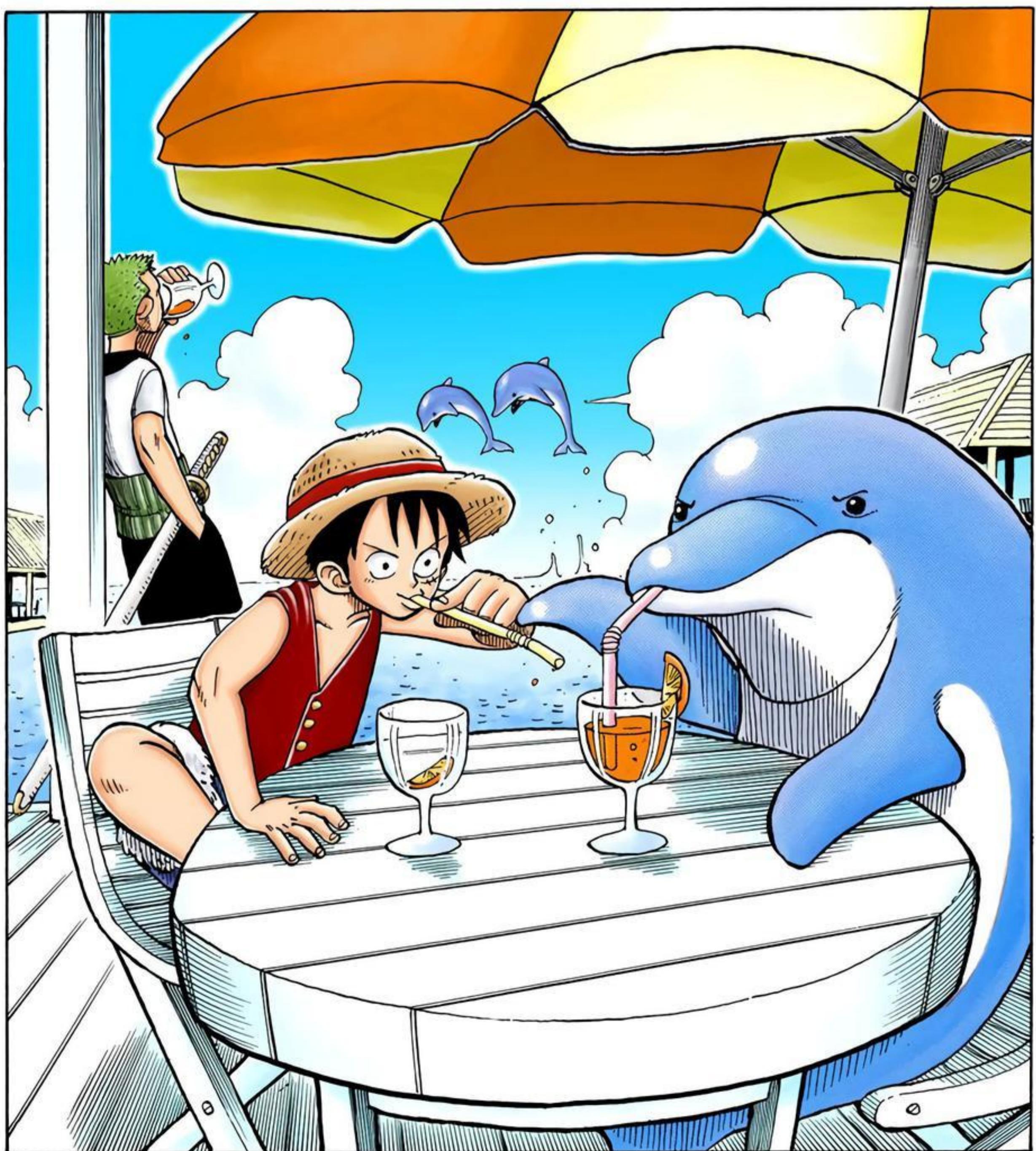
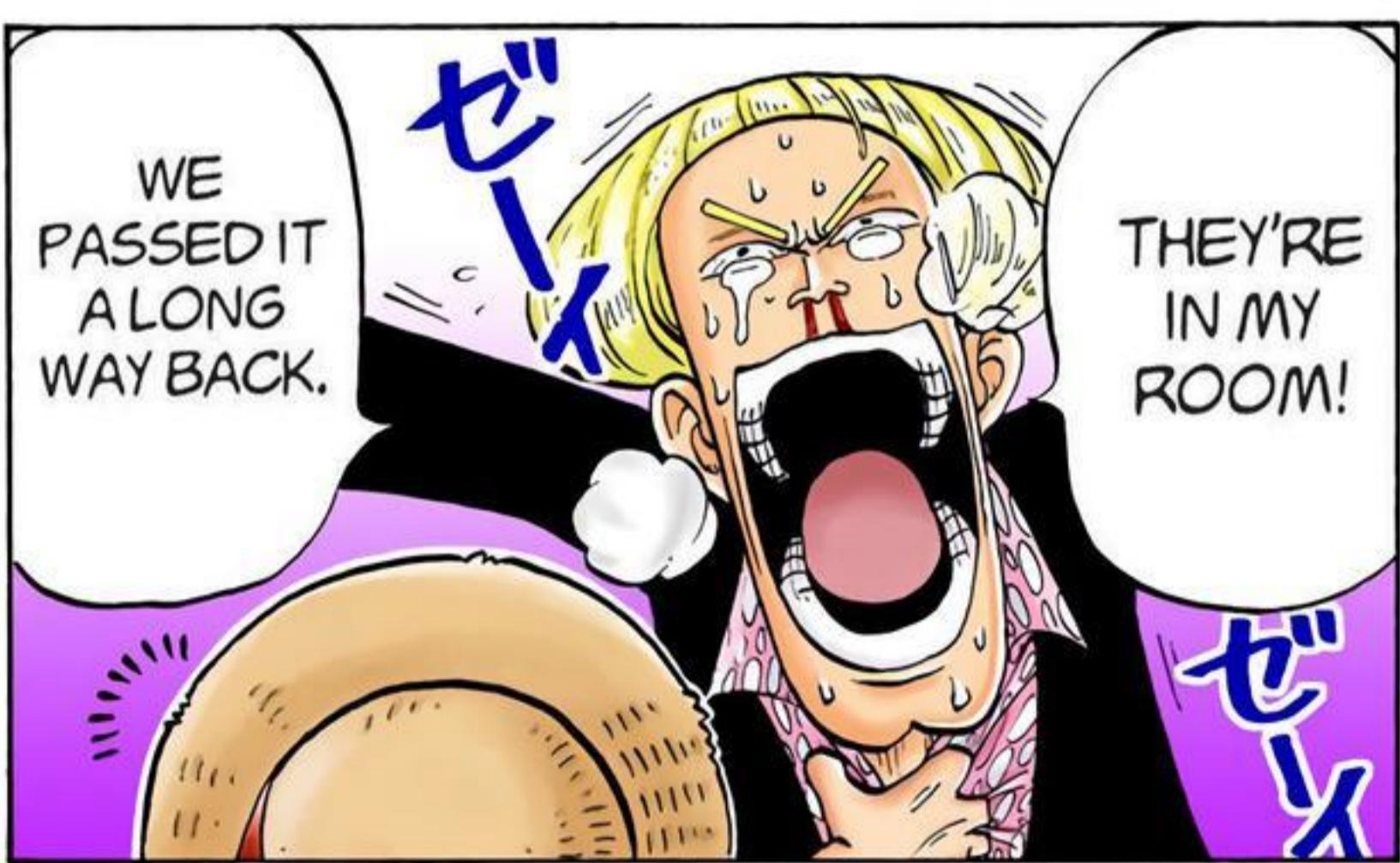
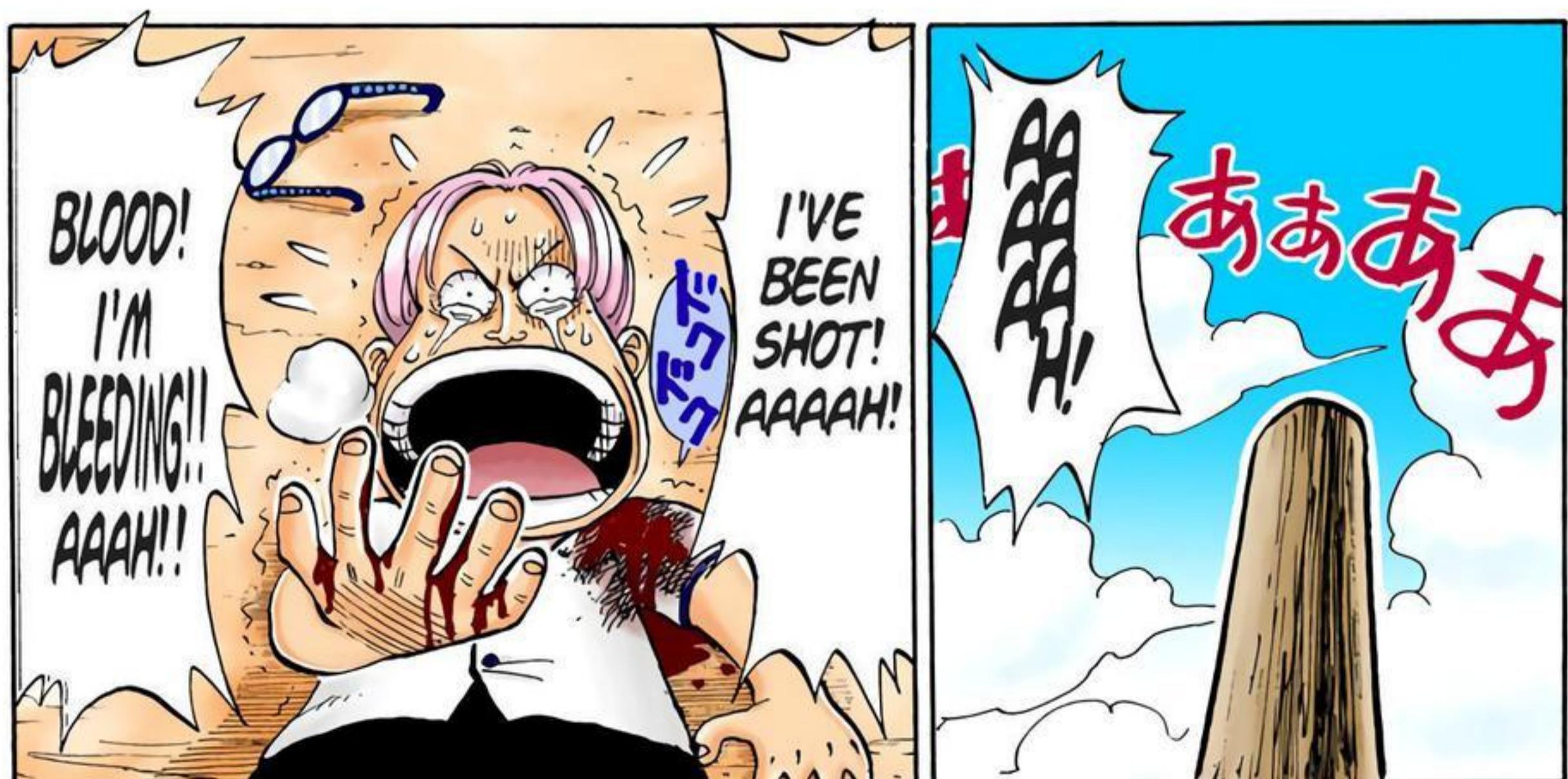
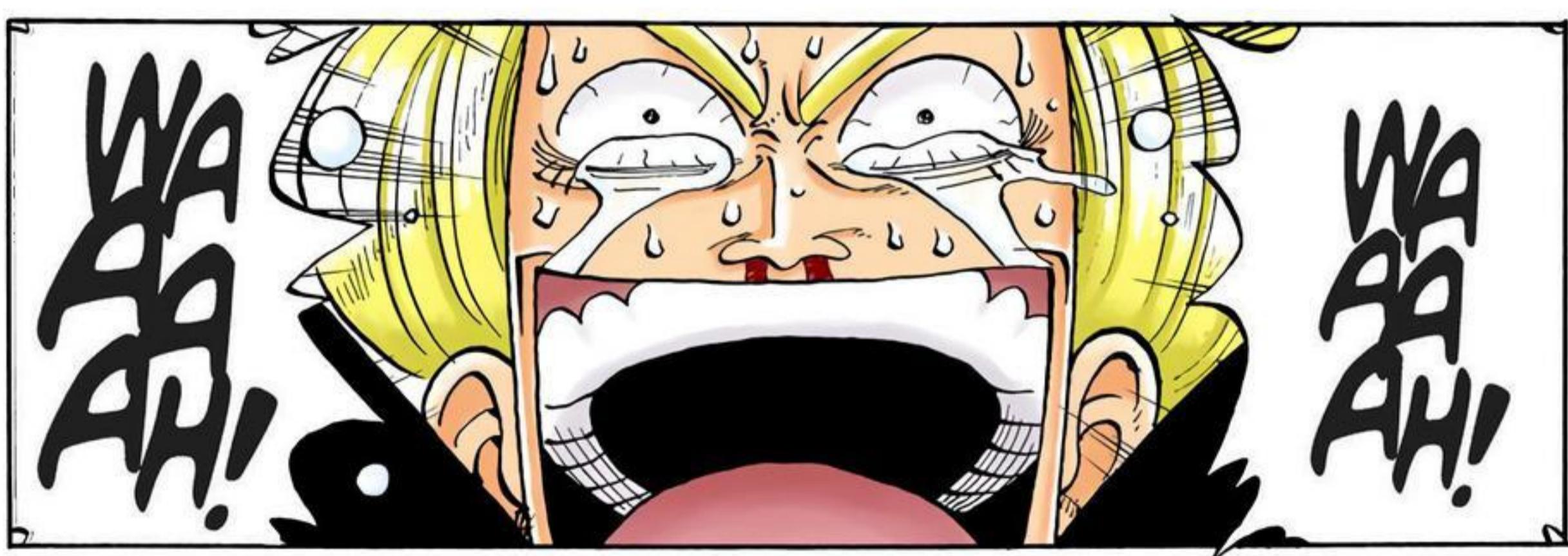
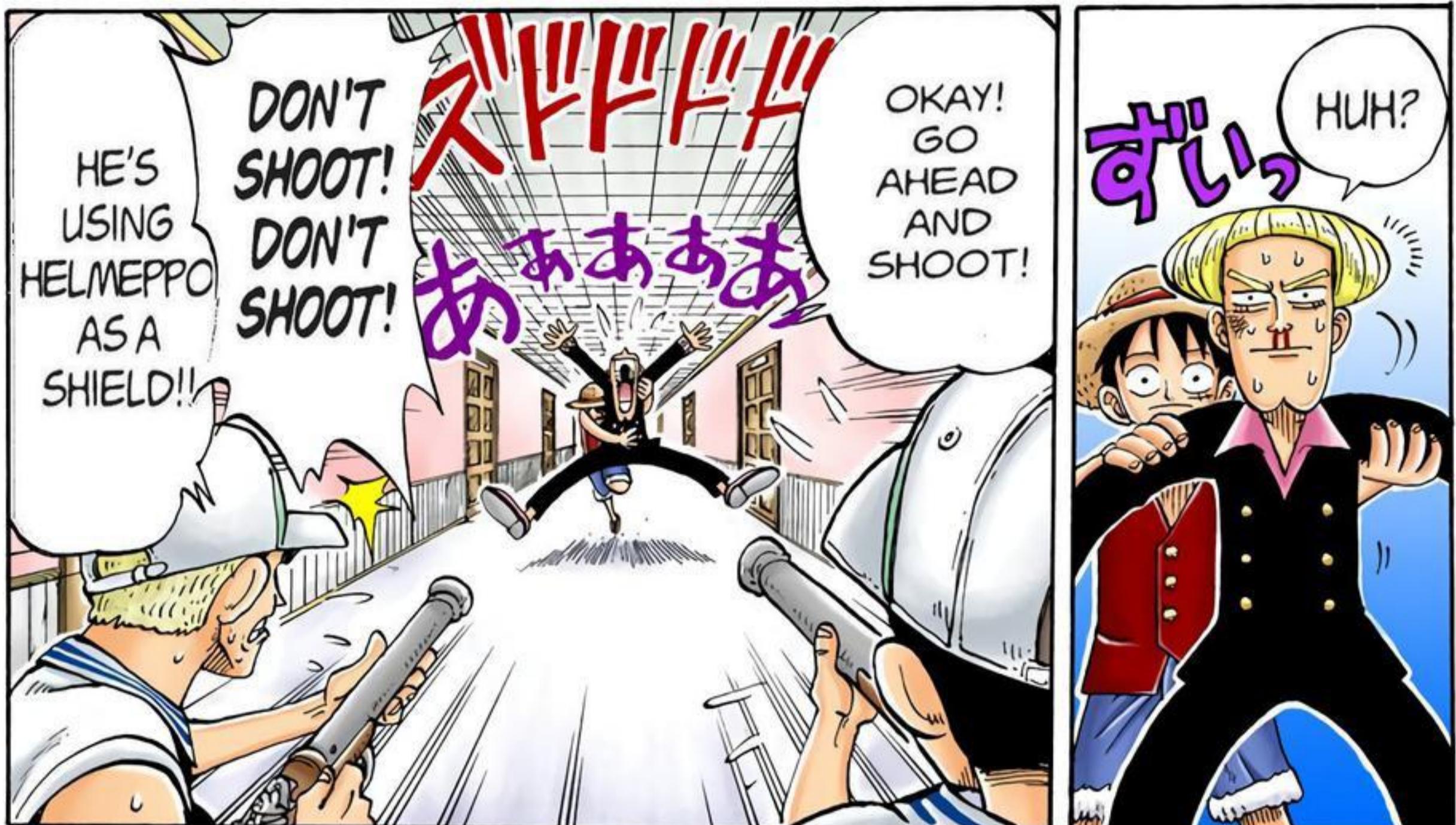
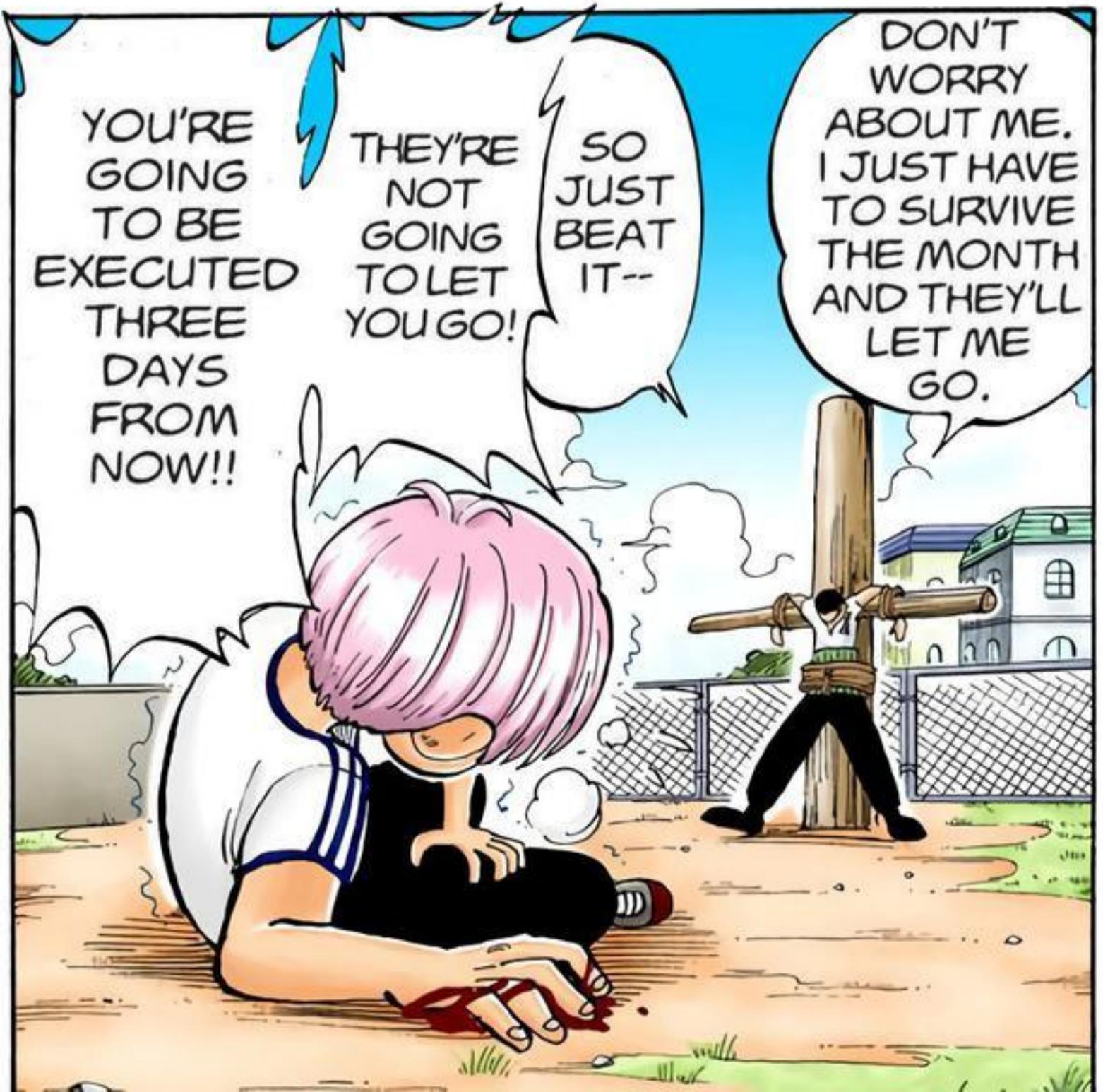
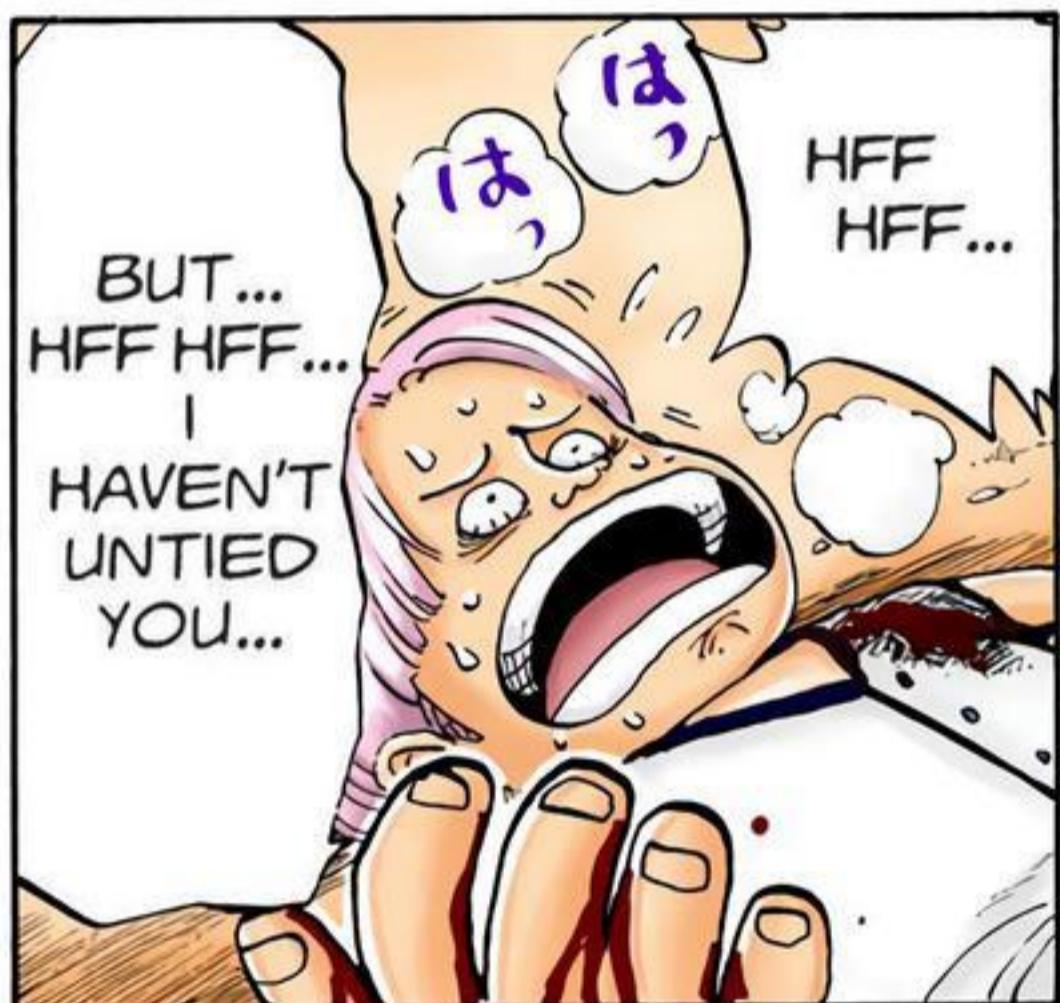
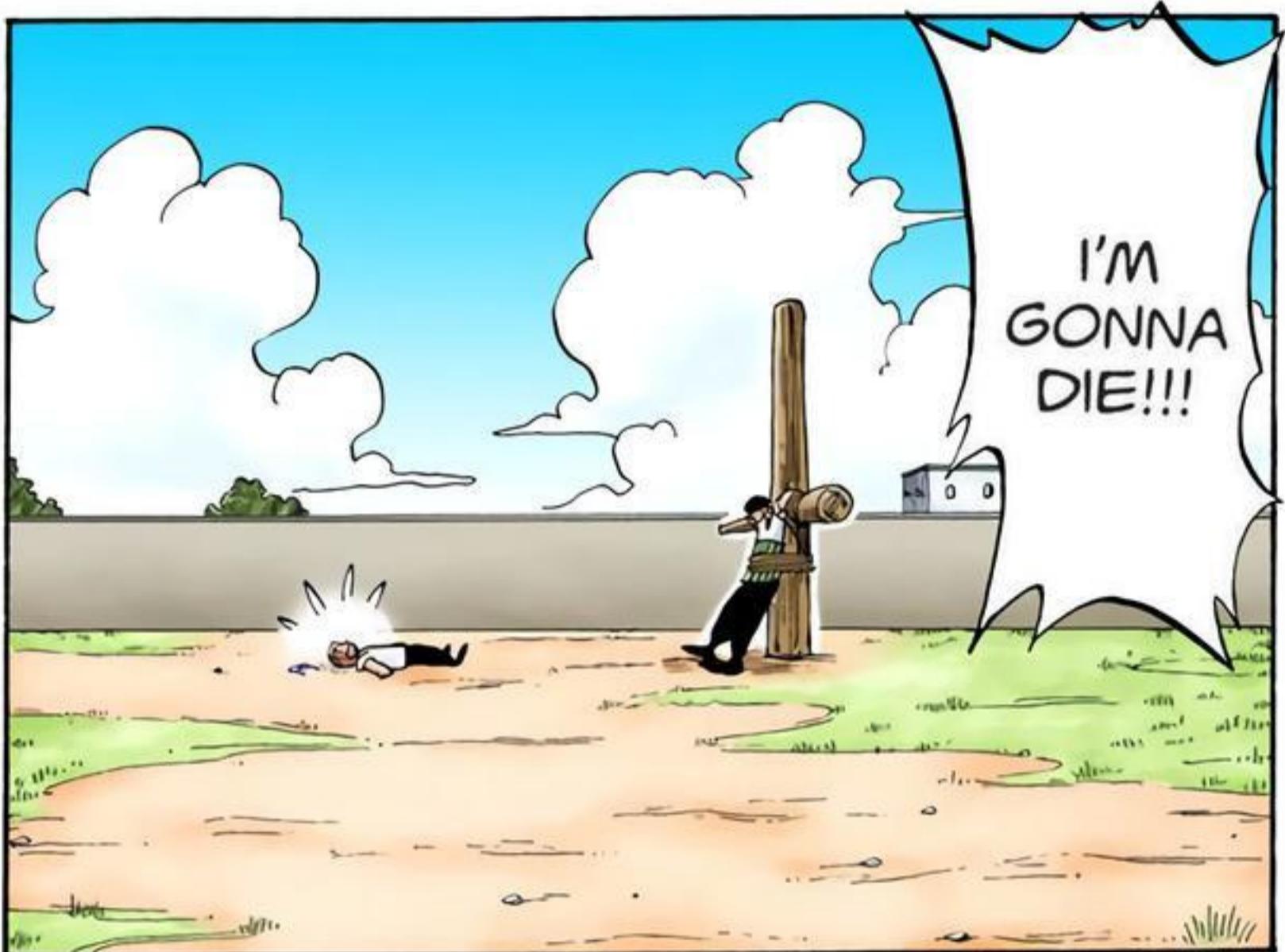


