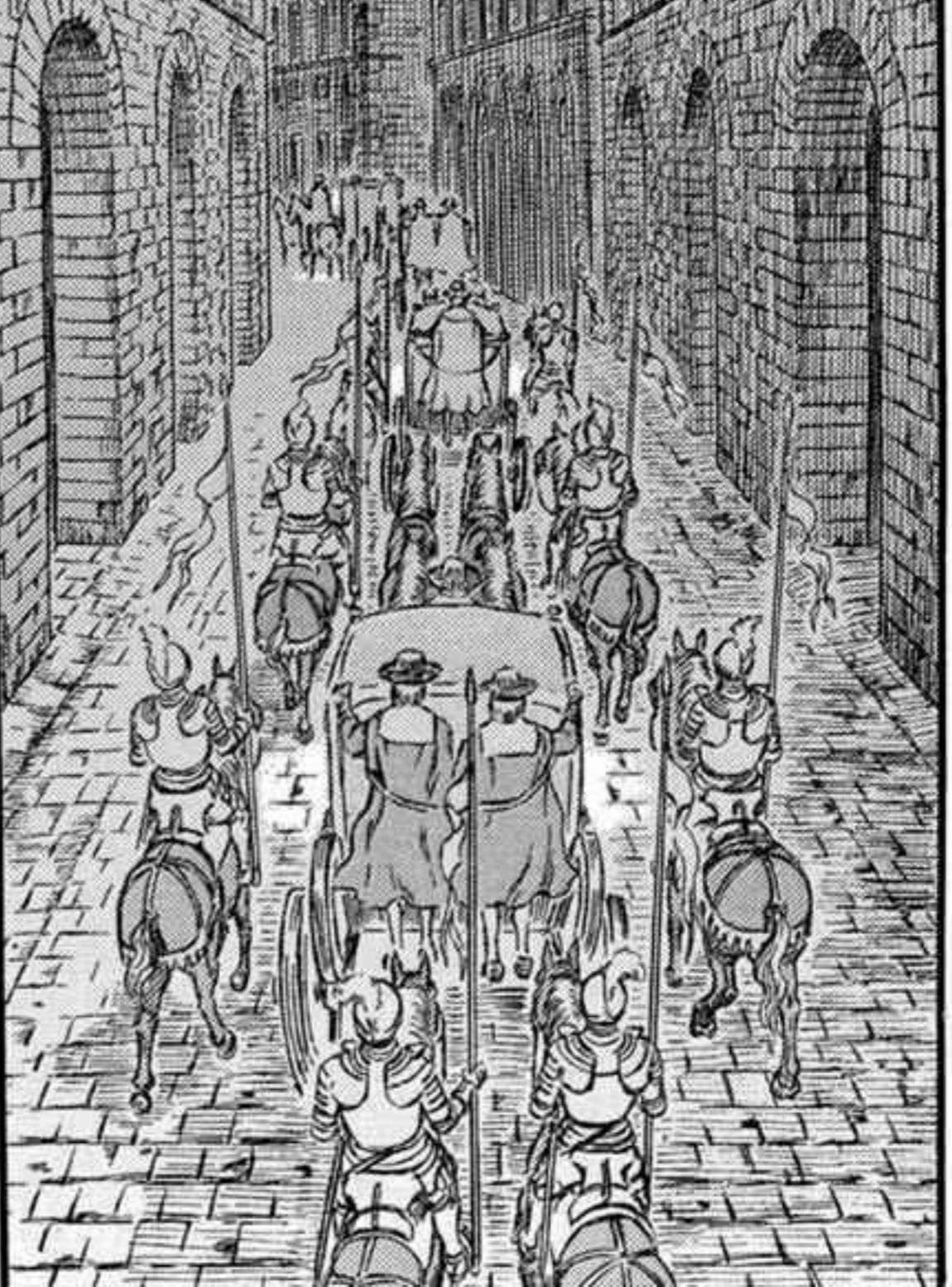
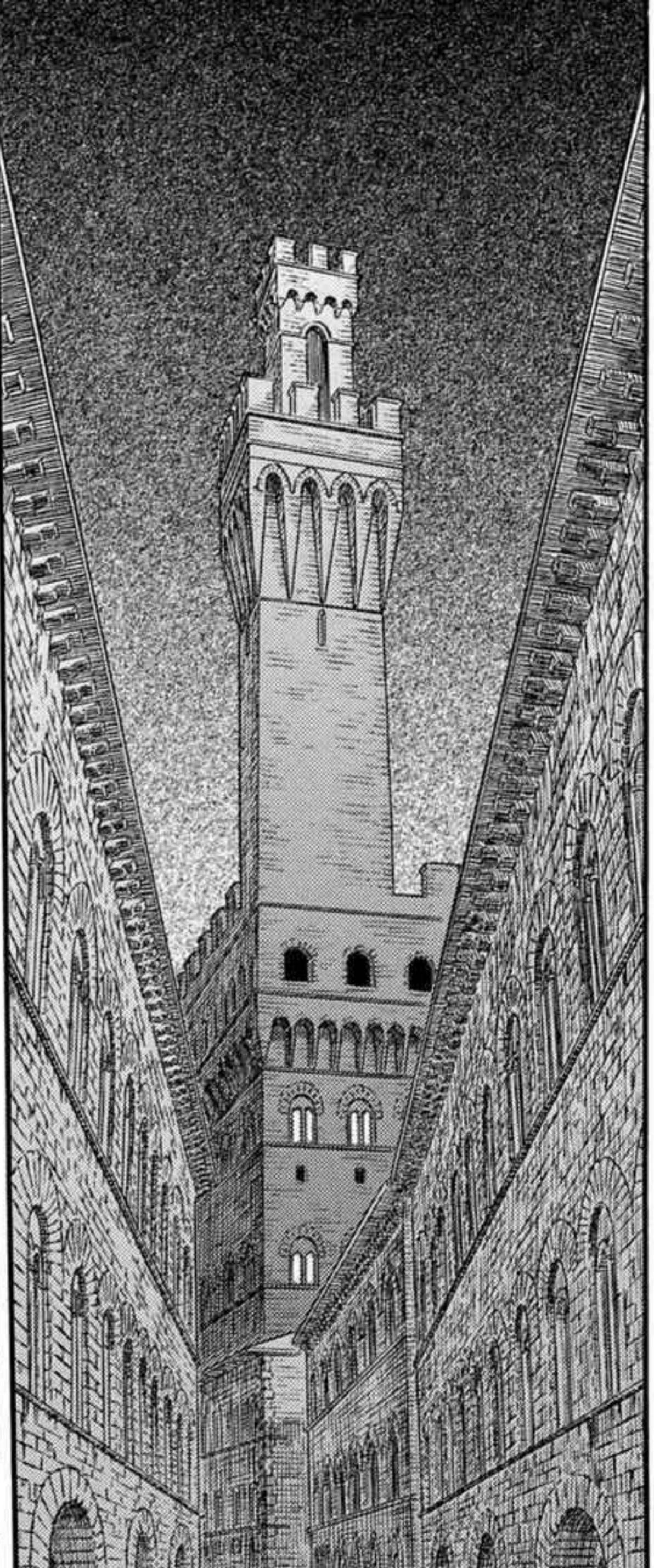
