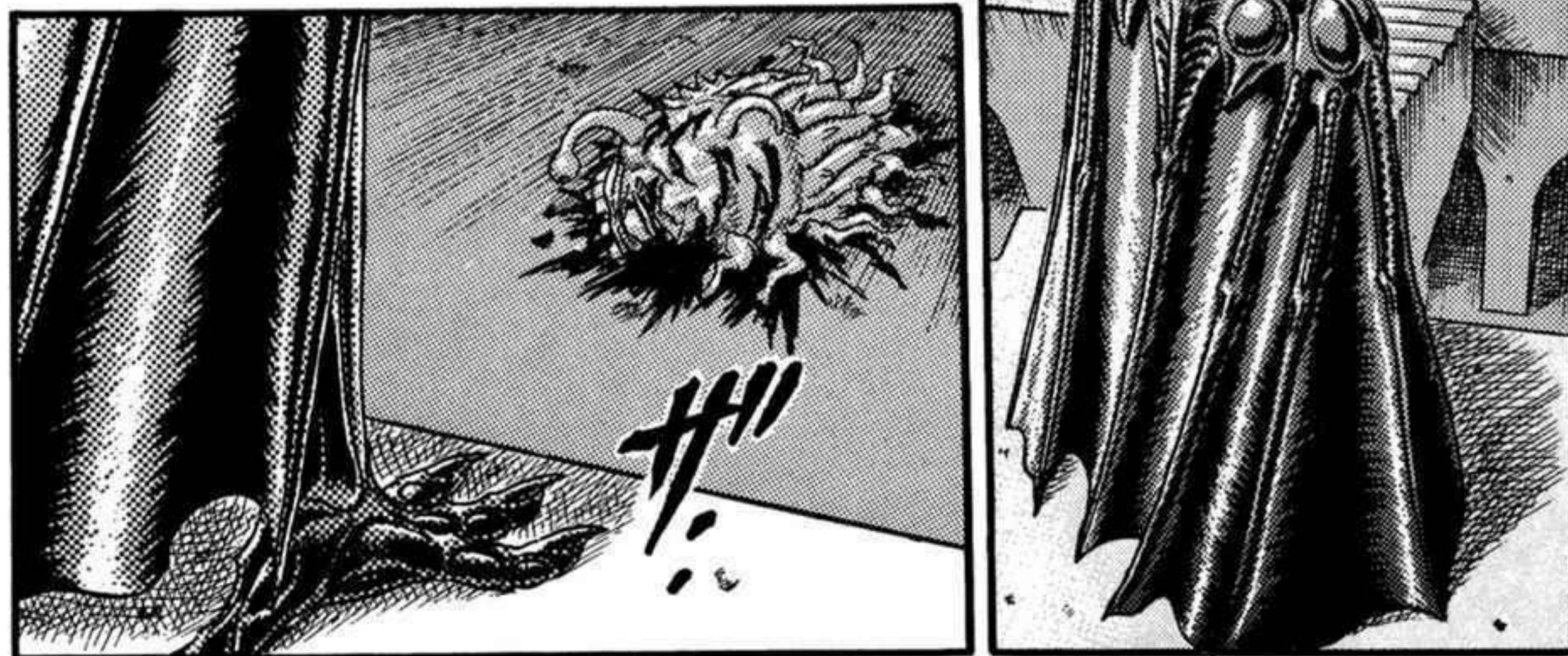
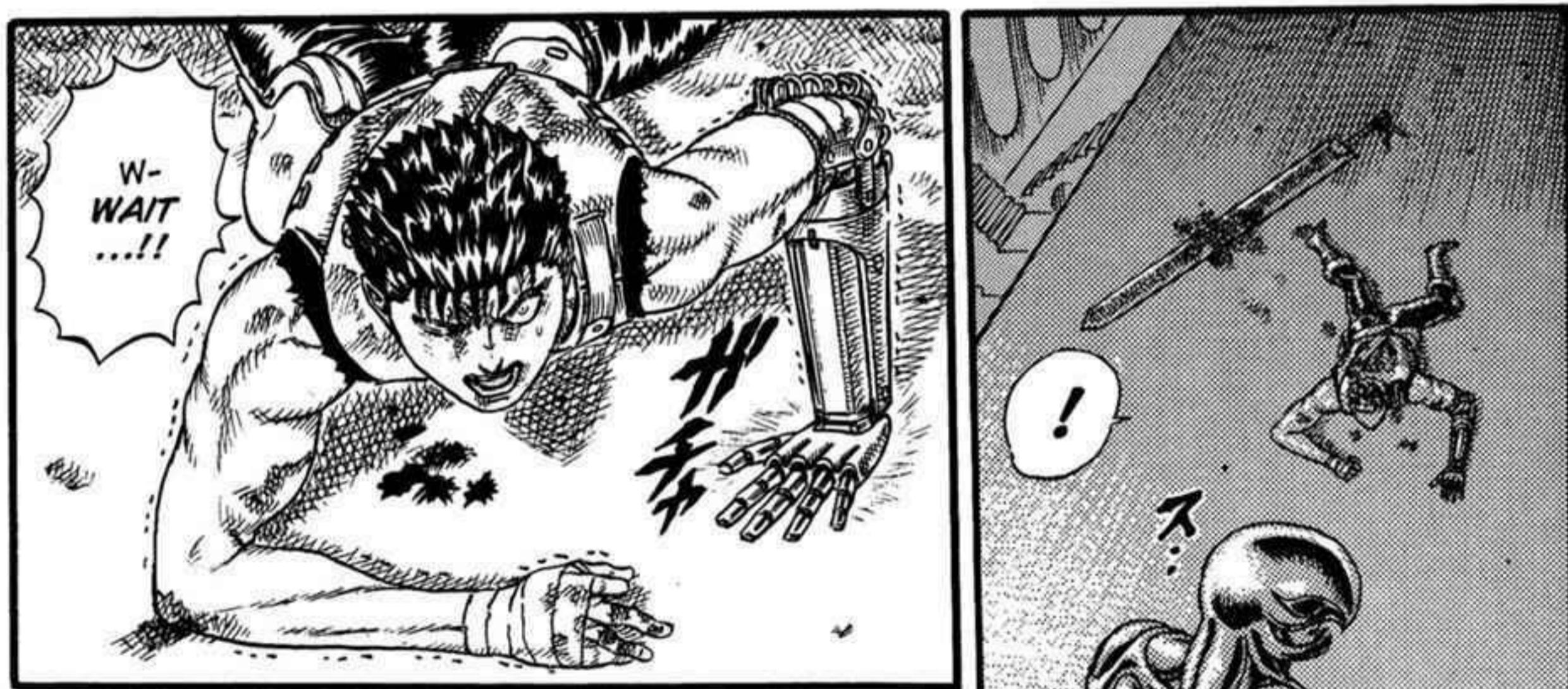
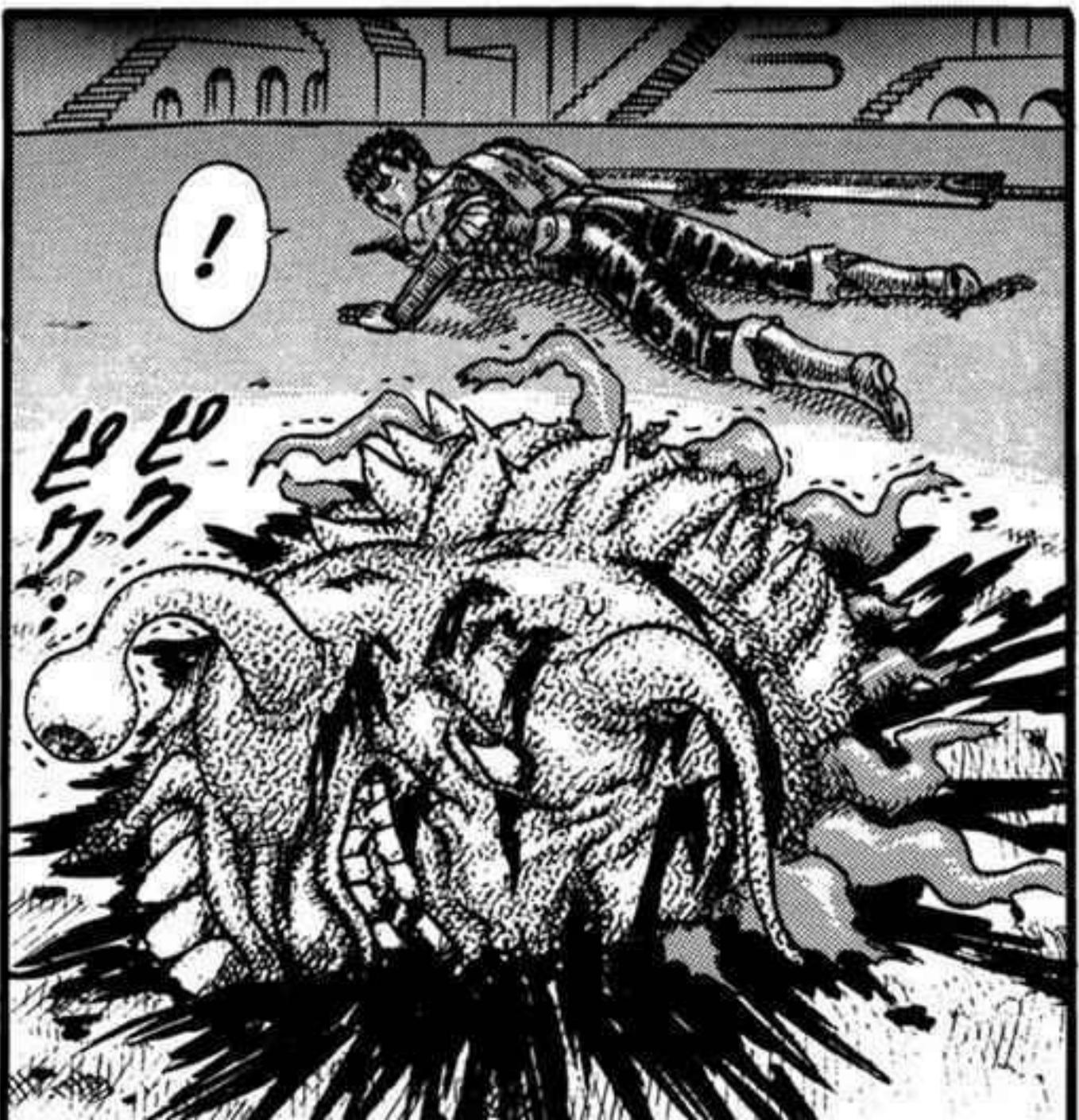
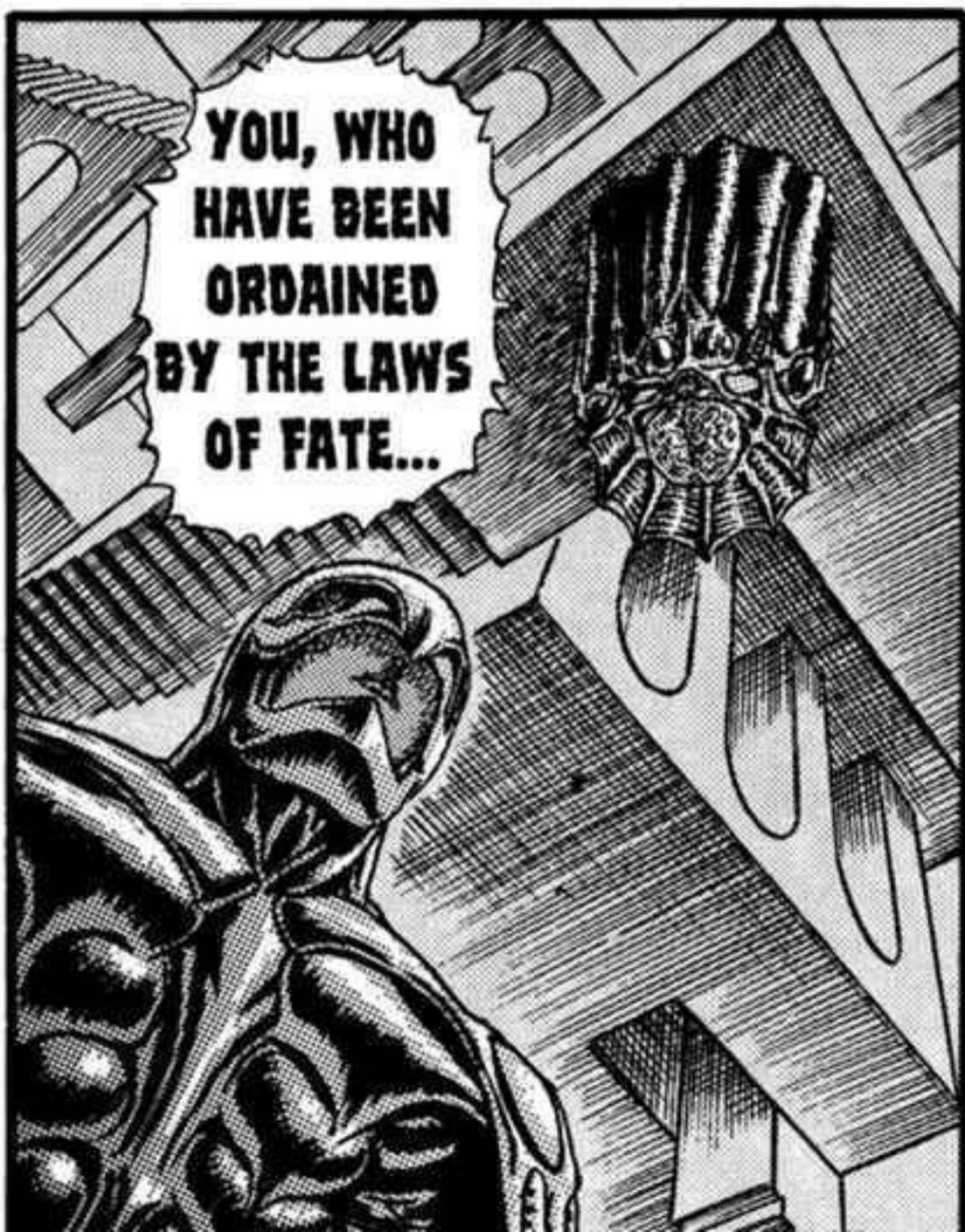
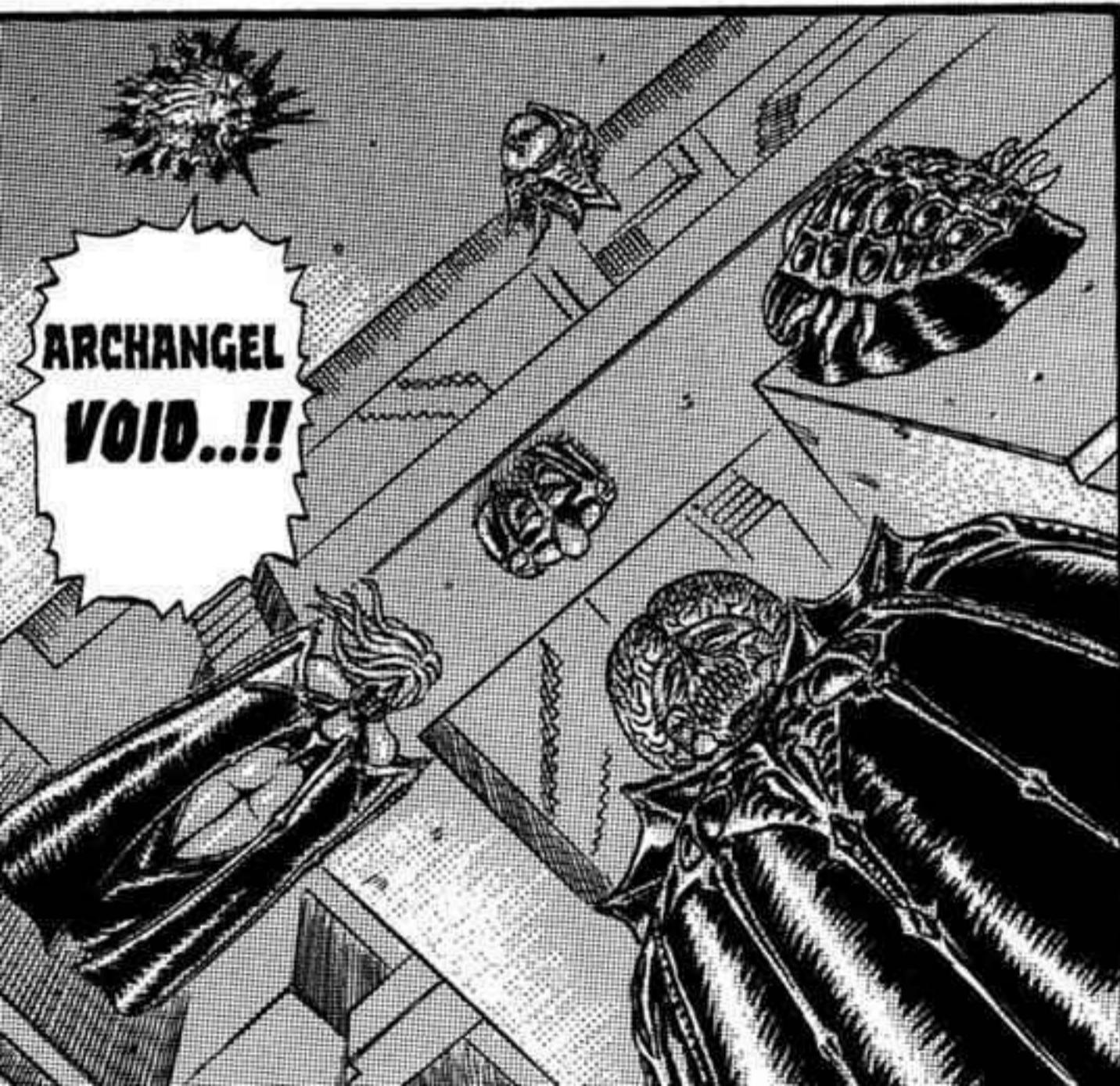
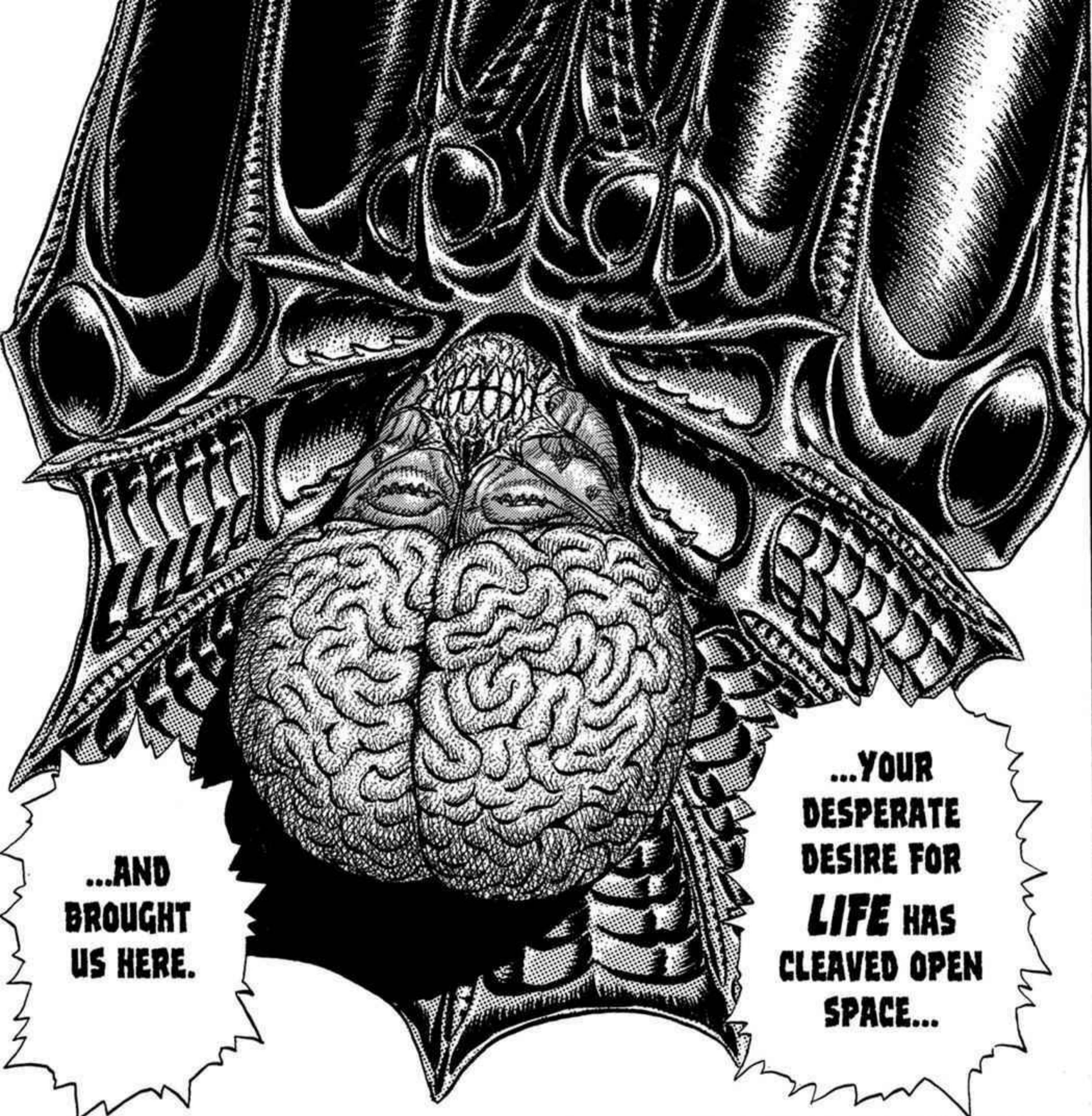


GRIFFITH ...
WHO'S
GRIFFITH...?







