

I am the spirit of the plum tree!

I am in the Valley of the Plum Trees.

I have to be strong!  
Or else Hayami-san will tease me!

Oh, that's right, he's my Purple Rose!



FIN!!!



Oooohhh!

Ooooh...

AUGH!





IT IS THE STENCH OF BLOOD...

NO,



IS IT THE ECHO OF THE FOREST?  
THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT?

THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT?



TREMBLE



THE RED WHIRLPOOL AND THE WHITE WHIRLPOOL,

I SEE TWO EDDIES OPPOSING EACH OTHER...

LIKE TWO SPINNING TOPS THAT WREAK HAVOC UPON THE WORLD...



UHM...



ONE AGAINST THE OTHER,  
AND THEIR CONFLICT DESTROYS EVERYTHING.

THEY STIR AND STIR...



THE SPIRITS OF THE GODS ARE AGITATED.

THEIR DANCE IS EVER MORE TERRIFYING.



oooooooo

FROM THE TWO WHIRLPOOLS,  
THE FLAME OF WAR EMERGES,  
SPREADING HATRED AND SUFFERING.  
ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE PEARLS OF LIFE DISAPPEAR!



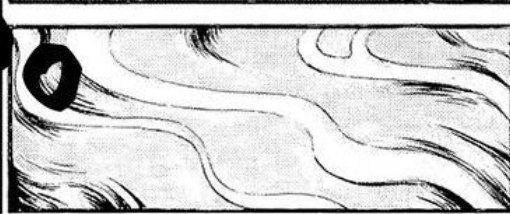
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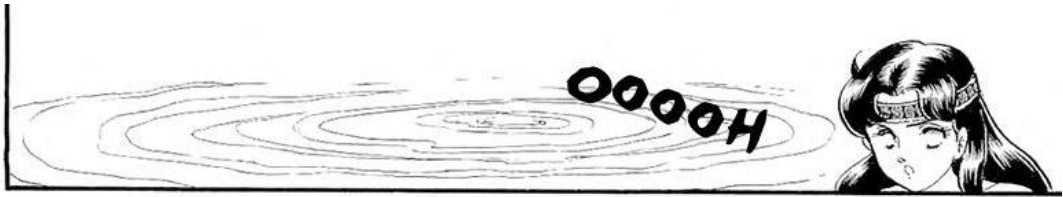


SHE...  
PROBABLY SEES THE WORLD IN THERE...

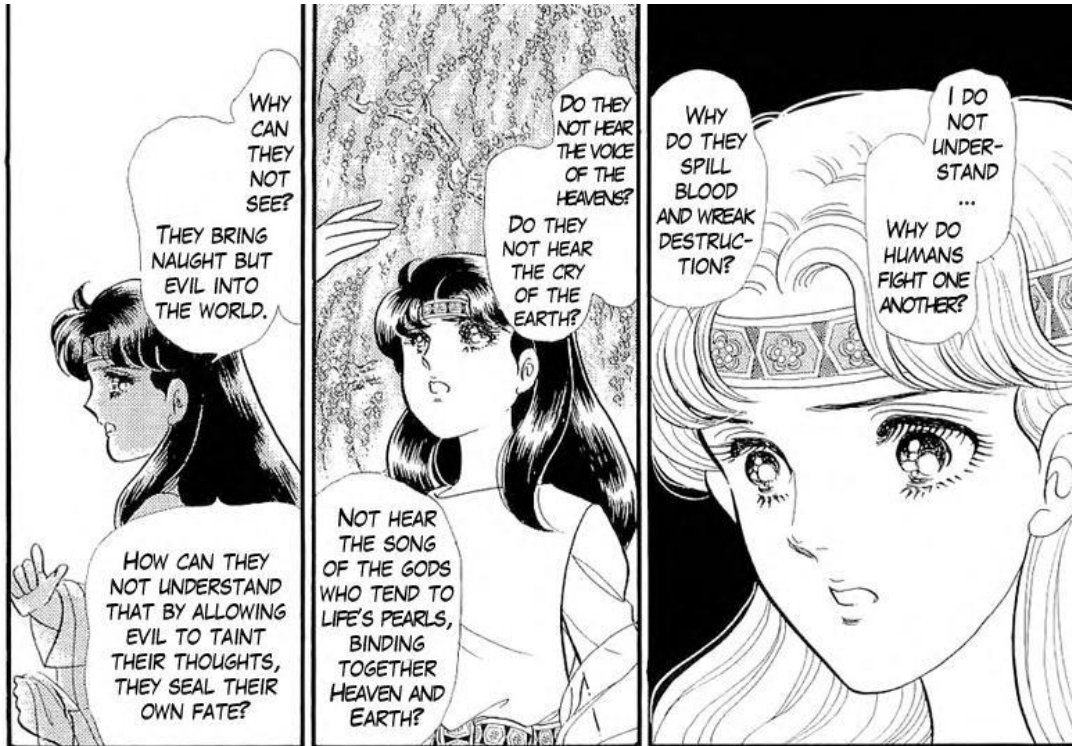
WHAT IS SHE DOING?  
WHAT COULD SHE BE LOOKING AT IN THE LAKE?

