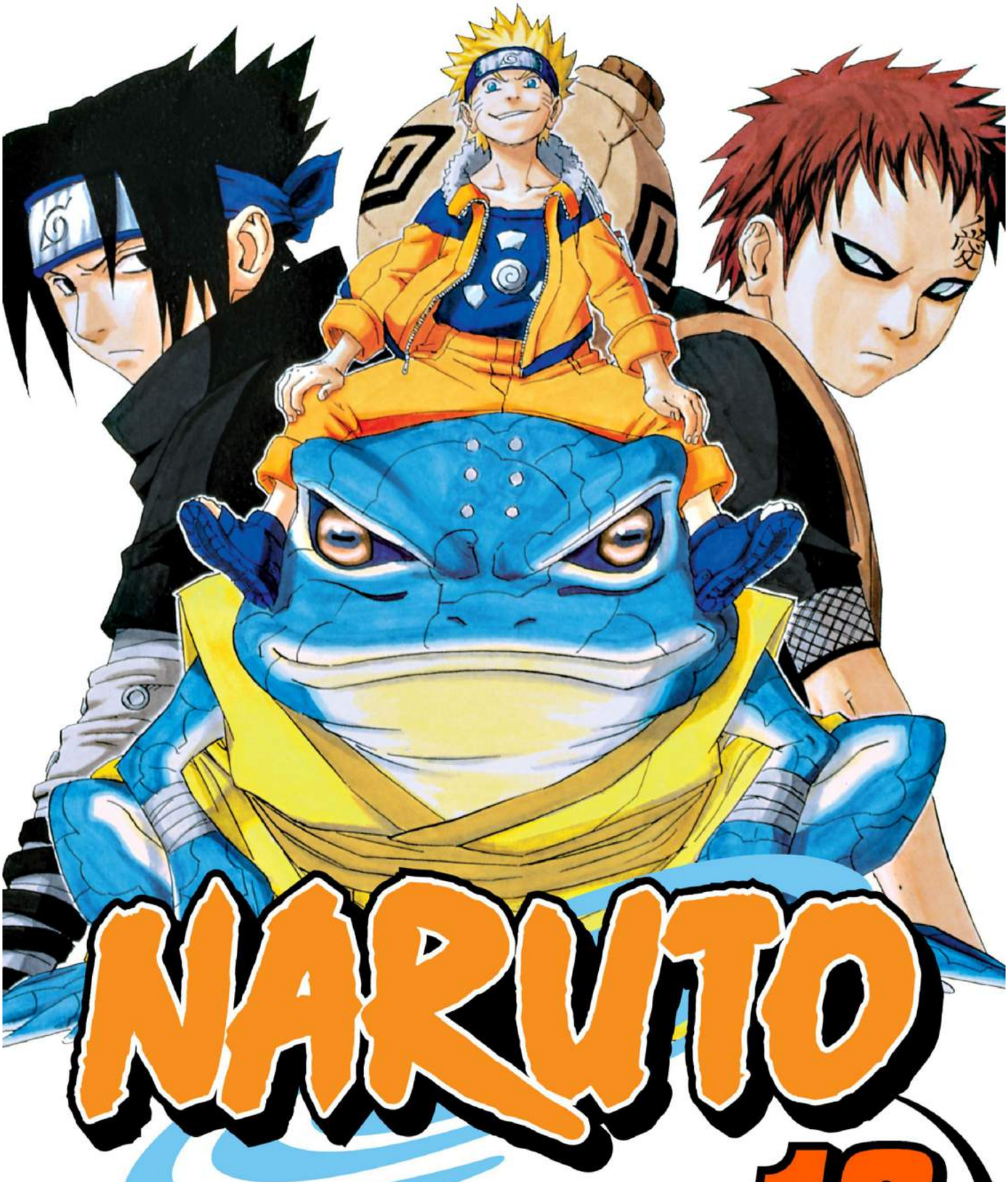

NARUTO

SHONENJUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

volume 13

岸本斉史

Science Fiction movies are on the rise again...Right now they rank at the top of the box office in revenue, so I was thinking to myself, "Wow, everyone must really like Sci Fi..." and then I realized I'm one of those people too!

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2002*

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

NARUTO VOL. 13
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #48–50. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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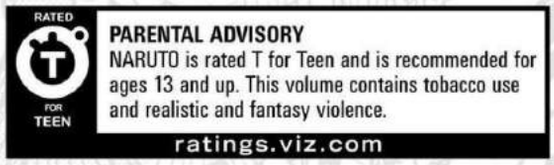


www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO

VOL. 13
THE CHÛNIN EXAM, CONCLUDED...!!

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

SAKURA サクラ

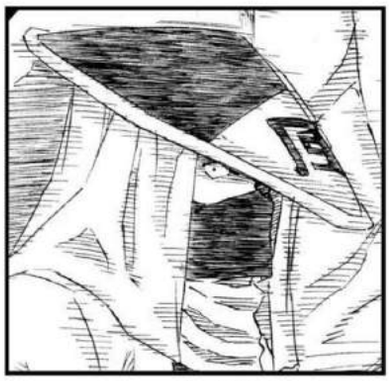
Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

NARUTO ナルト

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

SASUKE サスケ

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



Kazekage 風影
The shadowy leader of Sunagakure (the Village Hidden in the Sand) within the Land of Wind.

Gaara 我愛羅
Mysterious, bloodthirsty Gaara may be the scariest ninja competing in the Chûnin Exams.

Rock Lee ロック・リー
First, Lee seemed weak, only able to perform physical taijutsu. But he's got powerful tricks and unrivaled super speed.

Might Guy マイト・ガイ
The flamboyant Master Guy is Lee's idol…and Kakashi's rival!

Hokage 火影
The leader of Konohagakure. He was retired, but stepped back into the position when the fourth Hokage was killed by the nine-tailed fox spirit.

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

THE STORY SO FAR...

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

During the Second Chûnin Exam, in the Forest of Death, Naruto and the others were attacked by the mysterious shinobi Orochimaru, who left a curse mark on Sasuke and vanished…

Now it's the Chûnin Exam finals! But Sasuke is missing! To prevent Sasuke from losing to Gaara by forfeit, the next two scheduled matches were moved up. Things went downhill from there: Kankuro withdrew from his match against Shino to reserve his secret moves for the coming coup. Shikamaru almost beat Temari, but called it quits at the last minute. But now, at last, it's the fight you've all been waiting for…!

NARUTO

VOL. 13
THE CHÛNIN
EXAM, CONCLUDED...!!

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Number 109:
しるこ
Tree Leaves, Dancing...!!

VICTOR, TEMARI!!

SHRINK

...!

TWITCH
...UGH...

...

KNEAD KNEAD
AW MAN, I'M BEAT...

READ THIS WAY
DOES HE HAVE ANY WILL TO FIGHT...?
SHEESH...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW... IT'S A MYSTERY.

ARGH! WHAT A WASTE. WHY...? HE COULD HAVE BECOME A CHÛNIN!!

SHIKAMARU'S SHIKAMARU.

BECAUSE HE IS THOROUGHLY AWARE OF HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, HE DOESN'T PANIC OR BECOME HOTHEADED IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE. AND THAT IS HOW, EVEN IF HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE WORST FIX, HE CAN CALMLY RETREAT.
...YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S BECAUSE HE HAS THE ABILITY TO COOLLY ANALYZE ANY AND ALL SITUATIONS.
IT'S DISAPPOINTING THAT HE DOESN'T SEEM EAGER TO FIGHT, BUT...

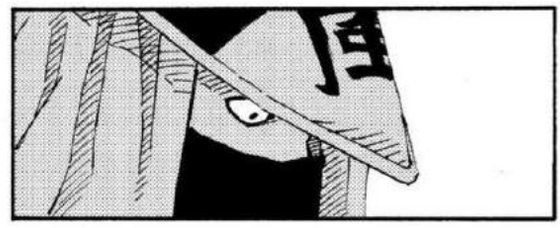
IF THIS HAD BEEN AN ACTUAL MISSION WITH HIM AS A MEMBER OF A BASIC 4-MAN PLATOON, SHIKAMARU'S VICTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSURED WHEN HE CAPTURED TEMARI.
AND YET, THAT KID'S KNOWLEDGE AND STRATEGY ARE ALREADY DEFINITELY BEYOND GENIN LEVEL...
IT'S A CASE OF WINNING THE BATTLE BUT LOSING THE MATCH.

I SUSPECT, IN TERMS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILES DEEMED ESSENTIAL IN CHÛNIN...

...SHIKAMARU'S GOT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE...
KNEAD
...THE DISPOSITION OF A NATURAL LEADER!

...THE ABILITY TO PROTECT AND SAFELY GET ONE'S SOLDIERS OUT OF DANGER IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN CARRYING OUT ONE'S MISSION...
IF WE ASSESS HIM AS A PLATOON LEADER...

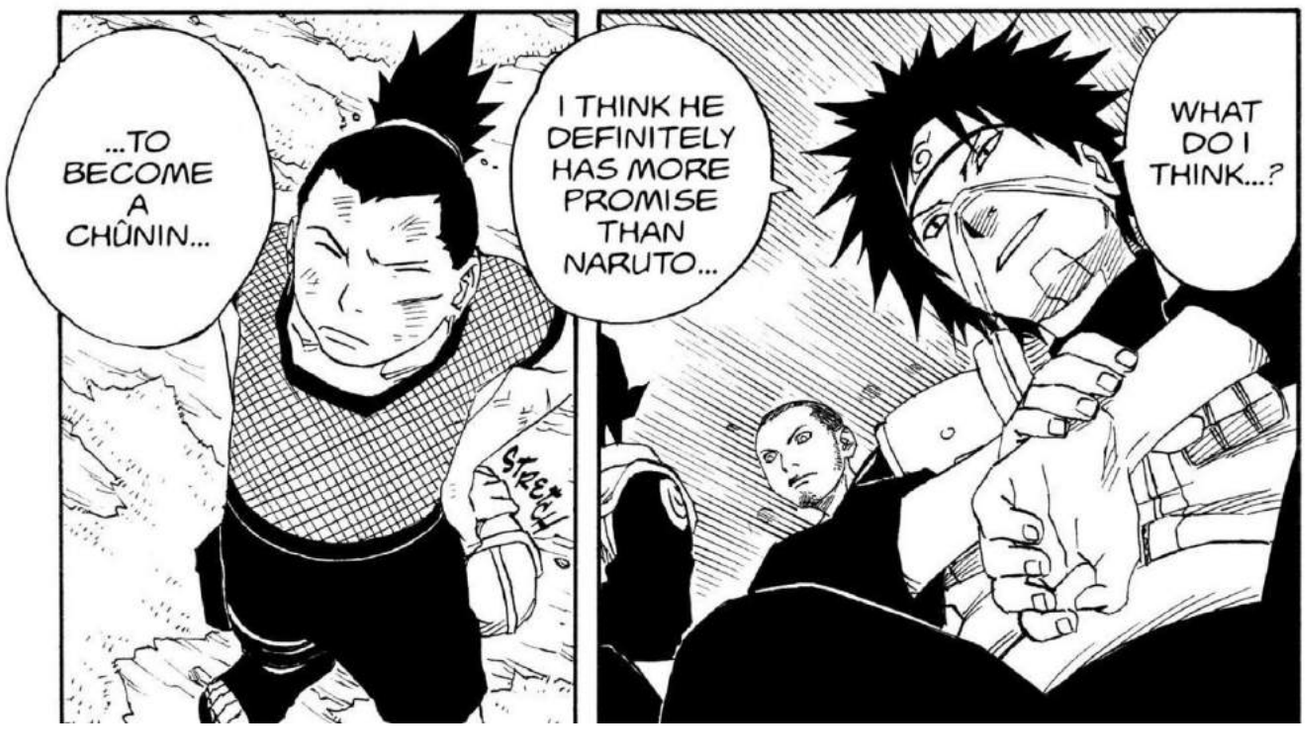
HMM...



...YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A CHÛNIN...
UNLESS YOU CAN BALANCE RISKS AND SACRIFICES AGAINST THE MISSION AND PROCEED WITH SURVIVAL AS YOUR FOREMOST CONCERN...
IN THE CASE OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, COMPLETING THE MISSION BUT GETTING WIPED OUT IS NOT A VIABLE OPTION...

THAT REALLY MAKES ME MAD! I'M GONNA GO GIVE HIM A LECTURE HE WON'T EVER FORGET!
WHY'D HE GIVE UP?! IS HE STUPID OR SOME-THING?!
CLAMBER
...ALTHOUGH THEY MAKE PERFECTLY GOOD GENIN!
ALONG THOSE LINES, NEITHER HYUGA NOR NARUTO ARE QUALIFIED...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL, I STILL THINK SHIKAMARU GAVE UP TOO EARLY TOO, BUT...

LEAP
LECTURING IS DIFFICULT. ONE MUST NOT ANGER THE AUDIENCE.


...TO BECOME A CHÛNIN...
STRETCH
I THINK HE DEFINITELY HAS MORE PROMISE THAN NARUTO...
WHAT DO I THINK...?

SHUT IT, MEGA-DORK!!
STUPIDHEAD!!!
JAB

!
THUMP

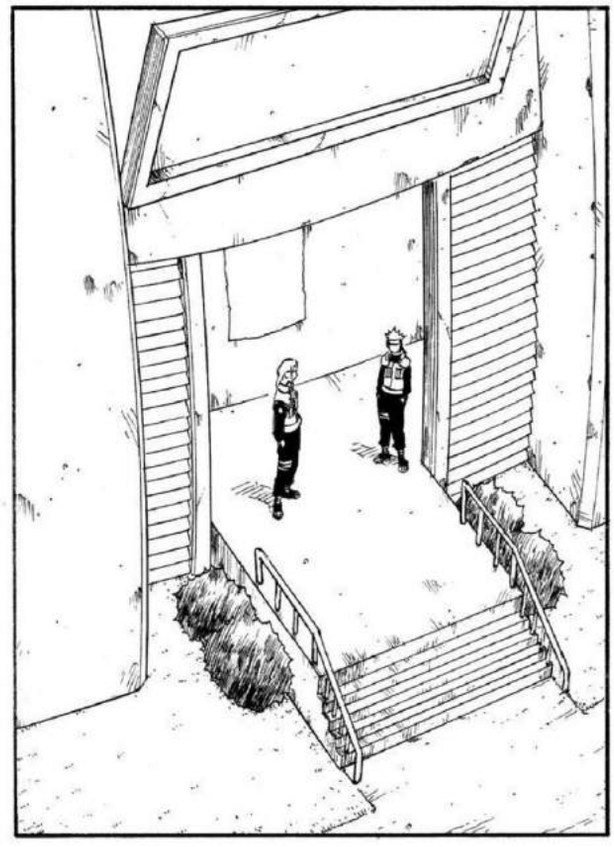
LET'S GO WATCH THE NEXT MATCH, OKAY?

WHY'D YOU GIVE UP?!
AT THIS POINT, WHAT DOES IT MATTER...?

NEXT IS...
OH...!
!

...SASUKE!!

!
CRUNCH



OH! YOU'RE...

...STILL NOT HERE...
HE'S...

GLANCE GLANCE
OH WELL! I GUESS IT'S JUST LIKE HIM--

NOW, PLEASE COME IN!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, SIRS!

SASUKE...

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO, LEE!
ROGER !!
OH! YES SIR.
HIKE

READ THIS WAY
!
...
WH-WHAT ABOUT NARUTO AND NEJI'S BATTLE...?!
THE ONLY ONE REMAINING IS UCHIHA SASUKE VS. GAARA!
ALMOST ALL OF THE FIRST ROUND BATTLES HAVE CONCLUDED...
!!
GULP
THAT'S THE INTERESTING THING...
HYUGA LOST...

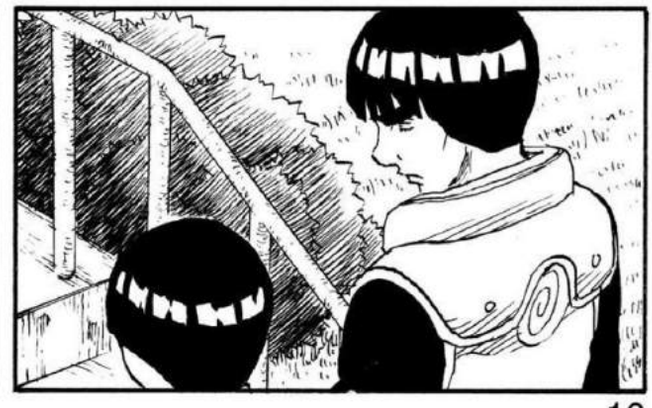
...

NARUTO DEFEATED NEJI...

...
I SEE...

...NARUTO!!
NICE WORK...

LEE, YOU ARE SUCH A GREAT KID...



WHERE'S UCHIHA?!

WHAT'S UP WITH THE NEXT MATCH?!

...

WE'VE FINALLY RECEIVED WORD FROM KAKASHI...

MUTTER MUTTER

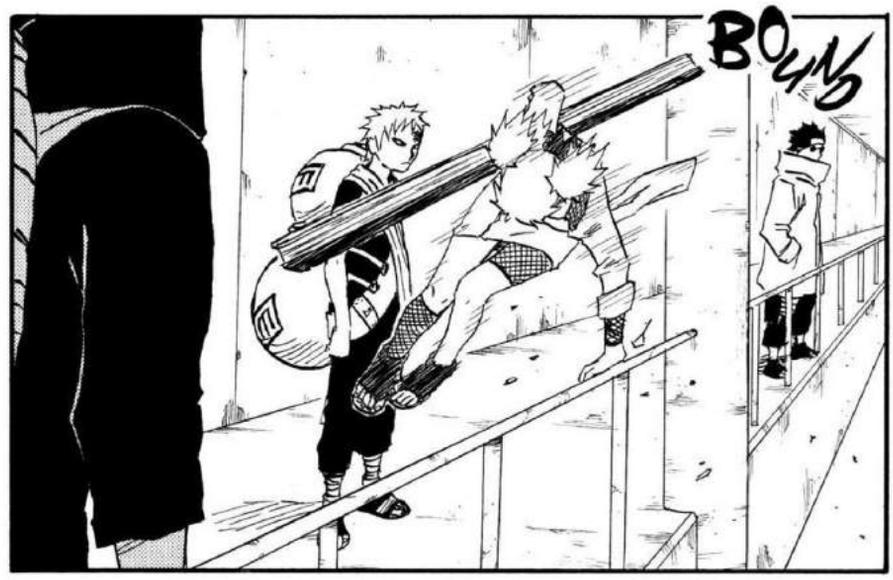
!

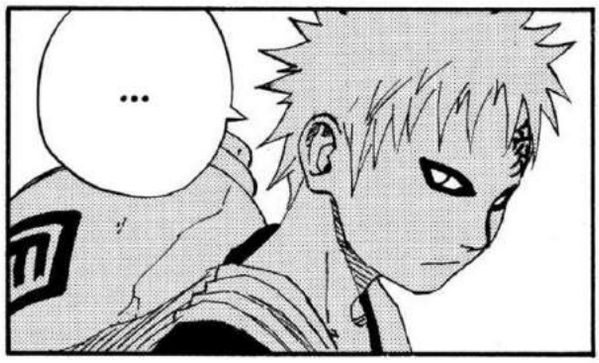
SHUF

...

...

!

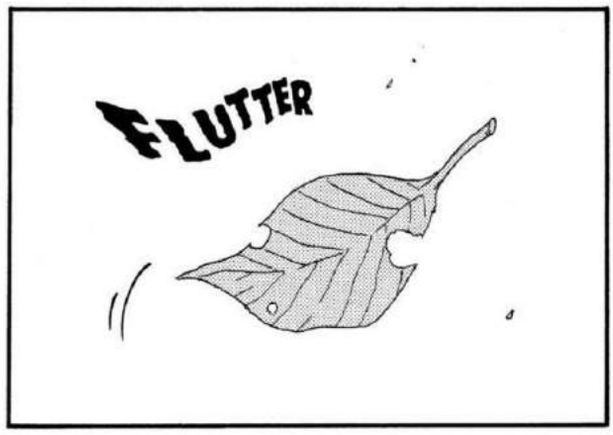

BOUND


...

IS HE REALLY GOING TO COME?!
H-HEY, IT'S ALMOST TIME...

HE'LL COME...
...I'M SURE OF IT!

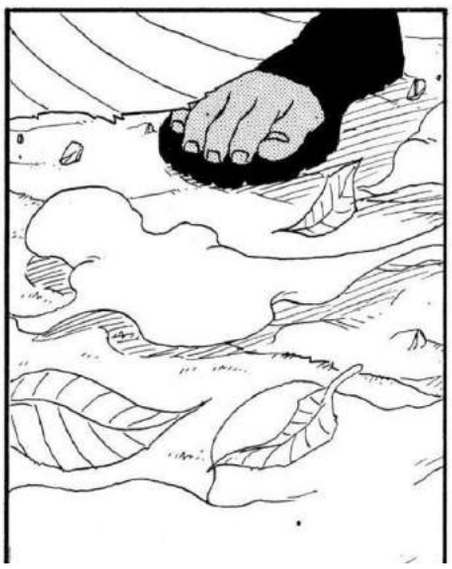
READ THIS WAY

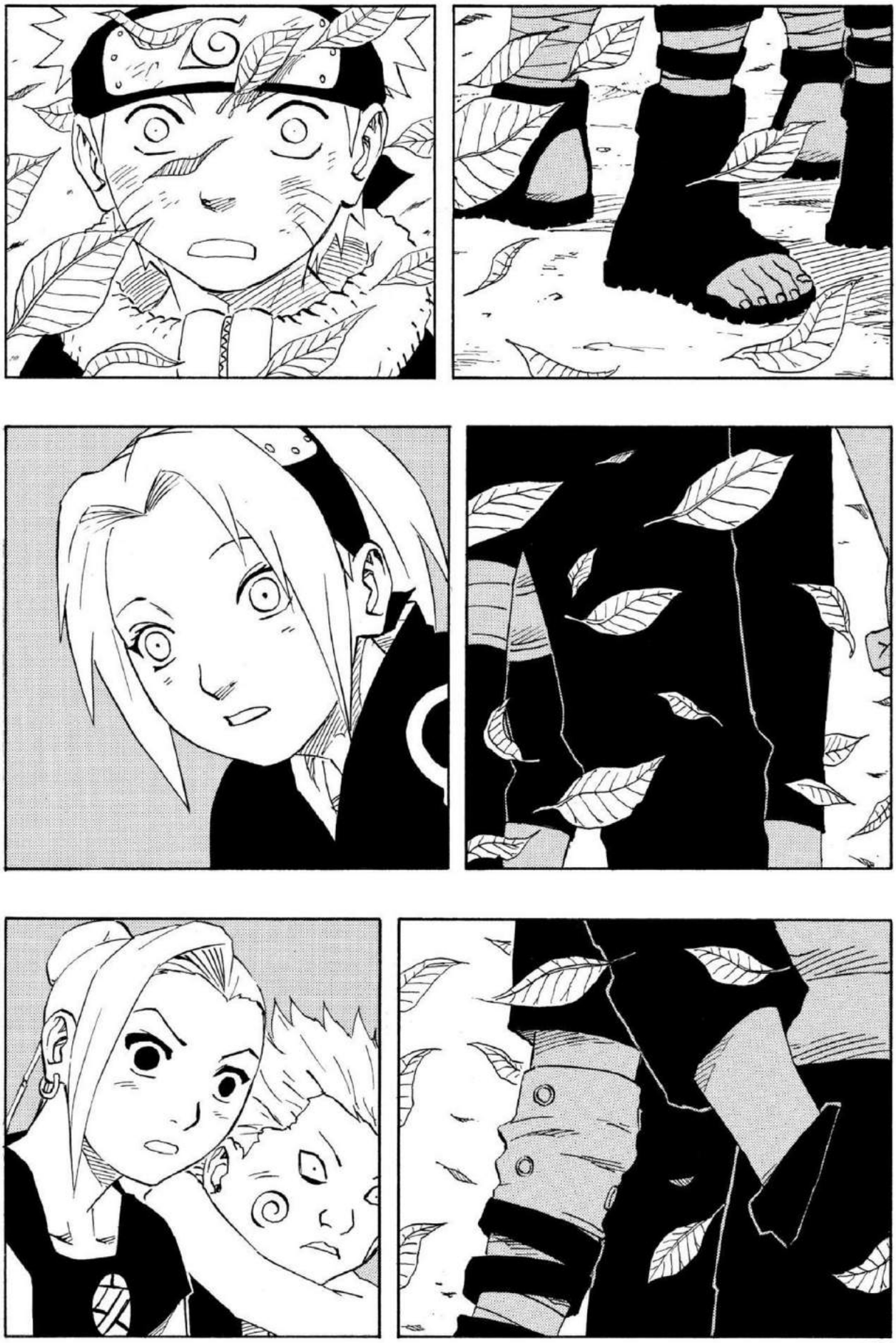

FLUTTER

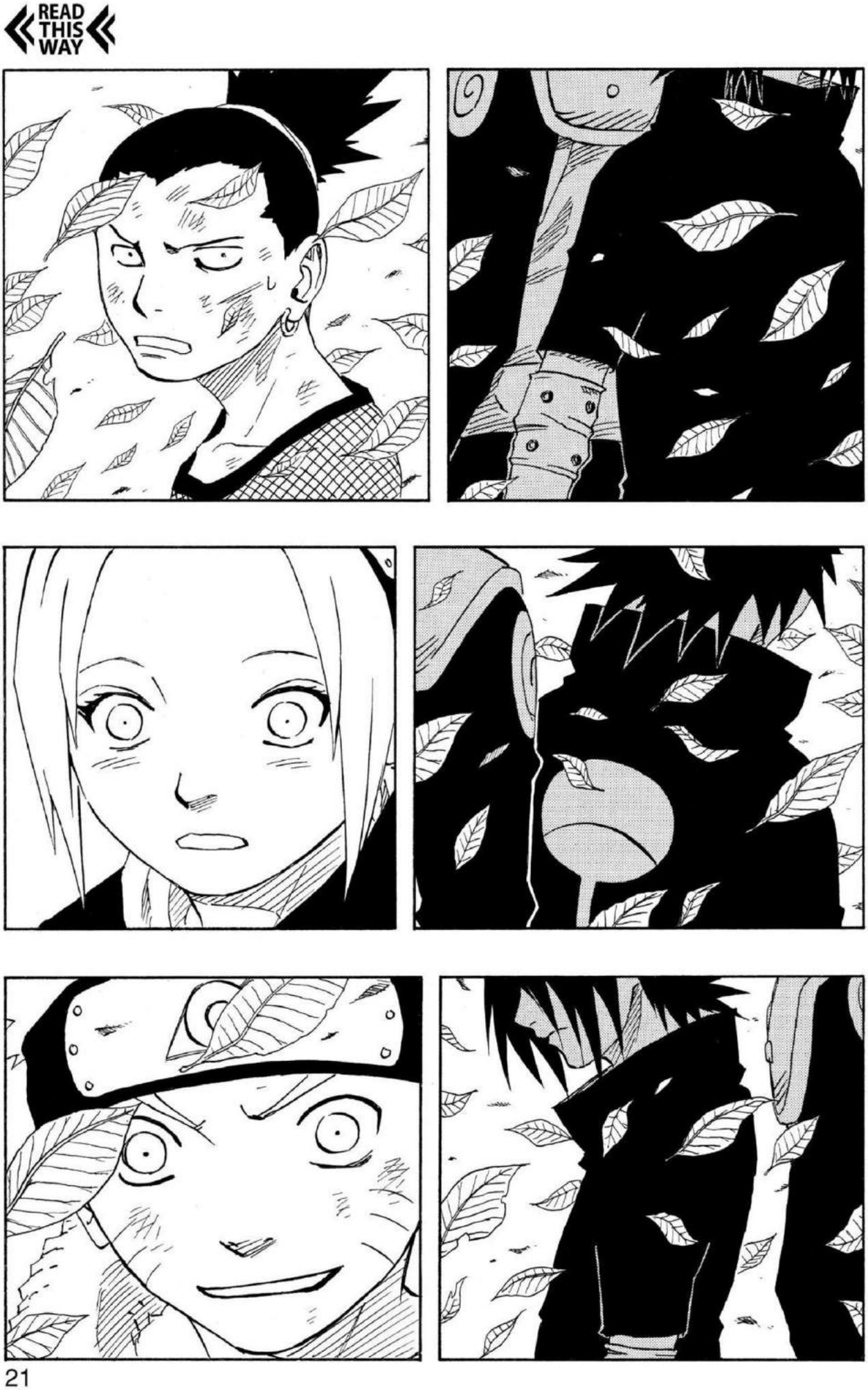
HMM... WHAT IS THAT FOOL DOING? HE'S STILL NOT HERE?!
GLANCE
GLANCE

!

SWIRL
!!

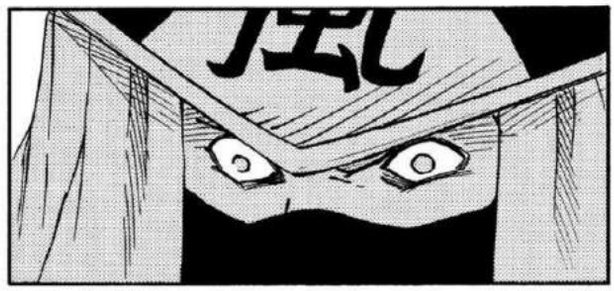


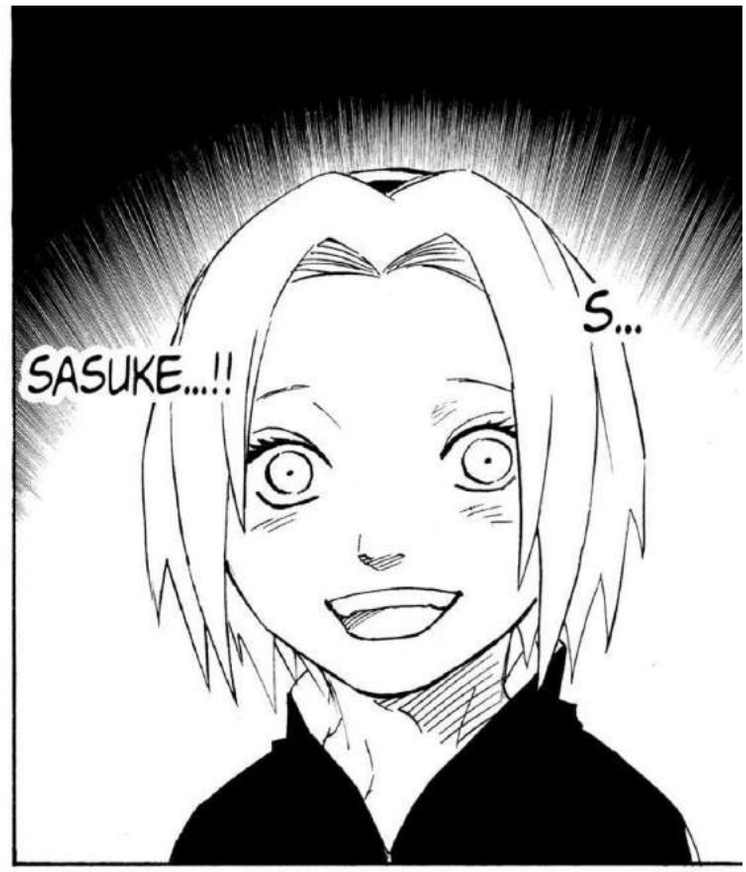



READ THIS WAY

READ THIS WAY
AHH, SO SORRY WE'RE LATE...
YOUR NAME?
SASUKE.
UCHIHA.

HEH... ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY...
...EVEN THOUGH HE'S INCONVE-NIENCED EVERYONE!



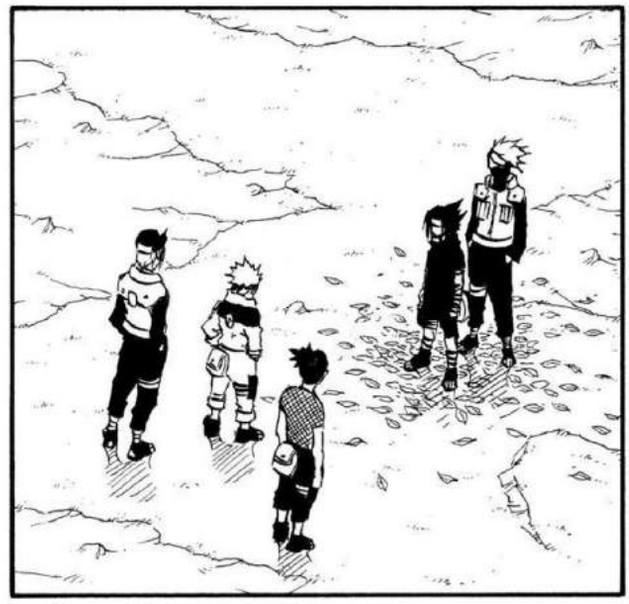

S...
SASUKE...!!

HEY...
ISN'T THAT...

LEE!

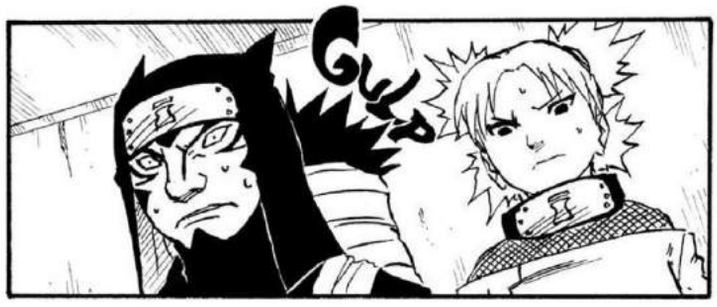
!!
IT'S SASUKE, ALL RIGHT!

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU GOT COLD FEET ABOUT FIGHTING ME!
HEY! YOU'RE REAL LATE, HUH?!



HEH... CHILL OUT...
...YOU BIG DORK...

SHEESH... YEAH, RIGHT.
AND WHO WAS THE ONE INSISTING HE WAS GOING TO SHOW UP?!


GULP

SEE...
HE CAME.

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 16

IN HIGH SCHOOL I WAS DRAWING MANGA ALL THE TIME, AND EVEN THOUGH I WAS IN THE PROGRESSIVE TRACK, MY HOMEROOM TEACHER TOLD ME I WOULDN'T GET INTO ANY COLLEGE BASED ON MY GRADES IN THE STANDARD SUBJECTS. "..." "...HEH..." "SO WHAT!!" I DIDN'T PANIC! I'D ALREADY THOUGHT IT OUT AND PLANNED AHEAD FOR THAT! AND WHAT WAS IT THAT I HAD IN MIND...?

SINCE I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, MY GRADES IN ART HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXCELLENT! ..."THAT'S RIGHT! IF IT'S AN ART COLLEGE, I THINK I CAN GET IN!" THIS COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS CONFIDENCE HAD SECRETLY ALLAYED MY FEARS!

(P.S. BECAUSE IT WAS A PROGRESSIVE TRACK, THERE WERE NO ART CLASSES AT ALL!) MOST ART SCHOOLS ONLY TEST ART ON THEIR APPLICATION EXAMS.

IN ANY CASE, TO BE HONEST, DESPITE THE FACT THAT I WAS CONSTANTLY DRAWING IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS PAINFULLY AWARE THAT I DIDN'T HAVE GOOD SKETCHING SKILLS. SO I SAID TO MYSELF, "I'LL HONE MY SKETCHING ABILITY IN COLLEGE!" AND PRACTICED SKETCHING THE SAMPLE PLASTER MODELS BEFORE HEADING OFF TO THE ACTUAL EXAM!

WHILE DEEPLY REALIZING THAT HUMANS ARE CREATURES OF CONVENIENCE WHO ONLY OFFER PRAYERS TO THE GODS WHEN FACED WITH CRISES, I WAITED SEVERAL WEEKS FOR THE RESULTS!
A-AND THEN... THE GODS HADN'T YET ABANDONED ME...

I PASSED!!
"YES!! NOW I CAN DRAW MANGA ALL I WANT!! YEAH!!"

SO AMIDST HIGH STRESS, I WENT OFF TO ART SCHOOL!

AND THEN, BRIEFLY REFLECTING ON MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, I WONDERED THUSLY: FOR THREE YEARS, I HAD DESPERATELY STRUGGLED THROUGH MATH, ENGLISH, GRAMMAR, CHEMISTRY, AND HISTORY... TO WHAT END?

Number 110: At Long Last...!!

...SASUKE LOST BY FORFEIT?

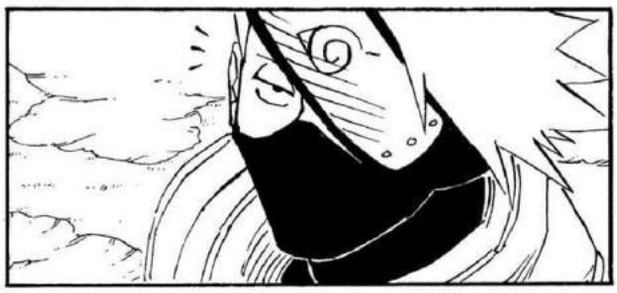
...DON'T TELL ME...
WELL, UH, FLASHY ENTRANCE NOTWITH-STANDING...

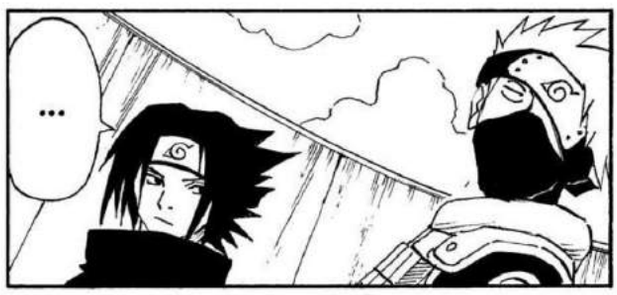
SEE... I TOLD YOU WE'D BE LATE, SASUKE.
MAYBE YOUR TARDINESS IS CONTA-GIOUS?!
SHEESH!

...
SO... WHAT'S THE DEAL?

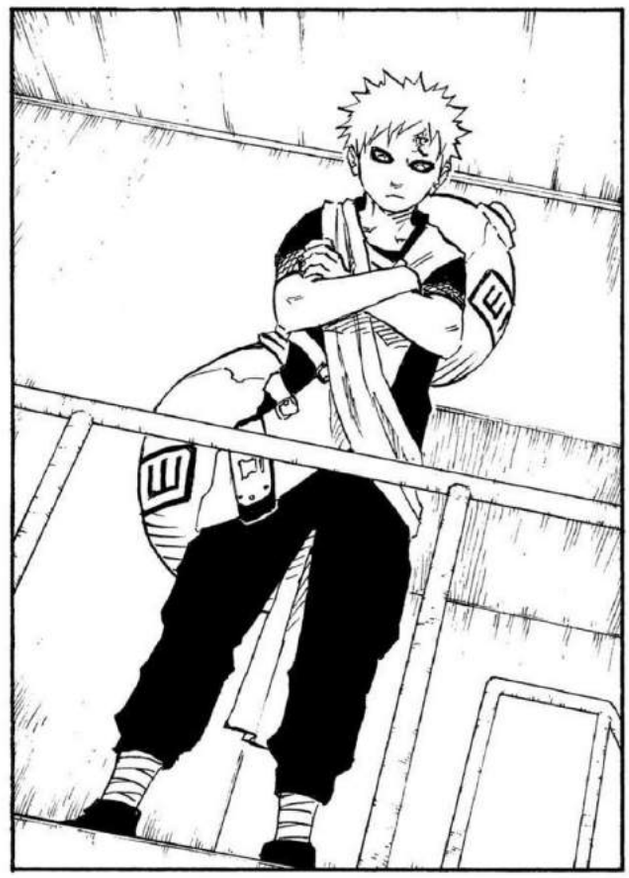
DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE SAFE!
SASUKE'S MATCH WAS POSTPONED.
HIS MATCH WASN'T FORFEITED.

OH, GOOD! GOOD!
AH HA HA...




...

GLANCE

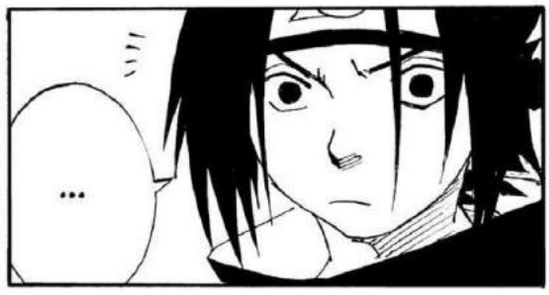


愛

YEAH...
...

DON'T YOU DARE LOSE TO A GUY LIKE HIM!

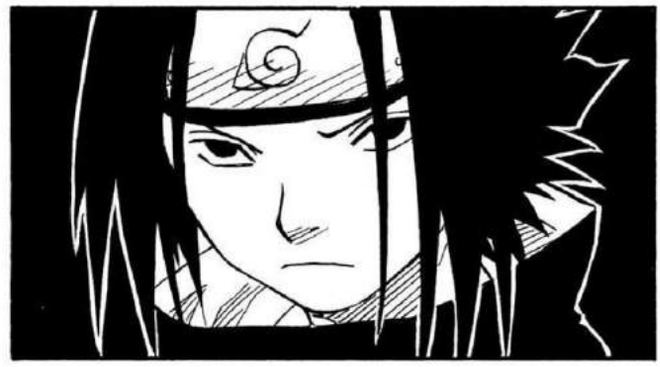
SASUKE!


...

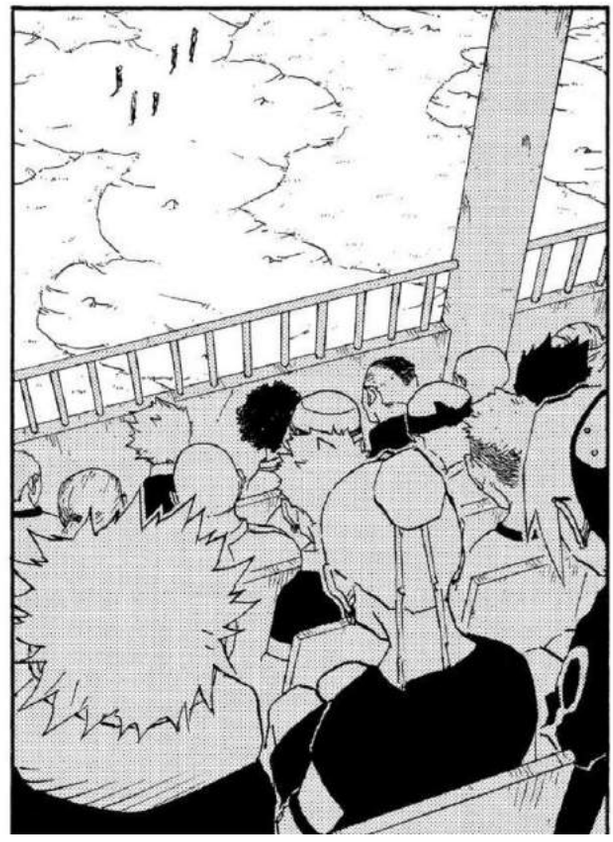
YOU'RE ONE OF THE ONES I WANT TO FIGHT...

...WANT TO FIGHT YOU TOO...!
I...

YEAH...

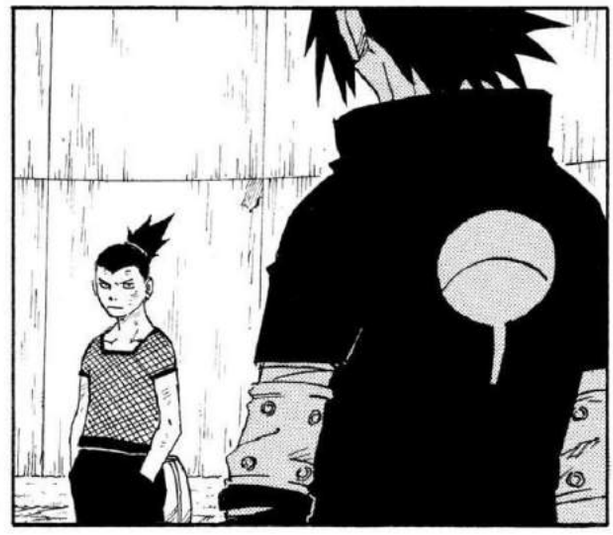


WHEE! SASUKE!
A FEW MINUTES AGO SHE WAS ALL FOR SHIKAMARU, AND NOW SHE'S ALL FOR SASUKE... POOR SHIKAMARU.

