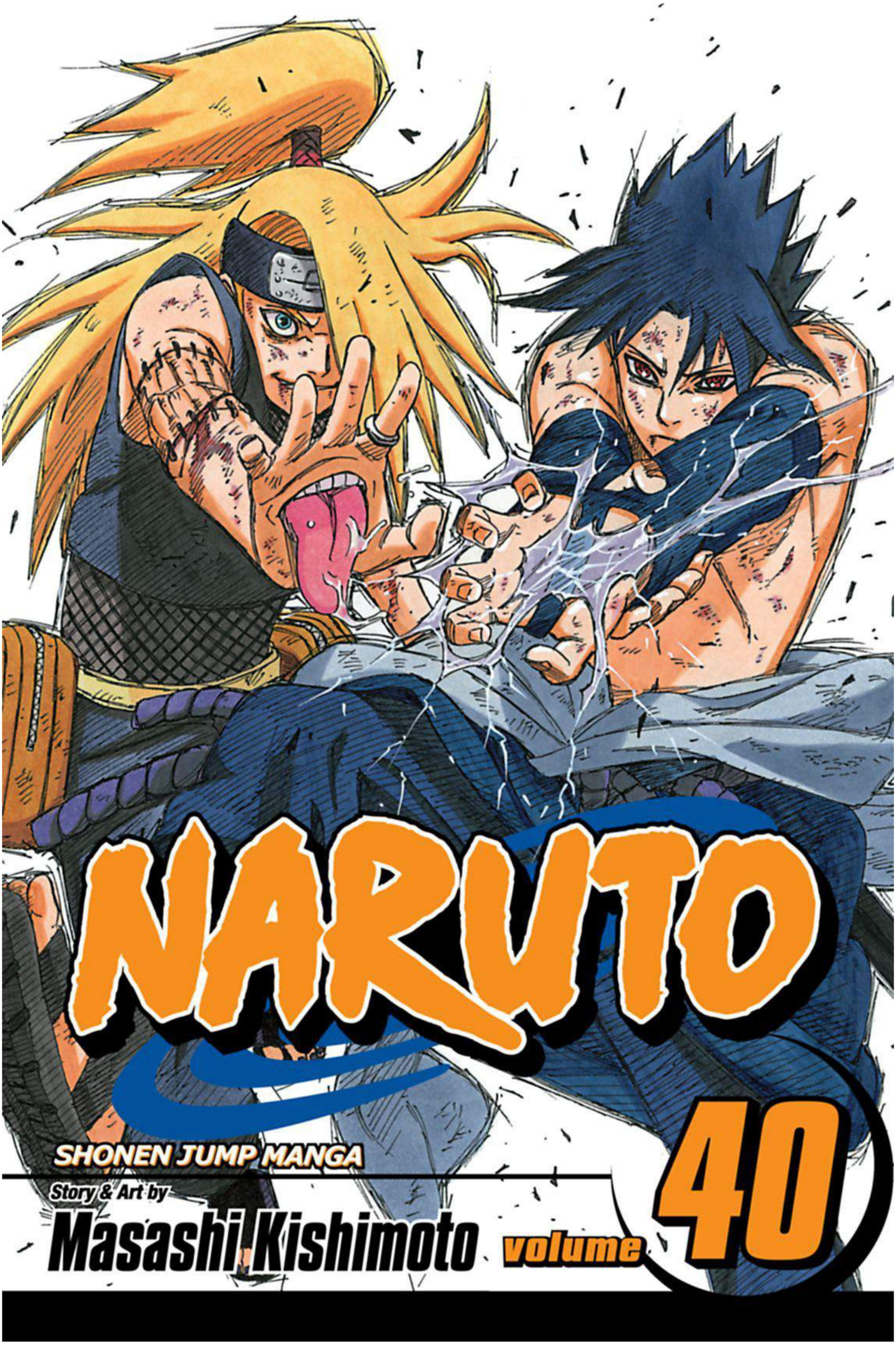
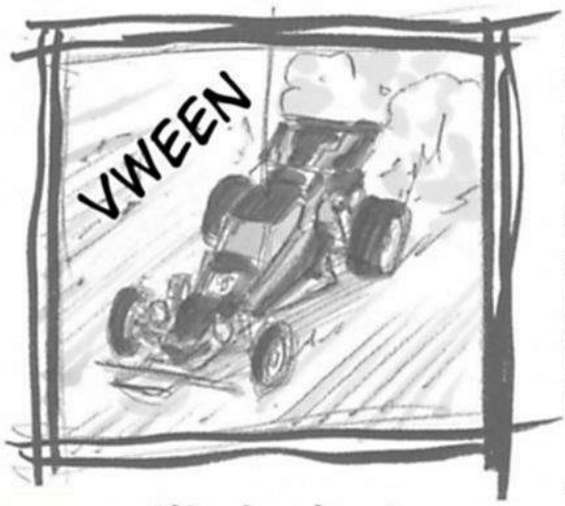

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 40

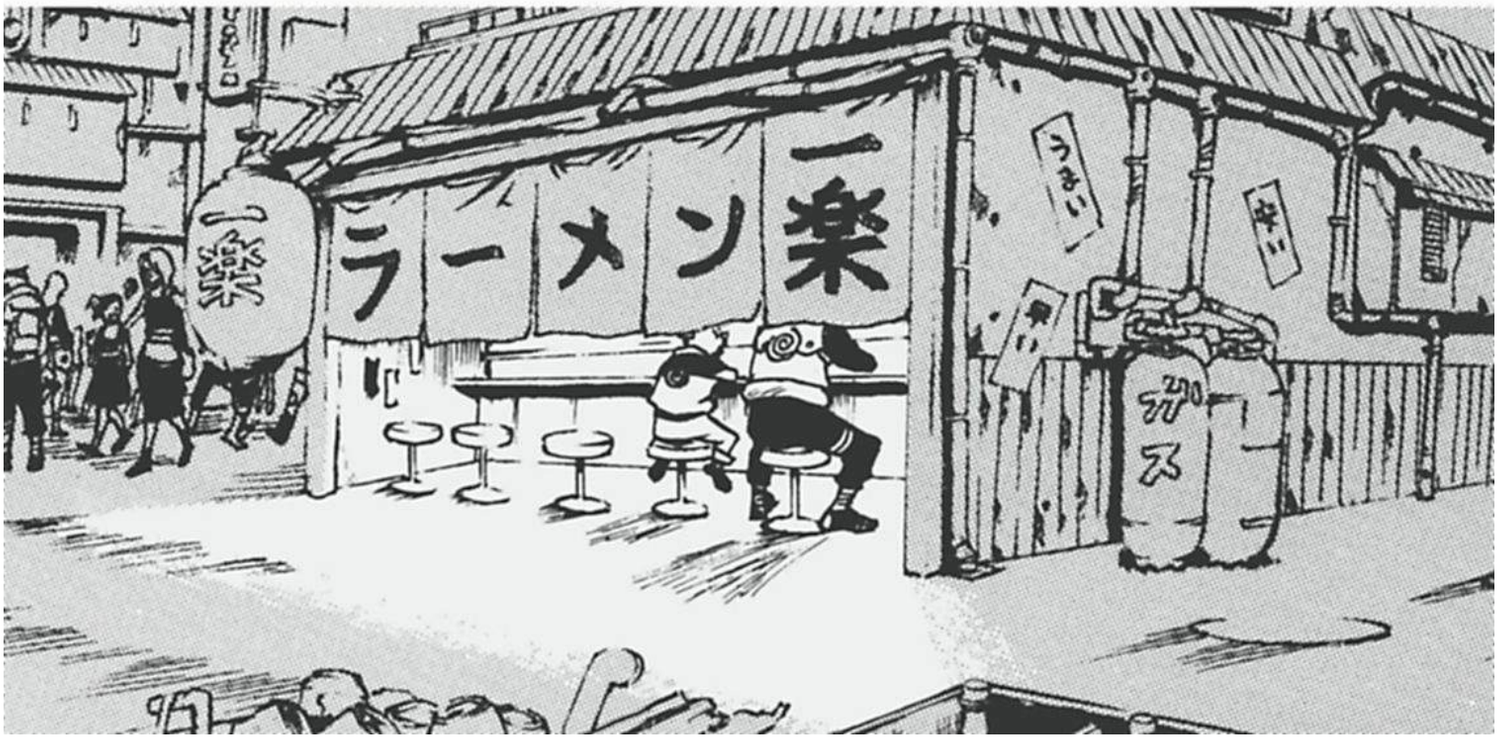


岸本斉史

Nostalgic radio-controlled plastic model vehicles have recently made a comeback, just a bit smaller and easier to operate! So cool, I can't stand it!! The most popular models are, as before, buggy types like the Hornet and Mighty Frog! ...Please bring back my previous favorite, Pajero, too, Mr. Tamiya!

—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. 40
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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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
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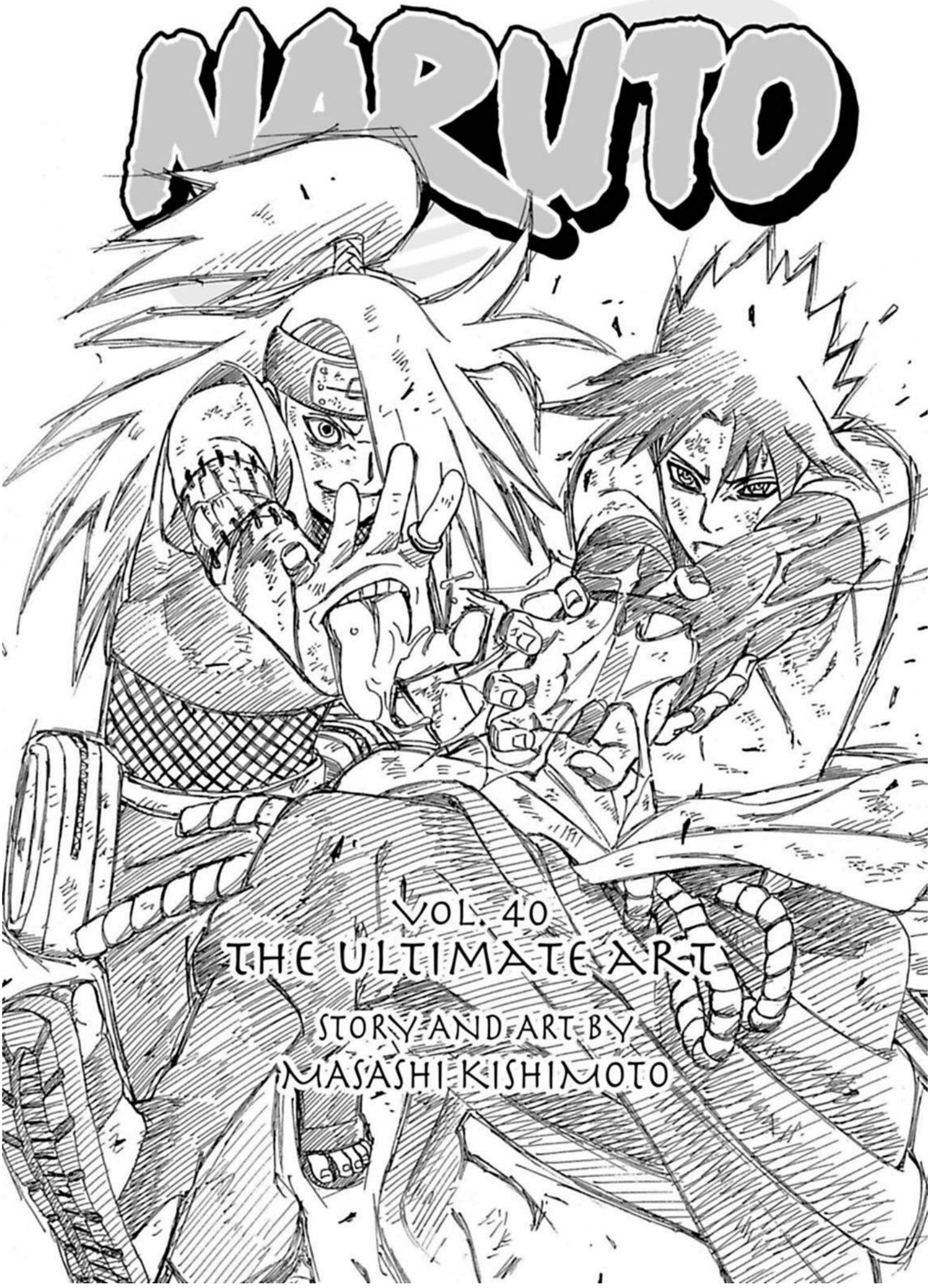
NARUTO



VOL. 40

THE ULTIMATE ART

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Naruto ナルト

Sasuke サスケ

Kakashi カカシ

Sakura サクラ

Sai サイ

Yamato ヤマト

Tsunade 綱手

Jiraiya 自来也

THE STORY SO FAR...

Once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy, Uzumaki Naruto now serves dutifully among the ranks of the Konoha shinobi—an illustrious group of ninja sworn to protect their village from the forces of evil seeking to destroy it from without and within…

After his former classmate, Uchiha Sasuke, is seduced by the evil Orochimaru, Naruto makes it his personal mission to find and save his friend from the darkness growing inside him. Unfortunately, Sasuke doesn't want to be saved. All he wants is revenge on the one person he hates most in the world… the person he blames for the murder of his parents… his older brother, Uchiha Itachi.

Assembling his shinobi cell, The Hebi, Sasuke sets out to find and kill his brother. But his quest for vengeance soon brings him into conflict with Deidara and Tobi—members of the insidious organization known as the Akatsuki. Though Sasuke quickly gains the upper hand with the formidable power of his Sharingan, Deidara tips the scales by unveiling his latest masterpiece of destruction…

NARUTO

VOL. 40
THE ULTIMATE ART

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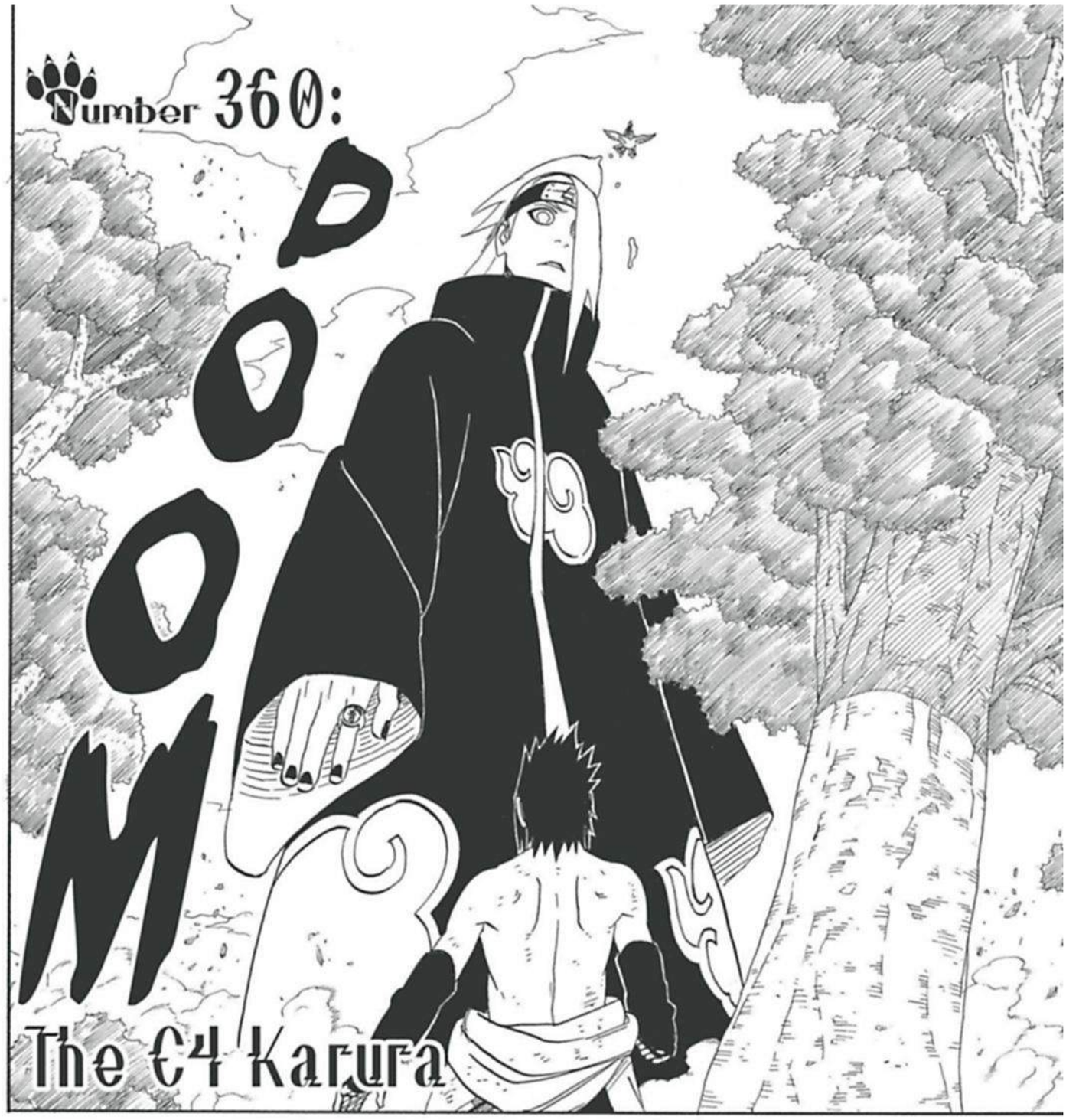
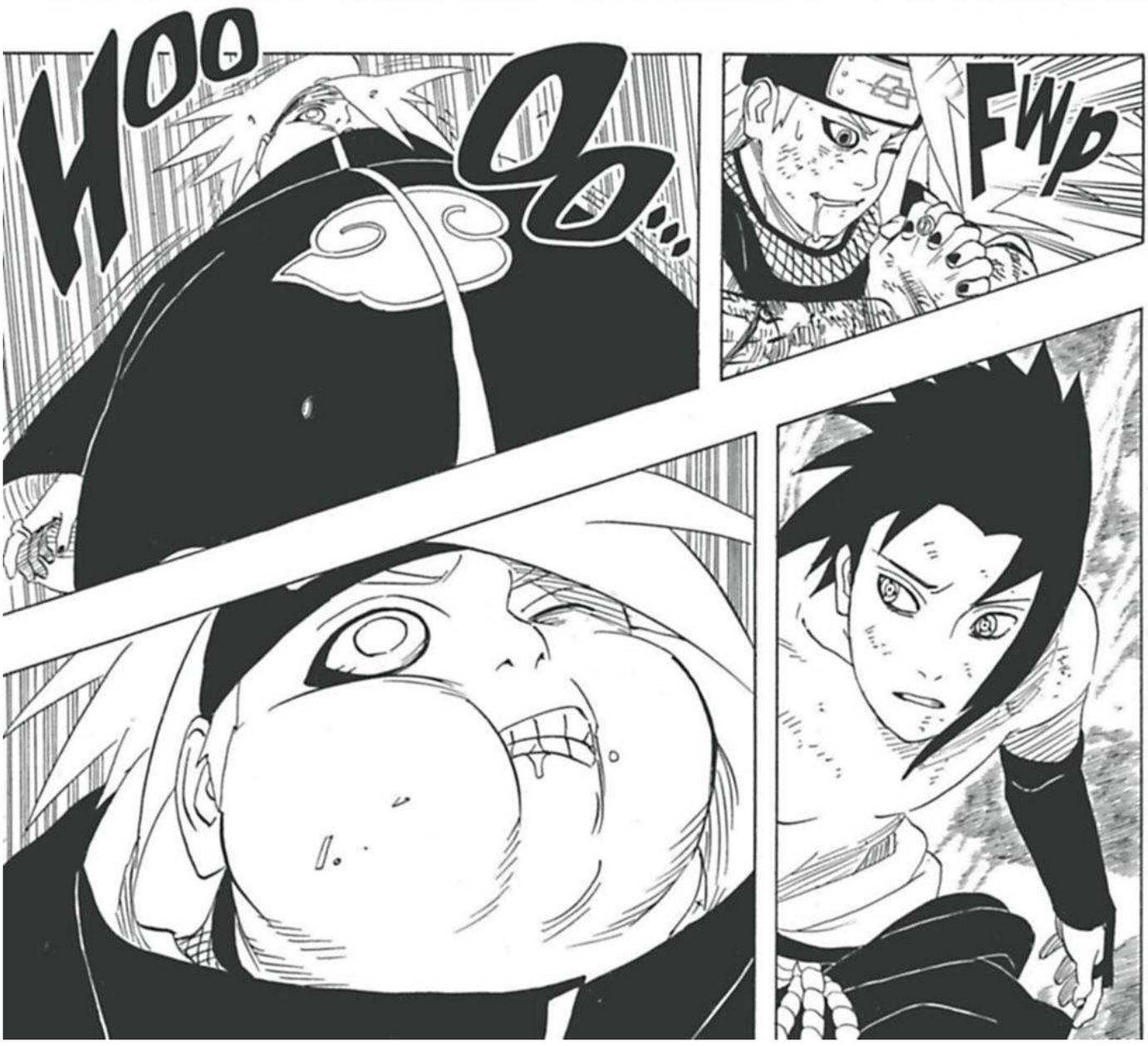
Number 360: The C4 Karura

Number 360: The C4 Karura

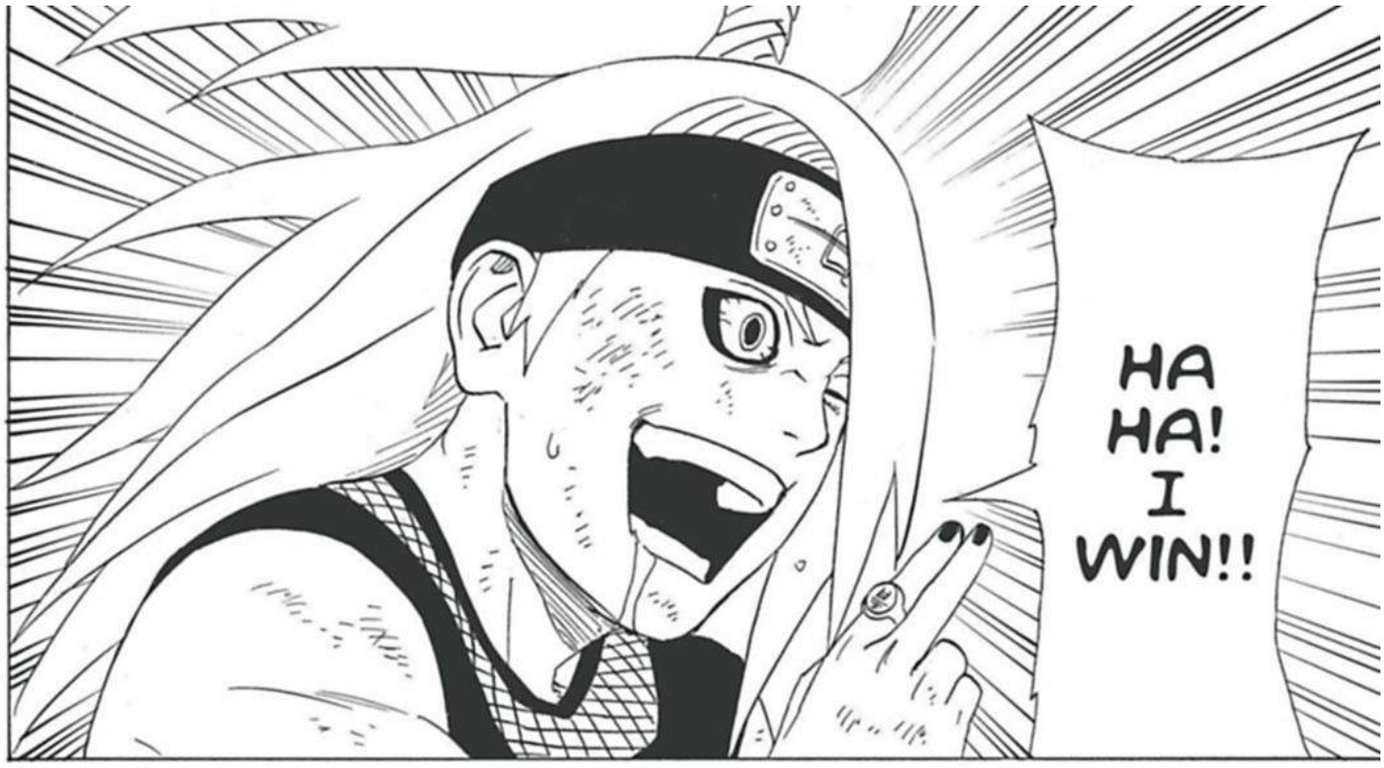


FLAP
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM ME?! AND MY C4 KARURA?
YOU'RE GOING TO RUN?!
BOOM
BOOM
SNAP
SNAP
SHOOM

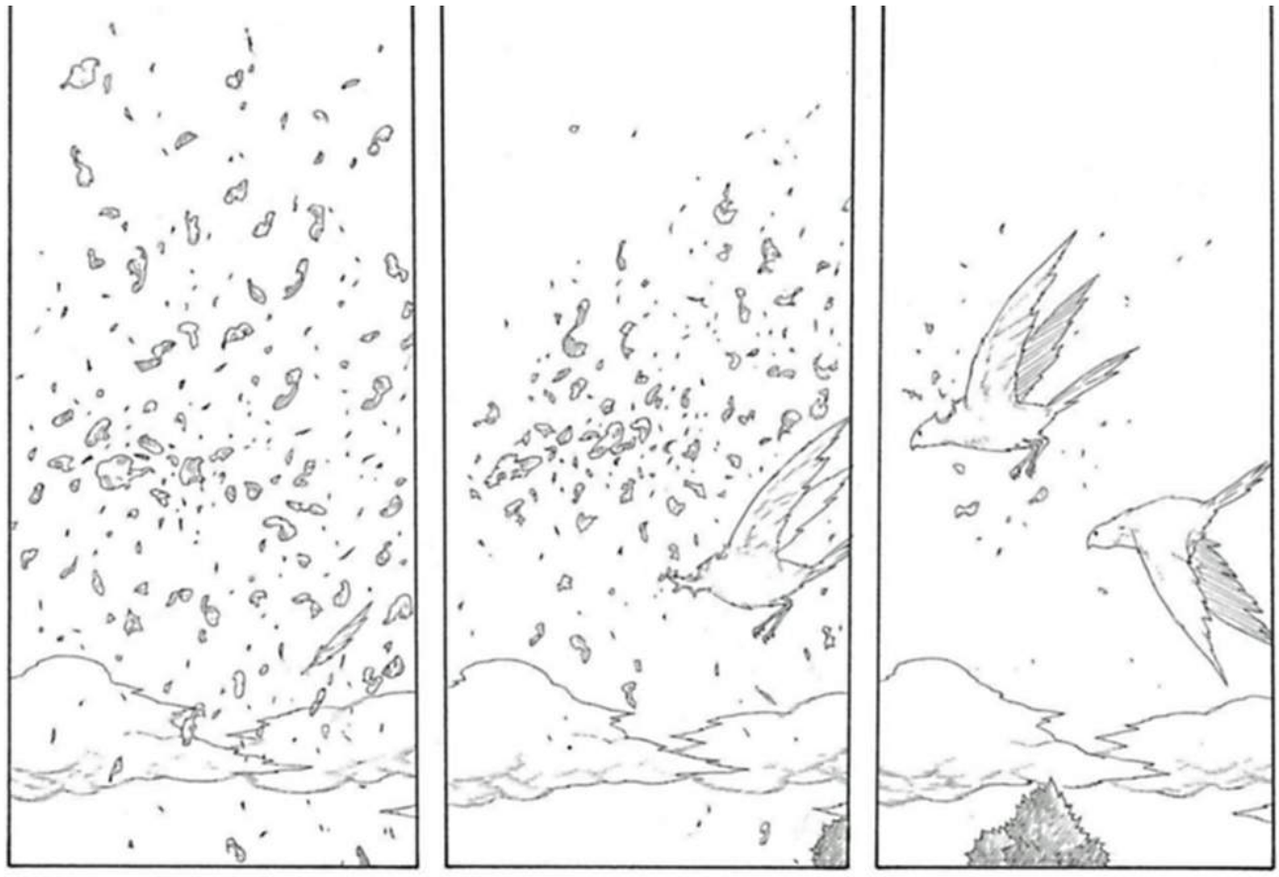

HOO
FWP

...OOM
HHH...
POF

READ THIS WAY
KRRNKLE KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE KRRNKLE
?!
...IT MIS-FIRED?
NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
...
VIWEEN
THAT'S ...!


HA HA! I WIN!!

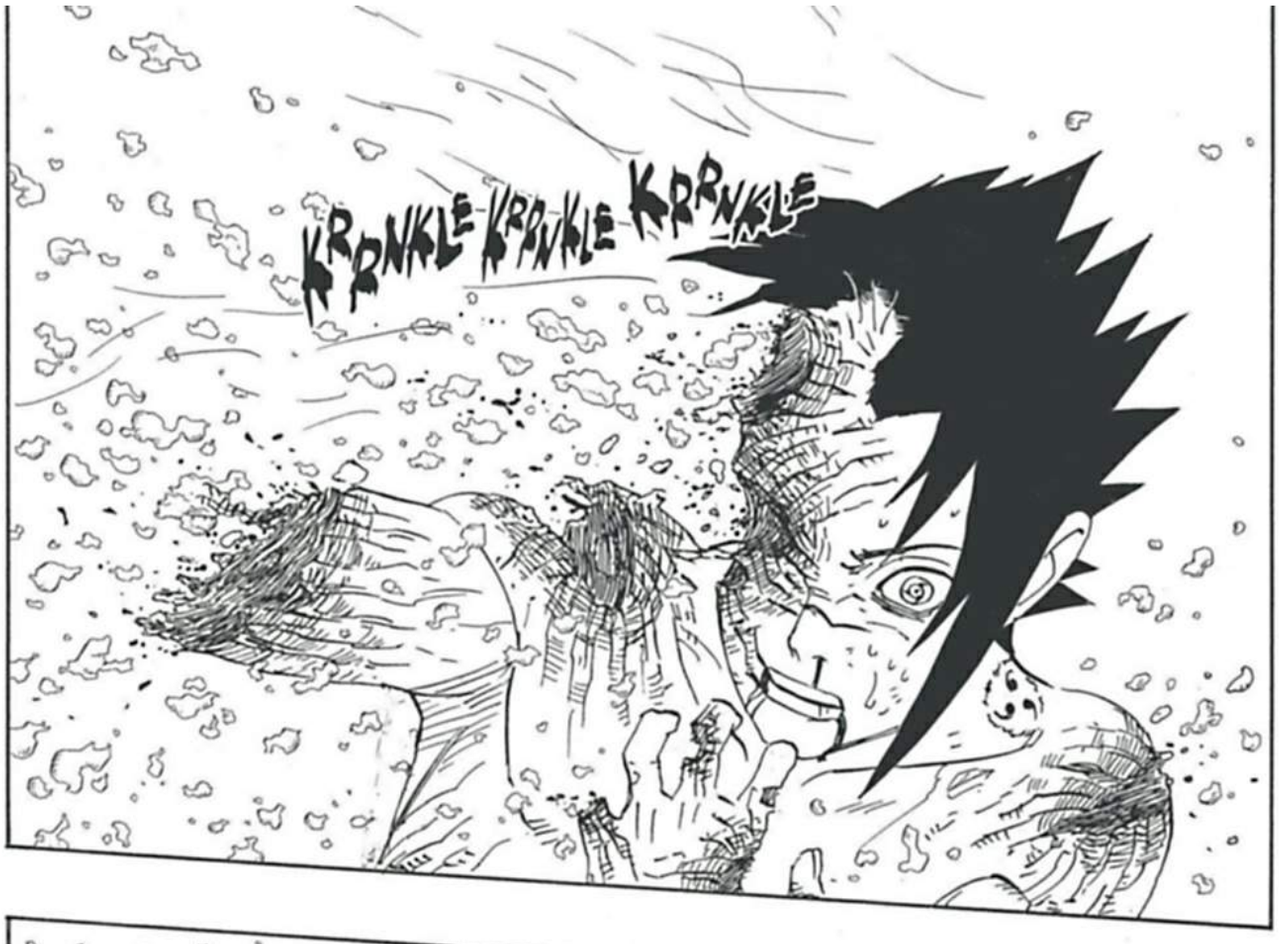
ART IS AN EXPLO-SION!!
SHOOM
YEEAAGH

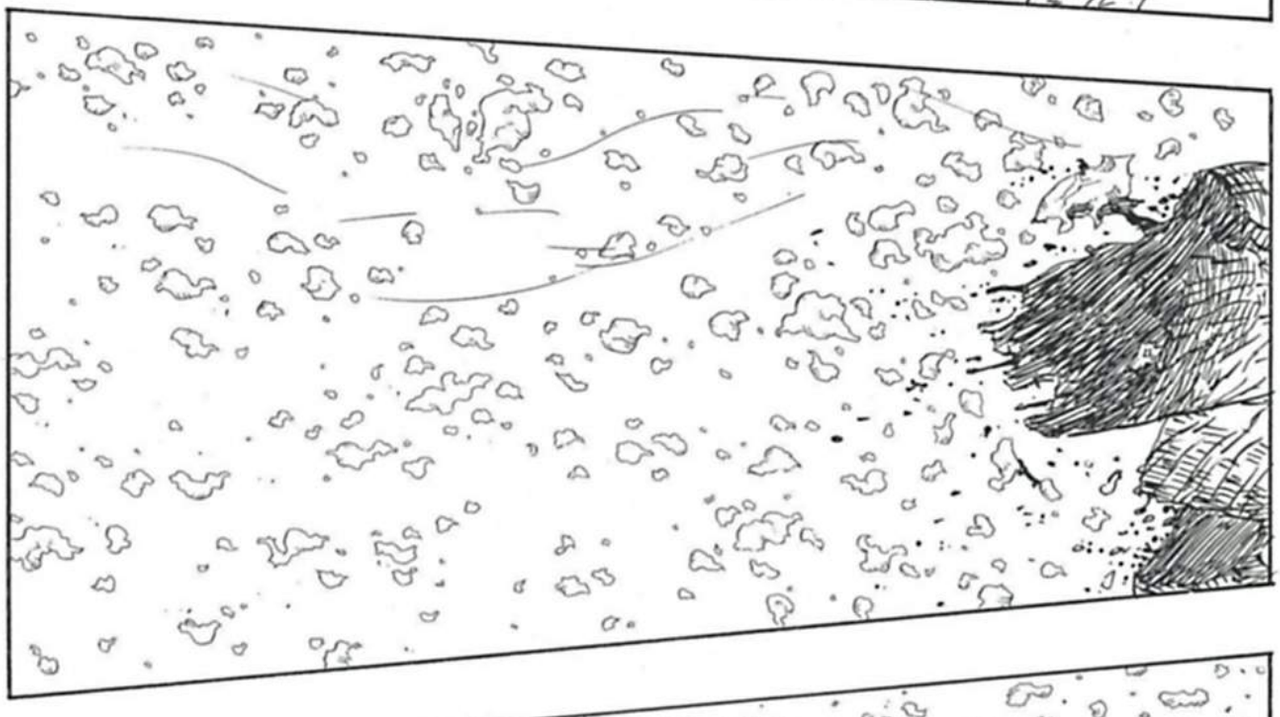


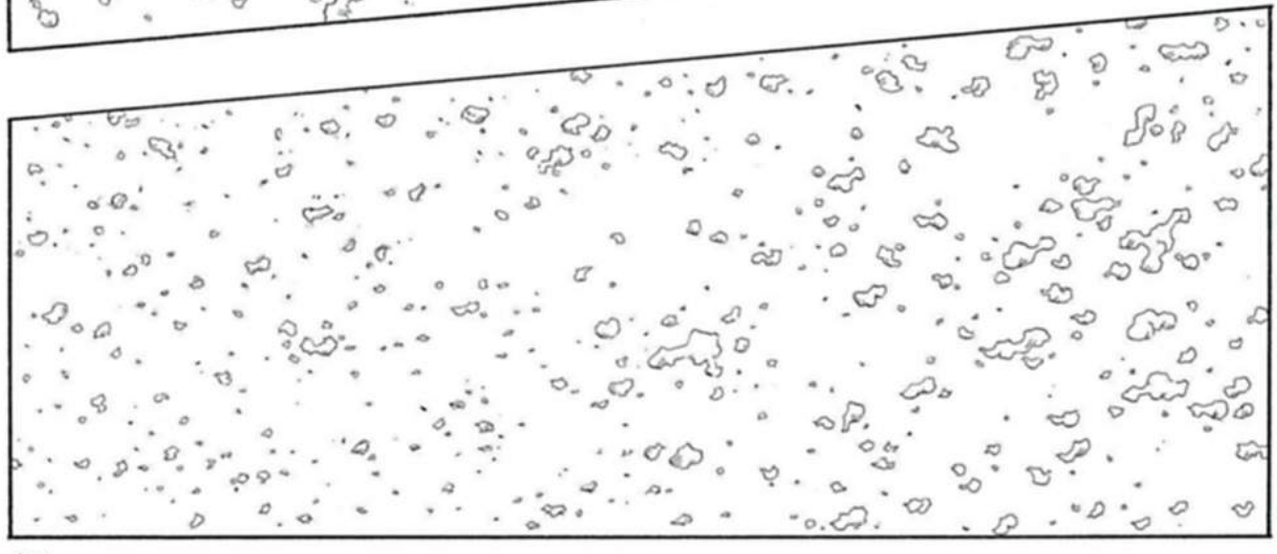
SAYO-
NARA,
SASUKE!

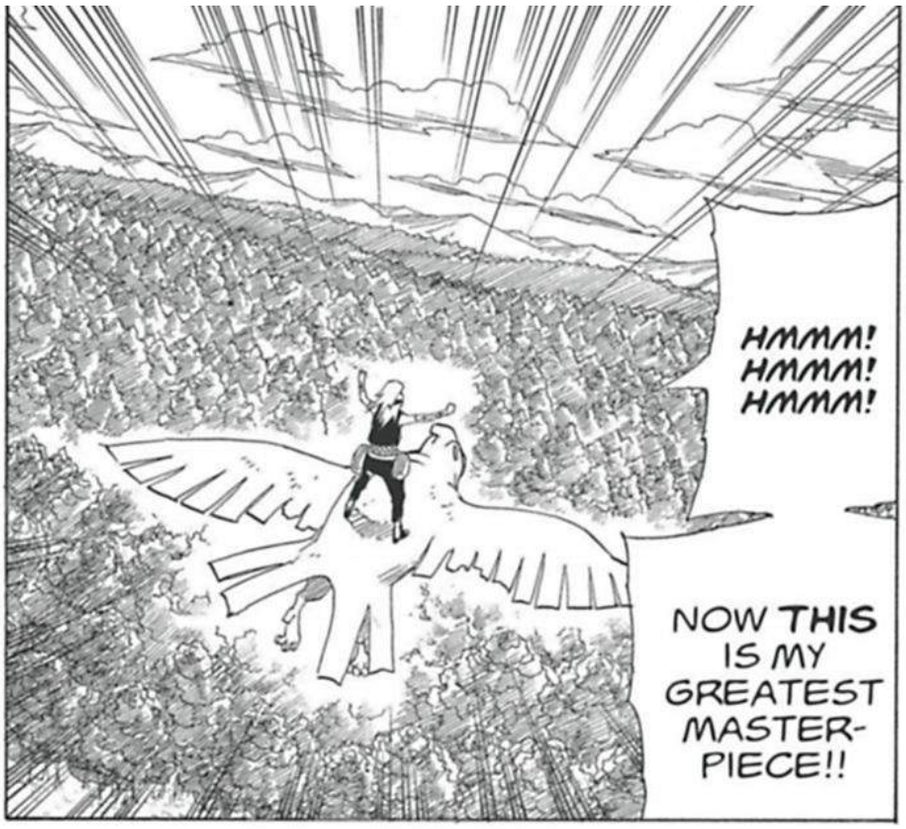
KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE
GAH...

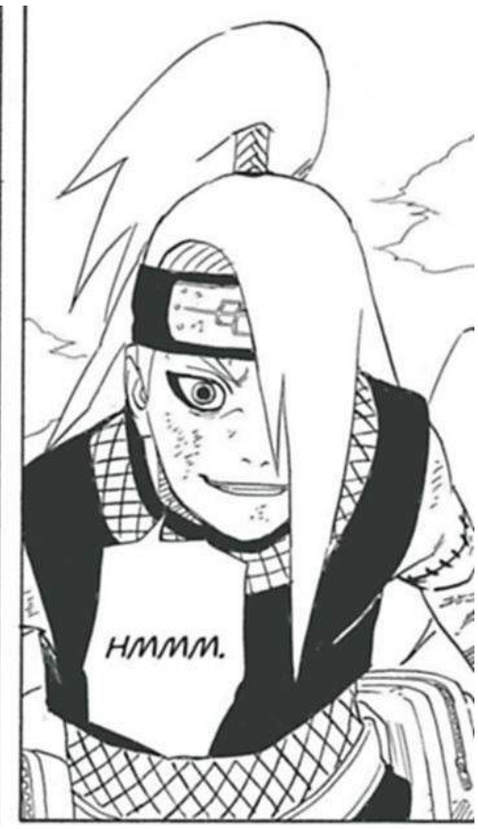
KRRNKLE KRRNKLE KRRNKLE...
NO WAY... THAT'S ...
KRRNKLE


KRRNKLE KRRNKLE KRRNKLE



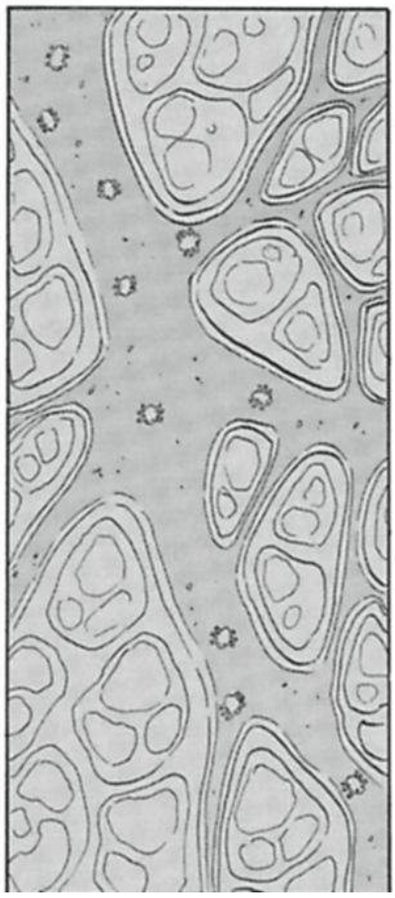


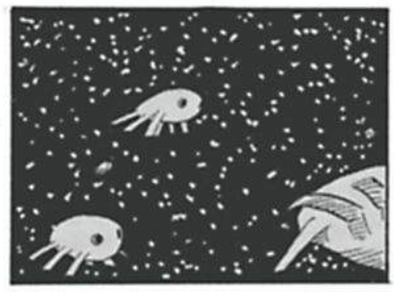

HMMM! HMMM! HMMM!
NOW THIS IS MY GREATEST MASTER-PIECE!!


HMMM.

THE C4 KARURA: SUPER-TEENY, NANO-SIZED EXPLO-SIVES...

STOOM

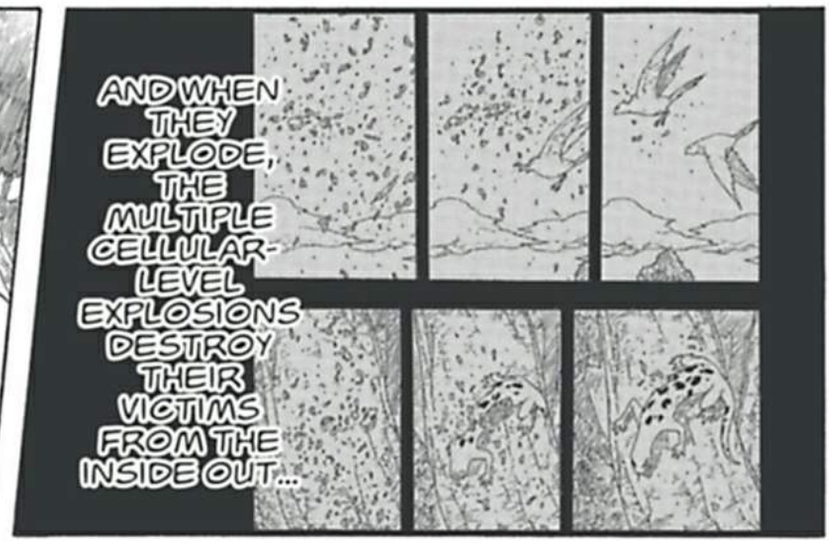




THE MINI-BOMBS THEN IMPLANT THEM-SELVES WITHIN THE BODIES OF ANY AND ALL CREATURES THAT INHALE THEM...

...OOM
...FORMED FROM THE RUPTURING OF THE GIGANTO DEIDARA, THE BLAST-WAVE SCAT-TERING THEM FAR AND WIDE...
POO

A FEARSOME JUTSU, INDEED.


AND WHEN THEY EXPLODE, THE MULTIPLE CELLULAR-LEVEL EXPLOSIONS DESTROY THEIR VICTIMS FROM THE INSIDE OUT...

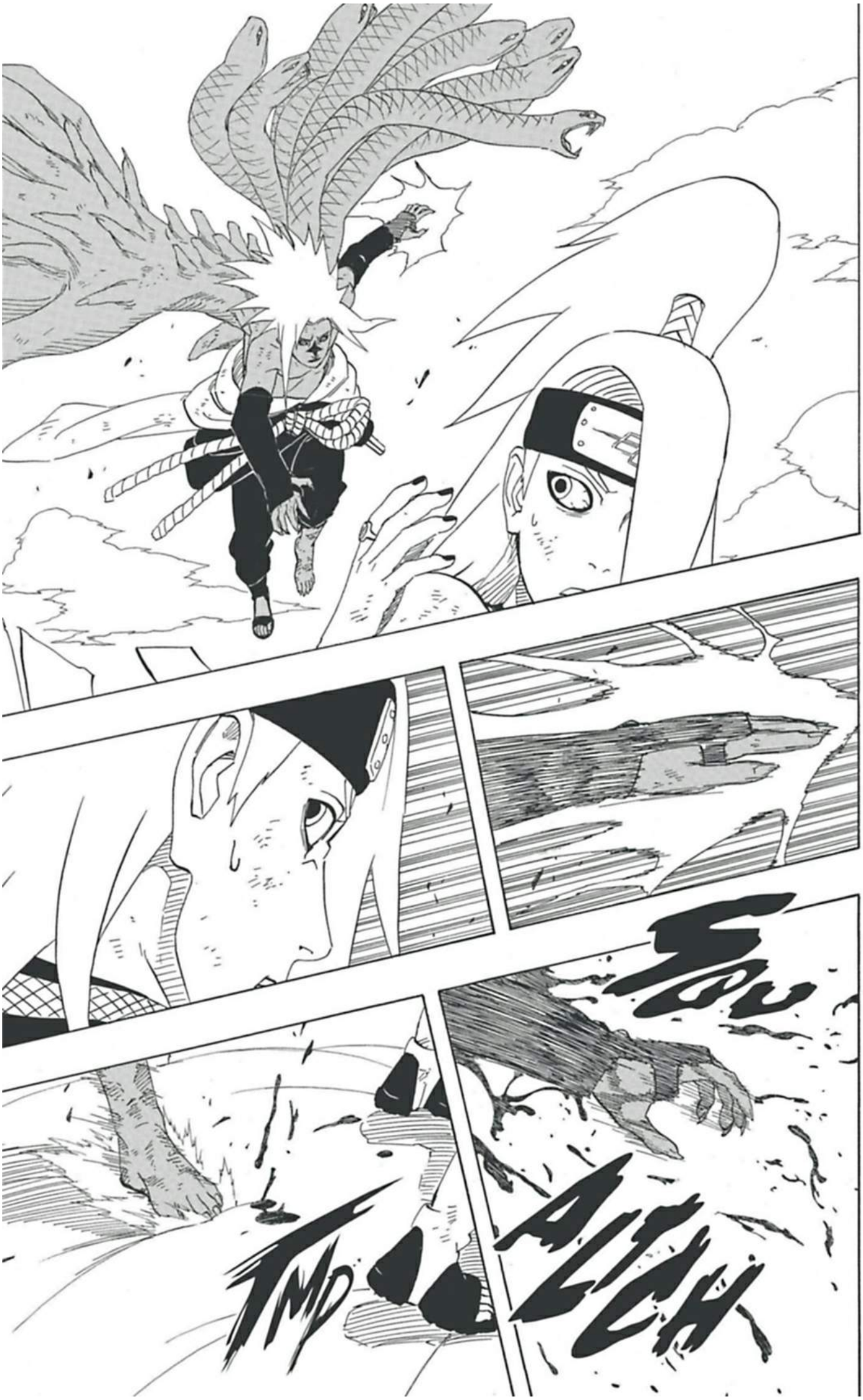
SNAP

I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER TO THANK ITACHI... HEH HEH HEH...

...

MY ART W...
HEH HEH... I WON, I WON!!

PLINK


SOU
TMD
ATCH

SEEMS YOU'VE USED UP ALL YOUR CHAKRA... YOUR REACTION TIME IS SLOW.

BUT MY SHARINGAN SEES CHAKRA AS COLORS...

BOMBS TOO SMALL FOR THE EYE TO SEE...

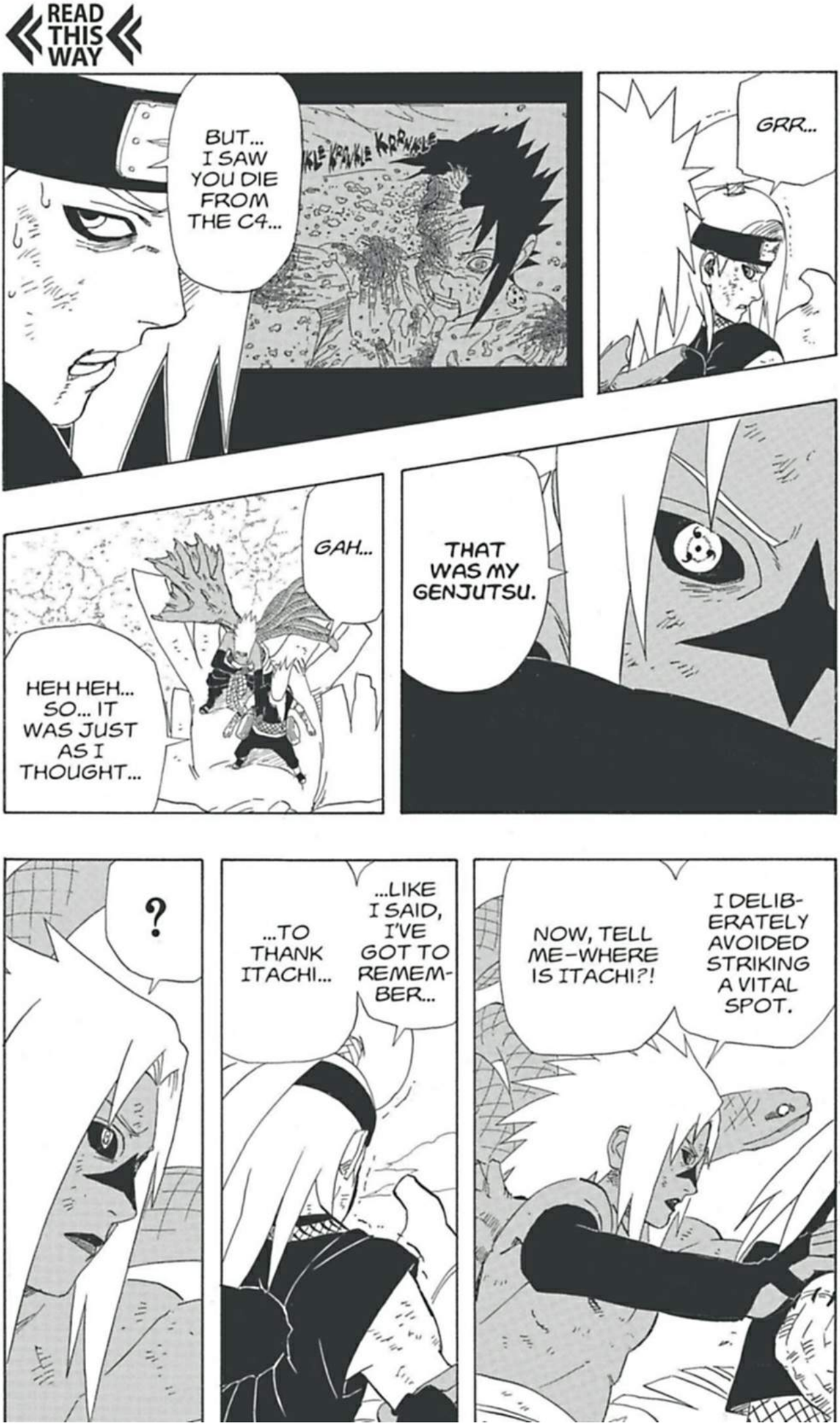
...THOSE EYES... UGH...

SO I KNEW EXACTLY WHERE I HAD TO GO TO AVOID YOUR ATTACK...

I COULD ALSO SEE THAT YOU WERE HOVERING JUST OUT-SIDE THE BOMBS' RANGE.

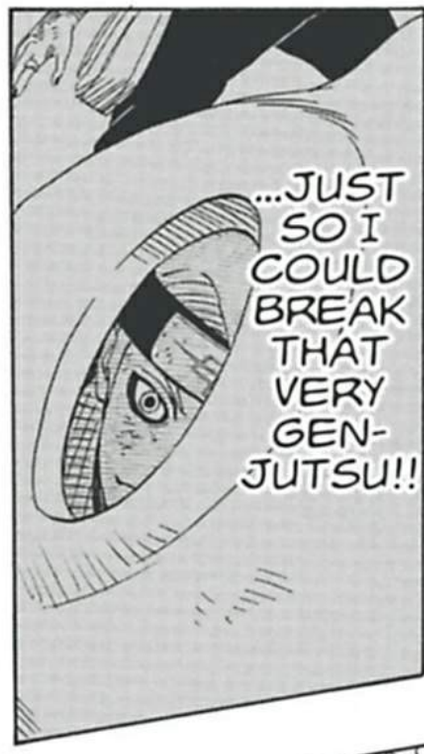
...WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE TO ME AS A BIG, COLORFUL CLOUD.

YOUR MINI-BOMBS, PACKED WITH CHAKRA...

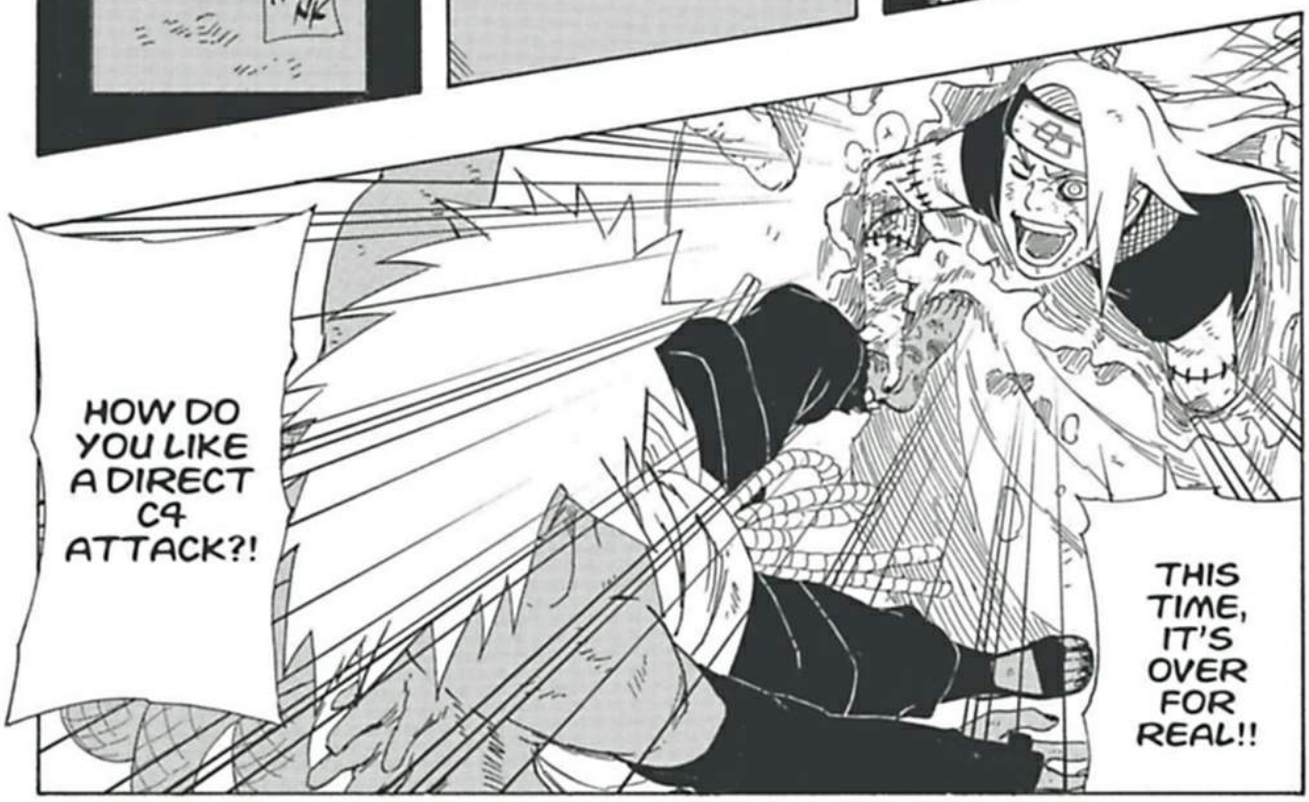

READ THIS WAY
BUT... I SAW YOU DIE FROM THE C4...
KRAKLE KRAKLE KRRAKLE
GRR...
GAH...
HEH HEH... SO... IT WAS JUST AS I THOUGHT...
THAT WAS MY GENJUTSU.
?
...TO THANK ITACHI...
...LIKE I SAID, I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER...
NOW, TELL ME-WHERE IS ITACHI?!
I DELIBERATELY AVOIDED STRIKING A VITAL SPOT.

?!
SQUISH
!
A... CLAY DOPPEL-GANGER ?!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ITACHI. DID YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT SAME TRICK TWICE... HMMM?!
I FIGURED YOU WOULD PERFORM A GENJUTSU.

SNAP
PLINK


...JUST SO I COULD BREAK THAT VERY GEN-JUTSU!!

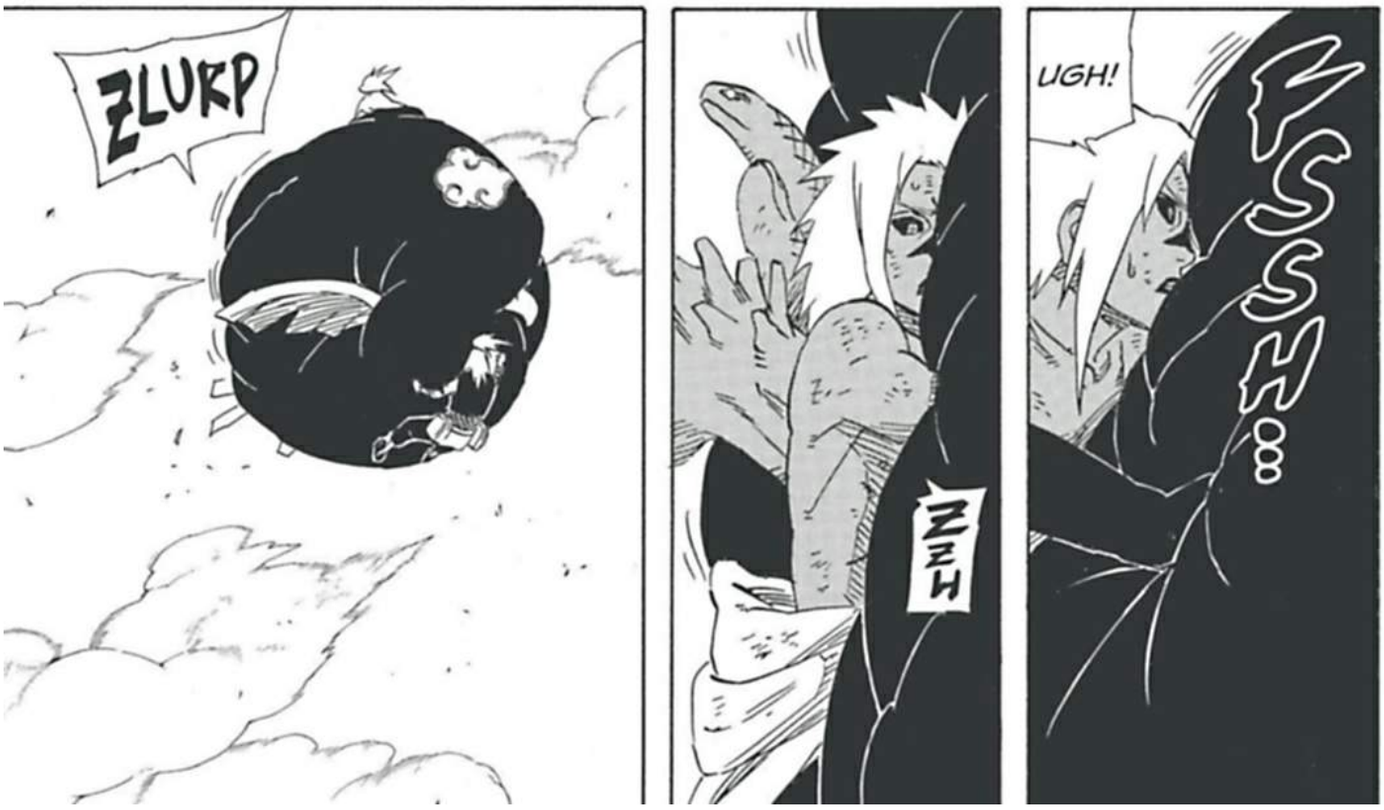
EVER SINCE THE DAY I FIRST FACED ITACHI, I'VE TRAINED MY LEFT EYE TO NULLIFY THE SHARINGAN...

