ベルセルク

6

三浦建太郎

KENTARO MIURA

ベルセルク

BERSERK ⑥

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...I PUT MYSELF IN HARM'S WAY FOR YOUR SAKE?
TELL ME, DO I NEED A REASON EACH TIME...
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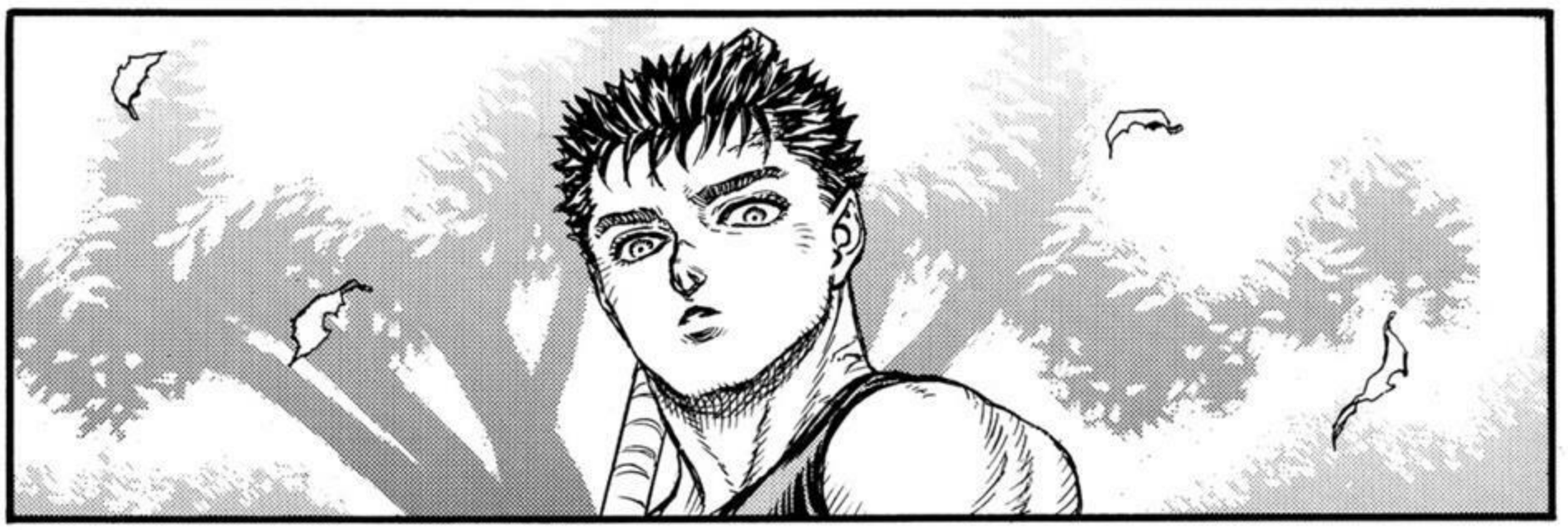
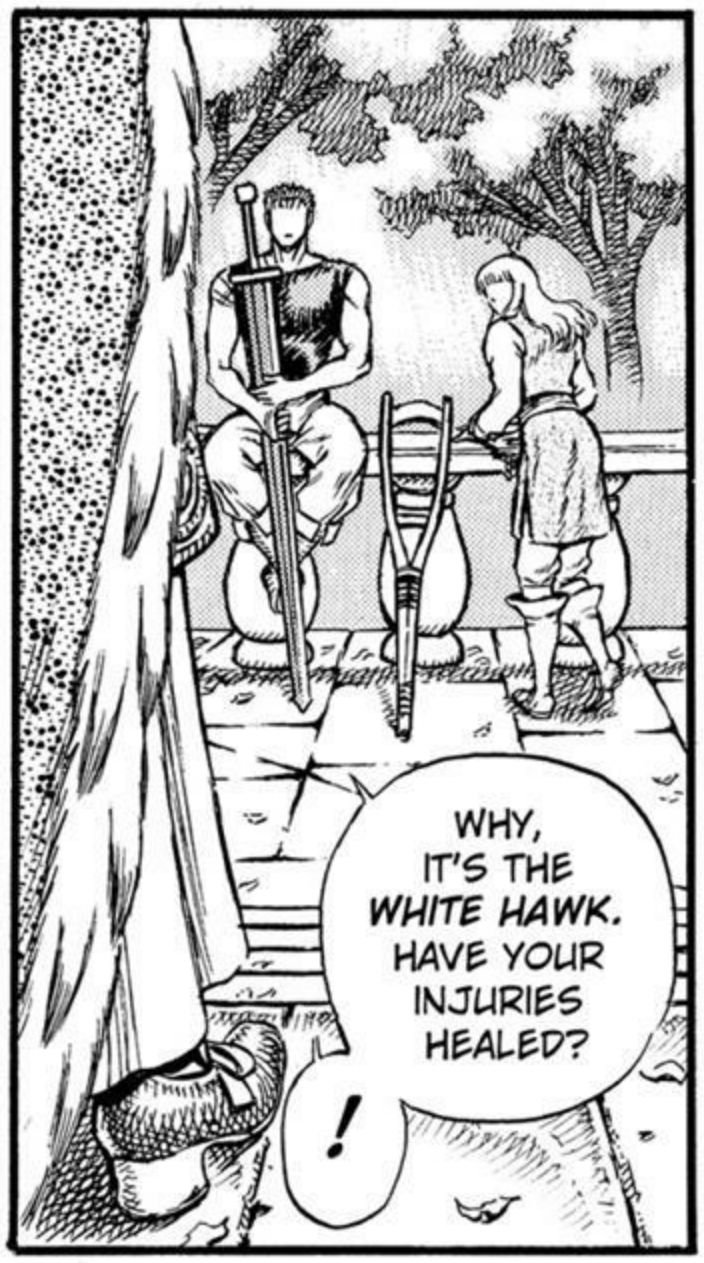
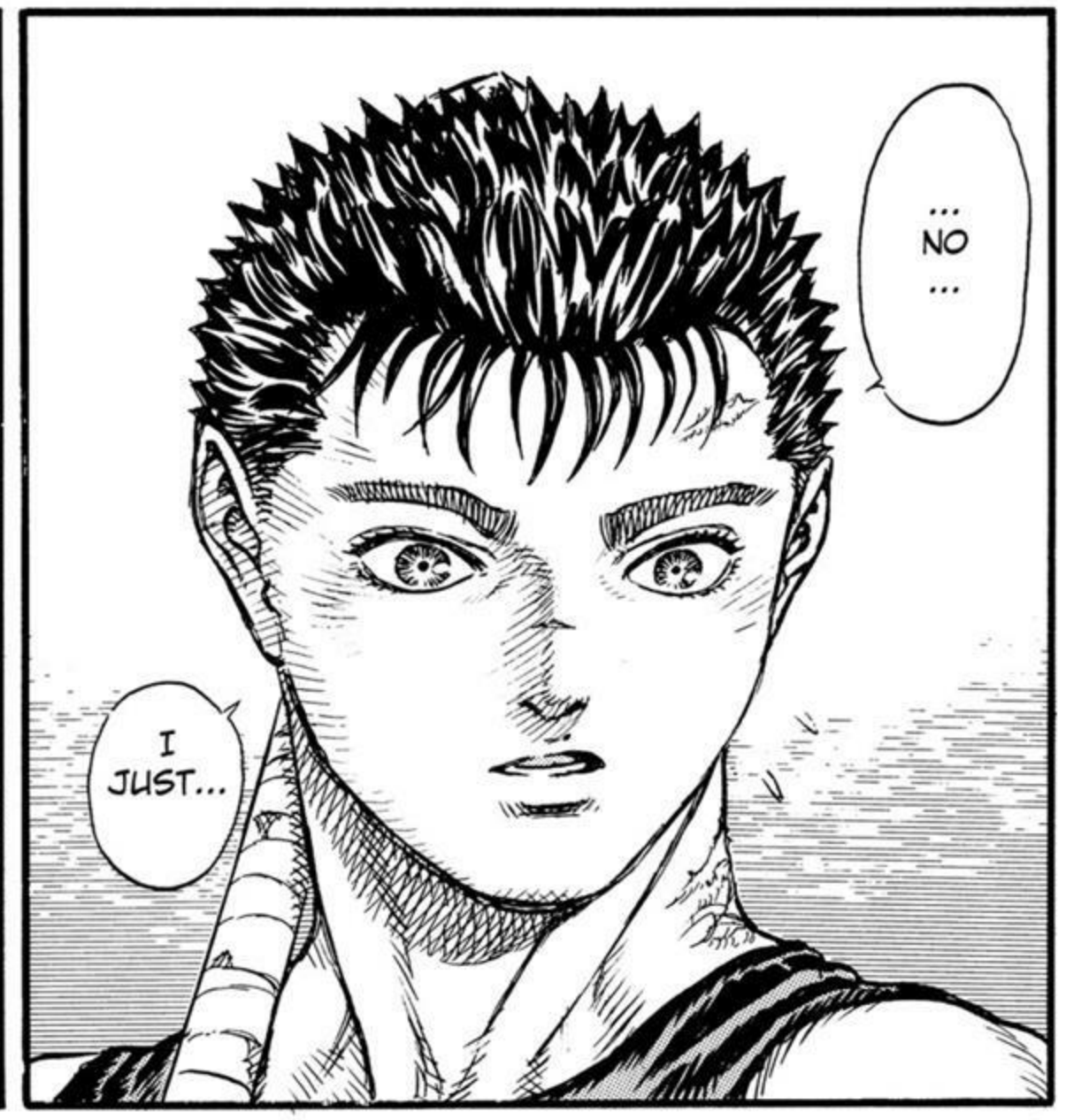
剣の主(2)
MASTER OF THE SWORD
CHAPTER 2




WHY, IT'S THE WHITE HAWK. HAVE YOUR INJURIES HEALED?
!


... NO ...
I JUST...

HEY, GUTS.
!
....
....

YOUR MAJESTY.
...WHY...