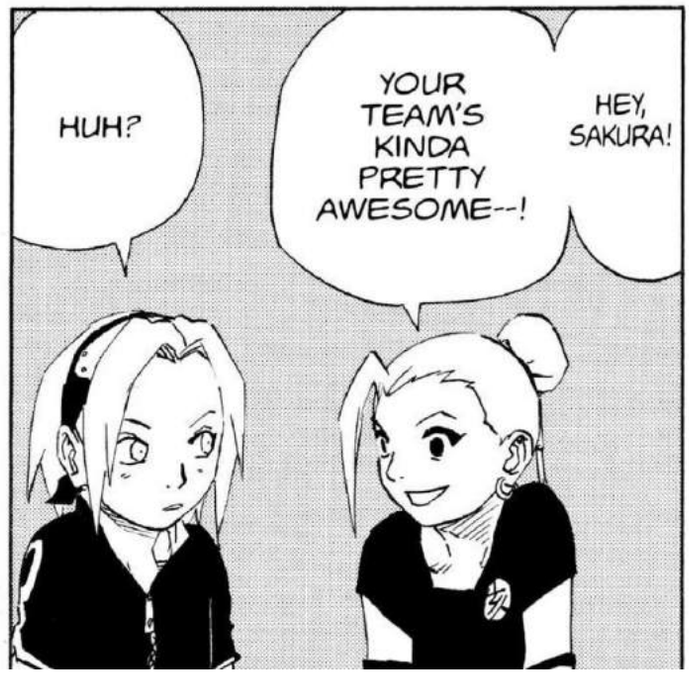


MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
UCHIHA'S MATCH IS STARTING!!
HEY! IS THAT THE LAST OF THE UCHIHA CLAN?!

WELL, I'VE GOTTA ADMIT, I'VE KINDA BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS TOO...
... SO I CAN'T GET TOO UPSET OVER BEING THE OPENING ACT...



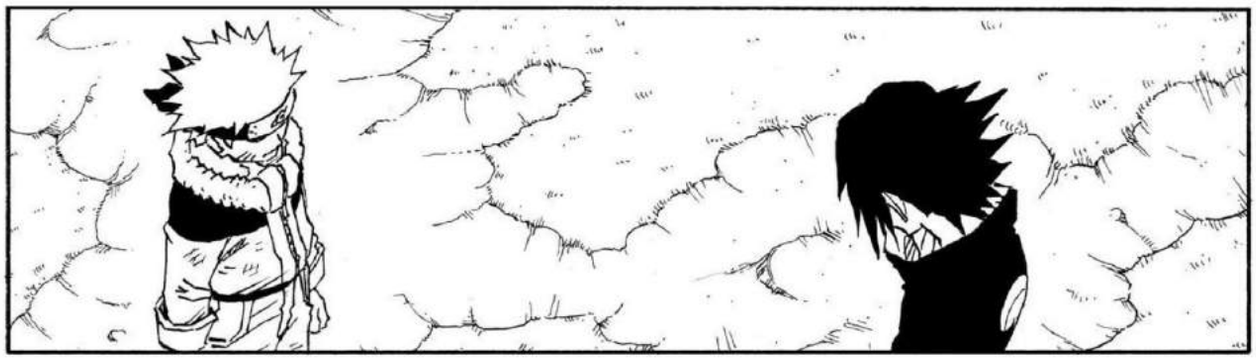
...I NEVER IMAGINED NARUTO WOULD BEAT UP HYUGA NEJI...
I MEAN...


HUH?
YOUR TEAM'S KINDA PRETTY AWESOME--!
HEY, SAKURA!

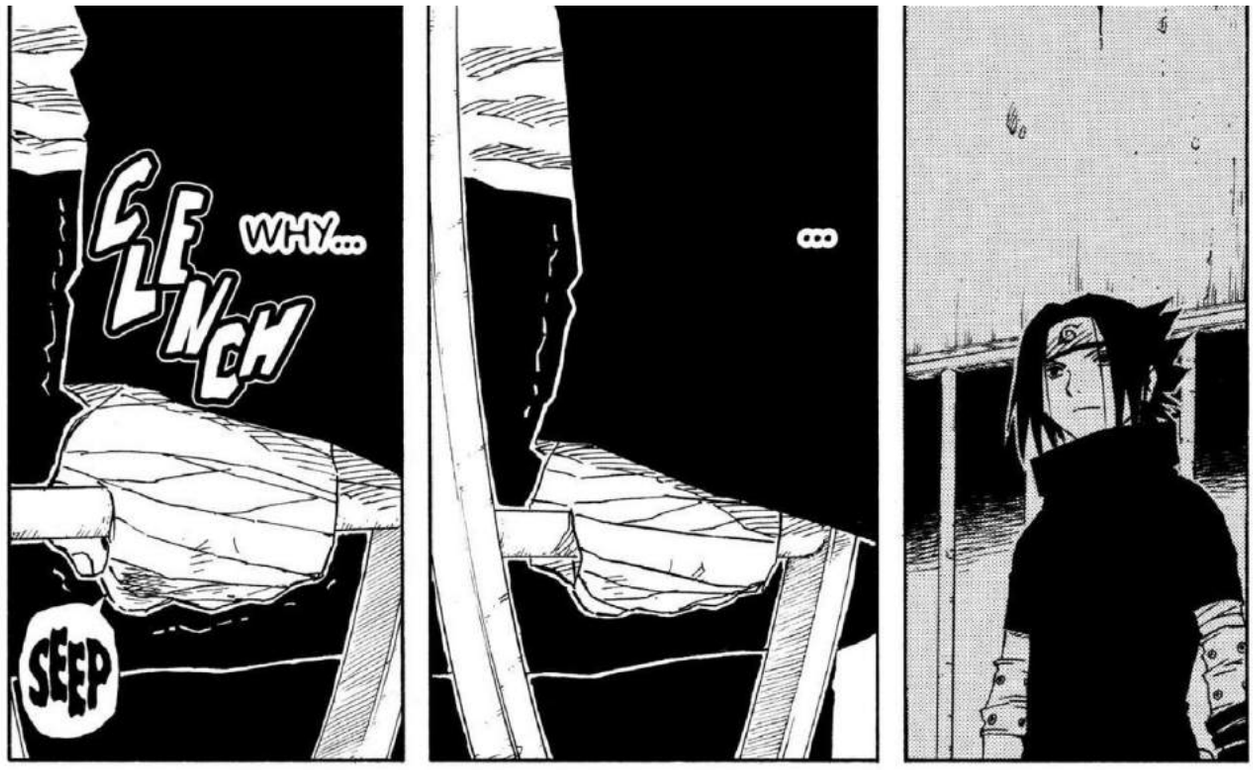
...

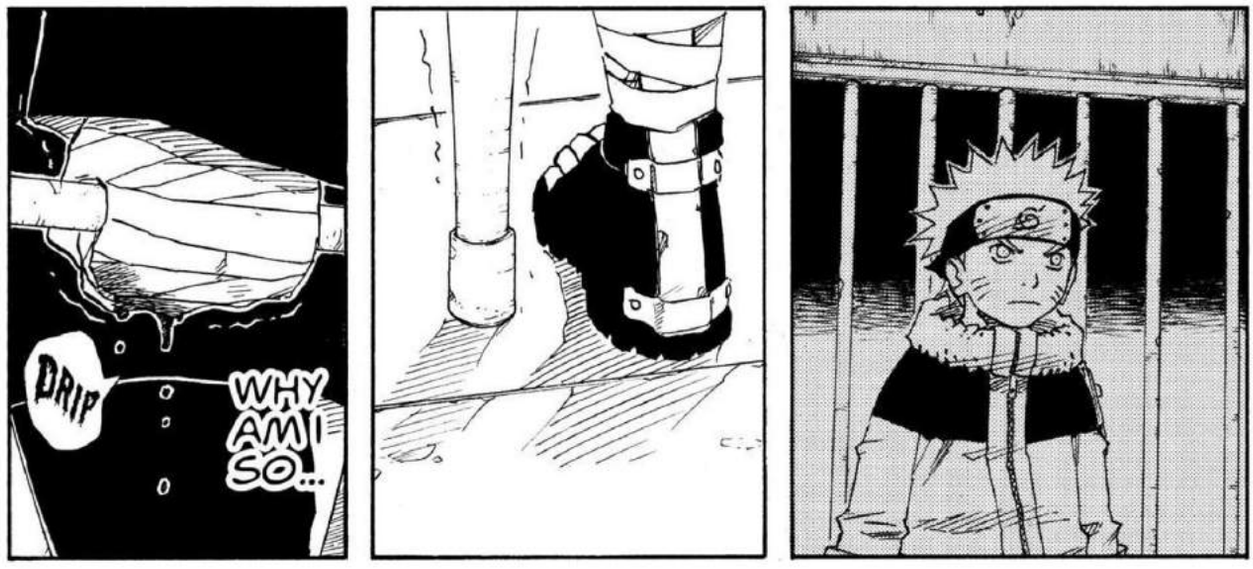
HUH?

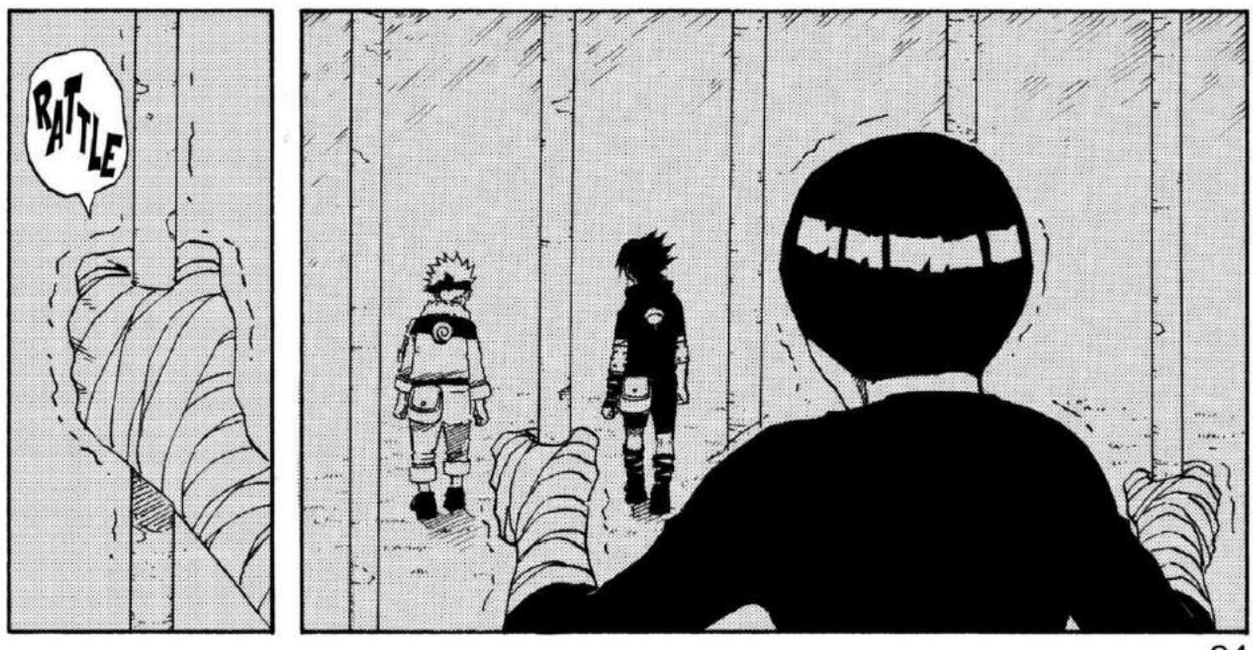
...AND SASUKE'S AN UCHIHA ELITE...
...WITH EVERYONE ITCHING TO WATCH HIS MATCH!



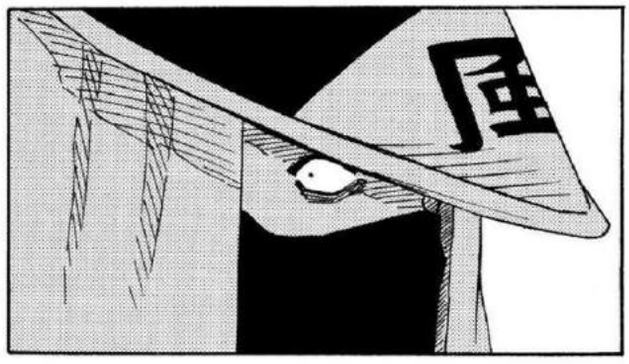
AND NARUTO WON AGAINST NEJI, WHOM I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO DEFEAT...
SASUKE IS FIGHTING THAT SAND NINJA GAARA, WHOM I WAS POWERLESS AGAINST...


CLENCH
WHY...
SEEP
...


DRIP
WHY AM I SO...


RATTLE

...JEALOUS?!



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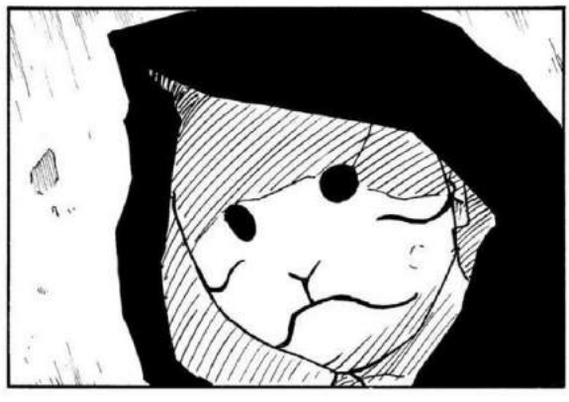
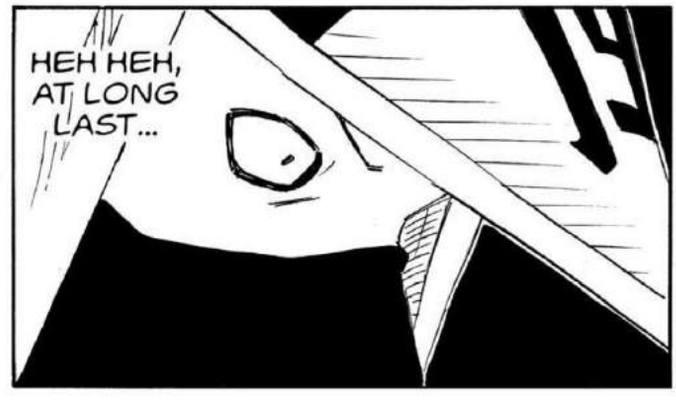
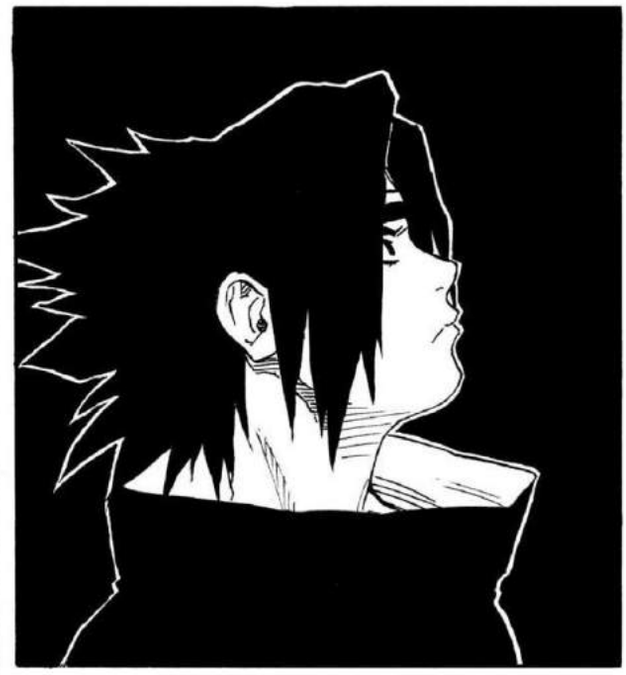



HEH HEH, AT LONG LAST...

GAARA, COME DOWN.



TURN
AND LET'S JUST TAKE THE STAIRS THIS TIME, OKAY?!
WHAT! ARE YOU STILL HOLDING IT AGAINST ME THAT I SHOVED YOU?!

NARUTO! LET'S GO BACK UPSTAIRS.

ROGER.

ROAR
ROAR

SH-SHOOT... I HAVEN'T SEEN GAARA THIS BAD IN A WHILE...

...H-HEY, GAARA... DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE PLAN, ALL RI--
WHIP

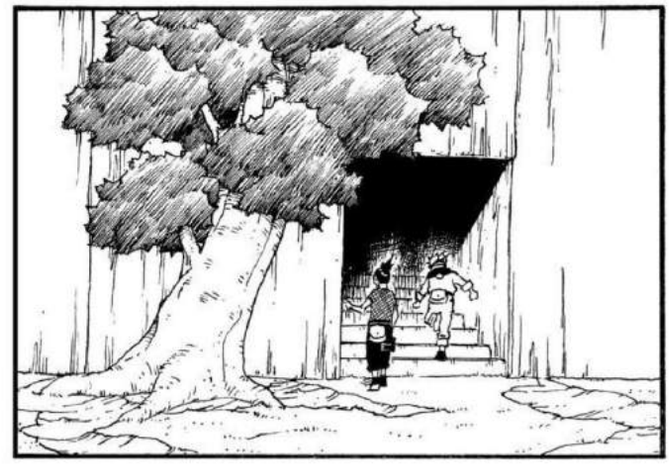
!!
SMACK

愛

...!

DON'T TALK TO HIM RIGHT NOW...

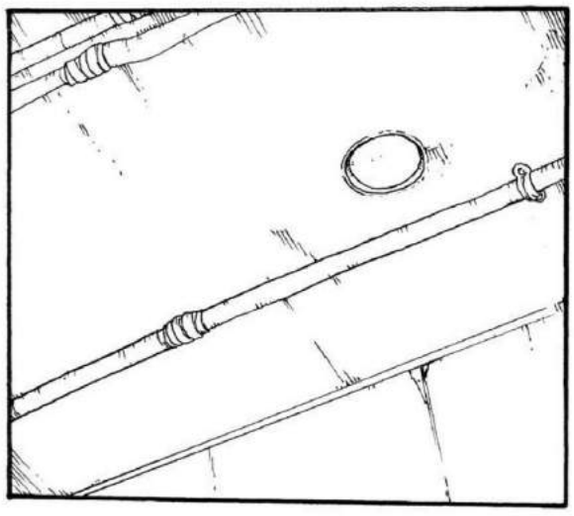
HE'LL KILL YOU!



STEP

HEY! LET'S GO.
RISE

HEY! C'MON, HURRY UP!
NO GOOD EVER COMES FROM RUSHING, YOU KNOW.

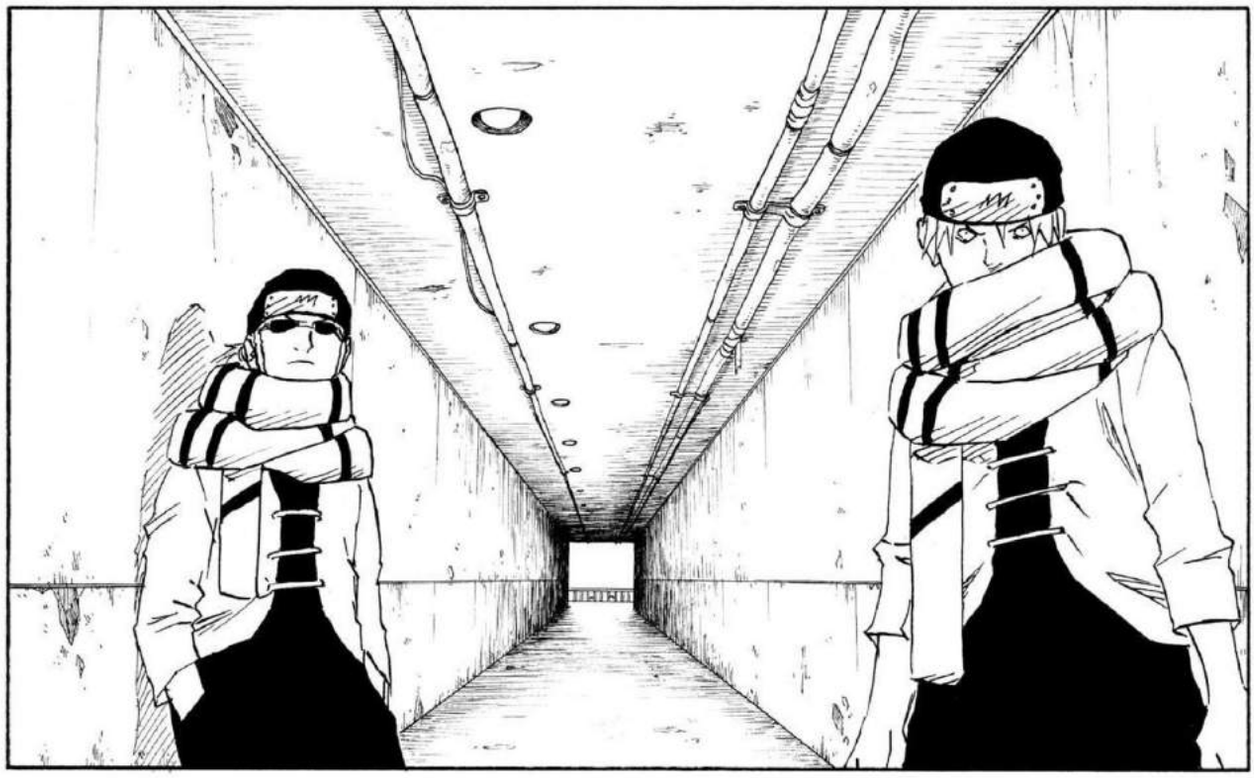


WHAT'S THE MATTER...?

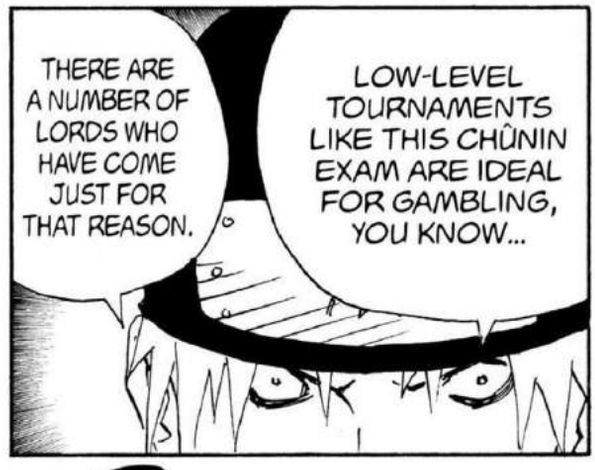
!

HALT!

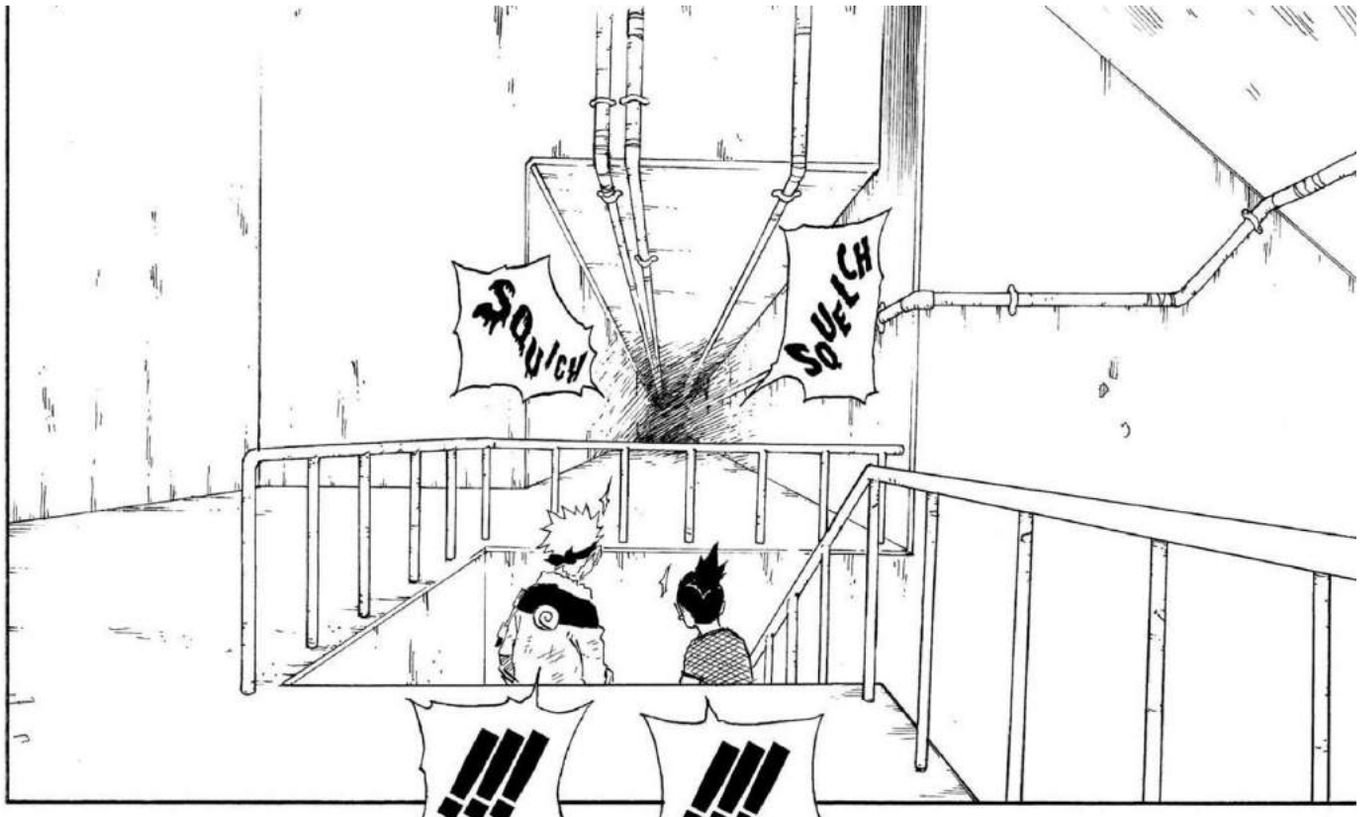
CRUNCH
CRUNCH



...THIS MATCH... WE WANT YOU TO LOSE IT...
AND SO...


THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LORDS WHO HAVE COME JUST FOR THAT REASON.
LOW-LEVEL TOURNAMENTS LIKE THIS CHÛNIN EXAM ARE IDEAL FOR GAMBLING, YOU KNOW...

愛


SQUICH
SQUELCH

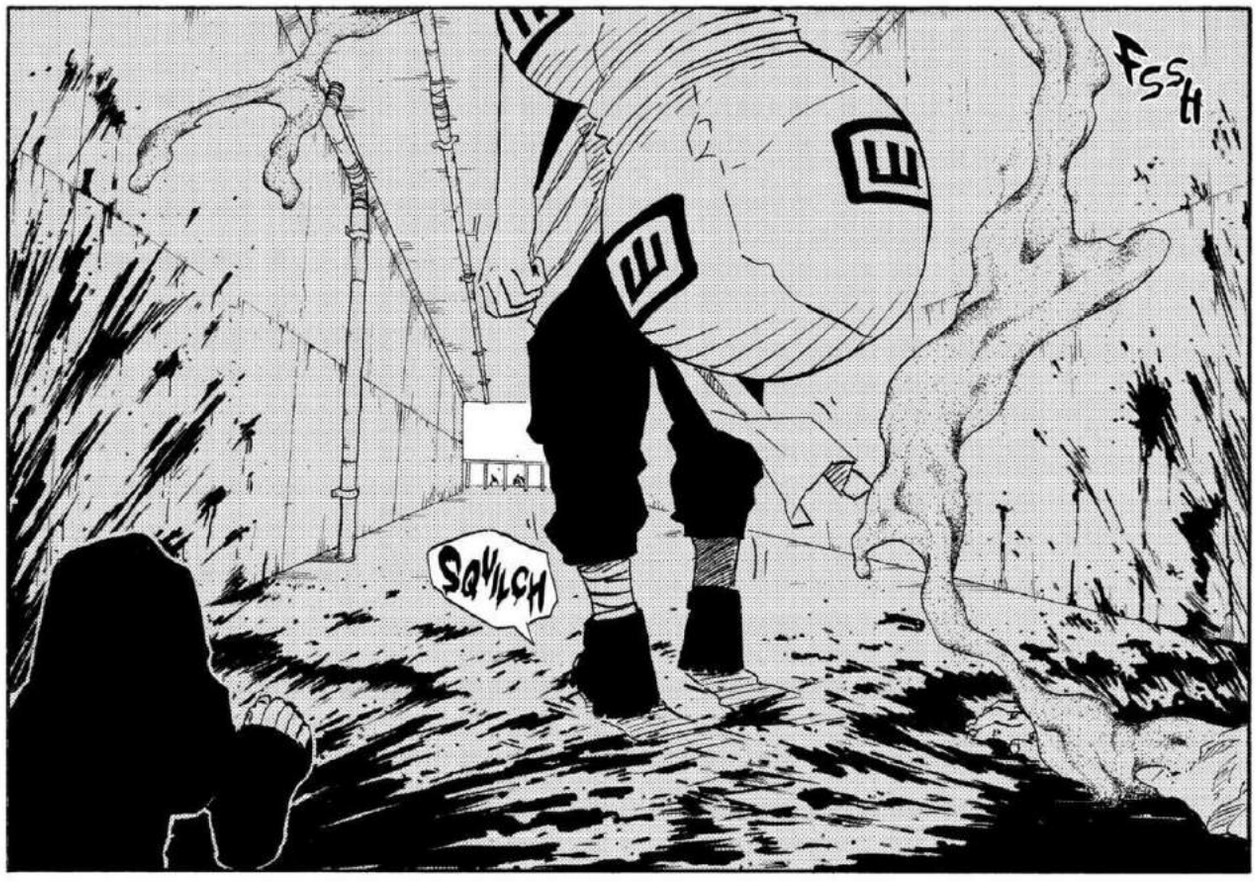
!!!
!!!

RRR OAR

RRRR RROAR

SSSH
SQUICH

FSSSH


FSSSH
SQUILCH

SSHF
SSHF

FSSSH
SHLUP

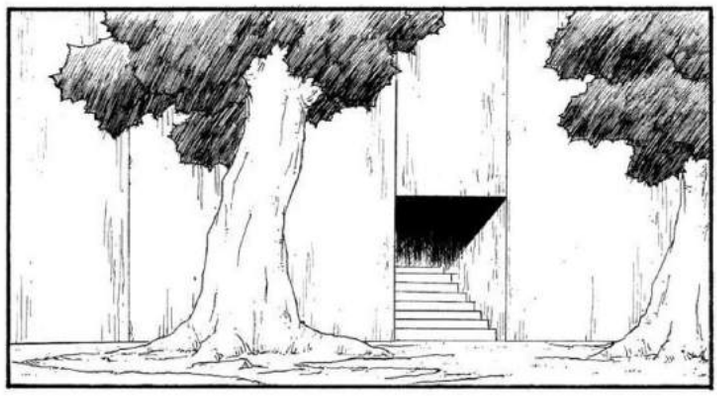
FSSSH
SSSH

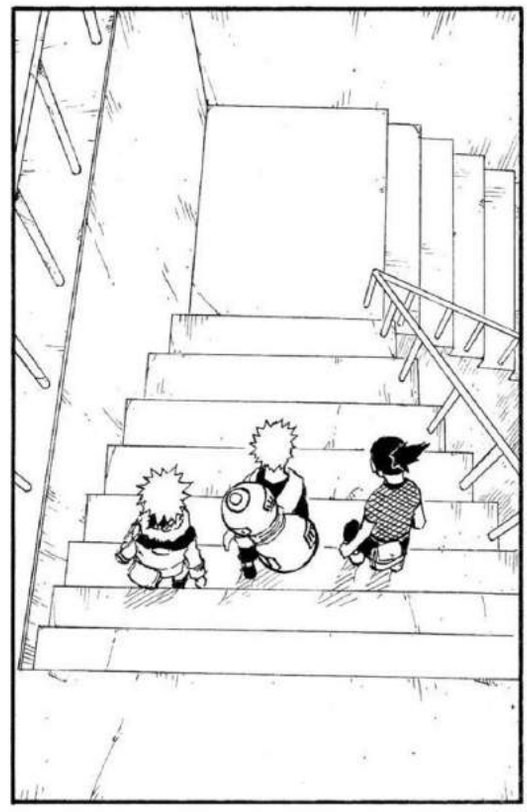
TH-THUMP
TROMP
TH-THUMP
TROMP
TH-THUMP

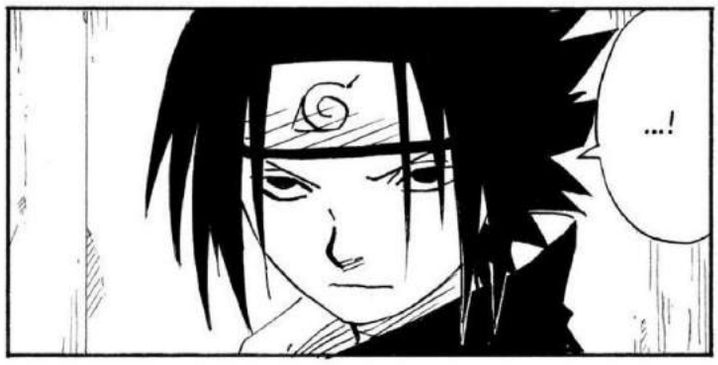
TROMP
TROMP
...
TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP
TROMP

TROMP
TH-THUMP






...!

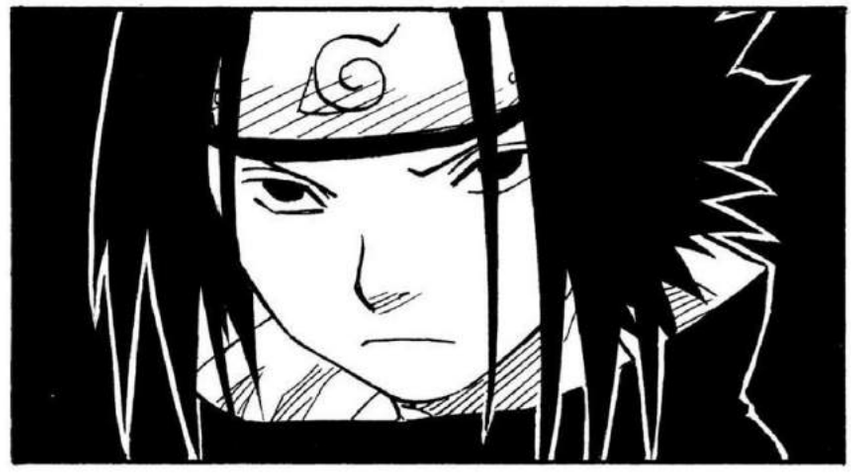
...IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THOSE TWO... WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.
(HUF)
WHEW...
(HUF)
(HUF)

CRUNCH

SASUKE...

...EVEN SASUKE BETTER WATCH IT... YIKES...
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE WHO KILLED SO AUTOMATICALLY.

AT LONG LAST...
NOW THEN...



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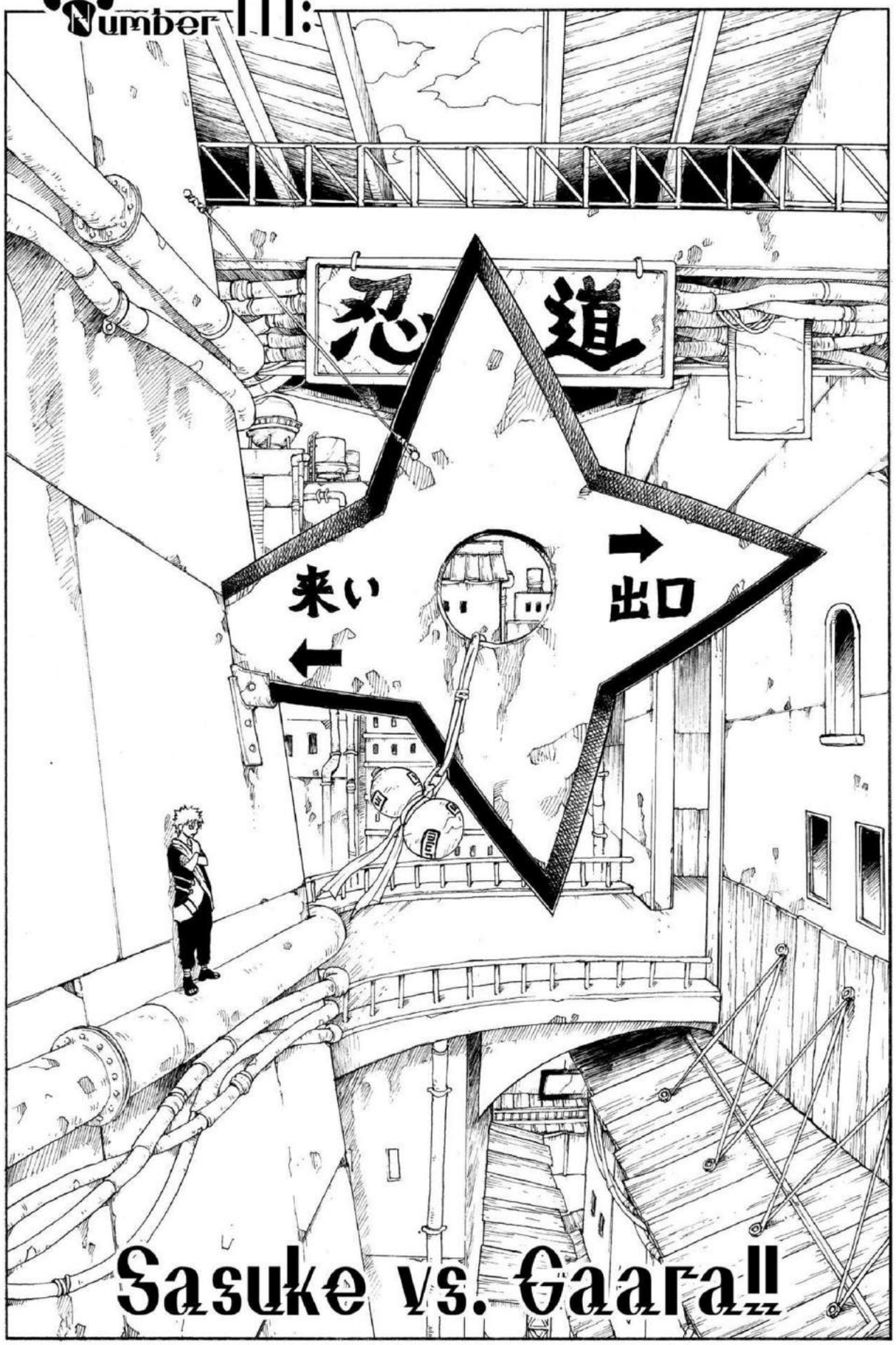
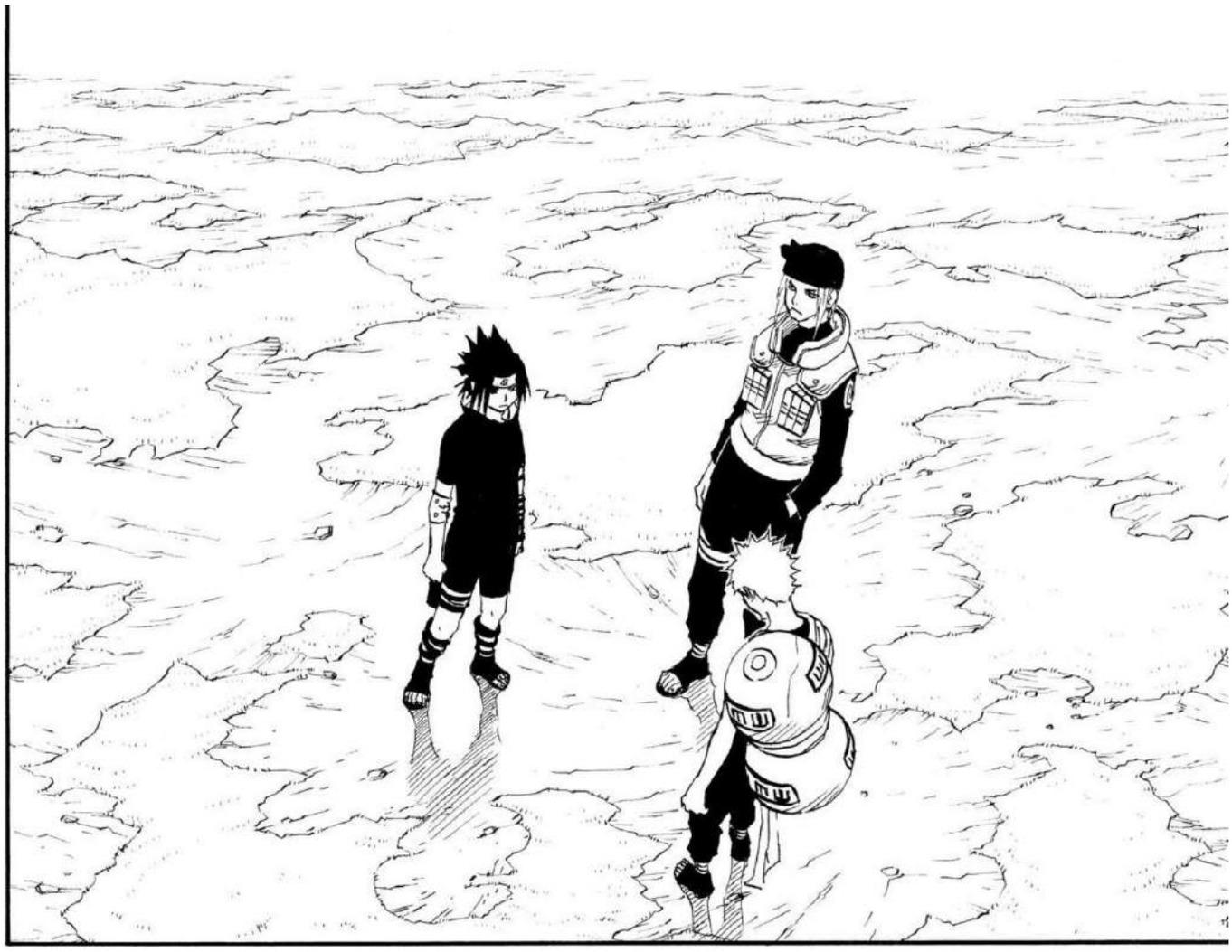
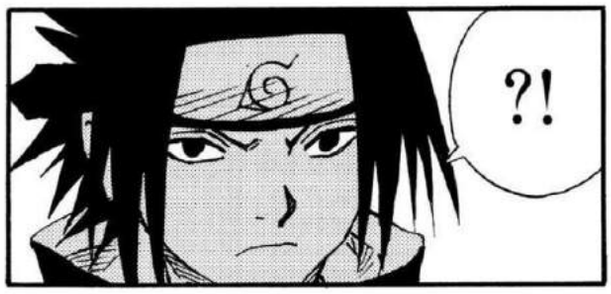


Sasuke vs. Gaara!!

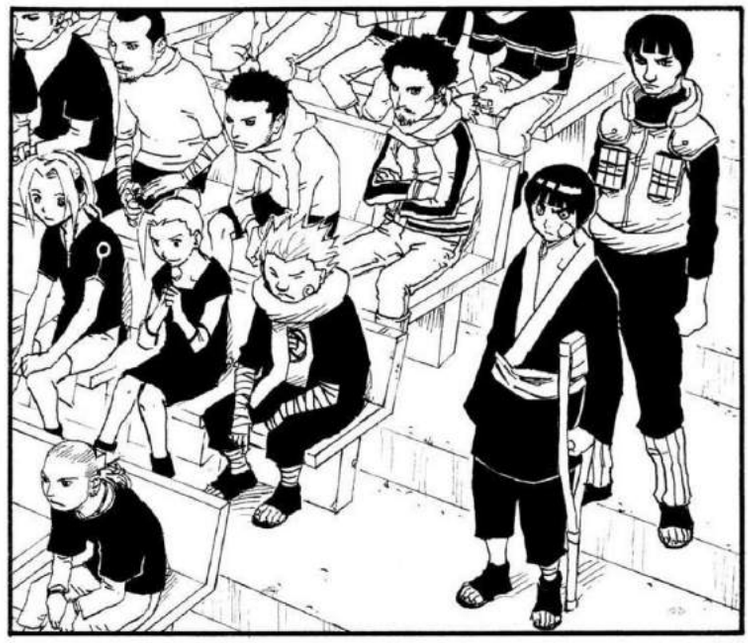



?!

愛
HEH HEH HEH...

!
SHOOM

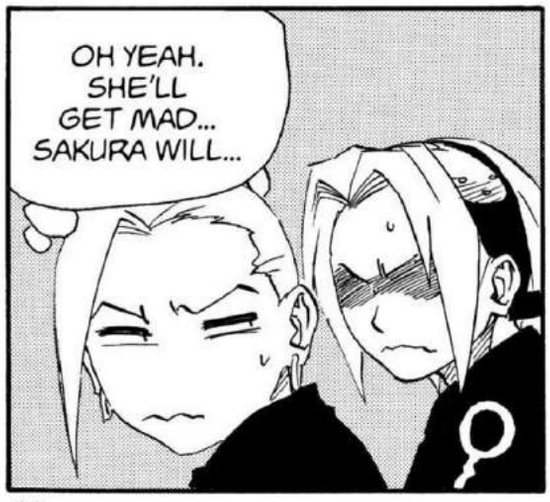
!



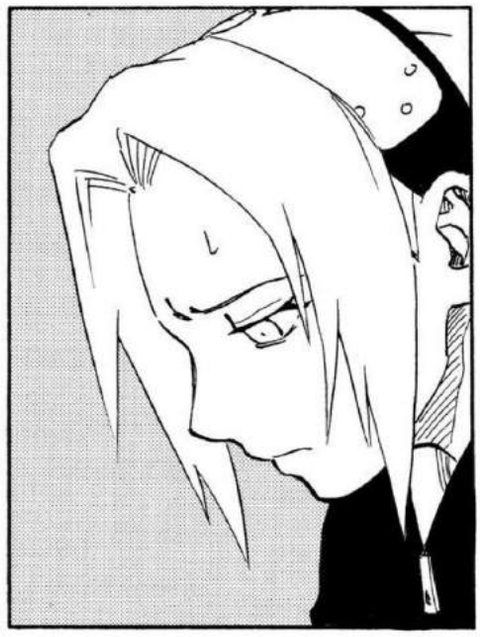
KAKASHI!
!

