

Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

vol. 2

English Edition

Vagabond Vol. 2

This graphic novel contains the last half of *Vagabond* monthly comic #3, issues #4 and #5 in their entirety, and the first half of issue #6.

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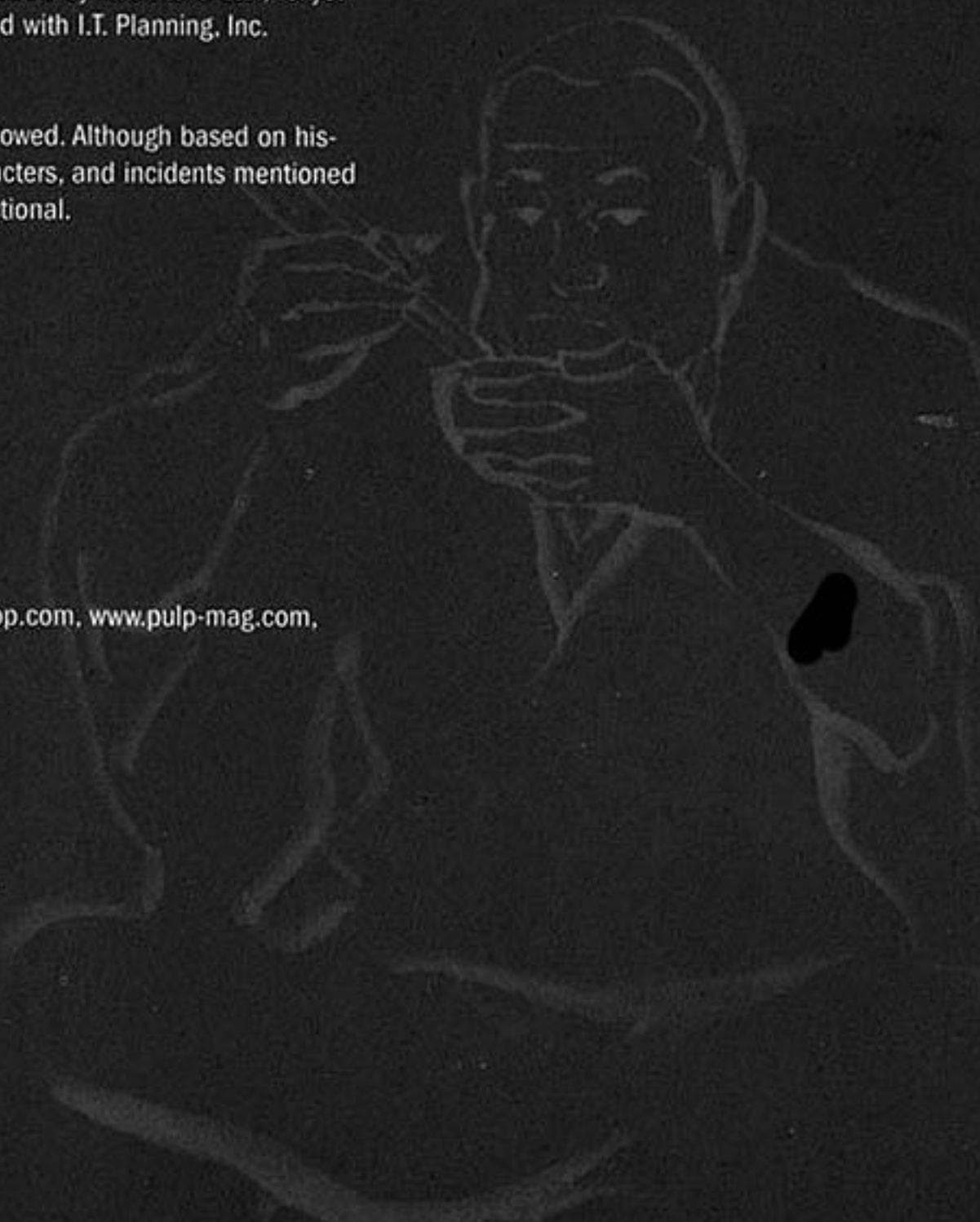
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AAAA!

RRIP

RRIP

RRIP

OTSU!!



WHAT'S WRONG!?

WHAT DID THE LETTER SAY!?

WELL...



MEN ARE ALL THE SAME!

WHUNK

NNGH

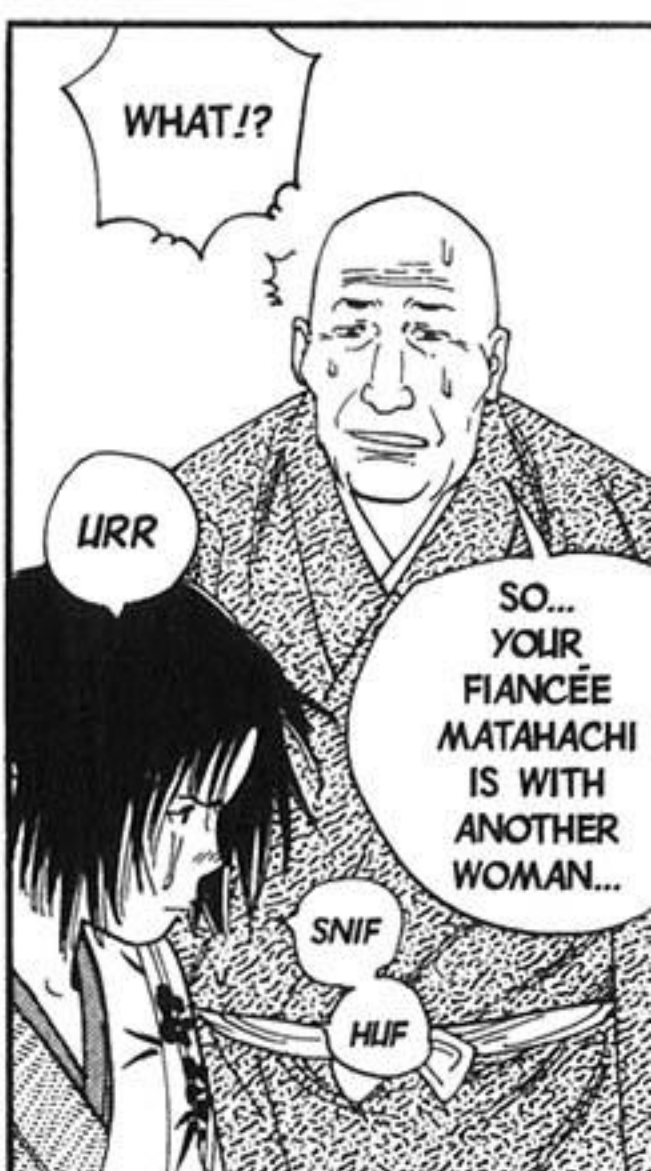


LET IT ALL OUT.

HAVE A GOOD CRY.

TUGG

!!



WHAT!?

LIRR

SO... YOUR FIANCEE MATAHACHI IS WITH ANOTHER WOMAN...

SNIF

HUF



BIBONG

BIBONG

**DAMN
YOU--!**

**MATAHACHI,
YOU
BASTARD!!**

**WHO'S
THIS
OKŌ!?**

AAAGWAG

**STOP
IT,
OTSŪ!!**

Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue
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#11

Demon

BIBONG

BIBONG



TOK



HUH!?



THWAK

ARGH!

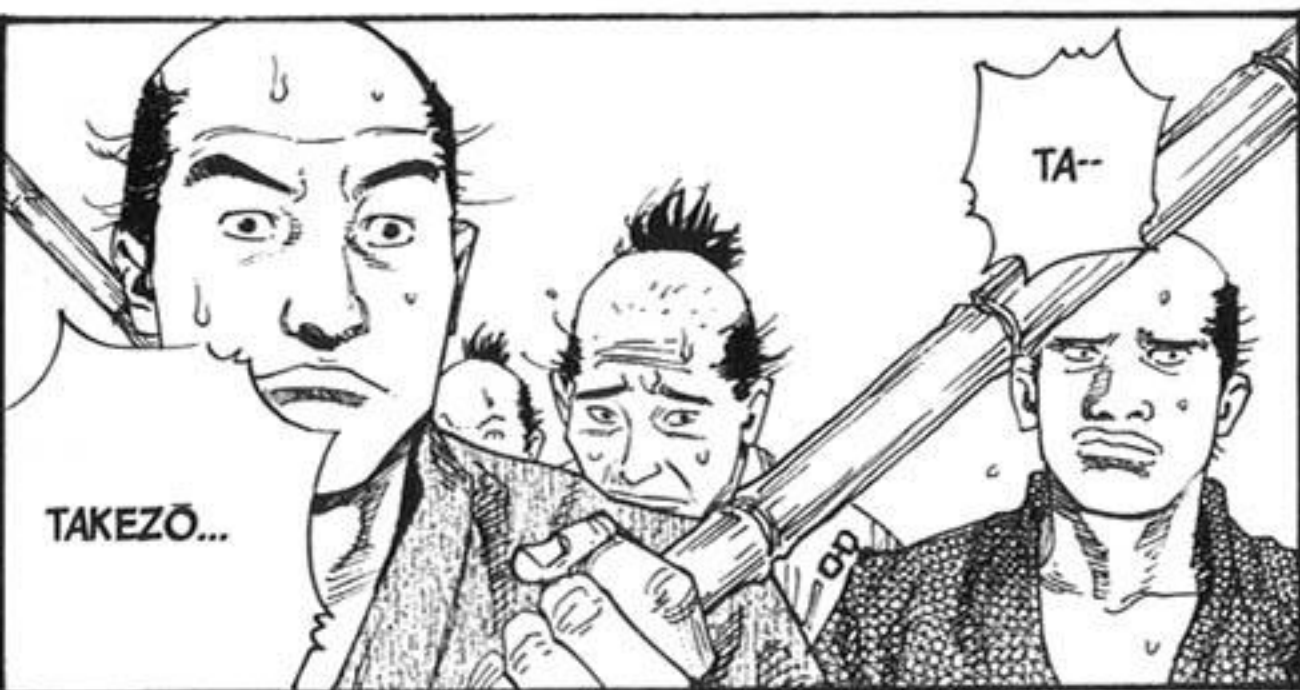


THAWAK

THAWAK

ARGH!

AIEE!



TAKEZŌ...

TA--



URR!

AIEE!



TAP

HEY!!

CORNER HIM IN THERE!!

WAWO



TRUK WAUD

LIRR.

LINGH.

ARGH!

KRAK



WAUD

FWAN

LIRR!!



!!



I
TOLD YOU
I'D KILL
YOU.



I'M
IMPRESSED!

SHINMEN
TAKEZŌ...



YOU--!!



HE'S
FEAR-
LESS!

SUCH
RECKLESS
RESIST-
ANCE!



ARGH!

TUGG



WHAT!?

FOR THE SAKE OF HIS OWN SURVIVAL...

...HE TAKES LIVES WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

HE'S MERCILESS!



KRAK

EEYAH!

SUCH POWER...!

HE'S SO STRONG!!



AND
THE
MOMENT
THIS KID
REALIZES
...

...THAT
HIS
VERY LIFE
IS COMING
TO AN
END...



WHAUD

WITH
SO
MANY
OPPONENTS
...

...HE'LL
EVENTUALLY
BECOME
EXHAUSTED.

BUT
THERE'S
NO
WAY...

...THAT
HIS
ENDURANCE
CAN
HOLD
UP...



THWAK

...HE'LL
FREEZE
UP
WITH
FEAR!!



I
CAN'T
WAIT TO
SEE THE
EXPRESSION
ON HIS
FACE!!





THOR

AIEEE!



YOU'RE **BOTH** UNTRUST-WORTHY...

YOU AND YOUR SON.



WHAT'S THAT!?

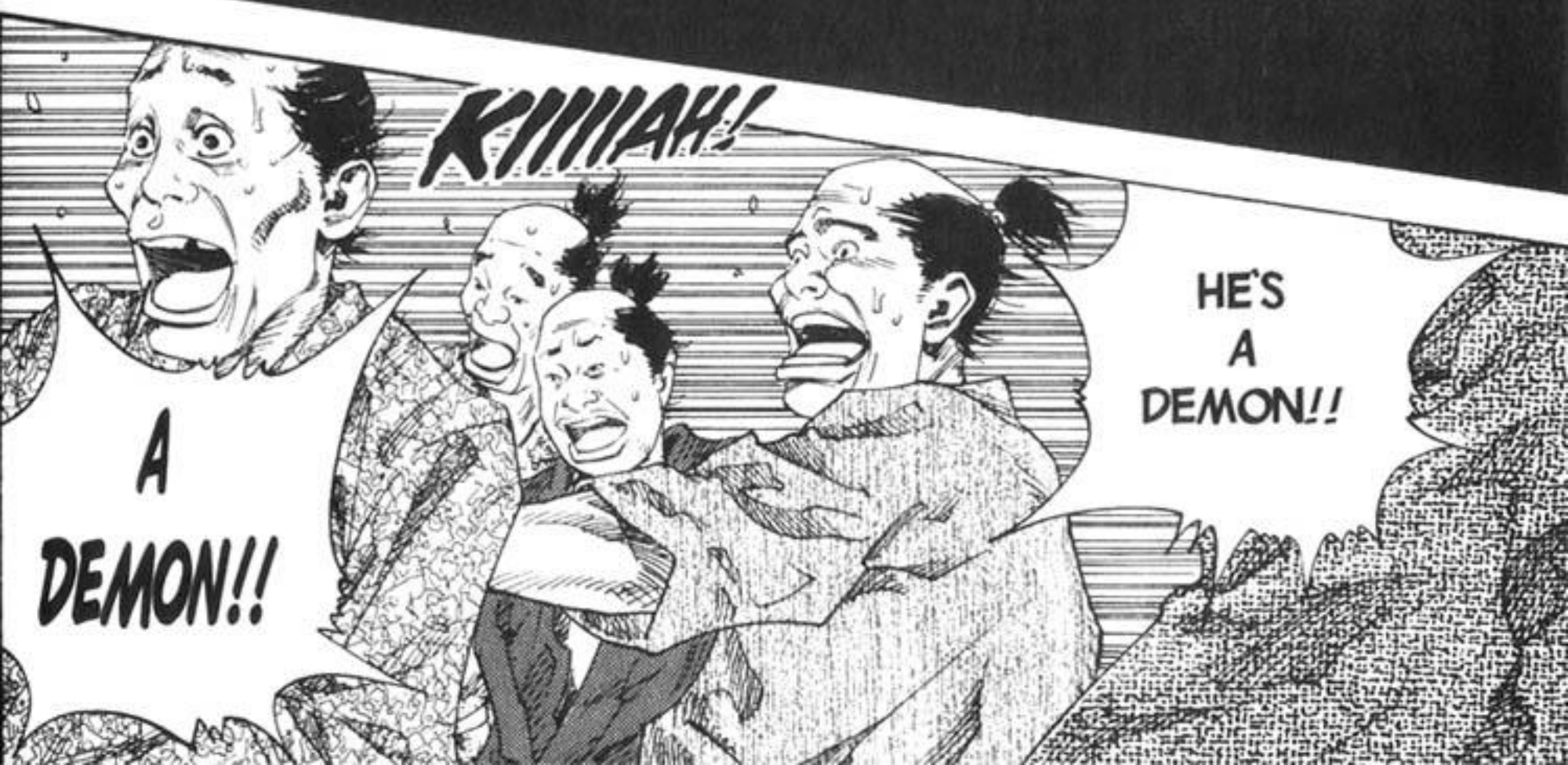


CAPTAIN AOKI!

GET HIM! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!!

CAPTAIN AOKI!





KIIIIIAH!

**A
DEMON!!**

**HE'S
A
DEMON!!**









DEMON...

I
LIKE
THE
SOUND
OF IT.





AIEE!

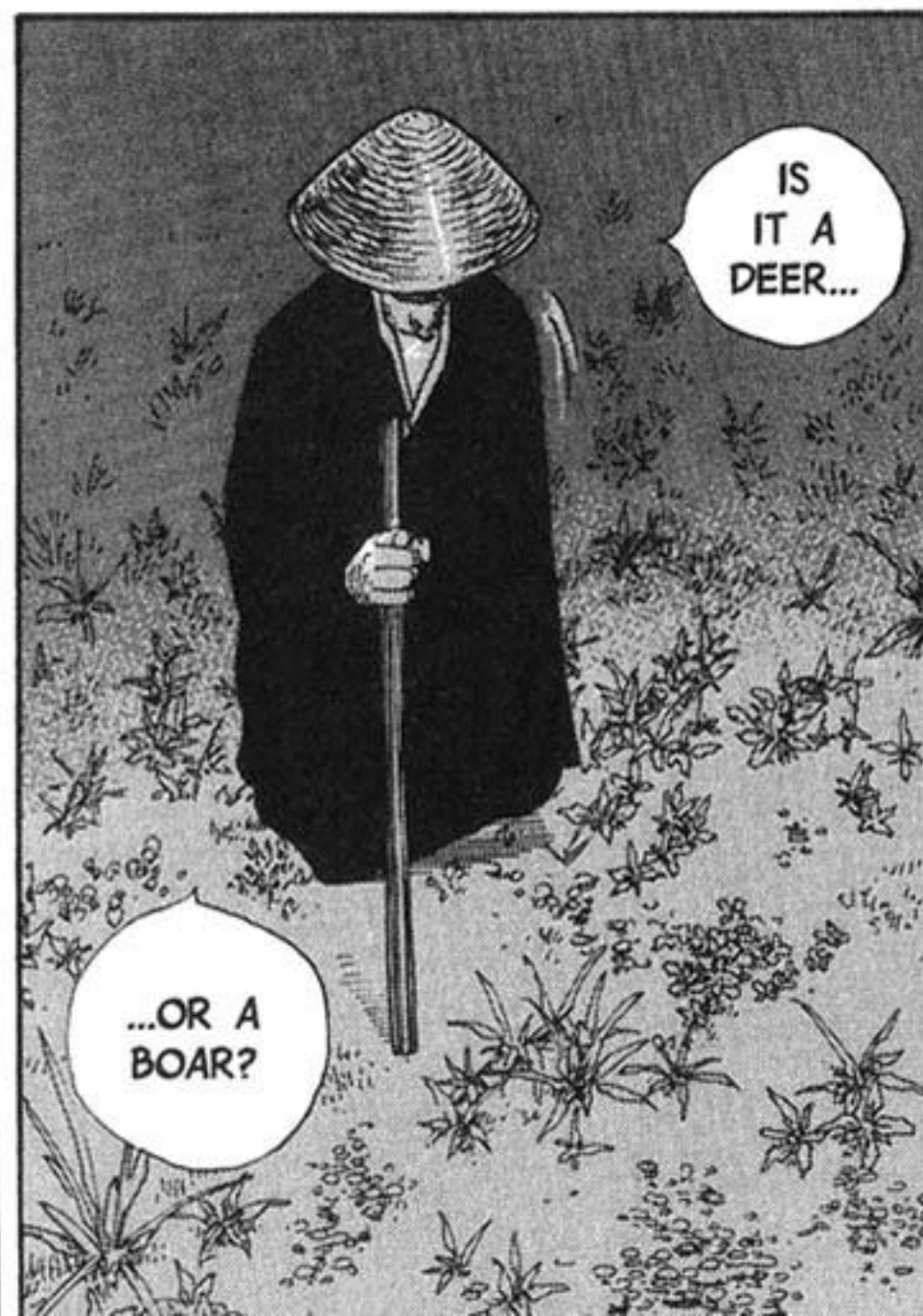
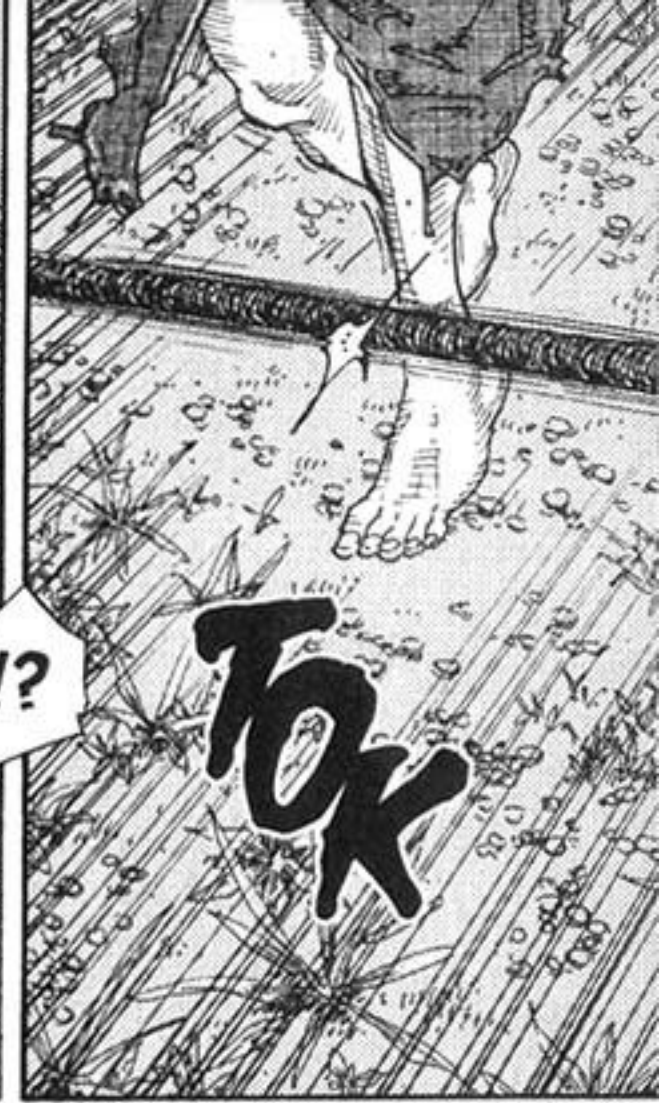
ARGH!

Fwoosh



STOP,
YOU
BASTARD
!!









...BUT
IT'S
GOT A
SMALL
HEART.



HMPH.

Vagabond



YOU
MIGHT
BE
BIG...

IT'S
THE
SIZE
OF A
CAT'S.

...BUT
YOUR
HEART
IS
SMALL.

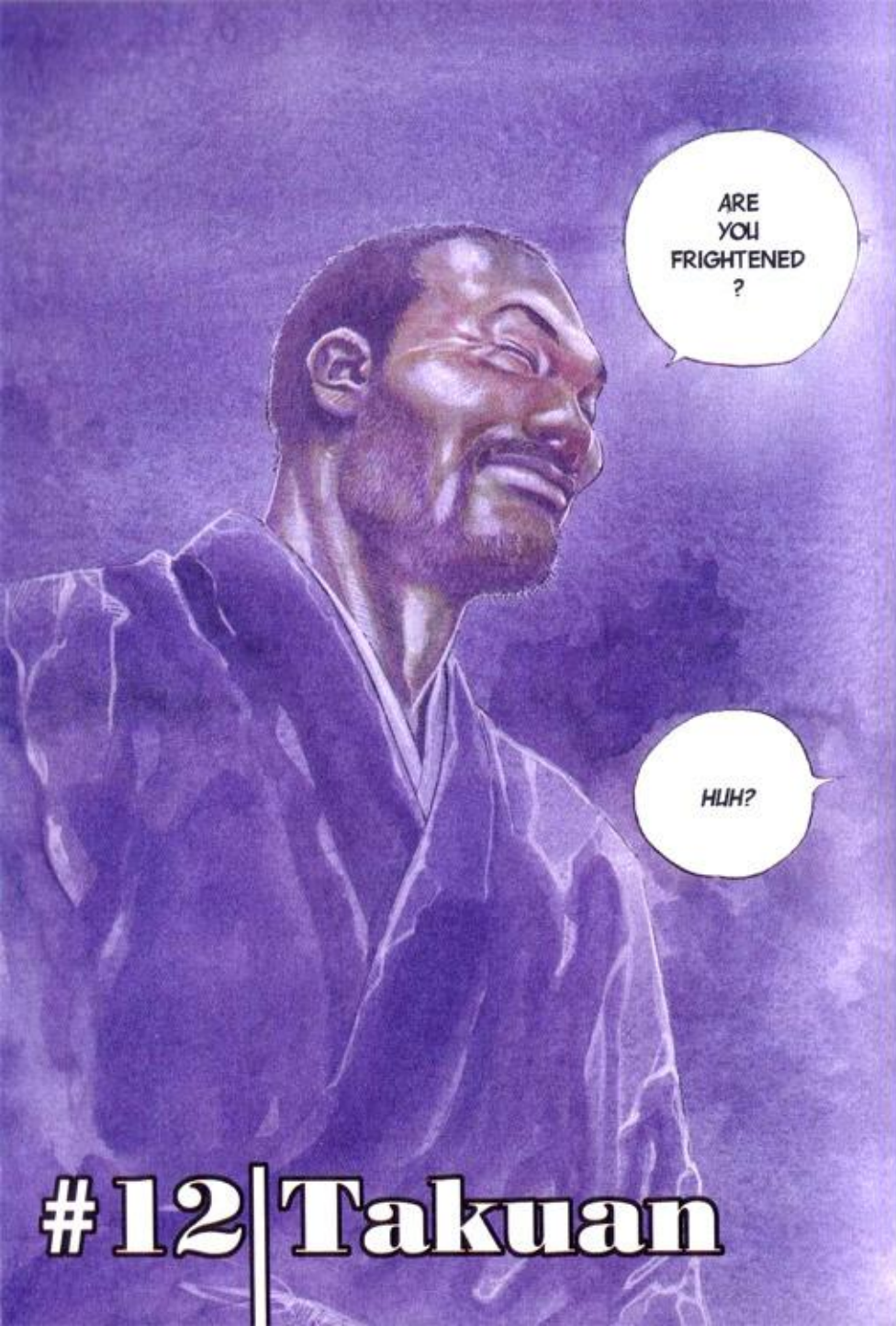
HERE
THEY
COME...

WHY
WOULD
A *BEAST*
NEED TO
KNOW
MY
NAME?

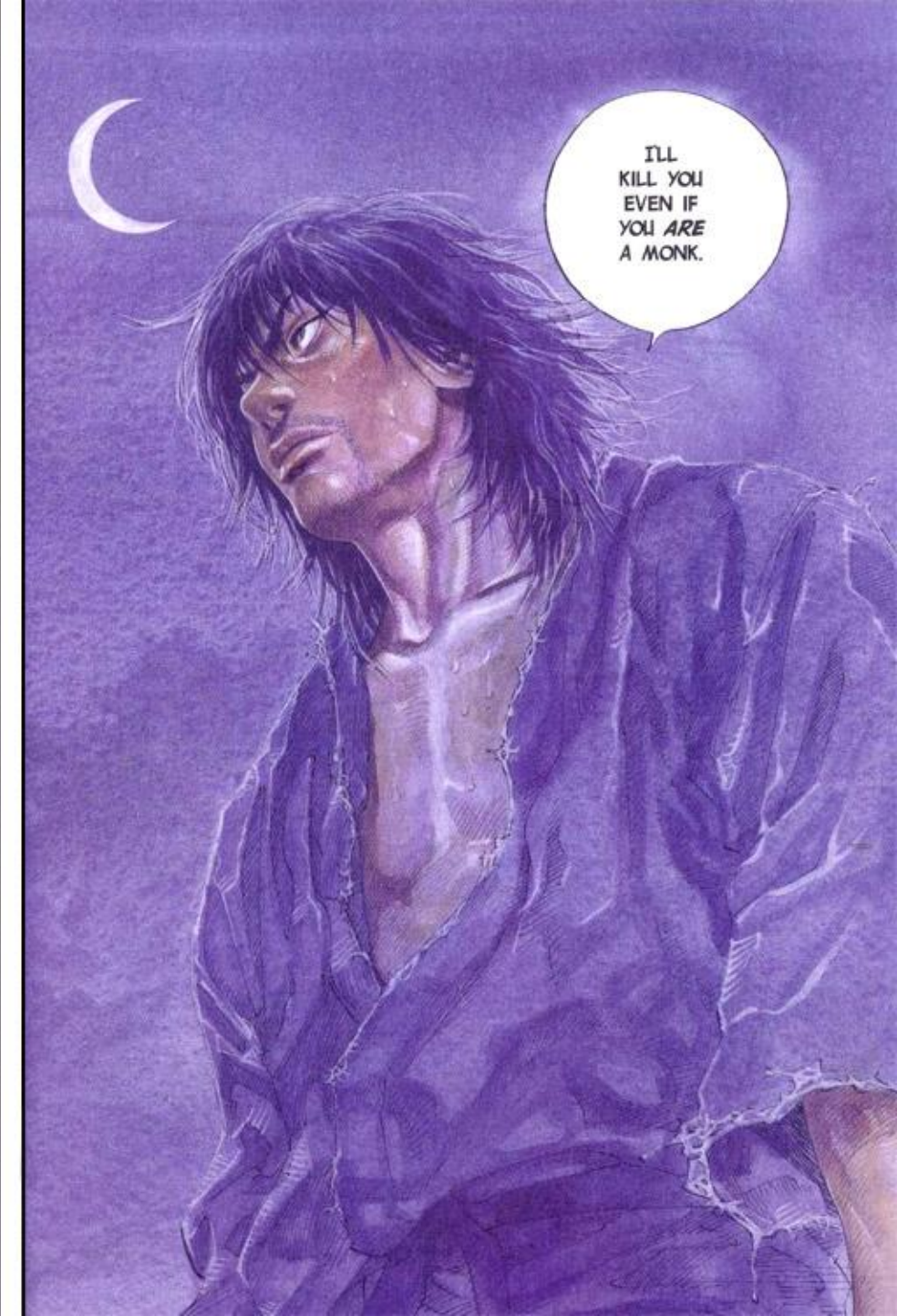
WHO
THE
HELL
ARE
YOU?