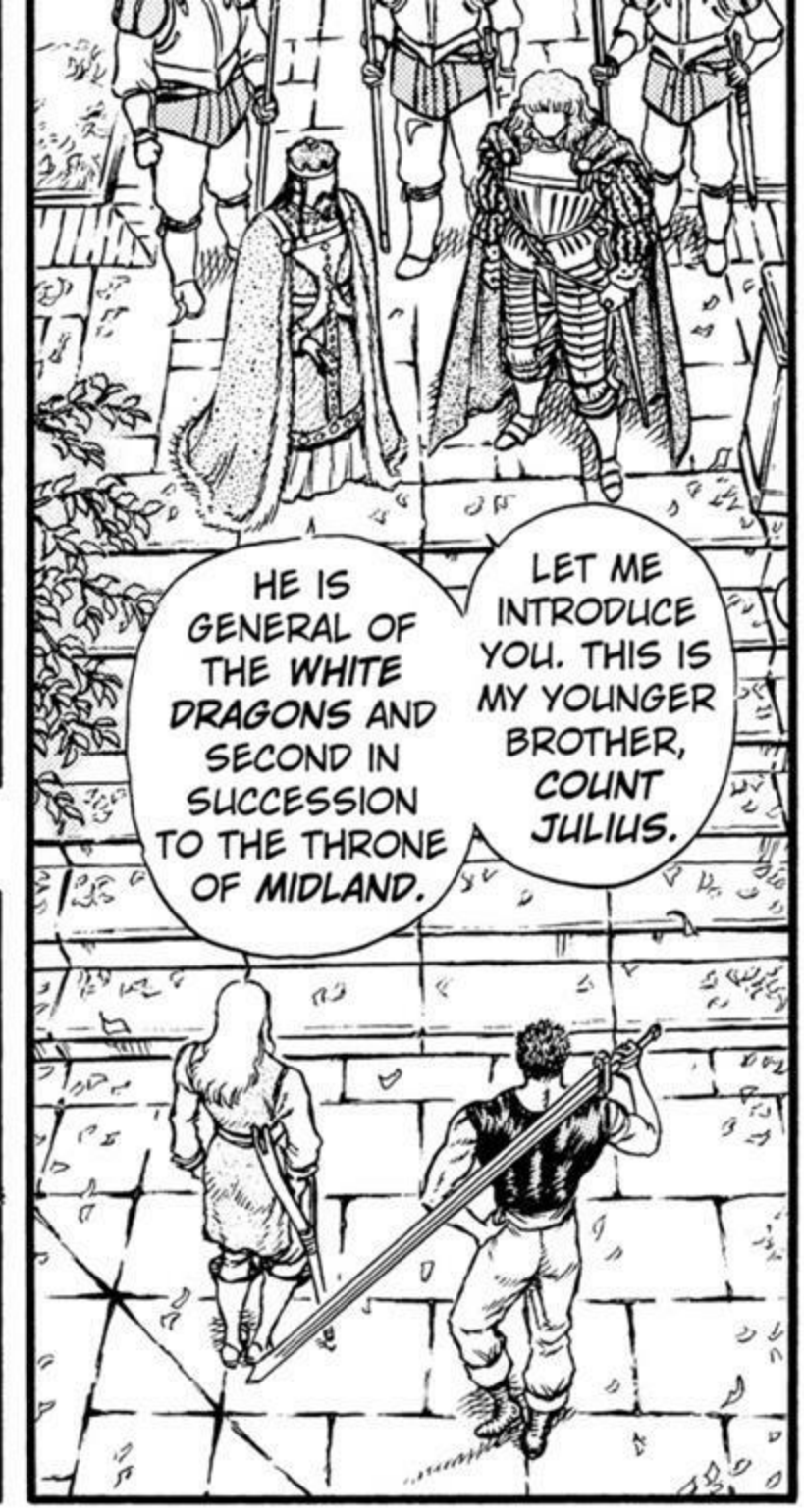
....
....

YOU ARE BEFORE THE KING!! HOW DARE YOU?!
YOU THERE !!

NO MATTER...
BUT, SIRE...
RAISE YOUR HEADS. I AM SIMPLY ON A STROLL.

I AM GRIFFITH, PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

-:HMPH.:-


HE IS GENERAL OF THE WHITE DRAGONS AND SECOND IN SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF MIDLAND.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER, COUNT JULIUS.

THERE IS NOT EVEN A MOMENT'S REST TO BE HAD...
THE CASTLE IS TEEMING WITH AGITATION FROM ALL THE SUCCESSIVE BATTLES AND WAR COUNCILS.

....
MY GRACIOUS THANKS.
...ARE ALWAYS MOST IMPRESSIVE.
INCIDENTALLY, SIR GRIFFITH, THE BATTLEFIELD EXPLOITS OF YOUR BAND OF THE HAWK...
I RECALL WHEN OF OLD MY SUBJECTS AND I WOULD RUN ABOUT THE BATTLEFIELD... ALAS, WHEN I WAS YOUNG...
WHEN I SEE THE DARING VALOR WITH WHICH YOU ALL FIGHT, IT MAKES EVEN THIS OLD MAN'S BLOOD SEEM TO BOIL...

NOR DO THEY FEED THE PEOPLE. THESE *ARE* TROUBLED TIMES.

BUT PRESTIGE, STATUS AND THE LIKE DO NOT WIN BATTLES.

SPEAKING THAT WAY WITH A *MERE* TROOP COMMANDER...

SIRE.

COME, THERE IS NO WRONG IN IT.

THEY SAY THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THOSE OF COMMON ORIGIN WILL REFLECT *POORLY* ON OUR ARMY'S PRESTIGE.

IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE STATESMEN WHO DO NOT THINK FAVORABLY OF SUCH PEOPLE...

...IT IS COMMON *DRAFTEES* SUCH AS YOURSELF, NOT TAKEN IN BY STATUS, WHO WILL HELP FORM THE *CORNERSTONE* OF THIS KINGDOM.

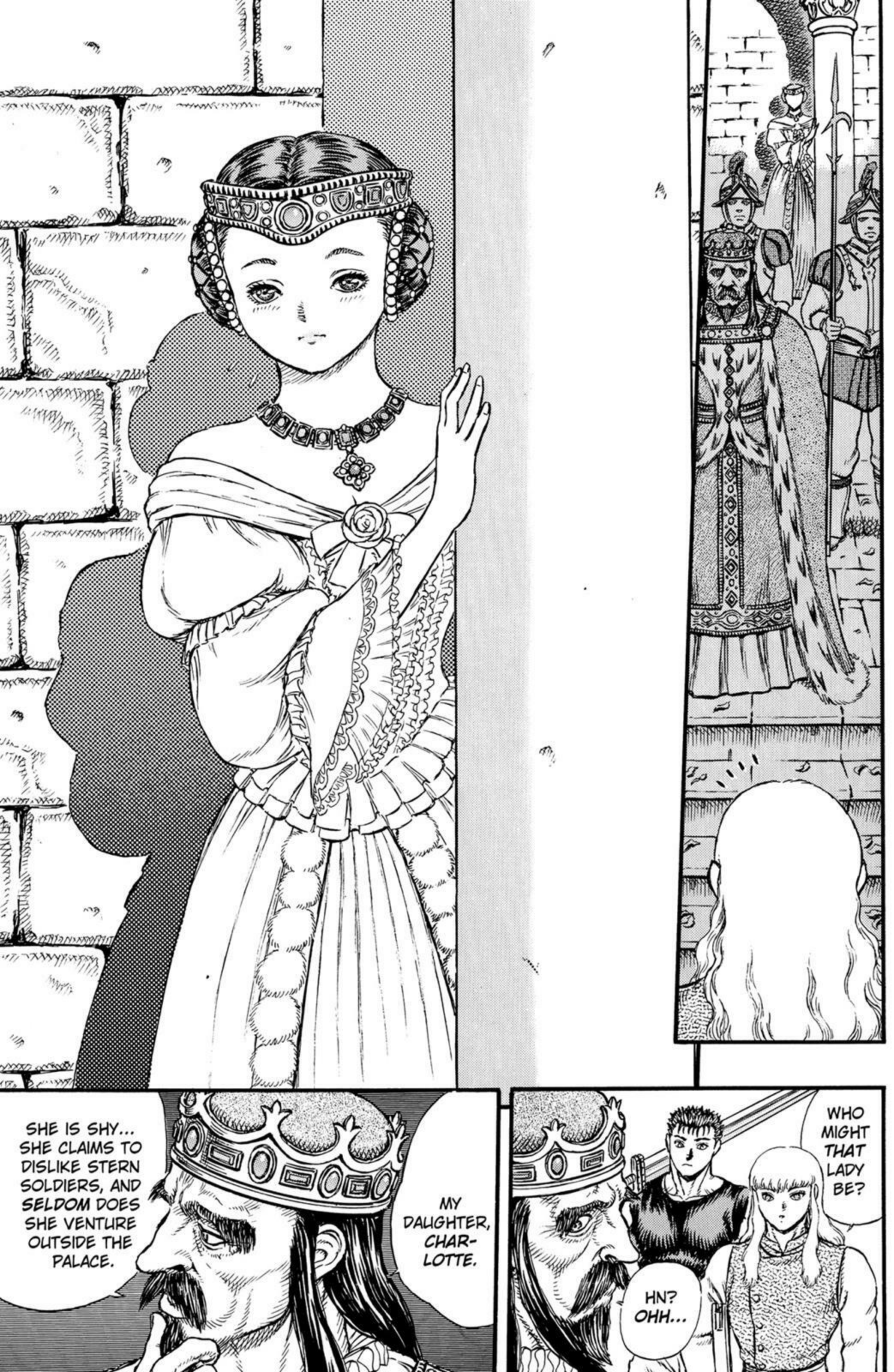
I ANTICIPATE THAT RATHER THAN NOBLE GENERALS WHO ARE BOUND TO OLD CUSTOMS...

...I AM *MOST* GRATEFUL.

FOR YOUR SINCERE WORDS OF THANKS...

CH!

....
....


SHE IS SHY... SHE CLAIMS TO DISLIKE STERN SOLDIERS, AND SELDOM DOES SHE VENTURE OUTSIDE THE PALACE.
MY DAUGHTER, CHAR-LOTTE.
WHO MIGHT THAT LADY BE?
HN? OHH...

