



KICHIZA!
IT'S
RED...

This is...

Maya...

THE SKY
OF EDO IS
BRIGHT
RED!

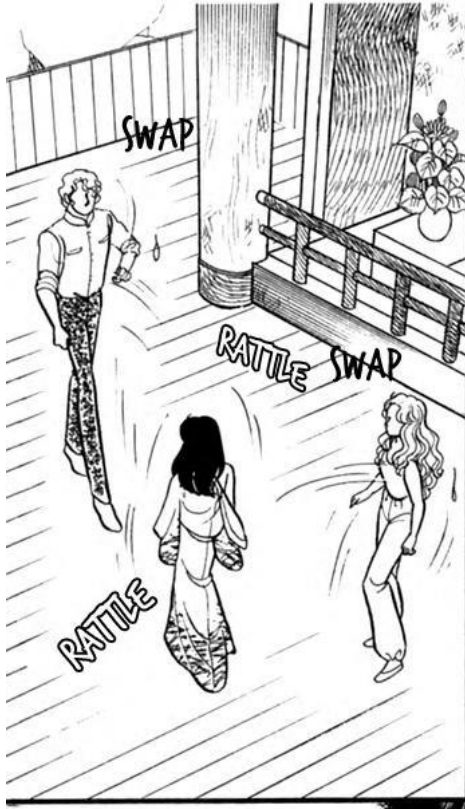
AAAH,
THE CITY
OF EDO IS
ENGLUFED
IN FLAMES...

Yaoya
Oshichi!

KICHIZA
...

SEE
YOU
...

I WANT
TO SEE
YOU
AGAIN
...

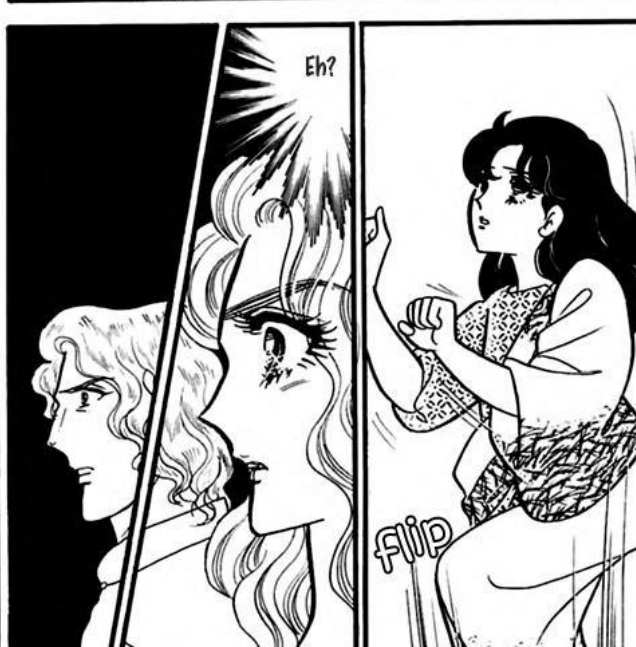
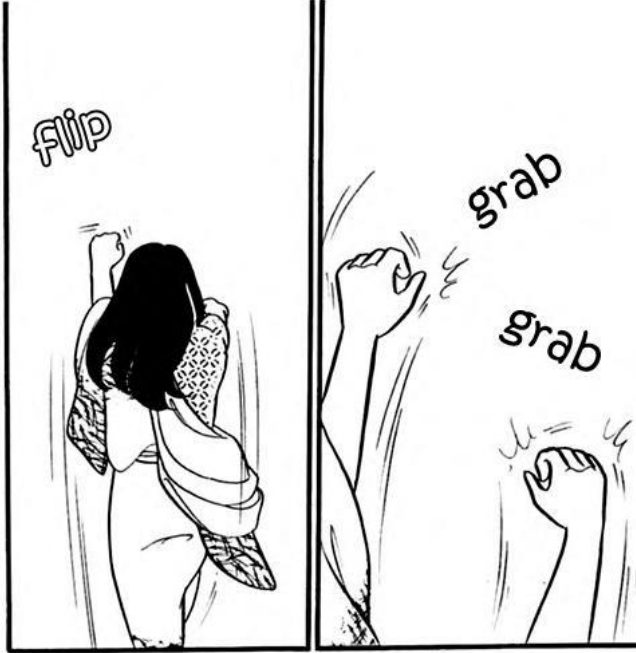


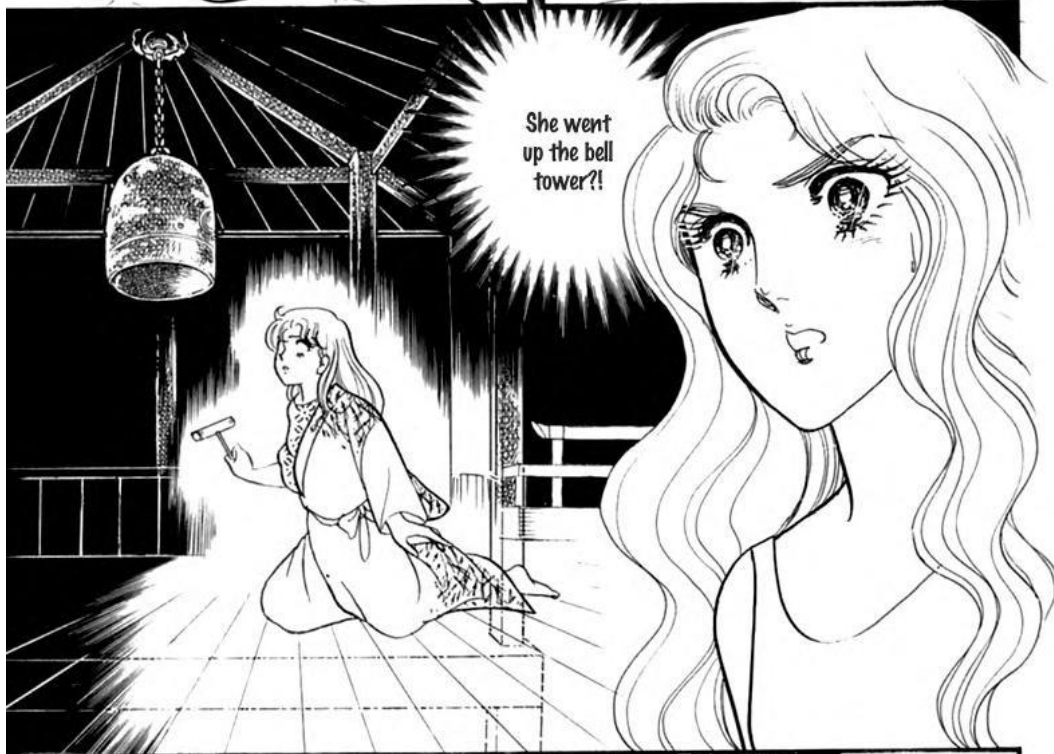
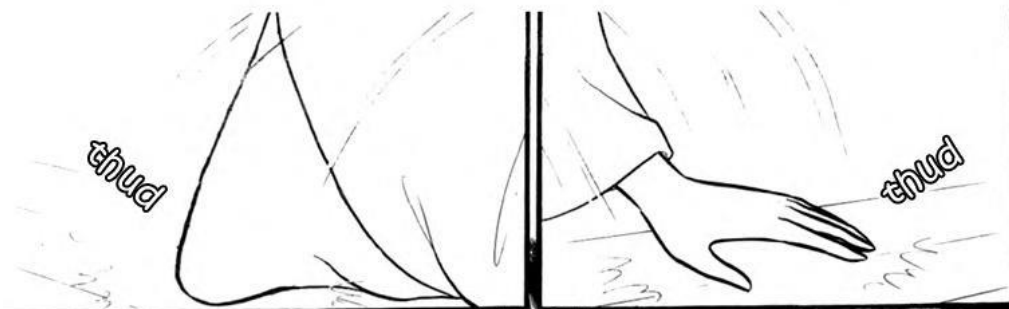
It's the same interpretation I used for the fire theme when Ichiren first gave it to me...

