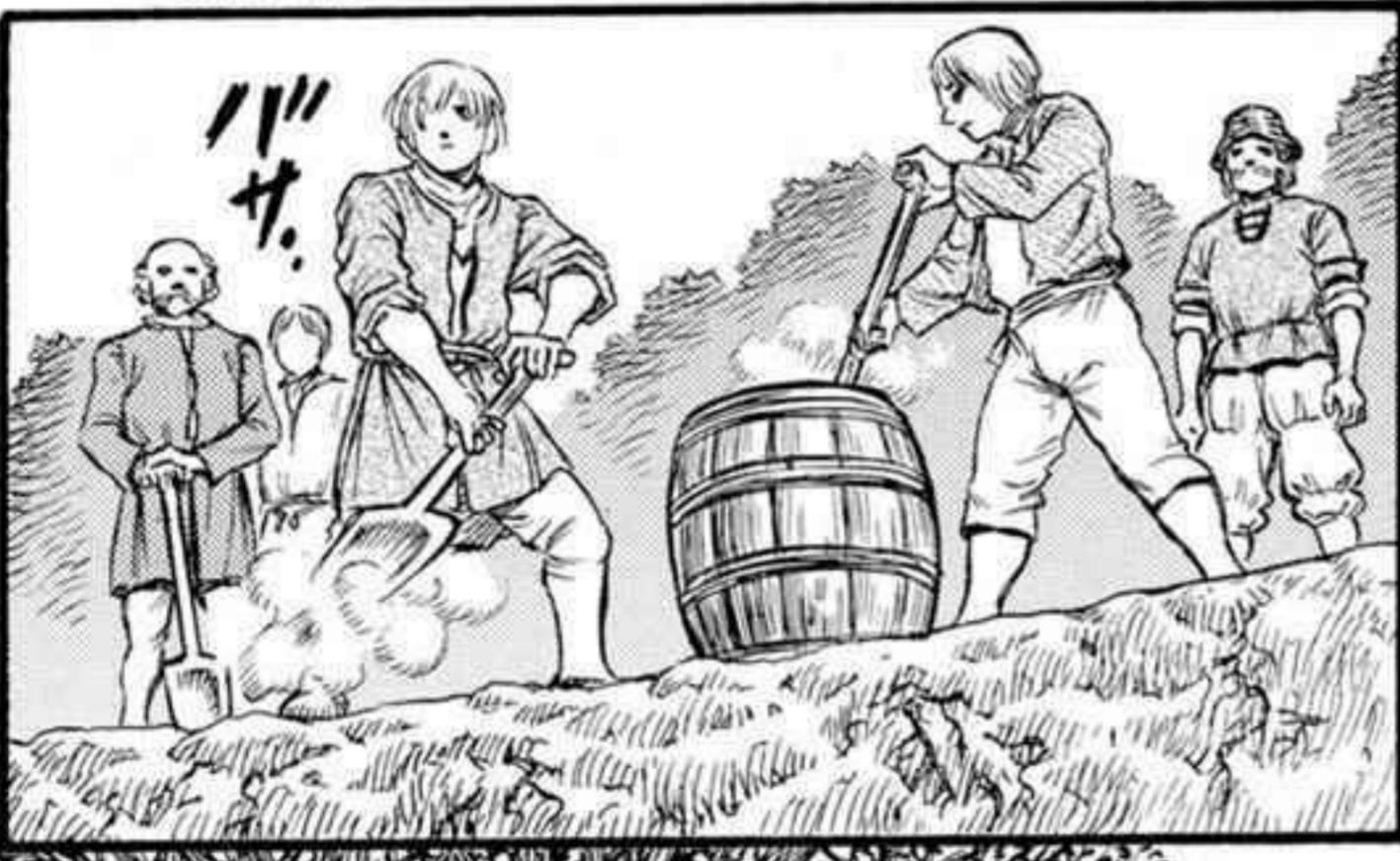


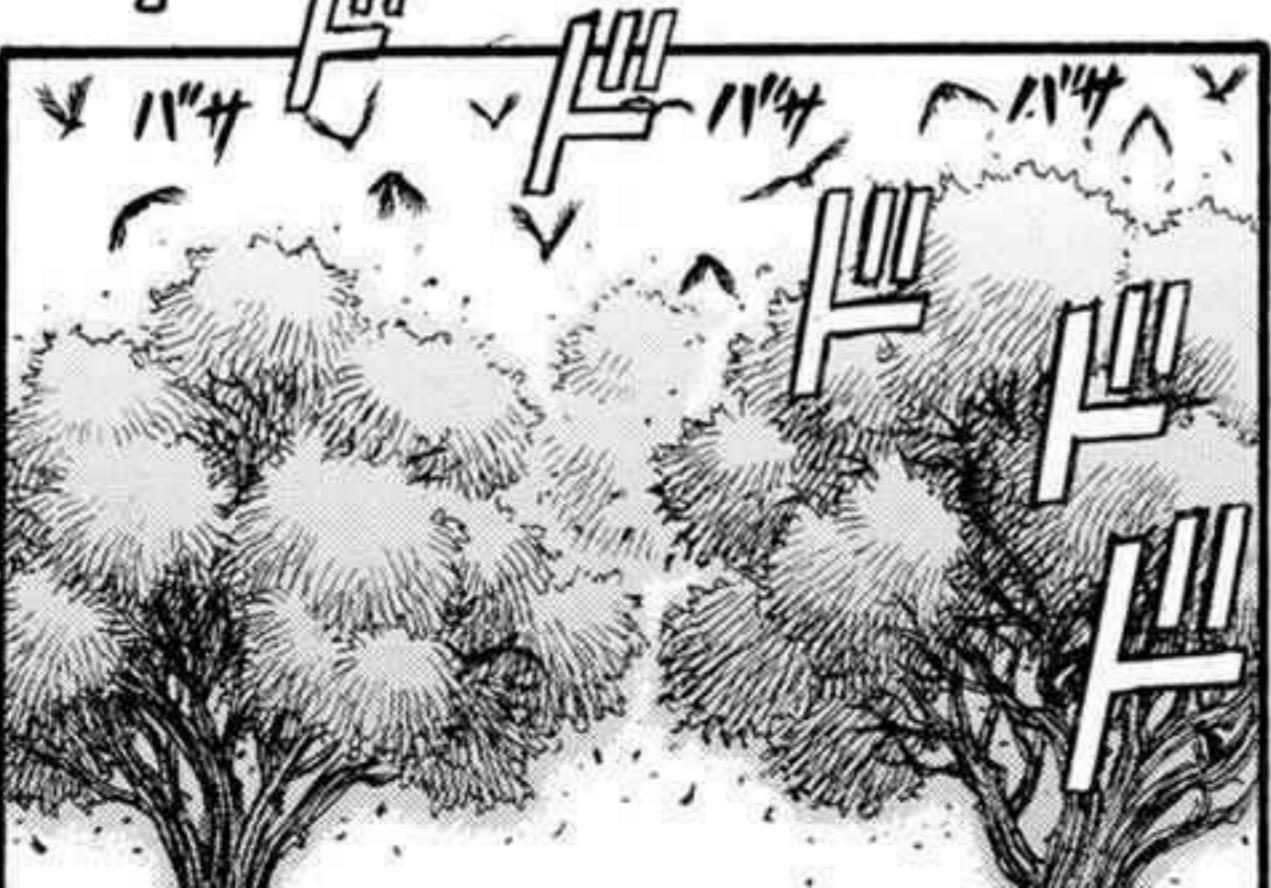
