





When you
wake up, you, too,
will fly away
from my hands...

The night
has ended...

...like those
birds...

CHIRP

CHIRP



Hurry up
and grow...
Chibi-chan.



And still,
I'll probably
be the
happiest
one...

...to see you
fly high in
the sky with
your wings
outstretched...



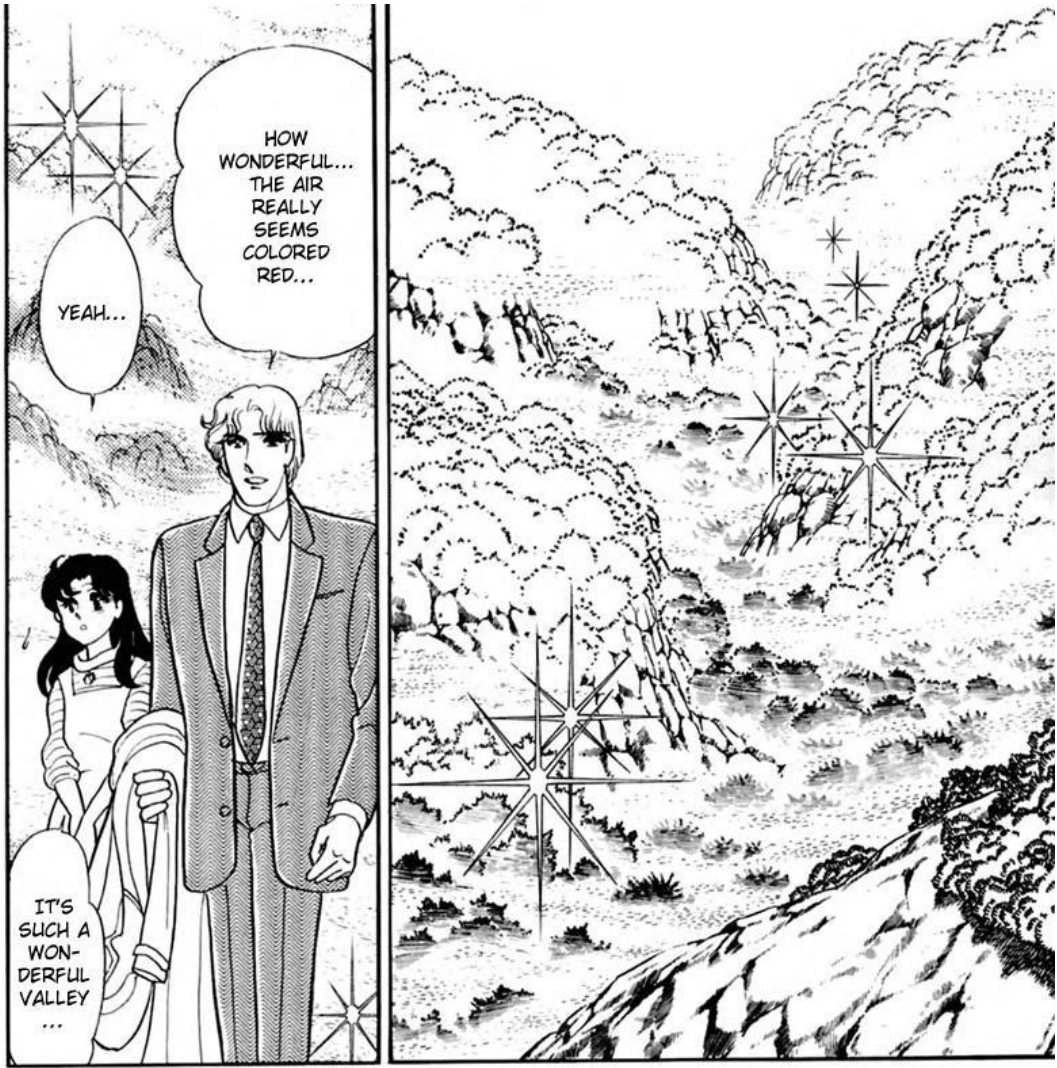
At that time,
all I will be able
to do for you is
protect you...

