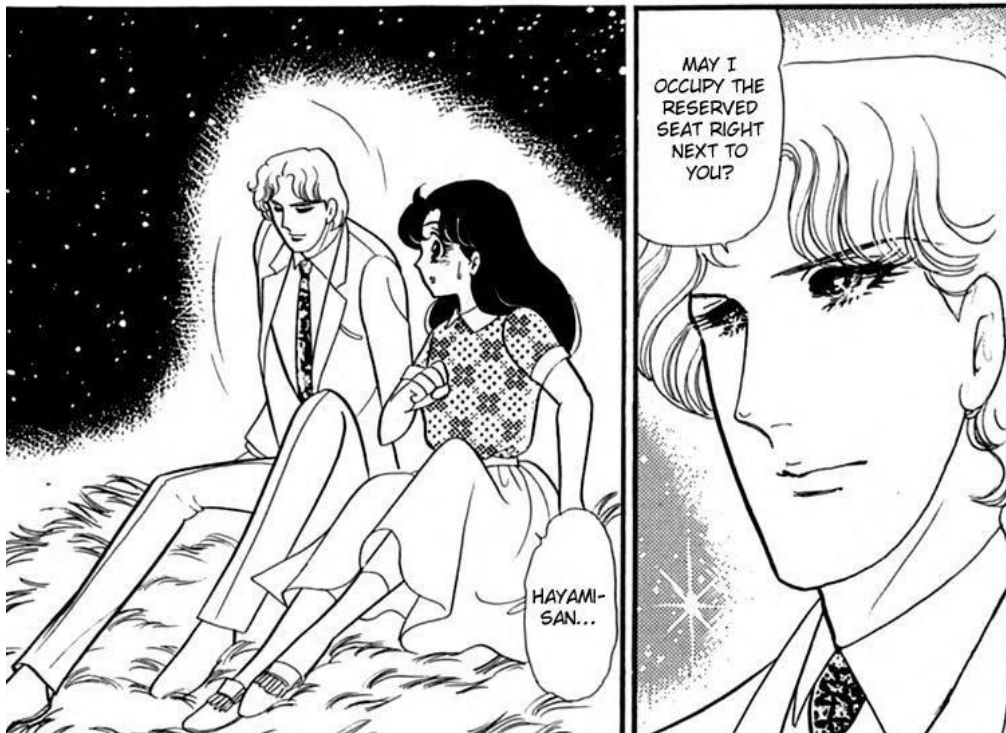


PLEASE FORGIVE ME IF I DISTURBED YOU DURING YOUR ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.

HEY, CHIBI-CHAN.

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



HAYAMI-SAN...

MAY I OCCUPY THE RESERVED SEAT RIGHT NEXT TO YOU?







I'M
LOOKING
FOR
SOMEONE.

HAYAMI-SAN,
WHY ARE
YOU HERE?

SOME-
ONE?



GENERAL
CENTIPEDE?

WE'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR HIM SINCE
LAST NIGHT
BUT WITHOUT
ANY RESULTS.

HE ENDED
UP LOST
IN THESE
PARTS.

YES. THE
ONE KNOWN
AS GENERAL
CENTIPEDE.

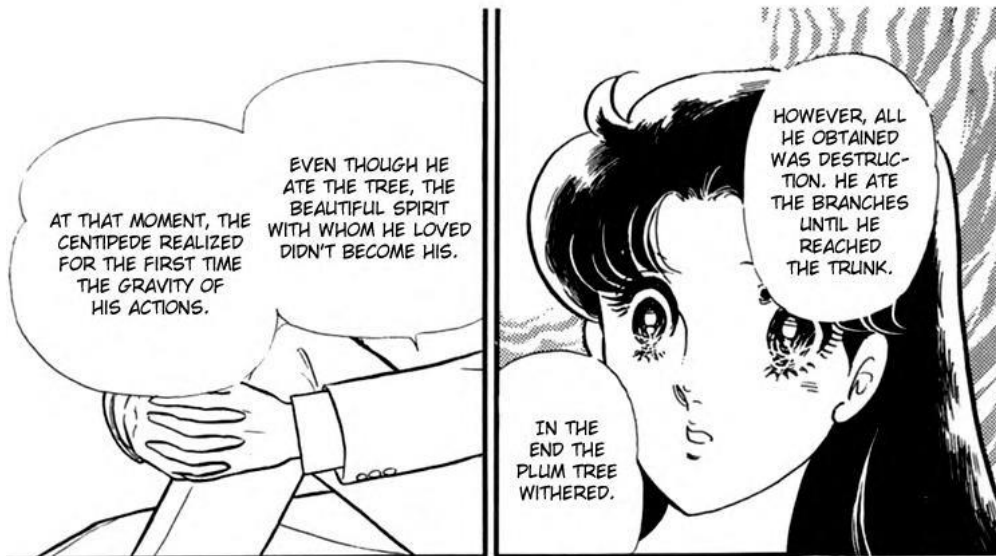


HE PROBABLY
THOUGHT
THAT IF HE
ATE IT THE
SPIRIT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
HIS.

WHEN HE
REALIZED THAT
HIS FEELINGS
WERE NOT
RETURNED, HE
TRIED TO OBTAIN
THAT TREE NO
MATTER WHAT BY
GOING AGAINST
IT'S WISHES.

HE FELL IN
LOVE WITH THE
WONDERFUL
SPIRIT OF A PLUM
TREE BUT SHE
REJECTED HIM
BECAUSE OF HIS
UGLY APPEAR-
ANCE.

IT IS TOLD
THAT ONCE UPON
A TIME GENERAL
CENTIPEDE HAD A
ONE-SIDED LOVE.



AT THAT MOMENT, THE CENTIPEDE REALIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE GRAVITY OF HIS ACTIONS.

EVEN THOUGH HE ATE THE TREE, THE BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT WITH WHOM HE LOVED DIDN'T BECOME HIS.

IN THE END THE PLUM TREE WITHERED.

HOWEVER, ALL HE OBTAINED WAS DESTRUCTION. HE ATE THE BRANCHES UNTIL HE REACHED THE TRUNK.



IT SEEMS HE HAS FALLEN OFF A CLIFF WHILE HE WAS IN THE CAR, BUT ALL TRACKS OF HIM WERE LOST.

MISSING?! PRESIDENT HAYAMI?!

