



### THE MAGICAL TOOL THEORY (1999)

IN 1999, I DECIDED TO APPLY TO A MULTIMEDIA SCHOOL BECAUSE I WANTED TO LEARN ALL KINDS OF NEW THINGS (AND OFFICIALLY BECOME AN INTERACTIVE MEDIA DESIGNER). AND HEY, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN, RIGHT? EVEN NOW, I FEEL LIKE I'M PICKING UP NEW ARTISTIC SKILLS EVERY DAY.

TO GET INTO THE SCHOOL, WE HAD TO SUBMIT THREE WORKS BASED ON THE THEME "OUTIL" (WHICH TRANSLATES TO "TOOL" OR "INSTRUMENT"). THE REQUIREMENTS? ONE WRITTEN OR ARTISTIC DOCUMENT, SOMETHING VISUAL, AND SOMETHING AUDIO. SO, I WENT ALL IN: I WROTE AN ESSAY, RECORDED A ONE-MINUTE AUDIO TRACK (WHICH YOU CAN FIND ON MY COMPILATION TITLED **REWIND: ROUGH CUTS AND LOST SOUNDS**), AND, OF COURSE, DREW A 13-PAGE COMIC.

AS FOR THE COMIC ITSELF, WELL, LET'S JUST SAY IT HAD ALL THE CLASSIC (BASIC?) HALLMARKS OF MY STORYTELLING: A MARTIAL ARTS MASTER TRAINING HIS SON, A GRAND MOMENT OF INHERITANCE, AND A TWIST OF WISDOM. THE "MAGICAL TOOL" ISN'T REALLY A MAGICAL OBJECT—IT'S A METAPHOR. THE FATHER IS TEACHING HIS SON THAT SELF-BELIEF, IMAGINATION, AND MENTAL RESILIENCE CAN TURN ANXIETY INTO POWER. WHETHER IT'S CHOPPING WOOD, TAKING AN ORAL EXAM, OR FACING A TOUGH OPPONENT, THE LESSON IS:

DON'T FREEZE IN FEAR—SHIFT YOUR PERSPECTIVE, AND YOU'LL UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL.

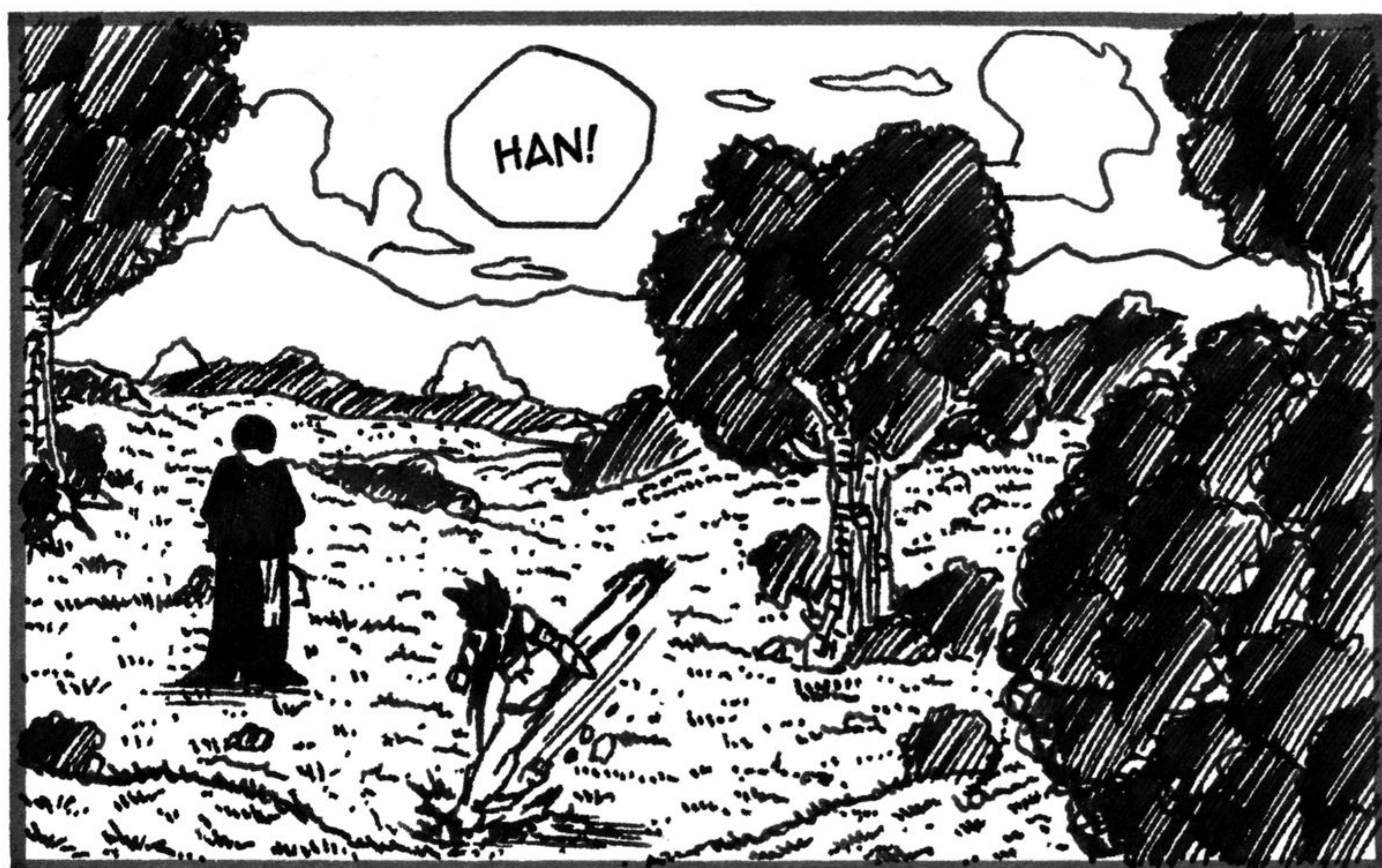
I SUPPOSE MY THREE SUBMISSIONS DID THE TRICK, BECAUSE... I GOT IN! I SPENT FOUR YEARS AT THAT SCHOOL AND EARNED MY DIPLOMA IN 2003. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



1999, 2025 Alexandre Renevey  
<https://www.mixture.ch>

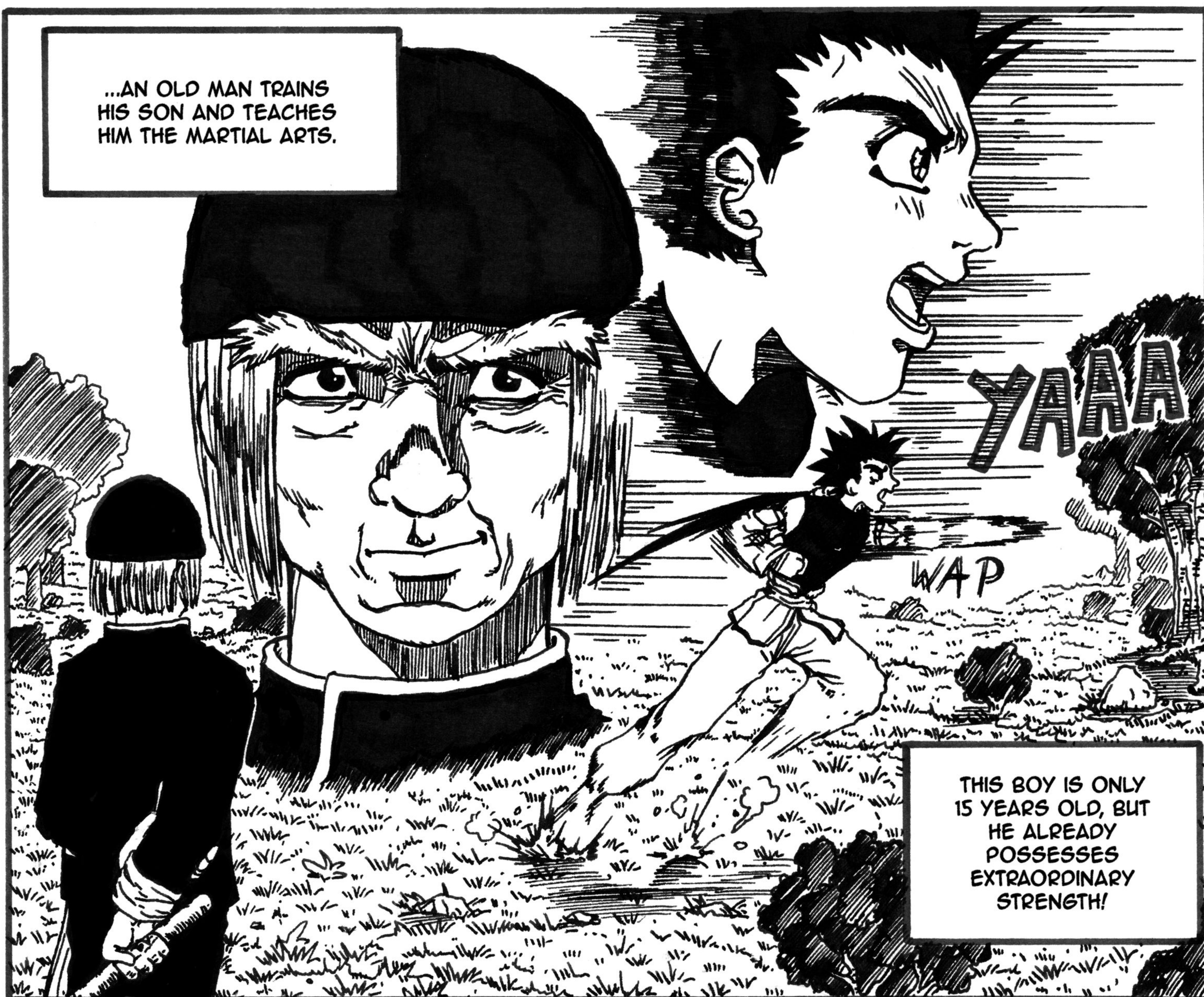


IN A VAST PRAIRIE,  
LOST IN THE MIDDLE  
OF NOWHERE...