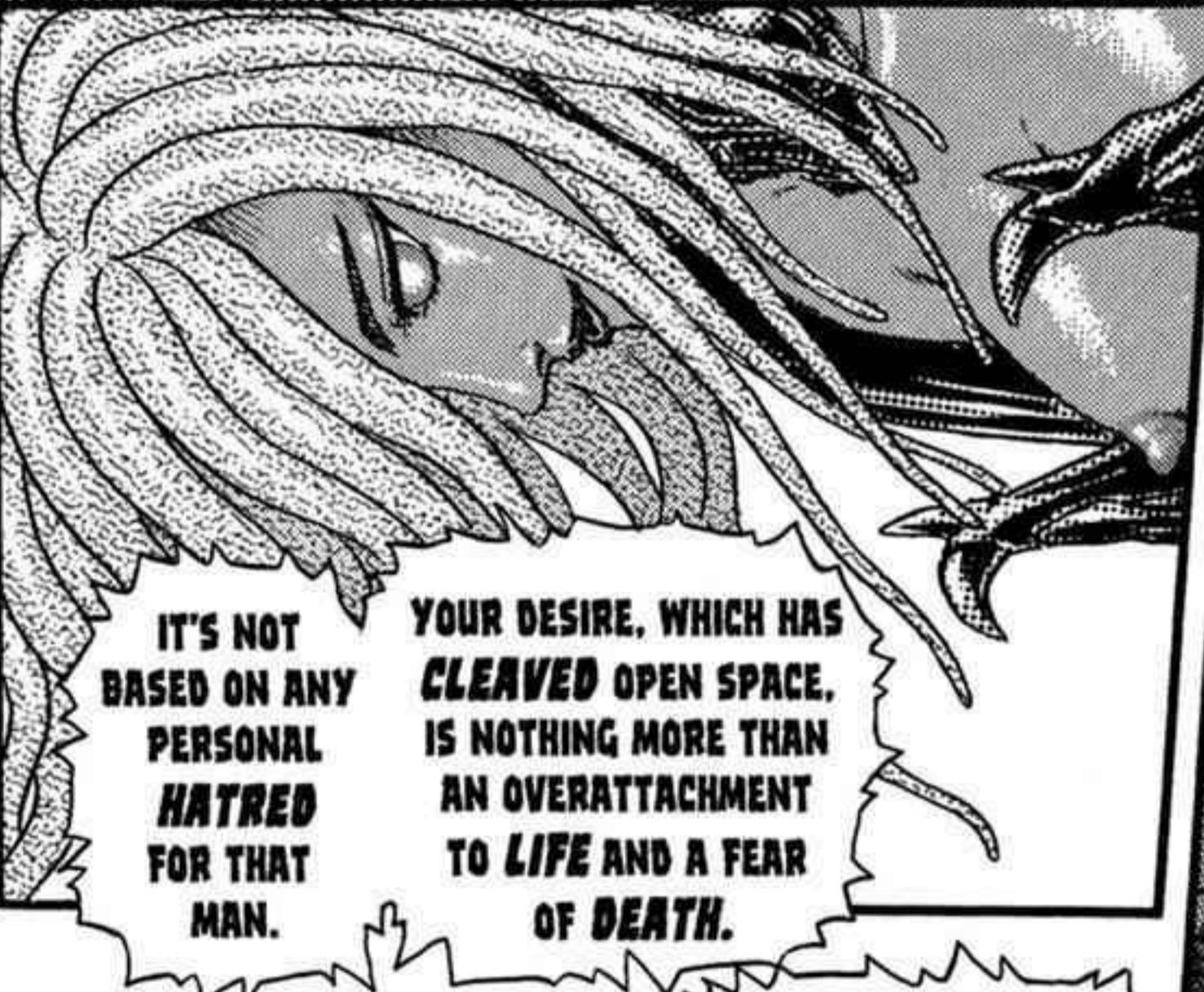




AVENGE ME
UPON HIM,
PLEASE!!



PLEASE
GRANT ME
MY WISH!! TAKE
THAT MAN'S
LIFE...

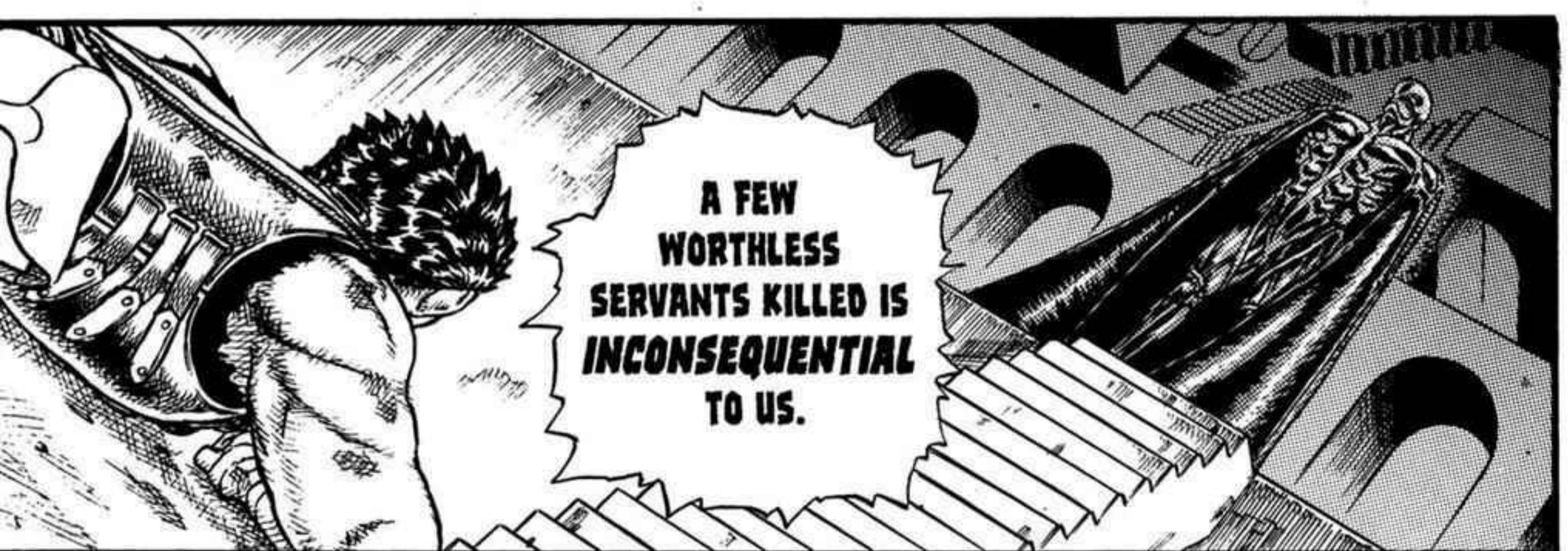
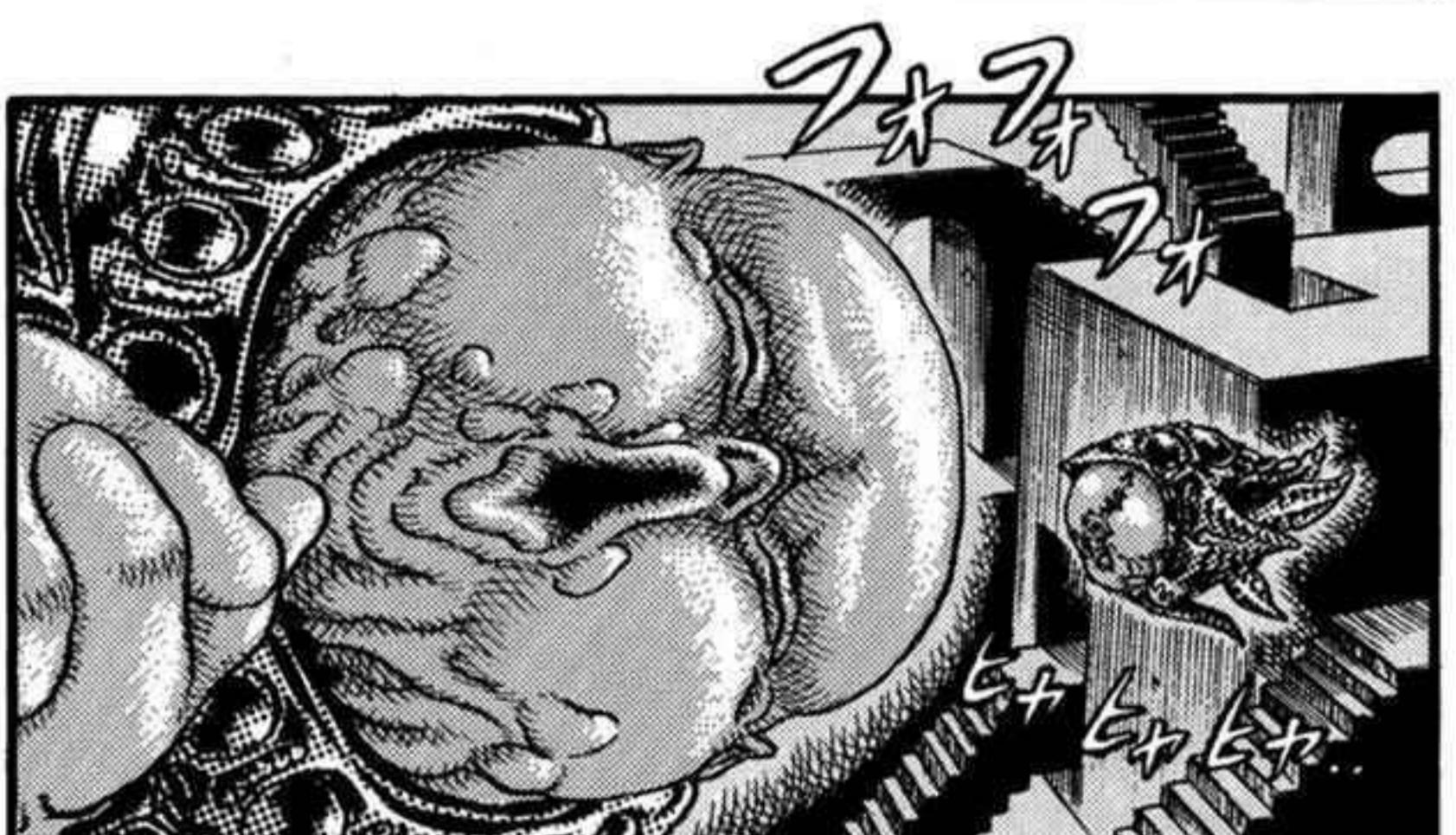
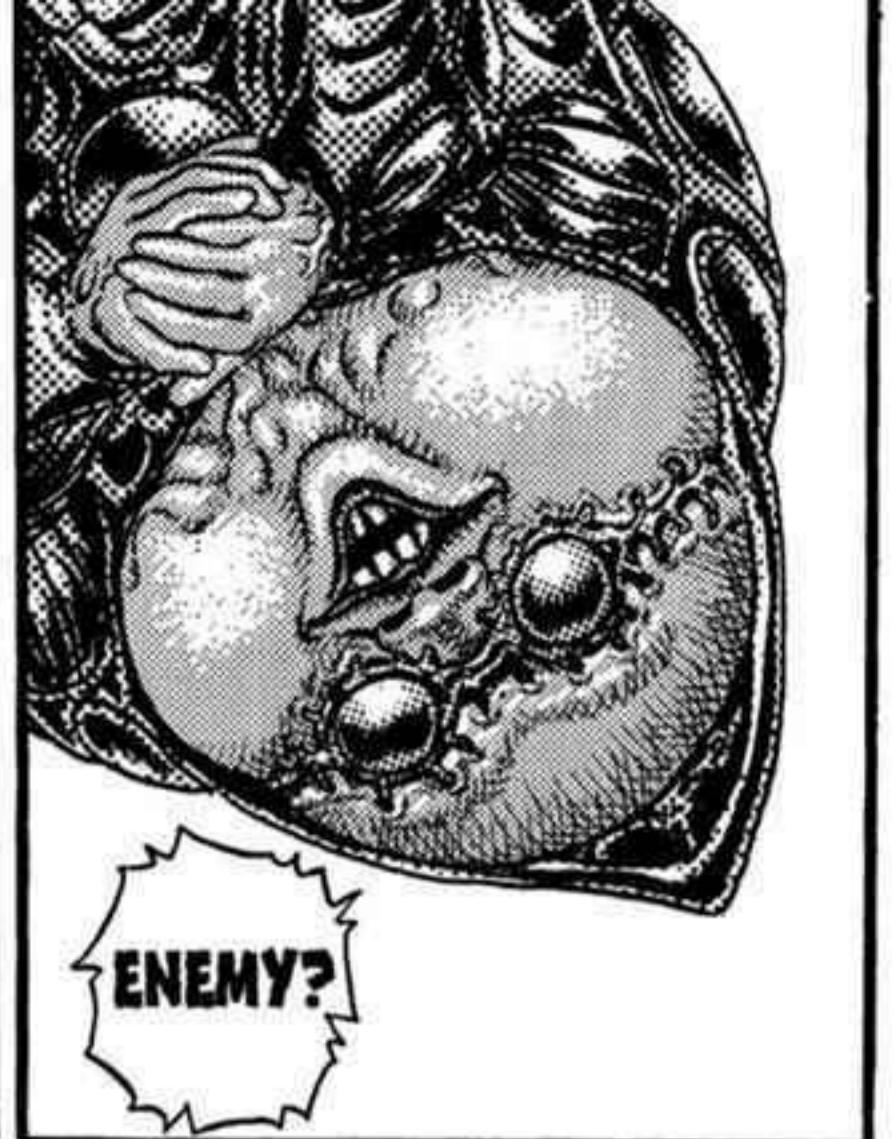


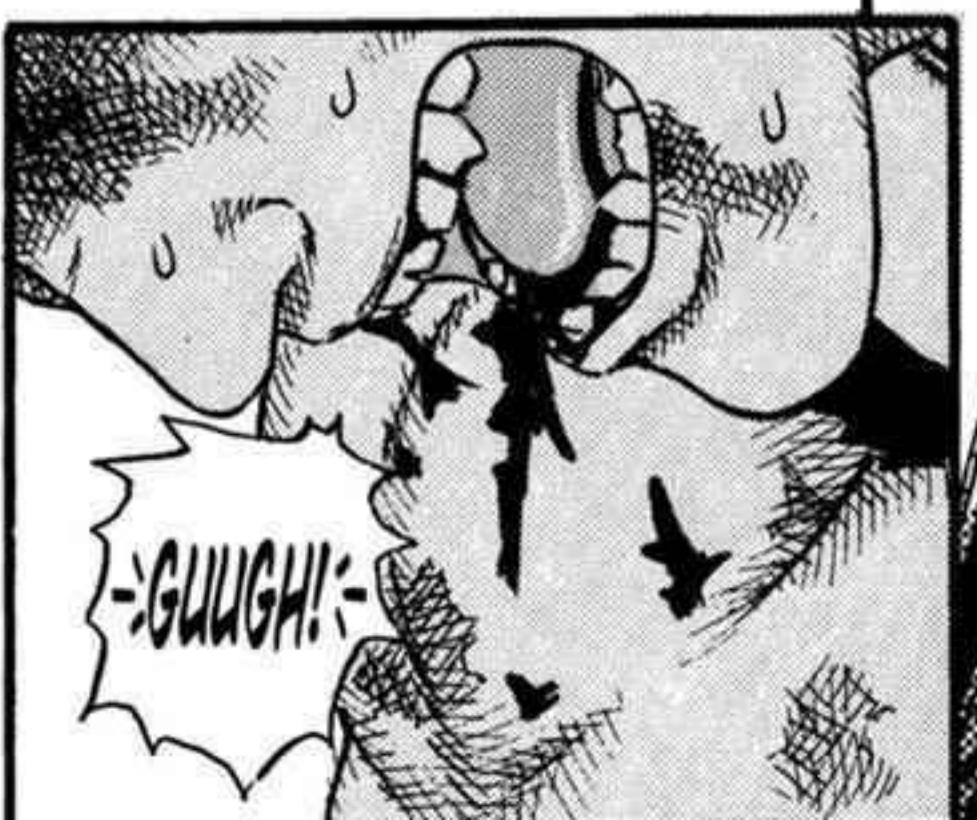
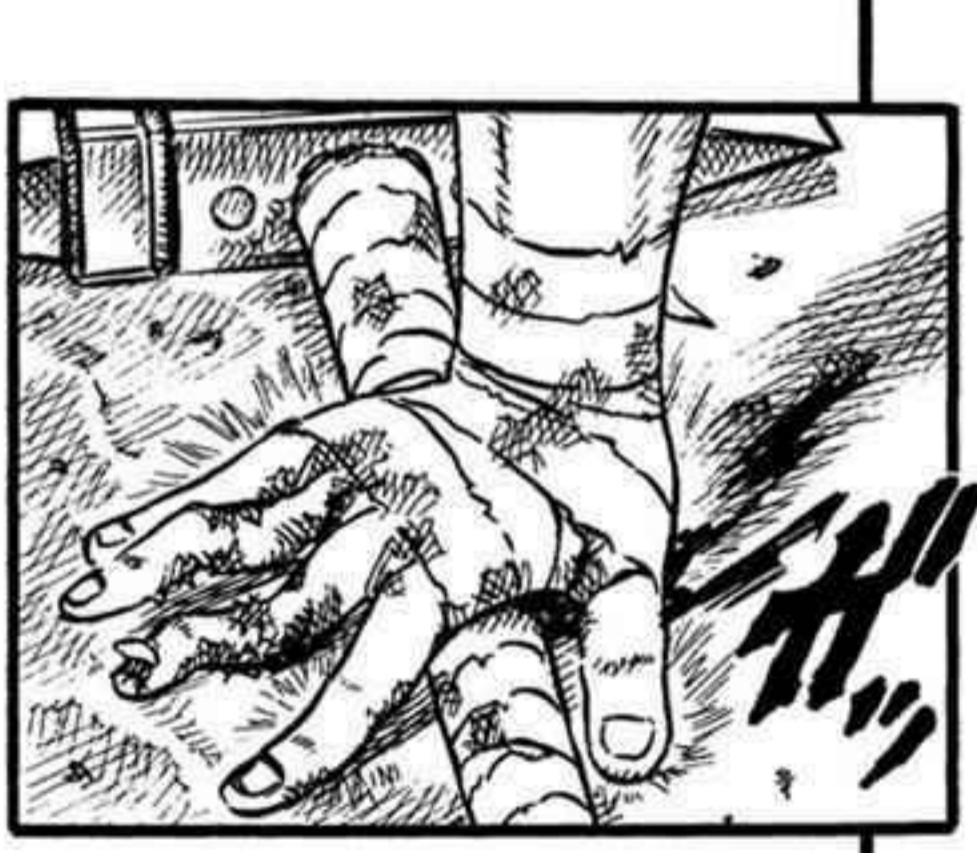
B-BUT THAT MAN, HE'S
THE ONE THEY CALL THE
BLACK SWORDSMAN!
THE ONE WHO'S DESTROYED
SO MANY APOSTLES OF
THE GODHAND... YOU
SHOULD CONSIDER HIM
A HATED ENEMY!