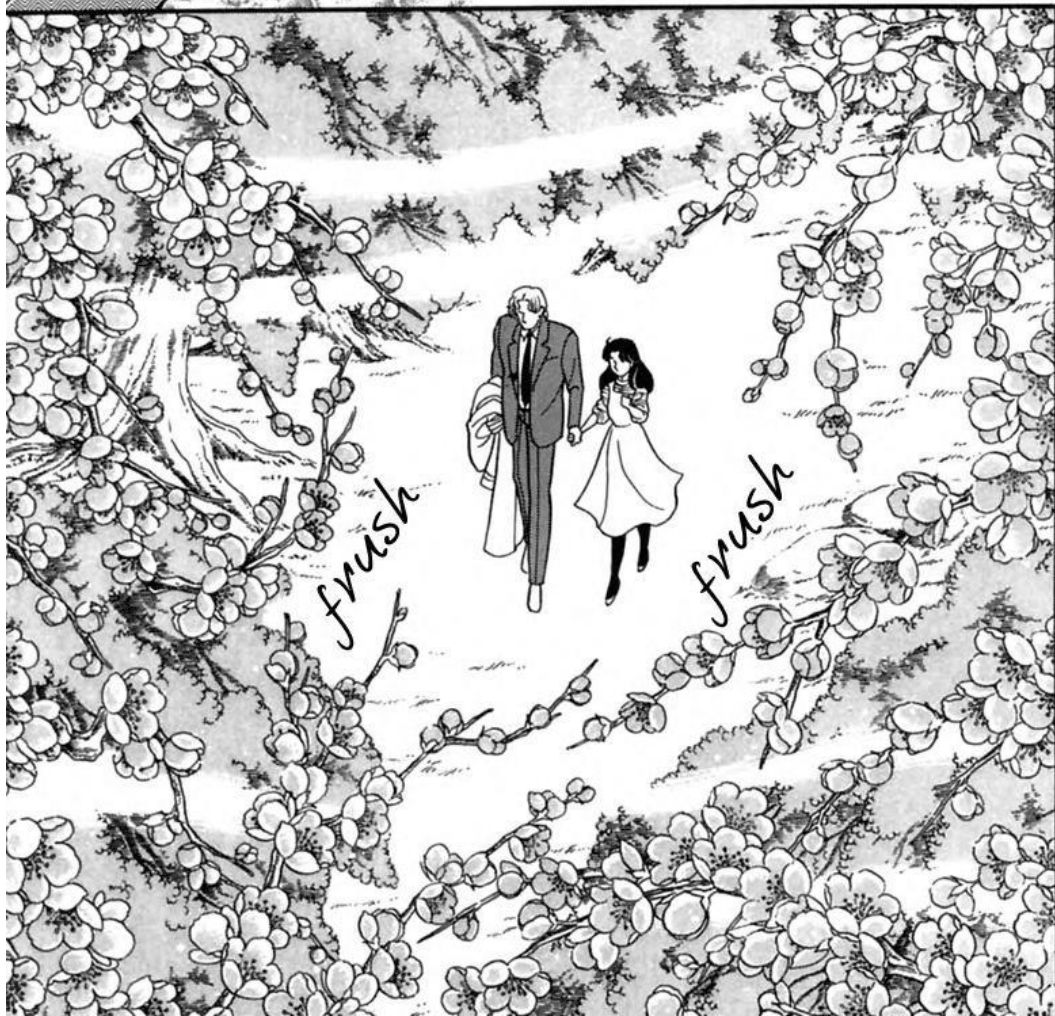


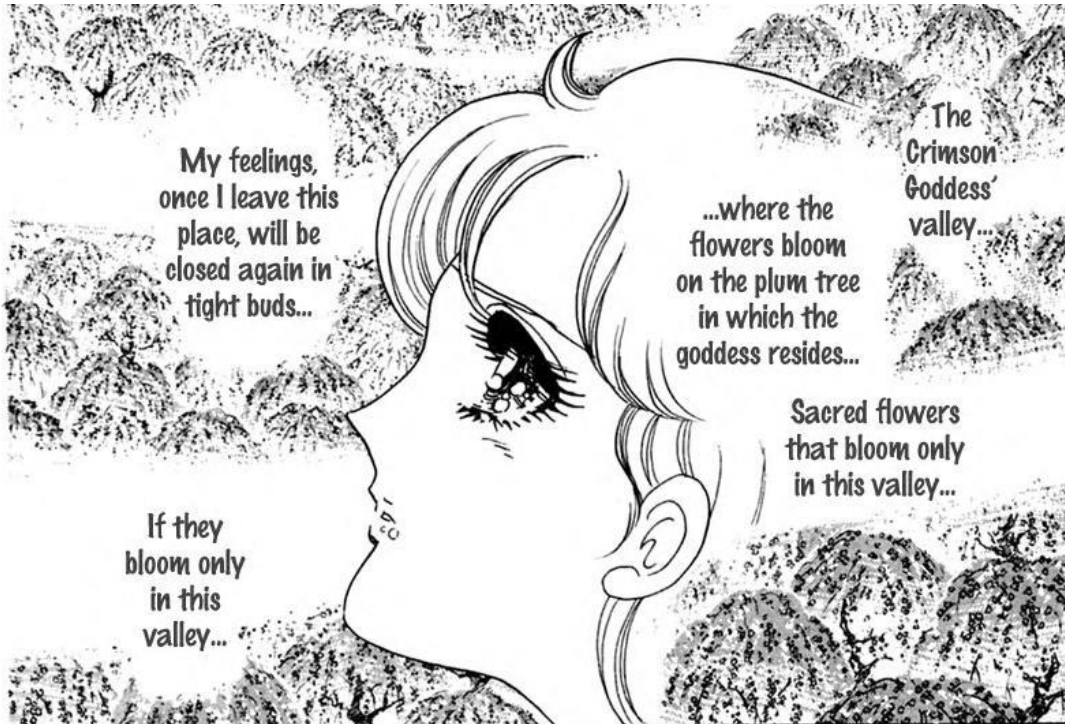
Even if you
fly out of my
reach...



The dream has
unfortunately
ended...







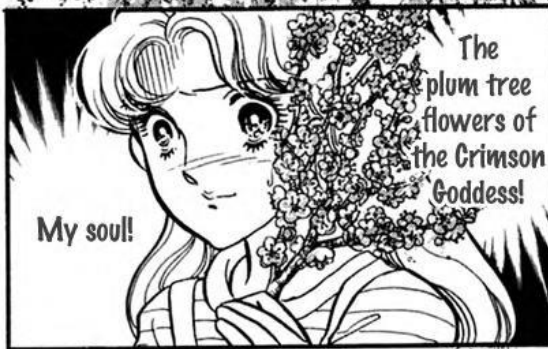
My feelings, once I leave this place, will be closed again in tight buds...

The Crimson Goddess' valley...

...where the flowers bloom on the plum tree in which the goddess resides...