AREN'T
YOU
GOING
TO RUN
AWAY?

!!



#12 | Takuan





IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
AFRAID
OF
PEOPLE.



YOU'D
CUT ME
DOWN IF I
WERE TO
EVEN *TOUCH*
YOU

YOU
KEEP YOUR
NERVES ON
EDGE AND
YOU'RE ALWAYS
READY TO LASH
OUT. YOU DISTANCE
YOURSELF FROM
EVERYONE.



YOU
ARE THE
WEAKEST
PERSON
IN THIS
VILLAGE.





HUH?

WHAT'S HE
TALKING
ABOUT?



FWISH



THERE
HE IS!

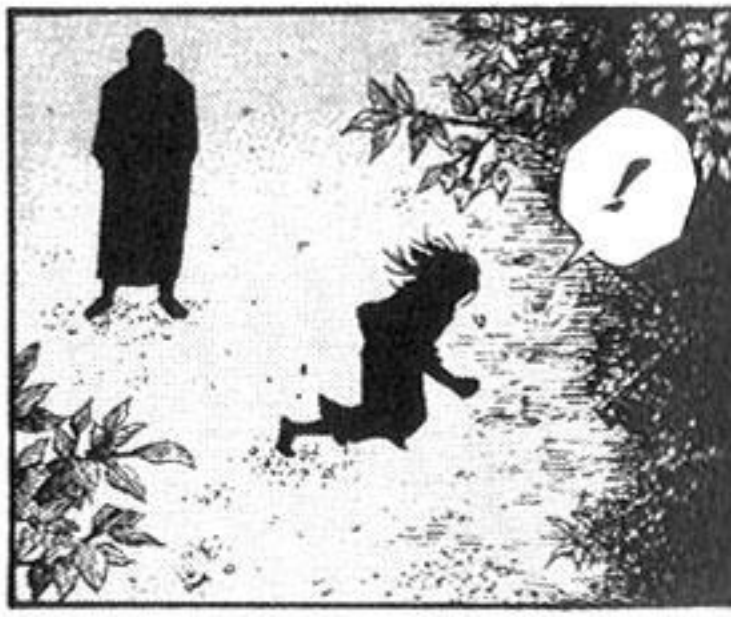
HEY!

TMP TMP TMP



WHERE'D
HE
GO?

HUH
!?



!



DAMN!



WHICH WAY DID HE GO?

THAT WAY.

HUF

HUF

HUF

TAKLIAN!

WHERE'S TAKEZŌ?



THOSE BASTARDS CAN'T CATCH ME.

I DON'T OWE YOU A THING.



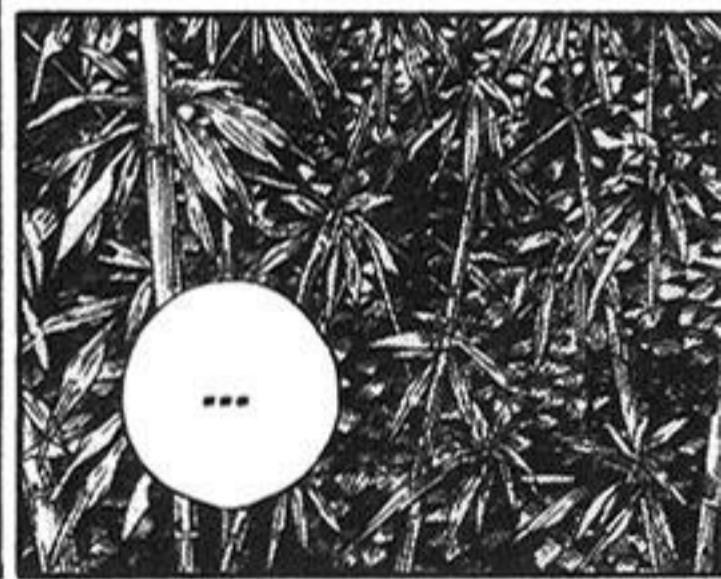
TAKLIAN, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

...BUT I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.



THAT WAY!

TAP



...





HEY!
HERE
HE
IS!!


TAKEZŌ'S
OVER
HERE!!



HA
HA
HA!



THE
NEXT DAY,
EFFORTS
FOR THE
MANHUNT
WERE
INTENSIFIED.



THE VILLAGERS
CONTINUED TO
PARTICIPATE IN
THE HUNT.
ORDERED TO
ABANDON
THEIR FIELDS...

...THEY WERE
FORCED TO
SCOUR THE
MOUNTAINS
ARMED ONLY
WITH BAMBOO
SPEARS.



SUPPORTING
TROOPS
WERE
DISPATCHED
FROM
HIMEJI
CASTLE.



HOWEVER,
TAKEZŌ
CONTINUED
TO
EVADE
CAPTURE.



SHIPPŌJI



THIS
IS
HORRIBLE
...



NNGH...
MY
SHOULDER
HURTS.

THAT
DAMN
BASTARD.



SIPP

IF WE
DON'T CAPTURE
TAKEZŌ SOON,
I'LL HAVE TO
COMMIT
SEPPUKU.

WHERE'S
OTSŪ!?

OTSŪ!!

I'M
TRYING
TO FIND
HER...

OUCH...

WELL
HURRY
IT UP!!
OUCH...

OTSŪ'S
BEEN AVOIDING
ME! THE
SAKE DOESN'T
TASTE
AS GOOD
WITHOUT
HER!

CAPTAIN
AOKI! YOU
MUSTN'T RAISE
YOUR VOICE
LIKE THAT.
YOU'LL ONLY
RE-INJURE
YOURSELF!

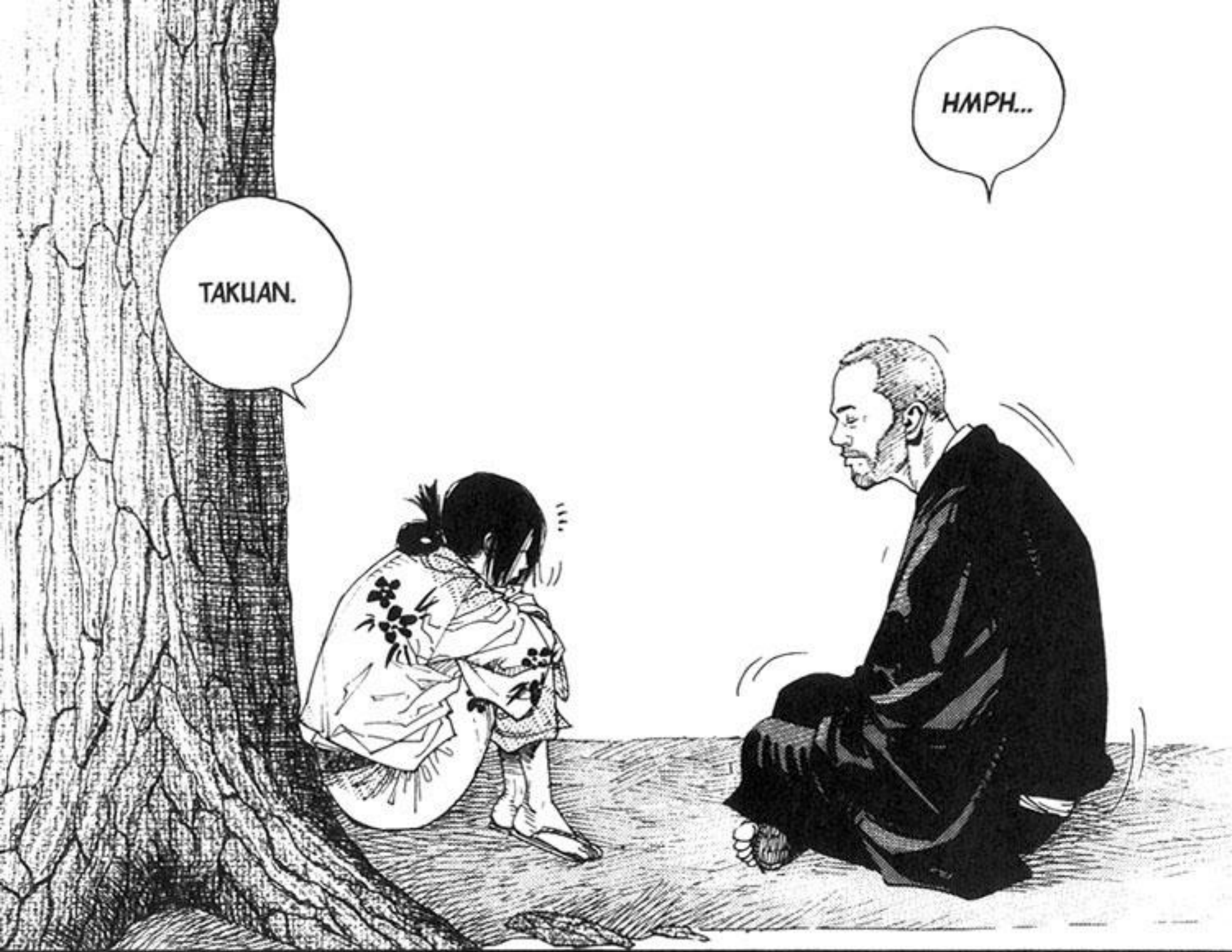
OTSŪ!!

OTSŪ!!



MATA-HACHI...
YOU
JERK.

SNIFF



TAKUAN.

HMPH...



VERY WELL, THEN. I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.

HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT.



I HATE THAT MUSTACHE SAMURAI.

ALL HE DOES IS DRINK.

A FOOL LIKE THAT WON'T BE ABLE TO CAPTURE TAKEZŌ.



OTSU...

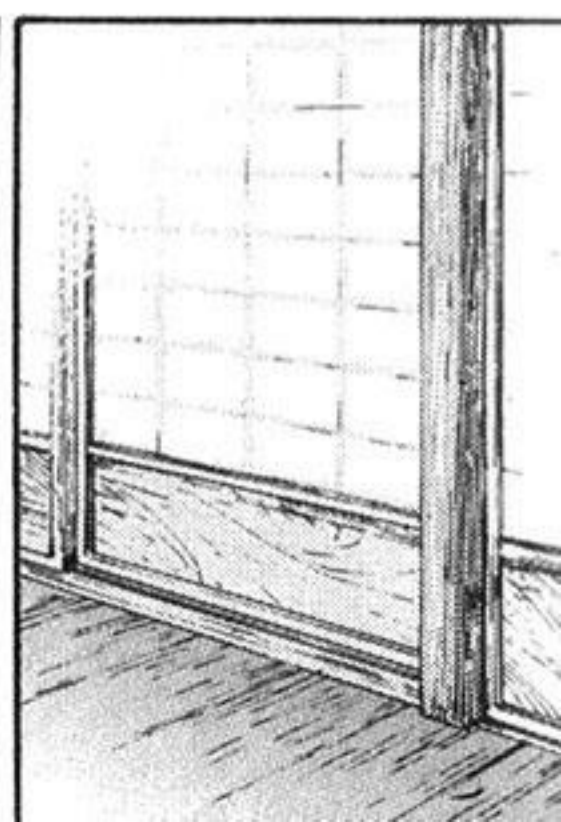
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU.



I DON'T CARE.

OTSU!

OTSU!





...CAPTURE
TAKEZO?

HOW
COULD
A FOOL
WHO
DRINKS
ALL
DAY...



THE VILLAGERS
GROW WEARY
OF YOU
AND YOUR
INCOMPETENCE!



HOW
MANY WEEKS,
HOW MANY
HUNDREDS
OF MEN
...

HMPH!

...DO
YOU NEED
TO
CAPTURE A
SINGLE
MAN?



URK
WHAT
WAS
THAT?



I'LL CUT YOU DOWN.



INCOMPETENT--!

GASP!

HMPH.



HMM...

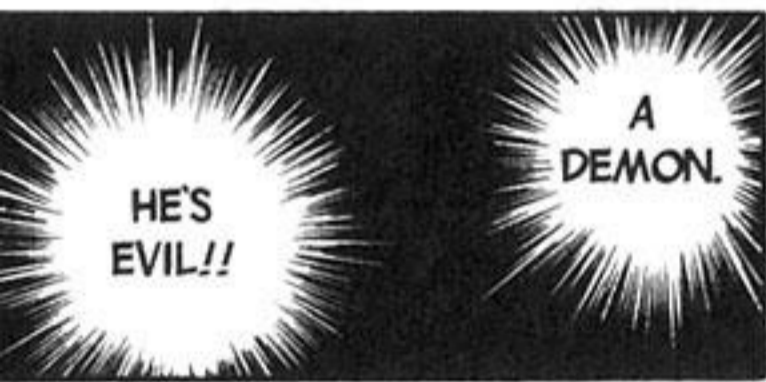
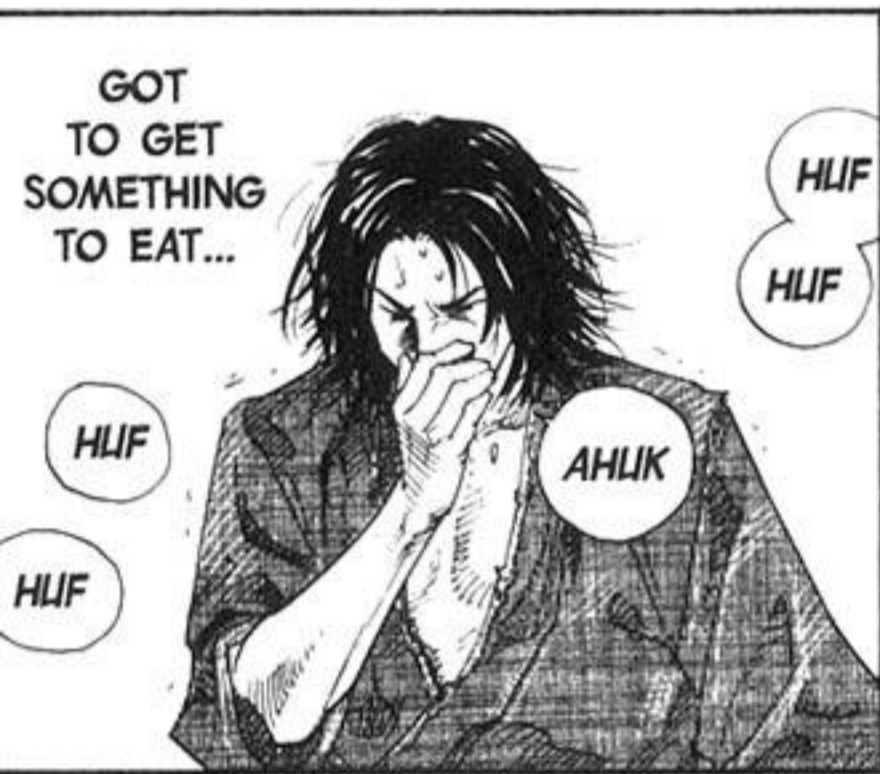


TUGG

HOW DARE YOU!?



IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR THE INCOMPETENT CAPTAIN TO CUT ME DOWN?

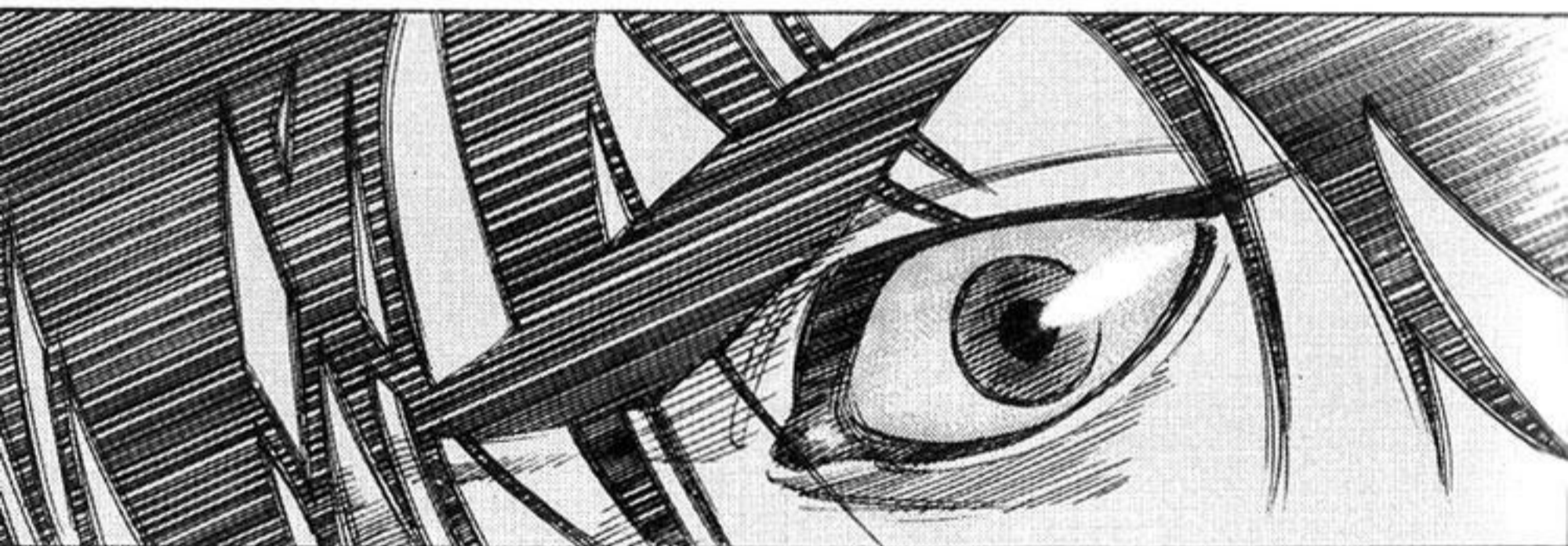


YOU
ARE THE
WEAKEST
PERSON
IN THE
VILLAGE.

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
YOU
BASTARDS
THINK
OF ME.

THE ONLY
REASON I
CAME BACK
HERE WAS
TO TELL
OTSU THAT
MATAHACHI
IS STILL
ALIVE.

...







THOR



YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE MANHUNT!!

HUF

HUF

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?

HUF



THOR

!



I
COME
FROM THE
VILLAGE OF
FUWA...



LOOKS
LIKE
EVERYONE'S
AFTER
YOU.



I'LL
PUT AN
END TO
ALL YOUR
TROUBLES.



I'M
TSUJIKAZE
KŌHEI.

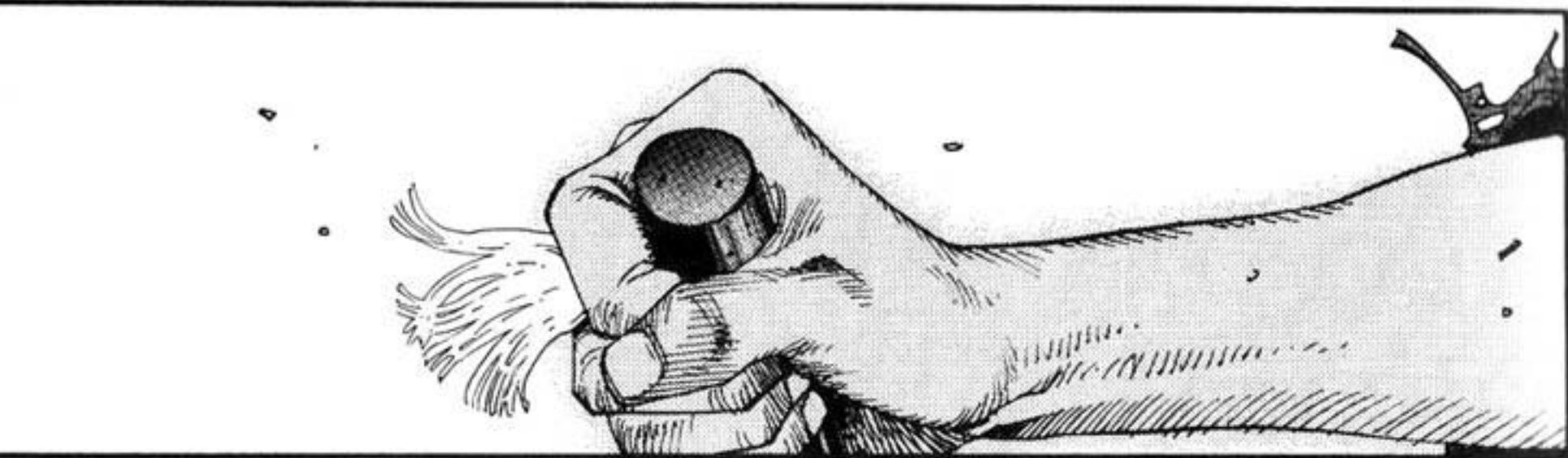


TSUJIKAZE
KŌHEI...

TSUJIKAZE...

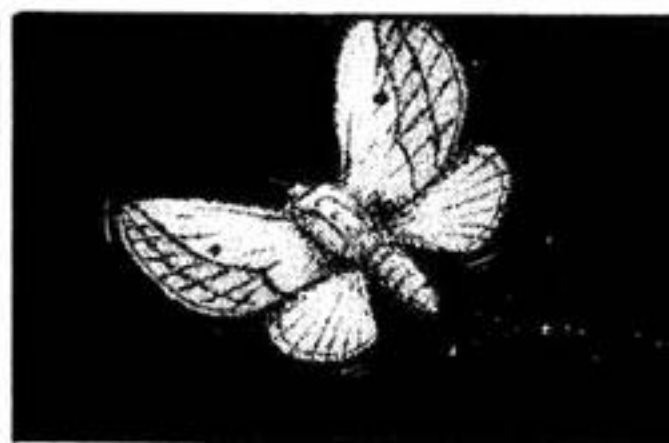
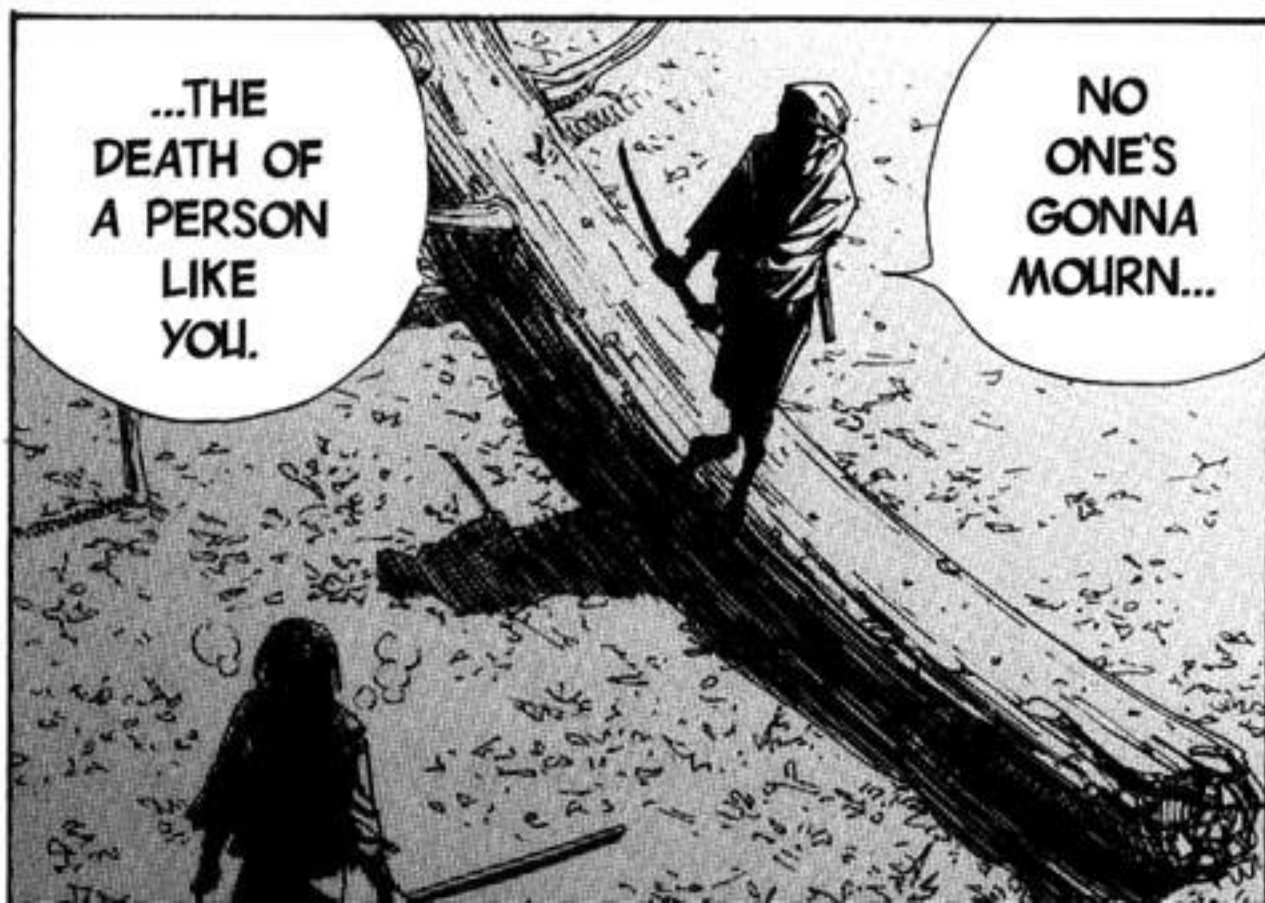
#13 | **Life**

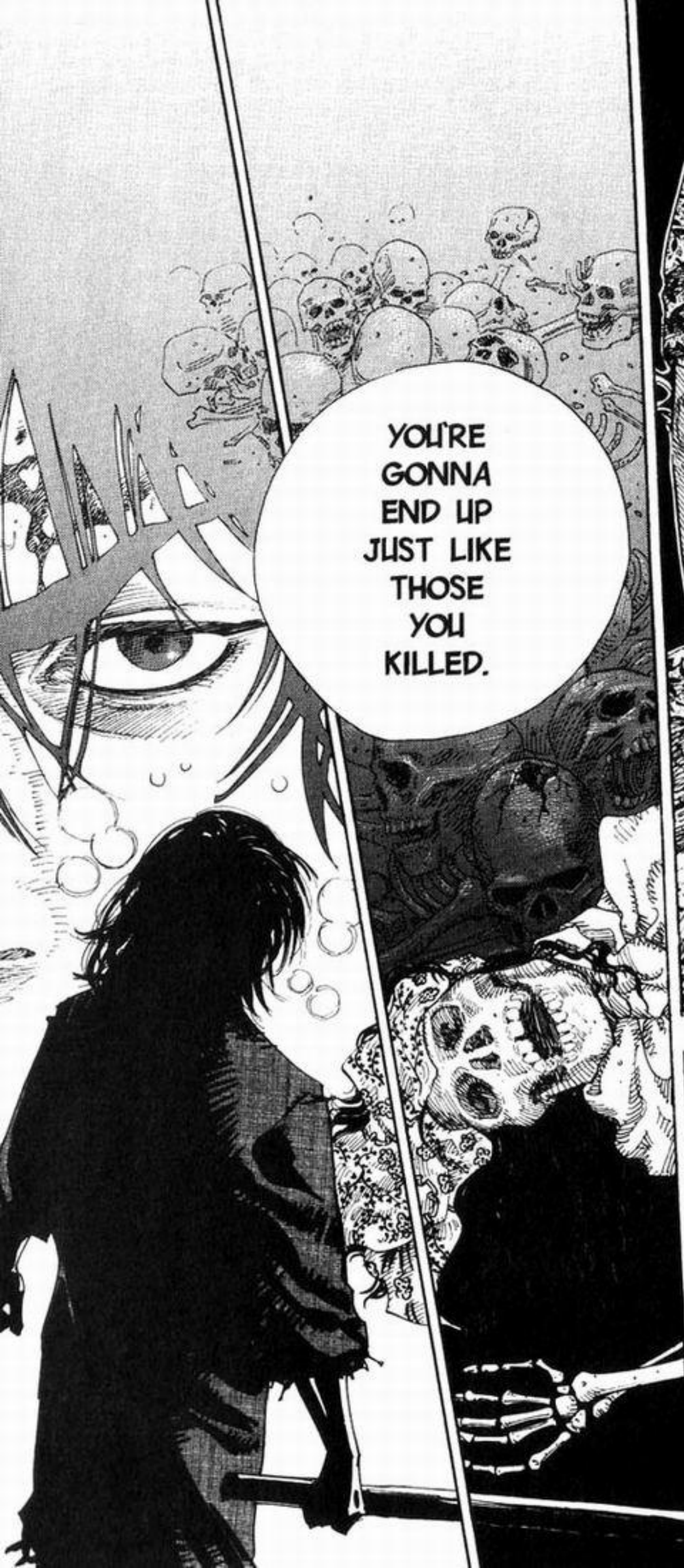












YOU'RE
GONNA
END UP
JUST LIKE
THOSE
YOU
KILLED.