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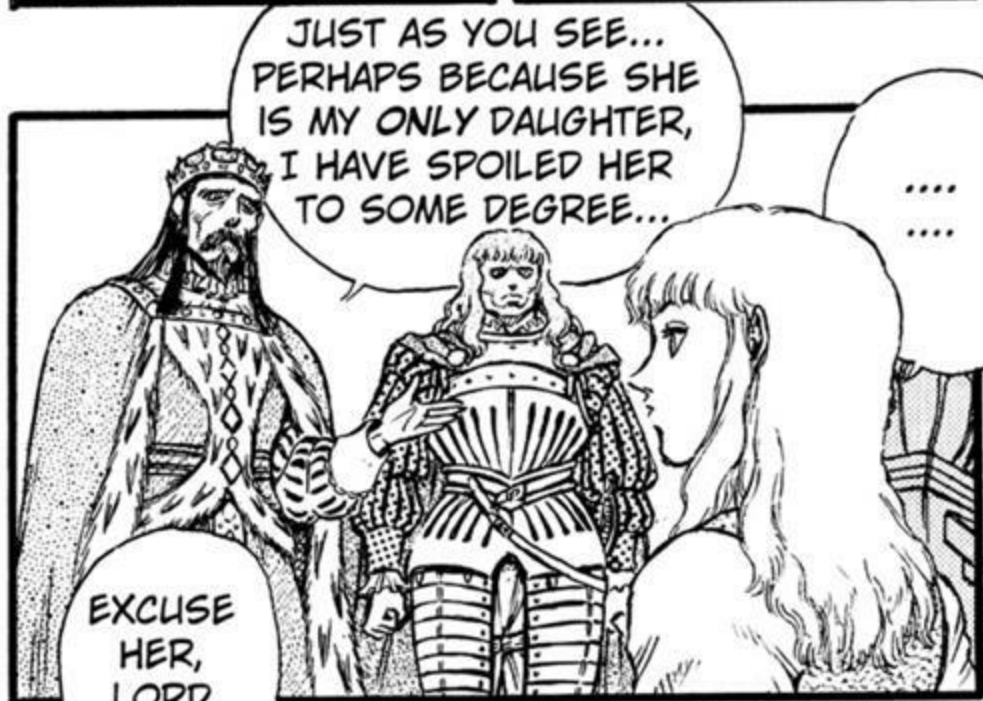
CHAR-
LOTTE.


JUST AS YOU SEE...
PERHAPS BECAUSE SHE
IS MY ONLY DAUGHTER,
I HAVE SPOILED HER
TO SOME DEGREE...
....
....
EXCUSE
HER,
LORD
GRIFFITH.

....
....
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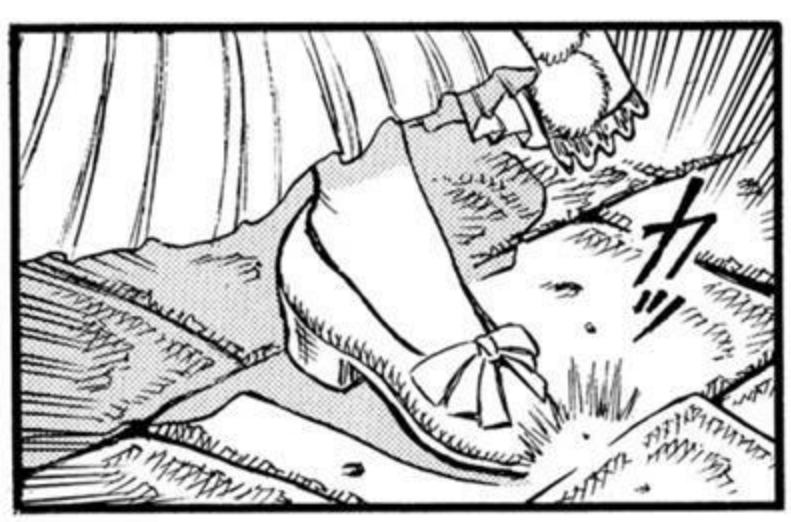
COME,
LET US
GO,
CHARLOTTE.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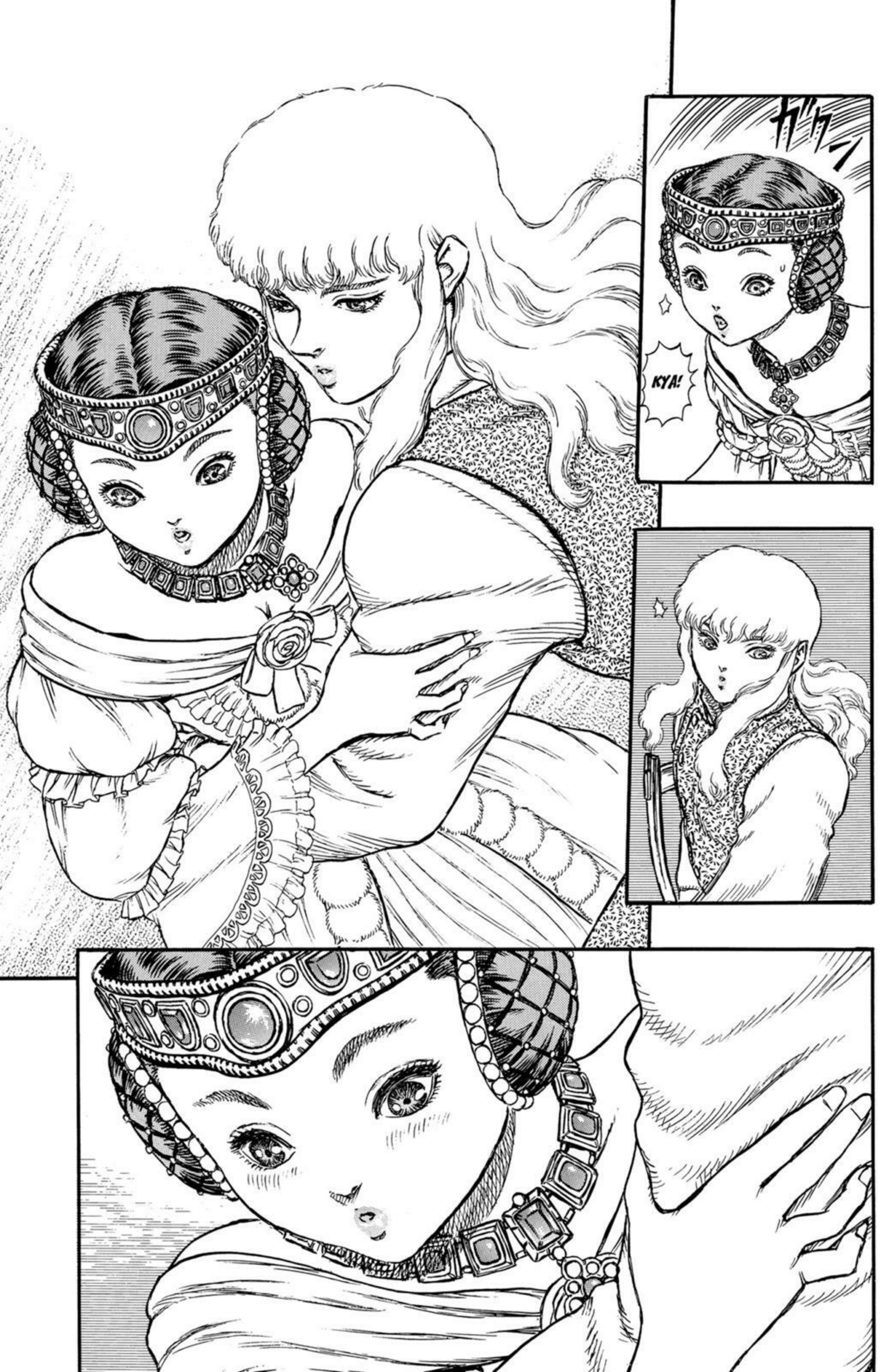

ガクン
KYA!

PLEASE, BE CARE-FUL.

... ...

YOUR PARDON.

YOU BASTARD!!

HOW DARE YOU TOUCH THE PRINCESS!!

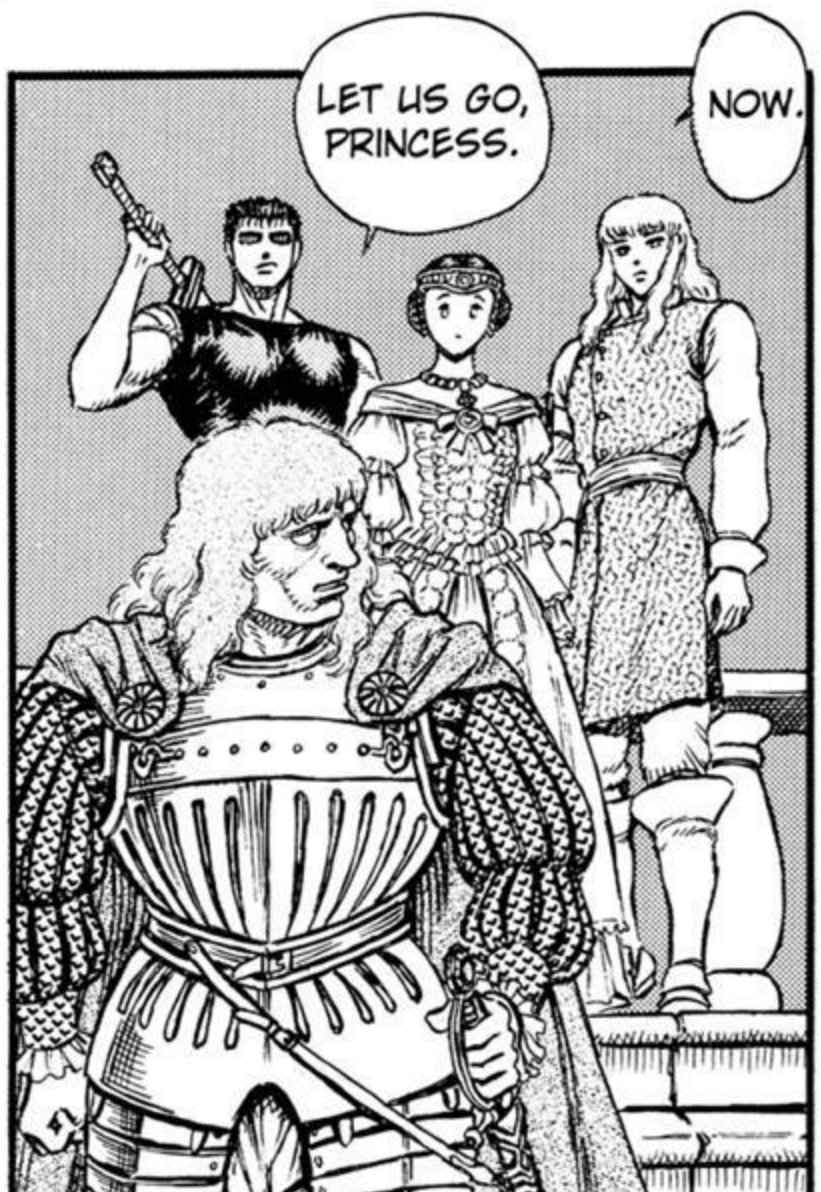
!