TOMORROW WE'LL START SEARCHING FOR HIM ON A LARGER SCALE, AROUND THE RIVER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.



THE CENTIPEDE ALSO HAS A SON...

HAYAMI-SAN, COULD YOU BE TALKING ABOUT...

...THAT HAS COME NOW TO SEARCH FOR HIM SINCE HE'S MISSING.



I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT BECAUSE SOONER OR LATER YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT.

DON'T WORRY. I CERTAINLY DIDN'T WANT TO IMPRESS YOU.



HAYAMI-SAN...





AND THAT IS THE CONSTELLATION CYGNUS...

...WITH HER BIGGEST STAR DENEB, THE BRIGHTEST ONE.

IT'S THE BIGGEST STAR IN THE VIRGO CONSTELLATION.

LOOK THERE... IT'S THE ONE THAT SHINES WITH A WHITE LIGHT.

AH! IT'S TRUE.

AH! THERE IT IS! I'VE SEEN CYGNUS!

THAT ONE NEXT TO IT IS VEGA FROM THE LYRA CONSTELLATION.



One who is eleven years older than me...

Strange... I can speak so naturally with Hayami-san...

and still I am sitting here calmly and talking with him about stars...

One whom I have so many reasons to hate

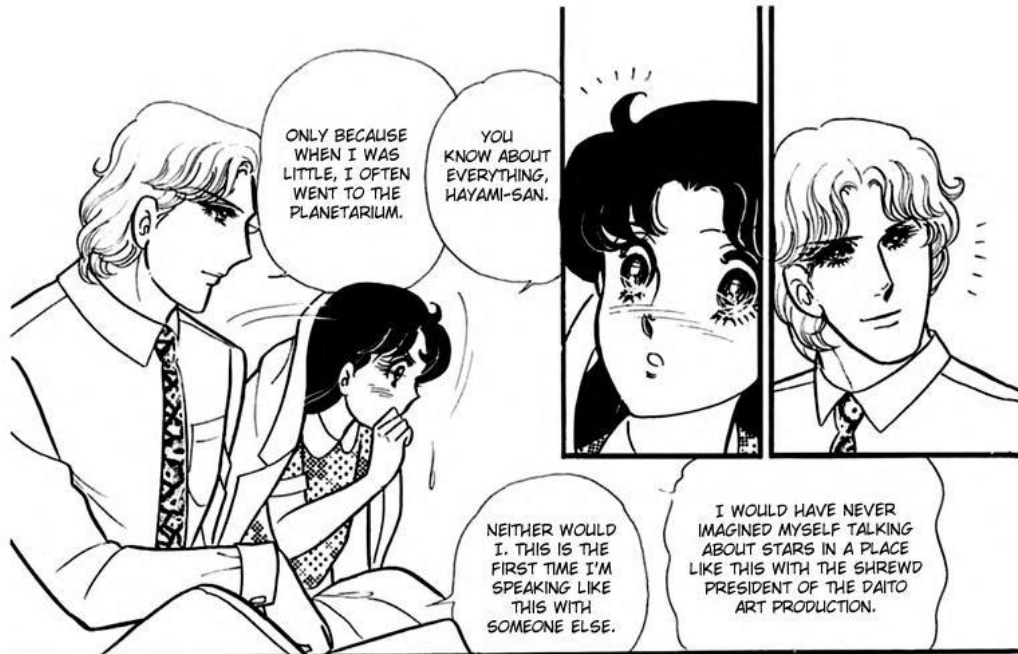


THAT ONE CLOSE TO CYGNUS!

AH! THAT ONE IS THE BIG DIPPER?!

AH! I GOT IT!

THAT'S RIGHT.



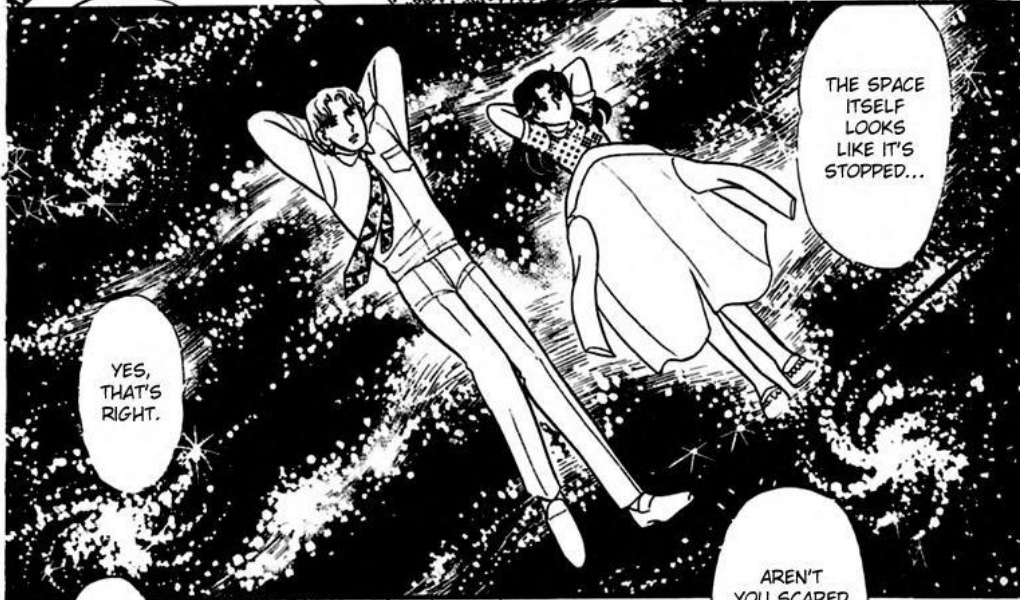




LOOKING AT THEM LIKE THIS, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THE STARS ARE SLOWLY MOVING...

YES.

THE STARS ARE QUITE BRIGHT, RIGHT?



YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

THE SPACE ITSELF LOOKS LIKE IT'S STOPPED...

