NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 19

岸本斉史

Naruto has been going for four years already. And, if I do say so myself, I think I've worked pretty hard... So I thought to myself, feeling pretty good about it out on the porch. I'll keep giving it my best in year five!

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2003*

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

NARUTO VOL. 19
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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

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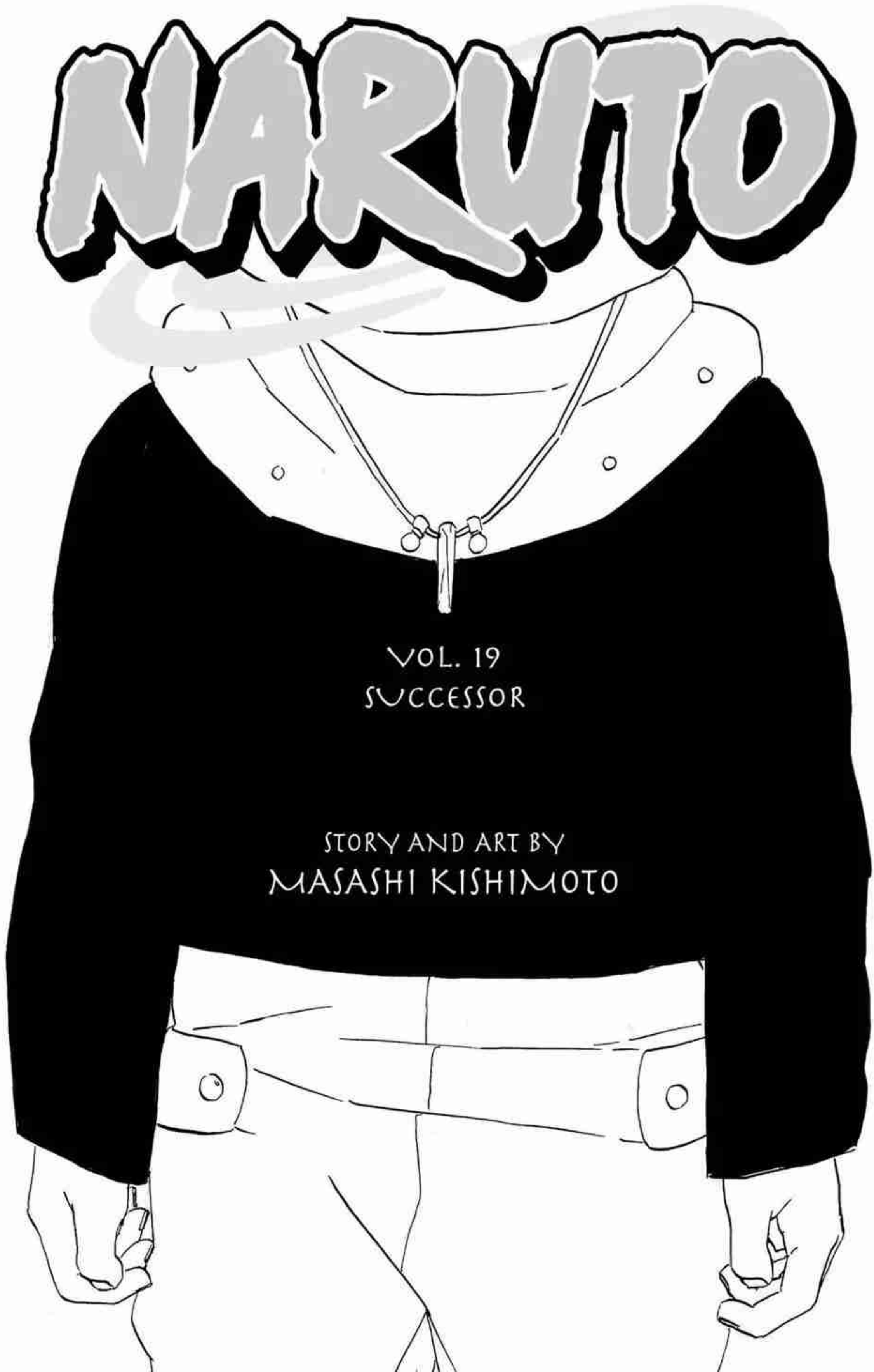
www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 19

SUCCESSOR

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke
サスケ

Naruto
ナルト

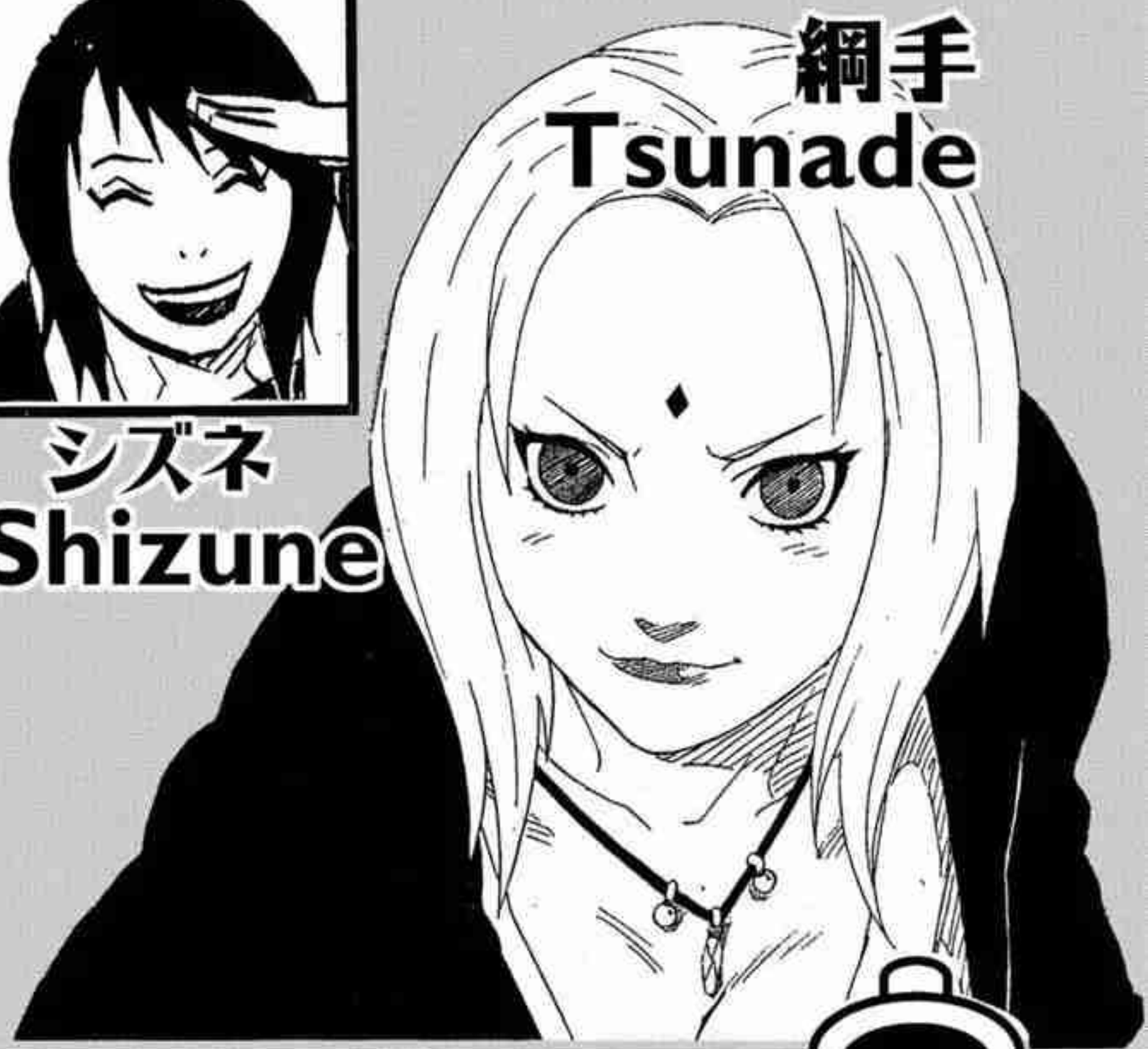
Sakura
サクラ

大蛇丸
Orochimaru

Kabuto
カブト

自来也
Jiraiya

シズネ
Shizune



綱手
Tsunade

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

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

Jiraiya, taking Naruto along for training, sets out on a journey to find the Fifth Hokage, Tsunade. Meanwhile, Orochimaru makes Tsunade a proposition: in exchange for healing his arms, he would revive her deceased loved ones. As Tsunade struggles to decide, Jiraiya and Naruto arrive on the scene. What will Tsunade choose...?!

The Story So Far...

NARUTO

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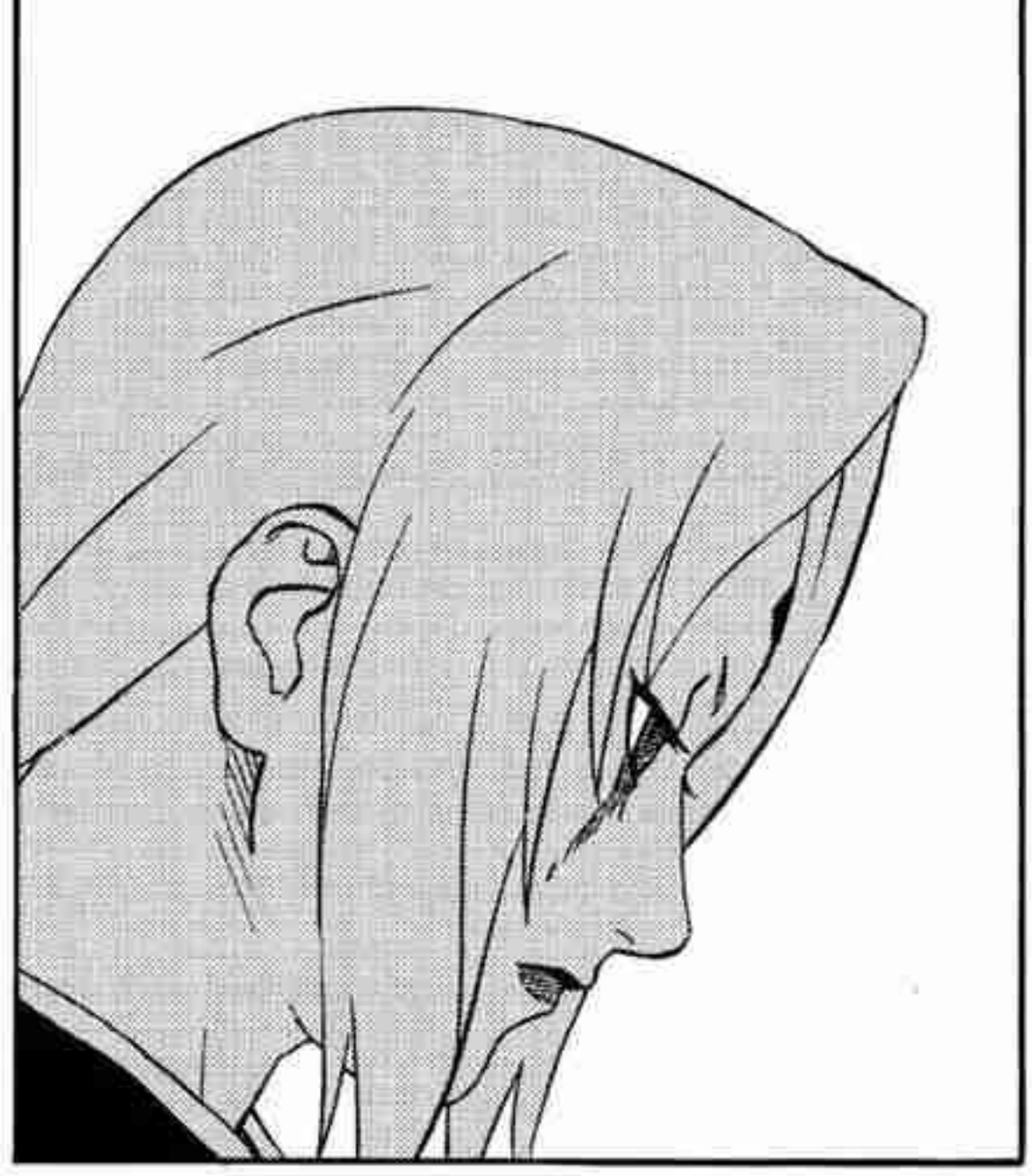

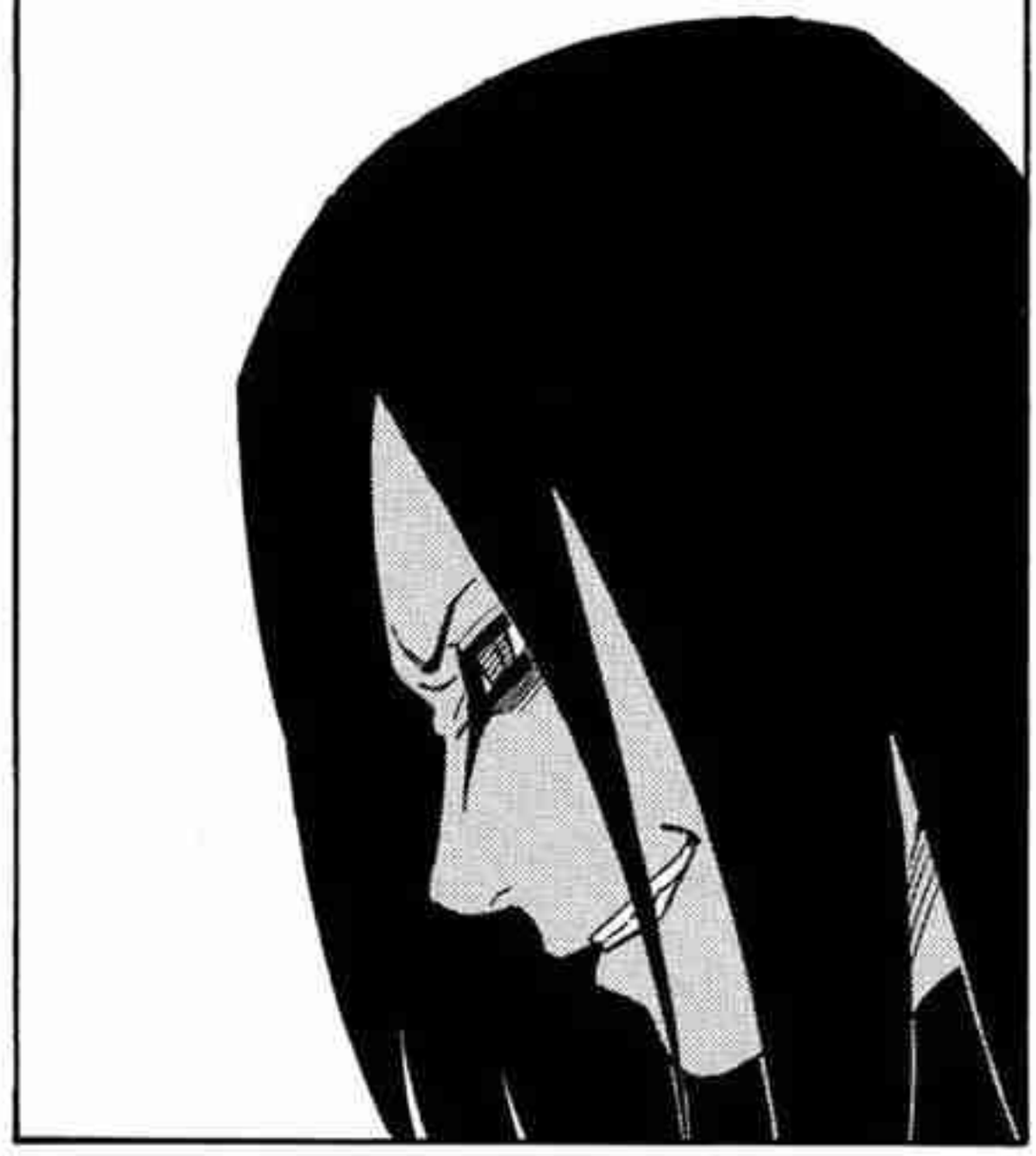

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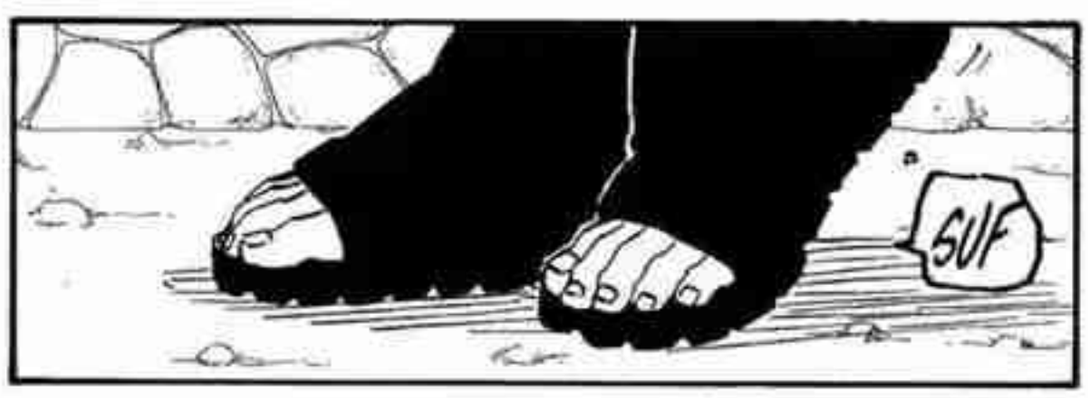
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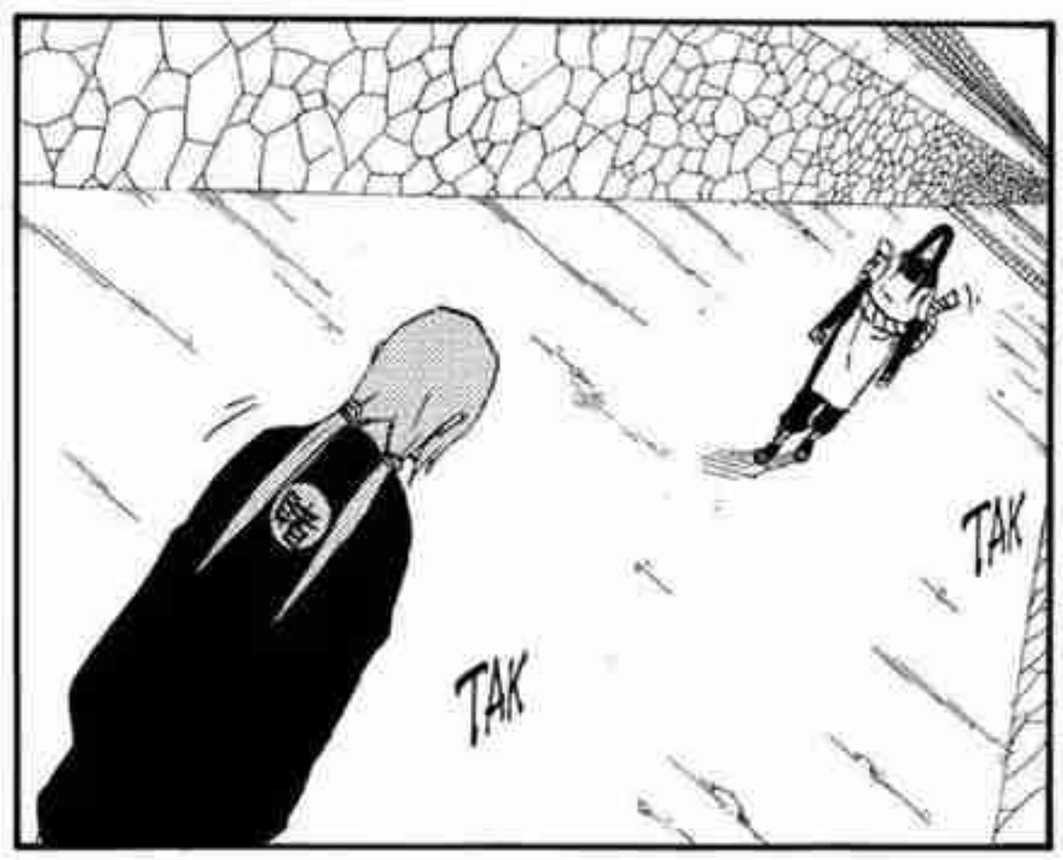
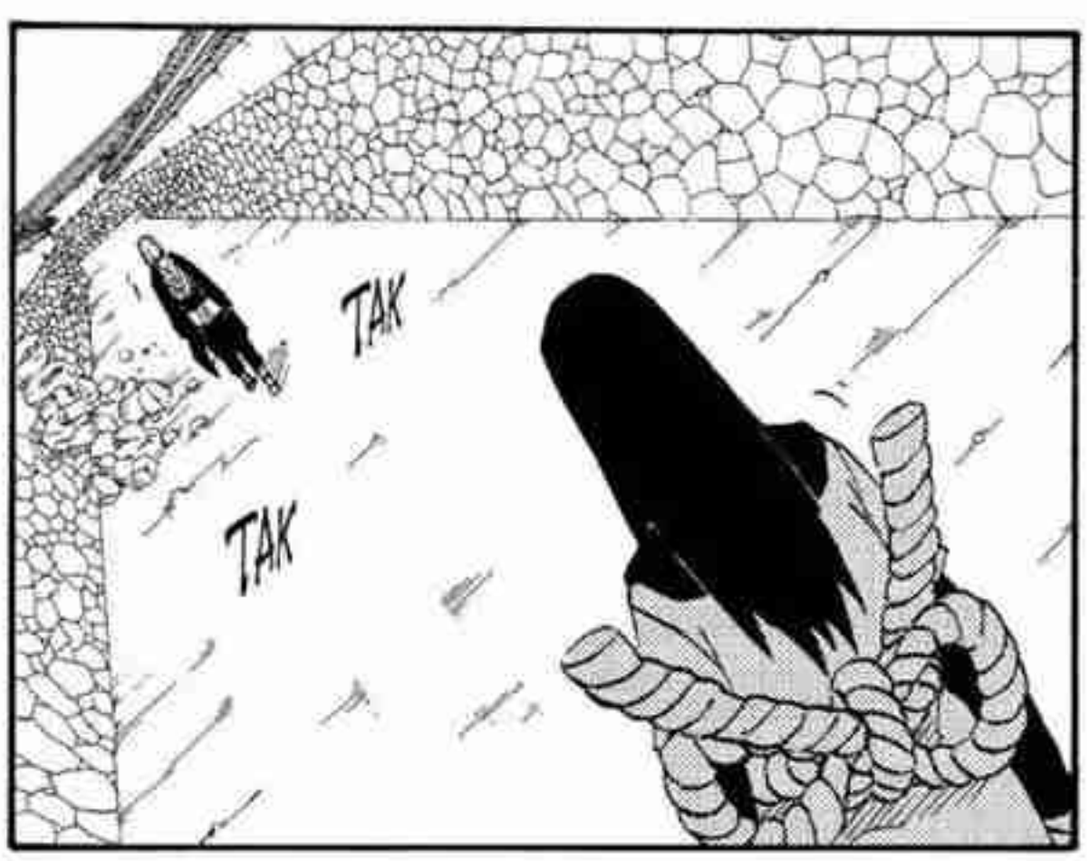

TAK
TAK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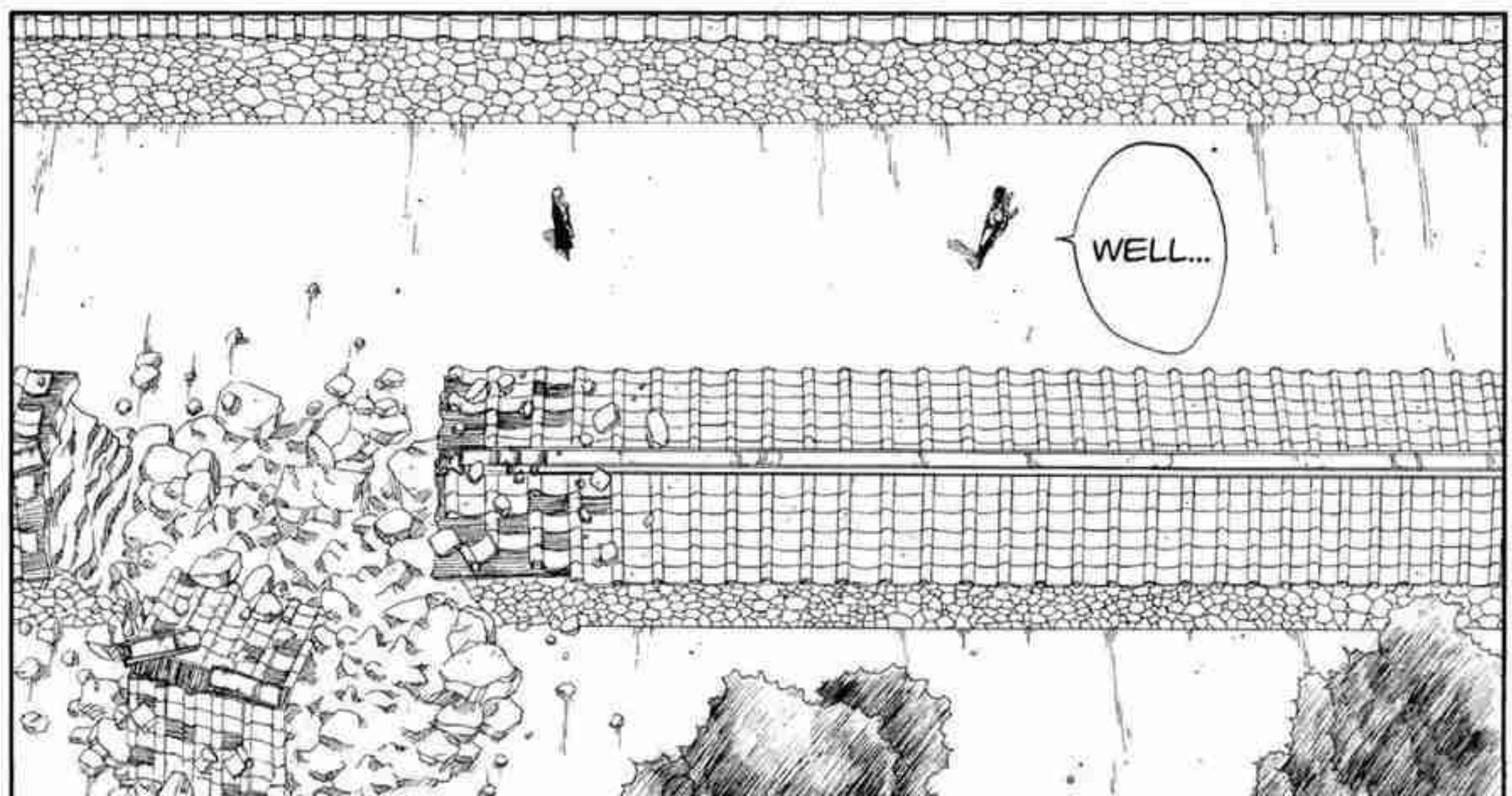
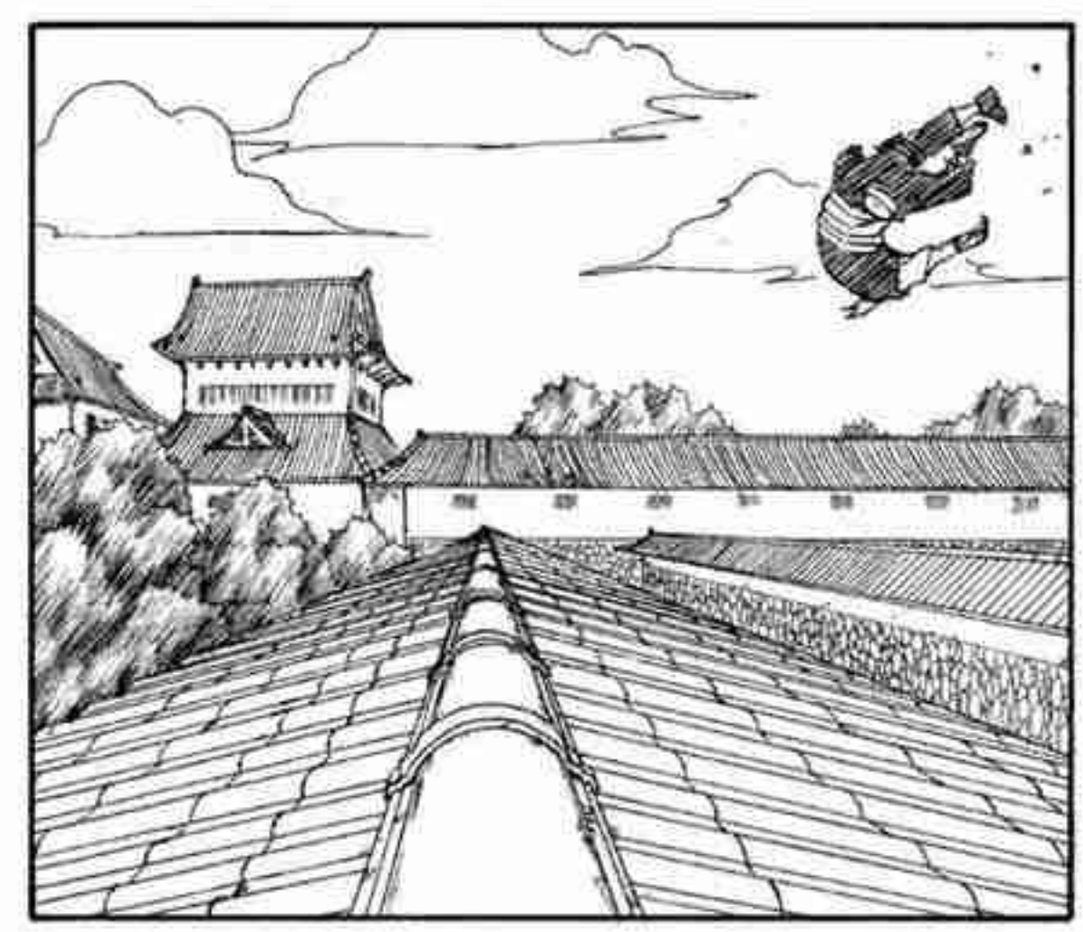

WELL...

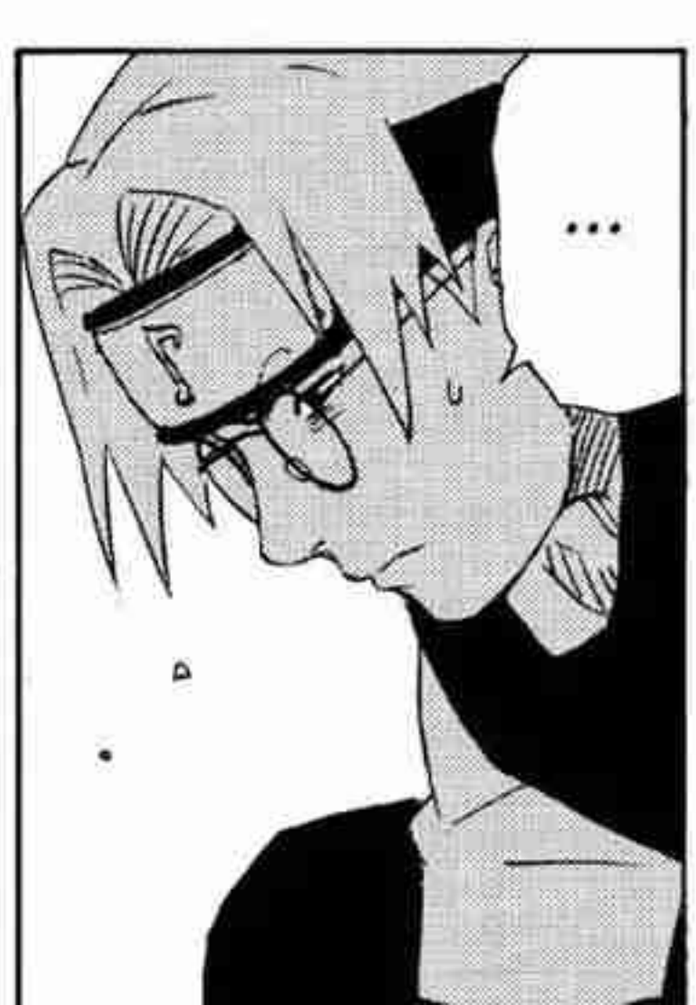
GAH!

AS SOON AS HIS ARMS ARE HEALED, HE INTENDS TO ATTACK KONOHAGAKURE.
WE HAVE TO STOP OROCHIMARU NOW... OTHERWISE THINGS'LL GET A LOT WORSE.

THUD
CLINK
KLAK



YOUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO KILL SASUKE NOW...
KABUTO... YOU... IF YOU WANT TO STOP ME...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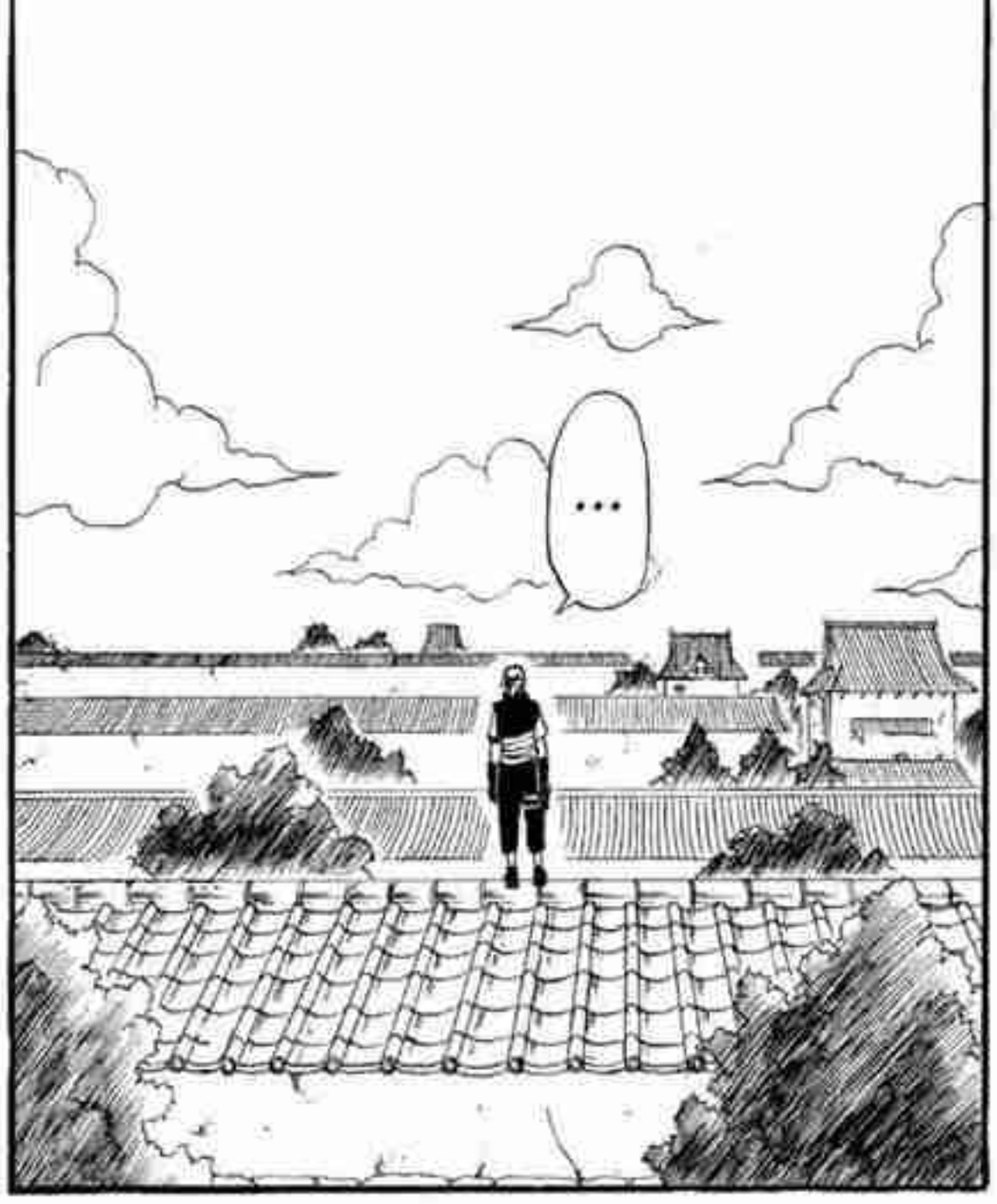
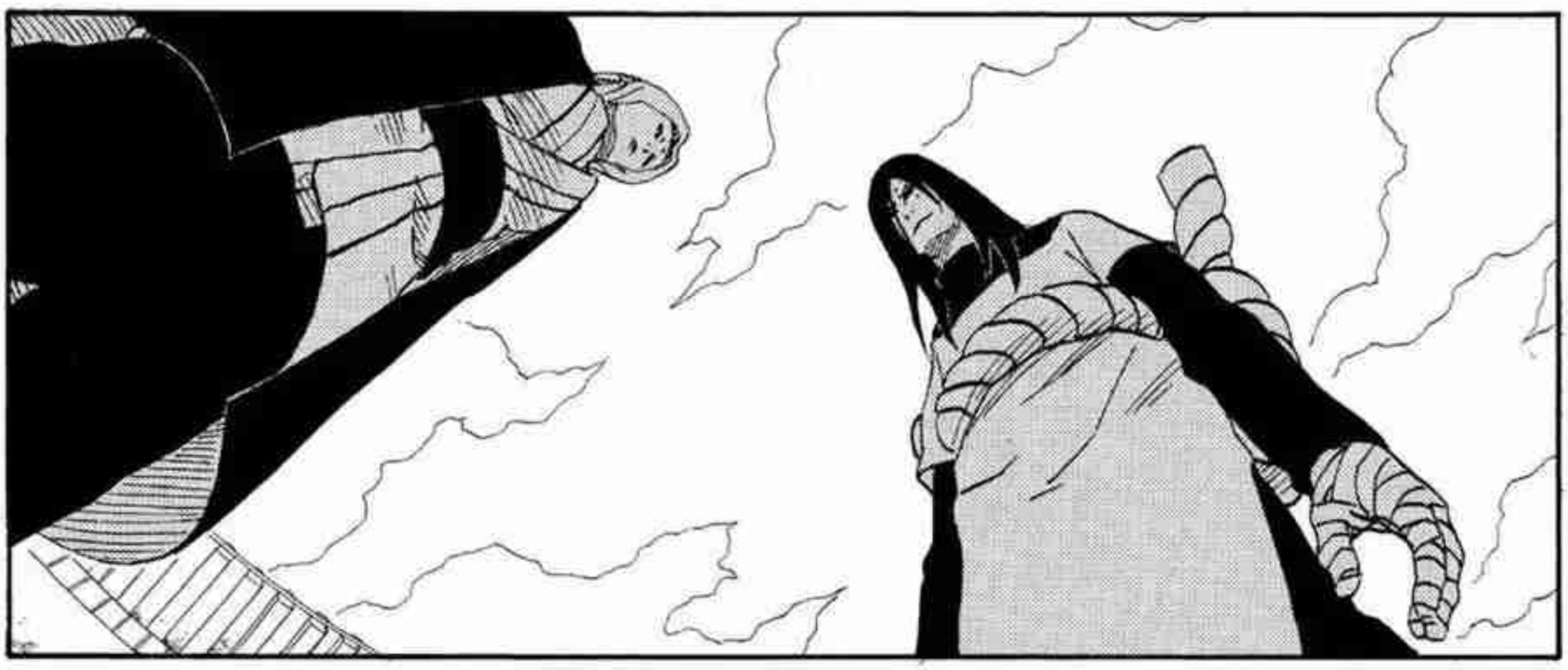
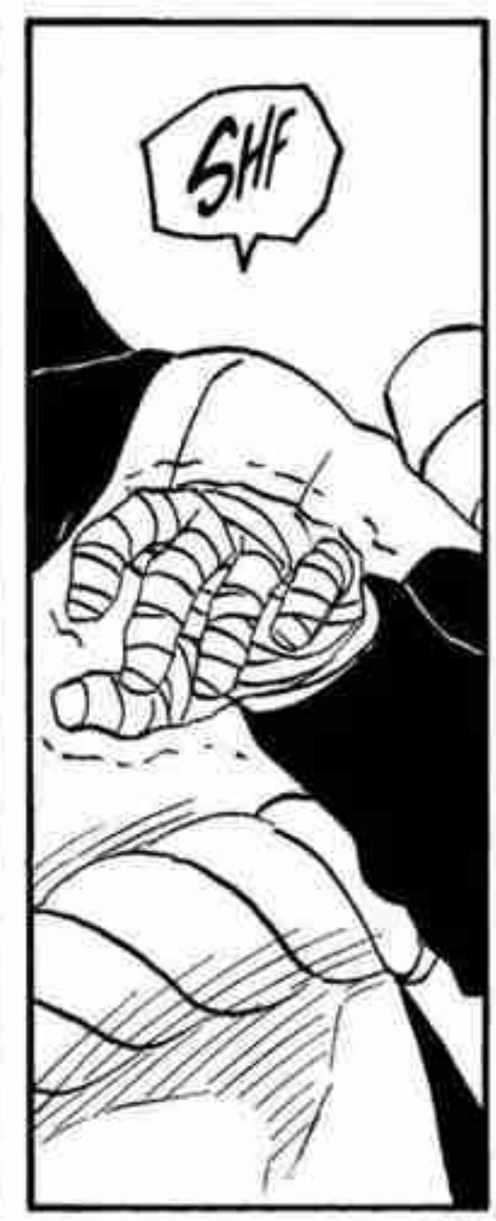

...

EVEN IF YOU'RE STRONG... YOU'RE NO STRONGER THAN KAKASHI, SO...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN KILL ME, EH...?

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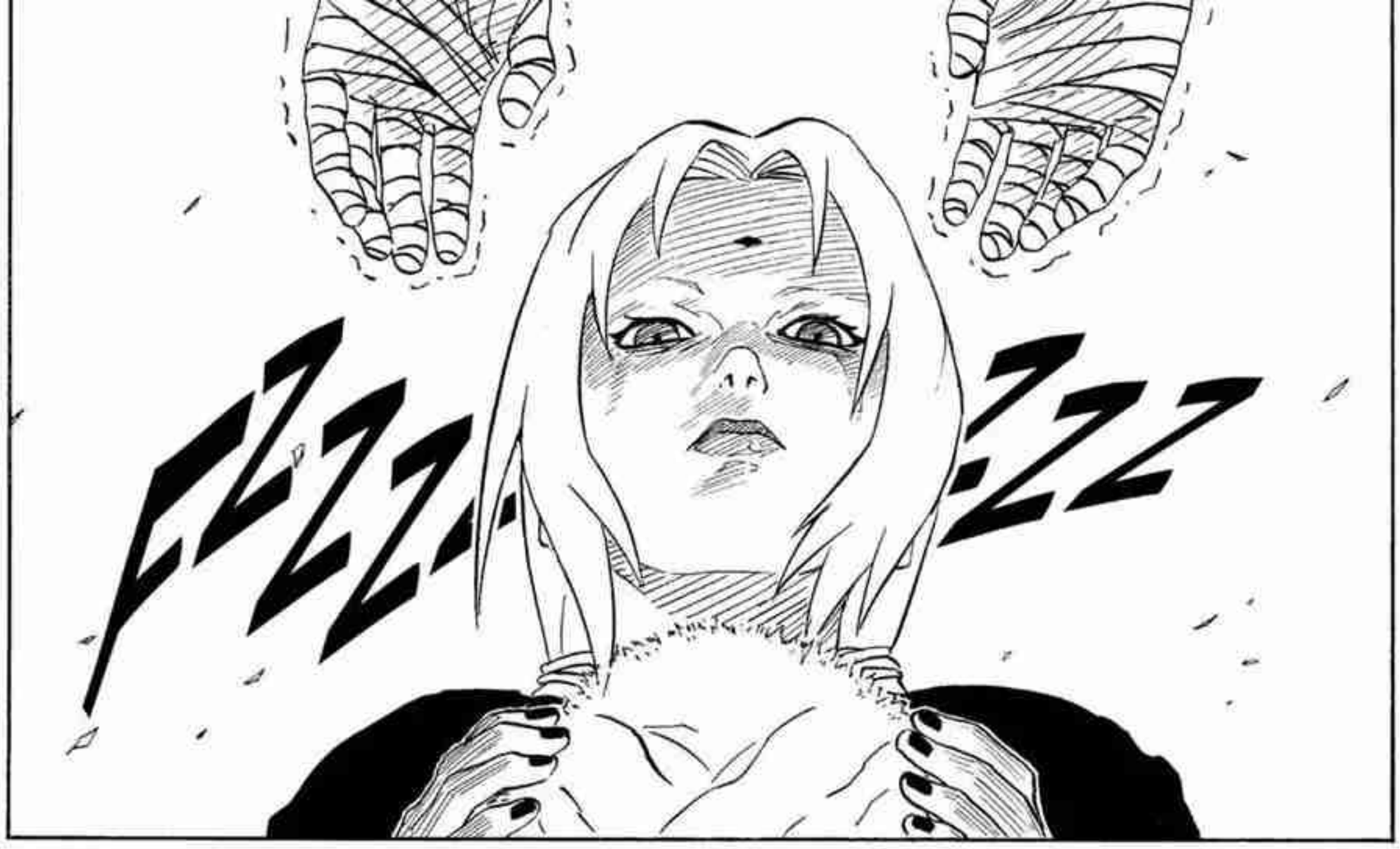
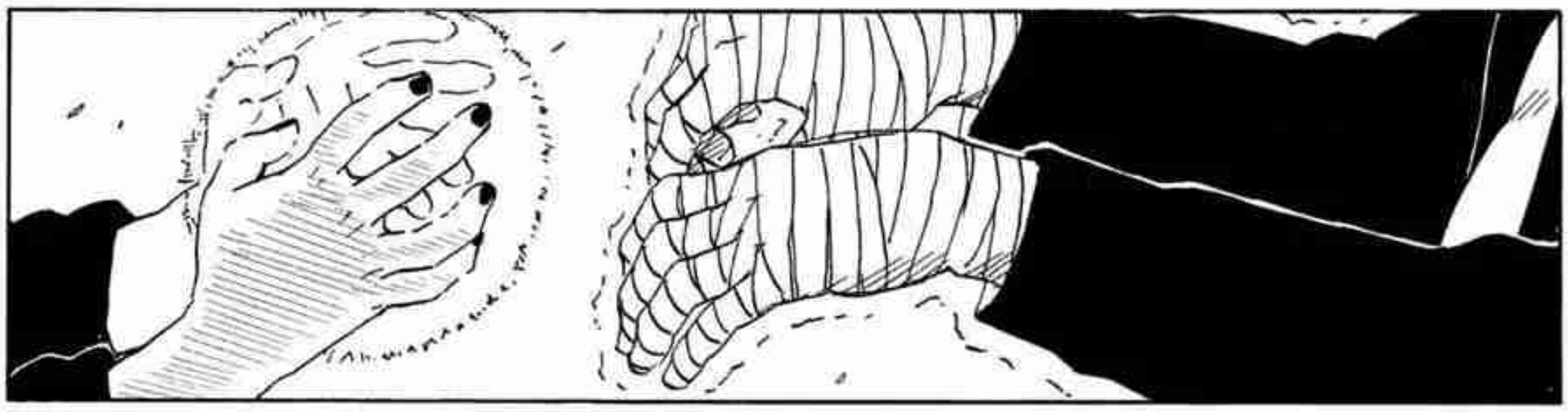
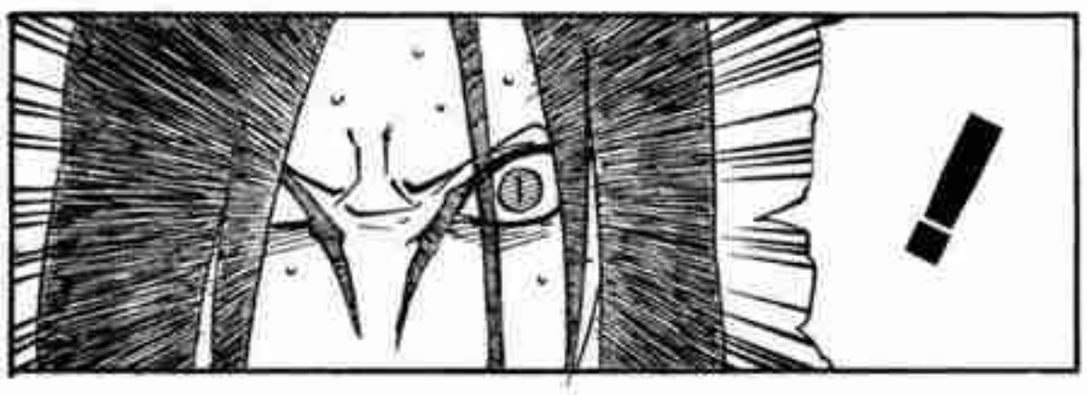

ZZZZ-ZZZ




!

!

SHHF

SHHAF

TAK
THUNK
TAK

Tp
Tp
SSH

...

TAK
...

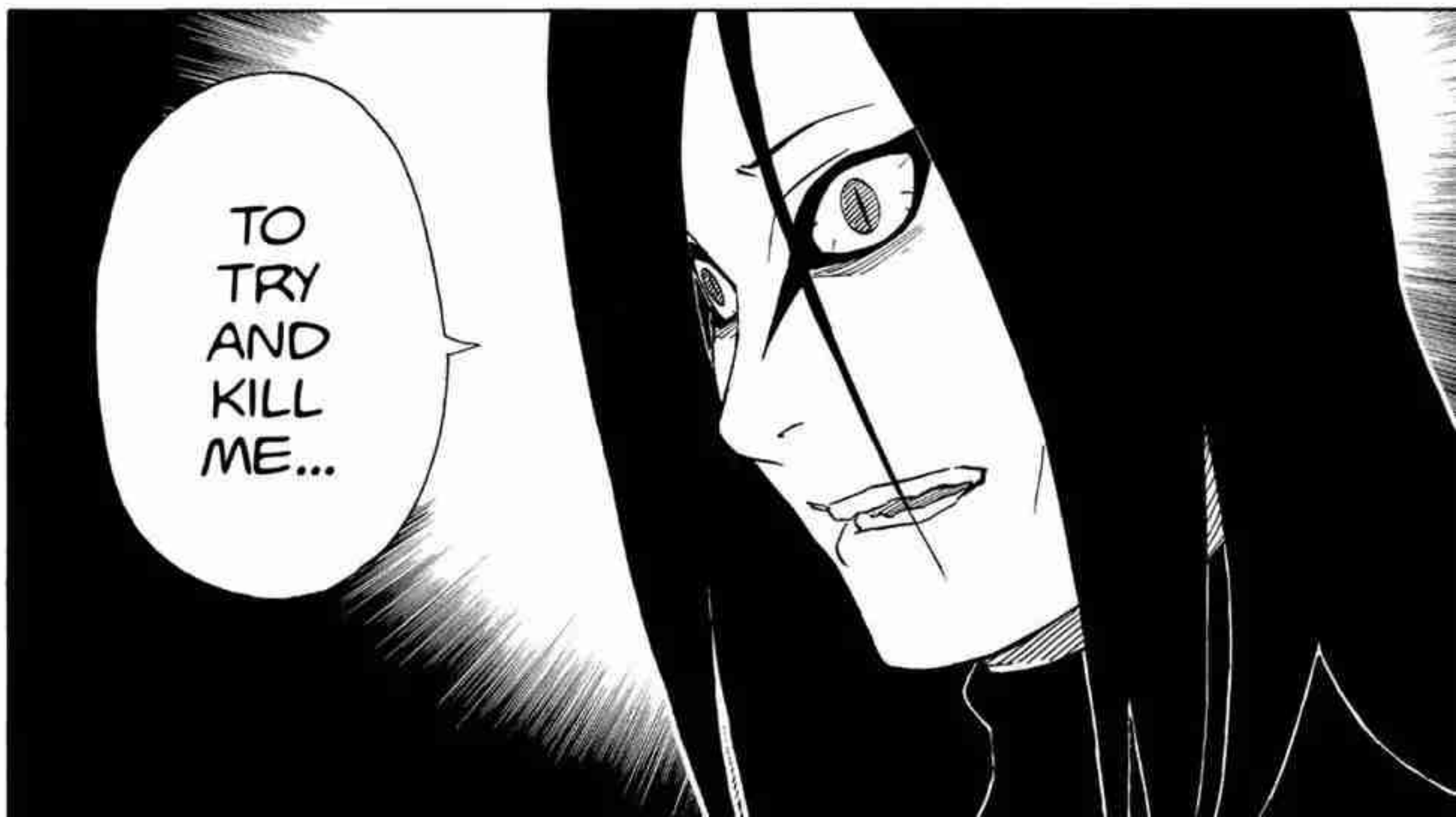
COMING HERE... AND BETRAYING ME...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS ...?

GLEEM

TSUNADE!!

PRINCESS TSUNADE?
WHAT LED YOU TO SUCH A DECISION ...

...

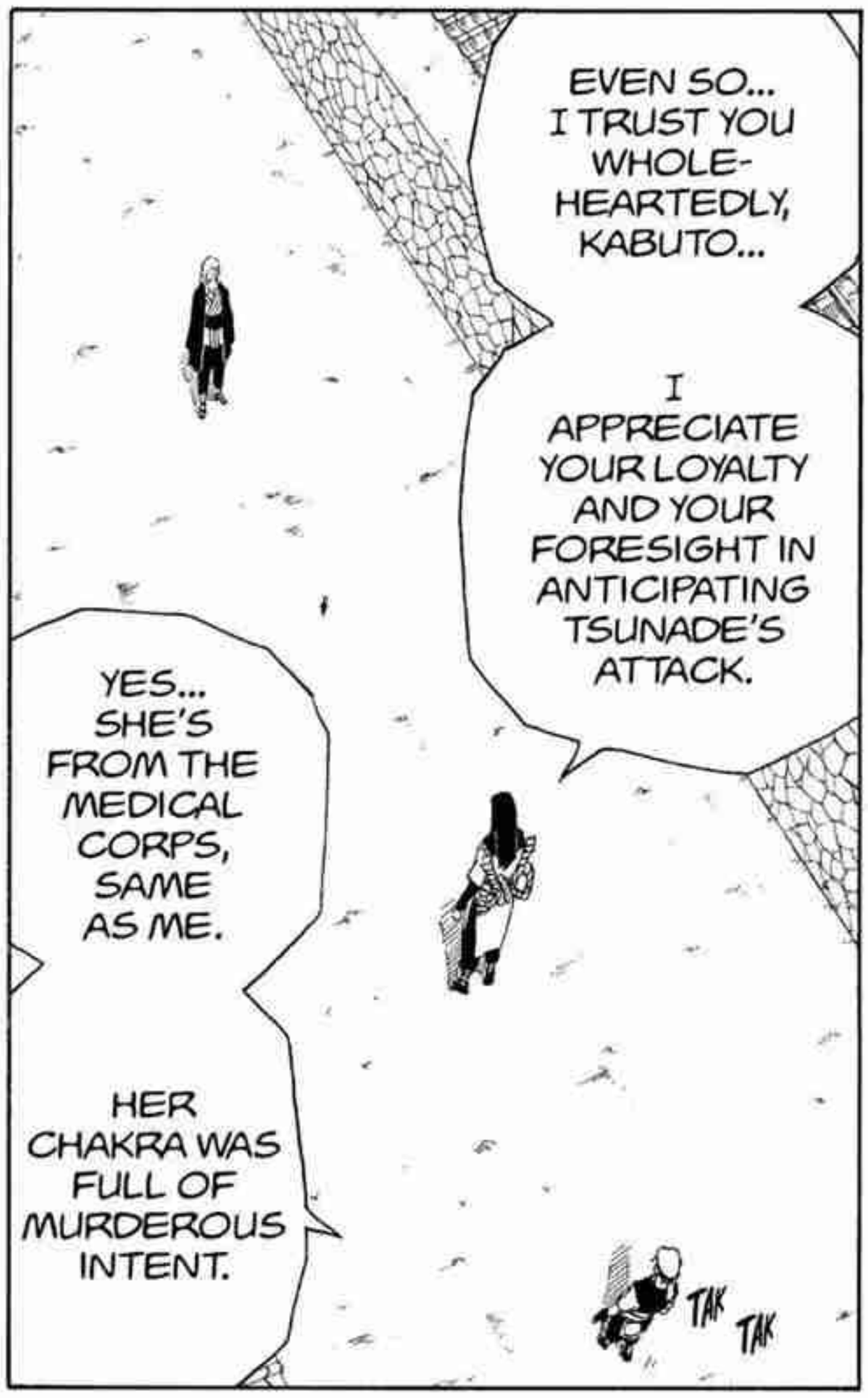

TO TRY AND KILL ME...

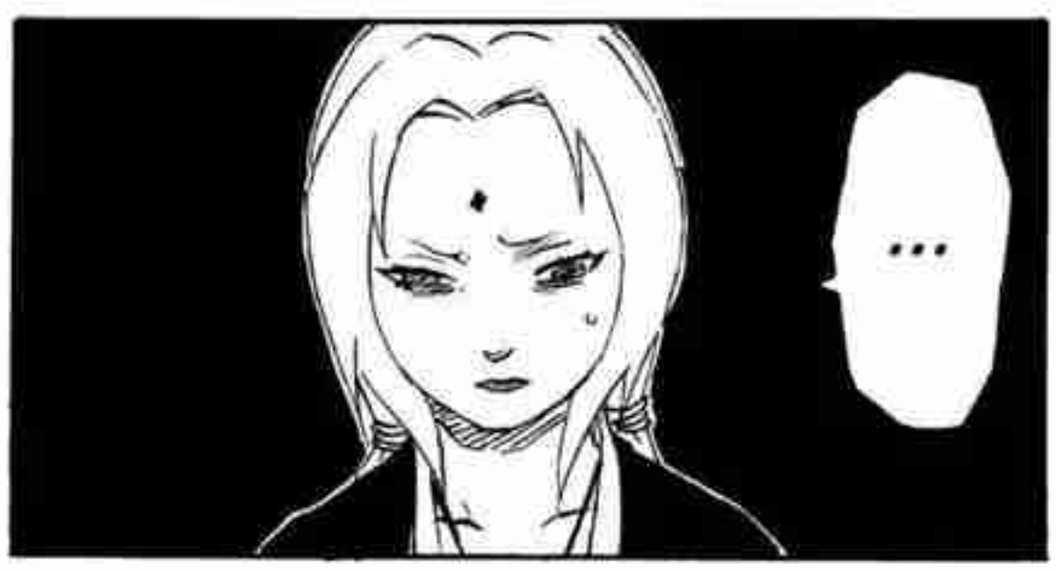
GLARE

...

SIGH...

TSUNADE... I REALLY DID INTEND TO BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE.
AND... I EVEN PROMISED NOT TO DESTROY KONO-HAGAKURE. BUT...


EVEN SO... I TRUST YOU WHOLE-HEARTEDLY, KABUTO...
I APPRECIATE YOUR LOYALTY AND YOUR FORESIGHT IN ANTICIPATING TSUNADE'S ATTACK.
YES... SHE'S FROM THE MEDICAL CORPS, SAME AS ME.
HER CHAKRA WAS FULL OF MURDEROUS INTENT.
TAK TAK


...

I KNEW IT... AND YET...

OROCHI-MARU...

YOU NOT ATTACKING THE VILLAGE...? AT THE VERY LEAST, I WAS AWARE THAT WAS A LIE.

HEH HEH...

I WANTED TO SEE THEM ONE LAST TIME...

JUST... ONCE MORE...

...

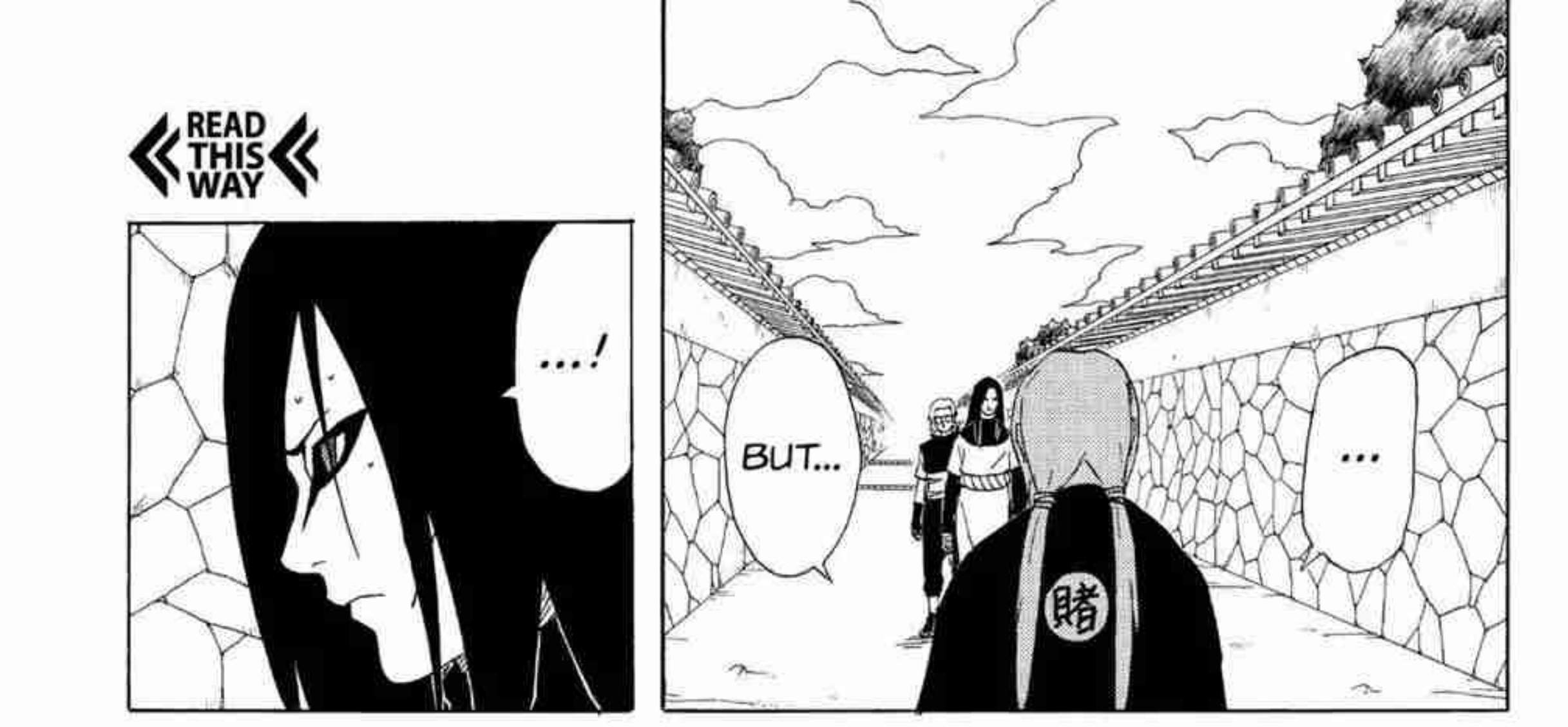
...

SNEER

TO SEE THEIR SMILES...

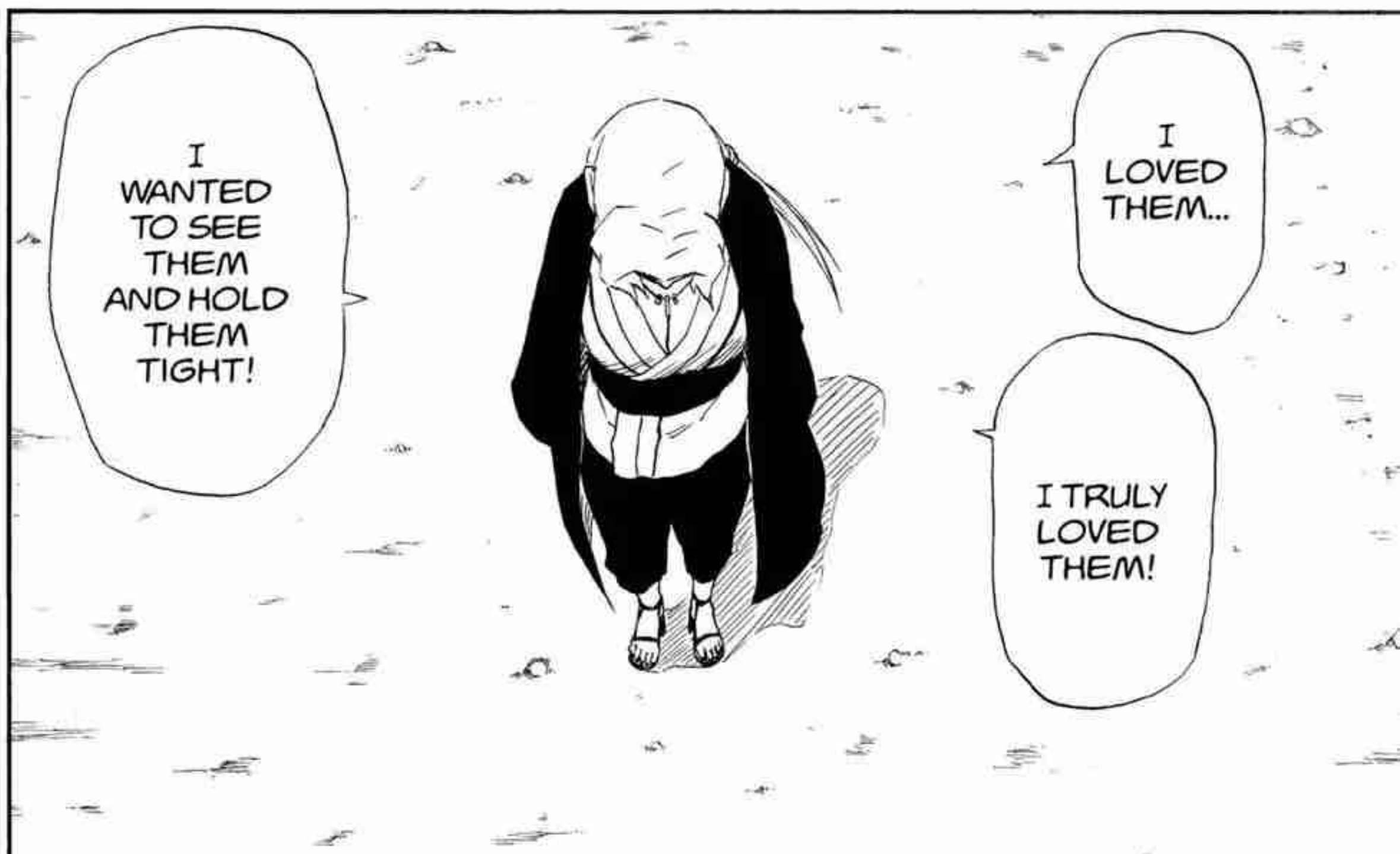
...JUST ONE MORE TIME...

I WANTED TO TOUCH THEM ONE MORE TIME...


READ THIS WAY
...!
BUT...
...
賭

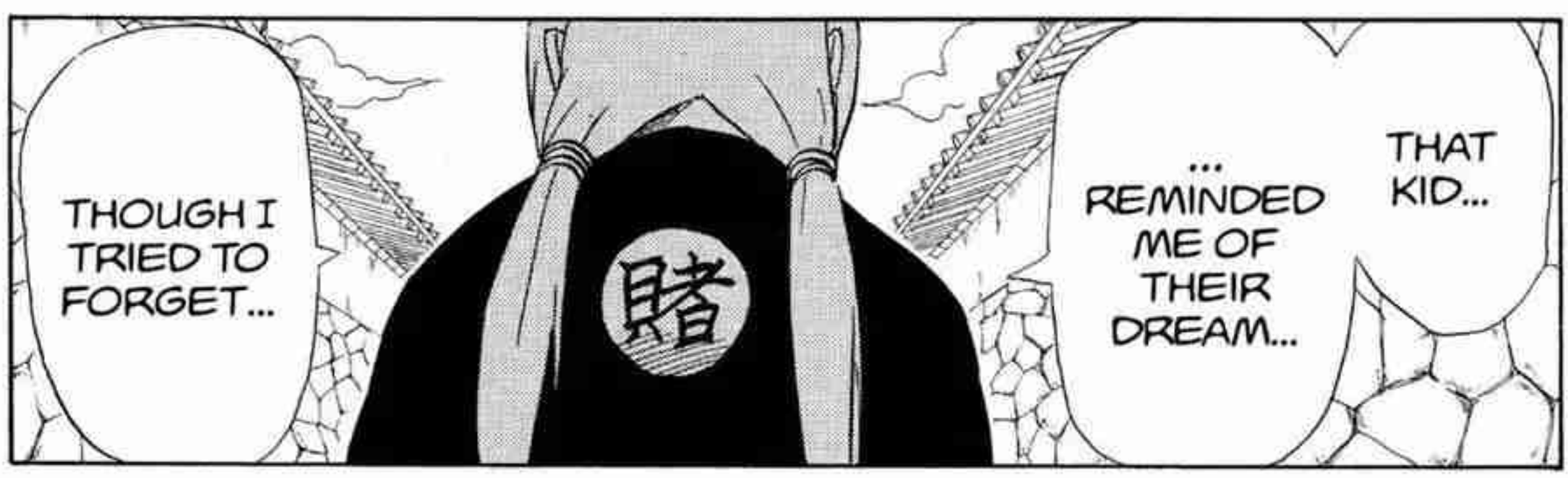
YES. THE MOMENT I FELT IT...
THE POSSIBILITY THAT I COULD TRULY SEE DAN AND NAWAKI AGAIN...
...I REALIZED...
...I WAS A HOPELESS FOOL...
...!

PLIP
PLIP
PLIP



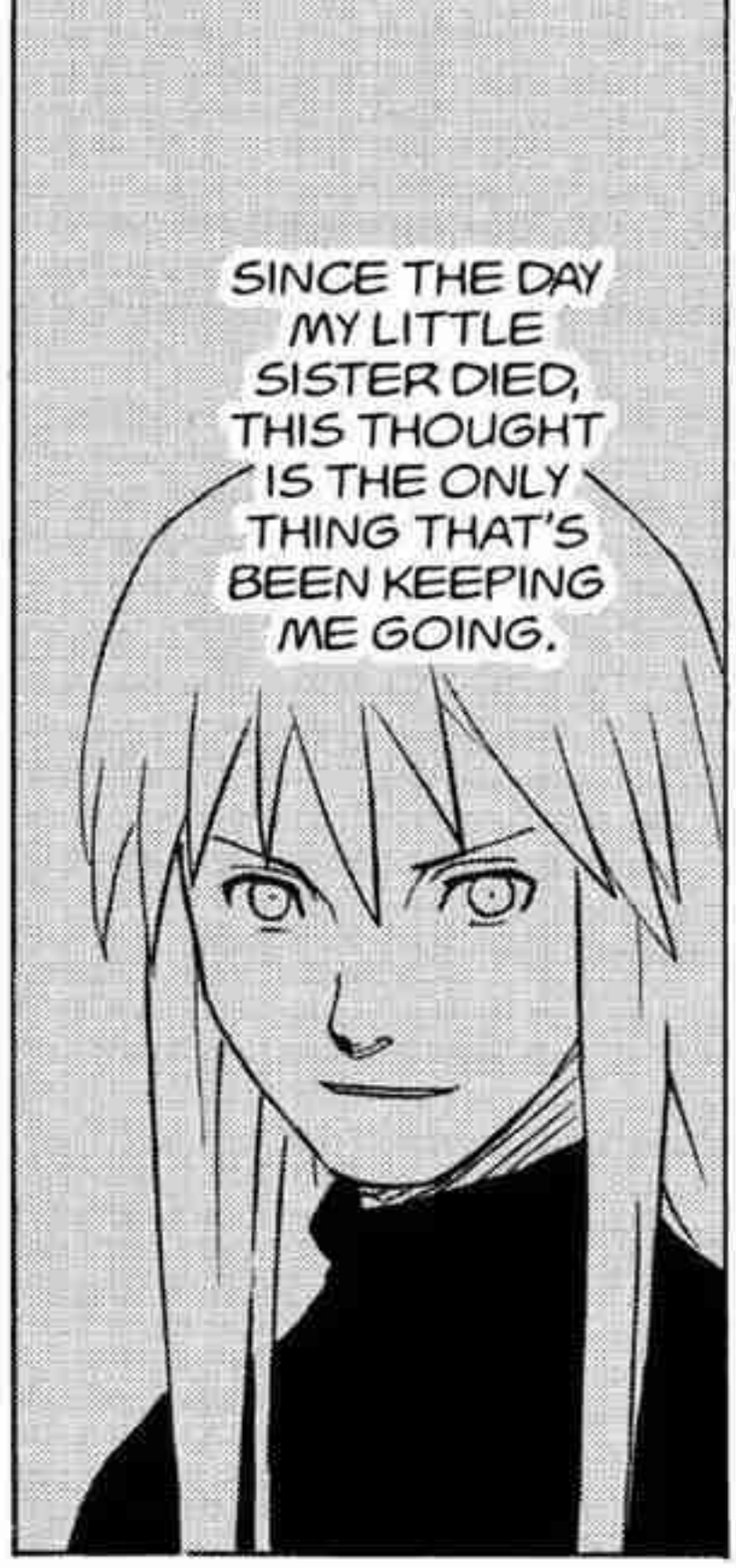
HUF
HUF
I'M NOT GONNA LOSE THIS BET!
HUF
HUF

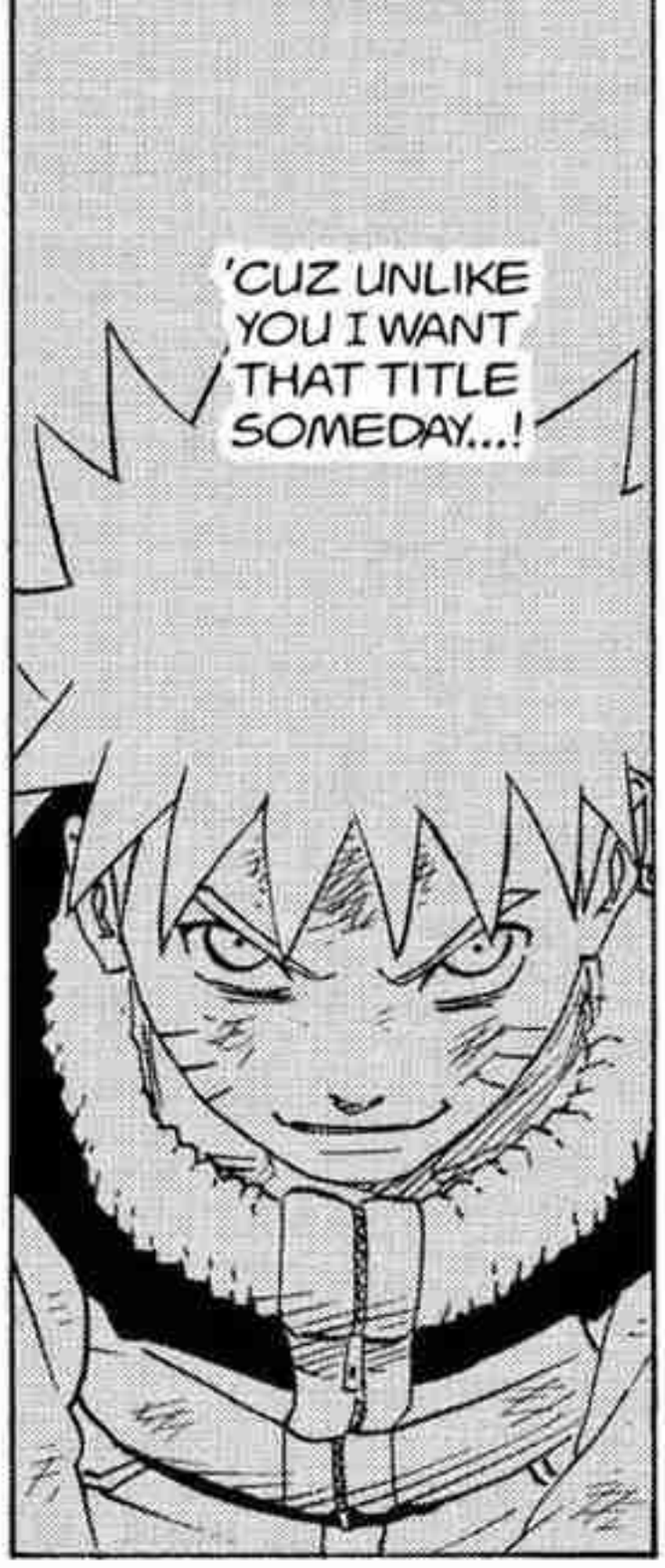
BUT I COULDN'T ...
...


