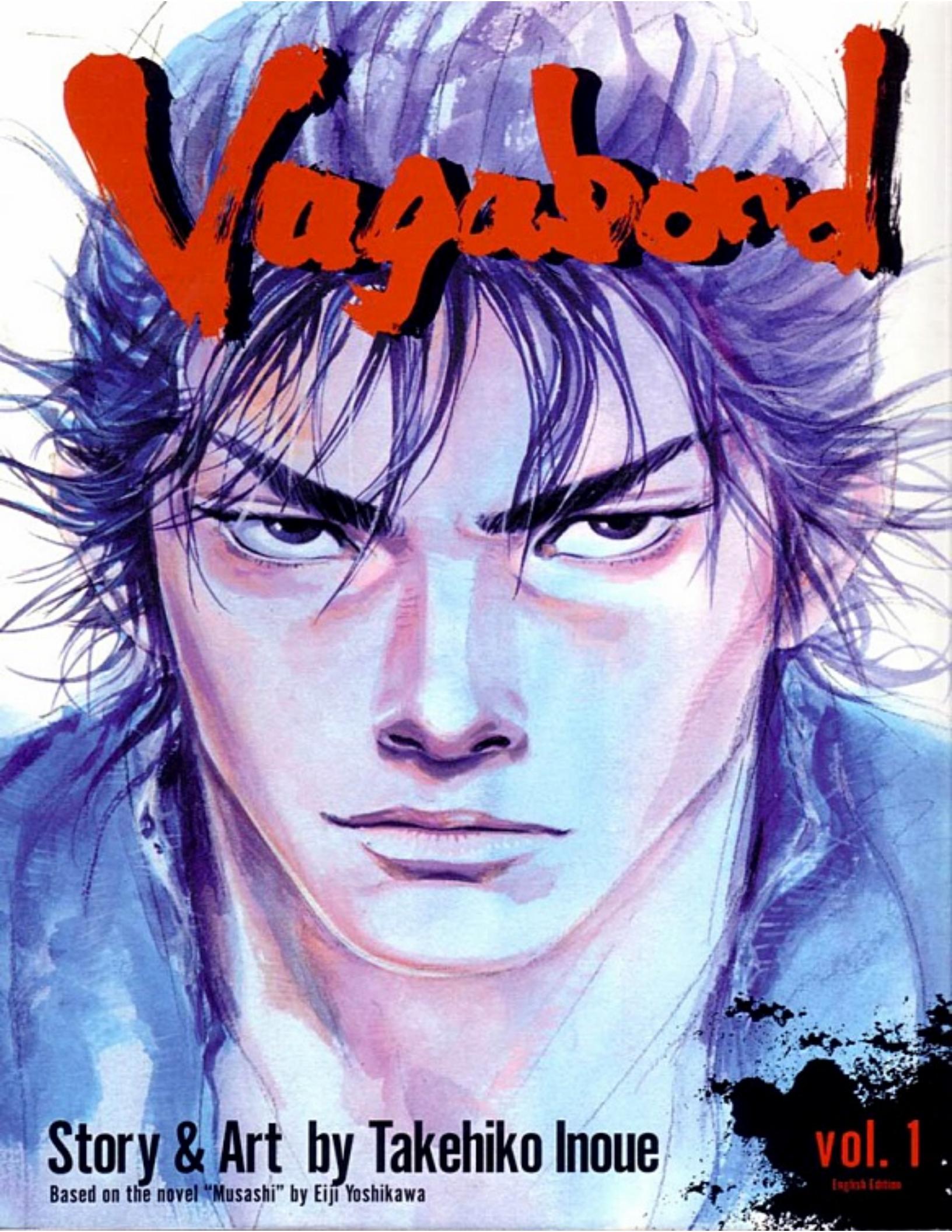


# Vagabond



**Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue**

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

**vol. 1**

English Edition



**Vagabond Vol. 1**

This graphic novel contains *Vagabond* monthly comics #1 and #2 in their entirety and the first half of *Vagabond* monthly #3.

**Story & Art by**

**Takehiko Inoue**

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

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Editor-in-Chief/Hyoe Narita

Publisher/Seiji Horibuchi

**Vagabond**

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Originally published in Japan in 1999 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

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Printed in Canada.

Published by Viz Comics

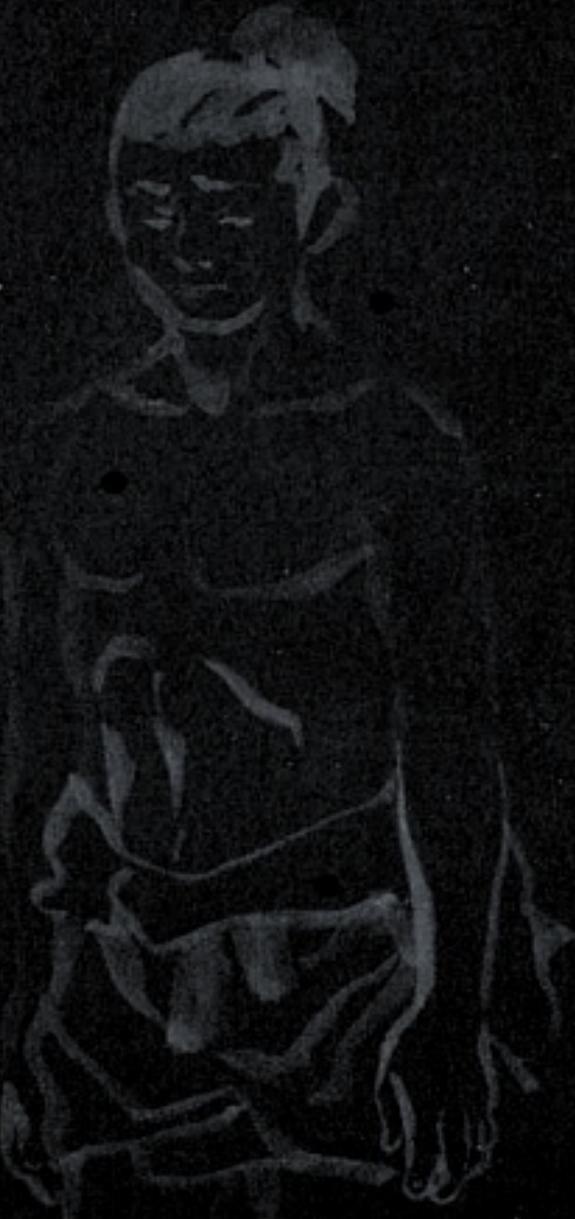
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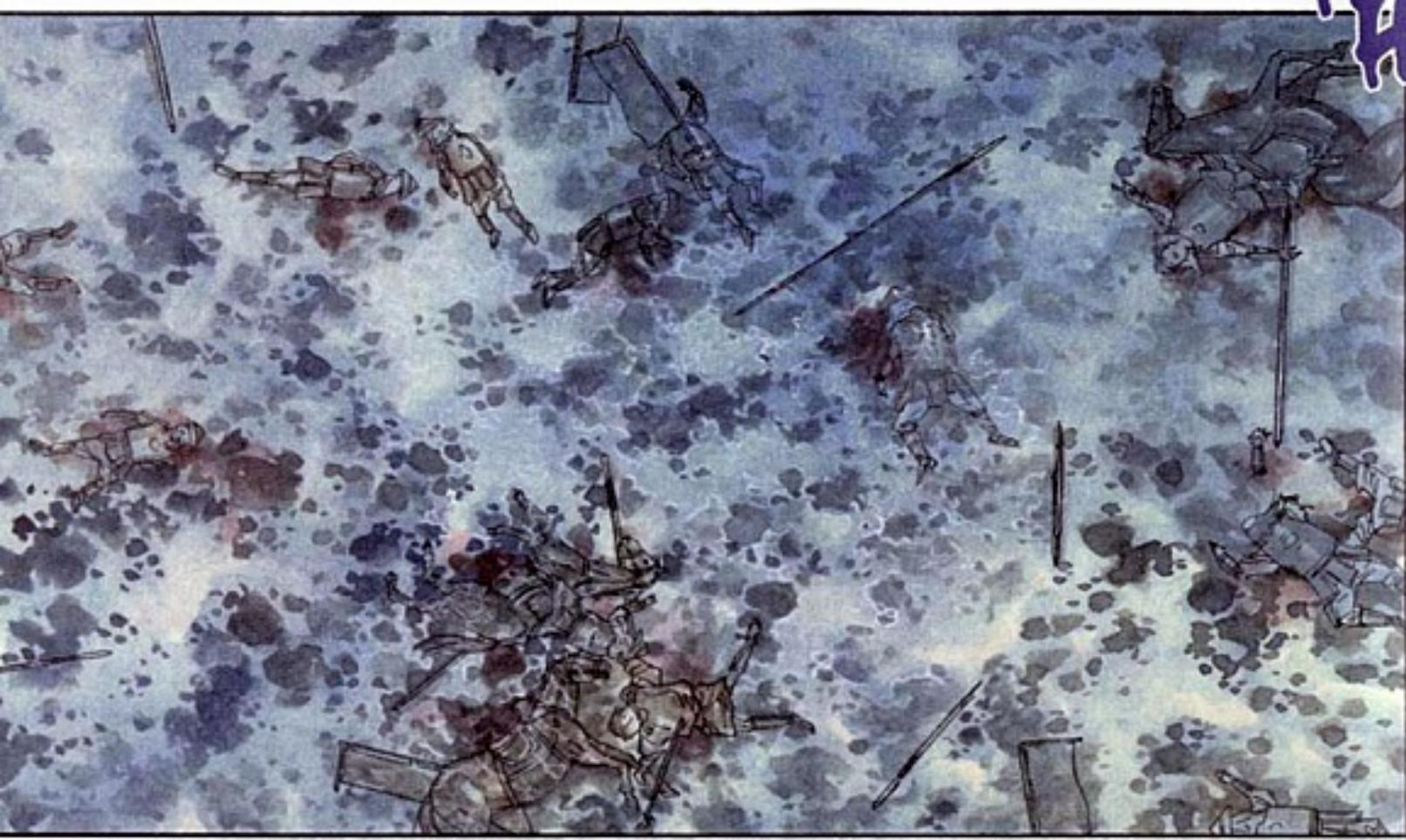
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First printing, March 2002

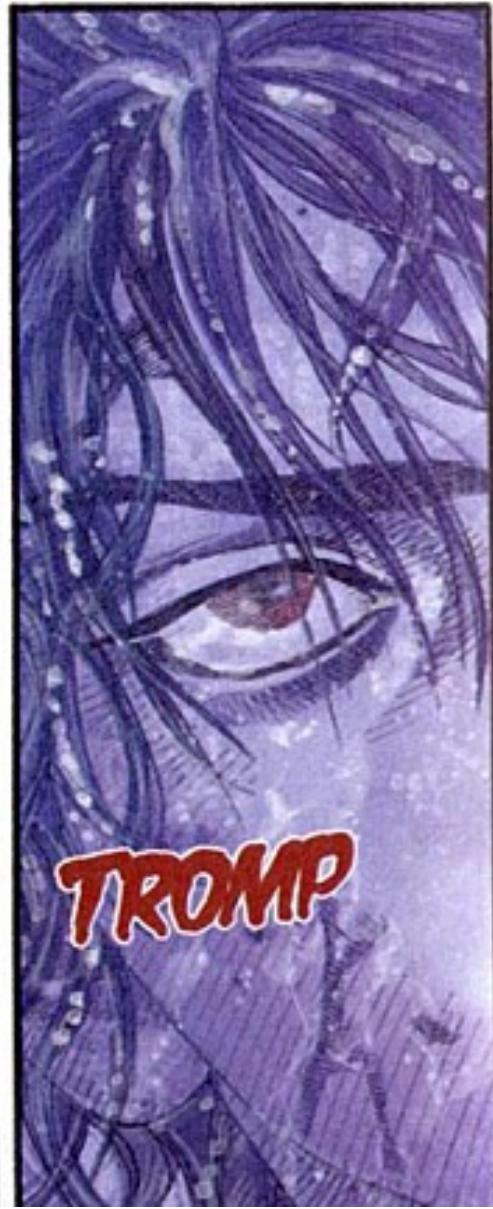
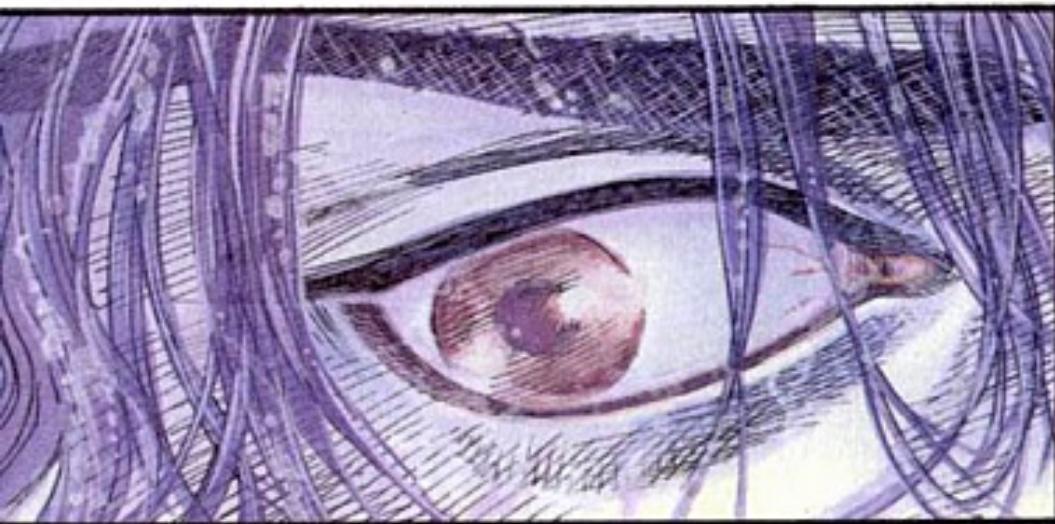
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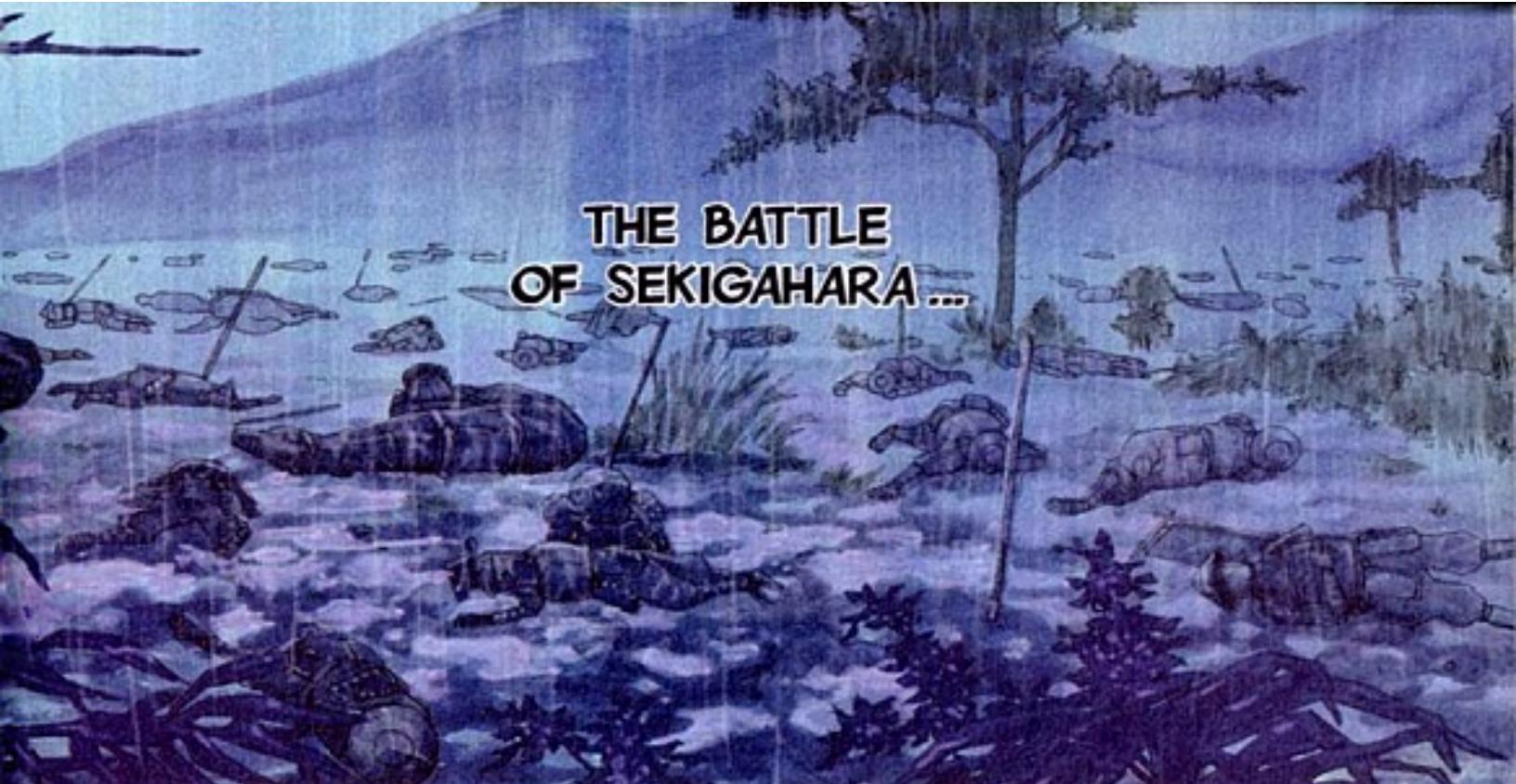