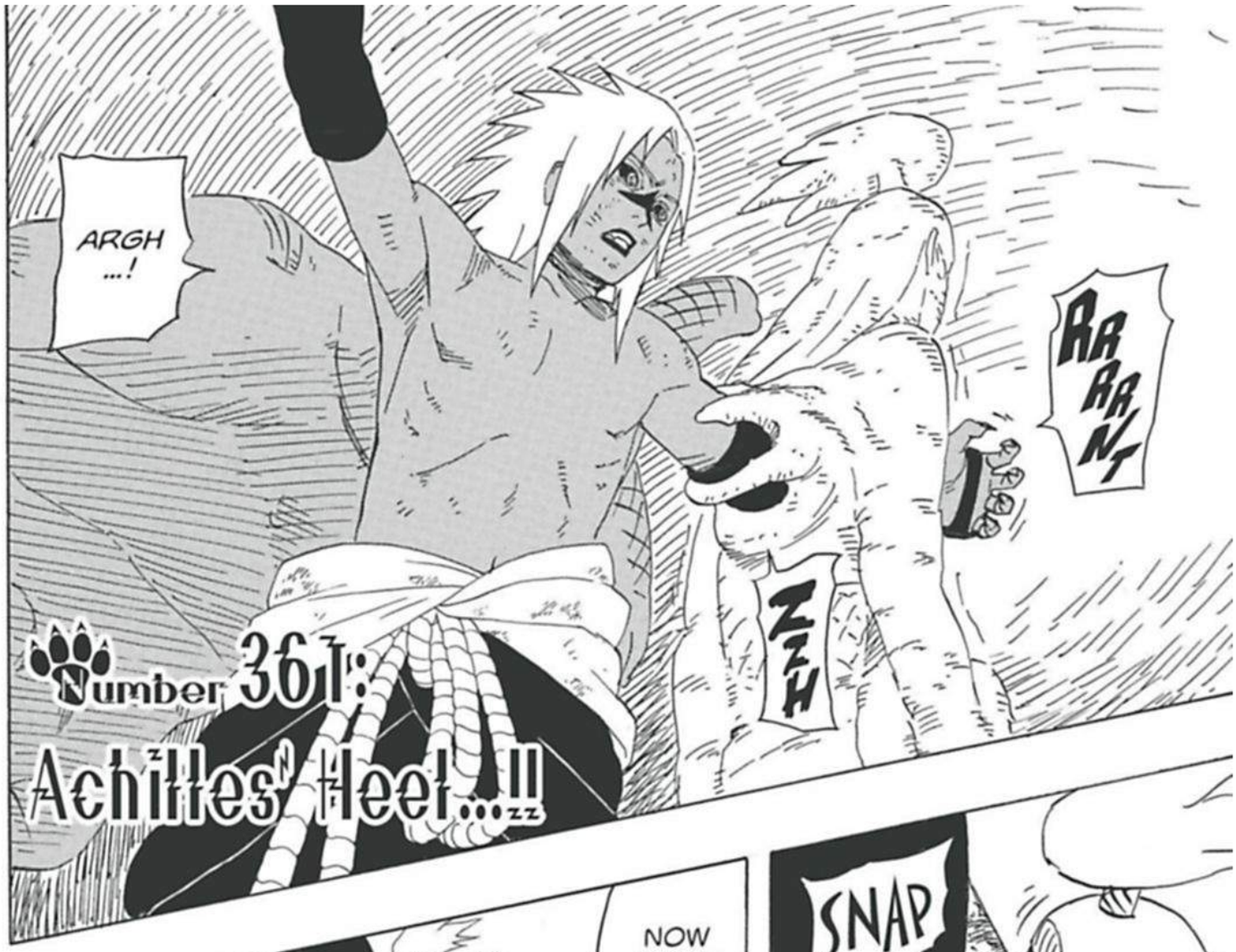

HOW DO YOU LIKE A DIRECT C4 ATTACK?!
THIS TIME, IT'S OVER FOR REAL!!

UGH...!

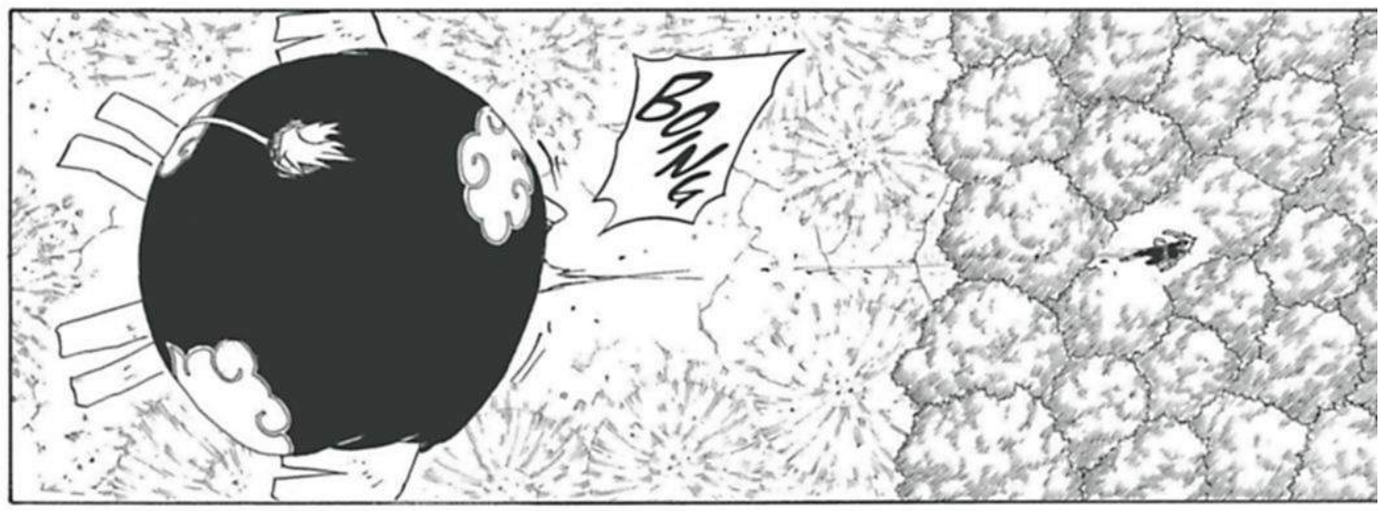
SNAP

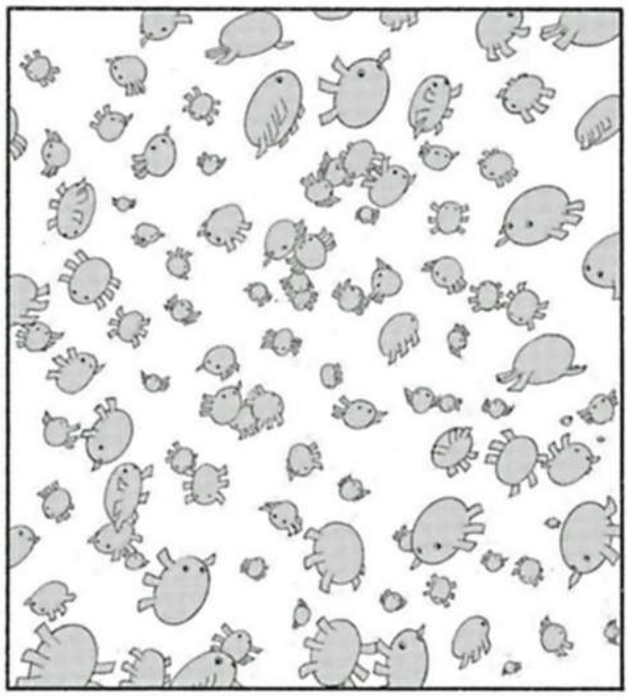
Number 361: Achilles' Heel...!!

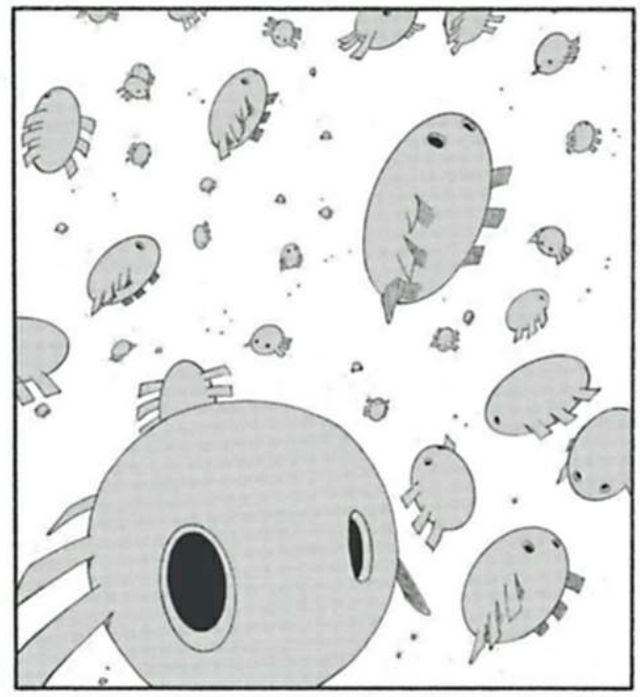


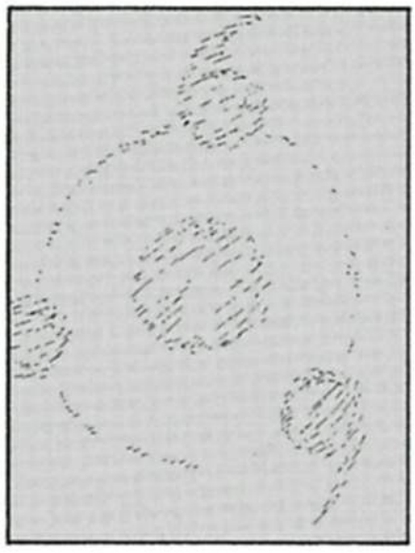


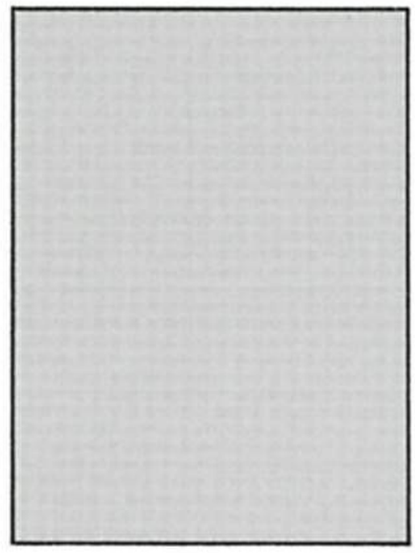
Number 361: Achilles' Heel...!!

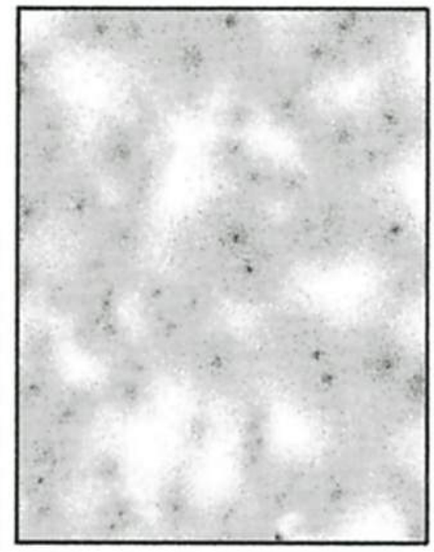


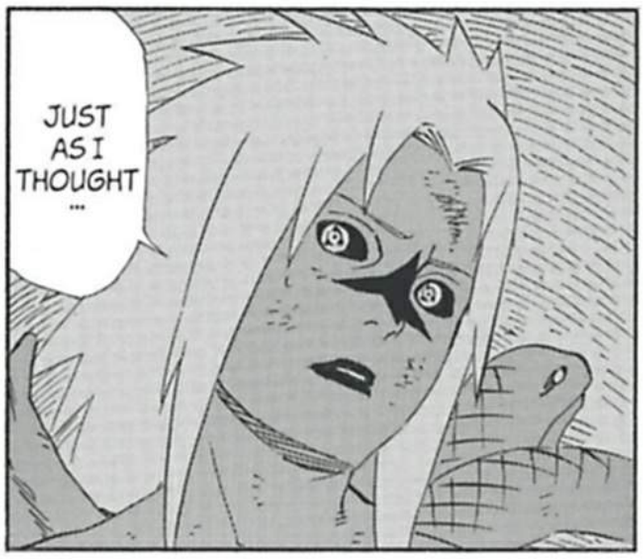


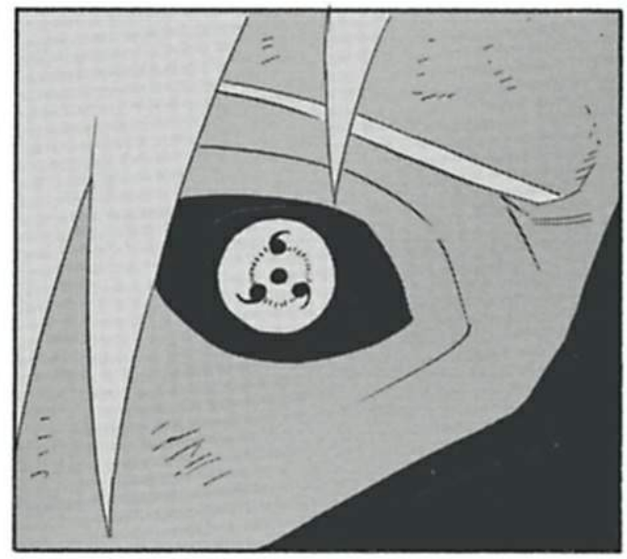


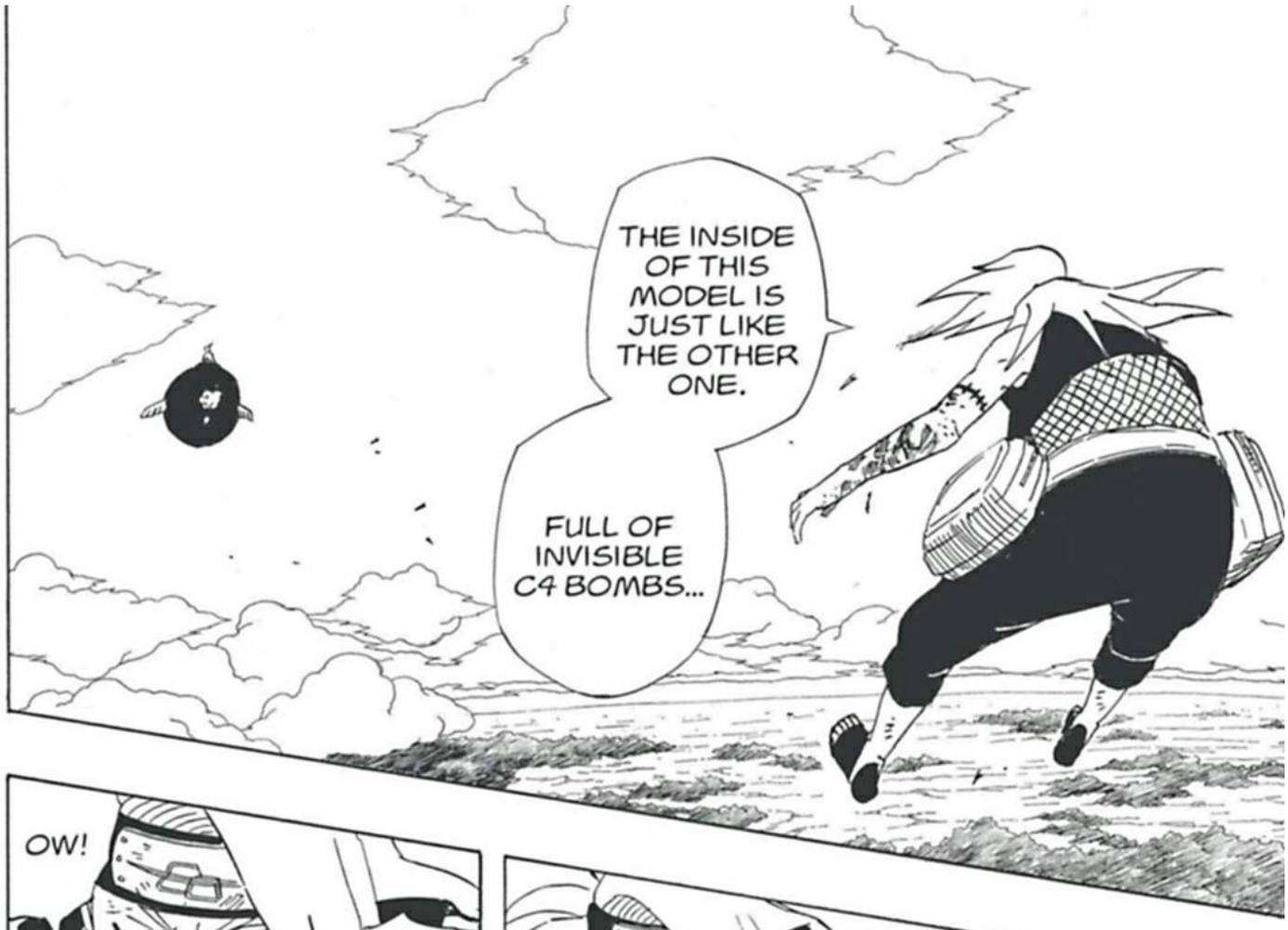







JUST AS I THOUGHT ...

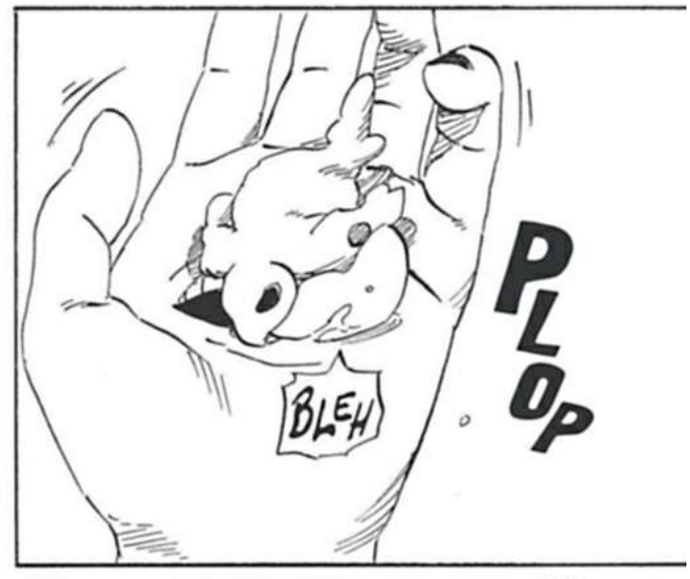



THE INSIDE OF THIS MODEL IS JUST LIKE THE OTHER ONE.
FULL OF INVISIBLE C4 BOMBS...

OW!
KRRNKLE
CHOMP CHOMP

FAP

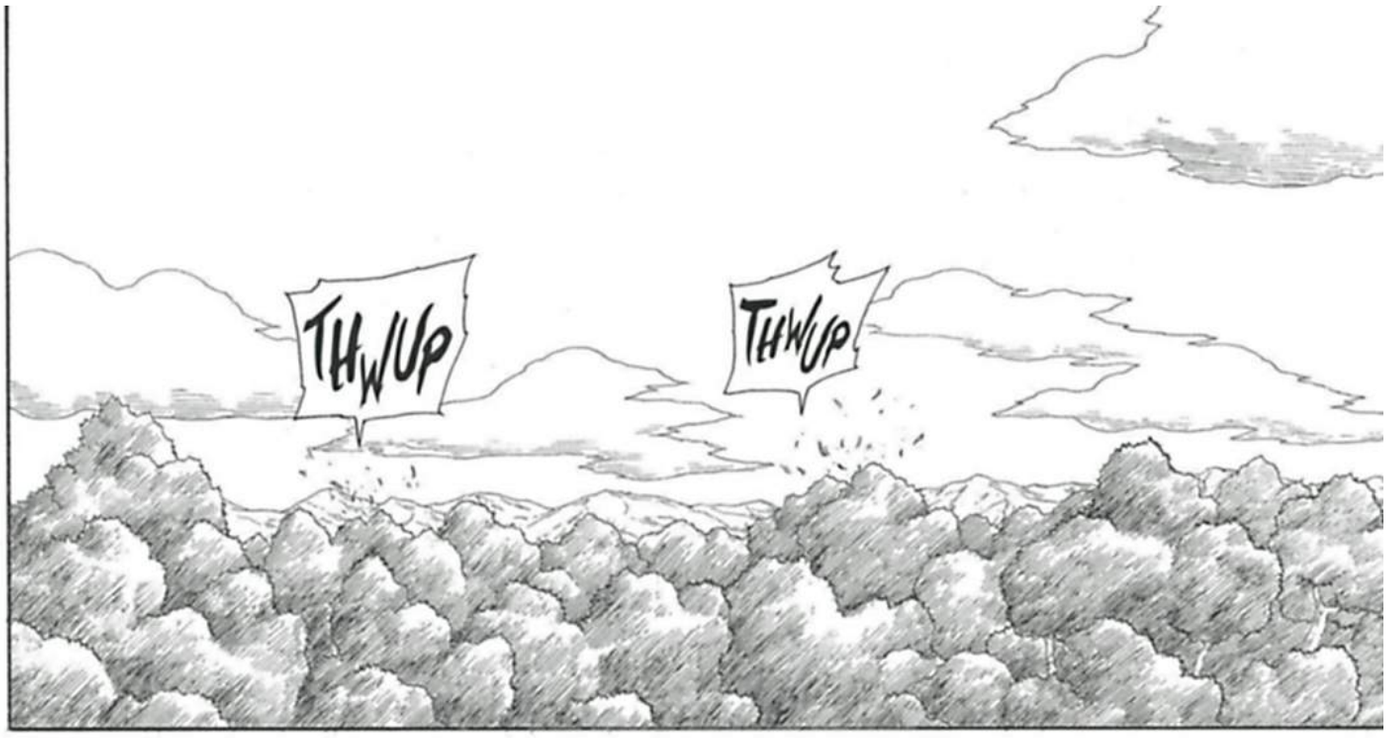
FLIP
ALMOST USED UP ALL MY CHAKRA... THIS PIECE IS NO GOOD...
GAH...
...THAT HURTS...


BLEH
PLOP

READ THIS WAY
ZIIII
ZIIII
ZIIII
ZIIII
!
WOOMMM
BZZZZ

BUZZZ

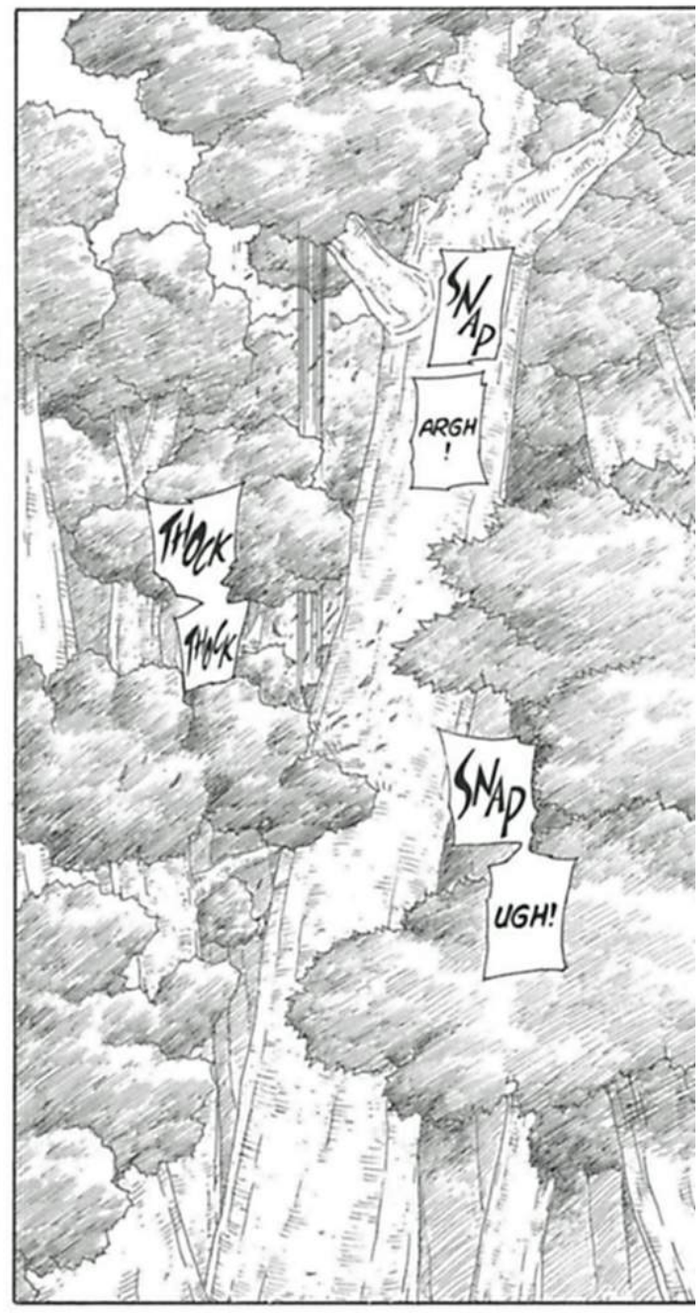
YOUR LIGHTNING BLADE ATTACK WILL NEVER REACH ME IN TIME FROM THAT DISTANCE!
BUNSHIN
GAME OVER!
YOSHAAA!


THWUP
THWUP

ARGH!
THUD

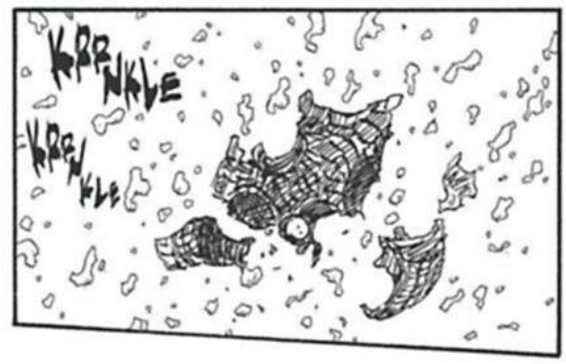
UNH...

!


SNAP
ARGH!
THOCK
THOCK
SNAP
UGH!

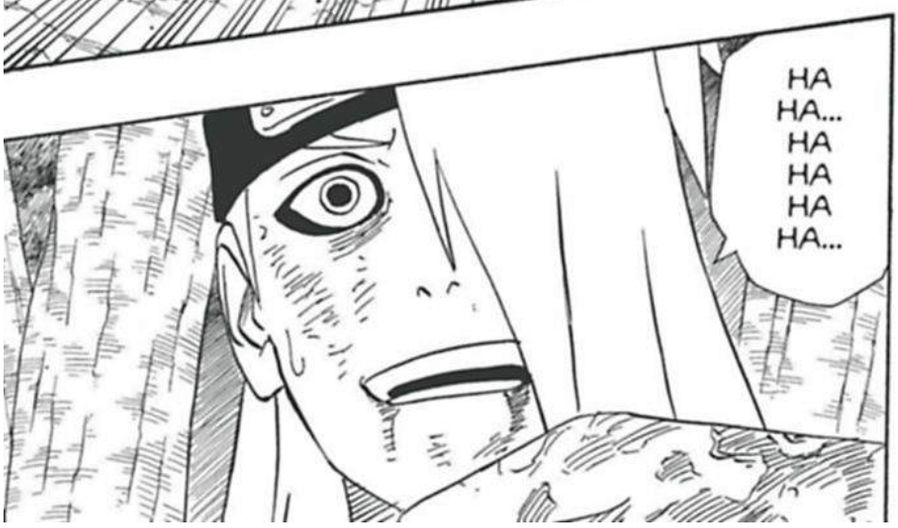
KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE

KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE

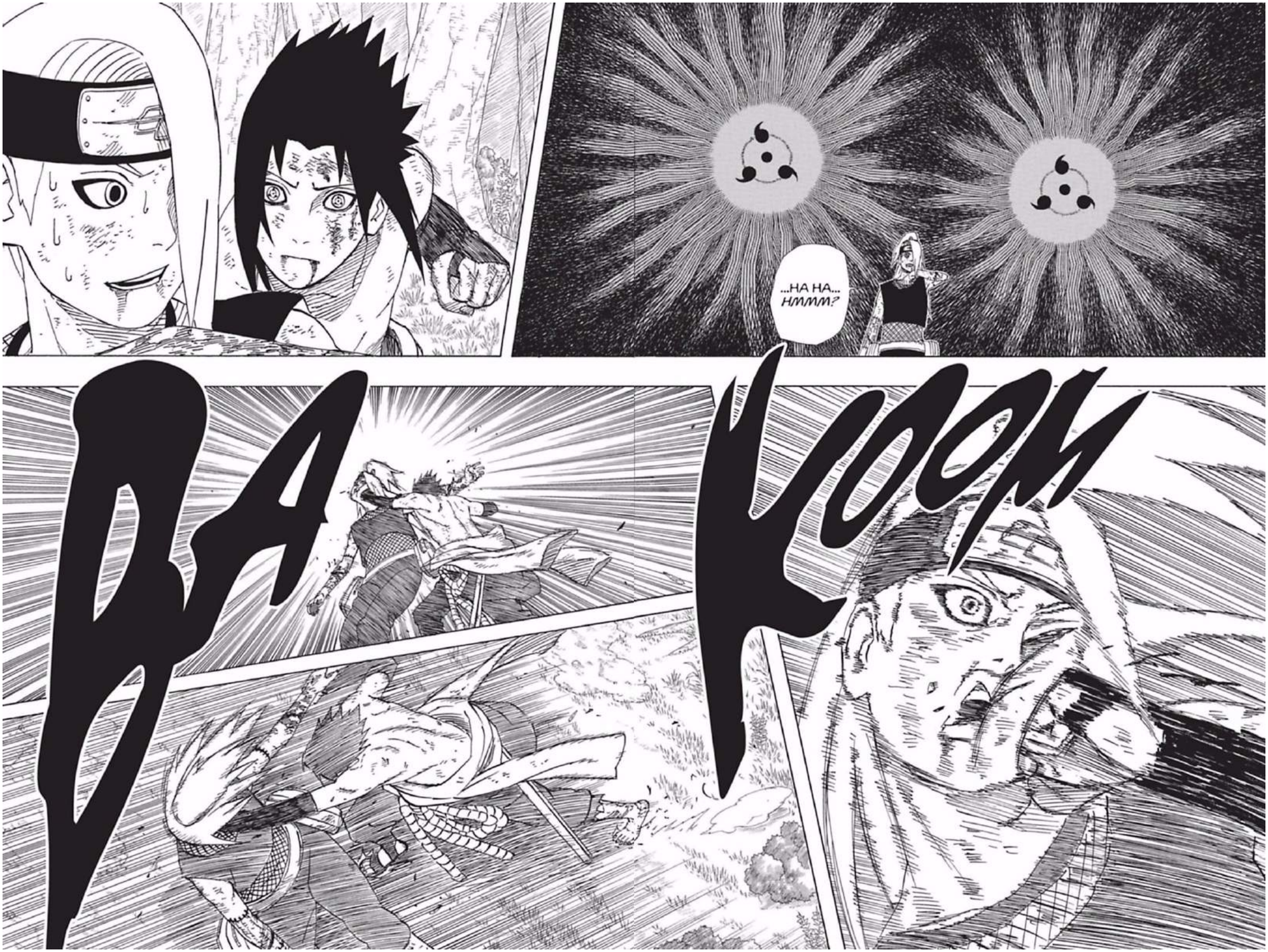

KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE

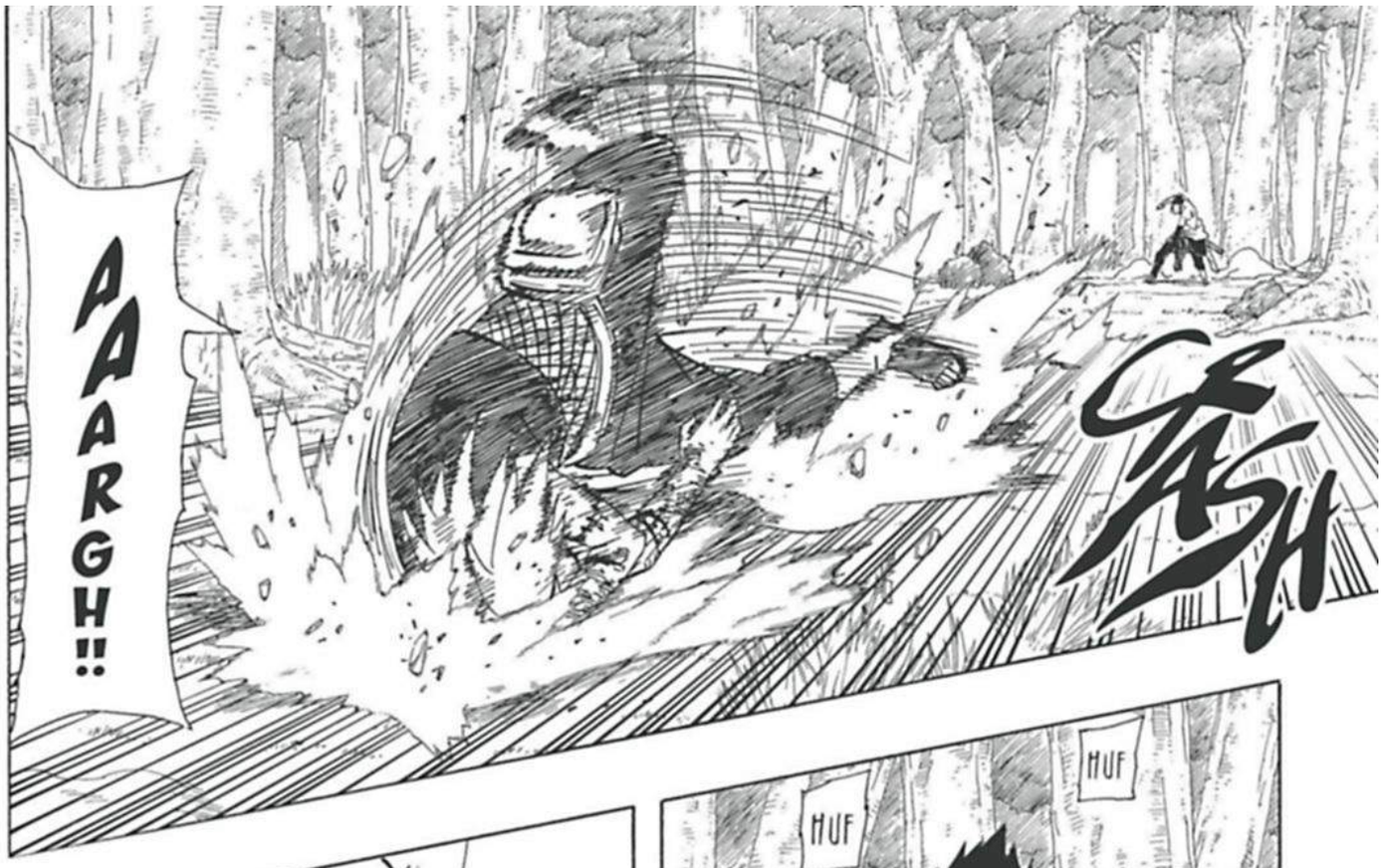
TMP
MY ART TRIUMPHS!!

I WON!
I WON.


HA HA... HA HA HA HA...

...
SKRITCH


...HA HA...
HMMM?
BA
KOOM


AAARGH!!
CRASH

THIS IS NO GENJUTSU... WHICH MEANS...
WHAT... HOW?
DRIBBLE

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
BZZZ...
BZZ...

HUF
HUF
HOW DID YOU... DISARM THE C4 BOMBS...?

HUF
BZZZZZ...
HUF
BZ

!

HUF
HUF
YEAH... FROM VERY EARLY ON...

YOU KNEW ...?
YOU...
NO, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE...
POP

ALL OF YOUR JUTSU SO FAR HAVE USED DOTON OR EARTH STYLE SIGNS.

...BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW FAST YOU ARE, THESE EYES CAN READ THEM.
WHEN FACING SHARINGAN, YOU REALLY OUGHT TO WEAVE YOUR SIGNS OUT OF THE LINE OF SIGHT.

THEN THAT LIGHTNING BLADE YOU USED...
SO YOU HAD FIGURED IT OUT...

YOU DO THE MATH.
MY CHIDORI IS RAITON OR LIGHT-NING STYLE...

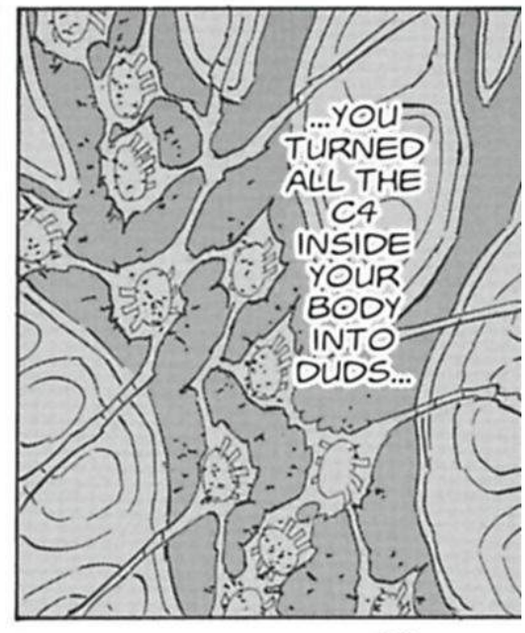
NOW I SEE...

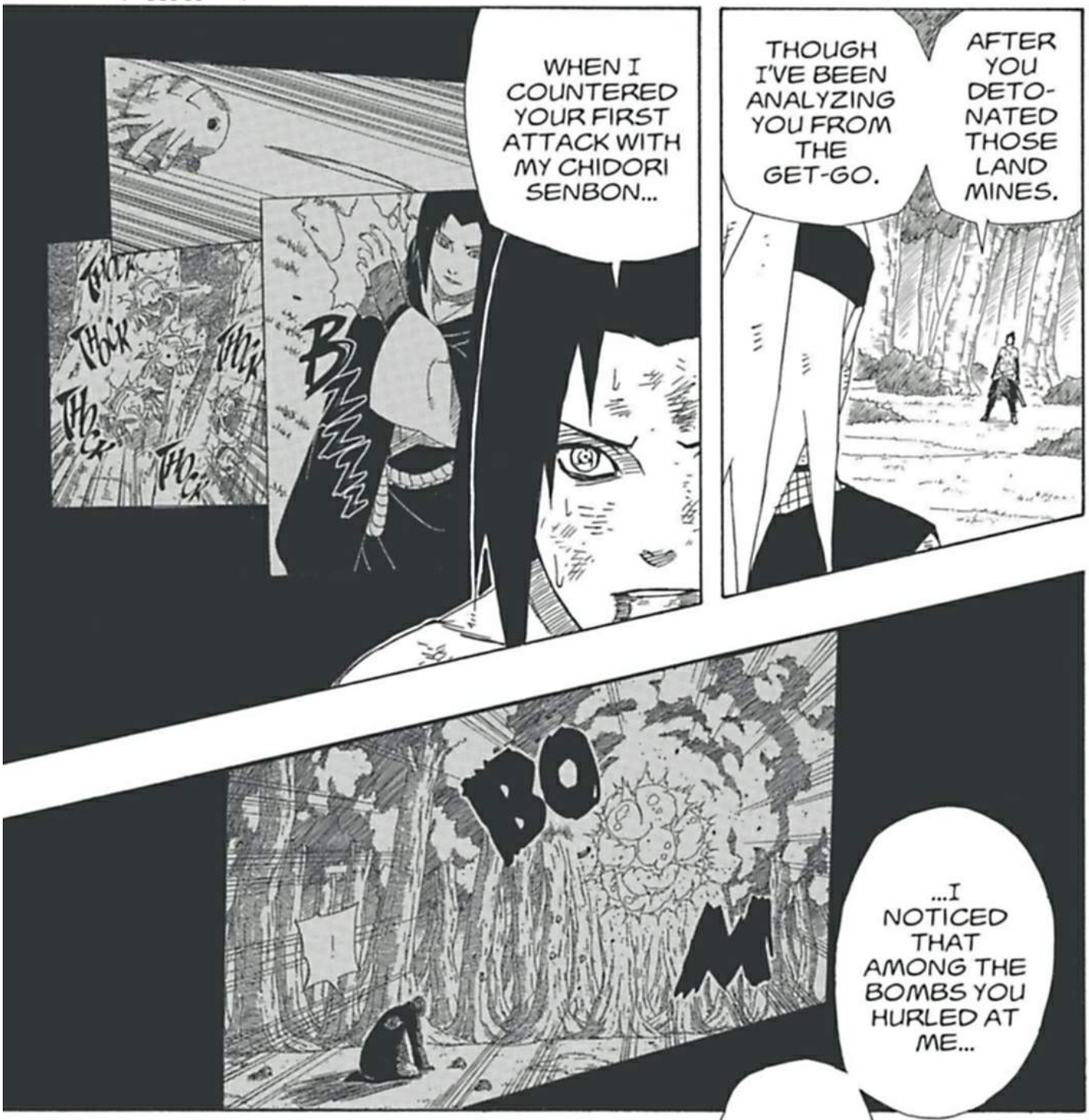
YOUR BOMBS CAN BE DEFUSED BY RUNNING RAITON THROUGH THEM...
...IT'S THEIR ACHILLES' HEEL.
DOTON IS VULNERABLE TO RAITON.

BY RUNNING THAT LIGHTNING BLADE THROUGH YOURSELF...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DISSECTED MY ART'S WEAK POINT SO QUICKLY...
WHEN DID YOU REALIZE IT?

BY THE WAY, MY JUTSU IS TECHNI-CALLY CALLED CHIDORI ...
YEAH... BUT THE EFFORT SURE WORE ME OUT.

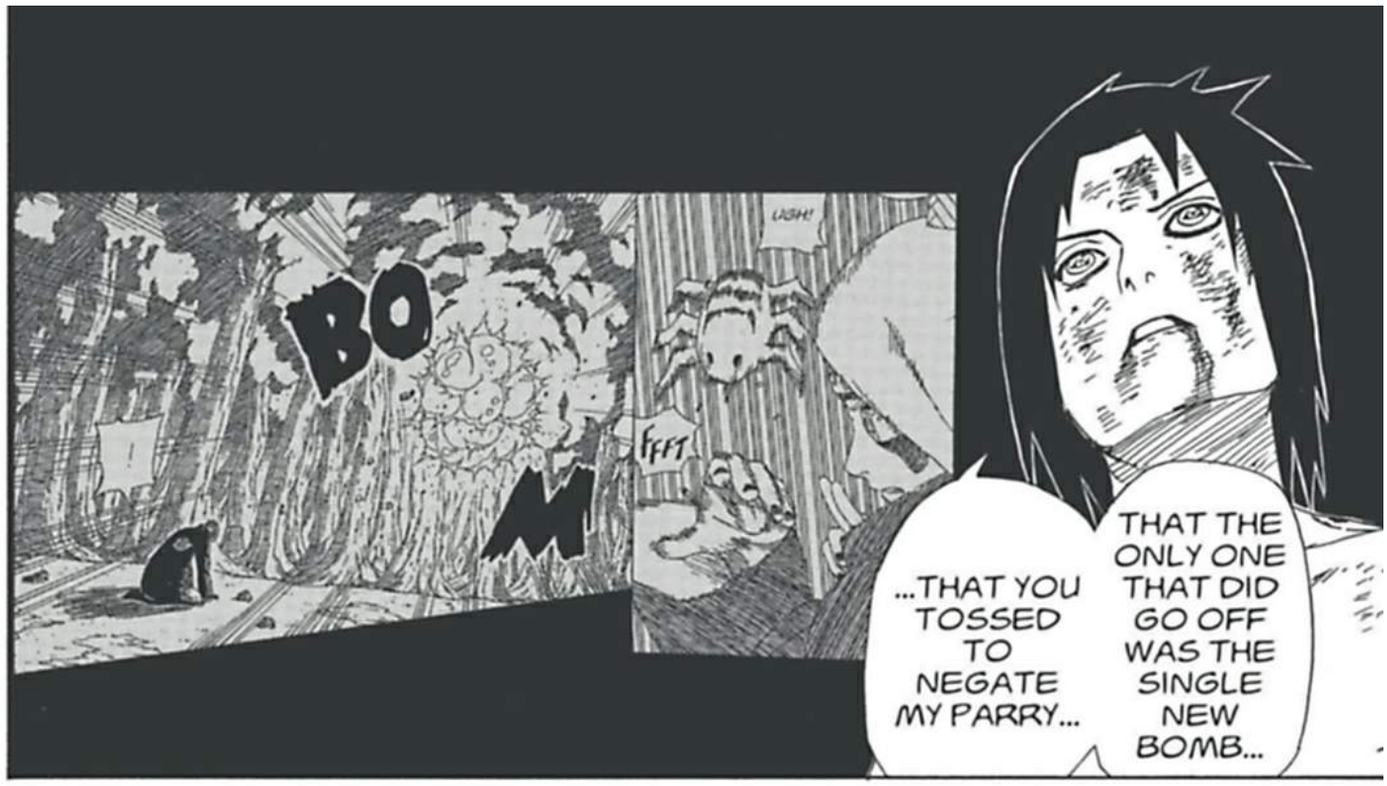

...YOU TURNED ALL THE C4 INSIDE YOUR BODY INTO DUDS...

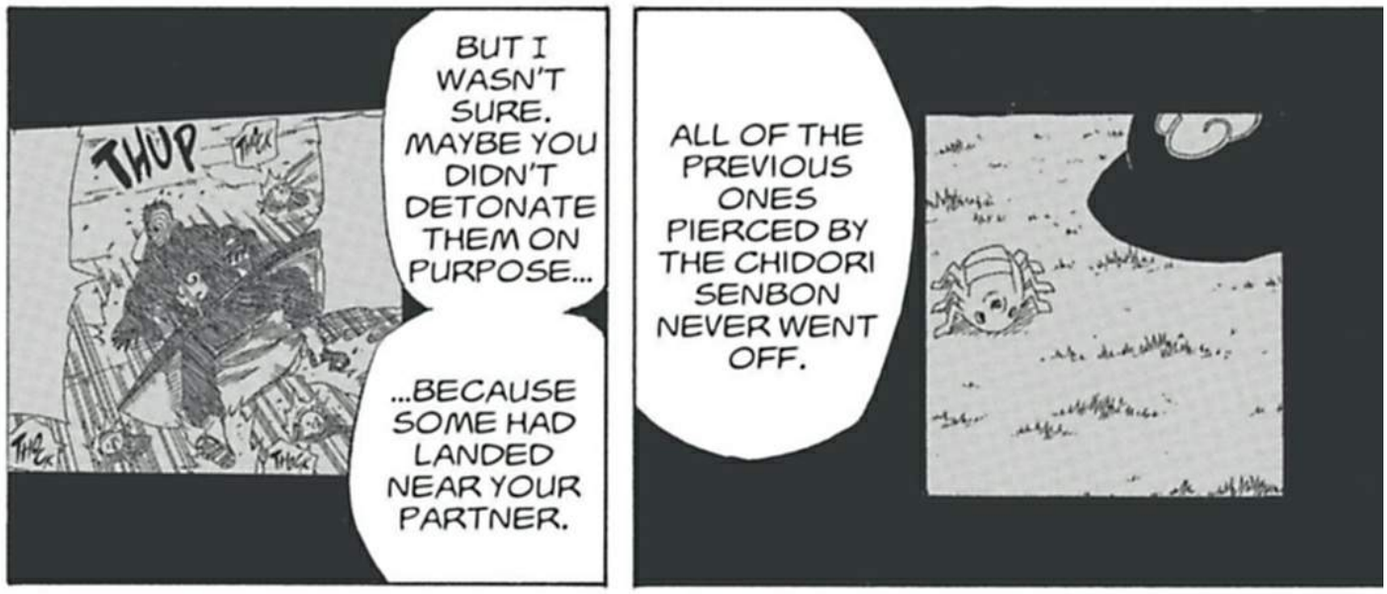

WHEN I COUNTERED YOUR FIRST ATTACK WITH MY CHIDORI SENBON...
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
BZZZZZ
THOUGH I'VE BEEN ANALYZING YOU FROM THE GET-GO.
AFTER YOU DETO-NATED THOSE LAND MINES.
BO
M
...I NOTICED THAT AMONG THE BOMBS YOU HURLED AT ME...

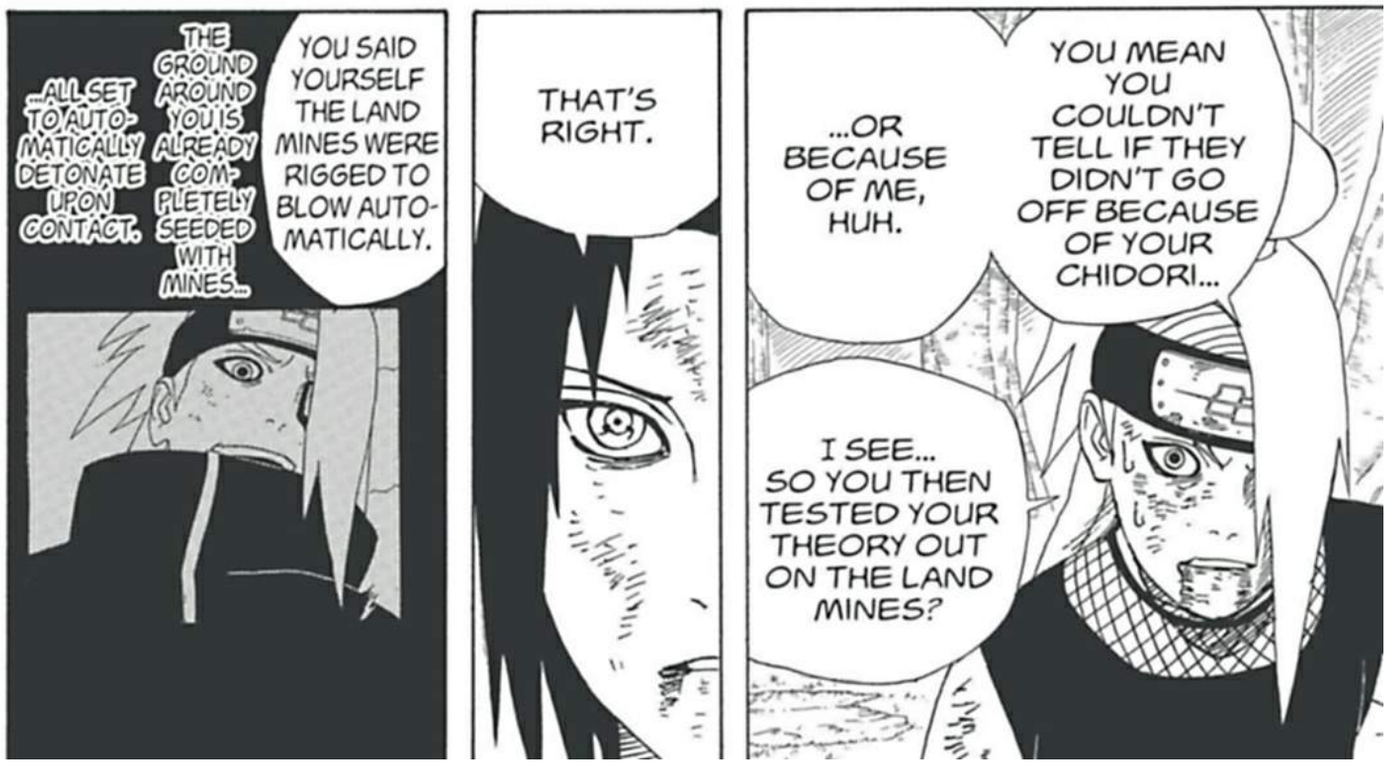
A HYPOTH-ESIS...?
HUF
HUF

THAT'S WHEN I FORMU-LATED A HYPOTH-ESIS...

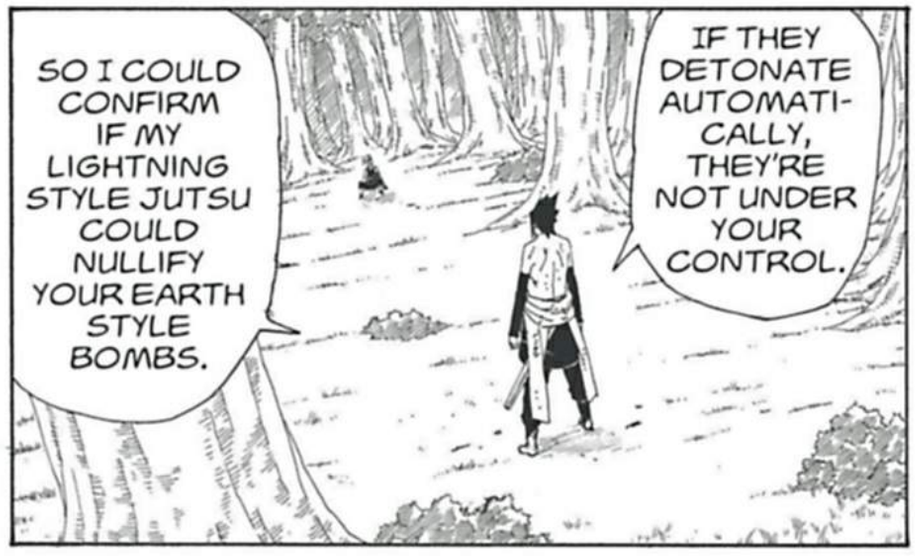
...MANY OF THEM DIDN'T GO OFF.

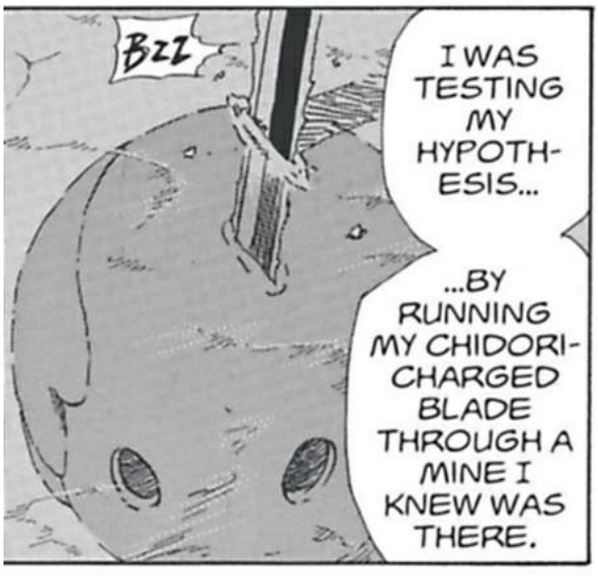

BO
M
WISH!
FFFT
...THAT YOU TOSSED TO NEGATE MY PARRY...
THAT THE ONLY ONE THAT DID GO OFF WAS THE SINGLE NEW BOMB...

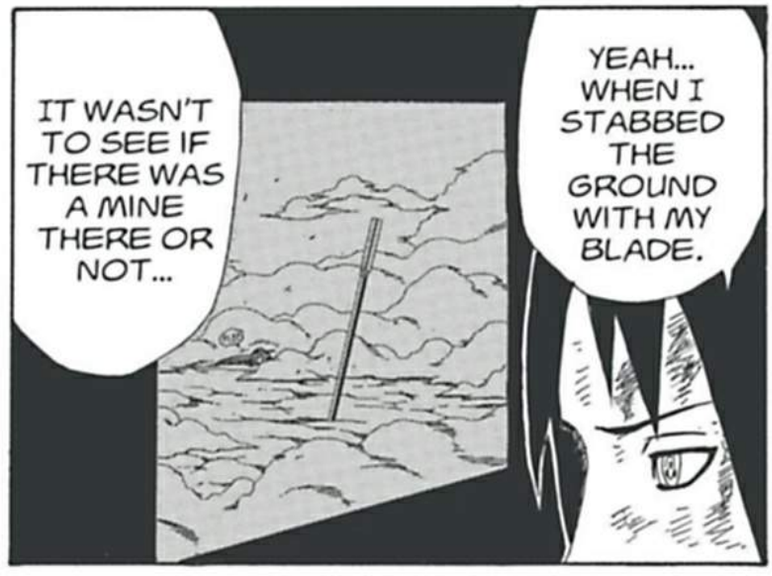

THUP
BUT I WASN'T SURE. MAYBE YOU DIDN'T DETONATE THEM ON PURPOSE...
...BECAUSE SOME HAD LANDED NEAR YOUR PARTNER.
ALL OF THE PREVIOUS ONES PIERCED BY THE CHIDORI SENBON NEVER WENT OFF.

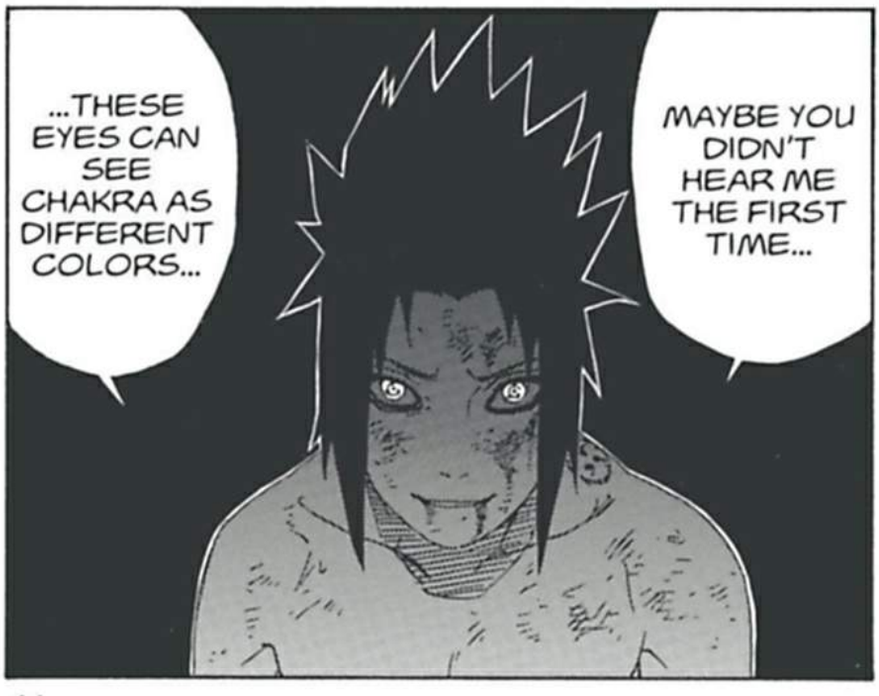

YOU SAID YOURSELF THE LAND MINES WERE RIGGED TO BLOW AUTO-MATICALLY.
THE GROUND AROUND YOU IS ALREADY COM-PLETELY SEEDED WITH MINES...
...ALL SET TO AUTO-MATICALLY DETONATE UPON CONTACT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU MEAN YOU COULDN'T TELL IF THEY DIDN'T GO OFF BECAUSE OF YOUR CHIDORI...
...OR BECAUSE OF ME, HUH.
I SEE... SO YOU THEN TESTED YOUR THEORY OUT ON THE LAND MINES?

A-AHH...


SO I COULD CONFIRM IF MY LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU COULD NULLIFY YOUR EARTH STYLE BOMBS.
IF THEY DETONATE AUTOMATICALLY, THEY'RE NOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL.

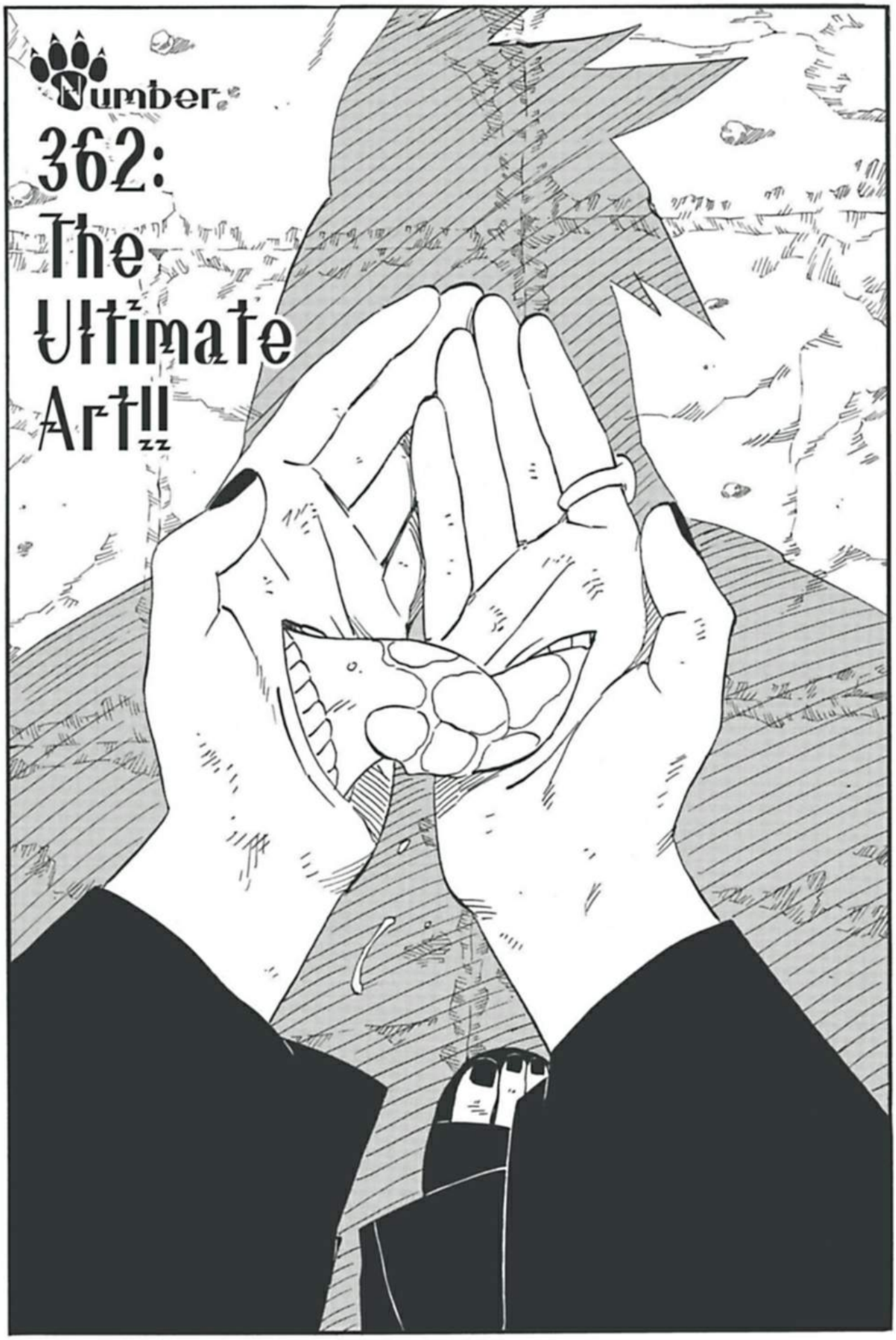

BZZ
I WAS TESTING MY HYPOTHESIS...
...BY RUNNING MY CHIDORI-CHARGED BLADE THROUGH A MINE I KNEW WAS THERE.


IT WASN'T TO SEE IF THERE WAS A MINE THERE OR NOT...
YEAH... WHEN I STABBED THE GROUND WITH MY BLADE.

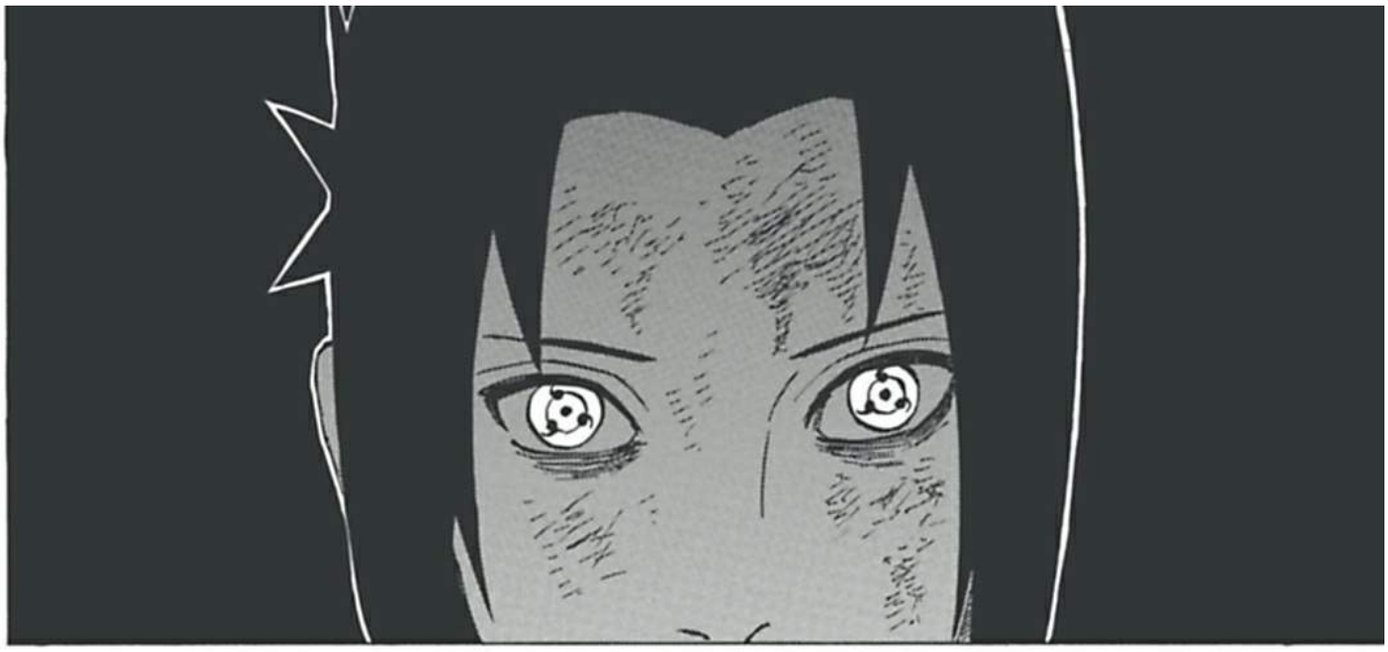

...THESE EYES CAN SEE CHAKRA AS DIFFERENT COLORS...
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME THE FIRST TIME...