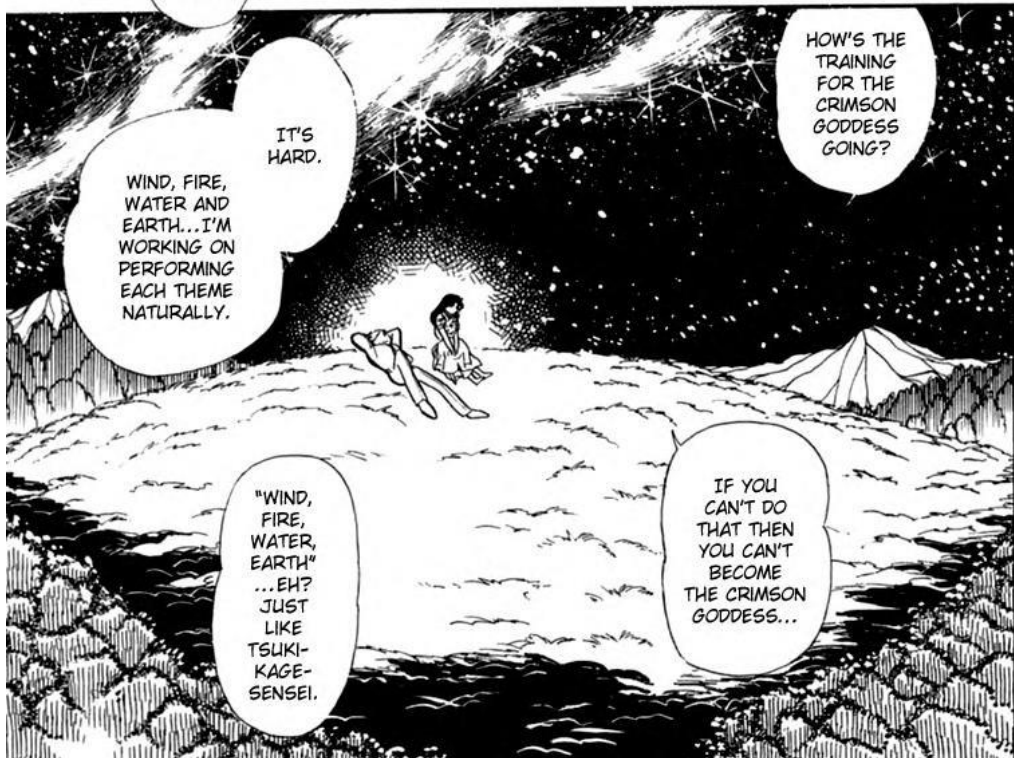


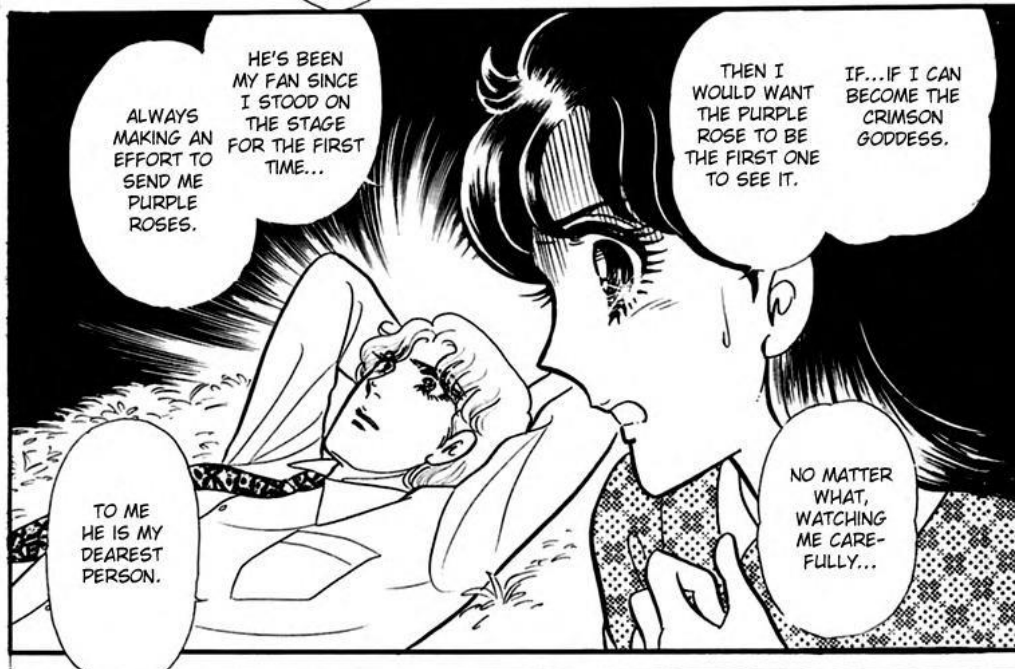
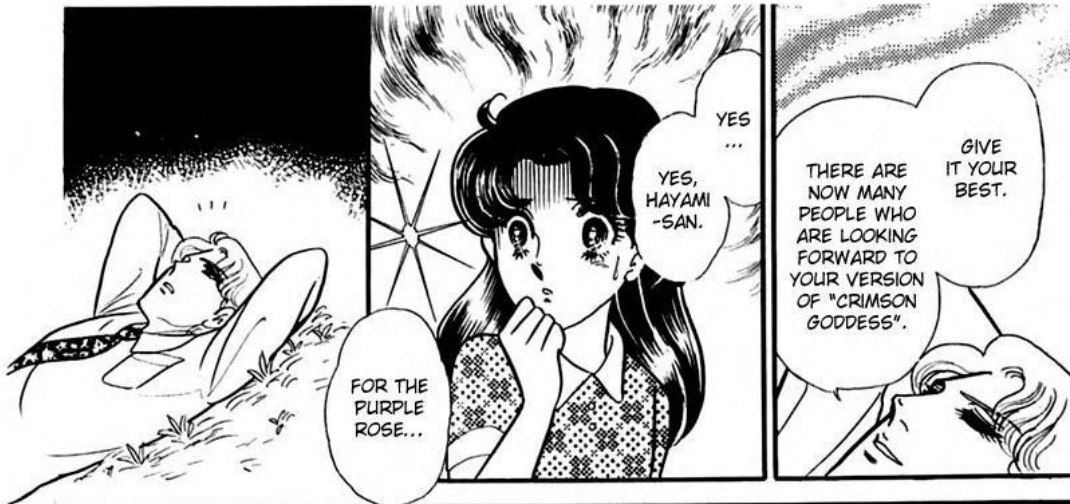
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT.