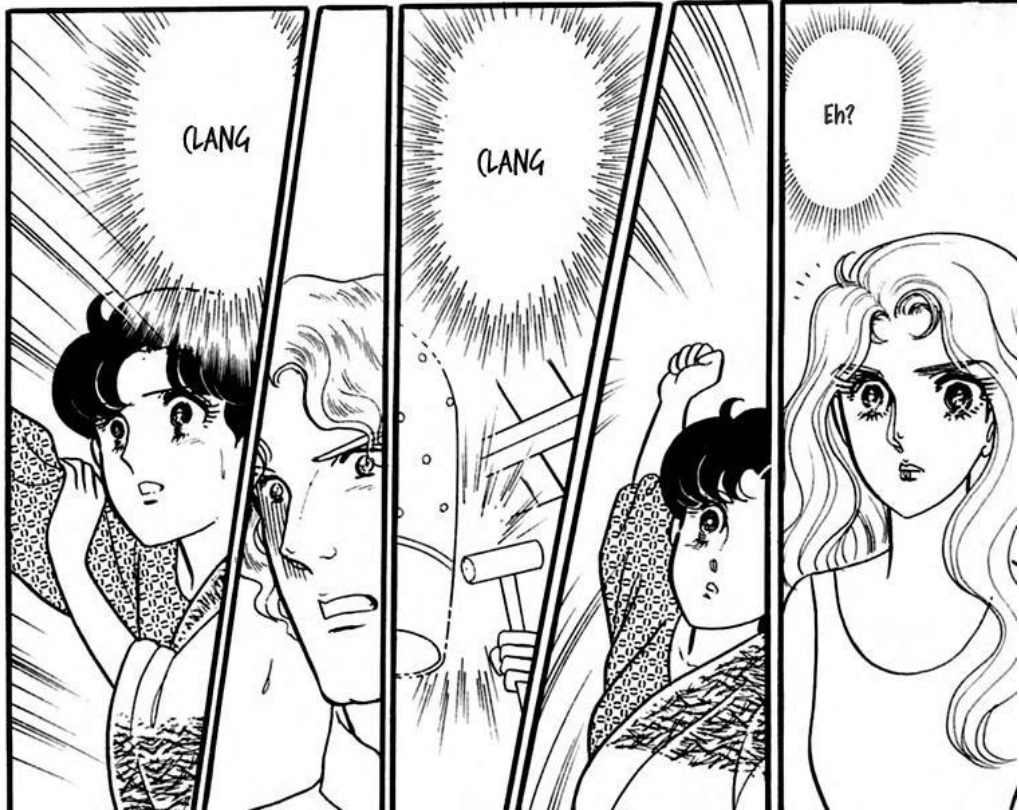
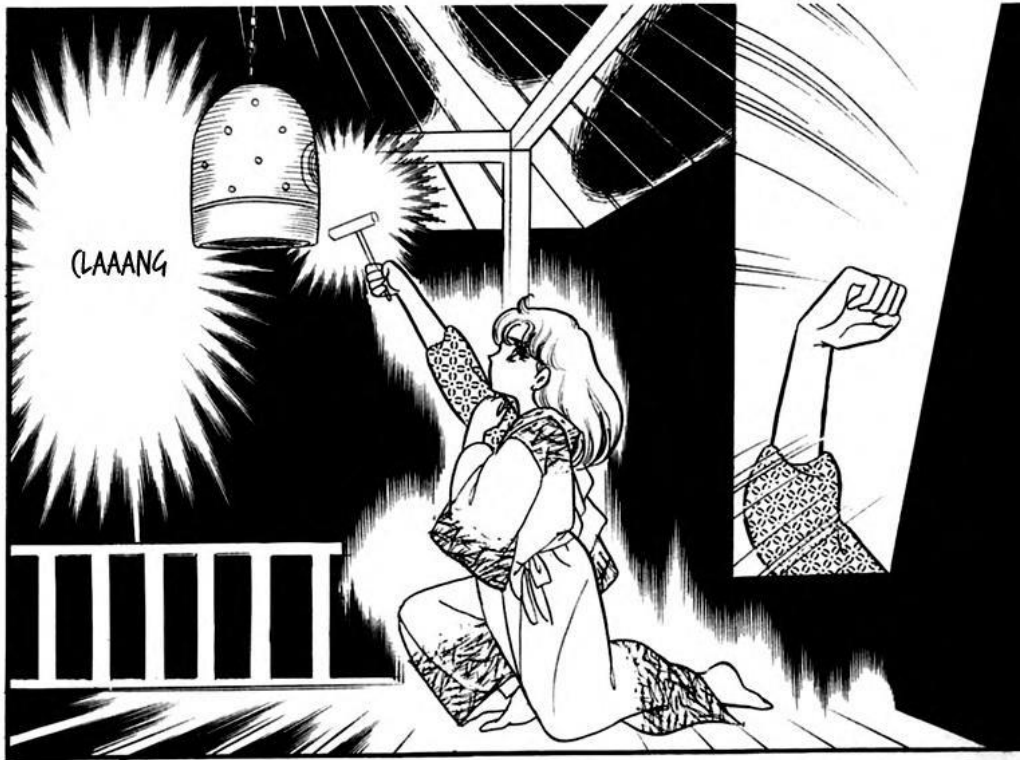
Why?! Why is Maya using this for the test?!

