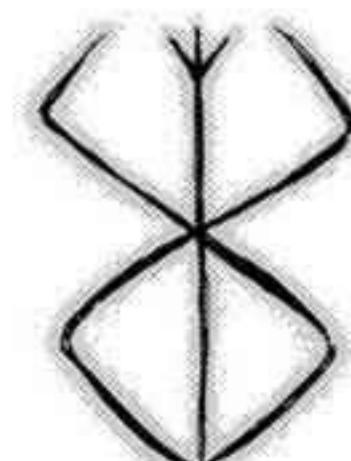


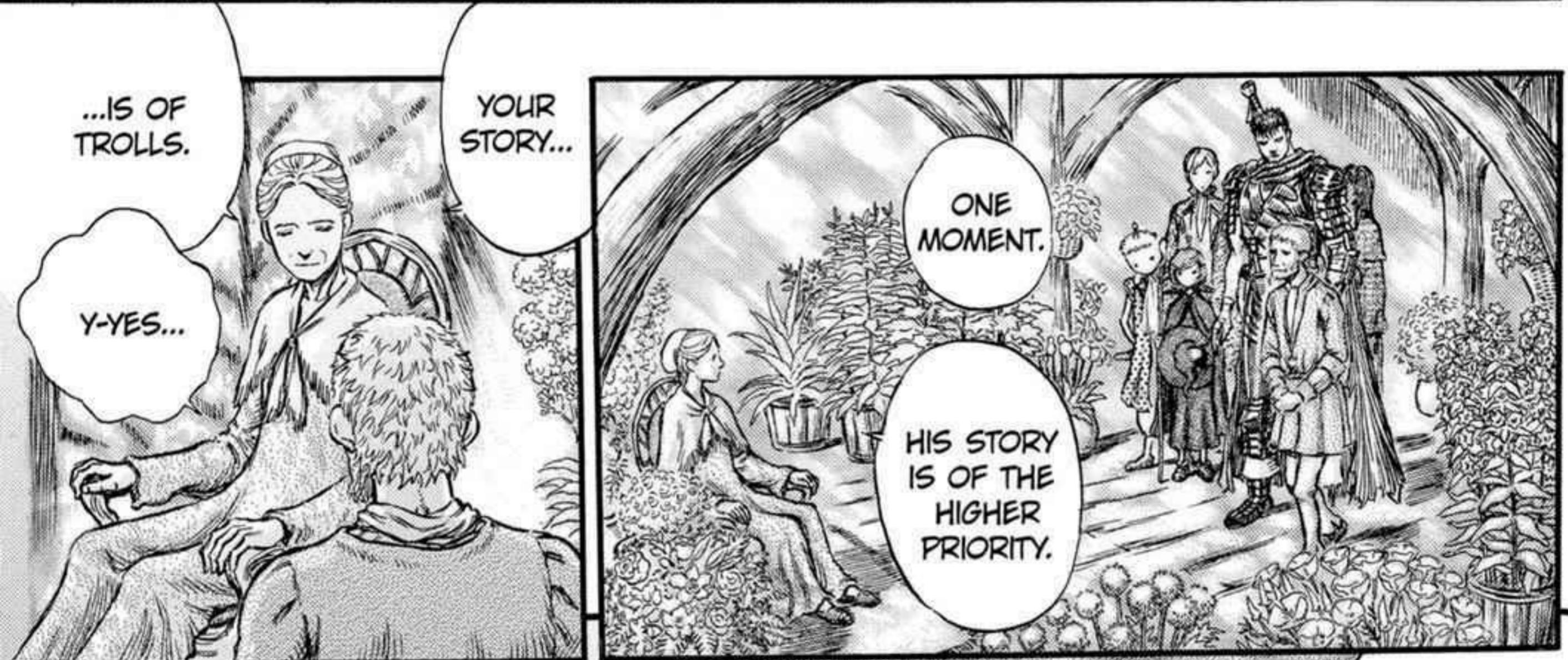


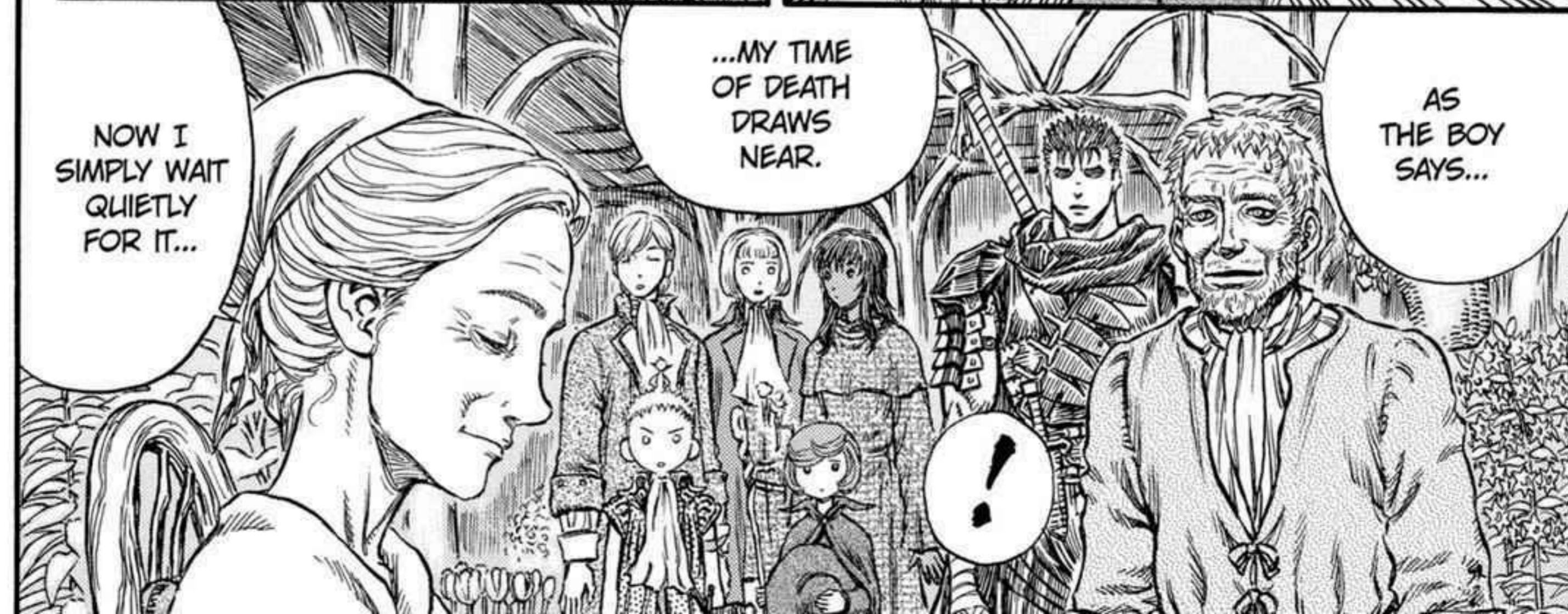