Maya...









WHY CAN THEY NOT SEE?  
THEY BRING NAUGHT BUT EVIL INTO THE WORLD.

HOW CAN THEY NOT UNDERSTAND THAT BY ALLOWING EVIL TO TAINT THEIR THOUGHTS, THEY SEAL THEIR OWN FATE?

DO THEY NOT HEAR THE VOICE OF THE HEAVENS?  
DO THEY NOT HEAR THE CRY OF THE EARTH?

NOT HEAR THE SONG OF THE GODS WHO TEND TO LIFE'S PEARLS, BINDING TOGETHER HEAVEN AND EARTH?

WHY DO THEY SPILL BLOOD AND WREAK DESTRUCTION?

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND ...  
WHY DO HUMANS FIGHT ONE ANOTHER?



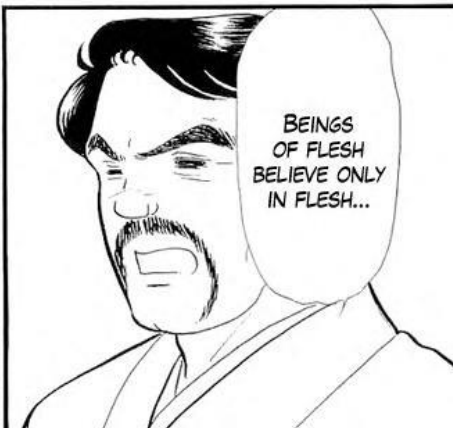
WHAT A FOOLISH THING!  
BUT THEY DO NOT SEE THAT IT IS THE HEARTS OF THE HEAVENLY GODS...

WHICH MAKE THEM MOVE, WHICH PROTECT THEIR LIVES...



THAT WHICH THEIR FINGERS CAN TOUCH...

HUMANS BELIEVE ONLY IN THAT WHICH THEIR EYES CAN BEHOLD. ONLY IN THAT WHICH THEIR EARS CAN HEAR...



BEINGS OF FLESH BELIEVE ONLY IN FLESH...





HERE IN THIS HOLY GROUND, WHERE GODS THRIVE, I HAVE THE SHAPE OF A PLUM TREE...

THE TREE AND THE SPIRIT. THE SPIRIT OF THE EARTH'S GODS GROWS AND SHOWS ITSELF ON THE SURFACE.



AND OF THE WATER...

MY STRENGTH SPIRALS UP TOWARDS THE HEAVENS, WATCHING OVER THE CREATURES OF THE EARTH...



BLOOM, YOU CRIMSON FLOWERS OF ETERNAL LIFE!



GROW! GROW TALL AND PROUD! FASTER!

SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE LAND! SPREAD YOUR SEEDS WITH MY BLESSING!



frush AND OVER THOSE THAT STRETCH THEIR ROOTS BENEATH THE GROUND, THOSE THAT SLITHER OVER THE GROUND, THOSE THAT FLY, WALK...

OR SWIM ...



