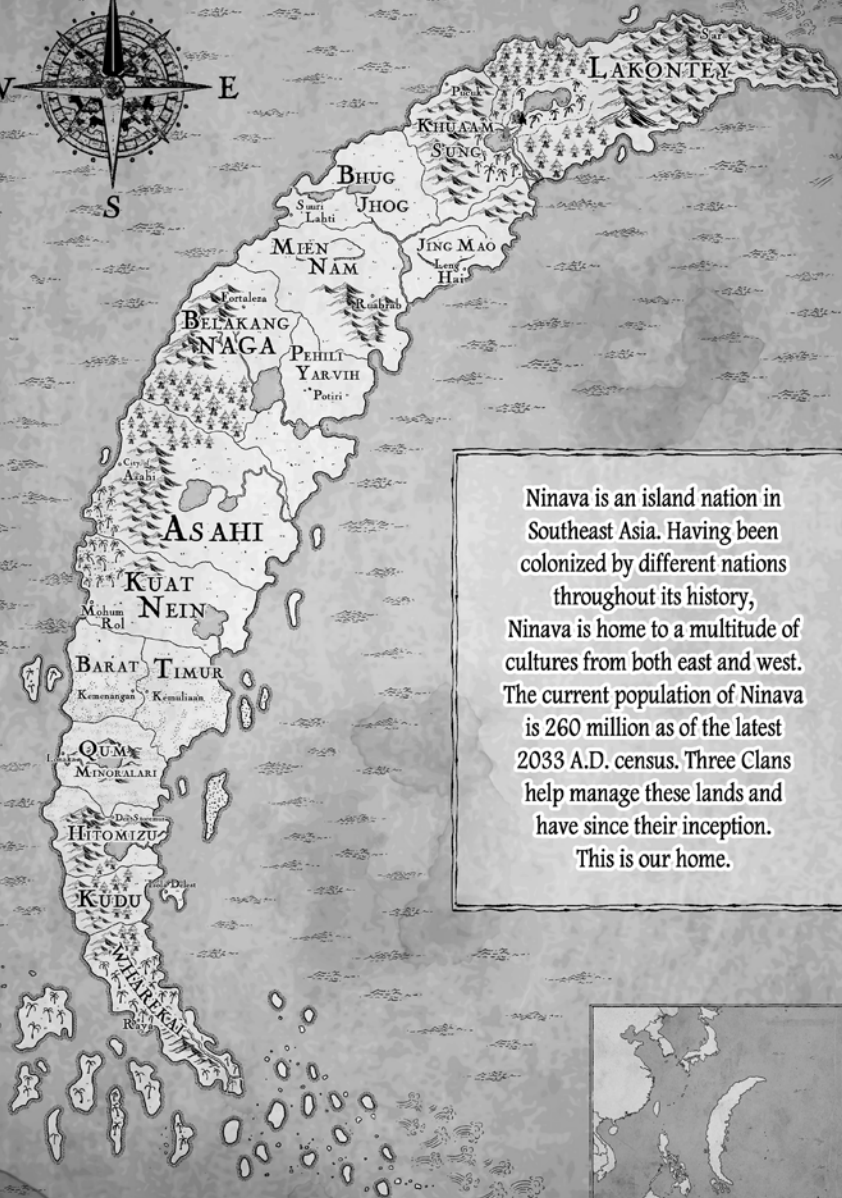


ADA
NINJAZ



Ninava is an island nation in Southeast Asia. Having been colonized by different nations throughout its history, Ninava is home to a multitude of cultures from both east and west. The current population of Ninava is 260 million as of the latest 2033 A.D. census. Three Clans help manage these lands and have since their inception. This is our home.



Created By:

Ignacio J. Durruty

Co Creators:

Tommy Bui

Zushan Hashmi

Assistant Writer:

Allen Vale

Illustrators:

Ardee Arollado

Juan Songco



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ATBUKO

ORIGINS



ADA
NONJAZ



NINAVA,
A PROUD
NATION
BATTERED
BY CONFLICT
THROUGHOUT
THE 'MILLENNIA.

**JAPANESE
RULE...
SPANISH...
BRITISH...
CLAN WARS.**

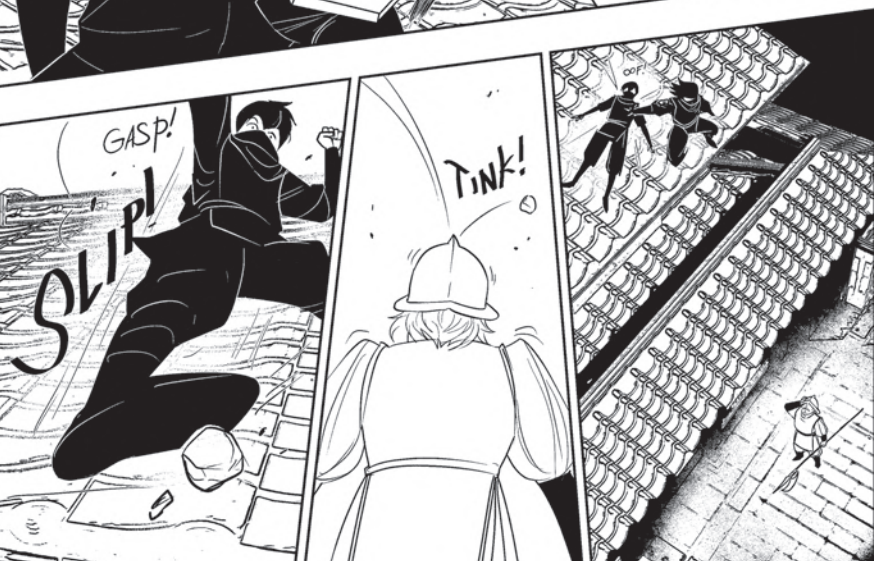
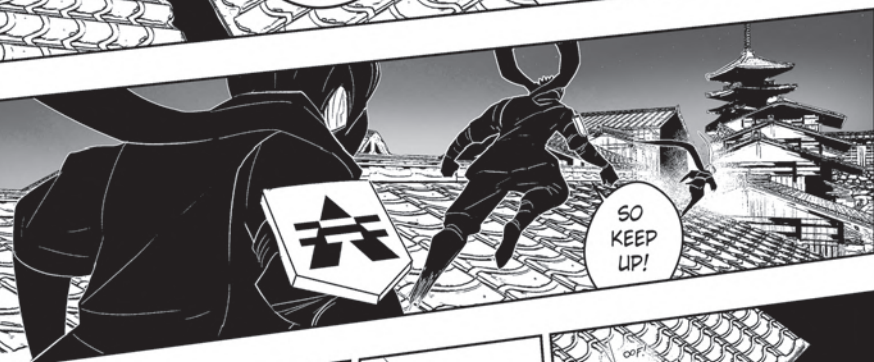
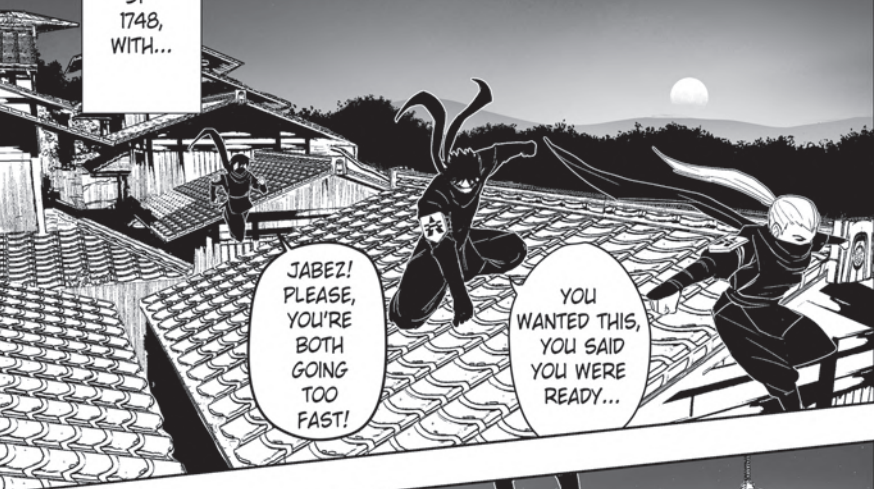
**"ATSUKO"
HAS BEEN A
WORD TO BE
FEARED IN
AND BEYOND
THE BORDERS
OF OUR
NATION.**



A CLAN BORN
OF STRIFE...
OF CONFLICT...
OF DEATH
ITSELF.

A STORY
ALMOST 3
CENTURIES
IN THE
MAKING...
IT ALL
BEGAN...

...ON
OCTOBER
31ST
1748,
WITH...





GRAB!



YOU SHOULD
HAVE NEVER
COME,
YOU'RE NOT
READY TO BE
ON A MISSION
LIKE THIS!

IF I
SAID HE
WAS READY,
THEN HE
WAS
READY



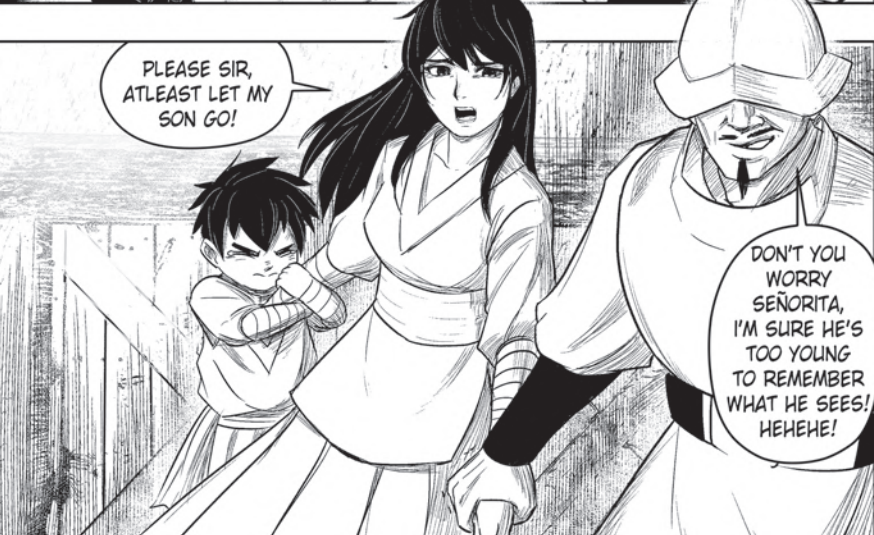
THEN
YOU'RE
BOTH
LYING TO
YOURSELVES!

WHY IS
HE LIKE
THAT?



A BETTER
QUESTION
IS...

WHY DID WE
ALLOW HIM TO
BE IN THE CLAN
OF ARAMAR?..





THOSE ANIMALS...

COME HERE

LET ME SEE YOU UP CLOSE!



LET'S GET THEM WHILE WE HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURP...

WE CAN'T, THEY CAN'T SEE US.

WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR INFORMATION, RECONNAISSANCE,



WE MUST KEEP THE ARAMAR CLAN'S EXISTENCE AND THE CITY OF ASAHI A SECRET.



WE'RE PROTECTORS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE CAN'T HELP?!



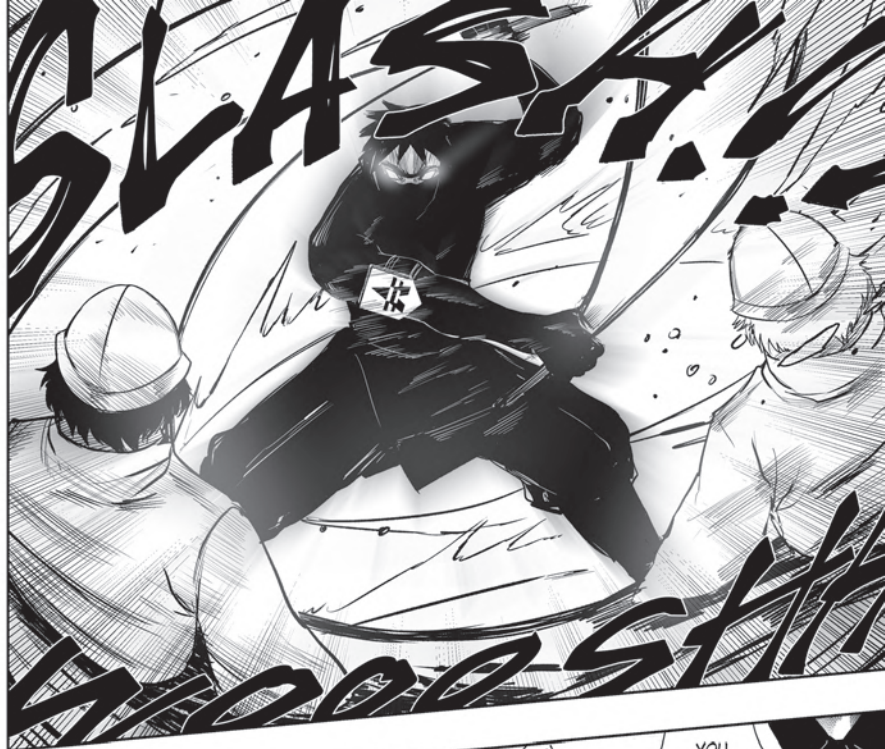
THERE ARE PRIORITIES. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE'S NOT ONE RIGHT NOW.

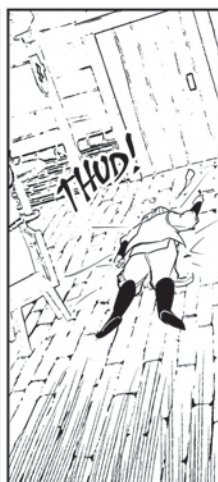
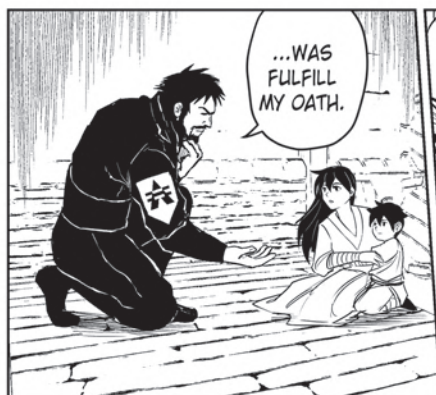


YOU'RE MAKING MY OATH A LIE!!









2033 A.D.

NEW INITIATE,
AOIFE,
ARRIVED
AT THE
COMPOUND
AND FOUND
ALL MEMBERS
DEAD...

GRID

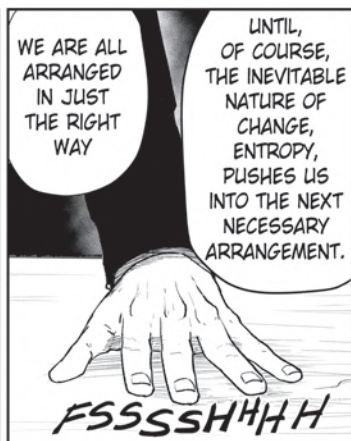
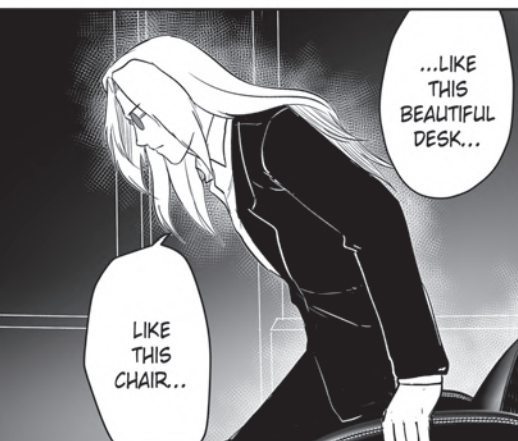
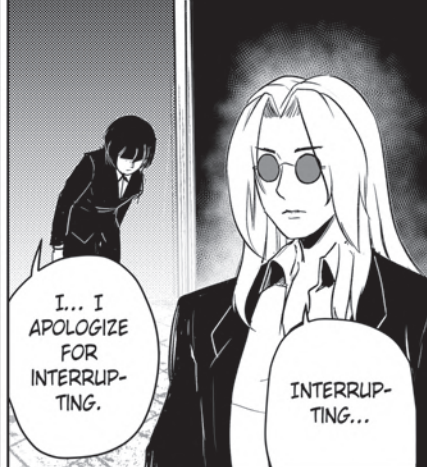
GRID

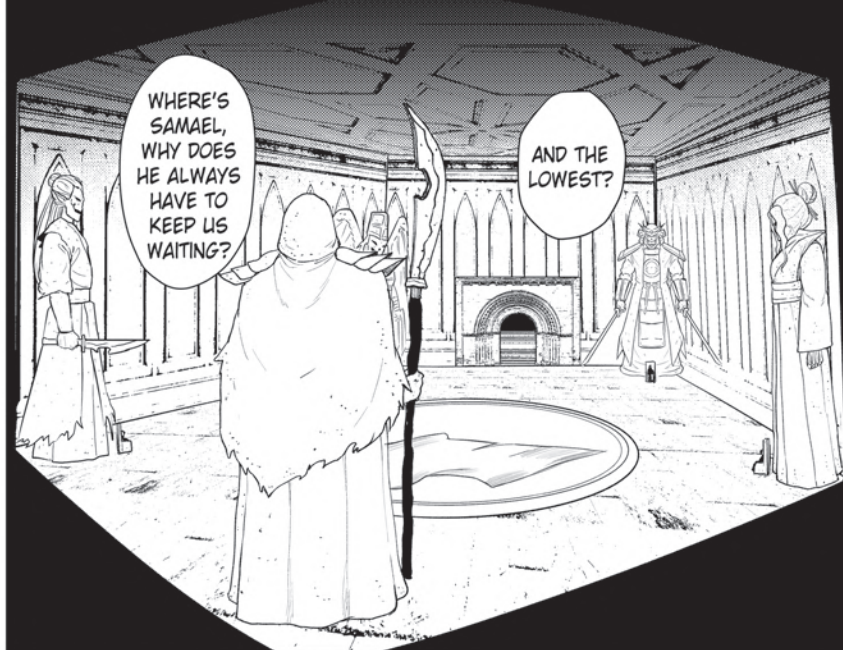
GRID

MOT SAVED
HER FROM
THE POLICE,
APPARENTLY
ON THE
PAY-ROLL...
NOT OURS
THOUGH...
STRANGE...
UNDERLINE...

CAN YOU
HEAR THAT?
SOMEONE'S
COMING TO
THE DOOR...

CLOSE
MEMO.



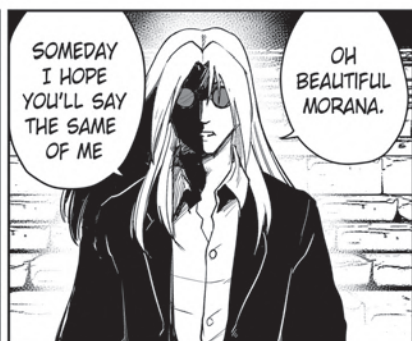


WHERE'S
SAMAEL,
WHY DOES
HE ALWAYS
HAVE TO
KEEP US
WAITING?

AND THE
LOWEST?



THE
LOWEST
CAN KEEP
US WAITING
FOR A
MILLION
YEARS IF
HE SO
WISHES!

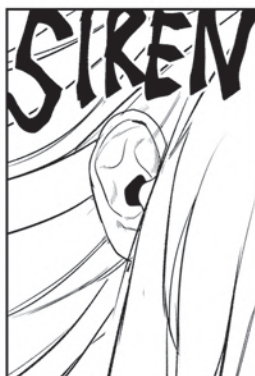


SOMEDAY
I HOPE
YOU'LL SAY
THE SAME
OF ME

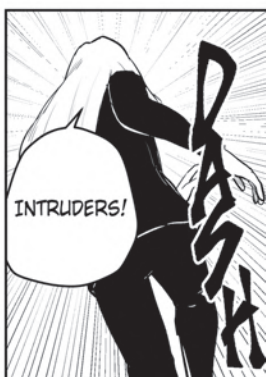
OH
BEAUTIFUL
MORANA.



YOU WISH...
ALSO, YOU'RE
LUCKY THAT THE
LOWEST DIDN'T
GET HERE
BEFORE YOU...
LAST TIME
HE...



SIREN



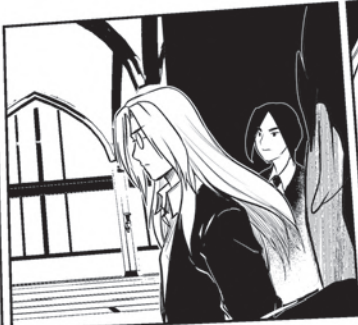
INTRUDERS!



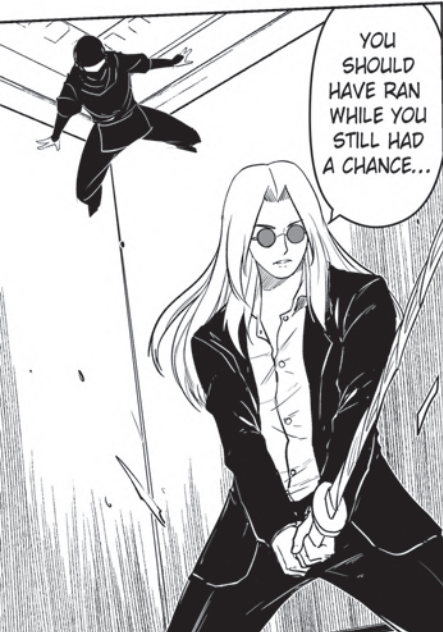
THE LOWEST...
THE SHARD...
IT HAS TO BE...
WE HAVEN'T
HAD AN
ALARM IN
TOO LONG.



STAY OUT
OF THE-



SO
YOU'RE
STILL
HERE...

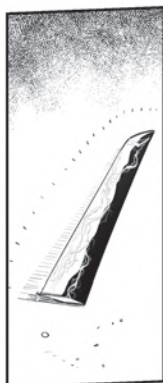
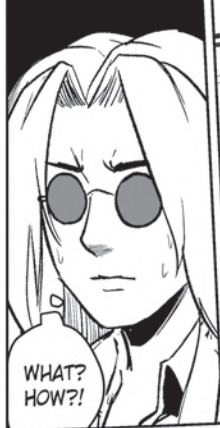


YOU
SHOULD
HAVE RAN
WHILE YOU
STILL HAD
A CHANCE...

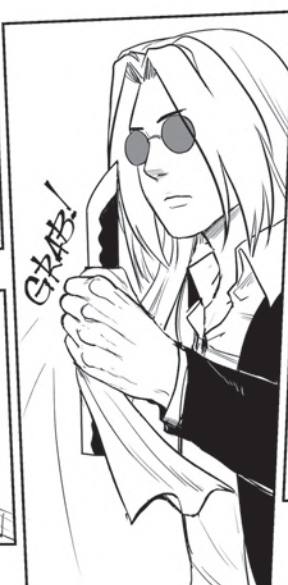
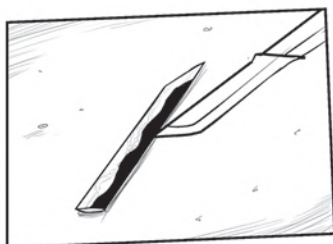


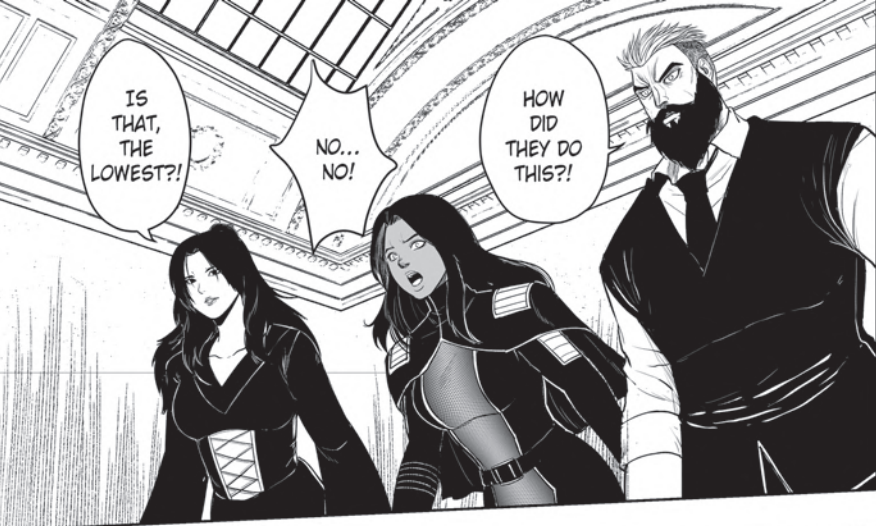
YOU CAME
TO THE
RIGHT
PLACE IF
DEATH IS
WHAT YOU
SEEK!