AND I'M
NOT HERE
TO AVENGE
MY BROTHER'S
DEATH.



...TO
KILL
TENMA.

I
WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
THE
ONE...



YOU
SNATCHED
MY PRIZE
AWAY SO
NOW I'LL
HAVE TO
KILL
YOU.



I
WAS
BORN
INTO
THIS
WORLD...

...AND
MAYBE I'LL
LIVE TO SEE
TWENTY
YEARS OR
SO...



HA
HA...

SIBLING
RIVALRY.

HAH...

I
SEE...



...THEN
I'LL
DIE.



THAT'S
ALL
THERE
IS. FOR
BOTH
YOU AND
ME.







HEY!
THERE'S
TAKEZŌ!!

!!

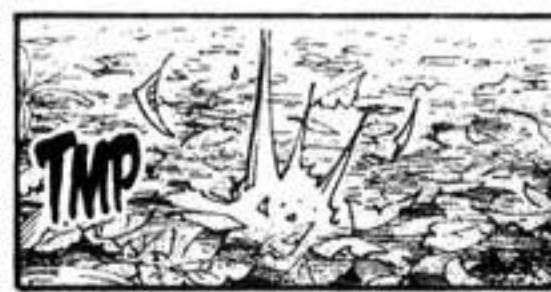
AND
HE'S
INJURED!!



COME
ON!
OVER
THERE!!



HMPH...



TMP



THERE
HE
IS!!

IT'S
TAKEZŌ!!



**YOU'RE
FINISHED
NOW,
TAKEZŌ!!**

**SURROUND
HIM!!**

KRICH

HAHHH!!



**KILL
HIM!!**

HUF

HUF

**IF
HE
RESISTS,
JUST
CUT HIM
DOWN!!**





...AND
HAVE
LIVED
FOR 17
YEARS...

I
WAS
BORN
INTO
THIS
WORLD...



FOR
WHAT
PURPOSE?



Y-
YOU...
BASTARD
!!



YOU'RE
STILL
FIGHTING
BACK!?



BASTARD
!!



CUT
HIM
DOWN!!



THWAK

ARR!

URGH!

WAO

!!

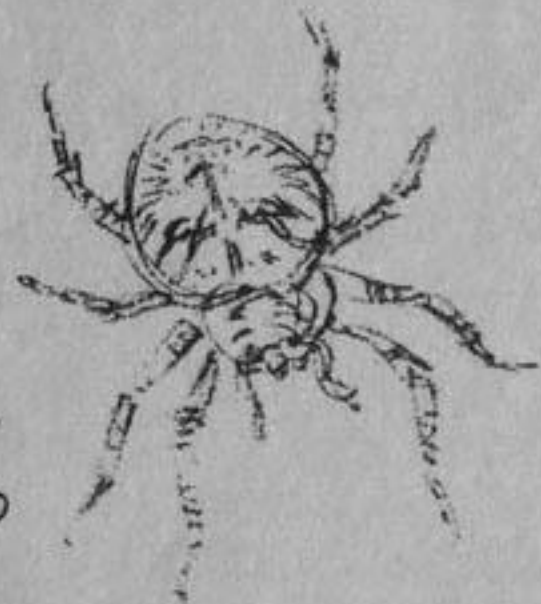


I
GOT
HIM!!



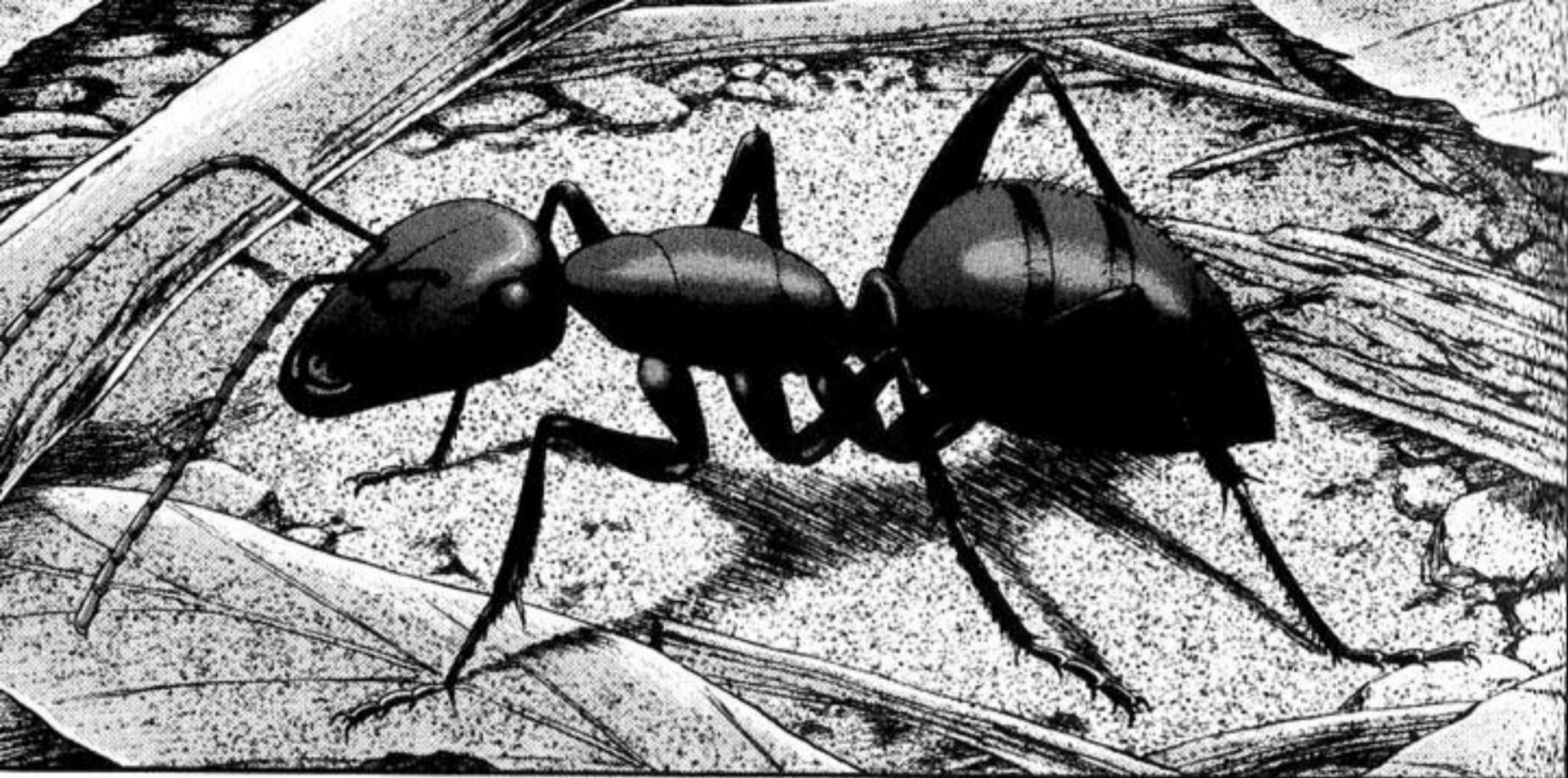


Vagabond



蜘蛛
精

(SPIDER DEMON)





#14 | **Cut
Down**



WHAT
DOES THE
FUTURE
HOLD IN
STORE
FOR ME?

HUF

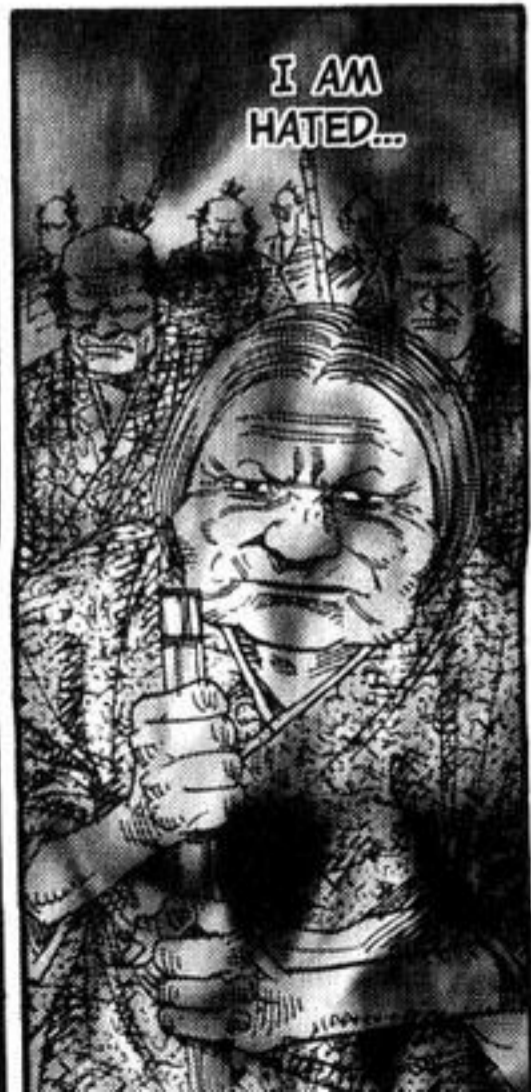
HUF

HUF

I
DON'T
CARE.



HUNTED
DOWN.



I AM
HATED...



HUF

HUF

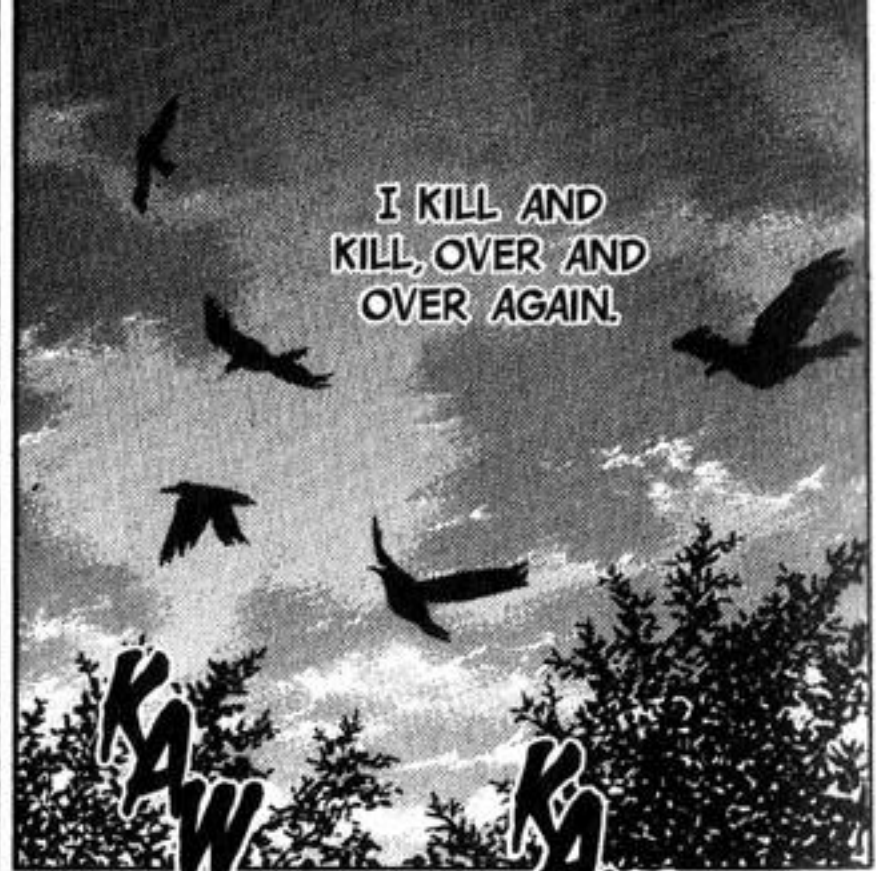
HUF

SHUF

SHUF



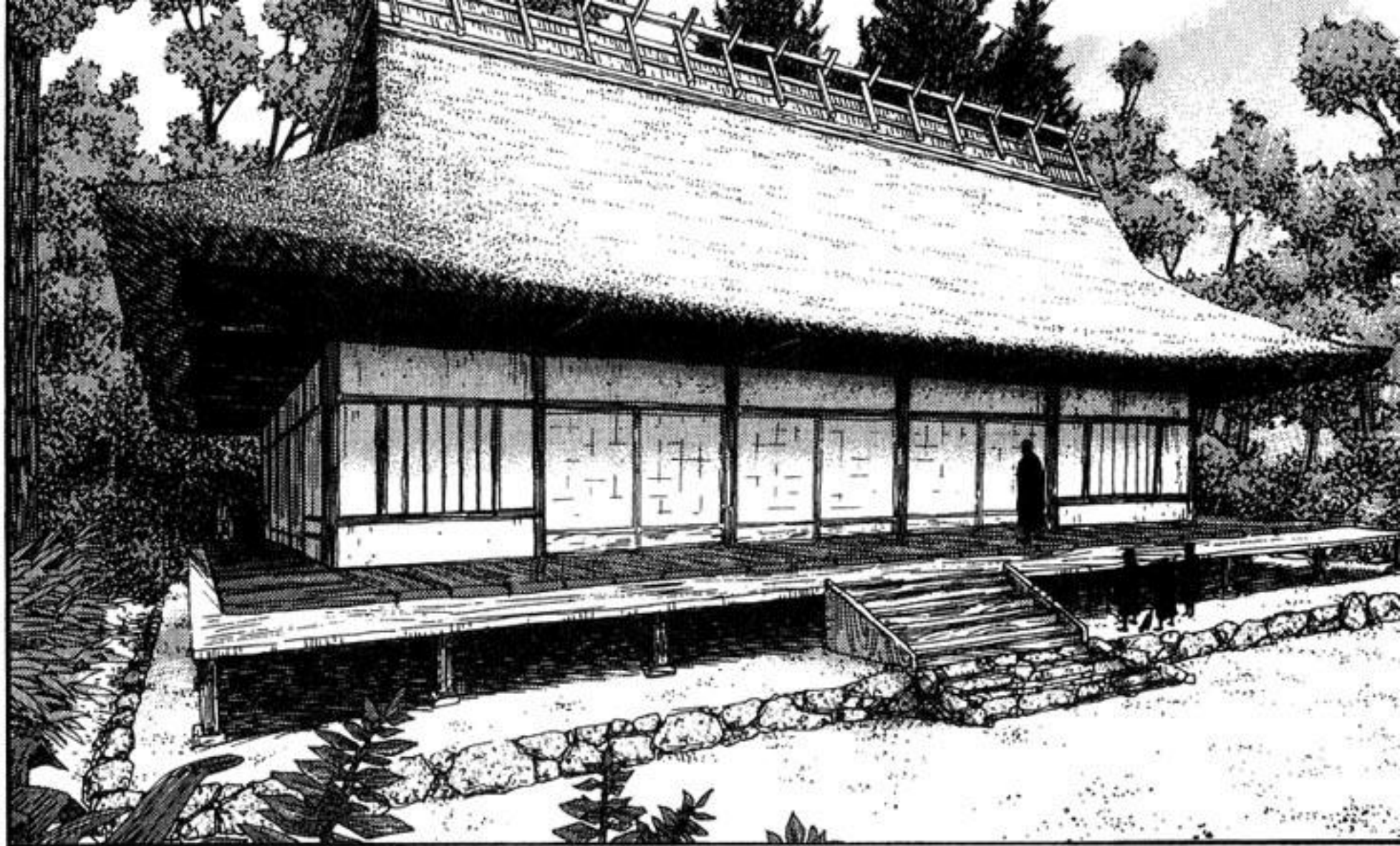
IN THE
END, I'LL
BE CUT
DOWN, TOO.

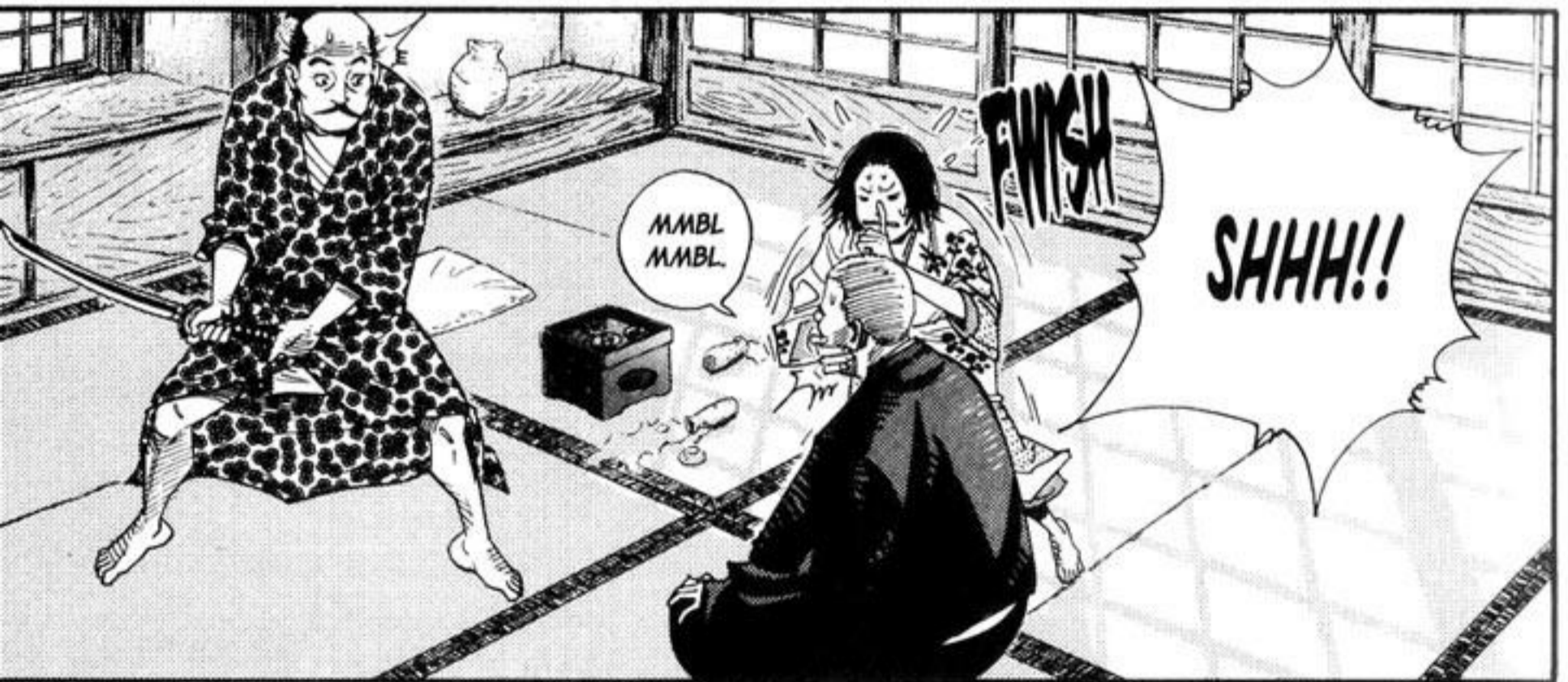


I KILL AND
KILL, OVER AND
OVER AGAIN.



THAT'S ALL
THERE IS.







INCOMPE-
TENCE IS
INCOMPE-
TENCE.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
HIDE THE
TRUTH FROM
HIM...

IF A
PERSON DOESN'T
REALIZE HE'S IN-
COMPETENT, THAT'S
ALL THE MORE
REASON HE NEEDS
TO BE TOLD.



HOW
DARE
YOU...
INSULT
ME!?

GASP!

YOU'RE
FINISHED
NOW,
MONK!!

FIGHT



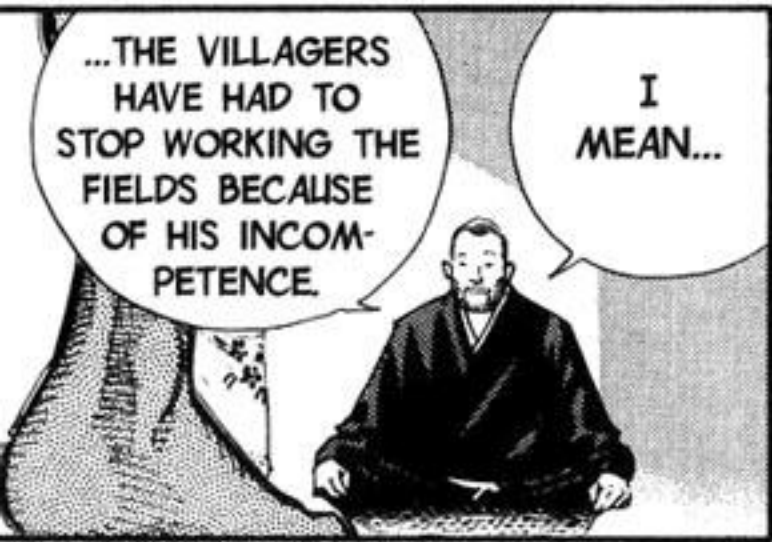
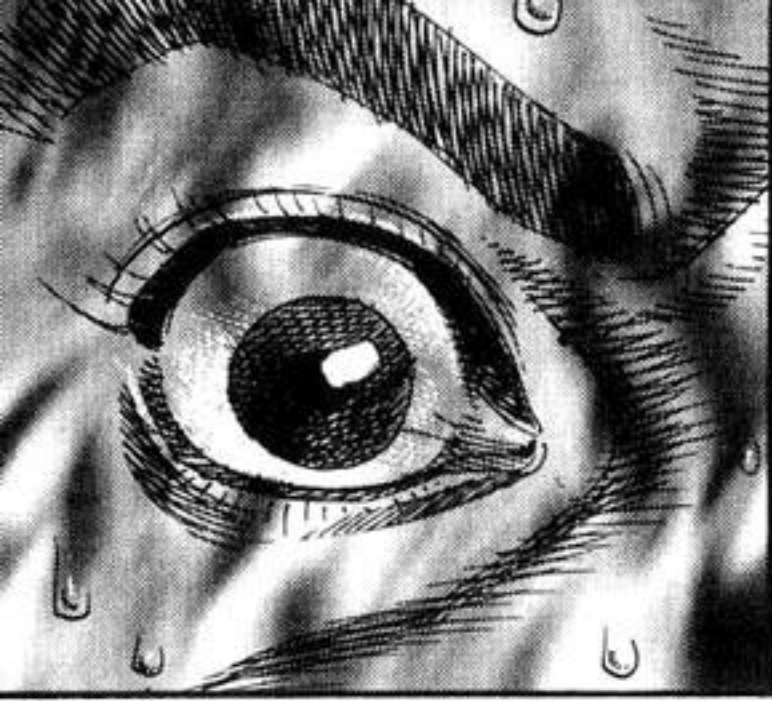
HUH?

I'M
COMPLETELY
APPALLED!!

FWUMP

I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT
TAKEZO!!





...THE VILLAGERS
HAVE HAD TO
STOP WORKING THE
FIELDS BECAUSE
OF HIS INCOM-
PETENCE.

I
MEAN...



THAT
SILLY
TAKEZO.

WHY
DID HE
LET
THIS
FOOL
LIVE?



THE
VILLAGERS
HAVE TO
MAKE A
LIVING.

IT'S
JUST
HORRIBLE.

...THEY'RE
FORCED TO
JOIN THE
MANHUNT AND
WORK FOR
FREE.



IT'S
FOR THE
SECURITY
OF--

OF THE
VILLAGE?
THAT'S WHY THEY
SHOULD RISK
THEIR LIVES?
HMM...PERHAPS
YOU ARE
RIGHT...



HMPH...



ON TOP
OF THAT,
TAKEZO'S
A WILD
BEAST.

THEY'RE
RISKING THEIR
LIVES TO
HUNT HIM
DOWN.



OTSU!
YOU
SHOULD
GO TO THE
MOUNTAINS.

GO
AND
CAPTURE
TAKEZŌ.



WHAT!?

WHAT
ARE
YOU--?



WHAT?



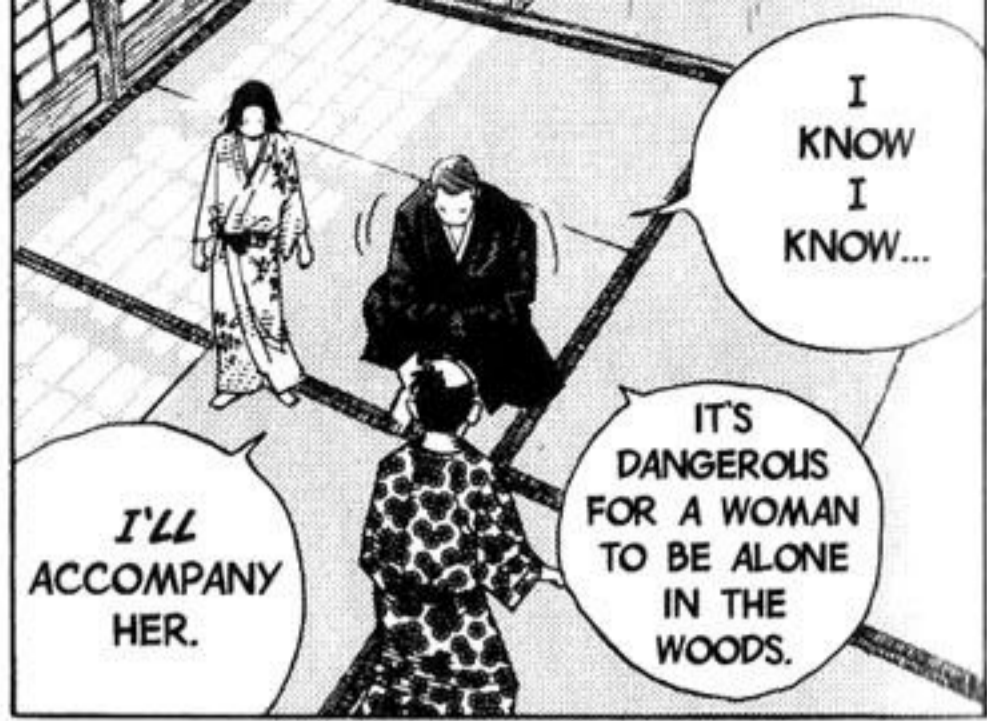
YUCK!



SO YOU STILL WANT OTSŪ...

URK

...TO SERVE YOU YOUR SAKE?



I KNOW I KNOW...

I'LL ACCOMPANY HER.

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A WOMAN TO BE ALONE IN THE WOODS.



WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!



HEE
HEE
HEE



WHERE'S OTSŪ!?

OTSŪ!



...!!
OTSŪ!

HMPH.

...SHE FINDS YOU REPULSIVE.

HA HA HA
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY IT'S NO USE. ONE LOOK ON HER FACE AND IT'S OBVIOUS...



URRR...



BY
THE
WAY...

...WHEN
DO YOU
PLAN ON
SWINGING
THAT SWORD
OF YOURS?



TRUK

!!

!!

!!