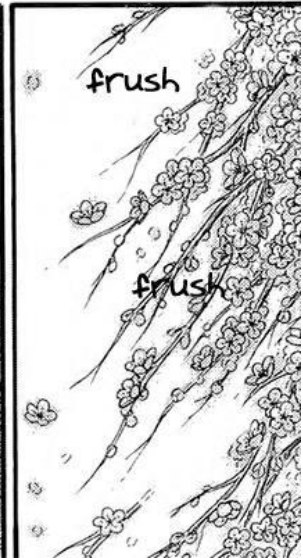
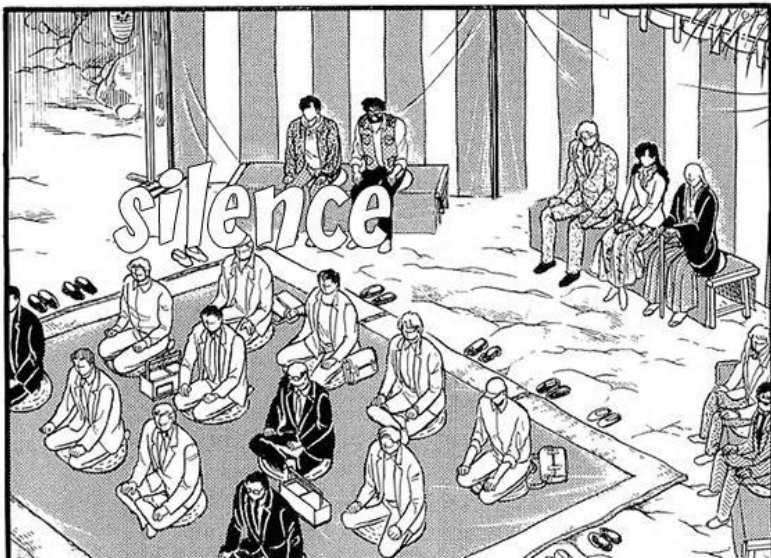
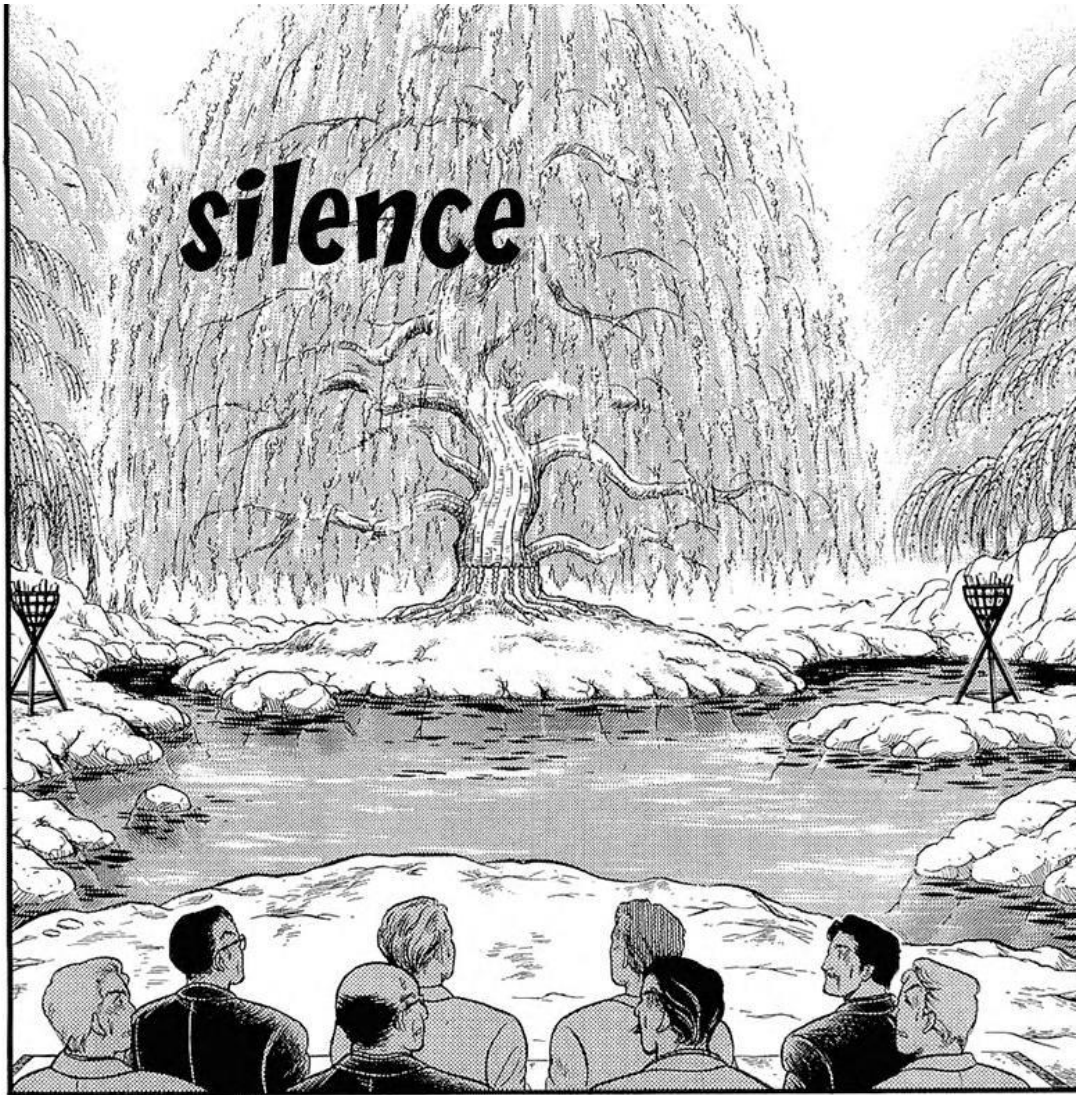
flap



