



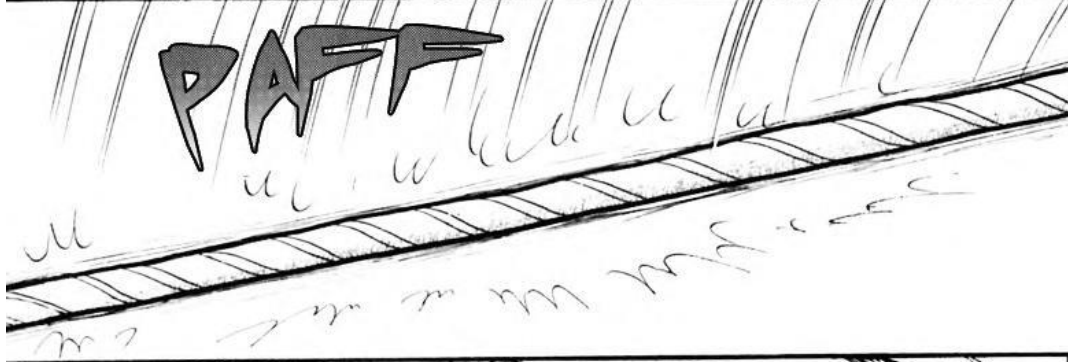
AYUMI
HIMEKAWA
WILL GO
FIRST!

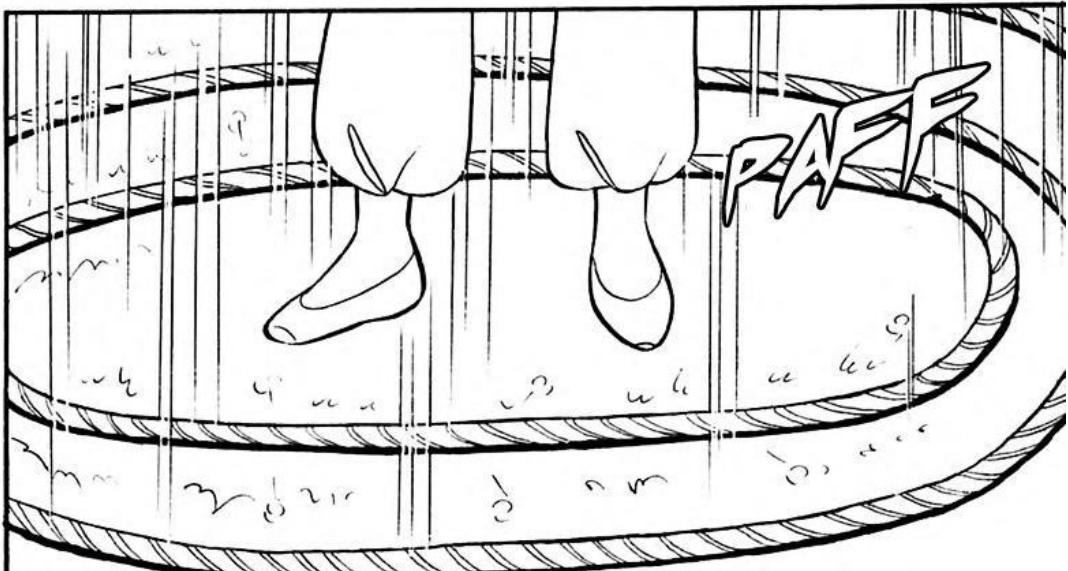
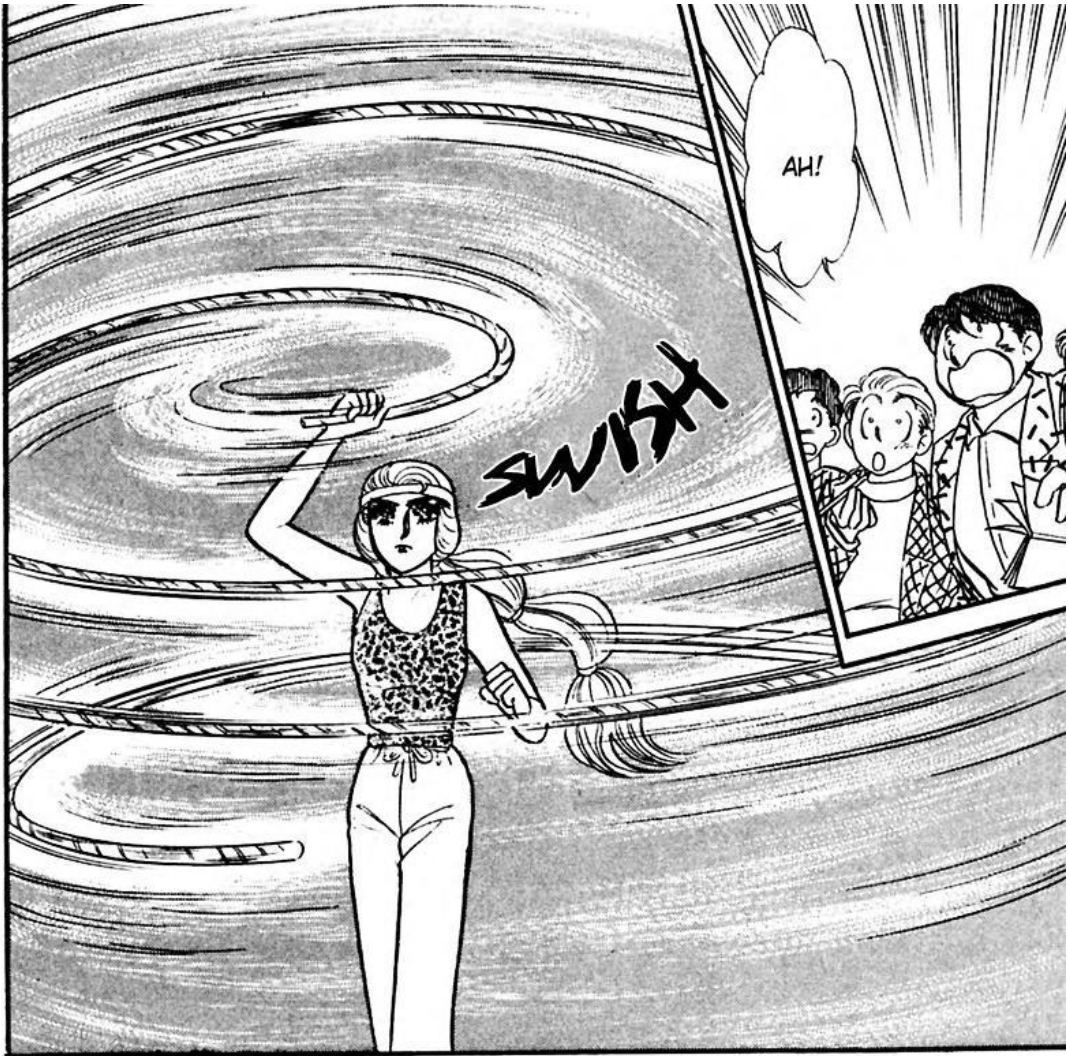
NOW, WE SHALL
BEGIN THE EARTH
INTERPRETATIONS!