THOUGH I TRIED TO FORGET...
賭
... REMINDED ME OF THEIR DREAM...
THAT KID...

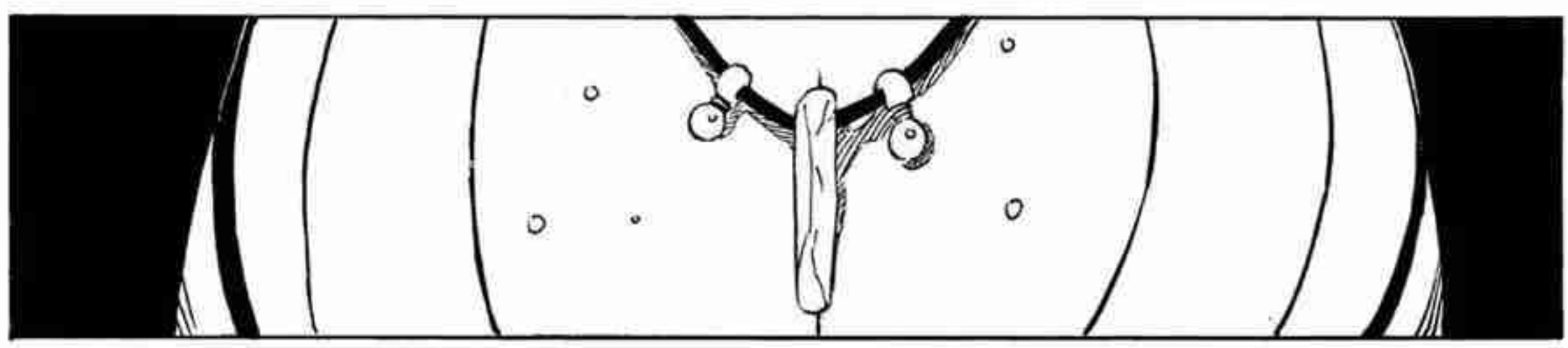
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO DEFEND IT.
I LOVE THIS VILLAGE, AND ALL OF MY FRIENDS ...

'CUZ I'M THE GRANDSON OF THE FIRST HOKAGE, THE BUILDER OF KONOHA-GAKURE!
THE ENTIRE VILLAGE WAS GRANDPA'S TREASURE. AND I'M GOING TO DEFEND IT!


SINCE THE DAY MY LITTLE SISTER DIED, THIS THOUGHT IS THE ONLY THING THAT'S BEEN KEEPING ME GOING.

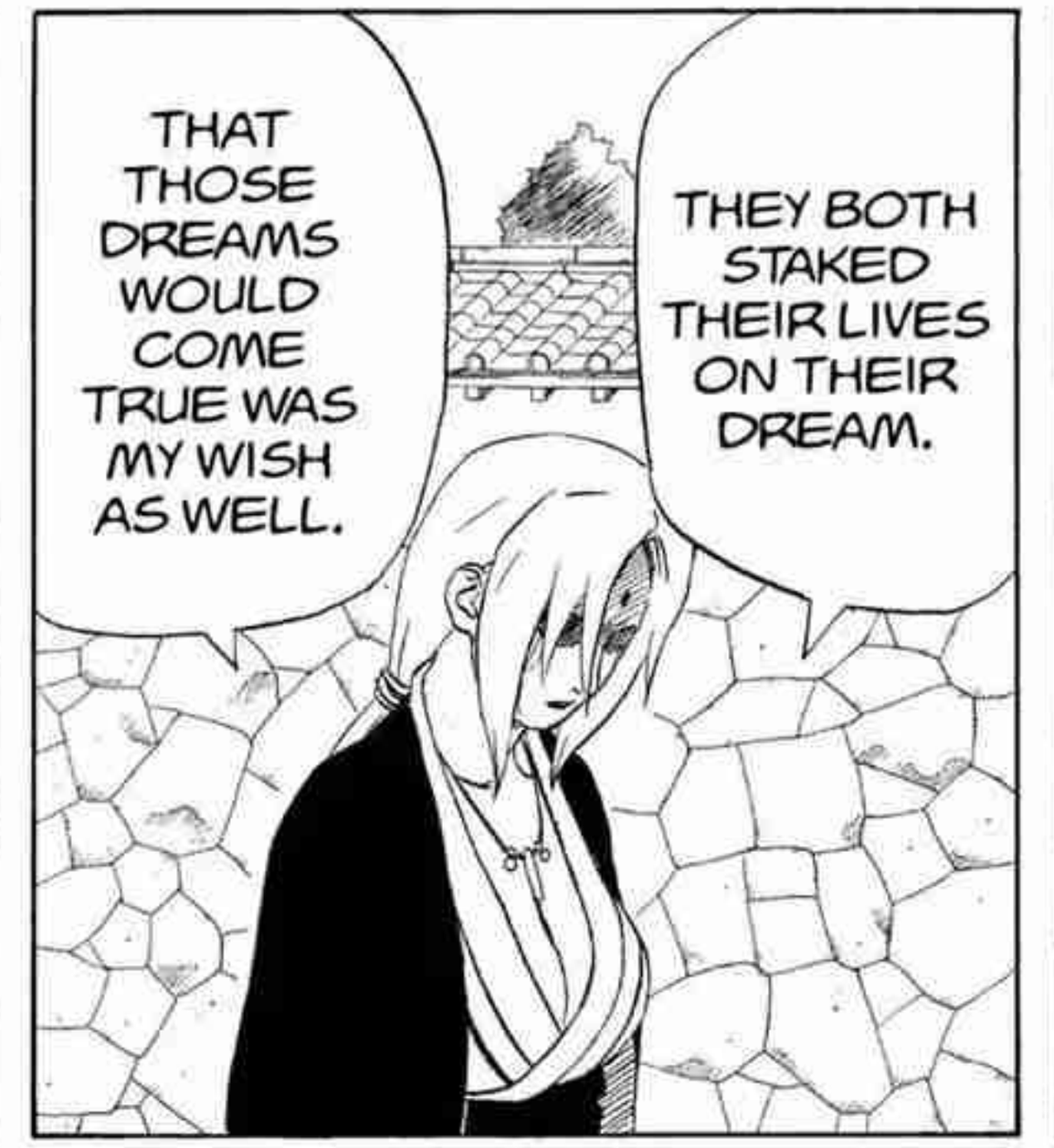

'CUZ UNLIKE YOU I WANT THAT TITLE SOMEDAY...!

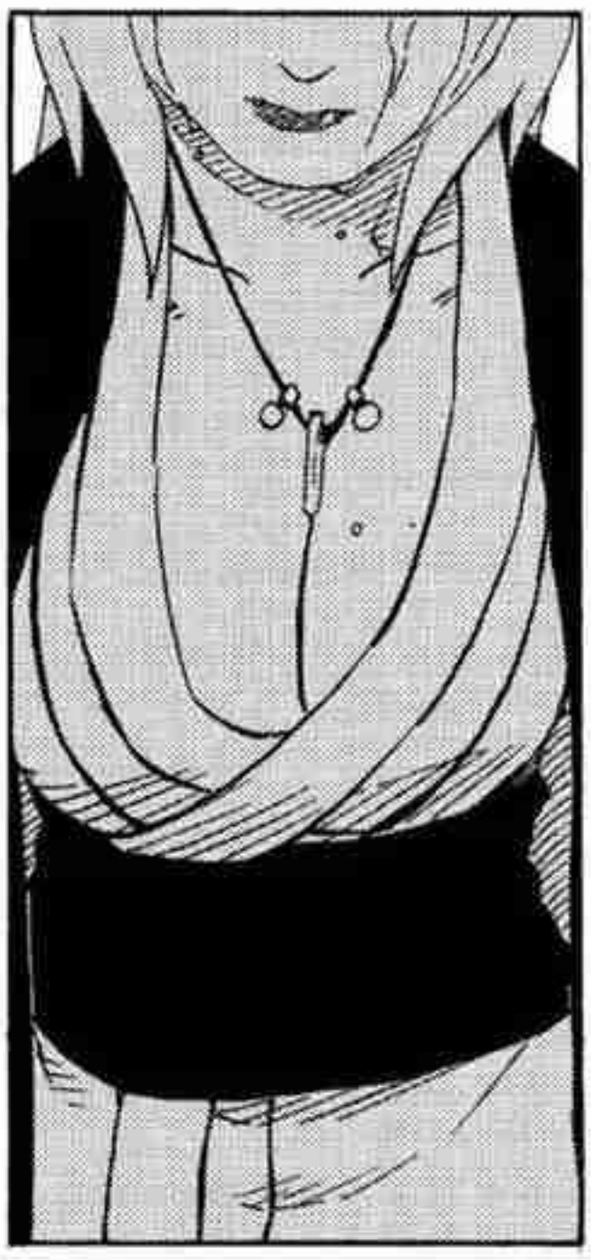
I'M GONNA BE STRONG LIKE GRANDPA AND ONE DAY BE GRANTED THE TITLE OF HOKAGE.



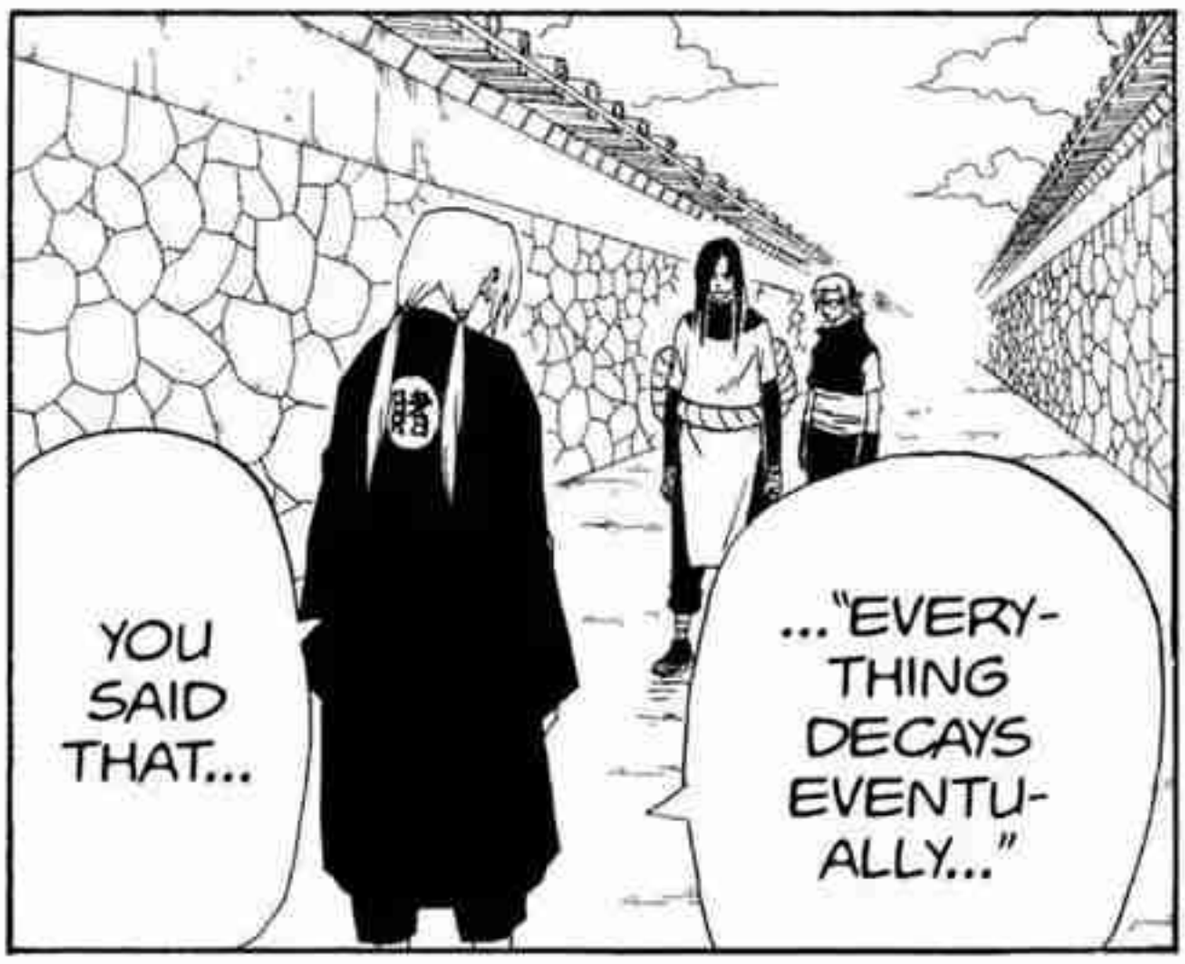
TO BE HOKAGE IS MY DREAM.

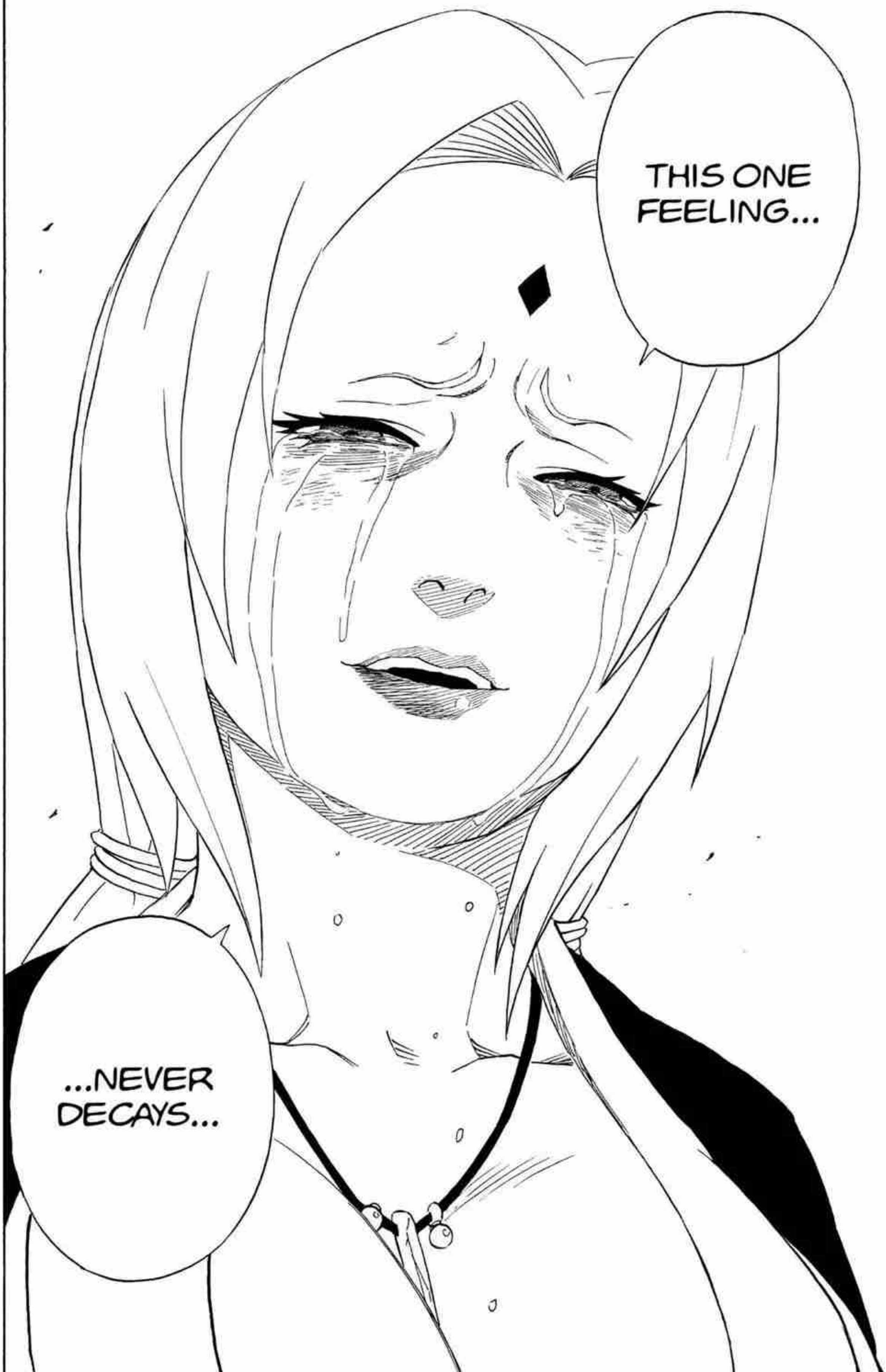
...


THAT THOSE DREAMS WOULD COME TRUE WAS MY WISH AS WELL.
THEY BOTH STAKED THEIR LIVES ON THEIR DREAM.



BUT...


YOU SAID THAT...
...“EVERY-THING DECAYS EVENTU-ALLY...”


THIS ONE FEELING...
...NEVER DECAYS...

TOO BAD...
THEN NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FAILED...
NOW I'LL JUST HAVE TO PERSUADE YOU BY FORCE...
TAK
GLARE
GGH

HERE WE GO... KABUTO.

TMP

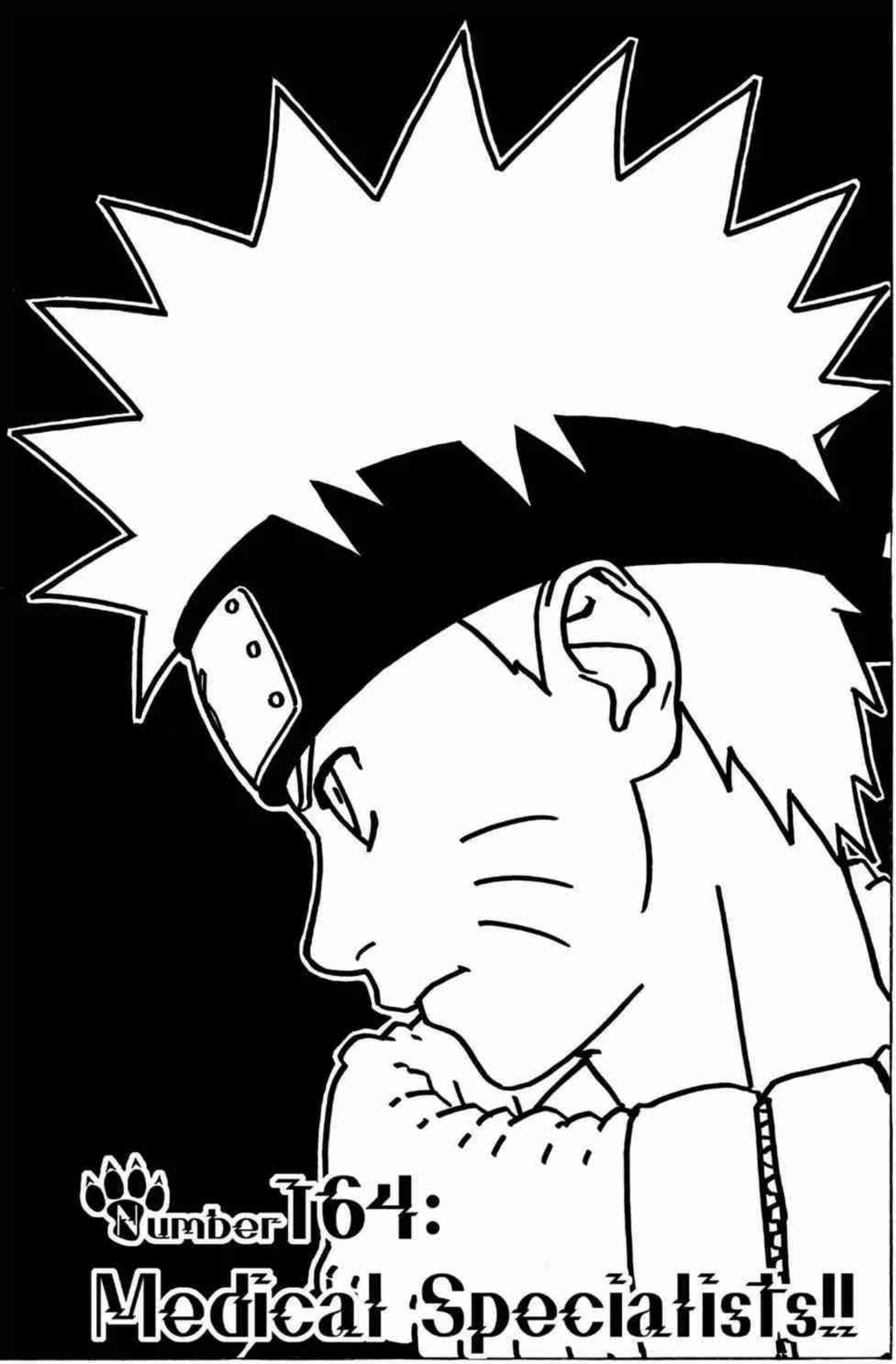
TOK

GOOD MEDICINE HAS TO BE MORE THAN JUST BITTER...

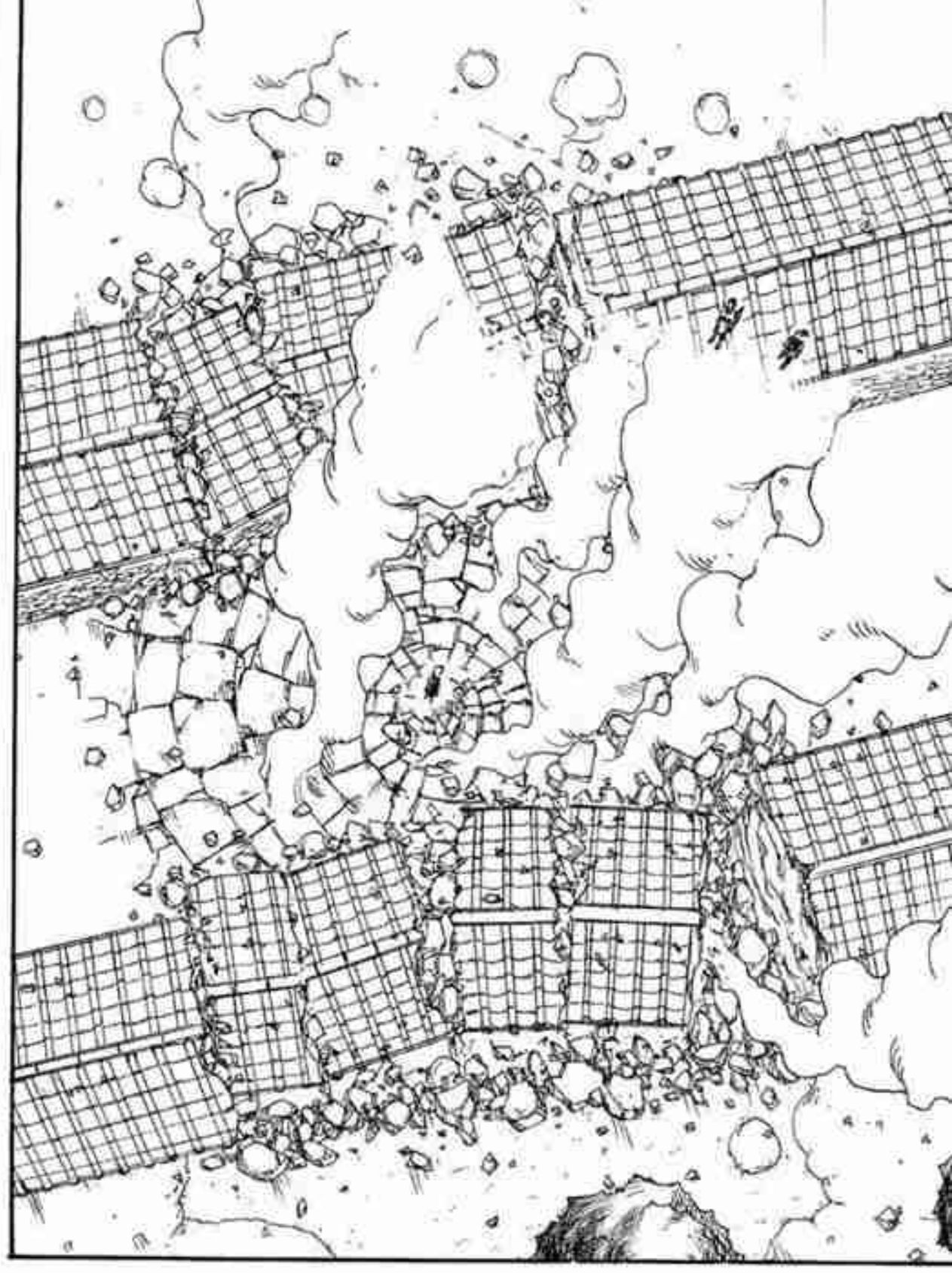
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I...?

OROCHI-MARU!!

...COME ON!



Number 164: Medical Specialists!!



FWAP
DASH
INDEED.

HAHA... COME TO THINK OF IT...
WE HAVEN'T FOUGHT BEFORE, HAVE WE?

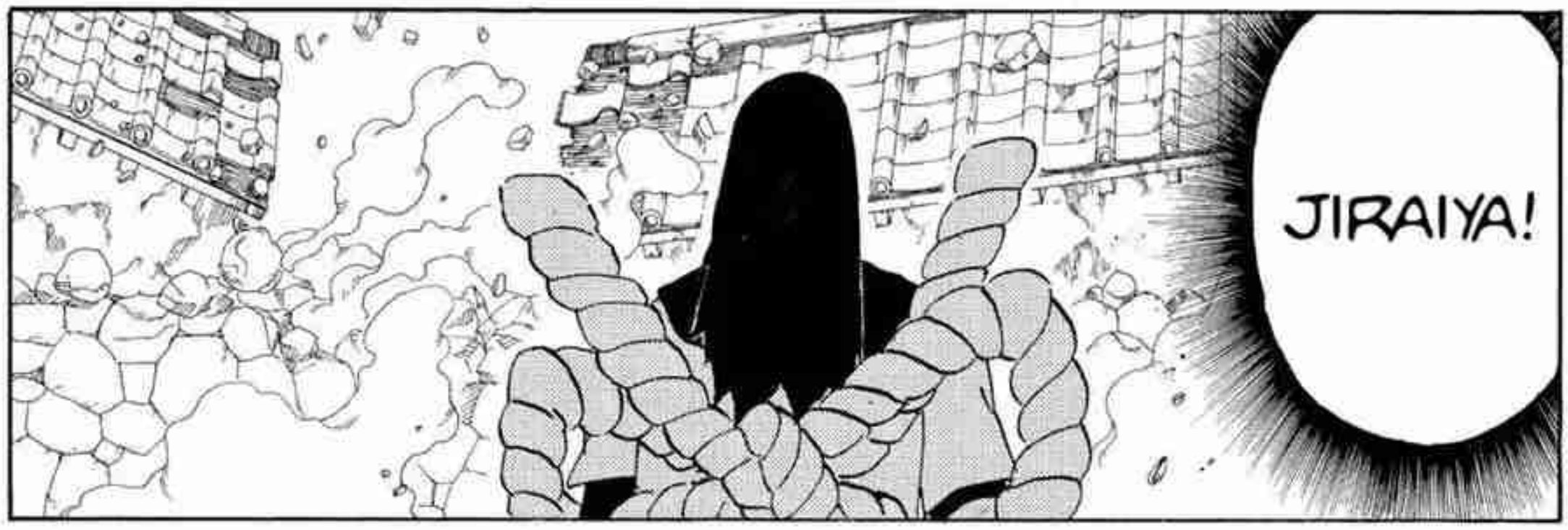
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK...
I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO FIGHT HER.

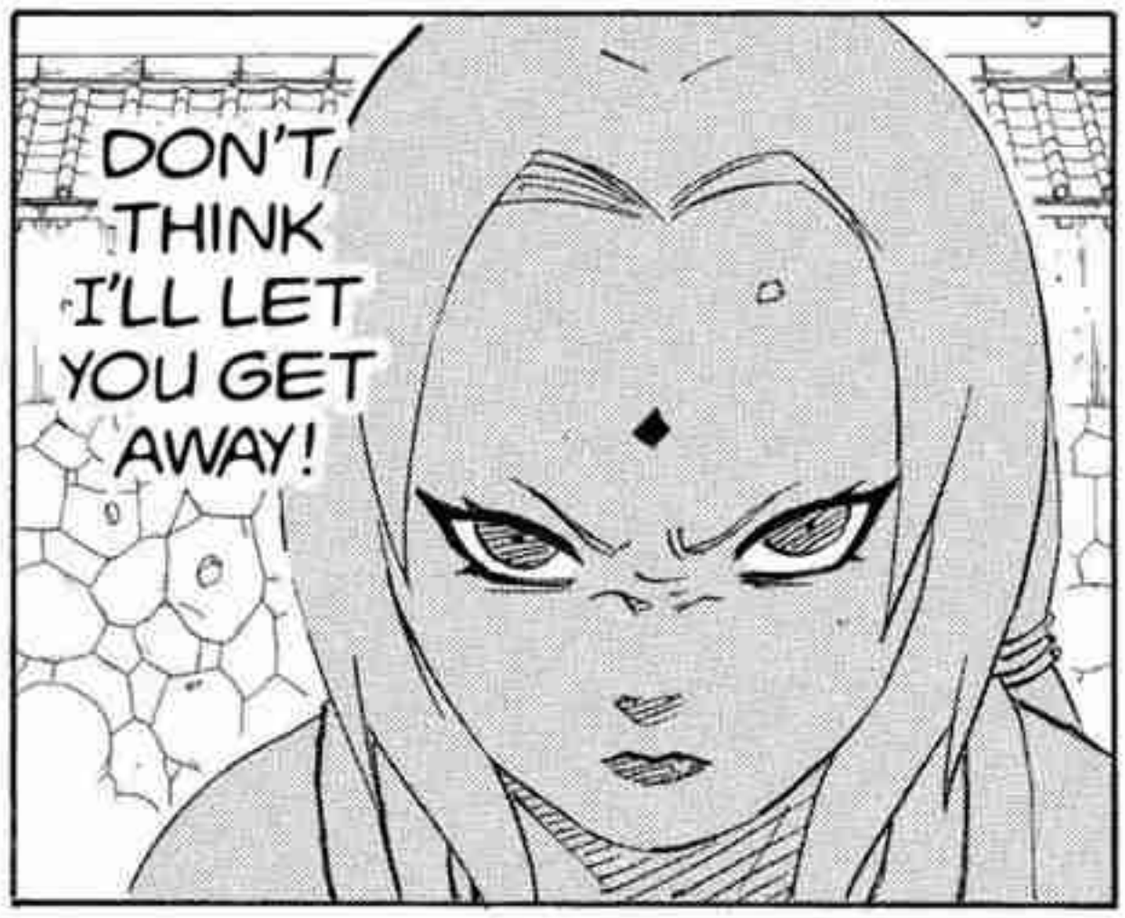
I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!!

YOU WORTH-LESS SCUM...

!

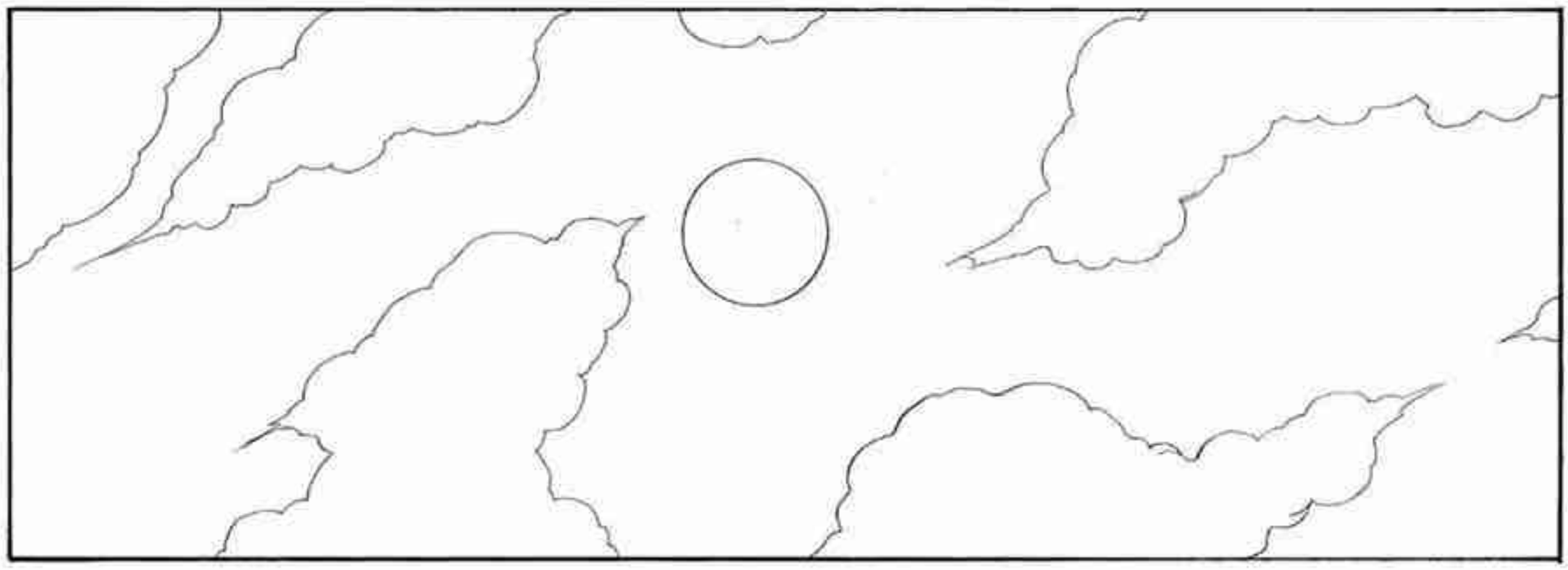
ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI LIKE YOU AND TSUNADE...


JIRAIYA!

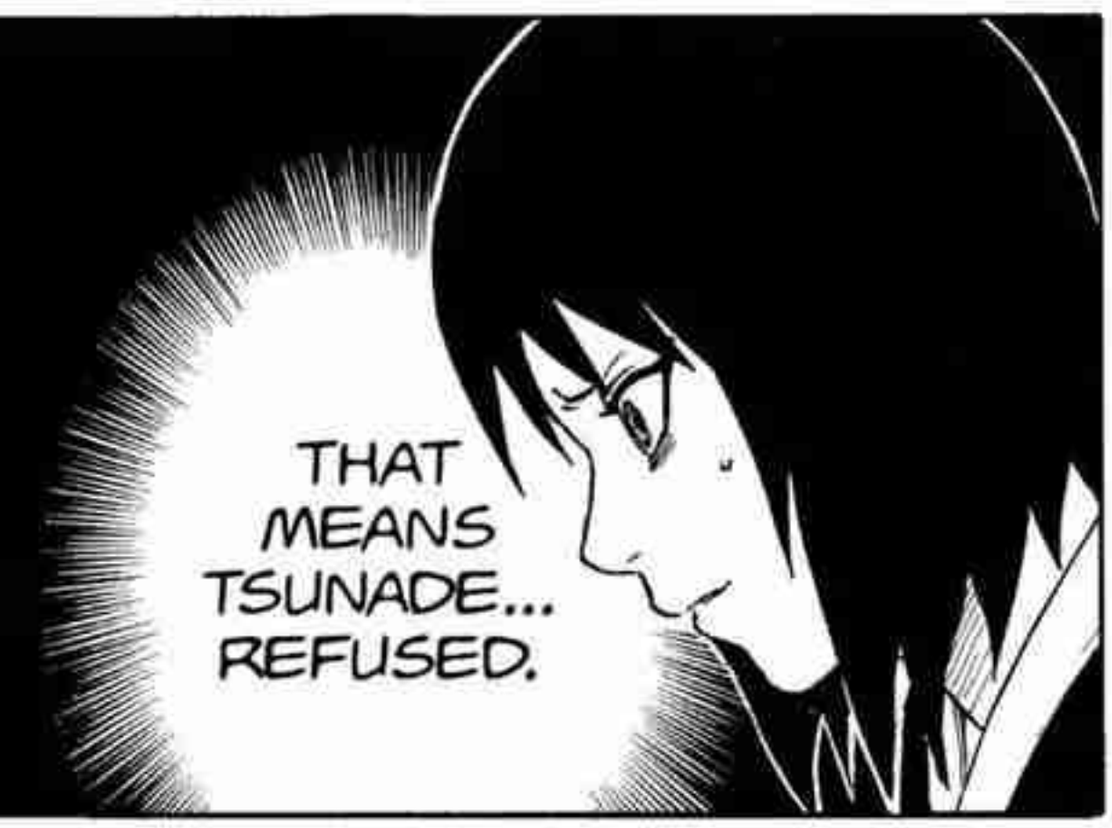

DON'T THINK I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY!

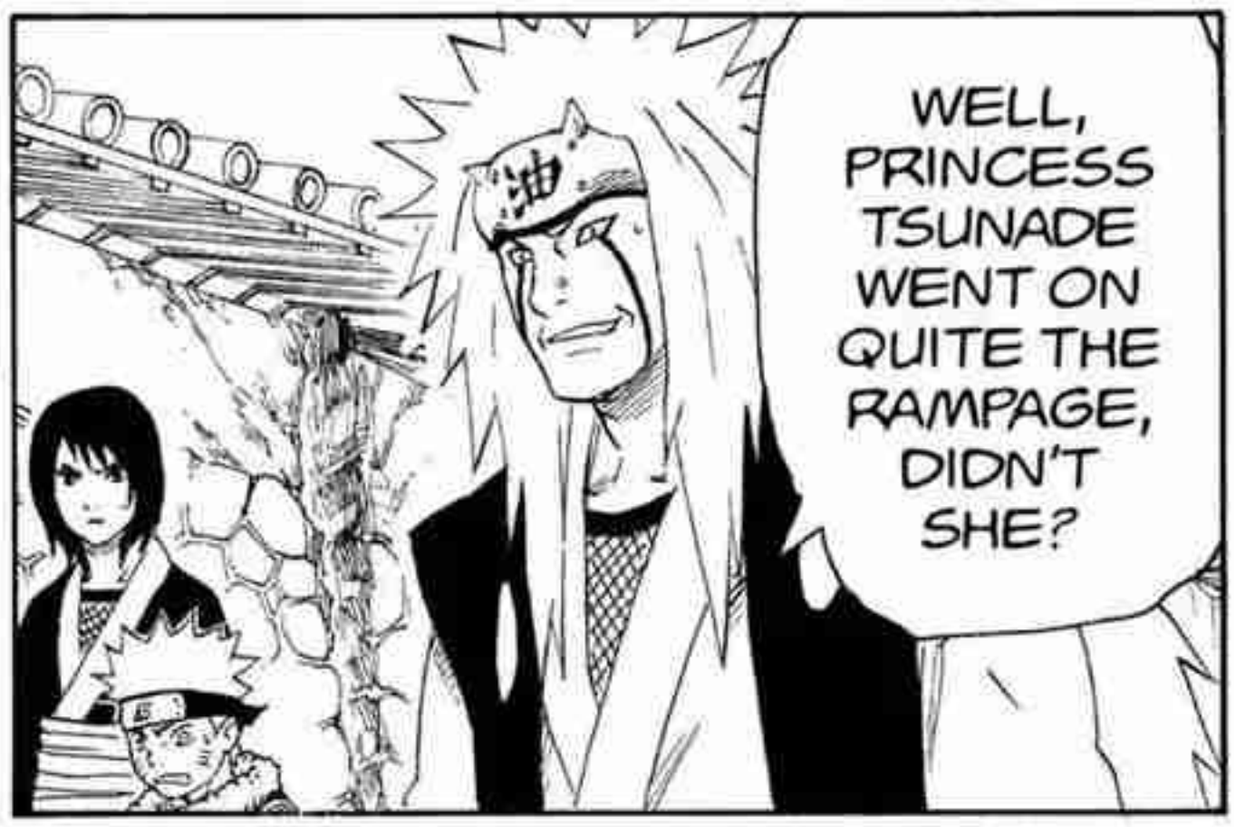
TAK
TAK

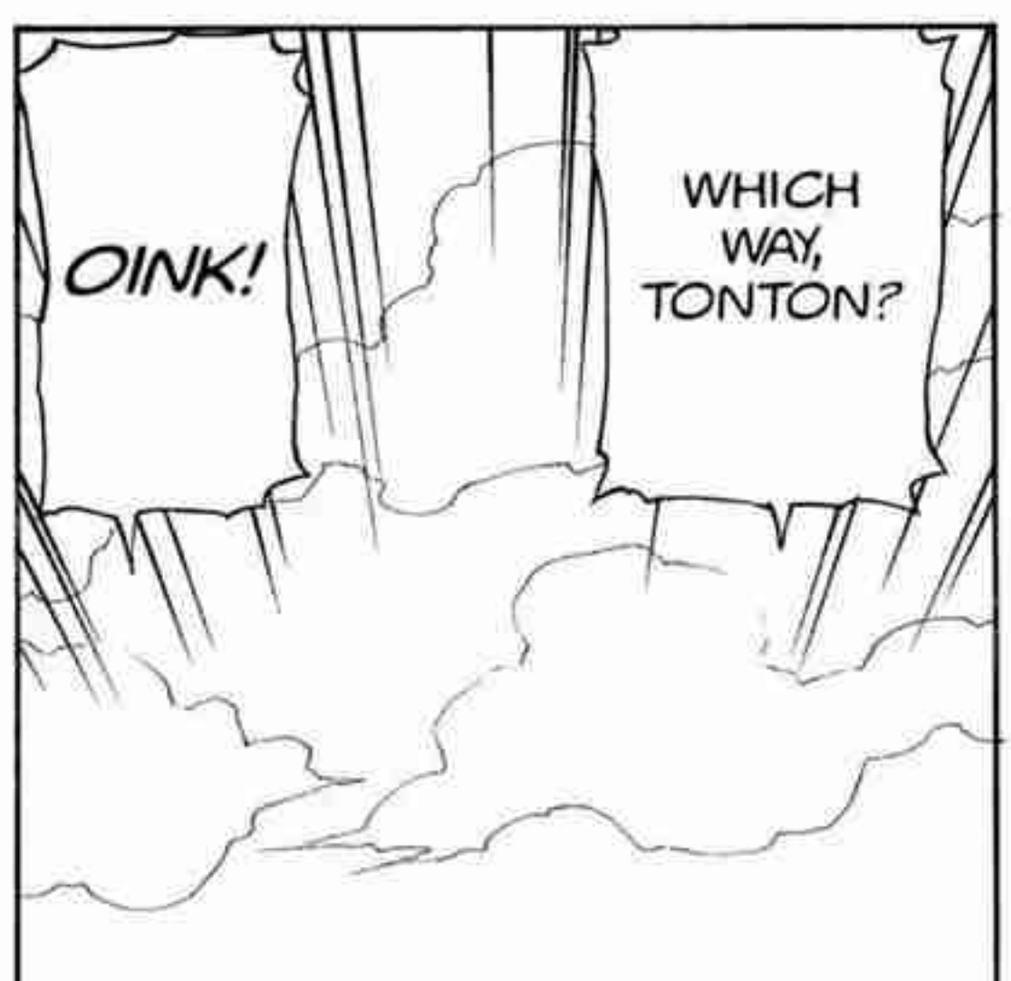
...

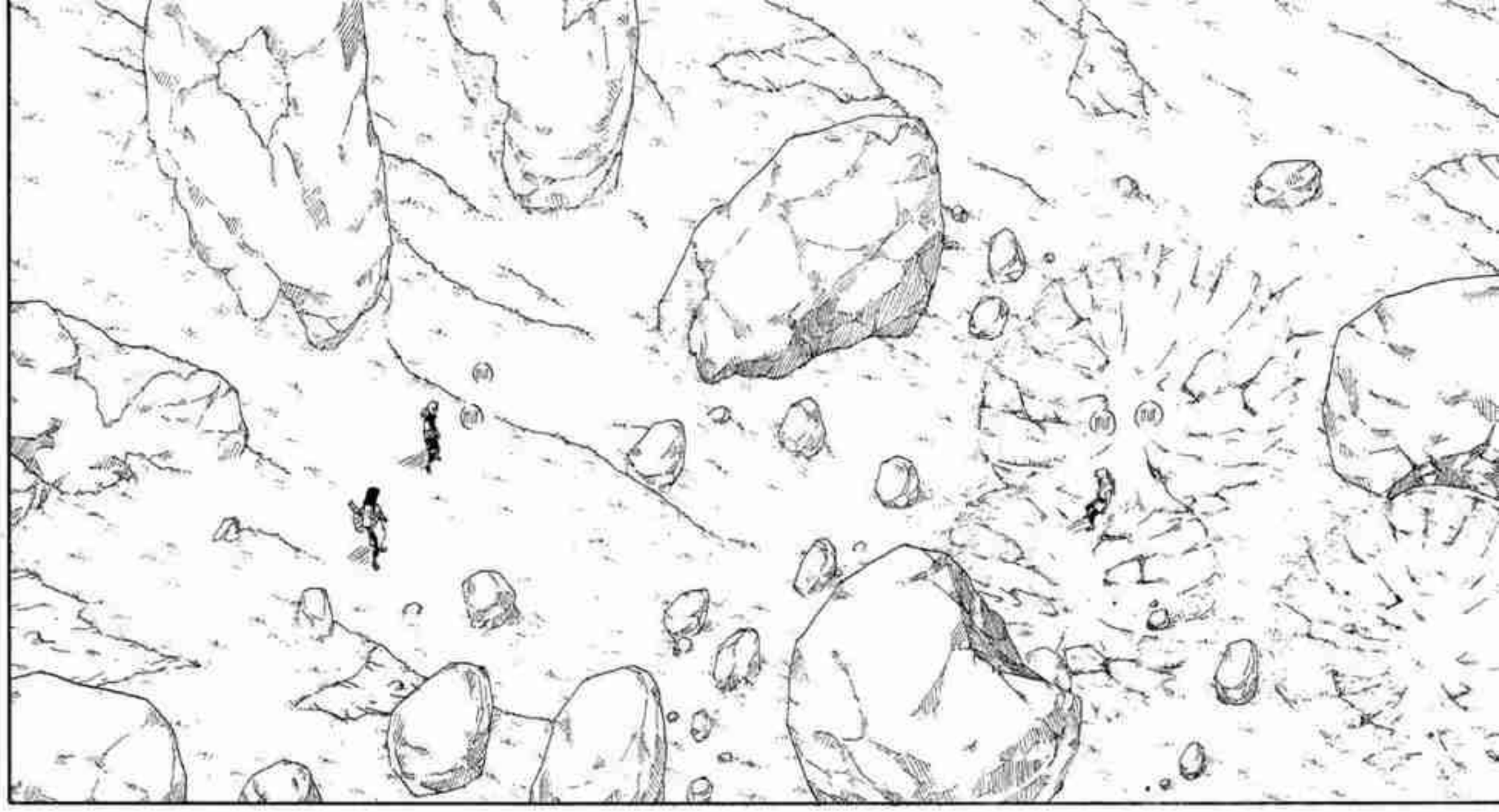


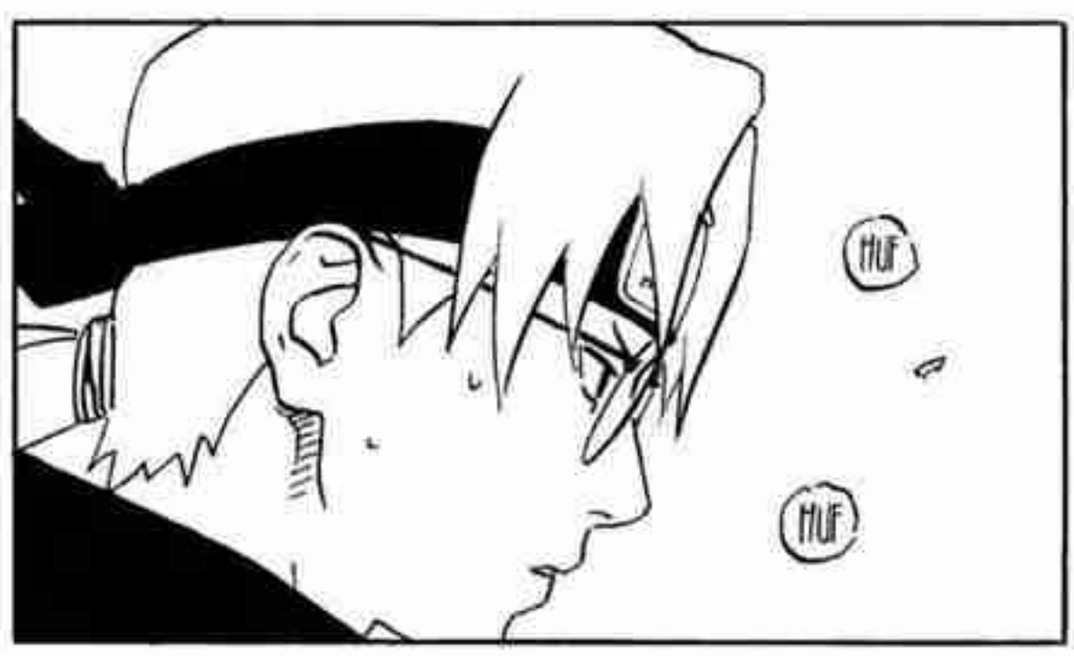
WH-WHAT THE HECK IS THIS...?!



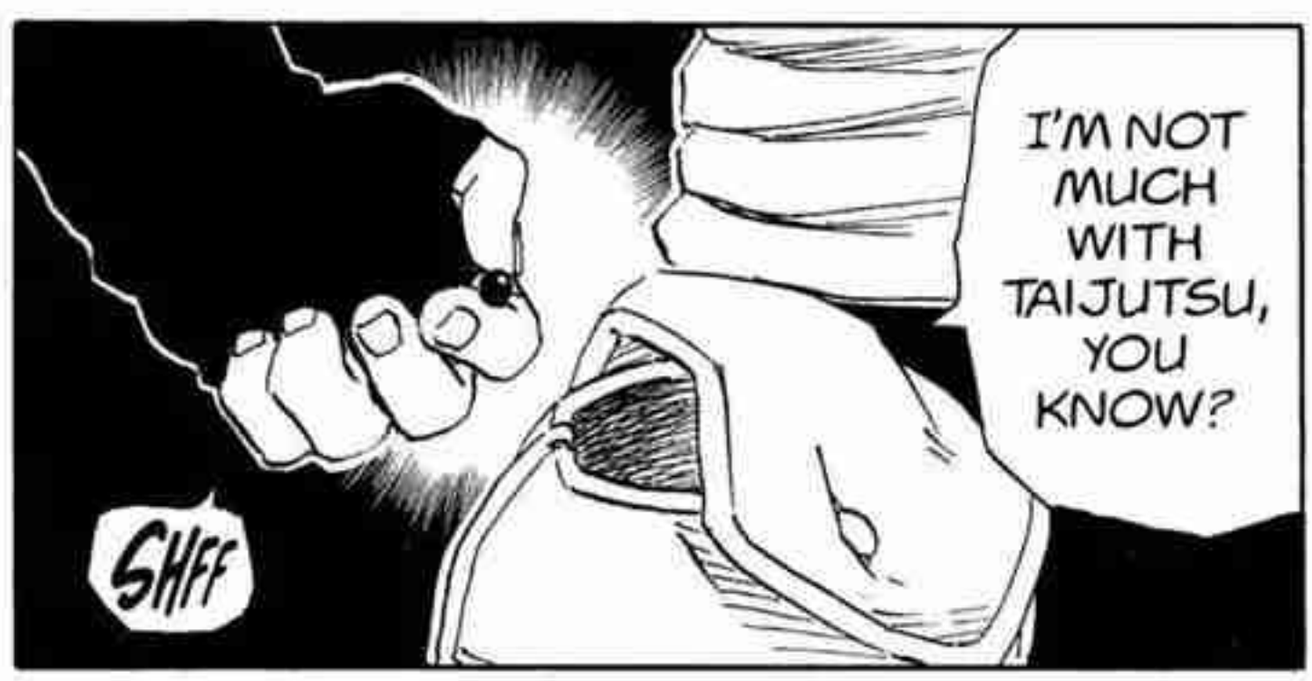







HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF

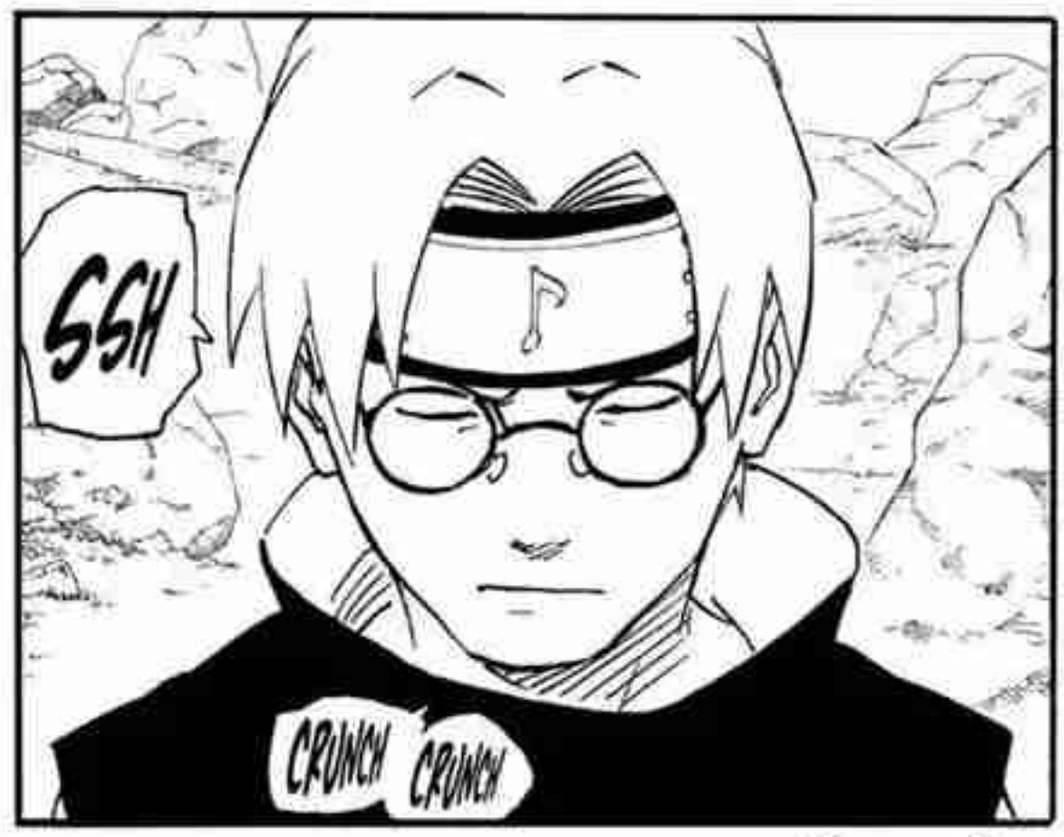

I'M NOT MUCH WITH TAIJUTSU, YOU KNOW?
SHFF

IT'S TIME.
IT SEEMS TSUNADE IS RUNNING OUT OF BREATH...

HUF

FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP

A MILITARY RATIONS PELLET!!
...!


SSH
CRUNCH CRUNCH

SH
HA

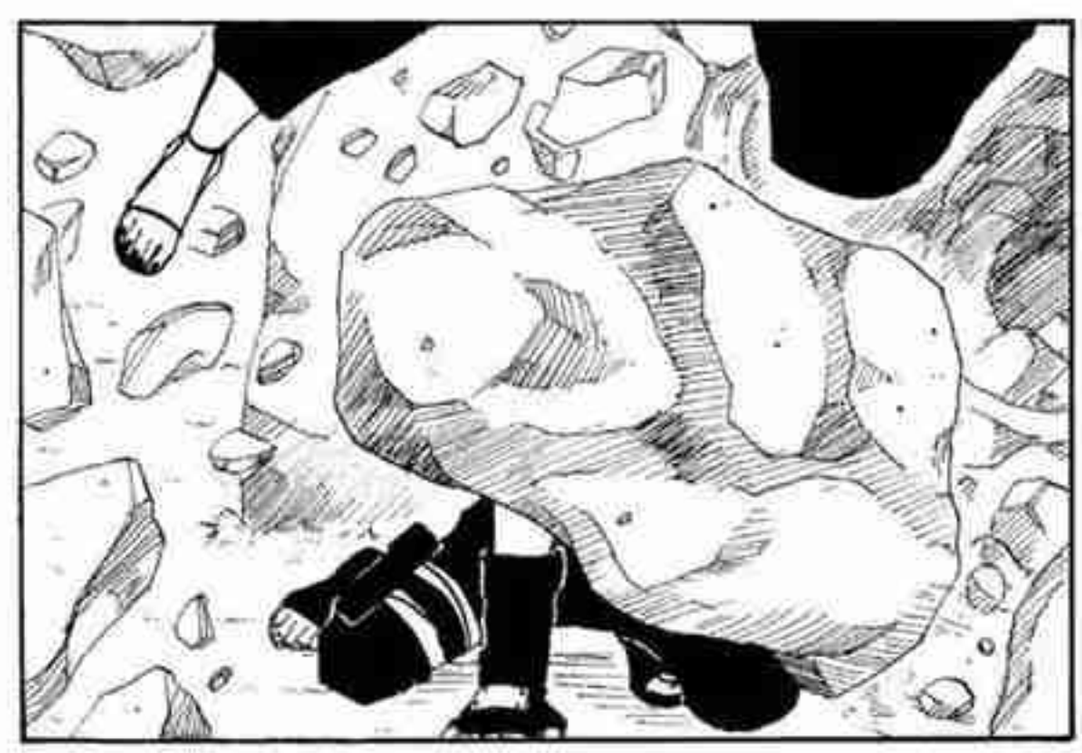
BOOF

SO THIS KID USES MEDICAL NINJUTSU TOO...!

CHUK
KHAAA
ZWA

CHA
SH
THWA

CHAK



TAP

TAP

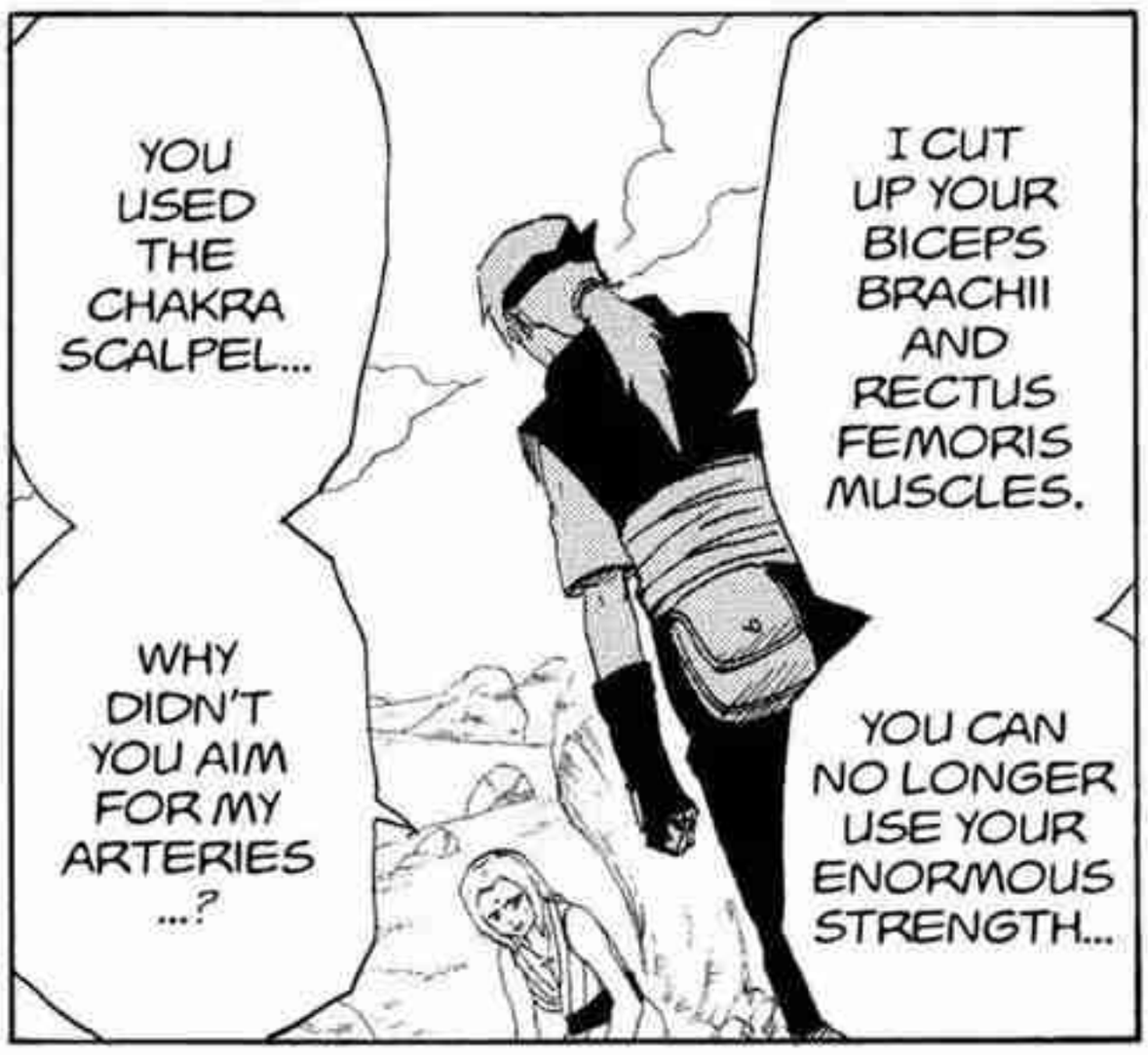
TMP
THUD

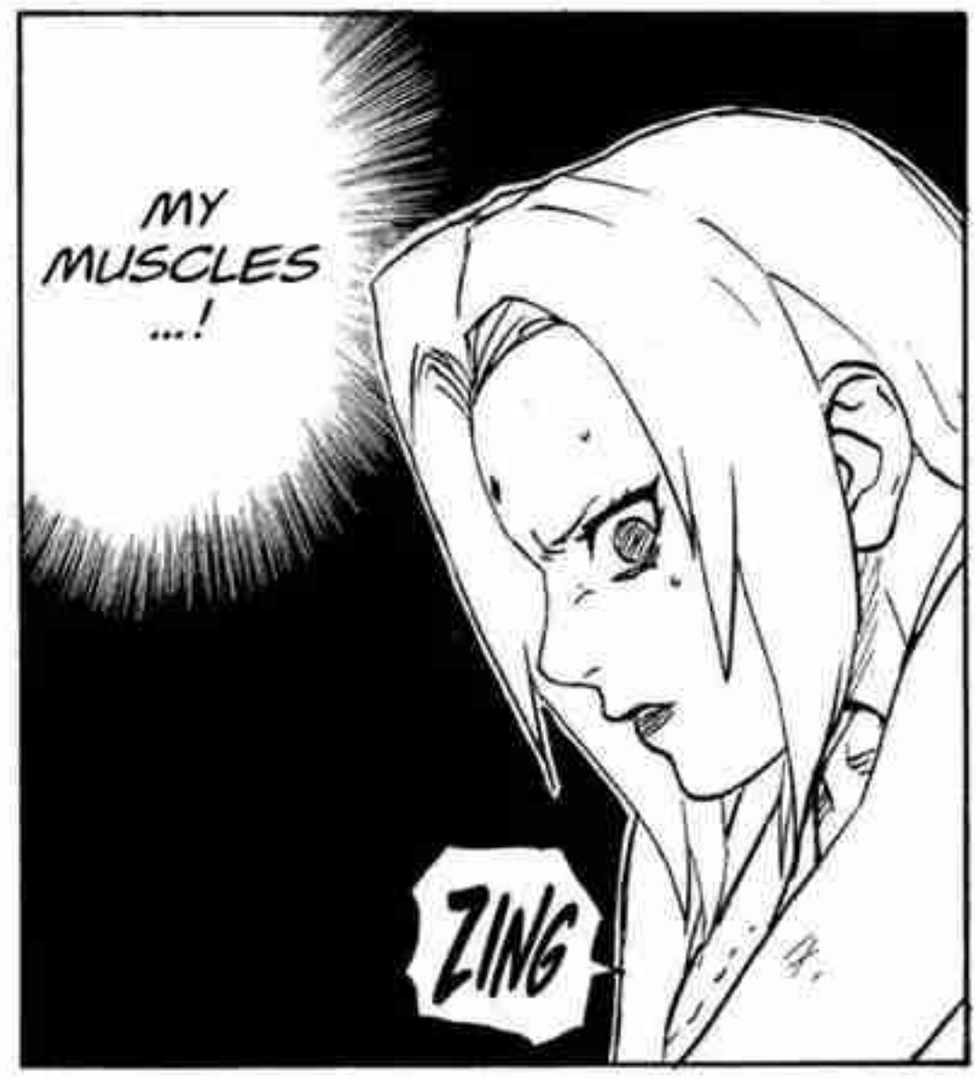
OW!
!
ZING

SMIRK

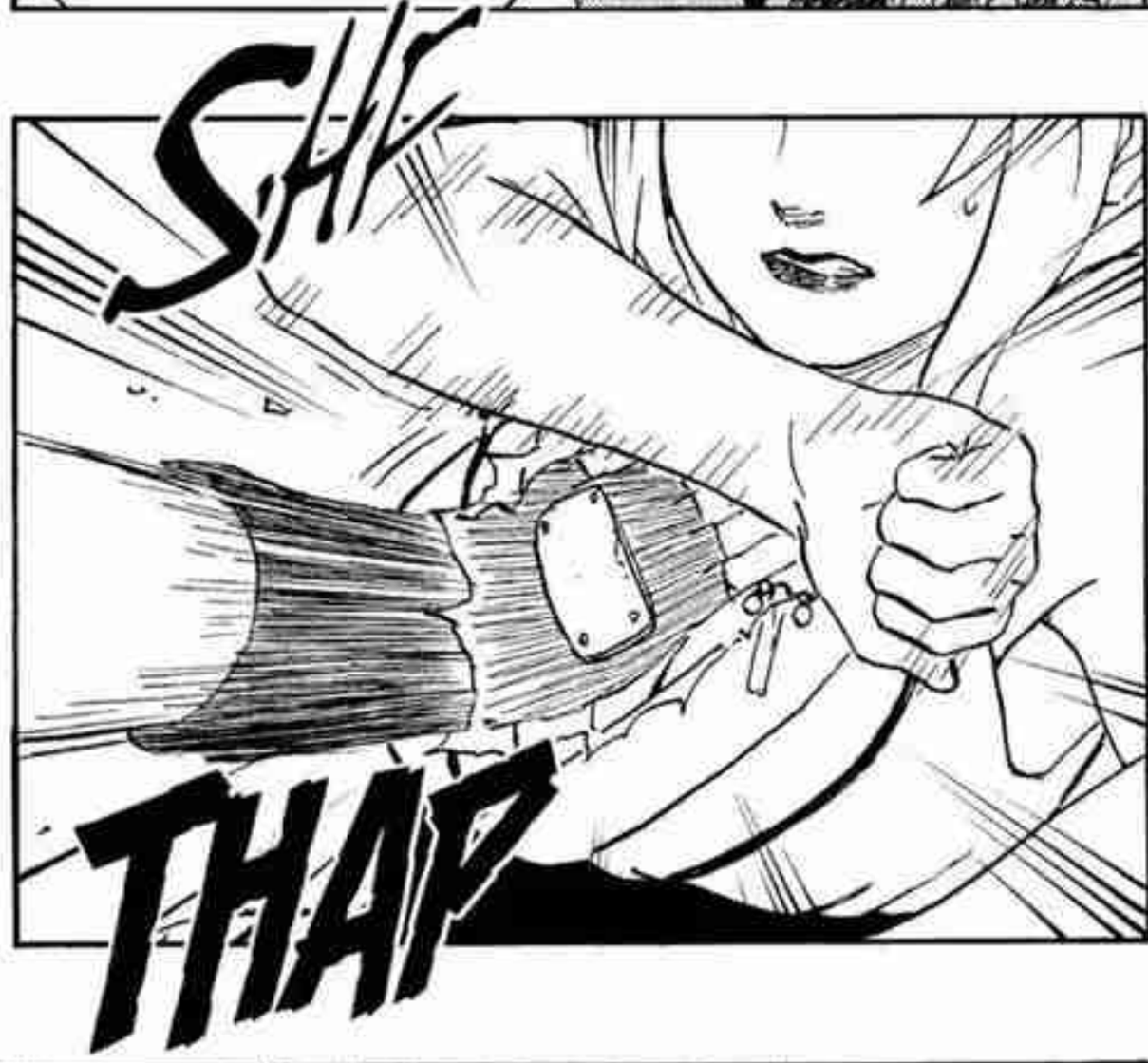
SKREEE!!

READ
THIS
WAY


YOU USED THE CHAKRA SCALPEL...
WHY DIDN'T YOU AIM FOR MY ARTERIES ...?
I CUT UP YOUR BICEPS BRACHII AND RECTUS FEMORIS MUSCLES.
YOU CAN NO LONGER USE YOUR ENORMOUS STRENGTH...


MY MUSCLES ...!
ZING

...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CREATE A CHAKRA SCALPEL THAT CAN REACH ARTERIES IN THE MIDDLE OF BATTLE.
SSH
IT'S TRUE THAT THE SCALPEL CAN CUT YOUR VITALS WITHOUT EXTERNAL INJURY, BUT...


SHK
THAP

ON THE OTHER HAND, AIMING FOR THE THROAT IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL...
DASH

!

UNGH! HE GOT MY INTER-COSTAL MUSCLES.