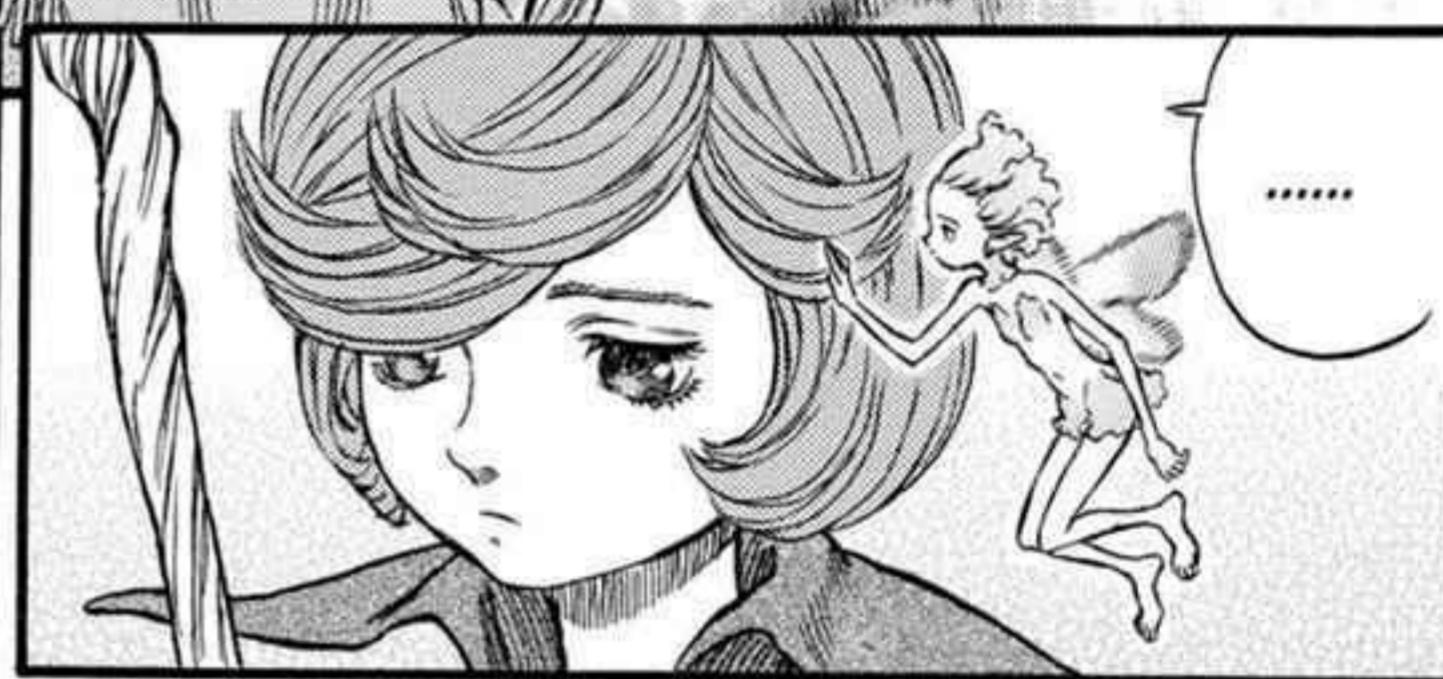
**FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC  
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER**