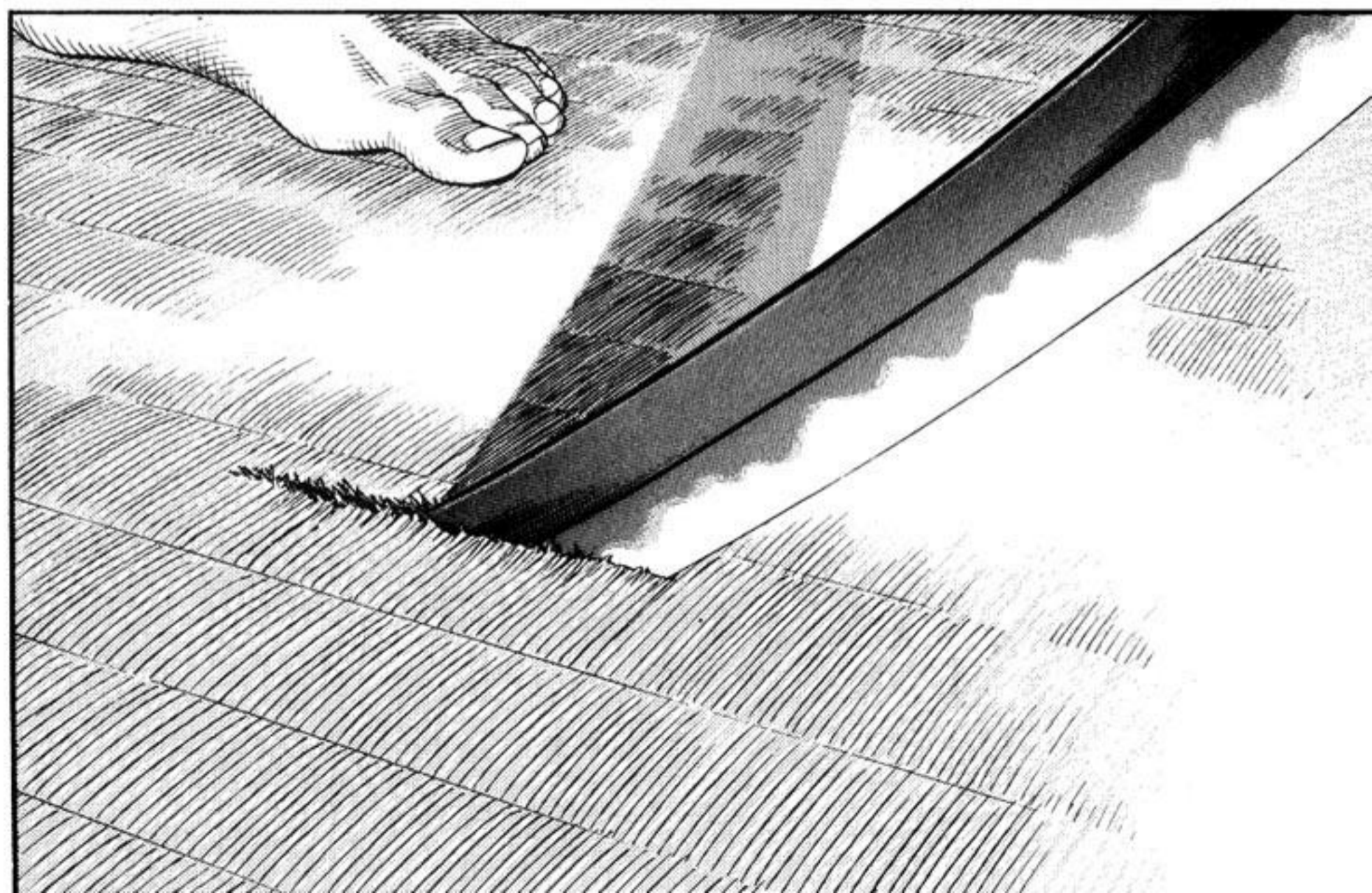


TAKUAN,
SIR!!



TAKUAN!!

TMP
TMP





TAKUAN...?

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

T-TA--



...



YOUR HIPS!
YOUR HIPS!

HA HA
HA HA!!



IF YOU DON'T PUT STRENGTH IN YOUR HIPS, THE ONLY THING YOU'LL CUT IS SKIN!!

HA HA HA!

...!!



DID THEY JUST CALL HIM TAKUAN ...!?

TAKUAN...



THESE ARE THE BASIC VIRTUES REQUIRED OF YOUR POSITION.

LOYALTY TO THE LORD.

CHARITY TO THE PEOPLE.



THE CLOSE FRIEND OF IKEDA TERUMASA, THE LORD OF HIMEJI CASTLE...!?

TAKUAN SOHO!!

YOU COULD CARE LESS ABOUT DISRUPTING THE VILLAGERS' LIVES...



PLEASE, TAKUAN, ENOUGH!!

TAKUAN, SIR!!



TAKUAN !!

T-TA--

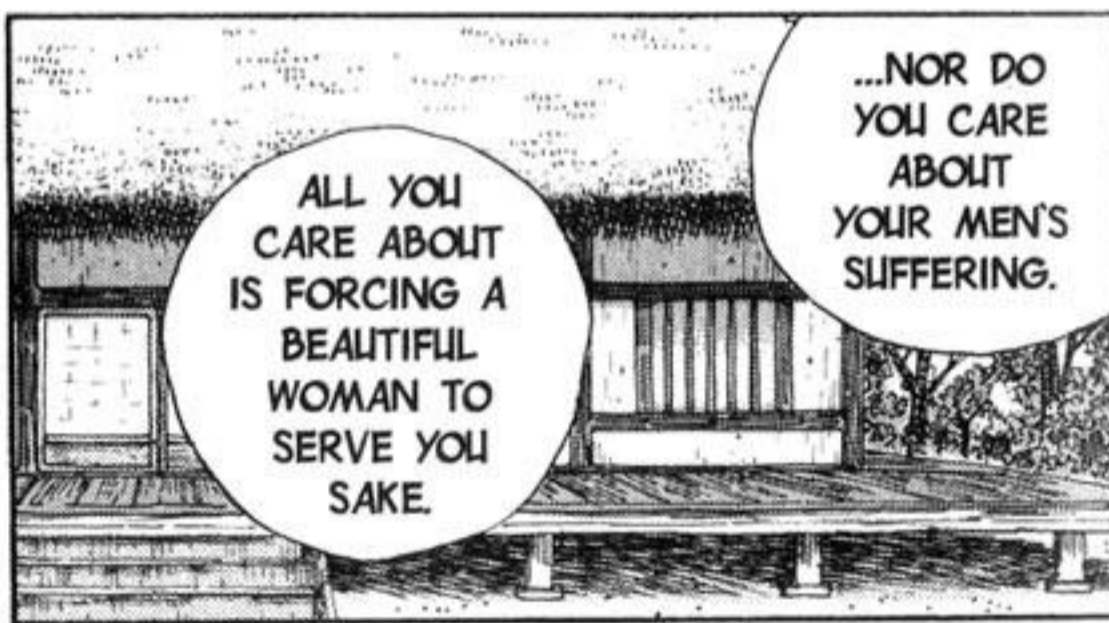


YOU'RE JUST A CIVIL SERVANT TAX THIEF.



BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ...?

FIP



ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS FORCING A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN TO SERVE YOU SAKE.

...NOR DO YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR MEN'S SUFFERING.



AFTER ALL THE FUSS YOU'VE CAUSED, YOU STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO CAPTURE TAKEZO.

I'D LIKE TO SAY MORE BUT IT'S OVER FOR YOU.





NOT
AT
ALL.



SMIRK



OTSU
JUST
MIGHT
SAVE
YOUR
NECK.

AOKI...

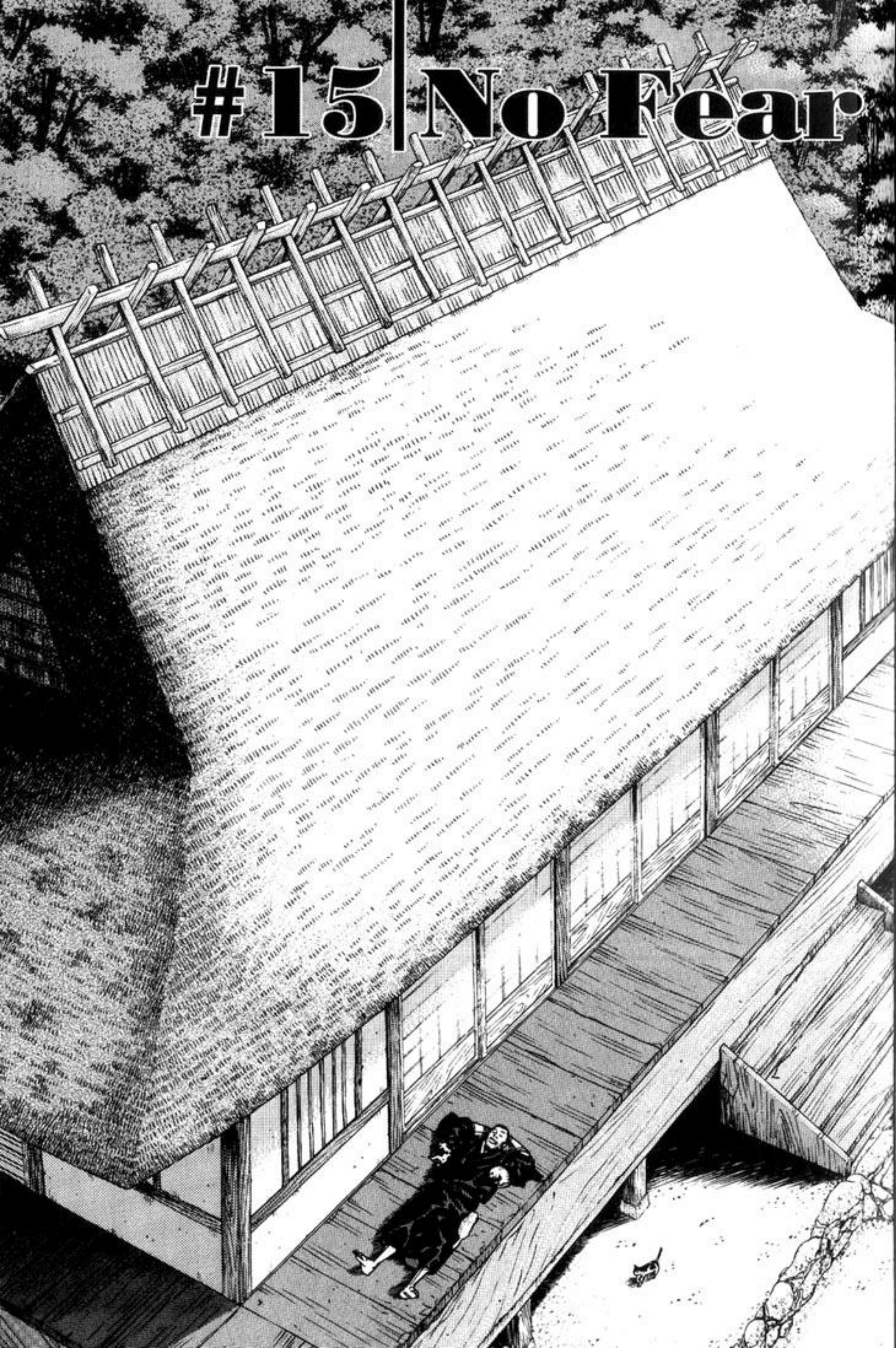


**SHE'S
GOING TO
BE THE
ONE WHO
CAPTURES
TAKEZŌ!!**

Vagabond




#15 | No Fear





WE'RE SO CLOSE TO CAPTURING THAT BASTARD TAKEZŌ!!

WHY HAS THE MANHUNT BEEN CALLED OFF!?



IN REALLY?
THREE DAYS!?

IF THEY FAIL, TAKUAN SAYS HE'LL HANG HIMSELF FROM THE OLD CEDAR TREE IN FRONT OF THE TEMPLE.



APPARENTLY, TAKUAN AND OTSŪ PROMISED CAPTAIN AOKI...

...THAT THEY WOULD CAPTURE TAKEZŌ IN THREE DAYS.



TAKUAN THE MONK AND...

...OTSŪ?



THEY CAN'T CATCH TAKEZŌ IN THREE DAYS.

THAT WAS STUPID.

WE SHOULD KNOW, WE WERE OUT THERE.



TAKUAN...



WHY WOULD MY FUTURE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW--?



WHY'D YOU MAKE THAT PROMISE?

TAKEZO'S NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BE CAPTURED BY ME.

THIP

THIP



TMP



HUH?



TAKEZO!

WHERE ARE YOU!?

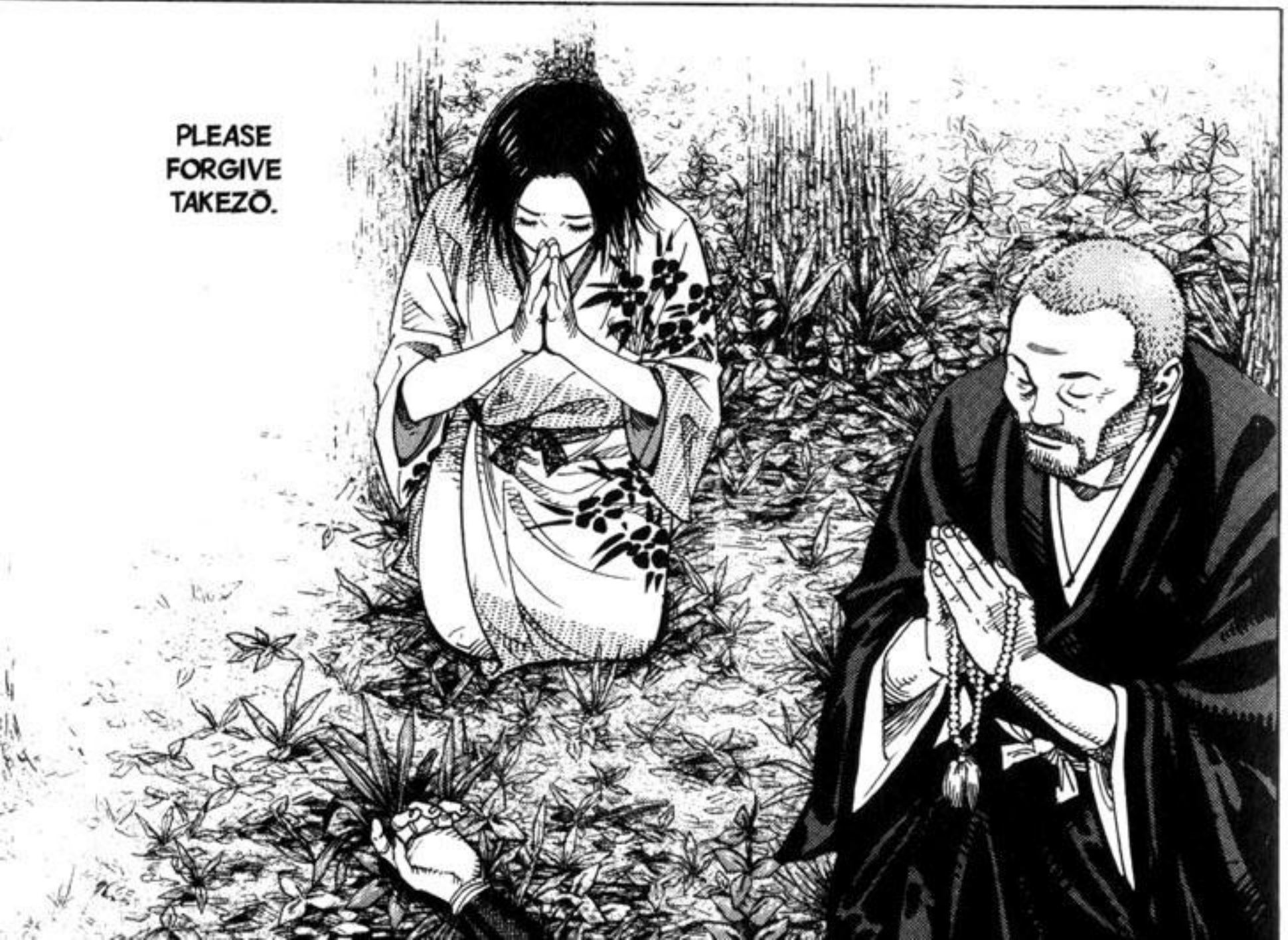


SWSH SWSH

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE COULD BE.

KYAAA!!









WILD GREENS FOR THE STEW!

EXCELLENT!



LOOK!



...



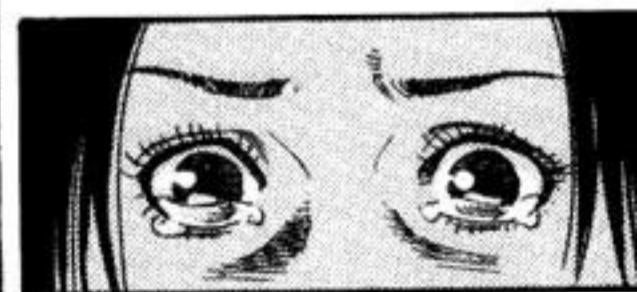
...?

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF





...BEFORE
YOU
GOT
MARRIED.

WELL,
IT IS
FORTUNATE
THAT THIS
HAPPENED
...



MATA-
HACHI'S
A
LIAR!!

SOB

I
SEE.



YEAH...

YOU
LOVED
MATAHACHI
?



WHAT
DID YOU
LIKE
ABOUT
HIM?



...



MUNCH
MUNCH



...



WELL,
YOU
SEE...



...TAKEZO
NEVER
GOT ALONG
WITH
ANYONE.

...EVEN
WHEN WE
WERE
LITTLE
KIDS...



?

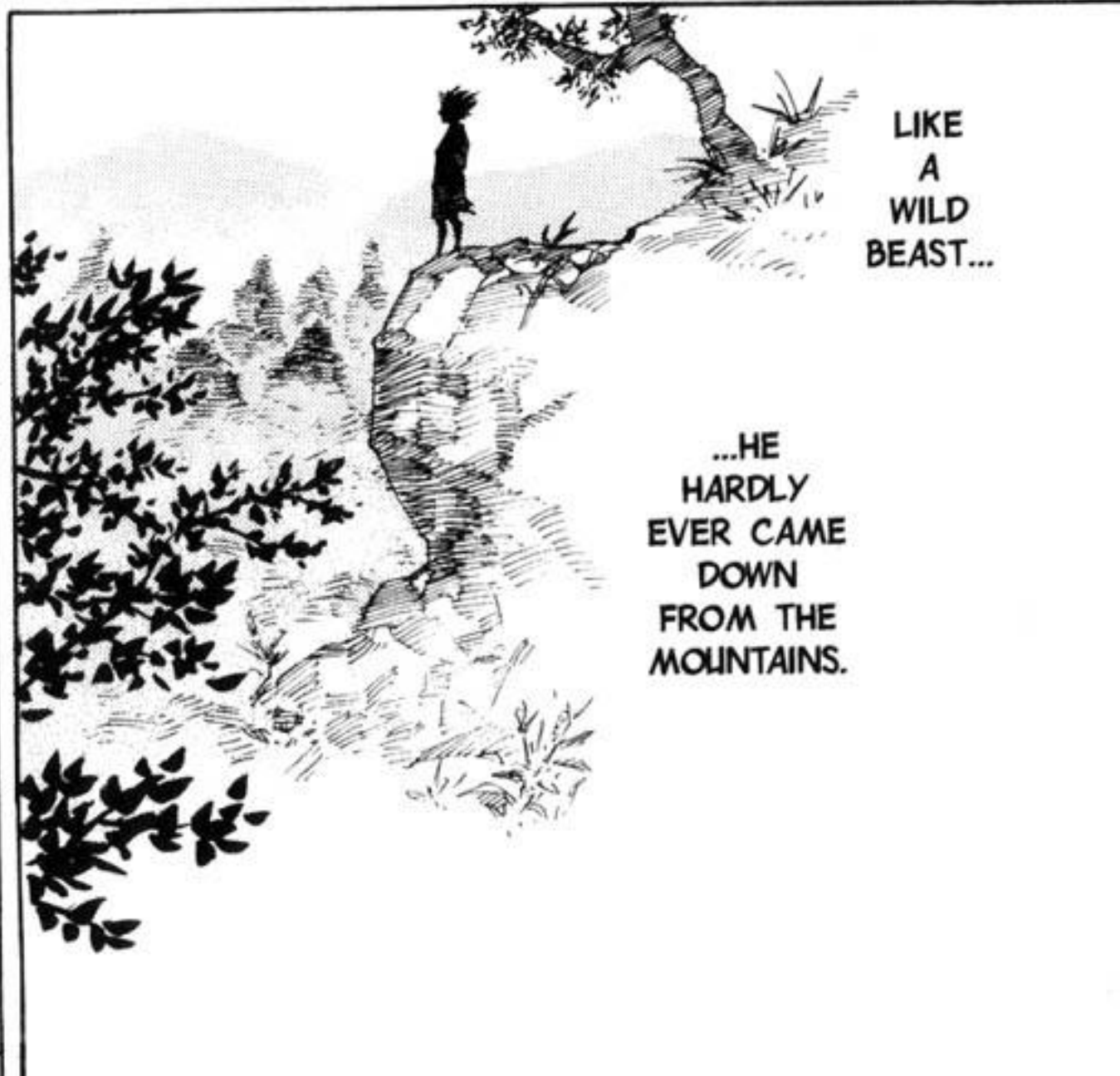


"ARIMA
KIHEI..."

WHEN
HE WAS
13...

"I AM
TRAVELLING
FAR AND WIDE
SEEKING OUT
WORTHY OP-
PONENTS."

"I
WISH TO
CHALLENGE
THE
STRONGEST
MAN IN THIS
VILLAGE."



LIKE
A
WILD
BEAST...

...HE
HARDLY
EVER CAME
DOWN
FROM THE
MOUNTAINS.



THAT'S FOR SURE

NOT ME

WHO'S THE STRONGEST ONE HERE?



!!



HM?



HEY KID...

...WHAT DO YOU WANT?



TA-

TAKEZO.

I'M
THE
STRONGEST.



...!?







EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT...

...PEOPLE STAYED AWAY FROM TAKEZO EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE.

PTU!



NO, MATAHACHI--

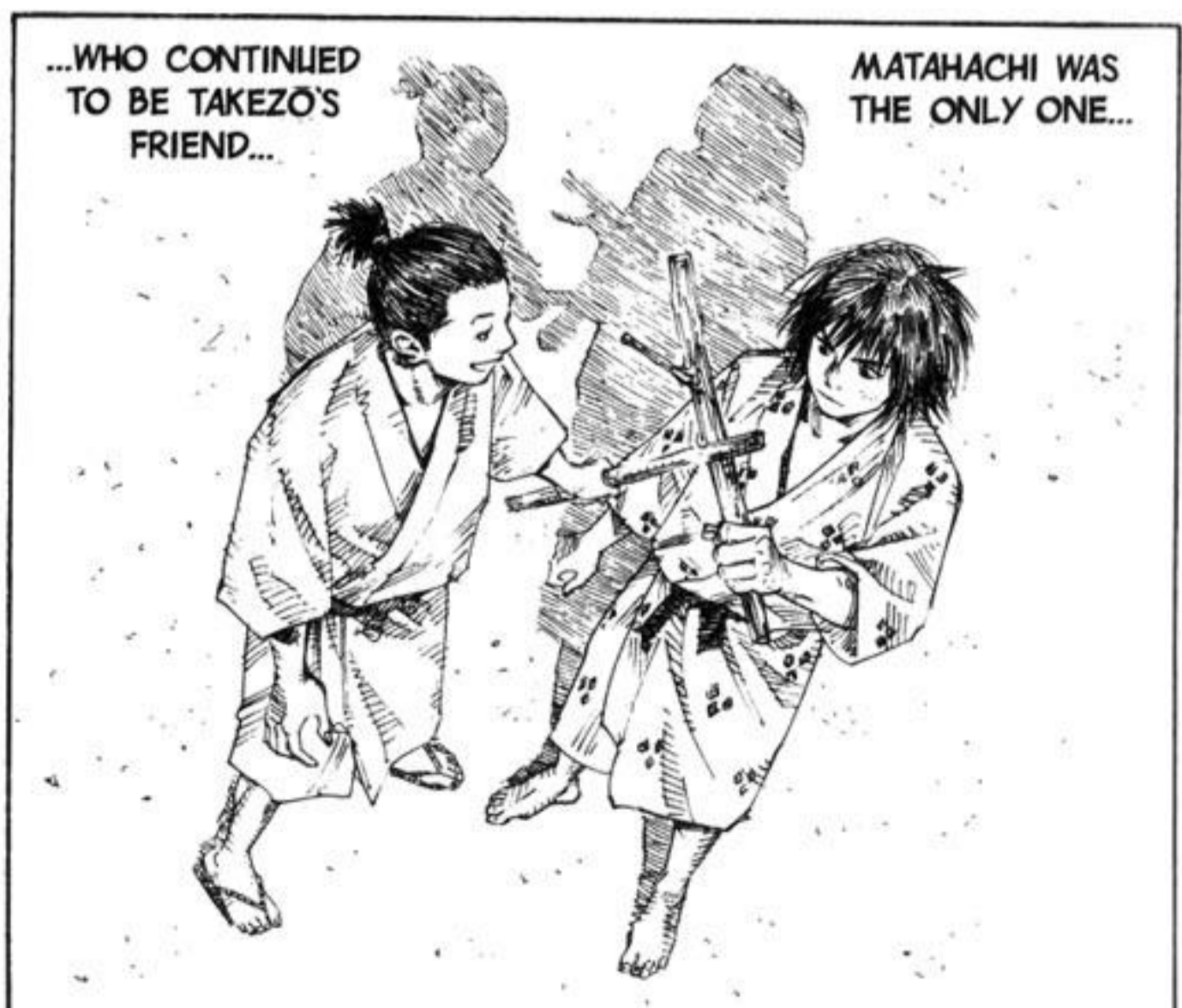


OF COURSE, THEY WERE TERRIFIED OF HIM.

BUT...



...



...WHO CONTINUED TO BE TAKEZO'S FRIEND...

MATAHACHI WAS THE ONLY ONE...



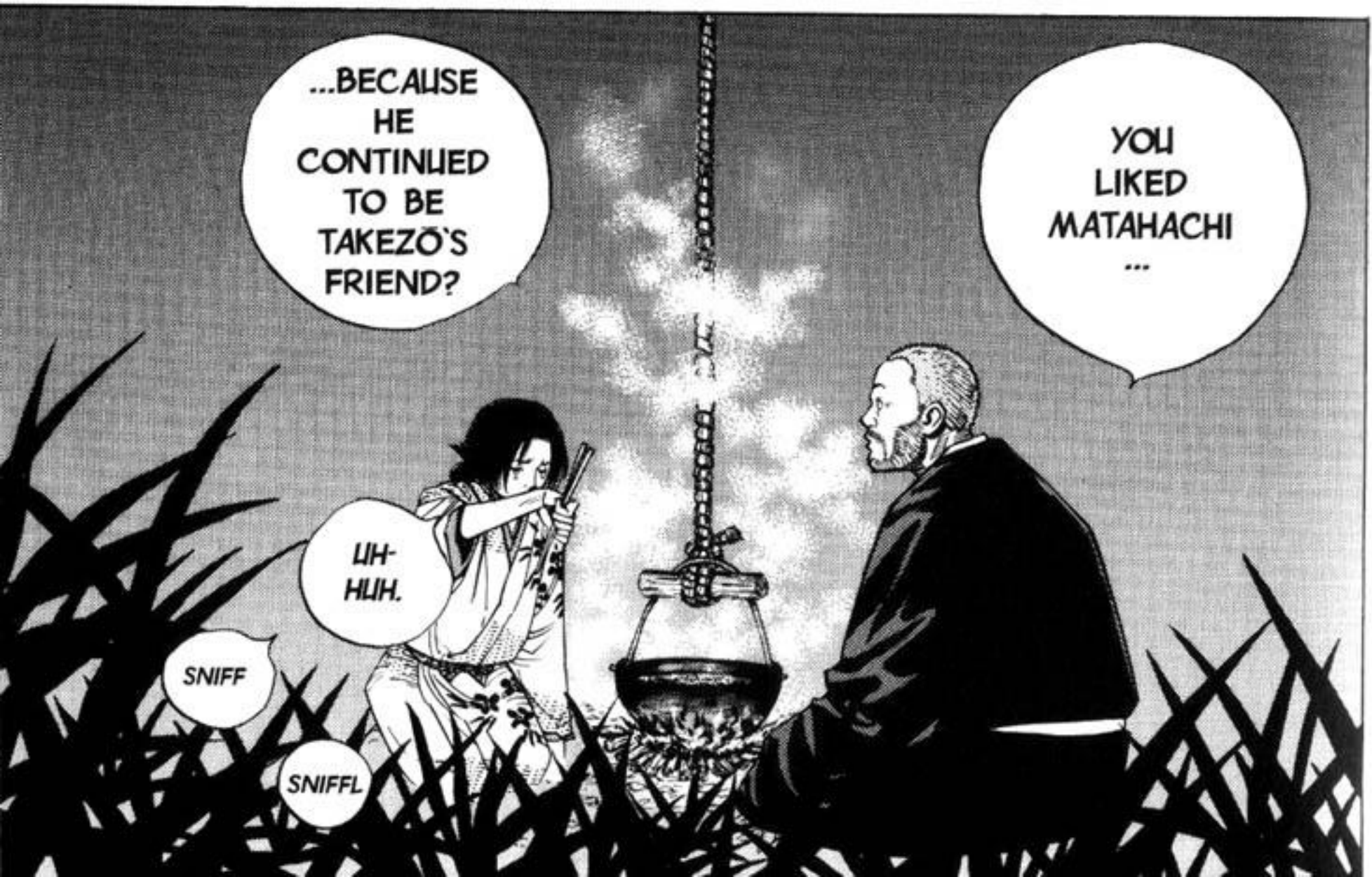


THIS
IS
VERY
PECULIAR.