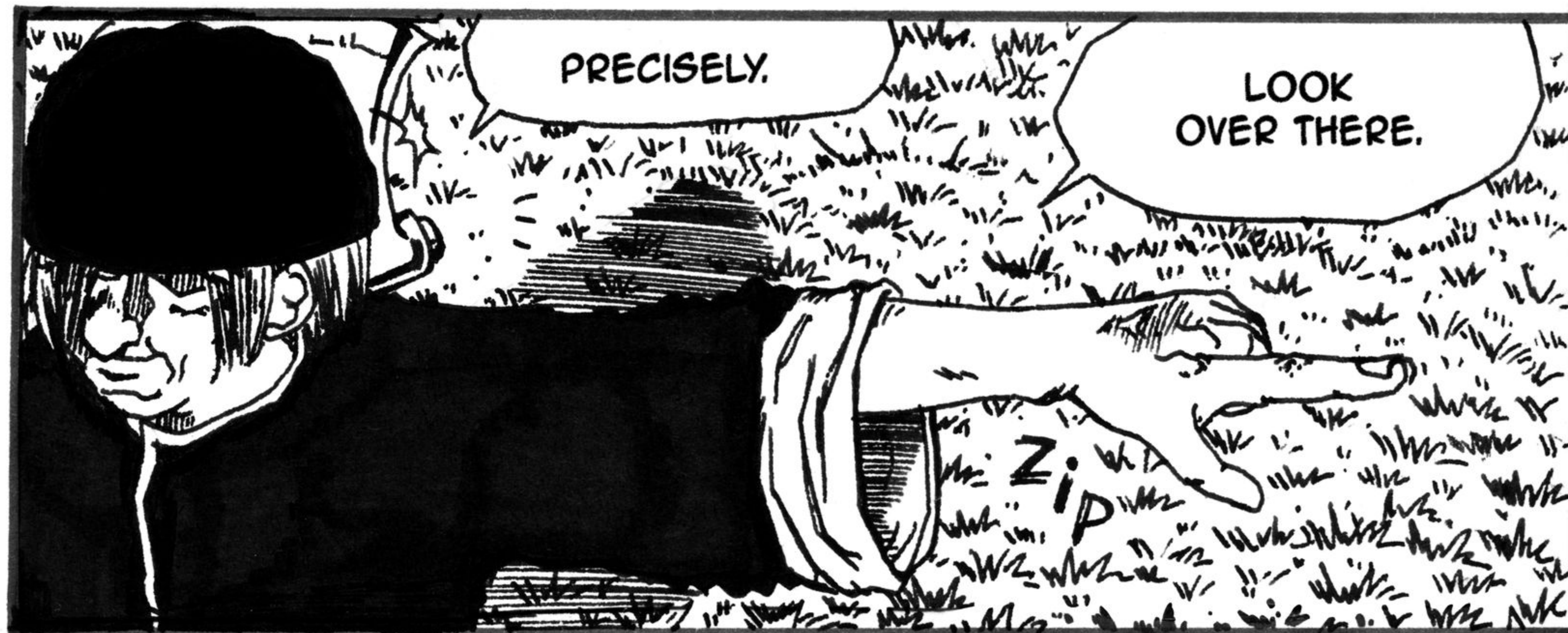
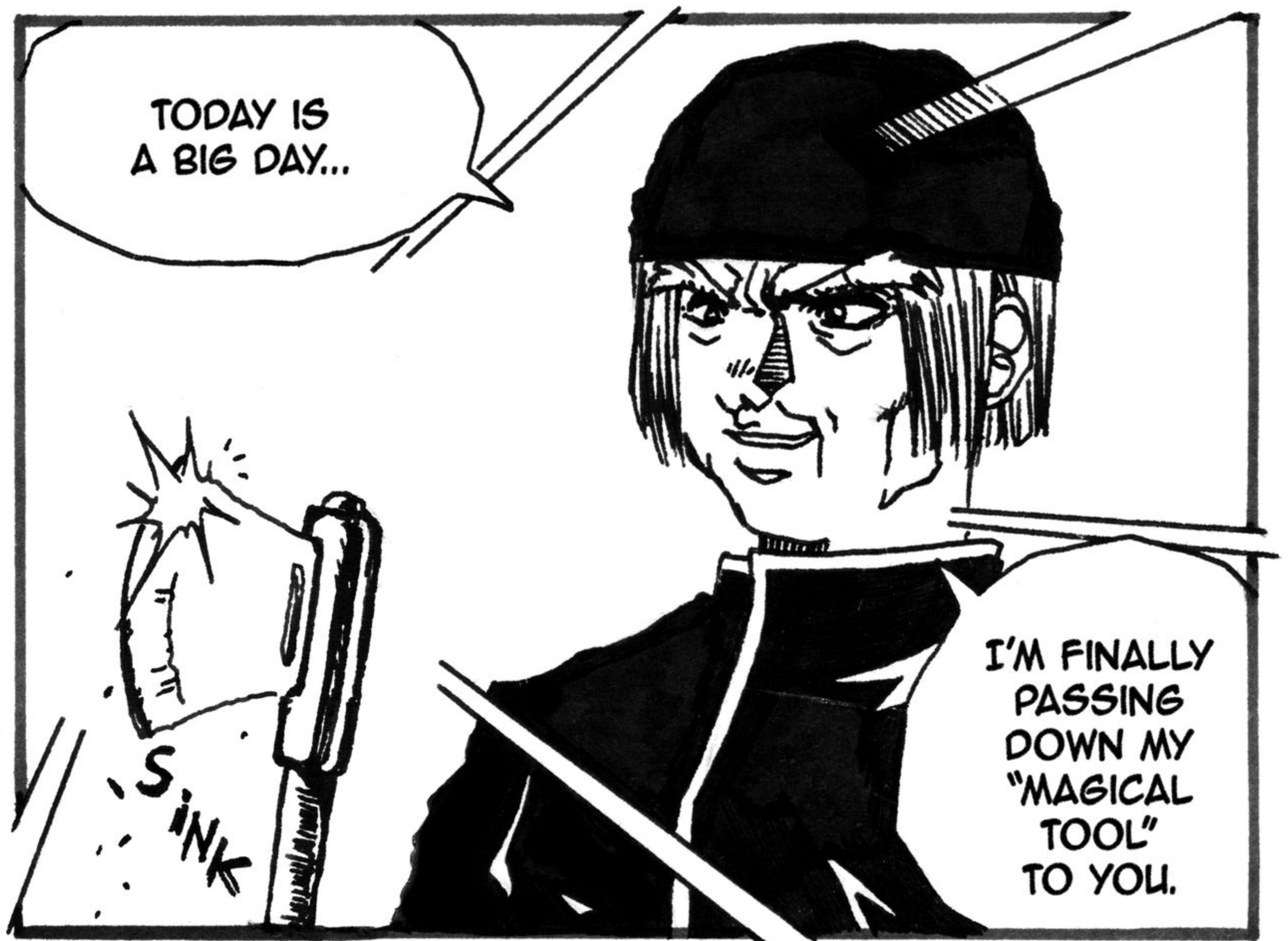
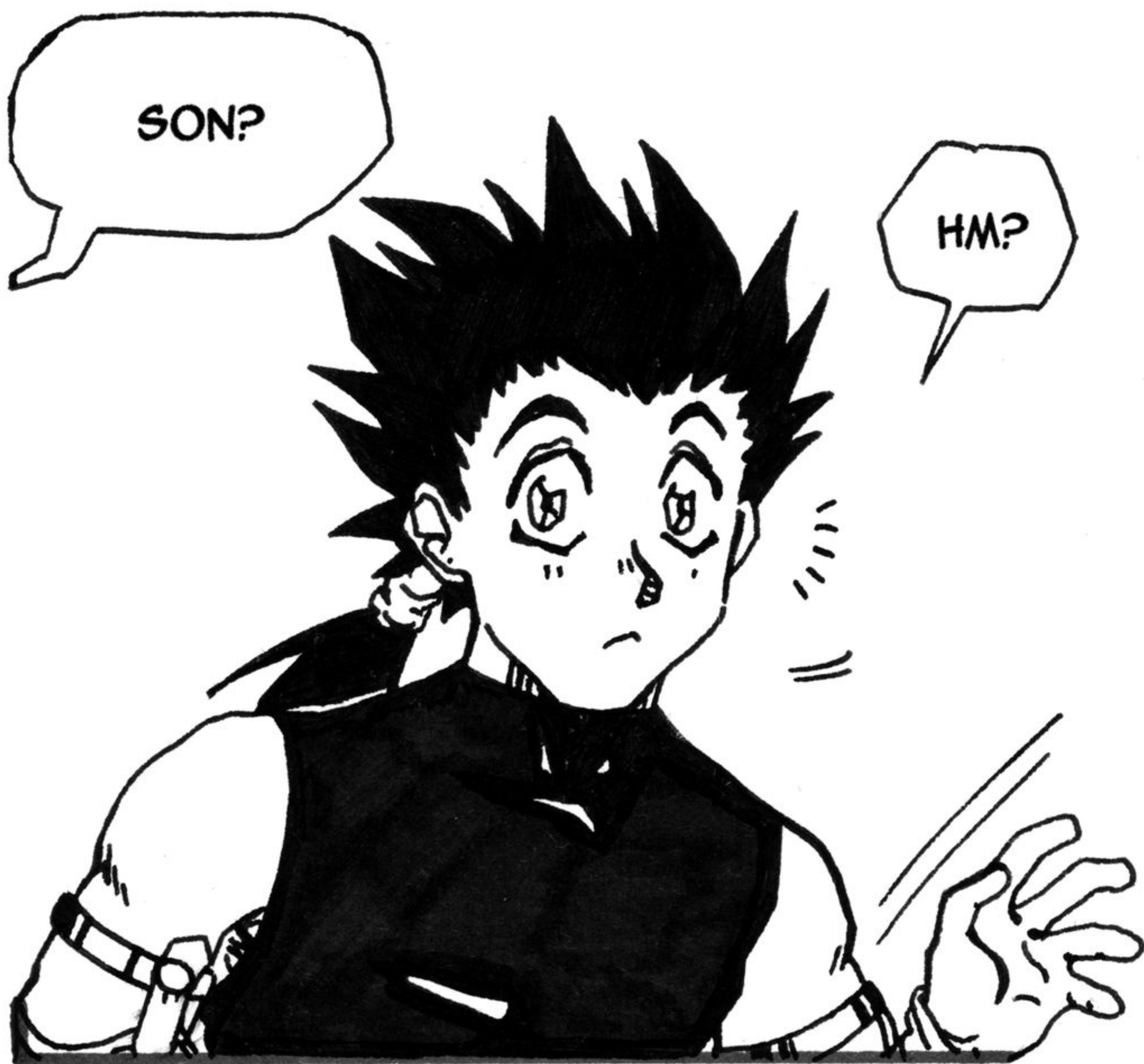
## THE "MAGICAL TOOL" THEORY

...AN OLD MAN TRAINS  
HIS SON AND TEACHES  
HIM THE MARTIAL ARTS.



THIS BOY IS ONLY  
15 YEARS OLD, BUT  
HE ALREADY  
POSSESSES  
EXTRAORDINARY  
STRENGTH!

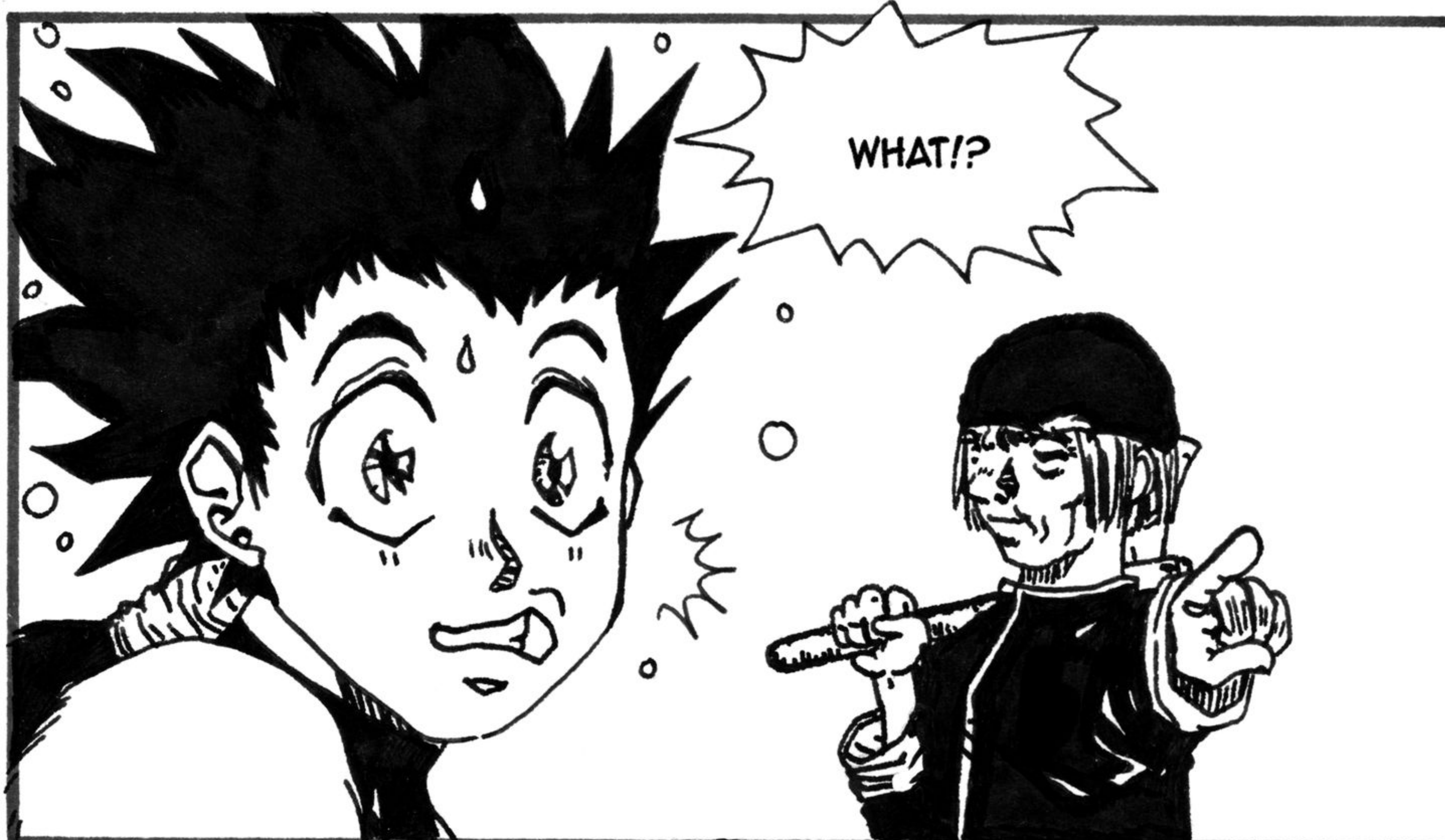








I'D LIKE  
YOU TO  
CHOP ALL  
THAT IN  
UNDER  
AN HOUR!



