

HANA TO YUME COMICS

Glass Mask

SUZUE MIUCHI

35

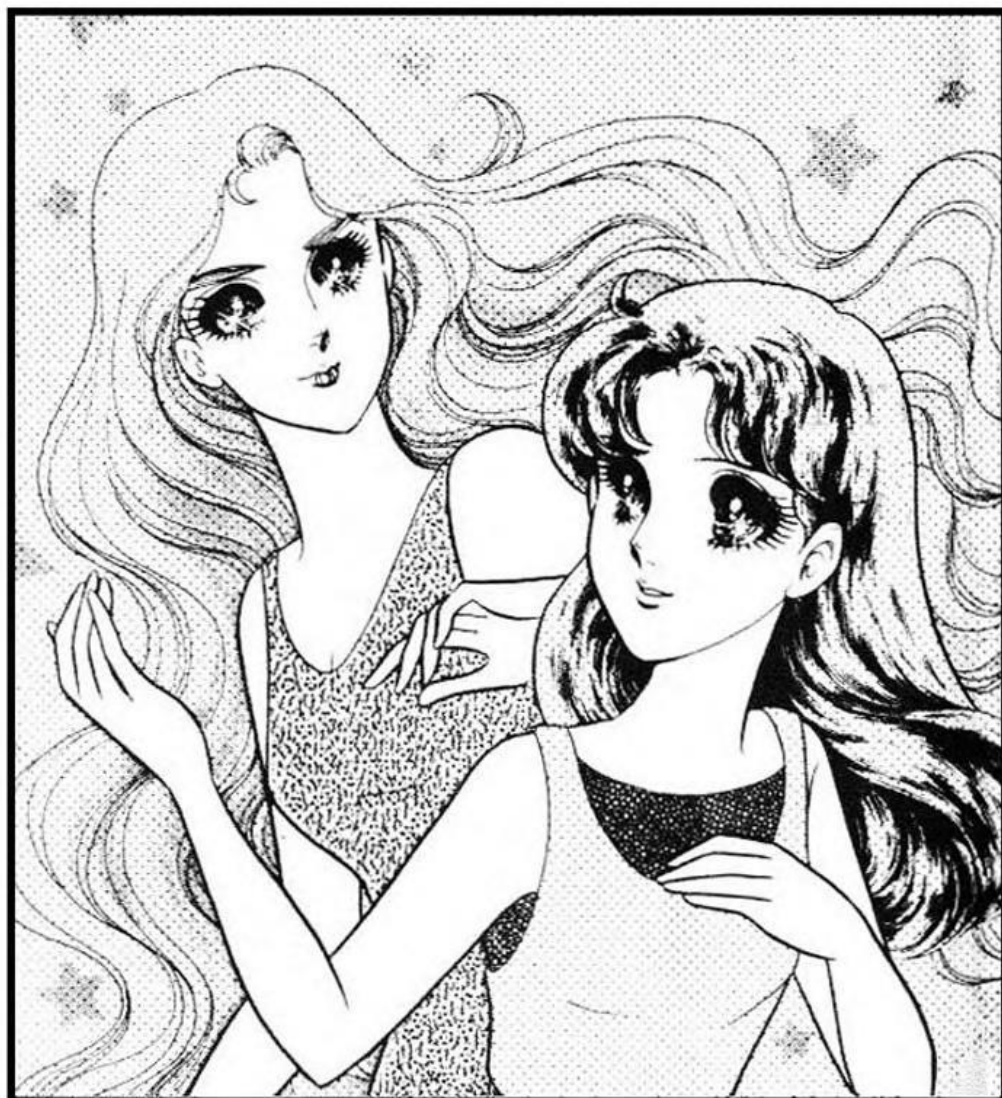


HANA TO YUME COMICS

GLASS MASK

VOLUME 35 THE CRIMSON GODDESS (2)

SUZUE MIUCHI





カッ

IT'S
YOU
RIGHT?
ARE YOU
THE...

PLEASE
WAIT,
HAYAMI
-SAN!

WAIT!

PURPLE
ROSE
?!

GAB

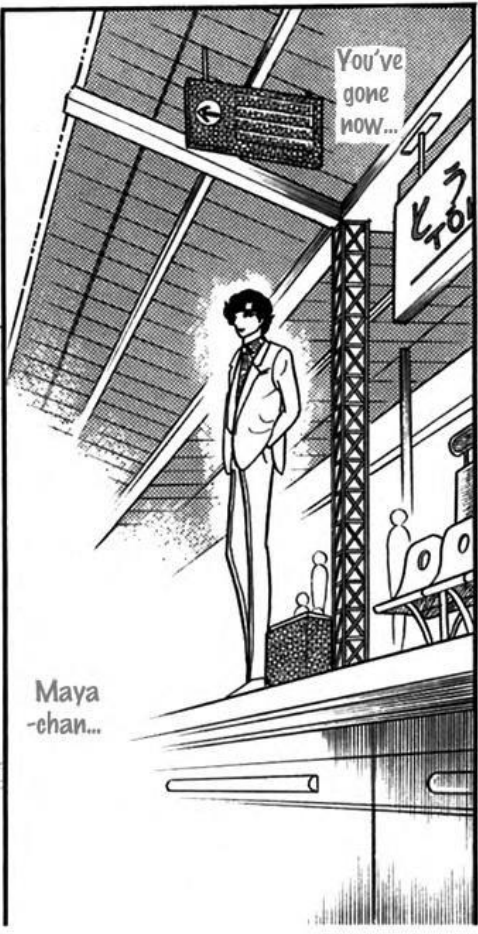
MAYA-
CHAN!



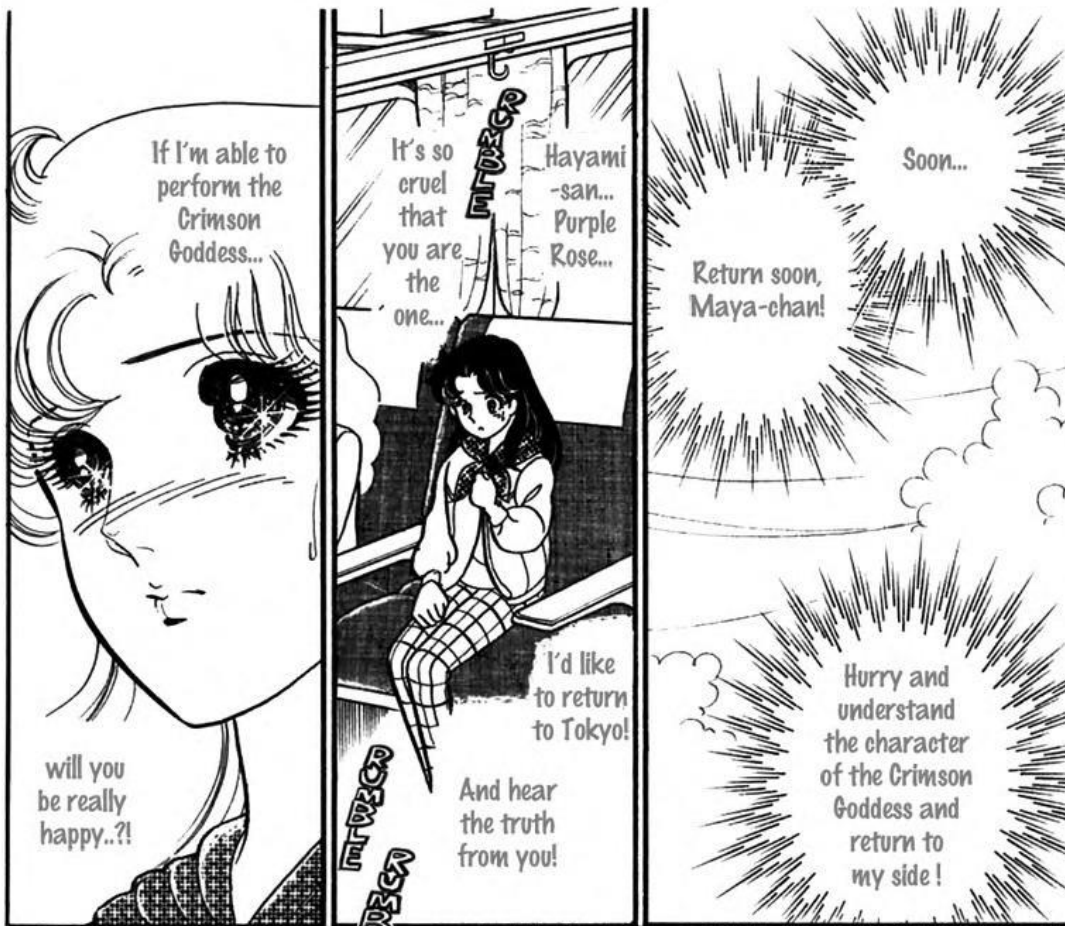
Even if it's just a test staging, to be able to act together with you in the Crimson Goddess...