YO, GUY!
AND YOU TOO, LEE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT NOW?

MASTER KAKASHI!

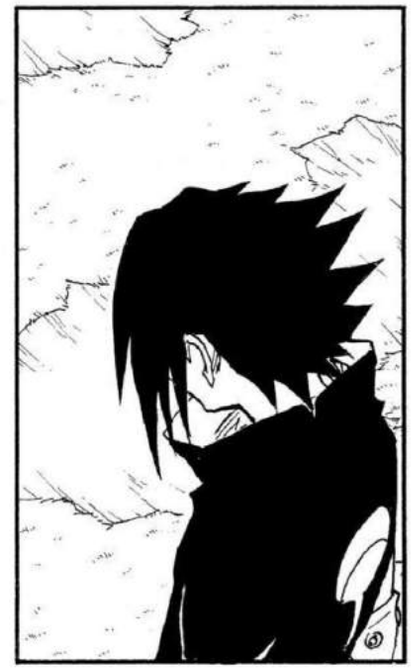

OH YEAH. SHE'LL GET MAD... SAKURA WILL...

SORRY I DIDN'T KEEP IN TOUCH...
YOU WERE WORRIED, WEREN'T YOU...?
OH! SORRY, SORRY.



!
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I CAN'T SEE IT VERY WELL FROM UP HERE...

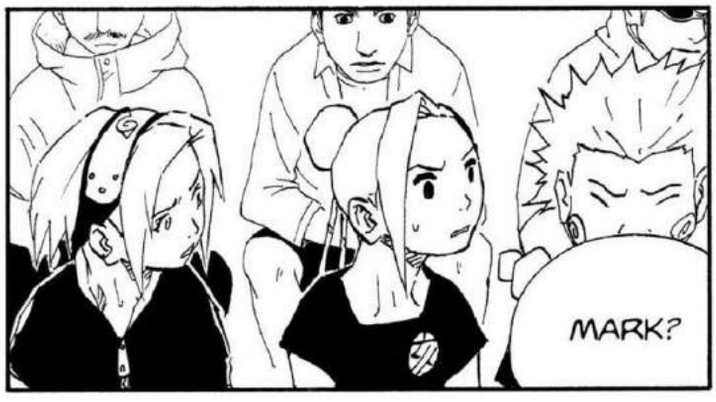


...!

...MASTER KAKASHI...

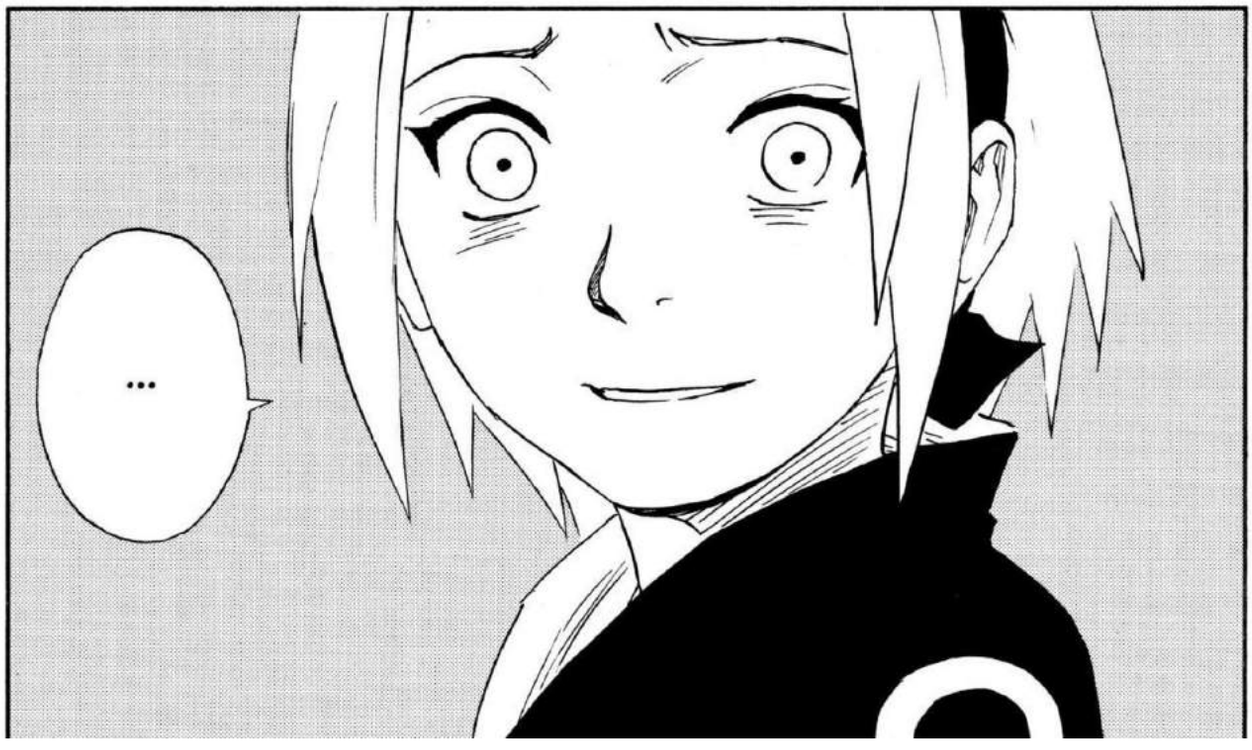
...

IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
...ON SASUKE'S NECK... IT'S STILL...
THAT MARK...

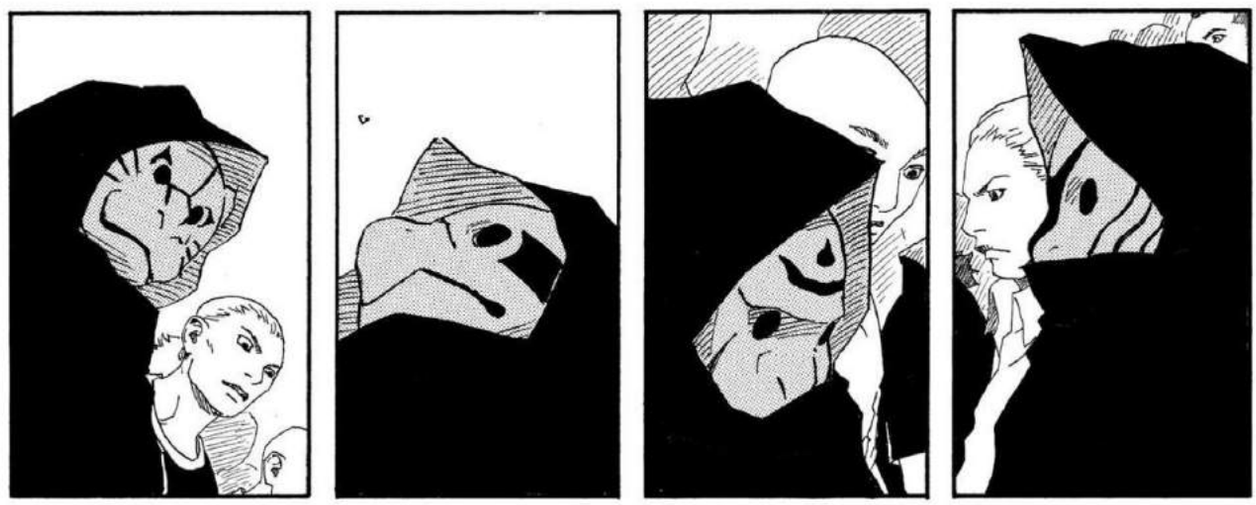

MARK?

GRIN

!

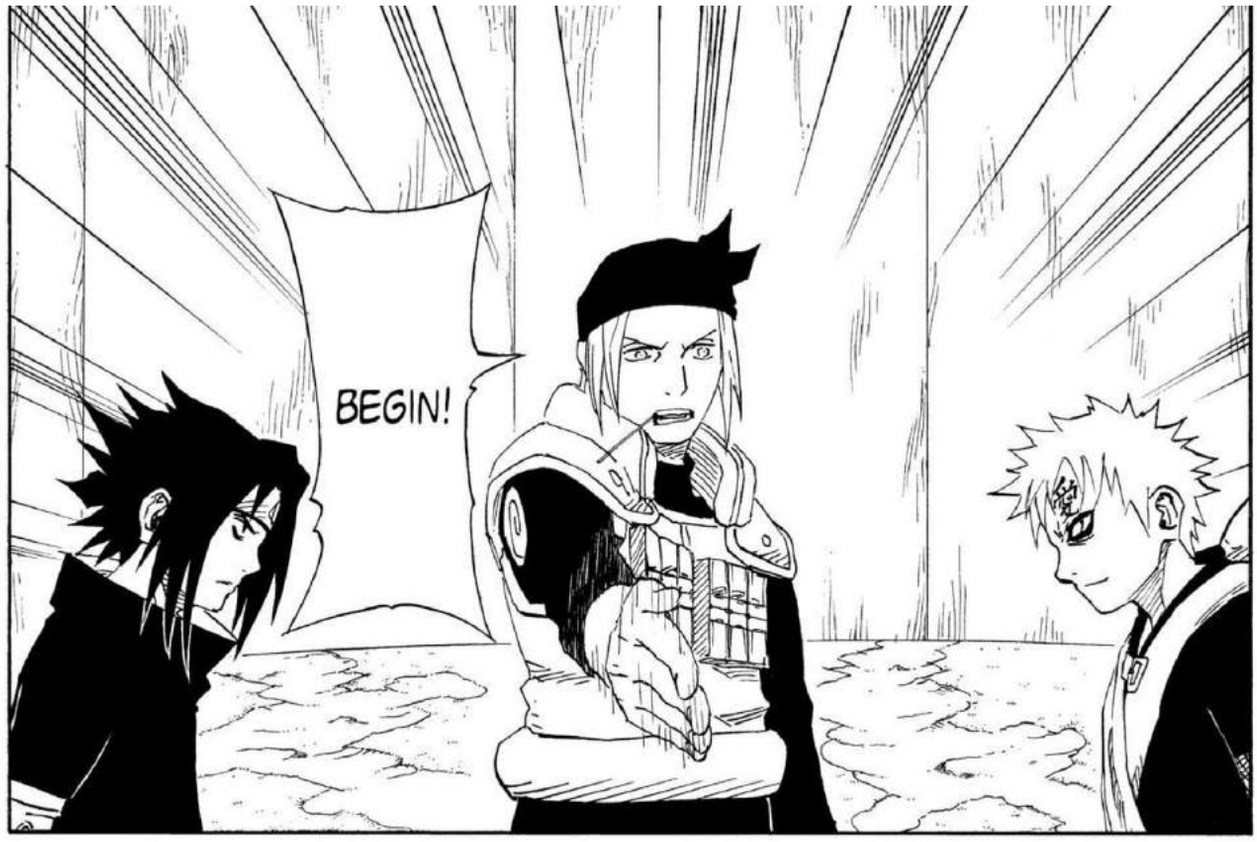

...

...



MUTTER MUTTER

WELL... NOT KNOWING HOW THE ENEMY IS GOING TO ACT...
...THE BLACK OPS HAVE PROBABLY ALSO BEEN DISPERSED AND STATIONED AROUND THE KEY PARTS OF THE VILLAGE.
ONLY EIGHT BLACK OPS FOR THIS HUGE STADIUM...? TWO PLATOONS AREN'T ENOUGH... WHAT IS LORD HOKAGE THINKING...?


BEGIN!

LEAP
SO THIS IS THE SAND KAKASHI WAS TALKING ABOUT...

THROB
UGH...!

FSSSH

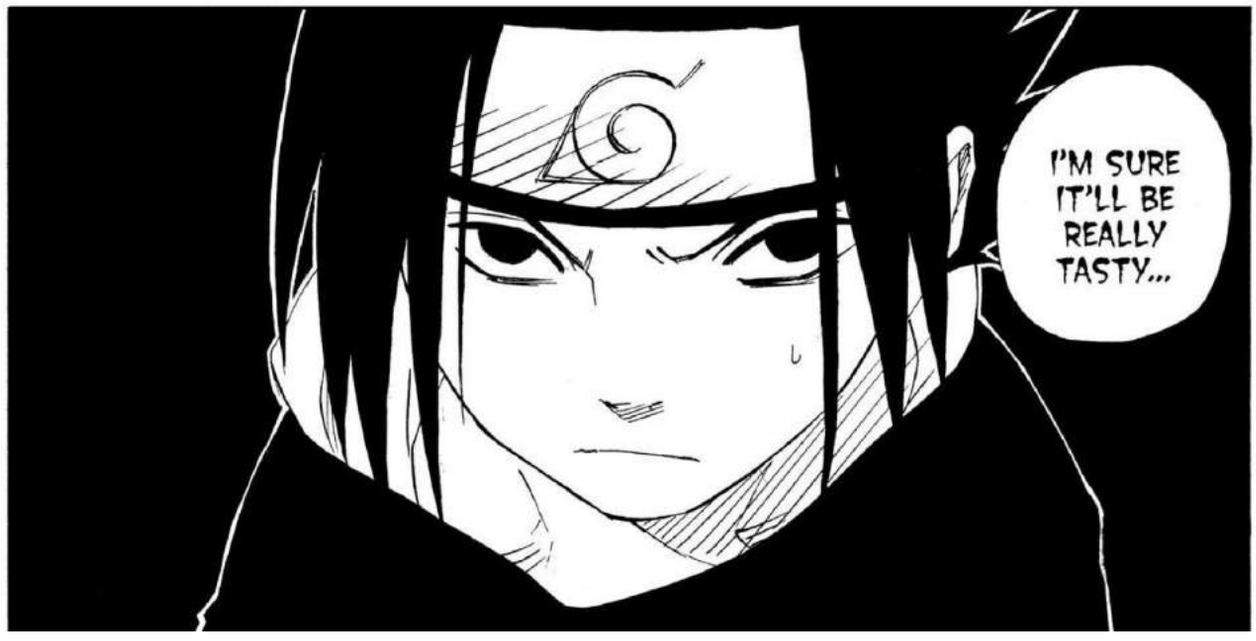
PLEASE... DON'T BE SO ANGRY...
?

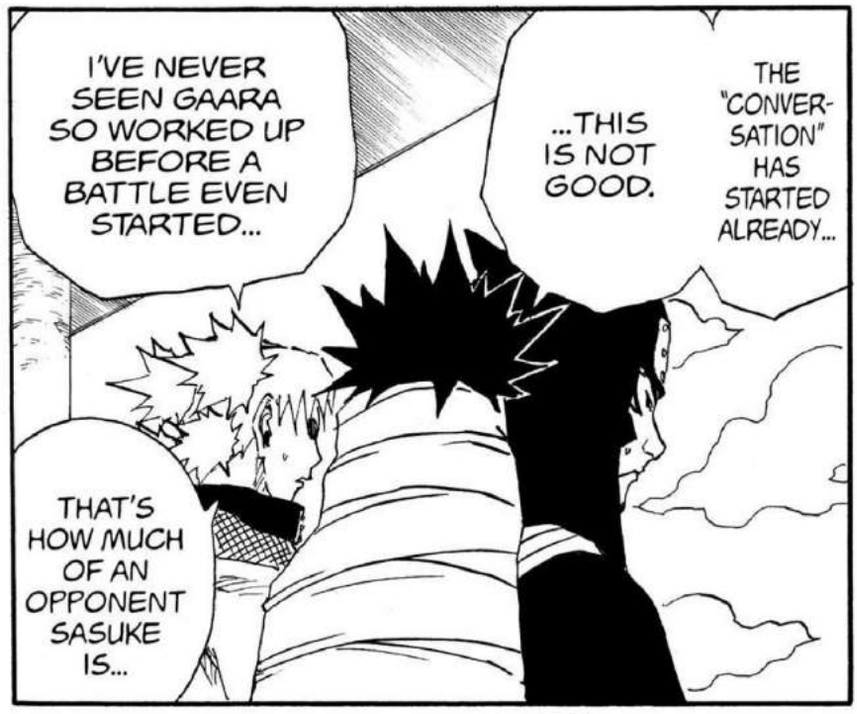
?
FSSSH

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT...? WEIRD.
?!

...
HUF
MOTHER...
HUF
HUF
HUF

FSSSSSS
I... GAVE YOU BAD-TASTING BLOOD EARLIER, DIDN'T I...?
I'M SORRY...
BUT... DON'T WORRY... THIS TIME...

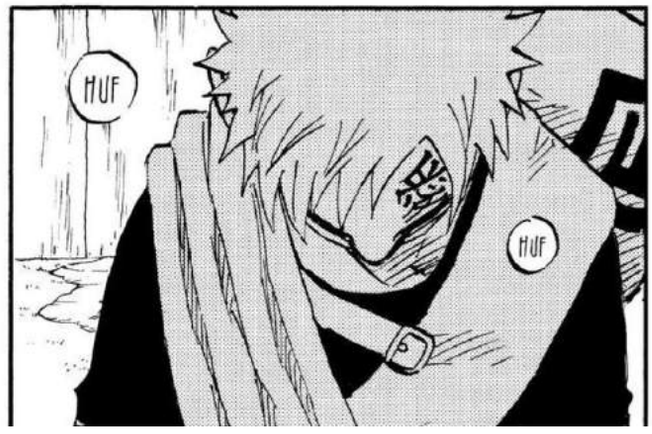

I'M SURE IT'LL BE REALLY TASTY...


I'VE NEVER SEEN GAARA SO WORKED UP BEFORE A BATTLE EVEN STARTED...
...THIS IS NOT GOOD.
THE "CONVER-SATION" HAS STARTED ALREADY...
THAT'S HOW MUCH OF AN OPPONENT SASUKE IS...

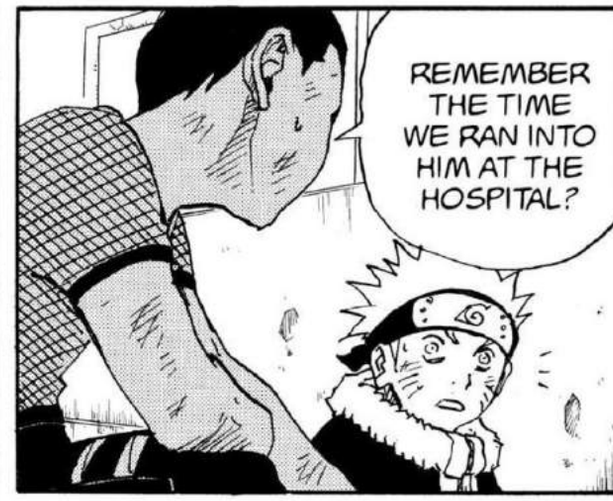
THROB
UGH!

愛
COME.

IT SEEMS TO HAVE SETTLED DOWN.
...


HUF
HUF

THAT TIME, HE SAID...
I WILL KILL YOU ALL...
...JUST YOU WAIT.


REMEMBER THE TIME WE RAN INTO HIM AT THE HOSPITAL?

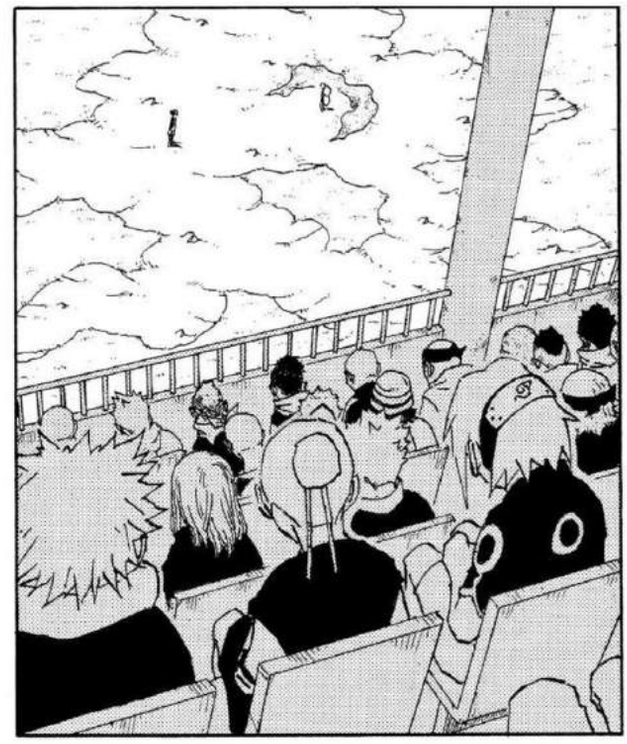
HELP ME FEEL ALIVE!
...NOW...
愛

WE DON'T EVEN REGISTER IN HIS SIGHT.
BUT... HE DIDN'T.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS HIS BEST CHANCE...

...NOT ENOUGH FOR HIM.
WE'RE...

IF ALL OTHER PEOPLE EXIST TO MAGNIFY THAT LOVE, THEN THERE IS NO MORE SPLENDID WORLD THAN THIS ONE.

I WOULD FIGHT ONLY FOR MYSELF AND LOVE ONLY MYSELF.



HERE I COME.

FWIP

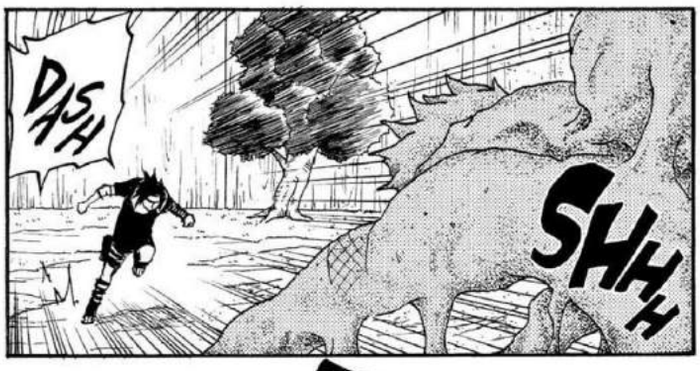
SHK
SHK

SHOOM

SHHFF

THWOCK
THWOCK

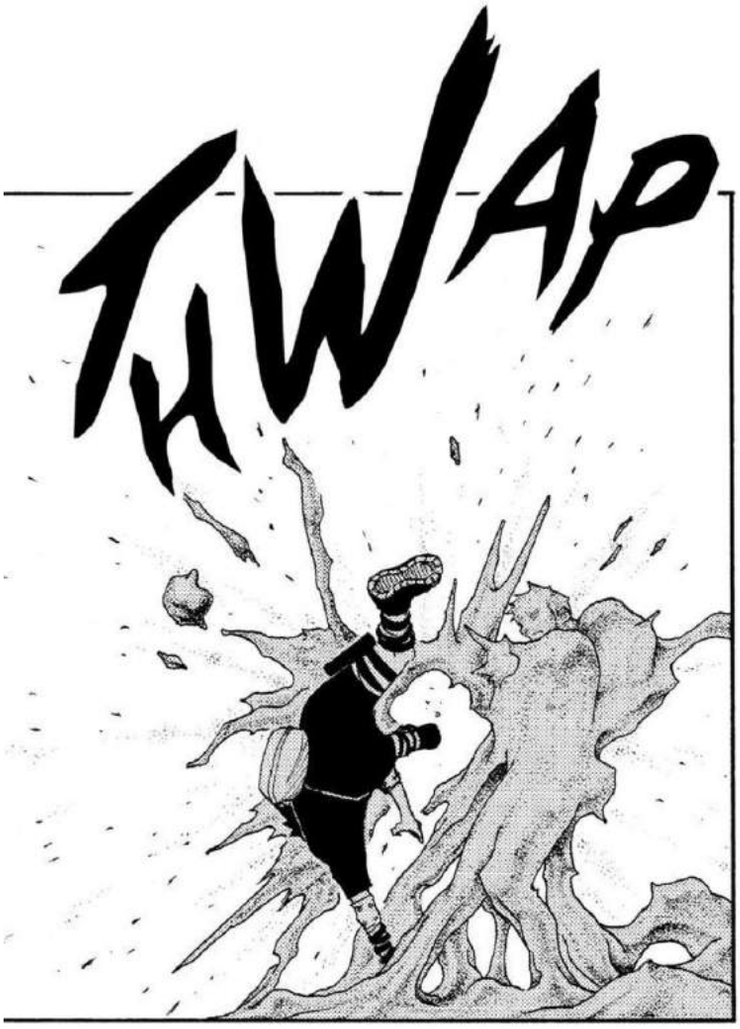
SSSH


DASH
SHHH

HIS SAND SHIELD TRANS-FORMED INTO A SAND CLONE...!!

BOOM

LEAD
SHOOM
!!
!
CHAK
CHAK
FWIP
FWIP
!

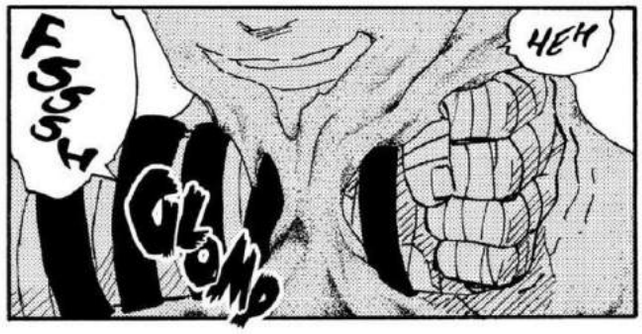

THWAP

CLENCH

TAK
SHA

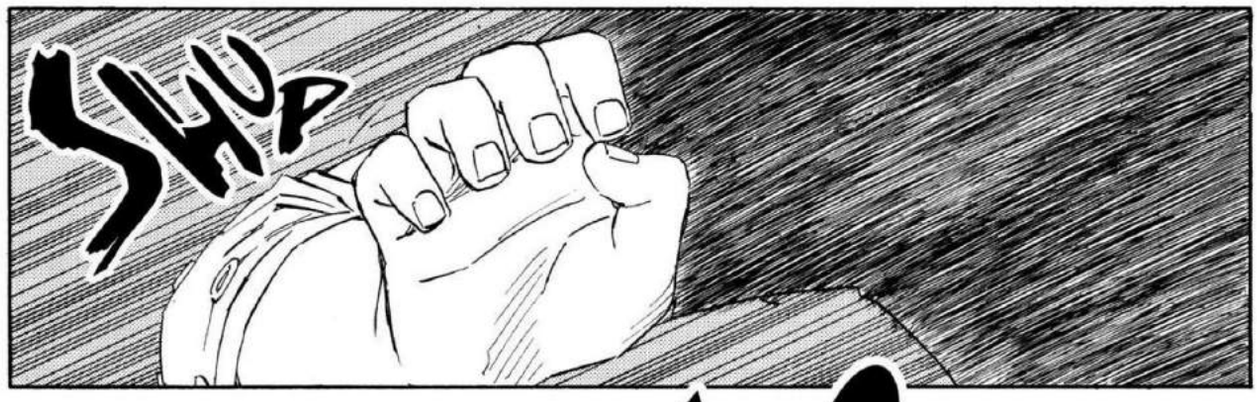
SKKKS!

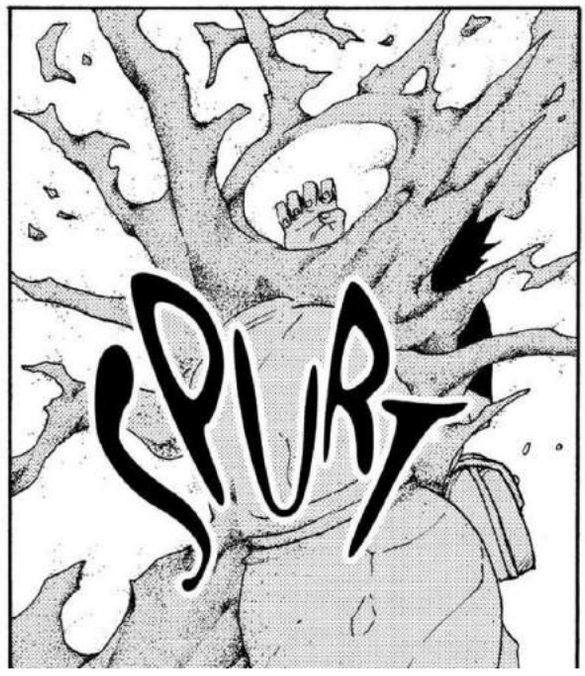
FWB
KA
SHUNK


HEH
FSSSH
GLOMP

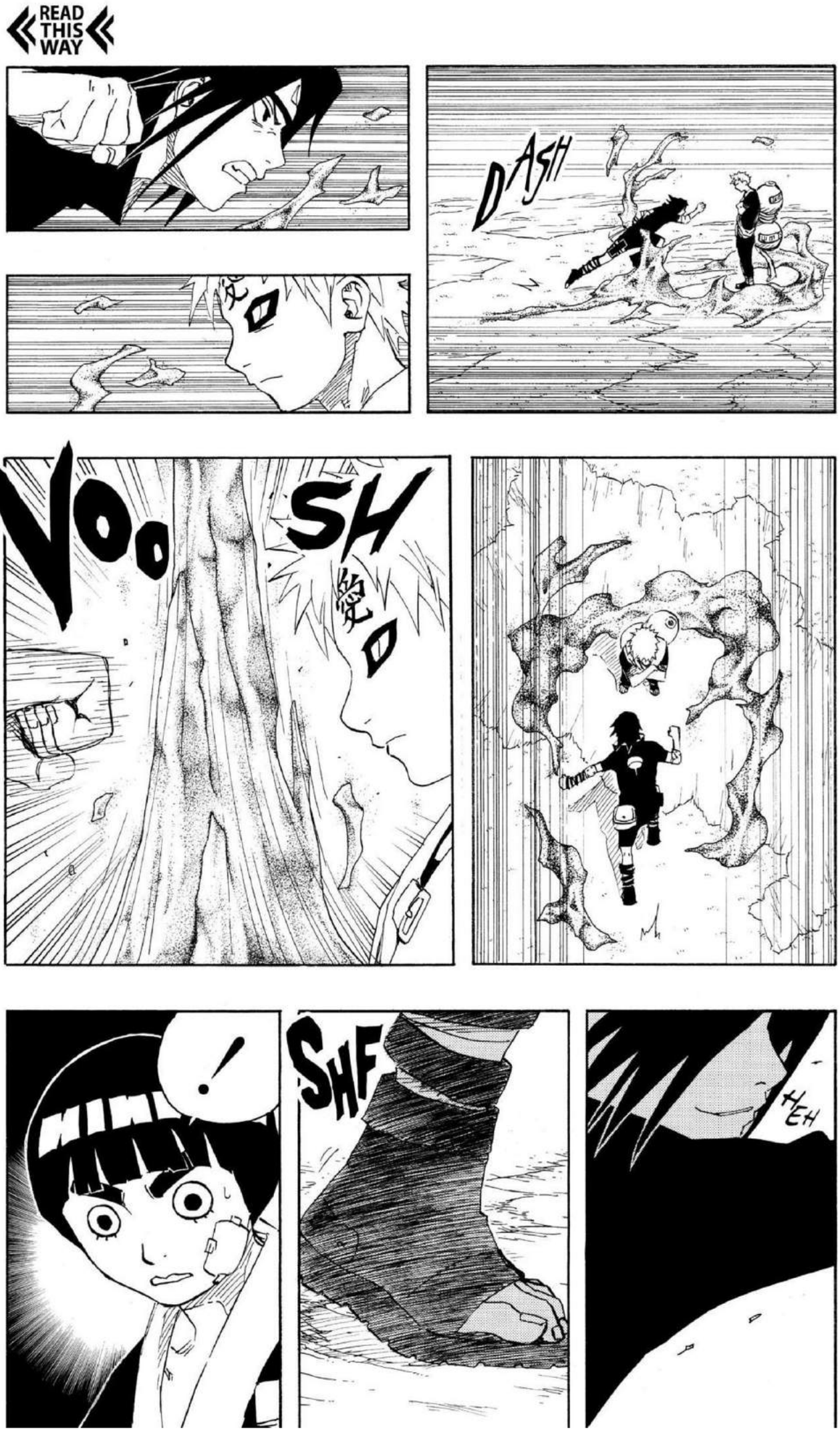
KOO
SH

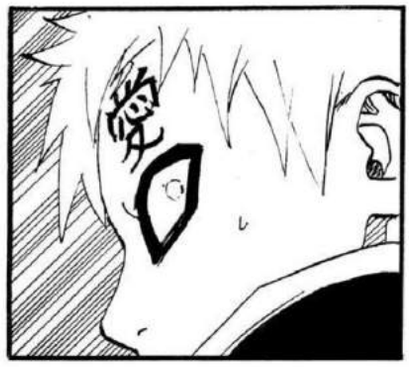
UGH!

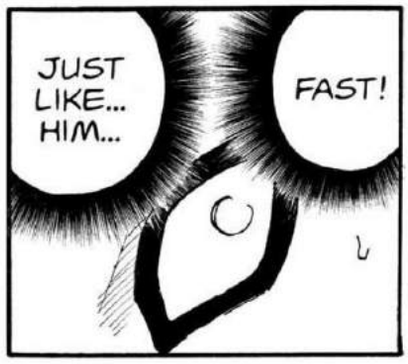

SHUP

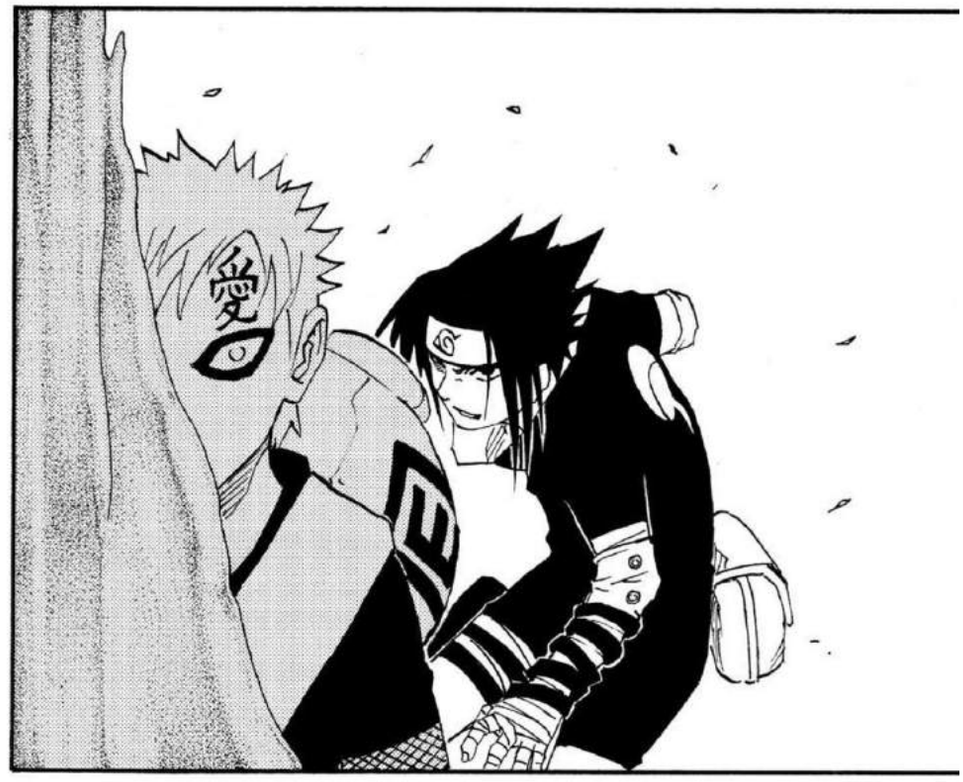

SPURT

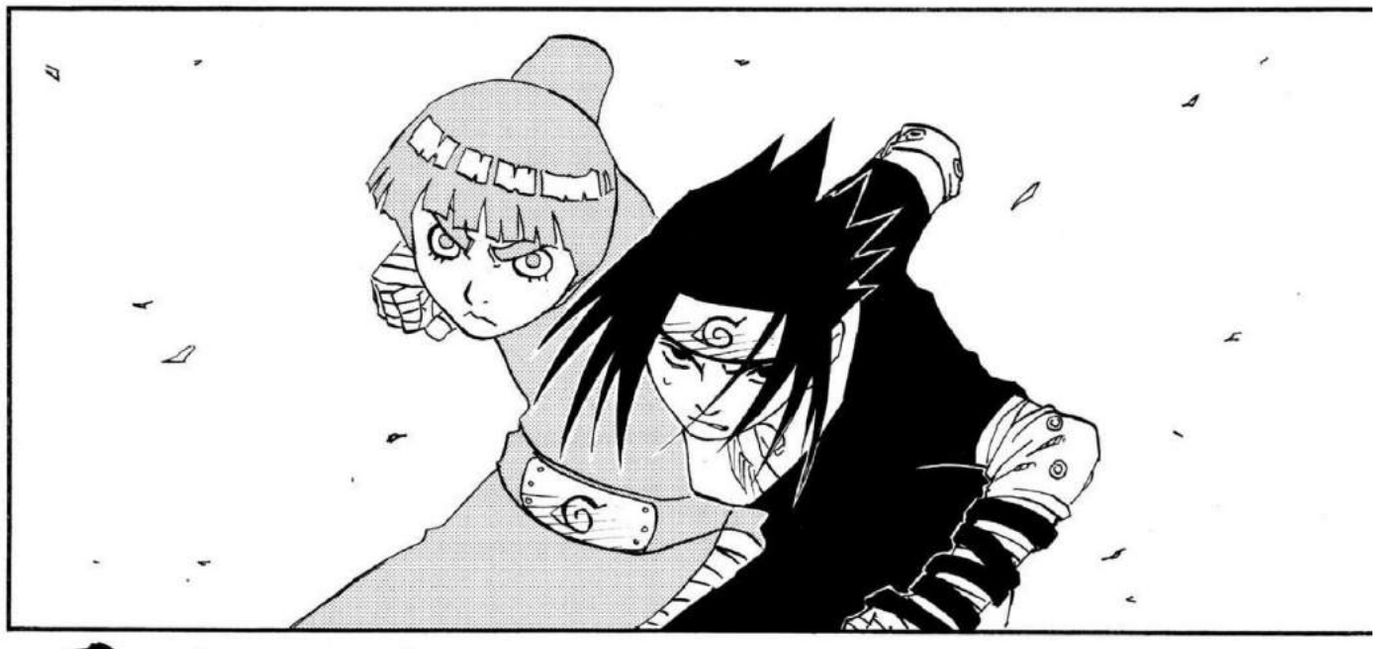
FWO
NK
YAH!


READ THIS WAY
DASH
VOOSH
愛
!
SHF
HEH


愛


JUST LIKE... HIM...
FAST!

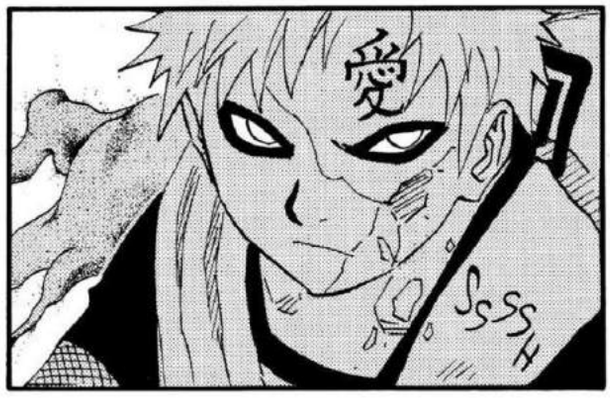

愛

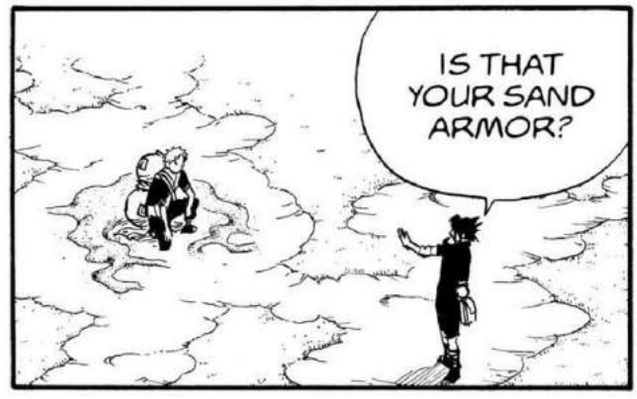


SLAM

AND...
HE'S QUICK!! HE'S ALMOST AS FAST AS LEE'S AVERAGE SPEED...

...MY TAIJUTSU IMAGE!!
...HIS STANCE MATCHES...


愛
SSSSH


IS THAT YOUR SAND ARMOR?

SHUP SHUP
COME!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 17

HAVING BRILLIANTLY ACHIEVED COLLEGE STUDENT STATUS AND HAVING ALL OF MY CLASSES REVOLVE AROUND DRAWING MADE FOR A DREAMLIKE, HAPPY EXISTENCE FOR ME.

AND NOW THAT I WAS A FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT, I WAS ABOUT TO TURN 19 YEARS OLD! I STARTED FURIOUSLY DRAWING MANGA, WITH *JUMP'S* HOP ☆ STEP AWARD AS MY GOAL. "I FEEL A SAMURAI MANGA COMING ON RIGHT NOW!" I THOUGHT, SO I STEADILY DREW A SAMURAI MANGA, BUT THEN, JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO COMPLETE IT, AN UNBELIEVABLE THING HAPPENED...!!

YIKES! A DOUBLE PUNCH OF NEWCOMERS WHO WERE BOTH THINKING THE SAME THING AND HAD GOOD ART SENSE--I COULDN'T BELIEVE THERE WERE SO MANY!! AND IN THIS WORLD, THE EARLY BIRD REALLY DOES GET THE WORM...!

IN THE STAND-ALONE STORY SECTION OF *JUMP* APPEARED A MANGA BY *RUROUNI KENSHIN* AUTHOR WATSUKI NOBUHIRO-SENSEI! AT THE TIME, THE TITLE DID NOT YET HAVE "KENSHIN" IN IT, BUT IT STILL HAD A HUGE EFFECT ON ME. IN ADDITION, AROUND THE SAME TIME, SAMURA HIROAKI OF THE IMMORTAL SAMURAI *BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL* FAME ALSO WON THE GRAND PRIZE AND FOREVER CHANGED THE STANDARD FOR *AFTERNOON'S* RISING ARTISTS' CONTEST!! SAMURA'S ART AND STORY WERE WAY ABOVE THE LEVEL OF A NEWCOMER, ALMOST THAT OF A FULL PRO!

I RECEIVED THE BIGGEST SHOCK OF MY LIFE SINCE *AKIRA*!

WHEN I CAREFULLY REREAD MY OWN SAMURAI MANGA WITH THOSE TWO AMAZING WORKS IN FRONT OF ME, I FELT MY OWN PUNINESS MORE THAN I CARED TO... OF COURSE, I STILL ENTERED THAT SAMURAI MANGA INTO THE CONTEST, BUT IT DIDN'T EVEN MAKE A MARK... MY PATH TOWARDS BECOMING A MANGA-KA STILL STRETCHED FAR BEFORE ME, WROUGHT WITH PERIL!

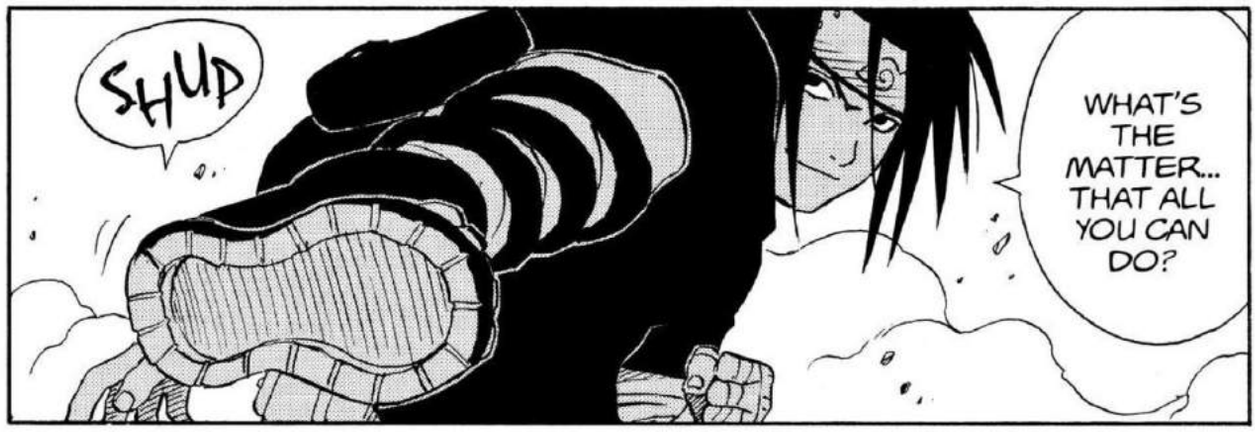
Number 112: Sasuke's Taijutsu...!!