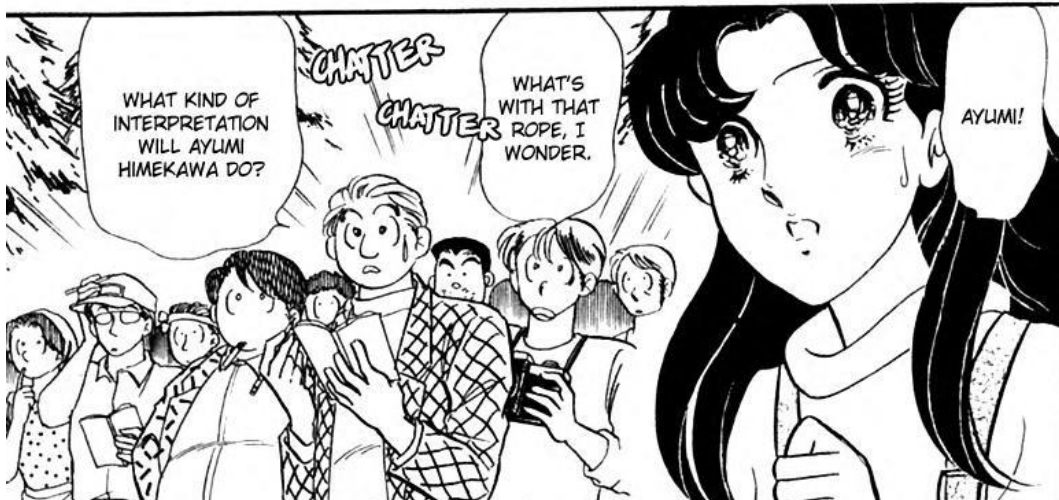
UNDER-
STOOD!

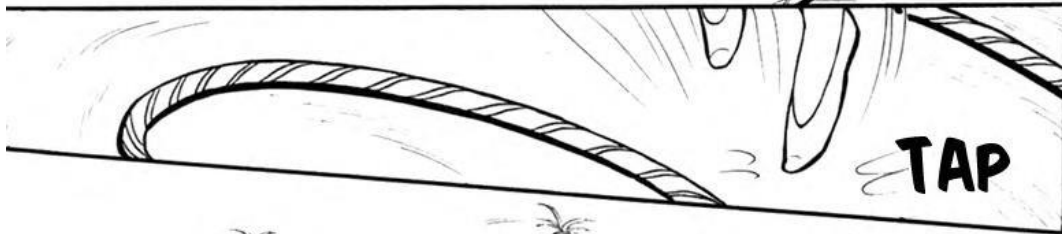
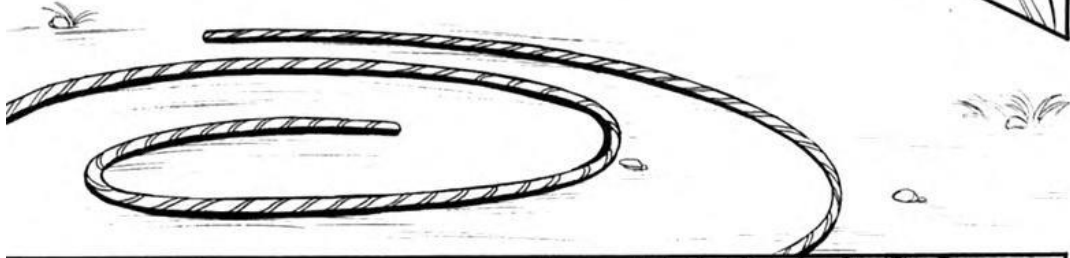
aah

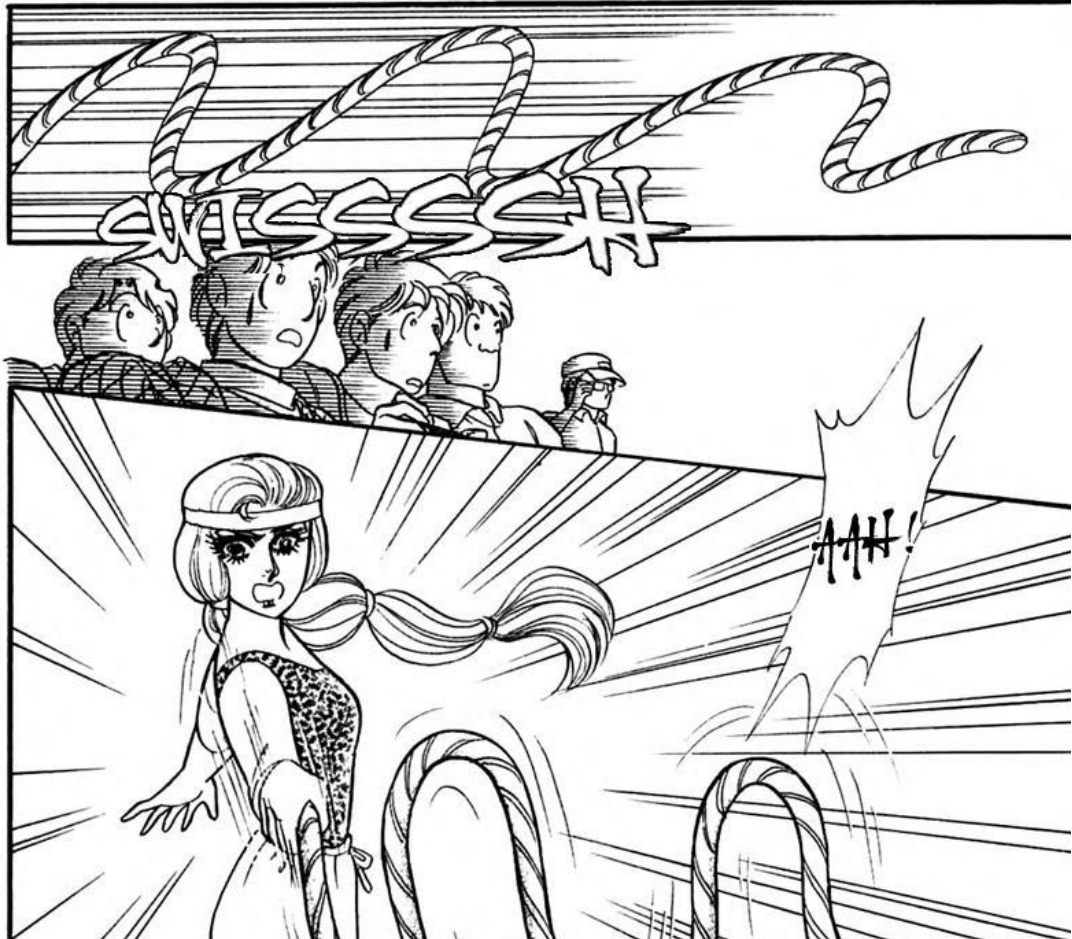
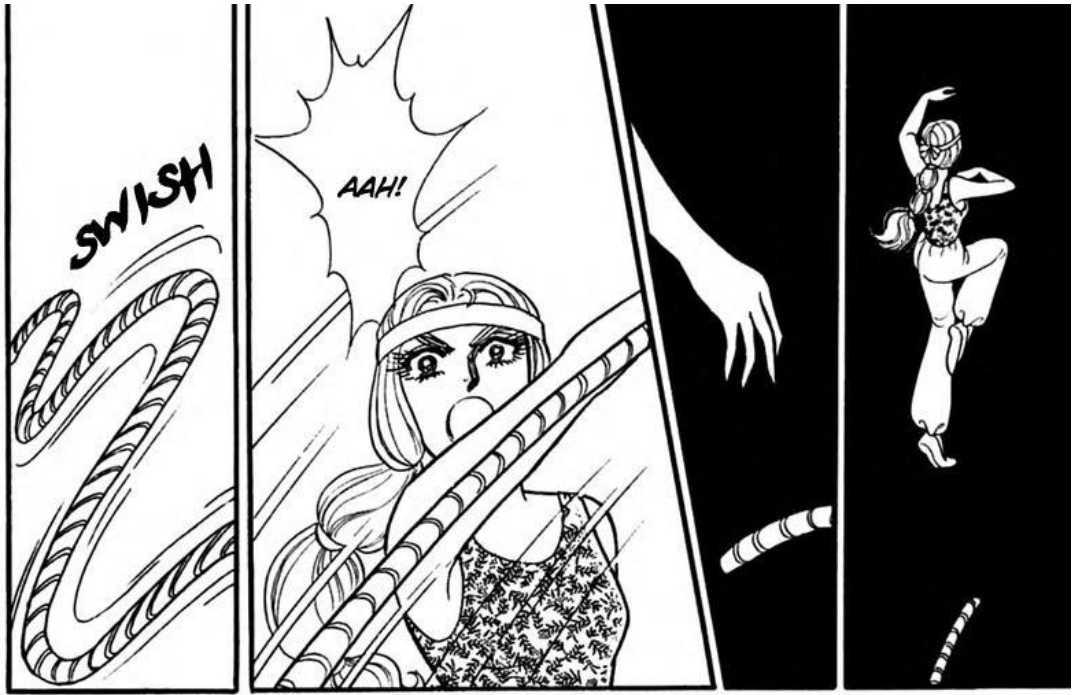
aah

