



She knew how to portray even the heart of a seed!

I tire and struggle to create my character.

I would have never thought to play a seed in the earth!

All she needs is a hunch!

Maya always gets the essence of the subject!



...WIND,  
FIRE, WATER,  
EARTH...

REGARDING  
THE STUDIES FOR  
THE CRIMSON  
GODDESS...

YOU'VE DONE  
A GREAT  
JOB, MAYA  
AND AYUMI.



AAAHH

CLAP  
CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

THIS PART  
HAS ENDED!



THE  
PLUM  
TREE'S  
SPIRIT...

...THE  
CRIMSON  
GODDESS.

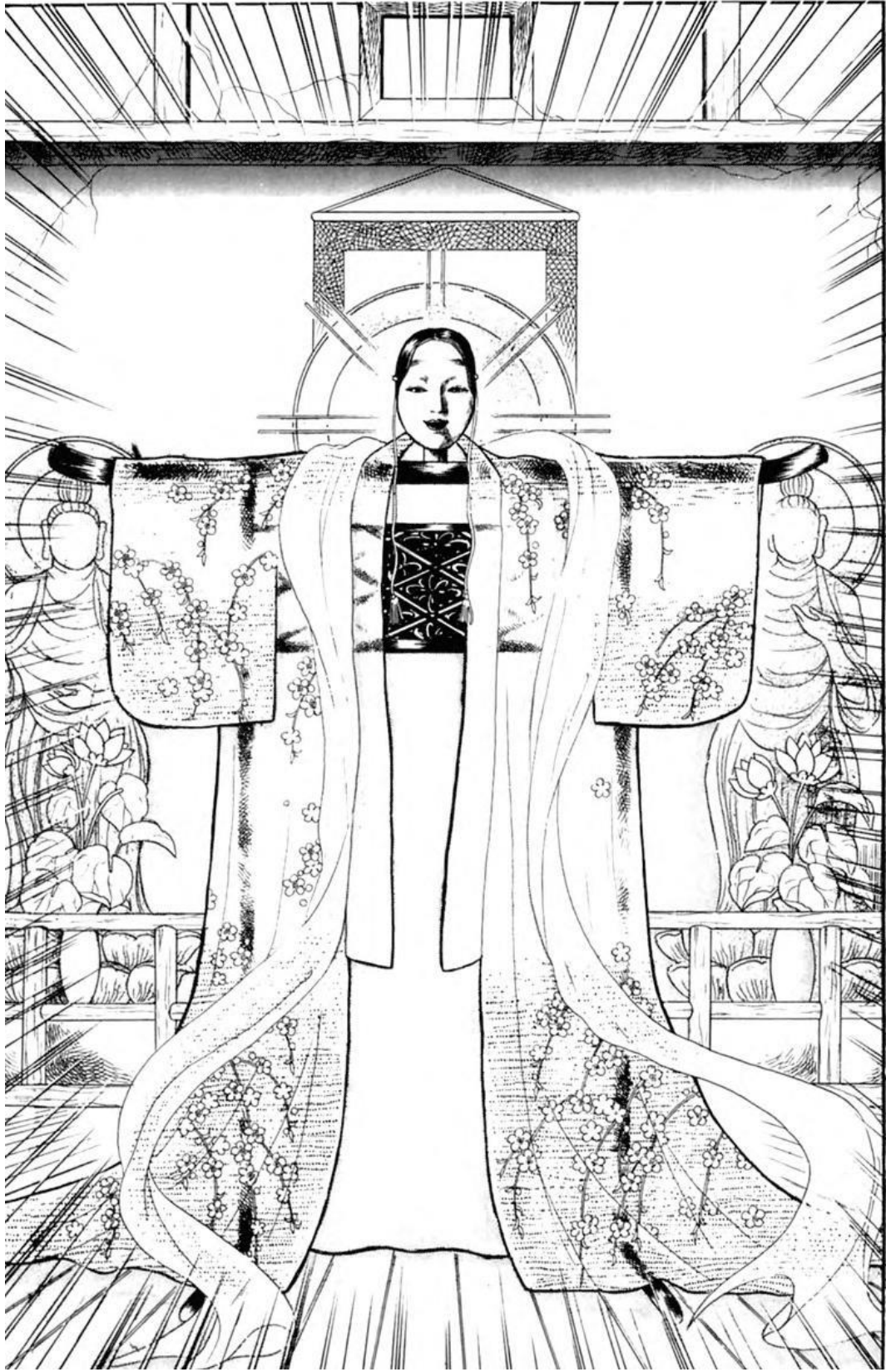
THERE IS ONLY  
ONE THING LEFT  
FOR YOU TO ACT  
IN THIS PLACE.