IF ONE SINGLE PLANCK LENGTH OF YOUR BEING TOUCHES THAT,

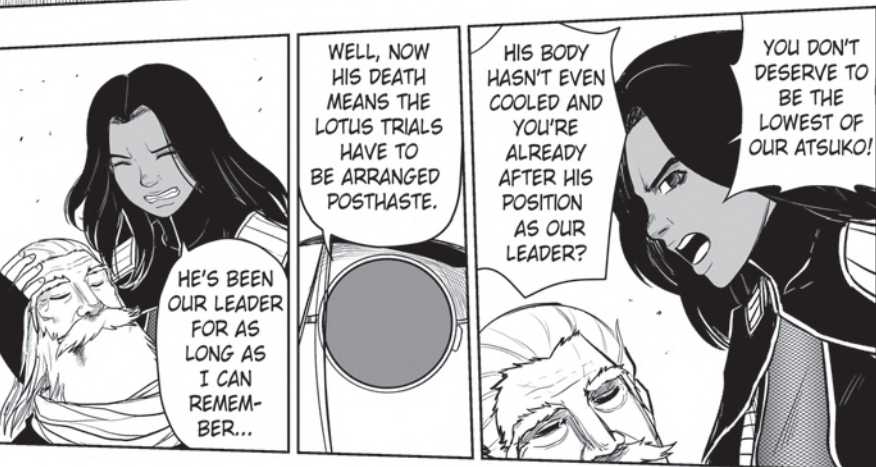




IS
THAT,
THE
LOWEST?!

NO...
NO!

HOW
DID
THEY DO
THIS?!

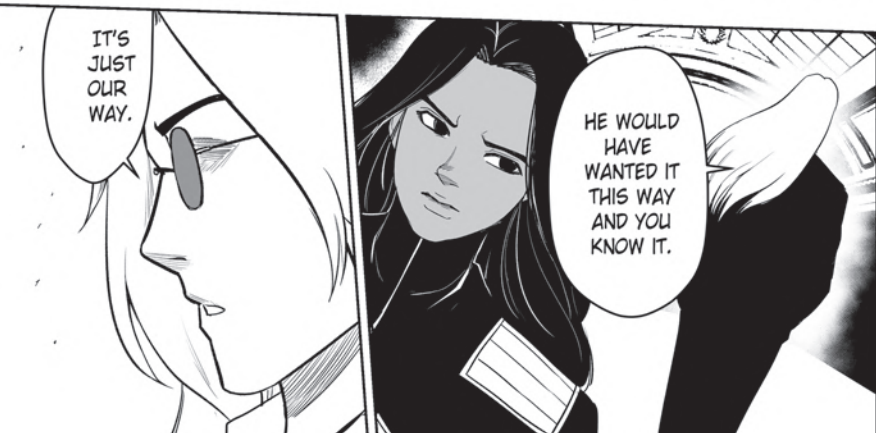


HE'S BEEN
OUR LEADER
FOR AS
LONG AS
I CAN REMEM-
BER...

WELL, NOW
HIS DEATH
MEANS THE
LOTUS TRIALS
HAVE TO
BE ARRANGED
POSTHASTE.

HIS BODY
HASN'T EVEN
COOLED AND
YOU'RE
ALREADY
AFTER HIS
POSITION
AS OUR
LEADER?

YOU DON'T
DESERVE TO
BE THE
LOWEST OF
OUR ATSUKO!



IT'S
JUST
OUR
WAY.

HE WOULD
HAVE
WANTED IT
THIS WAY
AND YOU
KNOW IT.



GOODBYE
OLD
MAN



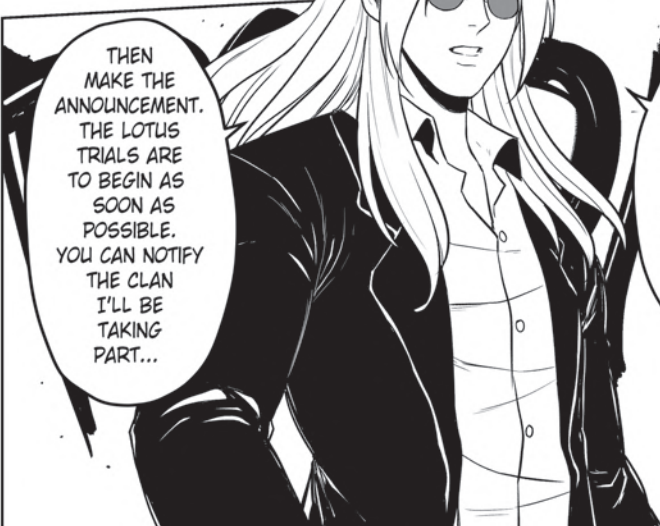
EVEN
FOR AN
ATSUKO,
YOU'RE
HEART-
LESS!

HE GAVE
HALF HIS
LIFE FOR
YOU!



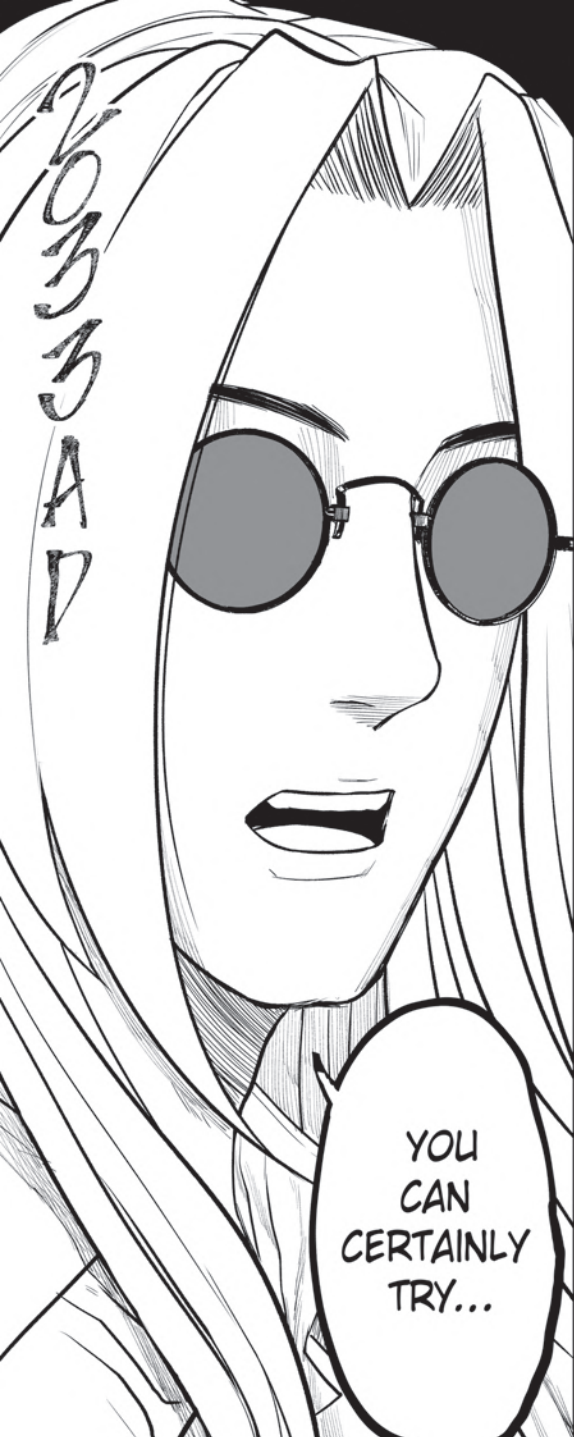
AND I
WILL PUT
MY LIFE
ON THE
LINE TO
MAKE
HIM
PROUD...

WILL
YOU?

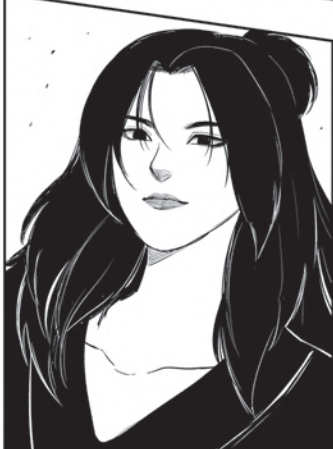
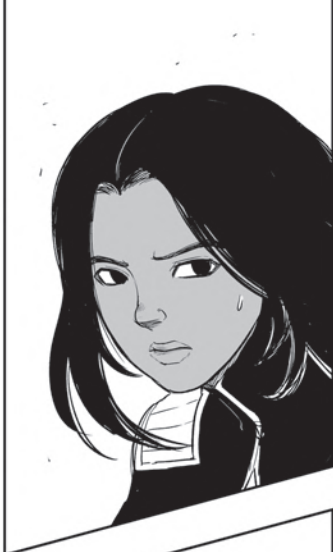


THEN
MAKE THE
ANNOUNCEMENT.
THE LOTUS
TRIALS ARE
TO BEGIN AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.
YOU CAN NOTIFY
THE CLAN
I'LL BE
TAKING
PART...

AND
WHOEVER
WANTS TO
TRY AND
BEST ME...
TELL THEM.



YOU
CAN
CERTAINLY
TRY...





THIS IS
THE LAST
STRAW,
YOU'RE
OUT OF
THE CLAN...

OUR
SECRETS
MUST BE
KEPT A
SECRET IF
WE ARE
TO SUCCEED



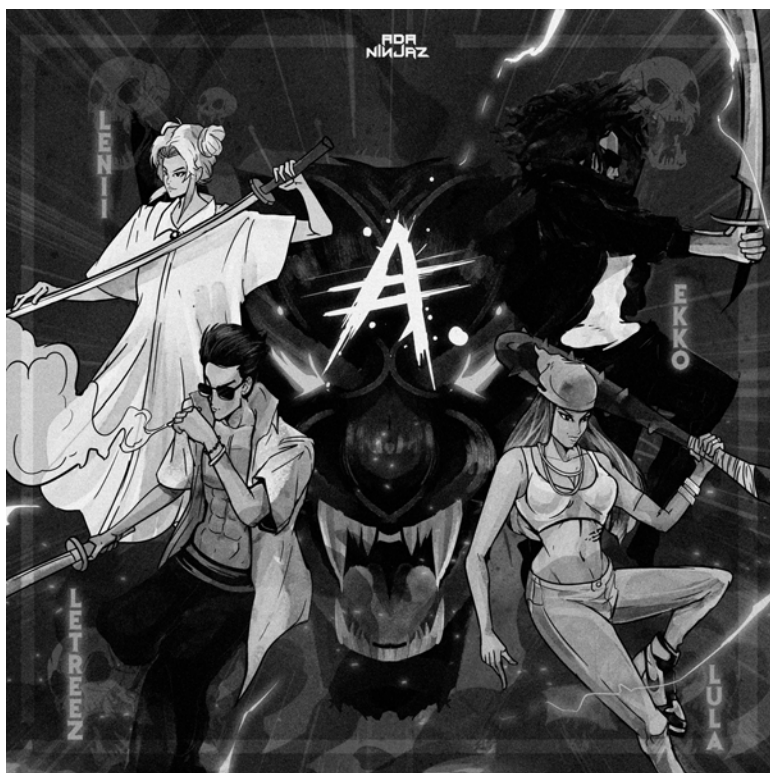
AND WHAT
OF THIS
WOMAN AND
CHILD...
AND
MYSELF?

YOU KNOW
WHAT MUST
BE DONE TO
ENSURE OUR
SAFETY
AND OUR
SECRETS...



YOU
CAN
CERTAINLY
TRY





ATSUKO

Music single out now.
Listen on Spotify and Apple Music.



YOU
BOORISH
OAF...STAND
DOWN AND
I'LL MAKE
THIS QUICK
FOR ALL
OF YOU.

OR
STRUGGLE,
AND MAKE
THIS MORE
FUN FOR ME



THIS IS
HOW THEY
PROTECT,

BY DESTROYING
ANYTHING THAT
GETS IN THE
WAY OF THEM
PROTECTING
THEMSELVES.

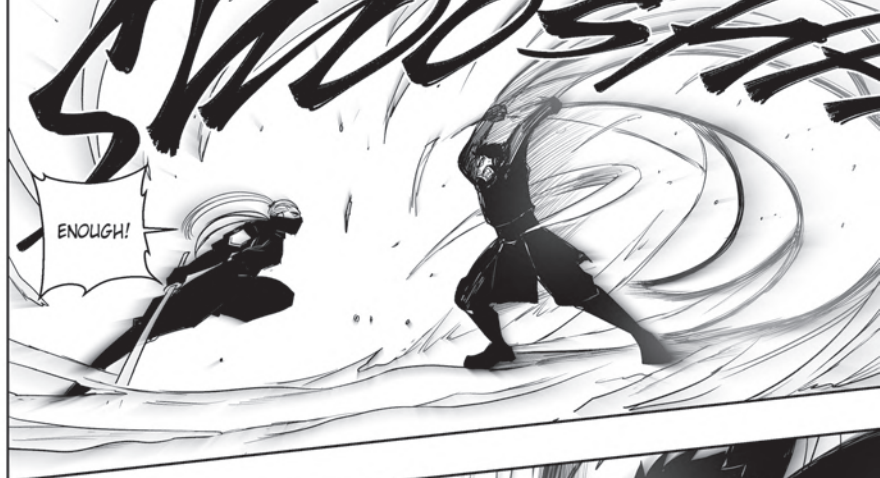


THIS IS
YOUR
DOING
JABEZ.

AND IT'S
YOUR CHOICE,
AND YOU CHOSE
TO INTERPRET
OUR RULES TO
BEST FIT YOUR
PERSONAL
NEEDS.

YOU KNOW
THE RULES,
OUR SECRETS
MUST BE
KEPT FOR
THE GOOD
OF ALL!

IS THAT
THE LIE
THEY
TOLD YOU,
OR THE LIE
YOU TELL
YOURSELF?!



THUD



YOUR LIFE,
YOUR
DEATH...
IT MEANS
LITTLE TO
ME NOW.

YOU CAN
TELL YOUR
HONORABLE
TO SEND
HIS BEST



LET THEM
BE THE ONES
TO CHOOSE
TO FACE ME
AND DIE,
OR SEE THE
LIES OF
THOSE
ABOVE AND
LIVE.



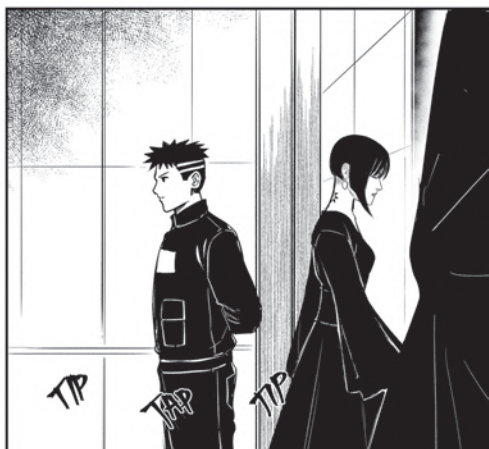
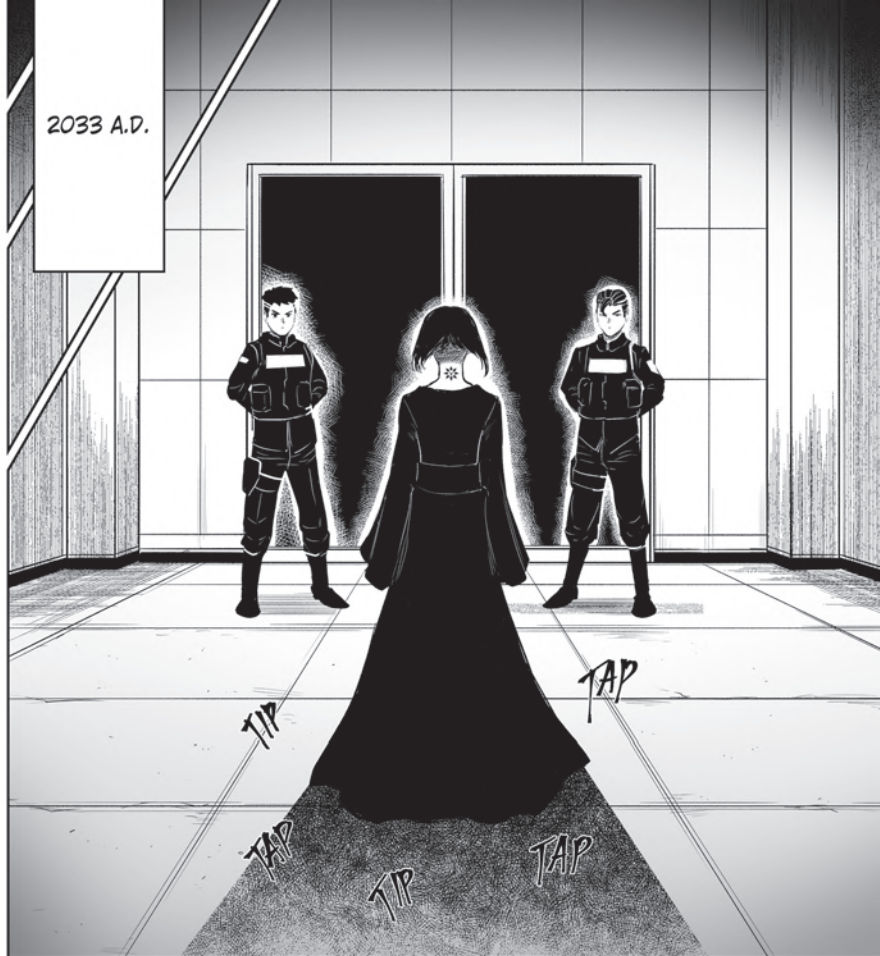
PROTECTORS...
PFF!

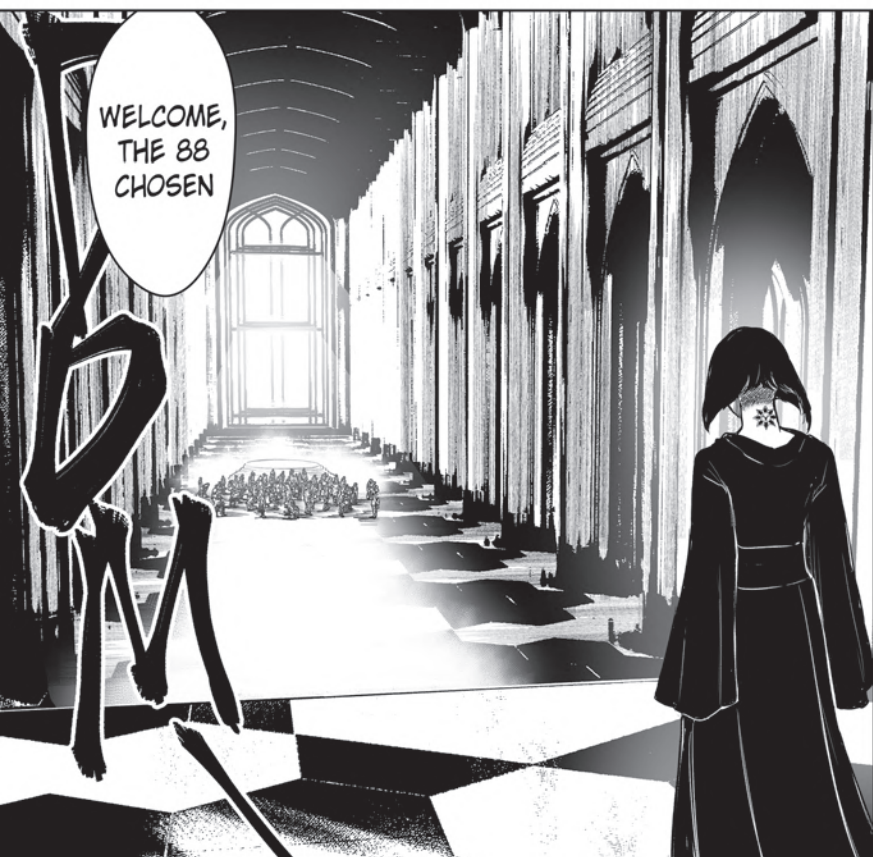
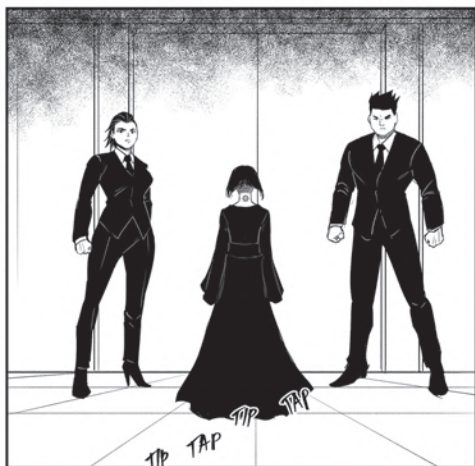
KEEP
PROTECTING
YOURSELVES...
FROM HERE
ON OUT,

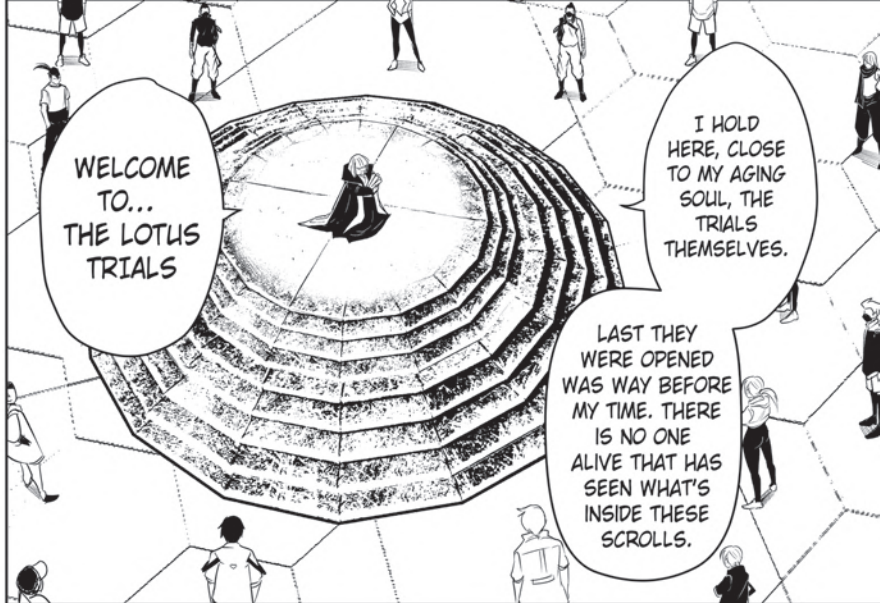
YOU'LL
REALLY
NEED IT.



2033 A.D.



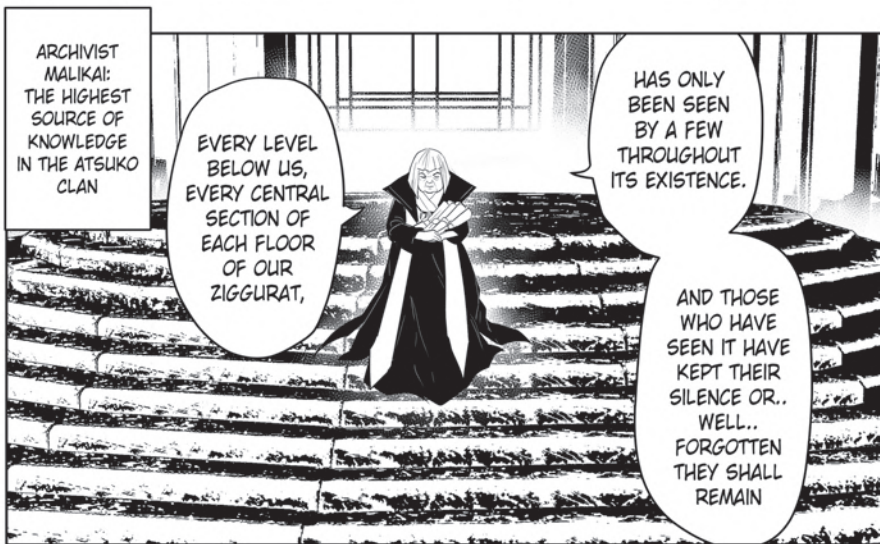




WELCOME
TO...
THE LOTUS
TRIALS

I HOLD
HERE, CLOSE
TO MY AGING
SOUL, THE
TRIALS
THEMSELVES.

LAST THEY
WERE OPENED
WAS WAY BEFORE
MY TIME. THERE
IS NO ONE
ALIVE THAT HAS
SEEN WHAT'S
INSIDE THESE
SCROLLS.

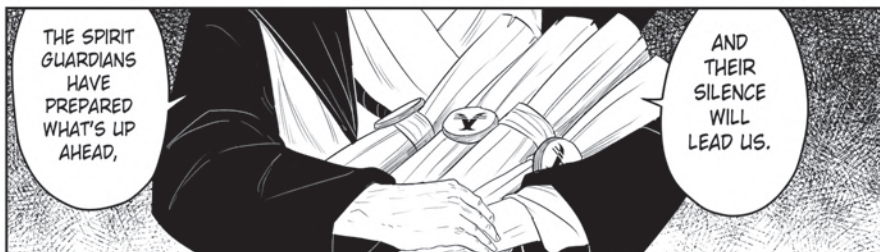


ARCHIVIST
MALIKAI:
THE HIGHEST
SOURCE OF
KNOWLEDGE
IN THE ATSUKO
CLAN

EVERY LEVEL
BELOW US,
EVERY CENTRAL
SECTION OF
EACH FLOOR
OF OUR
ZIGGURAT,


HAS ONLY
BEEN SEEN
BY A FEW
THROUGHOUT
ITS EXISTENCE.

AND THOSE
WHO HAVE
SEEN IT HAVE
KEPT THEIR
SILENCE OR..
WELL..
FORGOTTEN
THEY SHALL
REMAIN



THE SPIRIT
GUARDIANS
HAVE
PREPARED
WHAT'S UP
AHEAD,

AND
THEIR
SILENCE
WILL
LEAD US.