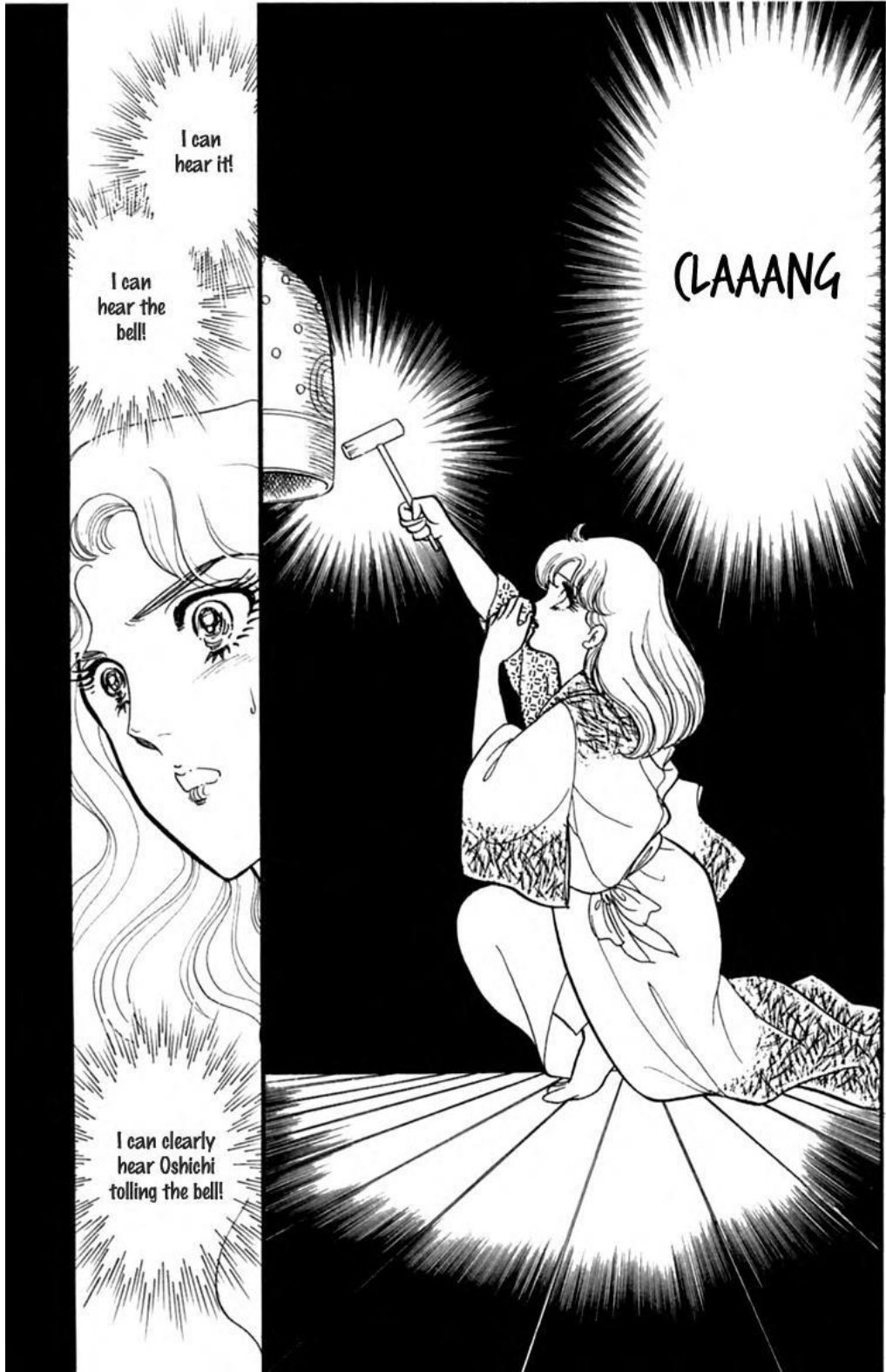
The very same!









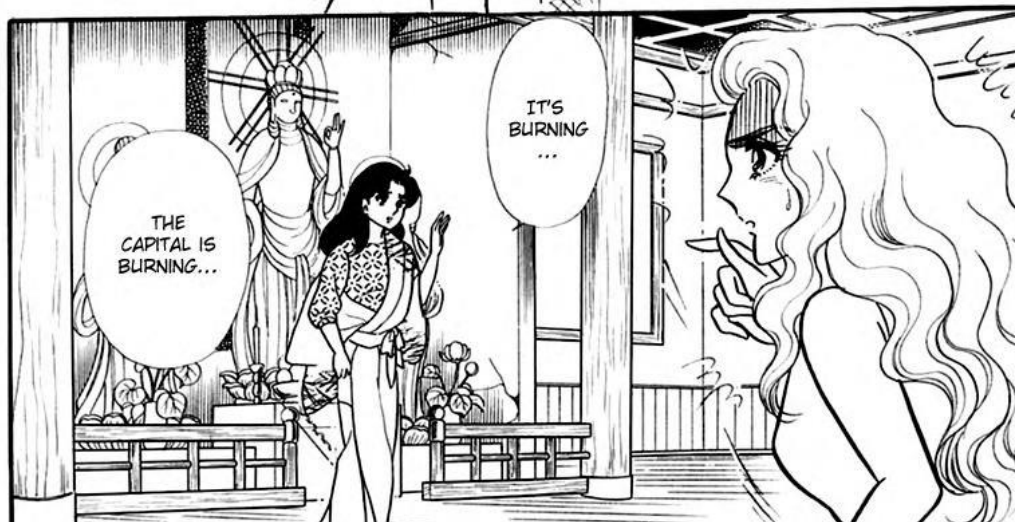


I can hear it!