The Crimson Goddess...

and besides, of all the parts, to be playing that of the sacred sculptor Isshin, that falls in love with the Crimson Goddess, I...



Maya-chan...



If I'm able to perform the Crimson Goddess...

will you be really happy..?!

It's so cruel that you are the one...

Hayami-san... Purple Rose...

I'd like to return to Tokyo!

And hear the truth from you!

Soon...

Return soon, Maya-chan!

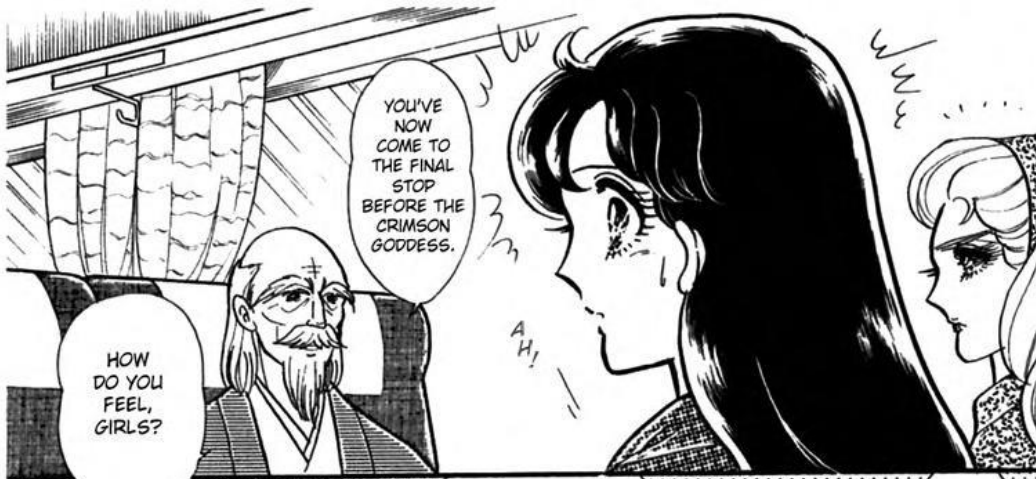
Hurry and understand the character of the Crimson Goddess and return to my side!



Why are you so interested in me?

Aah... why?!

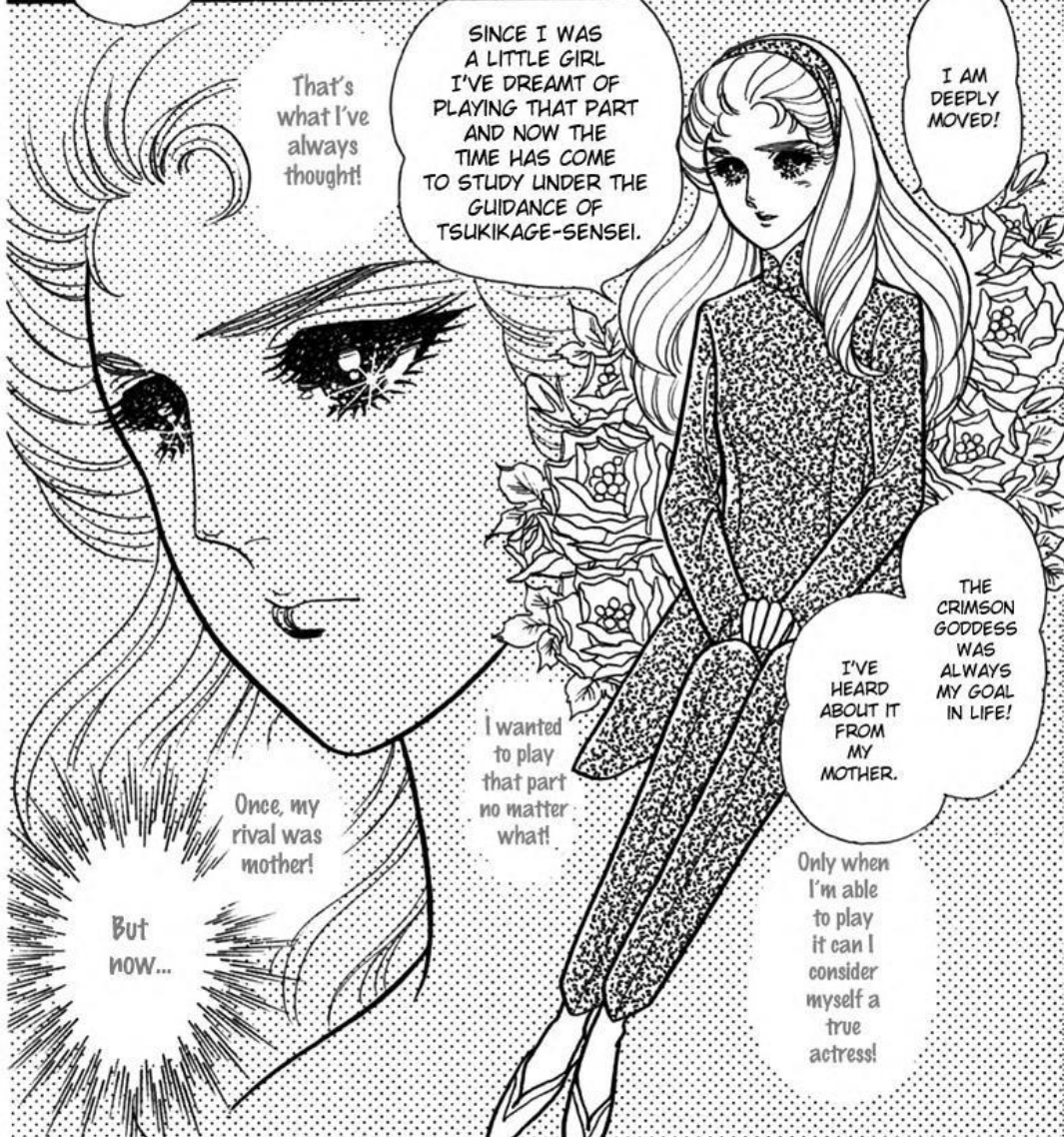
You, that has always supported me from the shadows...