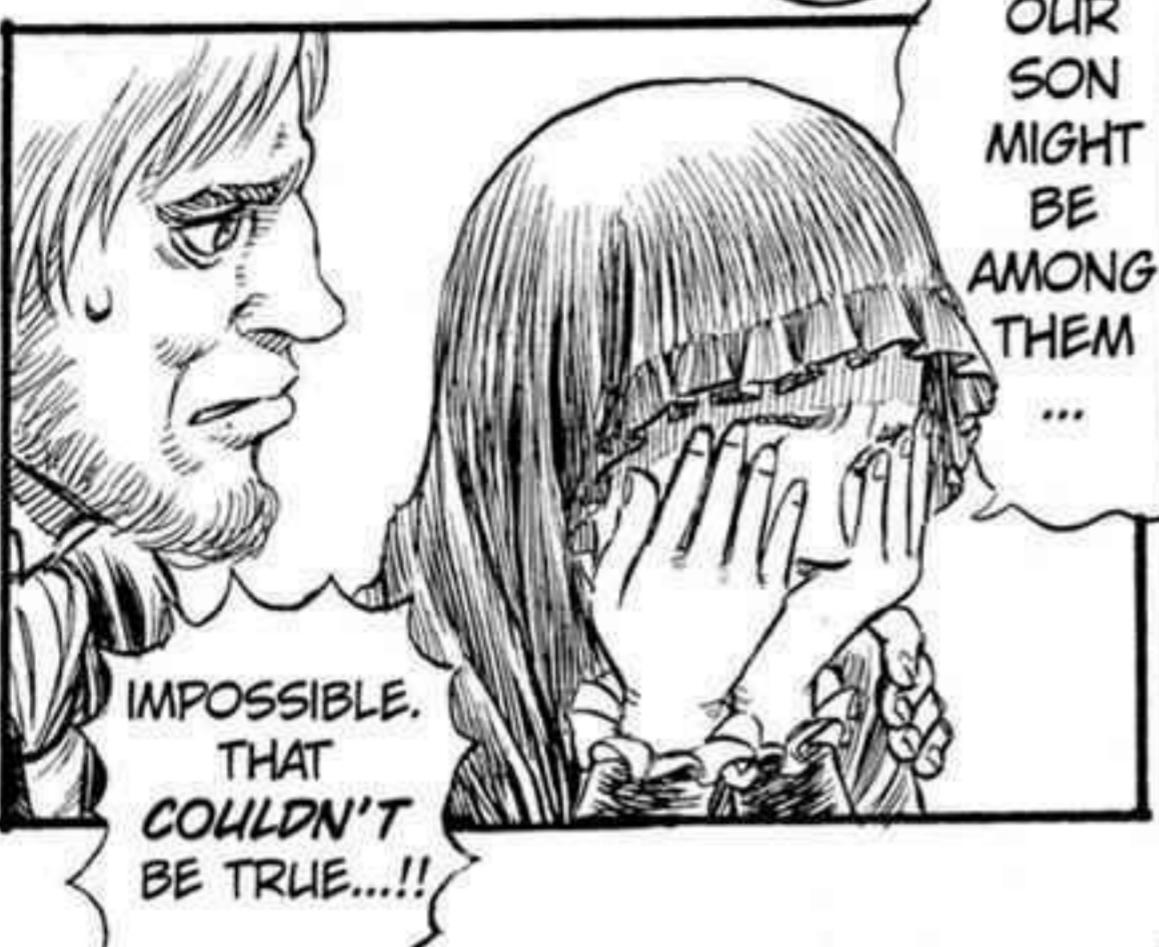