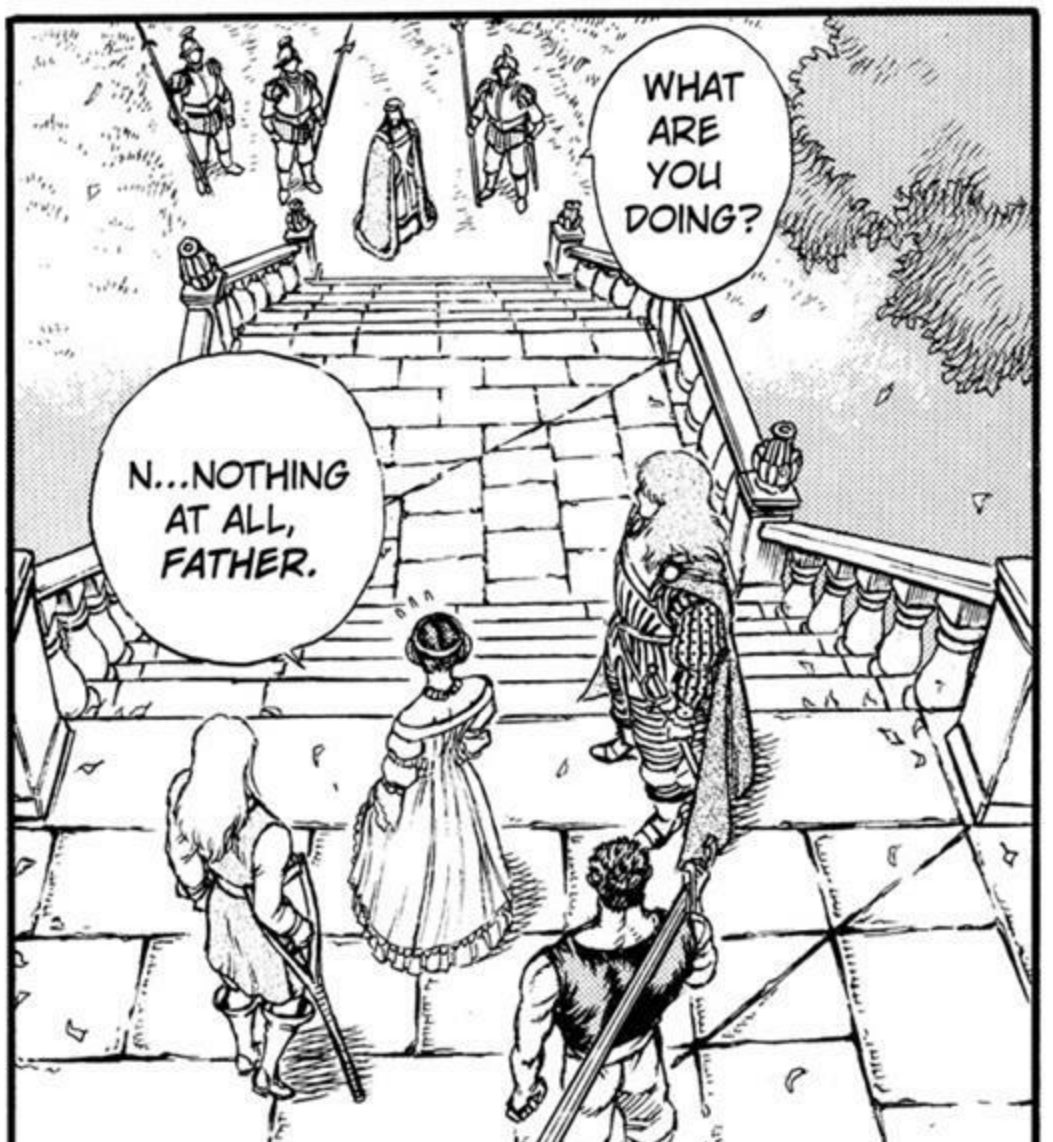
!

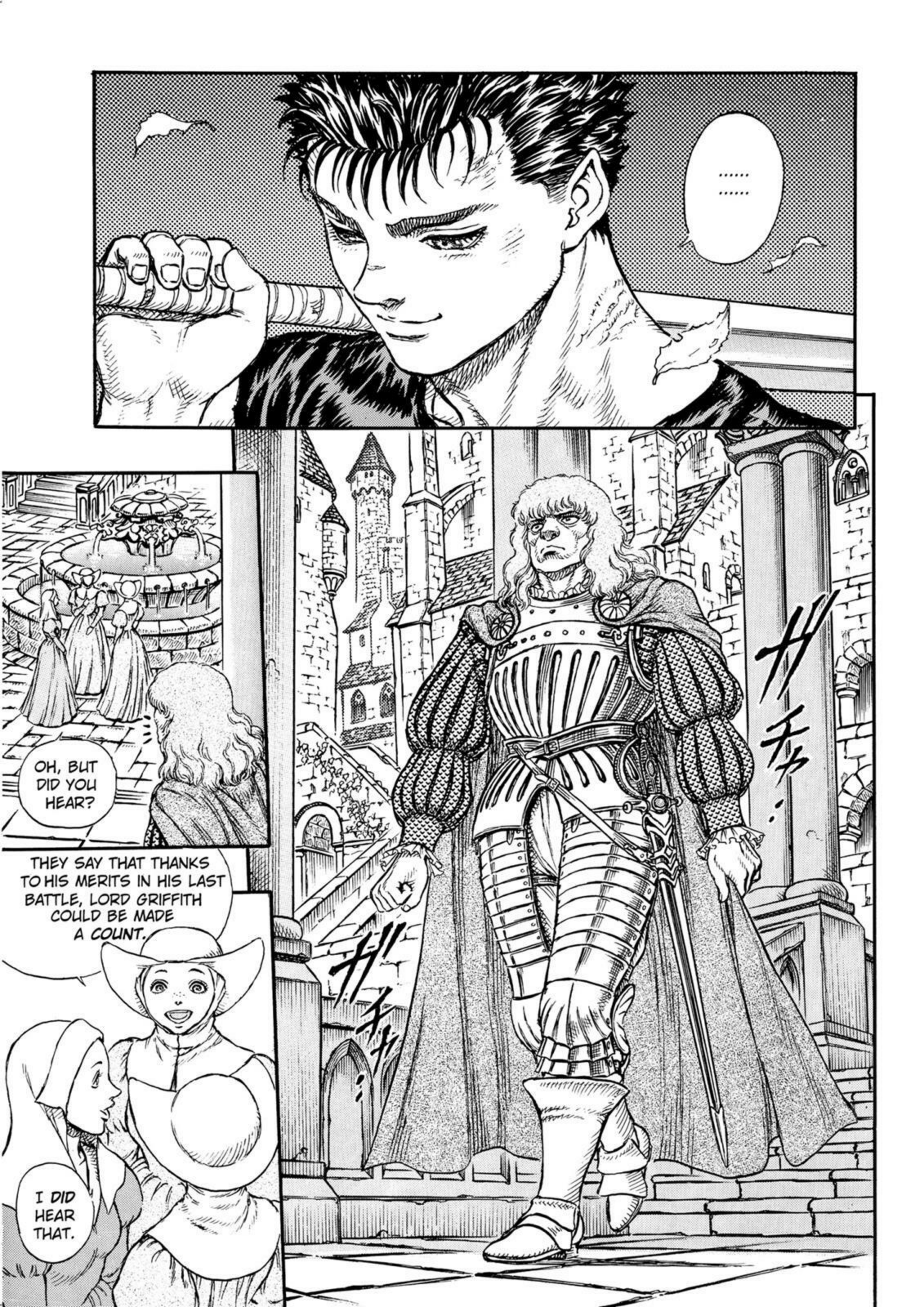
HEY, PAL!!

PLEASE, PARDON MY RUDENESS.

YOUR LORDSHIP, GENERAL JULIUS.






.....
.....
OH, BUT DID YOU HEAR?
THEY SAY THAT THANKS TO HIS MERITS IN HIS LAST BATTLE, LORD GRIFFITH COULD BE MADE A COUNT.
I DID HEAR THAT.
ガチャ
ガチャ

AND HE'S SO MUCH MORE REFINED THAN *THOSE* AWKWARD ARISTO-CRATS.

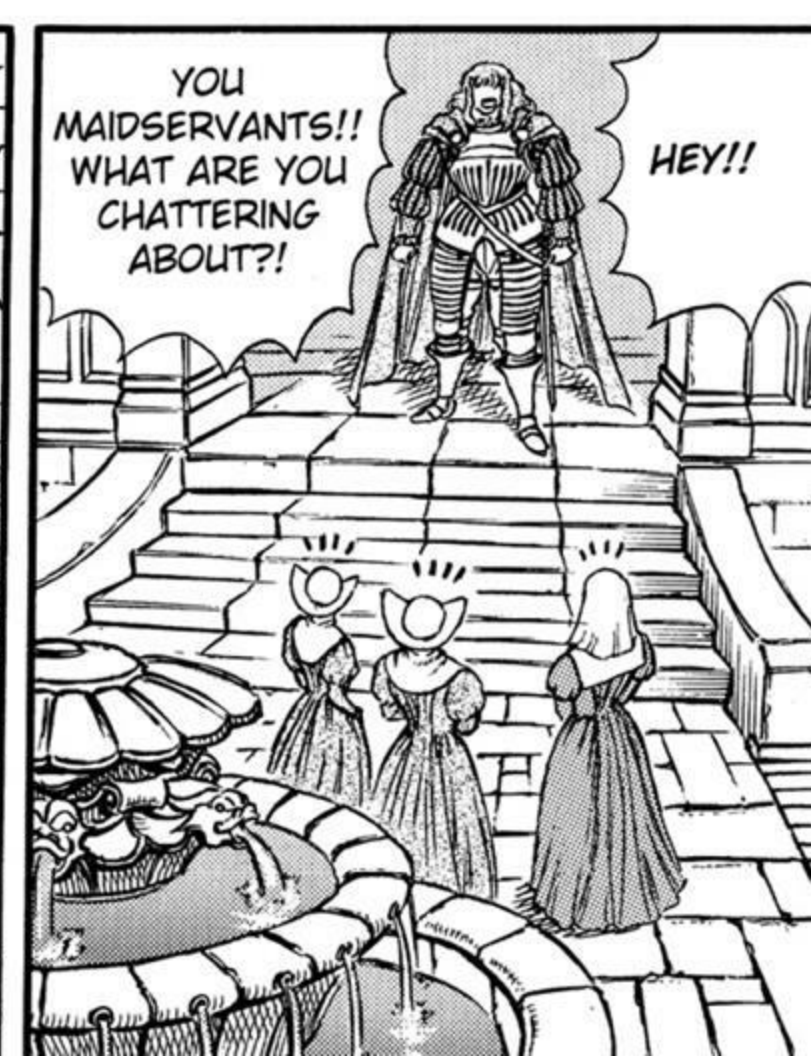
HE'S SO ELEGANT AND DIGNIFIED, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S A COMMONER LIKE US.