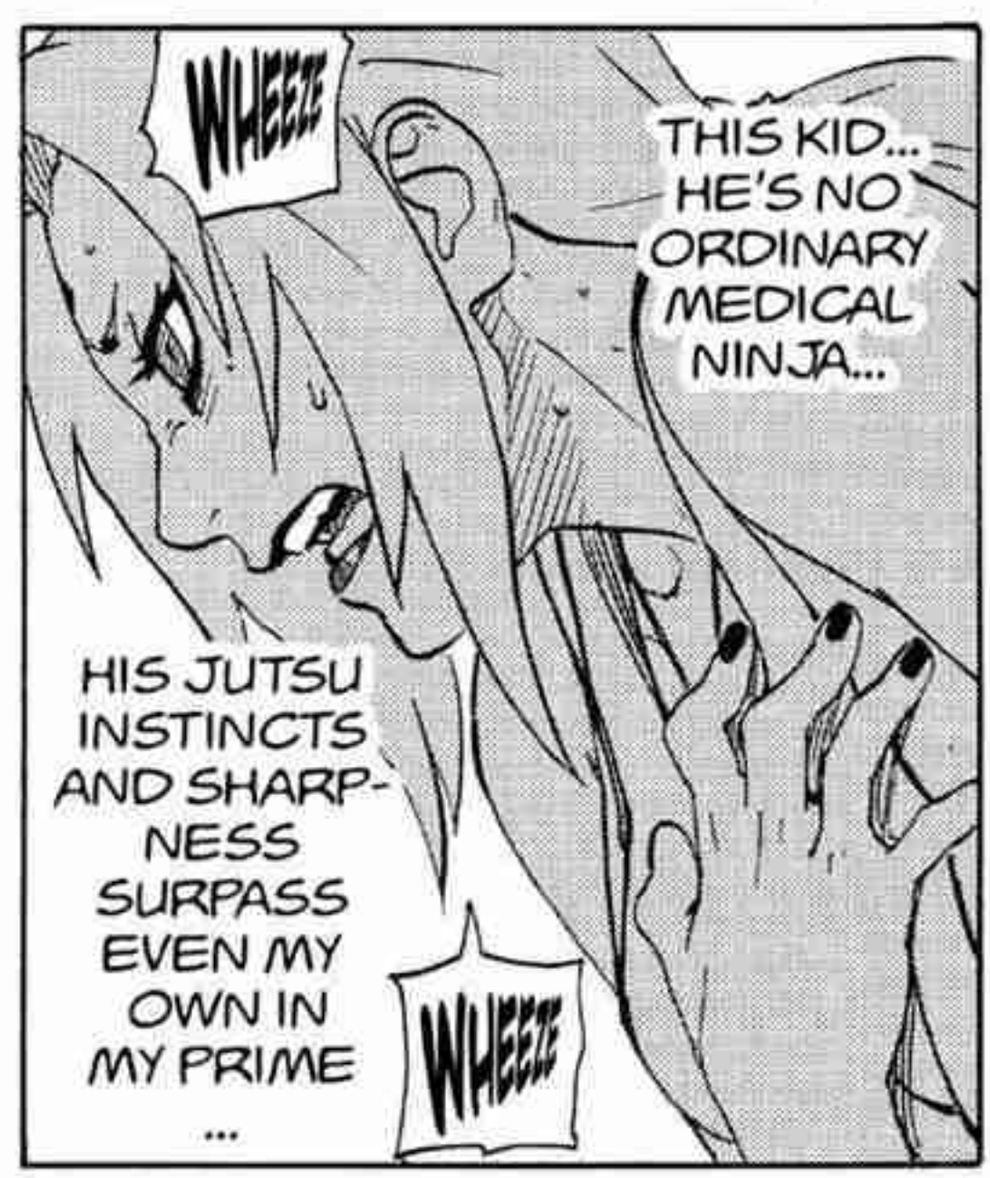
CAN'T BREATHE ...!

SLUMP

HACK

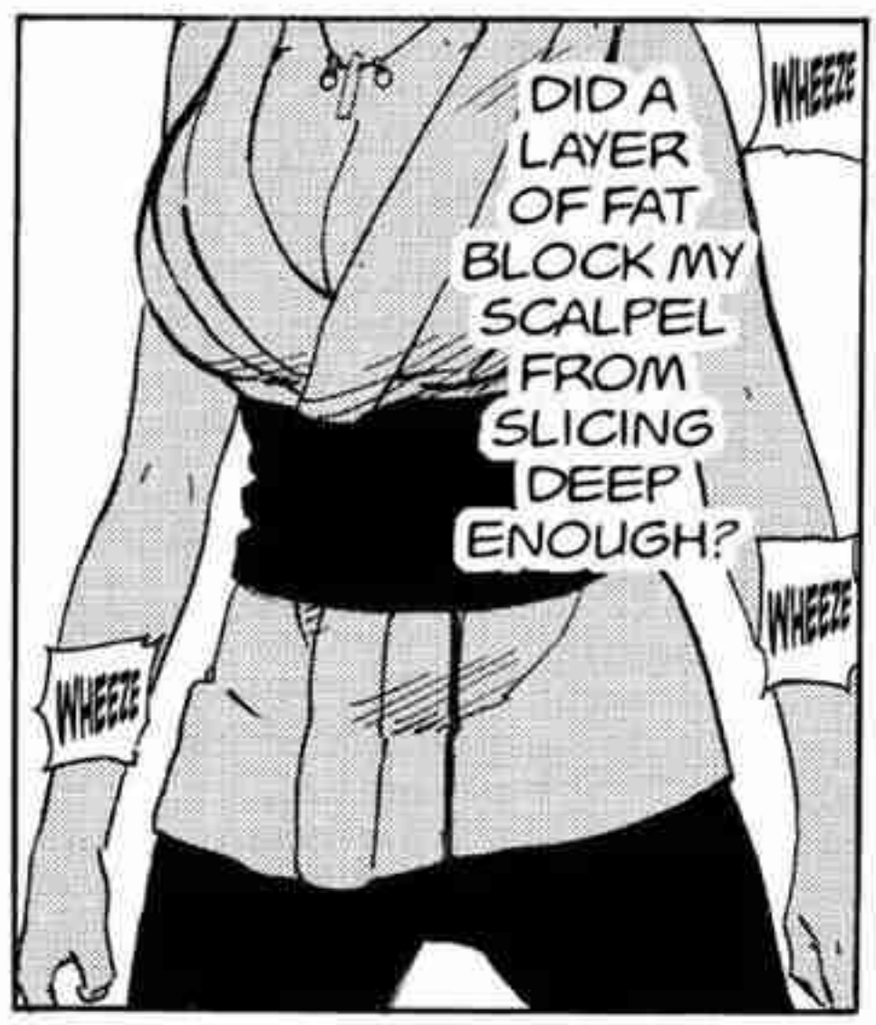
WHEEZE

WHEEZE



SKRAAAAK

GGH!



TH... THIS... IT CAN'T BE...
!

I'M MOVING MY HAND BUT...
MY LEG... MOVES ...?

...WHAT ?!
WRRIRI

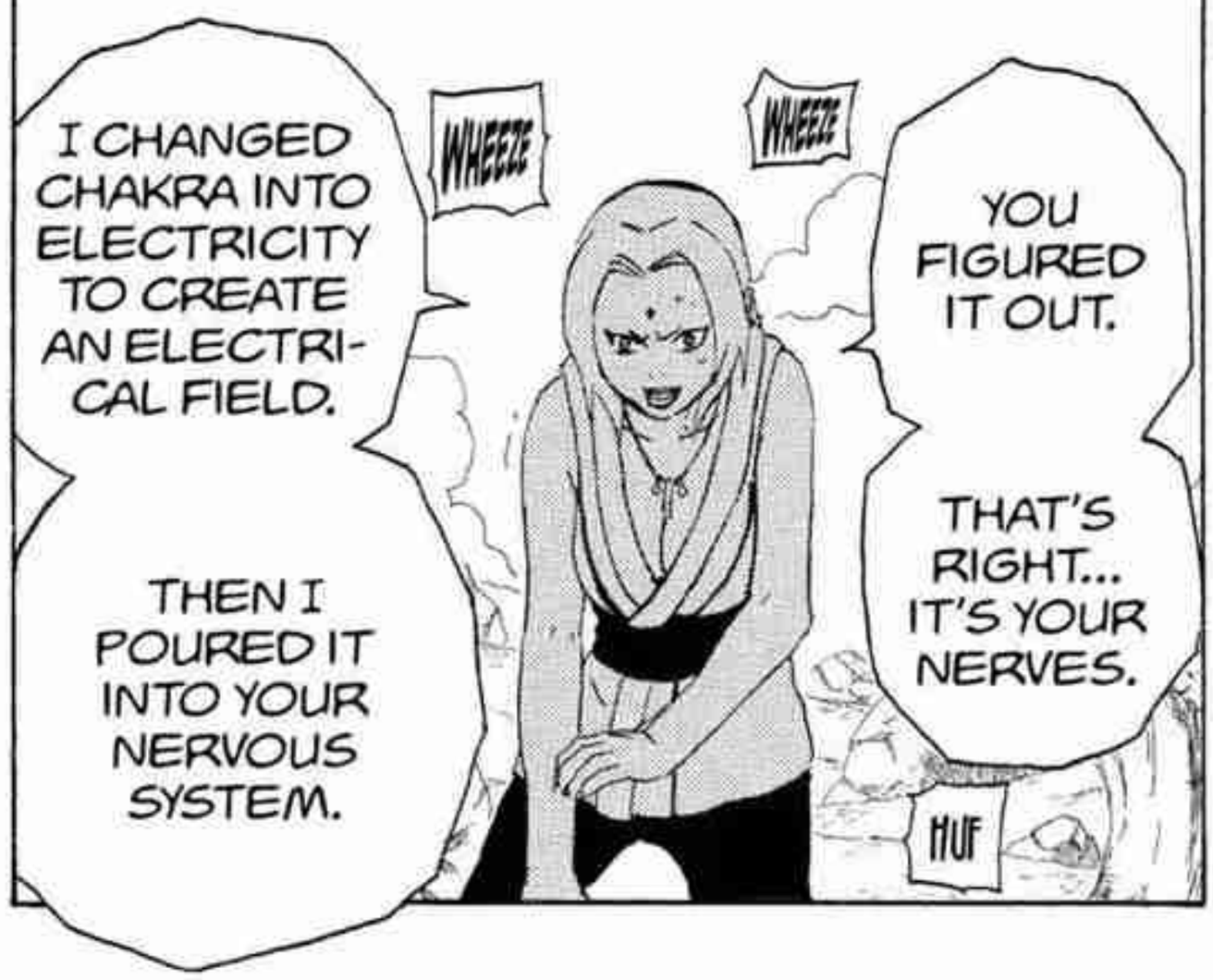
GOK

ARG...!
IT'S... NOT MY MUSCLES... IT'S MY ENTIRE NERVOUS SYSTEM!

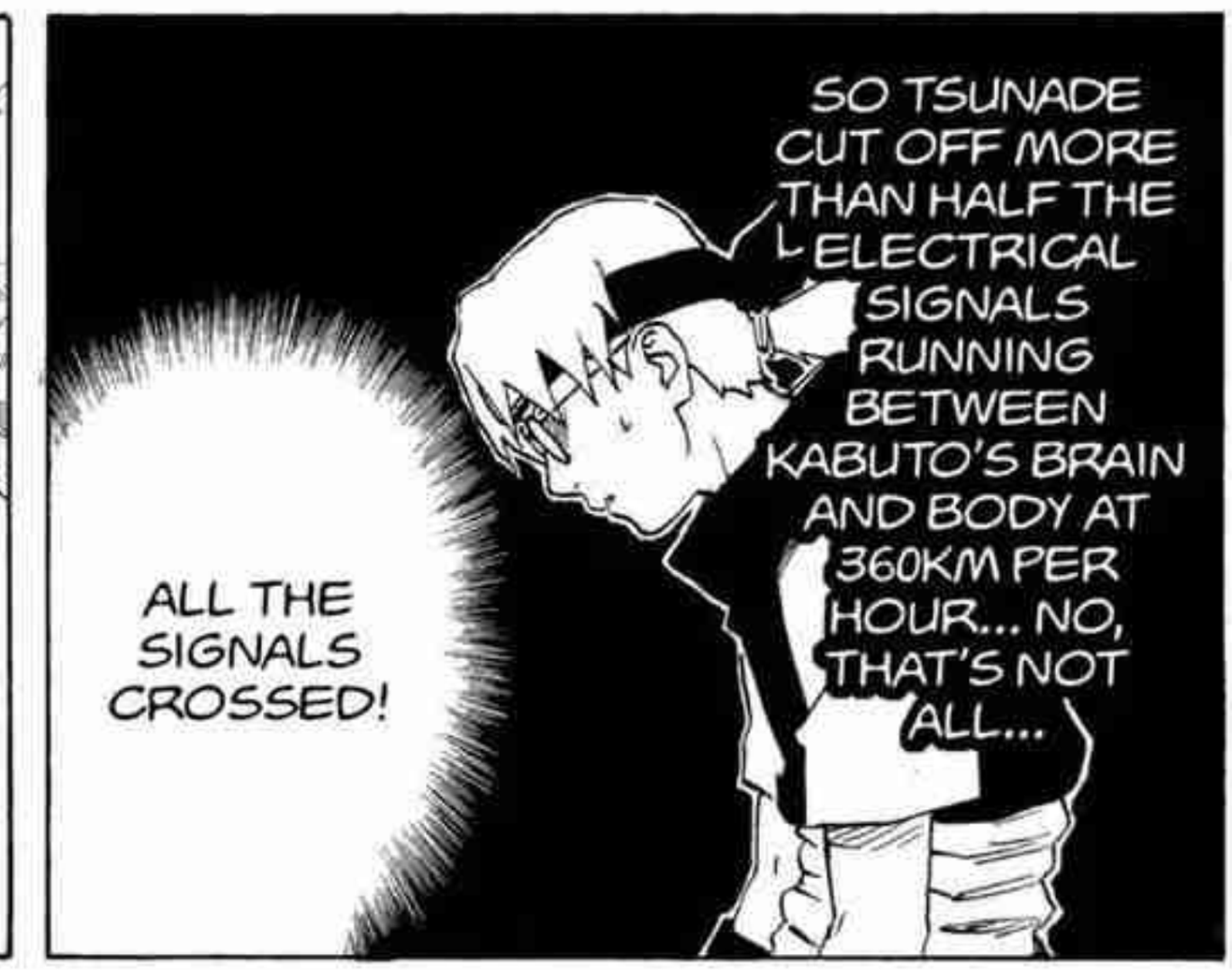
...

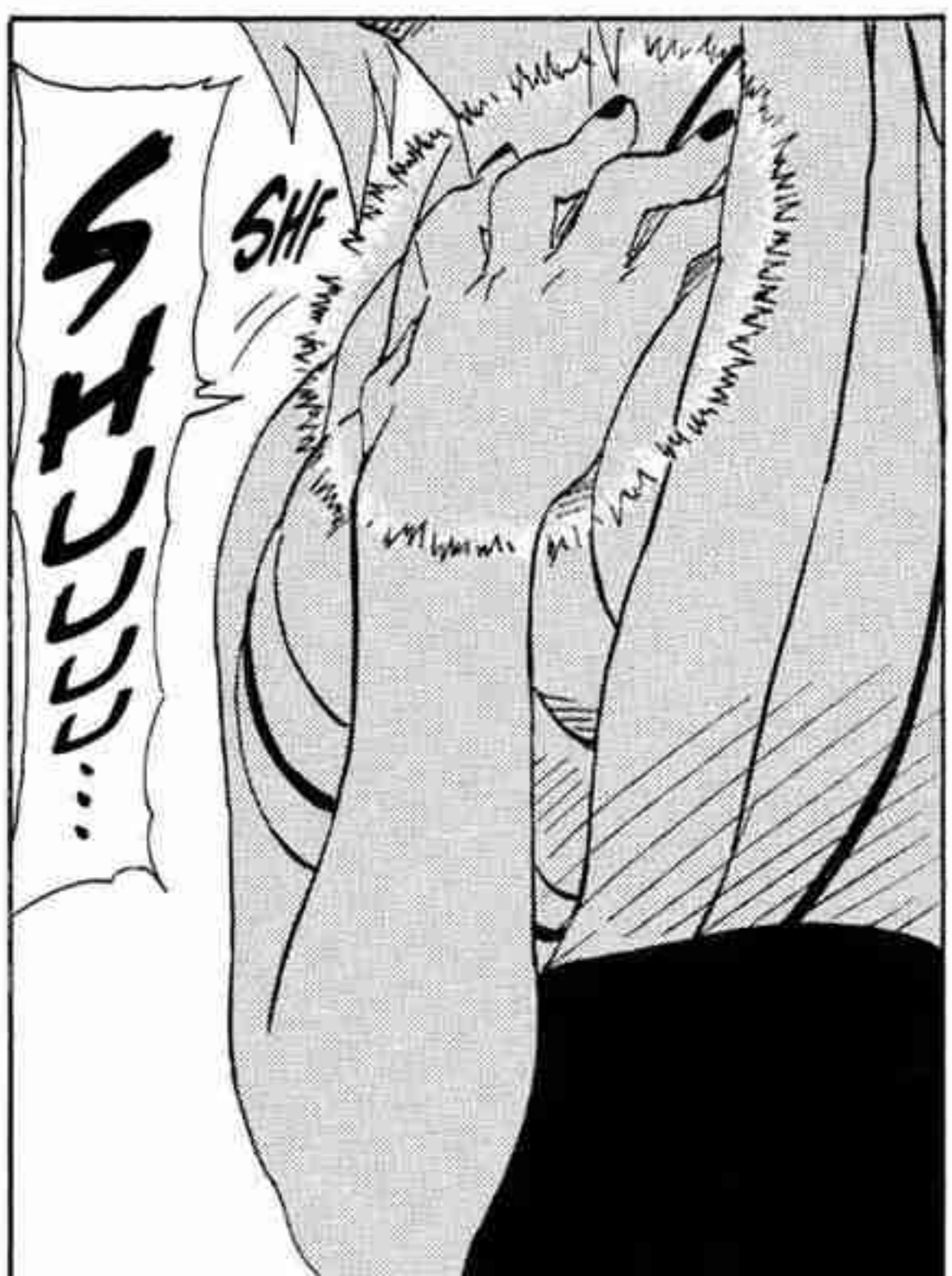
READ THIS WAY

ELECTRICAL SIGNALS CONTROL ALL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE BRAIN AND THE BODY.
HEH HEH... I SEE.

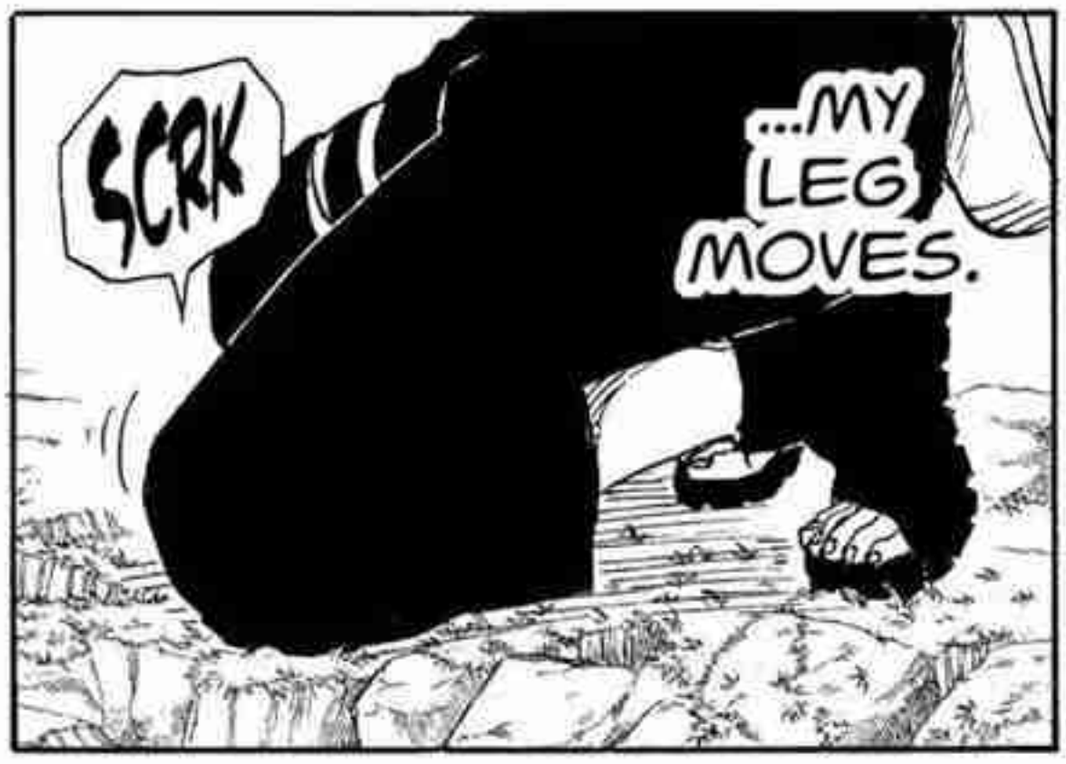

I CHANGED CHAKRA INTO ELECTRICITY TO CREATE AN ELECTRICAL FIELD.
THEN I POURED IT INTO YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
YOU FIGURED IT OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S YOUR NERVES.
HUF

SO THIS IS A LIVING LEGEND ...?
SHE MAY BE RETIRED FROM THE FRONT LINES... BUT WHAT POWER..


SO TSUNADE CUT OFF MORE THAN HALF THE ELECTRICAL SIGNALS RUNNING BETWEEN KABUTO'S BRAIN AND BODY AT 360KM PER HOUR... NO, THAT'S NOT ALL...
ALL THE SIGNALS CROSSED!


SHUUU...
SHF

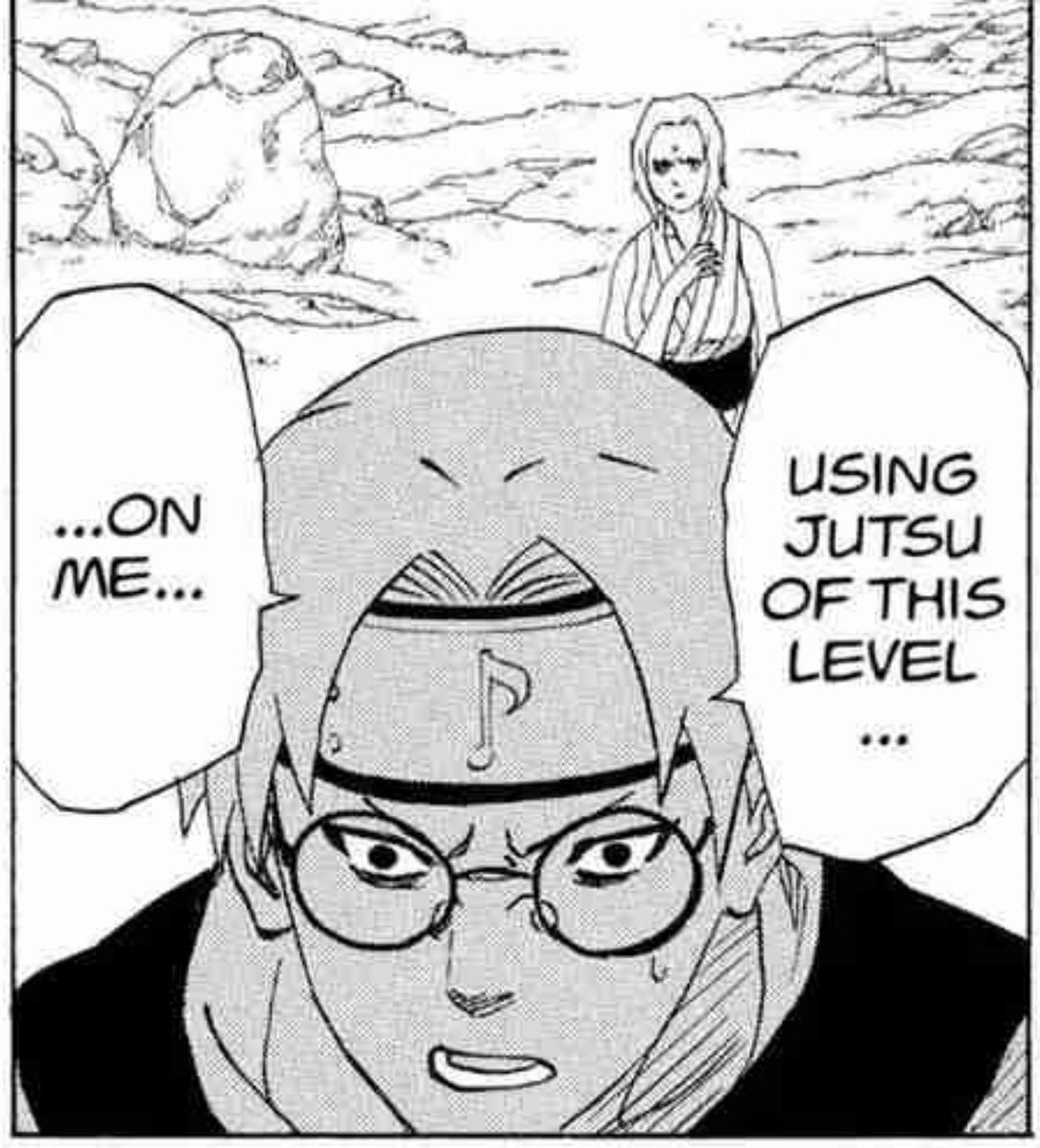
HUF
TSK... MEDICAL NINJUTSU USES UP TOO MUCH CHAKRA...
FWIP
FWIP
WHEEZE


SCRK
...MY LEG MOVES.

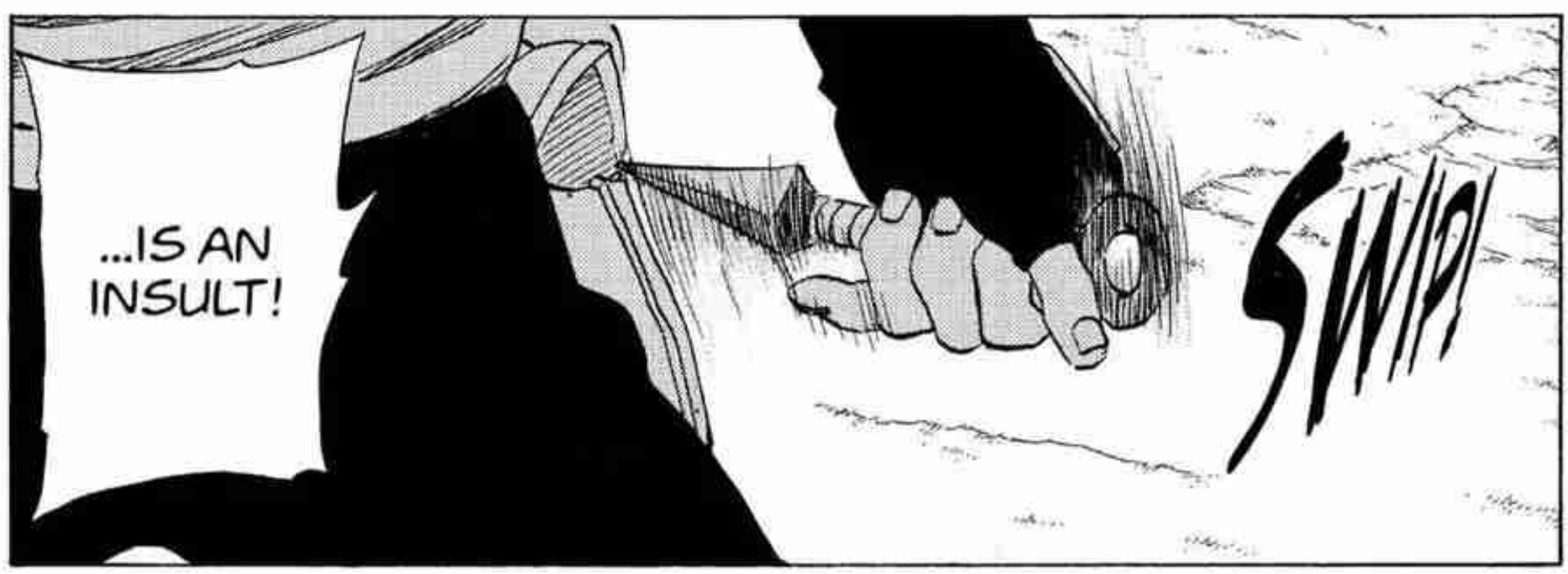
IF I TRY TO MOVE MY HAND ...

KRIK
MY RIGHT SHOULDER MOVES ...

WHEN I TRY TO MOVE MY LEFT ANKLE...


...ON ME...
USING JUTSU OF THIS LEVEL ...

...BUT I FIGURED OUT 80 PERCENT OF IT.
IT'S COMPLI-CATED... WHICH PART CONTROLS WHAT...


...IS AN INSULT!
SWIPE

HOW ABOUT I SHOW YOU SOME?!
YOU'RE AFRAID OF BLOOD, AREN'T YOU?
I'M GONNA SPLATTER AS MUCH OF YOUR BLOOD AS I CAN WHILE KEEPING YOU ALIVE!
DASH

WHAT?! IT ONLY TOOK HIM A SECOND TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MOVE...! THIS KID... HE'S NO AVERAGE NINJA.

BO O F !!

BAM!!

...OROCHI-MARU.
WELL, WELL. LOOKING AS MORBID AS EVER...

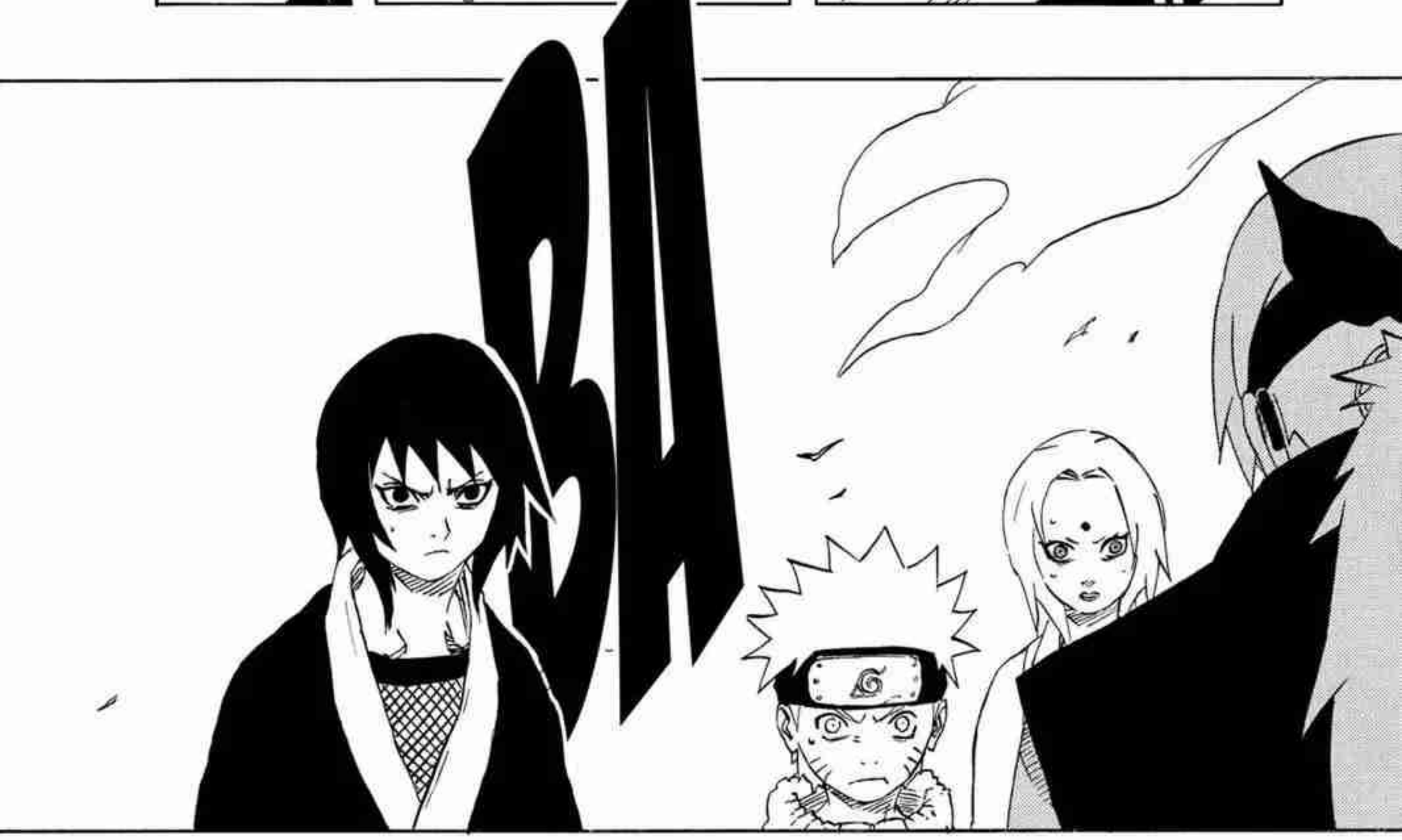
JIRAIYA...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

...

...!

HSSSH

CHIK
TAK



AHHH?!

...
NARUTO.

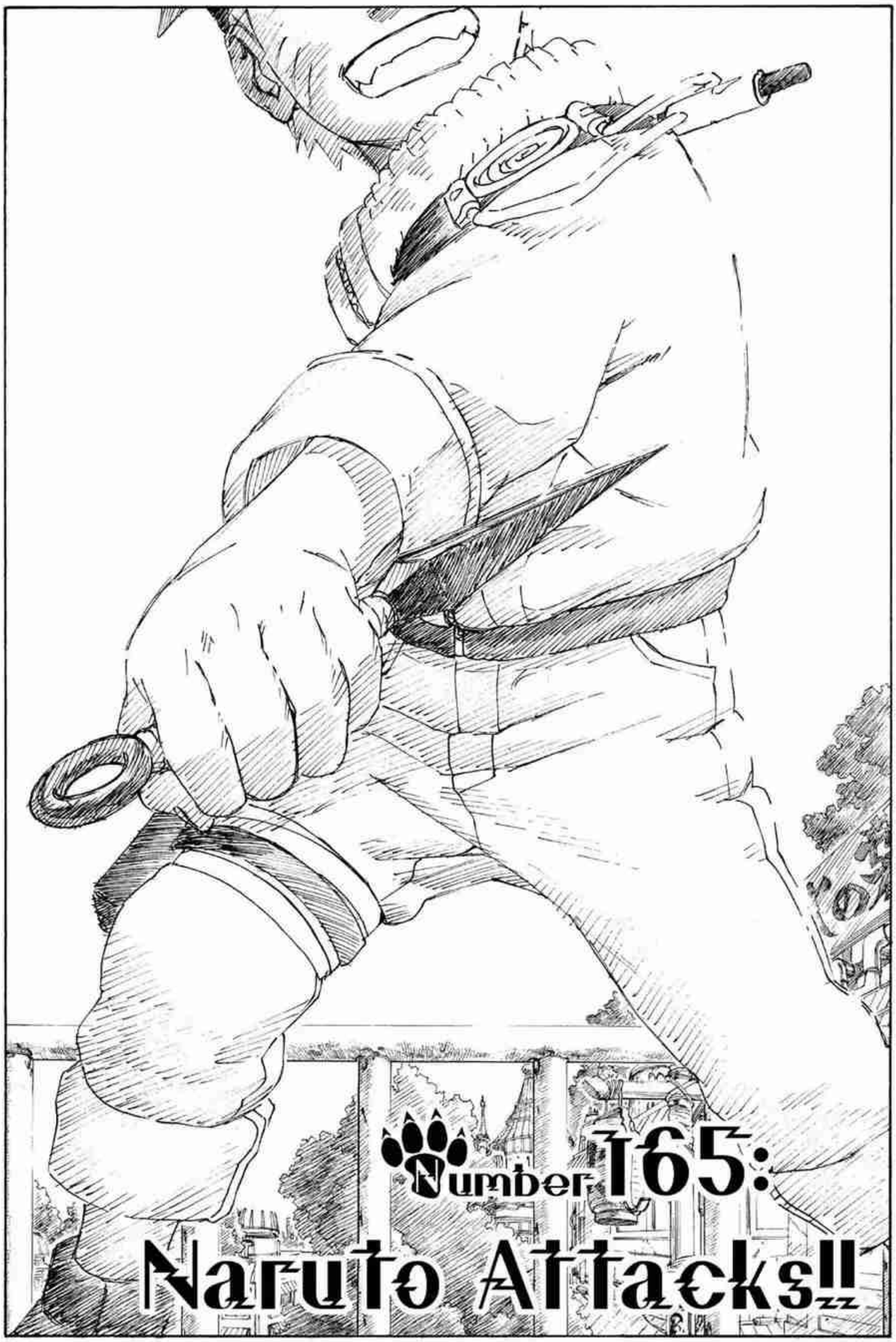
THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 30: NO. 1

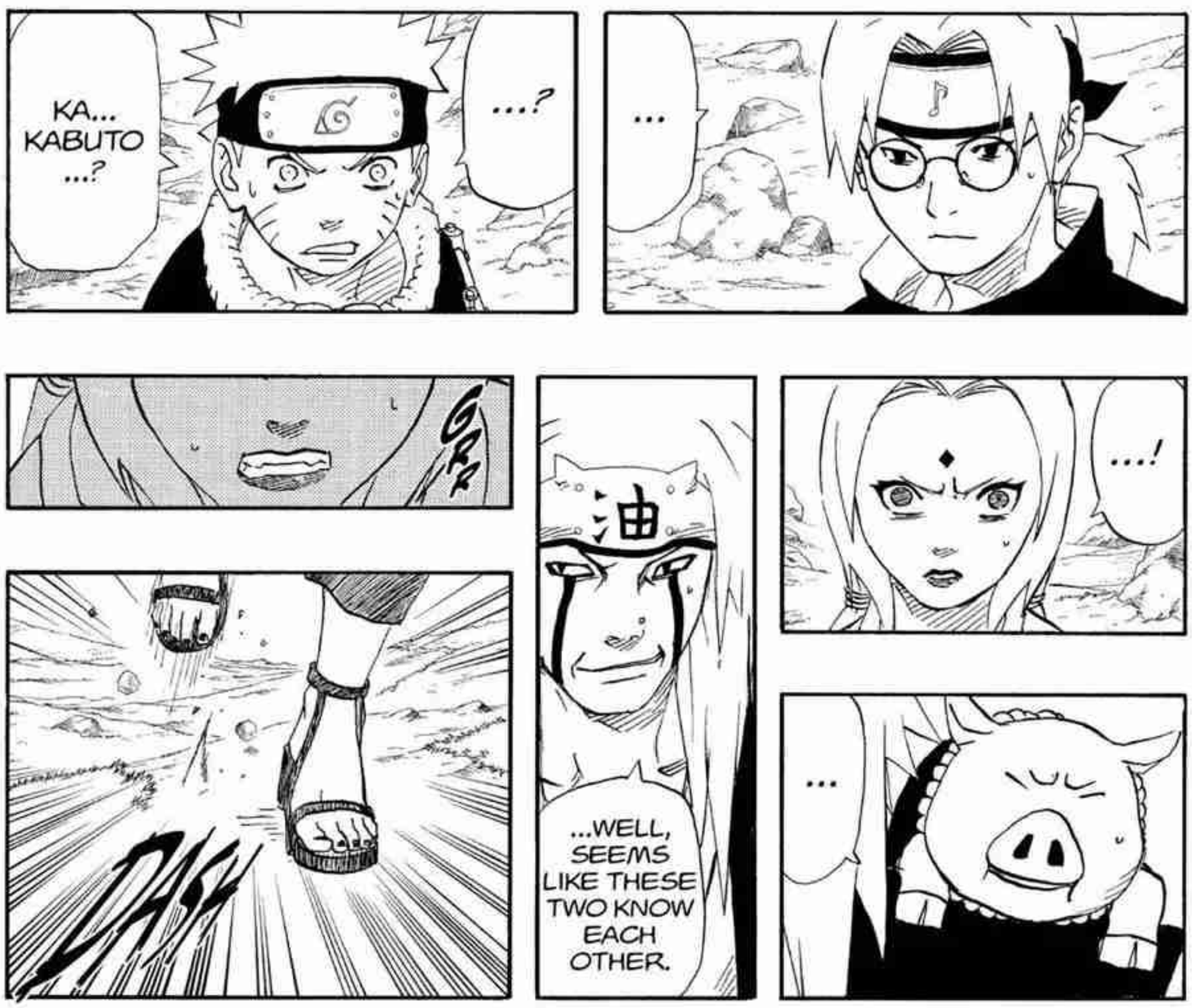
THIS TIME MY STORY IS ABOUT MY DARK AND DEPRESSING YOUNGER DAYS... I WAS A FOURTH YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT AND GRADUATION WAS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. STILL, I HAD MADE NO PROGRESS AT ALL TOWARD BECOMING A MANGA ARTIST. I FELT DOWN ALL THE TIME... I HAD BEEN DRAWING THINGS LIKE BOYS' ACTION AND STUFF, BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DREW IT ALWAYS CAME OUT LOOKING DULL AND TYPICAL. EVERYTHING WAS TOTALLY, UNIFORMLY REJECTED. LOOKING BACK ON THOSE DAYS NOW, I'D SAY THAT THEY WERE PROBABLY THE MOST DIFFICULT OF MY LIFE. CHANGING YOURSELF EVEN A LITTLE REQUIRES MUCH MORE EFFORT THAN YOU THINK... TRANSFORMING MYSELF FROM A YOUNG MAN WHO JUST ADORED MANGA INTO A PROFESSIONAL MANGA ARTIST... THAT WAS A MASSIVE CHANGE FOR ME AND IT REQUIRED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF ENERGY.

HAVING DREAMT ABOUT BECOMING A MANGA ARTIST, I FELT A LITTLE TRIUMPHANT AFTER RECEIVING A MANGA AWARD. I FELT AS THOUGH I HAD COME CLOSER TO BECOMING A PRO. I HAD NO INTENTION OF SHOWING OFF MY AWARD, AND I DON'T THINK THAT I DID. HOWEVER, DEEP DOWN I WAS THINKING, "WELL, I CAN RELAX A BIT NOW. AFTER ALL, I'VE WON AN AWARD."

BUT EVEN NOW I SOMETIMES THINK THAT WAS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE. LIKE I SAID, CHANGING ONESELF TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY. BUT MY RECEIVING THAT AWARD DIDN'T MEAN THAT I HAD CHANGED THROUGH MY OWN EFFORTS; IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION THAT MADE IT LOOK THAT WAY. AT OUR FIRST MEETING, MY EDITOR MR. YAHAGI GAVE ME A WORD OF ADVICE: "IT'S AFTER YOU WIN AN AWARD THAT THE HARD PART COMES...." OVER TIME I CAME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANT.

I THINK NOW THAT WINNING AWARDS OR NOT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER VERY MUCH. WINNING AN AWARD DOESN'T MAKE YOU A PRO. YOU'RE ONLY A STEP UP FROM BEING JUST A MANGA LOVER. A TRUE PRO IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT THING. I KNOW THAT NOW. BUT THAT IS A TRAP THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST BEGUN THEIR CAREERS AS MANGA ARTISTS TEND TO GET CAUGHT IN. I'M NO EXCEPTION, AND IT TOOK ME A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT TO GET OUT OF THAT TRAP... BUT THAT'S A STORY I'LL CONTINUE ANOTHER TIME... BOY...THAT'S A DISMAL STORY...


Number 165:
Naruto Attacks!!


...
...?
KA... KABUTO ...?
...!
GRR
...WELL, SEEMS LIKE THESE TWO KNOW EACH OTHER.
...

READ THIS WAY
HEY...
BAM

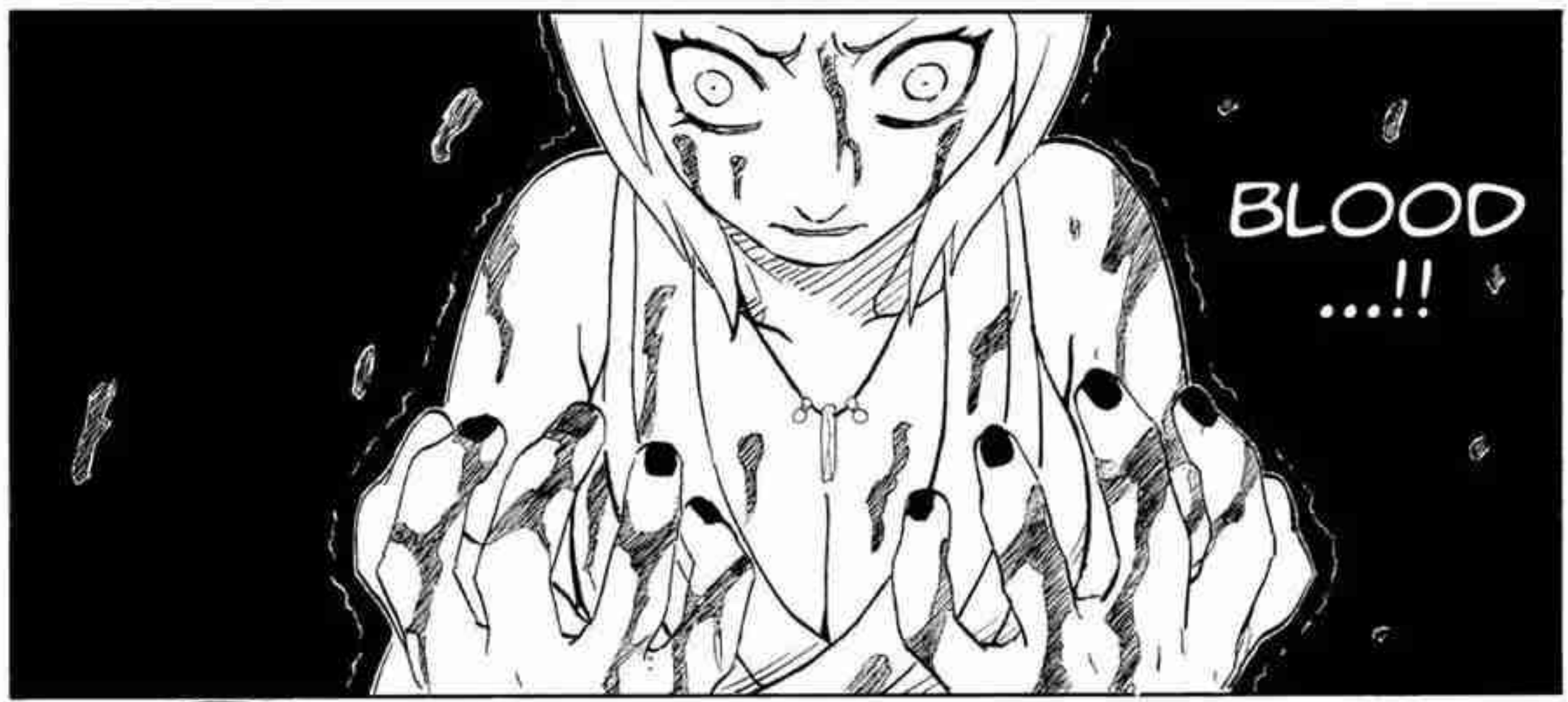
OUTTA THE WAY!
GUH!
!
SOK

...
SWA

SHAK

?!

PLIP PLIP PLIP


BLOOD ...!!

TAKING ON TWO OF THE GREAT SHINOBI IS TROUBLE... AT LEAST ONE NEEDS TO BE...
I'M BACK IN CONTROL!
SSH

TAK

!

TSU-NADE!!

HEY! HEY!

WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING GRANNY TSUNADE, KABUTO?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

NOT TOO SHARP, ARE YOU, NARUTO?

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T TAKE ON SASUKE.

!

HE'S OROCHI-MARU'S...

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT KABUTO'S HEAD-BAND!

ELIMI-NATED!!

...!

THAT'S RIGHT... I'M AN OTOGA-KURE SPY.

!
I COLLECTED INFO ON YOU TOO, NARUTO. ...AND I DISCOVERED SOMETHING.

WHA... WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
GOOD LUCK, EVERY-ONE. GIVE IT YOUR BEST!

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A SHINOBI.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM SASUKE.

...

...!

FWA

SHIVER

SHIVER
SHIVER

SHIVER SHIVER
I'VE NEVER SEEN TSUNADE LIKE THIS...

...

...PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT ALL ON YOURSELF.

I'M HERE TO SERVE YOU.

GLARE

RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TINY BUG...
IF YOU GET IN MY WAY...

SURE, I EXPECTED SOMETHING FROM THAT DEMON SEALED INSIDE YOU.
BUT NOW, BEING FACE TO FACE WITH THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI, YOU'RE A TOTAL DISAP-POINTMENT.
PUT ON AS TOUGH A LOOK AS YOU WANT...
YOU'RE JUST AN OUT-OF-PLACE LITTLE GENIN.

I'LL KILL YOU.

READ
THIS
WAY

HIS HAND...
FUP

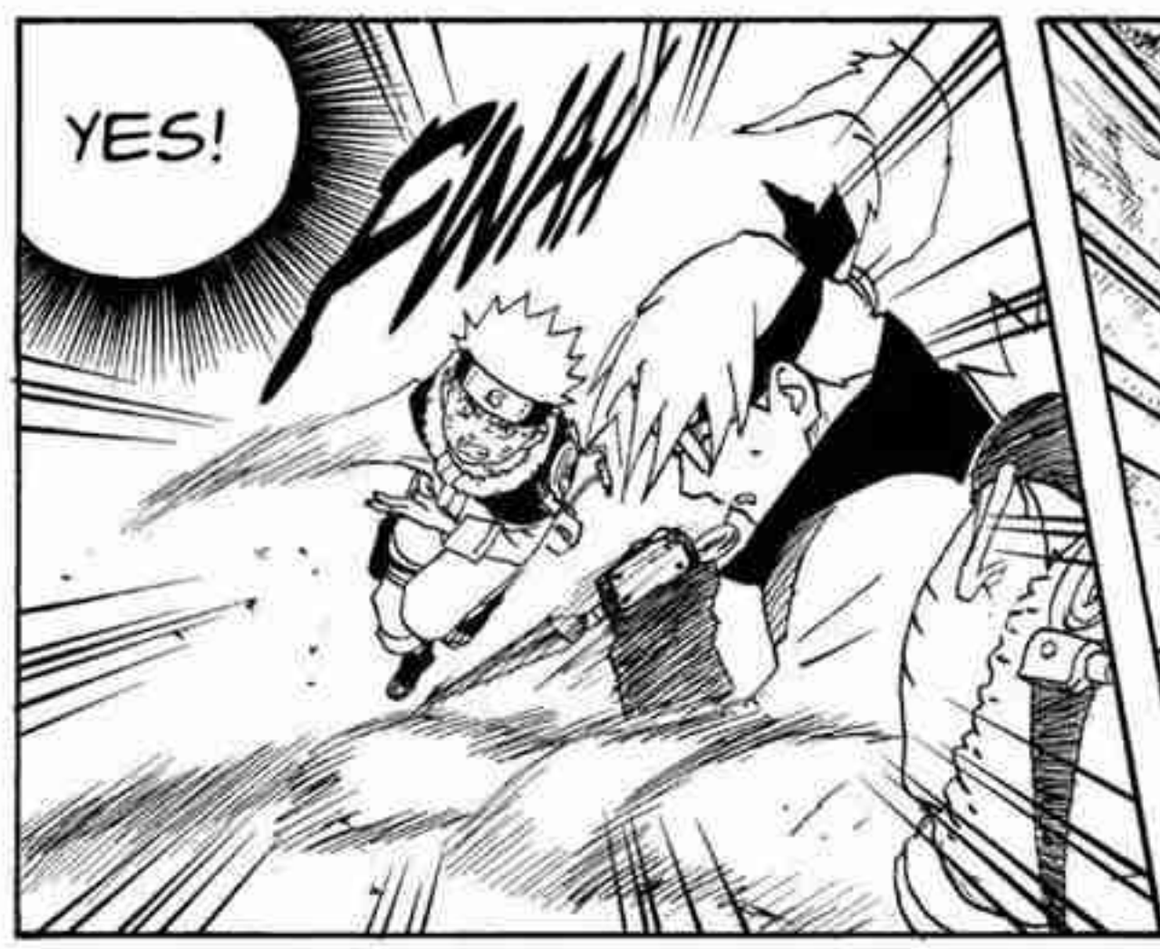
UGH! I HAVEN'T RECOV-ERED...
DON'T!
DASH

SO I'LL RUSH HIM WITH FOUR AT ONCE!!
I CAN'T WASTE CHAKRA BY CREATING TOO MANY CLONES.
KAGE-BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!!
ONNNNG...

KABUTO CAN'T USE HIS RIGHT HAND!!
PLIP
PLIP

!

I'LL HIT 'EM FROM THE RIGHT WHERE HE CAN'T GUARD!



BRR
SWP
BLOOD ?!
WHAT?
!!!
SPLAT
SPLAT
CLINK
GRAB
GUH!!
STOMP
STOMP
UGH!!

KO

GUH!!

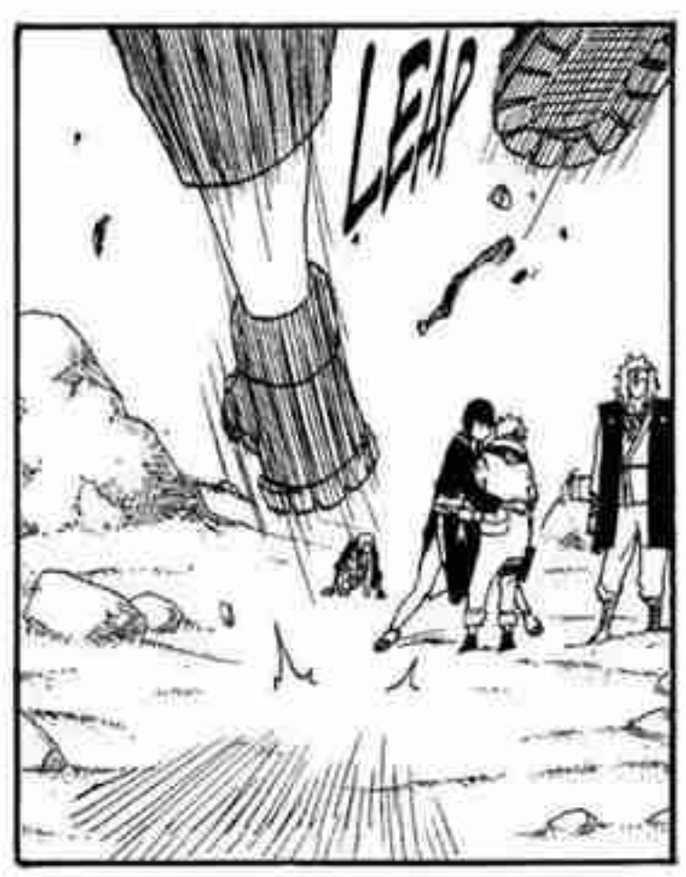
THWAK
SWAA

BOOF
BOOF
BOOF

UGH... MY REACTION SPEED IS SLOW...!
!
PHT PHT

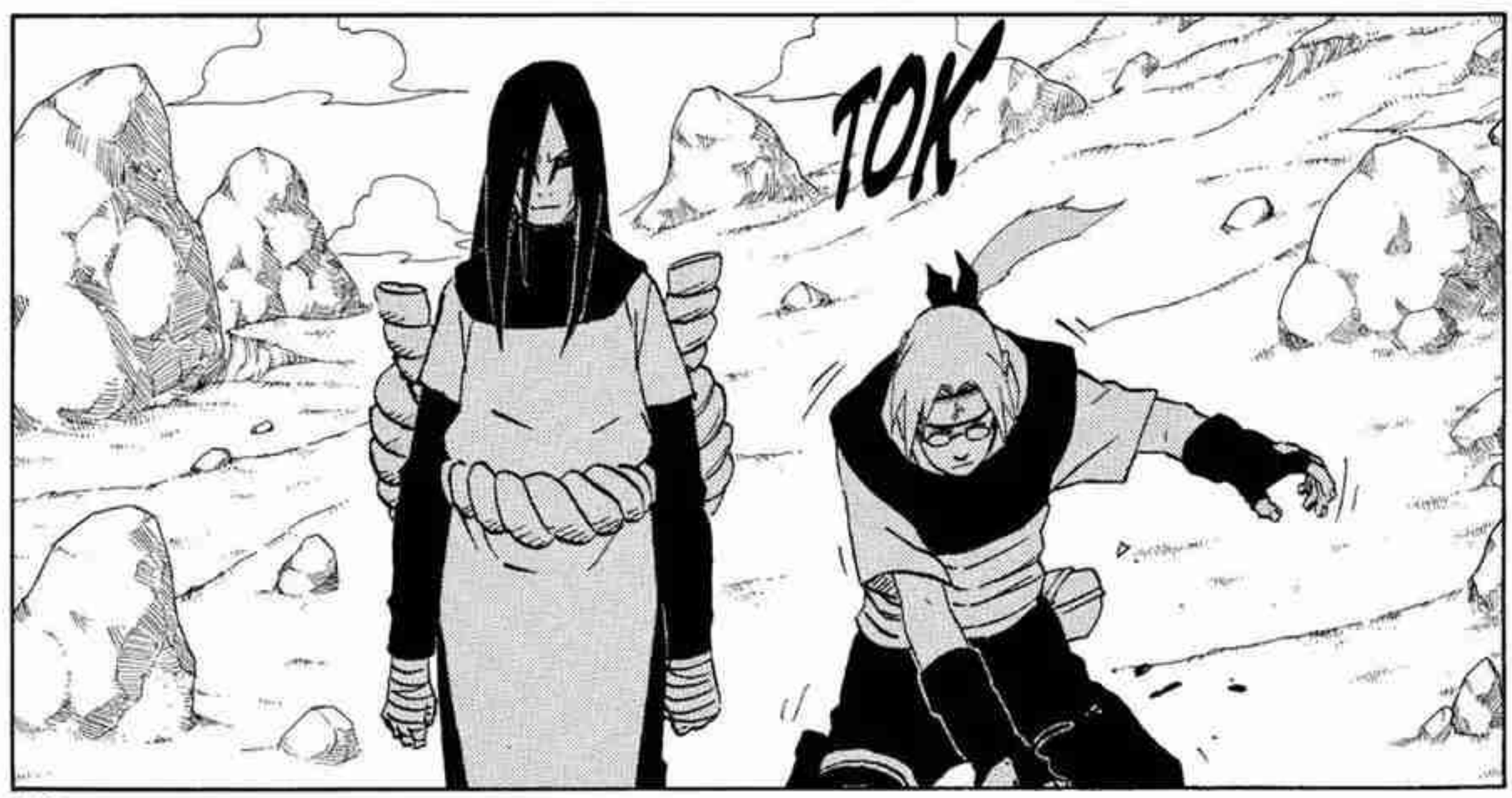
TNK
TNK

GLARE
AKK


LEAP

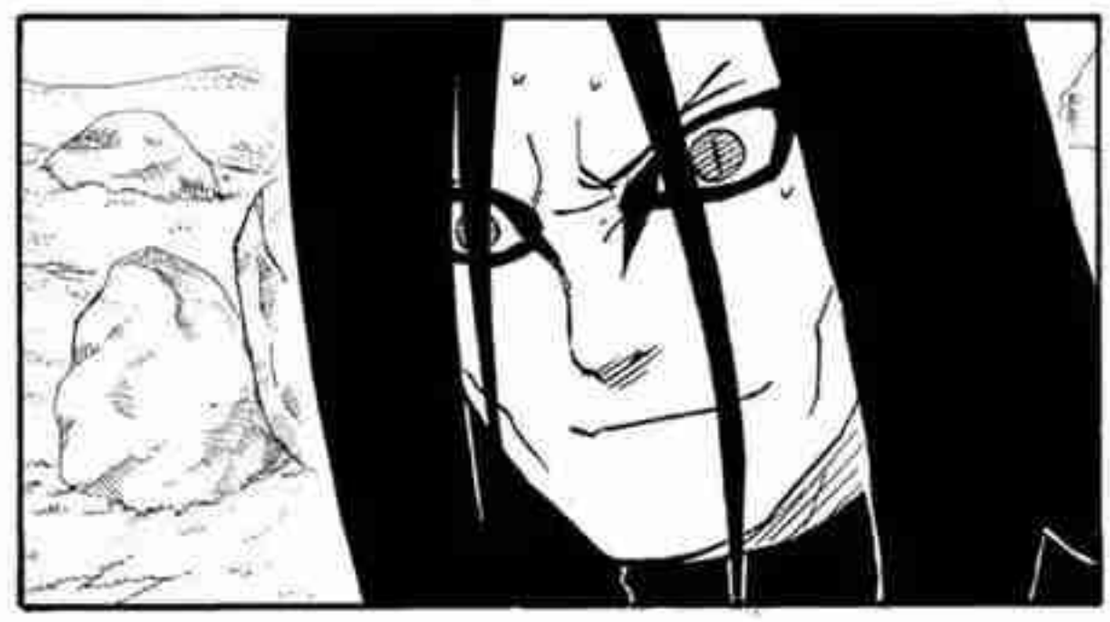
...

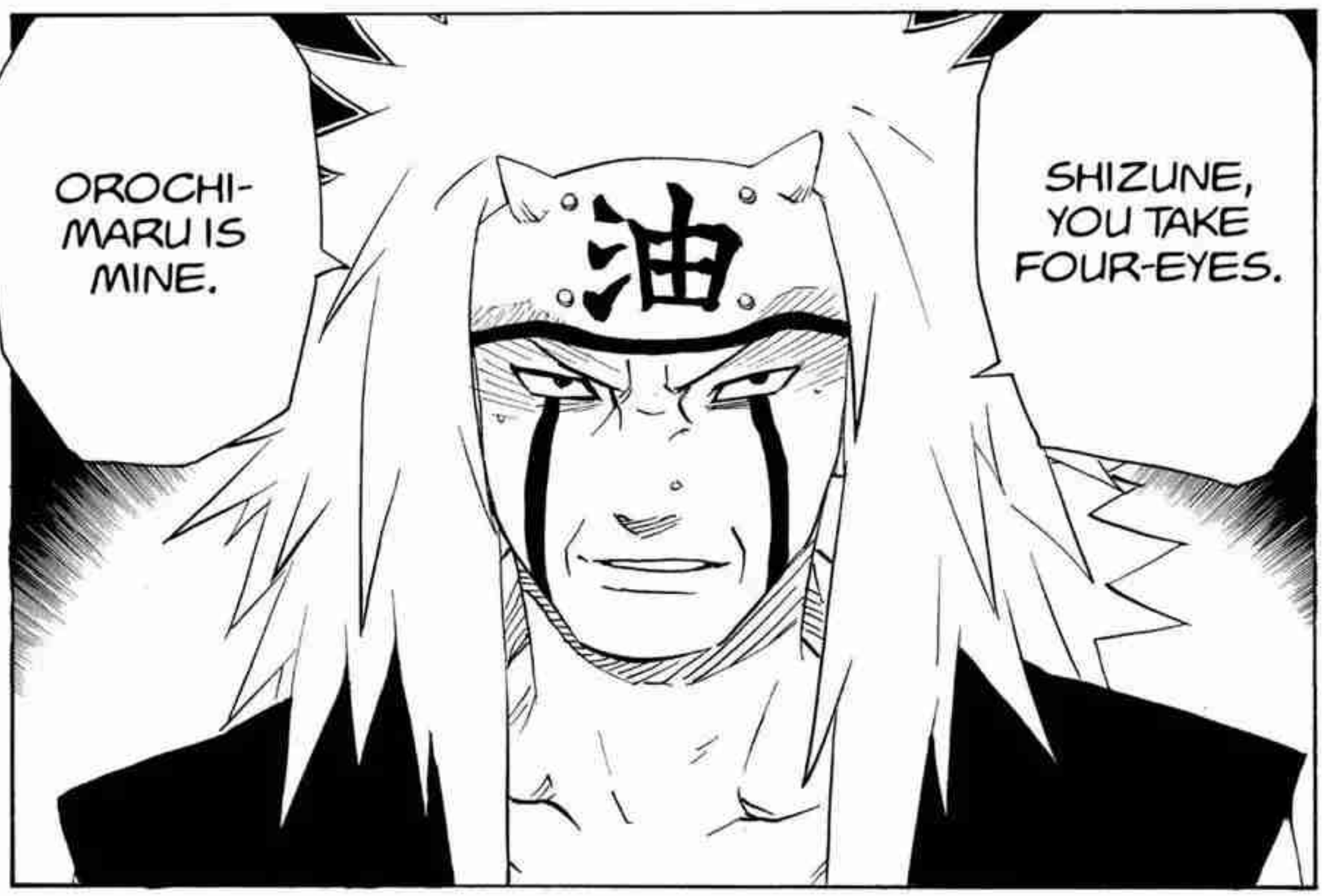
BLOCKING WITH HIS HEAD-BAND...!
TAK


TOK

HUF
PLIT PLIT
SHF
HUF
SHF
HE'S A MEDICAL NINJA LIKE ME...
PLASMA PILL...?!
THANKS, SHIZUNE!
CRUNCH CRUNCH
UN-BANDAGE YOUR LEFT ARM, PLEASE.
YOU'RE BLEEDING PRETTY GOOD, KABUTO...

SO THAT'S... OROCHI-MARU...
...




OROCHI-MARU IS MINE.
SHIZUNE, YOU TAKE FOUR-EYES.
油

ARGH! I'VE GOT NO CHOICE...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO...

NOT EVEN I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
...THAT MEDICINE WILL PROBABLY AFFECT YOU FOR SEVERAL MORE HOURS.

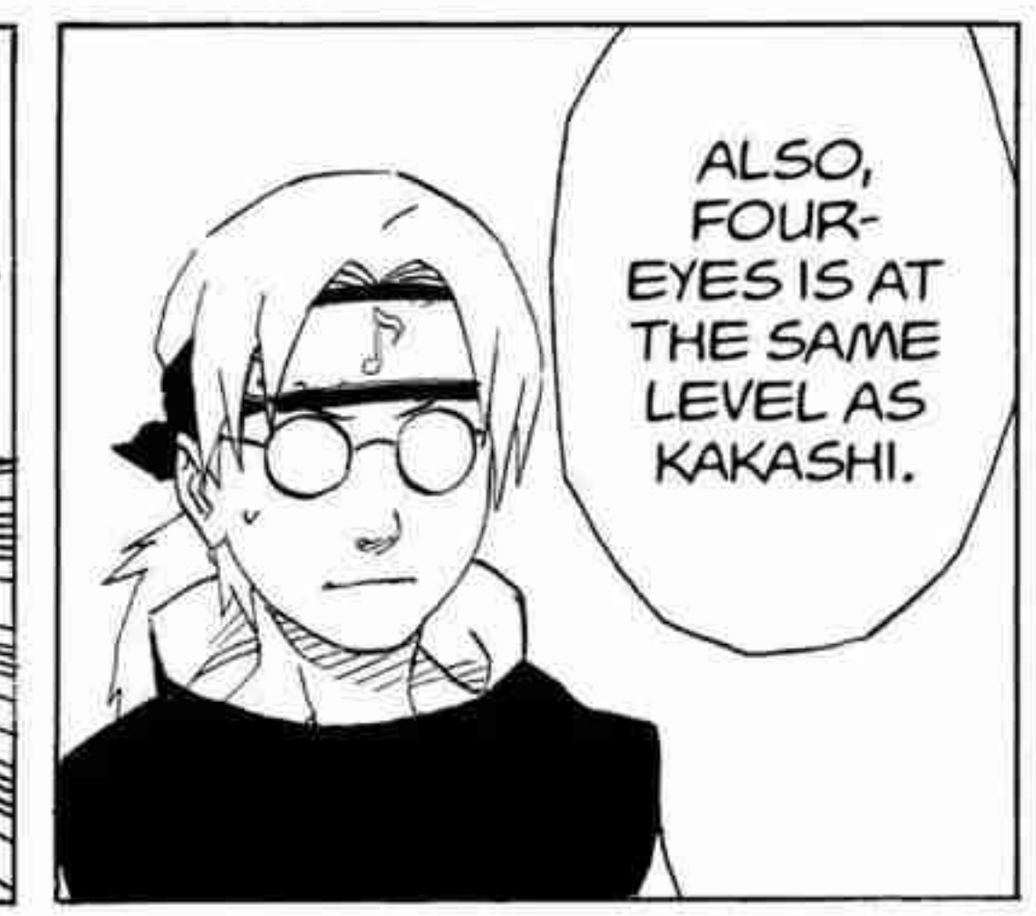
I NEED TSUNADE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY CONDITION...
...BUT BEFORE THAT...

I CAN...
WHAT? I WANNA FIGHT, TOO!
NO!

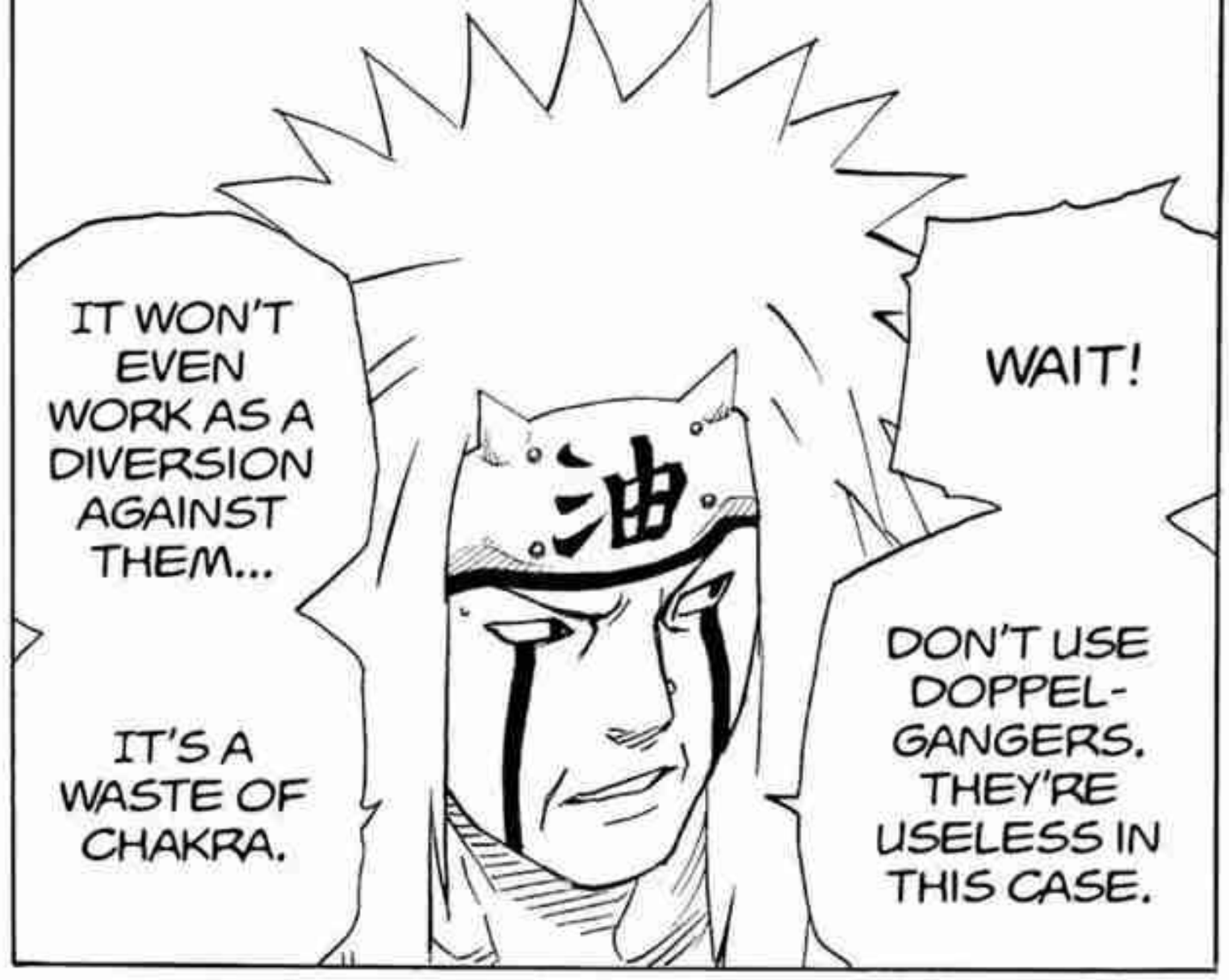
TSUNADE... YOU REST WITH YOUR RECOVERY NINJUTSU.
YOU AND PIGGY STAY HERE AND PROTECT TSUNADE.
HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME?
OINK

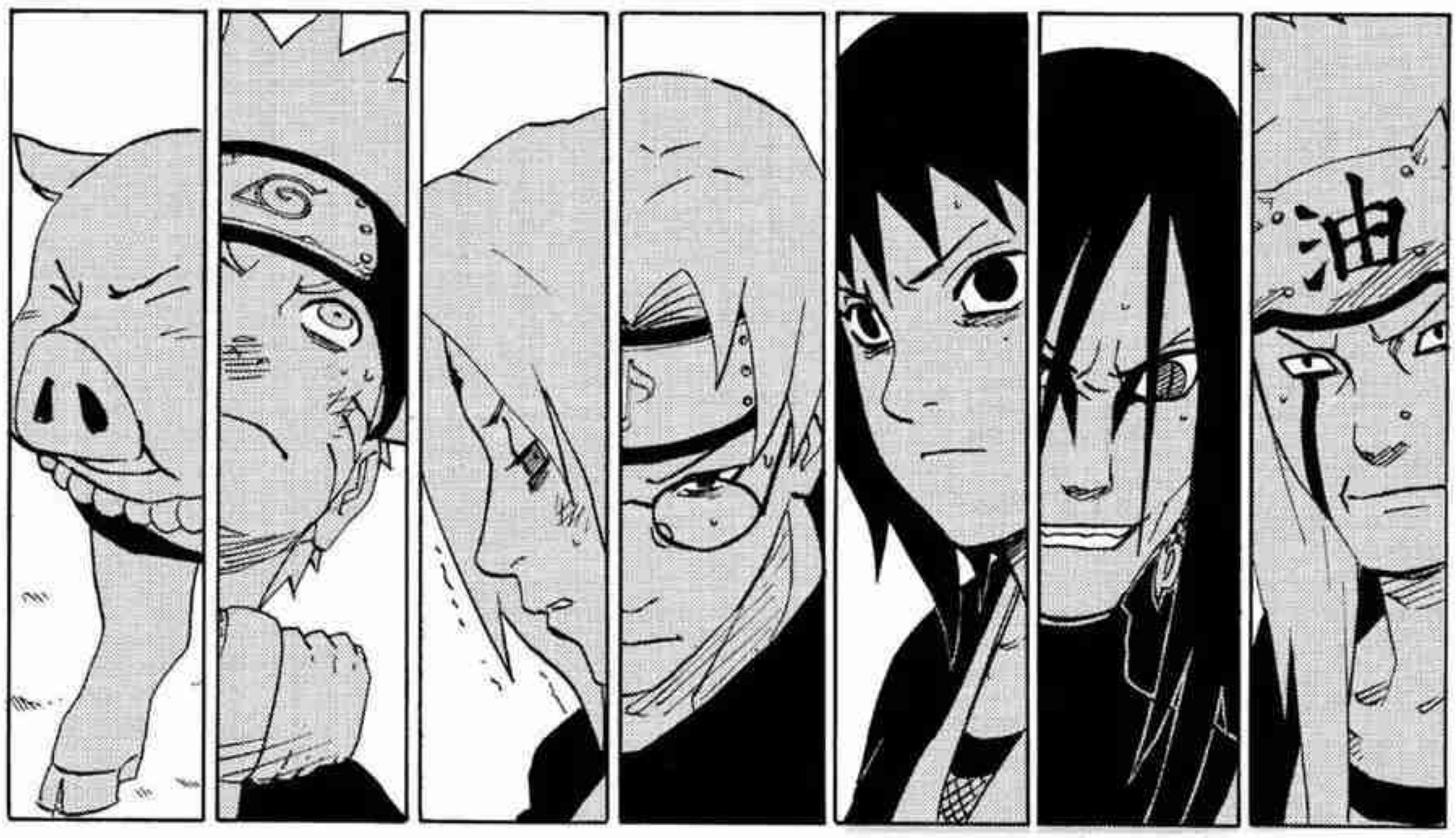
OROCHI-MARU'S ONE OF THE LEGENDARY THREE LIKE ME, AND THE THIRD HOKAGE'S KILLER.
AN EYE FOR AN EYE! AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.
LIKE FOUR-EYES OVER THERE SAID...
YOU'RE NOT AT THAT LEVEL YET.

