





JETS COMICS

ベルセルク②



三浦建太郎

ペンセロク

22

CONTENTS

TRANSLATION NOTE:
BEGINNING WITH THIS VOLUME
THE MANGA USES "FALCON" IN
PLACE OF "HAWK". I'M NOT
SURE WHY THEY DID THIS, BUT
YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE THIS
TO AVOID CONFUSION.

ミレニアム・ファルコン 千年帝国の鷹篇 聖魔戦記の章

ほころぶ世界9

剣の丘の再会31

獣剣士対黒い剣士51

不変73

戦記の序章95

クシャーン猛襲113

とき
関の風①135

関の風②157

雪と炎と／前篇179

雪と炎と／後篇201

J E T S C O M I C S

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件
などにはいっさい関係ありません。

MILLENNIUM FALCON: CRUSADERS THE TATTERED WORLD



WHO BEGAN TO
NOTICE FIRST.

THEY SAY IT
WAS THE
CHILDREN

YOU MIGHT
GET EATEN
BY WOLVES,
AND IF NOT
THEM, THE
KUSHARN
BEEN...

FAIRIES
...

I TELL
YOU THIS
ALL THE
DAMN
TIME,
BUT DON'T
GO
RUNNING
OFF INTO
WOODS!

HOLD IT, NICO!
IF YOU GET
YERSELF
LOST, I'M THE
ONE GETS
PUNISHED.

SEE
?

FAIRIES
!

LOOK
!

EH?

DON'T THIS
PLACE
FEEL
SORTA
WEIRD?

I MEAN
...

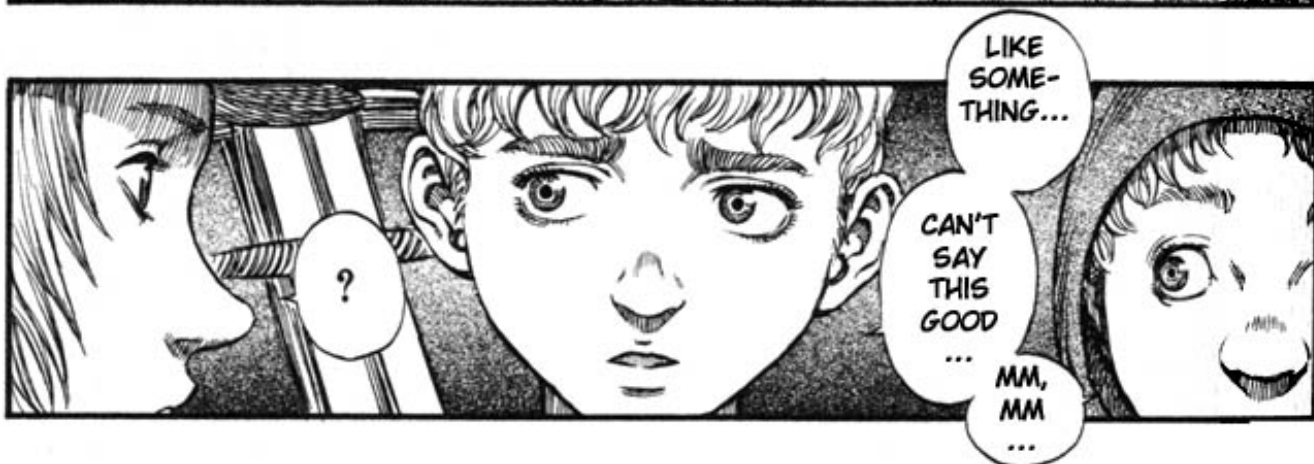
MAN,
THAT'S
WHY I
DON'T
WANT YOU
FOLLOWING
US
AROUND!