ON THAT NOTE, THE OFFICERS IN THE CASTLE ARE ALL SO *BOORISH* AND *RUDE!* IT'S *DISGUSTING.*

NOT ONLY THAT, HE'S LEADER OF THE STRONGEST MILITARY GROUP IN THE KINGDOM *AND* THE BEST SWORDSMAN... IT'S JUST *TOO* MUCH.

HE IS JUST *SUPERB...* EVEN PRETTIER THAN ME, AND I'M A *WOMAN.* HOW *FRUSTRATING!*

YES, THAT IT IS.



...LORD JULIUS.

YOU SEEM MOST DISTURBED...

!

SUCH A LOUD SHOUT WILL RESOUND THROUGH-OUT THE *ENTIRE* CASTLE.

MINI-STER FOSS.

IT'S CUSTOMARY THAT BE LEFT EACH YEAR TO MY *WHITE DRAGON KNIGHTS...* BUT WHAT?

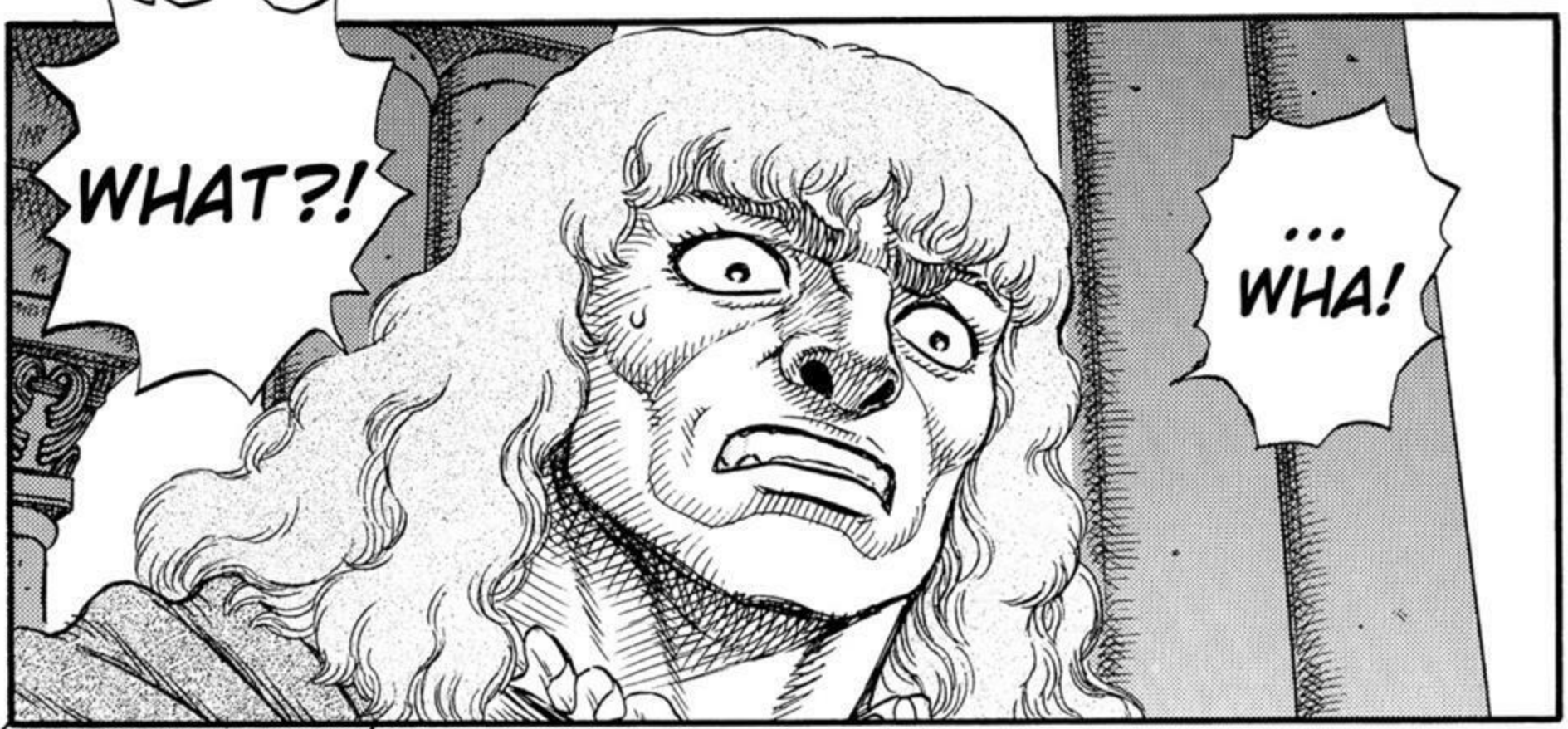
INCIDENTALLY, *GENERAL...* DID YOU HEAR THE DEBATE... ABOUT THE KING'S GUARD FOR THE UPCOMING *AUTUMN HUNT?*

IT'S *NOTHING!*

DOES SOME-THING CONCERN YOU?

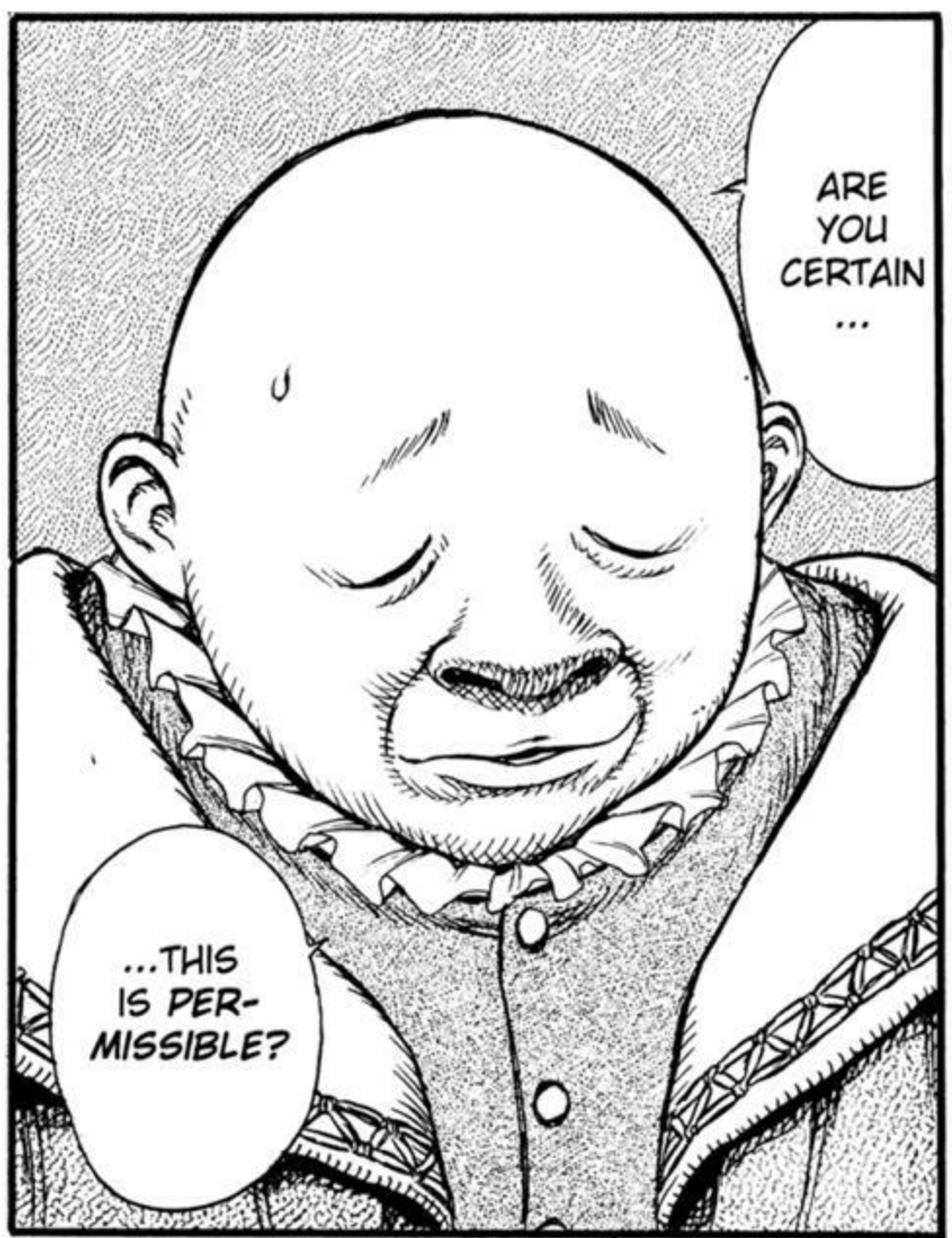
....
....

...THAT THIS YEAR IT WILL BE THE BAND OF THE HAWK.
I HEAR IT WAS DETERMINED BY THE KING'S COMMAND...