The  
Crimson  
Goddess!

FOLLOW  
ME!

WLANM

SHIXX





THE COSTUME AND THE MASK I USED ON THE STAGE IN THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

WHAT ARE THESE?



SENSEI...



HOW NOSTALGIC! THE OVATIONS, THE APPLAUSE...

I CAN ALMOST SMELL THE THEATER!



EVEN NOW, IT TAKES ME BACK TO THOSE TIMES. I MADE SOME UN-FORGETTABLE MEMORIES BACK THEN.



THIS IS THE COSTUME OF THE CRIMSON GODDESS ...



YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY UNDERSTOOD THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

THE CRIMSON GODDESS IS THE SPIRIT THAT GOVERNS OVER NATURE.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I MADE YOU INTERPRET THE ELEMENTS?



ALREADY UNDERSTOOD IT?!

ACTUALLY ...



Eh?!



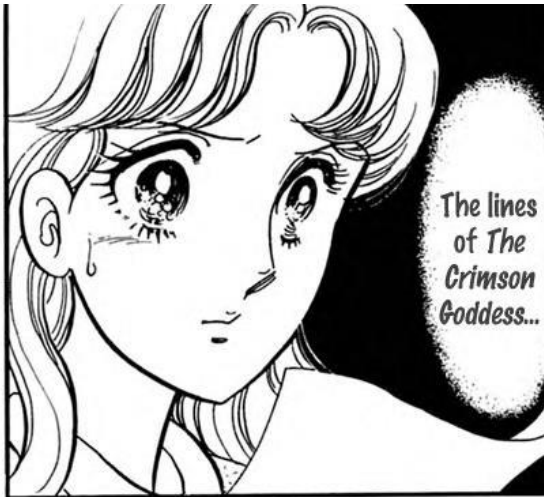
NO...



YOU'LL SEE THAT THE STUDIES YOU'VE UNDERGONE WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU.

YOU WILL BE INTERPRETING THEM WITHIN A WEEK.  
YOUR STAGE WILL BE THE VALLEY OF THE PLUM TREES.

HERE.  
THIS IS A PART OF THE CRIMSON GODDESS' SCRIPT.



The lines  
of The  
Crimson  
Goddess...



*They stir and stir,  
one against the other,  
and their conflict  
destroys everything...*

*Their dance is ever  
more terrifying.*

*The spirits of the gods  
are agitated.*

*From the two whirlpools,  
the flame of war emerges,  
spreading hatred and suffering.*

*One after another,  
the pearls of life disappear.*

*Crimson Goddess:*

*Who calls for me?*

*Is it the echo of the forest?*

*The silence of the night?*

*No, it is the stench of blood.*

*I see two eddies opposing each other.*

*The red whirlpool and  
the white whirlpool, like two spinning tops  
that wreak havoc upon the world.*





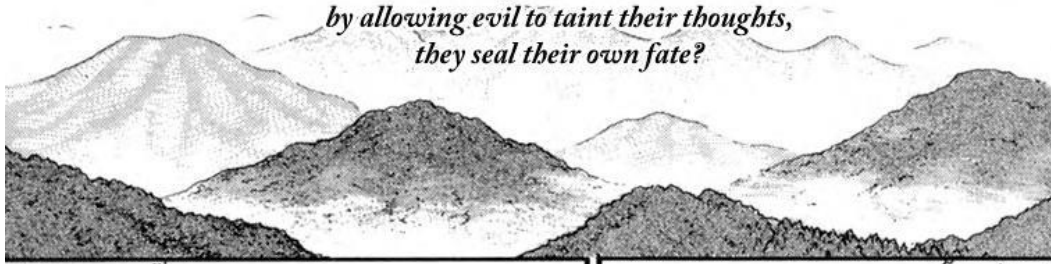
*I do not understand.*

*Why do humans fight one another?  
Why do they spill blood and wreak destruction?*

*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 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?*



