

HANA TO YUME COMICS

Glass Mask

SUZUE MIUCHI

36



HANA TO YUME COMICS

GLASS MASK

VOLUME 36 THE CRIMSON GODDESS (3)

SUZUE MIUCHI



Chapter 193





THAT'S RIGHT. FOR THE SAKE OF PHOTOGRAPHING THE BEAUTIFUL NATURE OF JAPAN AND THE LOVELY YOU WHO IS IN IT.

IT CAN'T BE... FOR THE SAKE OF TAKING MY PICTURES YOU CAME THIS FAR?

WHY ARE YOU HERE ...?

Blah blah blah...

AH, THIS GUY, MASAO, IS MY ASSISTANT.

HE ALSO TRANSLATES FOR ME.

HAMIL-SAN!

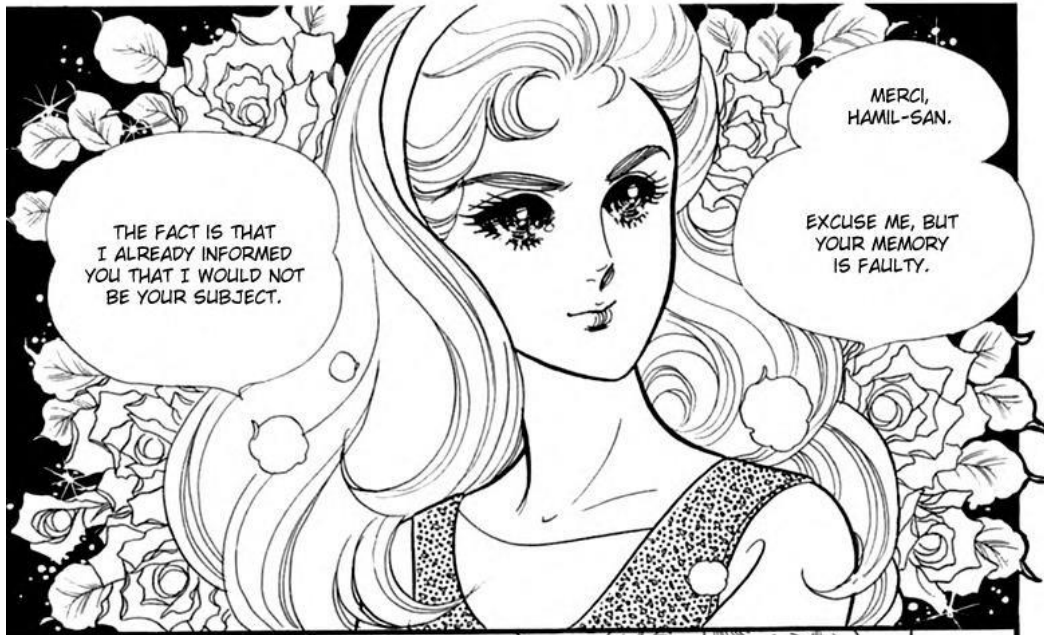
Hi!

AH!

HOT!

WHO IS IT?!

click



THE FACT IS THAT I ALREADY INFORMED YOU THAT I WOULD NOT BE YOUR SUBJECT.

MERCI, HAMIL-SAN.
EXCUSE ME, BUT YOUR MEMORY IS FAULTY.



OH! AYUMI,
IT'S YOUR MEMORY THAT'S BAD.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!



I HEARD ABOUT THE CRIMSON GODDESS.
SUCH AS, YOU ARE HERE DOING TRAINING TO CREATE THE ROLE.

WHAT KIND OF TRAINING WAS IT RIGHT NOW?



I SAW YOU TRAINING HERE AND THOUGHT IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SCENE.
SO, I TOOK A PICTURE.

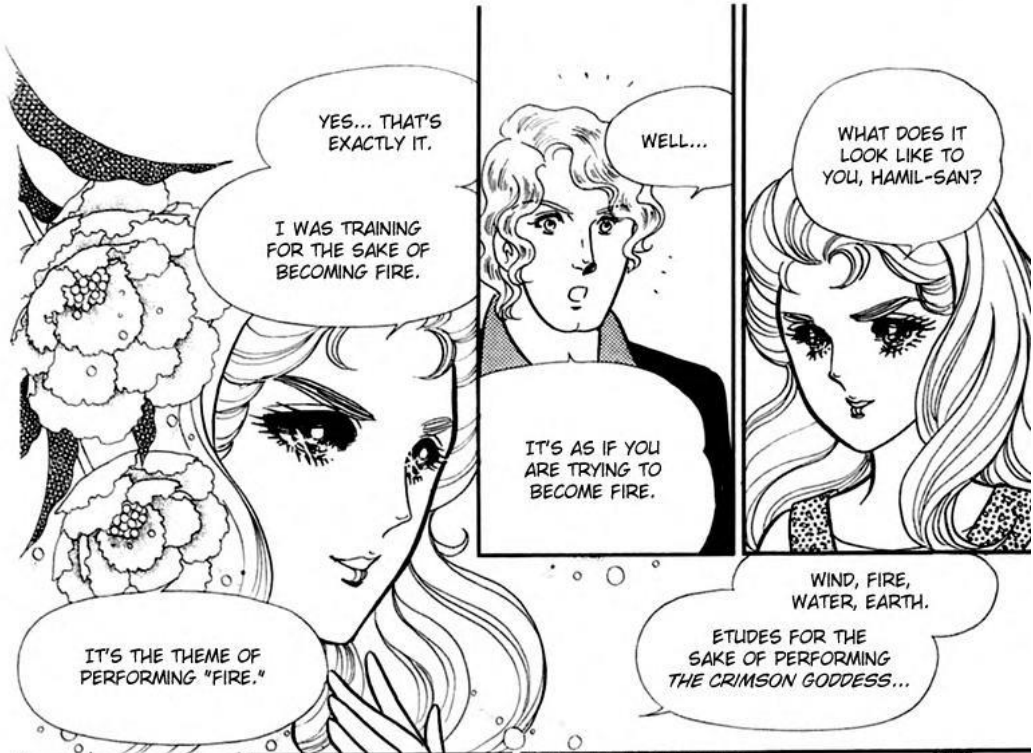
IS THAT NOT ALLOWED?



THERE WAS A TIME AT THE STUDIO THAT I THOUGHT YOU, WHO WAS SWEATING, WAS BEAUTIFUL. YOU SAID IT WAS ALL RIGHT TO TAKE PICTURES THEN.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

GLENAN



YES... THAT'S EXACTLY IT.

I WAS TRAINING FOR THE SAKE OF BECOMING FIRE.

WELL...

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU, HAMIL-SAN?

IT'S AS IF YOU ARE TRYING TO BECOME FIRE.

IT'S THE THEME OF PERFORMING "FIRE."

WIND, FIRE, WATER, EARTH.

ETUDES FOR THE SAKE OF PERFORMING THE CRIMSON GODDESS...



THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER THE RHYTHM OF FIRE LIKE THIS.



THE FIRE WHICH BURSTS INTO FLAMES, THE VIOLENTLY BLAZING FIRE...

FIRE HAS MANY APPEARANCES.

BEING ABLE TO REPRESENT THOSE IS THE RHYTHM OF FIRE.



FIRE IS BRIGHT... HOT... AND VIOLENT.

RHYTHM?

IT ALSO HAS A RHYTHM.

YES. I WANT TO GRASP THE RHYTHM OF FIRE.



Like this, I'm going along with the fire. My arms are...



My wrists are...

My legs are...

My hips are...



I will naturally master the rhythm of "fire"...!



I will continue
to master the
image of fire!

WHIP



WATCH
OUT!
MOVE!

ACK!



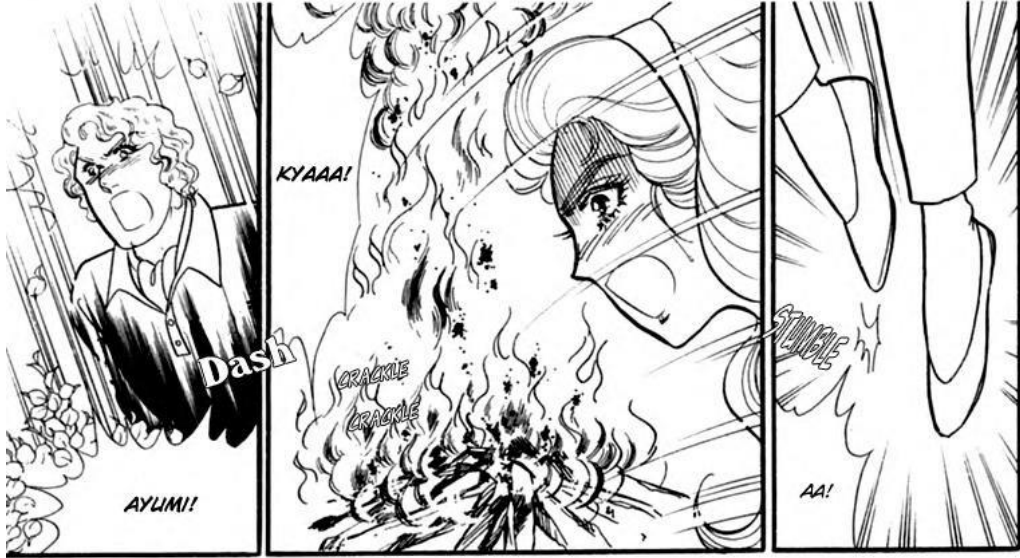
YOU'RE IN MY WAY,
MONSIEUR HAMIL!

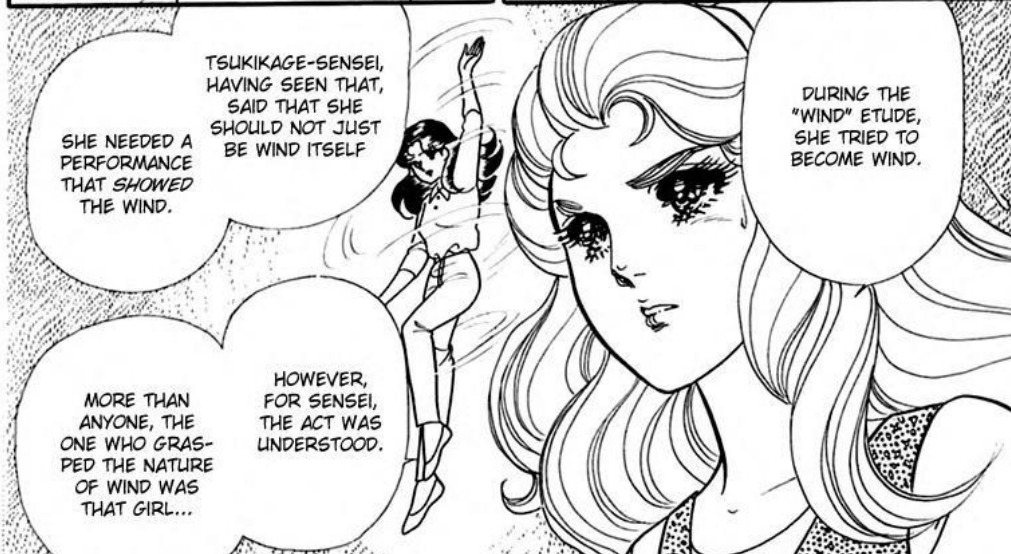
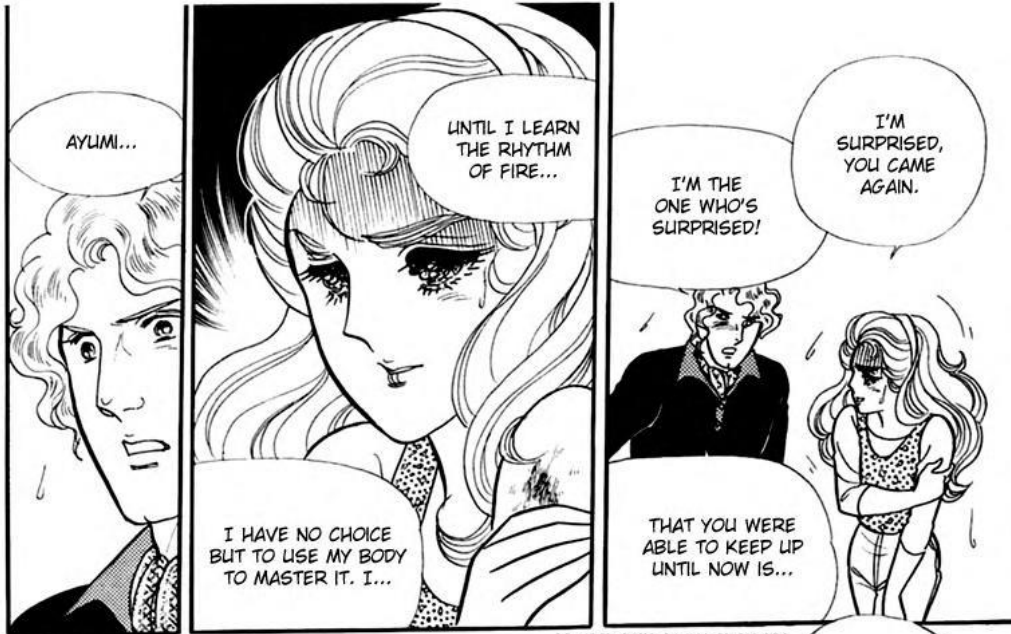
Ayumi...

YOU'RE A
HINDRANCE!
PLEASE GO
SOMEWHERE
ELSE!

poof!

whip







DOING SOMETHING SUCH AS TRYING TO BECOME THE WIND...

I, TOO, WILL TRY TO BECOME FIRE!



AYUMI...?

"Yaoya Oshichi"

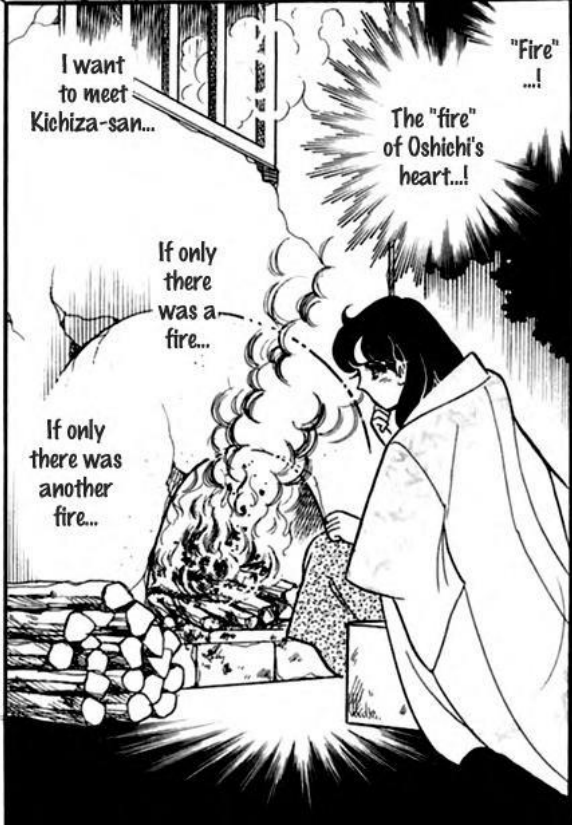


This time I'm doing Oshichi... I'm getting nervous.

Although it's an etude... I can do a solo again.

The maddening extent of the fire of love...

But, what sort of method would be good? To perform the fire of Oshichi's heart...



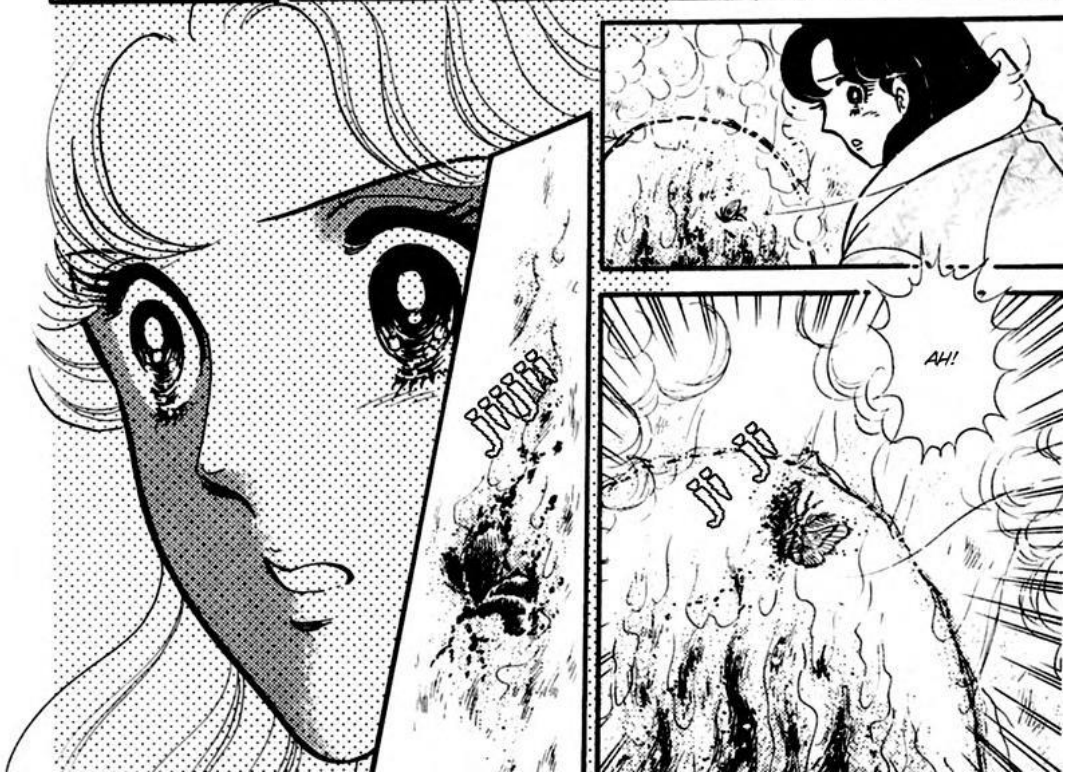
I want to meet Kichiza-san...

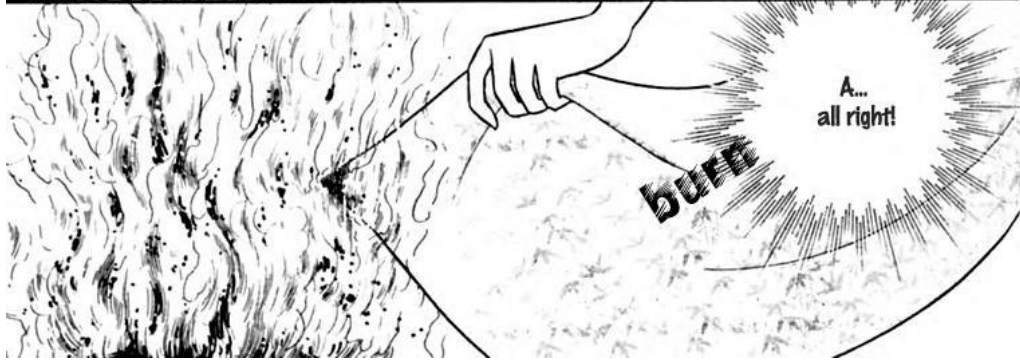
"Fire" ...!

The "fire" of Oshichi's heart...!

If only there was a fire...

If only there was another fire...







Kichiza-san...!

Oshichi!

I am
Oshichi...!

I want
to meet
you!

Meet you...





I want to meet...



I want to meet you...

HOT!

Hayami-san...!

Why...?!

I really want to meet you.

Flames



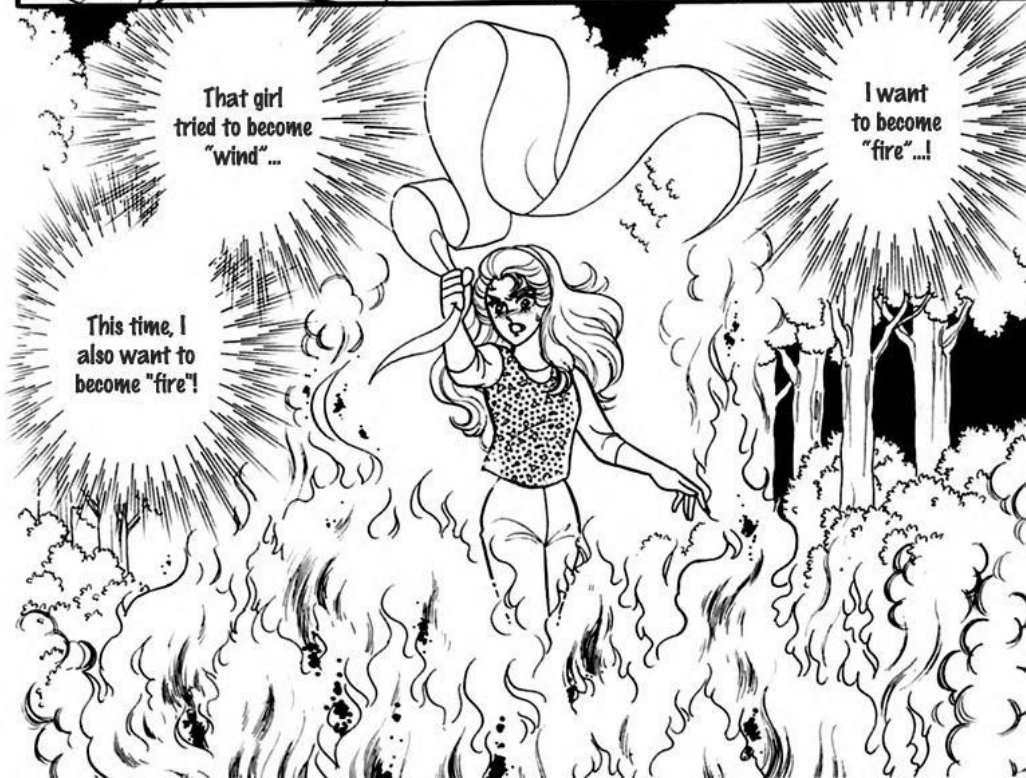


I am
Oshichi...!



whip

pant
pant



That girl
tried to become
"wind"...

I want
to become
"fire" ...!

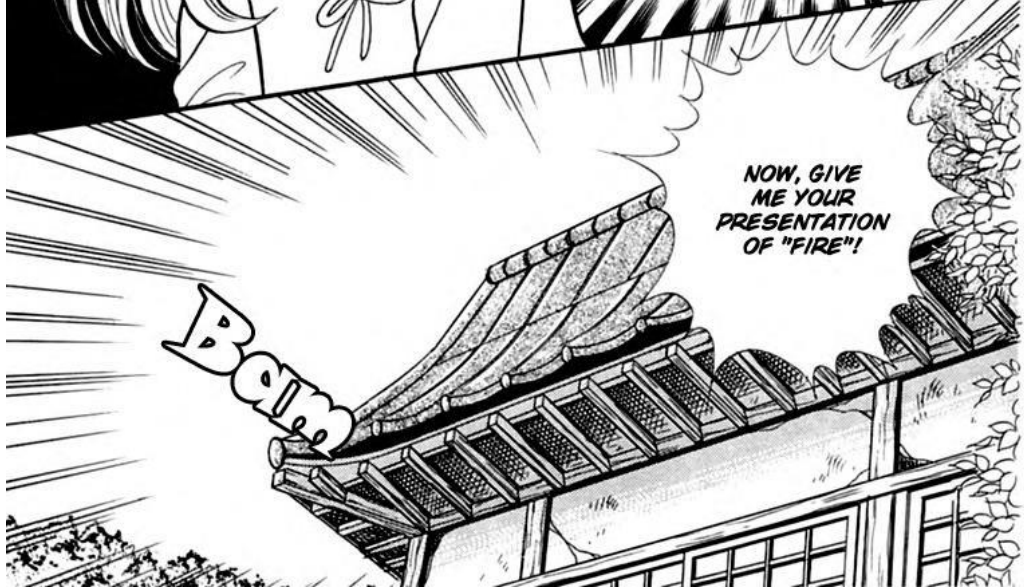
This time, I
also want to
become "fire"!



I want to
become "fire"!

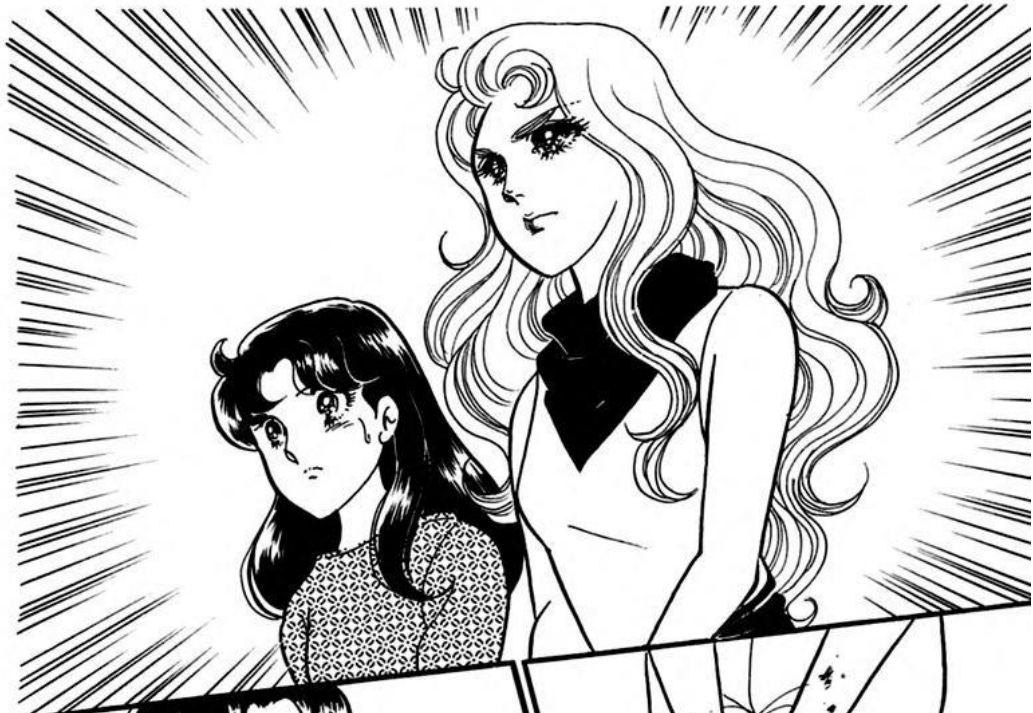


The fire of
Oshichi's
heart!



NOW, GIVE
ME YOUR
PRESENTATION
OF "FIRE"!

Bam



Ayumi-san...
Are those
blisters...?

OKAY,
AYUMI?

I WON'T
TAKE
PICTURES.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT. I'LL
BE INVISIBLE
DURING THE
PERFORM-
ANCE.

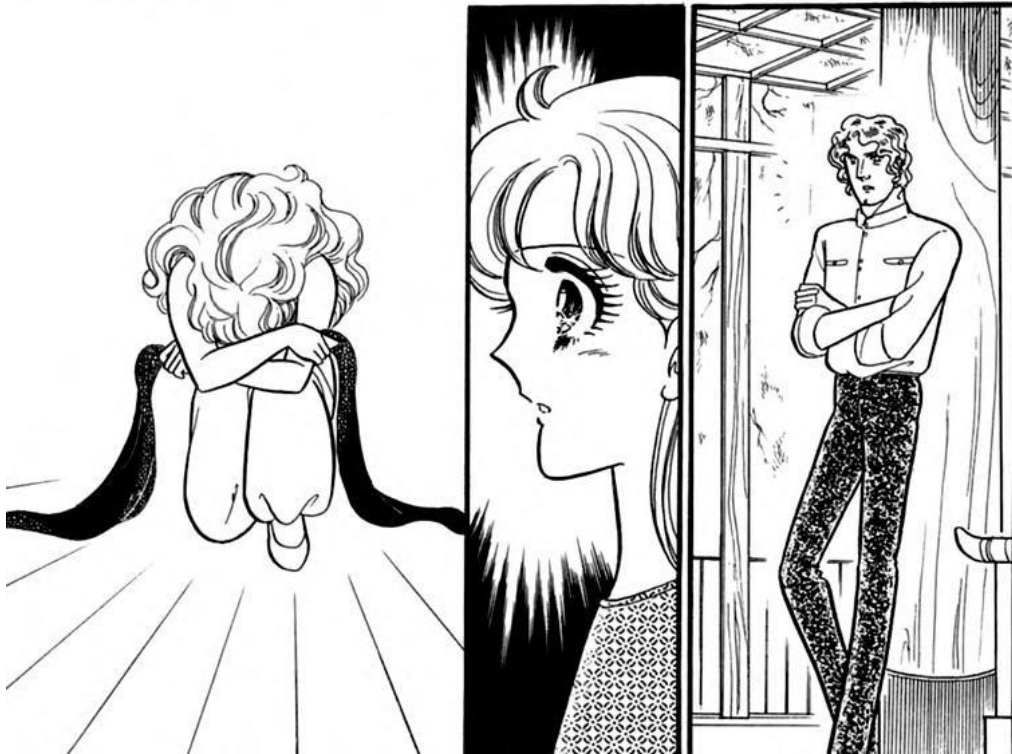
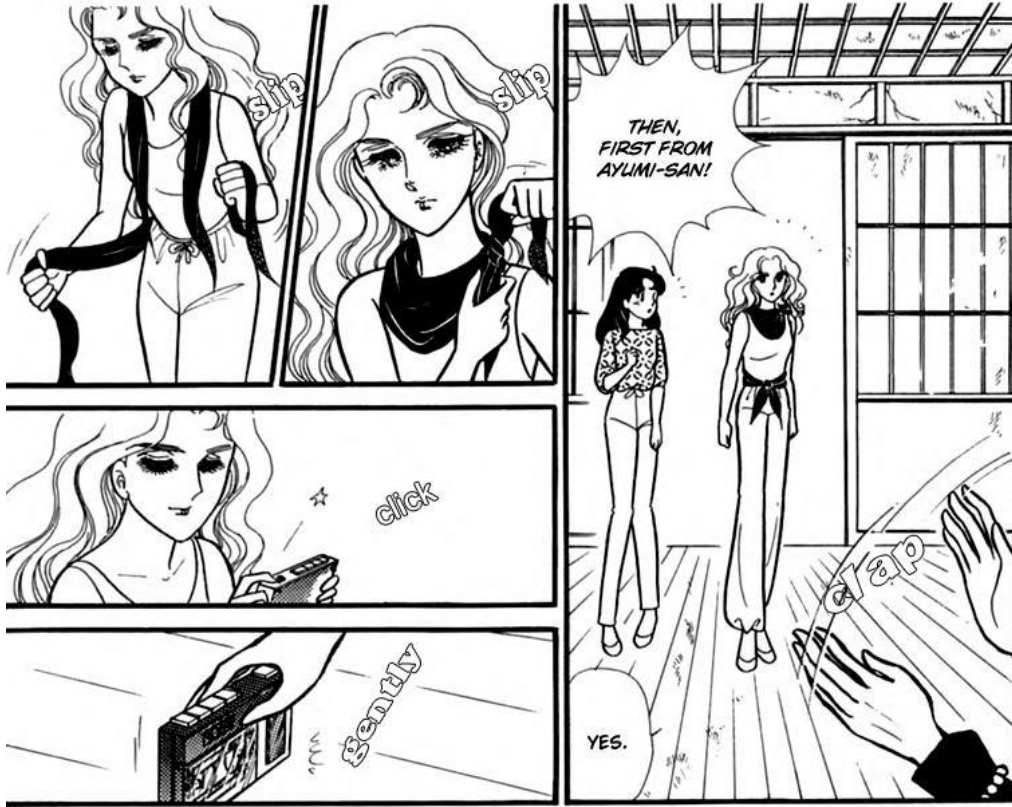
GOOD
GRIEF...
YOUR
JAPANESE
IS ALWAYS
SO...

PLEASD
TO MEET
YOU.