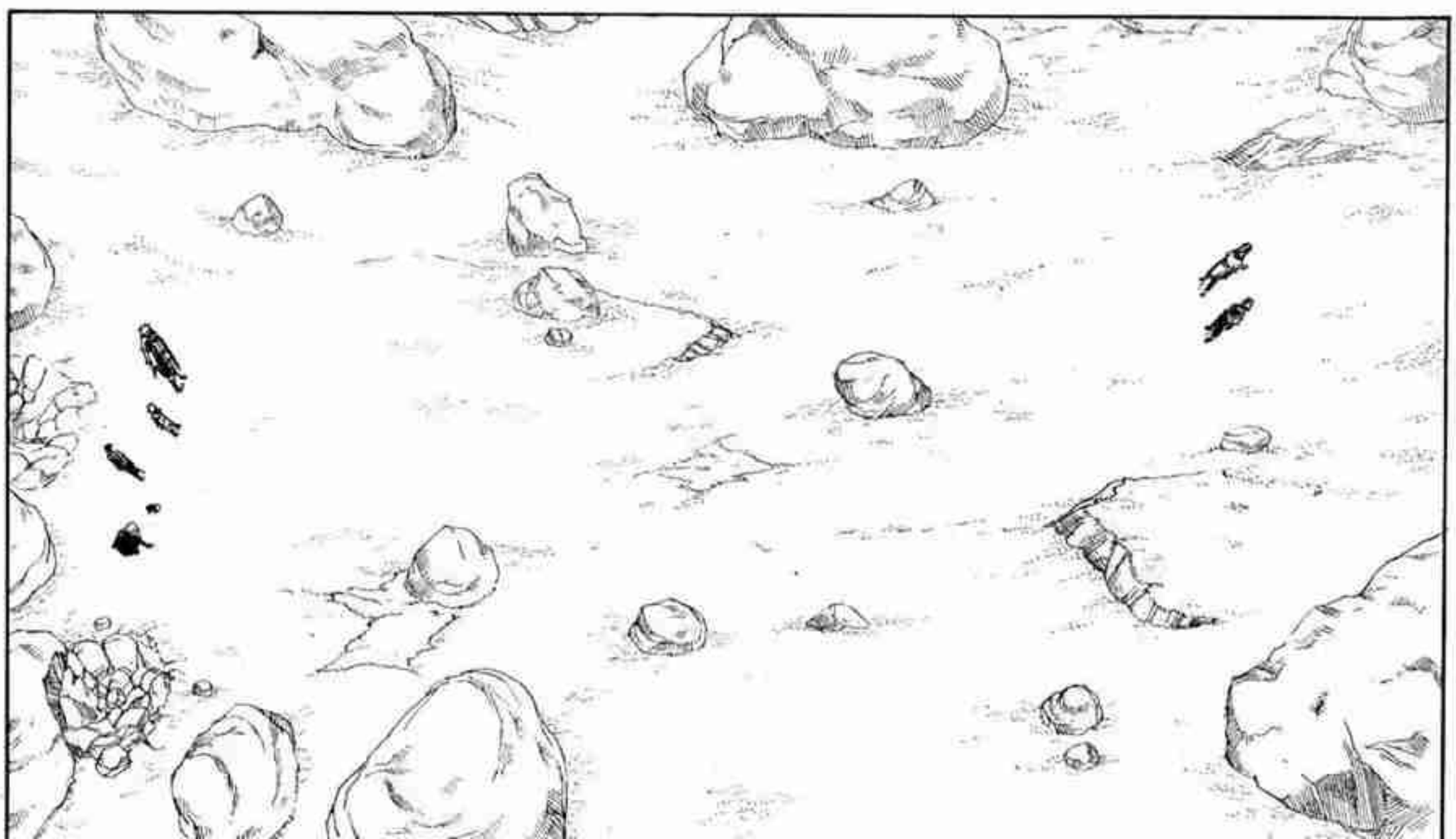
FWIP
WELL, THEN...


ALSO, FOUR-EYES IS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS KAKASHI.

UGH...

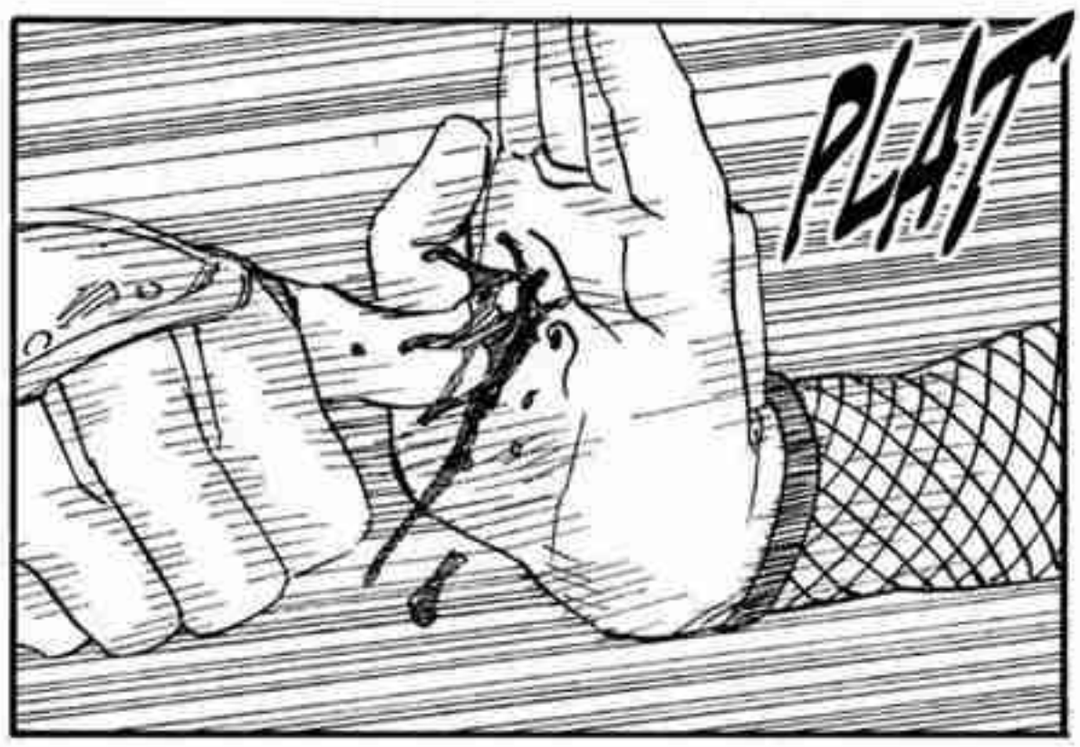

IT WON'T EVEN WORK AS A DIVERSION AGAINST THEM...
IT'S A WASTE OF CHAKRA.
WAIT!
DON'T USE DOPPEL-GANGERS. THEY'RE USELESS IN THIS CASE.
油

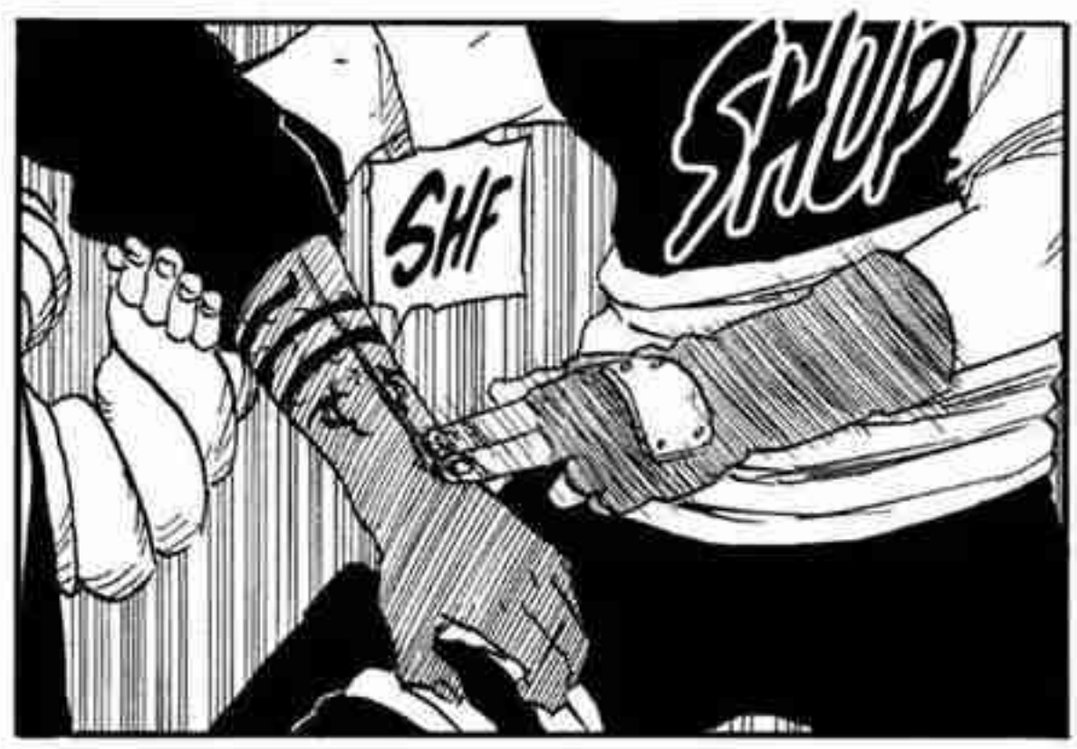

油

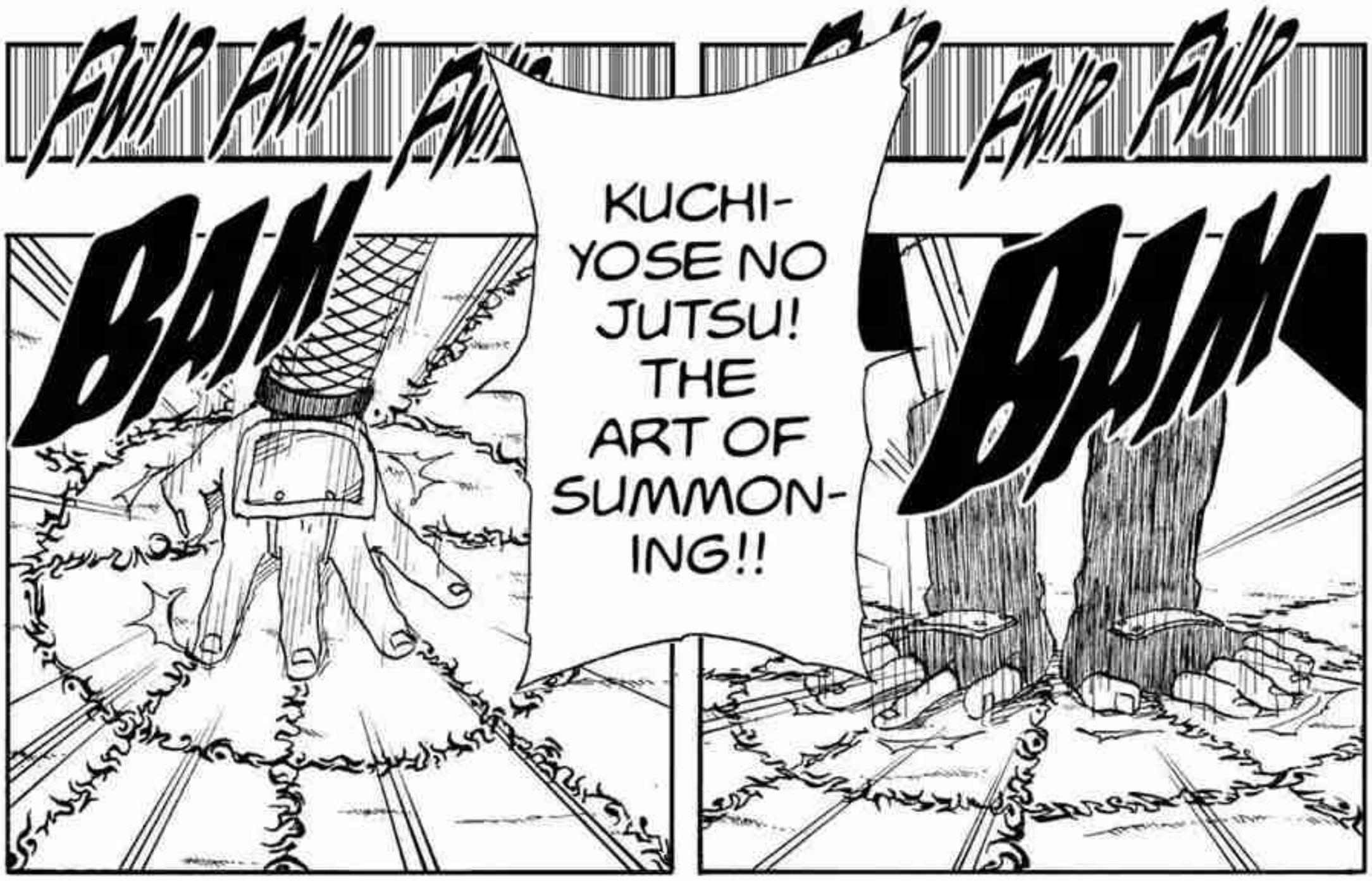


CHOMP

PLAT

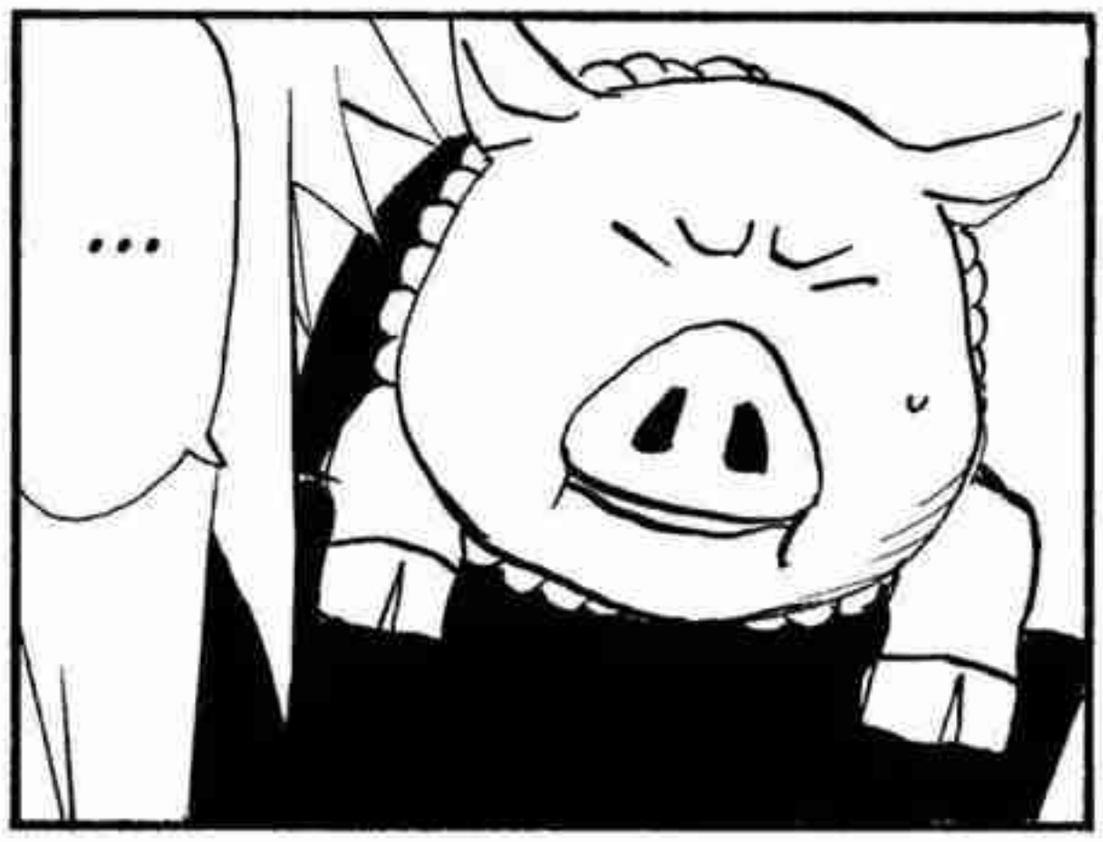

PLAT


SHF
SHUP


FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
BAM
KUCHI-YOSE NO JUTSU! THE ART OF SUMMON-ING!!
BAM

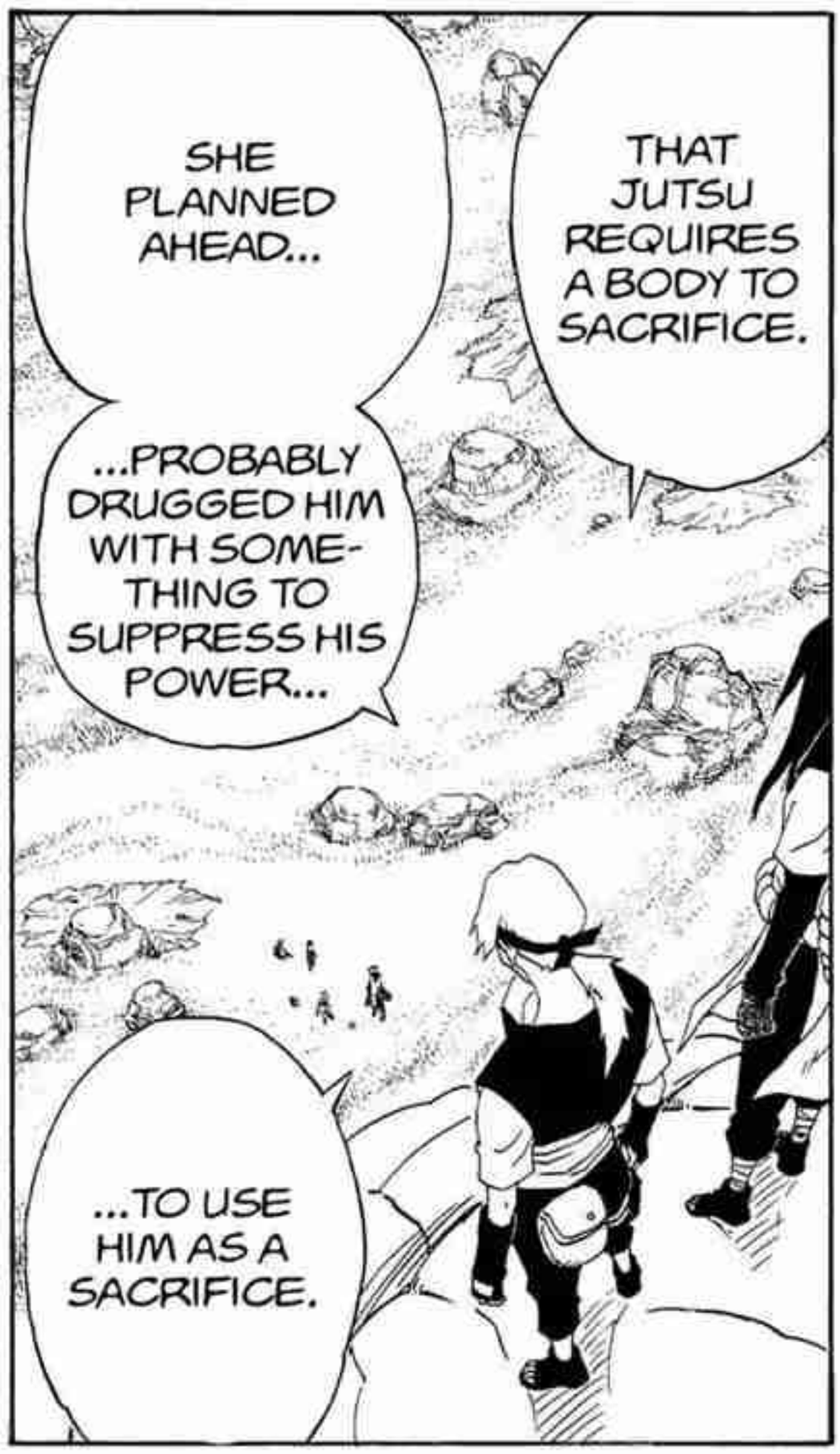
POOF

HEY!
EHHH!!!
...
WH-WHAAT ?!
...BECAUSE OF THE MEDICINE ...
JIRAIYA CAN'T MANIPU-LATE CHAKRA WELL YET...
TIME I MADE... MY MOVE!
THERE'S STILL NO CURE FOR STUPIDITY... JIRAIYA.



Number 166: Shinobi Skills...!!

HMPH


SHE PLANNED AHEAD...
THAT JUTSU REQUIRES A BODY TO SACRIFICE.
...PROBABLY DRUGGED HIM WITH SOMETHING TO SUPPRESS HIS POWER...
...TO USE HIM AS A SACRIFICE.

TSUNADE MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO YOU... HEHEH.
EVEN FOR AN OAF LIKE YOU, THAT'S PATHETIC.

FWIP FWIP FWIP

I CAN'T STAND HEARING PERVY SAGE GETTING INSULTED LIKE THAT!
CHOMP

PATHETIC AS ALWAYS...

THEY'VE ALREADY DETECTED MY WEAKNESS...!
HMPH ...

BA

THE ART OF SUMMON-ING!!

I LET HIM GO THEN OUT OF CONSIDER-ATION FOR THE AKATSUKI...

I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM...

IT'S THAT NINE-TAILED FOX KID FROM THE CHÛNIN EXAM...

IF HE CAN CONTROL THE NINE-TAILED FOX'S POWER...

IT SEEMS SO...

YOU MEAN THAT NARUTO'S SEAL... JIRAIYA HAS ALREADY...

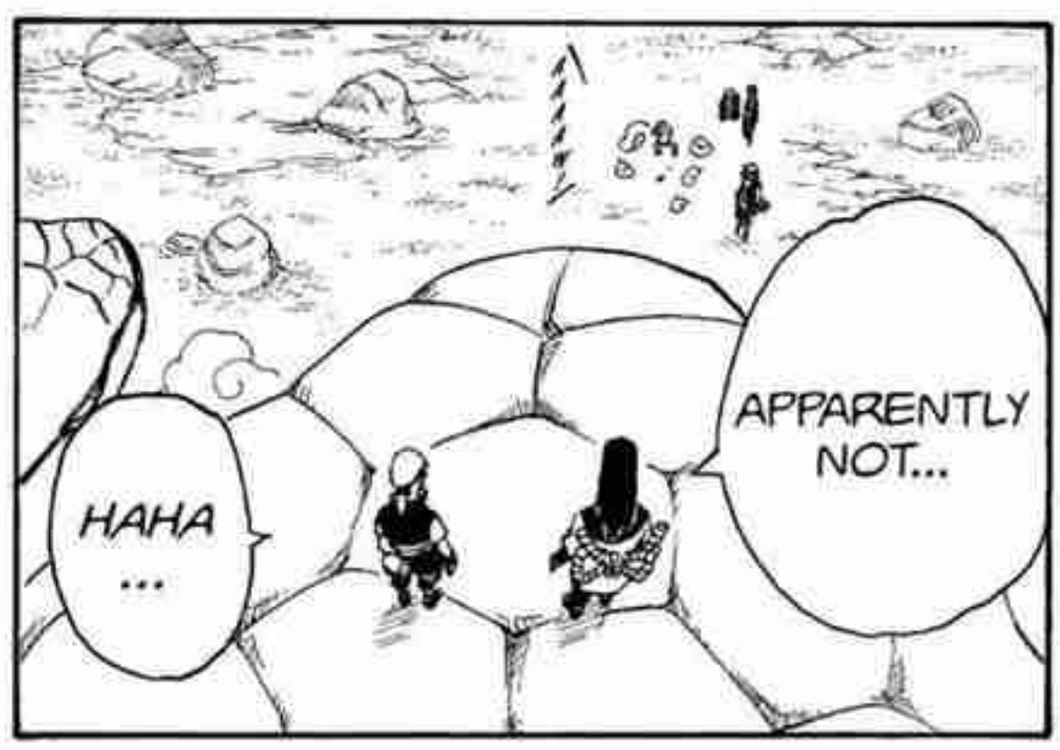
...BY CERTAIN SHINOBI, INCLUDING MYSELF, AND THE THIRD HOKAGE...

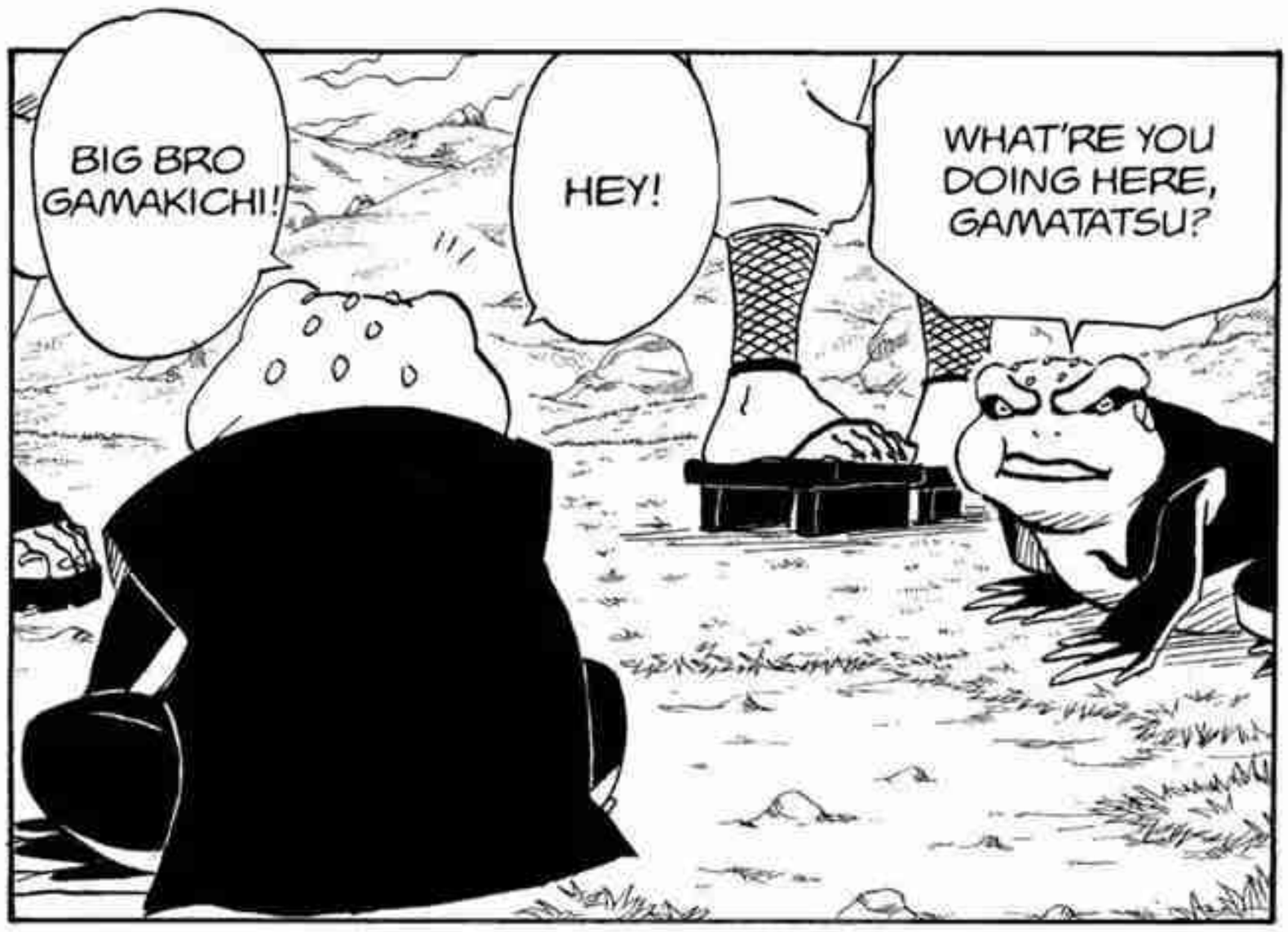
BUT THE FIVE-PRONGED SEAL CAN ONLY BE REMOVED...

POOF

...!!

WHY ?!
WHAT'S UP?
HE NEVER HAD MUCH TALENT AS A SHINOBI ANYWAY...


HAHA ...
APPARENTLY NOT...


BIG BRO GAMAKICHI!
HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, GAMATATSU?

...
HE'S STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO...!

HUH?! MUNCHIES?

WOO HOO!

GAH ...

GAACK

DIMWIT! JUST GRAB SOME MUNCHIES AND HIDE!

...I'LL DO MY BEST, I GUESS...

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME BEING SUMMONED ...

I WANTED TO FIGHT JIRAIYA, ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI...

...TOO BAD, REALLY...

TMP

I'LL TAKE JIRAIYA...

TMK

ররররর

THE REST I'LL LEAVE TO YOU.

!
!
TAK
SHUUM
!!
SHH
AAH
!!
GAH!
TAK

READ THIS WAY
EARTH STYLE...
HSSS
I AM YOUR OPPONENT!
!!
!
YOMINUMA! DARK SWAMP!!
!!!

RRRUM
BLE
BUT... THIS BOGGED THE SNAKE DOWN.

THE MEDICINE IS STILL AFFECTING ME.
CAN'T SINK THE SNAKE WITH A PUNY SWAMP LIKE THAT...
TSK!

PHT THP TH

WHAM
!!
TAK

ZWIP

SHOOOH

NINJA ART: DOKUGIRI! POISON MIST!

GAH...

PO

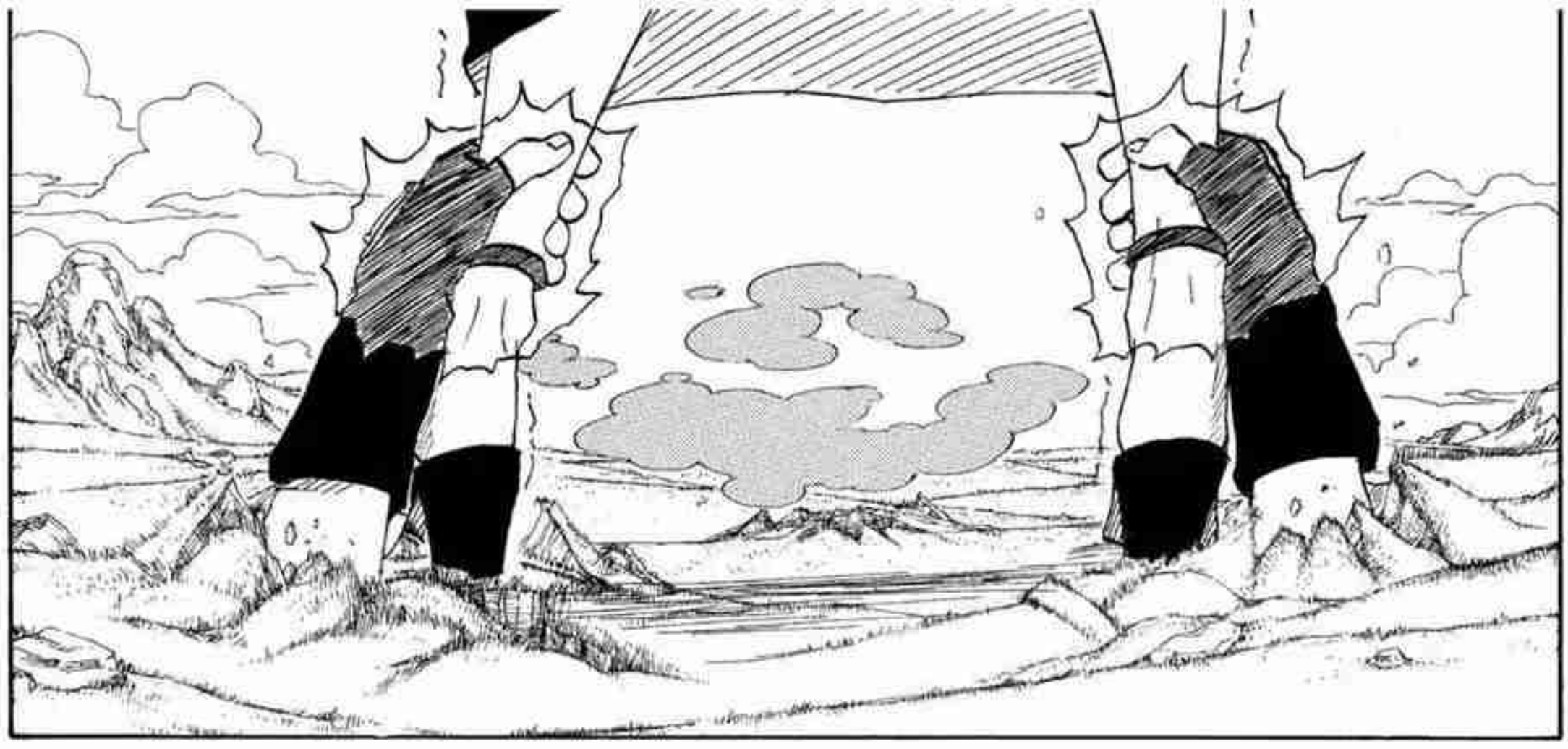
OFF

EVEN ONE WHIFF AND I'M FINISHED...

!

!!

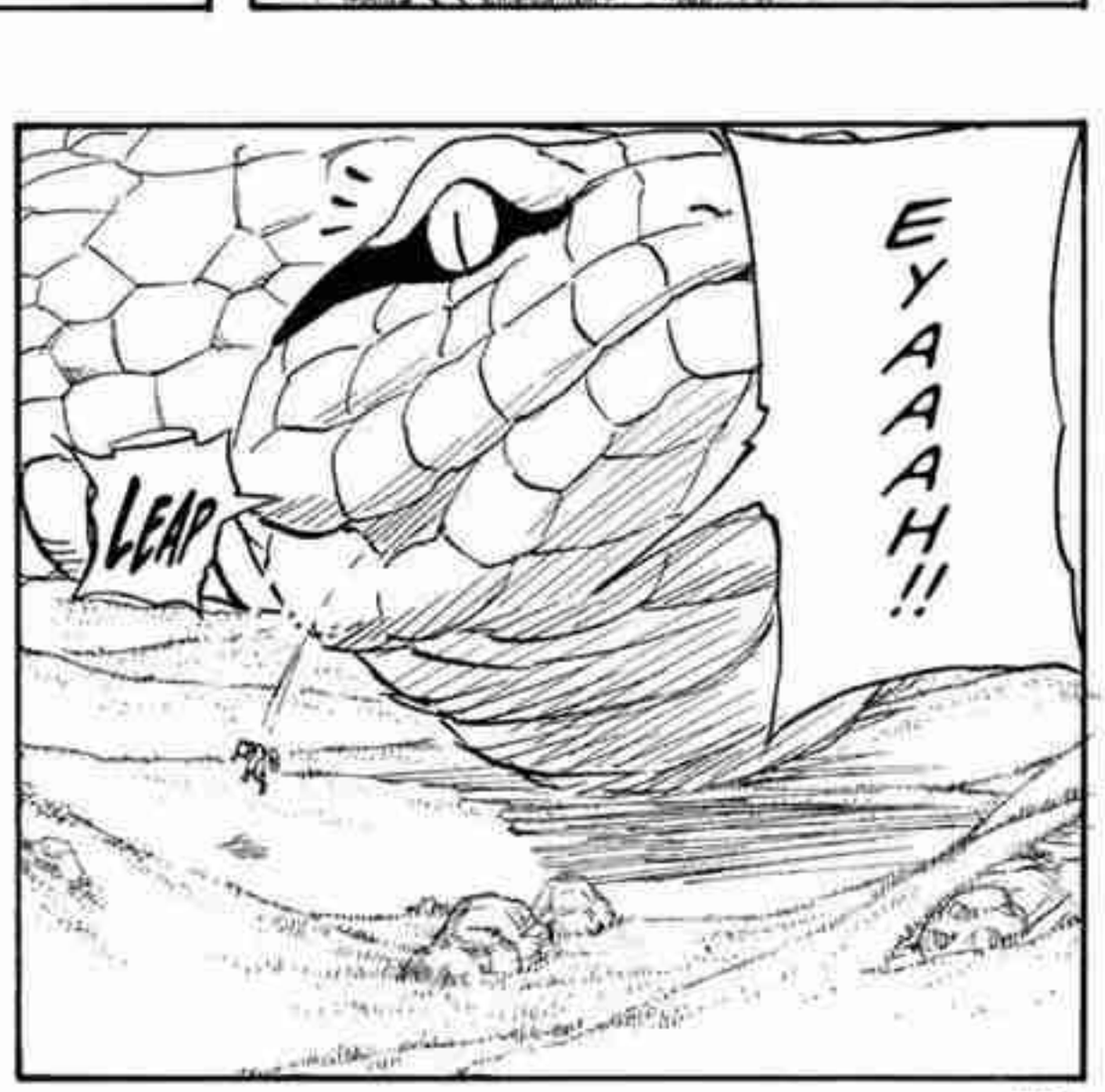
...



I'M NOT GONNA GET EATEN AGAIN...
GAAAH ...
GRRR

MY ANKLE TEN-DONS ...!
ARGH!
THUD
SKIDDD

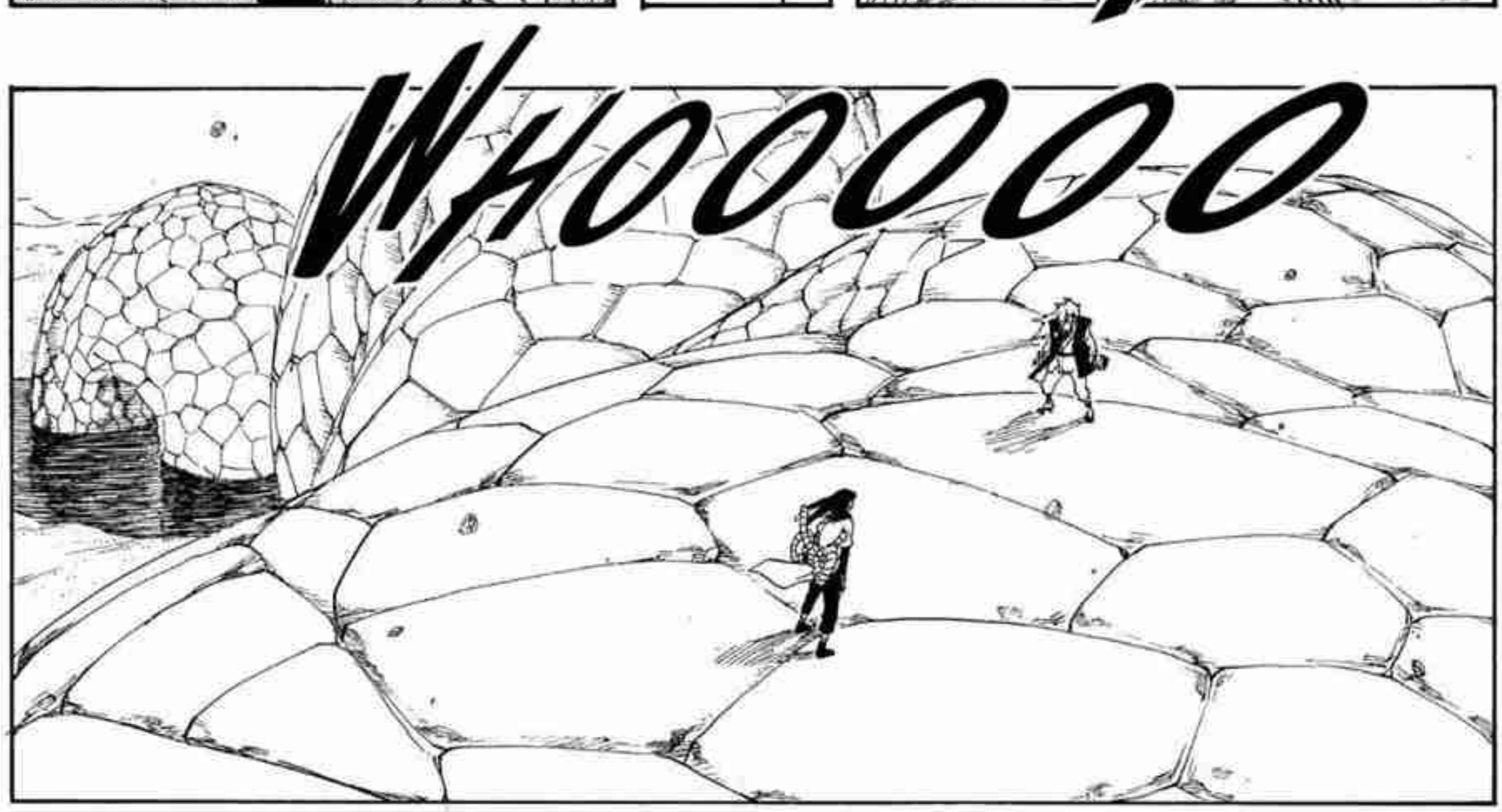
GAH
!


EYAAAH!!
LEAP

MY LEG ...!!

KRIK KRAK
ARG!

BO
OH
WHOAAA!!


WHOOOOO

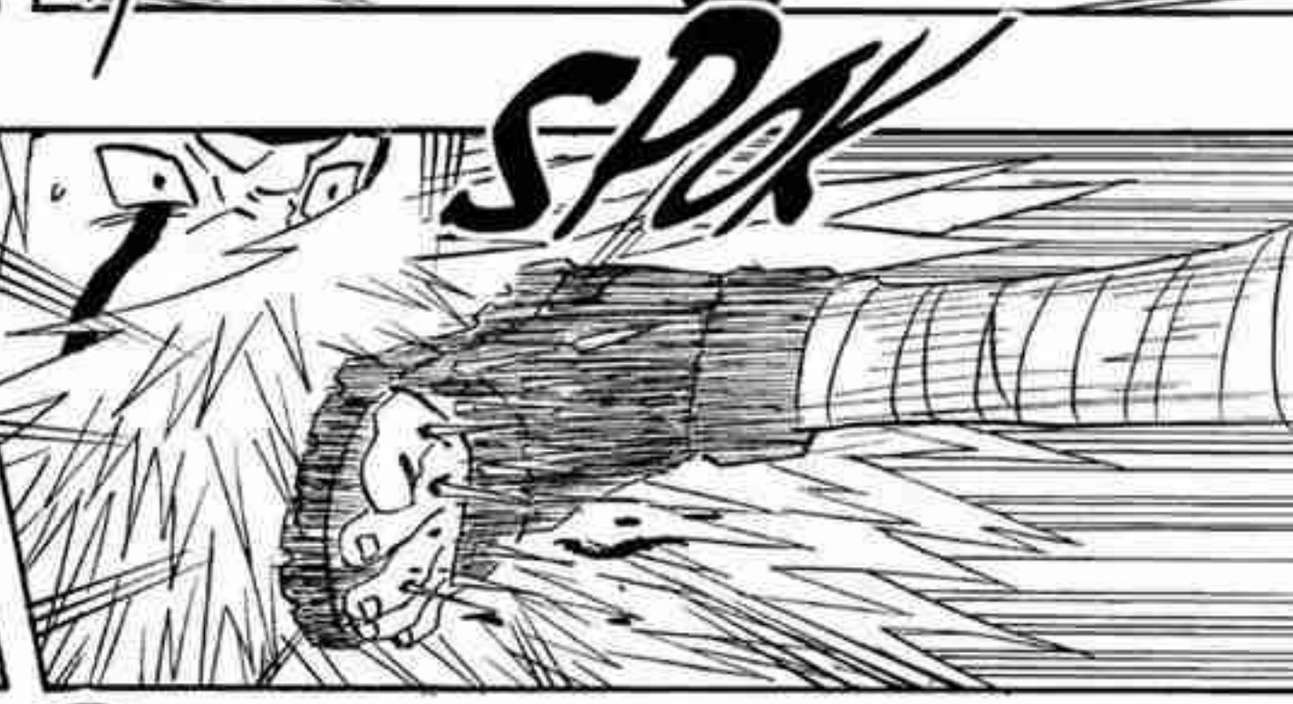
DASH

FWAP FWAP
FWIP
FWIP

NINJA ART:
NEEDLE
JIZO!!

SPIK

SQUEEZE
SHF


SPIK

!!

READ THIS WAY
GIVE IT UP.
EVEN WITH US BOTH HAVING HANDICAPS, IT'S NO CONTEST ...
GAK GAK

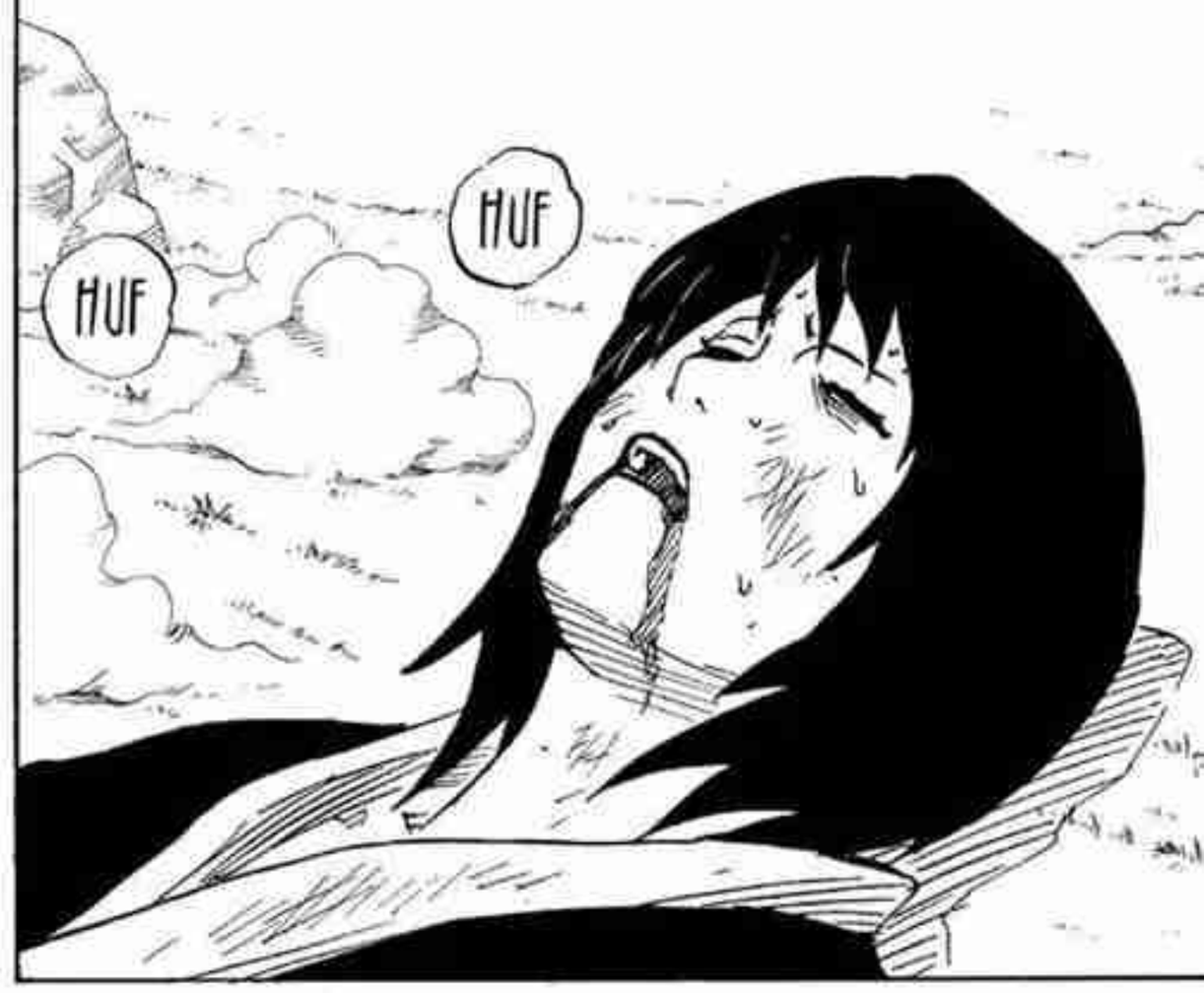
AGH! MY JUTSU WASN'T SHARP ENOUGH...
HAK
PLIT

!!

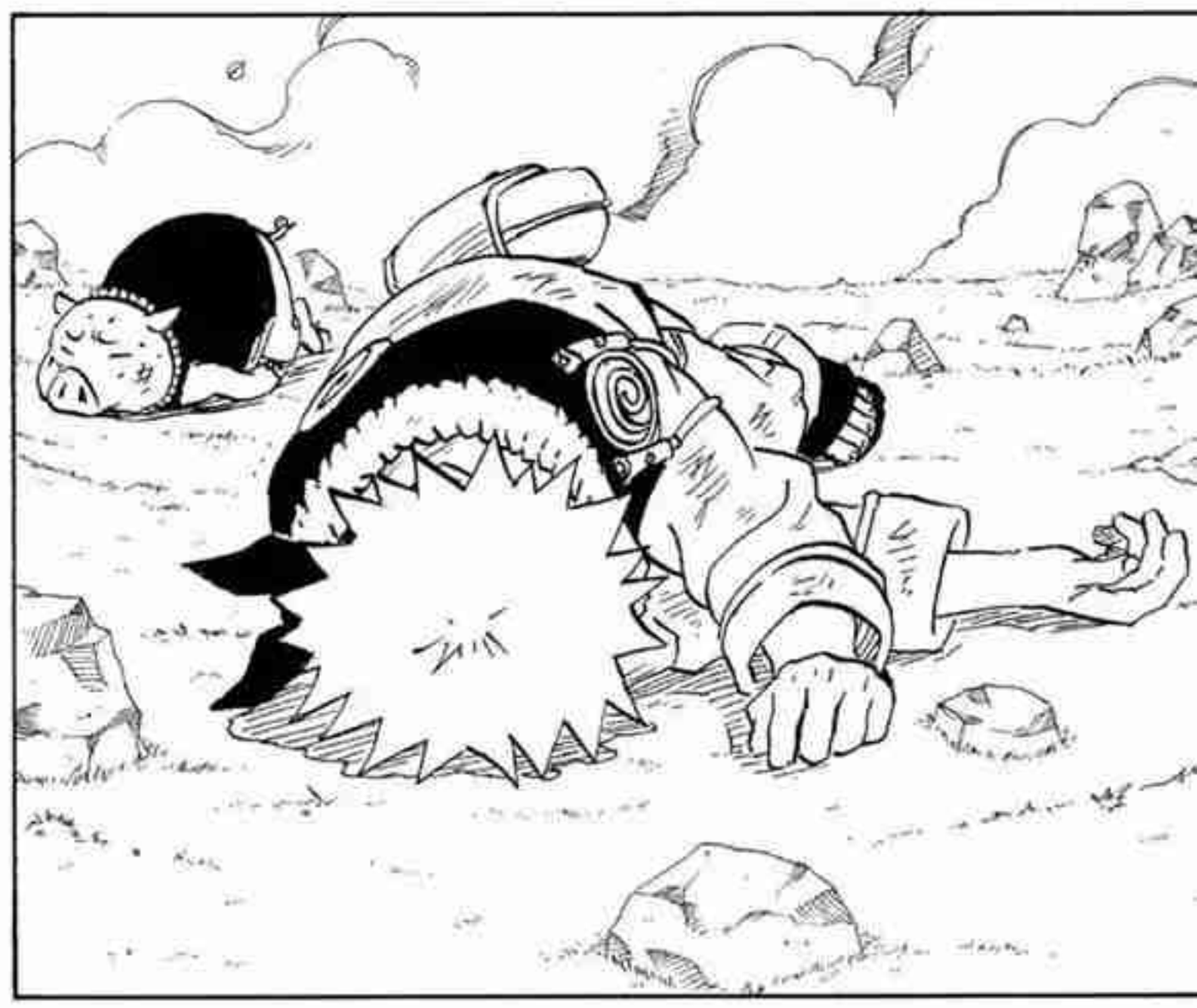
...!
PLIT

UGH...
THUD

TH-THUMP


HUF
HUF

TH-
THUMP

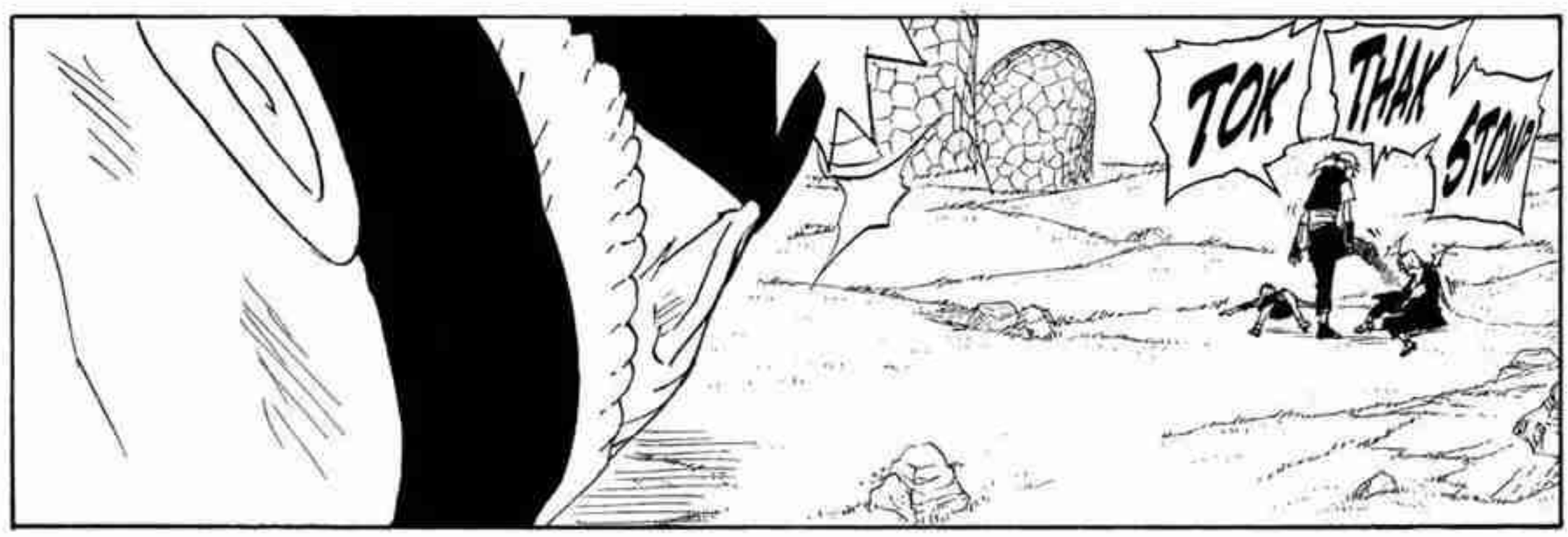


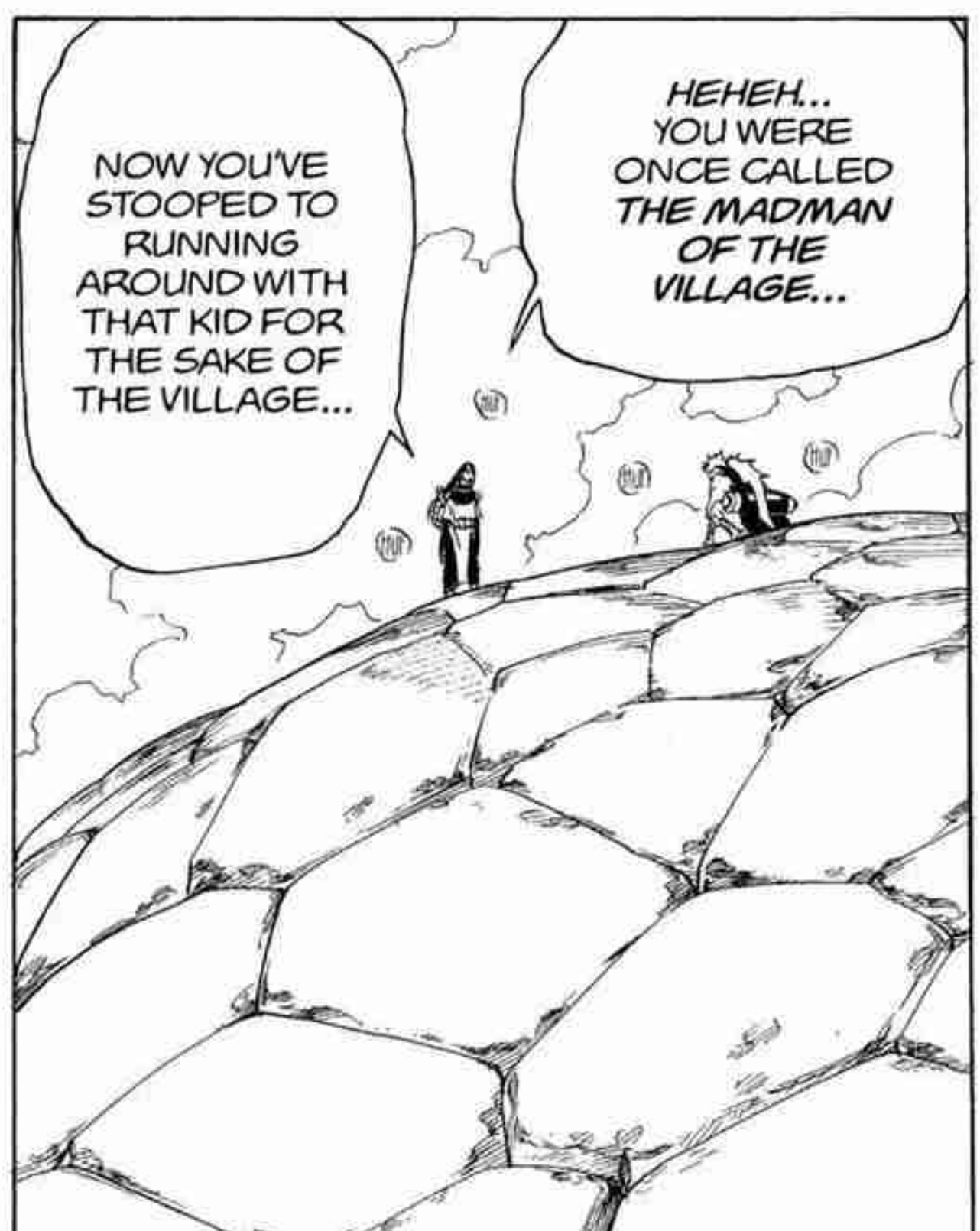
TH-
THUMP

GRRR

SLAP
UGHAA!

SHF
TAK
賭


TOK
THAK
STOMP


NOW YOU'VE STOOPED TO RUNNING AROUND WITH THAT KID FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE...
HEHEH... YOU WERE ONCE CALLED THE MADMAN OF THE VILLAGE...

CAN HARDLY MOVE...
GUH...

HUF
HUF
HUF

HEH... THAT'S THE POINT.

TAK
UGH!

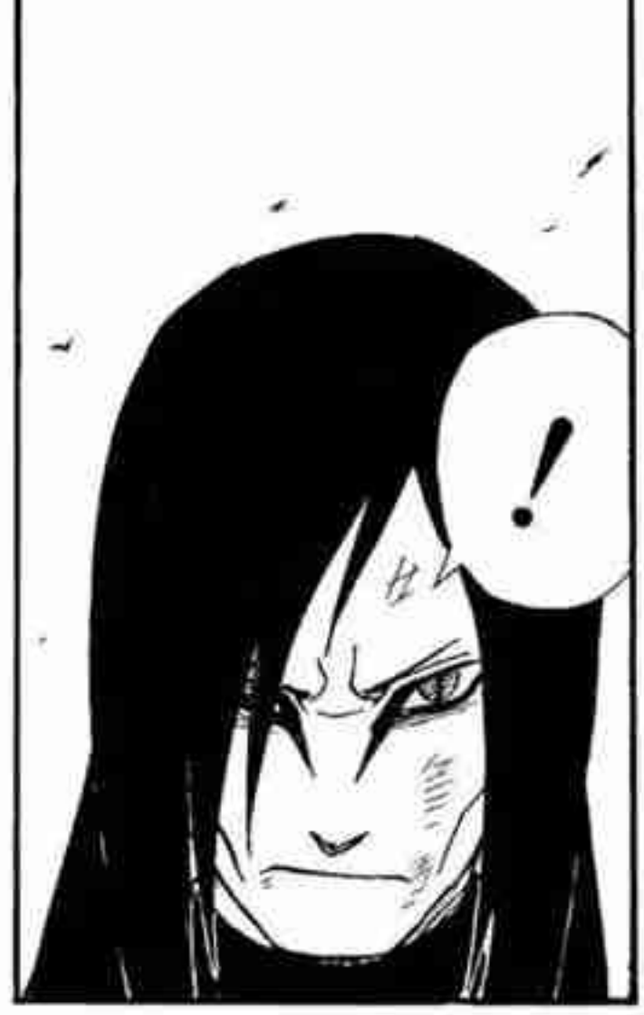
MY ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE TALENT IS UNRIVALED...
IN MY EYES, THAT KID IS NOTHING BUT MEDIOCRE...
SMAK
WAP

IT'S BORING TRAINING A NATURAL TALENT.
I DON'T NEED ANY UCHIHA CHILD.
...

BECAUSE NARUTO DOESN'T HAVE THE SHARINGAN.
UCHIHA ARE NATURALLY GIFTED WITH THE SHARINGAN, AND THAT BOY HAS NO HOPE OF WINNING.
YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T HELP BUT TAKE CARE OF SOME-ONE WHO REMINDS YOU OF YOURSELF AT THAT AGE?
HEH HEH...

GRIN

...AS THE NAME SUGGESTS...
...A NINJA IS ONE WHO WIELDS NINJUTSU.
SHINOBI TALENT LIES IN WHETHER OR NOT ONE CAN USE AND MASTER ALL THE JUTSU IN THE WORLD.


!

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT...?
SHINOBI TALENT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT...

...ONE WHO ENDURES.
A NINJA IS...

...IS NOT THE NUMBER OF JUTSU...
THE MOST IMPORTANT TALENT FOR A SHINOBI...
ONE THING I'M GONNA TEACH YOU...

A DIFFER-ENCE OF OPINION, EH?

!
THE IMPORTANT THING IS...
THAK

...HAVING THE GUTS TO NEVER GIVE UP.

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 30: NO. 2

IN THE PREVIOUS STORY, I SAID THAT I WAS CAUGHT IN A TRAP. THIS TRAP WAS A STRONG ONE AND SO ONCE TRAPPED, I COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM IT EASILY.

AFTER WINNING AN AWARD, MY THOUGHTS WERE: "BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL WON'T BE FAR OFF NOW THAT I'VE WON AN AWARD WITH MY WORK. I'LL JUST REARRANGE MY AWARD-WINNING MANGA 'KARAKURI' AND CREATE ANOTHER STORY." IN THIS LIGHTHEARTED STATE OF MIND, I CONTINUED WRITING ANOTHER MANGA. BUT, AS I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED, MY WORK WAS CONSISTENTLY TURNED DOWN. I SPENT A YEAR MUCKING AROUND WITH THE STORY, SETTING AND CHARACTERS IN VAIN. AROUND THIS TIME, I BEGAN TO DOUBT MY TALENT AND ABILITY AND BEGAN TO THINK THAT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST AFTER ALL.

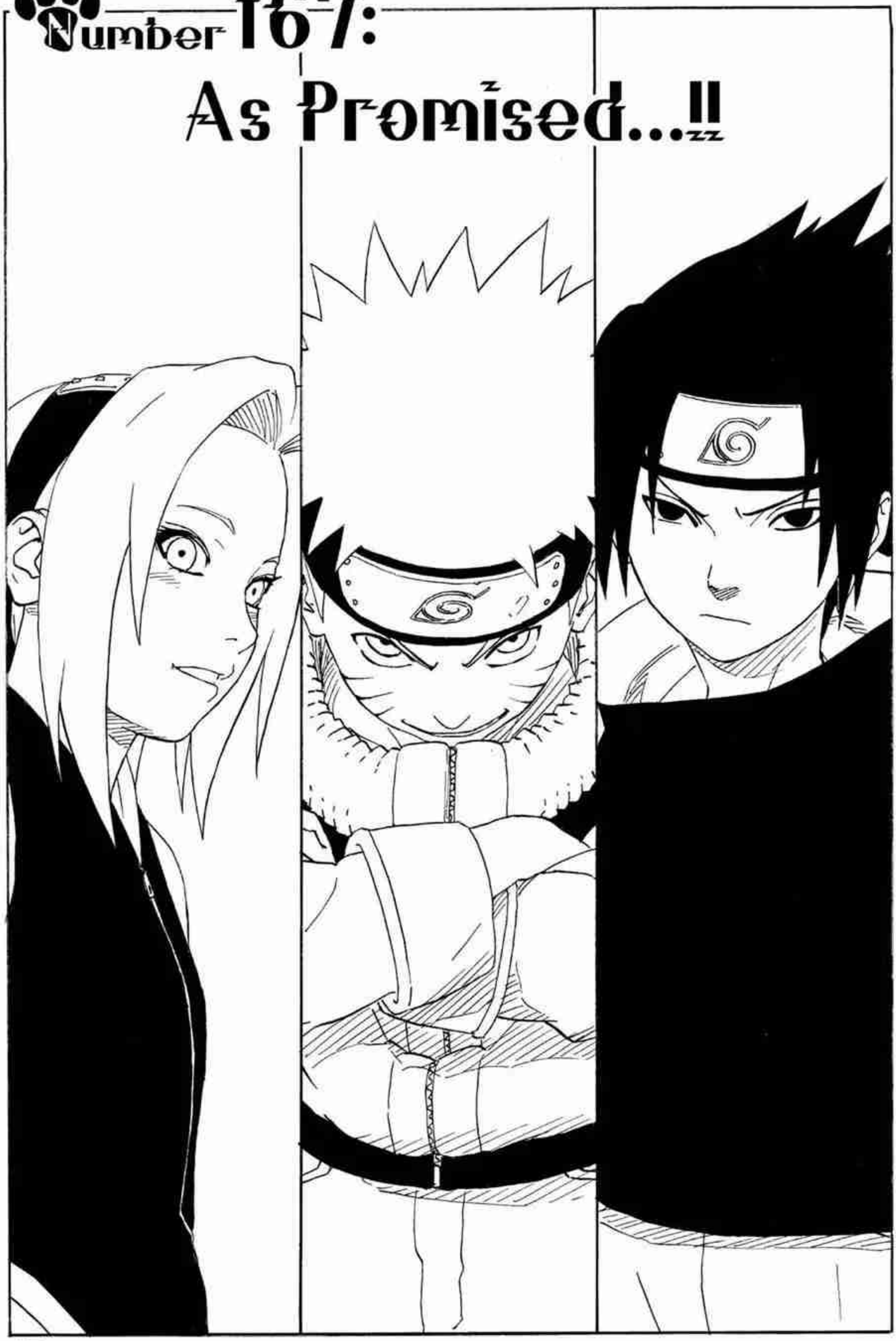
MEANWHILE, MOST OF MY FRIENDS STARTED JOB-HUNTING AND GETTING JOBS. I, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS DETERMINED TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST AFTER GRADUATING, AND DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT GETTING OTHER JOBS AT ALL. SURE ENOUGH, I WAS A LITTLE SCARED... AFTER ALL, THIS WAS A PERIOD WHEN I DOUBTED WHETHER I COULD EVEN BECOME A MANGA ARTIST. BUT CREATING AN ESCAPE ROUTE WOULD HAVE MEANT ACKNOWLEDGING TO MYSELF THAT I COULD NEVER DO IT.

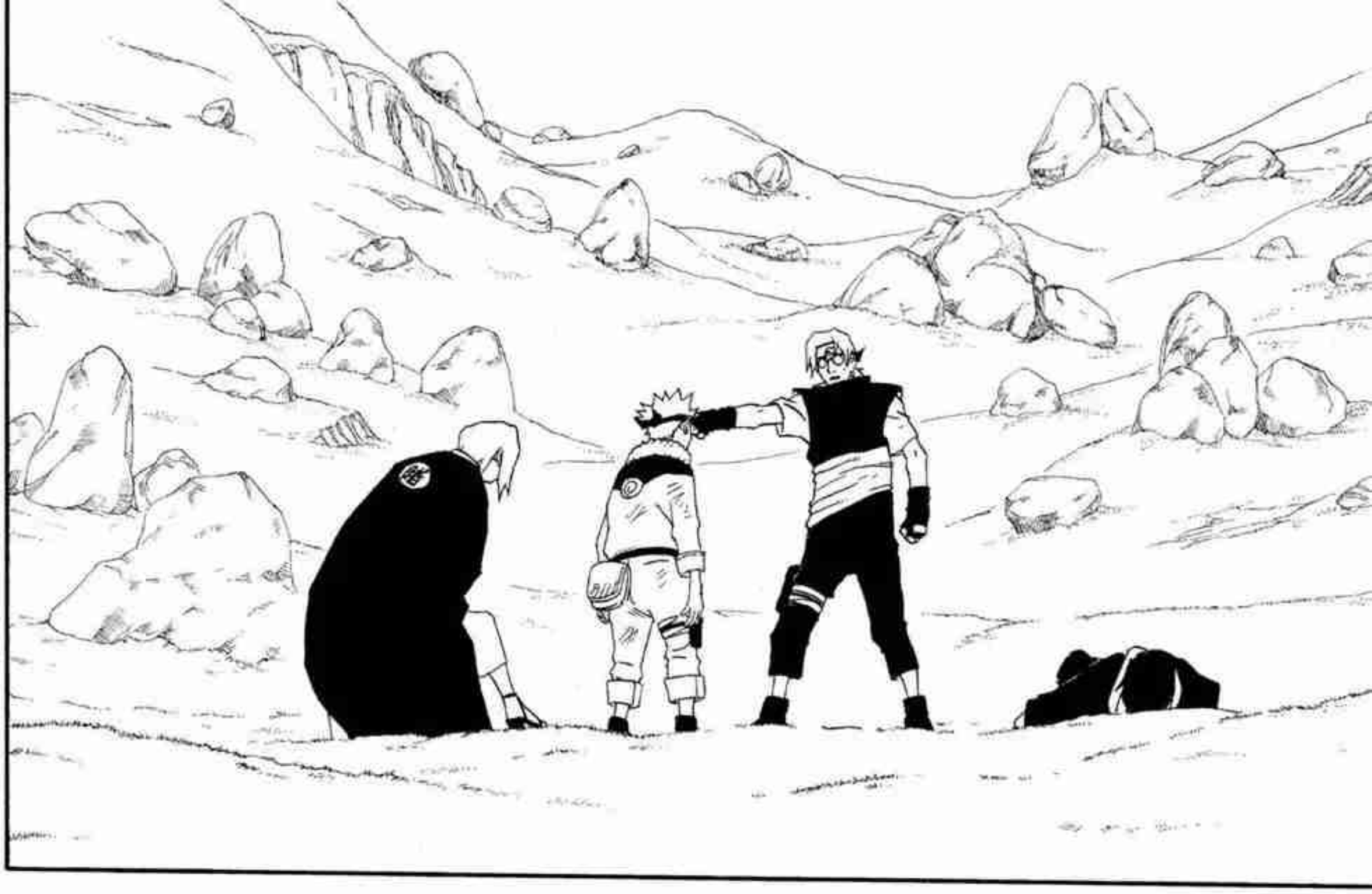
I WAS IMPATIENT AND WENT ROUND AND ROUND IN CIRCLES AND GOT NOWHERE. I CREATED DRAFTS DESPERATELY WANTING TO FEEL LIKE A PRO. ALL REJECTS.