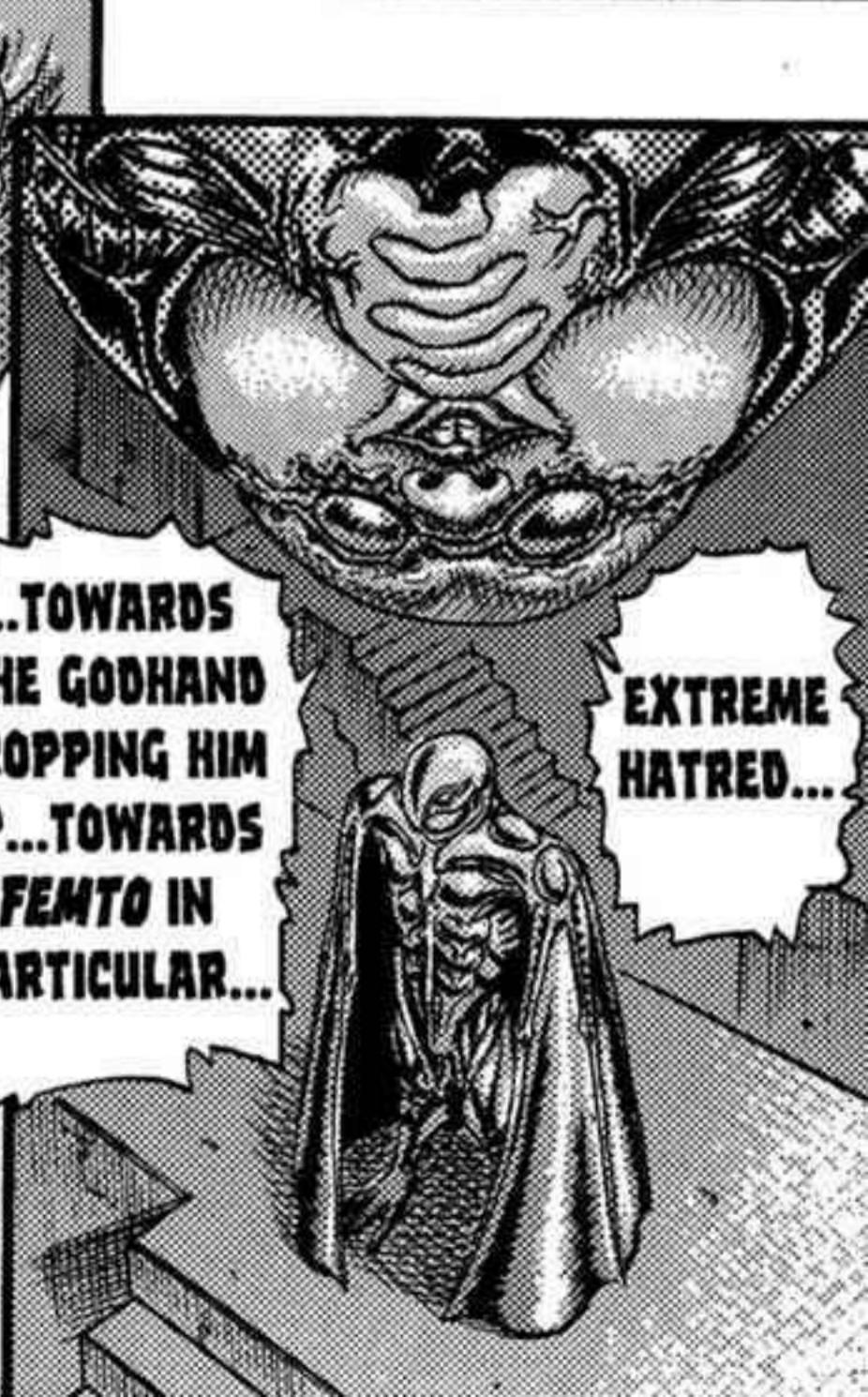
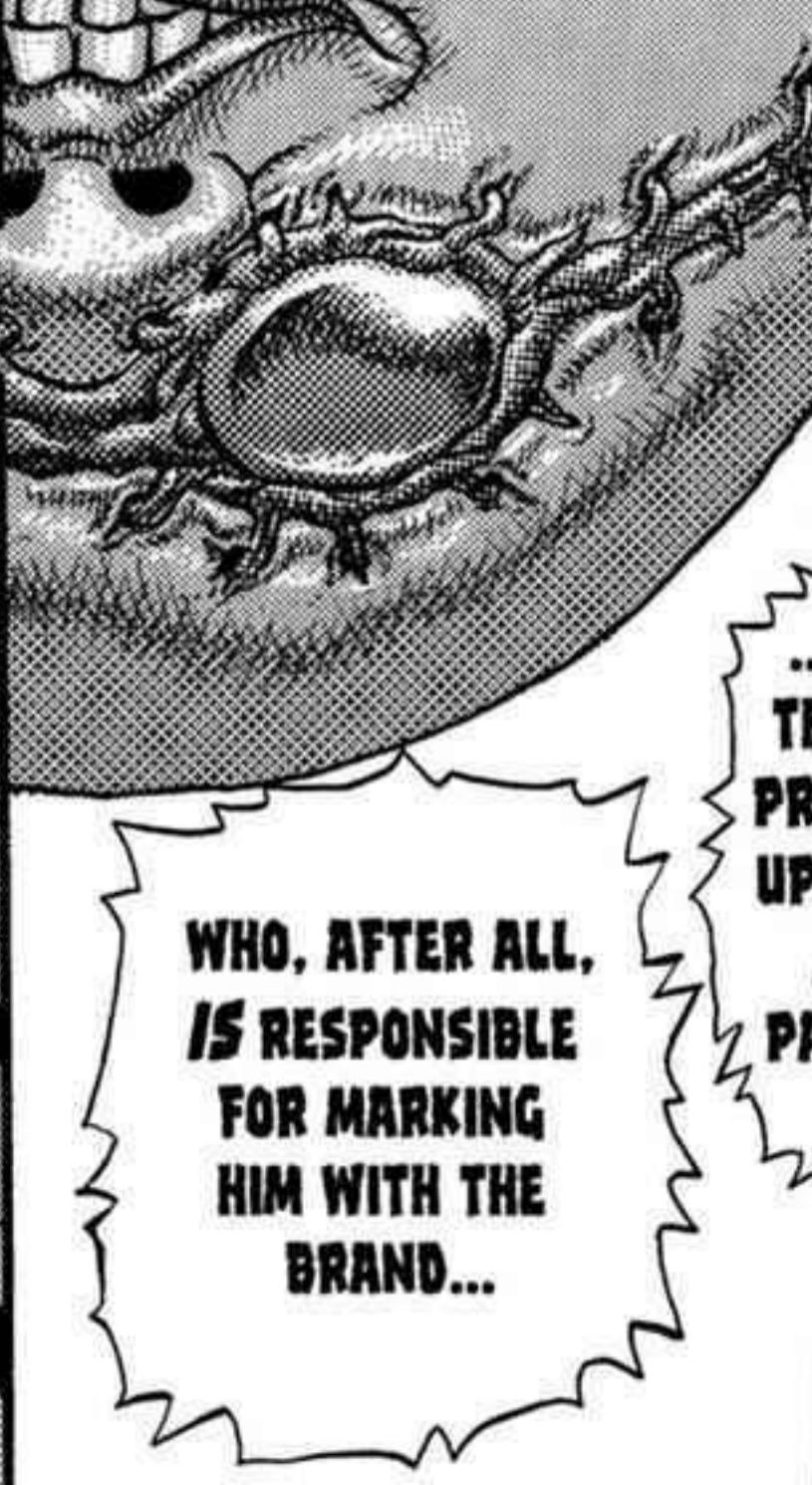
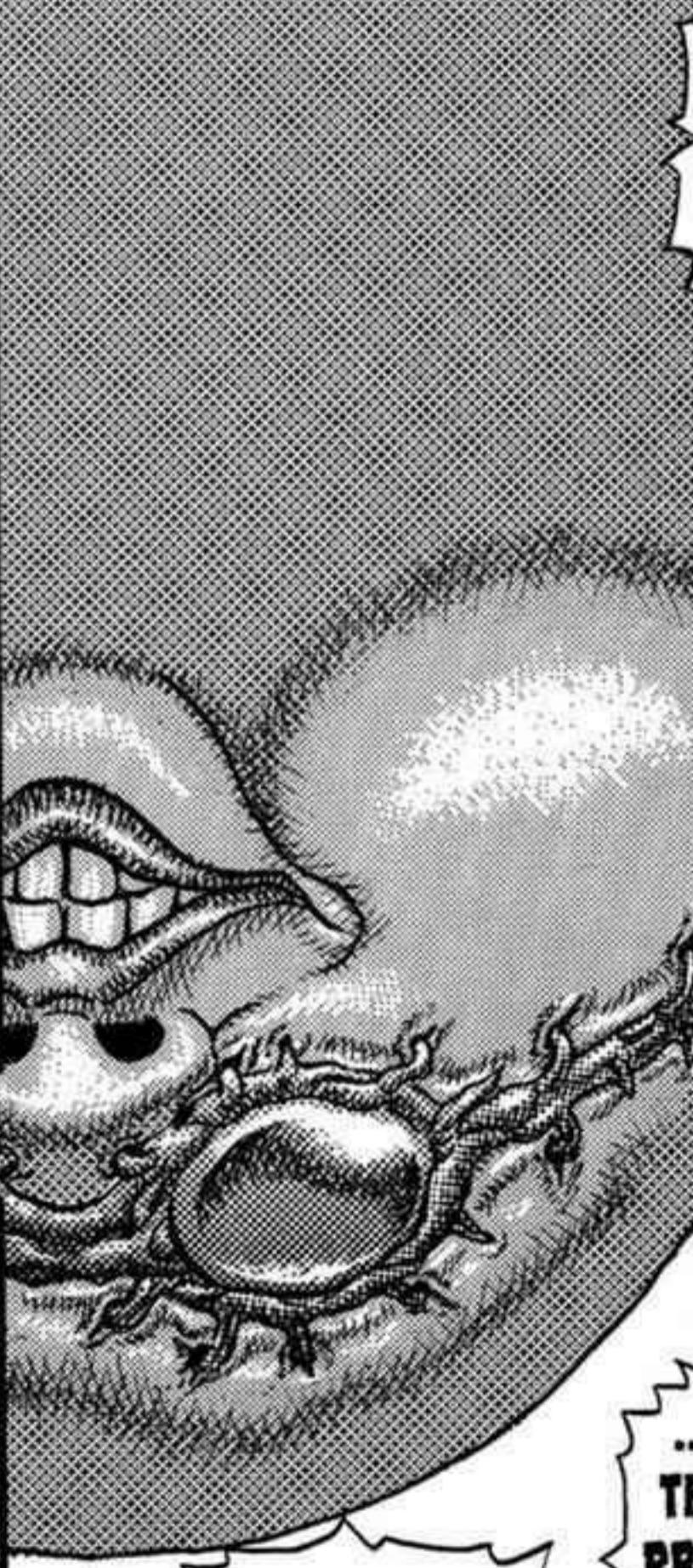
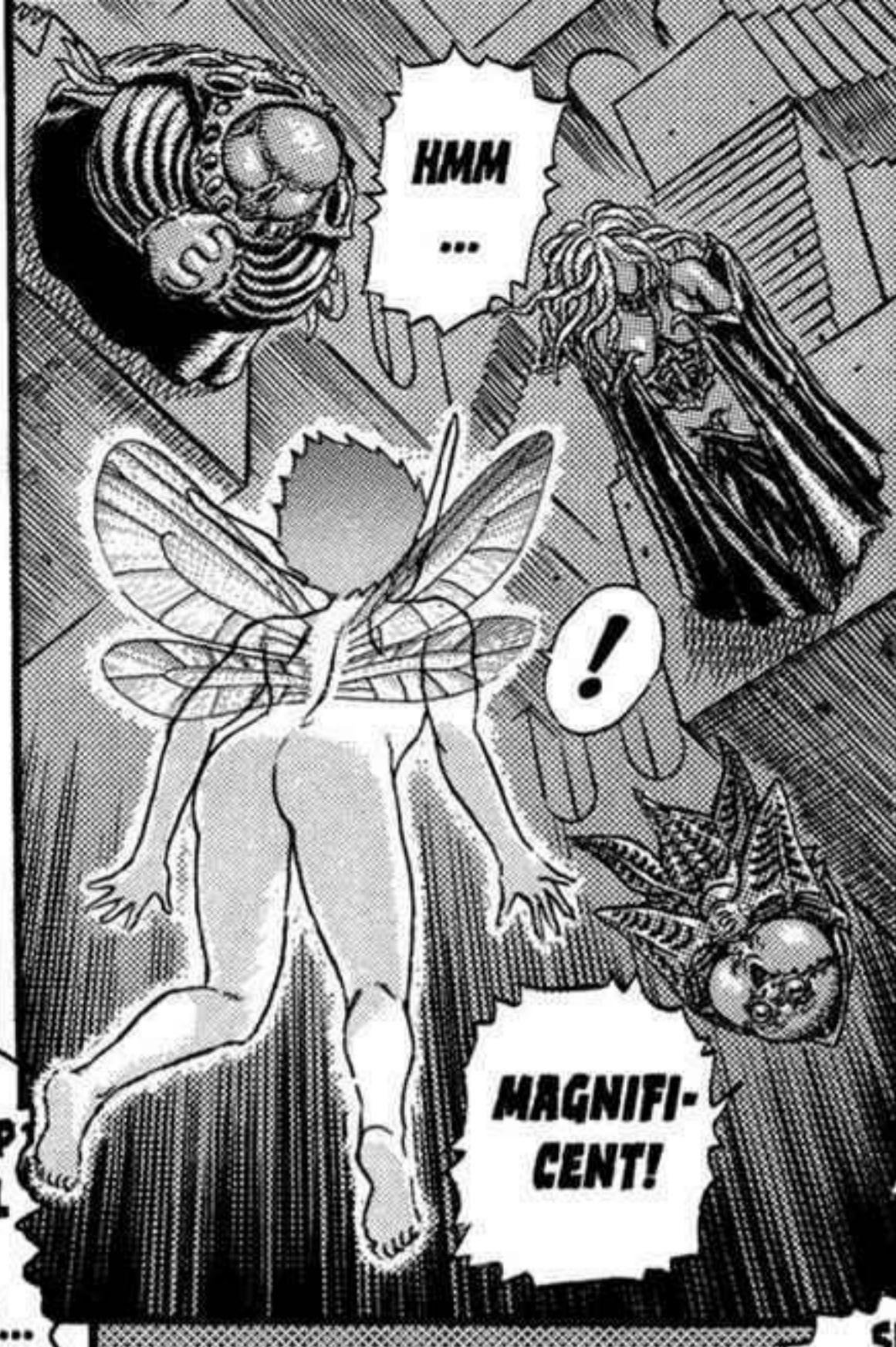
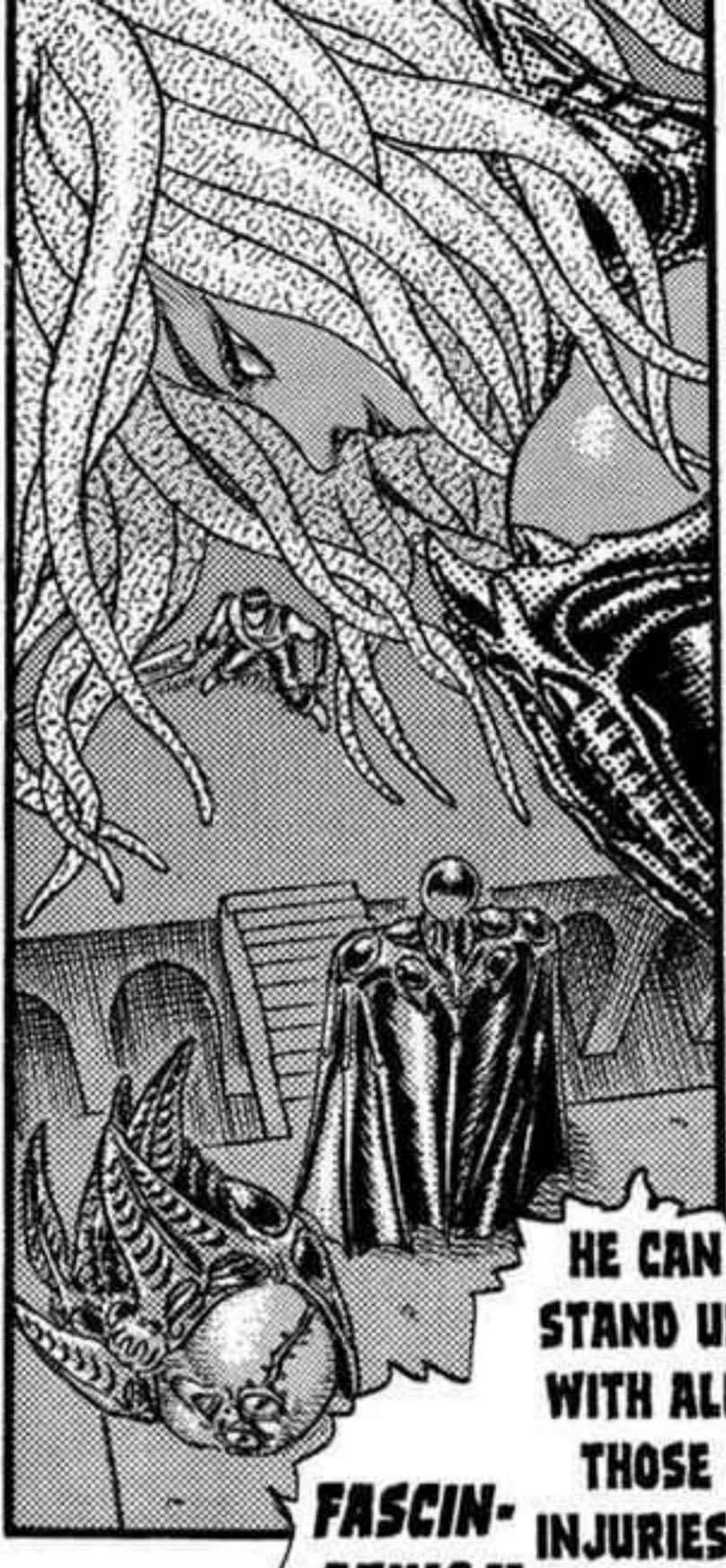
WE HAVE COME HITHER
TO GRANT YOU YOUR
DEEPEST DESIRE, YOU WHO
HAVE BEEN **ORDAINED**
BY THE LAWS OF FATE.













THANKS
TO ME,
WHO'S
FIGHTING
AN ARMY
OF THE
DEAD
BECAUSE
OF YOU...!!



THANKS
TO ME,
WHO'S
WRITHING
AROUND
IN MY OWN
BLOOD!!



MY
PETTY
EXISTENCE
...?

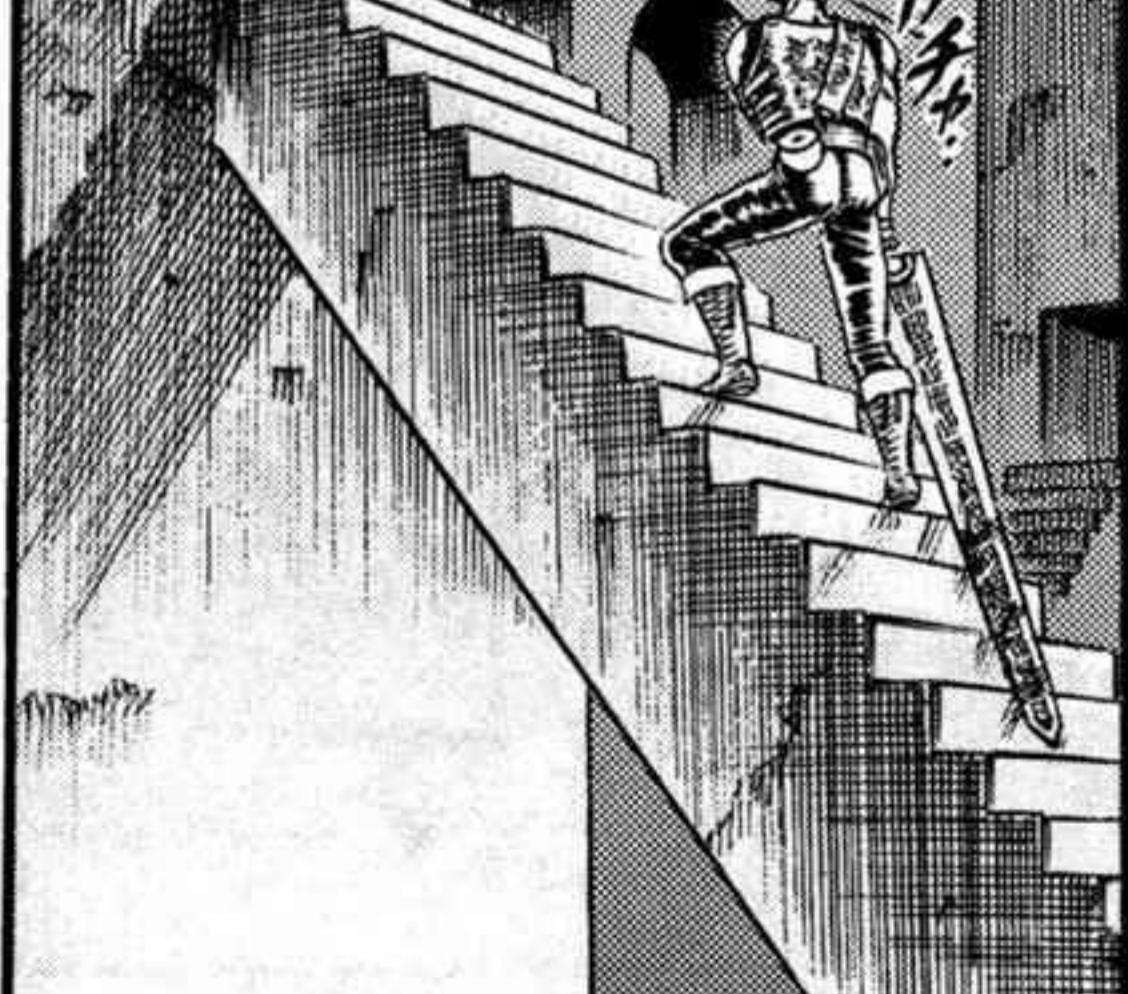
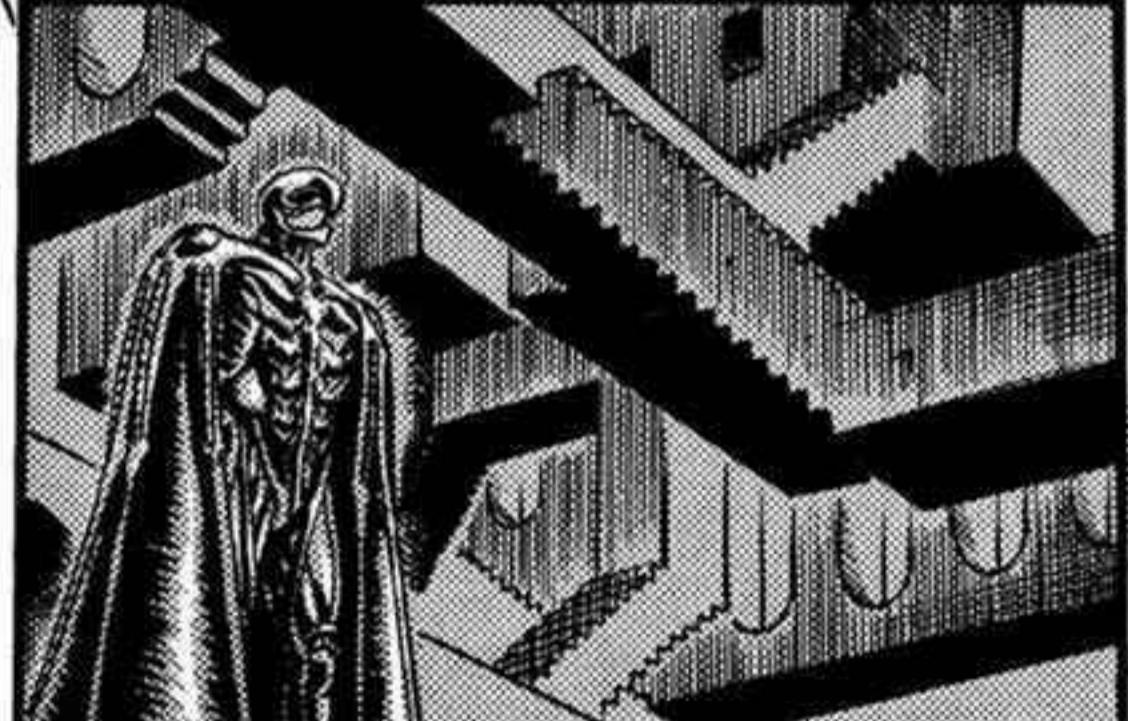
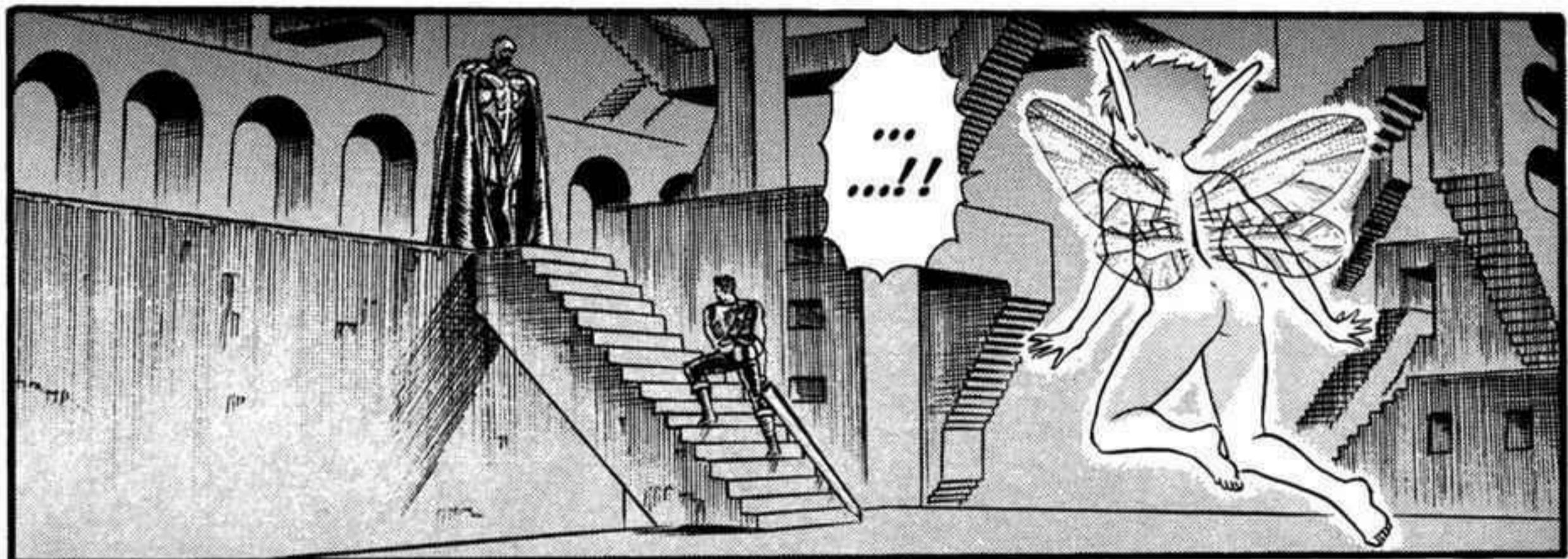