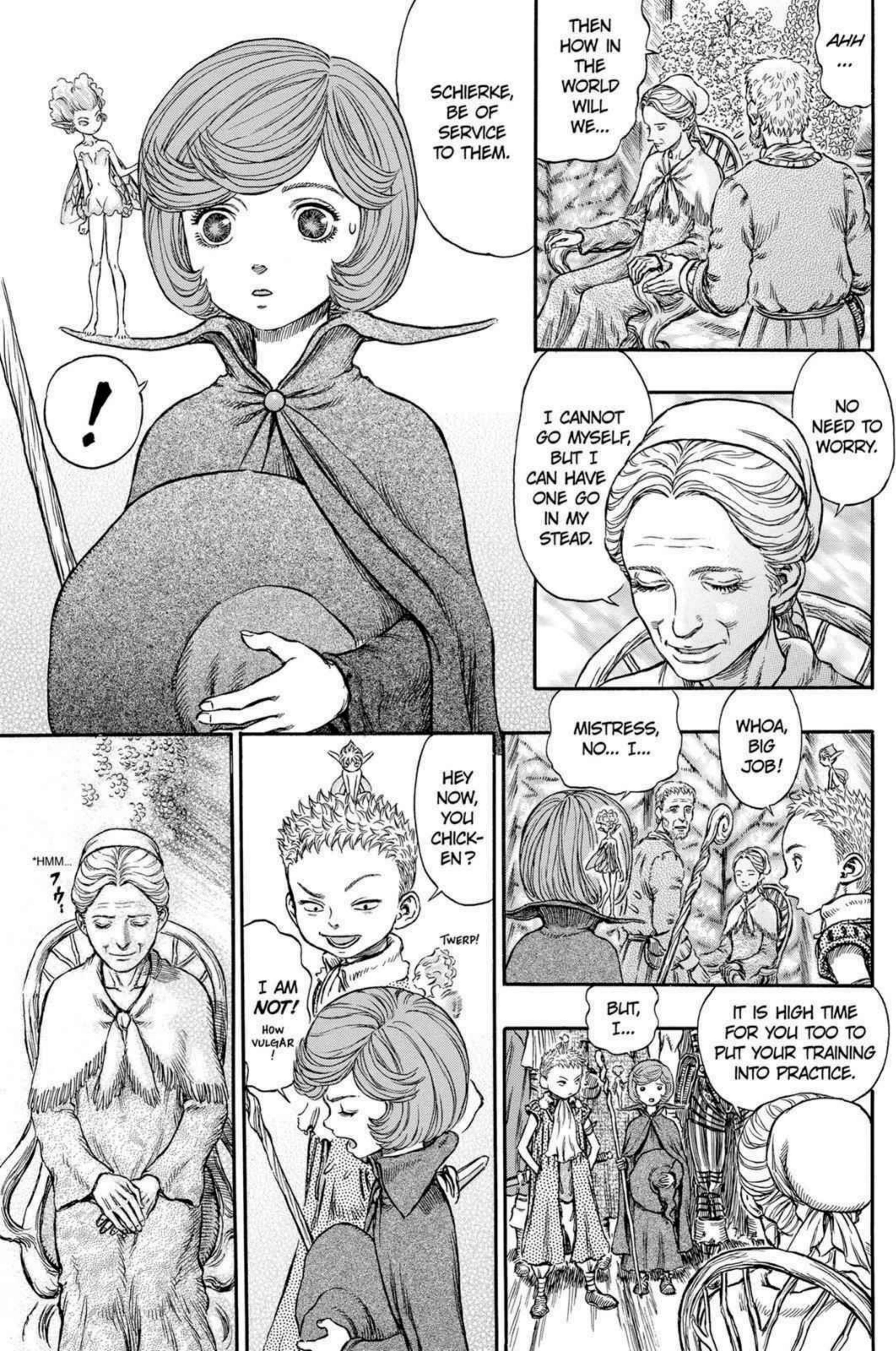
**THE ASTRAL WORLD**

かく りよ  
**幽界**









COULD I ASK  
ALL OF YOU,  
PLEASE, TO ASSIST  
MY DISCIPLE?

!