HOW DO YOU FEEL, GIRLS?

YOU'VE NOW COME TO THE FINAL STOP BEFORE THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

AH!



That's what I've always thought!

SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL I'VE DREAMT OF PLAYING THAT PART AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO STUDY UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI.

I AM DEEPLY MOVED!

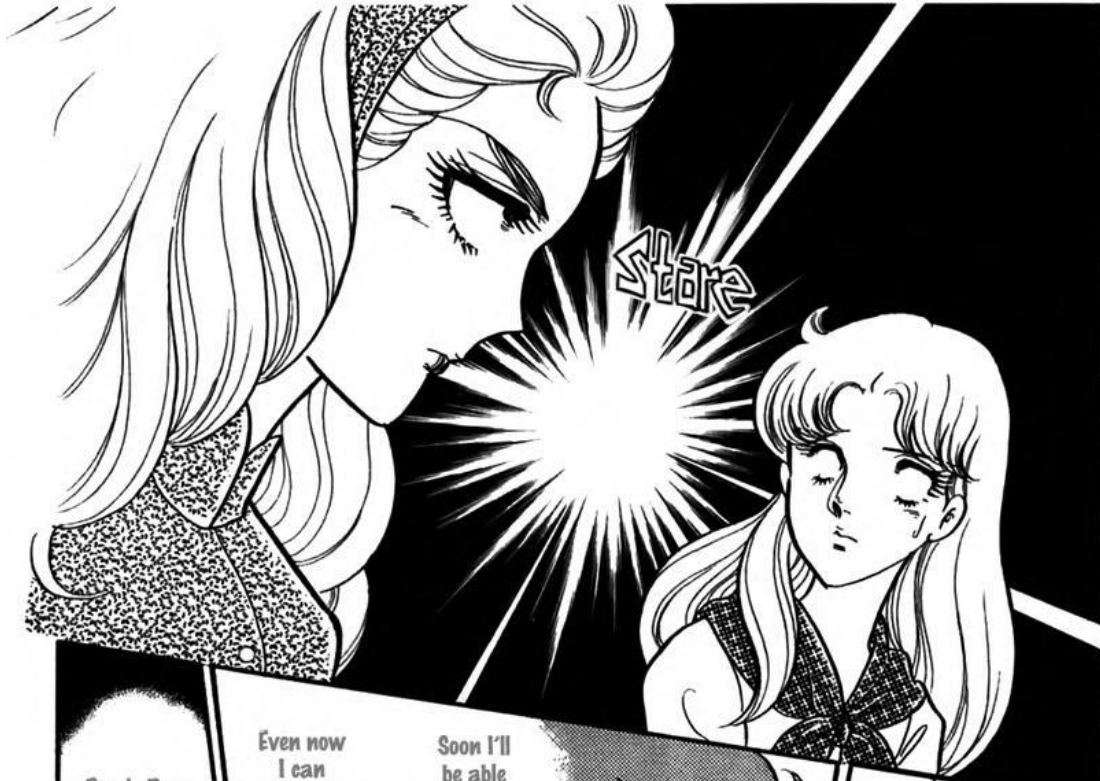
THE CRIMSON GODDESS WAS ALWAYS MY GOAL IN LIFE!
I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT FROM MY MOTHER.

I wanted to play that part no matter what!

Once, my rival was mother!

But now...

Only when I'm able to play it can I consider myself a true actress!



Purple Rose
it's thanks to
your support
that I was able
to come
this far...

Even now
I can
hardly believe
that this
moment
has come...

Soon I'll
be able
to interpret
the Crimson
Goddess!

AND
YOU...
MAYA?



Hayami
-san...

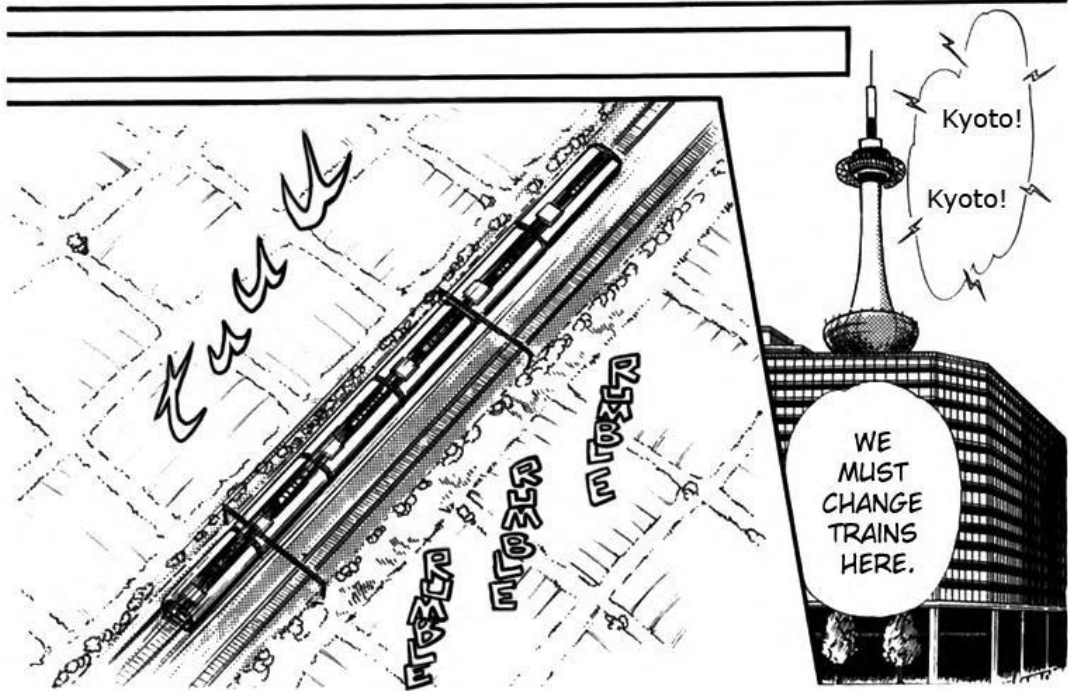
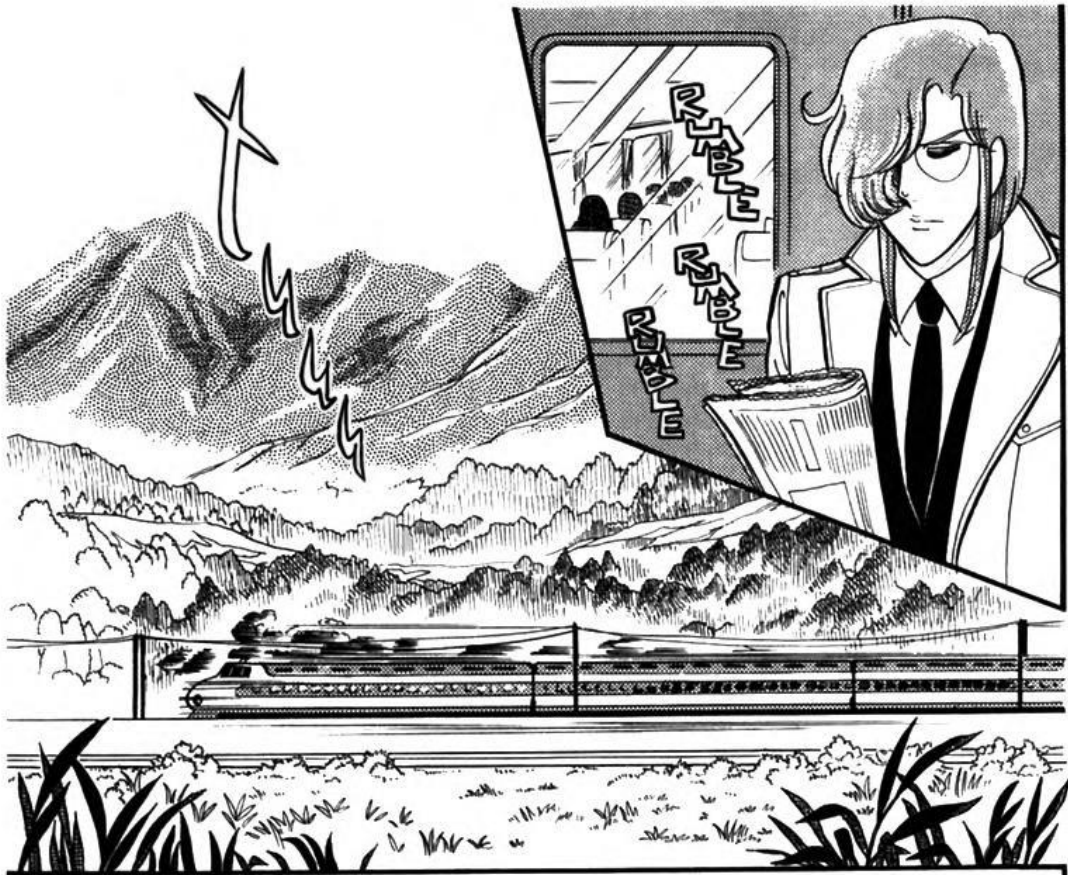
I, that made
my mother worry because
of my foolishness and
uselessness.
By starting to act, I've
come to know the
happiness of living...