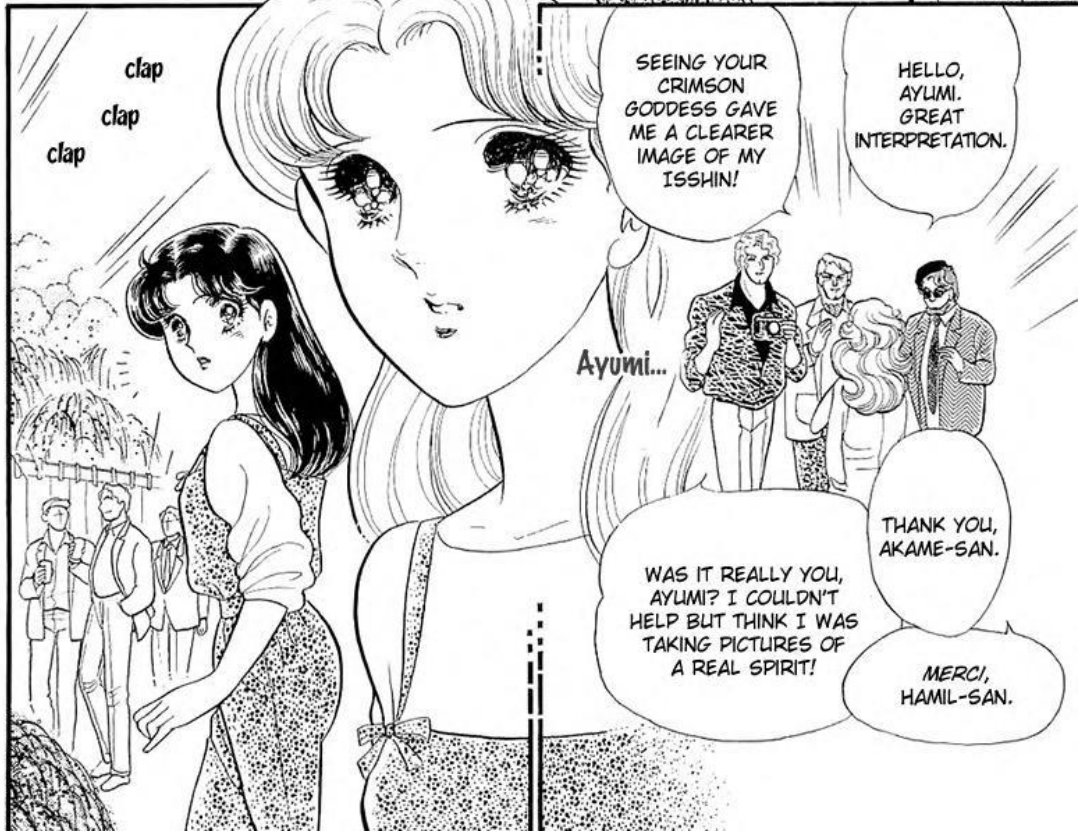
frush



fiiiiiiii







clap  
clap  
clap

Ha  
ha  
ha  
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE THE TRIAL STAGING IN TOKYO.

THEY CAN'T AGREE ON WHO SHOULD BE THE ONE?

TURN

SEEING YOUR CRIMSON GODDESS GAVE ME A CLEARER IMAGE OF MY ISSHIN!

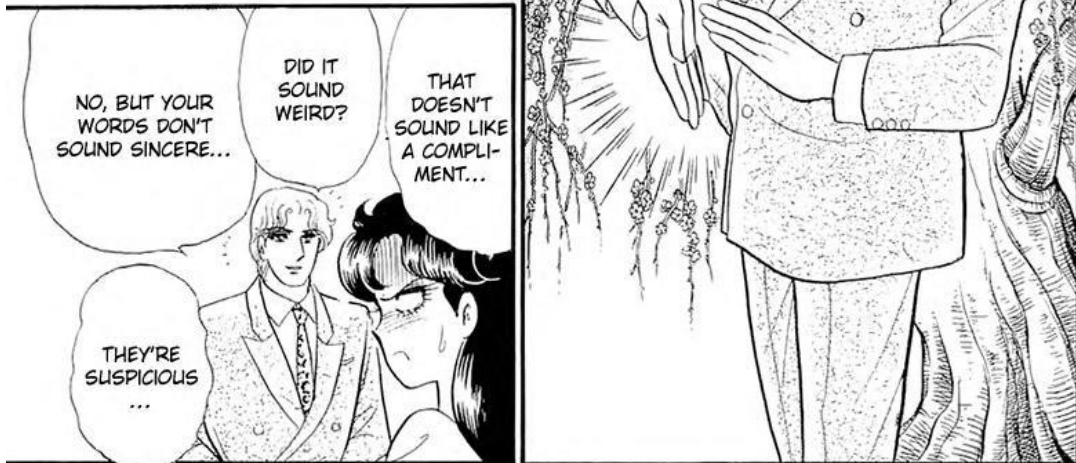
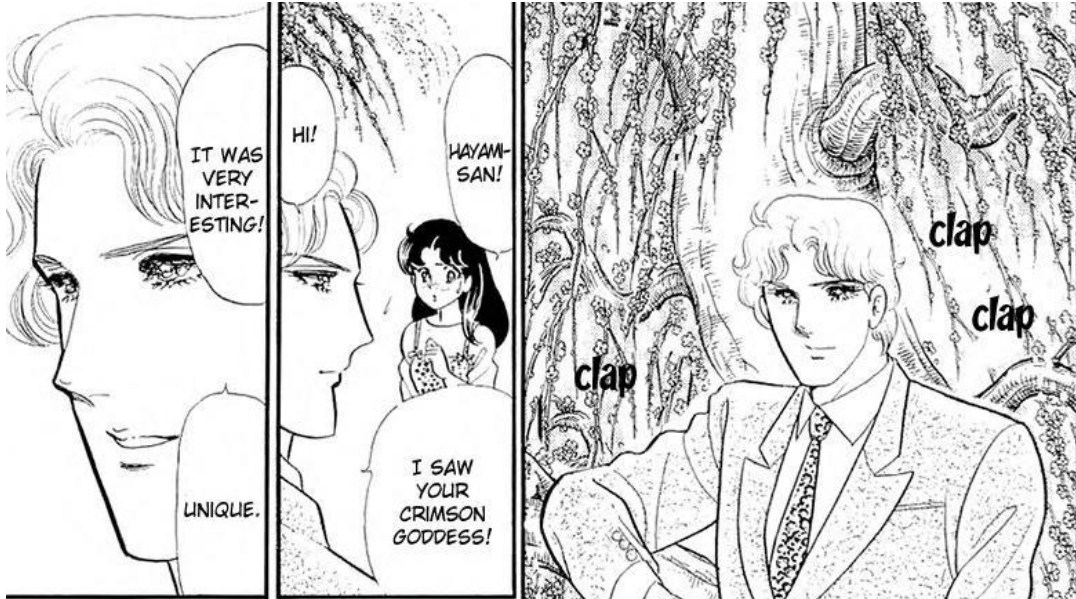
HELLO, AYUMI. GREAT INTERPRETATION.