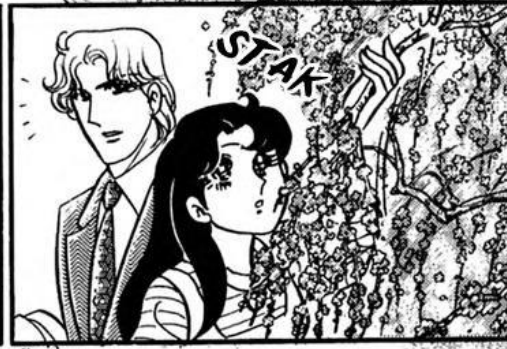
Sacred flowers that bloom only in this valley...

If they bloom only in this valley...

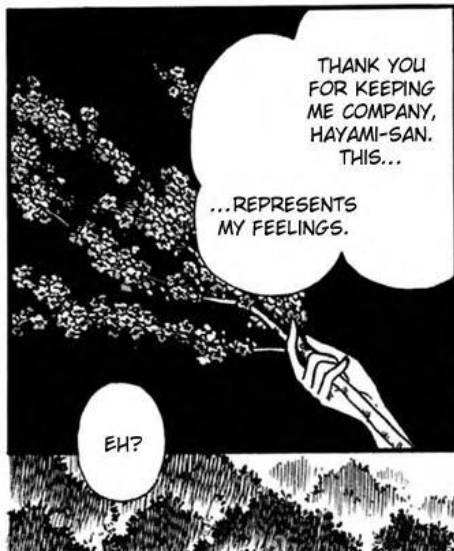


My soul!

The plum tree flowers of the Crimson Goddess!



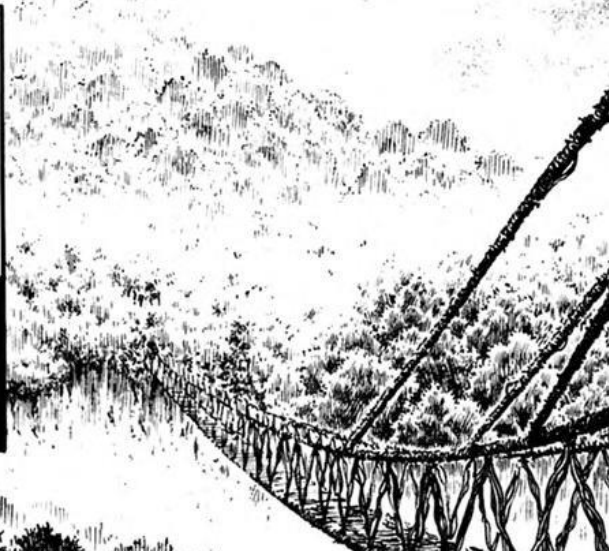
STAK



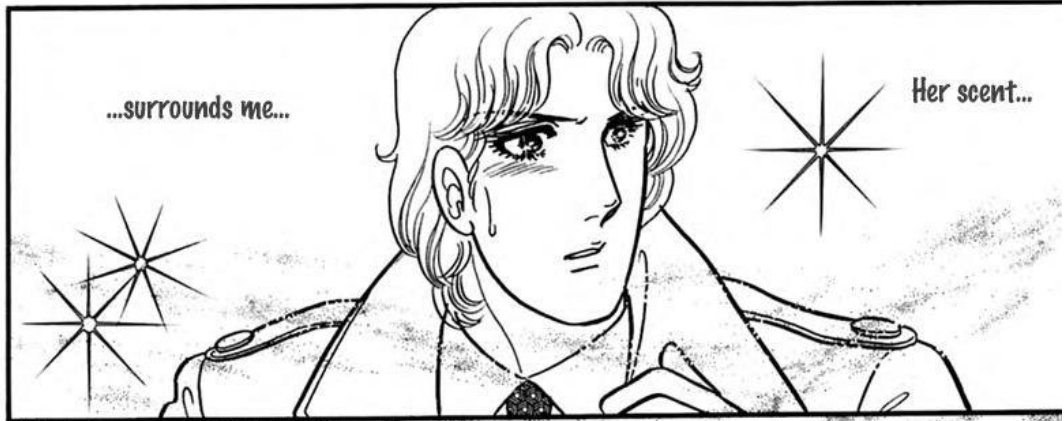
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY, HAYAMI-SAN. THIS...

...REPRESENTS MY FEELINGS.

EH?