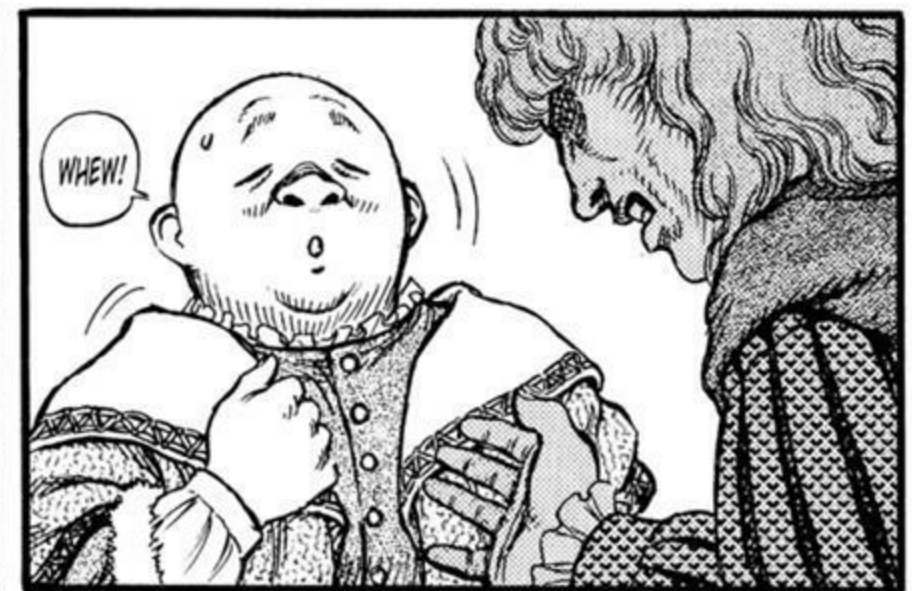

WHAT?!
... WHA!

GUARDING HIS MAJESTY SHOULD BE AN HONORABLE DUTY PERMITTED ONLY TO FALL UPON THE WHITE DRAGONS, WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE REGULAR ARMY!!
TO THINK THAT...UNTIL YESTERDAY THAT BAND OF ROBBERS... COULD BE PROMOTED AND THEN...!!

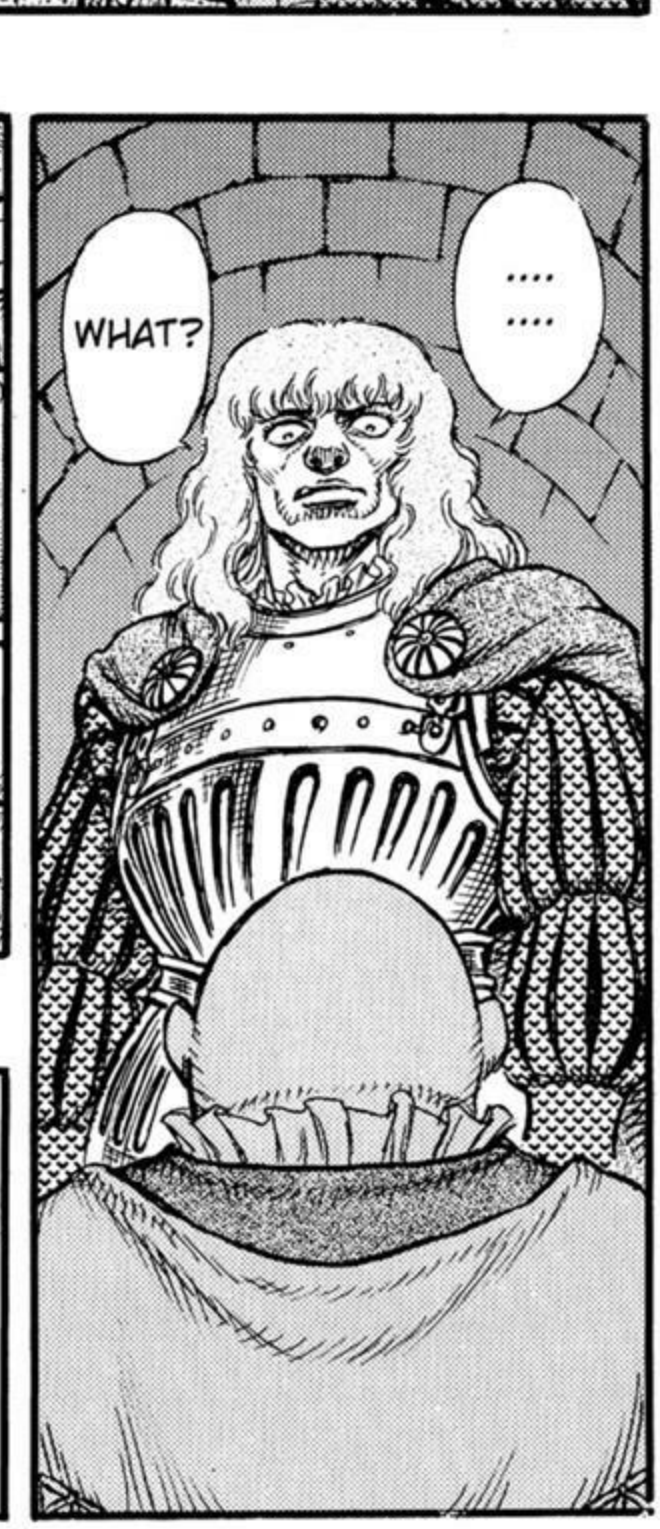
THE AUTUMN HUNT IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR THE KING TO FOSTER GOODWILL AMONG HIS LORDS!!
THAT... CAN'T BE!!


ARE YOU CERTAIN ...
...THIS IS PER-MISSIBLE?

WHAT COULD...
...HIS MAJESTY BE THINKING?


WHEW!

IT SEEMS THAT THE GLORY OF THE WHITE DRAGON KNIGHTS, FORMERLY ADMIRED AS OUR KINGDOM'S MIGHTIEST, HAS FADED DUE TO THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE BAND OF THE HAWK...
ONE WONDERS IF THE NAME OF THE COURAGEOUS GENERAL JULIUS WILL END UP BEING ERASED BY THAT OF GRIFFITH...
...DARE YOU...!!
HOW...


WHAT?
....
....

...ONE CANNOT SCORN...HIS ABILITY ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
HOW-EVER ...
A RUMOR TOLD BY MANY.
IT IS A RUMOR.
.....!!
THAT THE BAND OF THE HAWK IS EVER VICTORIOUS IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT.
HE IS SURELY A GODSEND IN OUR TIME OF CONFLICT.
FURTHERMORE, THE WAY HE HAS INGRATIATED HIMSELF...HIS MAJESTY SEEMS TO HAVE PLACED A TERRIBLY HIGH VALUE ON THE BOY...
THE FIGHTING SHOWS NO SIGN OF ENDING SOON. IN SUCH CASE HE WILL CONTINUE TO DISTINGUISH HIMSELF MILITARILY.

I WON'T ACCEPT IT...!!!

RIDICULOUS...!!

IF WE AREN'T CARE-FUL...

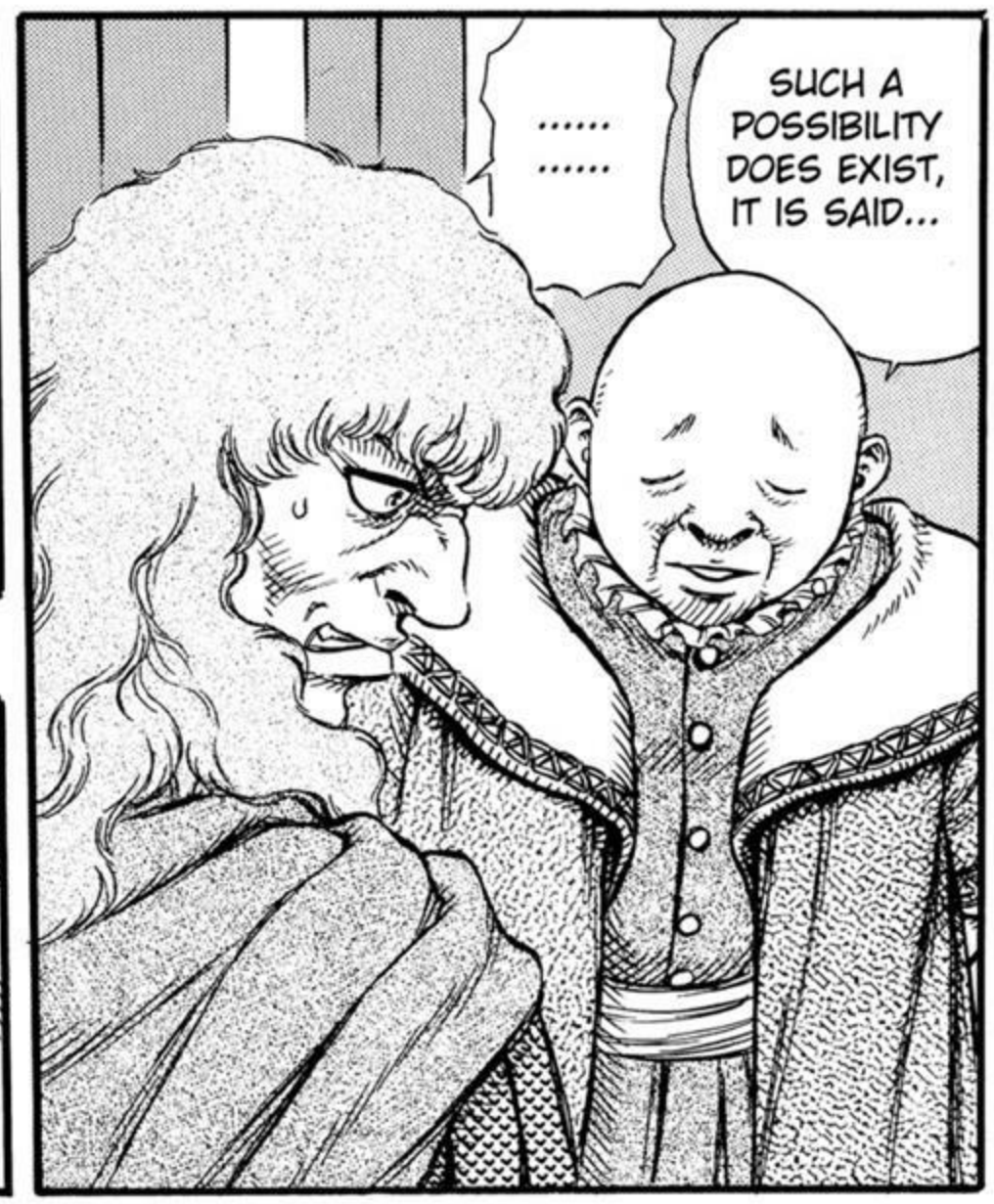
...GRIFFITH MIGHT EVEN REACH THE LEVEL OF GENERAL.