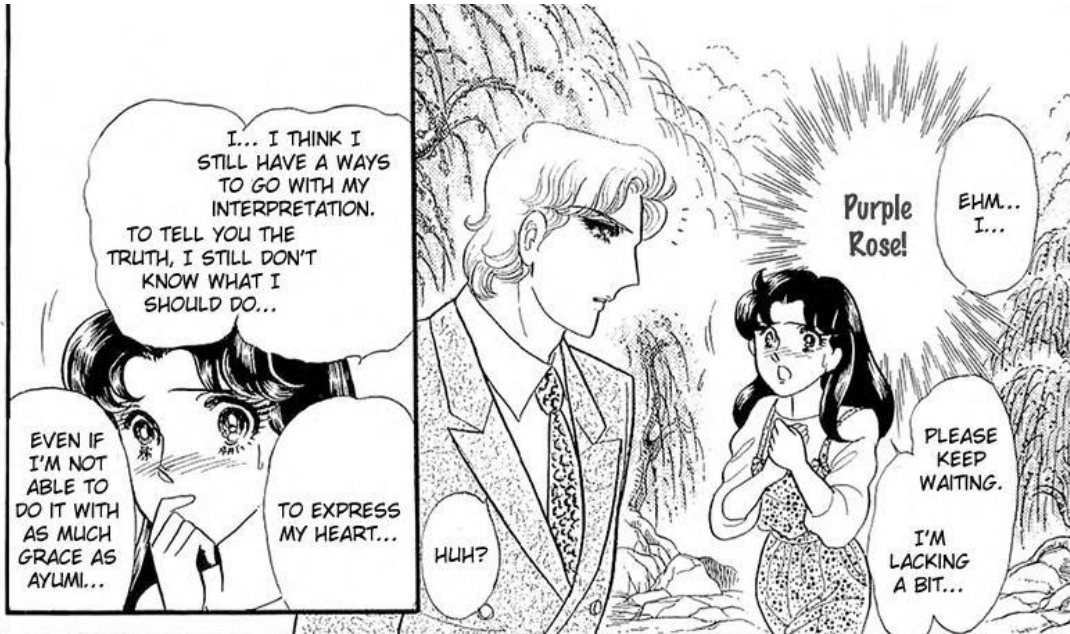
Ayumi...

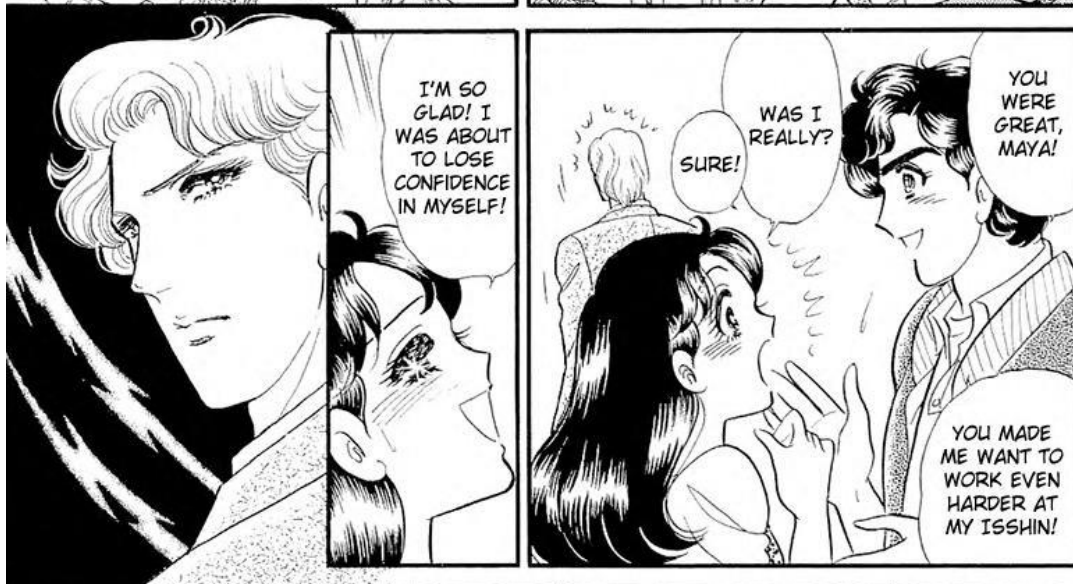
WAS IT REALLY YOU, AYUMI? I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK I WAS TAKING PICTURES OF A REAL SPIRIT!