Е  
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GULP GULP



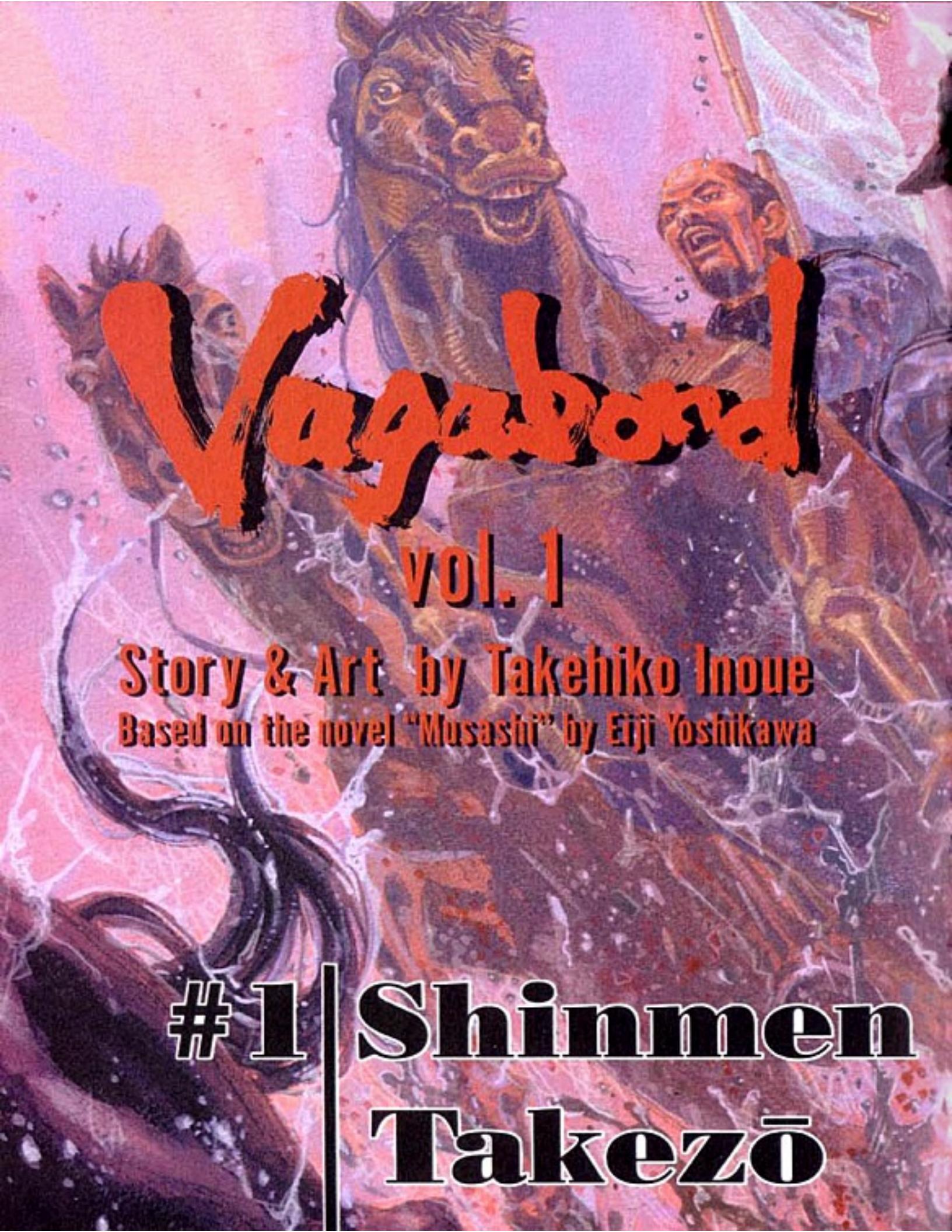


# THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA...



**TROMP**





# Vagabond!

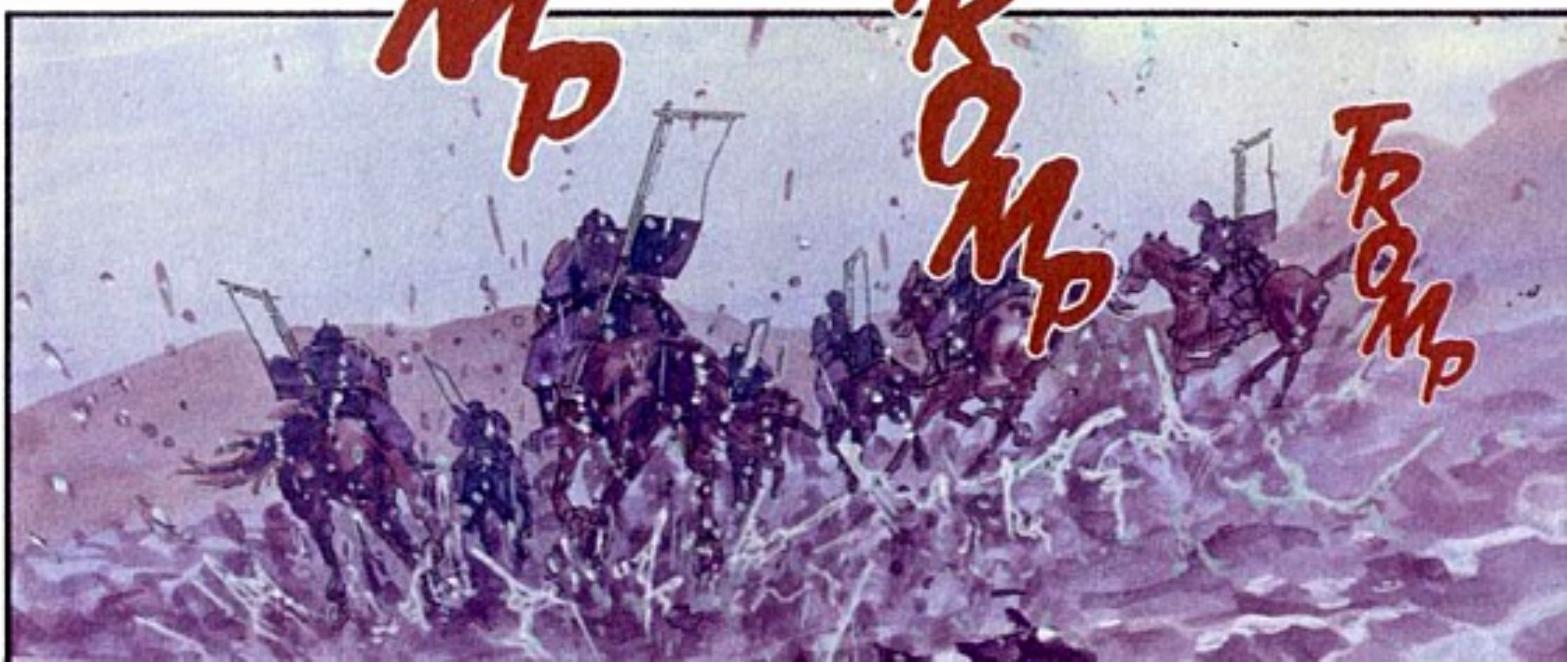
vol. 1

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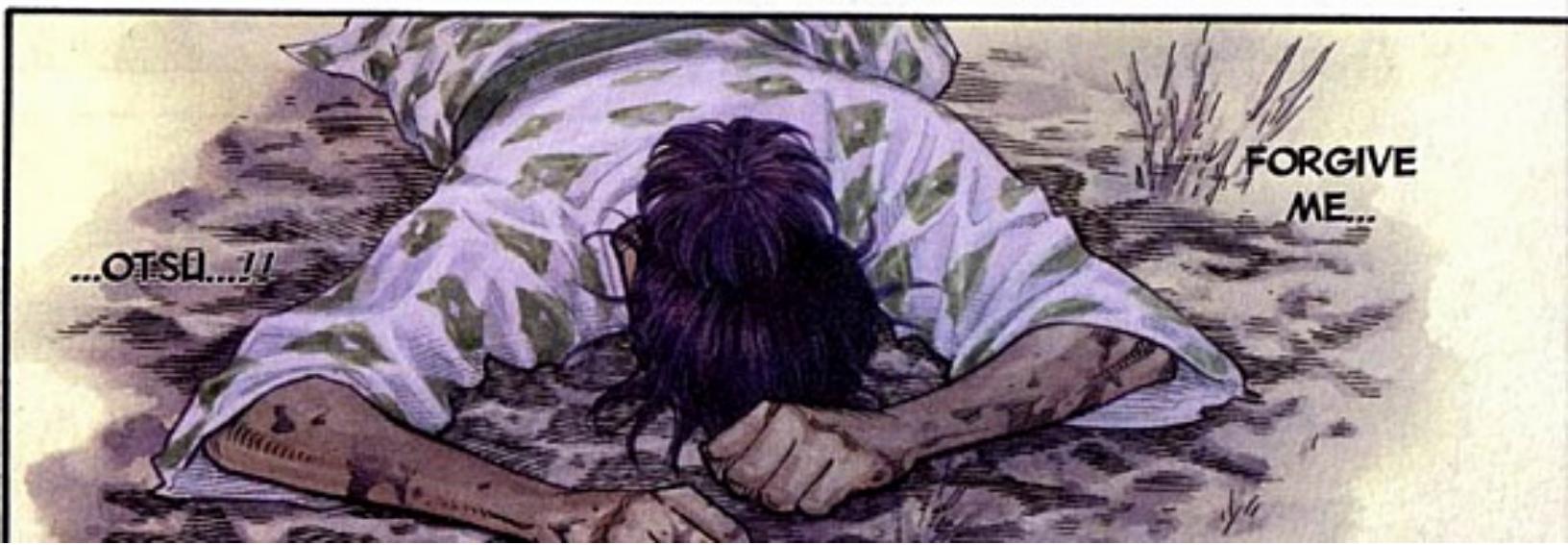
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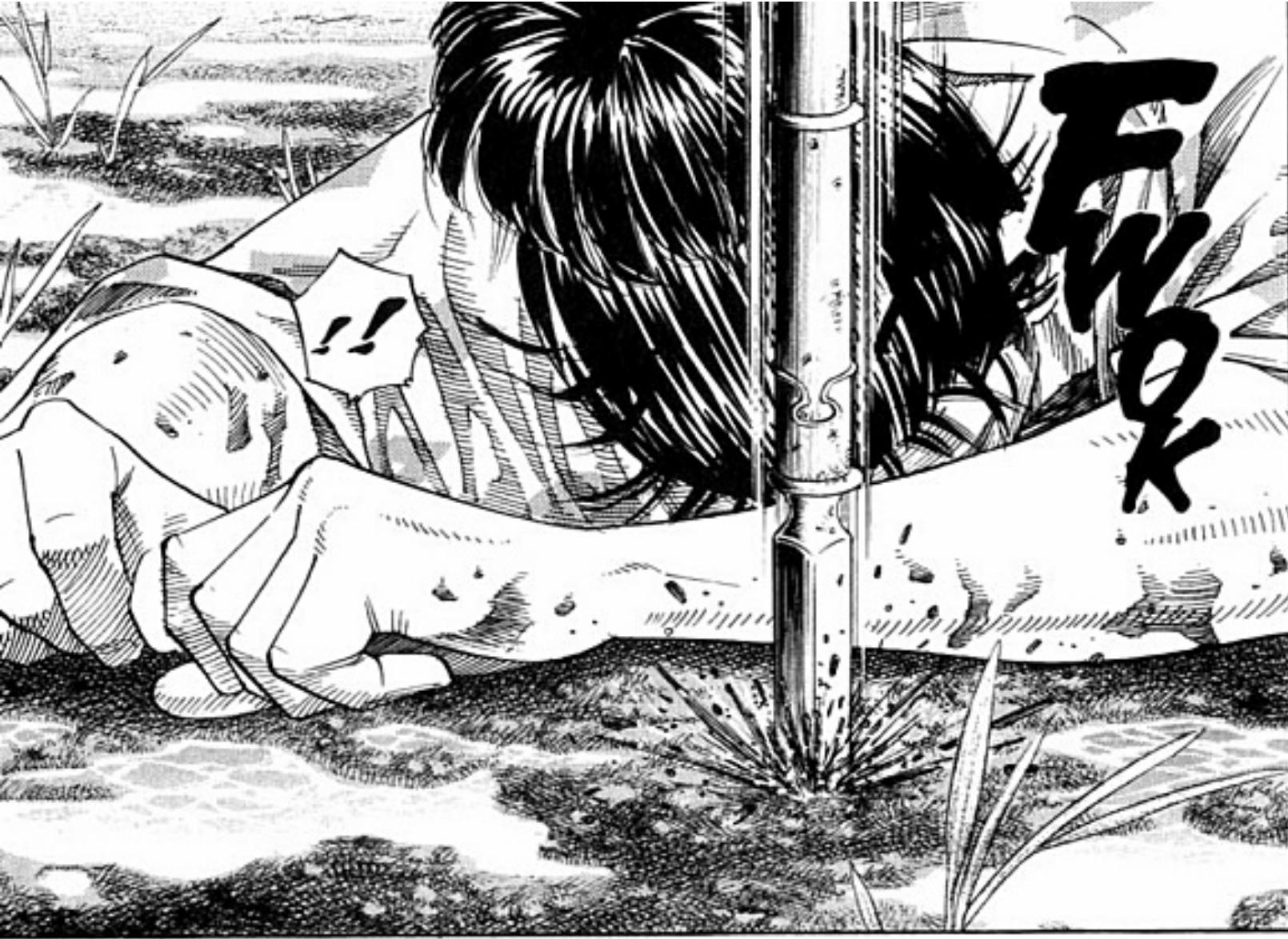
#1 | Shinmen  
Takezō

I'M A  
FAILURE.











I  
SURVIVED,  
TOO...



MATAHACHI.





**SOB**



YOU  
SCARED  
ME FOR  
KICKS!

**SOB**

**SOB**

**SNIFF**



CAN  
YOU  
WALK?



FOR  
KICKS!



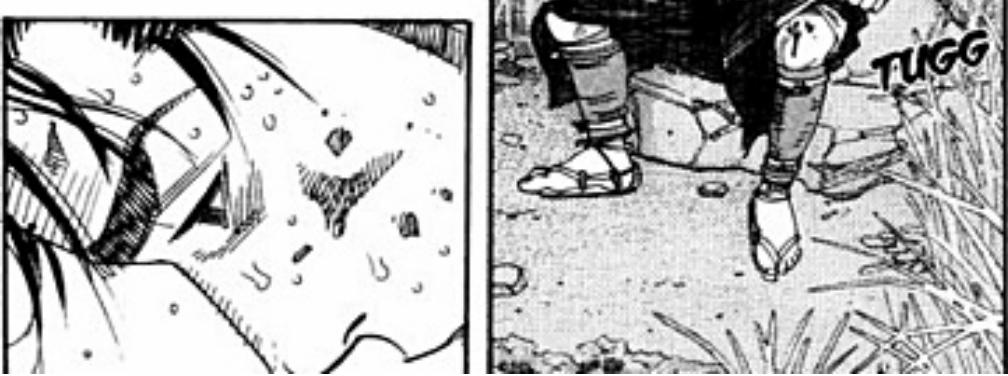
WE'RE  
TAKING  
OFF.



I  
CAN'T  
WALK ANY-  
MORE.



ONCE WE  
FIND A VIL-  
LAGE WELL  
GET SOME  
MEDICINE.



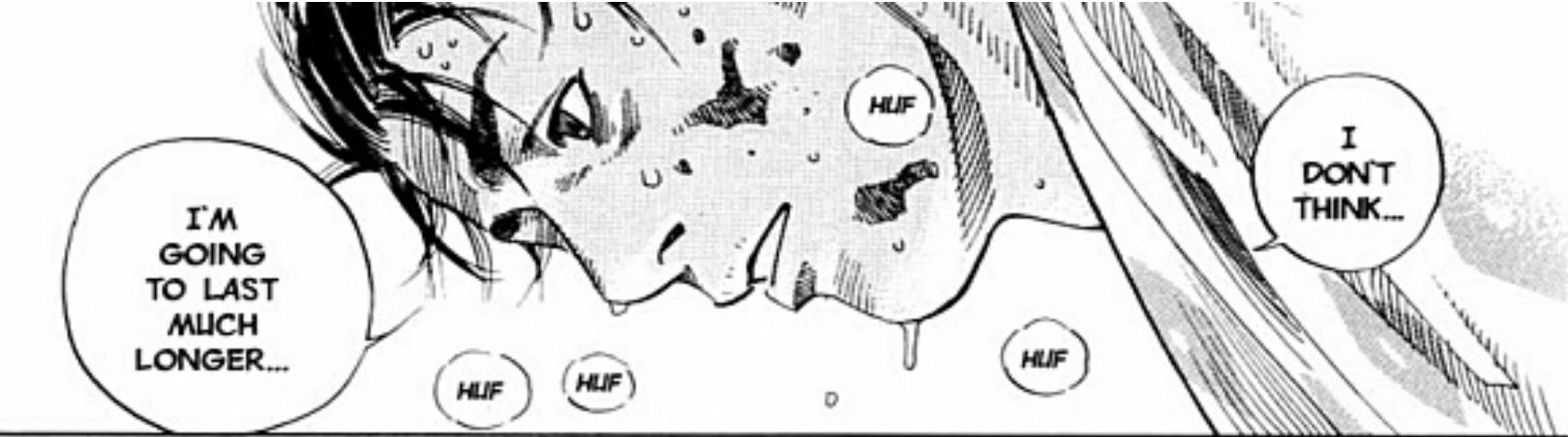


IS  
THIS...

...ALL  
WE  
AMOUNT  
TO?















...IS  
STRONG!

THIS  
KID...



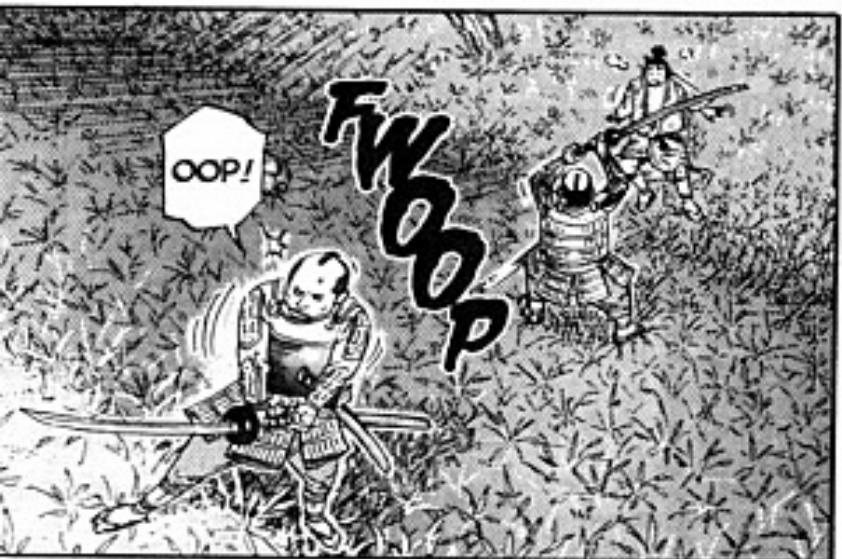
IF  
YOU'RE  
GONNA TRY  
TO KILL  
ME...



...I'M  
GONNA  
KILL  
YOU.

















PLISH

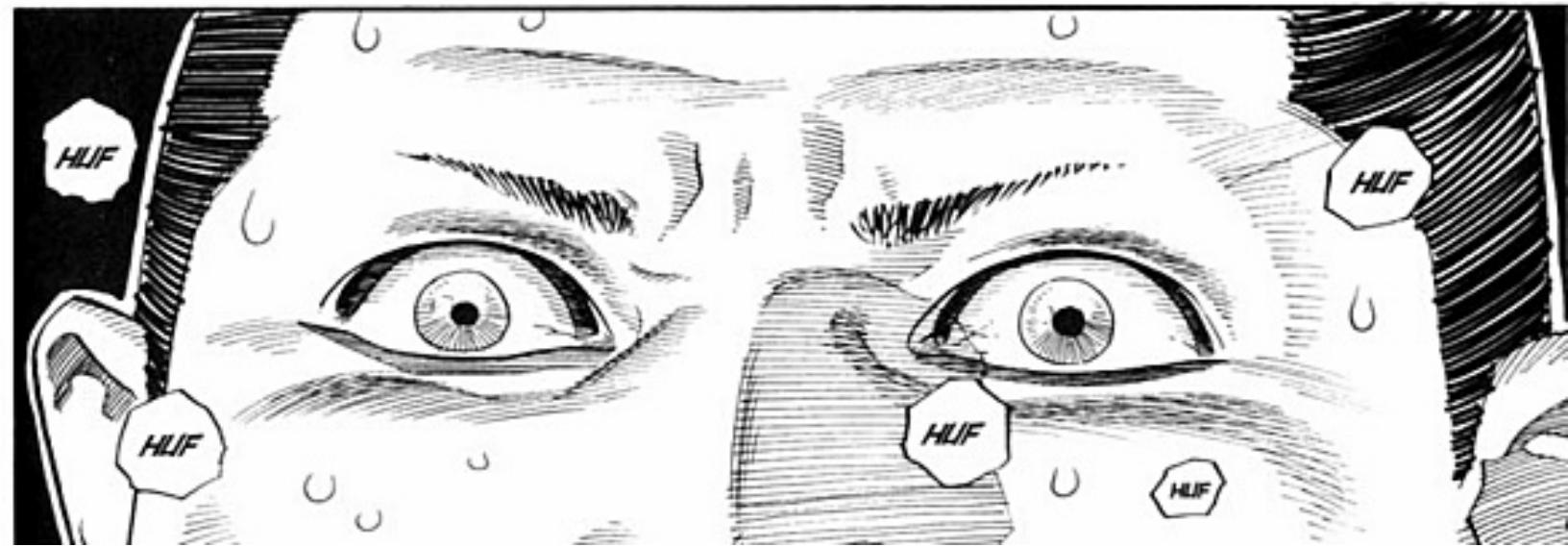
PLISH

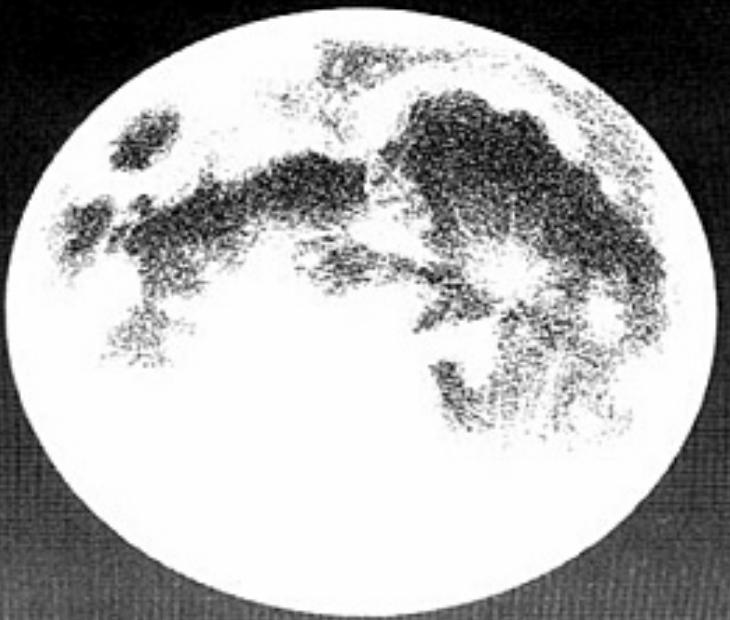
PLISH

FWUP

FWUP





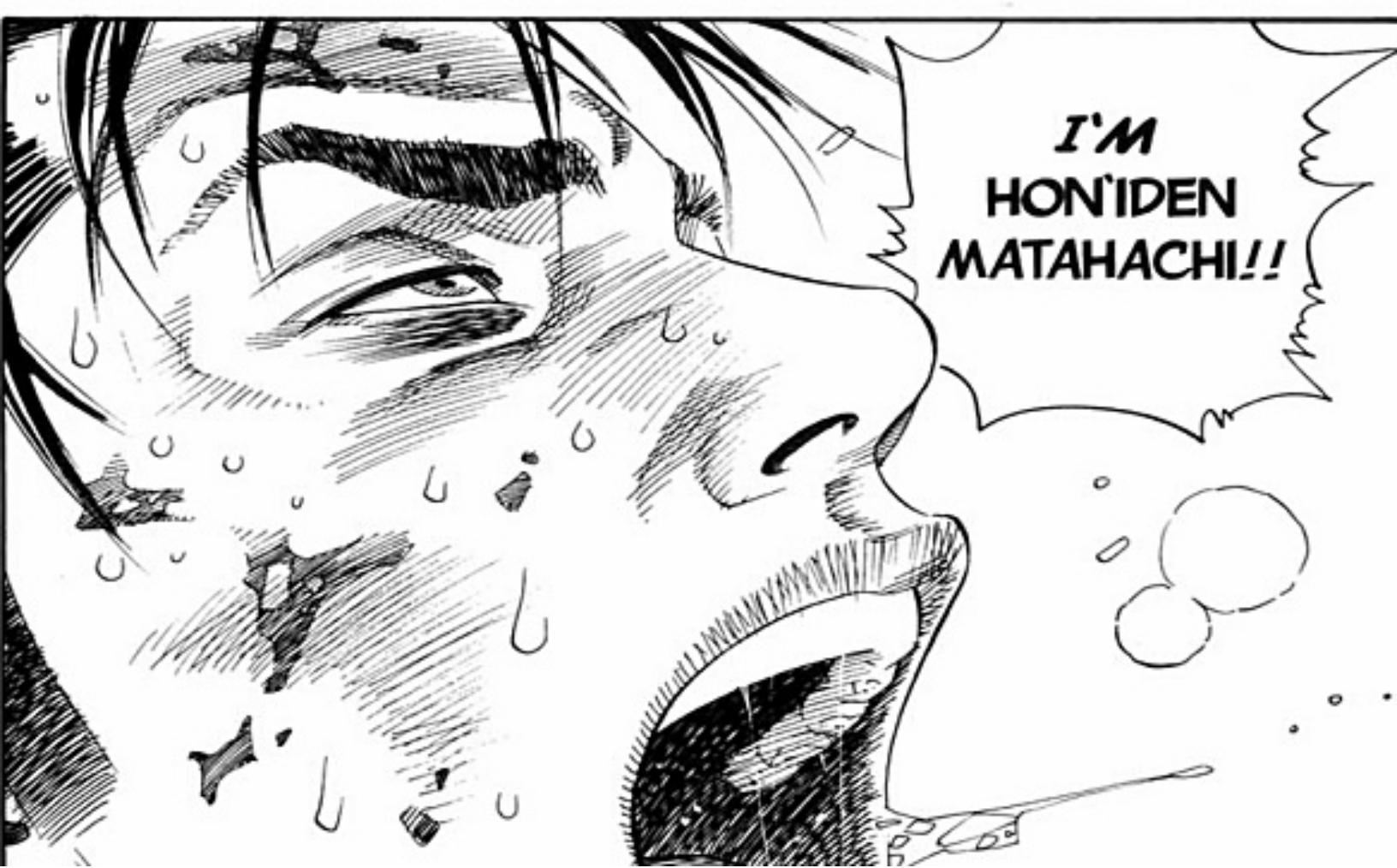






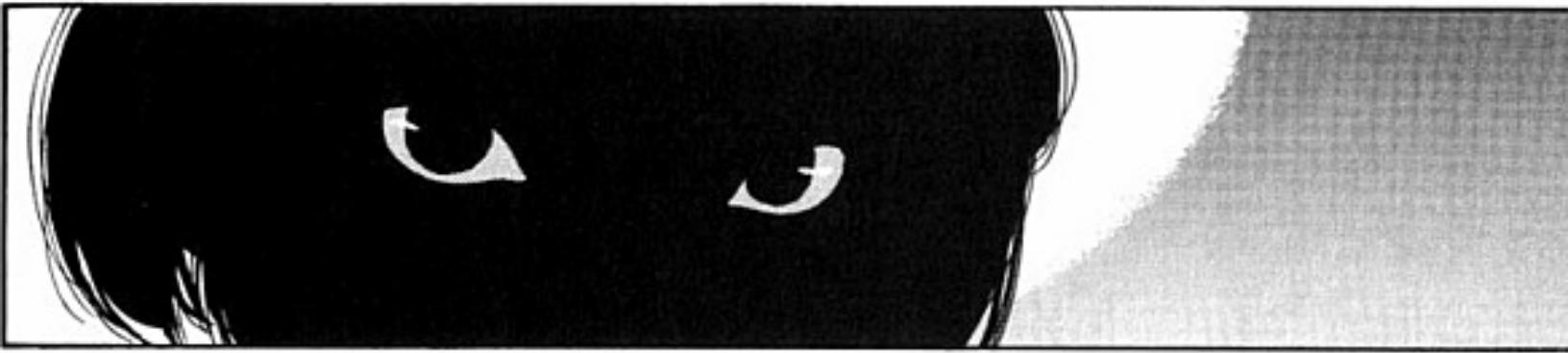


NO WAY  
I'M  
GONNA  
DIE!