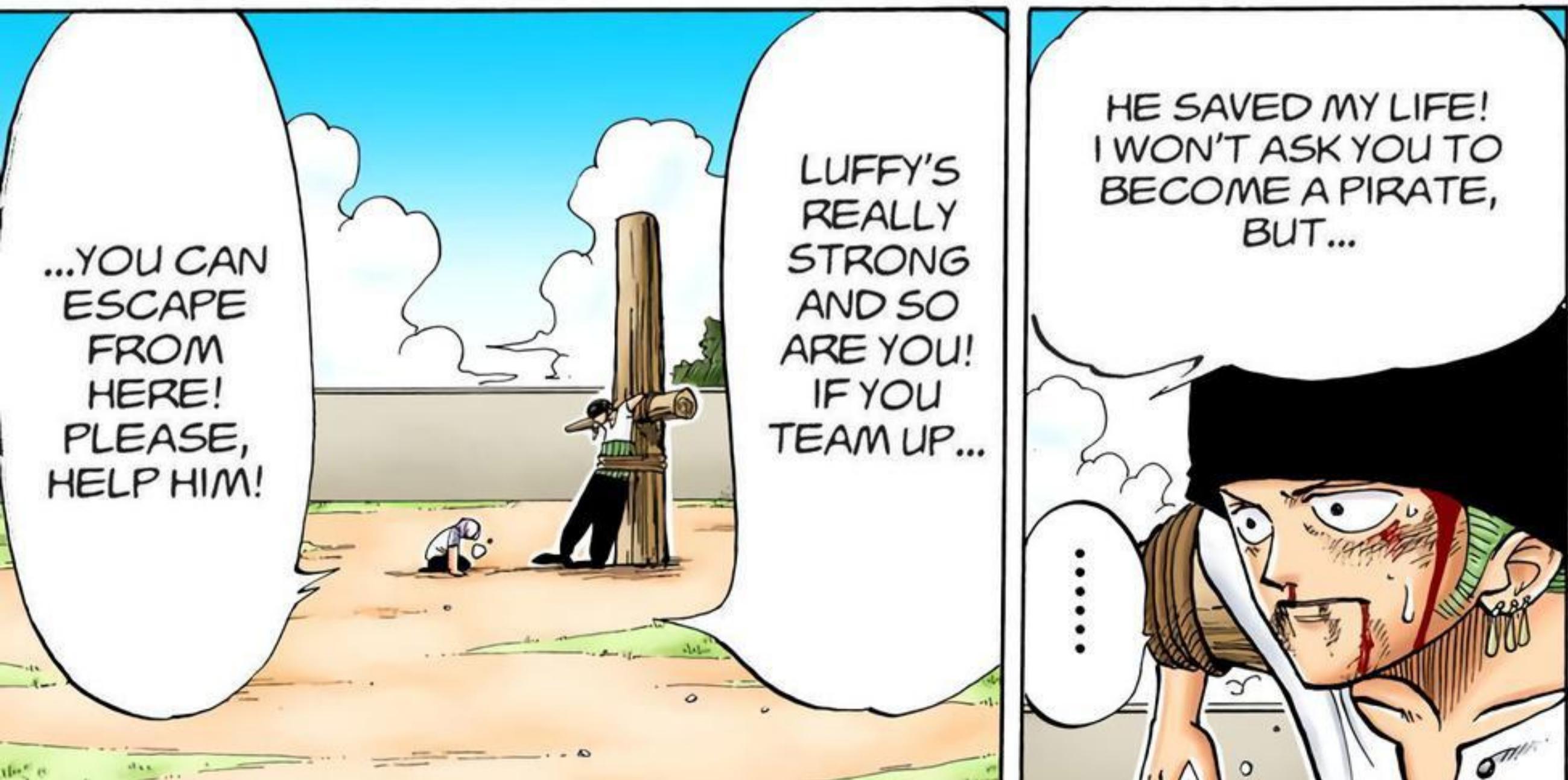
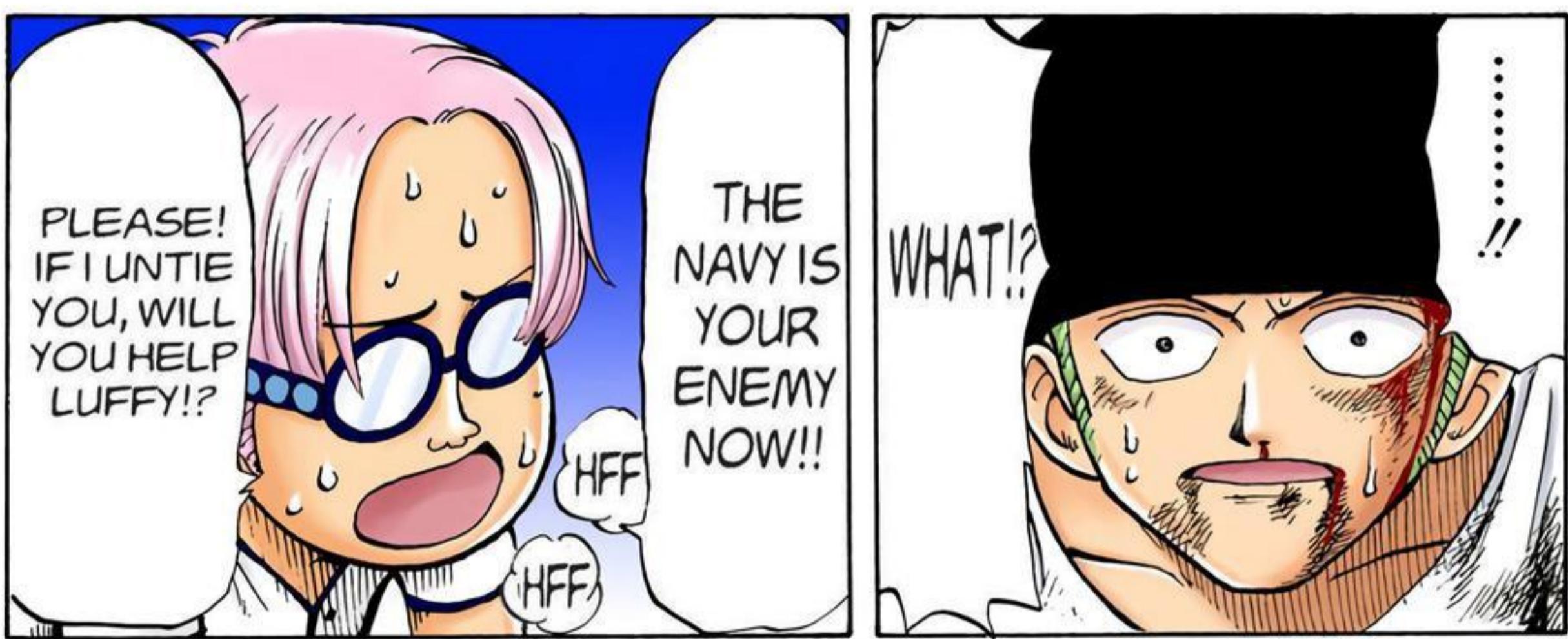
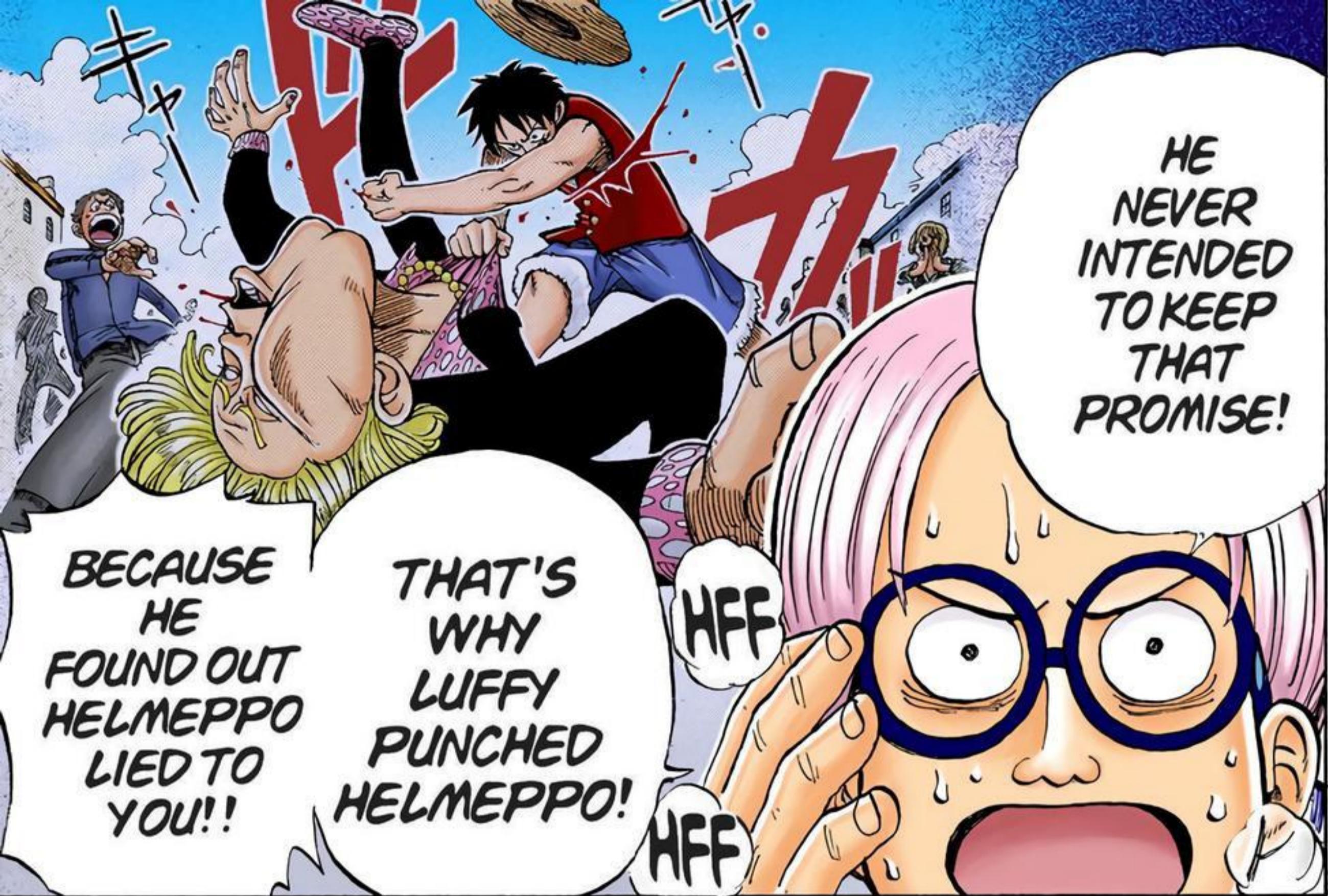
CHAPTER 5: THE KING OF THE PIRATES AND THE MASTER SWORDSMAN