THANK YOU, AKAME-SAN.

MERCI, HAMIL-SAN.



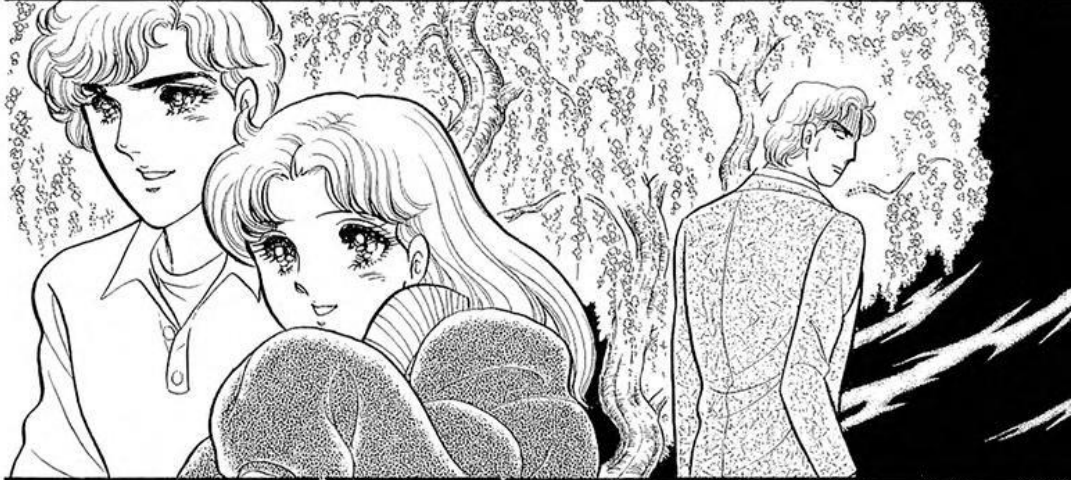




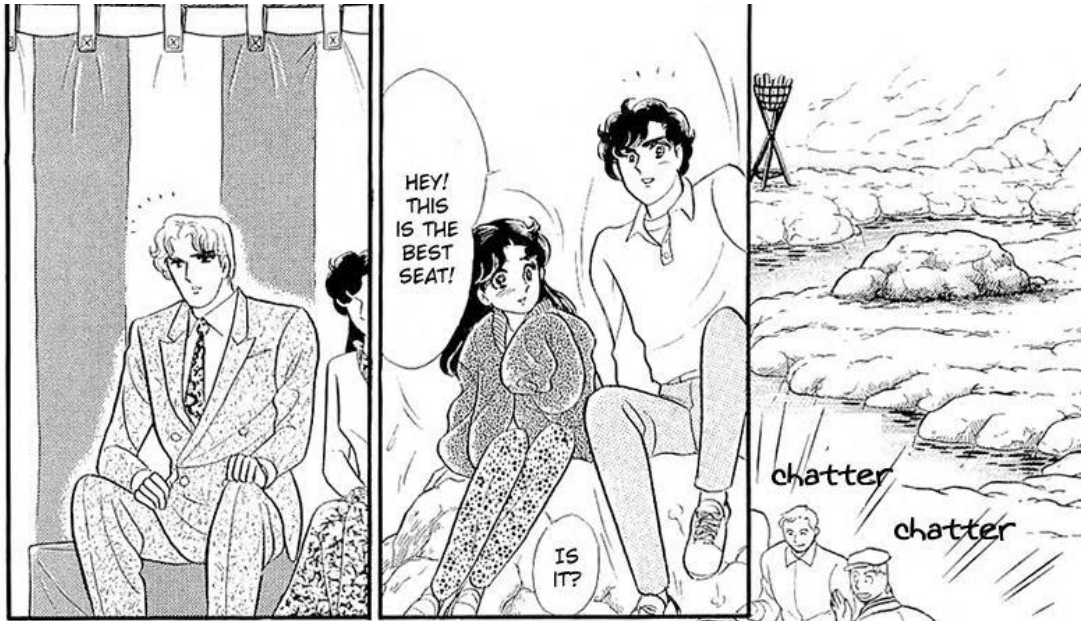














YOUR FATHER HAS ALWAYS LOVED THE CRIMSON GODDESS, CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE?

DID YOU KNOW...



AND WHO KNOWS HOW MOVED PRESIDENT HAYAMI MUST FEEL NOW!



YES...

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO SEE CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE'S CRIMSON GODDESS, MASUMI.



I KNOW...

YES...



YOUR FATHER AND CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE HAVE HATED EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME OVER THE CRIMSON GODDESS...



AND ON TOP OF THAT, TO SEE IT IN THIS VALLEY...