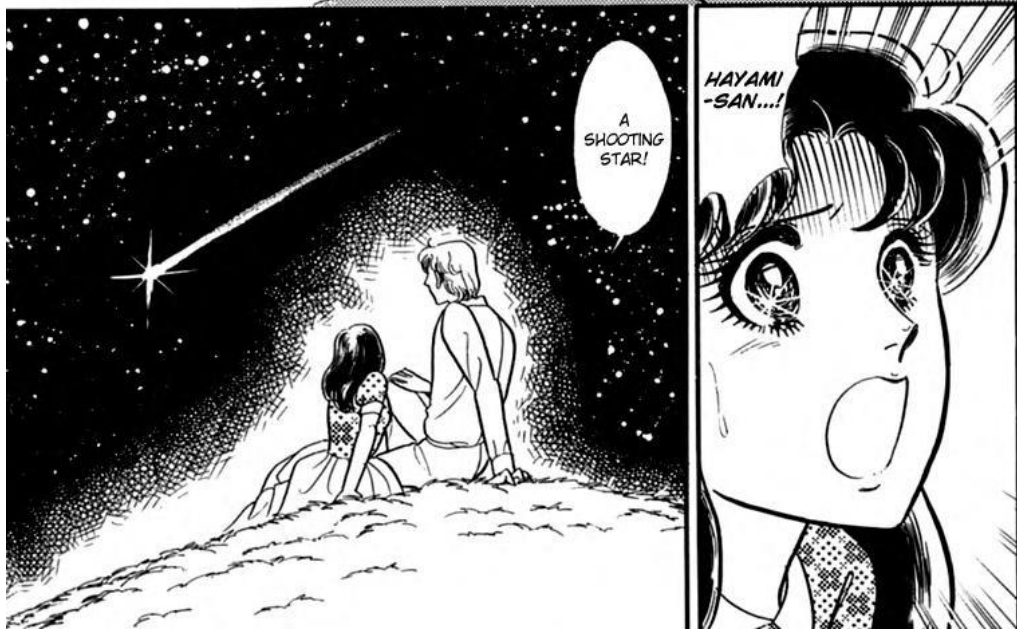
THEN WHY ARE YOU NEAR ME?

I'M SCARED.

AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?









Hayami-san...

I AM AFRAID THAT WHAT I WISH FOR...

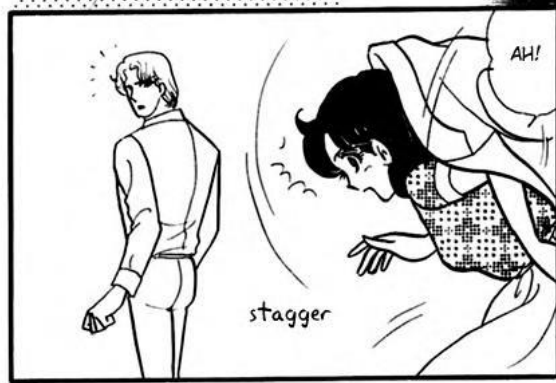
IT VANISHED BEFORE I COULD MAKE A WISH... I WASN'T FAST ENOUGH.

DID YOU MAKE A WISH?

A ha ha ha ha

...WILL NEVER COME TRUE...

HOW ABOUT YOU, HAYAMI-SAN?



AH!

stagger



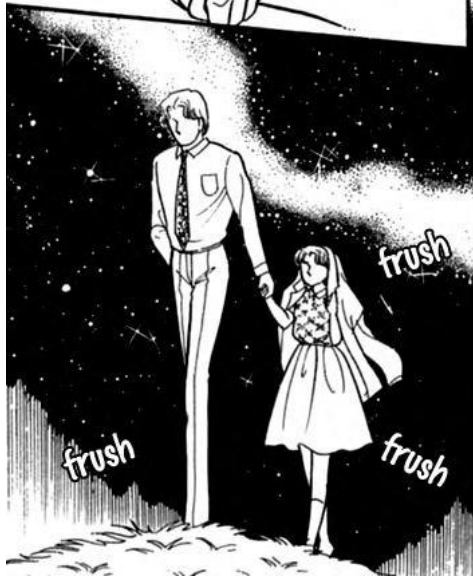
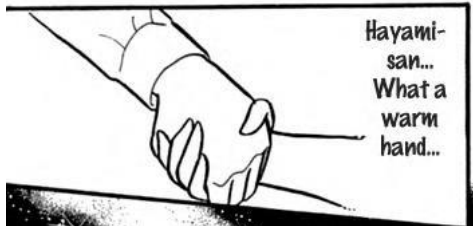
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.

WELL, LET'S GO BACK.

WE WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU.



HOLD MY HAND.



TI NOTE:
LOL, REFERENCE
TO THE
ANIME
WITH THE
EXACT
SAME
TITLE. YES,
IT IS ALSO
BASED
ON THE
NOVEL BY
THE NAME
"DADDY
LONG
LEGS."





GOOD-NIGHT, CHIBI-CHAN.

ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO RETURN HERE AND SEE YOUR CRIMSON GODDESS.



Hayami-san...

...I am not a little girl anymore!

Hayami-san!



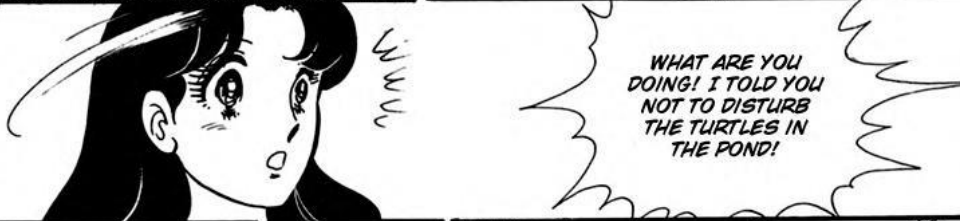
SEE YOU LATER, CHIBI-CHAN.



...The
Purple Rose!

Why does
it have to
be you...?

Hayami-san!



T1 NOTE: RYUJIN MEANS DRAGON GOD BUT WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH RYUJIN CUZ IT'S MORE JAPANESE ...LOL.