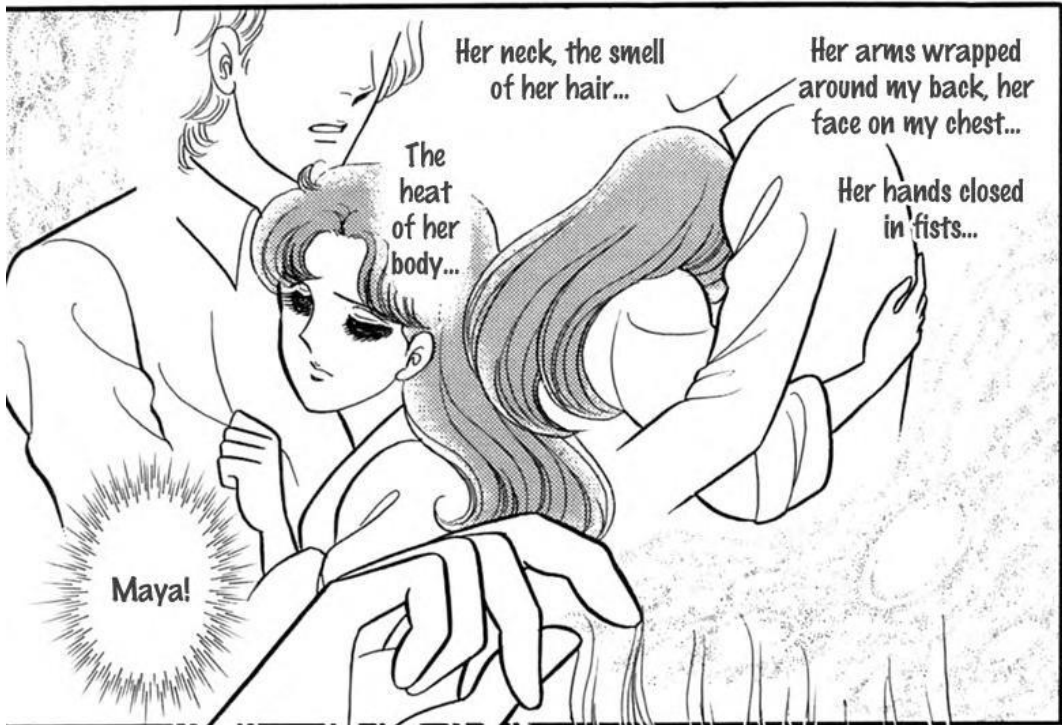




I CAN'T FORGET THE WARMTH OF THAT GIRL!



DAMN IT! WHAT'S UP WITH ME?!



Her neck, the smell of her hair...

Her arms wrapped around my back, her face on my chest...

The heat of her body...

Her hands closed in fists...

Maya!



WHAT'S UP WITH ME?!

WHAT'S UP WITH ME NOW?!



OH!
MASUMI-SAN!
WELCOME
BACK!

WE WERE
WORRIED BECAUSE
YOU DIDN'T COME
BACK YESTERDAY!

I miss her
so much!

NO NEWS
ABOUT MY
FATHER?

STILL
NOTHING,
I'M
AFRAID...

I
SEE
...



The plum
flowers... have
withered...

Then the
story was
true?

These flowers
bloom only in the
valley of the Crimson
Goddess. Out of it,
they wither...

That which
happens in the
valley is just an
illusion, like these
flowers...

Once back in
this vain world,
dreams vanish...



THESE
REPRESENT MY
FEELINGS...

Could it be
possible?!

Maya!



The love of
the Crimson
Goddess?

First of all, we have an eleven-year difference between us! If she really felt something for me, then I'd be a fool... to take her seriously!

The same person that hated me so much?!

The love?!

Maya loves me?!

That cannot be! I am imagining things!

To take her seriously...





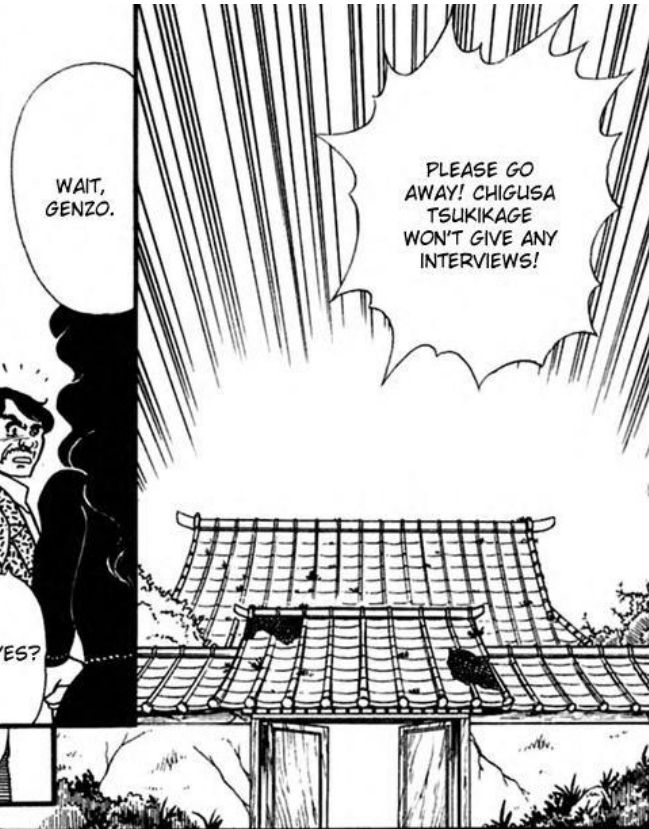
EVEN IF I SENT YOU AWAY, I DOUBT THAT YOU WOULD LEAVE SO EASILY!

YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO TO GET SOME NEWS, RIGHT?

THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL GETTING THE NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE...

AH... WELL... ACTUALLY ... HA HA...

YES?



WAIT, GENZO.

PLEASE GO AWAY! CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE WON'T GIVE ANY INTERVIEWS!



NO, NONE WHATSOEVER...

THE TWO GIRLS ARE STILL COMPETING AND THEY ARE ON EQUAL TERMS!

HERE, THEY ARE LEARNING SOMETHING ABOUT THE CRIMSON GODDESS...

THAT'S ALL!



THIS IS THE HOTTEST TOPIC OF THE MOMENT.

WHO WILL HAVE THE LEAD PART IN THE UPCOMING PLAY, THE CRIMSON GODDESS?!

WE CAME HERE THINKING THE REHEARSALS MUST HAVE REACHED THEIR PEAK.

BY NOW YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN AN IDEA, RIGHT?

THE PRODIGY AYUMI HIMEKAWA OR MAYA KITAJIMA?

WHO DID YOU CHOOSE, TSUKIKAGE-SAN?!



DURING THE ACTUAL REHEARSALS, YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK TO THEM...
...NOR TAKE PHOTOS OF THEM.

IF YOU GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU WON'T DISTURB THE REHEARSALS, I'LL LET YOU STAY AND WATCH THEIR INTERPRETATIONS.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

SOME-THING ABOUT THE CRIMSON GODDESS?

THANK YOU.

IF YOU BREAK THIS PROMISE, I SHALL REFUSE ANY INTERVIEW IN THE NEAR FUTURE.