WHAT!?



BUT,  
POPS...



WHAT DID  
YOU SAY?

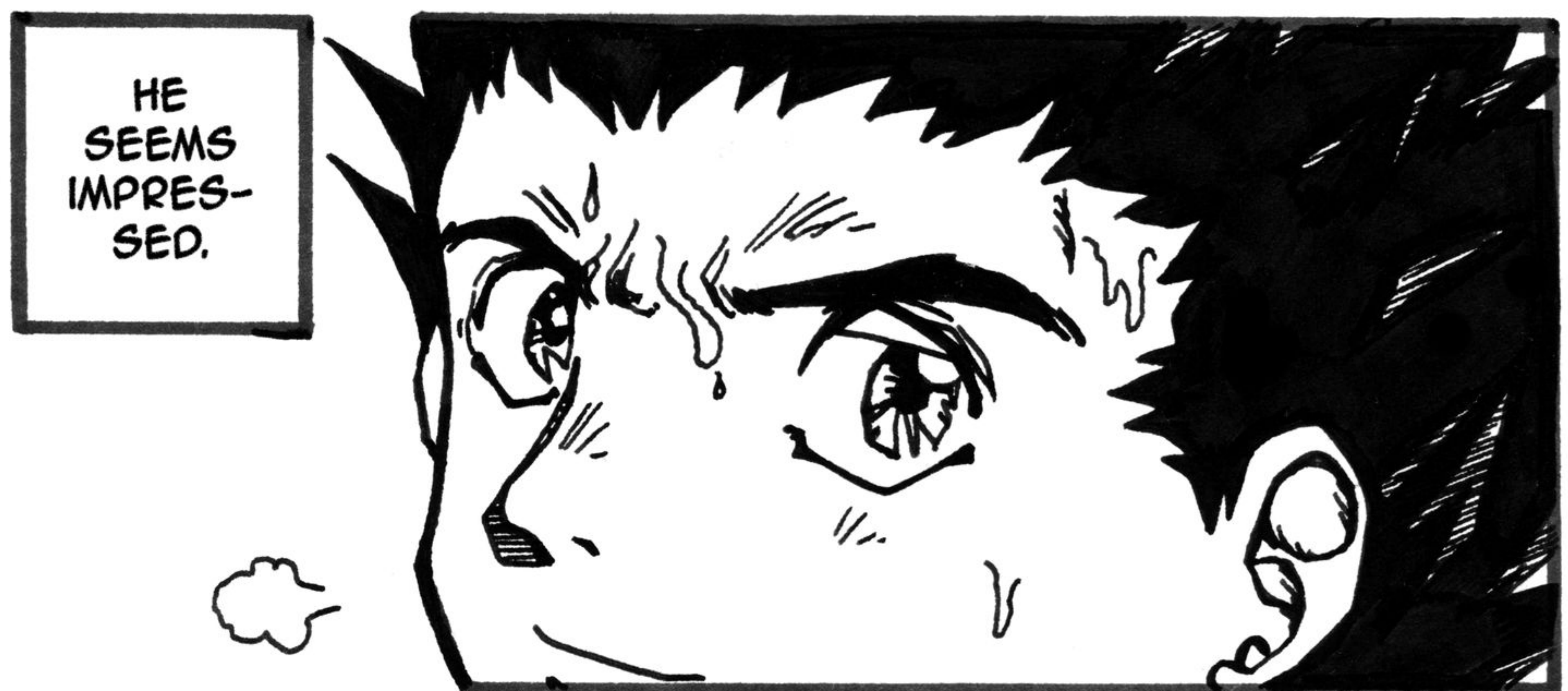


...JUST GIVE  
ME 5 MINUTES  
ANYWAY!



I DON'T  
NEED YOUR  
AXE.







MMMMH...  
SO YOU'VE  
COME  
THIS FAR.



ZAP



YOU'RE READY  
TO LEARN  
"THE SECRET"  
THEN.

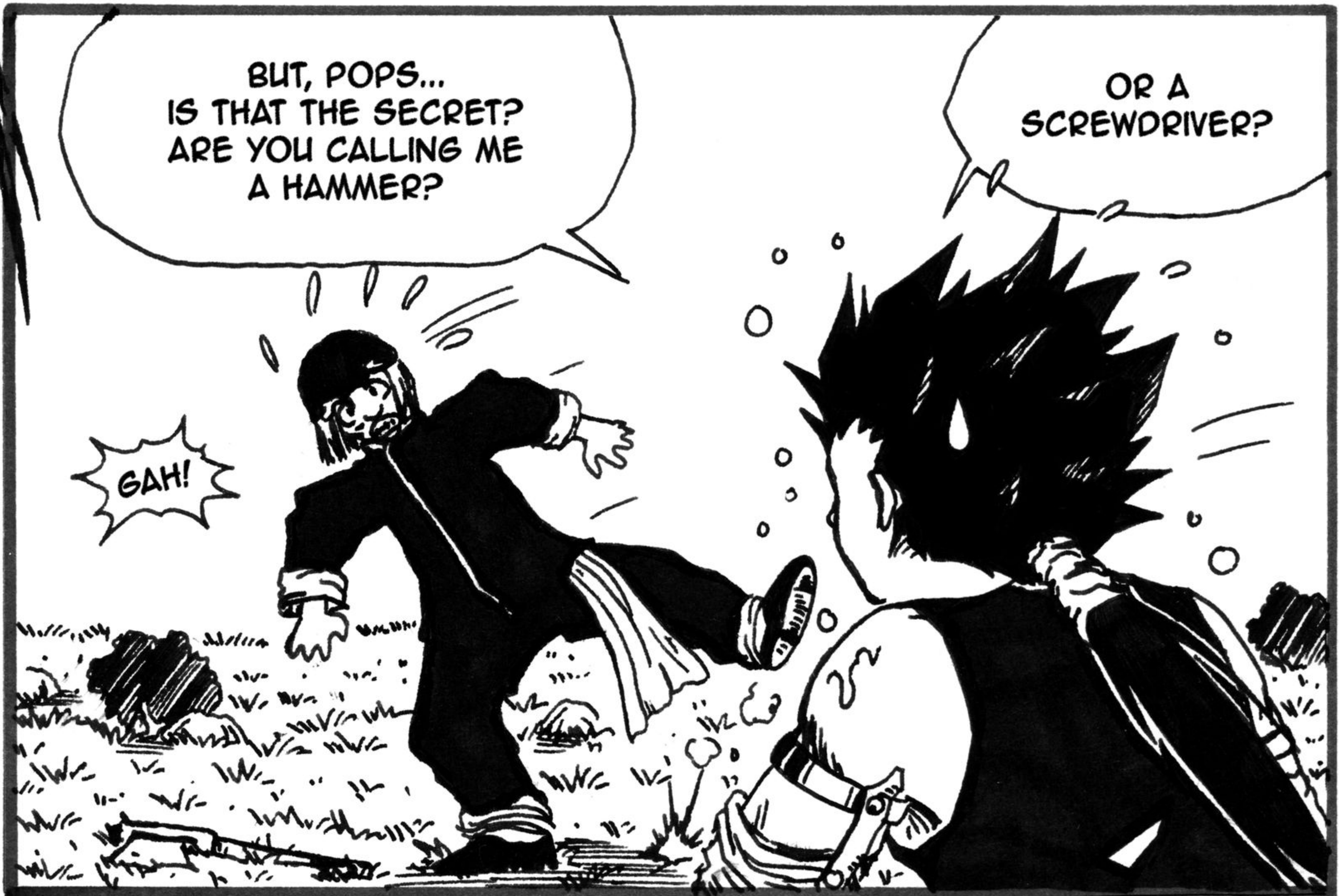
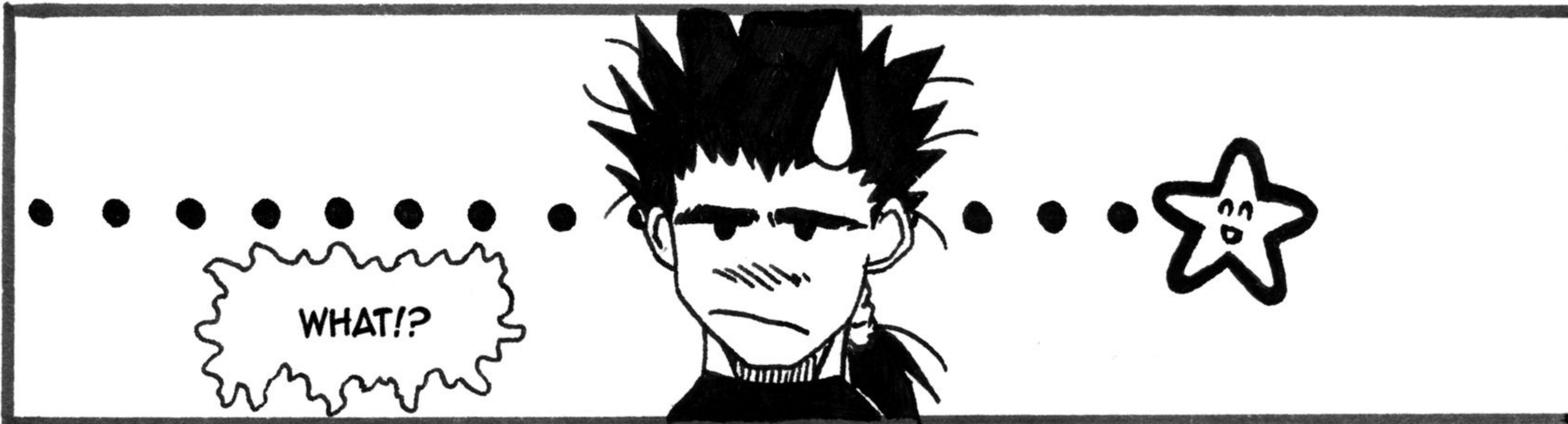


...

THE  
"MAGICAL  
TOOL"  
...