OTSŪ...



HUH?



...BECAUSE
HE
CONTINUED
TO BE
TAKEZŌ'S
FRIEND?

YOU
LIKED
MATAHACHI
...

UH-
HUH.

SNIFF

SNIFFL



HMM...

PROOT



HA
HA
HA!

STOP
THAT!

I GUESS
IT'S ALL
THESE
BEANS IN
THE STEW.

MNCH

MNCH

PROOT



AHEM.



STOP
THAT!

I GUESS
IT'S ALL
THESE
BEANS IN
THE STEW.

MNCH

MNCH

PROOT

AHEM.



THERE'S
NOTHING TO
BE ASHAMED OF.
WE'RE WAY OUT
HERE IN THE
MOUNTAINS.

PROOT



NO
WAY!!

OTSU!
YOU SHOULD
HAVE SOME
MORE
STEW,
TOO!

COME
ON!



WE'RE
ONLY
HUMAN.

**HA
HA
HA
HA**





!!



ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TAKEZŌ?



HUH?

Vagabond





WHY
DON'T
YOU
COME
JOIN US?

#16 | **Captured**



TAKEZŌ,
YOU LOOK
COMPLETELY
WORN
OUT...

...OTS--

OTSŪ,
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

...

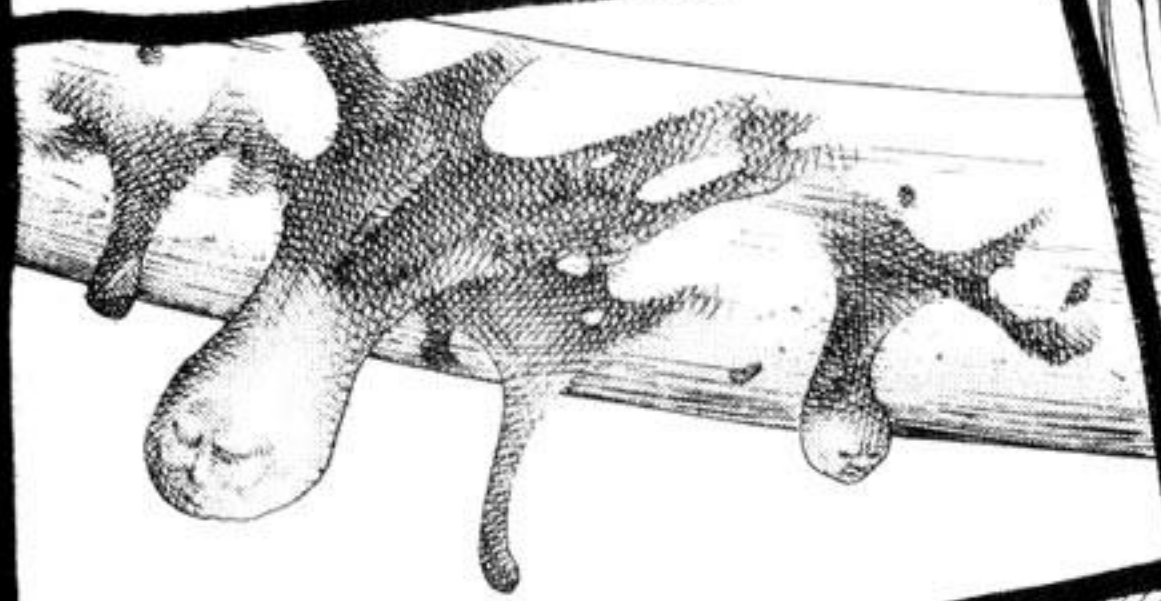
...

YOU
CAN'T
EVEN
SPEAK...

...

YOU
CAN
BARELY
STAND.





YOU
DEVIL!!



BEAST!!



DEMON!!



YOU'RE
EVIL!!



BASTARD!!



KILL HIM!!



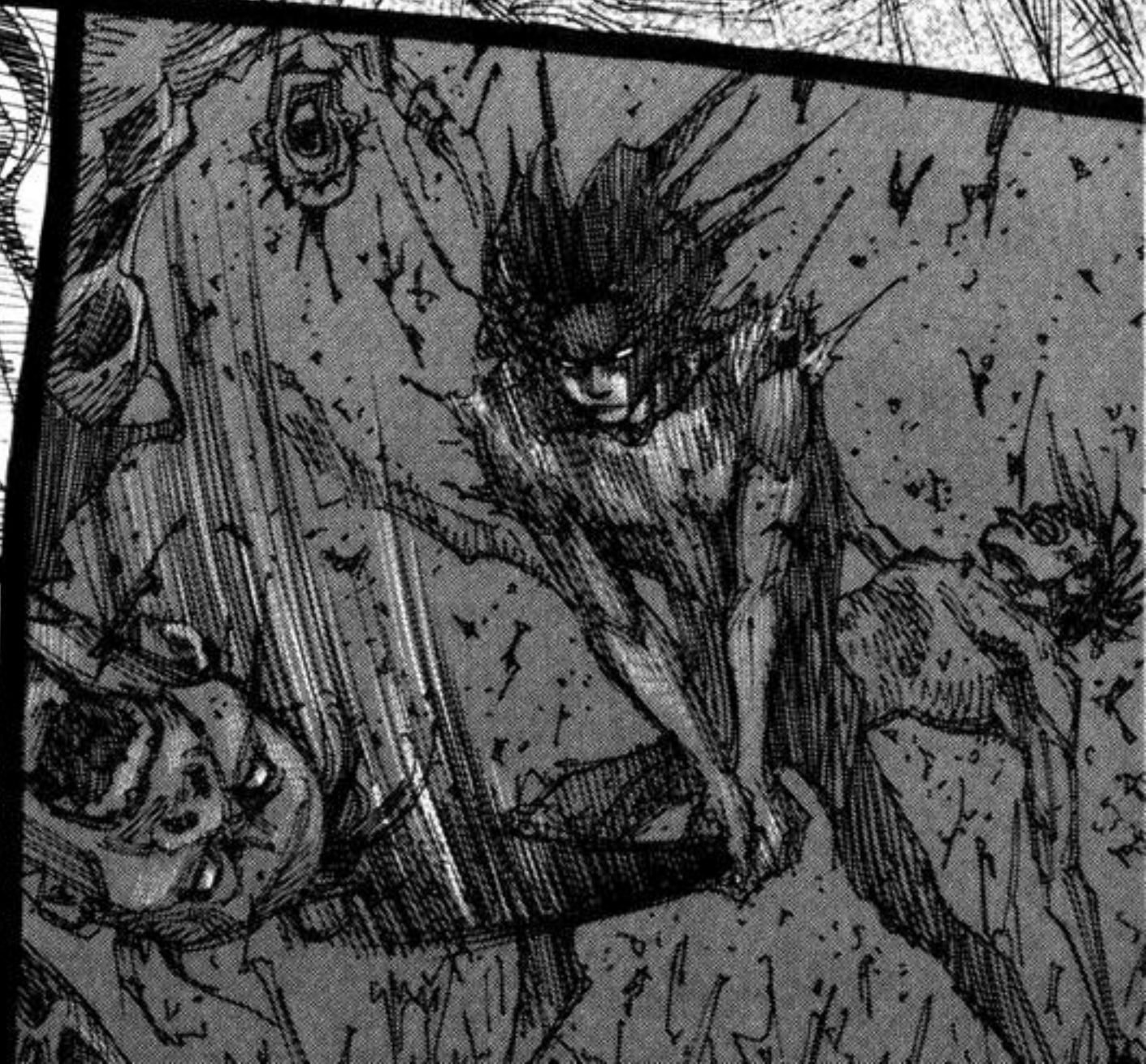
KILL HIM!!



CUT HIM DOWN!!



KILL HIM!!









TAKEZŌ.



WHO'S
OKO?



HUH?



WHAT'S
SHE
LIKE?













...OTSU
WAS THE
ONLY ONE WHO
COULD'VE CAP-
TURED TAKEZŌ
ALIVE.

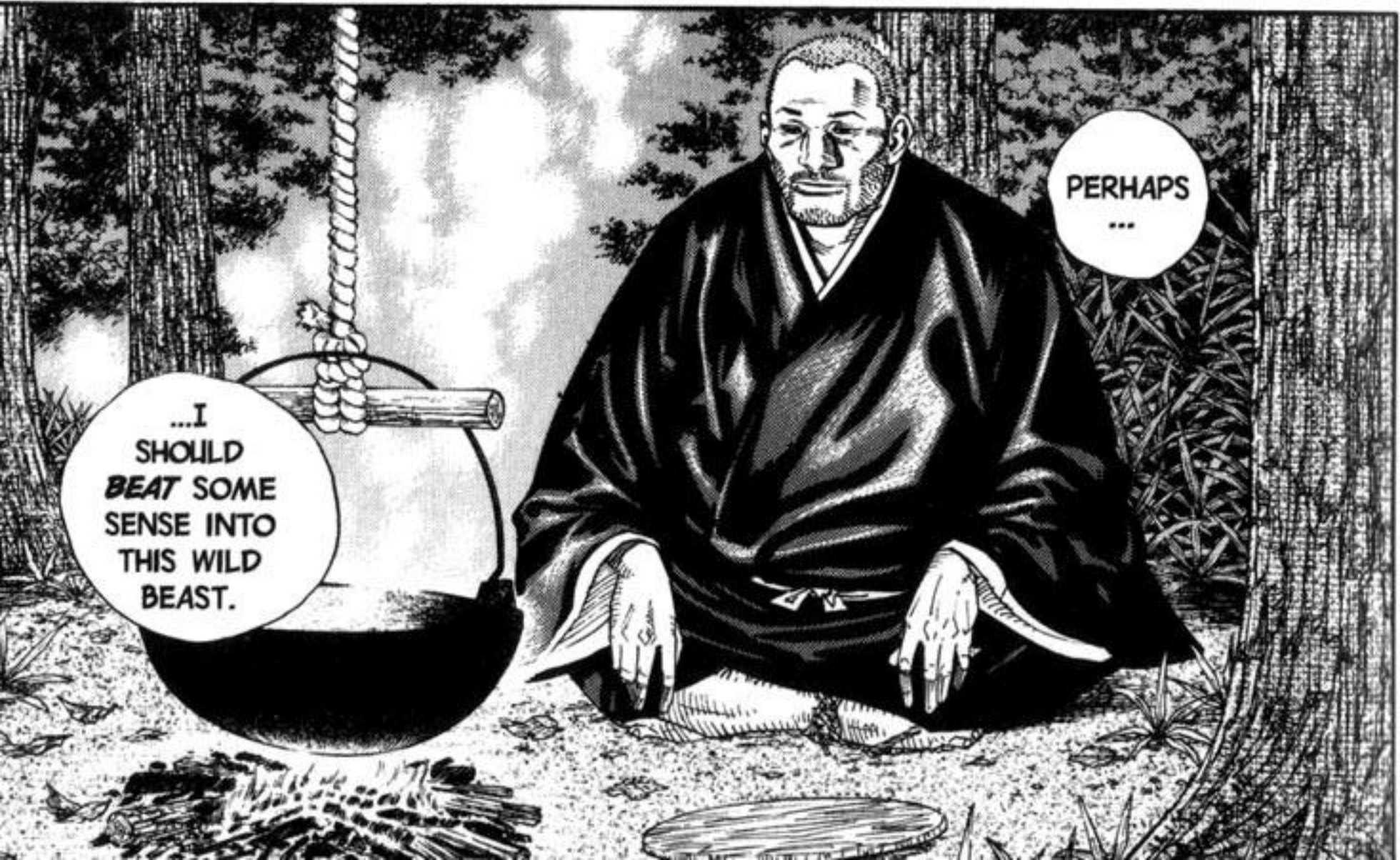
YES...



NOW WHAT
KIND OF
SERMON SHALL
I GIVE
TAKEZŌ...?

NO...

A
SERMON'S
THE *LAST*
THING TAKEZŌ
WOULD
LISTEN
TO.



PERHAPS
...

...I
SHOULD
BEAT SOME
SENSE INTO
THIS WILD
BEAST.



I
JUST
MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO DO
IT.



HE'S
STARVED
AND
EXHAUSTED
FROM
HIDING
OUT...



...IT LOOKS
AS IF I DON'T
HAVE TO DO
ANYTHING
AT ALL.



HOW-
EVER...



OTSU
IS THE
STRONGEST
ONE OF
US ALL.



OTSU
ISNT
SCARED
OF YOU
AT ALL...

...TAKEZŌ.



HE
PASSED
OUT...

OTSU,
YOU'VE
MANAGED
TO
CAPTURE
TAKEZŌ.



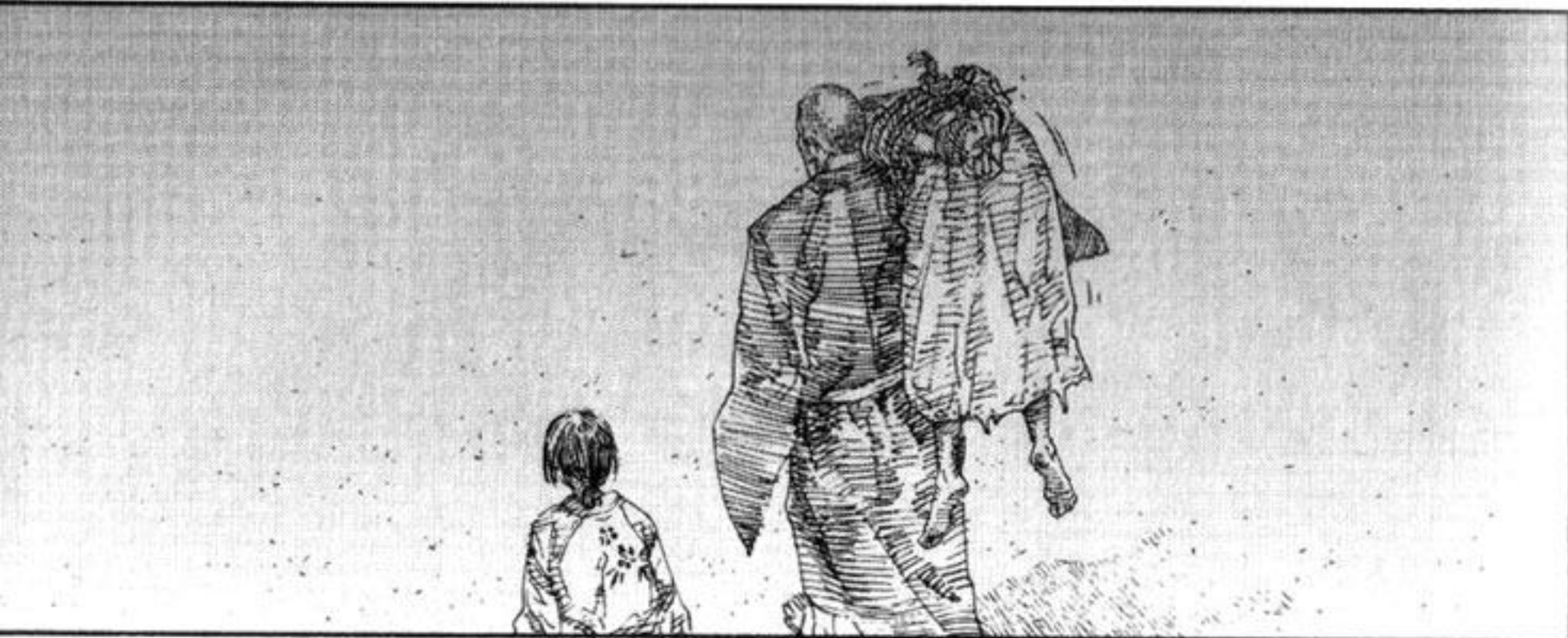
Vagabond



THWAK

PAIN...

THWAK



THE DEMON'S
BEEN
CAUGHT!!

HE'S BEEN
CAPTURED!!

IT'S
TAKEZO!!



PAIN.



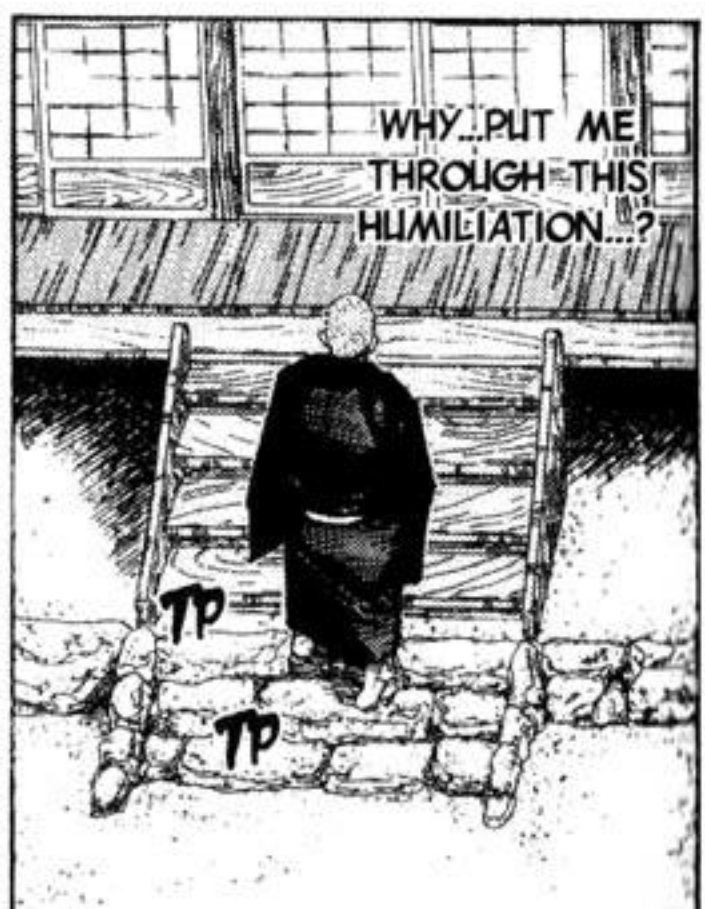


**#17 | Invincible
Under the Sun**



YOU
DAMN
MONK.

WHY
DONT
YOU
KILL
ME...?





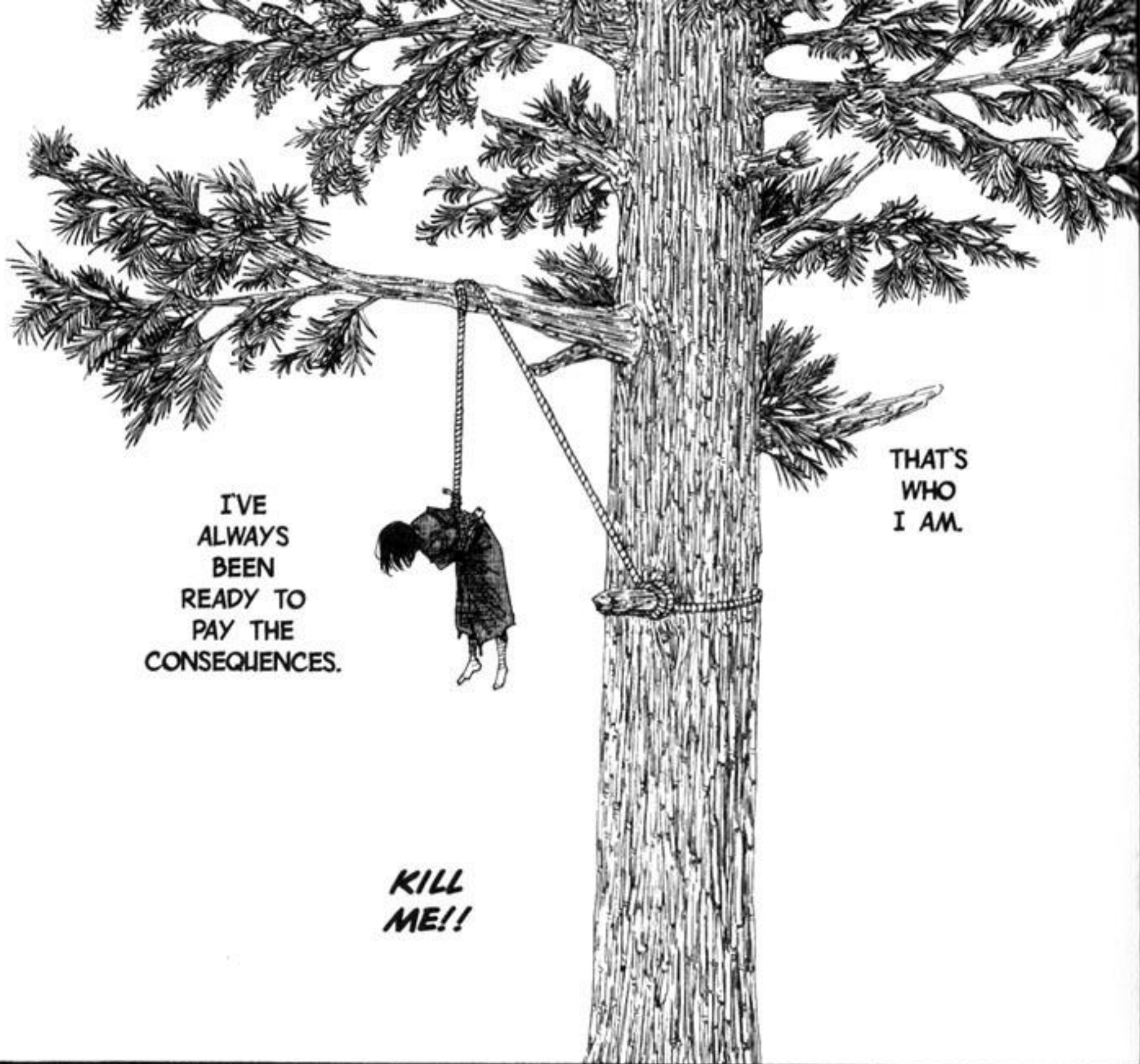
KAWW



**KILL OR
BE KILLED...**



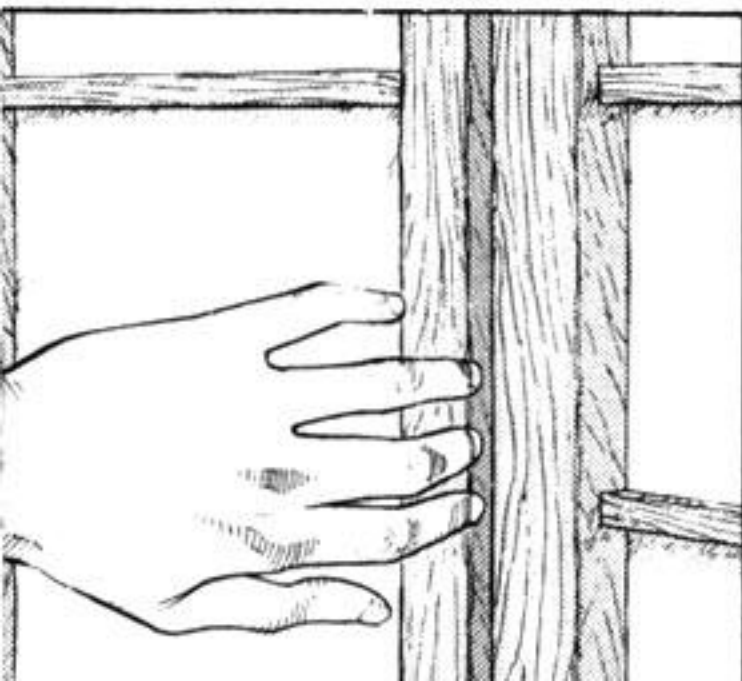
**CUT PEOPLE
DOWN AND DIE
IN MORTAL
COMBAT...**



I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
READY TO
PAY THE
CONSEQUENCES.

THAT'S
WHO
I AM.

**KILL
ME!!**



FSSHHHHHH



GASP

I
TOLD
YOU NOT
TO GO
OUT.



IF
YOU SEE
TAKEZŌ UP
IN THAT
TREE...

...WON'T
YOU BE
TEMPTED TO
CUT HIM
LOOSE?



BUT!

IT'S
POURING
OUTSIDE!!



OTSŪ...



THAT'S
WHY YOU
CAN'T GO
OUT.

UH-HUH.



I
FEEL
LIKE I
TRICKED
HIM.



OH,
TAKEZŌ...



TAKEZO
DOESN'T
FEEL
THAT
WAY.



FSSSHH







**FREEZ-
ING
COLD.**

**HEE
HEE**

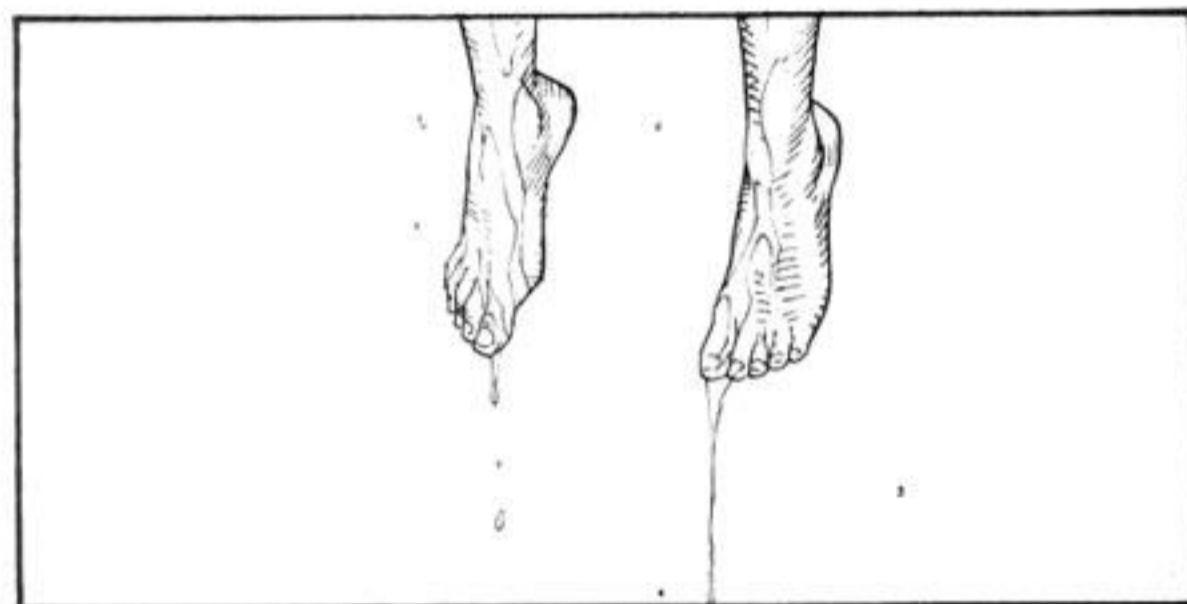
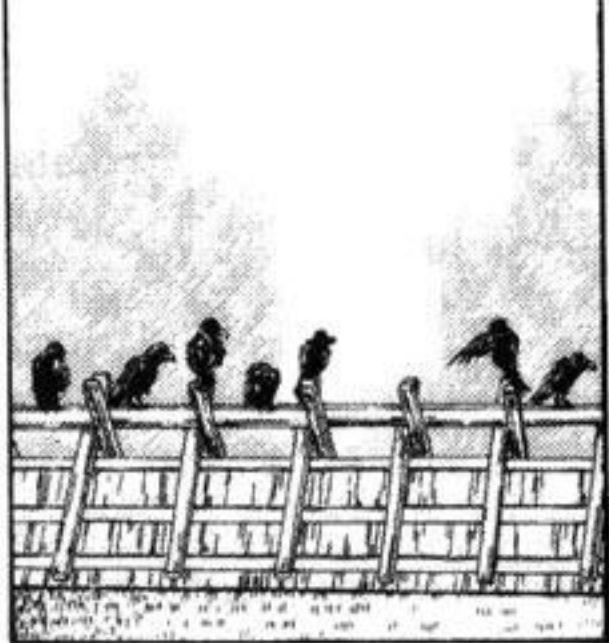
**AH, IT
MAY BE
SPRING, BUT
IT'S SO
COLD.**



**AND
RELISH
IN YOUR
SUFFER-
ING!**

FSSSHHH







DAMN
MONK...