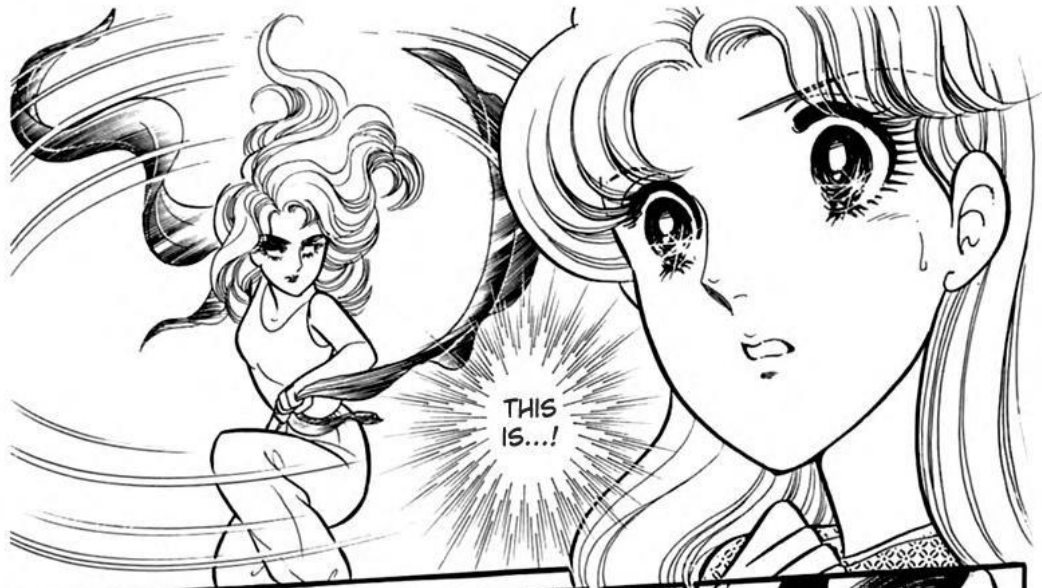
OH, AN
ACQUAINT-
ANCE OF
AYUMI-SAN.

LET'S HAVE
INTRODUCTIONS.
THIS IS PHOTO-
GRAPHY STUDIO'S
HAMIL-SAN AND
HIS ASSISTANT
SUZUKI-SAN.

HAMIL!







AH...?

FLAMES?

music playing

THIS IS...!





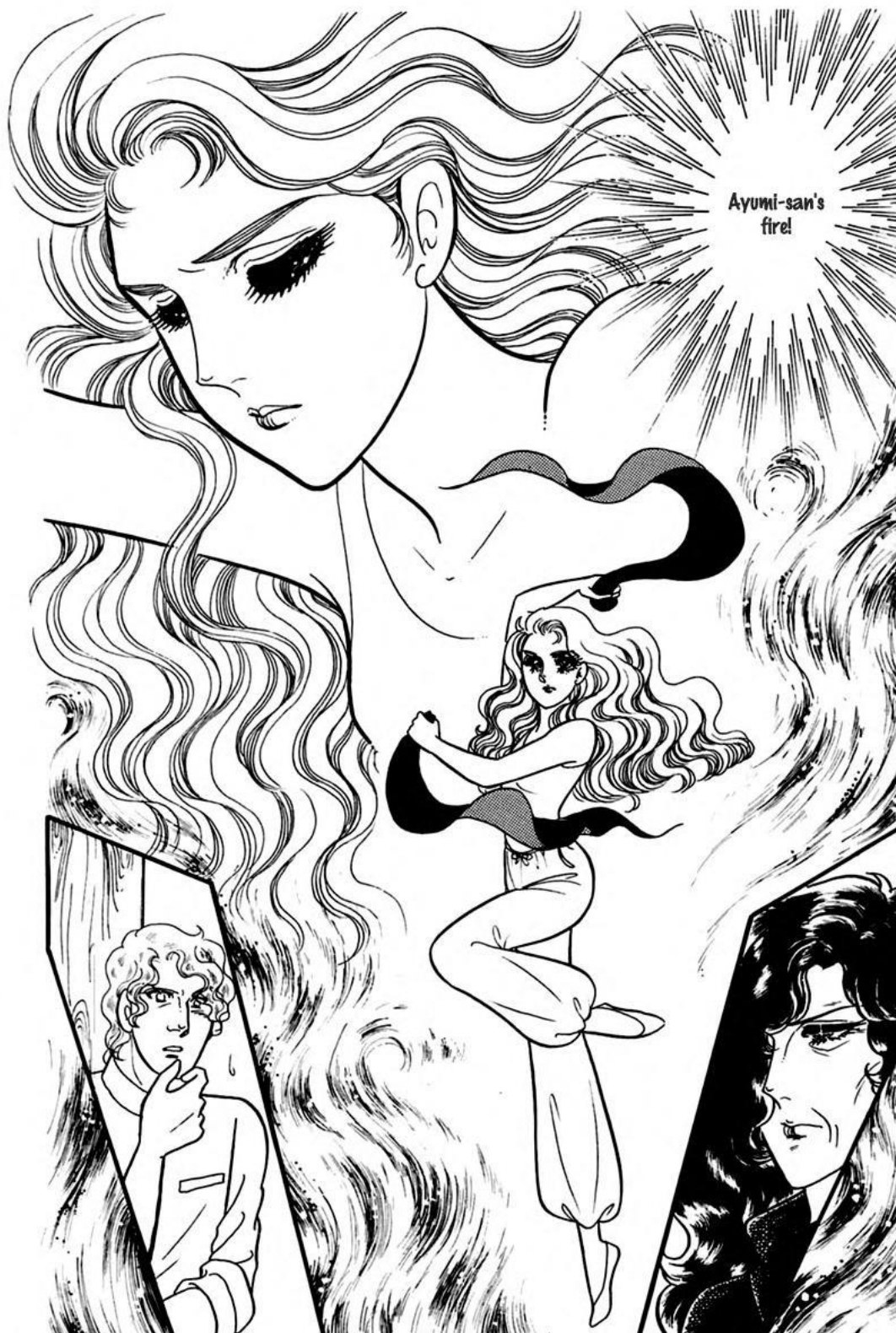
The motions of fire...!

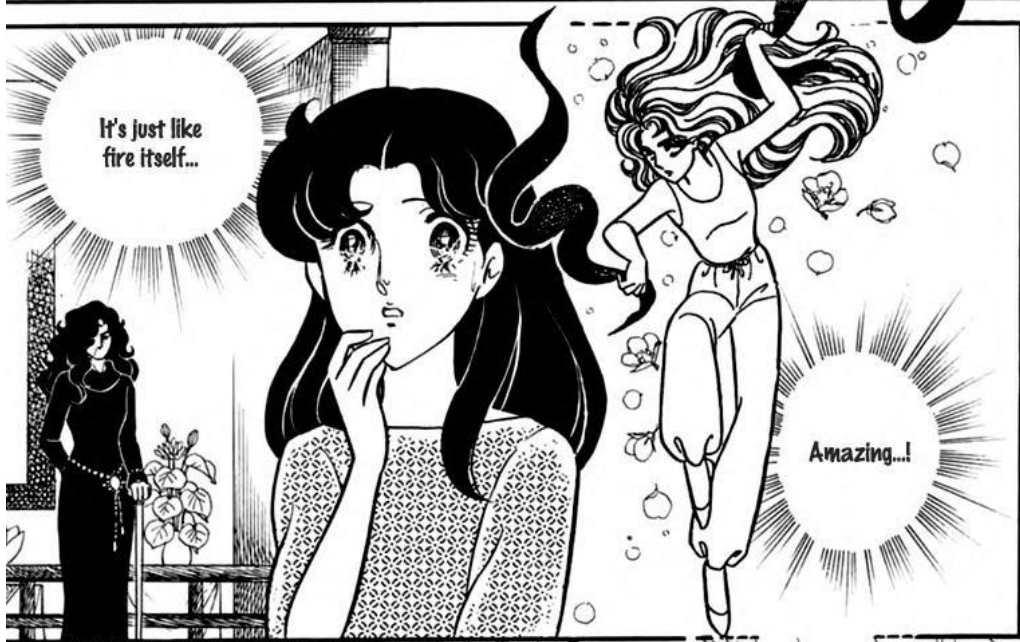
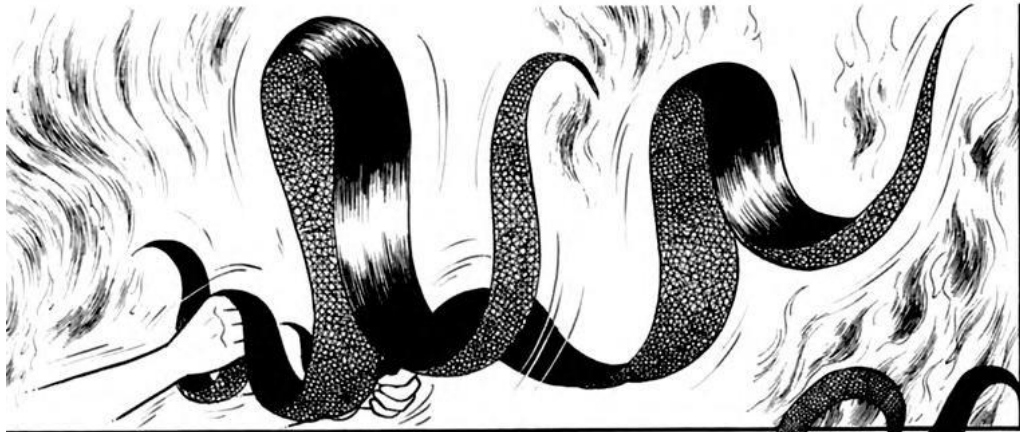
This is fire...!

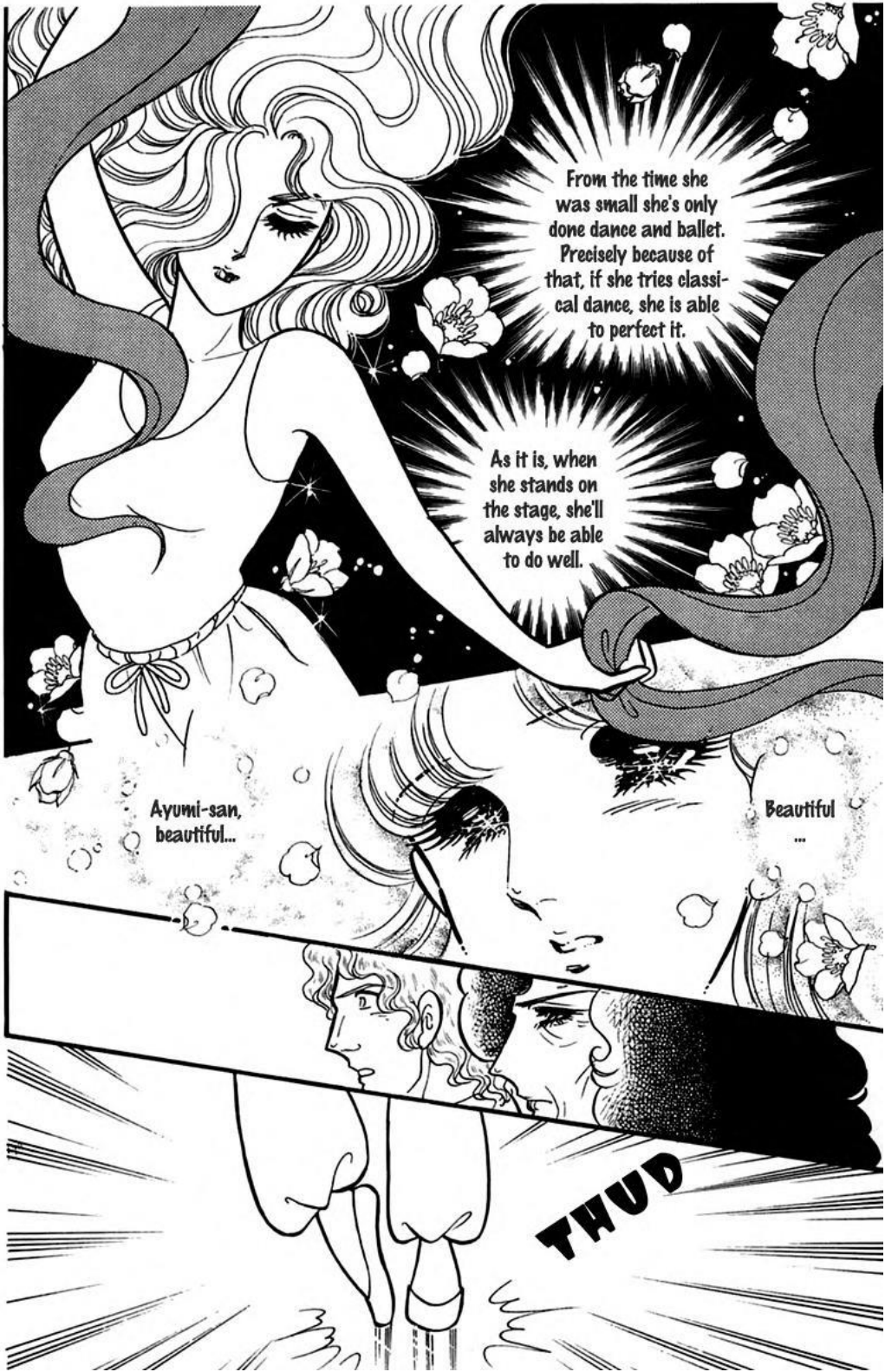
A violently blazing fire...!

The dance of fire!

The rhythm of fire!







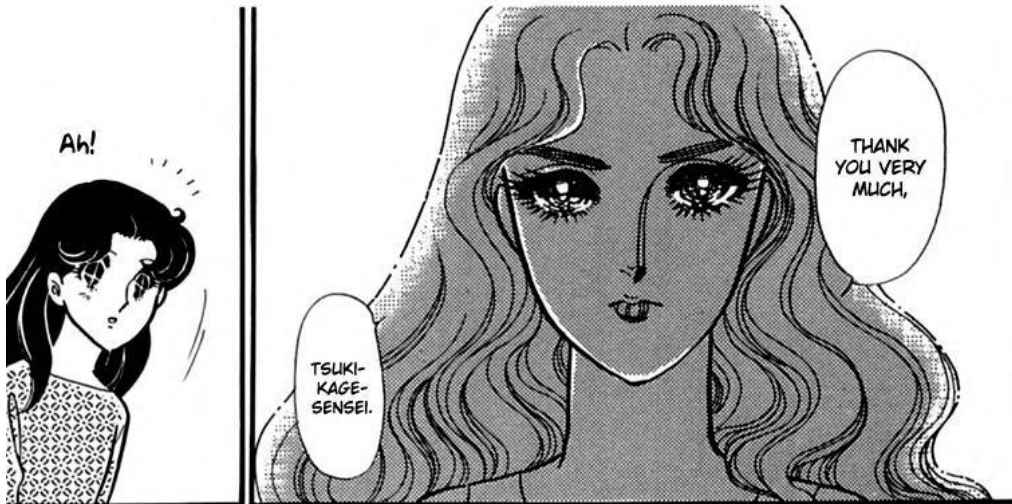
From the time she was small she's only done dance and ballet. Precisely because of that, if she tries classical dance, she is able to perfect it.

As it is, when she stands on the stage, she'll always be able to do well.

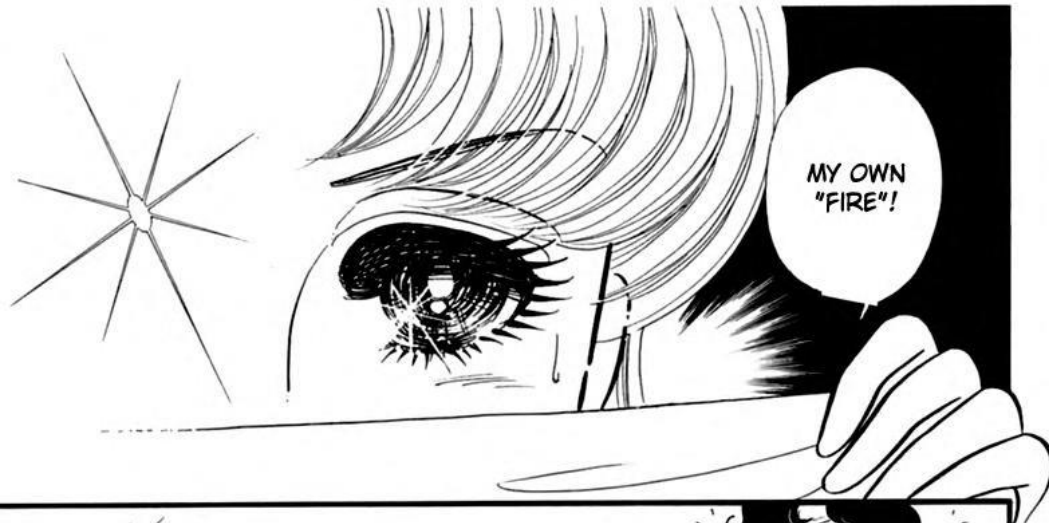
Ayumi-san, beautiful...

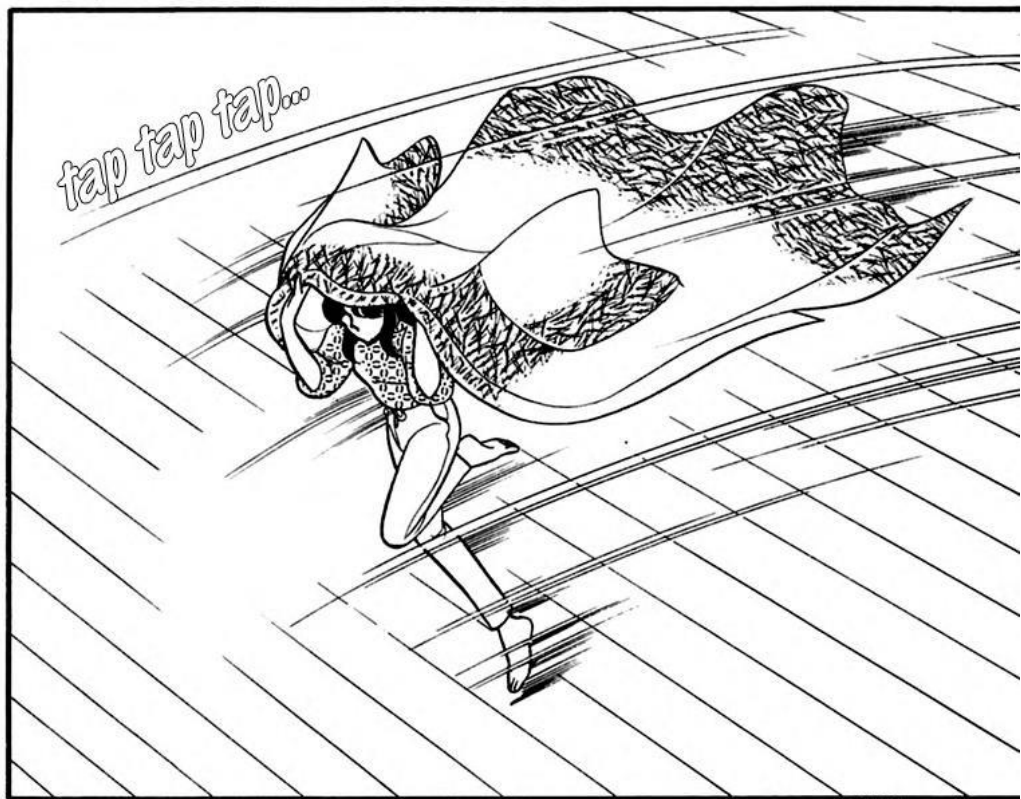
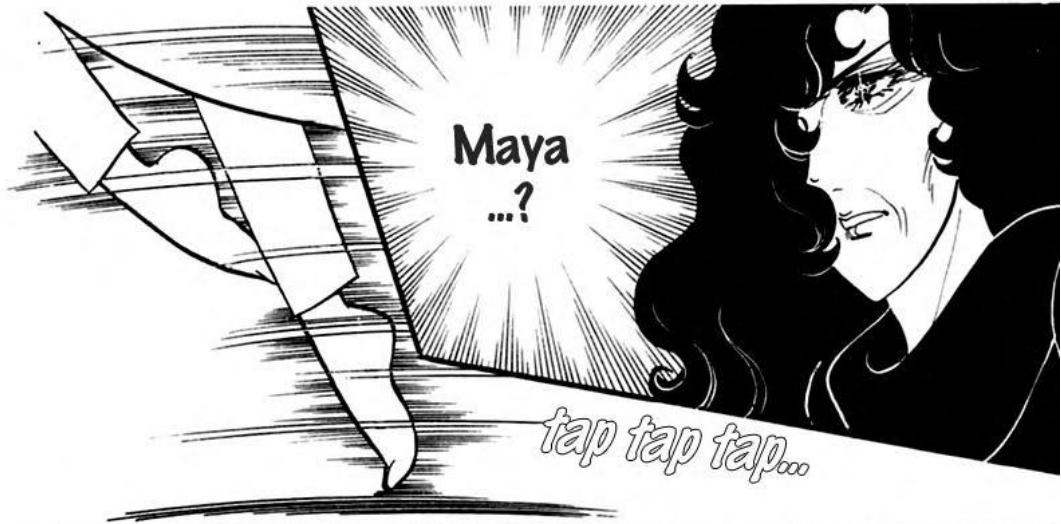
Beautiful ...

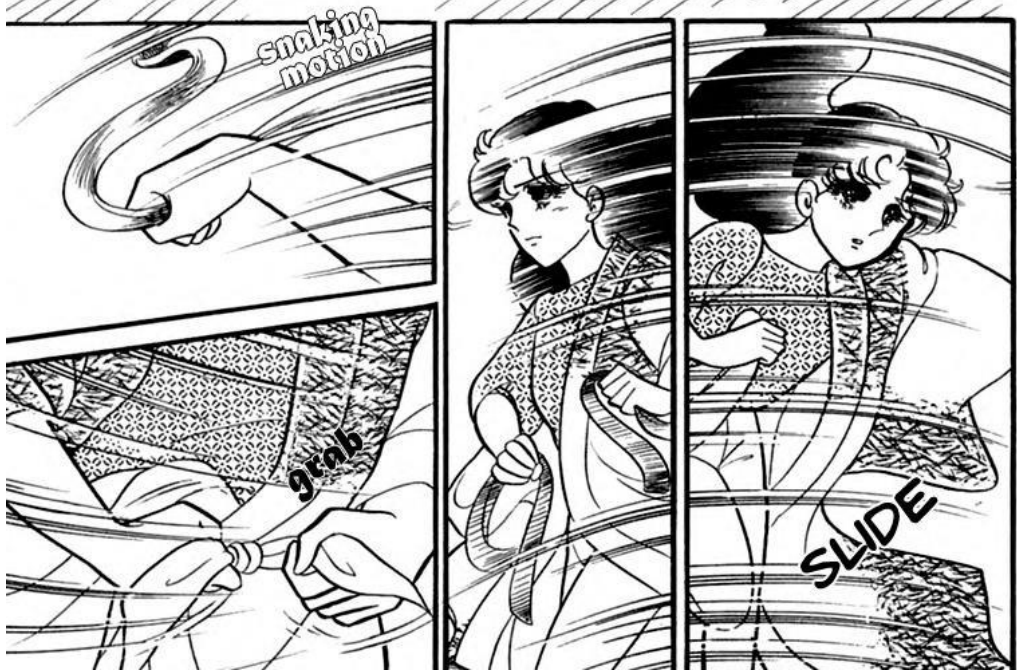
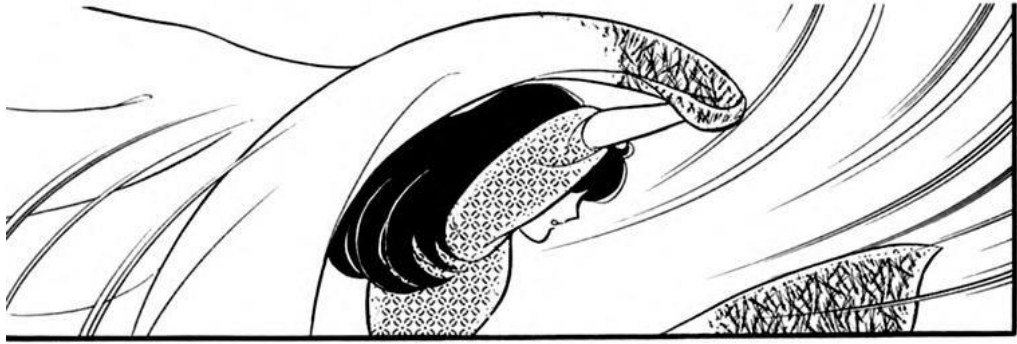
THUD

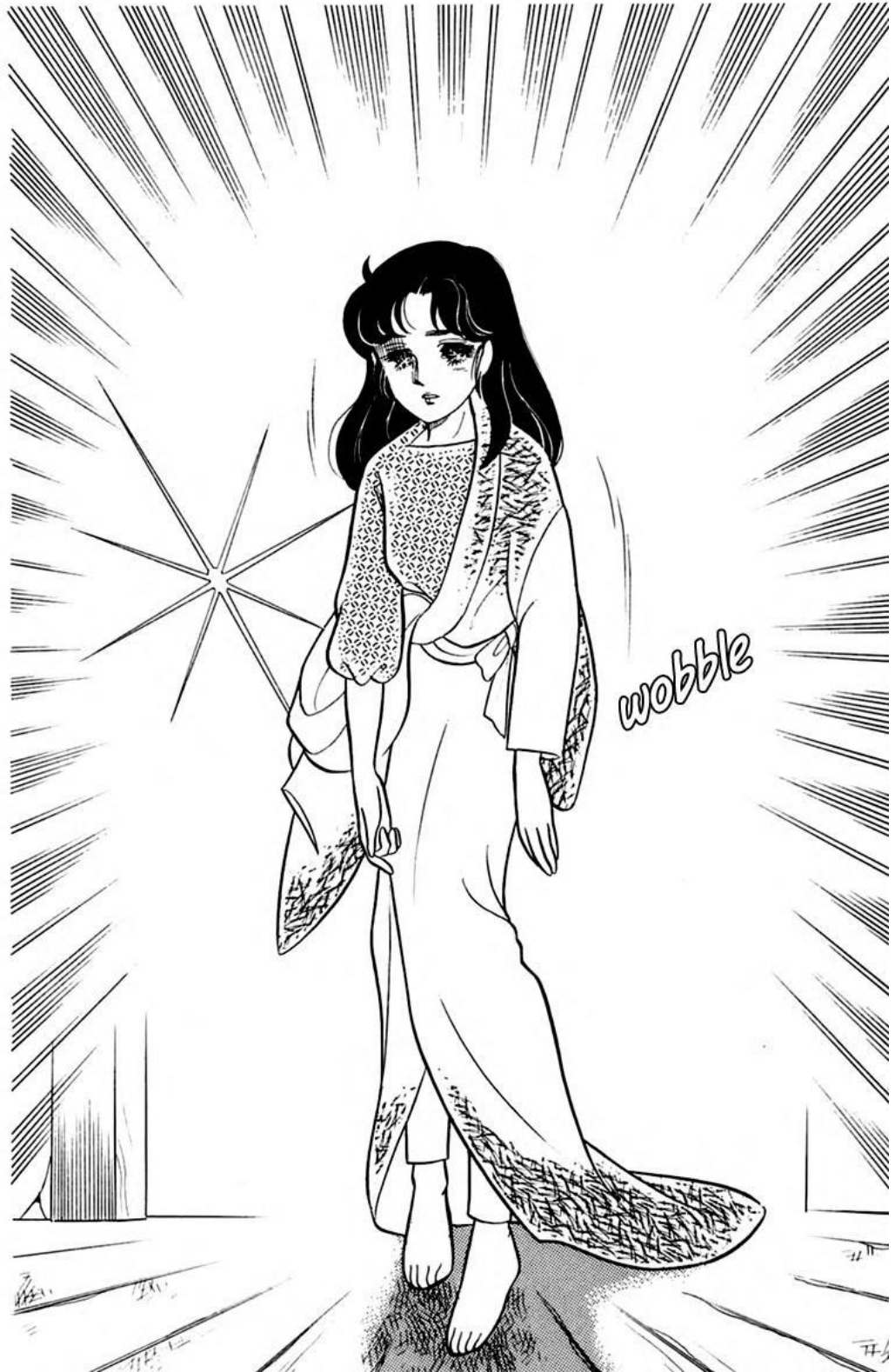




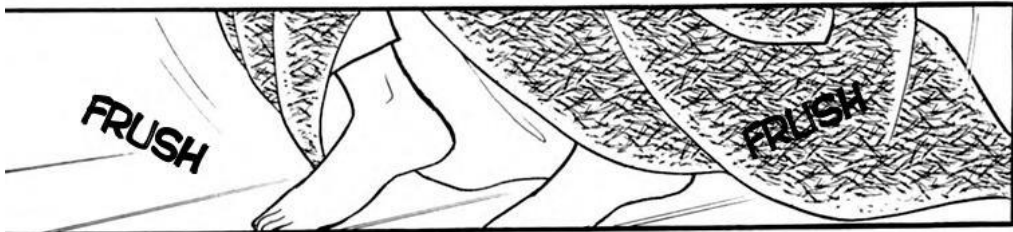








Chapter 194





KICHIZA!
IT'S
RED...

This is...

Maya...

THE SKY
OF EDO IS
BRIGHT
RED!

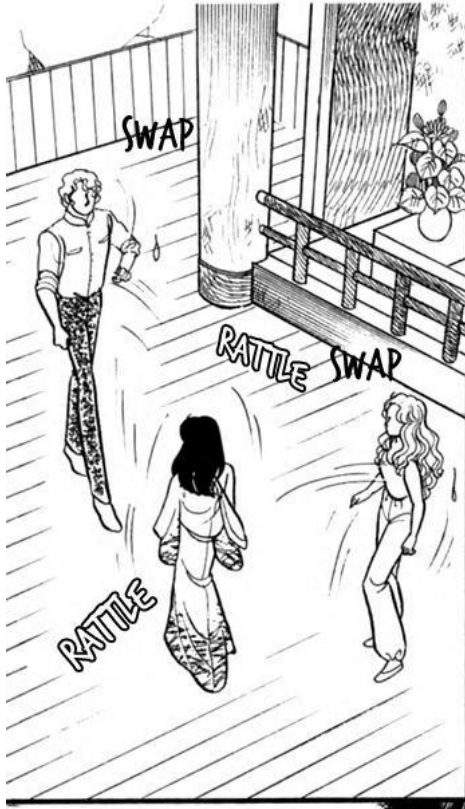
AAAH,
THE CITY
OF EDO IS
ENGLUFED
IN FLAMES...

Yaoya
Oshichi!

KICHIZA
...

SEE
YOU
...

I WANT
TO SEE
YOU
AGAIN
...