I can hear the bell!

I can clearly hear Oshichi tolling the bell!

CLAAANG







IT'S
SO HOT
KICHIZA
...

LET IT
BURN
...

LET IT
BURN
EVERY-
THING!

MYSELF,
YOURSELF,
EVERYTHING!



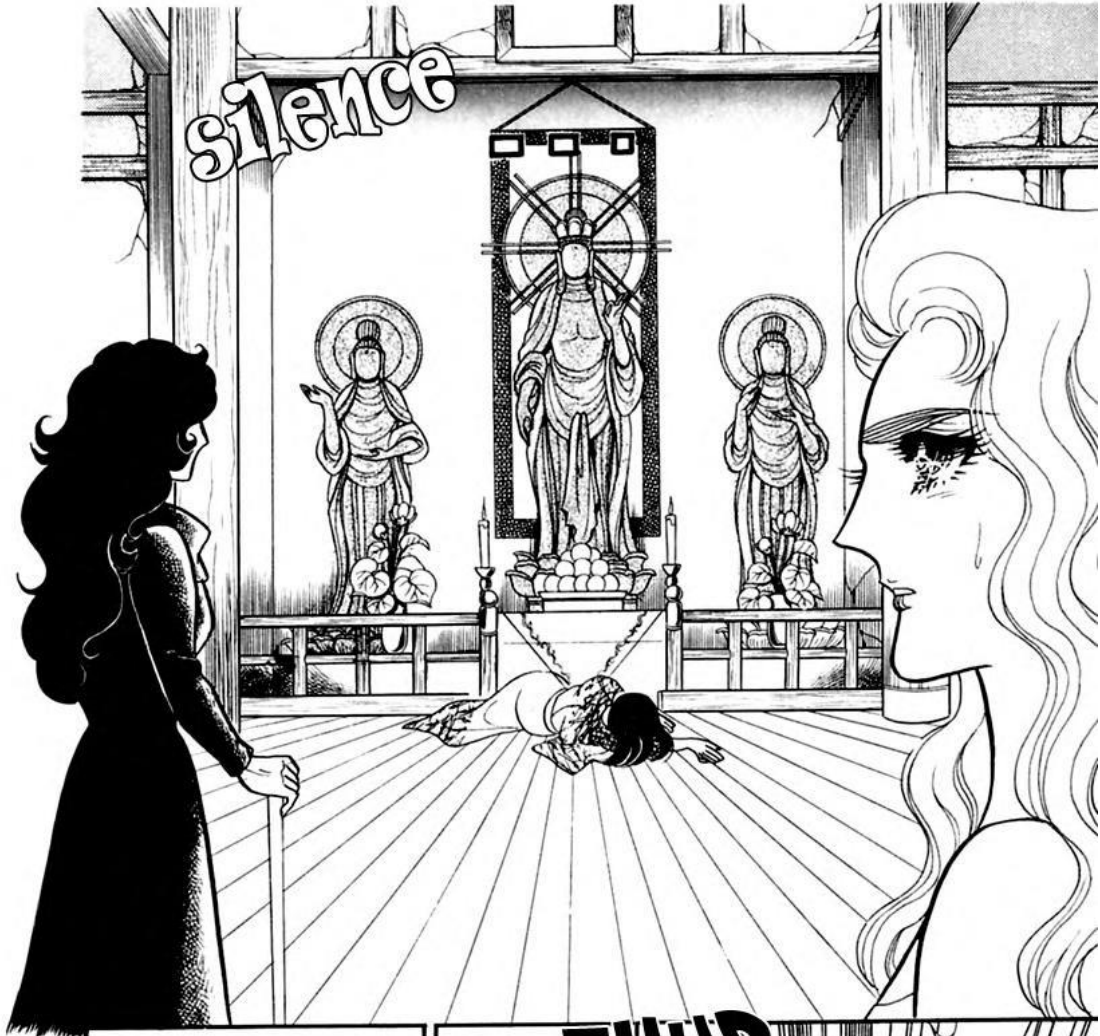
*The fire of
the heart!*

This is...

*...the fire
from Oshichi's
heart...*

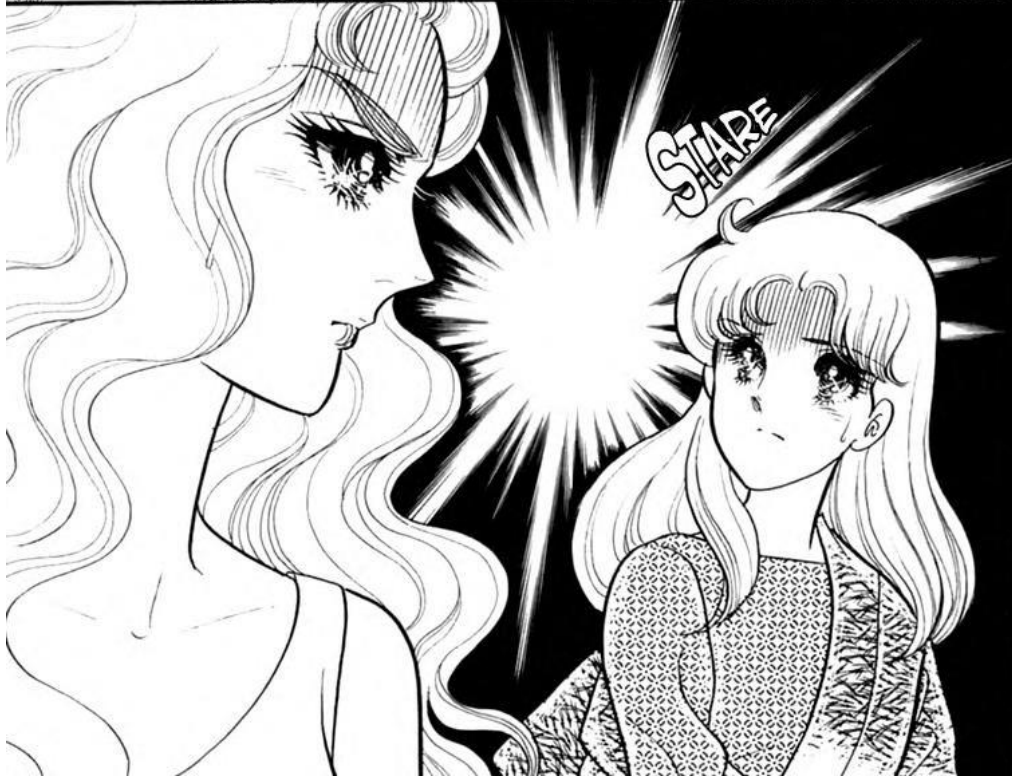
*I never
would've thought
fire could be
expressed in
such a way!*