THAT BOY, A GENERAL LIKE ME...?!

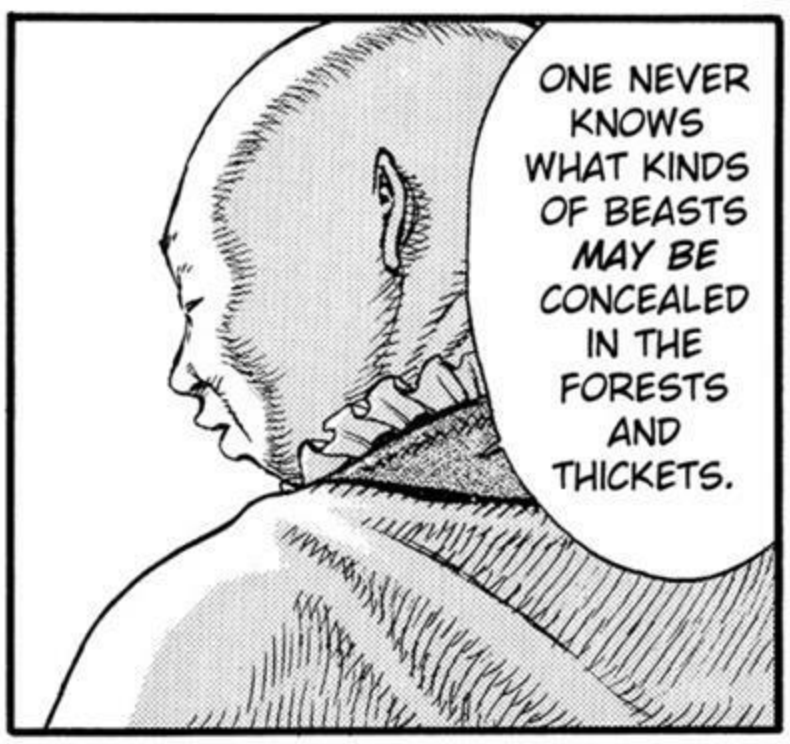
YOU MEAN THAT HUMBLE COMMONER WILL SPEAK TO ME ON THE SAME LEVEL?!

I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF A COMMON-BORN GENERAL!!

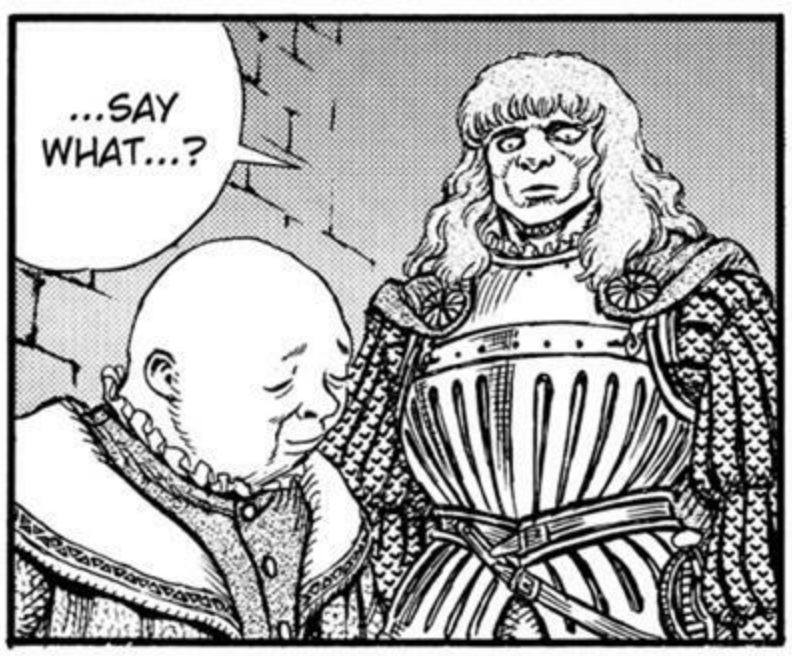
I SWEAR I'LL NEVER ACCEPT IT...
NEVER ...


....
SUCH A POSSIBILITY DOES EXIST, IT IS SAID...

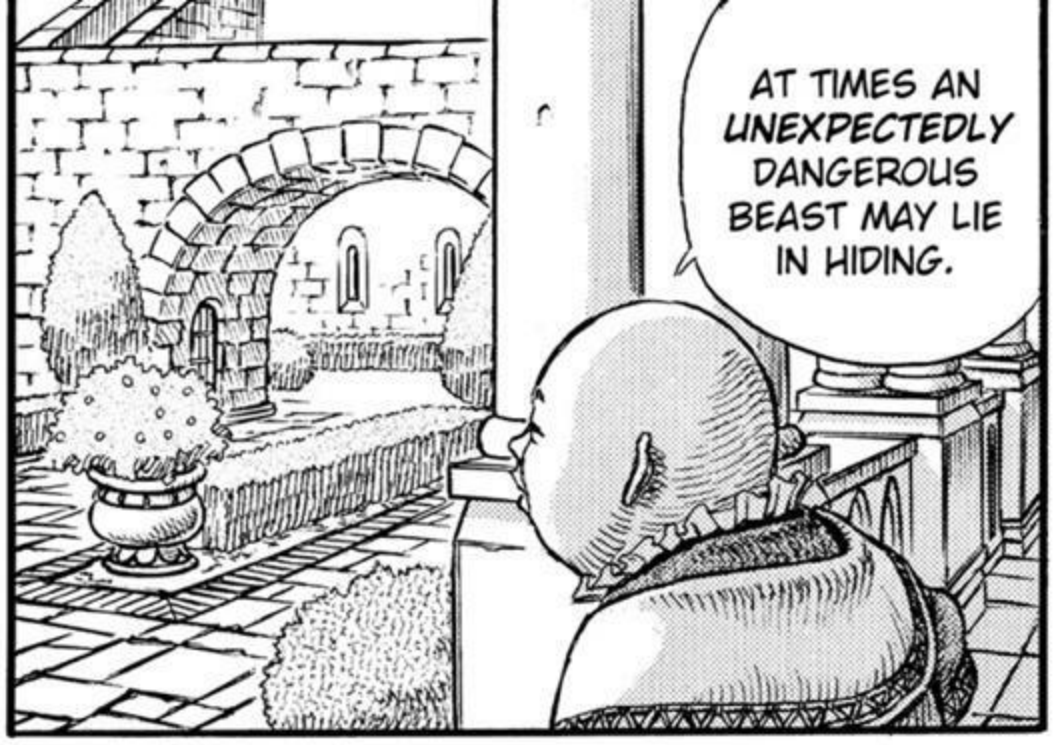
....


ONE NEVER KNOWS WHAT KINDS OF BEASTS MAY BE CONCEALED IN THE FORESTS AND THICKETS.

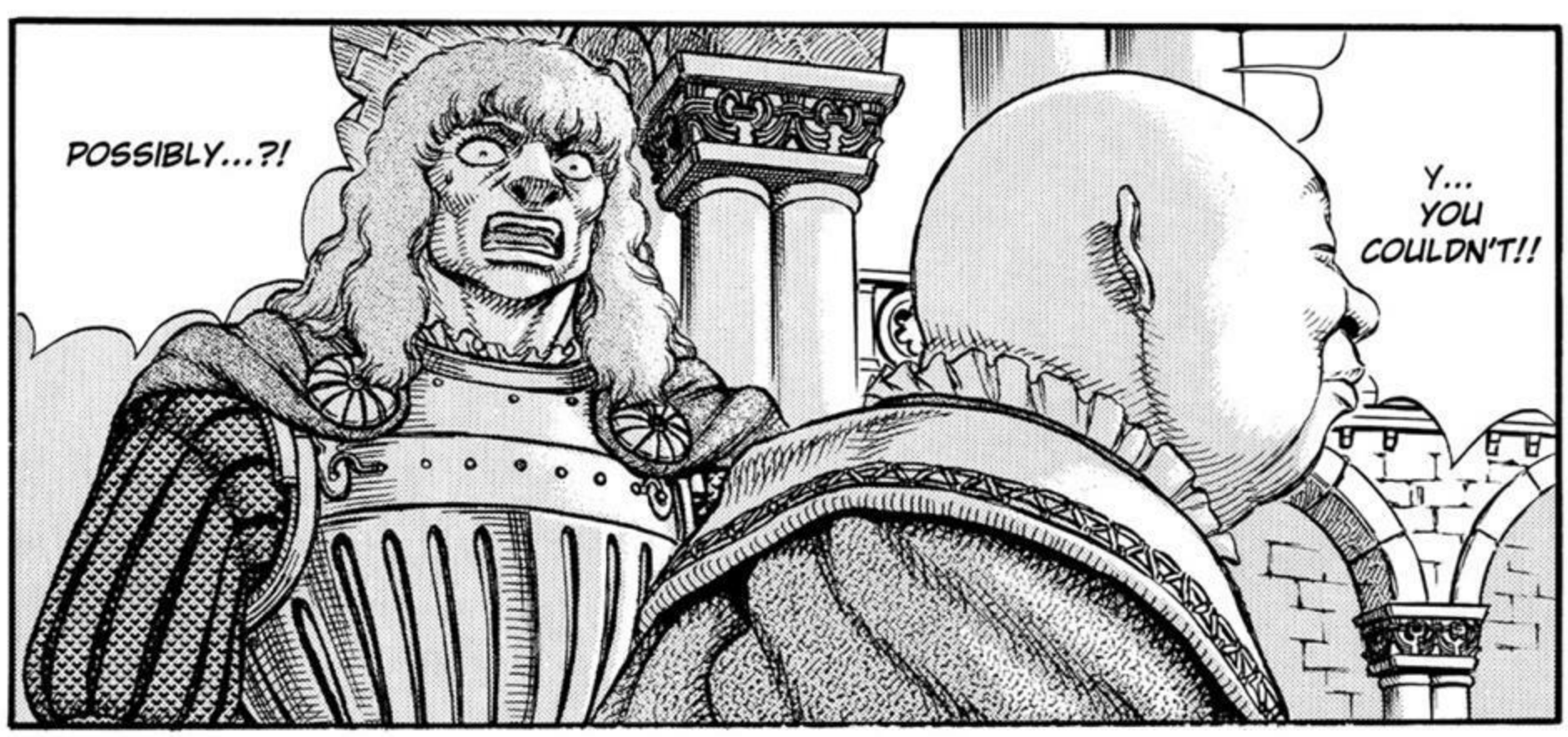
HUNTING IS AN INHERENTLY DANGEROUS THING...
SPEAKING OF CUSTOMARY EVENTS...
HOW-EVER ...
...?!