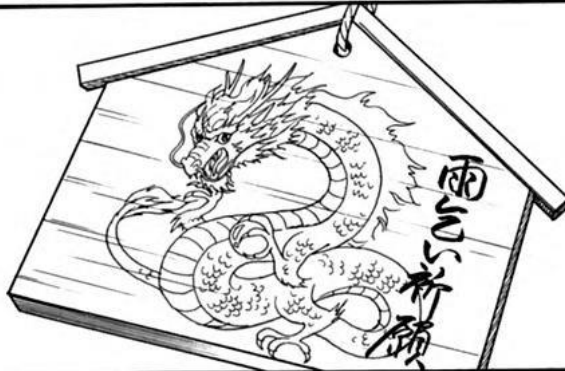


WHAT?
YOU DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
RYUJIN?

EXCUSE
ME...
BUT
WHO IS
RYUJIN?



Aaaaah!



WHAT IS
THIS?



The
god of
water!



IT IS SAID
RYUJIN IS
THE GOD
OF WATER.

PRAYED
FOR
RAIN?



THESE WERE
HUNG HERE
IN THE PAST
BY THE VIL-
LAGERS
WHEN THEY
PRAYED FOR
RAIN.



THE RIVERS, THE LAKES, THE WATER-FALLS, ALL THE WATER OF THESE MOUNTAINS IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF RYUJIN THAT LIVES IN THIS LAKE.

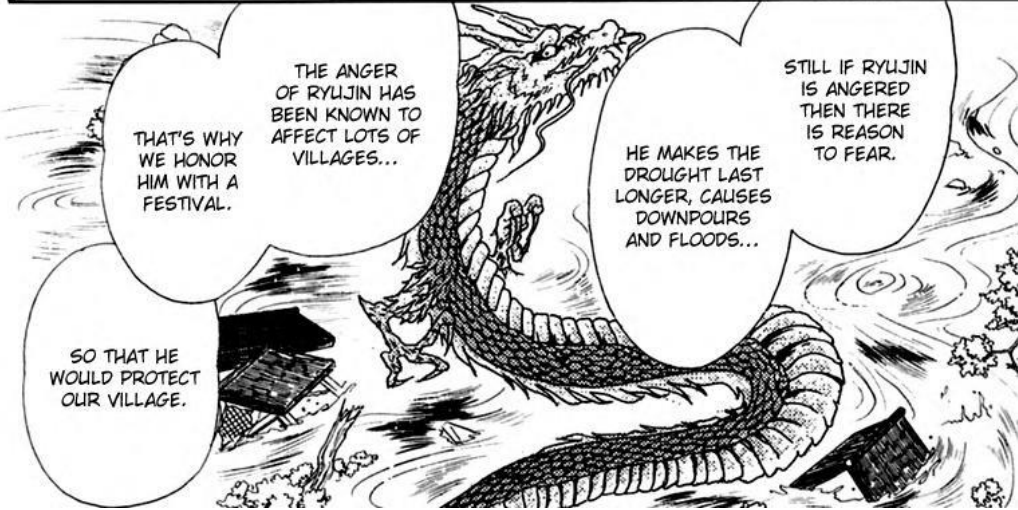
YOU SAY... HE'S THE GOD OF WATER?

HE USUALLY SLEEPS AT THE BOTTOM BUT SOMETIMES, WHEN HE'S IN THE SKY, HE SUMMONS THE CLOUDS AND RAIN.

IN THE PAST, IN CASE OF DROUGHT, PEOPLE PRAYED TO RYUJIN FOR RAIN.

HE WAS INVOKED IN CASE OF FLOODS OR DOWNPOURS.

THEN SUDDENLY THE LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS WOULD STOP AND ON THE DRIED FIELDS A LIGHT RAIN WOULD FALL.



THE ANGER OF RYUJIN HAS BEEN KNOWN TO AFFECT LOTS OF VILLAGES...

STILL IF RYUJIN IS ANGERED THEN THERE IS REASON TO FEAR.

HE MAKES THE DROUGHT LAST LONGER, CAUSES DOWNPOURS AND FLOODS...

THAT'S WHY WE HONOR HIM WITH A FESTIVAL.

SO THAT HE WOULD PROTECT OUR VILLAGE.



If he's
angered he
provokes
flooding that
destroys entire
villages!

Rivers and
lakes...Ryujin
rules over
all water!

He flies in the
sky, summons
clouds and lets
rain fall on
earth.

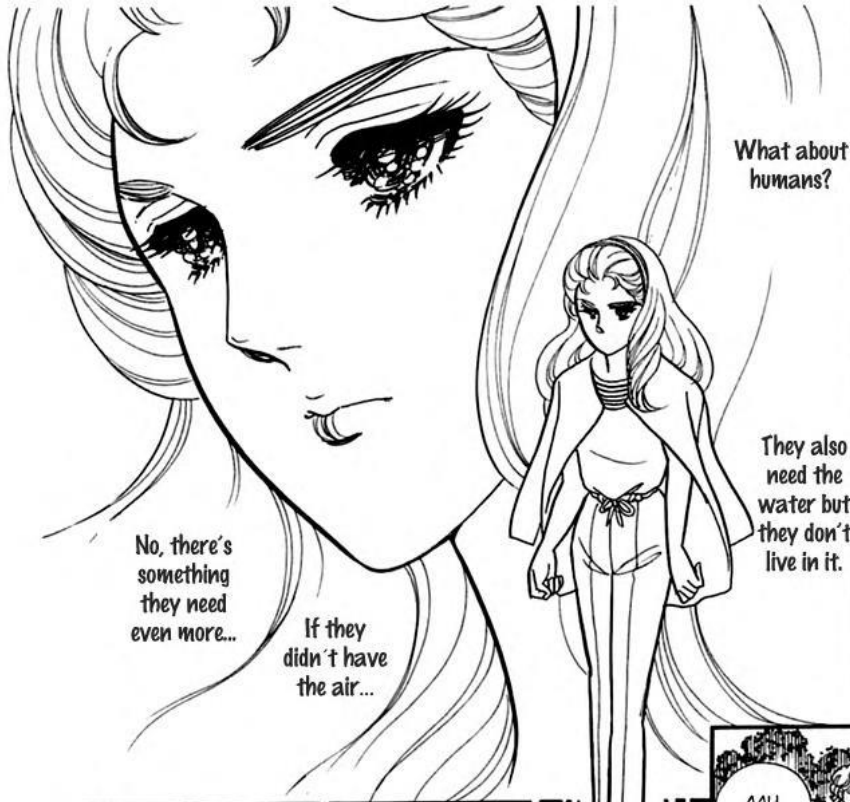


The water
that changes...