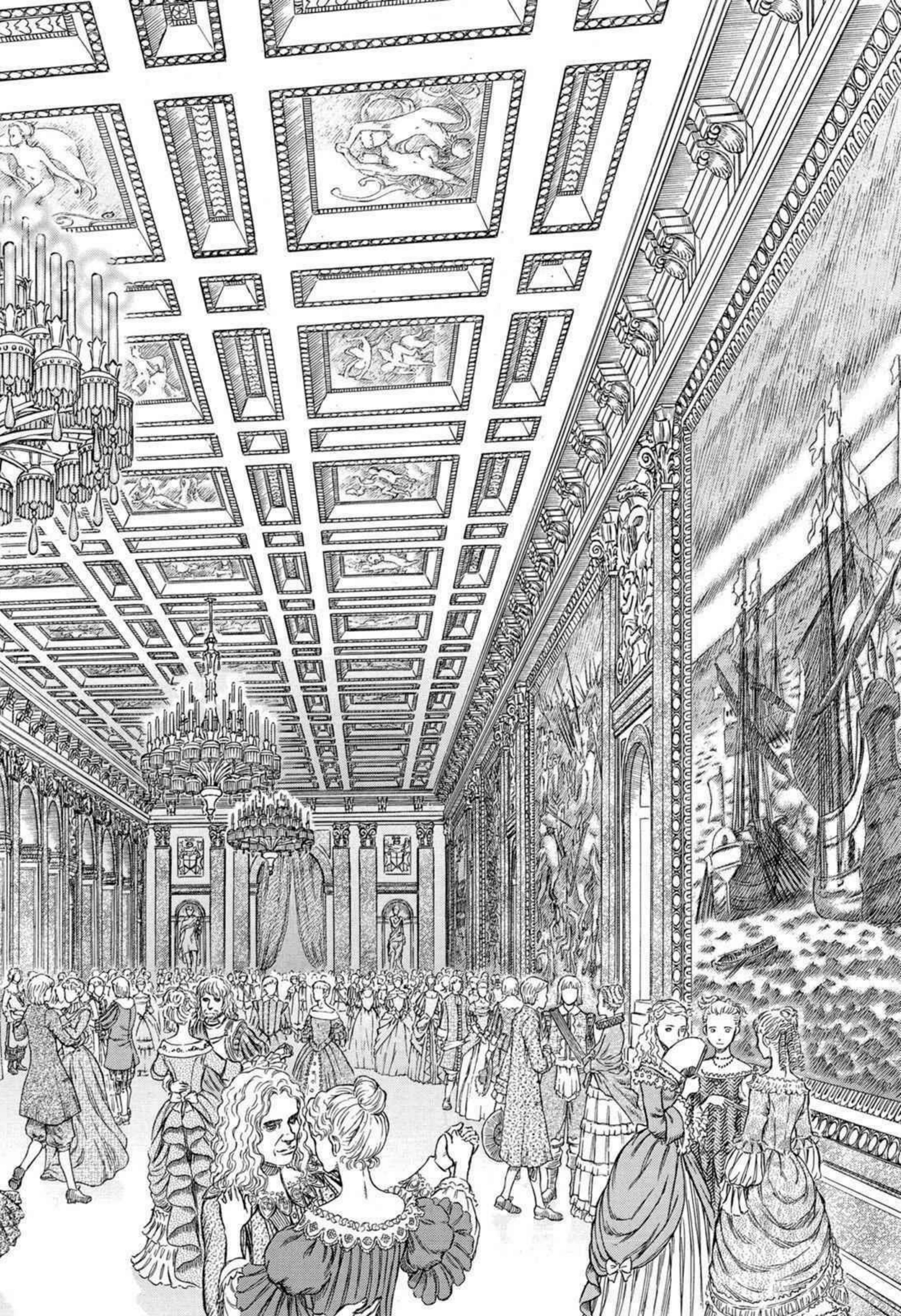
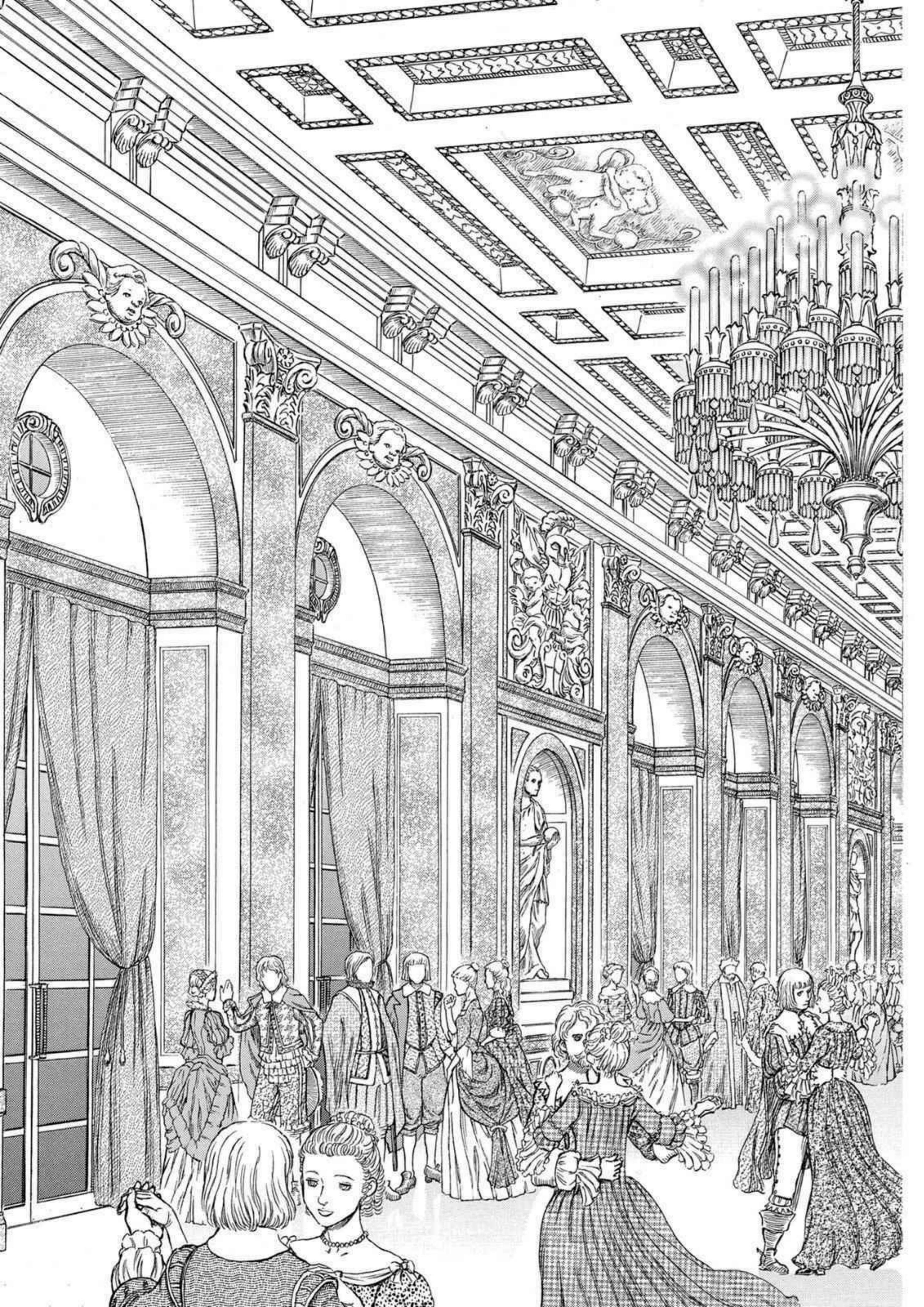