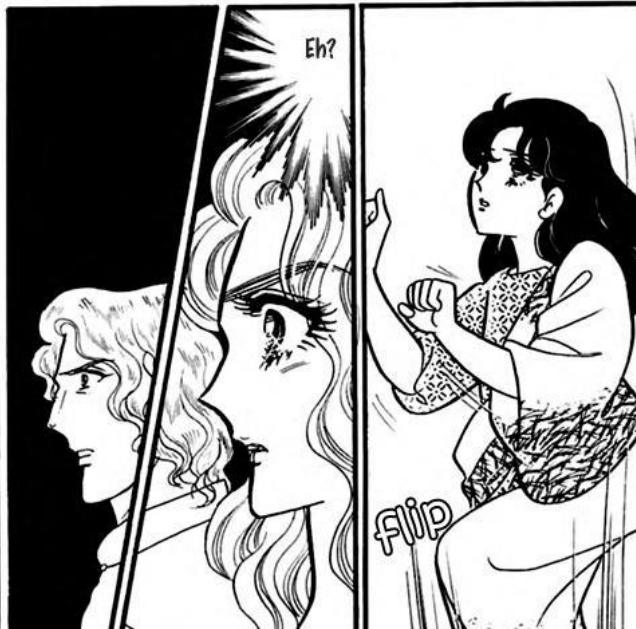
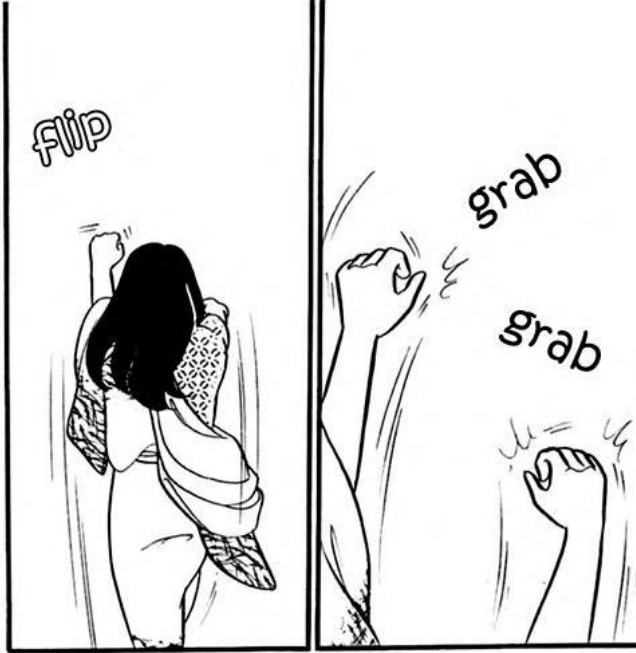


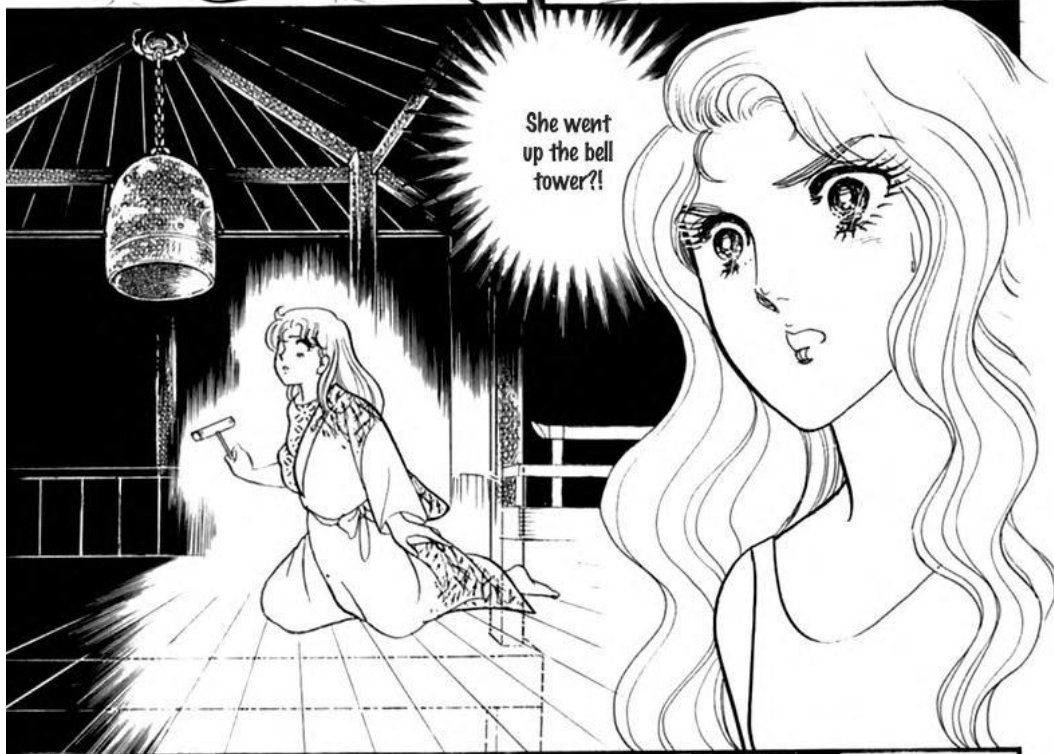
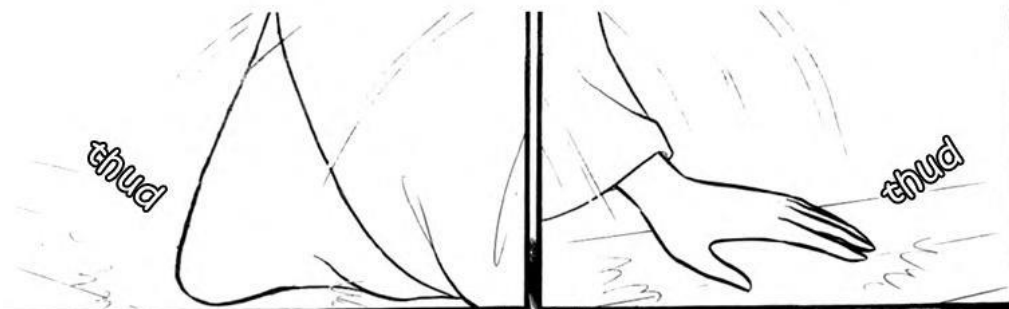
It's the same interpretation I used for the fire theme when Ichiren first gave it to me...

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

The very same!







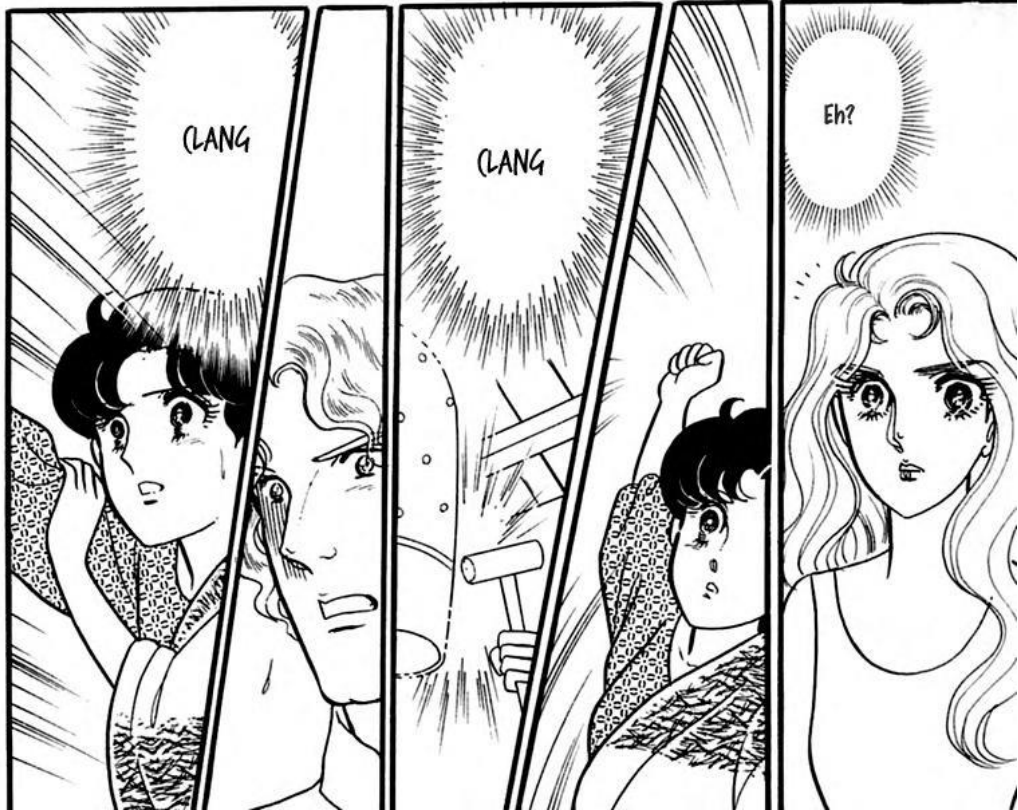
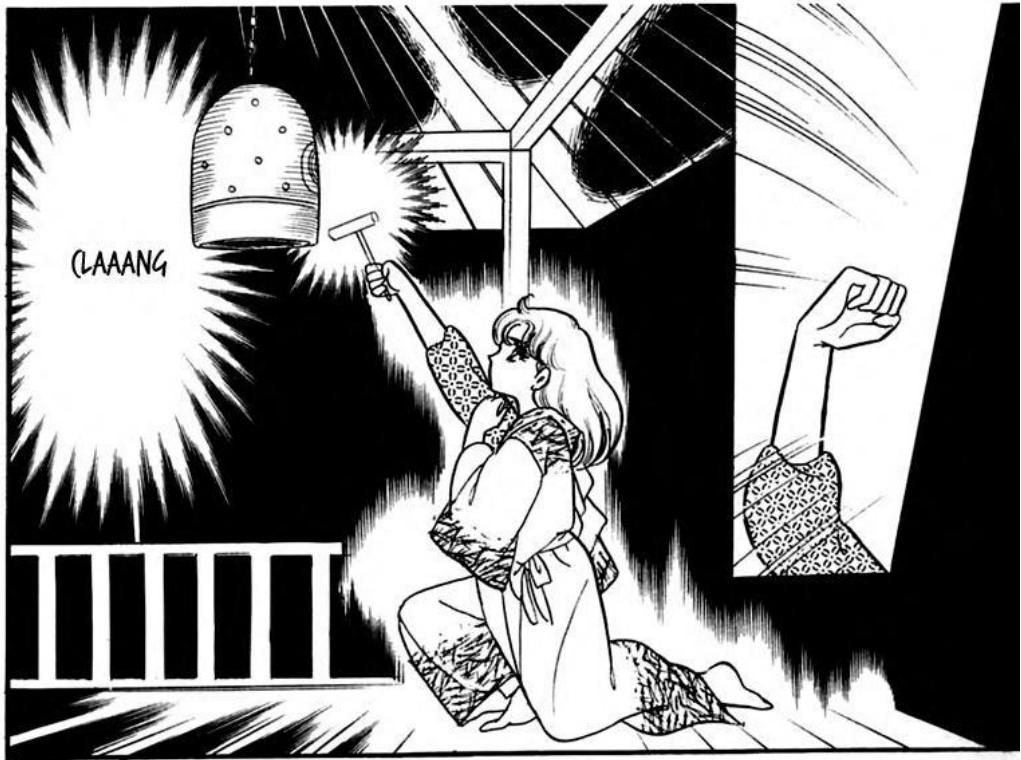
TOGETHER WITH YOU, KICHIZA...

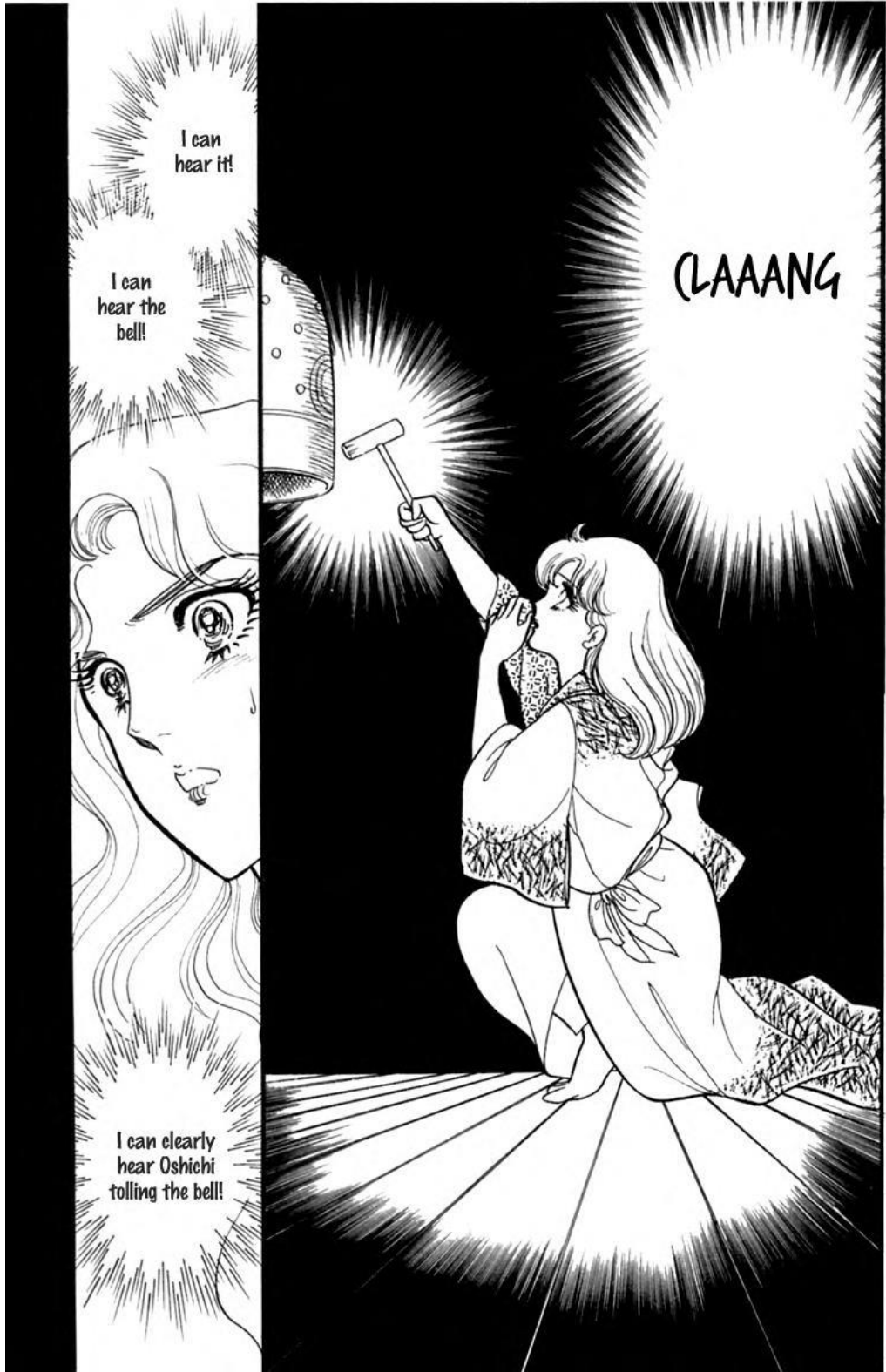
ONCE AGAIN I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU AT THE TEMPLE, JUST LIKE BACK THEN.

EVEN IF I'M SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR STARTING THE FIRE...

WHEN THIS BELL TOLLS, I'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR TEMPLE!

TO ESCAPE FROM THE FIRE I WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO YOUR TEMPLE...



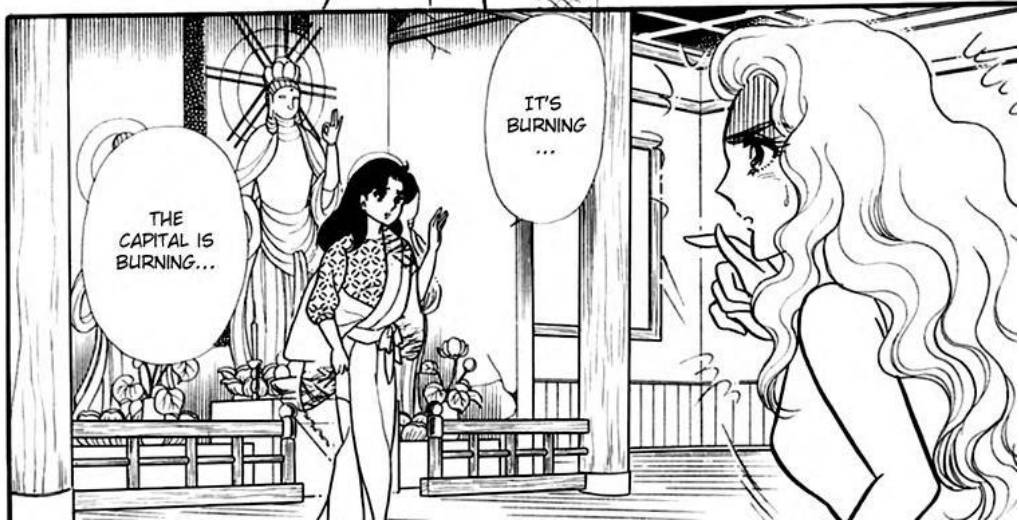


I can hear it!

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!



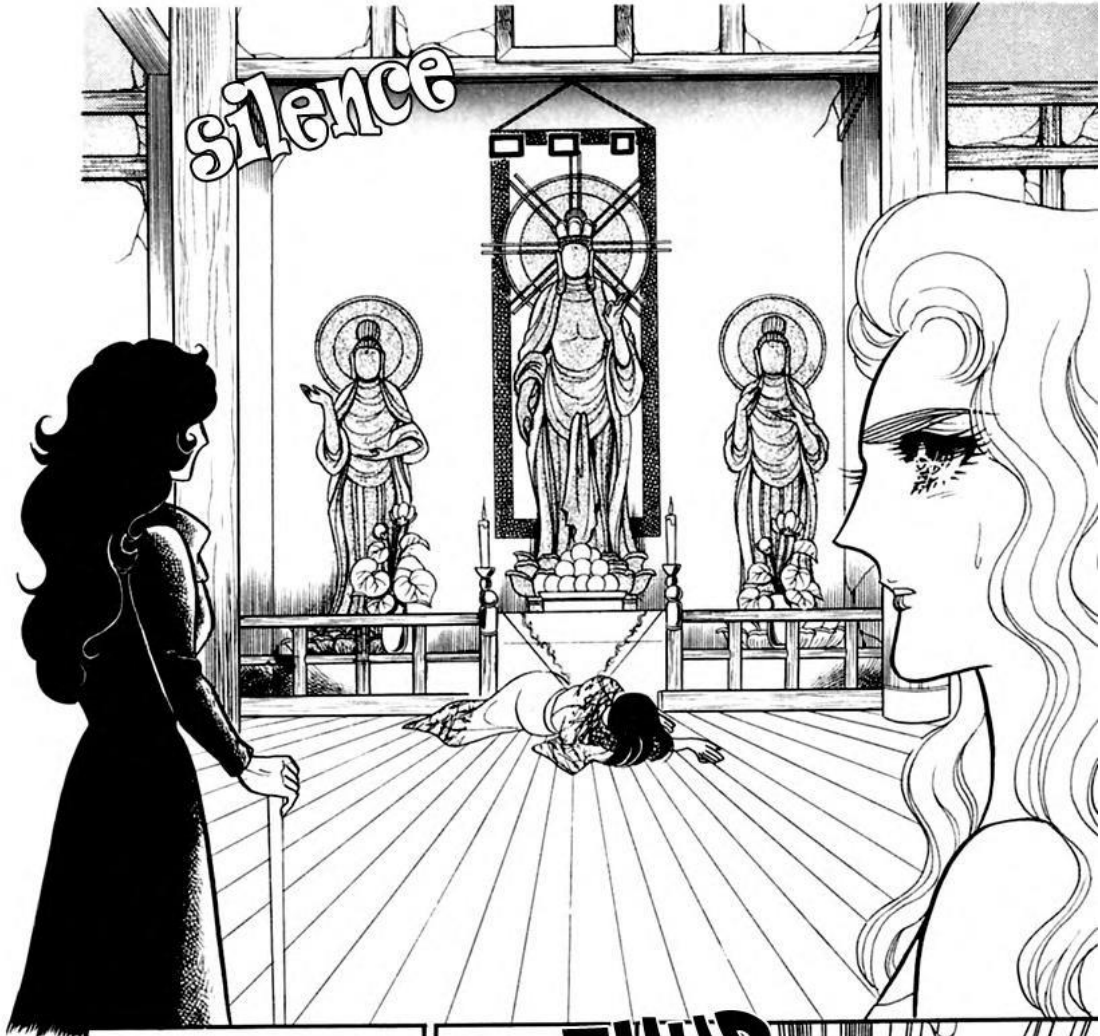
*The fire of
the heart!*

This is...

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

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

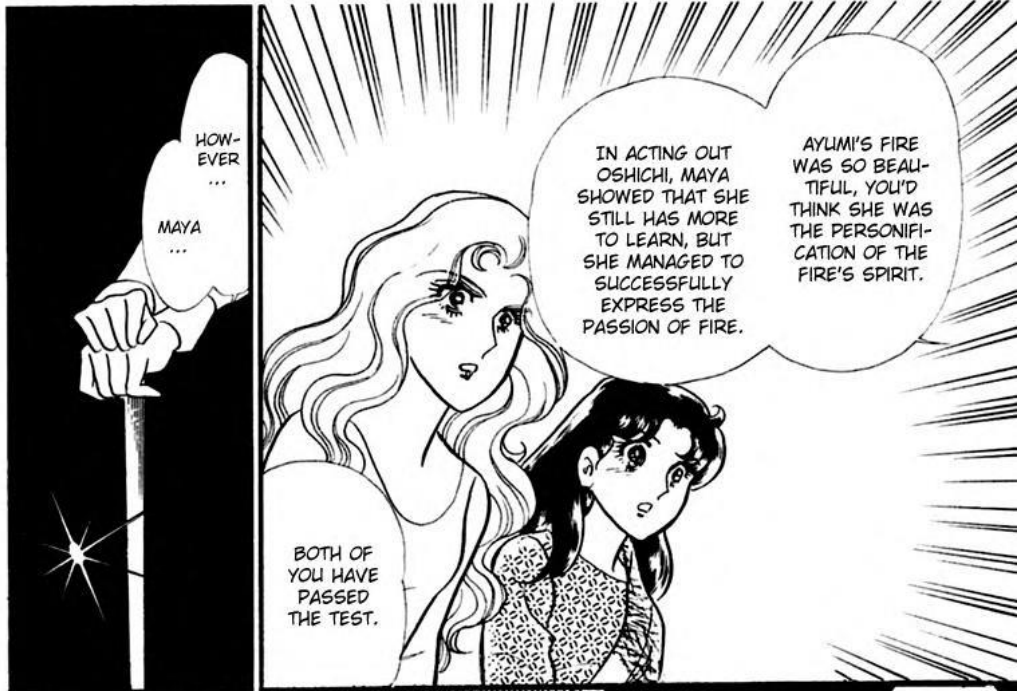
*That
consumes
Oshichi!*



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





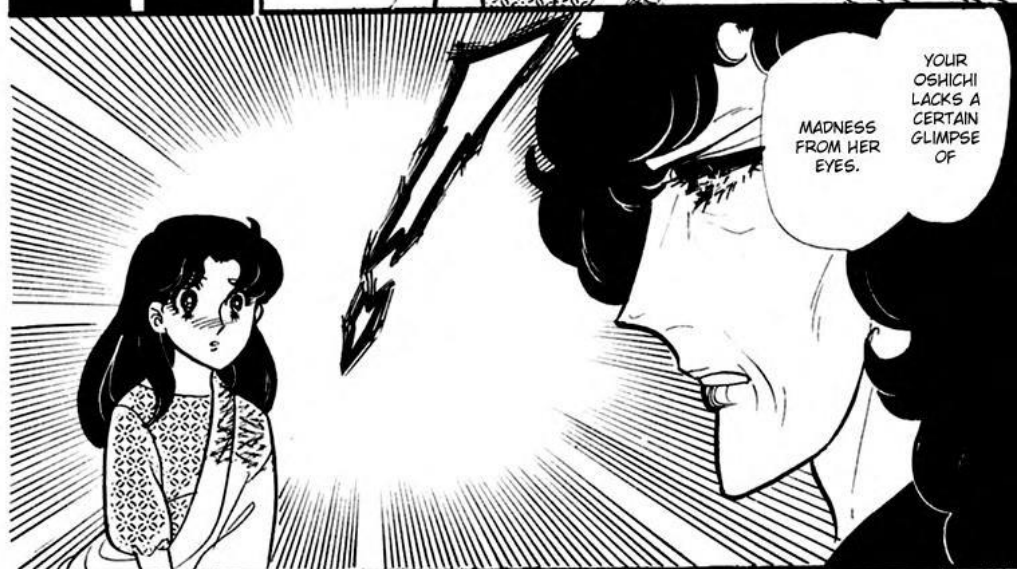


HOW-
EVER
...
MAYA
...

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

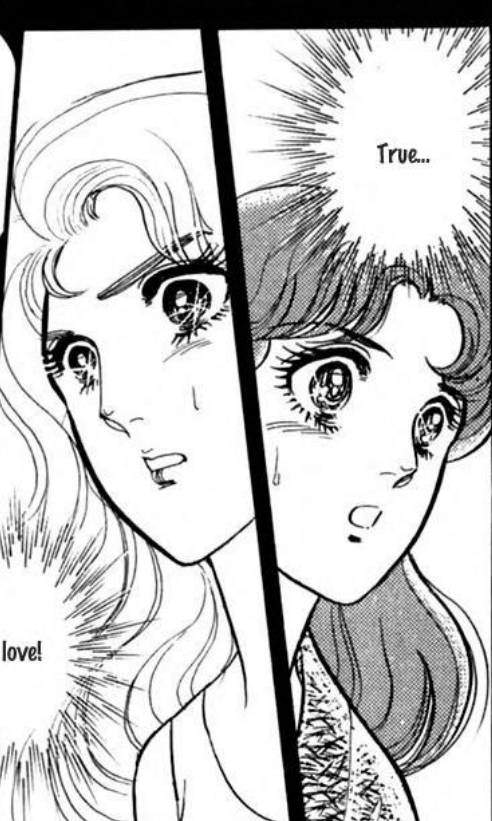
...ATTRACTS
MORE ATTEN-
-TION THAN A
BEAUTIFUL
ARTIFICIAL ONE!

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?

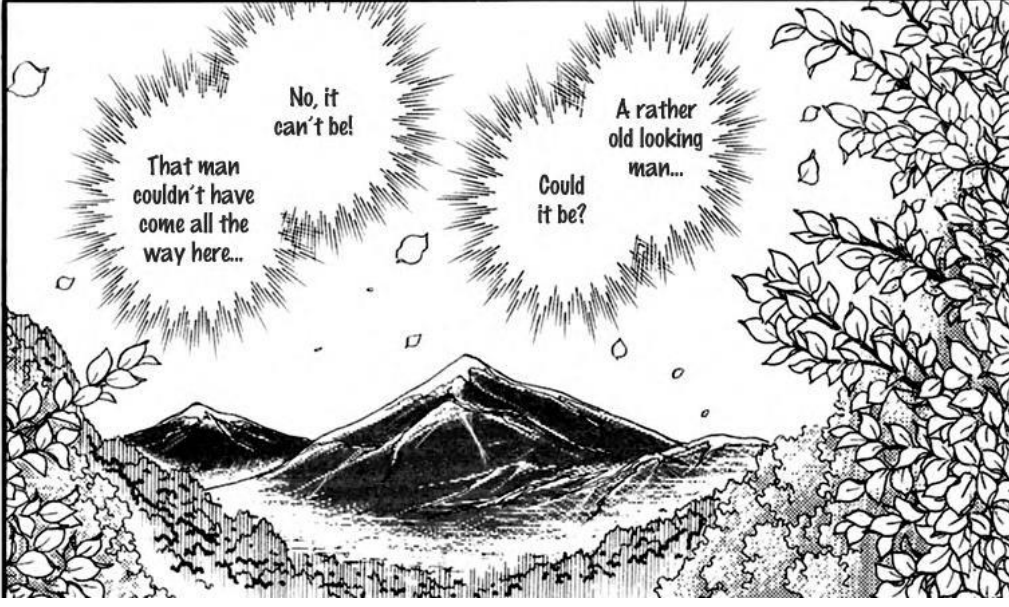
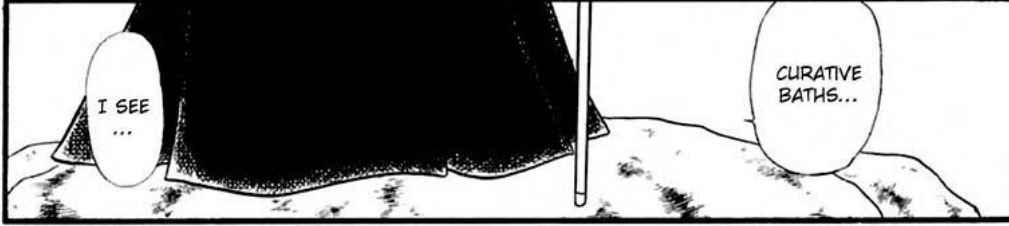


RUMBLE



THE INTERPRETATION OF WATER...

IN FRONT OF THIS WATERFALL...





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...

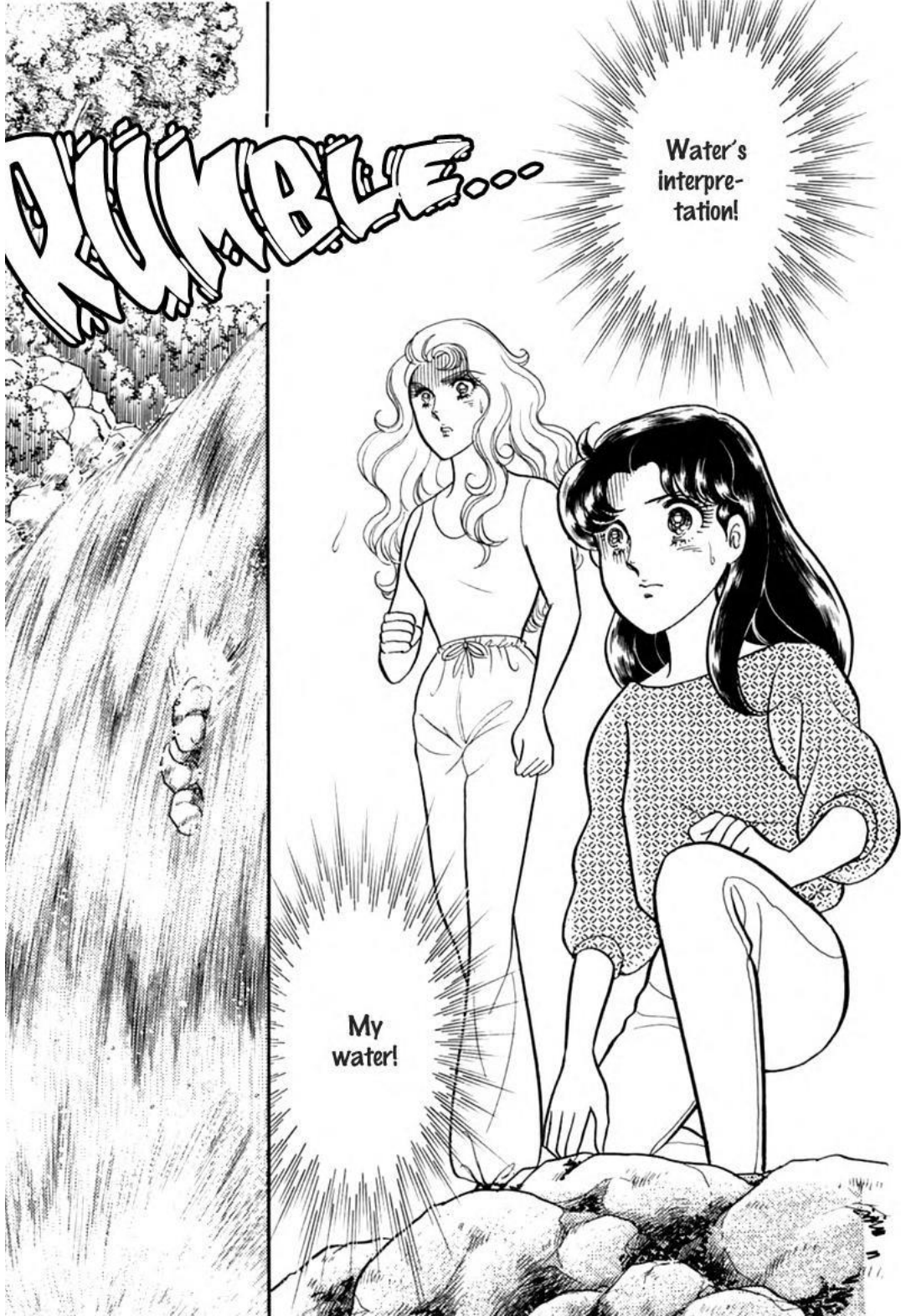
Could he have...?!



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!

Rumble Rumble





MY HUSBAND?
HE'S GONE
TO CITY
HALL.

I didn't
imagine it
like this.

Is this
the sculptor
Kaikai's
house?

AT CITY
HALL?



City Hall

WAIT A
MOMENT
PLEASE.

YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
YAMAMOTO-
SAN?