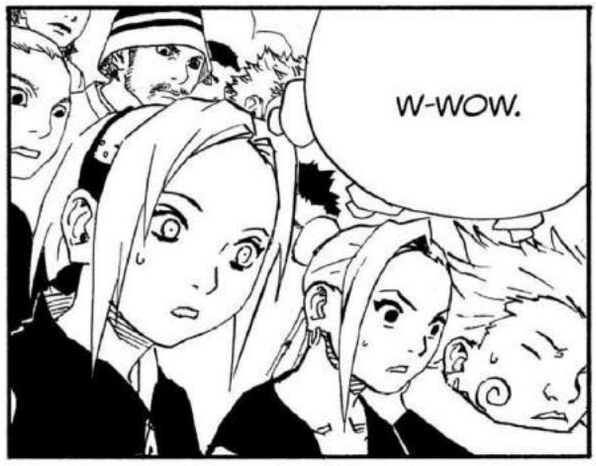
愛
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COME TO ME, I'LL GO TO YOU!

!
FSSSH
SHOOOM
FSSH
!!
...HE'S SO FAST!
FSSSSH
VOOSH

SLAM

THUD



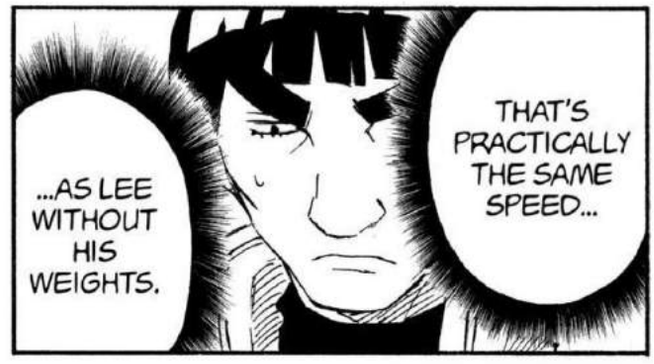


SHOOM

HUF
I'LL RIP IT OFF OF YOU.
HUF
THAT ARMOR OF YOURS...

HOOM-HOOM

HOOM


THAT'S PRACTICALLY THE SAME SPEED...
...AS LEE WITHOUT HIS WEIGHTS.

EVEN HIS SPEED IS A LOT GREATER THAN BEFORE!
I-IT LOOKS... JUST LIKE LEE'S TAIJUTSU...

!!
!!

FWUNK

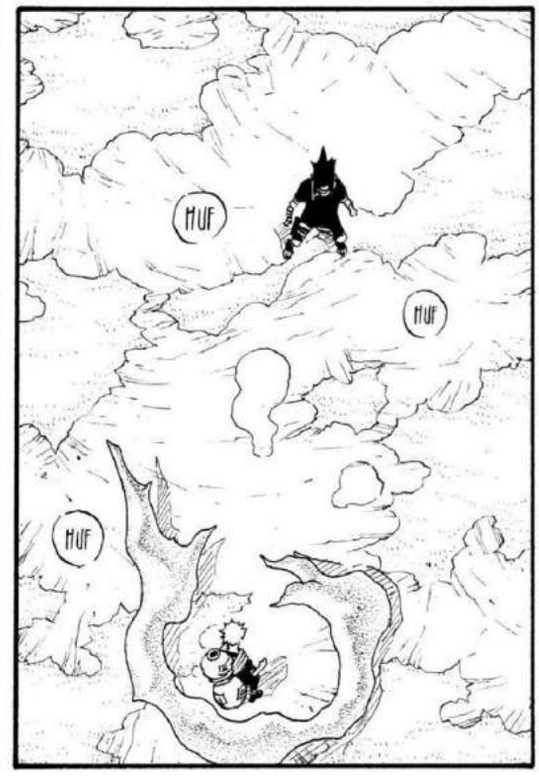
BO
OF

GRAB
YANK

HUF
HUF
HUF

IT TOOK ME YEARS TO ACHIEVE THAT LEVEL OF SPEED...
SASUKE... YOU REALLY ARE AN AMAZING GENIUS.
BUT YOU ATTAINED IT IN JUST ONE MONTH...

HUF
HUF
PLIP
PLIP


HUF
HUF
HUF

YOU CAN'T KEEP IT GOING THAT LONG...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, GAARA...? THE SAND ARMOR USES TOO MUCH CHAKRA...

...

HOWEVER... MAINTAINING THAT SPEED STILL EXPENDS QUITE A LOT OF ENERGY, DOESN'T IT...

...

SASUKE MIMICKED LEE'S TAIJUTSU USING THE SHARINGAN ONCE BEFORE...
...SO DURING HIS TAIJUTSU TRAINING, I JUST HAD HIM VISUALIZE LEE'S MOVEMENTS.

...EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF TRAINING DID YOU PUT HIM THROUGH...
...TO HONE HIM TO THAT EXTENT IN JUST ONE MONTH?!

!

BUT... IF THAT'S IT...
...YOU CAN'T DEFEAT THAT SAND SHINOBI WITH TAIJUTSU ALONE.

GLANCE

BECAUSE SASUKE KNEW LEE...
...HE WAS ABLE TO MASTER THOSE MOVES.
OF COURSE, IT WAS STILL EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

KAKASHI...
I KNOW HE WATCHED THE MATCH BETWEEN THAT DETESTABLE GAARA AND MY CHARMING LEE...
THEN...
HE'S GOT TO KNOW THAT HASTILY ACQUIRED TAIJUTSU ALONE WON'T WORK AGAINST GAARA, WHOM EVEN LEE COULDN'T DEFEAT...

!
ASSSH

WHY DID HE HAVE SASUKE HONE JUST HIS TAIJUTSU?!

FZZZT

FSSHT
愛

FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO I EXIST? WHY AM I ALIVE?
...

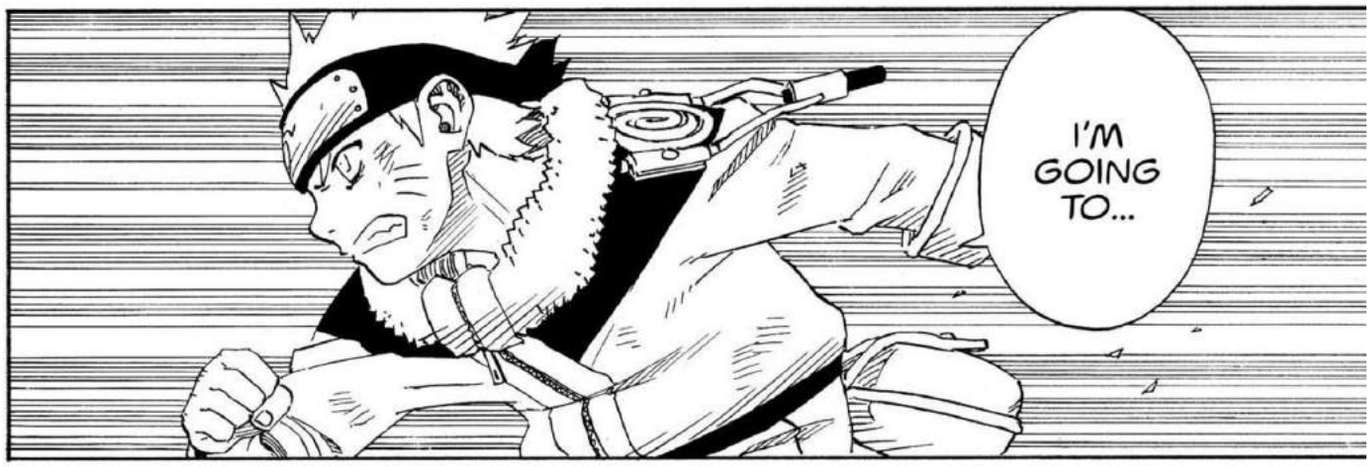
WHILE I CONTINUE TO LIVE, I NEED A REASON.
I EXIST TO KILL ALL HUMANS OTHER THAN MYSELF.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING...?

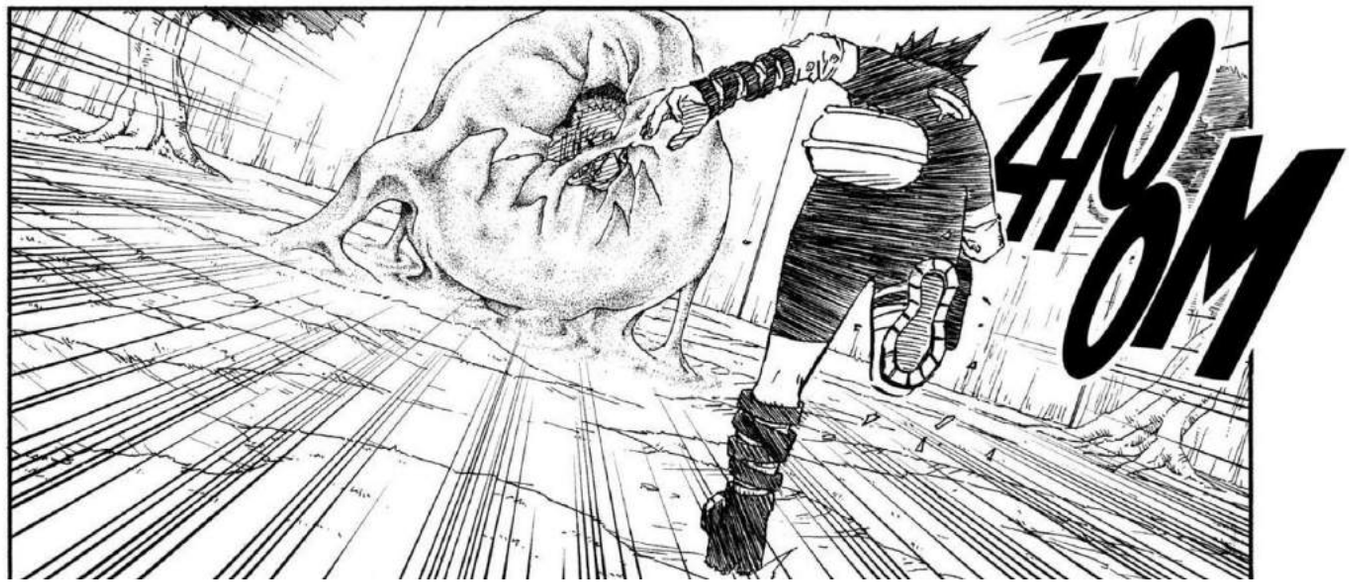
LET'S GO UP TO MASTER KAKASHI!
SHIKA-MARU ...

SHUP
!

DASH
HEY!

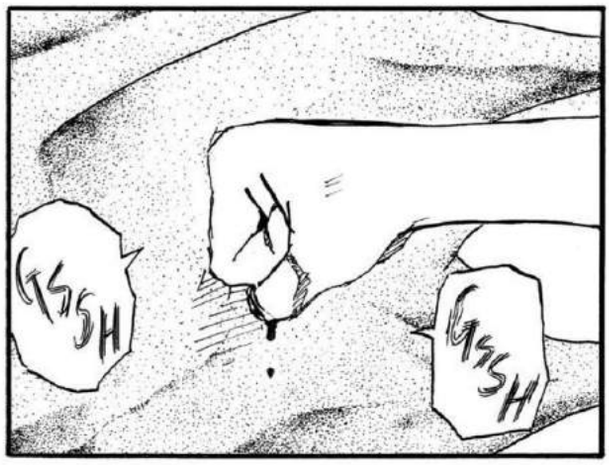

I'M GOING TO...

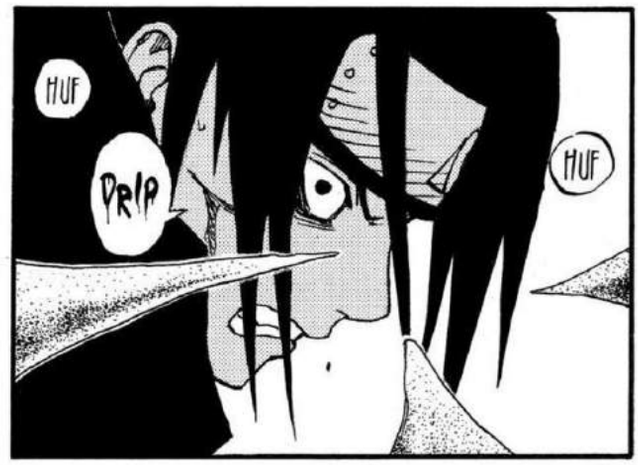
...STOP THIS MATCH!!


ZUOM

READ THIS WAY
DON'T TELL ME GAARA'S INITIATING THAT JUTSU?!?!
KSSSSH
SSSSH
FWUNK

!!!

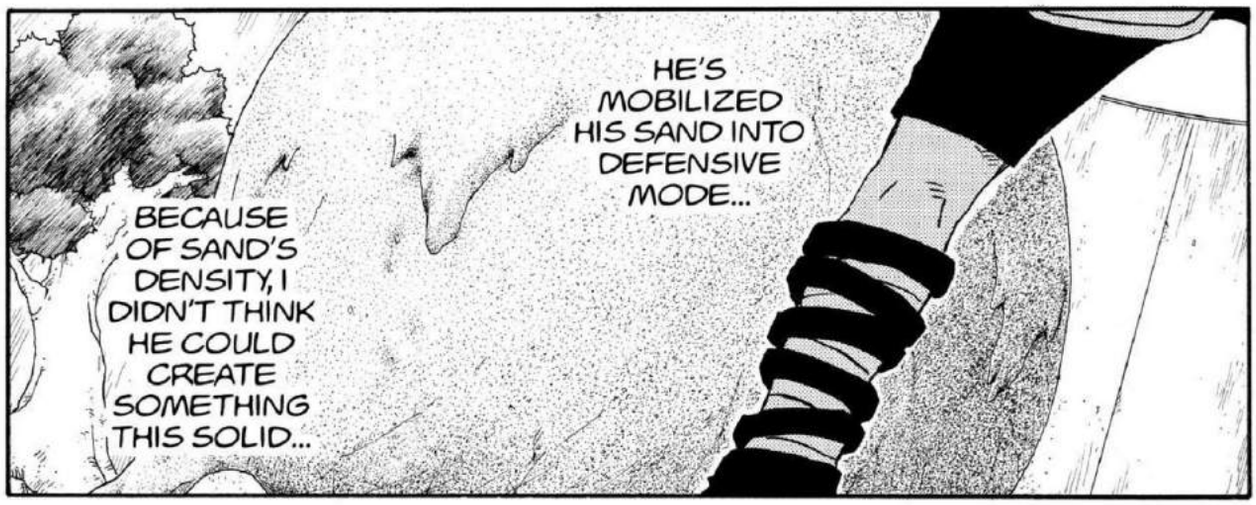

GSSH
GSSH


HUF
DRIP
HUF

HUF
HUF
PLIP

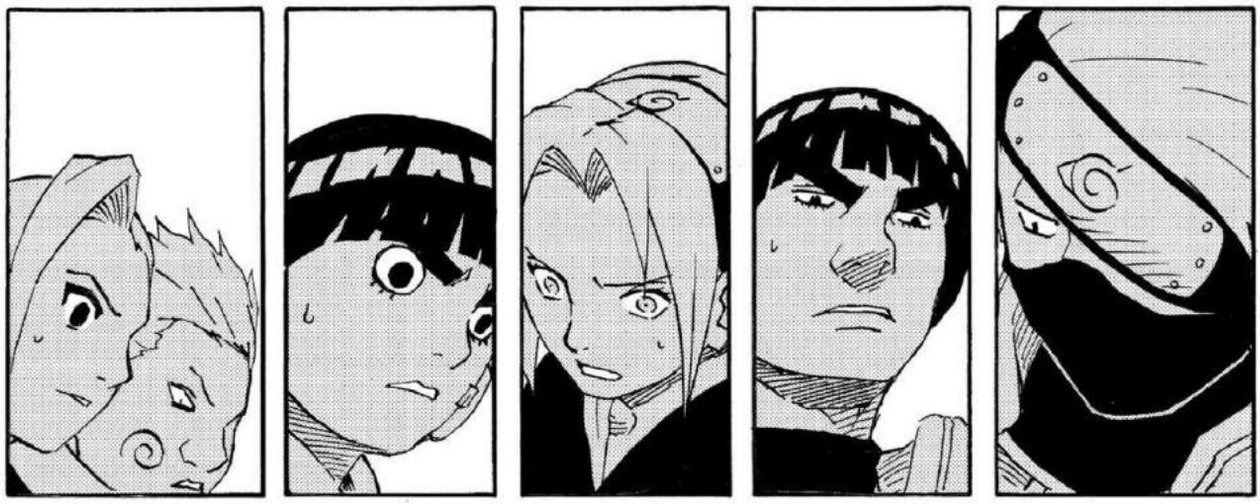
HUF
THROB
PLIP
HUF

FSSSSSH
SHUP
UGH...

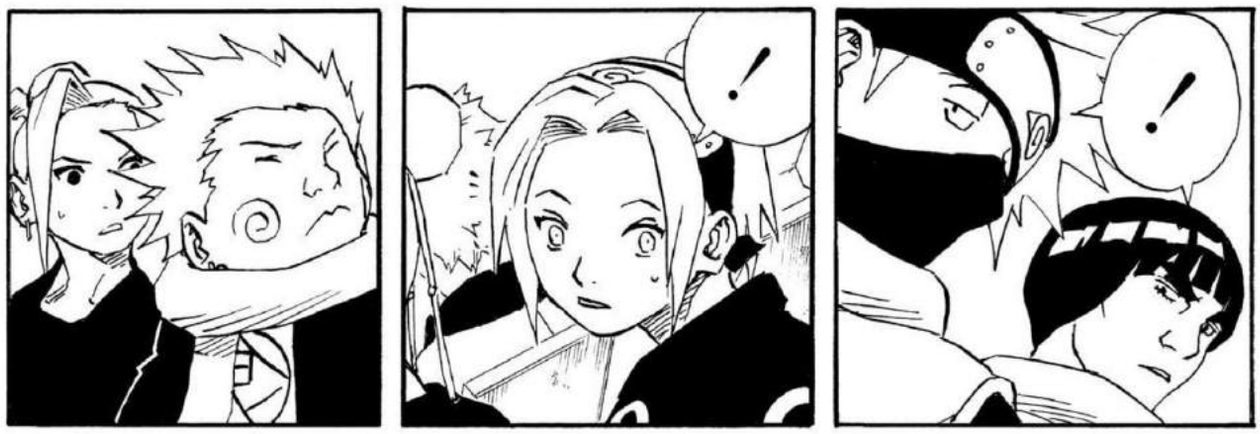

HE'S MOBILIZED HIS SAND INTO DEFENSIVE MODE...
BECAUSE OF SAND'S DENSITY, I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD CREATE SOMETHING THIS SOLID...

SO THIS [IS THE] MEANING OF AN ABSOLUTE DEFENSE, HUH...?
HUF

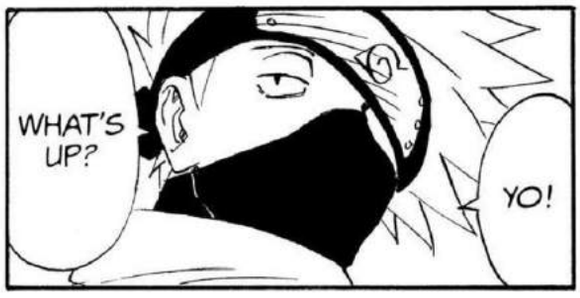
TWITCH
TWITCH



MASTER KAKASHI!!


!
!

NARUTO!

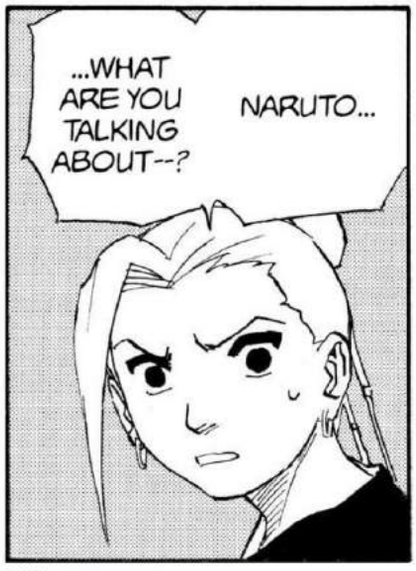

WHAT'S UP?
YO!

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

PLEASE STOP THIS MATCH RIGHT AWAY!
MASTER!

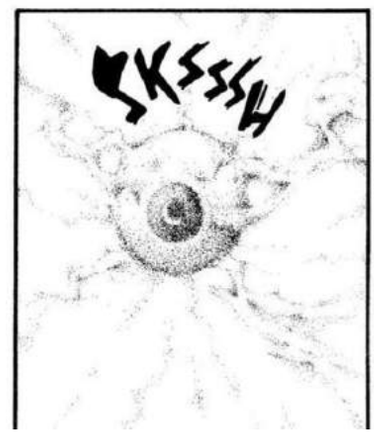
!!

!


...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--?
NARUTO...

HE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF US!
HE'S NOT NORMAL!

* *Jin* means Yang Water, one of the elemental influences in the Chinese sexagenary cycle. -Ed.



READ THIS WAY
...
MASTER KAKASHI!!
WELL!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
THERE WAS A REASON...
!
SWIP
...WHY WE WERE SO LATE GETTING HERE!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 18

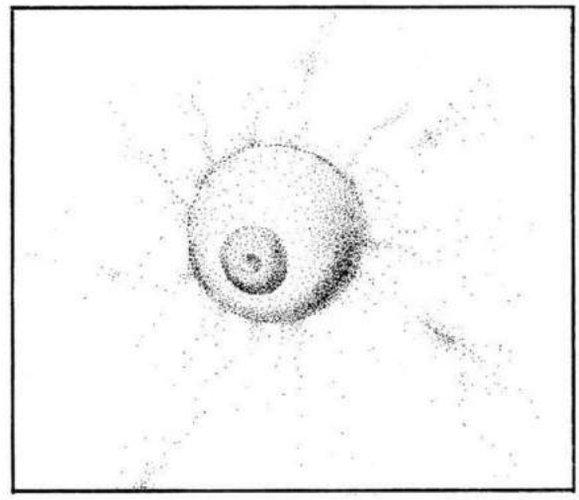
I DIDN'T WIN THE CONTEST, SO I ENDED UP SPENDING MY FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE PRETTY DISGRUNTLED.

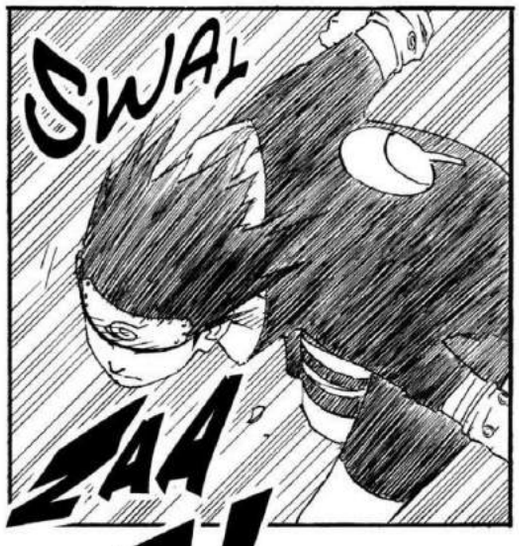
ONE DAY, SOMEONE APPROACHED ME SAYING "I DRAW MANGA TOO" AND PROFFERED THIS: "IF YOU'LL DRAW MANGA FOR MY NEW COLLECTION, I'LL PAY YOU." "WELL, IF I CAN GET MONEY FOR MY OWN PIECE, MIGHT AS WELL," I THOUGHT, SO I QUICKLY PUT TOGETHER ROUGHLY EIGHT PAGES OF A RANDOM STAND-ALONE SHORT AND GAVE IT TO HIM. HE WAS PUTTING TOGETHER A DÔJINSHI [SELF-PUBLISHED WORK] WITH ABOUT FIVE PEOPLE IN TOTAL, AND HAD COME TO COMMISSION ME TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE, HAVING HEARD A RUMOR THAT I DREW MANGA. SINCE THE DEAL WAS THAT I WOULD GET AN EQUAL SHARE OF THE PROFIT, I PLEASANTLY LOOKED FORWARD TO THE BOOK'S COMPLETION. BUT NO MATTER HOW LONG I WAITED, NO BOOK!

AFTER I HAD WAITED A LONG WHILE, I ASKED THE FELLOW "SO WHEN IS THE BOOK COMING OUT?" BUT HE ANSWERED, "THREE OTHER MANGA, INCLUDING MY OWN, ARE STILL NOT DONE..." I REALLY WANTED TO SHOUT BACK, "HOW CAN IT TAKE YOU MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE EIGHT PAGES!" BUT INSTEAD I JUST MUTTERED "AH, I SEE" AND ENTERED A STATE OF RESIGNATION. THE NEXT TIME I SAW HIM HE HAD HIS BACK TO ME, FURIOUSLY PLAYING VIDEO GAMES AT THE ARCADE. THAT'S WHEN IT FINALLY HIT ME (AAH! HE'S A SHAM MANGA ARTIST).

HOWEVER, THIS WORLD IS NOT MADE UP OF JUST SHAM MANGA ARTISTS! A CERTAIN PAIR OF SENPAI [UPPERCLASSMEN] WOULD END UP TRANSFORMING MY DISGRUNTLED LIFE WHEN I ENTERED MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE! THOSE TWO COMPETED AGAINST EACH OTHER, COLLECTING NEWCOMER AWARDS LEFT AND RIGHT, AND WERE VETERANS ENOUGH TO ALREADY HAVE ASSIGNED EDITORS, EVEN CUTTING BACK ON SLEEP TO INCREASE THEIR TIME SPENT DRAWING MANGA. "YES! FINALLY, I'VE MET GENUINE MANGA ARTISTS!" I JOYFULLY SAID TO MYSELF, FREQUENTLY RUNNING OVER TO MY SENPAI'S HOUSES TO HANG OUT AND LEARN ALL ABOUT MANGA PRODUCTION! THEY WERE ALSO WILLING TO READ MY MANGA AND GIVE ME ALL SORTS OF CRITIQUES SO THAT MY SKILLS WERE HONED! I AM SO ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO THOSE TWO. EVEN NOW, THEY LET ME CALL THEM ON OCCASION... HOWEVER, I FEEL BAD ABOUT BOTHERING THEM, SO IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME TO PICK UP THE PHONE. FOR THEY'RE BOTH SLEEP-DEPRIVED PROFESSIONAL MANGA ARTISTS LEADING IRREGULAR LIVES!

Number 113: The Reason He Was Late...!!zz




SWAL
ZAA

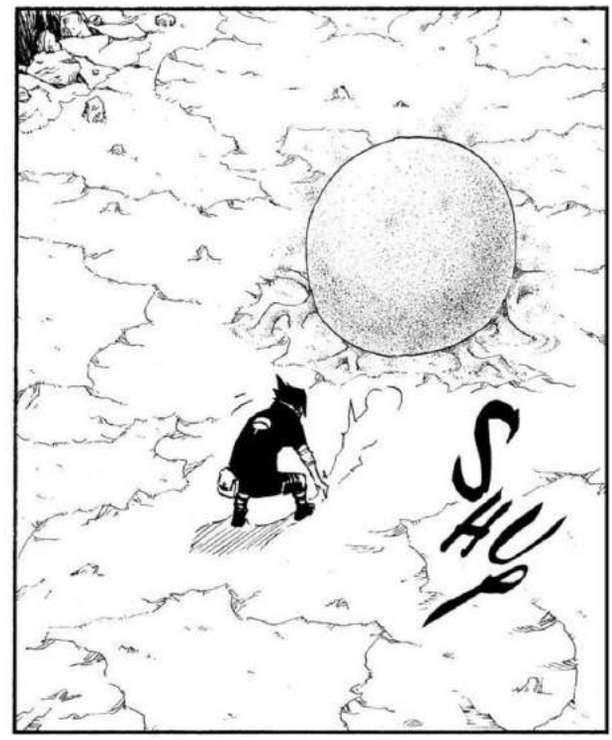
JIN
MONKEY
BIRD
DRAGON...

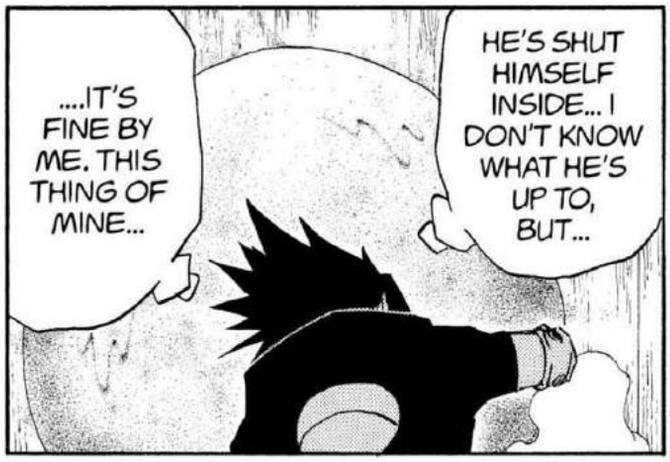
TH
WAP

SWING

...JUST AS I FIGURED...
IT'S NO GOOD...

!


SHUP


....IT'S FINE BY ME. THIS THING OF MINE...
HE'S SHUT HIMSELF INSIDE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO, BUT...

RAT MONKEY JIN RAT RABBIT TIGER BIRD JIN...
MUTTER
MUTTER

...IS GOING TO TAKE TIME TOO...
CHAK

...MASTER.

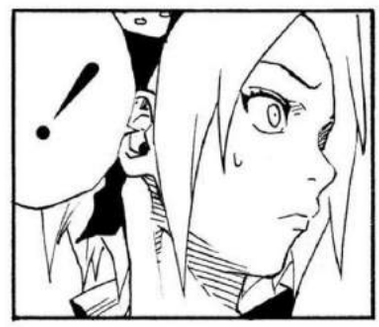
HMM...?
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "THERE WAS A REASON WE WERE SO LATE GETTING HERE"?!

JUST BE QUIET AND WATCH HIM...

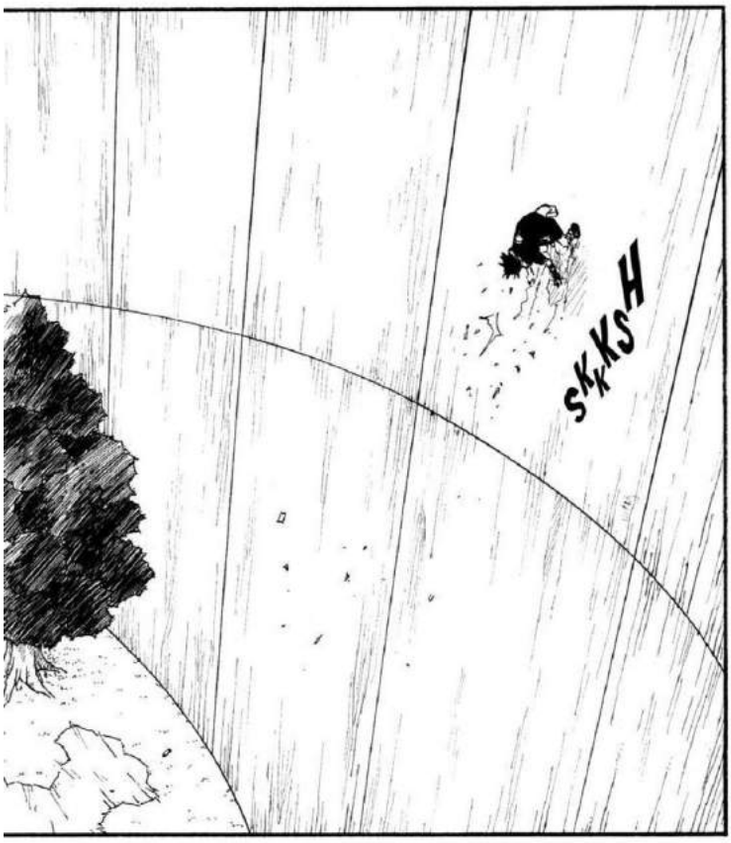
I'M TELLING YOU, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE CHATTING!!

!


!

!

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED.

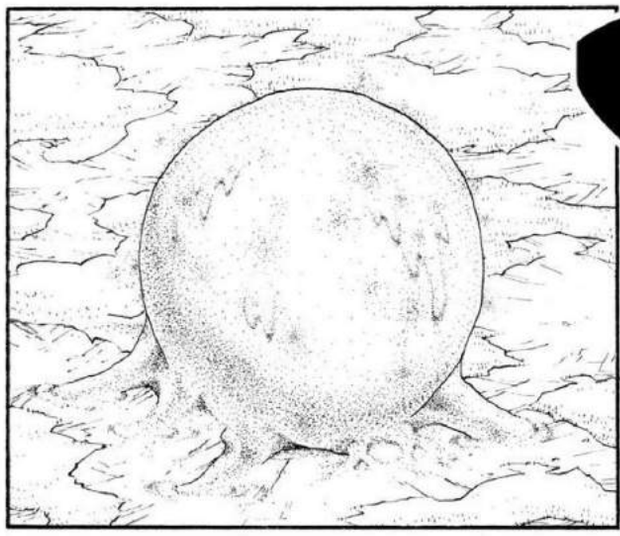

SKKSH

FWISH
FWISH

TUNK

GSSH

SHUS

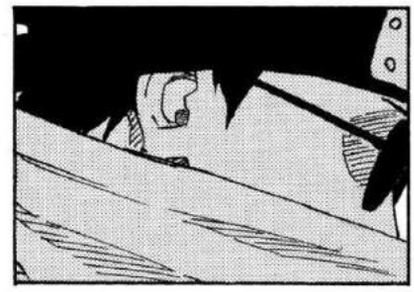


SHU
NK

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE THE SIGNAL!!
NO... GAARA, THAT FOOL...

HEY... WE PROBABLY SHOULD GET AWAY FROM HERE...
NEVER MIND THE PLAN, IS HE GOING TO GO ON A RAMPAGE?! UGH, GAARA...
FEH... AT THIS POINT, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

...PLAN...?



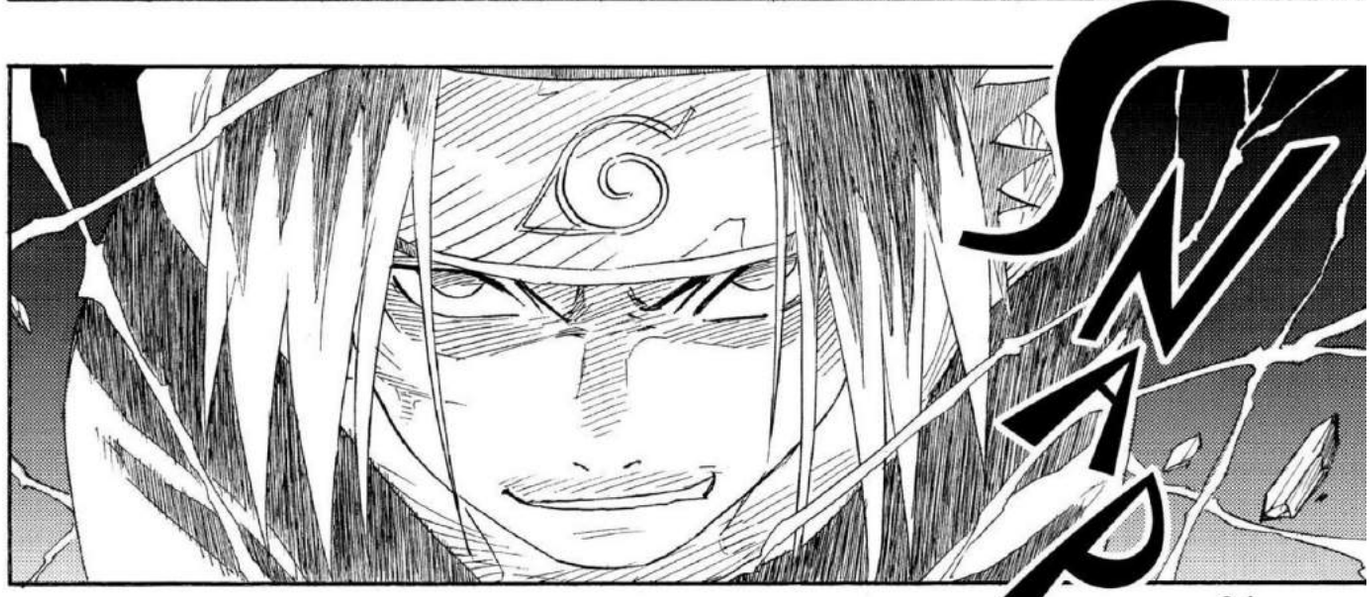
SIZZ
FOOSH

...IS BECAUSE HE'S...

THE REASON I TOOK SASUKE UNDER MY WING...

!
D-DON'T TELL ME THAT'S...

...VERY SIMILAR TO ME.
KOSSA
KOSSA


SWAP

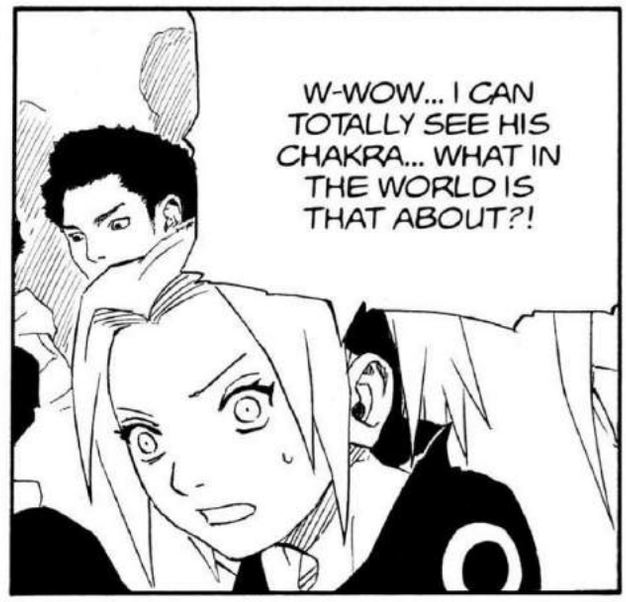
READ THIS WAY
TOOM
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
SHUP
FLESH ACTIVATION?!
YUP!
...AND INCREASE HIS SPEED SO MUCH...!
I SEE, SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAD HIM FOCUS ON TAIJUTSU...

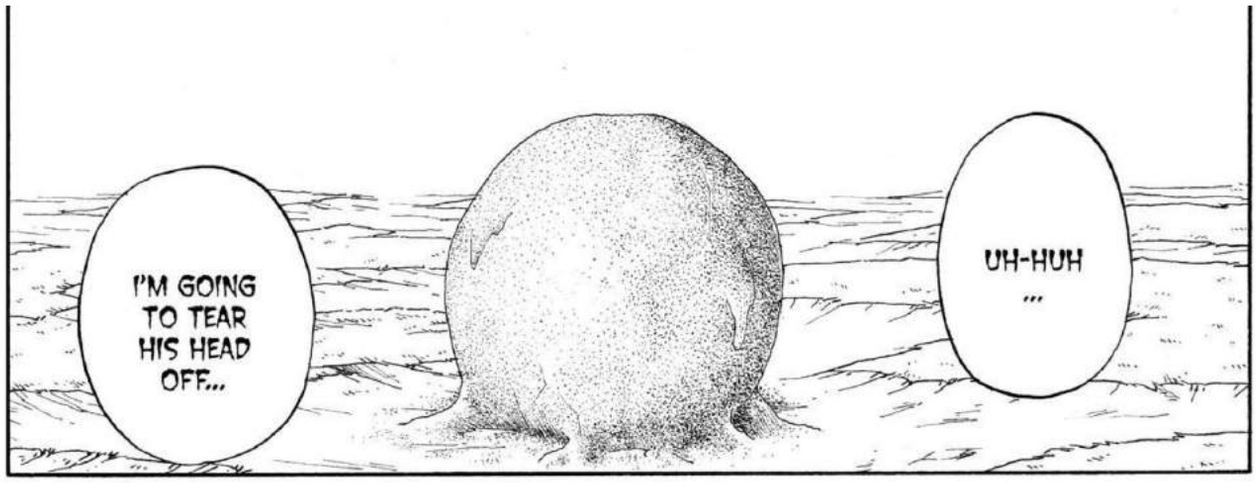
CHIRP

CHIRP
CHIRP

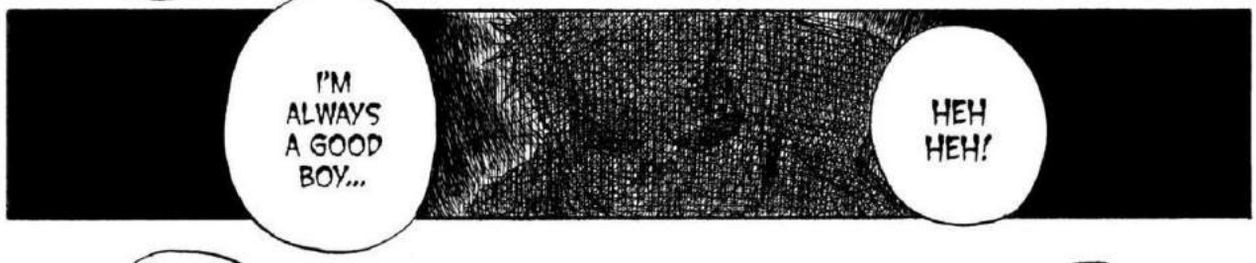
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

SO THIS IS WHAT THE UCHIHA CLAN IS CAPABLE OF...
I CAN'T BELIEVE... HE'S MASTERED THAT JUTSU...


W-WOW... I CAN TOTALLY SEE HIS CHAKRA... WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT ABOUT?!

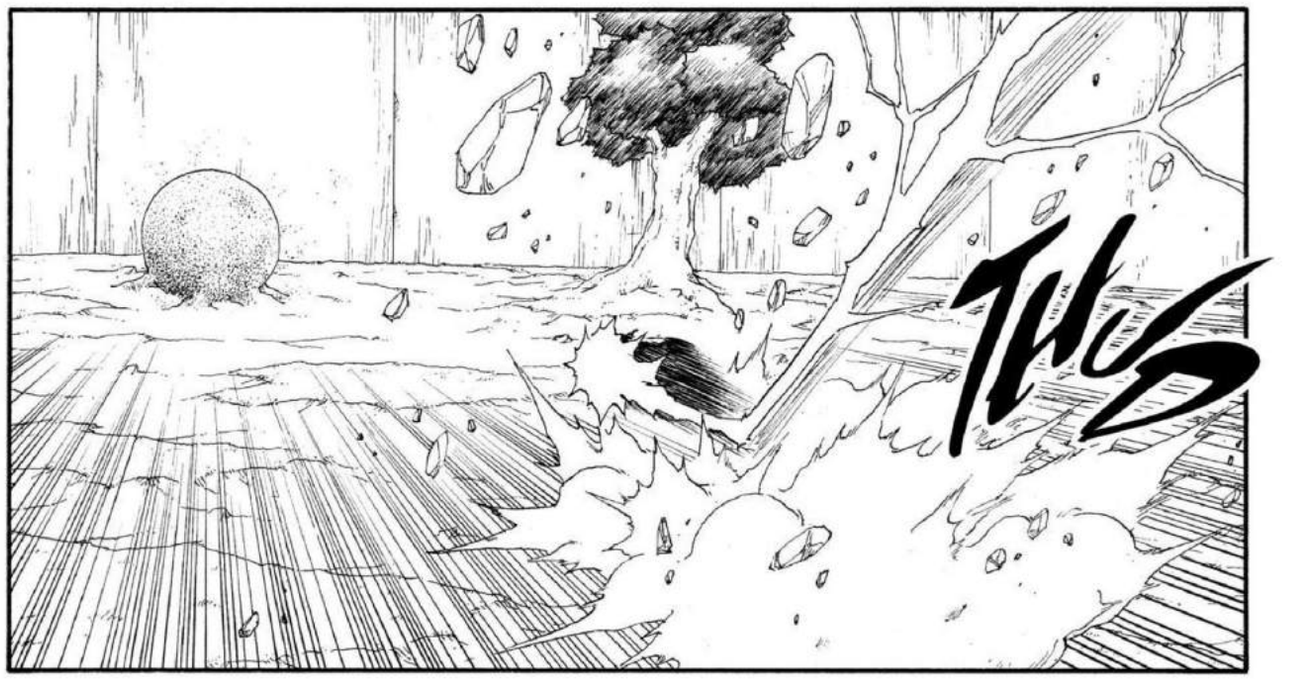

I'M GOING TO TEAR HIS HEAD OFF...
UH-HUH ...

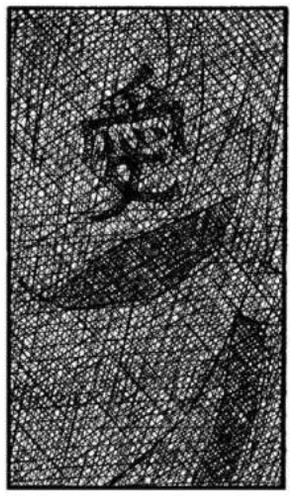
...AND I'LL GIVE IT ALL TO YOU.
IF I DO THAT, HE'LL BLEED A LOT...
HUH? HIS HEAD, I SAID...
...AND CRACK IT OPEN AND SPILL HIS BRAINS.