...YOU
GET
OUT
HERE...



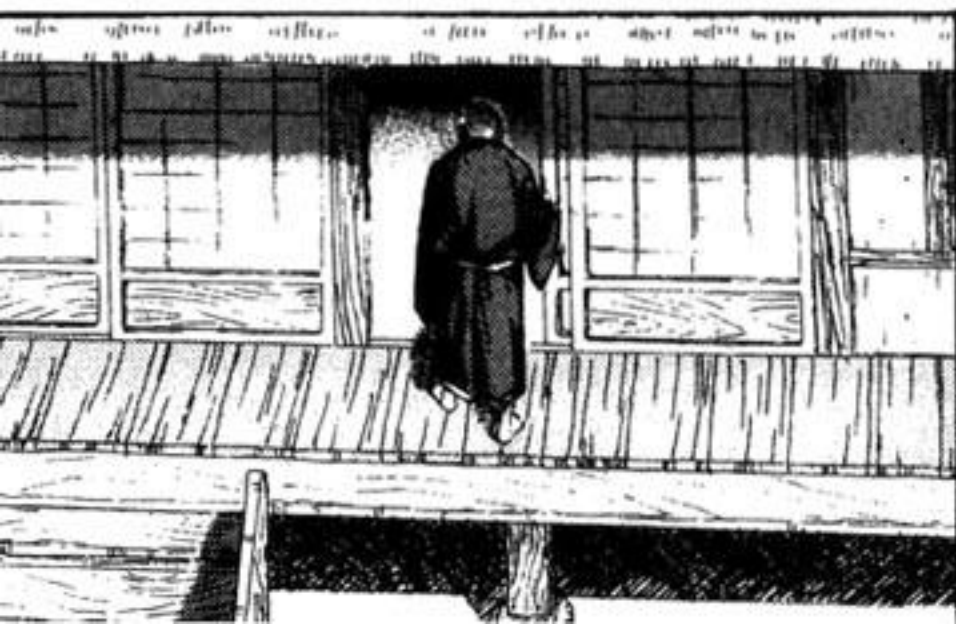
I
THOUGHT
YOU
WOULD'VE
BEEN DEAD
BY NOW.

TOK

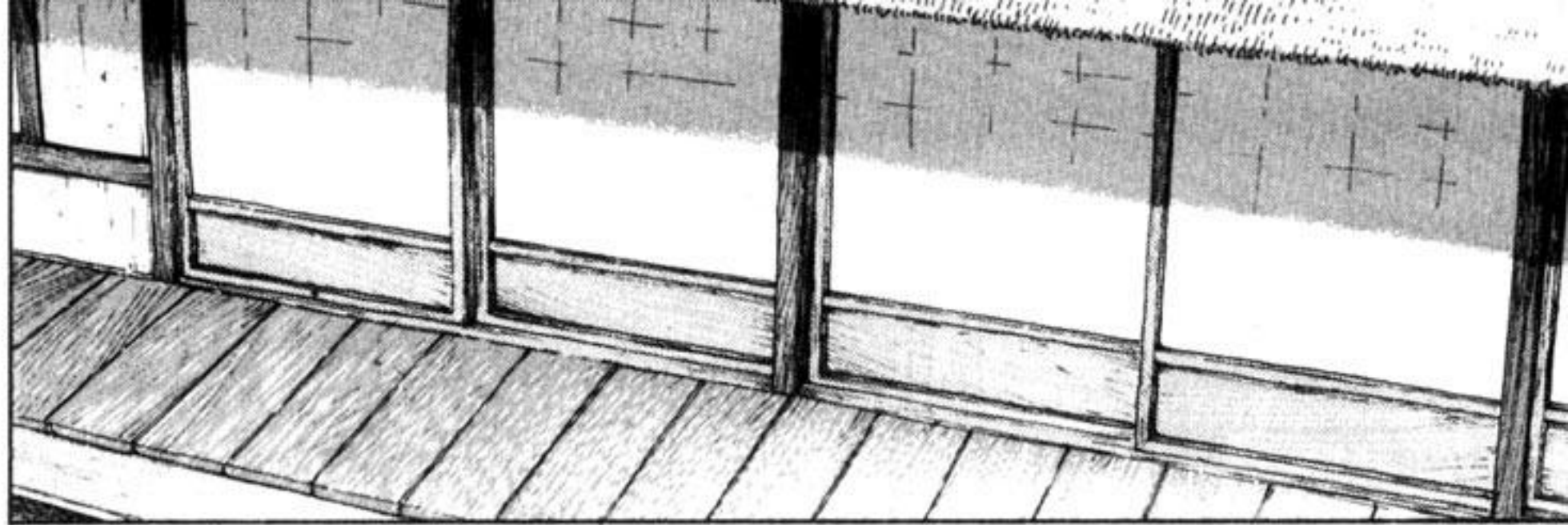
YOU
STUBBORN
BASTARD!!



...AND
FINISH
ME
OFF.



...



HOW DID
I END
UP LIKE
THIS...?



IT'S
NOT
TRUE.

I NEVER
LOST TO
ANYONE.

YOU
ARE THE
WEAKEST
PERSON
IN THIS
VILLAGE.



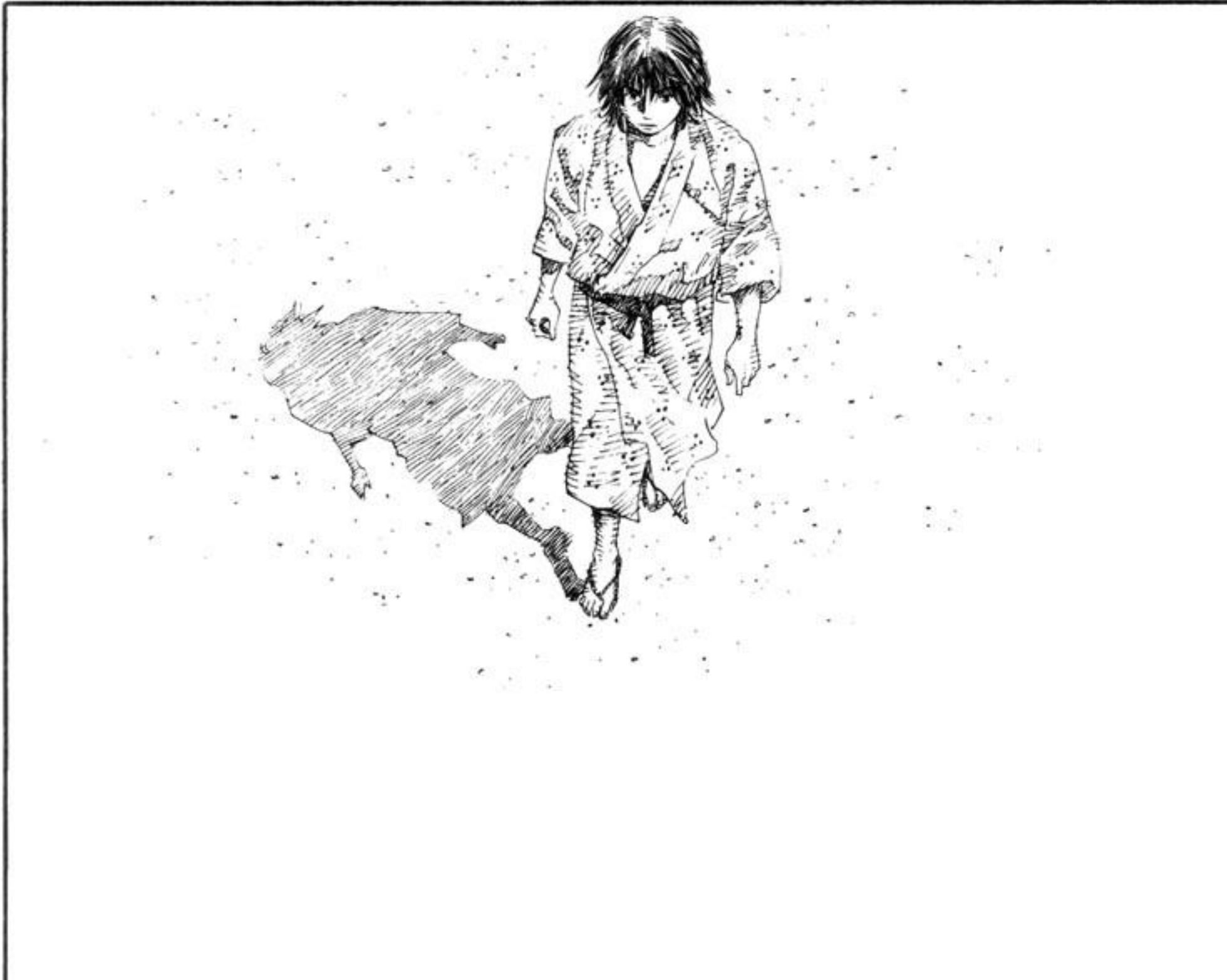
I JUST...

I JUST
WANTED TO
BECOME
STRONGER.



SHE'S NO
LONGER
YOUR
MOTHER.







I JUST
WANTED TO...
SEE HER...

...AND
SHOW
HER...



...HOW
MUCH
I'D
GROWN.

TAKEZŌ...!



...TO
YOUR
FATHER.

YOU
MUST GO
HOME...



I WANT
TO BE
STRONG
SO THAT...



I *HAVE*
TO BECOME
STRONGER...



...I WON'T
HAVE TO
DEPEND ON
ANYBODY.



...I'LL
BECOME
STRONGER...

YES...



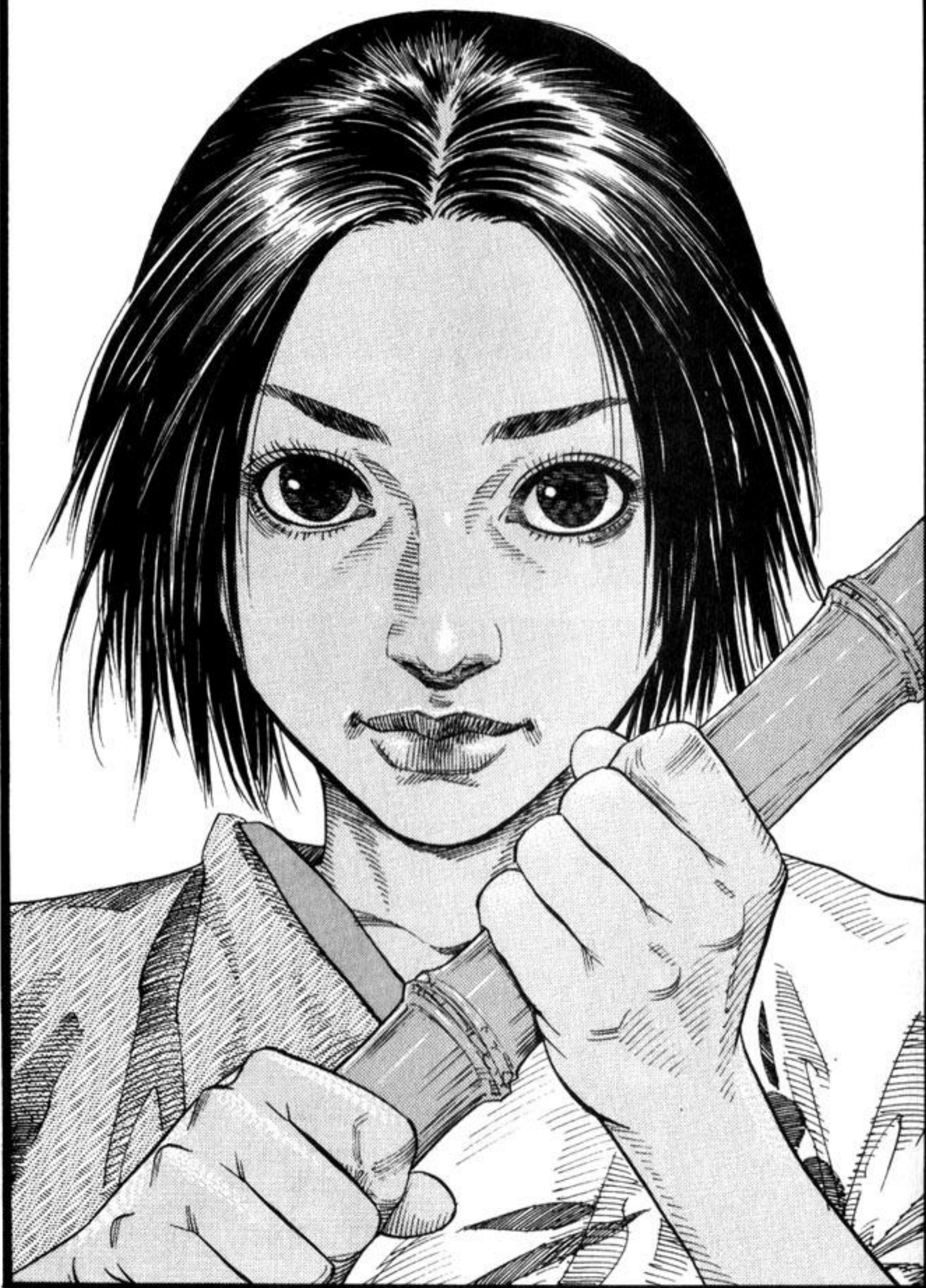
INVINCIBLE
UNDER
THE SUN.

I'M
GOING
TO
BECOME...





#18 | Tree of Shame





LOOK
WHAT I
MANAGED
TO SNEAK
OUT...
RICE!



HERE...

THERE
YOU
GO...

...TAKEZO.



EASY
NOW...

OKAY
...



...

OTSU...

DON'T BOTHER WITH ME.



D--

DON'T--



TAKUAN'S FORBIDDEN ME...

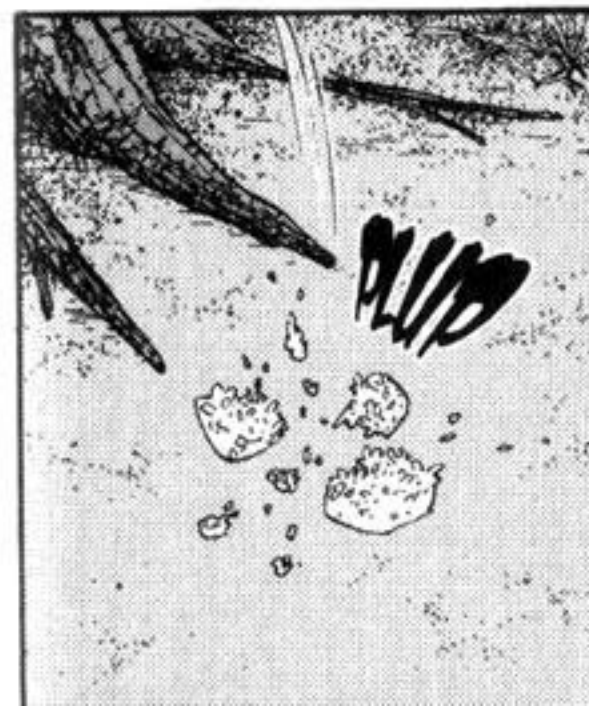
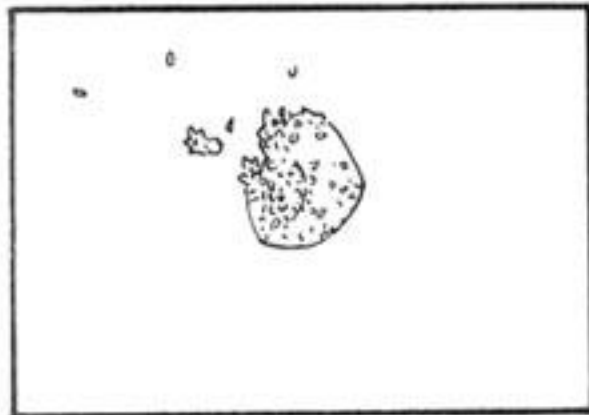
...TO CUT YOU LOOSE.



IF YOU DON'T EAT...

...YOU'LL DIE.

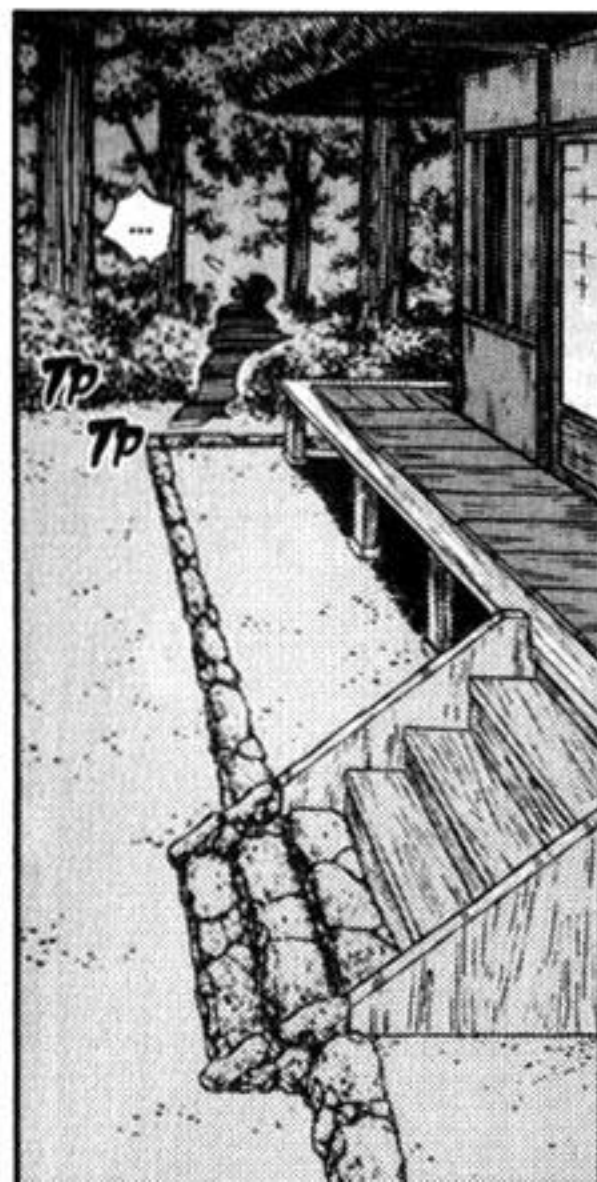
FWUP



WHAK

AHH!?

!





HURRY
UP...

...AND
KILL
ME!!



KRICH



KRICH

KRICH



...



KILL
ME...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF



ZHOOP





OTSU!
WHAT
ARE
YOU
SAYING!?



COME STAY
WITH ME
AS MY
DAUGHTER-
IN-LAW!!

I'M TELLING
YOU, IT'S TIME
YOU LEAVE THE
TEMPLE AND
COME LIVE WITH
THE HONIDEN
FAMILY.

DON'T
YOU SEE
I'M DOING
YOU A
FAVOR!?



HOW
DARE
YOU
REFUSE!?



AND NOW YOU
ARE BEING
OFFERED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
BECOME A
MEMBER OF THE
HONIDEN
FAMILY!!

I LOOKED
AFTER YOU OUT
OF THE GOODNESS
OF MY HEART
BECAUSE YOU
WERE AN
ABANDONED
CHILD.



OTSU.



MATA-
HACHI'S
NOT
AROUND.

DAUGHTER-IN-
LAW!? WHO'S
SHE SUPPOSED
TO GET MAR-
RIED TO?

YOU
SHUT UP!!
MATAHACHI
WILL
RETURN!!



ALLOW
ME TO
REPEAT
MYSELF.



YOU
MUST
JOIN
THE
HON'IDEN
FAMILY.





I
REFUSE
YOUR
OFFER.

!!



YOU'VE
MADE ME
FEEL SO
HAPPY.

I
WILL
NEVER
EVER
FORGET
YOUR
GENEROSITY...



WHAT
...?

...



BUT
NOW
I
CANT.



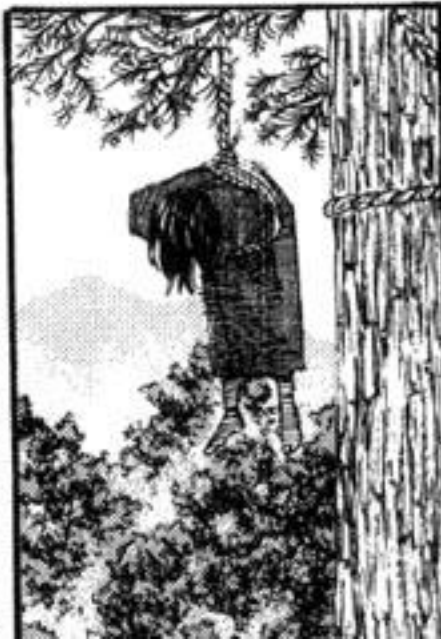
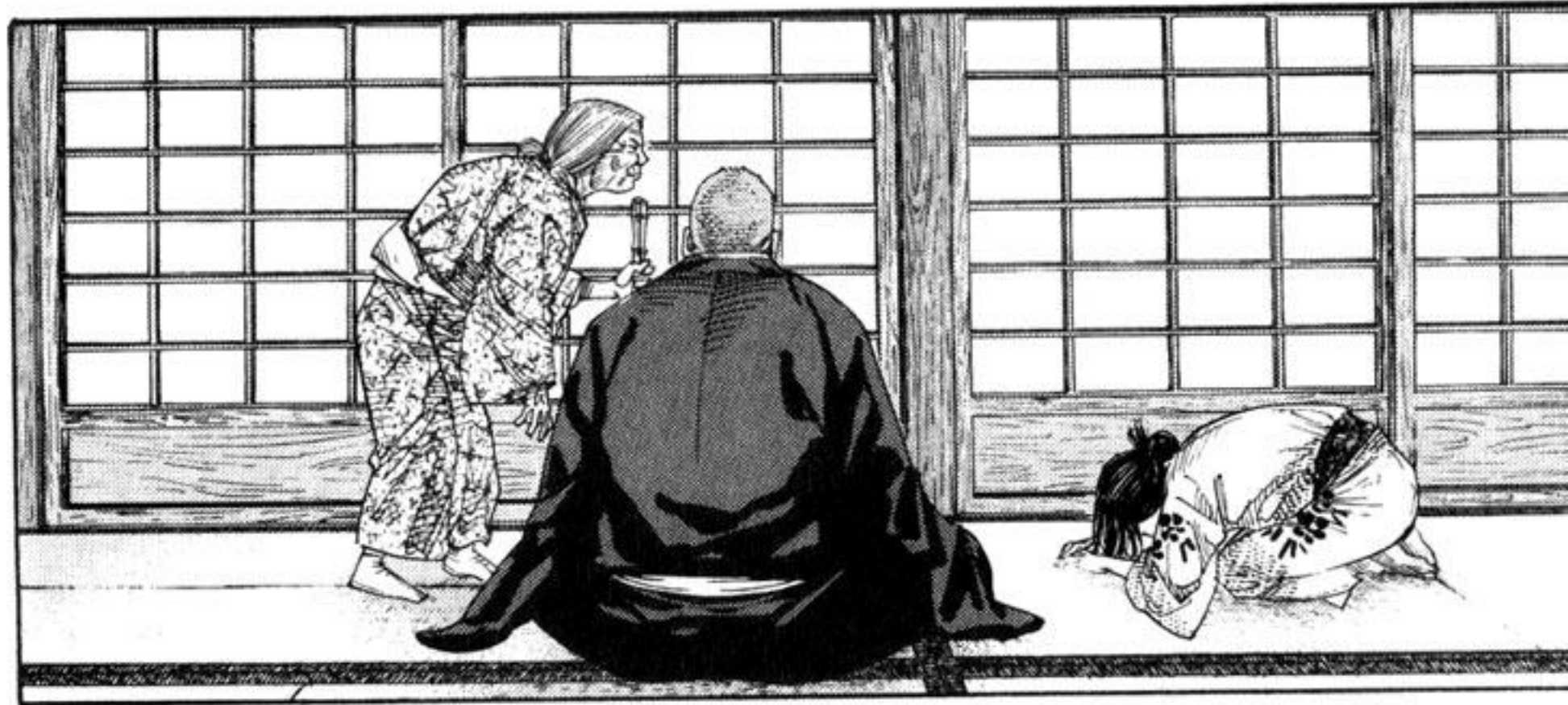
I
REALLY
DID WANT
TO BECOME
PART OF THE
HON'IDEN
FAMILY.

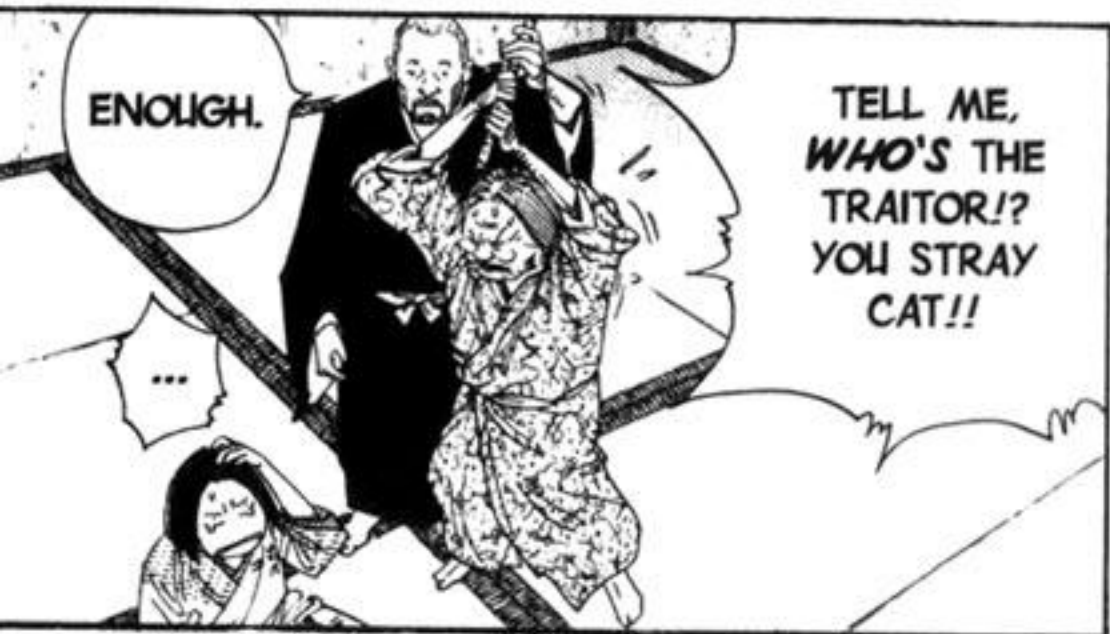


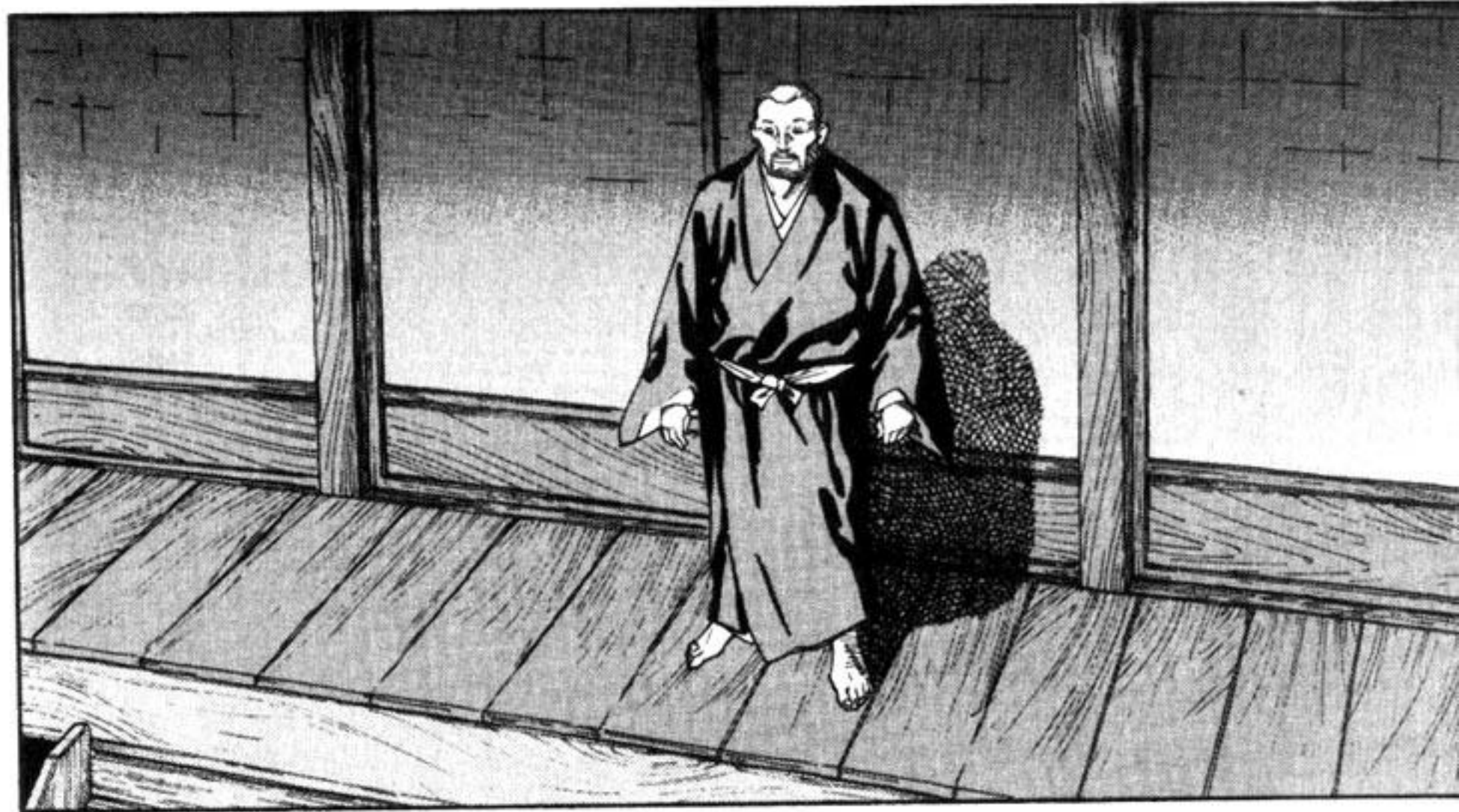
I
HATE
MATAHACHI.