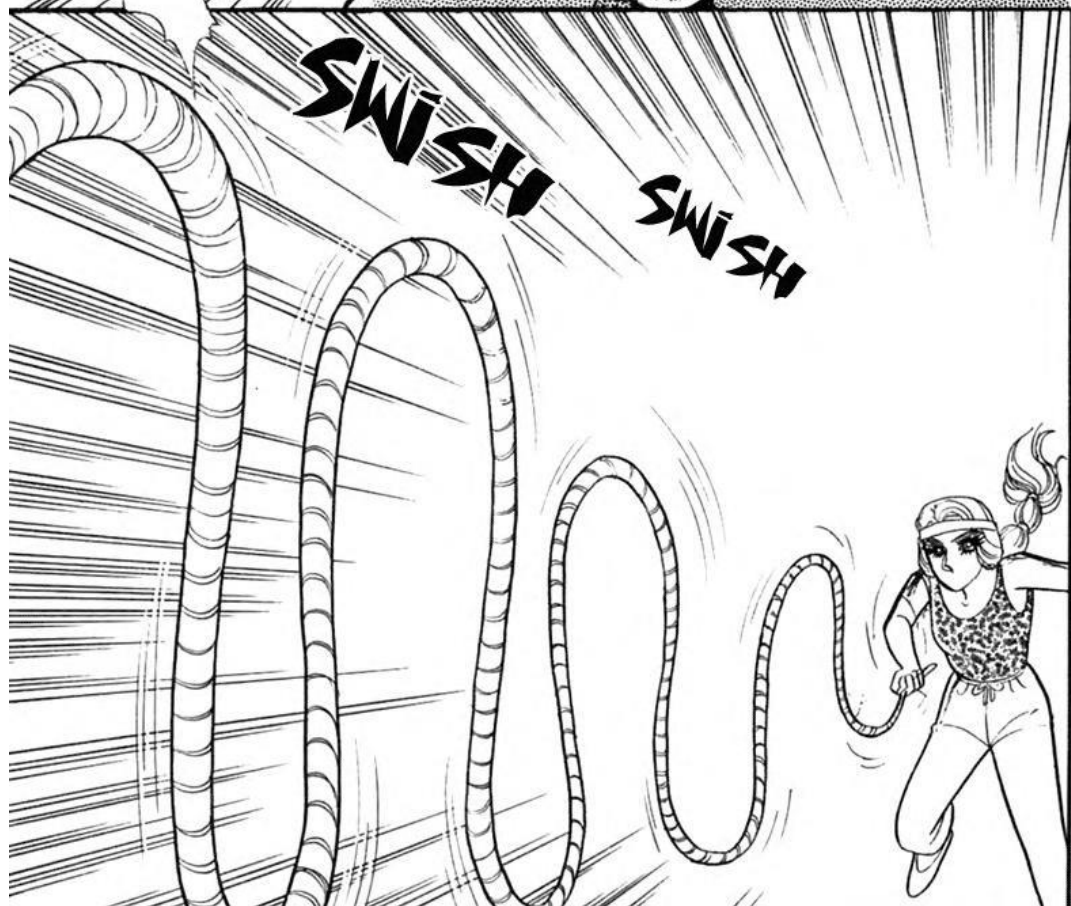


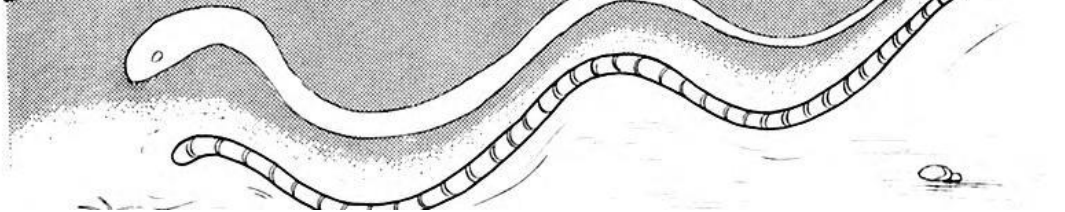
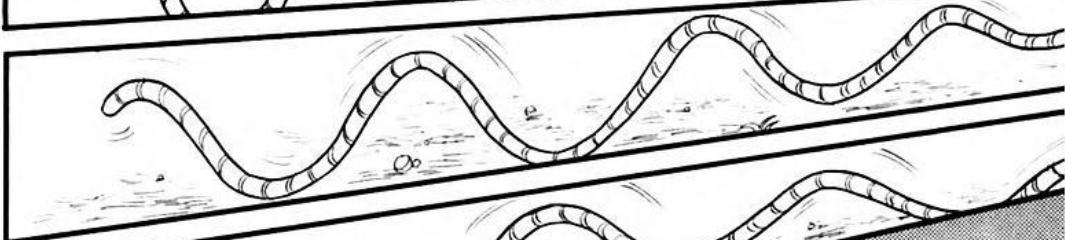
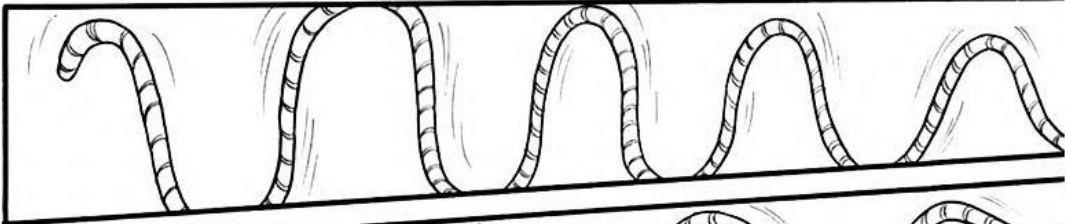
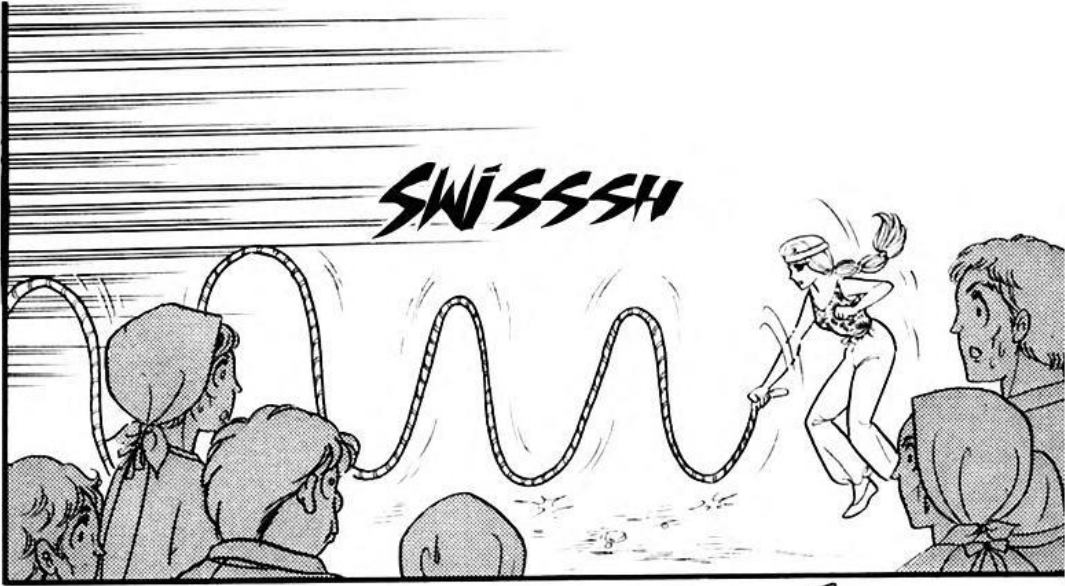