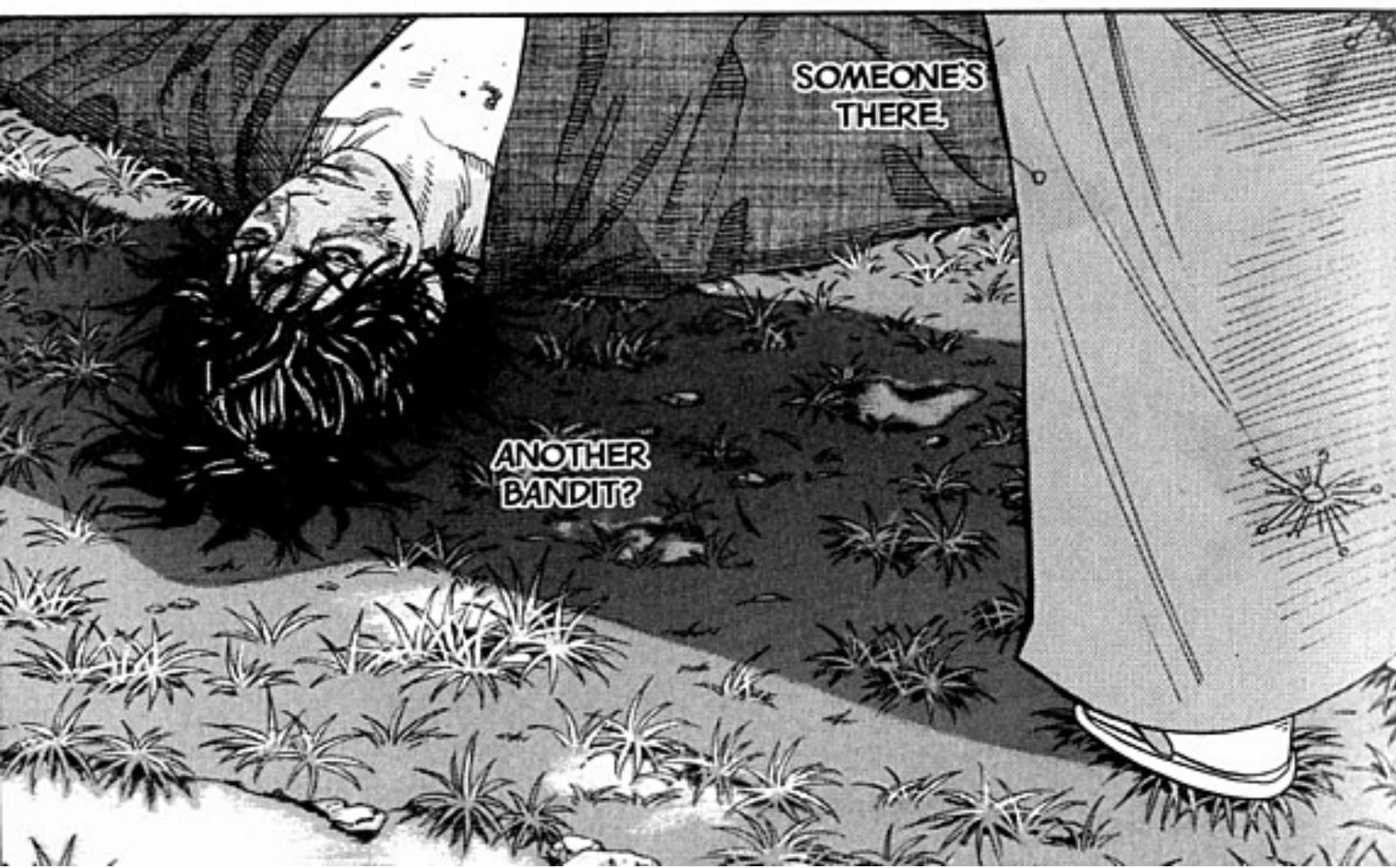
I'M  
HON'IDEN  
MATAHACHI!!









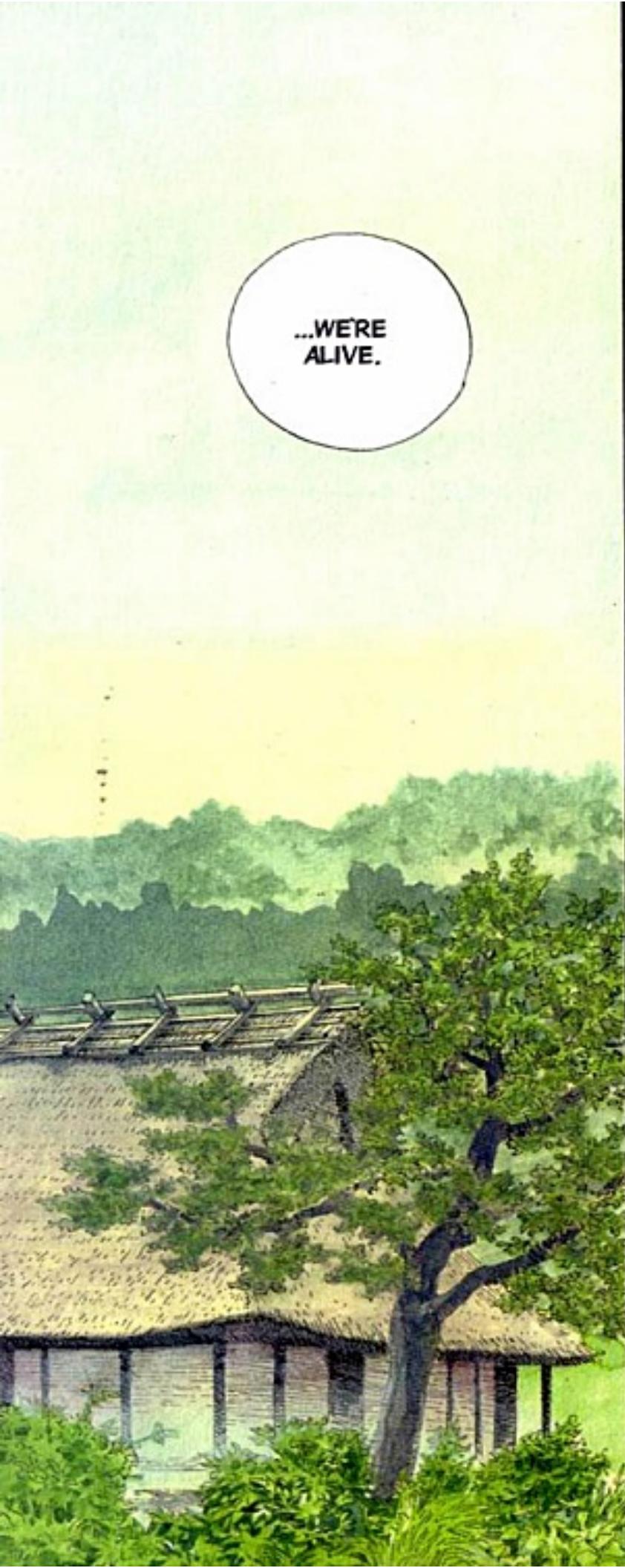




Vagabond

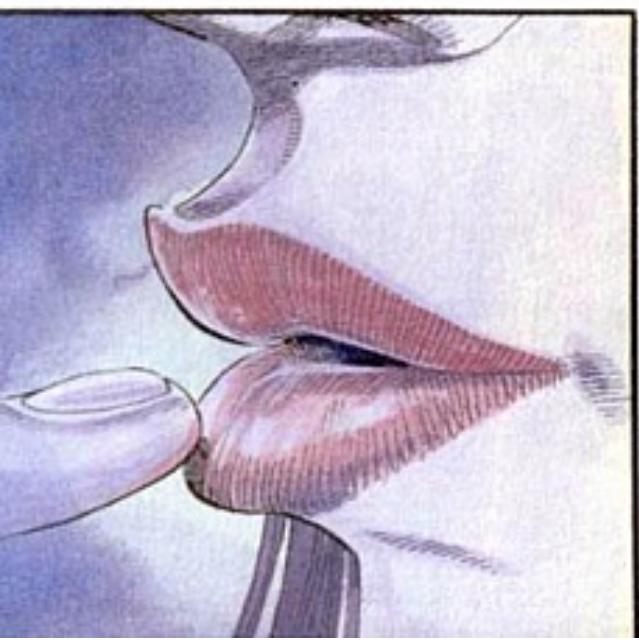
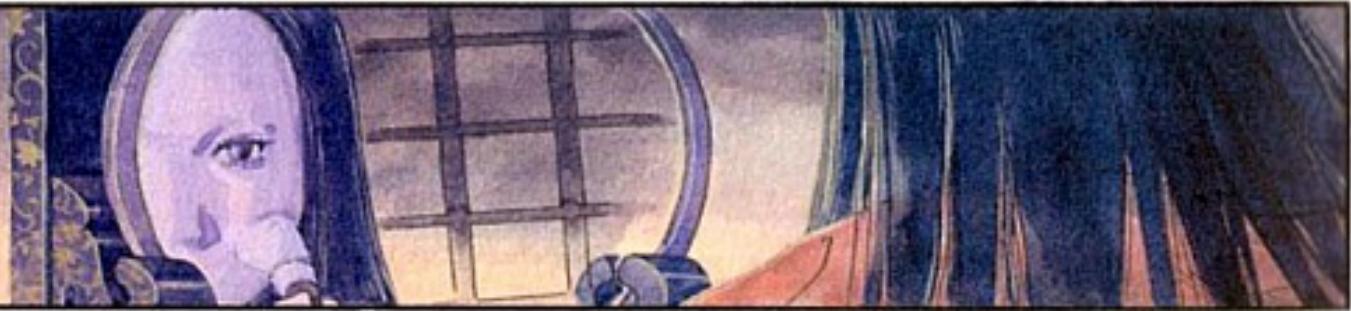


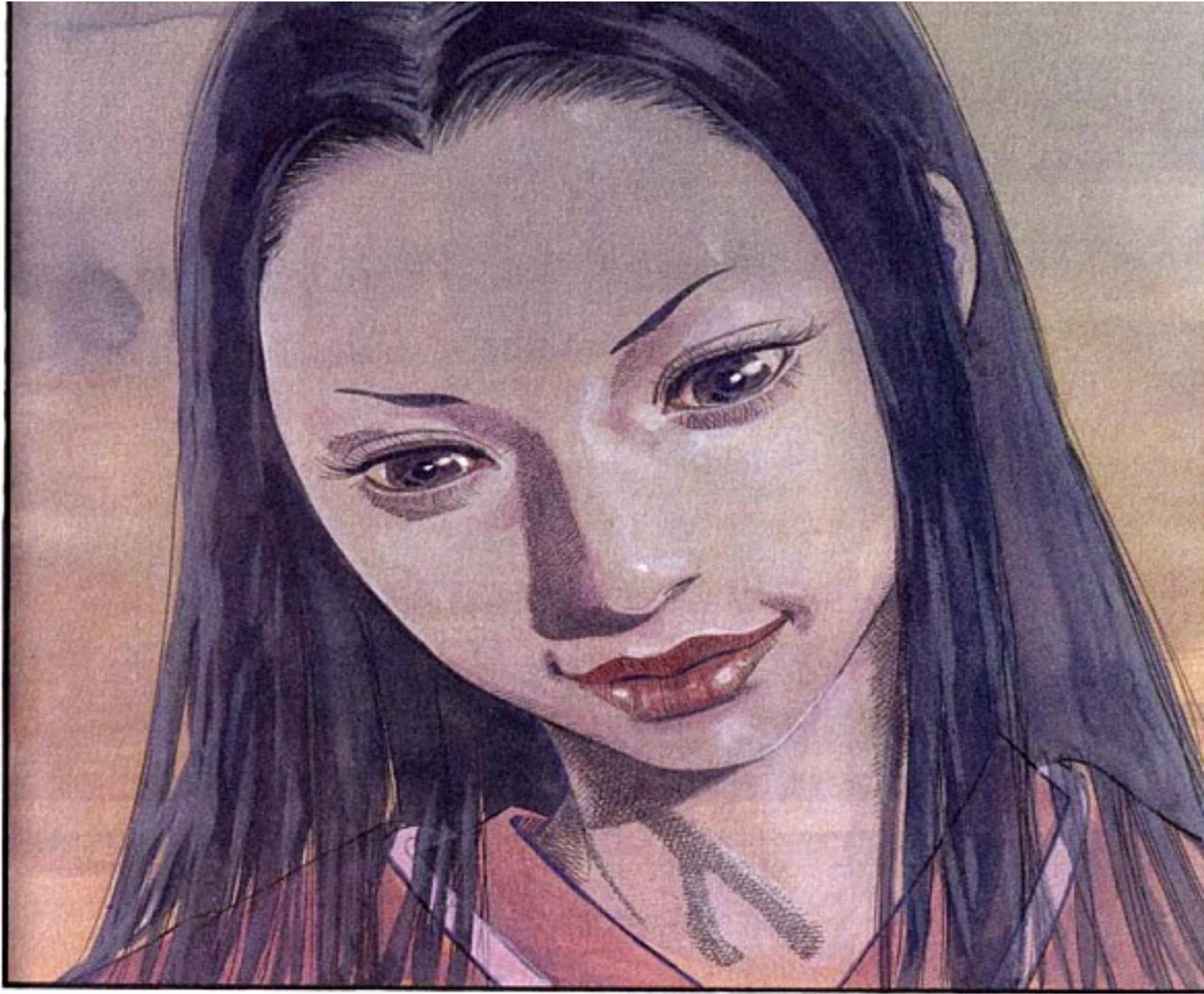
taketo  
(TAKEZO)





#2 | Akemi





TAKEZŌ!

WHAT'S  
WITH  
THE  
"UR"!?

I  
THOUGHT  
IT MIGHT  
BE NICE TO  
HAVE A DRINK  
TOGETHER.

COME  
ON,  
HAVE A  
DRINK!!

YOU  
IDIOT!

WE'RE  
HEALED.

WE'RE  
GOING,  
MATAHACHI.

RING

DRRING

WE  
HAVE TO  
THANK THEM  
BEFORE  
WE  
LEAVE!!

RING

AND  
WE'RE  
FLIGITIVES.

NOT  
ONLY DID  
THEY SAVE US,  
THEY GAVE  
US SHELTER  
FOR DAYS...

BECUSE  
THE GENERAL  
OF THE WEST  
HASN'T BEEN  
CAPTURED YET.

I HEARD  
THAT THEY'RE  
STILL CRACKING  
DOWN ON  
FLIGITIVE  
SOLDIERS...

YOU'RE  
WELCOME TO  
STAY AS LONG  
AS YOU PLEASE,  
TAKEZO.

HA  
HA...

WHICH  
ONE DO  
YOU  
PREFER,  
AKEMI?

ONE OF  
YOU SHOULD  
MARRY AKEMI  
AND STAY  
HERE FOR  
GOOD.



THERE  
SHE  
GOES  
AGAIN.

RRING

MY,  
YOU'RE  
CONFIDENT.

UH...  
NO!

SHE  
REFUSES  
TO  
GROW  
UP.

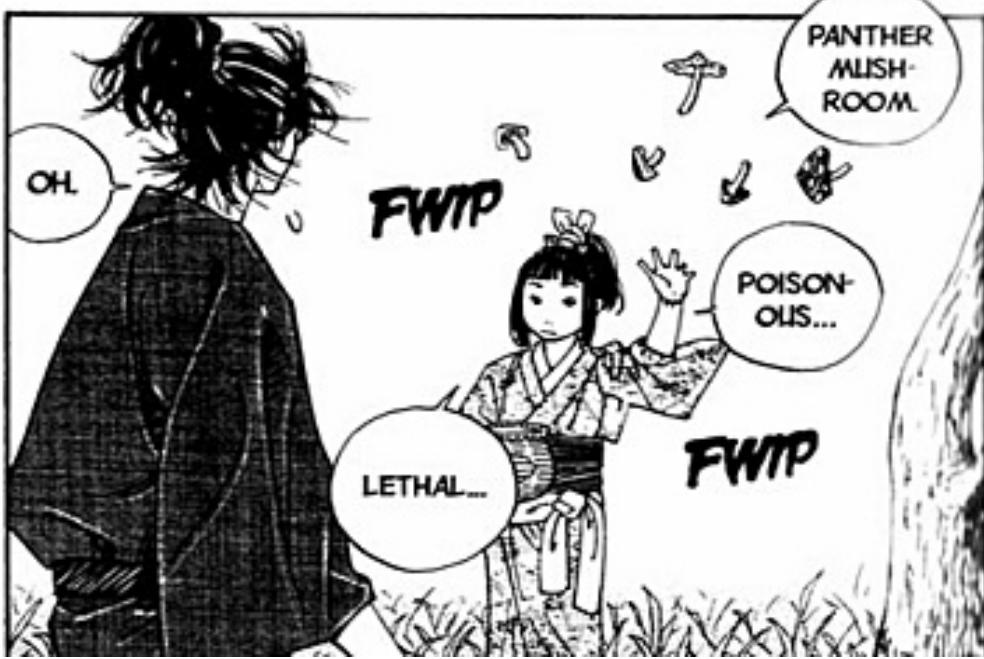
OH, NO!  
THAT'S NOT  
WHAT I  
MEANT.  
I  
HAVE...

I  
CAN'T!



...





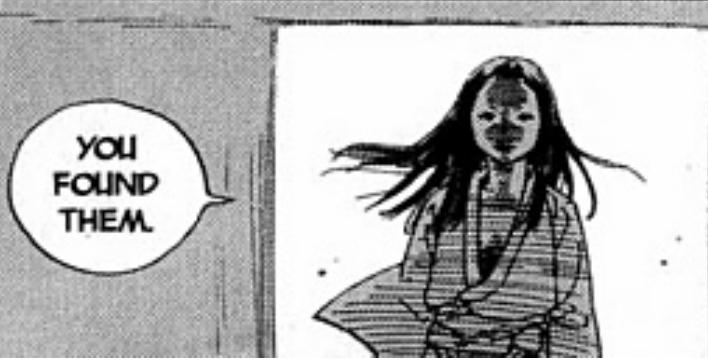








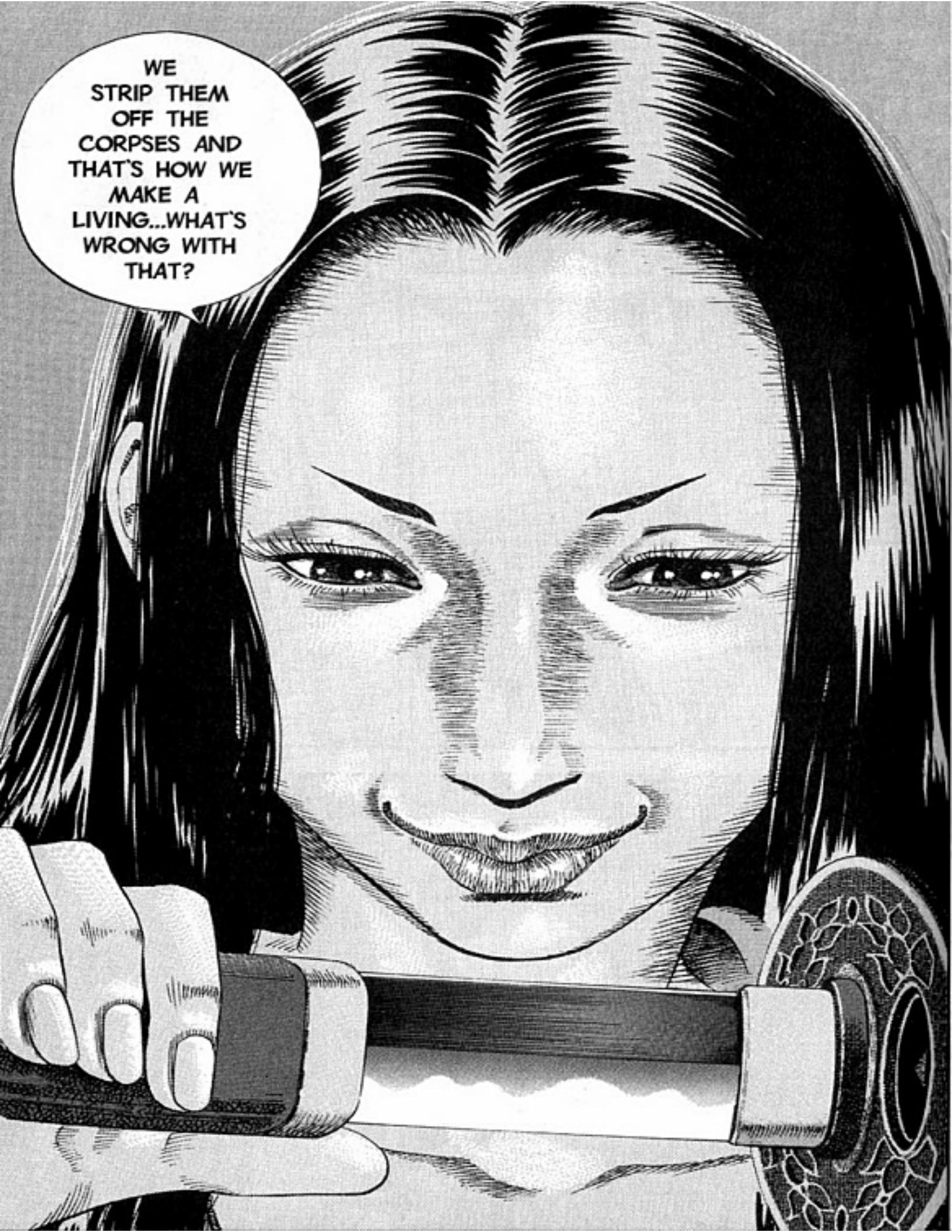












WE  
STRIP THEM  
OFF THE  
CORPSES AND  
THAT'S HOW WE  
MAKE A  
LIVING...WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
THAT?









THAT'S...

...TSUJIKAZE  
TENMA.

BRR

SHIVER

BRR

BRR

THE  
MAN  
WHO  
KILLED  
MY  
FATHER.

Vagabond



(THIS IS SOME  
GOOD STUFF!)



#3 | okō

IS  
THAT  
ALL  
OF  
IT?

HEY!!

ALL  
RIGHT.

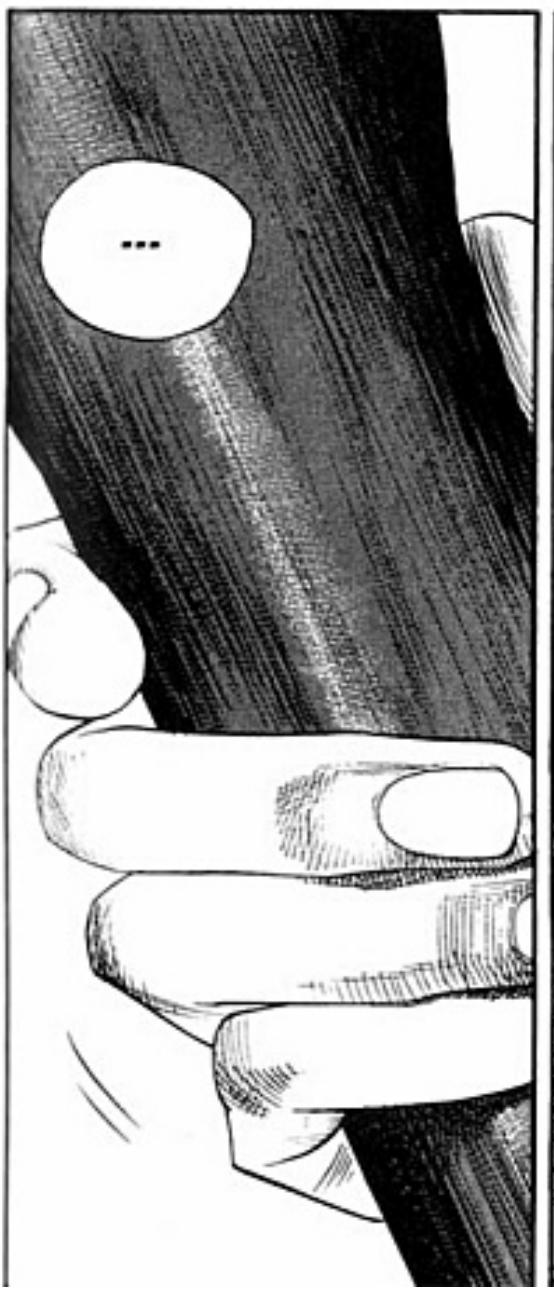
THERE'S  
MORE!!

