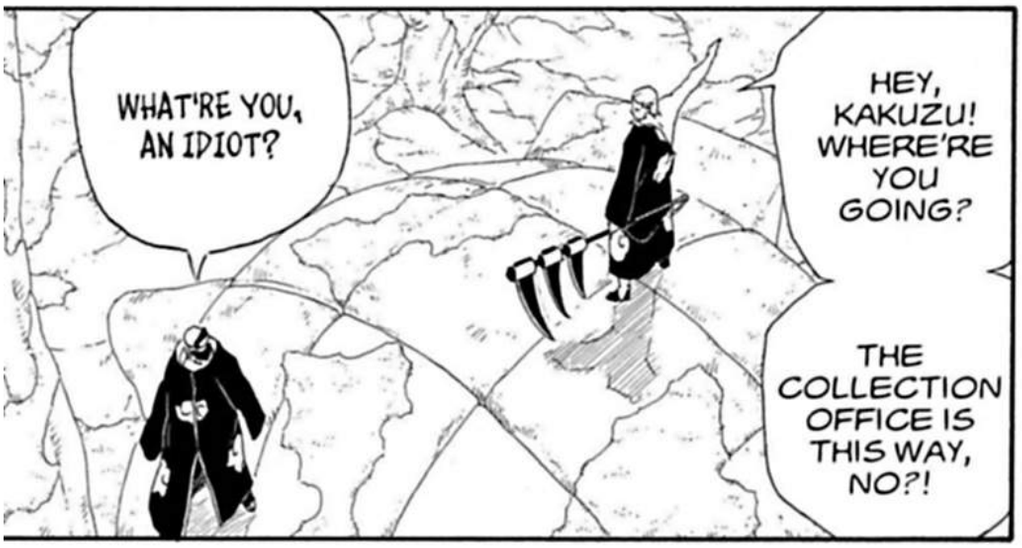
BETTER ARM THAN NECK...


SAYS THE WEAKLING...
...WHO HAD TO HAVE HIS ARM REATTACHED BY KAKUZU!


HMPH...
COME ON, LET'S GO.
YWEEN
YWEEN


...

CRACK
CRACK
SIX DAYS WITHOUT MOVING... I AM READY TO RAMPAGE!
SHFF


WHAT'RE YOU, AN IDIOT?
HEY, KAKUZU! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
THE COLLECTION OFFICE IS THIS WAY, NO?!

!

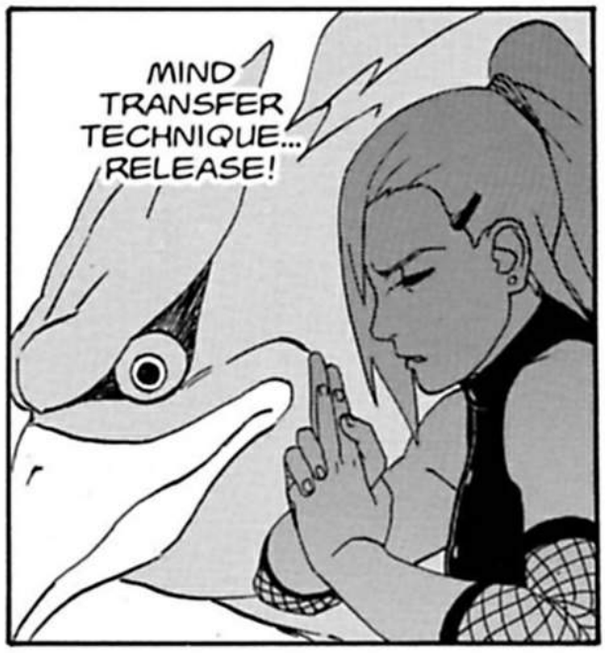
...

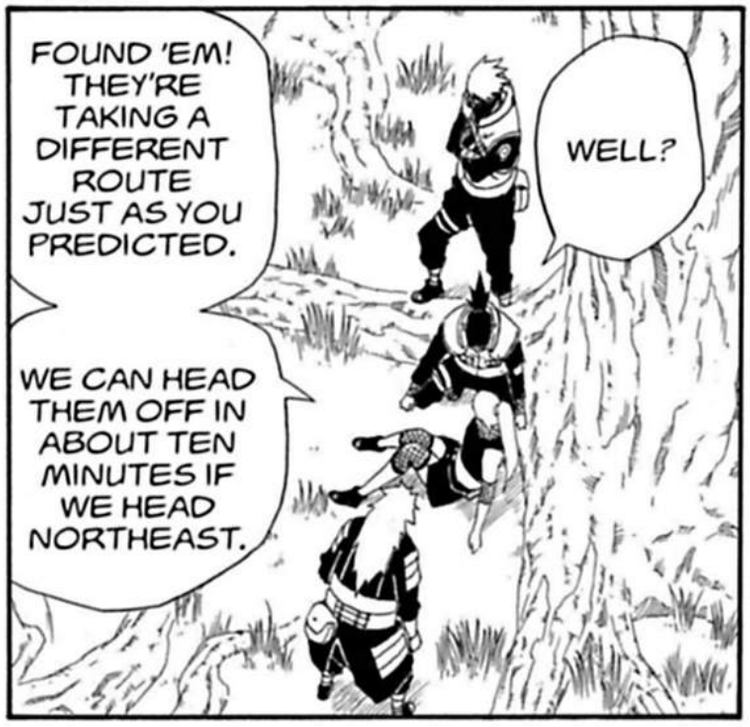
AFTER ALL, IT'S THE JINCHÛRIKI WE'RE AFTER...

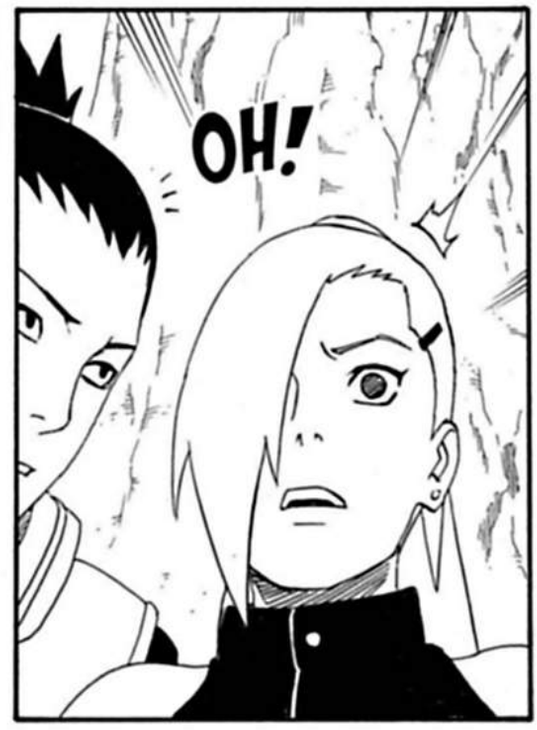
WE'LL BE AMBUSHED...
WE'LL TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE INTO KONOHA.
HUH?!

YEAH... GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE YOU ARE...


MIND TRANSFER TECHNIQUE... RELEASE!


FOUND 'EM! THEY'RE TAKING A DIFFERENT ROUTE JUST AS YOU PREDICTED.
WELL?
WE CAN HEAD THEM OFF IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES IF WE HEAD NORTHEAST.


OH!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

...

SWSS...
KRUNCH

SSS...

I KNOW ...

HIDAN ...

SWSS...

SWSS...
KRUNCH

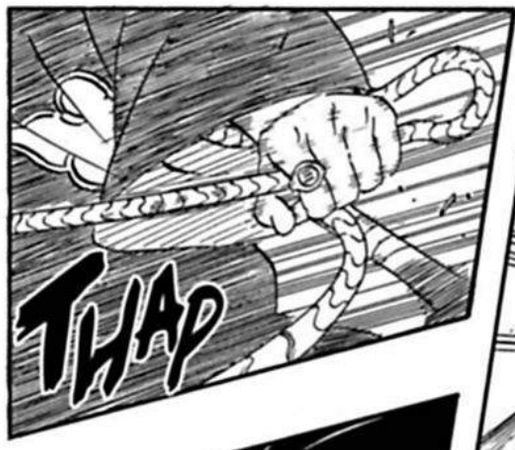
SSS...

I KNOW ...

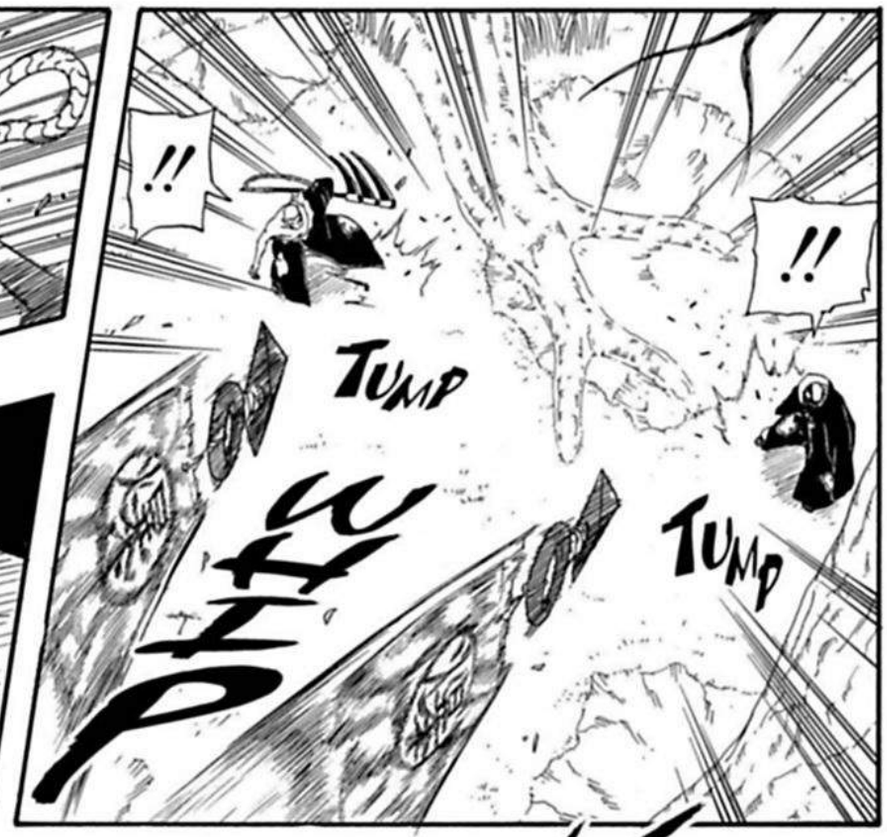
HIDAN ...

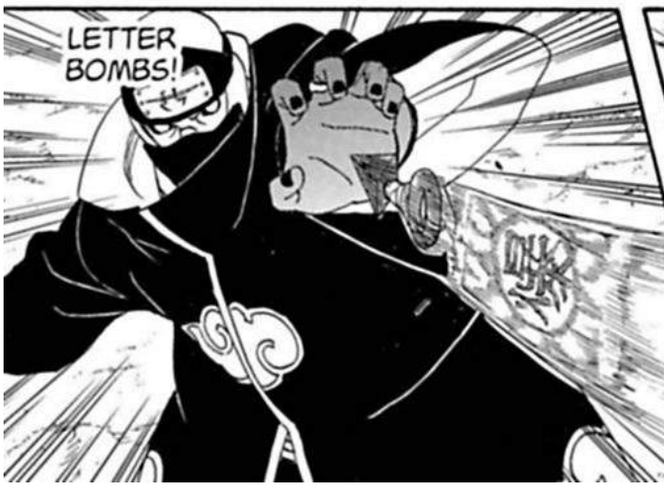
SWSS...

FOOSH
WHOOSH
FOOSH

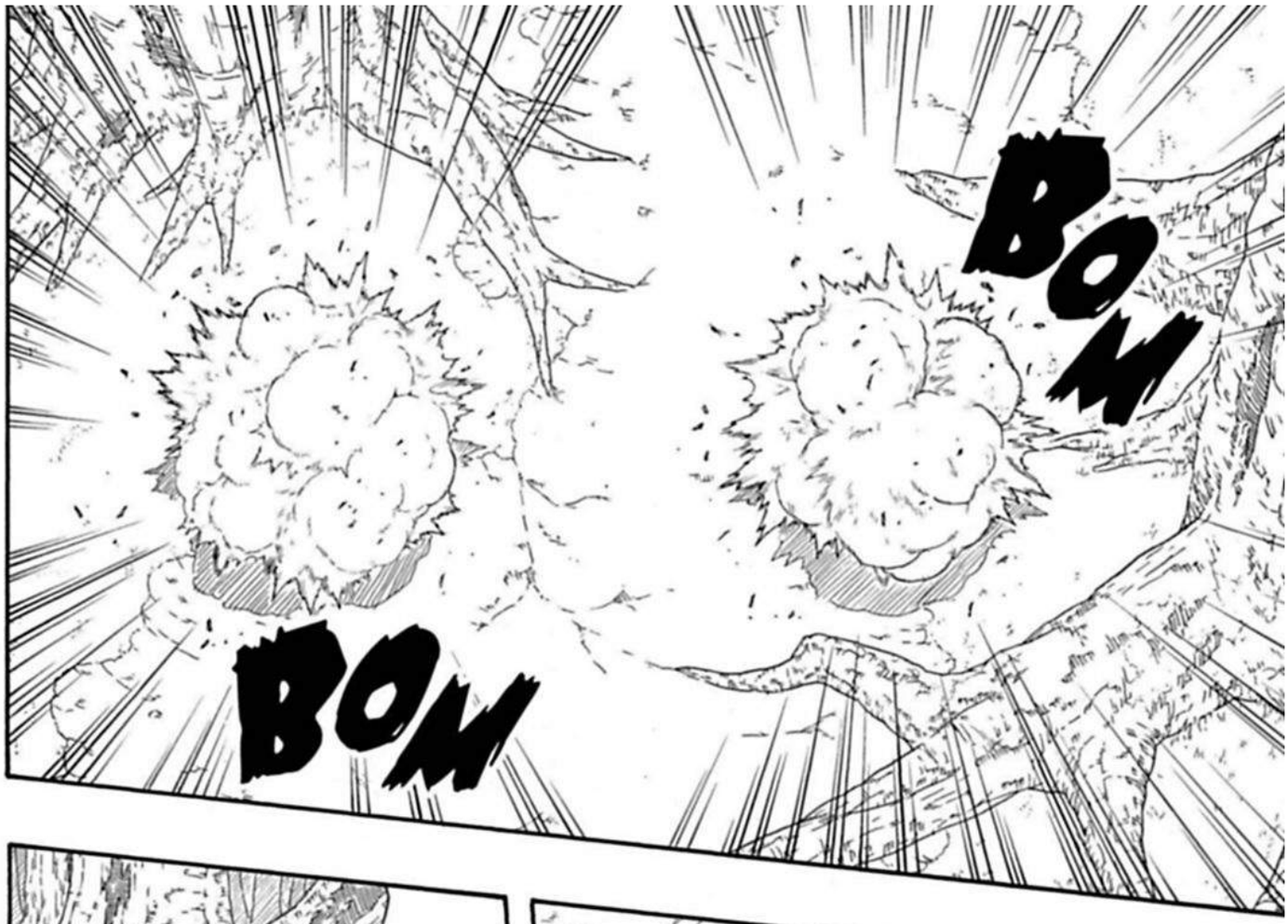

THAP

VOOSH...

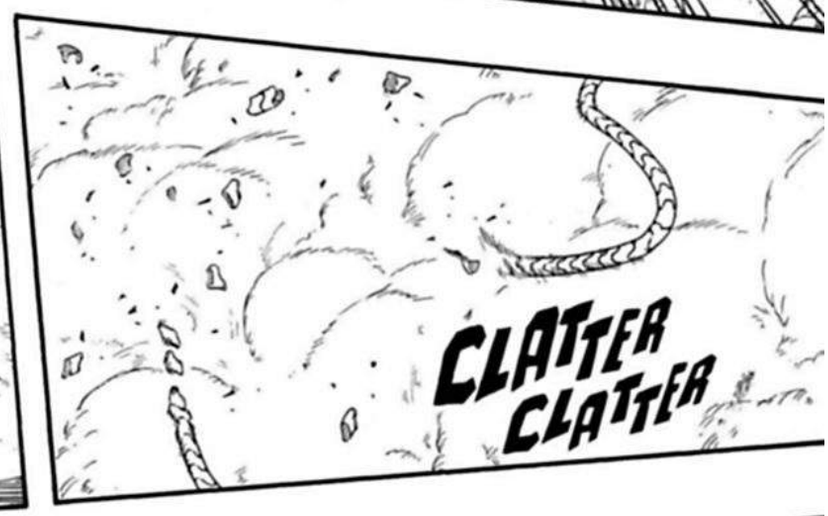

!!
!!
TUMP
WHIP
TUMP


LETTER BOMBS!

ARGH!
KACHING
!

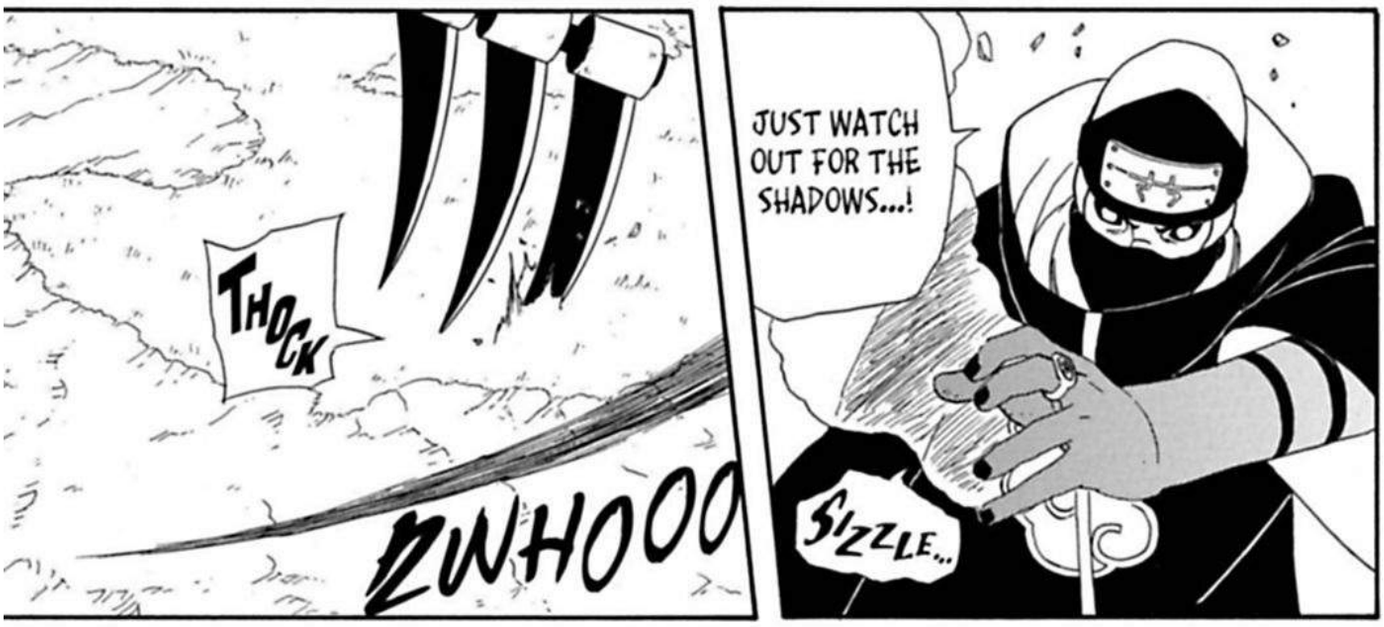

BOM
BOM

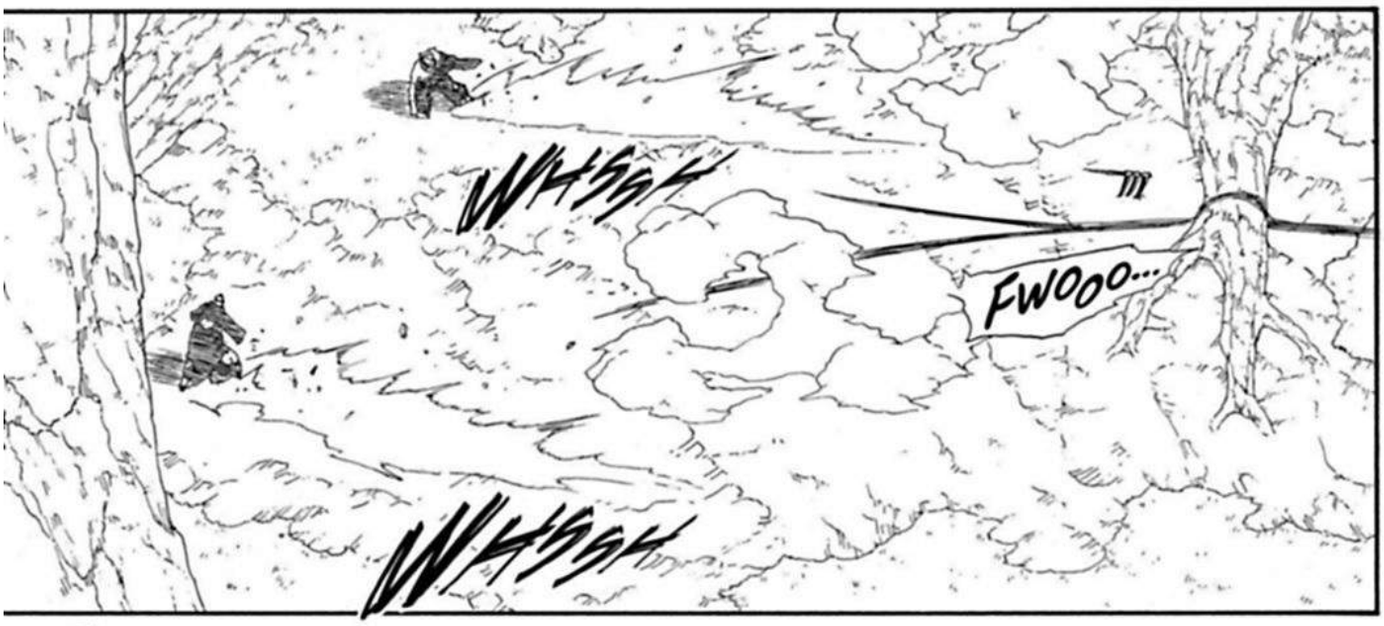
UNNH...!
BOOF
SHFFF


CLATTER
CLATTER

I HARDENED MY ARM, SO I'M FINE!
SHFFF

KAKUZU !


THOCK
RWHOOO
JUST WATCH OUT FOR THE SHADOWS...!
SIZZLE...


WHISSH
FWOOO...
WHISSH

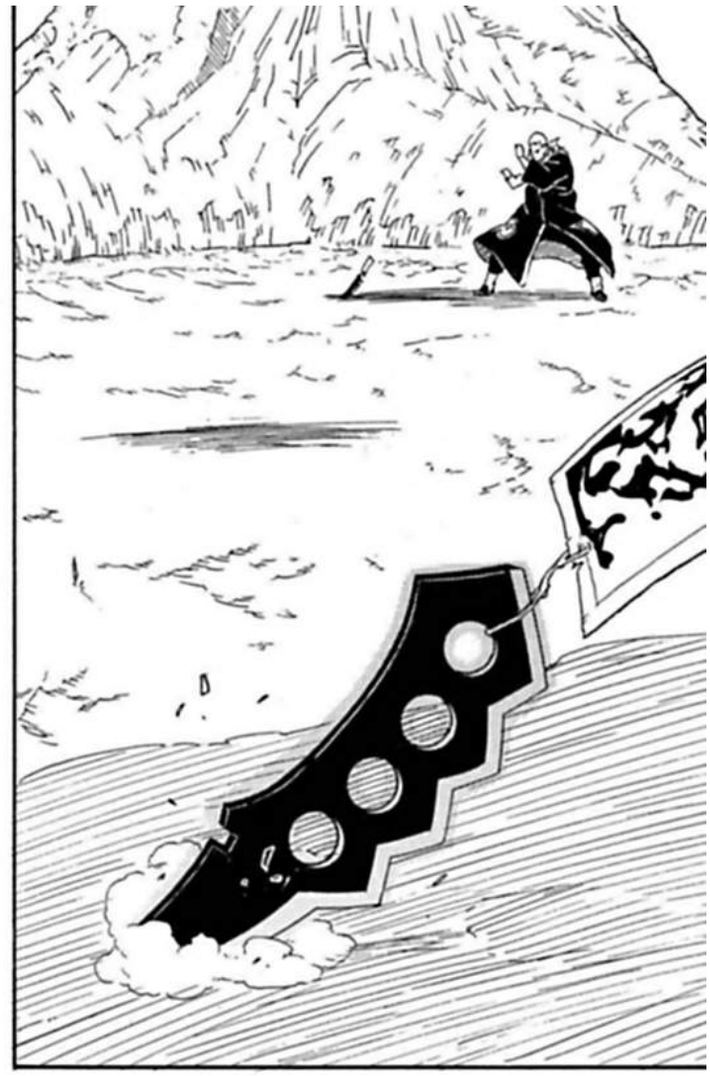
SHF
!

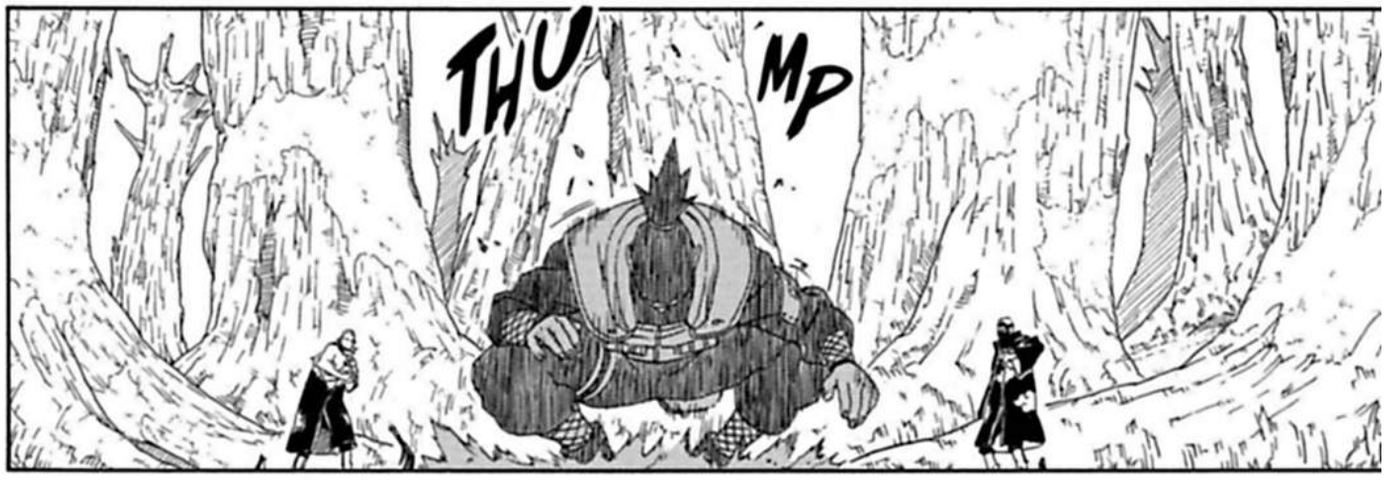
HIDAN, ABOVE YOU!

HAH!
WE WON'T KEEP FALLING FOR THE SAME TRICK!

READ THIS WAY
MORE LETTER BOMBS!
HIDAN, LOOK OUT!
UNH!

?!



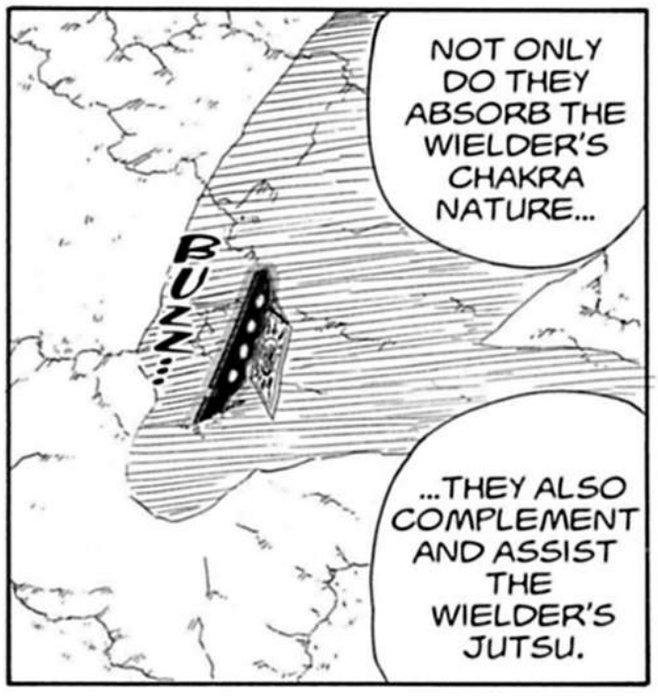

THUMP

WE'VE BEEN HAD...

?!

IT DIDN'T DETO-NATE?!

SHF...
ART OF THE SHADOW POSSESSION SHURIKEN, ACHIEVED.

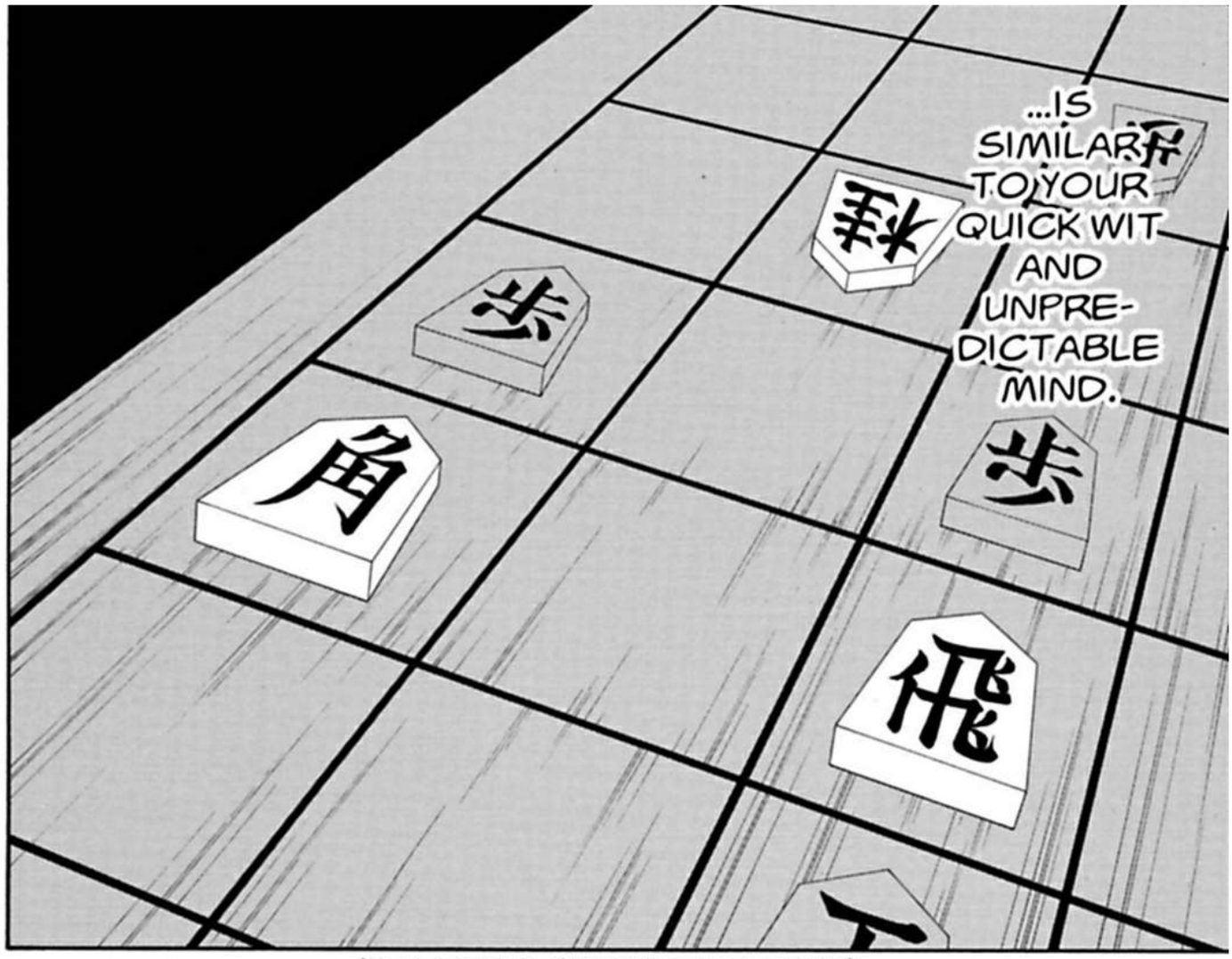

NOT ONLY DO THEY ABSORB THE WIELDER'S CHAKRA NATURE...
BUNN...
...THEY ALSO COMPLEMENT AND ASSIST THE WIELDER'S JUTSU.

FOOL.
RNH! ...CAN'T MOVE...?!

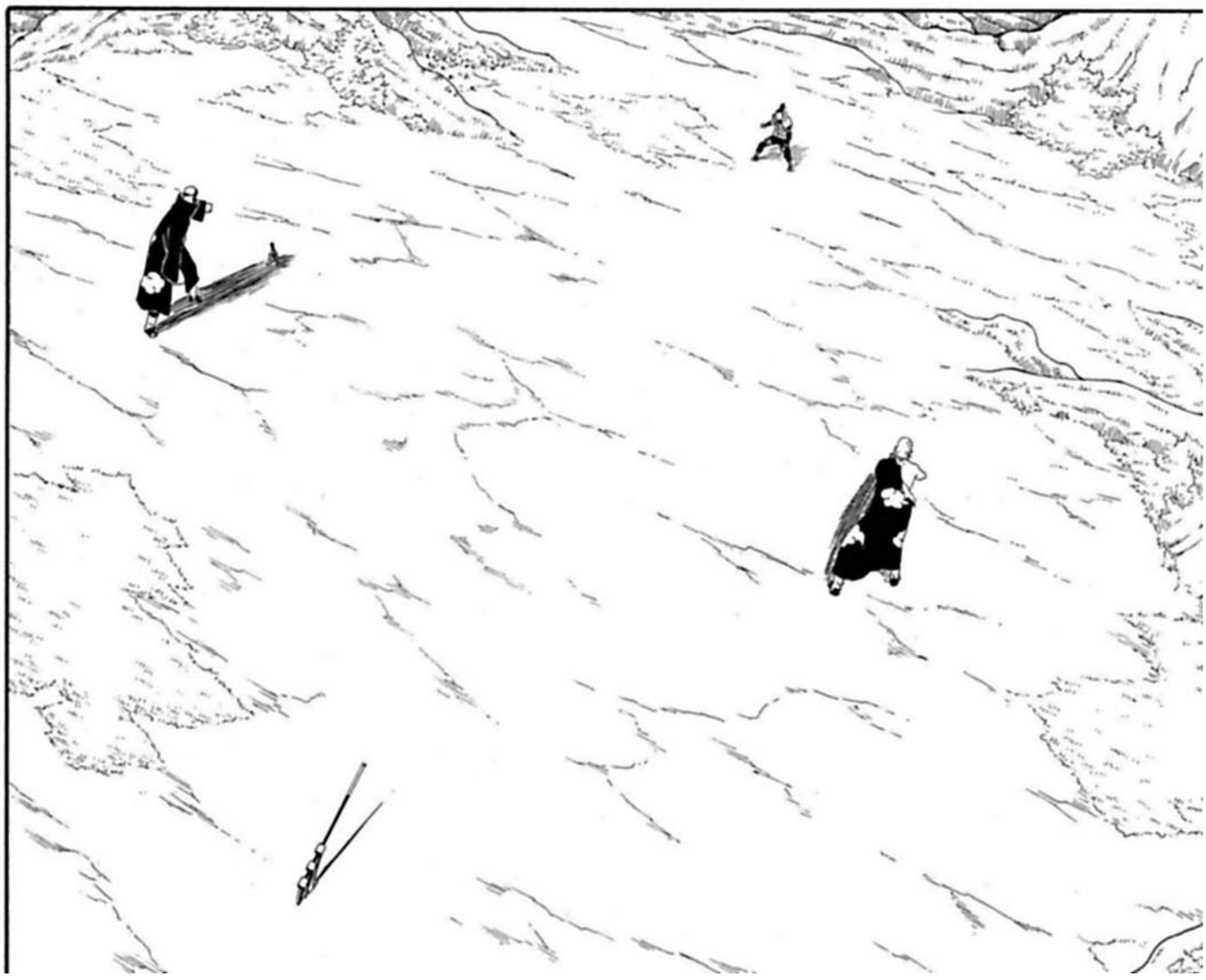
WHAT I THREW AT YOU WERE CHAKRA BLADES.

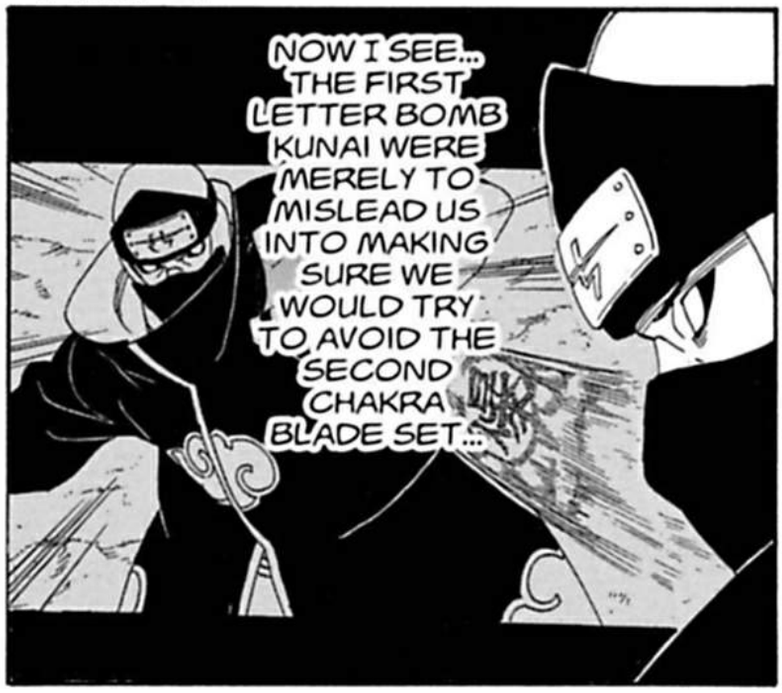
KNIGHTS MAY BE WEAK, BUT CAN ADVANCE BY LEAPING OVER OTHER PIECES. SUCH UNIQUE MOVEMENT...
RIGHT NOW YOU'D BE A KNIGHT.

IN SHORT, I WAS AIMING THEM AT YOUR SHADOWS THE WHOLE TIME!