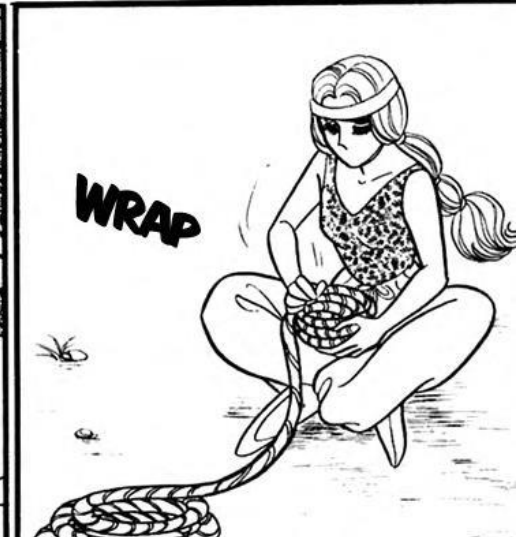
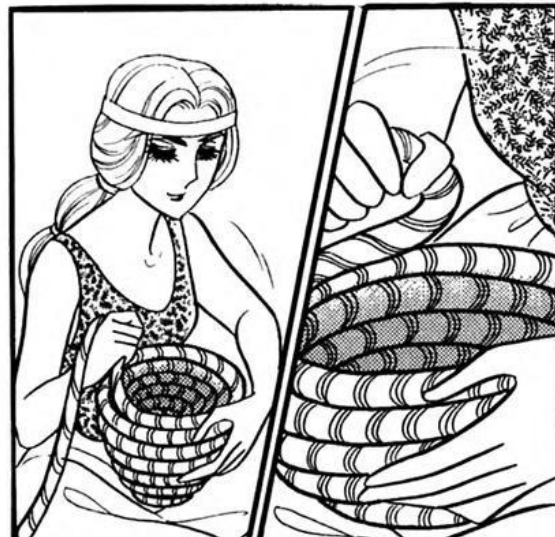
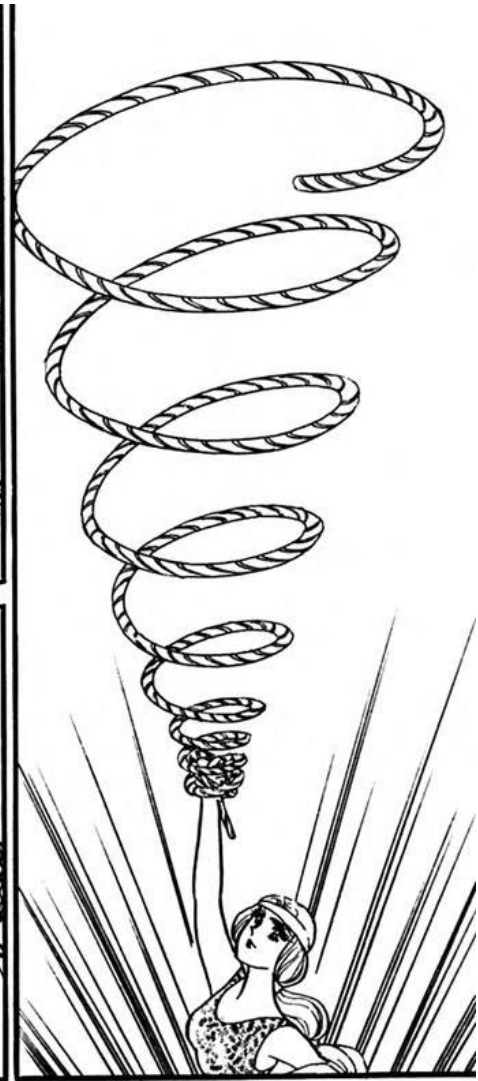
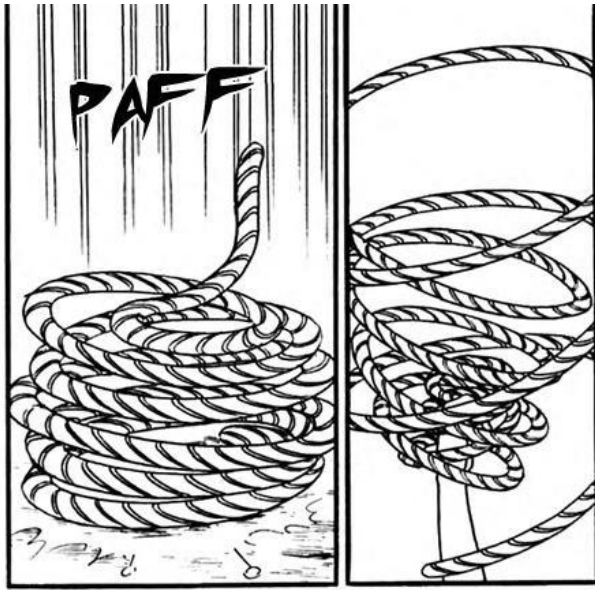