...ALL  
OF THIS  
STOLEN  
FROM  
BATTLE-  
FIELDS.

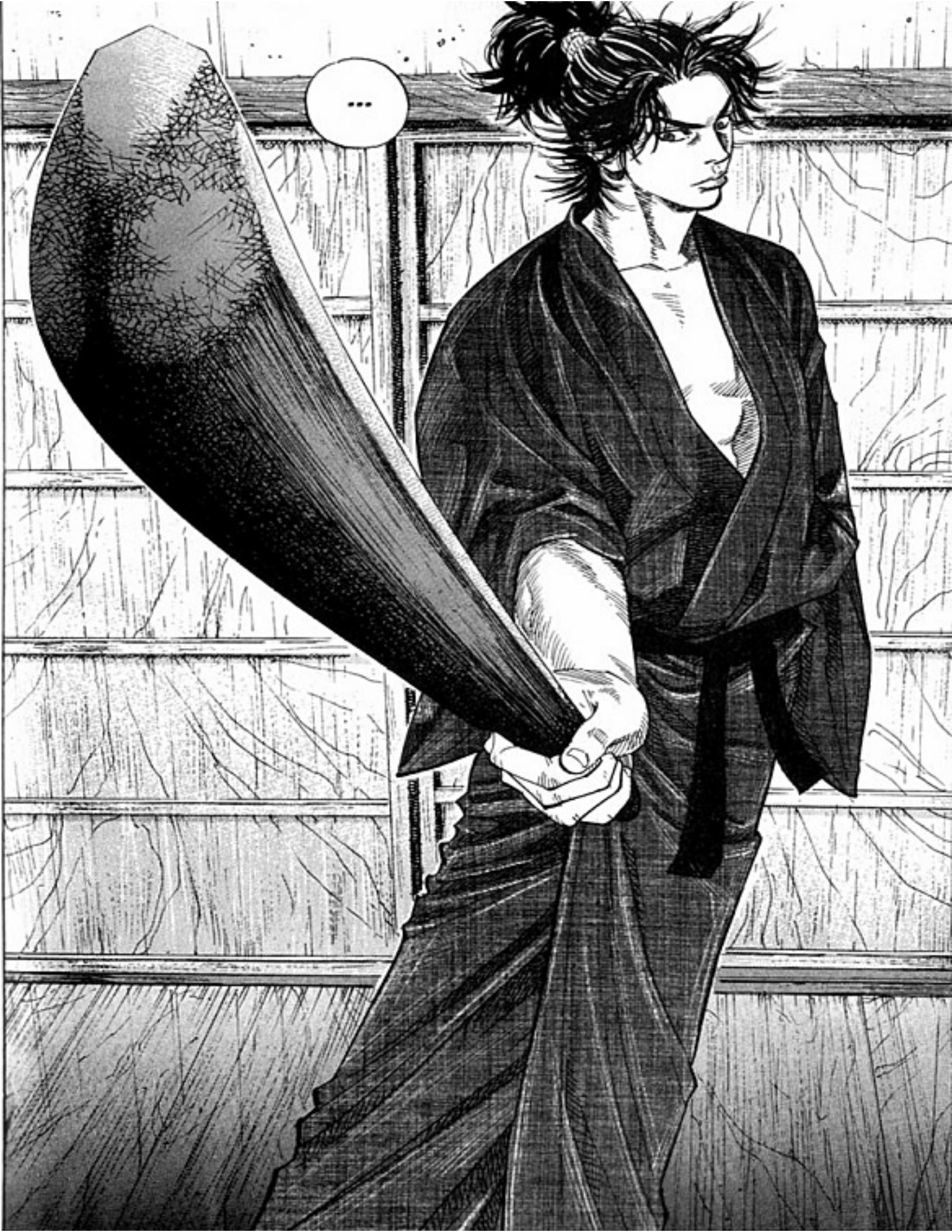
AMAZING  
...

AKEMI  
!

WHY  
DIDN'T YOU  
TELL ME  
SOONER...?









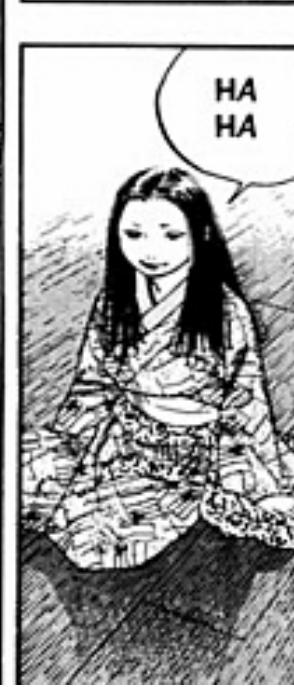


I  
MUST SAY,  
EVEN JUST  
AN OAK  
SWORD...

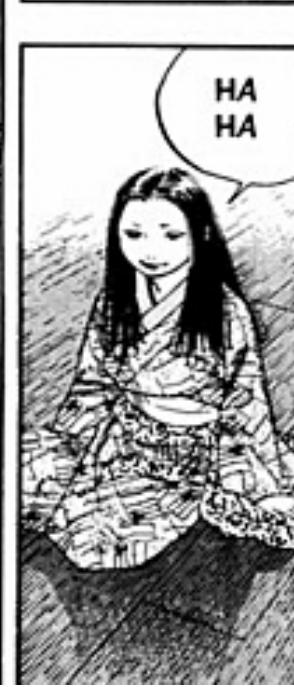
...MAKES  
YOU  
LOOK  
MORE  
MANLY.



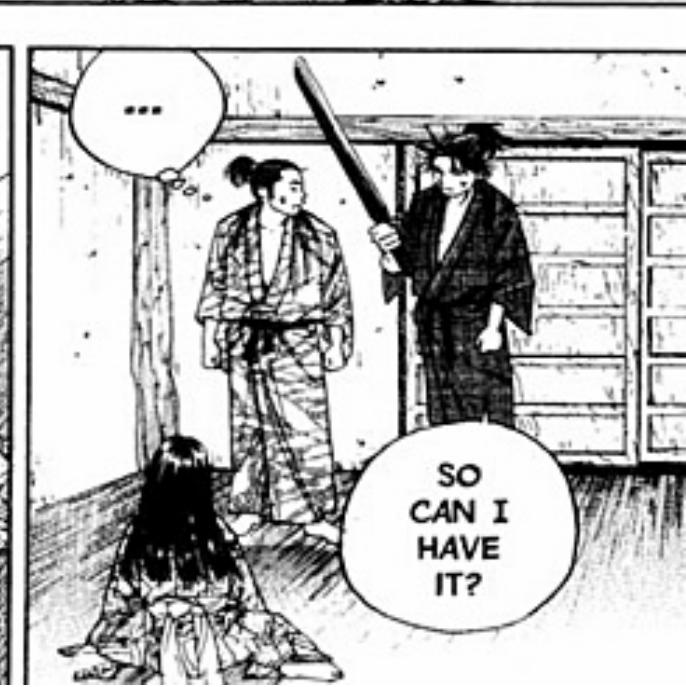
SMIRK



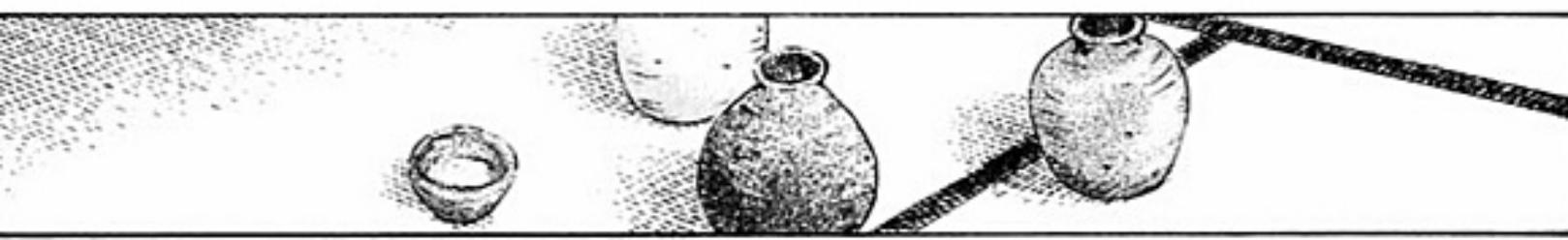
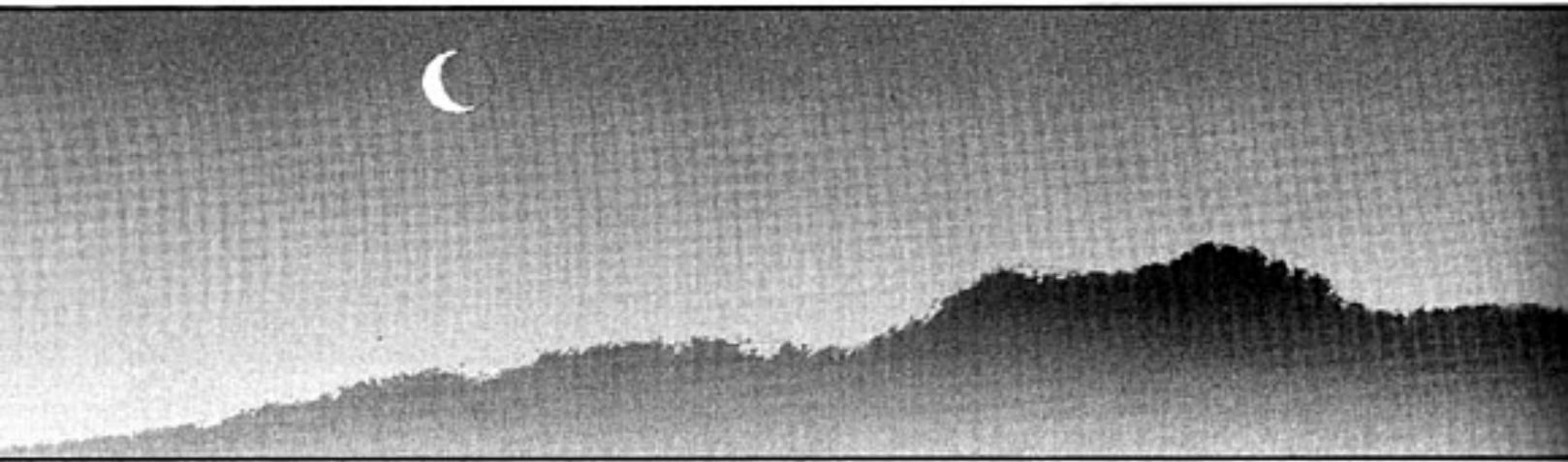
HA  
HA



...



SO  
CAN I  
HAVE  
IT?







FATHER...

FATHER...



MOTHER'S  
GONE.

WHERE'D  
SHE  
GO?





YOU'VE  
GOT THE  
EYES  
OF A  
BEAST.



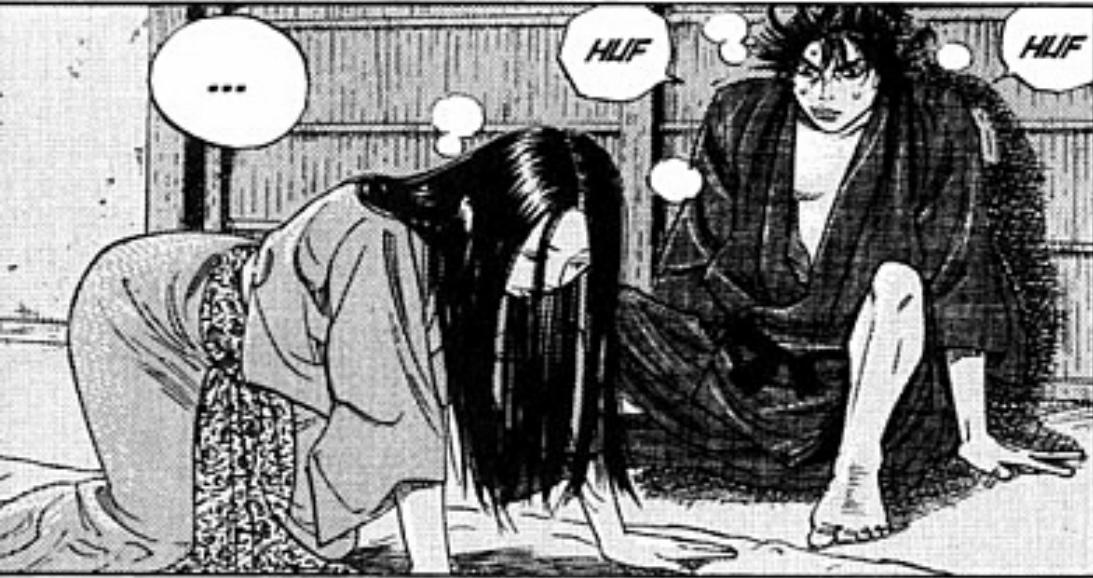


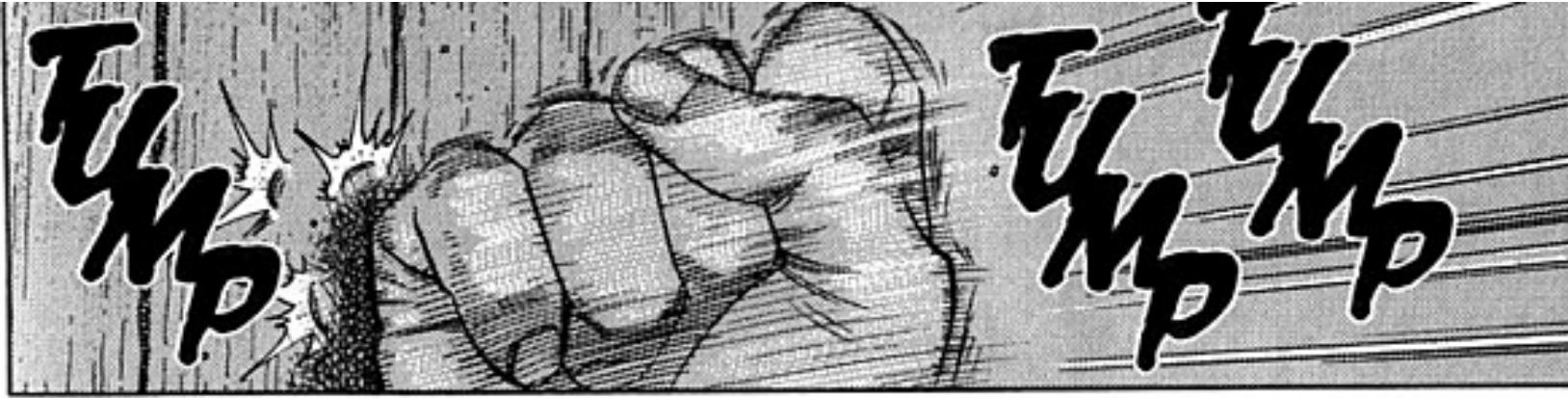




CAN'T  
YOU  
FEEL  
IT?

BRR

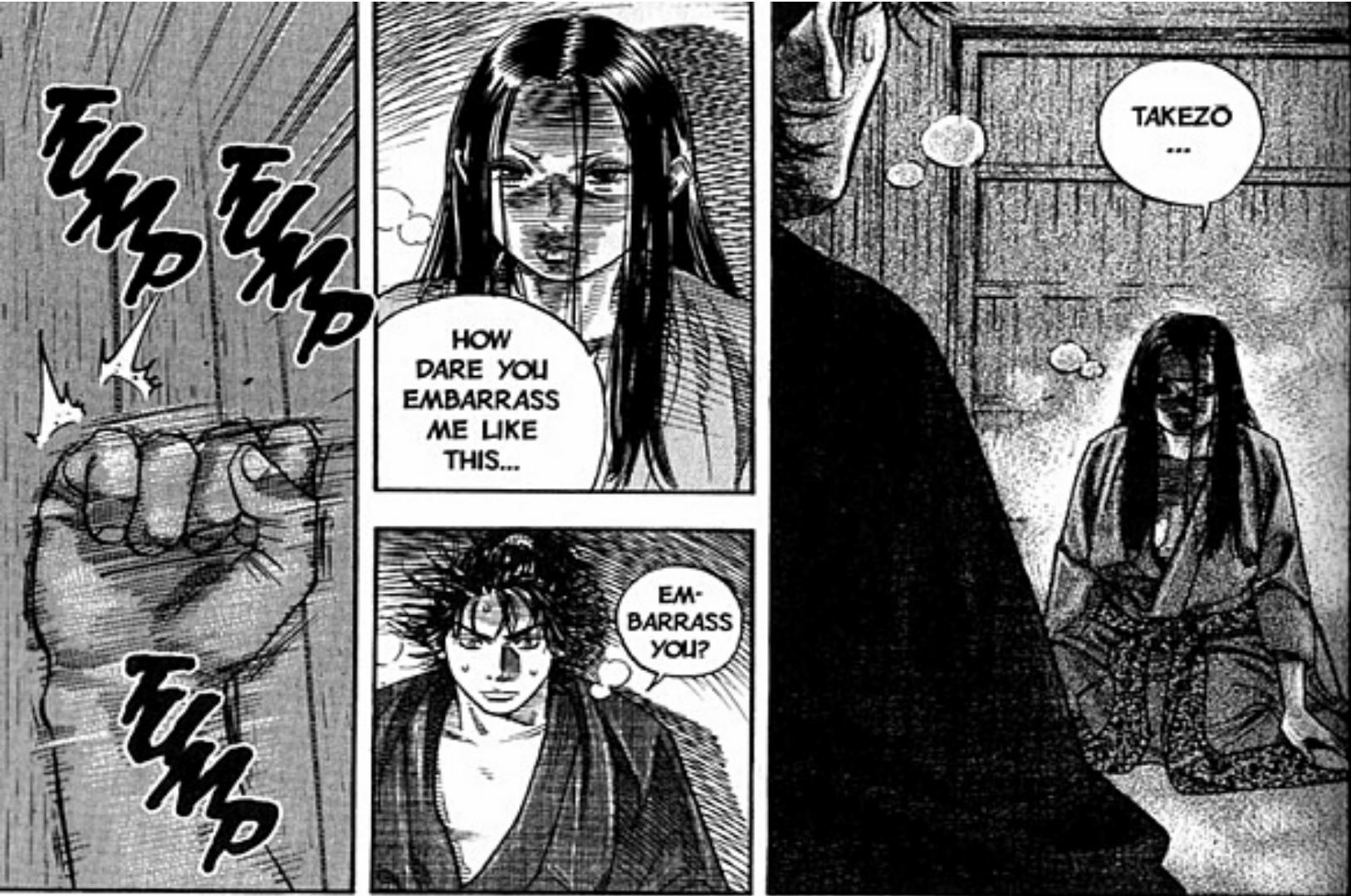




Vagabond

"C'MON, TAKEZO!"

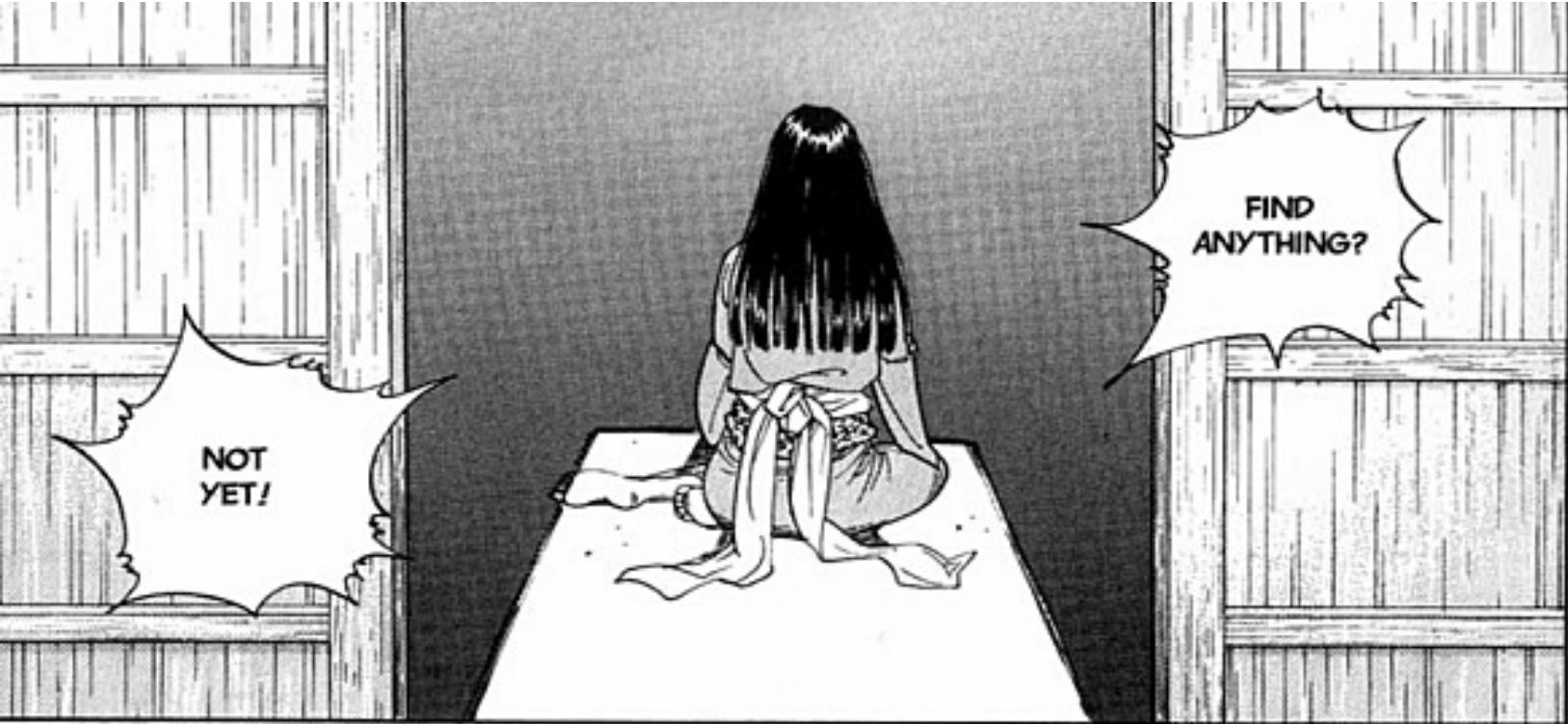




IT'S  
THE  
TSUJIKAZE  
GANG!!



#4 | The Brigand  
Tsujikaze



HOW  
ABOUT  
SOME  
SAKE?

...GET  
IT  
YOURSELF.