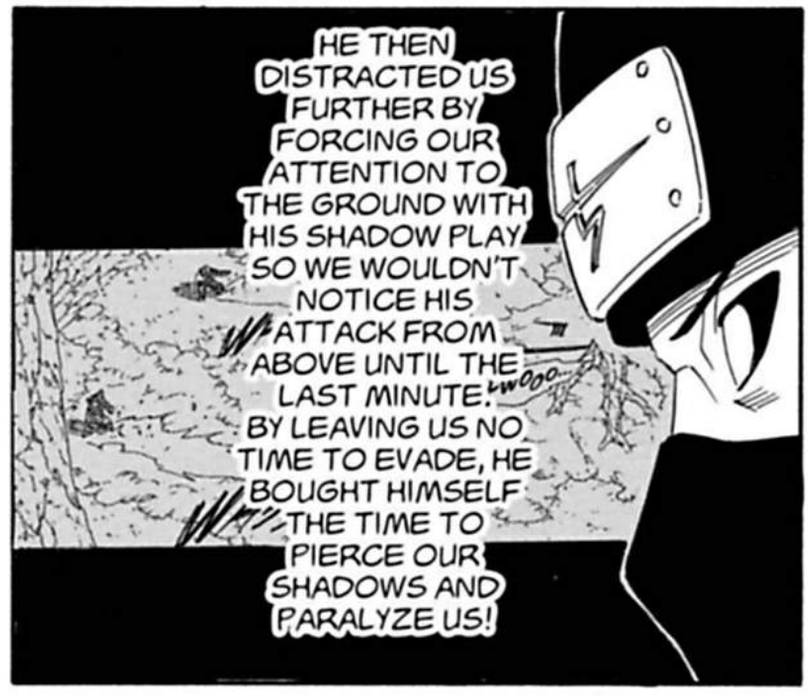
(桂: KNIGHT, 角: BISHOP, AND 飛: ROOK)




NOW I SEE... THE FIRST LETTER BOMB KUNAI WERE MERELY TO MISLEAD US INTO MAKING SURE WE WOULD TRY TO AVOID THE SECOND CHAKRA BLADE SET...

BUZZ...
THESE LETTER BOMBS ARE FAKES... JUST ORDINARY PIECES OF PAPER...

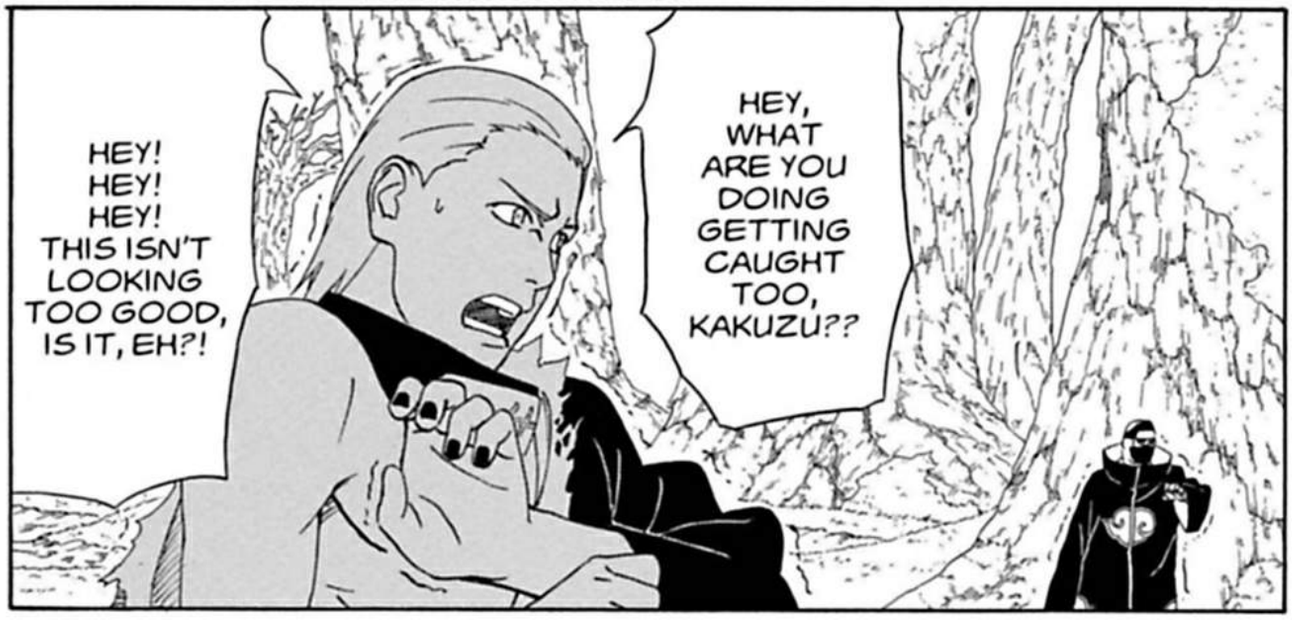
QUITE THE TACTICIAN, THIS ONE.

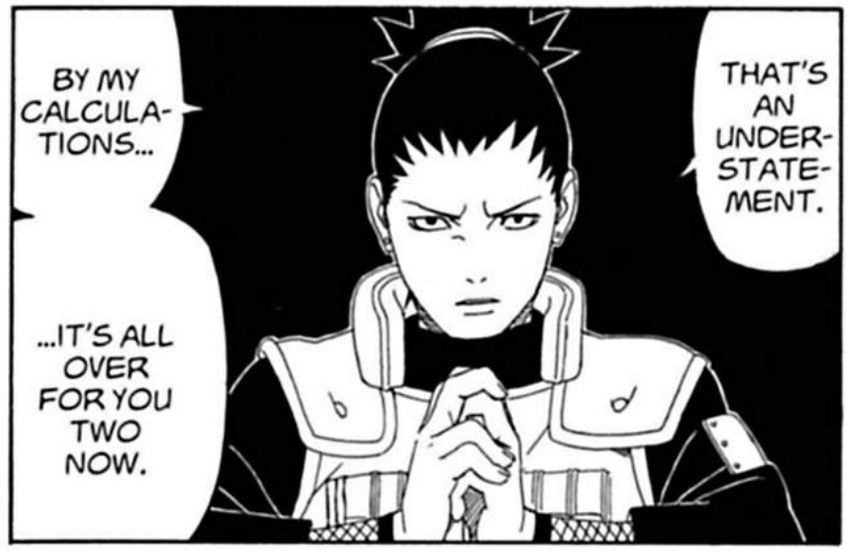

HE THEN DISTRACTED US FURTHER BY FORCING OUR ATTENTION TO THE GROUND WITH HIS SHADOW PLAY SO WE WOULDN'T NOTICE HIS ATTACK FROM ABOVE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. BY LEAVING US NO TIME TO EVADE, HE BOUGHT HIMSELF THE TIME TO PIERCE OUR SHADOWS AND PARALYZE US!

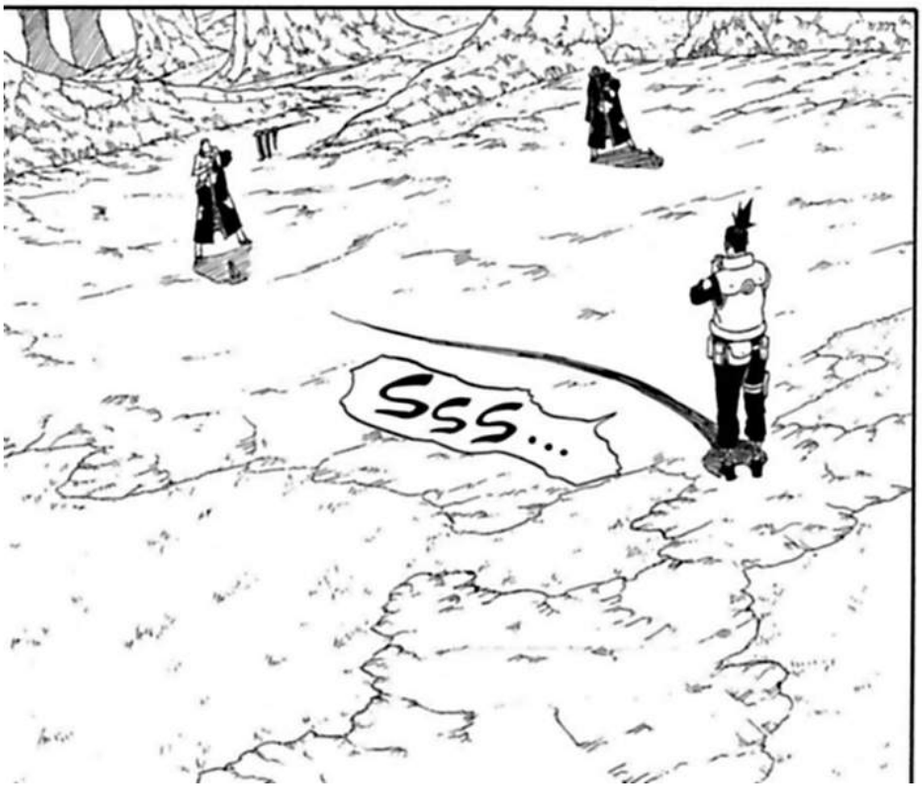
...

NARUTO

Number 333: Affinities...!!







SRLICH
SSS

GOOD WORK...

THWAP

...

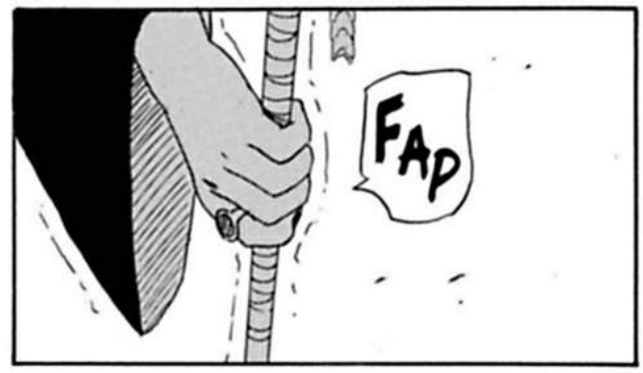
FOOL...

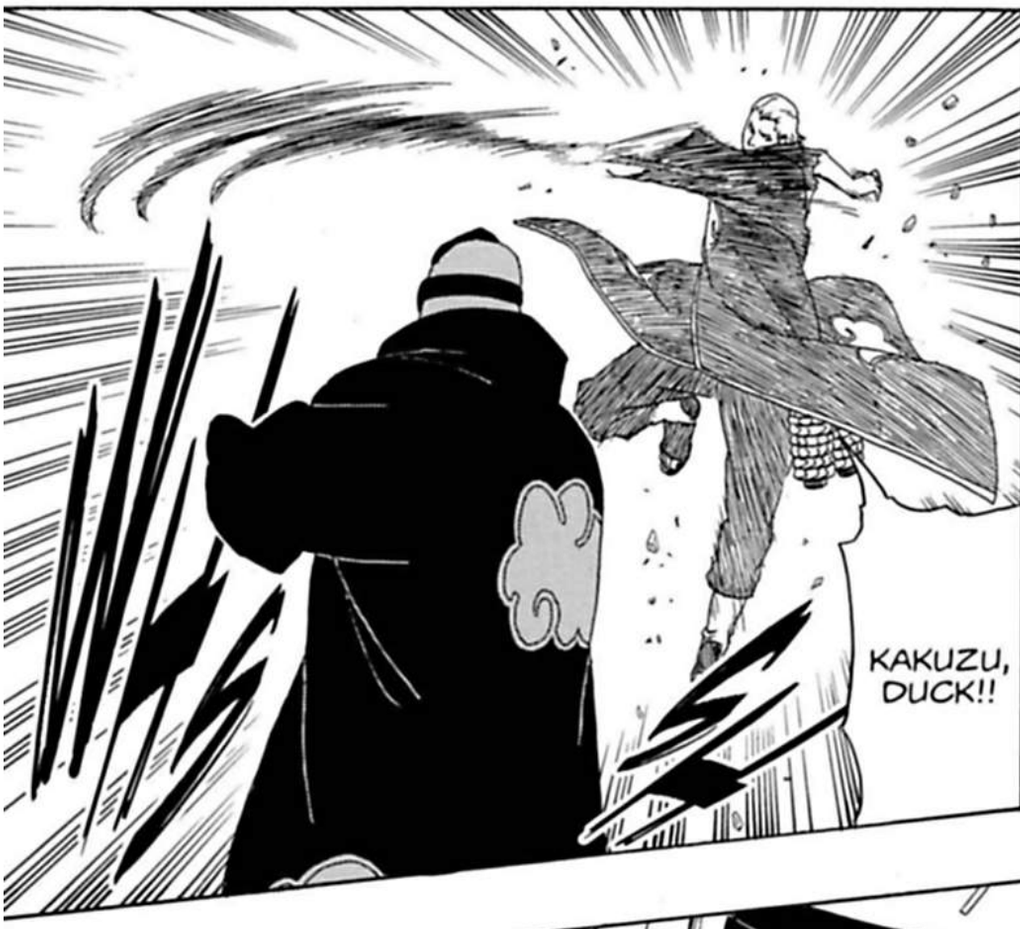
THIS TIME, WE WON'T MESS UP OUR ORDER OF ATTACK.
SS...

KLOP

I NEVER FORGET A FACE, KID.
SOMEDAY I'M GONNA FIND YOU, AND I'M GONNA KILL YOU.
SOUIGH

SHF
HUP

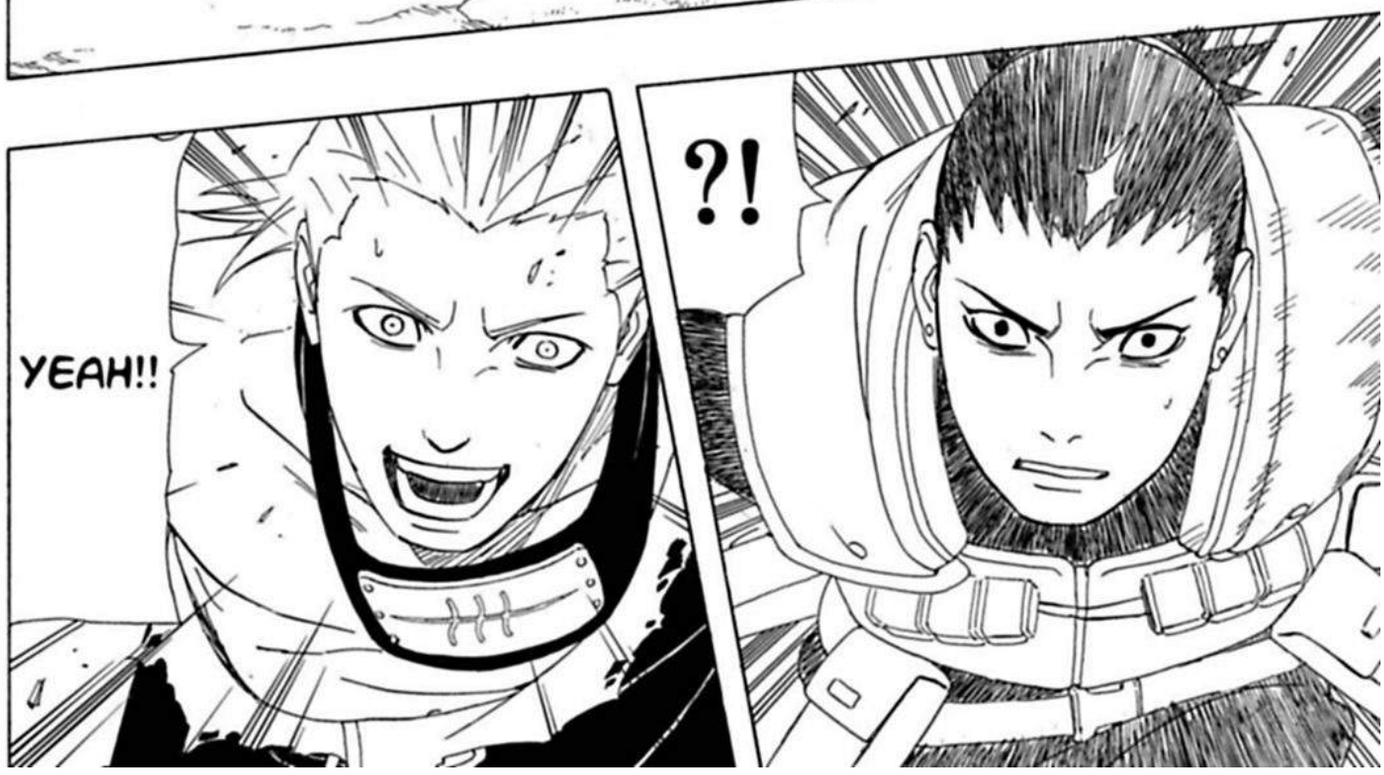

FAP

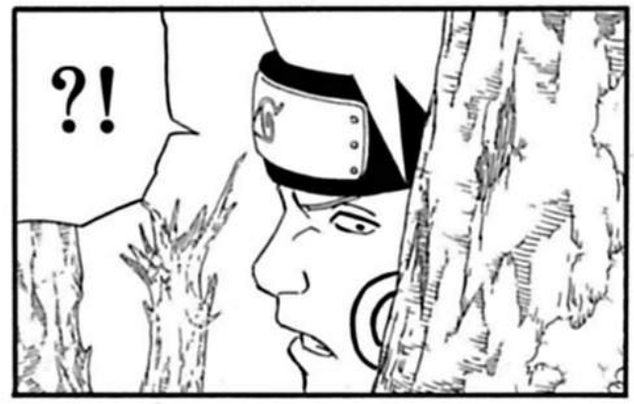

KAKUZU, DUCK!!

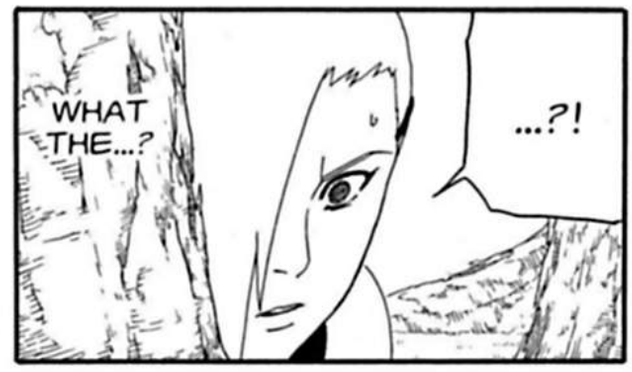
...YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
YEAH, WELL...

...!

Number 333: Affinities...!!




?!


WHAT THE...?
...?!

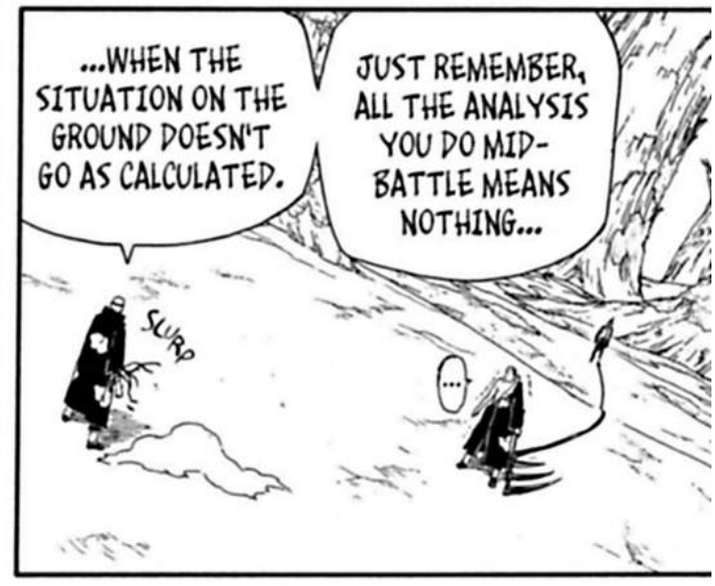
BA-BUM BA-BUM
WAP
SQUELCH...

WHEN I ATTACKED THEM WITH THE LETTER BOMBS... HE MUST'VE HIDDEN HIS RIGHT ARM IN THE GROUND UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE...

ZWHOOO
WHSSH

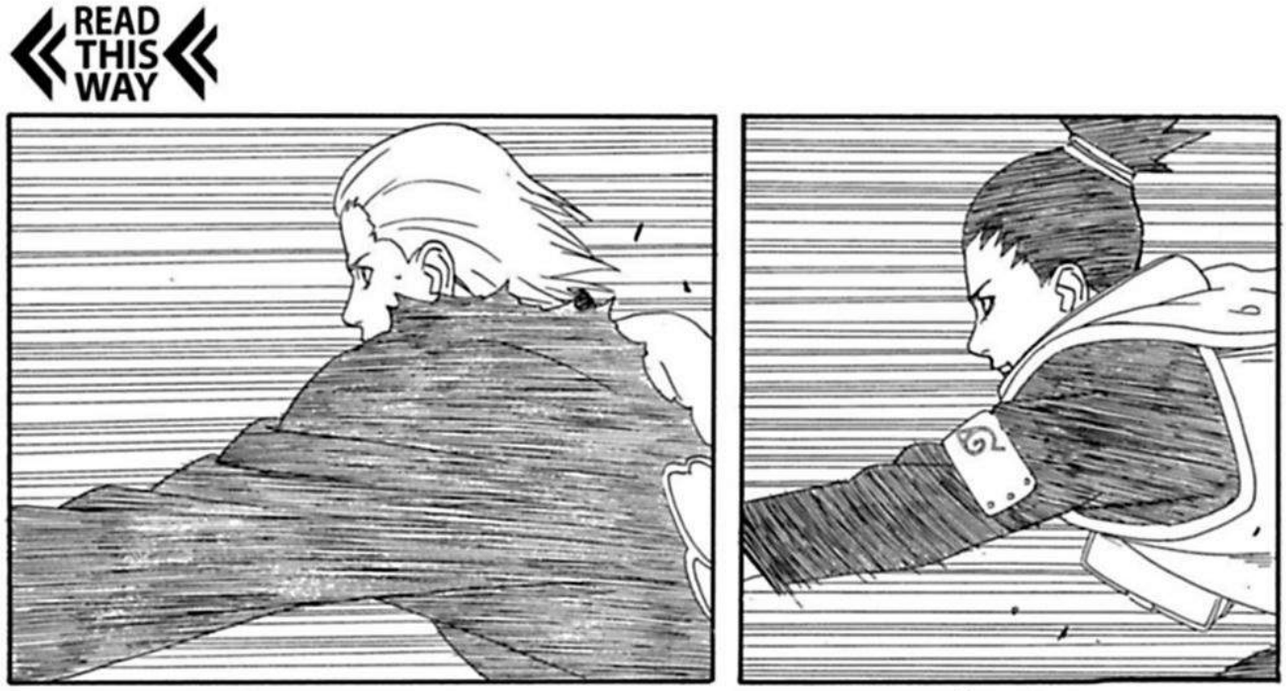
...IF YOU'RE SMART, UNLIKE MY COMPANION HERE...
SWIRL
AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, MY ABILITIES ARE COUNTLESS...
...SO YOU'D BE WISE TO RETREAT AND PLAN YOUR NEXT MOVE...
BA-BUM!
BA-BUM

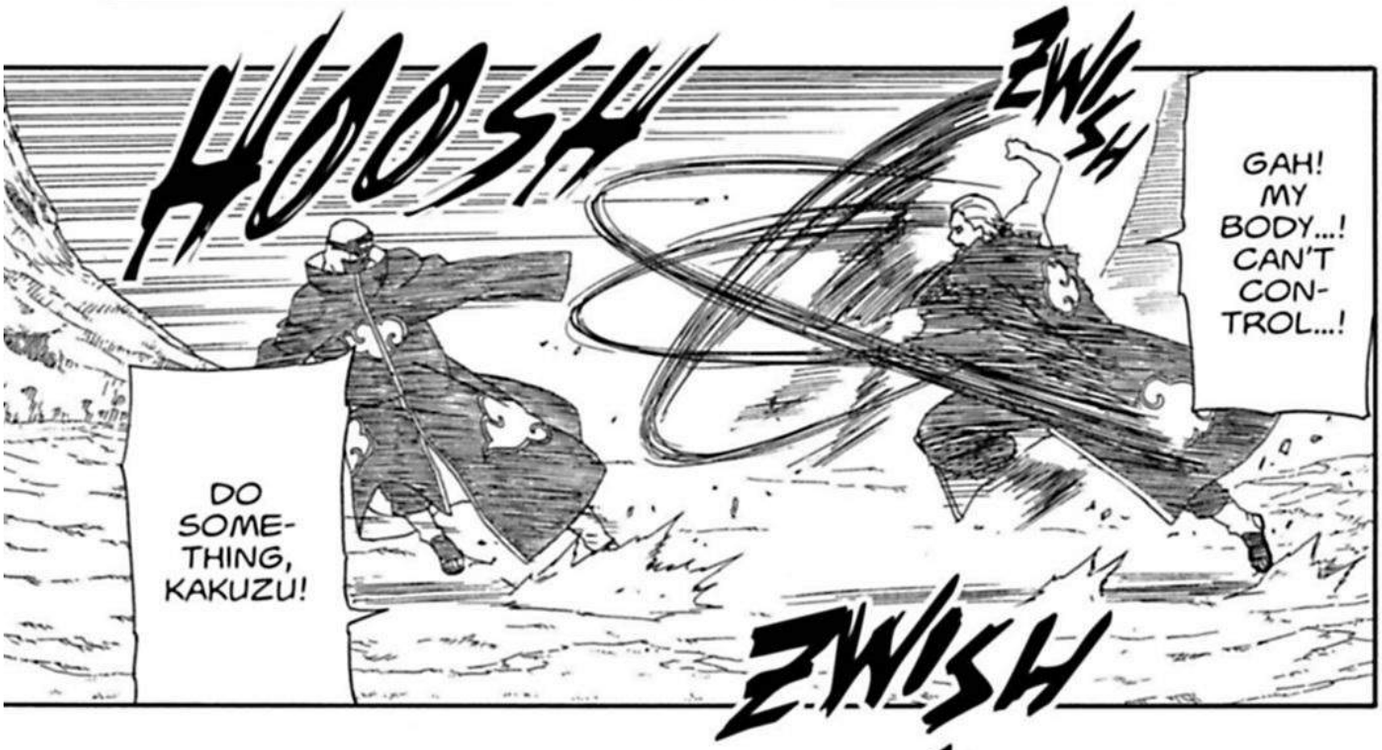
KAKUZU! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "UNLIKE MY COMPANION," EH...?


...WHEN THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND DOESN'T GO AS CALCULATED.
JUST REMEMBER, ALL THE ANALYSIS YOU DO MID-BATTLE MEANS NOTHING...
SLURP
...

WHSSH
RNH!

!!
THUP


READ THIS WAY


HOOSH
ZWISH
GAH! MY BODY...! CAN'T CON-TROL...!
DO SOME-THING, KAKUZU!
ZWISH

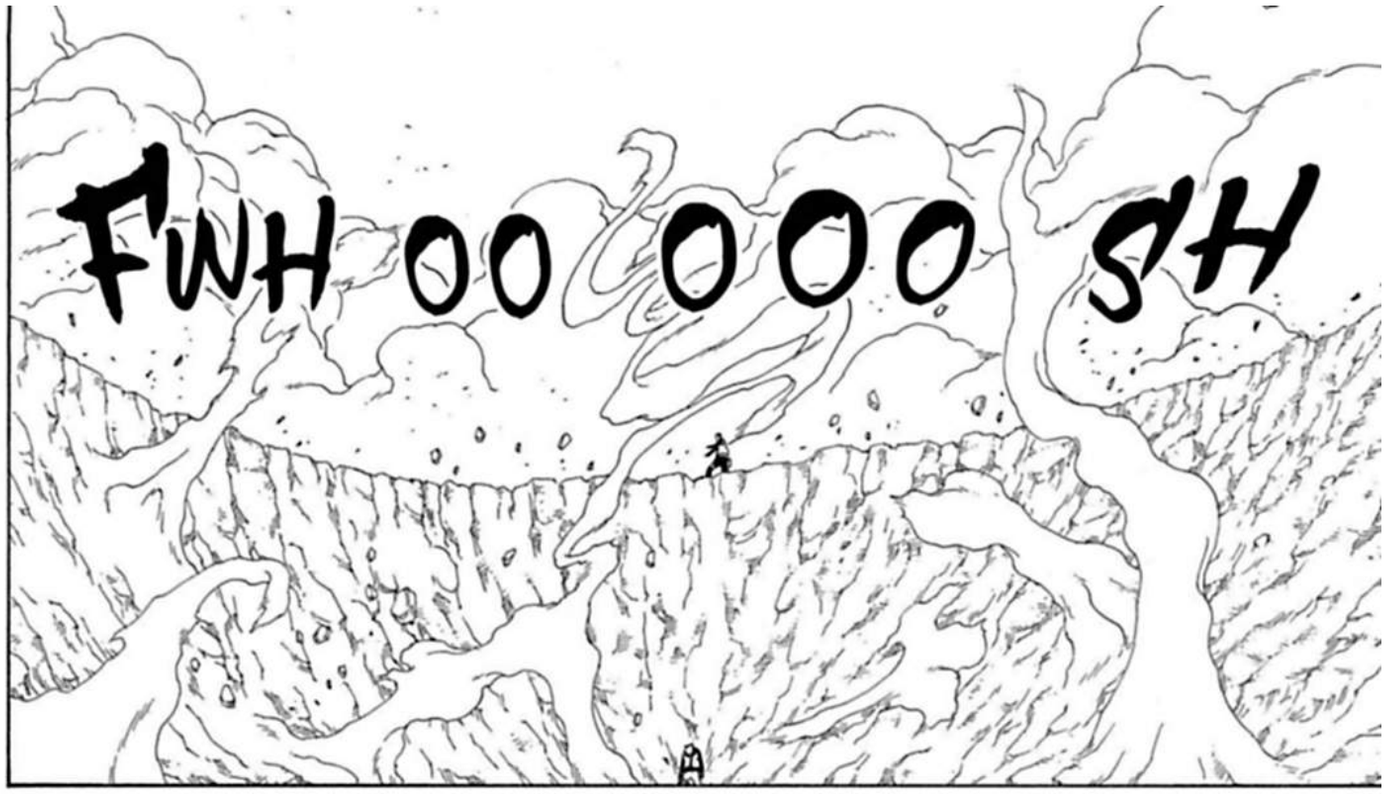
WHSSH

NOW, CHOJI!!

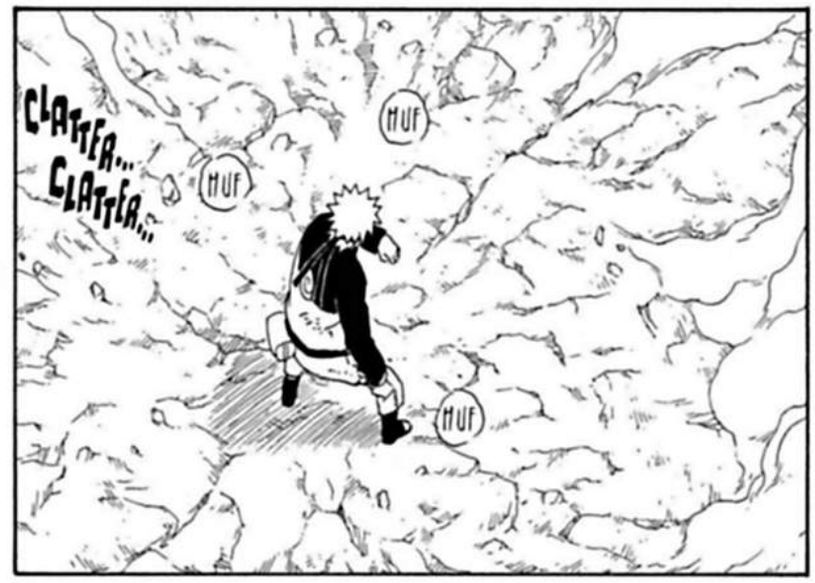
THUMP

SHIFU
VWEEEN
NIKUDAN HARI-SENSHA! SPIKED HUMAN JUGGER-NAUT!!
!
!

READ THIS WAY


FWH OO OOO SH

O-OH MY...


CLATTER... CLATTER...
HUF
HUF
HUF

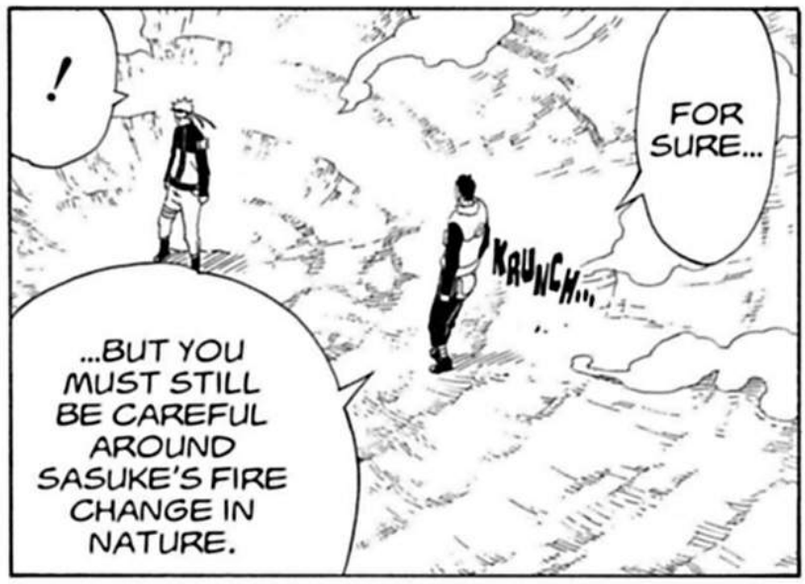
...

...NOW SASUKE AND I CAN BE EQUALS...

SHFF...
ALMOST THERE!!

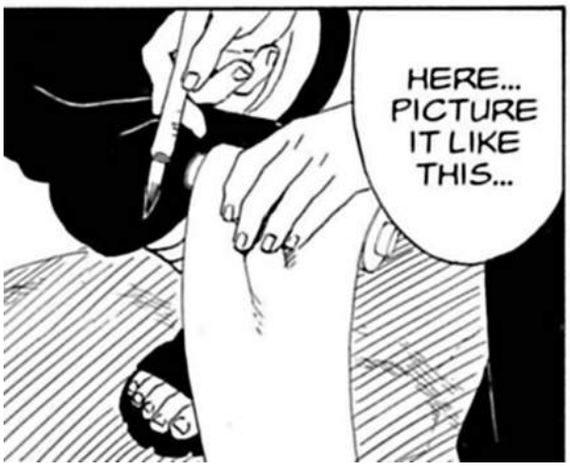
READ THIS WAY

HUH?


!
FOR SURE...
KRUNCH...
...BUT YOU MUST STILL BE CAREFUL AROUND SASUKE'S FIRE CHANGE IN NATURE.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ...?
SHK SHK
RIGHT... I SHOULD PROBABLY START EXPLAINING TO YOU THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE FIVE GREAT CHANGES IN NATURE...

YEAH... UH... ACTU-ALLY, NO. NOT REALLY ...


HERE... PICTURE IT LIKE THIS...

SIMPLY PUT...
...THE FIVE CHANGES IN NATURE, FIRE, WATER, EARTH, LIGHTNING, AND WIND...
...EACH RELATE DIFFERENTLY TO THE OTHERS. UNDER-STAND?
FSSH

AND SO... FOR EXAMPLE, FIRE IS A CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE THAT IS SUPERIOR TO WIND BUT INFERIOR TO WATER CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE.

(SUPERIOR) 優 (INFERIOR) 劣

(SUPERIOR) 優 (INFERIOR) 劣

火 FIRE

水 WATER

風 WIND

土 EARTH

雷 LIGHTNING

SWIFF SWIFF...

THIS IS HOW WE DEPICT THE FIVE GREAT CHANGES IN CHAKRA NATURE ON PAPER.

AND SO... FOR EXAMPLE, FIRE IS A CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE THAT IS SUPERIOR TO WIND BUT INFERIOR TO WATER CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE.

(SUPERIOR) 優 (INFERIOR) 劣

(SUPERIOR) 優 (INFERIOR) 劣

火 FIRE

水 WATER

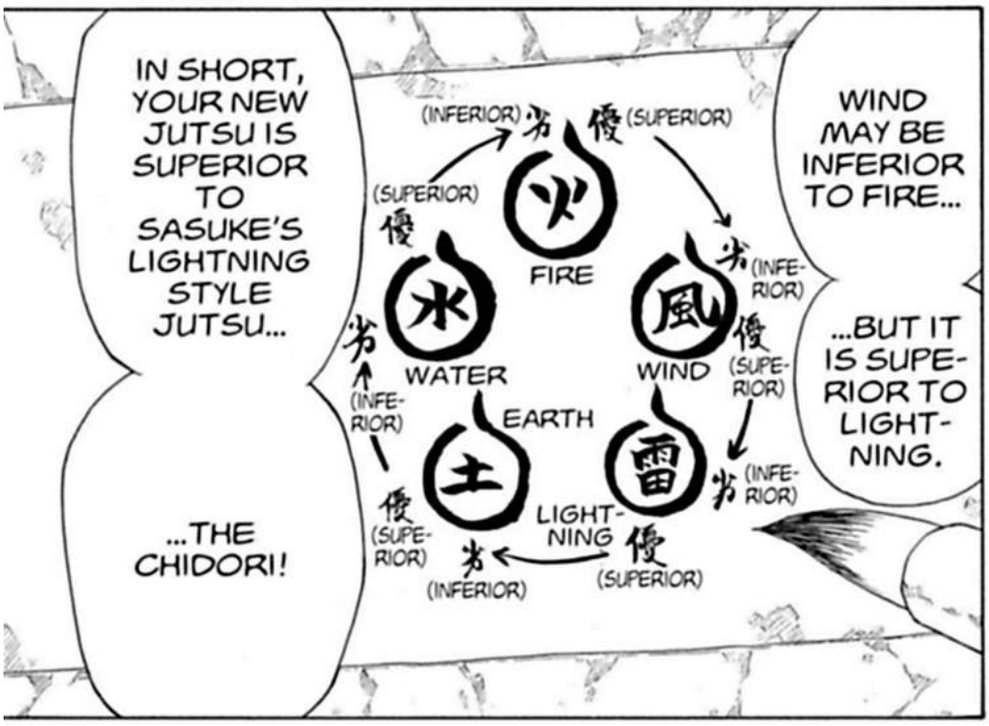
風 WIND

土 EARTH

雷 LIGHTNING

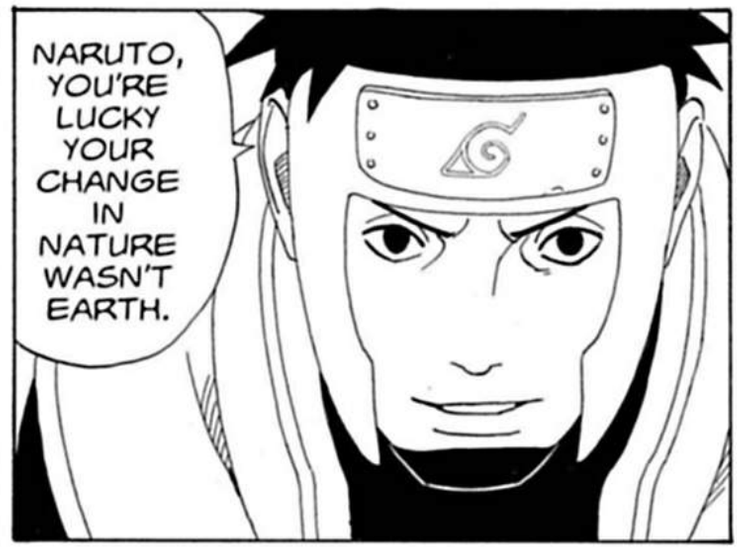
SWIFF SWIFF...