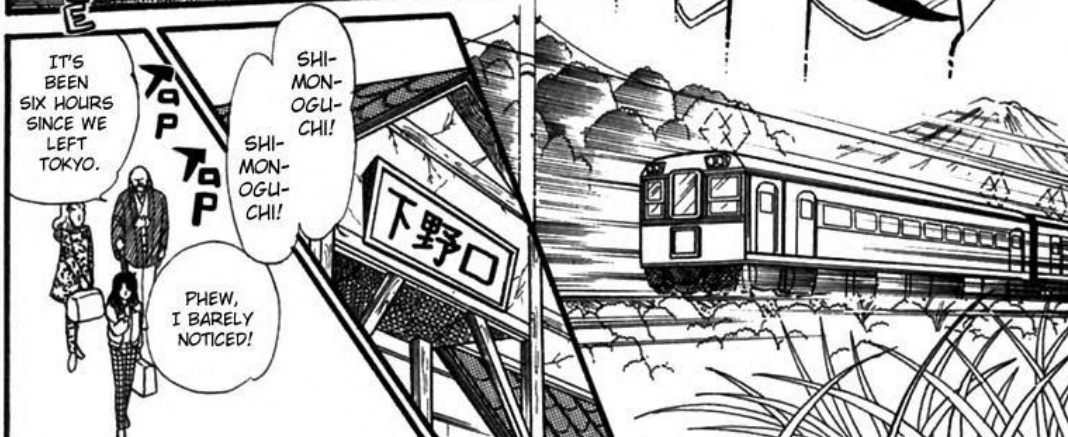
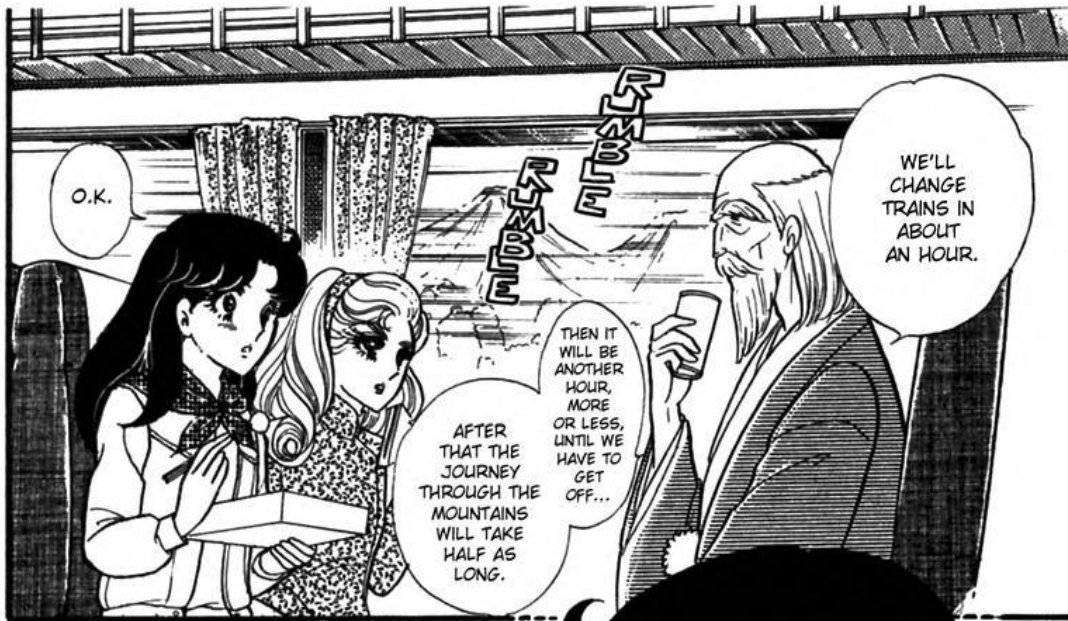
Yeah, from
then on...

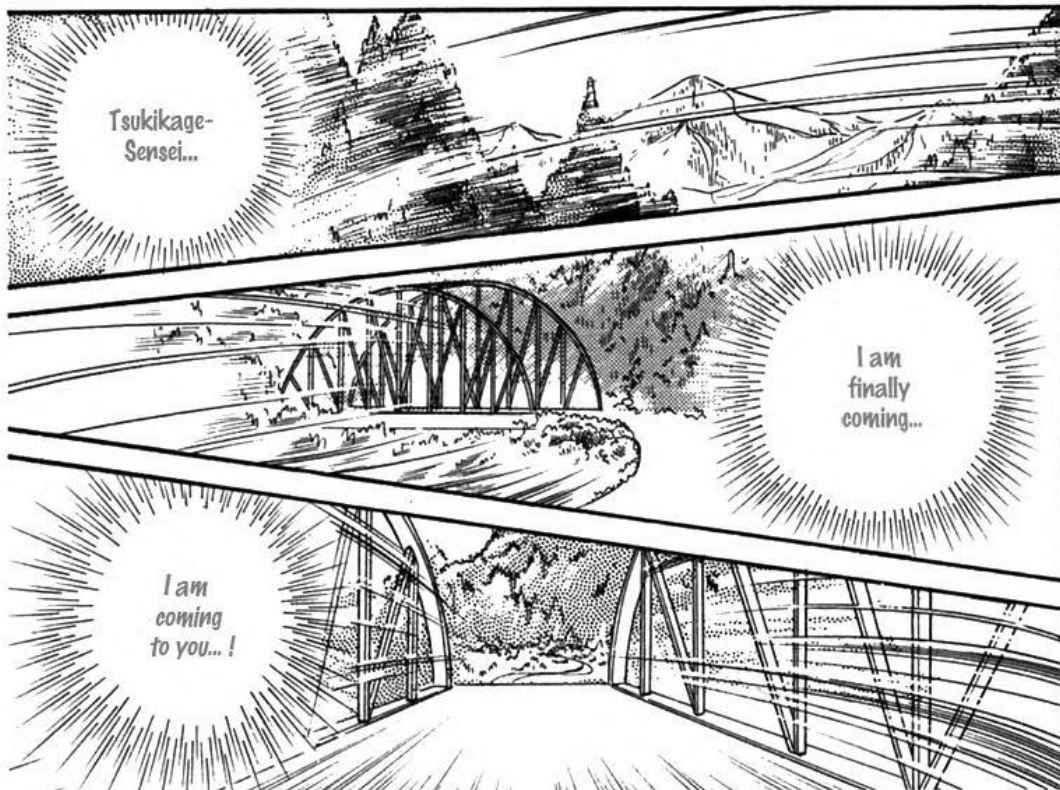
I ALSO
FEEL LIKE
I AM
DREAMING.