*FX: BLATA



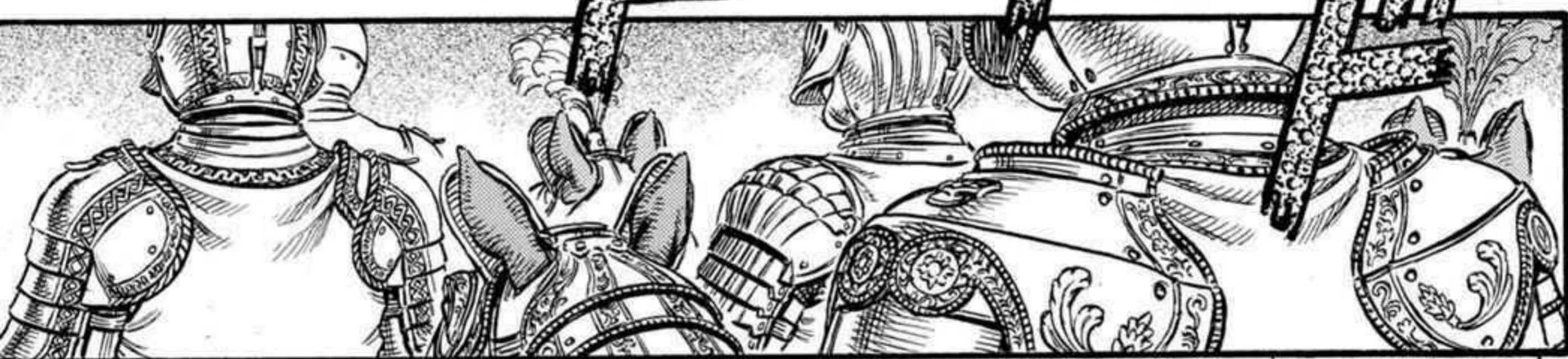
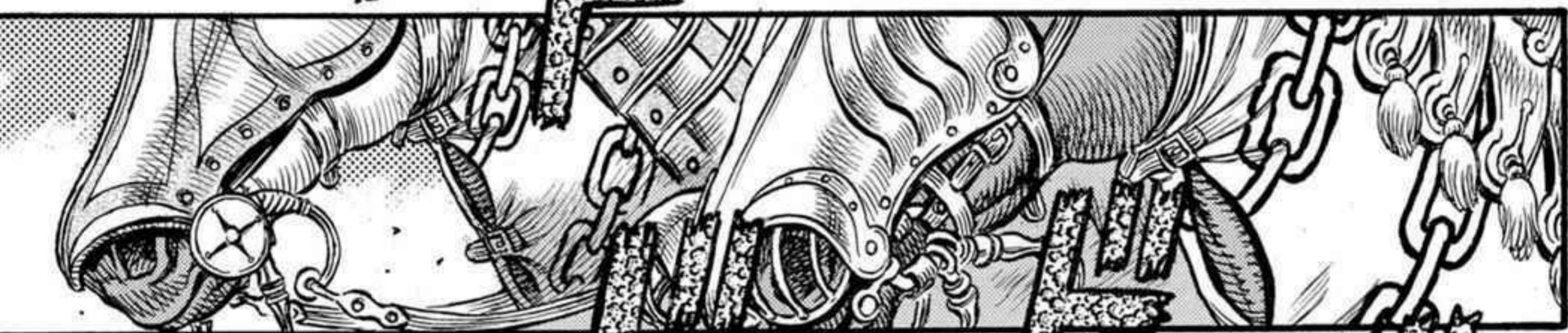
*FX: ZHA



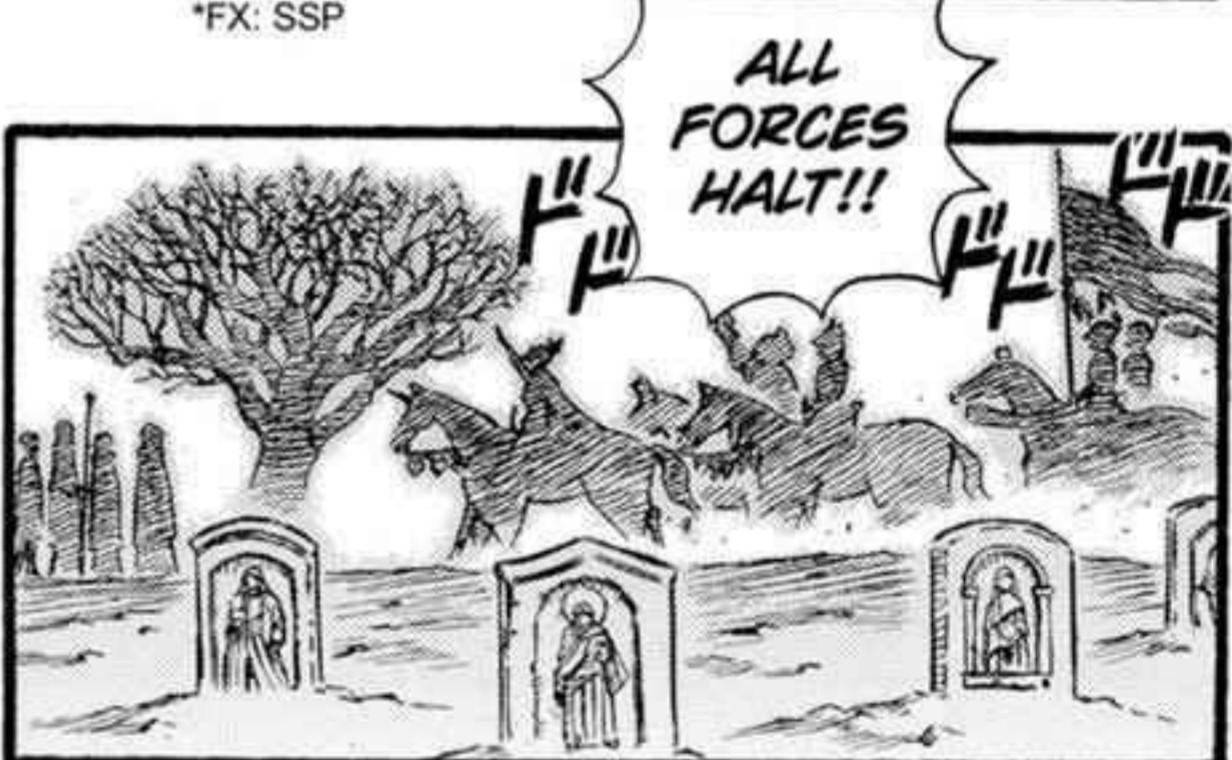
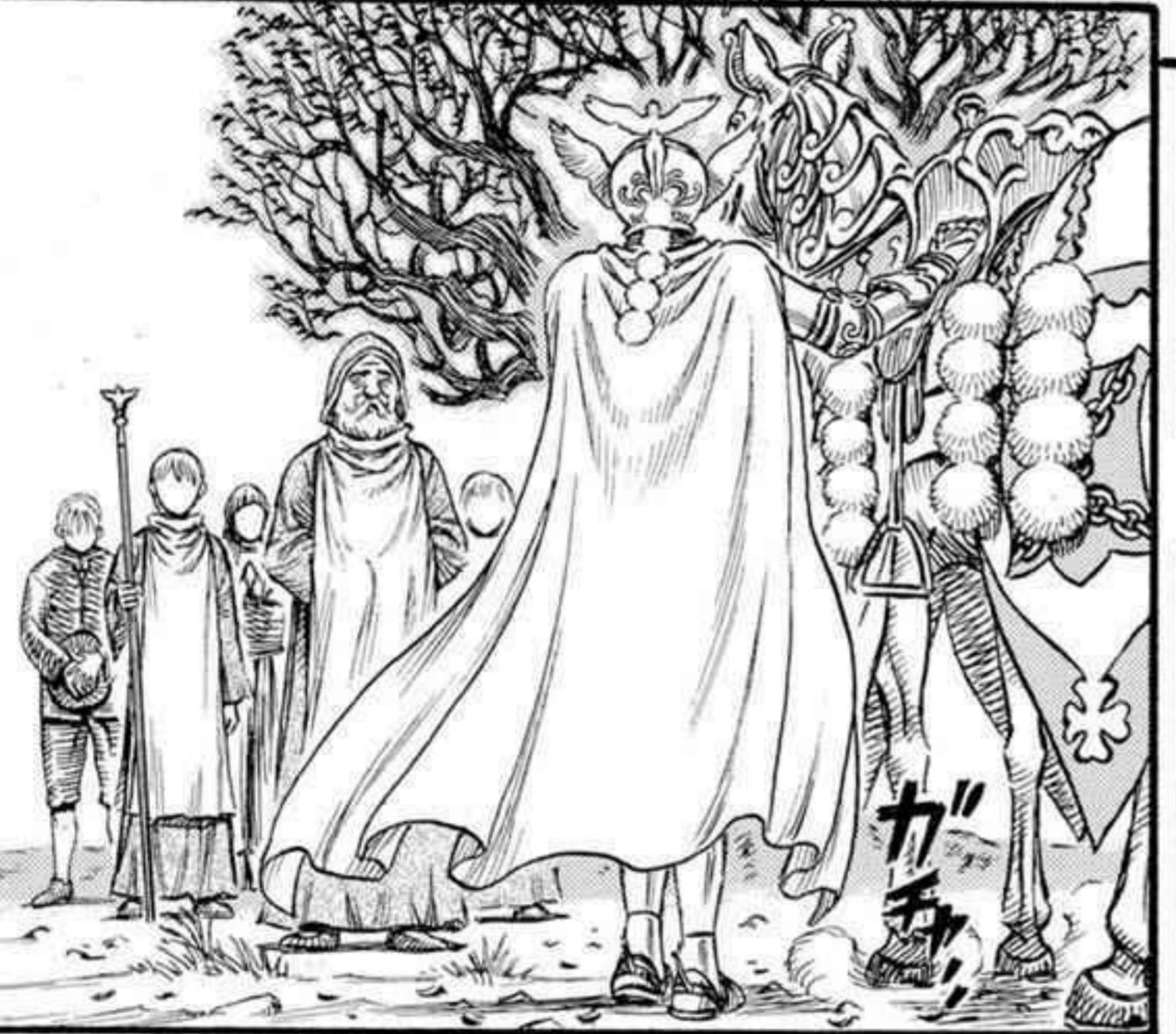