EH?



It's not enough to move like him, I need to grasp his thinking...

Ryuji...
The heart of the water...
How should I interpret it?

I feel like I am still missing something...



THERE ARE ALSO DEAD FISH...

THERE IS WASTE EVERYWHERE... WHY?



HEY! THIS IS NOT WHERE YOU THROW TRASH!



WROOOM



OR BY BEING CAUGHT AND THROWN BACK.

FISH ALSO DIE BY EATING THE GARBAGE IN THE RIVER

WHAT A WASTE, AND HOW PAINFUL IT MUST BE FOR THE FISH.

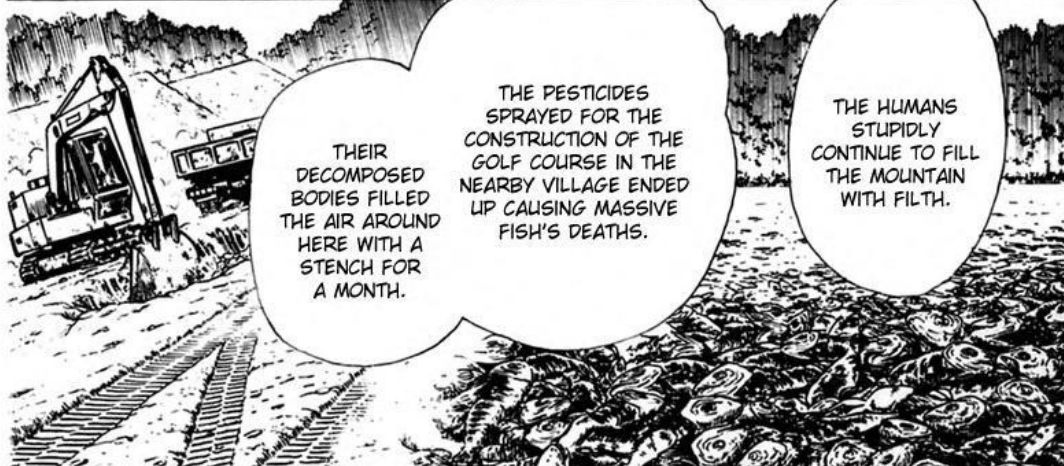


EXCUSE ME... WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS TRASH?

YOUNGSTERS THESE DAYS...

IT POLLUTES THE WATER AND SUFFOCATES THE FISH!

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE ALL OF THE WASTE THROWN IN THE RIVER BY THE TOURISTS GATHERS.



THEIR DECOMPOSED BODIES FILLED THE AIR AROUND HERE WITH A STENCH FOR A MONTH.

THE PESTICIDES SPRAYED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOLF COURSE IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE ENDED UP CAUSING MASSIVE FISH'S DEATHS.

THE HUMANS STUPIDLY CONTINUE TO FILL THE MOUNTAIN WITH FILTH.



One day nature will rebel against the humans...

Aah... I feel that I'm getting closer...



THEN THERE IS ALSO THE ACID RAIN THAT CAME FROM DIFFERENT AREAS AND BIG CITIES, RAINS THAT BURN THE FORESTS AND THE VEGETATION OF THESE MOUNTAINS...



Water... The origin of life...



GROUND WATER FILLED WITH TOXIC SUBSTANCES THAT END UP IN THE SEA, DESTROYING LOTS OF THE MARINE LIFE...

ONE DAY NATURE WILL REBEL AGAINST THE HUMANS THAT TREAT IT WITH SUCH CRUELTY.



The origin of humans, animals and plants!



The rain!

This is the water's heart!

The river's flow!

This is the water's heart!

There it flows, here it stops and there it falls!

This is the water's heart!

This is the water's heart!

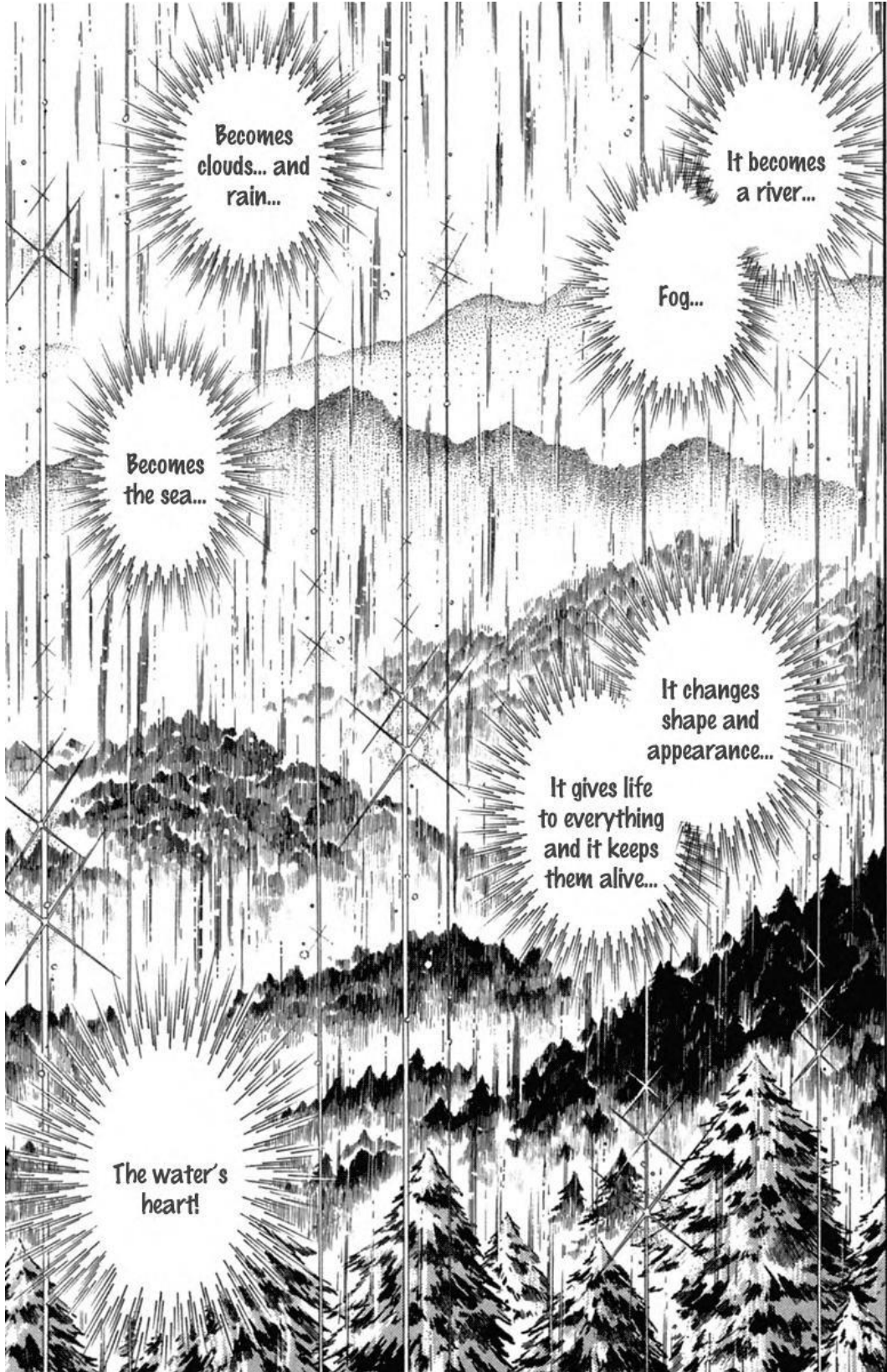
The water-fall!