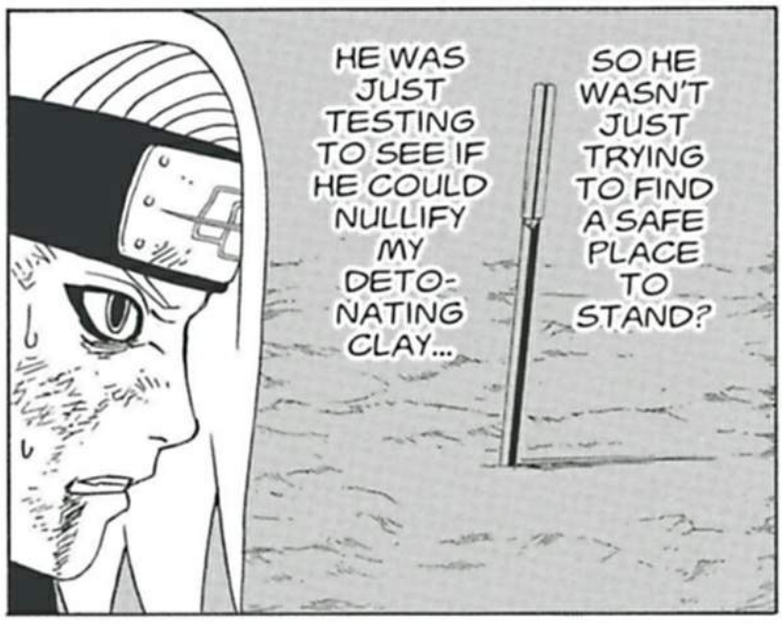
HOW DID YOU KNOW THE EXACT LOCATIONS OF THE MINES?!
BUT... HOW...?!

BZZ...
BZZ...



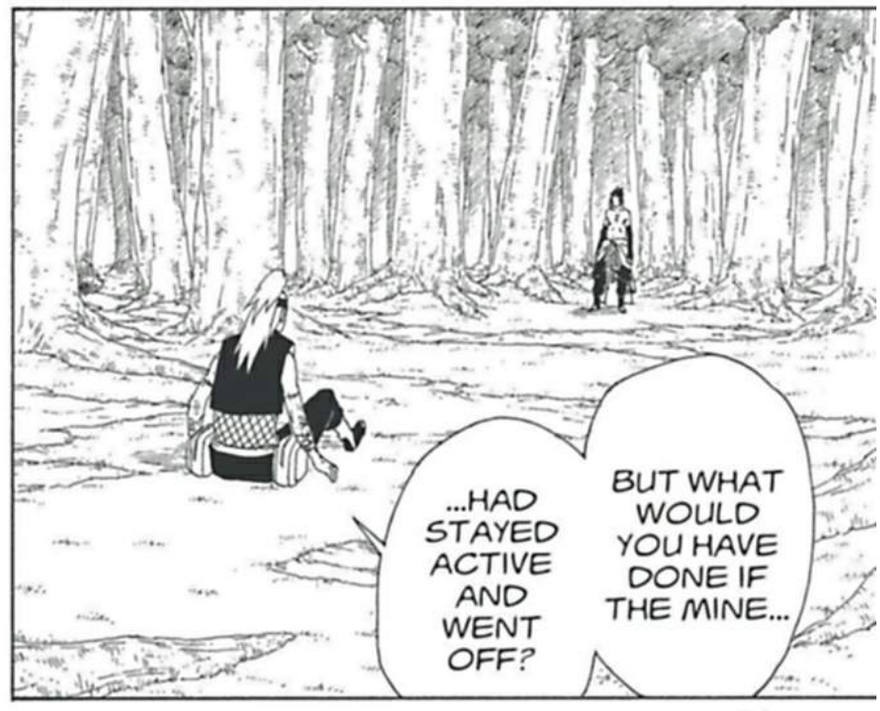
Number 362: The Ultimate Art!!




HE WAS JUST TESTING TO SEE IF HE COULD NULLIFY MY DETO-NATING CLAY...
SO HE WASN'T JUST TRYING TO FIND A SAFE PLACE TO STAND?

YOU SAW WHERE THE MINES HAD BEEN PLACED...?

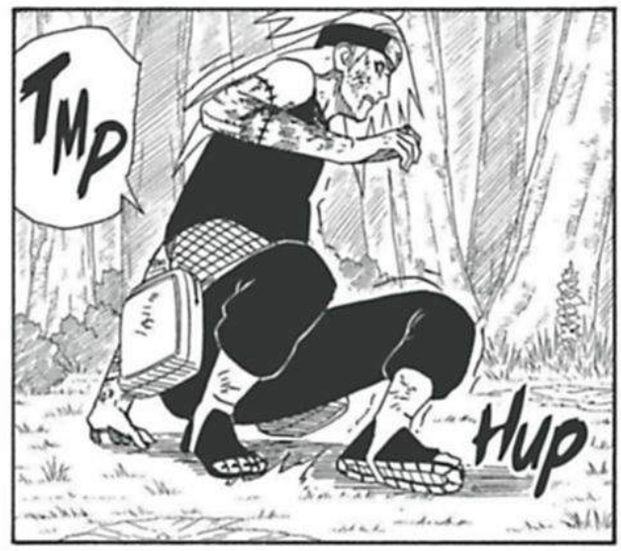
FORTU-NATELY, I HAD A BACKUP PLAN JUST IN CASE.
THERE WERE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE OUT-COMES.
ONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET.


...HAD STAYED ACTIVE AND WENT OFF?
BUT WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THE MINE...

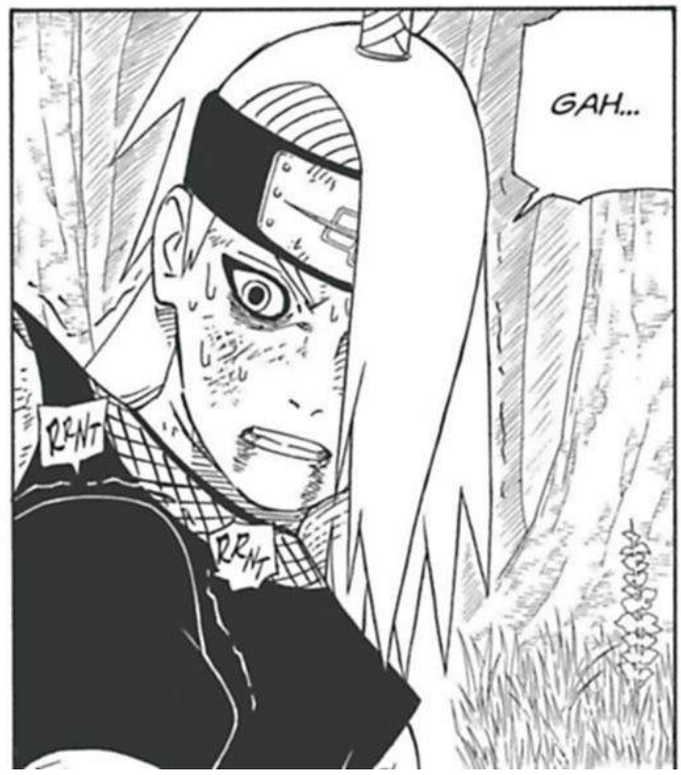
!
SHUF
SHUF

HE... STILL HAS OTHER JUTSU...?

THUMP
RNNH
UGH!


TMP
HUP

AGAIN... WHERE IS ITACHI?
NAUNGH


GAH...
RRNT
RRNT

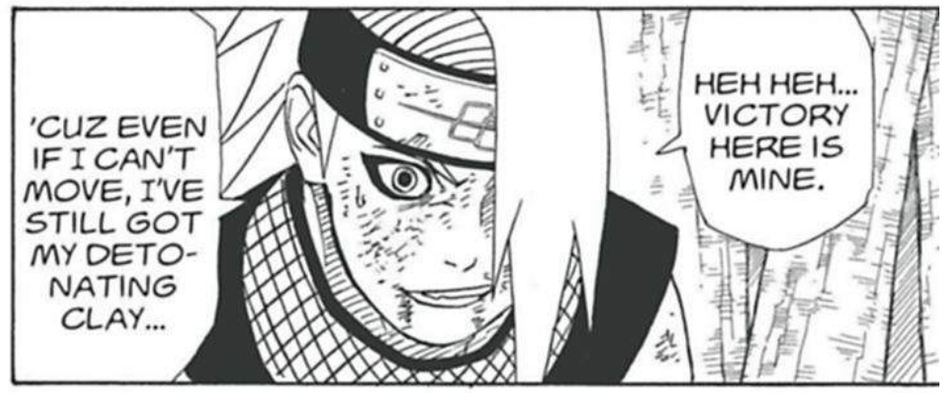
THWAAP
BZZZZZZZZ
THWIIP...

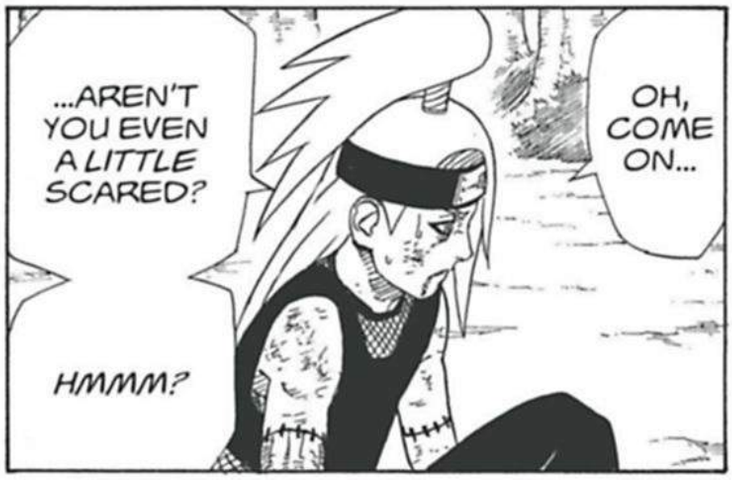
READ THIS WAY
BLZZAK
!
SNAP
SNAP
TUNK
KRRK
HUF
HUF
BLOP
BLOP

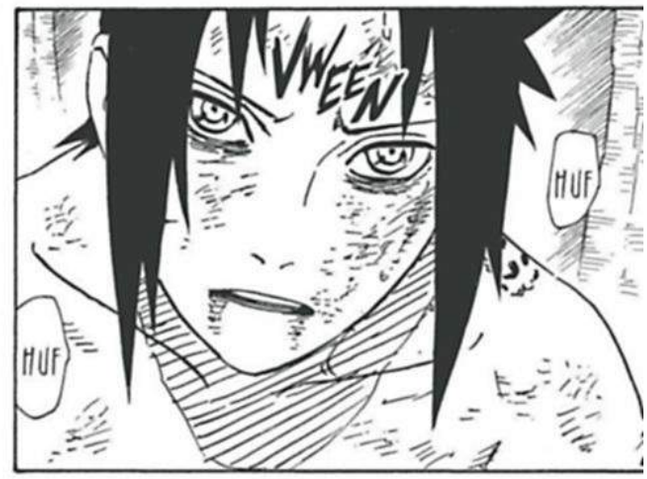
YOUR CHAKRA TOOK A BIG HIT RIGHT THERE, HMMM?
HEH... YOU TALK TOUGH, BUT YOU'RE ON YOUR LAST LEGS TOO.
HUF
HUF

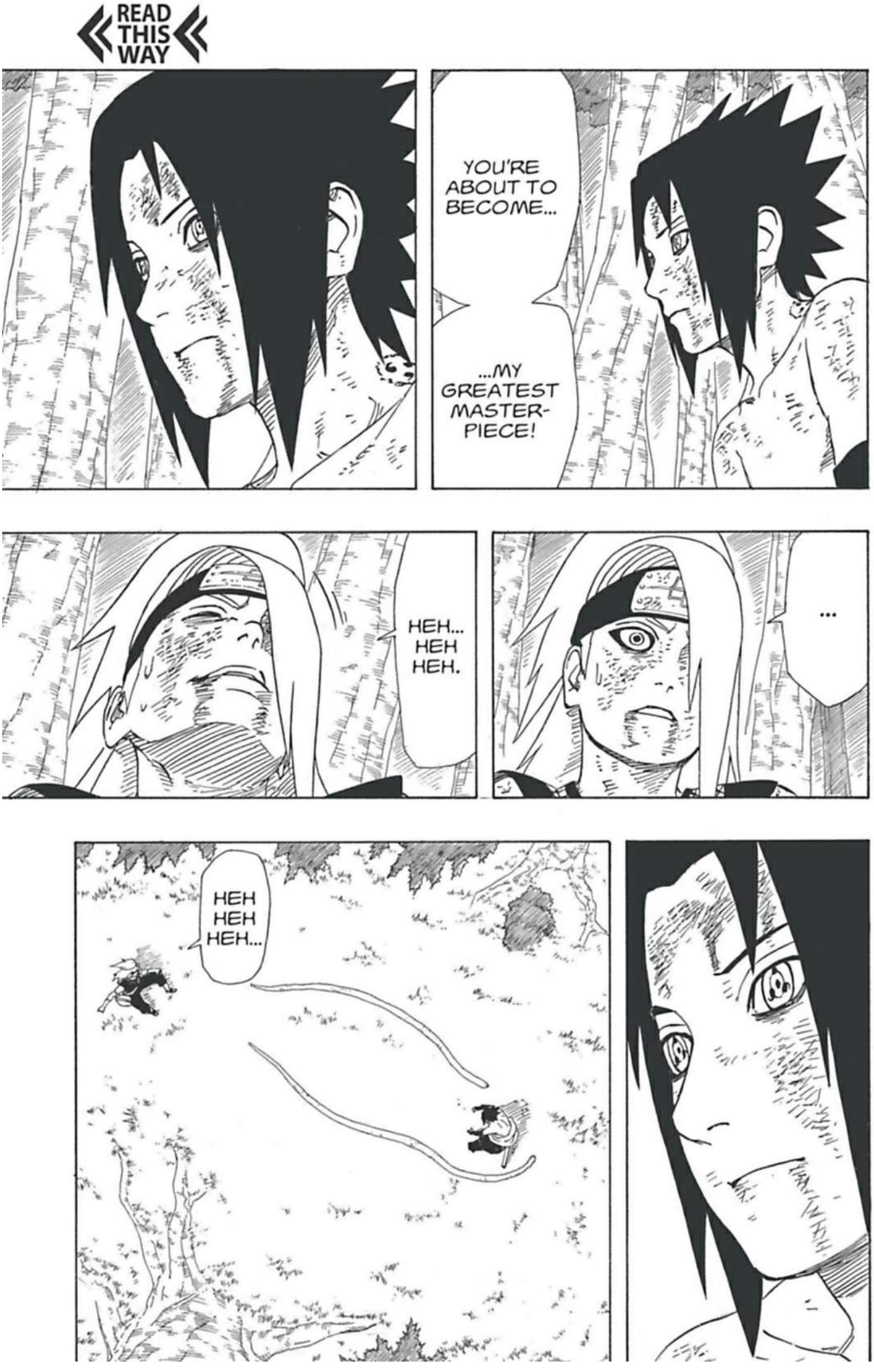
HUF
HUF
HUF

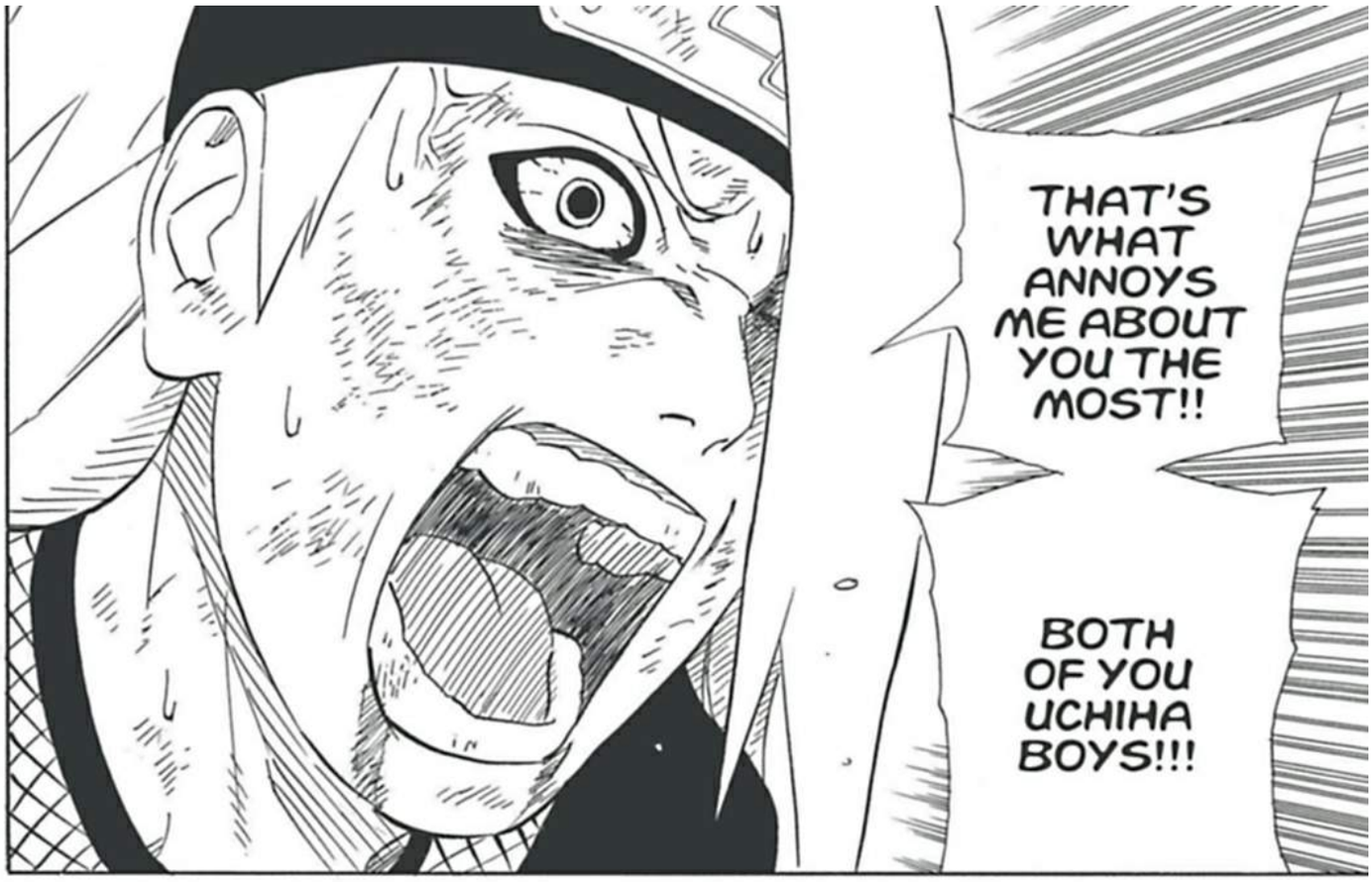
!

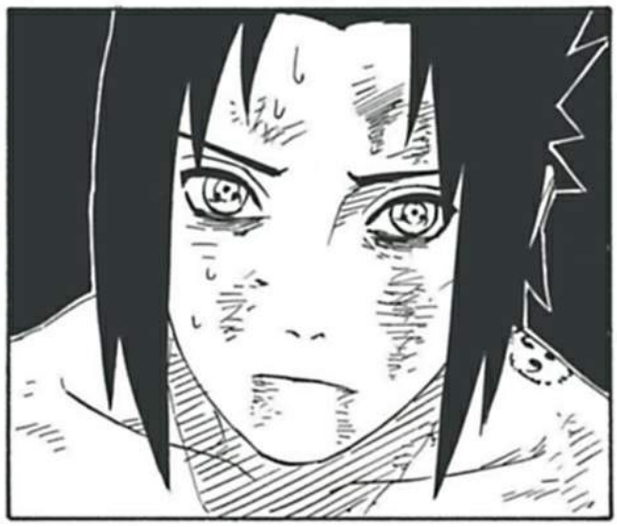

'CUZ EVEN IF I CAN'T MOVE, I'VE STILL GOT MY DETO-NATING CLAY...
HEH HEH... VICTORY HERE IS MINE.


...AREN'T YOU EVEN A LITTLE SCARED?
HMMM?
OH, COME ON...


VWEEN
HUF
HUF

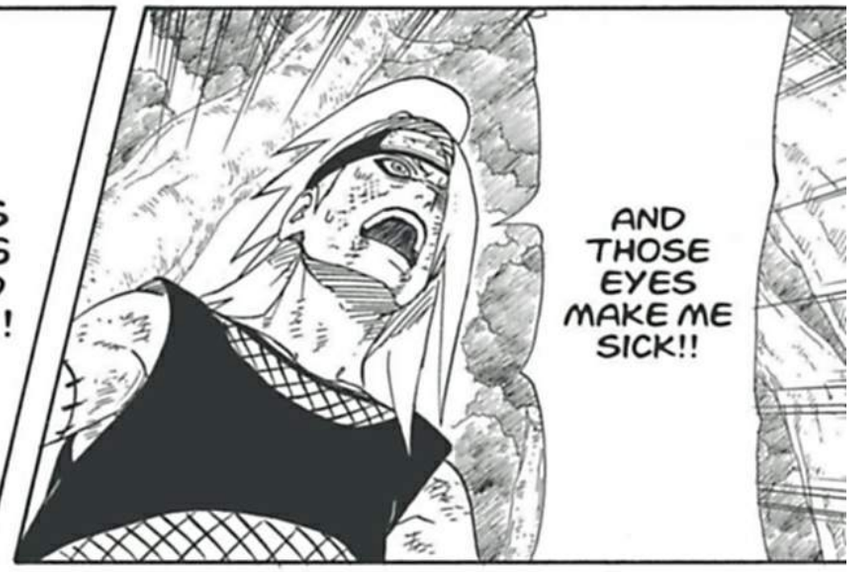

READ THIS WAY
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME...
...MY GREATEST MASTER-PIECE!
HEH... HEH HEH.
...
HEH HEH HEH...


THAT'S WHAT ANNOYS ME ABOUT YOU THE MOST!!
BOTH OF YOU UCHIHA BOYS!!!

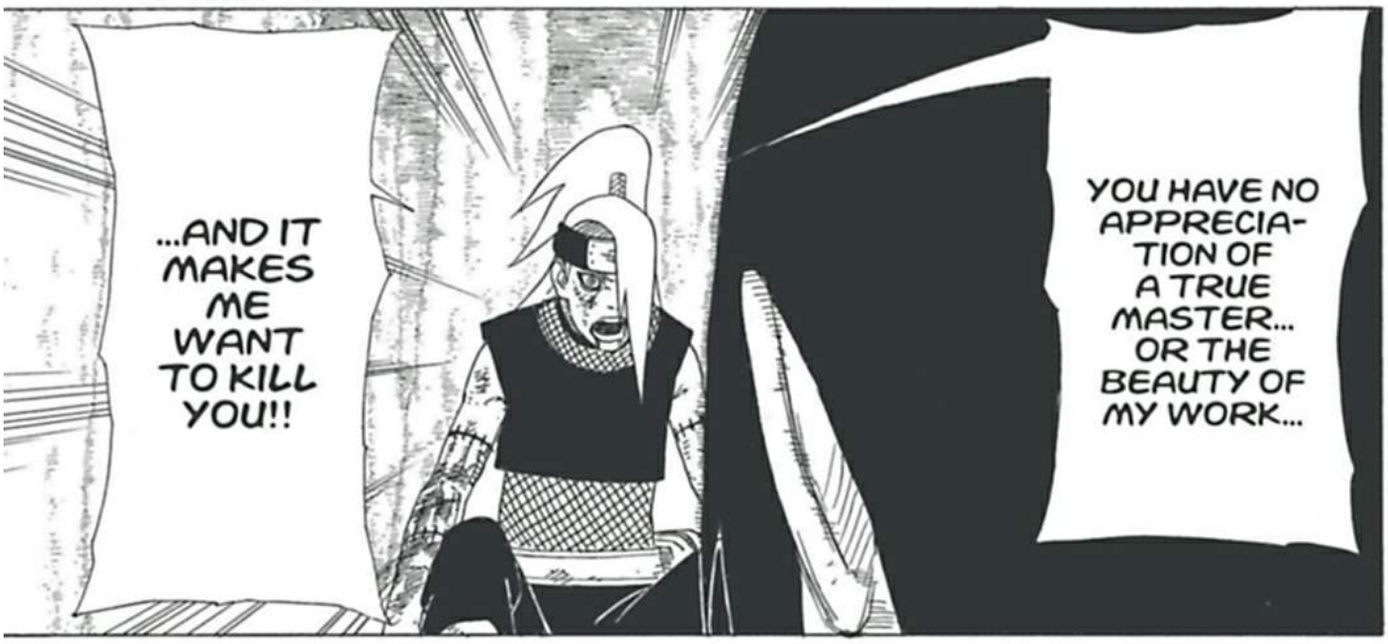


YOU THINK YOU'RE JUST SO COOL!!

ALWAYS JUDGING ME...AND MY ART!!


AND THOSE EYES MAKE ME SICK!!

READ THIS WAY



I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE ITACHI IS.

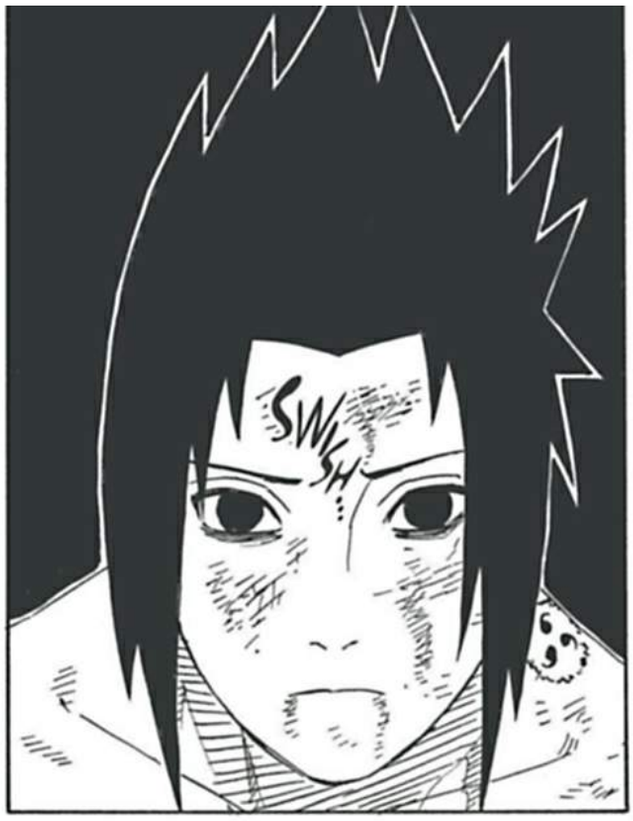
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY CARE LESS ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT.

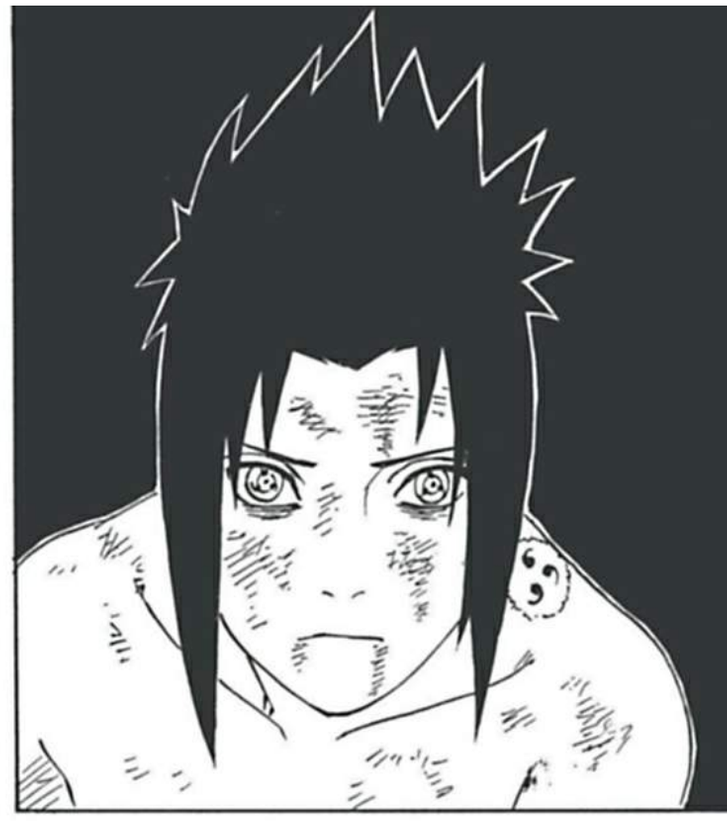
HUF...

HUF...

SNAP

NNNH NNNH

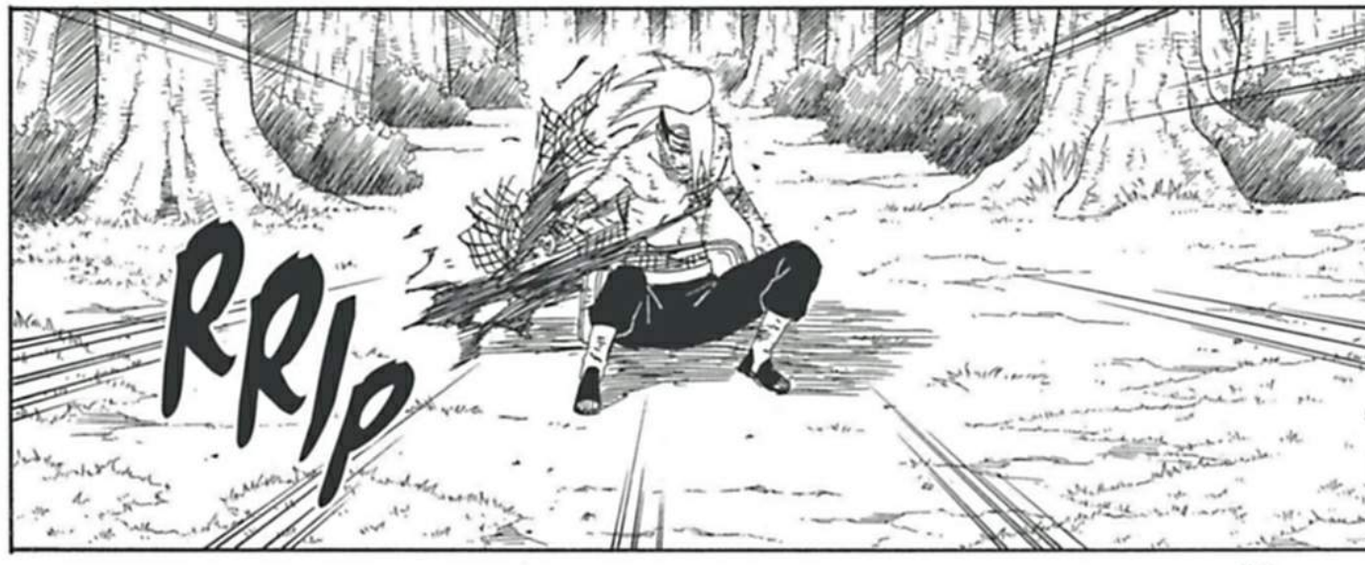

SWISH

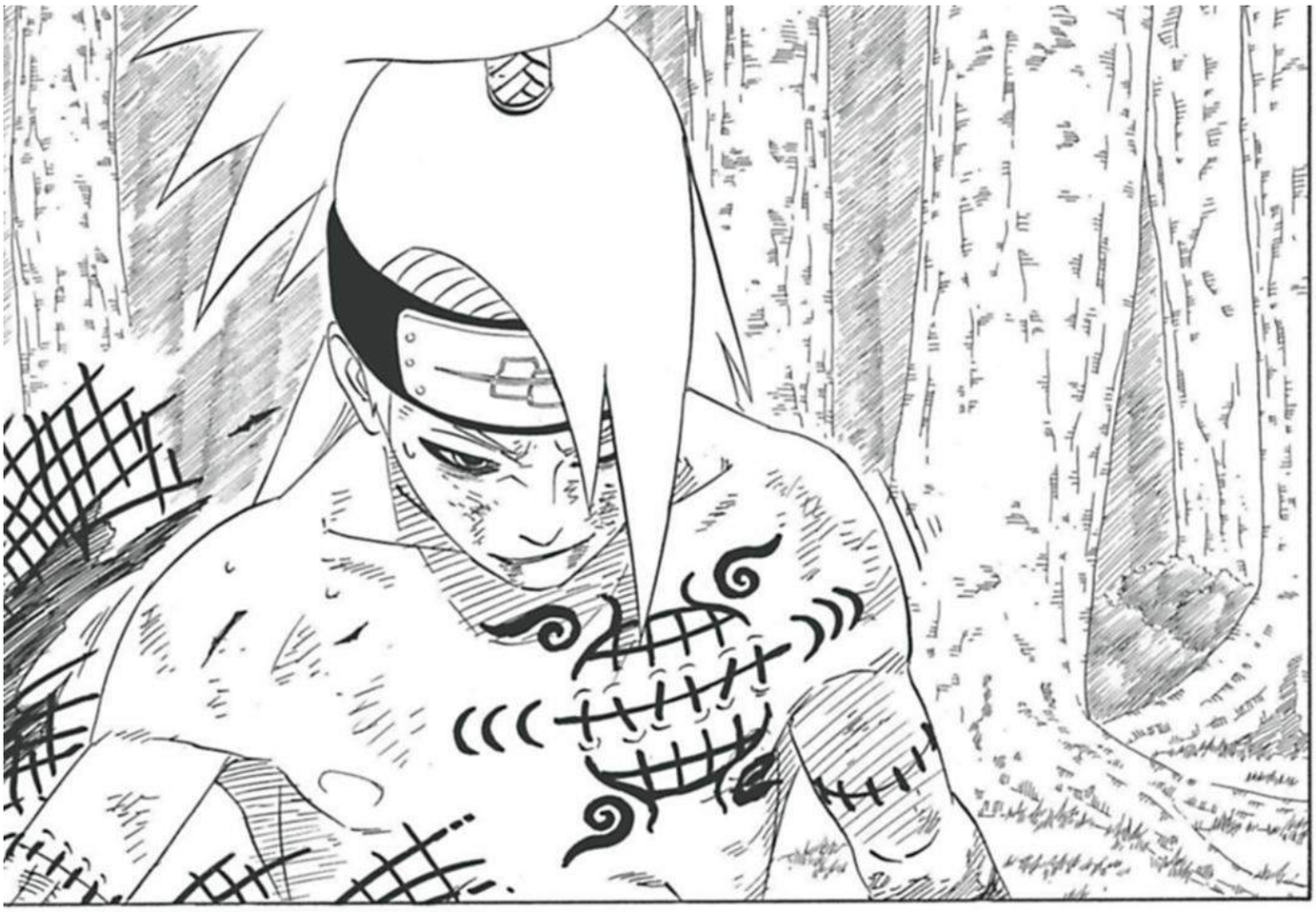


!

KRRK

...IS THAT HOW LITTLE YOU FEAR ME...?
...YOU'VE EVEN RETRACTED YOUR SHARINGAN...


RRIP

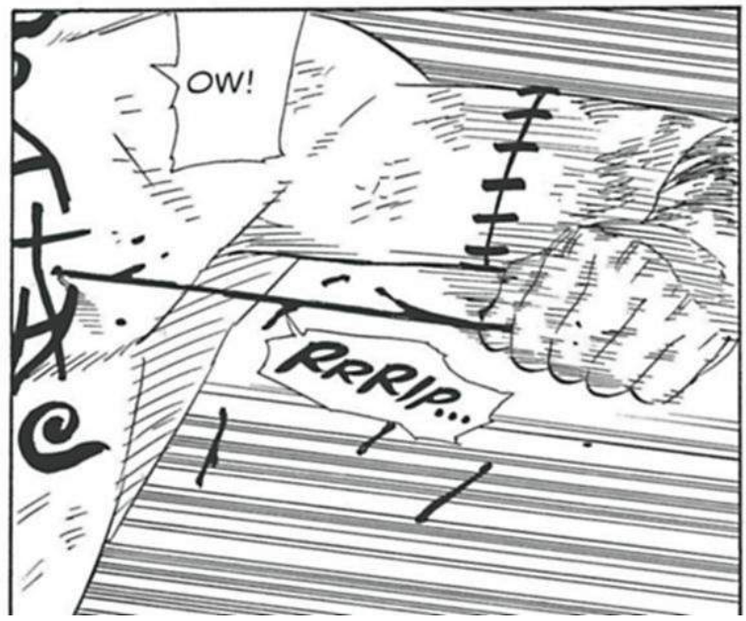


FAP...

SNAP!

GNASH GNASH

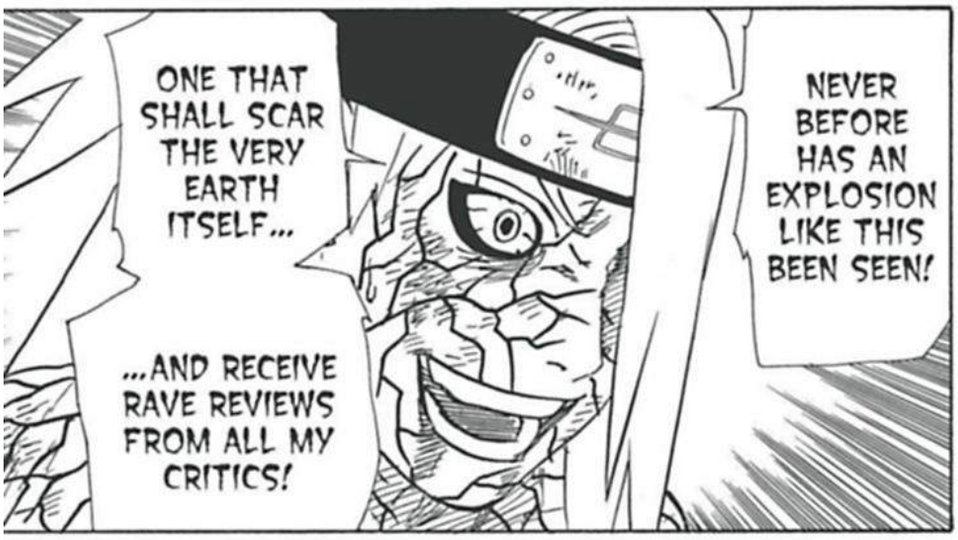
!


OW!
RRRIP...

BLA
GH
!
BE-
HOLD
...
CHOMP
CHOMP

PLINK PLINK PLINK PLINK
I SHALL DETONATE MYSELF!!

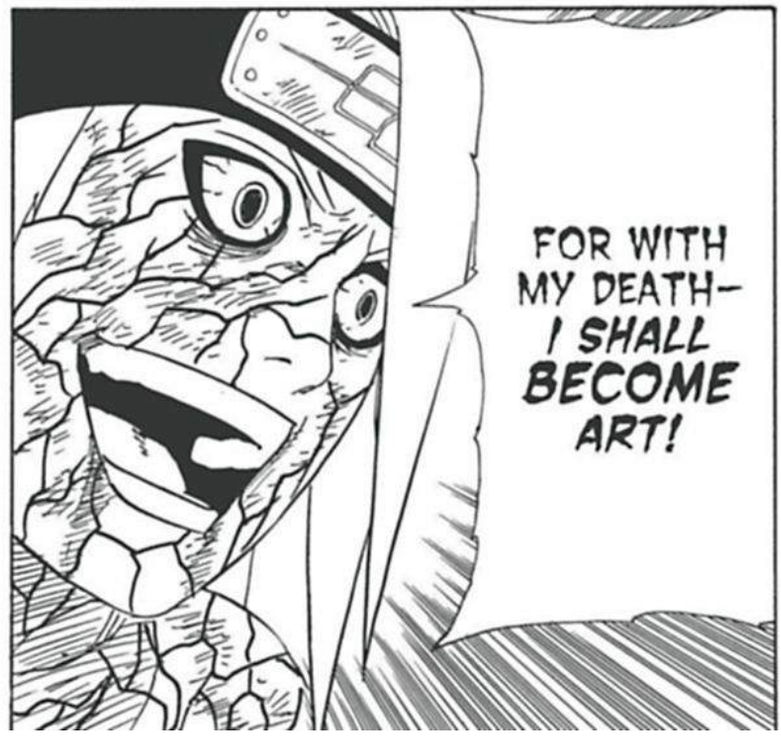
...MY ULTIMATE ART!!
PLINK PLINK


NEVER BEFORE HAS AN EXPLOSION LIKE THIS BEEN SEEN!
ONE THAT SHALL SCAR THE VERY EARTH ITSELF...
...AND RECEIVE RAVE REVIEWS FROM ALL MY CRITICS!

...HE'S INSANE ...!

!

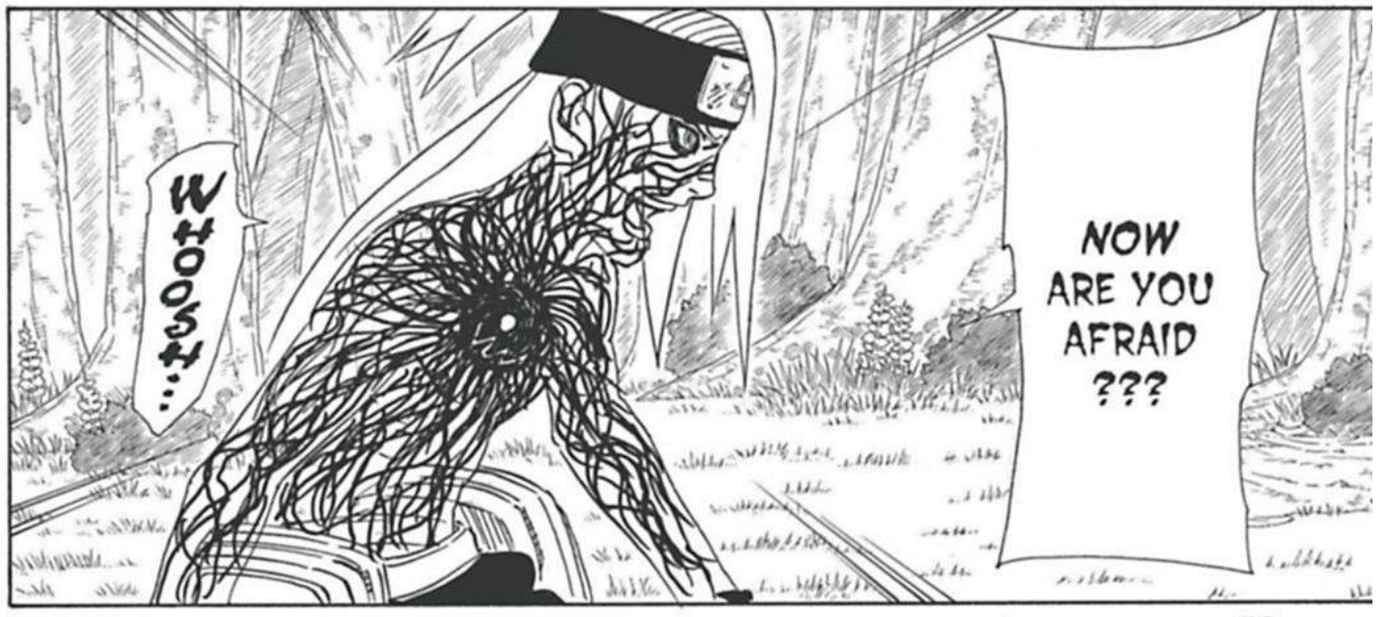
SORRY, TOBI...

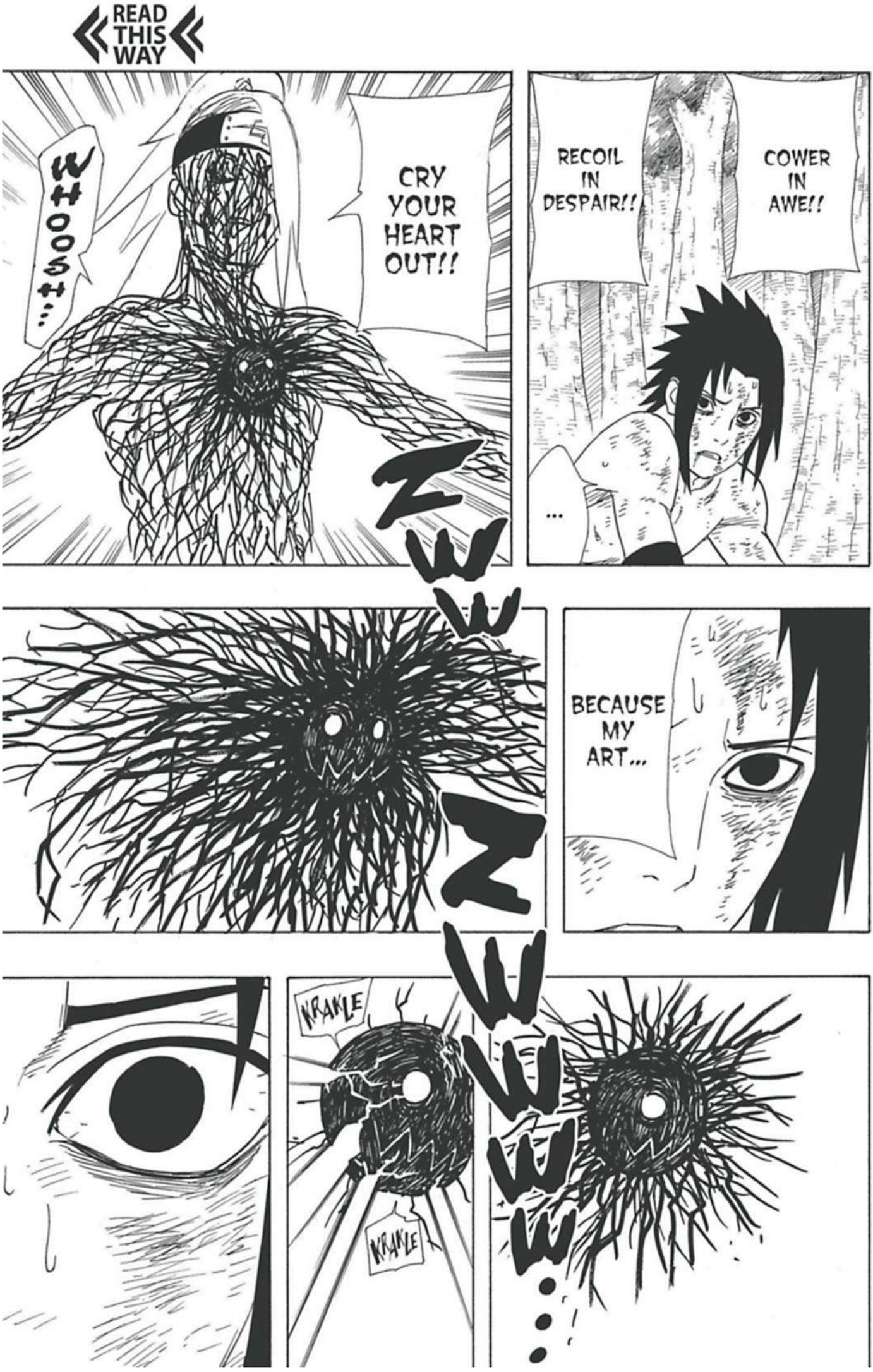

FOR WITH MY DEATH— I SHALL BECOME ART!

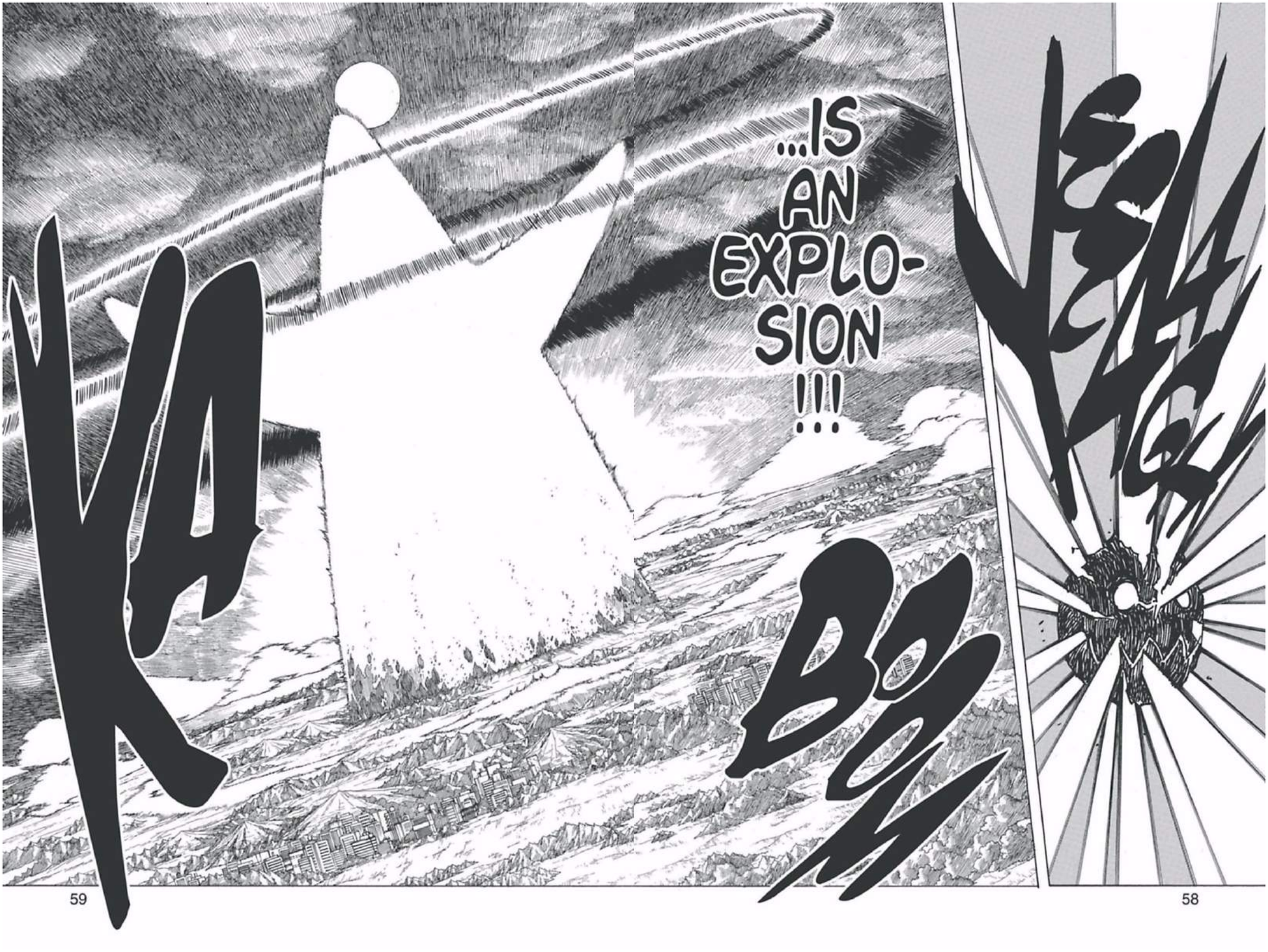
...YOU WILL FINALLY DIE!!
AND WHEN I DO, UCHIHA SASUKE...

NOT EVEN YOU CAN ESCAPE IT! HMM?!!
THE BLAST WILL COVER A TEN-KILOMETER RADIUS!
THUNK
UGH...

TMP


WHOOSH...
NOW ARE YOU AFRAID ???


READ THIS WAY
WHOOSH...
CRY YOUR HEART OUT!!
RECOIL IN DESPAIR!!
COWER IN AWE!!
...
BECAUSE MY ART...
KRAKLE
KRAKLE


KA
...IS AN EXPLO-SION !!!
BO
YEAH

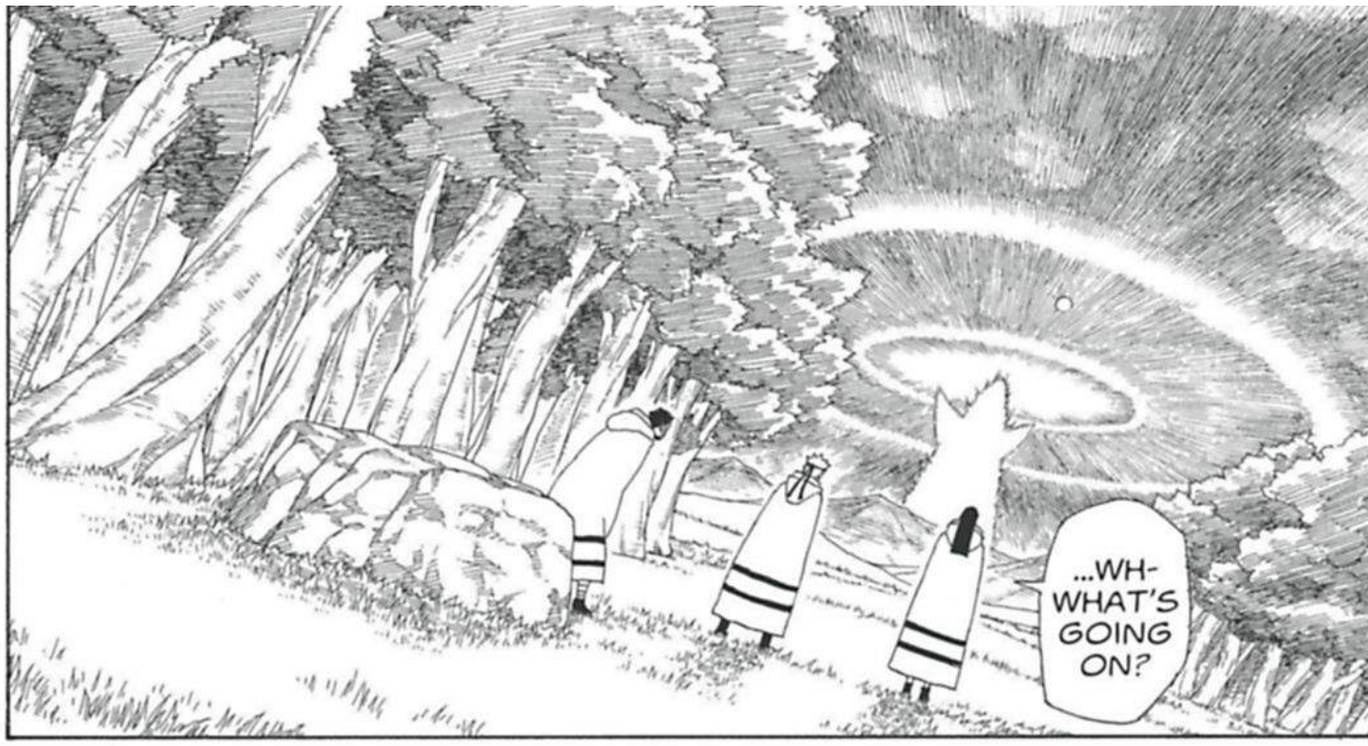
BZZZZZZZZZ

Number 363:

Sasuke's Death...!!

WHA...!
UGH!
B-
B-
B-
BOOM

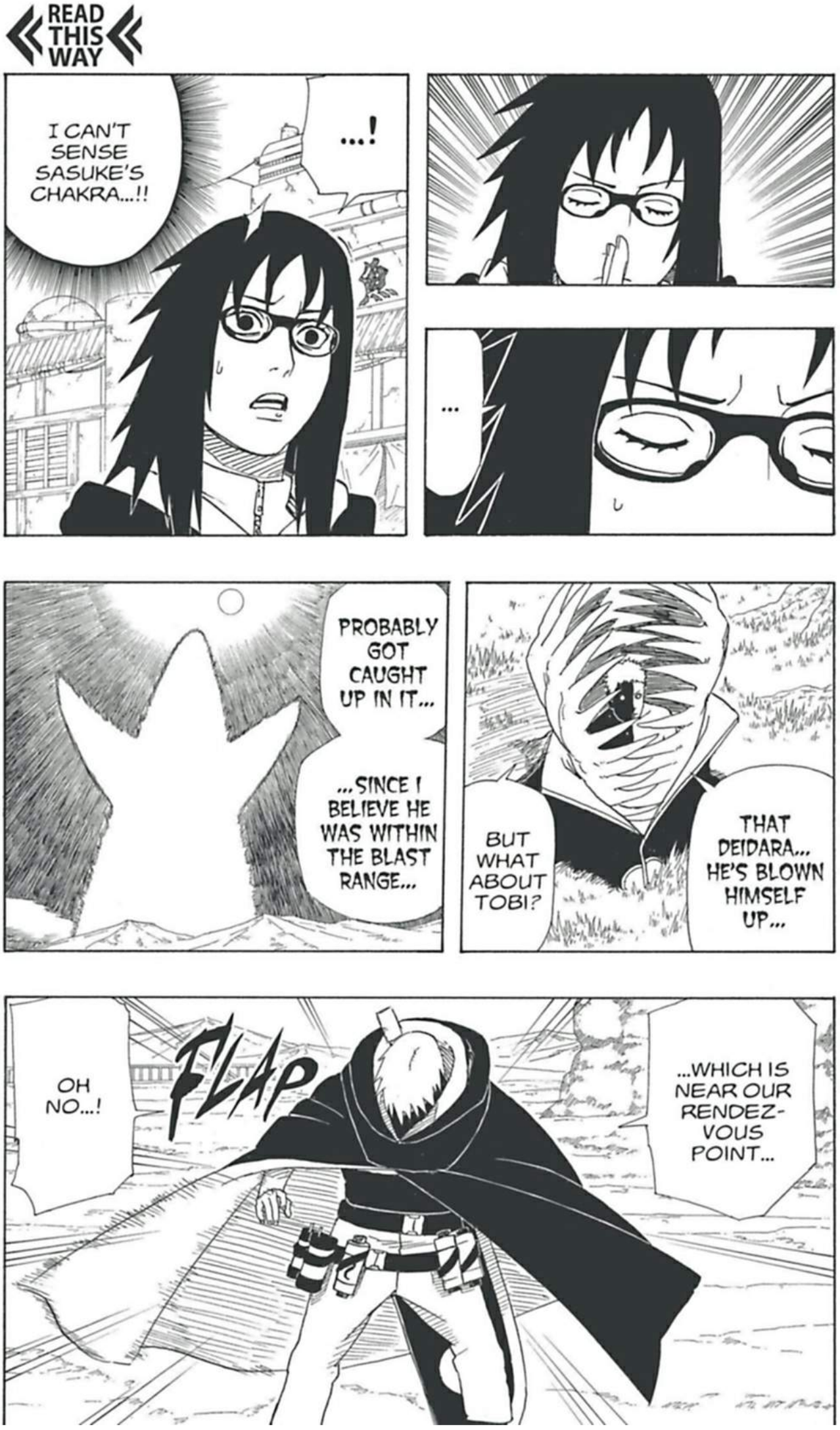
READ THIS WAY
KAKASHI ?
WHAT IS THAT ?!
WHAT THE?!
...IT'S THAT AKATSUKI MEMBER ...
FROM THE FEEL OF THAT CHAKRA...
HUH?!
HMM?


...WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?

LET'S CHECK IT OUT!

THAT'S...

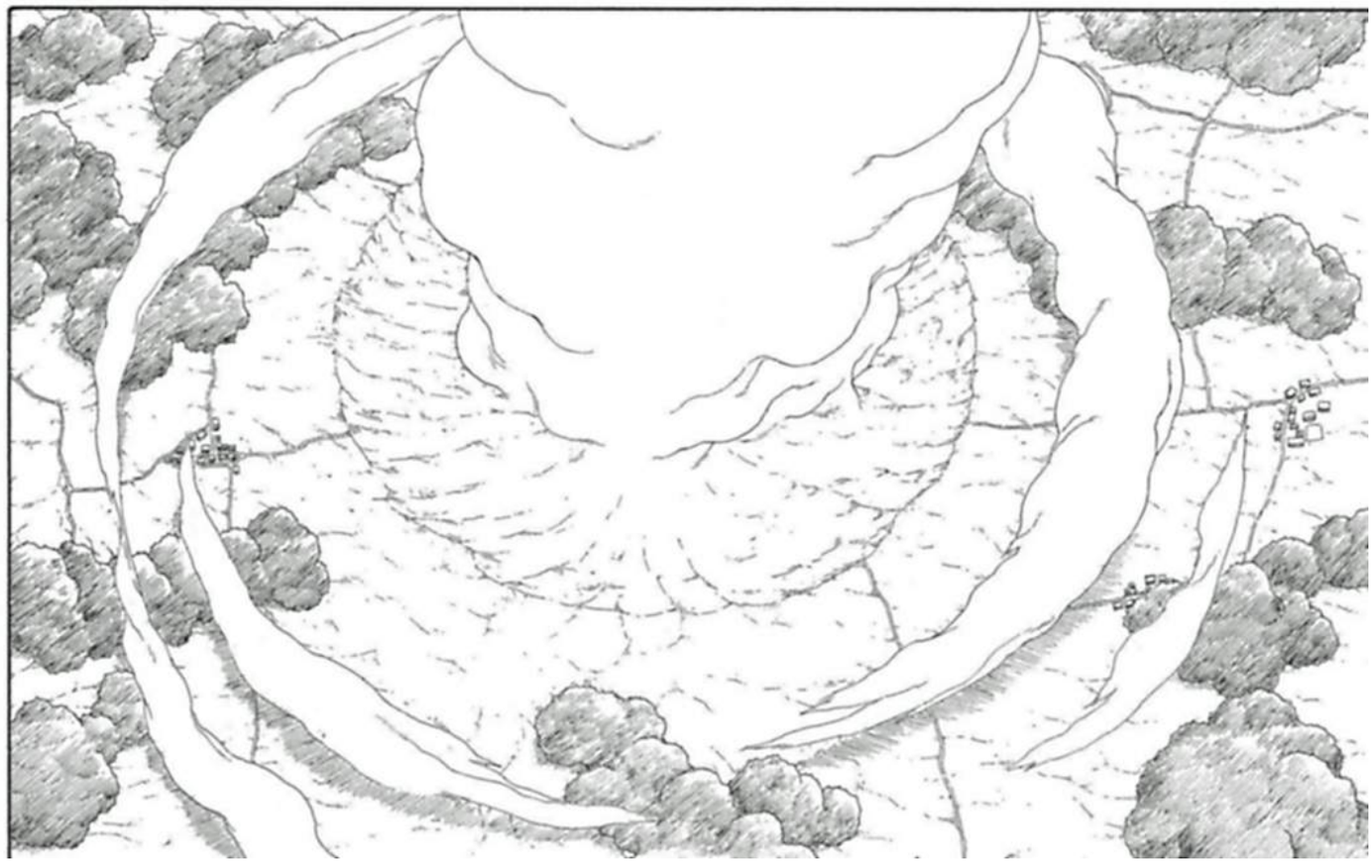
THAT'S ABOUT WHERE SASUKE IS...!