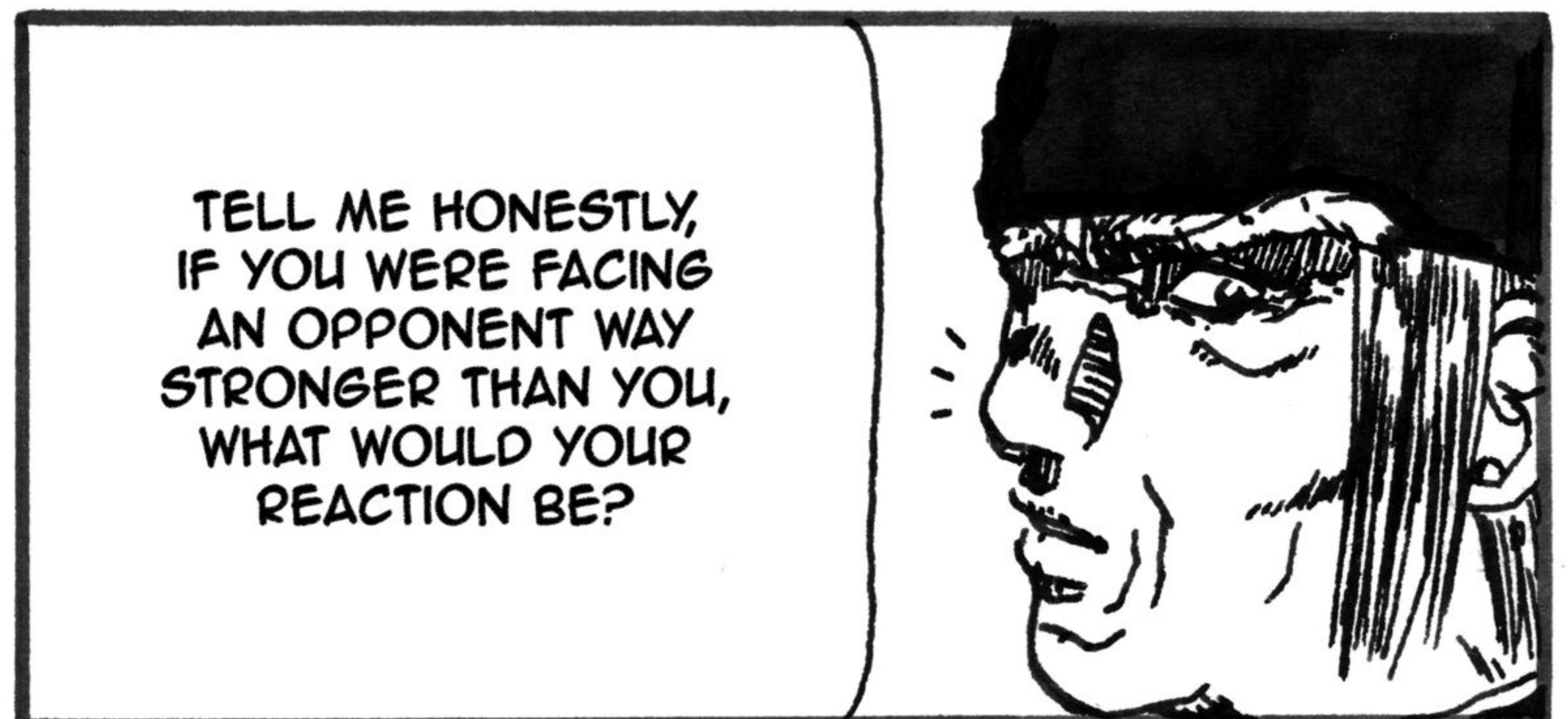
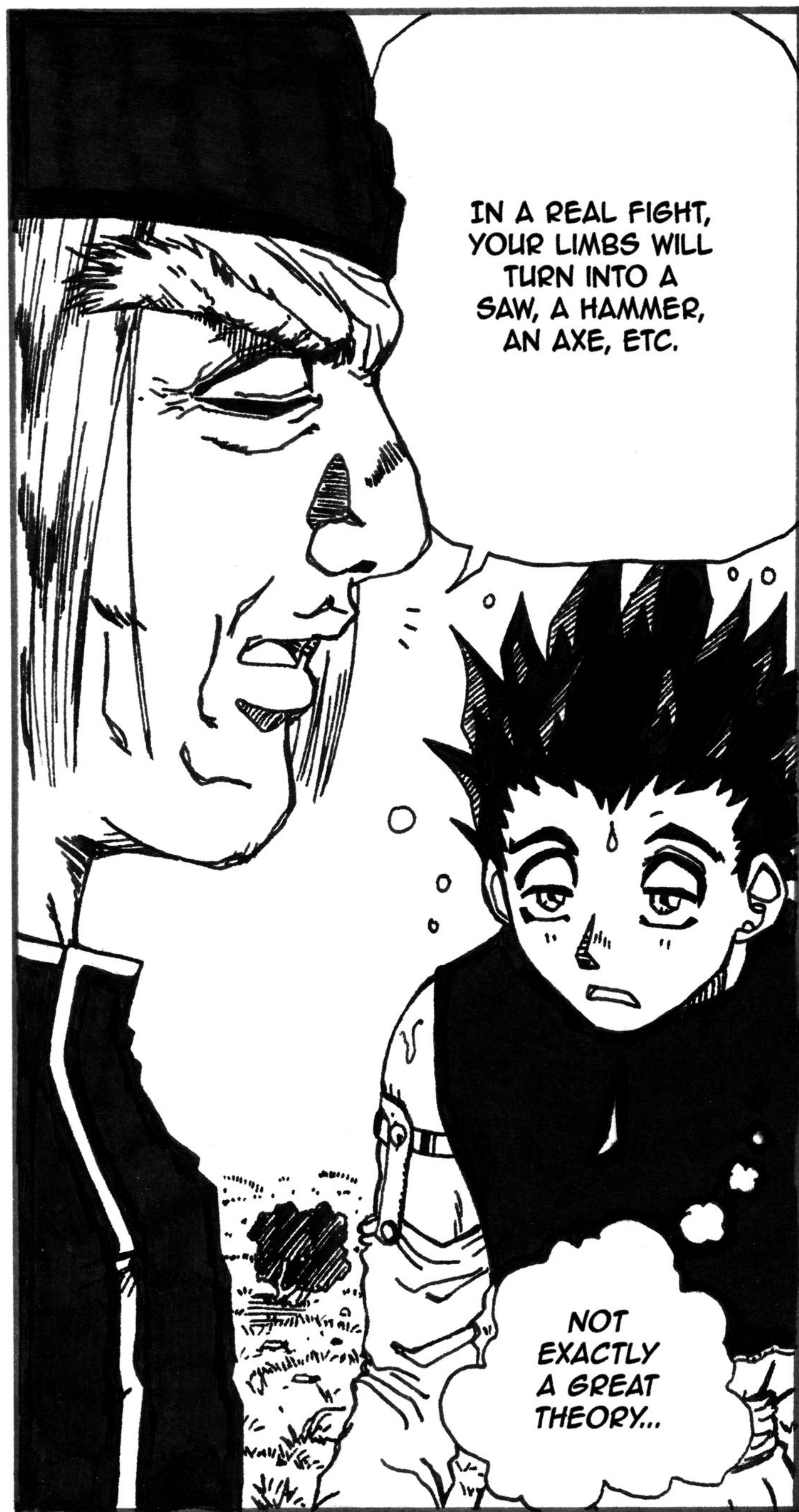
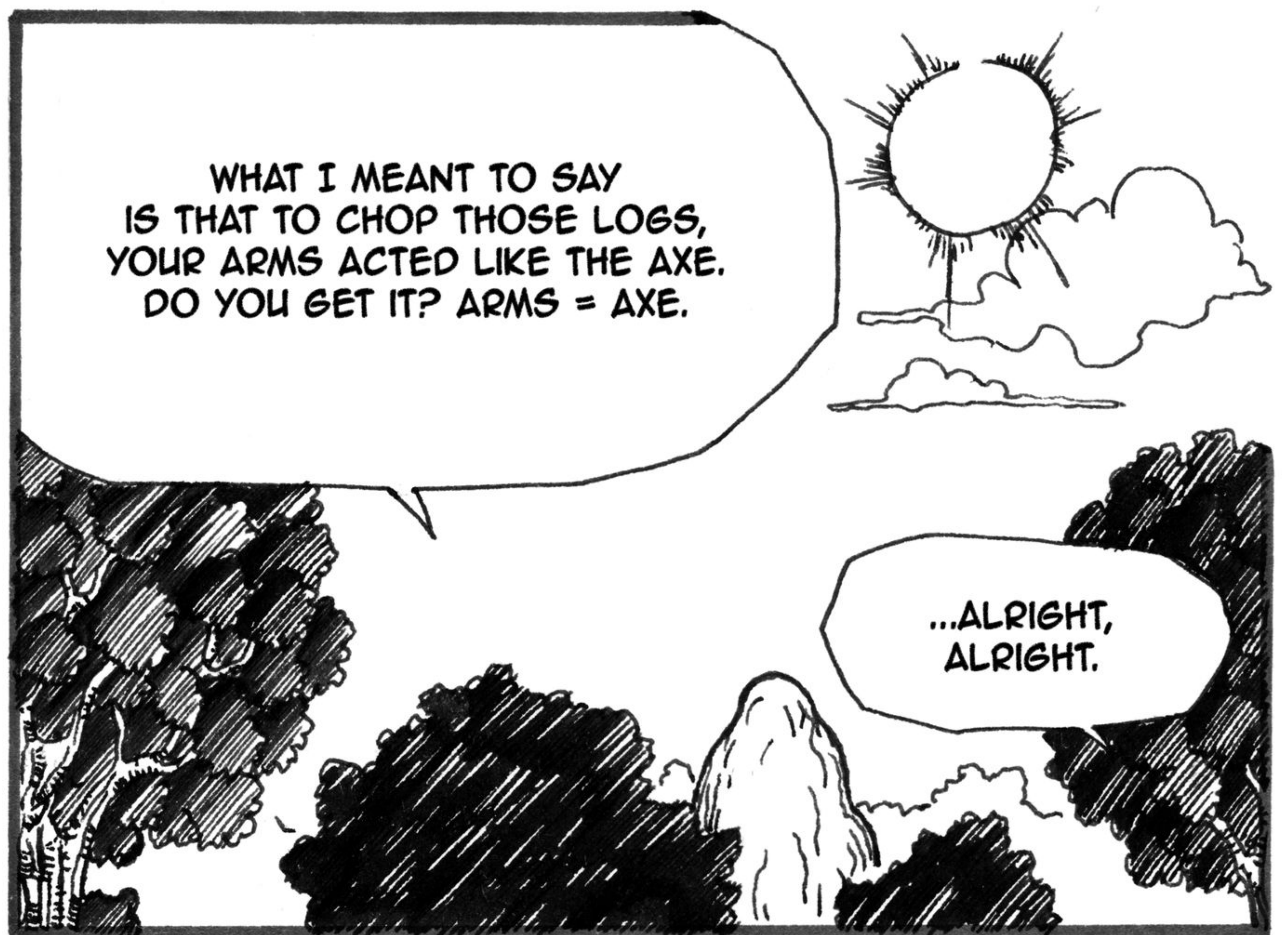
...  
IS  
YOU.