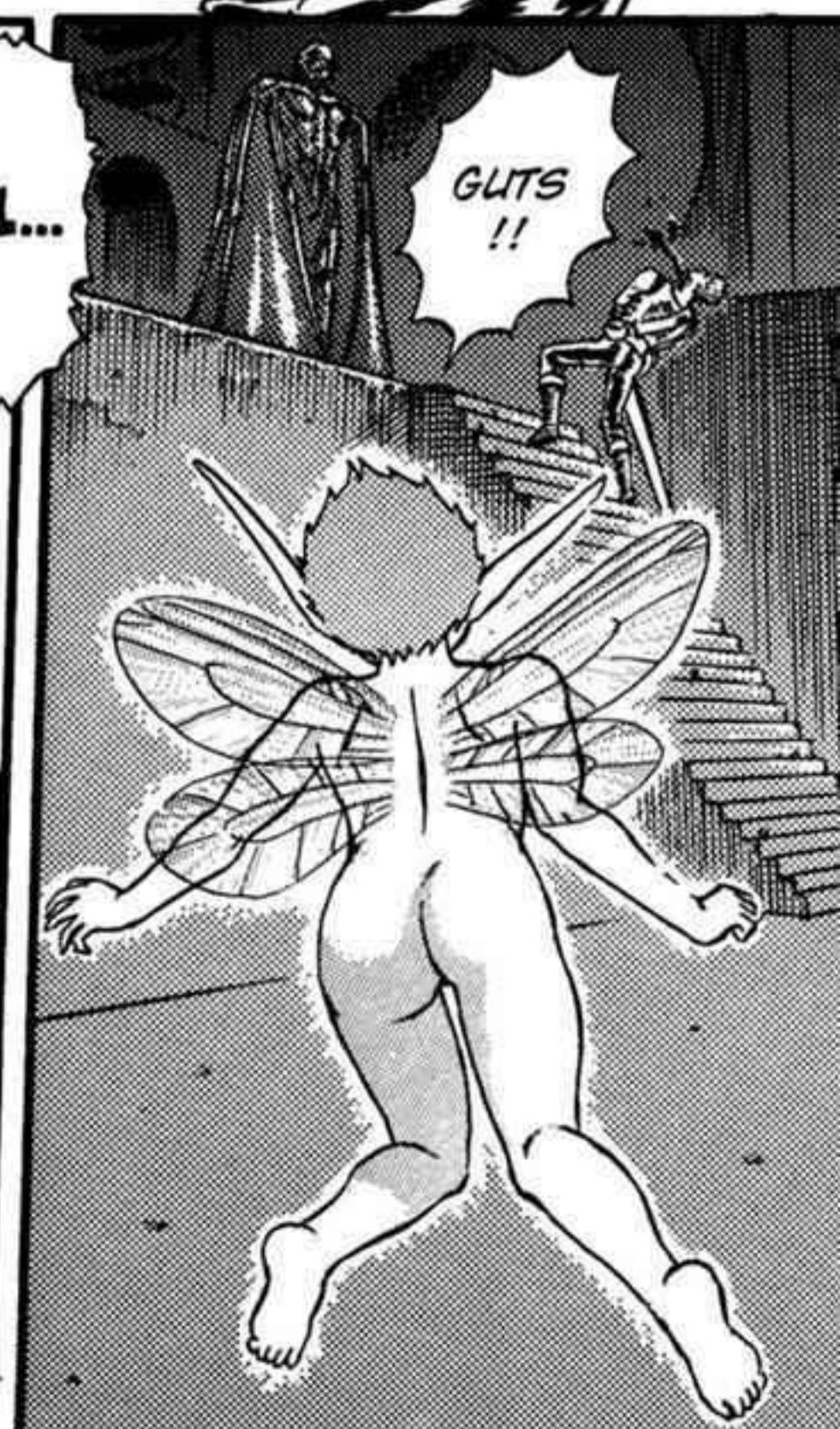
DON'T
MAKE
ME
LAUGH!

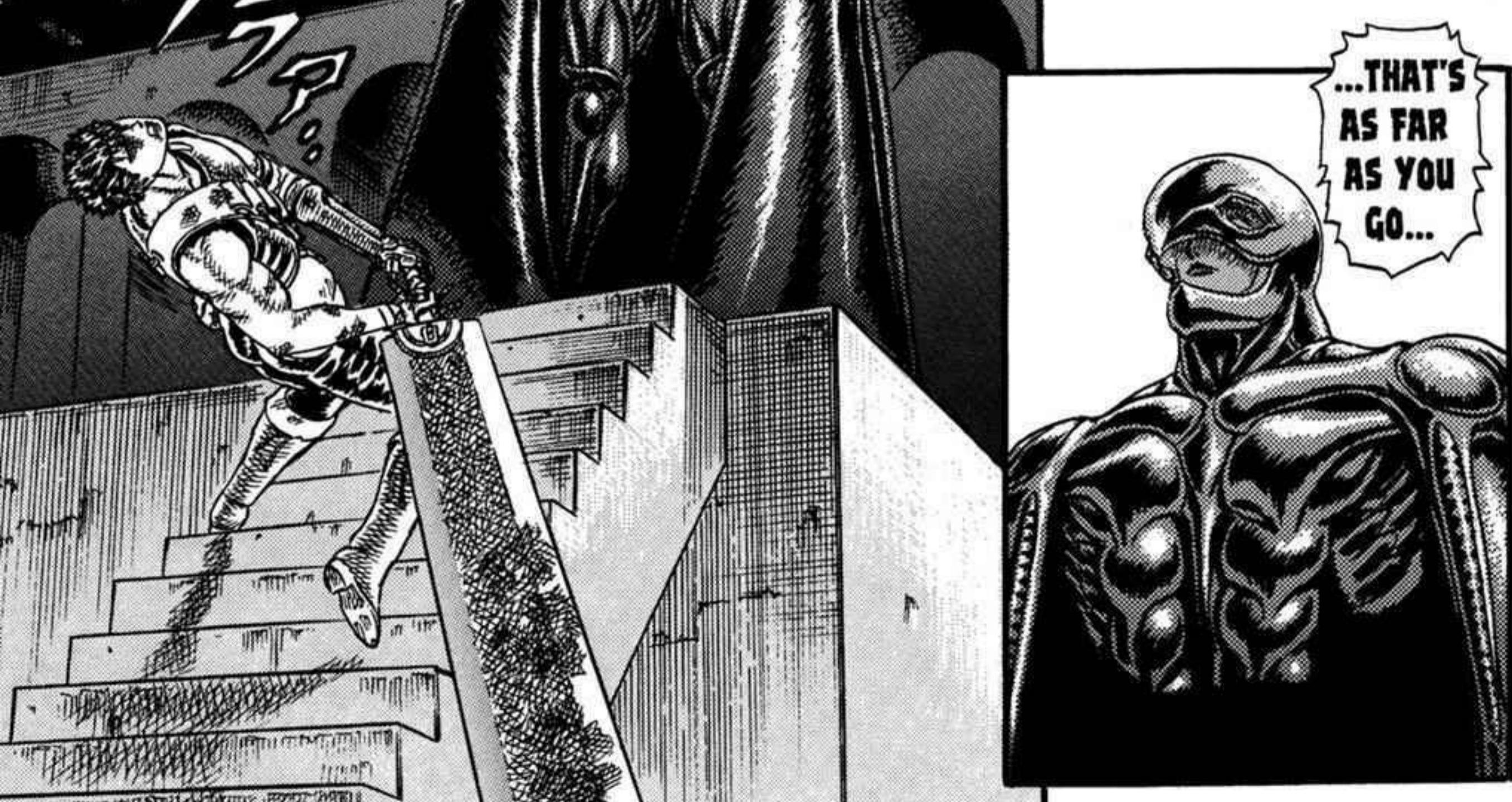
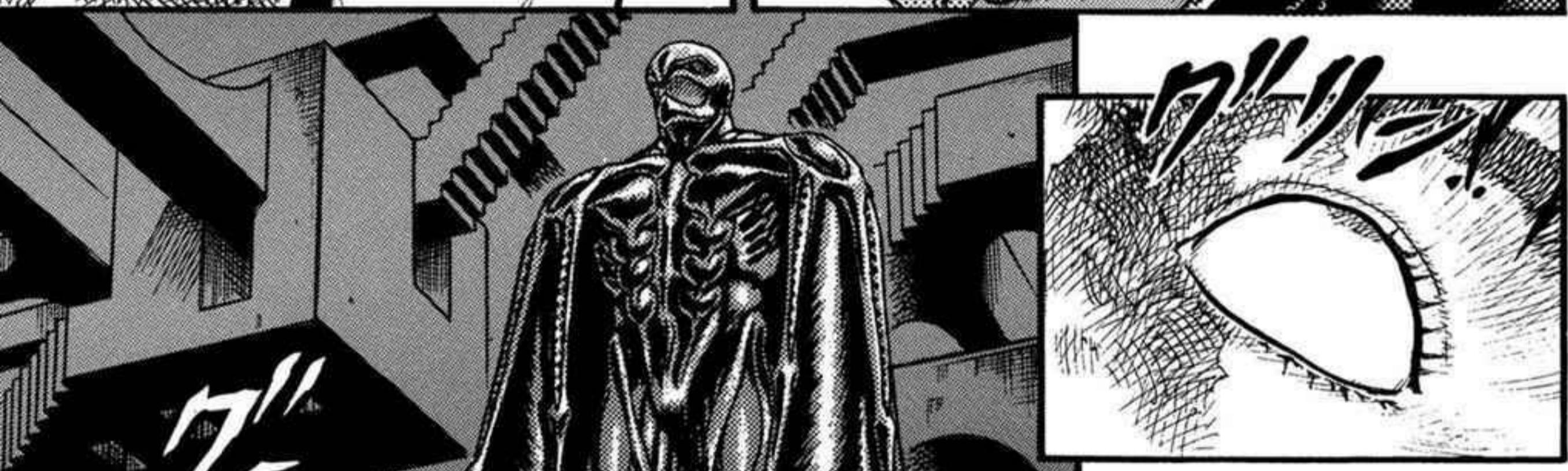


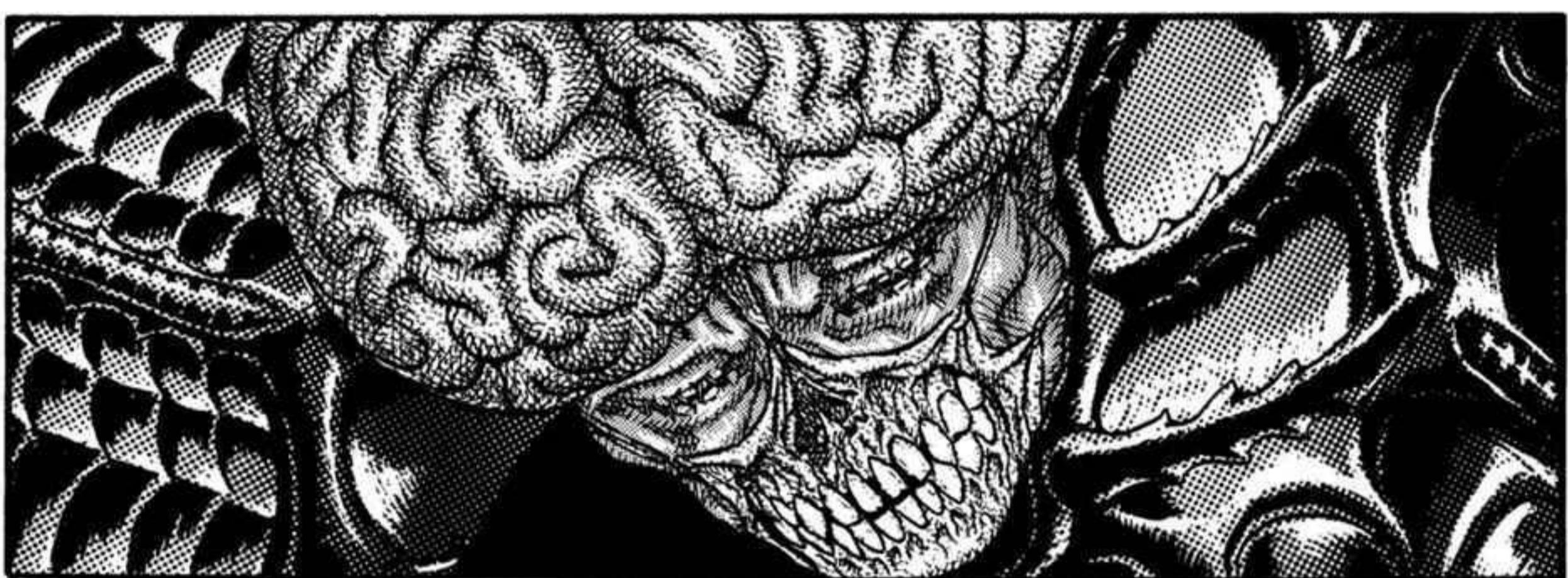
YOU'RE
WHERE YOU
ARE NOW
THANKS TO
THIS PETTY
EXISTENCE...





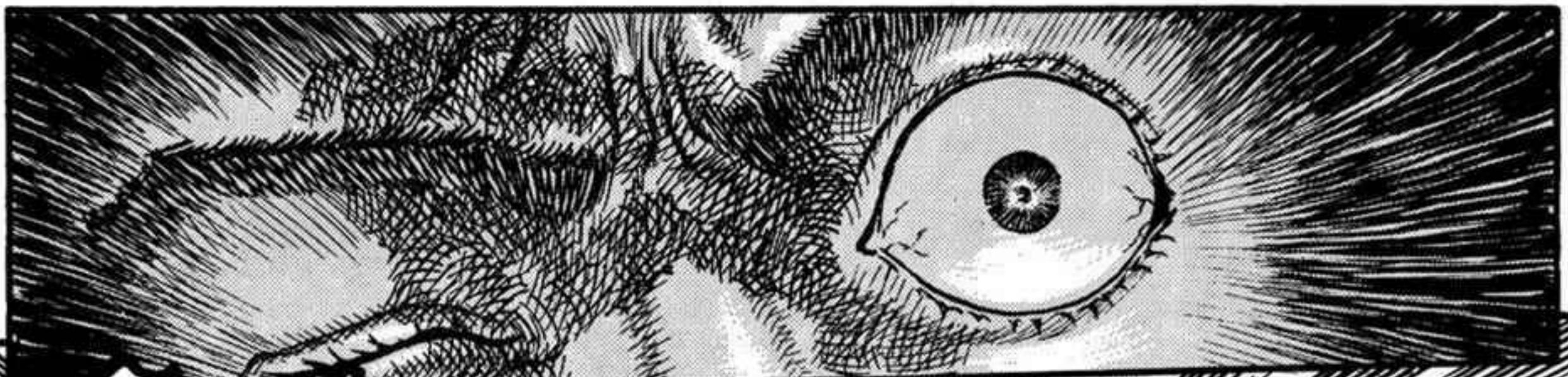












I'M
SURE HE'S
HARDLY
EVEN
AWARE.

WHAT
TREMENDOUS
FIGHTING SPIRIT!

THE FACT THAT
HE COULD EVEN
SWING HIS SWORD
AMIDST ALL
THAT PAIN...

INCRED-
IBLE!

GUTS!!

AND DON'T
FORGET HIS BODY
IS COVERED IN
WOUNDS AFTER
HIS FIGHT
WITH THE
COUNT!

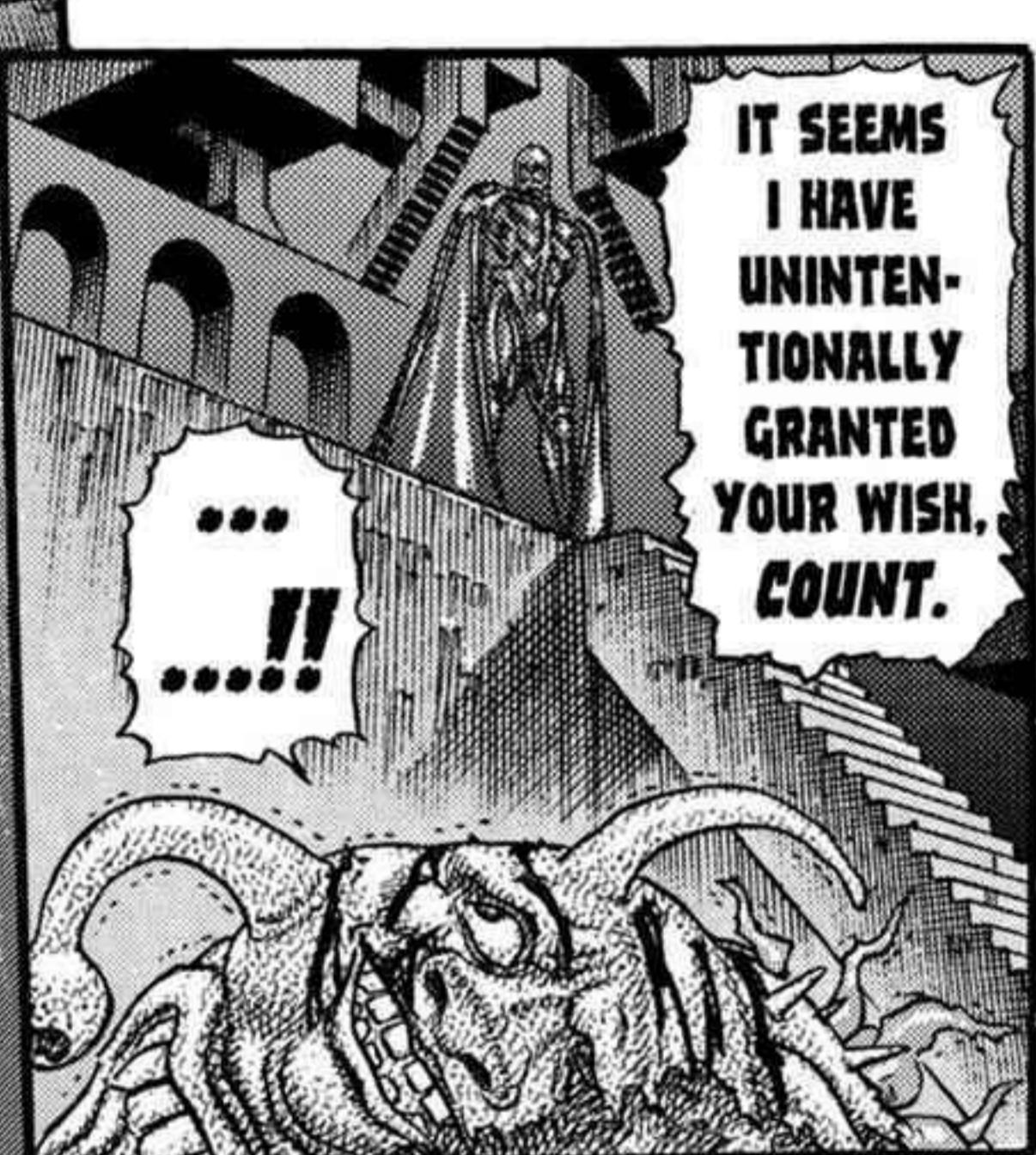
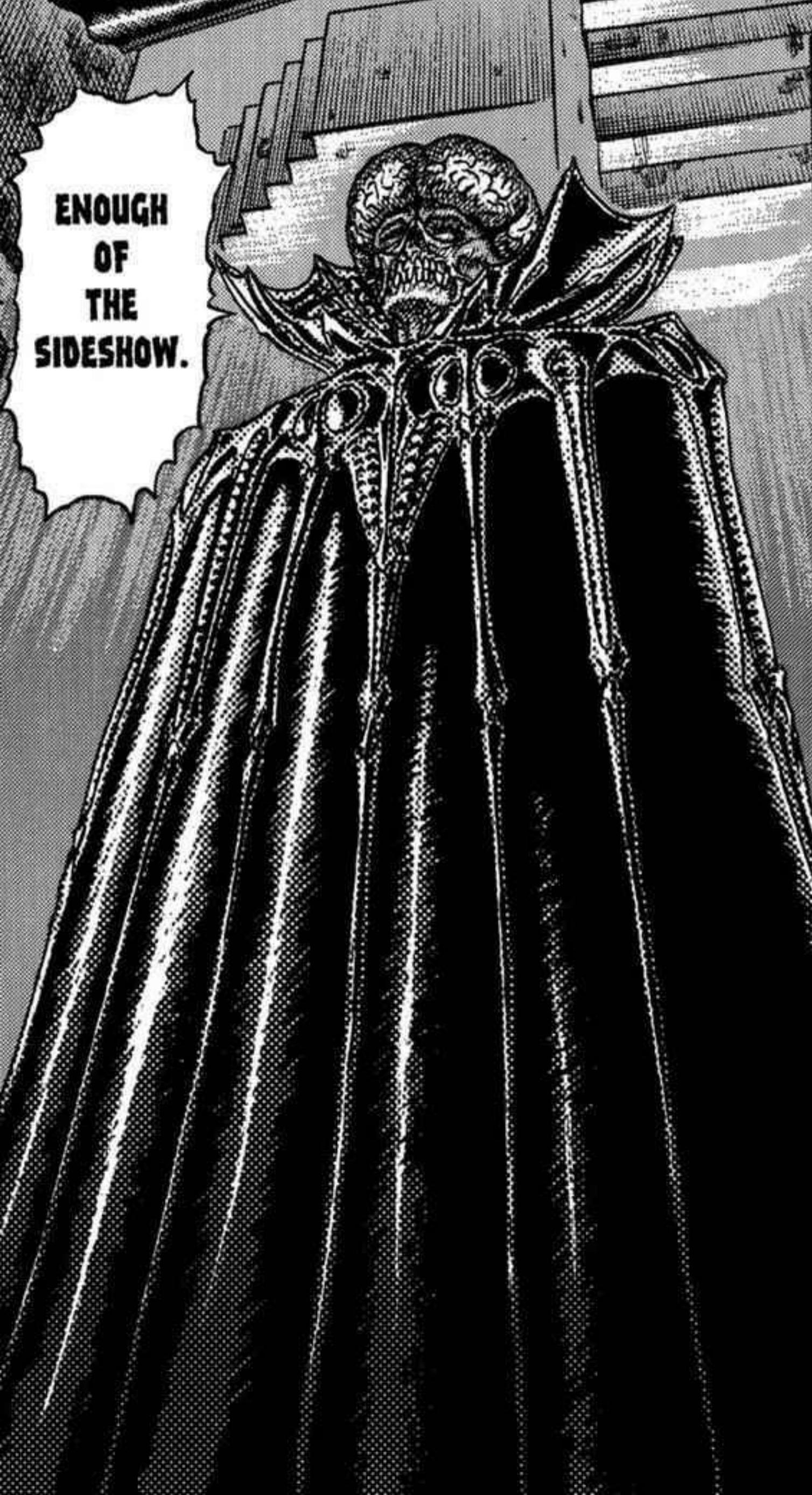
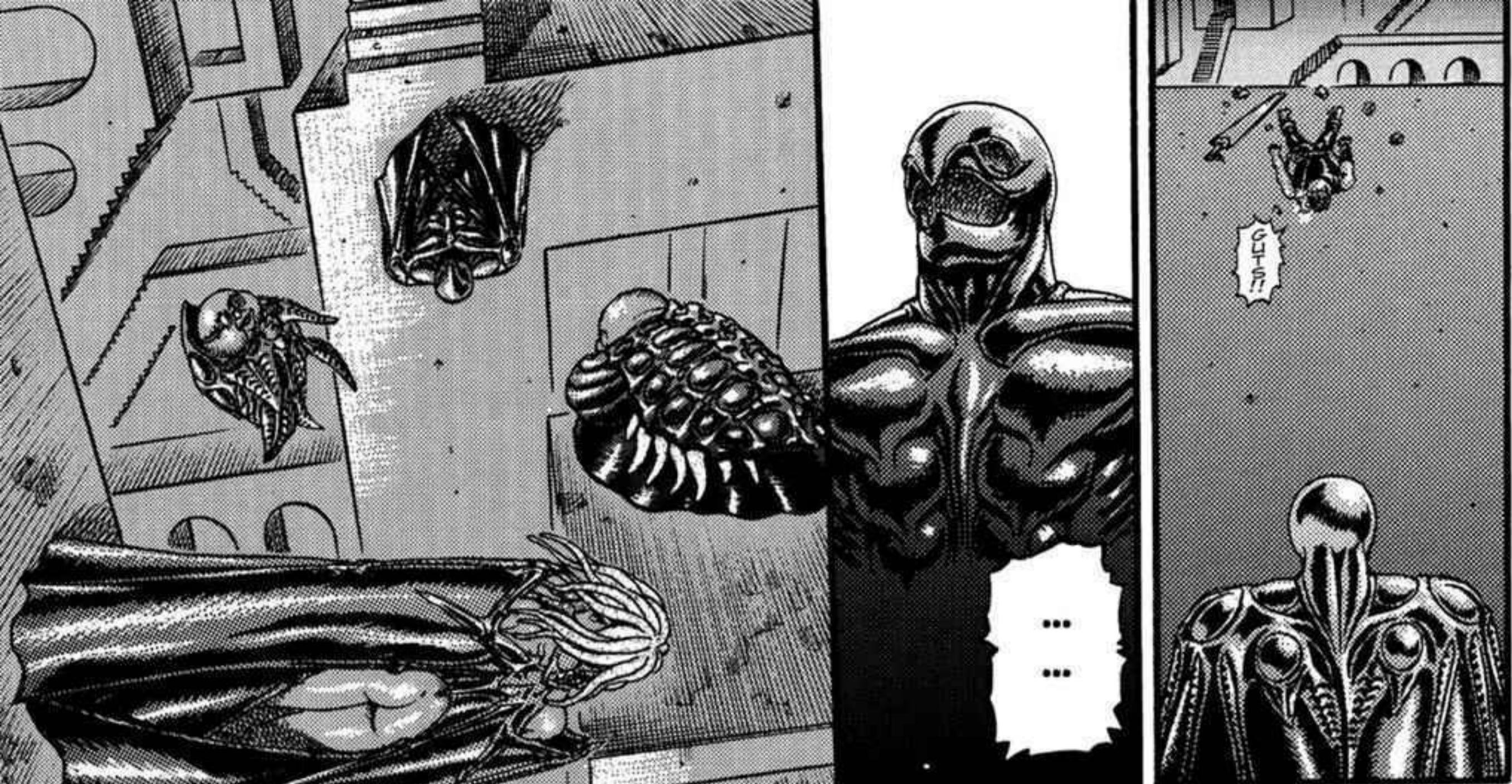
...HE'S
FINISHED.