THE BALL
舞蹈会

BERSHKA



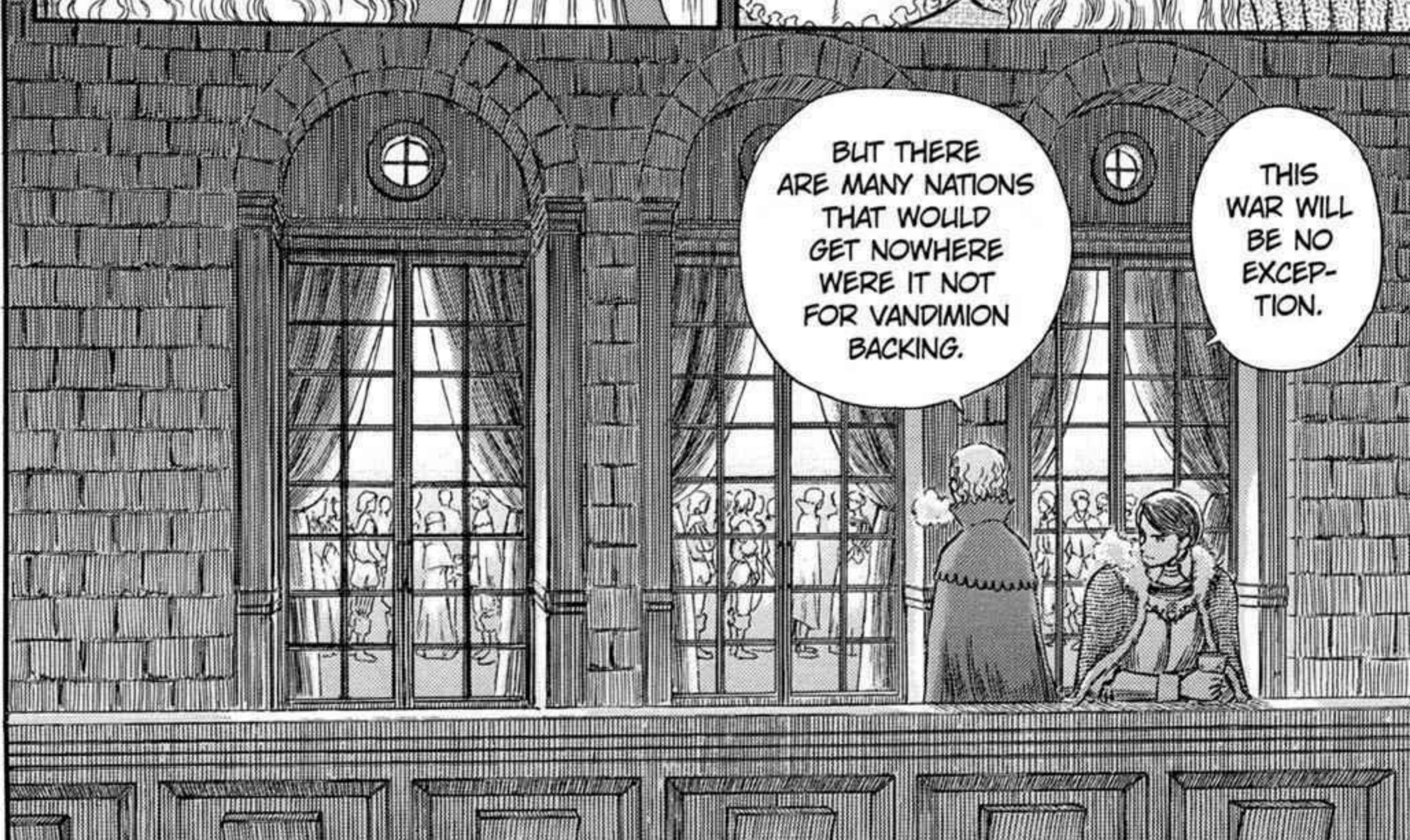


GRAND
GOVERNOR-
GENERAL OF
THE HOLY SEE
REALM, AND
RECOGNIZED AS
THE LEADING
CANDIDATE FOR
THE NEXT
PONTIFF.

POLIZIANO
DO
VANDIMION.

JOINT
MANAGER OF THE
VANDIMION
BANK, FATHER'S
RIGHT-HAND MAN,
AND IN REALITY
THE NEXT
HEAD OF THE
VANDIMION
FAMILY.

GIORGIO DO
VANDIMION.



...IS
DESPERATE
TO BE IN
FAVOR WITH
THE NEXT
TYRANT.

EVERY
LAST
ONE OF
THEM...

HAVE
YOU NO
SHAME
??

CONSPIRING
WITH
CHLIDER,
OF ALL
PLACES...

WHO
ARE
THEY?

AHH.

YOU
SWINE
!!