The fall of this waterfall!

This is the water's will!

This is the water's heart!

Ryujin's blessing!



Becomes
clouds... and
rain...

It becomes
a river...

Fog...

Becomes
the sea...

It changes
shape and
appearance...

It gives life
to everything
and it keeps
them alive...

The water's
heart!



The polluted water...

Ryujin's pain...

The anger!



I can do it!

I am now able to interpret...

...My water!

RUMBLE

THE MOMENT
HAS COME TO
SHOW ME YOUR
INTERPRETATION
OF WATER.





WELL, YEAH.

GRANNY, DID YOU LEAVE THE FIELDWORK TO COME HERE?



CHATTER



THIS IS EMBARRASSING...



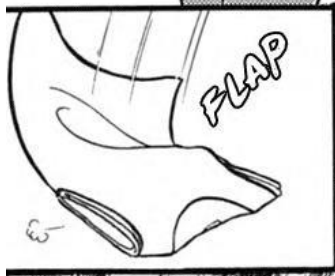
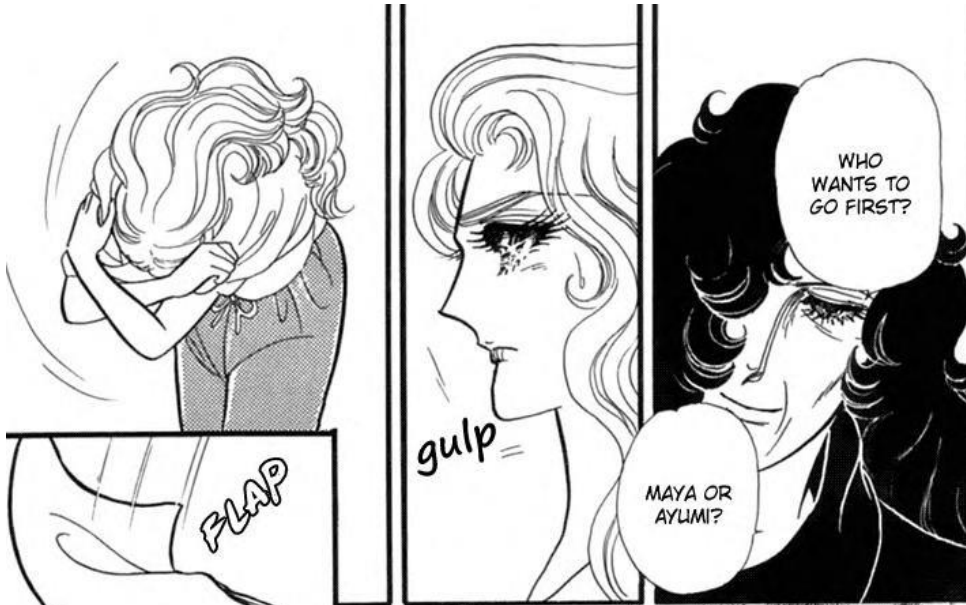
WHEN DID ALL THESE PEOPLE GATHER HERE?