READ THIS WAY
I CAN'T SENSE SASUKE'S CHAKRA...!!
...!
...
PROBABLY GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT...
...SINCE I BELIEVE HE WAS WITHIN THE BLAST RANGE...
BUT WHAT ABOUT TOBI?
THAT DEIDARA... HE'S BLOWN HIMSELF UP...
OH NO...!
FLAP
...WHICH IS NEAR OUR RENDEZ-VOUS POINT...

WHISP...
...JUST AS I FEARED!

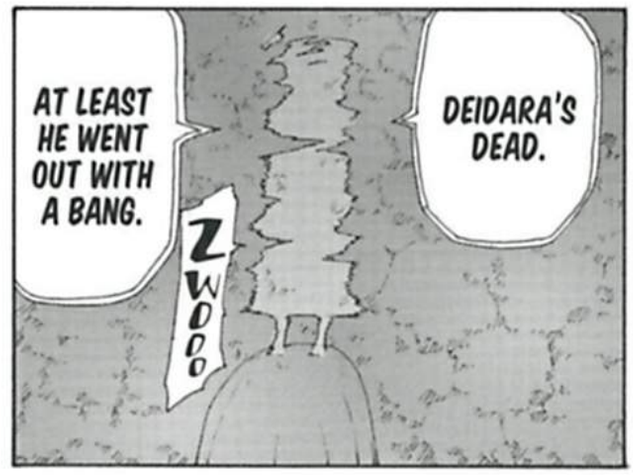
HUP

RRRRRRUMBLE



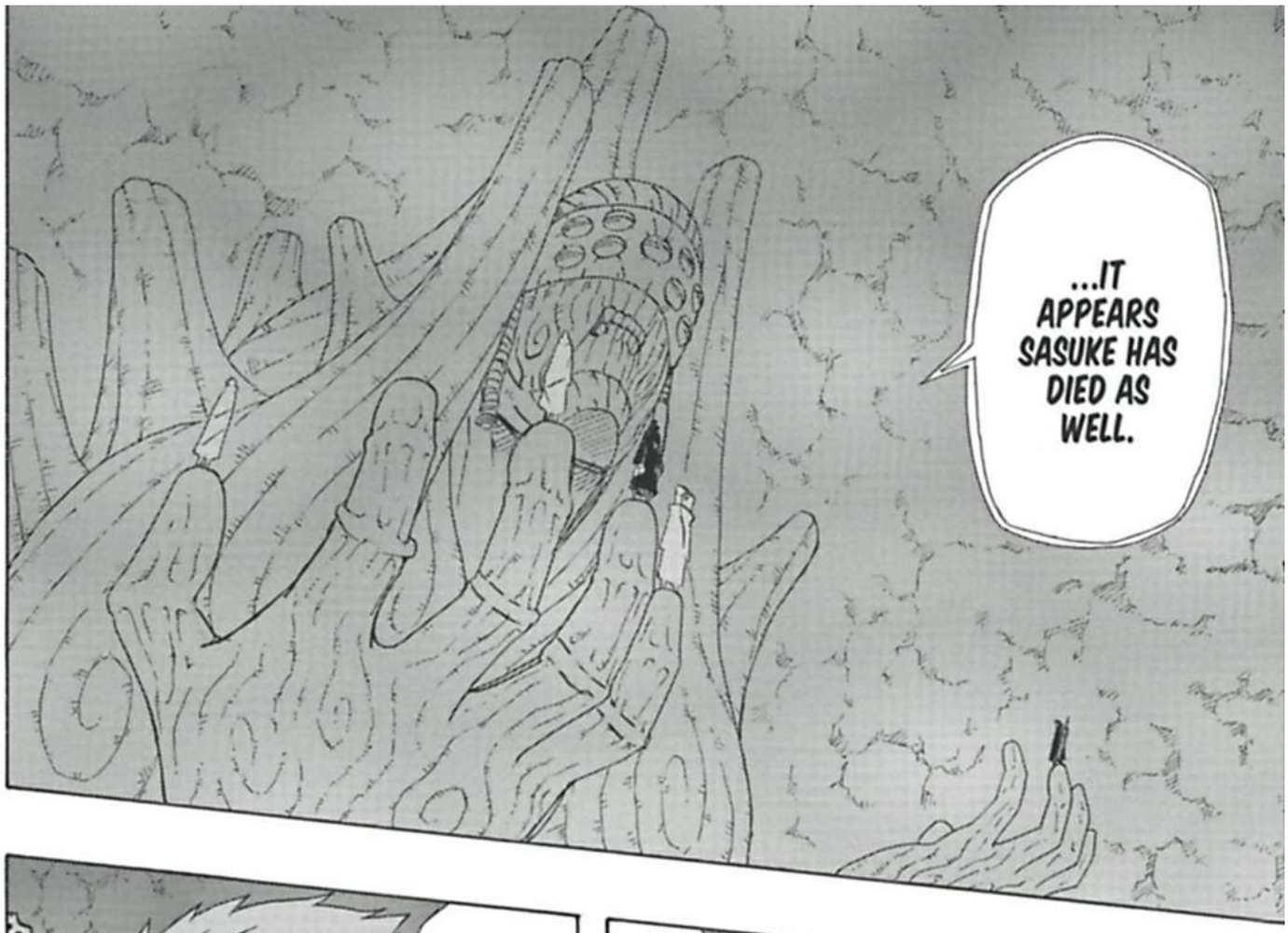
ZWOO...

AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE STRONGER ONES.
YES, BUT IT'S COST US ANOTHER MEMBER...


AT LEAST HE WENT OUT WITH A BANG.
DEIDARA'S DEAD.
ZWOOO

HOWEVER...
SASUKE.

SASUKE, OR THE NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI ?
SO WHO DID HIM IN...?


...IT APPEARS SASUKE HAS DIED AS WELL.

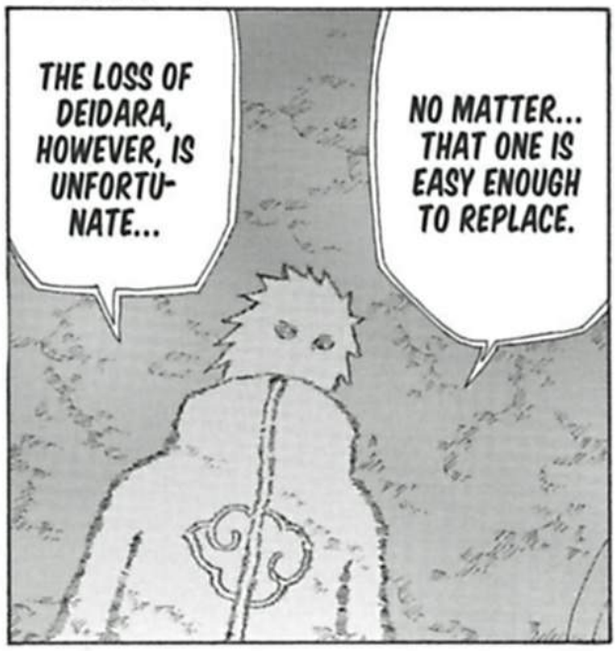
SO DEIDARA TOOK HIM WITH HIM, HUH...

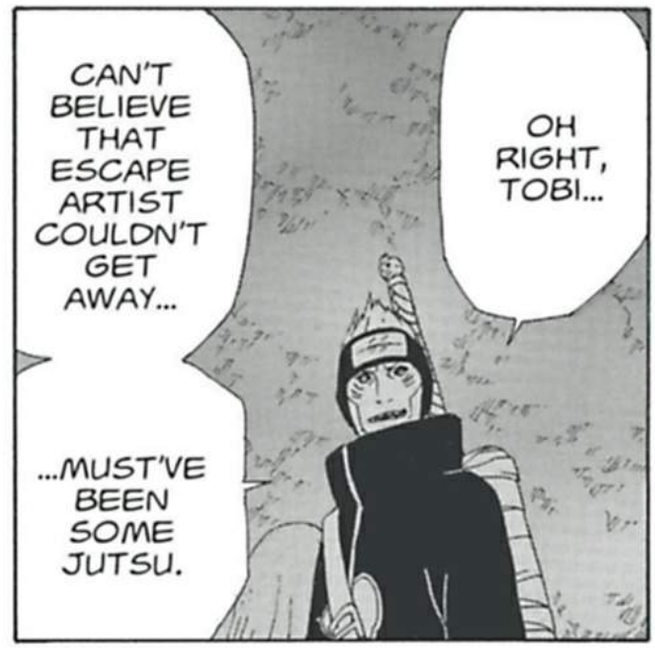
...

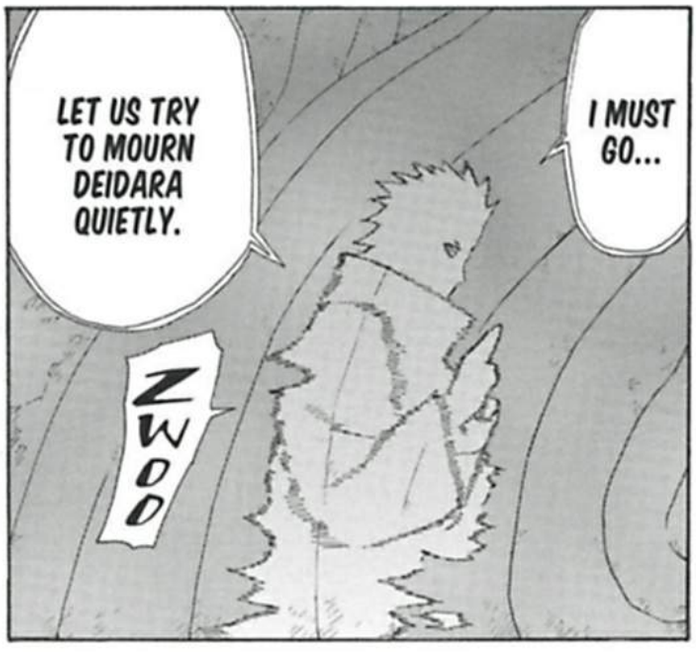
DEIDARA DETONATED HIMSELF WITHOUT ANY REGARD FOR HIS PARTNER.
IT SEEMS TOBI HAS DIED TOO.

FEEL LIKE WE'RE FORGET-TING SOME-THING...
HMM ...

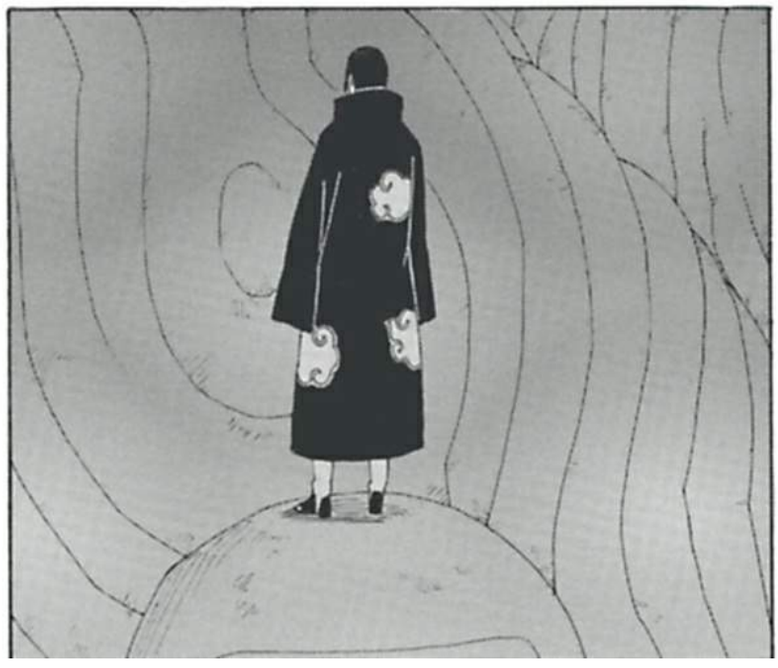
DEIDARA SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO SAVE YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE.
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL, ITACHI.


THE LOSS OF DEIDARA, HOWEVER, IS UNFORTU-NATE...
NO MATTER... THAT ONE IS EASY ENOUGH TO REPLACE.


CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ESCAPE ARTIST COULDN'T GET AWAY...
...MUST'VE BEEN SOME JUTSU.
OH RIGHT, TOBI...


LET US TRY TO MOURN DEIDARA QUIETLY.
I MUST GO...
ZWOOO

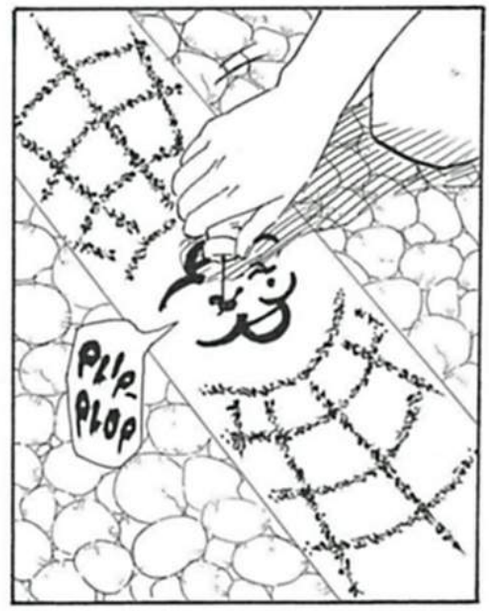
...SO HE WAS QUITE TALENTED IN HIS OWN RIGHT.
AND YET, TOBI MANAGED TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD OF THIS GLOOMY ORGANIZA-TION...



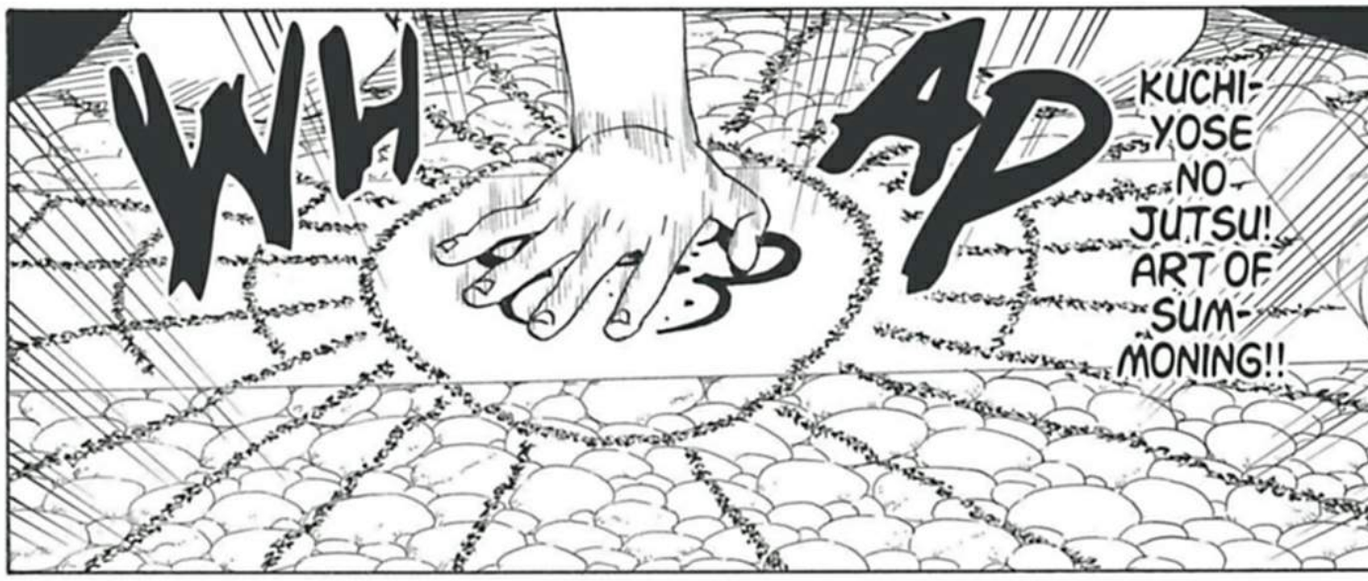
ZWO!!

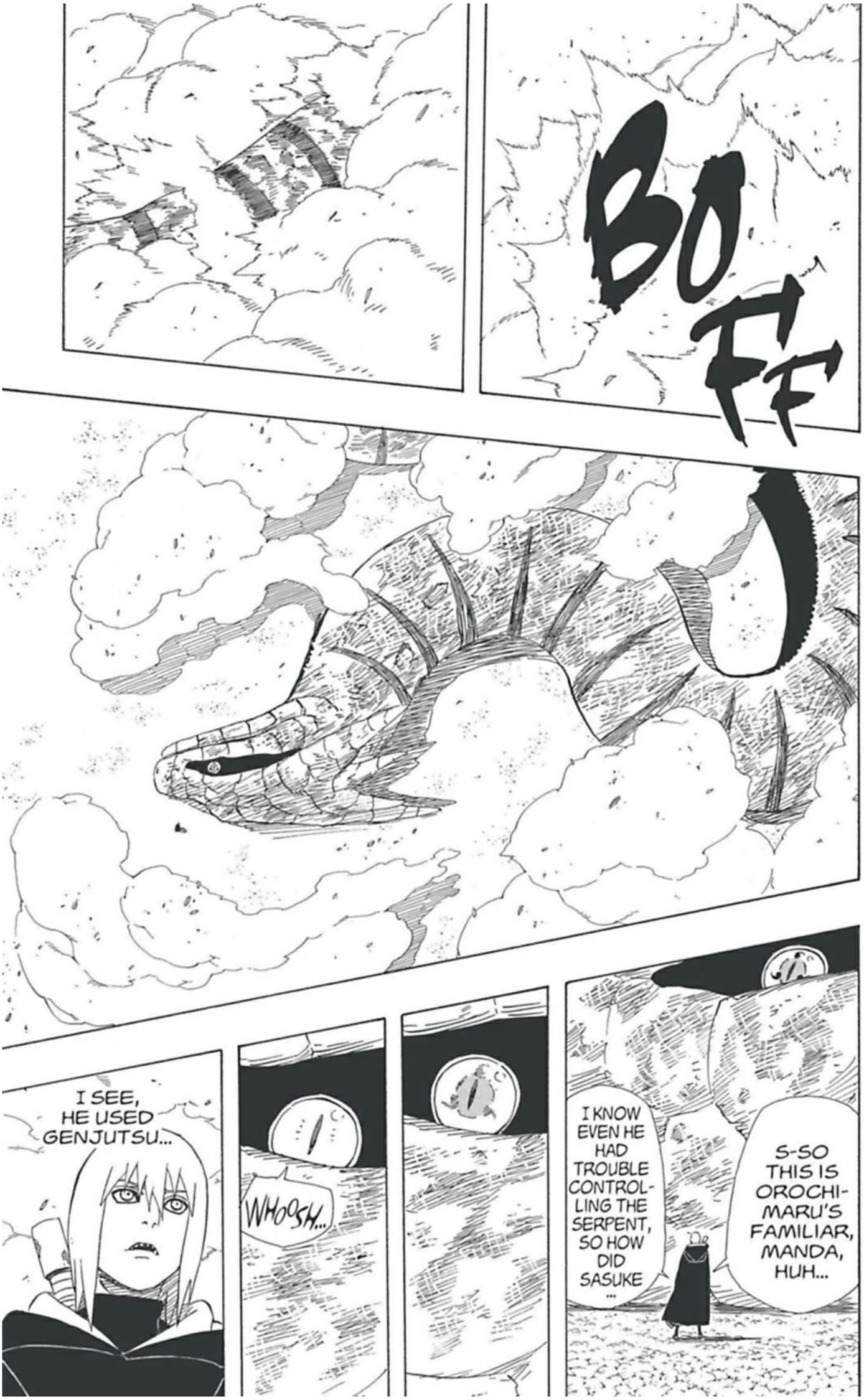
SWISH

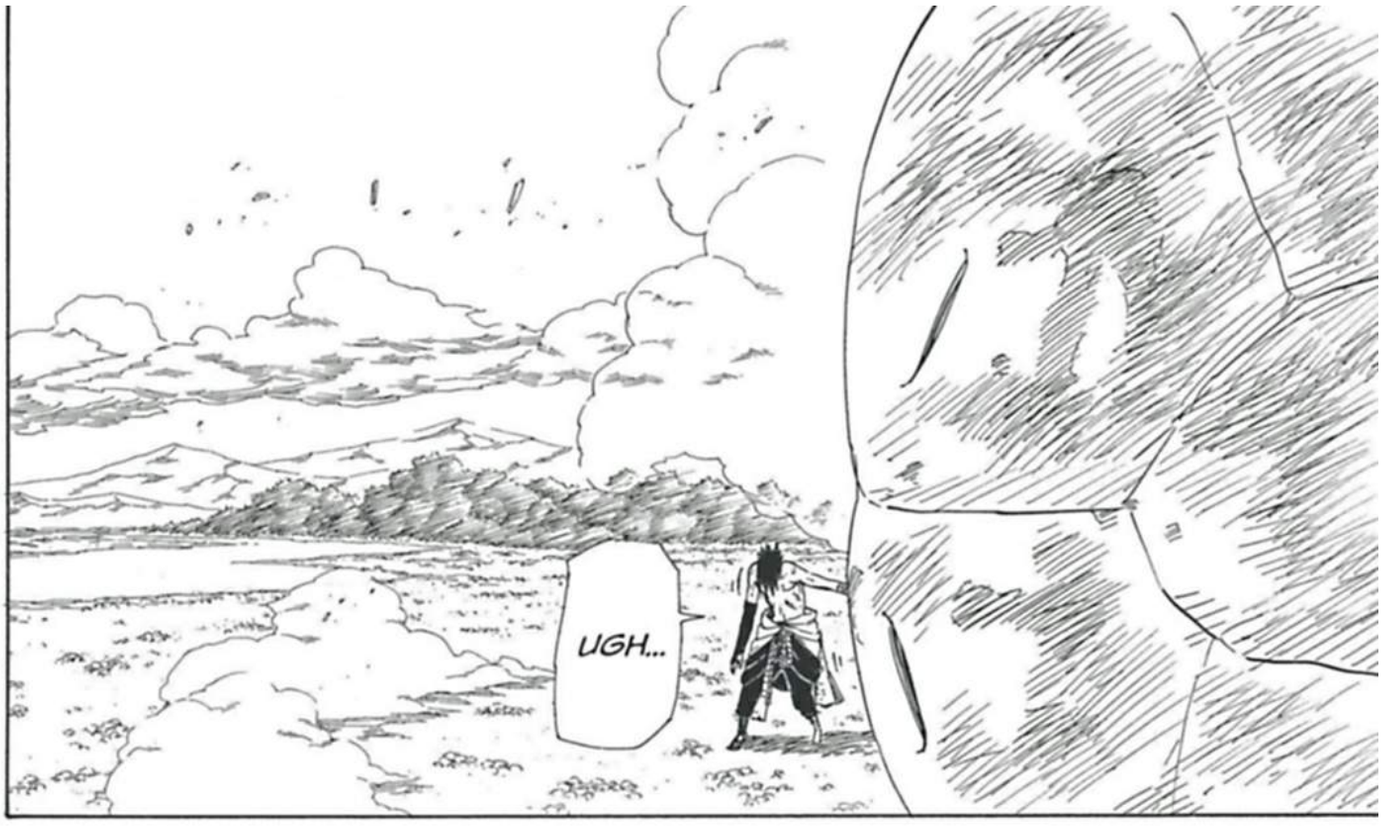
ALL RIGHT...


PLIP-PLOP

POP


WHAP
KUCHI-YOSE NO-JUTSU! ART OF SUM-MONING!!


BOFF
I SEE, HE USED GENJUTSU...
WHOOSH...
I KNOW EVEN HE HAD TROUBLE CONTROLLING THE SERPENT, SO HOW DID SASUKE ...
S-SO THIS IS OROCHI-MARU'S FAMILIAR, MANDA, HUH...

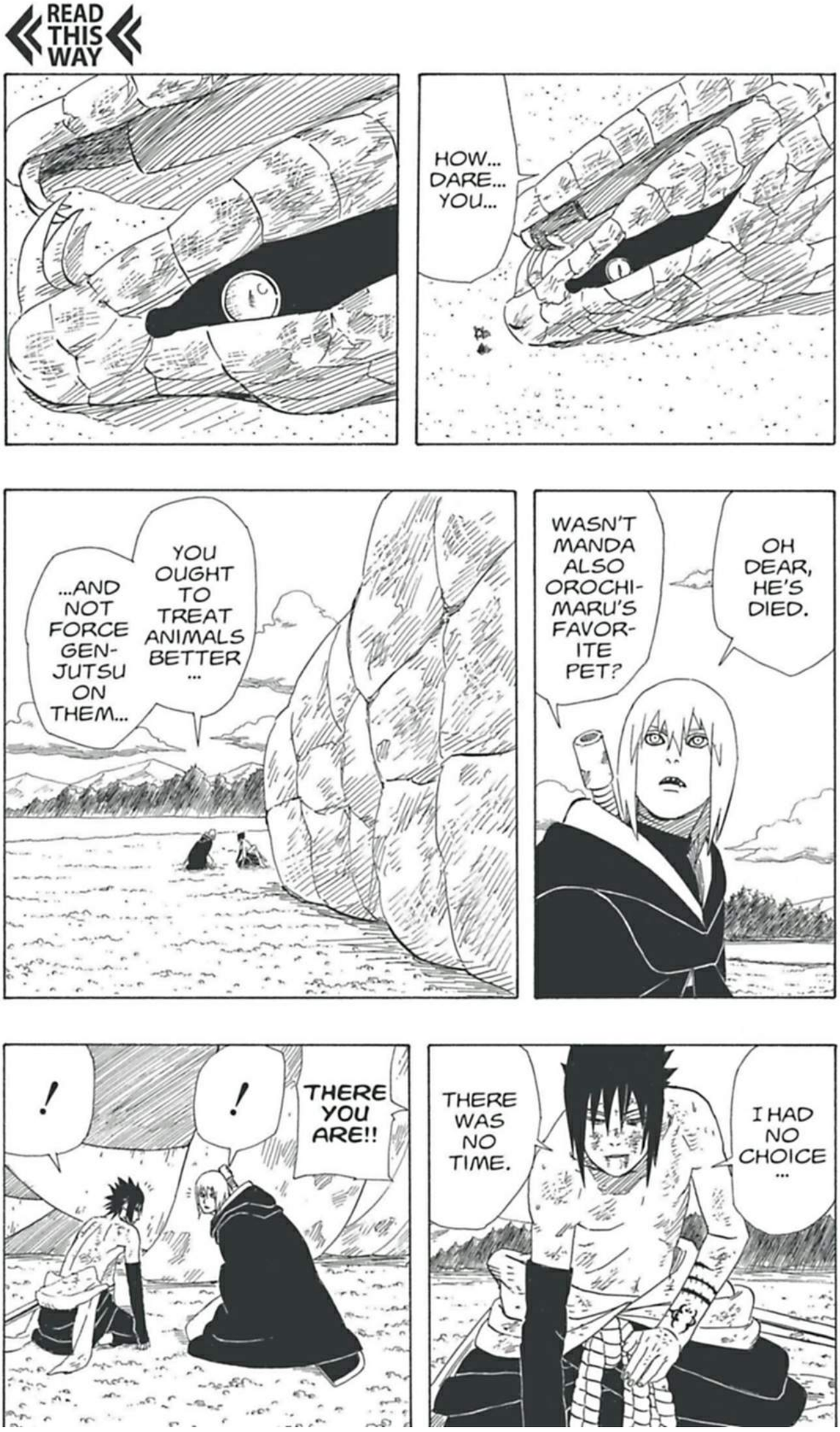

UGH...

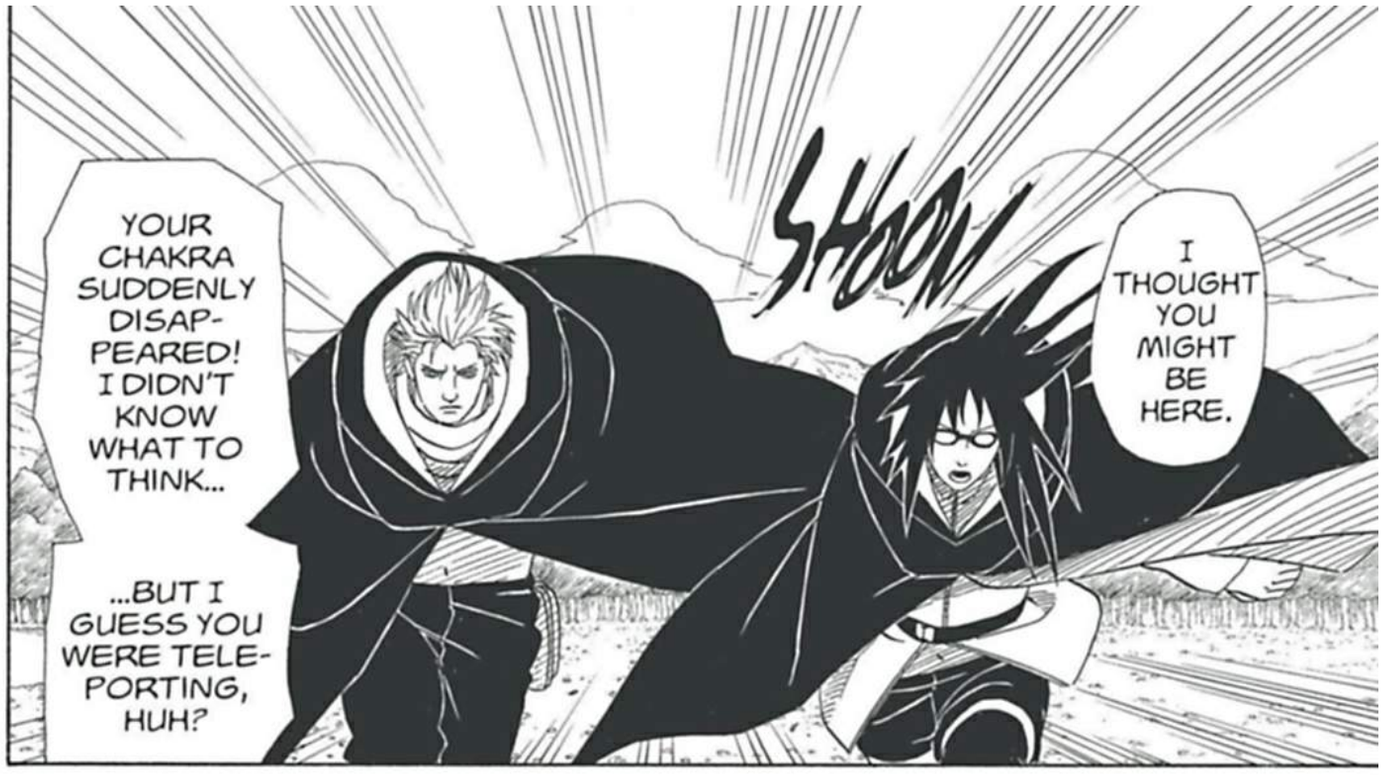
YOU... USED... ME...
WHO WERE YOU FIGHT-ING?
...YOU... INSOLENT STRIP-LING...
HUF
HUF
SHUP

HEY, YOU'RE ALL BEAT UP!
RRRNH
TMP
HUF
HUF

HUF

THOSE EYES... YOU... HYPNOTIZED ME... WITH THOSE EYES...
!
HUF
HUF

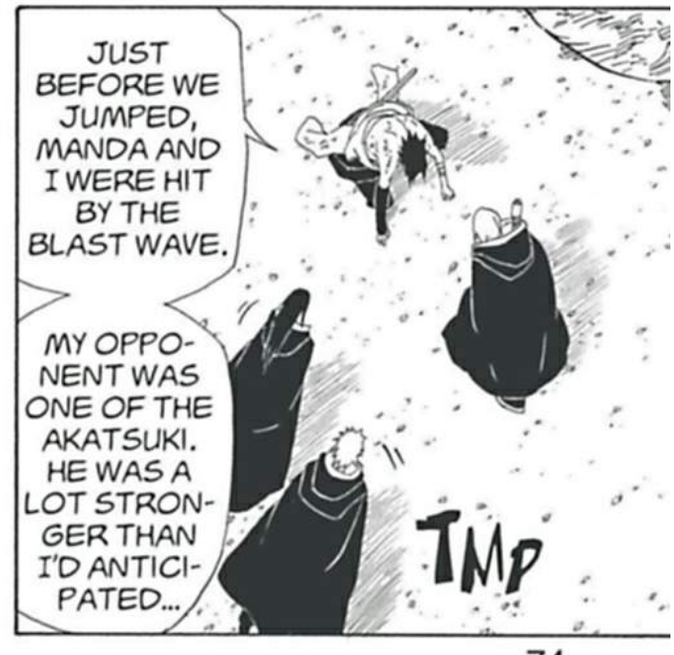

READ THIS WAY
HOW... DARE... YOU...
YOU OUGHT TO TREAT ANIMALS BETTER ...
...AND NOT FORCE GEN-JUTSU ON THEM...
WASN'T MANDA ALSO OROCHI-MARU'S FAVOR-ITE PET?
OH DEAR, HE'S DIED.
!
!
THERE YOU ARE!!
THERE WAS NO TIME.
I HAD NO CHOICE ...


YOUR CHAKRA SUDDENLY DISAP-PEARED! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...
...BUT I GUESS YOU WERE TELE-PORTING, HUH?
SHOOM
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HERE.

...WHY ARE YOU SO BEAT UP?

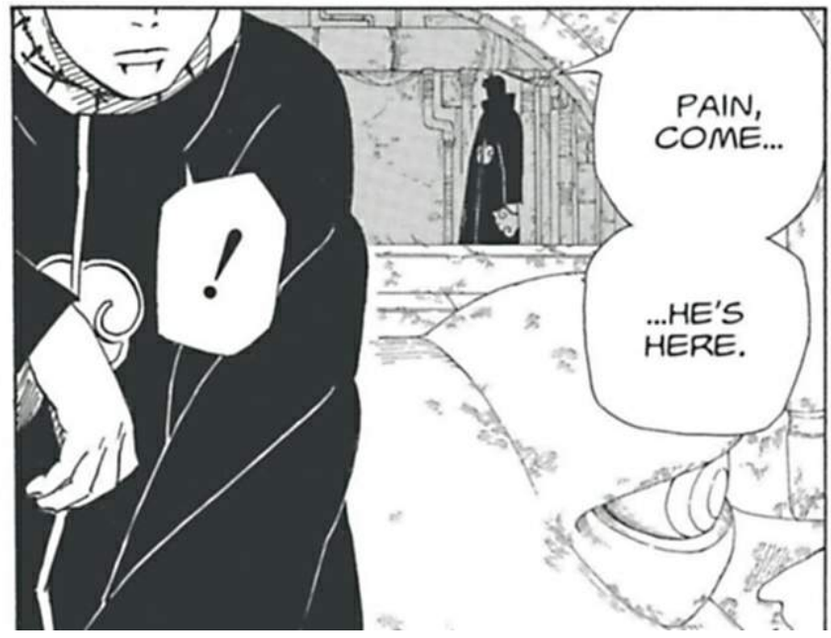
WAIT... IF YOU USED TELEPOR-TATION NINJUTSU TO ESCAPE INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION INSIDE MANDA...

WHATEVER. YOU STILL NEED TO TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.
FAP
SASUKE ALL CUT UP AND BRUISED IS PRETTY SEXY TOO...


JUST BEFORE WE JUMPED, MANDA AND I WERE HIT BY THE BLAST WAVE.
MY OPPO-NENT WAS ONE OF THE AKATSUKI. HE WAS A LOT STRON-GER THAN I'D ANTICI-PATED...
TMP

OROCHIMARU'S ILLNESS MADE HIM WEAK.
THAT'S ALL...
PATHETIC!! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY TOOK DOWN OROCHI-MARU!

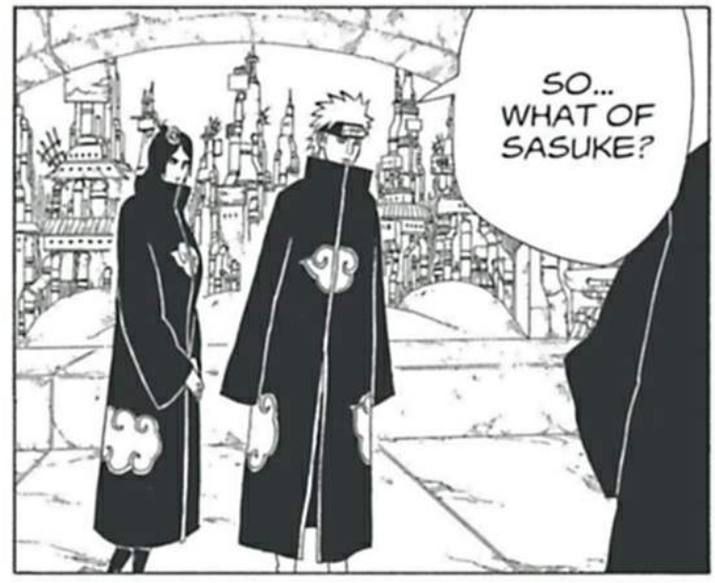
SHUP

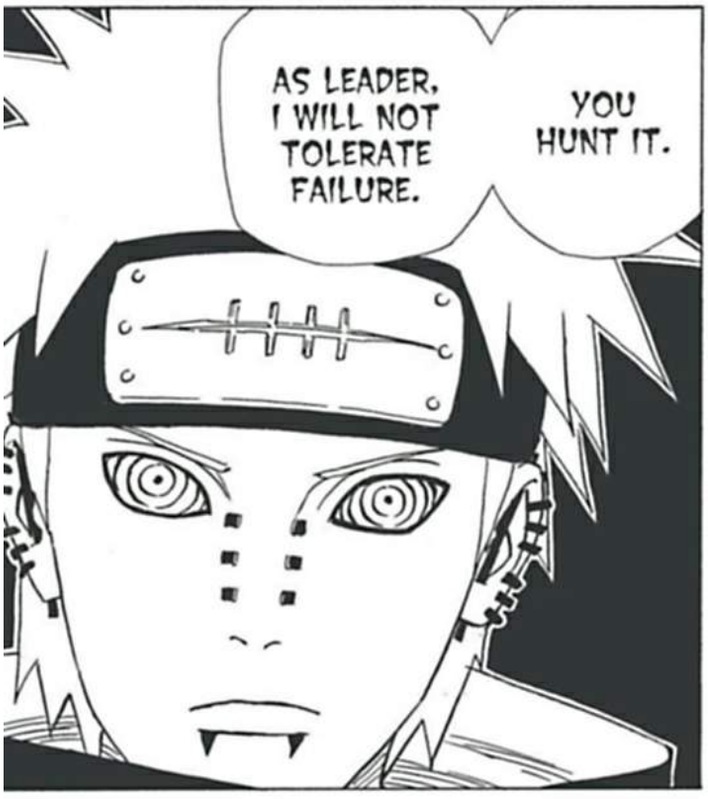

!
PAIN, COME...
...HE'S HERE.

Тир

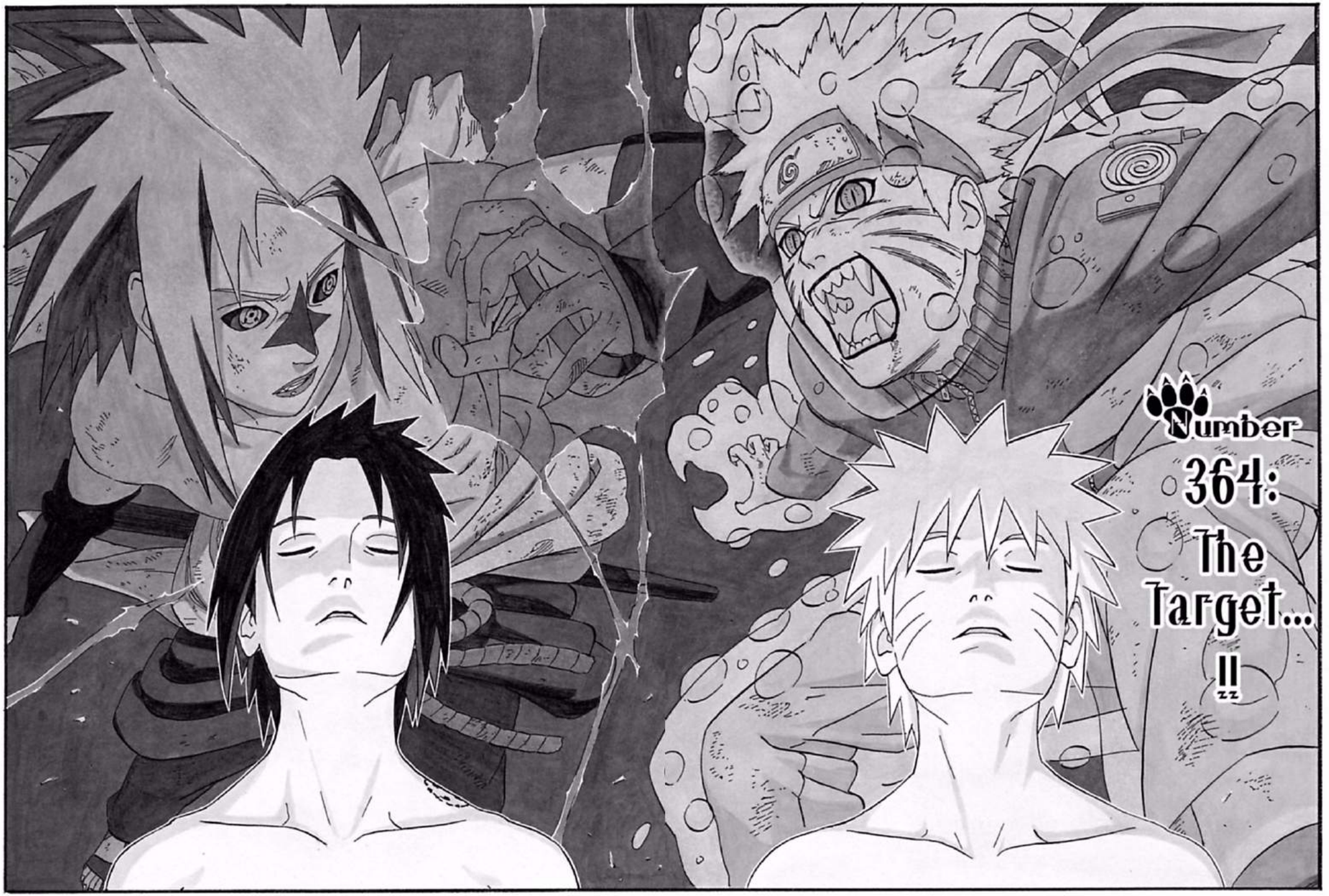
NOD

HE'S COMING ALONG NICELY...
HIS SHARINGAN IS AT FULL POWER...
...HIS EYES WILL EVENTUALLY SURPASS ITACHI'S...

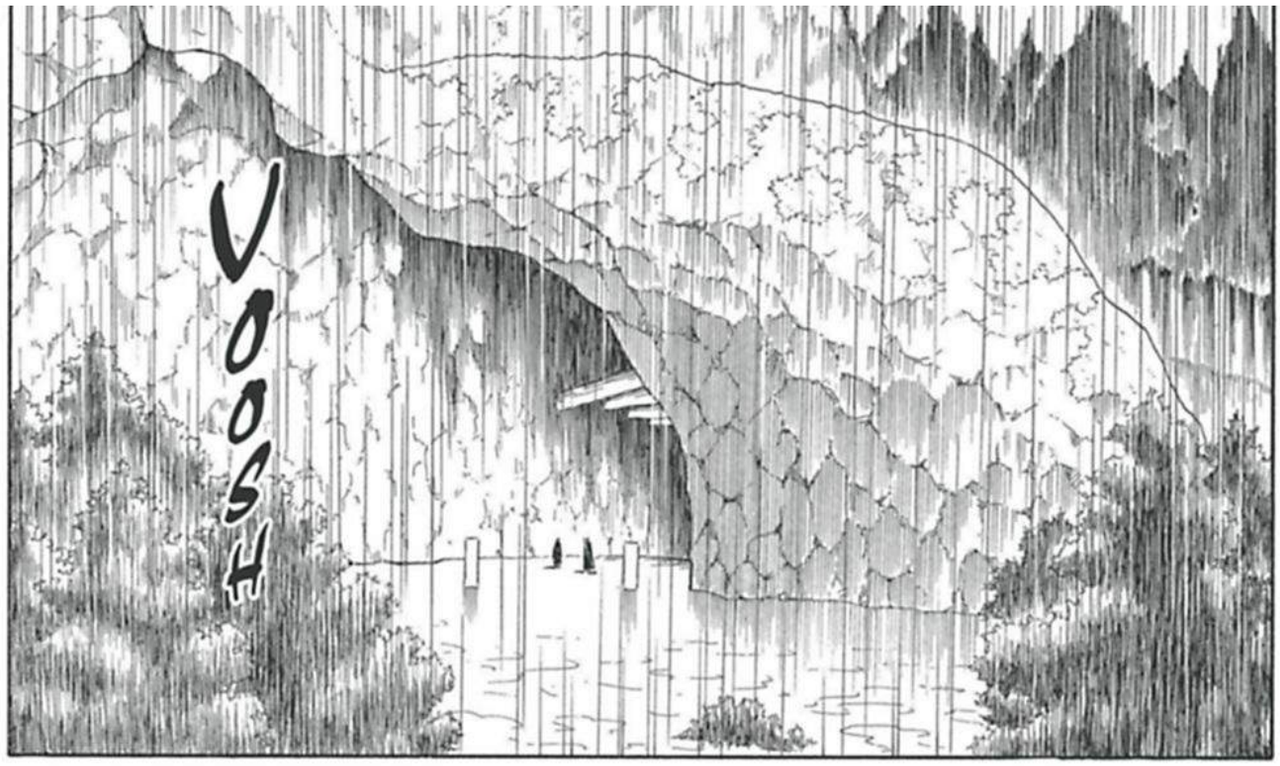

SO... WHAT OF SASUKE?


YOU HUNT IT.
AS LEADER, I WILL NOT TOLERATE FAILURE.

THEN THE TIME HAS COME.
I'M SURE HIS MIND IS MADE UP... SINCE HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER.
WHAT ABOUT NINE TAILS?


Number
364:
The
Target...
!!

NARUTO


VOOSH

YOU KNOW, A STORM LIKE THIS IS UNUSUAL AROUND HERE THIS TIME OF YEAR...
VOOSH
IT'S NOT LETTING UP.

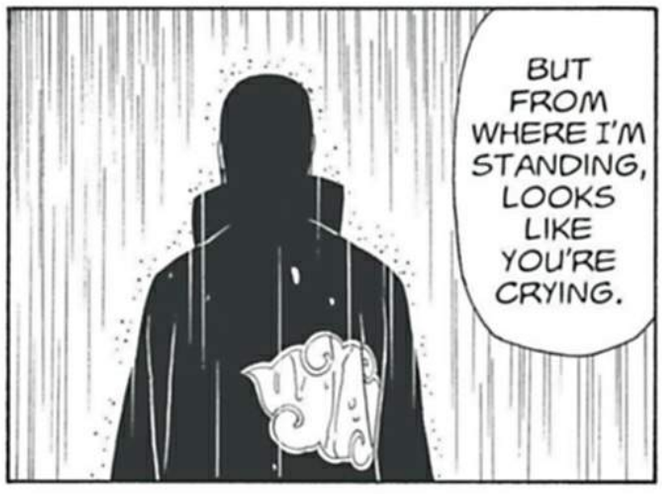
...

SPLISH
VOOSH

!
VOOSH
SWISH

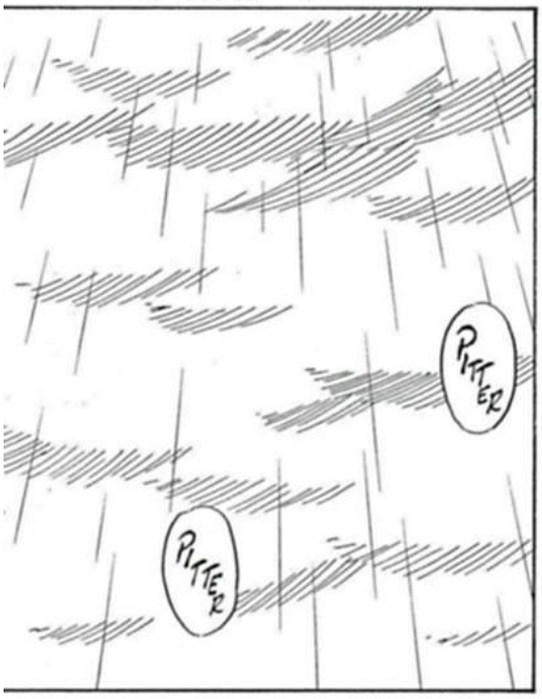
YOU'RE GONNA CATCH SOME-THING IF WE STAY OUT IN THIS...

VOOSH


BUT FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE CRYING.

MAN, ITACHI, YOU'RE SO COLD I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE...
...WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW...

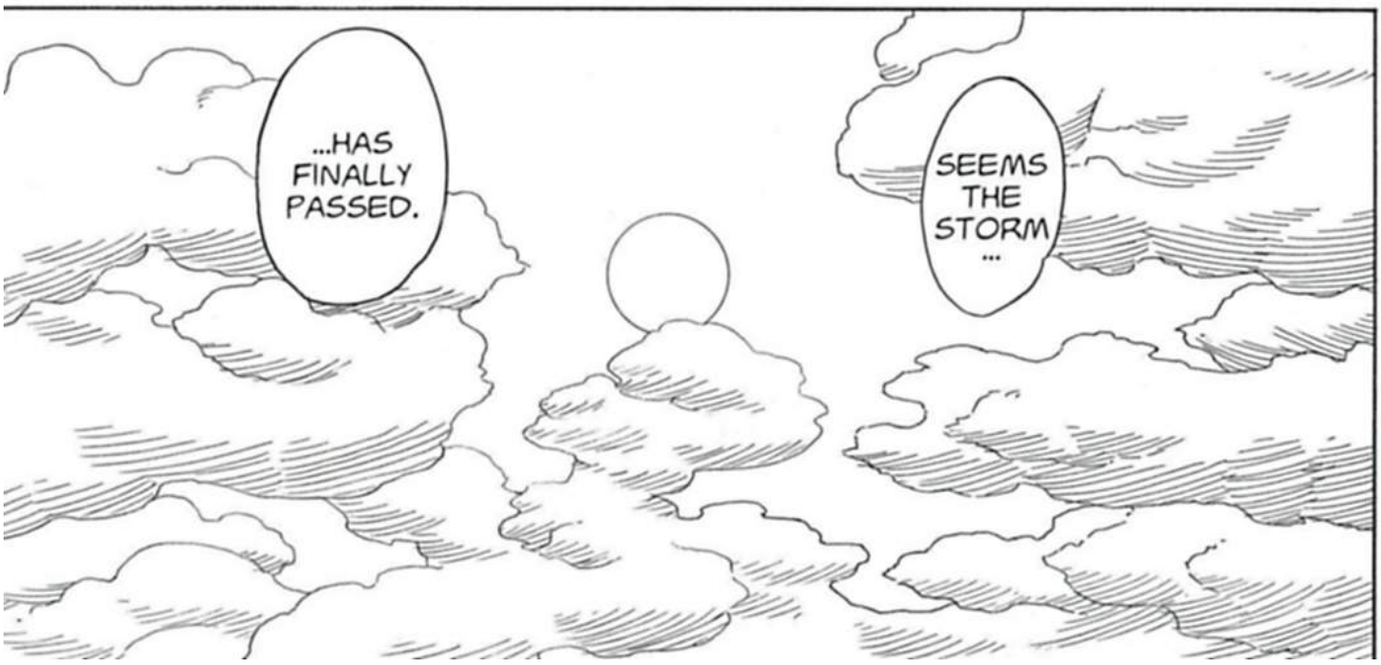
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE UCHIHA CLAN...
SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER...


PITTER
PITTER

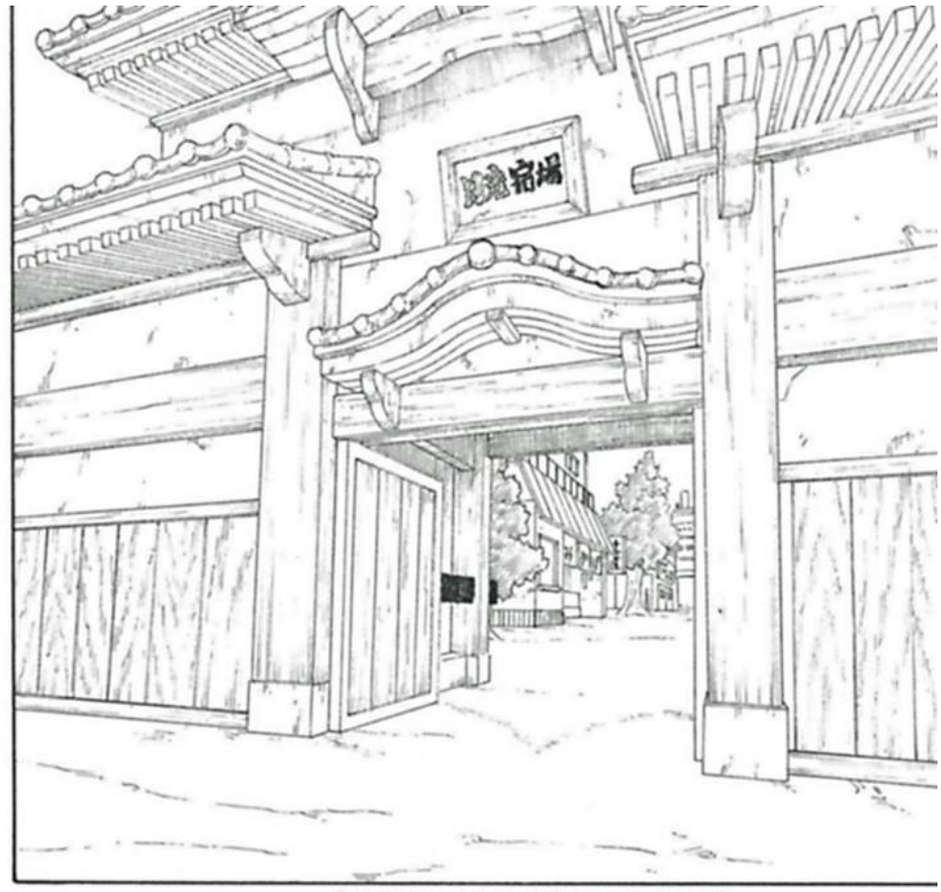
NO...
?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...

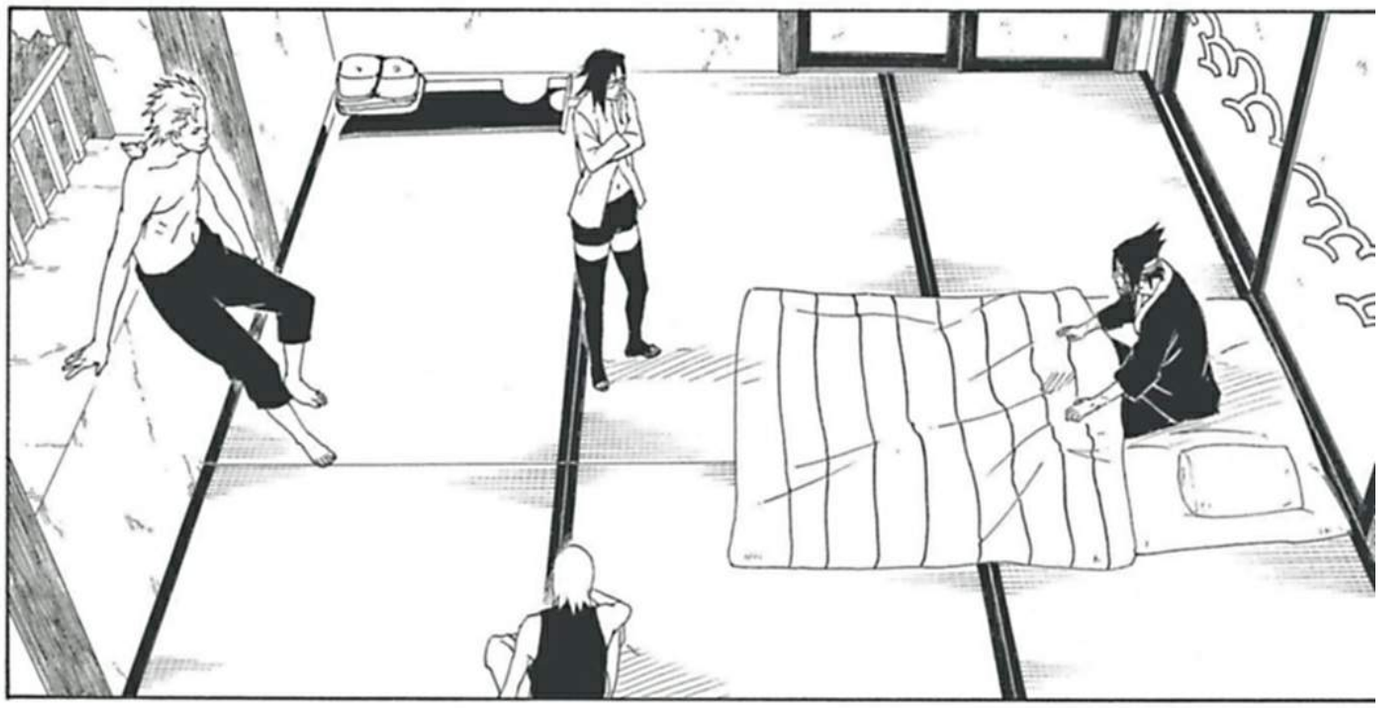
HE'S NOT DEAD...
...AND BE-SIDES...
PITTER


...HAS FINALLY PASSED.
SEEMS THE STORM ...

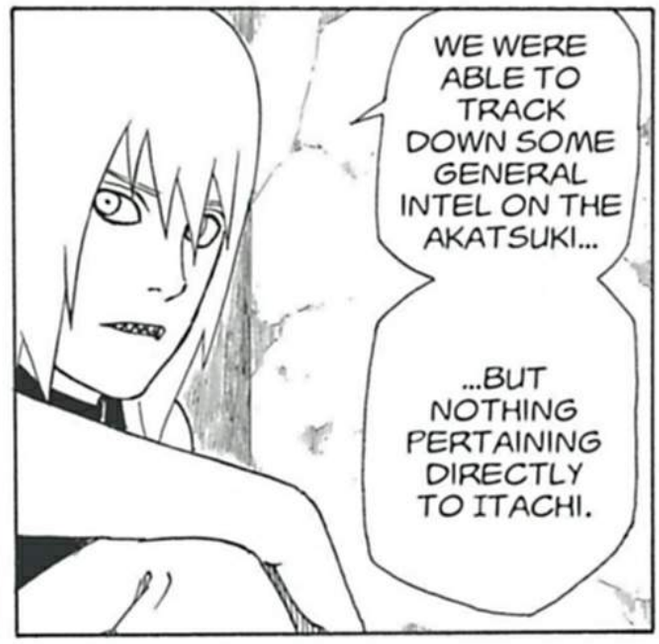
(INN OKOSHI)

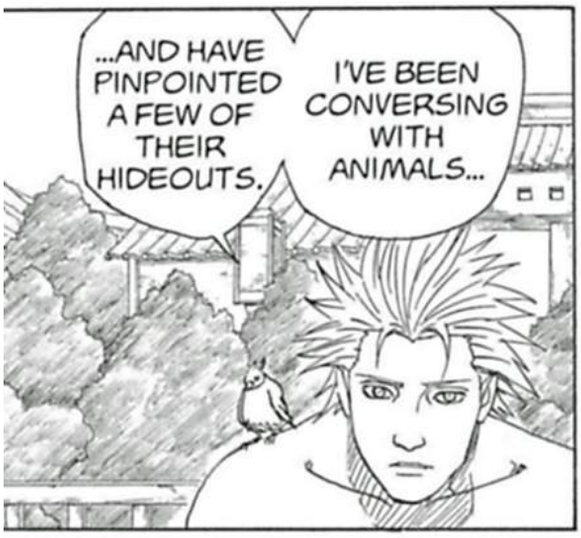


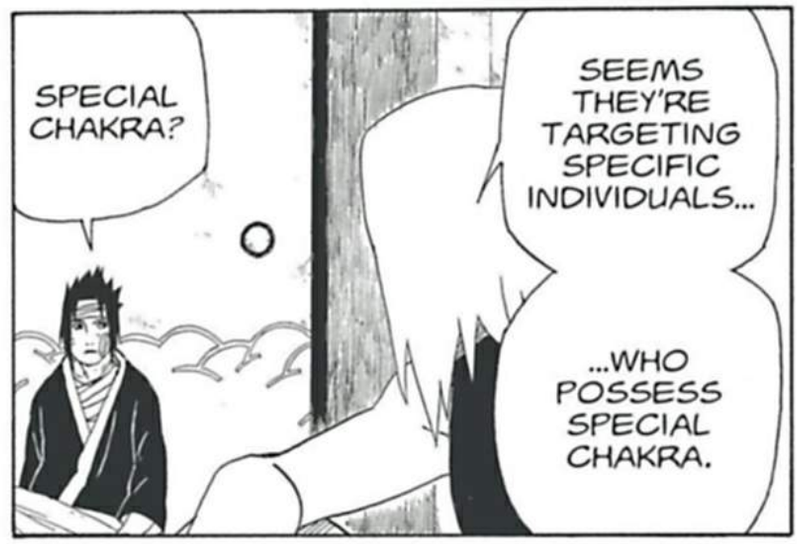
(NIKKO RELAY STATION)



...


WE WERE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN SOME GENERAL INTEL ON THE AKATSUKI...
...BUT NOTHING PERTAINING DIRECTLY TO ITACHI.


...AND HAVE PINPOINTED A FEW OF THEIR HIDEOUTS.
I'VE BEEN CONVERSING WITH ANIMALS...


SPECIAL CHAKRA?
SEEMS THEY'RE TARGETING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS...
...WHO POSSESS SPECIAL CHAKRA.

HUH... JUST LIKE KARIN.
WOW ...
...SO NOW EVEN LOWLY ANIMALS CAN SENSE CHAKRA, EH...

...EMANATING FROM THOSE PLACES.
THEY SAY THEY SENSE POWERFUL, UNPLEASANT CHAKRA...

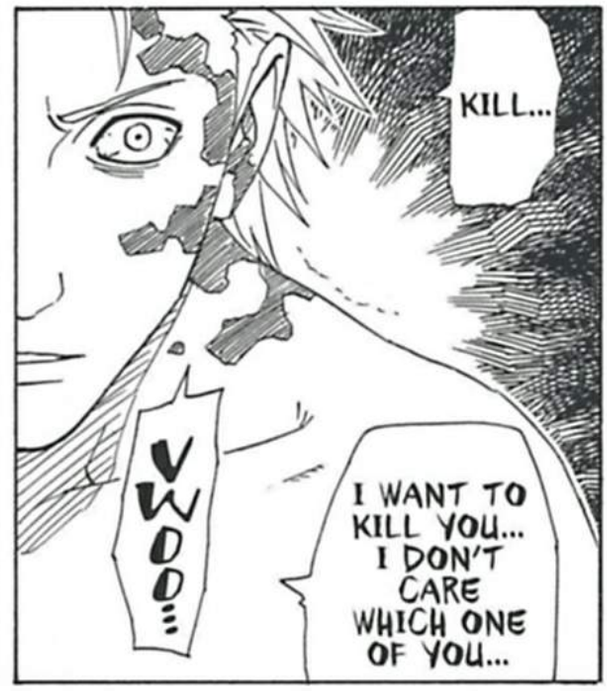
SPLISH!
WHAM!
GAH!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!