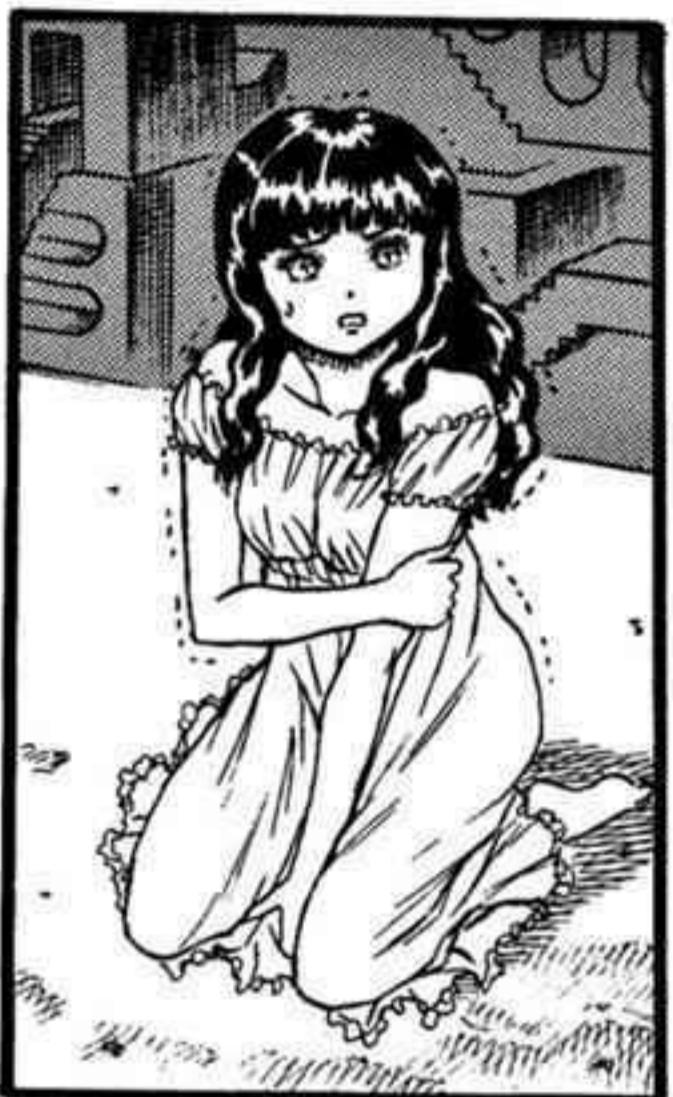
BESIDES

BUT HE HASN'T
BEEN ORDAINED
BY THE LAWS
OF FATE...

IF THAT
BOY BECAME
ONE OF OURS
...I'D LOVE
IT!

...SO HE
CAN'T BE
AMONG US.





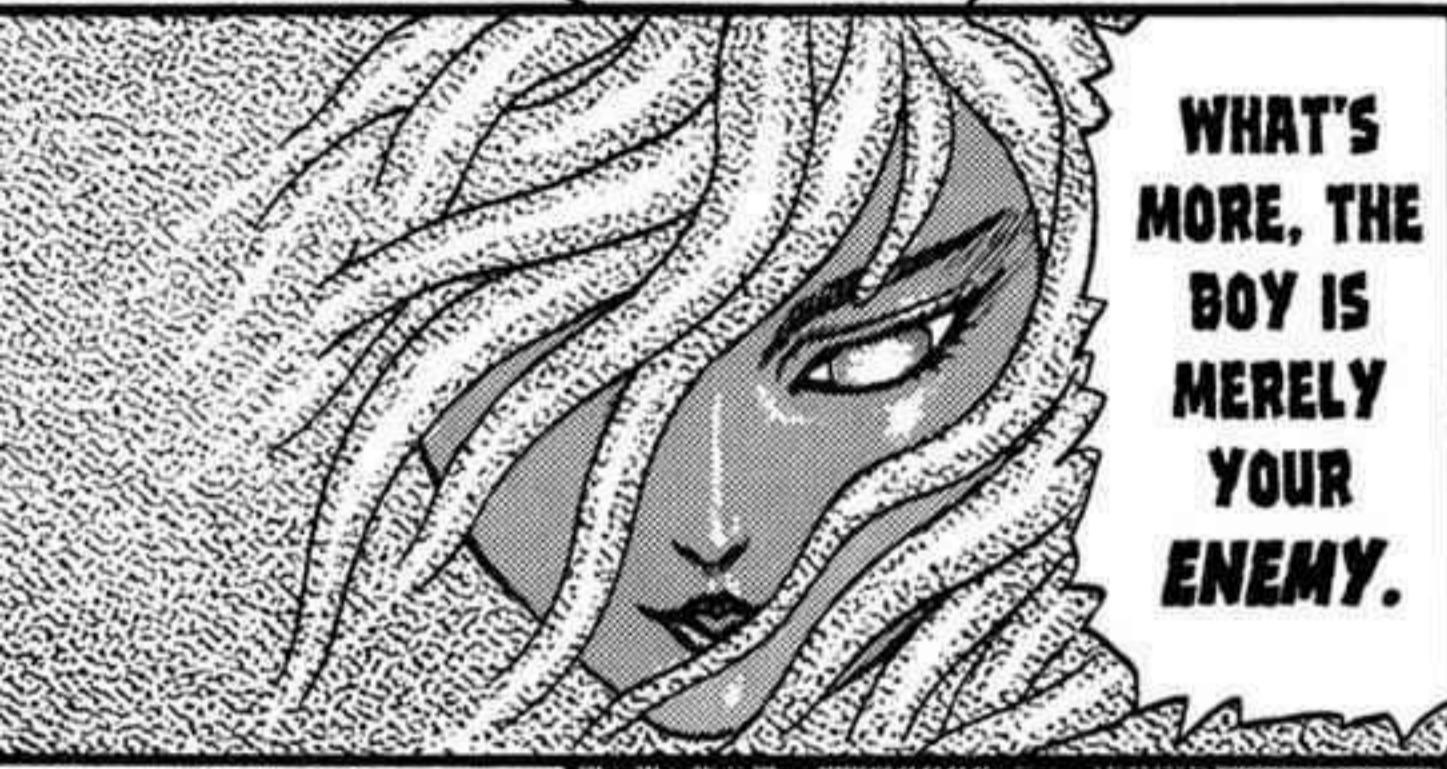
IT IS TIME
TO PERFORM
THE
INVOCATION
OF DOOM!



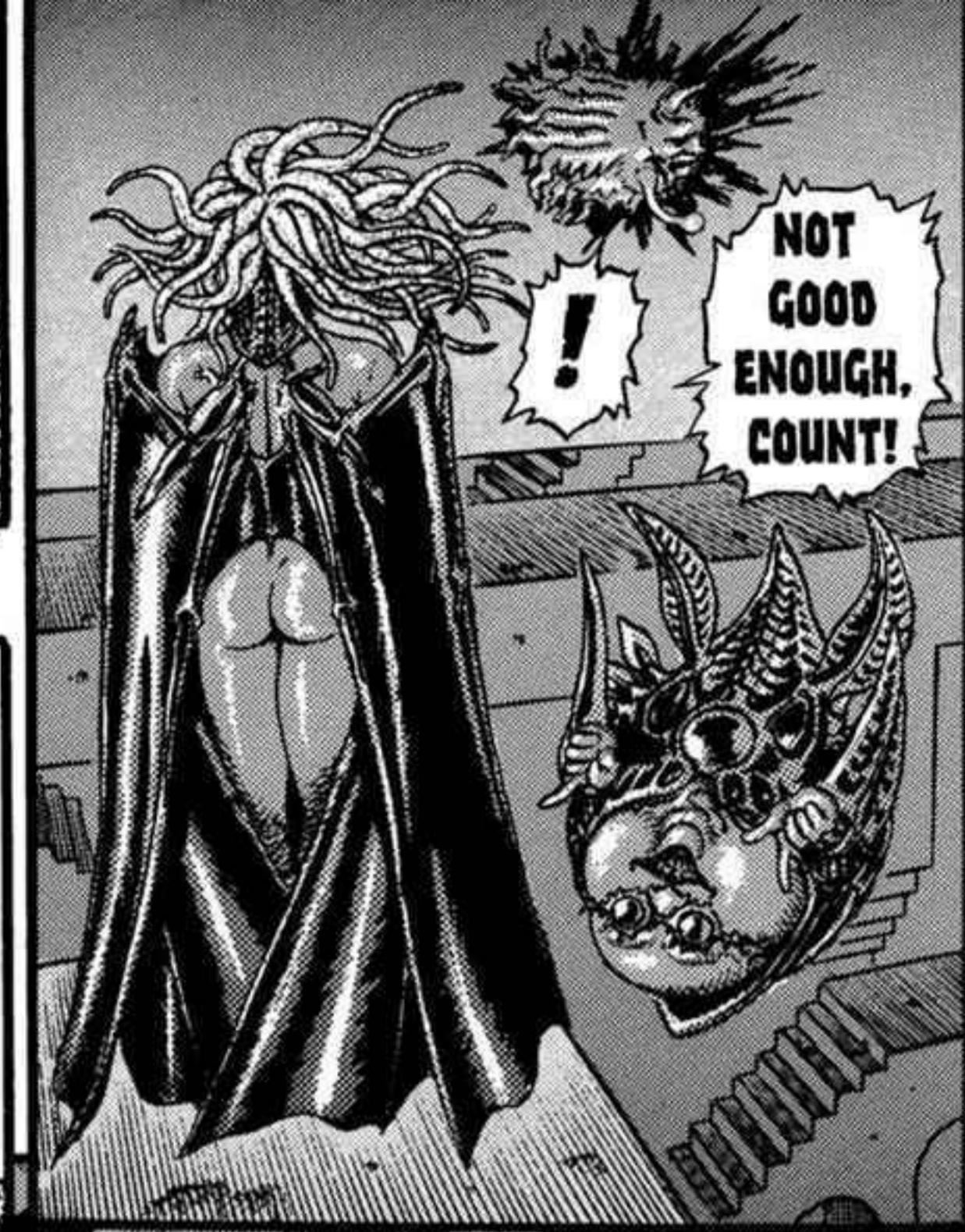


THAT MAN
HAS ALREADY
BEEN MARKED
FOR SACRIFICE.

B-BUT
WHY...?



WHAT'S
MORE, THE
BOY IS
MERELY
YOUR
ENEMY.



! NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH,
COUNT!



BY MAKING
SUCH A
SACRIFICE TO
DEMONKIND...



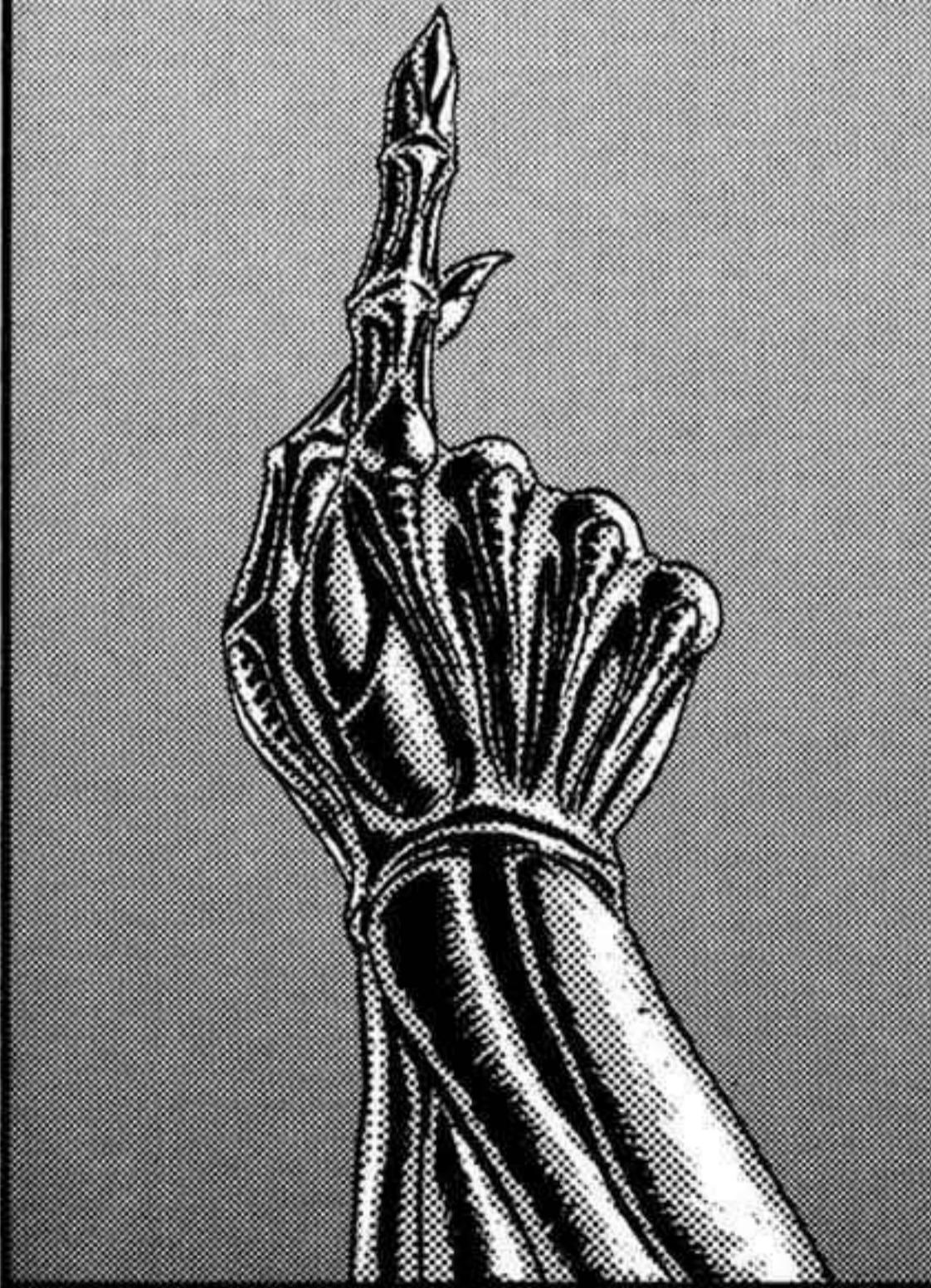
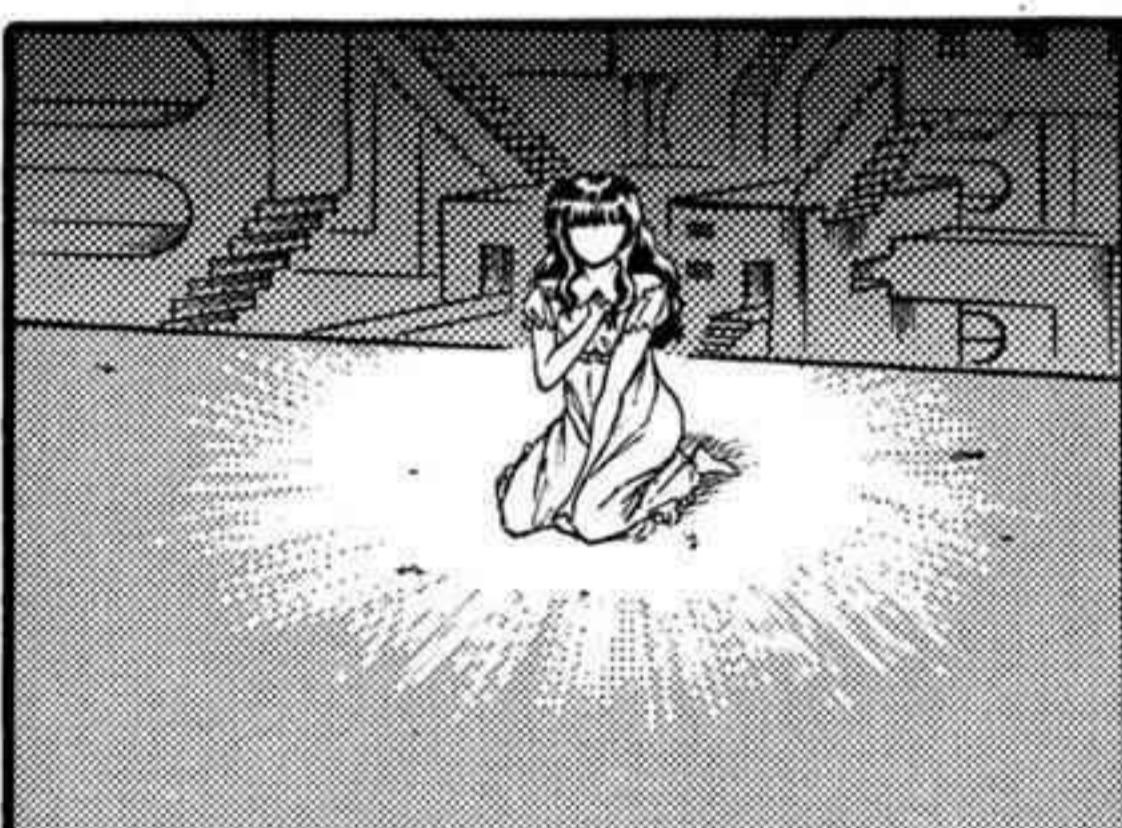
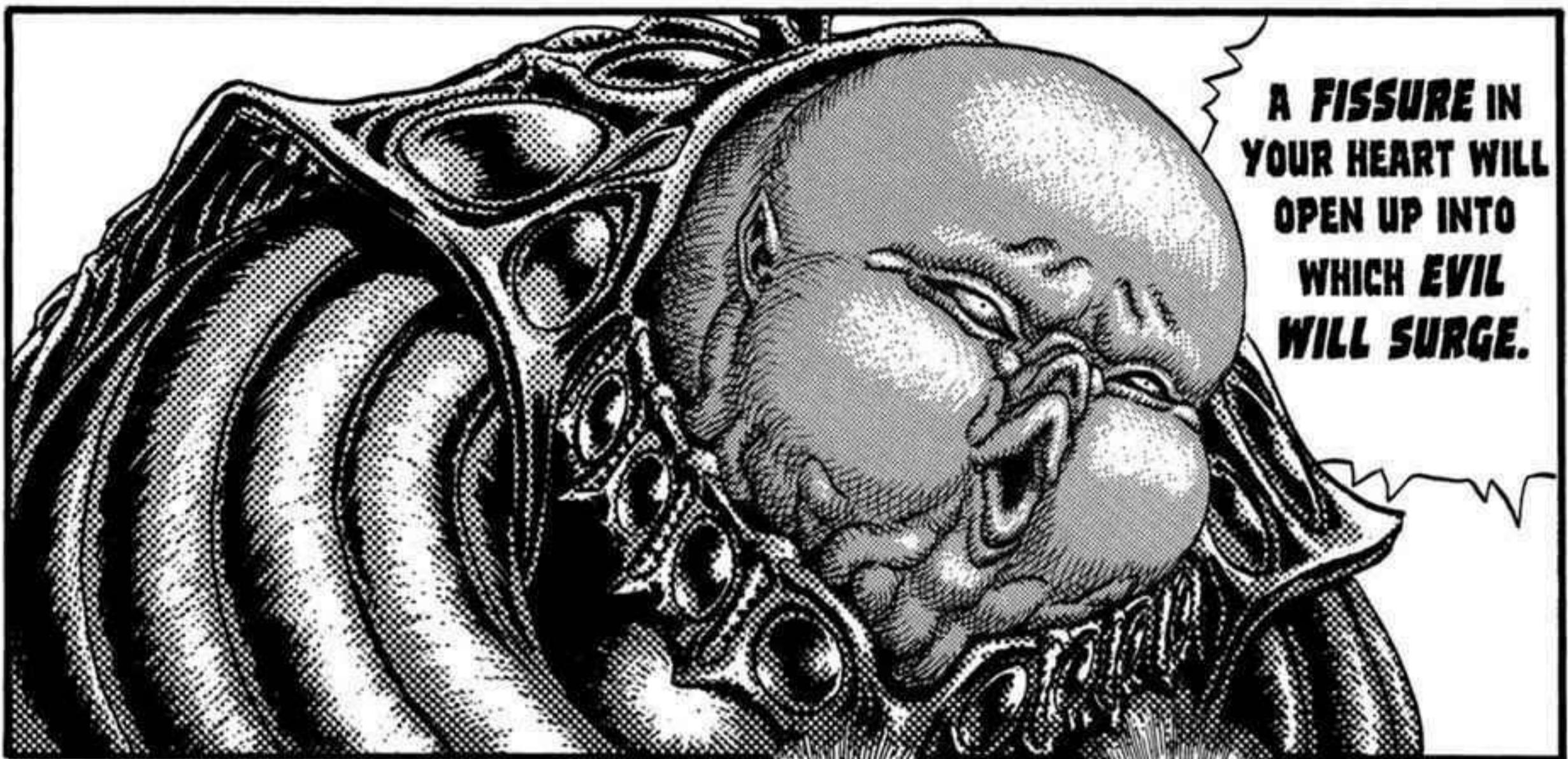
AS A SACRIFICIAL
OFFERING FOR THE
INVOCATION OF DOOM,
NOT JUST ANY LUMP
OF FLESH AND
BLOOD WILL DO.