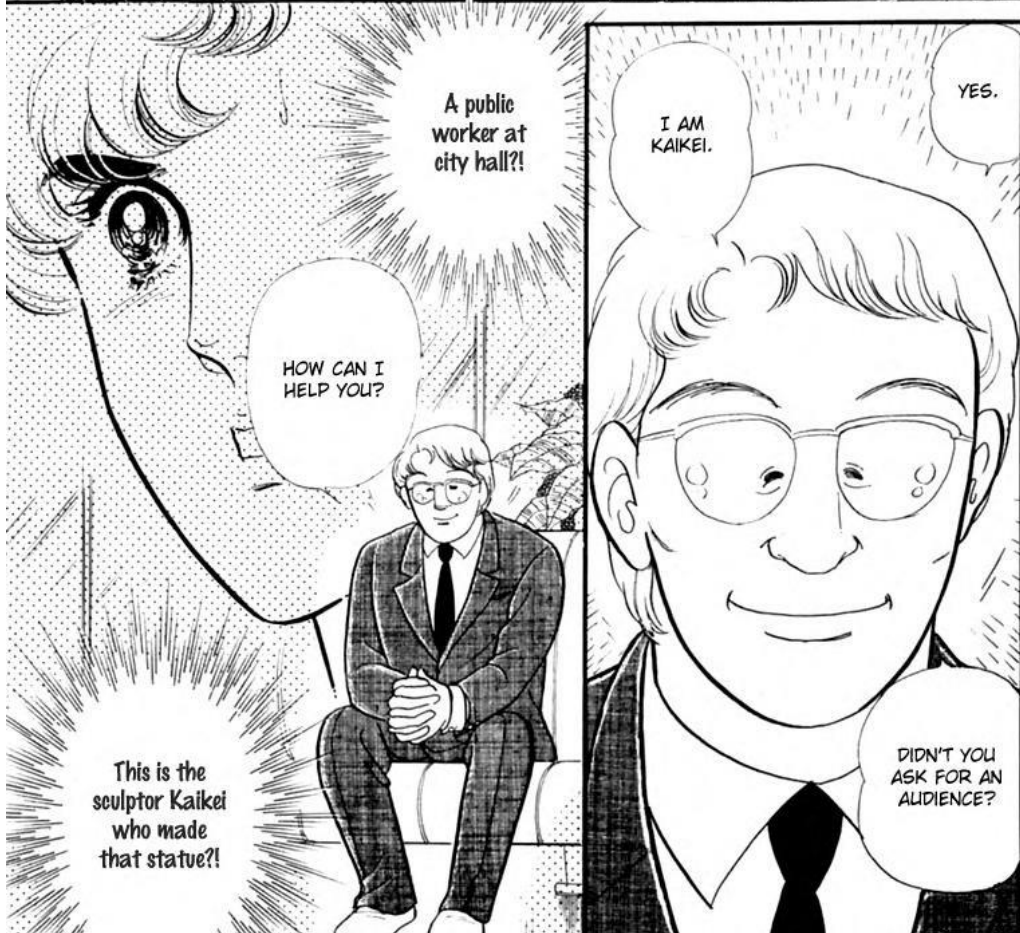


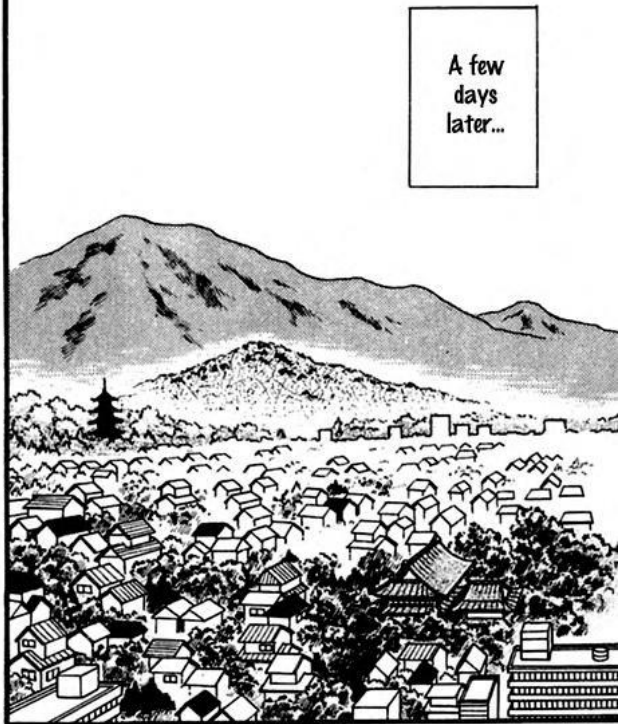
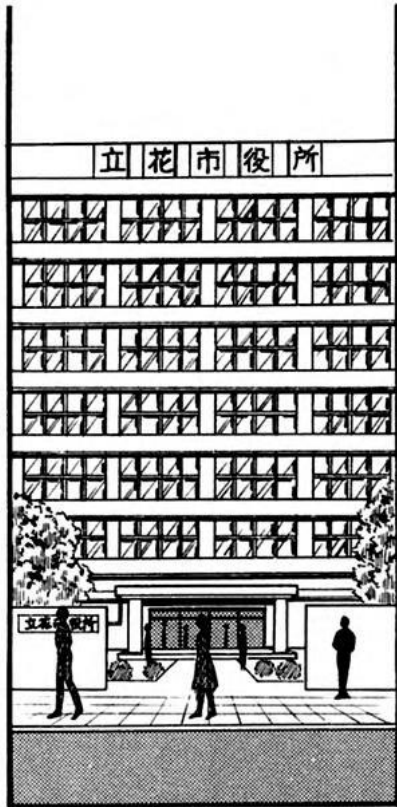
SORRY FOR
THE WAIT.
THIS IS THE
DEPARTMENT
CHIEF,
YAMAMOTO.

Eh?

What
kind of
work it
could be?

Maybe
he's doing
some sort
of work
for them?





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!

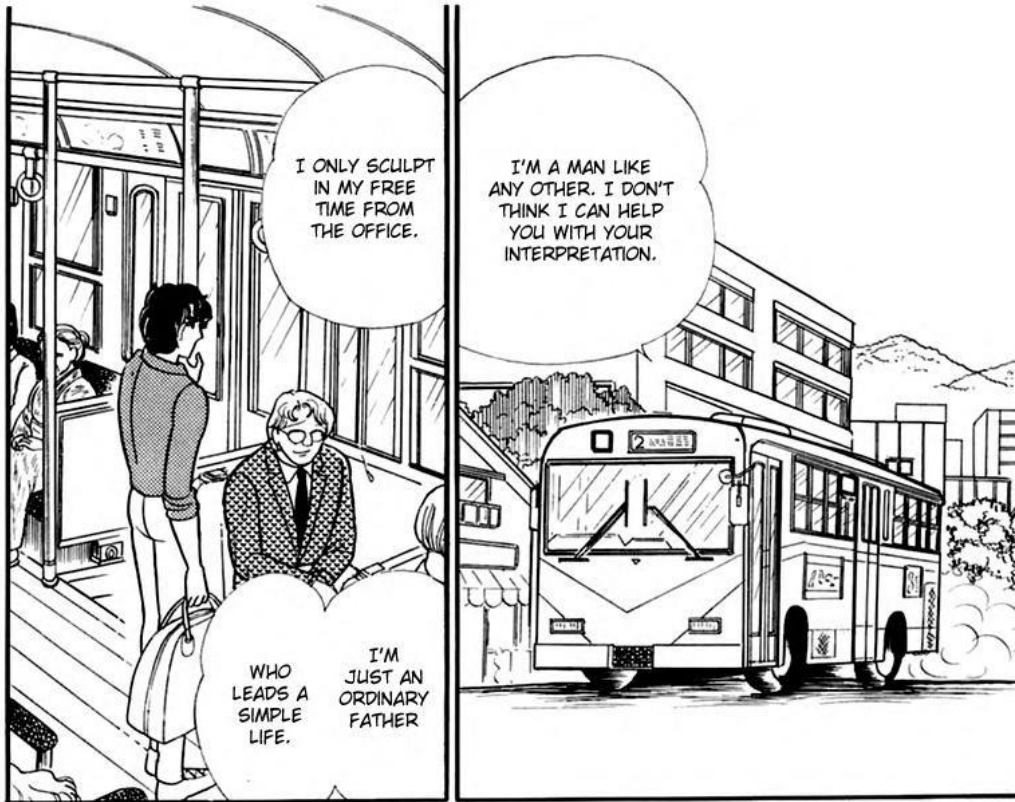


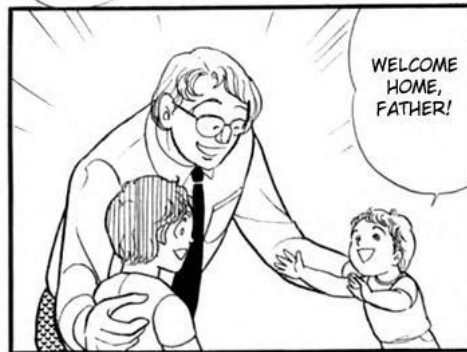
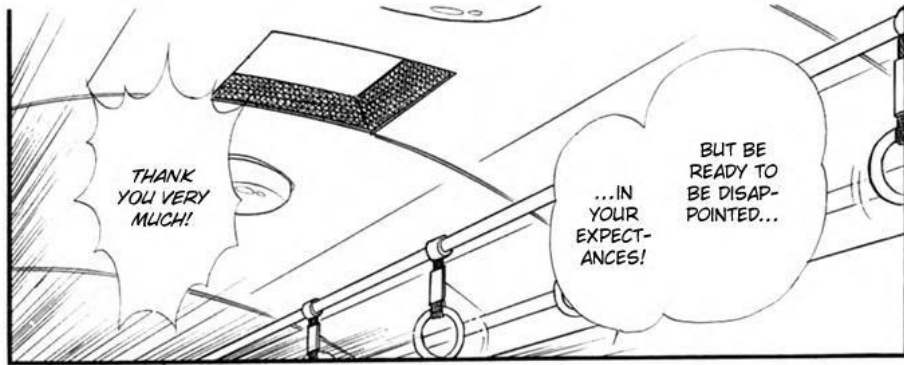
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME. I KNOW I'M BOTHERING YOU BUT I BEG YOU TO LET ME OBSERVE YOUR WAY OF LIFE AND HOW YOU WORK!

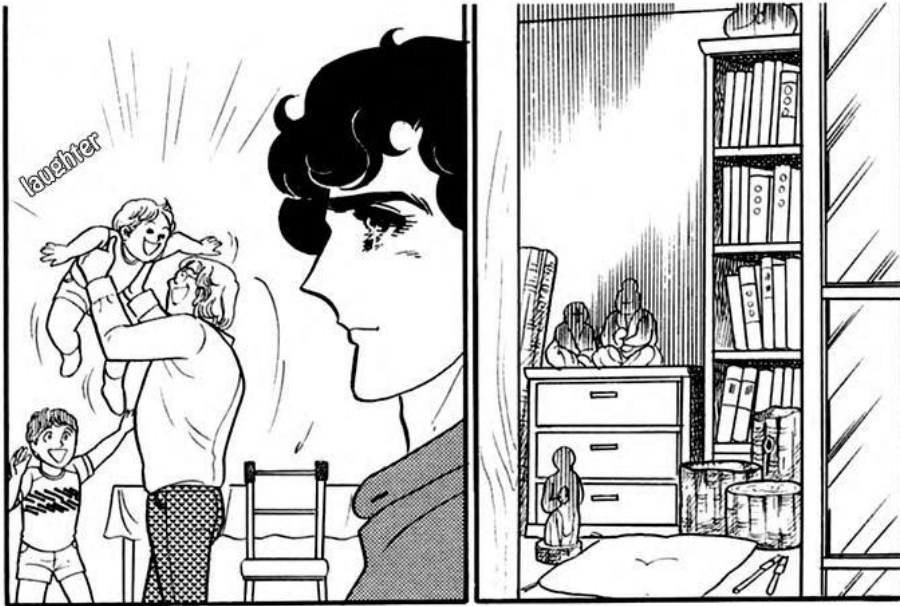
LIKE I WERE AN APPRENTICE! THREE DAYS WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME!

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

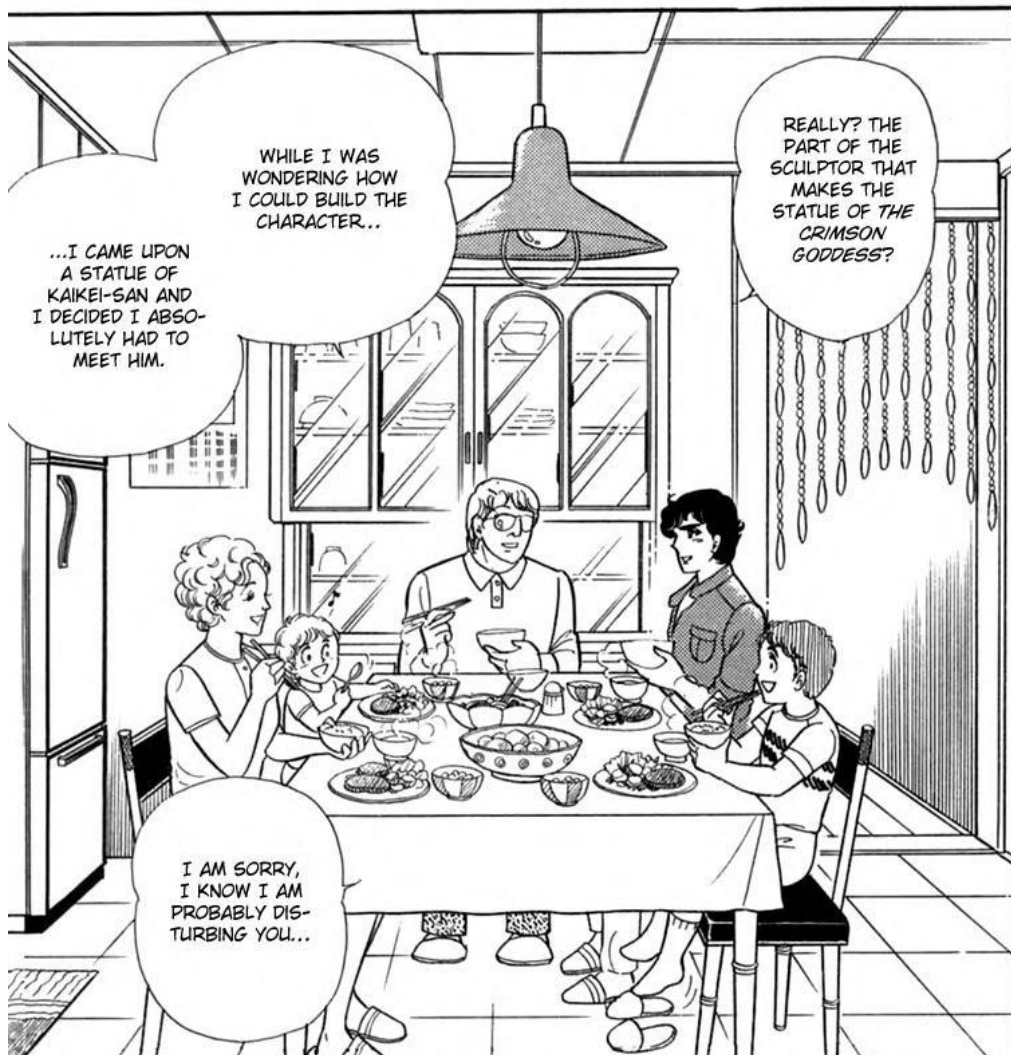








Chapter 195





IF YOU NEED ME FOR YOUR REHEARSAL, I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU.

...BUT I AM HAPPY YOU HOLD ME IN SUCH HIGH REGARD.

I UNDERSTAND. AS FOR MYSELF, I DON'T SEE MYSELF AS AN ARTIST...

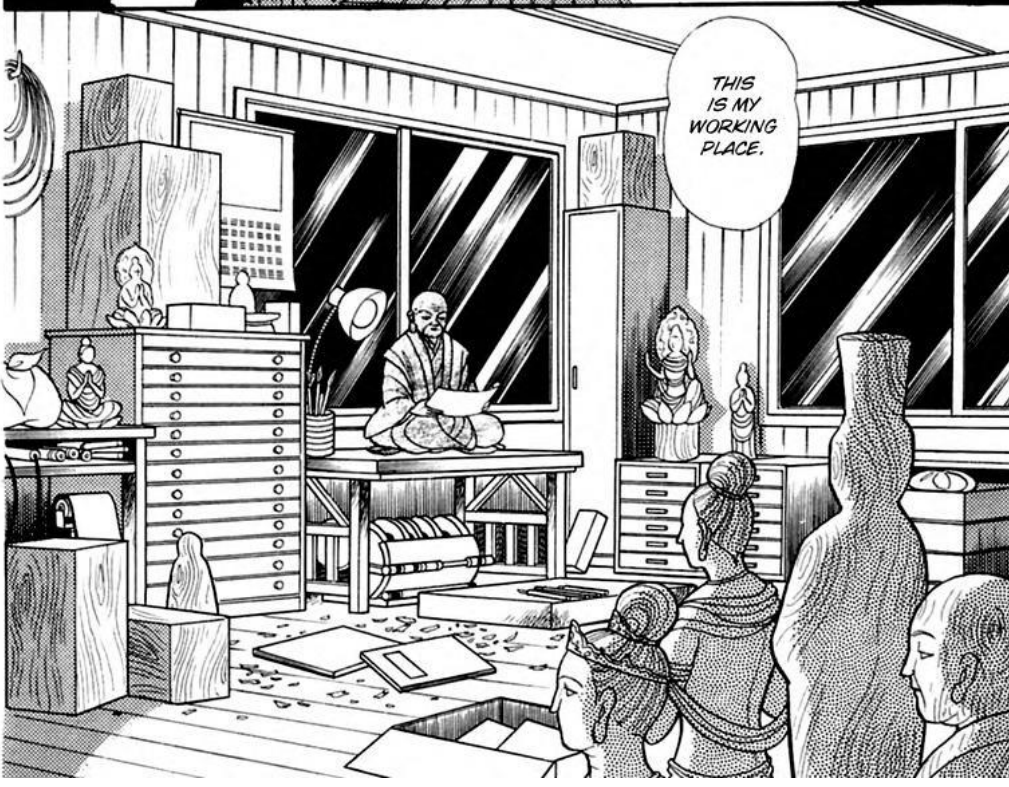
*JAPANESE MATTRESS, USED AS A MEASURING UNIT FOR A ROOM'S SPACE



WHAT?! YOU'LL LET ME STAY HERE?!

... FOR OUR GUEST. HE'LL SPEND THE NIGHT HERE.

DEAR, PREPARE THE FOUR AND A HALF TATAMI* ROOM LATER...



THIS IS MY WORKING PLACE.



WOW!

...BUT I USUALLY WORK HERE.

THE BIG STATUES ARE SCULPTED IN THE SHED ...



THIS IS THE UTILITY KNIFE AND THIS IS THE CHISEL.

...BUT EVEN SO I GUESS THAT THERE IS SOME SORT OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN US, RIGHT?

MOST LIKELY I WON'T BE USEFUL TO YOUR CHARACTER BUILDING...

YOU'LL BE MY APPRENTICE, EVEN IF ONLY FOR A SHORT PERIOD... OR BETTER SAID, MY OBSERVER.

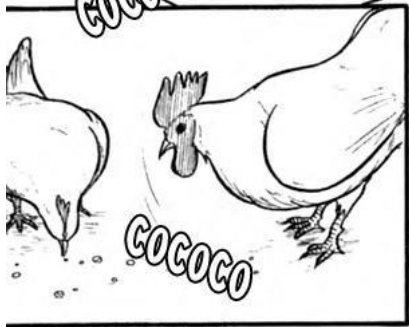
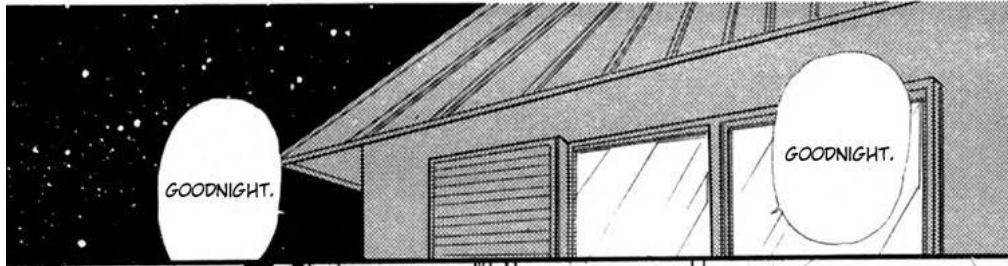
I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY SCULPTING YOURSELF.

I'LL LOAN THEM TO YOU.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU MUCH THOUGH!







AH, GOOD MORNING.

I'M SORRY, I GOT UP LATE.

GOOD MORNING!

OK.

GO TAKE THE EGGS TO YOUR MOTHER.

JOSEPHINE?

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THIS MORNING JOSEPHINE HAS LAID SOME EGGS.

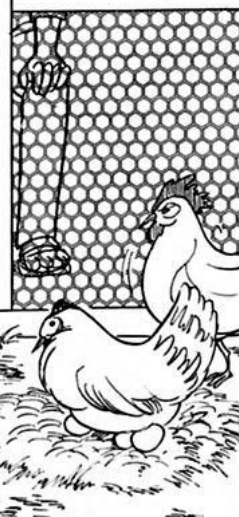
THEY ARE VERY HAPPY TO FEED THEM AND CLEAN UP THE PEN!

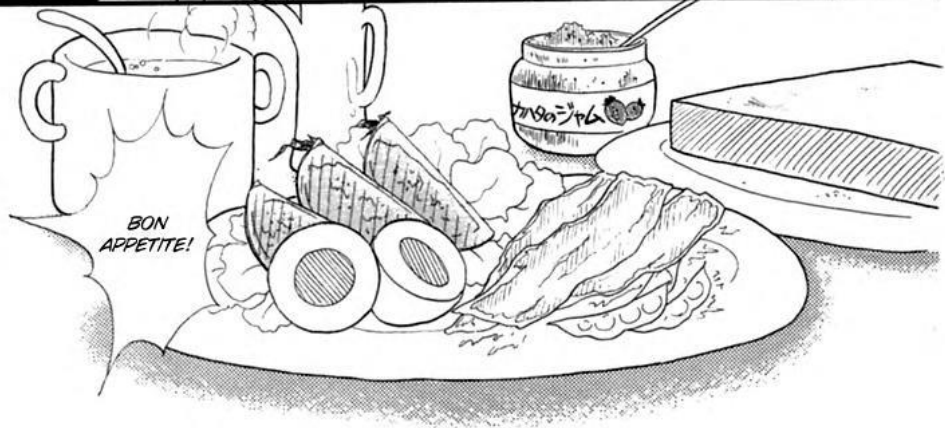
I LET THE CHILDREN TAKE OF THE CHICKENS.

YES, THIS HEN!



AND THIS IS NAPOLEON.











AH!
THANK
YOU.

I'M GOING
INSIDE TO
PREPARE THE
FOOD FOR
LUNCH.



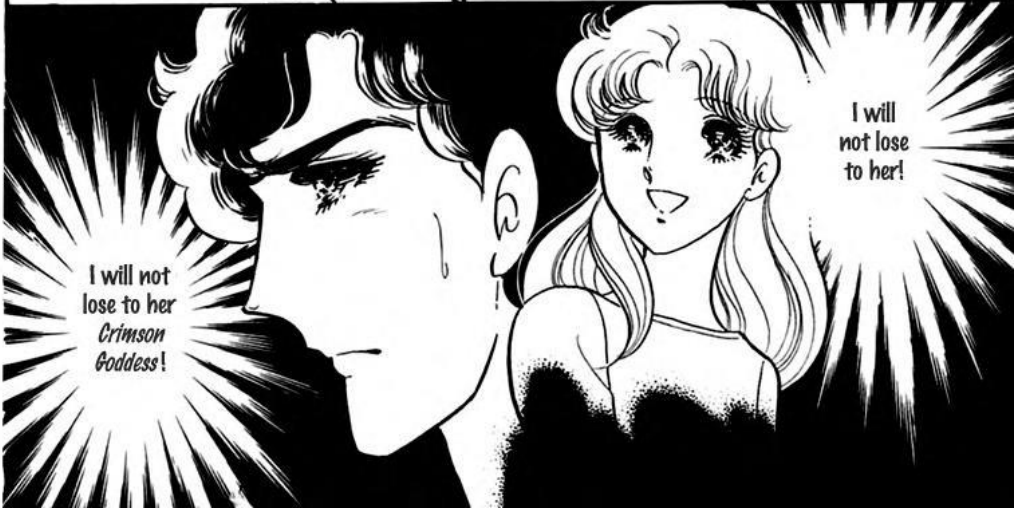
Who knows what
she is doing at the
moment in the
country of the
plum trees?

Maya-chan...
she likes the
swing too...
by the way...



More
Yeah

smirk
smirk



I will not
lose to her
*Crimson
Goddess!*

I will
not lose
to her!



RINSE YOUR HAIR WELL, MASAHIKO!

OK.

UHH! WHAT A REFRESHING BATH.

WELCOME BACK!

WELCOME BACK, FATHER!

Where is the expression and the look of a sculptor?
He seems through in and throughout a normal person...

It really is a family like any other...is this how a sculptor life should be?

YOU KNOW WHAT FATHER, TODAY I...



YOUR BATH IS READY, DEAR!

WHAT DO WE HAVE FOR DINNER, MOTHER?

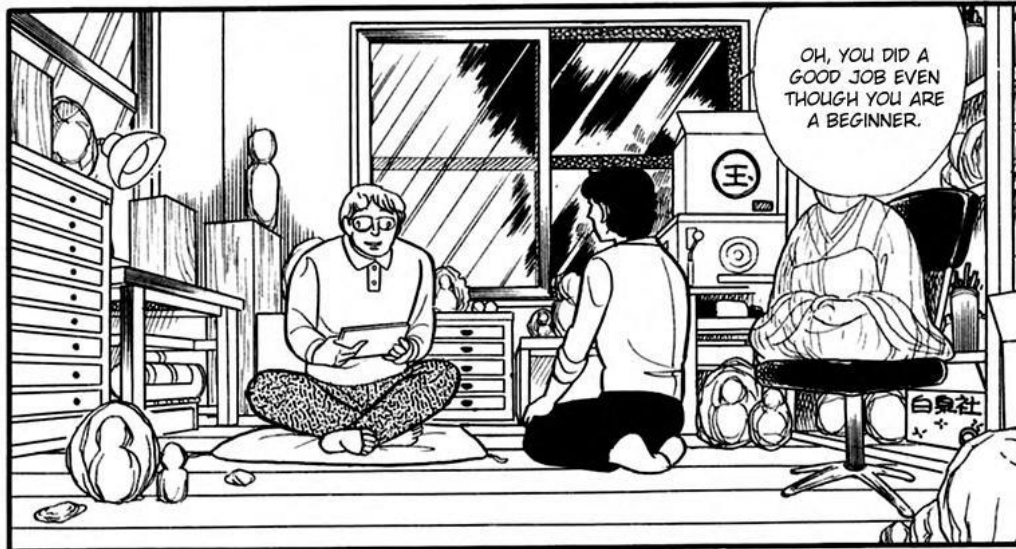


And it's gone off field!

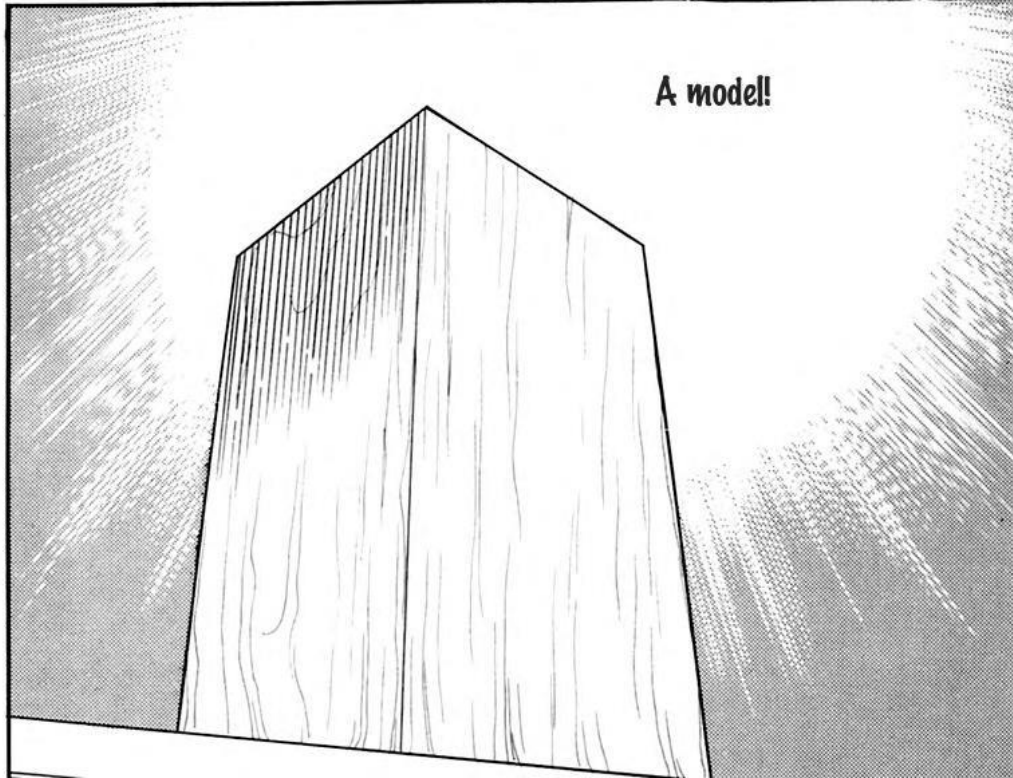
How could he make a statue like that one?

OOH!

FRIED LOBSTERS AND BAKED VEGETABLES!









When will he sculpt the statue?

Kaikai-sensei went out to the city hall again...

I'M LEAVING.

wroomm



when he comes back home he takes a bath, eats dinner...

looks a bit at what's on tv, plays with the kids...

goes out to the city hall...

eats breakfast...



Let the children to tend to the chickens...

He gets up every morning at six and works in the vegetable patch in his garden.

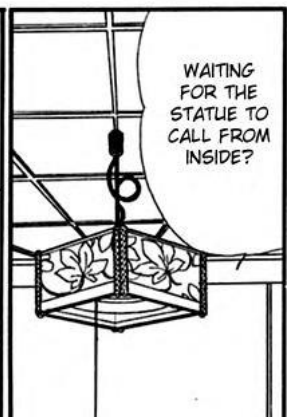
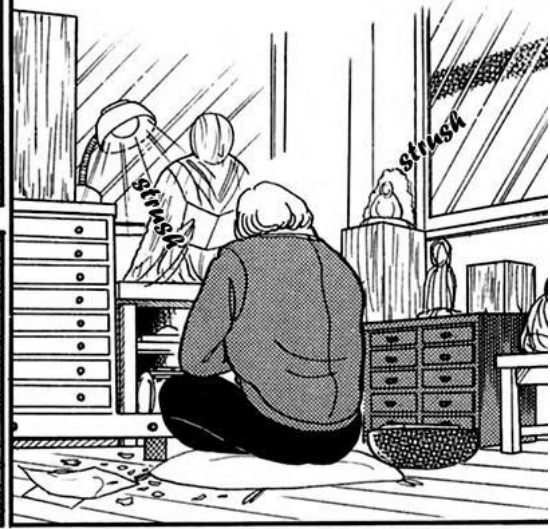


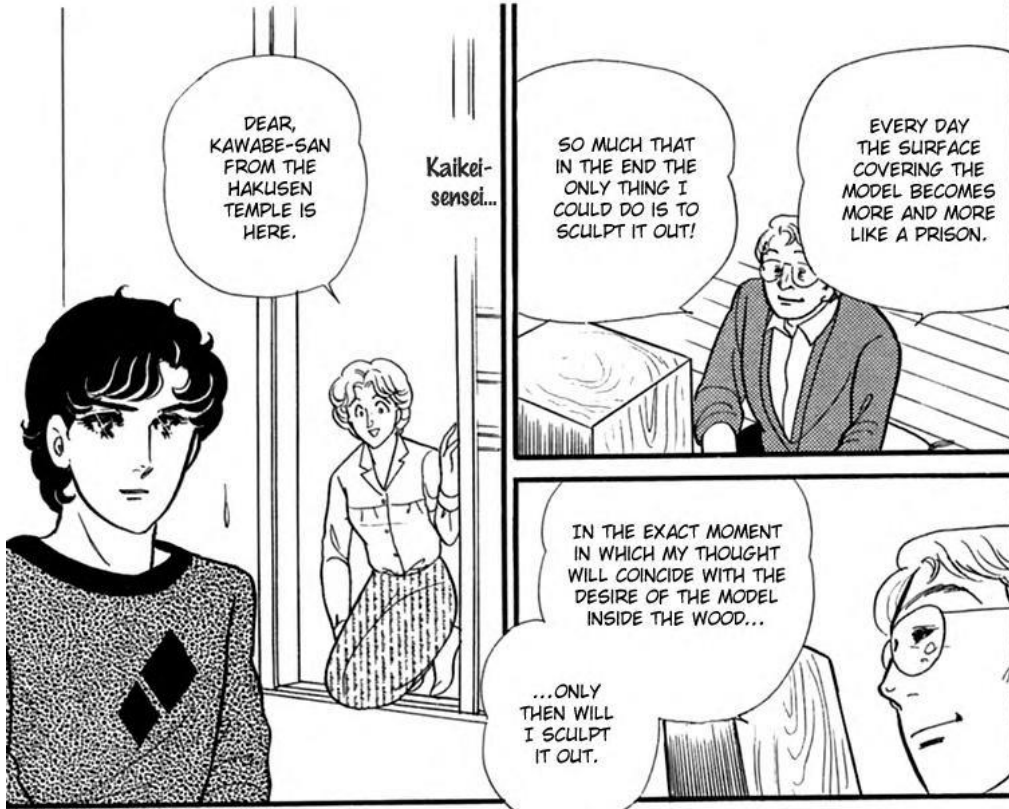
I LOVE GROWING PLANTS!
I WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE NATURE.