FLAP

...
PLIP

HEY! WAI...
SPLASH
CLOD
CLOD
SPLASH
WAIT A SEC, WILL YA!
THAT'S IT, SUIGETSU! I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU!

NNH
NNH



(INN OKOSHI)

民宿
お越

RRRROAR!!!

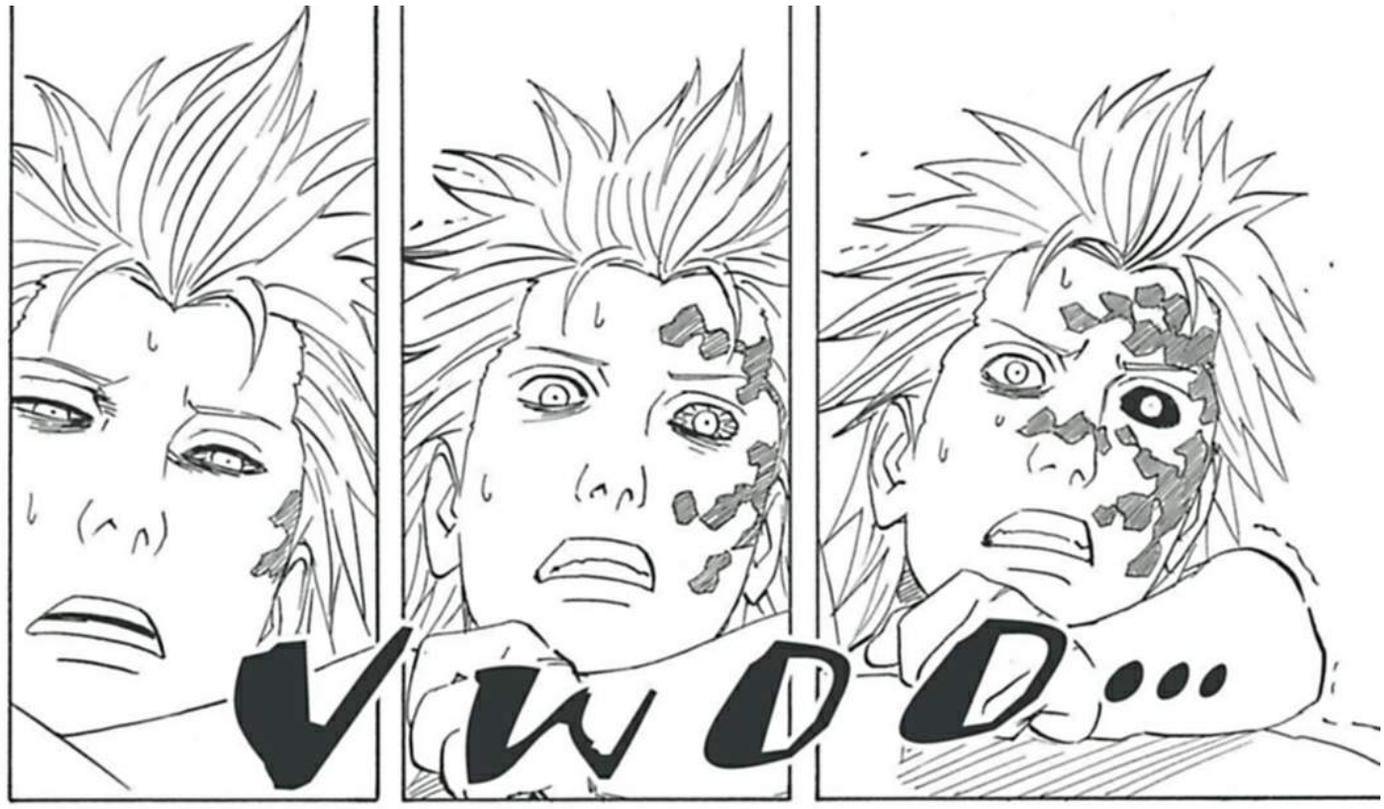
CALM DOWN, JUGO.

SWOOSH

THAP...

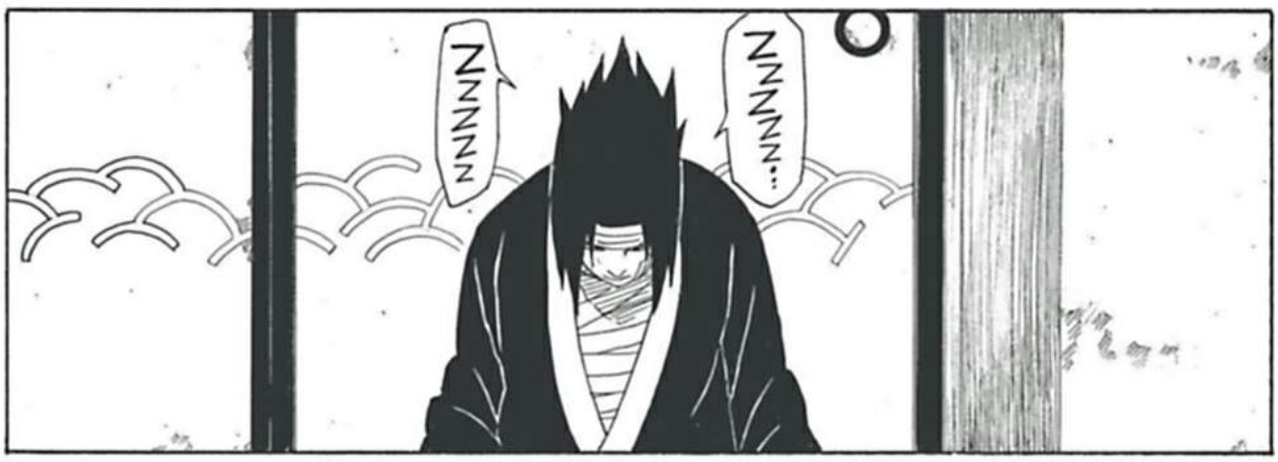
SHOOT! JUGO'S KILLING IMPULSES HAVE BEEN AWAKENED!

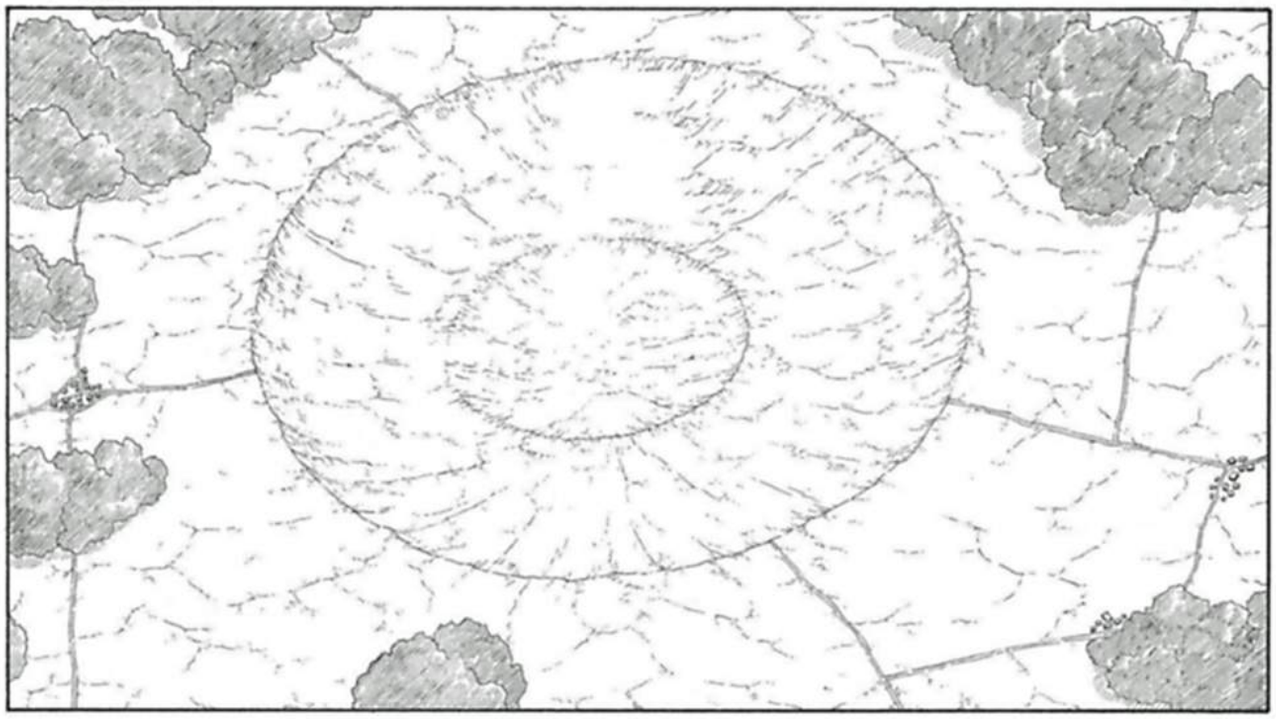
SASUKE, HURRY UP!!

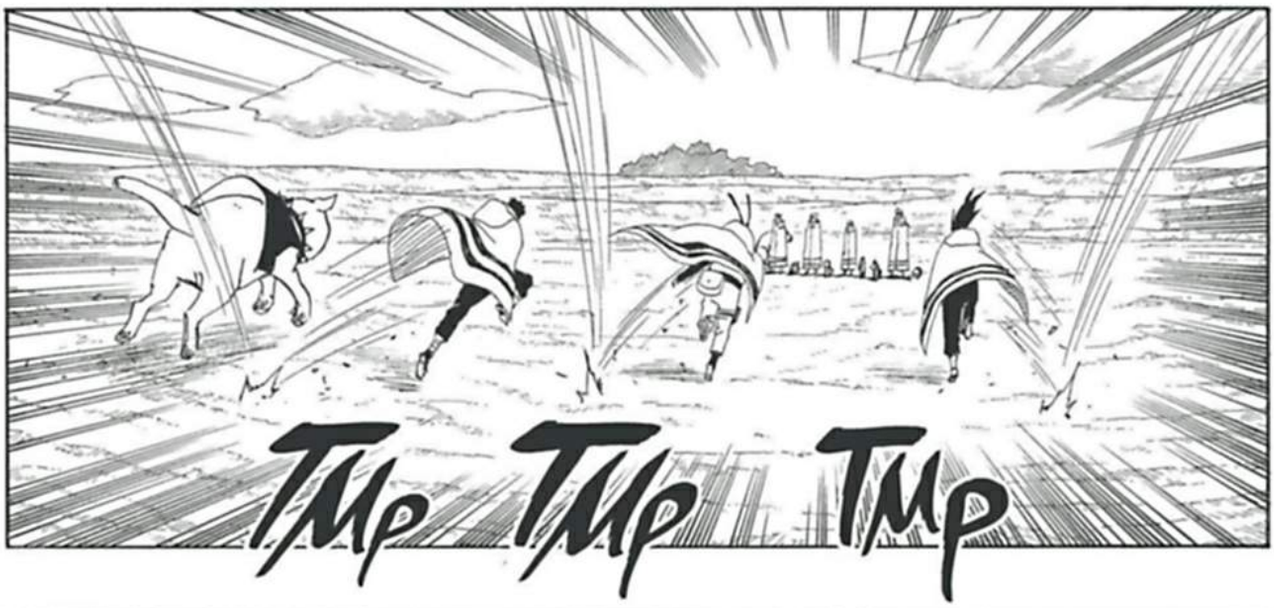

WOO...

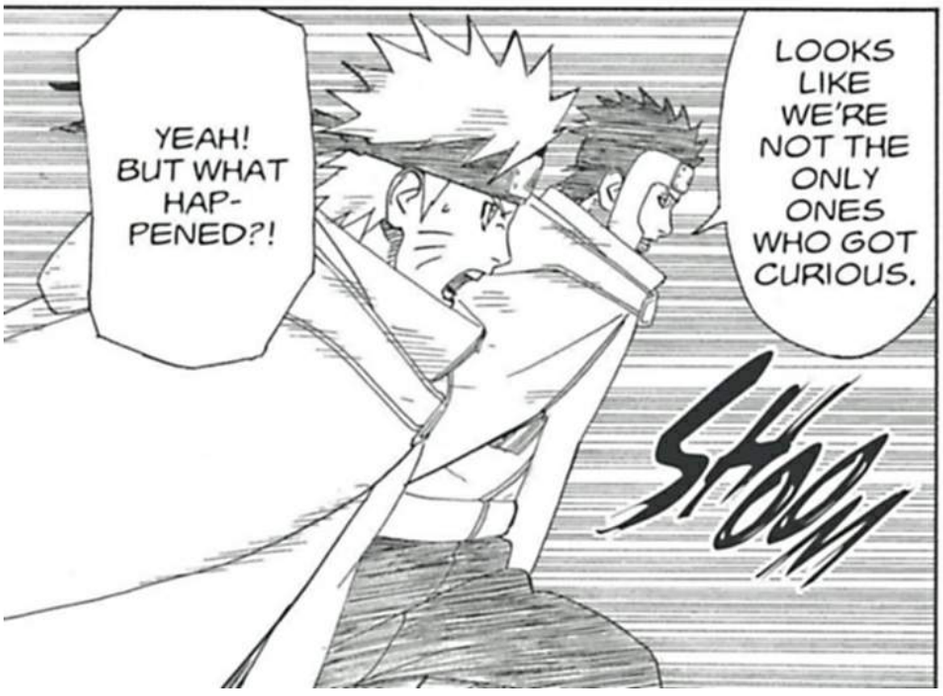
!

NNNH
HUF
HUF
TMP
S-SO SORRY...


ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ...

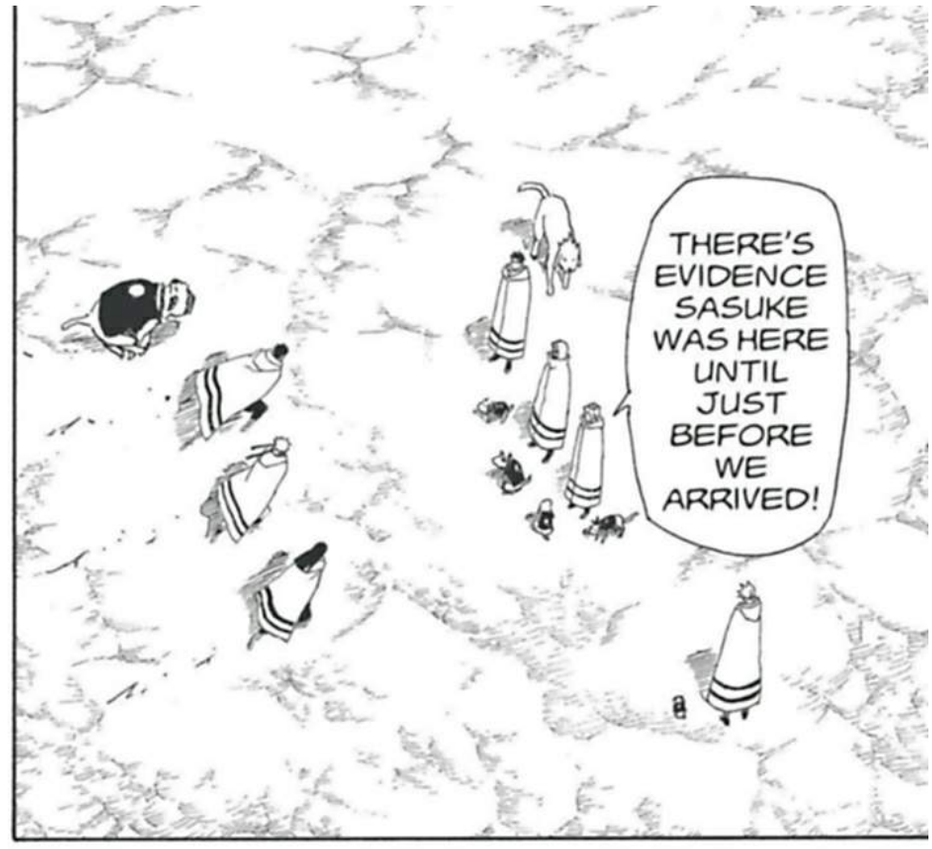



TMP TMP TMP


YEAH! BUT WHAT HAP-PENED?!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO GOT CURIOUS.
SHOOM

NARUTO !
!

?!


THERE'S EVIDENCE SASUKE WAS HERE UNTIL JUST BEFORE WE ARRIVED!

BY THE LOOK OF THIS CRATER, A BATTLE WAS FOUGHT HERE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PLUS A BUNCH OF OTHERS ...
THERE'S A TRACE OF HIS SCENT.

HE'S GOT A COM-PANION...
SASUKE IS NOT TRAVELING ALONE.

HUH?

JUST AS I SUS-PECTED...!
ONE OF THE OTHER SCENTS IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE I DE-TECTED IN THE CITY.
SNIFF SNIFF

READ THIS WAY
BUT TWO OUT OF THE REMAINING SIX SCENTS BELONG TO AKATSUKI MEMBERS...
SASUKE'S PROBABLY FORMED HIS OWN CELL AND IS NOW ON THE MOVE.
THEN, THAT TIME...
IMPOS-SIBLE.
OK... SO, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S FOLLOW SASUKE'S SCENT!
HOW COME?!
HUH?!

...OR HE ESCAPED USING TELEPORTATION NINJUTSU.
IN THIS CASE, EITHER SASUKE WAS TOTALLY BLASTED TO BITS BY THE EXPLOSION...

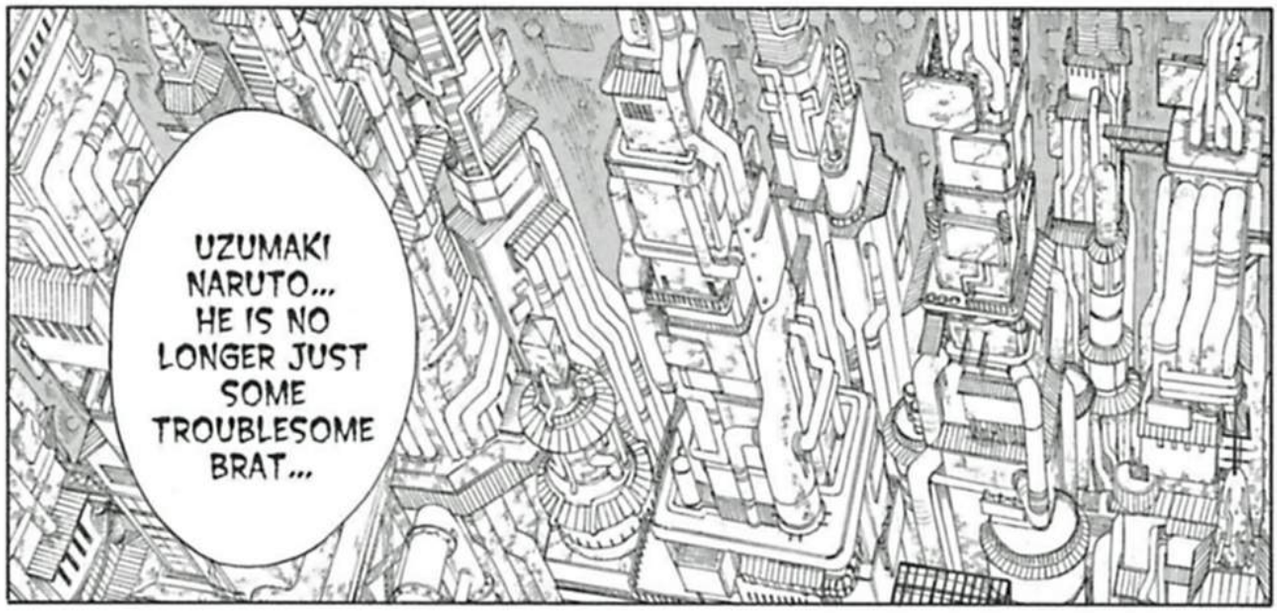
HIS TRAIL GOES COLD HERE.
WHAT?! HOW?!

AND I'VE FOUND HIM...
MY NOSE IS SHARPER THAN A DOG'S.

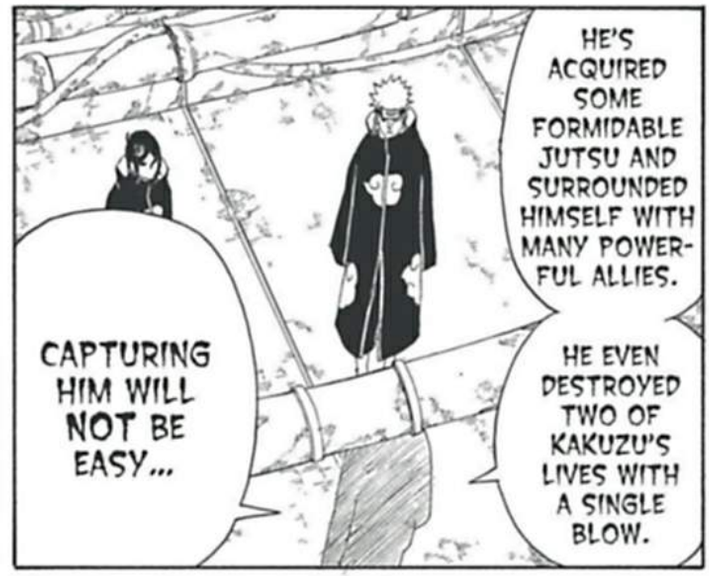
?!
I BELIEVE IT'S THE LATTER.

THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?! LEAD ON, KIBA!

TRULY IMPRESSIVE, KIBA. YOU'RE LIVING UP TO THE INUZUKA NAME.
A NOSE SHARPER THAN A NINJA HOUND'S...?

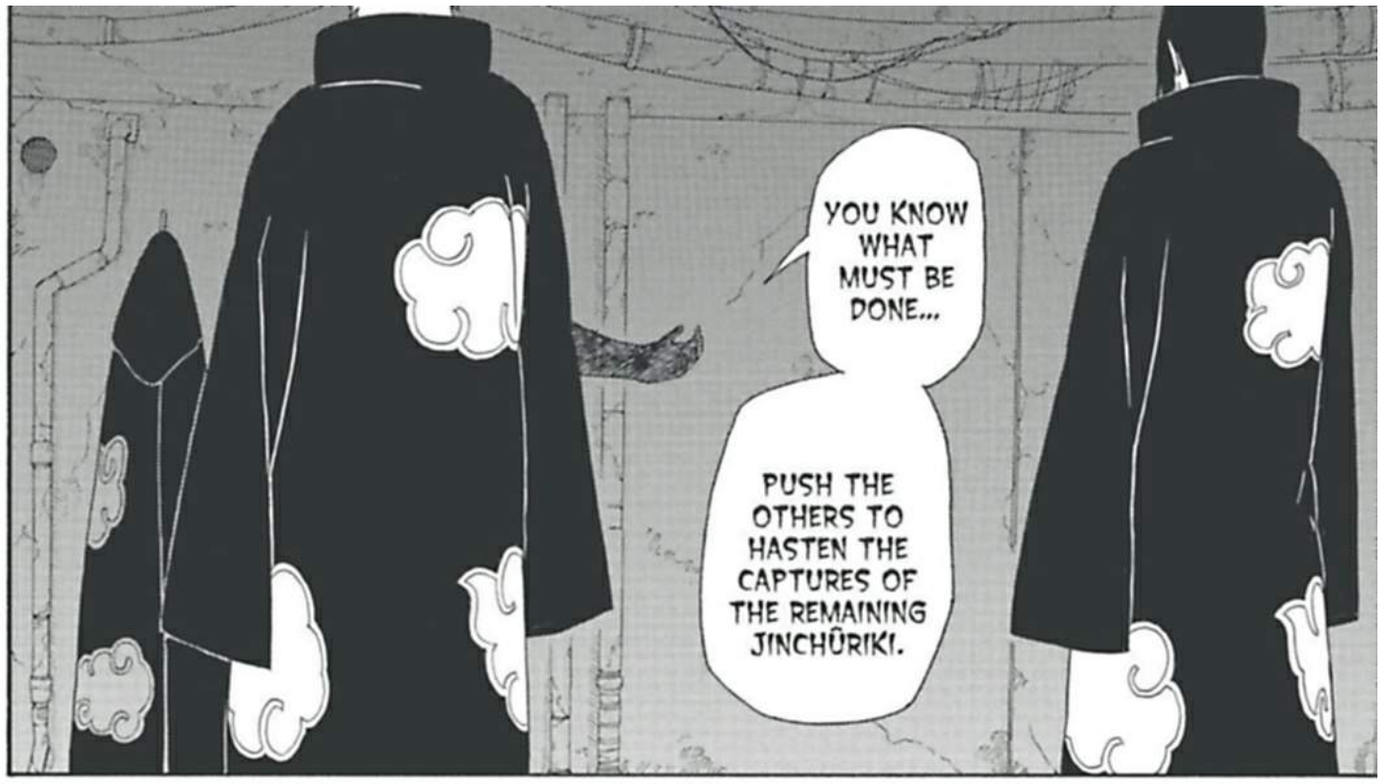

UZUMAKI NARUTO... HE IS NO LONGER JUST SOME TROUBLESOME BRAT...

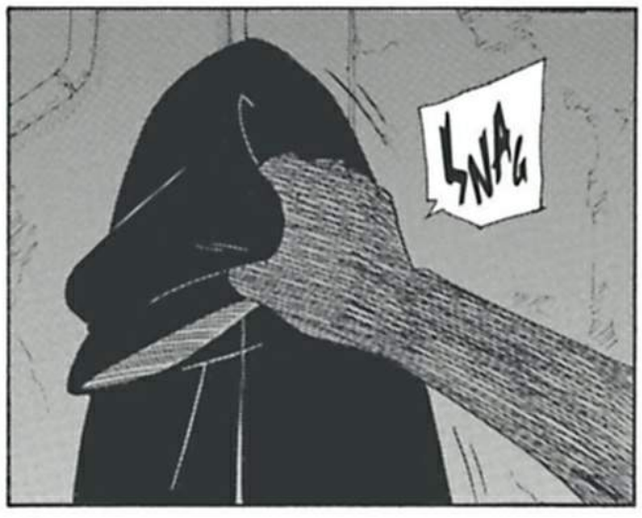
SPARE US YOUR WORDS OF WARNING AND FEAR. THEY ARE WASTED ON US.


HE'S ACQUIRED SOME FORMIDABLE JUTSU AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH MANY POWERFUL ALLIES.
HE EVEN DESTROYED TWO OF KAKUZU'S LIVES WITH A SINGLE BLOW.
CAPTURING HIM WILL NOT BE EASY...

HO HO...
TRUE ENOUGH...

PAIN HAS NEVER YET LOST A BATTLE.


YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE...
PUSH THE OTHERS TO HASTEN THE CAPTURES OF THE REMAINING JINCHŪRIKI.

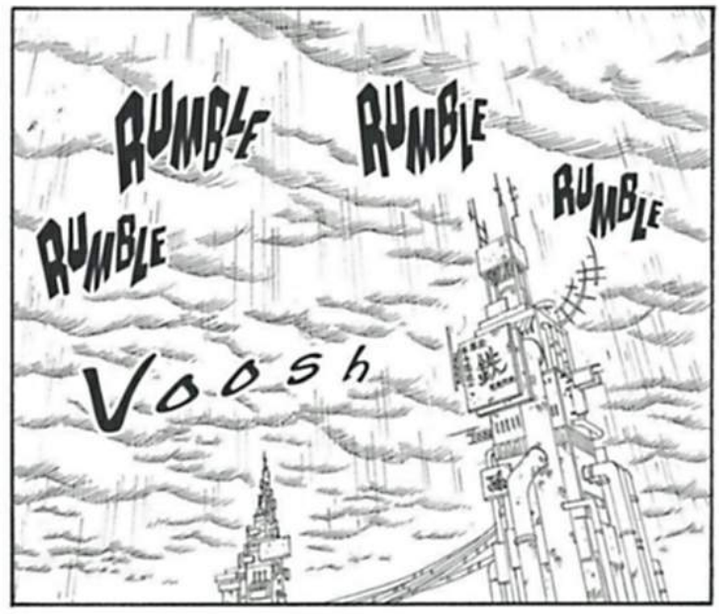

SNAG

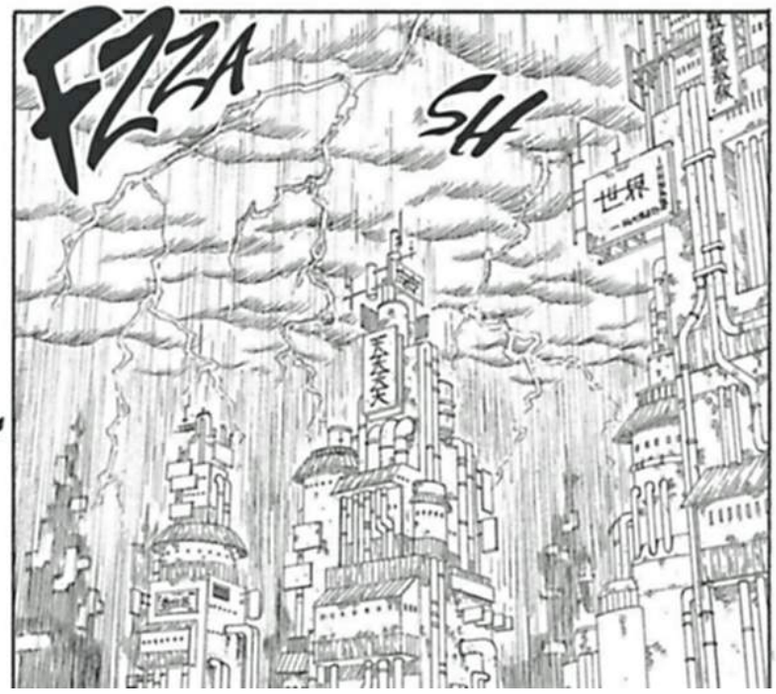
I KNOW.

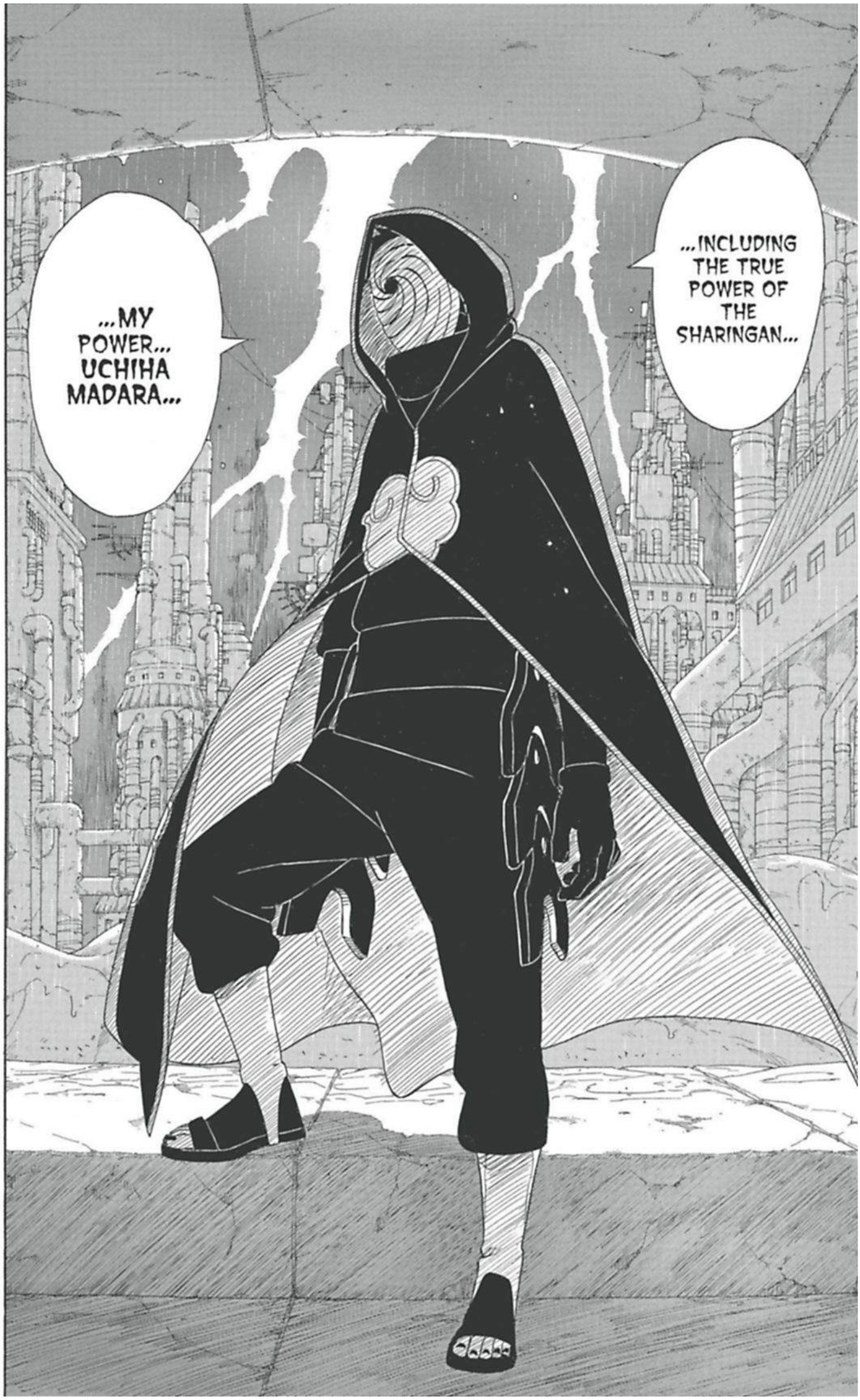
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

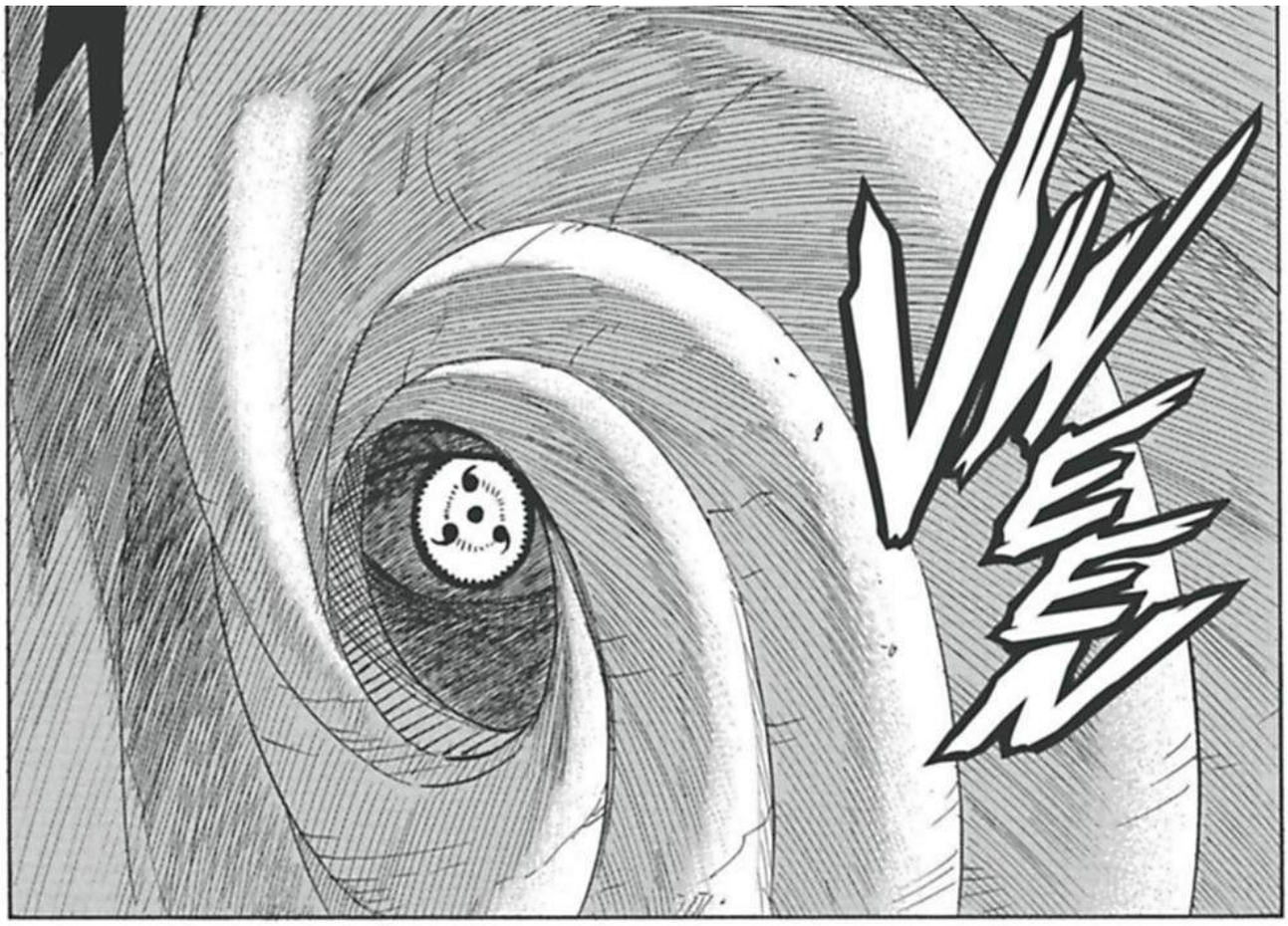
SOON, VERY SOON...
...ALL OUR GOALS SHALL BE ACHIEVED...
FLAP
SHUP

READ THIS WAY






...MY POWER... UCHIHA MADARA...
...INCLUDING THE TRUE POWER OF THE SHARINGAN...

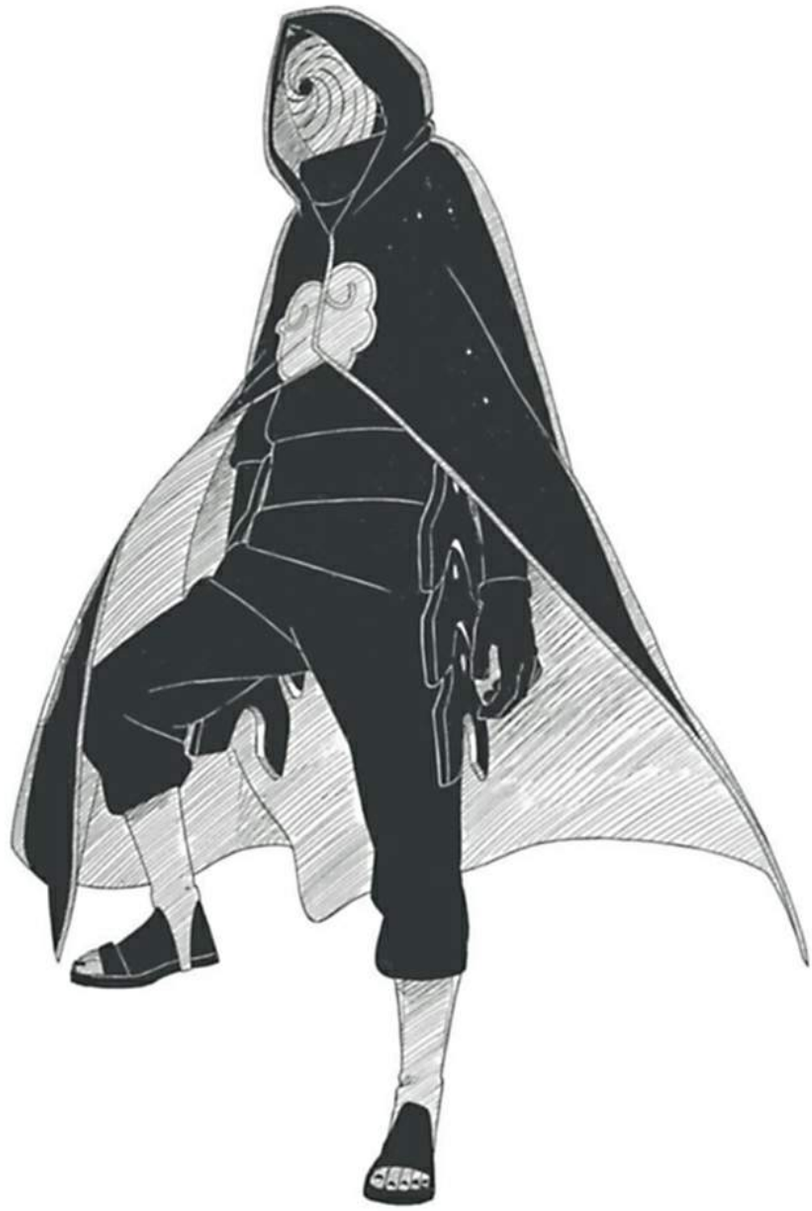

VEEN

RUMBLE-RUMBLE
PLIP
FFFT

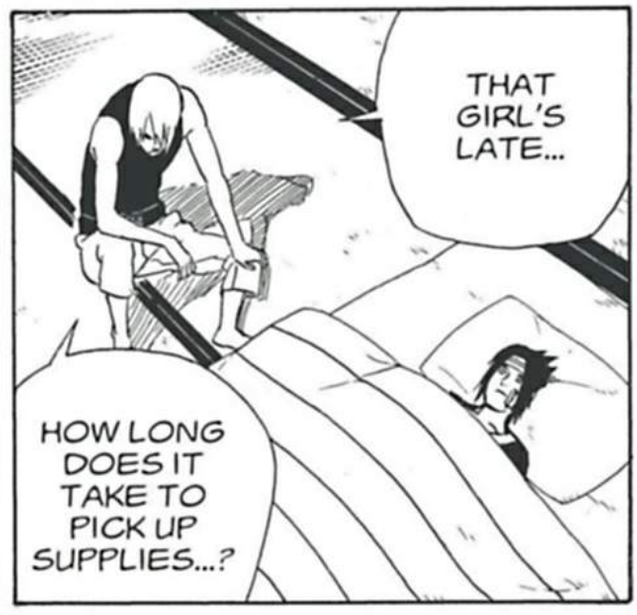
PAIN...
...ARE YOU...?
THE SKY WEEPS AGAIN...

NARUTO

Number 365: Pursue Itachi!

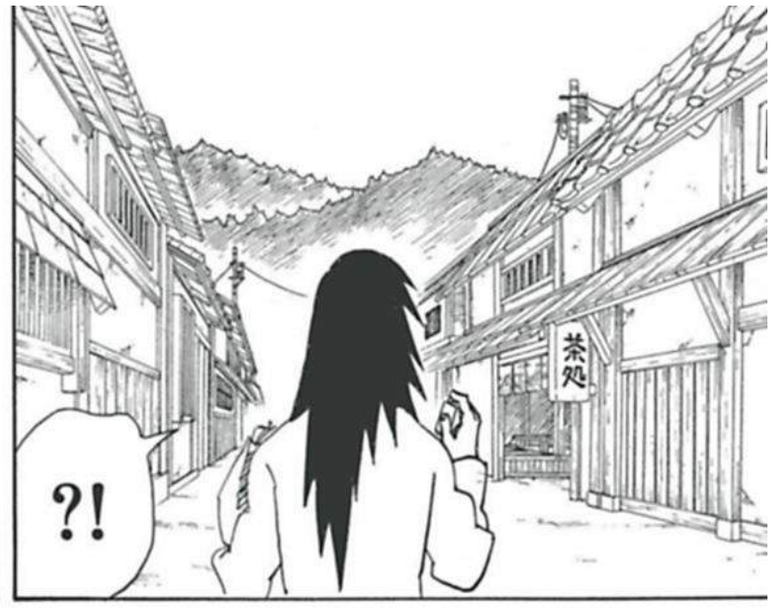


I WISH IT WOULD GET DARK SOON...


THAT GIRL'S LATE...
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PICK UP SUPPLIES...?

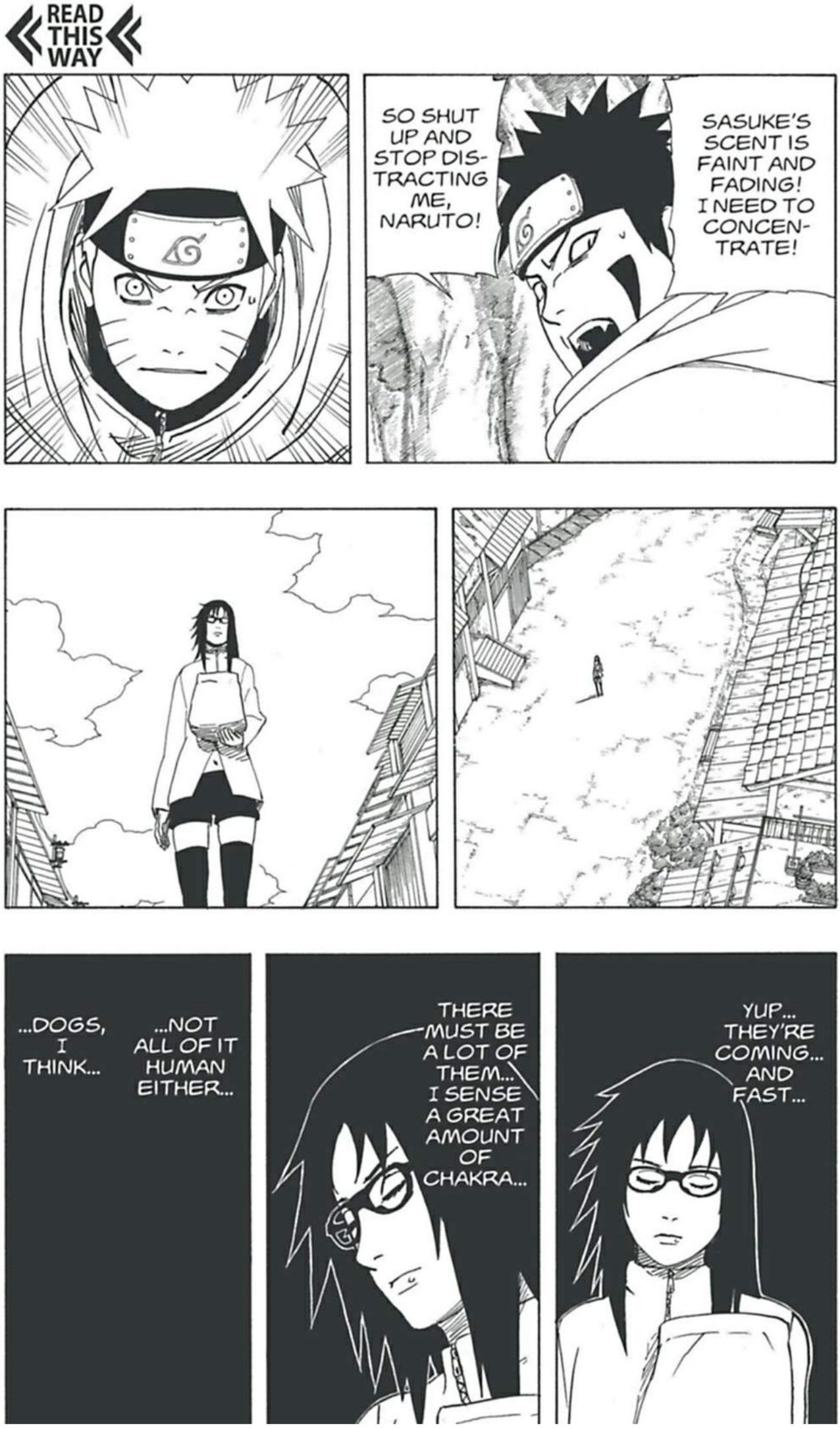
PSHH

HEE HEE HEE... I'M EXCITED ALREADY~ ♡
WHISK
ONCE JUGO AND SUIGETSU ARE ASLEEP, I'LL FINALLY HAVE SASUKE ALL TO MYSELF!



SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM

WELL, KIBA?!


READ THIS WAY
SO SHUT UP AND STOP DISTRACTING ME, NARUTO!
SASUKE'S SCENT IS FAINT AND FADING! I NEED TO CONCENTRATE!
...DOGS, I THINK...
...NOT ALL OF IT HUMAN EITHER...
THERE MUST BE A LOT OF THEM... I SENSE A GREAT AMOUNT OF CHAKRA...
YUP... THEY'RE COMING... AND FAST...

民宿
お越

...SO THEY'RE TRACKING US BY SCENT, HUH...
EITHER AKATSUKI... OR KONOHA...

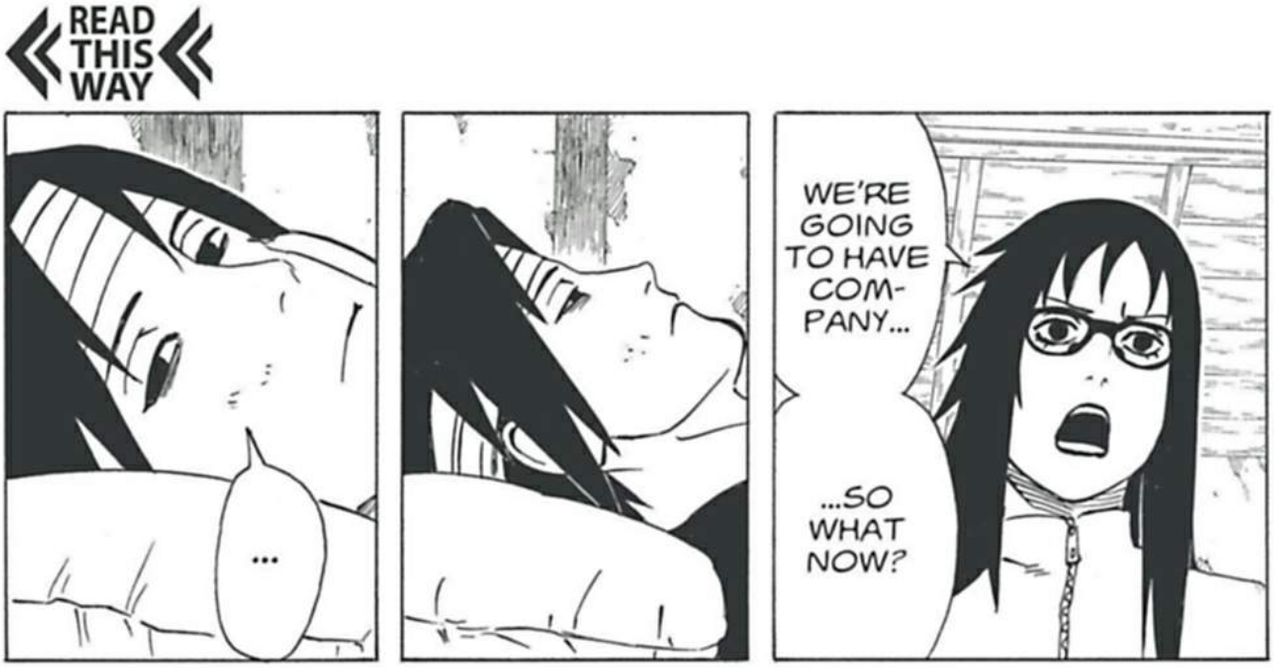
SHF

DO ME A FAVOR AND TRY TO CON-TROL YOUR-SELF.
YEAH, NO PROB-LEM.
SWISH...
JUGO! I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON KARIN.

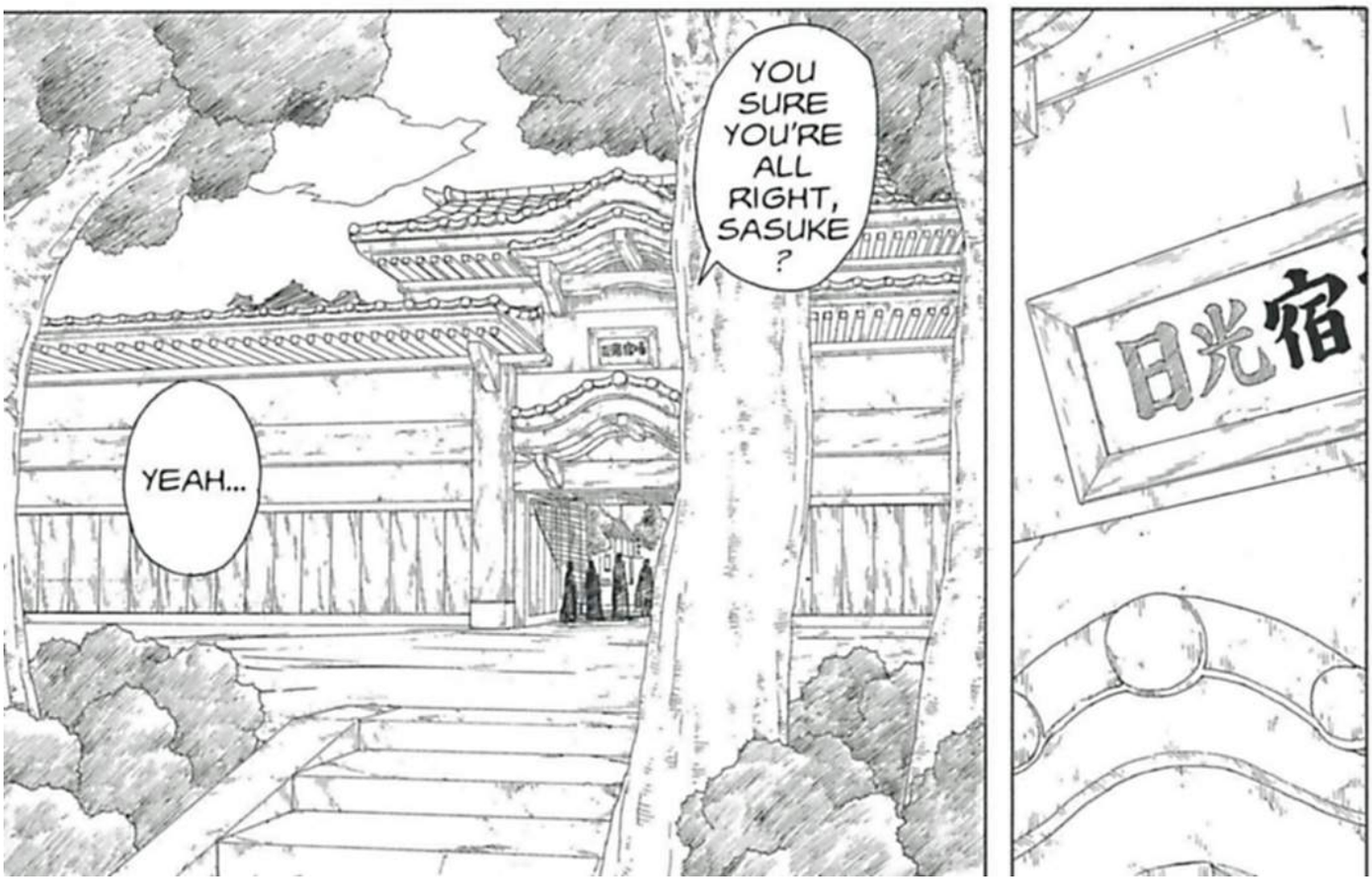
?!

WHAT?!

WAKE UP, SASUKE !!
BL
ARGH!!


READ THIS WAY
...
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COM-PANY...
...SO WHAT NOW?

EVERYONE GET READY. WE'RE LEAVING.
JUGO ...
...MARK THE MAP WITH THE LOCATION OF EVERY AKATSUKI HIDEOUT YOU LEARNED ABOUT.


YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, SASUKE ?
YEAH...
日光宿

FLAP
I'VE BEEN HEALING A LOT FASTER SINCE I ABSORBED OROCHIMARU'S POWER.
SHUP...

WHETHER IT'S AKATSUKI OR KONOHA...
...THEY MAY HAVE INTEL ON ITACHI. MIGHT BE WISE TO LIE LOW AND THEN AMBUSH THEM. WHAT DO YOU THINK, SASUKE?

SHUP
SO THIS IS THE POWER OF THE WHITE SNAKE, HUH...

AMBUSHING THEM IS A WASTE OF TIME.

THE AKATSUKI ONLY OPERATE IN TWO-MAN CELLS.
IF THEY'RE COMING IN FORCE...
...THEN IT'S MOST LIKELY KONOHA.

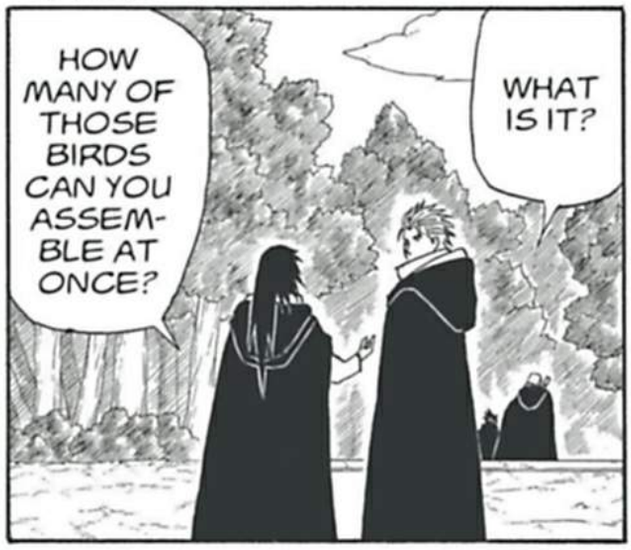
ONCE WE LOCATE HIM, WORST COMES TO WORST, YOU THREE TAKE CARE OF KONOHA.
ITACHI IS OUR ONLY PRIORITY.
THAP

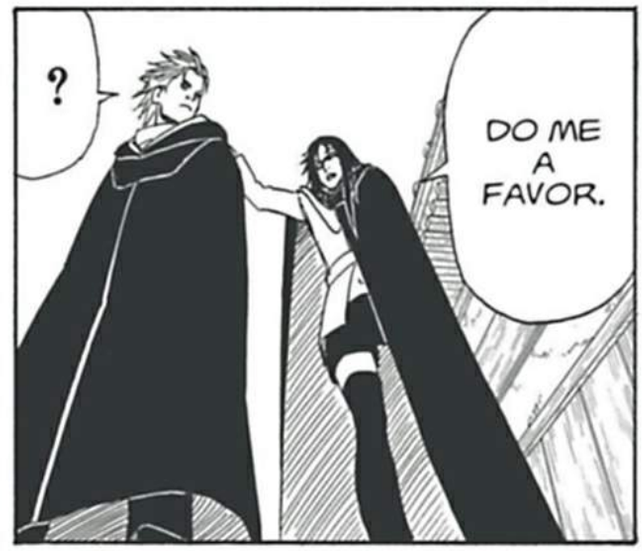
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?

LEAVE KONOHA BE.
RIGHT.

FINE...
BUT FIRST, TEAM HEBI, WE USE JUGO'S INTEL...
...AND HIT THOSE AKATSUKI HIDEOUTS ONE BY ONE.
SWISH
FLAP
LET'S GO.

?!
TAP


HOW MANY OF THOSE BIRDS CAN YOU ASSEMBLE AT ONCE?
WHAT IS IT?


?
DO ME A FAVOR.

HUP
WELL, I'VE GOT THESE CLOTHES THAT SASUKE WORE...
...ALL DRENCHED IN HIS SWEAT... AND I WAS THINKING I COULD–

WHY...?

?

DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHERED COMING TO YOU OF ALL PEOPLE! JERK!!
Y'KNOW WHAT?? FORGET IT! FORGET I EVEN ASKED!
TAP

WAIT... WHY DO YOU HAVE SASUKE'S SWEATY OLD CLOTHES ??

SENSORY-TYPE SHINOBI HAVE DIFFERENT SPECIALTIES DEPENDING ON THEIR VILLAGE OF ORIGIN.
KONOHA TENDS TO USE NINJA HOUNDS FOR TRACKING.
SHRRIP
SHRRIP SHRRIP
A-ANY-WAY...

SHRRIP
I'LL JUST USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE...

SHOOM-SHOOM

READ THIS WAY
SASUKE'S ON THE MOVE!!
SHOOT!
WHAT'S UP, KIBA?!
!
?!
WAIT!
THAT'S WEIRD...
HE'S PROB-ABLY GOING AFTER ITACHI !!
THEN WE BETTER HURRY!
TMP
IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE NOW! GOING IN ALL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AT ONCE?!
SASUKE'S SCENT IS SCAT-TERING!

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY...
...BUT I'D GUESS THEY HAVE A PRETTY ADEPT SENSORY-TYPE SHINOBI WITH THEM.

THEY MUST HAVE SENSED OUR APPROACH AND ARE NOW TRYING TO FOOL US INTO SPLITTING UP.
SENSED US? HOW?!

...

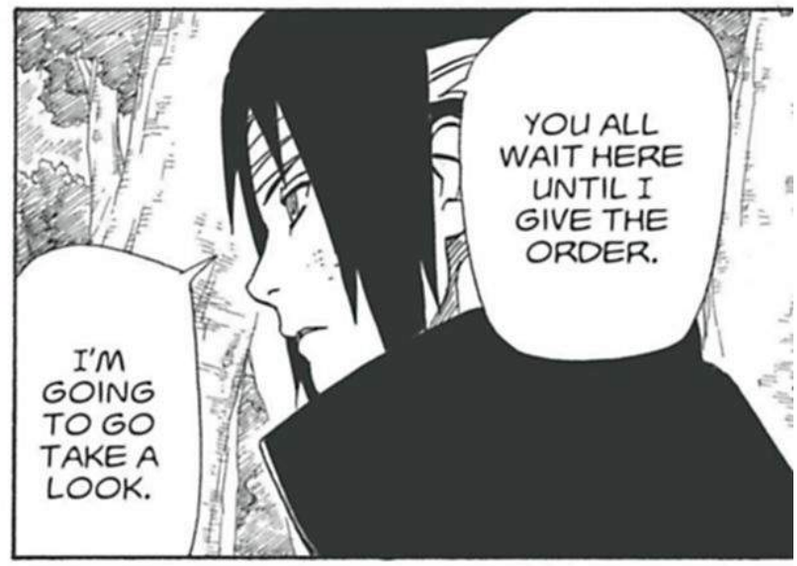
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRACK HIM...
...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH SCENT TO FOLLOW!
OUR COMMS AREN'T LONG RANGE! IF WE SPLIT UP, THEY'LL BE USELESS!

FOLLOW ALL THE SCENTS!!
FWP
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

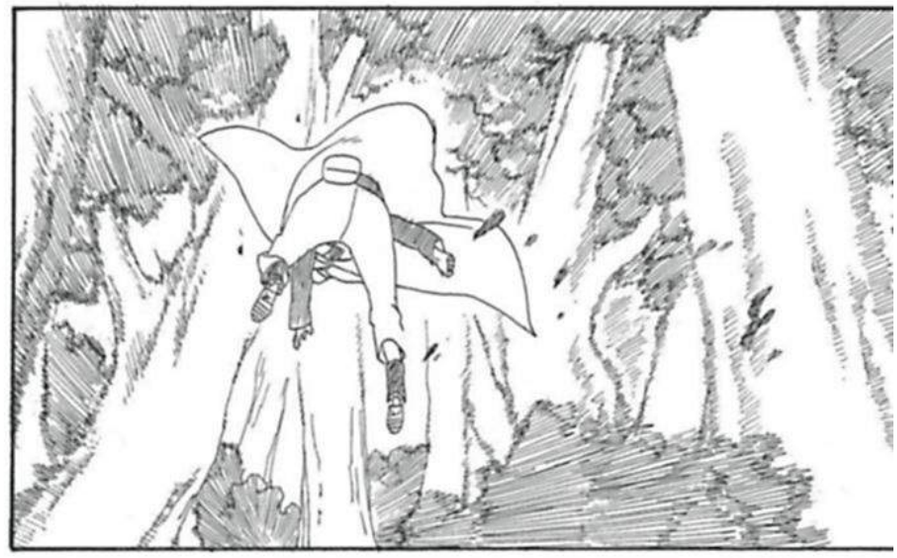
READ THIS WAY
BOOF-
BOOF-
BOOF
ART OF THE MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS !!
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM

JUST BEYOND HERE, HUH...