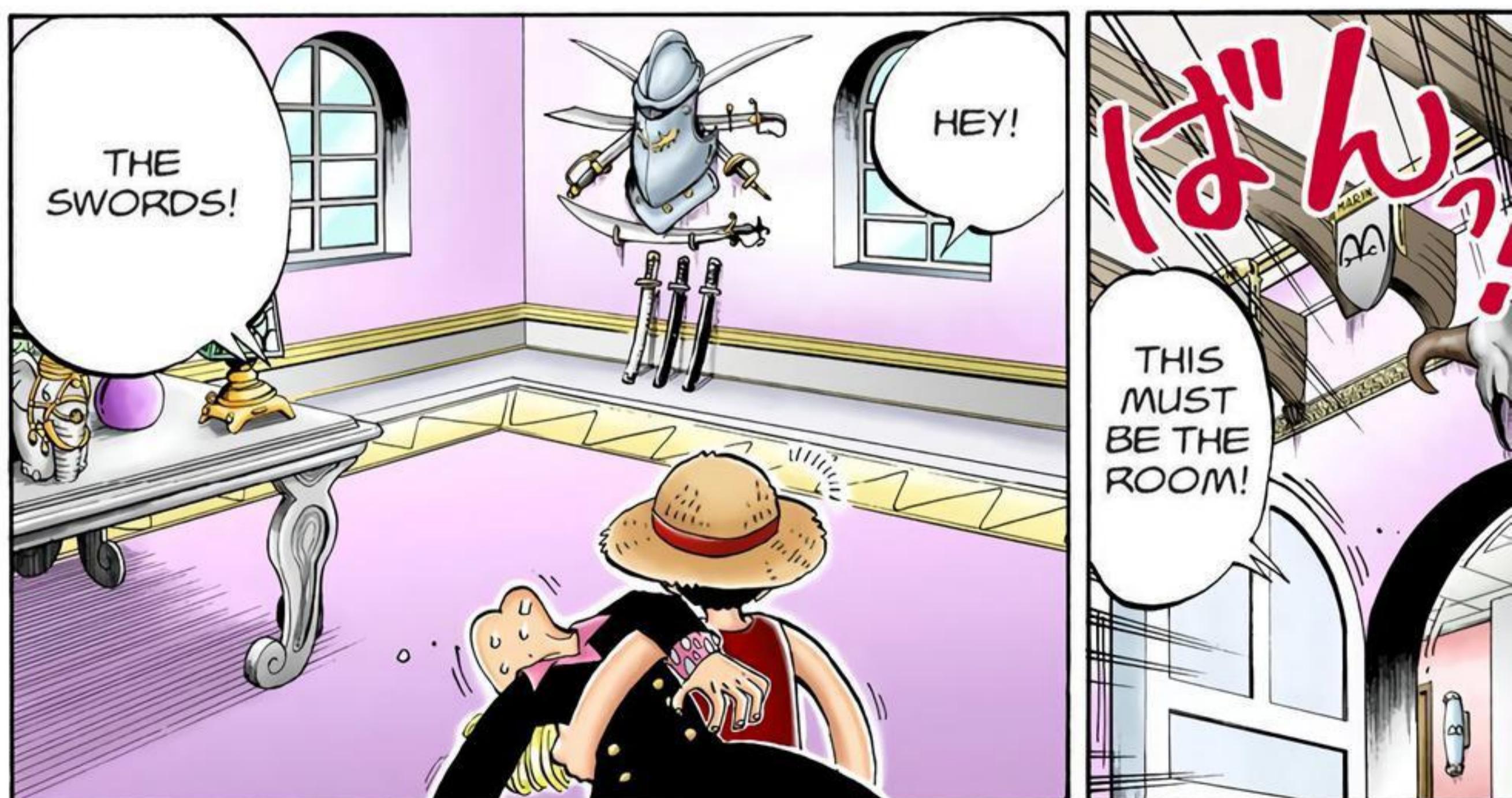
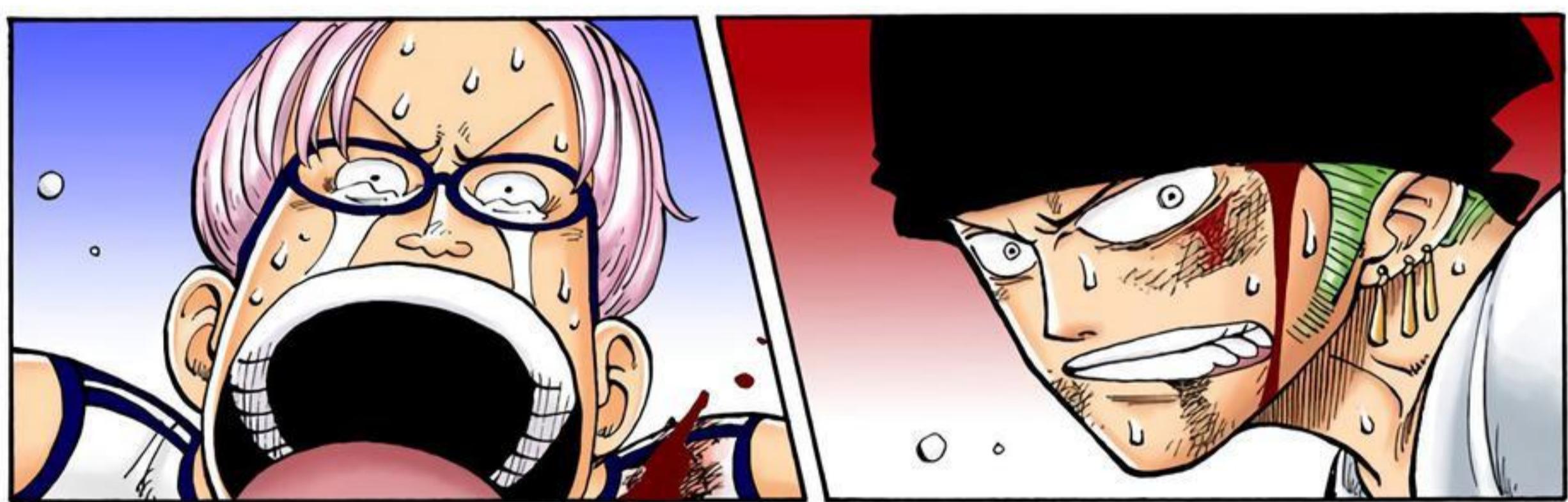