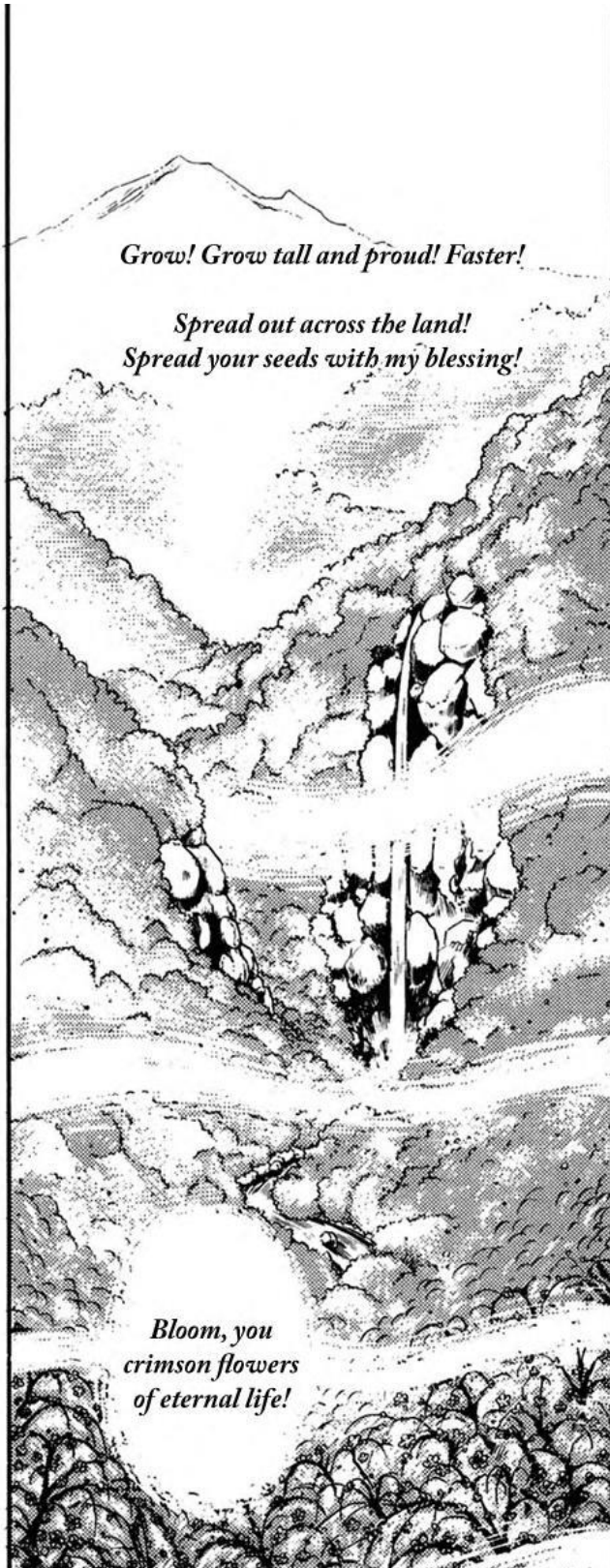
*Crimson Goddess:  
What a foolish thing!  
But they do not see  
that it is the hearts of  
the heavenly gods which  
make them move, which  
protect their lives...*



*Oniosa:  
Humans believe  
only in that which  
their eyes can behold.  
Only in that which  
their ears can hear.  
That which their  
fingers can touch.*



*Beings  
of flesh  
believe only  
in flesh.*



*Grow! Grow tall and proud! Faster!*

*Spread out across the land!  
Spread your seeds with my blessing!*

*Bloom, you  
crimson flowers  
of eternal life!*

*The tree and the spirit.*

*The spirit of  
the Earth's gods grows and  
shows itself on the surface.*

*Here in this holy ground,  
where gods thrive, I have  
the shape of a plum tree.*

*My strength spirals  
up towards the heavens,  
watching over the creatures of  
the Earth and of the water...*

*...and over those that stretch  
their roots beneath the ground,  
those that slither over the ground,  
those that fly, walk or swim.*