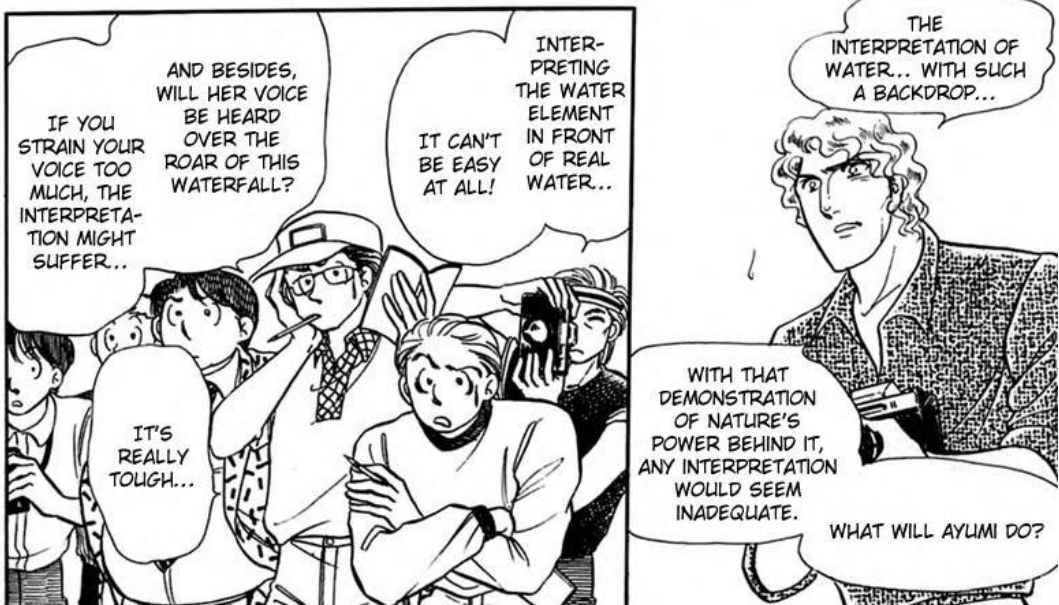


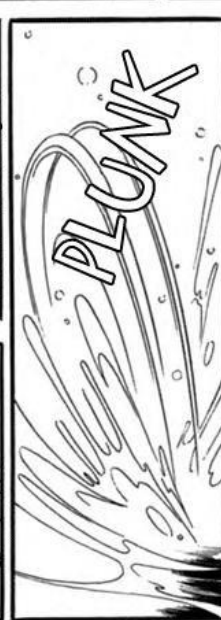
TURN



BONJOUR, AYUMI.







BUT IT SURE LOOKS LIKE ONE...



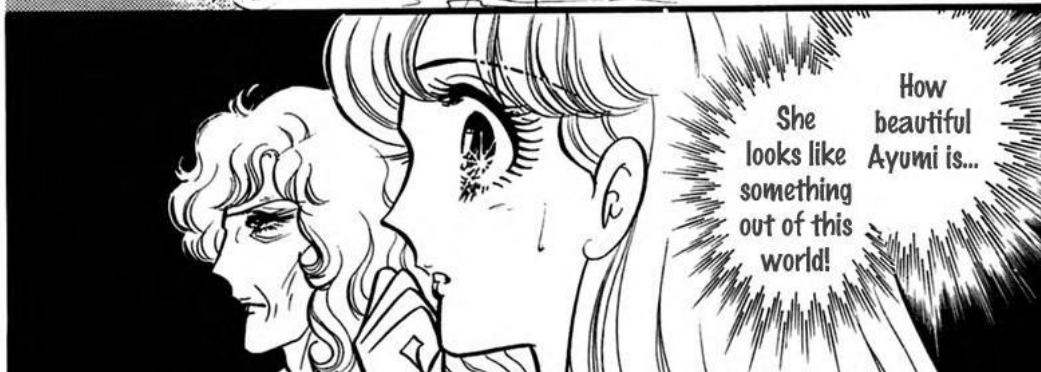
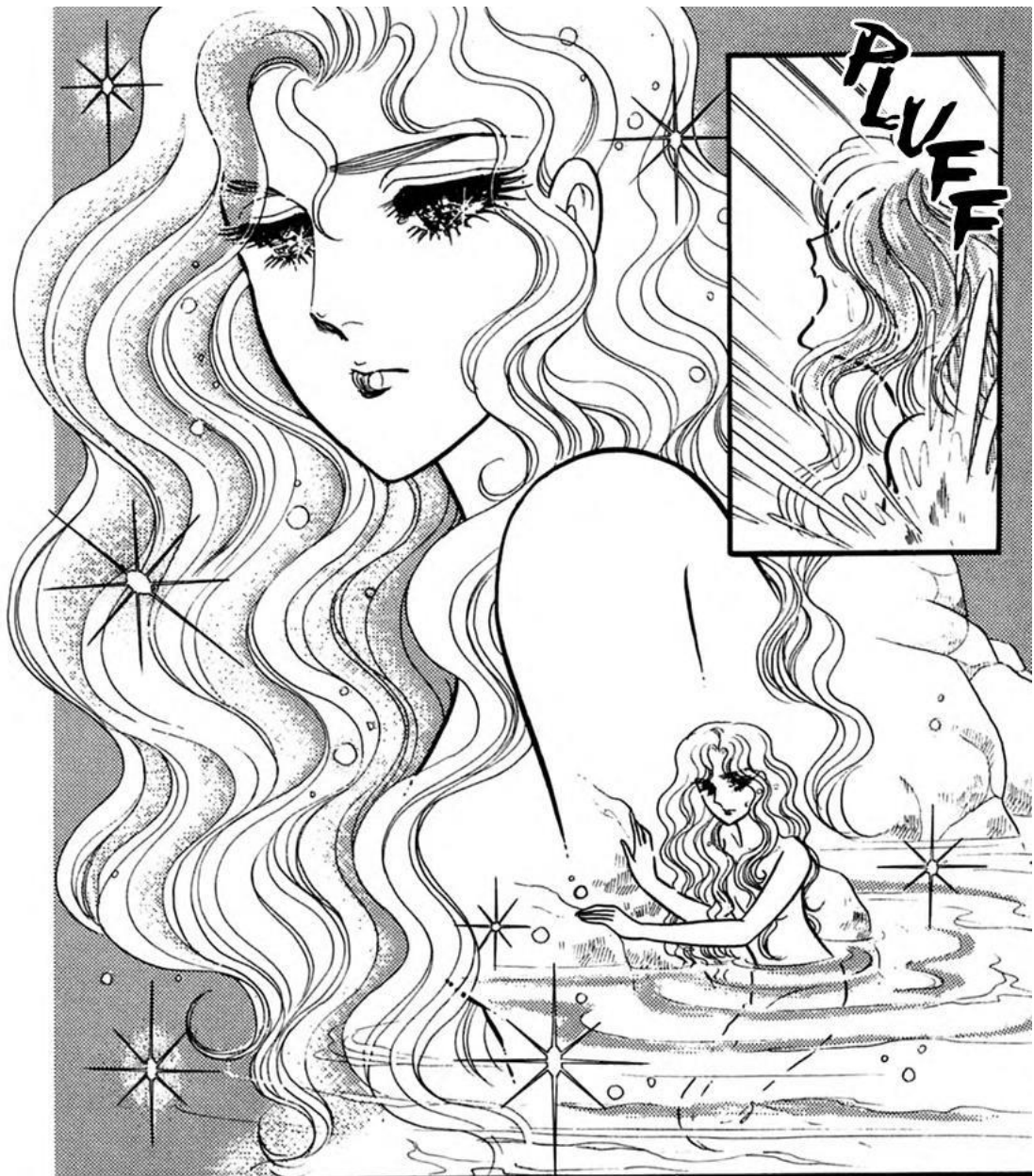
LOOK, BRO, A BIG SALMON...