YOU  
KNOW  
WHERE  
IT  
IS...

I  
HAVE  
TO  
SEARCH  
YOUR  
HOUSE.

EVEN  
BRIGANDS  
HAVE  
THEIR  
CODE.

I  
HAVEN'T  
STOLEN  
ANYTHING.

HAH...



...AND  
THEN  
YOU WON'T  
HAVE TO  
LIVE LIKE  
THIS...

YOU  
BE  
MINE...



WHAT  
KIND OF  
WOMAN  
ENDS UP  
WITH HER  
HUSBAND'S  
MURDERER?

YOUR  
FACE...

...MAKES  
ME  
WANT TO  
PUKE.

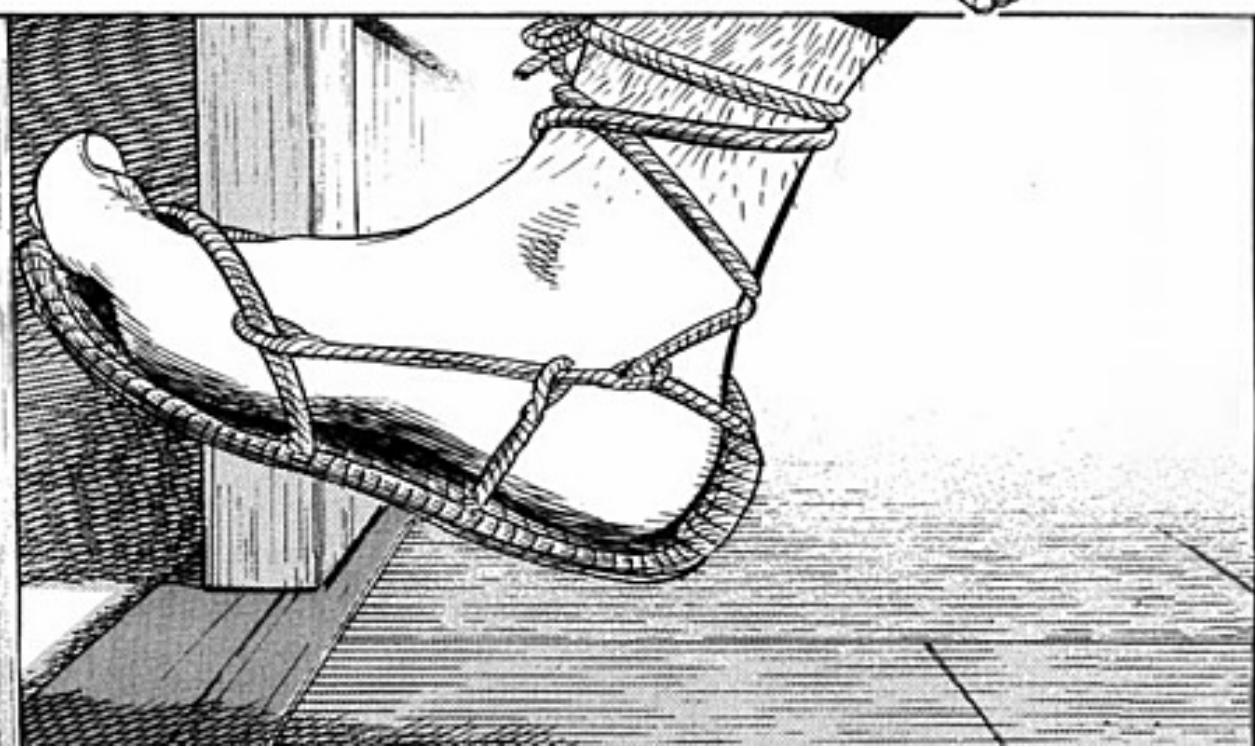
CHECK  
THE  
CEILING.

YES  
SIR!

HEY.











!!





















Vagabond







#5  
Blood  
Game



AND  
I'LL  
HAVE  
YOUR  
HEAD.







YOU  
COWARD...

HUF

HUF

HOW CAN  
YOU RUN  
AND STILL  
CALL  
YOURSELF  
THE  
LEADER!?



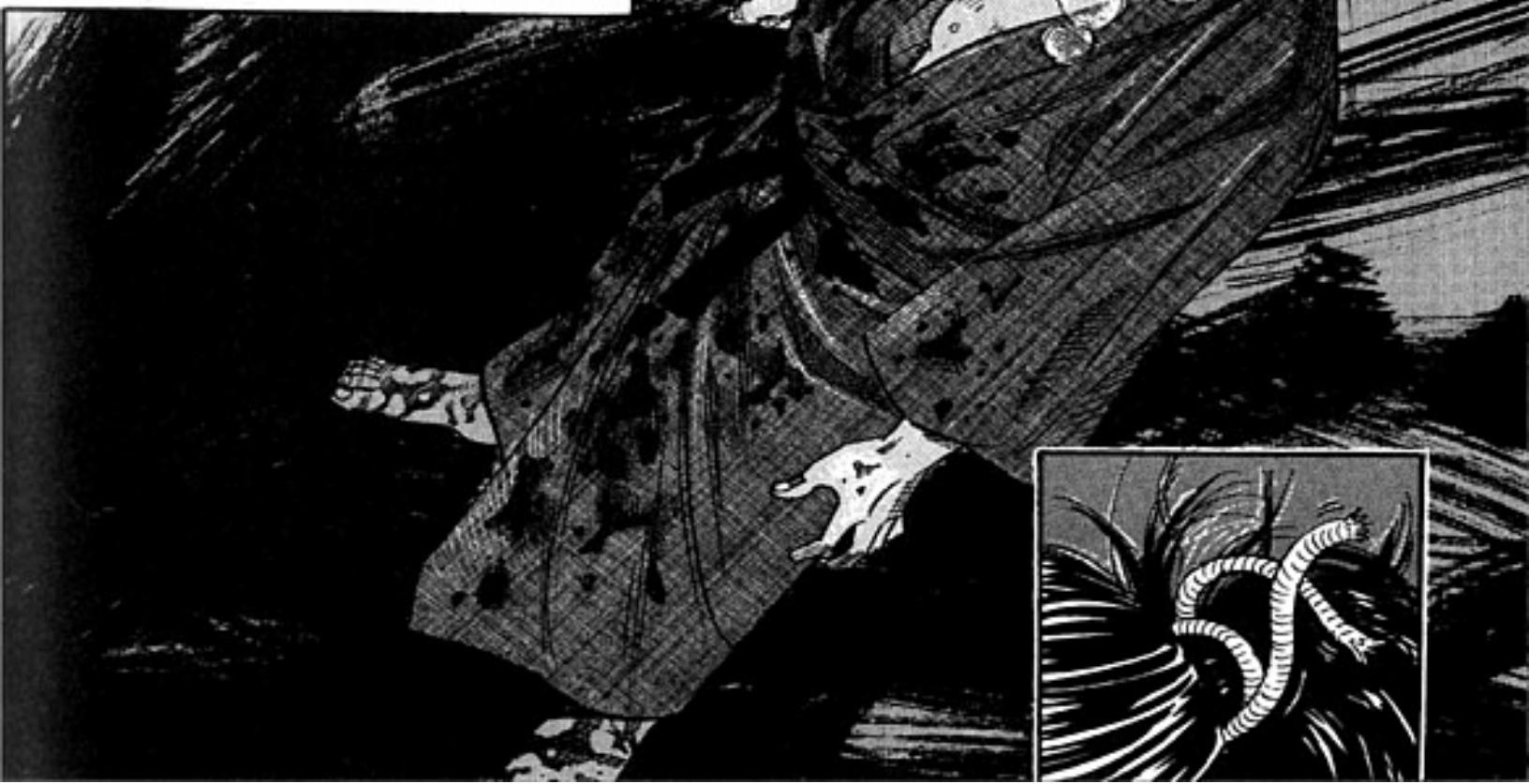
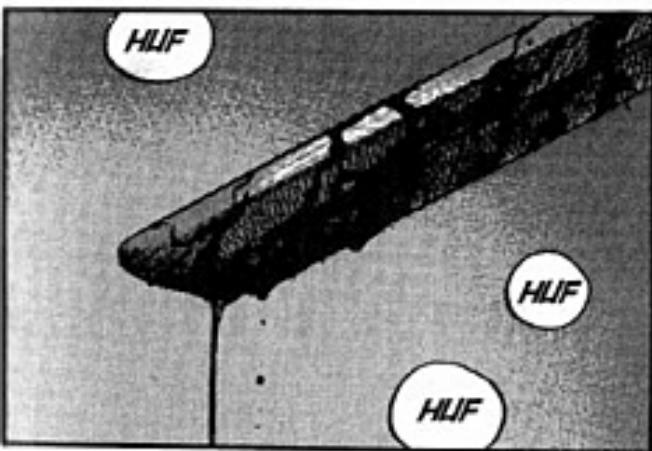












HUF

**FWISH**

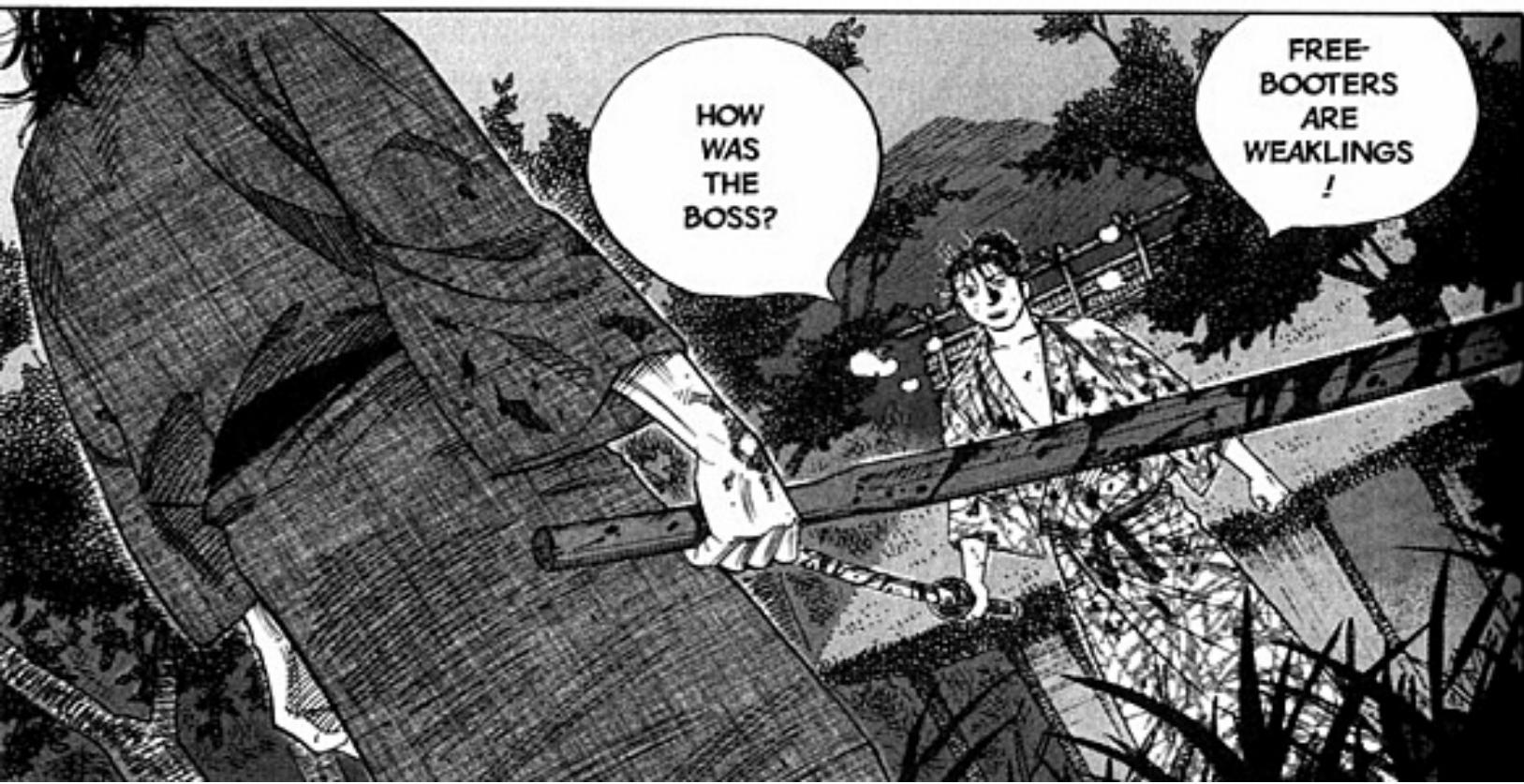
HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF





NOTHING  
SPECIAL.



...FROM  
THE  
VILLAGE OF  
MIYAMOTO  
IN  
SAKUSHI.

...AND  
SHINMEN  
TAKEZO...

HON'IDEN  
MATAHACHI  
...

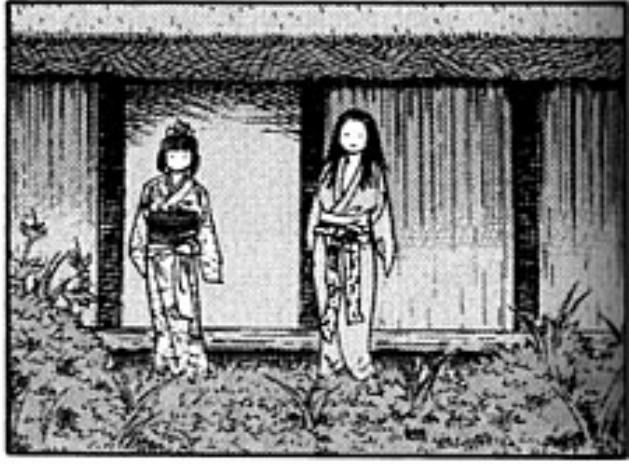


WELL  
TAKE  
**ANYONE**  
ON!!



HA HA HA

PLAYING  
A GAME  
OF  
BLOOD.

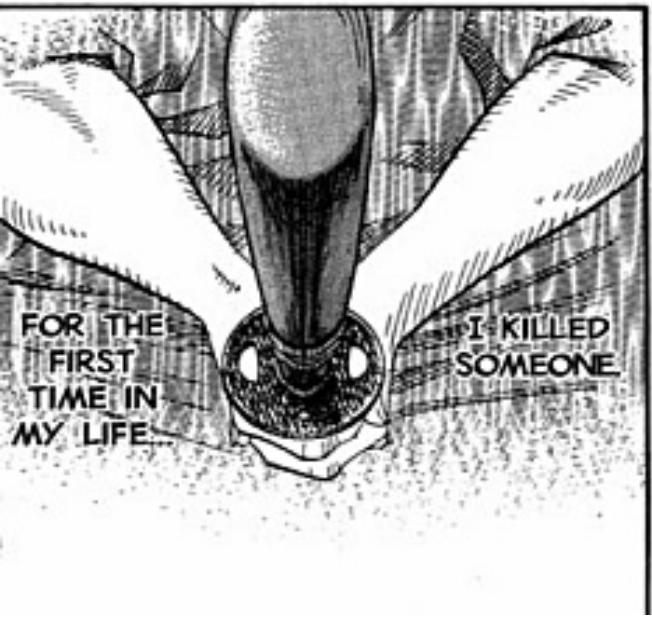


THEY'RE  
LIKE  
KIDS...

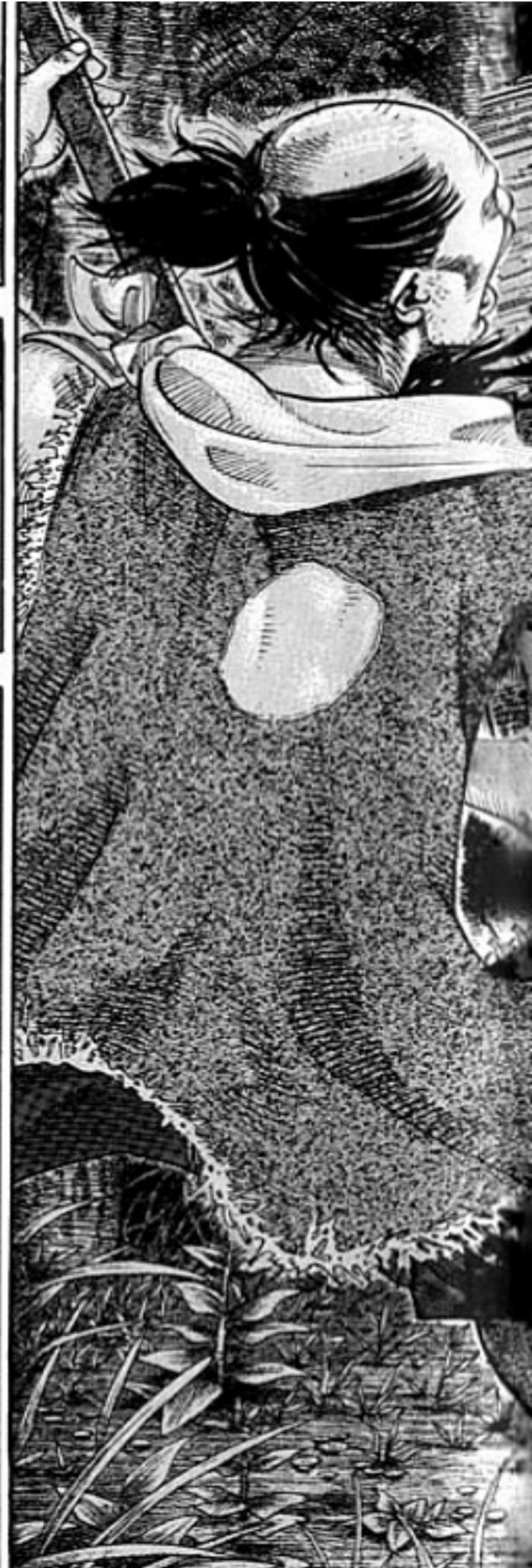


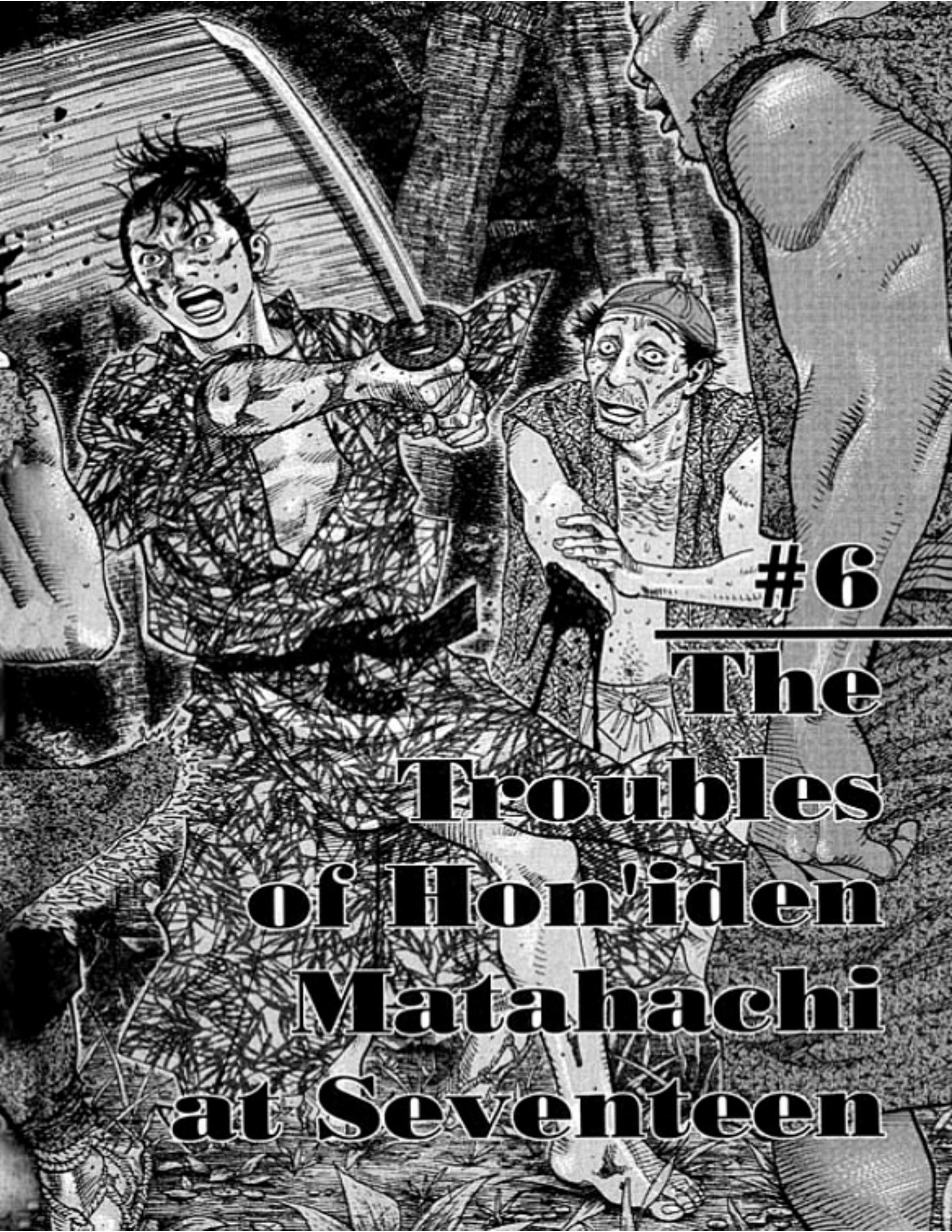
Vagabond





17  
YEARS  
OLD...





#6

---

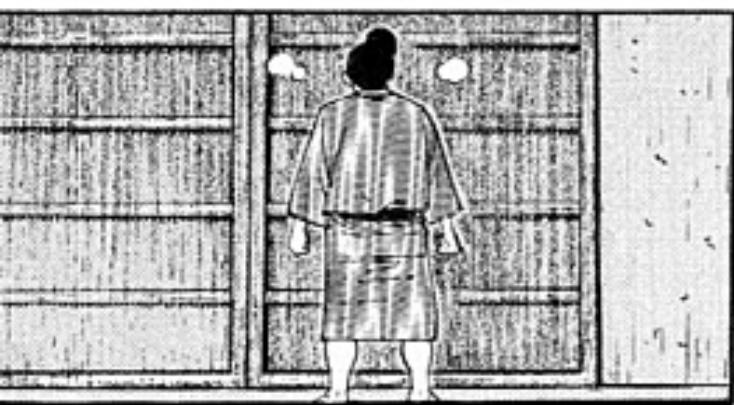
The  
Troubles  
of Hon'iden  
Matahachi  
at Seventeen

FUP

...



OKO...