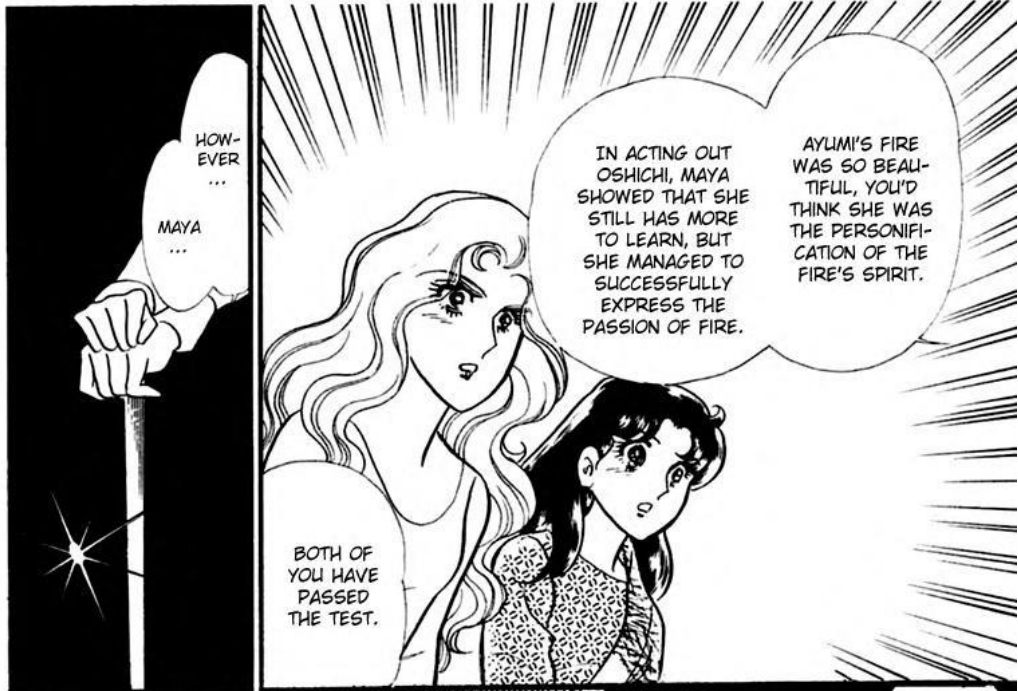
*That
consumes
Oshichi!*



BOTH FIRES WERE VERY SPECIFIC AND INTERESTING. IT WAS CLEAR HOW BOTH OF YOU GRASPED THE FEELING OF THE ELEMENT.







HOW-
EVER
...
MAYA
...

IN ACTING OUT OSHICHI, MAYA SHOWED THAT SHE STILL HAS MORE TO LEARN, BUT SHE MANAGED TO SUCCESSFULLY EXPRESS THE PASSION OF FIRE.

AYUMI'S FIRE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, YOU'D THINK SHE WAS THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE FIRE'S SPIRIT.

BOTH OF YOU HAVE PASSED THE TEST.



YOUR OSHICHI LACKS A CERTAIN GLIMPSE OF MADNESS FROM HER EYES.



AND THE AUDIENCE CAN FEEL IT!

THAT'S BECAUSE IT HAS AN AIR OF REALISM

EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT PERFECT, A MESMERIZING PERFORMANCE ATTRACTS THE AUDIENCE!

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FLAWLESS INTERPRETATION AND A MESMERIZING ONE.



MAYA,
TO
FEEL
AUTHEN-
-TIC...

A PLAIN
FIELD
FLOWER,
RADIAT-
-ING
VITALITY

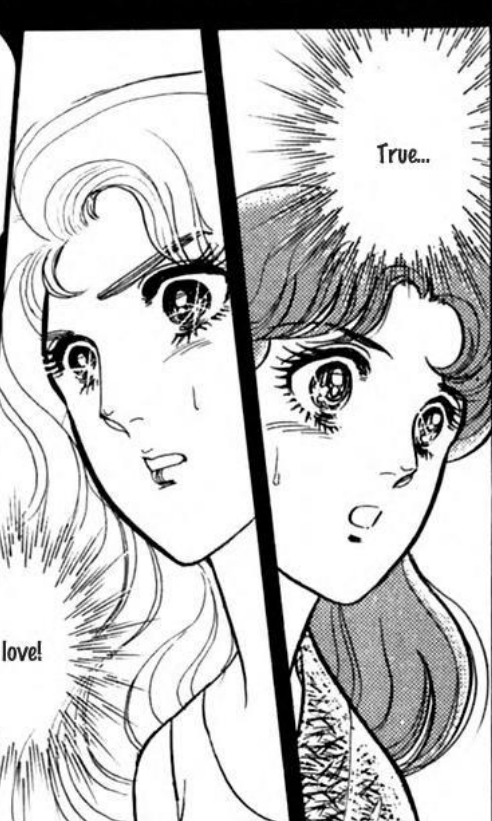
...ATTRACTS
MORE ATTEN-
-TION THAN A
BEAUTIFUL
ARTIFICIAL ONE!

YOU
HAVE TO
UNDER-
-STAND
TRUE
LOVE.



WHEN YOU'RE
ABLE TO, I'D
LIKE TO SEE
YOUR OSHICHI
ONCE AGAIN!

THIS IS MY
OPINION ON
YOUR INTER-
-PRETATION,
MAYA.



love!

True...



NOW
FOLLOW
ME.



RUMBLE

THE NEXT
THEME WILL
BE "WATER"!

AND THIS
WILL BE
YOUR
STAGE.



WHAT?! THIS WATERFALL?!

IN FRONT OF A POWERFUL WATERFALL, WHICH EXPRESSES NATURE'S FORCE, WE'LL SEE HOW LONG YOUR INTERPRETATION OF WATER WILL LAST.

RUMBLE

TSUKIKAGE-SAN!



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YAOKA OSHICHI FOR THE FIRE THEME?

YES? MAYA.