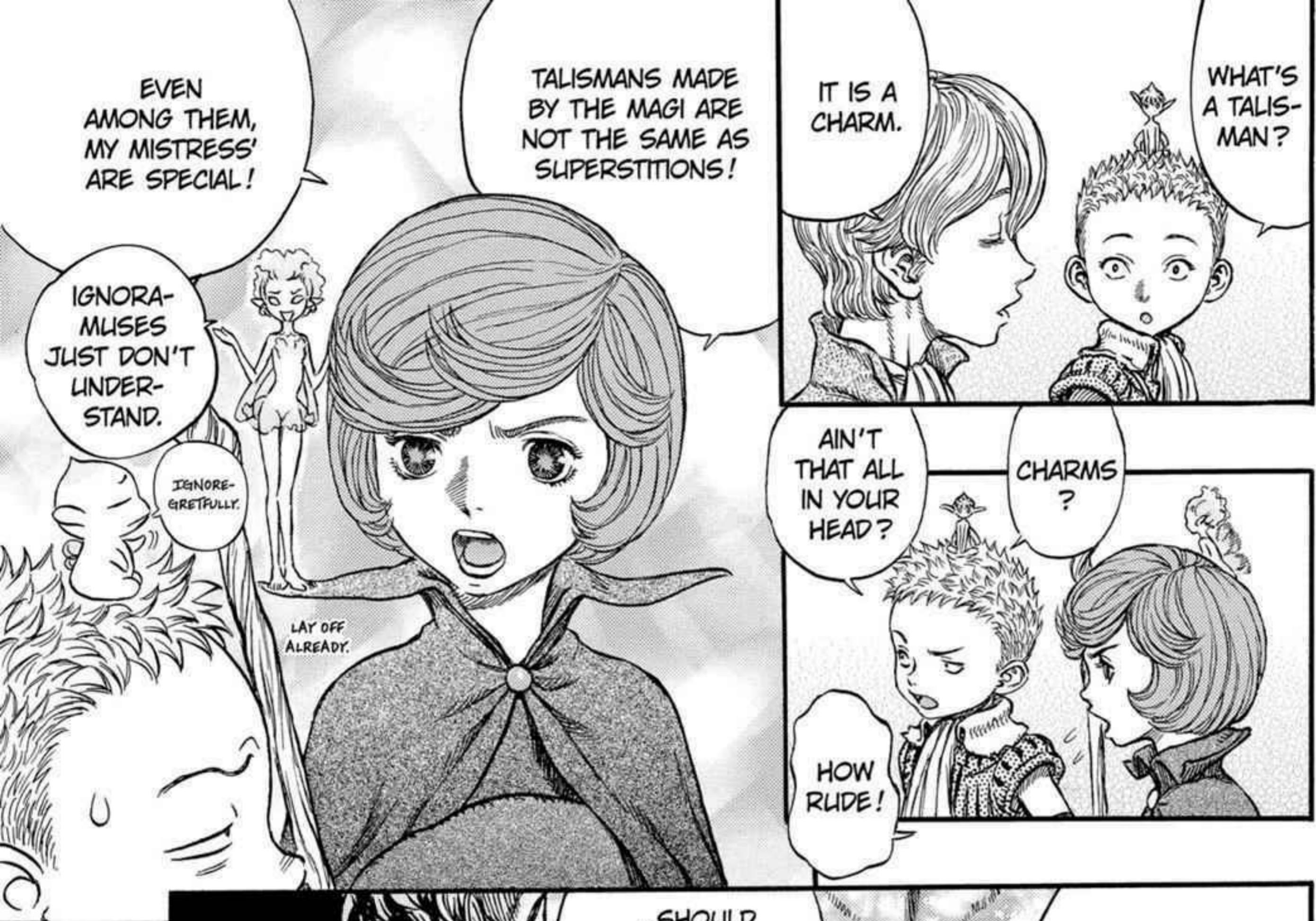
I THINK  
I MIGHT BE  
OF SOME  
USE TO  
YOU AS  
WELL.

NATURALLY,  
I DO NOT  
ASK YOUR  
HELP FOR  
FREE.

I  
UNDERSTAND  
YOU'RE  
WORRIED  
ABOUT YOUR  
FAVORITE  
STUDENT,  
BUT WE'VE  
GOT NO  
OBLIGATION  
TO GO THAT  
FAR. SORRY,  
BUT WE'VE  
GOTTA STICK  
TO OUR  
JOURNEY.

WHOA,  
WHOA.

UPON  
YOUR RETURN,  
I SHALL PRODUCE  
TALISMANS TO  
PROTECT YOU  
ON THE REST OF  
YOUR JOURNEY.



... AGAINST  
THAT.

IT'LL  
PROTECT  
...

HAVE  
YOU BEEN  
ON THIS  
JOURNEY  
WITH THEM  
NOT EVEN  
KNOWING  
THAT?

SO THAT'S  
WHAT THAT  
BRAND DOES.

OH,  
OKAY.

YEAH.

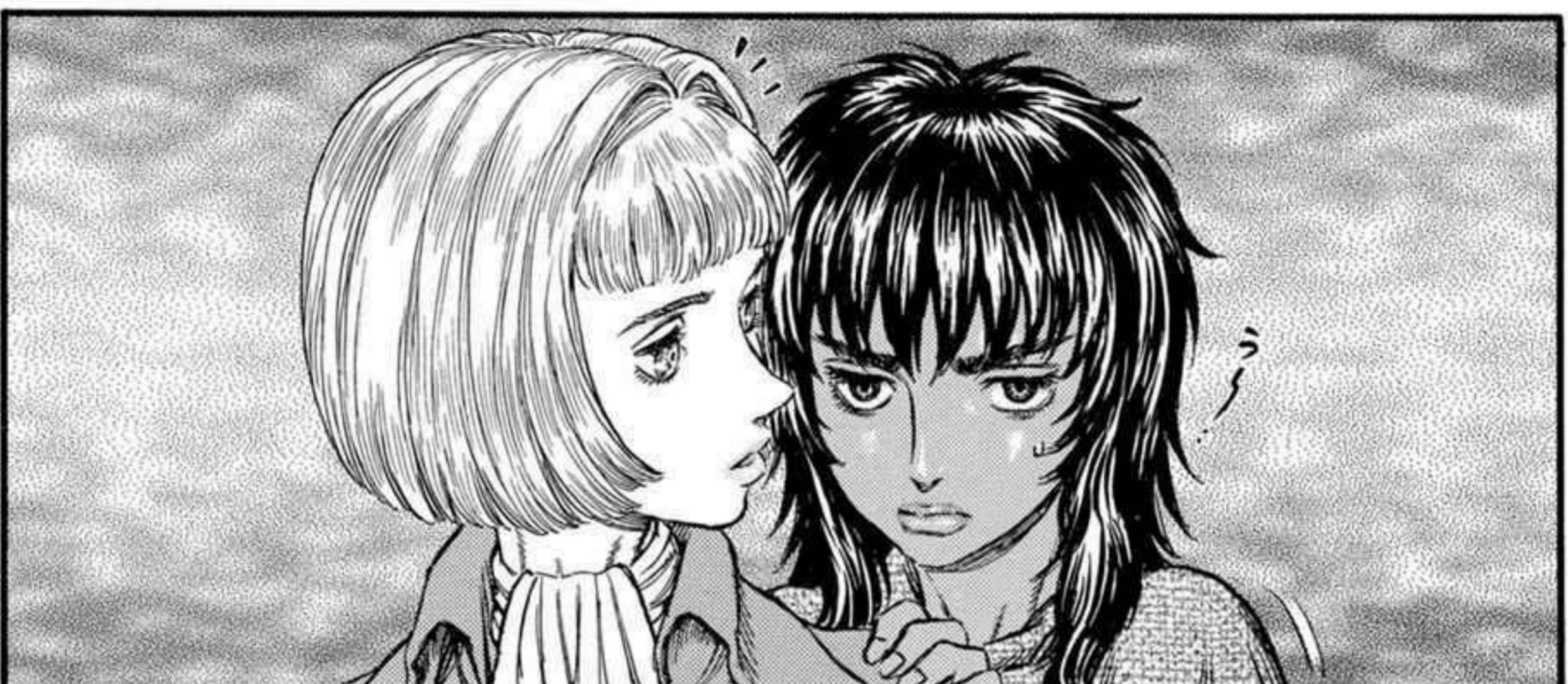
IS THAT  
FOOLISH  
OR  
DARING  
...?