...SAY WHAT...?

...OR PERHAPS A STRAY ARROW MEANT TO STRIKE PREY COULD AT SOME POINT FLY WILDLY.
A STRAY ARROW WELL COVERED IN POISON...

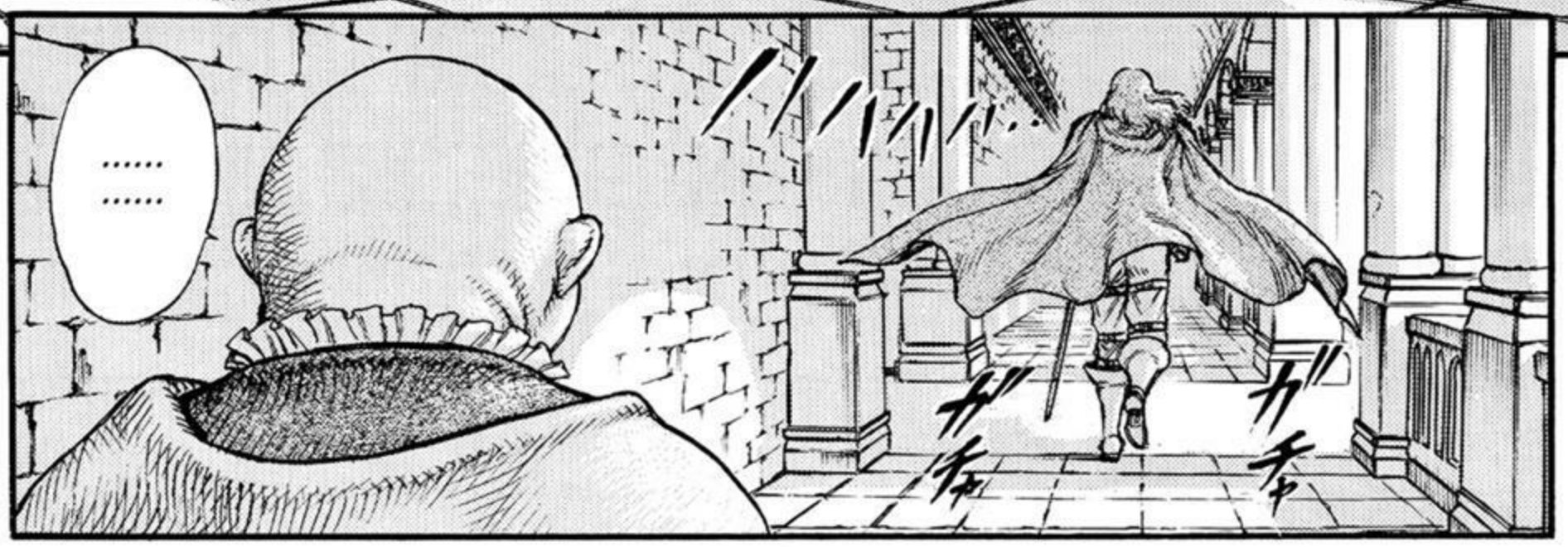

AT TIMES AN UNEXPECTEDLY DANGEROUS BEAST MAY LIE IN HIDING.

WHAT ...
...DO YOU MEAN TO SAY?


POSSIBLY...?!
Y... YOU COULDN'T!!

GENERAL.
A STRAY ARROW.
...A STRAY ARROW, EH...?
INTEREST-ING.....
HU HA HA HA.
.....
...HA HA.
....
... HEHEH ...

A FITTING WAY FOR A COMMONER TO DIE!!



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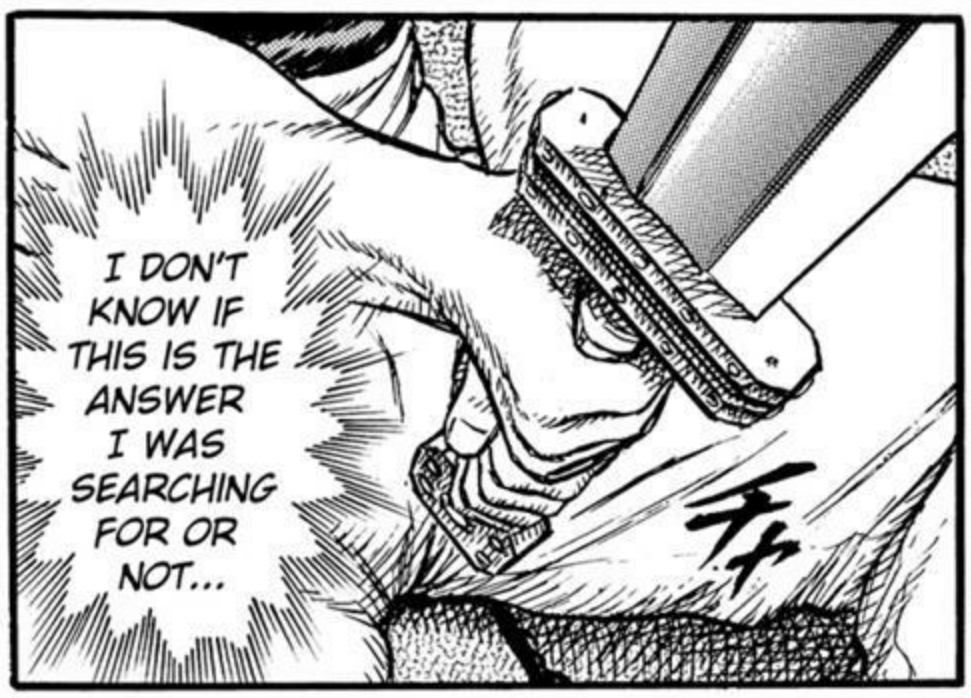
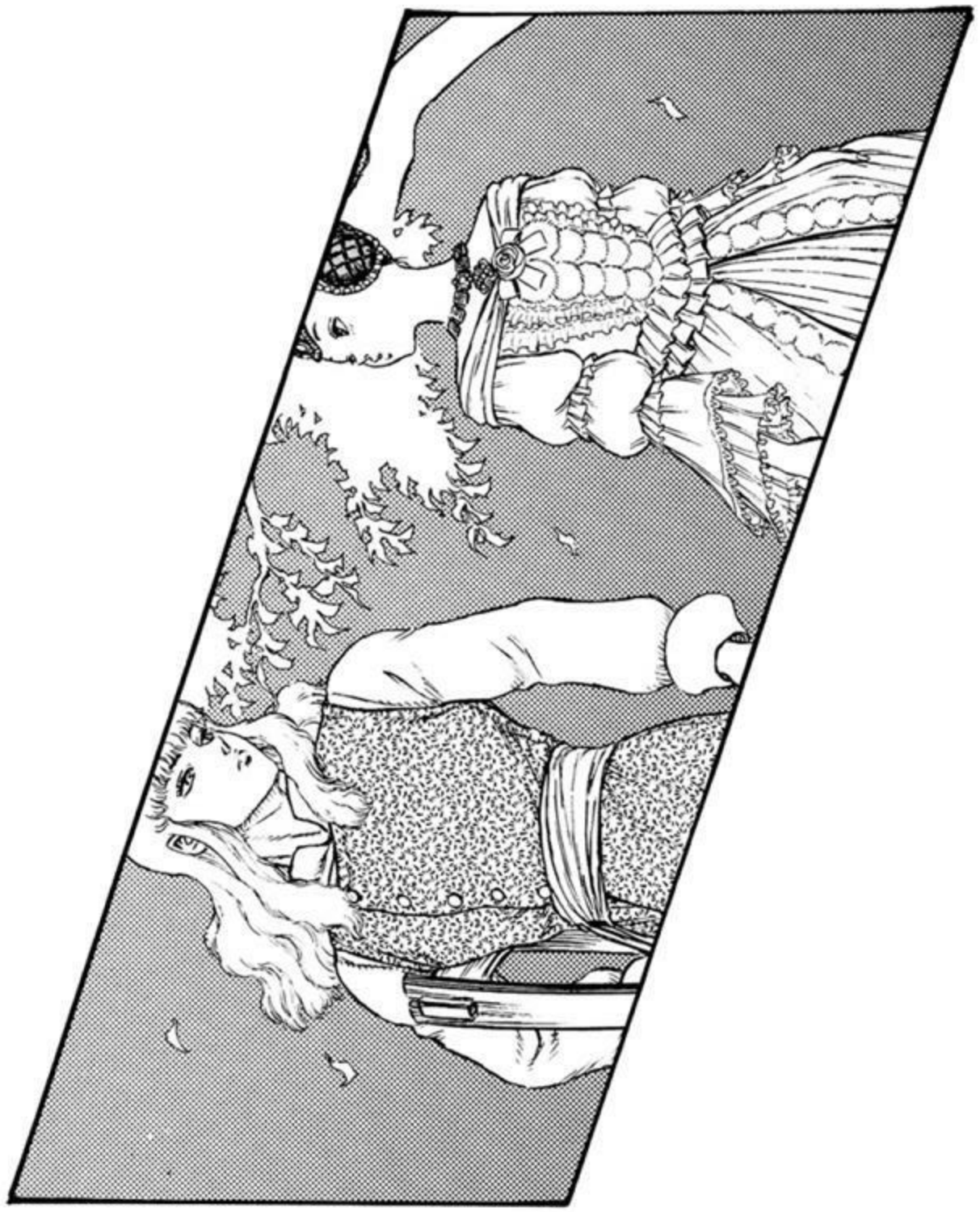
.....
.....
...I PUT MYSELF IN HARM'S WAY FOR YOUR SAKE?
TELL ME, DO I NEED A REASON EACH TIME...
"FOR YOUR SAKE"... HUH?

IT WAS THIS SAME SORT OF.....

THAT ONE TIME...

GLARINGLY BRIGHT FULL MOON...



FOR NOW I'LL WIELD MY SWORD.
FOR HIS SAKE.
MASTER OF THE SWORD (2): END