Ryujin that
rules over the
forces of the
water!

Ryujin!

My water!



No, there's something they need even more...

If they didn't have the air...

What about humans?

They also need the water but they don't live in it.



Water ...

which keeps us alive.

There are beings that can only live in water...



Without love?!



Without the love of the mother the children couldn't live!

And without love men and women too...



AAH, GOOD, THAT'S GOOD!

DRINK YOUR MILK.



Love and water!

SPLASH

Water!

It sustains life!

Of course! That which humans need most is love!

All their relations are based on love!

The love of one's parents! The love between men and women! The love for the family!

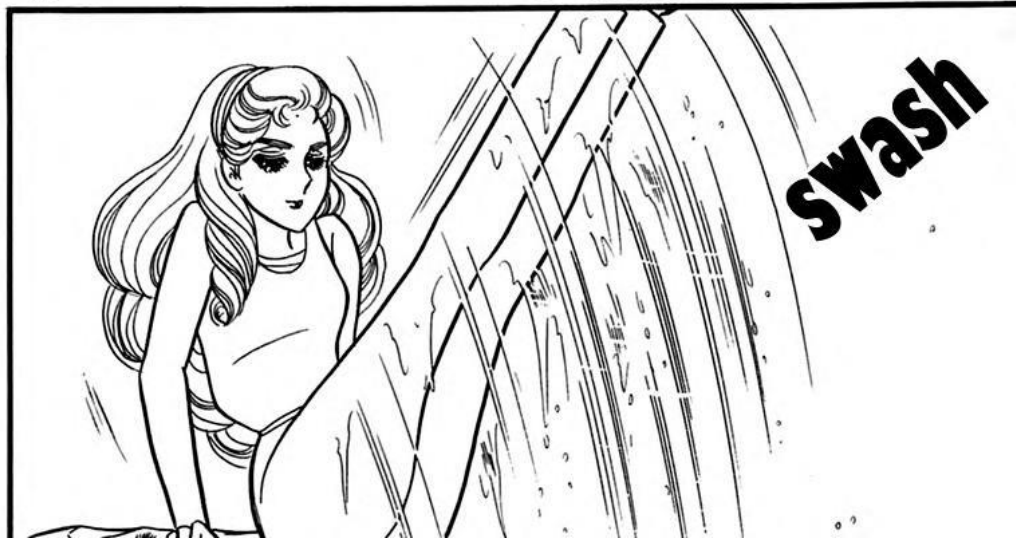
Without love there could be no life!

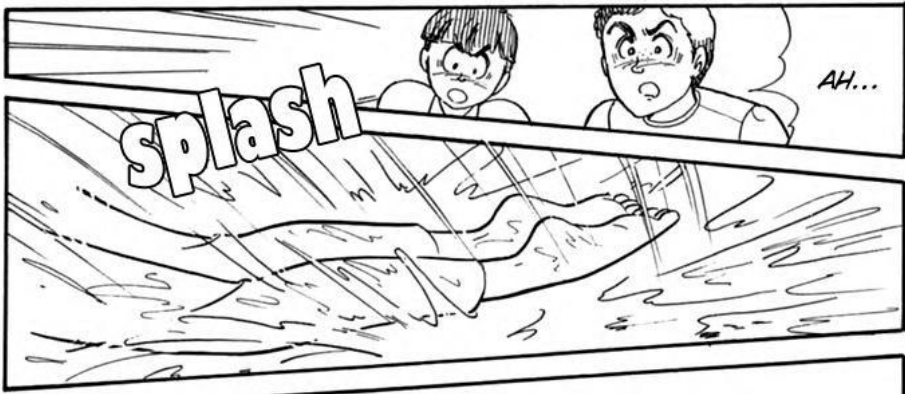
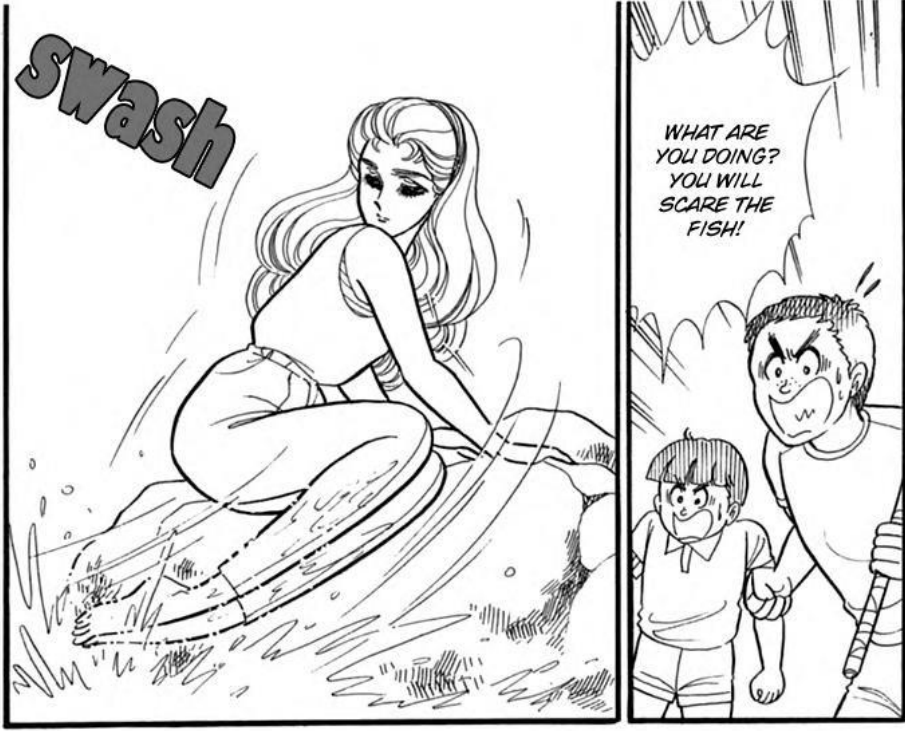


AH!

SPLASH

FUP







Splash

For love!