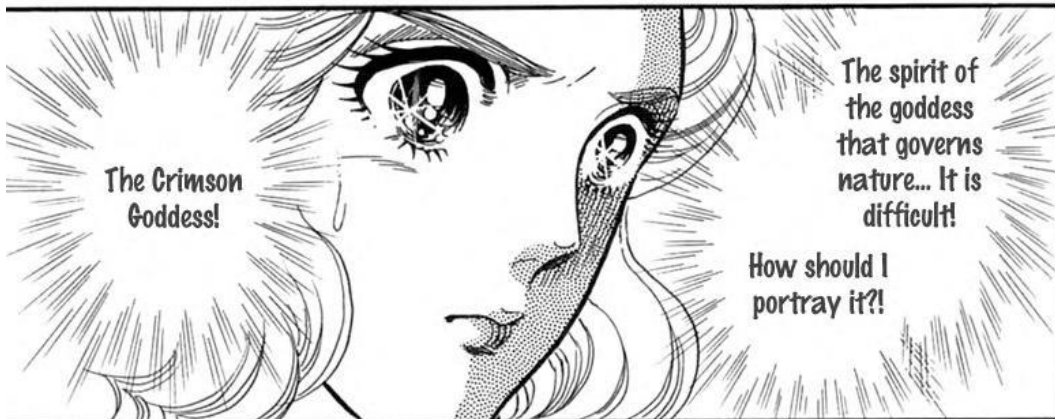


This is  
the Crimson  
Goddess!

This is it!



The Crimson  
Goddess!



The Crimson  
Goddess!

The spirit of  
the goddess  
that governs  
nature... It is  
difficult!

How should I  
portray it?!

How could the  
interpretations  
of the elements  
help us?



YOU SHOULD  
HAVE ALREADY  
UNDERSTOOD  
THE CRIMSON  
GODDESS.

What could  
Tsukikage-san have  
meant when she  
said those words?



TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI,  
ALLOW ME TO TRANSLATE.

HAMIL-SAN.

HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU HAD THE GIRLS INTERPRET THE THEMES OF WIND, FIRE, WATER AND EARTH.

MADAME, ABOUT THE INTERPRETATIONS OF WIND, FIRE, WATER AND EARTH... YOU SAY THAT THE JOURNEY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DESTINATION...

...BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THE GIRLS?



THESE ARE THE STARTING POINTS FOR PERSONAL, INDIVIDUAL, DISCOVERIES.

THE SAME WITH WATER AND EARTH.

INTERPRETING WIND REQUIRES AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WIND IS.  
INTERPRETING FIRE REQUIRES AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT FIRE IS.



THE POINT OF INTERPRETING WIND, FIRE, WATER AND EARTH WAS NOT TO SEE WHAT SCENE THEY COULD CREATE,

MADAME!

THE DANCE OF FIRE AND THE ENERGY OF EARTH?

WHO WILL PERCEIVE THE SHAPE OF WIND?  
PERCEIVE THE SOUL OF WATER?

BUT TO OPEN THEIR EYES TO "THAT CERTAIN SOMETHING."



ONE MIGHT CALL THEM THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF THE WIND.

KITAJIMA MAYA THE BEGINNING AND FADING OF ITS WHIRLING ENERGY.

IN "WIND," HIMEKAWA AYUMI FELT ITS INVISIBLE FORM.

AND INDEED, THEY BOTH GAINED THEIR OWN NOTIONS.

MAYA THE MADNESS THAT BURNS THE HUMAN HEART.

IN "FIRE," AYUMI FOUND THE BEAUTIFUL RHYTHM OF THE SOARING FLAMES.

IN "WATER," AYUMI FELT THE EMOTIONS OF UNDERWATER CREATURES.

MAYA, A MOTHER'S LOVE AND THE SEED THAT IT FOSTERS.

MAYA THE WATER'S SOUL AND ITS POWER.

IN "EARTH," AYUMI DEIFIED THE LAND'S ENERGY AND VOLATILITY.



IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW MUCH THEY'LL BE ABLE TO UTILIZE WHAT THEY LEARNED.

BOTH GIRLS WILL USE THE ALL THOSE THEMES...  
...TO BUILD THEIR CRIMSON GODDESS.



Ha ha ha  
THERE IS NO ONE BETTER FOR A CHARACTER WHOSE BEAUTY IS SAID TO BE BEYOND COMPARISON.

EVEN IF IT IS JUST FOR HER GOOD LOOKS.

HOWEVER, I AM SURE THE EXQUISITE ACTING SKILL OF AYUMI HIMEKAWA WILL PREVAIL.

YEAH!  
THAT'S TRUE.

IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THEN CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE WOULD NEVER HAVE EVEN CONSIDERED MAYA KITAJIMA!