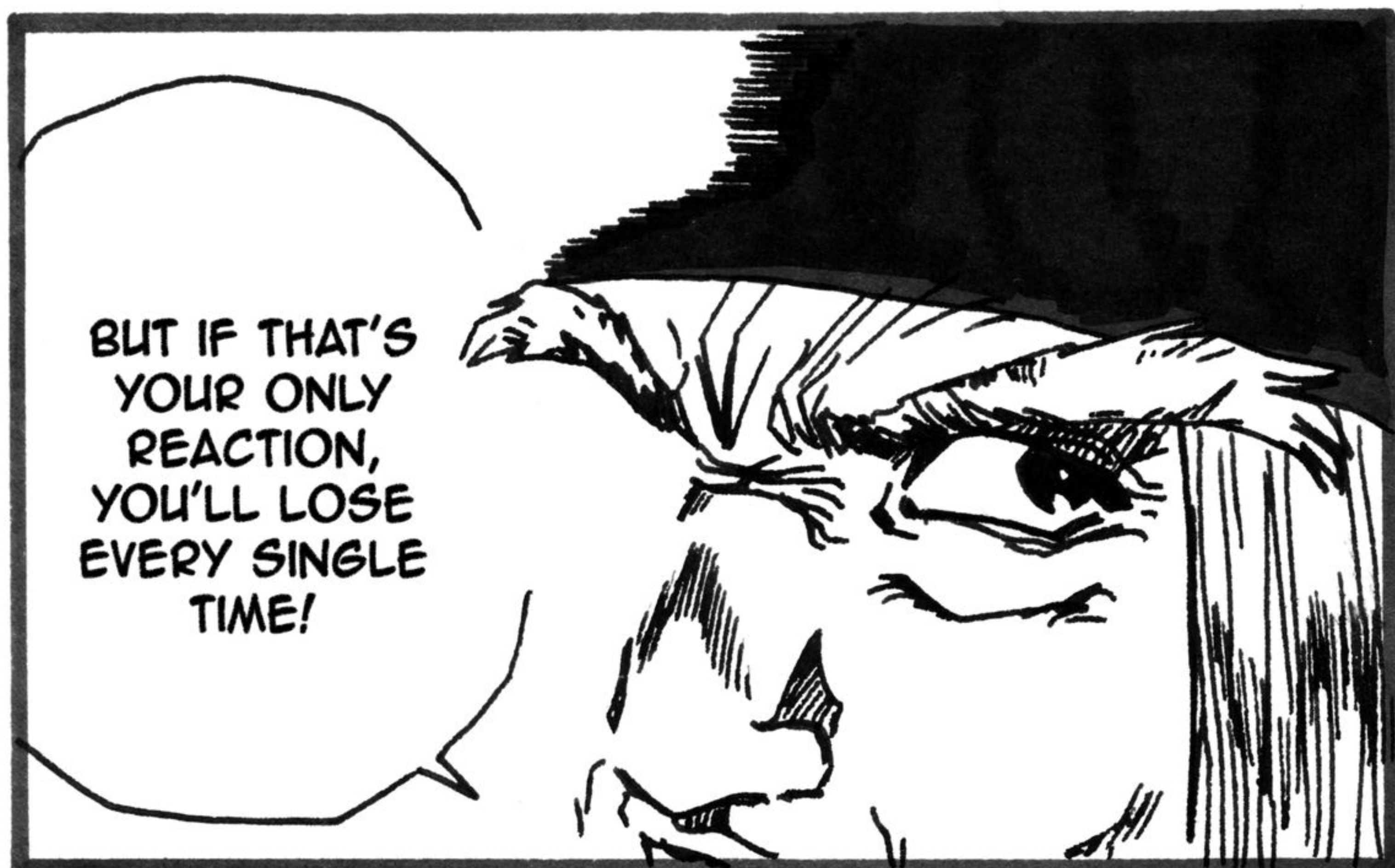
BUT, POPS...  
IS THAT THE SECRET?  
ARE YOU CALLING ME  
A HAMMER?

OR A  
SCREWDRIVER?













Y-YOU...

YOU'RE  
EXAGGERATING!!

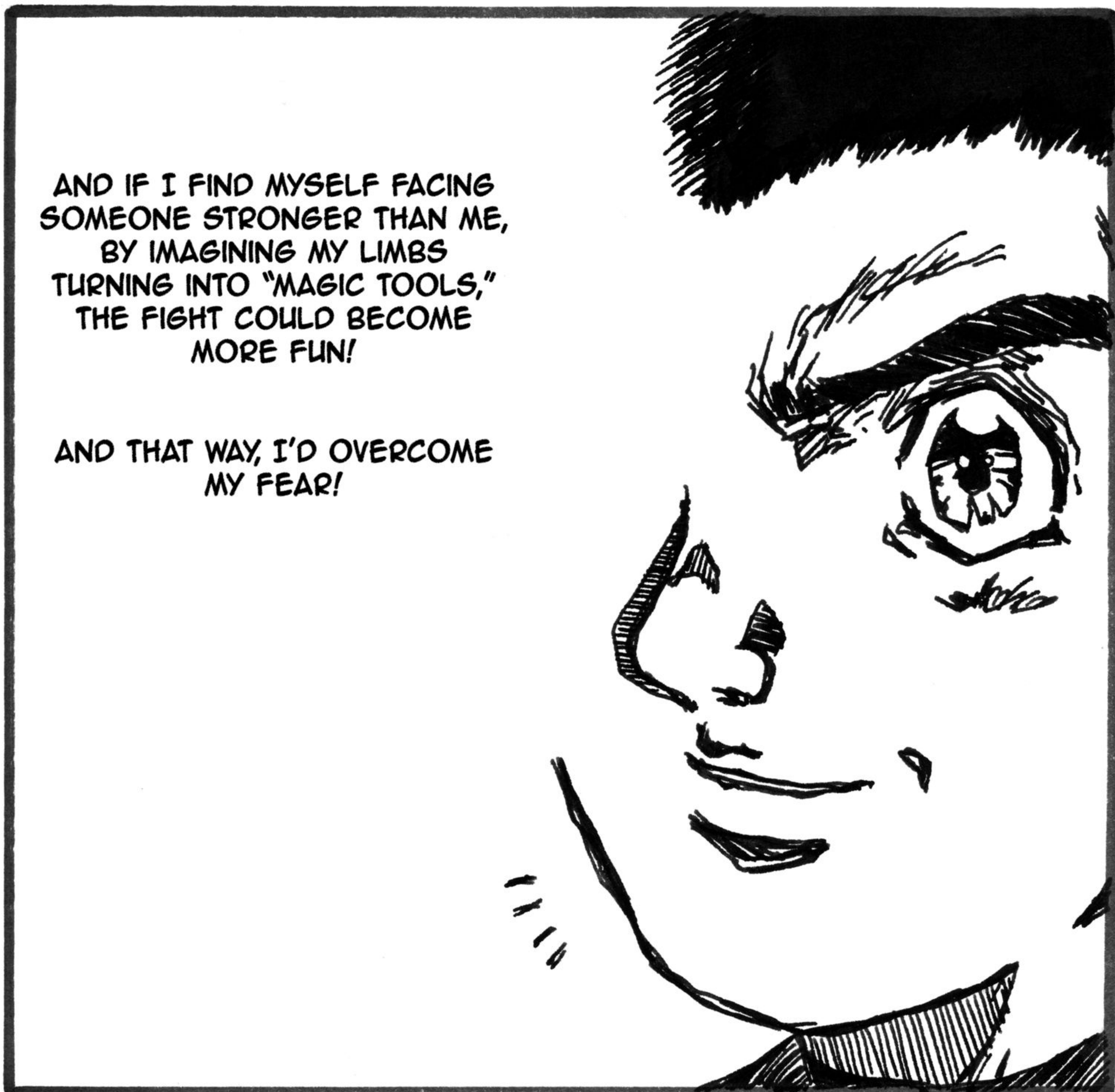


AND YOU  
REALLY  
DON'T  
GET IT...

BY PICTURING YOUR TEACHER  
NAKED, HE WON'T INTIMIDATE  
YOU ANYMORE!



MMM...  
HE'S NOT WRONG...  
TO CALM MYSELF  
DOWN AND BE MORE  
EFFECTIVE, IT'S  
ACTUALLY A GREAT  
TECHNIQUE...



AND IF I FIND MYSELF FACING  
SOMEONE STRONGER THAN ME,  
BY IMAGINING MY LIMBS  
TURNING INTO "MAGIC TOOLS,"  
THE FIGHT COULD BECOME  
MORE FUN!

AND THAT WAY, I'D OVERCOME  
MY FEAR!

THAT WAY, YOU'LL STAY  
FOCUSED-MAYBE EVEN  
FEEL MORE RELAXED  
DURING THE EXAM.

THAT'S THE CORE OF THE  
"MAGICAL TOOL" THEORY...



POPS...

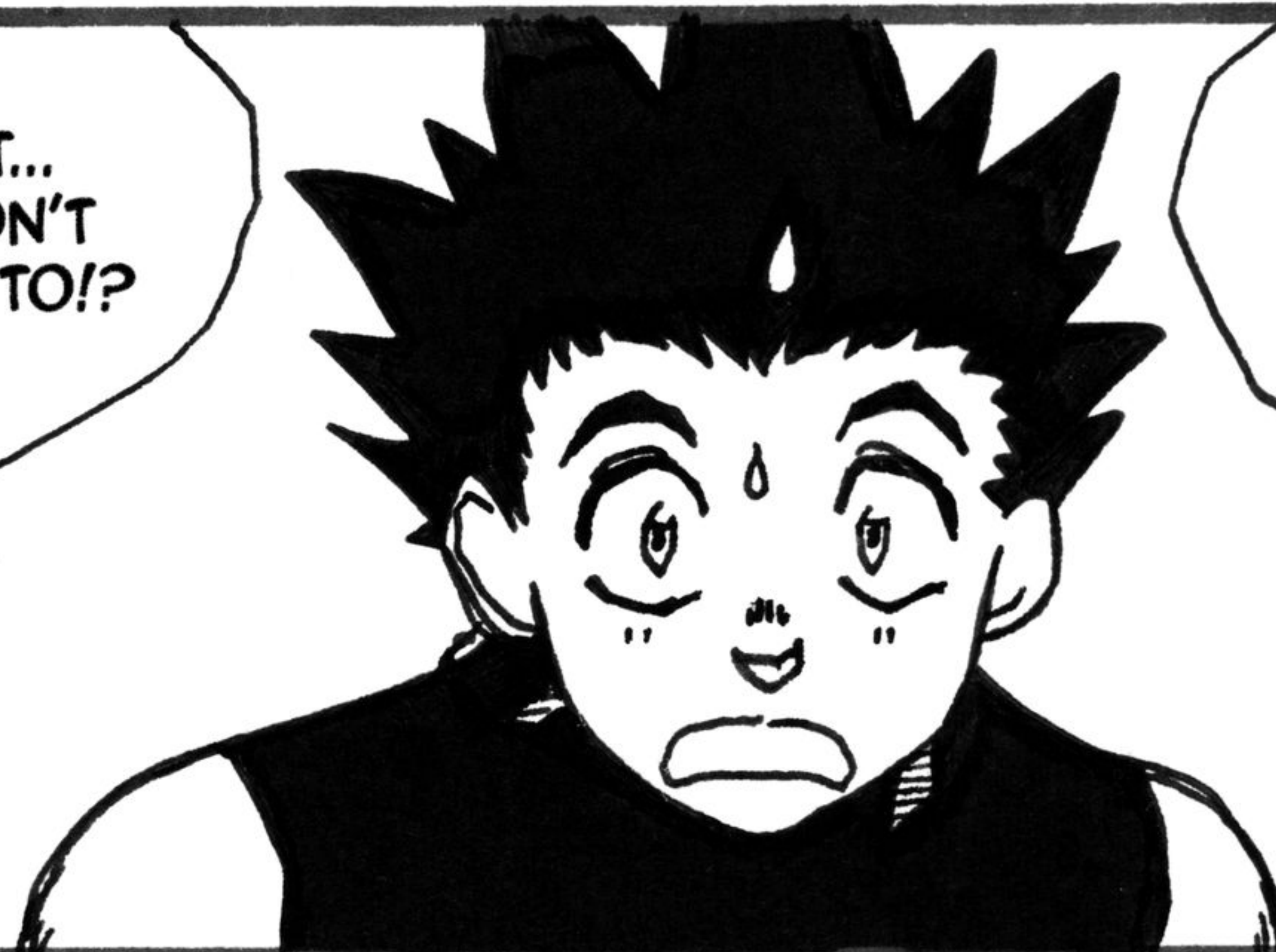


I THINK  
I GET IT NOW!

OH YEAH?  
WELL THEN...