IN THE END, I WOUND UP GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE HAVING ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING.

MY PARENTS HAD SPENT A LOT OF MONEY SENDING ME TO COLLEGE AND I OWED THEM A LOT, AND NOT JUST FOR THAT. YET I DID NOTHING TO GET ANY OTHER JOB AND JUST KEPT TELLING MY PARENTS THAT I WOULD BECOME A MANGA ARTIST AS THOUGH I WERE IN A DREAM... MY PARENTS WERE STRICT IN RAISING ME AND SO I WAS PREPARED FOR A SCOLDING. ON THE CONTRARY, HOWEVER, THEY SUPPORTED MY UNREALISTIC DREAMS. ONE DAY MY PARENTS AND MY YOUNGER BROTHER WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW TO MAKE MONEY FOR HIS COLLEGE TUITION. MY BROTHER SAID TO ME "WE COULD HAVE BOUGHT A FERRARI WITH THE MONEY SPENT ON YOUR EDUCATION!" THEN I REALIZED HOW MUCH MONEY IT HAD COST THEM SENDING ME TO COLLEGE... WHEN I RECALLED MY COLLEGE DAYS ALWAYS PLAYING MAHJONG WITH MY FRIENDS, I REALIZED HOW STUPID I HAD BEEN AND FELT ANGRY WITH MYSELF. AROUND THIS TIME, MY FATHER STOPPED BY TO TALK OVER HIS IDEAS OF A NEW MANGA STORY AND CHARACTERS. WHILE LISTENING TO HIS MOSTLY UNINTERESTING IDEAS, I REALIZED THAT I HAD TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST SOON AND PUT MY PARENTS AT EASE. THINGS COULDN'T STAY THE WAY THEY WERE.
TO BE CONTINUED... IT'S SOOOO DEPRESSING...

Number 167: As Promised...!!





THAT'S ENOUGH!!
!

!
SHUP
SHUP
SHUP

FWA
SHUP
URAAAA!!!
SHUUUU
...!
...
THAT ONE... HE'S GOT 'EM...
THE GUTS TO NEVER EVER GIVE UP.
HOOOOOM

SHHF

TOK

BUT YOU'LL NEVER HIT ME WITH BIG MOTIONS LIKE THAT.
HEH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF JUTSU YOU'VE LEARNED ...

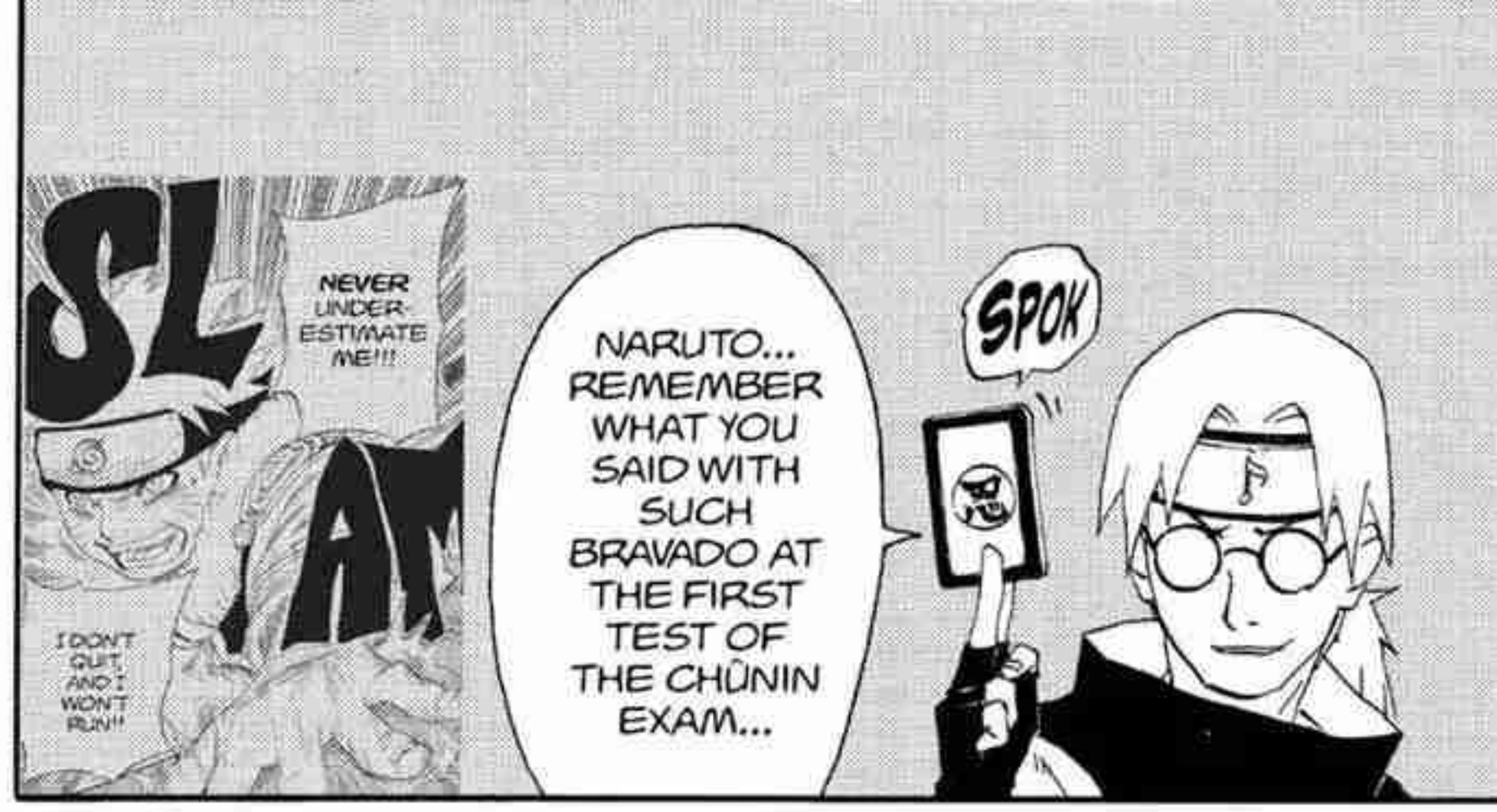
SPAK

...

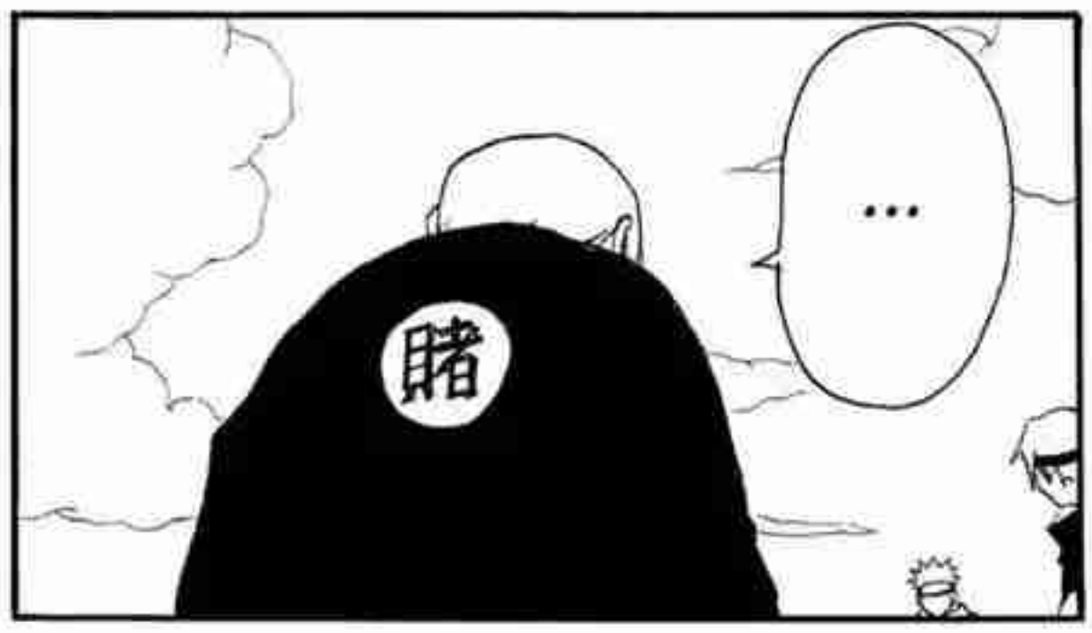
SKIIII
WHOA!!

READ THIS WAY
AND I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE MY CHAKRA COMPLETELY...
OW...
IF IT WERE ONLY THE BONE YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO MOVE...
BUT NOT NOW... BECAUSE I CUT THE LATERAL VASTUS MUSCLE IN THAT LEG...
HMM... IT SEEMS THAT AS A RESULT OF YOUR BATTLE WITH THE SNAKE...
YOUR LEFT FEMUR IS FRACTURED ...
IT FAILED... IT'S NOT EASY TO HIT MOVING TARGETS...
GUH!!
ZING
I NEED BOTH HANDS FOR THAT JUTSU... IF EVEN ONE HAND IS TAKEN OUT I CAN'T DO IT.
WHAT DO I DO?
...
...
YOU WANNA RUN AWAY?
...HEH HEH.
YOU SCARED ...?

...

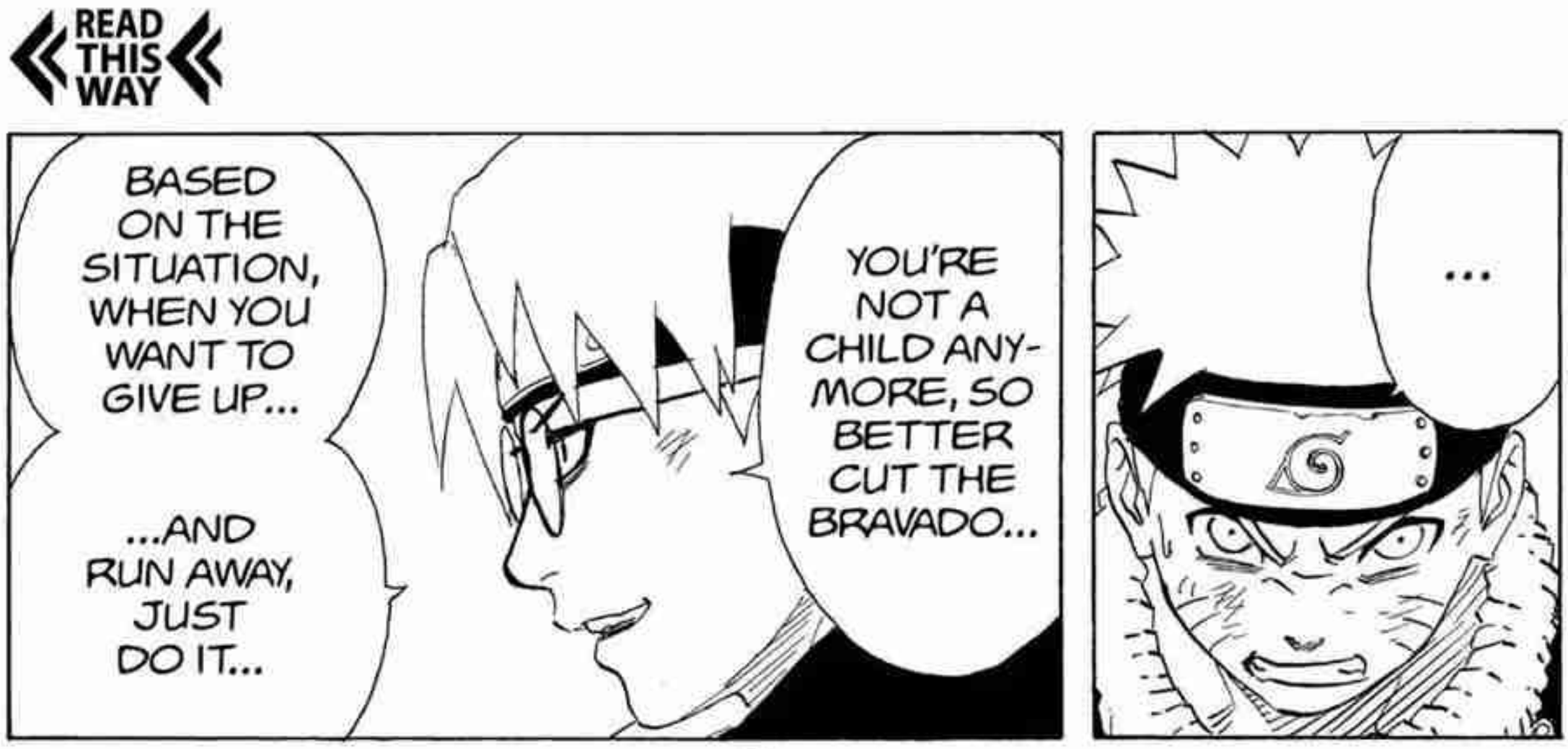

SL
AT
NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!!!
I DON'T QUIT, AND I WON'T RUN!!
NARUTO... REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID WITH SUCH BRAVADO AT THE FIRST TEST OF THE CHÛNIN EXAM...
SPOK

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!!
...I'LL BECOME LORD HOKAGE, EVEN IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT BY PURE STUB-BORNNESS. I DON'T CARE!!
I'LL ACCEPT YOUR STUPID QUESTION!! EVEN IF I RISK ENDING UP A ROOKIE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...
NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE ME... I DON'T QUIT, AND I WON'T RUN...


...
賭

DO YOU STILL FEEL SO BRAVE?
EVEN NOW...

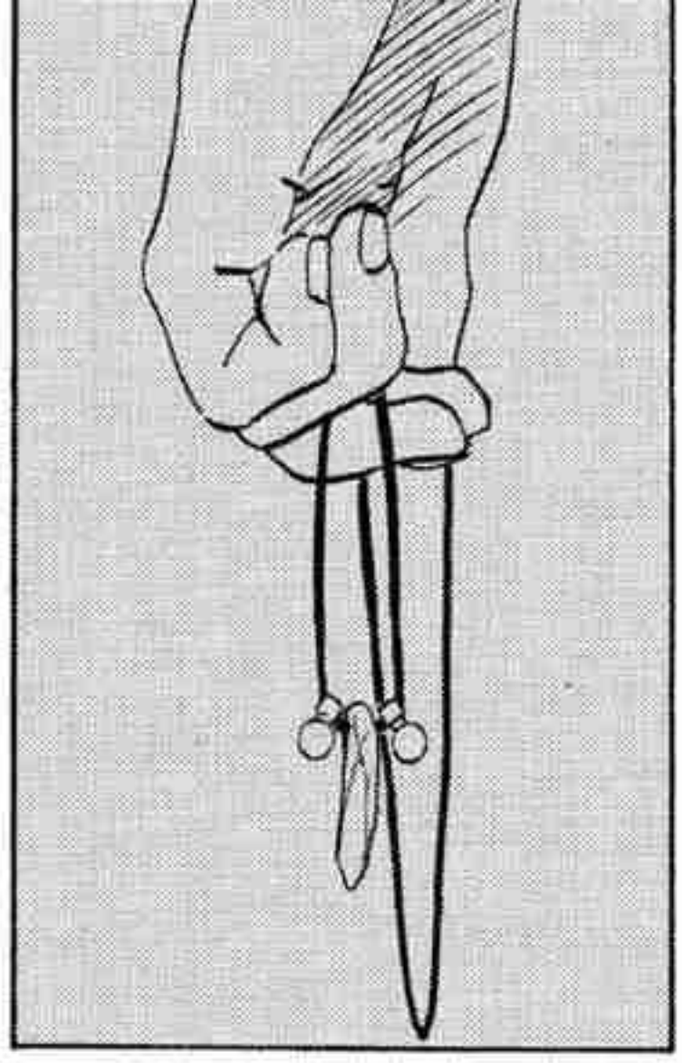
TO BE HOKAGE IS MY DREAM.
'CUZ UNLIKE YOU I WANT THAT TITLE SOME-DAY...
HUF

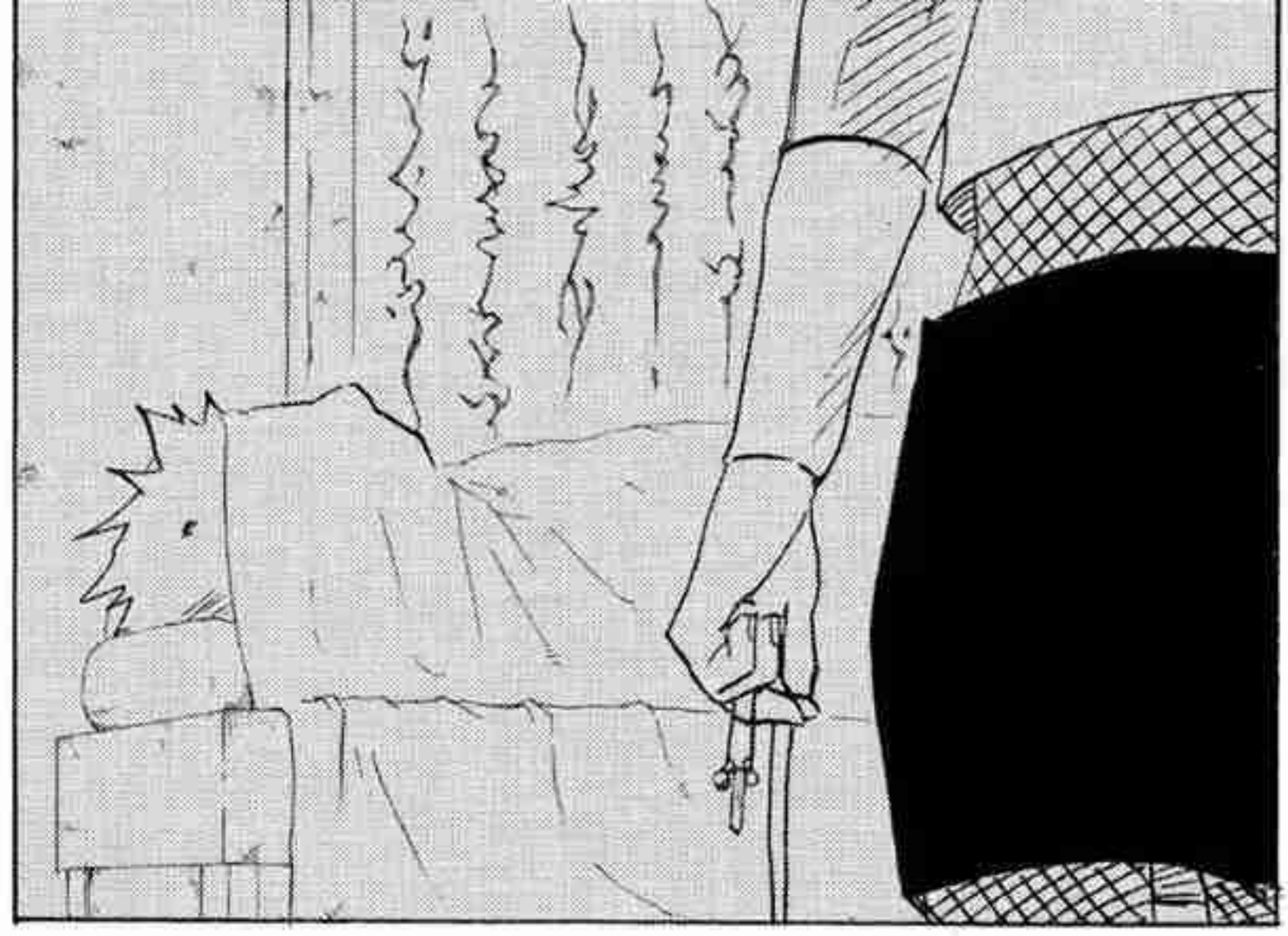

READ THIS WAY
BASED ON THE SITUATION, WHEN YOU WANT TO GIVE UP...
...AND RUN AWAY, JUST DO IT...
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANY-MORE, SO BETTER CUT THE BRAVADO...
...

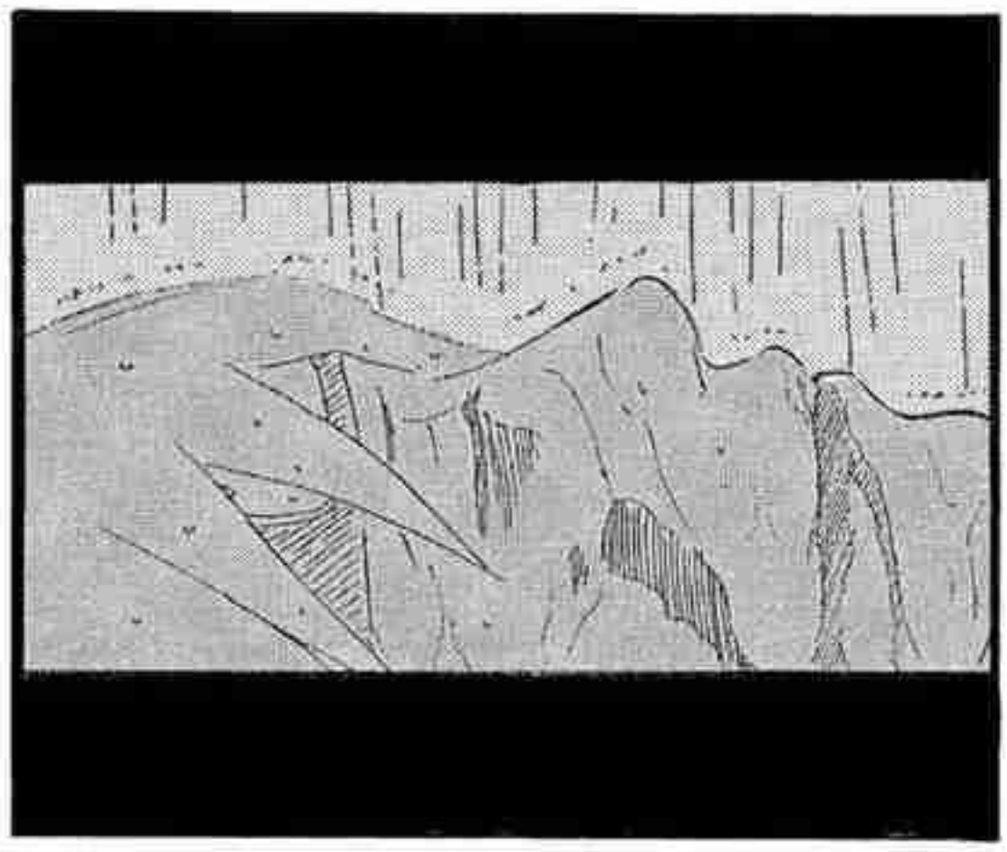
GLARE

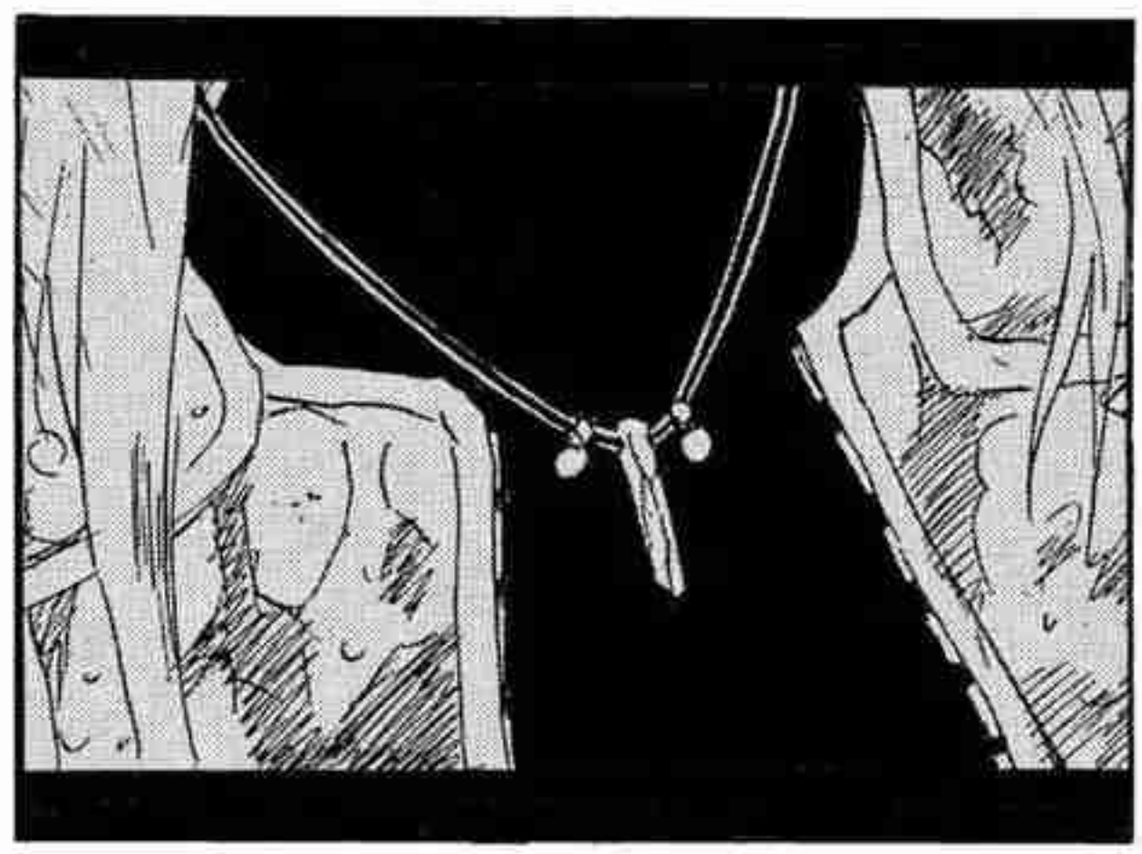
IF YOU DIE, YOU WON'T HAVE DREAMS OR ANY-THING ELSE...
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
NOW, NOW... WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?

DON'T YOU TELL A MAN TO RUN!
YOU'RE STILL A GENIN, NAWAKI, SO ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, IT'S OKAY TO RUN OFF!
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?



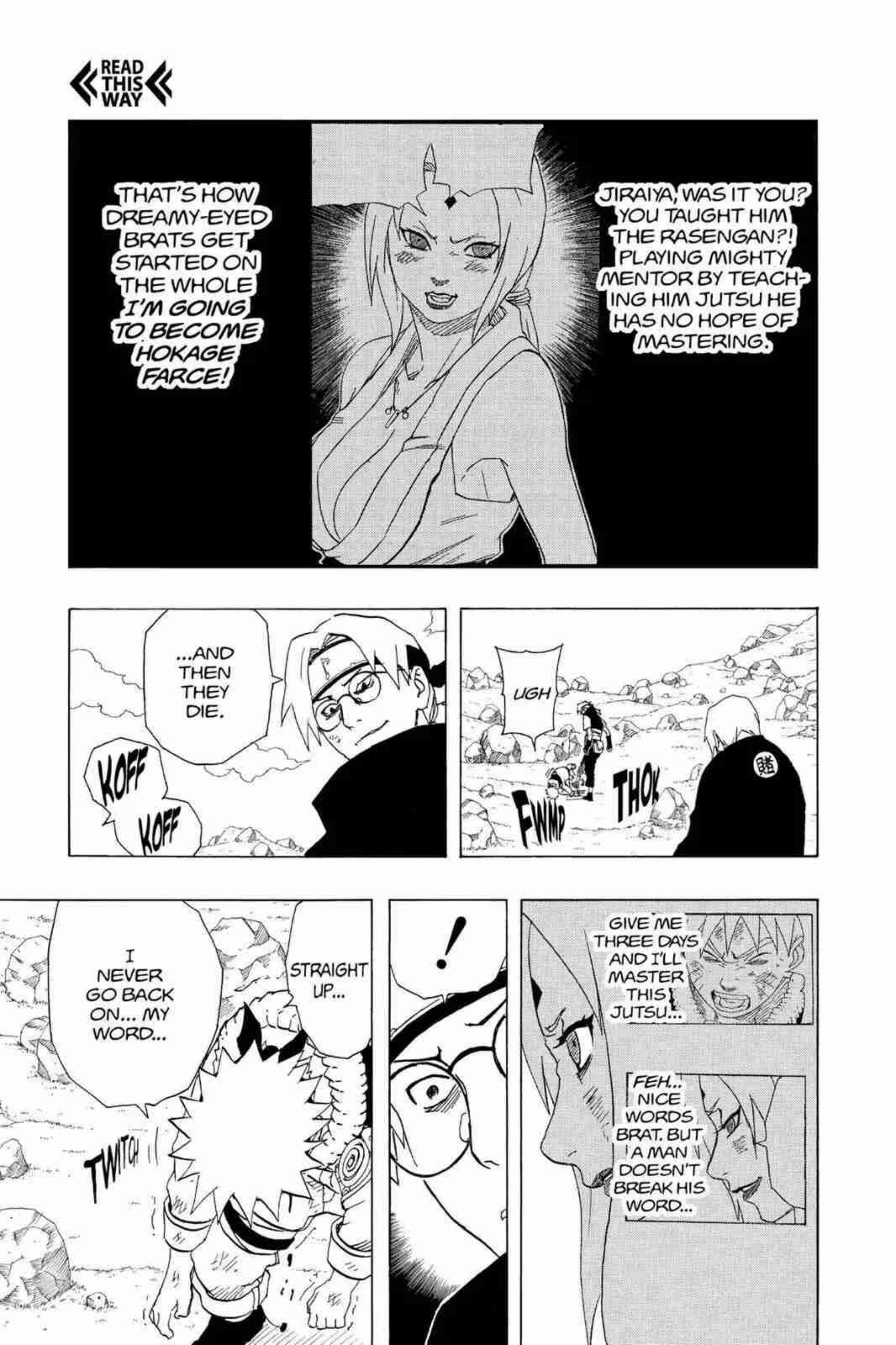






THAT'S WHY THEY GO ON ABOUT THEIR STUPID DREAMS.
KIDS THINK EVERY-THING IS EASY...
WHY THEY DON'T GIVE UP...
TAK
TAK

GRIP


THAT'S HOW DREAMY-EYED BRATS GET STARTED ON THE WHOLE I'M GOING TO BECOME HOKAGE FARCE!
JIRAIYA, WAS IT YOU? YOU TAUGHT HIM THE RASENGAN?! PLAYING MIGHTY MENTOR BY TEACHING HIM JUTSU HE HAS NO HOPE OF MASTERING.
...AND THEN THEY DIE.
KOFF
KOFF
UGH
FWIMP
THOK
I NEVER GO BACK ON... MY WORD...
STRAIGHT UP...
TWITCH
!
GIVE ME THREE DAYS AND I'LL MASTER THIS JUTSU...
FEH... NICE WORDS BRAT. BUT A MAN DOESN'T BREAK HIS WORD...

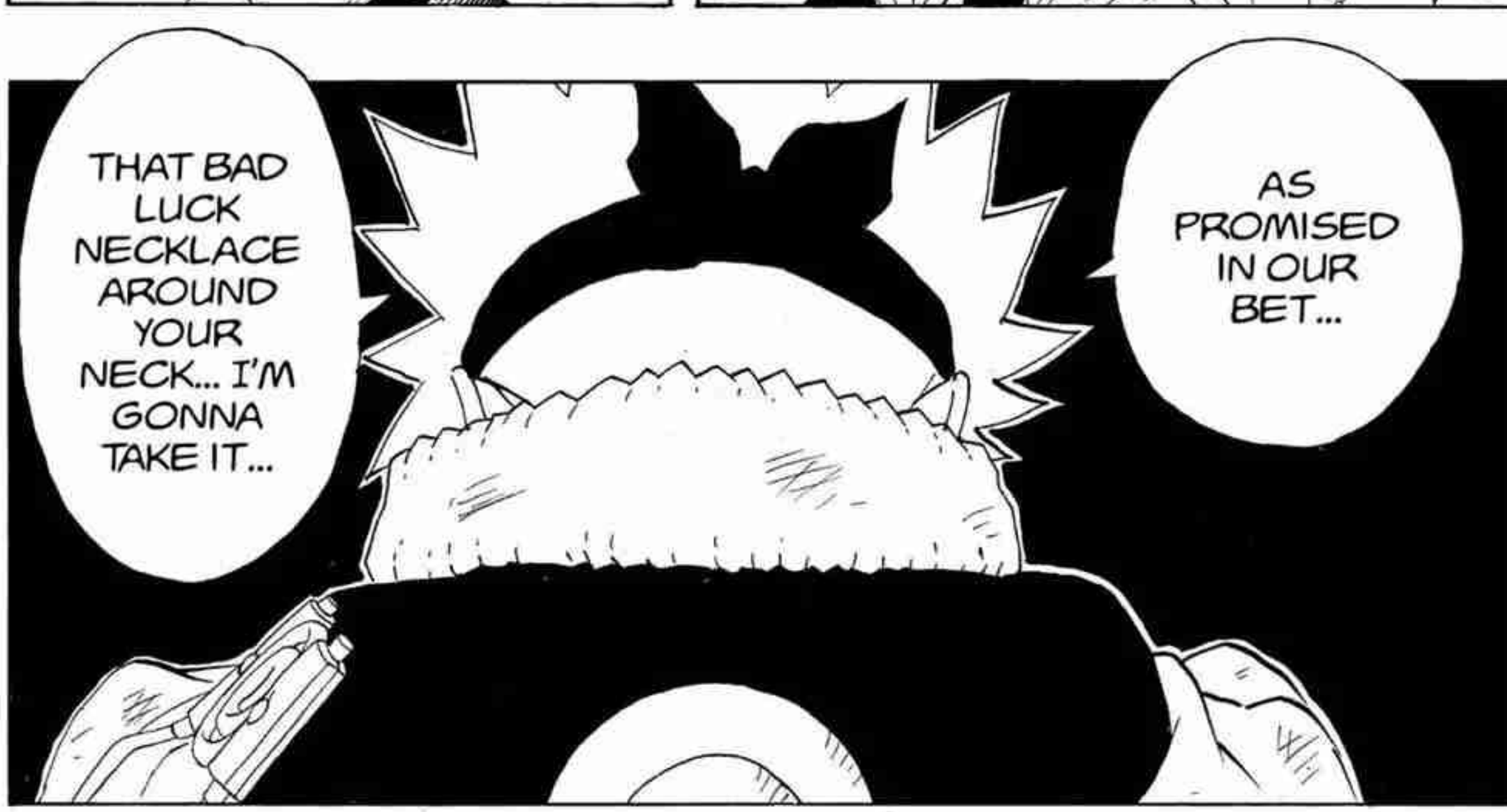
THAT'S... MY SHINOBI WAY...

READ THIS WAY
WHY...?
THWAK
OOW!
THUD
SHF
WHY... ARE YOU...?
SHF
plit
plit
WHY...?

SHF...
SHF...

...GRANNY TSUNADE...
...!

GRR
HE'S STILL GETTING UP...?


THAT BAD LUCK NECKLACE AROUND YOUR NECK... I'M GONNA TAKE IT...
AS PROMISED IN OUR BET...

DOPPEL-GANGERS AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?!
ENOUGH ALREADY ...
!
BOOF
KAGE-BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!!

NARUTO... DON'T!!

STAGGER

SHING

DON'T PROTECT ME...

DREAMS AND EVERY-THING ELSE IS GONE!!

IF YOU DIE... EVERY-THING...

SHF

...WILL GET YOU KILLED!!

I TOLD YOU, THAT KIND OF STUBBORN-NESS...

!!

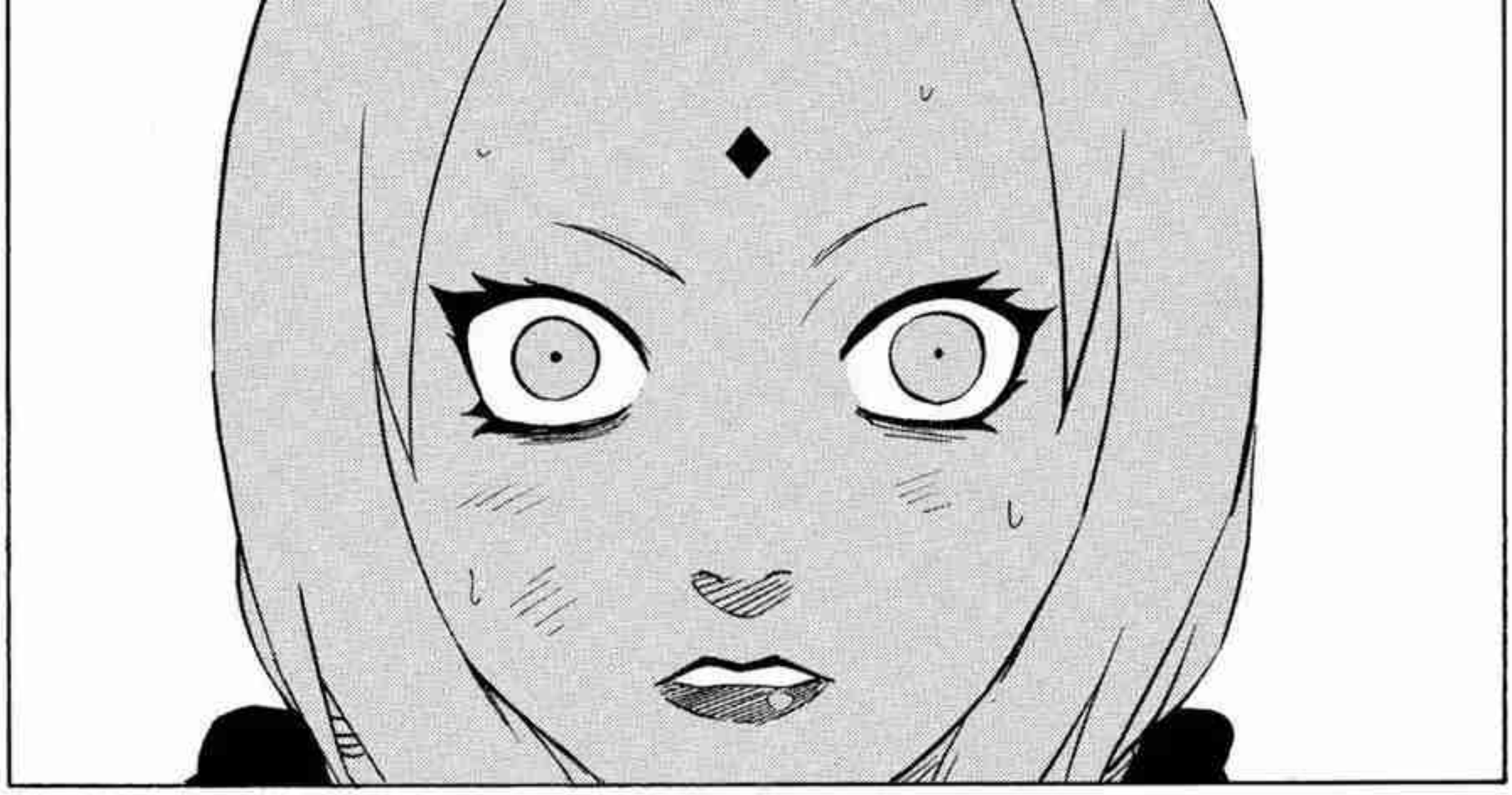
...HEH ...IT'S OKAY...

RUN!

GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

SRK SHAK
SPURT
GRR
UNTIL I BECOME A HOKAGE ...

...
...
?!
NO WAY...
SQUEEZE
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA DIE!!



NOW YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ...
KRRAK

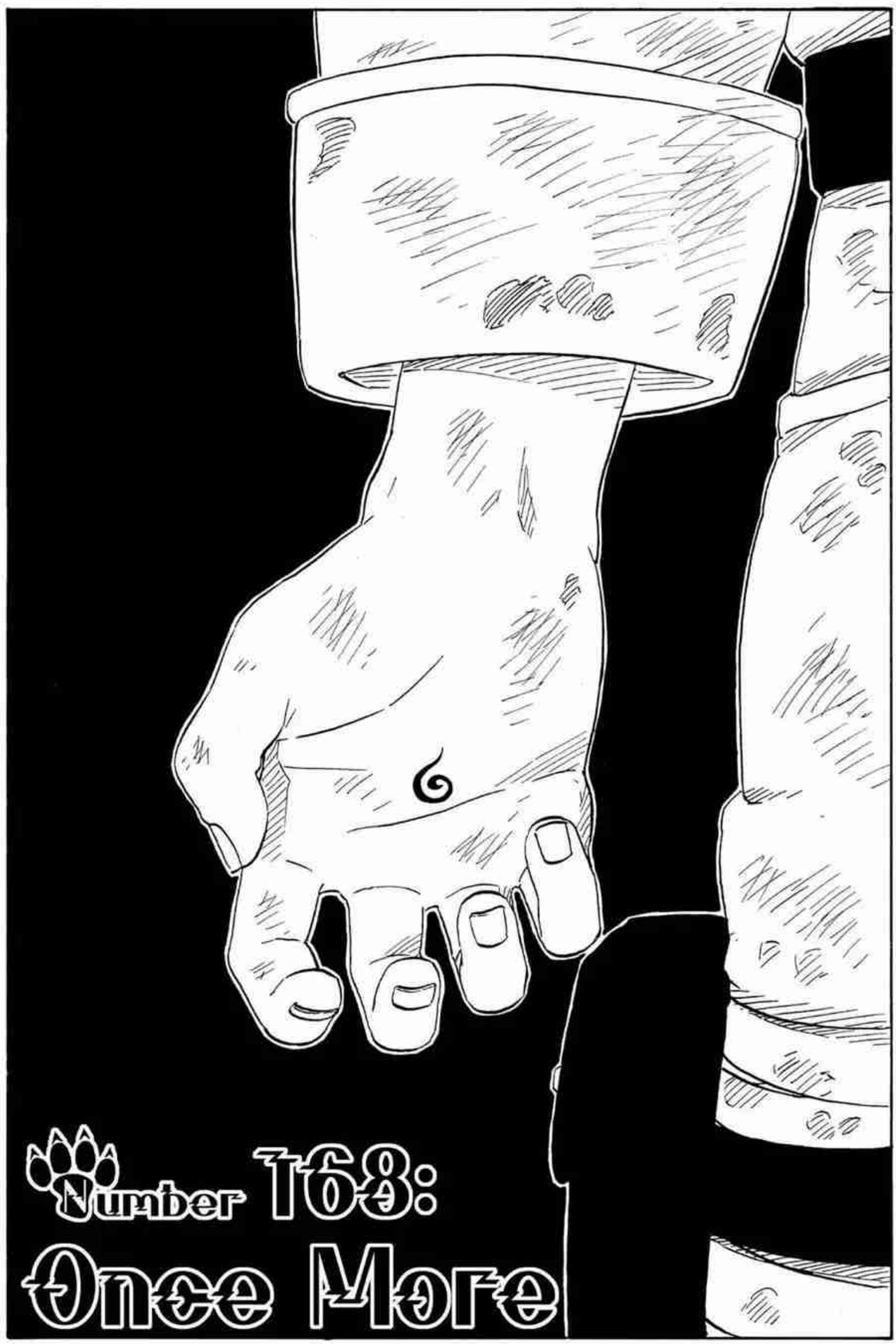
...

SHUP
SHUP
SHUP

IS THAT THE SAME CHAKRA MOVE AS LAST TIME?! ...NO!
HE MADE THE DOPPEL-GANGERS TO HOLD THE CHAKRA...
!
CHAKRA
...
DRAAAAH!!!
COM-PRESSED... AND CONCEN-TRATED!!

WHA
....?
?!!
RASENGAN!
SPIRAL
CHAKRA
SPHERE!!

IT... IT CAN'T BE...
!!!



Number 168: Once More

SHF

WH... WHAT'S THIS?!

URAAAAAH

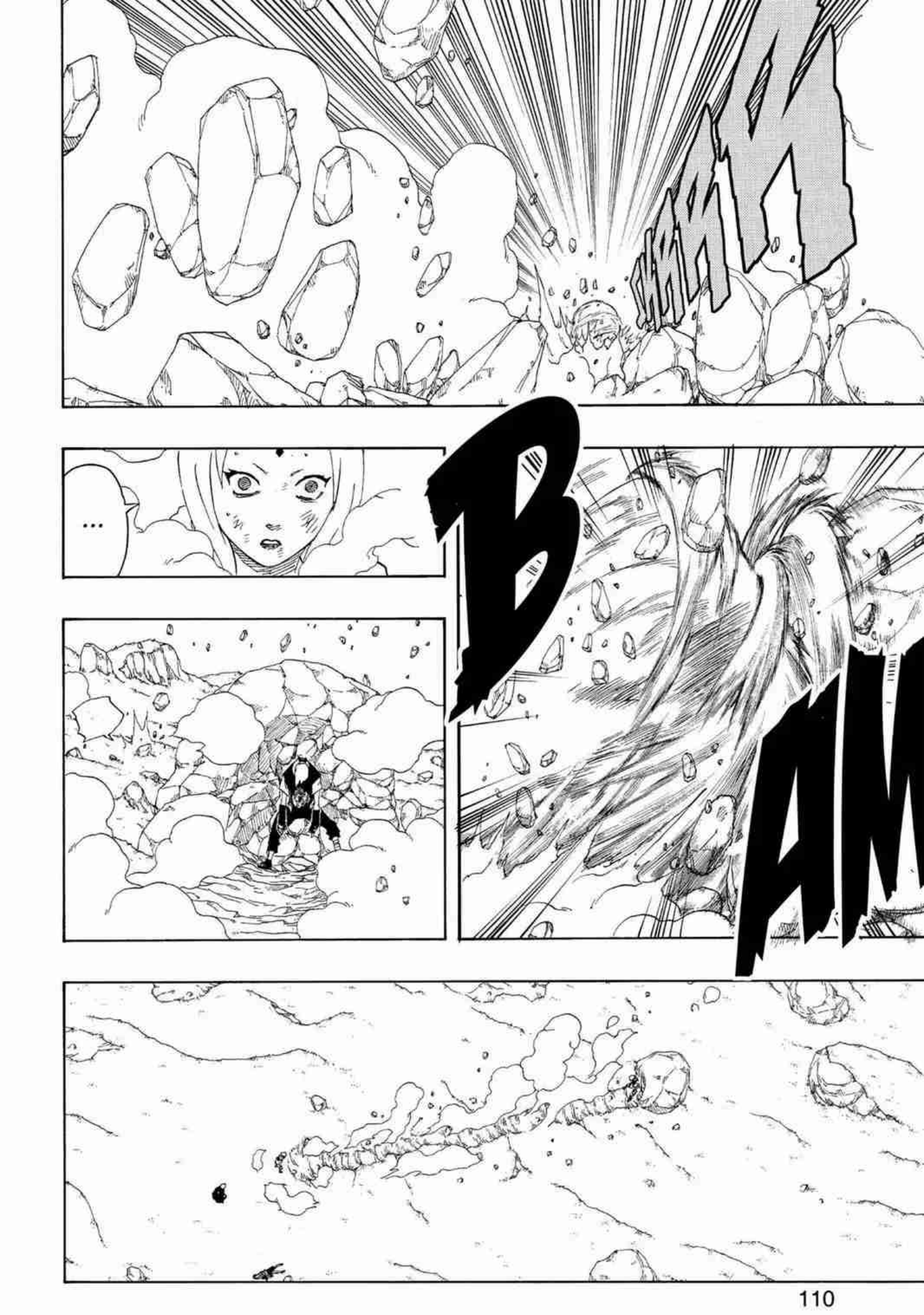
SHWIP

SHWIP

SHWIP

CRUSH

ᏔᏔᎾᏍᏗᏥ:



HUF

HUF

HMPH... NARUTO DID IT...

HUF

HUF

TAK TAK

...THE NINE-TAILS KID... A BRAT LIKE THAT... PULLING OFF THAT JUTSU...

HUF

HUF

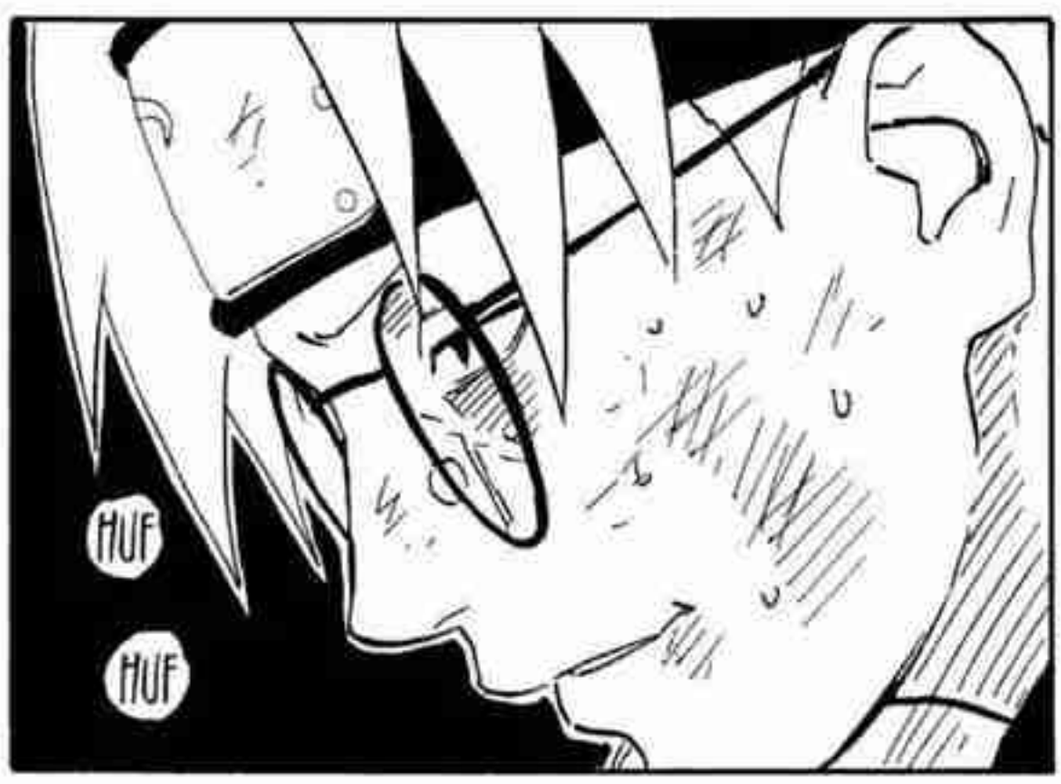
!

...HE MASTERED THE RASENGAN IN ONLY ONE WEEK...

IT...IT CAN'T BE...

...!

HAK


HUF
HUF

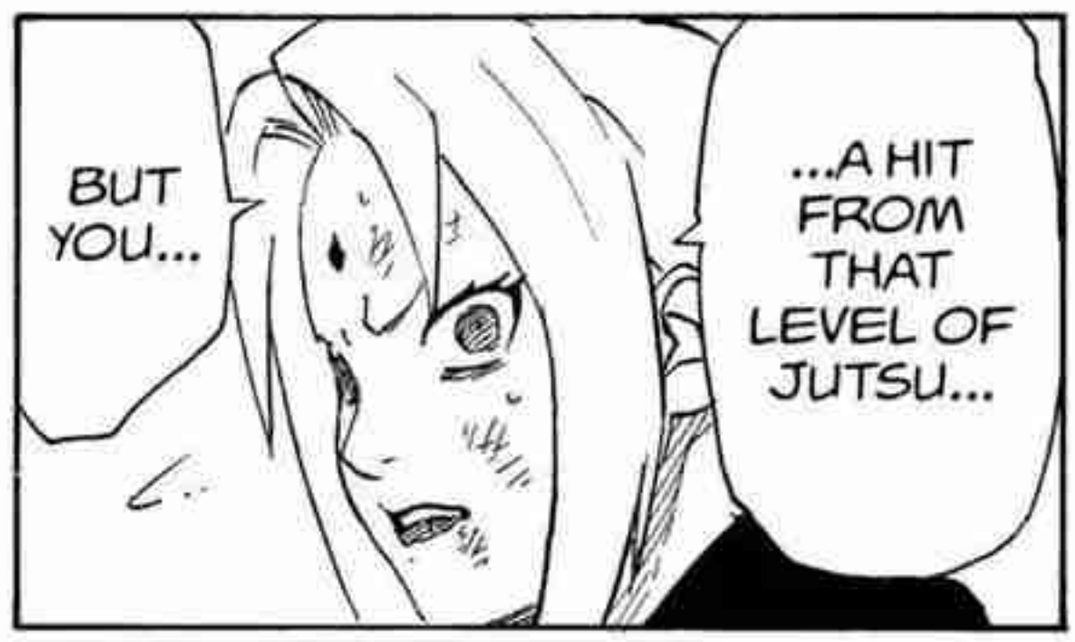
UNGH ...
HUF
HUF
PLIT
PLIT

TAK

THUD
!
TAK

I GATHERED CHAKRA IN MY STOMACH.
EVEN BEFORE THE JUTSU HIT ME, I WAS ALREADY HEALING.
SHIIIII

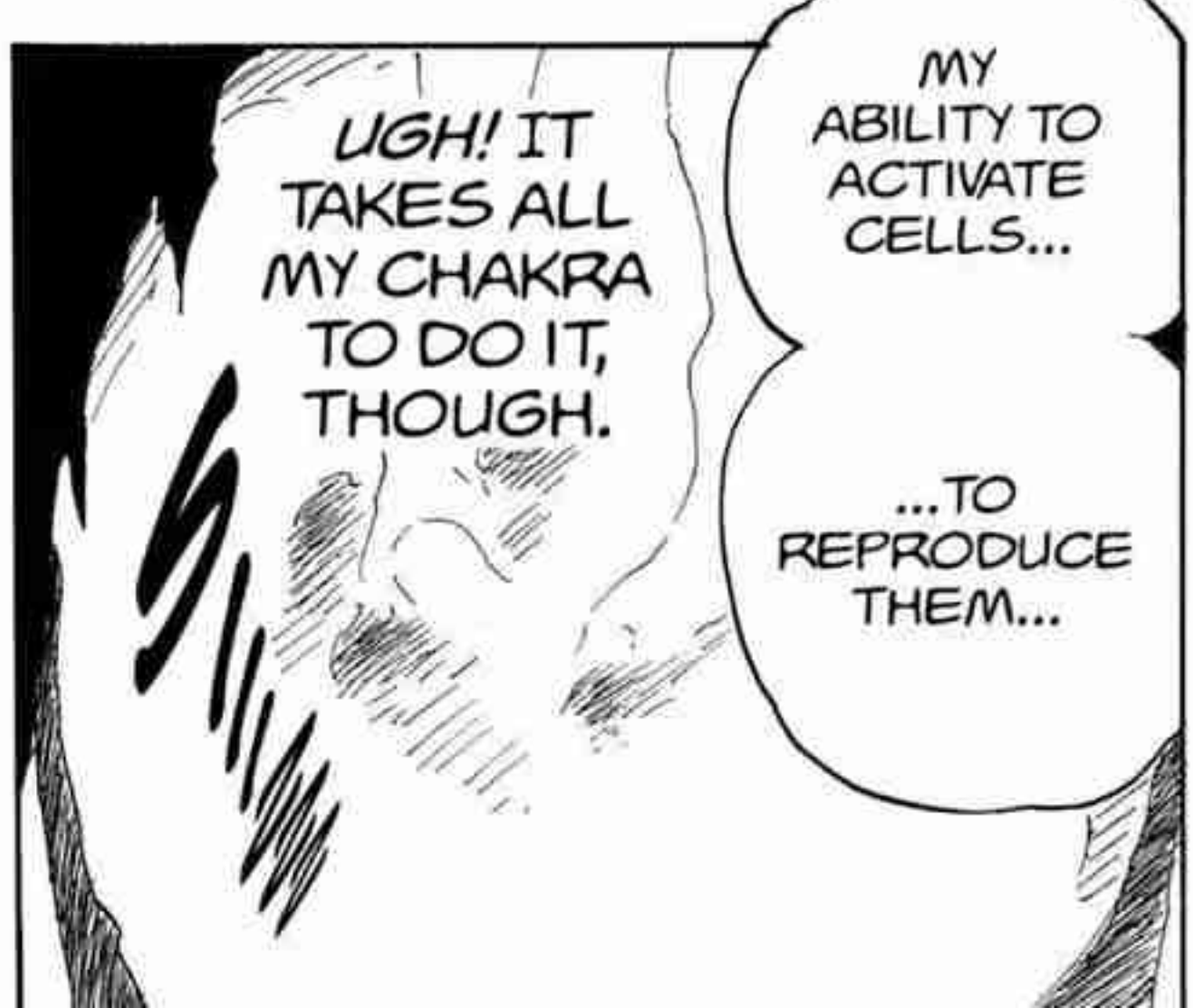
UGH ...


BUT YOU...
...A HIT FROM THAT LEVEL OF JUTSU...

...BUT BECAUSE OF MY RECOVERY POWER!
SHIIIII

...NOT BECAUSE OF MY INSTINCTS ...
I GAINED LORD OROCHI-MARU'S FAVOR...
SHIIIII

THAT JUTSU... IT SEEMS LIKE THAT WAS NARUTO'S LAST RESORT, BUT...
...
SHIIIII


UGH! IT TAKES ALL MY CHAKRA TO DO IT, THOUGH.
MY ABILITY TO ACTIVATE CELLS...
...TO REPRODUCE THEM...
SHIIIII

?!!

HAK

...NOT... ENOUGH CHAKRA...
...NO... THERE'S TOO MUCH DAMAGE!...
GUH...

WH-WHAT ?!
WHUMP

KRIK

SHF

TWITCH
!

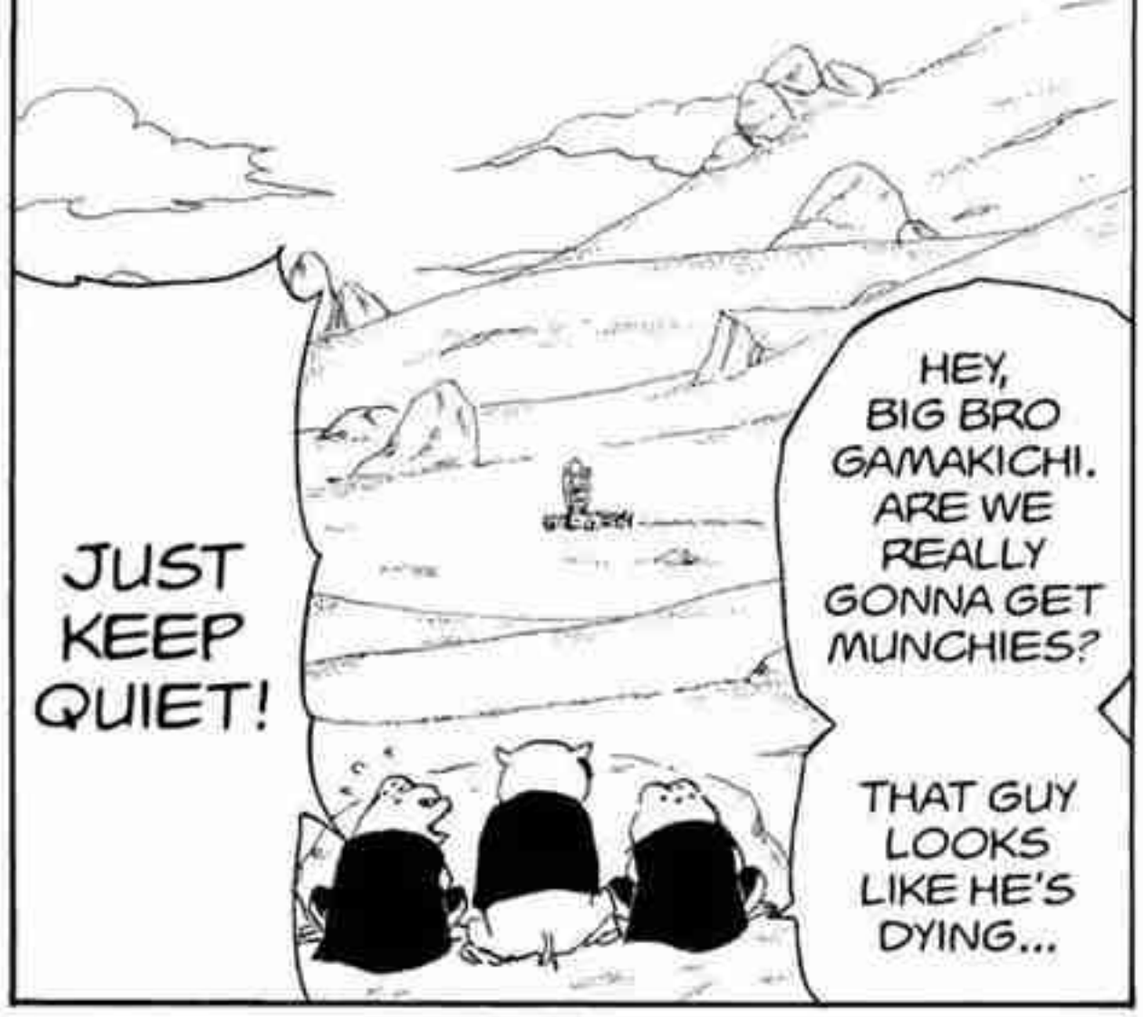
TH-THUMP ...

!
TH-THUMP ...
TH-THUMP ...

FWIP
SHF

SH
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN...

IT'S INDUCED ARRHYTHMIA.
OH, NO! HIS HEART MUSCLE IS TORN...
RRRIP
FWAP

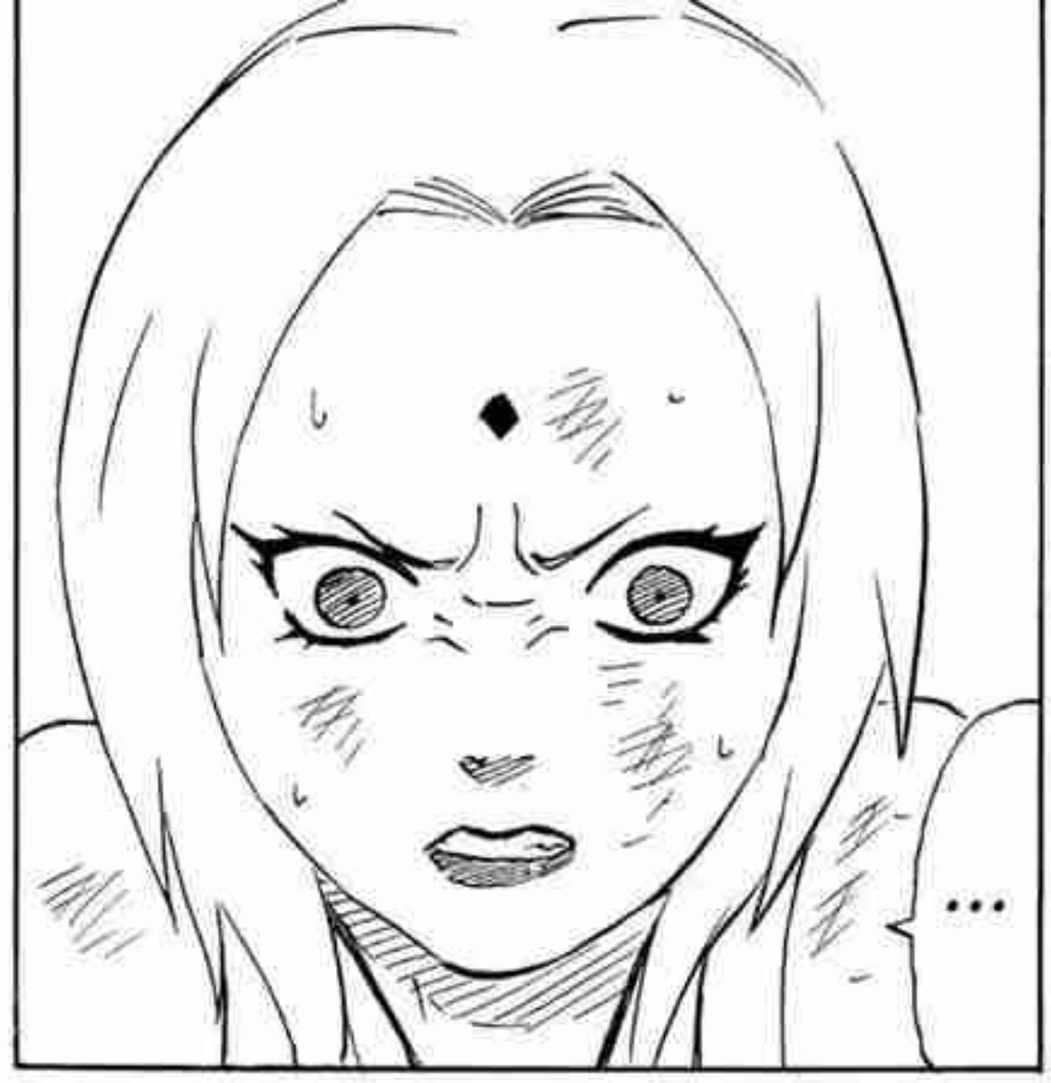

JUST KEEP QUIET!
HEY, BIG BRO GAMAKICHI. ARE WE REALLY GONNA GET MUNCHIES?
THAT GUY LOOKS LIKE HE'S DYING...

...
HMM ...

NARUTO'S FINISHED...
HEH HEH...

...TO STOP HIM FROM HEALING ON HIS OWN...
SHUT UP.
I CUT OFF HIS HEART'S KEIRAKUKEI... THE CHAKRA NETWORK HE HEALS HIMSELF WITH FROM THE POWER OF NINE-TAILS...
...USED EVERY-THING I HAD...