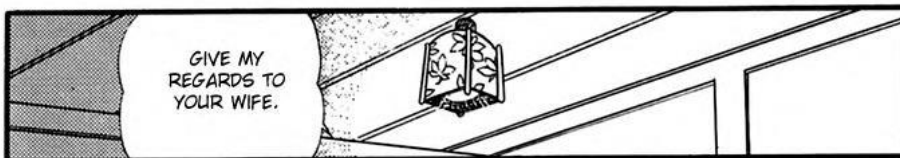
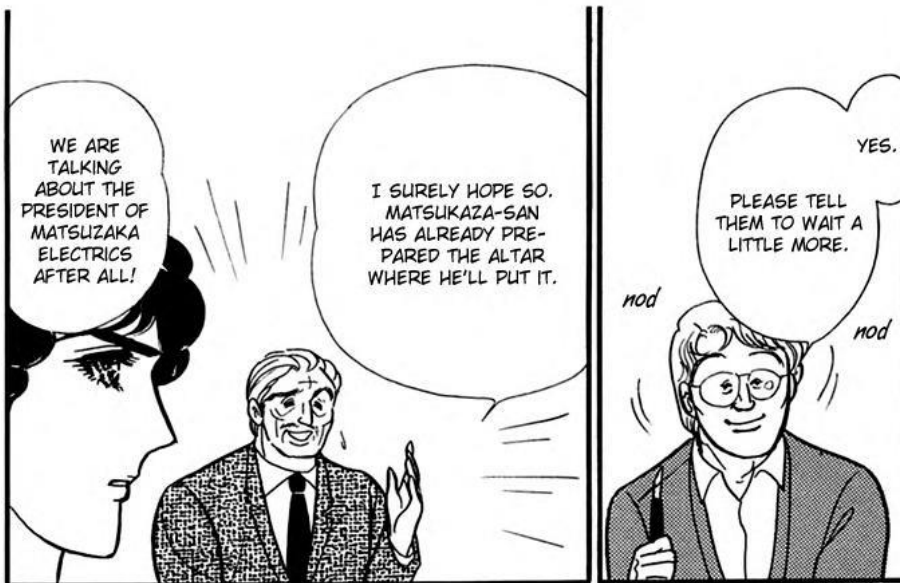


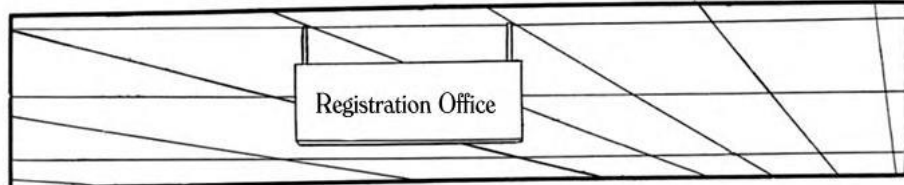
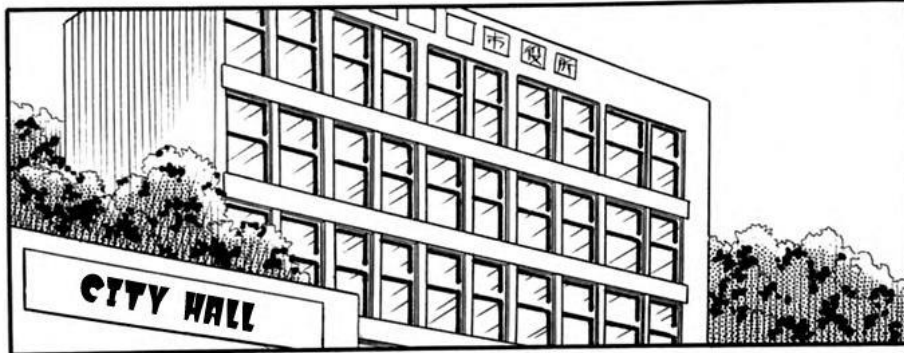
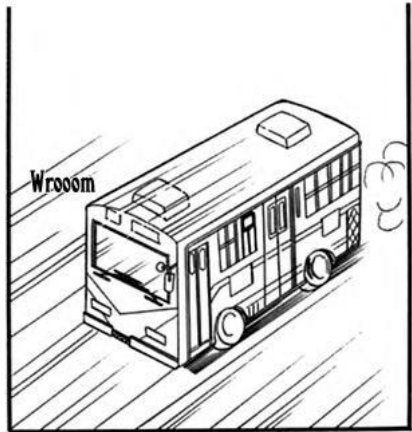
While he works to keep his touch he contemplates the wood piece of his next sculpture...

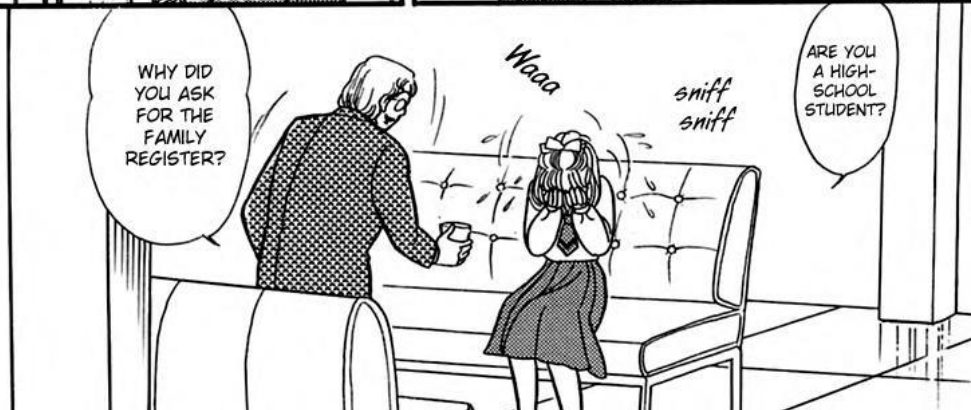
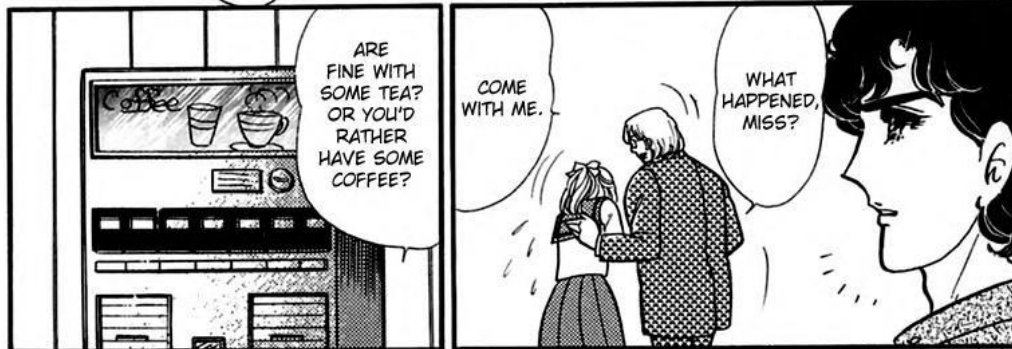
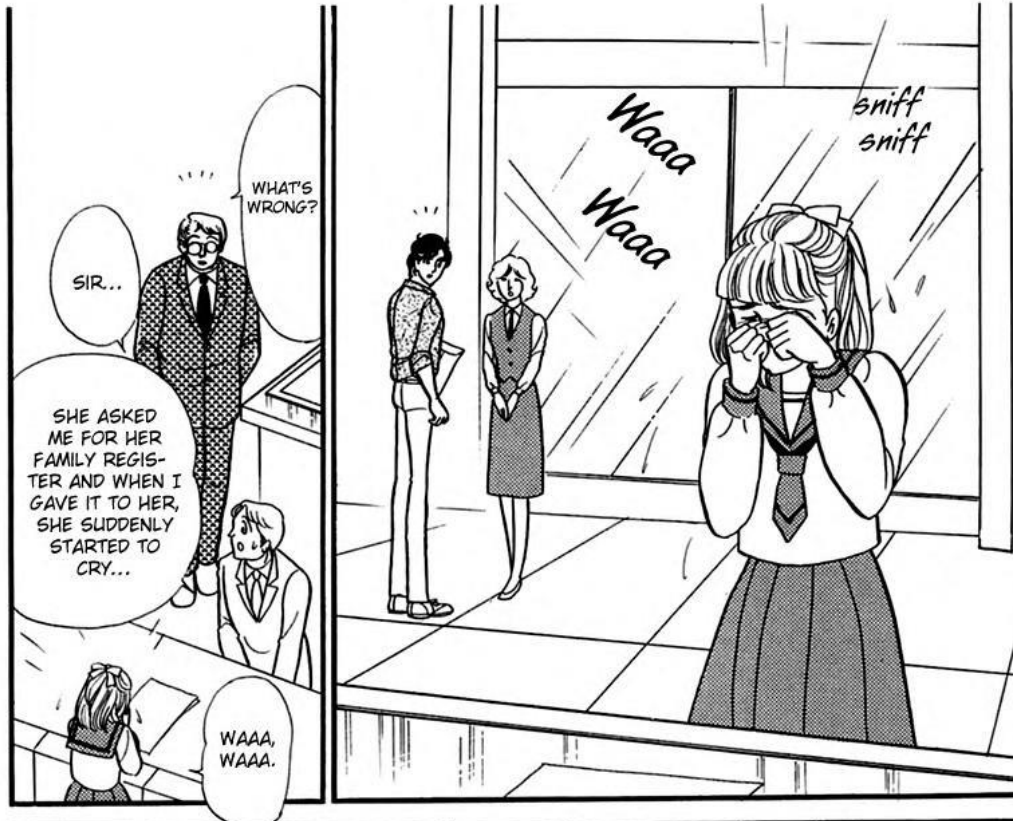
Before going to sleep he goes to work for a little while in the study...

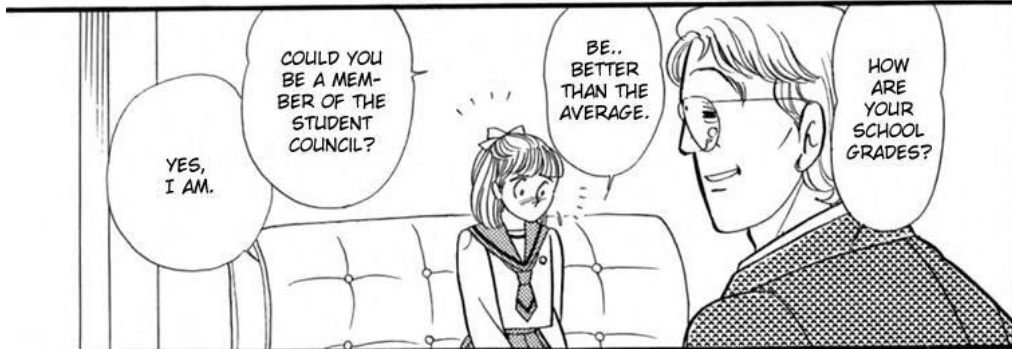
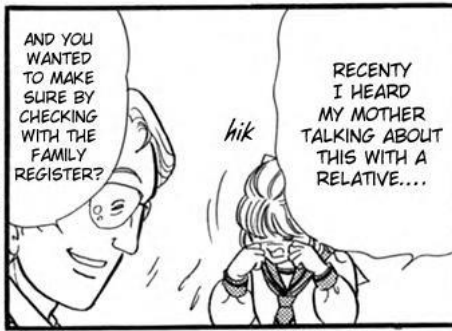
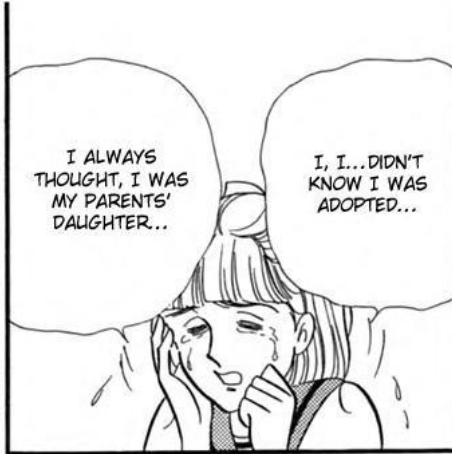


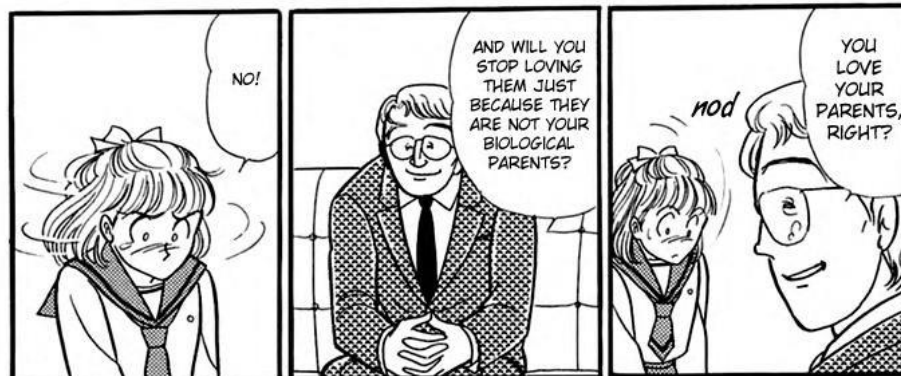
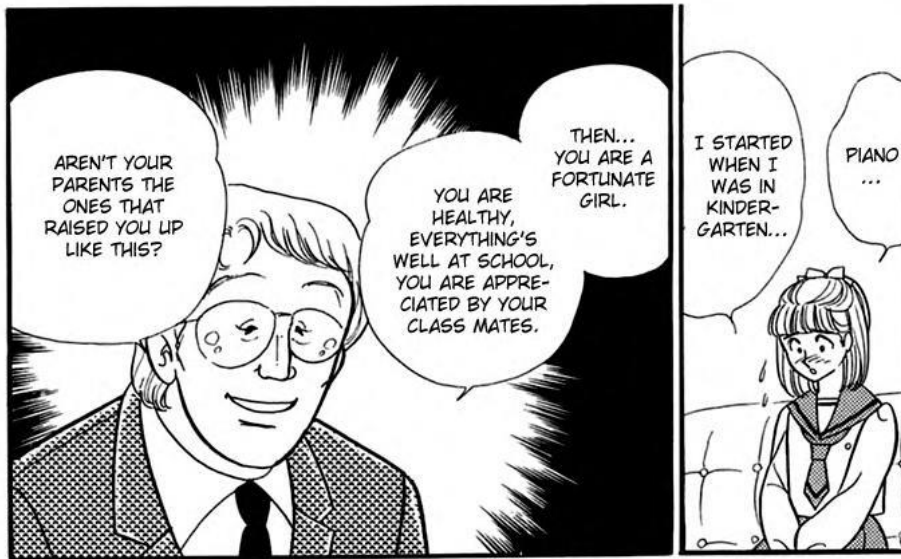


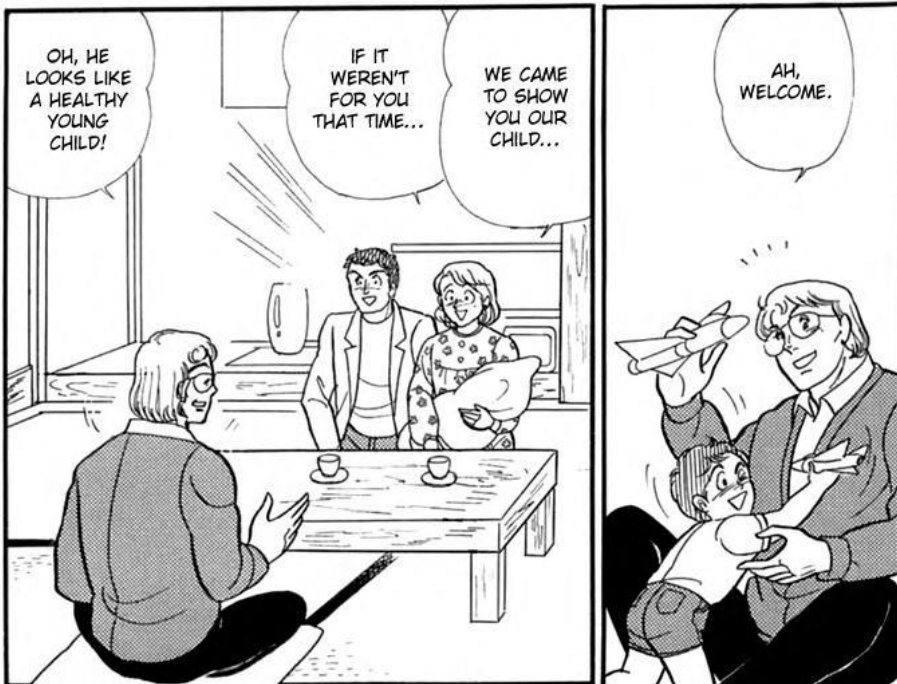














AT THAT MOMENT YOU REALLY HELPED US OUT...

IF YOU DIDN'T STOP US FROM DIVORCING, THIS BABY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BORN!
NOW WE ARE REALLY HAPPY...



AND NOW THIS CHILD HAS BEEN BORN.

SOON WE'LL BE GOING TO HIS OFFICE FOR THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE.



THANKS TO HIS ADVICE WE DECIDED TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY...



AFTER SIX MONTHS OF MARRIAGE WE HAD A HUGE ARGUMENT AND WE WENT TO THE CITY HALL TO DIVORCE BUT WE WERE STOPPED BY THE CHIEF...

DIVORCING?

YEAH, WE MET YAMAMOTO-SAN WHEN WE WENT TO DISSOLVE THE MARRIAGE...

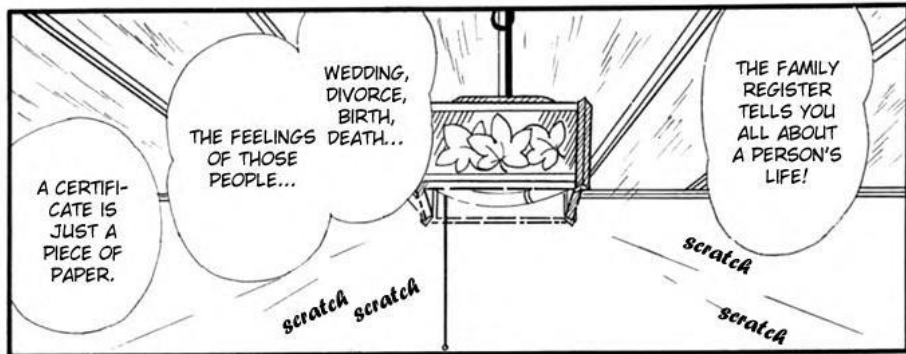


IT IS FORTUNATE THAT WE DIDN'T RUSH INTO A BAD DECISION AT THAT TIME!
ALL CREDITS GOES TO YOU, YAMAMOTO-SAN.



LET'S TOAST FOR THE BABY INSTEAD.

THAT'S NOT TRUE, COME ON YOU ARE EMBARRASSING ME!



A CERTIFICATE IS JUST A PIECE OF PAPER.

WEDDING, DIVORCE, BIRTH, DEATH... THE FEELINGS OF THOSE PEOPLE...

THE FAMILY REGISTER TELLS YOU ALL ABOUT A PERSON'S LIFE!

scratch scratch

scratch

scratch



AND INSIDE IT FIND LIKE THE TRUE BUDDHA.

THE REASON I DON'T BECOME A FULL TIME SCULPTOR IS BECAUSE I WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE HUMAN WORLD.

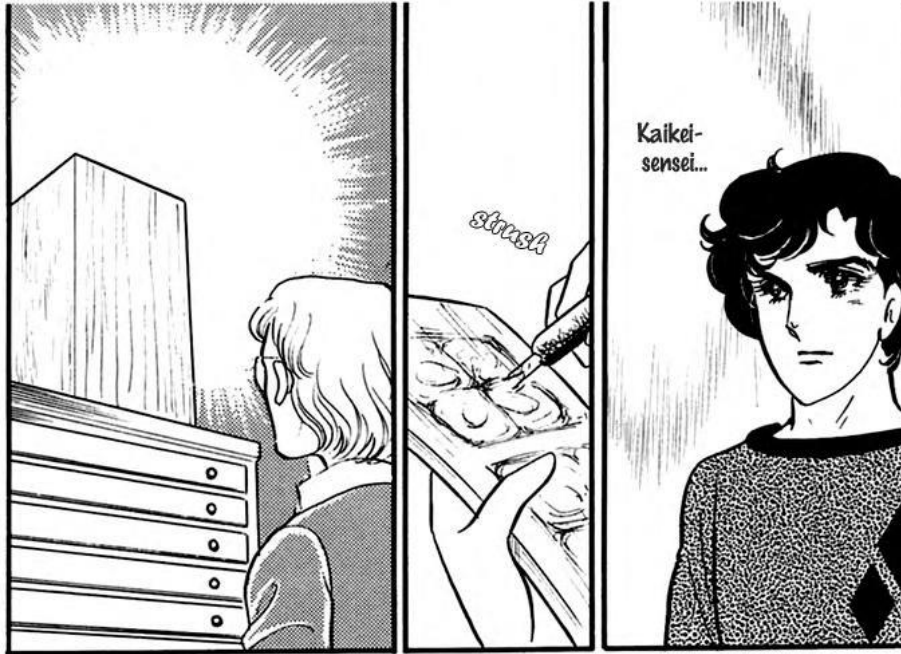
scratch

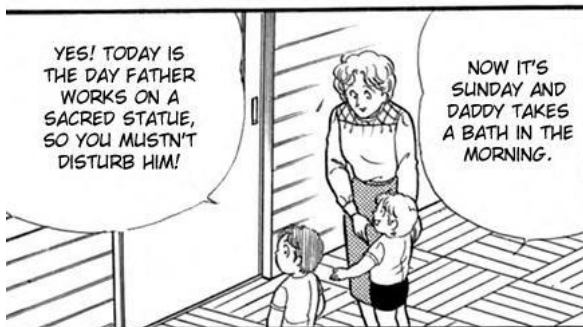
scratch



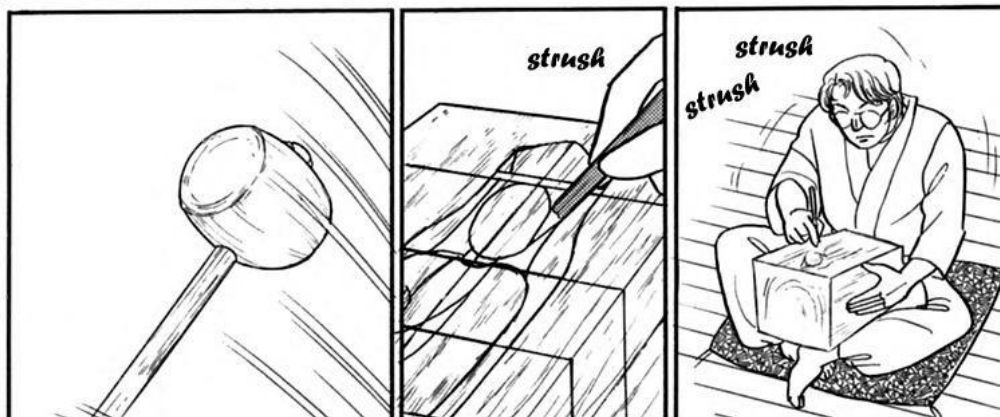
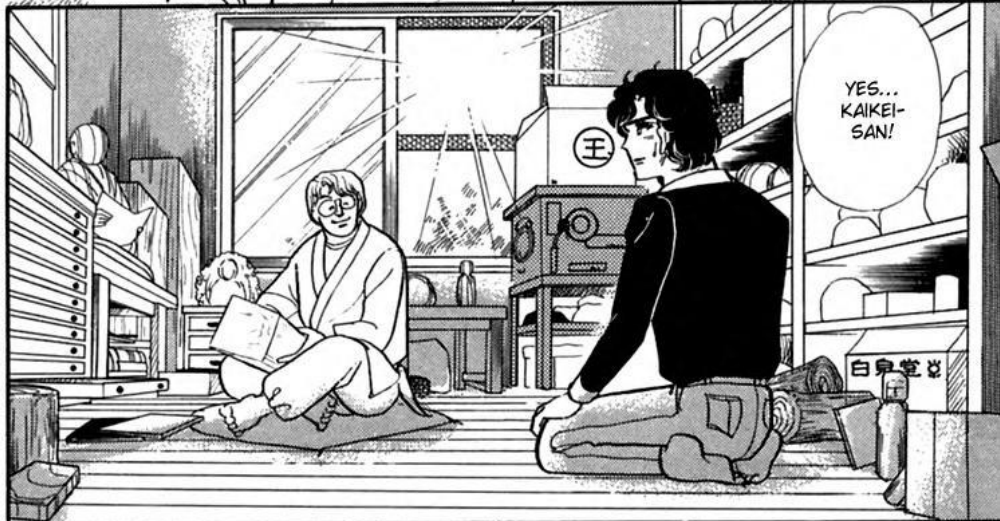
BUT ON THAT PAPER, THE STORY OF A LIFE IS PRINTED.

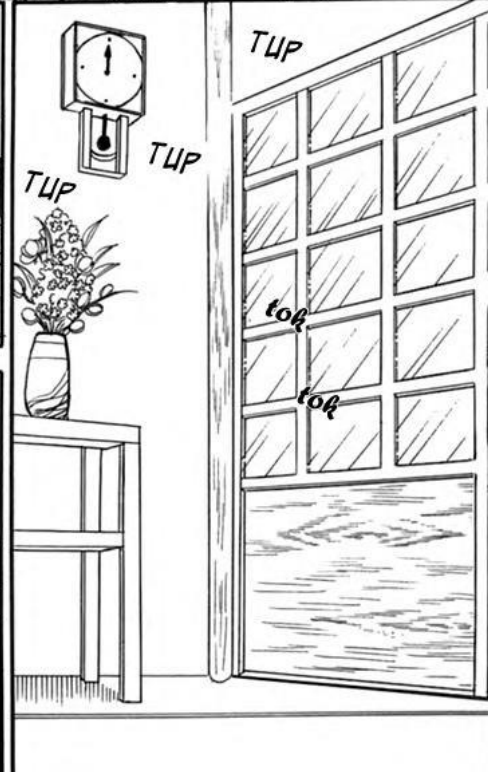
scratch













No one would dare speak a word unless absolutely necessary.

What a focused look! Sensei makes the atmosphere around him feel so tense!



strush

strush



Is this the look of a sacred sculptor?!



Kaikai-sensei!



The firm movement of the hand!



The expression!



The gaze!



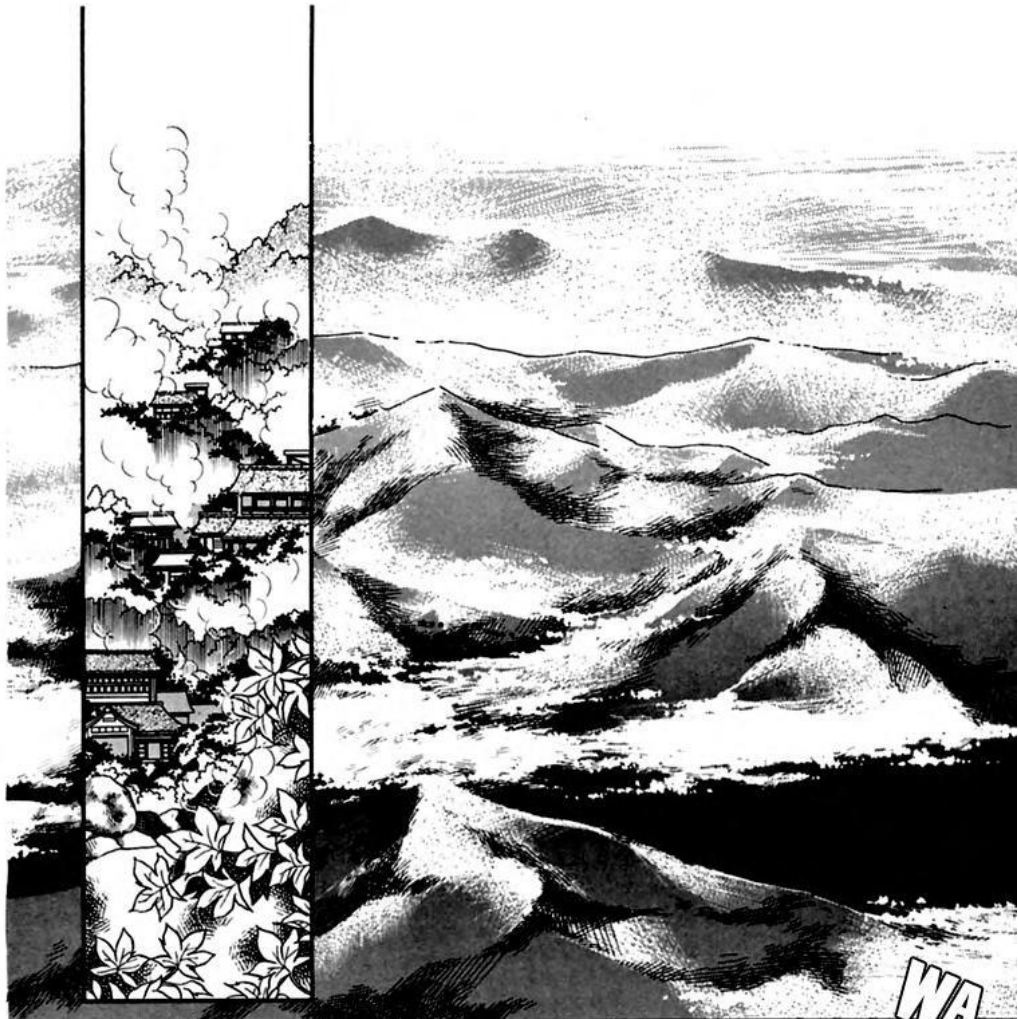
This is it!

Isshin's expression...

Isshin's gaze...

Isshin's look!

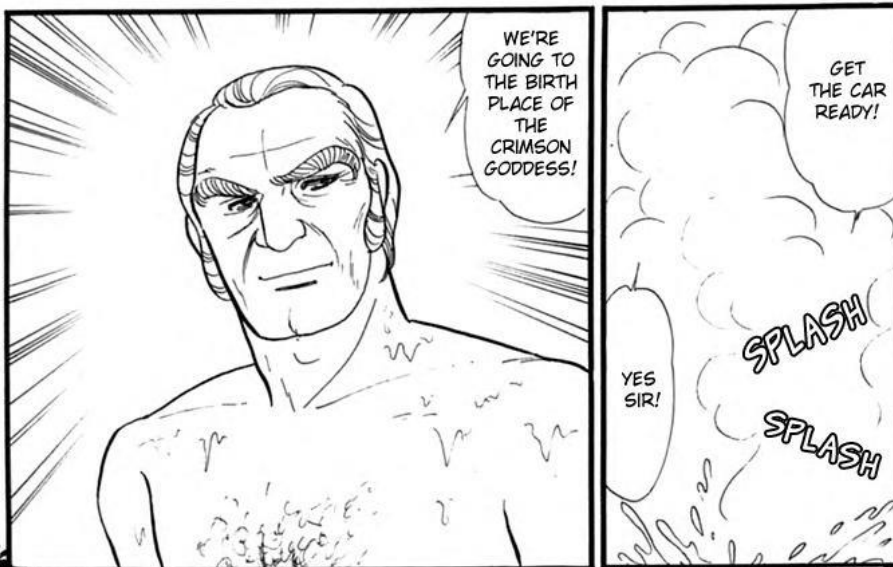
Chapter 196



I CAN'T
IMAGINE HOW
CHIGUSA MUST
HAVE LOOKED
WHEN SHE
SAW THAT!

REALLY?
THAT GIRL
REALLY USED
OSHICHI YAOYA
FOR THE FIRE
THEME?!

WA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA





The place where *The Crimson Goddess* was born...

The valley of the crimson plum trees...

I heard that the seasons seem to stop their cycle there...

It's the mysterious place where the plum trees continue to bloom even when spring's gone.

Chigusa... who knows if time has stopped over there for you too...

SWOOSH

COULD I HAVE TAKEN A WRONG TURN?

EH? THAT'S STRANGE ...

THE ROAD ENDS HERE.