THIS IS HOW WE DEPICT THE FIVE GREAT CHANGES IN CHAKRA NATURE ON PAPER.

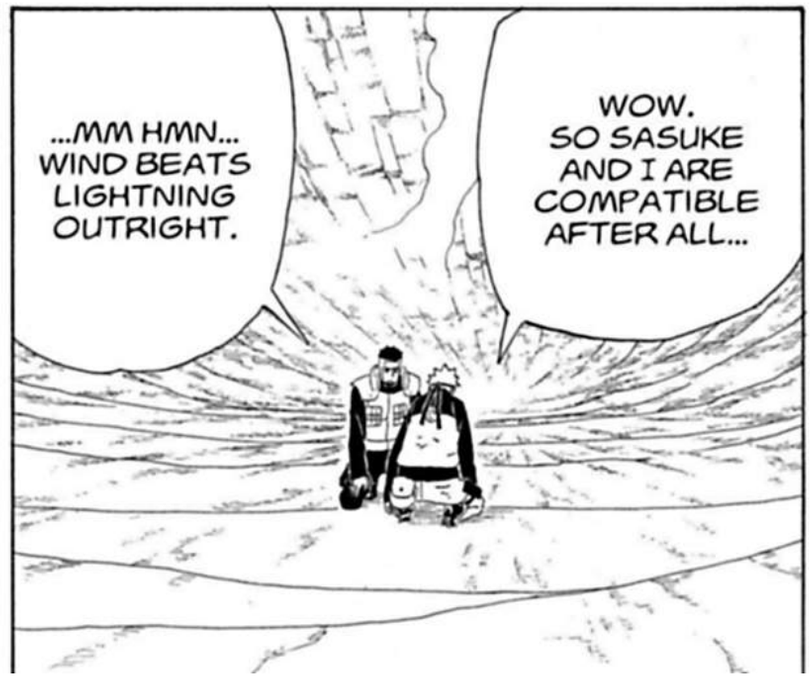

IN SHORT, YOUR NEW JUTSU IS SUPERIOR TO SASUKE'S LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU...
...THE CHIDORI!
(INFERIOR) 劣
優 (SUPERIOR)
(SUPERIOR) 優
FIRE
WATER
WIND
劣 (INFERIOR)
優 (SUPERIOR)
劣 (INFERIOR)
EARTH
LIGHTNING
優 (SUPERIOR)
劣 (INFERIOR)
劣 (INFERIOR)
優 (SUPERIOR)
WIND MAY BE INFERIOR TO FIRE...
...BUT IT IS SUPERIOR TO LIGHTNING.

HOWEVER, LOOK ABOVE AND BELOW WIND.

...


NARUTO, YOU'RE LUCKY YOUR CHANGE IN NATURE WASN'T EARTH.

?
NAH, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...


...MM HMN... WIND BEATS LIGHTNING OUTRIGHT.
WOW. SO SASUKE AND I ARE COMPATIBLE AFTER ALL...

ONLY WIND...

...CAN ASSIST AND MAGNIFY FIRE.

...

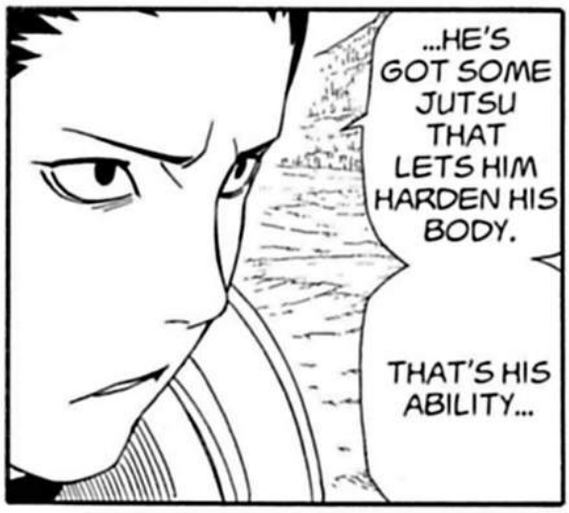
YEAH... THAT'S TRUE TOO.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT'S JUST AS RAIDO SAID...

SHFF

SWING

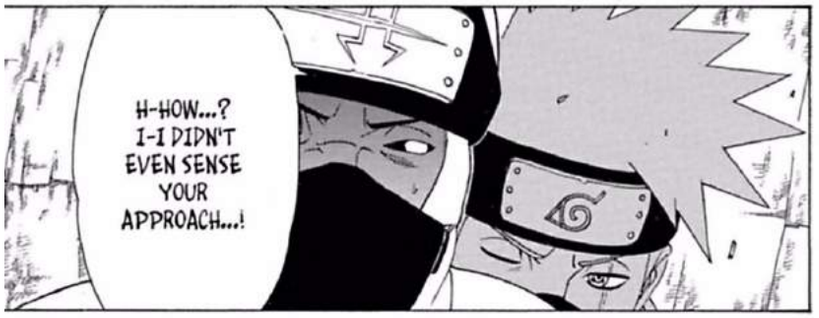

...HE'S GOT SOME JUTSU THAT LETS HIM HARDEN HIS BODY.
THAT'S HIS ABILITY...

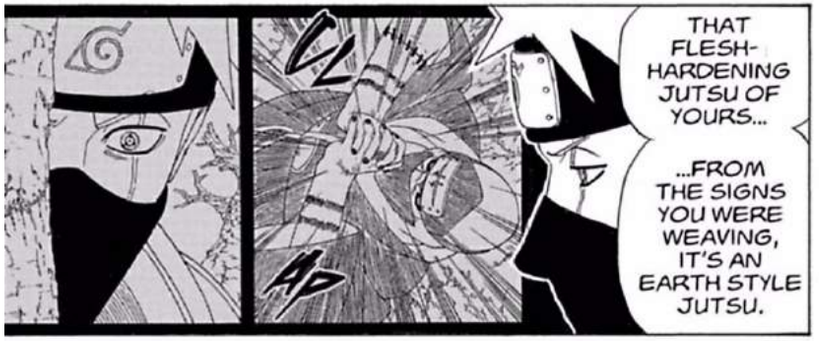
...

!!
SHA-THUNK!

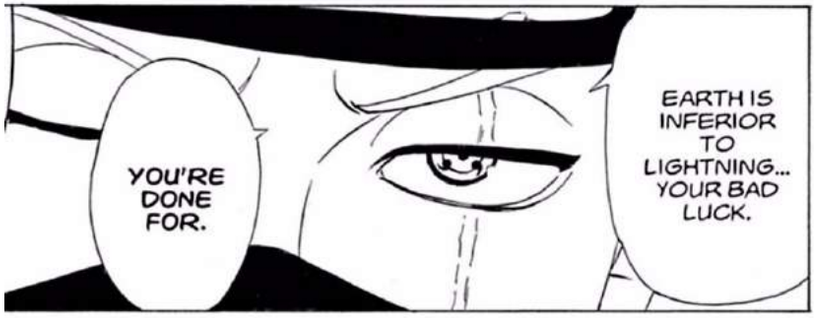
KAKUZU, HURRY UP AND NULL THIS STUPID SHADOW JUTSU AL-READY ...
ENOUGH CHITCHAT... LET'S STARTING LAUNCHING OUR COUNTERATTACK.

GOOD EYE...
IT'S TRUE. PHYSICAL ATTACKS ARE VIRTUALLY USELESS AGAINST ME.

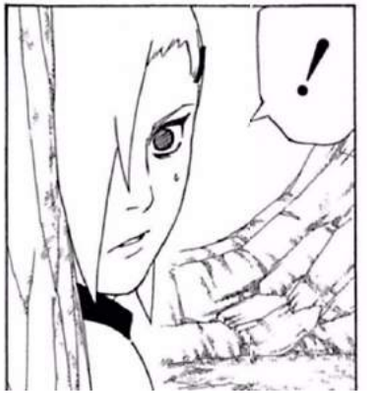

H-HOW...? I-I DIDN'T EVEN SENSE YOUR APPROACH...!


THAT FLESH-HARDENING JUTSU OF YOURS...
...FROM THE SIGNS YOU WERE WEAVING, IT'S AN EARTH STYLE JUTSU.

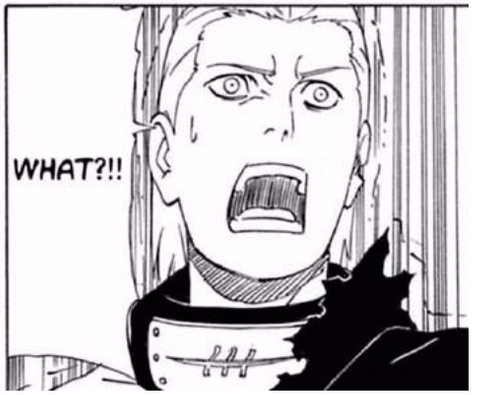
YOU'RE...
WAIT... YOUR MASTERY OF LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU... THAT'S IT!
YOU... COULD READ THE SIGNS...?


YOU'RE DONE FOR.
EARTH IS INFERIOR TO LIGHTNING... YOUR BAD LUCK.

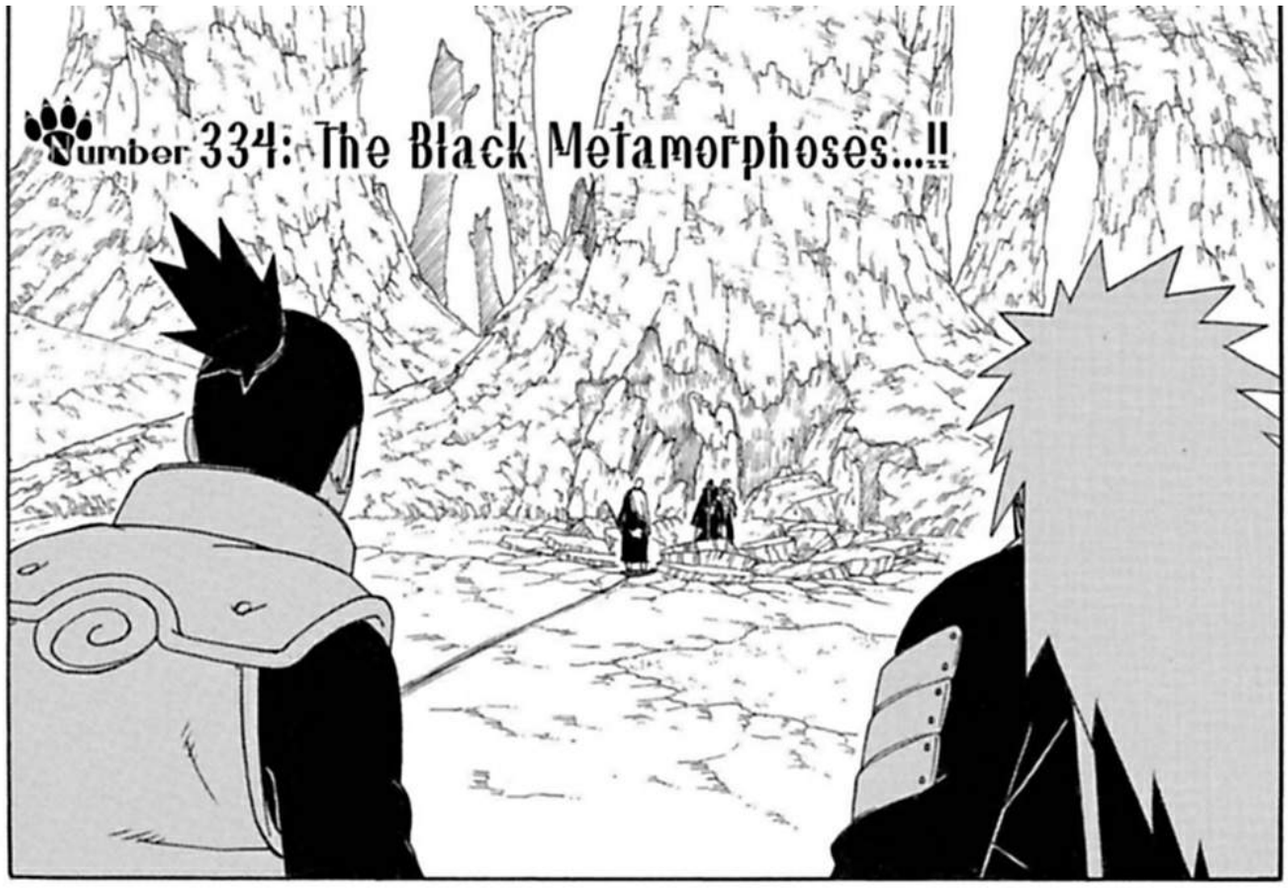
CRACKLE-
CRACKLE-
CRACKLE-
CRACKLE-
CRACKLE


!

?!


WHAT?!!

Number 334: The Black Metamorphoses...!!



Number 334: The Black Metamorphoses...!!

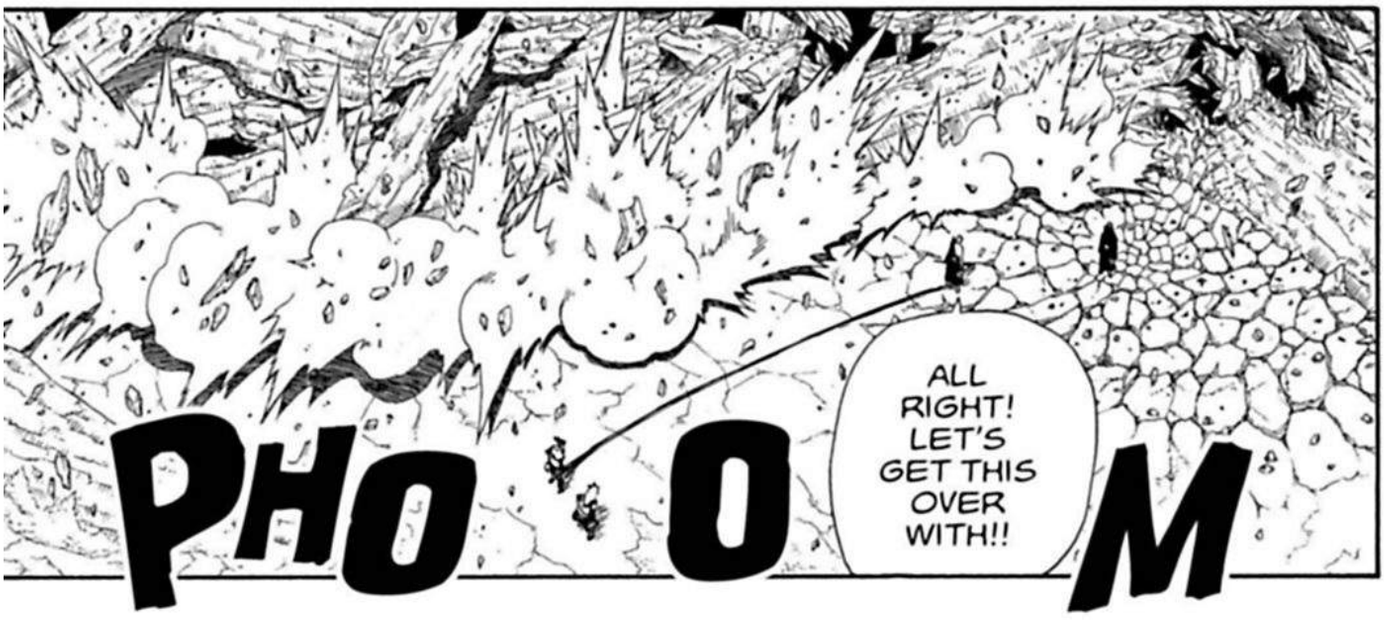
READ THIS WAY
THUD
SQUELCH
YOU'RE NEXT.
CRACKLE CRACKLE...
SUCKER PUNCHED RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART, EH?
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE DONE IN LIKE THAT!
GUH ...!

!!
BL
AM

READ THIS WAY
...
...
SNAP SNAP...

...!!

?!
?!


PHO O M
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!!

FLAP

WHAT'S GOING ON? I KNOW I GOT HIS HEART...

THAT'S THE PLAN.
SNIP

GAHHH...
SNAP-SNAP
RRNNNH
AAA AA ARGH!
SNAP-
SNAP-
SNAP-
SNAP-
SNAP-

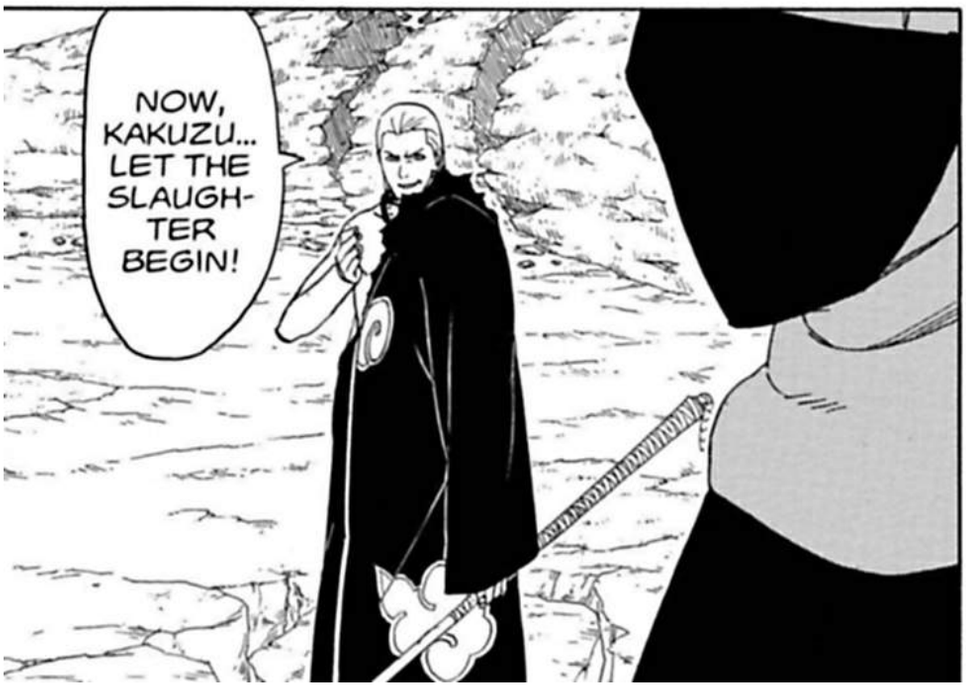
MY SHADOW POSSESSION'S REACHED ITS LIMIT...
SSSS...

SNAP

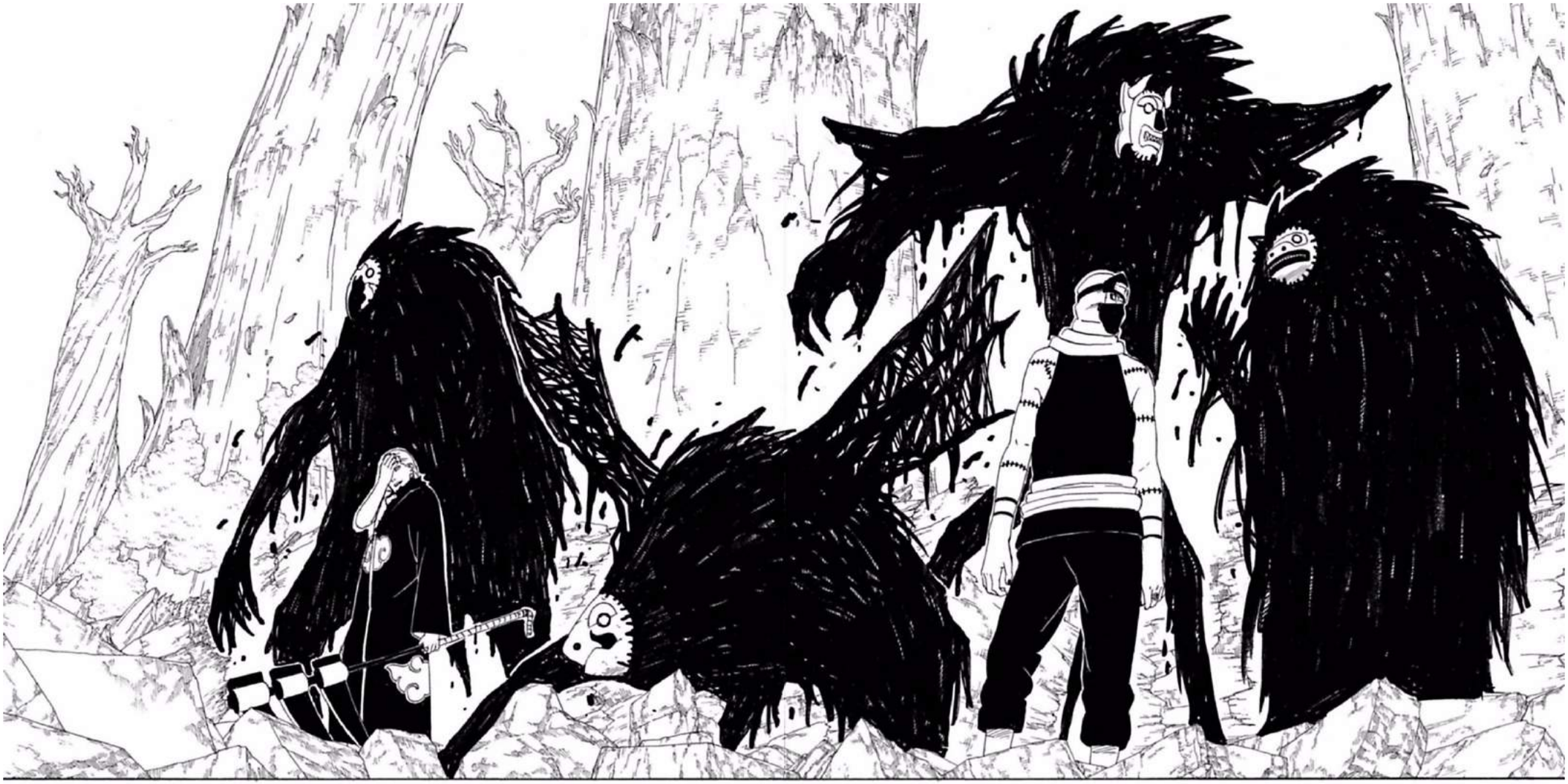
!

FINALLY! I CAN MOVE AGAIN...
CRACK CRACK

WHO KNOWS... ALL I CAN DO NOW... WHEN IT COMES TO THESE TWO... IS JUST BE READY FOR ANYTHING...
WHY ISN'T HE DEAD?!
WHAT ARE THOSE?!


NOW, KAKUZU... LET THE SLAUGHTER BEGIN!

WHAT ARE THOSE?
UNNH...



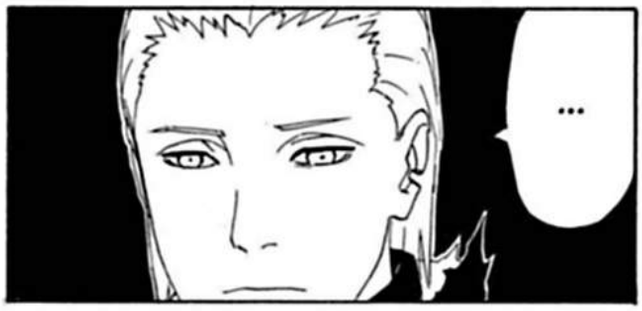
BE CARE-FUL, CHOJI!
YUP!

RRRROAR!!

WHAT ARE THOSE?! THEIR CHAKRA FEELS REALLY NASTY.

I GIVE MYSELF, BODY AND SOUL, TO THE CARNAGE THAT IS TO COME!
IN YOUR NAME, I WILL RIP THEIR INSIDES OUT AND SHRED THEIR ENTRAILS!
LORD JASHIN, BEHOLD!

UNH... WHIMPER...
SHH LUMP...


...

WHAT THE...?

SPLAT...

SO STUPID, EH!
HEY! HEY! HEY! ONE DIED RIGHT AWAY AFTER ALL!

...
STITCH
STITCH
STITCH

HIDAN, STAY BACK. I GOT THIS.
NO WAY! I WANT IN ON THIS ACTION...

...THAT MUST BE THE ONE I GOT WITH MY LIGHTNING BLADE JUST NOW...
...ONE OF THE MASKS THAT EMERGED FROM HIS BODY COL-LAPSED...

HUMPH.
FWP

...SO LET'S JUST GO WITH "THE USUAL."

SHHF...!

KACHINGG
KACHING

WHSS...

!!

WIND STYLE! PRESSURE DAMAGE!!
HAKE

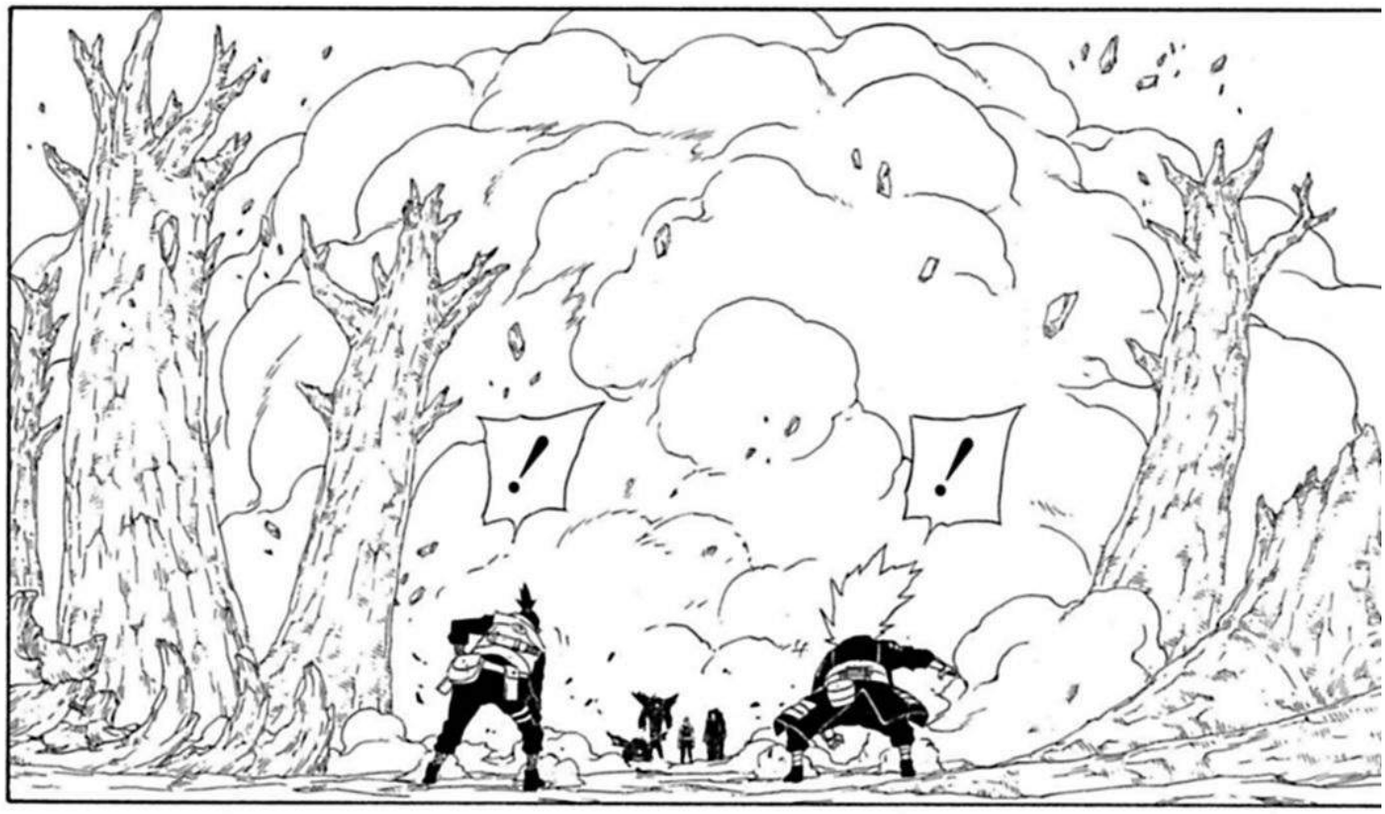
ZZZ
KA!!

OH...! HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS PARTNER'S IMMORTALITY...!!

HE SHOT RIGHT THROUGH HIS OWN TEAMMATE?! WHY...? UNLESS...

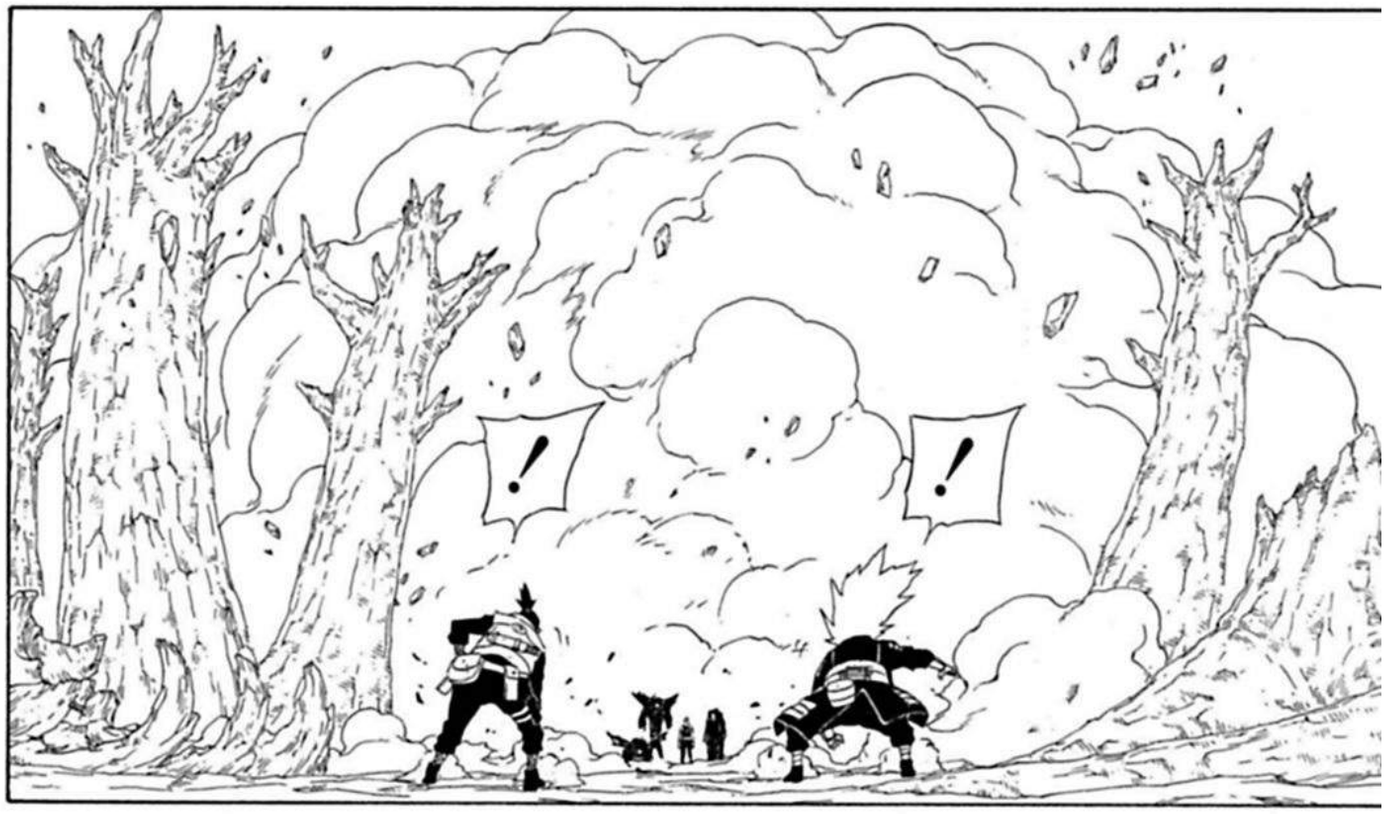
MASTER KAKASHI!
GAH!

SHF


!
!

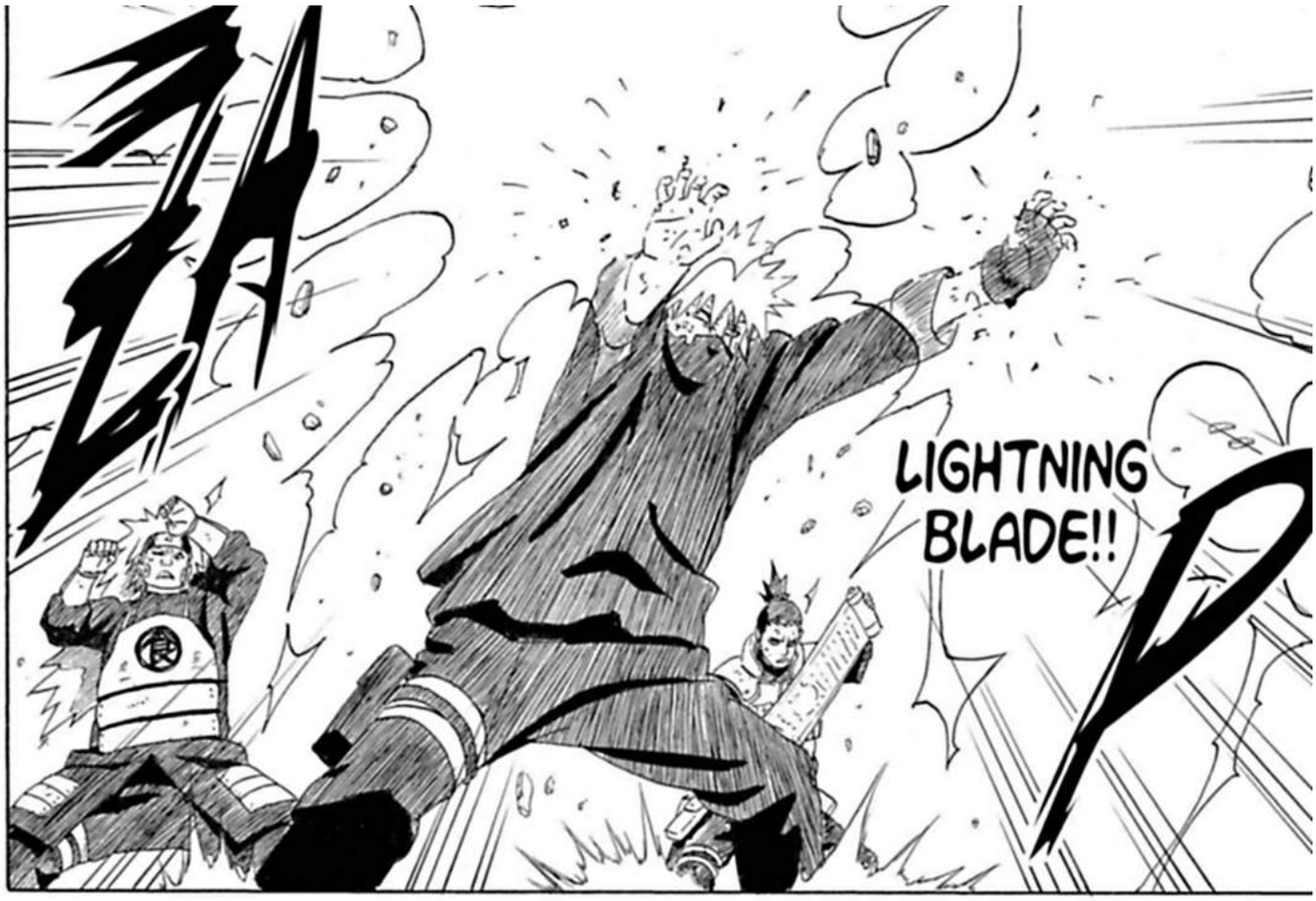
WE'RE NEXT, CHOJI!
ULP!

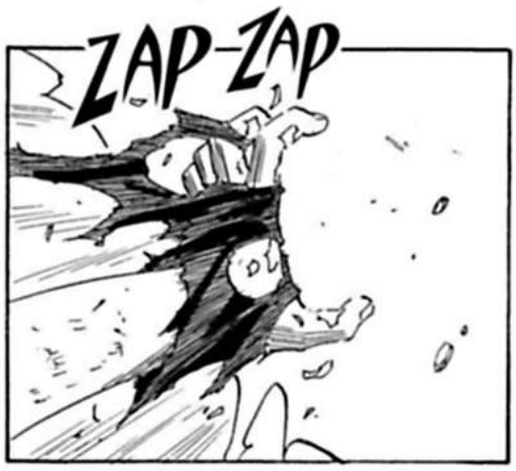
SHF


!
!

WE'RE NEXT, CHOJI!
ULP!

READ THIS WAY
CHOJI! SHIKA-MARU! RUN!!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
!!
LIGHTNING STYLE! FALSE DARK-NESS!!

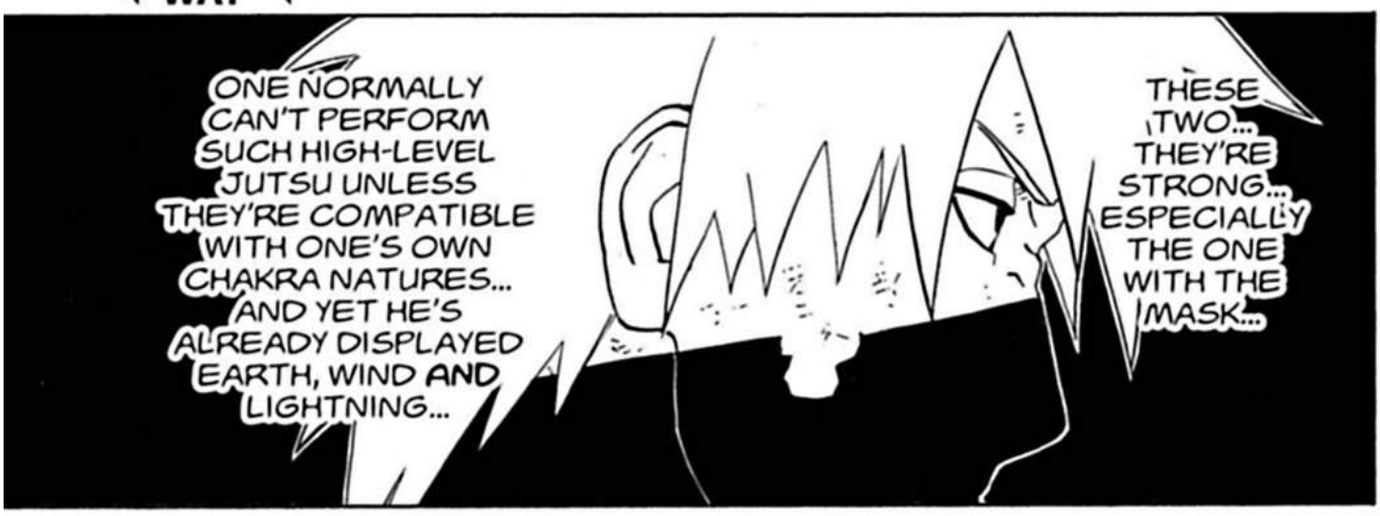

LIGHTNING BLADE!!


ZAP-ZAP

MASTER!!