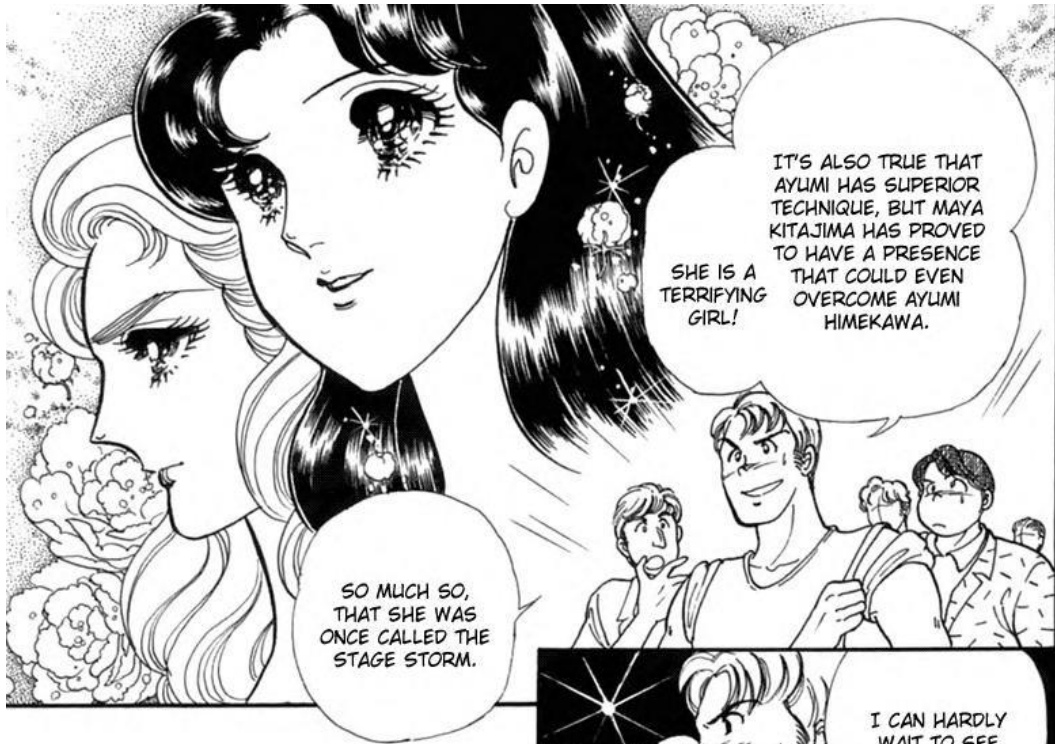
MADAME...



WHICH ONE WILL BE BETTER? THE DETAILED AND THOROUGH INTERPRETATION OF AYUMI HIMEKAWA...  
...OR THE INSTINCTIVE ONE OF MAYA KITAJIMA?

SOON THE REHEARSALS FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS WILL BEGIN.

WE SHALL CLEARLY SEE WHICH ONE OF THEM IS MORE SUITED FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS.









BUT  
...!



I WON'T  
RETURN  
FOR NOW.

I'LL STAY  
IN THE  
VALLEY  
OF THE  
PLUM  
TREES!



WHAT?!

IT WAS  
HER!  
CHIGUSA!

IT WAS  
CHIGUSA  
TSUKIKAGE  
WHO SAVED ME  
WHEN I WAS  
ON THE VERGE  
OF DEATH!