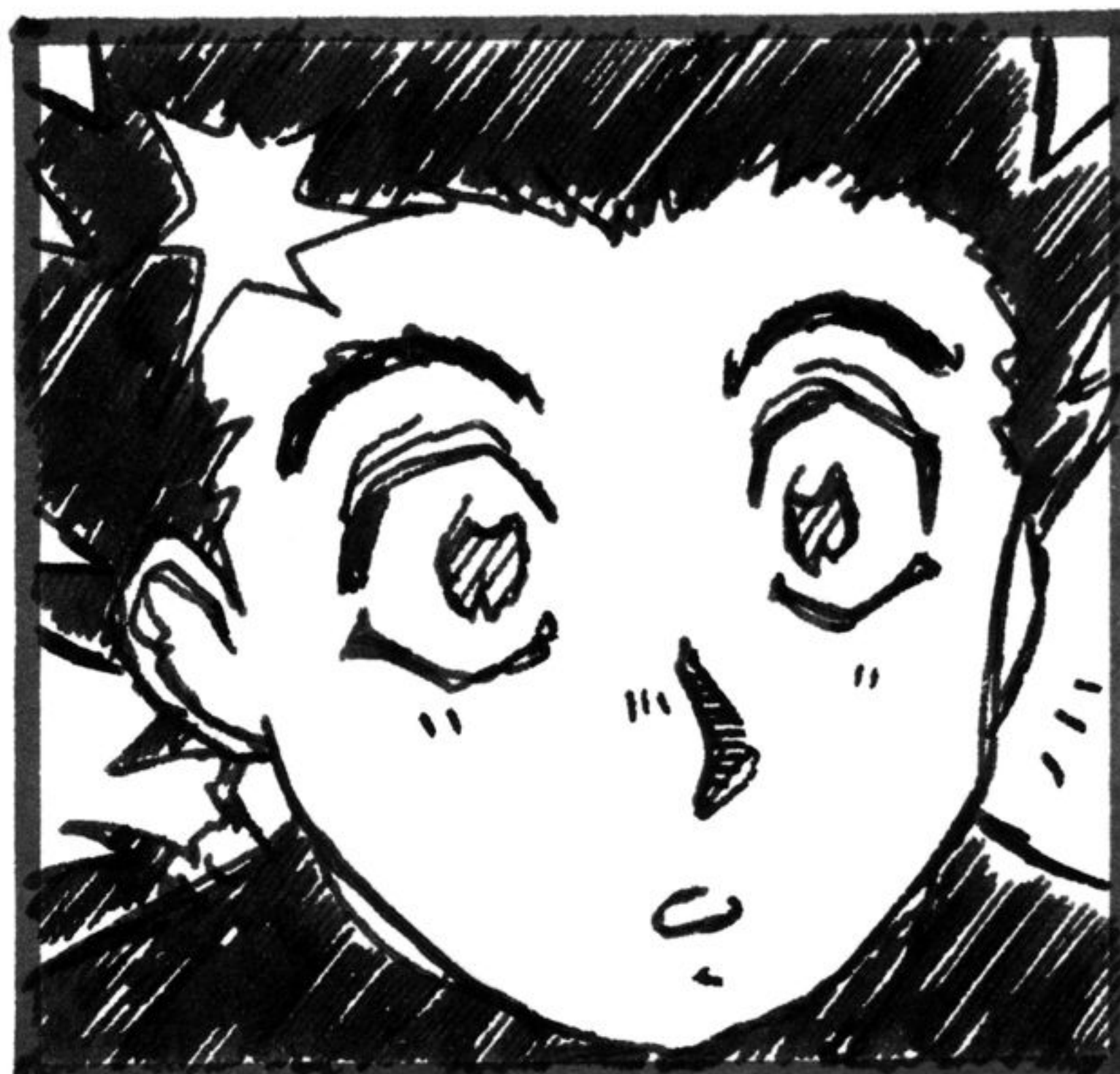
BUT...  
I DON'T  
WANT TO!?

BESIDES,  
YOU'RE WAY TOO  
STRONG FOR M-

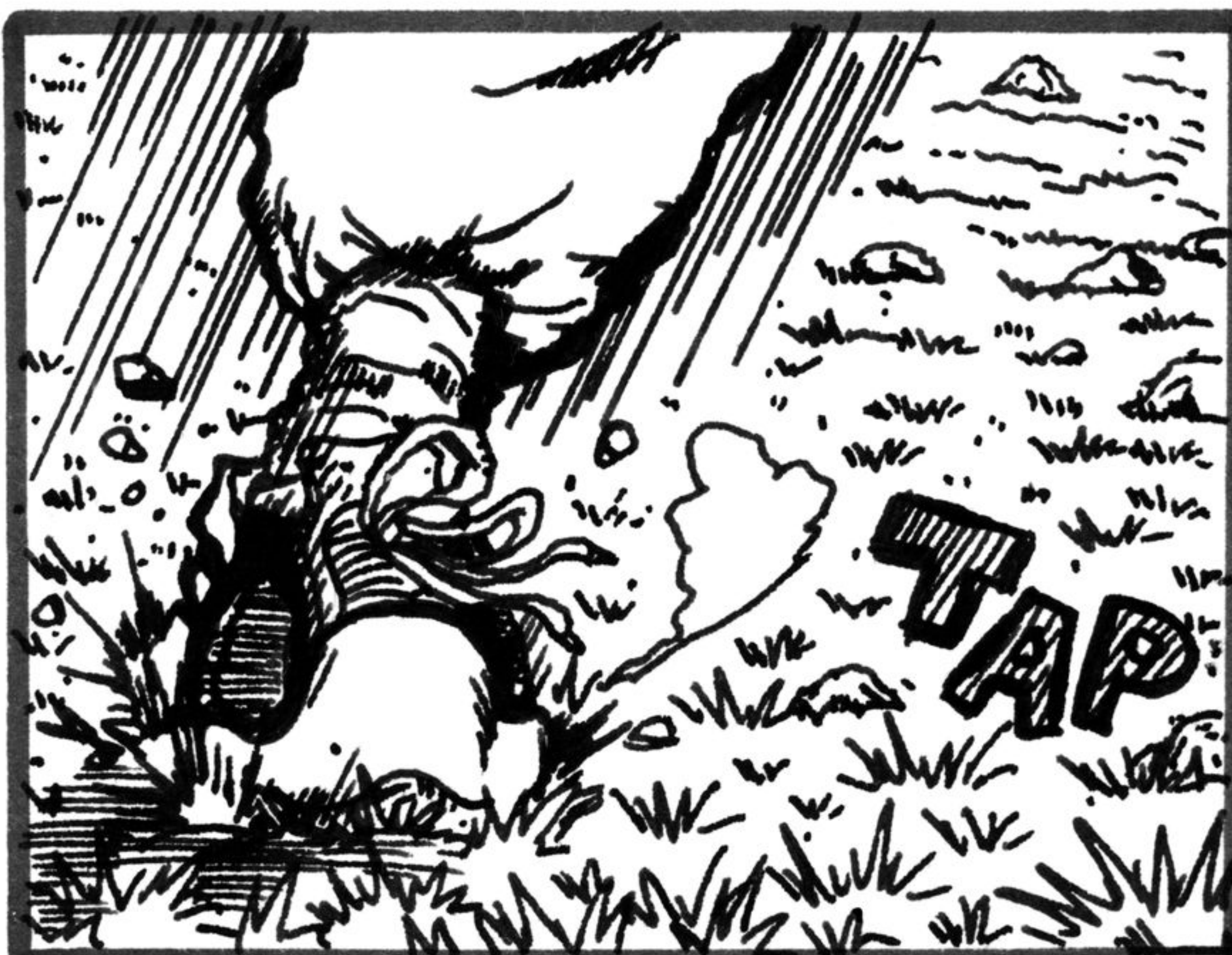


ATTACK  
ME!

"MAGICAL TOOL."  
"MAGICAL TOOL."  
"MAGICAL TOOL."  
"MAGICAL TOOL."  
"MAGICAL TOOL."  
"MAGICAL TOOL."  
"MAGICAL TOOL."