RUMBLE

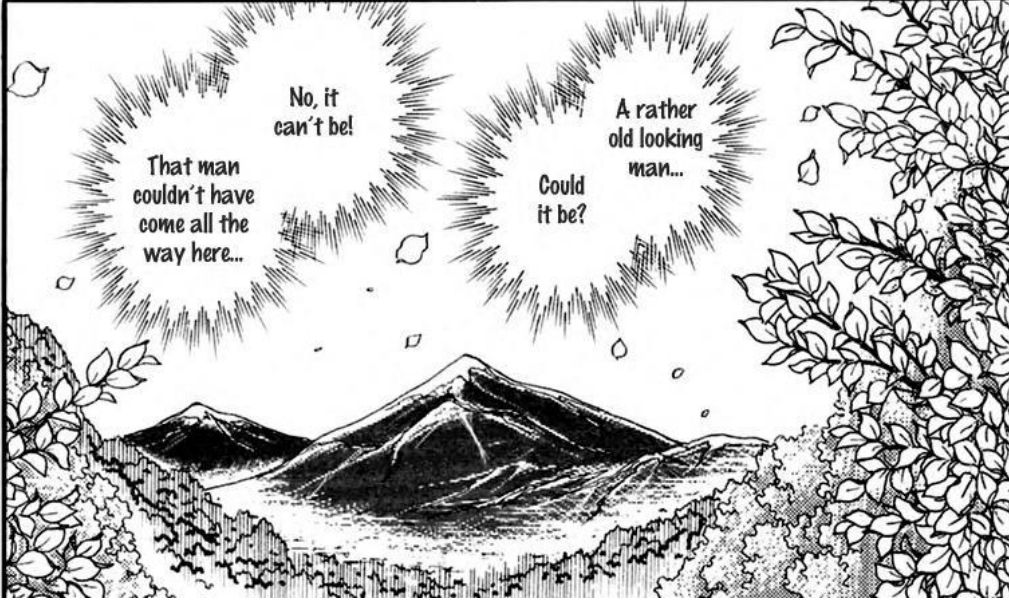
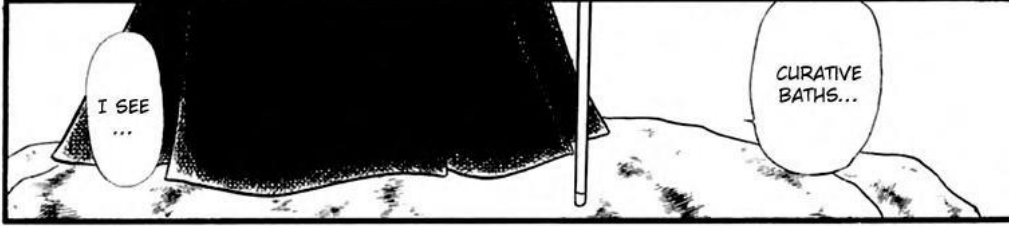
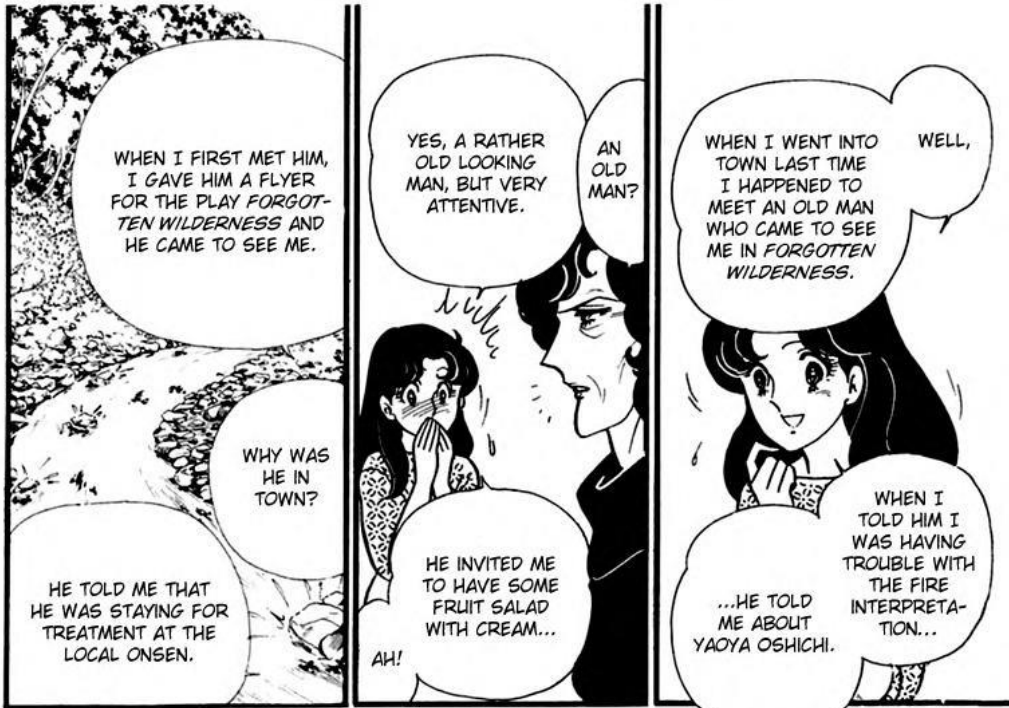
EH?



THE INTERPRETATION OF WATER...

IN FRONT OF THIS WATERFALL...

RUMBLE





Only a very small group of people know about this...

It's possible... it's possible that the man is...

Ichiren...

That time you should have realized how I felt about you...



The love madness of Oshichi...

...was the same as my madness

And still, you...

...my inner fire...



and still... back then

when Ichiren Ozaki gave me the same themes of wind, fire, water and earth...

...I used Oshichi for fire...

I chose Oshichi in the hope I could express the feelings of love I had for Ichiren!



...THAT IN THESE THEMES' REGARD, THE RESULT IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS HOW YOU REACH IT IS.

PLEASE TELL HIM THAT...

THE TRUE OBJECTIVE OF THESE THEMES IS THE HOW YOU REACH YOUR RESULT!



...HAMIL-SAN WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY THE GIRLS HAVE TO PASS THE TESTS WITH THE THEMES OF WIND, FIRE, WATER AND EARTH.

MADAM ...

WHAT DID TODAY'S INTERPRETATION OF FIRE...
...TEACH THEM?