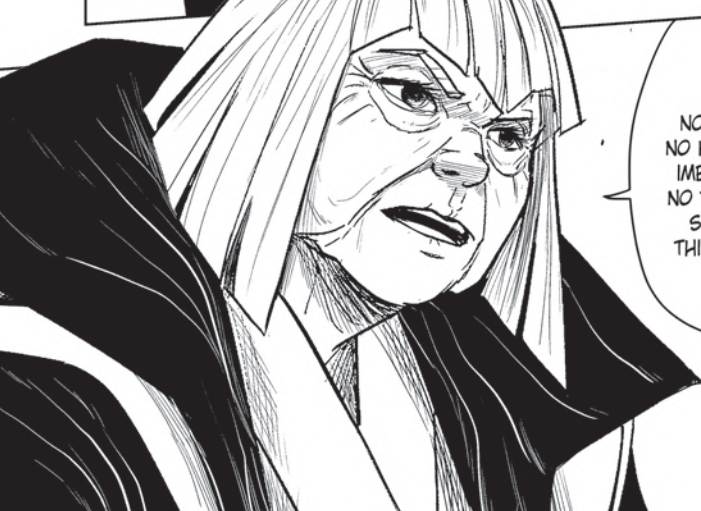
SOME BASIC
RULES: ONCE
YOU ENTER
THERE IS NO
TURNING BACK.
YOU MAY ONLY
FINISH YOUR
TRIAL THROUGH
DEFEAT OR BY
BECOMING OUR
URSHANABI
LOWEST.

YOU ARE
FORBIDDEN TO
EVER SPEAK
OF WHAT YOU
SEE INSIDE UNTIL
THE FINAL VEIL
IS LIFTED FROM
YOUR EYES AT
YOUR LIFE'S END.

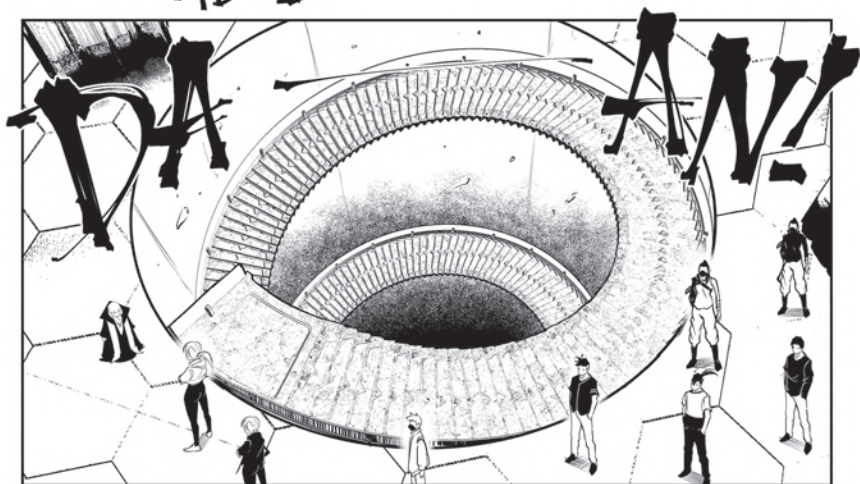
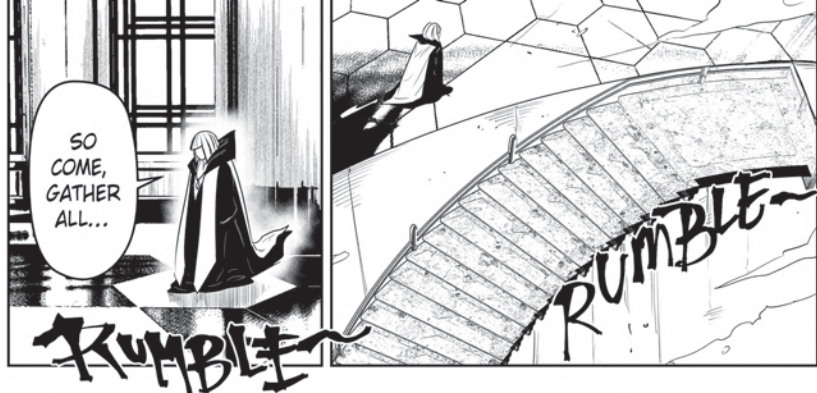


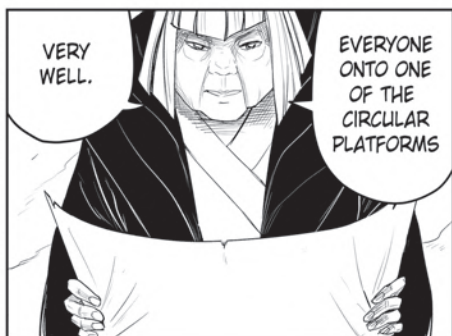
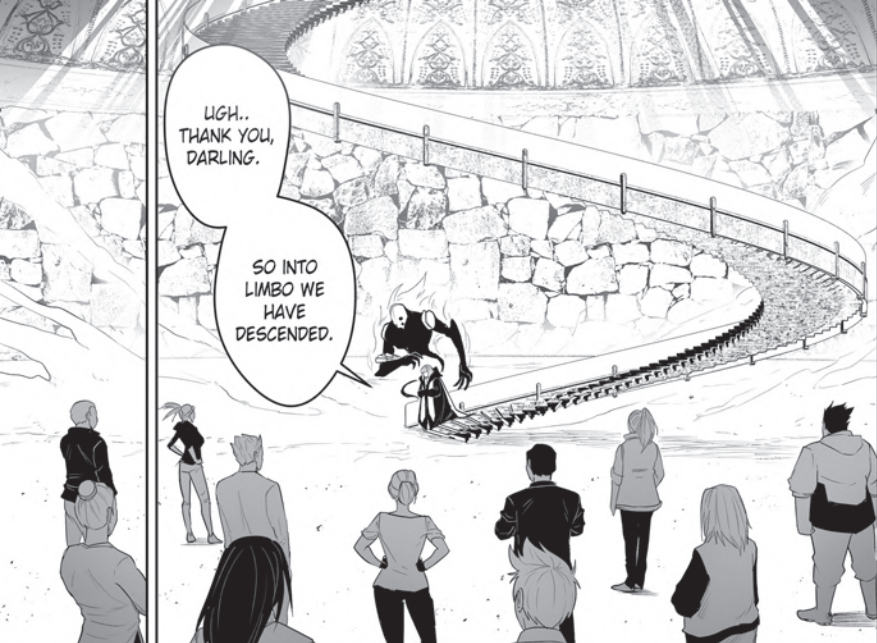
NO HELP
FROM THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD.

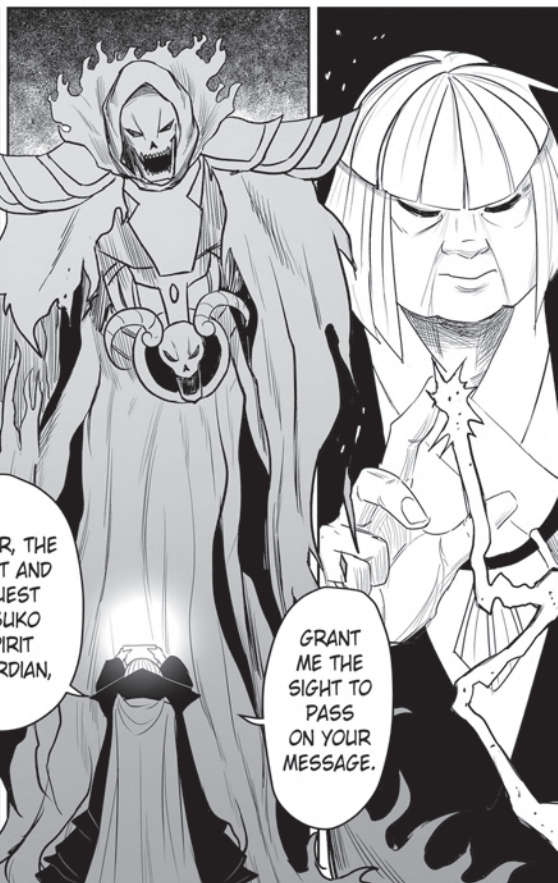
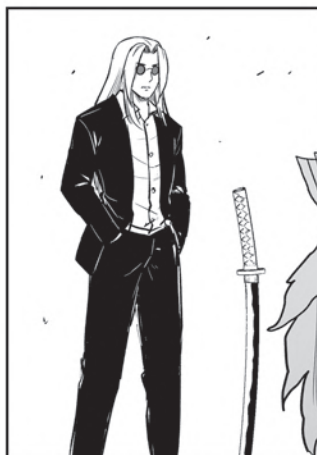
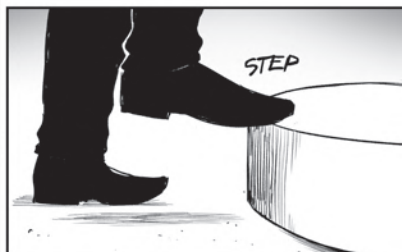
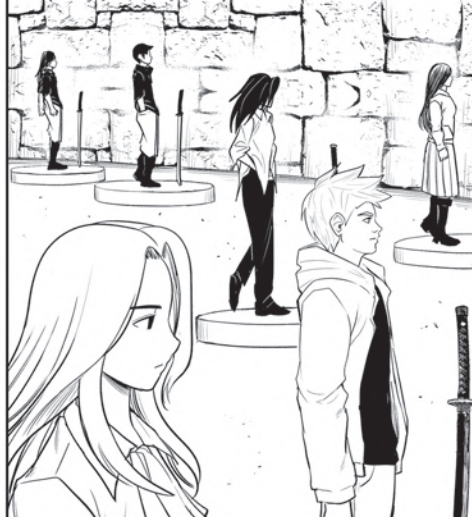
ONCE
YOU'VE
ENTERED,
THE
JOURNEY
IS JUST
AMONGST
YOURSELVES.



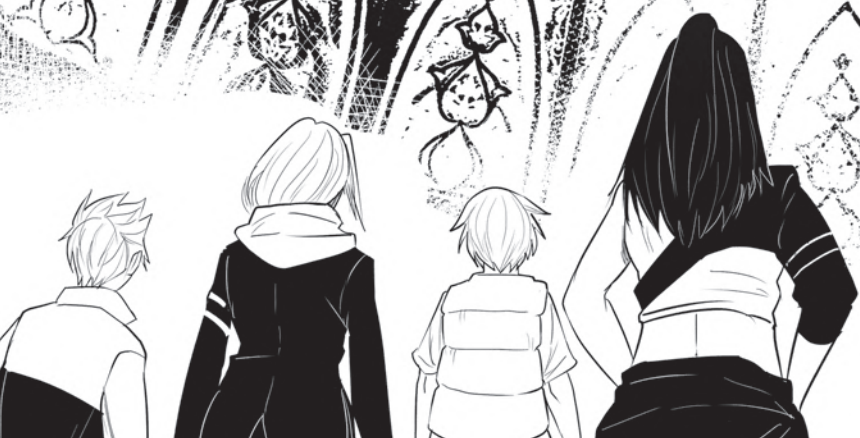
NO WEAPONS,
NO HOSKINANILUM
IMBUED ITEMS,
NO TECH OF ANY
SORT FROM
THIS POINT ON.





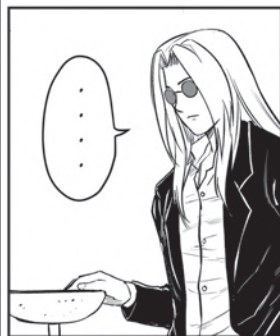
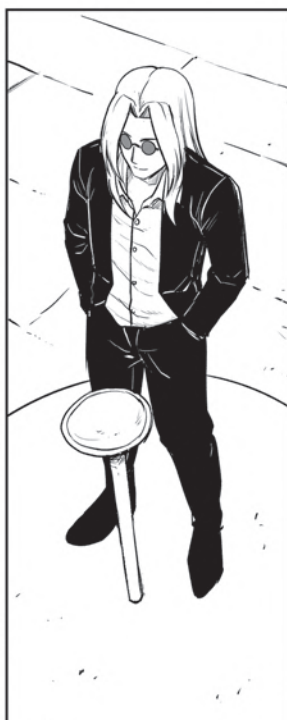
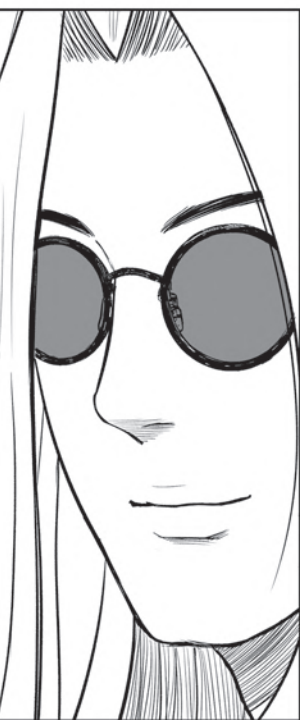


SO HERE YOU PAY
YOUR FIRST AND ONLY TOLL
MARK HERE YOUR SILENCE
ONCE WITH ALL YOUR HEART
WARM FEAR TAINTS SKIN
BUT LEAVES UNTOUCHED THE SOUL



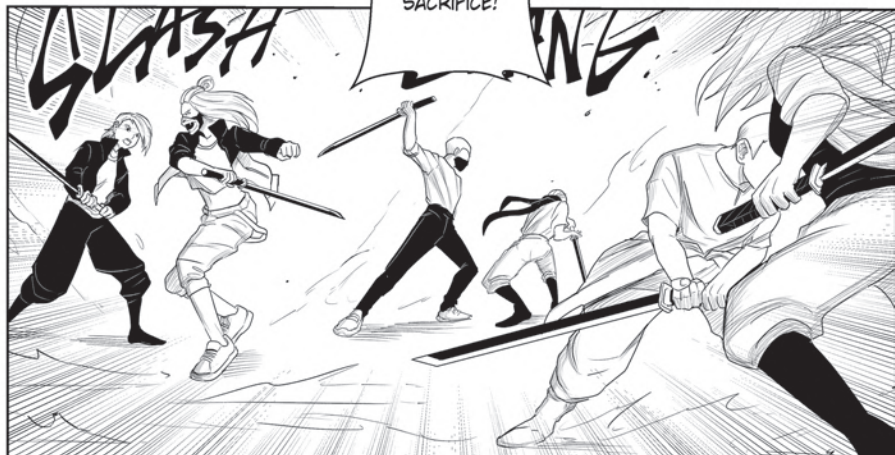
LET GO OF THAT
OF WHICH YOU
CANNOT PART
GIVE KALI WHAT
SHE INSATIABLY
DRAVES

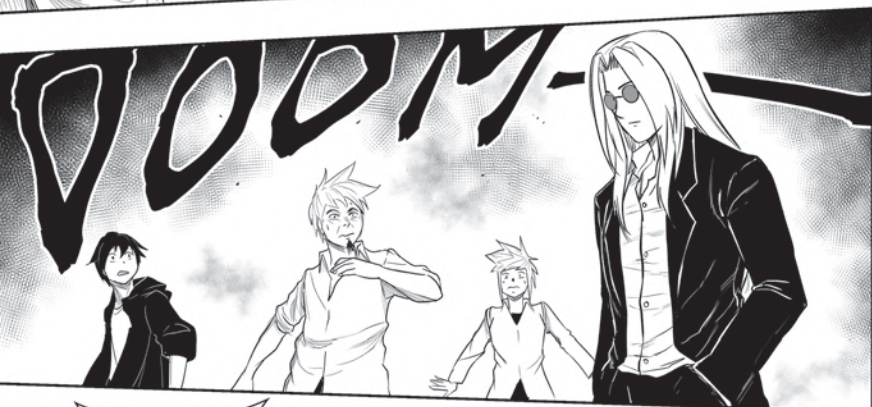
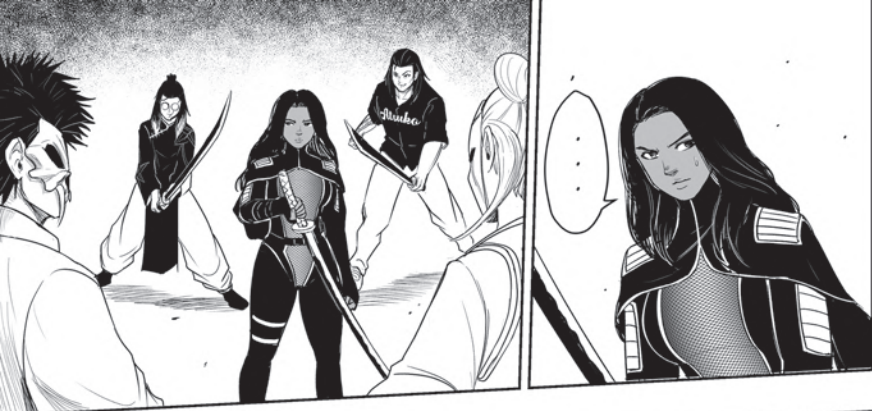


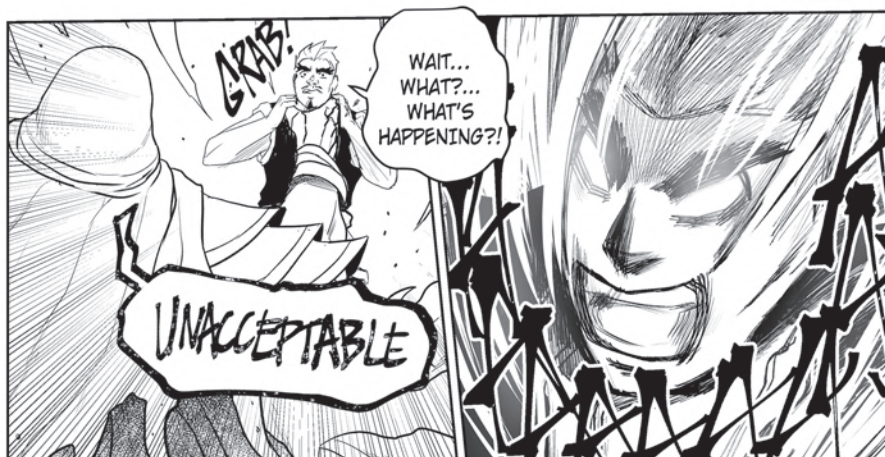




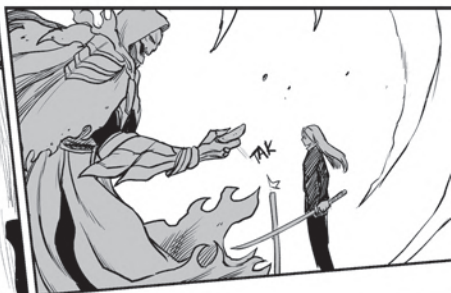
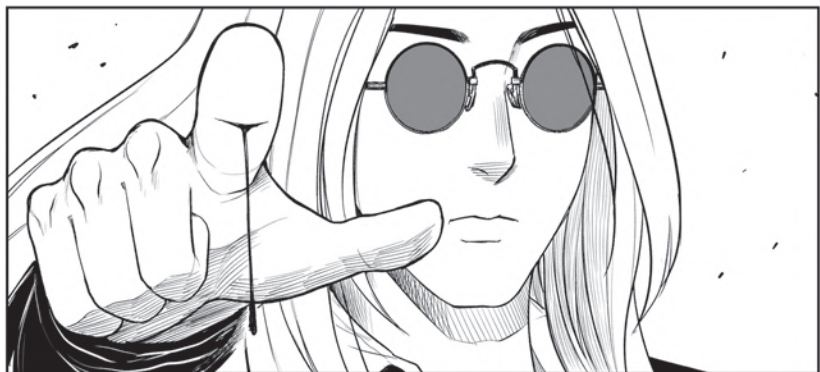
IT'S WHAT KALI WANTS!
A BLOOD SACRIFICE!

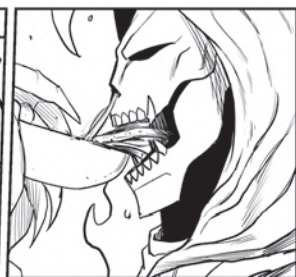






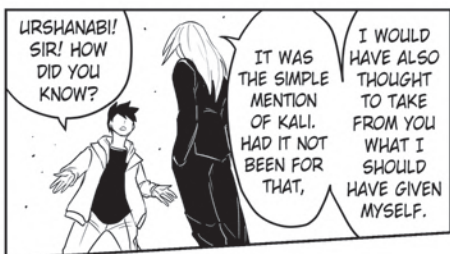






BLOOD IN,
BLOOD OUT.
WELL DONE
ON YOUR
FIRST TRIAL.

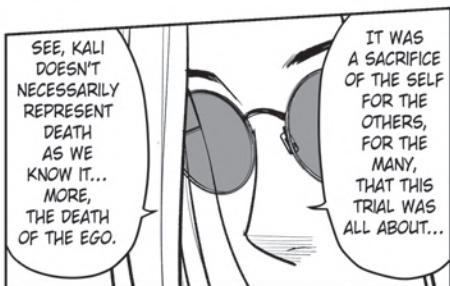
YOUR
LEARNING
FROM
OUR PAST
MISTAKES
HAS PROVEN
YOU ALL
WORTHY OF
THE NEXT
TRIAL.
FOLLOW ME.



WIRSHANABI!
SIR! HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?

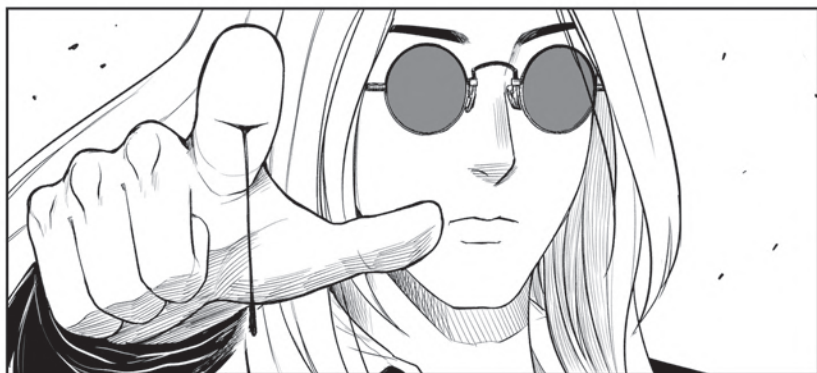
IT WAS
THE SIMPLE
MENTION
OF KALI.
HAD IT NOT
BEEN FOR
THAT,

I WOULD
HAVE ALSO
THOUGHT
TO TAKE
FROM YOU
WHAT I
SHOULD
HAVE GIVEN
MYSELF.



SEE, KALI
DOESN'T
NECESSARILY
REPRESENT
DEATH
AS WE
KNOW IT...
MORE,
THE DEATH
OF THE EGO.

IT WAS
A SACRIFICE
OF THE SELF
FOR THE
OTHERS,
FOR THE
MANY,
THAT THIS
TRIAL WAS
ALL ABOUT...



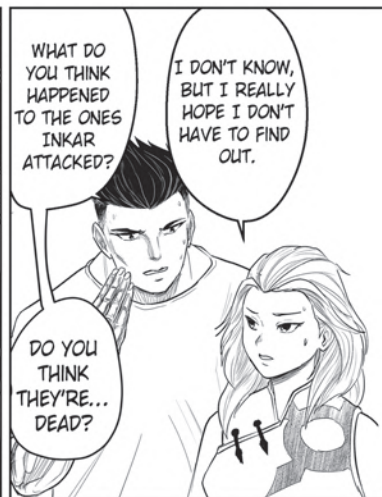
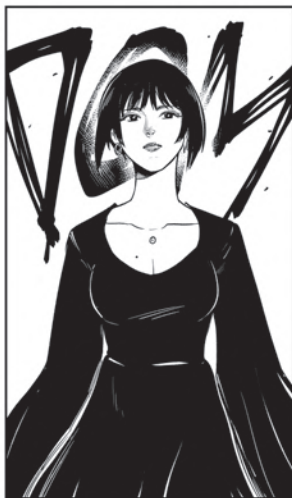


SAMAEI

Samael is one of the five Urshanabi, ultimate leaders of the Atsuko Clan.

His sharp mind and even sharper fighting skills have allowed him to climb to the top. Although no-one mentions it out loud, everyone knows he's the mastermind behind all Atsuko operations. He's the man with the plan and the keeper of all Atsuko secrets...

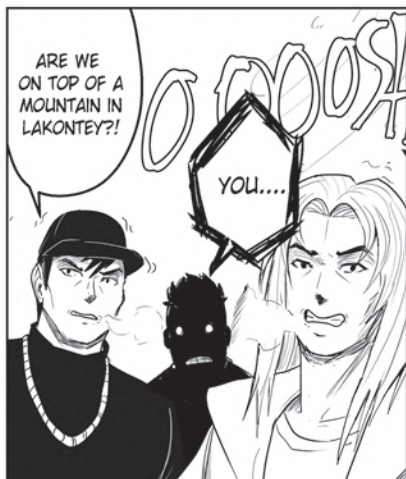
and some of his own too.





THEY'LL
BE FINE...