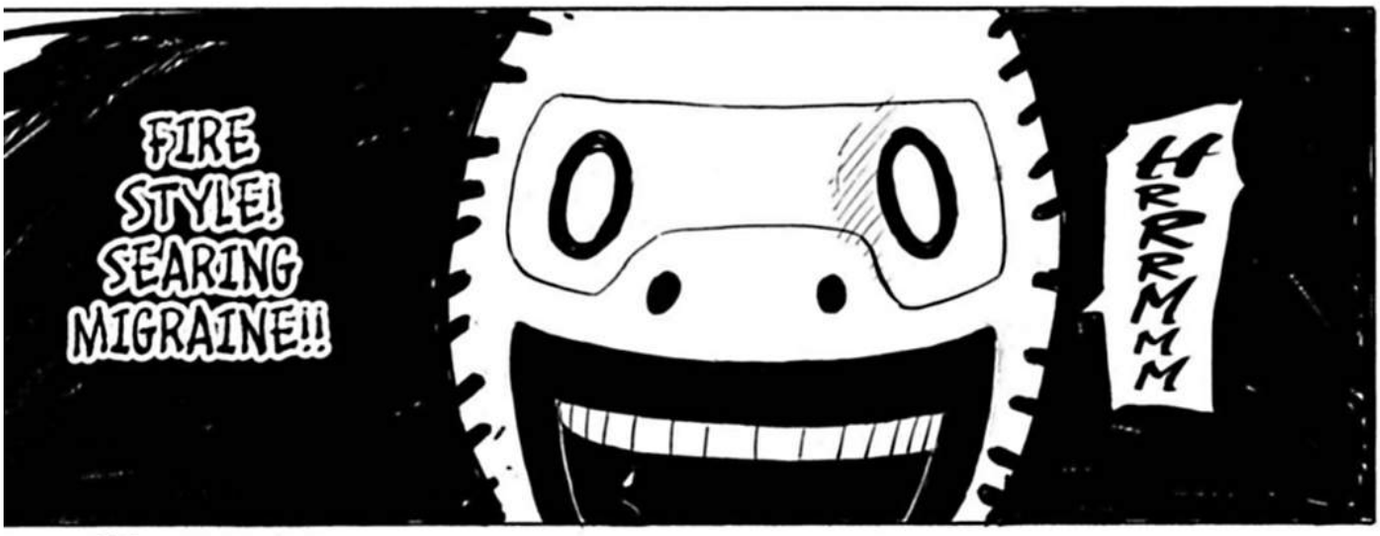
SSSSNN...

ZZZZZ


ONE NORMALLY CAN'T PERFORM SUCH HIGH-LEVEL JUTSU UNLESS THEY'RE COMPATIBLE WITH ONE'S OWN CHAKRA NATURES... AND YET HE'S ALREADY DISPLAYED EARTH, WIND AND LIGHTNING...
THESE TWO... THEY'RE STRONG... ESPECIALLY THE ONE WITH THE MASK...

YOU SAW THROUGH THE JUTSU WITH YOUR SHARINGAN...
...WELL THEN, WHAT ABOUT THIS NEXT ONE?
YOU'RE THE FIRST TO HAVE SURVIVED THIS ROUTINE... HATAKE... KAKASHI.
KAUNCH

WELL... I'M STILL STAND-ING...
MASTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
KRUNCH


FIRE STYLE! SEARING MIGRAINE!!
HRRRMMM

NARUTO

Number 335: The Fearsome Secret!!

THA-WHOOOSH

Number 335: The Fearsome Secret!!

READ THIS WAY
WHSSH
!
KACHING
KLANG
KLINK
SHING
KA KLI LINK

SHF...

SHF
YOU REALLY ARE GOOD...

WHSSH
YEAH ...
WHSSH
MASTER KAKASHI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
KRUNCH

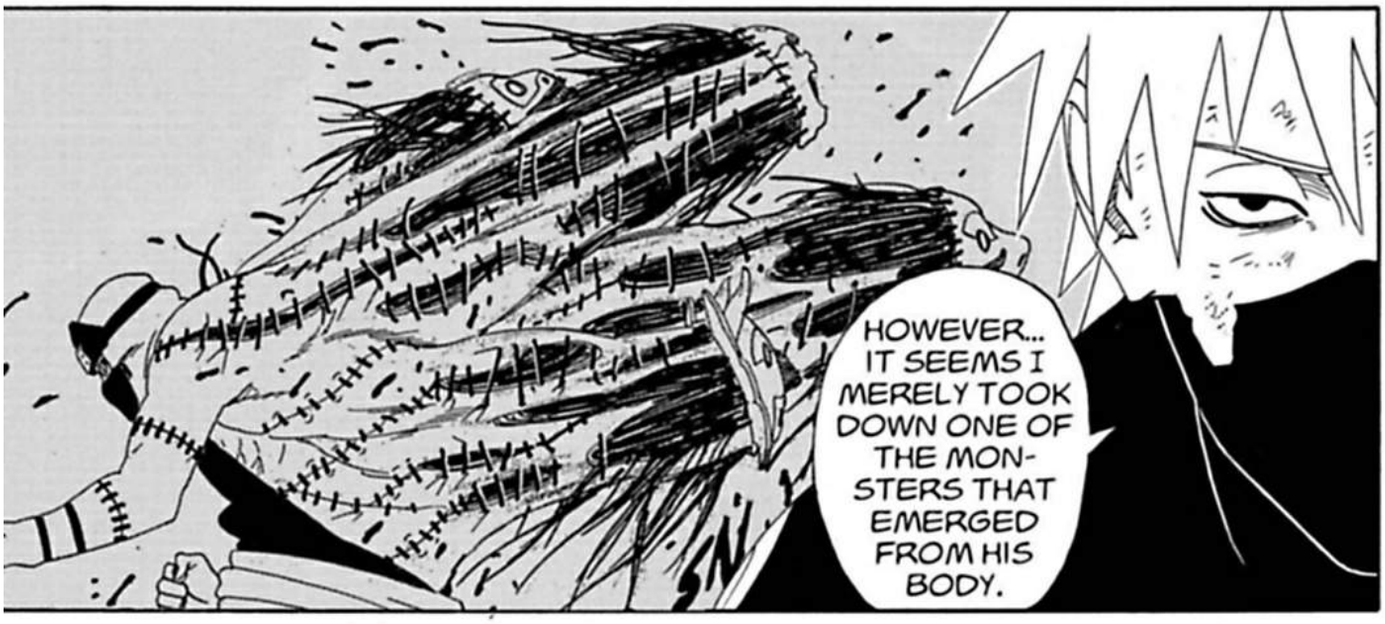
THEIR TEAM-WORK... SO SMOOTH... SEAM-LESS...

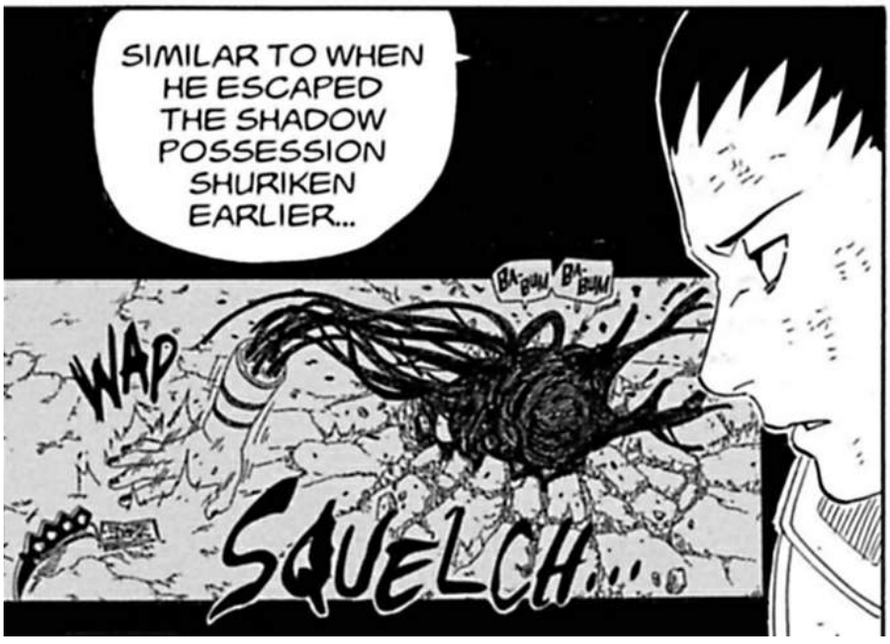
...

...I CAN'T LET THIS DRAG ON MUCH LONGER...
THEN AGAIN, I'VE NOW PERFORMED FOUR LIGHTNING BLADES WHILE KEEPING THE SHARINGAN ACTIVE...

THAT SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM...
I DE-STROYED HIS HEART.

...HOW IS THAT GUY NOT DEAD YET?!
I KNOW MASTER KAKASHI'S LIGHTNING BLADE WAS RIGHT ON TARGET...

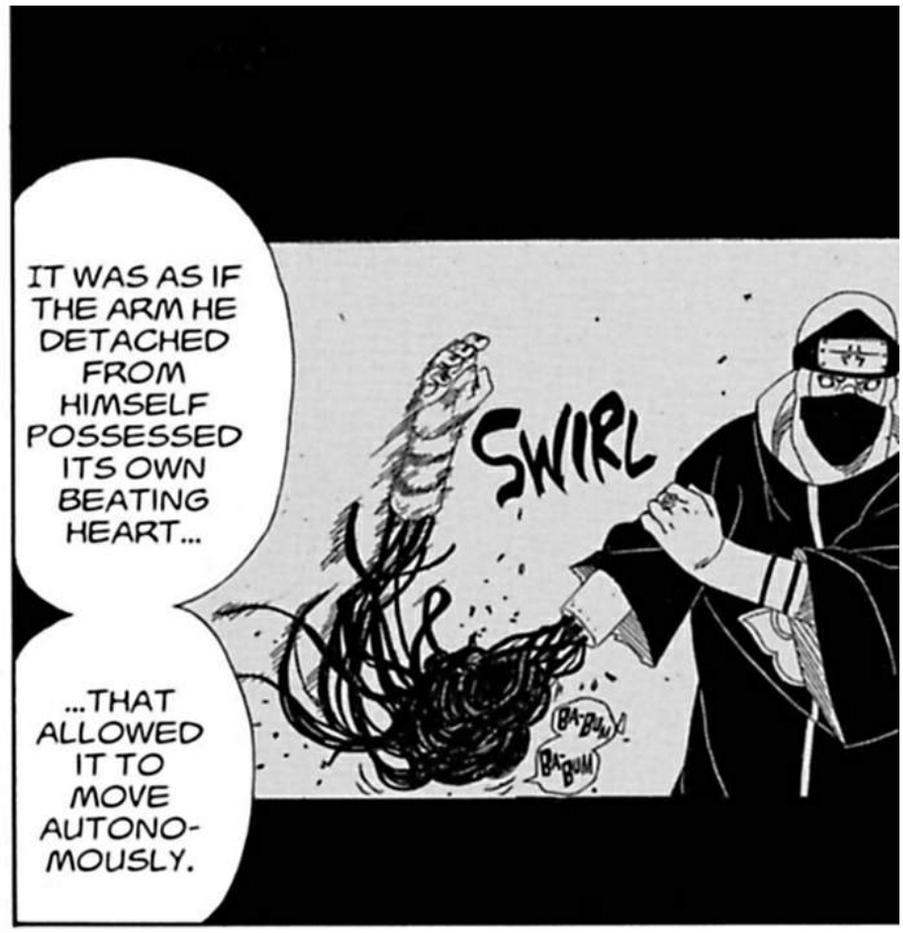

HOWEVER... IT SEEMS I MERELY TOOK DOWN ONE OF THE MON-STERS THAT EMERGED FROM HIS BODY.


SIMILAR TO WHEN HE ESCAPED THE SHADOW POSSESSION SHURIKEN EARLIER...
BA-BUM BA-BUM
WAP
SQUELCH...

I SUSPECT IT DIED IN HIS PLACE...
SPLAT...

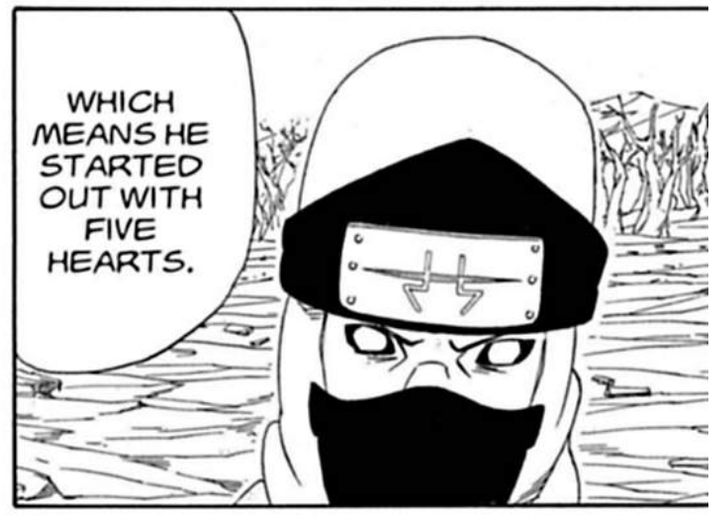
...WHICH MEANS WHAT?

...


IT WAS AS IF THE ARM HE DETACHED FROM HIMSELF POSSESSED ITS OWN BEATING HEART...
...THAT ALLOWED IT TO MOVE AUTONO-MOUSLY.
SWIRL
BA-BUM
BA-BUM

AND YET ALL OF THE HEARTS ARE HIS TOO.
I SUSPECT THAT EACH OF THOSE MONSTERS THAT EMERGED...
...NOT TO MENTION **THAT MASK GUY** HIMSELF, ALL HAVE SEPARATE HEARTS.

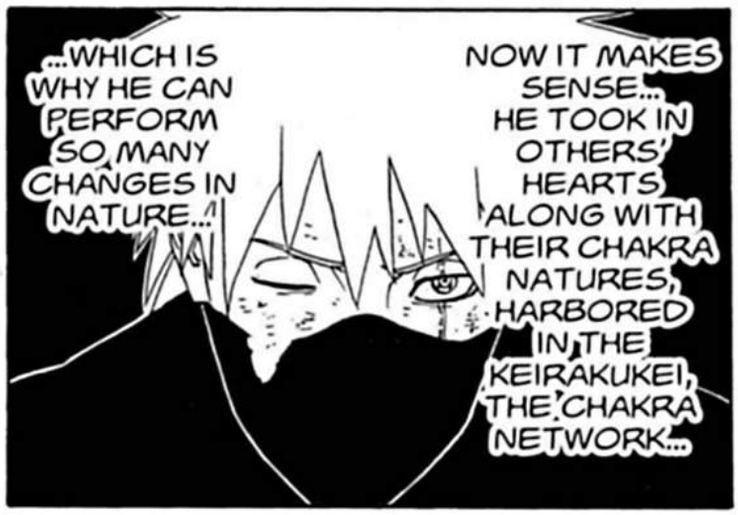
FIVE...?? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE...
ALTHOUGH HE'S DOWN ONE NOW THANKS TO MASTER KAKASHI'S LIGHTNING BLADE.


WHICH MEANS HE STARTED OUT WITH FIVE HEARTS.

READ THIS WAY

GOOD EYE, AGAIN.
EACH OF THESE HEARTS BELONGS TO A SHINOBI THAT I BATTLED AND GOT THE BEST OF.
DESTROY ONE, AND I WILL SIMPLY REPLENISH IT WITH ANOTHER.

YOU MEAN, IN ORDER TO TAKE HIM DOWN PERMANENTLY ...
...WE NEED TO DESTROY FOUR MORE HEARTS?
APPAR-ENTLY...


...WHICH IS WHY HE CAN PERFORM SO MANY CHANGES IN NATURE...!
NOW IT MAKES SENSE... HE TOOK IN OTHERS' HEARTS ALONG WITH THEIR CHAKRA NATURES, HARBORED IN THE KEIRAKUKEI, THE CHAKRA NETWORK...

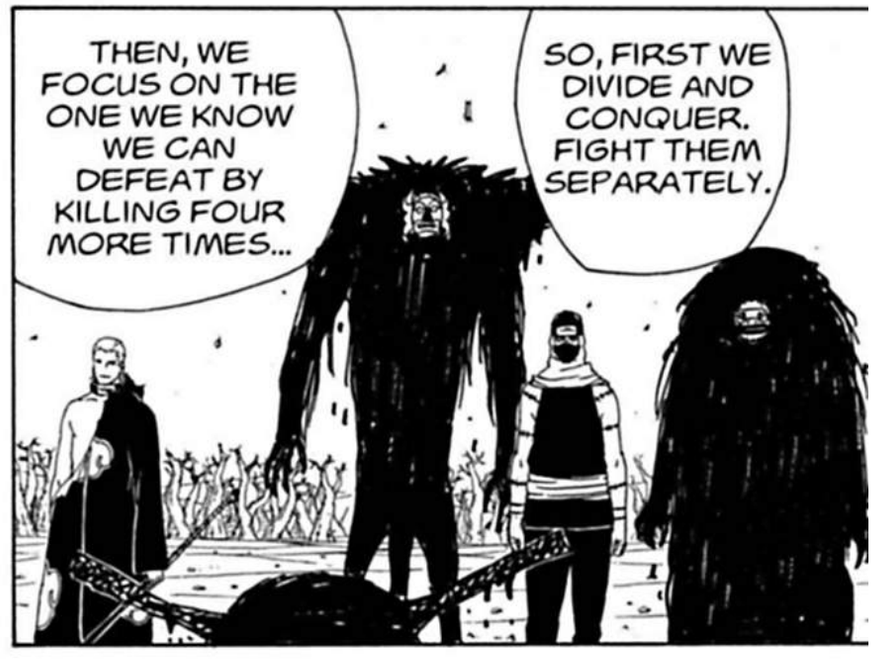
WITH YOUR HEARTS, FOR EXAMPLE.

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US, THE IMMORTAL DUO!
KRUNCH

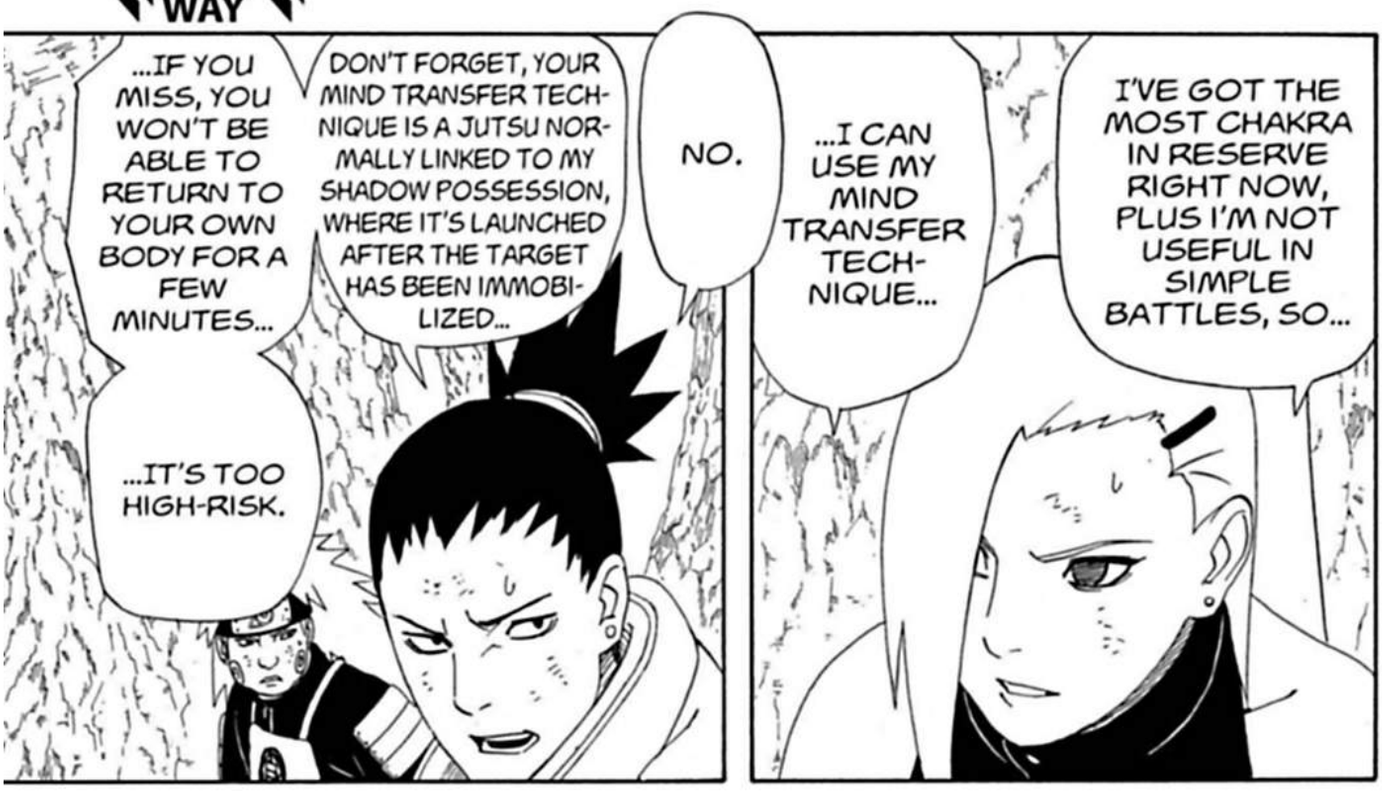
THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT THEM IS TO SEPARATE THEM.

SHIKA-MARU... WHAT NOW?

WHICH MEANS WE NEED SOMEONE TO STALL THAT HIDAN FELLOW...


THEN, WE FOCUS ON THE ONE WE KNOW WE CAN DEFEAT BY KILLING FOUR MORE TIMES...
SO, FIRST WE DIVIDE AND CONQUER. FIGHT THEM SEPARATELY.

I'LL DO IT.


...IF YOU MISS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR OWN BODY FOR A FEW MINUTES...
DON'T FORGET, YOUR MIND TRANSFER TECHNIQUE IS A JUTSU NORMALLY LINKED TO MY SHADOW POSSESSION, WHERE IT'S LAUNCHED AFTER THE TARGET HAS BEEN IMMOBILIZED...
NO.
...IT'S TOO HIGH-RISK.
...I CAN USE MY MIND TRANSFER TECHNIQUE...
I'VE GOT THE MOST CHAKRA IN RESERVE RIGHT NOW, PLUS I'M NOT USEFUL IN SIMPLE BATTLES, SO...

I'LL BIND HIM WITH SHADOW POSSESSION, THEN MOVE HIM OUT OF RANGE.
I'LL DO IT.
...

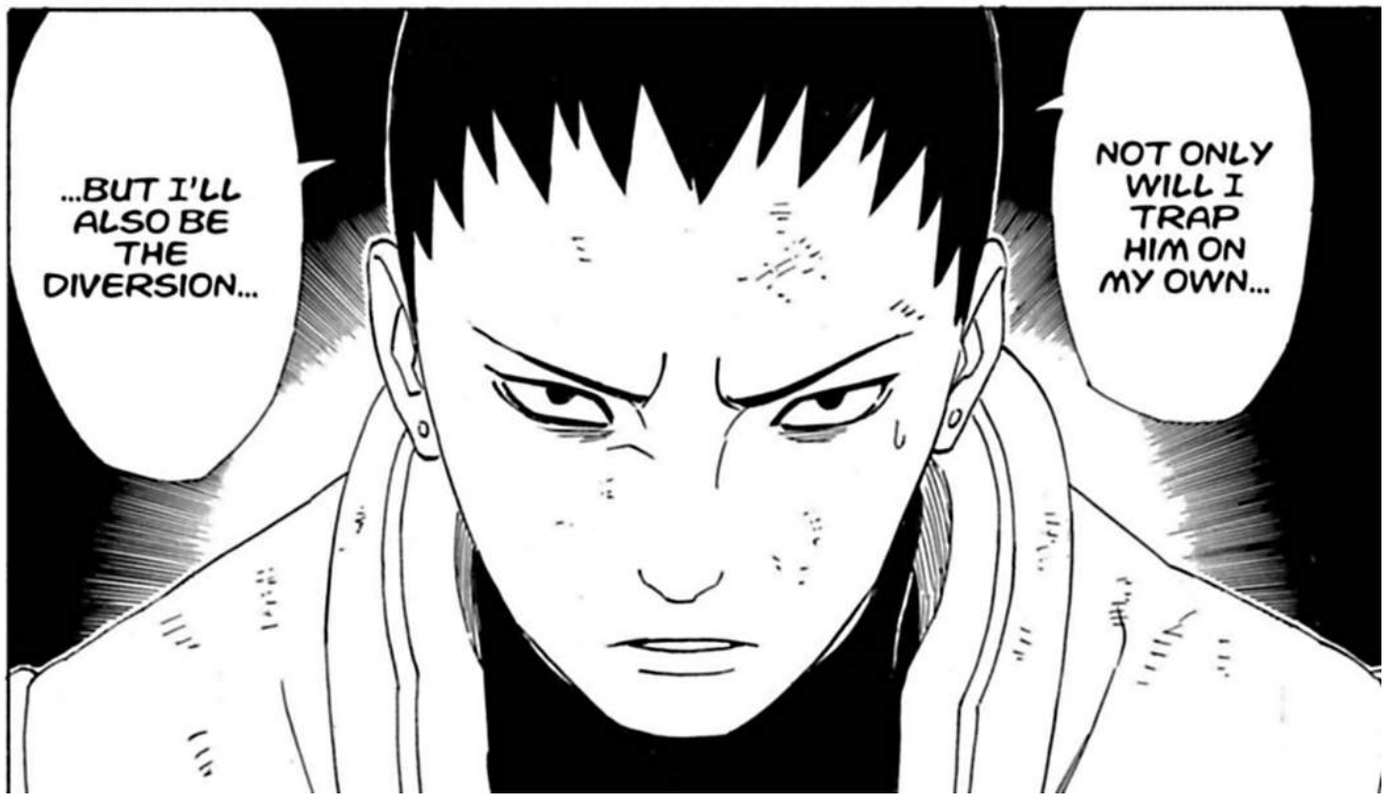
ONE DIVERSION, COMING RIGHT UP...
...WE STILL NEED SOME KIND OF DIVERSION.
BUT THE QUESTION IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO TRAP HIM...

WE CAN'T HOPE TO APPROACH AND ATTACK HIM FROM OUR SIDE.

IF HE SO MUCH AS SCRATCHES YOU AND CAPTURES YOUR BLOOD, IT'S ALL OVER.
NIX ON THAT TOO.

I'M ITCHING TO GET STARTED AGAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL WHISPERING ABOUT?!

CHOJI, YOU PRESERVE YOUR CHAKRA SO YOU CAN HELP MASTER KAKASHI DEFEAT THE MASK GUY.


...BUT I'LL ALSO BE THE DIVERSION...
NOT ONLY WILL I TRAP HIM ON MY OWN...

ALL RIGHT...
...LET'S LEAVE IT UP TO SHIKA-MARU.

?!

...
THANKS.

SHIKA-MARU... HERE...
SHFF

SHOOSH

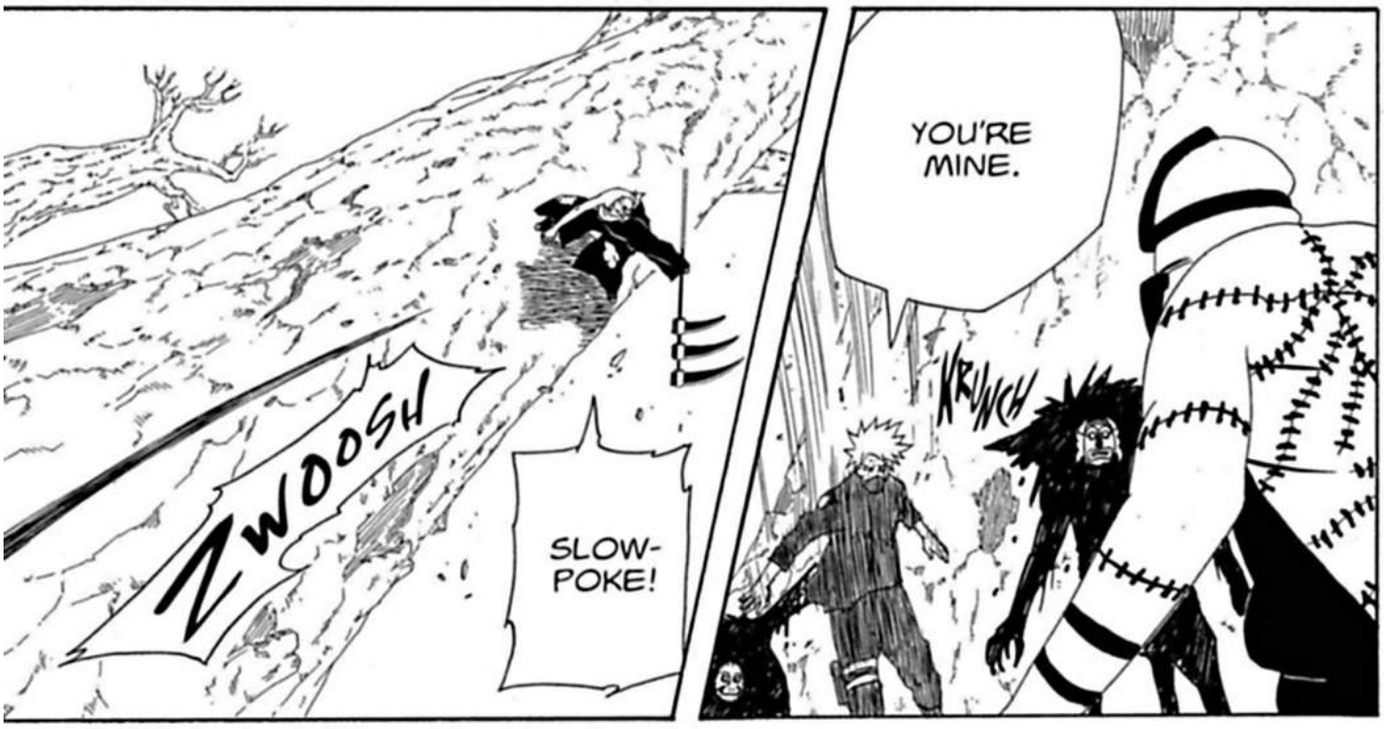
WOOSH

A COVERT ATTACK FROM A DISTANCE?? TSK. TSK. HOW SHAMEFUL!
YOU SCARED OF MY SCYTHE AND ABILITIES?! EH?!!
THAT AGAIN?!
WISH WISH

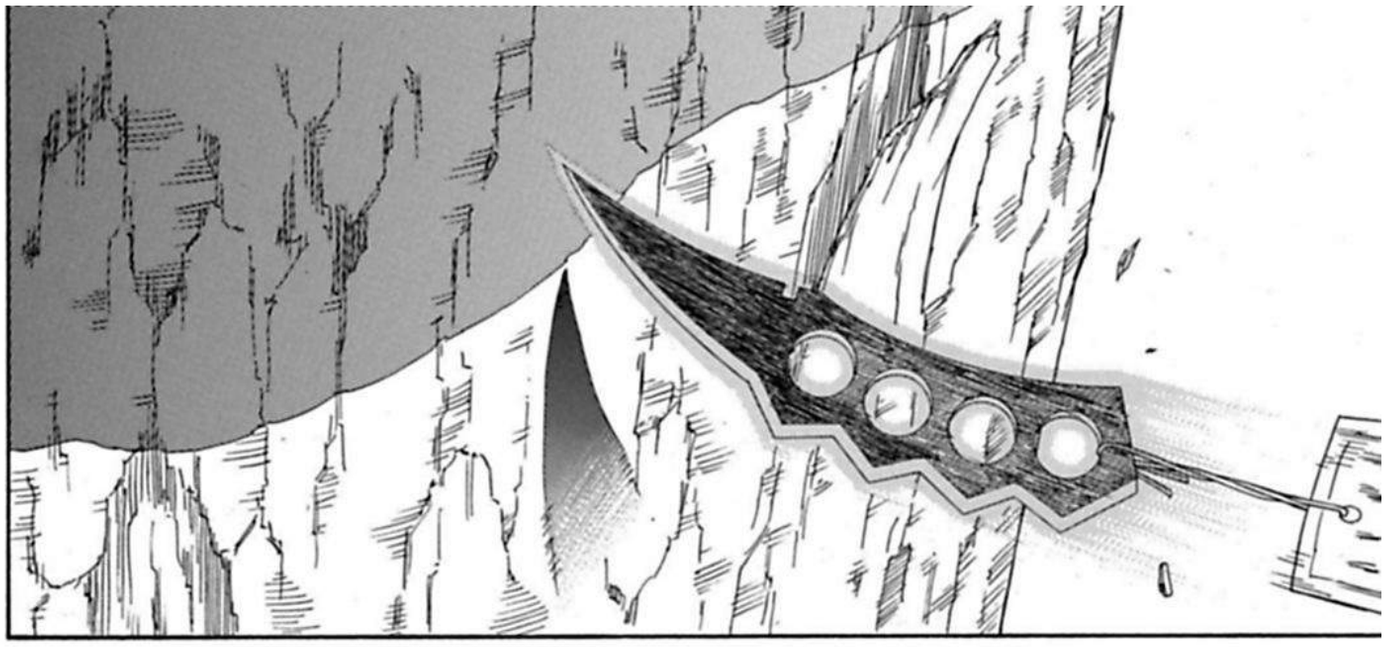
!
SHF

THUMP

WHSSH
WHSSH
WHSSH
WHSSH
WHSSH


WOOSH
SLOW-POKE!
YOU'RE MINE.
KRUNCH

HUP
SHING
!
HE PICKED UP AND THREW THE BLADE WITH HIS SHADOW...!



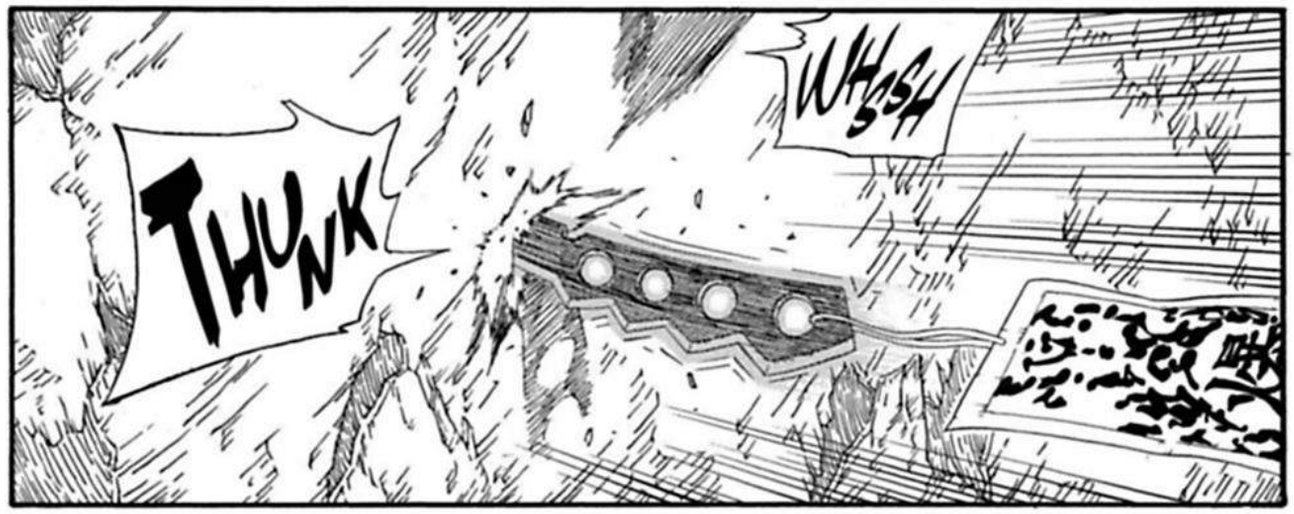
SHOOSH
THUNK

!
SHING
FA
P

SHOOSH

...BUT HE GOT HIM!!
IT'S HARDER TO MANEUVER IN MIDAIR...

THOCK


THUNK
WHOOSH

AS LONG AS YOU WATCH THE SHADOWS, THIS JUTSU IS USELESS!
HEH... YOU ALL ARE SO NAÏVE...

!
!

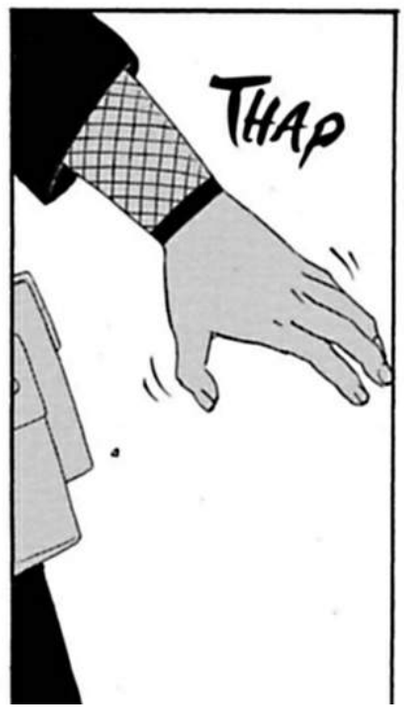
!

WHAT?!

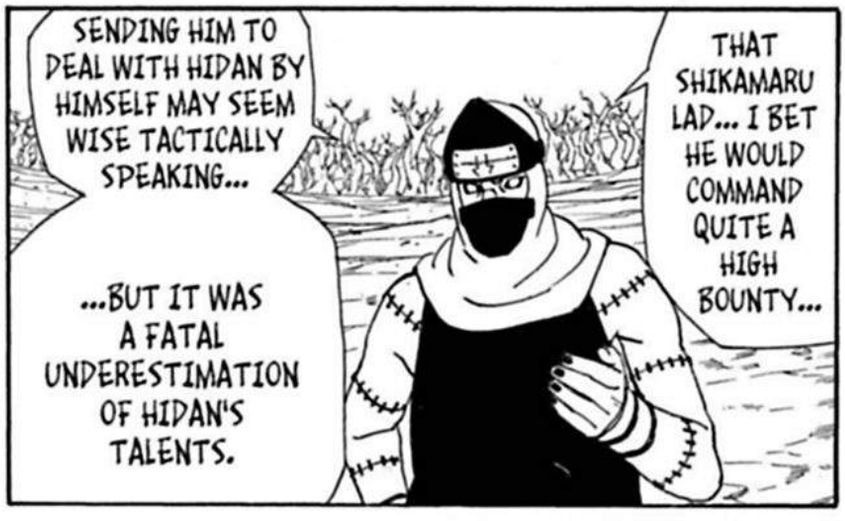
READ THIS WAY
I DON'T JUST HIDE IN THE SHADOWS... I BECOME THEM!
CLO
NK
WHSSH
ROING
KRUNCH...
SHADOW POSSES-SION JUTSU... ACHIEVED !
KRUNCH...

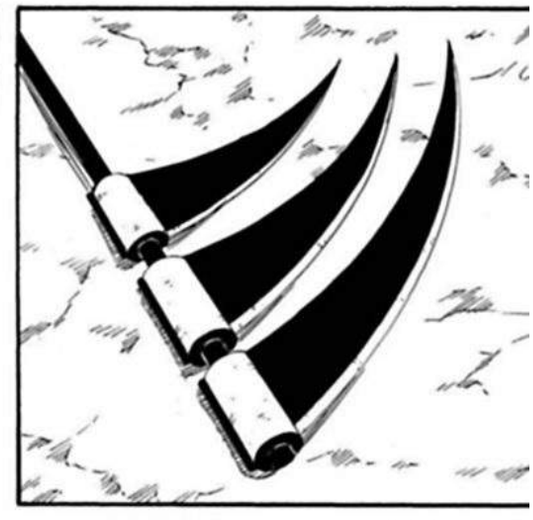
NARUTO

Number 336: Turnabout Dilemma...!!