**WHAT?!  
PRESIDENT  
HAYAMI WAS  
FOUND?!**

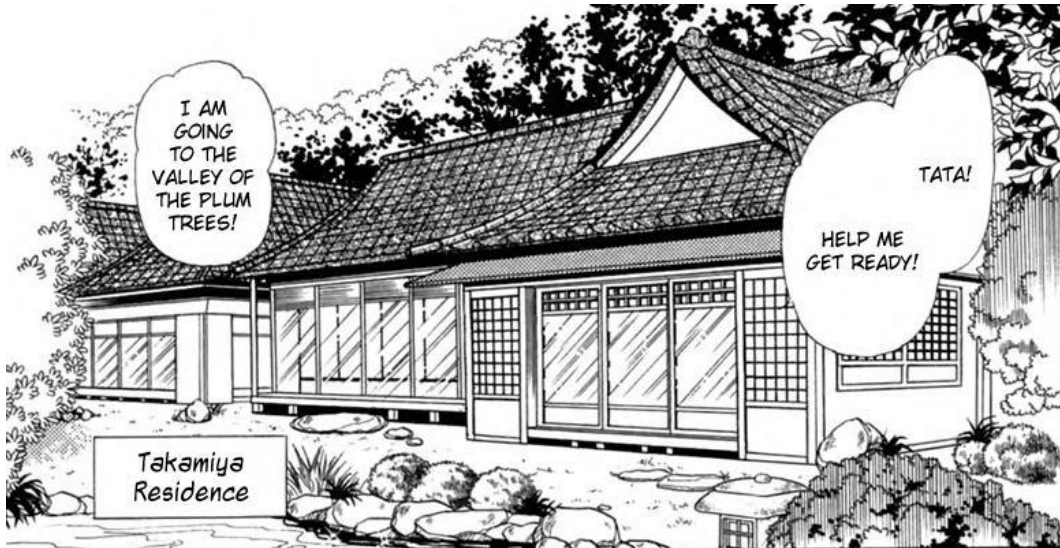


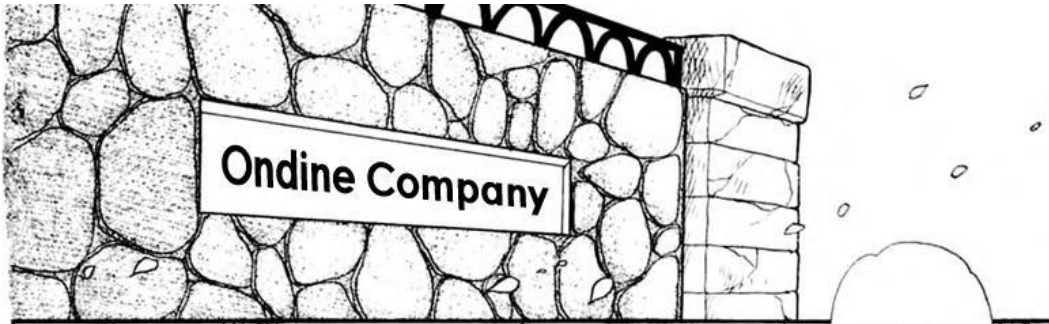
**BLAH**  
**BLAH**  
**BLAH**

**oooh**

**HE WAS  
SAVED BY A  
VILLAGER AND  
IS NOW IN A  
MOUNTAIN  
LODGE?!**

**GENTLEMEN!  
HAYAMI-SAN  
IS FINE!**





Ondine Company



I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.  
GOOD-BYE.

REALLY? PRESIDENT HAYAMI IS SAFE AND SOUND?!



CLICK



WE CAN USE THIS PRETEXT TO GO INTO THE VALLEY WHERE CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE IS.  
THAT IS, GOING TO SEE PRESIDENT HAYAMI.

DID THAT YOUNGSTER SAKURAKOJI GO, TOO?

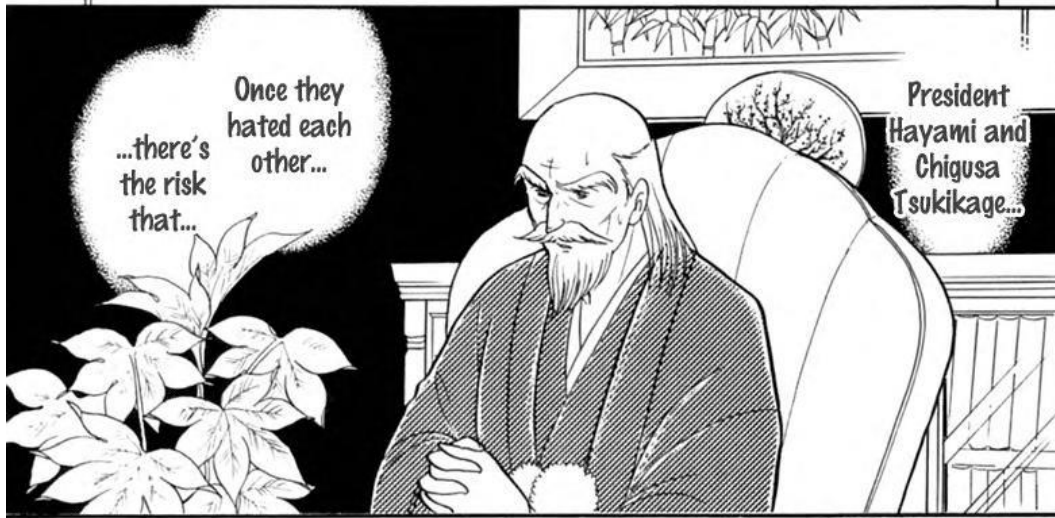
TAKE ME WITH YOU, ONODERA.