HE
BETRAYED
ME.











HMM?



AH...

UR...



**KILL
ME!!!**

**KILL
ME, YOU
BASTARD
MONK!!
KILL ME!!**





SO
WHY DON'T
YOU TAKE
A GOOD
LOOK AT
YOURSELF?



YOU DAMN
MONK.

ZHOOP

WHAT IS THERE
BESIDES
DARKNESS?

...NOTHING.



...



SHHH.



WE'LL
GET IT
RIGHT
THIS
TIME...



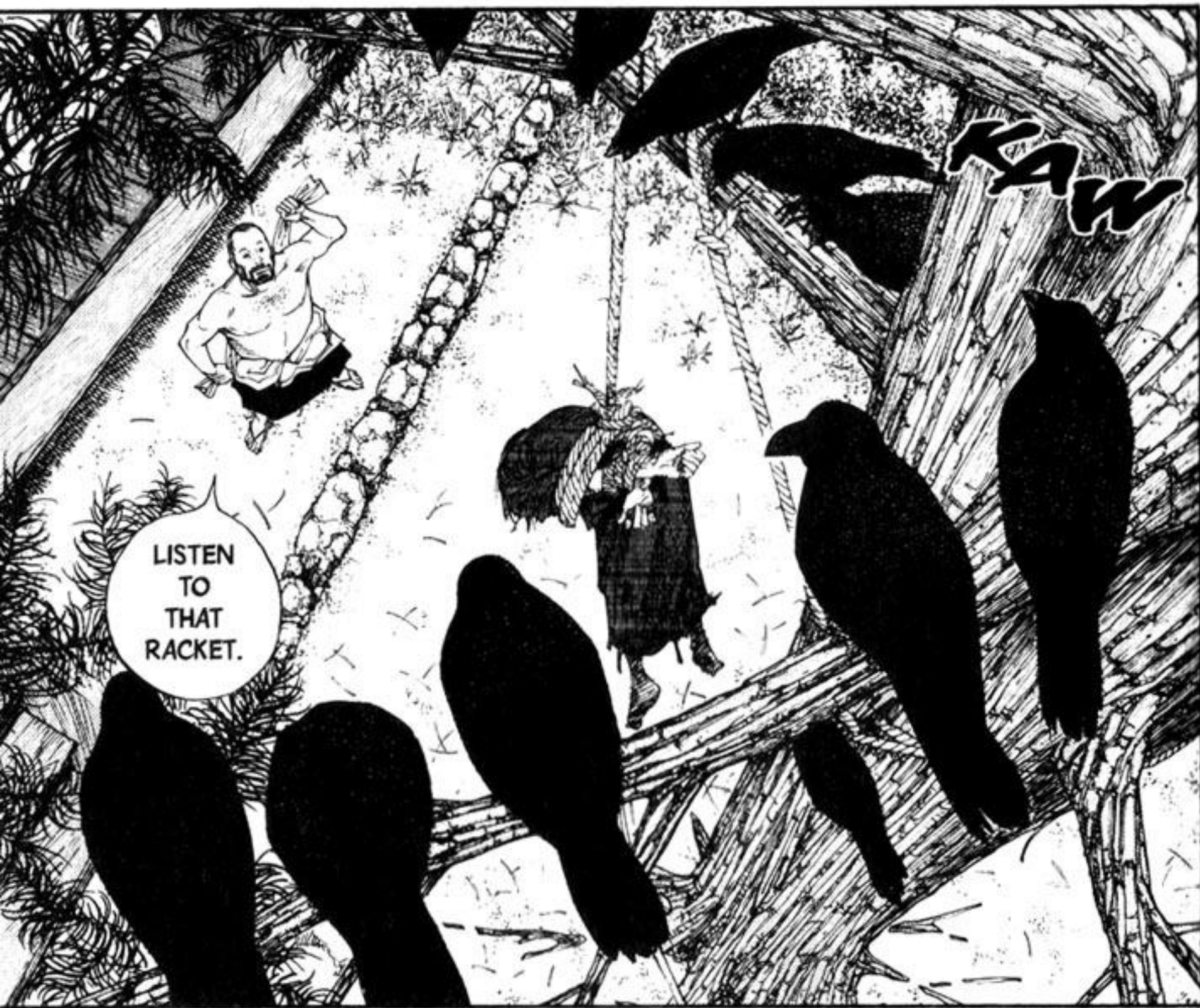


Vagabond

(TOMORROW)

Artist







**#19 The Demon's
Child**



HMPH!

KAW

KAW

SO YOU WANT TO DIE HONORABLY?

A WARRIOR'S DEATH?

YOU'RE BEING SELFISH.



WHETHER THAT LIFE WAS BLESSED OR NOT...

EVERYONE IS BORN INTO THIS WORLD... THEY GROW UP...

EACH AND EVERY PERSON YOU KILLED HAD HIS OWN LIFE.



...SOME
ARE
ALONE
IN THIS
WORLD.



...SOME
PEOPLE
HAVE
FAMILIES...



SOME
HAVE
PETS.

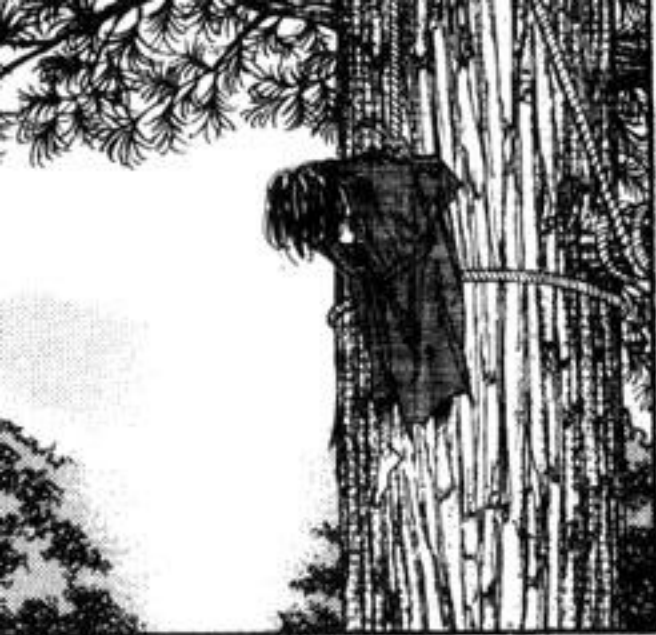
SOME
ARE
ENGAGED.

SOME
HAVE
YOUNG
CHILDREN.



SOME
PEOPLE
HAVE HIGH
HOPES AND
GREAT
DREAMS.





IN-
VINCIBLE
UNDER
THE
SUN...

YOU
ENDED
EVERYTHING
FOR THEM,
TAKEZŌ.

YOU
KILLED
THEM.





WHAT
GIVES YOU
THE PRIVILEGE
TO DIE
WHEN AND
HOW YOU
CHOOSE?

AN
HONORABLE
DEATH...?



FWICH

WHO
DO YOU
THINK YOU
ARE...

...TAKEZO?

FWICH



LINGH



AHH!!

NNGH!!

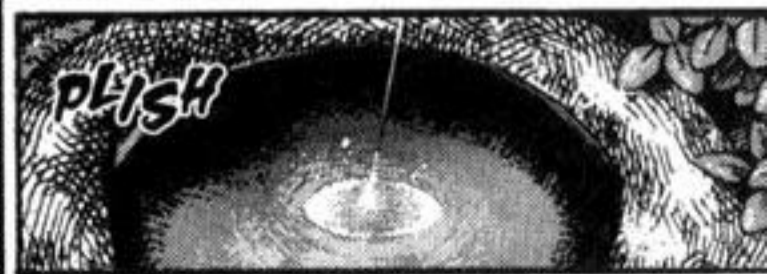
AND
NOW
YOU WANT
TO DIE
HONORABLY?

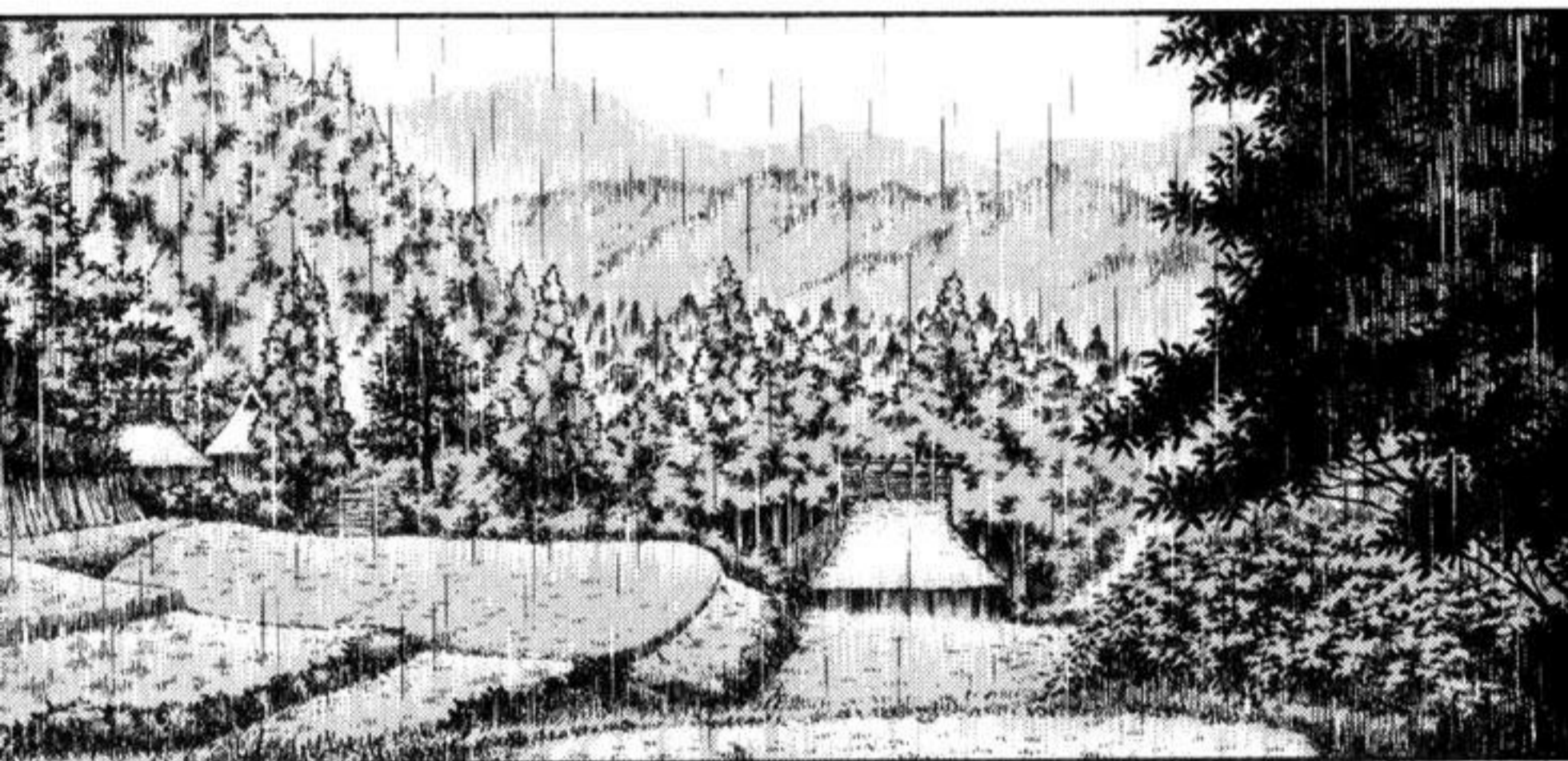
YOU
TAKE AWAY
THE LIVES OF
OTHERS FOR
THE SAKE OF
YOUR OWN
SURVIVAL....

YOU'RE
JUST
BEING
SELFISH!

ARGH!







I-NVIN...CI...BLE...





TO HAVE
NO EQUAL
AMONG
MEN!

TO BE THE
STRONGEST...

...THROUGHOUT
THE LANDS.

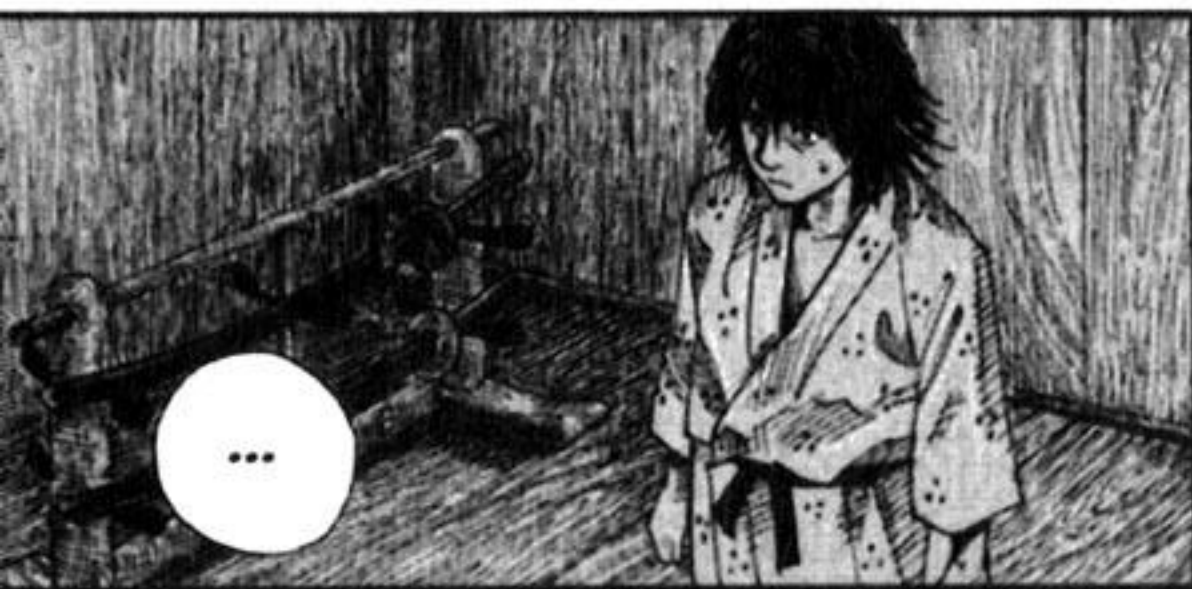
I
SEE...



...



YOU TOO, HUH?



...



WELL, PICK UP THAT SWORD THEN.



YOU WON'T TAKE IT?



SO
YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
CUT ME
DOWN?



ONLY
ONE
MAN
CAN BE
INVINCIBLE
UNDER
THE
SUN.



!?



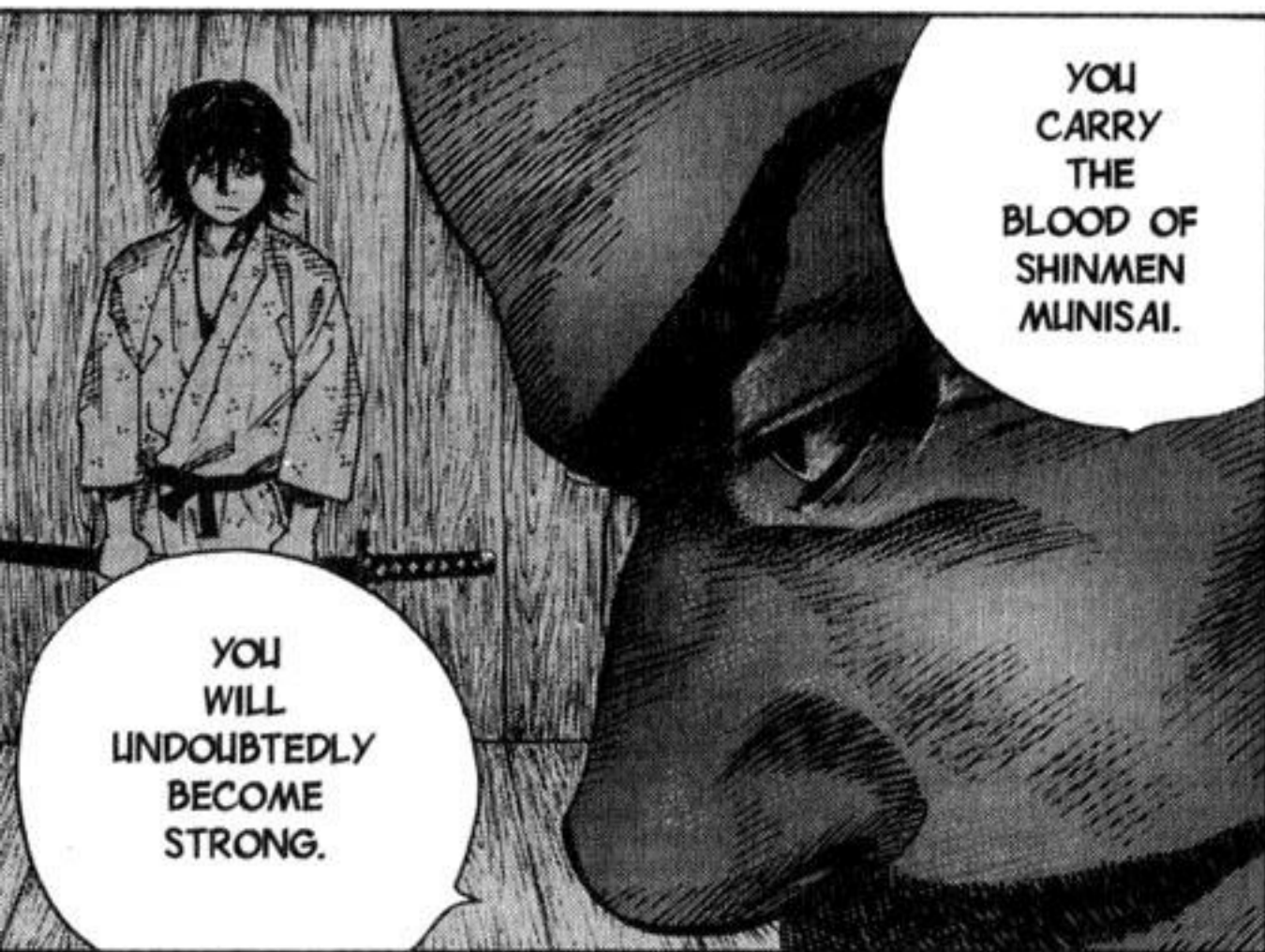
I
DIDN'T
SAY
THAT.



DOESN'T
MATTER.



DRAW.

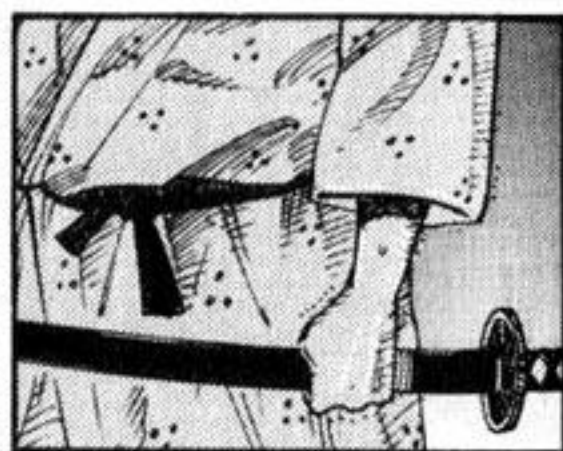


YOU
CARRY
THE
BLOOD OF
SHINMEN
MUNISAI.

YOU
WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY
BECOME
STRONG.



...

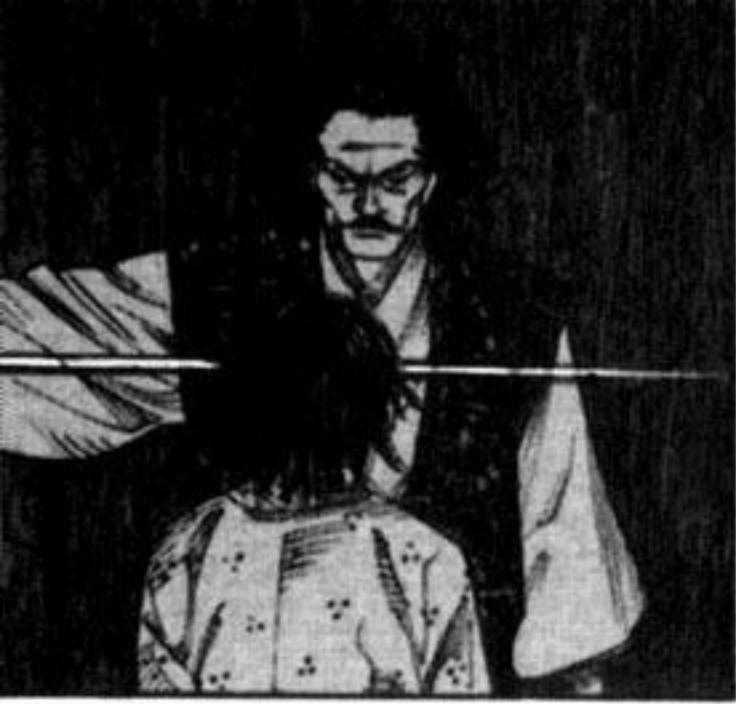


AND
EVENTUALLY
BECOME
A THREAT
TO ME.





SHALL
I
JUST
KILL
YOU
NOW...?

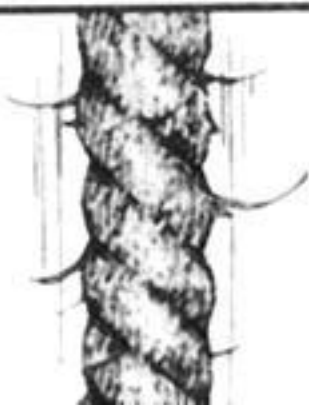




HMPH...

YOU
DIDN'T
EVEN
FLINCH.

NO
WONDER
YOU'RE
CALLED
"DEMON
CHILD."









HOW
CAN
YOU
STILL
BE
ALIVE...

...TAKEZŌ?



...HANGING
FROM
THIS
TREE
OF
SHAME.

T-TSUJIKAZE...

KOHEI...



Vagabond



8.124
A1811
78116

(THICK AND
STRONG FORM.



DRENCHED
BY
RAIN.

SCORCHED
BY
THE
SUN.

PISS
DRIED
UP ON
YOUR
LEGS...



BUT YOU
JUST GROW
DIRTIER
AND MORE
MISERABLE
BY THE
DAY.



AND
YOU'RE
STILL
ALIVE...

STUBBORNLY
YOU HANG
ON--AS IF YOU
HAVE SOME
HIGHER
PURPOSE...



IF
HEAVEN
AND
HELL...

...REALLY
DO
EXIST...

#20 | Death

IF
WE'RE BOTH
ULTIMATELY
HEADED FOR
THE SAME
DARK
PLACE...

TUMP

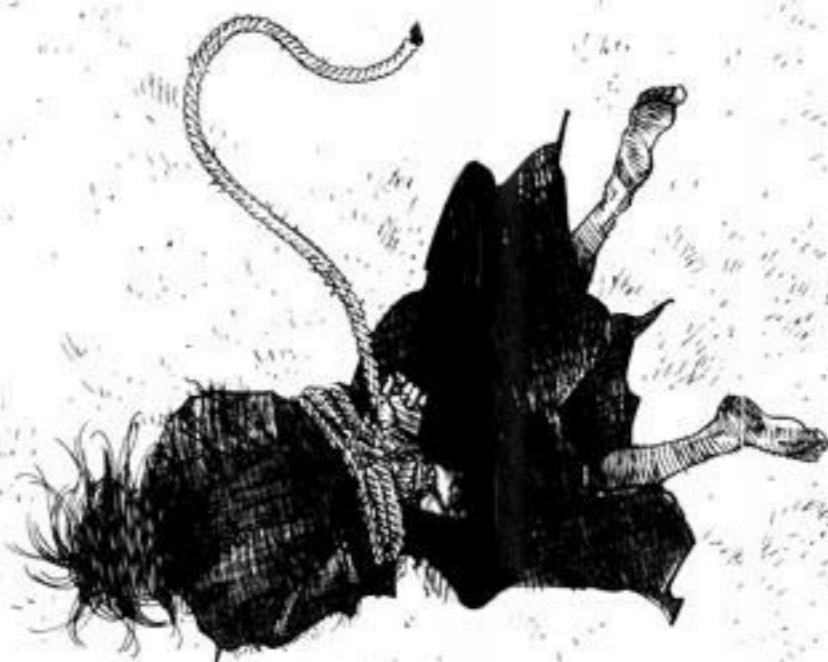


...THEN
A
MURDERER
LIKE
ME...

...IS
CURSED.

I'M
DESTINED
TO
GO TO
HELL...

...THEN
I'LL SEND
YOU OFF
WITH A
GLORIOUS
CRIMSON
DEATH...