Number 336: Turnabout Dilemma...!!





...

THAT BOY IS GOING TO DIE TODAY.

THE GAP BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE BATTLE EXPERIENCES IS VAST...
SHFF

...

I AM... STRONG...
BUT YOU ALL ARE CORRECT...

...

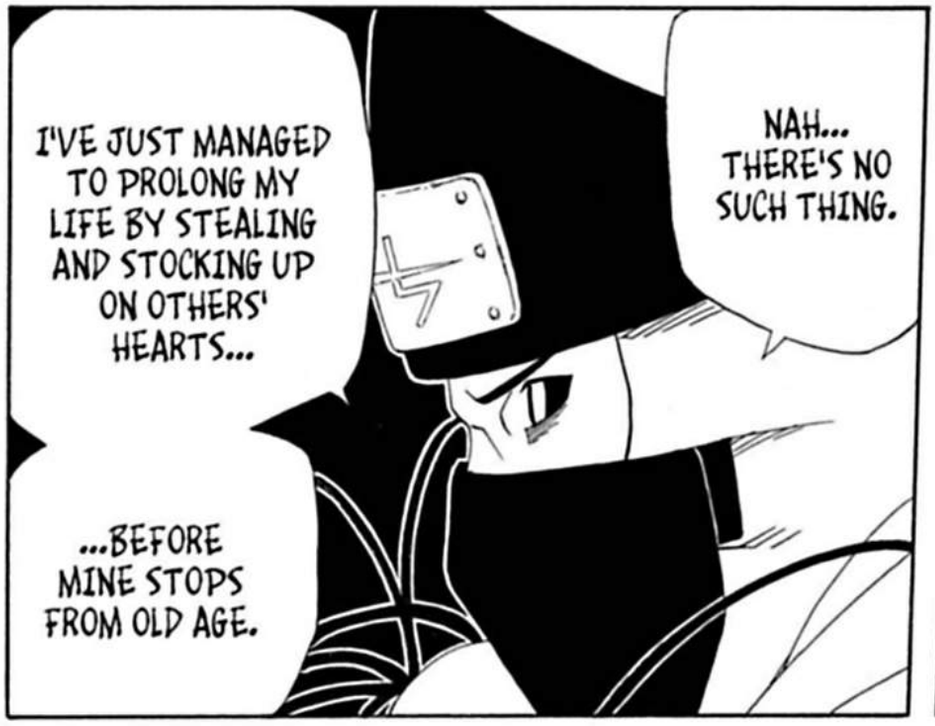
YOUR HEADBANDS...
...THEY REMIND ME OF THE VERY FIRST KONOHA SHINOBI I FOUGHT...
SSSSS

SWSSSH
THE FIRST HOKAGE...

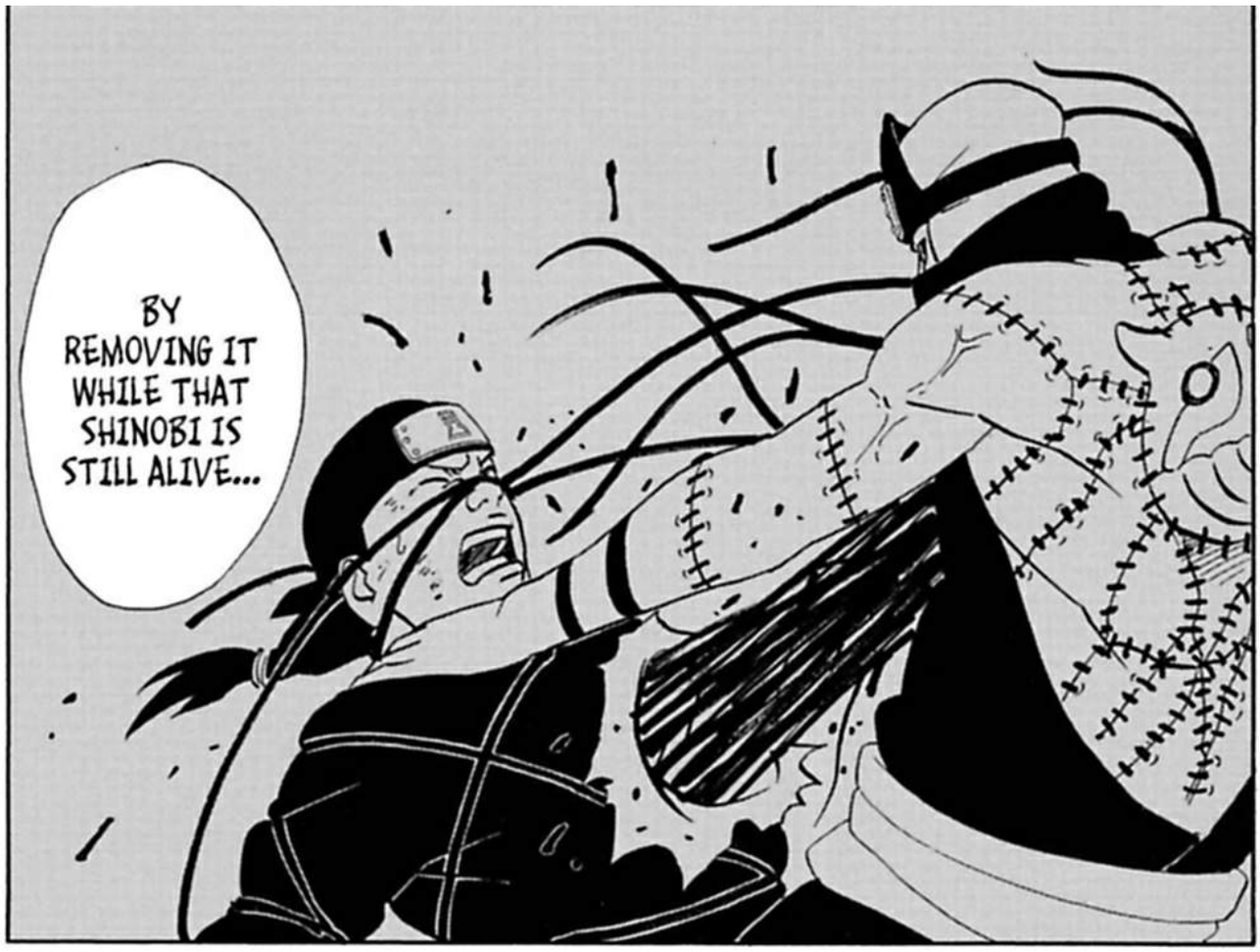
JUST HOW OLD IS THIS GUY...?!

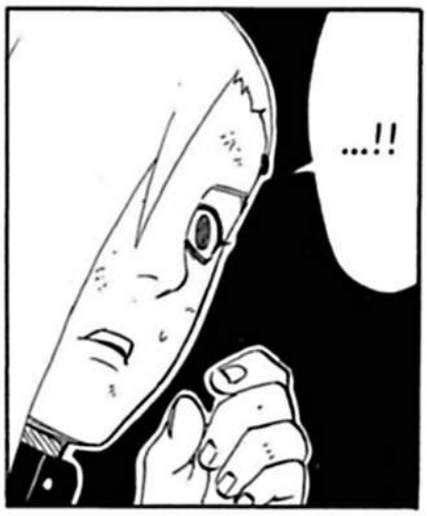
WHAT ...?!

?!


I'VE JUST MANAGED TO PROLONG MY LIFE BY STEALING AND STOCKING UP ON OTHERS' HEARTS...
...BEFORE MINE STOPS FROM OLD AGE.
NAH... THERE'S NO SUCH THING.

SO...YOU REALLY ARE IMMORTAL...


BY REMOVING IT WHILE THAT SHINOBI IS STILL ALIVE...


...!!

SSSSS

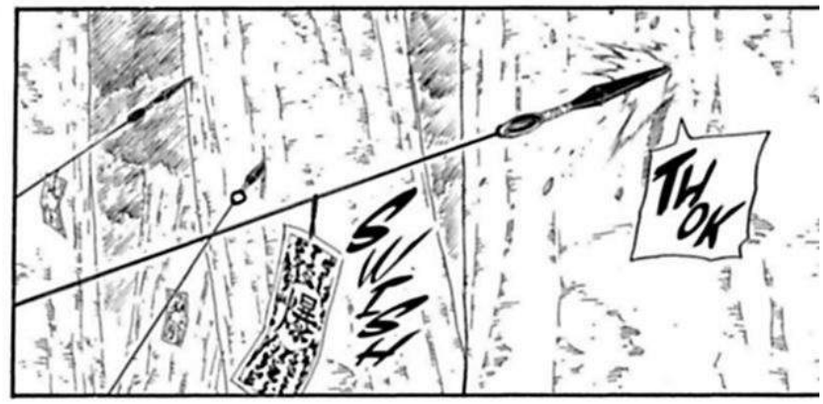
...!

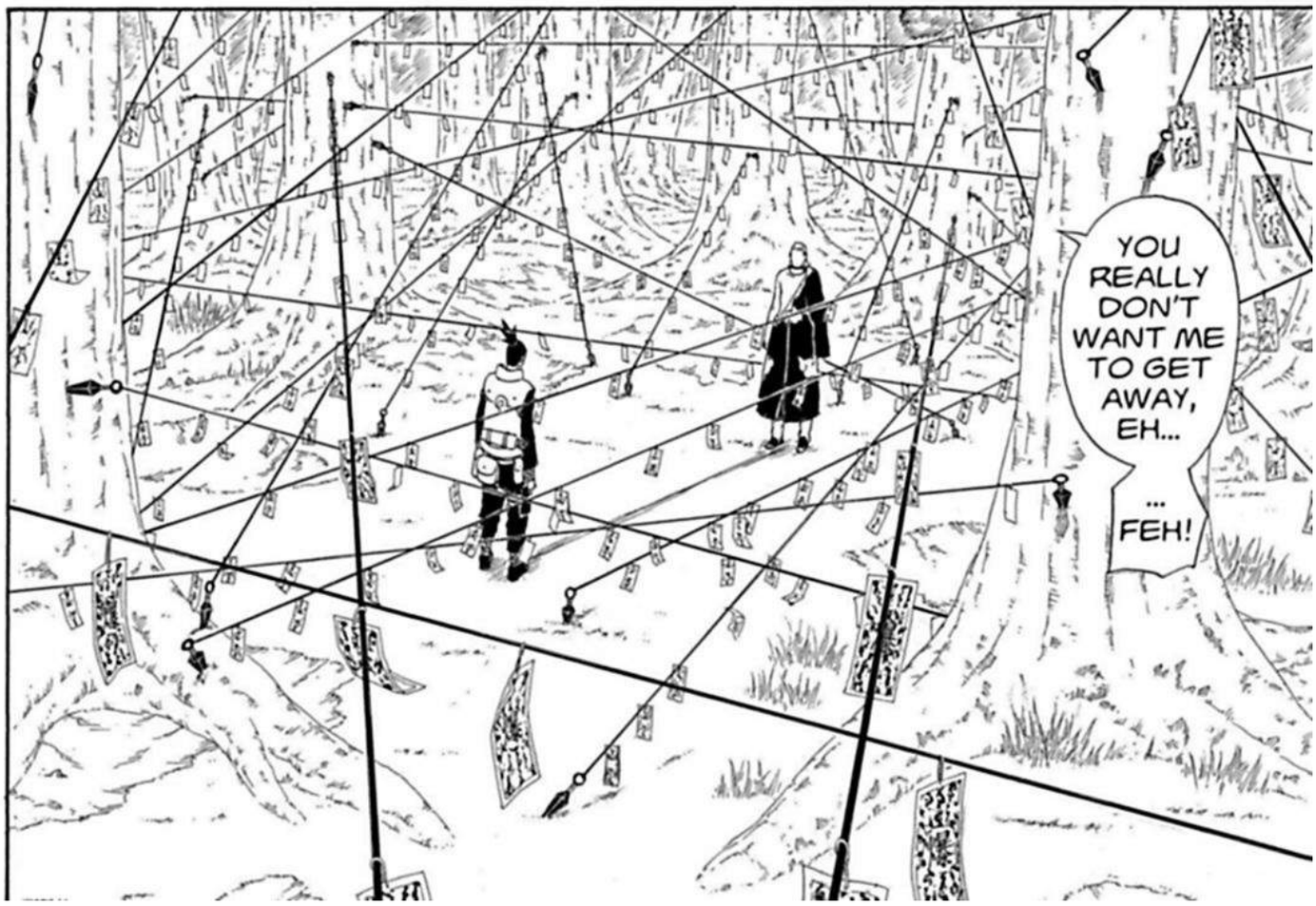
KAKASHI... YOURS SHALL REPLACE THE ONE YOU DESTROYED.
...I CAN STORE UP TO FIVE HEARTS AT ANY ONE TIME.

THOSE ARE THE FIRE STYLE AND WIND STYLE MASKS...!
!

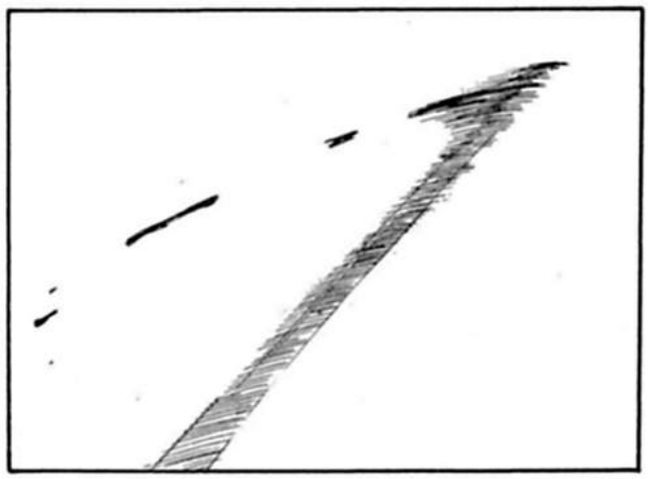
SKLOOCH...

...!


SWISH
THOK


YOU REALLY DON'T WANT ME TO GET AWAY, EH...
... FEH!

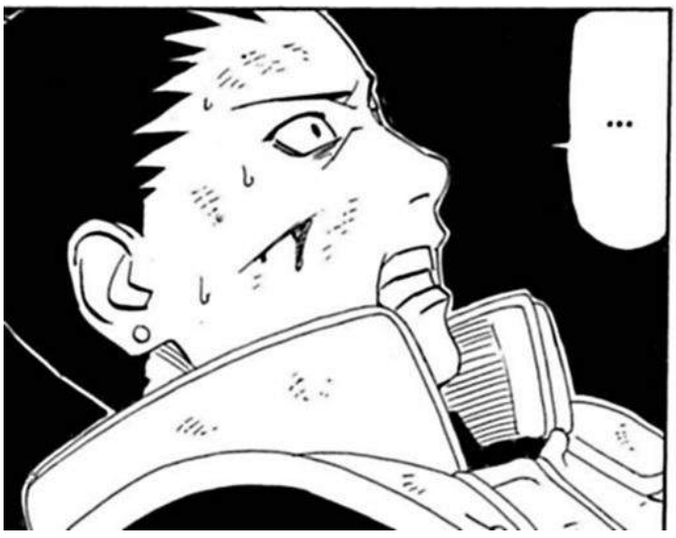
READ THIS WAY
HUF
HUF
SS...
SNIP
JUST THE TWO OF US NOW... AND THIS SHADOW MOVE, ITS LIMIT IS ABOUT FIVE MINUTES, NO?
CHIKA
CHAK
WHISH
FWA
FOOL. THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR ME...
!!



Slurrrp

THUD
AHH...

WWHOOSH...



THAP
THE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN SATISFIED...
SHHHFF...
SPLIP...
SPLAT
SPLAT
SQUELCH
SCRITCH...
!!
DIE!
SHING

READ THIS WAY
KA-
SHOM!
MASTER KAKASHI!!

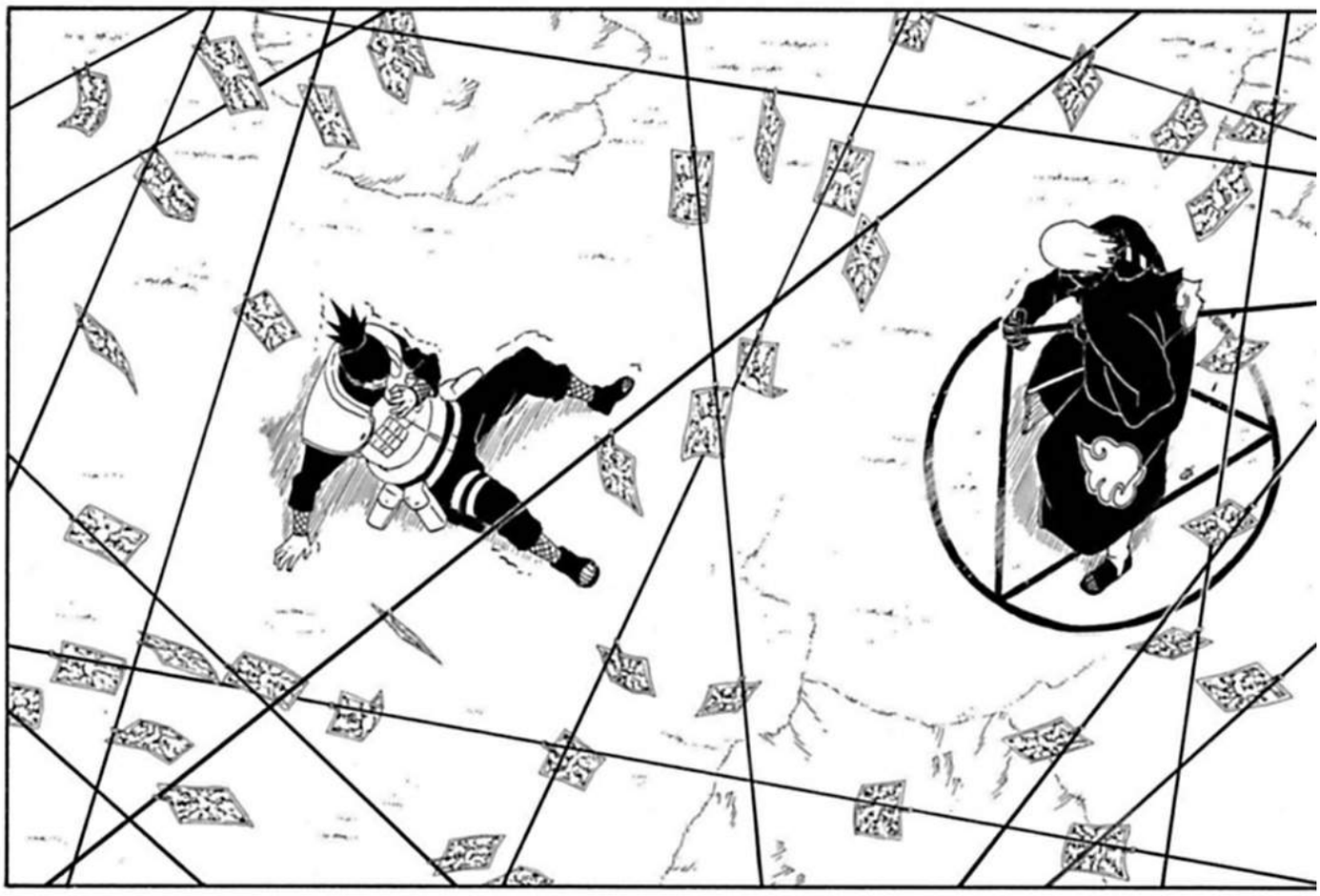
SPLRCH

FIZZZZ

WATER STYLE, WATER WALL!!

WHOOSH

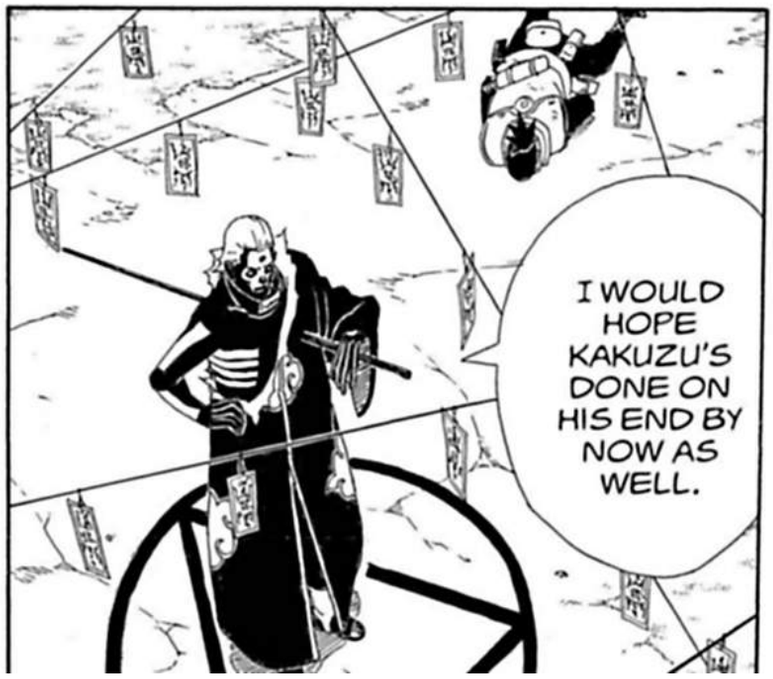
ARGH!
THWAP
!!
SSSSS
MASTER!!
YOUR HEART IS MINE.
WHAM



RRNNH...

...I'M COUNTING ON YOU... ...SHIKAMARU...

LORD JASHIN TOO IS DISAP-POINTED...
FEH... HOW PITIFUL...
THUMP...

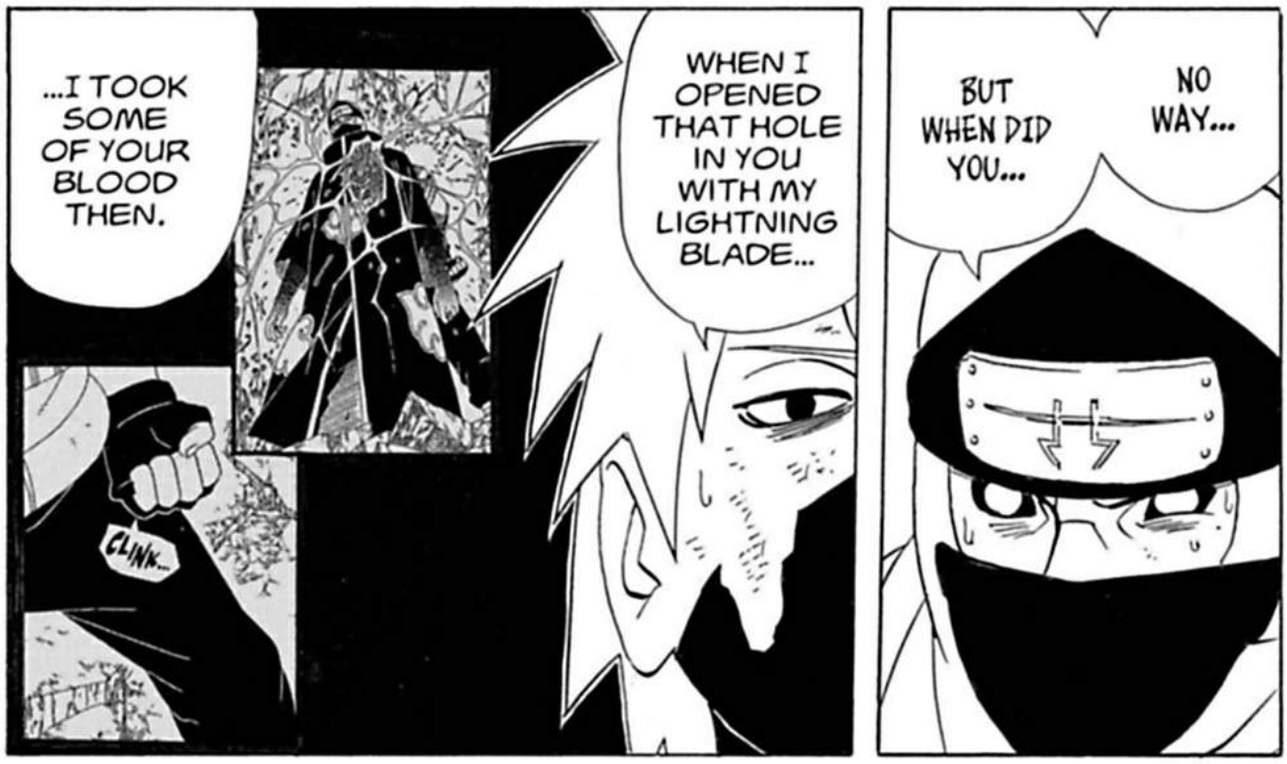

I WOULD HOPE KAKUZU'S DONE ON HIS END BY NOW AS WELL.

PLOP
PLOP

URRK...
D-DON'T TELL ME...

SHIKAMARU KNEW YOUR PARTNER HAS THE ABILITY TO USE OTHERS' BLOOD.
SO HE HAD BLOOD-STORING CAPSULES PREPARED AHEAD OF TIME.
SO... PLEASE USE THIS WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE. HOLD ON TO IT UNTIL THEN.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT ...
WE USED YOUR BLOOD.


...I TOOK SOME OF YOUR BLOOD THEN.
CLINK...
WHEN I OPENED THAT HOLE IN YOU WITH MY LIGHTNING BLADE...
BUT WHEN DID YOU...
NO WAY...

...WOULD NEVER LET GO TO WASTE THE INTELLI-GENCE ASUMA SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO OBTAIN...

TWITCH
HE...
IT'S YOU TWO WHO UNDER-ESTIMATE SHIKA-MARU.

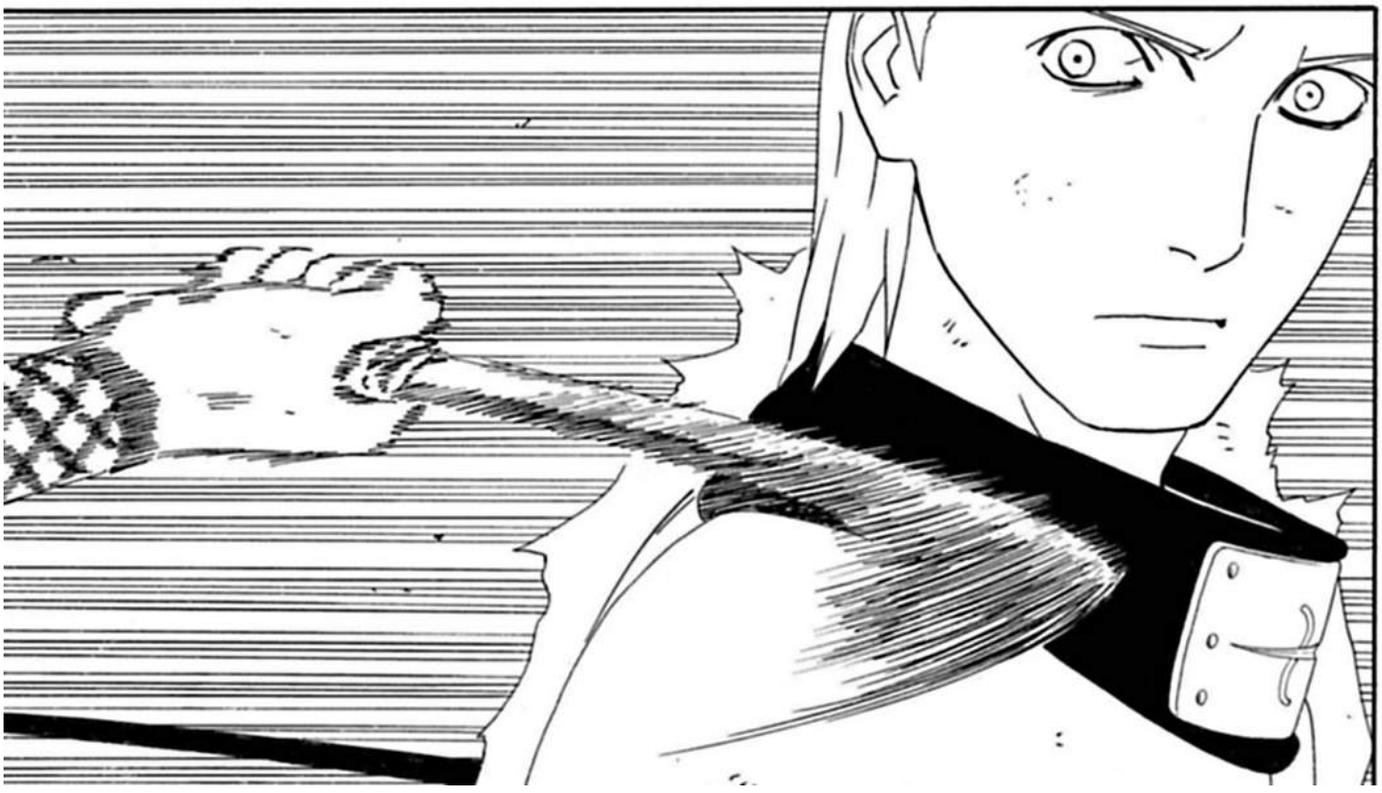
!!!

Number 337: Shikamaru's Genius!!

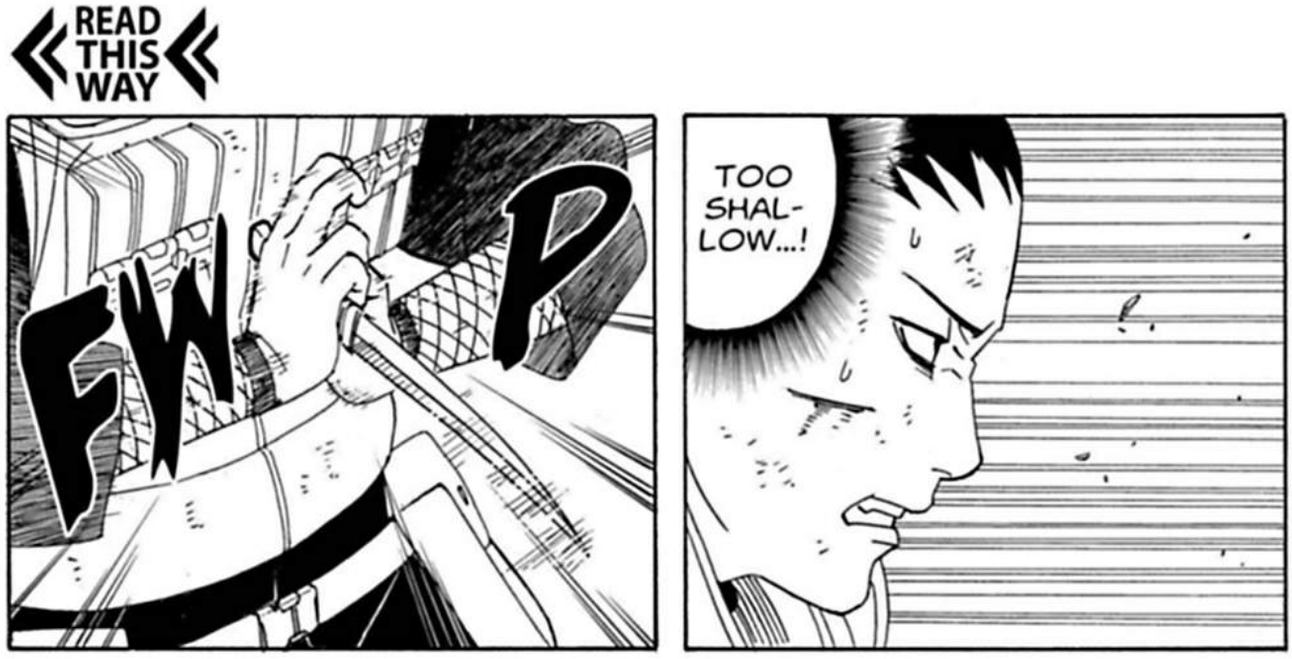
NARUTO

HMM?!

GUESS I OUGHT TO GET GOING ...
KHOOSH



SLA
SH
KASH
CLATTER
SPURT


READ THIS WAY
FWP
TOO SHAL-LOW...!

HUF
HUF

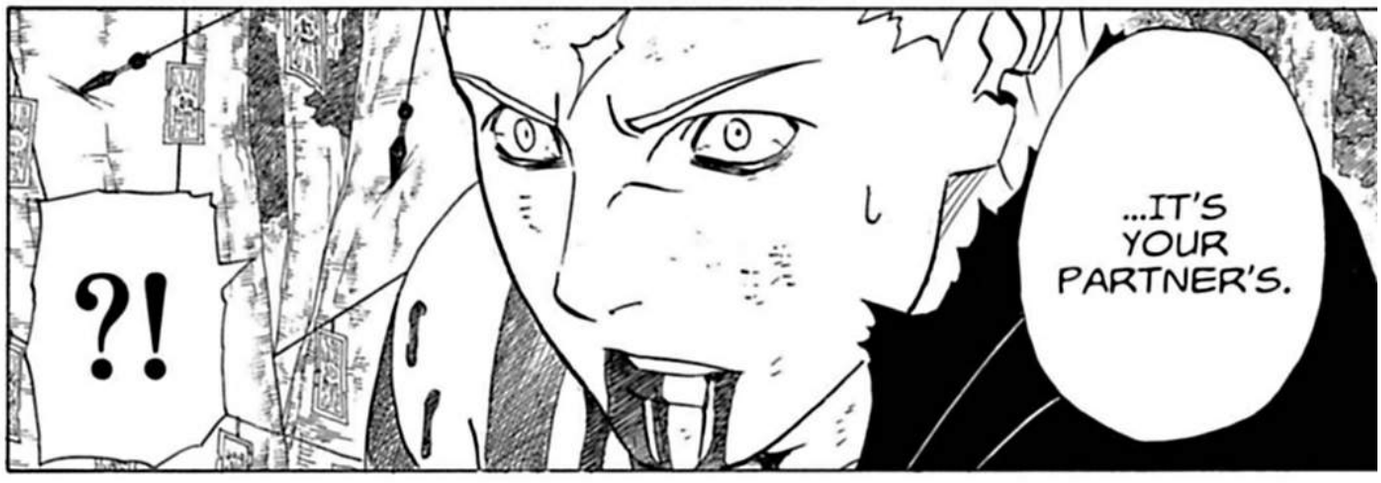
...YOU... HOW COME... YOU'RE STILL ALIVE ...?

SWOO
!
OOSH

SEE, THE BLOOD ON YOUR WEAPON ISN'T MINE...

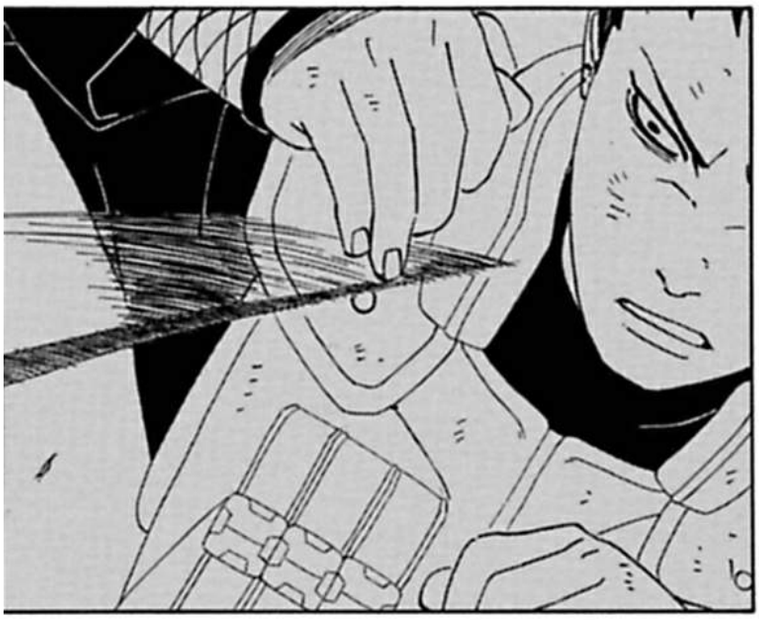
I JUST PRE-TENDED LIKE YOU HAD GOTTEN ME...

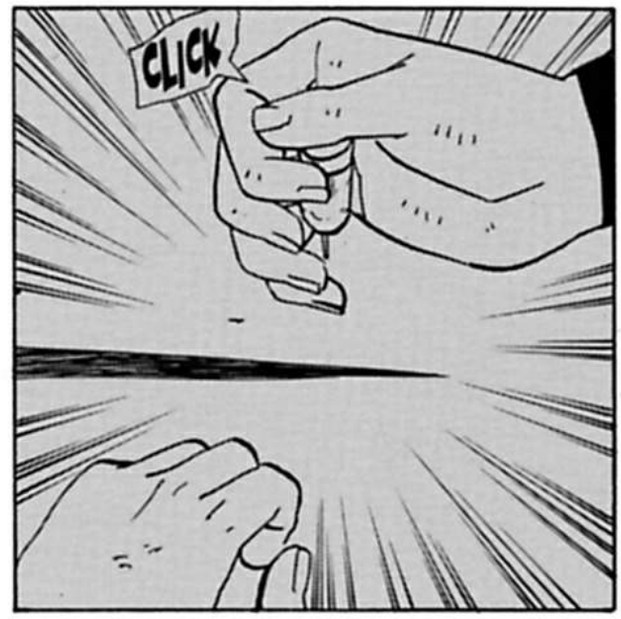
SCRITCH

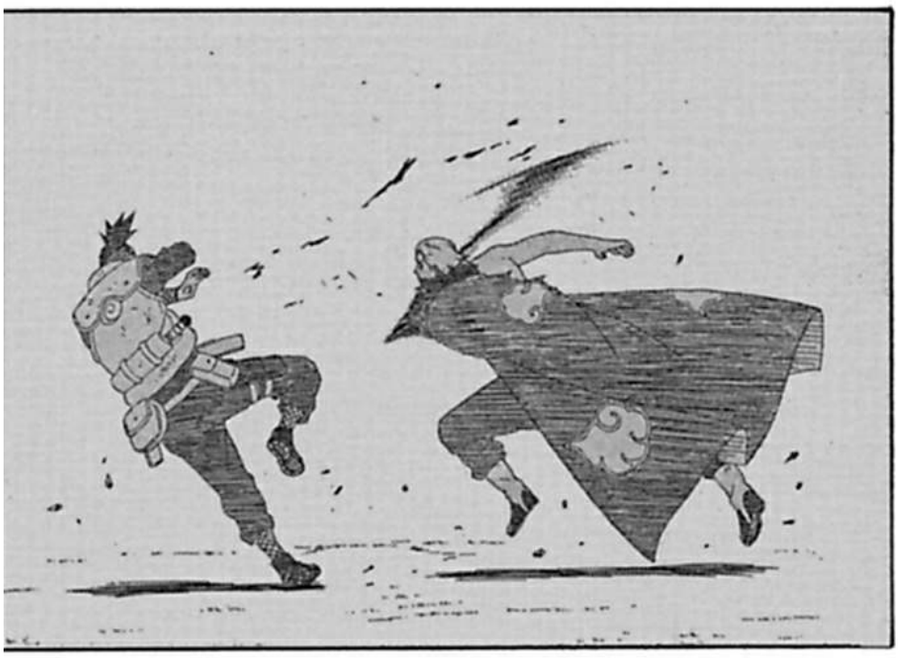

?!
...IT'S YOUR PARTNER'S.