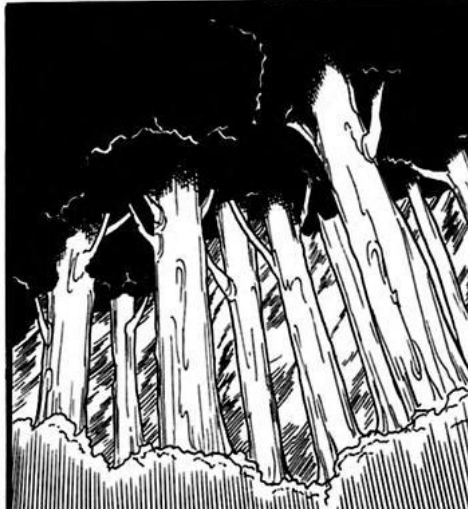


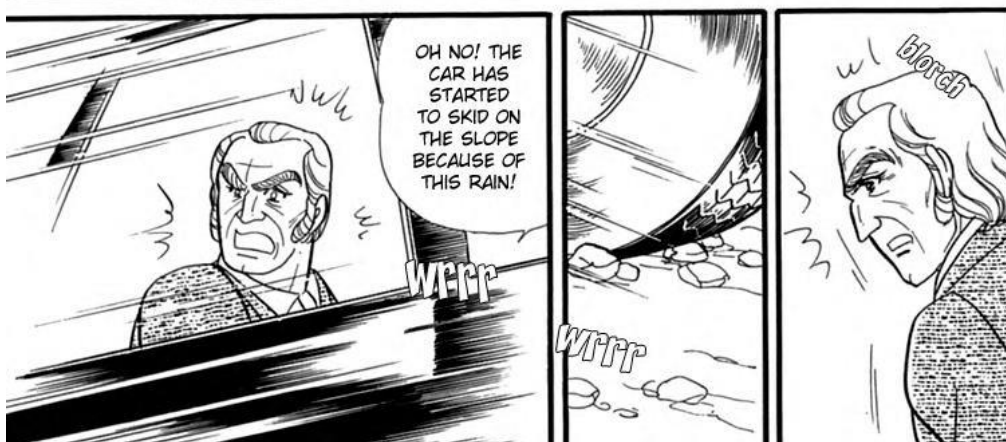
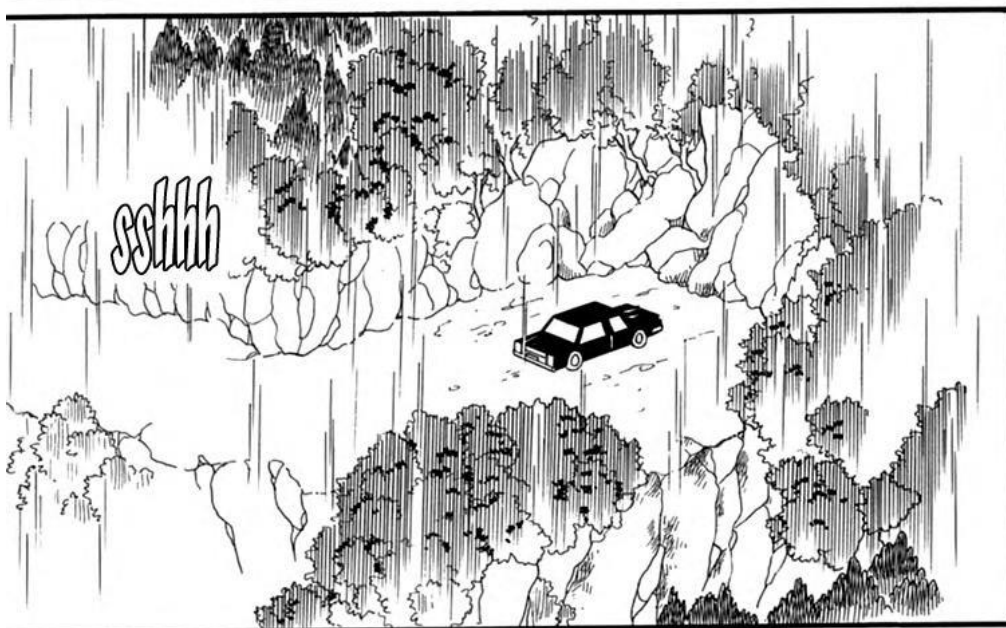
...BUT IF I GET OFF THE MOUNTAIN AND REACH THE HIGHWAY I MIGHT FIND HELP.

IT COULD TAKE SOME TIME...

I WILL IMMEDIATELY GO TO SEARCH FOR HELP. PLEASE WAIT FOR ME HERE.

I AM REALLY SORRY, SIR!









MY FATHER
...



ON THE ROAD TO
THE CRIMSON
GODDESS'
VALLEY ?

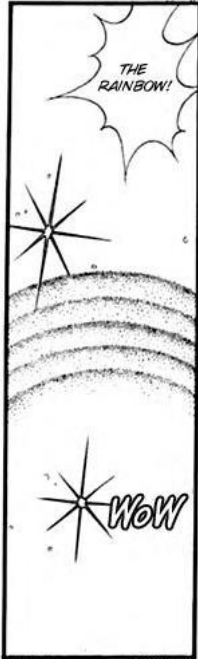
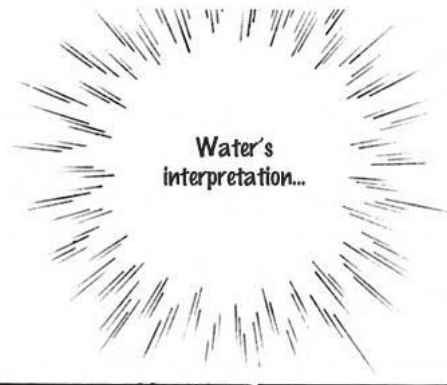
Tokyo



WHAT?
MY FATHER
HAS GONE
MISSING?!



THE CAR
FELL OF A
PRECIPICE?!





...are masses of humidity in the air!

And those clouds too...

Of course, the rainbow is also one of water's forms!



Certainly!
The water changes forms!

The water on the surface vaporizes because of the heat and rises up in the air!

When it has cooled down it becomes rain...

The water that transforms!

Forms rainbows, turns into fog...

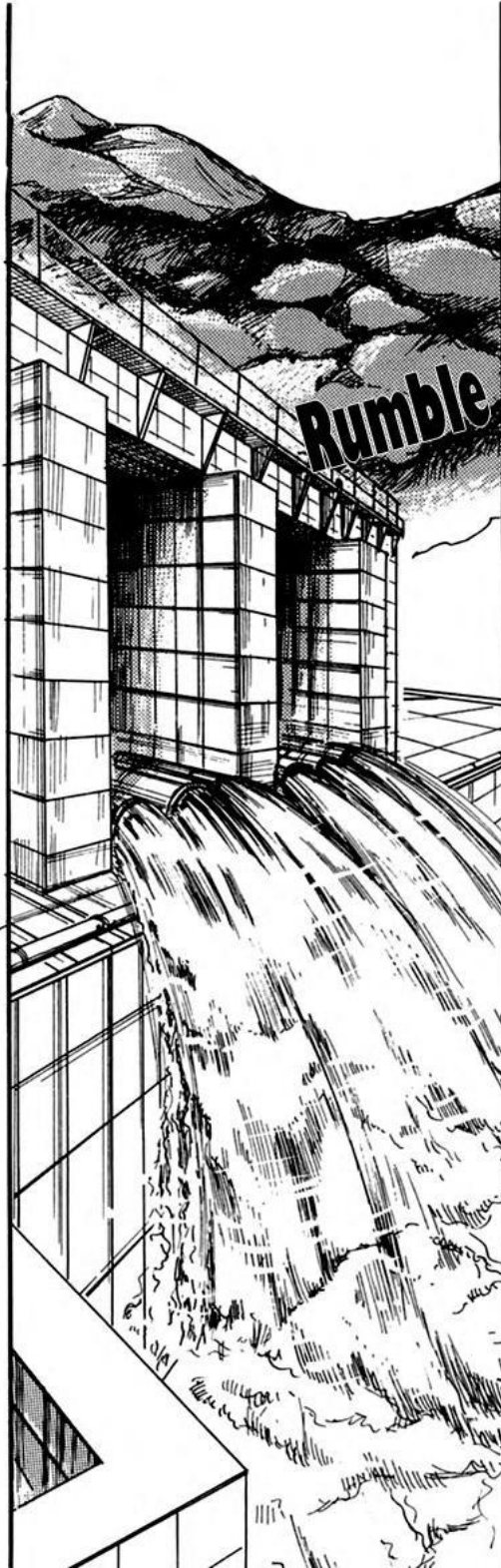
Transformed?

The water transformed?!

The fog!

This too is water!

The water which has transformed!





Ah! *uwa*

The water's force!

Of course, the water's force!



Dam... hydroelectric plant...

Electricity obtained from the force of the falling water...

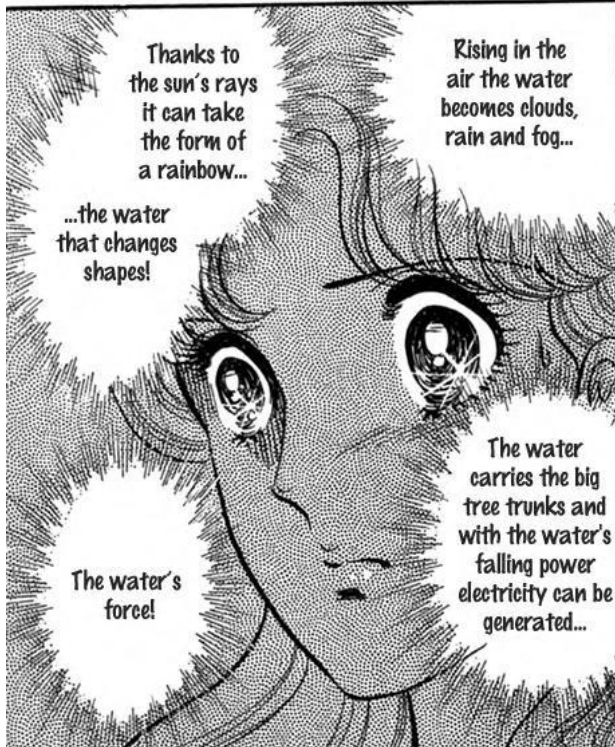


THE FORCE OF WATER THAT SPINS THE TURBINES GENERATES ELECTRICITY.

THIS IS A DAM OF A HYDROELECTRIC PLANT.

ALL THE ELECTRICITY IN THE AREAS AROUND US COMES FROM THIS PLANT. COOL, RIGHT?

WOW!



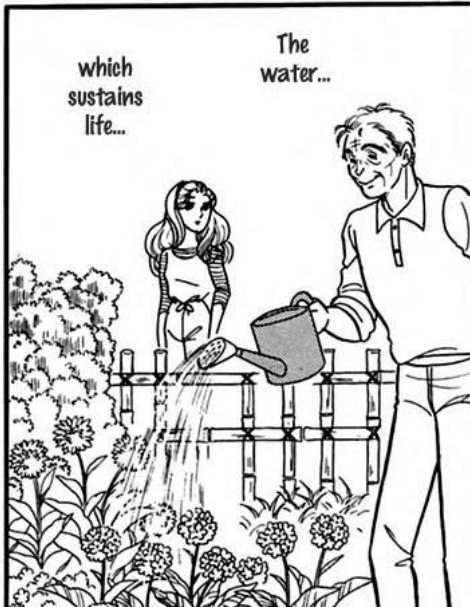
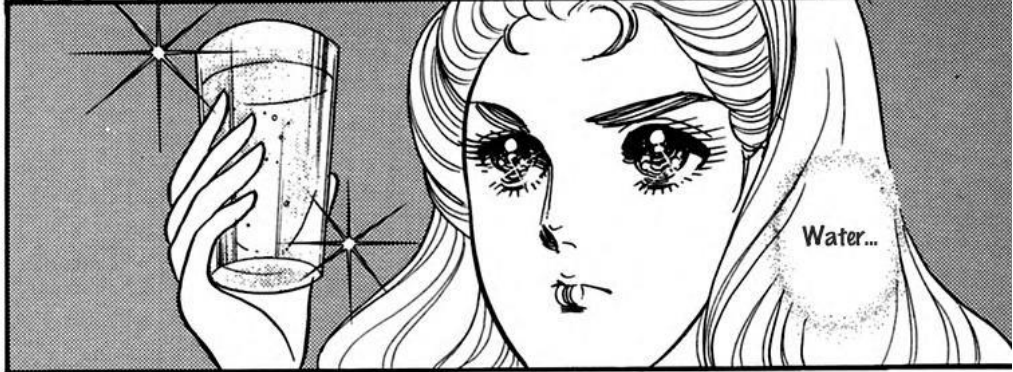
Thanks to the sun's rays it can take the form of a rainbow...

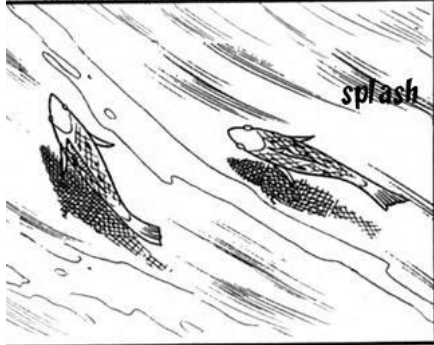
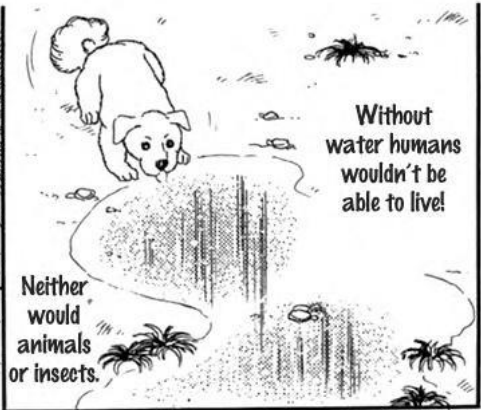
Rising in the air the water becomes clouds, rain and fog...

...the water that changes shapes!

The water's force!

The water carries the big tree trunks and with the water's falling power electricity can be generated...







I think I'm getting somewhere...

From the water!

From the life!

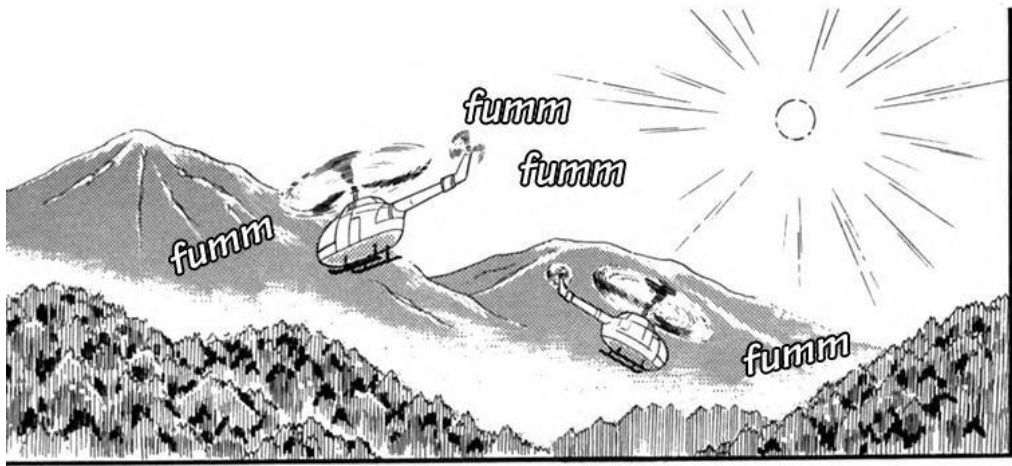
...with the interpretation of water.

Flop Flop

Beings that cannot live far from water!



UHM...





FORGIVE ME, VICE DIRECTOR HAYAMI.

THE CAR HAD AN ENGINE PROBLEM AND WHILE I WENT TO GET SOME HELP IT HAPPENED THAT...

THAT'S ENOUGH!



WE ARE SORRY.

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM SINCE LAST NIGHT?!

YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE PRESIDENT?!



YOU MUST FIND HIM NO MATTER WHAT!

YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!



BUT GIVEN THE HEIGHT FROM WHICH HE FELL, NOW HE MUST BE...



Don't disappear like this!

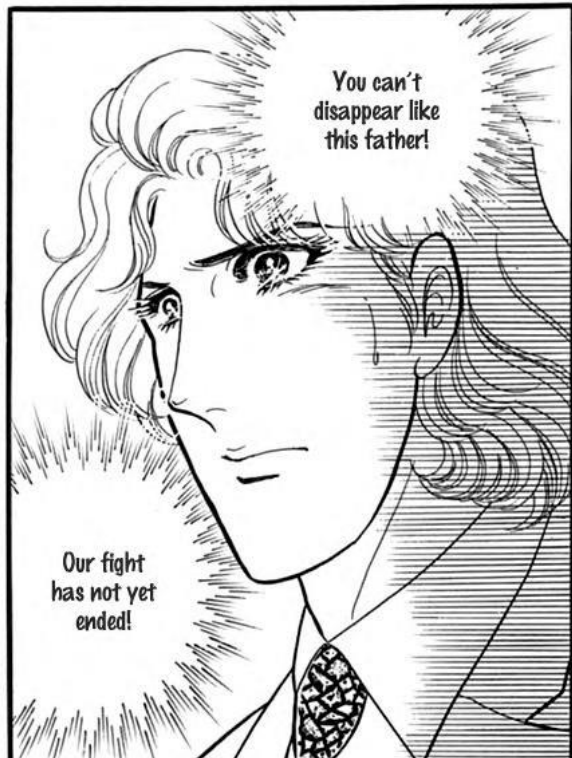
In the valley of The Crimson Goddess.



GET MORE MEN ON THE SEARCH SQUAD!

Masumi-sama...

GO LOOK AGAIN NEAR THE RIVER AND THE VALLEY!



You can't disappear like this father!

Our fight has not yet ended!



The interpretation of water...

I had the feeling of getting close to something...

...but I don't know exactly what...

How can I interpret my own water?



fumm

fumm



Sitting like this I
can forget about all
the bad things, I can
forget everything...

What
wonderful
stars!

I seems like
I'm sitting in
the middle of the
Milky Way!



TOMORROW IN
THE MORNING
WE'LL RESUME
THE SEARCH...

...AND IF YOU
DON'T SLEEP
AT LEAST A
LITTLE...

IF I MAY SAY SO,
PLEASE GO AND
REST AT A HOTEL
TONIGHT, VICE
DIRECTOR HAYAMI.

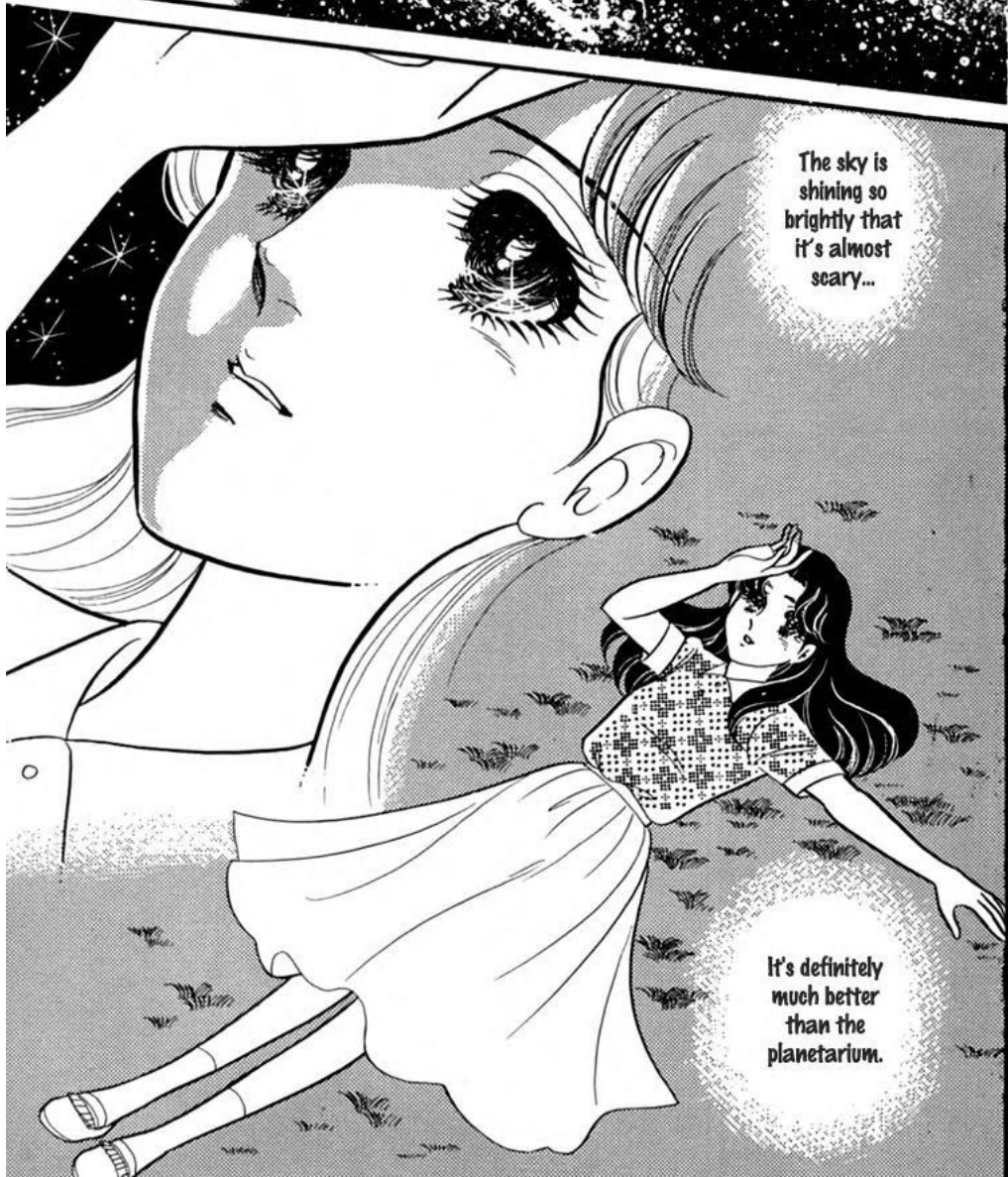




This is wonderful...

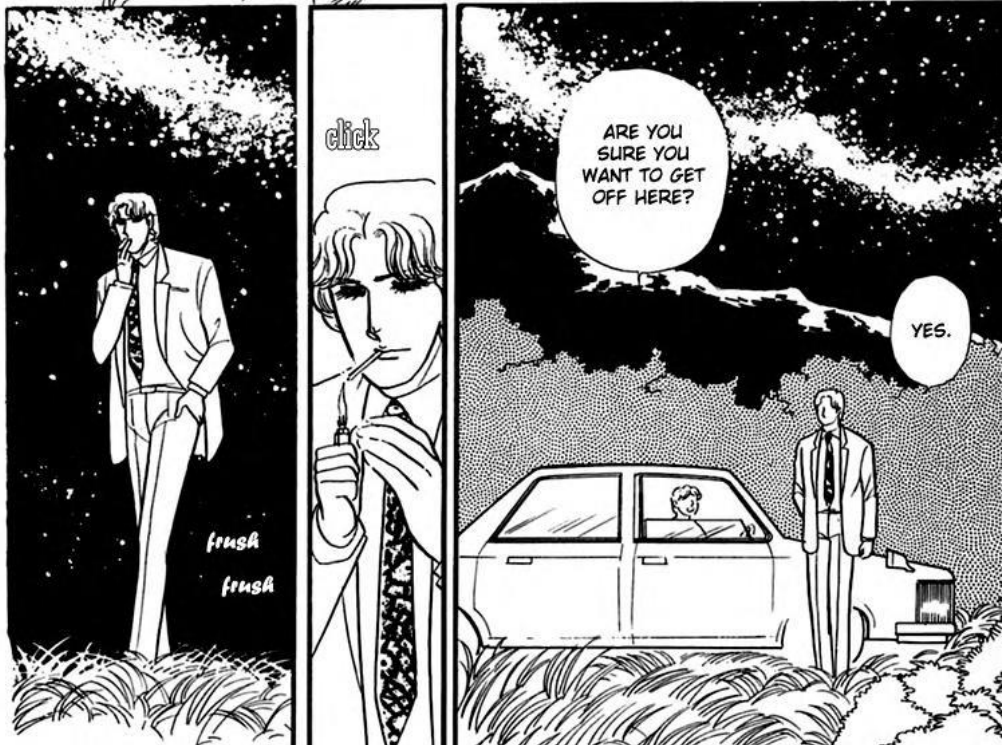
There's an infinite number of stars...

The sky at night...



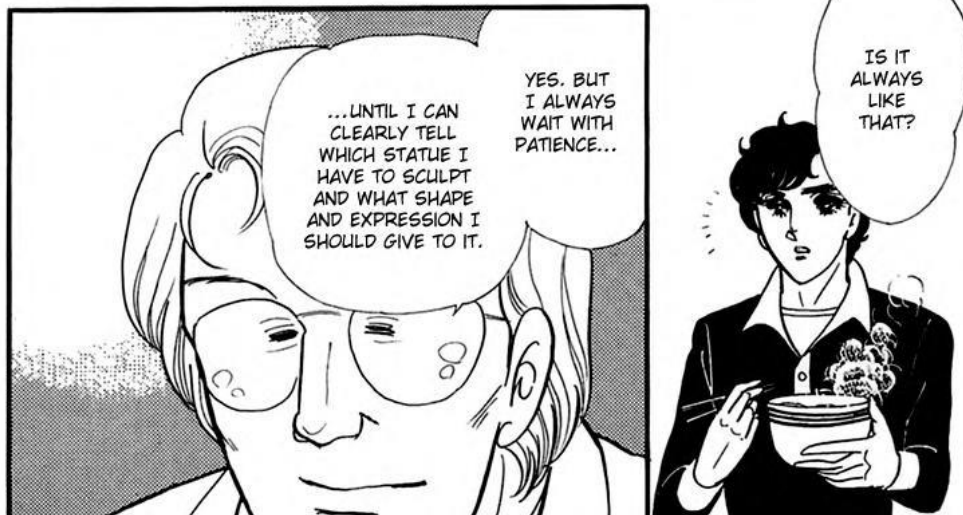
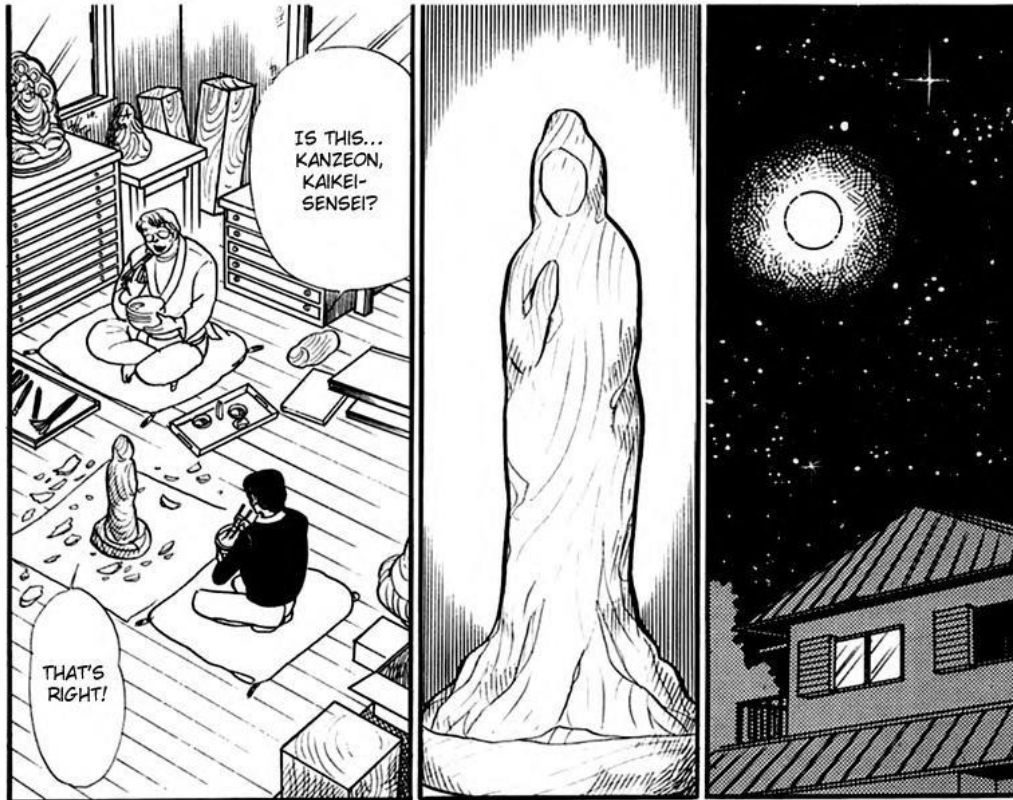
The sky is shining so brightly that it's almost scary...

It's definitely much better than the planetarium.











...AND THEN I FINALLY SCULPT IT.

UNTIL I CAN'T RESIST, UNTIL I CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE...

ONCE I SEE IT, I LOOK AT THE WOOD FOR DAYS TO CARVE THE IMAGE IN MY HEART.

SO MUCH THAT THE WOODEN BUDDHA SEEMS TO BE CALLING TO ME TO GET IT OUT.



BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THE TRUE BUDDHA IS THE ONE IN OUR HEARTS. LOTS OF PEOPLE CAN SEE THEIR INNER BUDDHA WHEN THEY GAZE AT THE STATUES OF BUDDHA.

I ONLY HELP THEM IN THAT PROCESS.

I DON'T KNOW IF BUDDHA EXIST IN THIS WORLD OR ANOTHER.

WHAT DOES SCULPTING A STATUE MEAN FOR YOU?



Kaikai-sensei...

scratch

scratch



The inner Buddha...

I wonder if Isshin kept thinking about his inner Buddha too?

About The Crimson Goddess inside him?

Aah...

The serene air around him, comes from the fact he is so strict with himself.



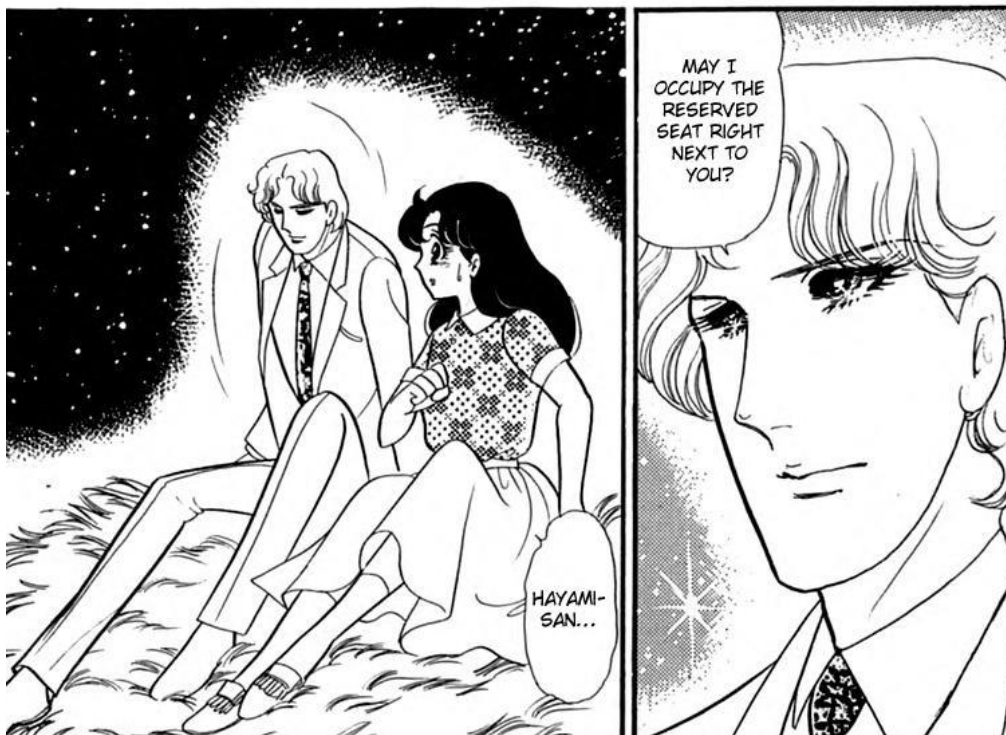
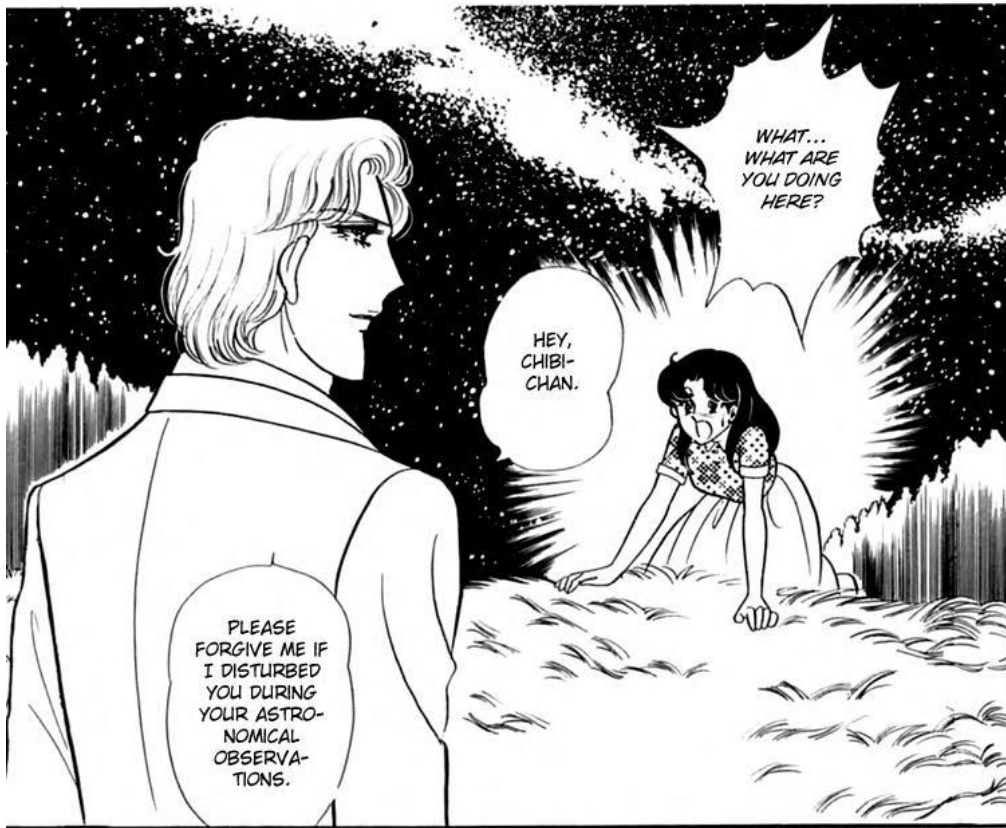
Kaikai-sensei...