I  
KNEW  
WHY.

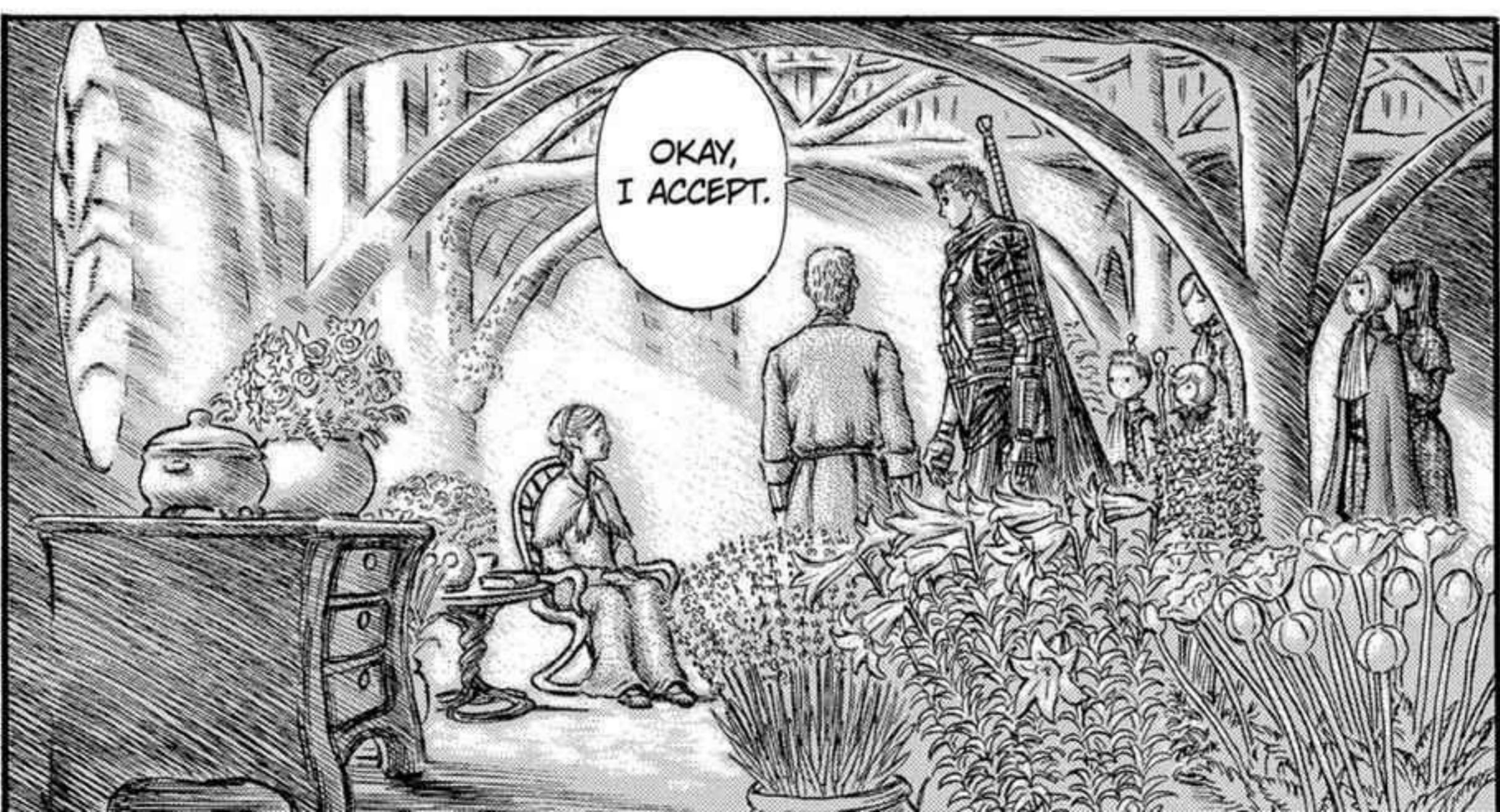
SO  
THAT'S  
WHY...