...
I'LL KILL YOU LATER...
FOOSH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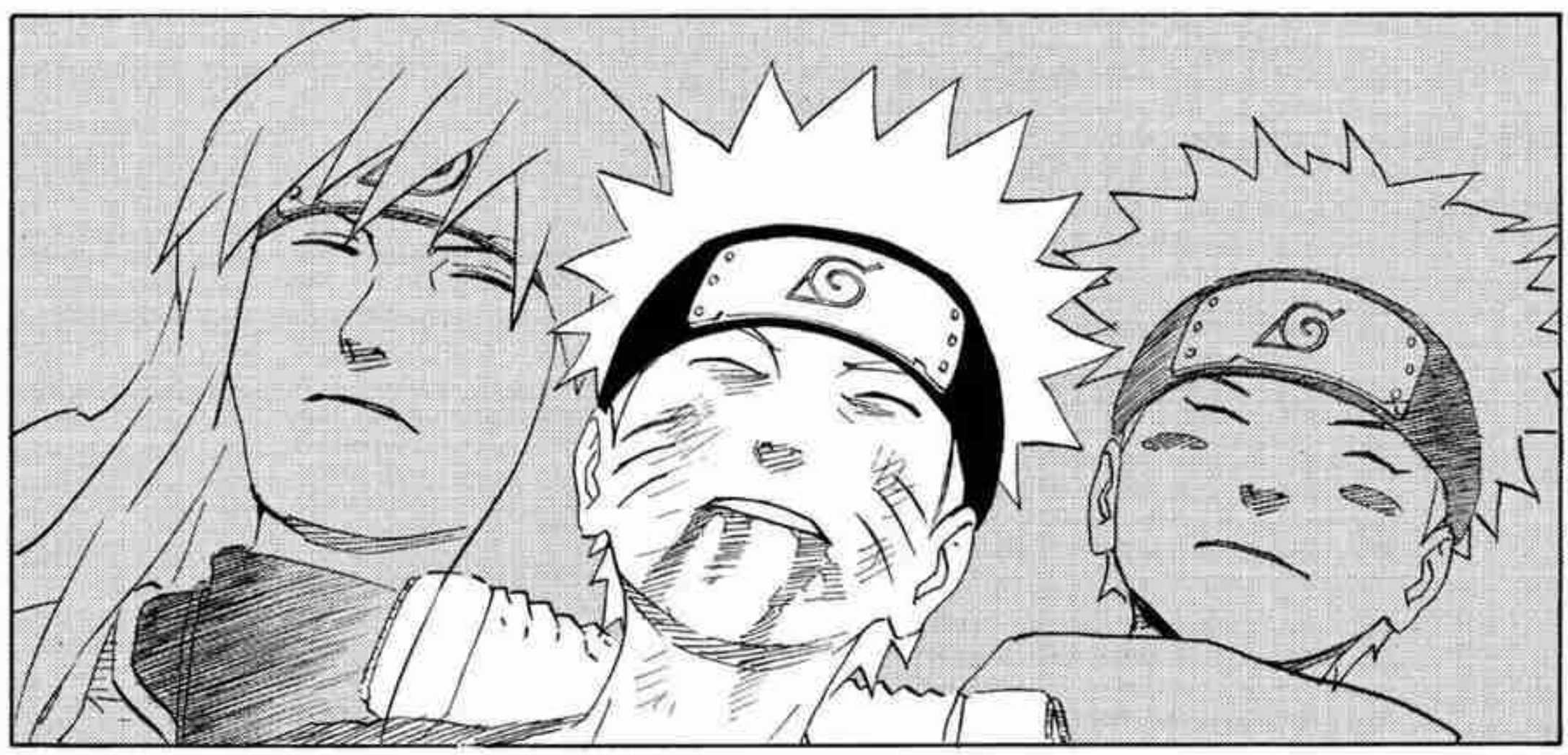
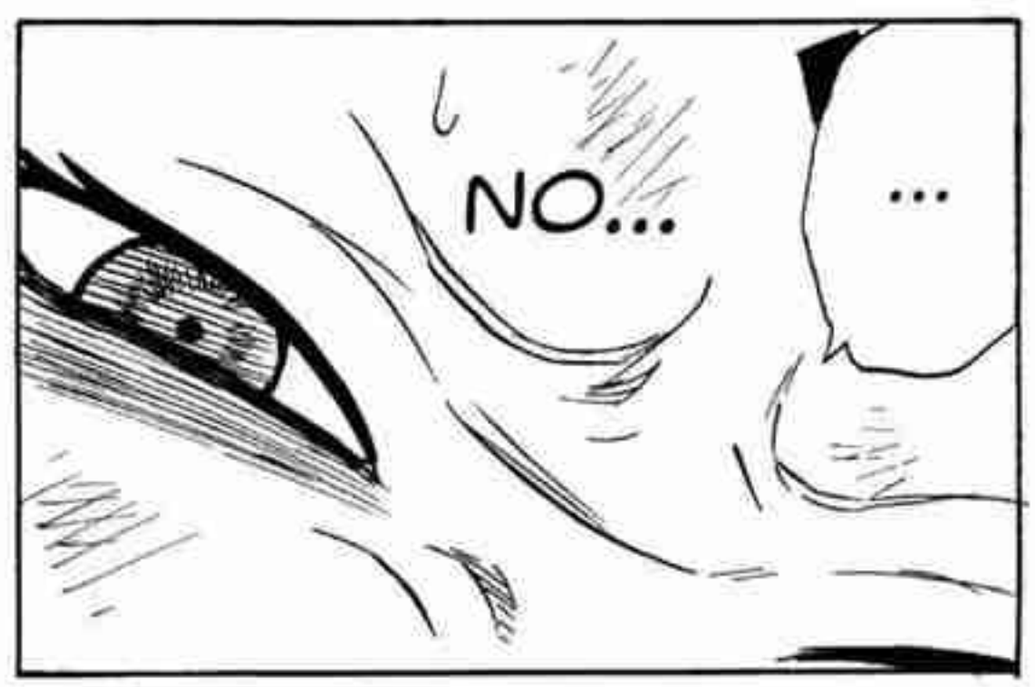
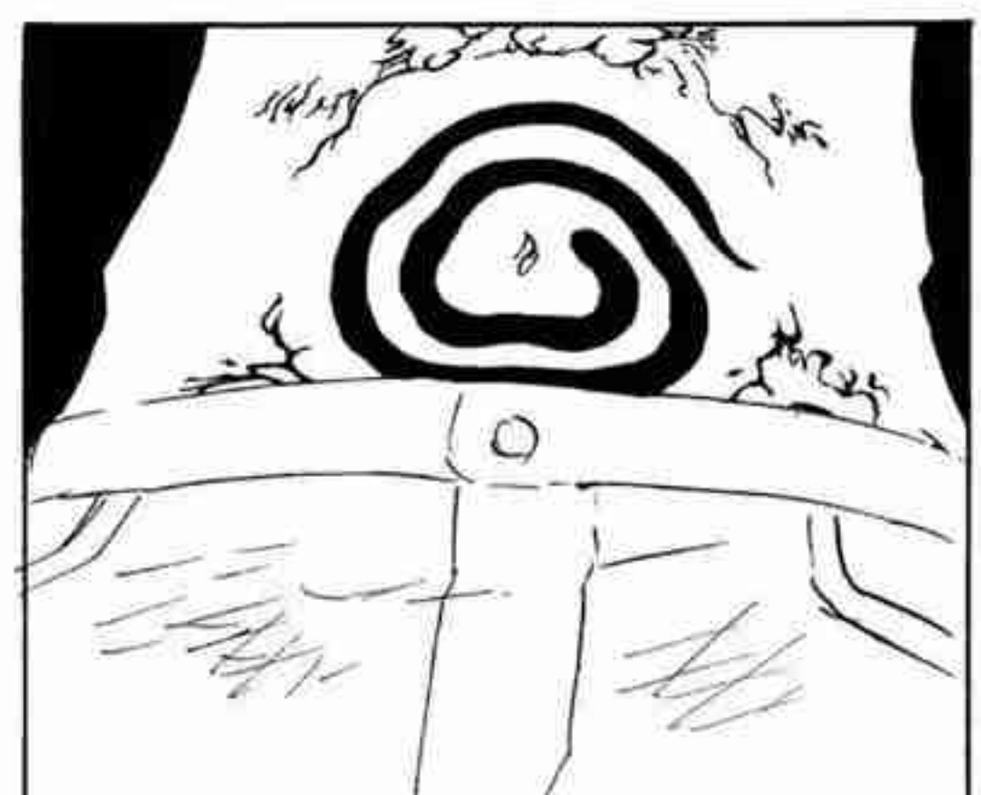


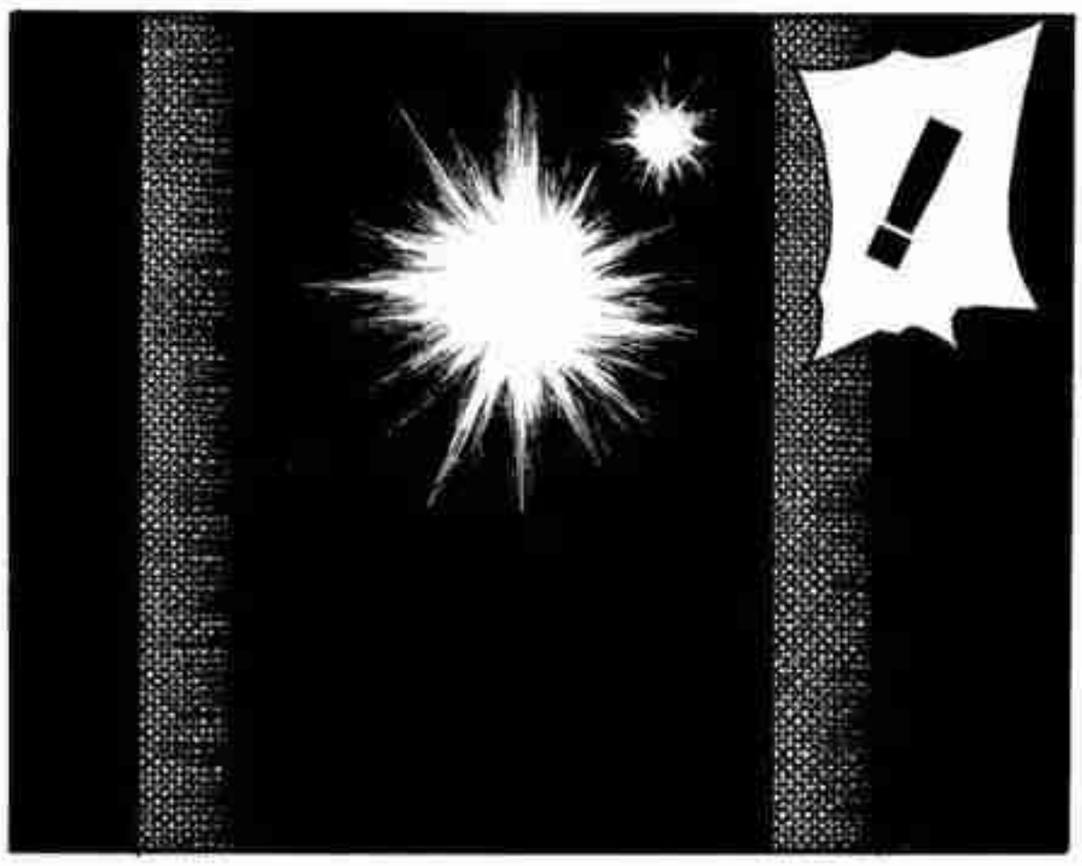
NO...
HISSS

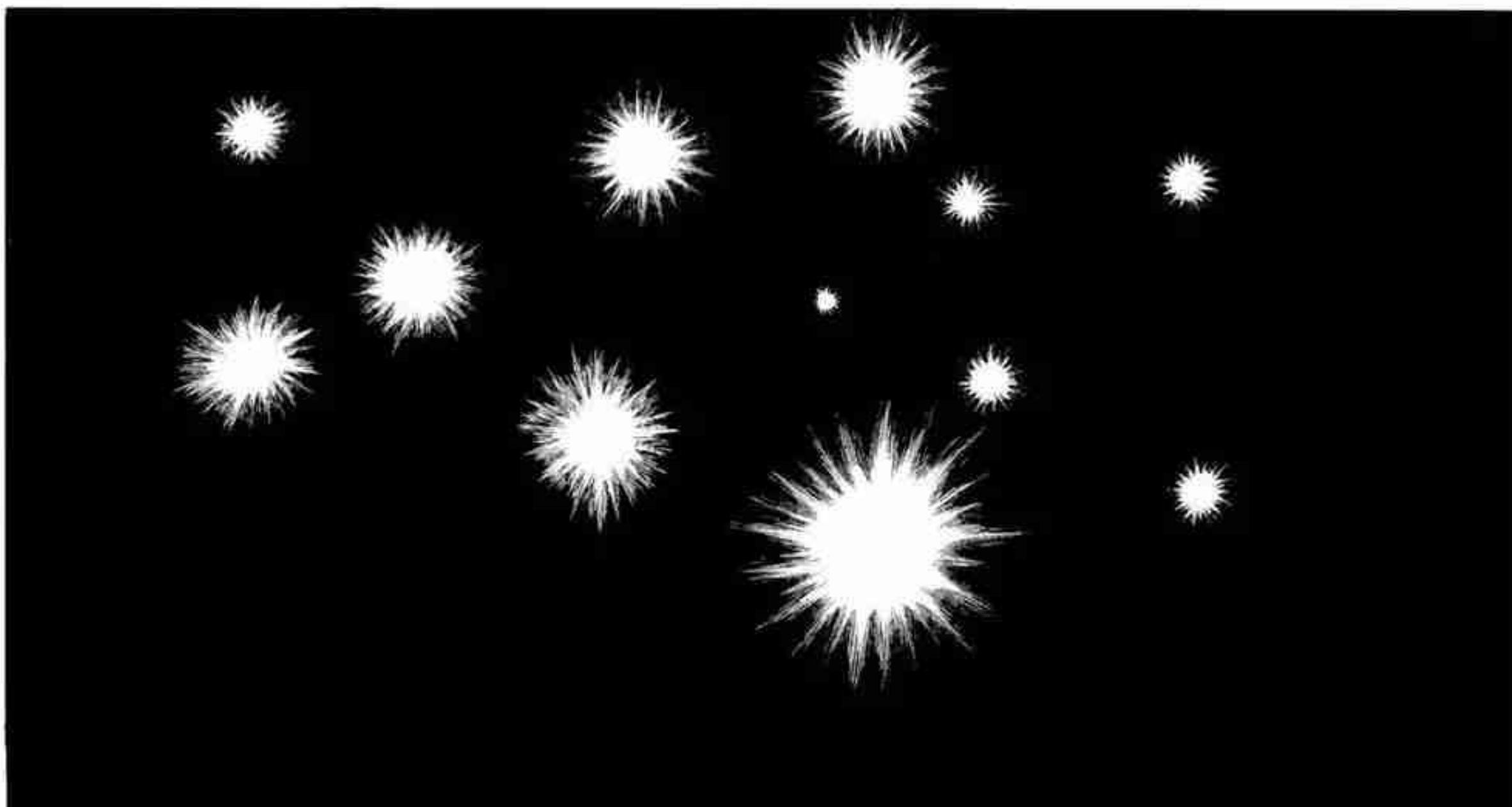

NO...
...

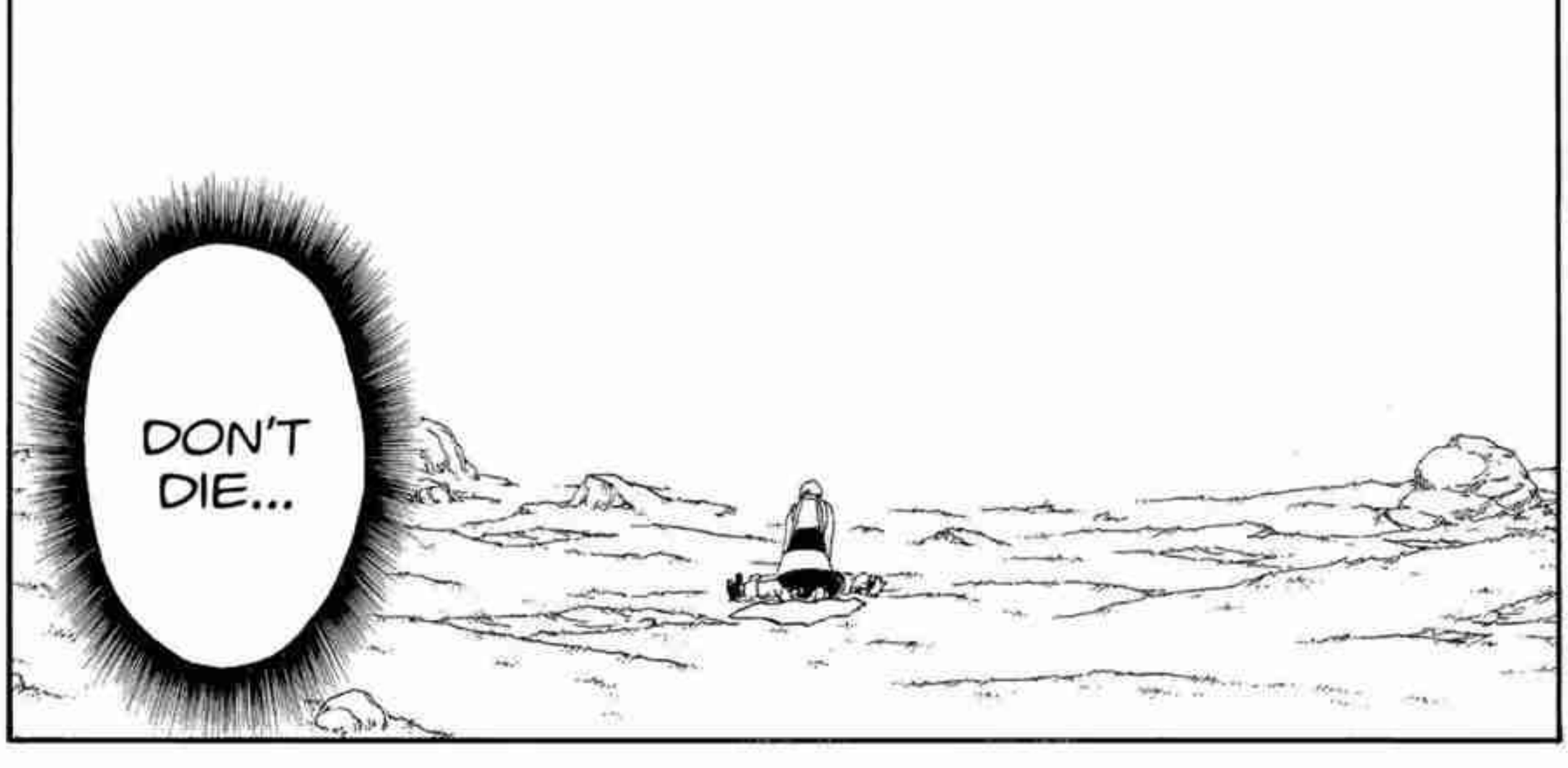


IT'S DARK...

SOO... DAAARK...



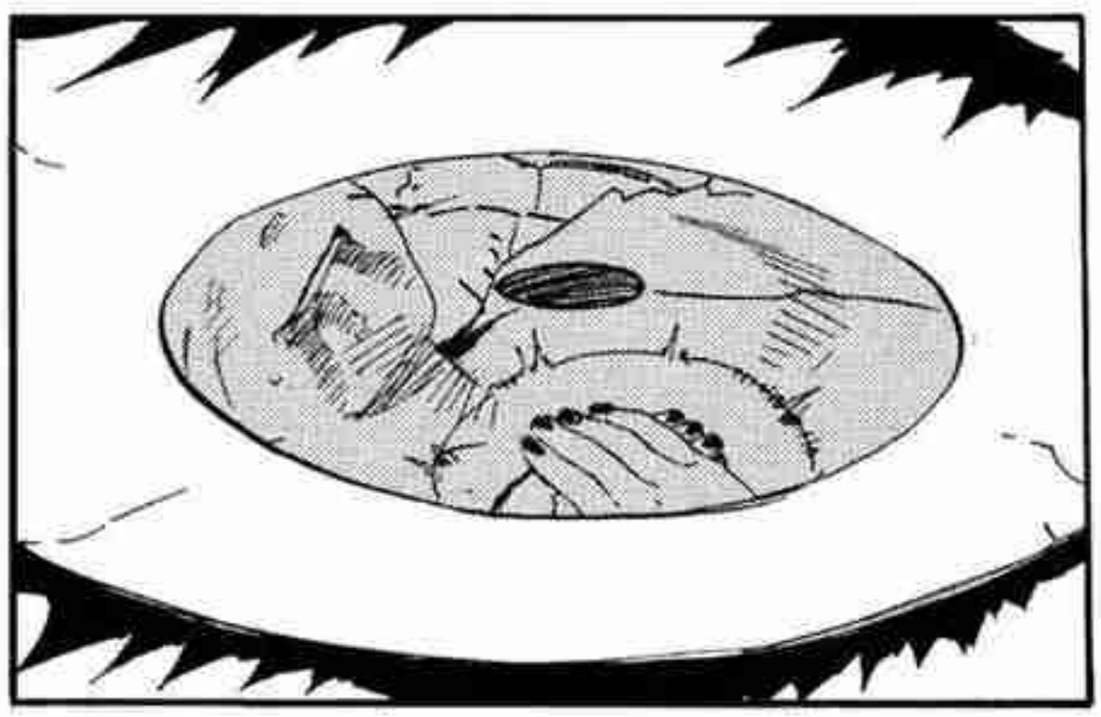


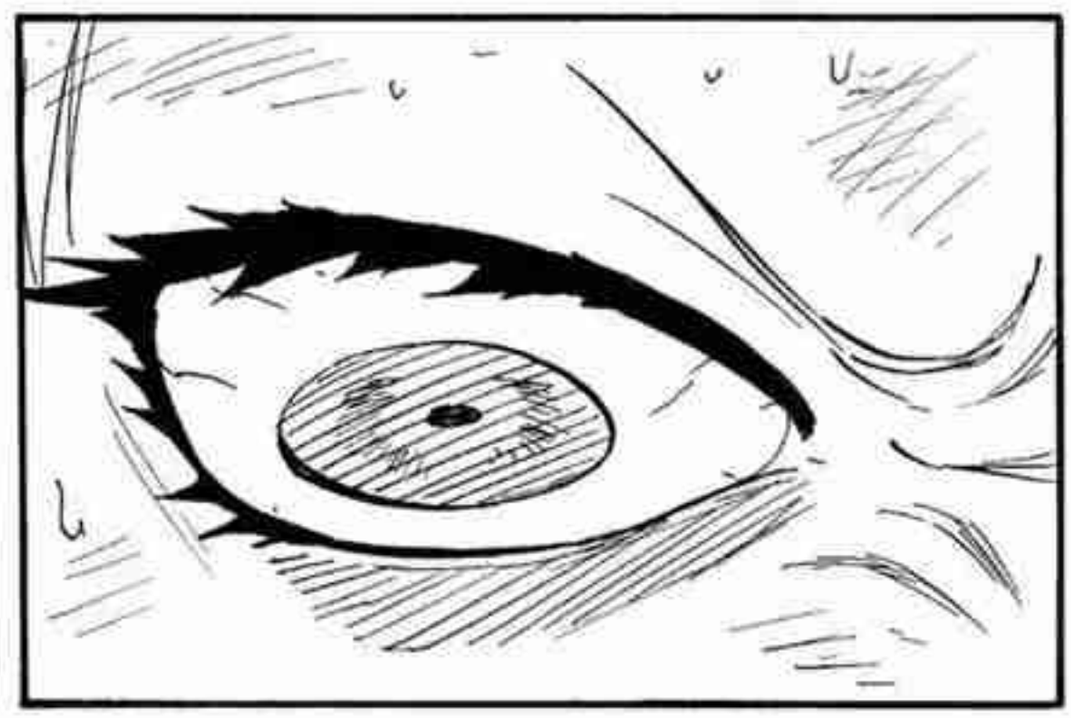

DON'T DIE...

DON'T DIE!

DON'T DIE!

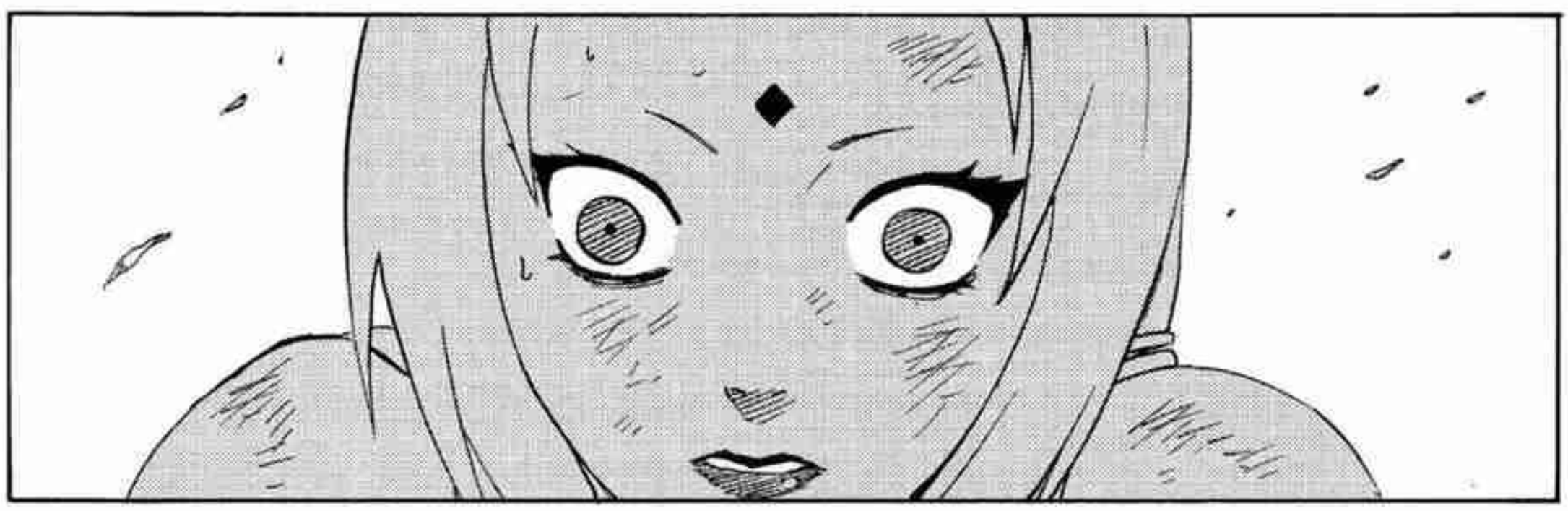
DON'T DIE!



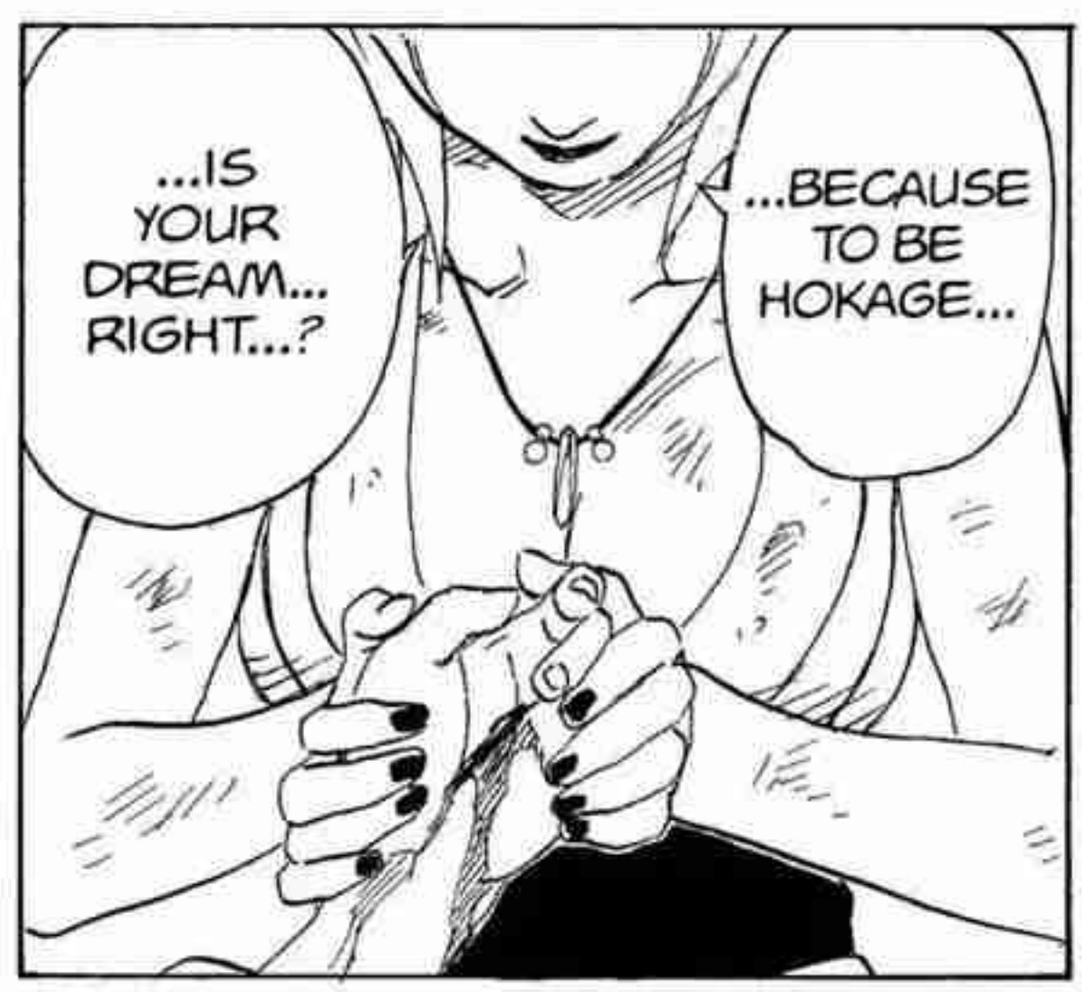


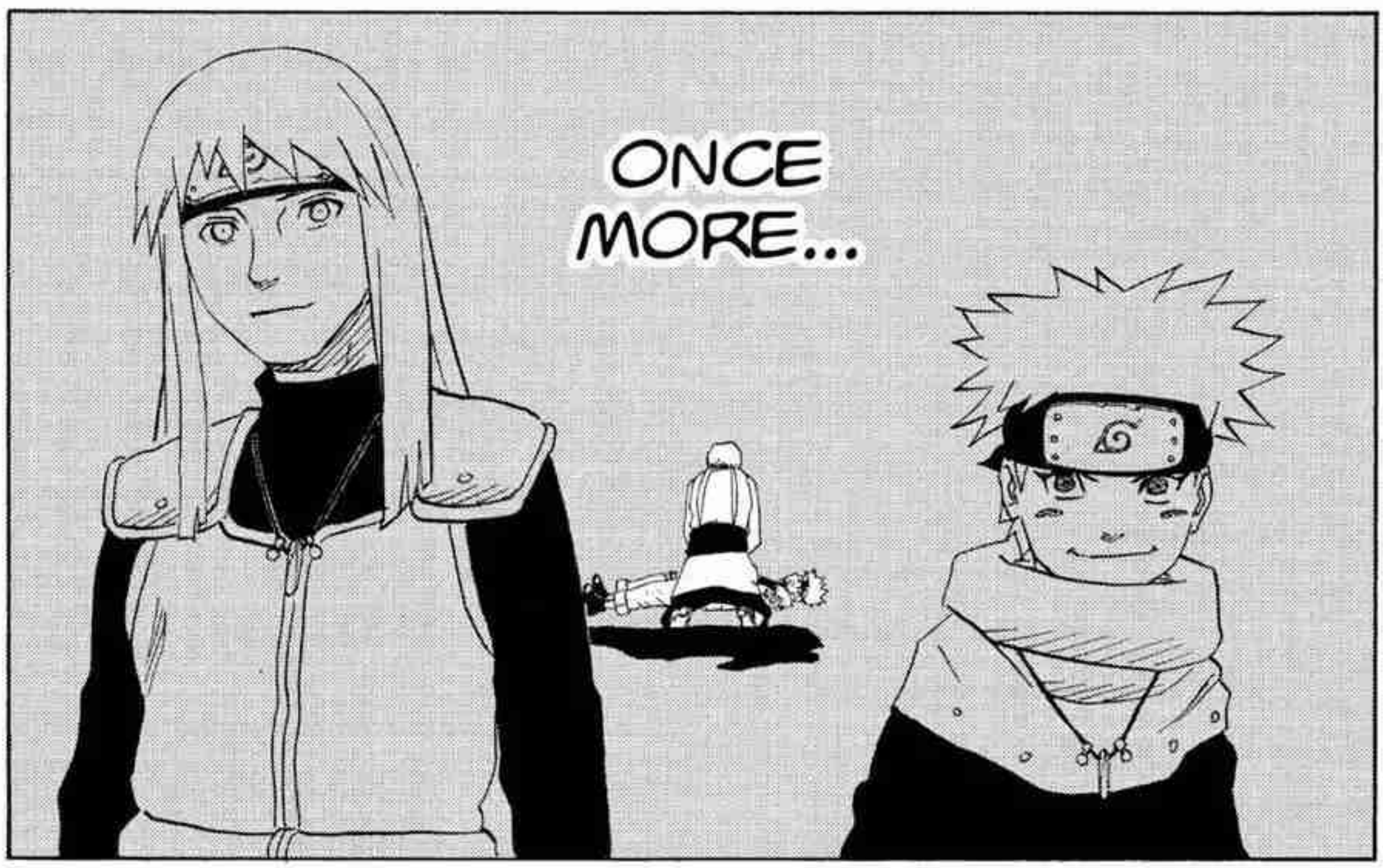
...I WIN...

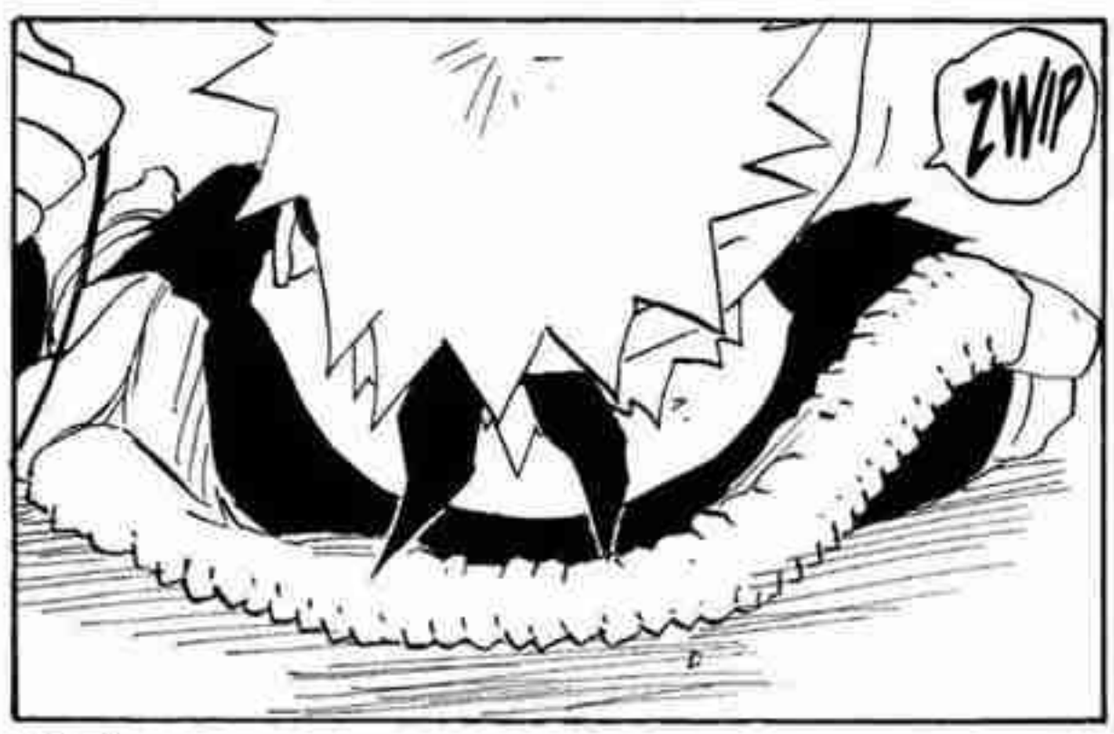
...THE... BET...



BUZZ...


...IS YOUR DREAM... RIGHT...?
...BECAUSE TO BE HOKAGE...

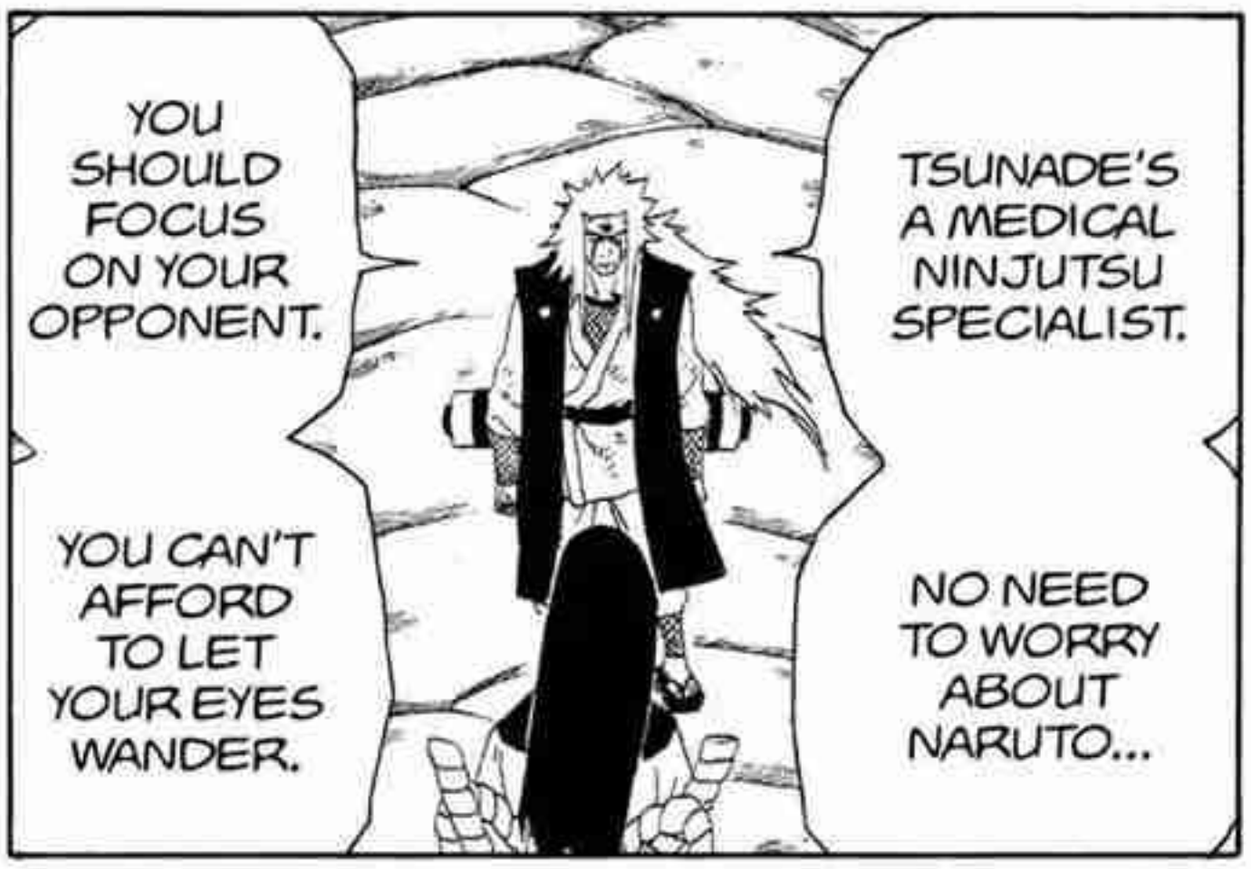

ONCE MORE...


ZWIP

JUST ONCE MORE...
SHF

I PUT THE ODDS ON YOU...

CHING


YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON YOUR OPPONENT.
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LET YOUR EYES WANDER.
TSUNADE'S A MEDICAL NINJUTSU SPECIALIST.
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT NARUTO...

THAT BOY IS NO GOOD...

THE TIME TO KILL HIM IS...
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT BOY HAD IT IN HIM...
HE'LL BE TROUBLE IF HE FALLS INTO THE AKATSUKI'S HANDS... SO...
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

ZOOM
...NOW!!
!

PUFF

TSK!
TAK

UNGH...
ARGH!!
FWIPP
FOOSH!!
SCHK
TUG

HE'S AIMING FOR NARUTO?!

!!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 30: NO.3

BECOMING A MANGA ARTIST IS NOT SOMETHING ONE DOES TO SATISFY THEIR PARENTS OR FOR MONEY. BUT AS LONG AS ONE AIMS TO BE A MANGA ARTIST, VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES ARE BOUND TO ARISE ALONG THE WAY. IN THE END, MAKING THESE THINGS GO SMOOTHLY WAS SOMETHING I DID FOR MYSELF... IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS A PART OF MY BECOMING A MANGA ARTIST.

TO THAT END, I REALIZED THAT MY LIFE COULDN'T CONTINUE GOING THE WAY IT HAD BEEN.

I DECIDED TO GO BACK TO BASICS AND THOROUGHLY RESTUDY MANGA FROM THE BEGINNING.

FIRST, I BEGAN WITH THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: WHAT IS A STORY? THEN I LOOKED UP THE MEANINGS OF ALL MANGA-RELATED TERMS, ASKING MYSELF: WHAT DOES THEME REALLY MEAN? WHAT DO EPISODE, STRUCTURE, CHARACTERS AND DIRECTION MEAN? I STUDIED THEM AND TRIED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE WORDS MEANT AND HOW TO USE THEM.

WHAT I ACTUALLY DID WAS VISIT LIBRARIES AND STUDY THE THINGS NECESSARY TO CREATE A STORY, SUCH AS HOW TO WRITE A STORY, MAKING SCENARIO SYNOPSES, MISLEADING, HOOK TECHNIQUES, CATCH, THREE-ACT STRUCTURE, SET-UP ORDER, HOW TO CREATE AND DISPLAY CHARACTERS, THEIR ROLES, STORY PATTERNS, AND SO ON... THESE THINGS I LEARNED BY READING HOW-TO BOOKS ON SCRIPTWRITING AND BECOMING A WRITER.

I ACTUALLY WATCHED THE MOVIES USED AS EXAMPLES IN THOSE BOOKS TO LEARN DIRECTING TECHNIQUES, CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND STORY STRUCTURE. I ALSO READ SUSPENSE NOVELS TO STUDY METHODS OF LEADING AND HOLDING, TECHNIQUES OF DELIBERATELY NOT USING NOUNS, AND MISLEADING TECHNIQUES NECESSARY TO MAKE THE STORY ENTERTAINING. IN SHORT, I LEARNED HOW TO WRITE A STORY BY READING BOOKS.

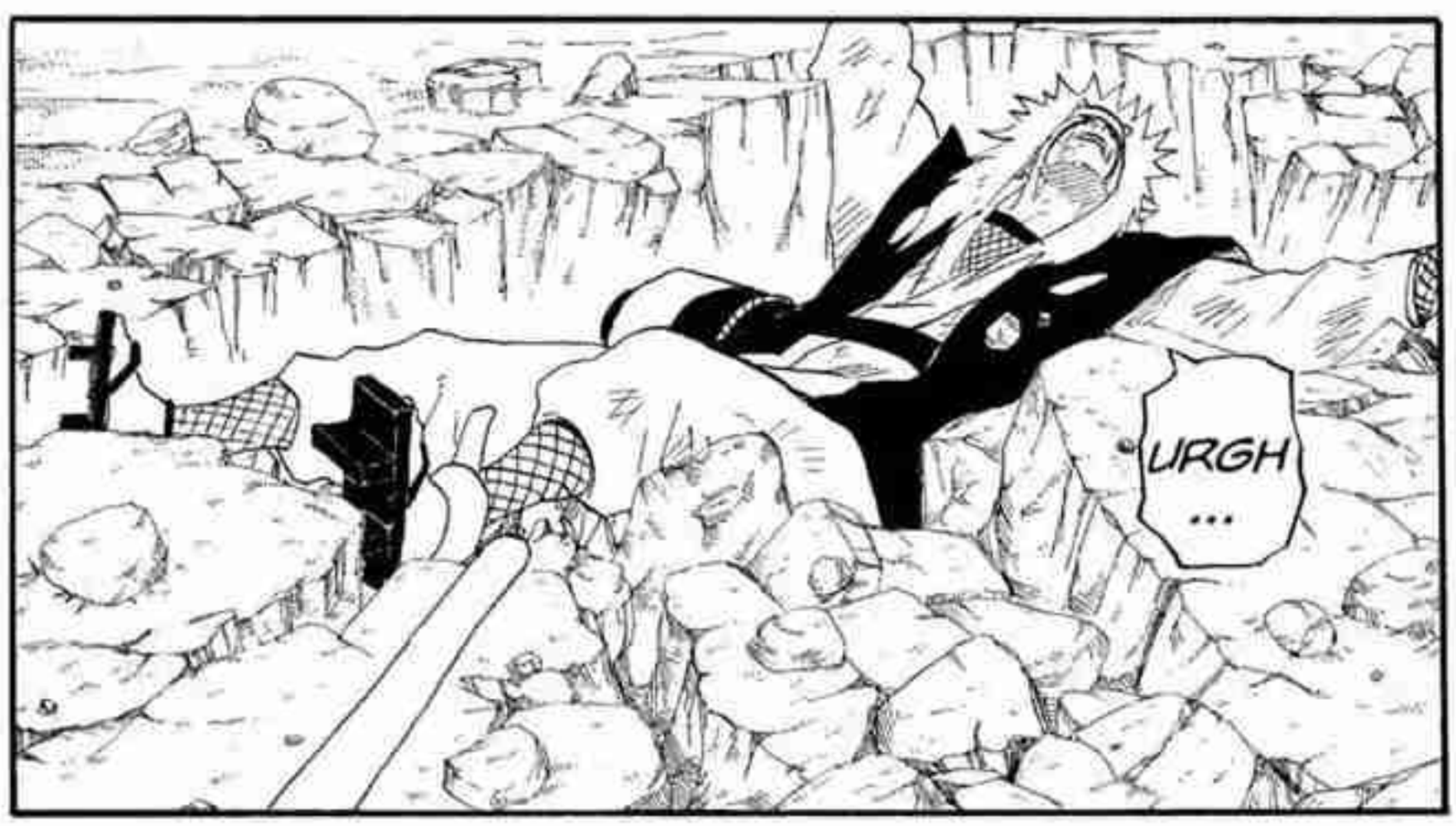
...BUT I COULDN'T ACQUIRE THESE TECHNIQUES JUST BY READING. SO I WATCHED LOTS OF MOVIES TO FIND HOW, AND IN WHICH SCENES, THE TECHNIQUES INTRODUCED IN THOSE BOOKS WERE ACTUALLY USED AND I WROTE THEM DOWN IN NOTEBOOKS AND STOCKPILED THEM. THEN I SET ABOUT DEVELOPING THIS MATERIAL AND THUS MADE THE TECHNIQUES MY OWN.

I WROTE OUT EACH LINE OF PULP FICTION TO STUDY CHARACTERS AND STORY STRUCTURE. I READ NOVELS WRITTEN BY DAZAI OSAMU TO LEARN HOW TO TREAT THEME, AND DISCOVERED SOME PATTERNS. I SUNK MY TEETH INTO WHATEVER I THOUGHT OF AS ENTERTAINMENT AND SEARCHED FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS, "WHAT'S INTERESTING?" AND "HOW IS IT INTERESTING?" I WOKE UP IN THE MORNING AND VISITED LIBRARIES, BOOKSTORES AND VIDEO STORES... I SPENT EVERY DAY LIKE THAT FOR TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATING COLLEGE.

I DIDN'T MAKE MANY STORYBOARDS DURING THAT TIME. BUT IT APPEARED THAT MY FIRST VERSION OF *NARUTO*, A ONE-SHOT MANGA I WROTE SOON AFTER STARTING THIS RESEARCH, SOMEHOW GAINED POPULARITY IN *AKAMARU JUMP*, ROUGH WORK THOUGH IT WAS.

TO BE CONTINUED. SEE, THE STORY'S GETTING BRIGHTER, RIGHT?

Number 169:


URGH
...

...

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE I WOULD HAVE SPARED...
TSUNADE ...

KOFF!
HAK

FOR ONCE, STAY OUT OF MY WAY...?
IF I LEAVE THIS BOY ALIVE, EVERYTHING WILL FALL APART...

!

YOU LEAVE THE BOY ALONE... I'LL PRO-TECT...NO MATTER WHAT...!

SHIVER
SHIVER

...RISKING EVERY-THING TO PROTECT SOME GENIN BRAT...?

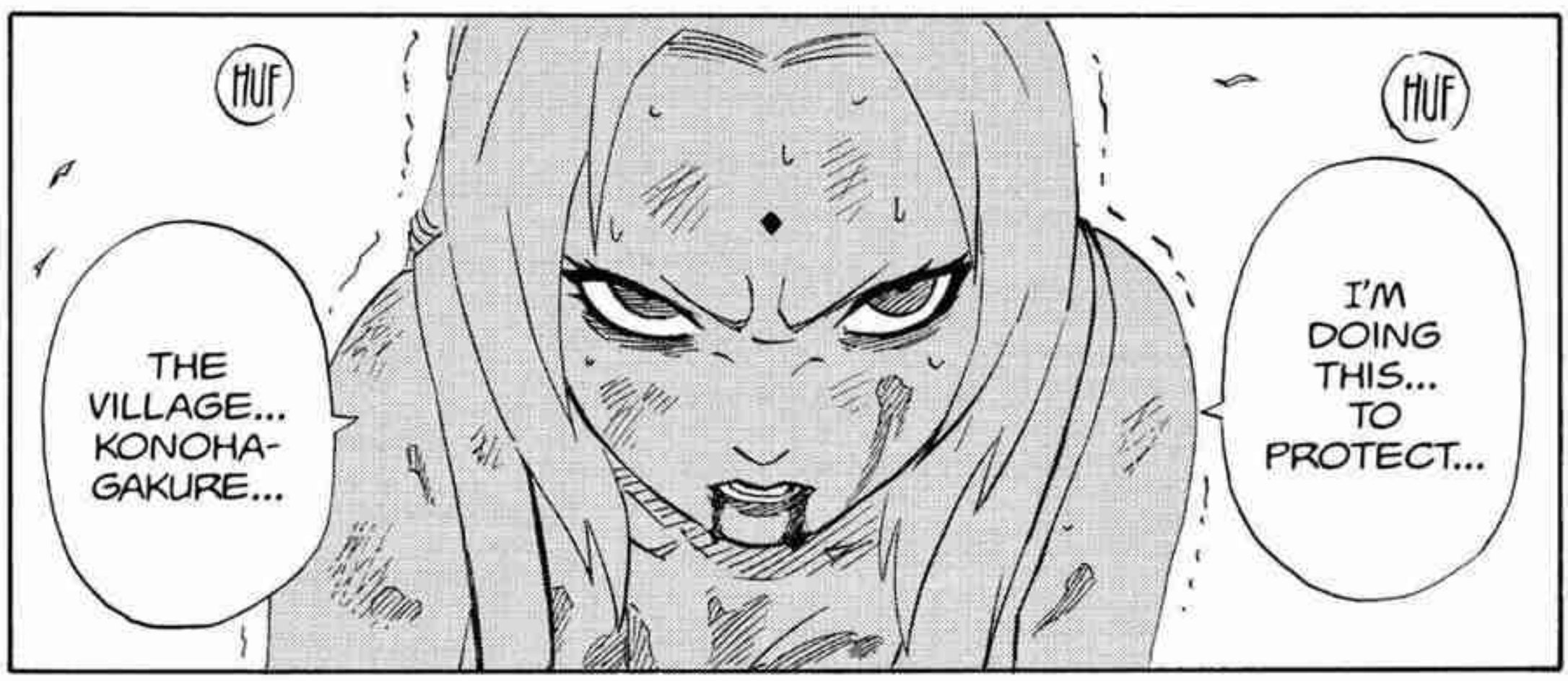
SHLUGK

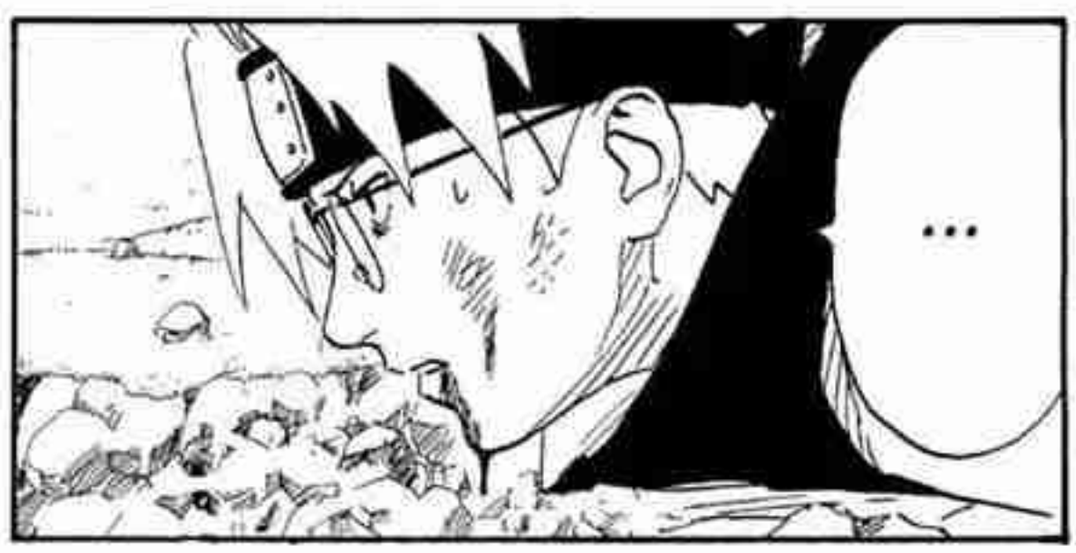
AHH

WHY ARE YOU, ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI...

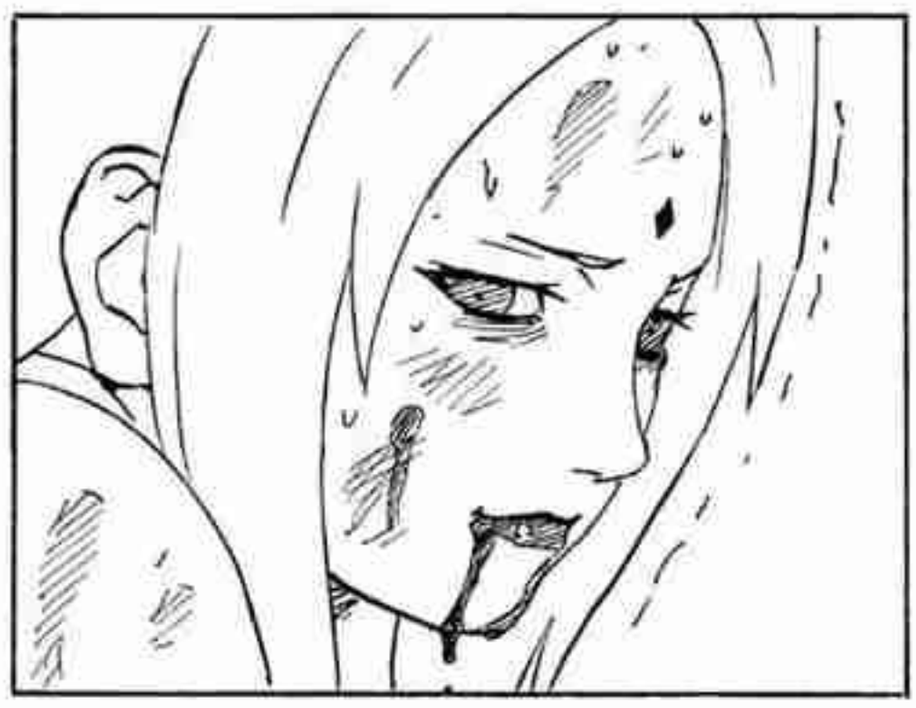
HMPH... TREMBLING FROM THE FEAR OF BLOOD...

SWISH





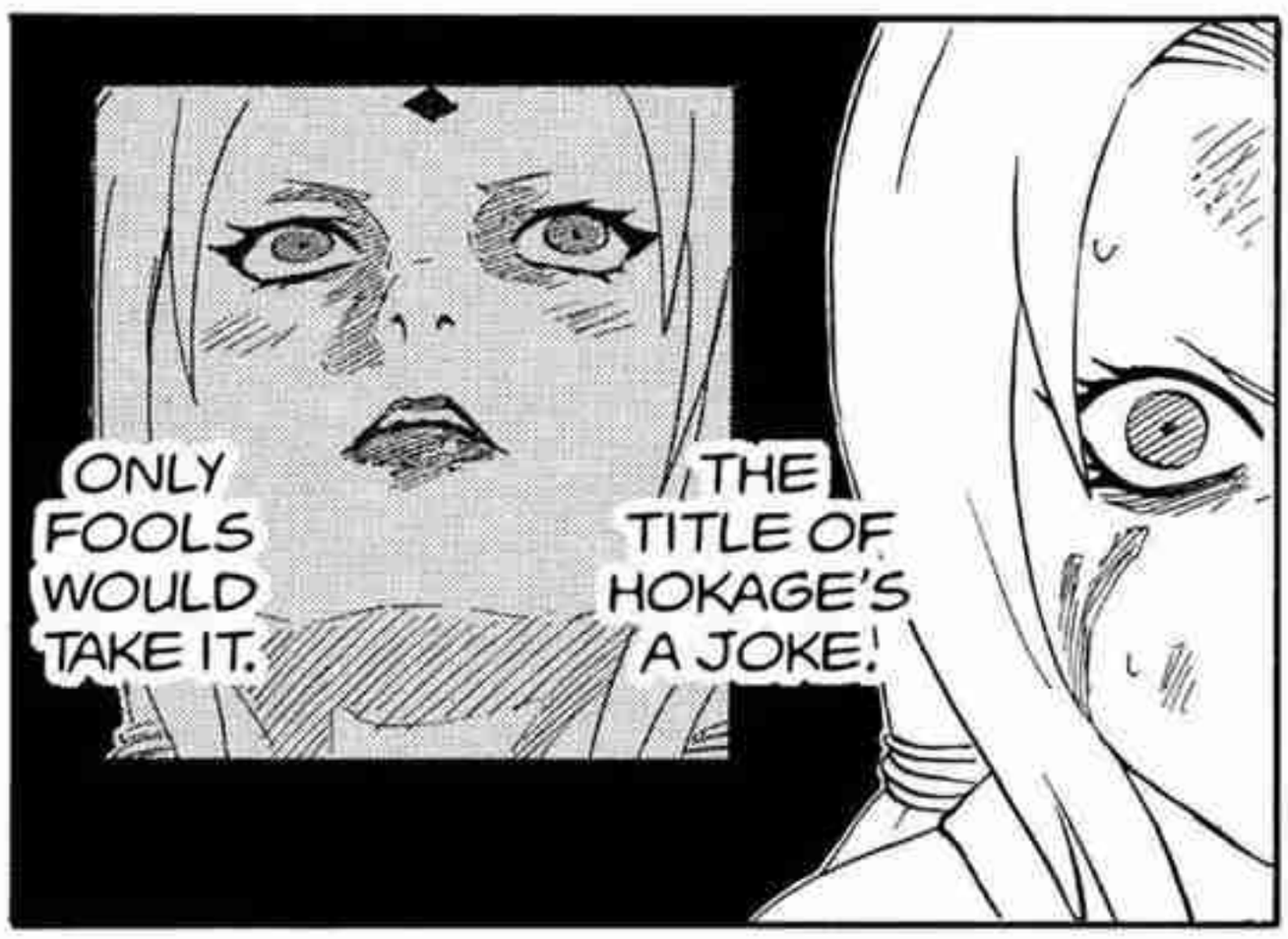
TO PROTECT KONOHA?
HISS



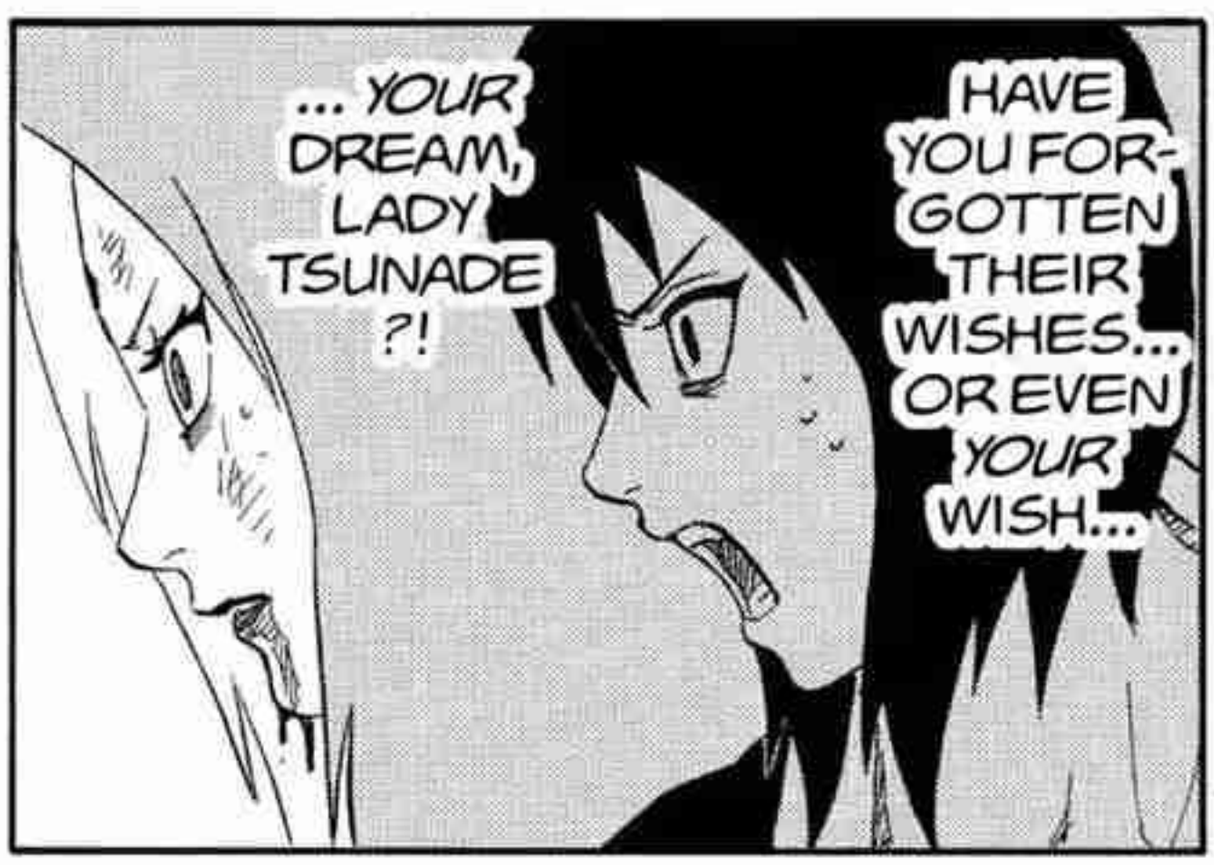
WILL SOMEDAY BE HOKAGE...
BECAUSE... THIS LITTLE KID...

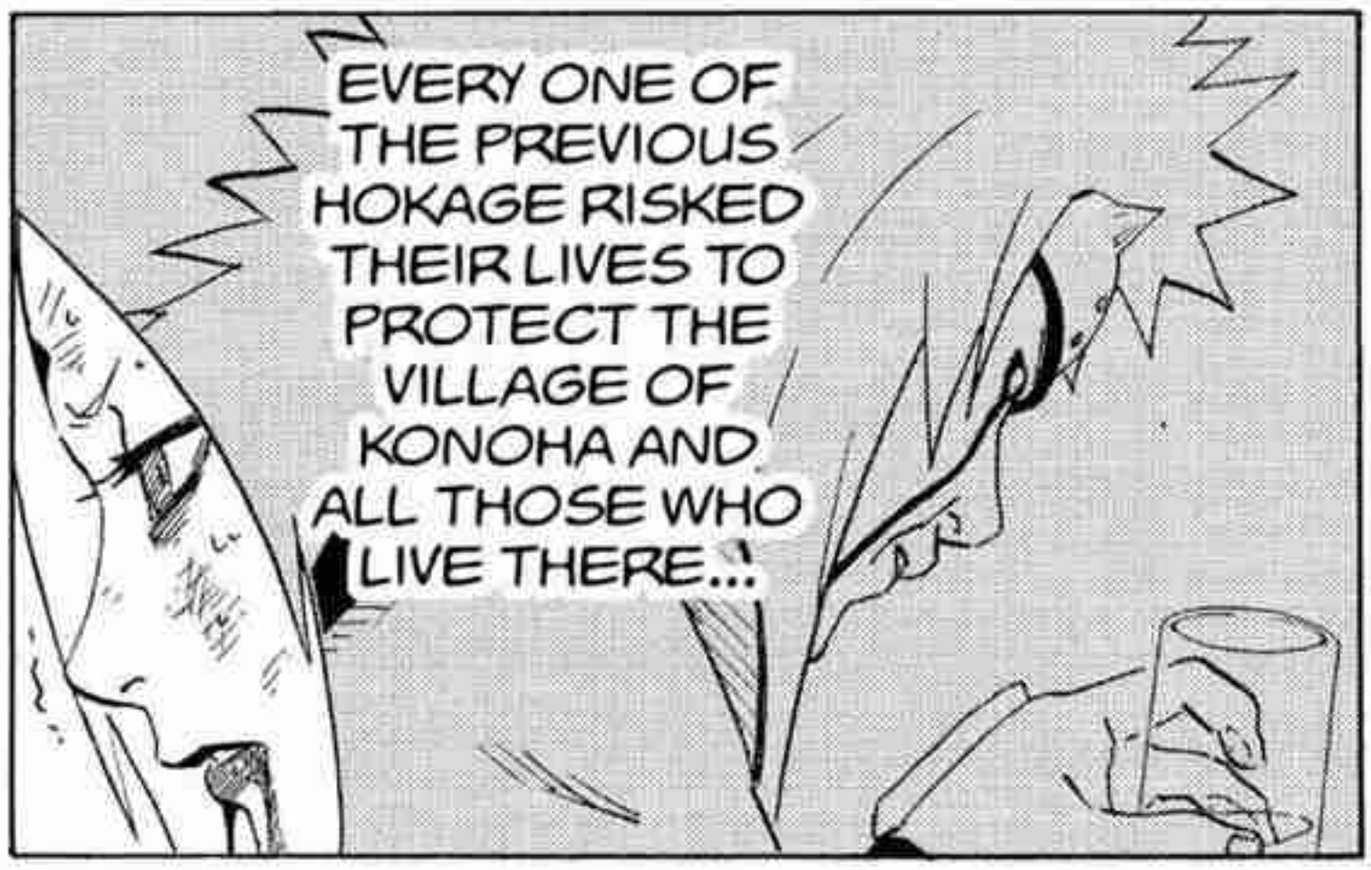
ONLY FOOLS WOULD TAKE IT.
THE TITLE OF HOKAGE'S A JOKE.

...


ONLY FOOLS WOULD TAKE IT.
THE TITLE OF HOKAGE'S A JOKE!

HO HO... NON-SENSE...
BESIDES ...


... YOUR DREAM, LADY TSUNADE ?!
HAVE YOU FOR-GOTTEN THEIR WISHES... OR EVEN YOUR WISH...

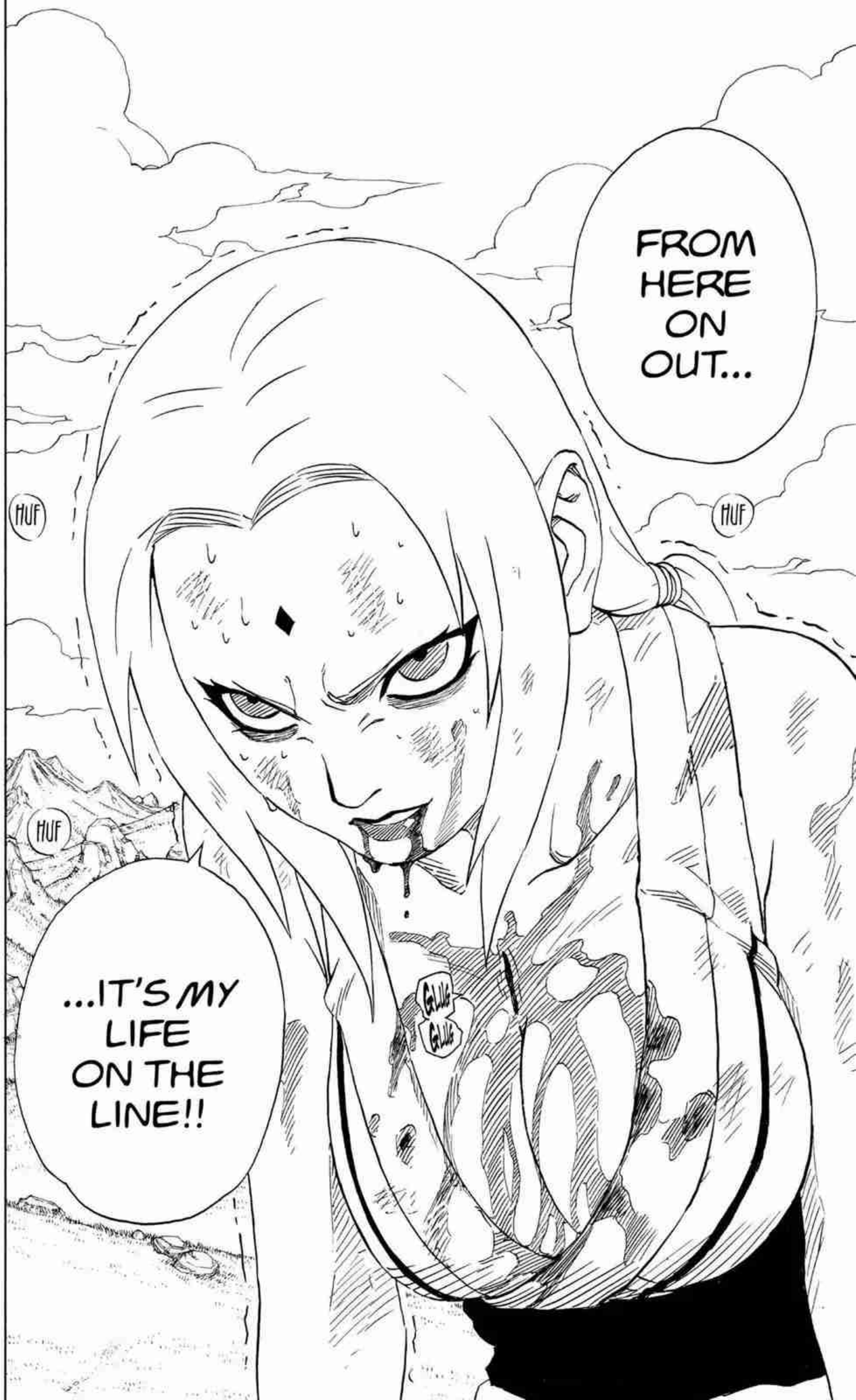

EVERY ONE OF THE PREVIOUS HOKAGE RISKED THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA AND ALL THOSE WHO LIVE THERE...!

THAT WAS THE DREAM THEY FOUGHT FOR!

HMPH...

!

I DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE A LADY!! I'LL SLUG YOU WITH ALL I'VE GOT!!!
I AIN'T GONNA JUST STAND HERE AND LET YOU INSULT THE OLD MAN OR THE FOURTH HOKAGE...!!
PAM


FROM HERE ON OUT...
HUF
HUF
HUF
...IT'S MY LIFE ON THE LINE!!
GLUG GLUG

THEN I AGREE IT SHOULD BE WIPED OUT ACCORDINGLY!!
WHSH
HAH... SURE, IF YOUR LIFE IS WORTH NOTHING MORE THAN THIS LITTLE BRAT...!
SSHP
!
GHA

油
!!
!
油
THUD

MAKE IT IN TIME!!
UNGH...

AND THAT LEAVES... NARUTO.
TAK
TAK

LADY TSUNADE!!

WOOSH

!!
THUD

...IT'S MY LIFE ON THE LINE NOW...
...I TOLD YOU...
!

SKIDDD
THOK
WHY WON'T YOU DIE?!

READ THIS WAY
shake shake
shake shake
!
shake...
POW
?!!
THIS CAN'T BE!! TSUNADE STOPPED SHAKING?!

WHO
MP
THAT'S BECAUSE...

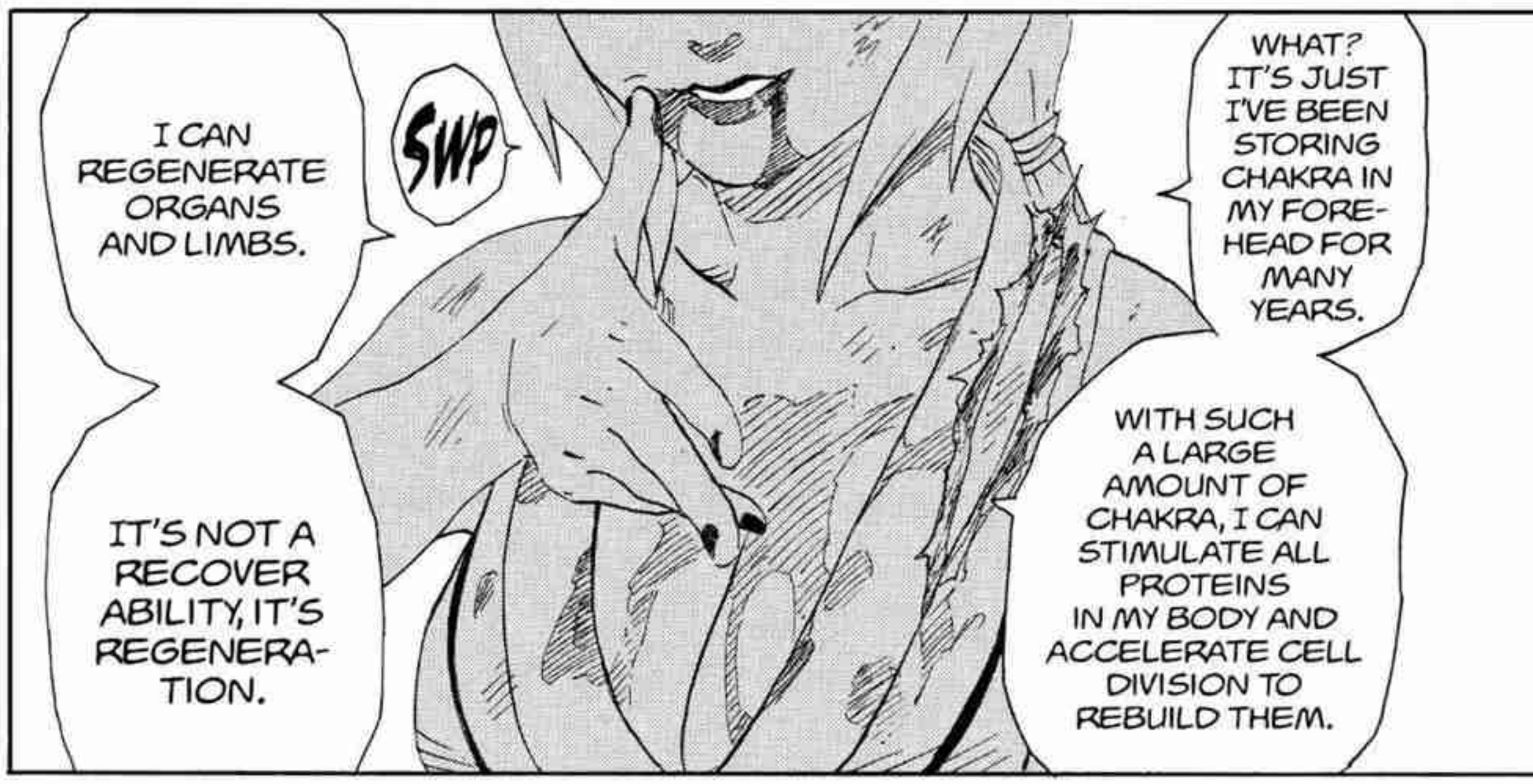
?!

SHHH
I'M... KONOHA-GAKURE'S...
...FIFTH HOKAGE!!

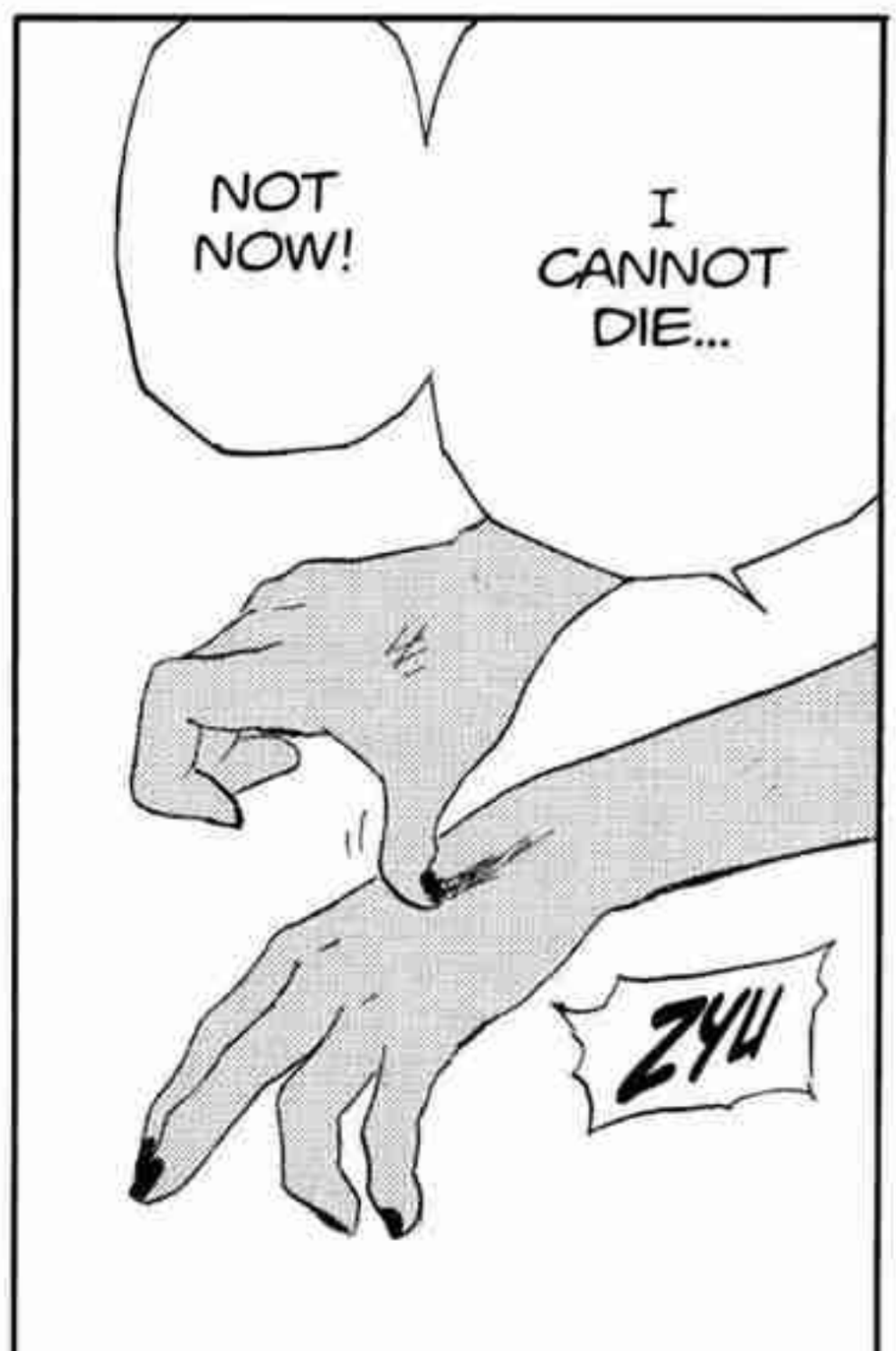
READ THIS WAY
PLEASE DON'T RELEASE THE SEAL!!
W... WAIT!
I'LL HEAL YOUR WOUNDS!
LADY TSUNADE HAS OVER-COME HER PHOBIA. BUT THAT'S...
!!
SOZO-SAISEI! THE ART OF MITOTIC REGENE-RATION!!
HAH!
INFUIN KAI! RESERVE SEAL!!
SUUSH
WHAT'S THIS?! THIS JUTSU...