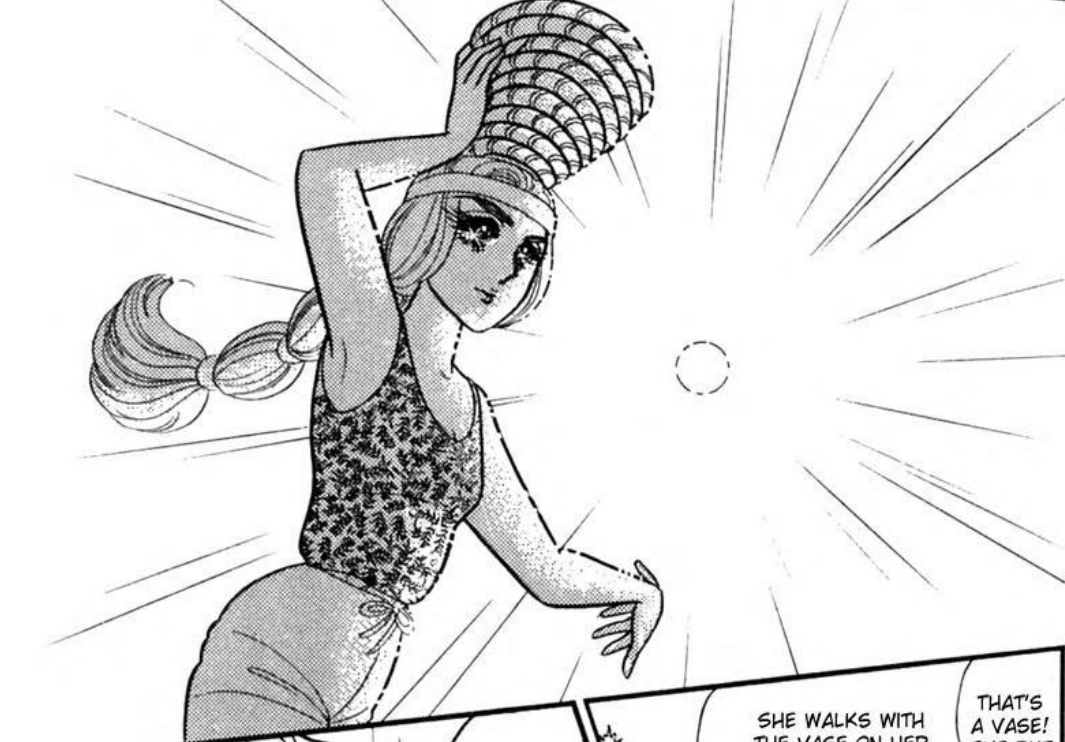
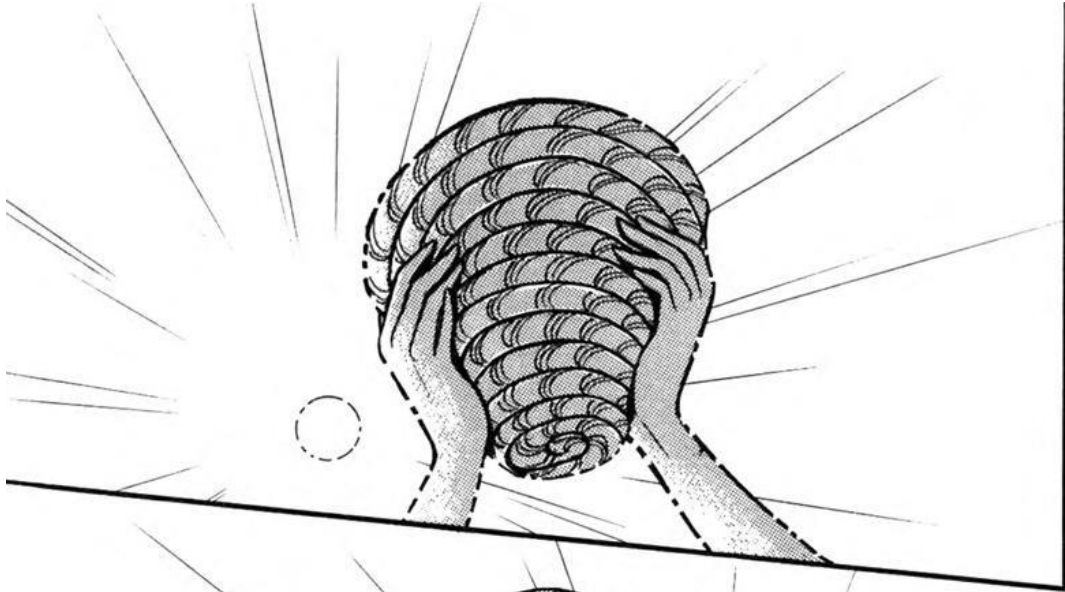