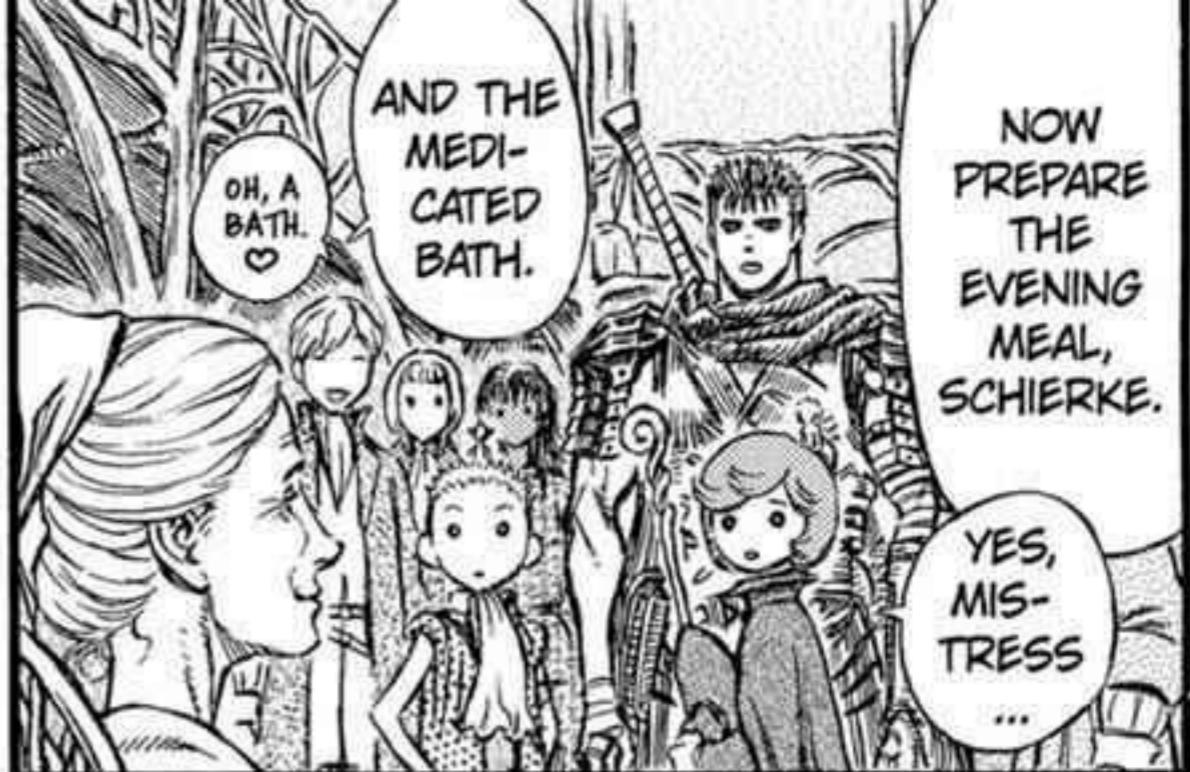
\*FX: FLINCH



\*FX: OOOO









OLD LADY, BACK TO WHAT WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT...



...TO KEENLY SENSE  
ETHEREAL BODIES  
UNSEEN BY THE  
NAKED EYE.

DUE TO THE  
CURSED POWER  
OF THE BRAND,  
YOU ALL HAVE  
BEEN RENDERED  
ABLE...

TO PUT  
IT SIMPLY,  
THE  
AFTER-  
LIFE.

HEY!  
WHAT'S  
THAT  
ASTRAL  
WORLD  
THING?

...IN WHICH  
OUR WORLD IS  
OVERLAPPED  
BY THE  
EXISTENCE OF  
TWO OTHER  
WORLDS.

THERE  
IS A  
TRINITY  
...

ARE  
ETHEREAL  
BODIES  
GHOSTS  
?

YOU  
CAN'T  
HAVE  
'EM - LAST  
ALL! ONE.

ONE IS KNOWN  
COMMONLY  
AS THE WORLD  
OF SPIRITS,  
THE ASTRAL  
WORLD.

THE OTHER IS  
THE SOUL OF  
THE ORIGIN OF  
ALL EXISTENCE,  
THE WORLD OF  
THE IDEA.

AMATEURS  
CANNOT TELL  
ONE FROM  
THE OTHER!

...AND  
TOUCH IT  
AS IF IT  
WERE A  
REAL  
THING.

IF AN  
ETHEREAL BODY  
IS SENSED  
STRONGLY  
ENOUGH,  
YOUR PHYSICAL  
BODY WILL  
SEE IT...

THAT'S A LITTLE COMPLICATED,  
BUT IT COMES DOWN TO  
GHOSTS, RIGHT? AIN'T THEY  
A LITTLE TOO LIVELY? THEY'RE  
ALL STICKY LIKE SNOT.  
MAKES ME SICK.

THOSE ARE  
THE ETHEREAL  
BODIES THAT  
YOUR ETHEREAL  
BODY'S  
PERCEIVING.

HOW  
VULGAR!