ALTHOUGH
I DOUBT
THEY'LL BE
ENJOYING
THEMSELVES
THE NEXT
FEW DAYS...







1748 A.D.

GOOD
GIRL...
YOU'LL
DO.



COME.



SHOW
ME THE
WAY TO
YOUR
HOME.

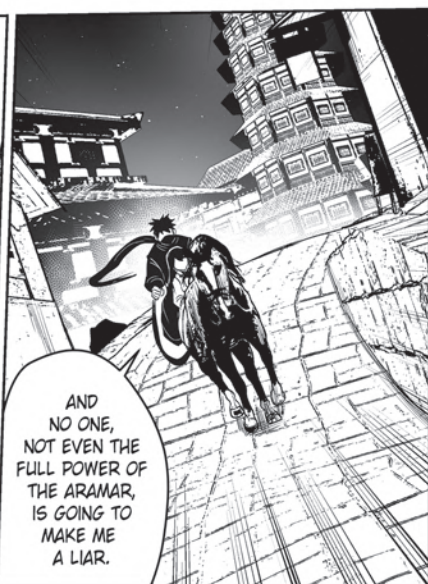
AND
THEN I'LL
HAVE TO
FIND MY
NEW
HOME.

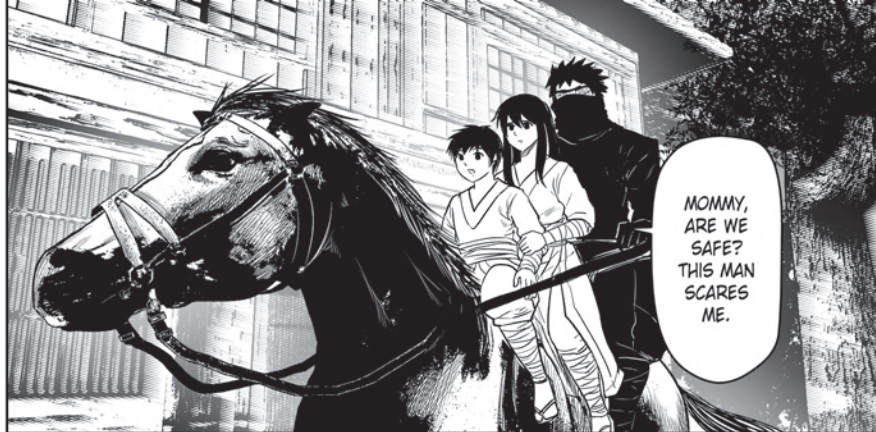


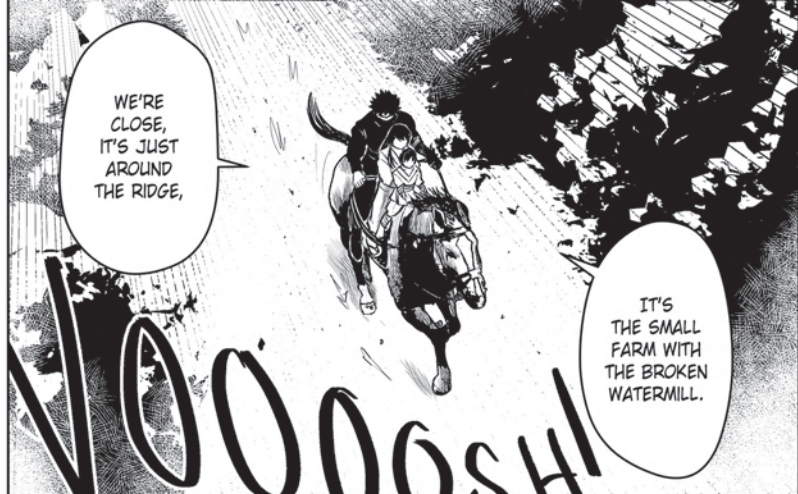
YAH!
YAH!

UGH!

SLASH!







WE'RE
CLOSE,
IT'S JUST
AROUND
THE RIDGE,

IT'S
THE SMALL
FARM WITH
THE BROKEN
WATERMILL.



THAT'S
IT.. IT'S
NOT MUCH,
BUT IT'S
HOME.

THERE'S
NO LIGHT..
WHY'S YOUR
HUSBAND
OUT SO
LATE?



MY DADDY'S
NOT LATE, HE'S
FORGOTTEN

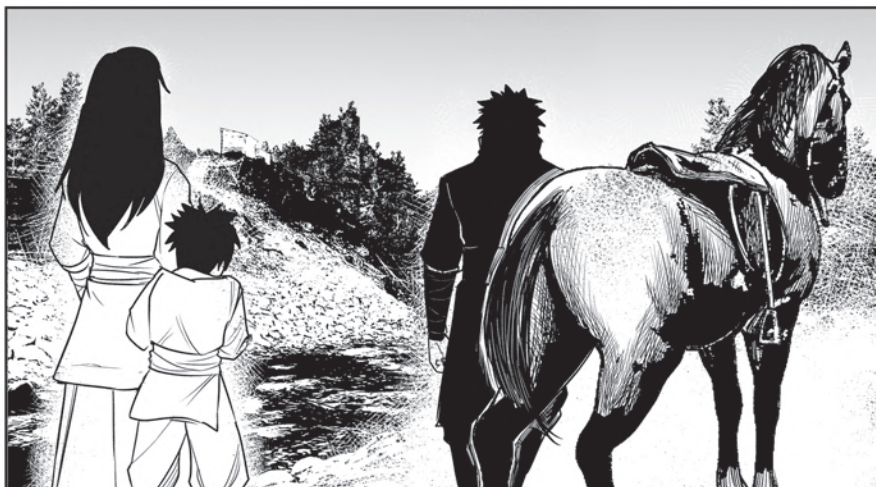
I'M...
VERY
SORRY.

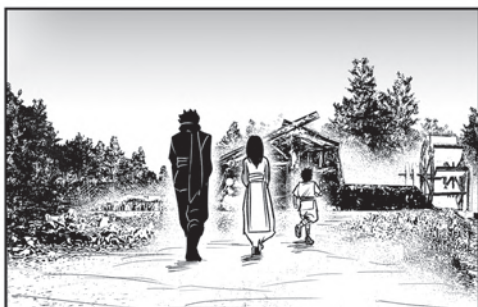
YOU DID
NOT KNOW.
IT'S ONLY
YUNI AND
I WHO
REMEMBER
HIM.

BUT THEN
HE'LL BE A
FORGOTTEN
SPIRIT FOREVER.
WE CAN'T HELP
THAT

BUT
THANK YOU.
IF IT WASN'T
FOR YOU..
THOSE
INVADERS...

I KNOW..







SO THE
ARAMAR
ARE REAL...

IS THE
HIDDEN
CITY OF
ASAHI
ALSO
REAL?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE "THE
PROTECTORS"
ARE REALLY
REAL!



WE...
SIGH

...THEY
MIGHT BE
REAL, BUT
THEIR IDEALS
ARE NOT



THEY MIGHT
LOOK LIKE
POWERFUL
SAVIORS BUT
SELF-INTEREST
HIDES BEHIND THEIR
POWERFUL
FACADE



ASAHI
ARAMAR SAVED
THOUSANDS, AND I
HEAR STORIES
ABOUT HOW
THEY FIGHT
THE SPANISH
ALL THE
TIME



AND
YOU NEVER
THOUGHT TO
QUESTION
THESE
STORIES?



SOME DAY
PEOPLE WILL
TELL GREAT
STORIES OF
ME! I'LL BE
ONE OF THE
MOST POWERFUL
FIGHTERS THE
SPANISH HAVE
EVER SEEN!

NO YOU
WON'T.
YOU'LL
PROBABLY
JUST BE A
FARMER.

AND IF YOU
EVER SEE AN
ARAMAR AGAIN,
THEY'RE MORE
LIKELY TO TRY
AND KILL YOU
TO HIDE THEIR
SECRETS THAN
SAVE YOU FROM
THE SPANISH.

LIKE THE
COMMANDER
EARLIER. SHE
WAS READY
TO KILL A LITTLE
KID LIKE YOU!
FOR THEIR
SECRETS!



JABEZ!
HE'S JUST
A CHILD!

LET HIM
ENJOY HIS
WONDER!



EVEN A
CHILD
MUST
LEARN.

IT
MIGHT
HURT..BUT
AT LEAST
IT'S THE
TRUTH!



HE'S
MY CHILD!
AND THIS IS
MY HOME! SO
I'LL HAVE TO
ASK YOU TO
EITHER ACCEPT
WHAT I ASK
YOU OR
LEAVE!



I TOO
WAS IN DENIAL.
FOR VERY LONG.
I DON'T BLAME
YOU.

BUT I
WILL HOLD
MY TONGUE
AND RESPECT
YOUR HOME.



YOU'D
BETTER!

COME
YUNI, IT'S
TIME FOR
BED.

DON'T
WORRY
YUNI, HE
MIGHT
BE RUDE
BUT IF
YOU WORK
HARD...



...YOU'LL
BE THE
STRONGEST
OF THEM
ALL AND
YOU'LL SAVE
US ALL
FROM THE
SPANISH.



DID THAT
ARAMAR
LADY REALLY
WANT TO
HURT US?



HUH?



HRRR..
LIES BEGET
LIES!

OF COURSE
NOT, MY LOVE.
SHE WAS
CONFUSED
AND ANGRY
ABOUT THE
SPANIARDS
THAT'S ALL

EVEN THIS
POOR SINGLE
MOTHER HAS
SWALLOWED
THE LIES OF
HOPE YOU
SPREAD...
BUT YOU'LL
PAY...



JUST
YOU WAIT
AND SEE.



OK,
FINALLY
HERE.

A FEW
WEEKS
LATER..



AS USUAL,
STAY QUIET
AND LET ME
DO THE
TALKING.



THE
SOUL IS
DESTINED TO
ETERNITY



AND THE
ARAMAR
TO PROTECT
IT THROUGH
ALL



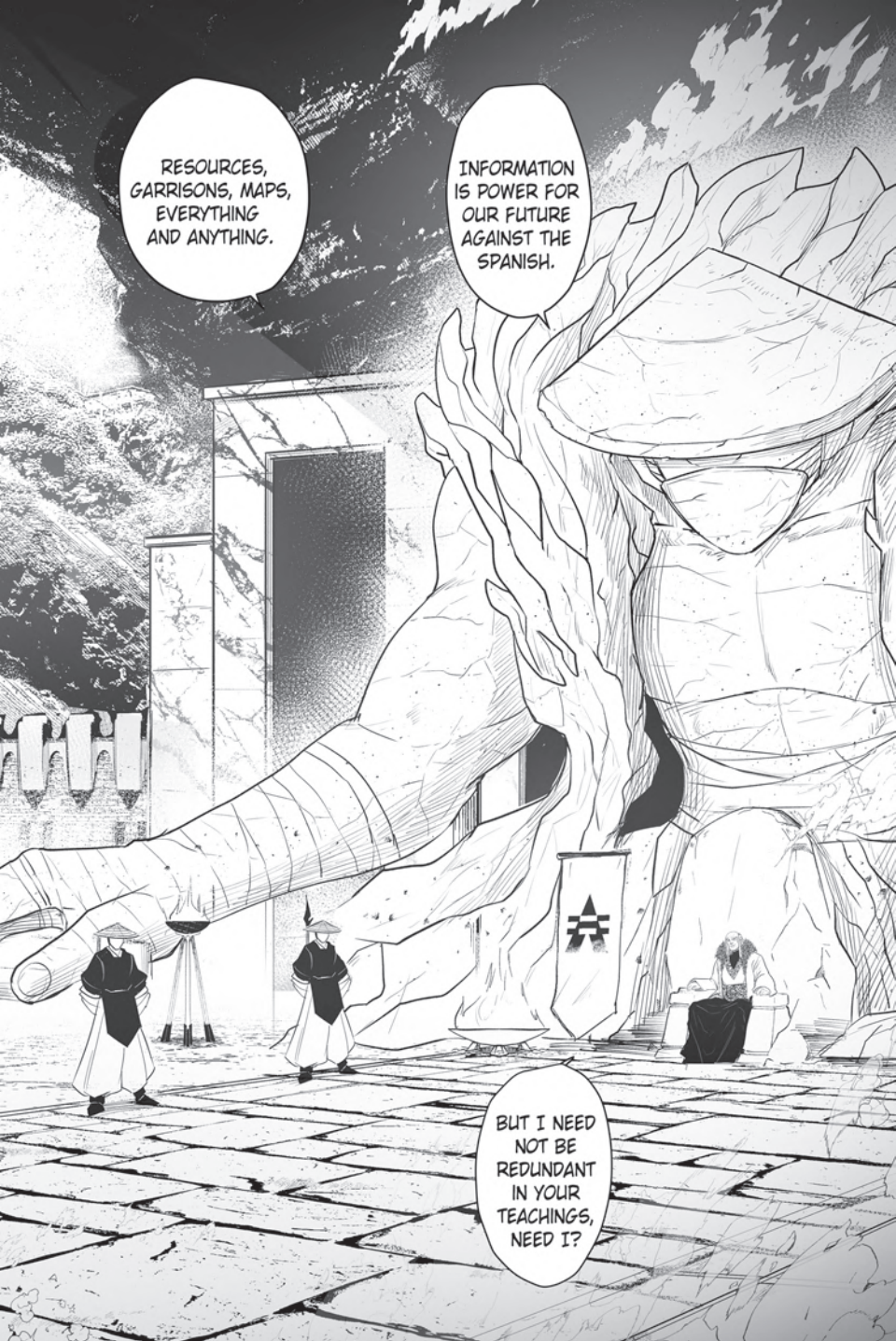
WELCOME
BACK
NINJAZ.





YOUR
HONORABLE
RIGHT, TRIENS
ARAMAR, HERE
ARE YOUR NINJAZ
COMMANDER KAEDE
AND RECENTLY
INITIATED RINKU.

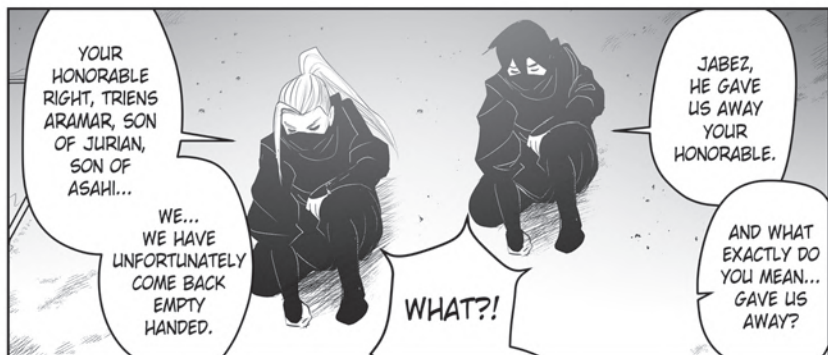
COME,
CHILDREN.
WHAT NEWS
HAVE YOU
OF YOUR
RECONNAISSANCE
IN RAYA.



RESOURCES,
GARRISONS, MAPS,
EVERYTHING
AND ANYTHING.

INFORMATION
IS POWER FOR
OUR FUTURE
AGAINST THE
SPANISH.

BUT I NEED
NOT BE
REDUNDANT
IN YOUR
TEACHINGS,
NEED I?





WHY YOU?
WHY DID
I HAVE
TO MAKE
THAT PROMISE?
YOU'VE BEEN
A THORN IN
MY HEART
EVER SINCE,
JABEZ.

NO MORE!
FOR THE
GREATER
GOOD,
THE PROMISE
MUST BE
BROKEN.

COMMANDER,
YOU WILL
LEAD A
SMALL GROUP
BACK TO
RAYA, AND
YOU WILL
TAKE OUR
BEST WARRIOR
WITH YOU.



THE
HONORABLE
LEFT,
LOULANO...

YES,
FATHER

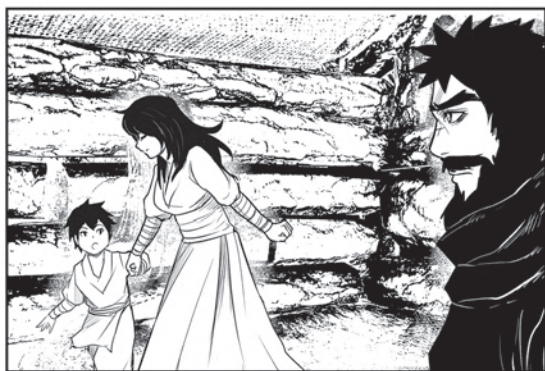
YOU ALL
LEAVE
IMMEDIATELY.

YES,
FATHER

AND
PERHAPS
IT'S TIME
YOU LET
EKKONO
SPREAD HER
WINGS A
LITTLE

OF
COURSE,
YOUR
HONORABLE.

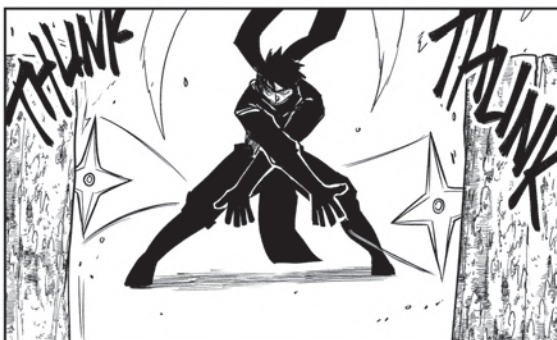


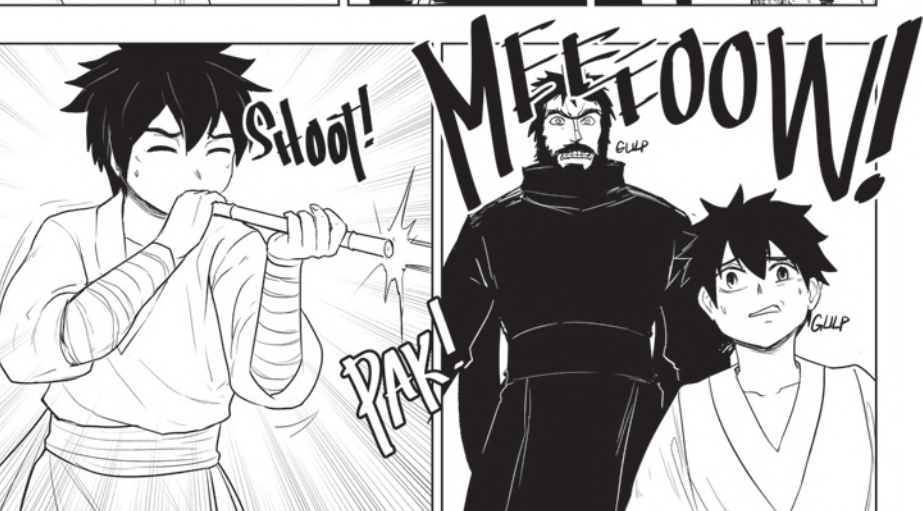


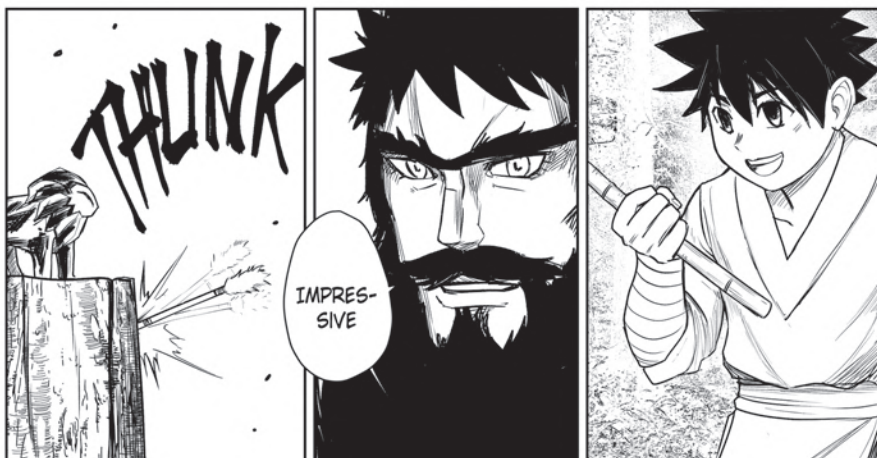


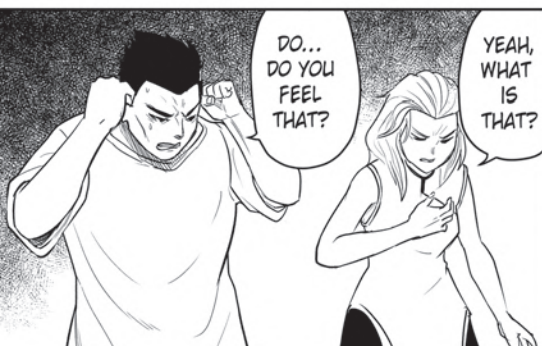
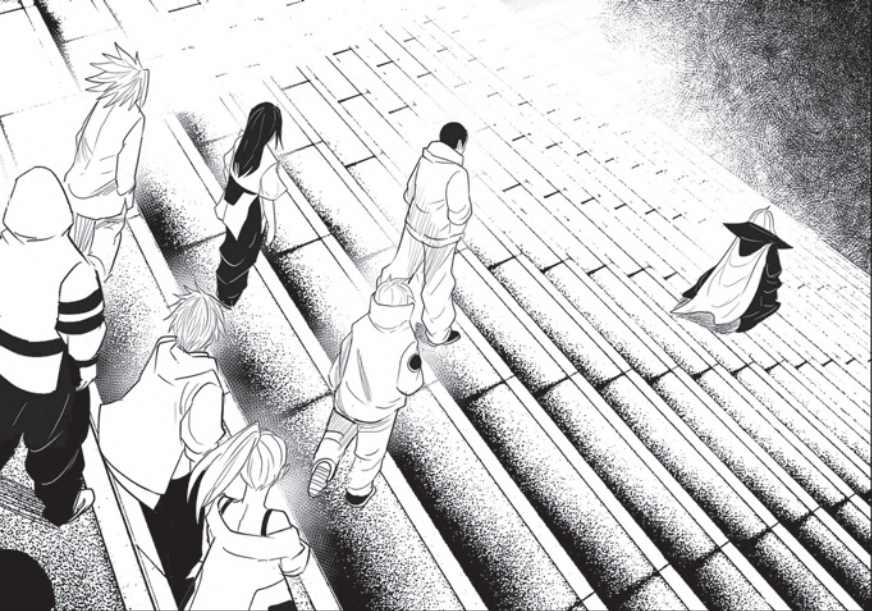
LOULANO

Loulano Aramar;
first Honorable Left,
Son of Honorable Triens,
Son of Honorable Jurian,
Son of the Most Honorable
Asahi himself,
Loulano is next in line for
the throne of Aramar and
control of the Clan
and Shard. But first
there is one more
test he must pass
for his father; he must
hunt the ex-Aramar
traitor, Jabez Atsuko.









DO...
DO YOU
FEEL
THAT?

YEAH,
WHAT
IS
THAT?

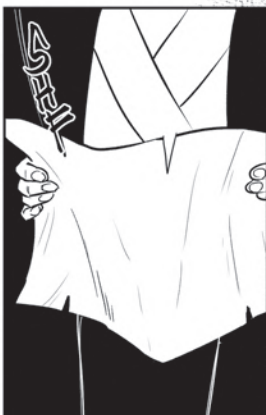


AN
URSHANABI
LOWEST
MUST KNOW
THEMSELVES
COMPLETELY,



AND IN
KNOWING
ONESELF,

MUST BE
ABLE TO
FOCUS THEIR
WEAKNESS
FOR THE
GOOD OF
THE CLAN.



SUCH
AN
INTENSE
FEELING...