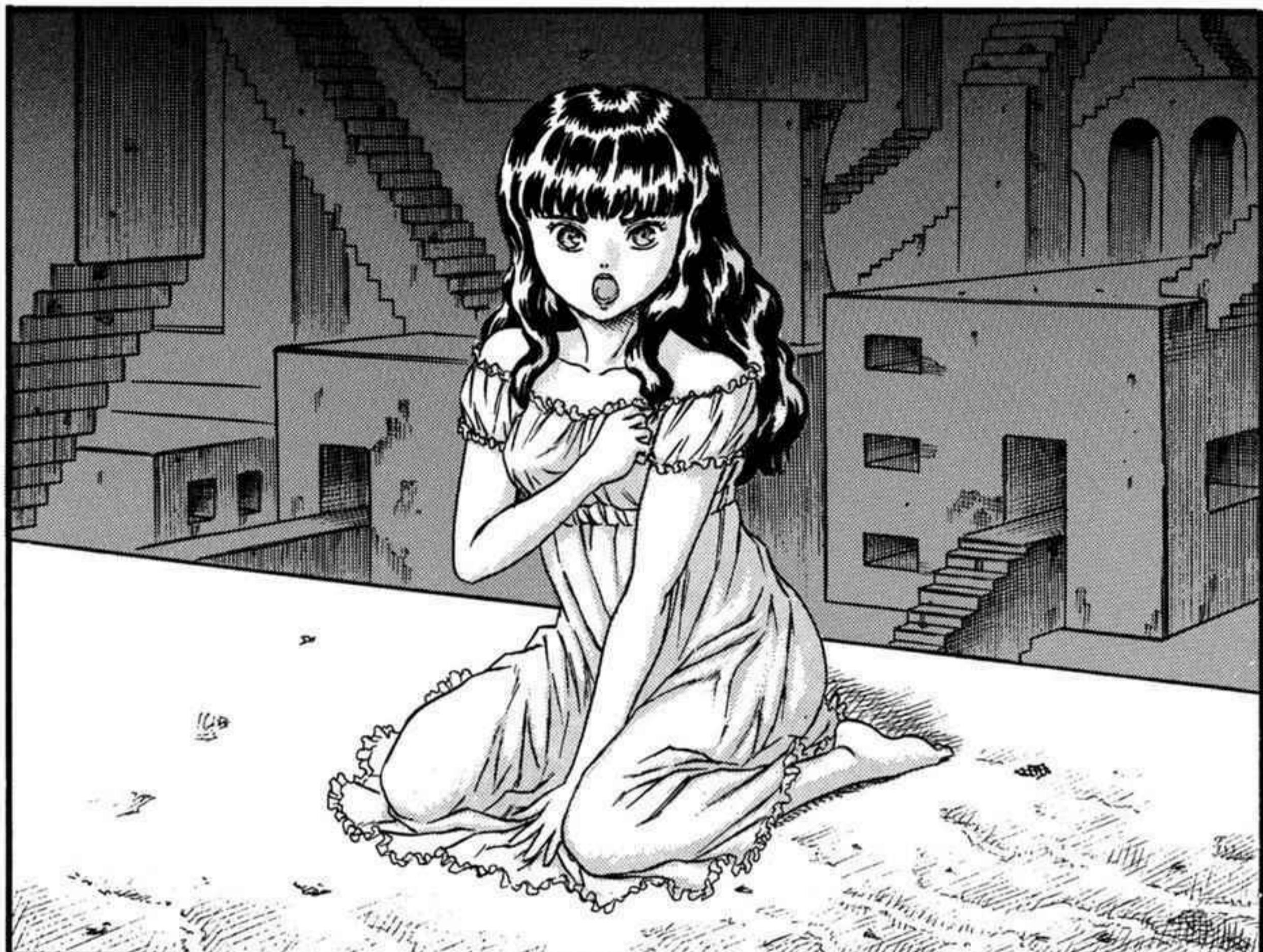


...YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO SEVER
ANY LAST
REMNANTS OF
YOUR OWN
HUMANITY.

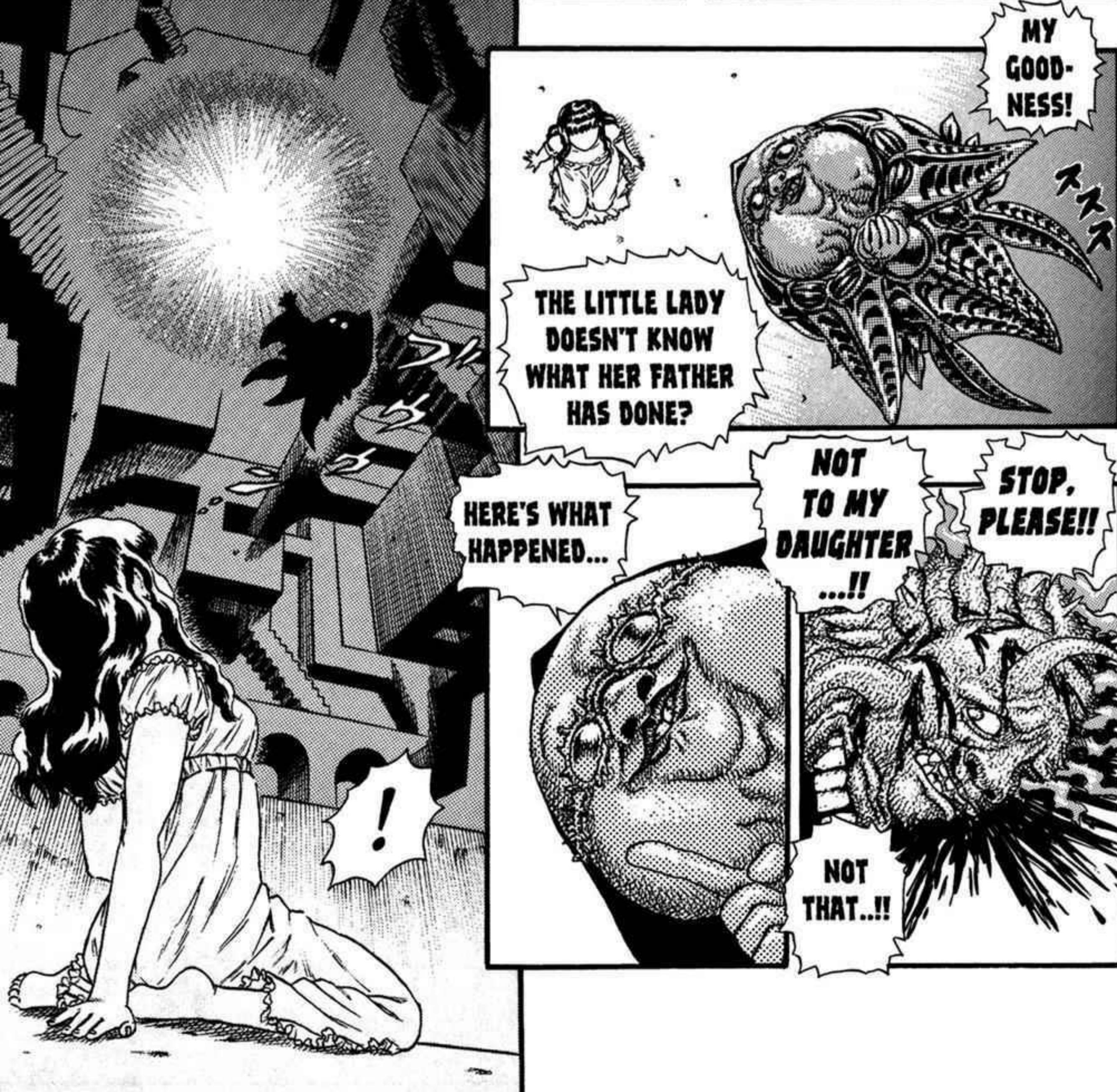
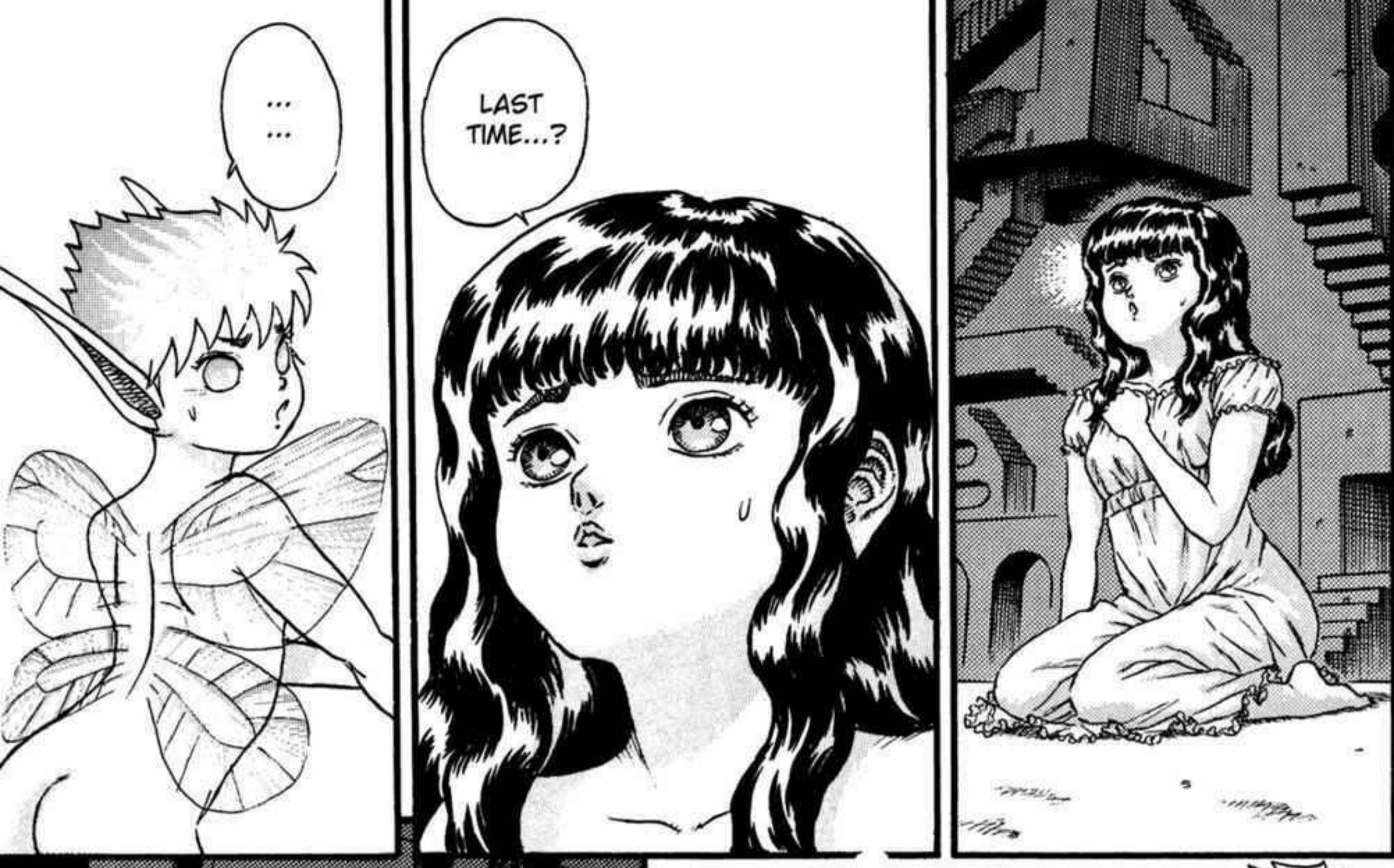


IT MUST BE
SOMEONE IMPORTANT
TO YOU, PART OF
YOUR SOUL...SOMEONE
SO CLOSE TO YOU
THAT IT'S ALMOST
LIKE GIVING UP A
PART OF YOU.









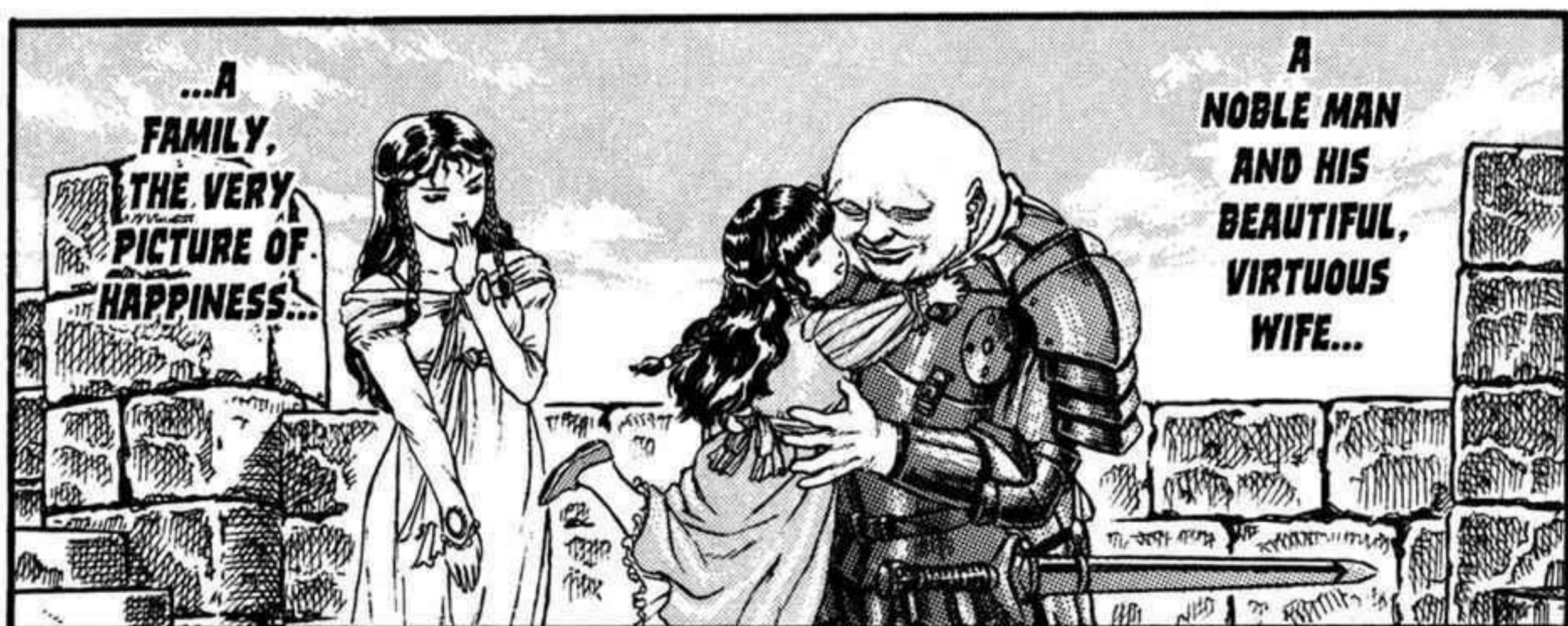


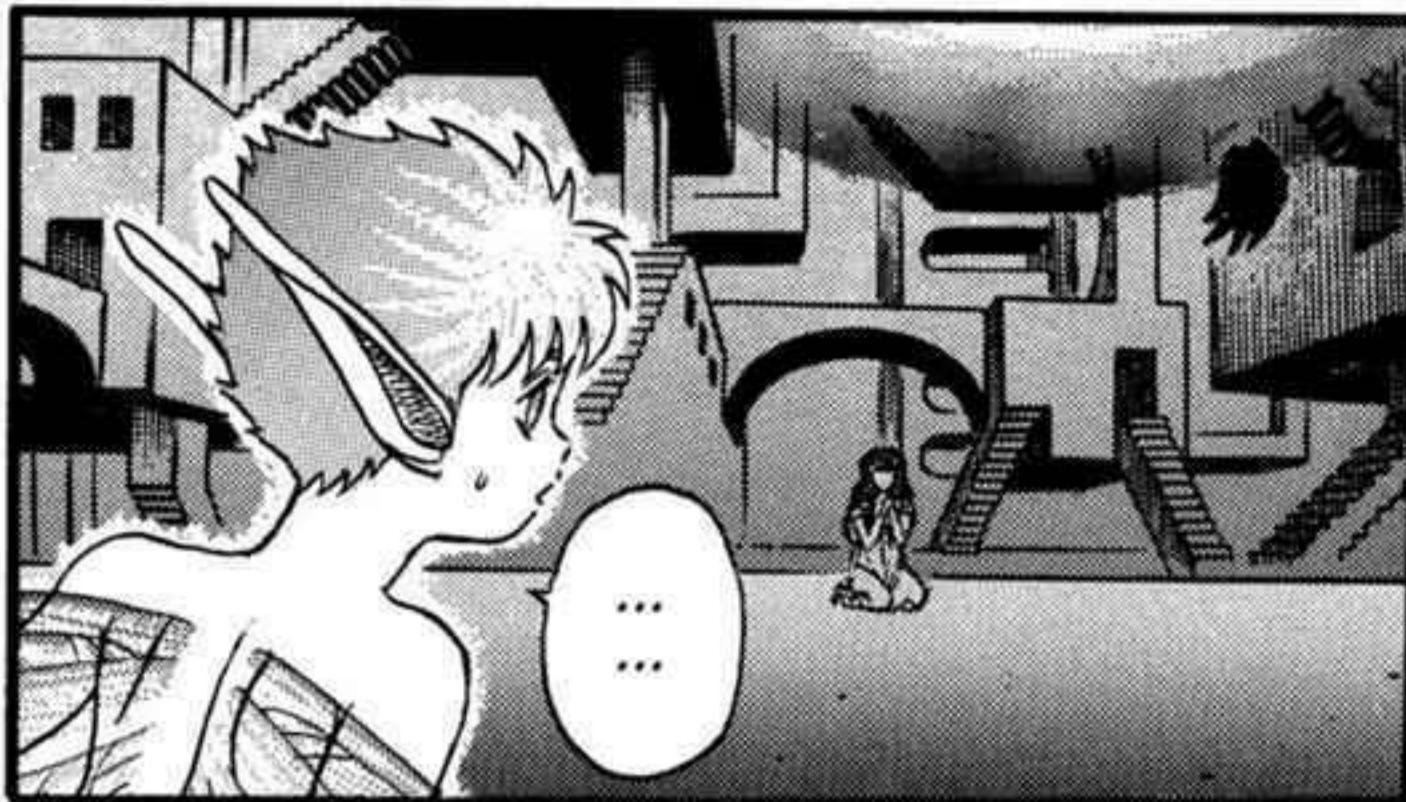
JUST OPENED
**TIME AND
SPACE FOR
A LITTLE
LOOK-SEE!**