MANY PEOPLE  
OVER THE AGES  
HAVE RECOGNIZED  
THIS FACT AS REALITY,  
AND BECAUSE THEIR  
WORLD VIEW CONTINUES  
TO BE PASSED DOWN,  
WE ARE ABLE TO  
PERCEIVE, SEE,  
AND TOUCH THESE  
LITTLE ONES.

ELVES AND  
TROLLS ARE  
INHABITANTS  
OF THAT  
SAME ASTRAL  
WORLD.



...SO MANY OF THE ELVES WHO CAN NO LONGER INTERACT WITH HUMANS HAVE FADED AWAY TO SOME PLACE IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.

LONG AGO IT WAS QUITE NATURAL TO BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF ELVES. BUT WITH THE SPREAD OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SEE, OF ONE UNIVERSAL WORLD VIEW, THOSE WHO CAN SEE THEM HAVE DWINDLED...



AN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE. VERY NICE.

...FROM THE CONFINES OF OUR PHYSICAL WORLD TO DELVE INTO THE ASTRAL WORLD.

SINCE LONG AGO, WE MAGI HAVE LEARNED AND INHERITED THE PRACTICE OF RELEASING OUR ETHEREAL BODIES...

YOU CAN DO THAT KINDA THING?

...THE SCENERY COMES TO LOOK UNIMAGINABLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

THERE EXIST ASTRAL ENTITIES WITH WHOM THE ETHEREAL BODIES...

...OF MERE HUMANS CANNOT EVEN COMPARE.

ANGELS, DEMONS, GODS OF POLYTHEISM...

THEN, IN THE DEEP LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD...

THUS, THE DEAD WHO DID NOT REALIZE THEY DIED OR WHO LEFT THE PHYSICAL WORLD REGRETFULLY...

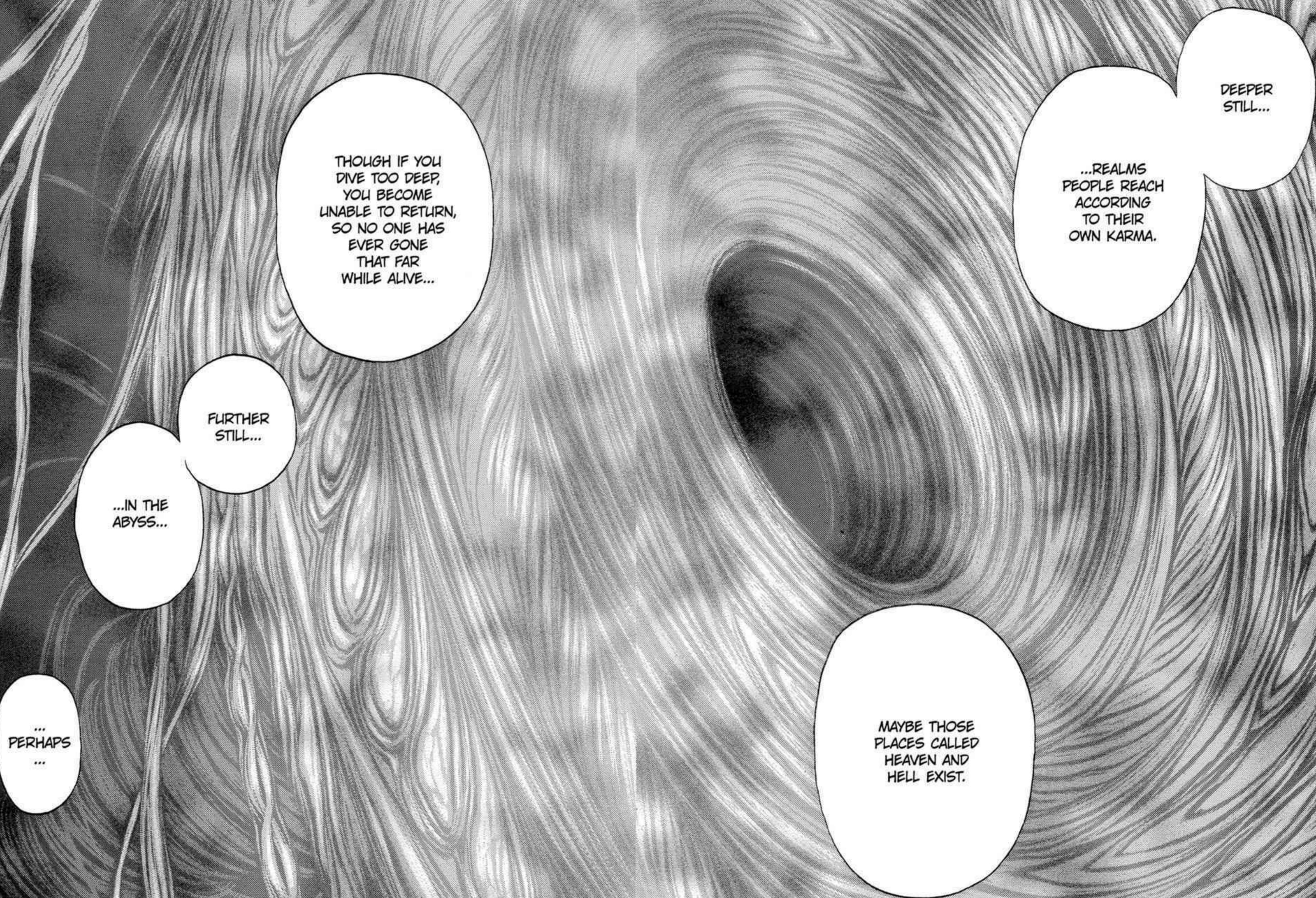
...OFTEN WANDER THERE.