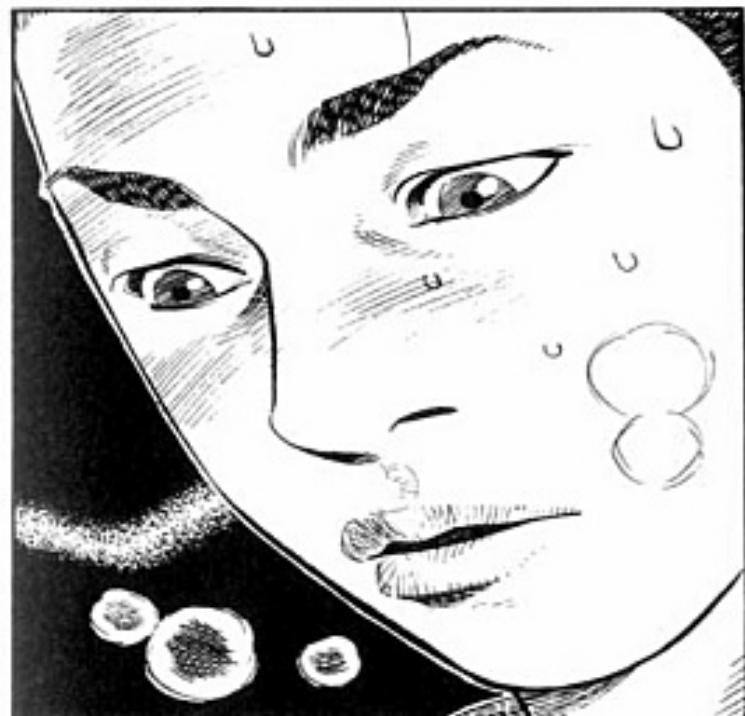


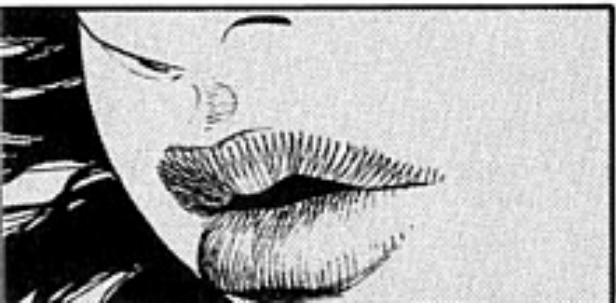
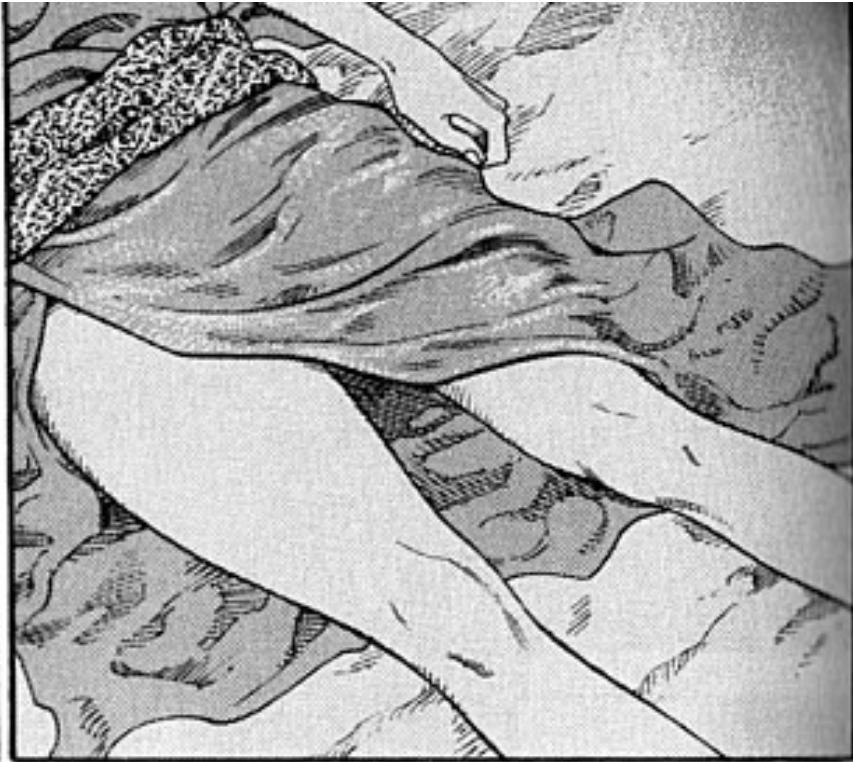
...  
...  
...

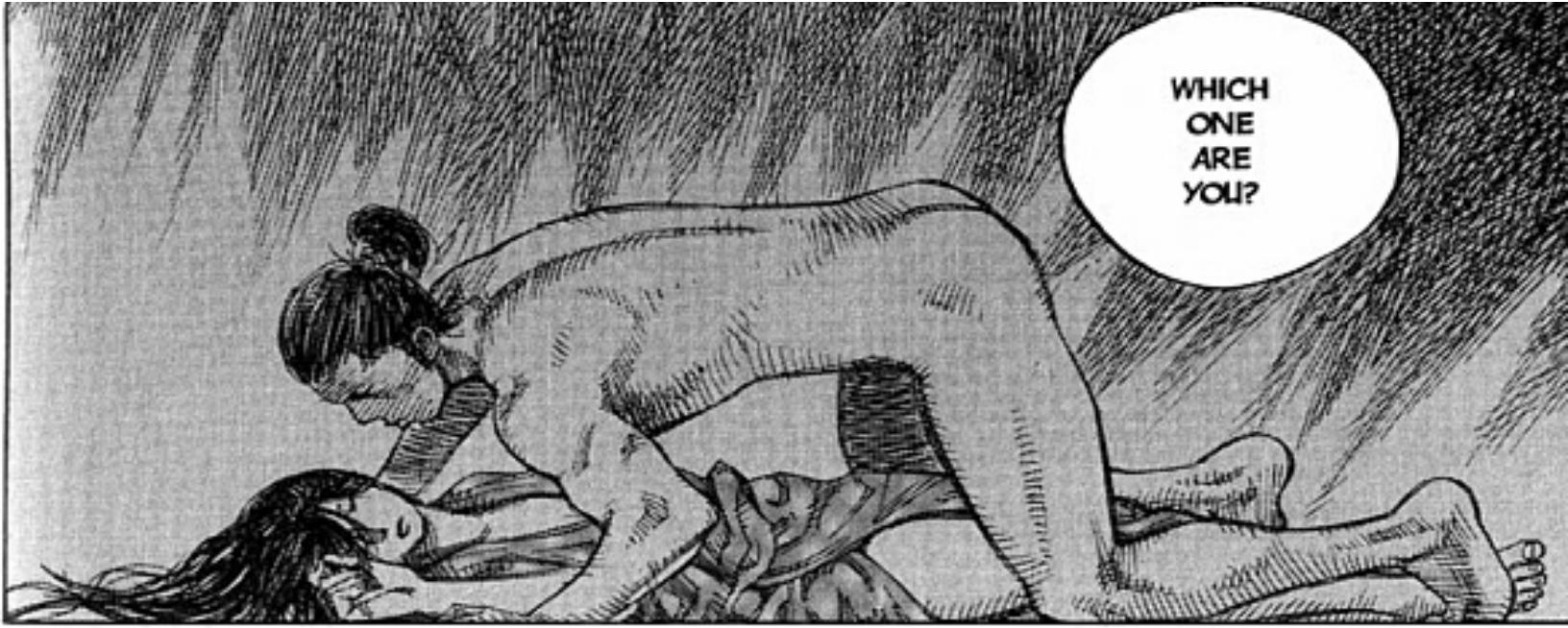


...  
...  
...

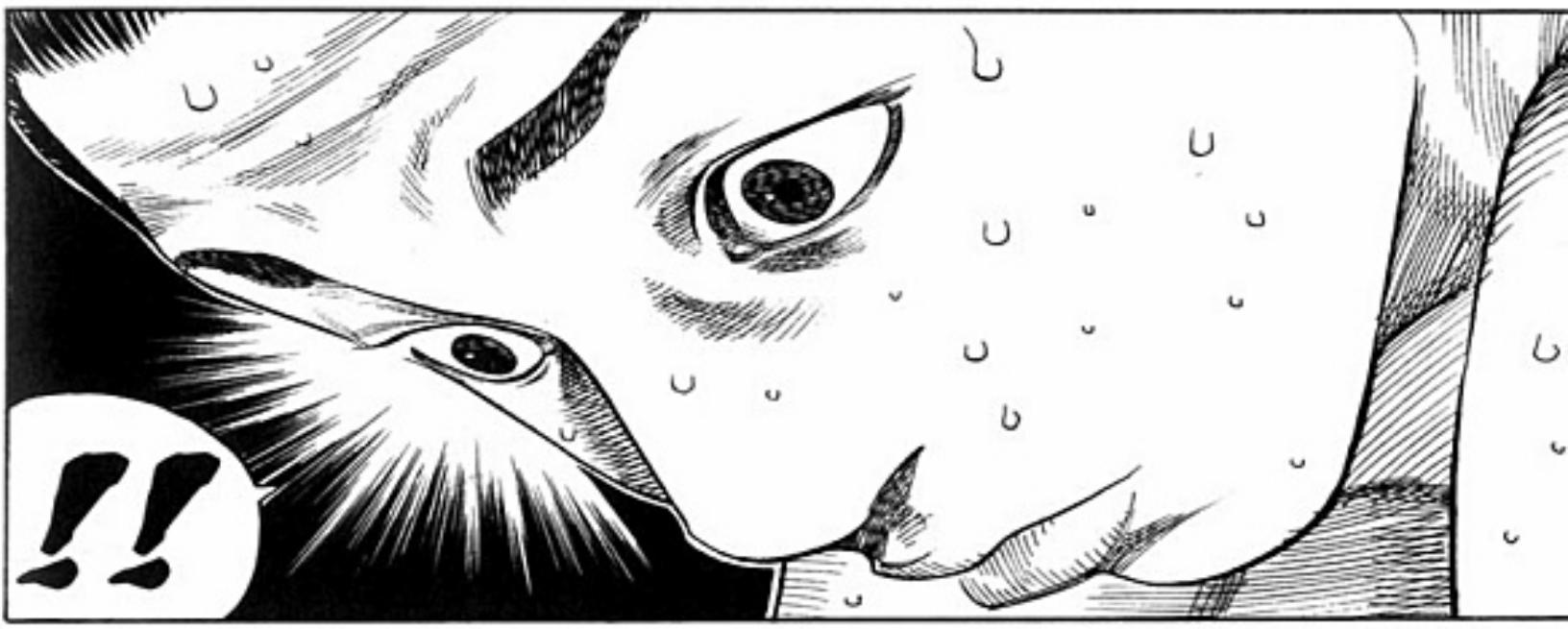








WHICH  
ONE  
ARE  
YOU?



"WHICH  
ONE?"...

WHAT  
AM I  
THINKING!?

I'M AN  
IDIOT!!  
I'M BEING  
AN IDIOT!!

I'M  
BEING  
STUPID...

FOUR  
OF THE  
TSUJIKAZE  
BANDITS!!

I  
CUT  
DOWN  
FOUR  
MEN!!





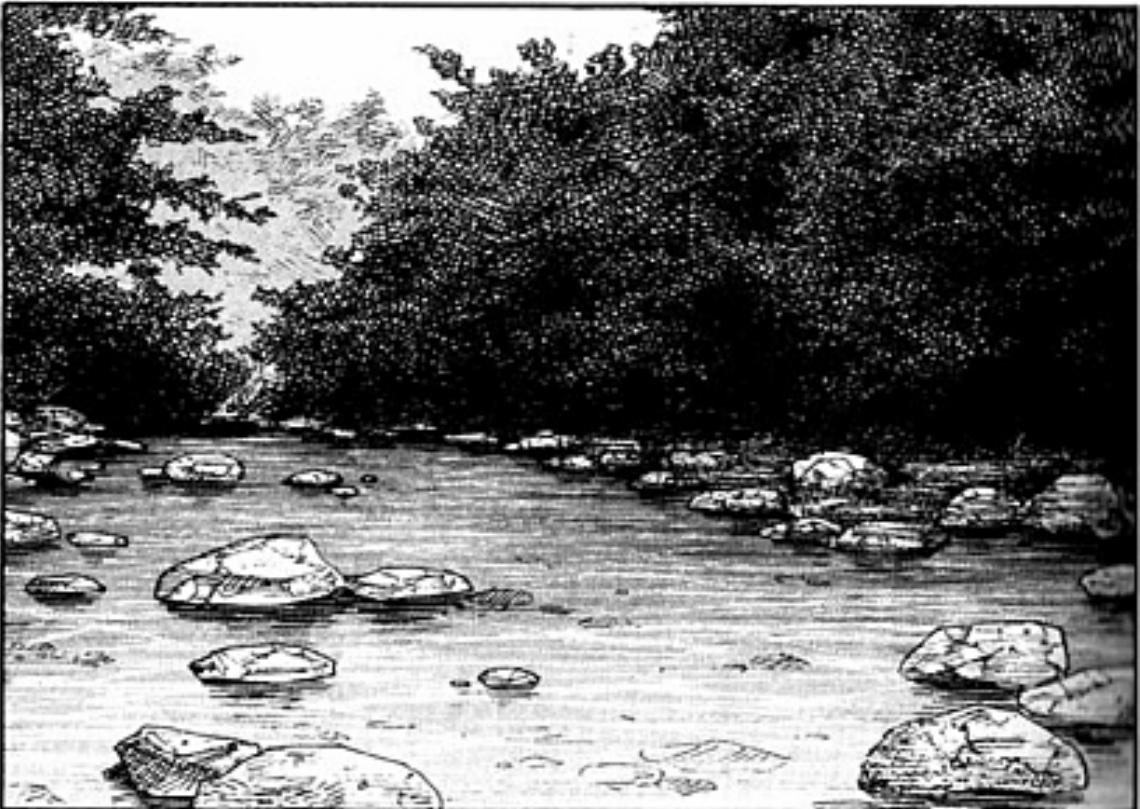
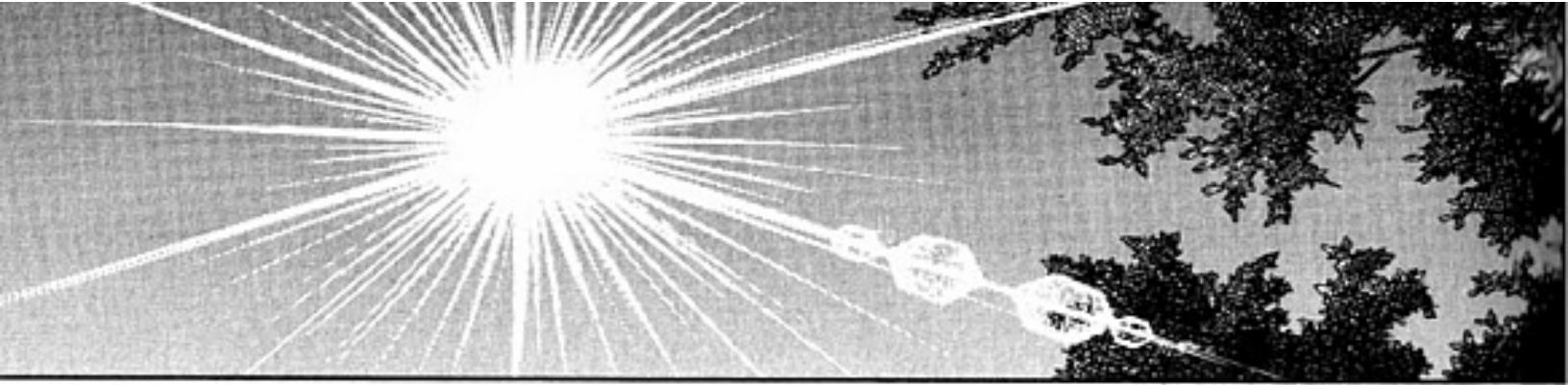
IT'S  
ME,  
TAKEZO...







I  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
HAD A  
FIANÇEÉ.





I'M  
SORRY...

...OTSU-!!



BACK  
TO  
MIYAMOTO.

**THUD THUD THUD THUD**

THERE  
MAY ONLY  
BE TWO  
OF THEM...

BE  
CAREFUL  
!



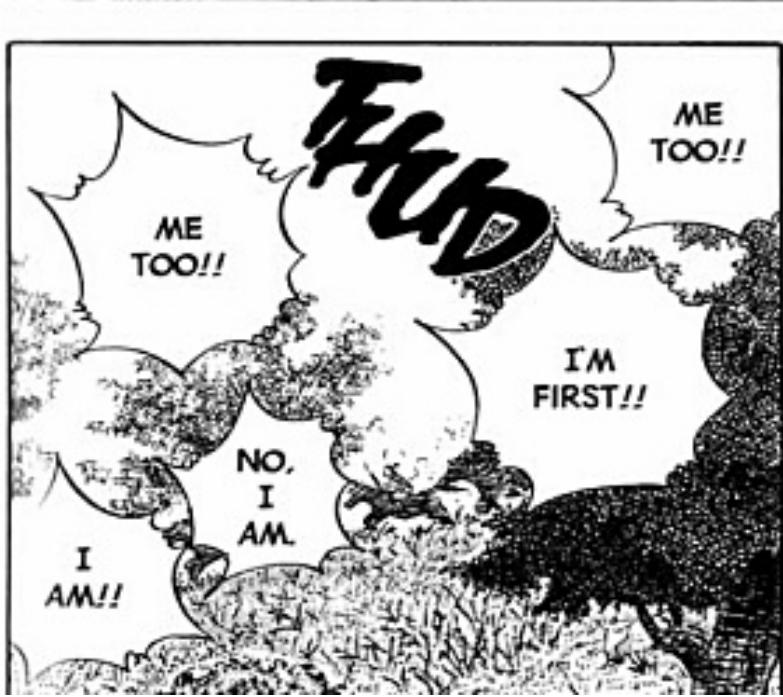
...BUT  
THOSE  
BRATS  
KILLED  
THE  
BOSS!!

...HAVE  
SOME  
FUN  
WITH  
OKO!!

...WE  
CAN...

NOW THAT  
THE BOSS  
AIN'T AROUND  
NO MORE...

HEE  
HEE...



ME  
TOO!!

ME  
TOO!!

I'M  
FIRST!!

I  
AM!!

NO,  
I  
AM.



ME  
TOO!!

I'VE  
BEEN  
WANTING  
TO DO  
HER...



...FOR  
SO  
LONG!!





...YOU'RE  
GOING  
WITH  
OKO  
AND  
AKEMI!?

NAH...



FROM  
THIS  
DAY  
ON...

I LEFT  
HOME  
KNOWING  
ID NEVER  
GO BACK.



THUD THUD  
THUD



I'M  
A  
VAGABOND.



Vagabond

(IN SOME COUNTRIES  
THEY HAVE TO ERASE  
MY NIPPLES...)



(SOMETIMES THEY  
EVEN HAVE TO ERASE  
MY BEHIND!)

IT'S  
TSUJIKAZE'S  
MEN!!

THEY'RE  
BACK  
FOR  
REVENGE!





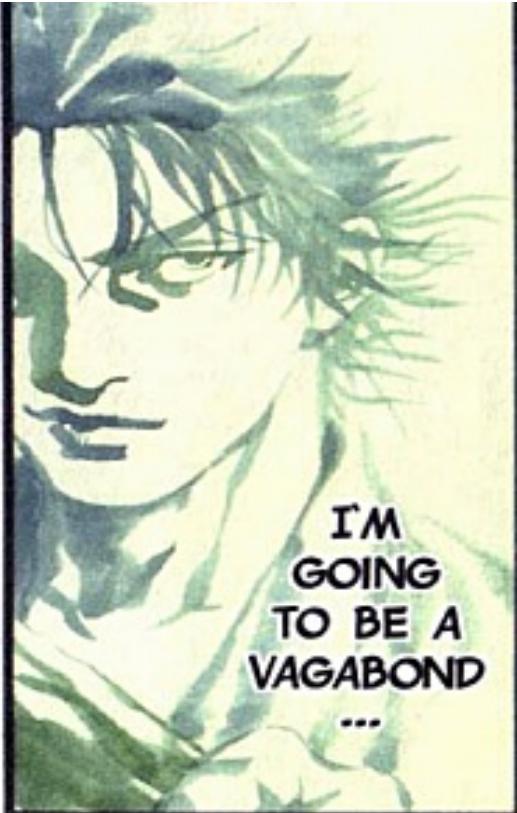
#7 | Farewell  
Takezō

YAH!!!



TAKEZO

...



I'M  
GOING  
TO BE A  
VAGABOND

I  
WANT  
TO GO  
WITH  
YOU...



YOU  
STAY  
HERE.





DON'T  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE...







WE  
GOTTA  
KILL HIM  
OFF BEFORE  
WORD  
GETS  
AROUND!!

DIE!

TENMA  
LET HIS  
GUARD DOWN  
'CAUSE HE WAS  
TOO CRAZY  
ABOUT OKO.

PUNCH!

YOUR  
SIDE  
IS WIDE  
OPEN!!

AIEEE

KABOOM!



HOW'D  
THIS BRAT  
KILL TSUJIKAZE  
TENMA,  
LEADER OF  
THREE  
HUNDRED  
BANDITS?

HE  
KILLED  
THE  
BOSS...?

HE'S  
PUT A  
STAIN  
ON OUR  
REPUTATION.

HE'S  
JUST  
A  
KID.