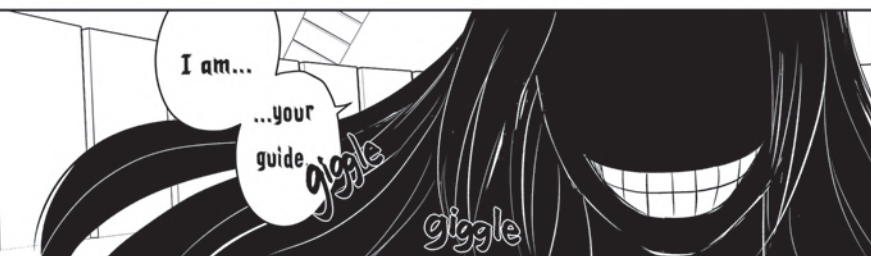
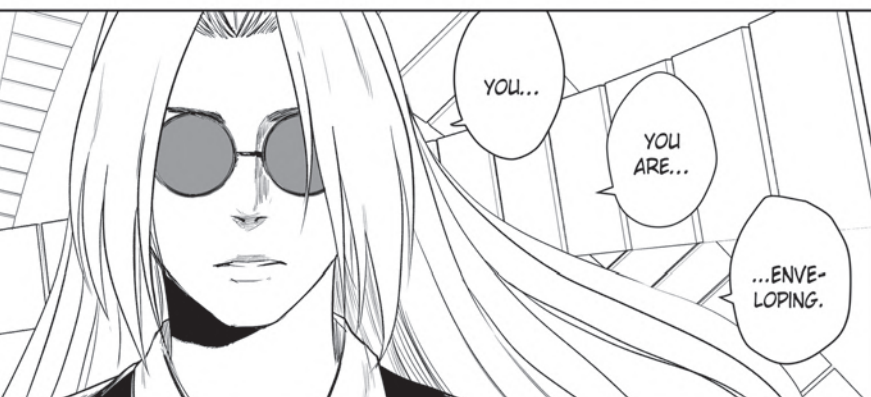
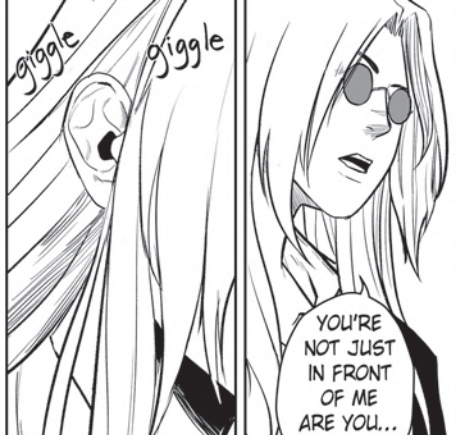
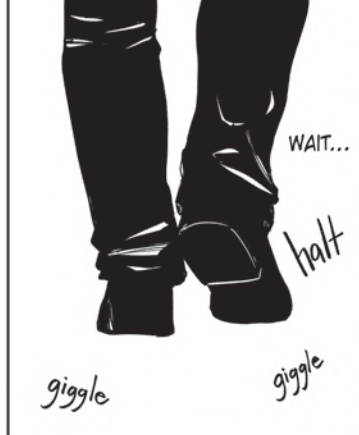


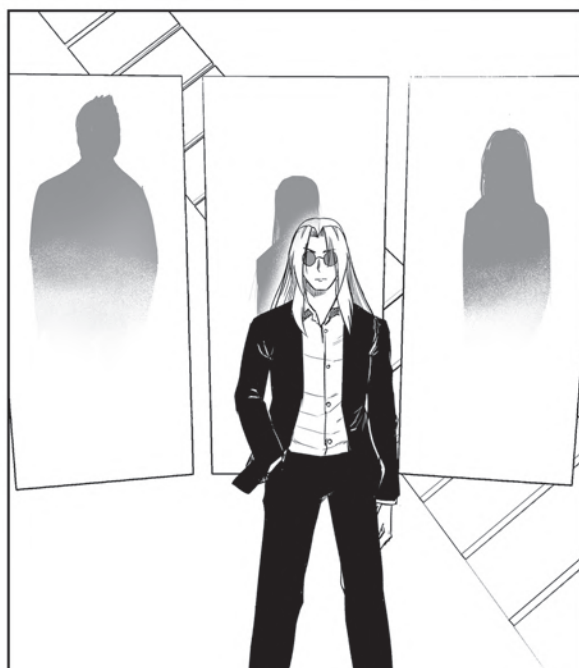
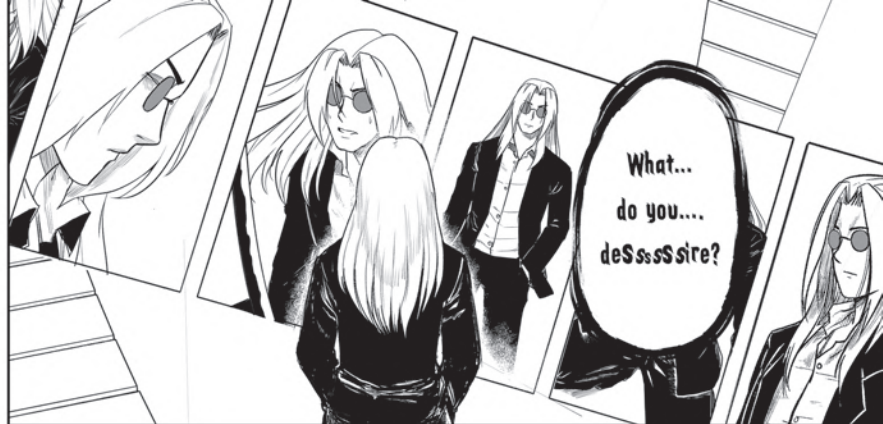
HMM...

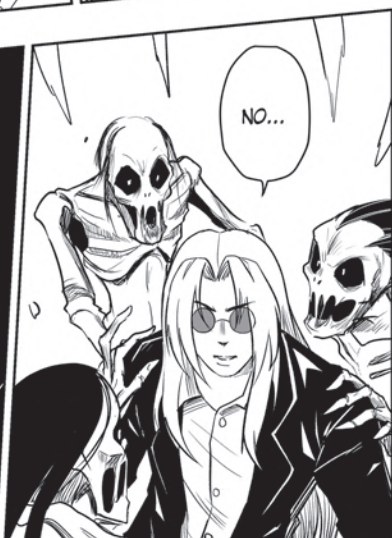


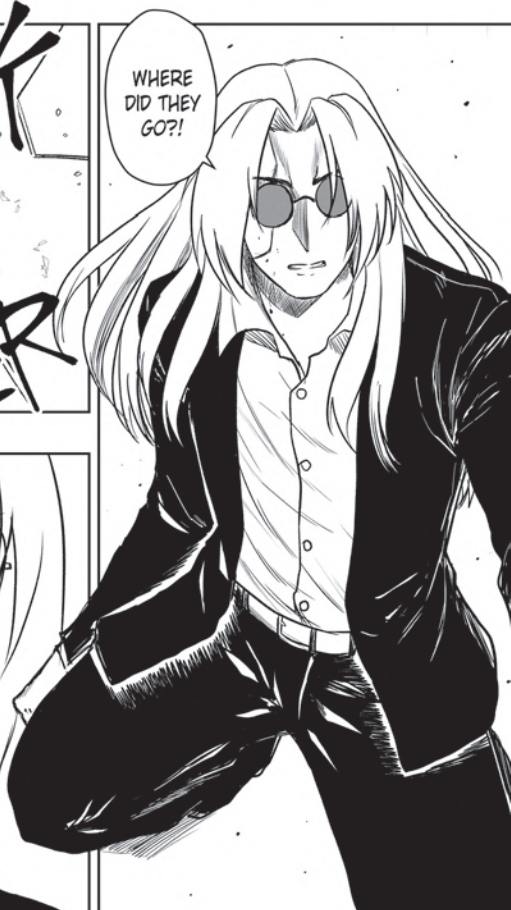
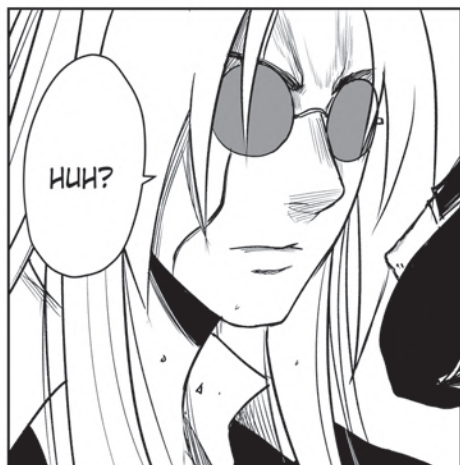
AND WHO
MIGHT YOU
BE?













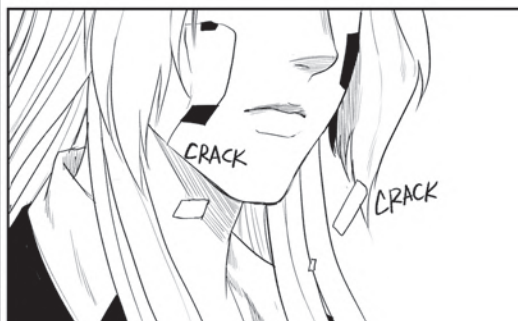
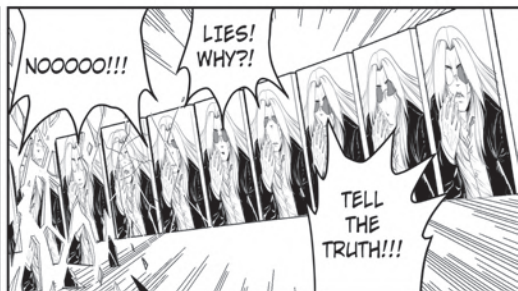
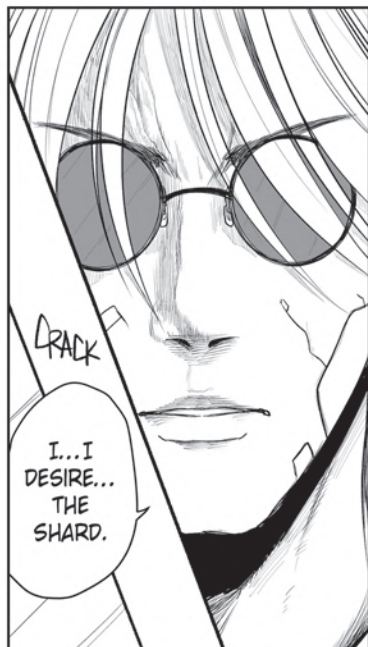


YOU DO
NOT KNOW
THYSELF

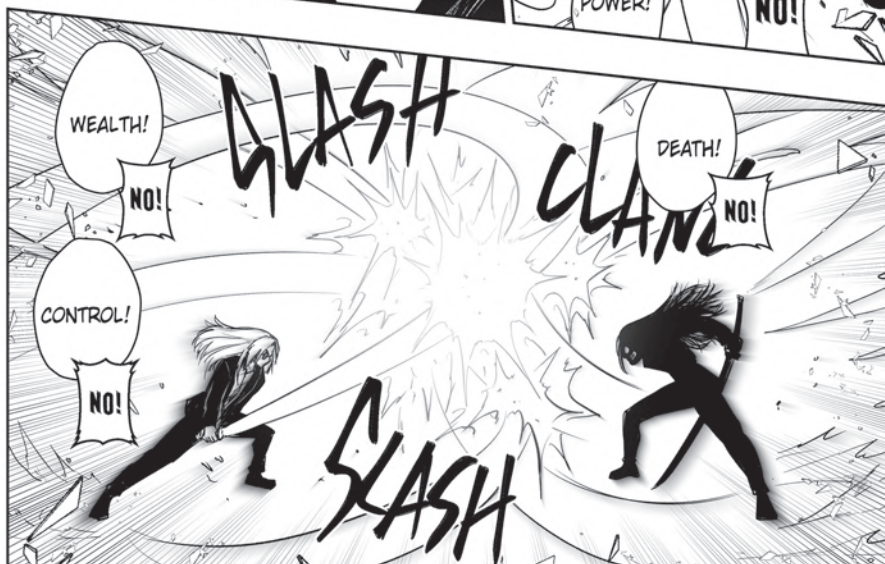
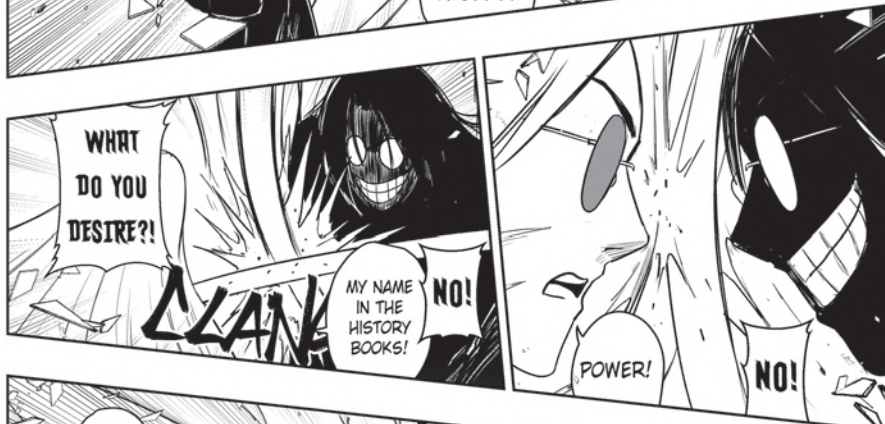
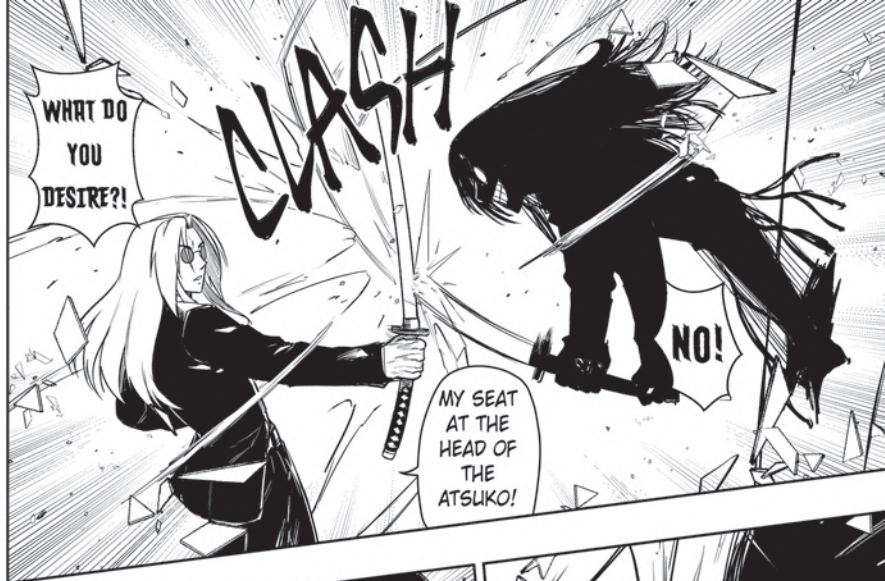
WHAT DO
YOU DESIRE?
WHO ARE
YOU?

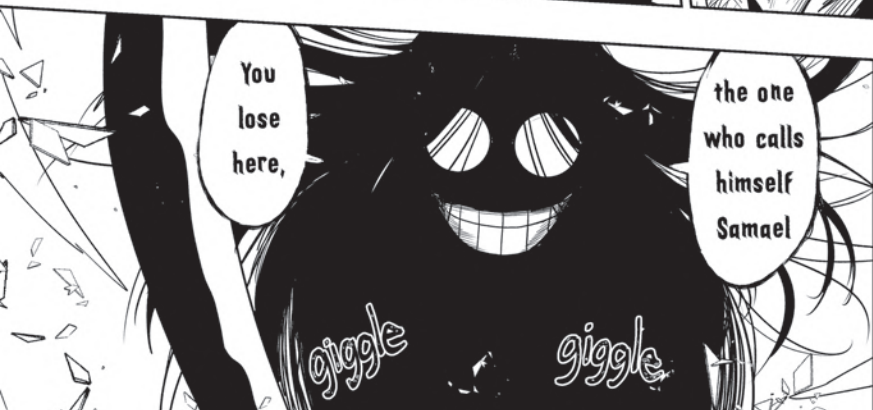
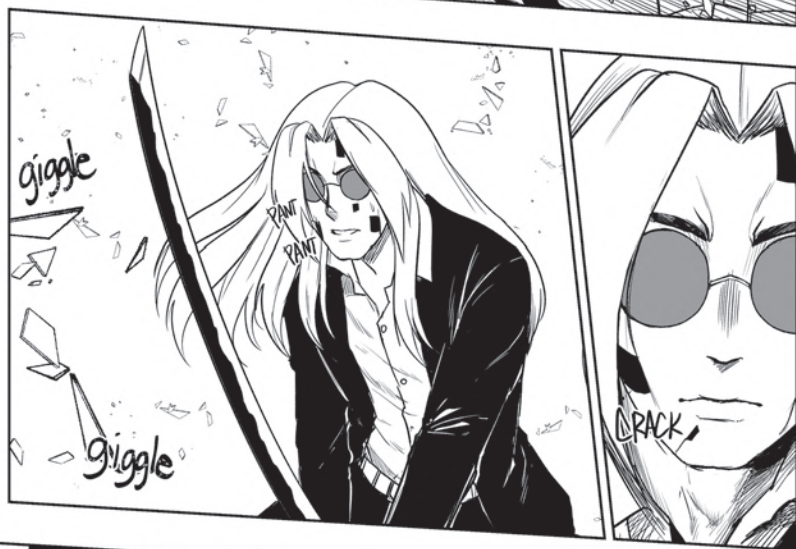
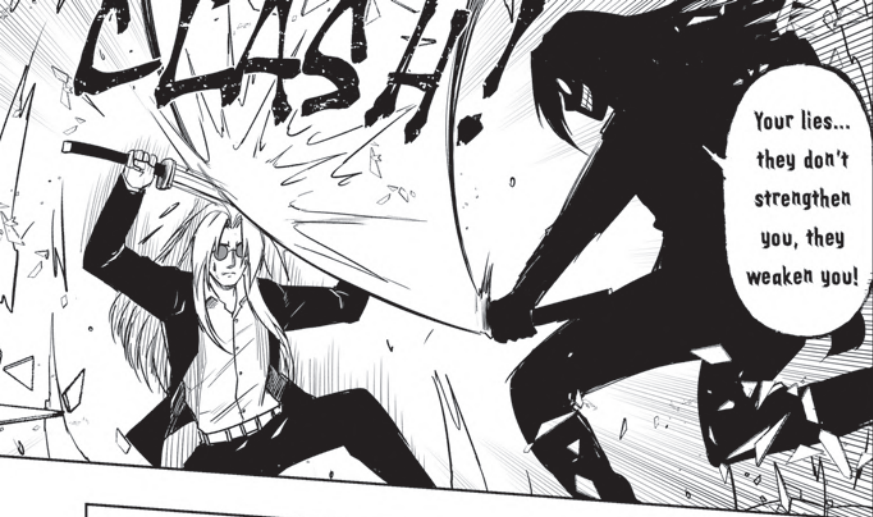
I AM...
JUST...
SAMAEL-

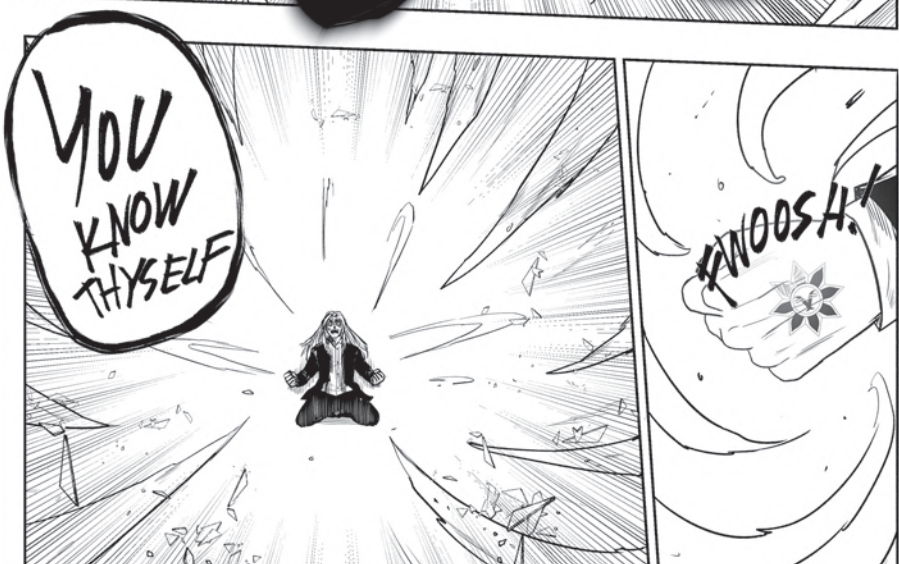


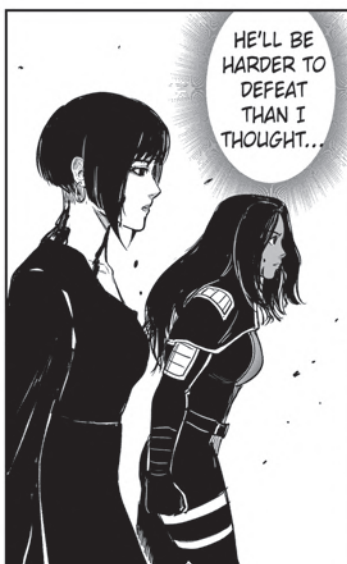
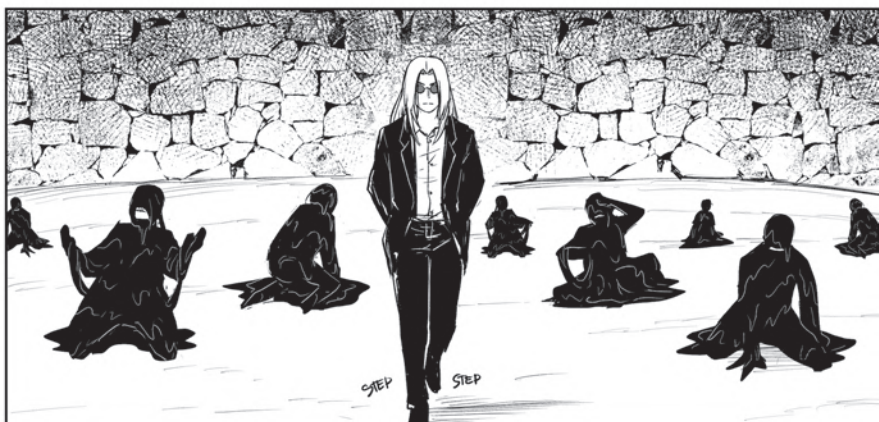
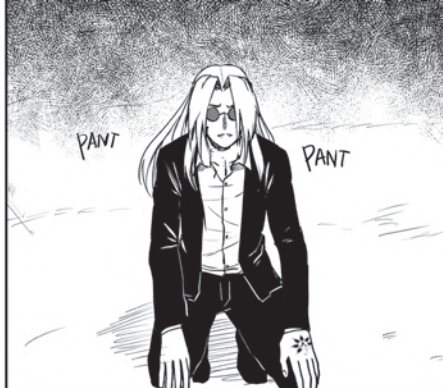


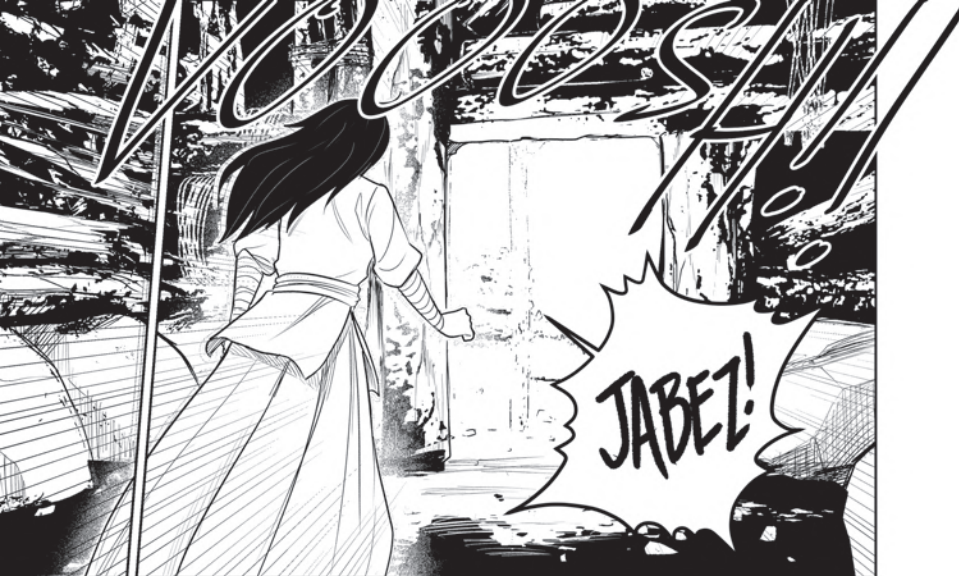


















WHAT
DIRECTION
WERE THEY
COMING
FROM?



WEST,
TRAVELING
EAST...

BUT...
PLEASE
DON'T
GO...



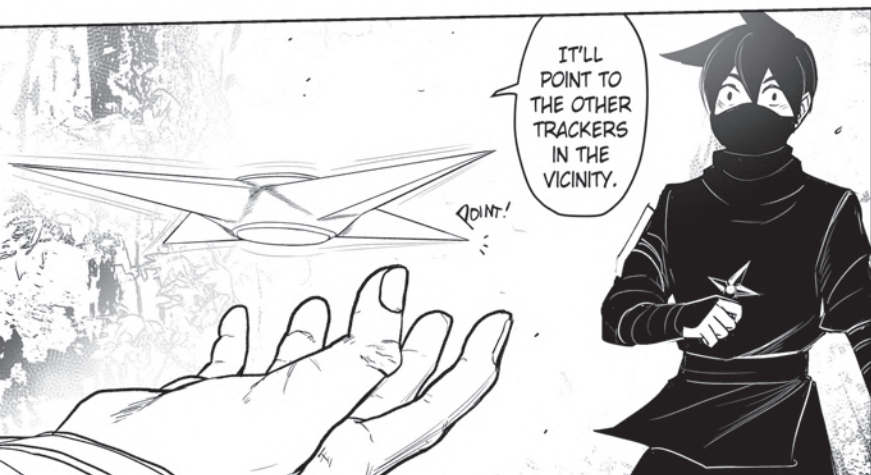
GET TO
THE CAVE
BY THE FALL.
I WILL COME
FIND YOU
AFTER.