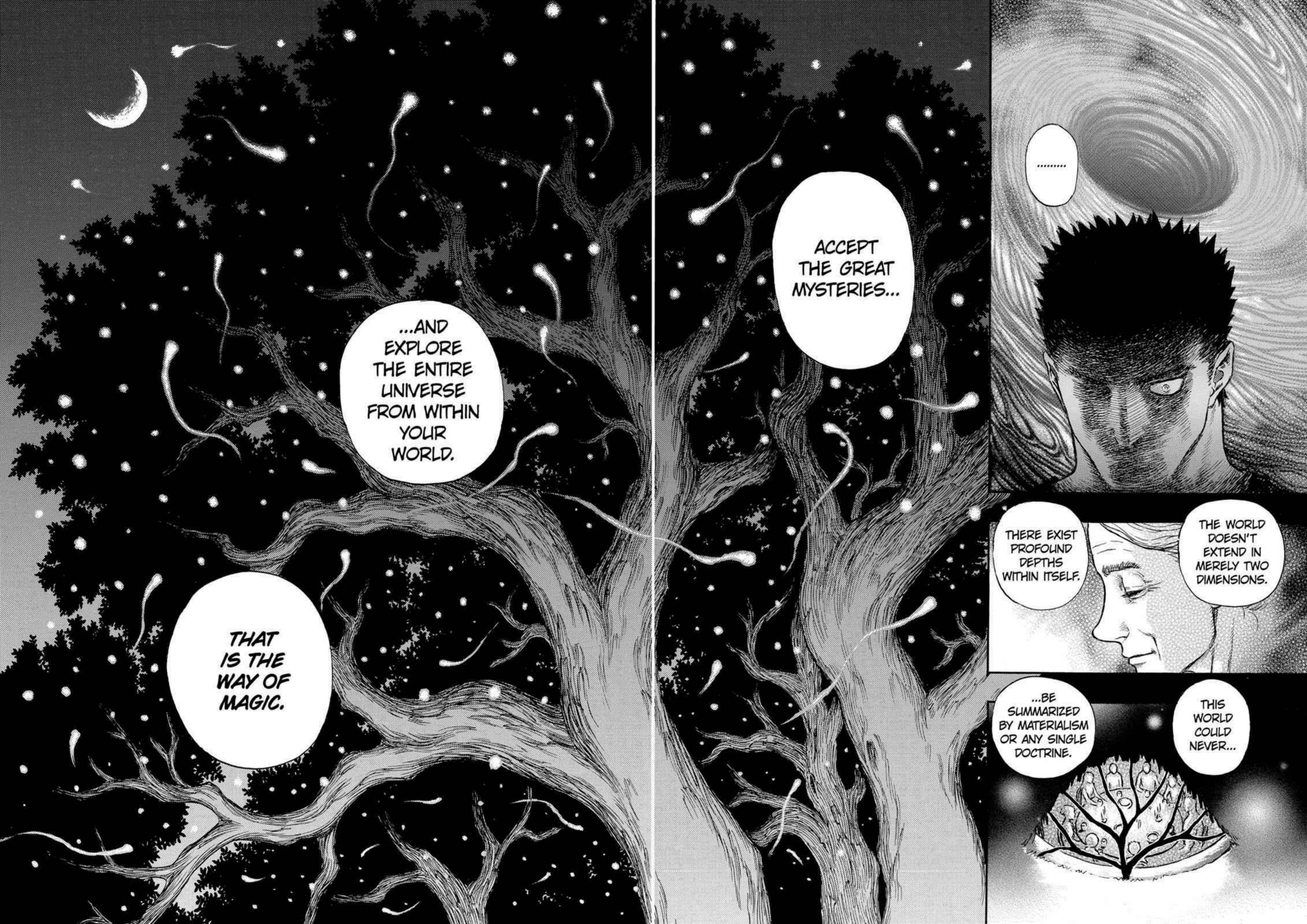
EVENTUALLY, NEARLY ALL BECOME AWARE OF THEIR OWN DEATH OR BECOME UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE FORM OF THEIR ETHEREAL BODIES AND PASS AWAY FROM THIS LAYER.

...VARIOUS ETHEREAL BEINGS EXIST AS LIVING LEGENDS.

IN THE RELATIVELY SHALLOW LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD KNOWN AS THE INTERSTICE ...

EVEN THE SCENERY IS MOSTLY DERIVED FROM THE ETHEREAL FORMS OF OUR WORLD, SO THERE IS LITTLE DISPARITY BETWEEN IT AND OUR PHYSICAL REALITY.





THAT  
IS THE  
WAY OF  
MAGIC.

...AND  
EXPLORE  
THE ENTIRE  
UNIVERSE  
FROM WITHIN  
YOUR  
WORLD.

ACCEPT  
THE GREAT  
MYSTERIES...

THERE EXIST  
PROFOUND  
DEPTHES  
WITHIN ITSELF.

...BE  
SUMMARIZED  
BY MATERIALISM  
OR ANY SINGLE  
DOCTRINE.

THE WORLD  
DOESN'T  
EXTEND IN  
MERELY TWO  
DIMENSIONS.

THIS  
WORLD  
COULD  
NEVER...