*DMDMDMDMDMDM







BUT
WHY IN A
REGION
AS
REMOTE
AS
THIS?

MIRACLE
RECOGNI-
TION...

I BEG
YOUR
PARDON
IN THAT
REGARD.

I AM
FARNESE,
LEADER OF
THE HOLY
IRON CHAIN
KNIGHTS.

WE HAVE
BEEN SENT
TO THIS PLACE
BY THE HOLY
SEE ON A
MISSION
OF MIRACLE
RECOGNITION.

INCIDENTALLY,
WHAT IS
THIS...?

THOUGH
I CAN
OFFER
NO HOS-
PITALITY.

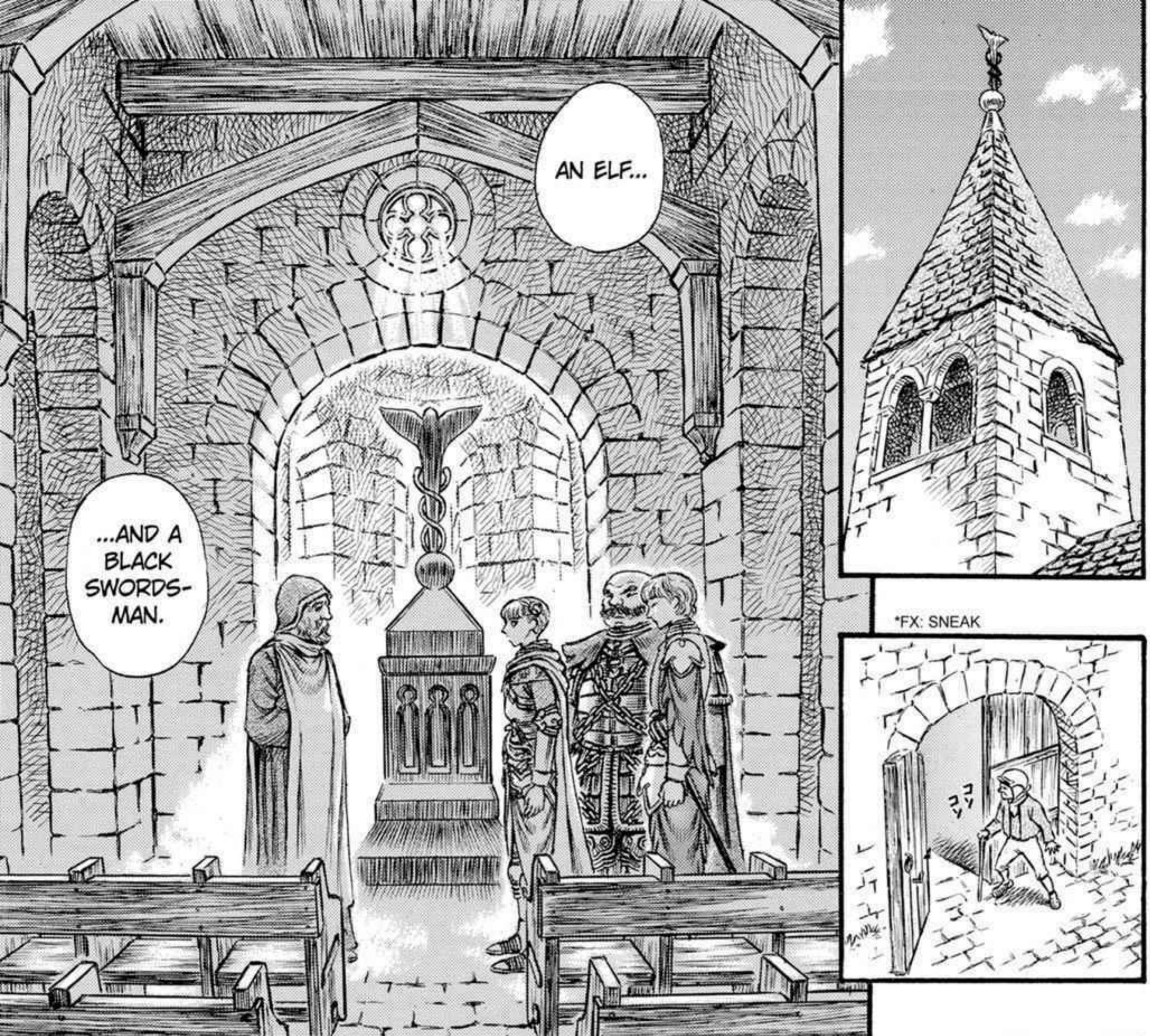
PLEASE,
WE MUST
SPEAK
IN THE
VILLAGE
CHAPEL.