Eisuke Hayami...

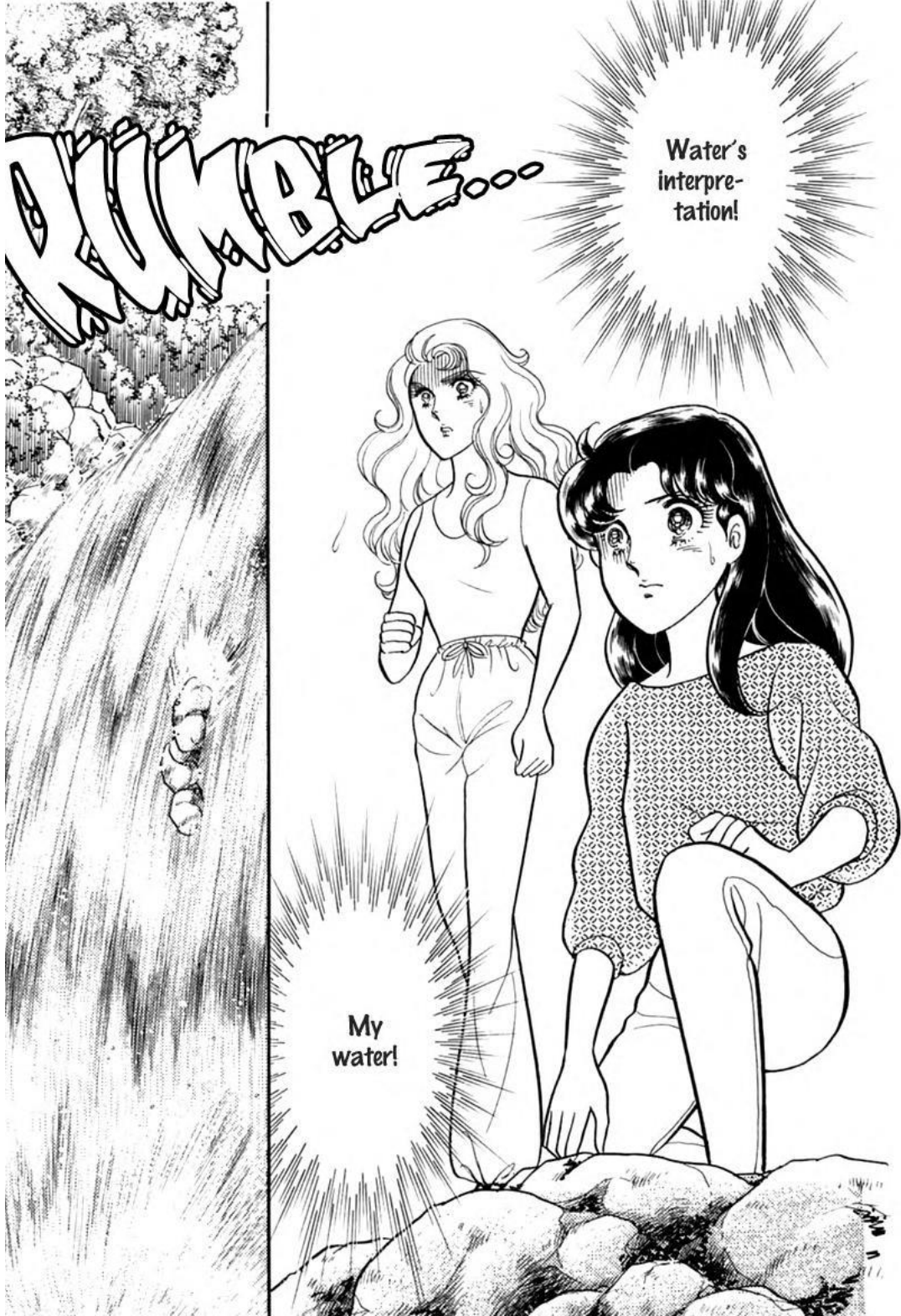
Could he have...?!



Heh



HOW YOU REACH IT?





YOU WANT TO MEET HIM SO YOU CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND A CHARACTER FOR A PLAY?

BETTER JUST GIVE IT UP. IT WOULD BE SMARTER TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS. HE DOESN'T LET ANYONE INTERFERE IN HIS PRIVATE LIFE.

I CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING.

Who knows if he'll agree to see me?

After all I managed to get his address and real name from that art dealer...



That was the statue I've been looking for!

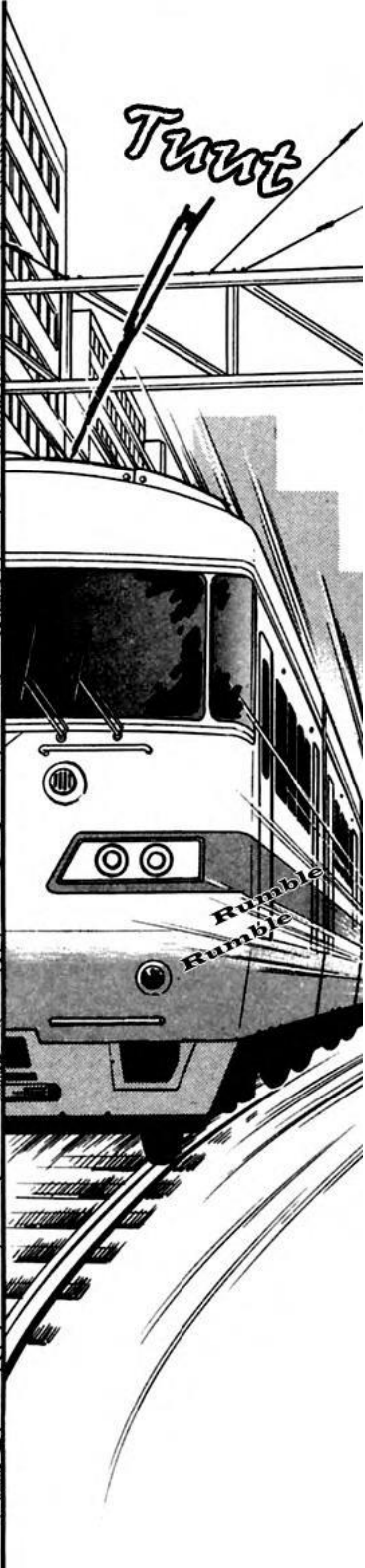
Isshin would have sculpted one just like that!