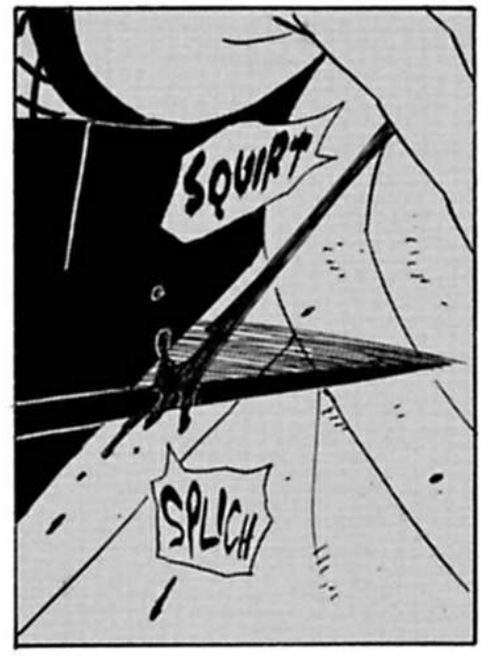
...SO I COULD TRAP YOU...
...AND THEN HAND IT OVER TO ME...
SHFF

IT DIDN'T MATTER WHO DID IT... WHOEVER GOT THE CHANCE WAS SUPPOSED TO EXTRACT SOME OF THAT KAKUZU FELLOW'S BLOOD...
...STORE IT INSIDE THIS CAPSULE...



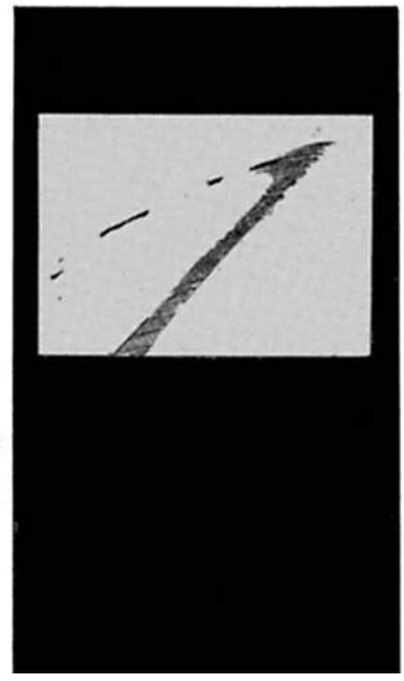

CLICK



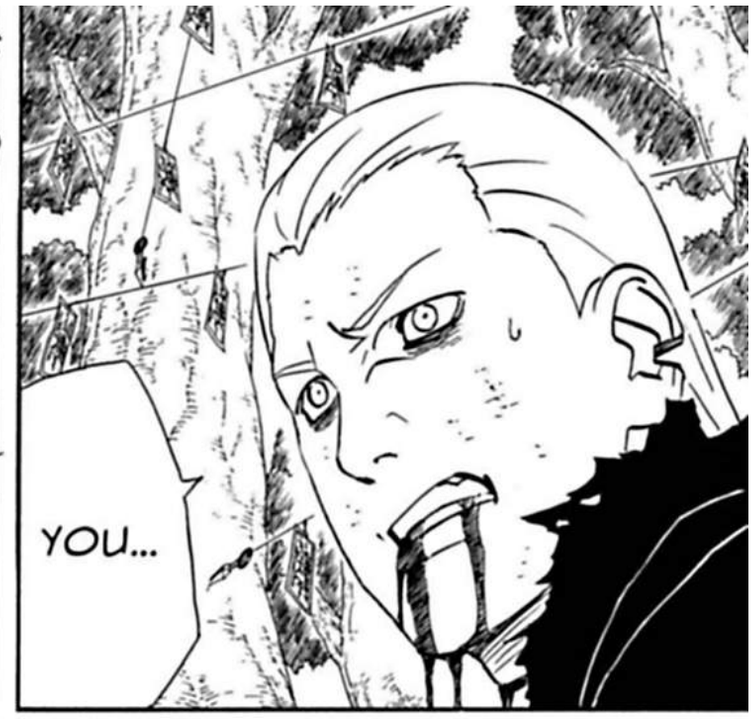

SQUIRT
SPLICH

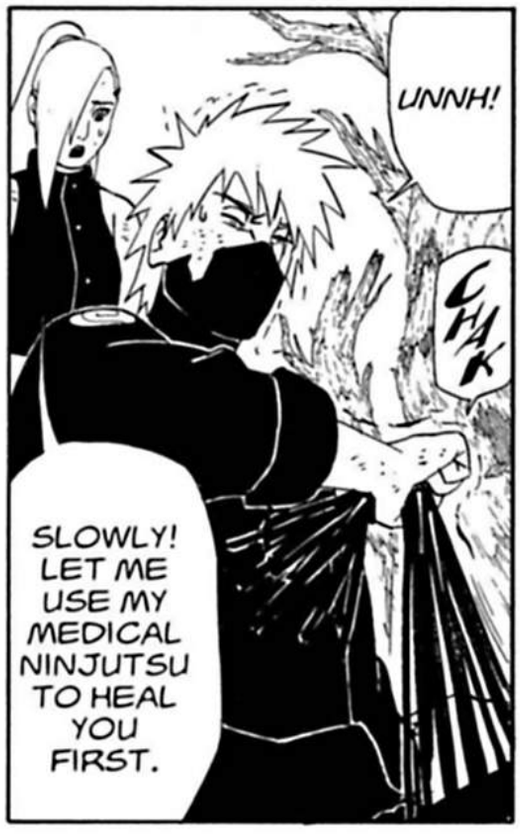
...THAT WAS OUR PLAN.

Slurrrp



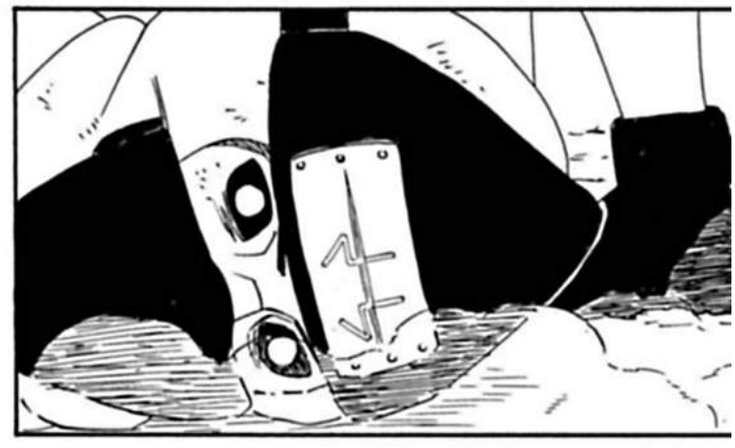
FU
MP


YOU...


UNNH!
CHAK
SLOWLY! LET ME USE MY MEDICAL NINJUTSU TO HEAL YOU FIRST.

MASTER KAKASHI!

TREAT ME LATER!
SAI-SAI



!
!
WOOSH
BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF EXPAN-SION!!
CLAP
STOMP
BA-
BOOF

BZZ

BZZ

BA

CHÔHARI'TE! SUPER-SLAP!!

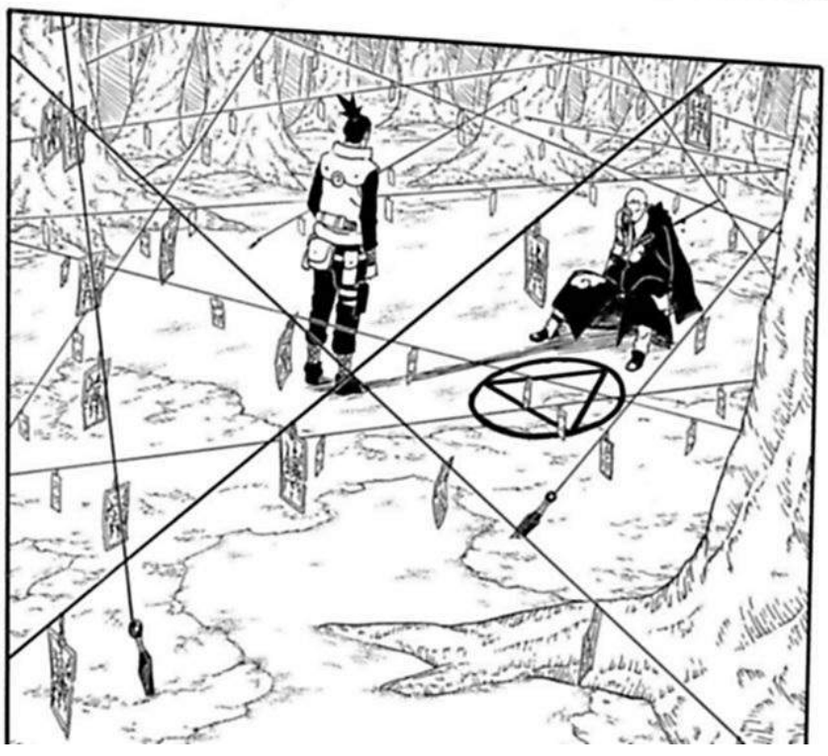
M

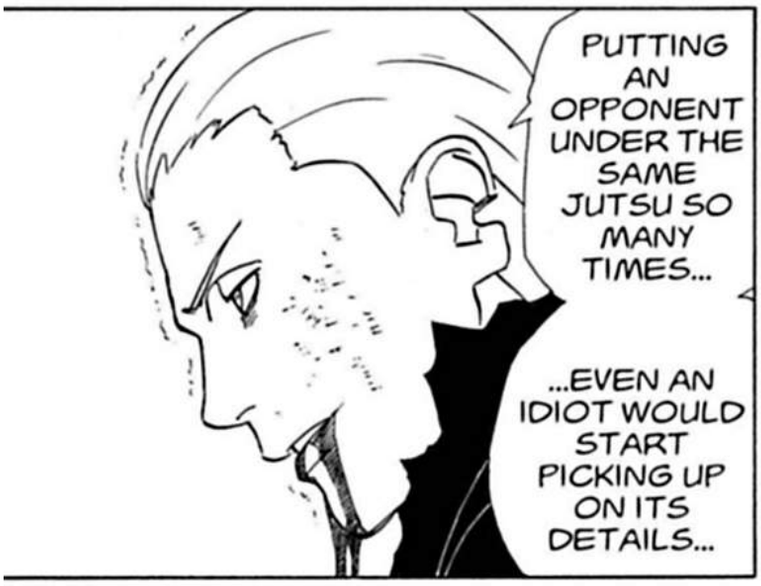
READ THIS WAY
SPLOOCH
SWZZZ
BOOF
SPLOOCH
SHOOP
GAH!
SPLOOCH
!
KSSSSH
!
...!

...BEEN A REAL LONG TIME... SINCE THAT'S HAP-PENED...

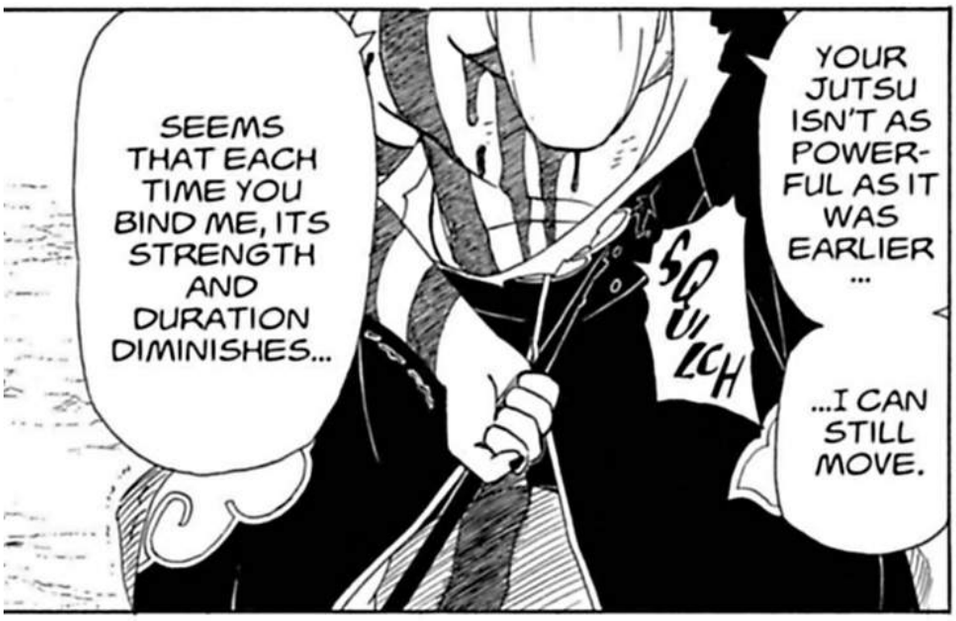
TWO OF MY HEARTS GONE...

SWZZZ

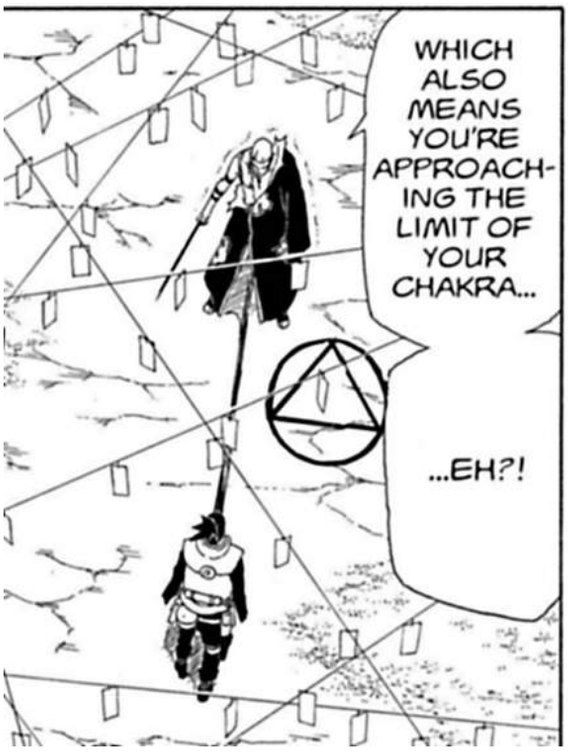


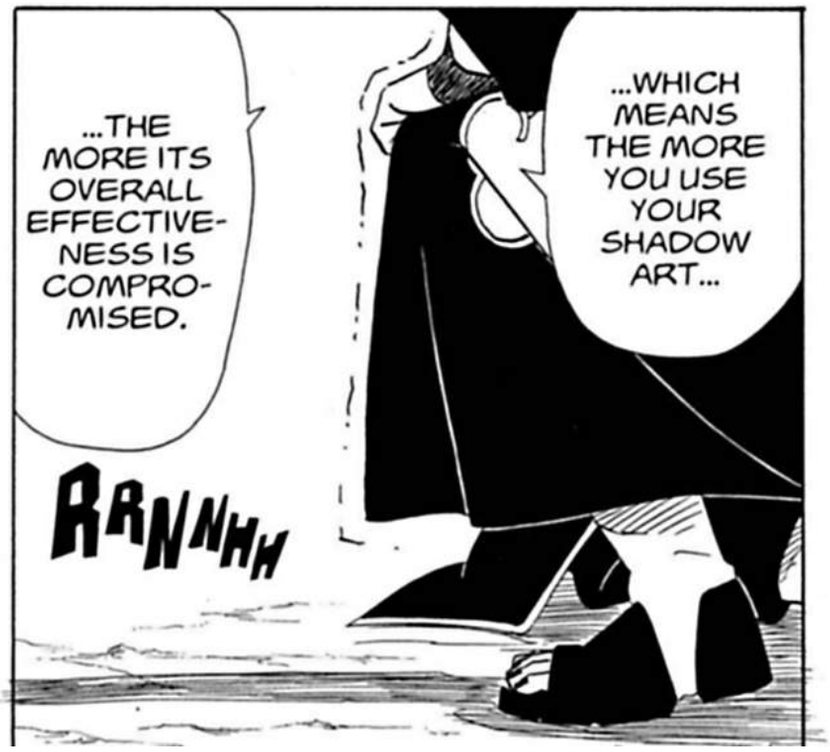

PUTTING AN OPPONENT UNDER THE SAME JUTSU SO MANY TIMES...
...EVEN AN IDIOT WOULD START PICKING UP ON ITS DETAILS...

!
HEH HEH HEH...


SEEMS THAT EACH TIME YOU BIND ME, ITS STRENGTH AND DURATION DIMINISHES...
SQUICH
YOUR JUTSU ISN'T AS POWERFUL AS IT WAS EARLIER ...
...I CAN STILL MOVE.

...

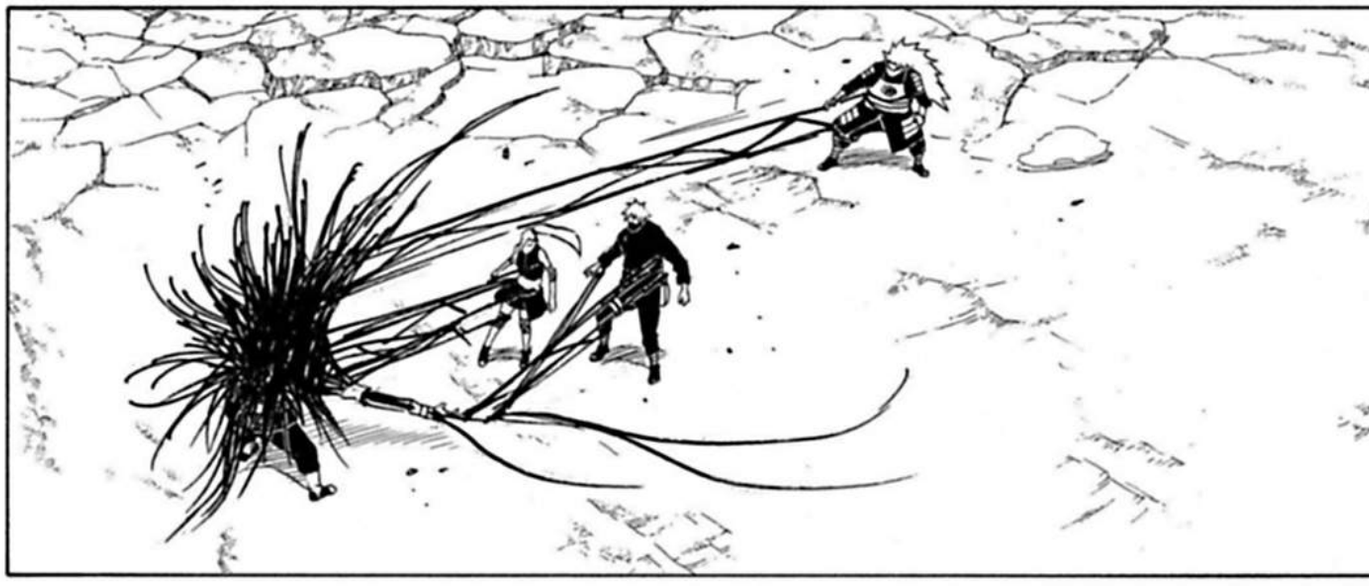

WHICH ALSO MEANS YOU'RE APPROACHING THE LIMIT OF YOUR CHAKRA...
...EH?!


...THE MORE ITS OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS IS COMPROMISED.
RRNNHH
...WHICH MEANS THE MORE YOU USE YOUR SHADOW ART...

GWA-
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!!

UHNH
...
KLAK

THUK
SQUICH



READ THIS WAY
GAH!
CAN'T MOVE!
RNH!
HE'S FAST!
UGH...
DIE...!
WHIRR
CLOP
!!

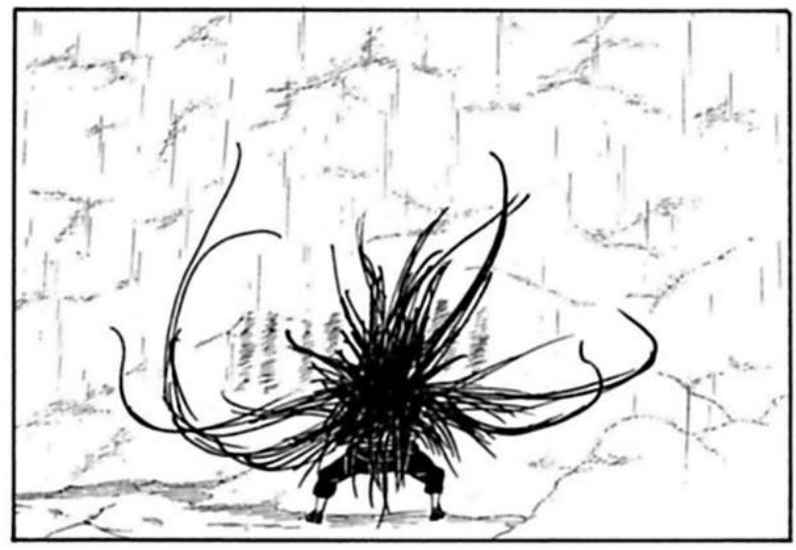
THUNK

GUFÛSUIKA NO JUTSU! ART OF THE HURRICANE VORTEX!!

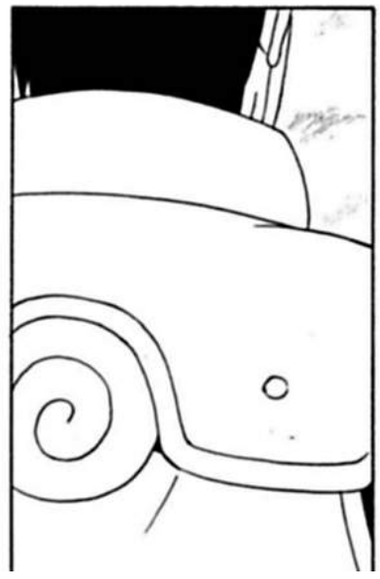
ROAR

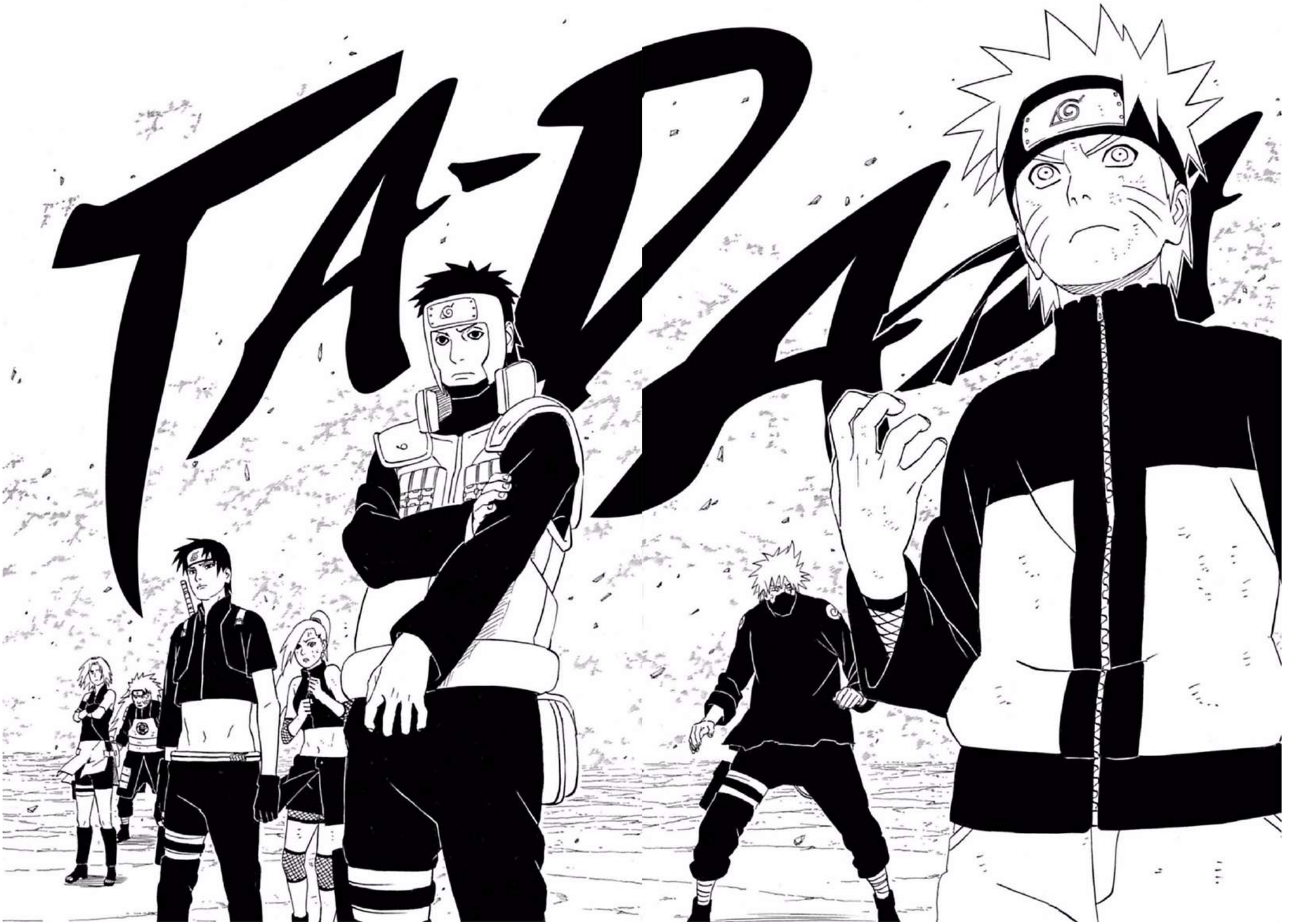
?!
WHOOSH!!

DOSHI...



SORRY WE'RE LATE!




TA-DA

NARUTO

Number 338: Payback...

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO SLOVENLY, KAKASHI...

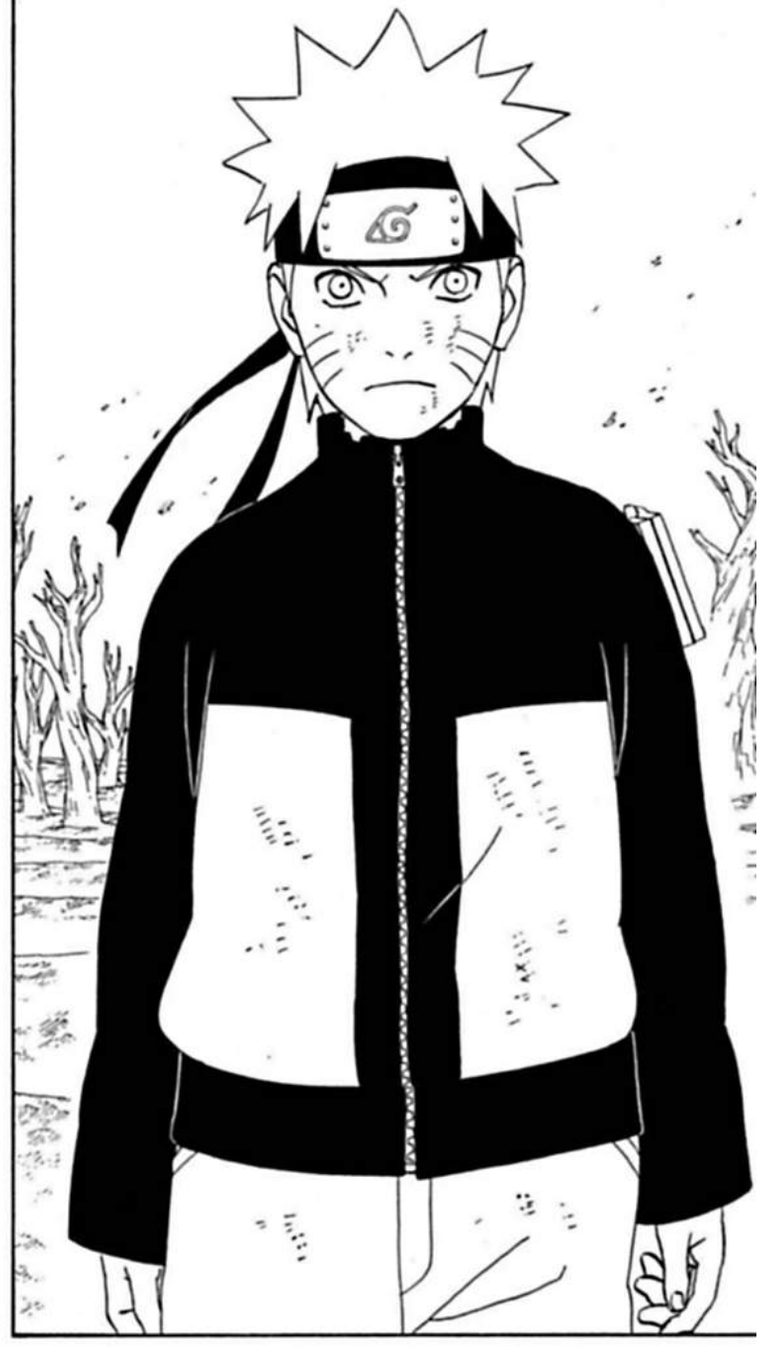
THIS ENEMY... IS PRETTY STRONG...

Number 338: Payback...

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO SLOVENLY, KAKASHI...

THIS ENEMY... IS PRETTY STRONG...

...ANOTHER WEIRDO SHOWS UP...
...AND ALREADY DISHEVELED...?

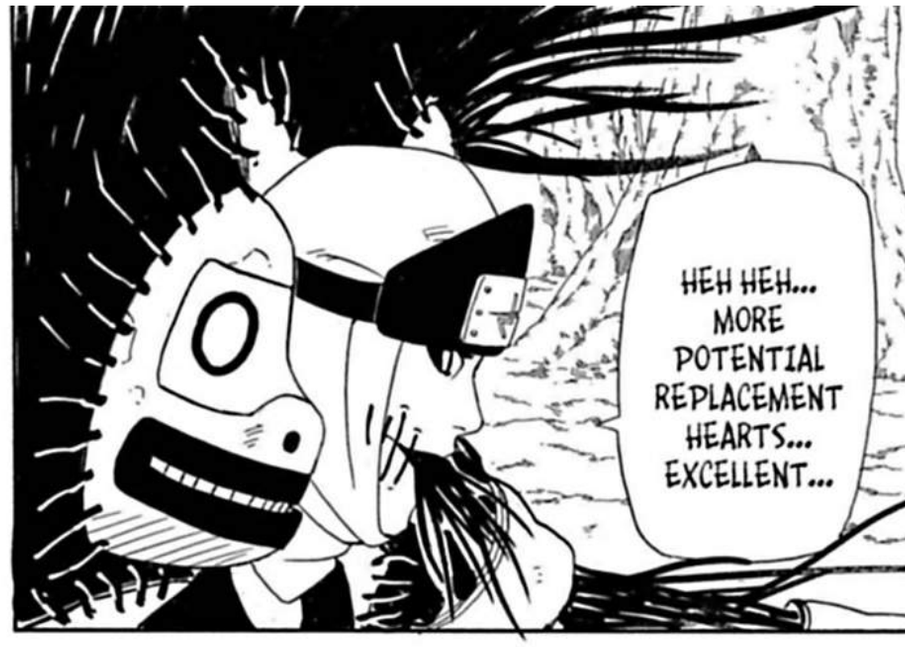


... WHERE'S SHIKA-MARU?

...

READ THIS WAY
SLAP
A LONG DISTANCE FIGHTER... AND A MEDIC...
TWO OF YOU HEAD OVER AND ASSIST HIM.
SHF
HE'S BATTLING THE OTHER ENEMY A LITTLE WAYS AWAY.
BOO
FOLLOW ME, COM-RADES.
F
SIR.
YES, SIR!
SAI AND SAKURA, GO WITH PAKKUN...
...HELP SHIKA-MARU.
SURE!

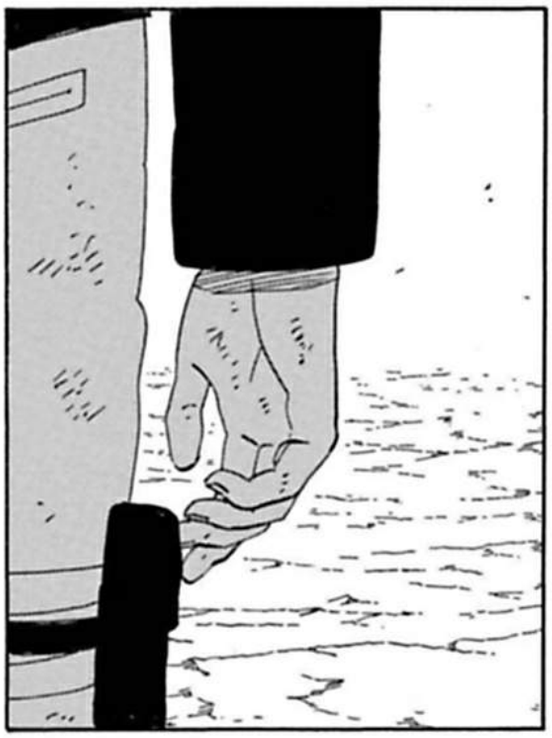
KRUNCH

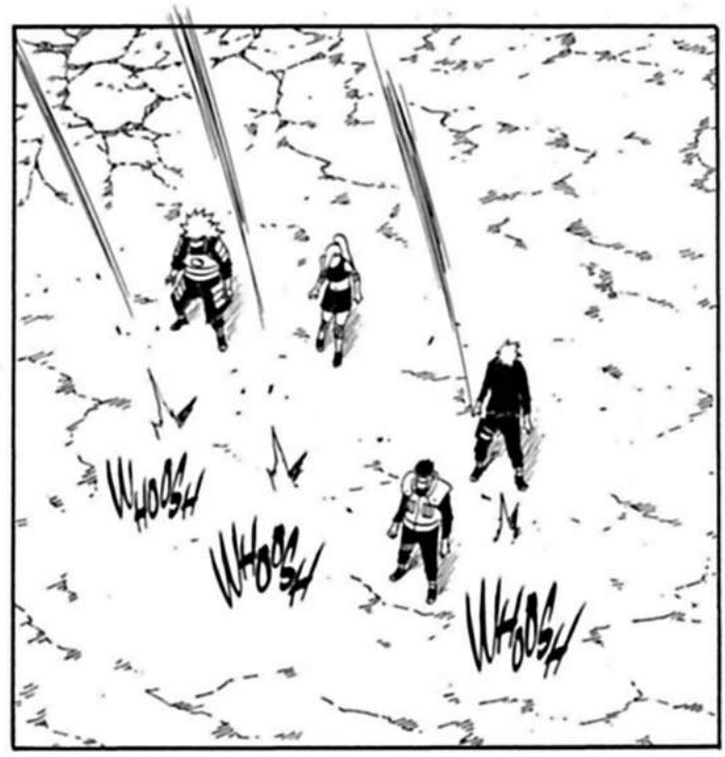

HEH HEH... MORE POTENTIAL REPLACEMENT HEARTS... EXCELLENT...

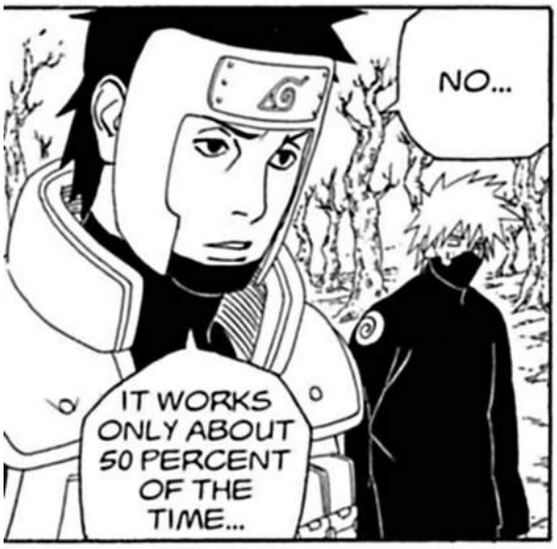
NUH-UH, SLIME FACE... THIS IS MY SHOW NOW...

NARUTO, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

LET'S GO!
SHF...

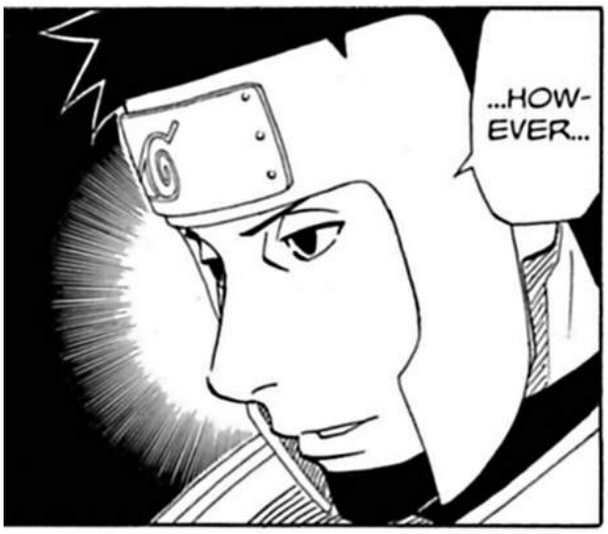



WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH


NO...
IT WORKS ONLY ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE TIME...

...

HE'S... PER-FECTED IT...?


...HOW-EVER...

...I SEE...

YOU'LL SEE... NARUTO'S COME A LONG WAY...

WELL, JUST KEEP WATCHING.