ASSIST
WITH THE
BURIAL IN
SHIFTS!!

ALL
FORCES,
A BRIEF
REST!!

YES, AYE!
AZAN,
SERPIO,
ACCOMPANY
ME!





*FX: SNEAK



BUT IT IS
TO CONFIRM
THAT
AUTHENTICITY
THAT WE
HAVE BEEN
SENT TO
THIS PLACE.

WHICH
MEANS...?

THAT
CERTAINLY
IS HARD
TO
BELIEVE,
ALL AT
ONCE.

...BUT IN
GOD'S
NAME,
ALL OF
IT IS
TRUE.
AND
THOSE
CHILDREN,
AS YOU
SAW
THEM...

YOU
MAY
NOT
BELIEVE
THE
STORY...

WE
ARE...

I
CANNOT
DIVULGE
TO YOU
THE
DETAILS
...

...THAT MANY
REGIONS HAVE
SEEN REPEATED
INCIDENTS OF
PLAGUE AND
POOR HARVESTS
THESE PAST
FEW YEARS.

BUT I
THINK
YOU ARE
AWARE
...

IN ADDITION,
WILD RUMORS
HAVE AGAIN
BECOME
COMMONLY
SPREAD.

...FOLLOWING
THAT BLACK
SWORDSMAN.

WILD
RUMORS
...?

EYEWITNESS REPORTS
TO THE HOLY SEE OF
SPECTERS AND MONSTERS
HAVE INCREASED THESE
PAST TWO OR THREE
YEARS.

THEREFORE IT IS
UNTHINKABLE FOR
THE HOLY SEE TO
MOVE ON EACH AND
EVERY ONE...

OF
COURSE,
NEARLY ALL
OF THEM ARE
NOTHING
MORE THAN
BASELESS
FALSEHOODS.

OF EVIL
SPIRITS AND
SUCH
THINGS.

BUT MYSTERIOUSLY,
AMONG THOSE
EYEWITNESS REPORTS
THERE IS ONE
COMMON ACCOUNT
THAT SURFACES.

THAT IS...

...THE
BLACK
SWORDSMAN.

...TO OUR
SURPRISE,
ALMOST
EVERY TIME
WE CAME
UPON SOME
GRISLY
INCIDENT.

WHEN WE
TRACED
THIS MAN'S
STEPS WHILE
RELYING
UPON THESE
RUMORS...

...
ANOTHER
ONE.

AND
NOW...

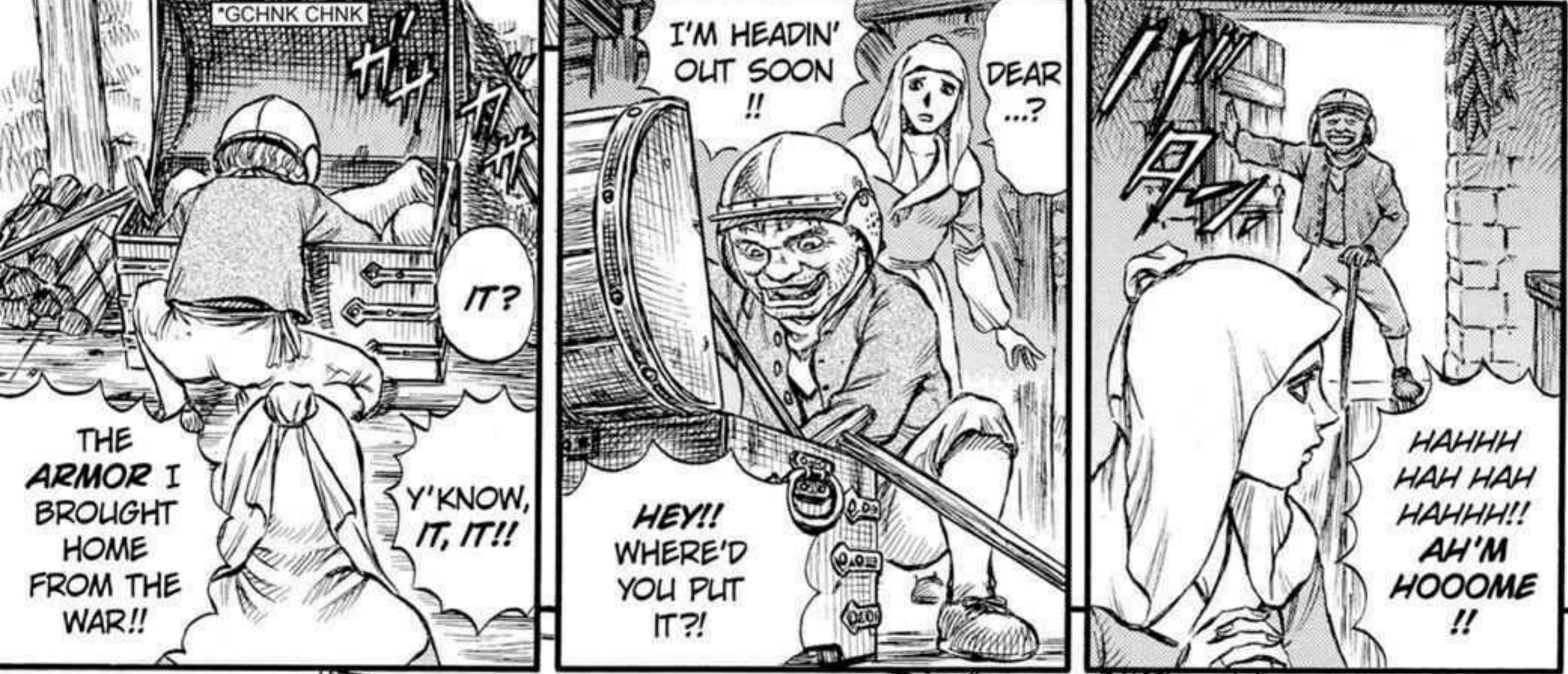
OR IS HE MERELY
A VILLAINOUS
CRIMINAL TO WHOM
EXAGGERATED
RUMORS HAVE
BEEN ATTACHED?