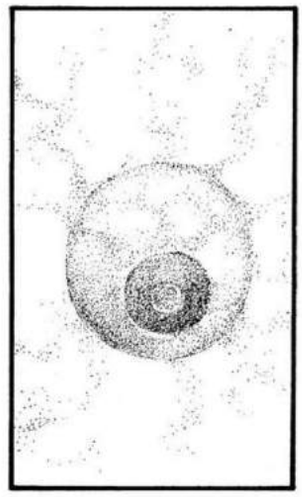

I'M ALWAYS A GOOD BOY...
HEH HEH!

I'LL WATCH.
UH-HUH, LET'S DO IT! MOTHER...

TOOM
THUD
THUD

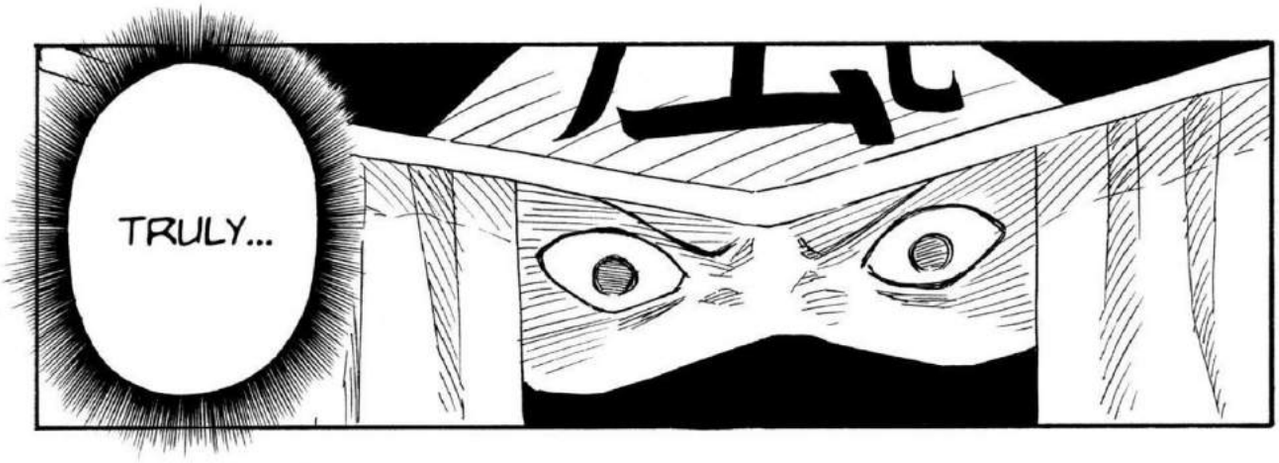

THUD

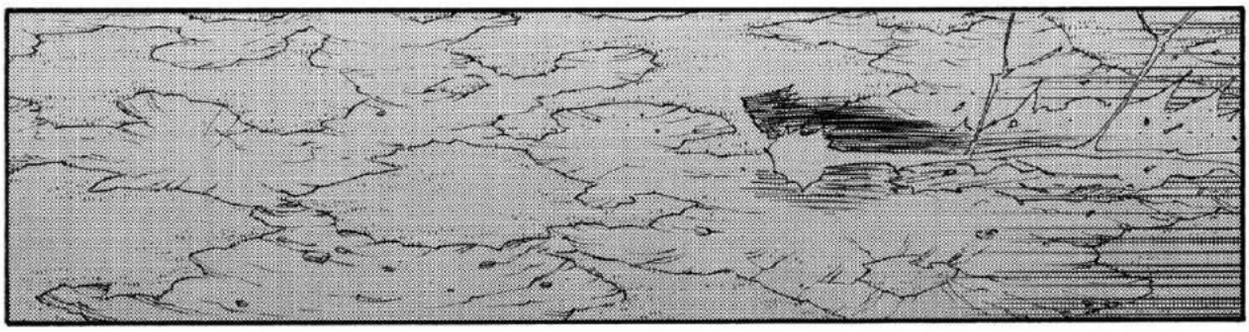


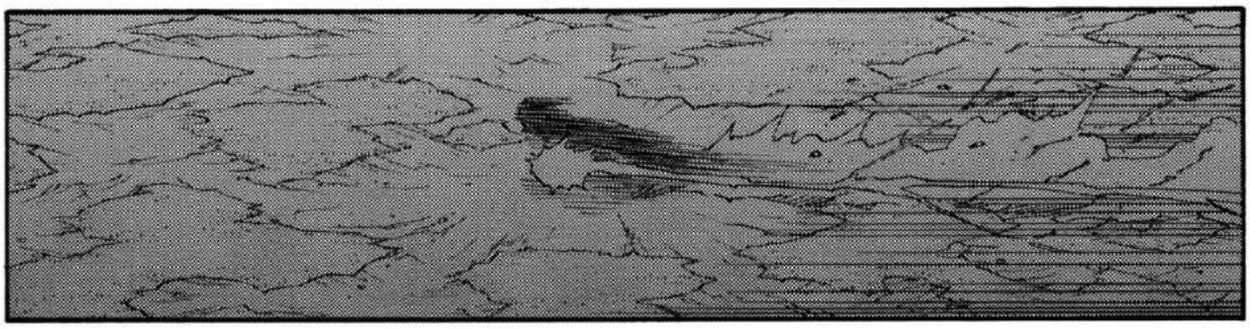


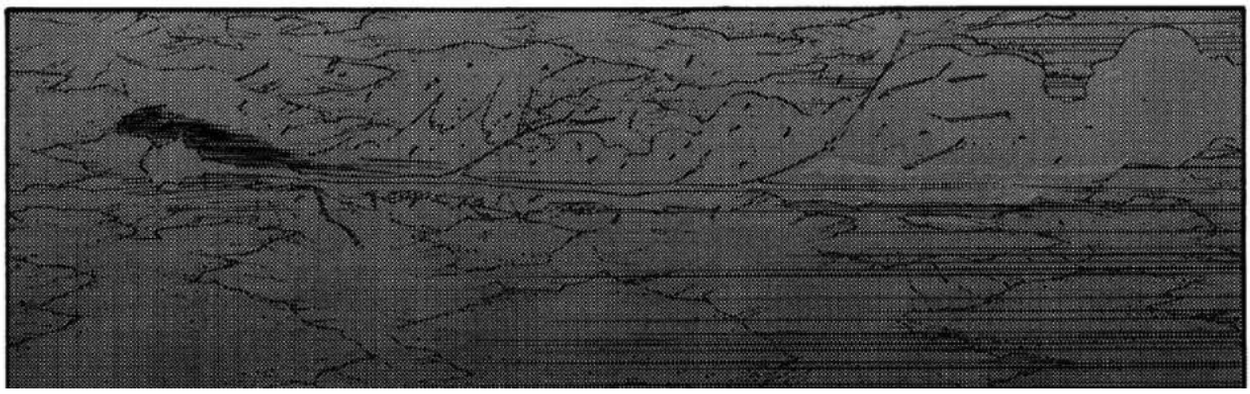
WHAT IS THAT...?!
WH-WHAT THE...?!

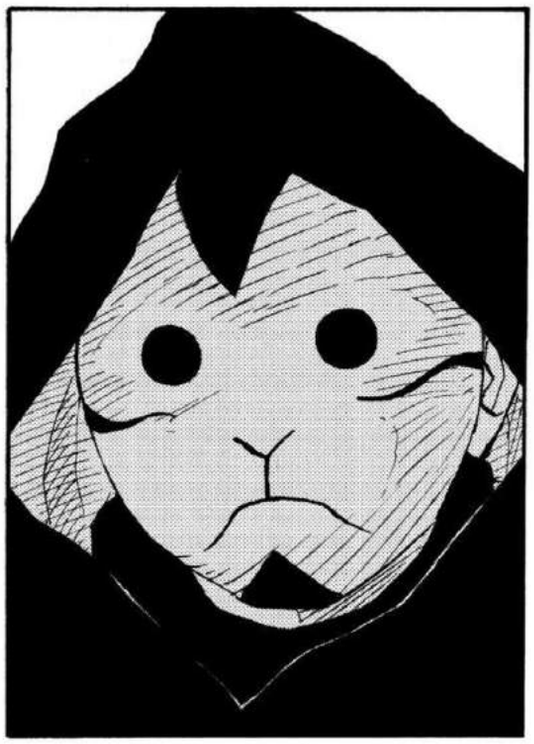
ZHOOM


TRULY...



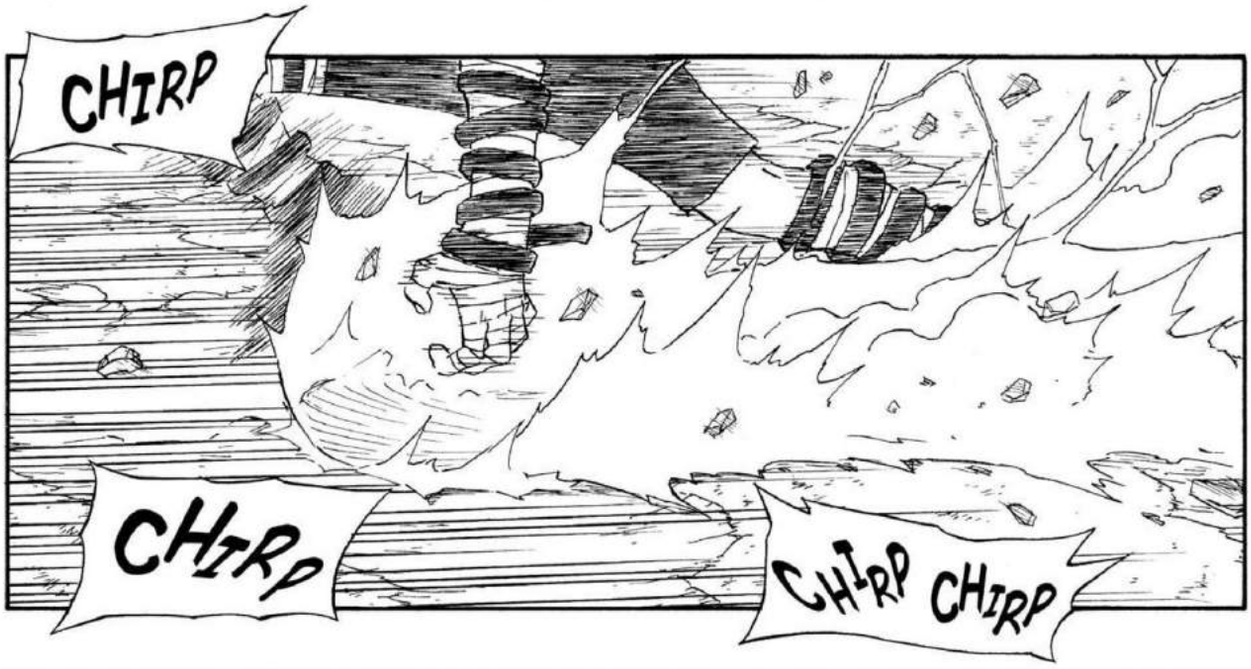




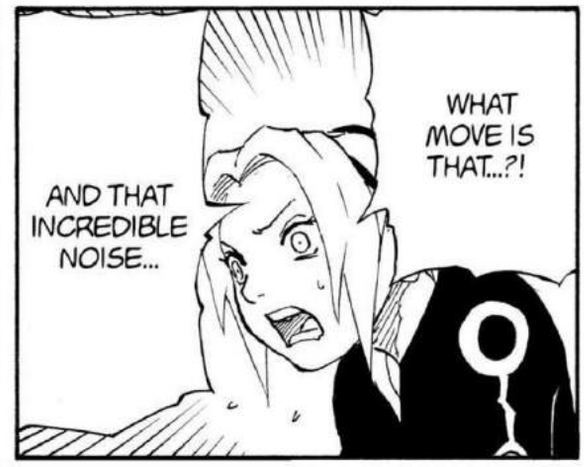


SWAY...

SLUMP

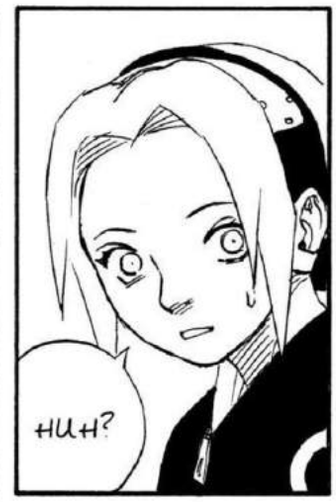

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP

IT'S JUST A HAND CHOP...


WHAT MOVE IS THAT...?!
AND THAT INCREDIBLE NOISE...

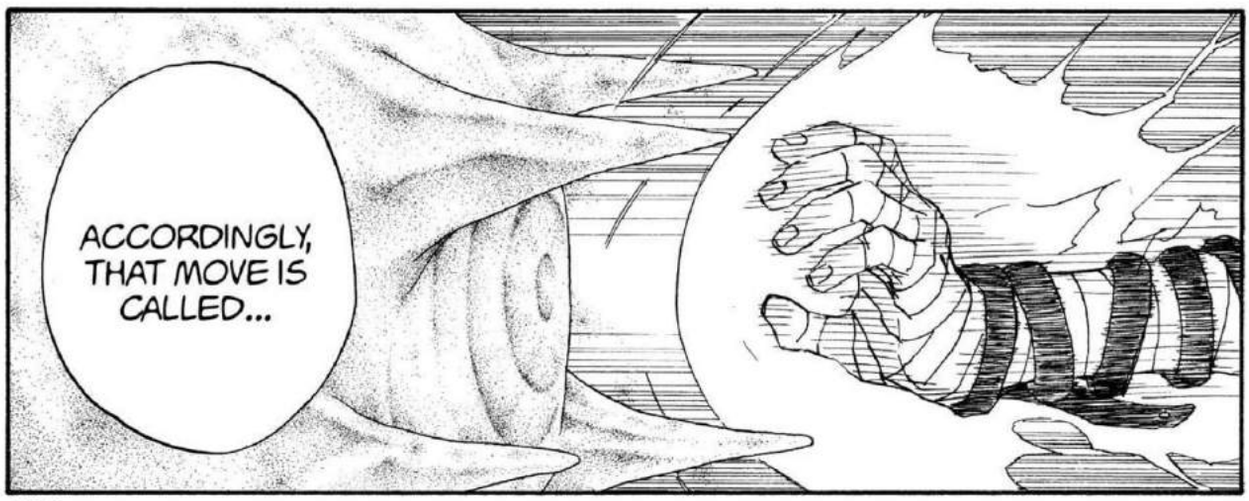
?!

HOWEVER, IT'S A UNIQUE ORIGINAL MOVE...
...CRAFTED BY KONOHA'S TOP JUTSU MASTER, COPY NINJA KAKASHI.


HUH?

BY NARROWLY FOCUSING MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF CHAKRA FROM THE DOMINANT HAND, A PULSING FLUCTUATION FORMS IN THE THRUST...
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP...
...RESULTING IN A UNIQUE ATTACK SOUND THAT RESEMBLES THE CRYING OF A THOUSAND BIRDS.

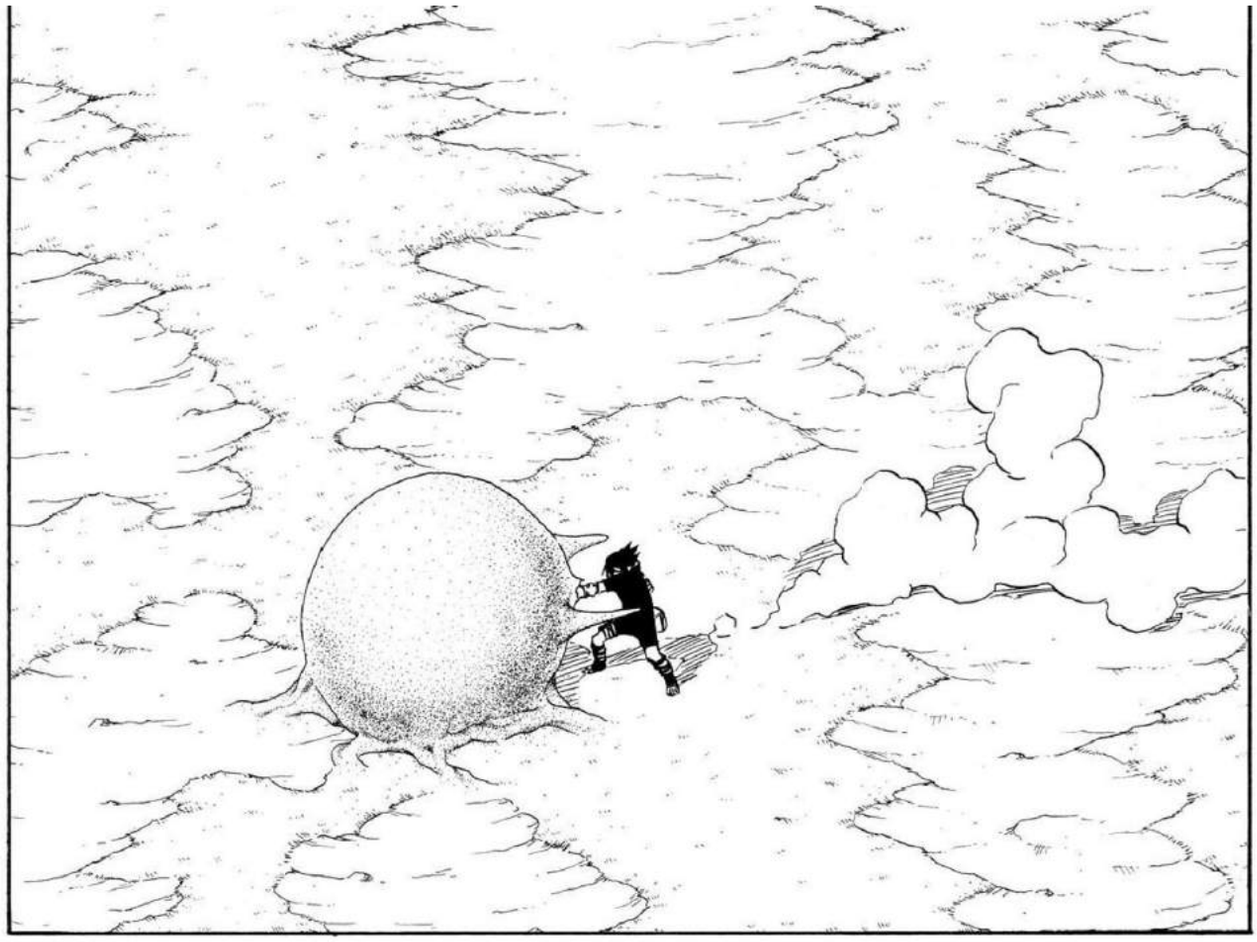
IT'S A MOVE RESERVED FOR ASSASSI-NATION...
...AND THE IMMENSE CHAKRA PRODUCED BY SUPER-ACTIVATING ONE'S FLESH.
THE SECRET IS IN THE SPEED OF THE THRUST...

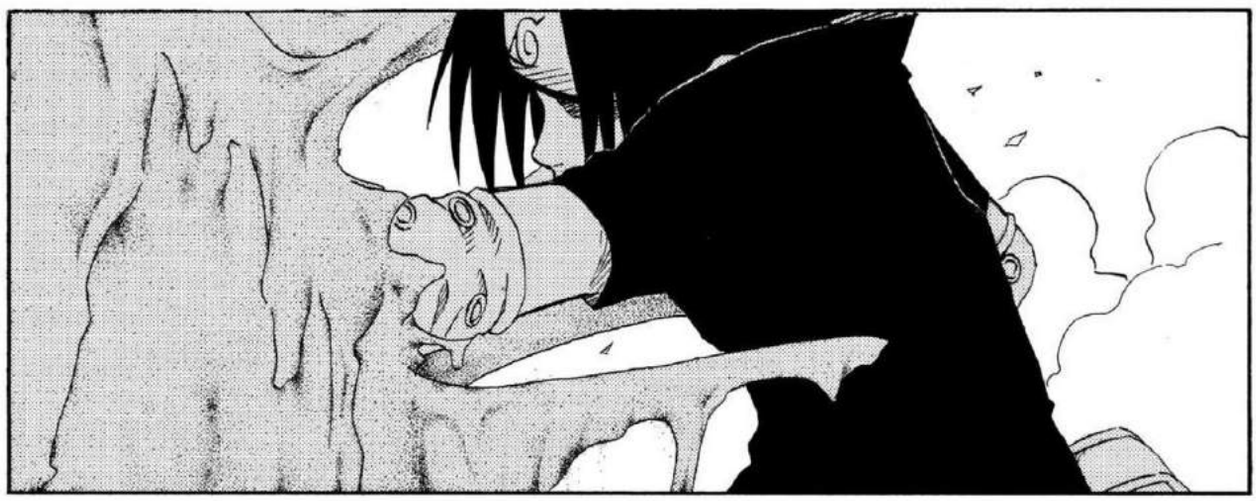

ACCORDINGLY, THAT MOVE IS CALLED...

CHIDORI: 1000 BIRDS!!!

KR

Number 114: Violent Assault...!!

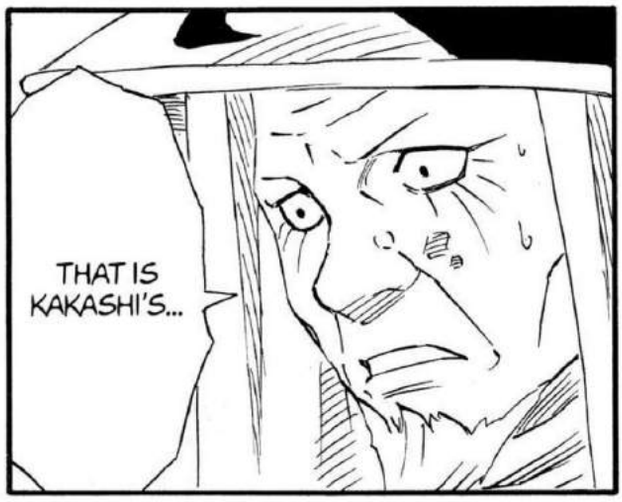


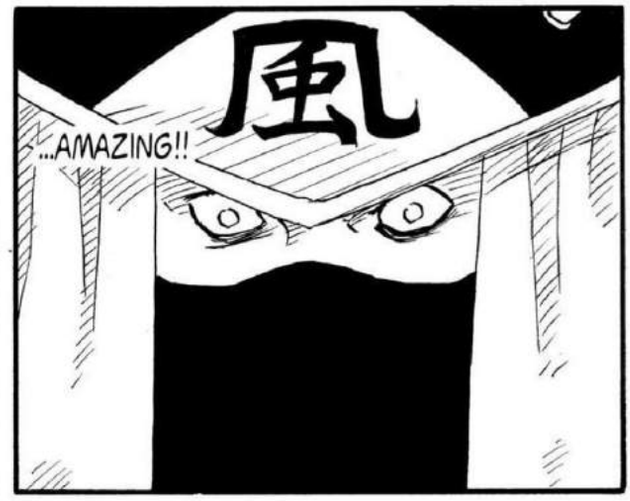


NOT POSSIBLE ...

IT CAN'T BE...

HE COULDN'T HAVE PENETRATED GAARA'S "ABSOLUTE DEFENSE"!!
YOU MUST BE JOKING...!

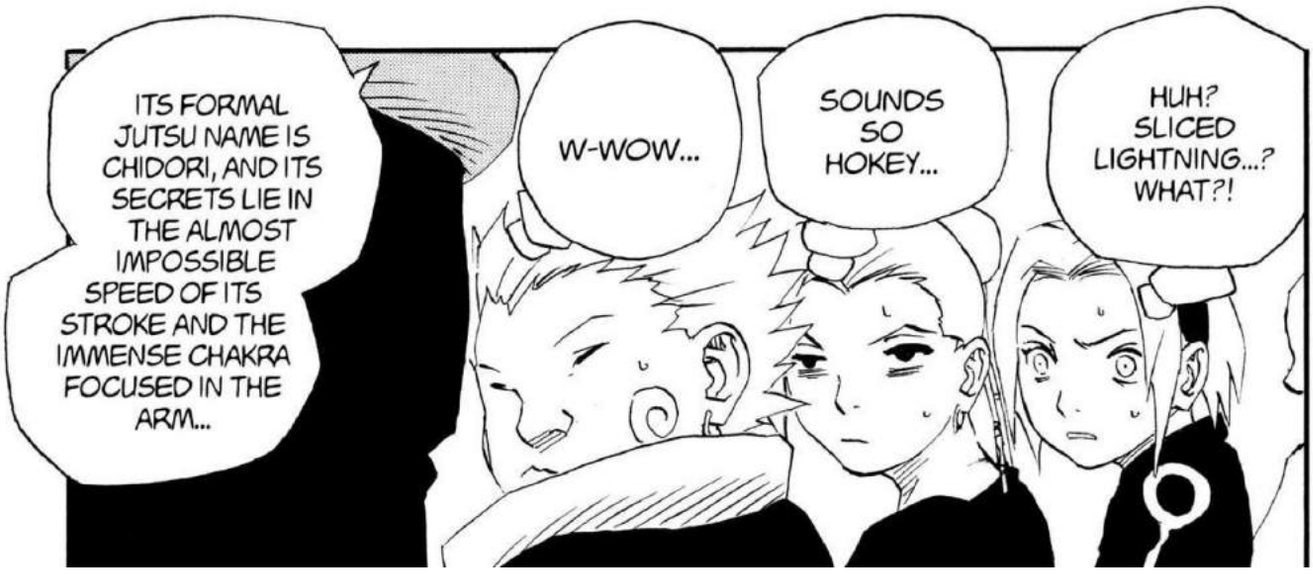

THAT IS KAKASHI'S...

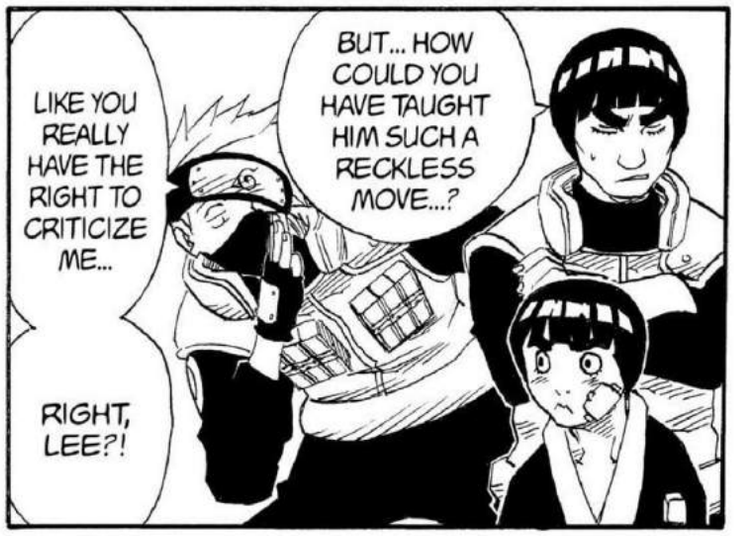

風
...AMAZING!!

ALSO KNOWN AS RAIKIRI-- LIGHTNING BLADE.
...CHIDORI.

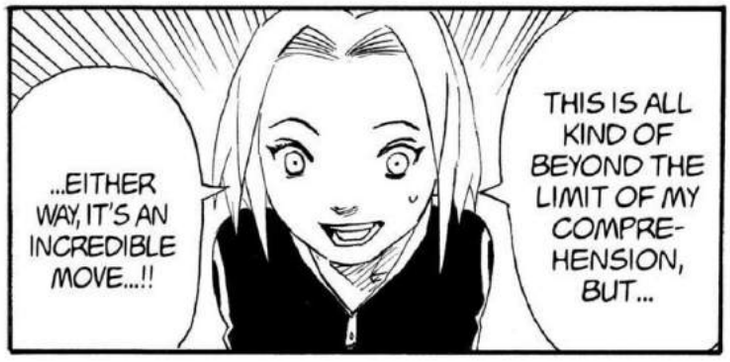
...IS ITS NICKNAME, BECAUSE KAKASHI ONCE SLICED LIGHTNING USING THIS JUTSU.
THE LIGHTNING BLADE...

LIGHTNING BLADE...?

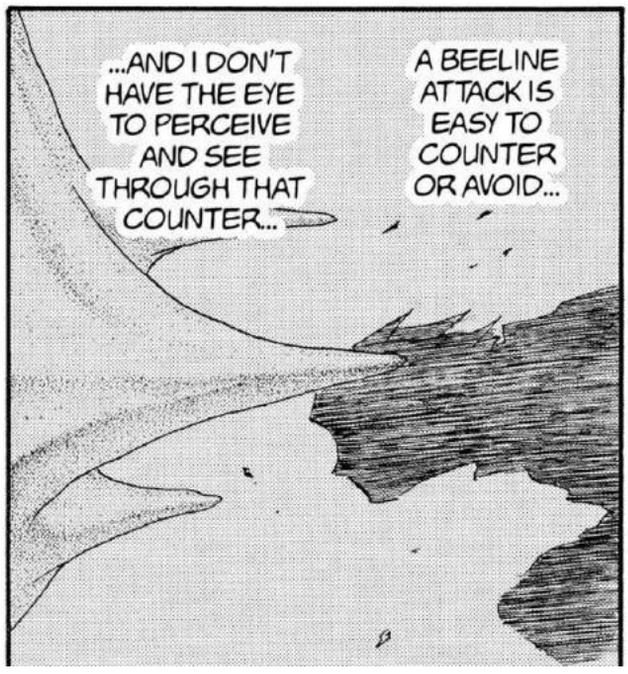

ITS FORMAL JUTSU NAME IS CHIDORI, AND ITS SECRETS LIE IN THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE SPEED OF ITS STROKE AND THE IMMENSE CHAKRA FOCUSED IN THE ARM...
W-WOW...
SOUNDS SO HOKEY...
HUH? SLICED LIGHTNING...? WHAT?!


LIKE YOU REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE ME...
RIGHT, LEE?!
BUT... HOW COULD YOU HAVE TAUGHT HIM SUCH A RECKLESS MOVE...?

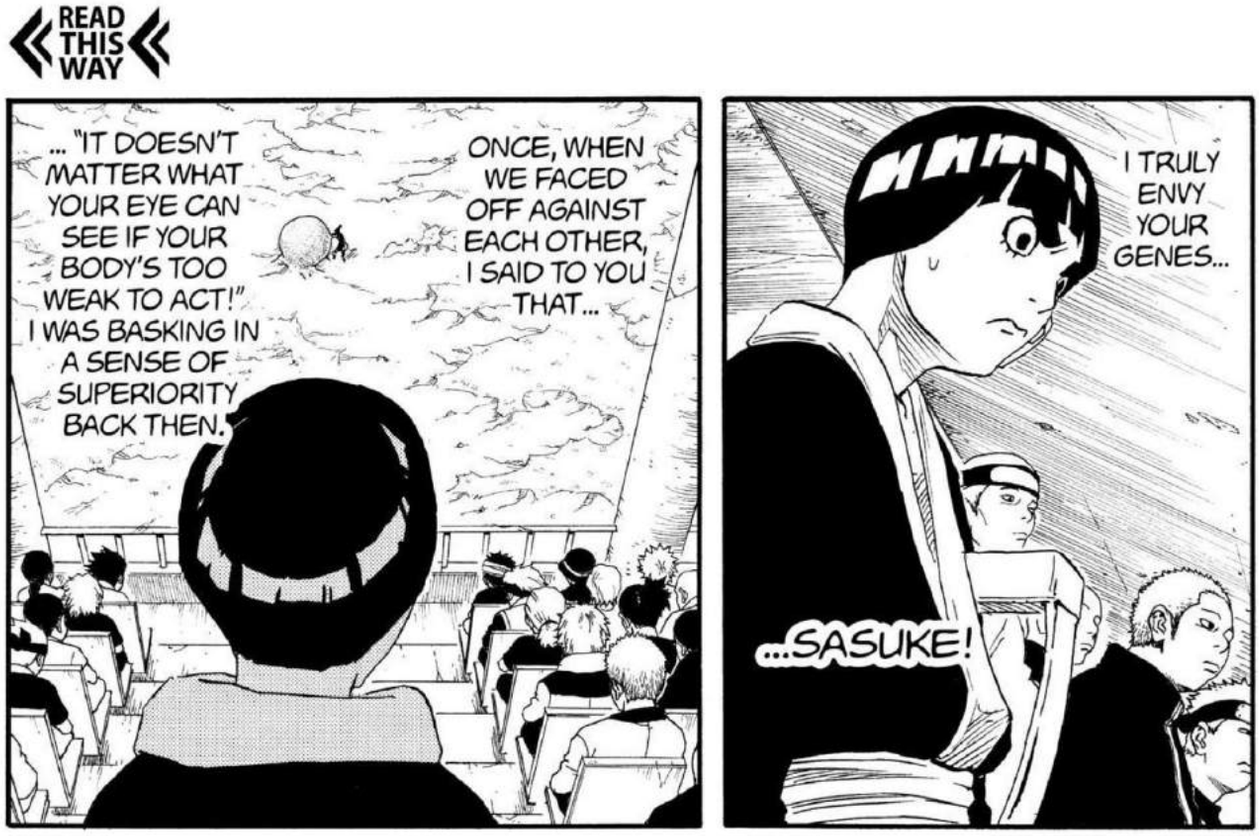
...THAT TRANSFORMS IT INTO A BLADE THAT CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING.


...EITHER WAY, IT'S AN INCREDIBLE MOVE...!!
THIS IS ALL KIND OF BEYOND THE LIMIT OF MY COMPRE-HENSION, BUT...

...


...AND I DON'T HAVE THE EYE TO PERCEIVE AND SEE THROUGH THAT COUNTER...
A BEELINE ATTACK IS EASY TO COUNTER OR AVOID...

I UNDERSTAND... IF THAT HAD BEEN ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE LAUNCHED A HEAD-ON FULL-SPEED ATTACK ON MY OPPONENT LIKE THAT...
OR RATHER, I COULDN'T HAVE!!


READ THIS WAY
... "IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR EYE CAN SEE IF YOUR BODY'S TOO WEAK TO ACT!" I WAS BASKING IN A SENSE OF SUPERIORITY BACK THEN.
ONCE, WHEN WE FACED OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER, I SAID TO YOU THAT...
I TRULY ENVY YOUR GENES...
...SASUKE!

YOU'VE ATTAINED A HIGH-SPEED BODY JUST LIKE MINE...
CLENCH
BUT NOW...

GOTCHA!
AND YOU POSSESS THE SHARINGAN AS WELL...!!

HUH... YOU WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT SASUKE EARLIER...
AND NOW, YOU'RE JEALOUS OF HIM...

!

MOTHER... WHAT HAPPENED...?

...IS THIS... WARM MOIST-NESS...?
WHAT...

SPLISH

AAAH...

WAAAH!!

BLOOD... I'M BLEEDING!!

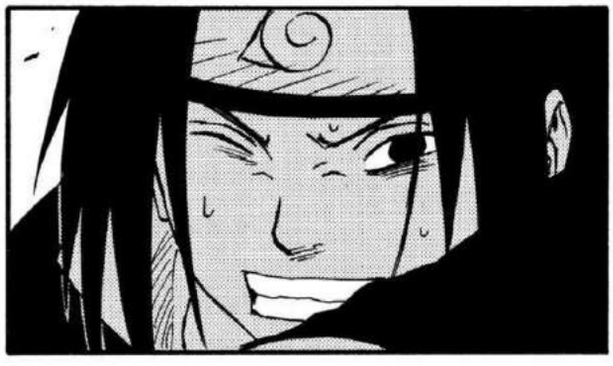
!!

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

!

THROB
UGH...!

!!



GSSSH

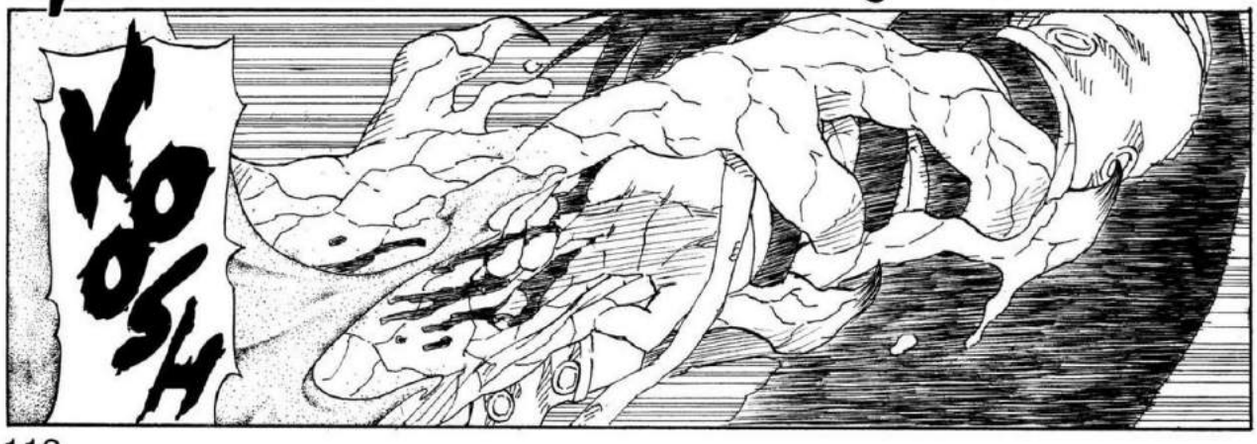
GRRRR...!
KSSH
KSSH

HAH!!
KSSSH
AAAAGH!!

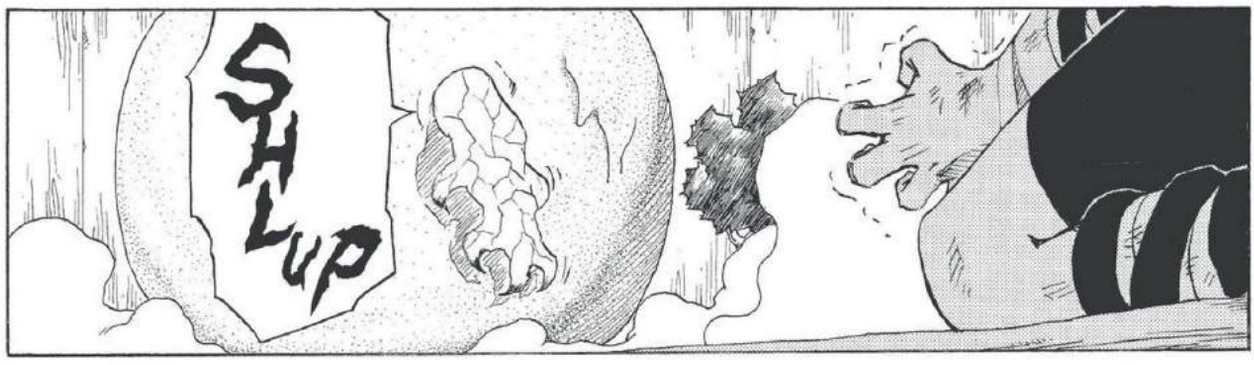
D-DON'T TELL ME...
...GAARA'S... BEEN WOUNDED?!

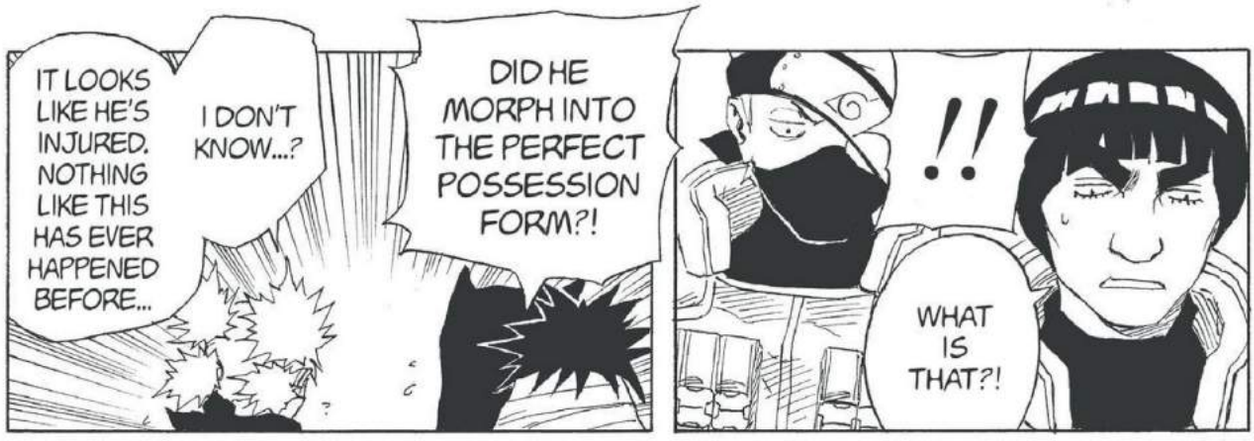
SHUNK

GSSSH


KOOSH

UGH!
THOM
THAT'S ITS ARM...!!
!!
FWAK
SKKSH

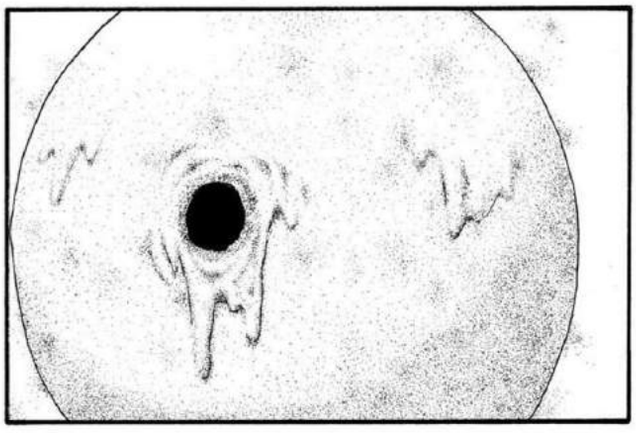

SHLUP

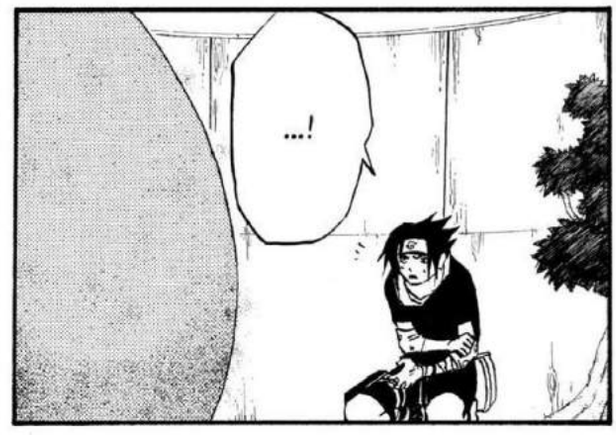

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S INJURED. NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
I DON'T KNOW...?
DID HE MORPH INTO THE PERFECT POSSESSION FORM?!
!!
WHAT IS THAT?!

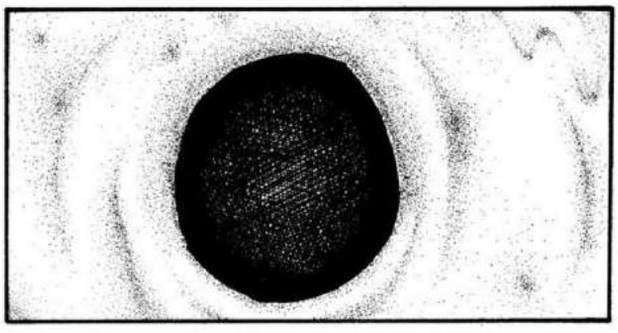
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS...
WHEN I SAW IT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I LOST MY APPETITE BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT LOOKS...

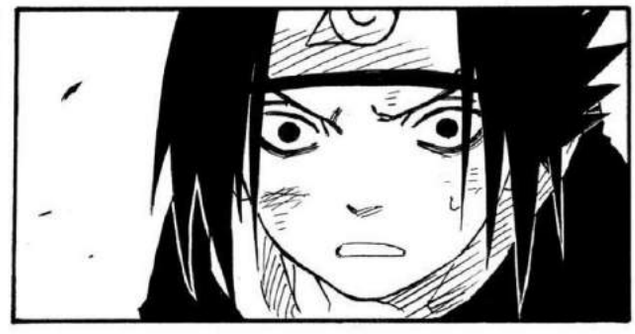
WHAT IS GOING ON INSIDE...?

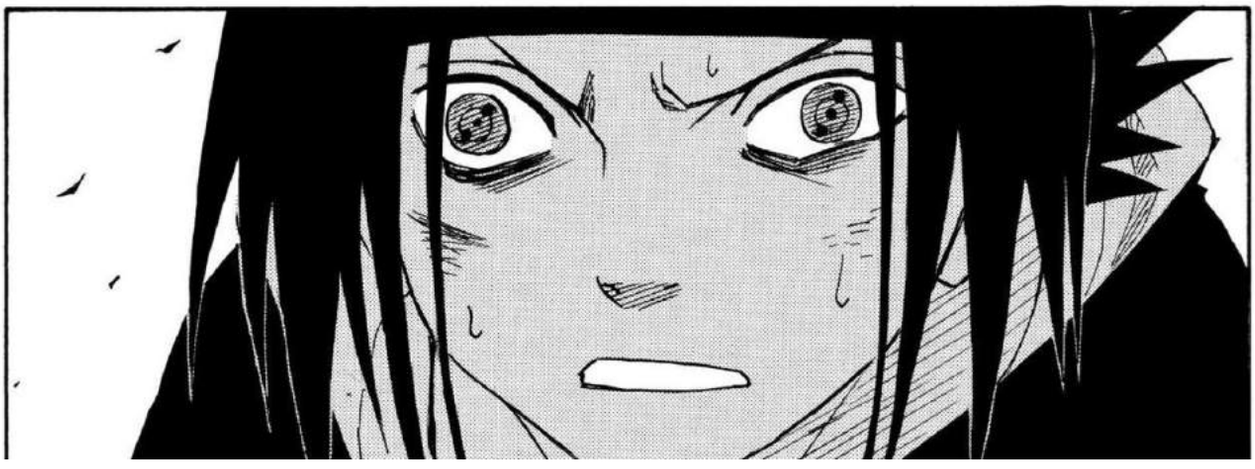
DARN... WHAT HAS HE GONE AND DONE NOW...