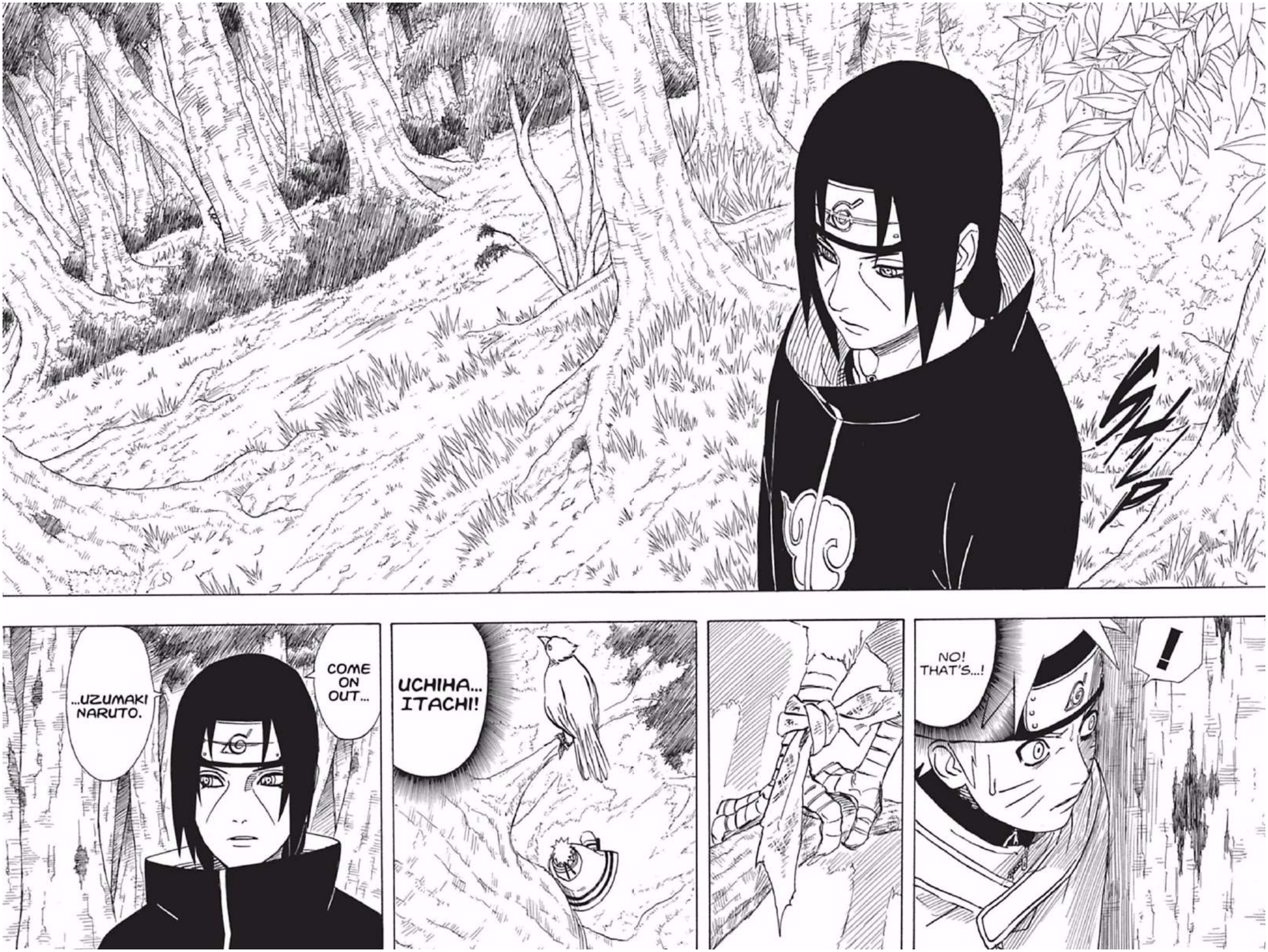
SHOOM


YOU ALL WAIT HERE UNTIL I GIVE THE ORDER.
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A LOOK.

!!
RUSTLE



READ THIS WAY
SHP
...!!
HMMN...
TMP
!
SHARINGAN?!!
SHUP
...SASUKE!!


SHIP
COME ON OUT...
...UZUMAKI NARUTO.
UCHIHA... ITACHI!
NO! THAT'S...!
!

NARUTO

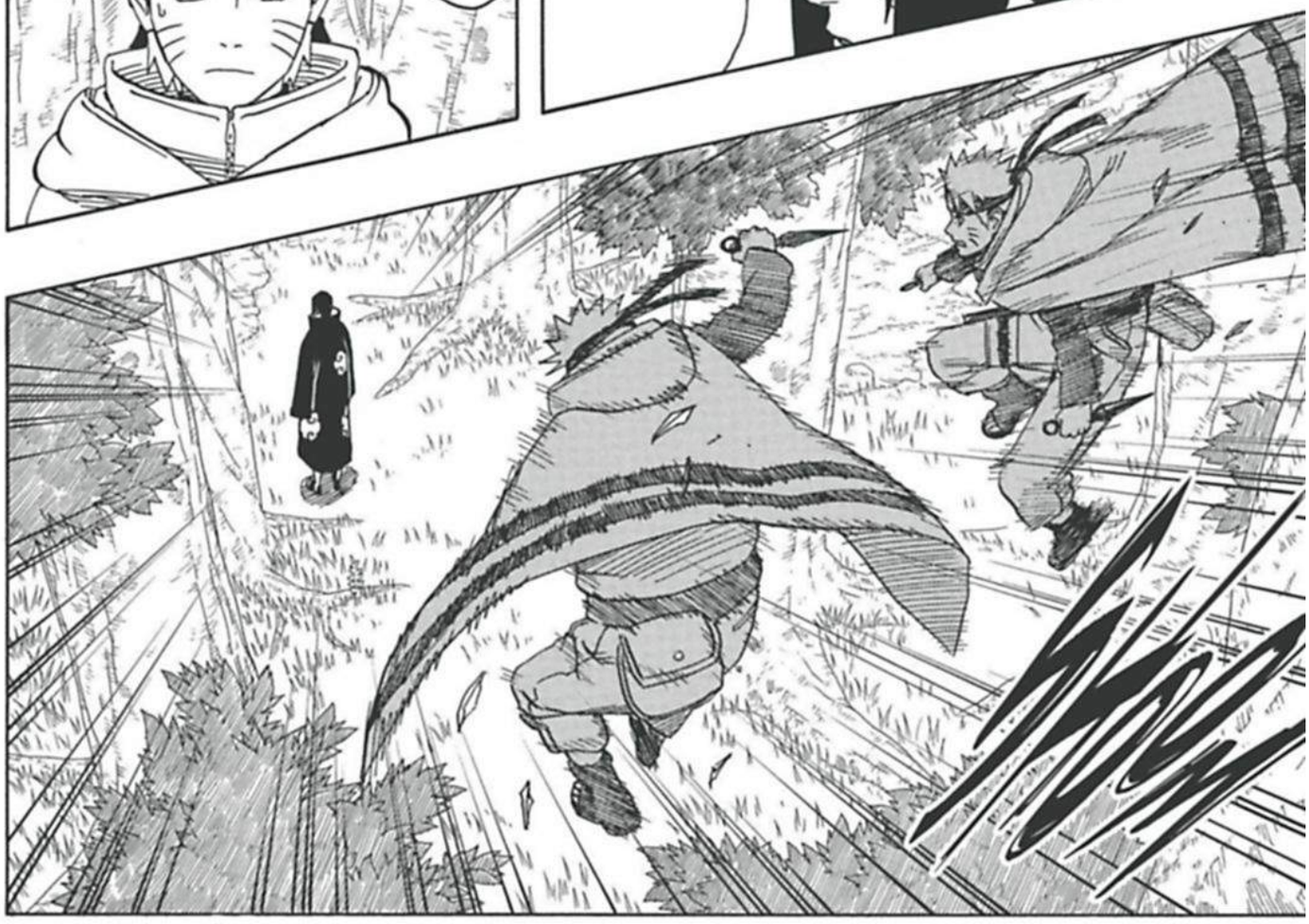
Number 366: Brothers

LEMME GUESS... YOU'RE HERE TO CAPTURE ME?

SHP...

...

I JUST WANT TO TALK...
NO...



ARGH!

SHUNK

SHU NK

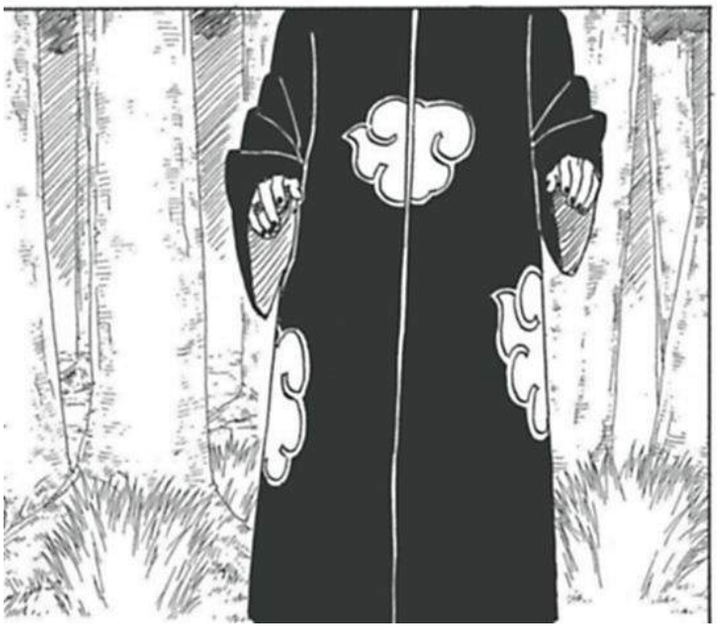
WAH!!

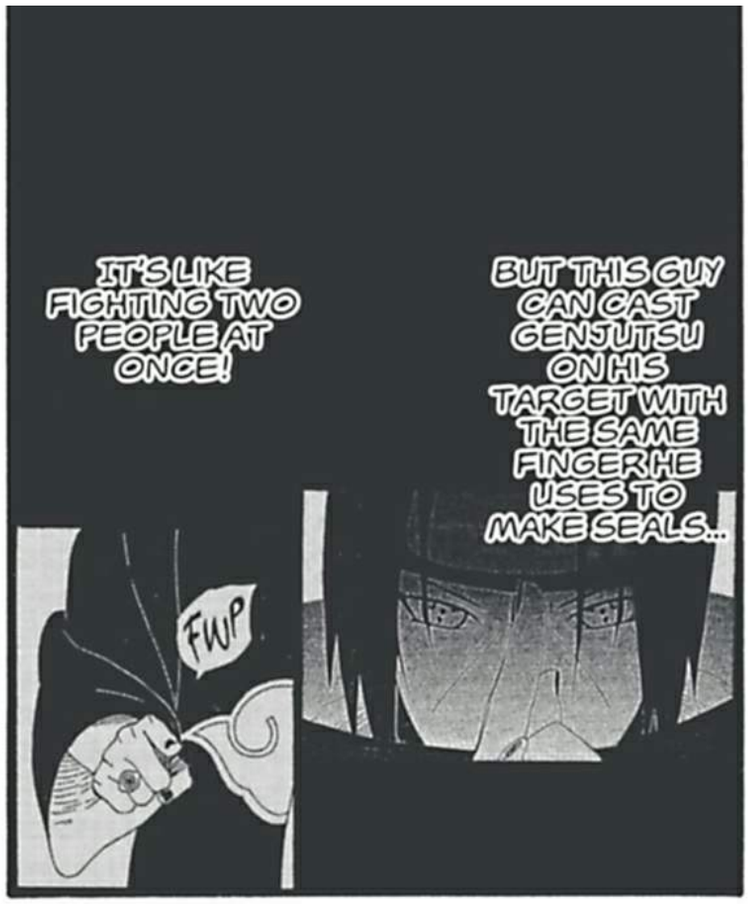
ZWISH

SWISH

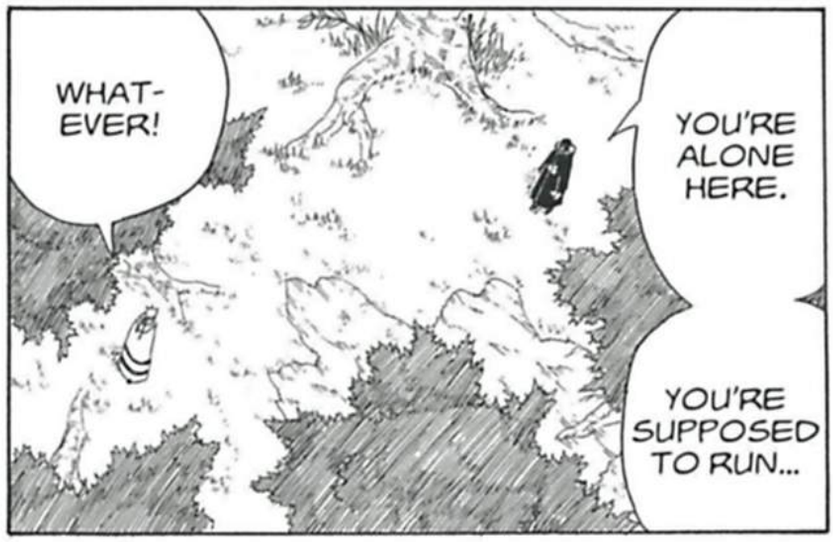
BOOF

BOOF




IT'S LIKE FIGHTING TWO PEOPLE AT ONCE!
BUT THIS GUY CAN CAST GENJUTSU ON HIS TARGET WITH THE SAME FINGER HE USES TO MAKE SEALS...
FWP

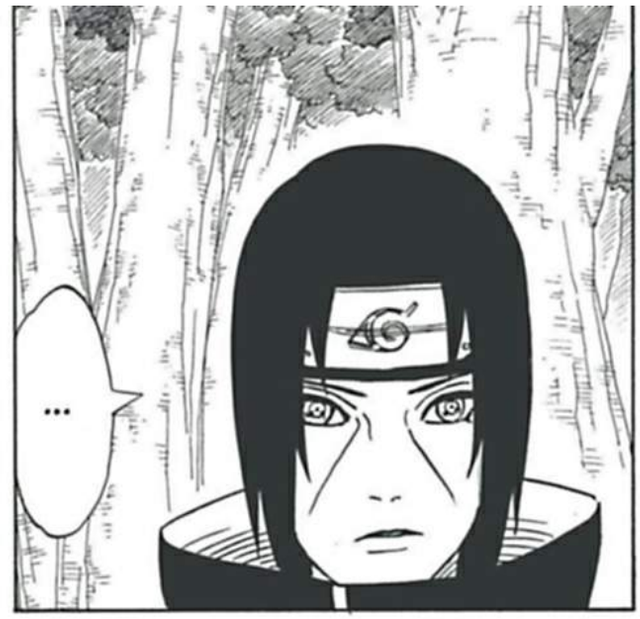
IF TWO ON ONE, GO FOR HIS BACK...!
WHEN YOU FACE THE SHARINGAN, IF ONE ON ONE, YOU DEFINITELY RUN...


WHAT-EVER!
YOU'RE ALONE HERE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RUN...

DIDN'T GRANNY CHIYO TEACH YOU ANYTHING ABOUT FIGHTING THE SHARIN-GAN?

IF I CATCH YOU, I'LL GET TO SEE SASUKE AGAIN!!
BESIDES, WHY WOULD I WANT TO RUN?!

I CAN BE ANY NUMBER FROM ONE TO ONE THOUSAND!


...

YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH MY BROTHER... WHY?
HE'S GONE ROGUE. ABANDONED HIS VILLAGE. HIS FRIENDS ...
...

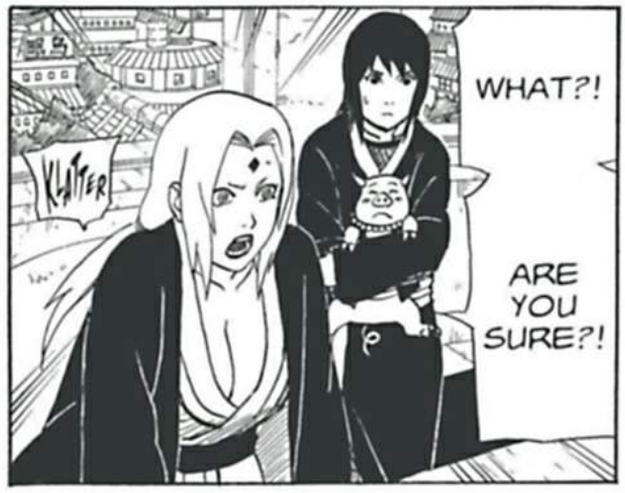
...BUT HE'S MORE OF A BROTHER TO ME THAN YOU ARE TO HIM!!!
WE MAY NOT BE BLOOD...

RRROAR !!
WHOOSH
...
FLAP FLAP
FLICK
!
?!
SCREECH

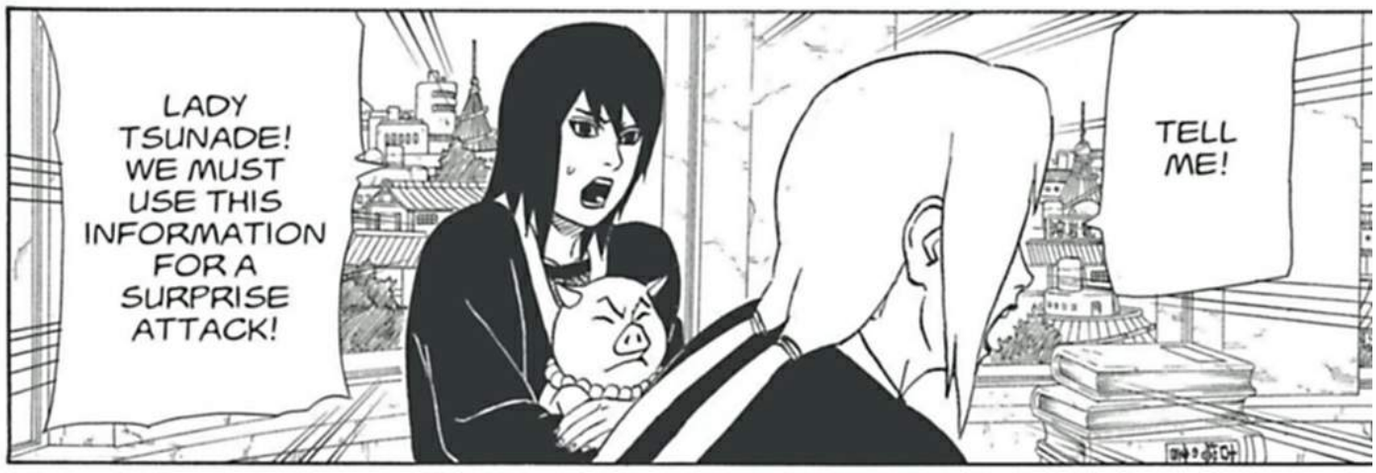
READ THIS WAY
YOU ARE ALREADY WITHIN MY GENJUTSU.
ZWOOO...
FLAP FLAP
UNH!
?!
...I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.
I JUST WANT TO TALK.

WHAT NEWS, JIRAIYA...?
KLAK

THUMP
THUMP
I'M LETTING MYSELF IN, TSUNADE.


KLATTER
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SURE?!

I'VE PIN-POINTED THE AKATSUKI LEADER'S LOCA-TION!
油

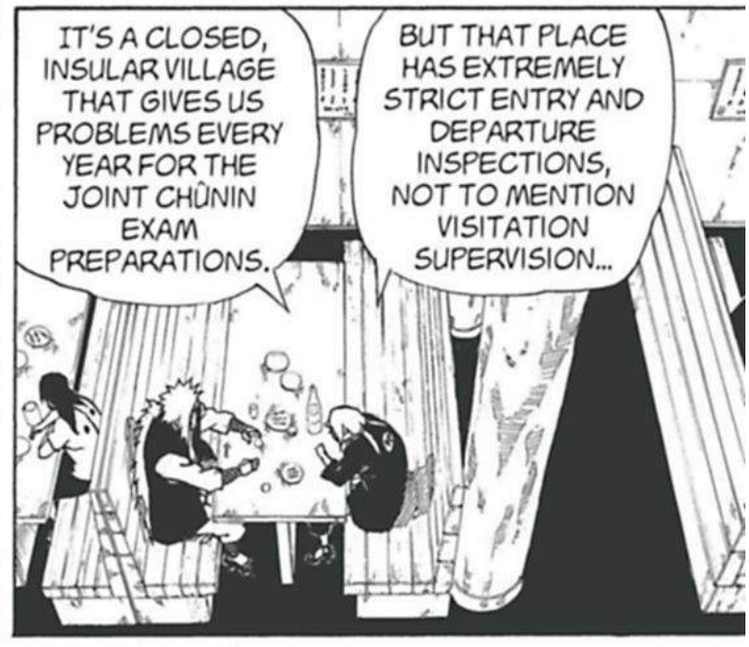

LADY TSUNADE! WE MUST USE THIS INFORMATION FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK!
TELL ME!

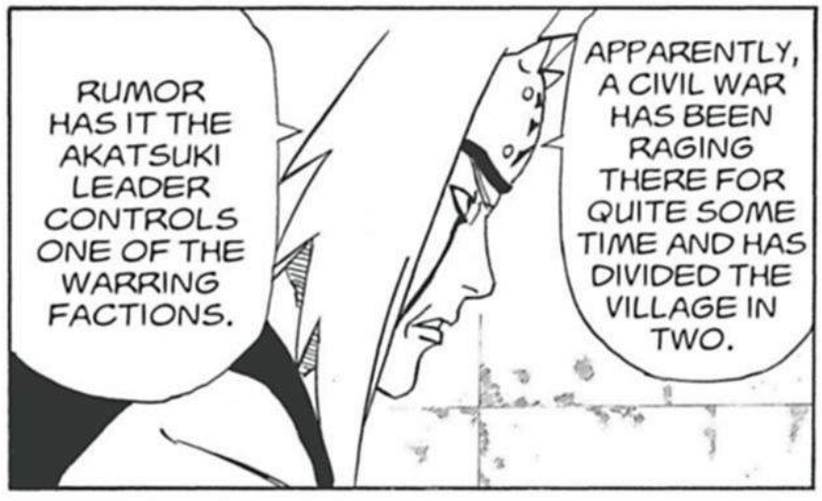
READ THIS WAY
ESPECIALLY WITH THE STAKES AS HIGH AS THEY ARE...
BUT IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUSH PELL-MELL INTO THINGS.
WE'RE NOT PLOTTING A SEQUEL TO ONE OF YOUR NOVELS! WE HAVEN'T THE TIME TO WASTE!
HOLD ON, LADIES. TAKE IT EASY.
WHAT ...?!
LET'S GRAB A DRINK, YOU AND ME, JUST THE TWO OF US. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING THERE.
KLUNK
(BAR SAKÉ)
酒酒屋
IRK
FOOL! I AM THE HOKAGE!
I CAN'T JUST GO OUT DRINKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY! HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR YOUR FELLOW SHINOBI???

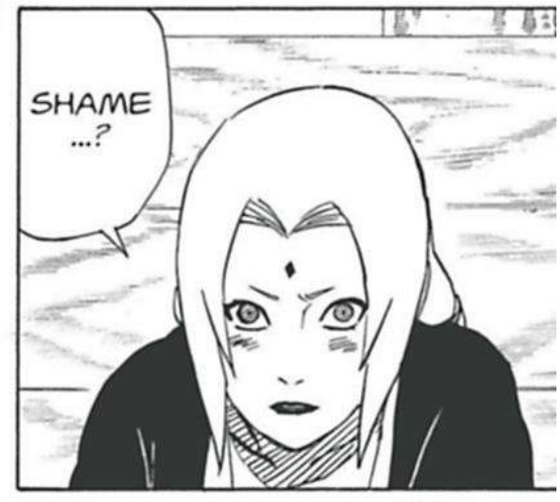
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE AKATSUKI LEADER IS IN THE HIDDEN RAIN VILLAGE?
SO...

UH... YOU REALLY OUGHT TO TAKE YOUR OWN WORDS A BIT MORE TO HEART...
YOU ARE HOKAGE, AFTER ALL.
PHEW-WEE

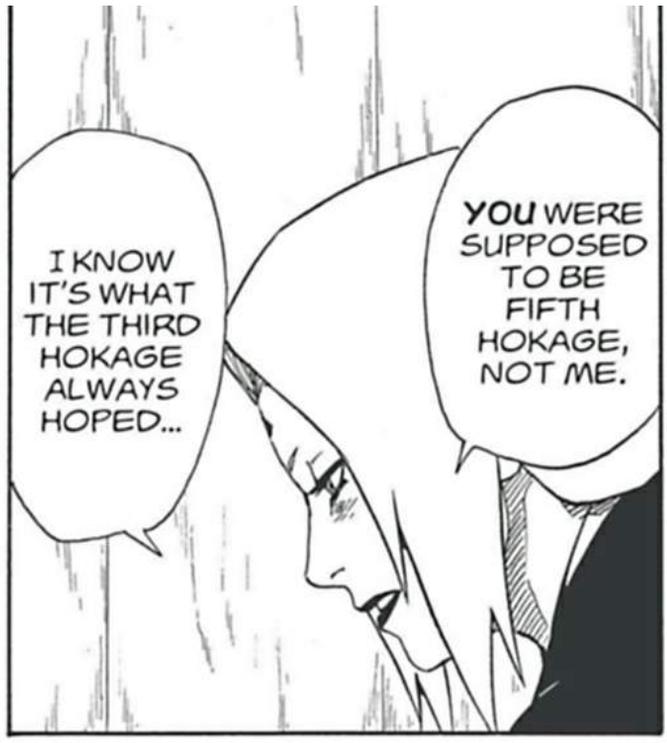
MAINTAINING ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS PREVENTS NEWS FROM GETTING OUT TO OTHER NATIONS AND ALLOWS THEM TO COVER UP THE SHAME OF WHAT'S GOING ON.
...BUT IT'S THAT VERY INSULAR NATURE THAT MAKES IT THE IDEAL HIDEOUT.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A PLACE THE AKATSUKI COULD MOVE AROUND IN EASILY.


IT'S A CLOSED, INSULAR VILLAGE THAT GIVES US PROBLEMS EVERY YEAR FOR THE JOINT CHÛNIN EXAM PREPARATIONS.
BUT THAT PLACE HAS EXTREMELY STRICT ENTRY AND DEPARTURE INSPECTIONS, NOT TO MENTION VISITATION SUPERVISION...

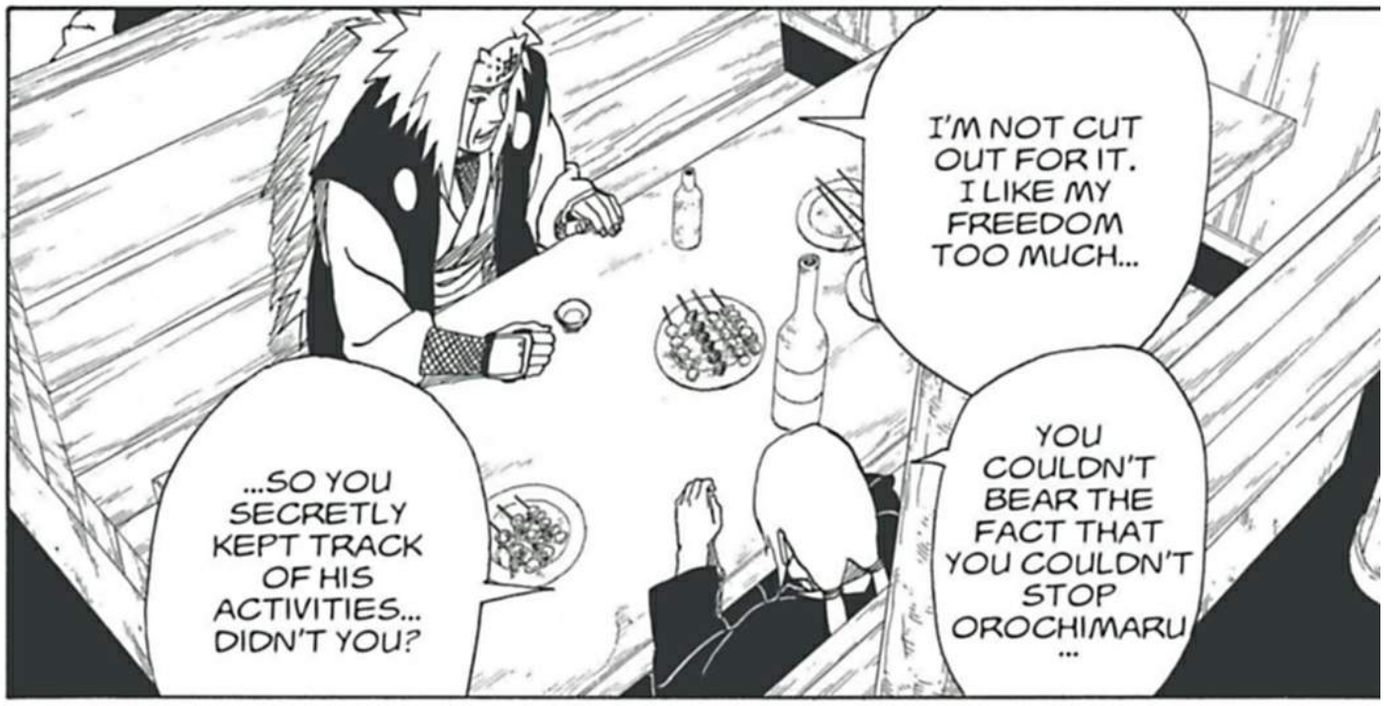

RUMOR HAS IT THE AKATSUKI LEADER CONTROLS ONE OF THE WARRING FACTIONS.
APPARENTLY, A CIVIL WAR HAS BEEN RAGING THERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND HAS DIVIDED THE VILLAGE IN TWO.


SHAME ...?

READ THIS WAY
...AND CONFIRM WHETHER THAT INTEL IS REAL OR NOT.
THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO GO IN ALONE, FIRST...
WE CAN TALK STRATEGY AFTER THAT...
WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT LACKING STABILITY, THEY KEEP GETTING FLOODED WITH REFUGEES.
...THAT LAND, SURROUNDED BY THE THREE GREAT NATIONS OF EARTH, FIRE, AND WIND, HAS LONG AND OFTEN BEEN USED AS A BATTLEFIELD BY AND BETWEEN THOSE PRINCIPAL TERRITORIES.
I AM STILL ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA.
YOU DO REMEMBER WHAT THAT MEANS?
ALONE?! NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS...!
I JUST FEEL BAD... THAT YOU KEEP GETTING STUCK WITH SUCH... UNFORTUNATE ASSIGNMENTS.
...


I KNOW IT'S WHAT THE THIRD HOKAGE ALWAYS HOPED...
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FIFTH HOKAGE, NOT ME.

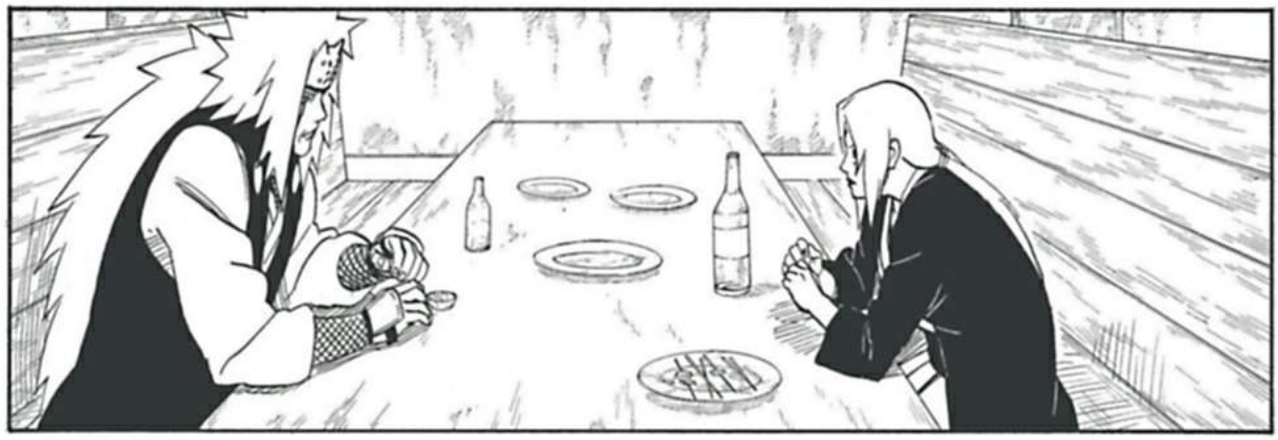
WHY SO RUEFUL ALL OF A SUDDEN ?!
HA HA HA HA!

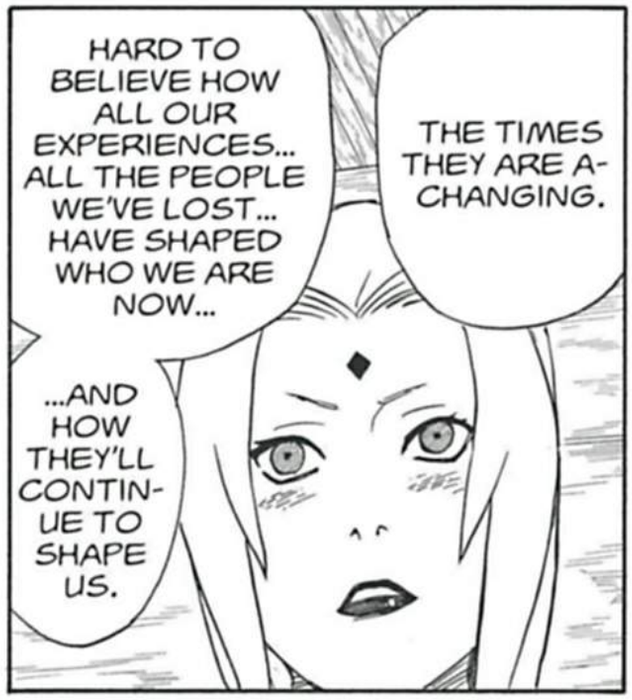

...SO YOU SECRETLY KEPT TRACK OF HIS ACTIVITIES... DIDN'T YOU?
I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR IT. I LIKE MY FREEDOM TOO MUCH...
YOU COULDN'T BEAR THE FACT THAT YOU COULDN'T STOP OROCHIMARU ...

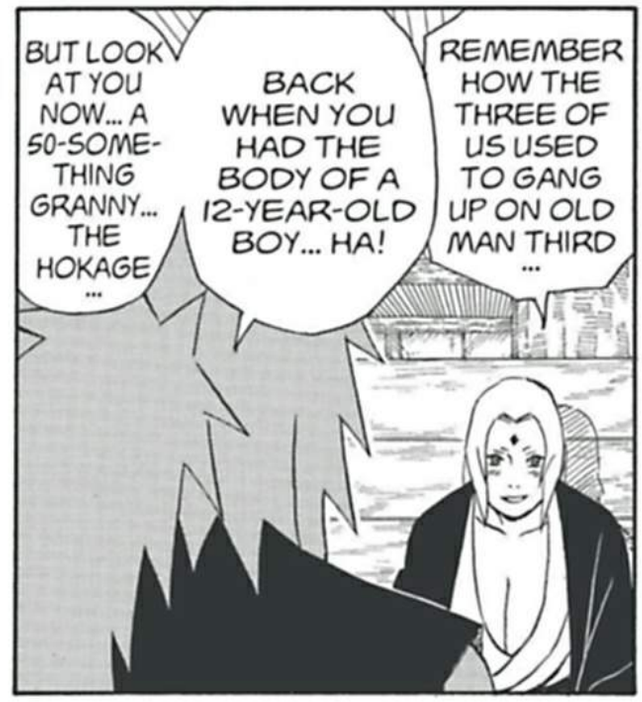
I NEVER IMAGINED HE WOULD DIE...
FACT IS STRANGER THAN FICTION, EH...

NOW I CAN FOCUS ON MY NOVELS...
NO NEED FOR THAT ANY-MORE.

...



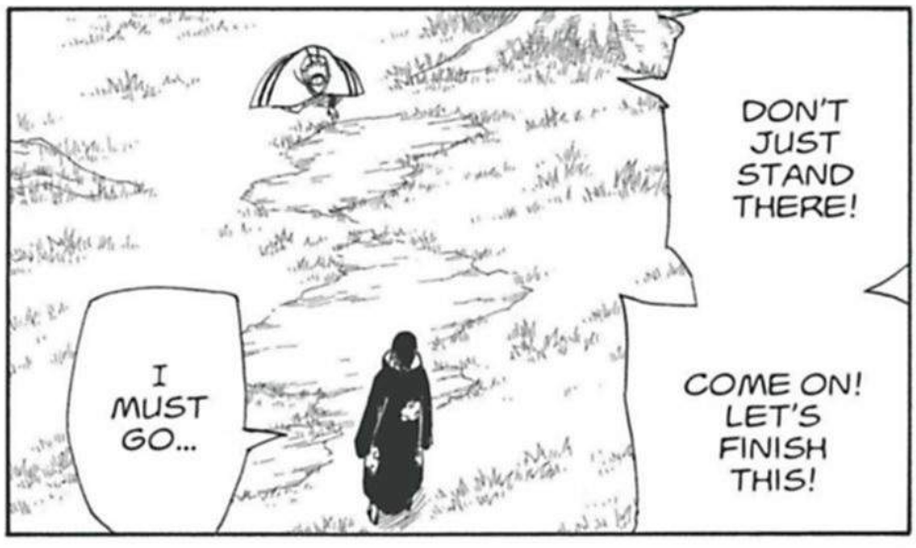

HARD TO BELIEVE HOW ALL OUR EXPERIENCES... ALL THE PEOPLE WE'VE LOST... HAVE SHAPED WHO WE ARE NOW...
THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING.
...AND HOW THEY'LL CONTIN-UE TO SHAPE US.


BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW... A 50-SOME-THING GRANNY... THE HOKAGE ...
BACK WHEN YOU HAD THE BODY OF A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY... HA!
REMEMBER HOW THE THREE OF US USED TO GANG UP ON OLD MAN THIRD ...

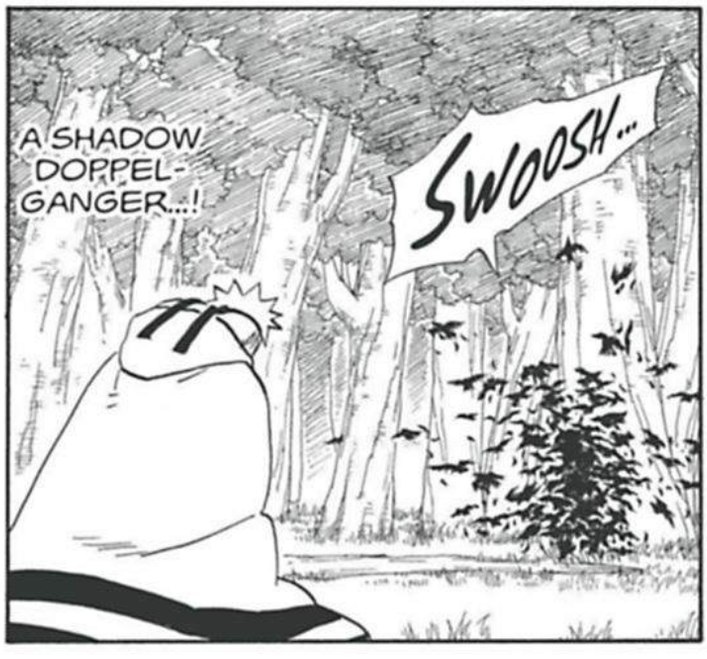
WISDOM... IT'S THE ONE THING THAT MAKES GROWING OLD **WORTH IT**...
FOR THAT CAUSE, I'LL GLADLY RISK MY LIFE.

OUR JOB IS TO SET EXAMPLES FOR AND AID THE NEXT GENERATION.
JUST GONNA HAVE TO KEEP OUR EMOTIONS IN CHECK, I GUESS.

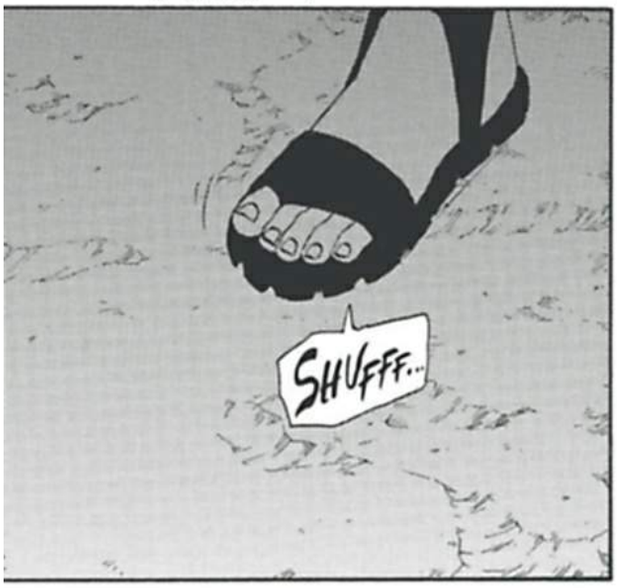
WHAT'S GOING ON?


DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
COME ON! LET'S FINISH THIS!
I MUST GO...

...

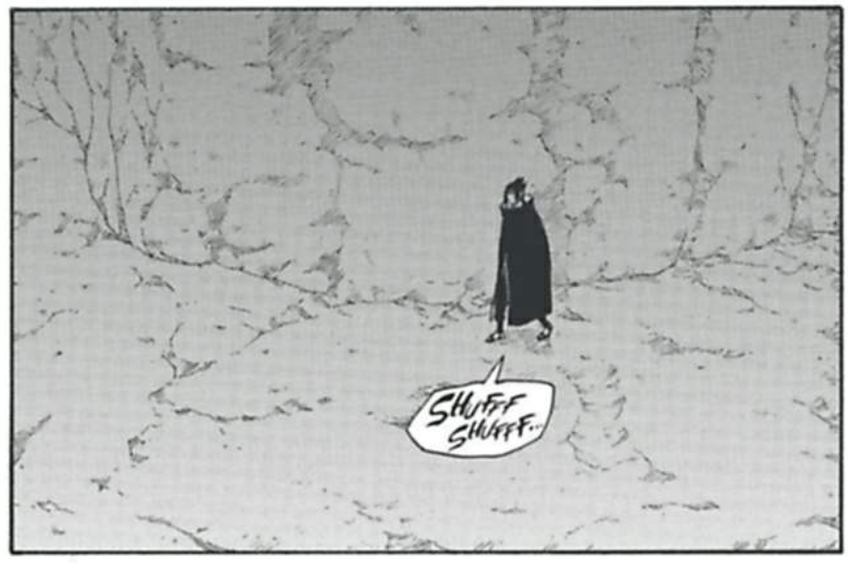

A SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER...!
SWOOSH...

I HAVE AN IMPOR-TANT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.


SHUFFF...

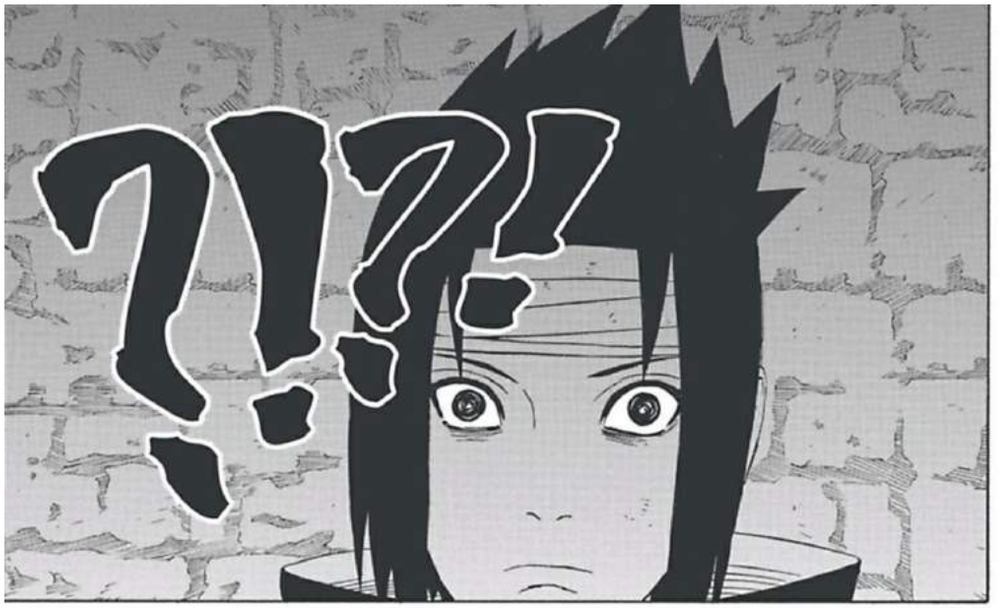
...

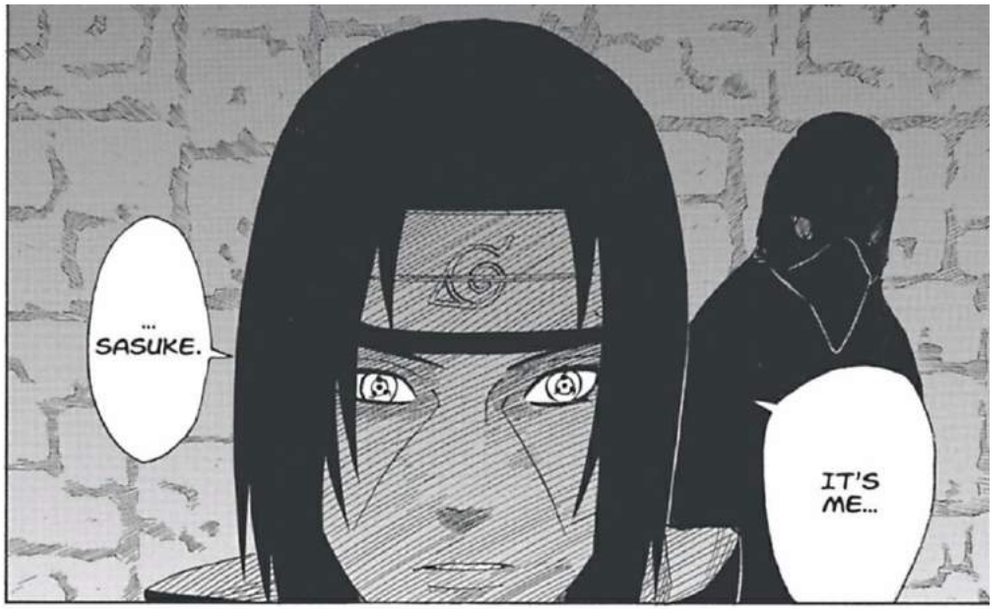
!
HMMMM

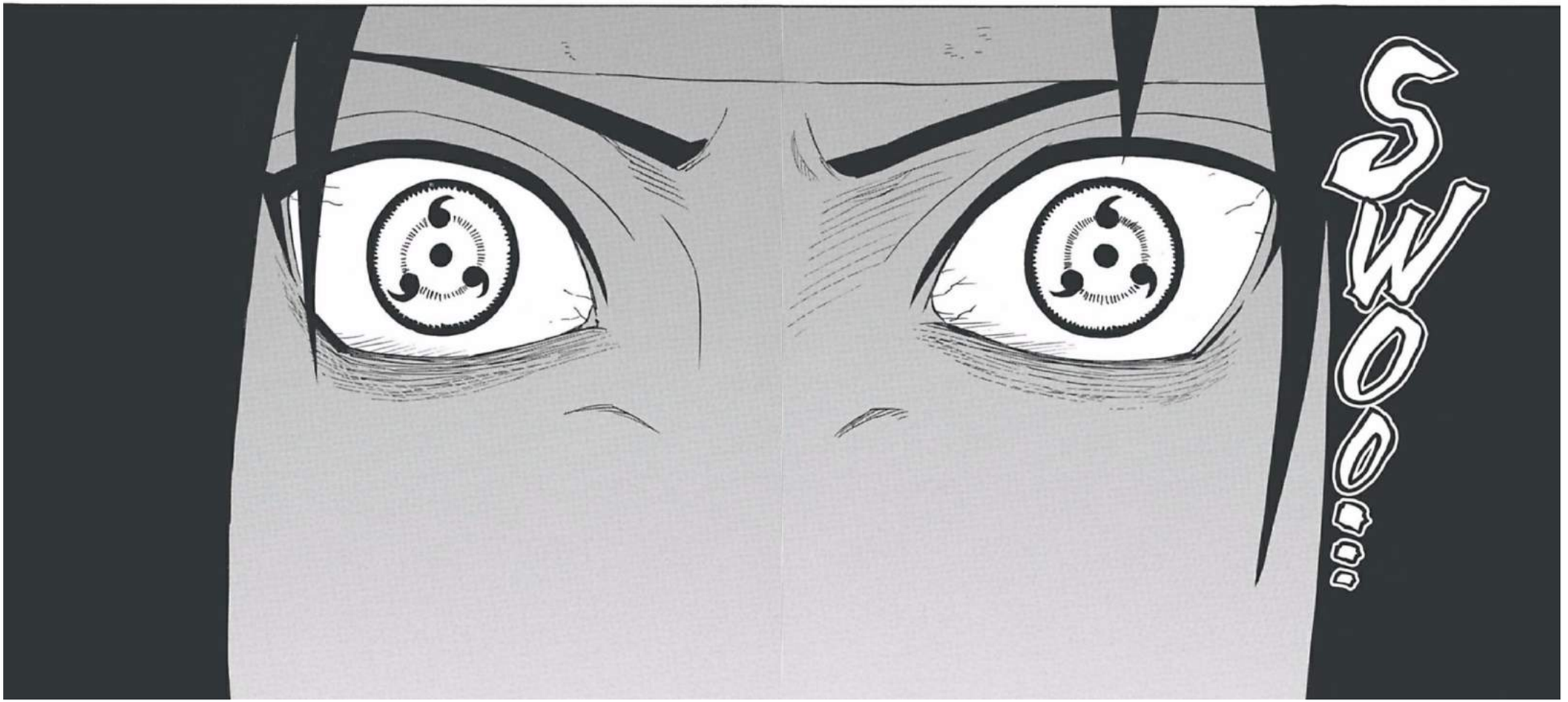

SHUFF SHUFF...

Shp
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

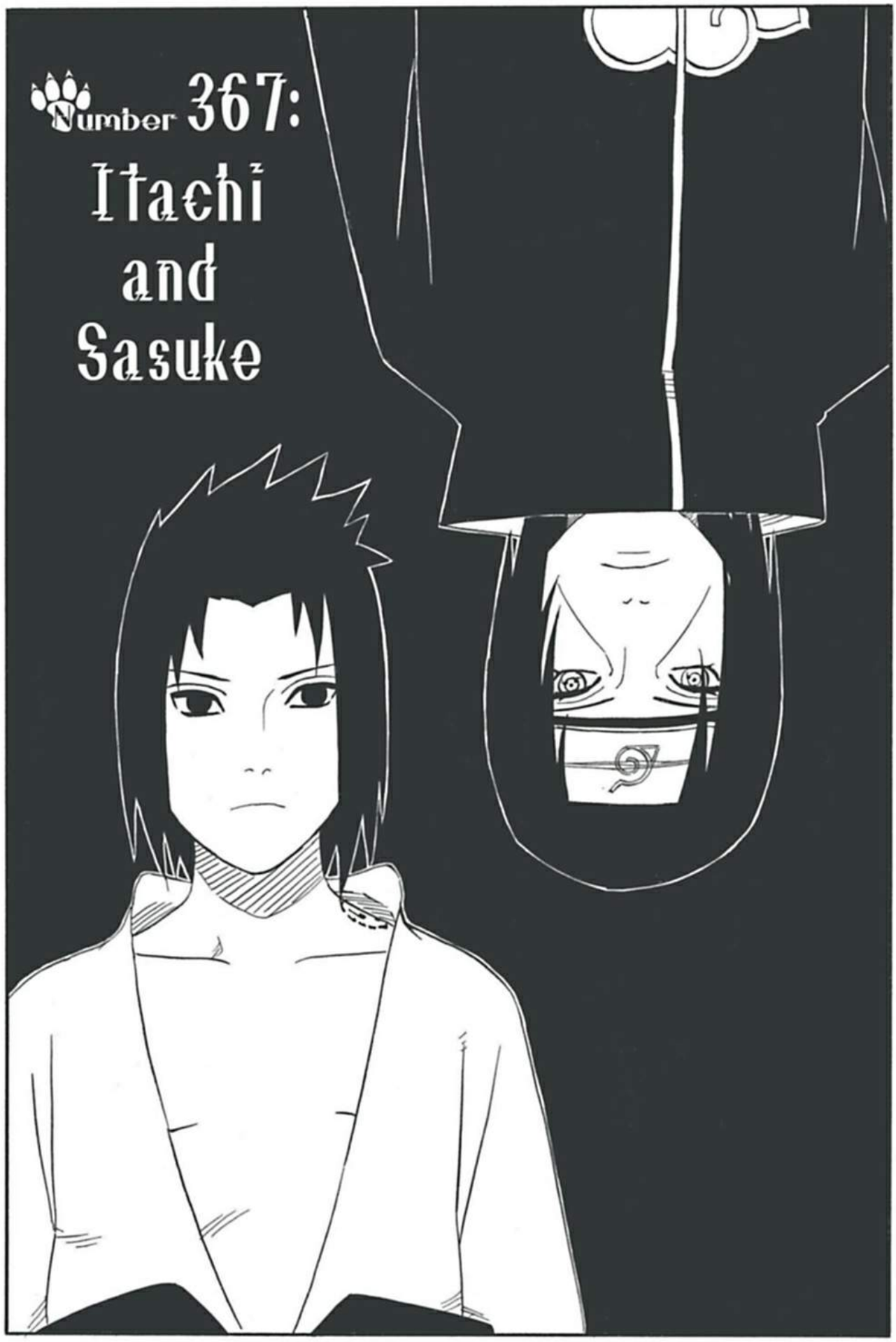
SO. YOU'VE COME AT LAST ...


?!?!

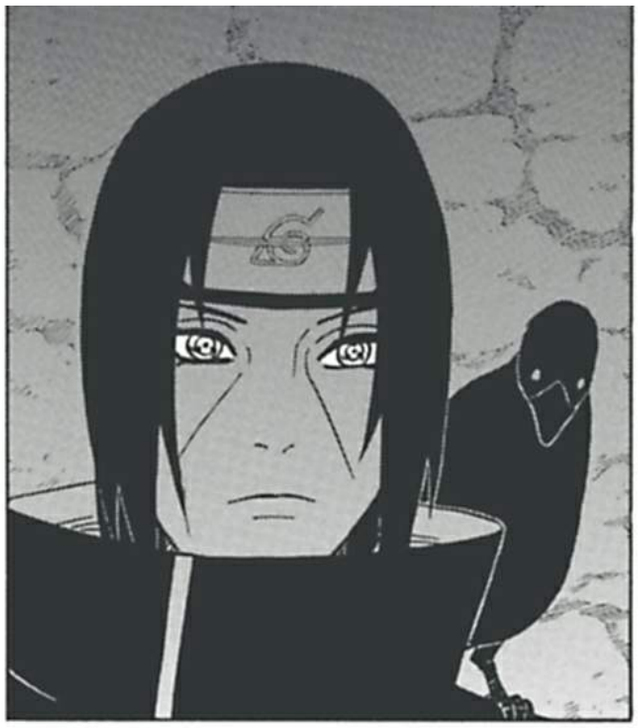

...SASUKE.
IT'S ME...

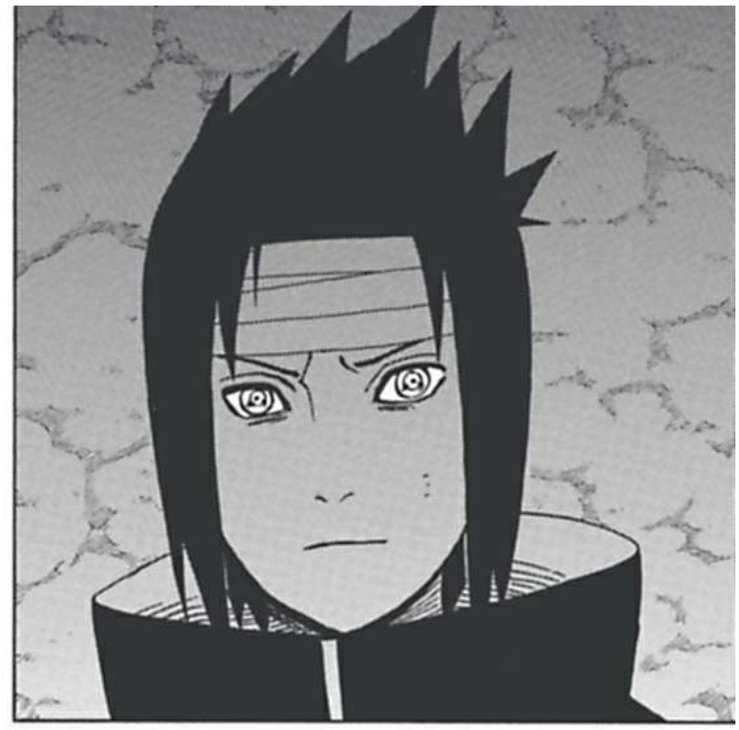

SWOO!!!

NARUTO



Number 367: Itachi and Sasuke





YOU LOOK TALLER...

HEH ...

...GOING TO JUST GO CRAZY AND CHARGE ME LIKE LAST TIME, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT...

YOUR EYES STILL COLD...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

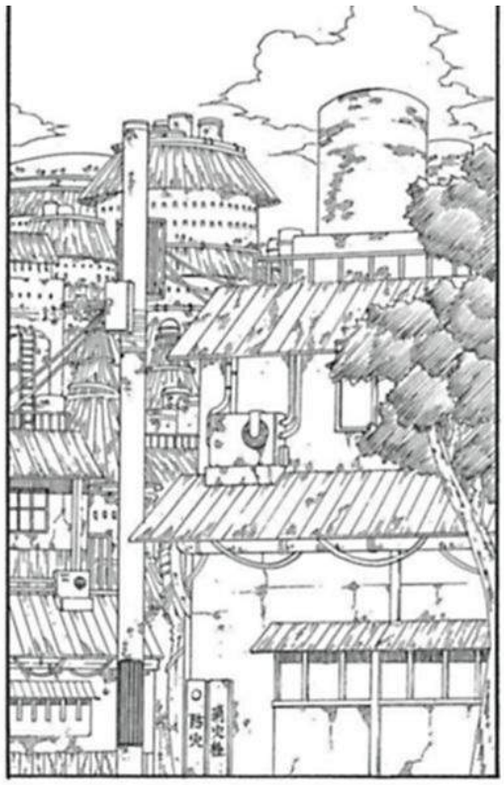
READ THIS WAY
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME...
...!
SWISH
TUP

CAW!
ZUSHA
THUNK

ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP

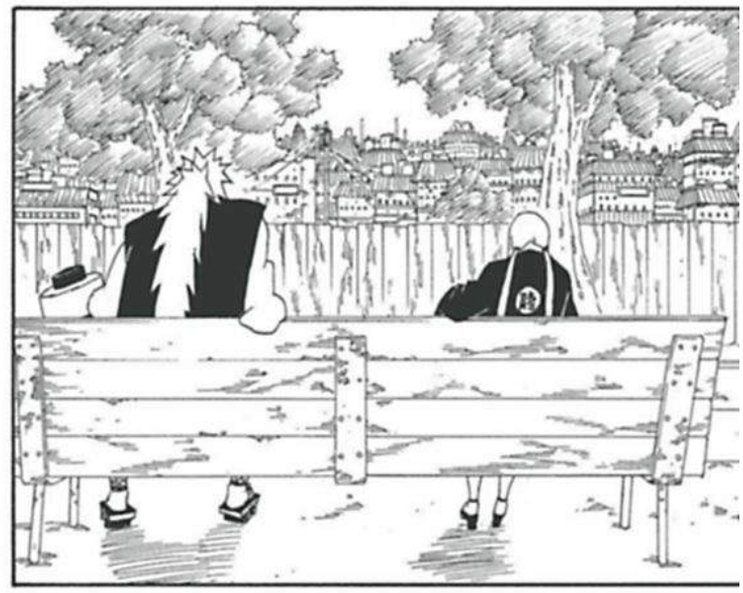
?!

BLLLAP

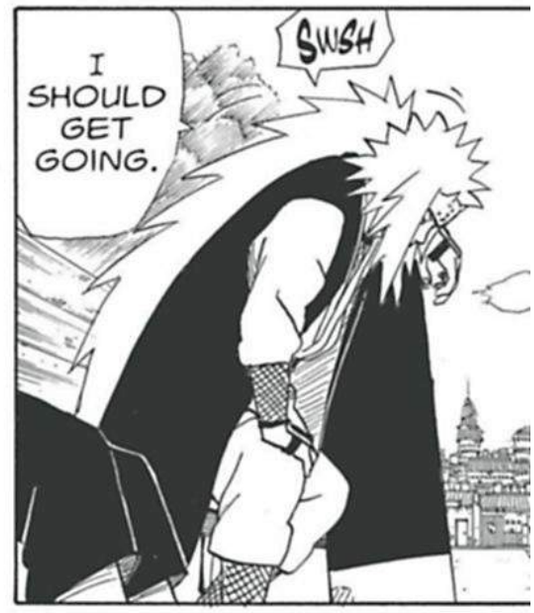


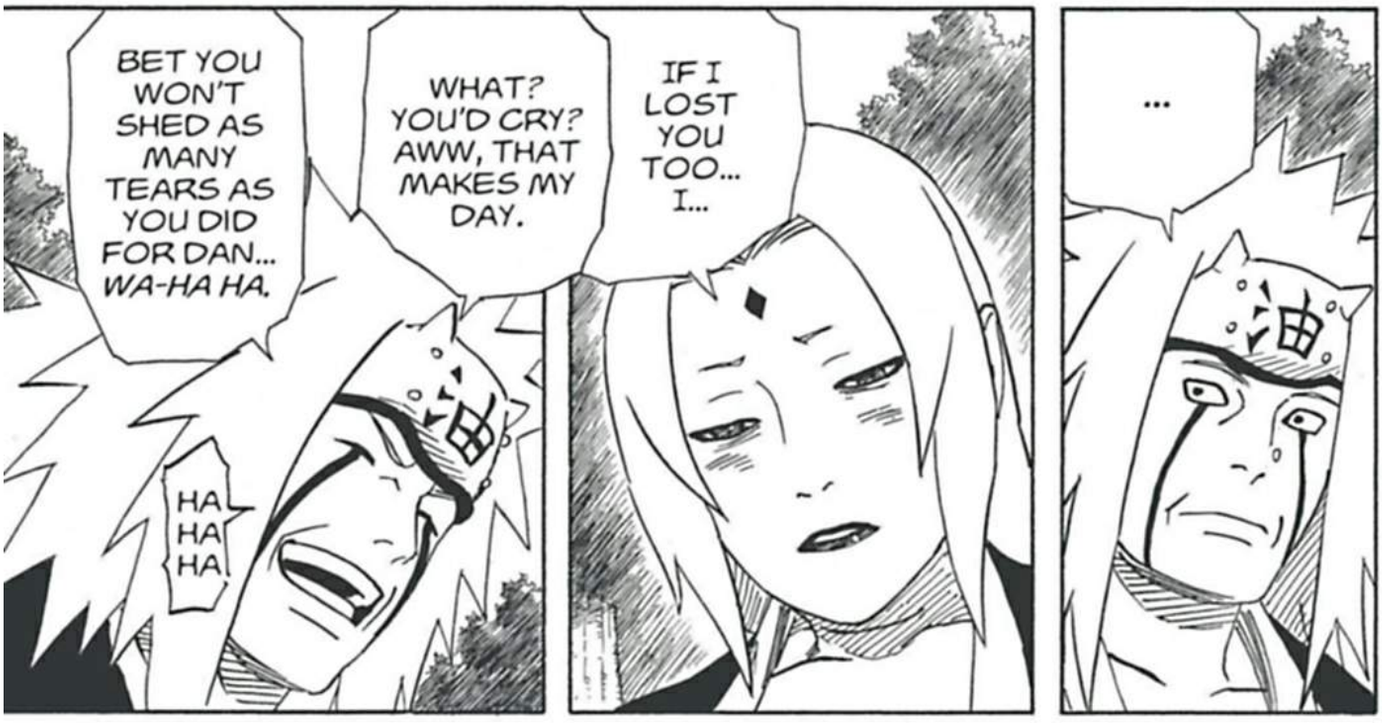
YOU'RE AN EVEN WORSE DRUNK THAN ME.
WHY DON'T WE GO SIT SOME-WHERE AND REST.