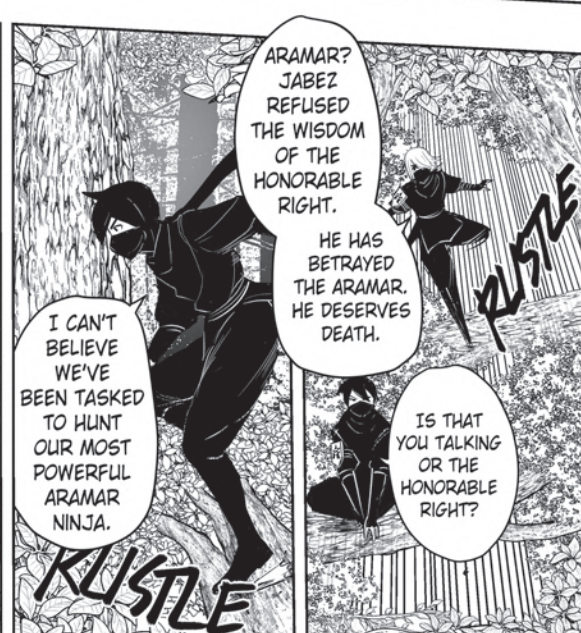
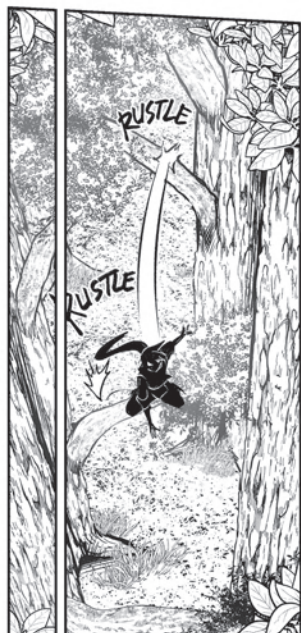
YOU'RE
NOT
COMING
WITH US?

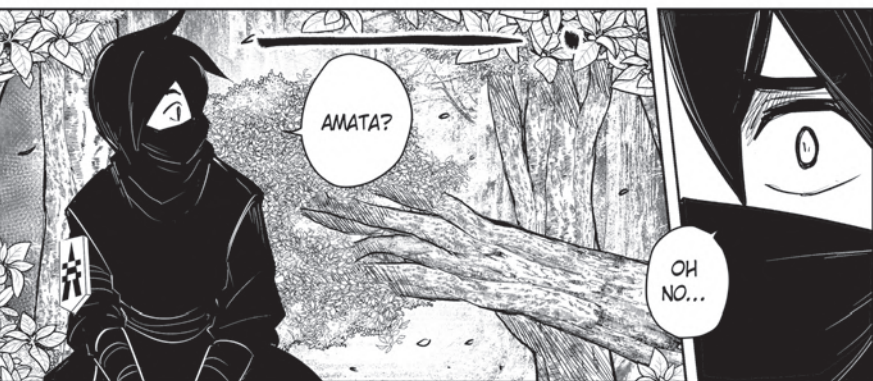
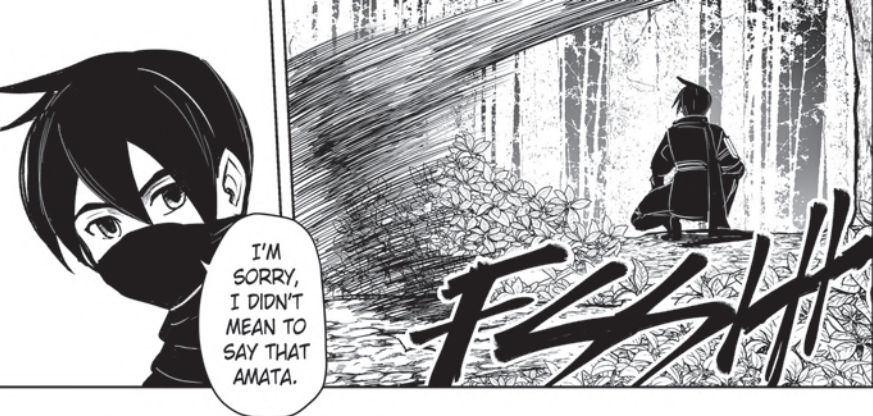


I NEED
TO SPEAK
WITH MY
FORMER
BRETHREN.

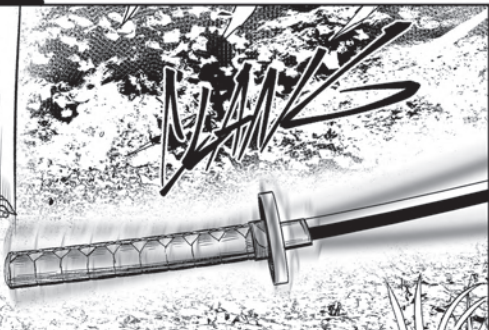
NOW
GO!

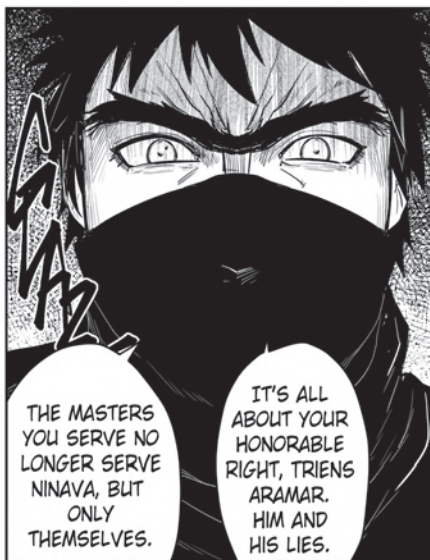
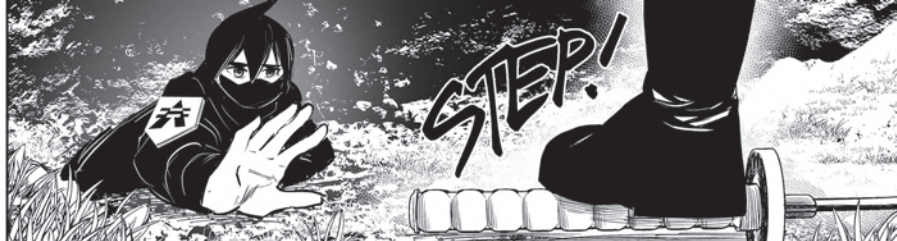














AS MUCH
AS I WOULD
LIKE TO END
YOU BOTH
FOR BEING
ARAMAR...



...I
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO BE
LED ASTRAY.



YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T
DESERVE
THE LIES
THAT HAVE
MADE YOU
WHO YOU ARE
OR WILL
BECOME.

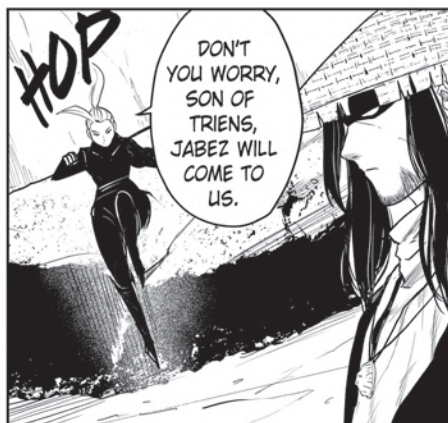
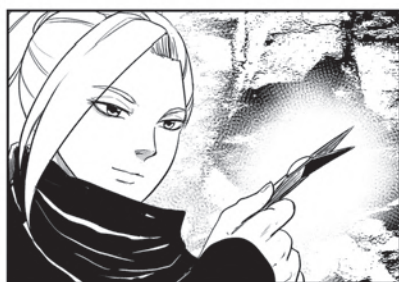
YOU'RE
ALSO
NINAVAN,
I'LL TRY
TO PROTECT
YOU BY
CUTTING OFF
THE SNAKE'S
HEAD.



WELL,
THIS IS
NEW...



SEEMS
LIKE YOUR
INGENUITY
HAS NO
END
TRIENS...

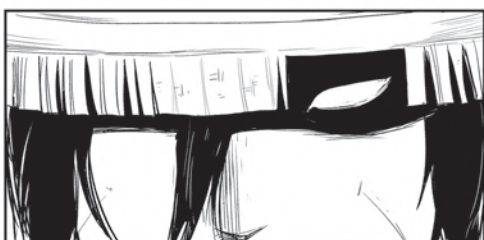




MY
APOLOGIES,
MY
HONORABLE
LEFT. BUT
PLEASE,
COME...



I HAVE
SOMETHING
FOR YOU
TO SEE.

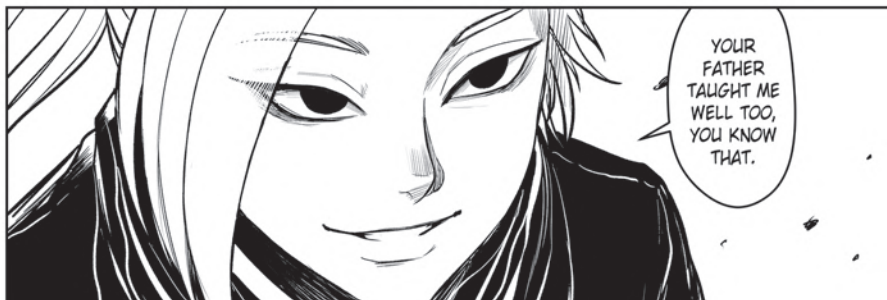


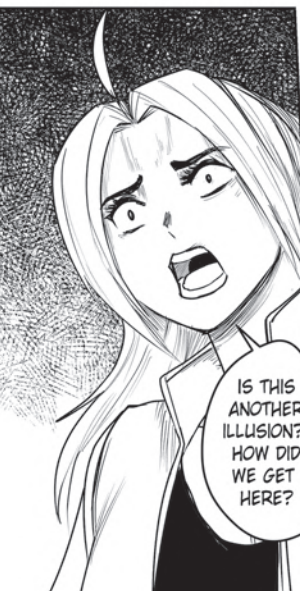
SOMETHING
THAT WILL
DRAW OUR
FORMER
BROTHER TO
US LIKE A
SPANIARD
TO BAD
WINE...



YOU BEST
HOPE SO.
MY FATHER
DOES NOT
LOOK FONDLY
ON FAILURE.







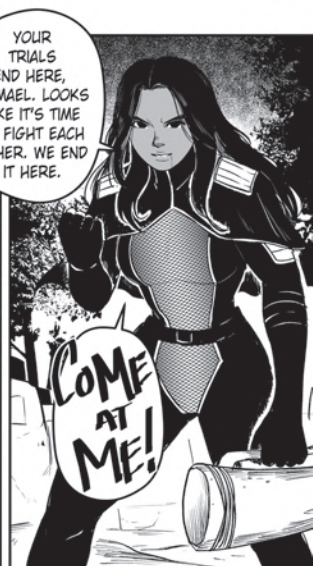
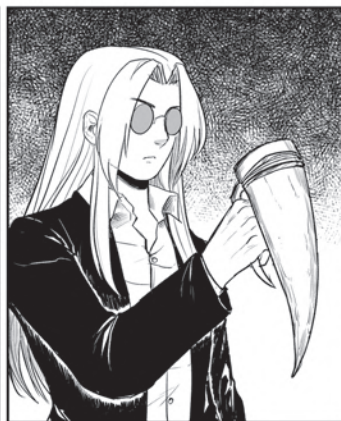
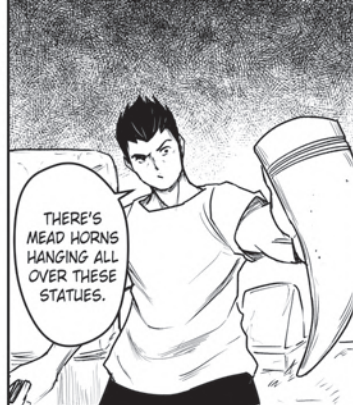
IS THIS
ANOTHER
ILLUSION?!
HOW DID
WE GET
HERE?

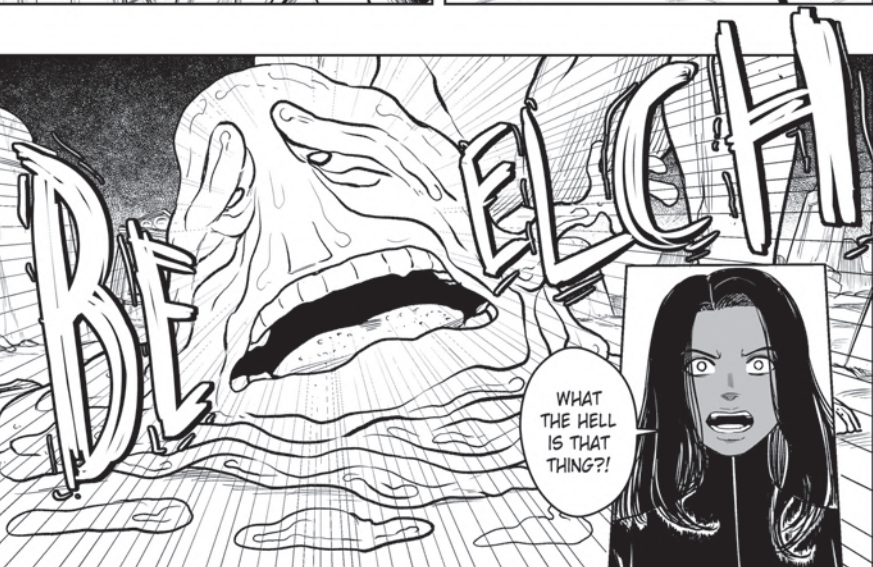
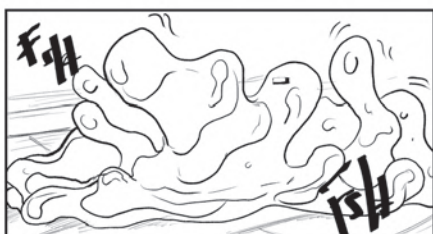
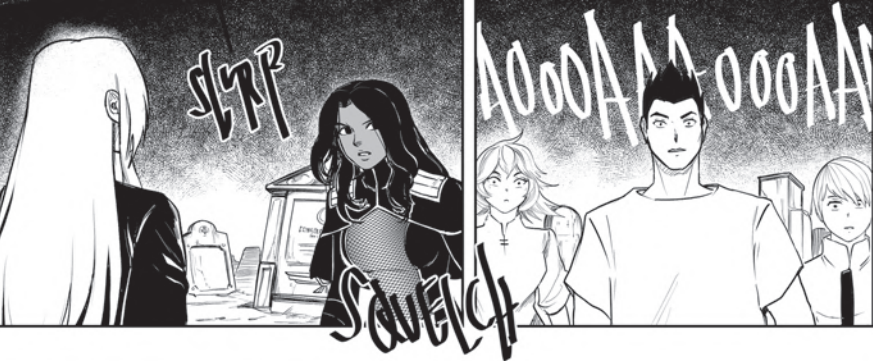


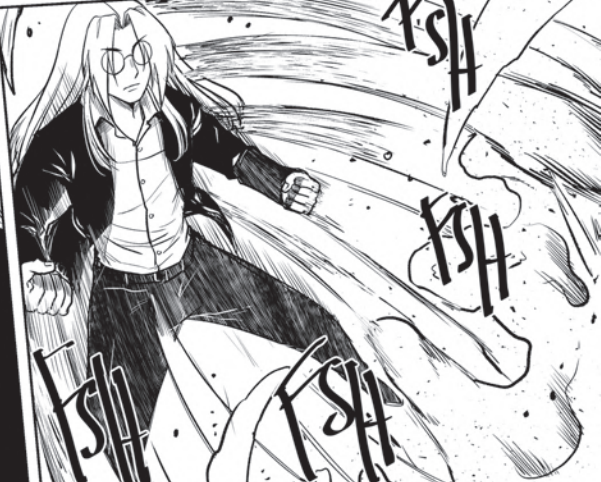
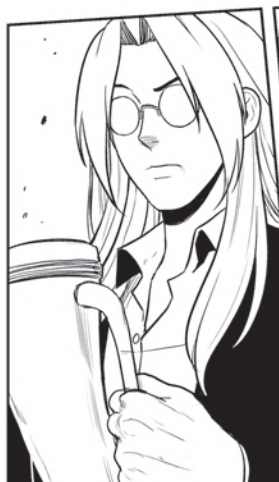
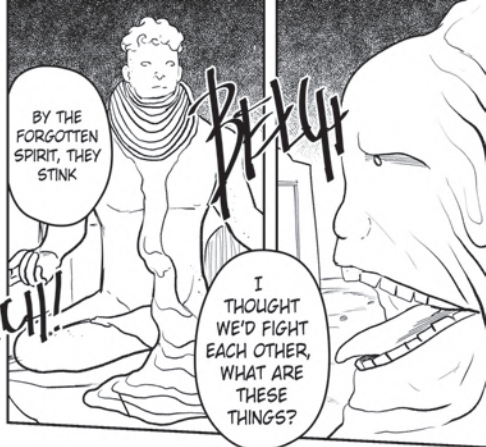
DRINK
YOUR FILL,
NINJAZ.

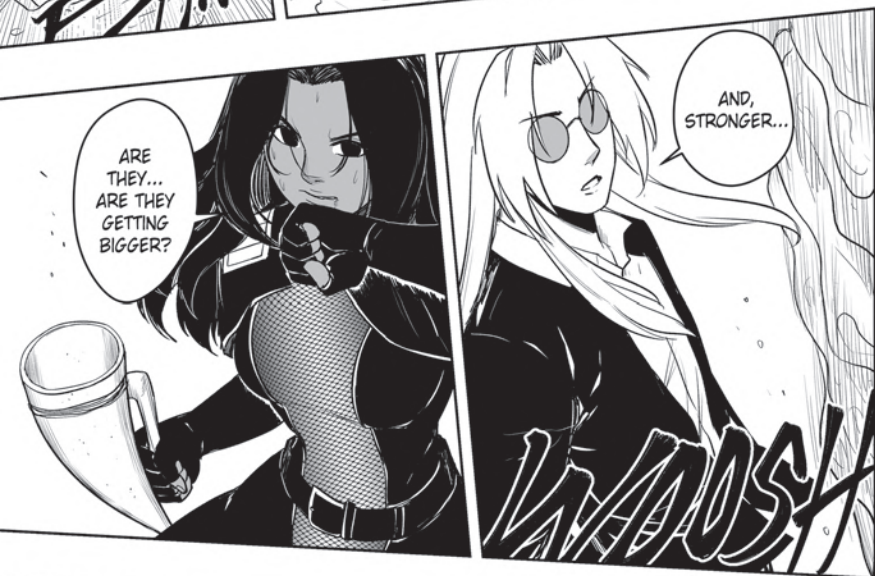
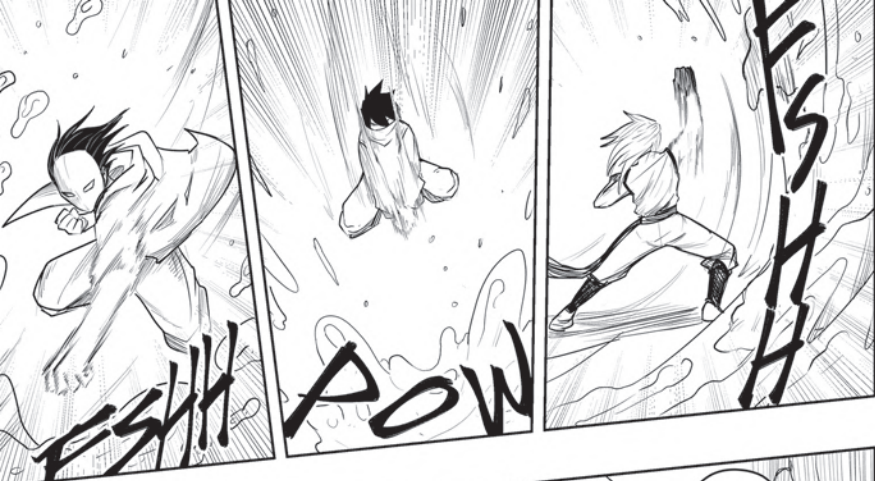


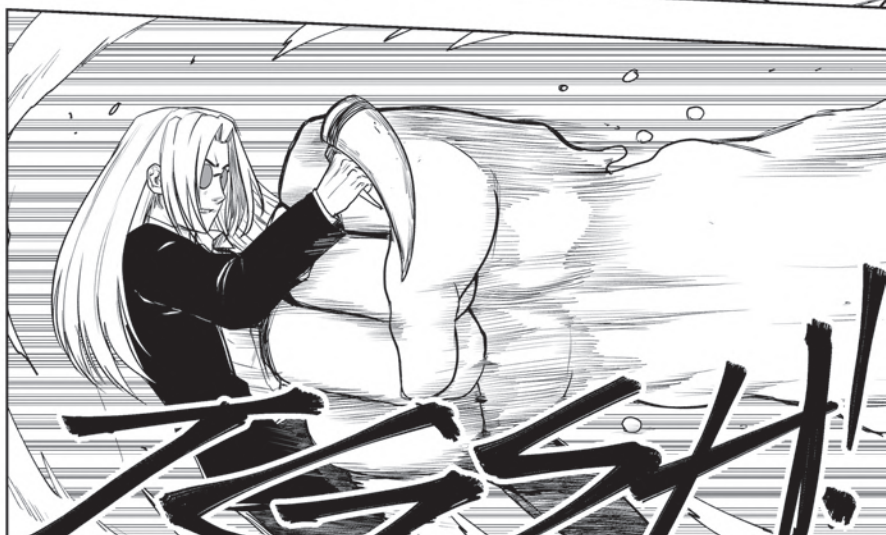
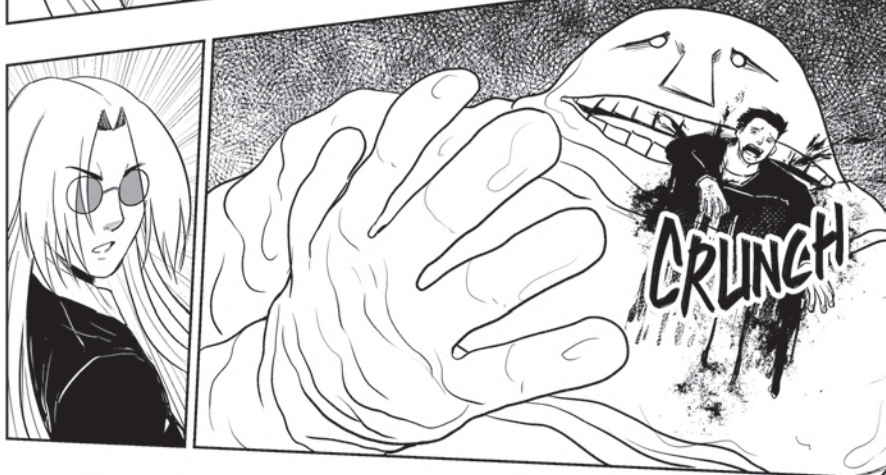
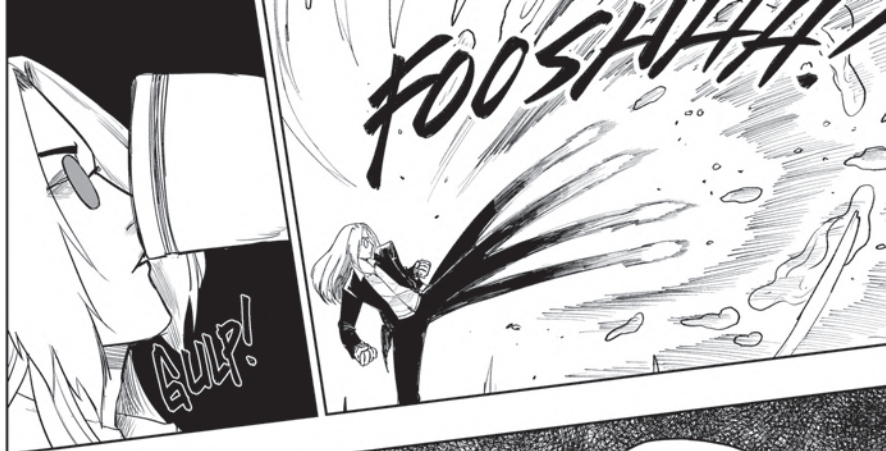
MAY
SOPHROSYNE
GUIDE YOU.