...!

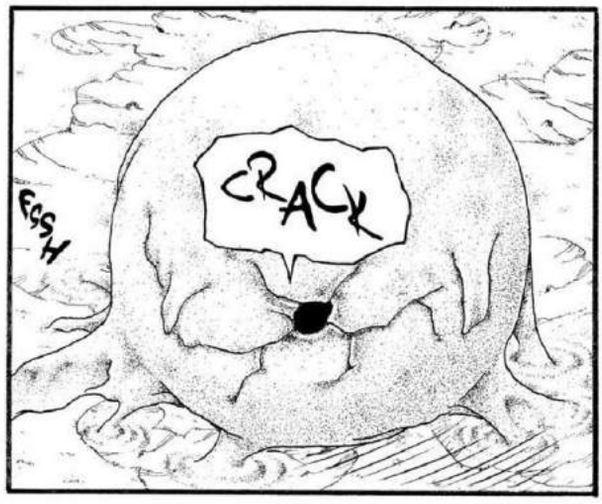






SASUKE

WHAT IS THIS SENSATION ...?
SIZZ
SIZZ
!!


CRACK
FSSH

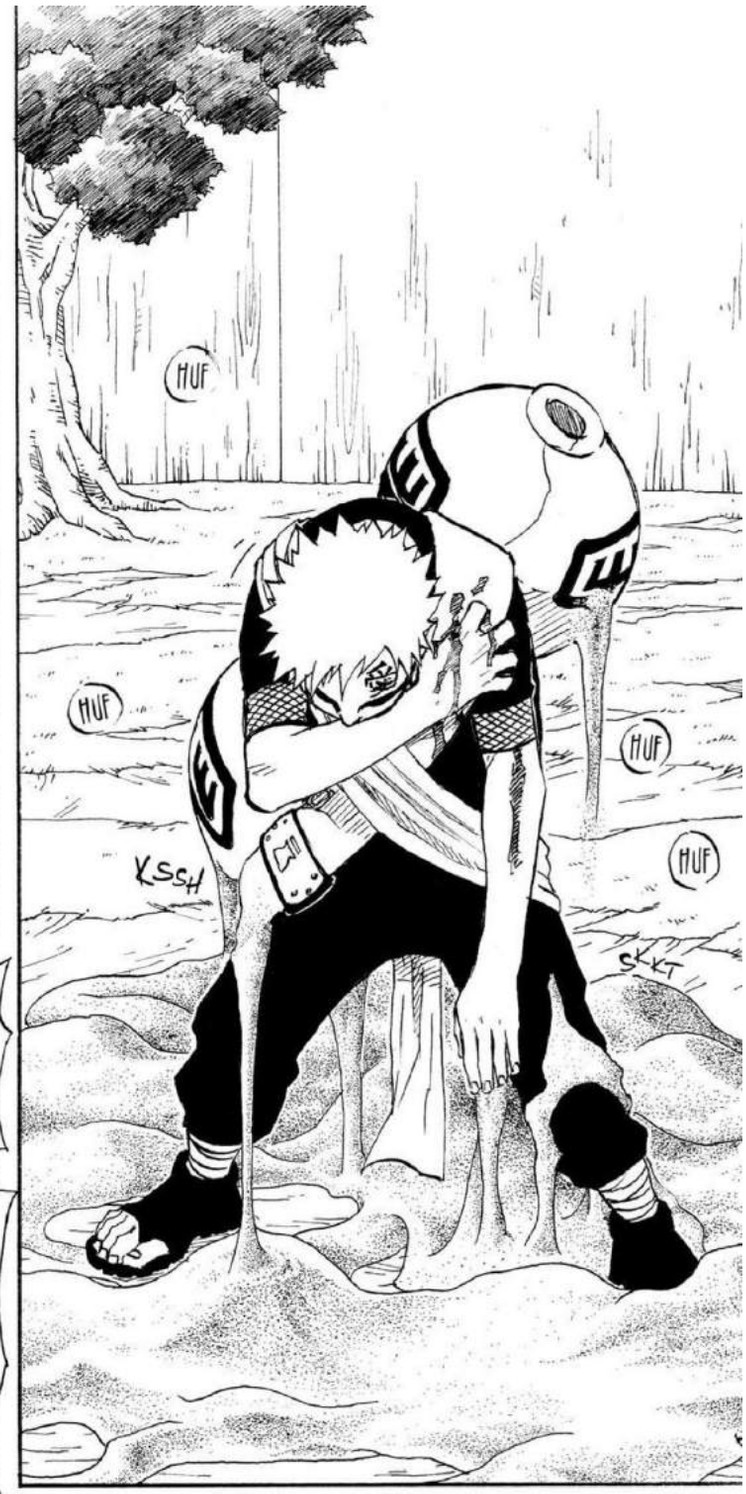
!!

...!

FSSSSH...

FSSSH...

愛
HUF
HUF

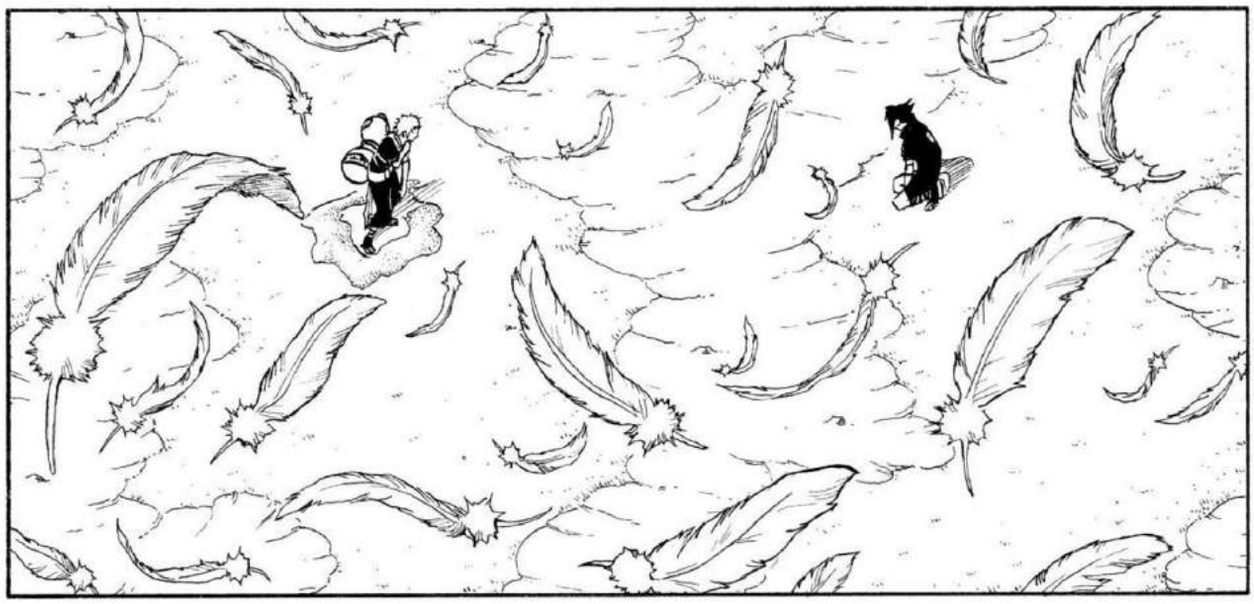

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
KSSH
SLKT

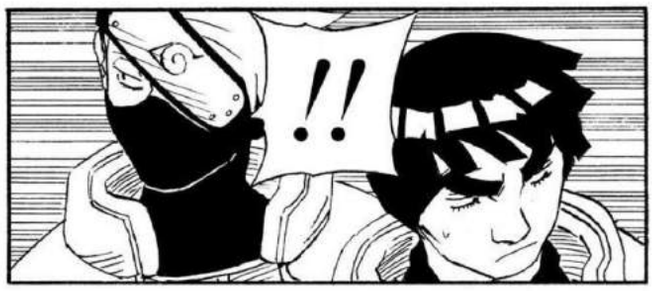
!!
HE IS INJURED...
HIS SHELL WAS BREACHED BEFORE HE COMPLETED TRANSFORMING!!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT... THAT I SAW EARLIER...?
NO... THOSE WEREN'T HIS EYES!

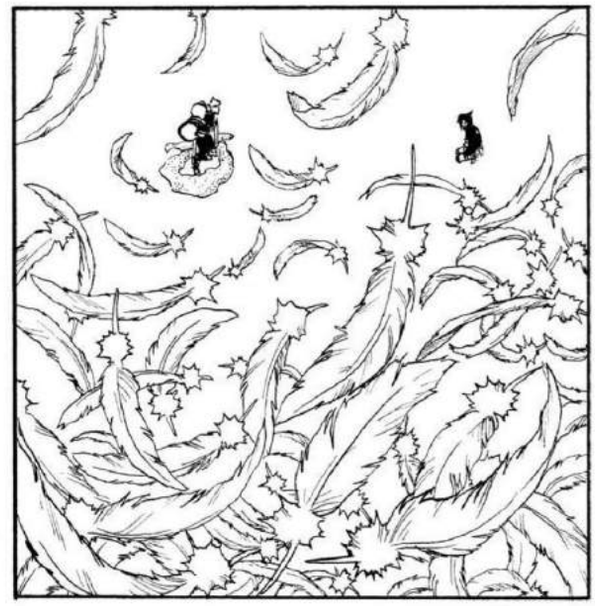
...?!

SHA




!!

HUH... WHAT THE... WHY DO I SEE FEATHERS...?



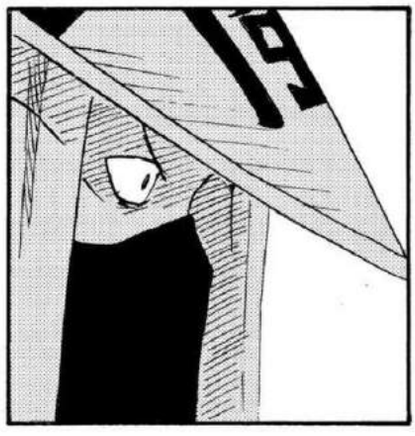
KAKASHI! THIS IS...!
YEAH... GENJUTSU !!

CLENCH
CLENCH
KAI! RELEASE !!

KAI! RELEASE!
WHAT IS GOING ON?!

THEY WOULD NOTICE AND REVERSE THE GEN-JUTSU...
HEH... LEAVE IT TO THE KONOHA ELITES...
ZZZ
ZZZ

READ THIS WAY
...TIME!!
THEN IT'S ALMOST...
GENJUTSU...!
KABUTO'S MAKING HIS MOVE ALREADY, HUH...?



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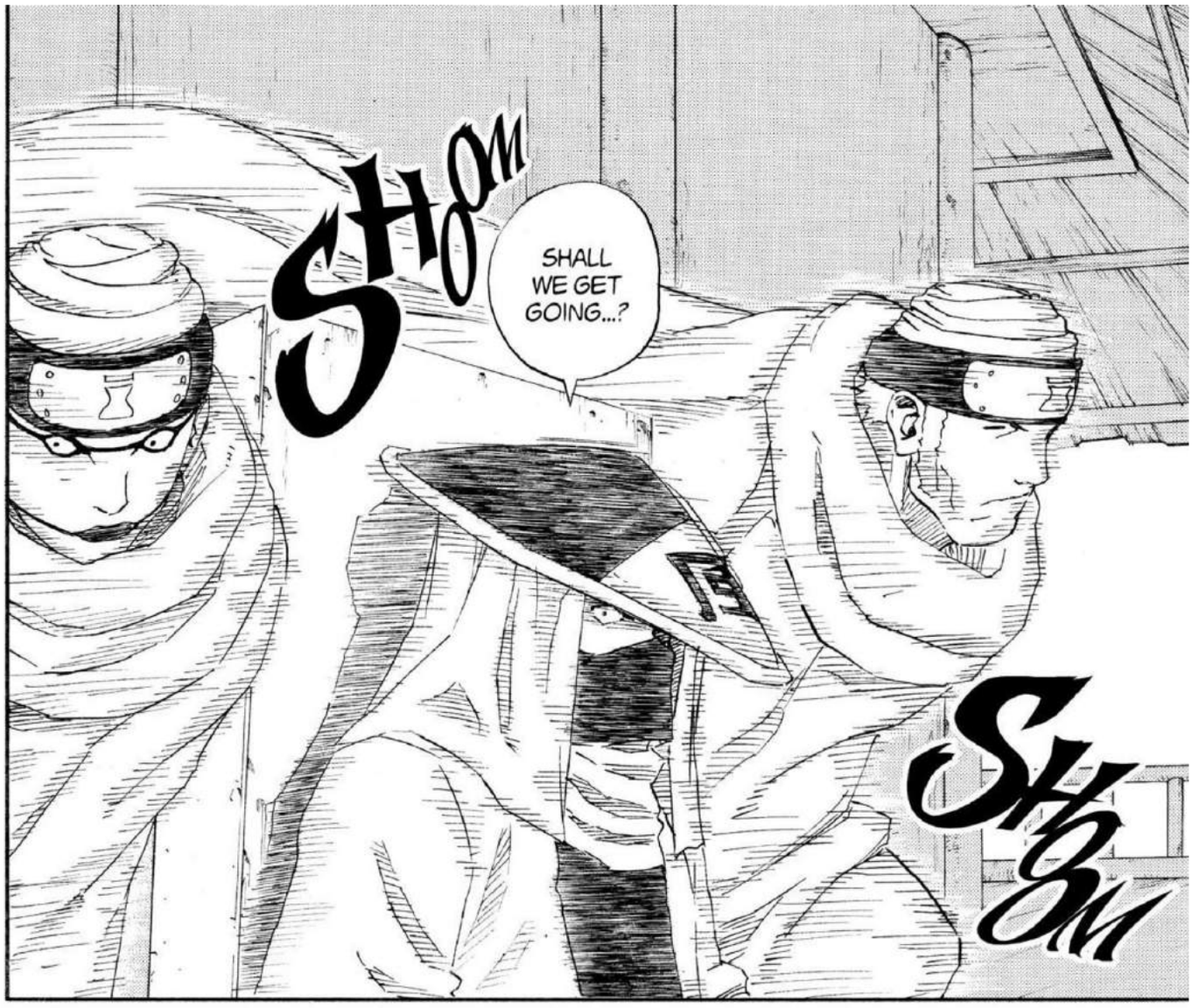
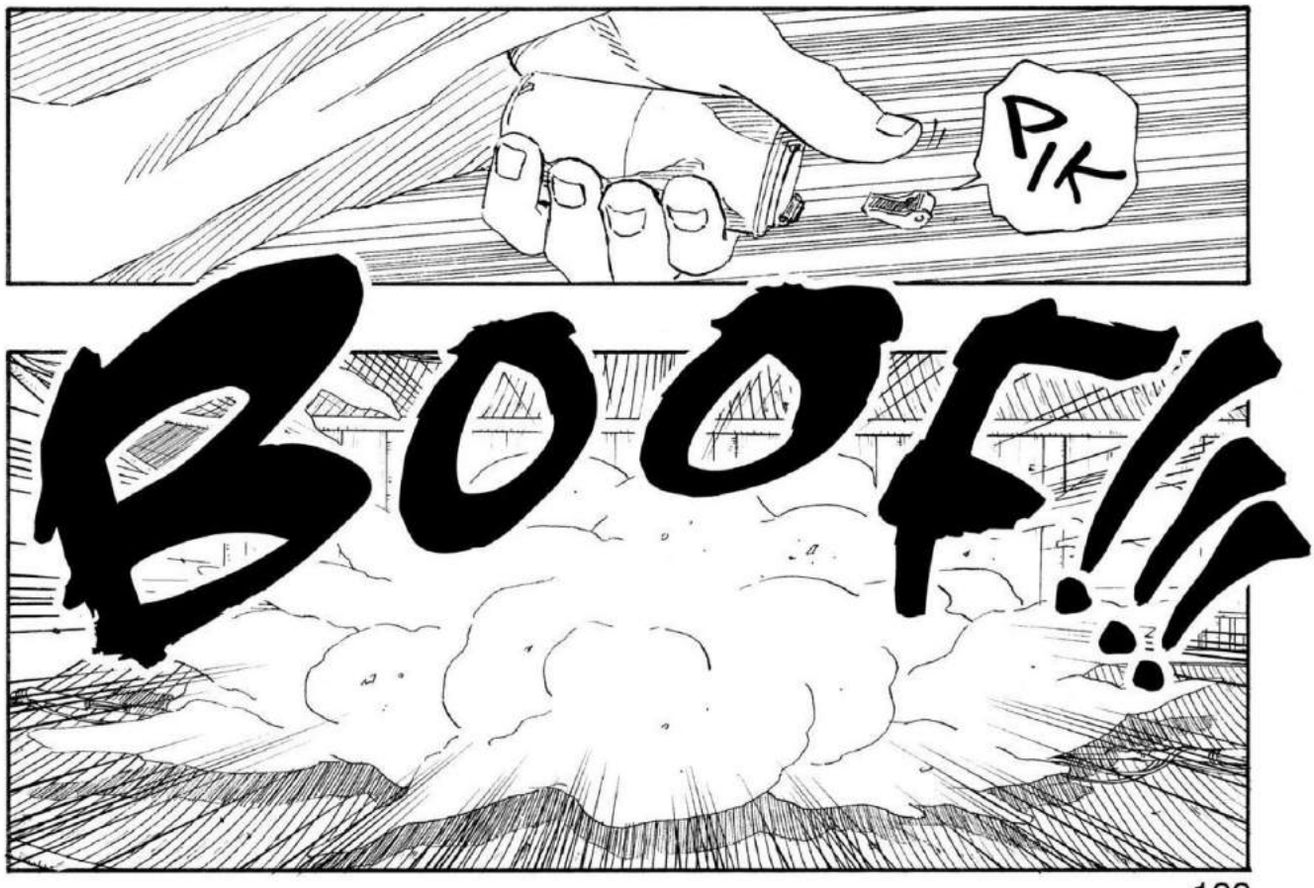

SHOM
SHALL WE GET GOING...?
SHOM


PIK
BOOF!!!

!
!
!
PUSH
COMMENCE OPERATION!!!

NARUTO IS IN ITS THIRD YEAR. AND ASSISTANTS HAVE COME AND GONE. ASSISTANT NO. 1, THE DUMB-ACTING SUPER-COOL KYUSHU NATIVE TAKAHASHI-SAN, WHO WAS THERE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF *NARUTO* (SEE VOLUME 6, PAGE 26) HAS LEFT OUR OFFICE, AND TWO NEW ASSISTANTS HAVE STARTED. AND SO...

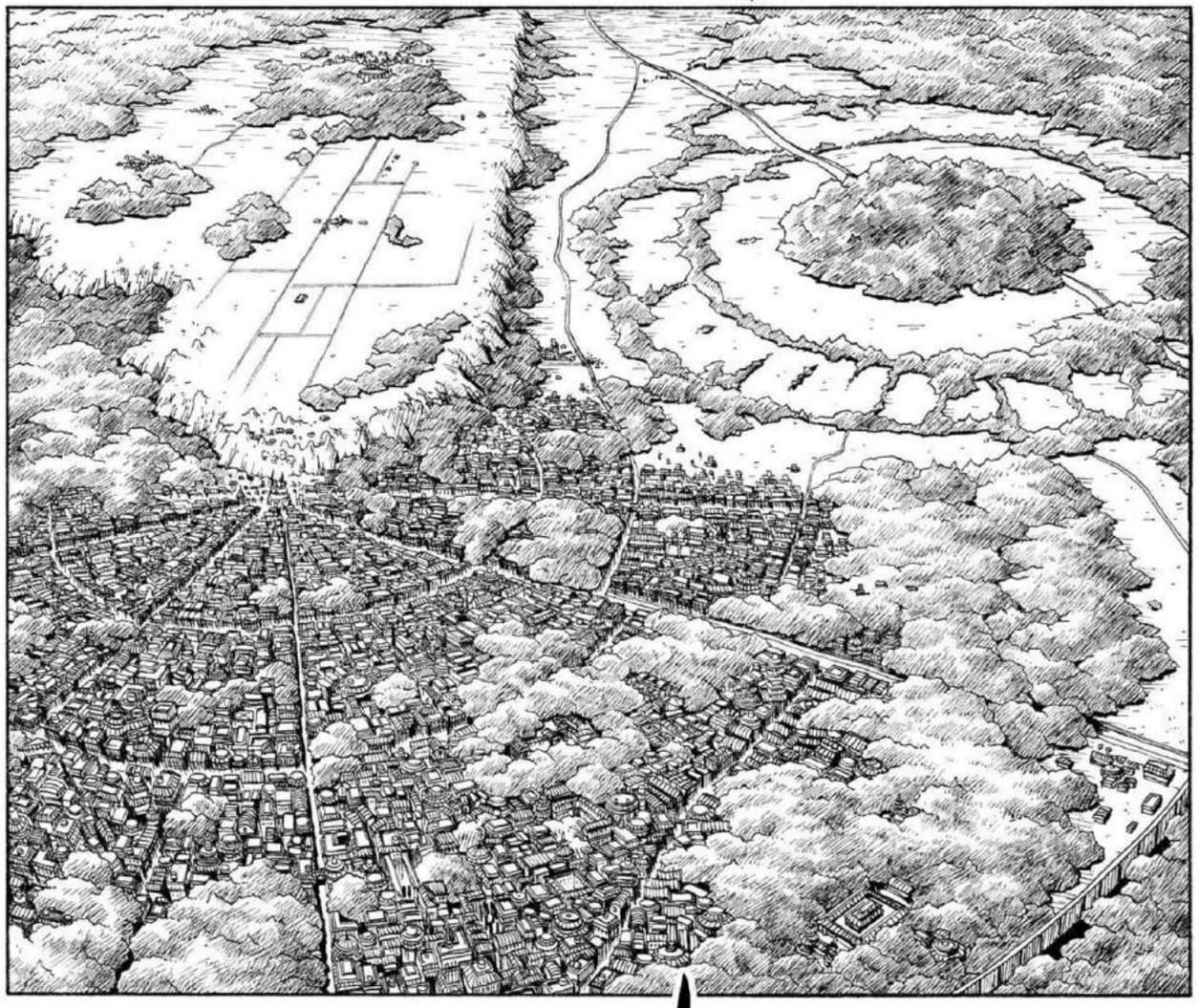
MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS PART 5
ASSISTANT NO. 5: NISHIYA KOUICHI

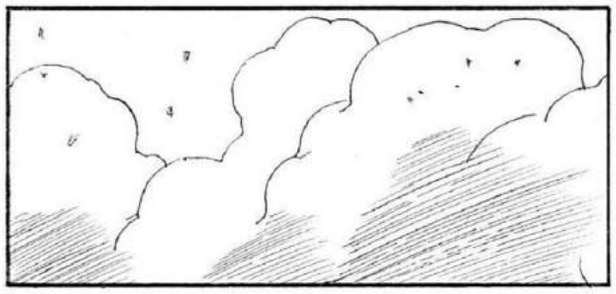
PROFILE

- YOUNGEST PERSON IN THE OFFICE.
- BUT LOOKS LIKE THE OLDEST ONE IN THE OFFICE. [redacted]
- VERY KIND-HEARTED FELLOW.
- HAS AN AMAZING PHYSIQUE (LIKE THE INCREDIBLE HULK). IN OTHER WORDS, HUGE!
- HAS INHERITED THE PREVIOUS ASSISTANT TAKAHASHI-SAN'S ULTRA-COOL DUMB ACT.
- PROBABLY THE BIGGEST METAL-HEAD IN THE WORLD (SERIOUSLY. I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!)

JOBS: BETA [COLORS IN THE BLACK AREAS (HAIR, CLOTHING, ETC.)], TONING, BACKGROUNDS.

Number 115: The Chûnin Exam, Concluded...!!

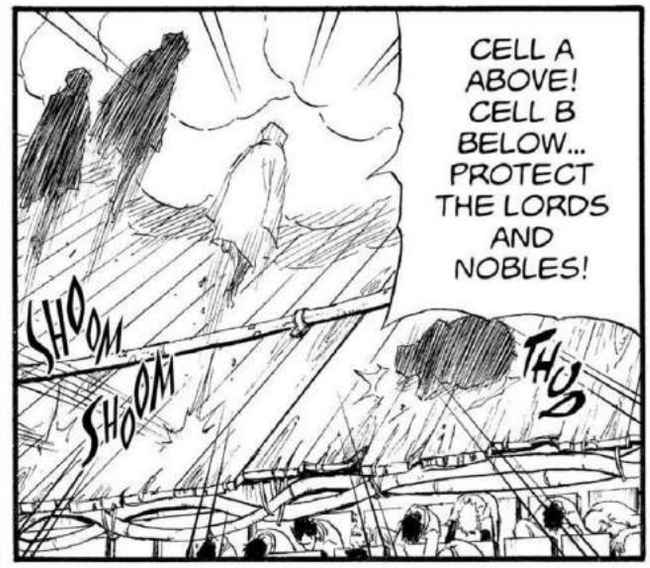


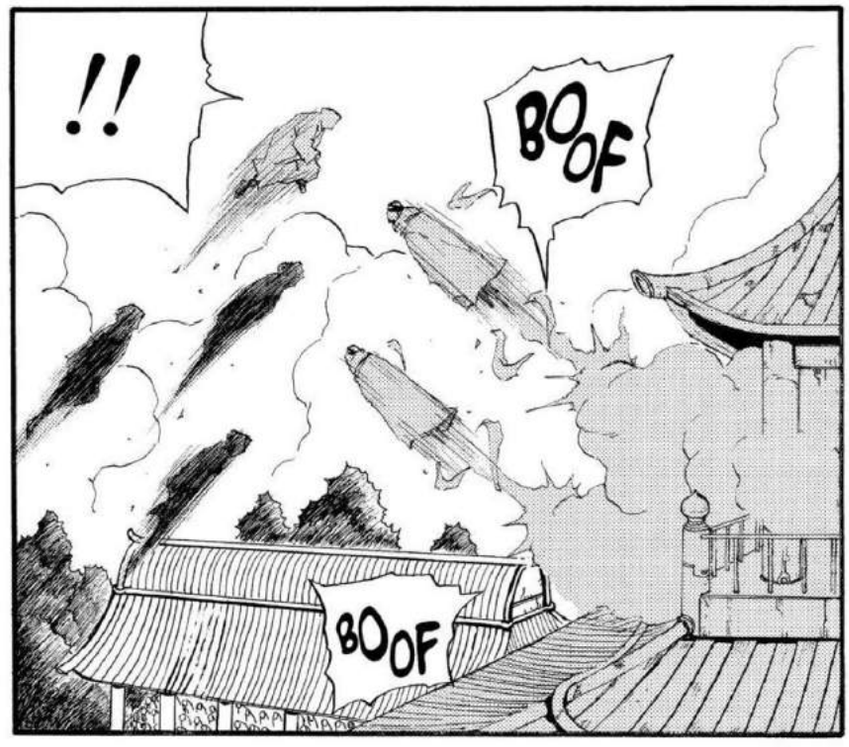


DOOM

Number 115: The Chûnin Exam Concluded...!!

FOOSH
FOOSH
FOOSH


CELL A ABOVE! CELL B BELOW... PROTECT THE LORDS AND NOBLES!
SHOOM
SHOOM
THUD


!!
BOOF
BOOF

!!
OUT OF THE WAY...
SH
!!
SHA

ARGH!!
CLANG
THUD

!

BOOM
!!

!!

!!
!

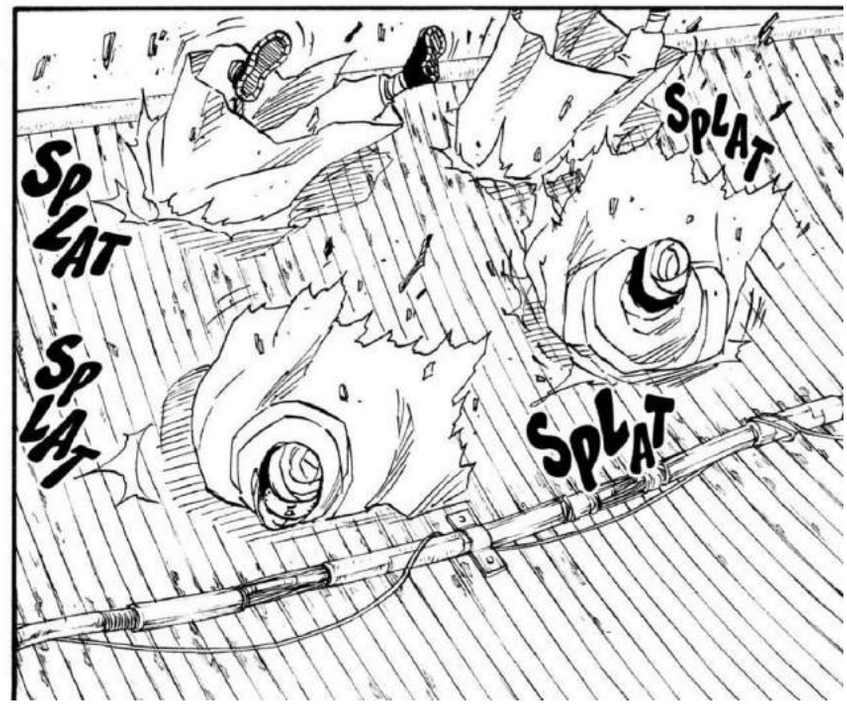
!!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

風
火

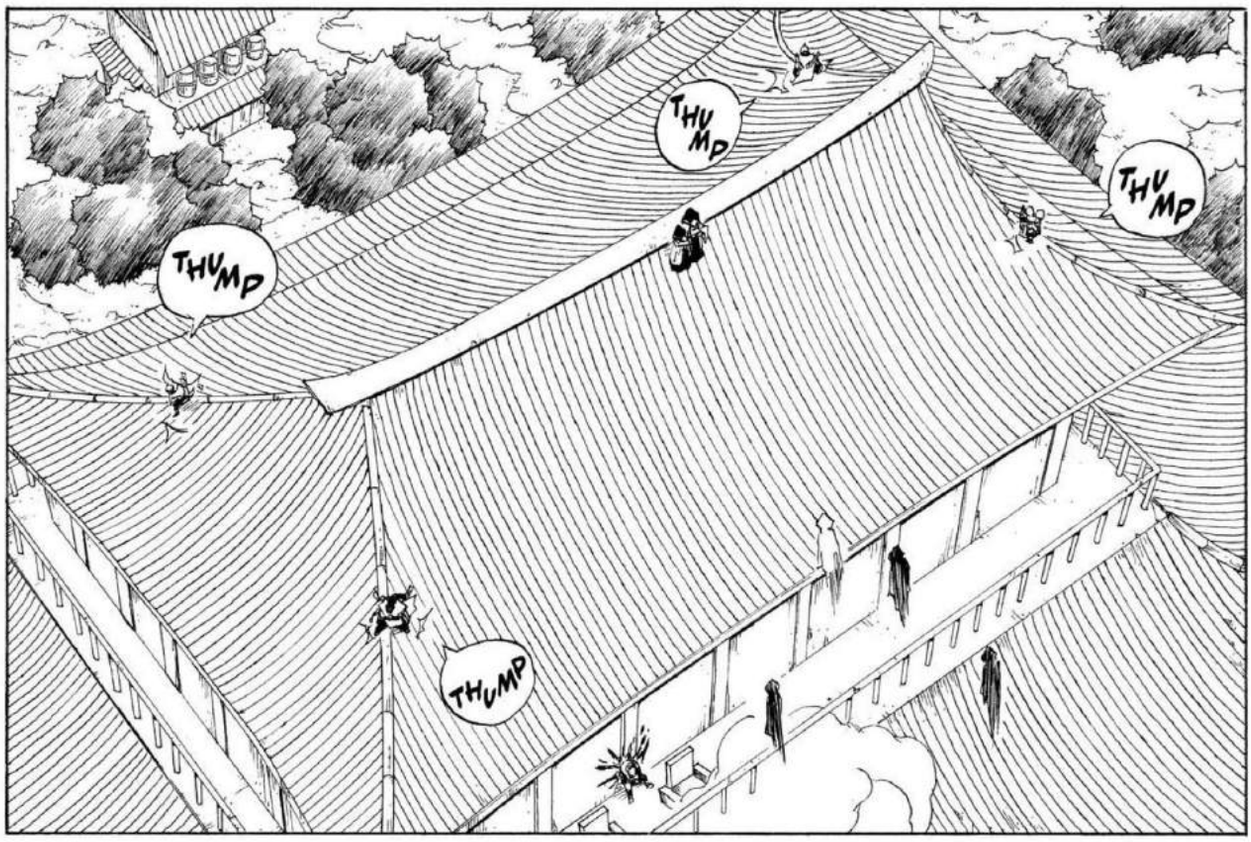
SHA

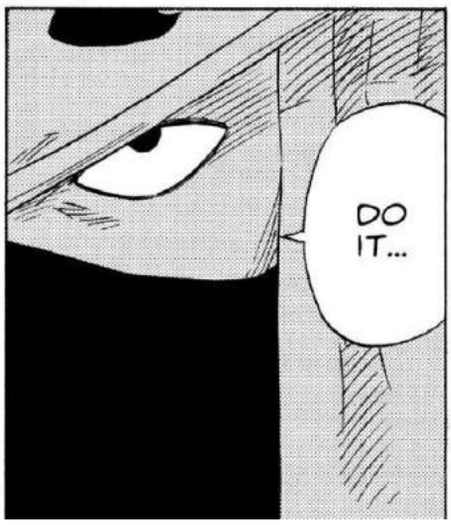
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH

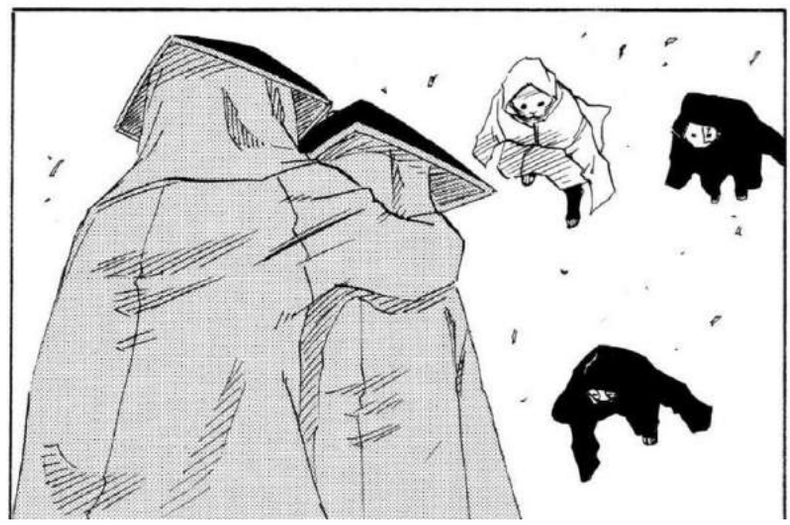

SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT

AFTER THEM!!
SHOOM
SHOOM

!!
SHOOM
SHOOM


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


DO IT...

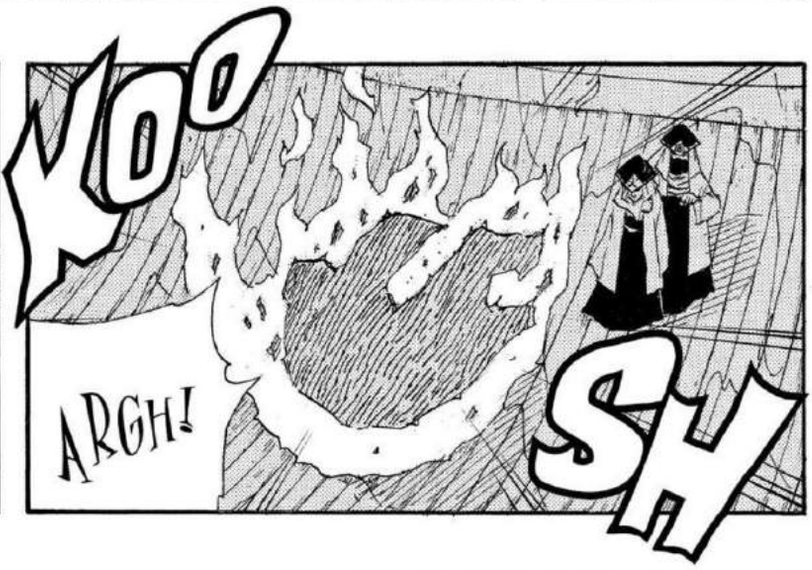


HAH!
FOO
NINJA ART: SHISHIENJIN! FOUR FLAMES FORMATION!
SH

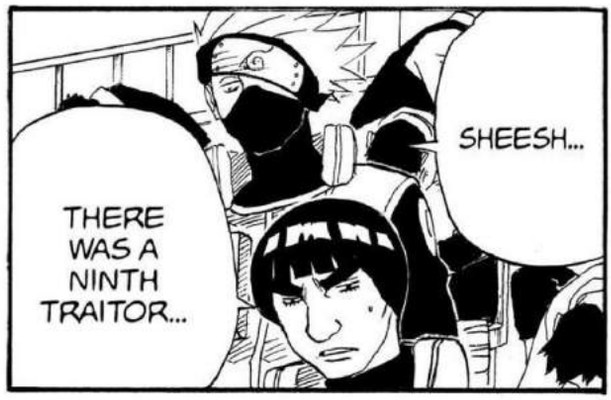
SLAM

!

UGH...
IT'S A BARRIER...!
THUMP
THUD


KOO
ARGH!
SH

SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM


SHEESH...
THERE WAS A NINTH TRAITOR...

SO IT WOULD APPEAR...
SO HE'S THE ONE WHO PERFORMED THE GENJUTSU...

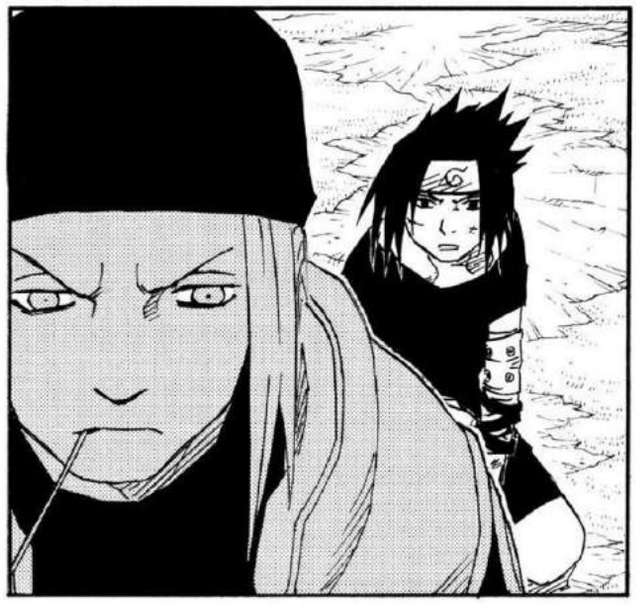
SOUND NINJA!!

I NEVER IMAGINED SAND WOULD BETRAY KONOHA...
TREATIES ARE MERELY SMOKE-SCREENS TO LULL THE OTHER PARTY INTO RELAXING THEIR GUARD.

SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM

FROM HERE ON OUT, HISTORY WILL BE MADE...
THIS PITIFUL PRETEND COMPETITION IS NOW OVER...

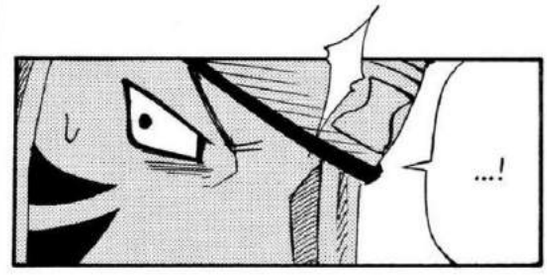
READ THIS WAY
THERE IS STILL TIME FOR THAT...
LET US AVOID VIOLENCE AND INSTEAD REACH A SETTLEMENT THROUGH NEGOTIATION... LORD KAZEKAGE.
INDEED.
ARE YOU INCITING WAR?!
...MASTER SARUTOBI!!
HO HO...
OLD AGE HAS MADE YOU FEEBLE-MINDED...
!
...
YOU...



SHF
!

WHAT'S WRONG...?
HEY...

GAARA, THE PLAN...

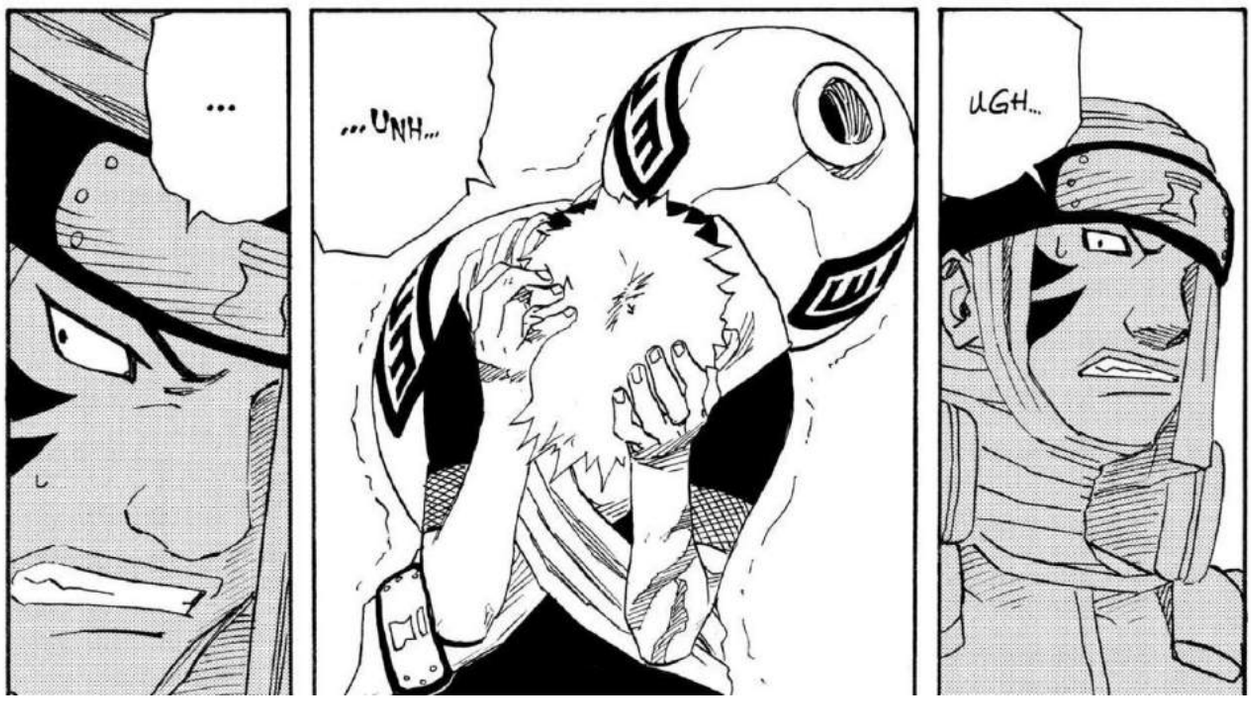

...!

UNH...
UNH...

READ THIS WAY
HE CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE!!
HE'S SUFFERING A REACTION.
IDIOT!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WOULD TRY TO UNDERGO COMPLETE POSSESSION WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE SIGNAL...!

YOU WANT US TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT GAARA?!
THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!

?!


...
...UNH...
UGH...

I'M CALLING IT OFF!

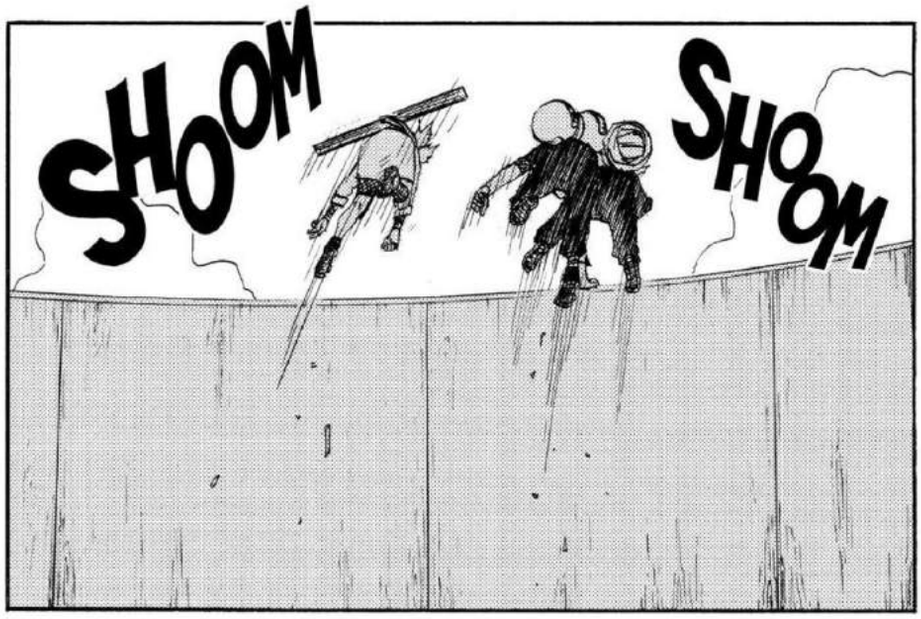
CRUD...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MASTER?!