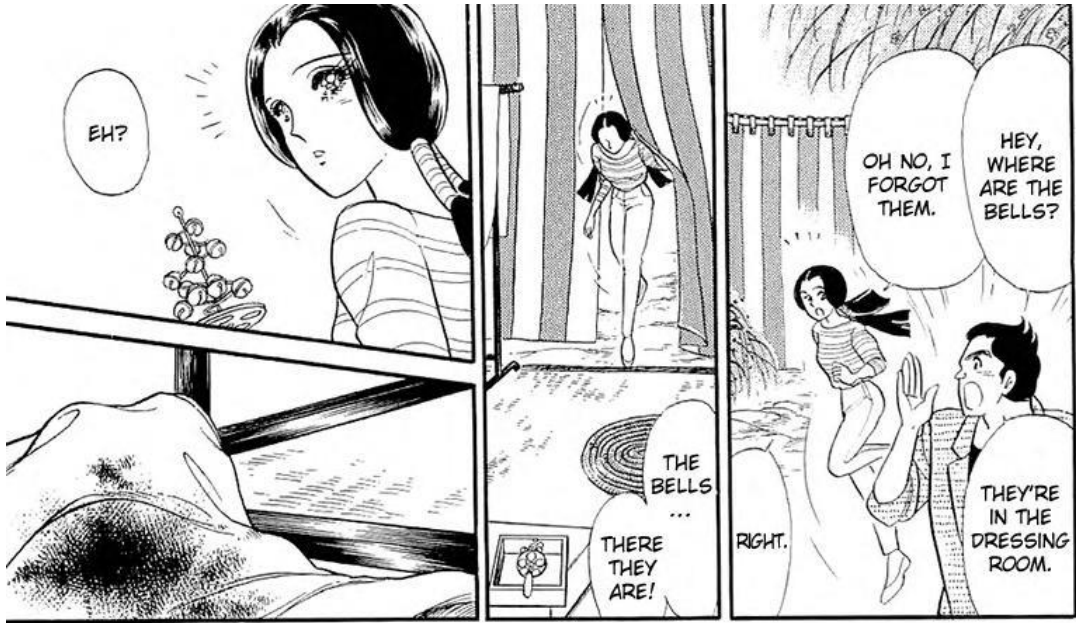
I THINK SO, TOO.

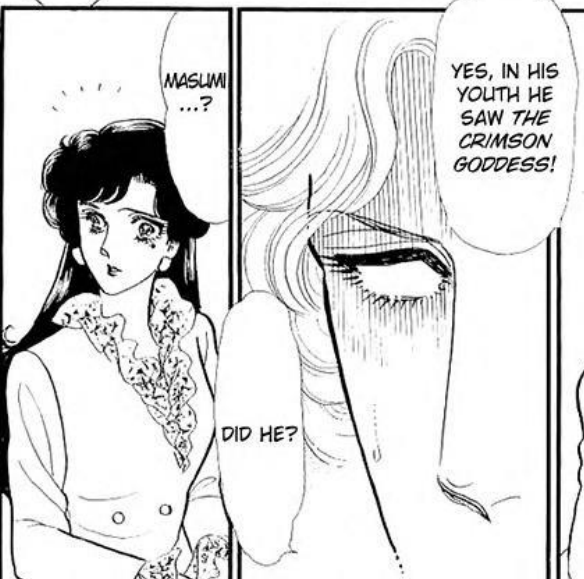
I THINK THAT IF ICHIREN OZAKI WERE STILL ALIVE, HE WOULD BE DEEPLY MOVED.