WHAT KIND OF JUTSU IS THIS?
HEH HEH... IT SEEMS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DEVELOPED NEW JUTSU...

SHF


I CAN REGENERATE ORGANS AND LIMBS.
SWP
IT'S NOT A RECOVER ABILITY, IT'S REGENERA-TION.
WHAT? IT'S JUST I'VE BEEN STORING CHAKRA IN MY FORE-HEAD FOR MANY YEARS.
WITH SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA, I CAN STIMULATE ALL PROTEINS IN MY BODY AND ACCELERATE CELL DIVISION TO REBUILD THEM.

LADY TSUNADE!!
SPEEDING UP CELL DIVISION MEANS SHORTENING LIFESPAN!
BUT THE NUMBER OF CELL DIVISIONS IN ONE LIFETIME IS PREDETER-MINED...

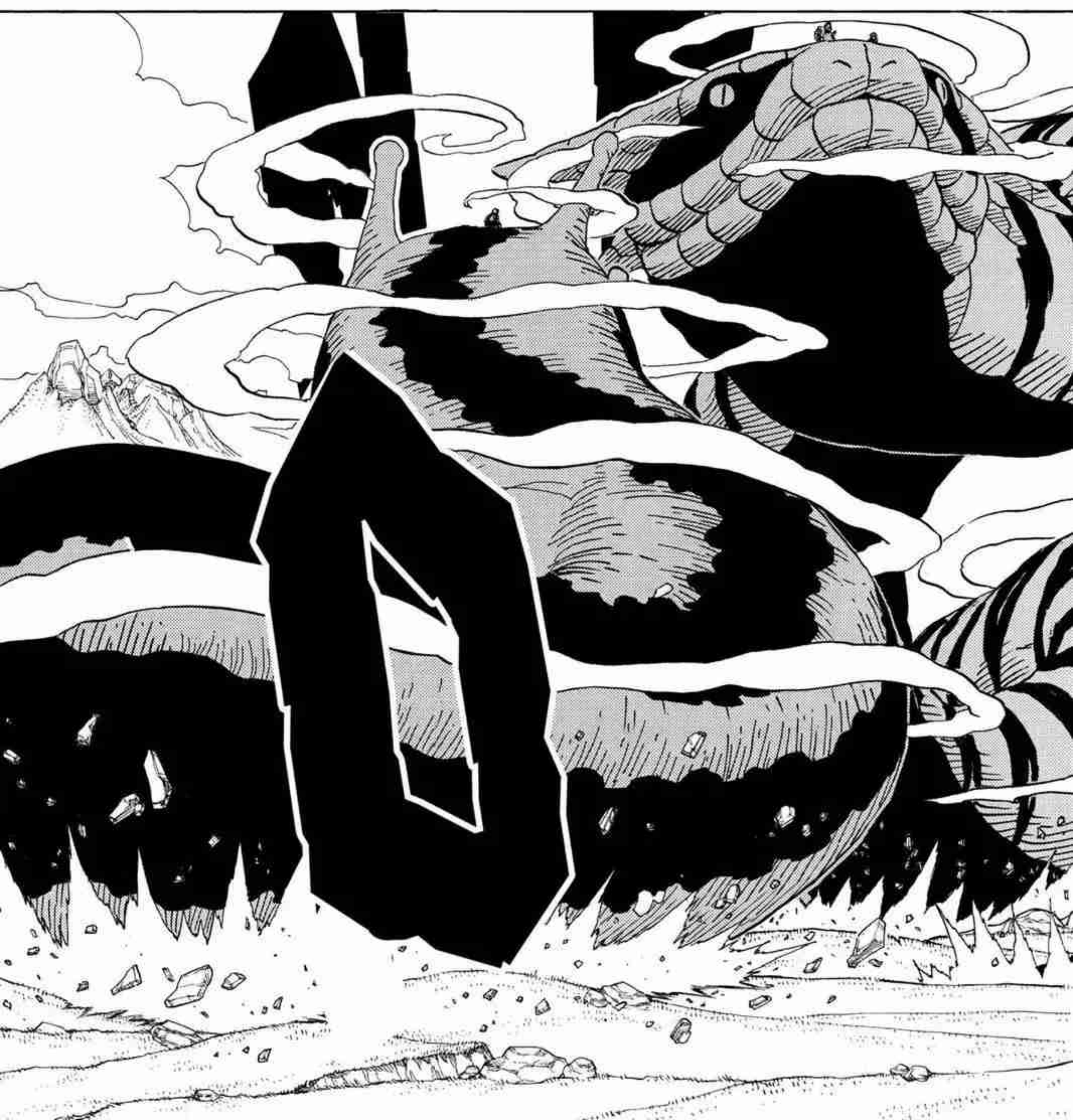

NOT NOW!
I CANNOT DIE...
ZYU

!

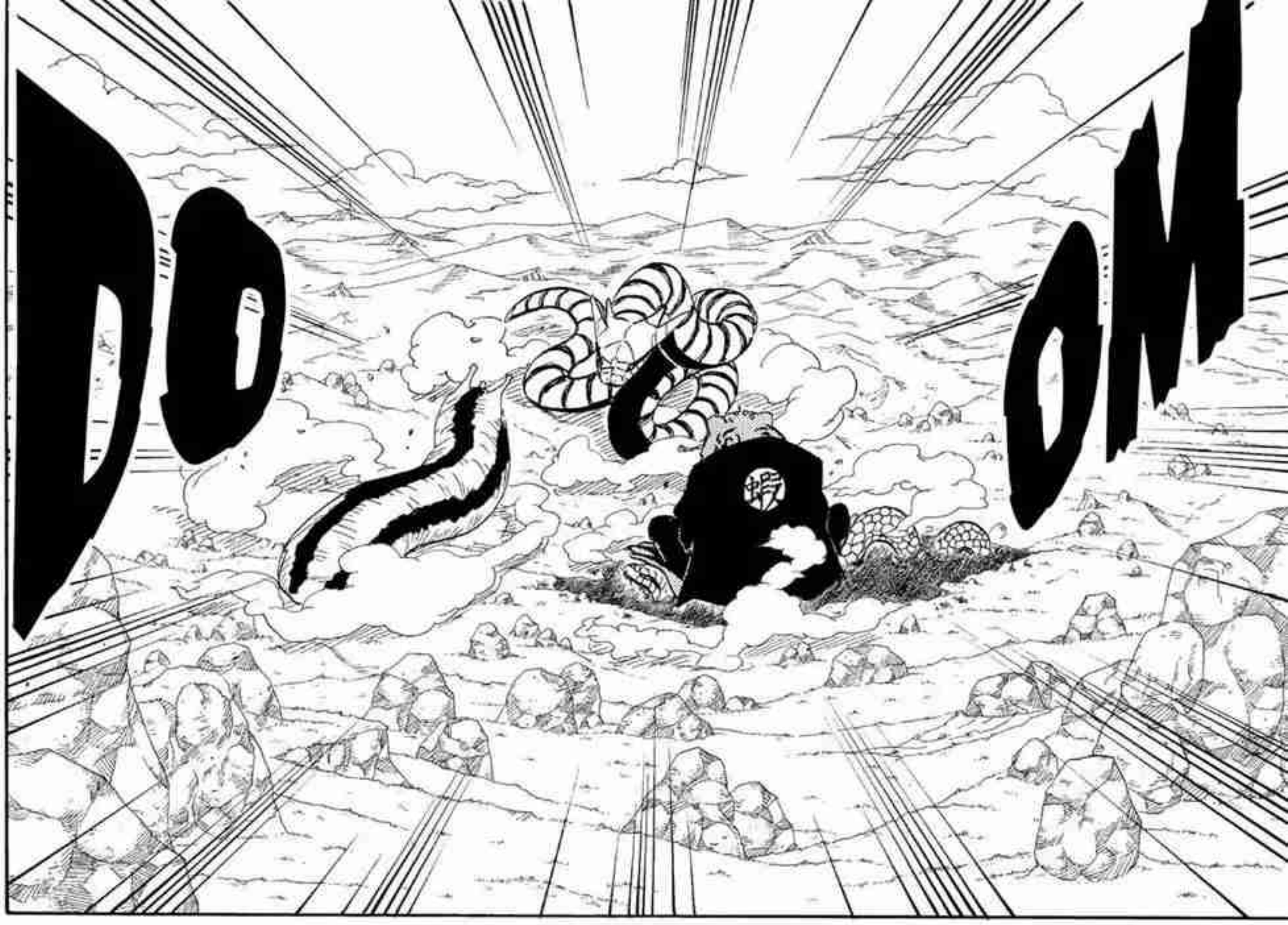
READ THIS WAY
ZOOM
MANDA!!
LORD OROCHI-MARU!!
HURRY!!
FWIP
ARGH!! PLEASE APPEAR!
!
KUCHIYOSE NO JUTSU! THE ART OF SUMMONING!!
BAM
BAM
BAM

BOOF

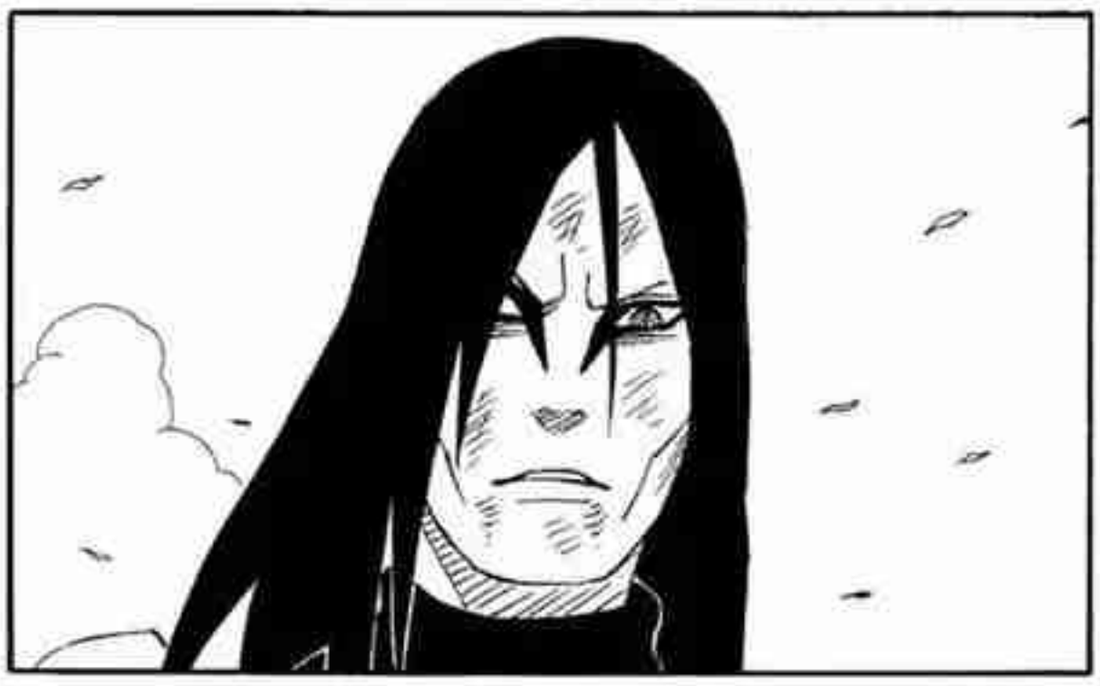
油

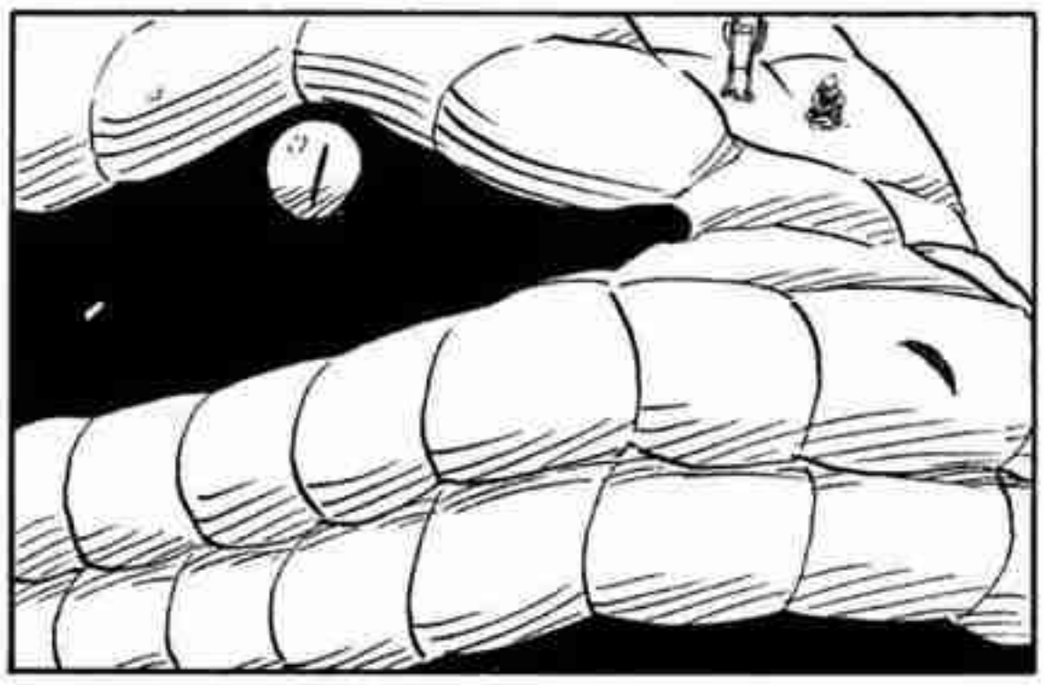


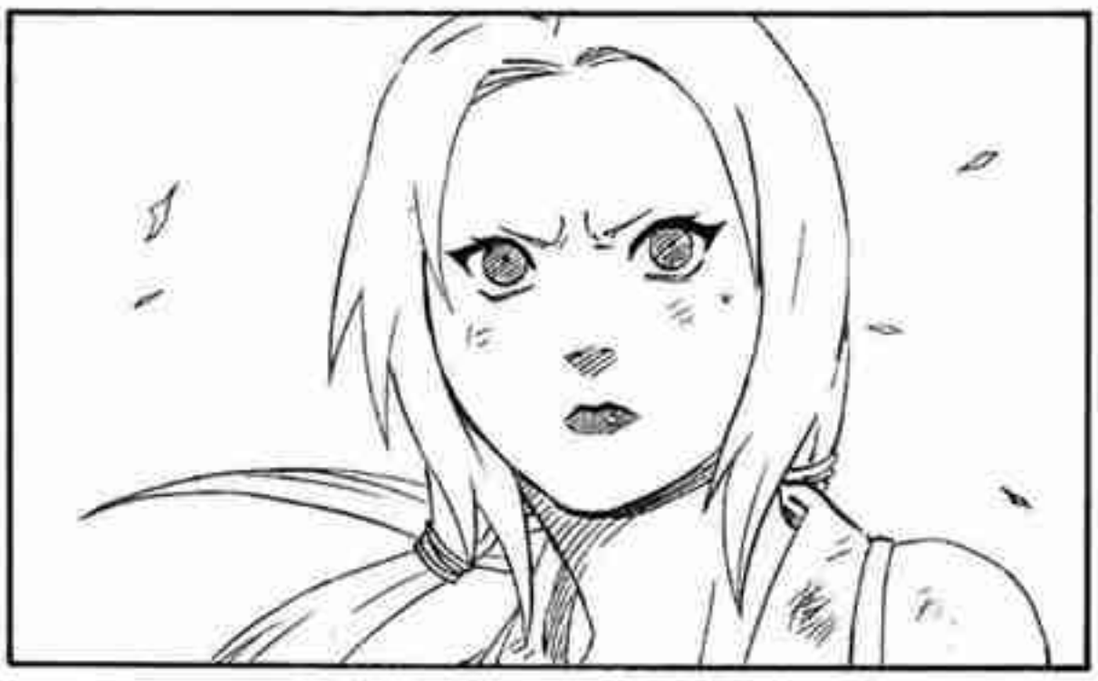
Number 170: Deadlock III

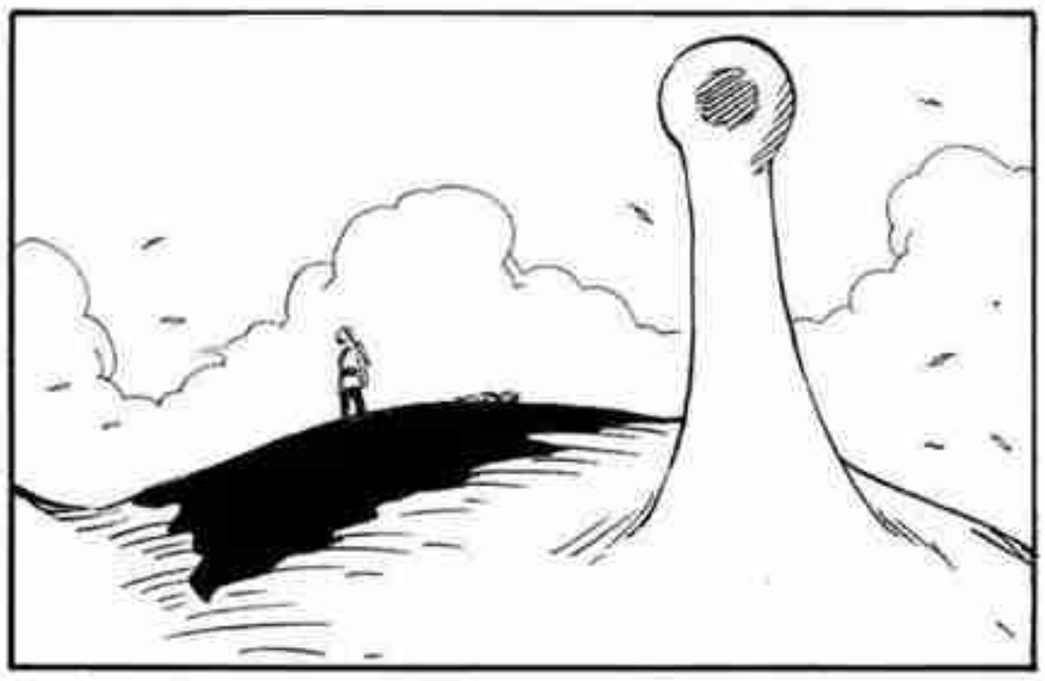

DO
OM

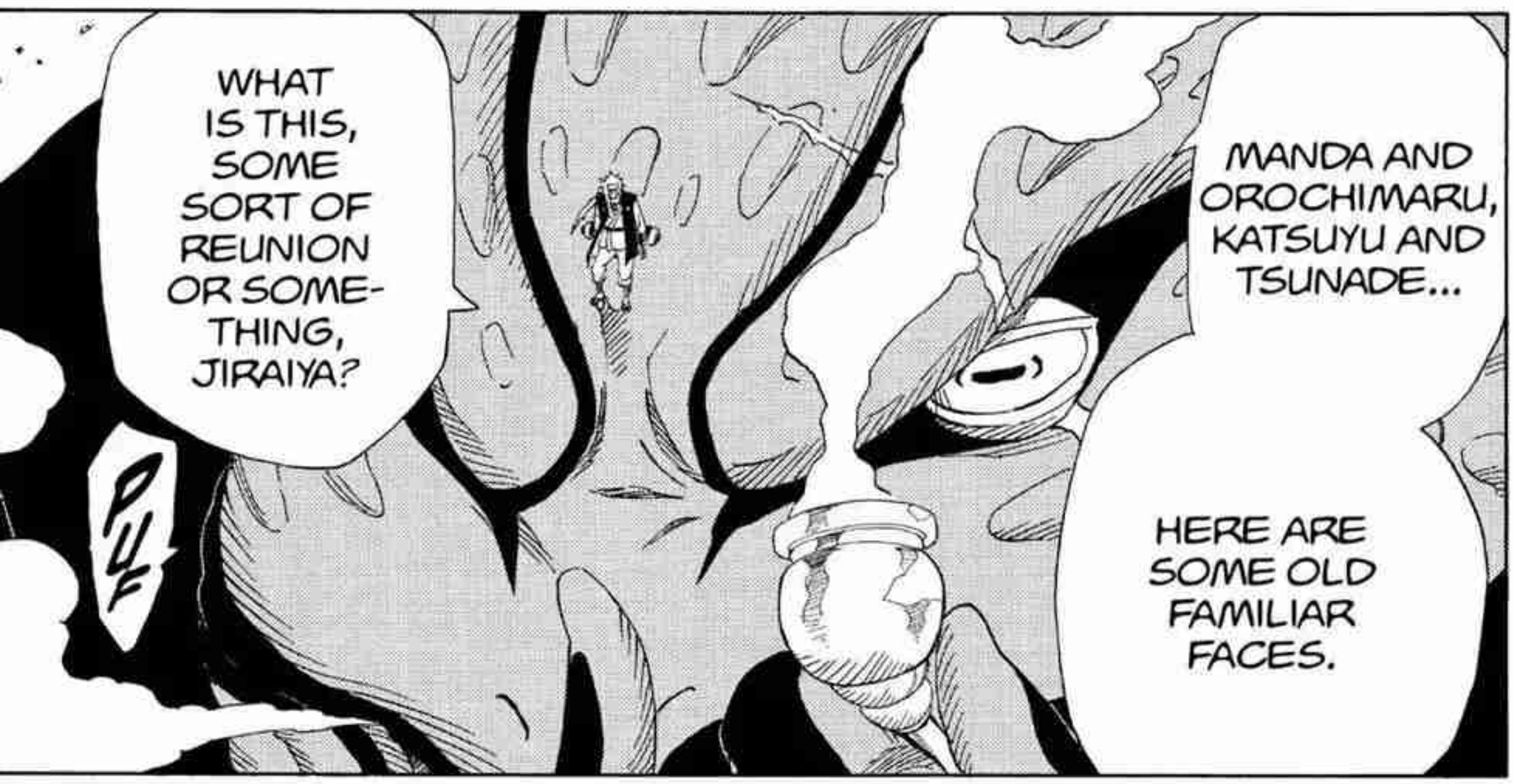
NO! GAMA-TATSU...
WE'RE GETTING OUTTA HERE!!
HEY! IT'S DAD!!







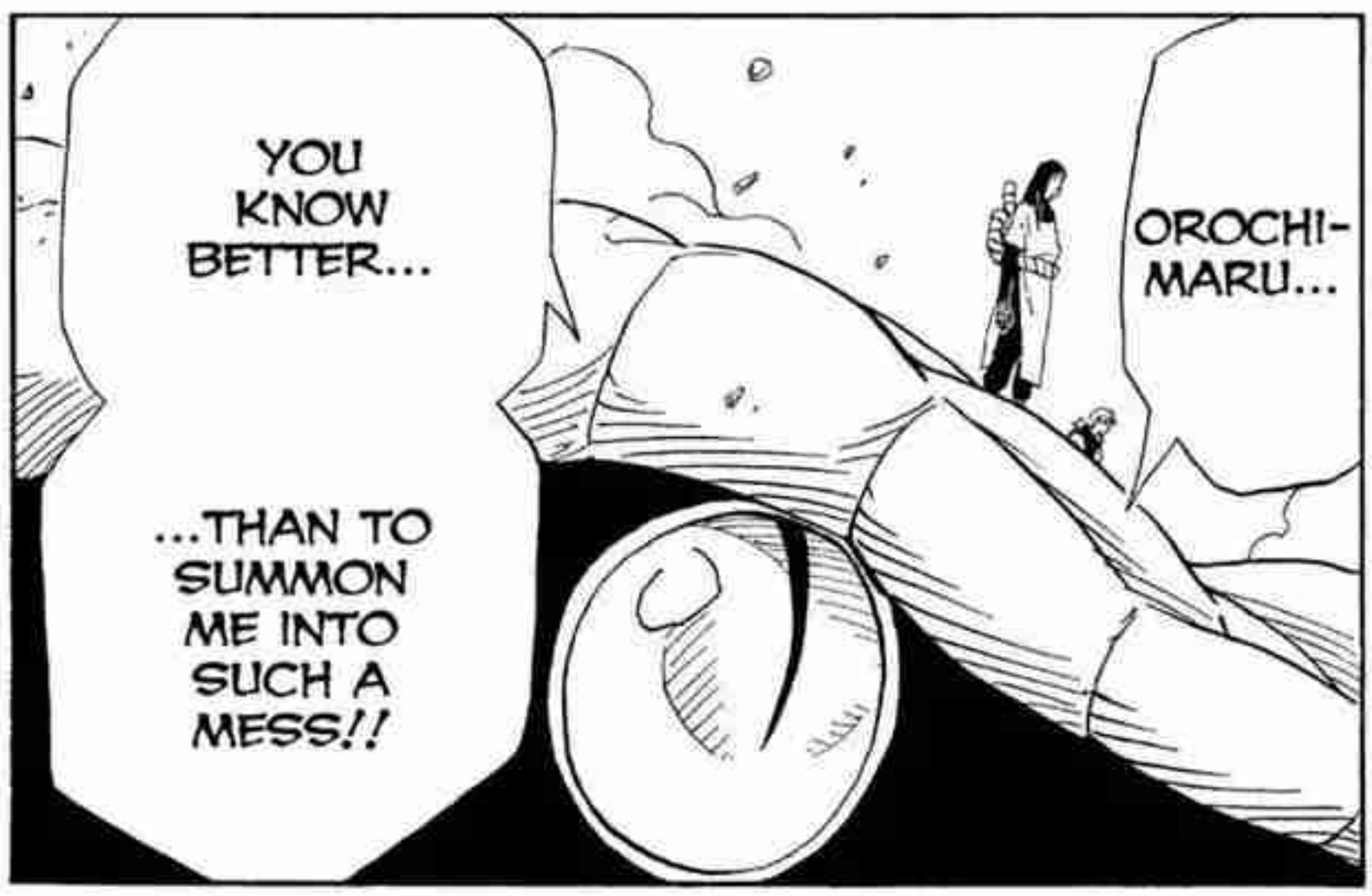



WHAT IS THIS, SOME SORT OF REUNION OR SOME-THING, JIRAIYA?
MANDA AND OROCHIMARU, KATSUYU AND TSUNADE...
HERE ARE SOME OLD FAMILIAR FACES.

I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME TO BRING OUR PARTNER-SHIP TO THE NEXT LEVEL...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST SUMMONED YOU, SO NO LAME JOKES.
NO, DUMMY!

GOIN' DOWN!!

RIGHT HERE AND NOW, OROCHI-MARU IS...



HEY...

AFTER THIS, PREPARE A HUNDRED-MAN SACRIFICE TO ME...

DON'T YOU DARE SPEAK TO ME!!

WHO'S TALKING TO YOU, HUNH?

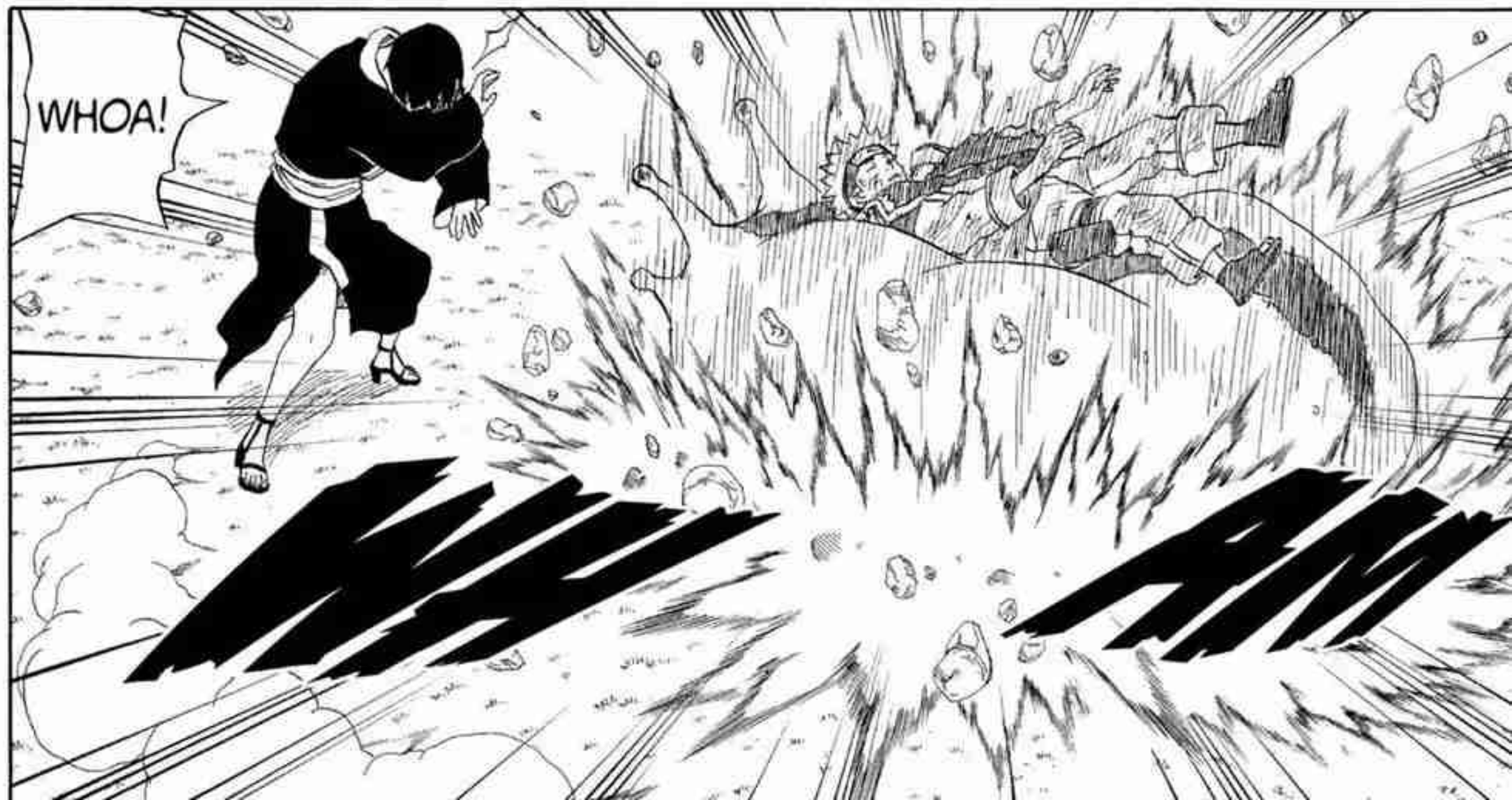
...

SIIIZZZ

YES!

TAK
ME TOO ...!!

SPLEK
ZRRR


WHOA!

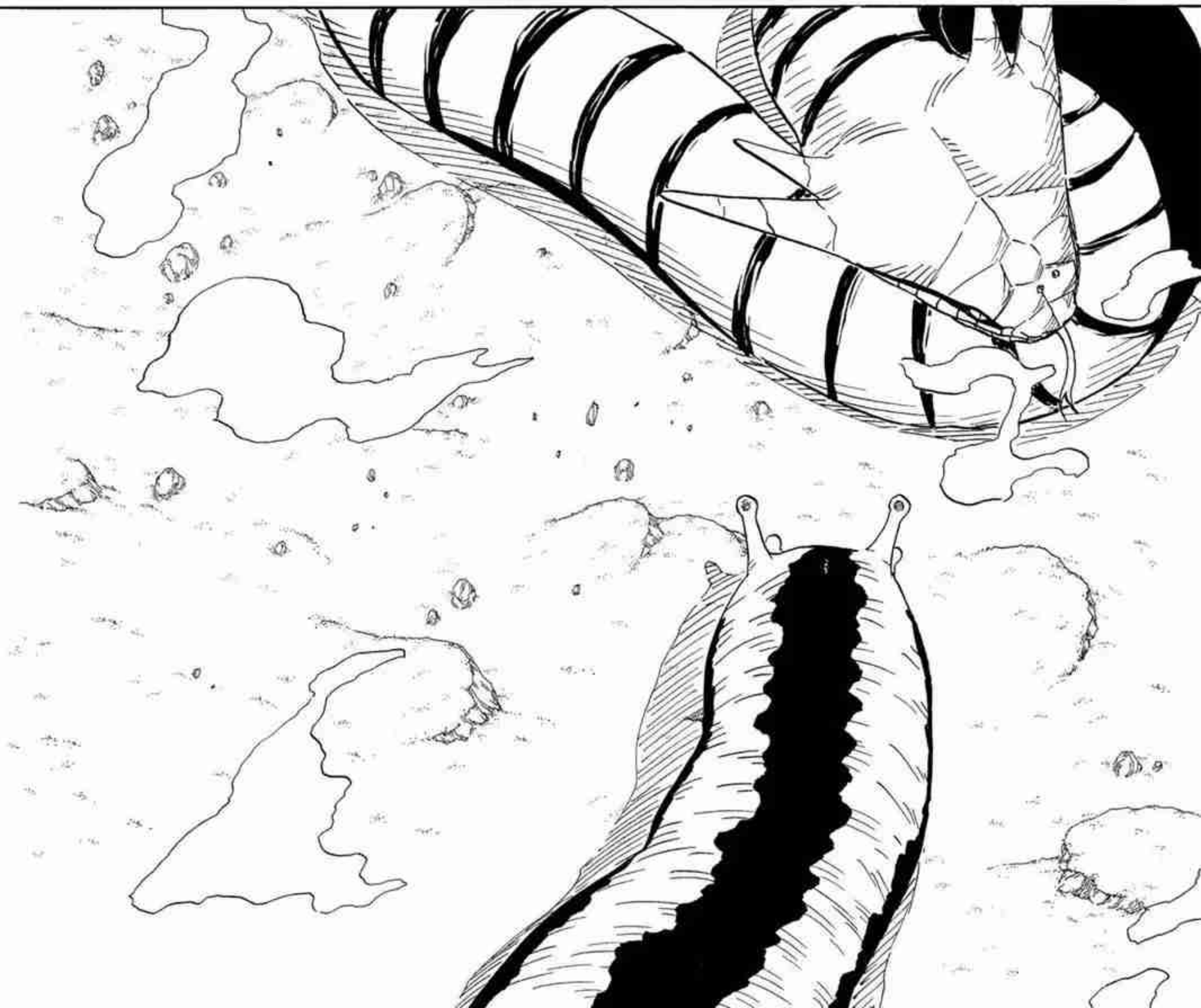
READ THIS WAY
THESE ARE TSUNADE'S WISHES.
SO PLEASE GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE AND HIDE WITH MY CLONE.
A BRUTAL BATTLE IS ABOUT TO BE FOUGHT HERE.
DRAG
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM.
SHIZUNE.
LADY TSUNADE...

...
KACHAK
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A SNAKESKIN WALLET...
YOU...
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR SOME DRIED FROG SNACKS!

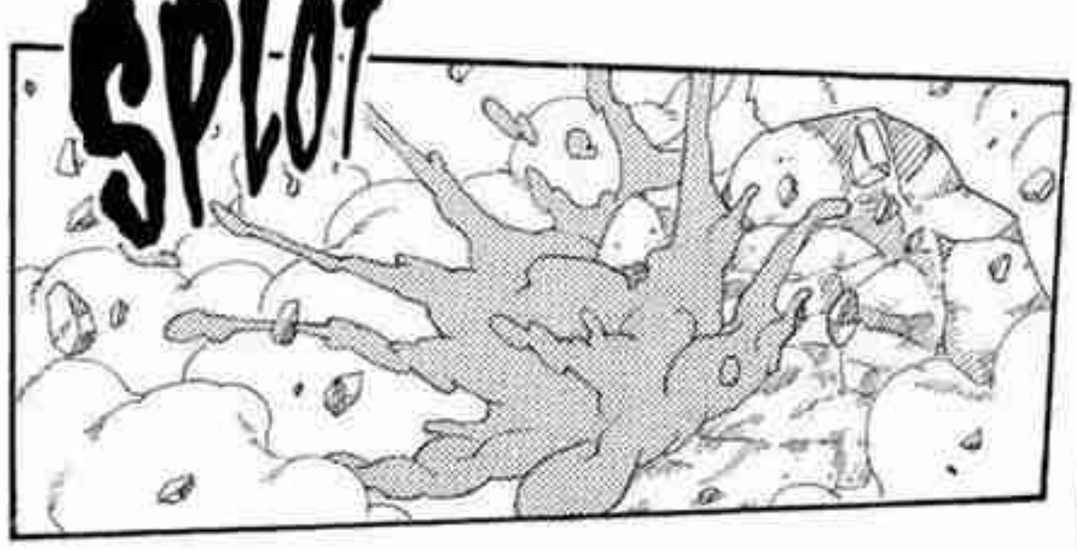
WE ARE THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI NO MORE!

HO HO... THAT'S RICH...
COM-RADES?

WE'RE NO LONGER COMRADES.
OROCHI-MARU. YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE...

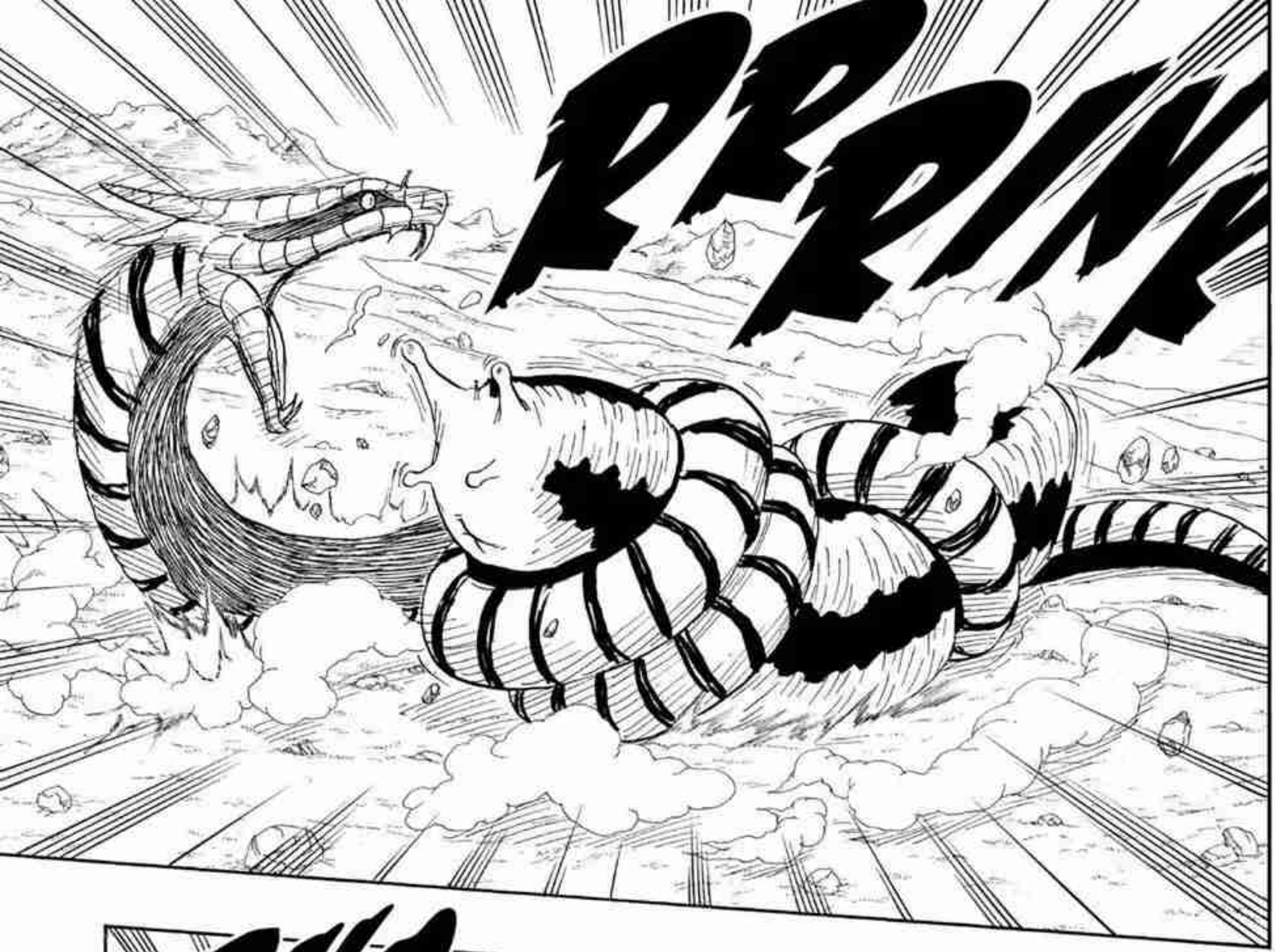


CRASH
ZESSHI NENSAN! ACID SLIME!!


SPLOT

THUNK
!!

!


PPROW

CHOMP
!
TAK
SHF
GRRMM
SQUEEZE
GRRN

BLOP

BLOP BLOP

!

ZZUR... GRRM

TSUNADE, GET BACK!!

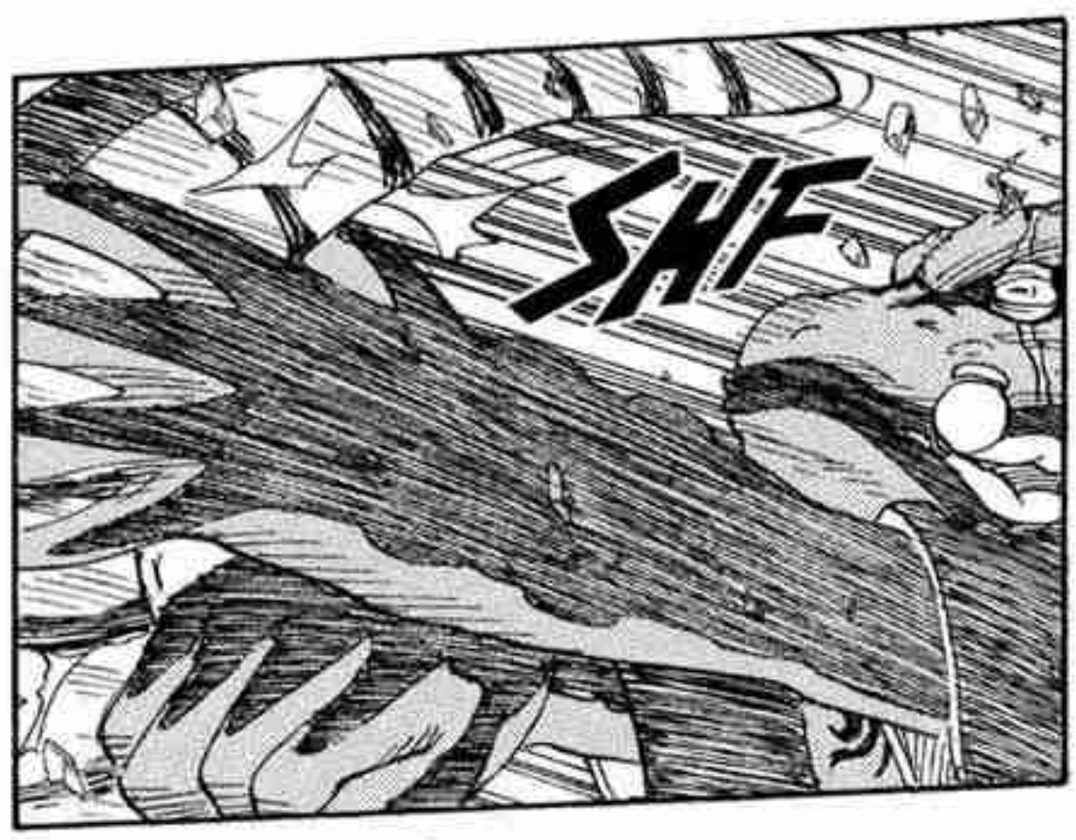
SWISH
WSSH
SHWIP
GOSH
FIRE STYLE!!
OH, YEAH!
BUNTA! OIL!!
CHAK
TAK
FWOO
GAMAYU ENDAN! TOAD FLAME BOMBS!!
PHOOF

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

FSST FSST
HIS SKIN... HE SHED IT?!
!!
油

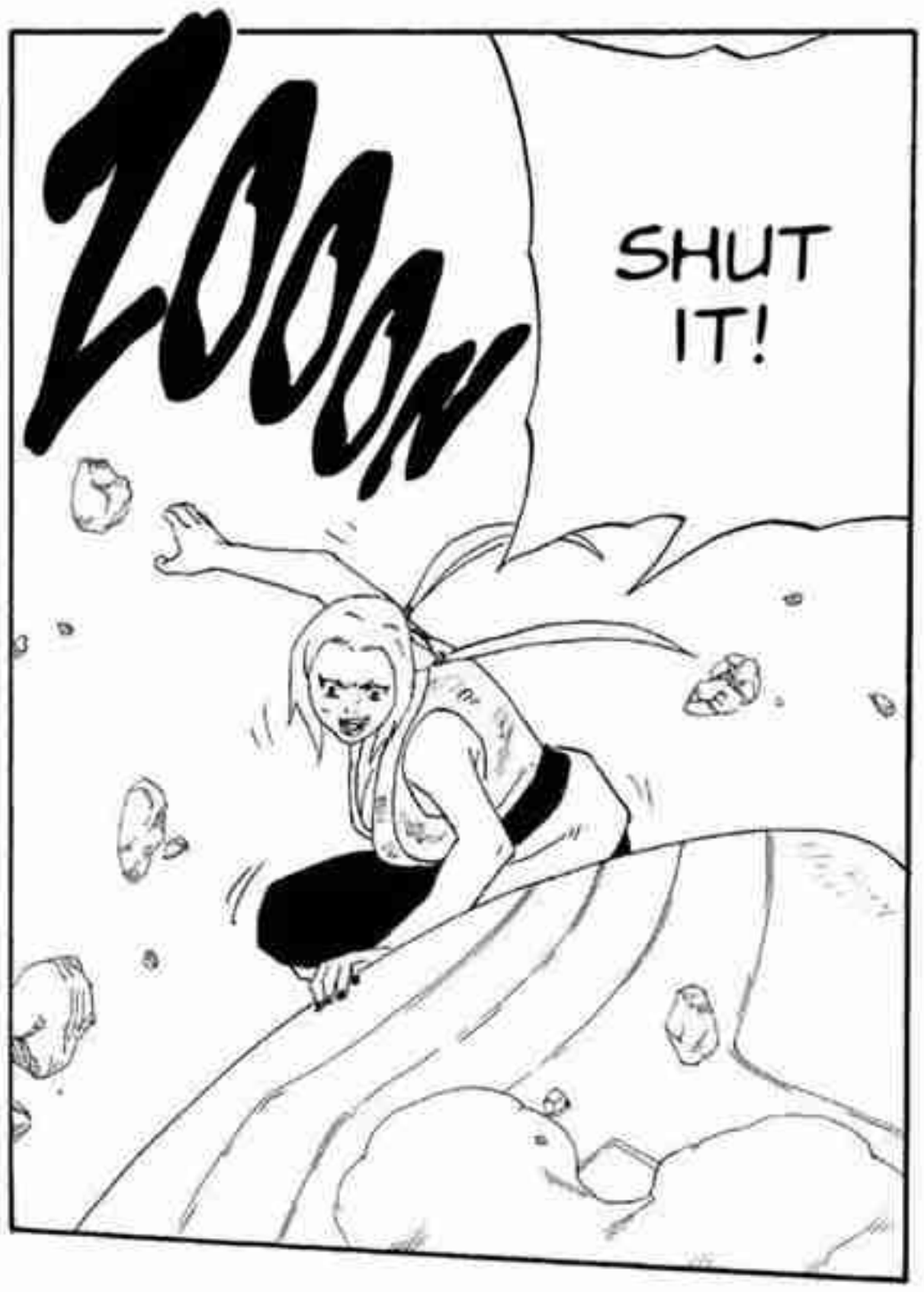
KRAAK

!
RAAR


SHF

!!
HSSSS

油
!


ZOOM
SHUT IT!

SHOULD'VE KNOWN TAKING ON TWO OF THE GREAT THREE WOULD BE TOUGH.

THAK
!!

SHUM

READ THIS WAY
SHF
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO WRAP THINGS UP!
!!
FWIPP
!
SWISH
TUG
TINGS

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 30: NO.4

DURING THE TWO LONG AND BITTER YEARS AFTER COLLEGE, WHICH WERE STILL ENJOYABLE BECAUSE I COULD FEEL MYSELF IMPROVING, I ORGANIZED MY OWN METHOD OF MANGA WRITING IN A NOTEBOOK. THIS IS THE TOP SECRET KISHIMOTO MASASHI NOTEBOOK. IT'S A MASTER PLAN I CAN'T SHOW ANYBODY!

IN THESE TWO YEARS, I GAINED A LOT OF CONFIDENCE. SO, WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY I SET ABOUT WRITING MANGA USING MY CONFIDENTIAL NOTEBOOK. MY THEME WAS BASEBALL! AND THE TITLE WAS *YAKYU-OH*, BASEBALL KING!

AFTER A SHORT TIME, I FINISHED THE SCRIPT AND SHOWED IT TO MY EDITOR, MR. YAHAGI. "IT'S INTERESTING, BUT...I THINK IT'S A BIT DARK," HE SAID. "BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD WRITE THIS STYLE OF MANGA... YOU'VE IMPROVED." I WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR THOSE WORDS. ALTHOUGH *YAKYU-OH* PASSED MR. YAHAGI'S CHECK, A HIGHER COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THE CONTENT WAS TOO SERIOUS FOR A BOYS' MAGAZINE... IN SHORT, IT WAS TURNED DOWN.

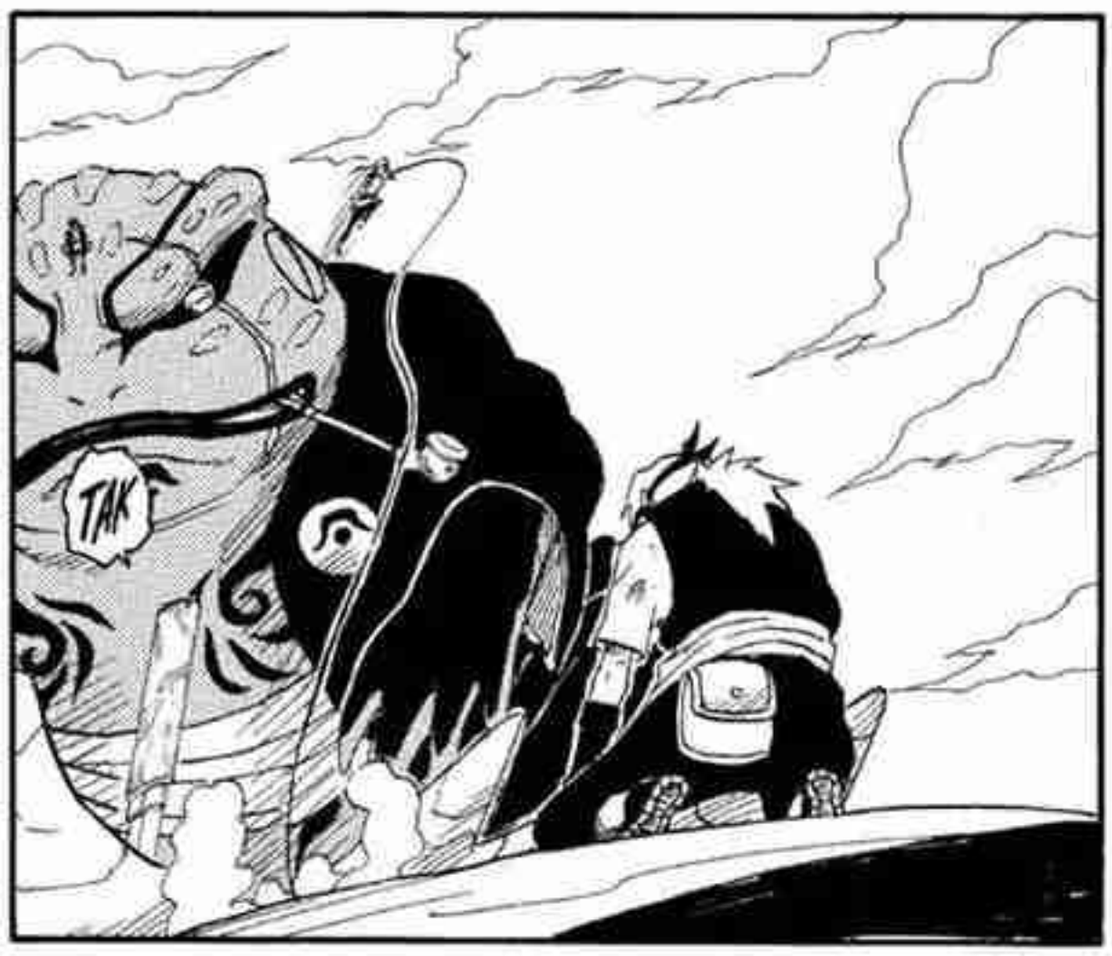
STILL, *YAKYU-OH* WAS MY TURNING POINT. THOUGH IT WAS NOT PUBLISHED, MR. YAHAGI SAID, "INTERESTING! THIS MANGA IS DEFINITELY INTERESTING! IT WOULD'VE BEEN TOTALLY FINE FOR A YOUNG ADULT MAGAZINE..." THIS MANGA WAS THE FIRST WORK OF MINE TO RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL PRAISE FROM MR. YAHAGI. I FELT MY TWO YEARS OF WORK HAD SURE PAID OFF.

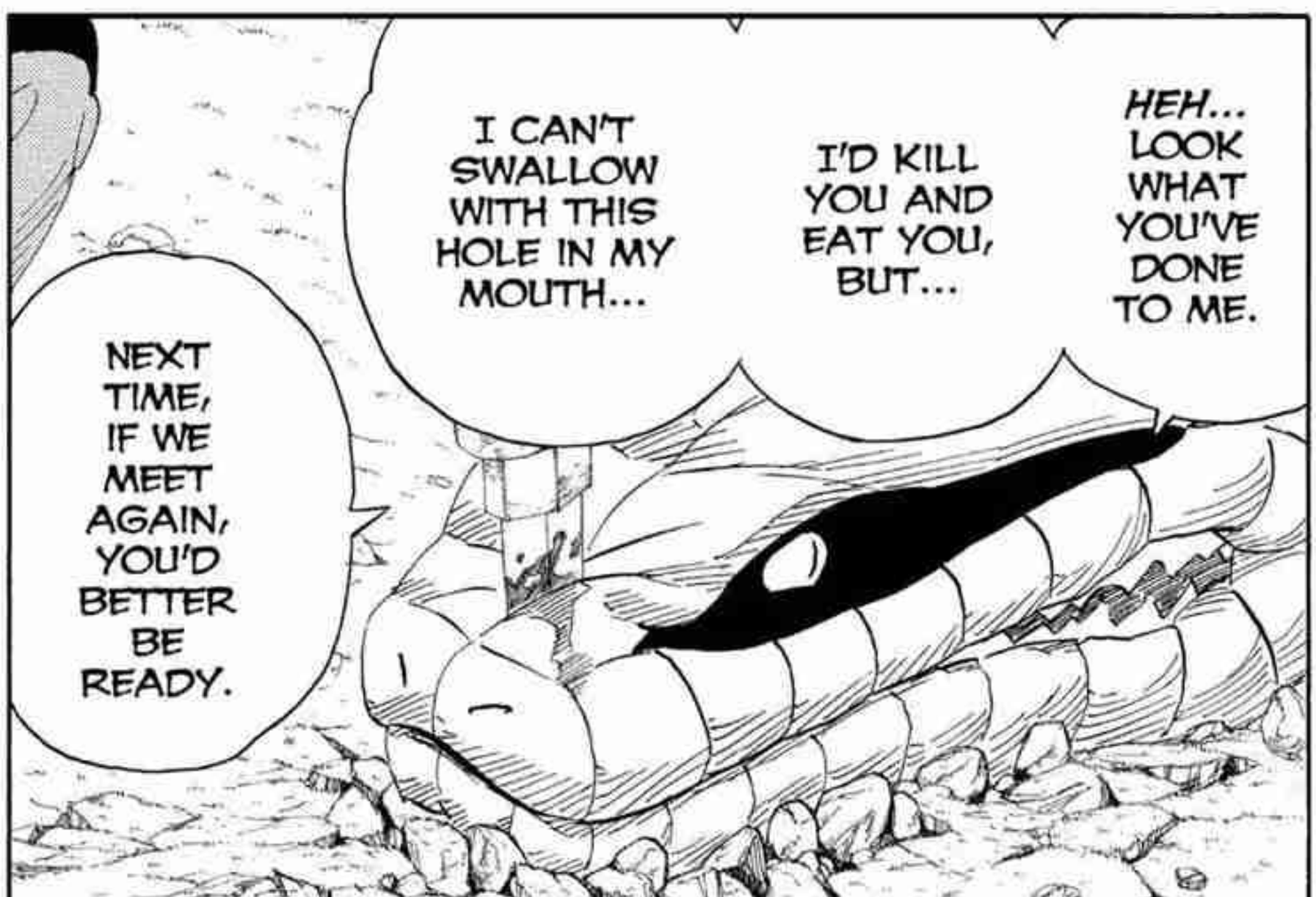
FOUR MONTHS LATER, I WROTE A MANGA SCRIPT FOR ANOTHER BOYS' MAGAZINE AND SHOWED IT TO MR. YAHAGI. MR. YAHAGI SAID, "IT'S PERFECT! SOME MINOR PARTS WILL HAVE TO BE REVISED, THOUGH!" IN THOSE TWO YEARS, I WAS ABLE TO CHANGE MYSELF A LITTLE BIT. WHAT'S MORE, I MANAGED TO START A SERIES WITH THAT STORYBOARD.

Number 171: Successor

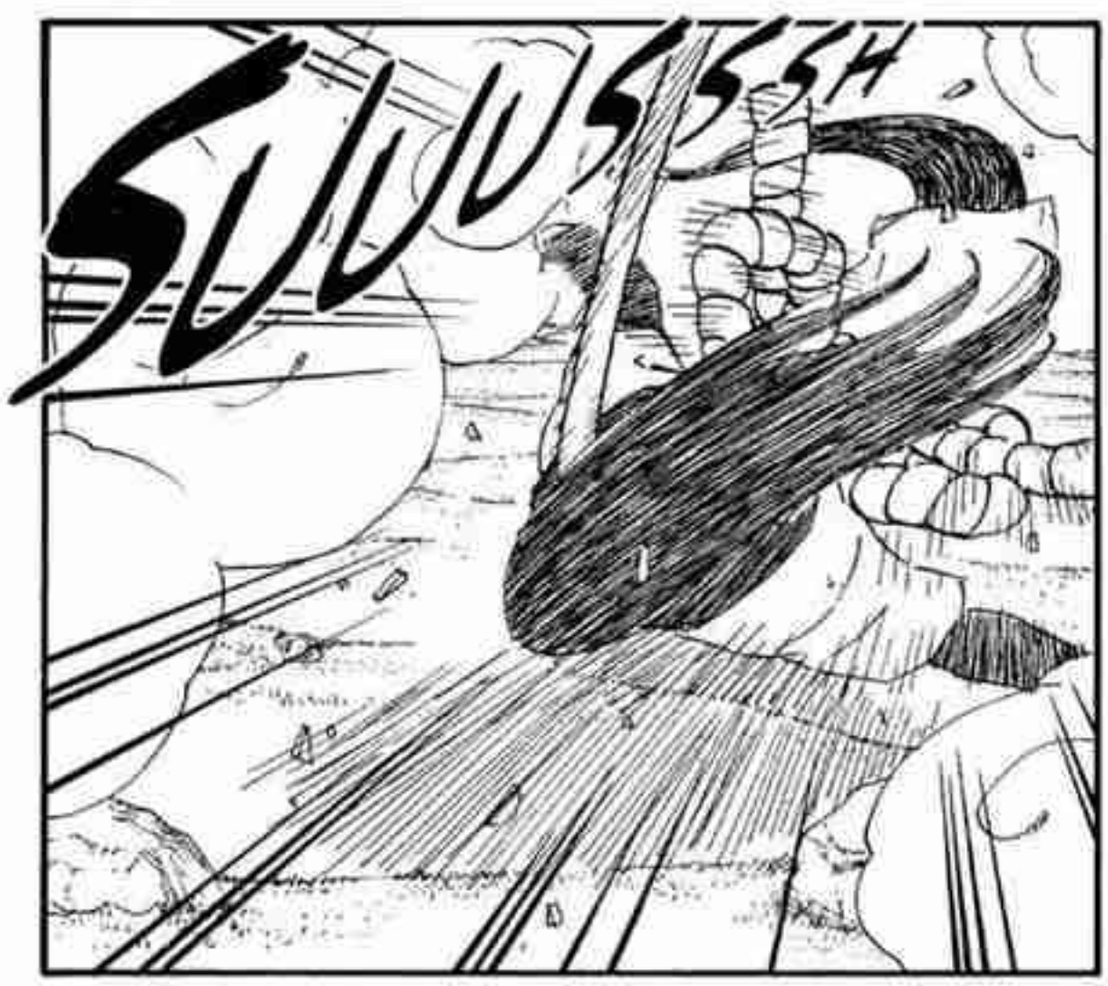
TH
WO

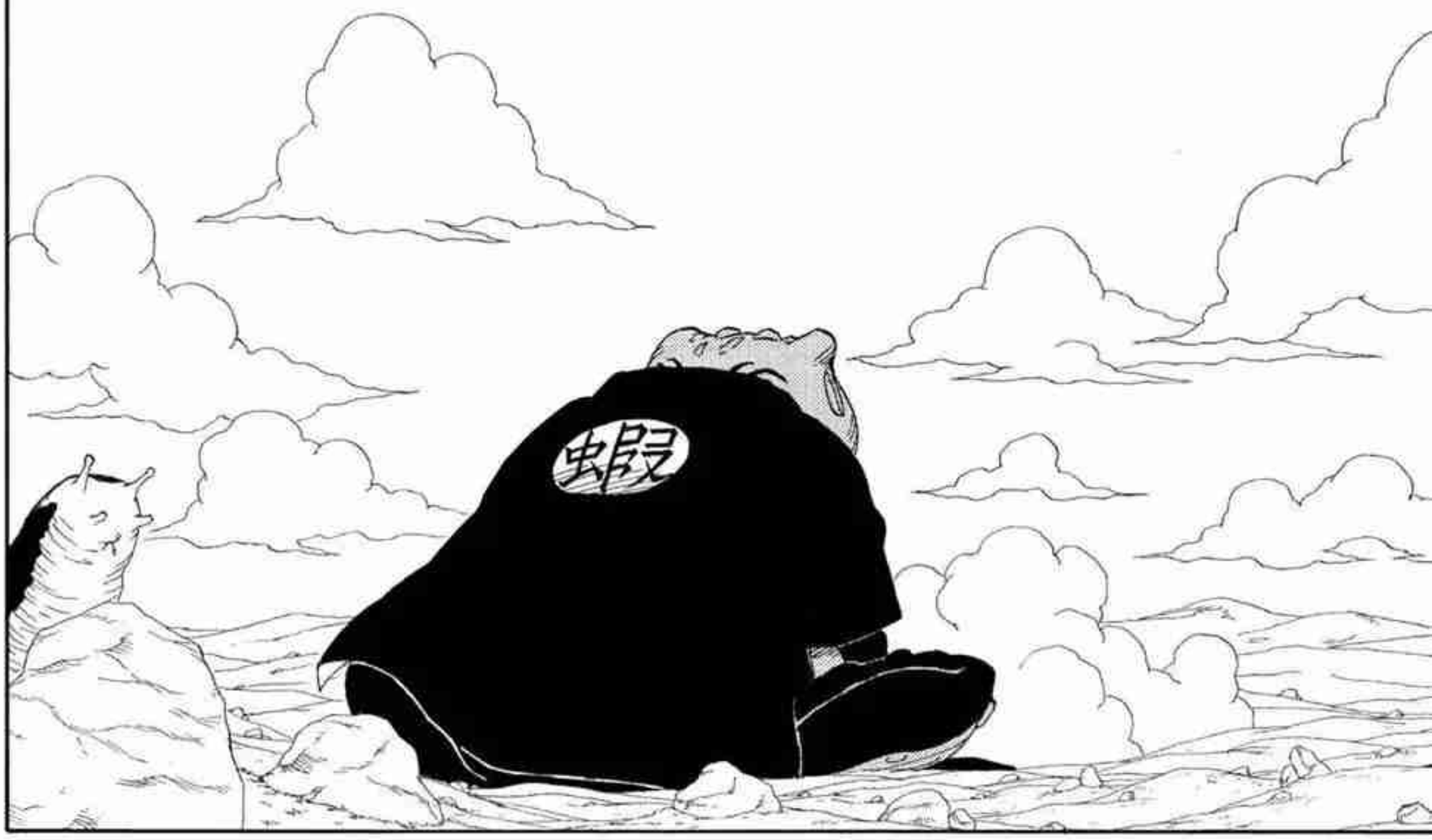
HE TOOK THAT SHOT STRAIGHT ON!!
!

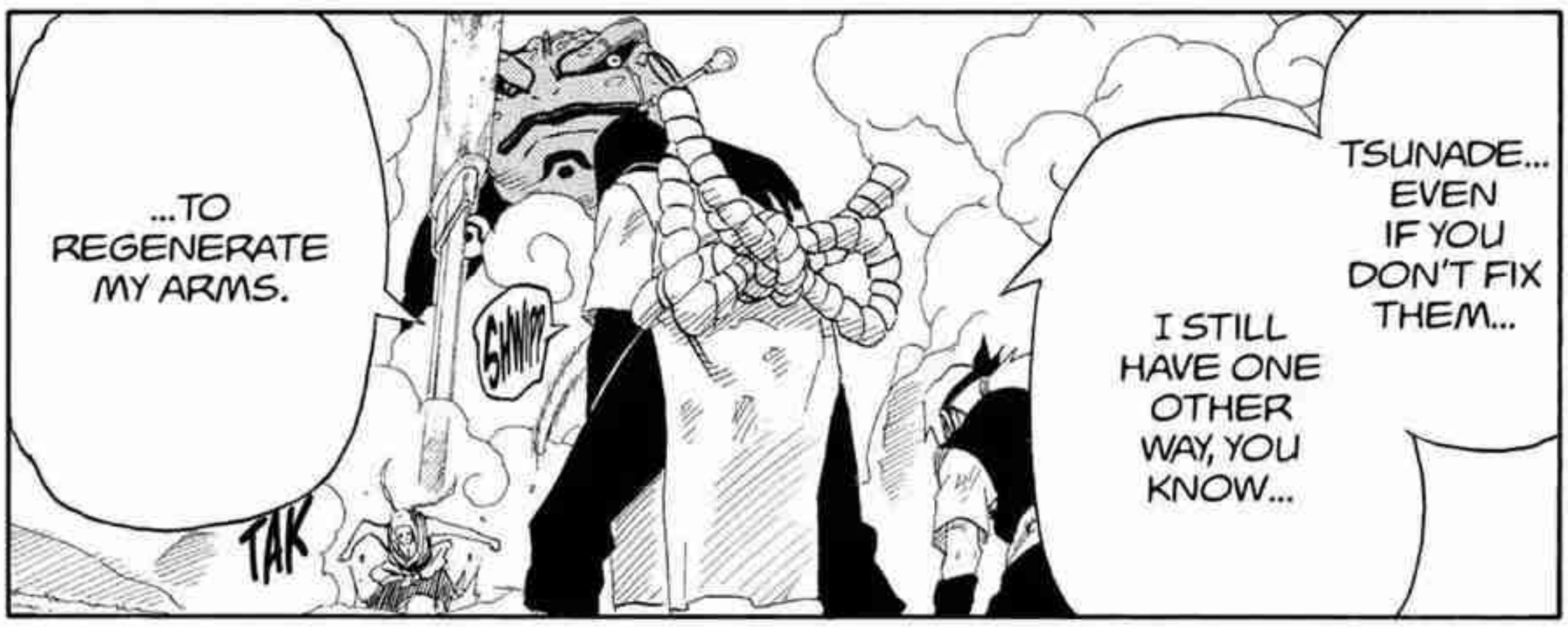

TAK

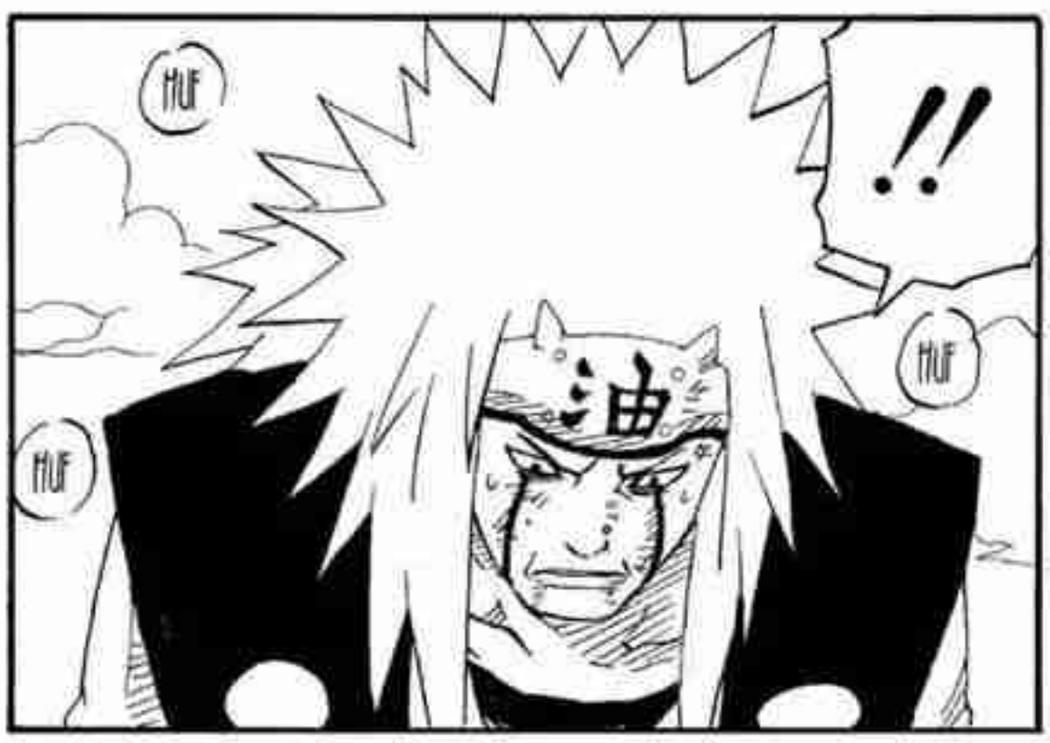

I CAN'T SWALLOW WITH THIS HOLE IN MY MOUTH...
I'D KILL YOU AND EAT YOU, BUT...
HEH... LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME.
NEXT TIME, IF WE MEET AGAIN, YOU'D BETTER BE READY.

BO !! ! OF




虫殷


...TO REGENERATE MY ARMS.
SHWIP
TAK
I STILL HAVE ONE OTHER WAY, YOU KNOW...
TSUNADE... EVEN IF YOU DON'T FIX THEM...


HUF
HUF
HUF
!!