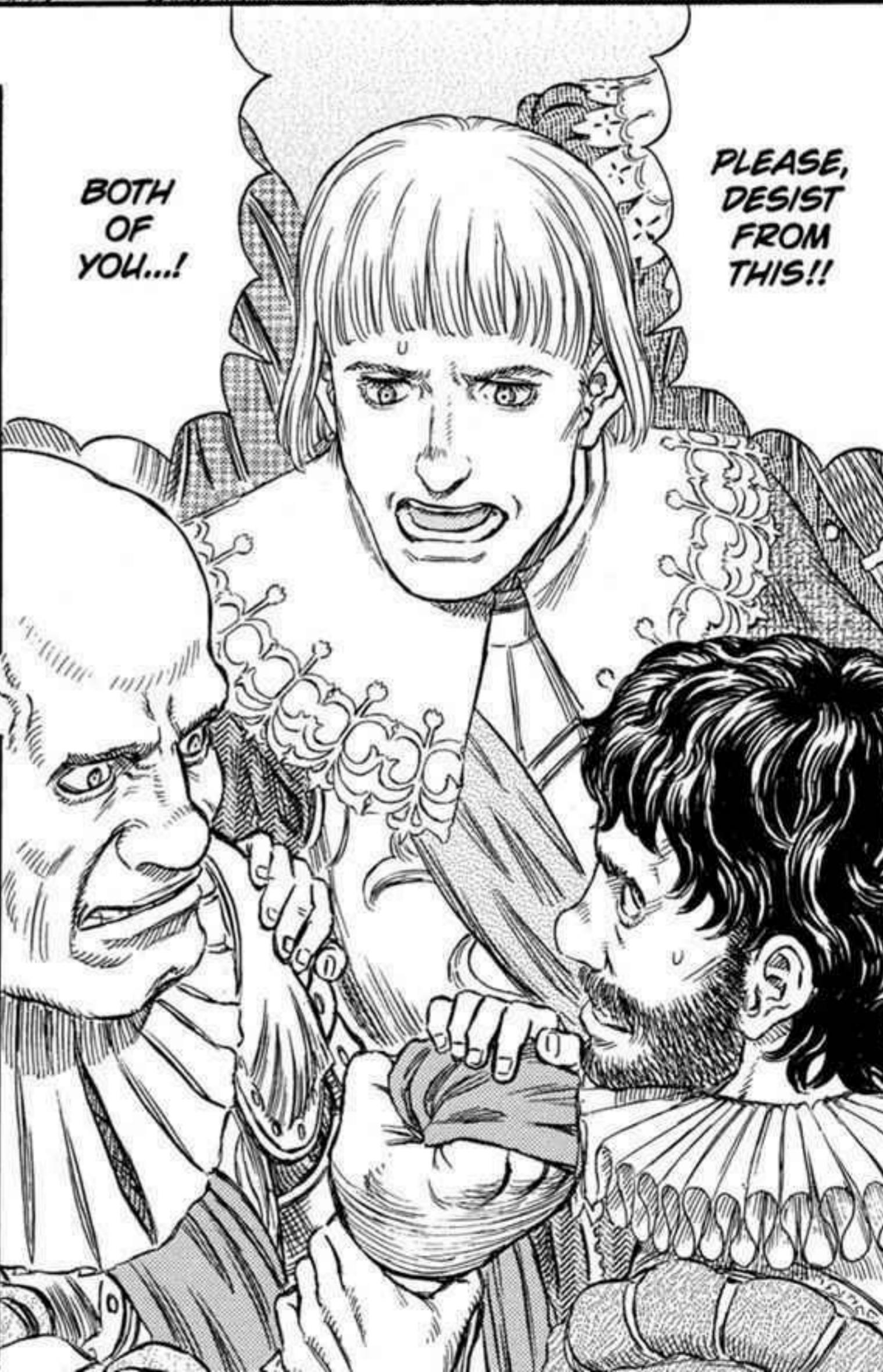
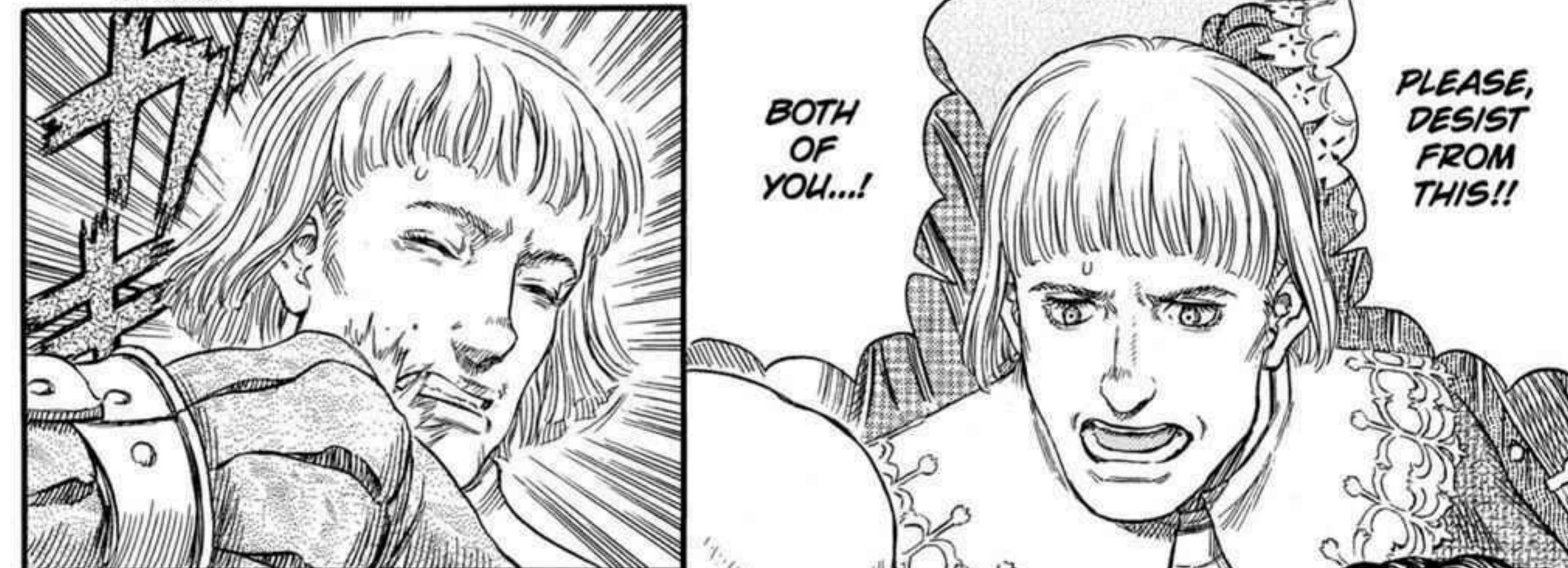
LORDS OF
MIDLAND.