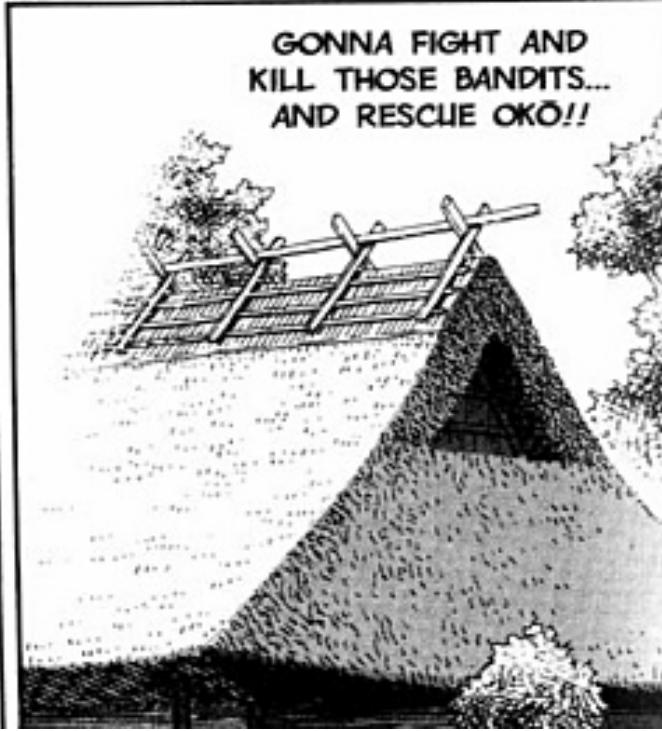
**WHOMP**

**AIAHHH!**

URGH

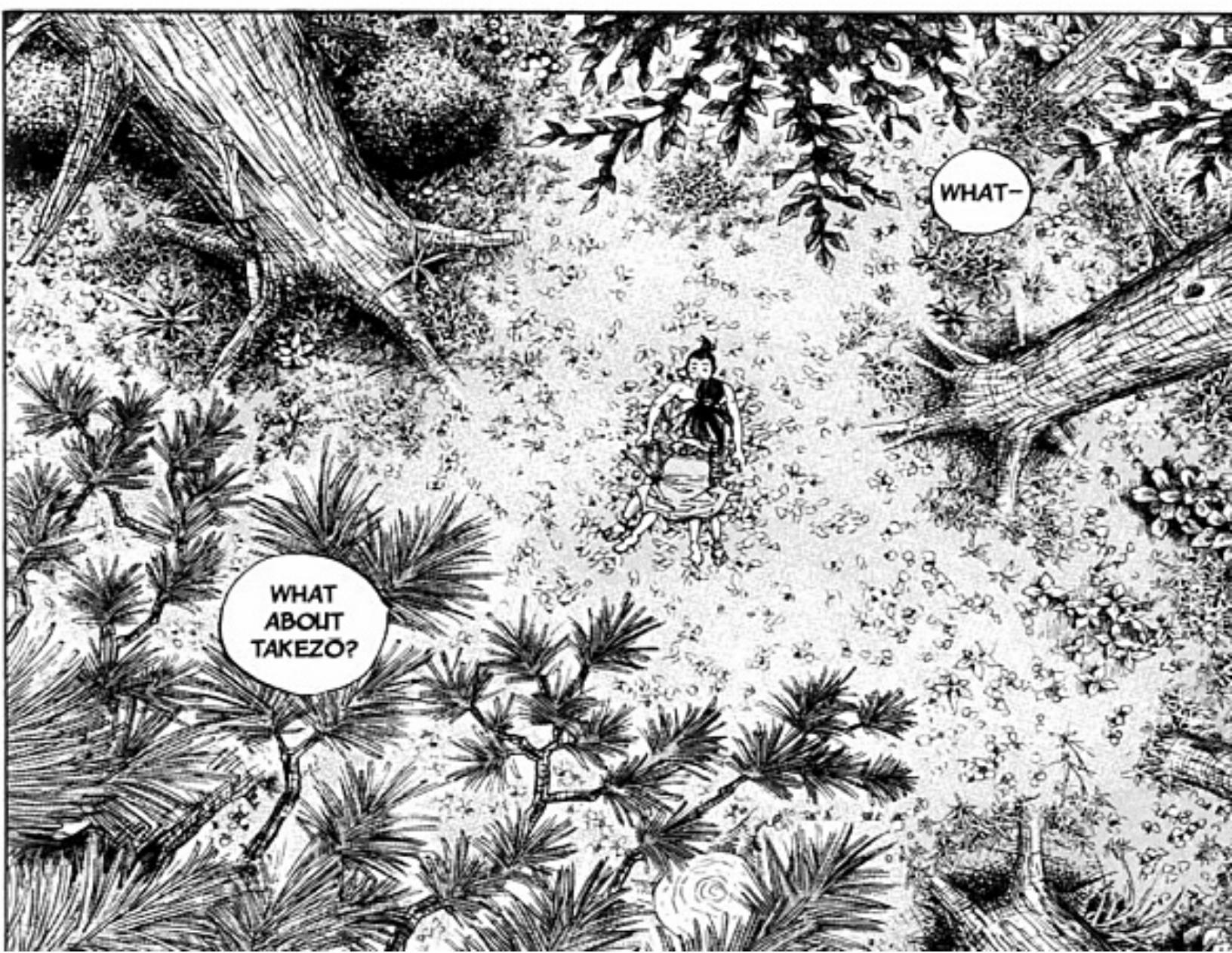














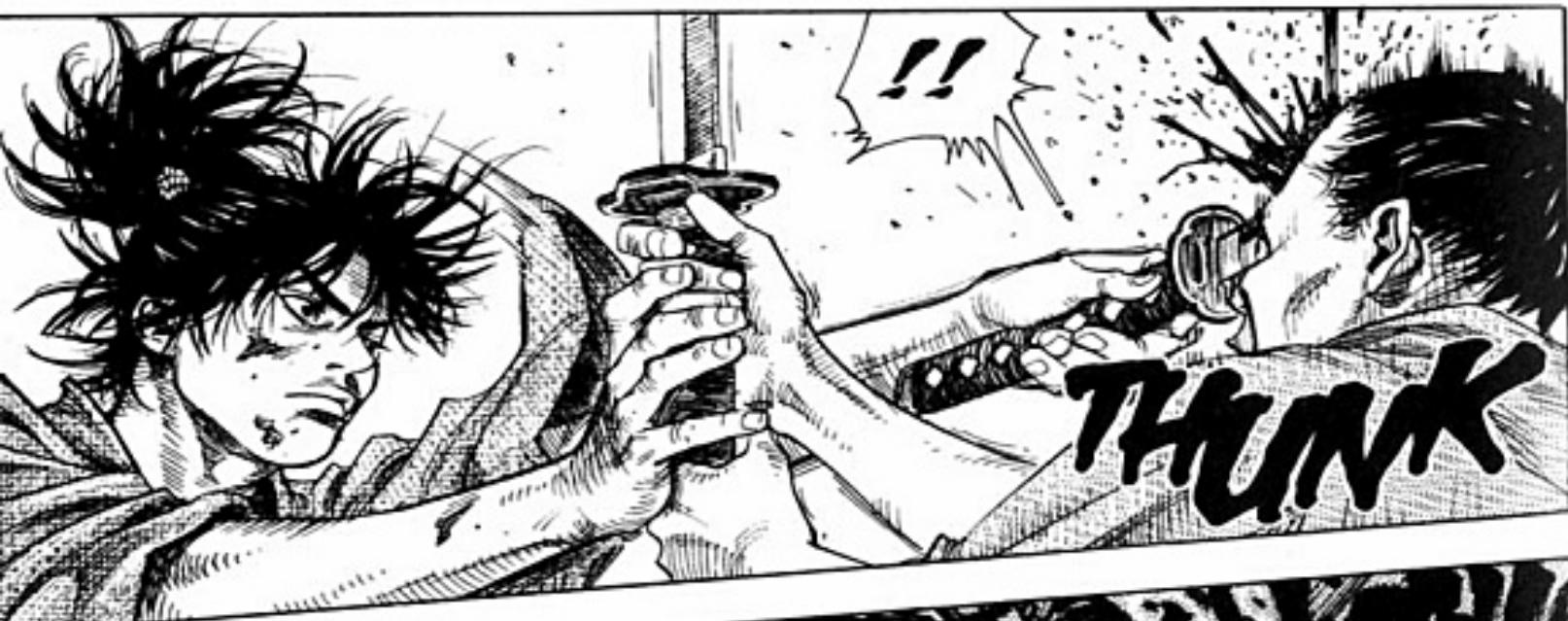
ARRGH!!

KUNIBI



YOU  
BASTARD!







**WOOOSH!**

**SHAK!**



FUNK

IF  
YOU'RE  
ALIVE,  
SAY SOME-  
THING!!

MATAHACHI!

WAAH

EKSH

ARRGH!

ACK

HUF

HUF

FCK

WAAH









Vagabond



THICK  
AND  
STRONG  
(THICK AND  
STRONG FORM.)



...MATAHACHI'S  
STILL ALIVE.



GRANNY...  
OTSU...

#8 | Miyamoto  
Village

GRANNY!

HUF  
HUF

ALREADY  
FINISHED  
WITH  
TODAY'S  
WORK?

HEITA--

...SHINMEN  
TAKEZO!

I  
SAW...

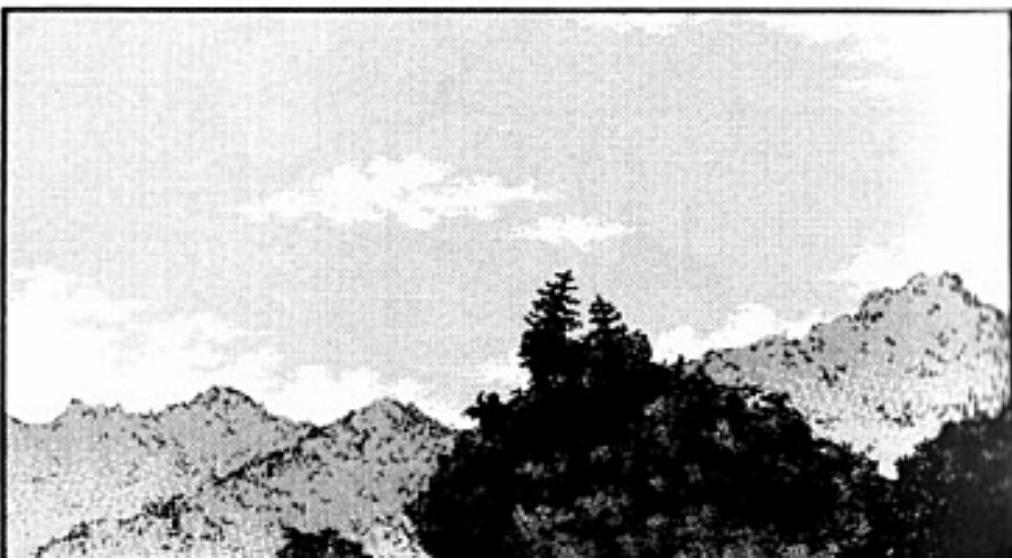
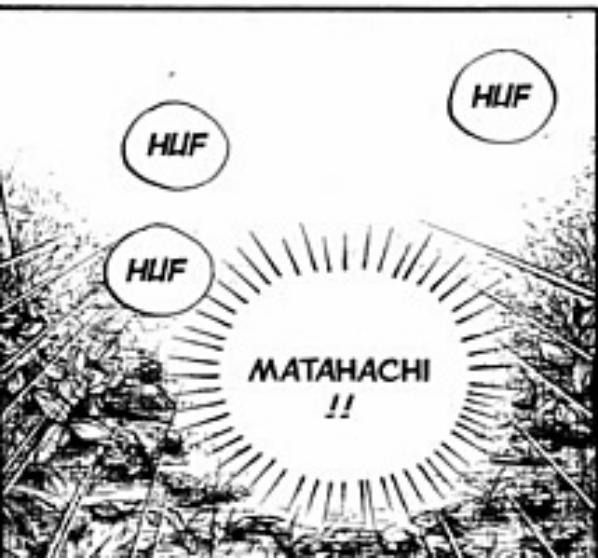
SNIFF

WE, THE  
HONIDEN, ARE  
THE PROUD  
DESCENDENTS  
OF HARD  
WORKERS!

YOU  
MUSTN'T  
SULLY OUR  
REPUTATION!!

I ASKED  
IF YOU'RE  
DONE WITH  
TODAY'S  
WORK!!

HAWP



HUF

MATAHACHI

!!

HUF

HUF

NOPE...

NAH...

?

HUF

GRANNY

HAS  
MATAHACHI  
RETURNED  
!?

...MAYBE  
YOU  
SHOULD  
GIVE UP ON  
MATAHACHI...

IT'S  
BEEN  
ALMOST  
A YEAR  
NOW.

I KNOW  
HOW YOU  
FEEL. BUT  
...





PLEASE  
BE  
ALIVE...

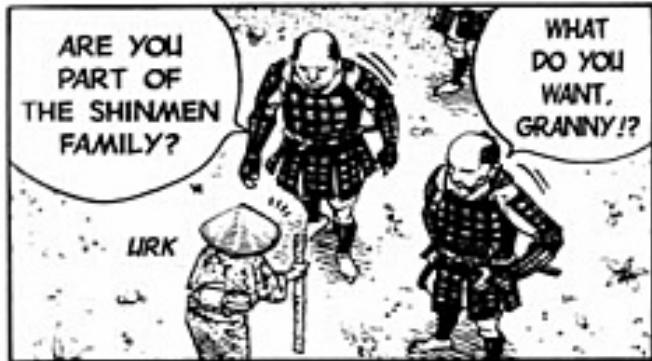


...HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MARRIED BY NOW. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A RESPECTABLE HEIR TO THE HONIDEN FAMILY.



IF SHINMEN  
TAKEZO HADN'T  
DRAGGED HIM  
OFF TO WAR...





YES.

IS--

WE'RE  
AFTER  
A  
MAN  
NAMED  
TAKEZO!!

...NOT  
WITH MY SON?  
HIS NAME IS  
HONIDEN  
MATAHACHI.

NO,  
HE'S  
ALONE.

H-  
HE'S...

HM?

IS  
HE  
ALONE?

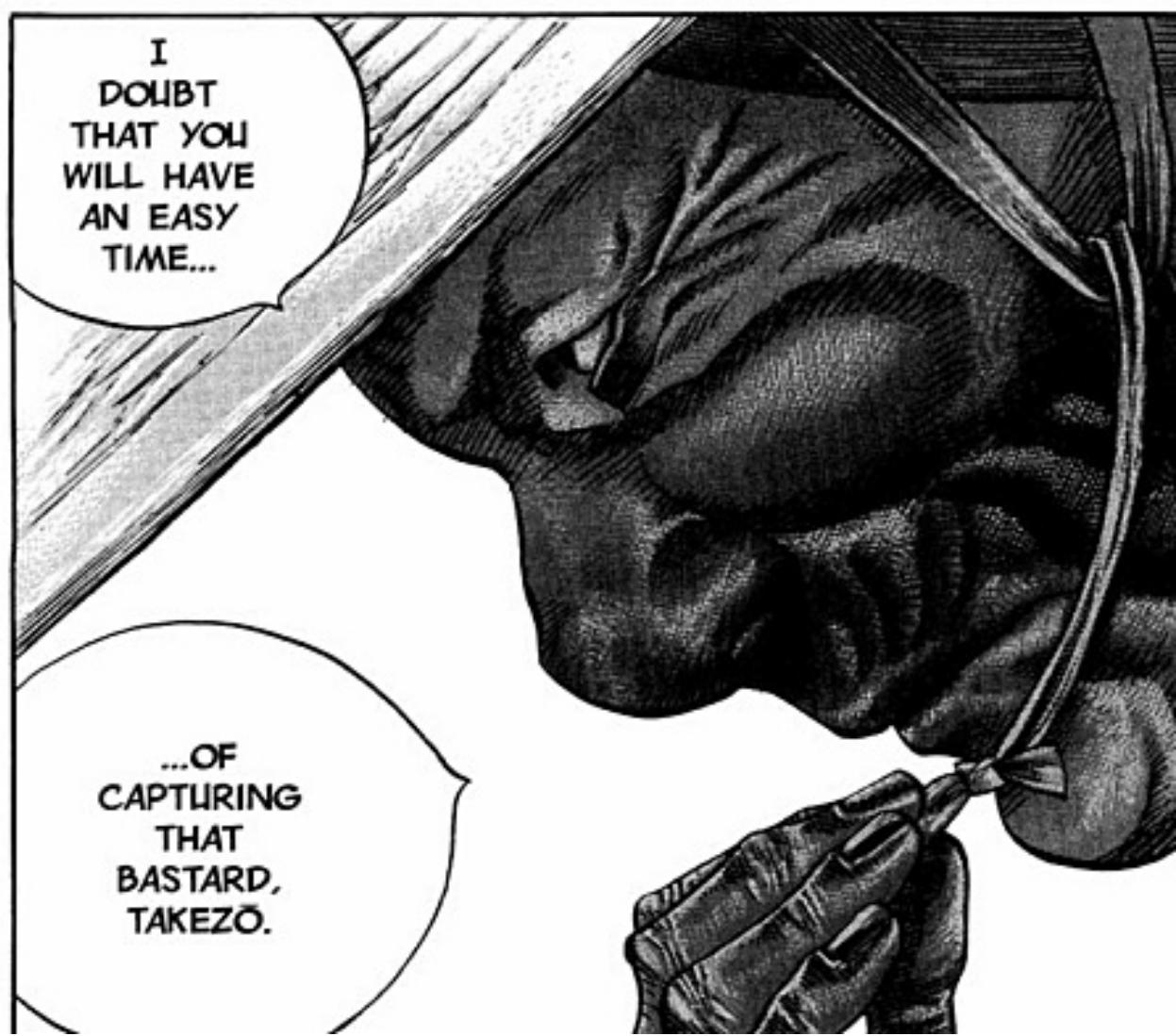
DID  
HE DO  
SOMETHING  
WRONG?

HE BROKE  
THROUGH  
THE GATES  
AT THE  
PROVINCE  
BORDER.

WE  
ALSO KNOW  
THAT HE  
WAS ONE OF  
UKITA'S  
MEN.

HE'S  
ALREADY  
KILLED TWO  
OF OUR  
MEN.

THAT GOOD  
FOR NOTHING  
TAKEZO...





PERHAPS  
WE NEED  
TO BE  
MORE  
PATIENT...

THAT  
SHINMEN  
BASTARD...

WELL  
HAVE  
TO SEE,  
THOUGH...









OTSU.







Vagabond



COH MATAHACHII'D



PHEW.





#9 | Fiancée















PLEASE  
EXCUSE OTSU.  
SHE'S AN ORPHAN  
WHO DIDN'T HAVE  
ANYONE TO TEACH  
HER PROPER  
MANNERS.

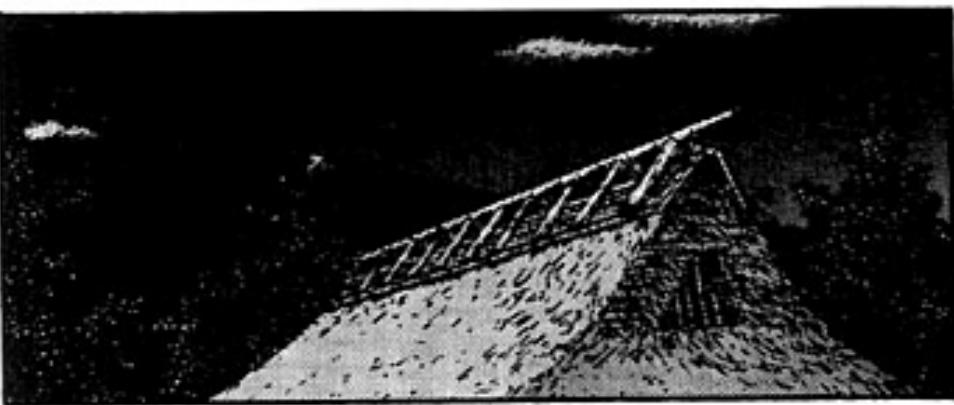
EVEN  
THOUGH SHE'S  
SEVENTEEN, SHE'S  
NO IDEA HOW  
THE WORLD  
WORKS!

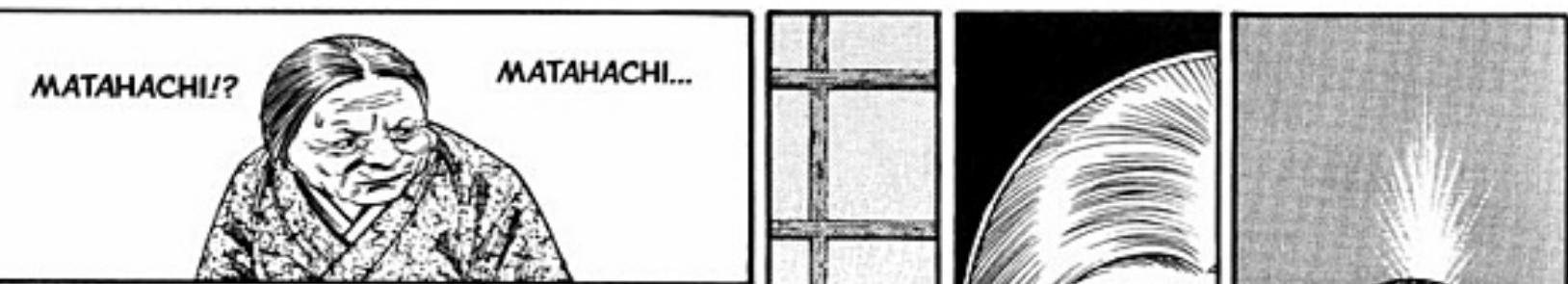
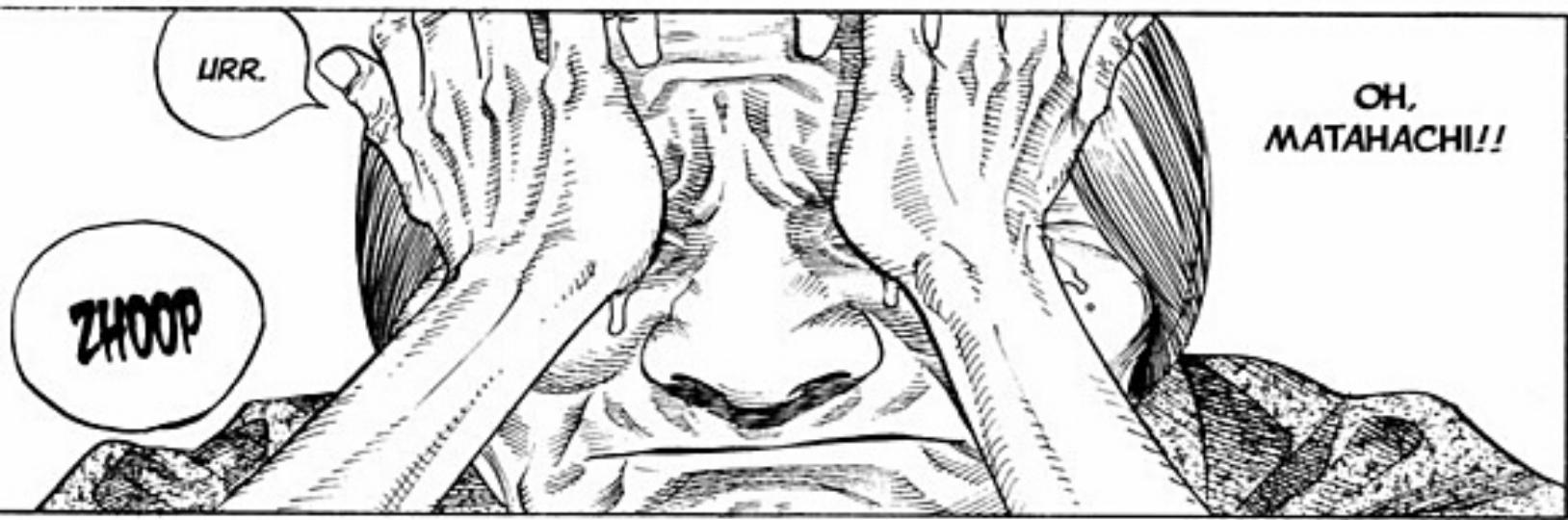
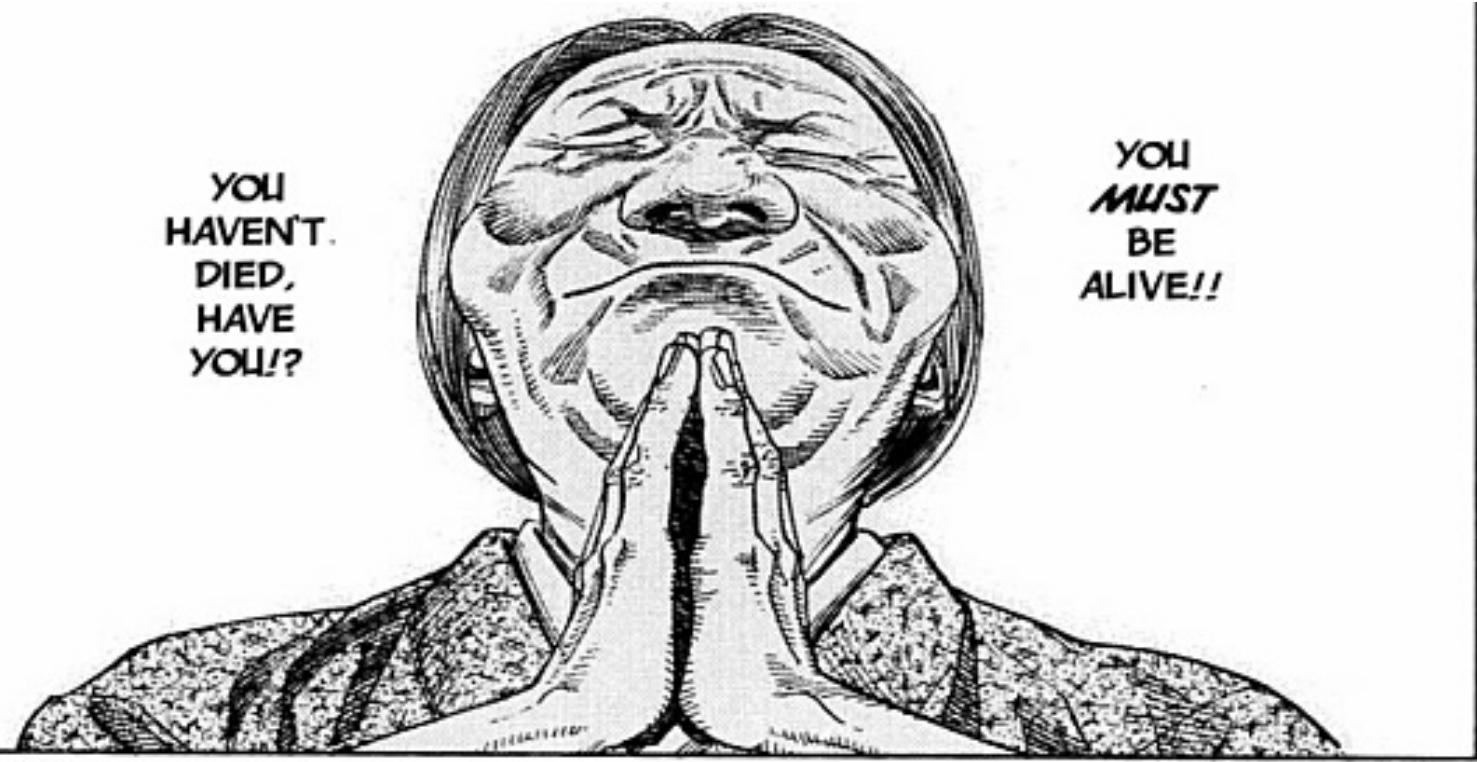


YOU'RE GOING  
TO HAVE TO GROW  
UP IF YOU'RE GOING  
TO BECOME A  
BRIDE OF THE  
HON'DEN  
FAMILY!!