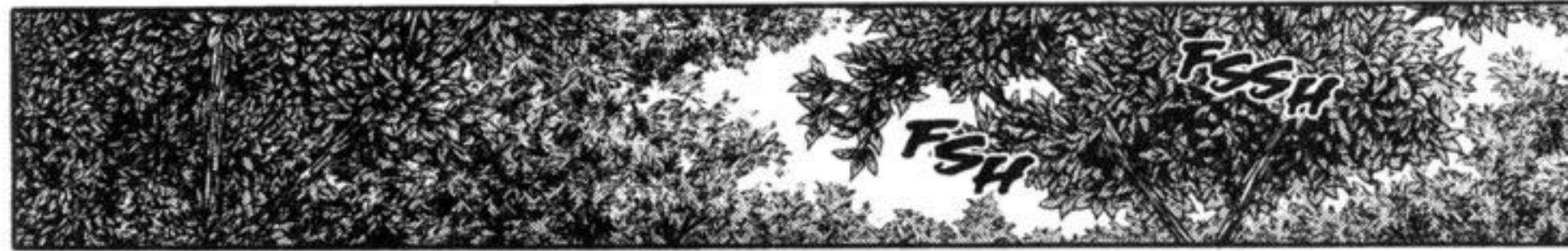


SLISH







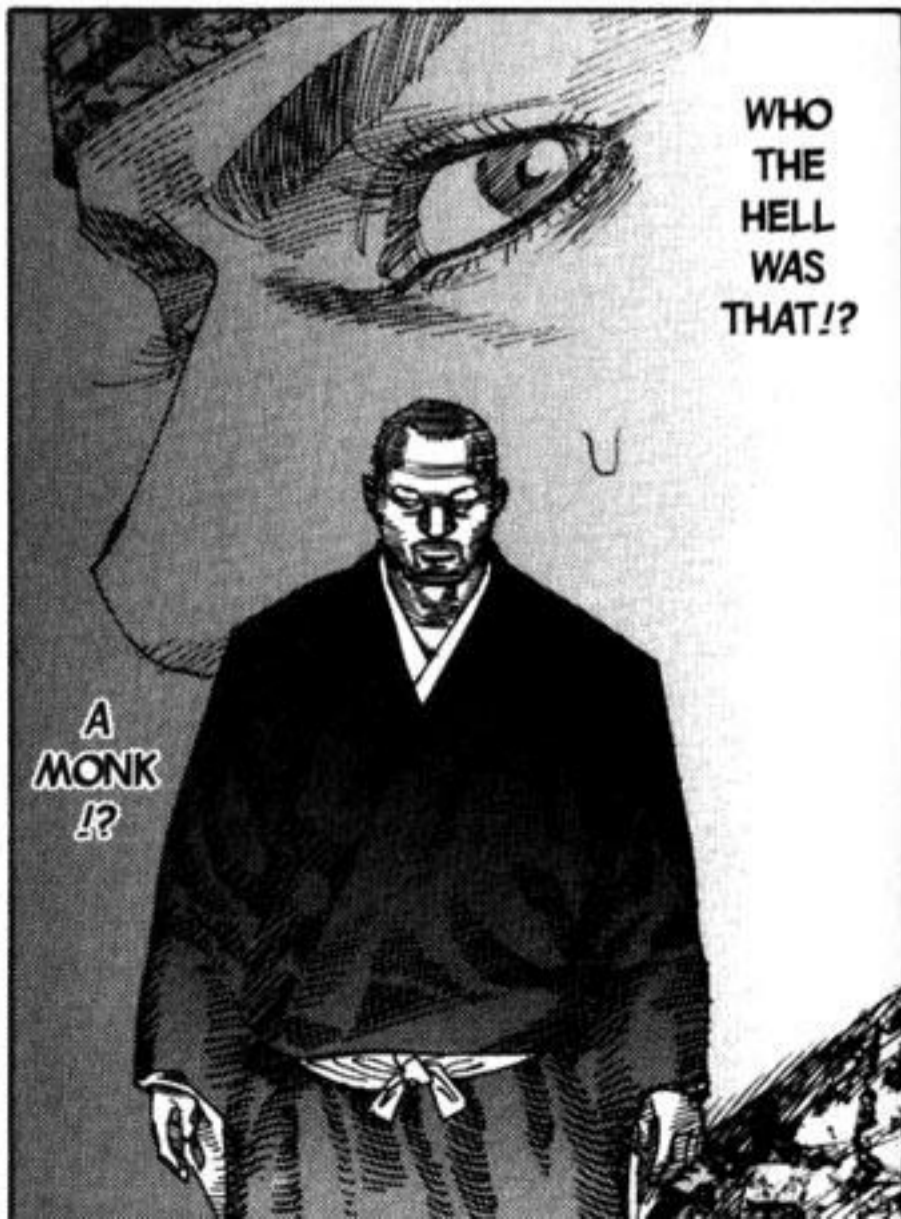




HE CUT
ME DOWN
WITH HIS
MIND!!

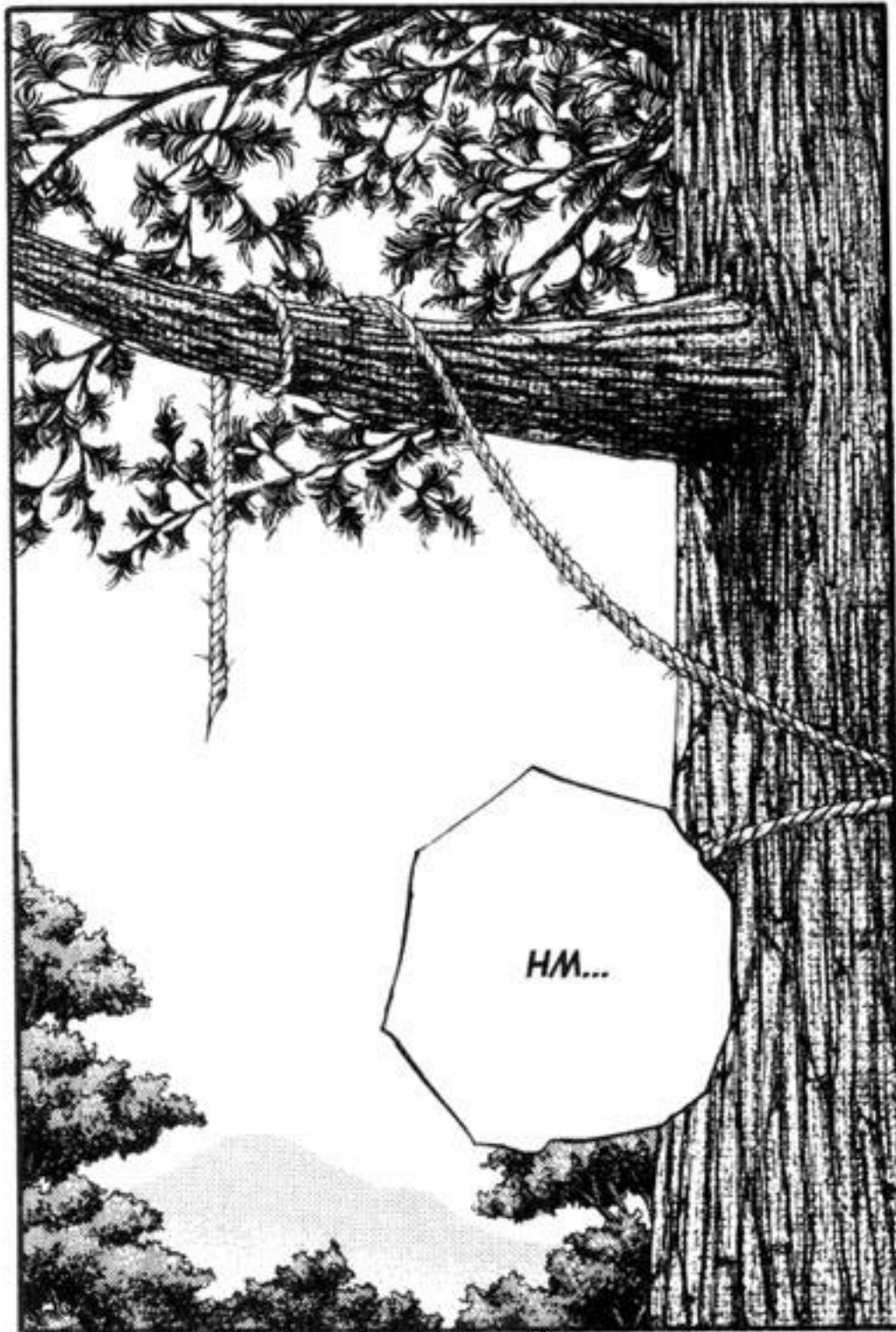
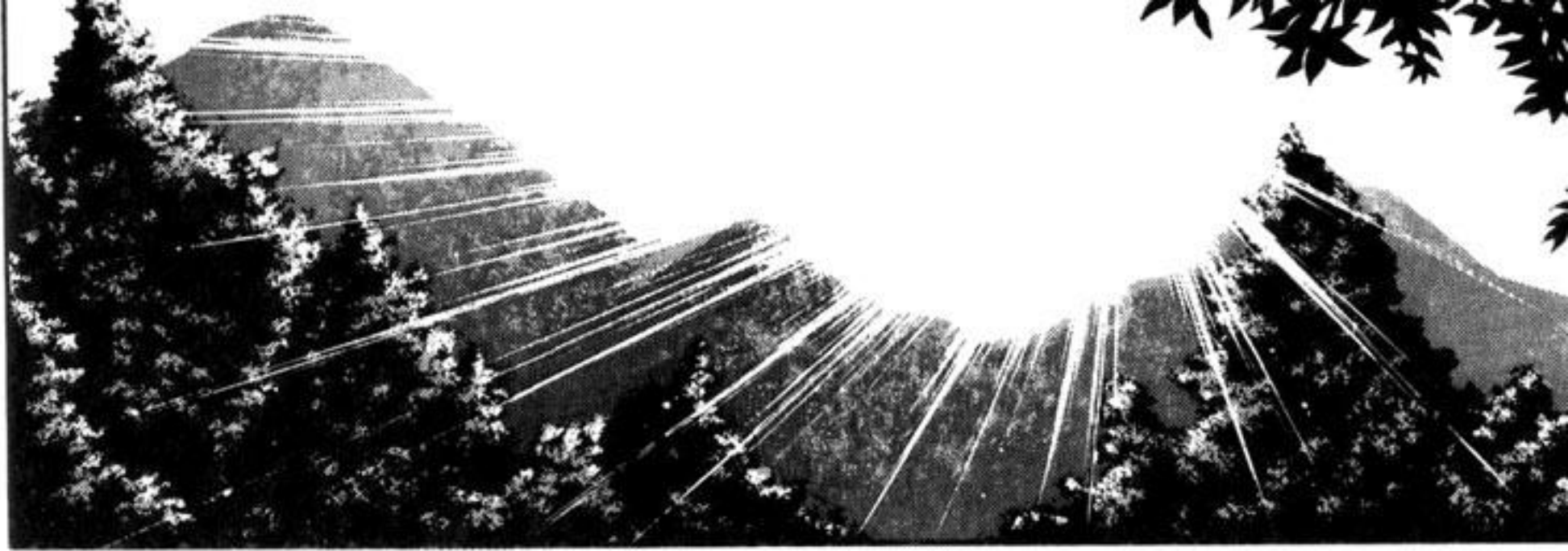


HE
DEFEATED
ME.



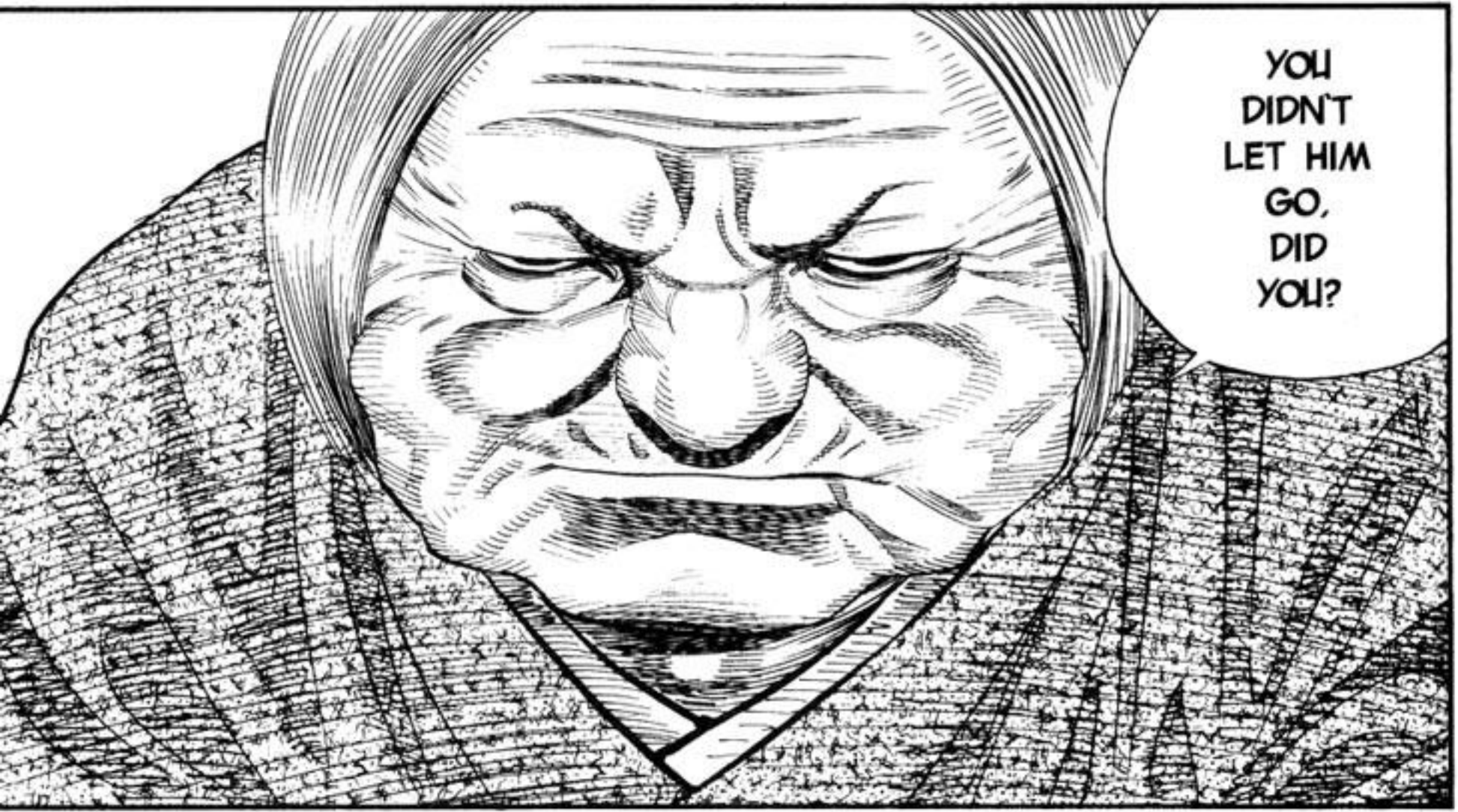
WHO
THE
HELL
WAS
THAT!?

A
MONK
!?









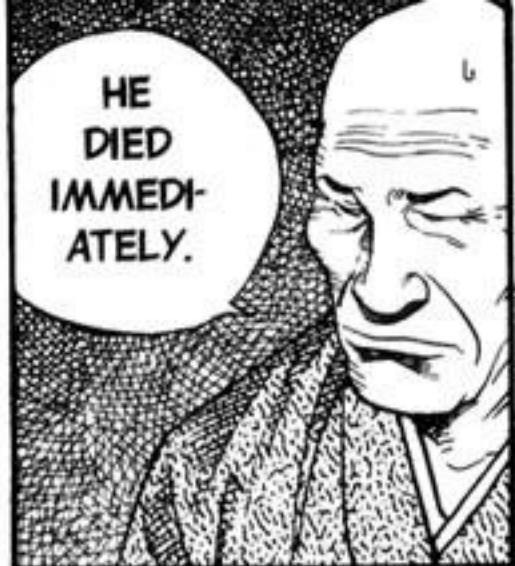




THE ROPE BROKE?

HE HAD GROWN QUITE WEAK FROM HANGING UP THERE FOR SO LONG...

...SO HE MIGHT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEAD.



HE DIED IMMEDIATELY.



HMPH!

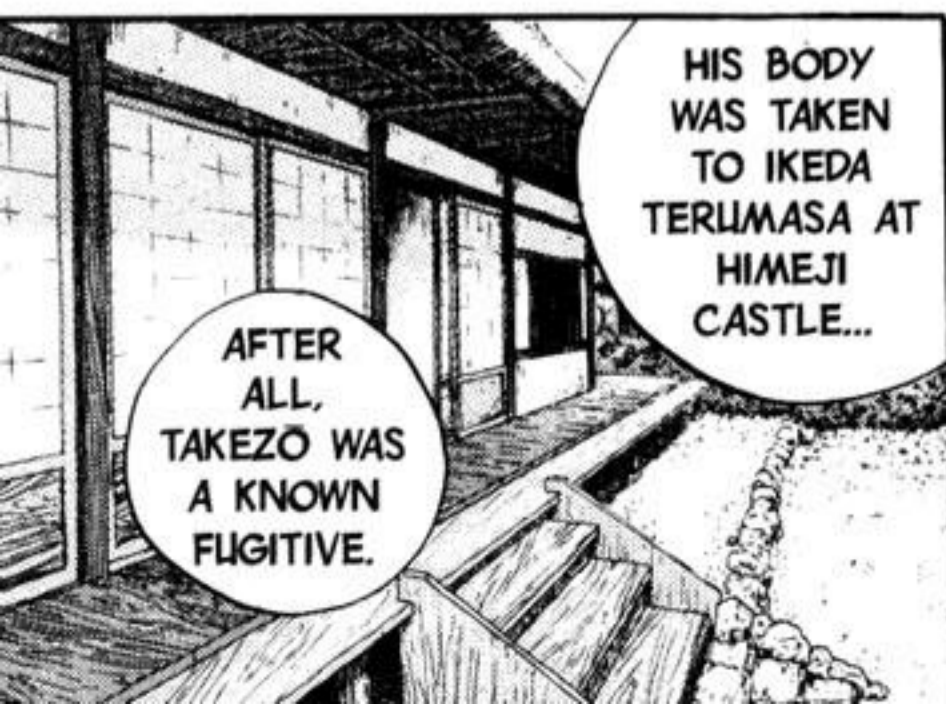


THE ROPE BROKE. HE FELL AND SMASHED HIS HEAD ON THE GROUND...



EH?

WHERE'S HIS BODY?



AFTER ALL, TAKEZŌ WAS A KNOWN FLUITIVE.

HIS BODY WAS TAKEN TO IKEDA TERUMASA AT HIMEJI CASTLE...



AT HIMEJI CASTLE!









HUF

KROH



HUF

KROH

HUF

TAKEZO
...



YOU'RE
SO
HEAVY.



I'LL
LET YOU
CHOOSE
WHERE
YOU'D
LIKE TO
DIE.

SHUFF



Vagabond

(DAIKOND

*
FR





TAKEZO...

SO
THIS IS
WHERE
YOUR LIFE
WILL
END.

...



THERE'S
A GOOD
VIEW OF
MIYAMOTO
VILLAGE FROM
HERE.

YOU'VE
CHOSEN
WELL.





**#21 | A Place
in the Sun**



K-
KILL
ME...



OH...

YOUR
VOICE IS
BACK. BUT I
CAN HARDLY
HEAR YOU.



NOW,
WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?



THE
WATER
FROM
MIYAMOTO
VILLAGE IS
GOOD.

IT
WILL
REFRESH
YOUR
WITHERED
BODY.



YOU
DAMN
MONK.

KILL
ME.

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF



TAKEZŌ...

A DARK
SHADOW
RUNS
ACROSS
YOUR
FACE.



WHAT
ELSE
WOULD I
WANT?

IS THAT
YOUR
DESIRE?





HMPH! I DON'T
HAVE TO LISTEN
TO YOU...



YOU'VE
CUT
DOWN
SO
MANY...



IN THE
END, YOU'LL
BE CUT
DOWN,
YOURSELF.

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
WANT?



...DARK...

YOUR
EYES
ARE
SO...

...LONELY...

...AND
IN
PAIN.



...

YOU
SHOULD
REJOICE...

YOU'RE
GOING
TO DIE
NOW.



THEN YOU
HAVE LIVED
YOUR LIFE
TO THE
FULLEST.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

TAKEZO
...

WHY
AREN'T
YOU
SMILING?



I CUT
DOWN
EVERYONE
AROUND
ME!!

AND
NOW I'LL
BE KILLED
BY THIS
DAMN MONK
SPOUTING
GIBBERISH!!



THIS
IS
MY
LIFE!!

I
LIVED
MY LIFE
THE WAY
I WANTED
TO.

IT'S
BEEN SO
FULFILLING!!
HA HA
HA!

MY
WONDERFUL
LIFE!!





YOU'RE DEAD!!

THOK



...



KOFF

KOFF

...

YOU CALL YOURSELF A MONK...?



IF YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH YOUR LIFE...

THOK

NNGH.

ANNOUNCE IT TO THE WORLD!!

YOU FOOL!!



I'M A DAMN FOOL OF A MONK.

NO...



THOK





WHY WAS
I BORN...?



...AND
SHUNNED?



...IF ONLY
TO BE
ABANDONED...!

TO BE FEARED,
HATED AND
DESPISED BY ALL!



I'M THE
SON OF
A DEMON
AND I
DESERVE
TO DIE...



WHY WAS
I EVEN
BORN?





TAKEZO...

TUGG

WILL
YOU
THROW
YOUR LIFE
AWAY...?







TAKEZŌ?

IS A
LIFE OF
RAGE AND
MURDER
TRULY
HONORABLE?

IS
IT
WORTH
IT?



NO.



THAT
LIFE IS
NOT
FOR
YOU.



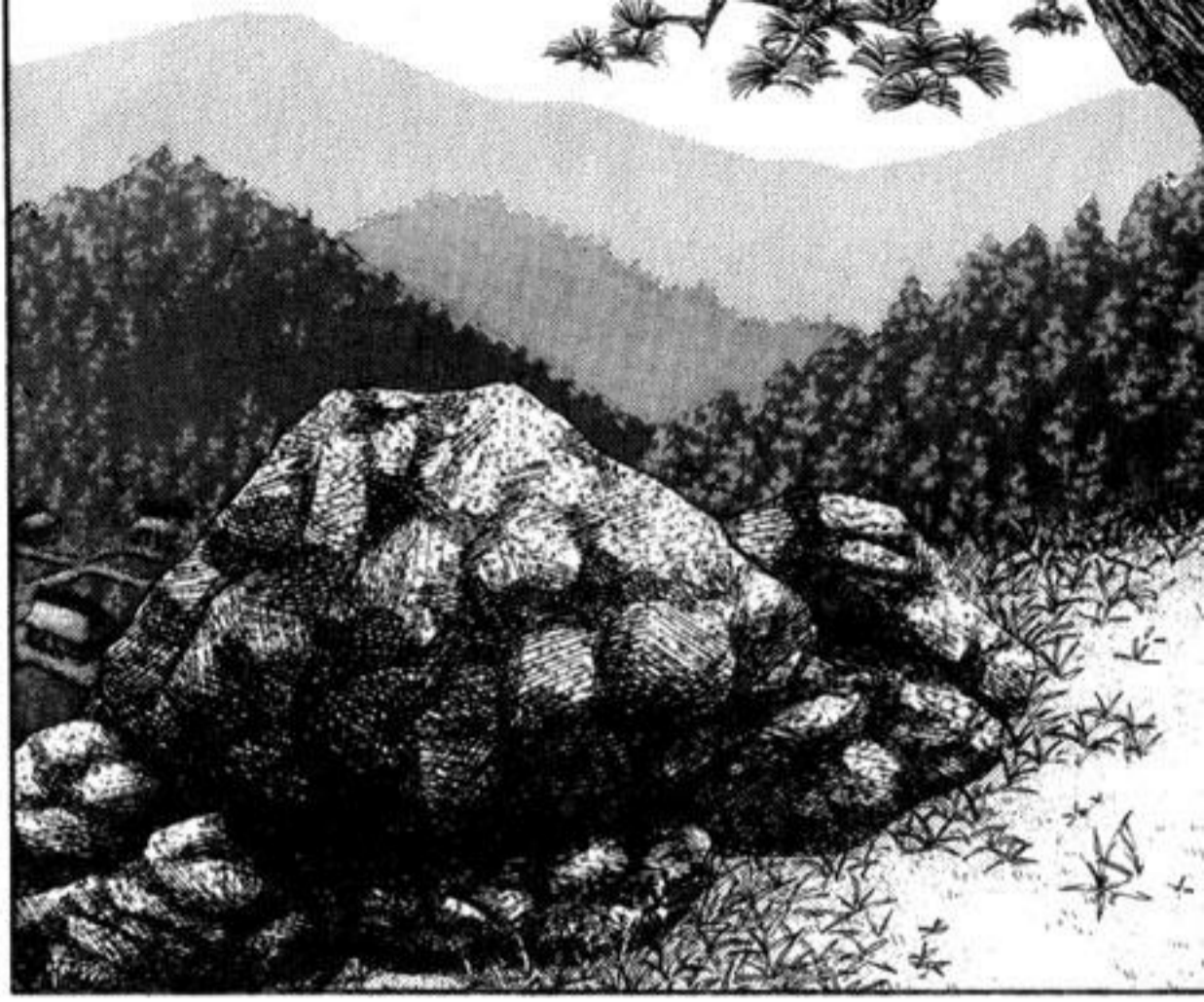
IS IT
TRUE...

...TAKLIAN?





DO I
REALLY
DESERVE
TO
LIVE?



TAKEZŌ...



LIVE ON AND ENDURE THE SHADOWS!!



THERE IS NO LIGHT...

...FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW DARKNESS...



HEY, THAT SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD!



TAKEZŌ!!



TAKEZŌ!

AND
BRIGHTNESS
SHALL
COME
YOUR
WAY.

TAKEZŌ!!

Glossary and Extraneous Background Information

The Battle of Sekigahara (1600): The decisive battle in which Tokugawa Ieyasu effectively took control of Japan from the Toyotomi Clan. Most of the *daimyo* from eastern Japan sided with the Tokugawa whereas the *daimyo* of the west sided with the Toyotomi Clan.

Ikeda Terumasa (1564-1613): One of the great *daimyo* of the Sengoku period (1482-1558), Ikeda Terumasa sided with Ieyasu at the Battle of Sekigahara after which he was awarded with Himeji Castle and the Harima domain (located in modern day Hyogo Prefecture).

Takuan Soho (1573-1645): A monk of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism, by the time Takuan was 37, he was appointed abbot of the leading temple of the Rinzai sect, Daitokuji. Takuan was an important figure whose acute and brutally honest advice was sought by influential and powerful figures including Go Mizuno and Tokugawa Iemitsu. His correspondence to Yagyū Munenori discussing Zen and Swordsmanship entitled *The Unfettered Mind* has become an influential treatise in both the areas of philosophy and martial arts. The pickled daikon radish, *takuan*, also bears his name.

The Yagyū Clan: Yagyū Muneyoshi Sekishusai (1527-1606) was the founder of the famed Yagyū-Shinkage school of sword fighting. His son Yagyū Munenori (1571-1646) was one of Tokugawa's key generals at the Battle of Sekigahara. Munenori was appointed as the official fencing instructor of the Tokugawa Clan and in 1632 the Yagyū were appointed as the *ometsuke*—responsible for the surveillance of the *daimyo*. Although the Yagyū clan has been depicted in Kazuo Koike's *Lone Wolf and Cub* as the plotters of the downfall of Itto Ogami, the general Japanese popular culture take on the Yagyū Clan is more positive. More specifically, Munenori's son, Yagyū Jubei (1607-1650), is viewed as a wandering hero protecting the people from evil-doers.

Yoshioka Kempo (dates unknown): A distinguished warrior during the *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) and the founder of the renowned Yoshioka school of sword fighting. Yoshioka Kempo mastered the **Kyohachi** style of swordsmanship and then modified it to form the Yoshioka style. In the context of Inoue's *Vagabond* as well as in Yoshikawa's *Musashi*, Yoshioka Seijuro and Denshichiro are Kempo's sons who are historically thought to have dueled with Miyamoto Musashi on numerous occasions.

About *Vagabond*

Takehiko Inoue's *Vagabond*, based on Eiji Yoshikawa's novel *Musashi*, is a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645). The historical figure Miyamoto Musashi, author of the philosophical strategy guide *A Book of Five Rings*, was a master of the sword and was revered as a "sword-saint." He founded the Niten Ichi style of sword fighting which is typified by fighting with both long and short swords at once, holding the long sword with the right hand and the short sword with the left. Musashi was also a master of the "gentler arts"—he was a master of the *sumi-e* art form, metalworking, and woodcarving.

About the Author

Created by Takehiko Inoue, author of the best selling manga – *Slam Dunk* with over 100 million copies in print worldwide. For his work in *Vagabond*, Inoue received the 2000 Media Arts award for Manga from the Japanese Ministry of Culture as well as the Kodansha Award for best manga. Inoue has also received the prestigious Tezuka award for his previous works. In addition to his numerous manga titles, Inoue also created the character designs for the Playstation basketball game, *One on One*.

A note on names: The names presented within the context of this comic are presented in the traditional Japanese order—surname, followed by first name. "Miyamoto" is Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of *Vagabond*, however, has been presented first name first, last name second. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last name.

This is the **LAST** page of this comic!

Vagabond has been printed to read from **right** to **left** in its original Japanese format—presenting Takehiko Inoue's dynamic artwork the way it was meant to be seen!

When most Japanese comics are published in English, a mirror image of the original artwork is printed in order to accommodate the left to right reading orientation of English. For this reason, errors in continuity occasionally occur and characters who were originally right-handed suddenly become left-handed. In order to present manga in its purest form, *Vagabond* is being printed to read from right to left. This way, kimono are worn with the left side over the right and the samurai's long and short swords are carried on the **left** side the way they were traditionally worn.

To properly enjoy *Vagabond*, start from the other end of this comic and read from right to left.



I was entranced within pages of reading Vagabond; Inoue's adaptation of Yoshikawa's Musashi pulls you right into the story and doesn't let you go.

—Greg McElhatton, iComics.com

Inoue's artwork is flat-out gorgeous.

—Randy Lander, TheFourthRail.com

Shinmen Takezo is a young man who is destined to become the legendary sword-saint, Miyamoto Musashi—perhaps one of the most renowned samurai of all time. For now, Takezo is a cold-hearted killer, who will take on anyone in mortal combat to make a name for himself. This is the journey of a wild young brute who strives to reach enlightenment by way of the sword—fighting on the edge of death.



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