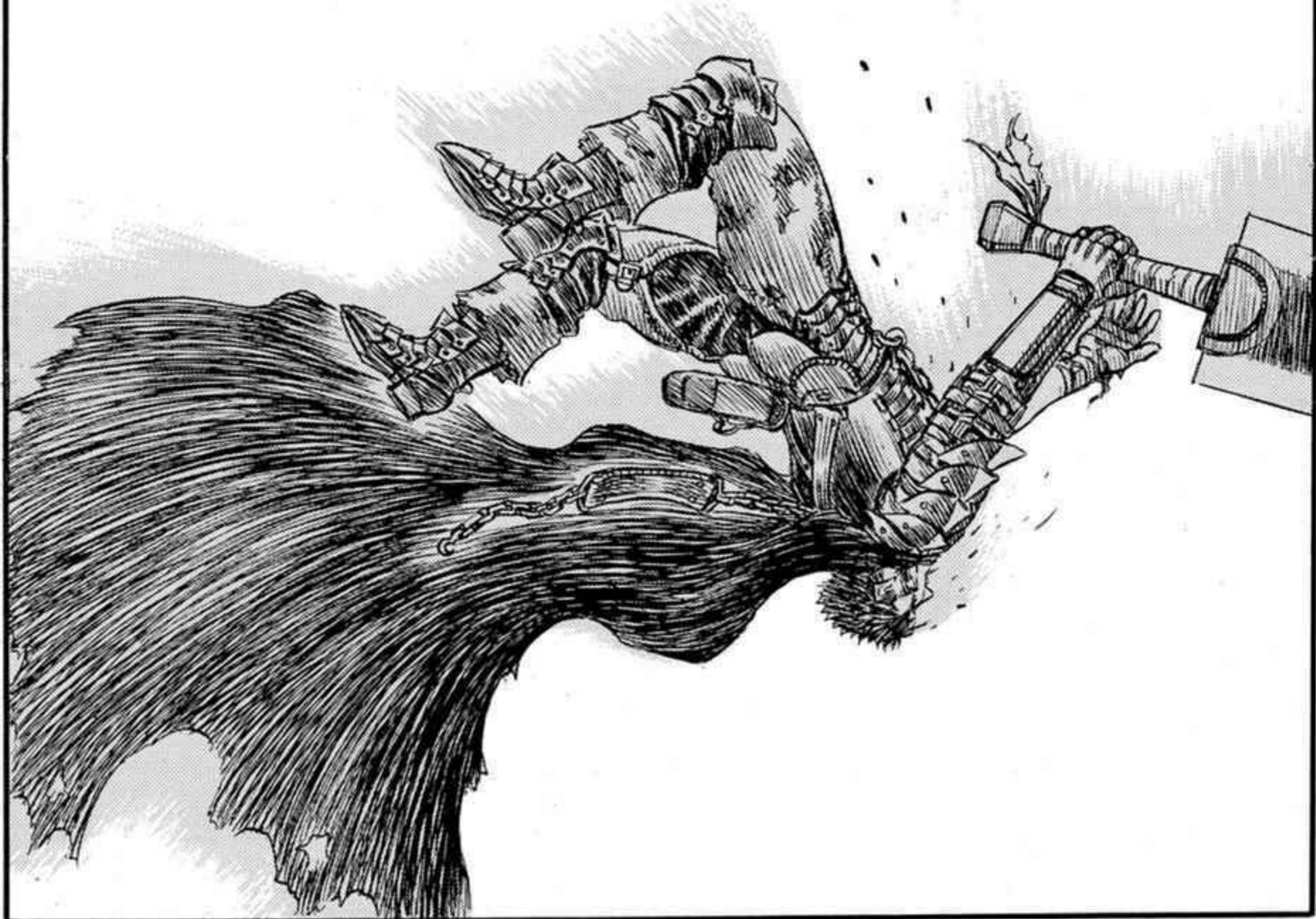
OR
POSSIBLY
...

IS HE NOTHING
MORE THAN AN
IMAGINED VISION
BORN FROM
THE UNREST OF
THE PEOPLE?

WHO
IS THAT
MAN?