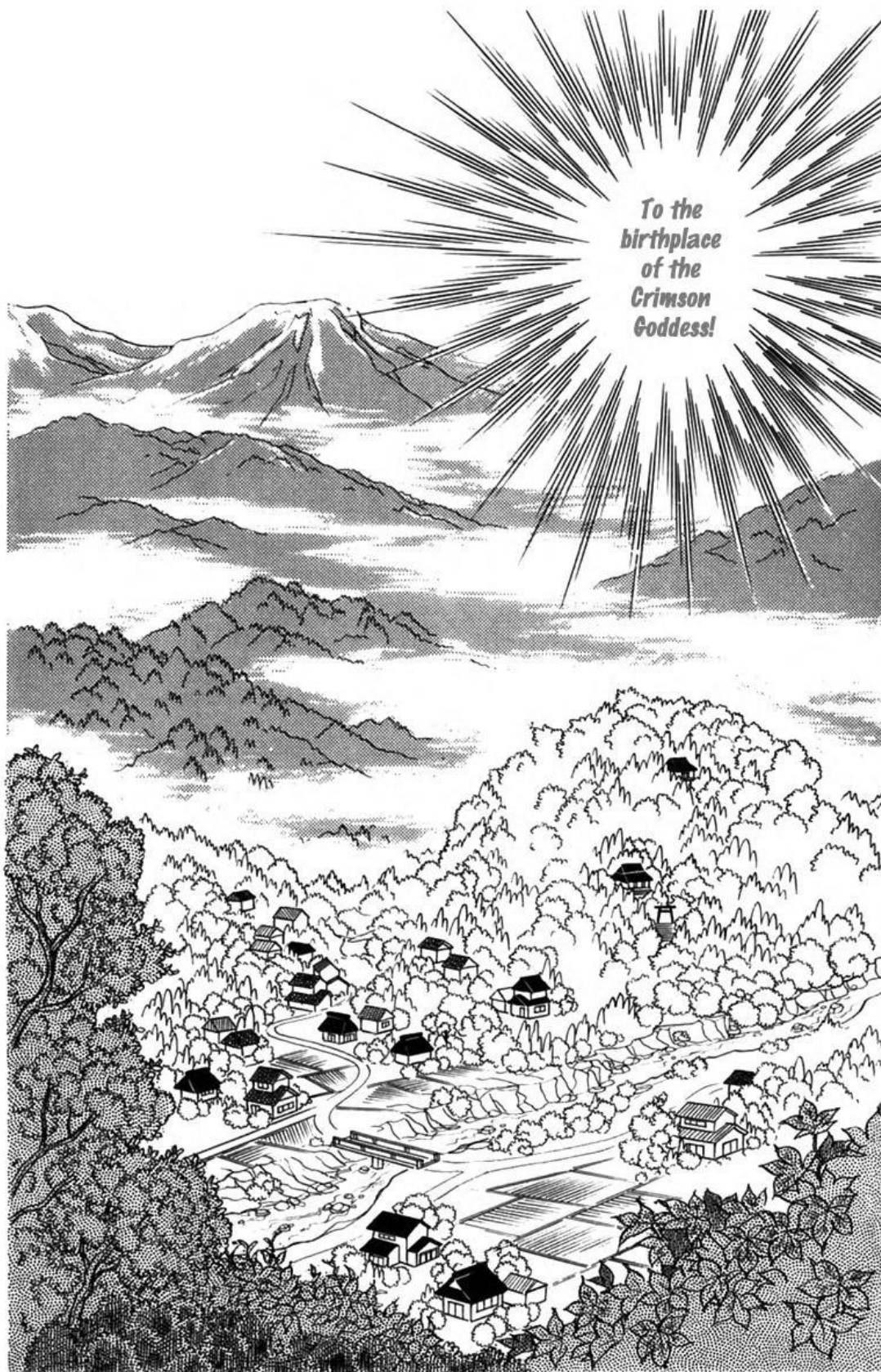
ERM
...

EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST FOR
REACHING
THIS POINT!

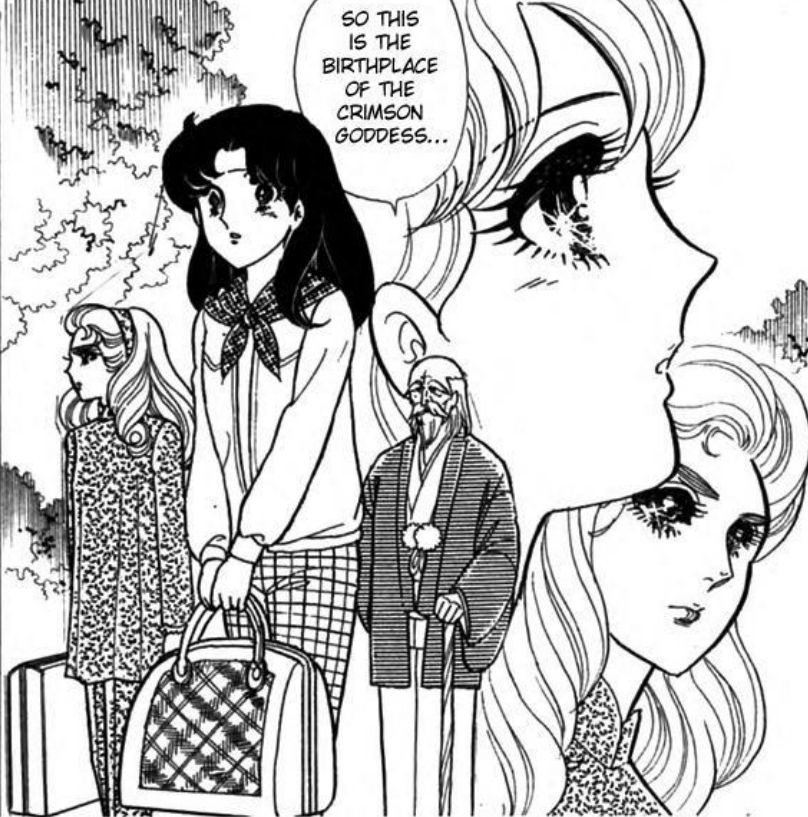














COME THIS WAY PLEASE.