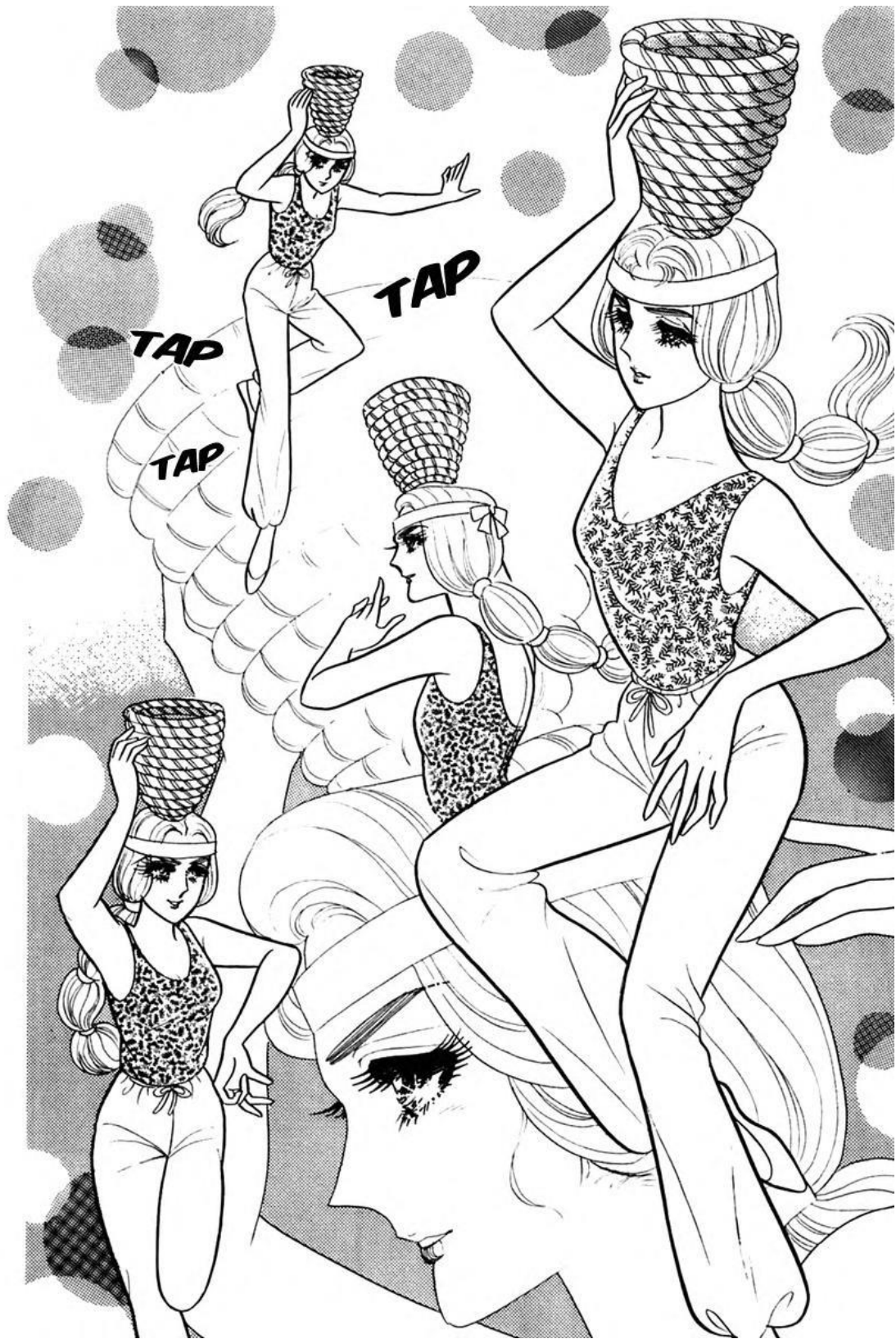














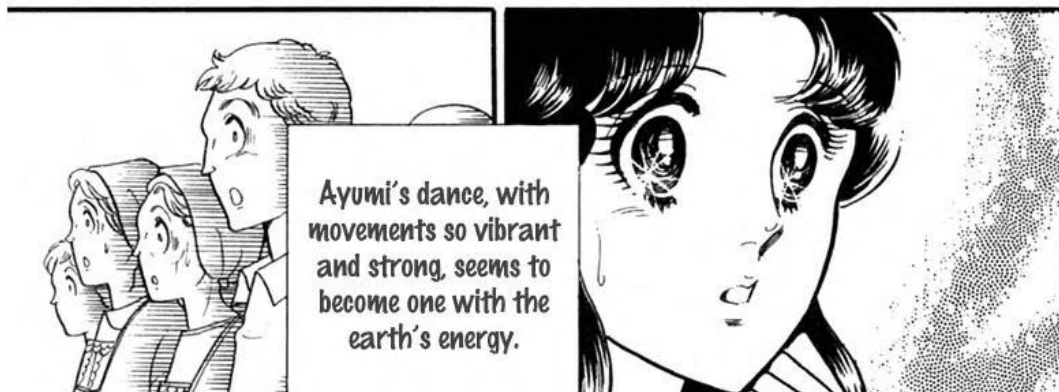


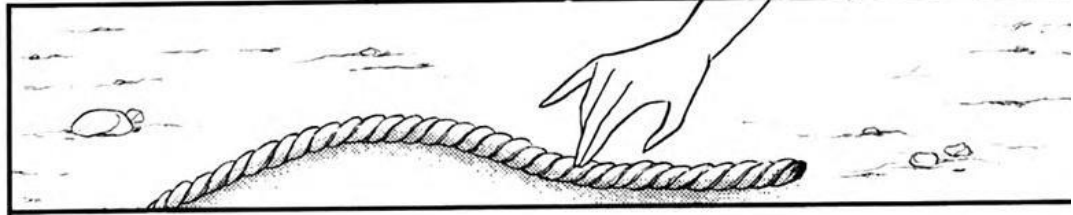
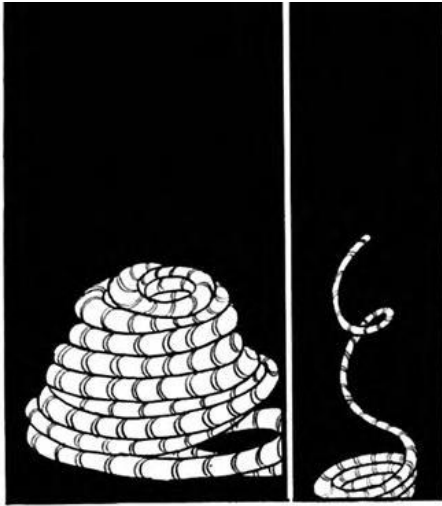
She drank it!

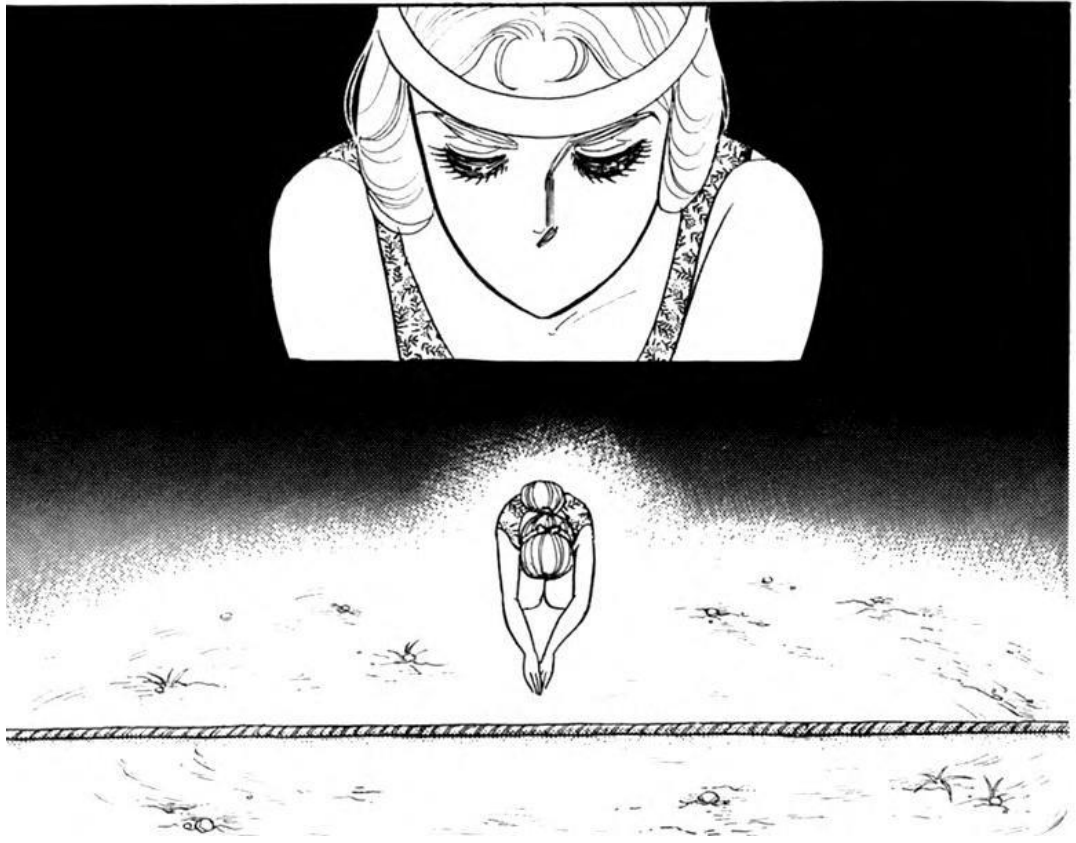
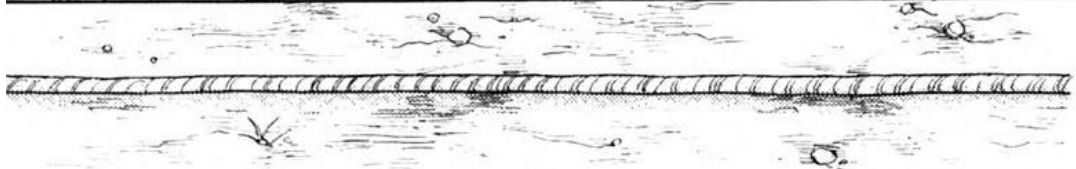
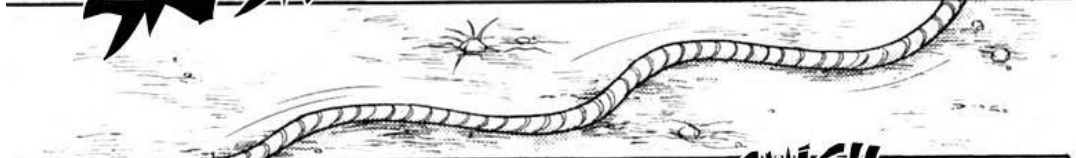
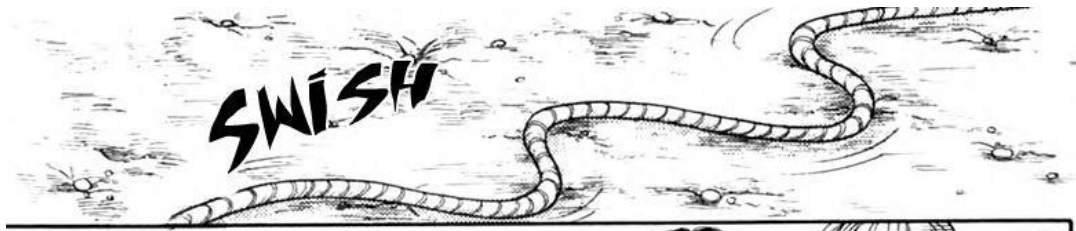
...and now she's going around with it!