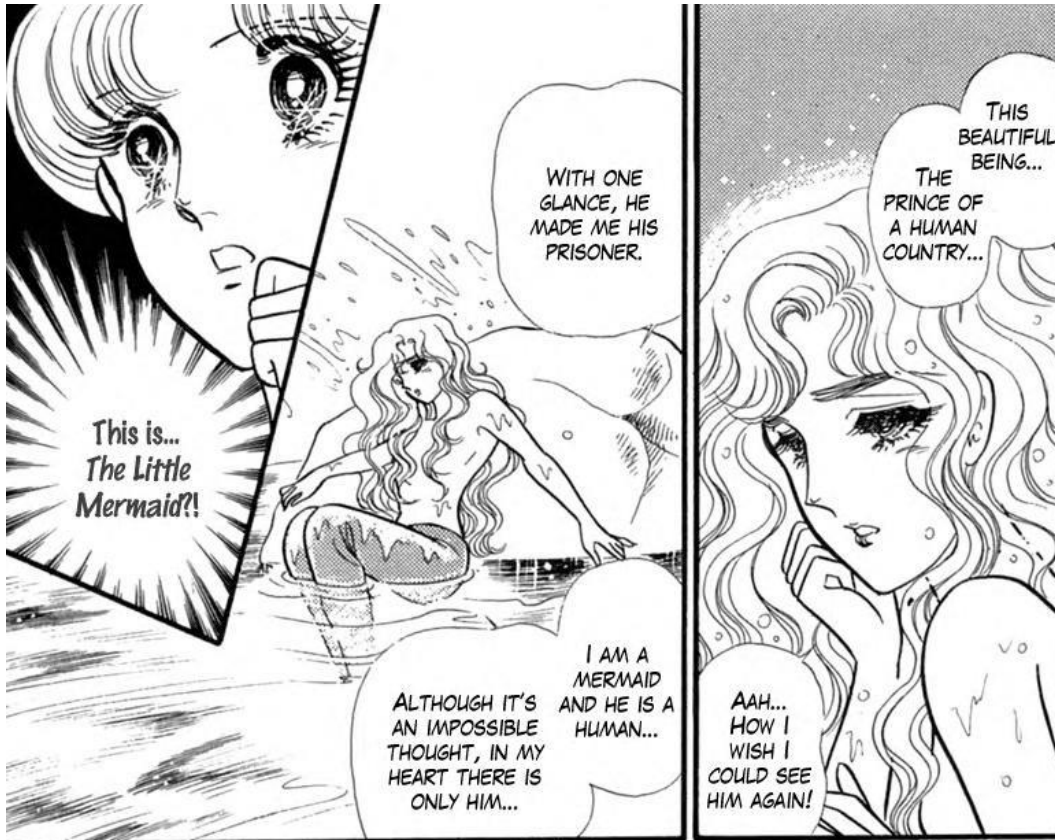
She moves... like a fish?



IDIOT, IT CAN'T BE A FISH...



How beautiful Ayumi is...
She looks like something out of this world!



Her words which are so sad...

The roar of the waterfall doesn't hide her voice at all...

RUMBLE

She uses her voice and abdominal muscles so well.

It doesn't seem at all that she is screaming!

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WE'D SEE AYUMI HIMEKAWA PORTRAYING A MERMAID IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

SO BEAUTIFUL ...

AYUMI HIMEKAWA LIVES UP TO HER NAME.

TRES BIEN, AYUMI!

...IT WILL BURN MY THROAT AND I WILL LOSE MY VOICE... MY TAIL WILL BE SPLIT INTO TWO LEGS... BUT...

EVERY STEP I TAKE WILL HURT ME AS IF I WERE STEPPING ON BLADES... AND IF THE PRINCE DOESN'T CHOOSE ME...

BUT TO DO THAT, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME HUMAN WITH THIS POTION THE WITCH OF THE ABYSS GAVE TO ME...

IF I DRINK IT, I WILL BECOME HUMAN...

I'D LIKE TO BE AT HIS SIDE... UNTIL MY EYES CAN SEE NOTHING ELSE... TO LOOK UPON HIM...

AAH!