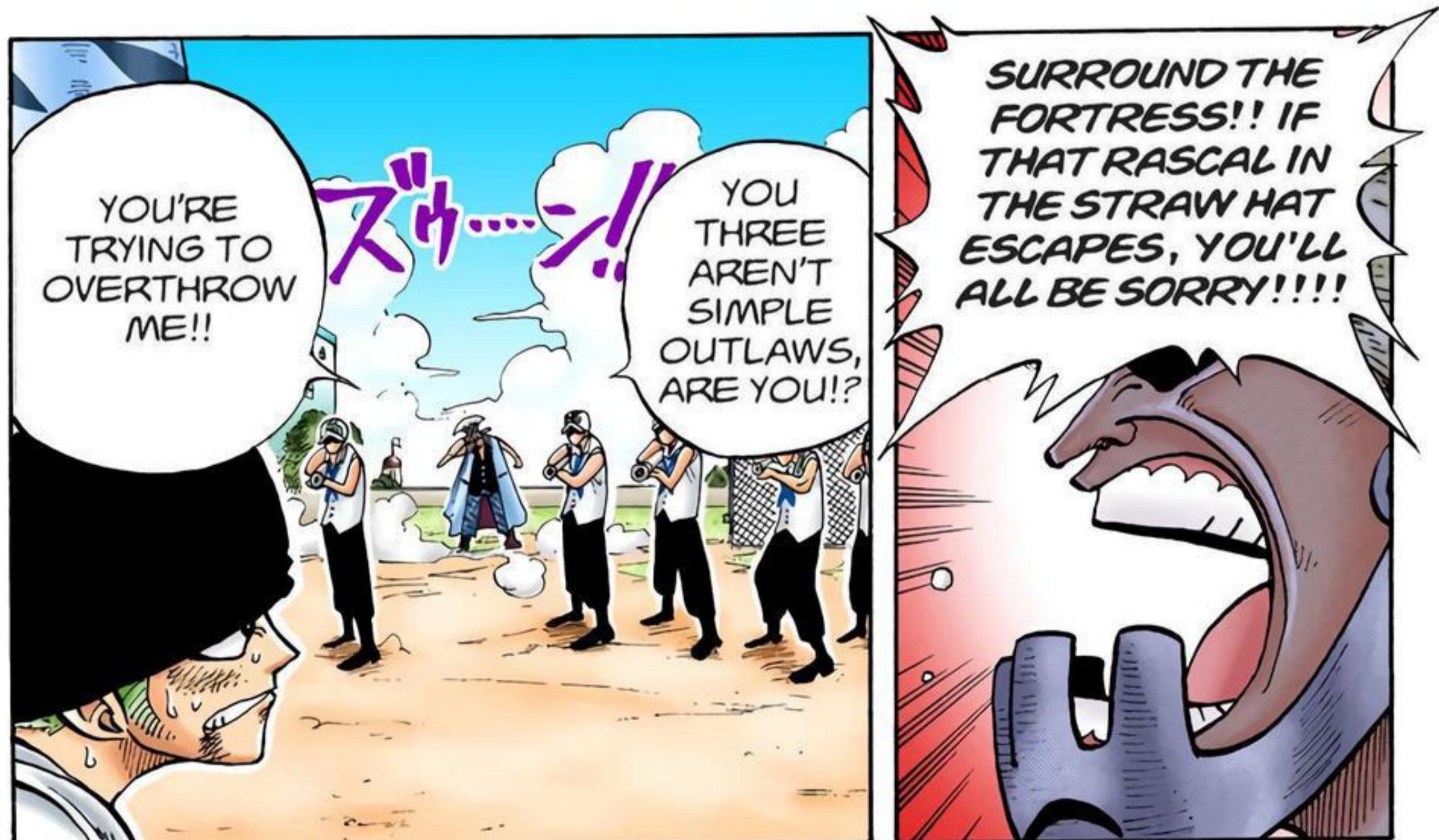
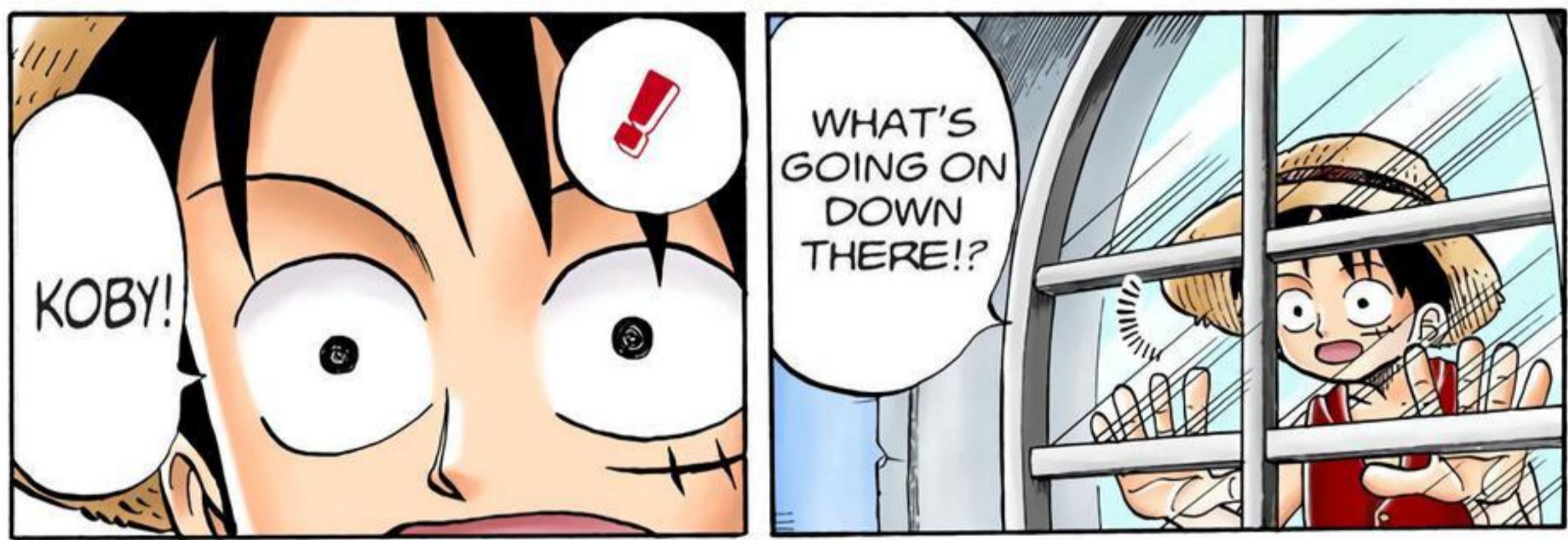
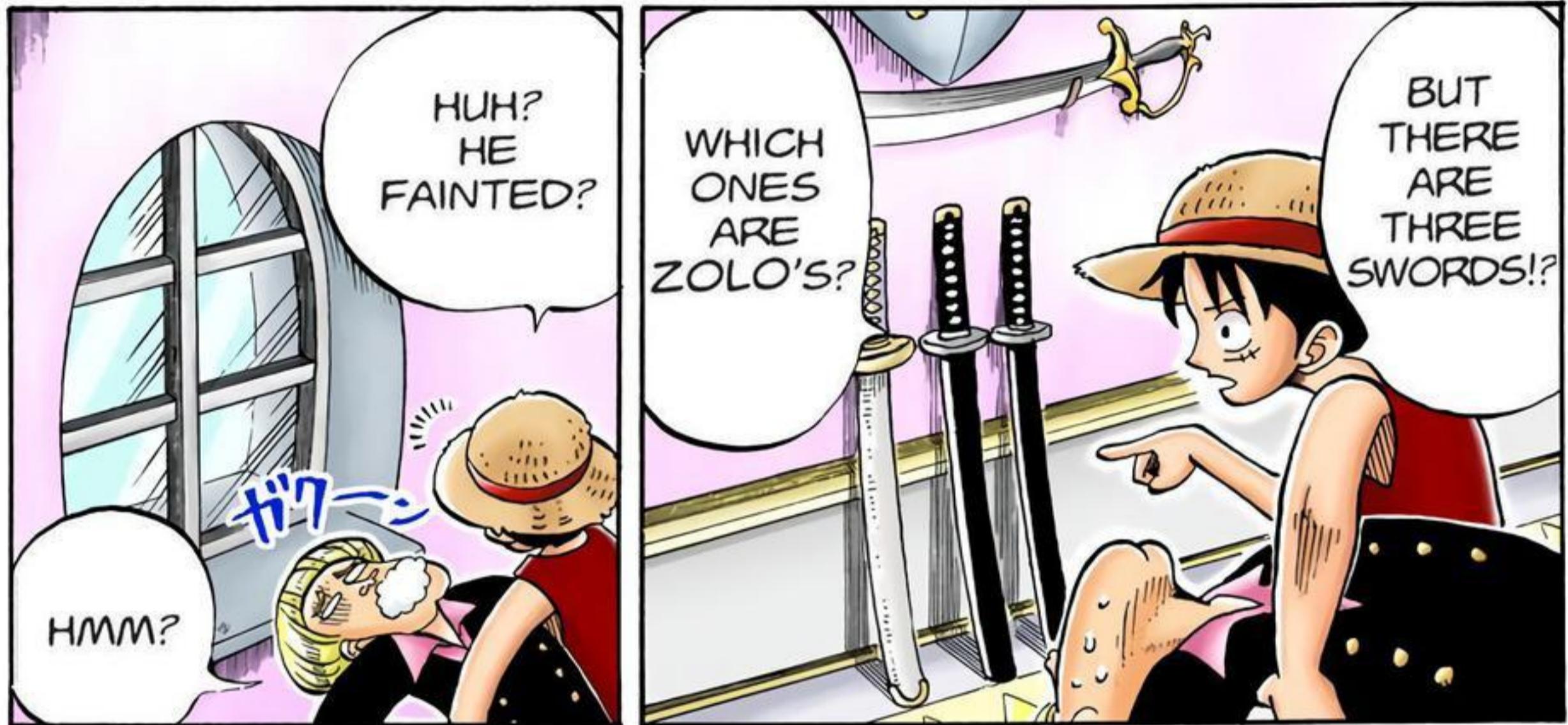


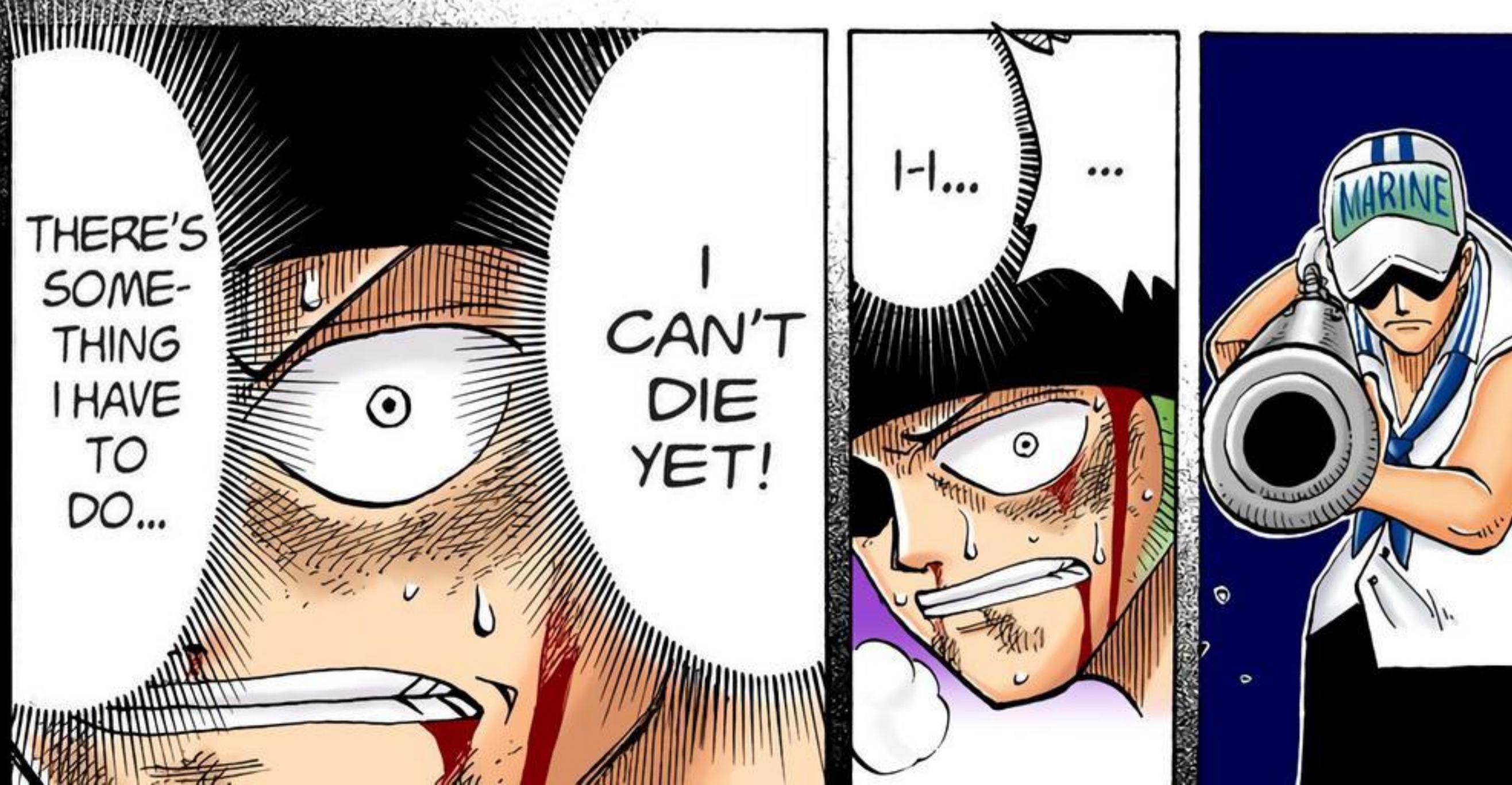
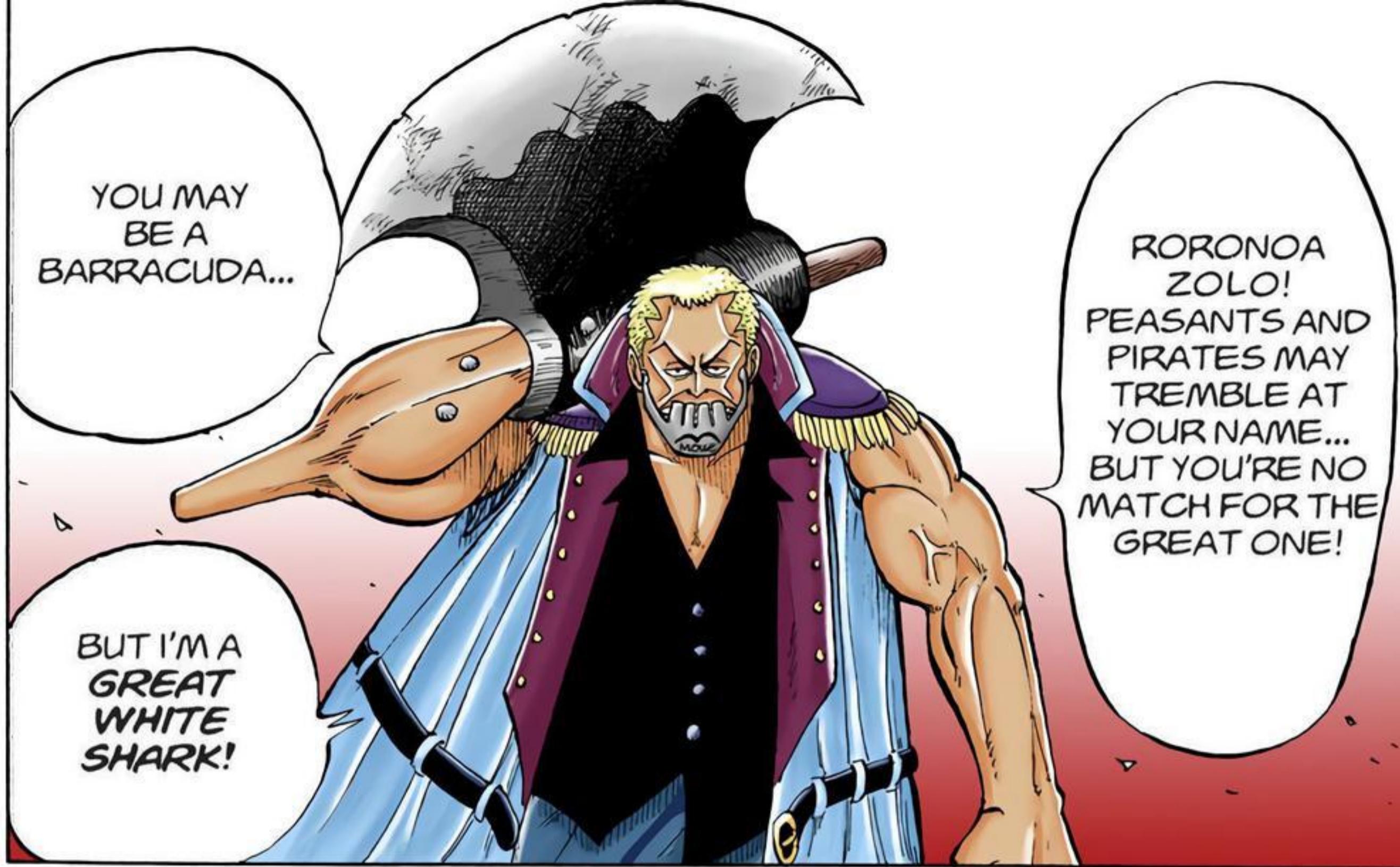