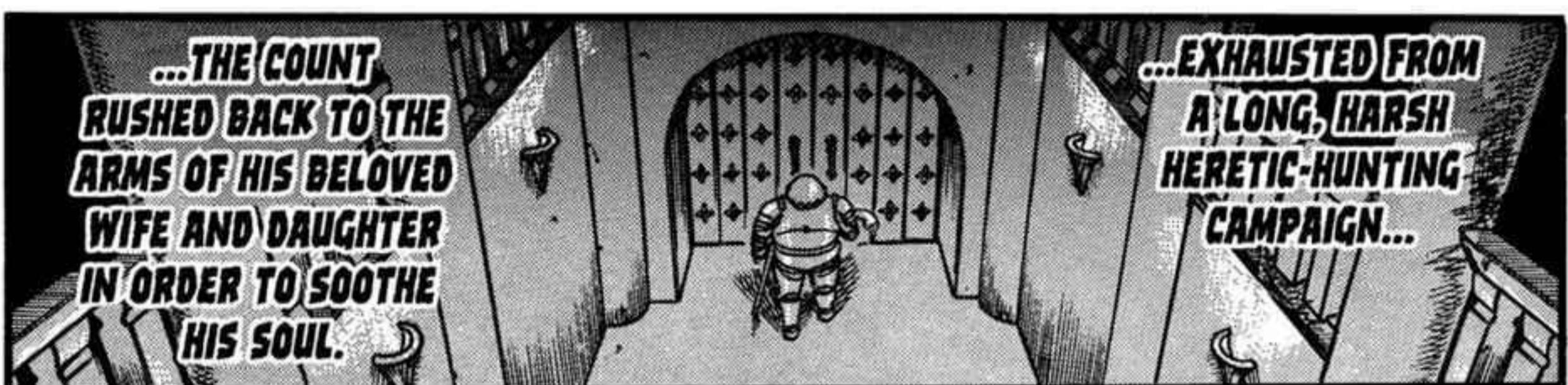
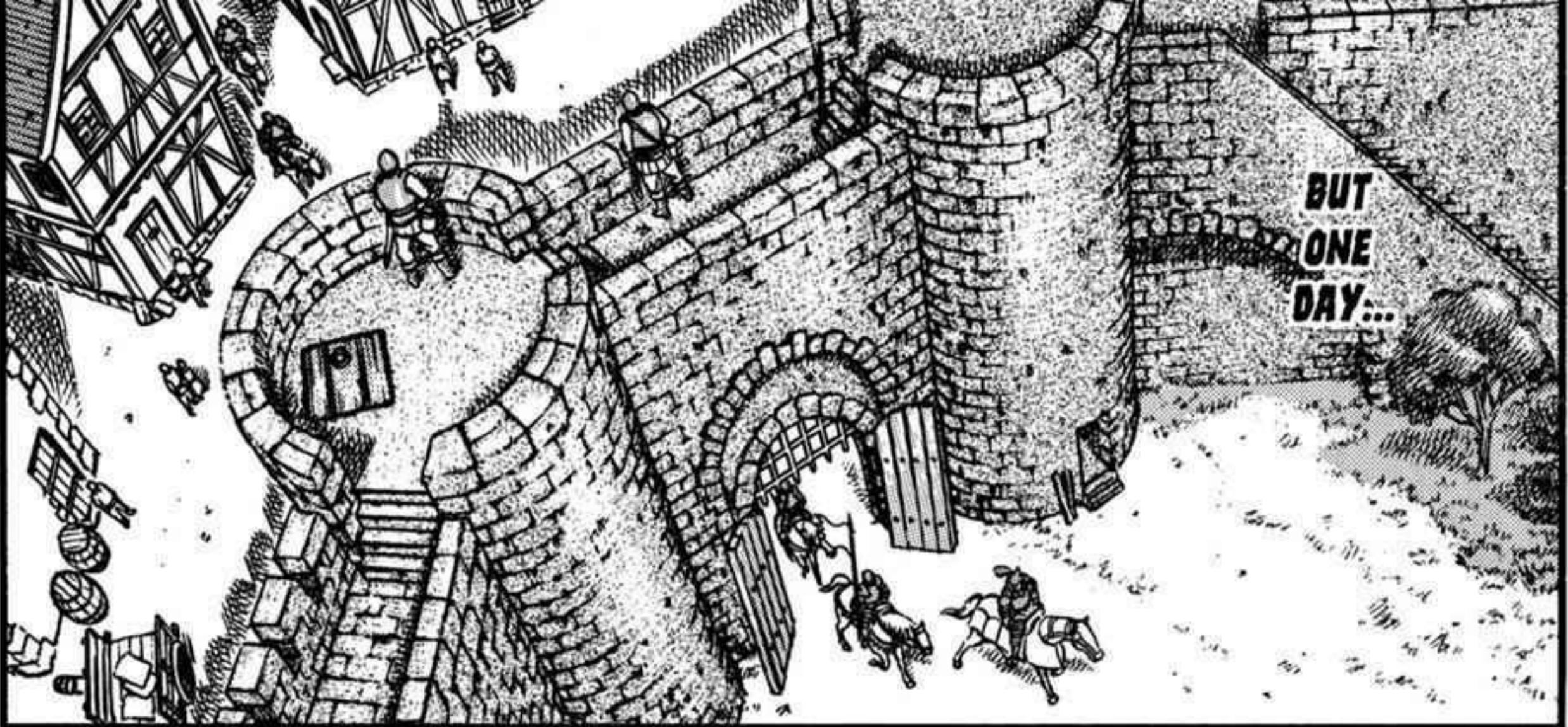
WHAT'S
...?

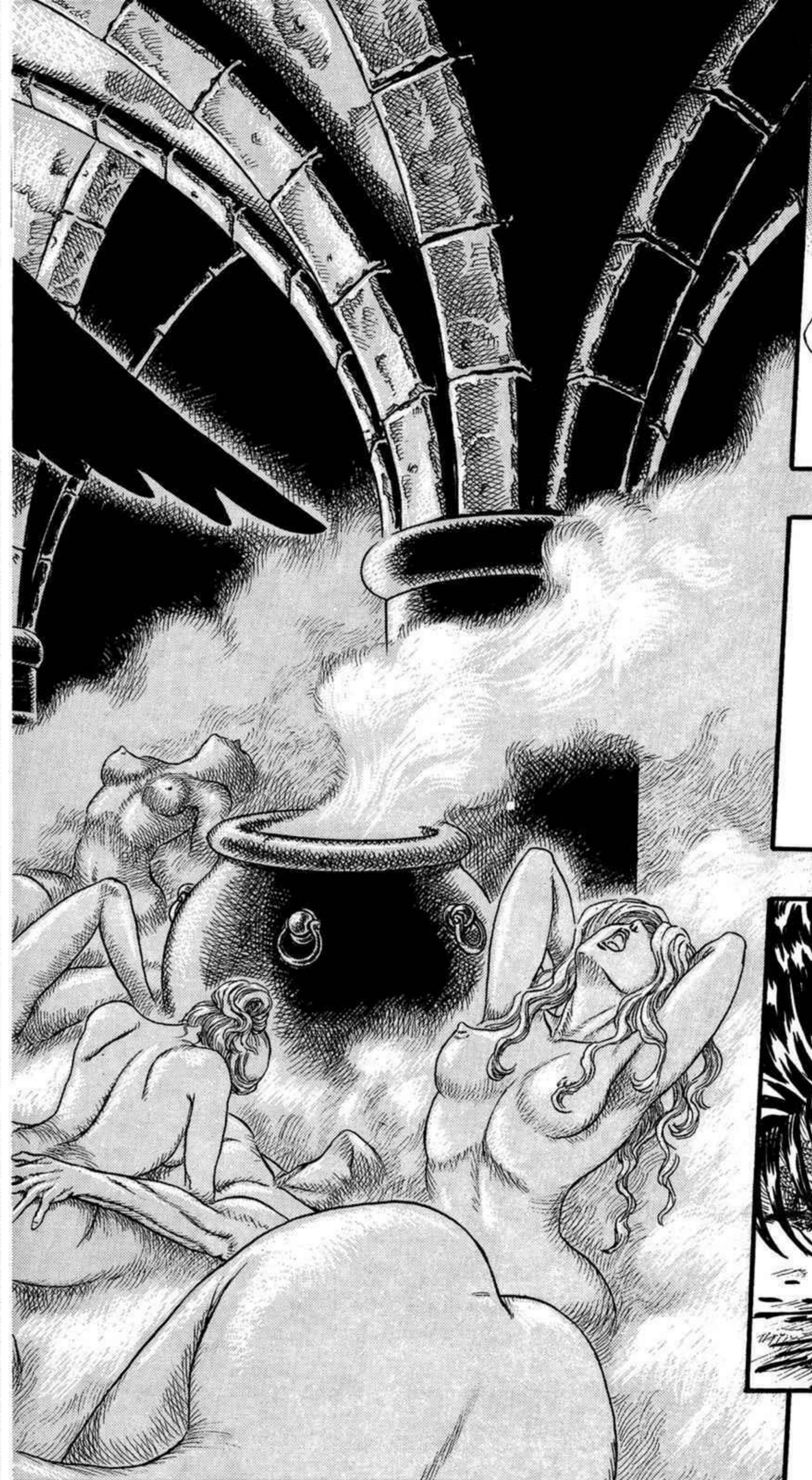
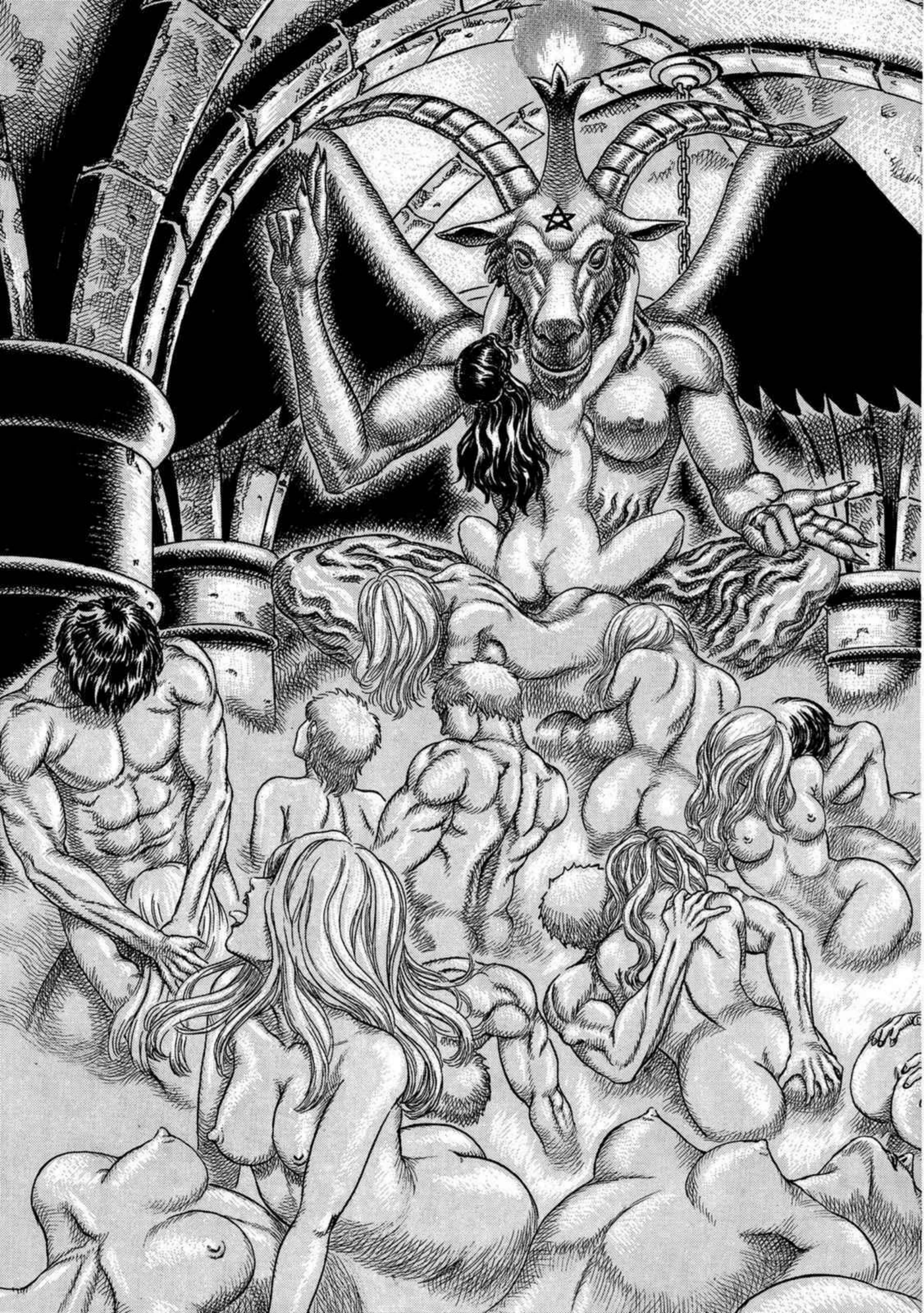
THIS WAS THE
COUNT SEVEN
YEARS AGO. A
BIT MORE TRIM,
I MIGHT ADD.











**IT
WAS AN
UNCANNY
SIGHT.**

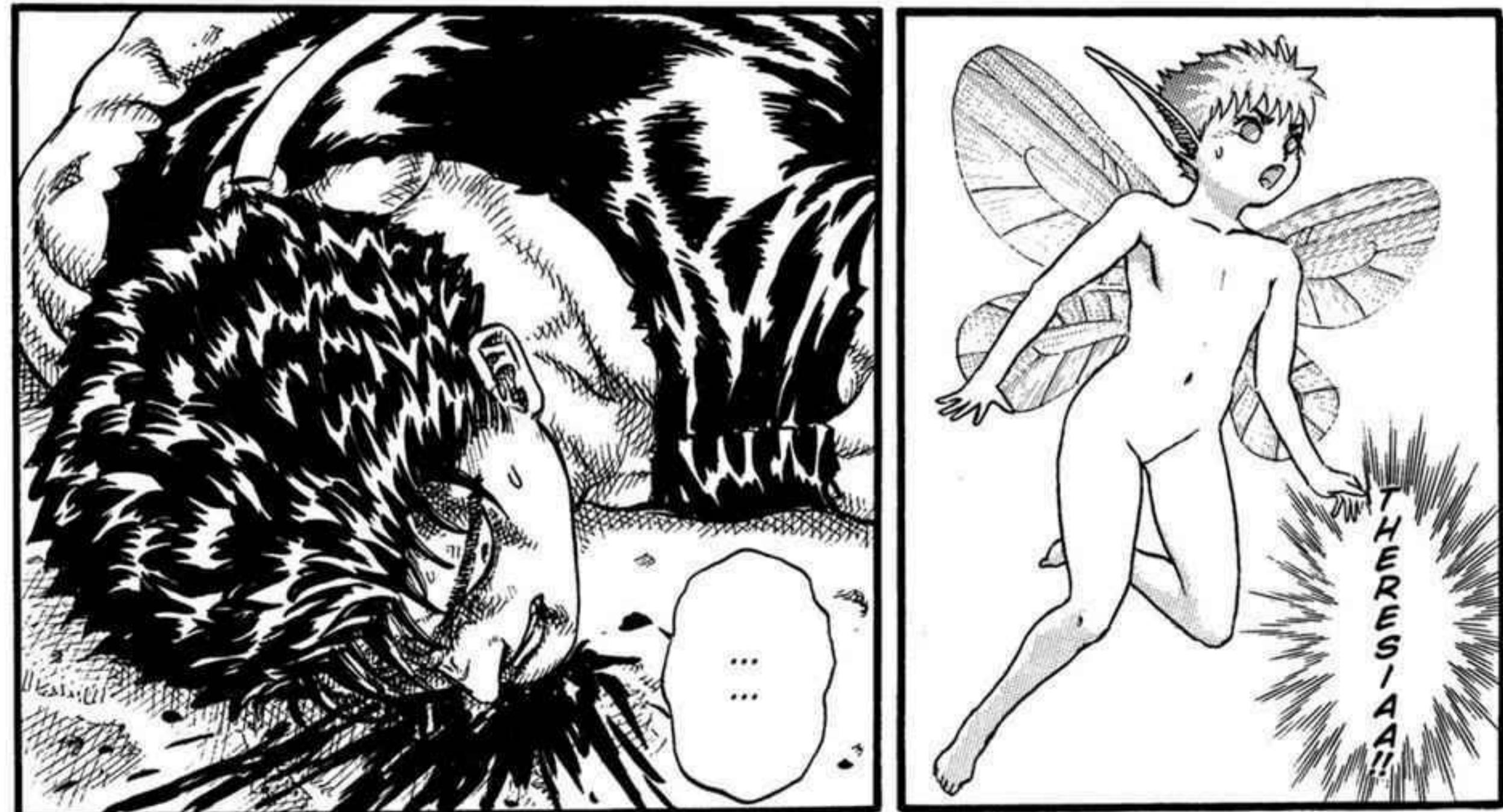
**IN THE MIDST
OF A STRANGE
STENCH AND A
WAVE OF HEAT,
A SEA OF FLESH
SQUIRMED IN A
TANGLED MASS...**

**...TOWERING
ABOVE IT ALL
WAS THE STATUE
OF A GROTESQUE
GOD WITH THE
HEAD OF A
GOAT...**

**...AND
ENTWINED AROUND
THAT GOD; AS IF
CLINGING TO IT,
WAS THE FIGURE
OF A WOMAN
WRITHING IN
ECSTACY...**

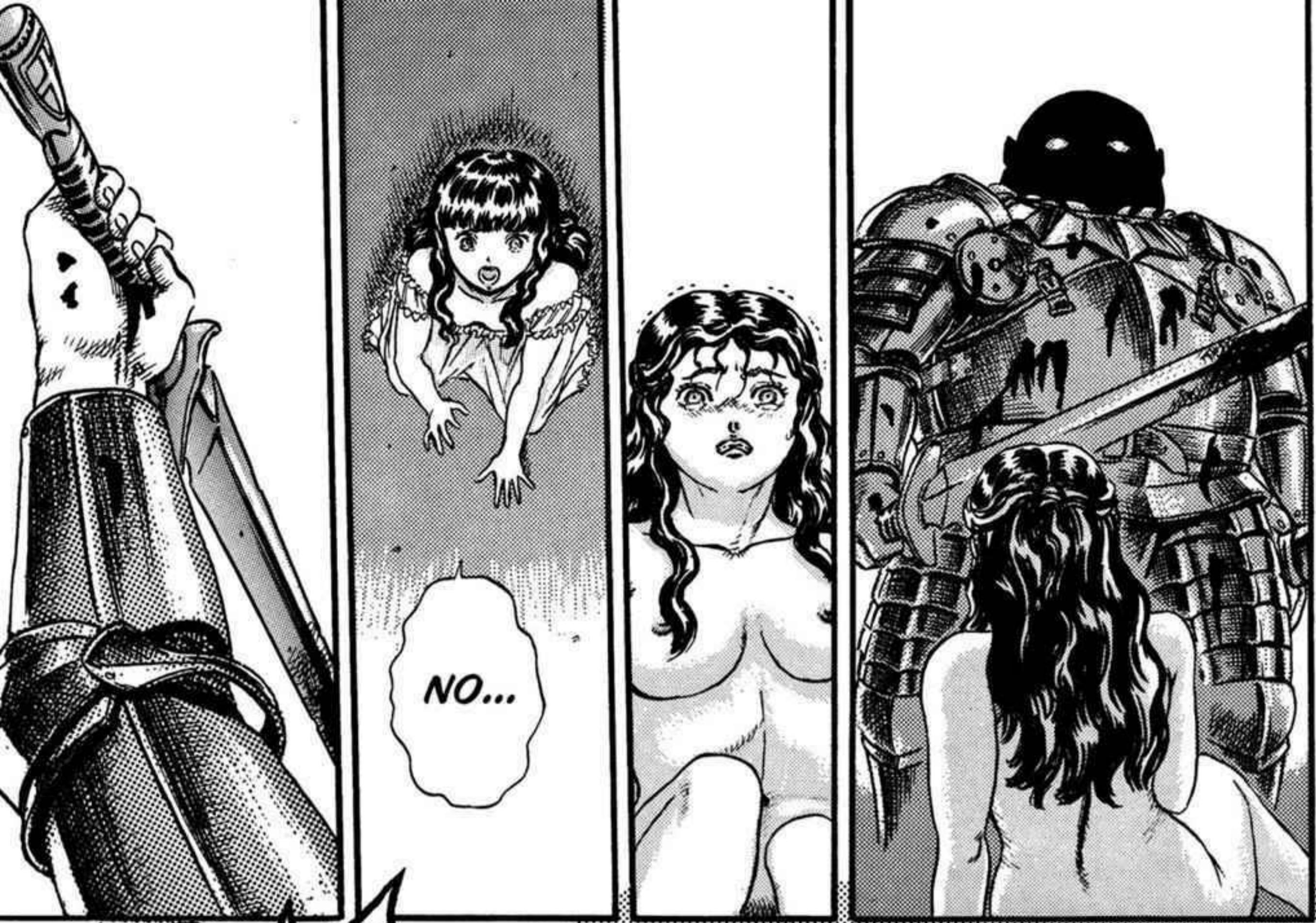
**IT WAS THE
FIGURE OF
THE WOMAN
HE LOVED
ABOVE ALL
ELSE.**