AH, HOW WONDERFUL! FROM HERE YOU CAN SEE THE WHOLE VILLAGE!



IN THE SHINTO TEMPLE OF THIS VILLAGE THERE IS A BEAUTIFUL STATUE OF A GODDESS CARVED FROM A PLUM TREE'S WOOD, DATING BACK TO THE NANBOKUCHO* PERIOD

YES.

ITS LEGEND IS THE ONE THAT IS TOLD IN THE CRIMSON GODDESS.



ICHIREN OZAKI WAS INSPIRED BY THE LOCAL LEGEND THAT IS PASSED ON FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER IN WRITING THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

SO THIS IS THE VILLAGE WHERE ICHIREN OZAKI WAS BORN...

A LEGEND?

*THE PERIOD IN WHICH JAPAN WAS DIVIDED IN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DYNASTIES, AROUND 1333-1392

*HEAVENLY DOGS, TYPICALLY FOUND IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A VALLEY HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN THESE MOUNTAINS, THERE LIVED A GODDESS THAT WAS GUARDED BY A CLAN OF TENGU* AND A DRAGON.

SHE WAS THE QUEEN OF THE SPIRITS AND ALSO OF THE EARTH, SINCE SHE CONTROLLED THE ENERGY OF ALL THE BEINGS THAT LIVED ON THE EARTH.



BUT IN THE NANBOKUCHO PERIOD A SCULPTOR, THAT SPECIALISED IN SACRED REPRESENTATIONS, CARVED A STATUE OF THE GODDESS FROM THE WOOD OF THAT TREE TO PLEAD FOR PEACE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

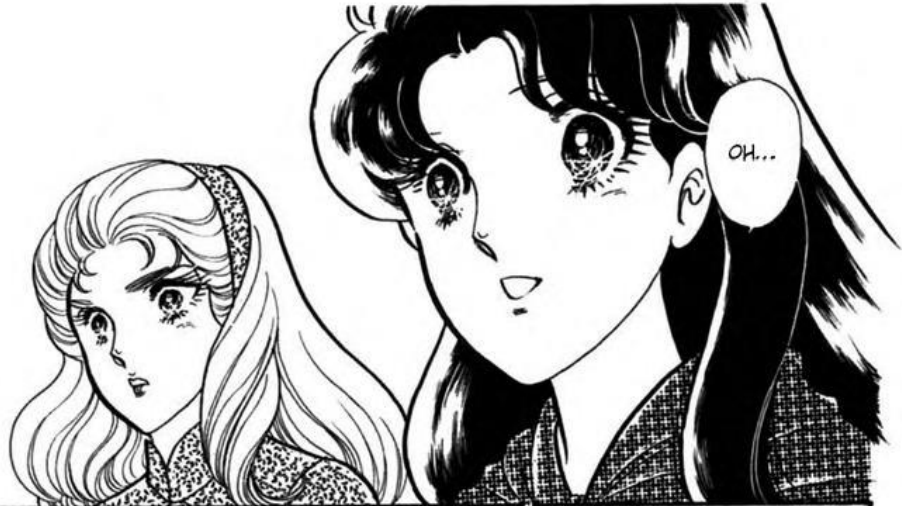
IN THAT VALLEY, THERE WAS ALSO A SACRED PLUM TREE THAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF THE GODDESS...

AS WELL AS BEING A PLACE WHERE CORRUPT MEN WERE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER.

THE VALLEY OF THE CRIMSON IS FAMOUS FOR THE BLOOMING SEASON OF ITS CRIMSON PLUM TREES ...

THAT IS HOW THE INTERNAL BATTLE IN THE IMPERIAL FAMILY, WHICH WAS SPLIT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, WAS SETTLED.

THOSE THAT DISREGARDED THESE RULES WERE KILLED BY THE TENGU.



NO WAY!
GENZO-SAN!

I'D LIKE TO SEE THE PLUM TREES' VALLEY...

WHO KNOWS IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO...IT IS HIDDEN. I IMAGINE THAT THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE THAT HAVE SEEN IT.

HOW I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT STATUE!

THAT IS THE STATUE THAT WAS FOUND IN THE TEMPLE.

HA HA HA HA!

YOU'D BE KILLED BY THE OGRES!

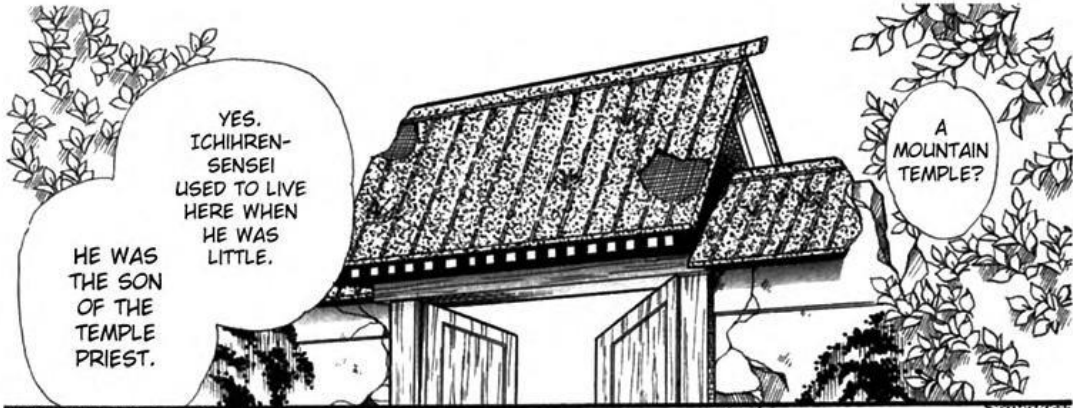


A BUDDHIST STATUE IN A SHINTO TEMPLE?



AH, THERE IT IS, THAT'S THE TEMPLE.

YES, MEN WERE THE ONES THAT TRIED TO DIVIDE THE GODS INTO CATEGORIES, BUT IN THIS TEMPLE BUDDHIST AND SHINTO DEITIES ARE WORSHIPPED.



HE WAS THE SON OF THE TEMPLE PRIEST.

YES. ICHIHREN-SENSEI USED TO LIVE HERE WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.

A MOUNTAIN TEMPLE?



AND IT HAS BECOME, MORE OR LESS, A PLACE FIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION.

BY ASKING FOR HELP FROM THE VILLAGERS WE MANAGED TO REPAIR IT SOMEWHAT...

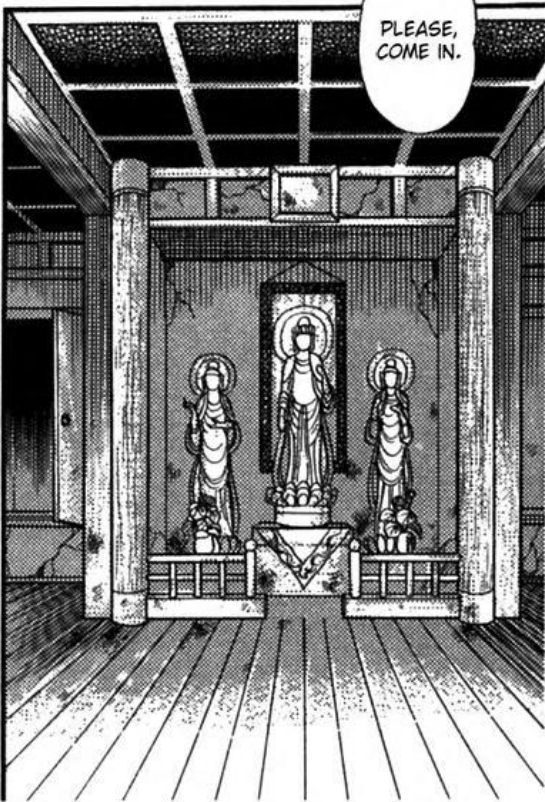
THIS TEMPLE HAD BEEN ABANDONED FOR A LONG TIME. WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE IT WAS IN A TERRIBLE CONDITION.