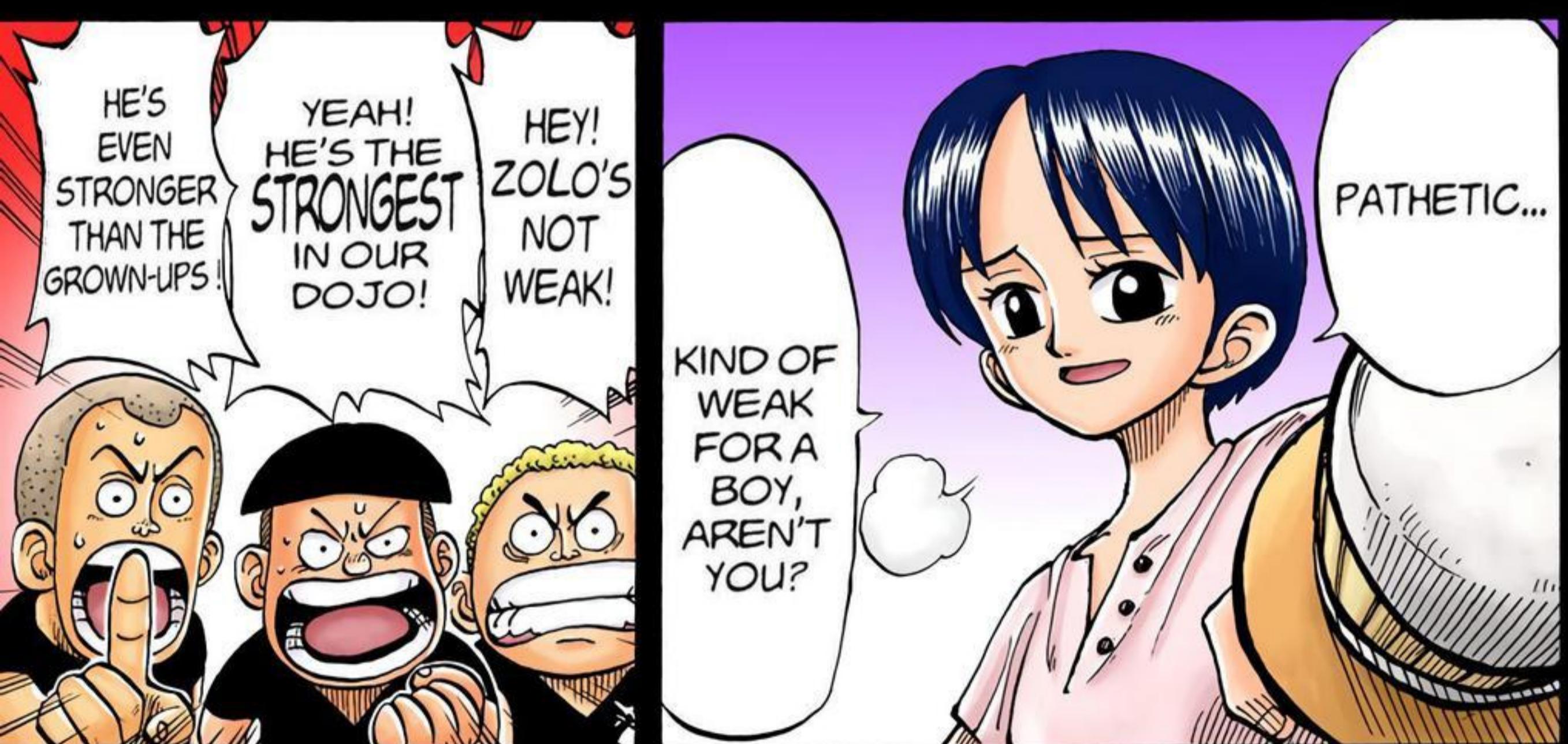
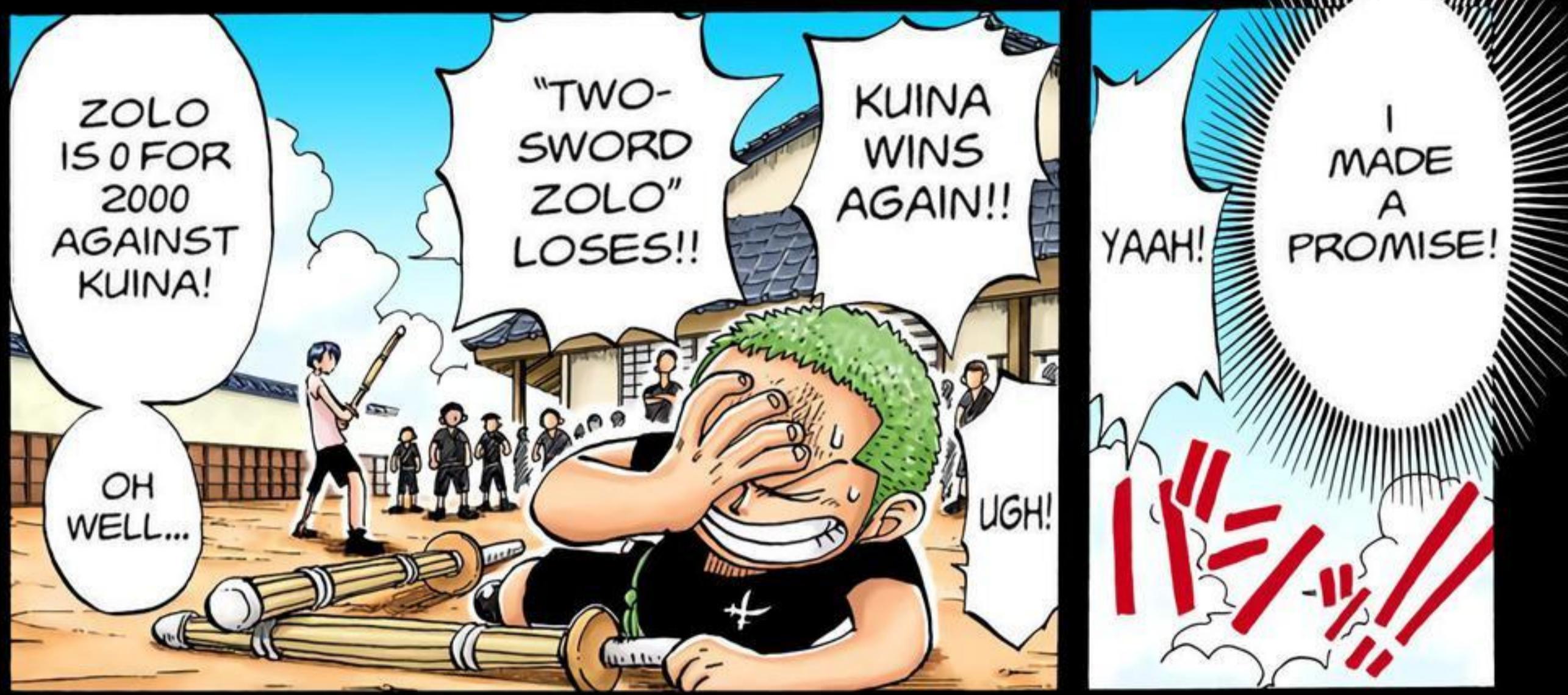


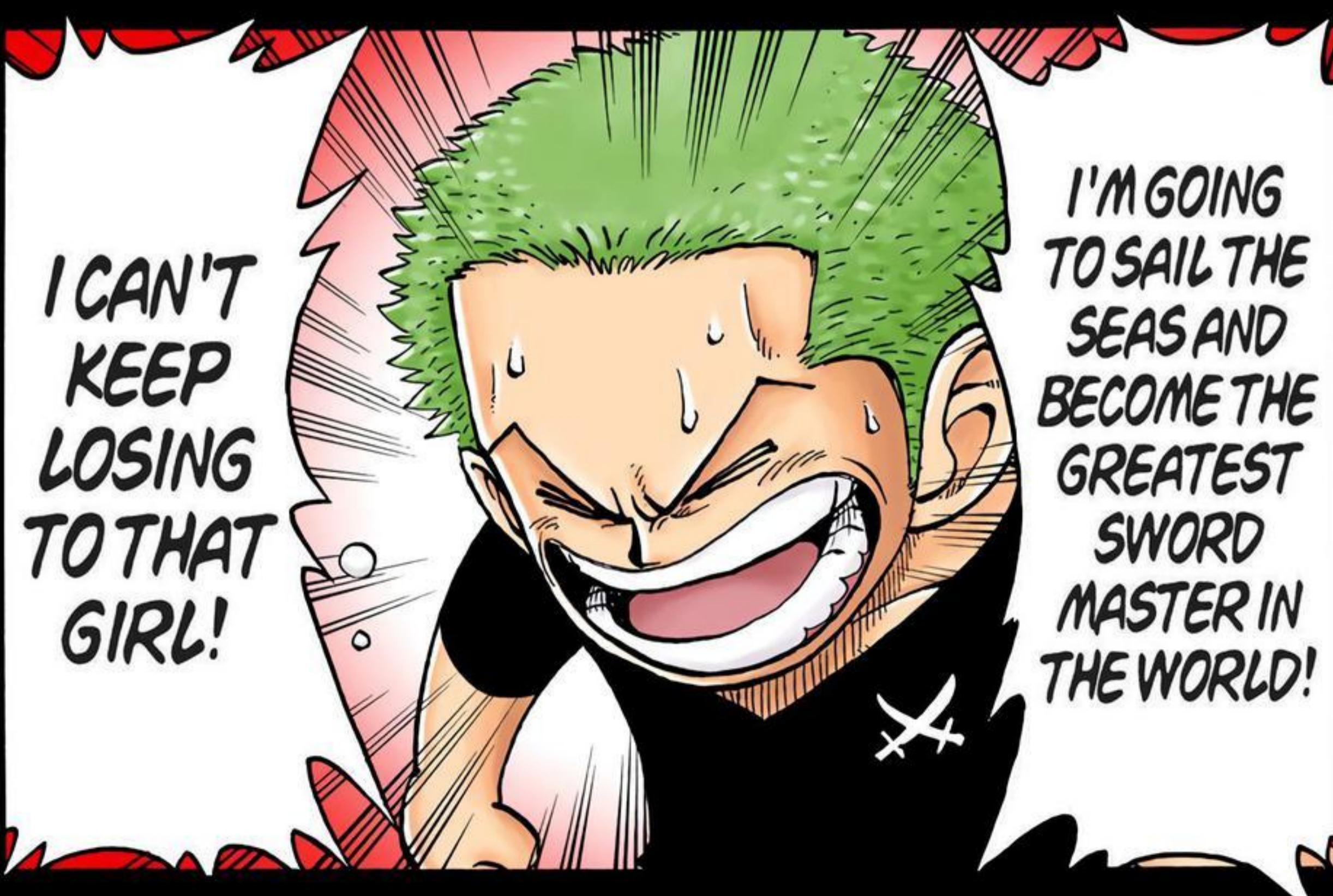
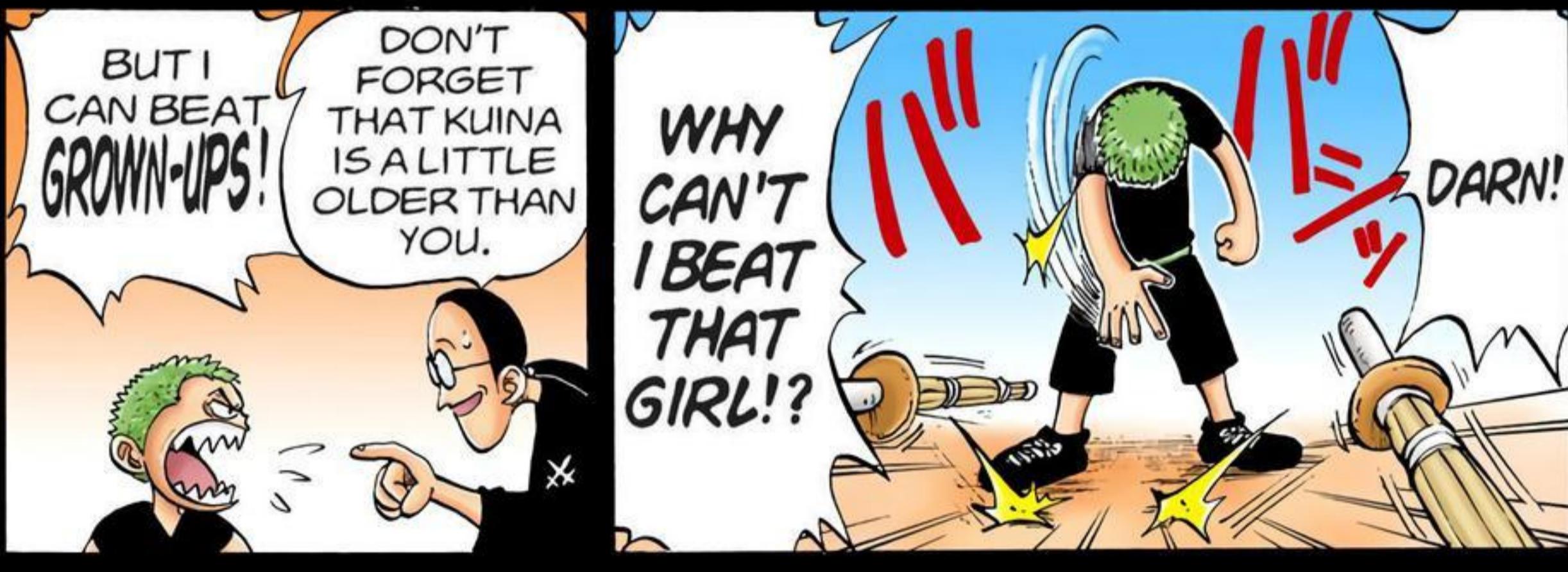
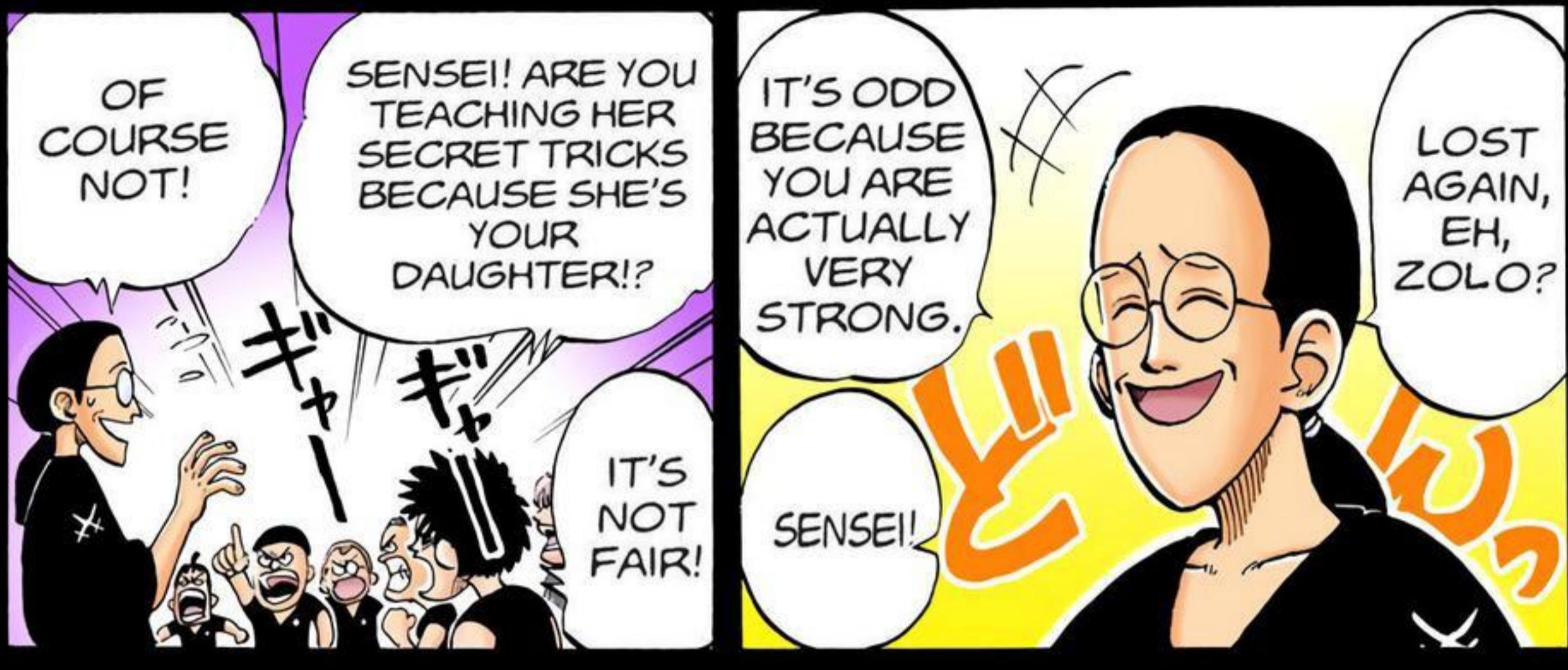