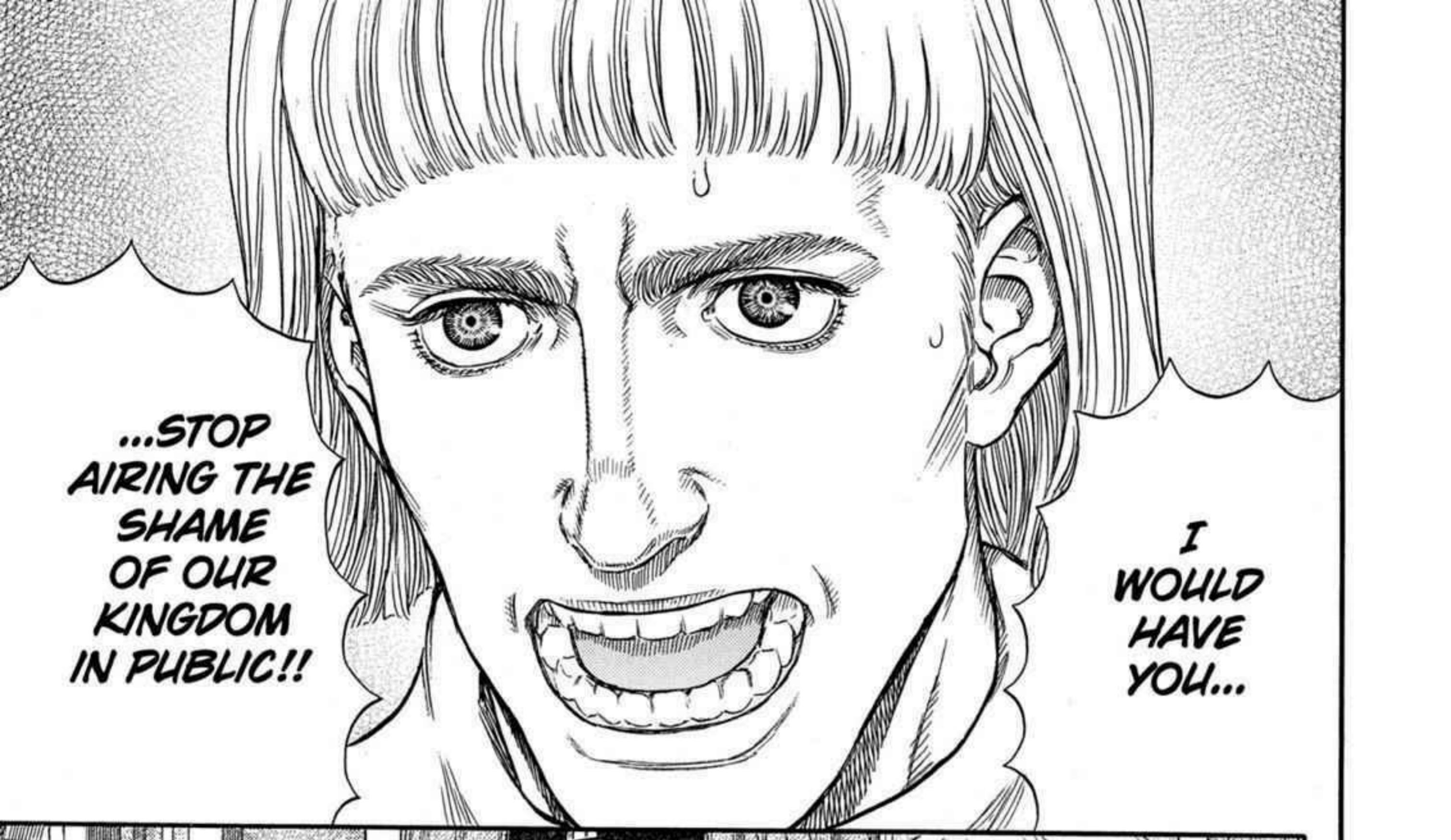
EVEN IF THE KUSHAN ARE REPelled, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT EACH NATION'S ARMY WILL BY NO MEANS SHY AWAY FROM REMAINING THERE.

THE PUBLIC REASON FOR THIS WAR IS TO RECAPTURE HOLY SEE TERRITORY FROM THE KUSHAN INVASION, BUT EACH NATION'S TRUE MOTIVE IS TO CARVE MIDLAND'S DOMAIN INTO AS MANY PIECES AS POSSIBLE.



*FX: WHACK





...STOP
AIRING THE
SHAME
OF OUR
KINGDOM
IN PUBLIC!!

I
WOULD
HAVE
YOU...



BUT FROM
WHOM I
MEAN TO ASK
ASSISTANCE
IS NOT SOME
RANDOM
ARISTOCRAT
OR ROYALTY.

CER-
TAINLY.



DIDN'T
WE NOBLES
EACH COME
TO THIS
PLACE IN
SEARCH OF
ASSISTANCE?

SIR
OWEN.



WHAT OF
PRINCESS
CHARLOTTE'S
SAFETY...?

SIR LABAN,
WHERE ARE
YOU NOW...?
DID YOU
MANAGE
TO SAFELY
INFILTRATE
WINDHAM?

SUCH A
SAD THING,
THE
SUBJECTS
OF A DEAD
KING!!!

...AND IT
STINGS.

I CAN DO
NOTHING
FOR YOU...

WHAT A
MISERABLE
THOUGHT.

KNIGHTS
OF A DEAD
KINGDOM...

.....

AND AS ONE
DESPAIRED
BY HIS OWN
FAMILY, I SAY
THE SAME.



...MY
HAT'S
OFF TO
THEM.

SPEAKING
AS ONE
DESPAIRED BY
HIS OWN
COUNTRY...



...REMAINING
YEARS LIVING
IN SUCH
IDLENESS.

BUT WE'RE
YOUNG,
AND WE'LL
NEVER SPEND
OUR...