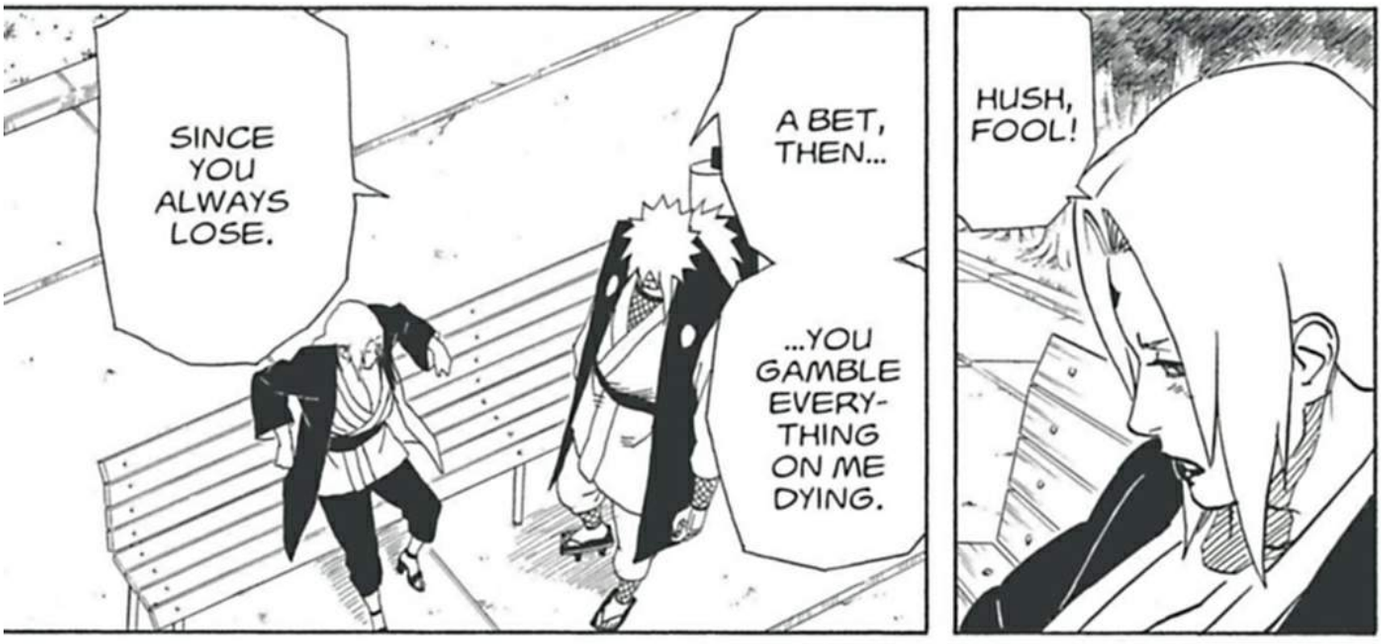
WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW STRONG THEY ARE...
...AND YET YOU'RE GOING TO INTEN-TIONALLY LEAP RIGHT INTO THEIR LAIR?!
THE AKA-TSUKI...
...THEY'VE MANAGED TO AS-SEMBLE QUITE A FORMIDA-BLE CREW.

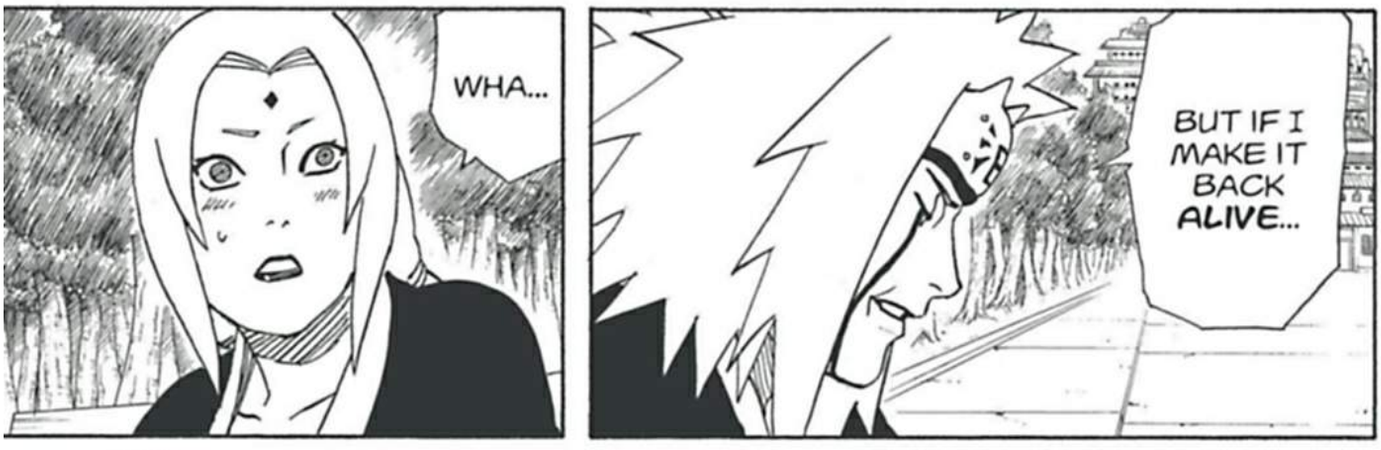


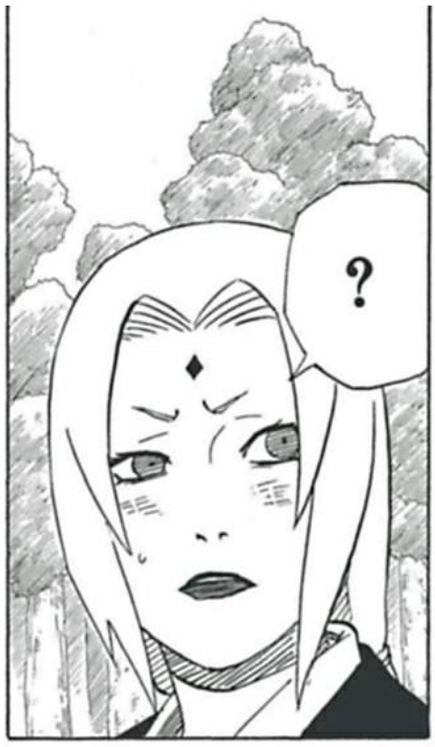
JIRAIYA, JUST... COME BACK ALIVE...


I SHOULD GET GOING.
SWSH


BET YOU WON'T SHED AS MANY TEARS AS YOU DID FOR DAN... WA-HA HA.
HA HA HA
WHAT? YOU'D CRY? AWW, THAT MAKES MY DAY.
IF I LOST YOU TOO... I...
...


SINCE YOU ALWAYS LOSE.
A BET, THEN...
...YOU GAMBLE EVERY-THING ON ME DYING.
HUSH, FOOL!

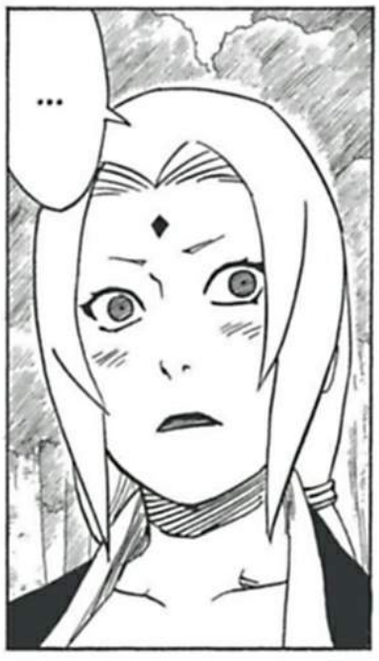

WHA...
BUT IF I MAKE IT BACK ALIVE...


?

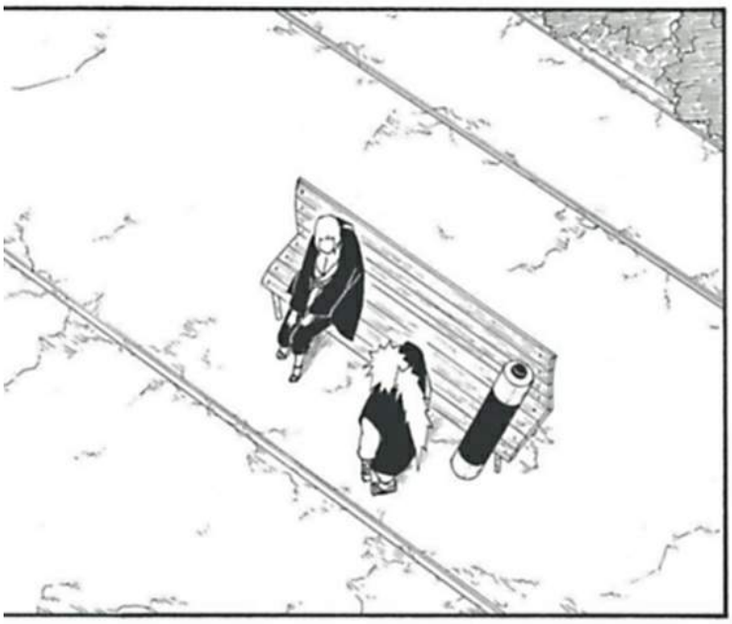
I'M SO GRATE-FUL TO YOU, YOU KNOW.
GWA-HA HA, JUST KIDDING, JUST KIDDING!

SO A MAN'S ONLY JOB IS TO BE STRONG?

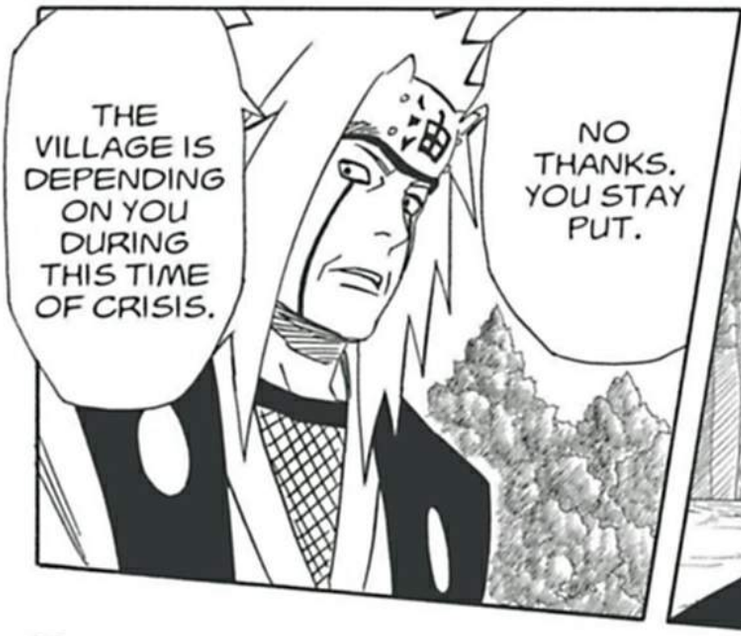
IF YOU CAN'T LAUGH ABOUT IT... OR AT LEAST USE IT AS WRITING MATERIAL ...
...YOU'RE NOT A REAL MAN.
REJEC-TION MAKES MEN STRON-GER.
MAKE-OUT PARADISE


...

BASICALLY. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS ISN'T FOR US...

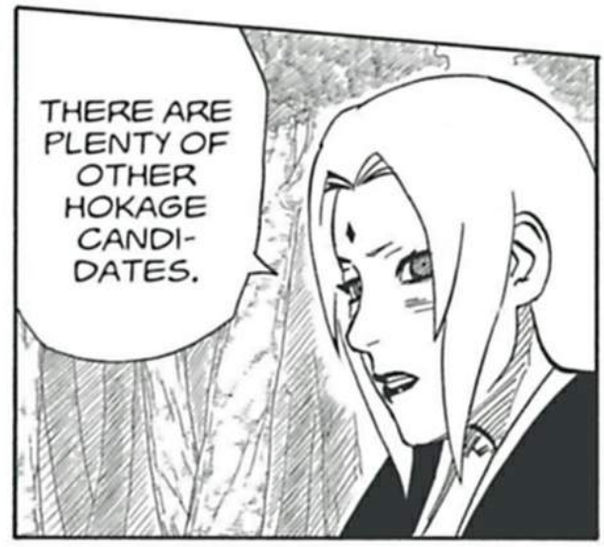


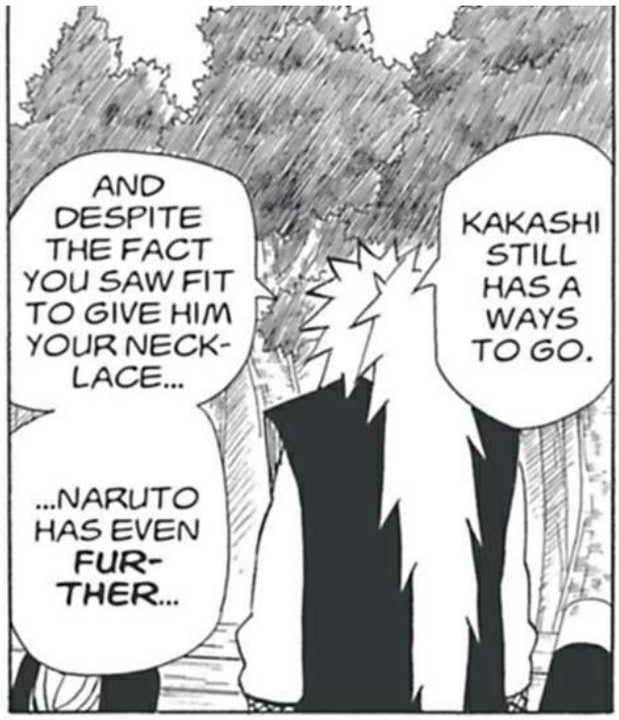
IF THERE WEREN'T ANY WOMEN, THERE WOULD BE NO REJECTION EITHER.
HUMPH... YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT.
HA HA, FOR SURE.


THE VILLAGE IS DEPENDING ON YOU DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS.
NO THANKS. YOU STAY PUT.

I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY.
ANYTHING HAPPENS, YOU'LL SEND WORD VIA TOAD, ALL RIGHT?

AND THERE IS NO BETTER HOKAGE IN KONOHA RIGHT NOW THAN YOU!
THE VILLAGE WON'T REMAIN STABLE IF ITS LEADER-SHIP KEEPS CHANGING.

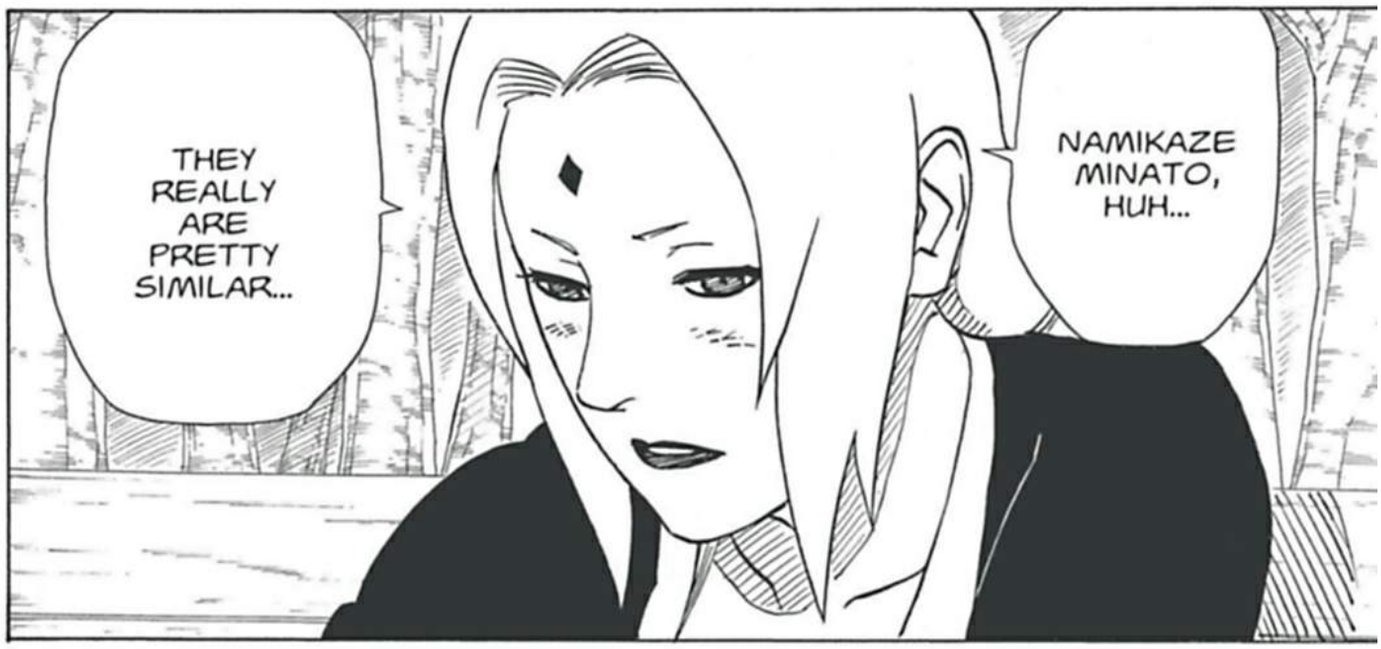

THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER HOKAGE CANDI-DATES.


AND DESPITE THE FACT YOU SAW FIT TO GIVE HIM YOUR NECK-LACE...
KAKASHI STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO.
...NARUTO HAS EVEN FUR-THER...

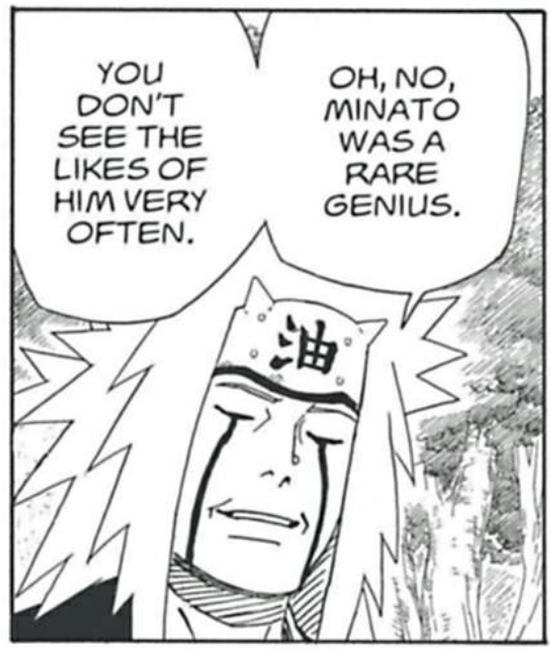
THERE'S KAKASHI...
...AND EVENTU-ALLY, NARUTO.

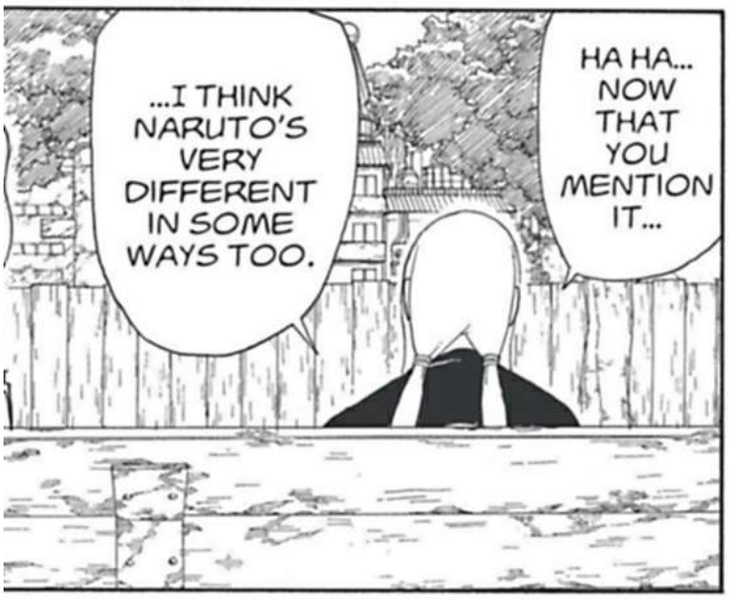
...OF THE TIME I TAUGHT MINATO.
YEAH, WELL... IT BROUGHT BACK MEMO-RIES...

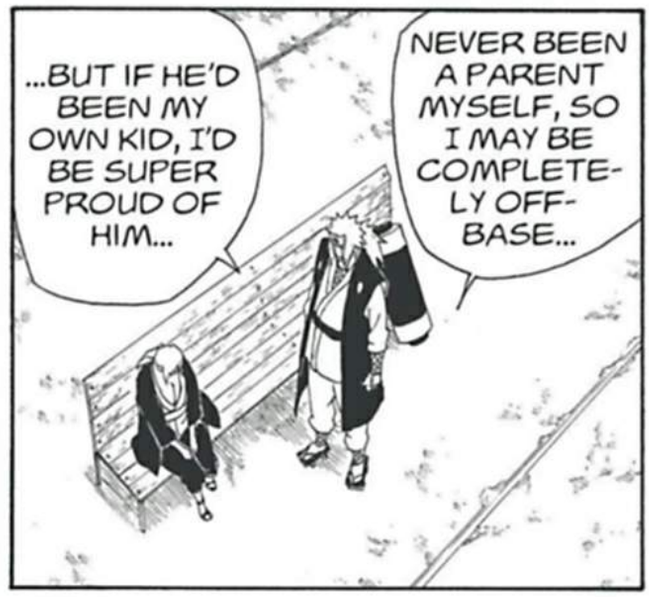
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, PUTTING SO MUCH OF YOUR ENERGY INTO TRAINING HIM...
...EVEN TEACH-ING HIM THE RASEN-GAN.

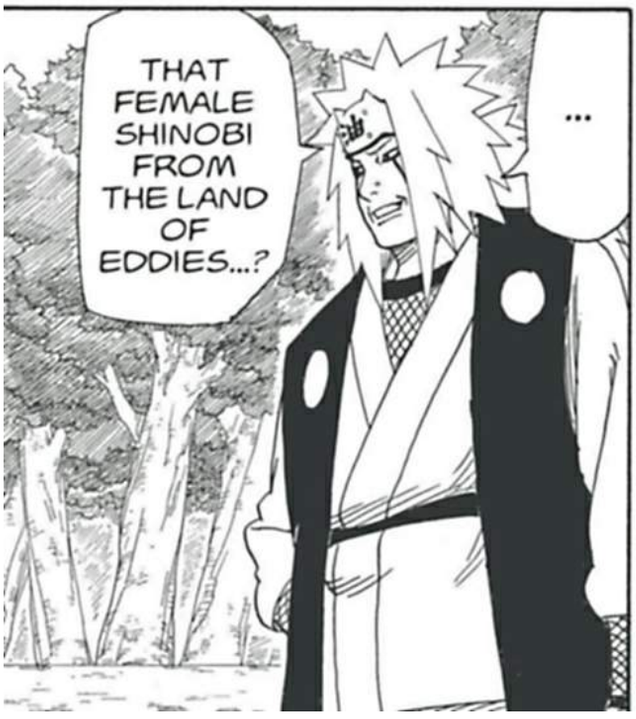

THEY REALLY ARE PRETTY SIMILAR...
NAMIKAZE MINATO, HUH...

BECAME THE FOURTH HOKAGE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
HE WAS KIND AND GENTLE, YET FIERCE AND FULL OF GRIT.


YOU DON'T SEE THE LIKES OF HIM VERY OFTEN.
OH, NO, MINATO WAS A RARE GENIUS.

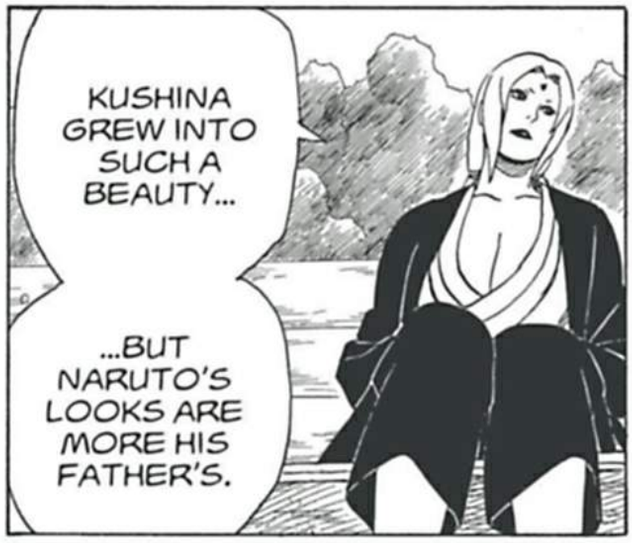

...I THINK NARUTO'S VERY DIFFERENT IN SOME WAYS TOO.
HA HA... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...


...BUT IF HE'D BEEN MY OWN KID, I'D BE SUPER PROUD OF HIM...
NEVER BEEN A PARENT MYSELF, SO I MAY BE COMPLETE-LY OFF-BASE...

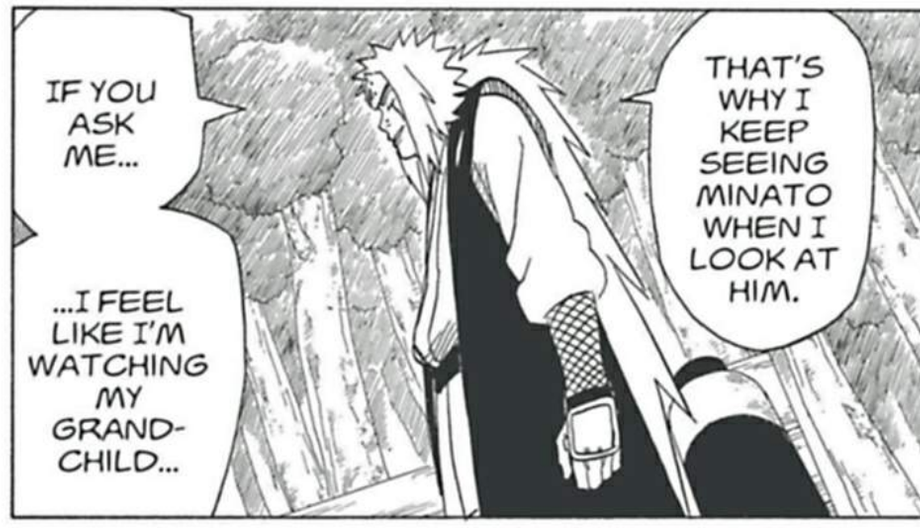

THAT FEMALE SHINOBI FROM THE LAND OF EDDIES...?
...

HE'S MORE LIKE HIS MOTHER...

YEAH... HIS PERSONALITY AND NINJUTSU STYLE...
...HE DEFINITELY GOT FROM UZUMAKI KUSHINA.


KUSHINA GREW INTO SUCH A BEAUTY...
...BUT NARUTO'S LOOKS ARE MORE HIS FATHER'S.

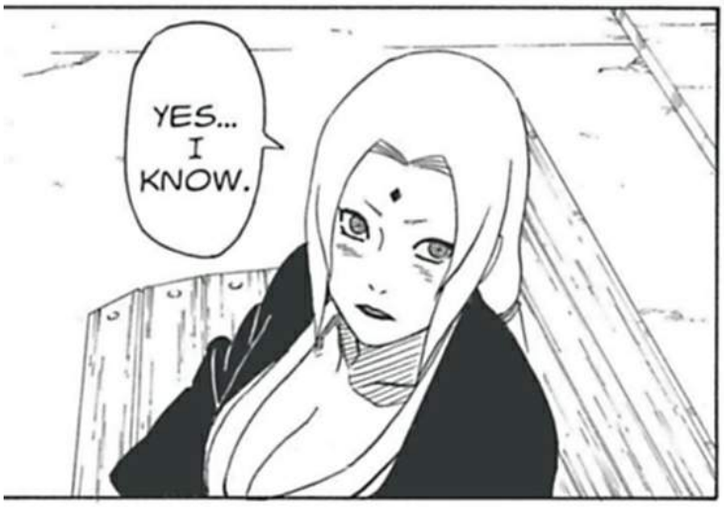
AAH, RIGHT, THAT'S THE NAME!
SHE WAS A CHATTY, RED-HEADED MINX...
...QUITE THE TOMBOY ...!
油


THAT'S WHY I KEEP SEEING MINATO WHEN I LOOK AT HIM.
IF YOU ASK ME...
...I FEEL LIKE I'M WATCHING MY GRAND-CHILD...

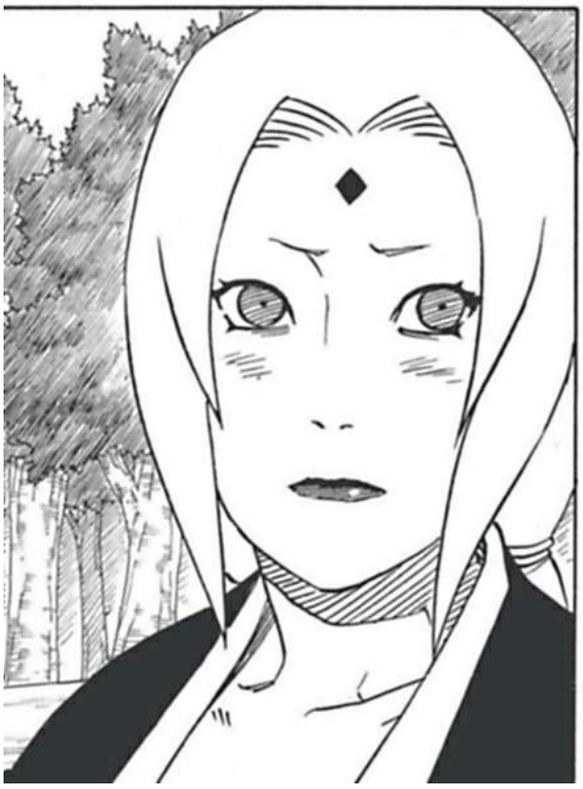
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I HAD ONE LAST WARNING FOR YOU...
?
SWISH

...

NOW... I REALLY OUGHT TO GET GOING.
TAP

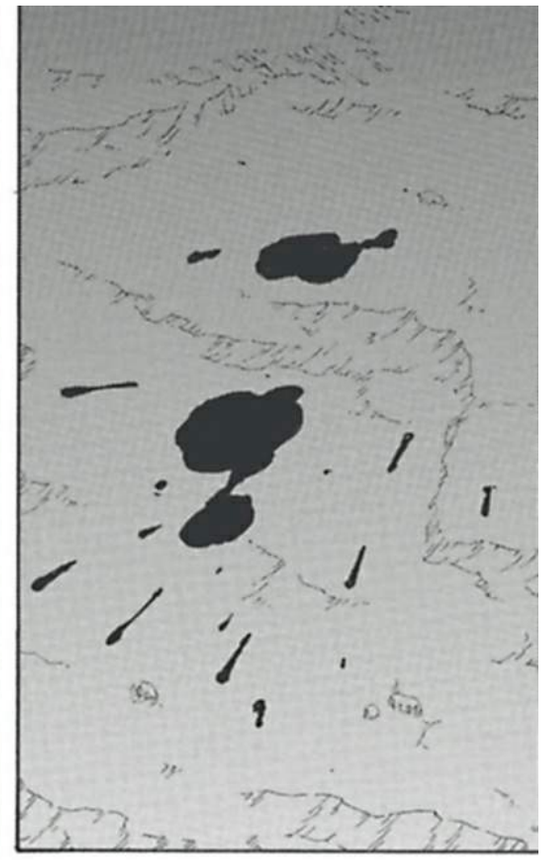

YES... I KNOW.

...BEWARE THE FOUN-DATION.



GOOD. GLAD YOU DO!
WELL, THEN...

SHUP



FLAP FLAP

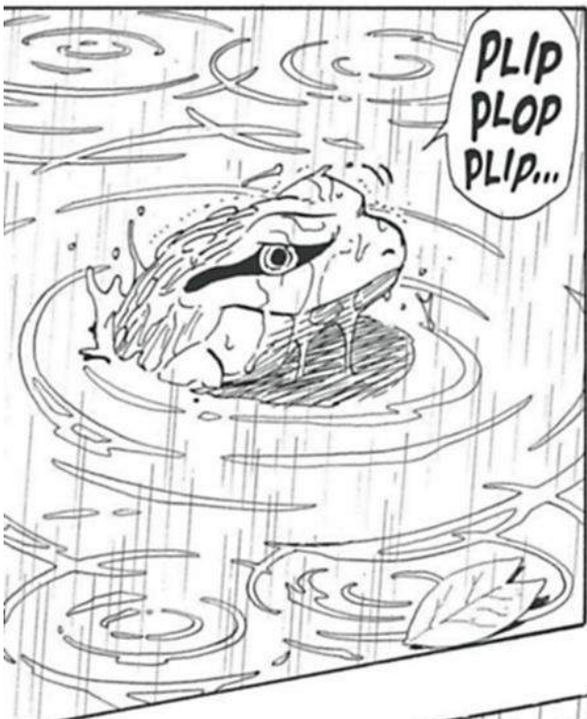
!

YOU'VE... GOTTEN STRON-GER...

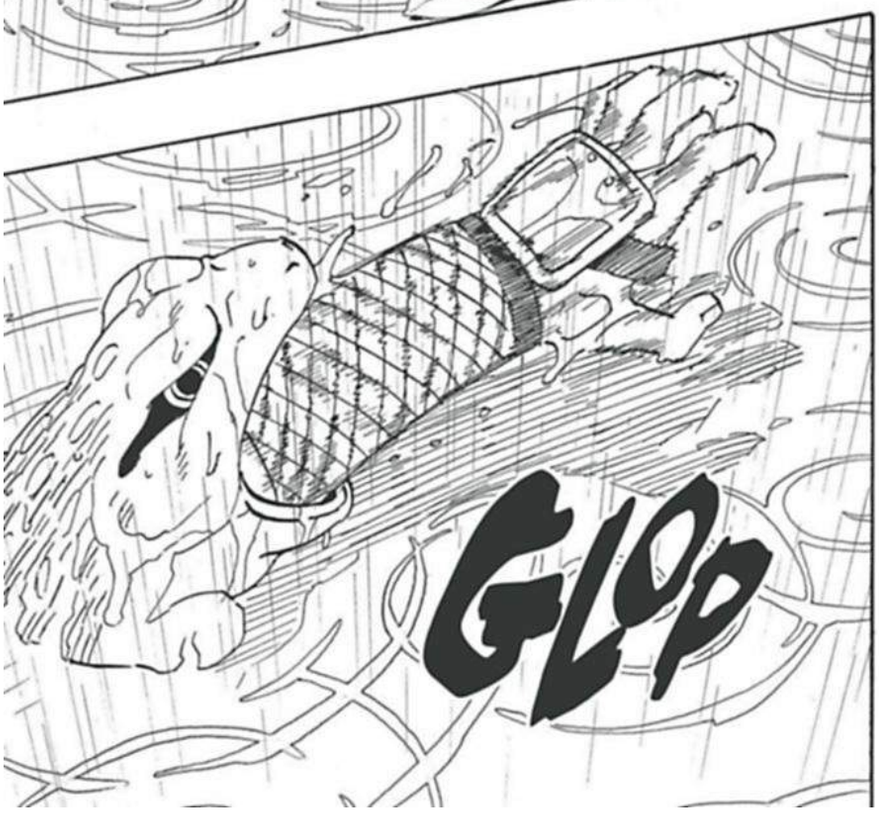
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

WE'LL SETTLE THIS THERE.

MEET ME AT THE UCHIHA HIDEOUT. ALONE.

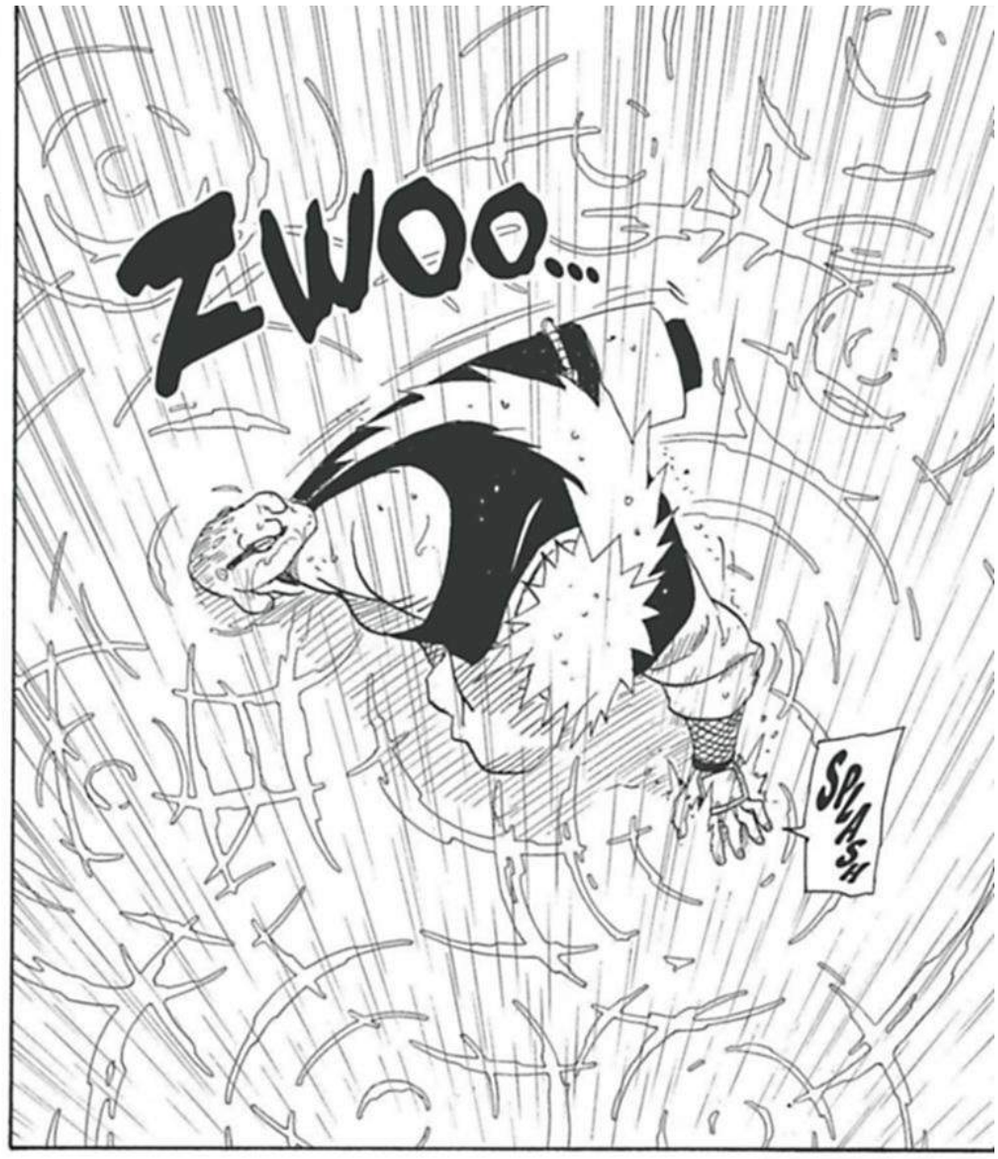

PLIP PLOP PLIP...

VOOSH


GLOP

AAAH

SQUELCH


ZWOO...
SPLASH

EXCEPTIONALLY EASILY, IN FACT...
INFILTRATION ACCOMPLISHED...
WHISH
油

VOOSH

VOOSH

...TOO EASILY, PERHAPS?

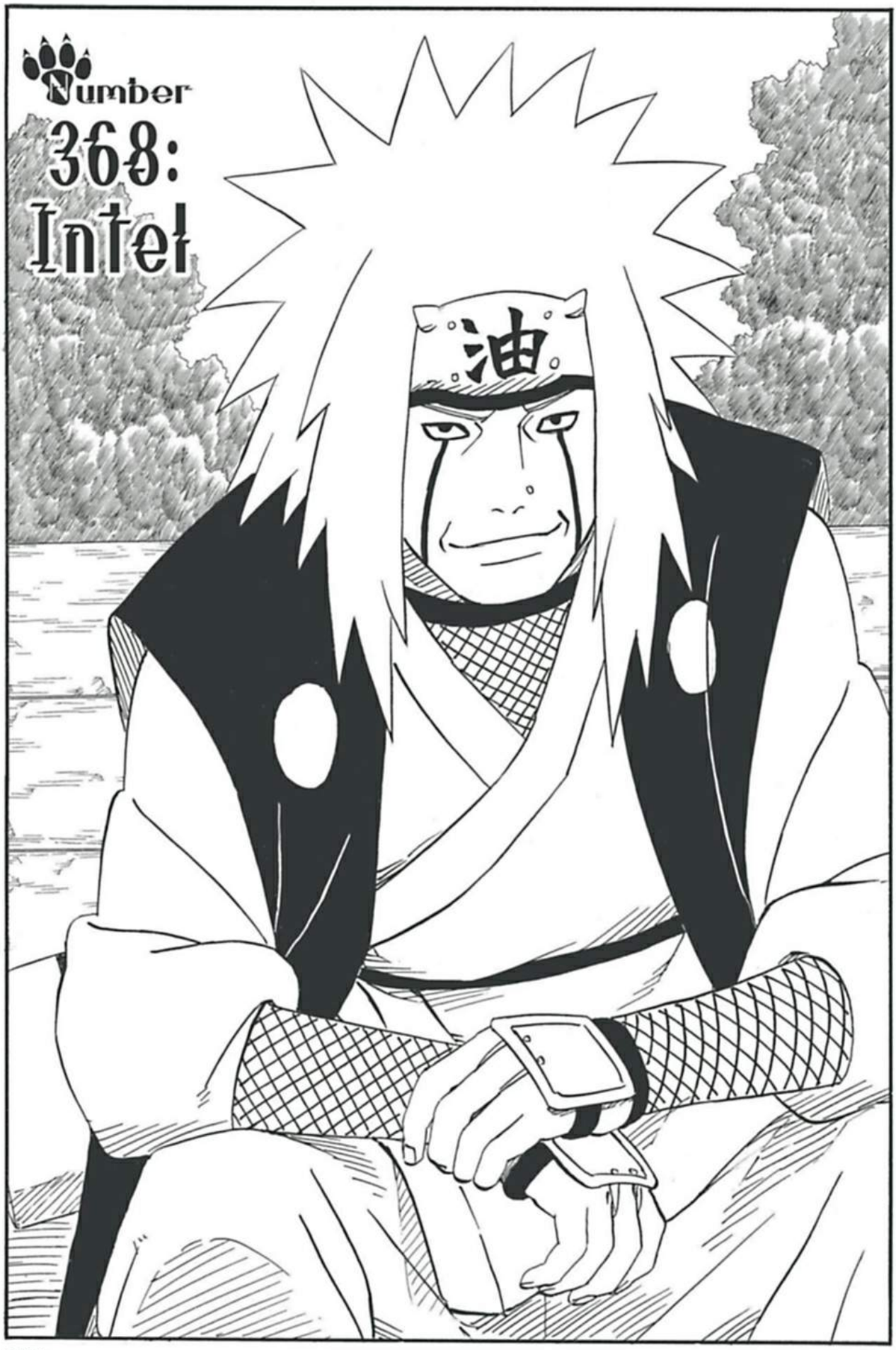
SOMEONE HAS CIRCUMVENTED MY RAIN.

FROM THE FEEL OF HIS CHAKRA... HE'S A THREAT...

WHAT IS IT?

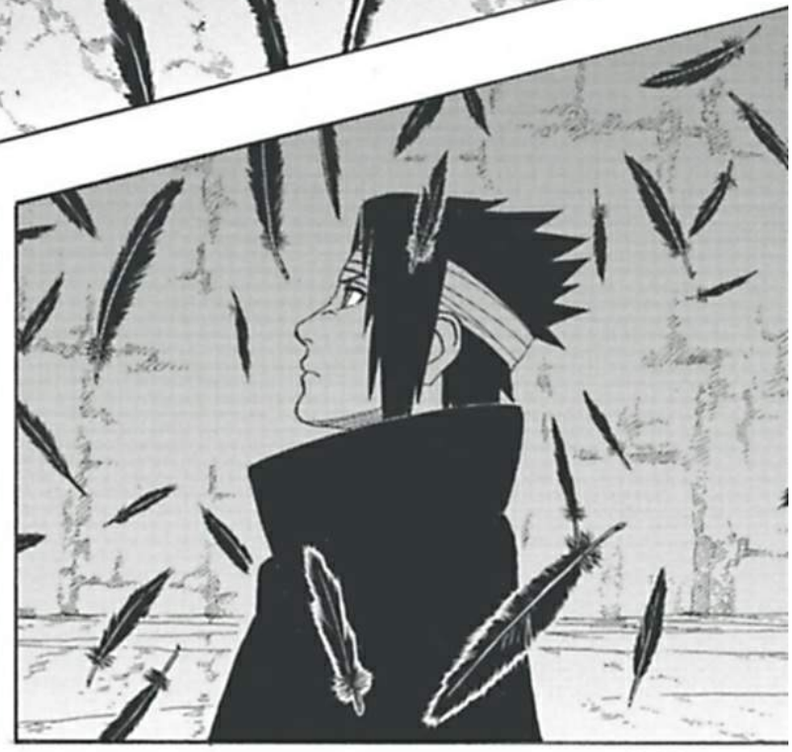
!

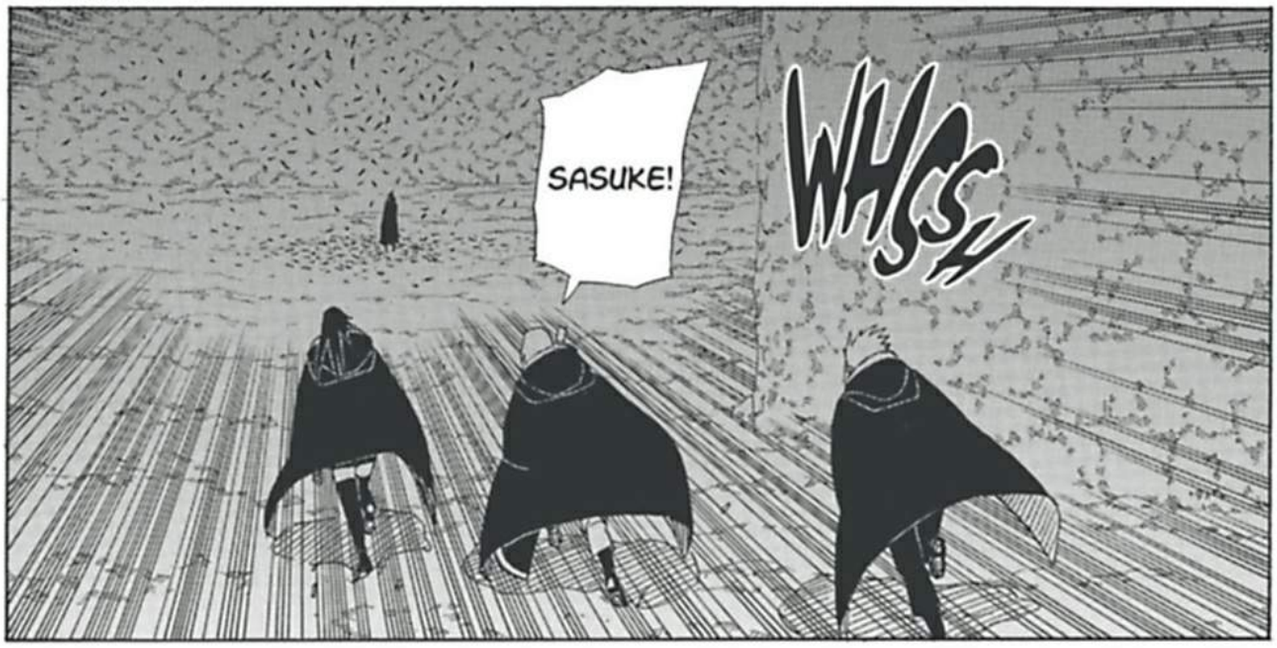
NARUTO


Number
368:
Intel
油

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

FLAP




SASUKE!
WHSSH

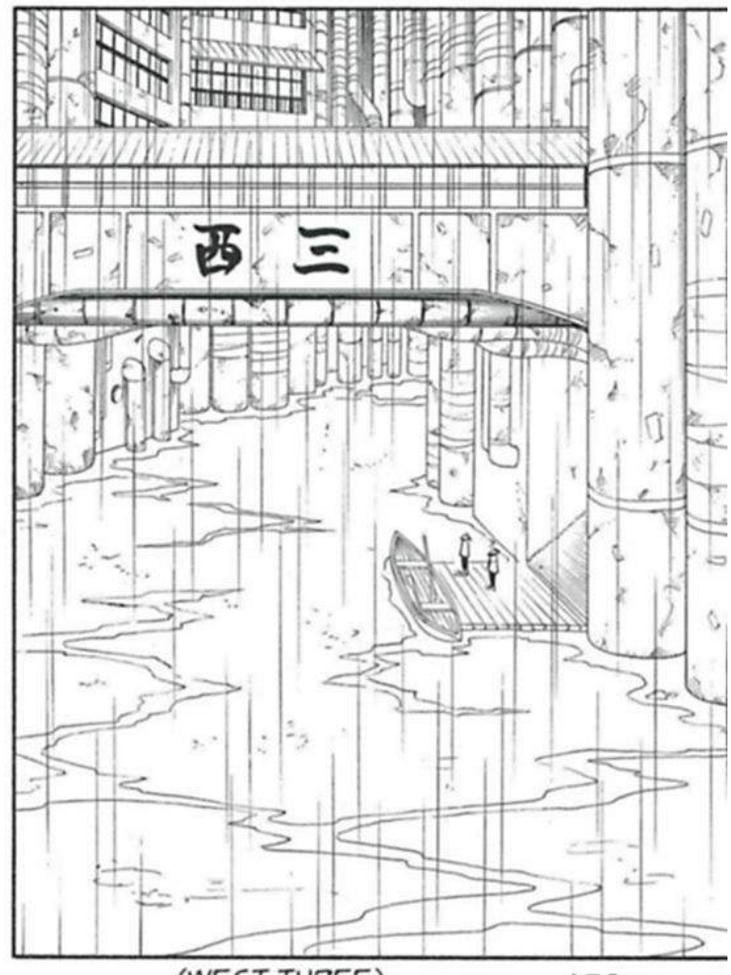
FEATHERS ...?

WE GOT WORRIED.
KARIN SAID SHE SENSED ANOTHER CHAKRA HERE.

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU ALL NOT TO MOVE UNTIL I GAVE THE ORDER.

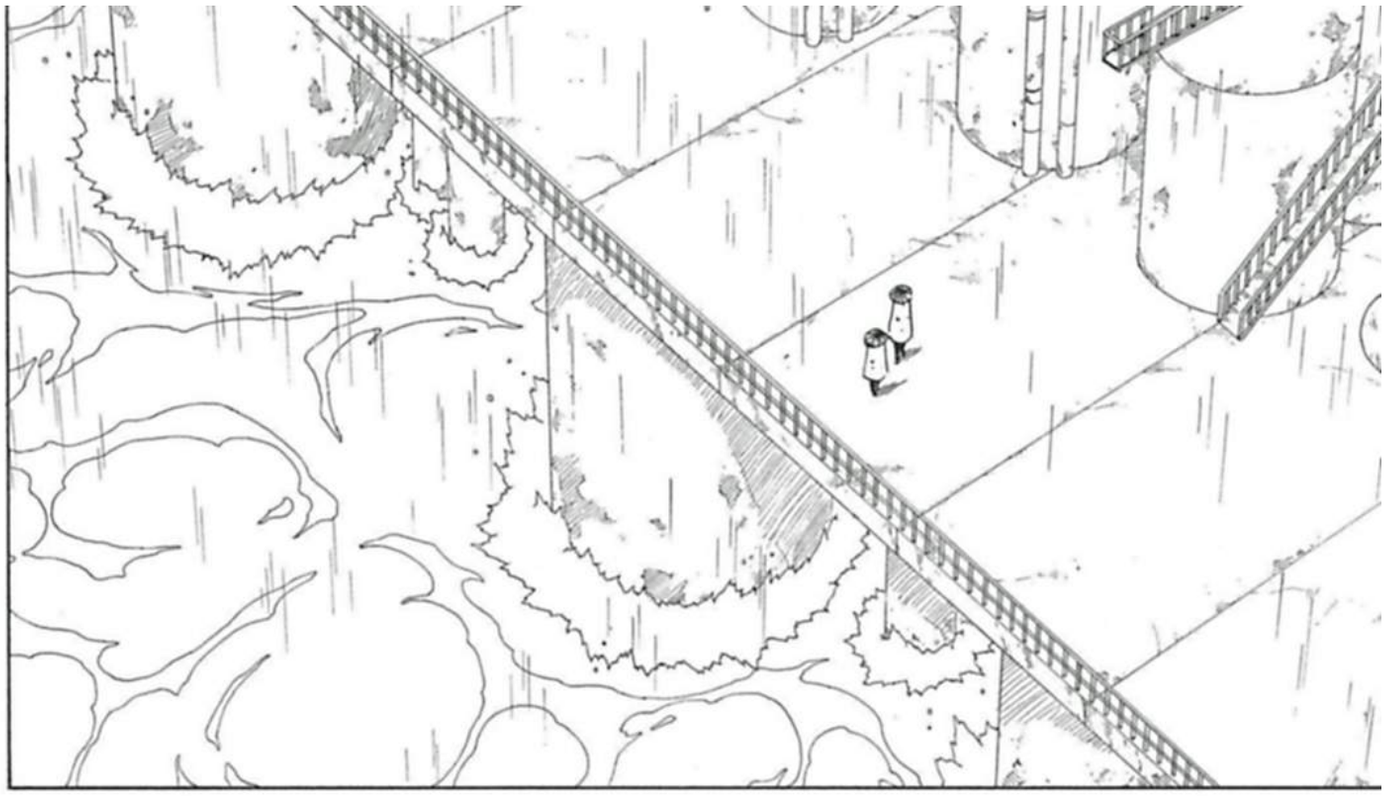
WE'RE LEAV-ING...
FOLLOW ME.

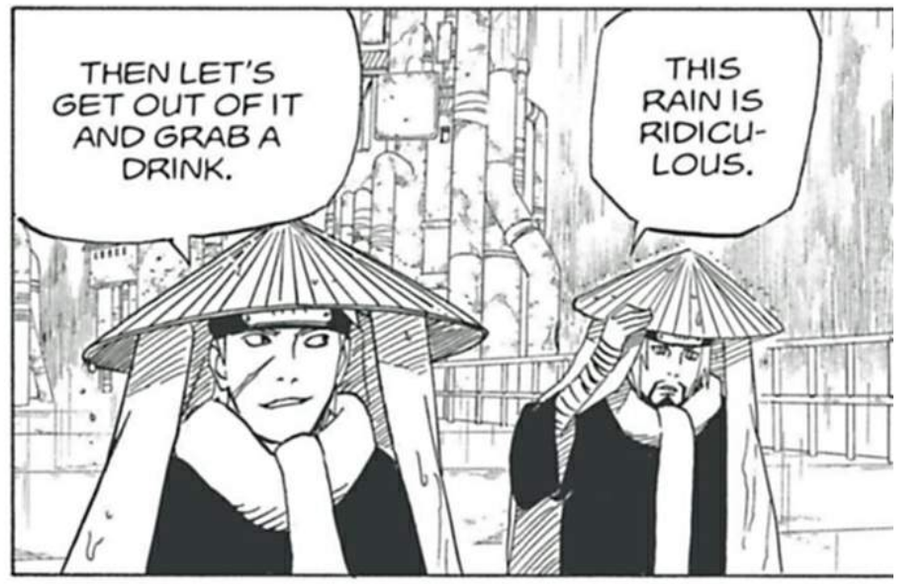
KRUNCH



(WEST THREE)

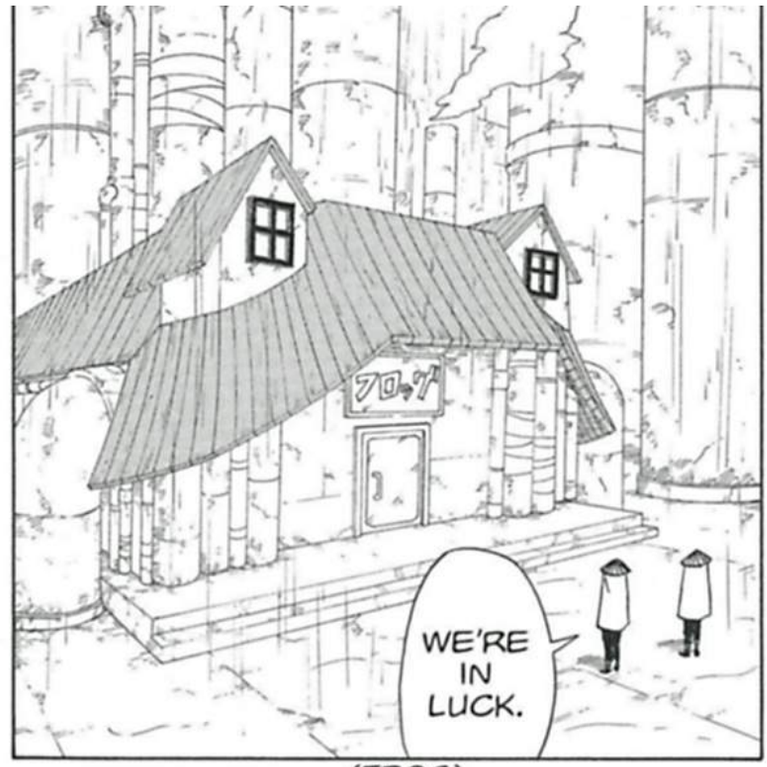
READ THIS WAY
KONAN... WHEN I STOP THE RAIN, FERRET OUT THE INTRUDER WITH YOUR JUTSU.
OF COURSE.
FWP. FWP.
ON IT.
LET'S DO THIS.
KLAP





(GRAND OPENING, CLUB TOAD)

KLAK
WELCOME!


WE'RE IN LUCK.

(FROG)

KLATTER
TODAY'S NOT SUNDAY, RIGHT?

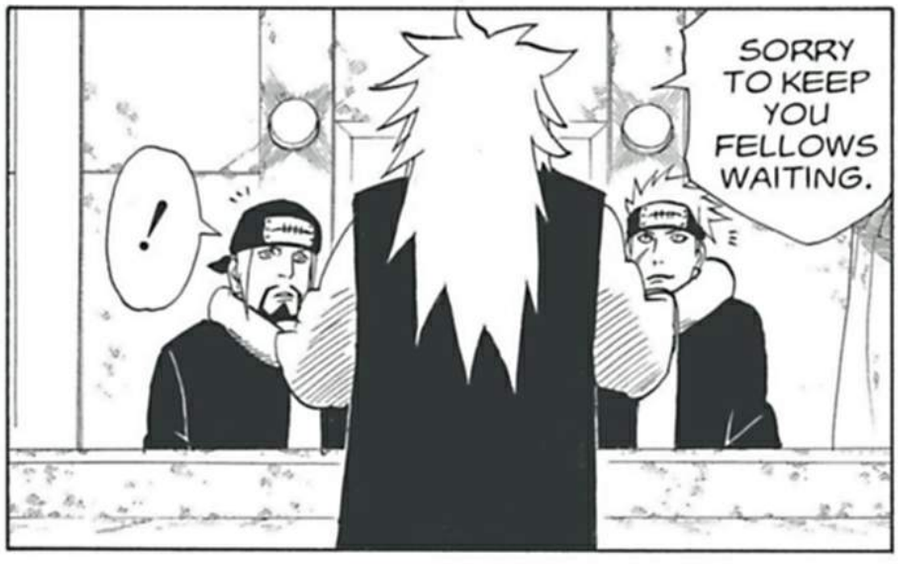
VOOSH
GIVE US SAKE AND SOME SNACKS.
JUST TWO.

BUT FOR IT TO RAIN ON A SUNDAY?
THAT'S UNUSUAL...

MAYBE HE'S OFF IN SOME OTHER NATION...?
SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON WITH LORD PAIN.
THUNK

SO QUIT WHINING!
HEY...!
LORD PAIN GIVES SO MUCH OF HIMSELF FOR ALL OF US IN THIS CITY.

MAYBE... BUT THIS MUCH RAIN...
MAYBE IT'S A MATTER THAT REQUIRES QUITE A BIT OF POWER.


!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU FELLOWS WAITING.

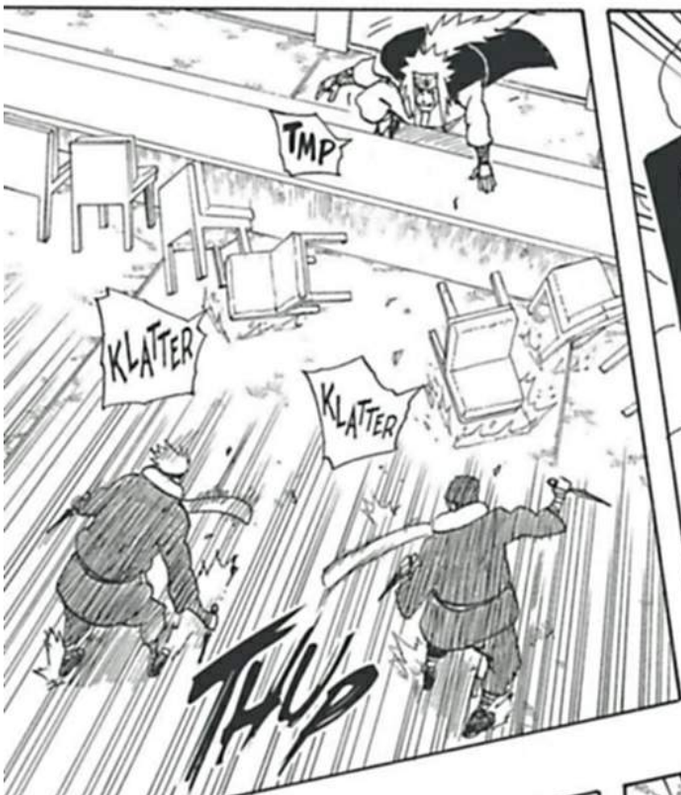
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

TODAY, WE HAVE OUR GRAND OPENING SPECIAL...