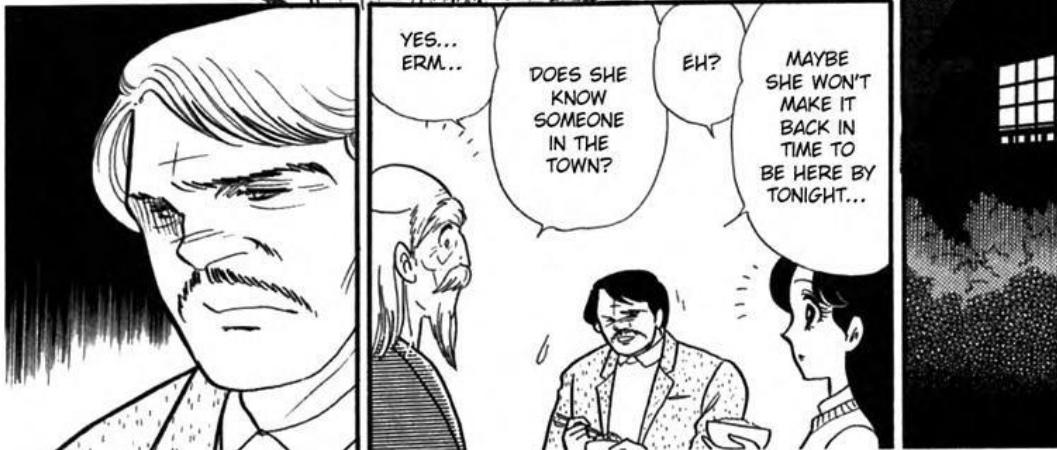
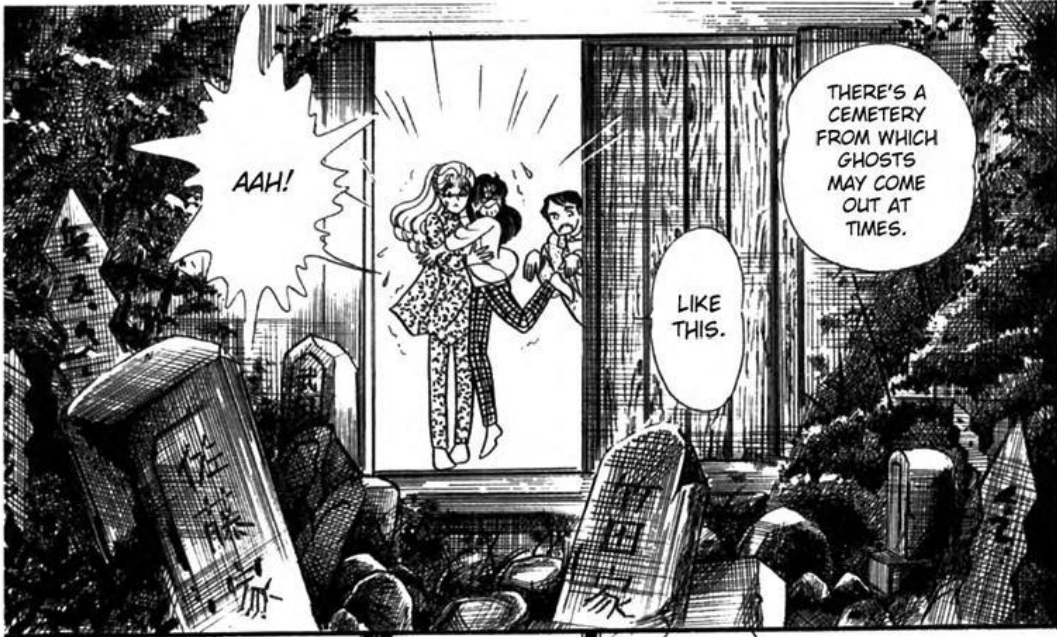
AH, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T OPEN THE DOORS AND WINDOWS THAT FACE THE BACKYARD DURING THE NIGHT.

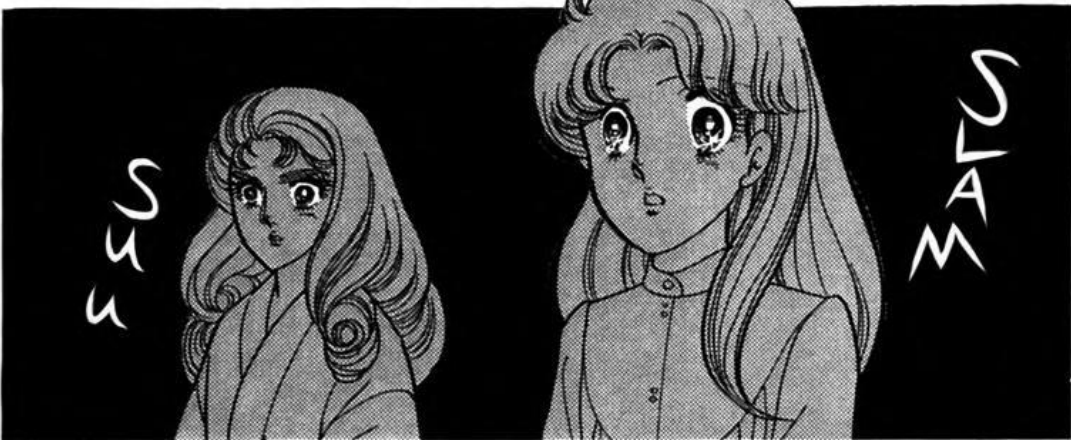
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM.

EH?



PLEASE, COME IN.







Now that we are finally here...

The birthplace of the Crimson Goddess...

The temple in which Ichiren Ozaki was raised...



Awooooo

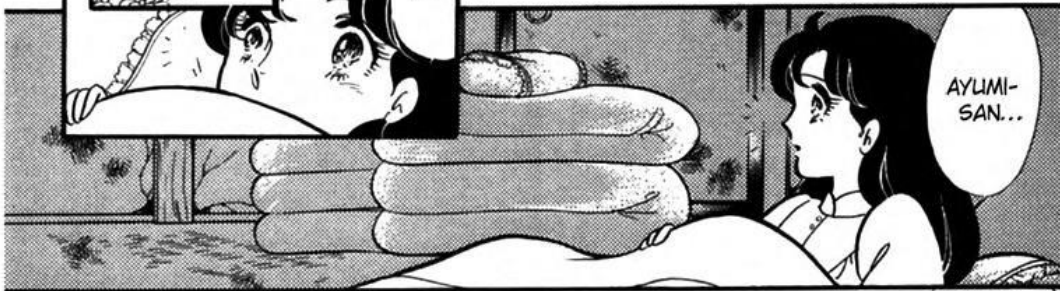
Where are you, Tsukikage-sensei?