!
HUF
HUF

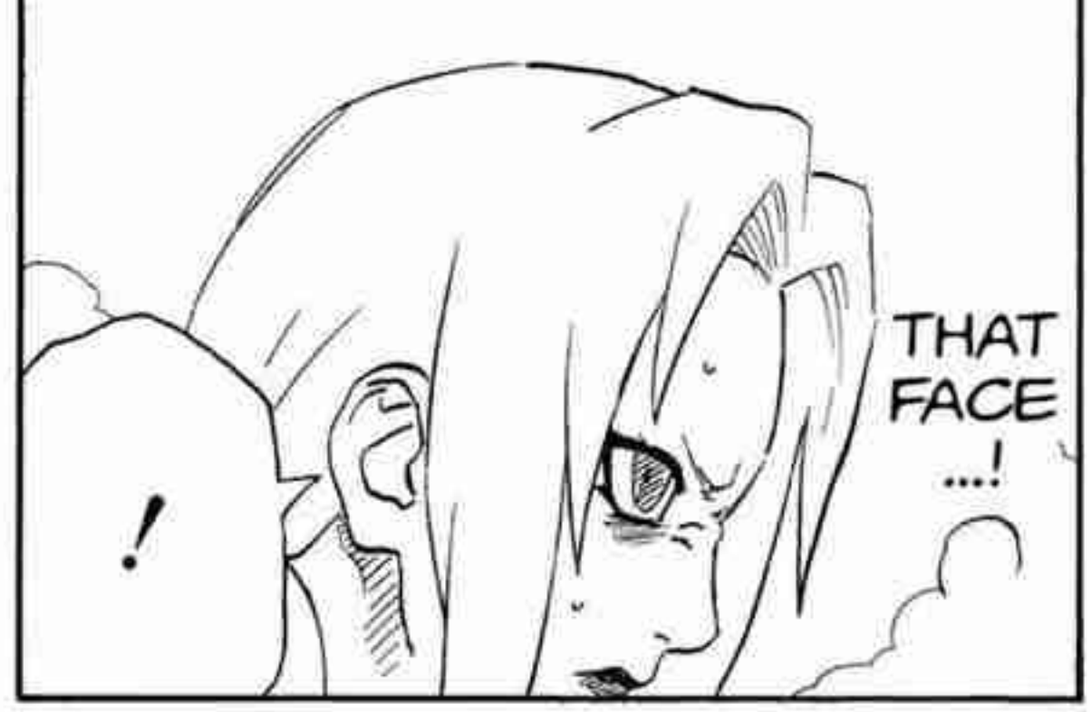
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
?!

I HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN, MY *COMRADES.*

HA HA... TSUNADE. JIRAIYA.

I WILL DESTROY KONOHA.

...AM IMMORTAL!
I...
TSUNADE... TRULY AGELESS AND ETERNAL ...
SSSST

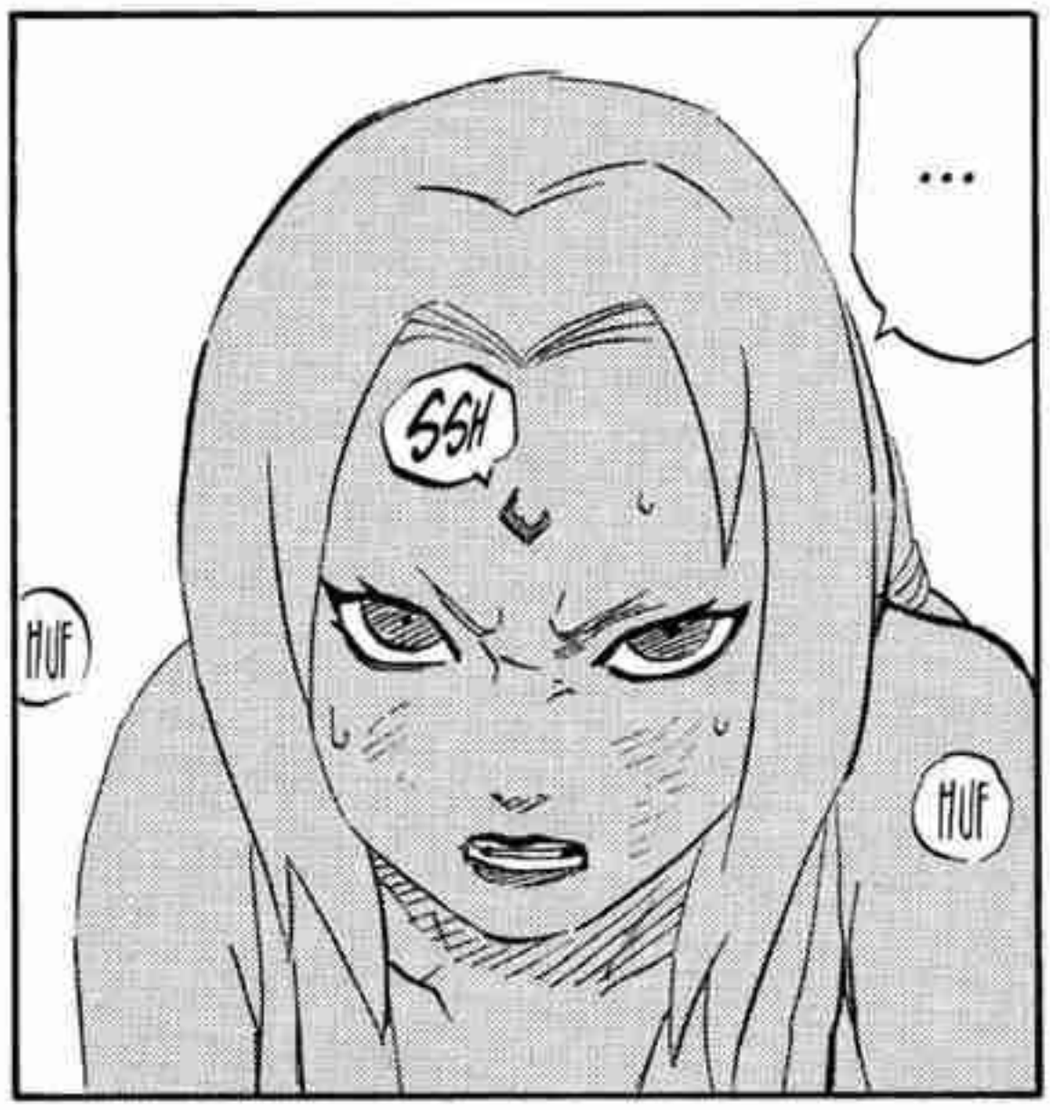

!
THAT FACE ...!

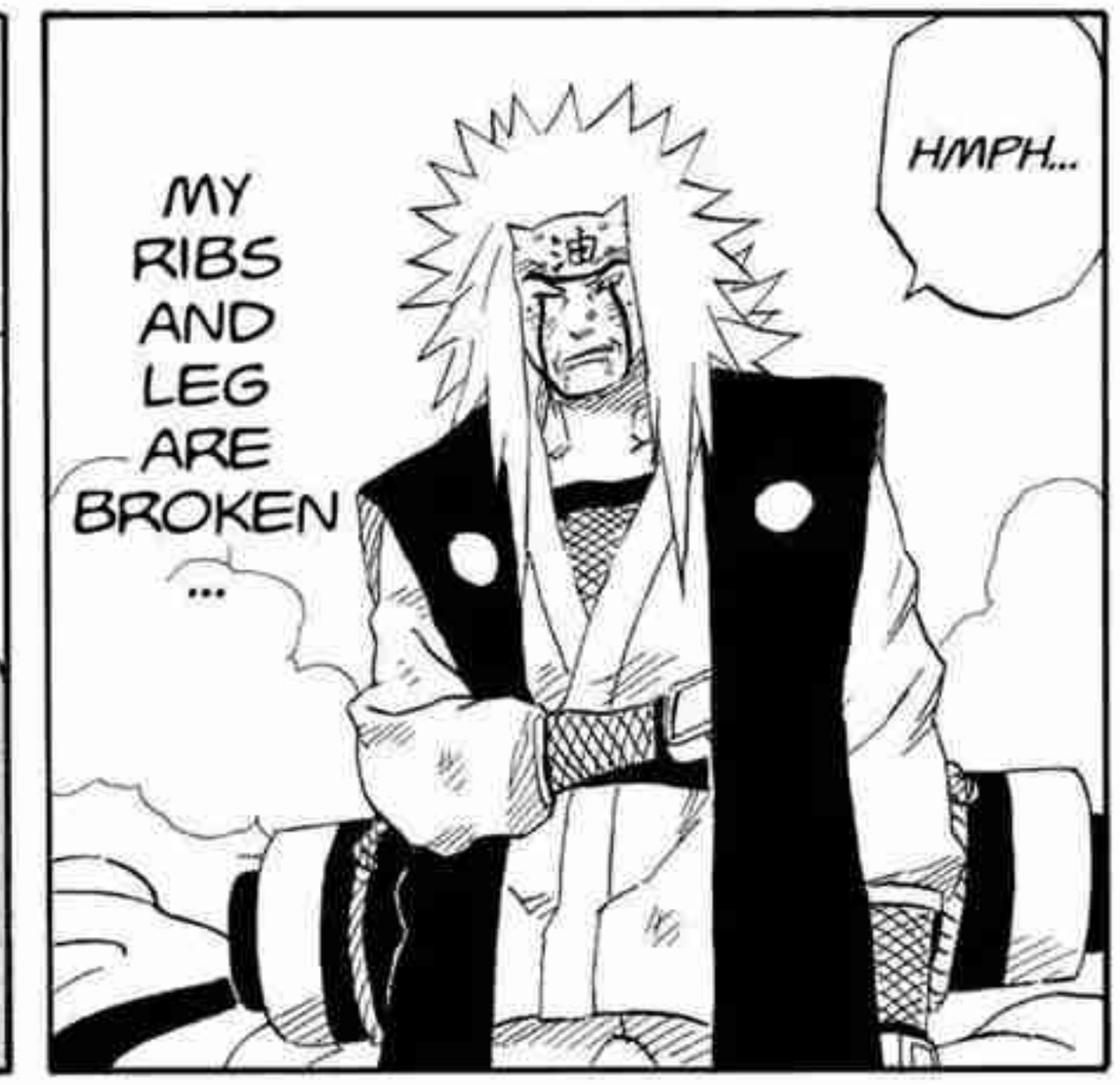
WHEN WE FOUGHT...! I KNEW SOME-THING FELT DIFFERENT.
SOME-ONE ELSE'S BODY ...?!
HUF
HUF

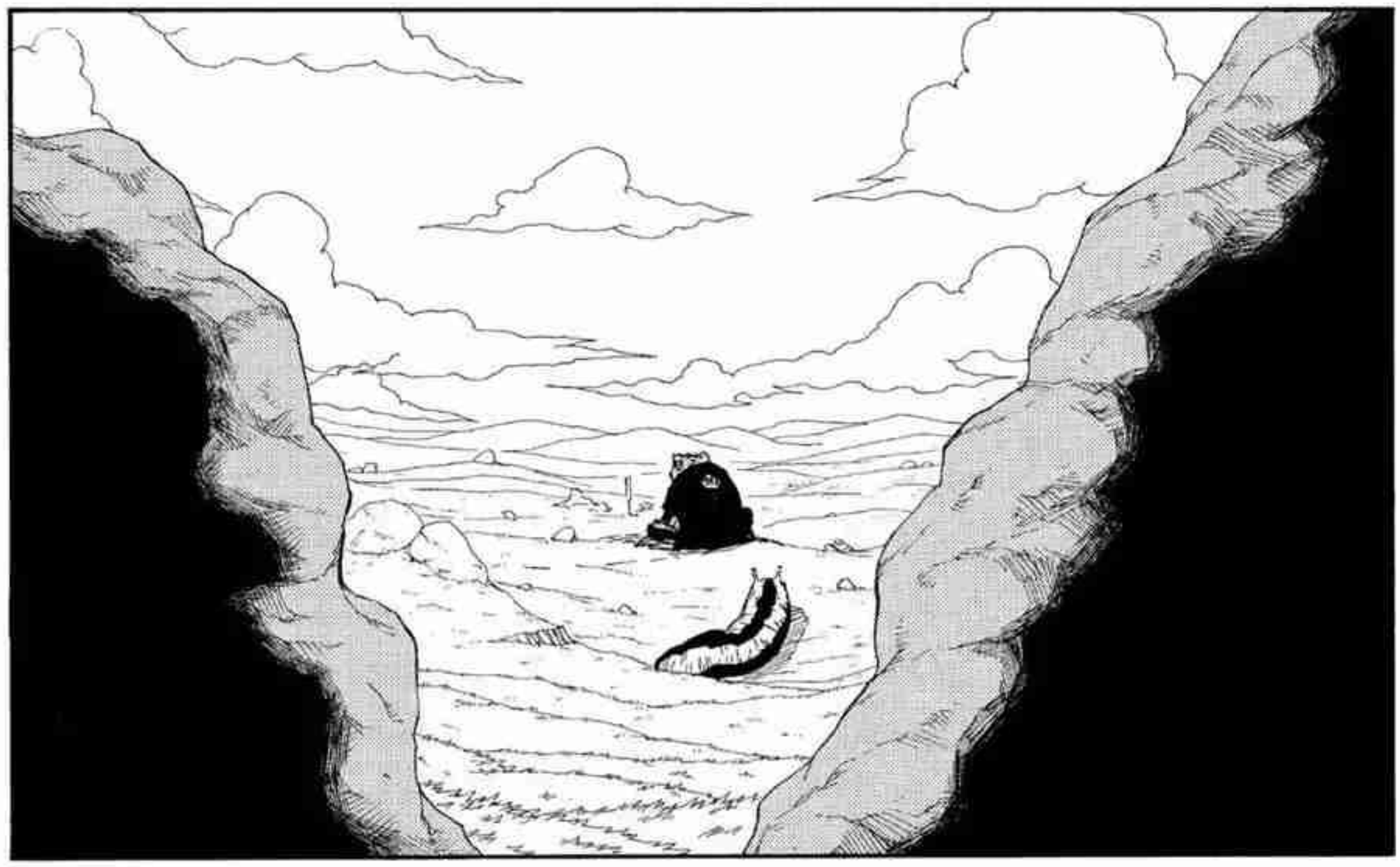
POOF
STOP!

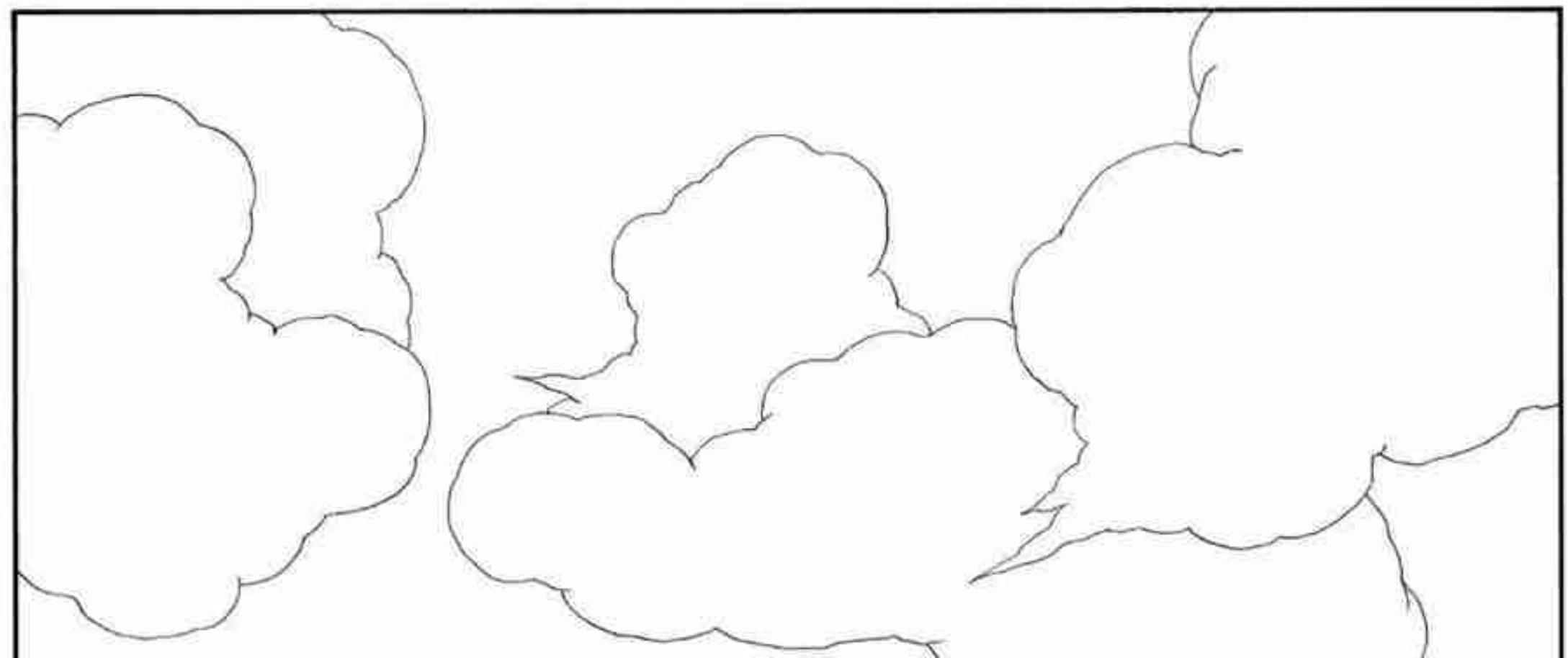
BYE FOR NOW...
SSSST

UGH...
...THE TOLL OF MY JUTSU IS ALREADY UPON ME... MY BODY IS...
STAGGER
ZOOP...


...
SSH
HUF
HUF

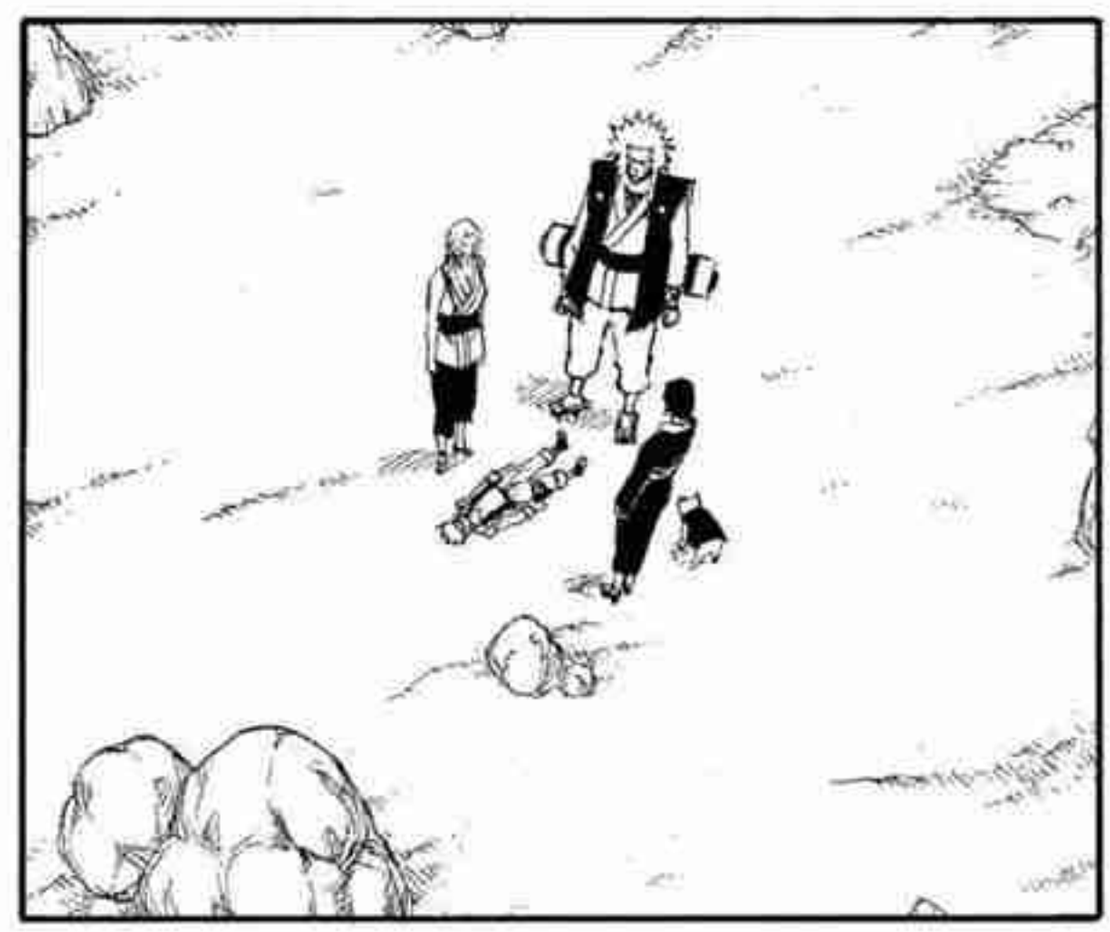

HMPH...
MY RIBS AND LEG ARE BROKEN ...





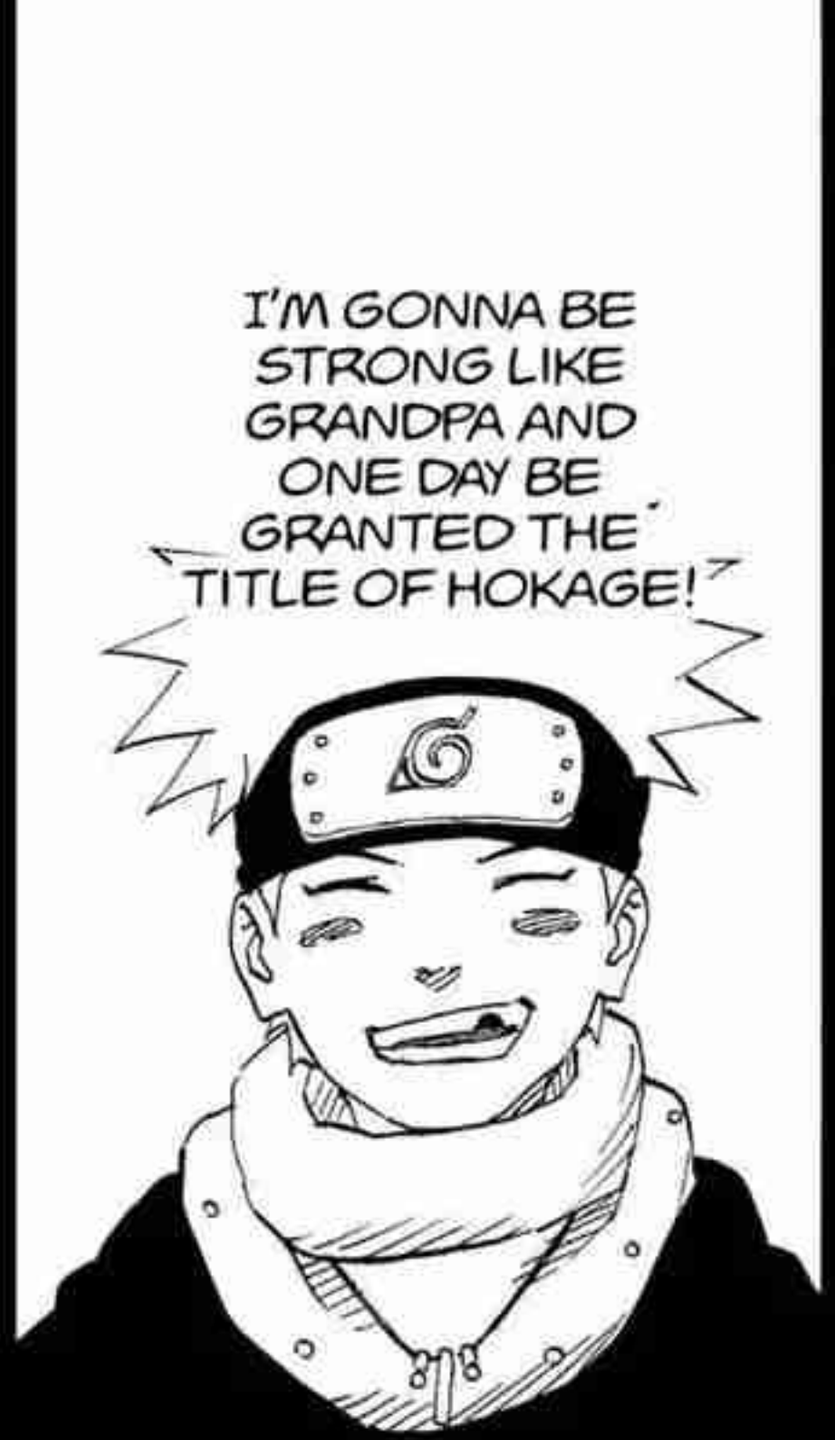
...

YOU'RE AS BAD A GAMBLER AS YOU EVER WERE.
HEH... TSU-NADE.



...AND I'LL GIVE YOU THIS NECKLACE.
IF YOU MANAGE TO MASTER THIS JUTSU IN THAT TIME, I'LL ACKNOW-LEDGE THAT YOU ARE WORTHY OF BECOMING HOKAGE...

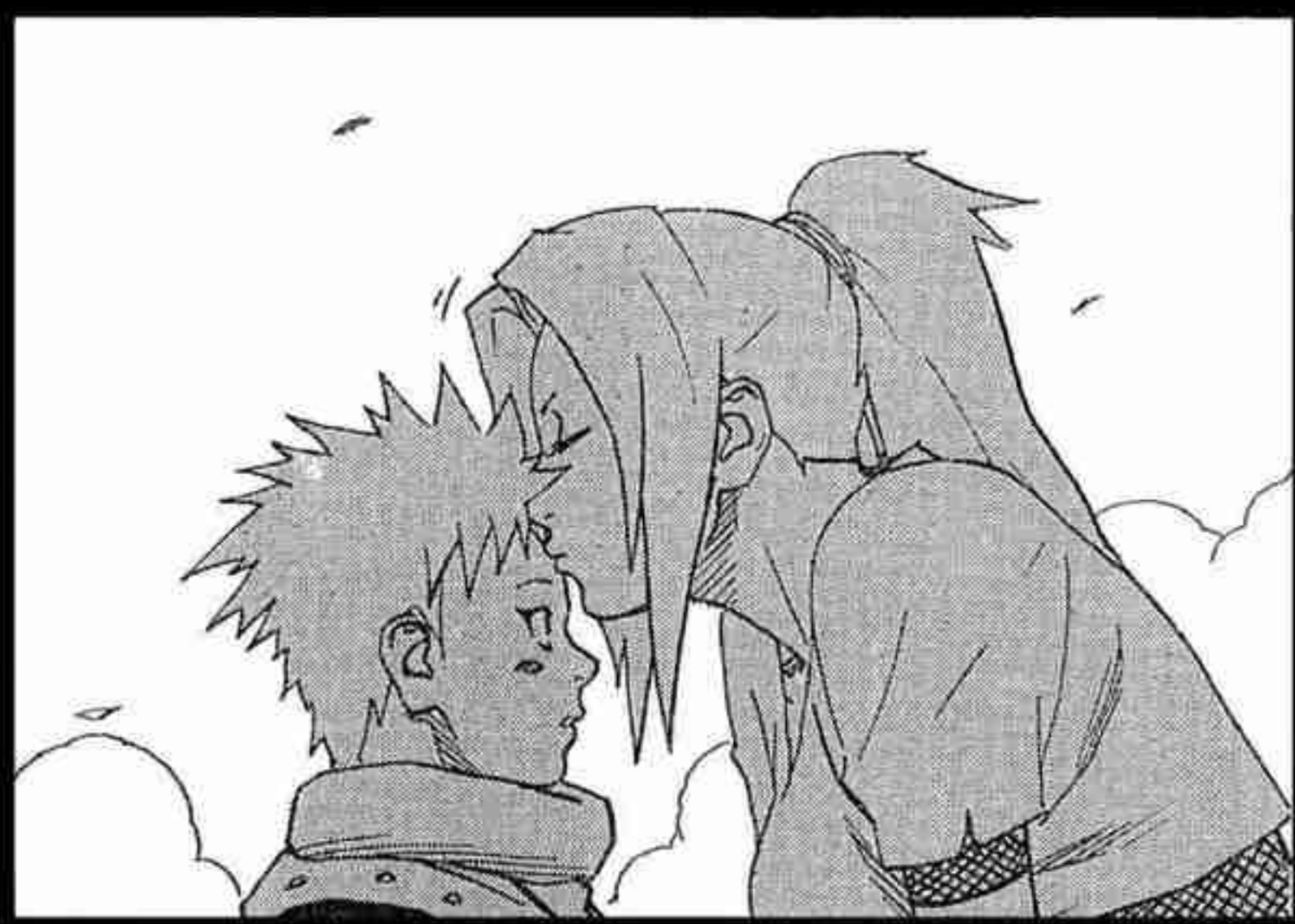
TO BE HOKAGE IS MY DREAM.


I'M GONNA BE STRONG LIKE GRANDPA AND ONE DAY BE GRANTED THE TITLE OF HOKAGE!

...A MAN DOESN'T BREAK HIS WORD!!

GIVE ME THREE DAYS, AND I'LL MASTER THIS JUTSU FOR YOU!!

'CUZ TO BE HOKAGE IS MY DREAM.



A SPELL TO MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE.

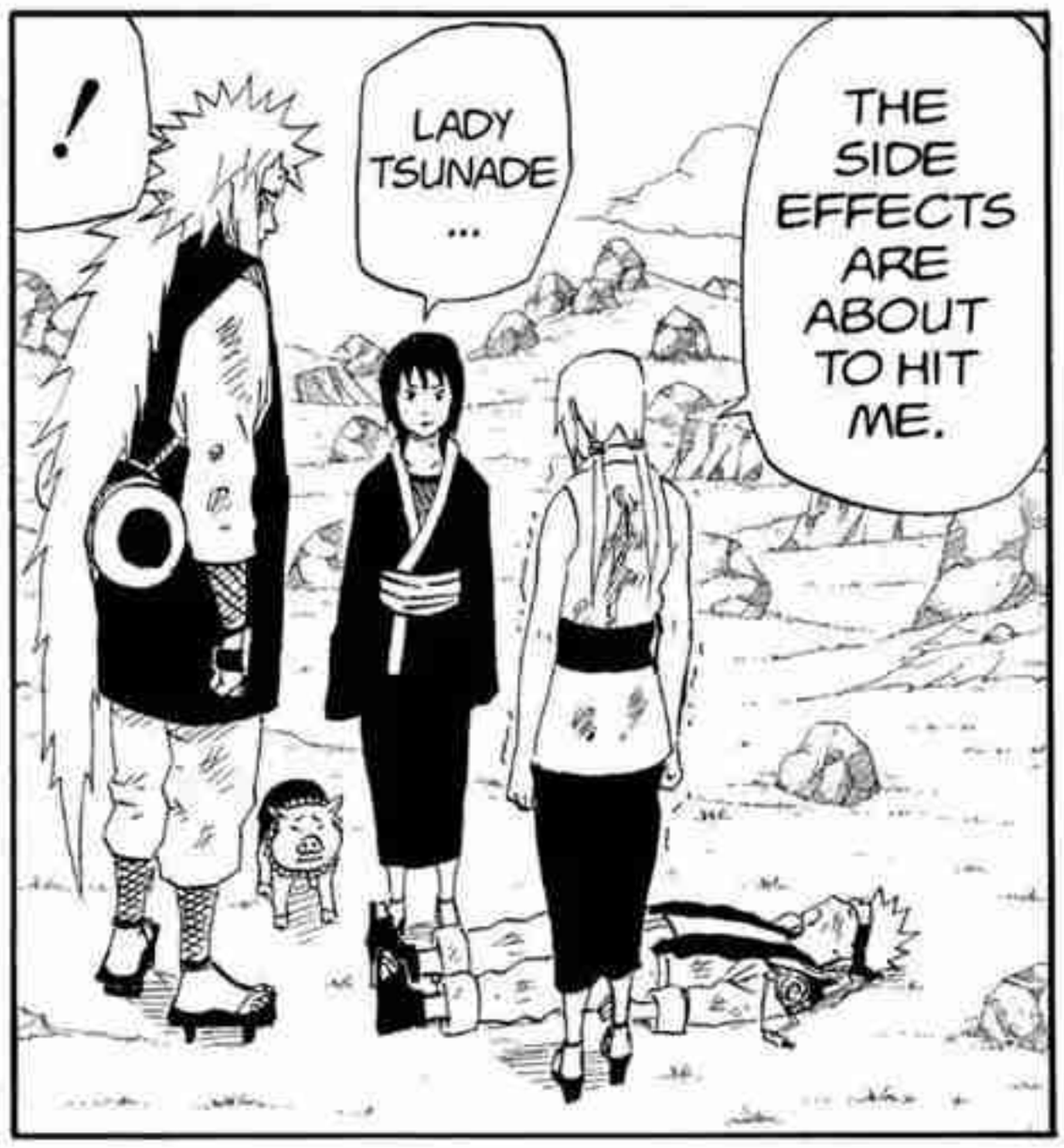
...TO BECOME HOKAGE IS MY DREAM.
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BECOME HOKAGE.

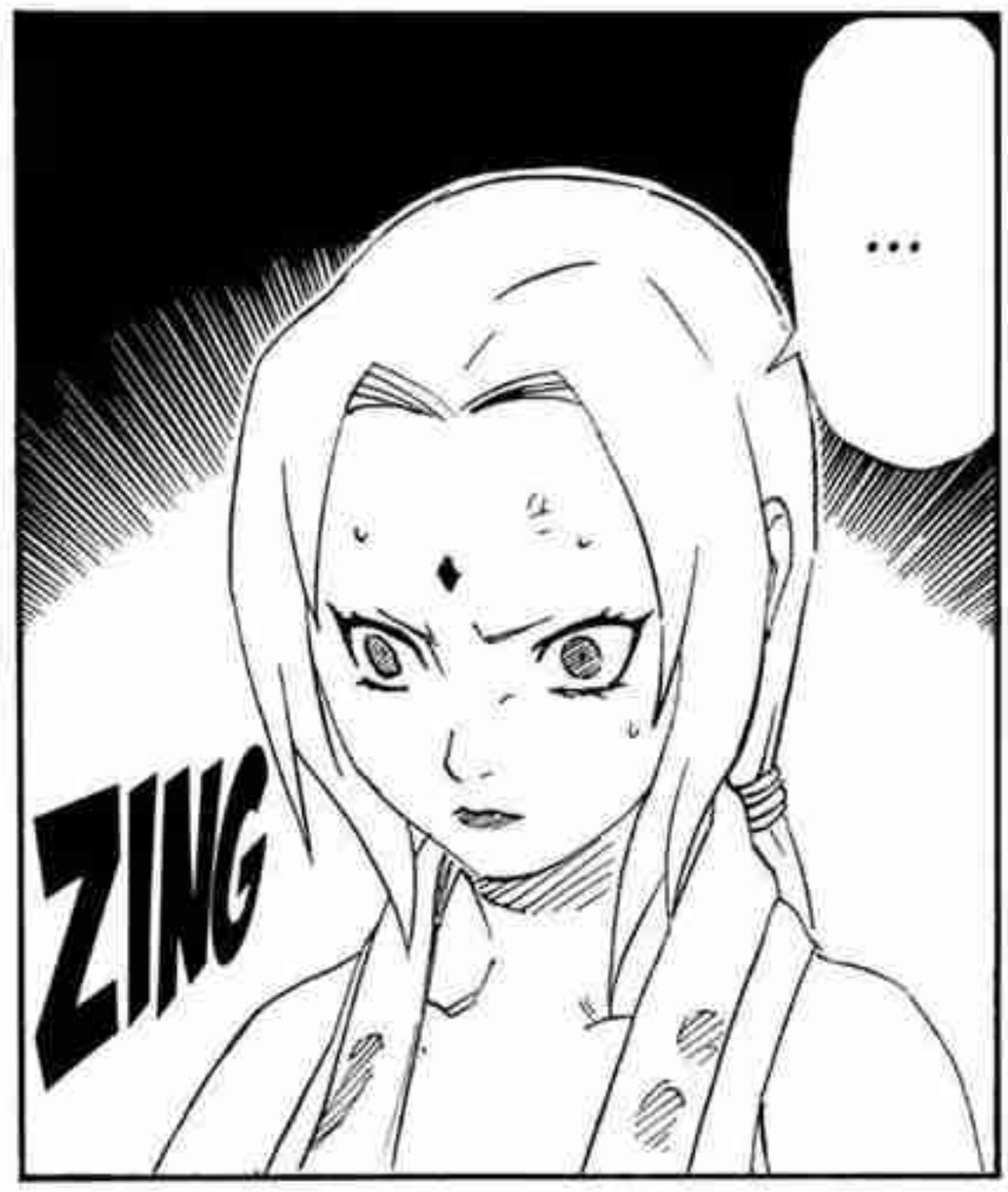
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO DEFEND IT.
I LOVE THIS VILLAGE AND ALL OF MY FRIENDS...

I LOVE YOU, SIS!

DAN ...
CLENCH

...ACCEPT THIS...
I WANT YOU TO...


!
LADY TSUNADE ...
THE SIDE EFFECTS ARE ABOUT TO HIT ME.


...
ZING

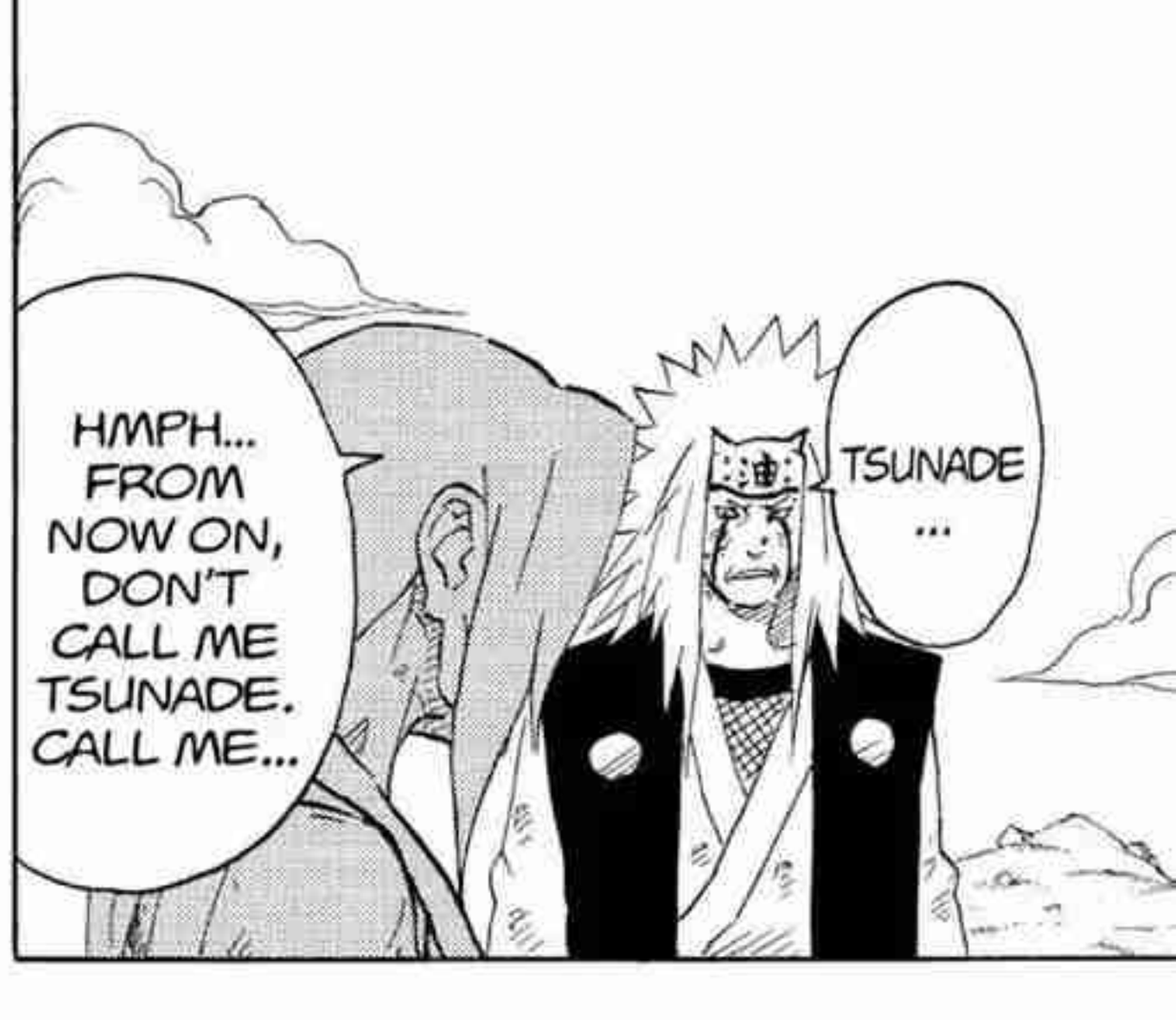
TSU-NADE...
油

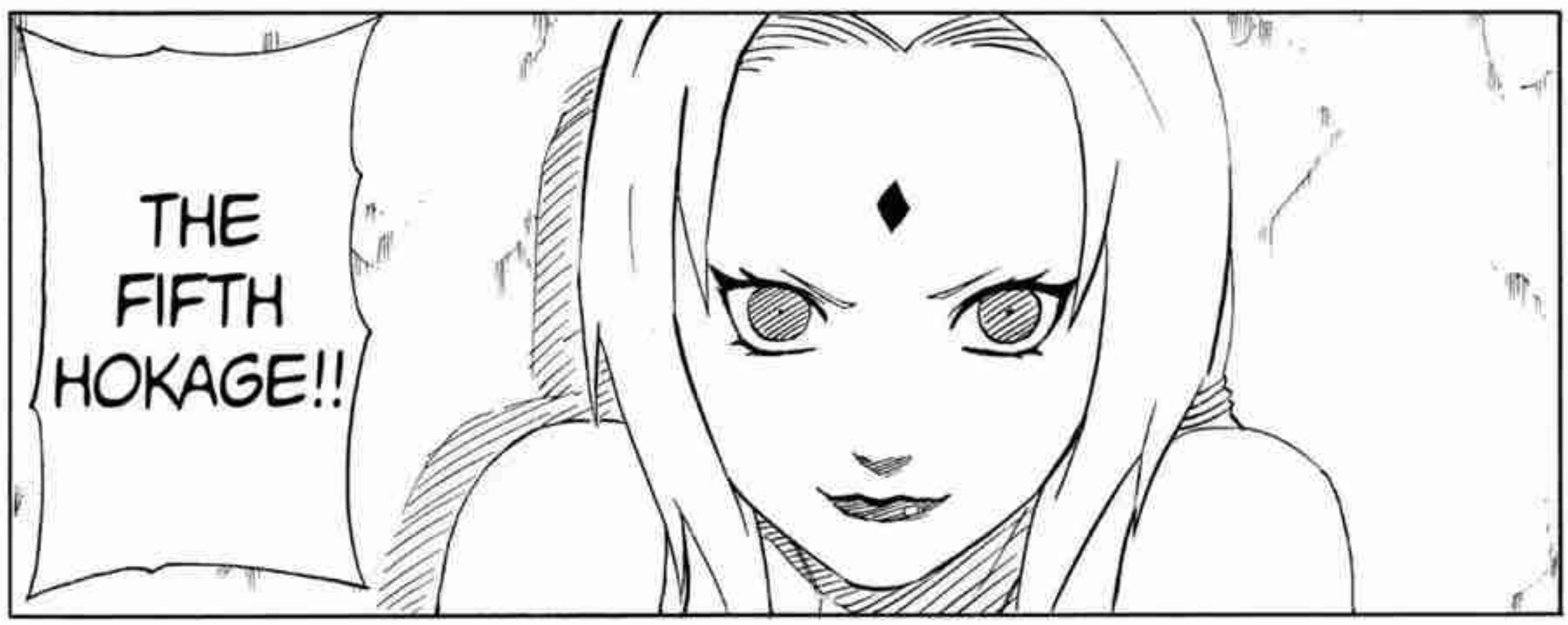
WRINKLE WRINKLE

WRINKLE

WE'LL SLEEP IN TOWN AND WHEN NARUTO AWAKES...
...WE'LL HEAD BACK TO KONOHA.
UNH...
I'LL BE YOUNG AGAIN AFTER I REST.

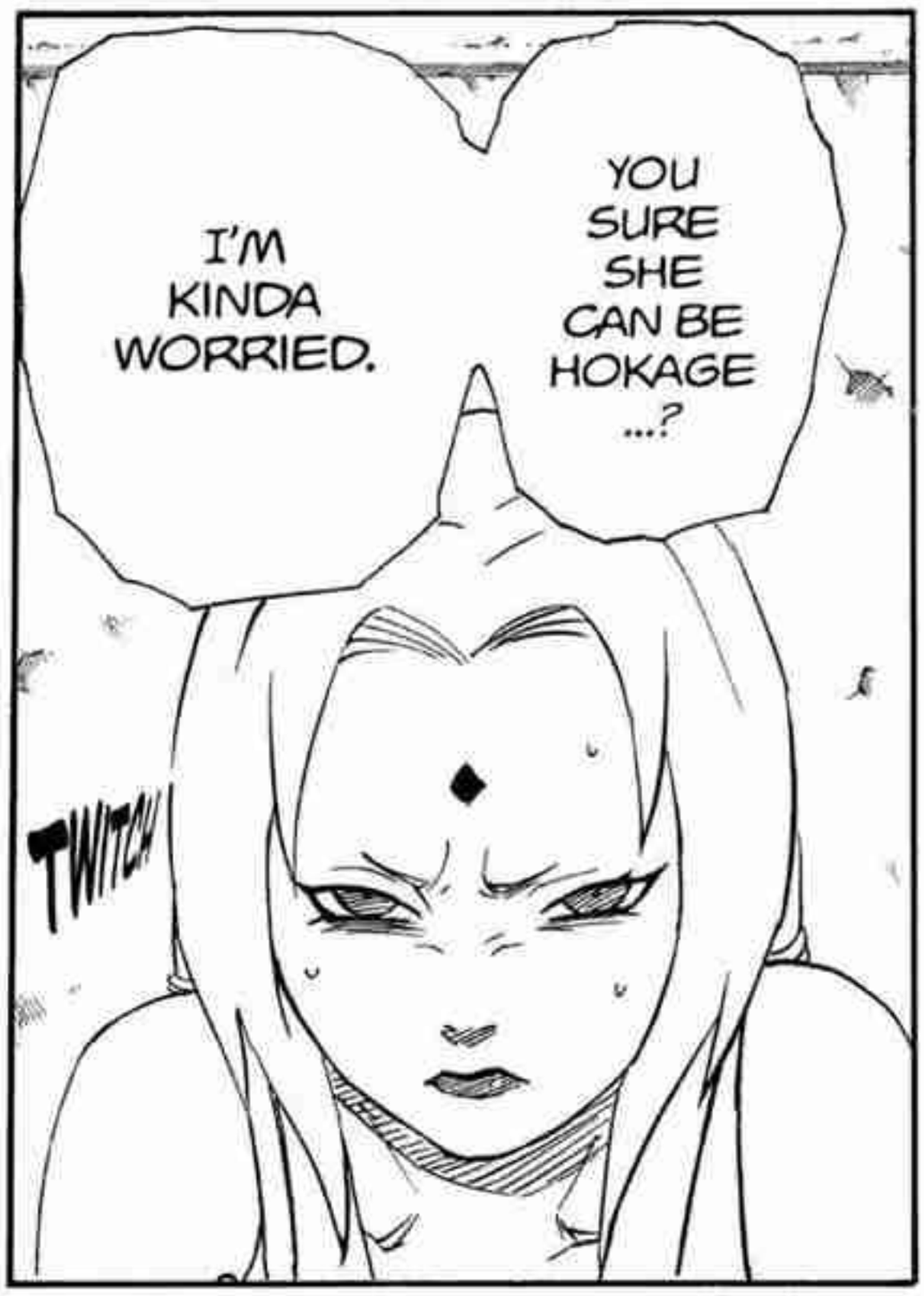
(SIGN: TANZAKU)

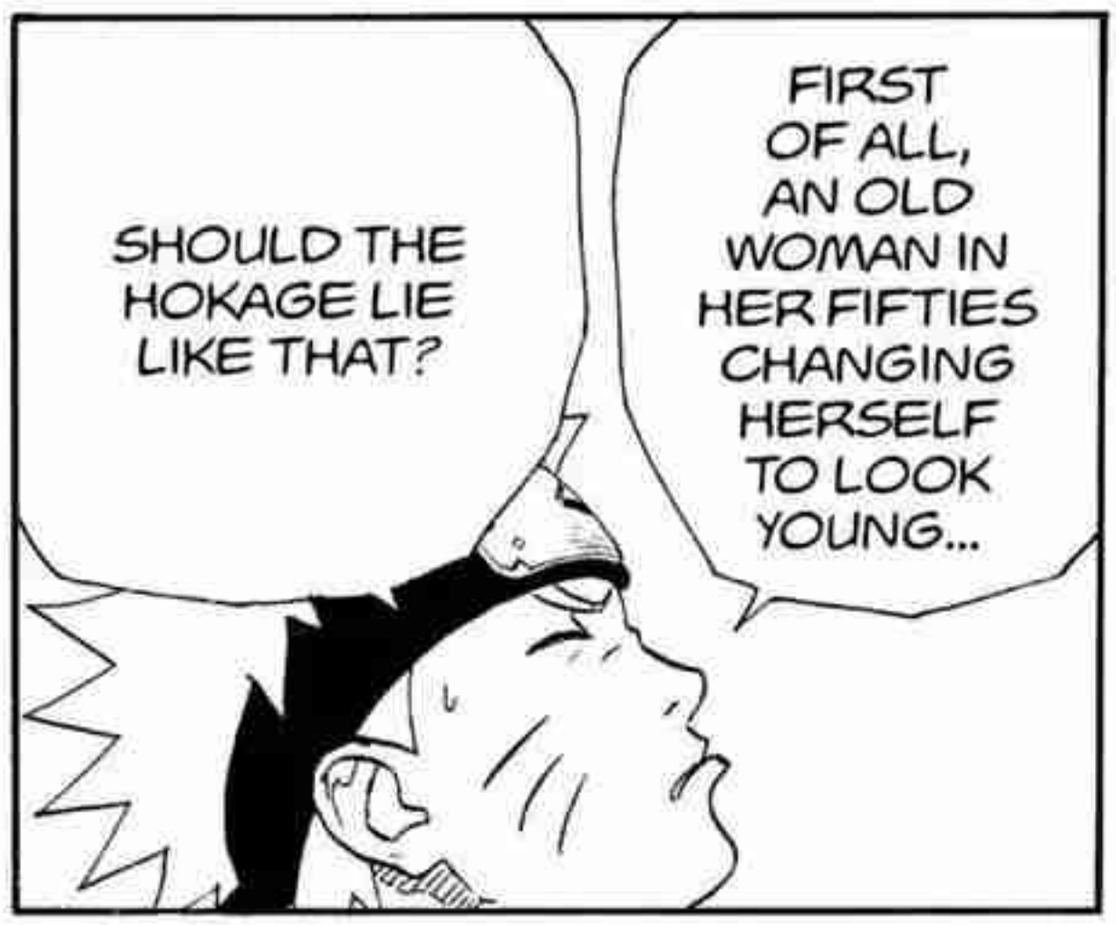




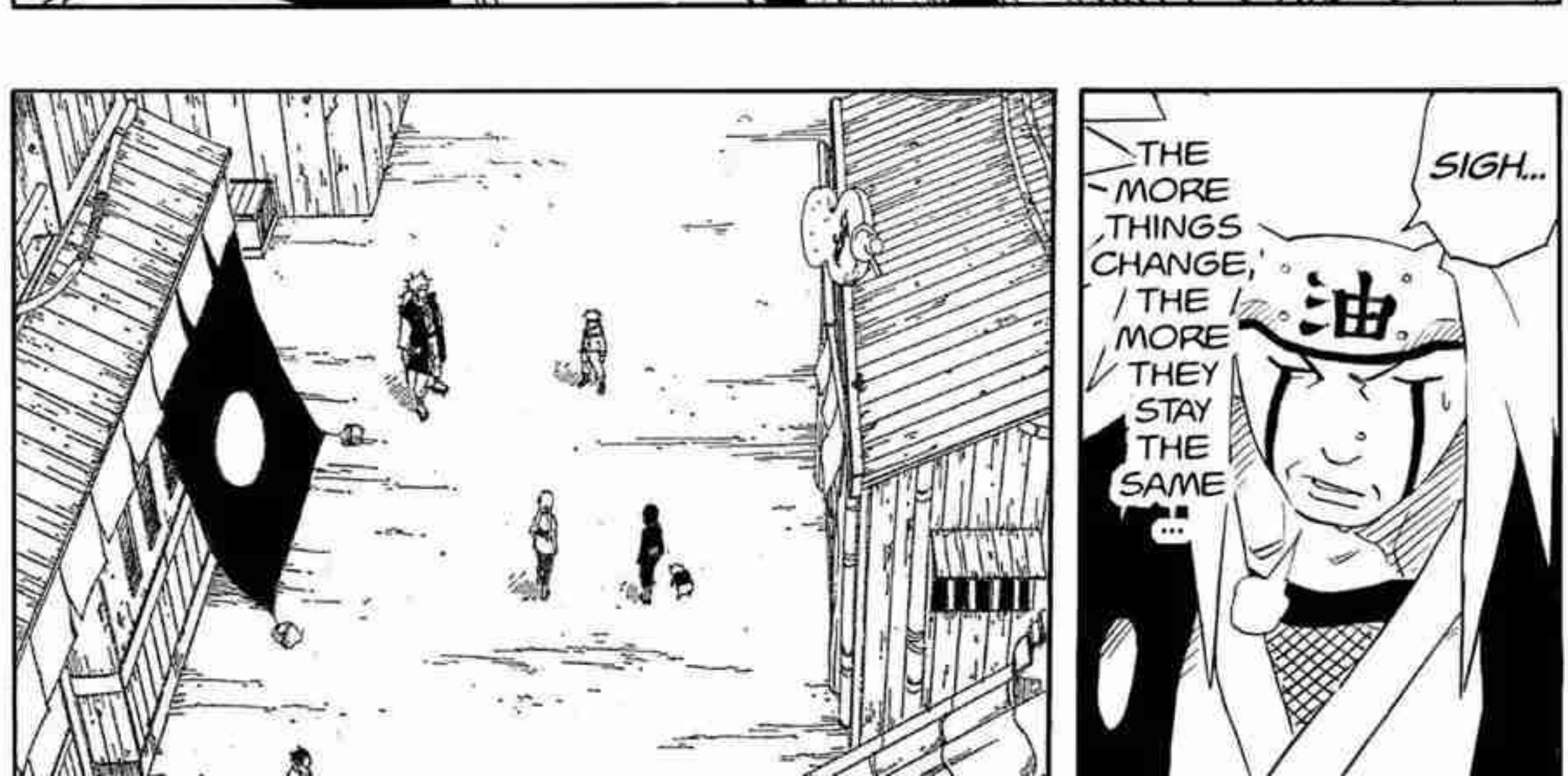
READ
THIS
WAY

LADY TSUNADE... LET'S ORDER SOMETHING...
...

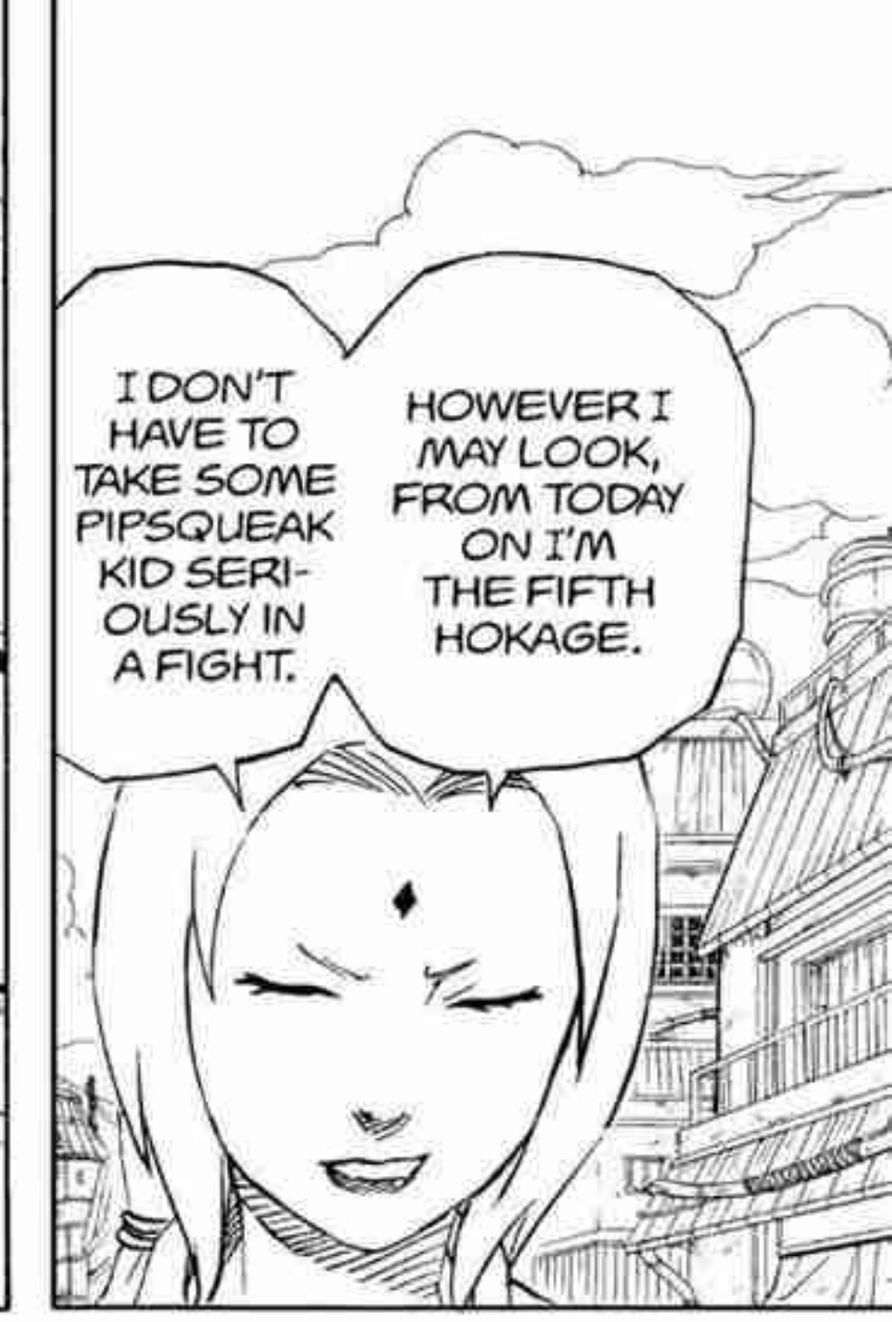

I'M KINDA WORRIED.
YOU SURE SHE CAN BE HOKAGE ...?
TWITCH


SHOULD THE HOKAGE LIE LIKE THAT?
FIRST OF ALL, AN OLD WOMAN IN HER FIFTIES CHANGING HERSELF TO LOOK YOUNG...

SWP
OUT-SIDE, BRAT, NOW!!
EYAAAH!


SIGH...
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME ...
油

THIS ONE FINGER IS PLENTY.
SHF


I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE SOME PIPSQUEAK KID SERIOUSLY IN A FIGHT.
HOWEVER I MAY LOOK, FROM TODAY ON I'M THE FIFTH HOKAGE.

WHATEVER I AM NOW, I'M GONNA BE HOKAGE SOMEDAY!!
QUIT MAKING FUN OF ME AND CALLING ME A KID!

...

SWA AK

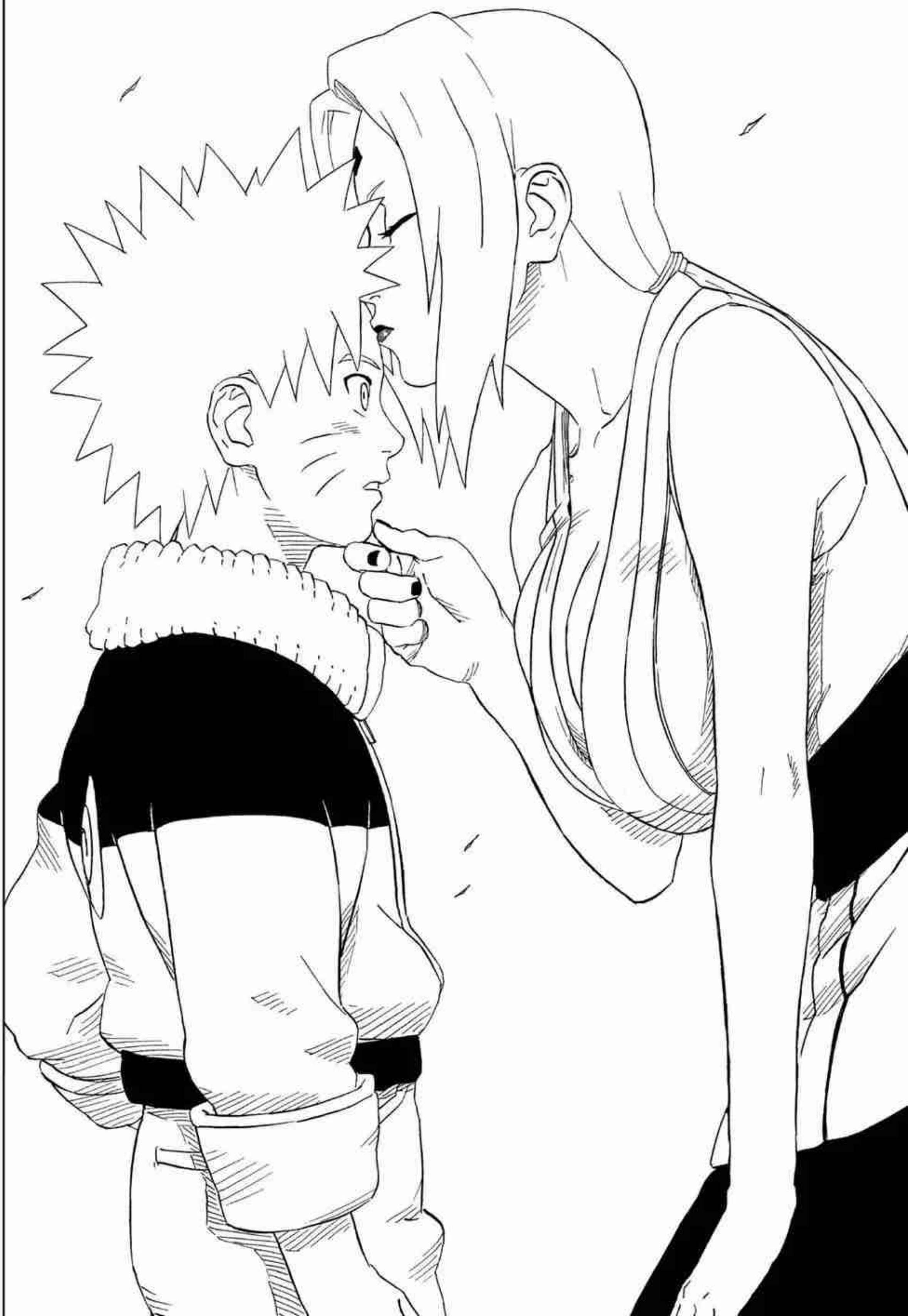
I WILL TAKE YOU ON, GRANNY!

WHIFF
ZWIP

N... NOT AGAIN!
GRRHH

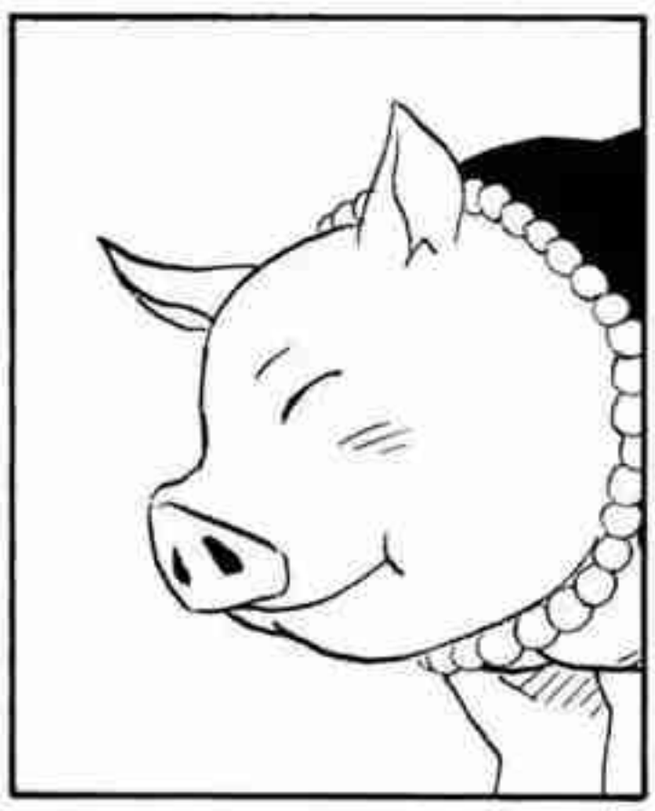
!!

...

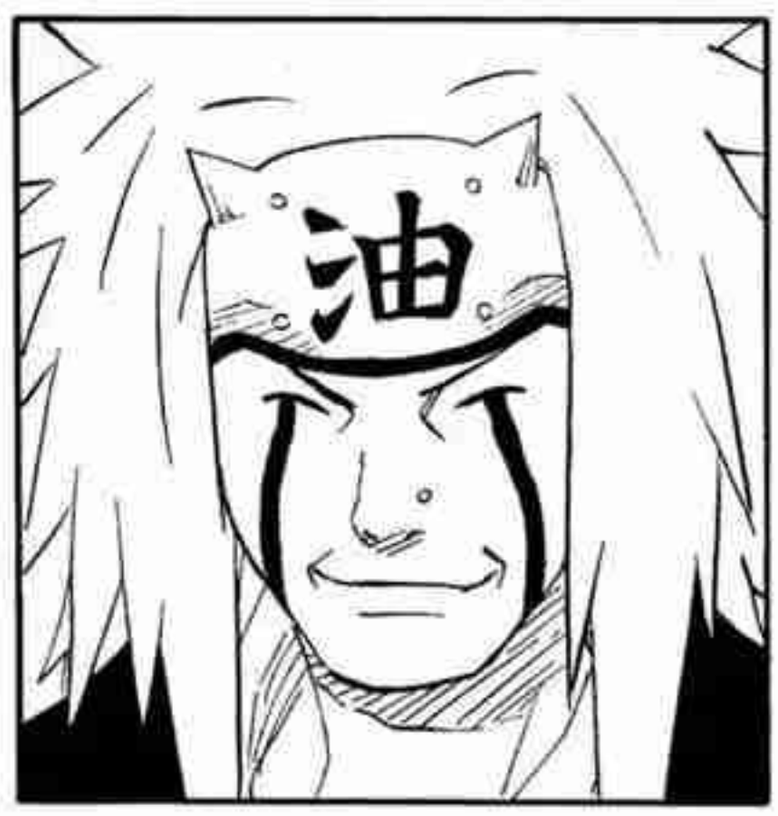


READ THIS WAY
!
SHF
AND... A GREAT HOKAGE, TOO.
BECOME A GOOD MAN, OKAY...?
GRIN
...

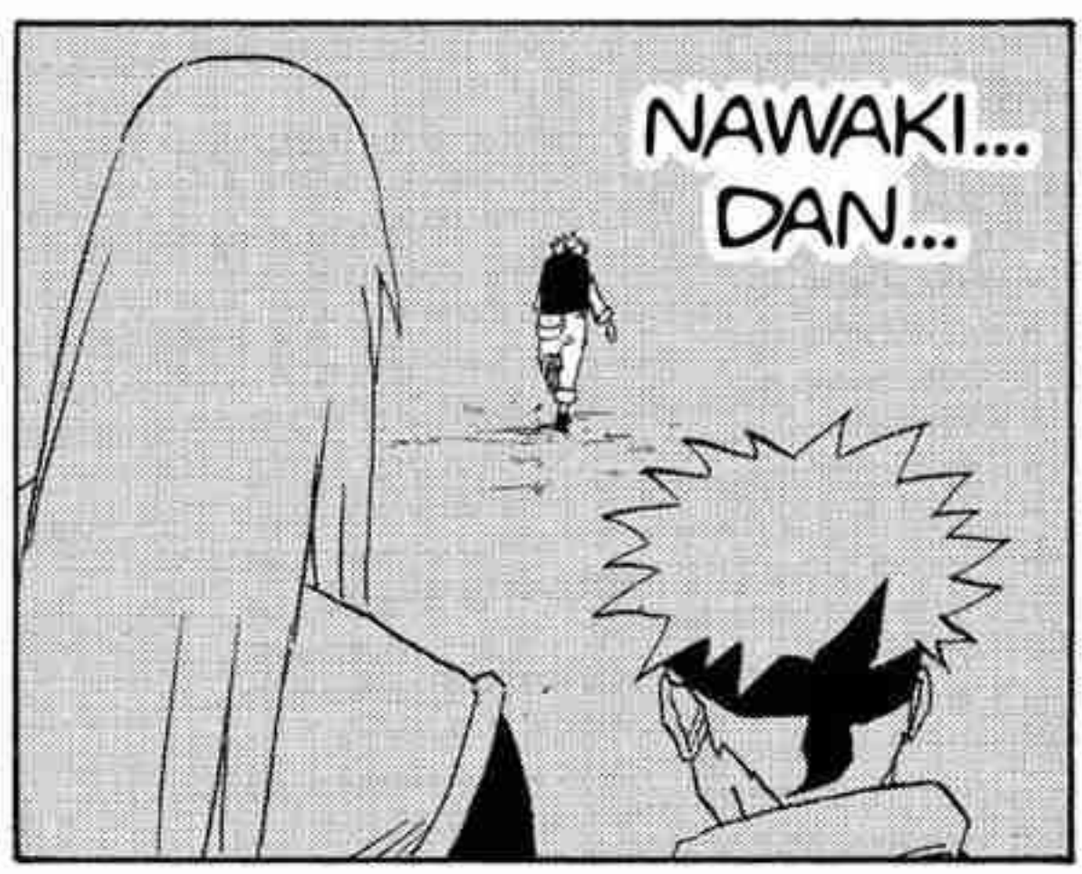
YOU GOT IT!

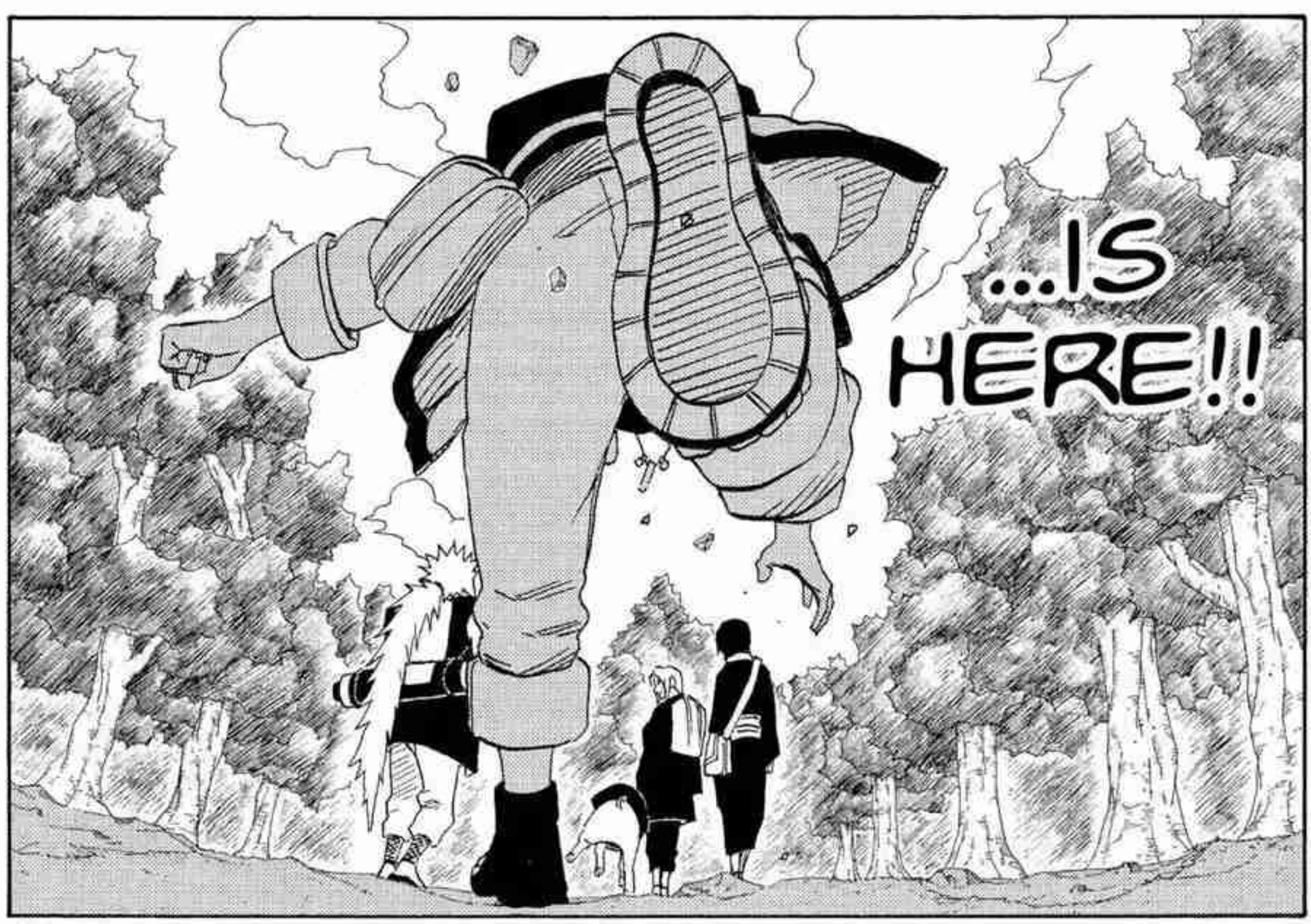


HA HA...


油

BUT WE DIDN'T EAT!!
WHAT ?!
OKAY! LET'S GO HOME! TO KONOHA-GAKURE!!





TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOL. 20!