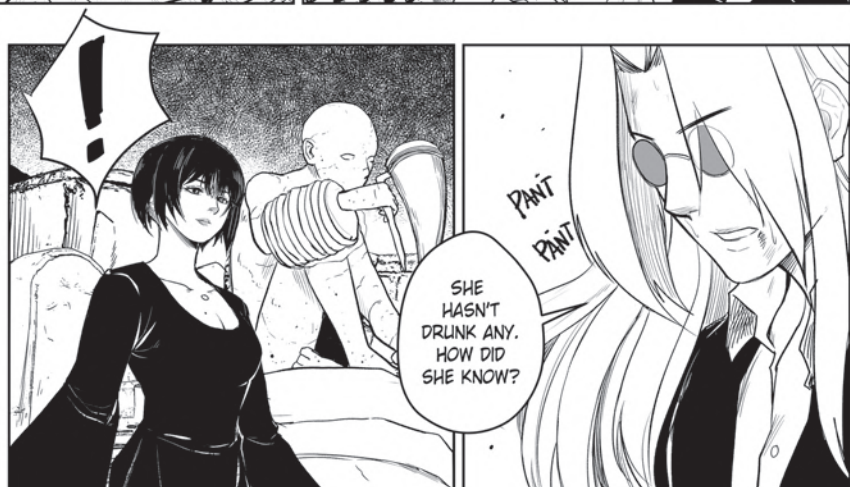
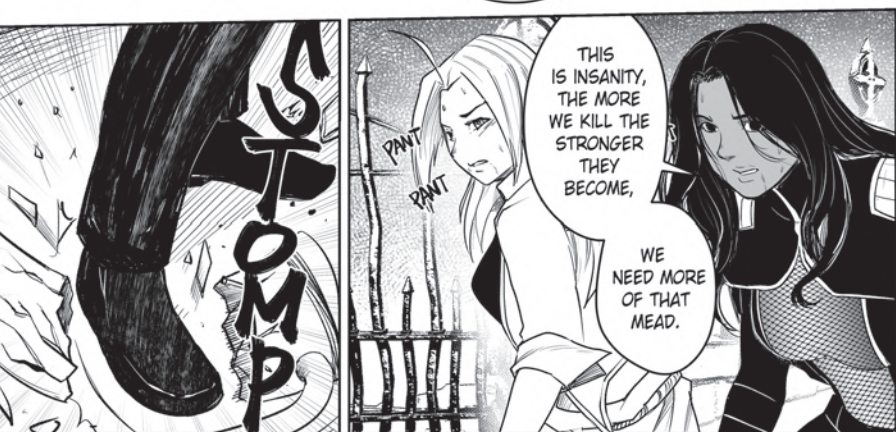


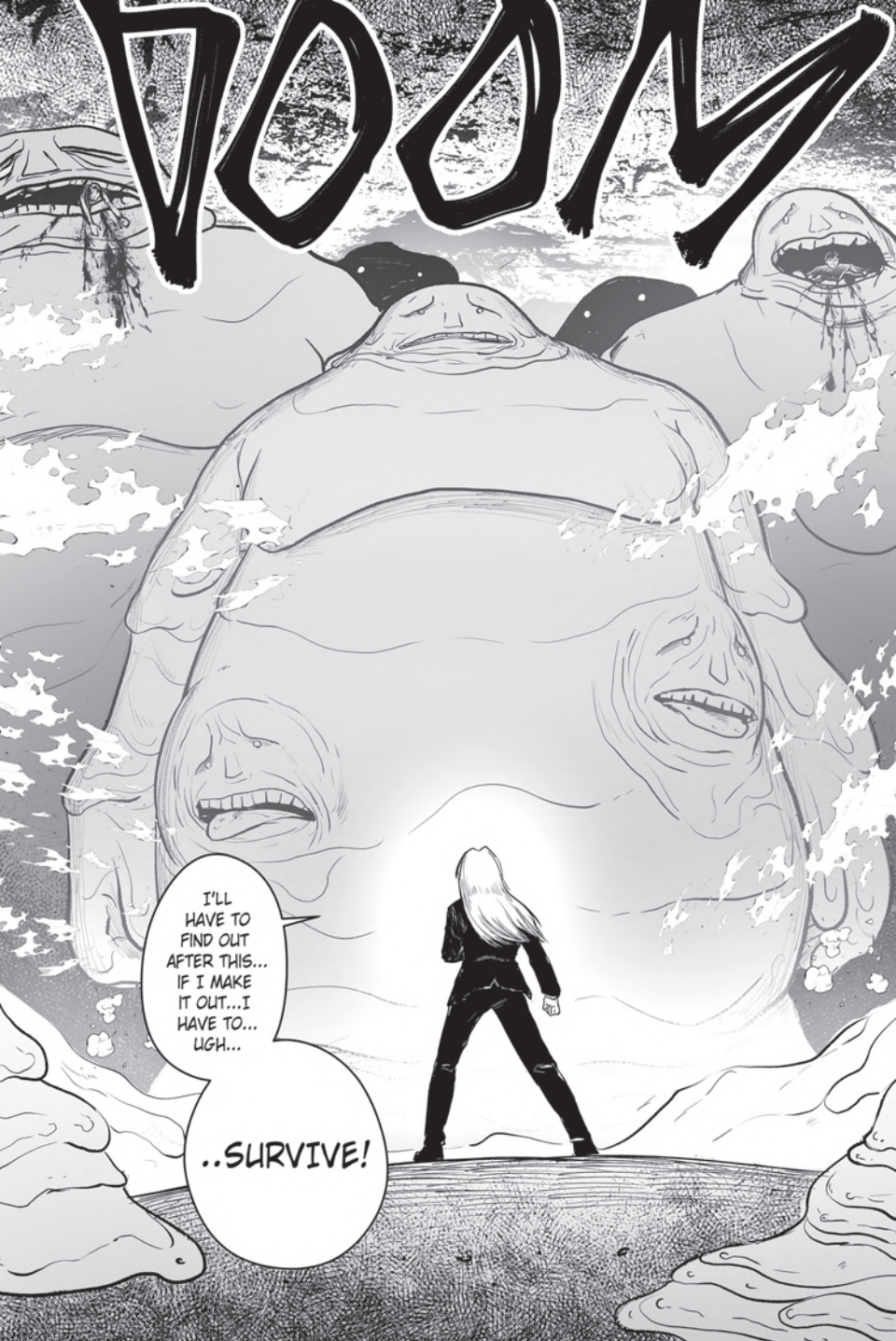












I'LL
HAVE TO
FIND OUT
AFTER THIS...
IF I MAKE
IT OUT...I
HAVE TO...
UGH...

..SURVIVE!





JABEZ

As one of the most powerful Aramar ninjas, Jabez grew up under the wing of the Aramar Clan and their leader, Triens Aramar.

However, his beliefs have always clashed with the Honorable Right's.

Pushed to the edge,

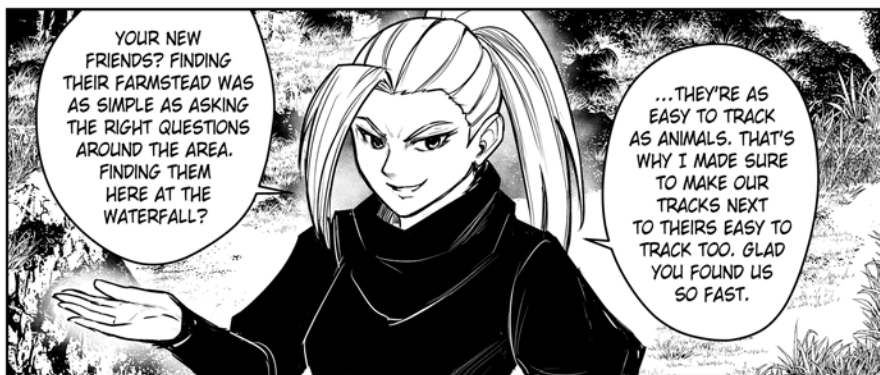
Jabez decides to create

his own path...

his own journey...

and perhaps his own clan













ON MY
HONOR...
NONE OF
YOU WILL
DIE THIS
DAY.



NONE
BUT
YOU.



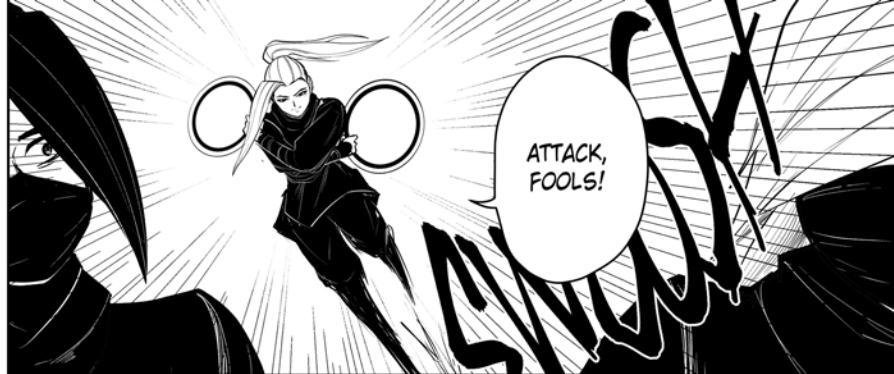
YES...
I
KNOW.

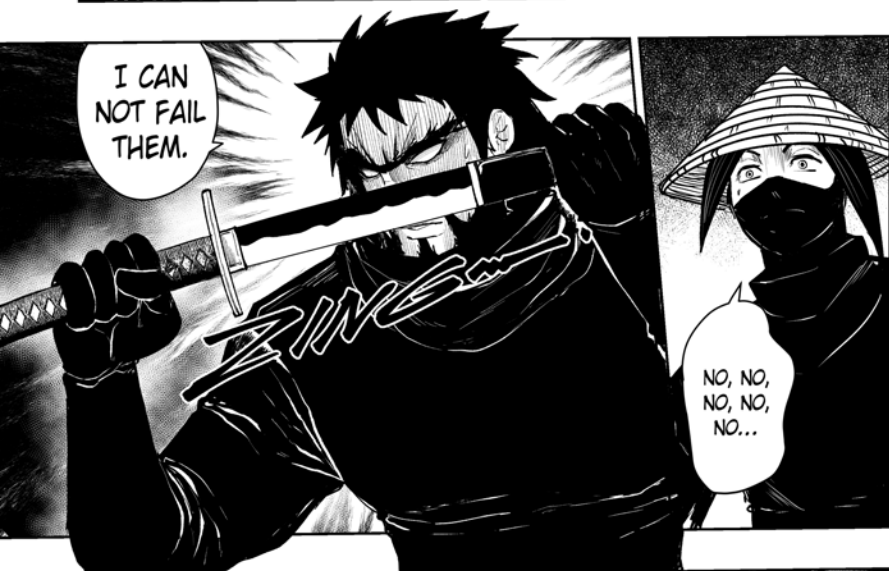


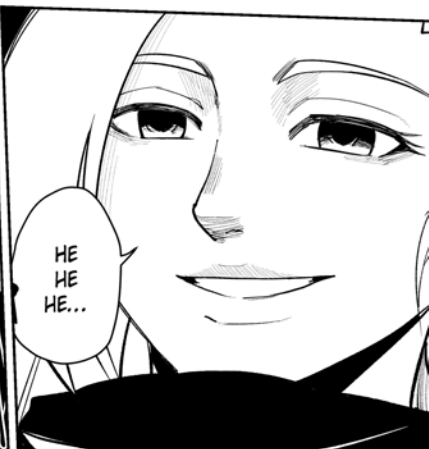
BUT NOT
UNTIL...
THEY ARE
SAFE!

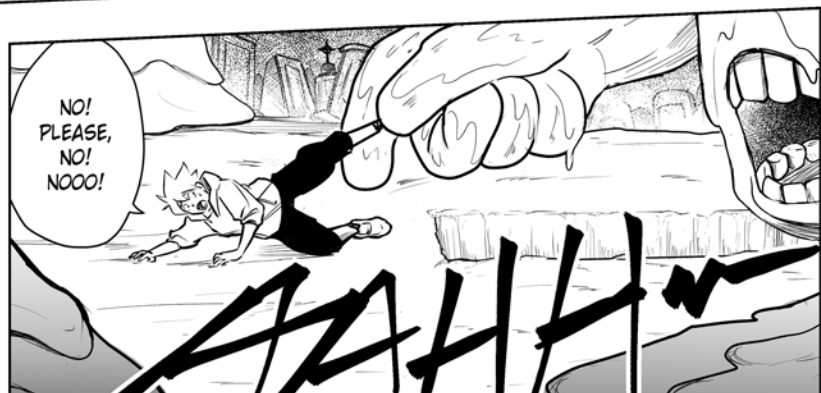
YOU'RE
HOPELESS,
JABEZ.

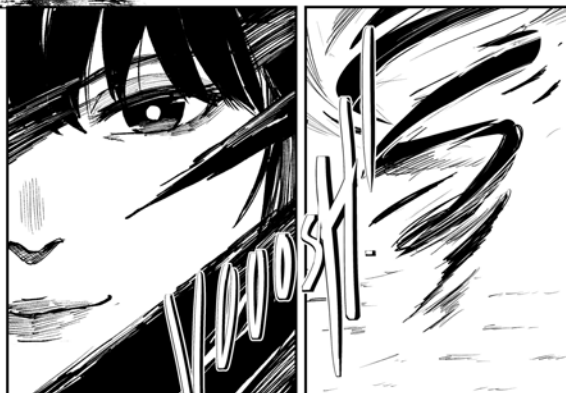
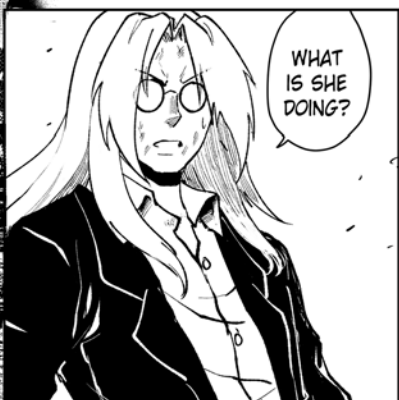














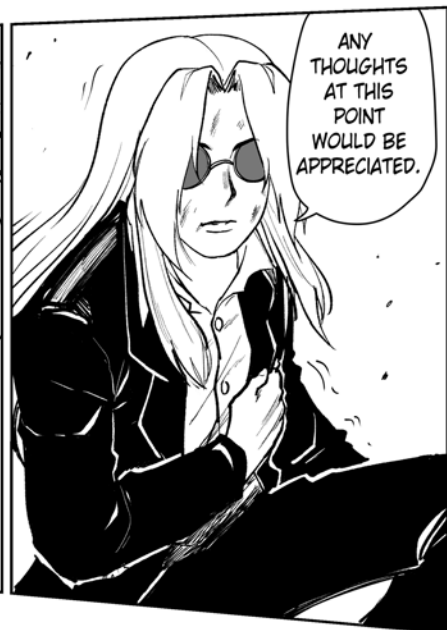
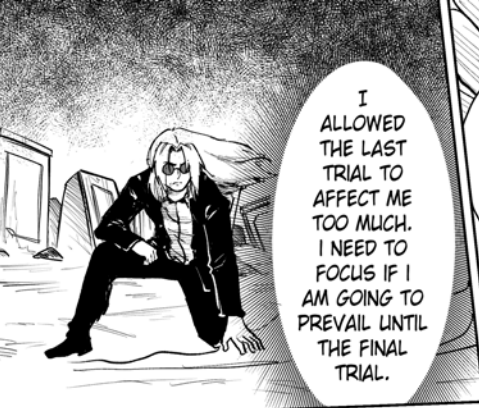
HOW
IN THE
HELL?

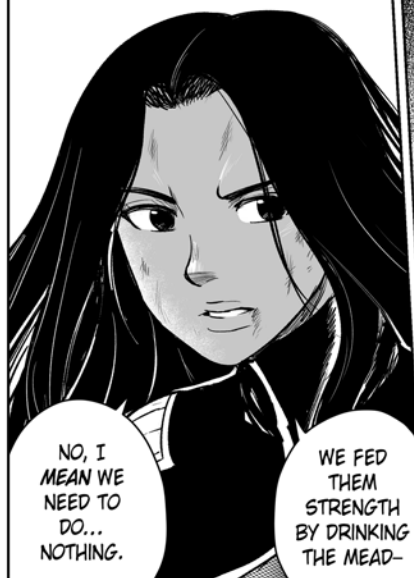


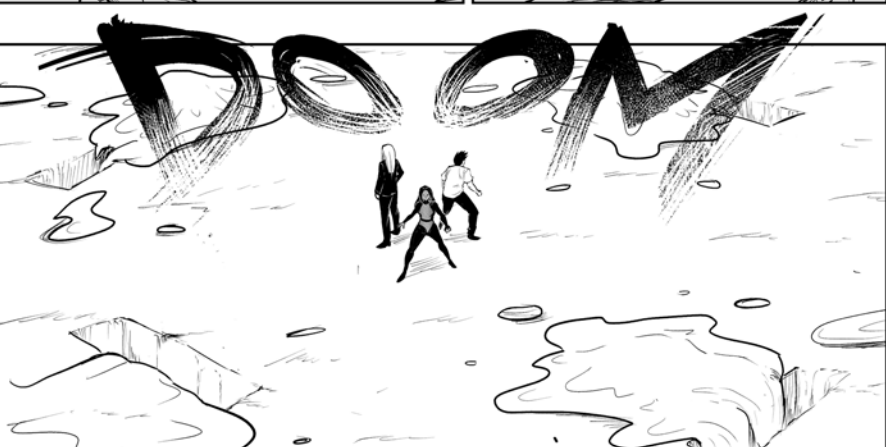
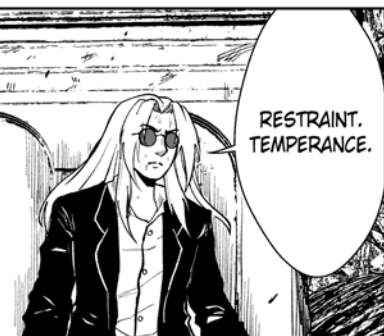
SHE NEVER
DRANK FROM
THE CUP...
DAMMIT...
HOW COULD
I HAVE
BEEN SO
STUPID...



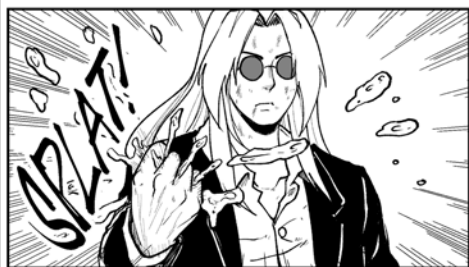




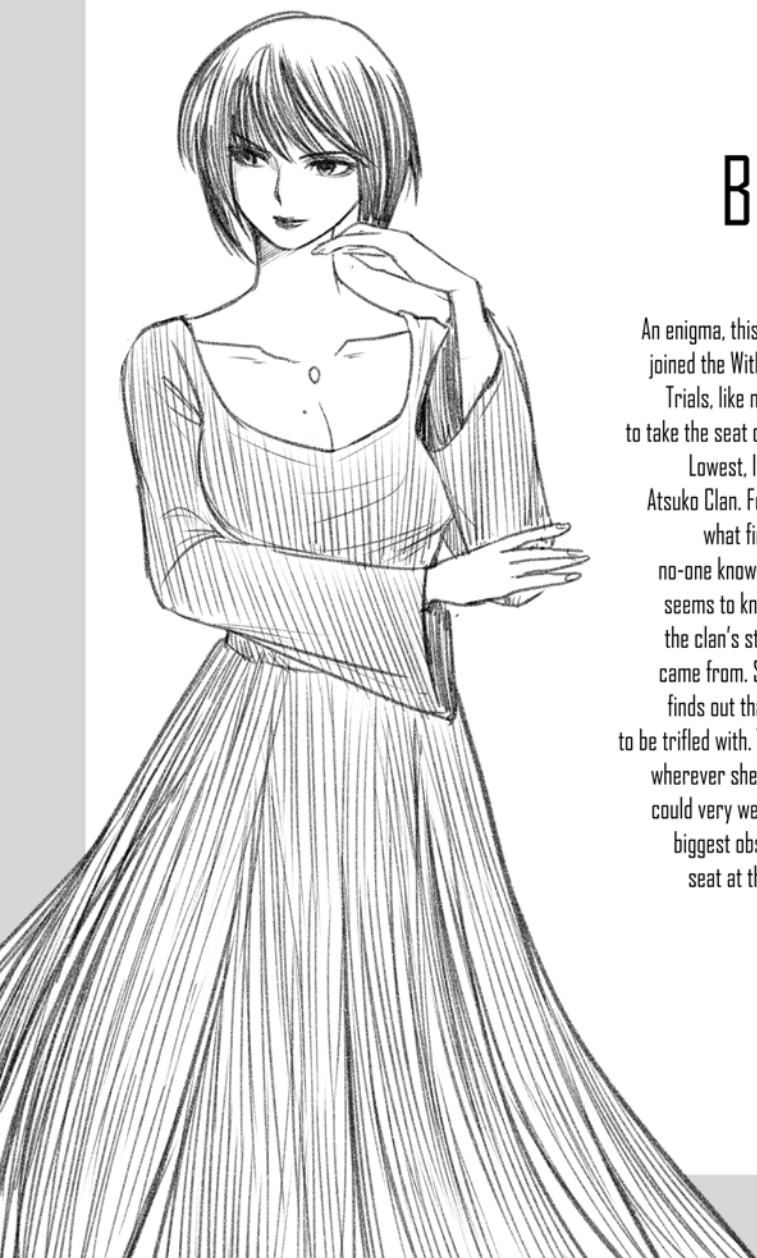












BORA

An enigma, this woman has joined the Withering Lotus Trials, like many others, to take the seat of Urshanabi Lowest, leader of the Atsuko Clan. For what end, what final purpose, no-one knows, as no-one seems to know where in the clan's structure she came from. Samael soon finds out that she is not to be trifled with. This woman, wherever she came from, could very well be his one biggest obstacle to the seat at the top of the Atsuko Clan.







JABEZ...
PLEASE.
YOU FOUGHT
BETTER
THAN THIS
WHEN WE
WERE
CHILDREN.

YOUR
DERAILED
VALUES
ARE MAKING
YOU WEAK.

WE HAVE
ALL BECOME
WEAK, KAEDE,
INCLUDING
YOUR
HONORABLE
RIGHT.

OUR
BETRAYAL TO
NINAVA HAS
TURNED US
INTO NOTHING
BUT SELF-
SERVING
COWARDS.

I
WILL DO
WHAT I
CAN TO
CHANGE
THAT.



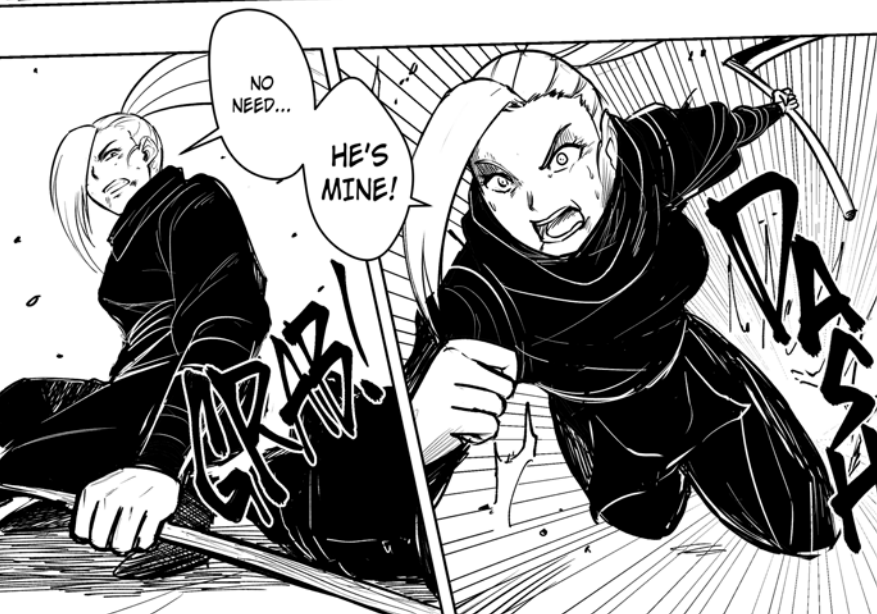
PREPARE
YOURSELF,
ARAMAR.

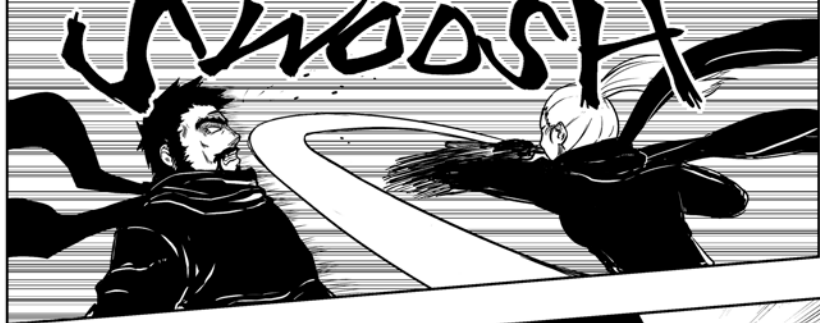
TODAY
YOU JOIN
THE
FORGOTTEN
SPIRITS.













DAMN
YOU,
ATSIKO...



I'M
READY
FOR
YOU,
SON
OF
TRIENS.





I WILL
GIVE
YOU A
MOMENT TO
GATHER
YOURSELF.

NO. I AM
PREPARED
FOR DEATH
IF IT
SHOULD
COME.

BUT I WILL
TOLERATE
THE
DECEPTION
OF THE
ARAMAR FOR
NOT A
SECOND
LONGER.



LET'S
END
THIS.

YOU HAVE
SERVED
OUR CLAN
FAITHFULLY
FOR MANY
YEARS.
PERHAPS...
PERHAPS
THERE IS
A WAY TO
FIX THIS.



IT
DOES NOT
HAVE TO
BE THIS
WAY,
JABEZ.