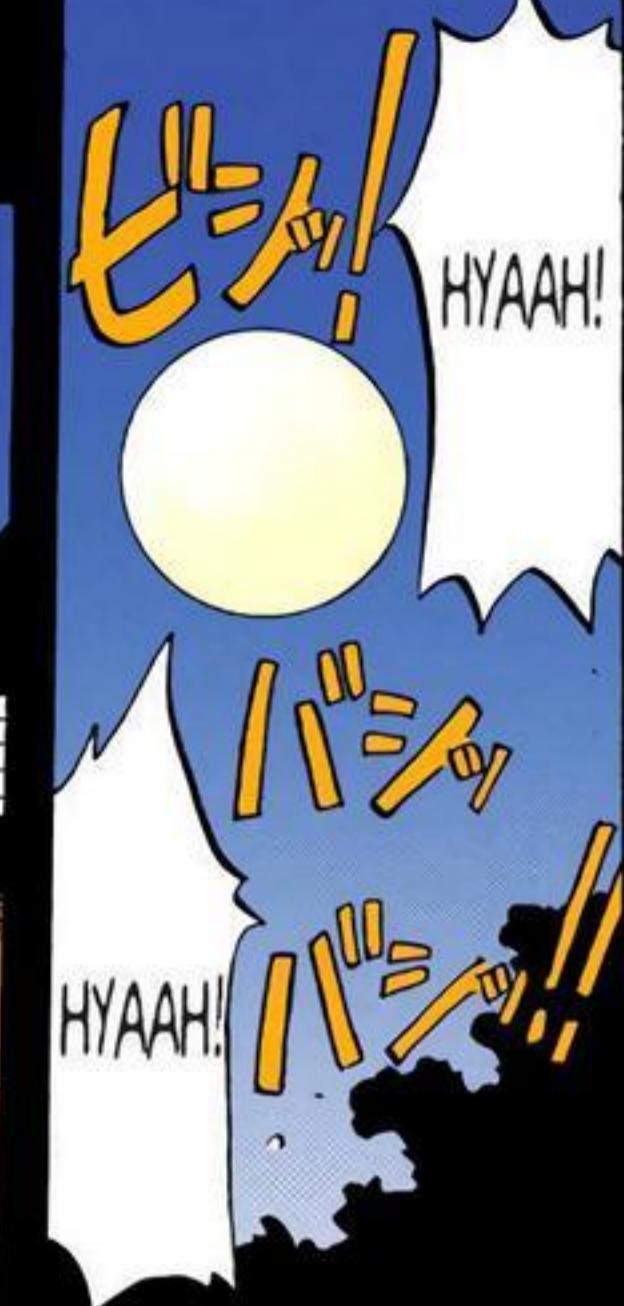
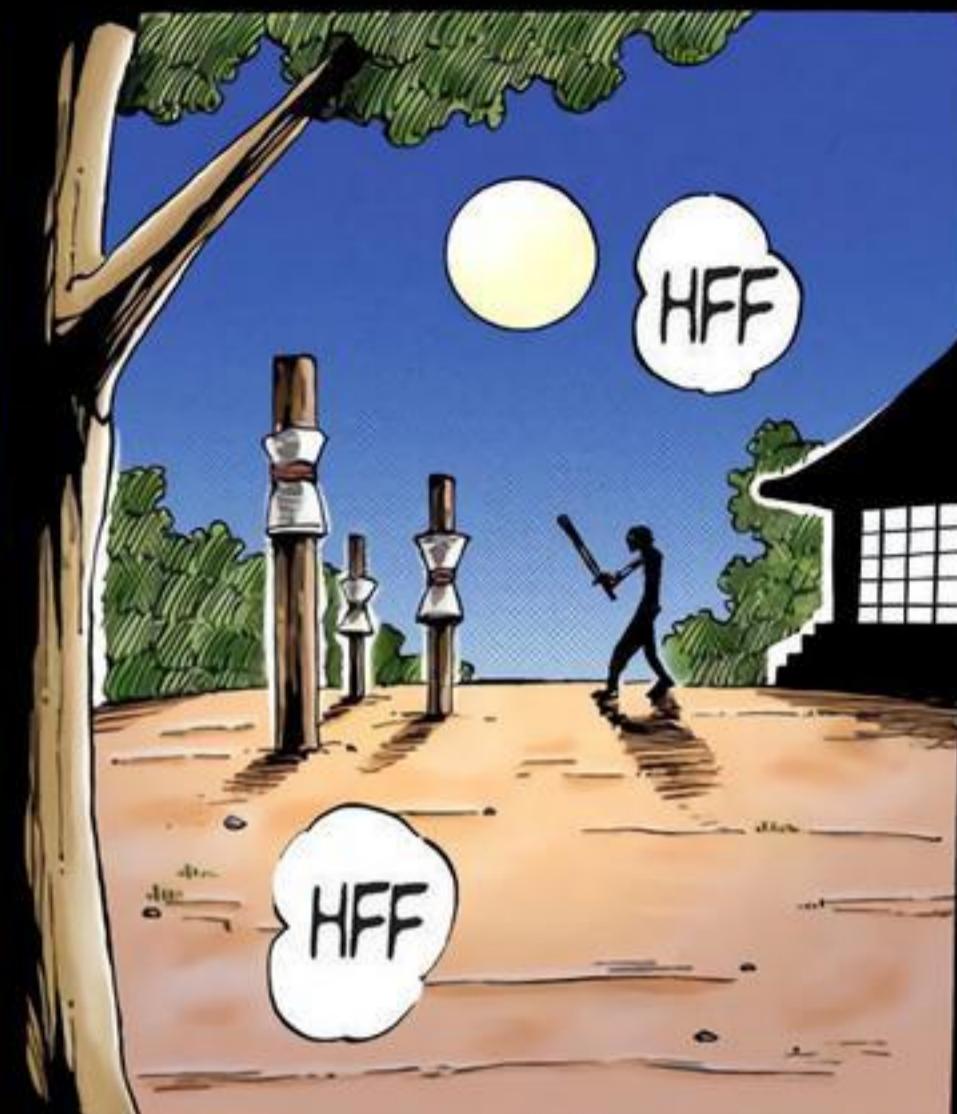
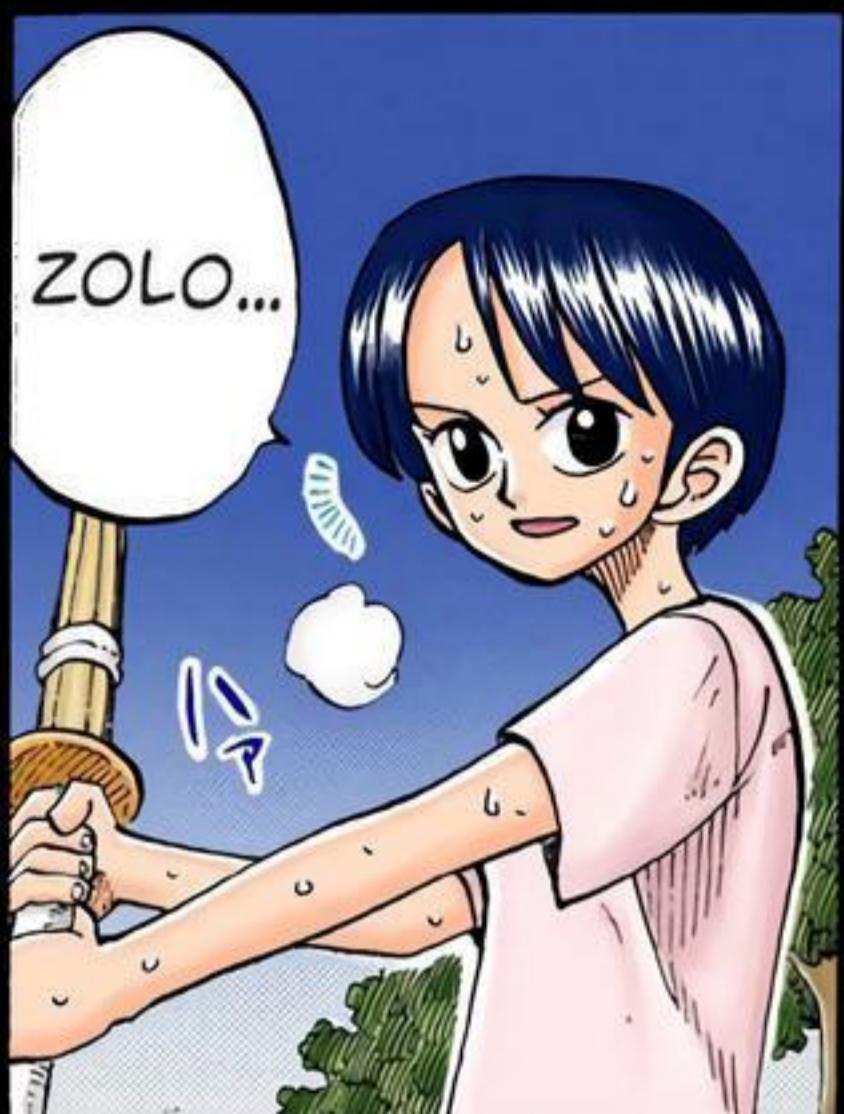


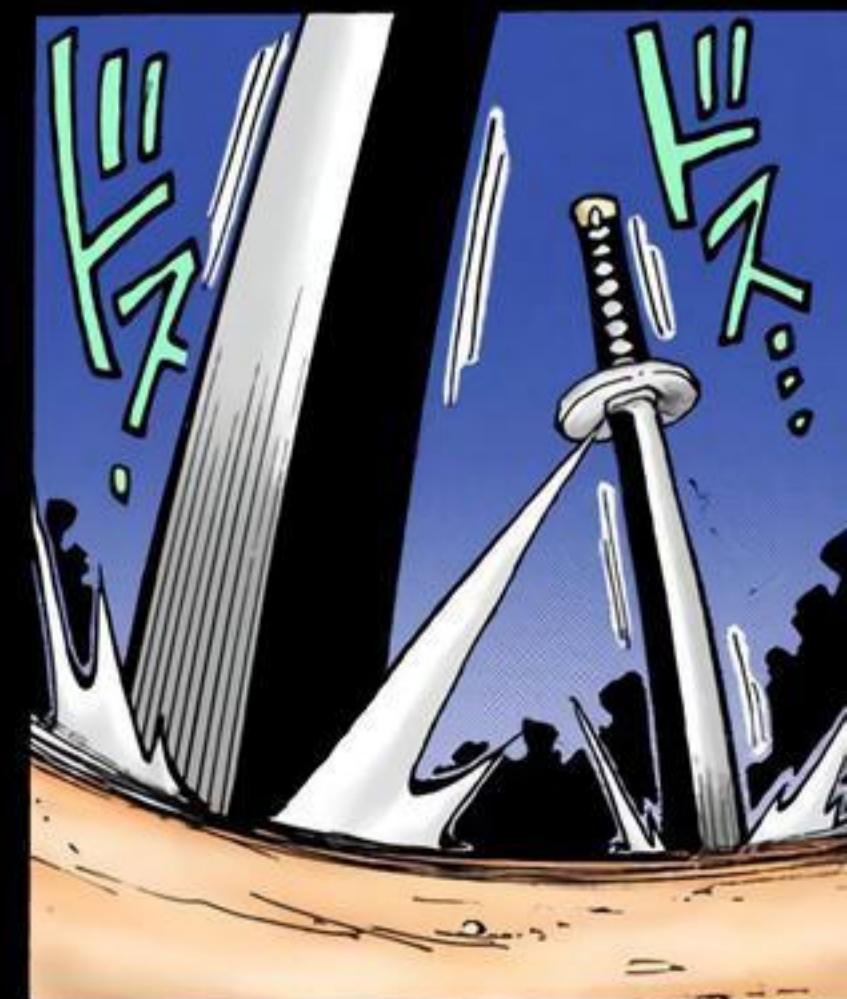
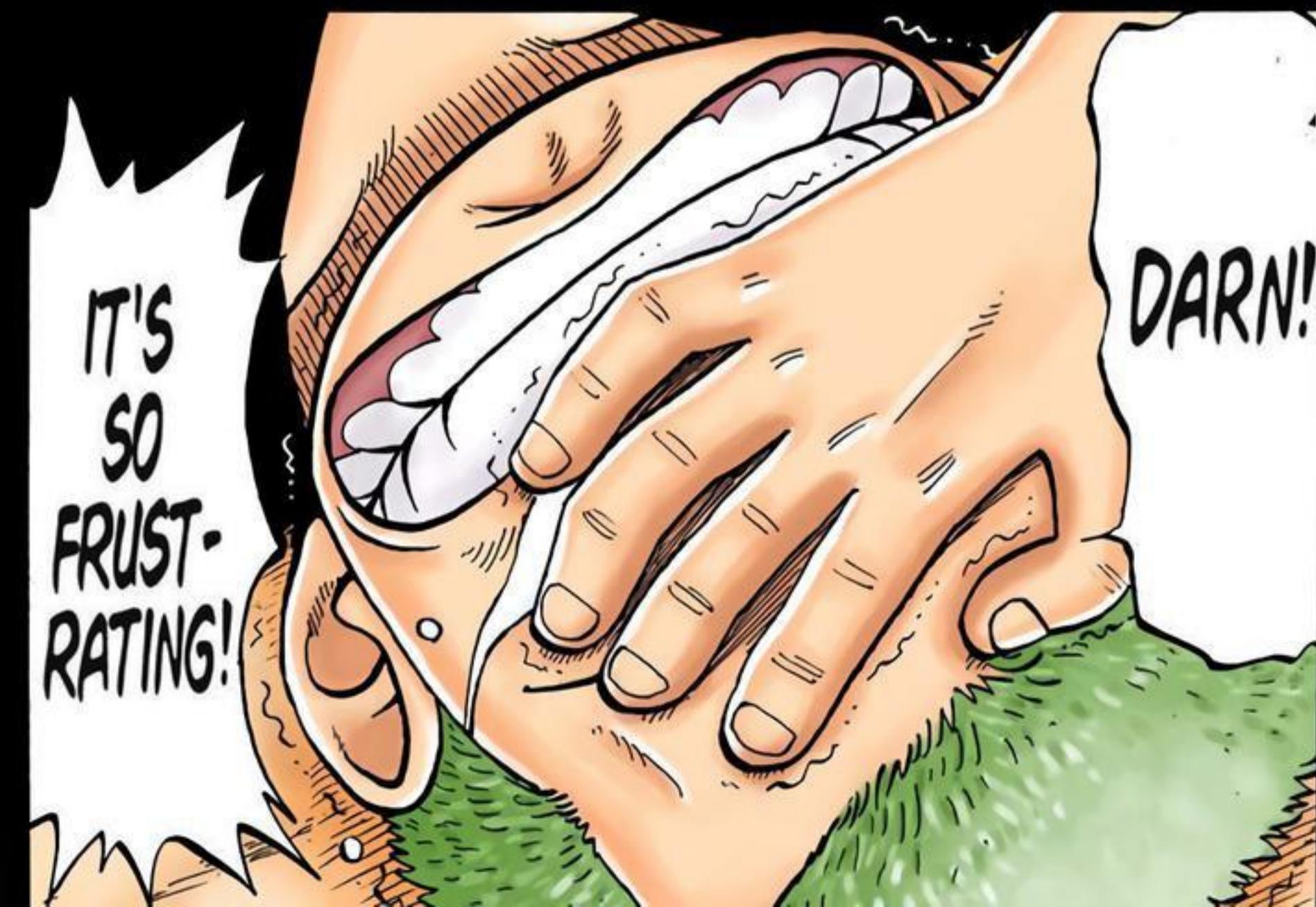
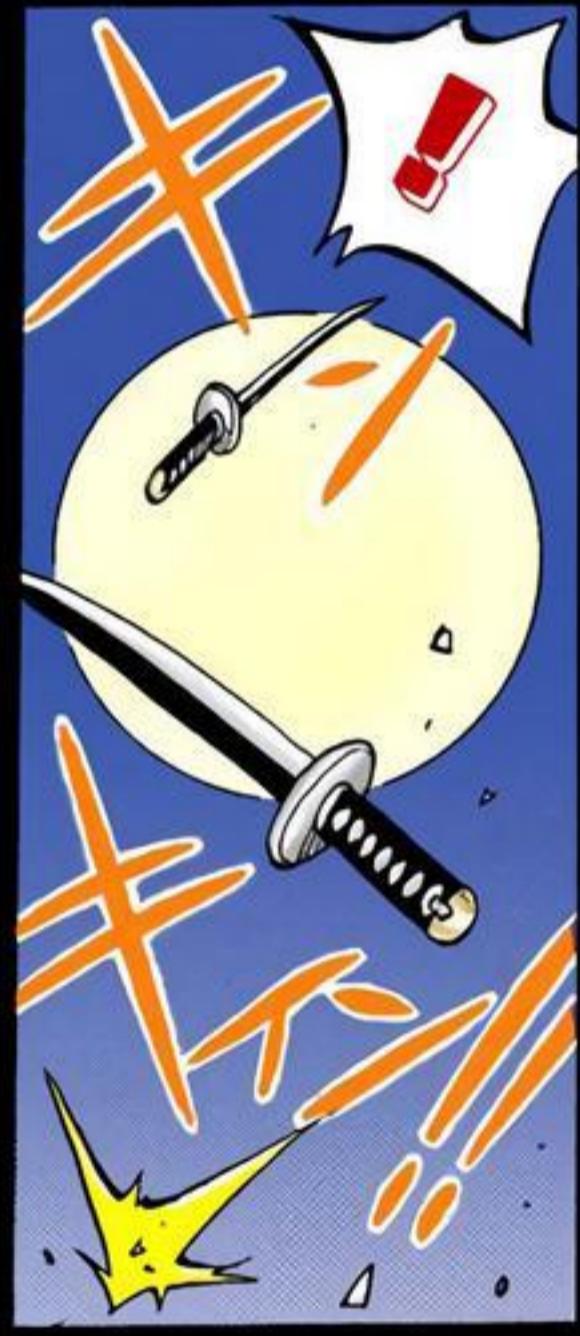
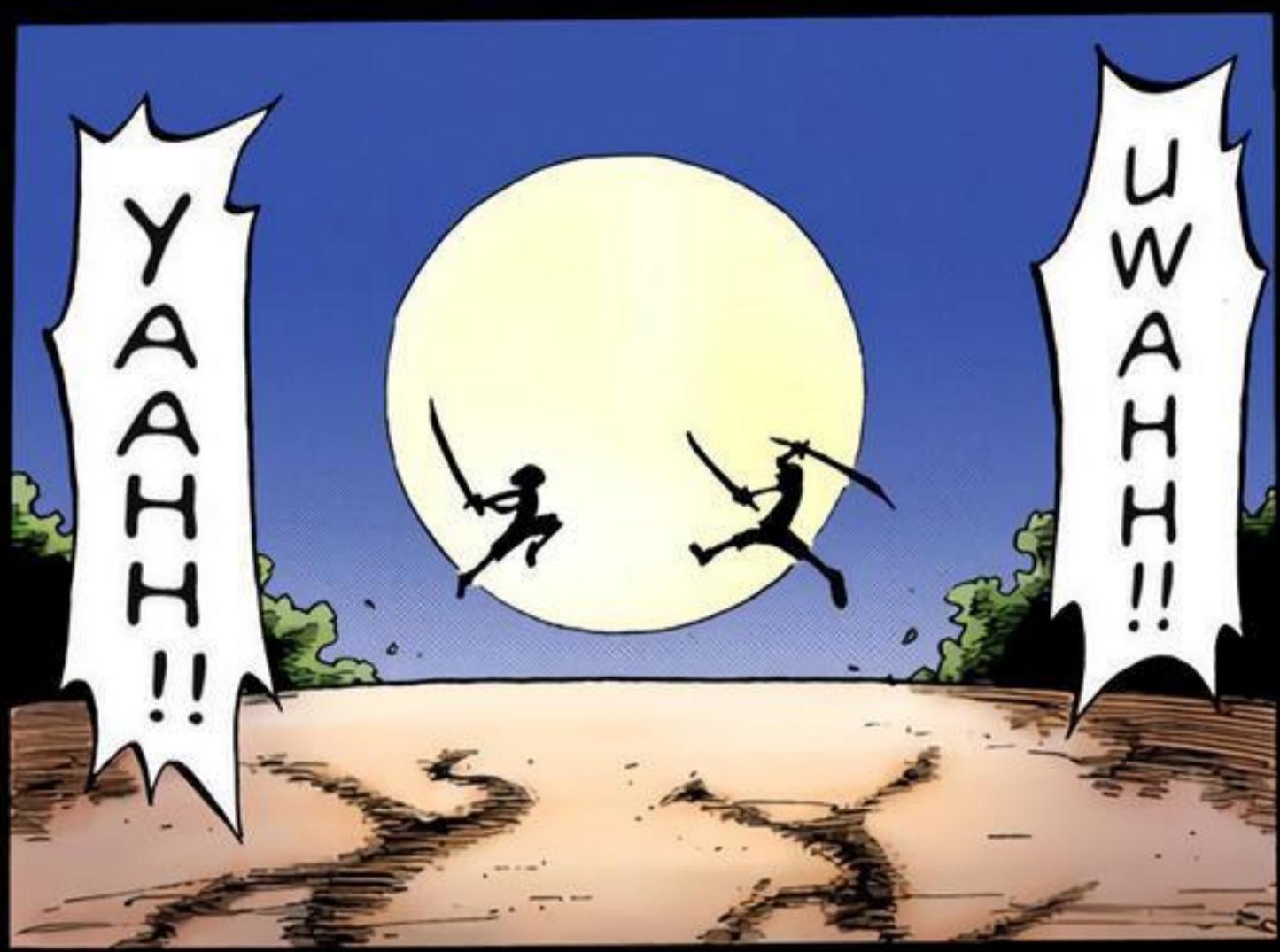