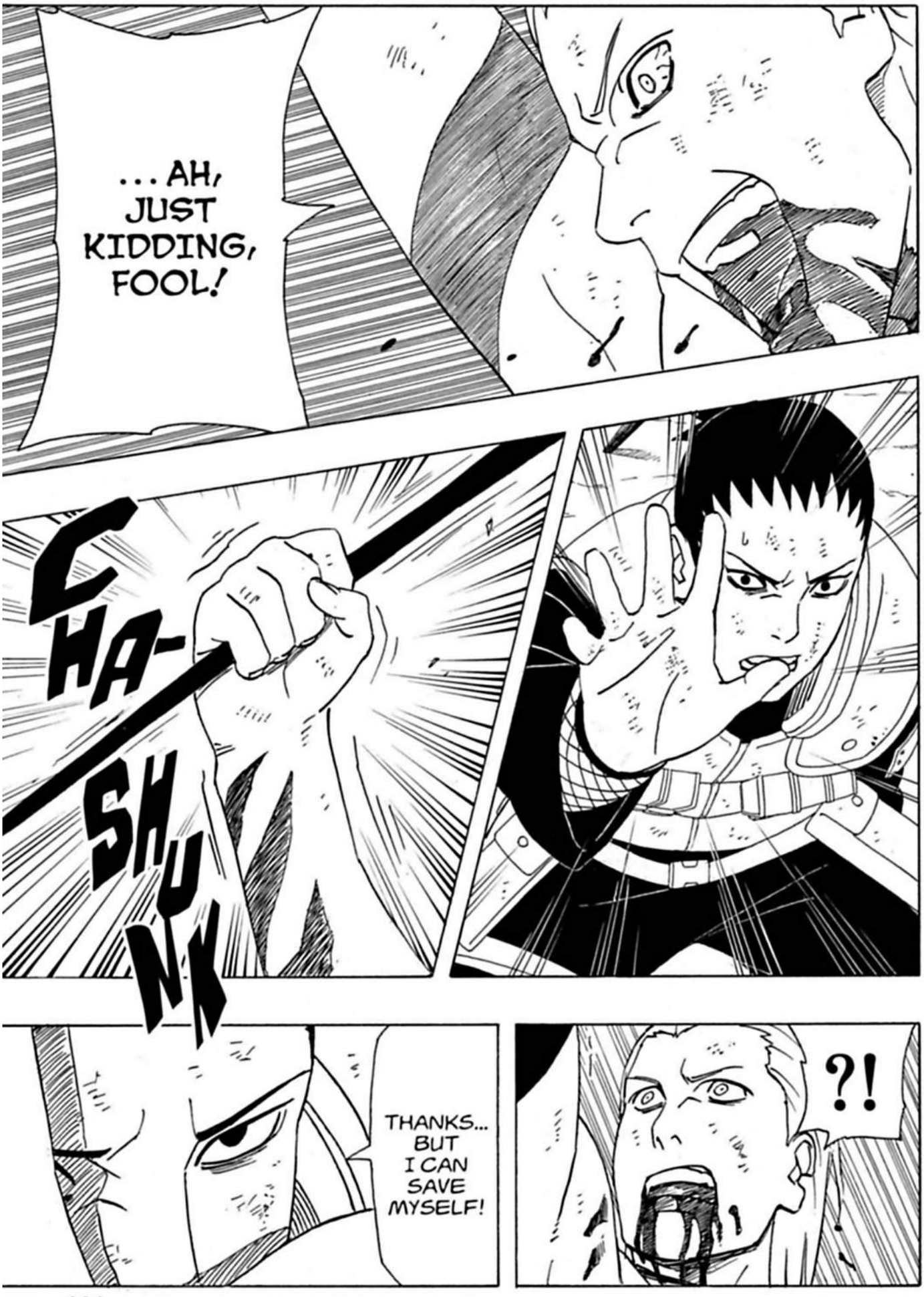
IT MIGHT NOT BE TOO LATE TO CONVERT...

...CHANGE YOUR WAYS...

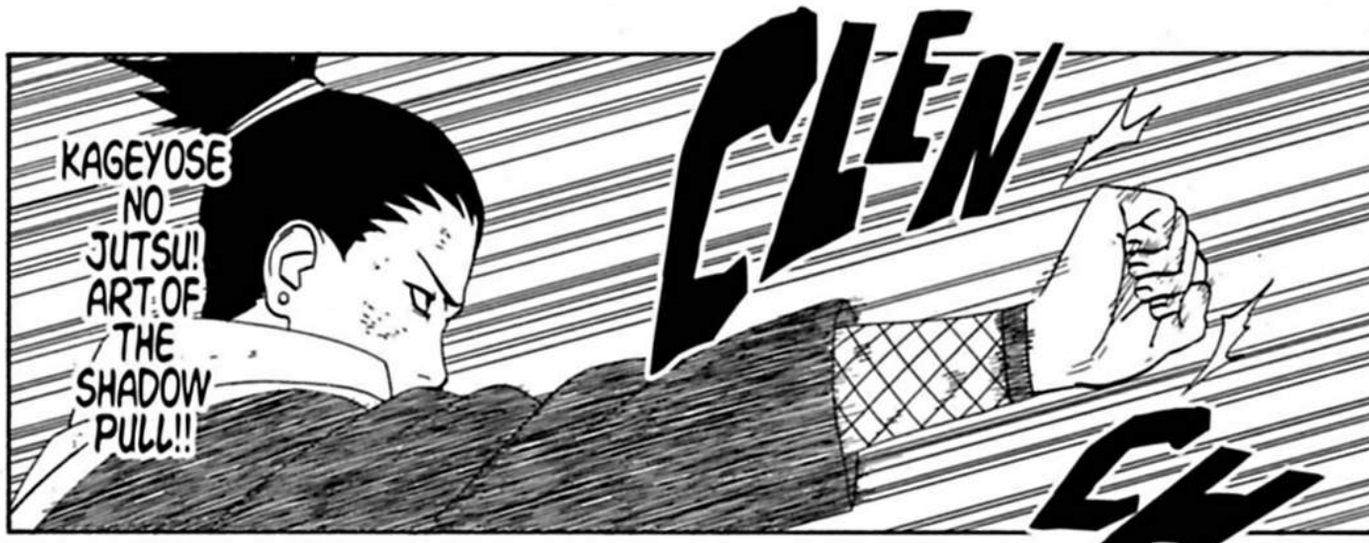
IF YOU BELIEVED IN LORD JASHIN...

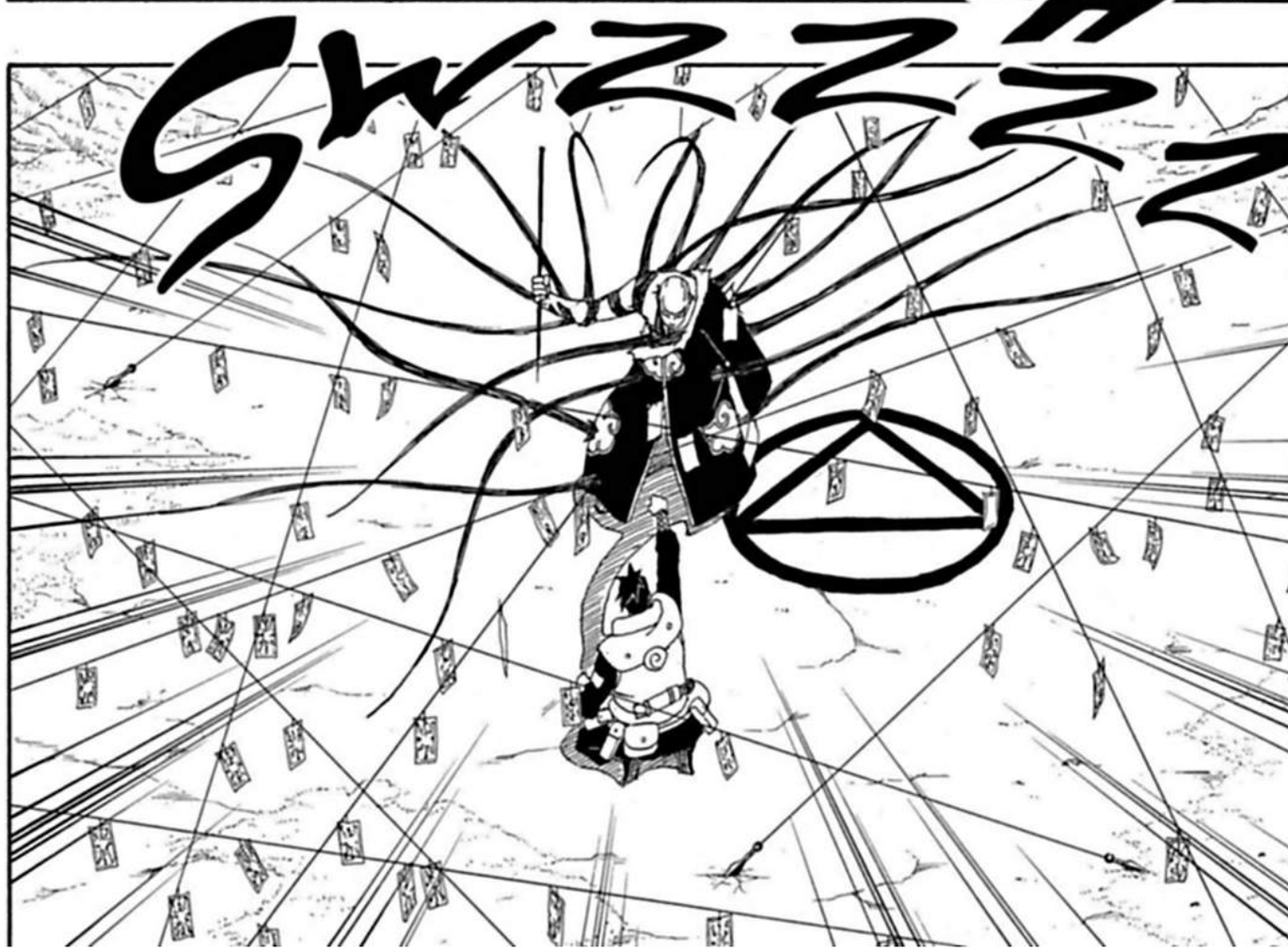
...HE COULD SAVE YOU RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

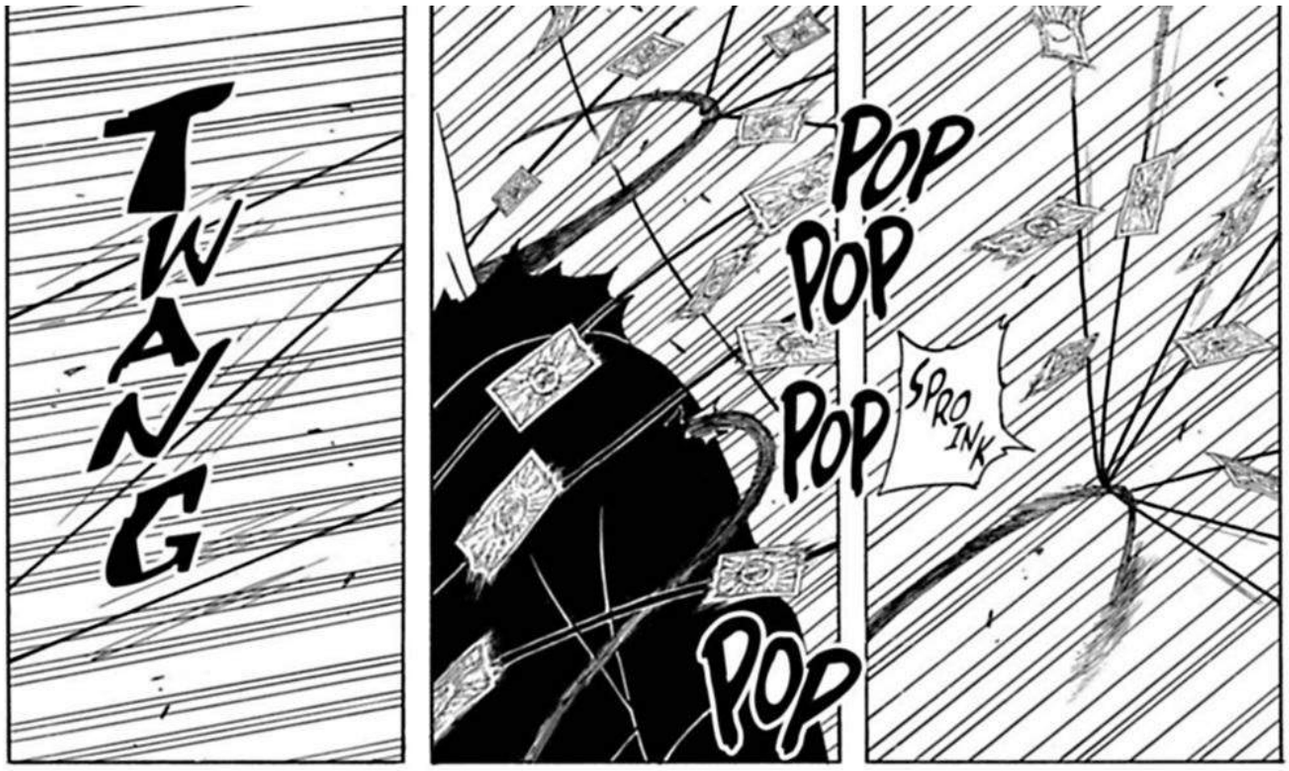
GWA-HA HA HA HA!


...AH, JUST KIDDING, FOOL!
CHA-
SHUNK
THANKS... BUT I CAN SAVE MYSELF!
?!

GAAH...!
FWAP
FWAP


KAGEYOSE NO JUTSU! ART OF THE SHADOW PULL!!
CLEN
CH

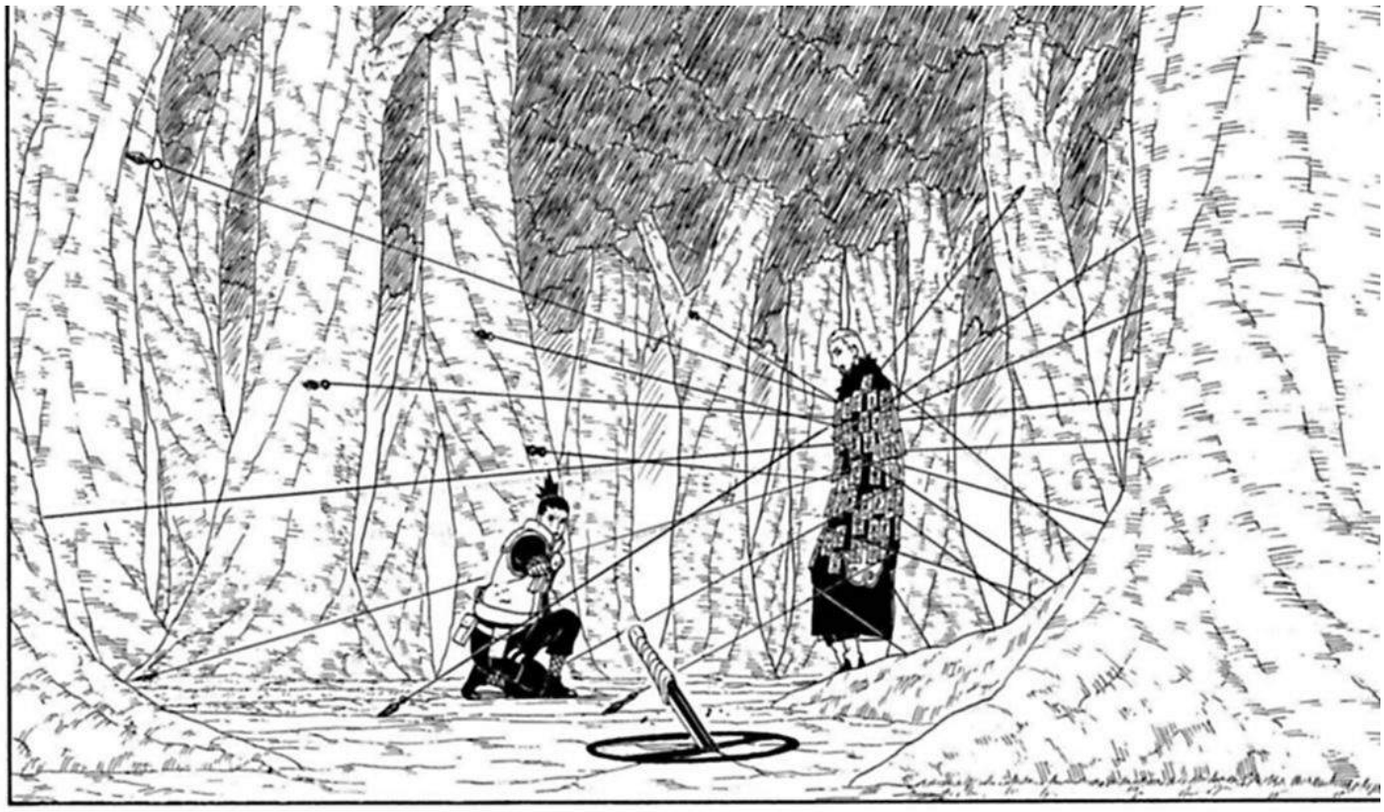

SWZZZZZ


TWANG
POP
POP
POP
POP
SPRO INK

YOU...

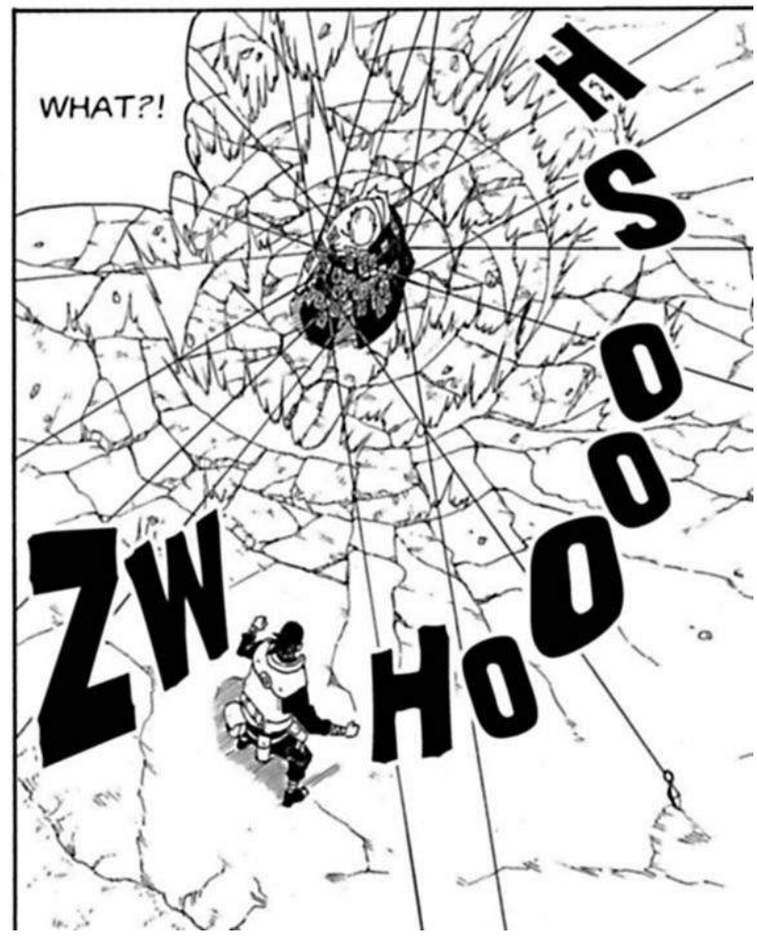
THOK

!!



CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK


WHAT?!
ZW
HOOO
HSOOO

A WHILE AGO, BEFORE WE MET UP AGAIN.

WHAT IS THIS?!

WHEN DID YOU SET THIS UP?!

"CURSES, LIKE CHICKENS, ALWAYS COME HOME TO ROOST" ...

CHAK

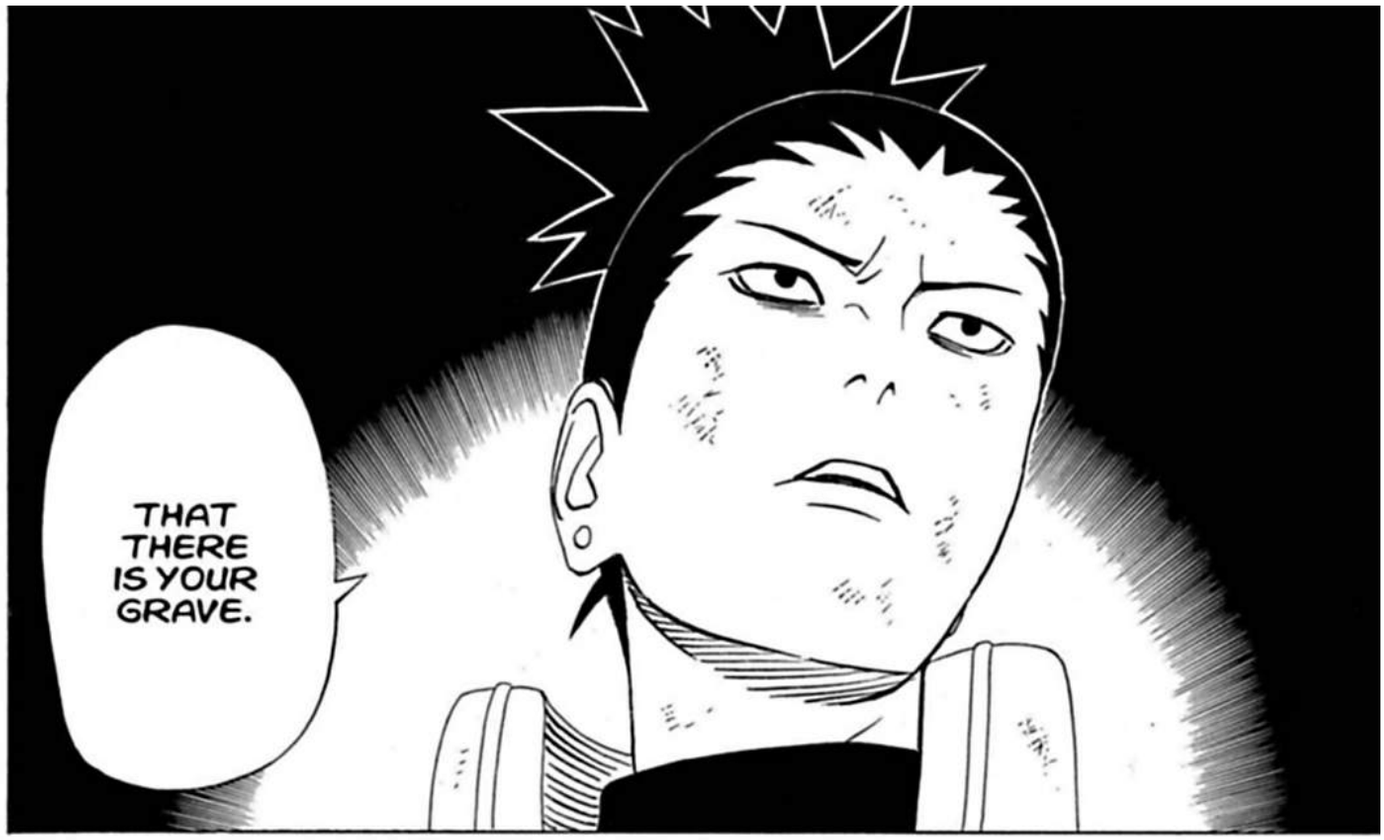
WHICH MEANS... THIS WAS ALL PART OF HIS CALCULATIONS...!

NO WAY... HE DIDN'T JUST RANDOMLY SEPARATE ME AND KAKUZU... HE DELIBERATELY LURED ME HERE?!

CAN'T JUST LET YOU KEEP LIVING, RUNNING AROUND FREE.

YOU CURSED MY TEACHER DEAD.

WHOSH


THAT THERE IS YOUR GRAVE.

EVEN IF YOU WERE TO DISMEMBER MY BODY AND BURY THE PARTS SIX FEET DEEP...
...I'D EVENTUALLY DRAG MYSELF OUT AND COME FOR YOUR THROAT.
I WON'T DIE.

HEH HEH HEH...
...HEH...

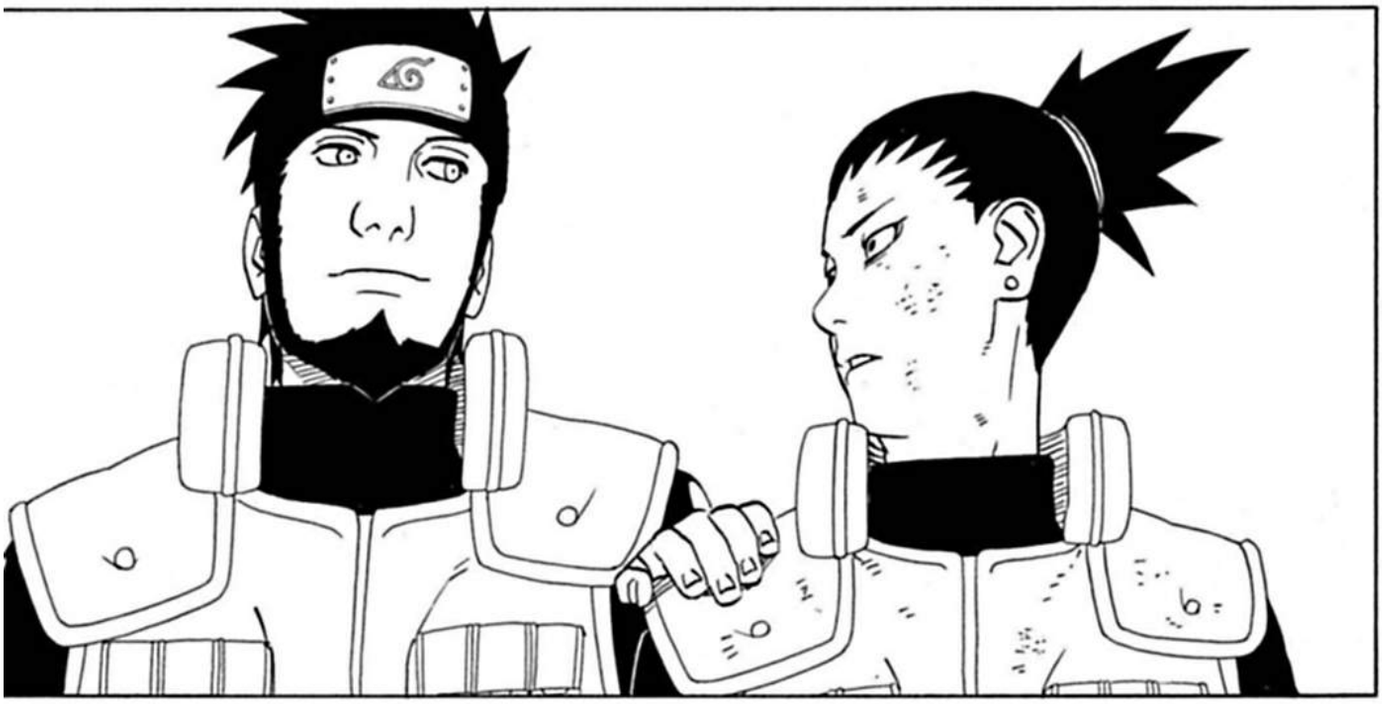
!

ONLY MEMBERS OF MY CLAN ARE ALLOWED IN HERE... ALL OTHERS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM EVEN SETTING FOOT ON THIS GROUND.
BUT YOU SEE, THIS FOREST IS A SPECIAL PLACE EVEN WITHIN THE LAND OF FIRE...

...

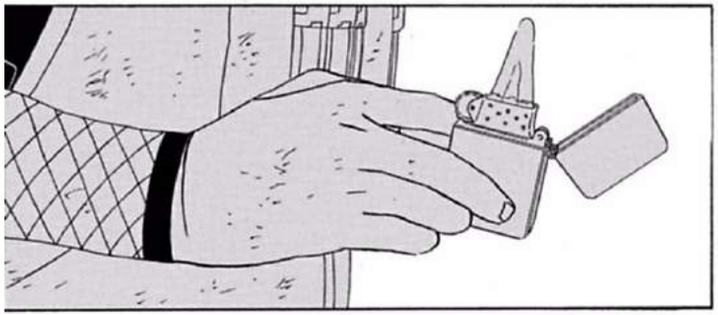
TAP

ONCE YOU DO, WE CAN WATCH YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY ...

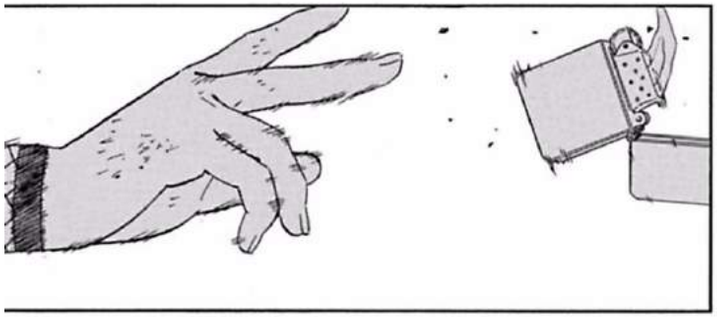


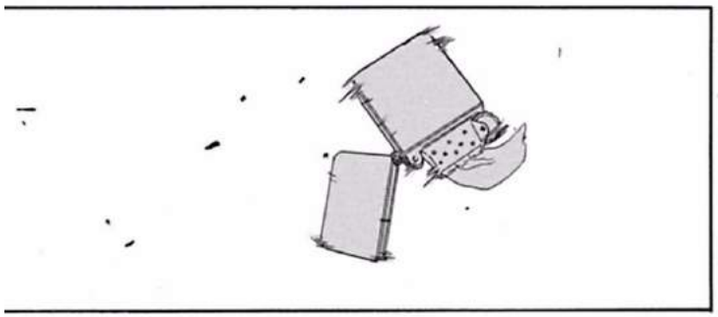
THANKS ...

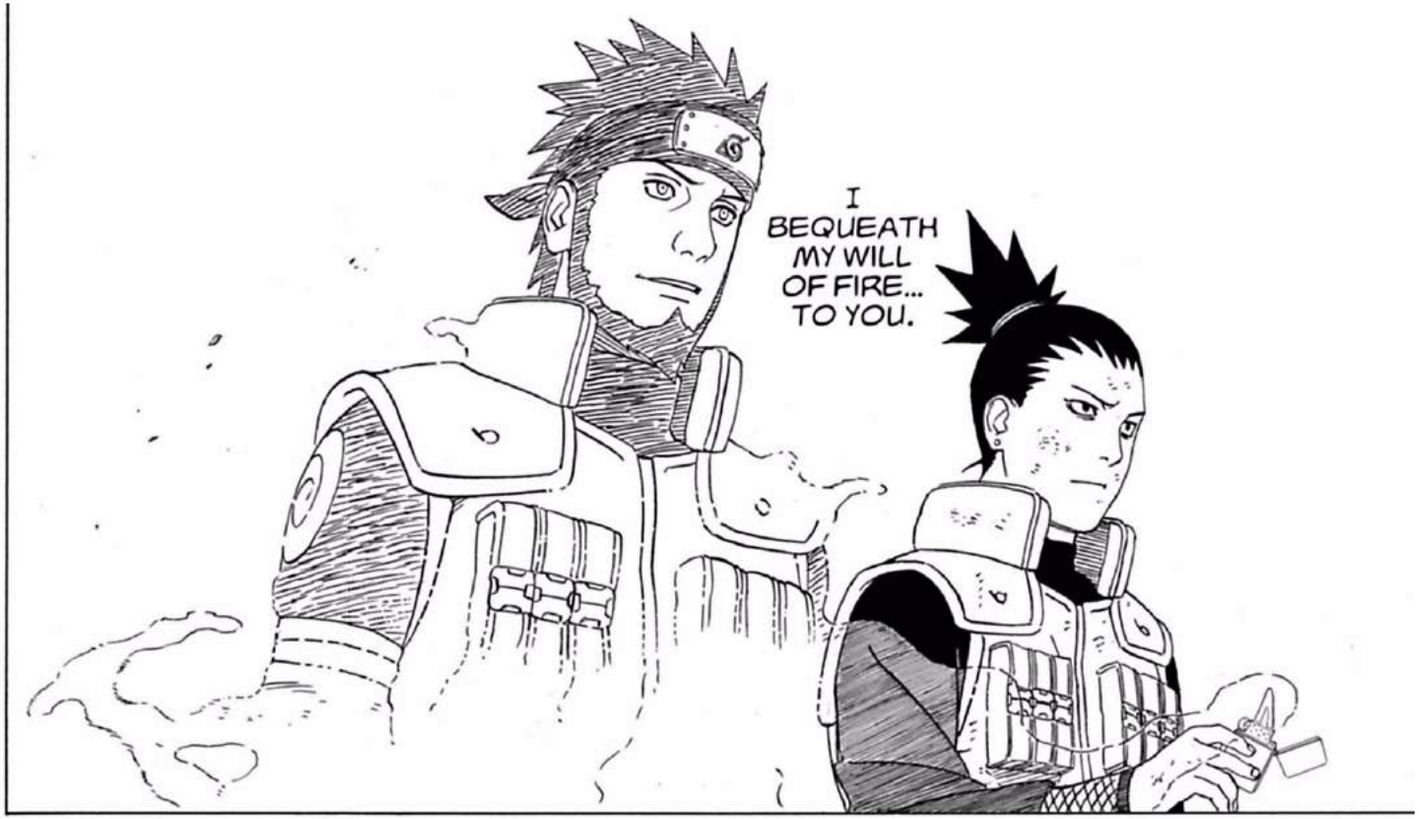
GOOD WORK, SHIKA-MARU...

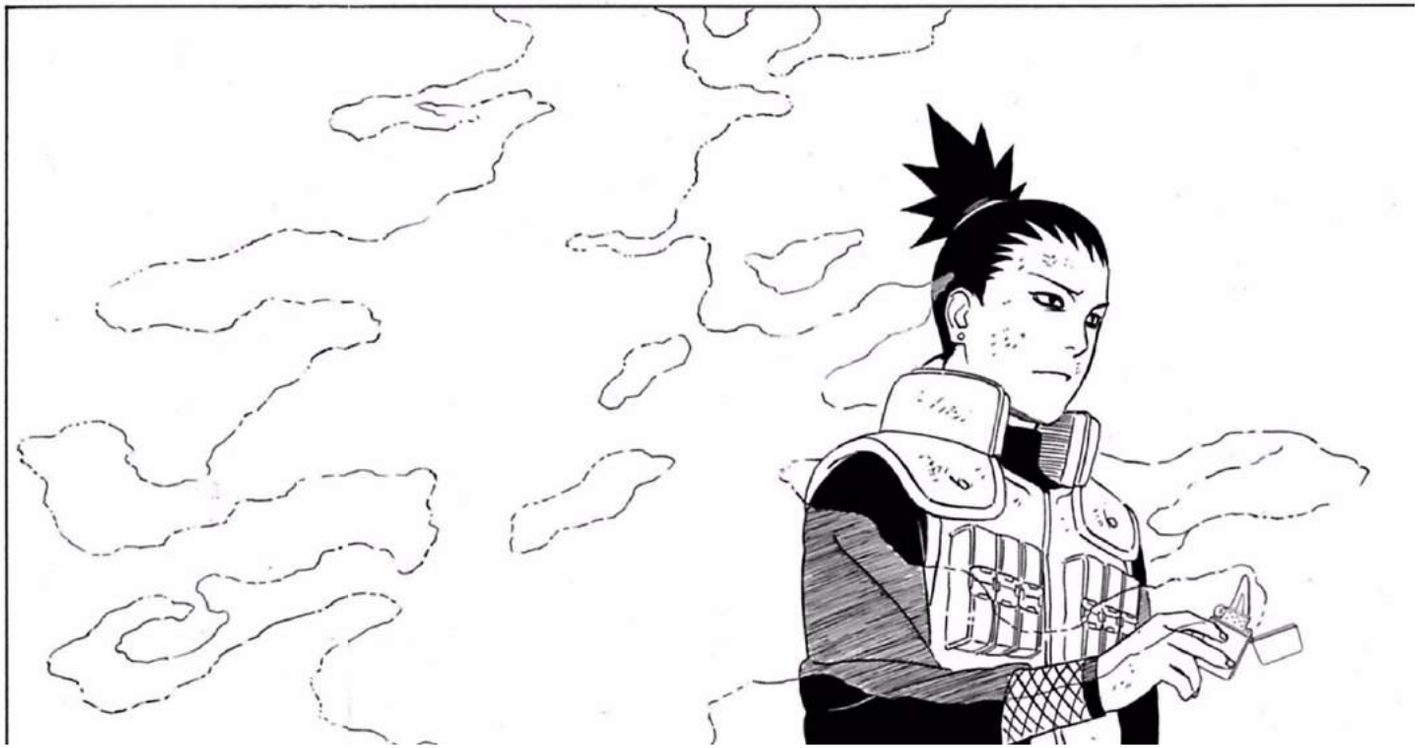


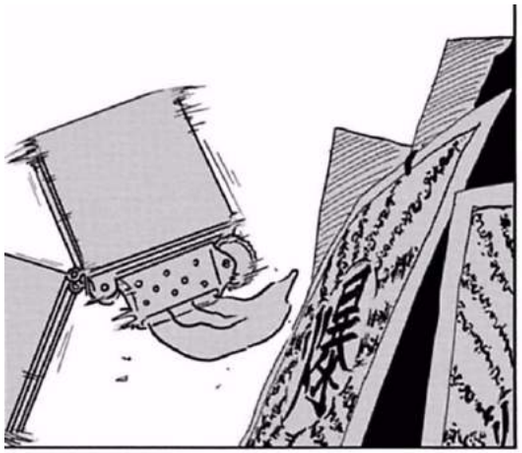
FAREWELL... MASTER ASUMA...

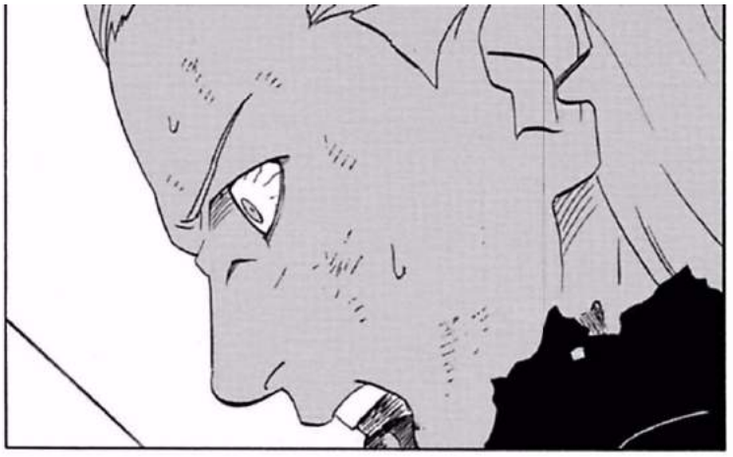


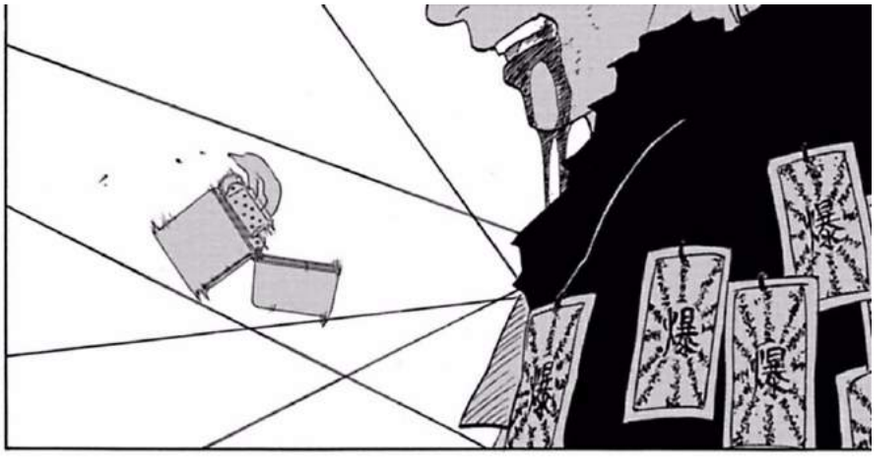



I BEQUEATH MY WILL OF FIRE... TO YOU.