Uhm...



Eh?



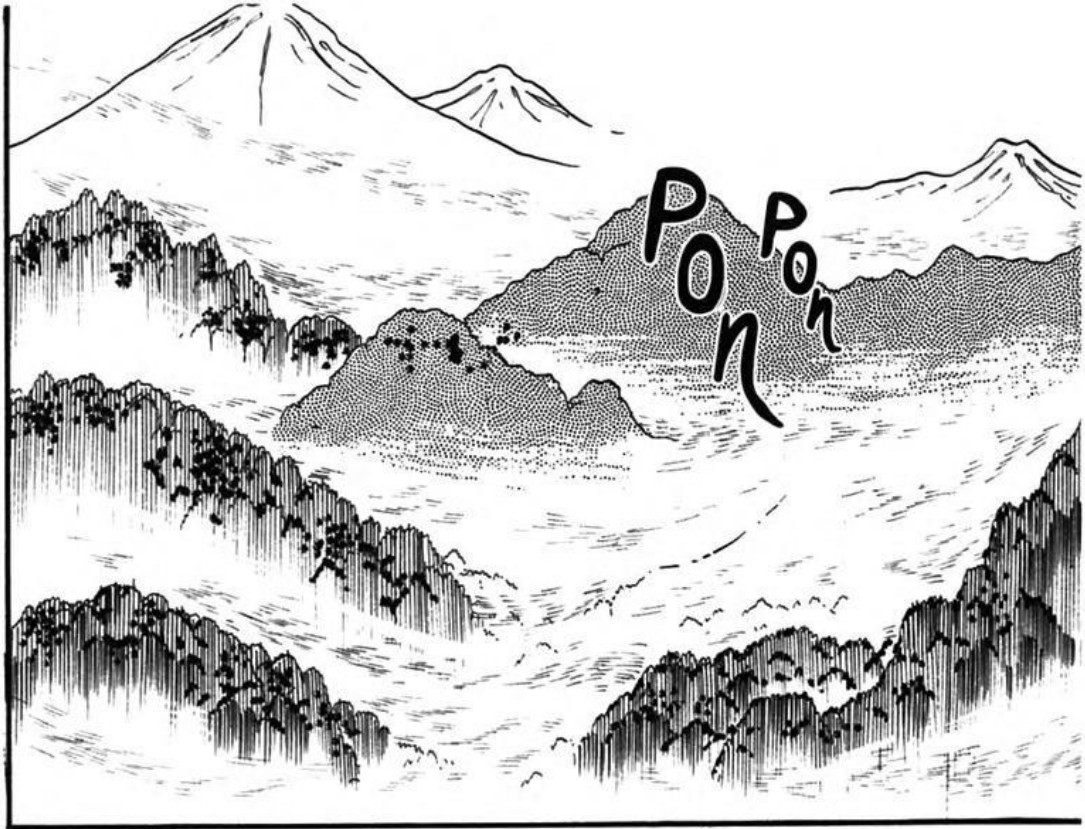
AYUMI-SAN...

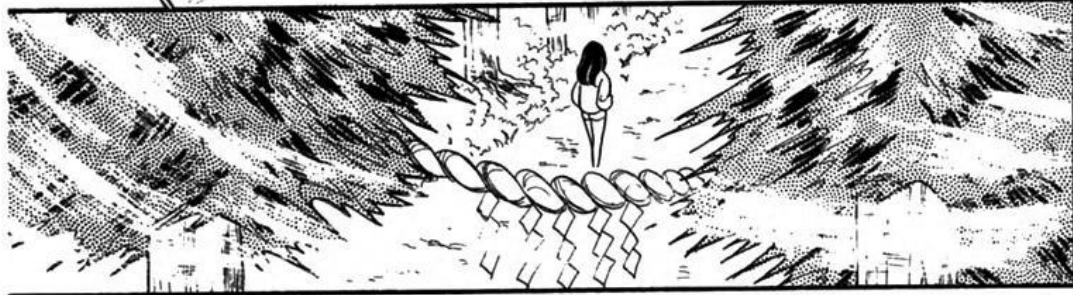


I CAN'T FIND GENZO-SAN EITHER... THAT'S STRANGE. SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...

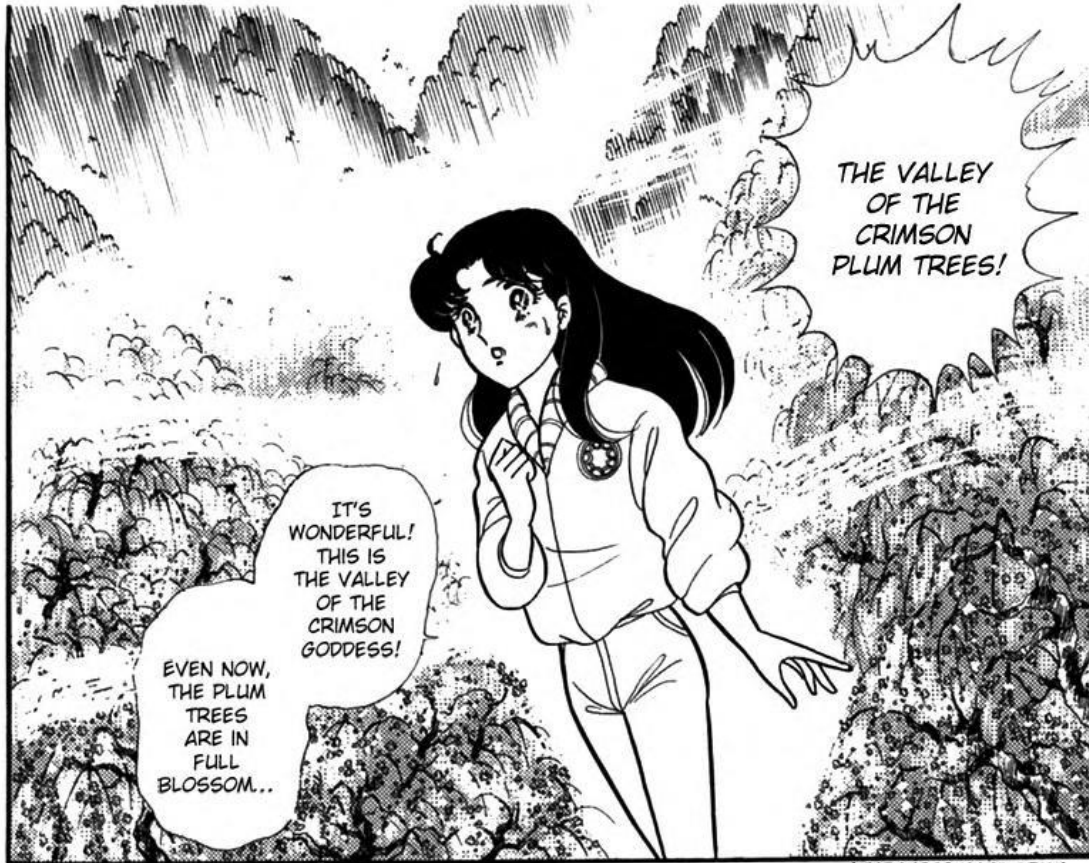
MAYBE THEY WENT FOR A WALK?











* JAPANESE HAND DRUM.