PRETTY
SOON
YOU'LL
ALL BE
STRONGER
THAN ME.

ZOLO,
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SAYING...

WHEN
GIRLS GET
OLDER,
THEY
BECOME
WEAKER
THAN THE
BOYS.

HUH?

I'M
THE ONE
WHO'S
FRUS-
TRATED...

I
WANNA
BECOME THE
WORLD'S
GREATEST
SWORDSMAN
TOO!!

YOU'RE
LUCKY
YOU'RE A
BOY,
ZOLO...

DAD SAYS
THAT GIRLS
CAN'T BE
MASTER
SWORDSMEN...

...THAT
YOU'RE
GOING TO
BECOME
THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
SWORDSMAN...

THAT'S
NOT FAIR!
BEATING
YOU IS MY
DREAM!

WHAT
ARE YOU
CRYING
ABOUT!
YOU BEAT
ME!!

I
WISH
I WAS A
BOY...

BUT I'M
STARTING
TO GET
BREASTS...

...

I'M
TRAINING
ALL THE
TIME TO
BEAT YOU!
YOU'RE
MAKING ME
LOOK BAD!

SOMEDAY
I'LL BEAT
YOU
BECAUSE I
WORKED
HARD, NOT
BECAUSE
YOU GOT
WEAKER!!
IT'S GOT
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
BEING A BOY
OR A GIRL!!

ZOLO
...

WE'LL
FIGHT
EACH
OTHER
FOR THE
TITLE!

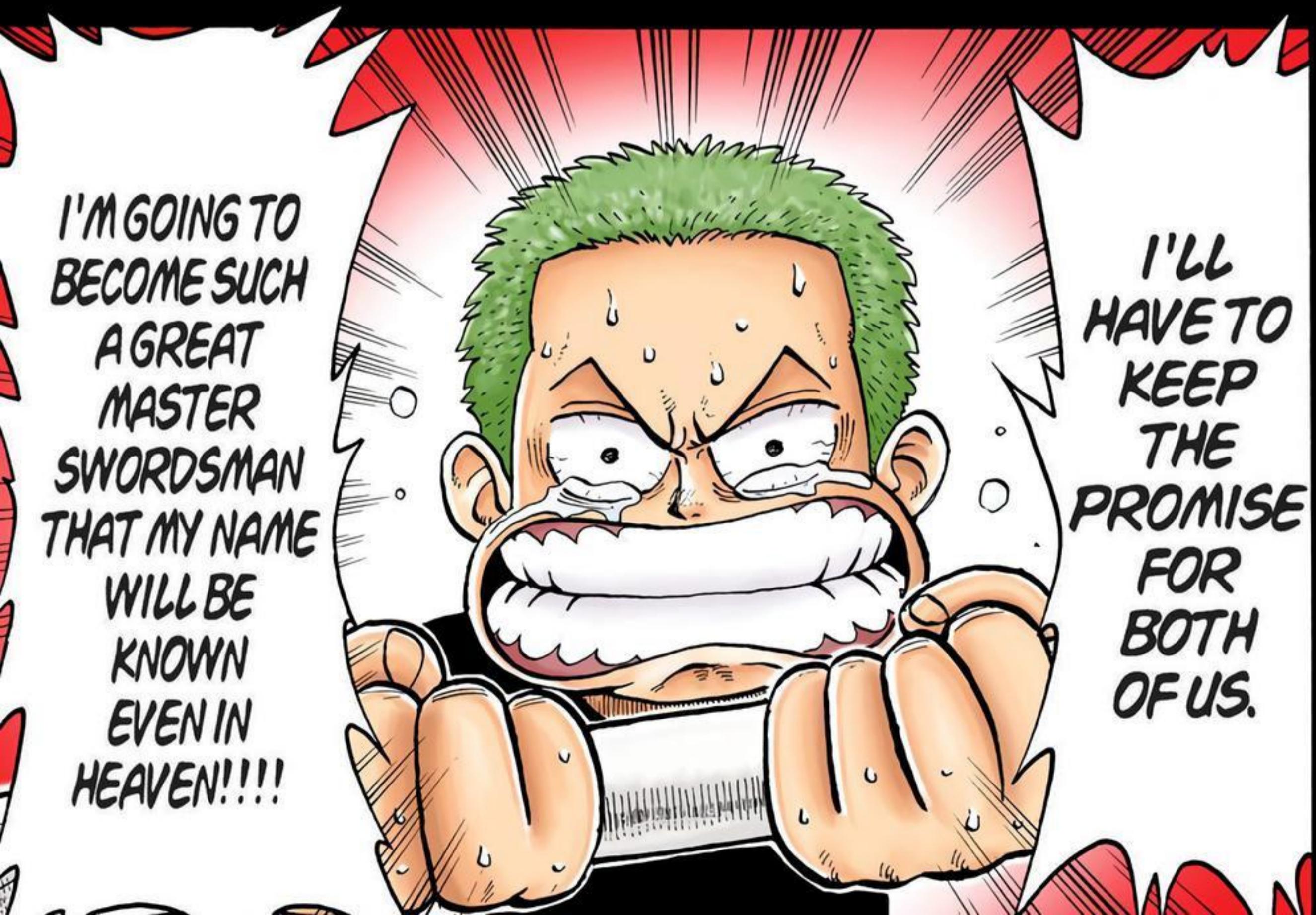
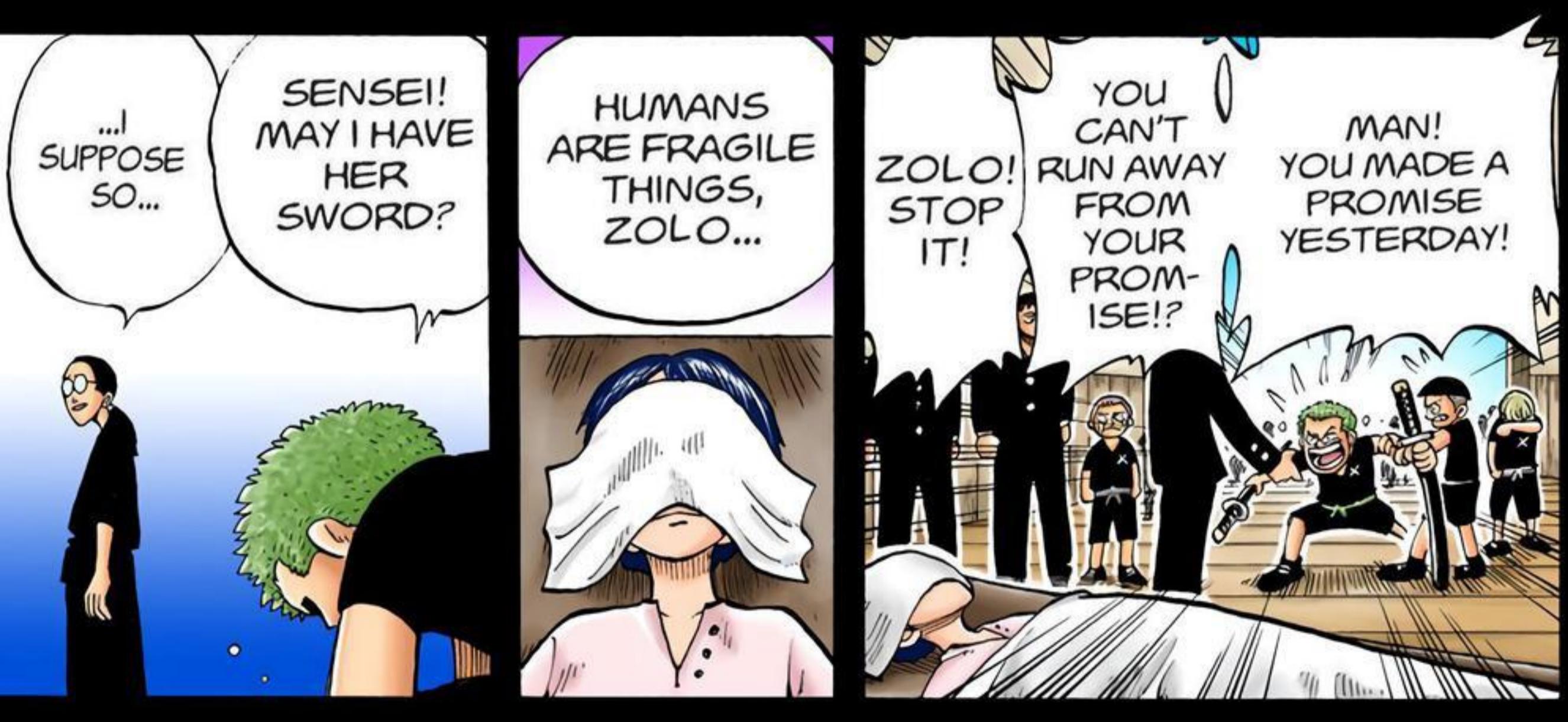
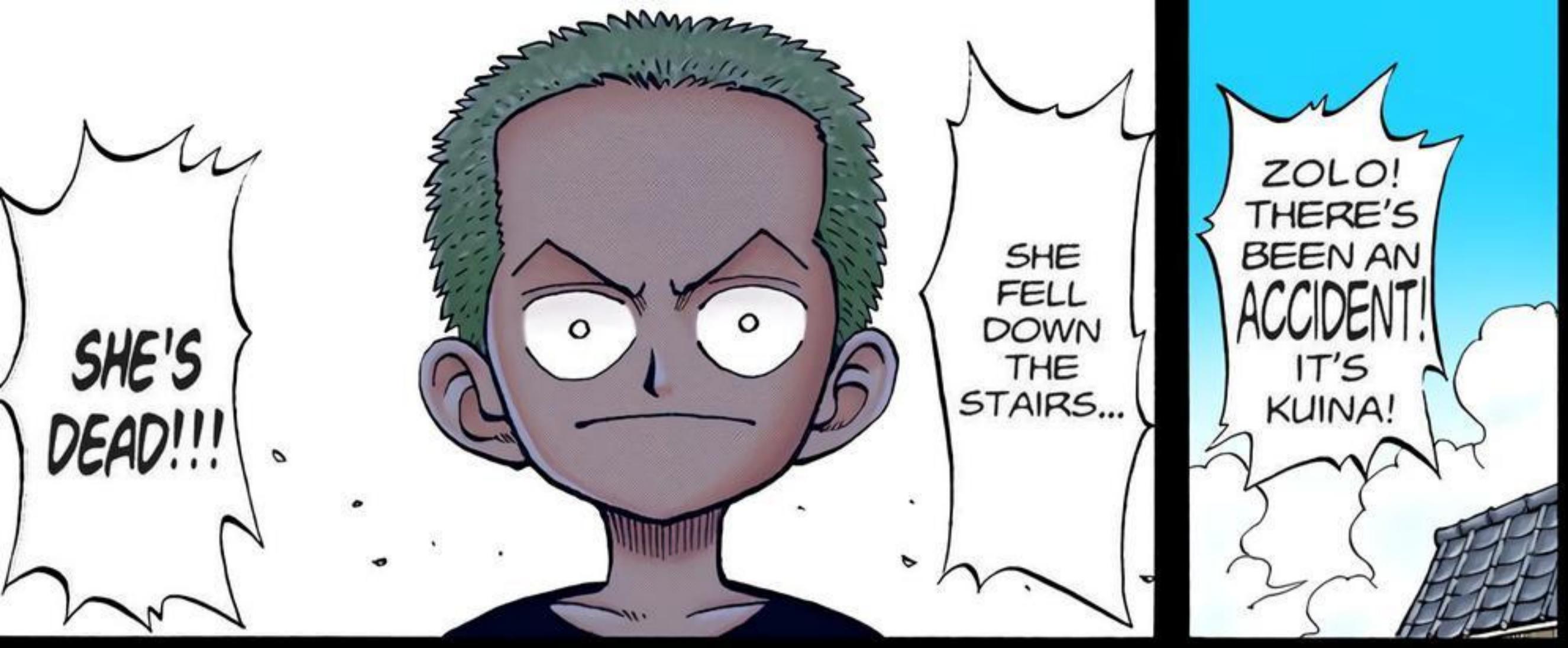
IT'S
A
PROMISE!