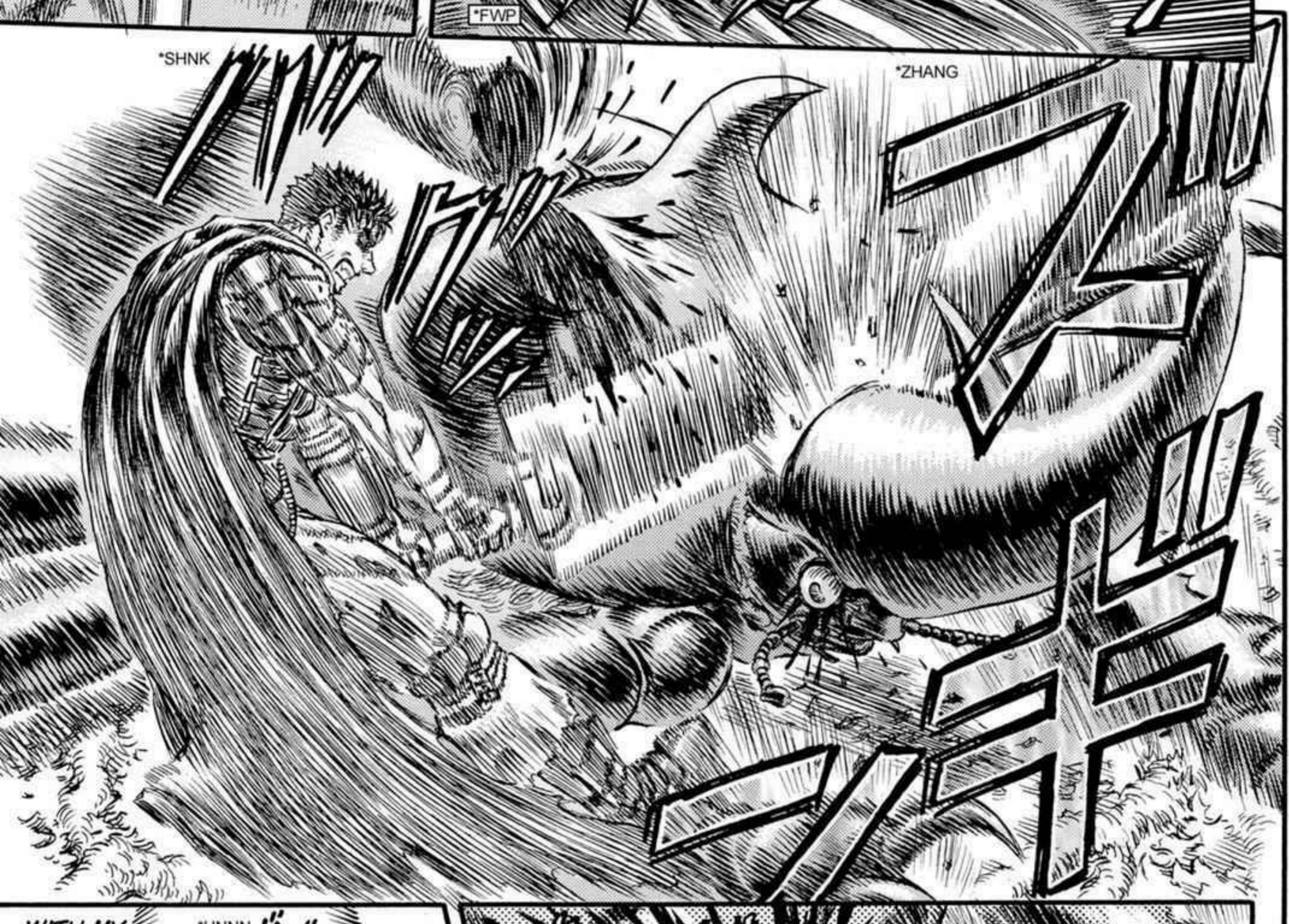


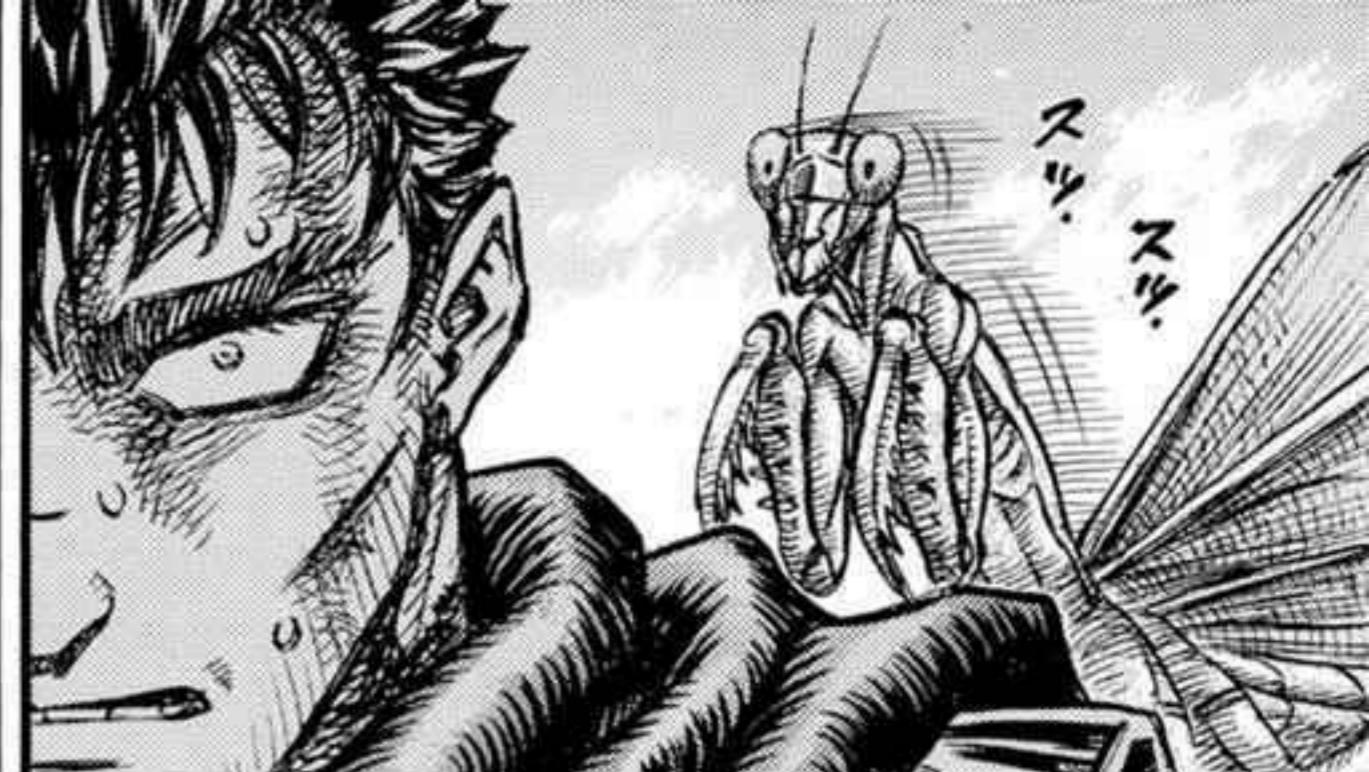








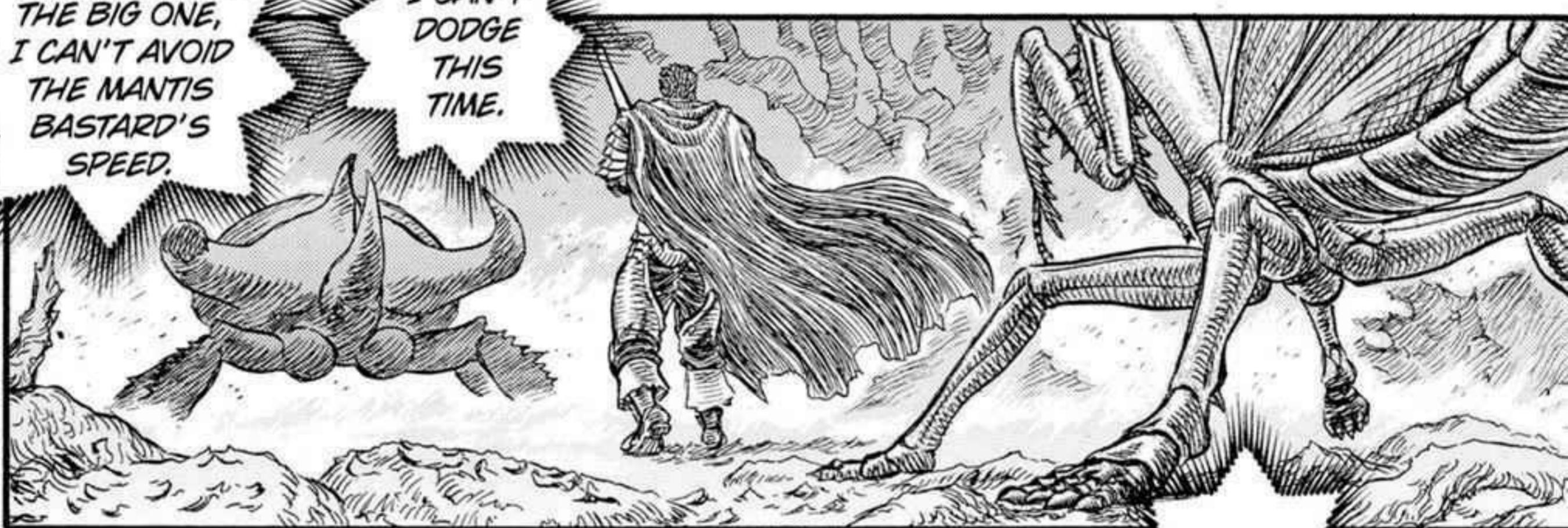




AT THE
SAME
TIME...

EVEN IF I DODGE
THE BIG ONE,
I CAN'T AVOID
THE MANTIS
BASTARD'S
SPEED.

I CAN'T