!!

YOU TWO TAKE GAARA AND WITHDRAW FOR NOW!

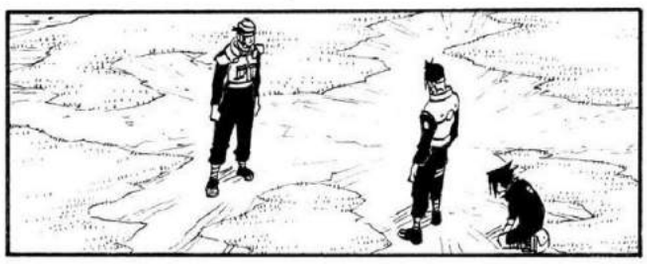
Y-YES, SIR!

I'M GOING TO HELP FIGHT.
GO!!

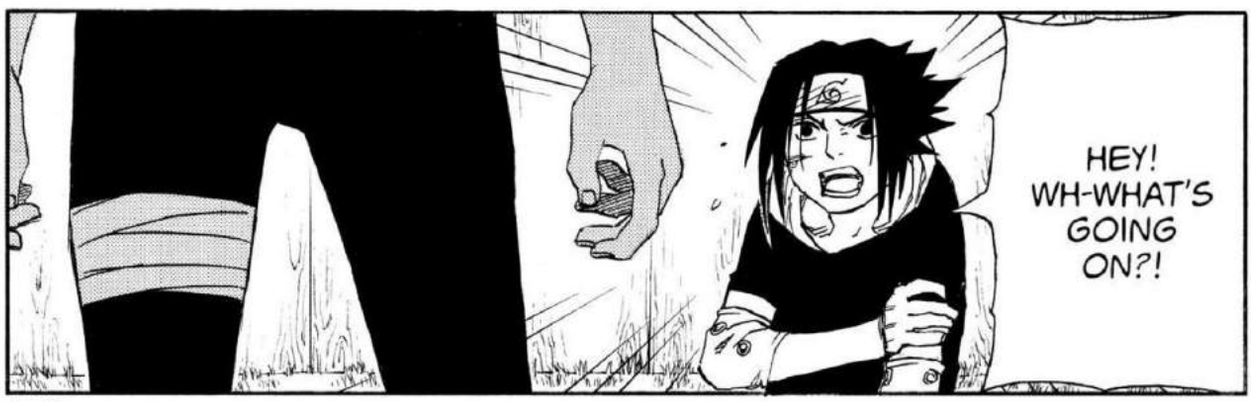

SHOOM
SHOOM

!

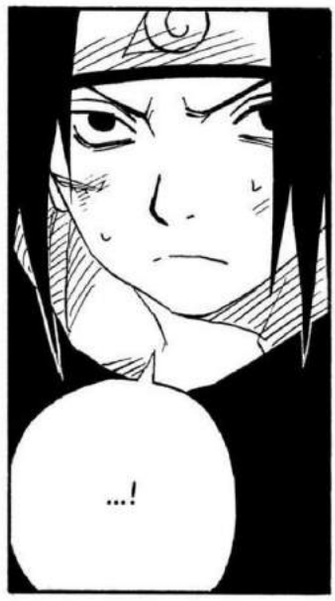
LET'S JUST AMP THINGS UP A BIT, SHALL WE...?
WHO KNOWS...?



...OROCHIMARU?
IS THE HOST OF THIS LITTLE PARTY...

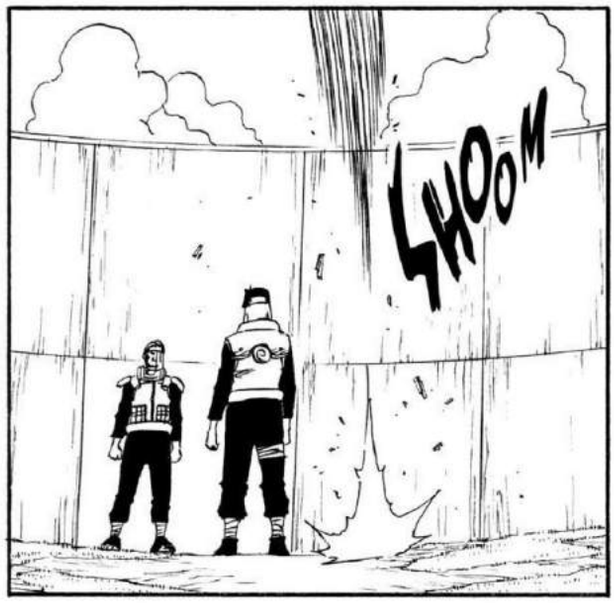

HEY! WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

YOU GO AFTER GAARA AND THE OTHERS, RIGHT NOW!
SORRY, BUT THE CHÛNIN EXAM IS OVER.


...!

YOU'RE ALREADY AT CHÛNIN LEVEL. IF YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A KONOHA SHINOBI, DO SOMETHING USEFUL...

!!


SHOOM

SHEESH...

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON...?

GAARA WASN'T OF ANY USE, HUH...?

SASUKE...!!

!

...I SEE... SO THAT'S WHAT'S AFOOT...

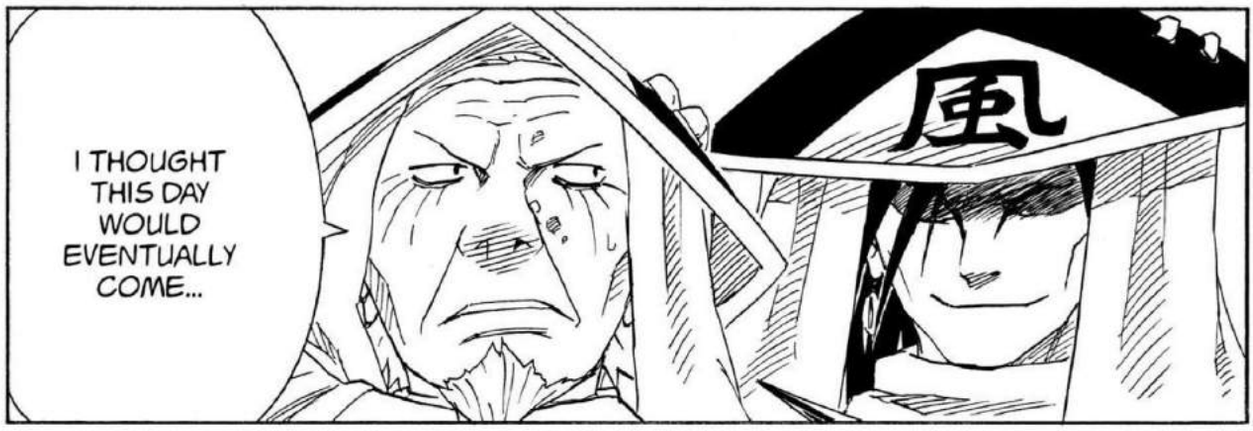
...
HEH HEH HEH...

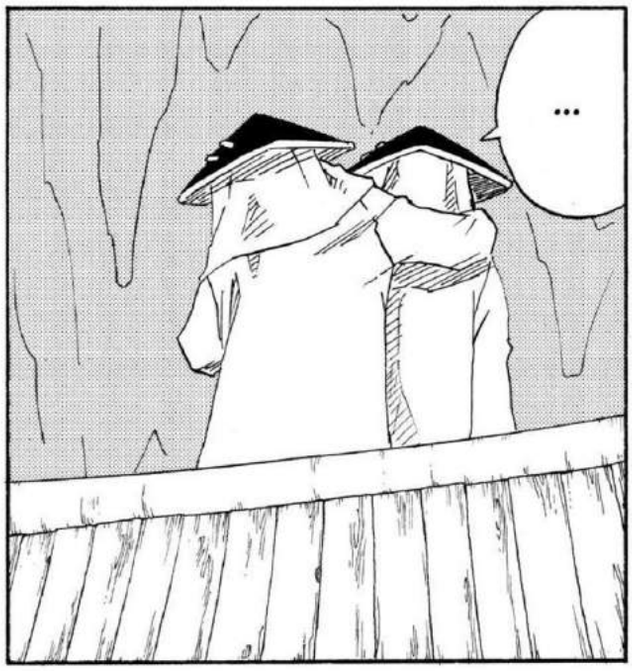
I THOUGHT I TAUGHT YOU NOT TO COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED...
HUMPH...!

IT'S MY VICTORY.
YOUR FOOLISHNESS HAS STALLED, PERHAPS EVEN STAGNATED, KONOHA...

GSSH

...
OROCHIMARU.
SHLUP


I THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD EVENTUALLY COME...
風


...

HOWEVER, MY HEAD WON'T COME OFF AS EASILY...!

I THOUGHT I WARNED YOU TO HURRY UP AND NAME THE FIFTH HOKAGE...

BECAUSE THE THIRD...
LICK
...IS GOING TO DIE RIGHT HERE...

Number 116:
Operation
Destroy
Konoha...!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-

しるこ

SO... WHAT SORT OF FELLOW IS THIS OROCHIMARU?

...THE THIRD HOKAGE'S STUDENT...

HE WAS FORMERLY ...

...THOUGH ULTIMATELY HE WASN'T CHOSEN...

...OROCHIMARU SUPPOSEDLY PUT FORTH HIS OWN NAME FOR CONSID-ERATION...

YOU SEE, BACK IN THE DAY...WHEN THEY WERE SELECTING THE FOURTH HOKAGE...

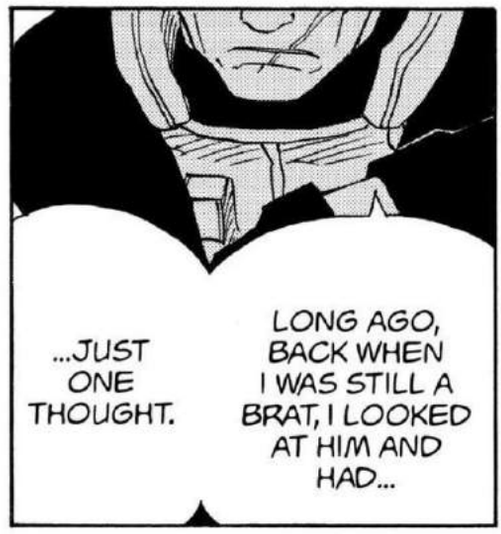
HOW DID HE END UP A ROGUE SHINOBI...?

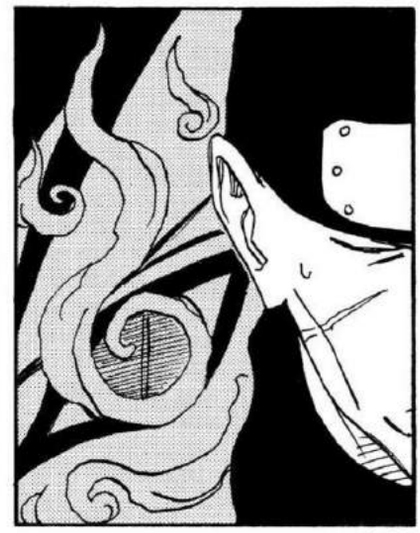
OROCHIMARU'S PROBABLY RESENTED THE THIRD LORD...
...EVER SINCE.
SHORTLY AFTER THAT, HE RAN FROM THE VILLAGE...

MOST LIKELY.

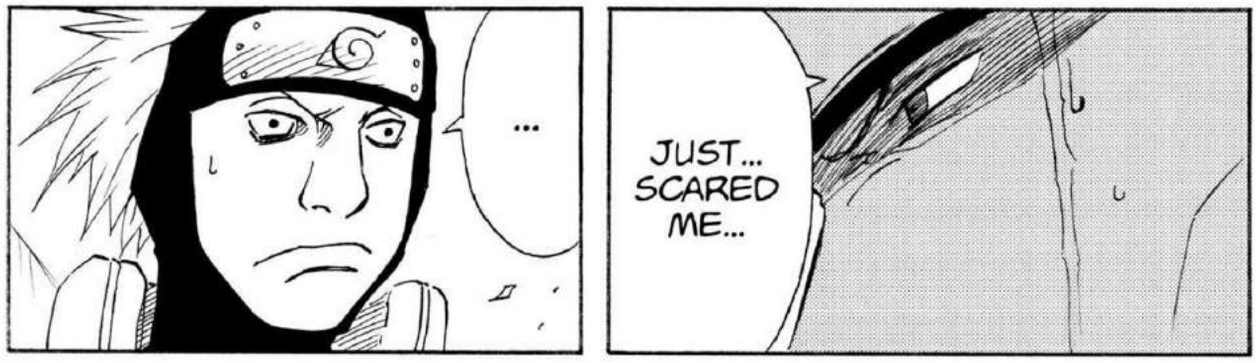
A VENDETTA...?!

...

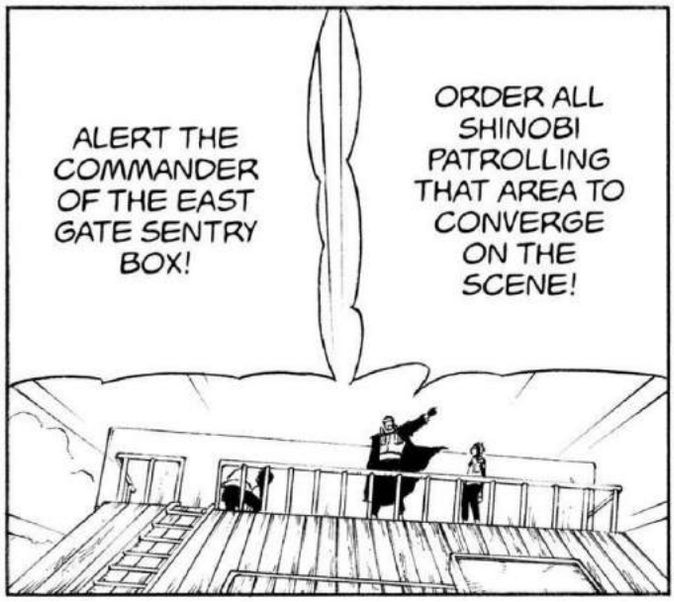

...JUST ONE THOUGHT.
LONG AGO, BACK WHEN I WAS STILL A BRAT, I LOOKED AT HIM AND HAD...



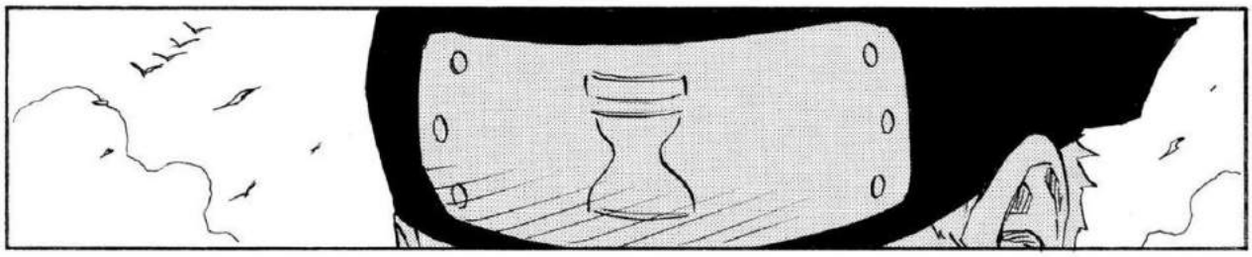
THAT HE WASN'T HUMAN... MERELY SOMETHING THAT HAD HUMAN FORM...
...HE SCARED ME.

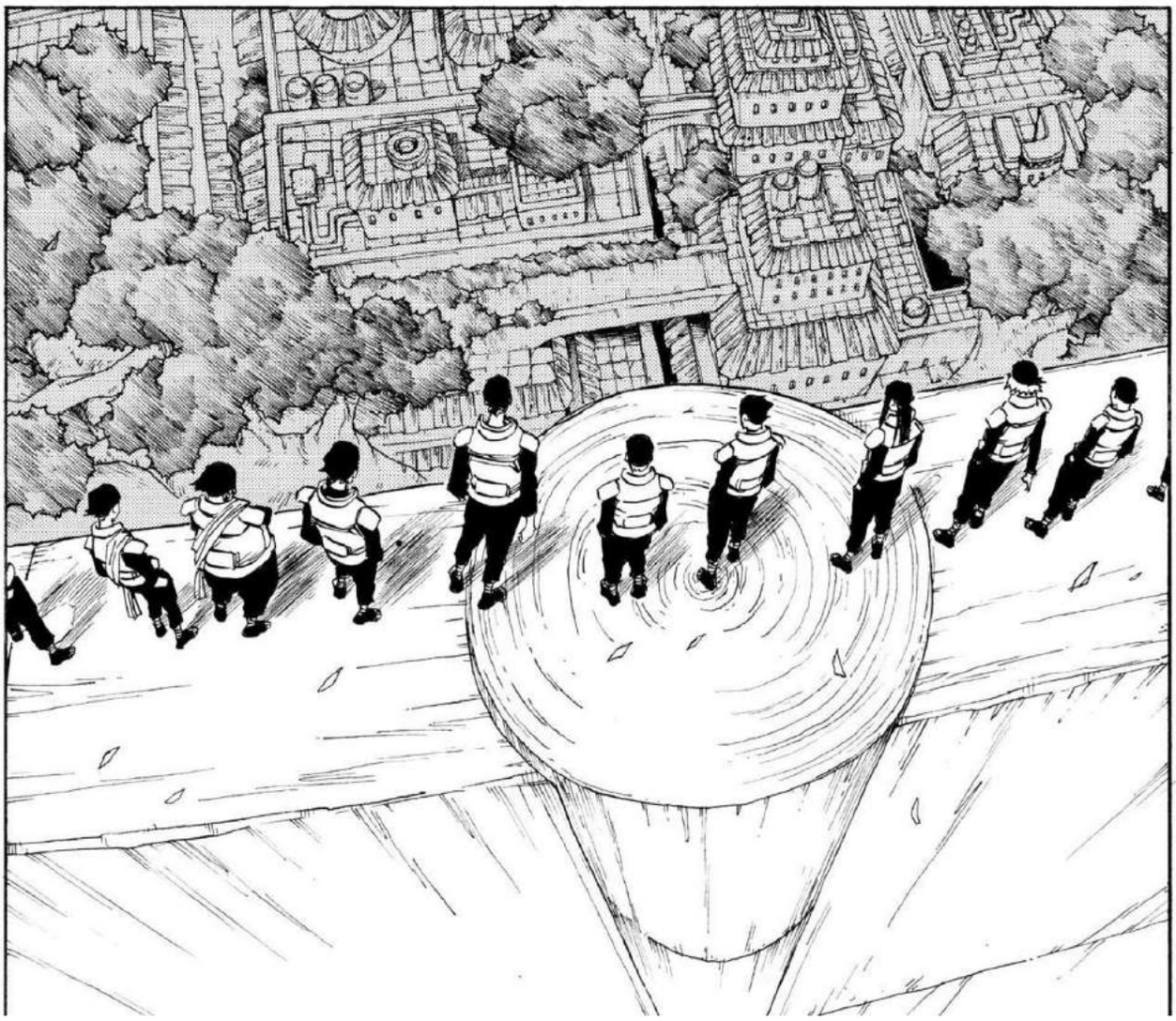

JUST... SCARED ME...
...

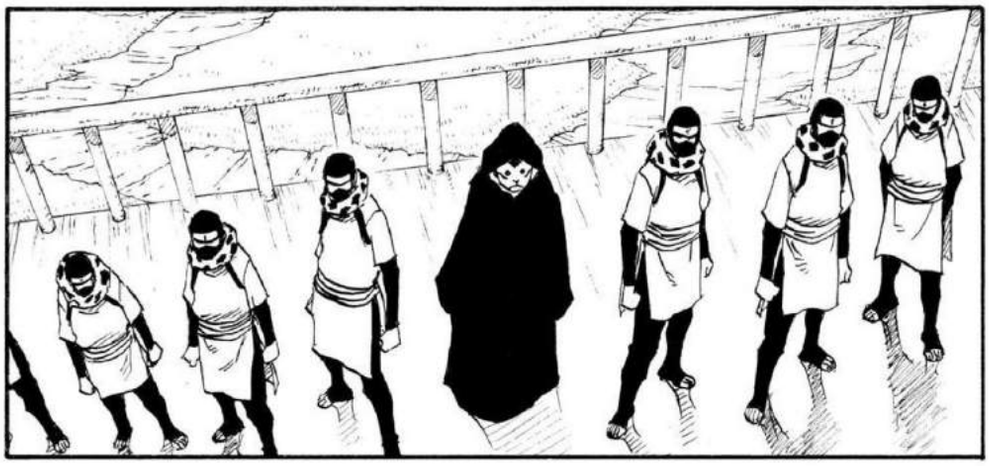
SHOOM
REPORTING IN!!
GIANT SNAKES HAVE APPEARED IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST GATE! FOLLOWING THEM, ROUGHLY 100 SAND SHINOBI HAVE INFILTRATED THE VILLAGE!

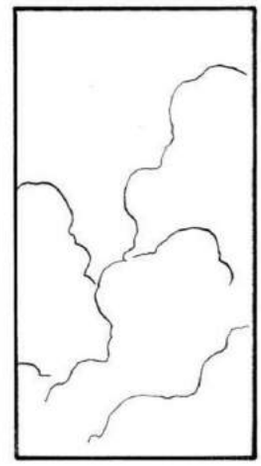

ALERT THE COMMANDER OF THE EAST GATE SENTRY BOX!
ORDER ALL SHINOBI PATROLLING THAT AREA TO CONVERGE ON THE SCENE!

IT'S FINALLY COME!







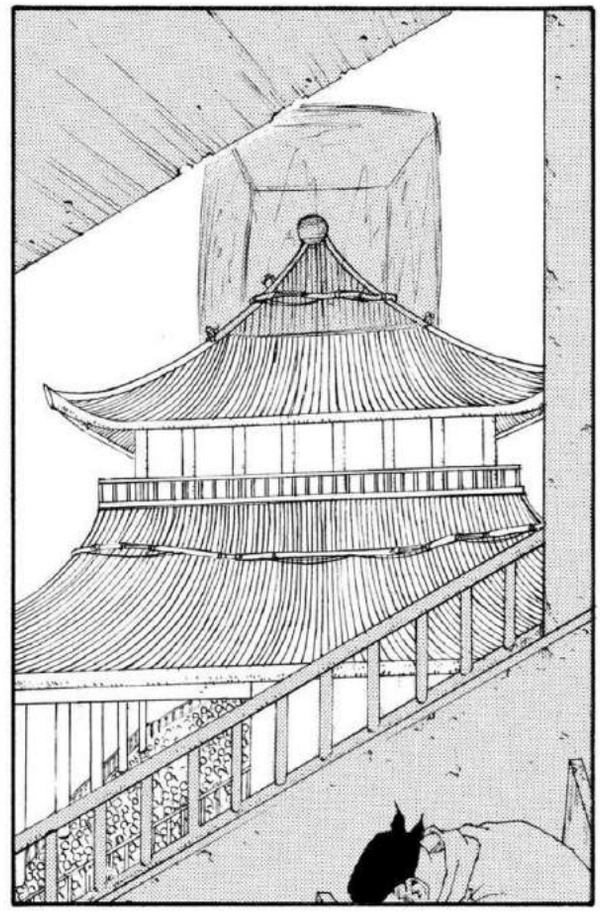


!

LOOK OVER TOWARD THE ROOF OF THE CENTRAL VIEWING TOWER.
THAT'S NOT ALL. THERE'S SOME-THING EVEN WORSE.

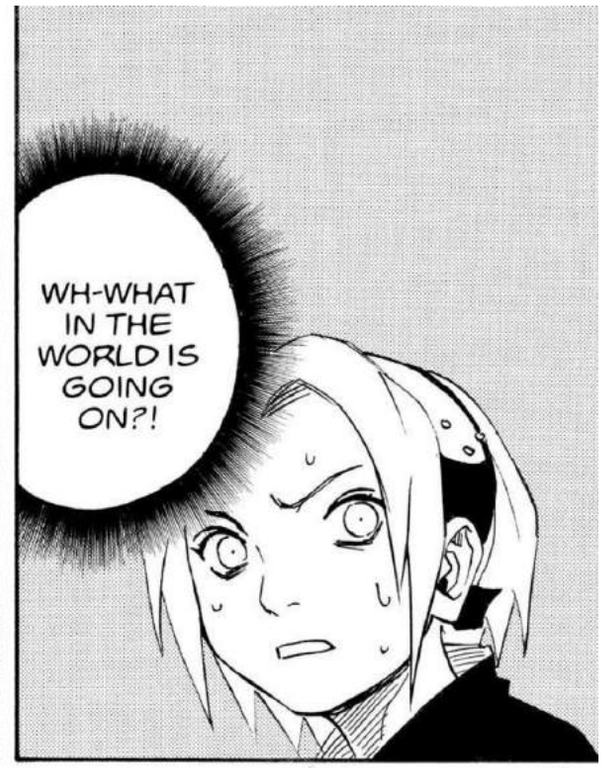
IT'S QUITE A CROWD ...

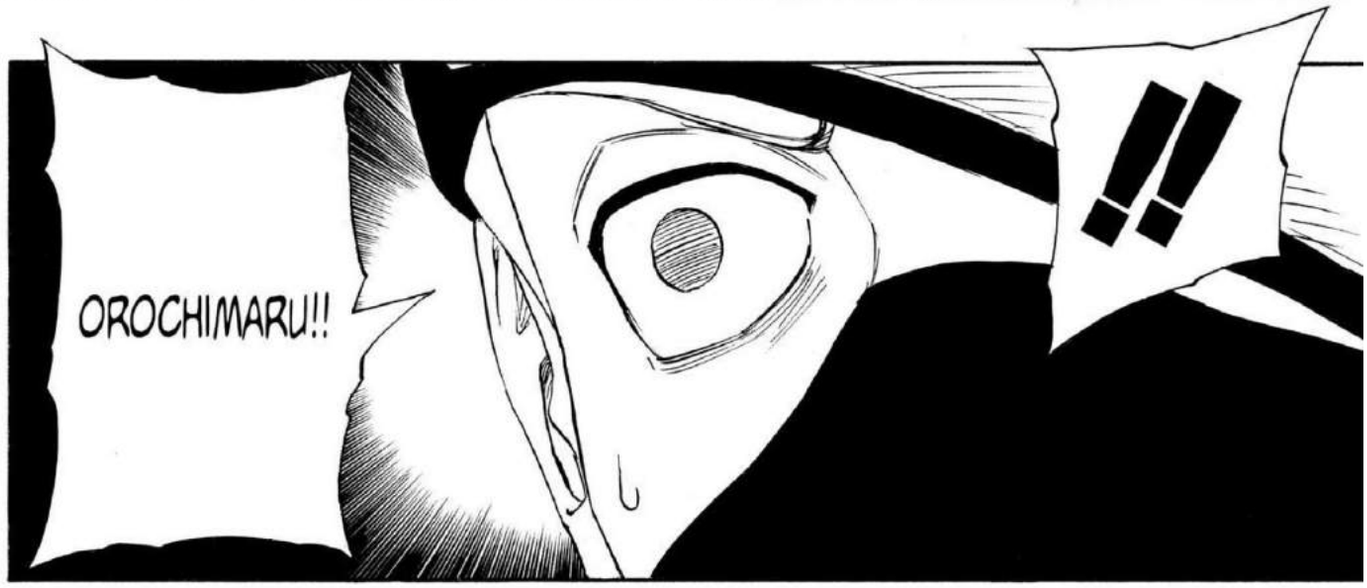
THAT'S A BARRIER-NINJUTSU...!
!



...

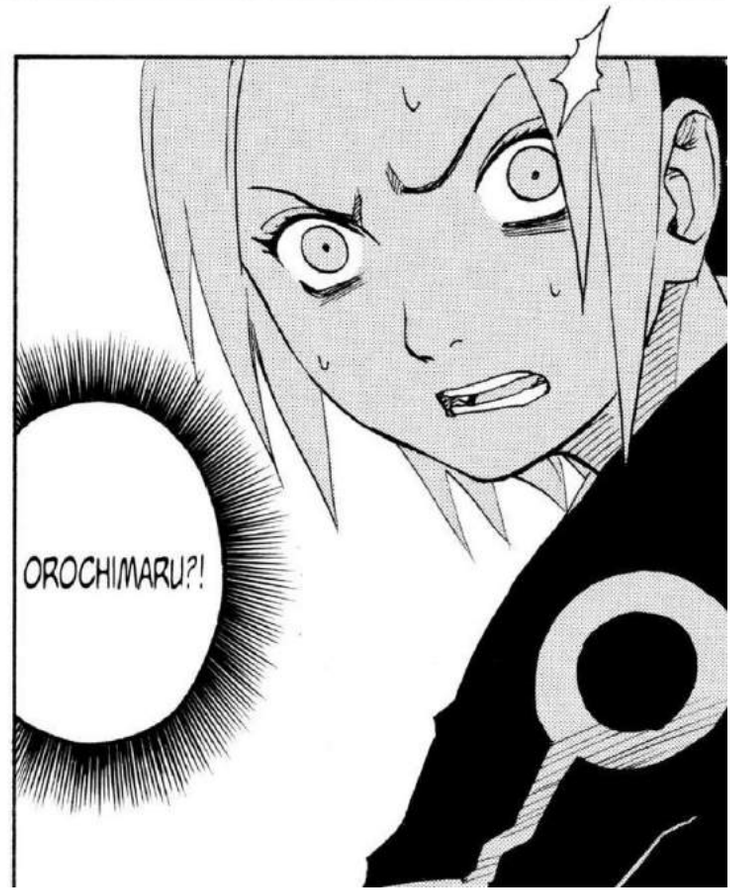
!
KAKASHI, LOOK CLOSELY INSIDE THE BARRIER!


WH-WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?!

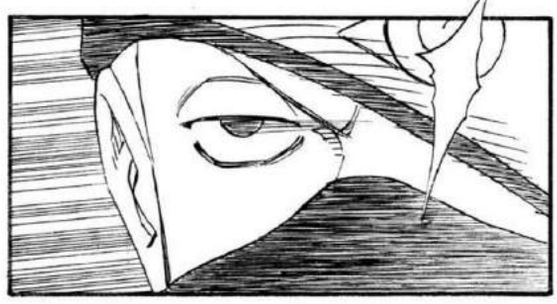

OROCHIMARU!!
!!

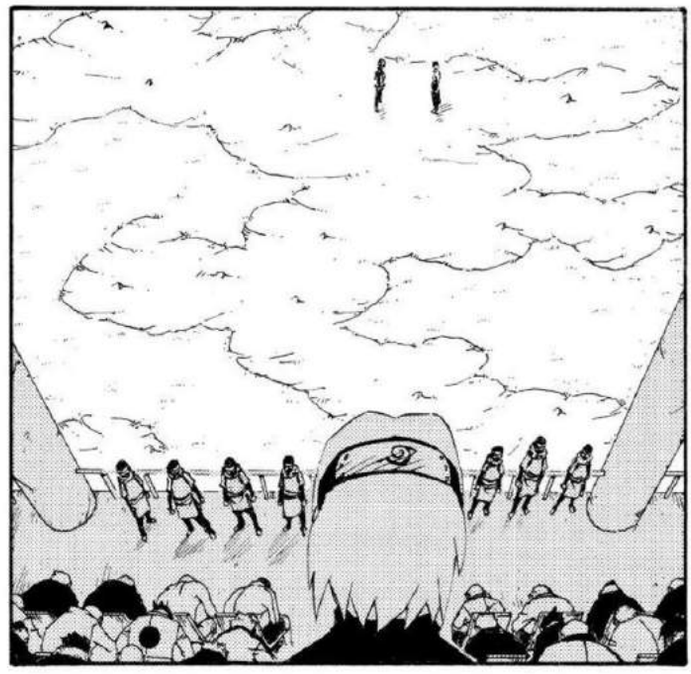
DON'T TELL ME HE'S AFTER SASUKE AGAIN...!!
WH-WHAT'S HE DOING HERE...?

SASUKE...!


OROCHIMARU?!

READ THIS WAY
WHERE'S SASUKE...?!
OH...





HUH?
FSSH
FSSH

SHUN
SHUNK

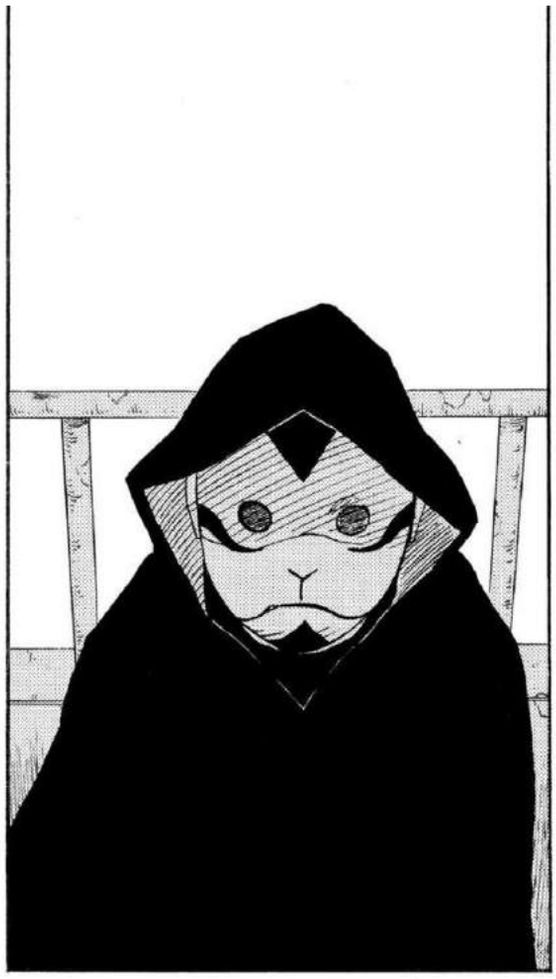
SHK!!
SHK!!

KACHINK
KACHINK
KLOOSH

THUD
THUD
...

...
PEEK

SAKURA, STAY THERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE... I'LL GO THIN OUT THE ENEMY RANKS.



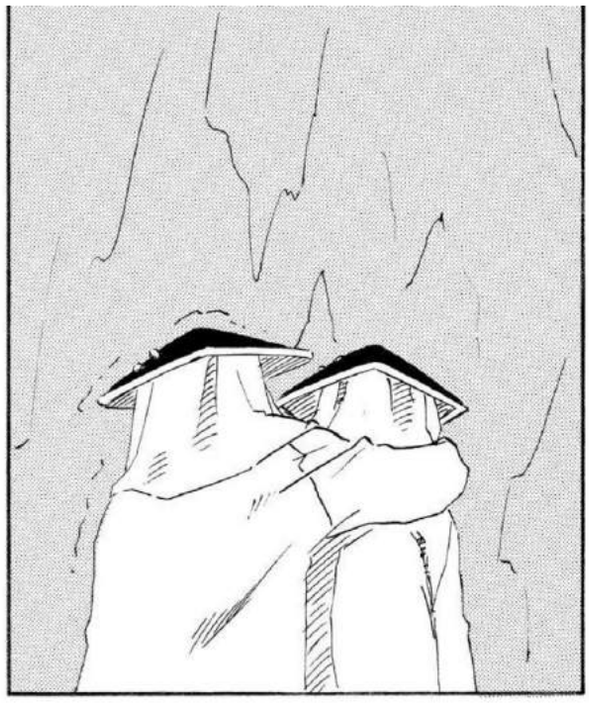
SHUNK
THUMP
ARGH!

...LORD HOKAGE ISN'T THE TYPE TO BE TAKEN DOWN SO EASILY...
LEAVE THAT TO THE ANBU BLACK OPS AGENTS. BESIDES...
BUT...

KACH
INK
DARN IT...
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT LORD HOKAGE, BUT...
SHUP

KOO
SH

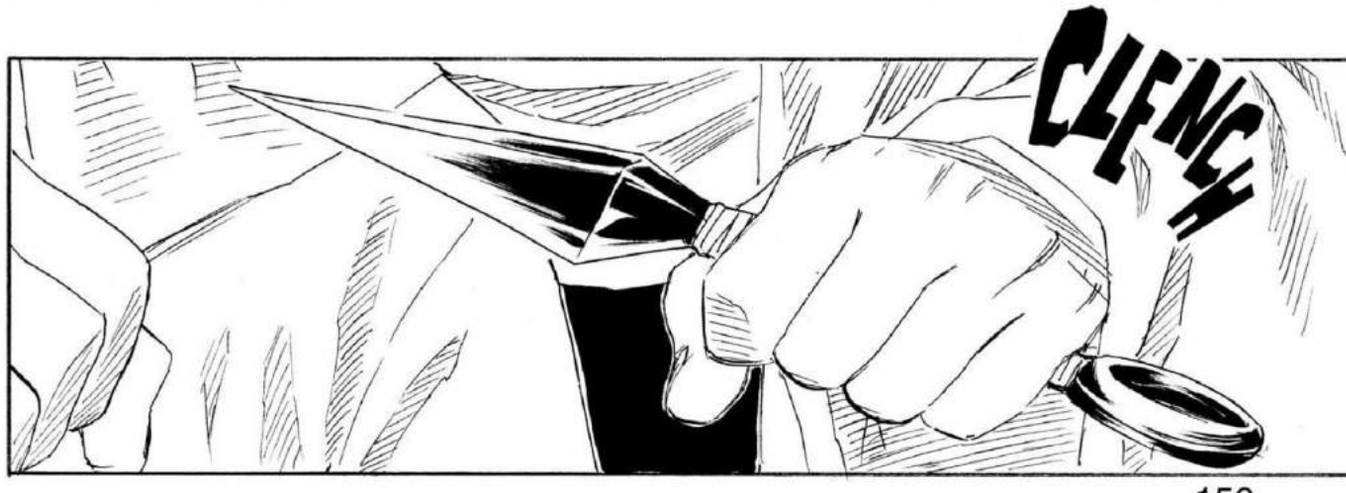
KONOHA VILLAGE'S...
...HOKAGE.
FOR HE IS...



!

ARE YOU THAT OVER-JOYED...?
OR IS IT...

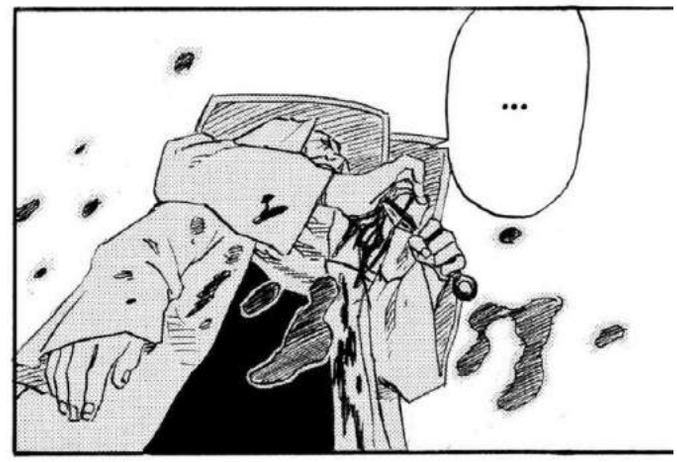
PLIP


CLENCH

READ THIS WAY
SPLORT!
!!
!
SPLASH

PLIP
PLIP

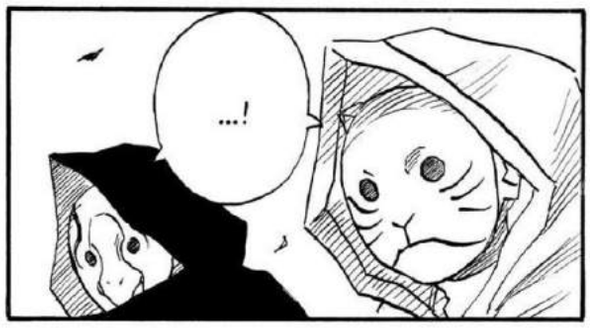
...AT THE THOUGHT OF KILLING YOUR TEACHER AND MENTOR?
...THAT YOU ACTUALLY POSSESS SOME REGRET...


...

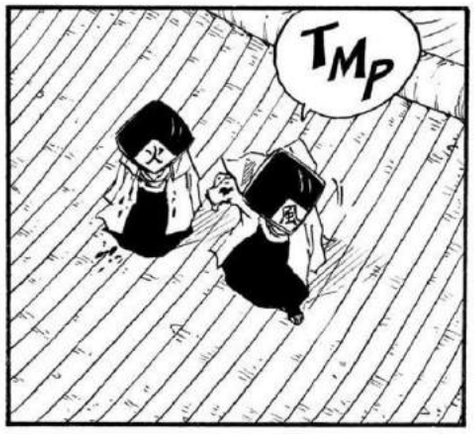
PLIP

THERE... THAT FEELS BETTER.

...!


...!

NAH... JUST A BIT SLEEPY...
SOME TEARS WELLED UP WHEN I YAWNED, THAT'S ALL...
RUB


TMP

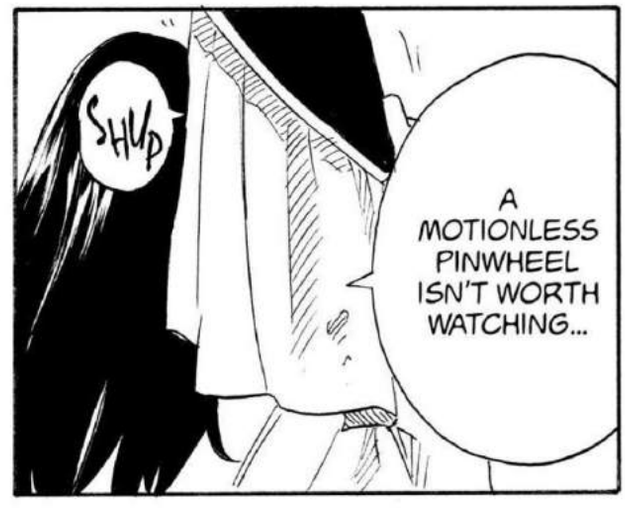
EXACTLY AS I SUSPECTED...

HMM... ACTUALLY, I DO HAVE PURPOSE.
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY...

YOU HAVE NEITHER MOTIVES NOR PURPOSE.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A MAN TO BE MOVED BY HATRED...

IT'S BORING WHEN THINGS STAND STILL, DON'T YOU AGREE...?
I ENJOY WATCHING MOVING OBJECTS.

THEN AGAIN, WHEN IT'S STOPPED, IT CAN SOMETIMES BE SENTIMENTAL TOO...
THWSP

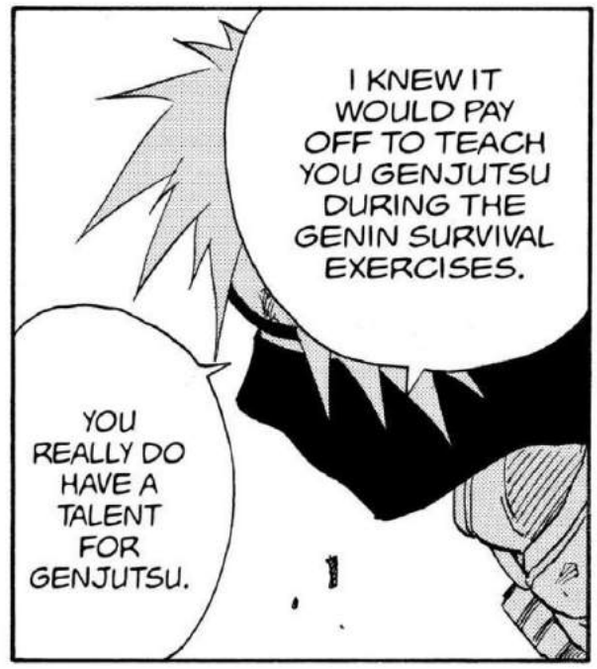

SHUP
A MOTIONLESS PINWHEEL ISN'T WORTH WATCHING...

I WANT TO MAKE THE PINWHEEL SPIN WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF KONOHA RIGHT NOW...
EITHER WAY...