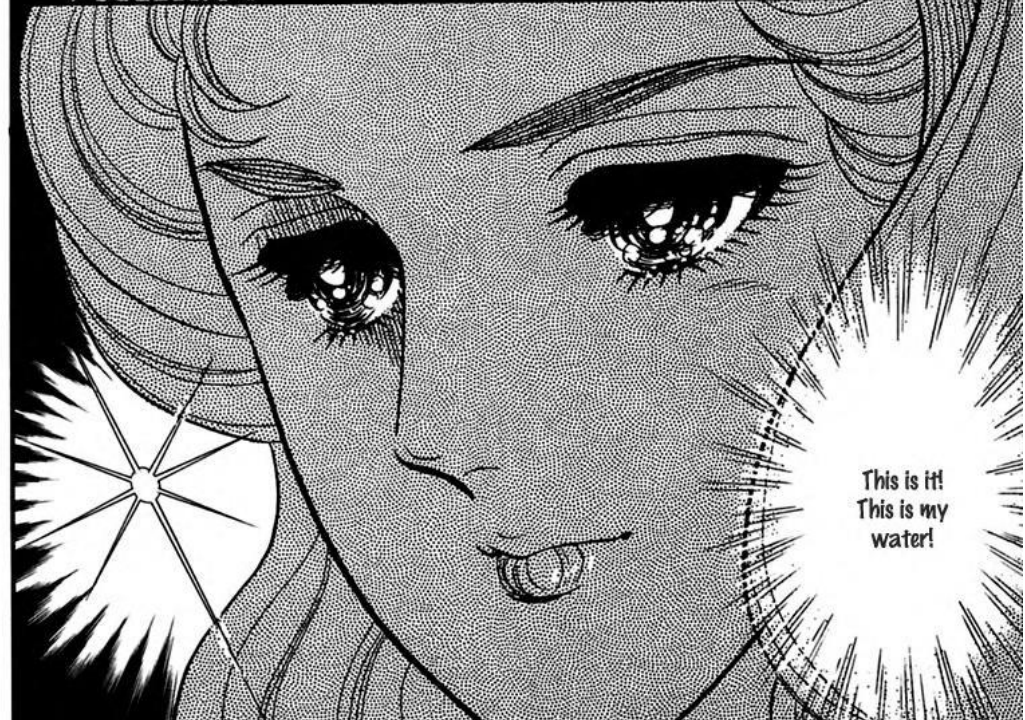
A fish
out of
water!

Splash



The little
mermaid!

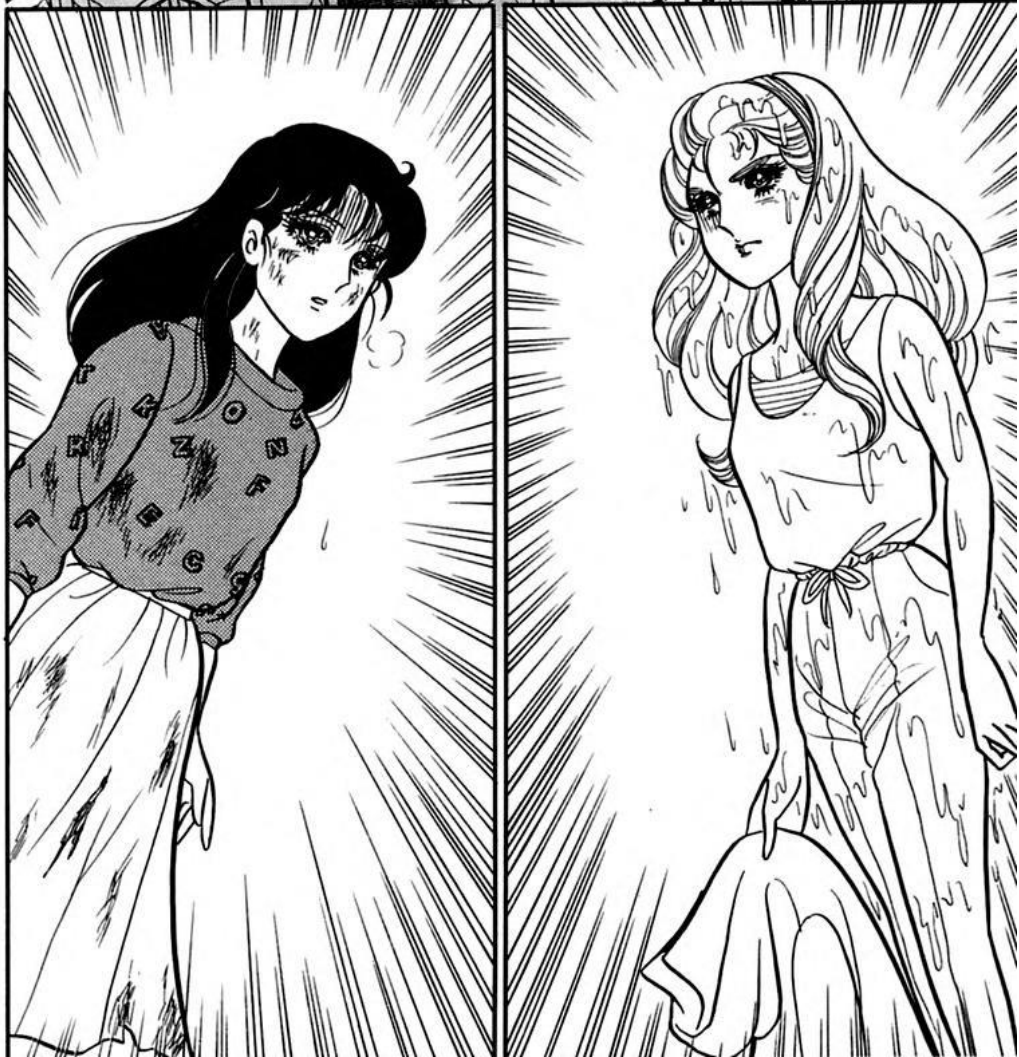
When she lost
her love her destiny
became like the
foam of the waves...