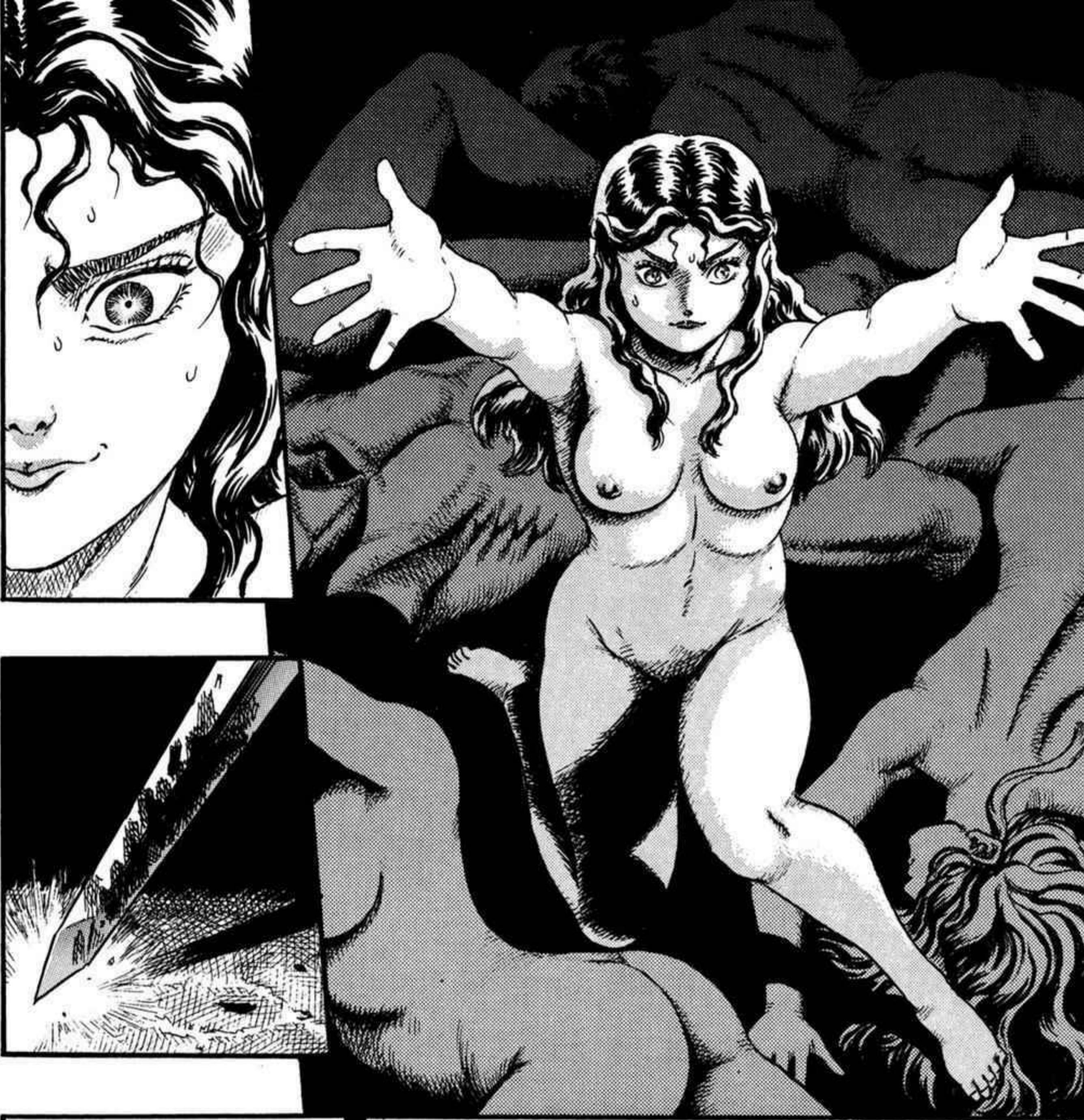
**...CONTORTING
HER FACE IN
PLEASURE.**

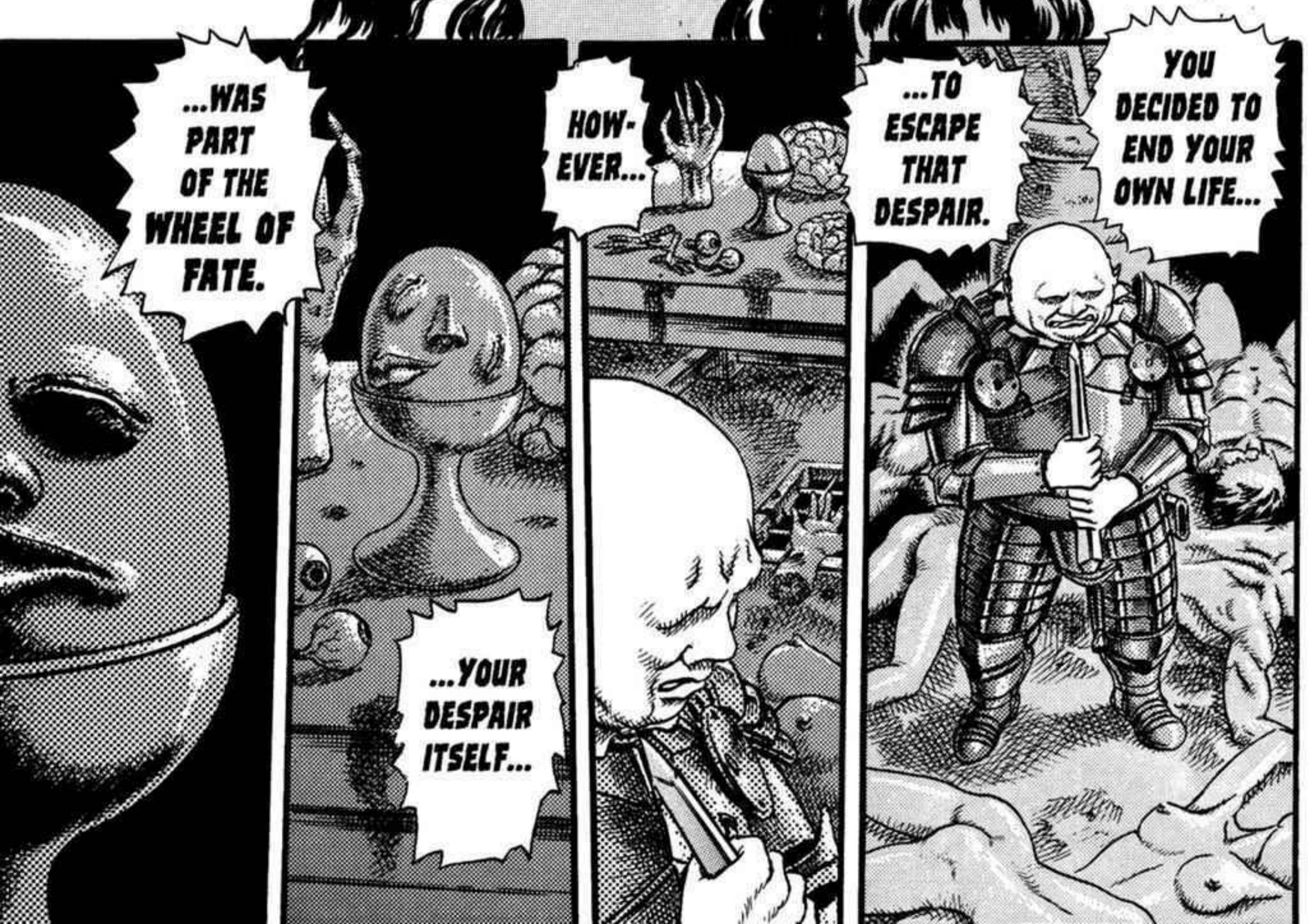


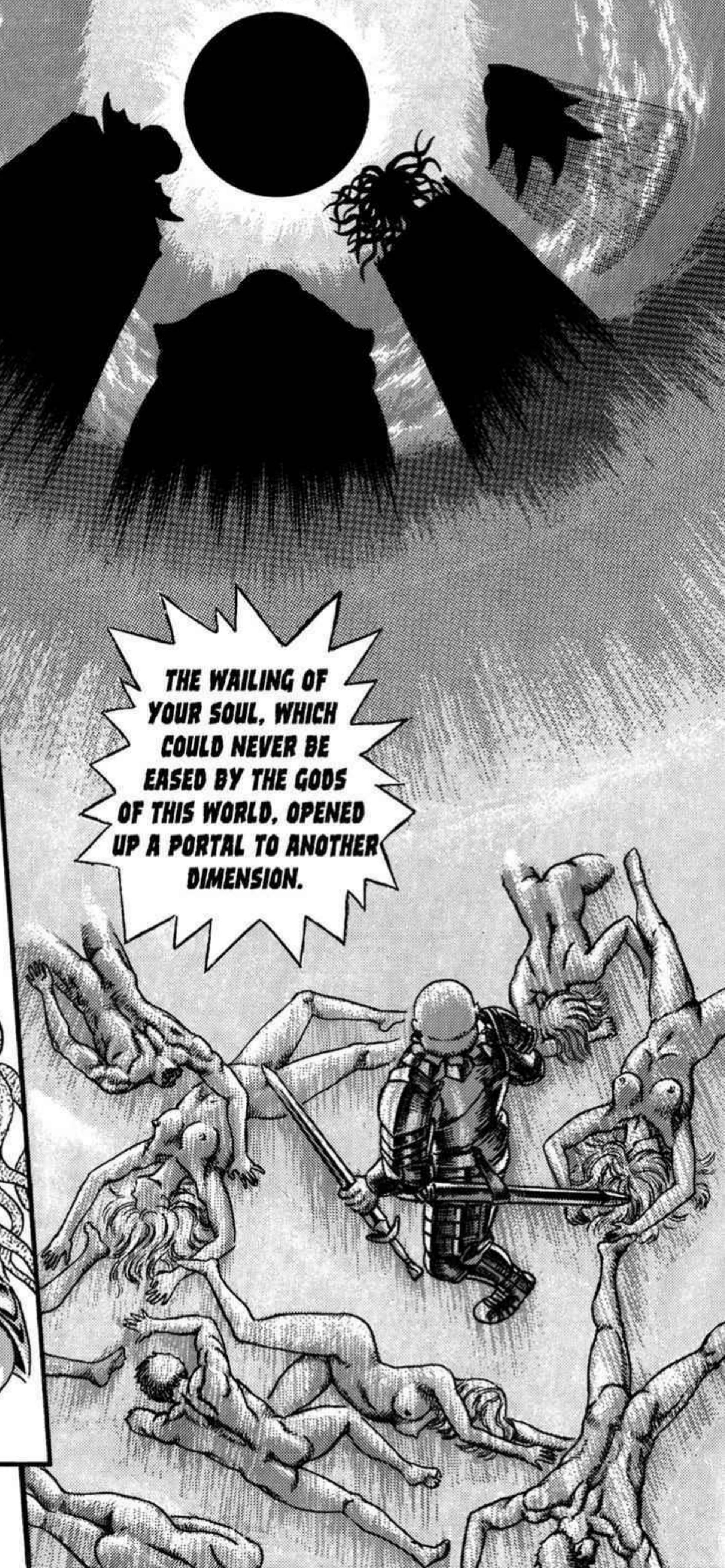


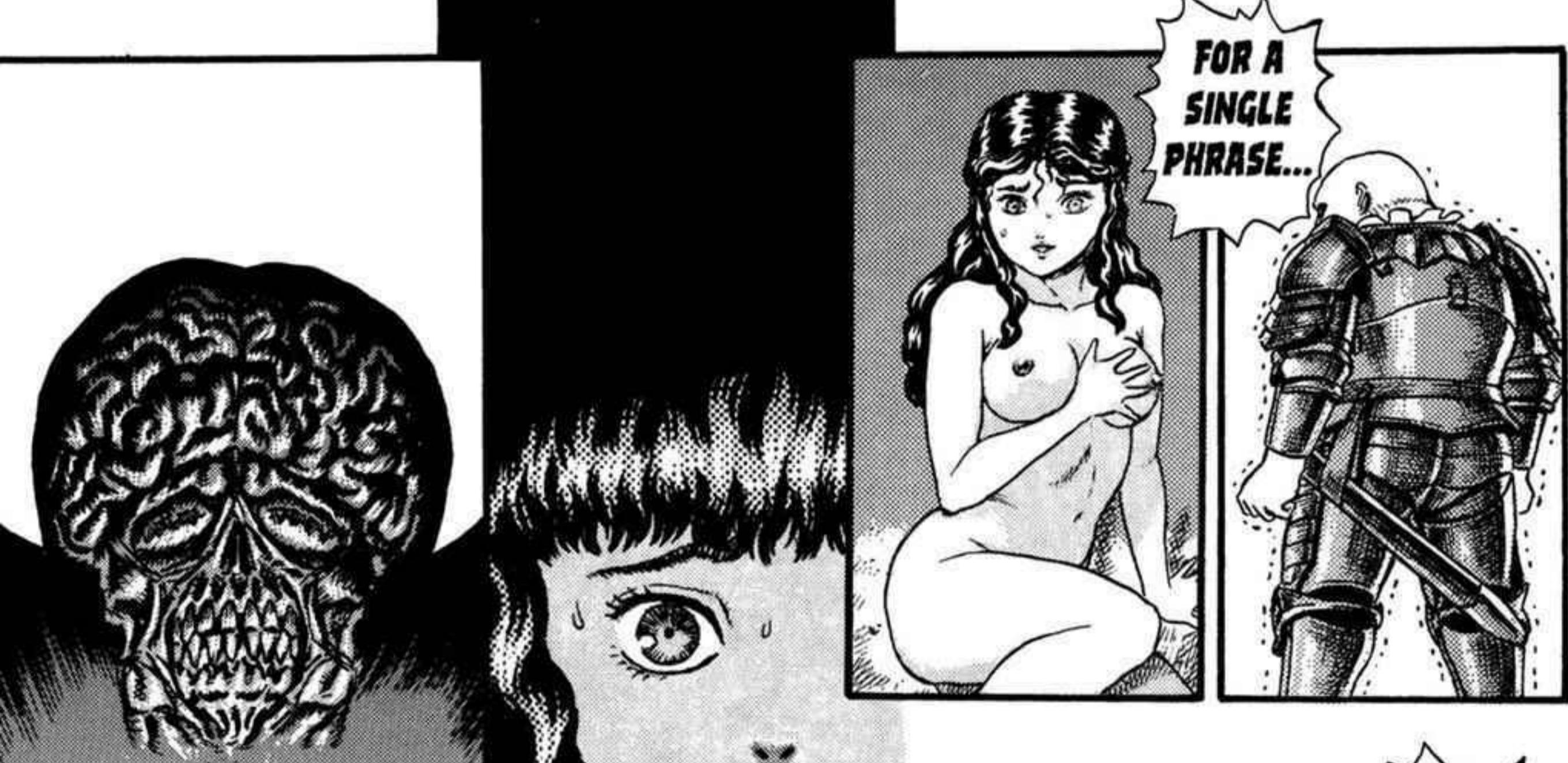
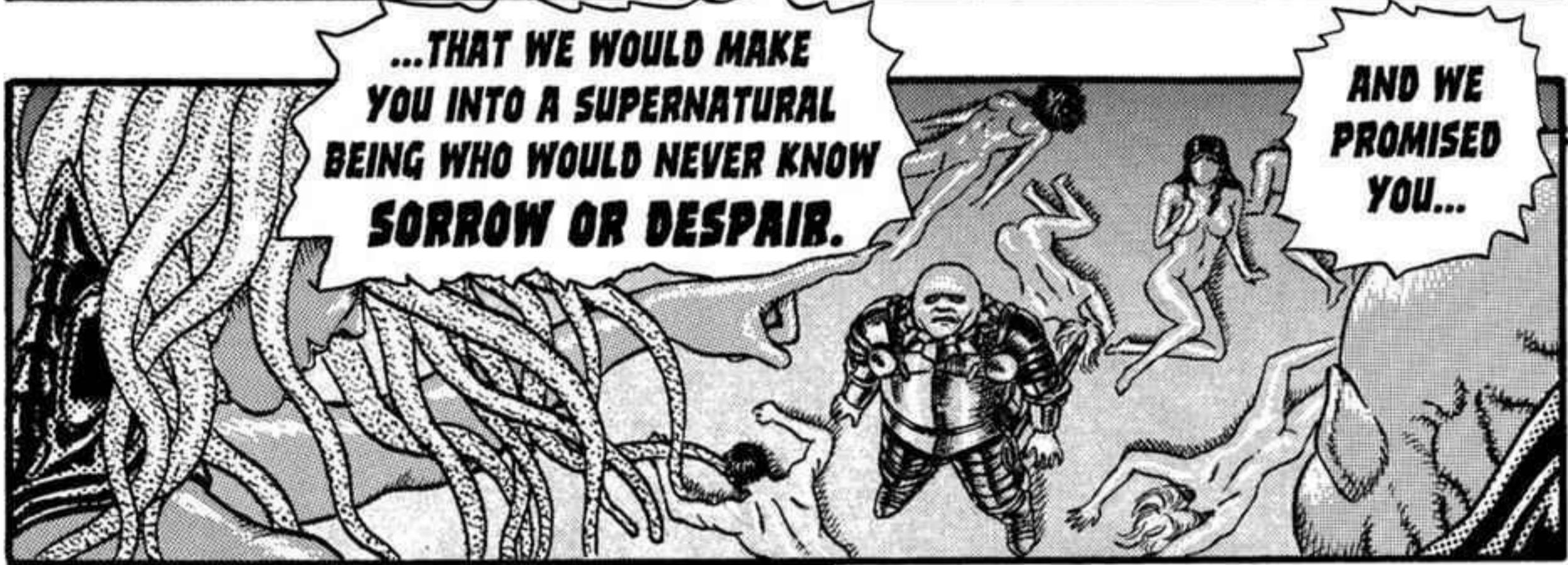














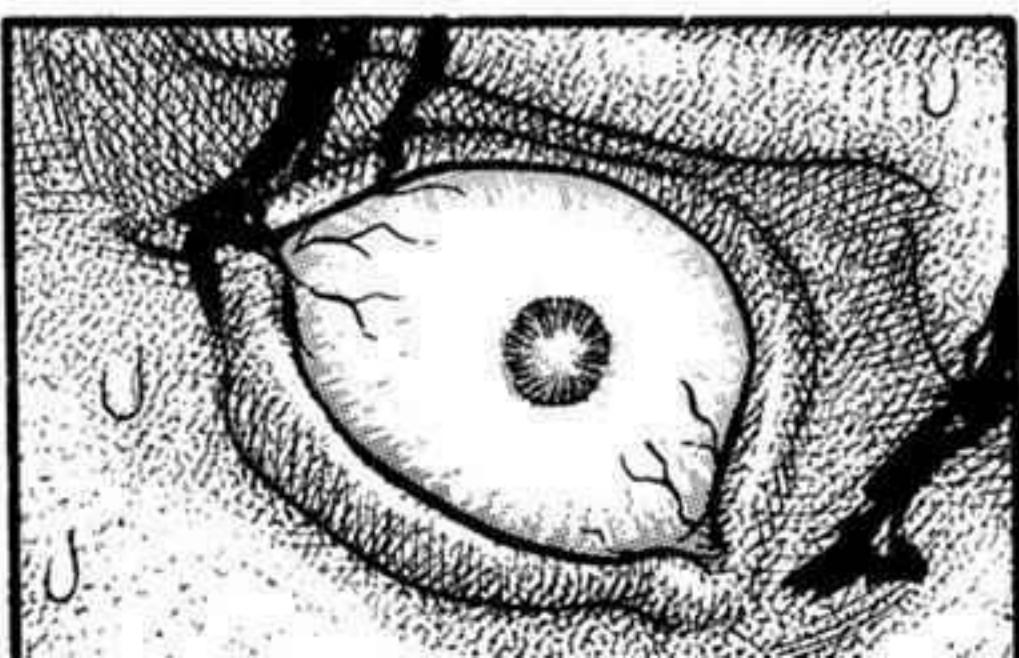


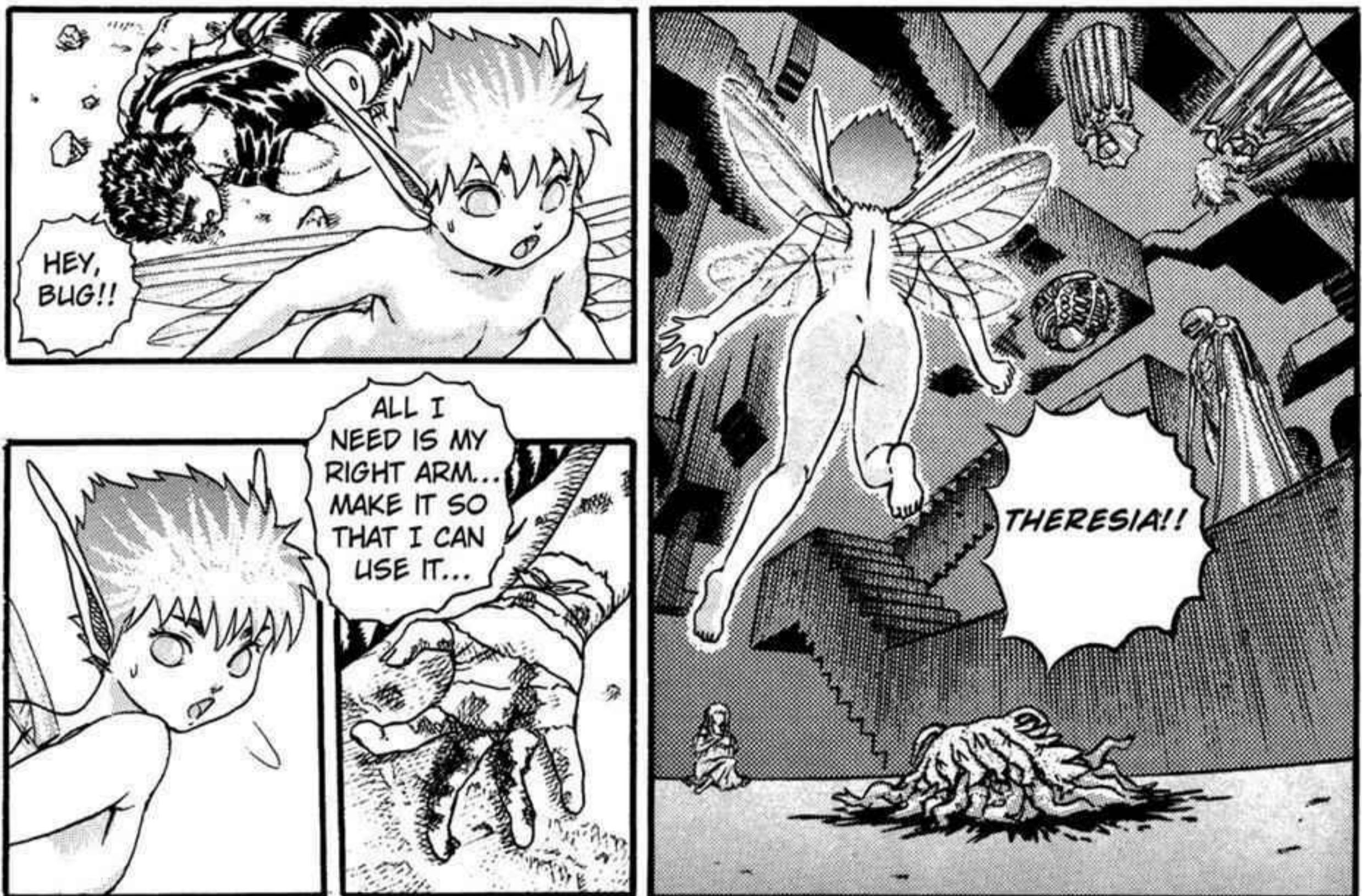
**SO THAT
YOU COULD
TRANSCEND
YOUR VERY
HUMANITY!!**





WE
SHALL
GRANT
YOU YOUR
BURNING
DESIRE...!!





THE GUARDIANS OF DESIRE (5): END