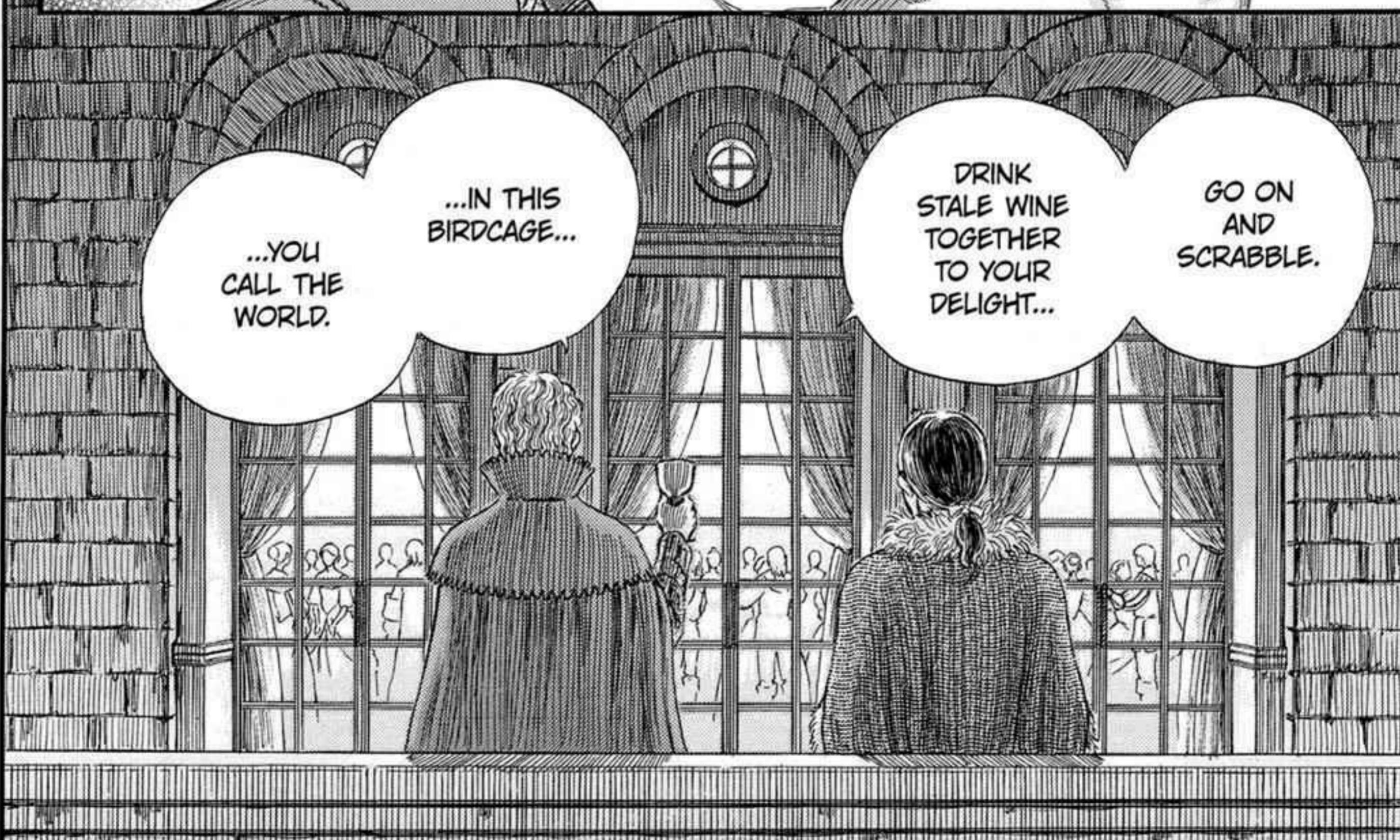


...YOU
CALL THE
WORLD.

...IN THIS
BIRDCAVE...

DRINK
STALE WINE
TOGETHER
TO YOUR
DELIGHT...

GO ON
AND
SCRABBLE.



HE WHO
OPENS THE
UNKNOWN
SEA ROUTES
AND SETS
FOOT UPON
UNEXPLORED
LANDS...

WHAT'S TO
COME IS NOT
AN AGE OF
THE GENTLE,
FULLY MAPPED
INLAND SEAS...

HE WHO
CONQUERS
THOSE
WILL BE THE
CONQUEROR
OF THE AGE.

...BUT
OF THE
RAGING,
OPEN
OCEAN.

IIH, ON THE NORTHERN
FRONTIER, SURROUNDED BY
OCEAN, HAS, UNLIKE OTHER
PRINCIPALITIES, BUILT UP A
HISTORY OF SHIPBUILDING,
SEAFARING, AND A REFUSAL
TO YIELD TO THE ROUGH SEA.

PAYING NO MIND TO THAT
SUPERIORITY, THEIR INSULAR-
ISM MAKES THEM LOATHE THE
INTERVENTION OF OTHER
NATIONS, AND THEY THINK OF
NOTHING BUT SECLUSION.

NEITHER MY
FATHER NOR
MY SUBJECTS
ACTUALLY
UNDERSTAND
THAT POINT.

...HOW TO
MOVE AND
REARRANGE
PIECES ON
HIS LIMITED
CHESSBOARD.

MY FATHER
IS THE SAME.
HE DISPLAYS
INTEREST IN
NOTHING
BEYOND...

...ARE
FORLORN
FELLOWS IN
THIS CAGED
WORLD.

WE TWO,
ALIENATED BY
FAMILY AND
ABANDONED
BY NATION...

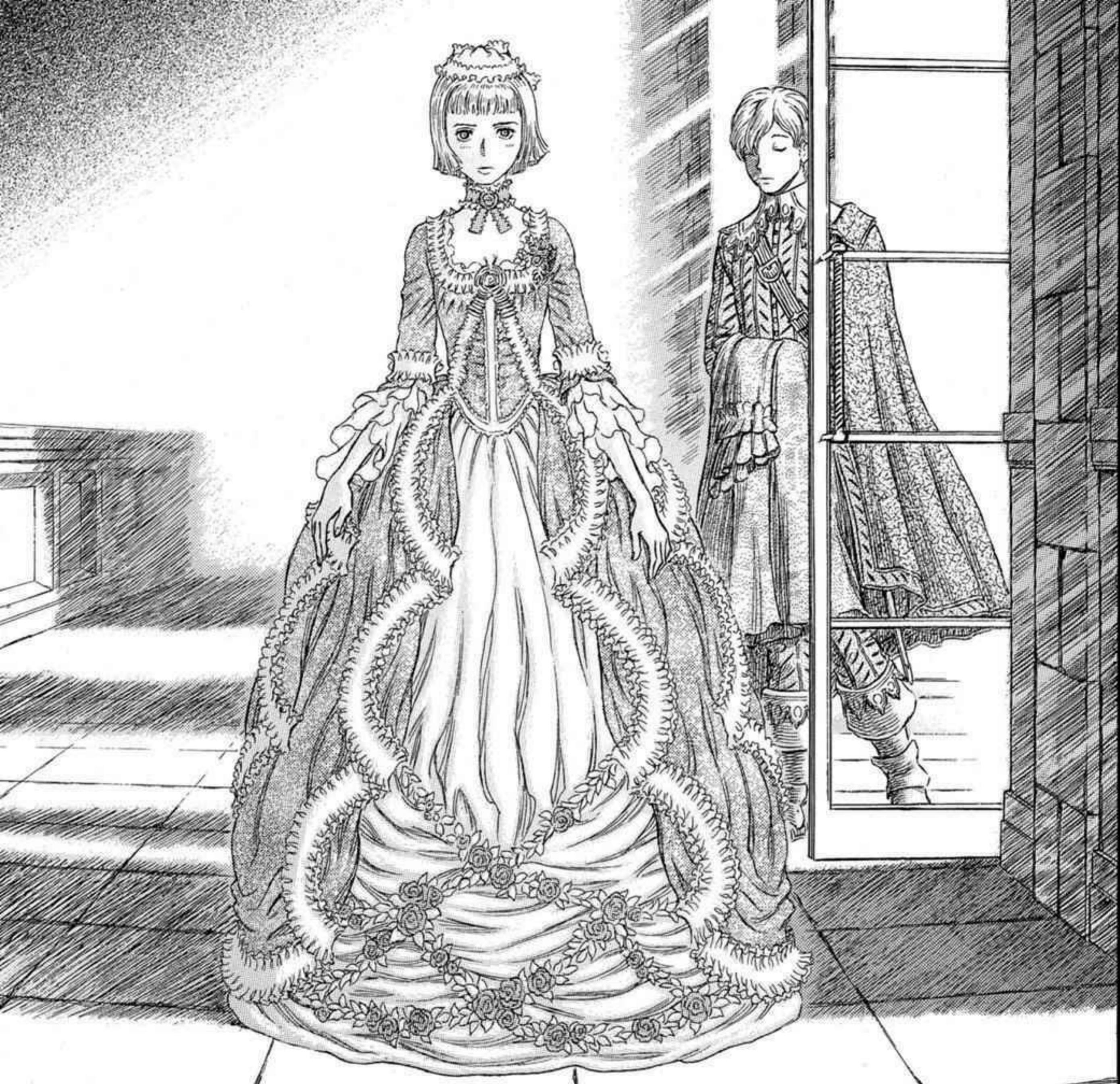
IF
WE'RE TO
WANDER
FORLORN...