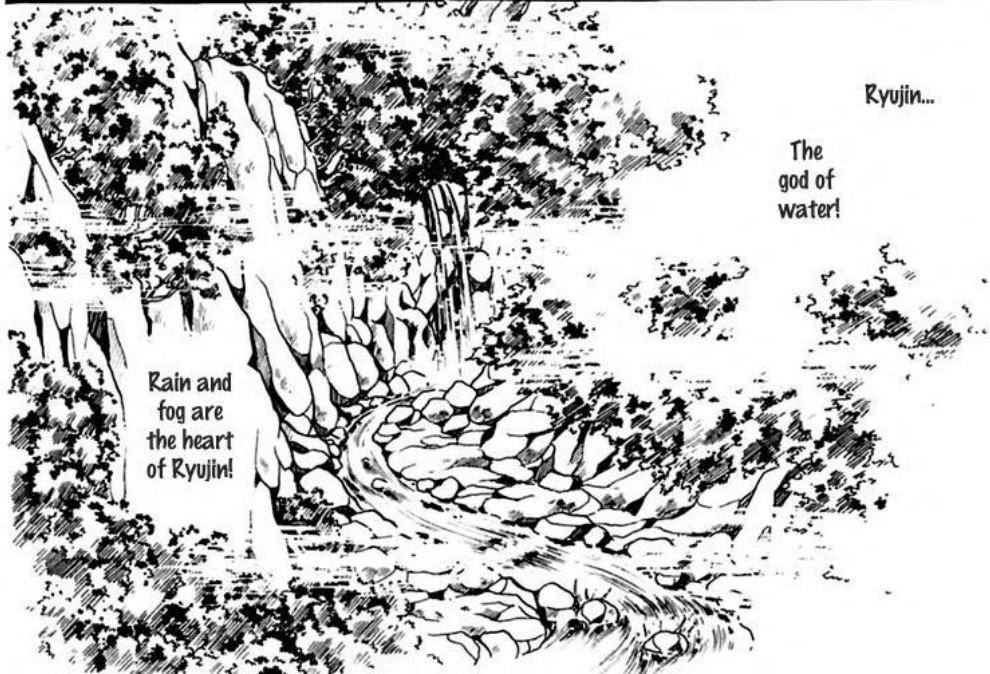
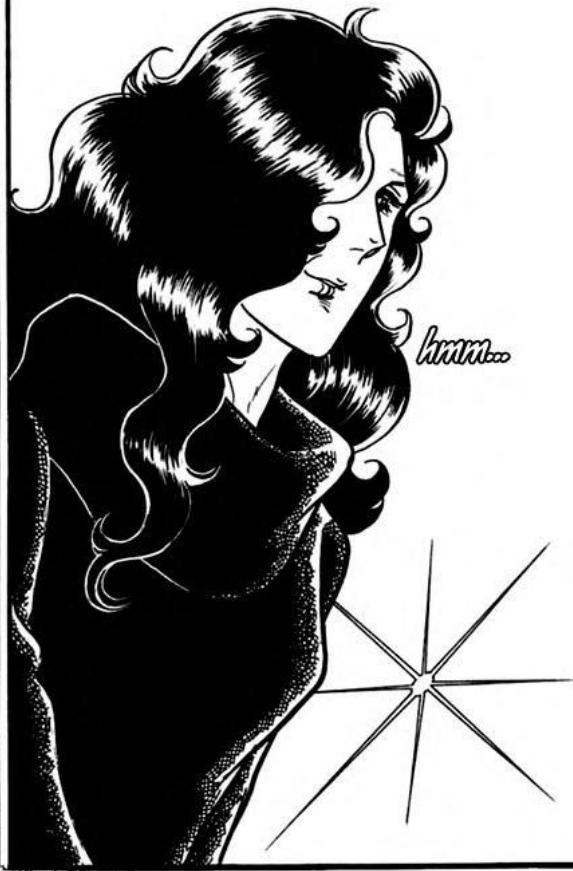
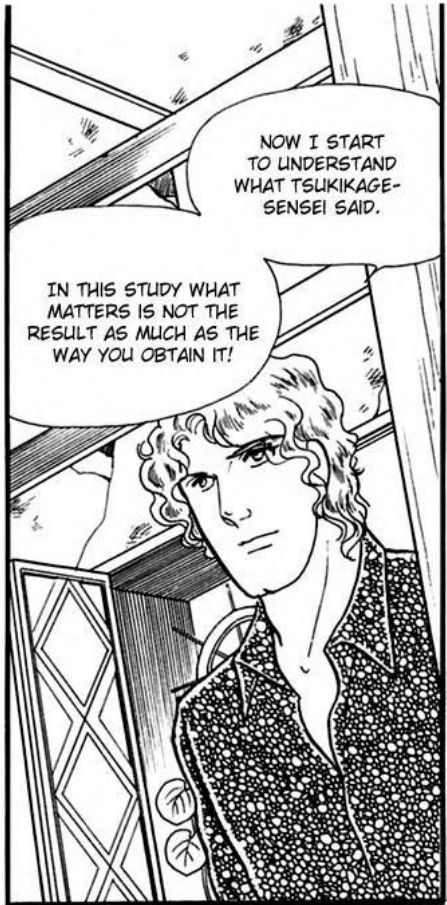
This is it!
This is my
water!



The little
mermaid!









What expression?

What movements?

What voice would I have?



His anger and his happiness!

How should I express them?

If I was Ryujin...



Ryujin!



When is he happy?

In what occasion does he get angry?

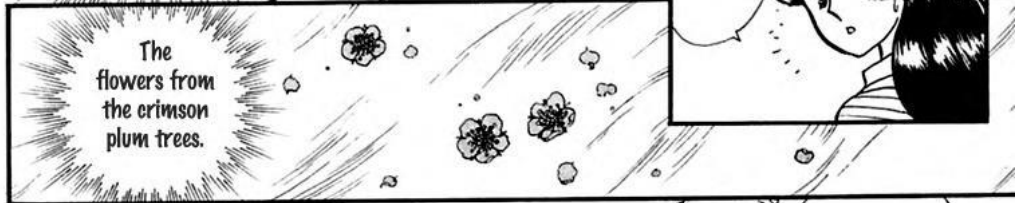
How does Ryujin feel?

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THIS!

How can I understand the heart of Ryujin?



AH...



The flowers from the crimson plum trees.



The valley of the plum trees...



THE VALLEY OF THE PLUM TREES... SPEAKING OF WHICH THERE WAS A DRAGON WHO PROTECTED THE VALLEY WHERE THE CRIMSON GODDESS LIVED...



THEY CAME HERE FROM THE VALLEY! ALL THIS WAY...