IF SO, MAYBE I SHOULD ALSO GO THERE.

I MUST ABSOLUTELY TALK WITH CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE ABOUT THE CRIMSON GODDESS!

I CAN'T LET HIM HAVE AN ADVANTAGE OVER ME.  
I'VE LEARNED THAT RYUZO KURONUMA IS ALREADY AT THE SITE.

National Drama Association  
President's Office



When I finish it, I'll have completed my task of understanding the part.

He taught me various carving techniques, and eventually let me sculpt a statue of Kannon...

In order to get acquainted with the part of the sculptor Isshin, I've almost forced Kaikai-san to take me as his apprentice.

I've been a freeloader here for too long...





IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE REHEARSALS, TRY SCULPTING FOR A WHILE.

HERE, TAKE THIS. THESE ARE THE TOOLS YOU'VE USED.

IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I DON'T KNOW IF I HELPED YOU OR NOT, BUT YOU TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD STUDENT!

I AM REALLY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING, KAIKEI-SAN.



KAIKEI-SENSEI ...



WHEN I LOOKED AT YOU SCULPTING WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE, I FORGOT ABOUT ACTING, AND I THOUGHT I WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF YOUR ISSHIN!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF CHARACTER THE SCULPTOR ISSHIN IS...  
...BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BETTER TO STOP SEARCHING FOR IT SO DESPERATELY?

IF YOU GIVE UP YOUR PREJUDICES, YOU'LL SEE THE TRUTH.

DON'T YOU  
THINK ISSHIN  
IS ALREADY  
INSIDE OF  
YOU?



TO GET  
CLOSER TO THE  
CHARACTER,  
YOU MUST  
FIRST GET  
CLOSER TO  
YOURSELF.  
  
ONLY  
YOU CAN  
INTERPRET  
YOUR OWN  
ISSHIN.



**KAIKEI-  
SAN!**



AND ONE DAY,  
ON THE STAGE,  
I SHALL  
SCULPT A  
STATUE!

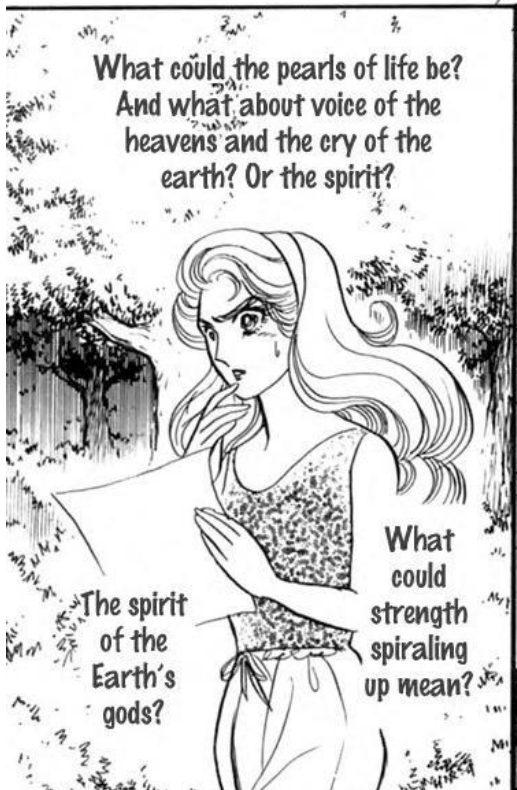
AS  
ISSHIN!

THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH!  
  
I WILL  
GLADLY  
TAKE THESE  
TOOLS!



WHEN I  
HAVE TROUBLE  
REHEARSING,  
I'LL SCULPT.  
  
I'LL KEEP  
MY MIND  
FOCUSED ON  
SCULPTING!







My Crimson Goddess!



UH!

BA-TUMP



Ichiren...



IT WAS A LONG JOURNEY!  
BUT WE'VE FINALLY MADE IT...

SOON, THE TWO GIRLS WILL BEGIN REHEARSALS FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS...



UH!

AH!



NOT NOW,  
NOT WHEN  
I'VE MADE  
IT THIS  
FAR!

LUUGH!  
NO!

Not when  
I've reached  
this point!



MADAME  
...!

SBAM

Ichiren!



TSUKIKAGE-SAN!