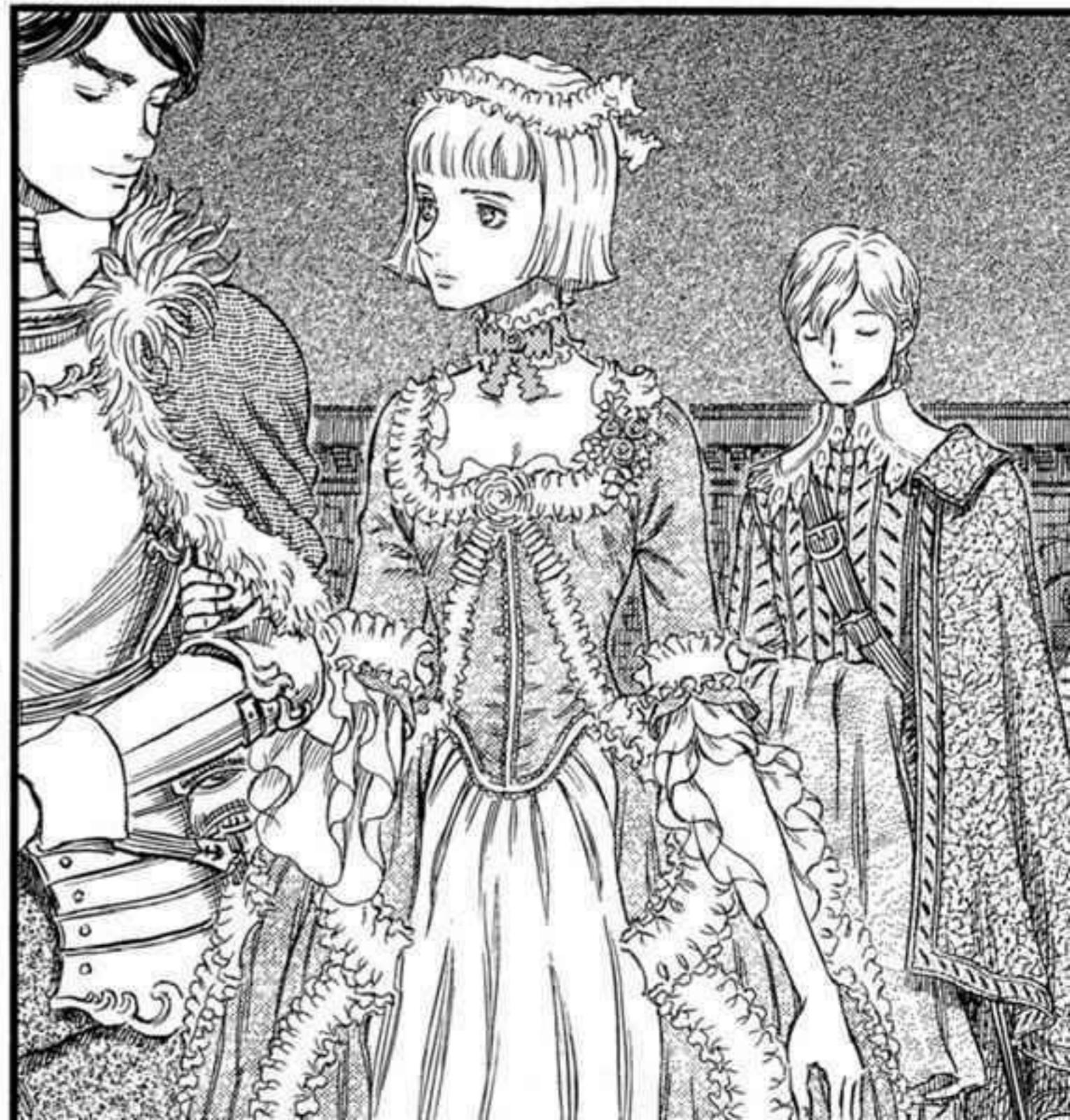
...WE'LL
JUST PUT
TO SEA.

WE WILL
SEIZE THE
COMING
AGE.

OUR BOND,
THE GODDESS
OF VICTORY,
ARRIVES.

BROTHER.





...MANIFICO?

WON'T YOU
INTRODUCE
ME, TOO...

I JUST
ARRIVED
TODAY.

THAT
WAS YOUR
FRIEND,
FARNESE'S
FIANCE?

HE'S
QUITE NICE,
THOUGH
A BIT MIS-
CHIEVOUS
LOOKING.

WHEN
DID YOU
GET
HERE?

MOTHER
...!

IS IT
SOM-
ETHING
HE
SHOULD
NOT
KNOW
?

IT
COULDN'T
HAVE
BEEN
FROM
FATHER
...?

OH.