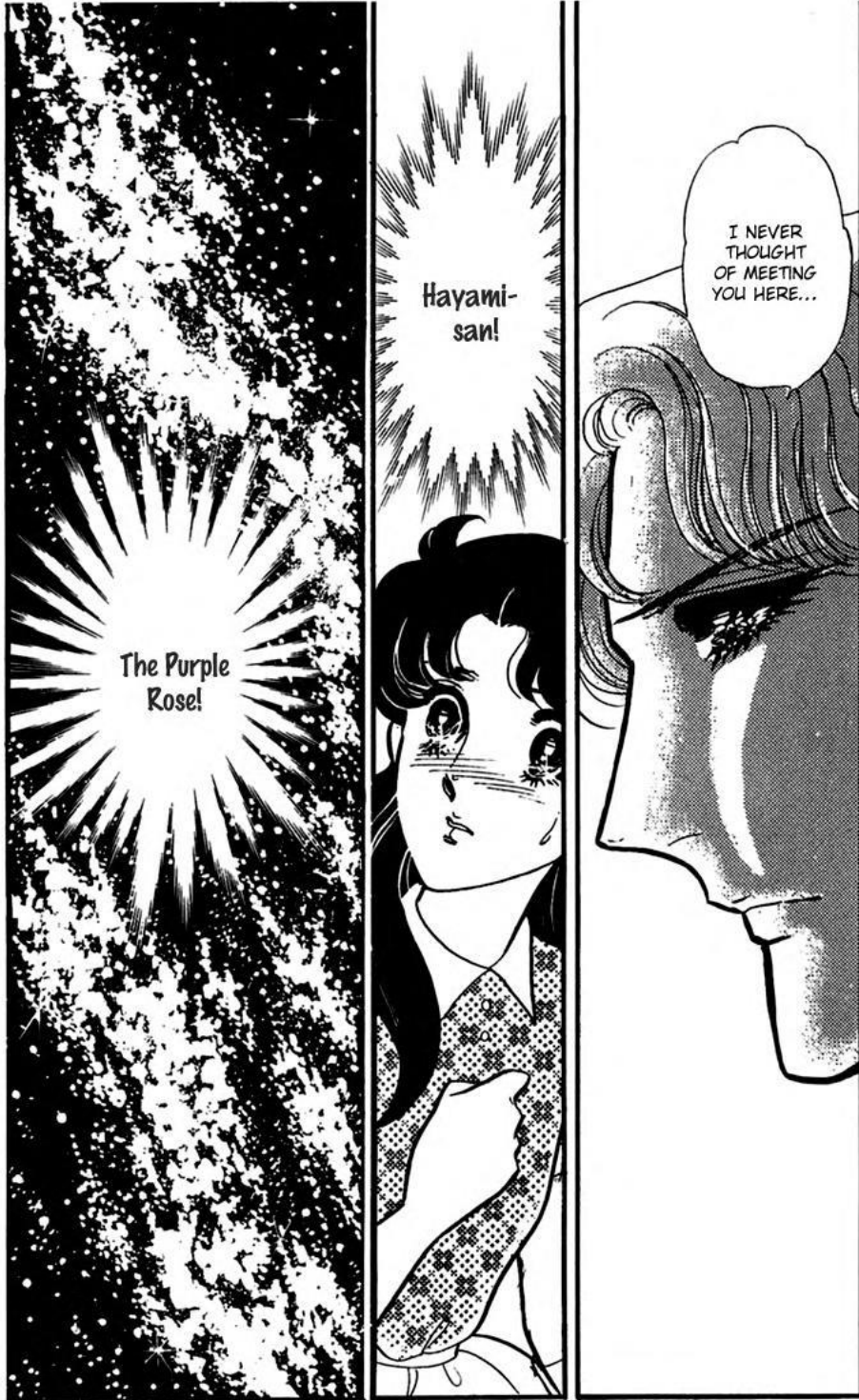
LIVING MY ORDINARY LIFE I KEEP ON LEARNING ABOUT THIS!

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO DO IT.

IF YOUR HEART IS FILLED WITH HATE AND ANGER, YOU CAN'T SCULPT THE STATUE YOU WANT.

Chapter 197









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.

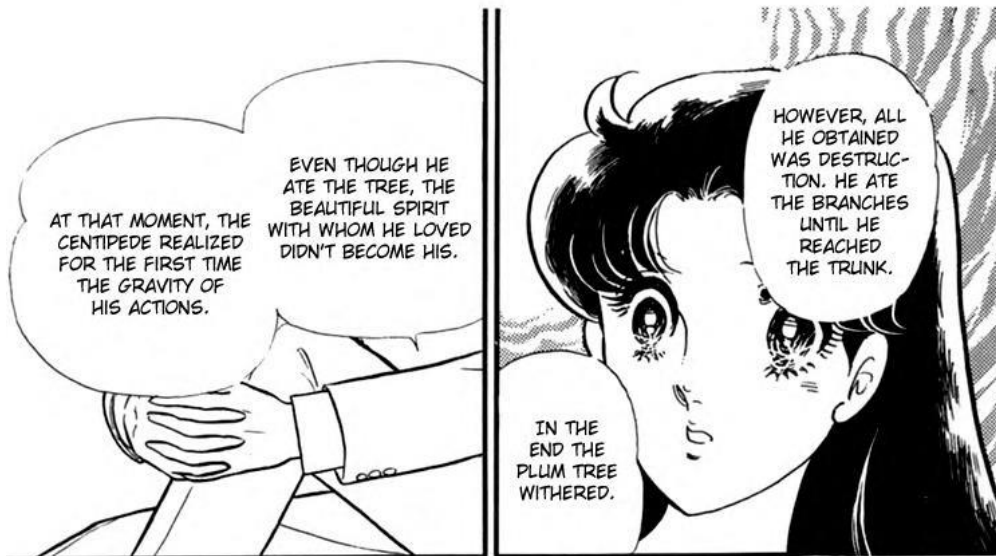


HE PROBABLY
THOUGHT
THAT IF HE
ATE IT THE
SPIRIT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
HIS.

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

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



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.

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

IT'S THE BIGGEST STAR IN THE VIRGO CONSTELLATION.

AH! IT'S TRUE.

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

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

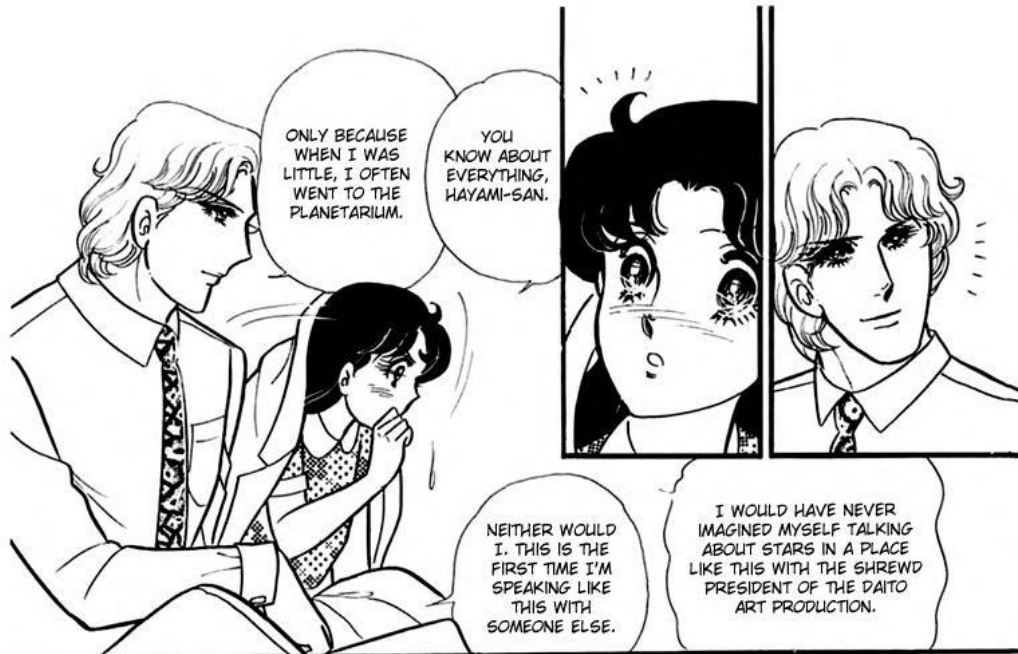


THAT ONE CLOSE TO CYGNUS!

AH! THAT ONE IS THE BIG DIPPER?!

AH! I GOT IT!

THAT'S RIGHT.



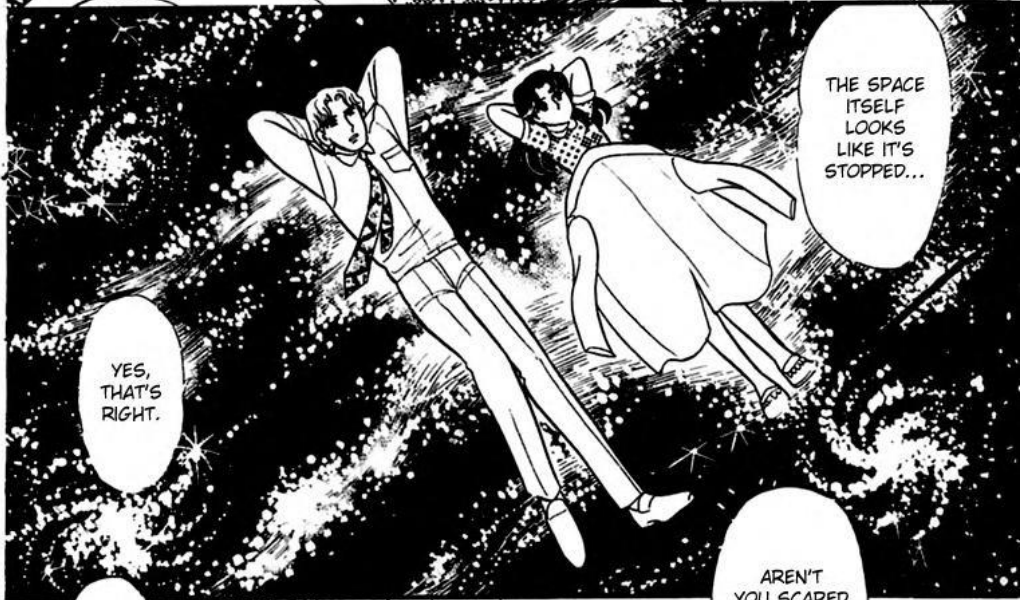




LOOKING AT THEM LIKE THIS, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THE STARS ARE SLOWLY MOVING...

YES.

THE STARS ARE QUITE BRIGHT, RIGHT?



YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

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

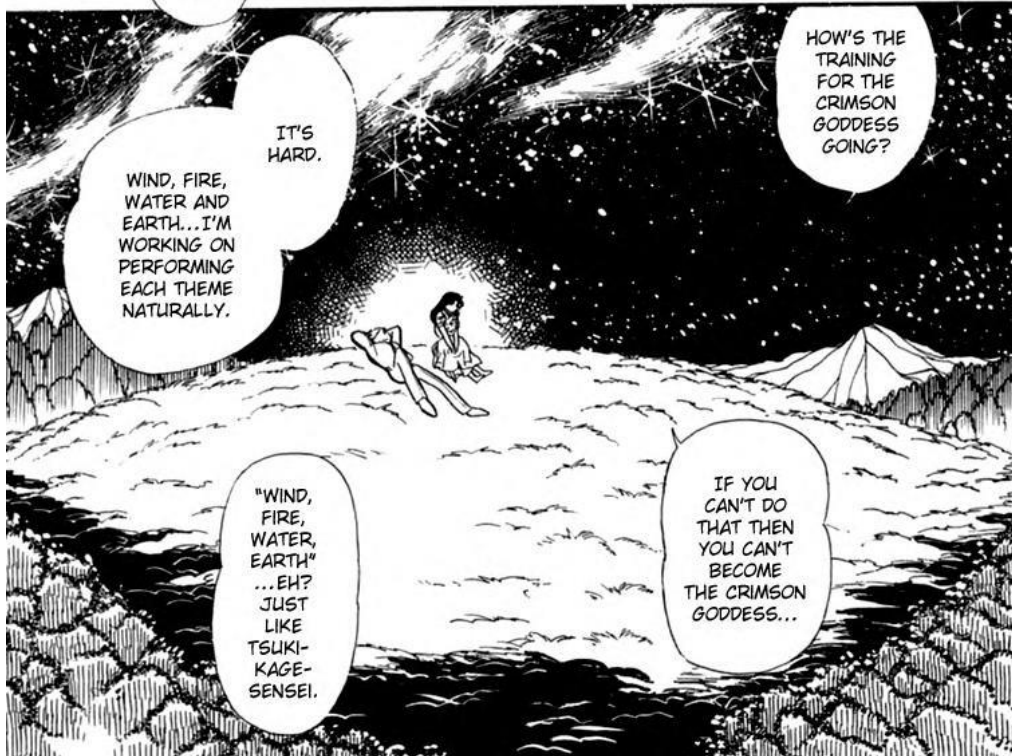
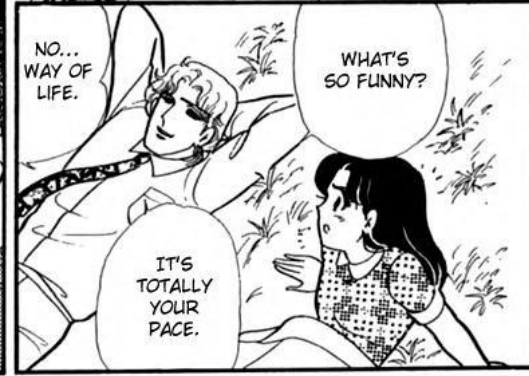


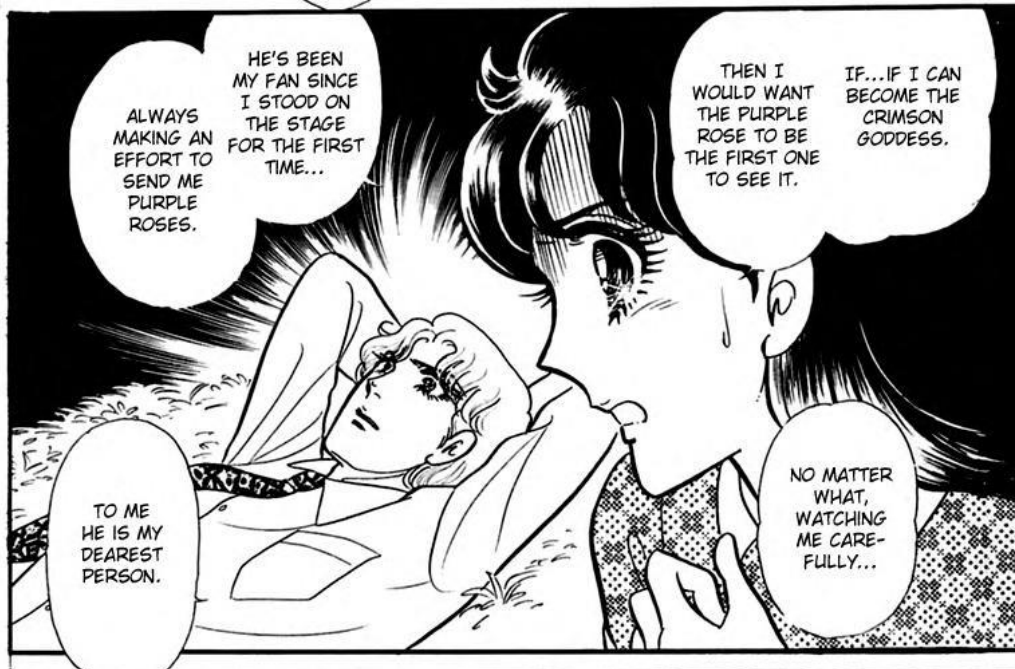
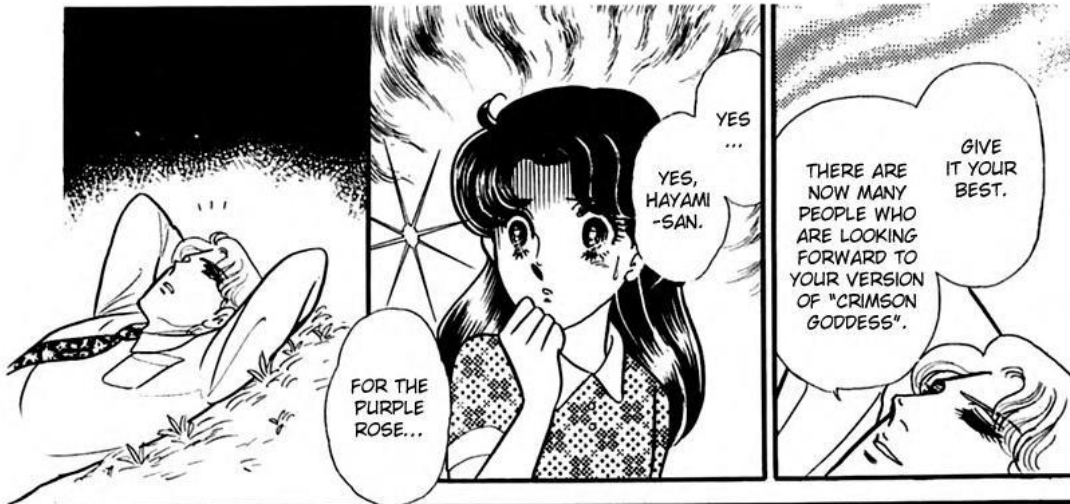
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT.

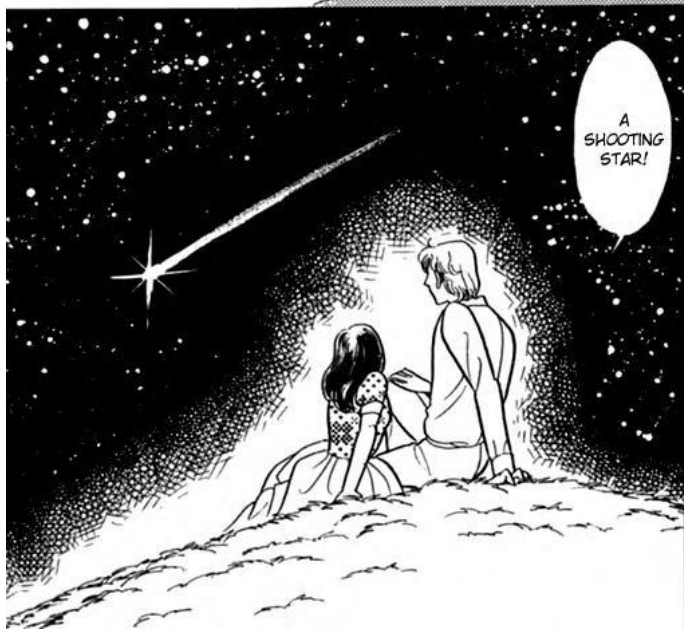
THEN WHY ARE YOU NEAR ME?

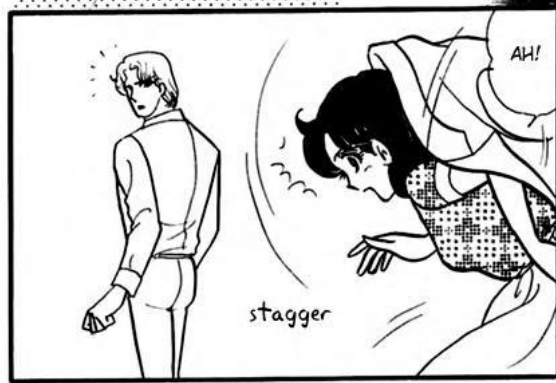
I'M SCARED.

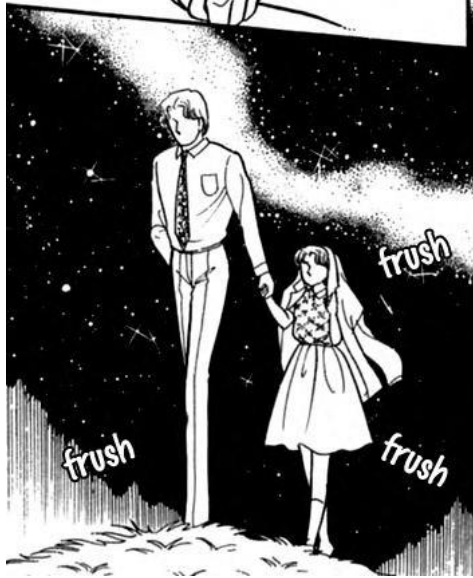
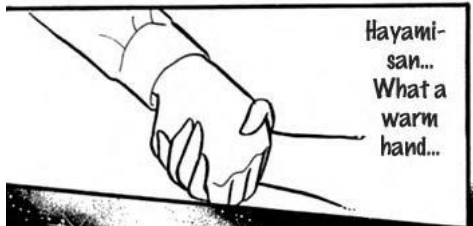
AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?











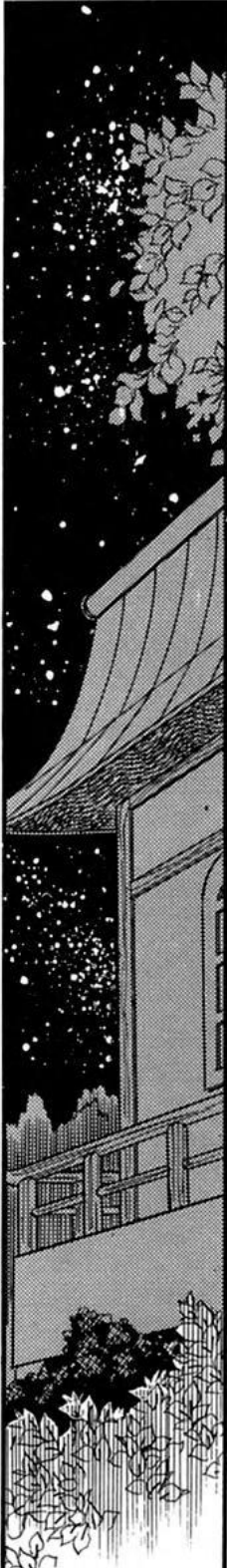
TI NOTE:
LOL, REFERENCE
TO THE ANIME
WITH THE EXACT
SAME
TITLE. YES,
IT IS ALSO
BASED
ON THE
NOVEL BY
THE NAME
"DADDY
LONG
LEGS."





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!



Hayami-san must be worried...

I hope that they'll find him...

very soon...



fumm

The president Hayami... I heard them say he was a cold man, a person you should be afraid of, but...

They still haven't found him...?

fumm



WHAT ARE YOU DOING! I TOLD YOU NOT TO DISTURB THE TURTLES IN THE POND!

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



LOOK, THUNDER-STORM CLOUDS! RYUJIN HAS BEEN ANGERED BECAUSE YOU'VE TAKEN HIM LIGHTLY!

AND NOW HE'LL SHOWER YOU WITH HIS THUNDER!

YOU WILL BE PUNISHED! HURRY TO YOUR HOMES!



RUMBLE...

THAT'S A LIE...

EH?



WHAT WRATH! RYUJIN DOESN'T EXIST! IT'S ONLY A JAPANESE LEGEND!

YOU'LL CALL UPON YOURSELVES THE WRATH OF RYUJIN!

AND NOW HE'LL PUNISH YOU!

IT EXISTS. YOU JUST HAVEN'T SEEN IT!



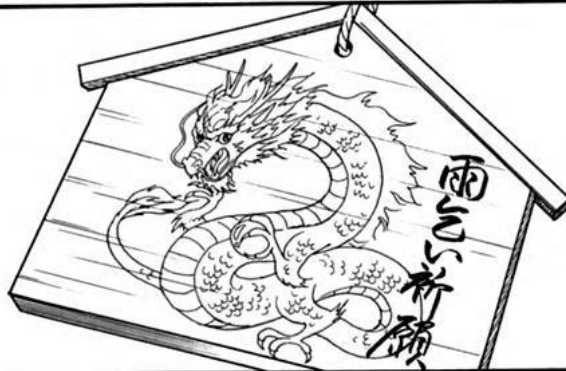
WHAT?
YOU DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
RYUJIN?

EXCUSE
ME...
BUT
WHO IS
RYUJIN?



Aaaaah!

PLAQUE
WITH HIS
IMAGE.



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.

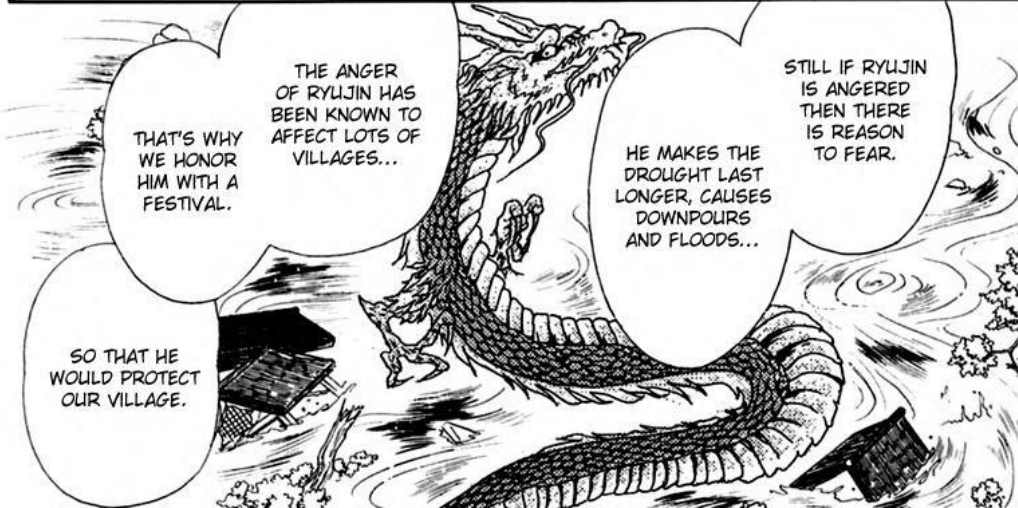
YOU SAY... HE'S THE GOD OF WATER?

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.

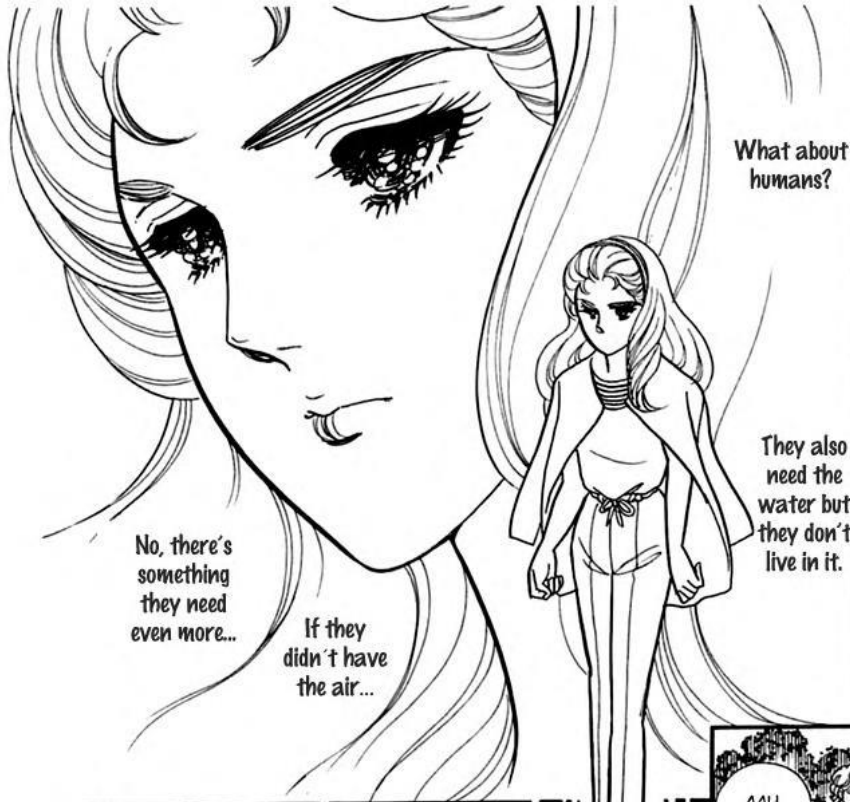


The water
that changes...

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?!



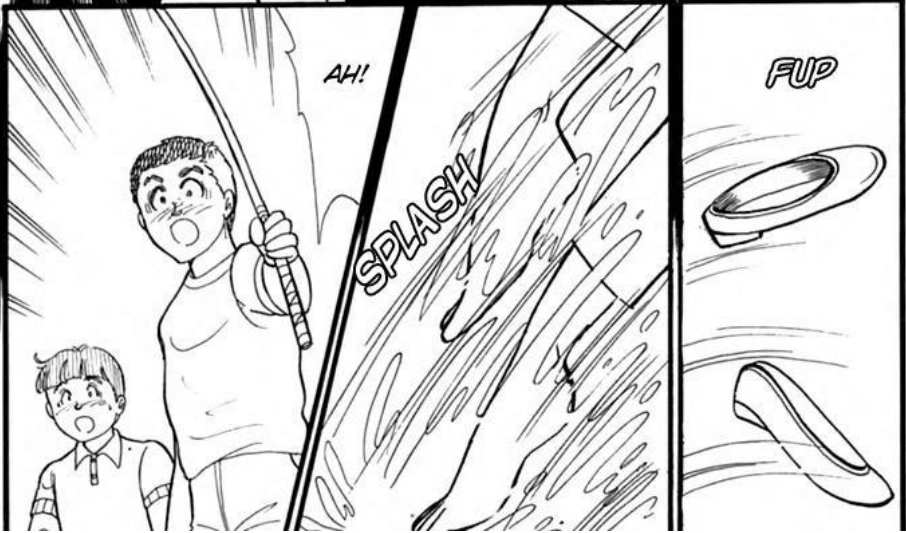
Without the love of the mother the children couldn't live!