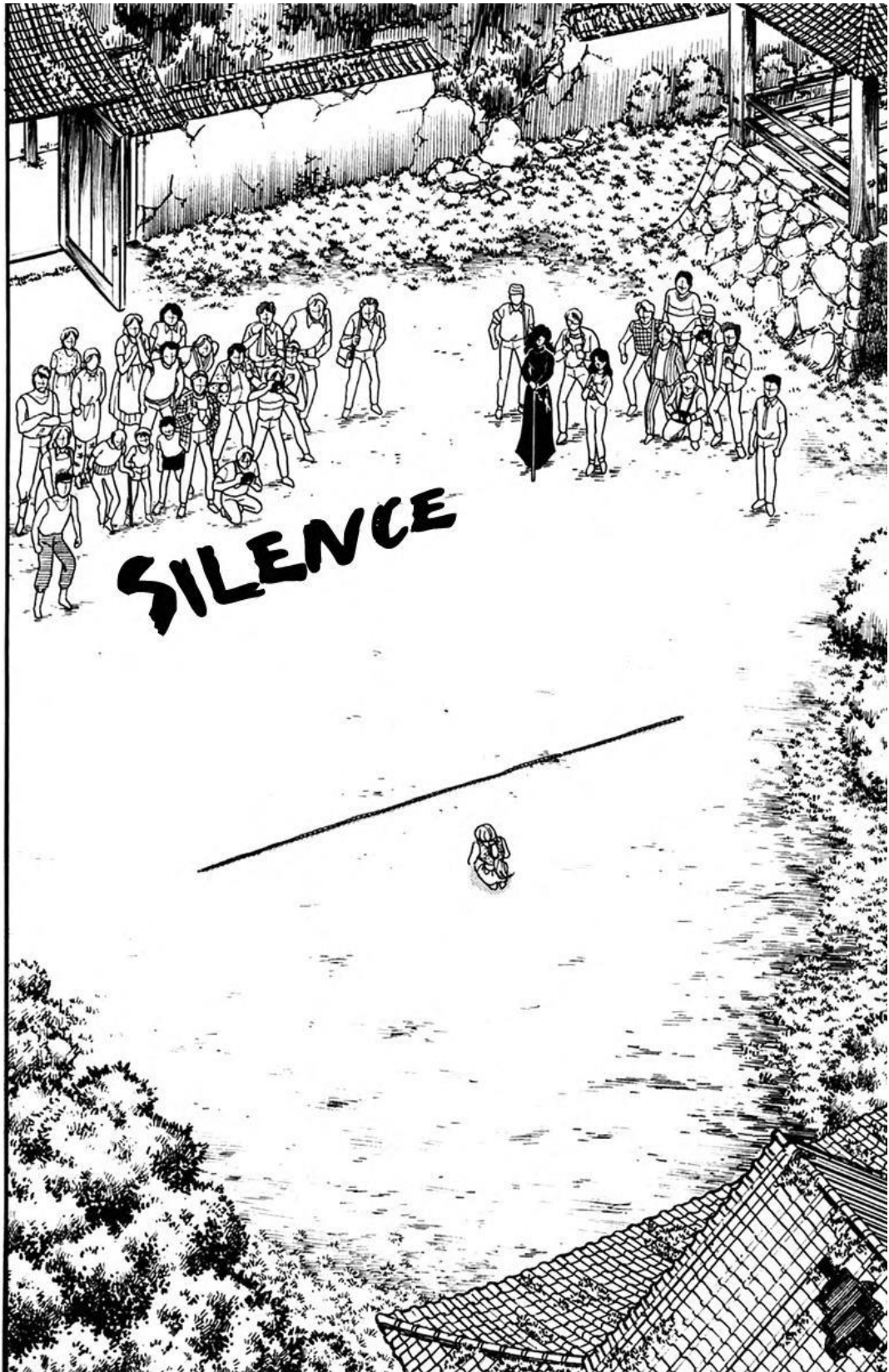
She put something inside...

She's walking with it at her side!













COULD YOU GIVE US A COMMENT ON THAT?

IN THE BEGINNING, THE ROPE'S MOVEMENT SHOWED THE EARTH'S ENERGY. IT LOOKED LIKE A SNAKE...



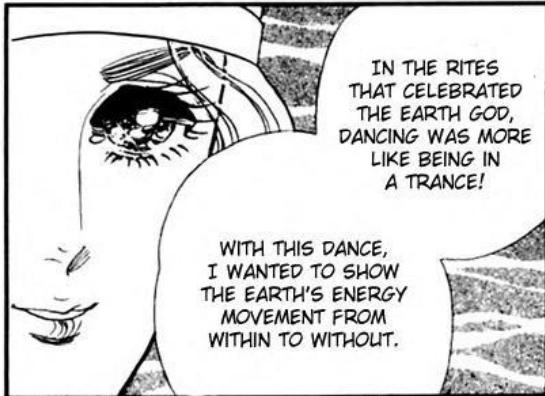
WHILE DANCING, YOU GRADUALLY LEFT THE ROPE'S SPIRAL. WHY?

I GET IT. SO WITH THE SNAKE, YOU TRIED TO CONVEY THE EARTH'S ENERGY.



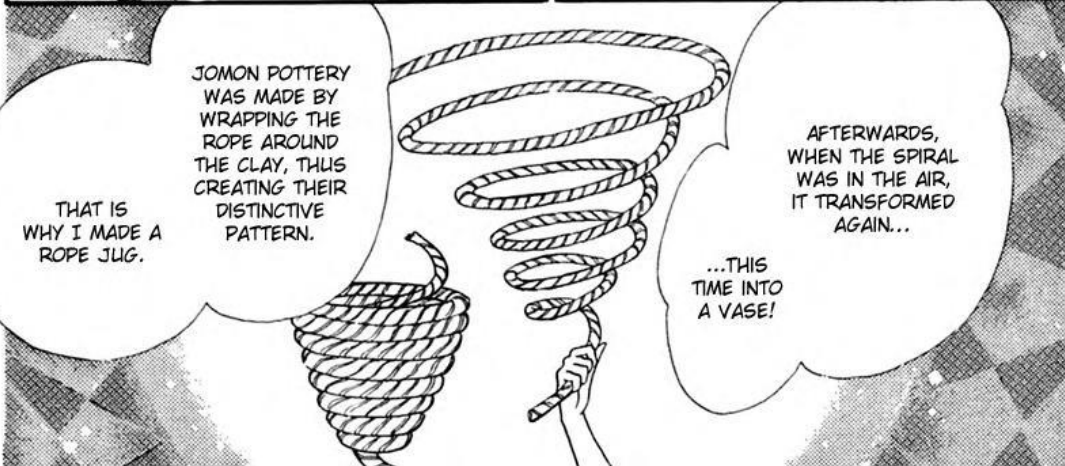
FOR THIS INTERPRETATION, I FOUND MY INSPIRATION IN JOMON POTTERY.