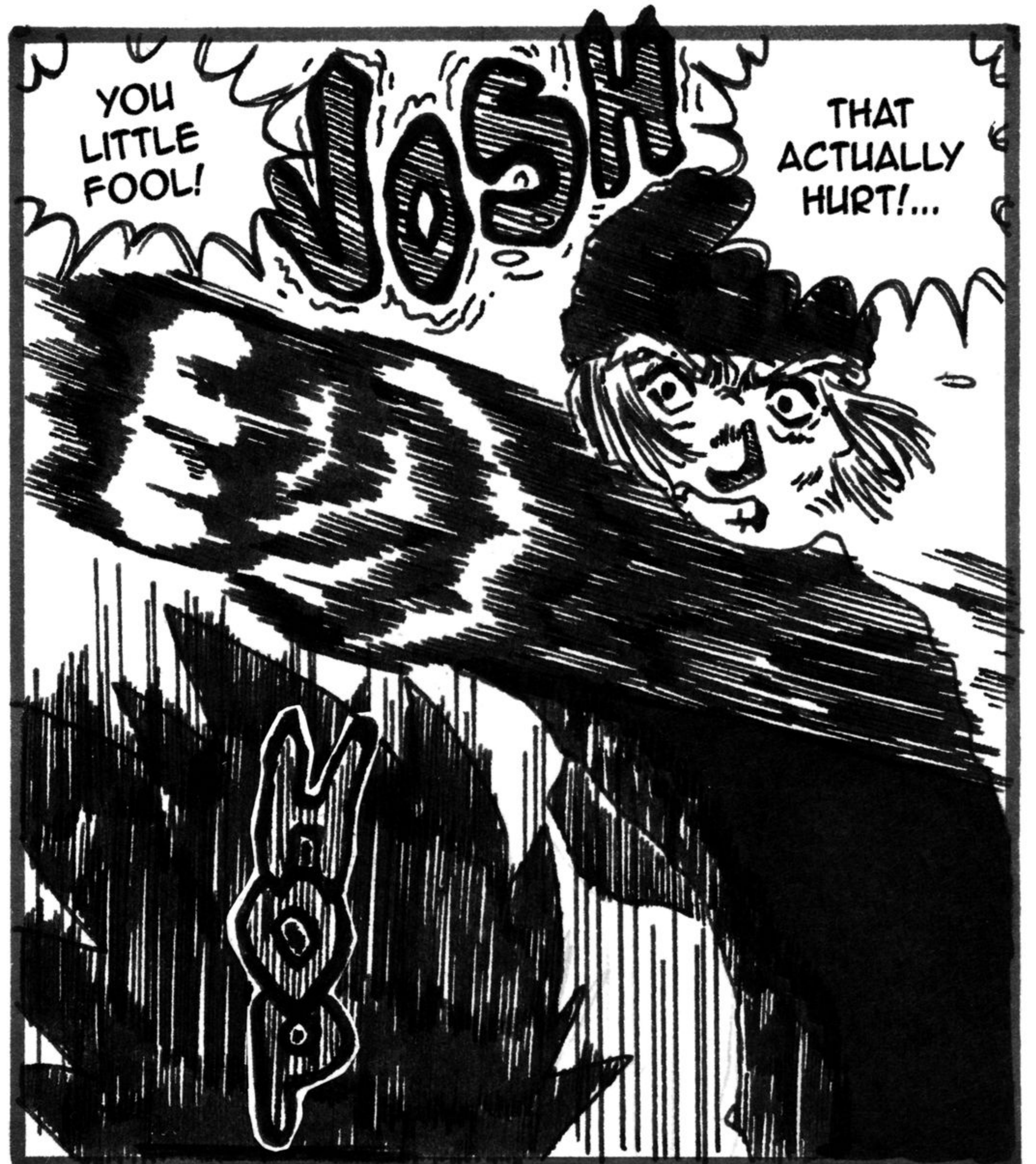
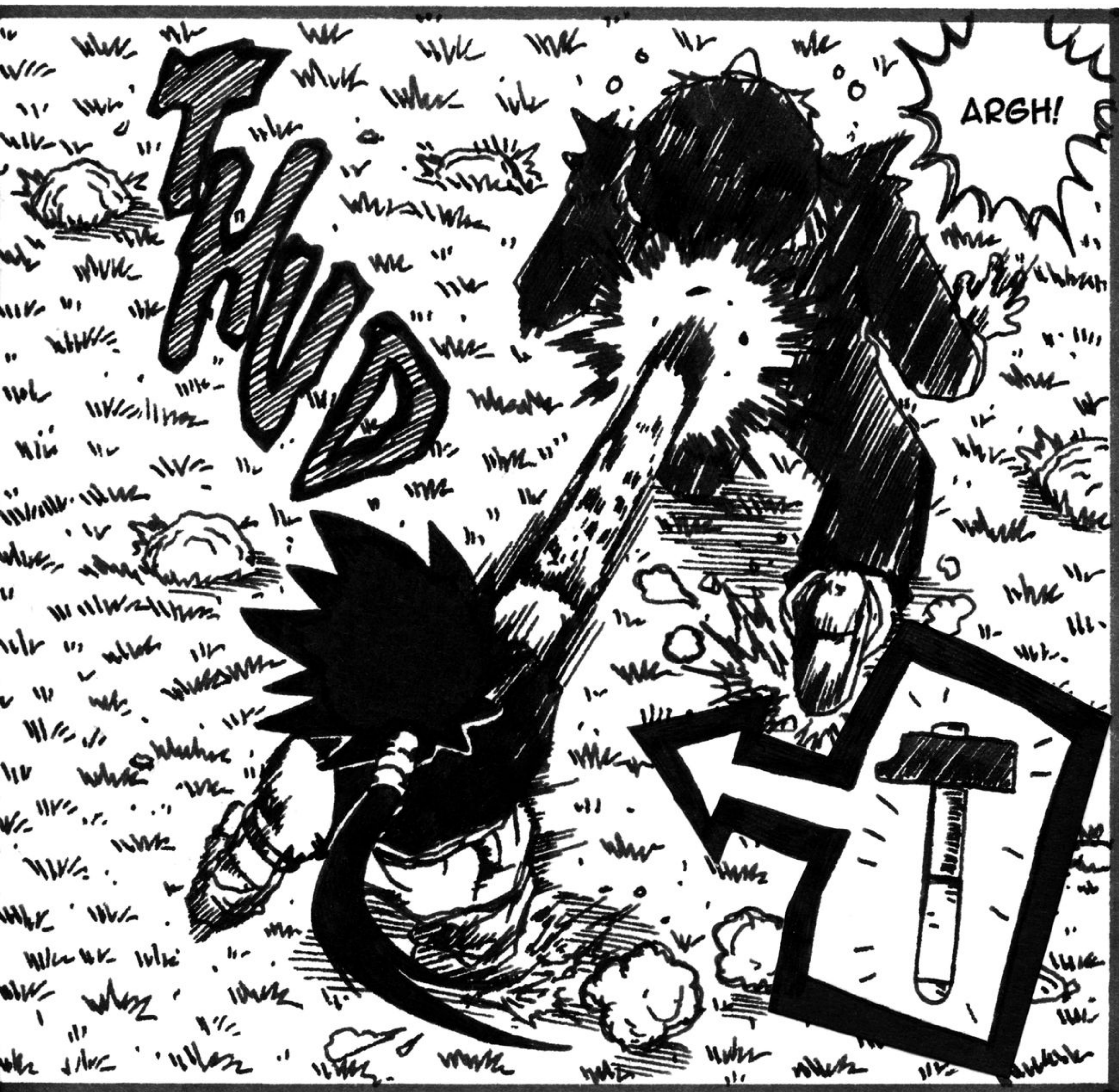
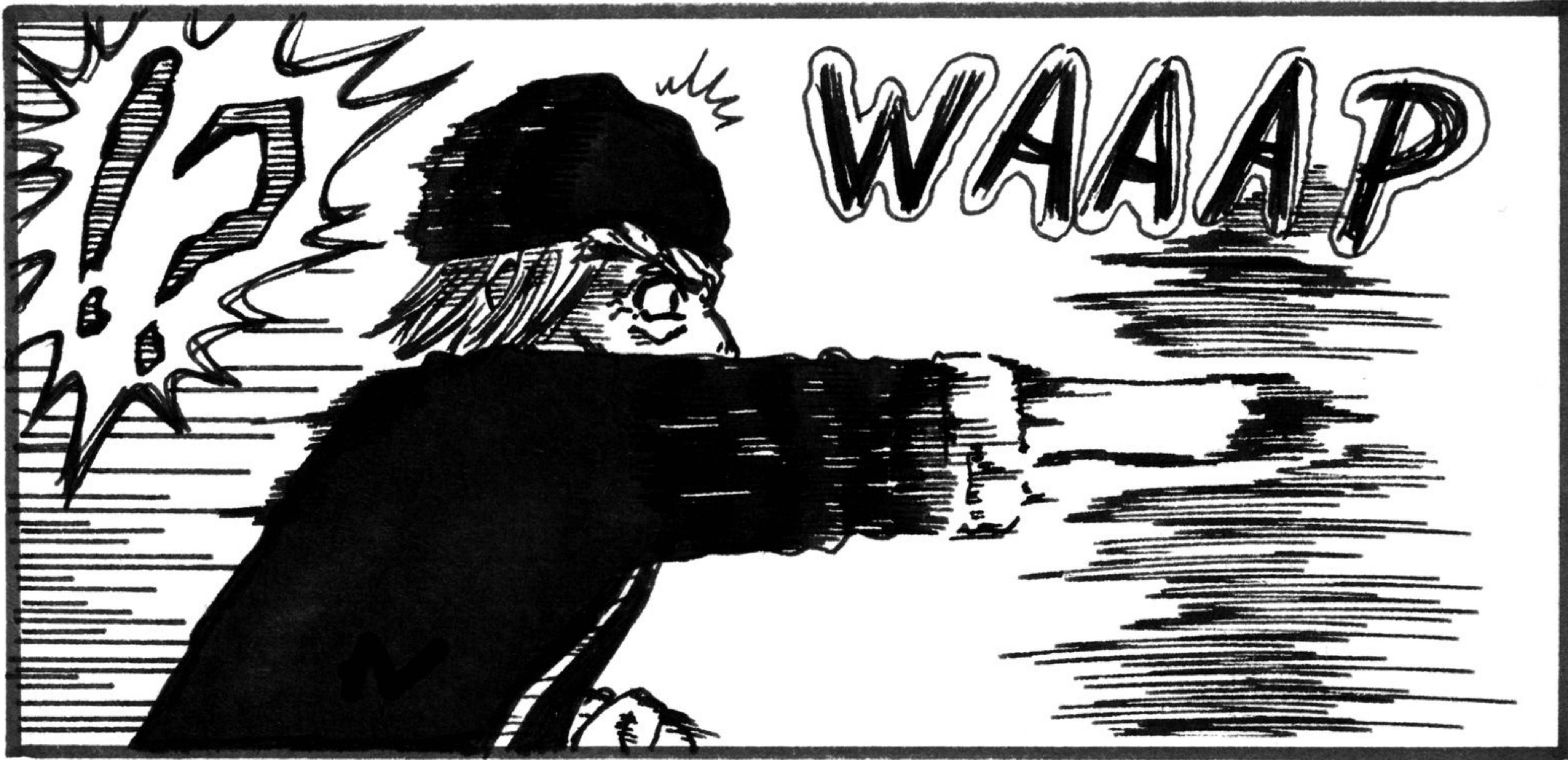
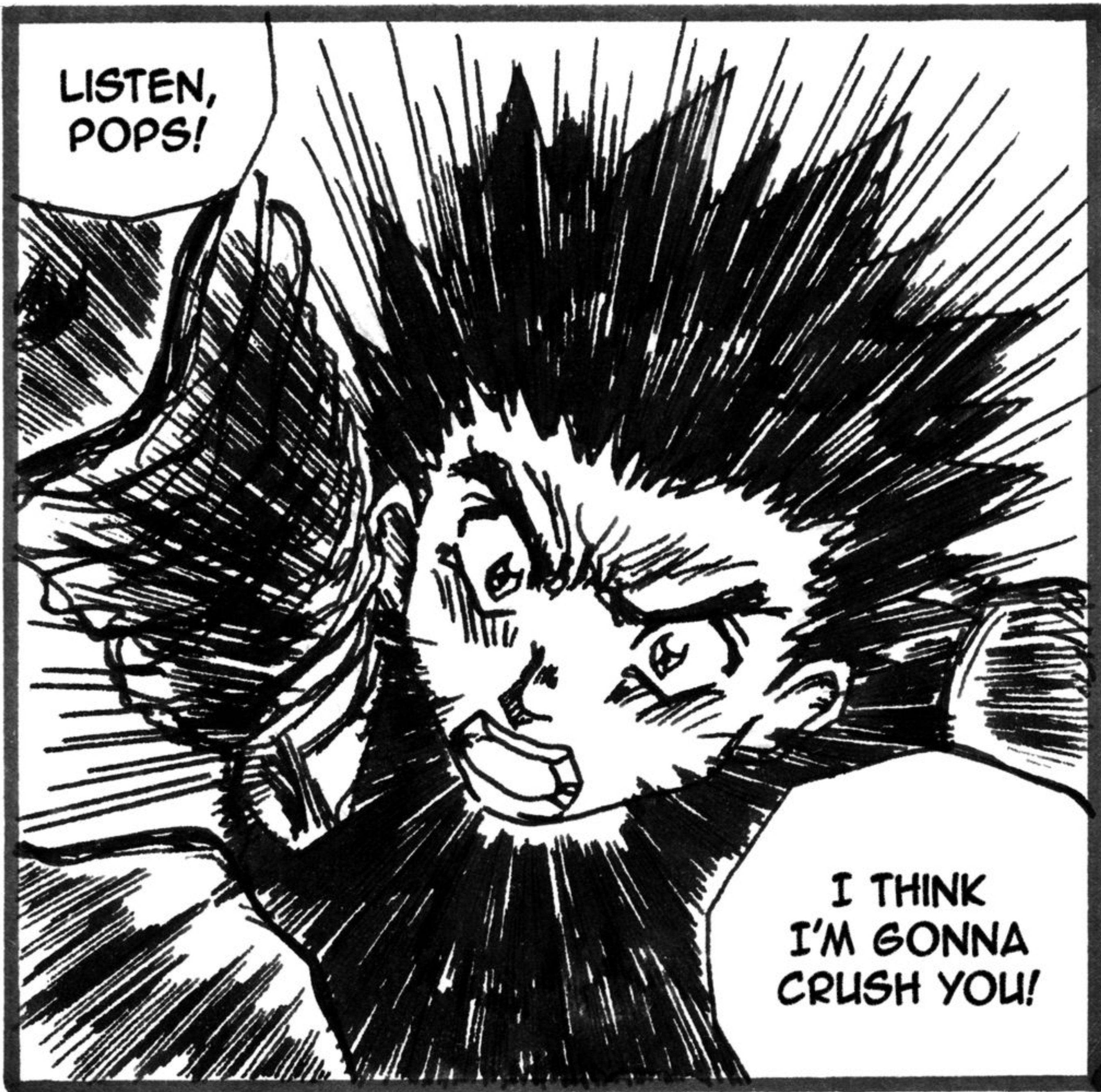
"MAGICAL TOOL."  
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"MAGICAL TOOL."  
"MAGICAL TOOL."



OH, RIGHT!!!