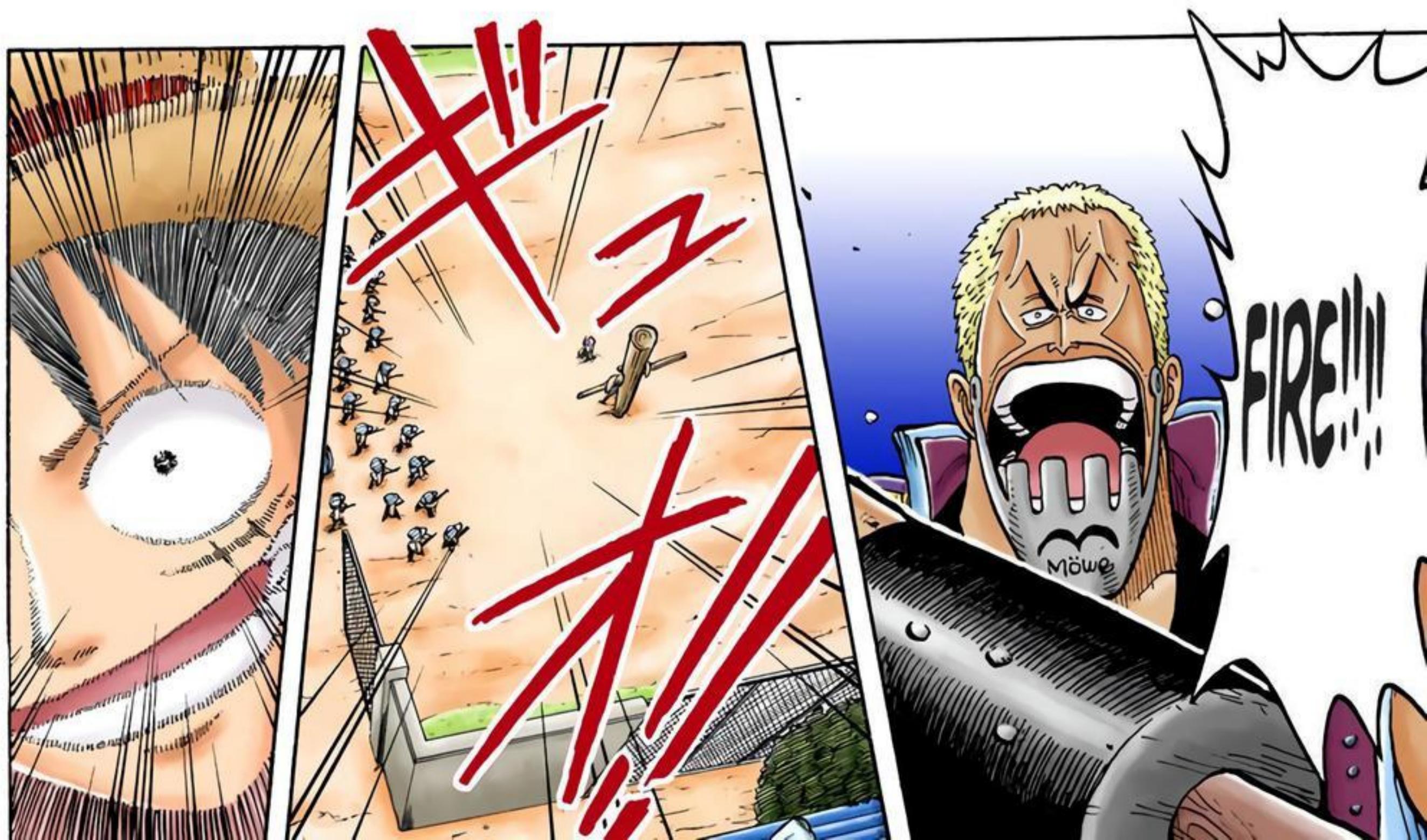
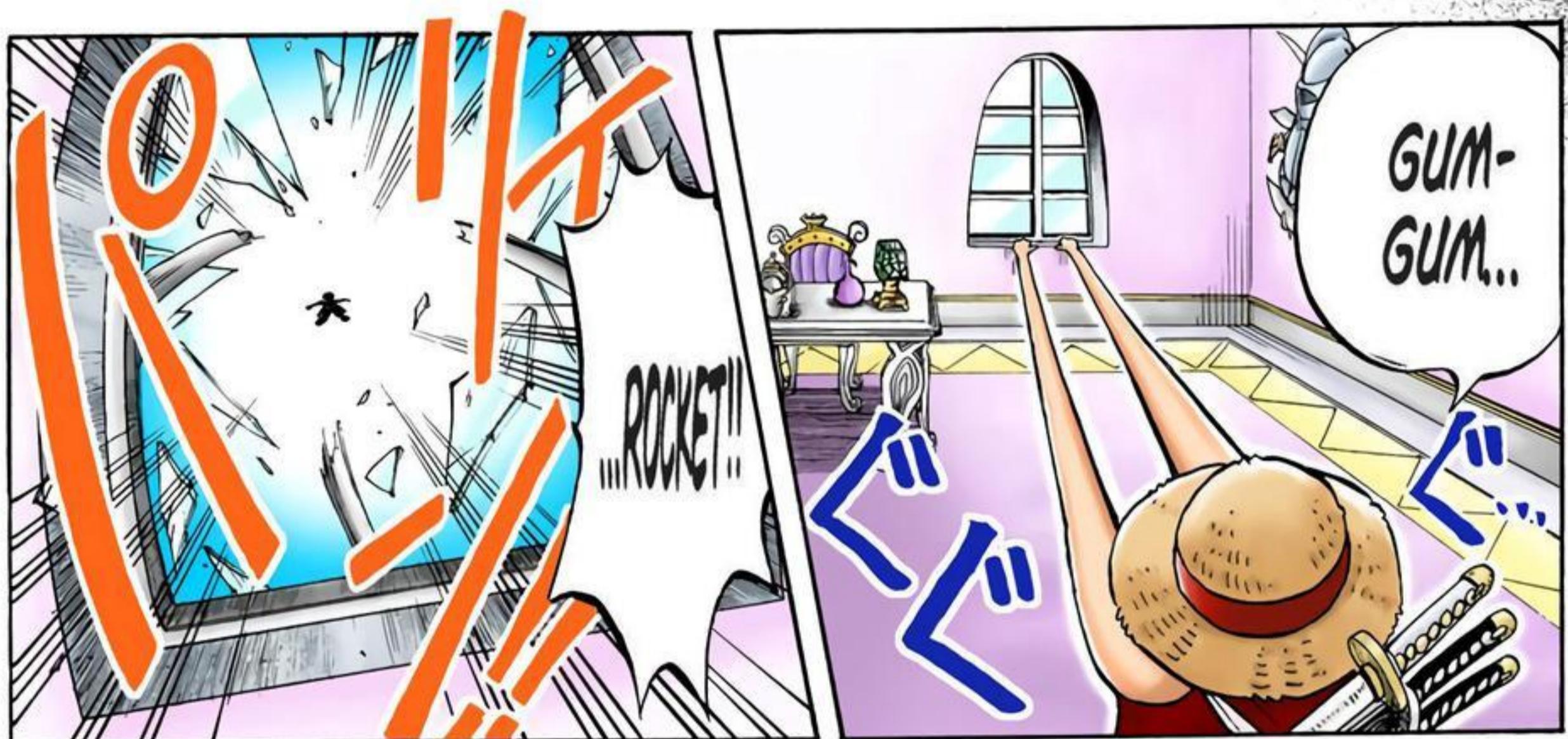
LET'S
MAKE A
PROMISE TO
EACH OTHER!

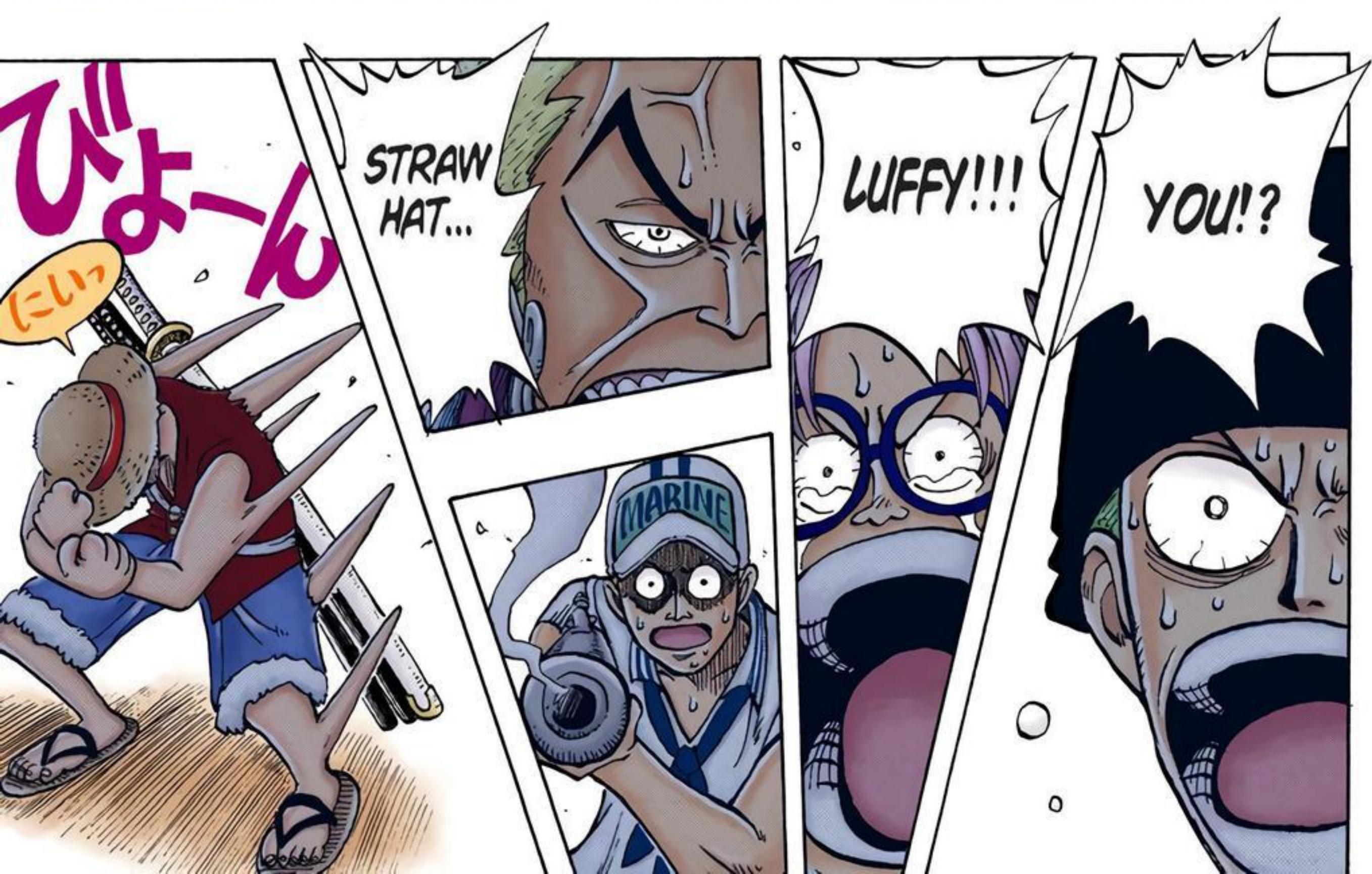
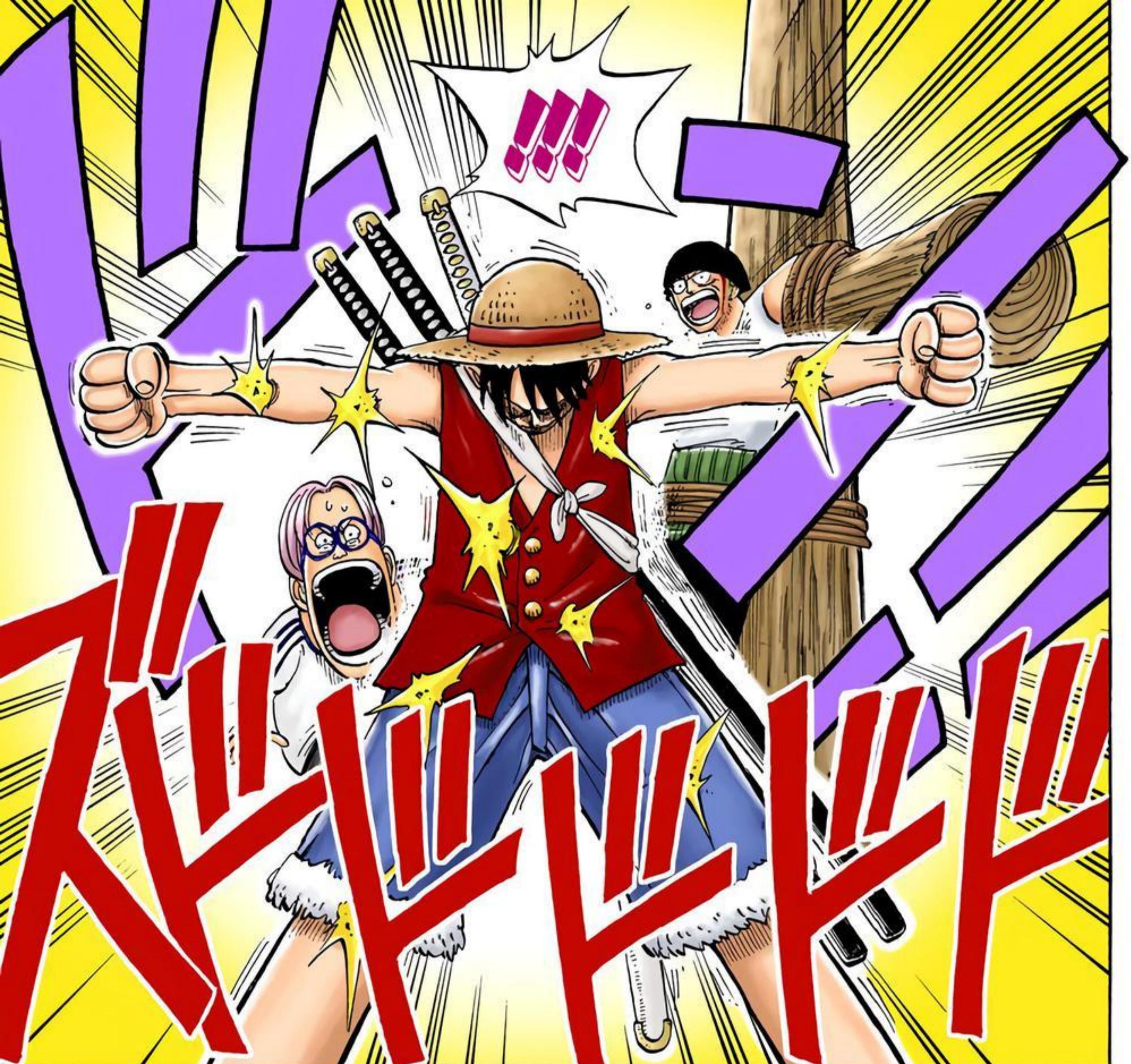
SOMEDAY,
ONE OF US
WILL BECOME
THE
GREATEST
SWORDSMAN
EVER!!

YOU'RE
TOO
PUNY!

YOU
IDIOT!







BULLETS
CAN'T
HURT
ME!!

LOOK OUT!!!

HA HA HA
HA HA!!!





THE ROAD TO AXE-HAND MORGAN'S FIRST APPEARANCE

I created Helmeppo's character first, so my first thoughts when creating Captain Morgan were "He has to have a cleft chin and hair like Helmeppo's, only crazier—after all, he is the father."



This is what I came up with. Originally his name wasn't Morgan, it was "Chop." So his full title was "Naval Captain Chop" or "Sailor Chop." What a great name! But even I didn't have the nerve to use this name. [Editor's Note: "Sailor" in Japanese is *suihei*, and *Suihei Chop* is the name of a signature fighting technique used by the famous Japanese pro wrestler Giant Baba.]



I can't show them all here, but I actually made two or three more versions of Captain Morgan before I settled on the one used in the manga. I redesigned him to look cooler because a certain editor told me he looked lame. I couldn't argue with that, so I changed his look.