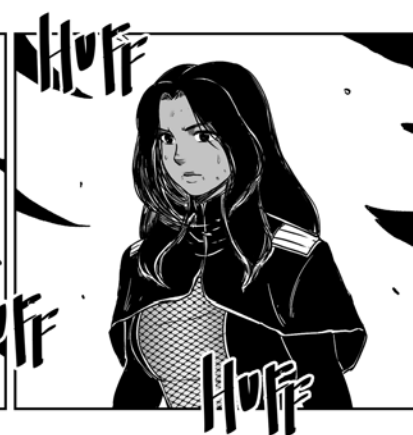
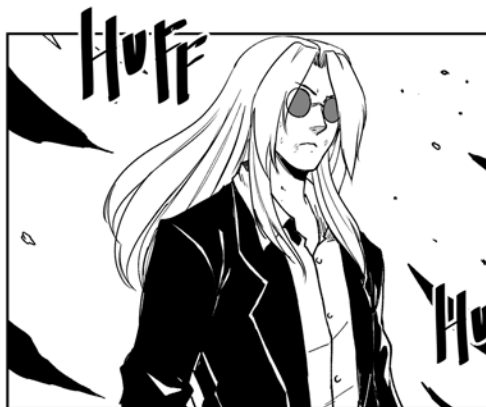
A WAY
FOR FATHER
TO FORGIVE
THIS
FOOLISHNESS
AND FOR
YOU TO
RETURN...



YOU'RE
BLIND,
LOULANO.
BLIND TO THE
HONORABLE
RIGHT'S
TREACHERY.

BLIND TO
THE DEPTH
YOUR CLAN
HAS FALLEN.
BLIND TO
THE ARAMAR'S
COWARDICE.







TOOK
YOU ALL
LONG
ENOUGH,
DIDN'T IT?



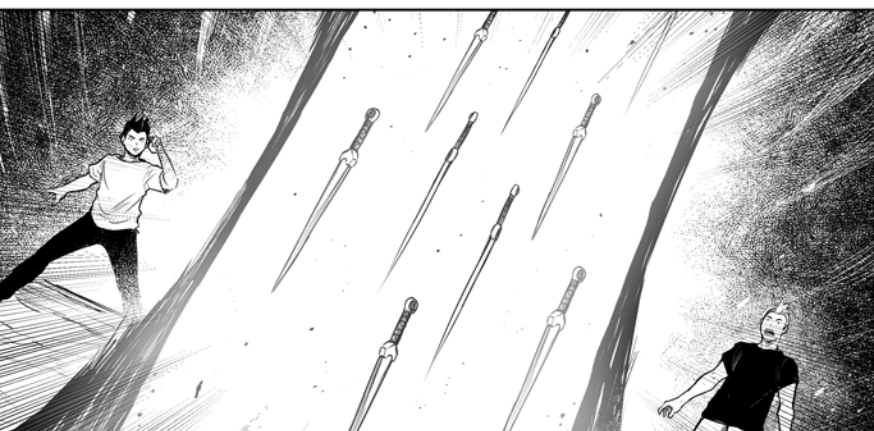
I CAN'T
ALLOW
MYSELF
TO BE
Distracted
LIKE LAST
TRIAL.

I CAN'T
MAKE
ANOTHER
MISTAKE.
WHATEVER
COMES...I
MUST FIND
VICTORY.



AT THE
END OF
THIS TRIAL
ONLY
SEVEN
WILL
REMAIN.

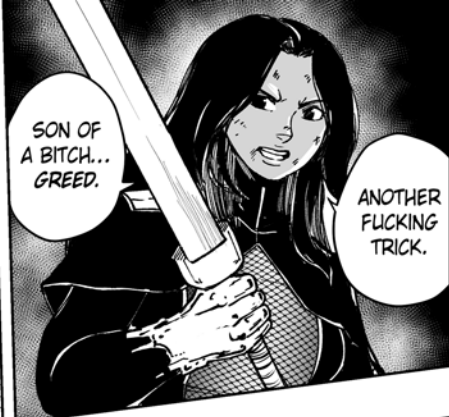
YOUR
FATE WILL BE
DECIDED BY
THOSE IN
THIS ROOM.
PREPARE
YOURSELVES
FOR BATTLE.



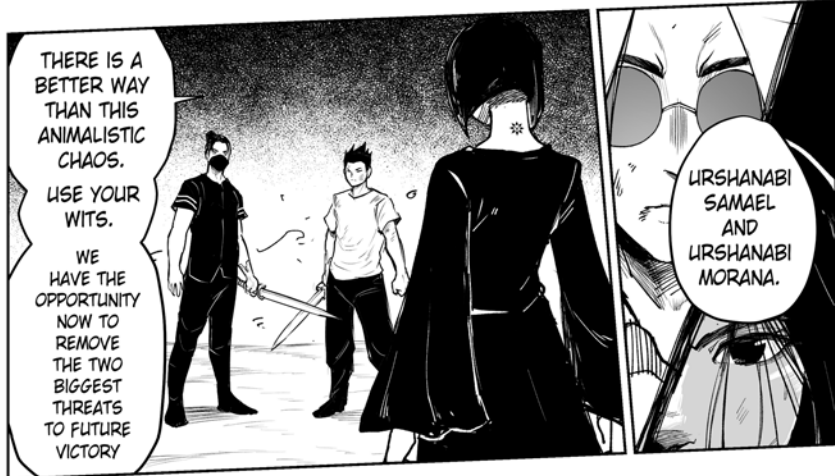






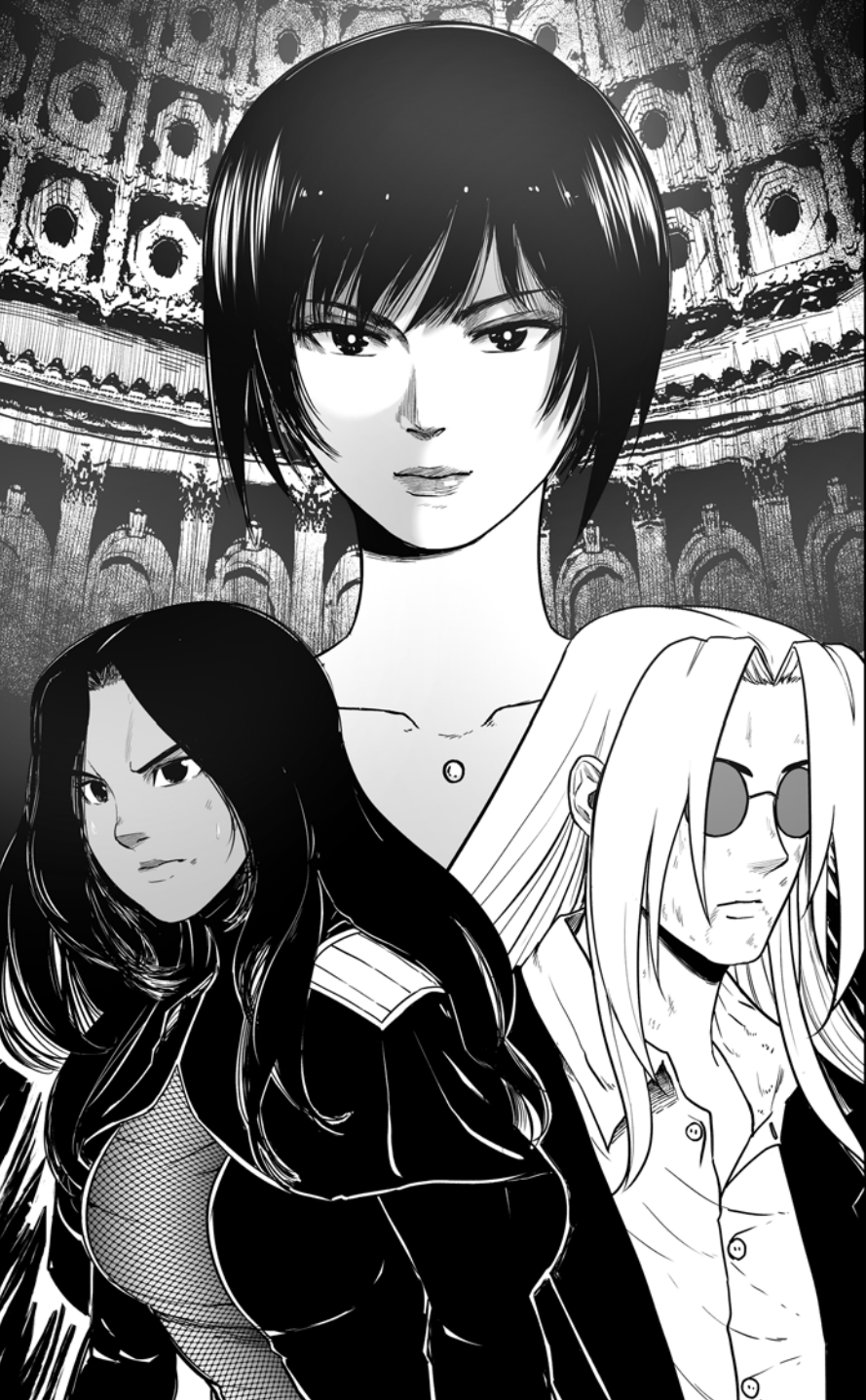


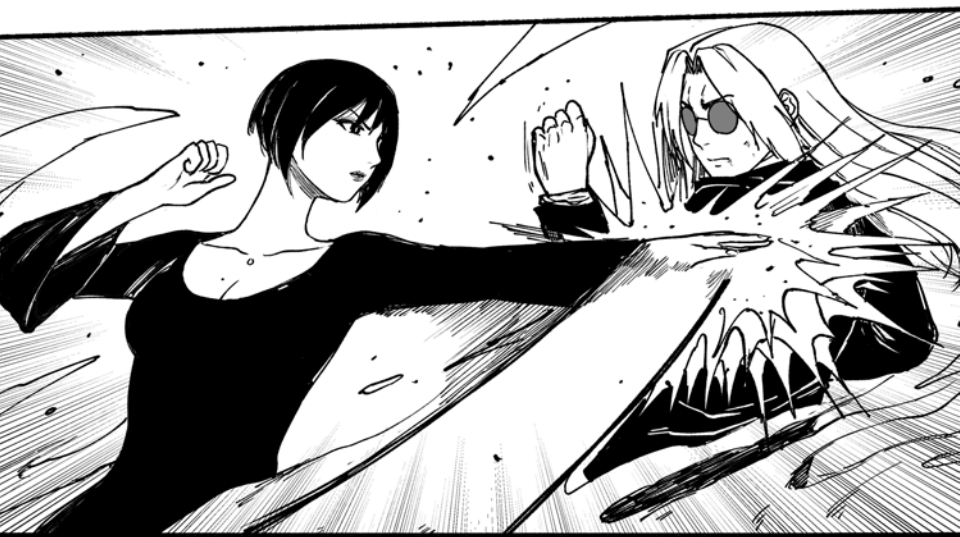




WHO
THE HELL
IS THIS
BITCH?









EKKONO



HE'S
TAKEN
SO MANY
HITS.

TO FIGHT
LIKE THIS
AFTER
WHAT HE
HAS BEEN
THROUGH...




COME,
LOULANO.
DO NOT
MAKE ME
WAIT FOR
DEATH!



IF
DEATH IS
WHAT YOU
DESIRE,

THEN I WILL
GIVE YOU
AN HONORABLE
DEATH AND
THROW
EVERYTHING
AT YOU.

EKKONO.



THIS IS
TRUE
POWER,
LOULANO.
YOU COULD
USE THIS...


USE THIS
TO PURGE
NINAVA
OF THE
SPANIARDS.

YOU COULD
SAVE OUR
PEOPLE.
WHY? WHY
DO YOU
HESITATE?


THE
HONORABLE
RIGHT HE...
WE AREN'T
PREPARED
YET TO TAKE
ON SUCH
A FORCE.

WE
MUST
WAIT...
UNTIL-

POINT



ENOUGH!
THE ARAMAR
ARE AN ARMY
OF ELITE
WARRIORS!
THE INVADERS
ARE A SLOPPY
CROWD OF
FILTHY
DRUNKS!



THE
TIME FOR
PREPARATION
IS LONG
OVER. THE
CITIZENS OF
NINAVA HAVE
SUFFERED
ENOUGH...

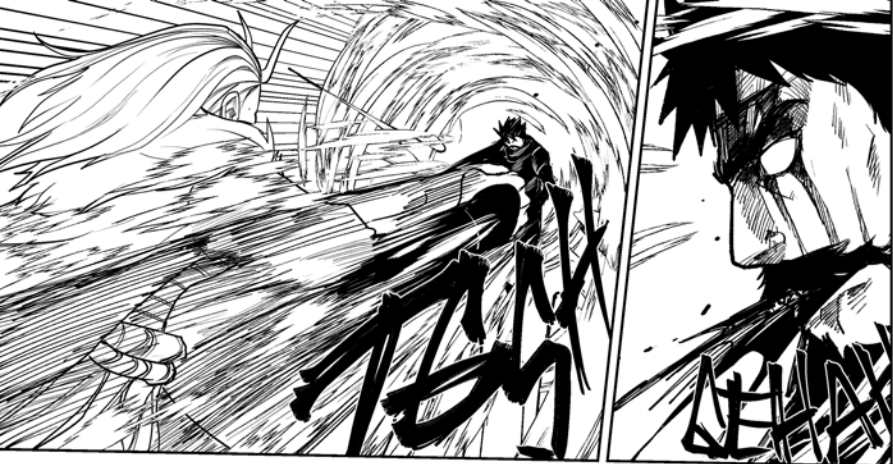


I'M
SORRY,
JABEZ.
I TRULY
AM...



THEN
LET US
BE DONE
WITH
THIS.





SUCH
WASTED
POWER.



GZASH
GUESS
IT DOESN'T
MATTER
NOW...



CRASH



FINALLY,
I AM
ABLE TO
REST.



MOTHER
I'M
COMING.













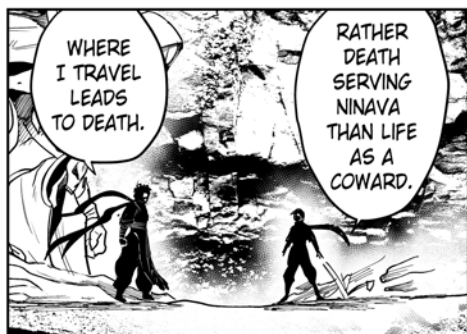
THIS
ENERGY?
IT CAN'T
BE...
ANOTHER
PIECE OF
THE
KATANA?

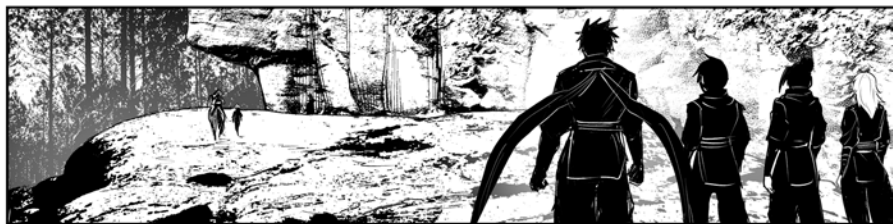
死

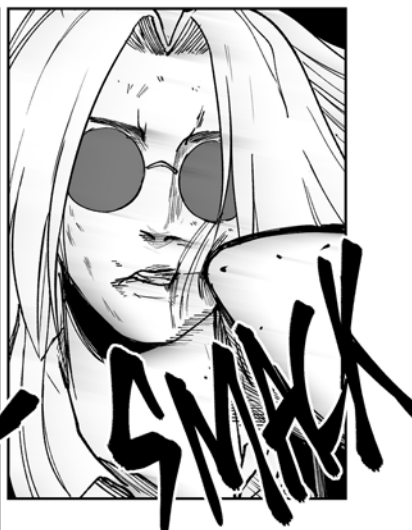
SNAP

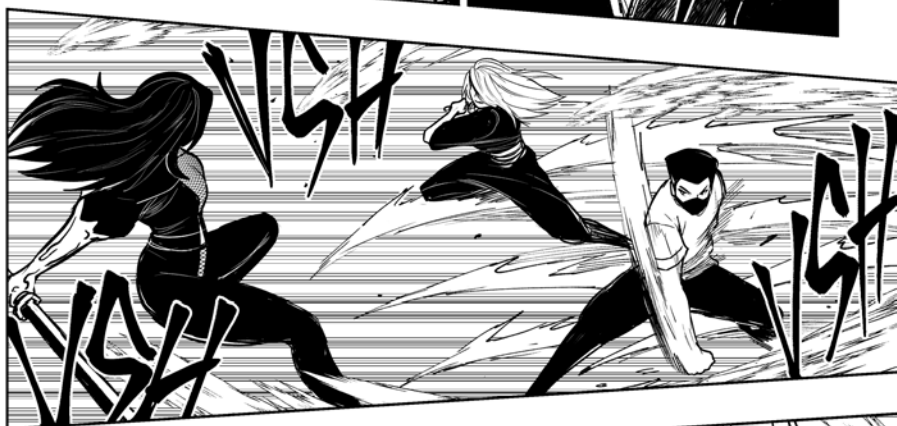
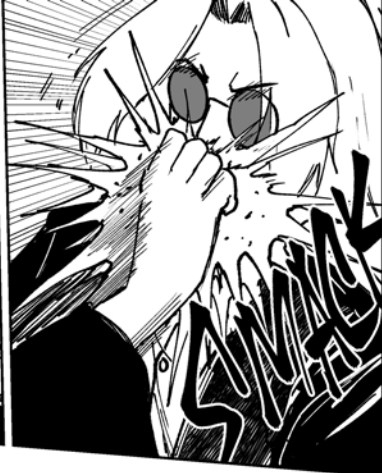
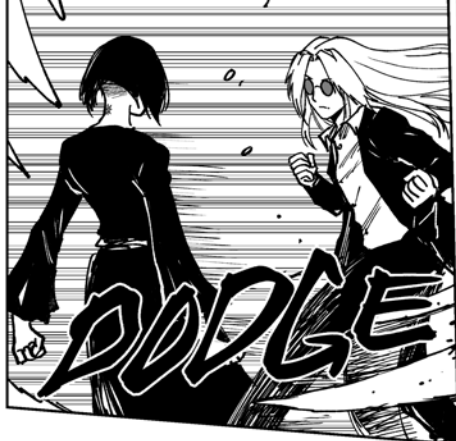
死













YOU'RE
BEING
NO FUN,
URSHANABI.
I EXPECTED
MORE FROM
YOU.



PANT
RANT

WHO ARE
YOU? YOU
KNOW
THINGS
YOU
SHOULD
NOT.

YOU'RE
SPEAKING
NONSENSE,
URSHANABI.
I MUST
HAVE HIT
YOU TOO
HARD.

YOU KNEW
ABOUT
THE MEAD.
YOU KNEW
ABOUT
THESE
SWORDS.



YOU HAVE
GLIDED
THROUGH THESE
TRIALS AS IF
THEY WERE NO
CHALLENGE
AT ALL.
SOMETHING
IS WRONG.





COME ON,
MORANA.
GIVE IT
UP.



IF YOU
STAND STILL
WE'LL MAKE
THIS QUICK
AND EASY.



I DARE
YOU TO
TRY, YOU
SONS OF
BITCHES.



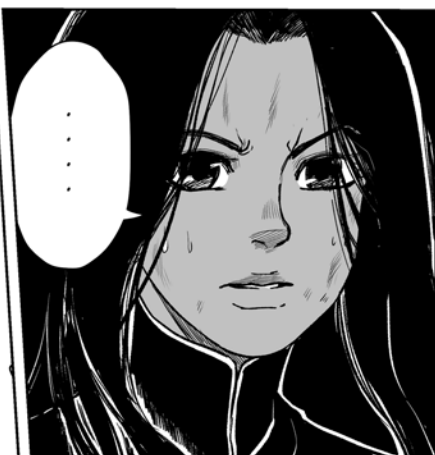
YEAH,
WE'VE
GOT YOU.
NO WAY
YOU'RE
GETTING
OUT OF
THIS ONE...
PAL.



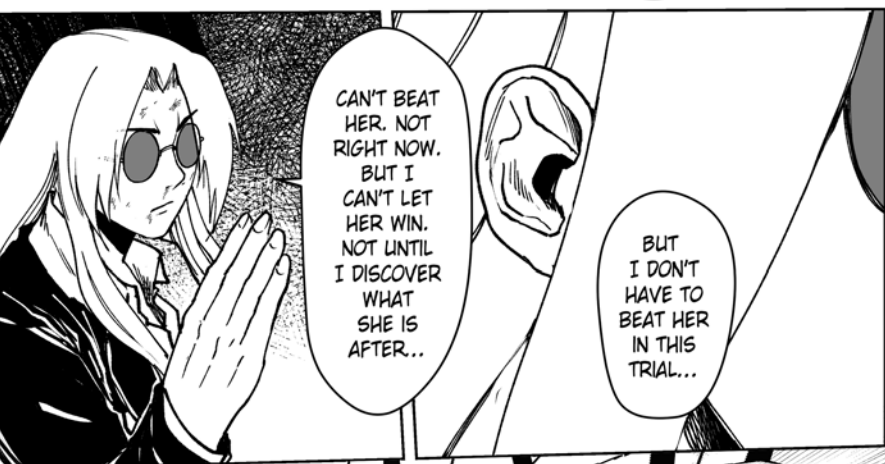
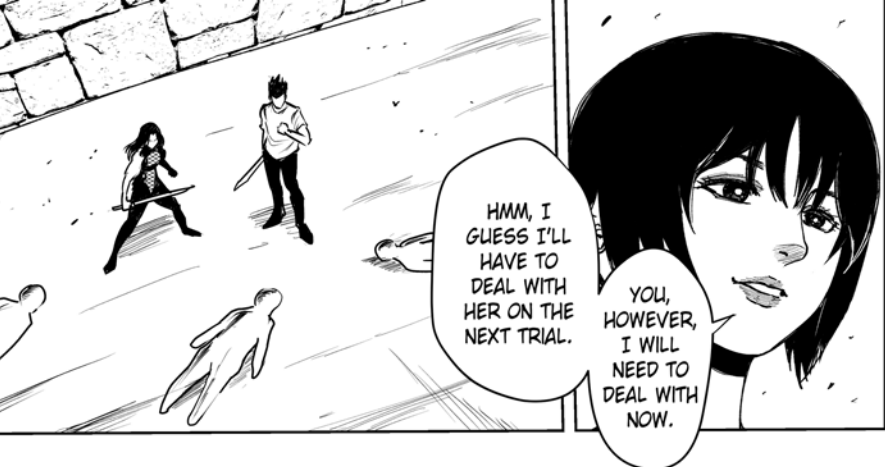
?

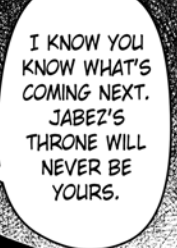


NODS









YOU'VE BEEN TOO COCKY. I KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.

I KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING NEXT. JABEZ'S THRONE WILL NEVER BE YOURS.



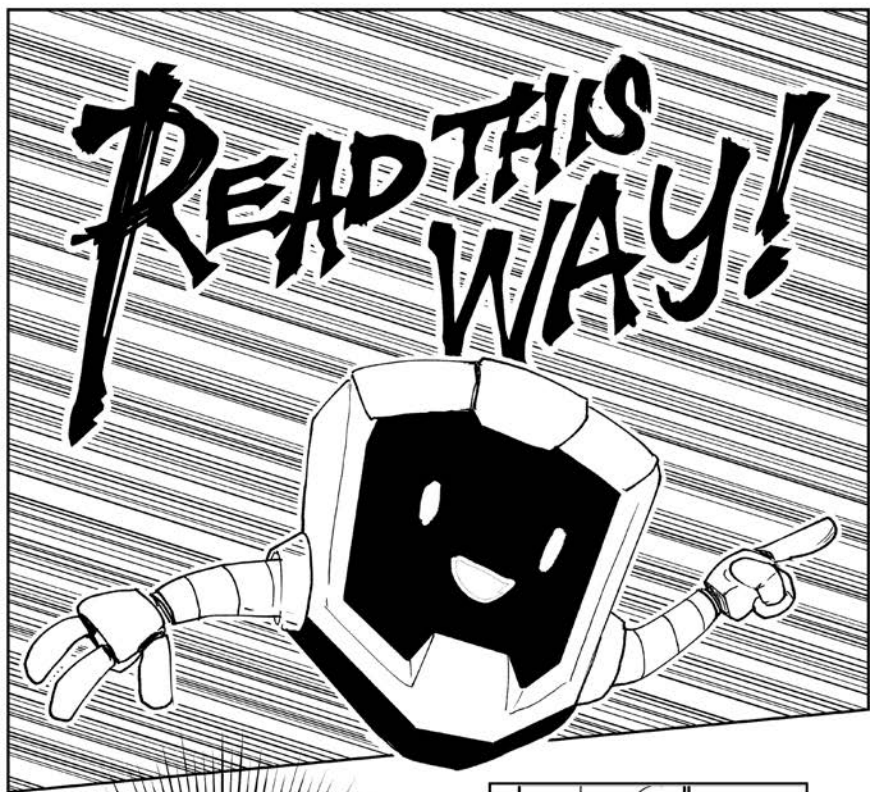
YOU'RE
NOT ONE
OF US.

I'M
COMING
FOR
YOU!



I'M
NOT ONE
OF YOU...

I'M
COMING
FOR
YOU!



THIS
MANGA IS
READ FROM
LEFT TO RIGHT,
STARTING FROM
THE UPPER
LEFT
CORNER.