YES,  
MA'AM.

KRINP



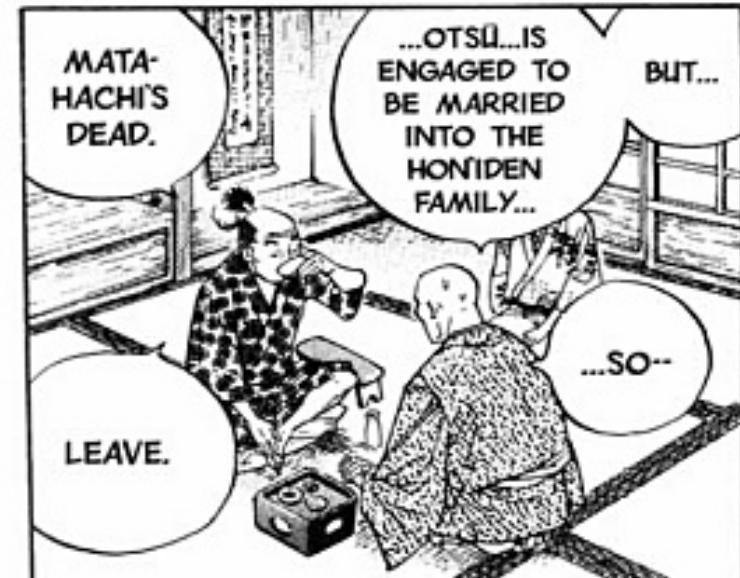




MOTHER  
!!













I'M  
GOING TO  
BE A BRIDE  
OF THE  
HON'DEN  
FAMILY!!

I'M  
MATAHACHI'S  
FIANCÉE.

IT'S  
ALREADY  
BEEN  
DECIDED!!



OH MATAHACHI...  
MATAHACHI!?

YUK! THAT  
WAS SCARY.  
AND GROSS.



FORGIVE  
ME,  
OTSU.



OTSU



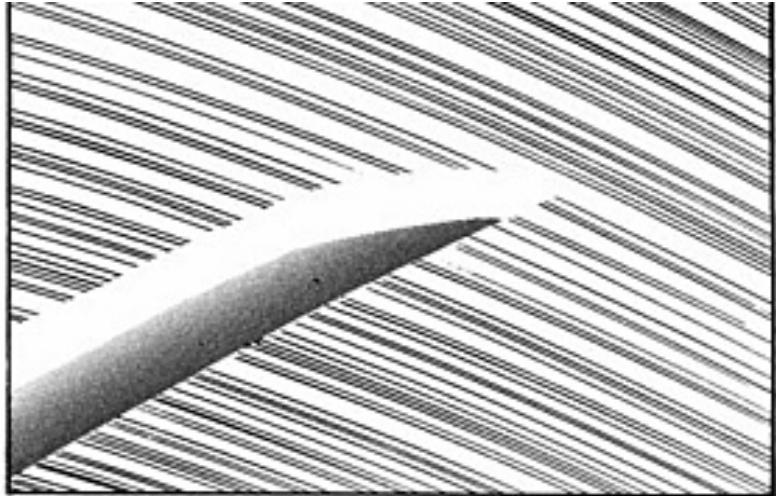
HEY!!

TUMP

TUMP











STILL  
ALIVE...?

# # 10 | Left Behind



WHY  
DIDN'T  
HE  
COME  
BACK!?

DRAGGED  
HIM OFF?

THIS  
IS  
ALL  
WRONG.

YOU  
WERE THE ONE  
WHO DRAGGED  
HIM OFF, AND  
YOU END UP  
RETURNING...

GIVE  
HIM  
BACK  
TO ME!!

GIVE  
MATAHACHI  
BACK  
TO ME!!

WHERE  
IS HE!?

URK  
HOW  
DARE  
YOU SNEAK  
BACK  
HOME  
ALONE!?

TAKEZŌ!!  
BRING  
MATAHACHI  
BACK HERE  
TO HIS  
MOTHER!

BRING  
HIM  
HERE!

THMP

THMP

ARRGH!

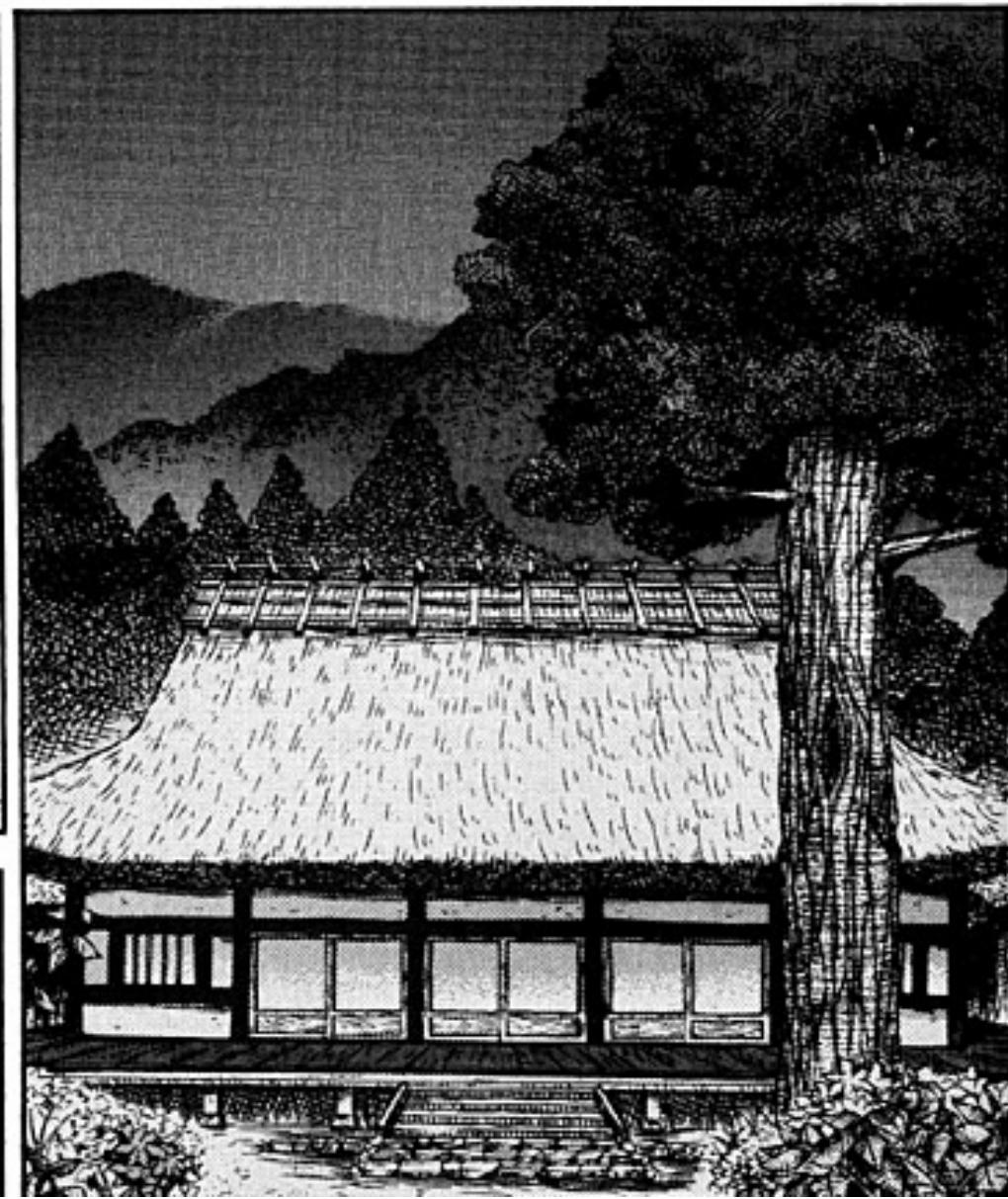
THMP

URR



"To Otsu"

"To Otsu"





He is burdened by thoughts of you.



I am writing as the woman who is now with Mata-hachi.



The current situation is detrimental for everyone involved.



I am asking you...



Okō



...to forget Mata-hachi.

OKŌ?





WHO'S  
OKŌ?







...YOU  
ARE MY  
BELOVED  
SON'S  
FRIEND.

AFTER  
ALL...

....!!

SO  
TAKEZO,  
WHAT ARE  
YOUR  
PLANS  
NOW?

IS THE  
BATH  
WATER HOT  
ENOUGH?

PLASH

IT'S  
FINE...

I  
WANT TO  
FIND OUT...  
HOW  
STRONG  
I REALLY  
AM.

ALL THE  
MASTER  
SWORDSMEN  
RENONUED  
THROUGHOUT  
THE  
LAND.

KRICH

I  
WANT  
TO  
CHALLENGE  
MEN LIKE  
YAGYU AND  
YOSHIOKA.

...TO  
POLISH  
MY SKILLS  
AS A  
SWORDSMAN.

I'M  
GOING TO  
JOURNEY  
ALL  
ACROSS THE  
COUNTRY...

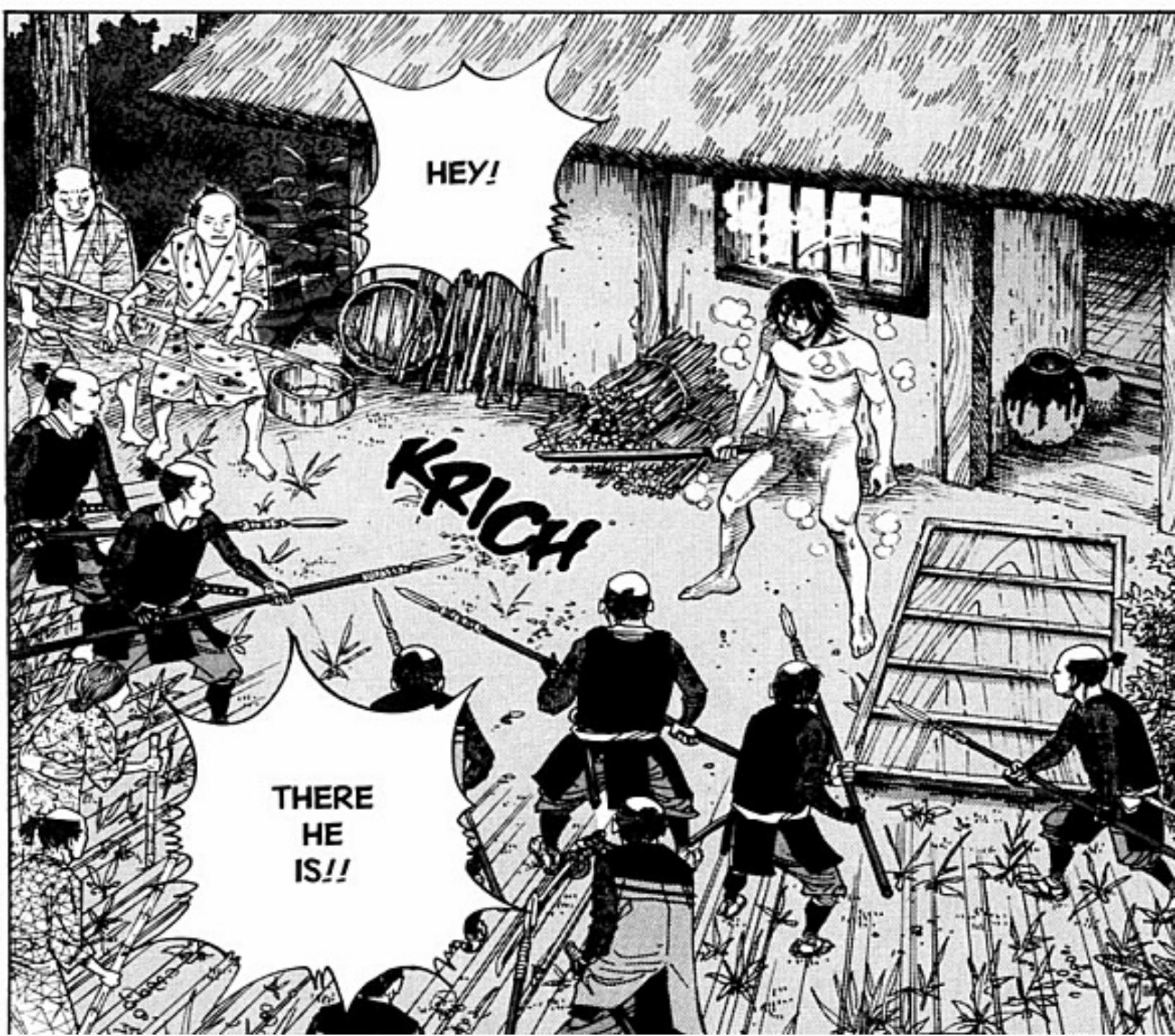
PLISH

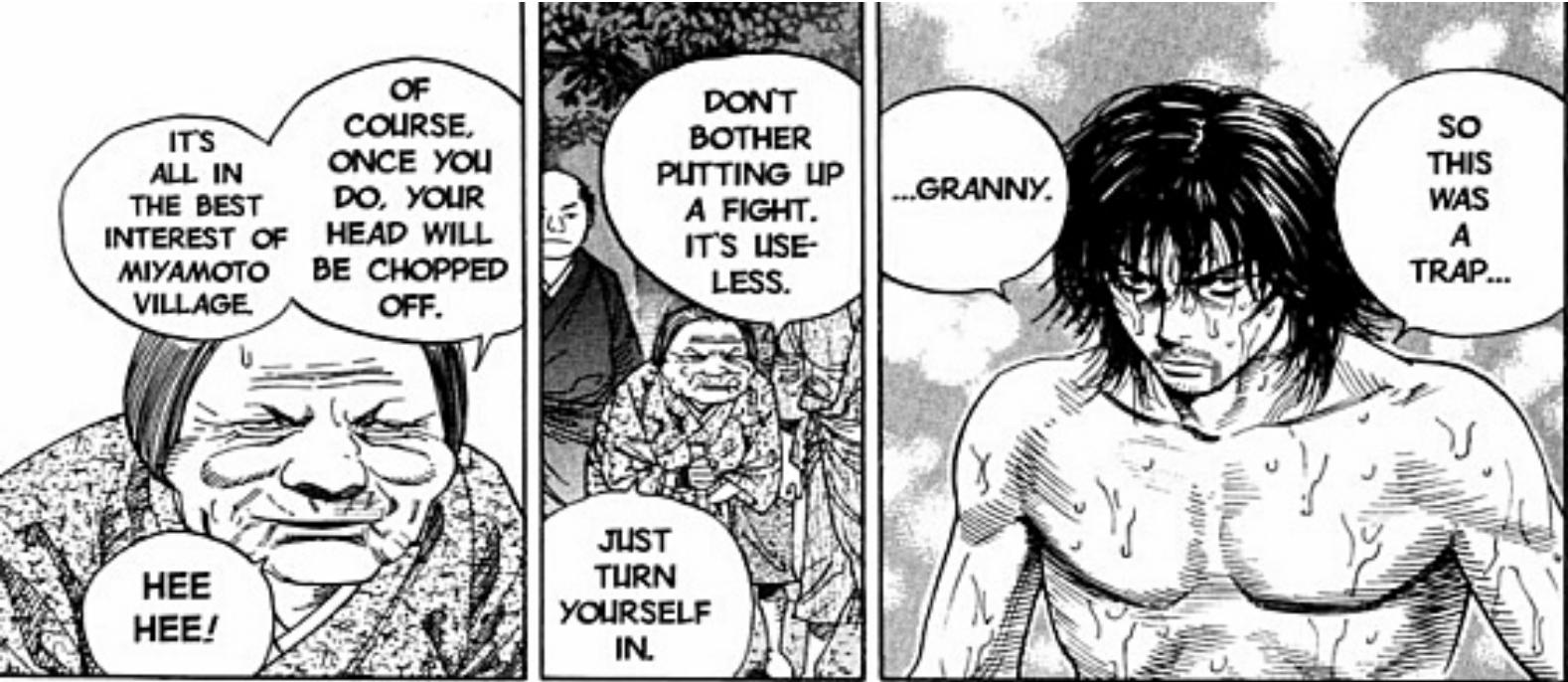
TO  
TRAIN IN THE  
WAY OF THE  
WARRIOR, EH?  
VERY  
ADMIRABLE.

PLISH















...I'LL  
KILL  
YOU  
FIRST.



# Glossary and Extraneous Background Information

**The Battle of Sekigahara (1600):** The Warring States or *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) in Japan was a time of chaos and conflict. Central authorities, in the form of the imperial court and the shogunate, had grown increasingly weaker and the land was effectively ruled autonomously by numerous domainal lords (or *daimyo*). Looking to expand their spheres of control, the *daimyo* were constantly at war with each other. One *daimyo*, Oda Nobunaga, set out on a mission to unify Japan by means of conquest. Incredibly successful, by the time of his assassination in 1582, he managed to control approximately one-third of all of Japan. One of Nobunaga's chief generals, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, became Nobunaga's successor to carry on the quest for unification. Through a process of conquest and conciliation, Hideyoshi succeeded in creating an orderly federation amongst the *daimyo* and by 1590, order was restored to Japan under Hideyoshi's rule. Hideyoshi's death in 1598, however, presented the question of succession. Most of the *daimyo* from the domains in the west remained loyal to the Toyotomi Clan and its five-year-old heir, Toyotomi Hideyori. Tokugawa Ieyasu, however, leading the major *daimyo* from central and eastern Japan, challenged the Toyotomi clan's leadership. The two sides clashed at the **Battle of Sekigahara** in Mino (located in present day Gifu Prefecture) where the Tokugawa claimed an overwhelming victory. From that point on, the Tokugawa clan would effectively rule Japan for the next 250 years. In the opening of *Vagabond*, we find Takezō and Matahachi as young survivors on the losing side of the Battle of Sekigahara...

**Sakushū:** Also known as Mimasaka. The historical name for the area that is now the northern region of modern-day Okayama Prefecture.

**Ukita Hideie:** (1573-1655) *Daimyo* of Bizen and Mimasaka (located in modern day Okayama Prefecture). One of the leading generals that fought for the Toyotomi Clan at the Battle of Sekigahara.

**The Yagyu Clan:** Yagyu Muneyoshi Sekishusai (1527-1606) was the founder of the famed Yagyu-Shinkage school of sword fighting. His son Yagyu Munenori (1571-1646) was one of Tokugawa's key general's at the Battle of Sekigahara. Munenori was appointed as the official fencing instructor of the Tokugawa Clan and in 1632 the Yagyu were appointed as the *ometsuke*—responsible for the surveillance of the *daimyo*. Although the Yagyu clan has been depicted in Kazuo Koike's **Lone Wolf and Cub** as the plotters of the downfall of Itto Ogami, the general Japanese popular culture take on the Yagyu Clan is more positive. More specifically, Munenori's son, Yagyu Jubei (1607-1650), is viewed as a wandering hero protecting the people from evil doers.

**The Yoshioka Clan:** Yoshioka Kempo (dates unknown) was a distinguished warrior during the *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) and the founder of the Yoshioka school of sword fighting. Historically, Kempo's sons are thought to have dueled with Miyamoto Musashi on numerous occasions.

# About *Vagabond*

Takehiko Inoue's *Vagabond*, based on Eiji Yoshikawa's novel *Musashi*, is a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645). The historical figure Miyamoto Musashi, author of the philosophical strategy guide *A Book of Five Rings*, was a master of the sword and was revered as a "sword-saint." He founded the Niten Ichi style of sword fighting which is typified by fighting with both long and short swords at once, holding the long sword with the right hand and the short sword with the left. Musashi was not only a master swordsman but was also a master of the "gentler arts"—he was a master of the *sumi-e* art form and even mastered the arts of metal-working and woodcarving.

## About the Author

Takehiko Inoue is the author of the best selling manga *Slam Dunk*, with over 100 million copies in print worldwide. For his work on *Vagabond*, Inoue received the 2000 Media Arts award for Manga from the Japanese Ministry of Culture as well as the Kodansha Award for best manga. Inoue has also received the prestigious Tezuka award for his previous works. In addition to his numerous manga titles, Inoue also created the character designs for the PlayStation basketball game, *One on One*.

**A note on names:** The names presented within the context of this comic are presented in the traditional Japanese order—surname, followed by first name. "Miyamoto" is Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of *Vagabond*, however, has been presented first name first, last name second. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last name.

## This is the LAST page of this comic!

*Vagabond* has been printed to read from **right to left** in its original Japanese format—presenting Takehiko Inoue's dynamic artwork the way it was meant to be seen!

When most Japanese comics are published in English, a mirror image of the original artwork is printed in order to accommodate the left to right reading orientation of English. For this reason, errors in continuity occasionally occur and characters who were originally right-handed suddenly become left-handed. In order to present manga in its purest form, *Vagabond* is being printed to read from right to left. This way, kimono are worn with the left side over the right and the samurai's long and short swords are carried on the **left** side the way they were traditionally worn.

To properly enjoy *Vagabond*, start from the other end of this comic and read from right to left.





**This beautifully drawn series has incredible action, a hint of romance, and a strong core of Japanese history...this book now has the possibility of taking off like a rocket with the American audience.**

**—Troy Brownfield, Shotgun Reviews**

Shinmen Takezo is destined to become the legendary sword-saint, Miyamoto Musashi—perhaps the most renowned samurai of all time. For now, Takezo is a cold-hearted killer, who will take on anyone in mortal combat to make a name for himself. This is the journey of a wild young brute who strives to reach enlightenment by way of the sword—fighting on the edge of death.



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