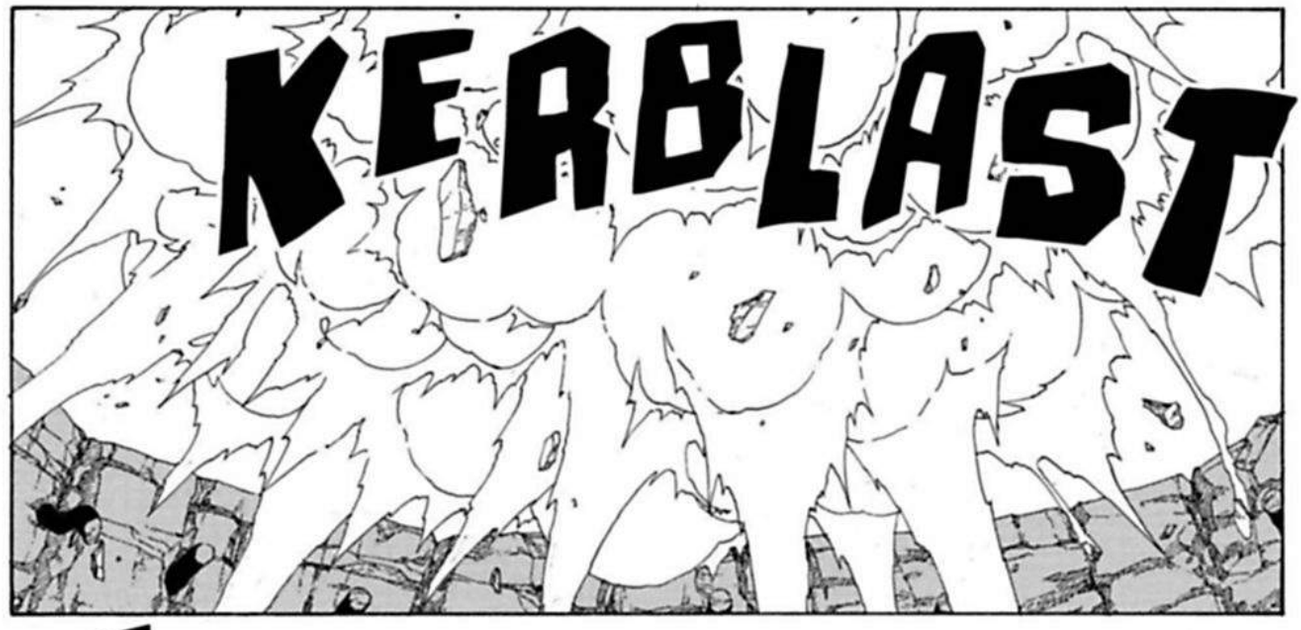


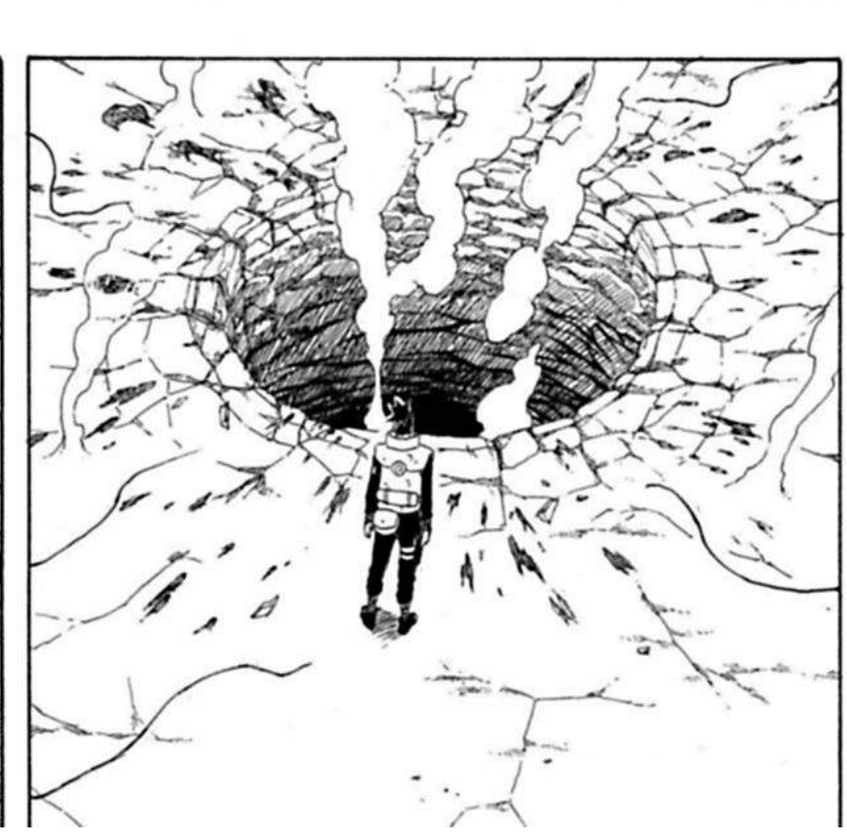


KA-BOOM

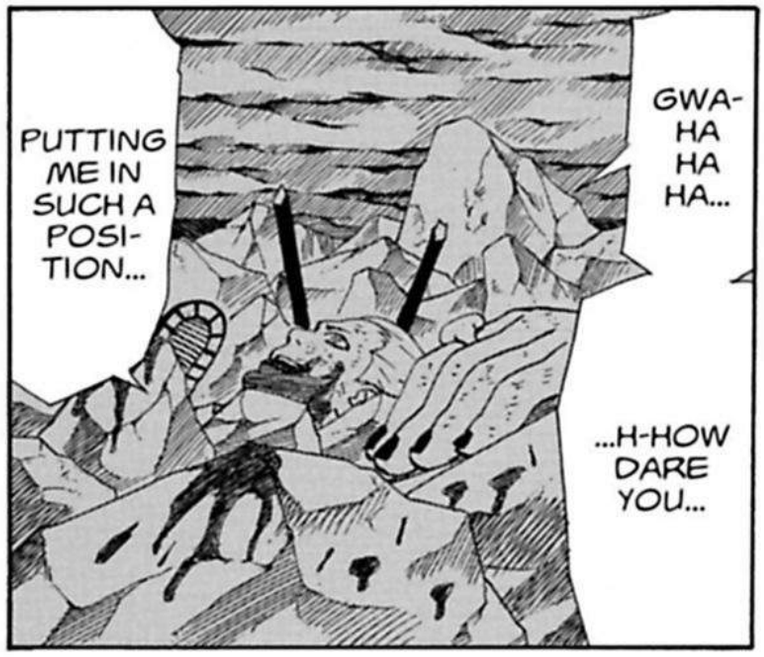
NARUTO

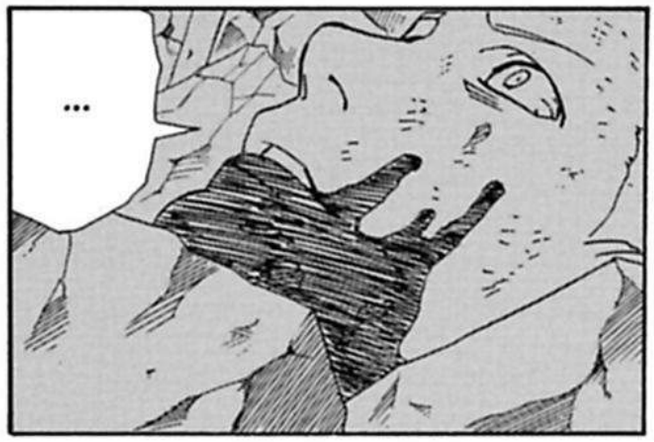
Number 339: The New Jutsu...!!





Number 339: The New Jutsu...!!





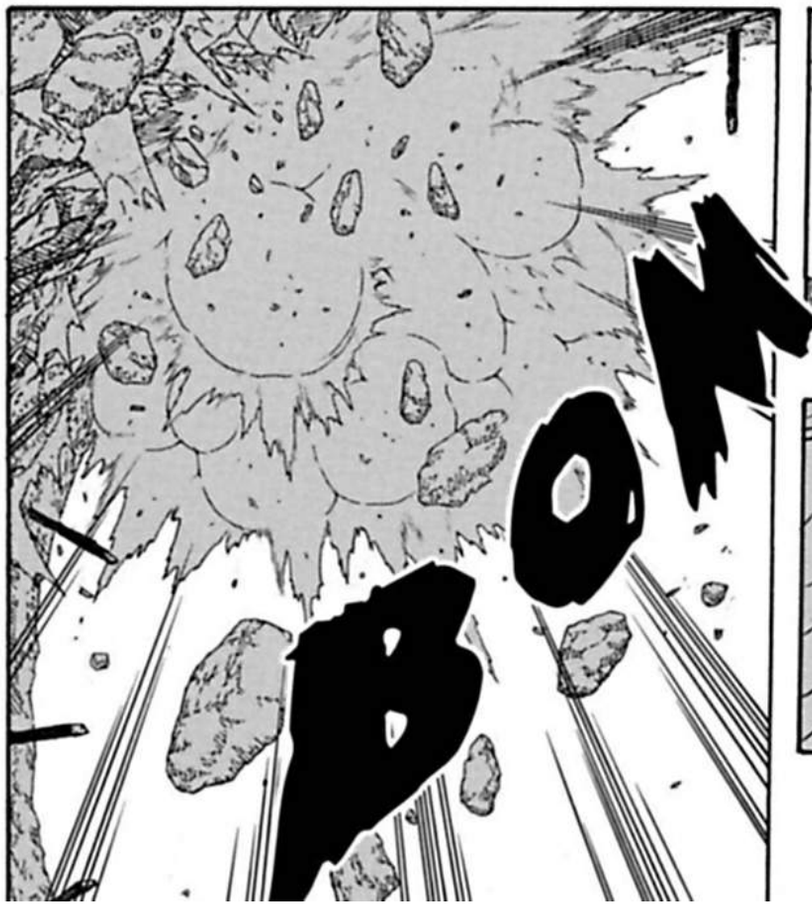
THE SEVEREST JUDGMENT EVER DEALT BY THE CHURCH OF JASHIN...
I SWEAR, LORD JASHIN WILL PUNISH YOU!!

YOU AND ME, WE BELIEVE IN DIFFERENT THINGS.
YOU DON'T SCARE ME A BIT. NEITHER DOES YOUR GOD.
THIP

ME, I BELIEVE IN THE WILL OF FIRE.

...AND I'M PASSING JUDG-MENT ON YOU!
SHING...

AND YOUR GOD RIGHT NOW ISN'T THAT STUPID LORD JASHIN OR ANYONE ELSE...
...IT'S ME...

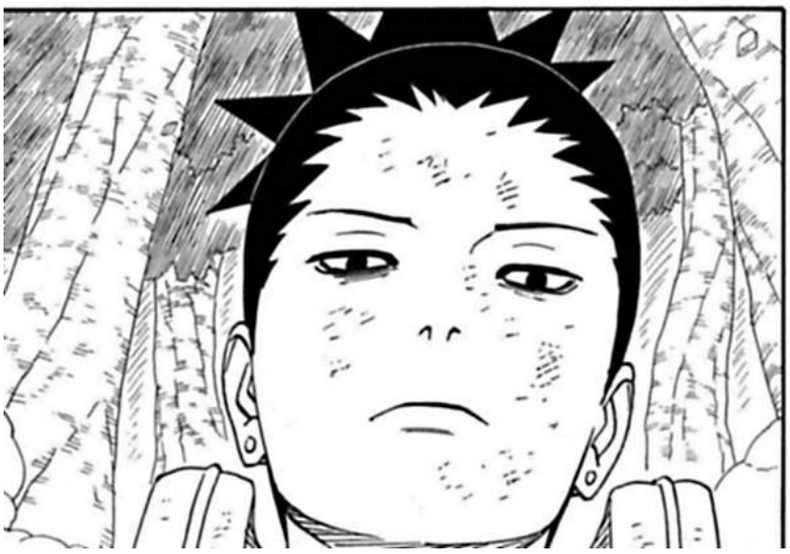

BOM

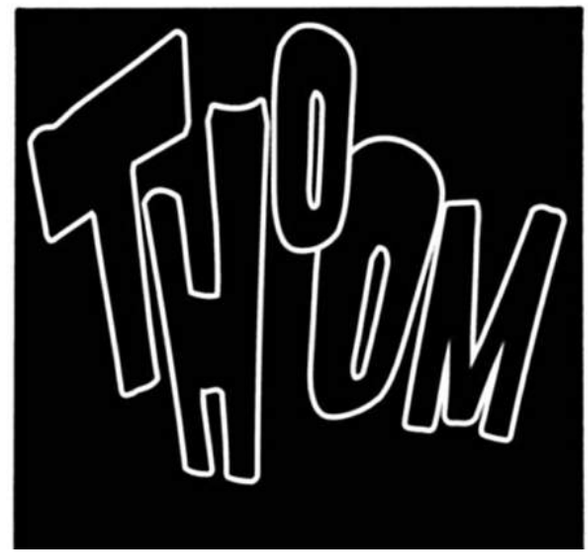
THOK
FWhosh

THE CHURCH OF JASHIN WILL PUNISH YOU!
I WARNED YOU!
EH?!

I'LL CHEW YOU TO BITS!
TEETH! THAT'S ALL I NEED!

AND THEN I'LL BE THE ONE PASS-ING JUDG-MENT ON YOU!
GWA-HA HA HA HA !!!

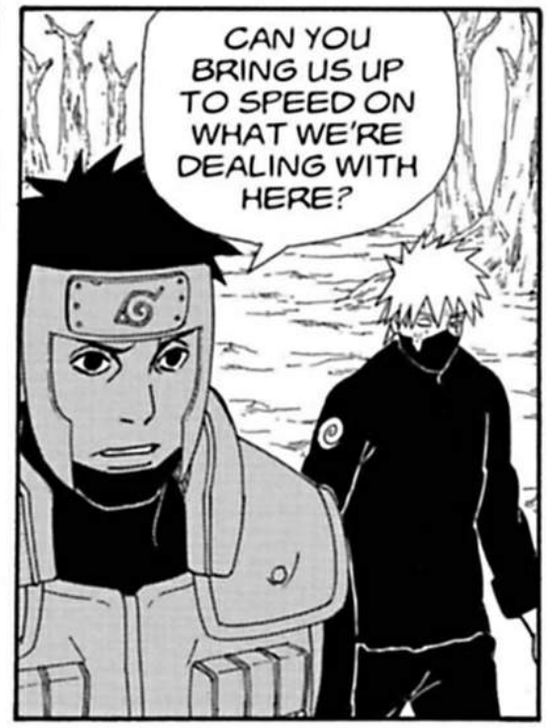



THOOM

MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS ...

SO... YOU'RE NINE TAILS'... JINCHÛRIKI...

HE POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO DETACH HIS BODY PARTS...
TWO AKATSUKI MEMBERS... THE ONE SHIKAMARU IS FACING...
...AND THIS ONE HERE... KAKUZU...


CAN YOU BRING US UP TO SPEED ON WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE?

HE STARTED WITH FIVE...
...BUT NOW HE'S DOWN TO THREE...

...BUT EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN BEATING HEART AND CAN ACT AUTONOMOUSLY.
SEE THOSE TWO MASKS? NOT ONLY CAN THEY CAN ALSO DETACH...

AND HE WON'T GO DOWN FOR GOOD UNLESS WE KILL HIM THREE MORE TIMES.
WE'VE KILLED HIM TWICE SO FAR, YES.

YOU MEAN ...?

NO WONDER KAKASHI'S HAD HIS HANDS FULL.
NARUTO!

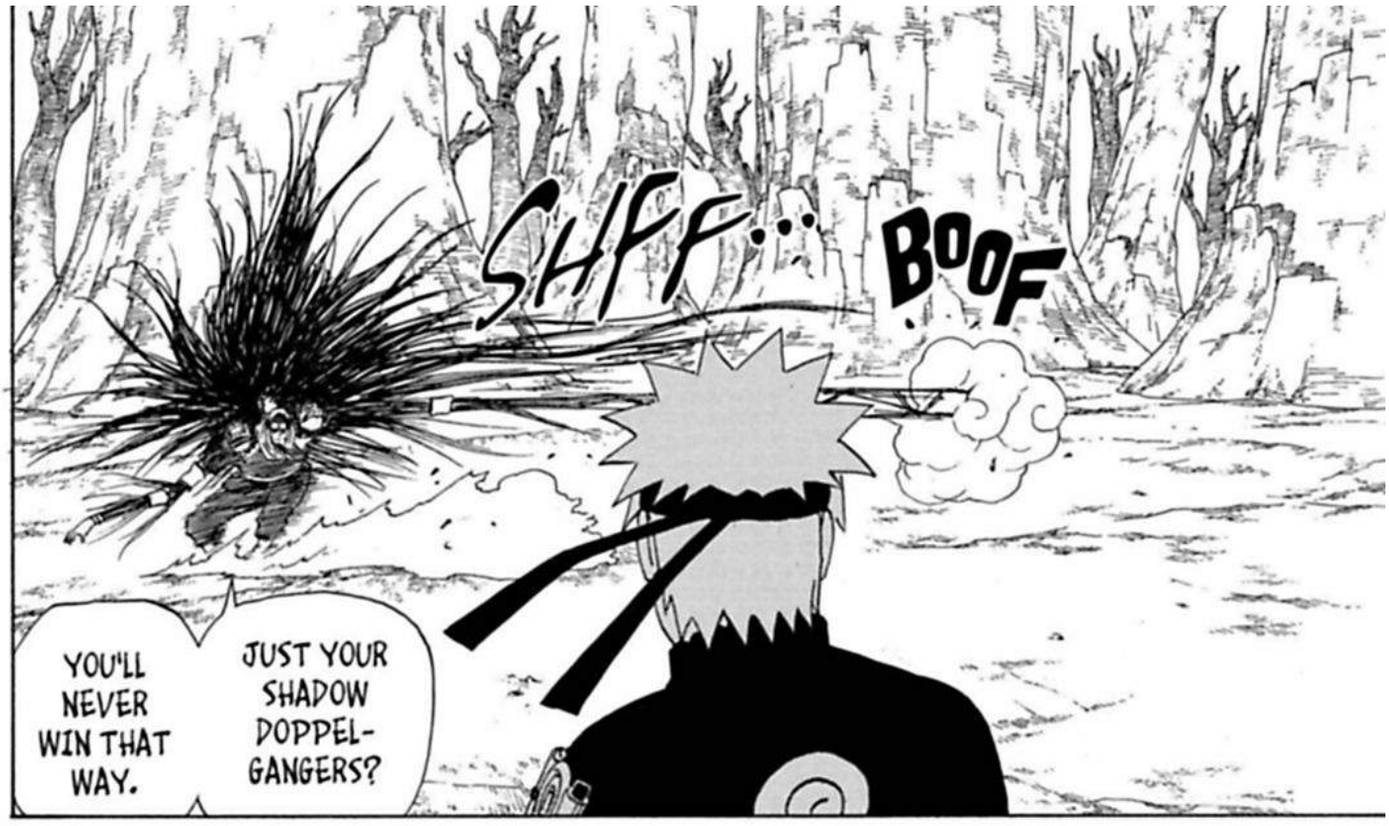
...
PLUS... HE'S A MID-DISTANCE FIGHTER THAT CAN USE SEVERAL DIFFERENT CHAKRA CHANGES IN NATURE.

YEAH, YEAH... FIVE HEARTS, THREE MORE KILLS... GOT IT!
HOO
SH

YOU CAN'T GO IN BY YOURSELF!

NARUTO! WAIT!

READ THIS WAY
SSHHF
FWAP FWAP
!!
BOOF
!
WHAS SH
HSSS
!
HRRRN !!
VROWWW
KLAK...

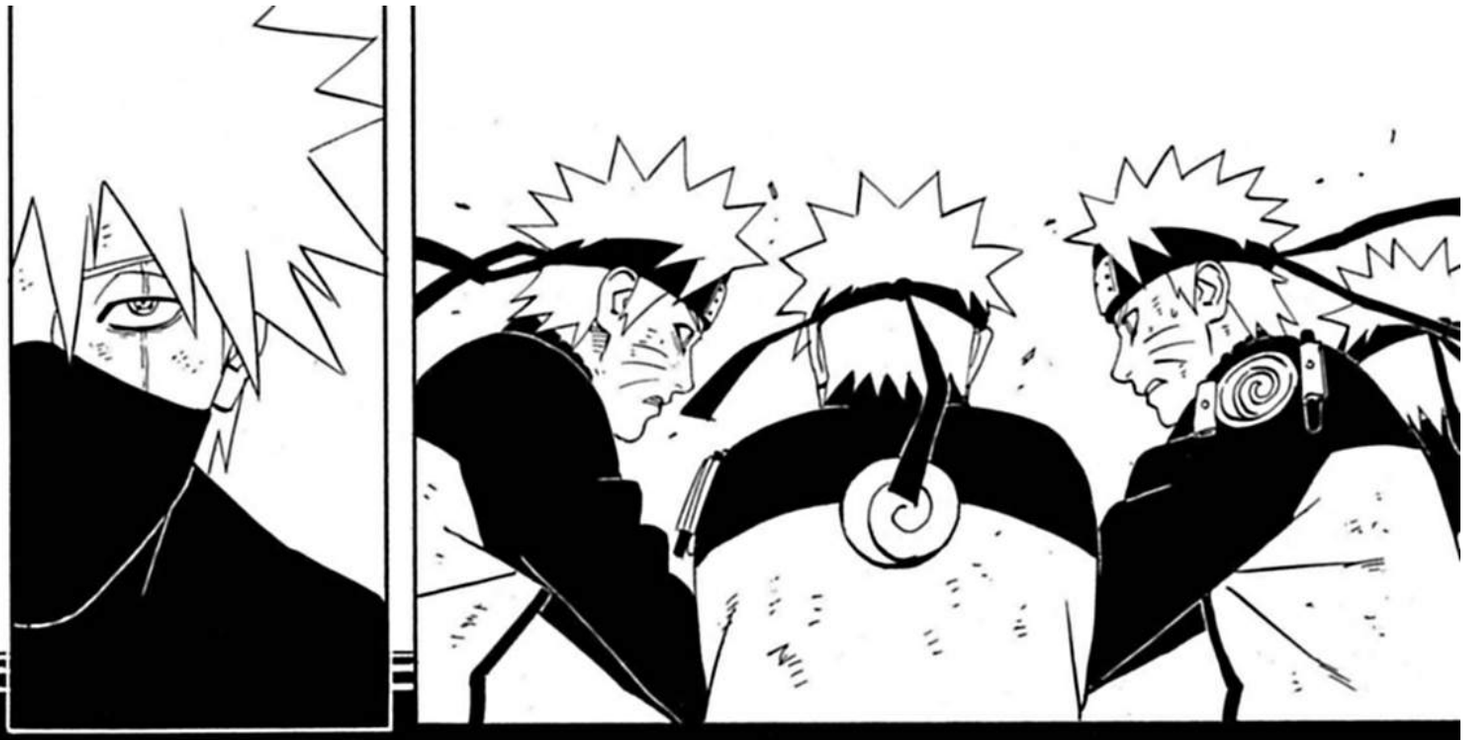

SHFF...
BOOF
YOU'LL NEVER WIN THAT WAY.
JUST YOUR SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS?

...AND USING THEIR KNOWL-EDGE TO HIS ADVAN-TAGE IN BATTLE...
SEEMS HE'S AT LEAST MASTERED THE TECH-NIQUE OF TAPPING HIS SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS' EXPERI-ENCES...

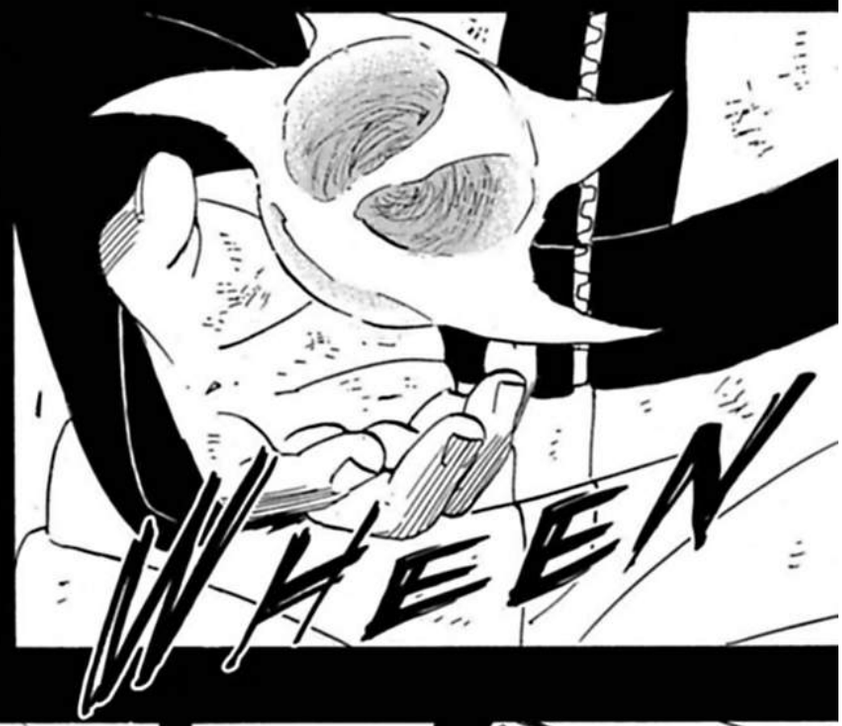
...I'M GONNA NEED AT LEAST THREE DOPPEL-GANGERS FOR THE DIVERSION ALONE...
...BASED ON HIS ASSAULT SPEED AND BATTLE STYLE...

BOF
BOF
BOF

READ THIS WAY
...
!
FWP
FWP
...
INCRED-IBLE CHAKRA ...
WHAT HIGH-PITCHED VIBRA-TIONS...
ZWP
ZWP
WHAT... IS THAT...?
ZWP
ZWP
WHEEN



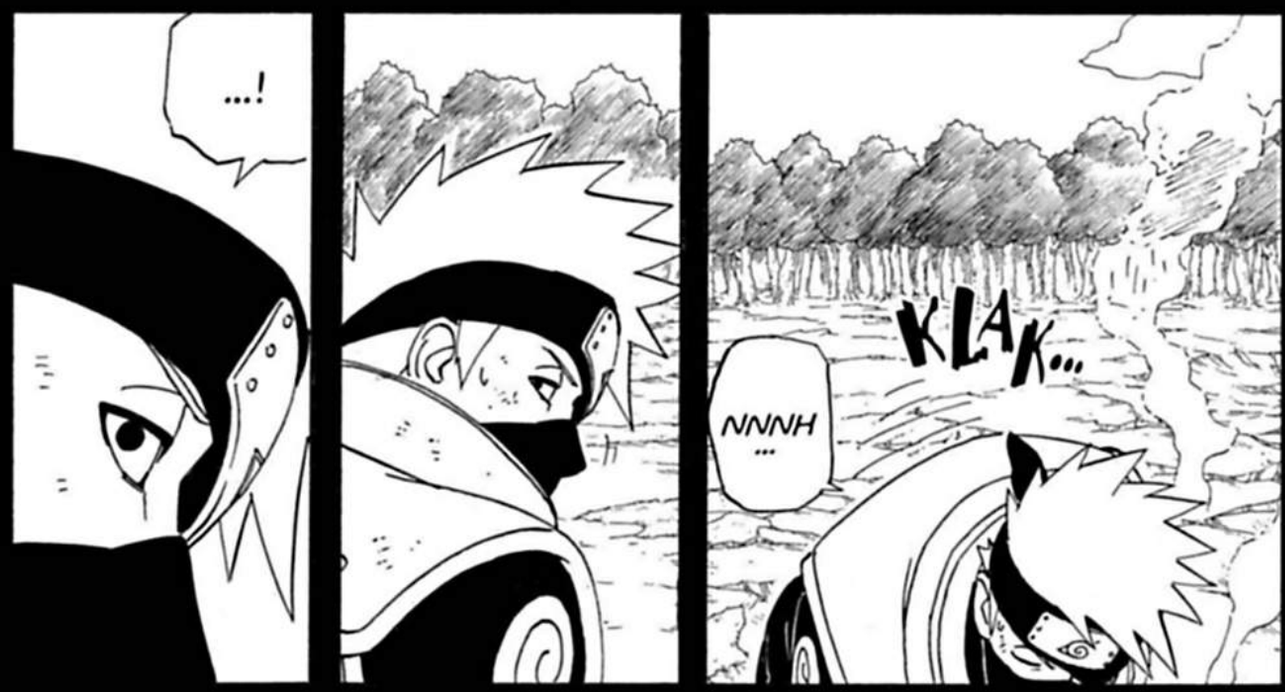
FINALLY... IT AT LEAST HAS A SHAPE...
THIS IS AS FAR AS I'VE EVER GOTTEN ...

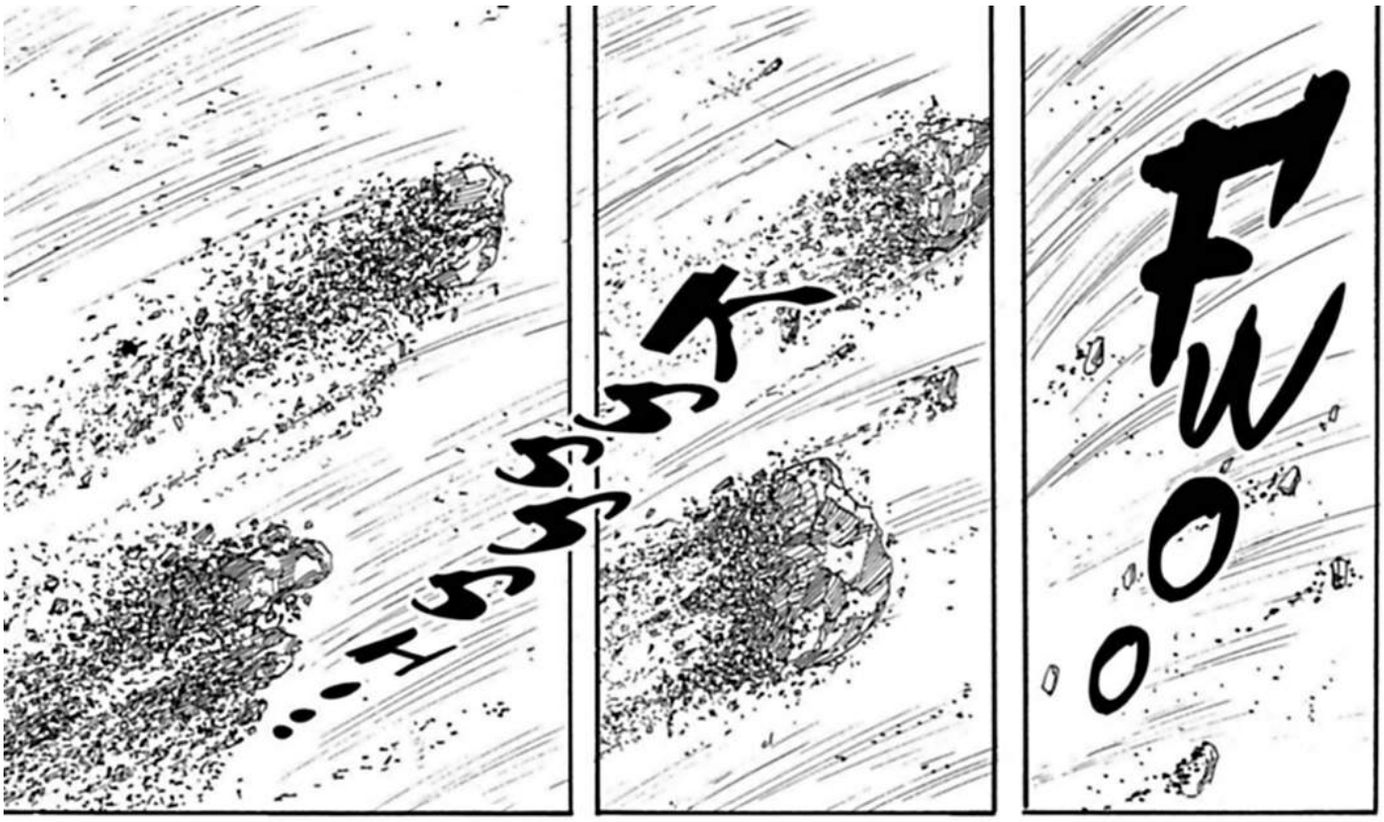

WHEEN

READY?
ALL RIGHT... LET'S SEE WHAT IT CAN DO, BY COLLIDING IT WITH MY RASENGAN.

WHEEN

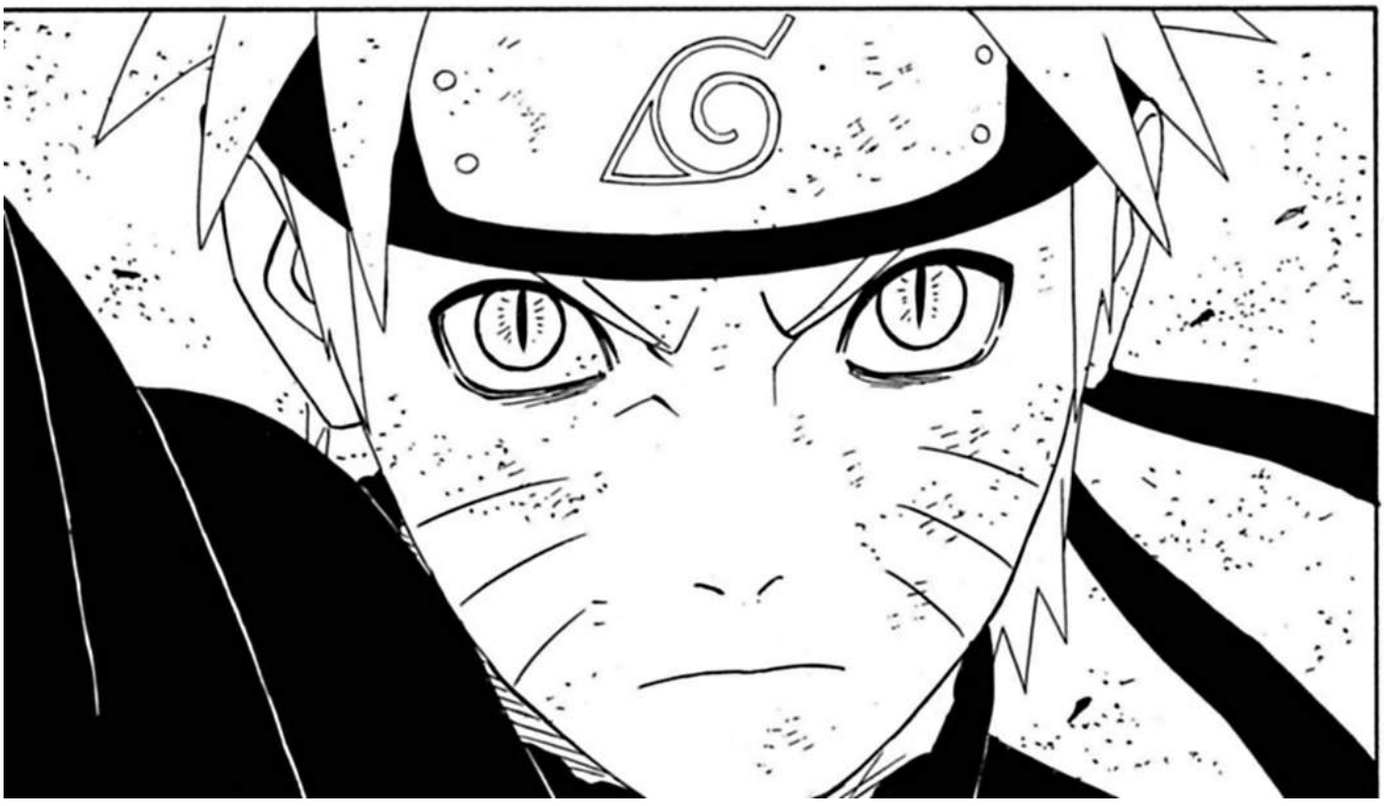
READ THIS WAY
WHAT?!!

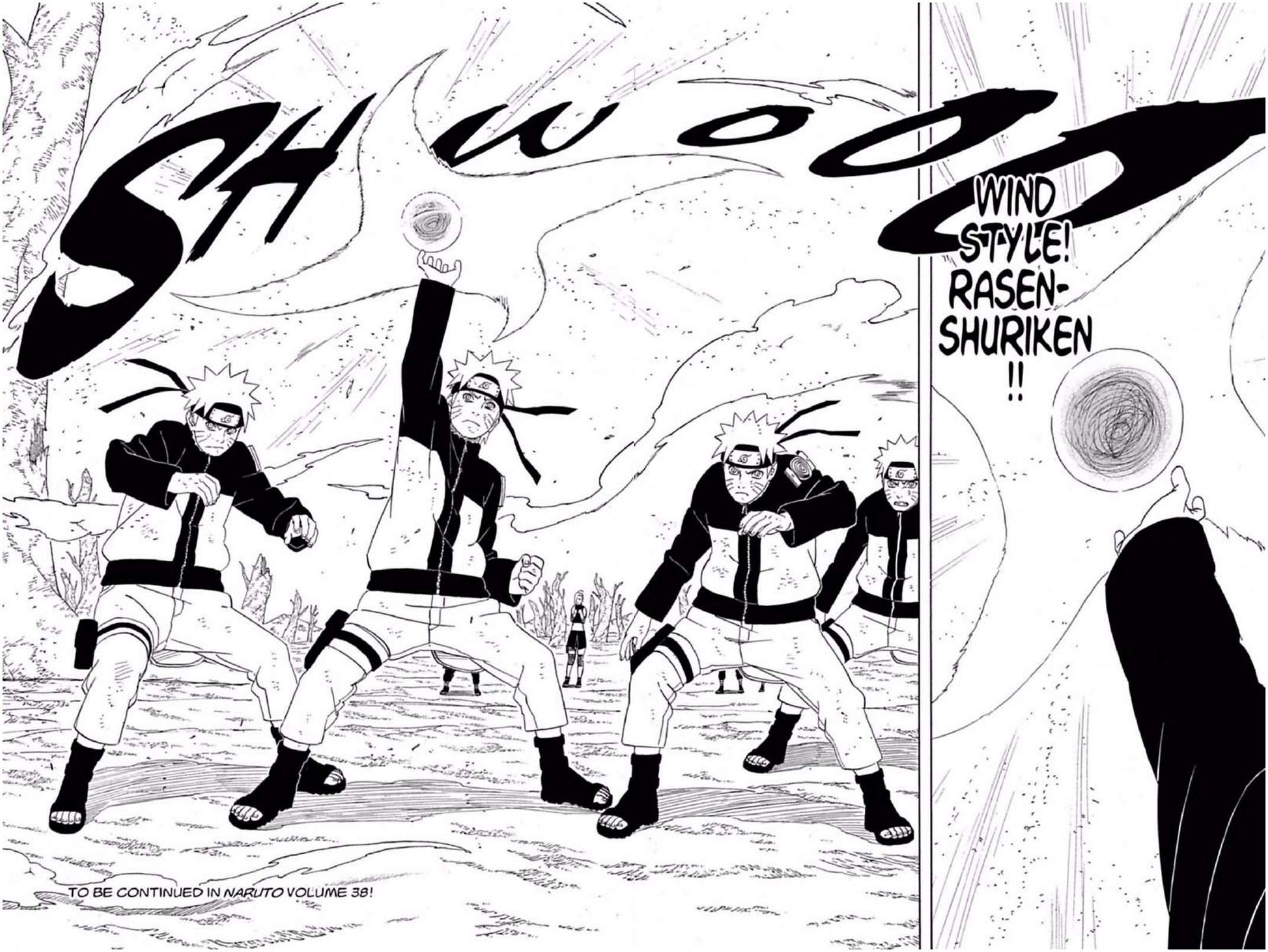

...!
NNNH ...
KLAK...


FWOO
SSSSSSH...

...MUSTN'T LET IT HAPPEN!
IF I GET HIT WITH THAT... IT'LL BE BAD...

WHAT THE... WHAT IS THAT JUTSU?!




SHWOO
WIND STYLE! RASEN-SHURIKEN !!
TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOLUME 38!

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