chatter  
chatter

chatter









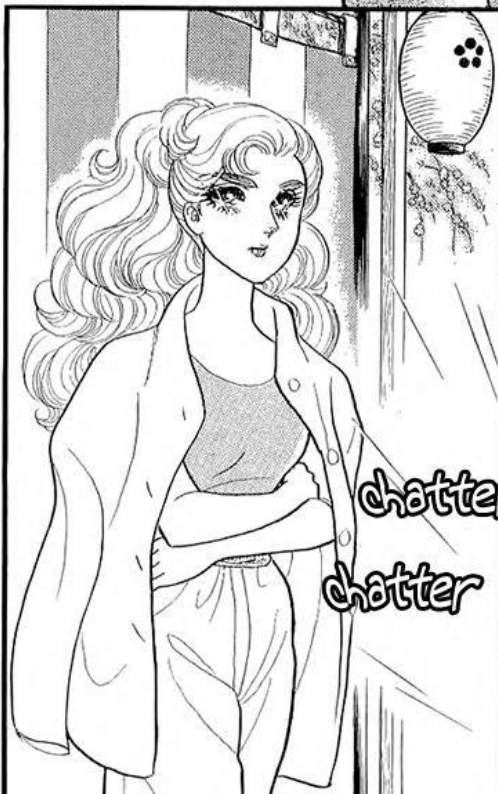




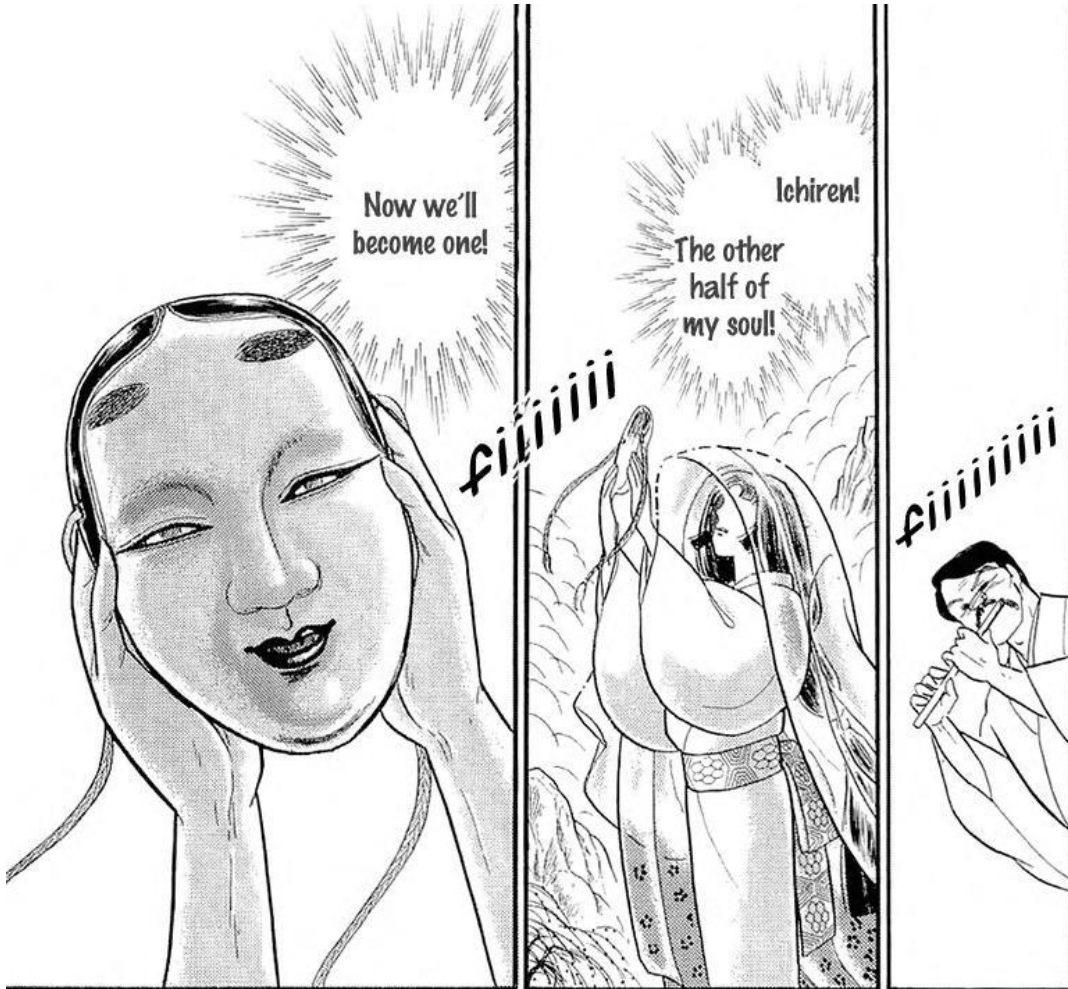
Chigusa...

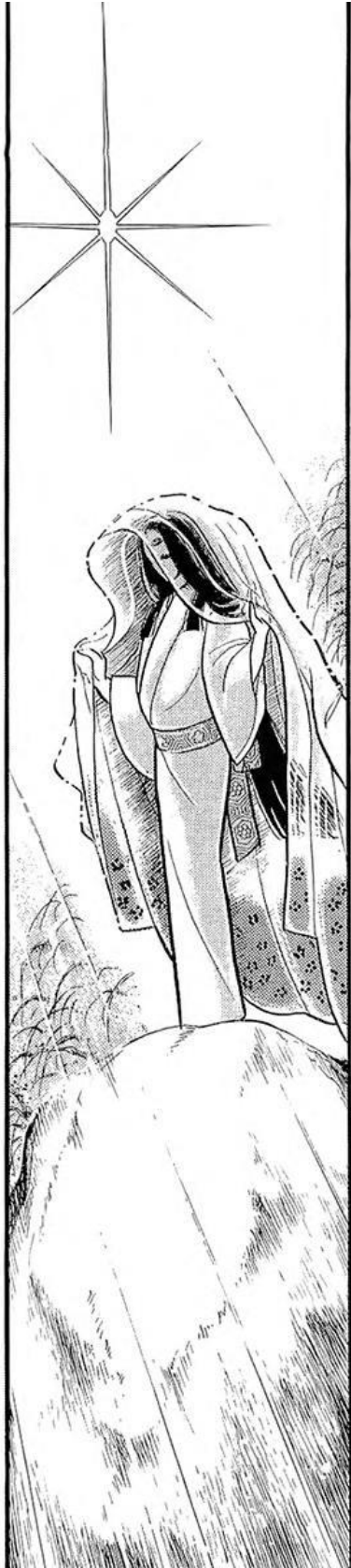


Maya!



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tum

BOOOOON



Tsukikage-sensei!

AH!

The Crimson Goddess!

SENSEI ...

SHE'S UP THERE!