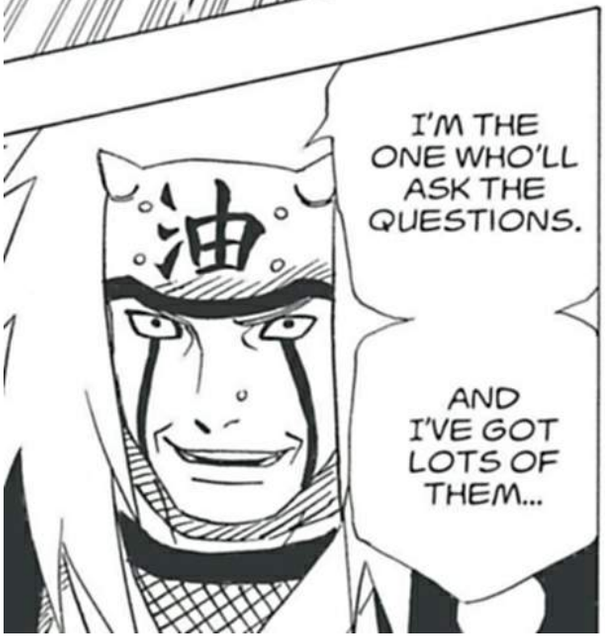
BUT YOU HAVEN'T SERVED US ANYTHING YET?!
HUH...?

YOU TWO ARE INCREDIBLY LUCKY.

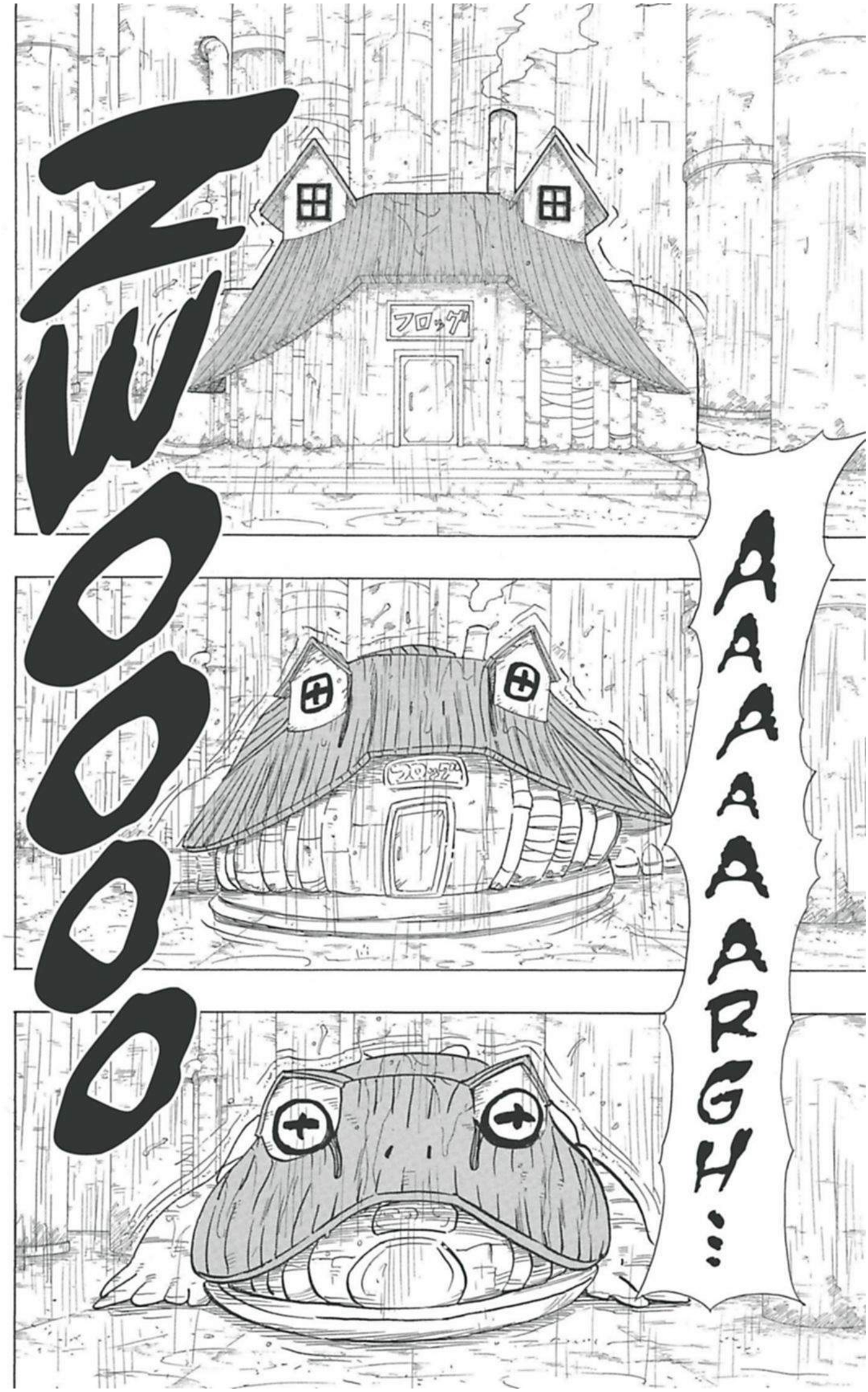
WHOA! REALLY?


TMP
KLATTER
KLATTER
THUP

BO
油
OF


油
I'M THE ONE WHO'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS.
AND I'VE GOT LOTS OF THEM...

HUH!? WHO ARE YOU?!

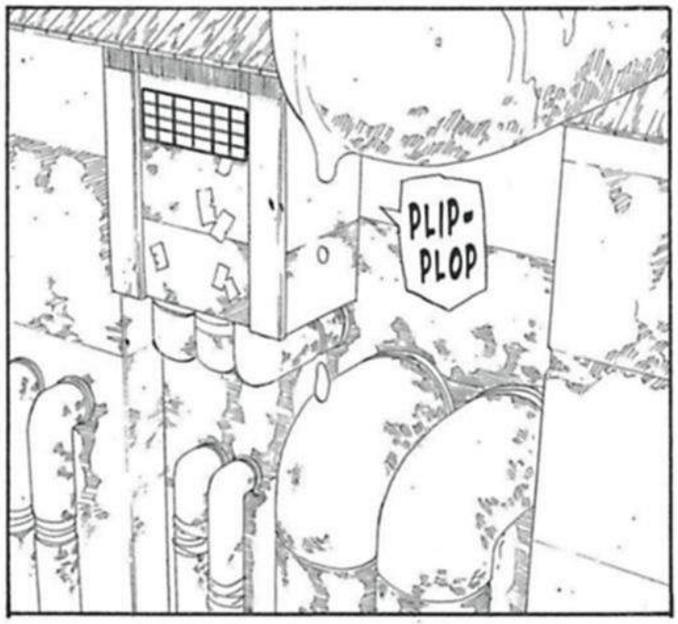

ZWOOO
フロッグ
AAAAAARGH…

READ THIS WAY
ZWOOOO
POInK
POInK
SPLASH!
OOSH!

青栄
白

青失灰
幻想
白鯨亭
露旅人
危

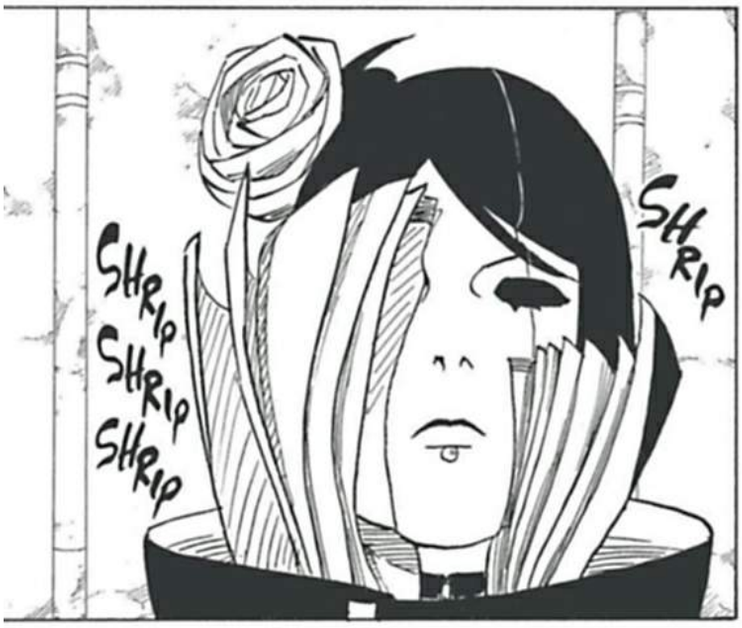
青失灰
幻想
白鯨亭
露旅人
危


PLIP-
PLOP

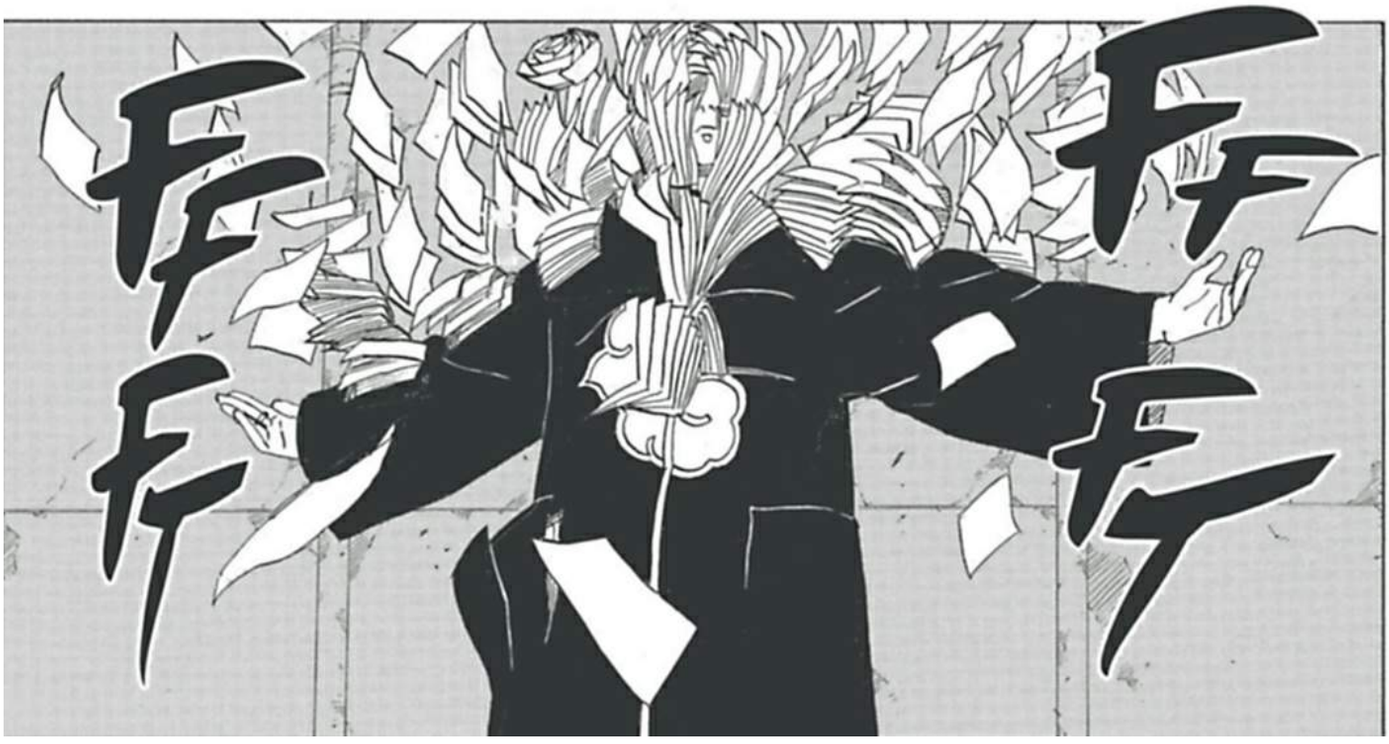
青失灰
幻想
露旅人
危

ON IT.

DO IT, KONAN. NOW...


SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP

FFFT


FF
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WHOOO SH

FFFT
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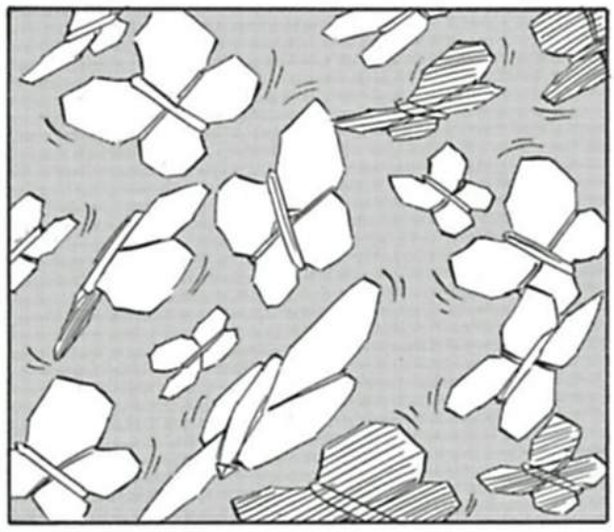
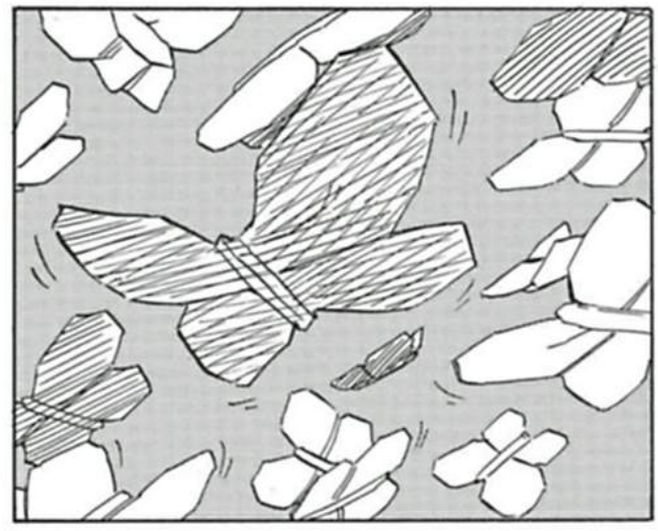
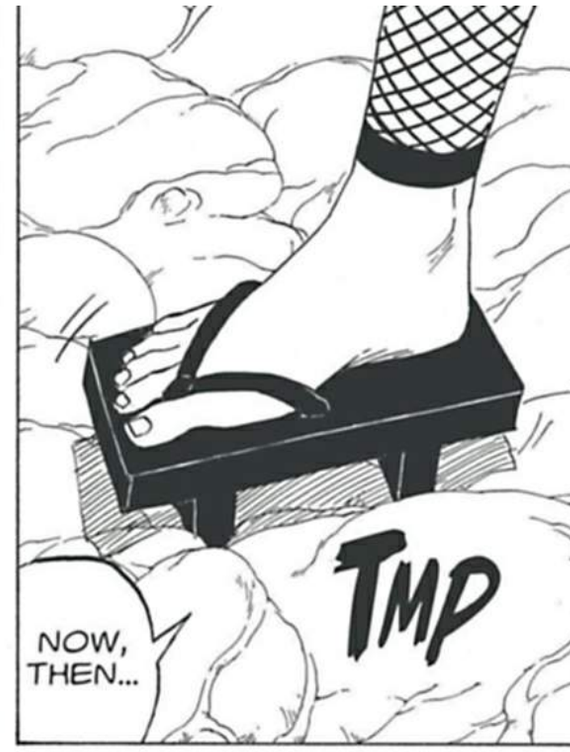
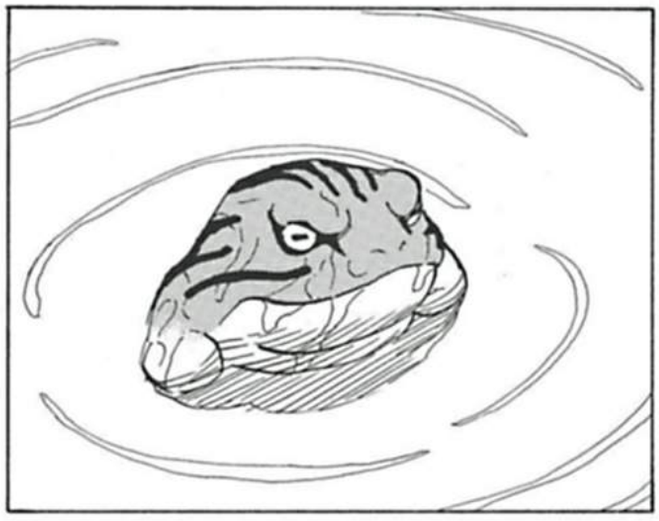




...YOU MUST BE SHINOBI-UNDER-LINGS, BY THE LOOK OF YOU-NO?
FROM THE WAY YOU WERE TWIRLING THOSE KUNAI KNIVES...


TMP
NOW, THEN...

GAH...!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!



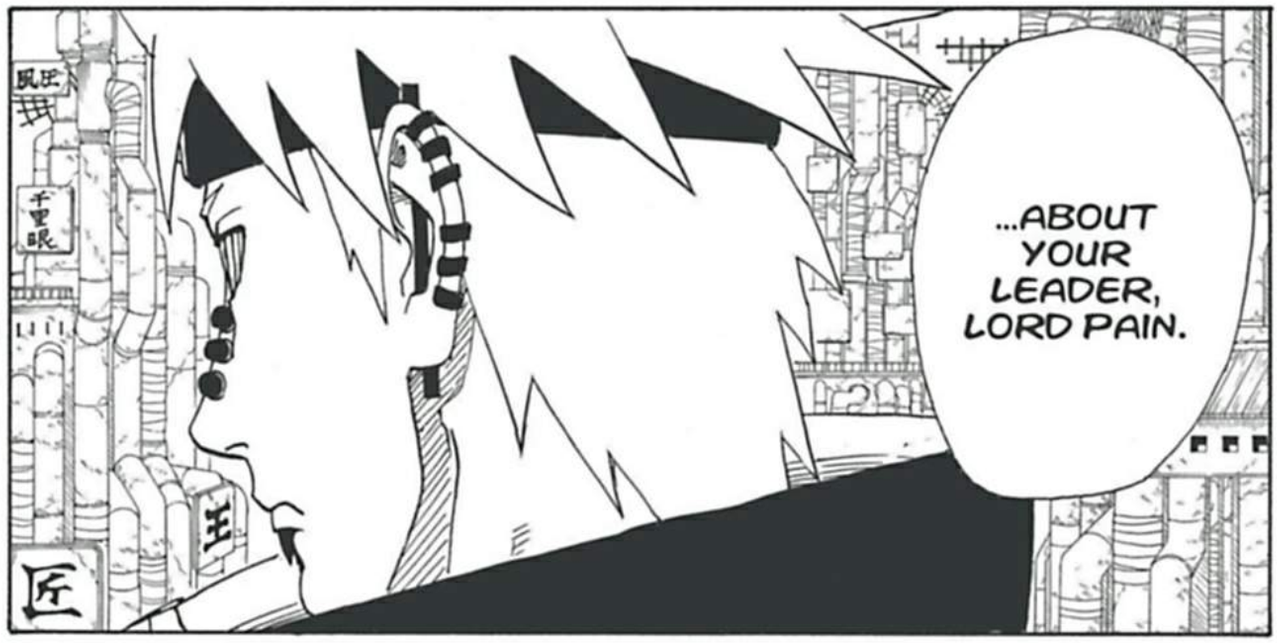
YOU'RE INSIDE THE STOMACH OF A TOAD.

...DIDN'T I?
SWISH
I TOLD YOU I'LL BE THE ONE ASKING QUESTIONS...

WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE FROM LAUGHING TOO MUCH, YOU BETTER ANSWER ALL OF MY QUESTIONS...
TICK-LING! WHAT ELSE ?

WHAT'S THAT FEATHER FOR?
...


...ABOUT YOUR LEADER, LORD PAIN.

NARUTO

Number 369: Regarding Pain

GYA-HA HA HA HA HA!

DON'T GIVE IN!

SCRATCH SCRATCH

UGH... PFF... U-NNN H...

TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT PAIN.

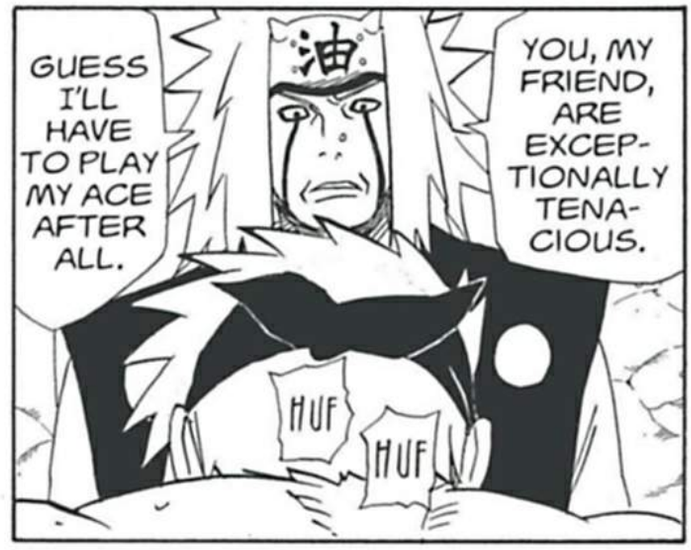
NOW SPILL IT!

...BETRAY... NO MATTER... WHAT... PFF...

SCRATCH

I WOULD NEVER... UGGH...

WHAT'S THAT?!


GUESS I'LL HAVE TO PLAY MY ACE AFTER ALL.
YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE EXCEPTIONALLY TENACIOUS.
HUF
HUF

...

WELL, IF YOU ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO TALK, I SHALL USE MY JUTSU...
...TO FLOG YOU INTO FROGS!

...
...

FLOG ... FROG ...
GET IT?
G...

...

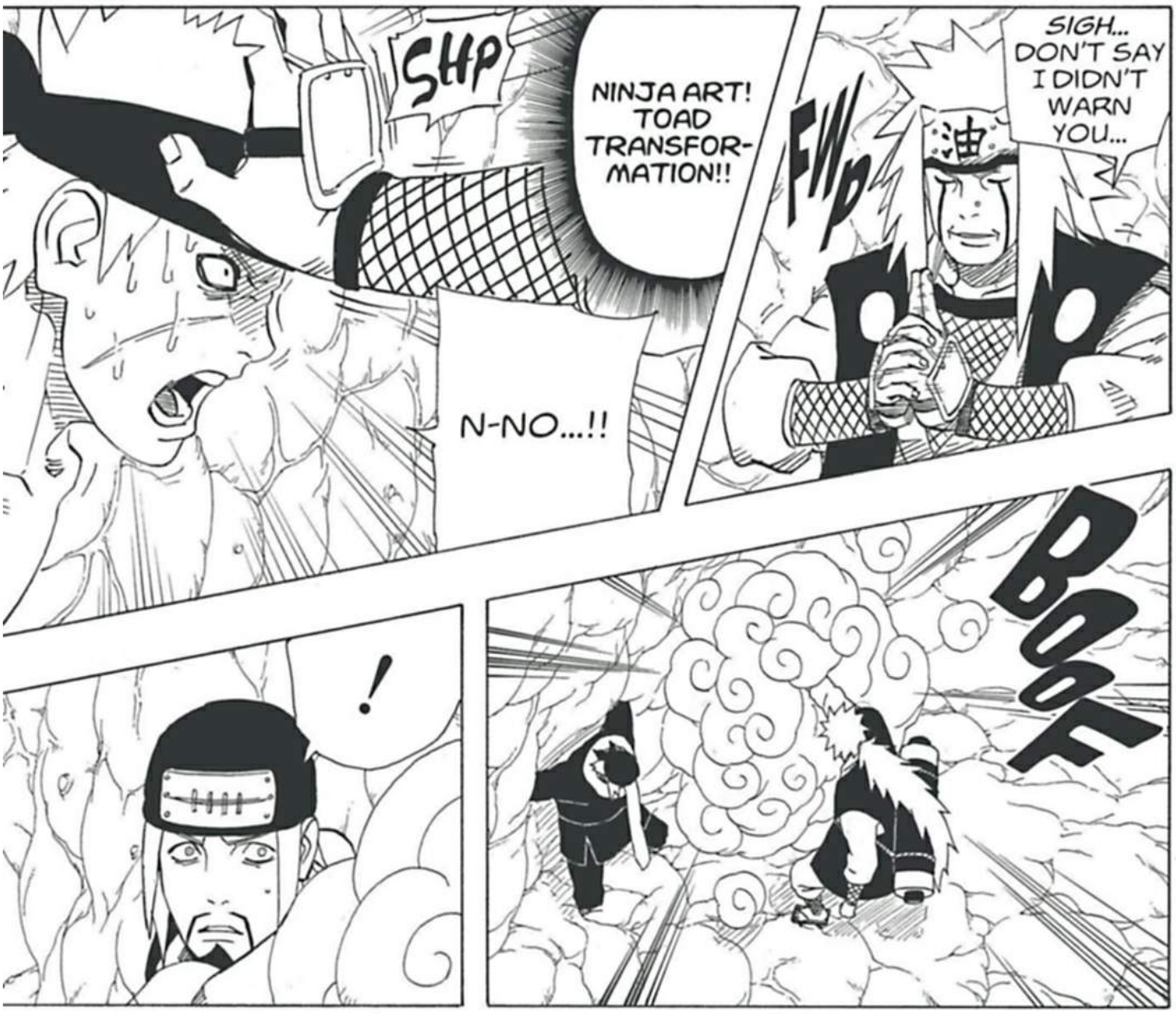
GYA-HA HA HA HA HA HA!

NOW SPILL IT!

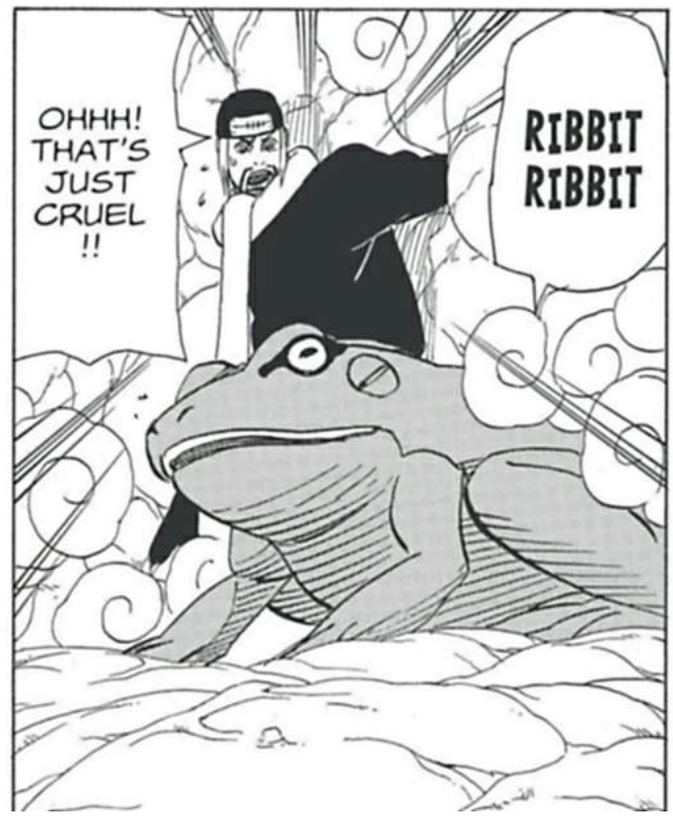
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!!
HA HA HA HA HA...
SLEIGH
SLEIGH

IT'S USELESS!
SO GO AHEAD! DO YOUR WORST!

WE WILL NEVER BETRAY OUR COMRADES!
WE MIGHT BE UNDER-LINGS, BUT WE'RE STILL RAIN NINJA!


SHP
NINJA ART! TOAD TRANSFOR-MATION!!
N-NO...!!
FWP
SIGH... DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU...
!
BOOF

SHUP
YOU'RE NEXT...


OHHH! THAT'S JUST CRUEL !!
RIBBIT RIBBIT

MUTTER...
...IT IS SAID THAT LORD PAIN... RESIDES IN THE TALLEST TOWER TO THE WEST...

...

SHUF
油
EH? WHAT WAS THAT?
SOME-THING ABOUT NEVER BETRAYING YOUR COM-RADES... EH...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
油

ACTUALLY... NO ONE REALLY KNOWS THAT MUCH ABOUT LORD PAIN.

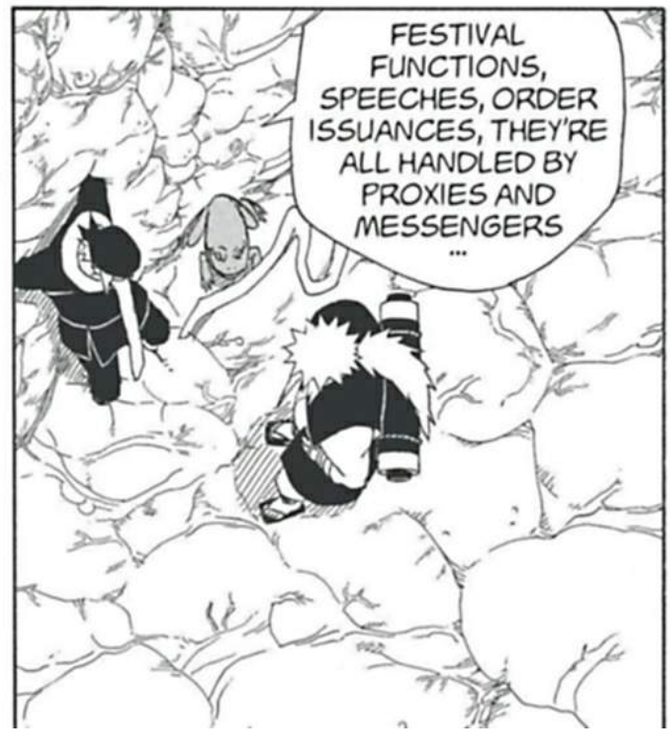
SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT IS SAID?
WELL, NEVER MIND.
油

IT IS SAID HE IS OF DEMON WIND CLAN LINEAGE...
...BUT NO ONE HAS EVER REALLY SEEN HIM UP CLOSE...
...AND SOME CLAIM THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST.

IN THIS CITY, LORD PAIN IS LIKE A GOD.
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER HE EXISTS OR NOT... HE IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER AND PROTECTING US.

I WALKED AROUND A BIT EARLIER, BUT EVERYONE I PASSED WAS SINGING HIS PRAISES...
...SO DON'T LIE!

BUT HE IS YOUR LEADER, RIGHT?
SO WHY HIDE HIMSELF FROM EVEN HIS CLOSEST FOLLOW-ERS?


FESTIVAL FUNCTIONS, SPEECHES, ORDER ISSUANCES, THEY'RE ALL HANDLED BY PROXIES AND MESSENGERS ...

YOU...
YOU'RE NOT AN OLD AME-GAKURE REMNANT, ARE YOU?
SO WHO ARE YOU?

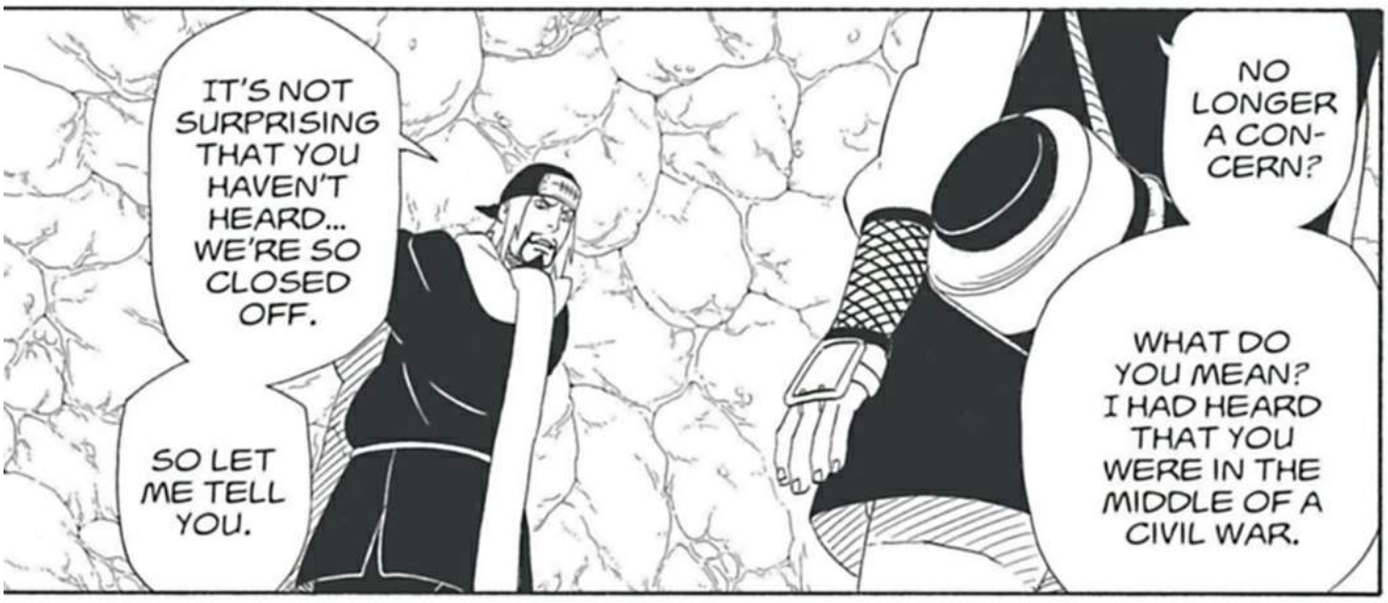
PRE-CISELY FOR SITUA-TIONS LIKE THESE...

I SEE...

YOU'RE AN OUT-SIDER, THEN ...
HEH... YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT OLD AME-GAKURE REM-NANTS?
NEVER MIND WHO I AM.

BUT IT'S NO LONGER A CONCERN. THE ONLY ONES WHO MANAGE TO FIND THEIR WAY IN NOW ARE LUCKY FOREIGNERS SUCH AS YOU.
UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, ORIGINAL AMEGAKURE SHINOBI WERE STILL SNEAKING BACK IN AND GOING AFTER LORD PAIN EVERY CHANCE THEY COULD GET.


IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD... WE'RE SO CLOSED OFF.
SO LET ME TELL YOU.
NO LONGER A CON-CERN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I HAD HEARD THAT YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIVIL WAR.

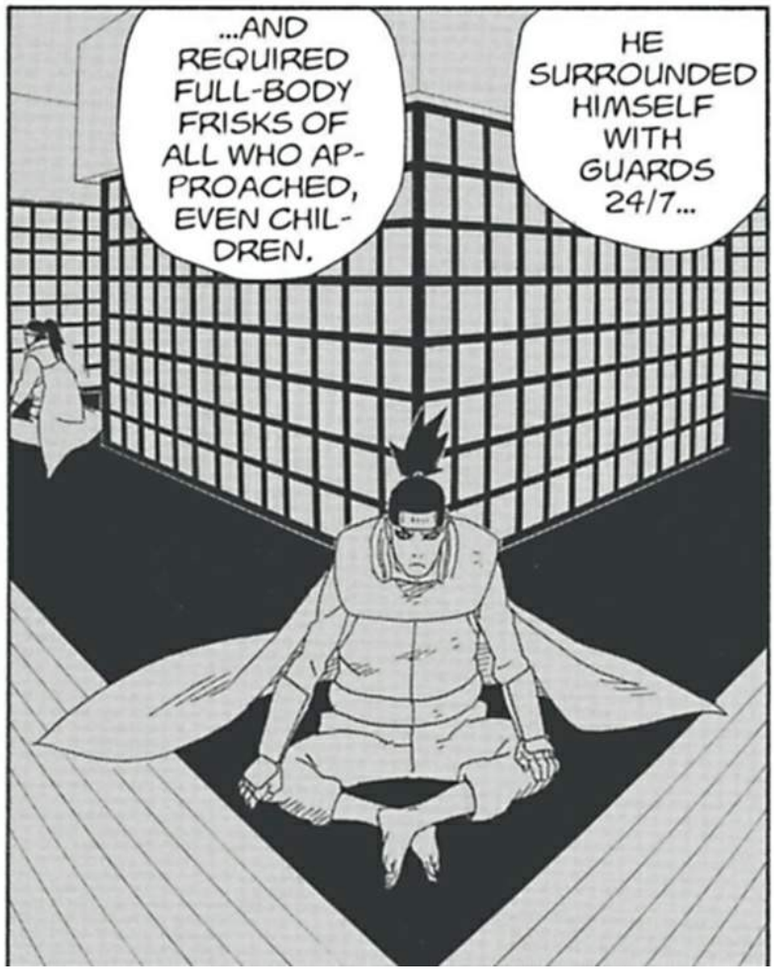
HE DEFEATED AMEGAKURE... ALL BY HIMSELF.
THAT'S WHY LORD PAIN IS A LEGEND.
...

AND WE'RE THE ONES WHO WON!
THE CIVIL WAR HAS LONG BEEN OVER.

UNBELIEV-ABLE...

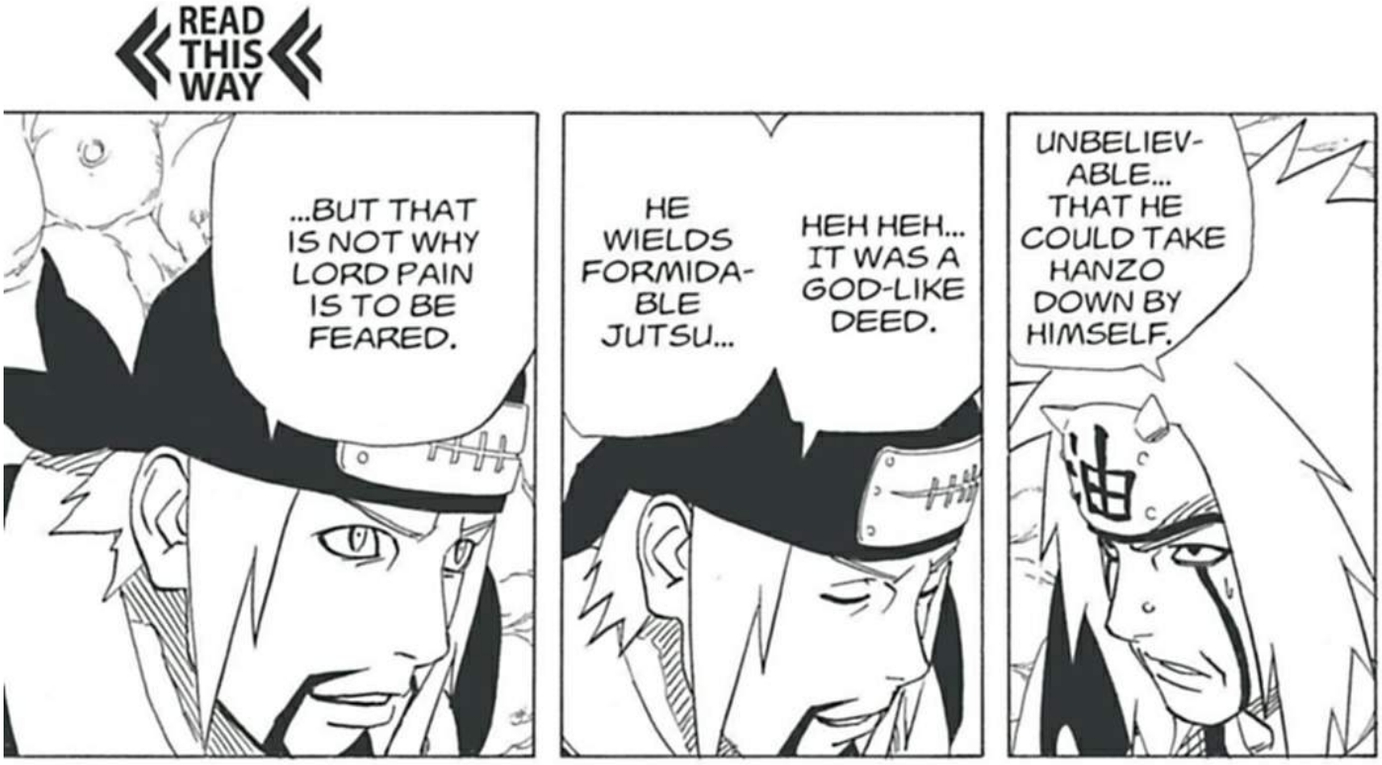
...THERE TRULY WERE NO SHINOBI THAT DIDN'T KNOW THE NAME OF THE PREVIOUS AMEGAKURE LEADER, HANZO OF THE GIANT SALAMANDER...!

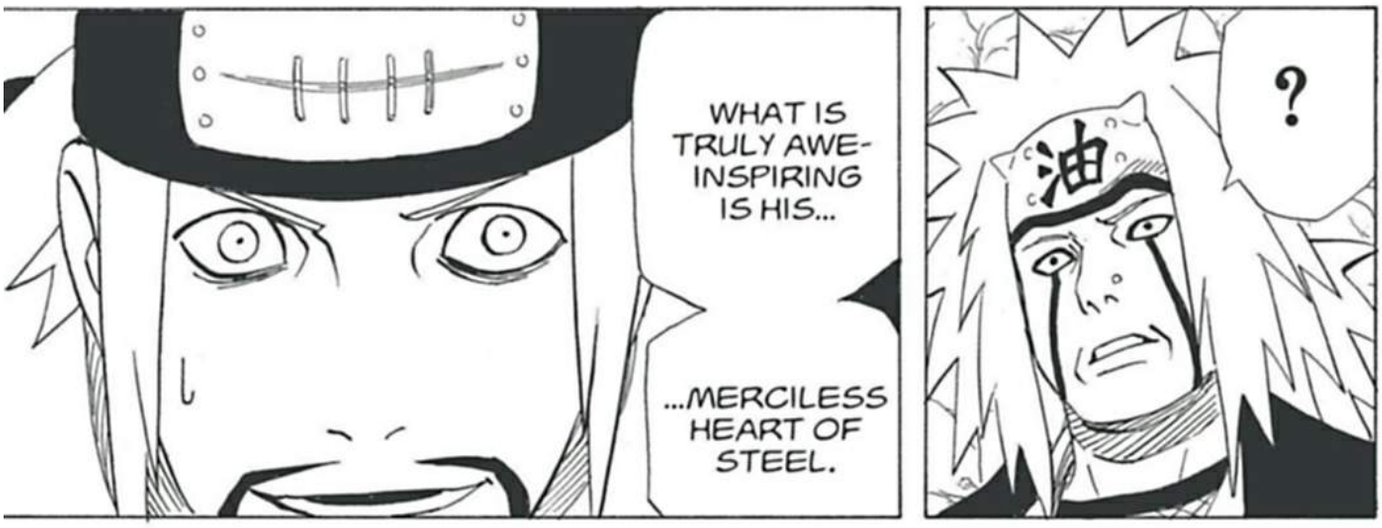
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THIS PAIN MIGHT BE...

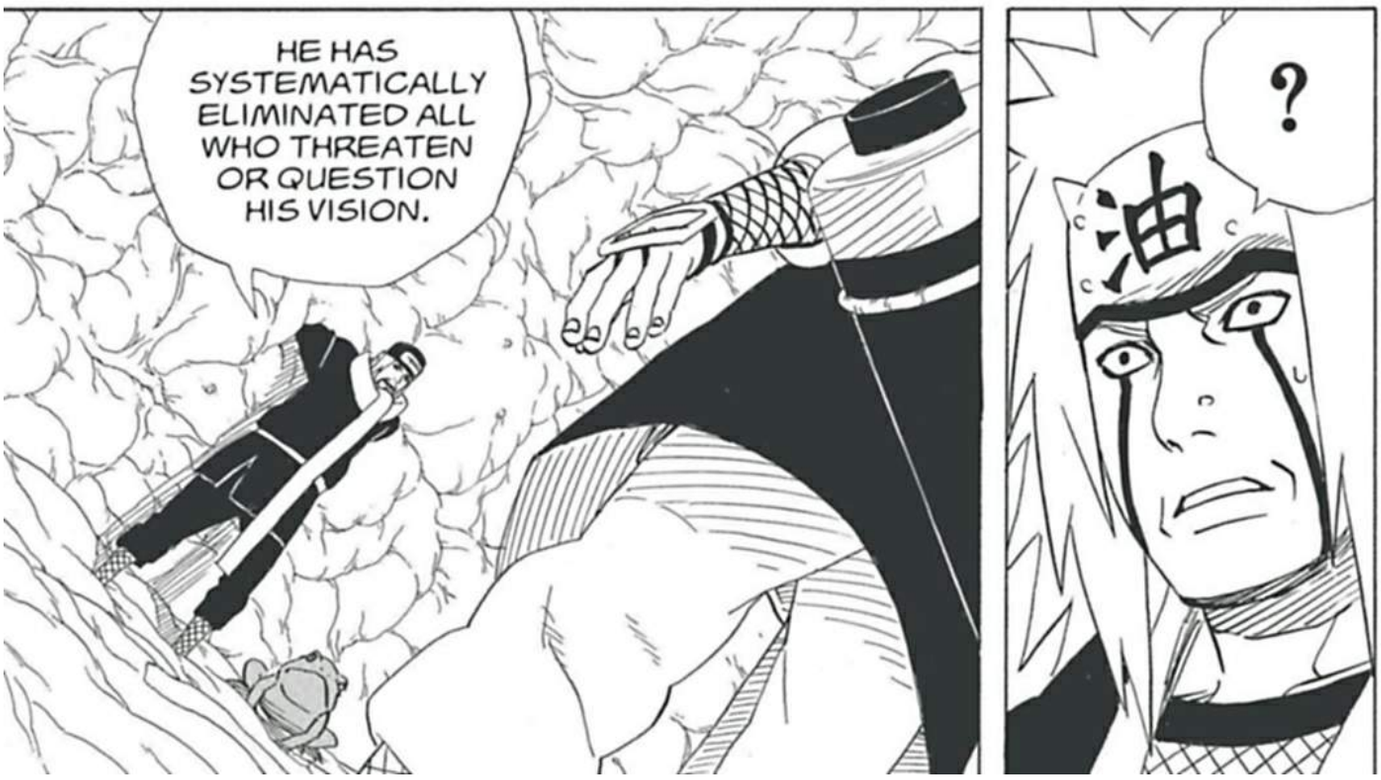


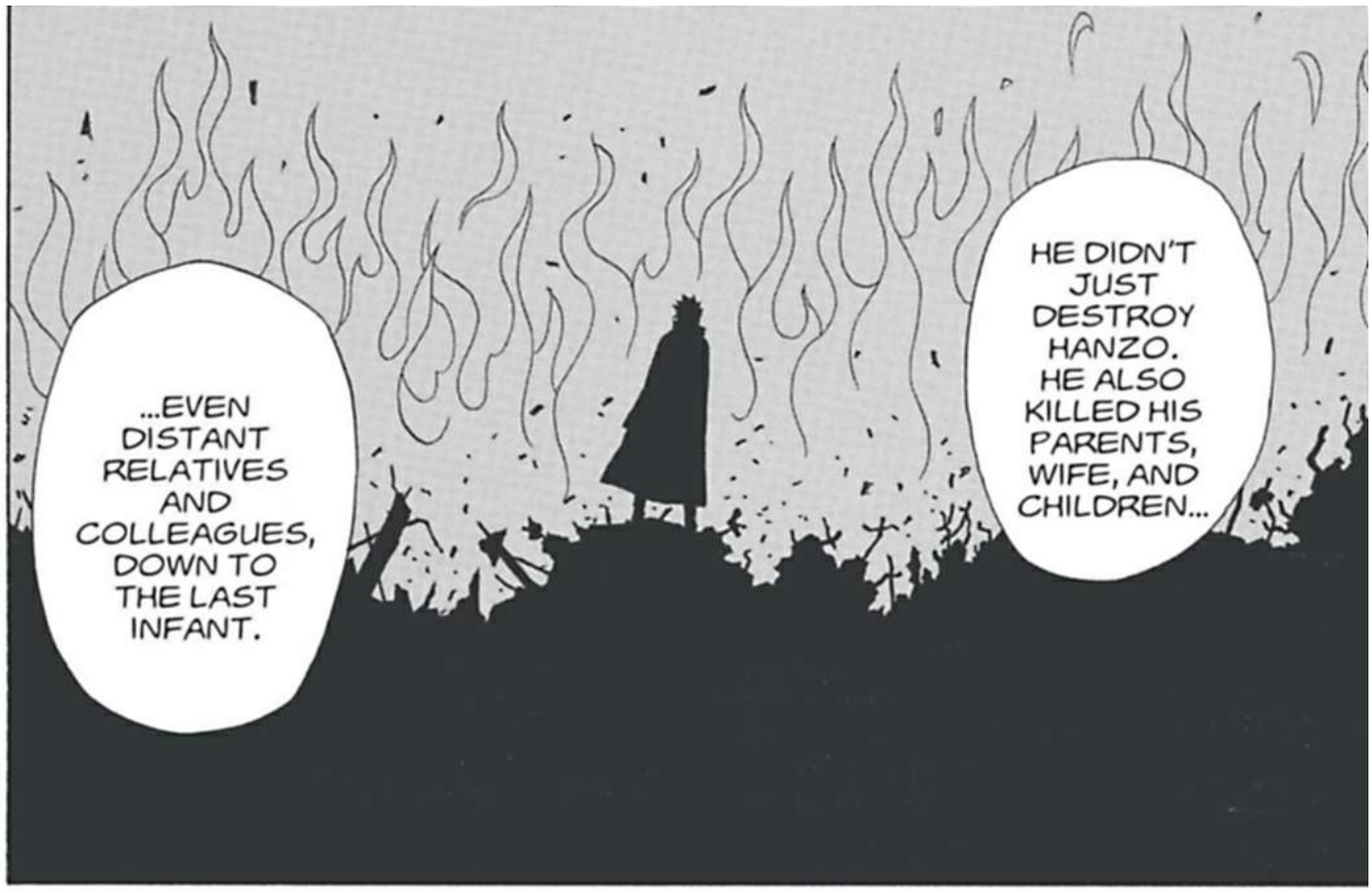
READ THIS WAY
I TOLD YOU!
NO ONE KNOWS!!
WHAT IS HIS SPECIALTY?
SO HOW DID PAIN DEFEAT HIM?
油
JIRAIYA, STOP!!
WE CAN STILL FIGHT!!
WE DON'T WANT YOUR SYMPATHY!
THEREFORE, I SHALL LET YOU THREE LIVE.
I PREDICT KONOHAGAKURE SHALL EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM THIS BATTLE.

...YOU SURVIVED EVEN THIS BATTLE-GROUND...
YOU THREE ARE VERY STRONG...
I, HANZO...
...HEREBY CHRISTEN YOU THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA.
...
油
IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIVES... I WOULD KNOW YOUR NAMES...


READ THIS WAY
...BUT THAT IS NOT WHY LORD PAIN IS TO BE FEARED.
HE WIELDS FORMIDABLE JUTSU...
HEH HEH... IT WAS A GOD-LIKE DEED.
UNBELIEVABLE... THAT HE COULD TAKE HANZO DOWN BY HIMSELF.

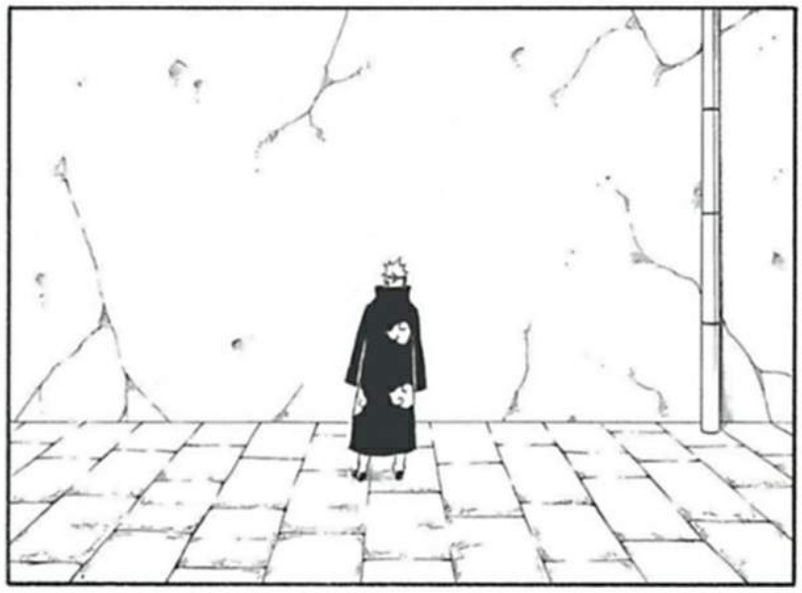

WHAT IS TRULY AWE-INSPIRING IS HIS...
...MERCILESS HEART OF STEEL.
?


HE HAS SYSTEMATICALLY ELIMINATED ALL WHO THREATEN OR QUESTION HIS VISION.
?

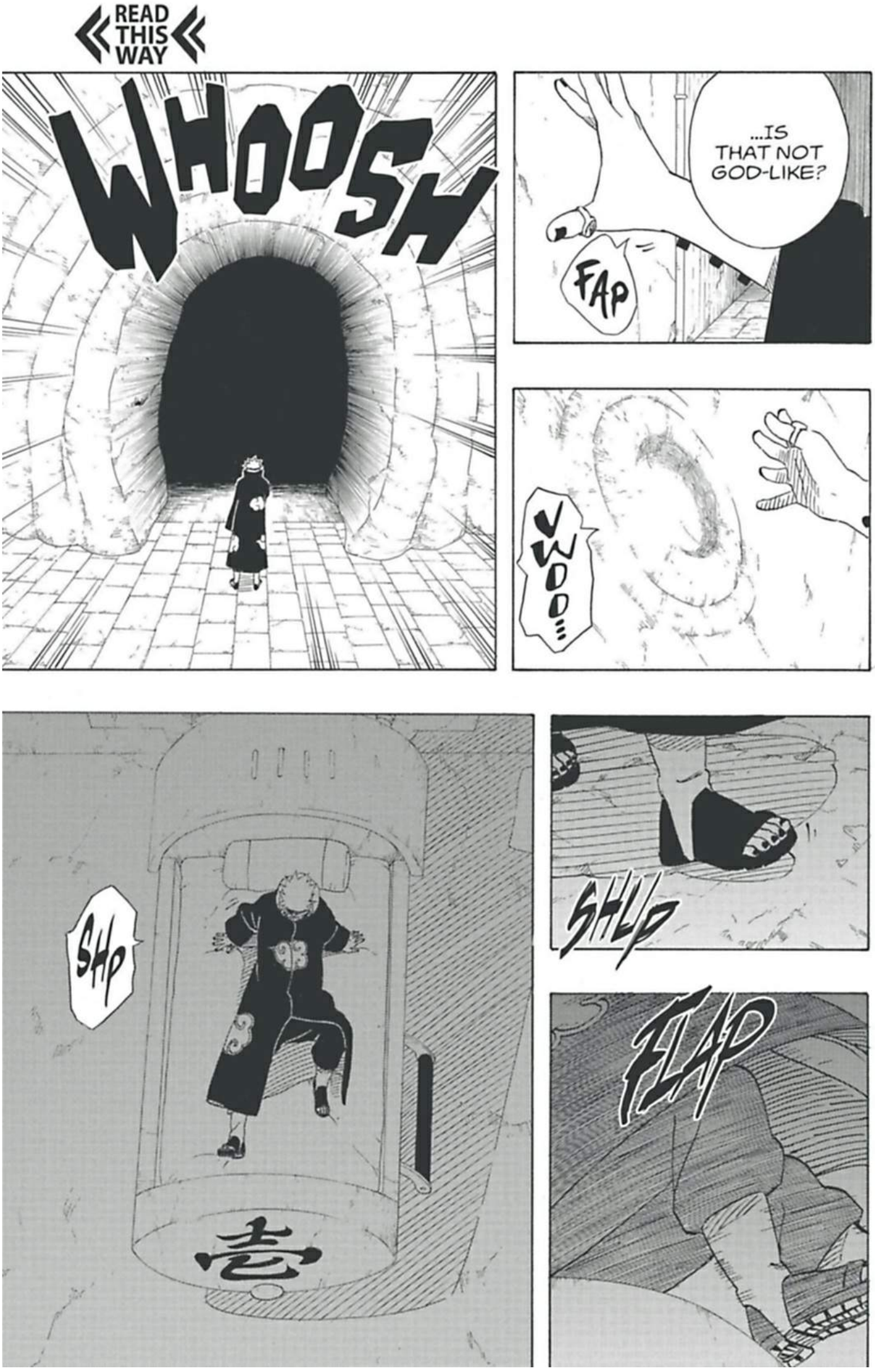

HE DIDN'T JUST DESTROY HANZO. HE ALSO KILLED HIS PARENTS, WIFE, AND CHILDREN...
...EVEN DISTANT RELATIVES AND COLLEAGUES, DOWN TO THE LAST INFANT.

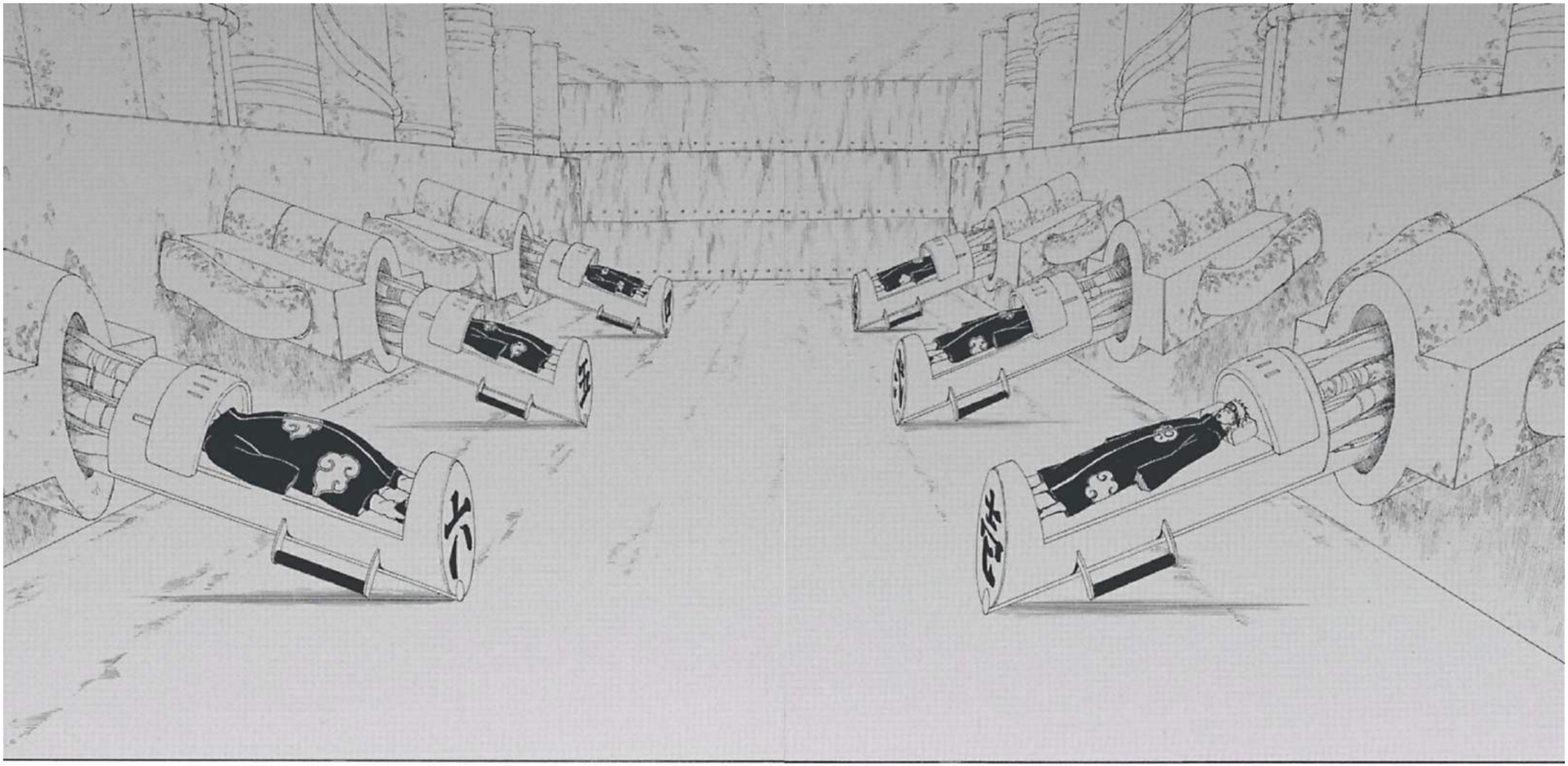
...UNTIL NOTHING— AND NO ONE— WAS LEFT.

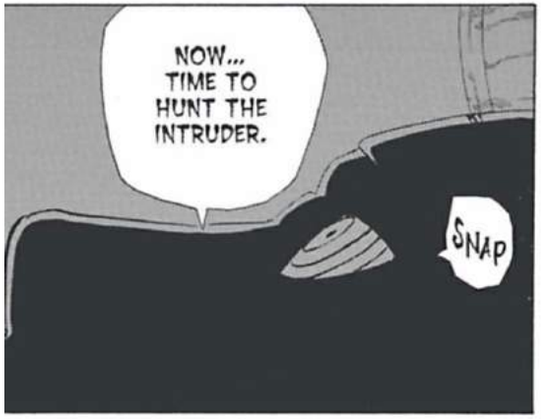
AND THEN, AFTER RAZING AND BURNING THEIR RESIDENCES TO THE GROUND, HE TURNED TO ALL THOSE WHO WERE EVER CONNECTED TO HANZO...

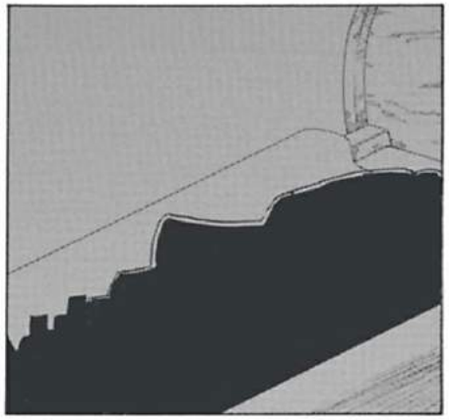


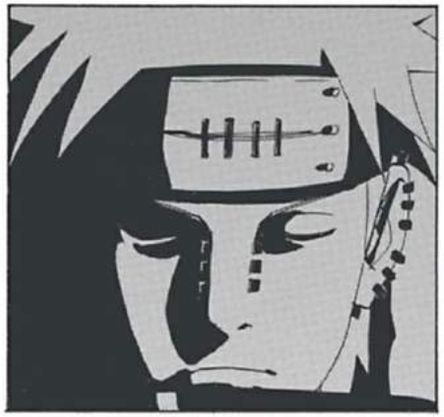
IT WAS RETRIBUTION...

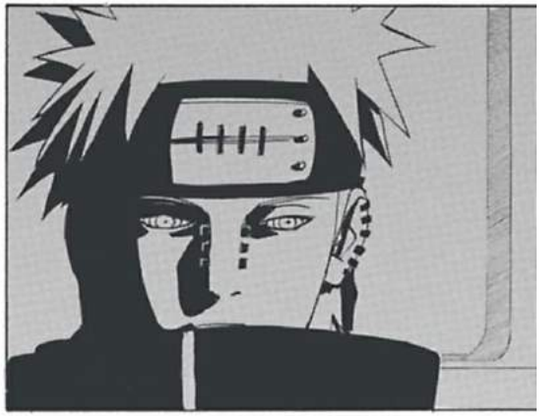

READ THIS WAY
WHOOSH
...IS THAT NOT GOD-LIKE?
FAP
WOO...
SHP
SHUP
FLAP




NOW... TIME TO HUNT THE INTRUDER.
SNAP







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