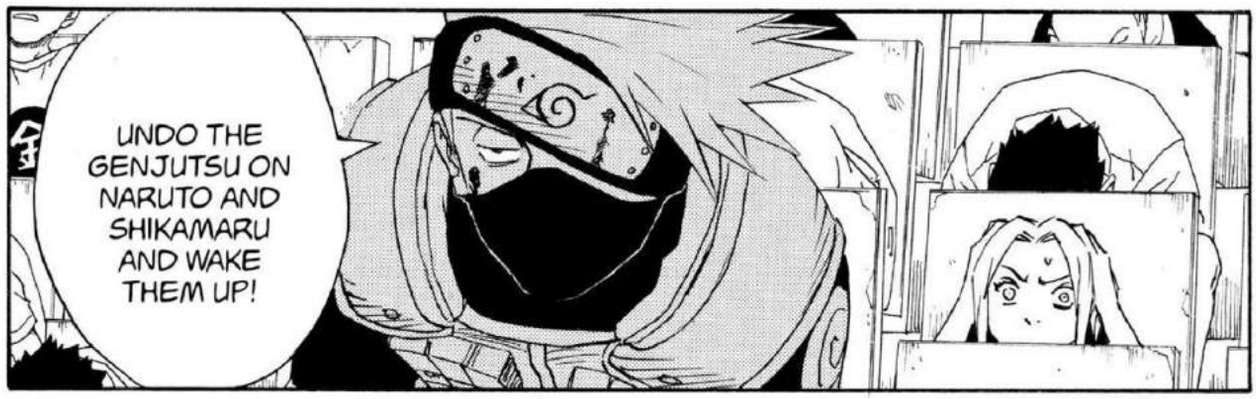
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT...
HUMPH...

KA CHING
TOMP
SAKURA!

HUH...?


I KNEW IT WOULD PAY OFF TO TEACH YOU GENJUTSU DURING THE GENIN SURVIVAL EXERCISES.
YOU REALLY DO HAVE A TALENT FOR GENJUTSU.

FLINCH
!!


UNDO THE GENJUTSU ON NARUTO AND SHIKAMARU AND WAKE THEM UP!

KA
CHINK
I'VE GOT ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU...

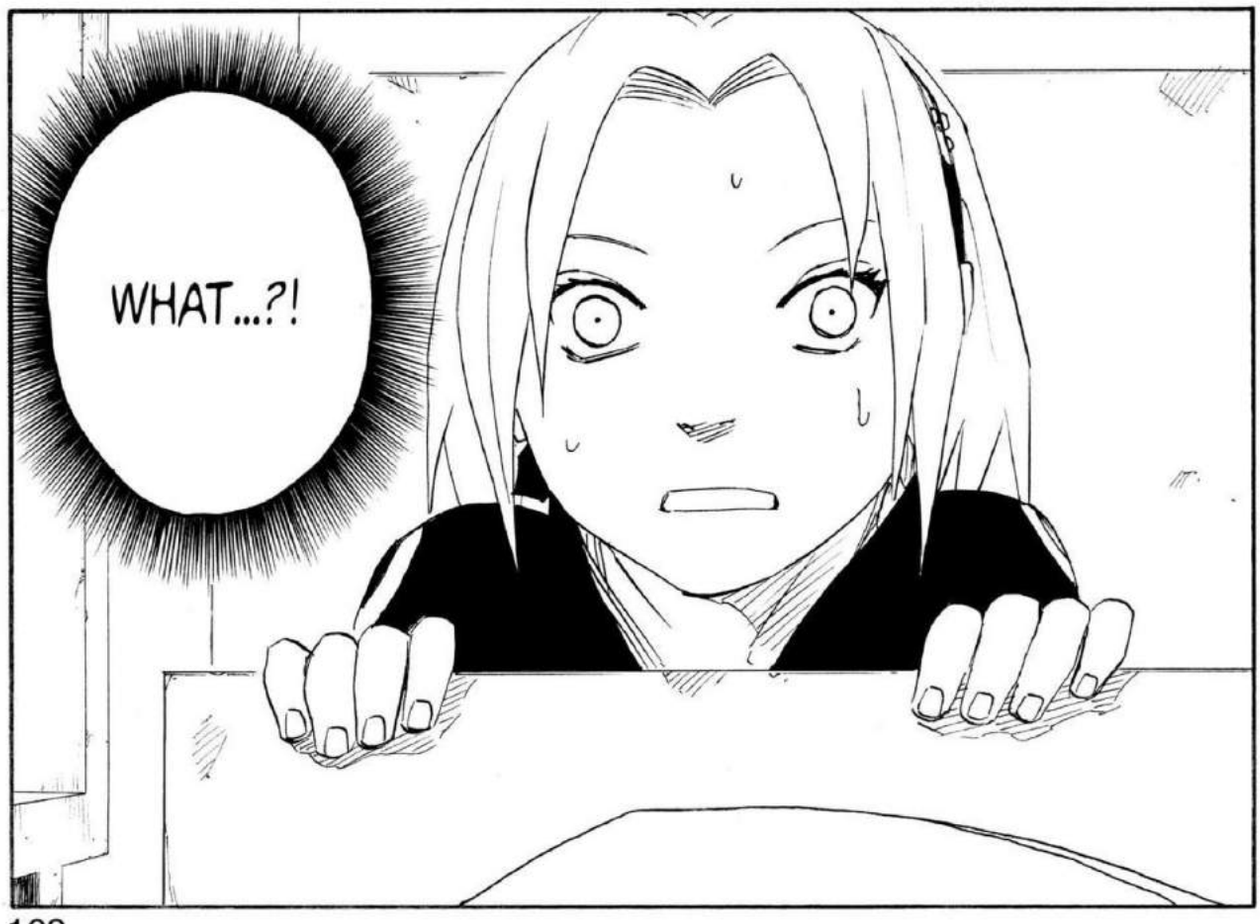
!!

ONE THAT WILL TAKE YOUR FULL FOCUS...
KACHINK
THUD

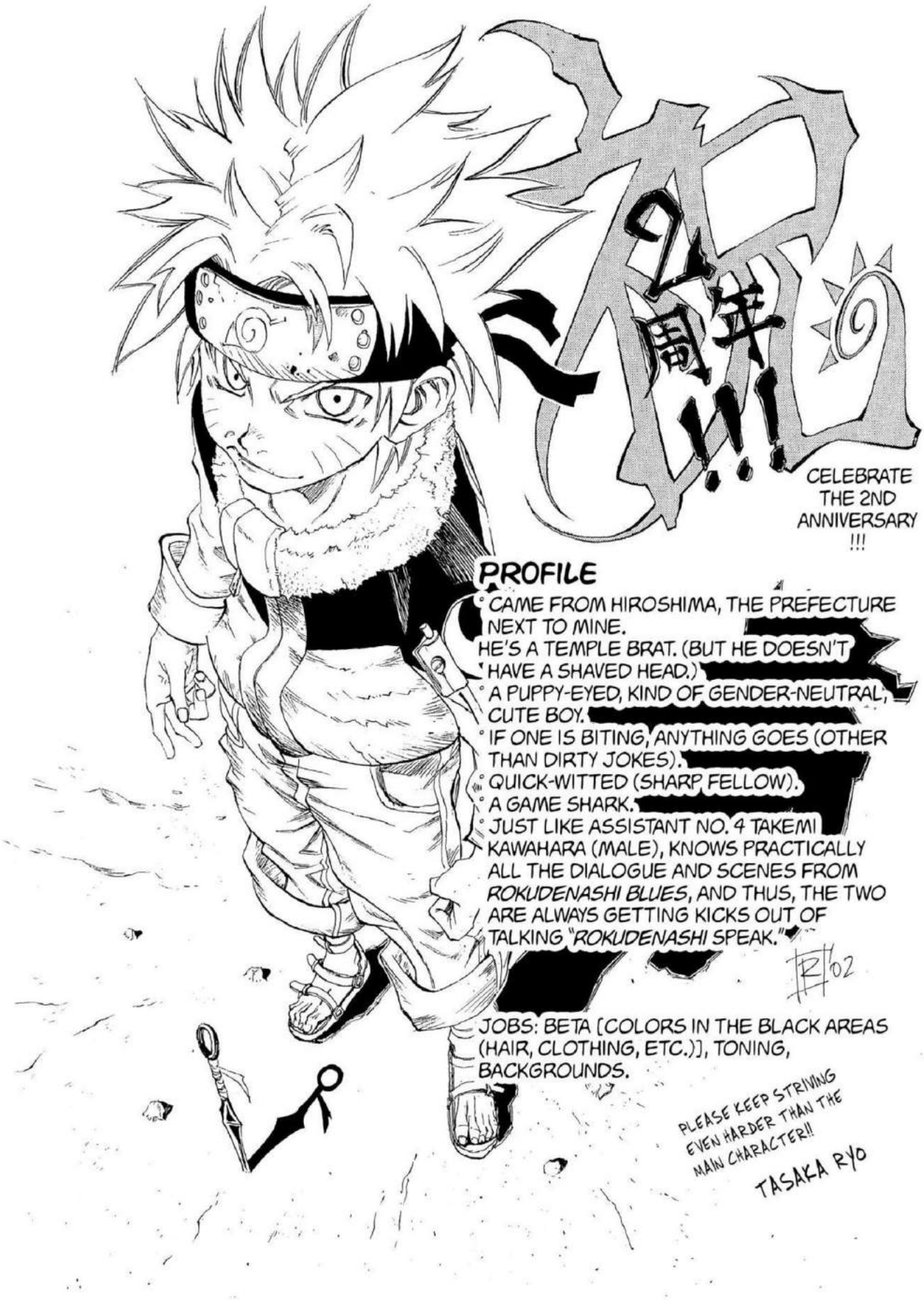
...!
NARUTO'LL PROBABLY BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.

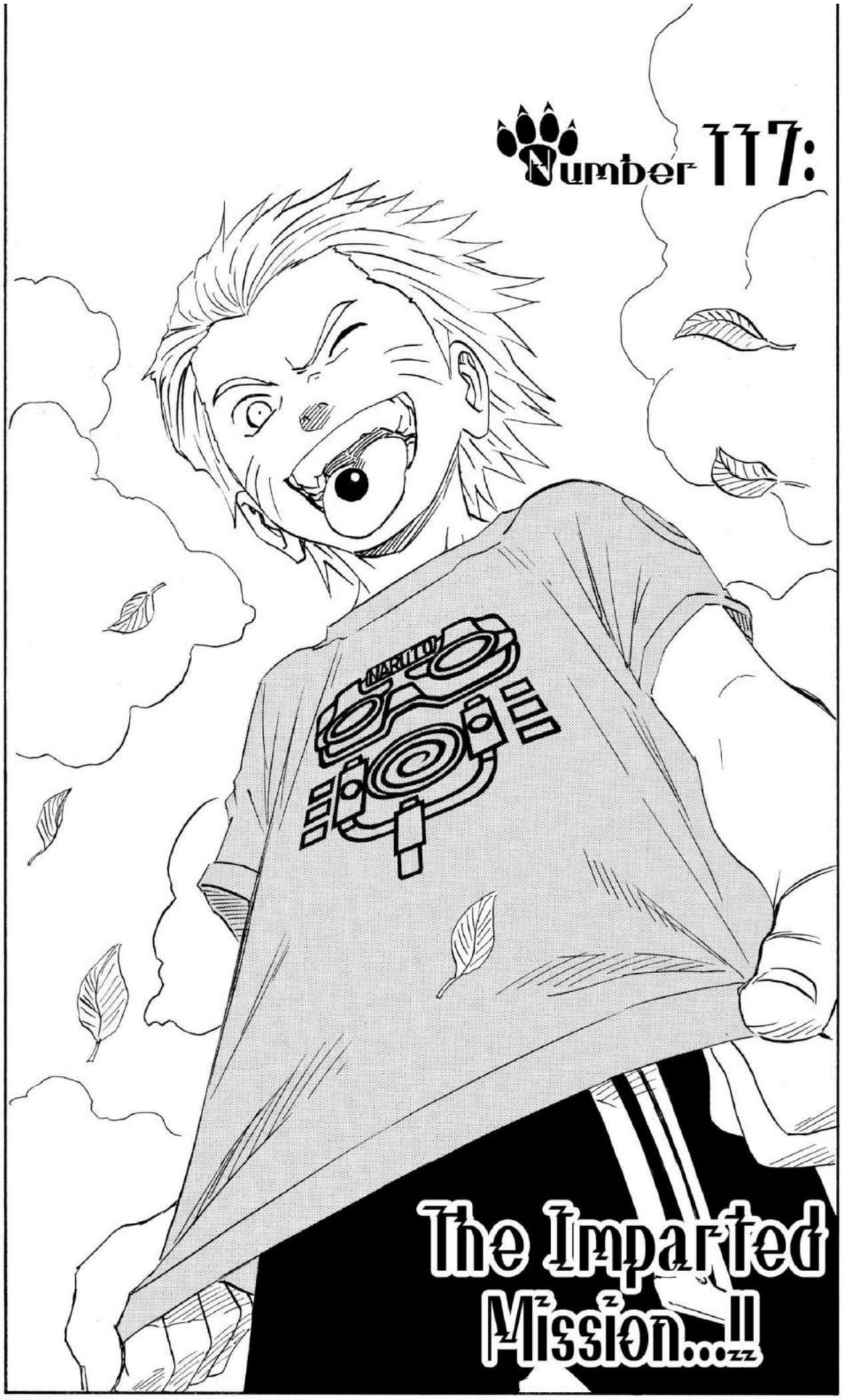
WH-WHAT KIND OF MISSION...?

...THE LIKES YOU HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE THE LAND OF WAVES!!
AN A-RANK ASSIGN-MENT...


WHAT...?!

MEET MASASHI KISHIMOTO'S ASSISTANTS
PART 6
ASSISTANT NO. 6: RYO TASAKA




Number 117:
NARUTO
The Imparted Mission...!!

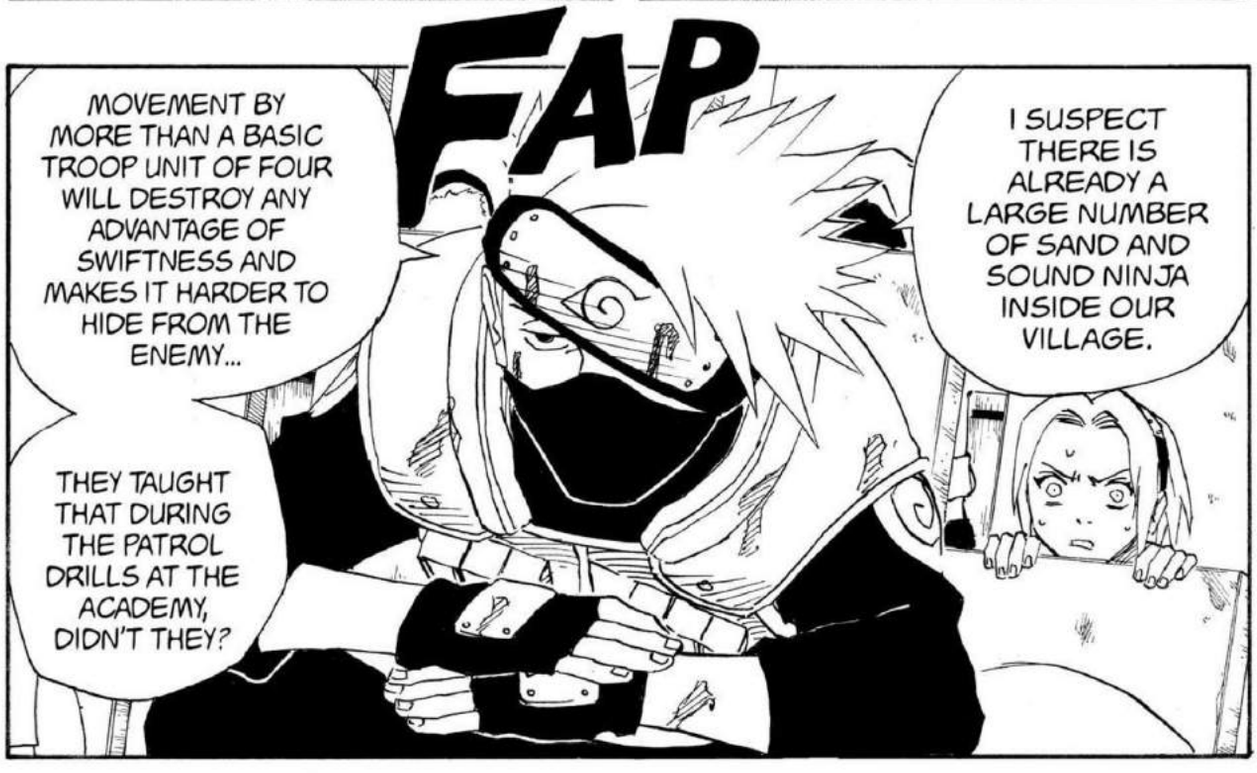
KACHINK

AIEE!

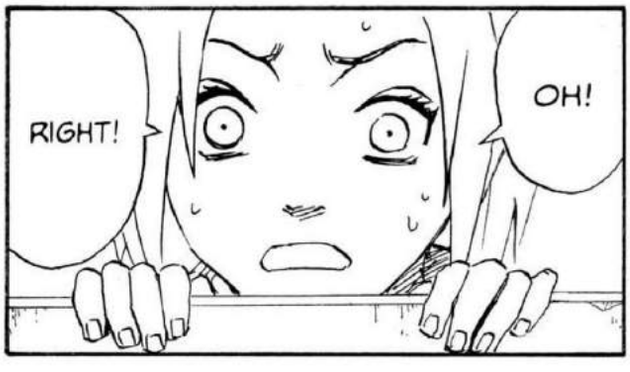
IT WORRIES ME... THAT WEIRD CHAKRA...

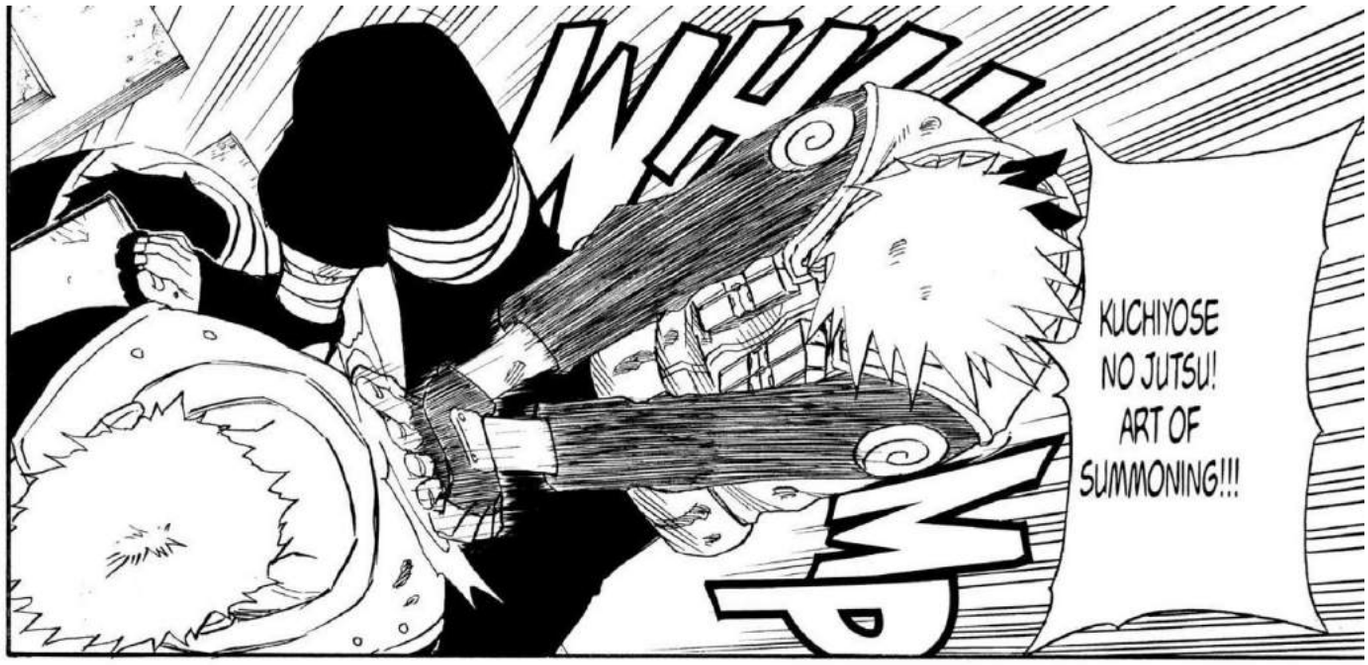
SHHU

WHY DON'T WE WAKE UP INO AND CHOJI TOO AND GO EN MASSE...!
B-BUT, IN THAT CASE...

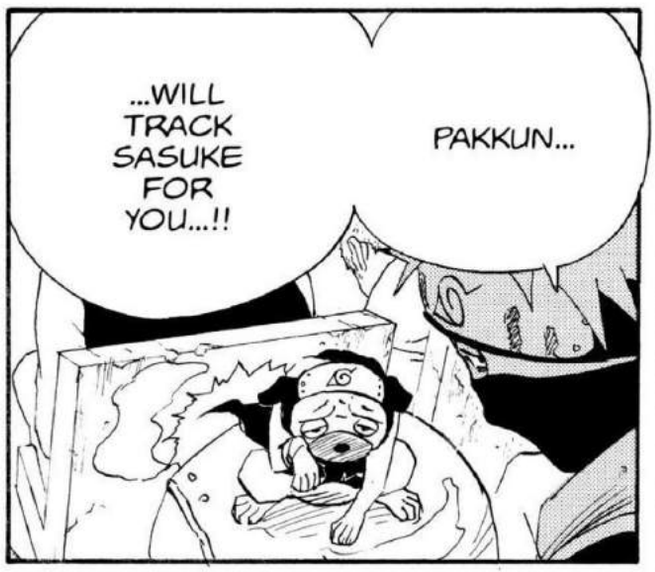

FAP
MOVEMENT BY MORE THAN A BASIC TROOP UNIT OF FOUR WILL DESTROY ANY ADVANTAGE OF SWIFTNESS AND MAKES IT HARDER TO HIDE FROM THE ENEMY...
THEY TAUGHT THAT DURING THE PATROL DRILLS AT THE ACADEMY, DIDN'T THEY?
I SUSPECT THERE IS ALREADY A LARGE NUMBER OF SAND AND SOUND NINJA INSIDE OUR VILLAGE.

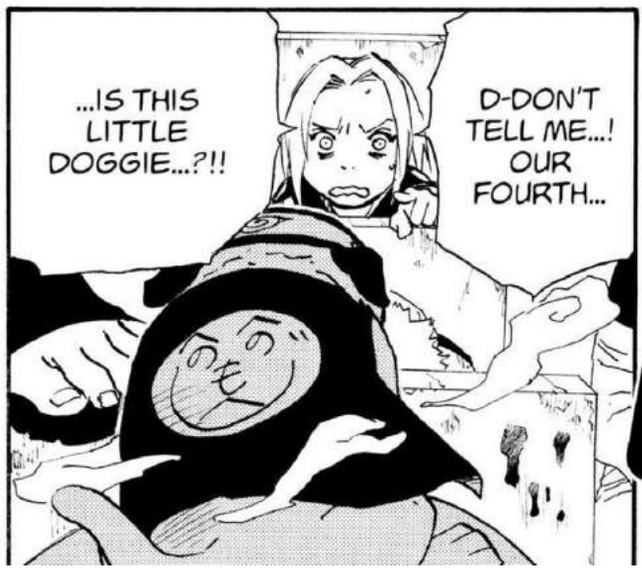
BUT YOU JUST SAID FOUR...
WHO'S THE FOURTH...?!
HUH...?!


RIGHT!
OH!


WHIP
KUCHIYOSE NO JUTSU! ART OF SUMMONING!!!

!!


...WILL TRACK SASUKE FOR YOU...!!
PAKKUN...


...IS THIS LITTLE DOGGIE...?!!
D-DON'T TELL ME...! OUR FOURTH...

POOF

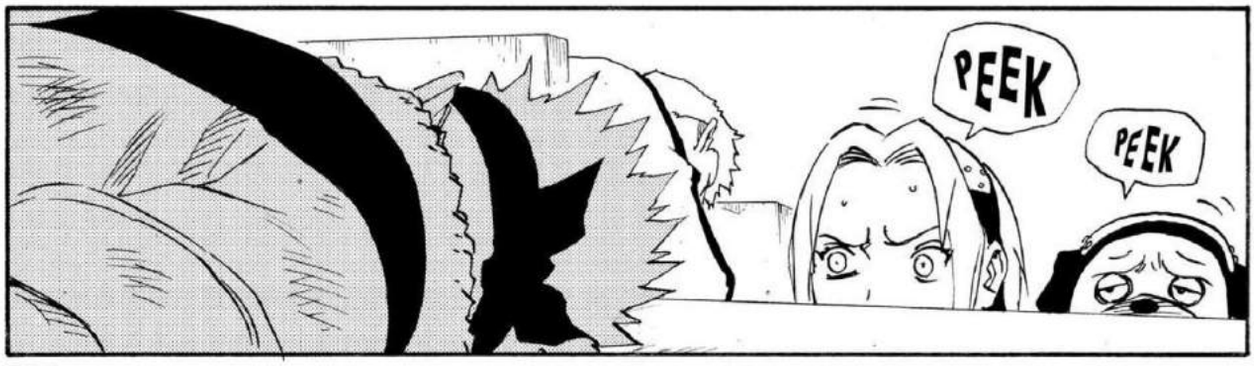
DON'T YOU DARE CALL ME "A CUTE LITTLE DOGGIE"!
HEY, YOU! LITTLE GIRL!!

!!
HOP
HOP
HOP

O-OKAY!
SQUEEZE

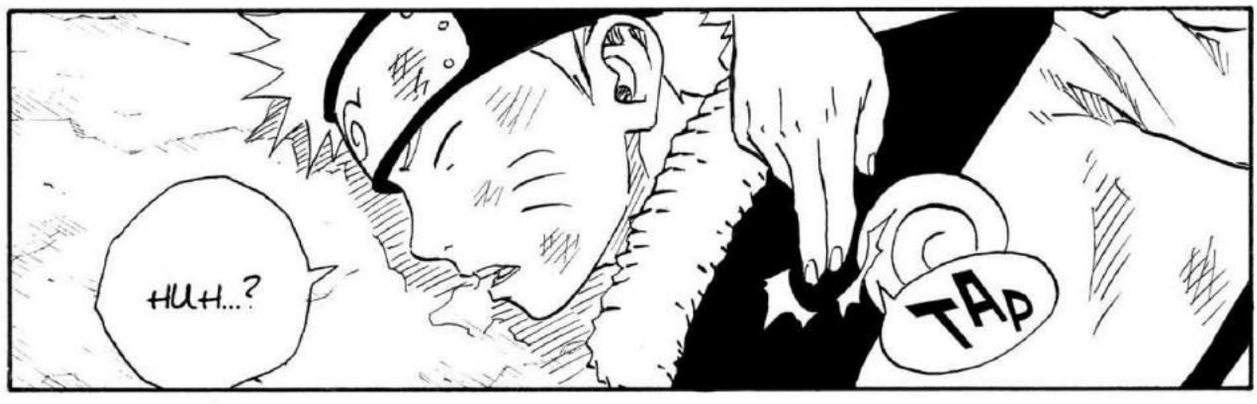
...SAY "CUTE"...
I DIDN'T...

...UNDO THE GENJUTSU ON NARUTO AND SHIKAMARU!
ALL RIGHT! SAKURA...

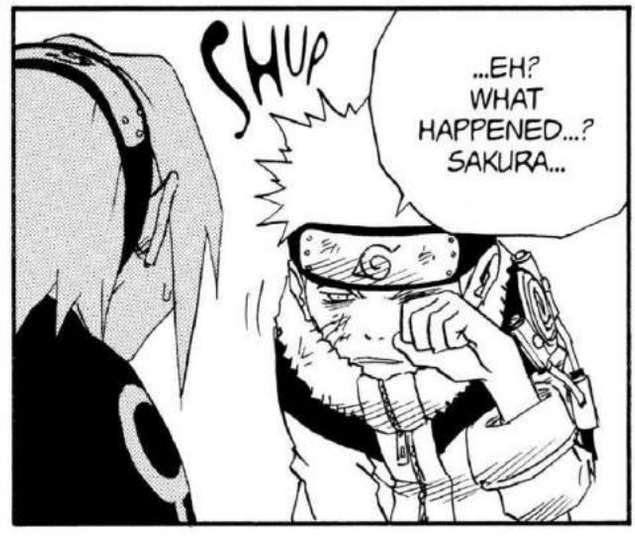

PEEK
PEEK

KAI! RELEASE!!

SHWIP
SHWIP


HUH...?
TAP

STAY DOWN!
I'LL TELL YOU LATER!!
HUH?!!


SHUP
...EH? WHAT HAPPENED...? SAKURA...

...?!

CRAWL
CRAWL
POP
?

READ THIS WAY
SHIKAMARU, YOU... FROM THE GET-GO...?!
...!
CLAMP
FWUMP
YOU KNEW HOW TO REVERSE GENJUTSU TOO!
WHY WERE YOU PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP!!
YEOW!!
CHOMP
NO THANKS... I DON'T CARE ABOUT SASUKE...
YOU!
HUMPH... I DIDN'T WANT TO GET DRAGGED INTO IT!
PINCH

KACHINK
KACHINK
OWW!!

NARUTO, BEHIND YOU...!

WH-WHAT THE HECK? WHAT'S...?!
BLUR

TH
UGH!
WHAM
HUH?

SHA
HAH!!

I'M NOT JUST FAST...
FAST...

KA
BOO

ONCE YOU'VE HEARD IT... HEAD OUT THROUGH THAT HOLE!
OKAY, HERE'S YOUR MISSION!

TMP
!!

...?!
MASTER GUY!!

?!

CHASE AFTER SASUKE, CONVERGE ON HIM, AND STOP HIM!
AND THEN WATCH AND WAIT SOMEWHERE SAFE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE NEW ORDERS!

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO SASUKE...?
I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY!
SHUP

SHOOM
WAAH!
BWUMP
LET'S GO!

SHOOM

SHEESH, WHY ME...?
MUTTER MUTTER
SHA...

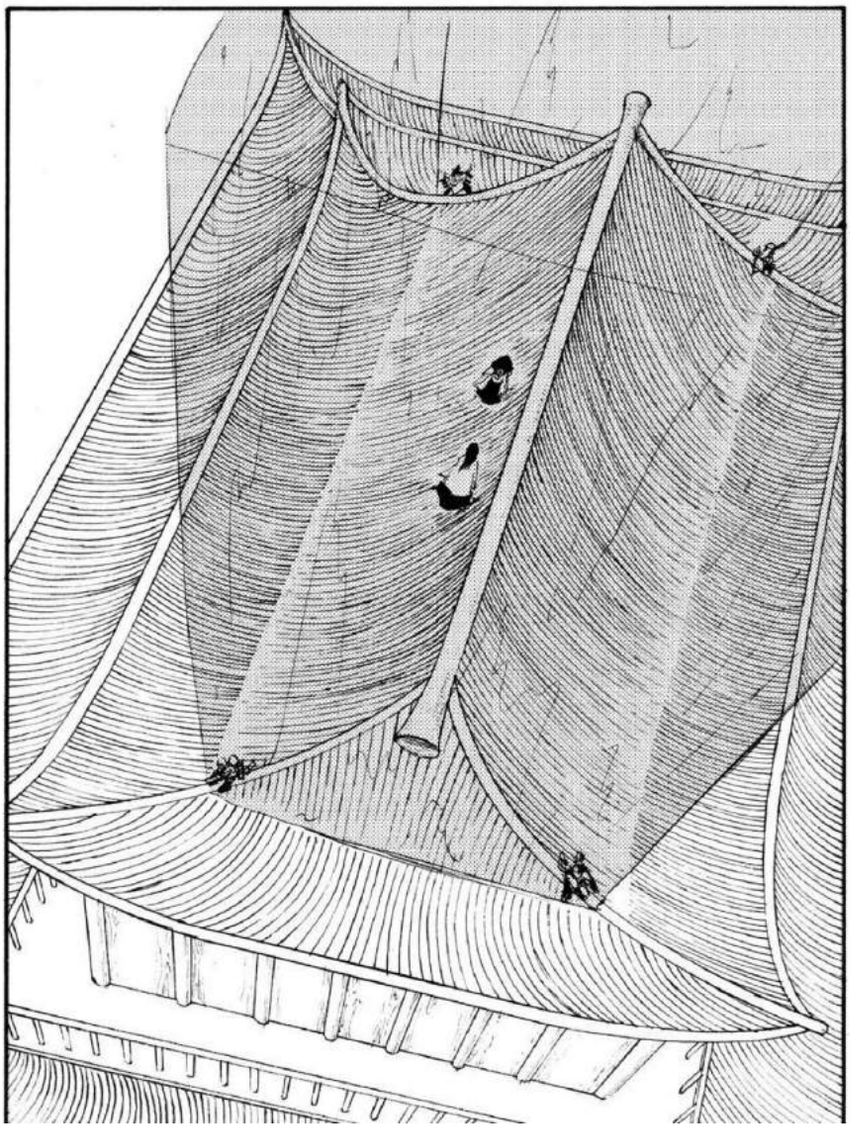
DO YOU THINK JUST THE THREE OF THEM WILL BE ENOUGH?
PAKKUN'S WITH THEM. THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT FOR NOW...
AS LONG AS THEY DON'T PUSH TOO MUCH...

...

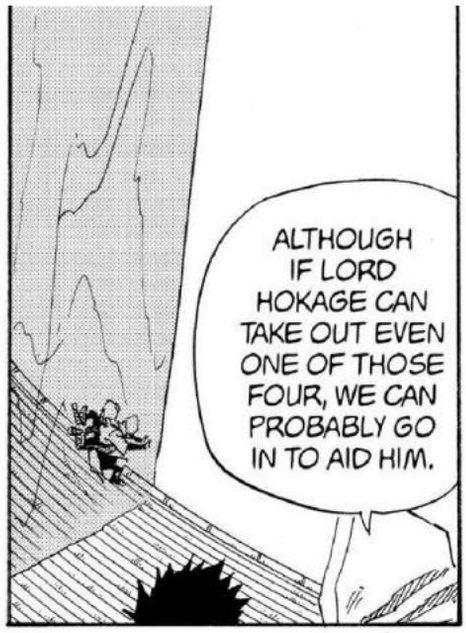
BLUR

SFF

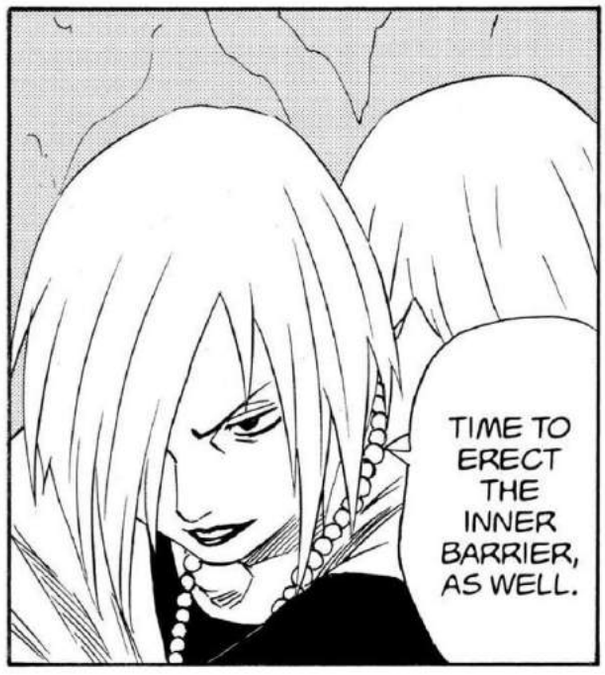
FWIP



SFF
HEH HEH HEH... HOW I'VE WISHED TO FIGHT YOU AGAIN...
FWUP
SHU
YOU ANTICIPATED YOUR OWN LAST MOMENTS, EH...?


ALTHOUGH IF LORD HOKAGE CAN TAKE OUT EVEN ONE OF THOSE FOUR, WE CAN PROBABLY GO IN TO AID HIM.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS BARRIER CAN ONLY BE TAKEN DOWN FROM THE INSIDE...
UGH...


TIME TO ERECT THE INNER BARRIER, AS WELL.

HEY, THEY'RE ABOUT TO START!

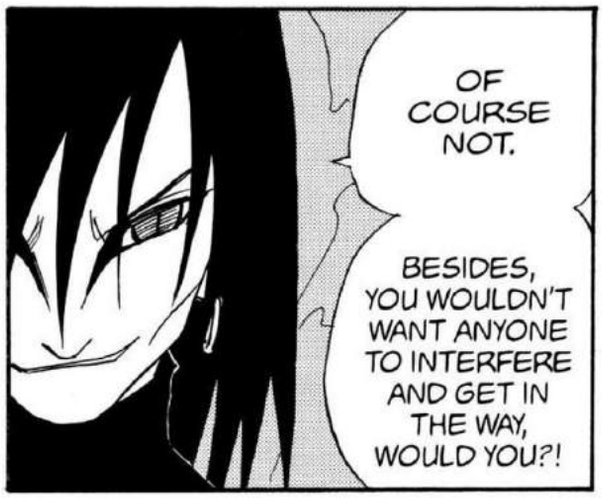
...

EXACTLY!

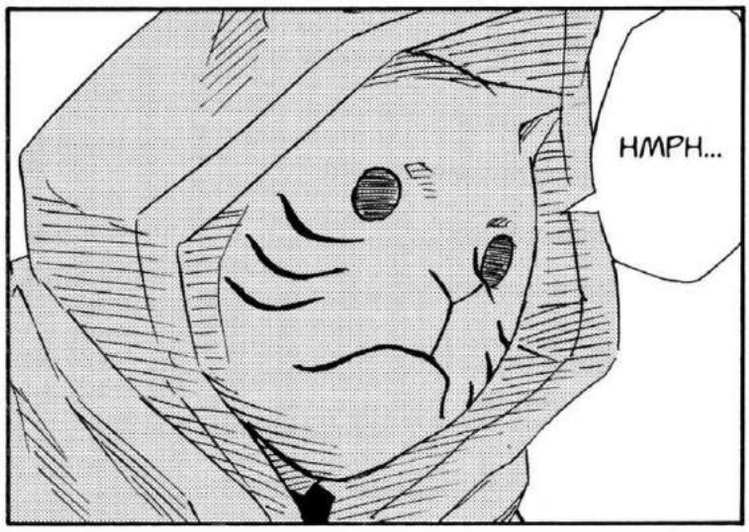
KS

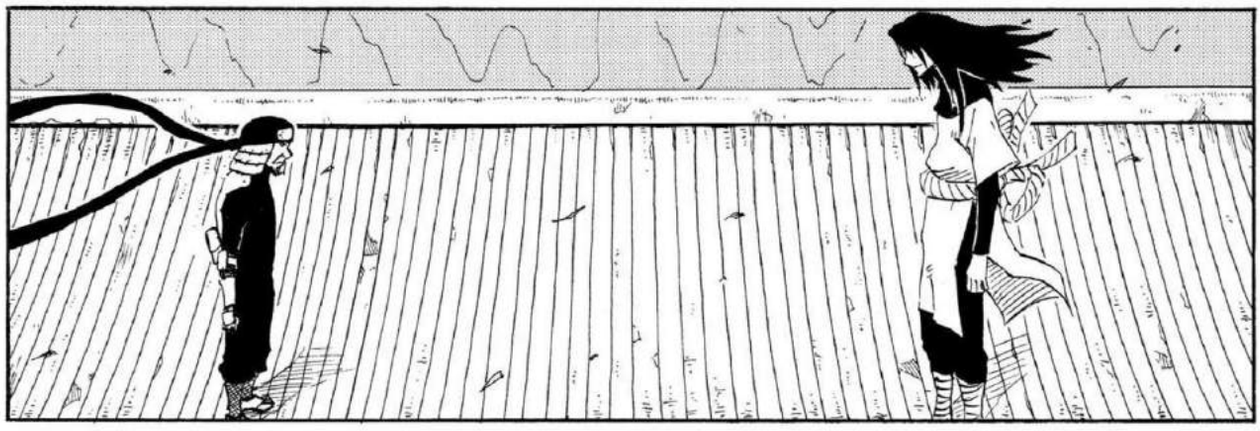
SH

HAH!!


OF COURSE NOT.
BESIDES, YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO INTERFERE AND GET IN THE WAY, WOULD YOU?!

HUMPH... IT DOESN'T LOOK EASY TO ESCAPE FROM...


HMPH...



GLINT
CRACKLE

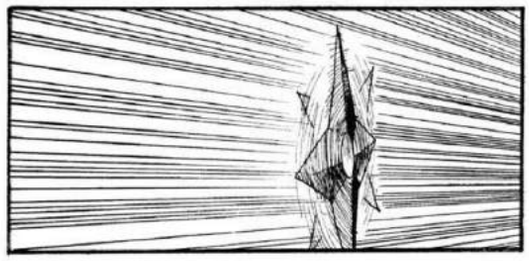
CRACKLE

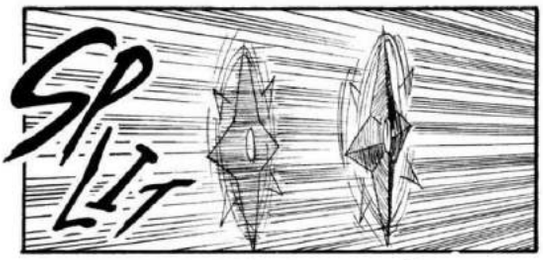
CRACK

SHOU

SHUNK
CHAK
代目火影

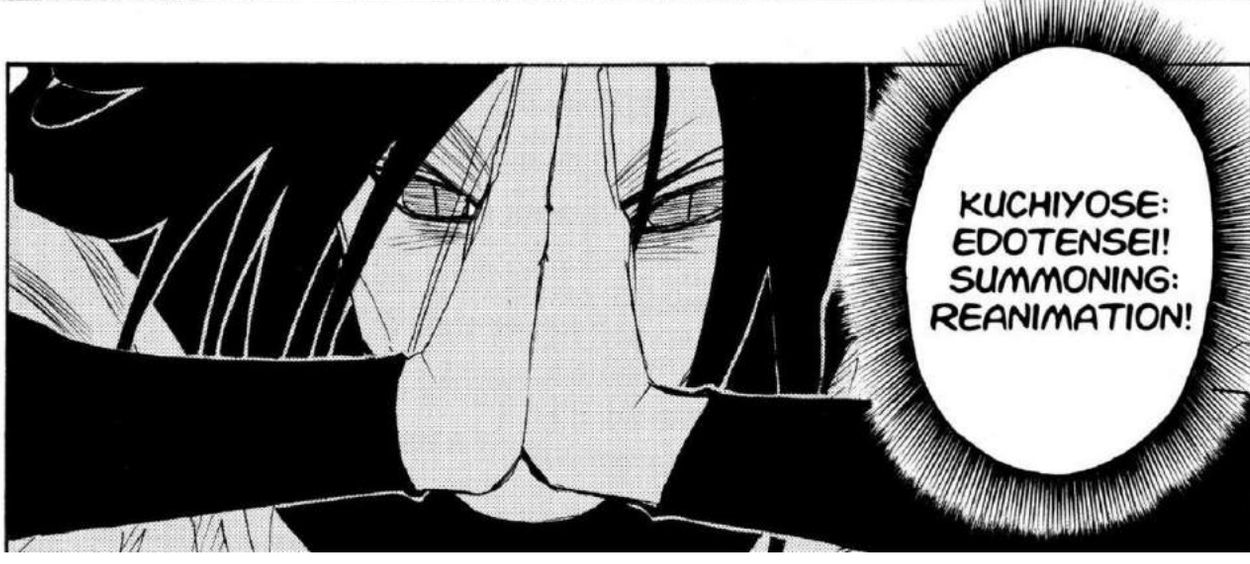
SHWIP
SHWIP
SHWIP
SHWIP
SHWIP
SHWIP




SPLIT

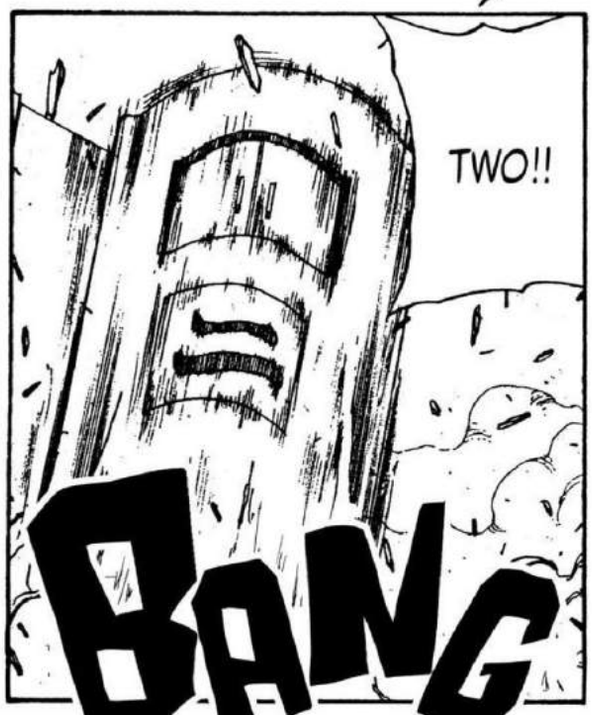
SHURIKEN SHADOW DOPPELGANGER TECHNIQUE!

SHOWER
BRAVE


KUCHIYOSE: EDOTENSEI! SUMMONING: REANIMATION!

HE'S USING THEM AS A SHIELD...!
COULD HE REALLY BE RAISING THOSE SPIRITS...?!
SHWIP

ONE!!
BOOM


TWO!!
BANG

SHWIP
UGH... I MUST PREVENT HIM FROM RAISING THE THIRD, NO MATTER WHAT...

TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 14!!

VIZMANGA

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