Leaving a strong impression of kindness and knowledge!

I want to meet the sculptor Kaikei!



The sculptor Kaikei!

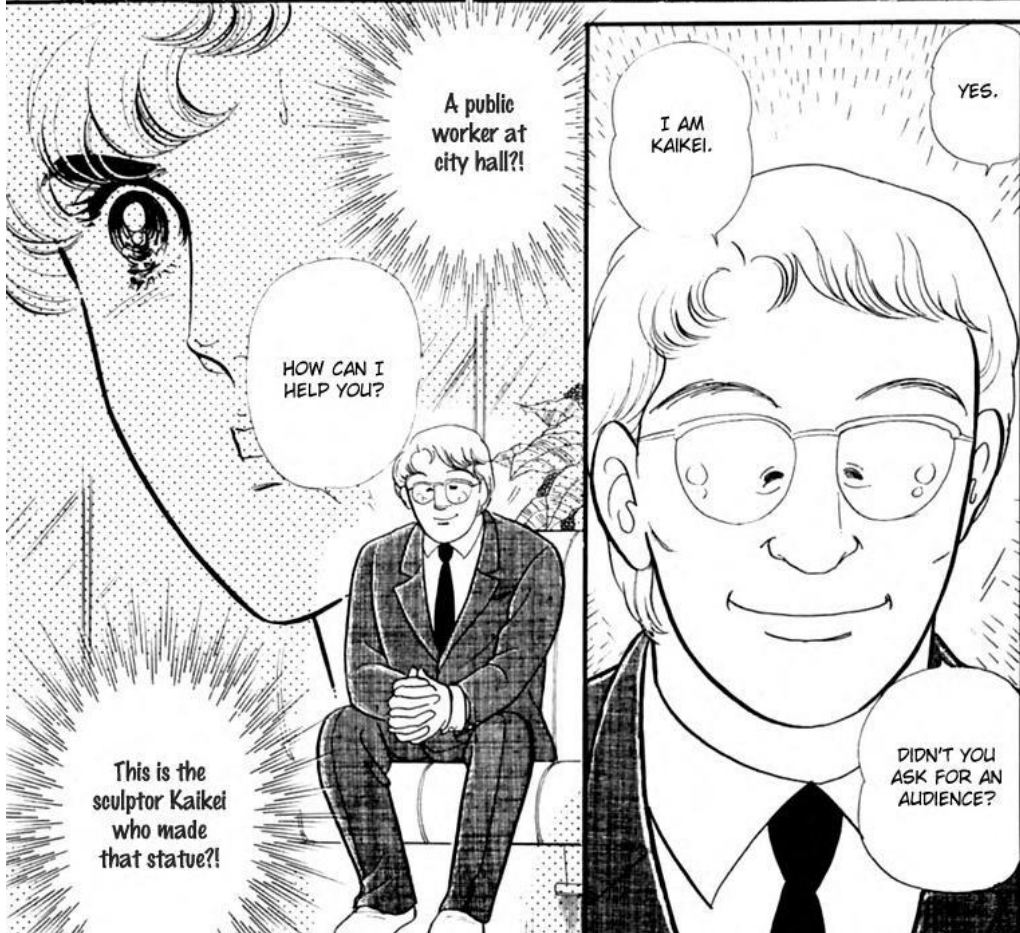


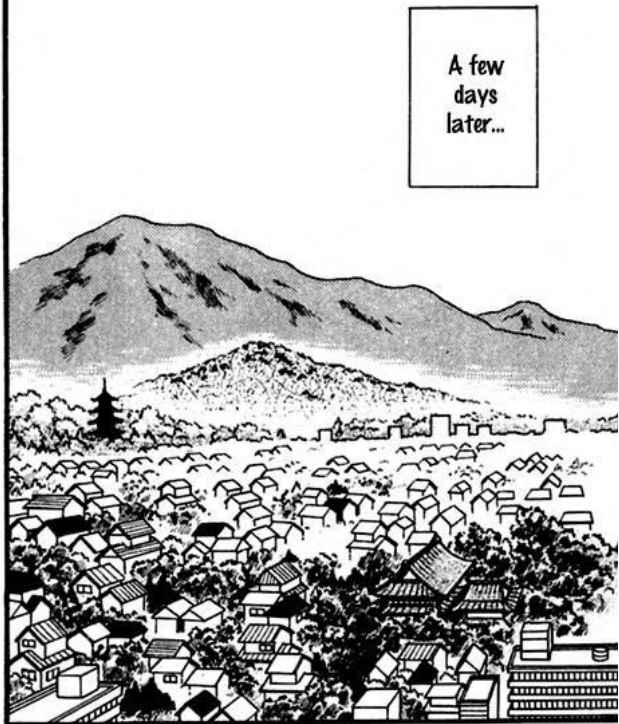
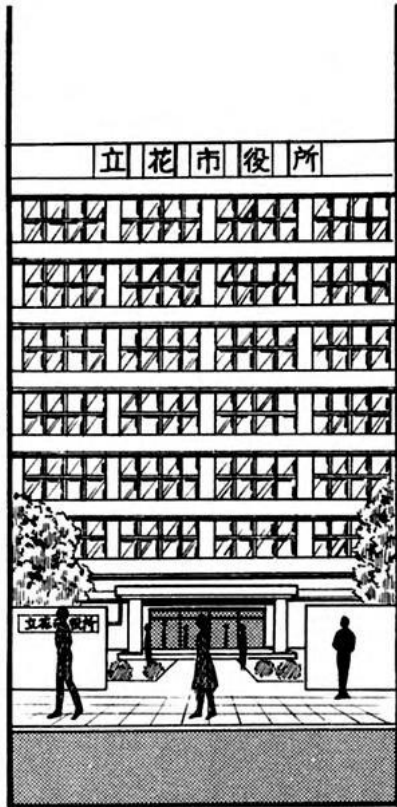
Tweet

Rumble Rumble









A few days later...





HI! WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?

SENSEI!

I thought I finally found the statue that would fit the image of the one Isshin made, and now...

I don't get it!



PLEASE LISTEN TO ME. I KNOW I'M BOTHERING YOU BUT I BEG YOU TO LET ME OBSERVE YOUR WAY OF LIFE AND HOW YOU WORK!

LIKE I WERE AN APPRENTICE! THREE DAYS WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME!

I never would've thought it was made by such a common man!