IN THE PAST, THE SERPENT WAS WORSHIPPED AS A GOD OF WATER AND EARTH.



IN THE RITES THAT CELEBRATED THE EARTH GOD, DANCING WAS MORE LIKE BEING IN A TRANCE!

WITH THIS DANCE, I WANTED TO SHOW THE EARTH'S ENERGY MOVEMENT FROM WITHIN TO WITHOUT.



JOMON POTTERY WAS MADE BY WRAPPING THE ROPE AROUND THE CLAY, THUS CREATING THEIR DISTINCTIVE PATTERN. THAT IS WHY I MADE A ROPE JUG.

AFTERWARDS, WHEN THE SPIRAL WAS IN THE AIR, IT TRANSFORMED AGAIN...

...THIS TIME INTO A VASE!



WHY?

BUT IN THE END, THE VASE BREAKS.

Ayumi!

WHAT COMES FROM DUST, TO DUST IT WILL RETURN.

THROUGH THE DANCE, I WAS ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR WAY OF LIFE.

JUGS HOLD WATER. THEY WERE VITAL FOR THE ANCIENTS!

SHAPED FROM THE EARTH, THEY COULD CARRY THINGS.



ONCE BROKEN, IT WILL RETURN TO THE EARTH, FROM WHICH IT WAS BORN.

THE VASE IS JUST ONE OF THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE EARTH...

HUMANS, ANIMALS, EVERYTHING WILL SOMEDAY DIE.

EVERYTHING HAS A BEGINNING AND AN END.

THEN, ONE DAY, IT WILL HAVE A NEW BEGINNING!



...AND IN THE BROKEN BITS OF CERAMIC RETURNING TO THEIR INITIAL FORM.

...ALSO, I FOUND INSPIRATION IN THOSE WHO MOLDED THE EARTH INTO POTTERY...

OOOH!

IN MY INTERPRETATION, I USED AS A GUIDE THE ANCIENT RITES OF THE PEOPLE...
...WHO VENERATED THE EARTH'S DEITIES.



They'll compare us again!

How will I be able to perform after her?!

This is bad!

She thought about all that!

Ayumi is incredible!



Aah!

NOW, MAYA KITAJIMA!

I couldn't have done as much background research!

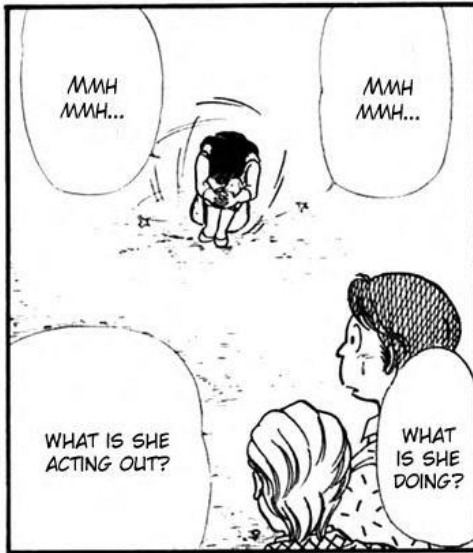
She really is great!













AH!



Mmm



BLINK



WHO AM I?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

WHAT AM I?

MMH... I AM MYSELF...

I CAN'T BE ANYTHING ELSE BUT MYSELF.



Mmm

THERE... THERE'S NO LOGIC TO WHAT SHE IS DOING, BUT IT'S SURPRISING.

Y... YEAH.





I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GROW TALL AND BLOOM ABOVE THE SURFACE...

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE BLUE SKY, THE WHITE CLOUDS...

...THE SUN WITH ITS GOLDEN CROWN...

QUICKLY, I'VE GOT TO HURRY!

I HAVE TO GROW TO SEE THE SUN...

HEY... HOW DO I KNOW ALL THIS STUFF?

BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE UNDERSTOOD THESE THINGS, EVEN BEFORE I AWOKE...

...I WONDER WHY?

EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW IT, I KNOW IT.

WHAT IS THE SKY?

EVEN IF I KNOW IT, I KNOW IT NOT.

WHAT IS THE SUN?



SHE TELLS ME HER THOUGHTS...

...I COULD STAY HERE FOREVER...

IT'S WARM INSIDE MOTHER...

IT'S SO OBVIOUS! EVERYTHING I KNEW BEFORE I WOKE UP WAS GIVEN TO ME BY MOTHER...



AH, OF COURSE...

MOTHER TAUGHT THEM TO ME...

HERE, I'M INSIDE MOTHER...



A NICE PLACE, BUT ALSO ONE IN WHICH YOU SUFFER...

LINCLE LENTIL AND AUNT PEA ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE SURFACE IS A WONDERFUL PLACE, BUT IT SHOULD BE FEARED, TOO.



THE COLD AND THE HEAT CHANGE AT A FAST PACE...

GRANDPA MOLE TOLD ME THAT UP THERE, THE WIND BLOWS, THE RAIN FALLS AND THE SUN SHINES...

...IF YOU SUFFER THERE OR IF YOU CAN RELAX...

BUT...

...IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME IF IT'S SCARY... IF IT IS SO WONDERFUL...



I'VE ALSO HEARD ABOUT SO MANY PLANTS AND FLOWERS...
...AND BUZZING INSECTS...

WHAT COULD HEAT BE? OR THE COLD?

ON THE SURFACE, EVERYTHING CHANGES. WHEN THE SUN'S UP, WHEN IT RAINS...

...WHEN THE HEAT IS SCORCHING AND THE COLD IS BITTER...

WHO KNOWS IF I'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE?

WHAT WOULD BE BETTER?
THE IDLENESS OF PEACE OR HAVING TO FIGHT?

I START TO GROW ROOTS; MY FEET ARE GETTING LONGER...

I HAVE TO HURRY...
I'M SWELLING...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT...
...I'M RESTLESS...

I KEEP ON GROWING...

SOON, I'LL BREAK THROUGH THE SURFACE...

HERE IT'S DARK AND QUIET, WHILE ON THE SURFACE THERE IS LIGHT...

...AND EVERY DAY IS A BATTLE.



I'LL SEE
THE BLUE
SKY...
AND
THE WHITE
CLOUDS!

I'LL HEAR
THE WIND
AND THE
RAIN!
I'LL GET
TO KNOW
OTHER
PLANTS
AND
INSECTS!

SOON, I'LL
SPROUT!
SOON, I'LL
SEE THE SUN!

I DON'T
CARE IF
I'LL BE
AFRAID
OR IF I'LL
SUFFER!
THE
SURFACE
HAS TO BE A
WONDERFUL
PLACE.

A REALLY
WONDERFUL
PLACE.