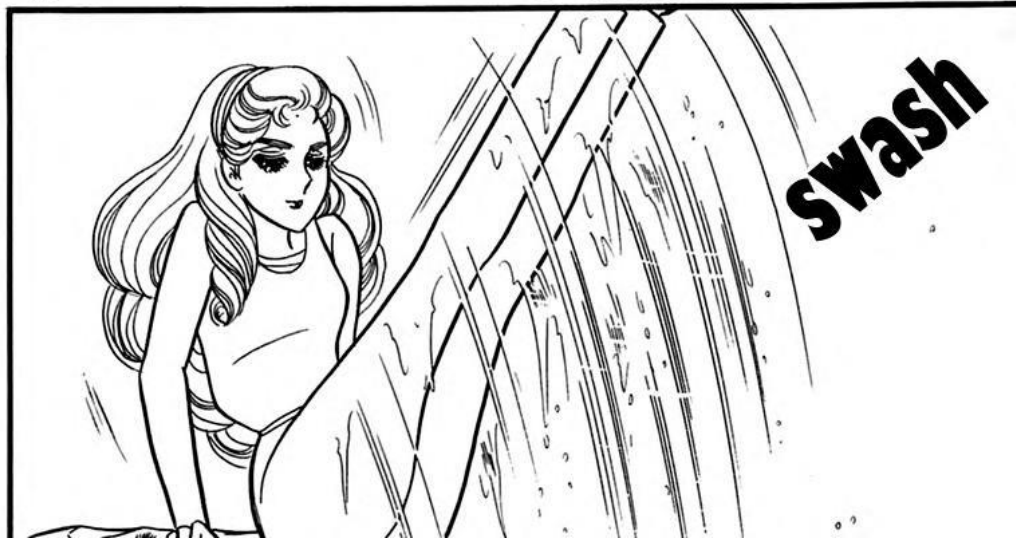
And without love men and women too...

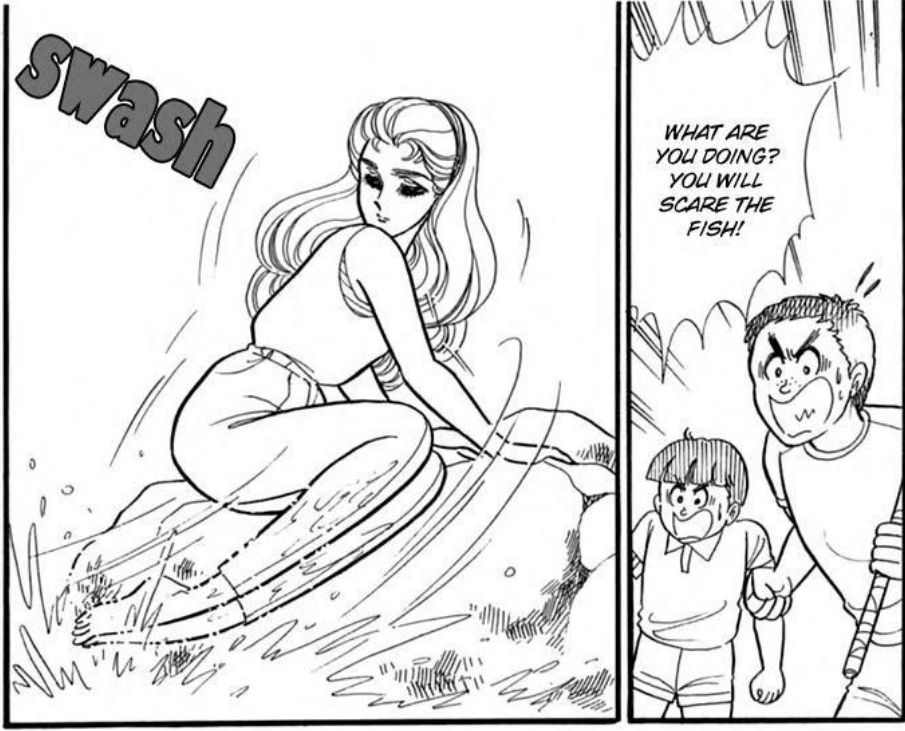


AAH, GOOD, THAT'S GOOD!

DRINK YOUR MILK.









splash

A fish
out of
water!

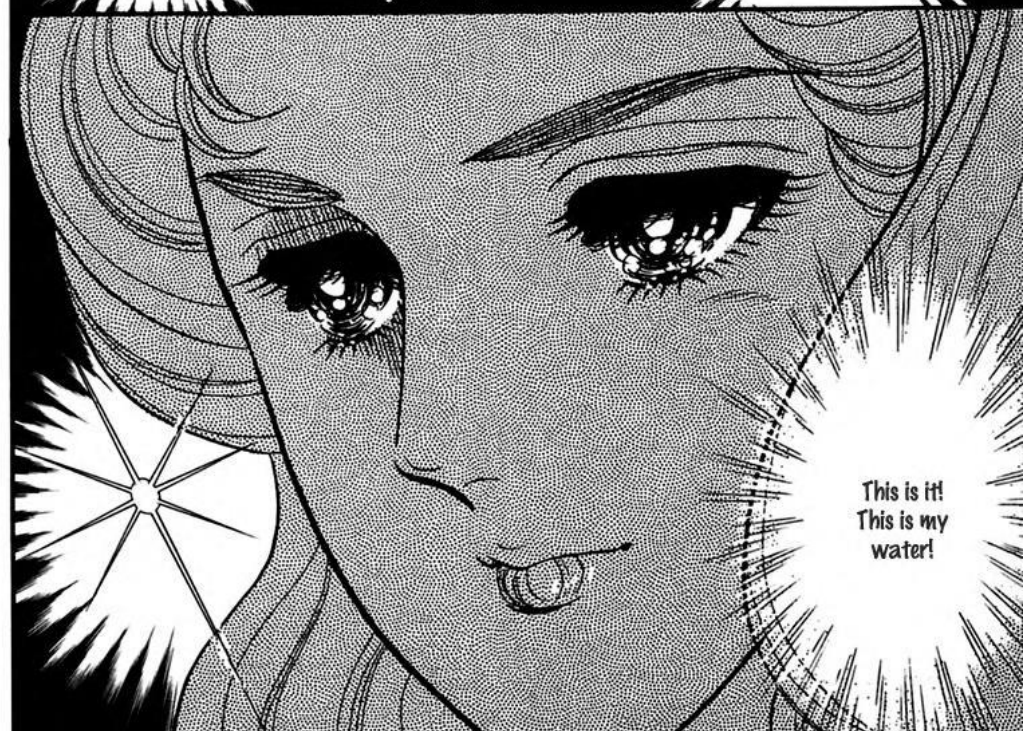
For love!

splash



The little
mermaid!

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



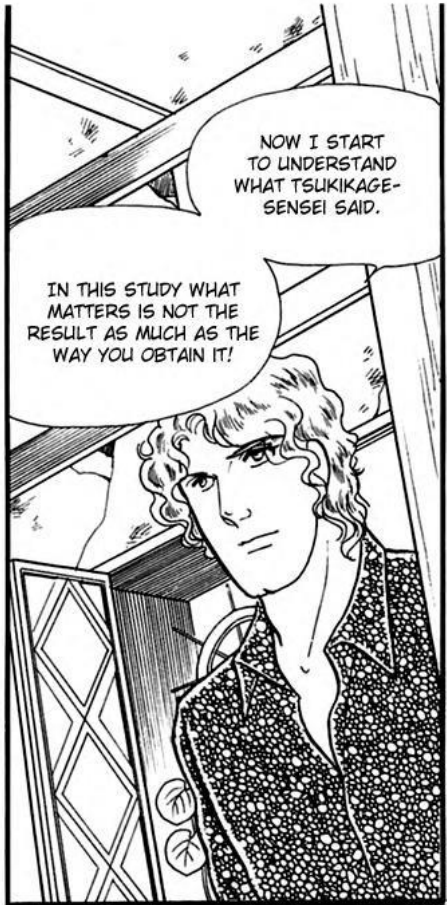
This is it!
This is my
water!



The little mermaid!

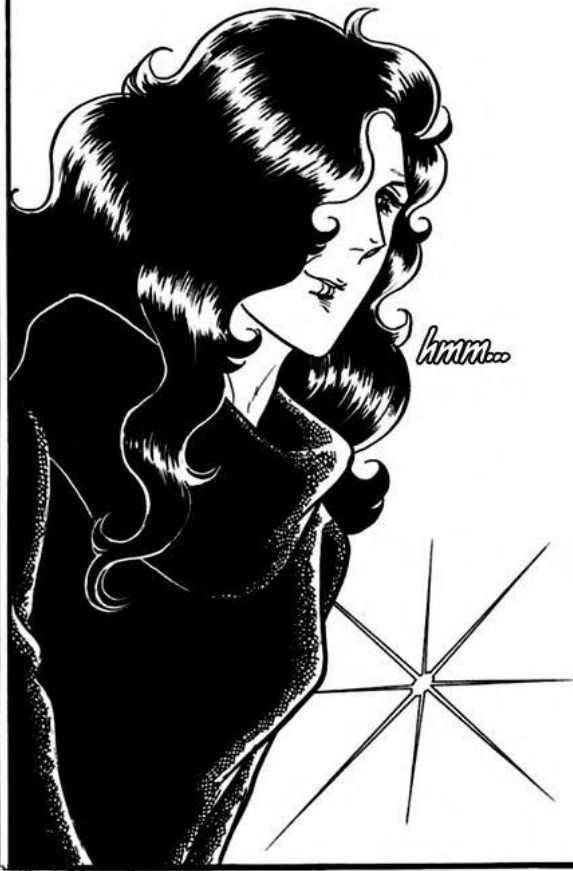




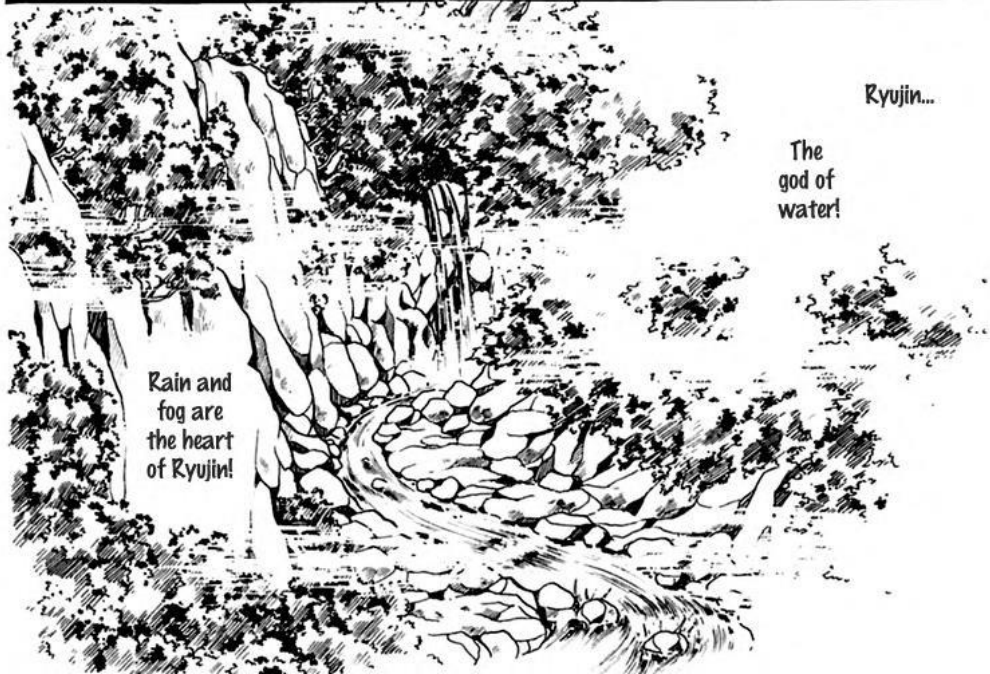


NOW I START
TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT TSUKIKAGE-
SENSEI SAID.

IN THIS STUDY WHAT
MATTERS IS NOT THE
RESULT AS MUCH AS THE
WAY YOU OBTAIN IT!



hmm...



Rain and
fog are
the heart
of Ryujin!

Ryujin...

The
god of
water!





When is he happy?

In what occasion does he get angry?

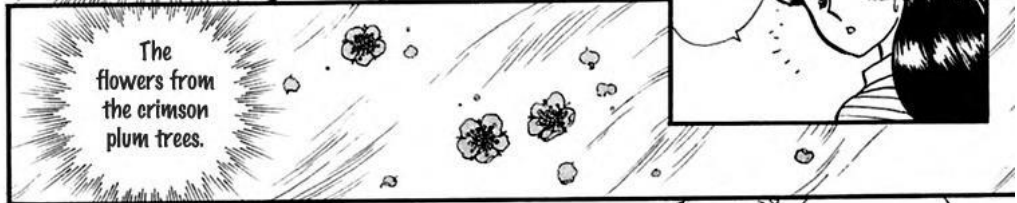
How does Ryujin feel?

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THIS!

How can I understand the heart of Ryujin?



AH...



The flowers from the crimson plum trees.



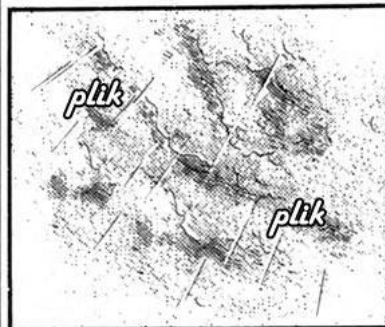
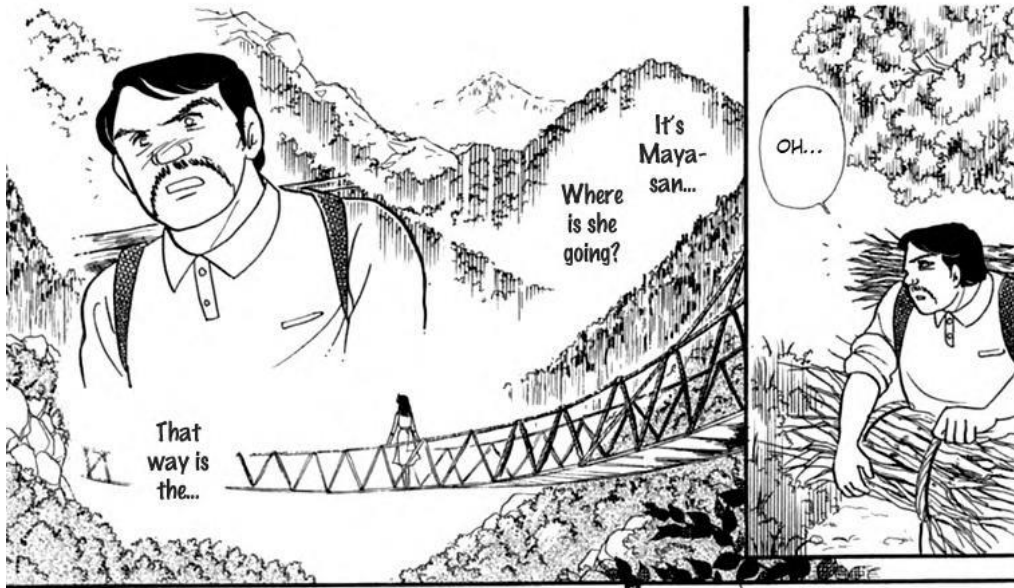
The valley of the plum trees...



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...



Chapter 198





THEN YOUR FATHER HASN'T...

THAT'S TRUE...

UNFORTUNATELY NOT.

COMING HERE I HOPED TO FIND SOME CLUES...



I'VE LOOKED FOR HIM IN EVERY CORNER OF THE RIVER...

FALLING FROM SUCH A HEIGHT, I FEAR THERE IS LITTLE HOPE TO FIND HIM ALIVE.

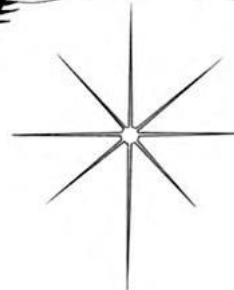
HE WAS IN THE CAR WHEN HE FELL DOWN INTO THE RIVER, SEVERAL KILOMETRES DOWN FROM THE SLOPE.

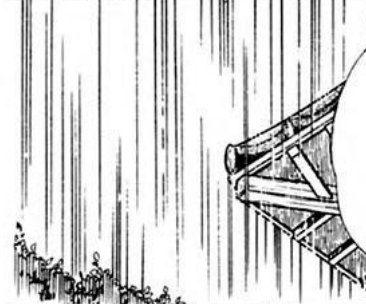
... AND NEAR THE VALLEY. I FOUND NOTHING, NOT EVEN A SHRED OF HIS CLOTHES.

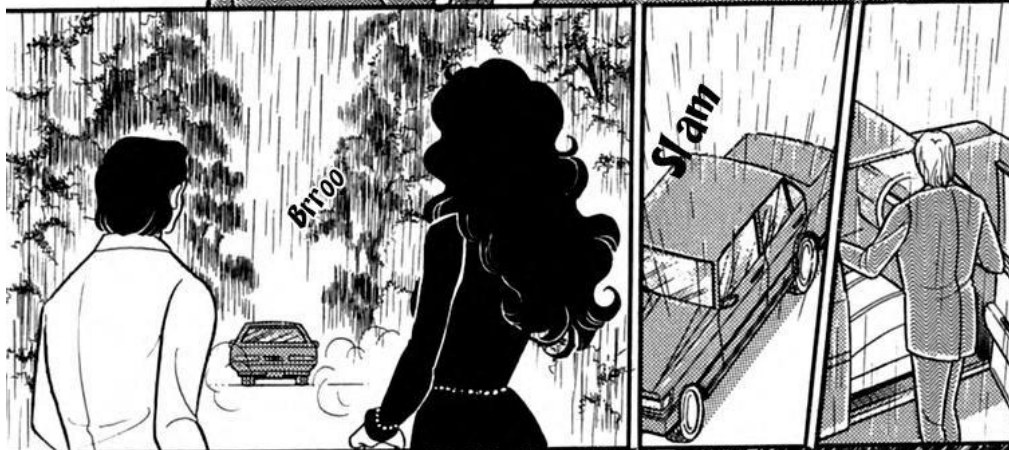
...BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY PIECES OF BONES EITHER.

WILD BEASTS COULD HAVE FEED ON HIS CORPSE...

ANYWAY, I WON'T GIVE UP TILL I FIND MY FATHER.













Ssshhh...



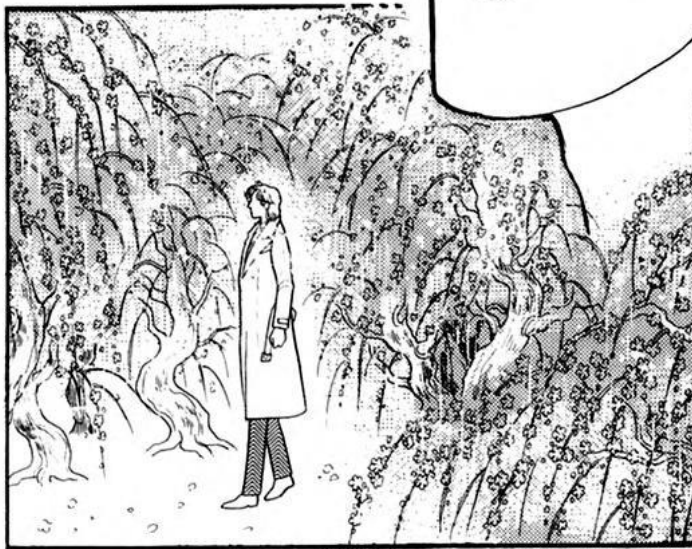
It's magnificent...

Even the rain is
painted red here...

So intense...

This is...

The Crimson
Goddess' valley
of the crimson
plum trees?



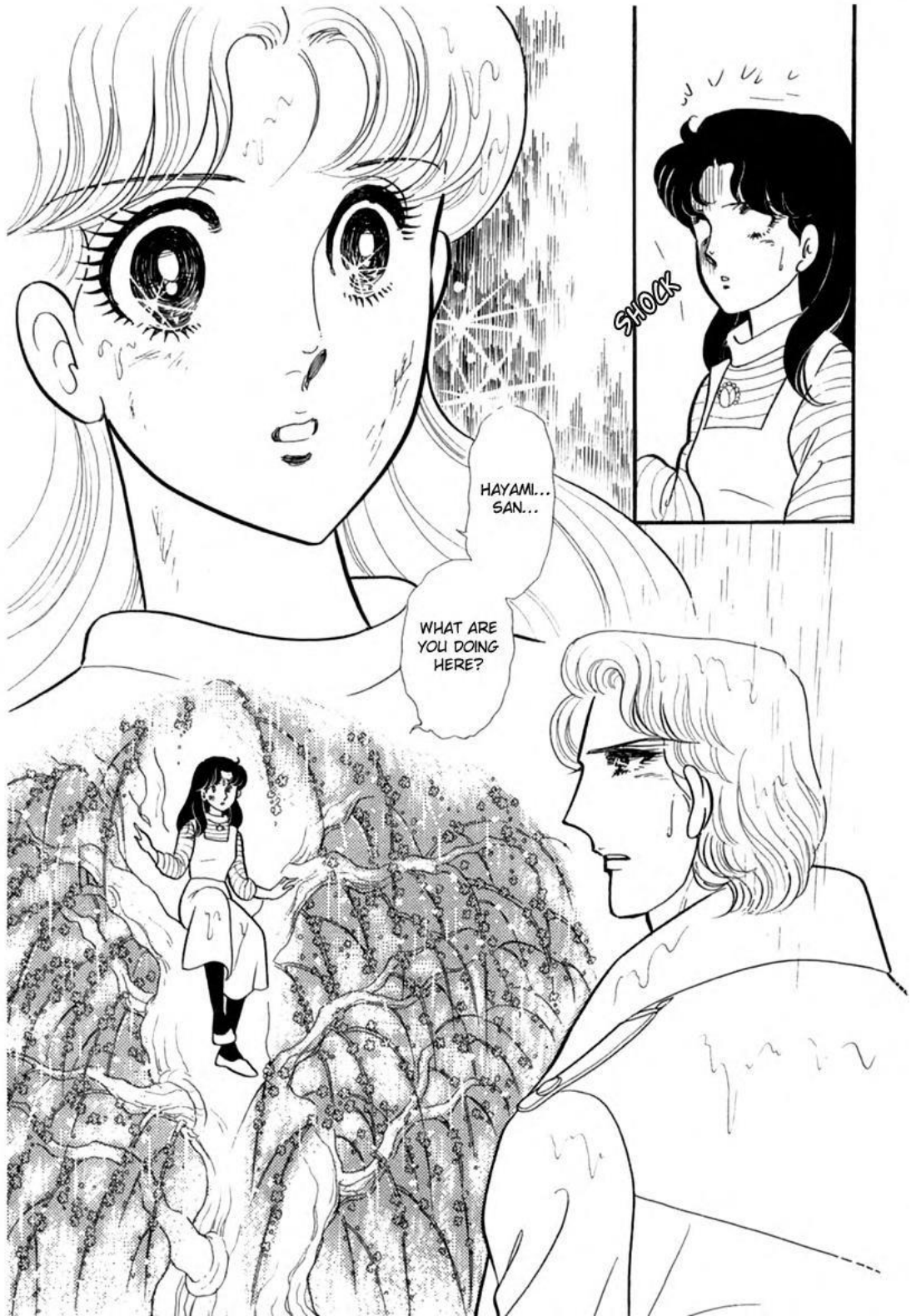
It seems
even time has
stopped here...

It's as if I'm
in another world,
where everything
is crimson...

I never
dreamed
such a place
could exist...







HAYAMI...
SAN...

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

SHOCK





WHY ARE YOU HERE?

HAYAMI-SAN...

I WAS RIGHT TO COME...

I WAS TOLD YOU WERE HERE, AND SO I THOUGHT...

YOU REALLY ARE A THOUGHTLESS GIRL!

YOUR FACE AND YOUR BODY ARE SO COLD...

LOOK AT HOW COLD YOUR HAND IS!

IF YOU GO ON LIKE THIS YOU'LL BE SICK, YOU SILLY GIRL!



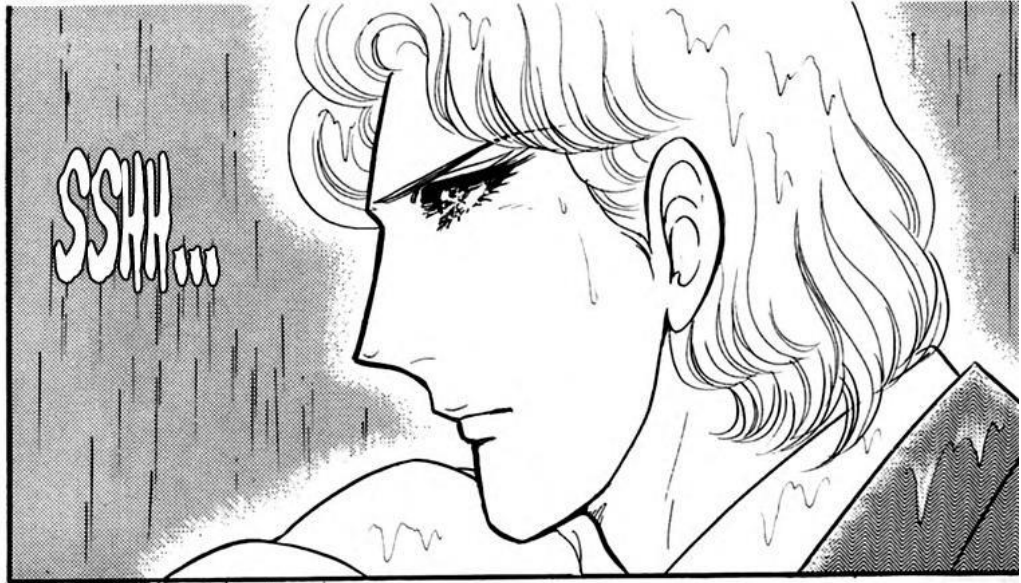


BRANCO



SSSHHHH





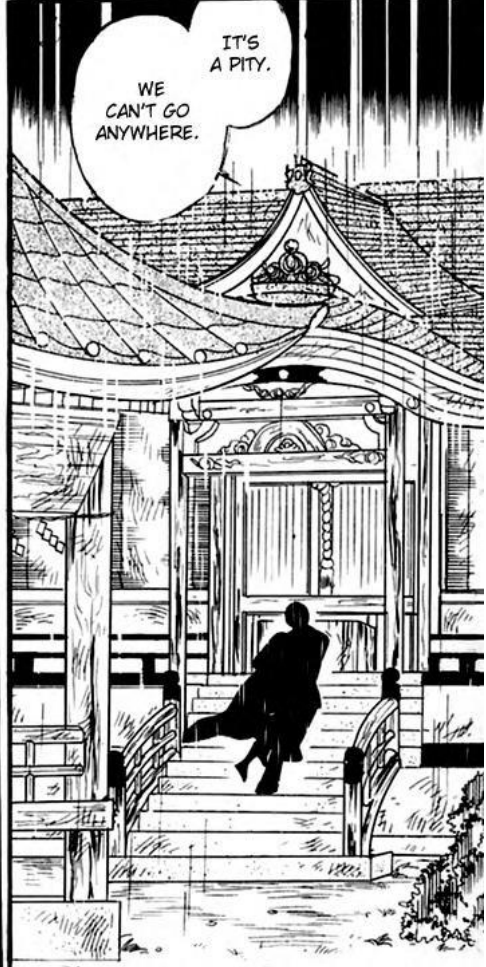
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
ARE YOU COLD?

NO...

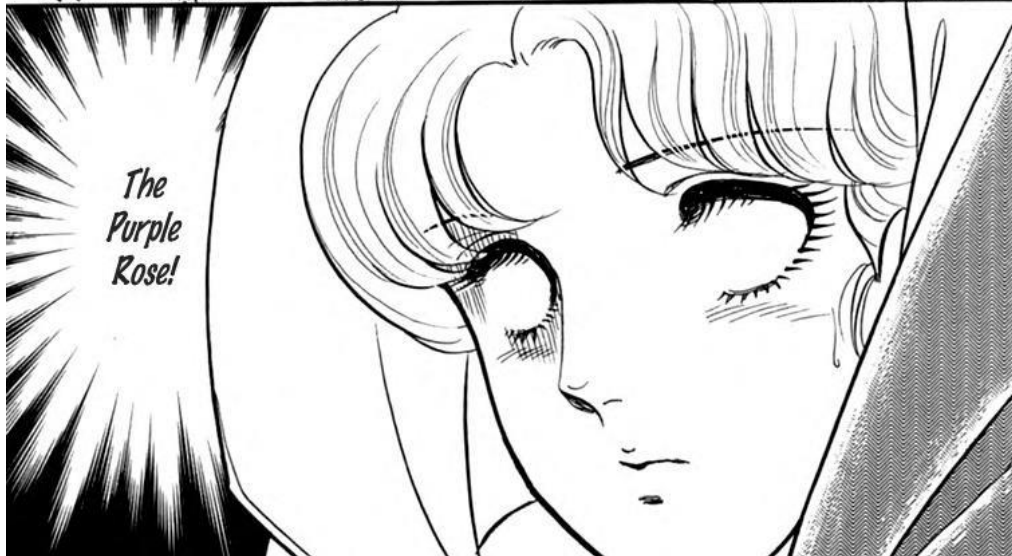
HAYAMI-SAN...

IT'S A PRETTY OLD TEMPLE.

IT SEEMS IT WAS ABANDONED A LONG TIME AGO.



IT'S A PITY.
WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE.



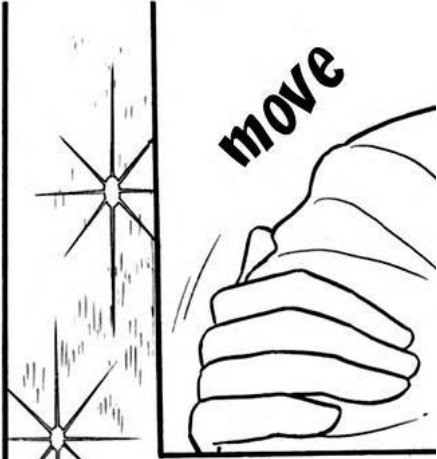


WE'RE GOING TO FREEZE LIKE THIS.

THAT SEEMS TO BE THE TEMPLE'S QUARTERS.



LET'S TRY TO GO IN.

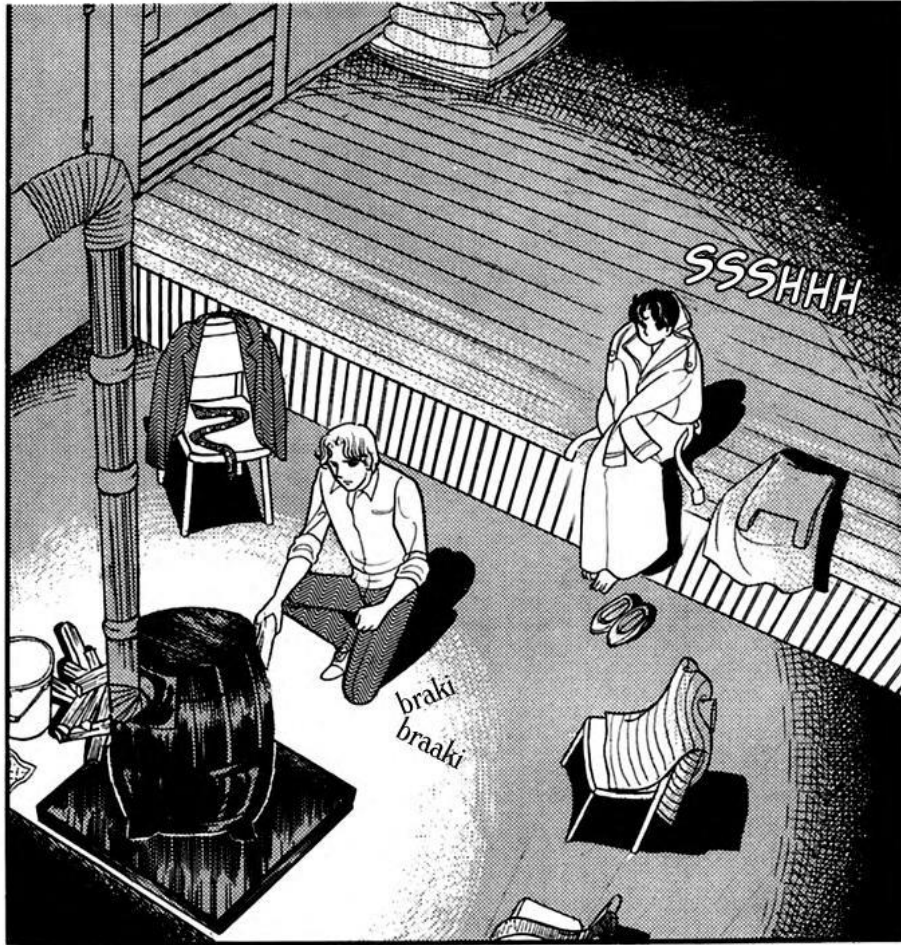


move



He's warm!





No one has
been so kind
towards me...



The Purple
Rose!

ARE
YOU
COLD?

NO.

SURE?

Though I
hated you
so much...



All this was
your way
of showing
kindness
towards me!

Your words,
your behaviour,
you did all for
my sake!

Why...

Why did I
never realize
it before?!







KRAKOOM

SSSHH...