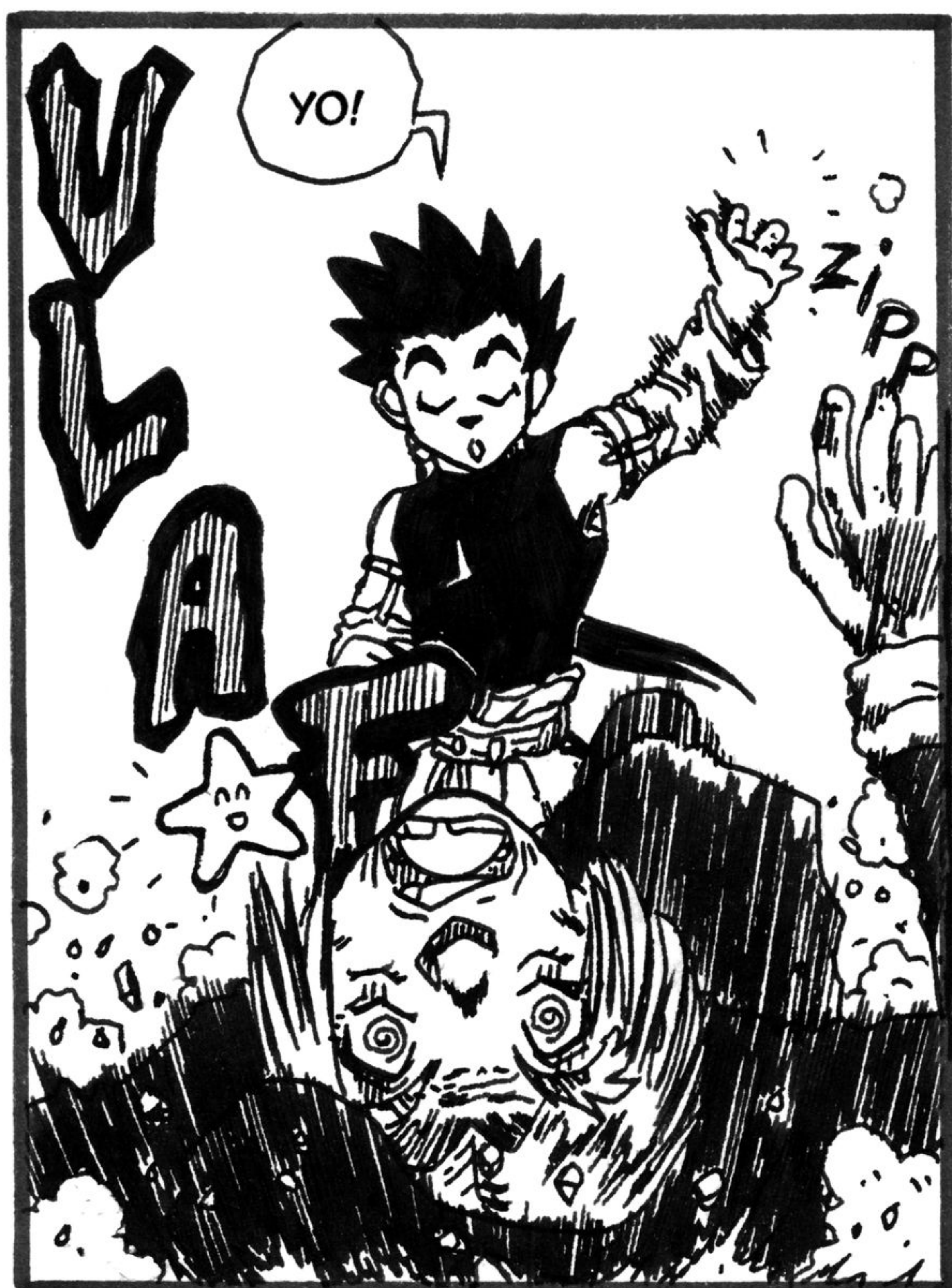








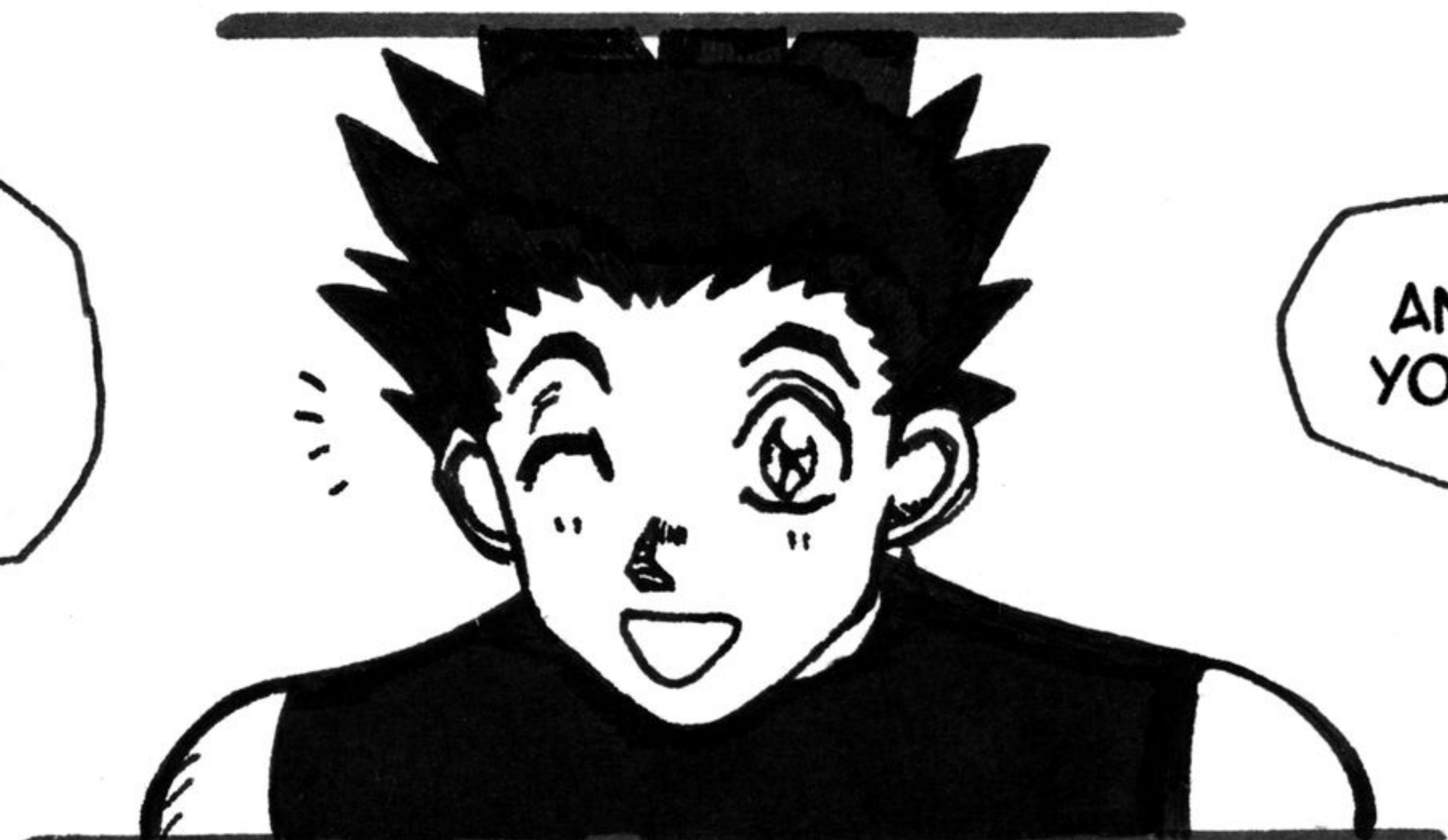




YO!

ZAP

I HAD  
A BLAST!!

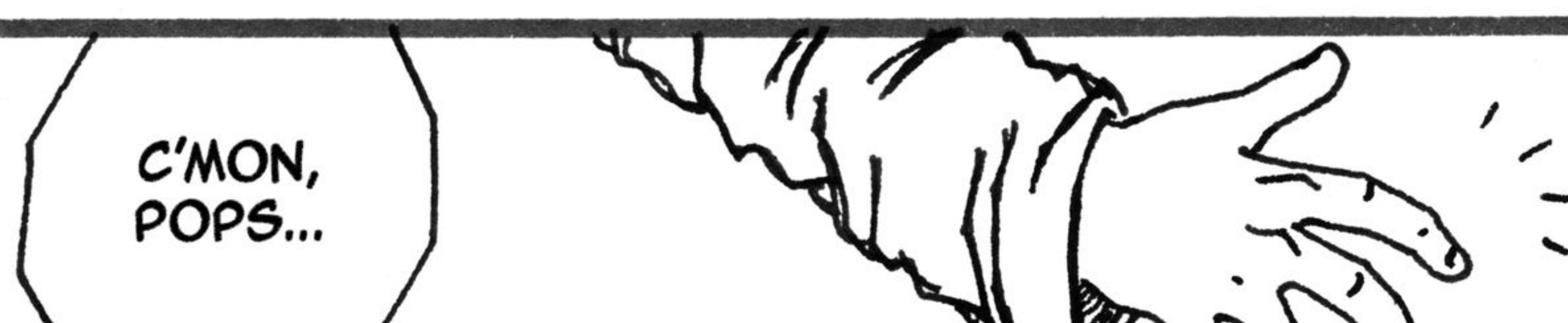


AND  
YOU?



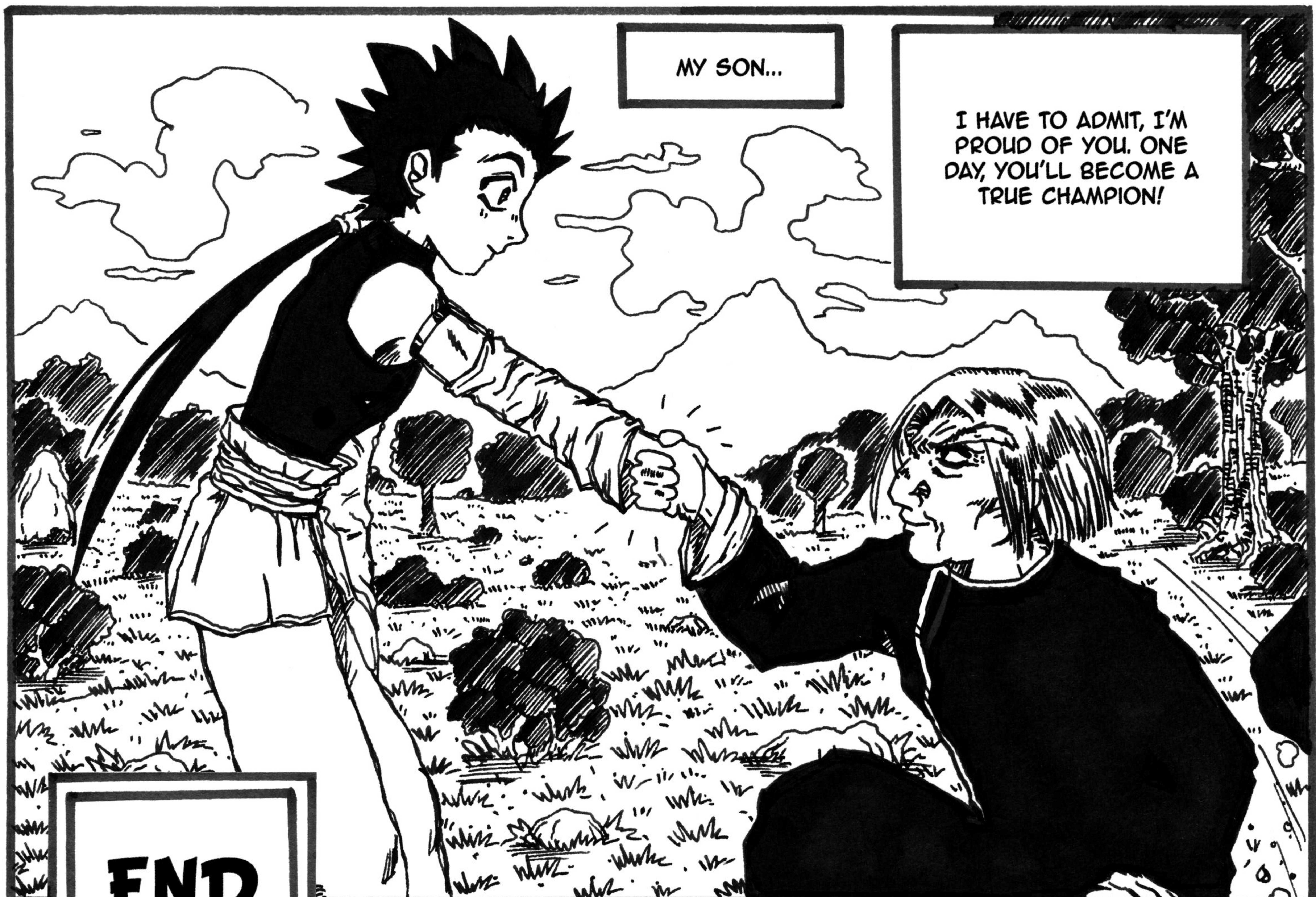
...

VERY  
FUNNY!



C'MON,  
POPS...

DON'T BE MAD OVER  
THAT LITTLE THING...



MY SON...

I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'M  
PROUD OF YOU. ONE  
DAY, YOU'LL BECOME A  
TRUE CHAMPION!

END



A FEW YEARS LATER...

NO, WAIT, IT'S NOT QUITE OVER!

I'D LIKE TO LET OUT A HUGE RANT AT THE ARTIST OF THIS COMIC. I MEAN, HOW IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO CREATE SUCH A SHORT STORY WITH SUCH A DUMB PLOT WHEN YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE LIKE ME? I DESERVE WAY BETTER! SERIOUSLY NOW— I DON'T HAVE A NAME, NO BACKSTORY...

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL?

...

ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK GETTING INTO THAT SCHOOL OF YOURS.