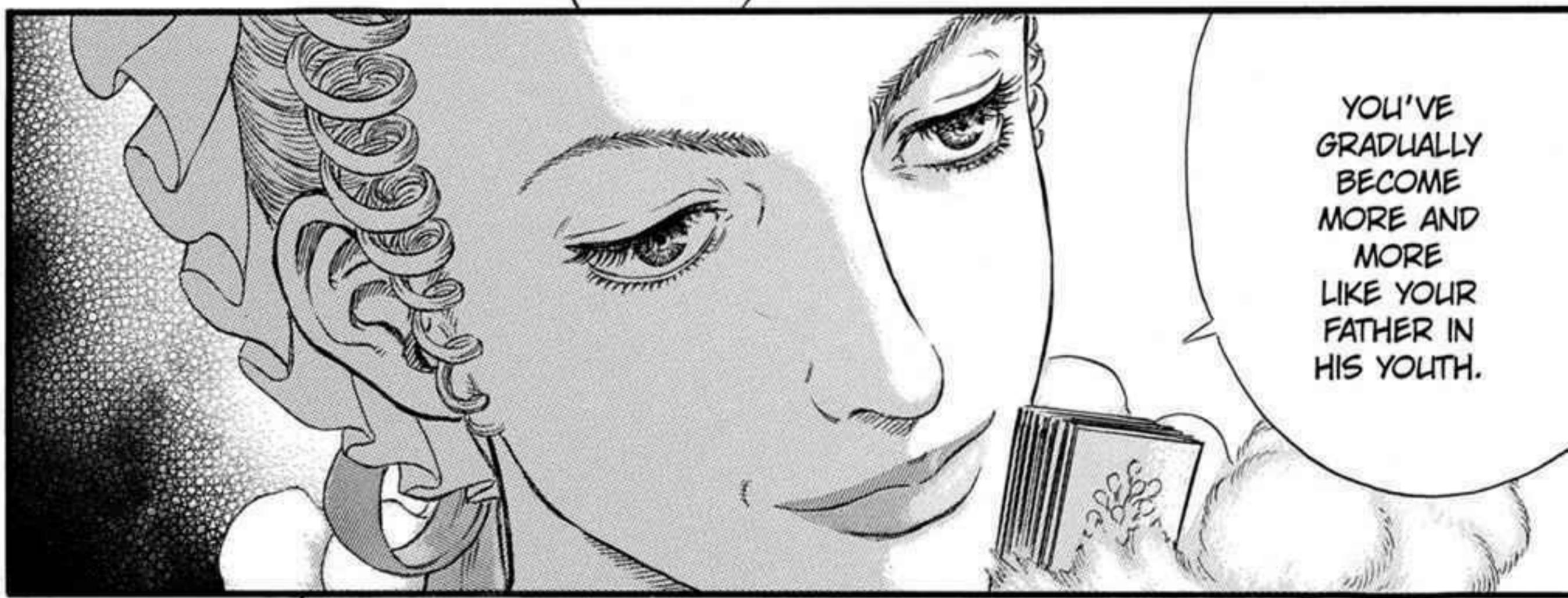
WHERE
DID YOU
HEAR
THAT...?!

OH,
YOU
KNOW.

M-
MOTHER
!



*FX: HO HO HO HO HO



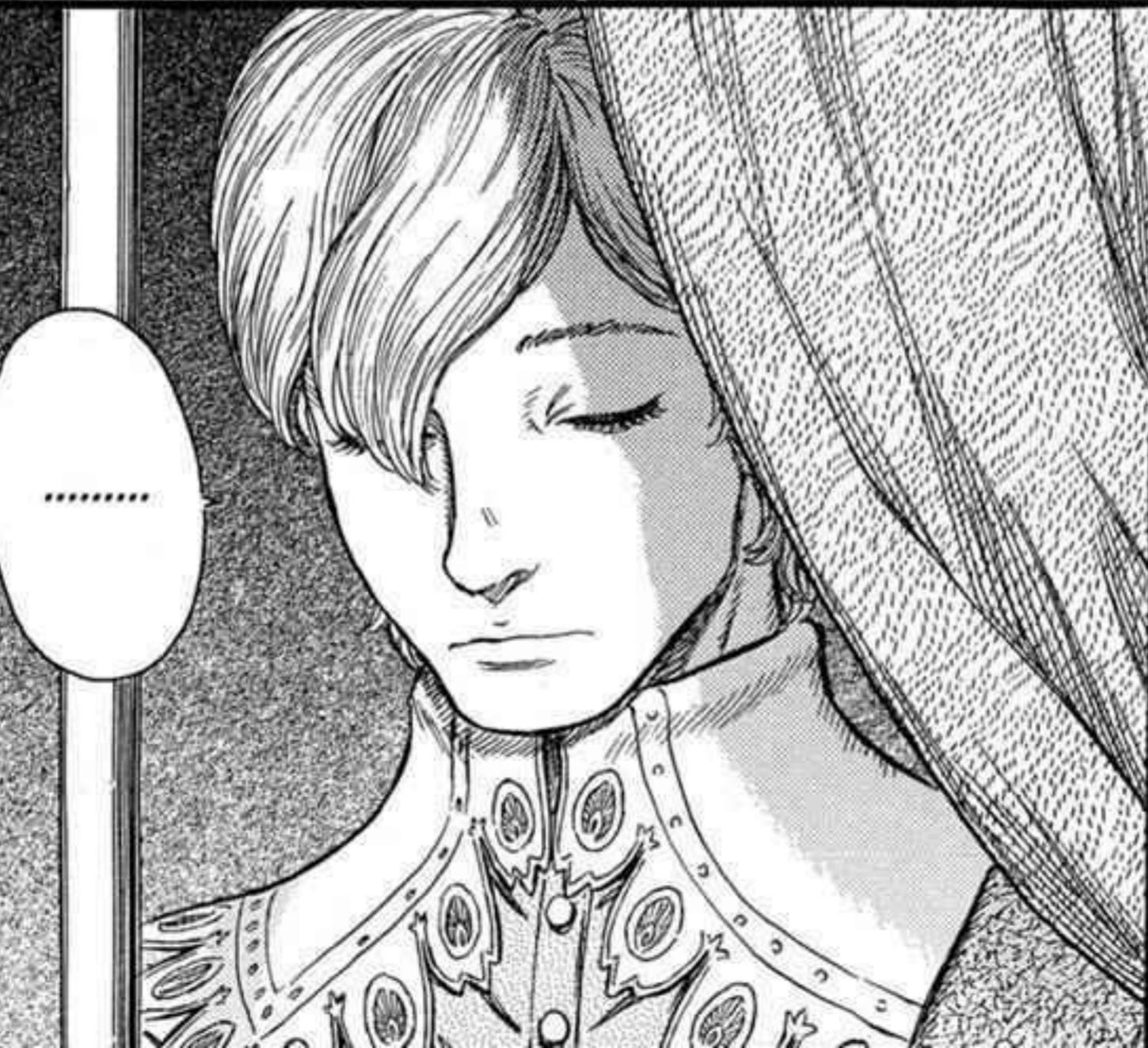
...AT PEACE
WITHIN THE
SCHEMES
OF MEN.

SHE'S NOT
THE KIND
OF WOMAN
WHO'S...

JUST LIKE
YOUR
FATHER.

YOU'LL BE
SORRY IF
YOU DON'T
LISTEN.

WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYING
TO--







...BECAUSE
THEY CANNOT
STAND WITHOUT
ENTWINING
AGAINST EACH
OTHER, JUST
LIKE A PAIR
OF TREES.

SUCH
COMPANIONS
CANNOT BE
SEPARATED...