DODGE
THIS
TIME.



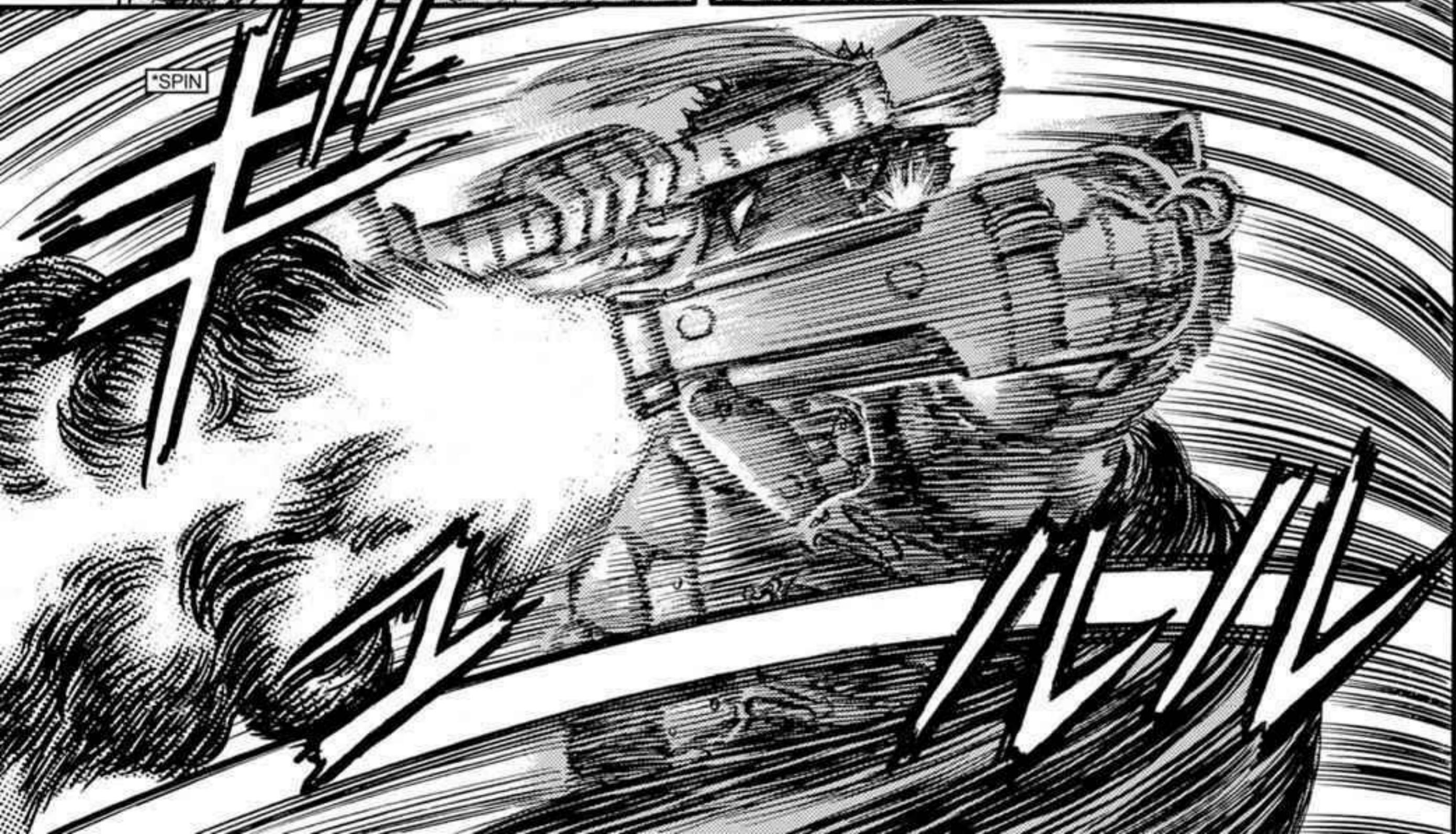
*FX: ZHA ZHA ZHA ZHA

...TO
KILL IN
FRONT
...

WHAT
DO I
DO...

*FX: ZOON ZOON

...AND IN
BACK AT
THE SAME
TIME...!?





CONVICTION ARC
LOST CHILDREN CHAPTER
PURSUITERS: END