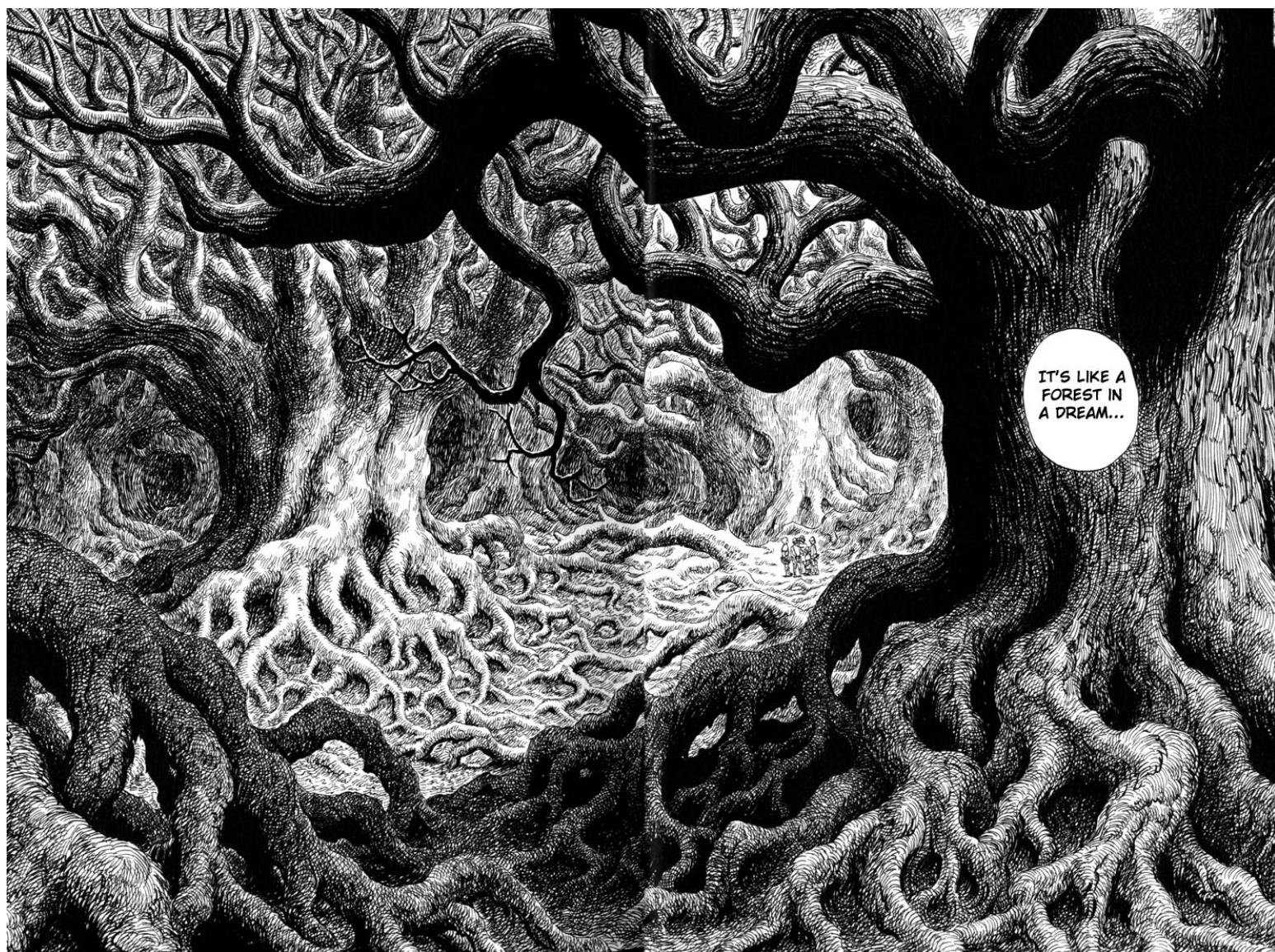
DON'T,
TOM!

GIMME A
BREAK!

MM?

BUT I GUESS I CAN
SORT OF SEE WHY
HE MIGHT THINK
THAT.

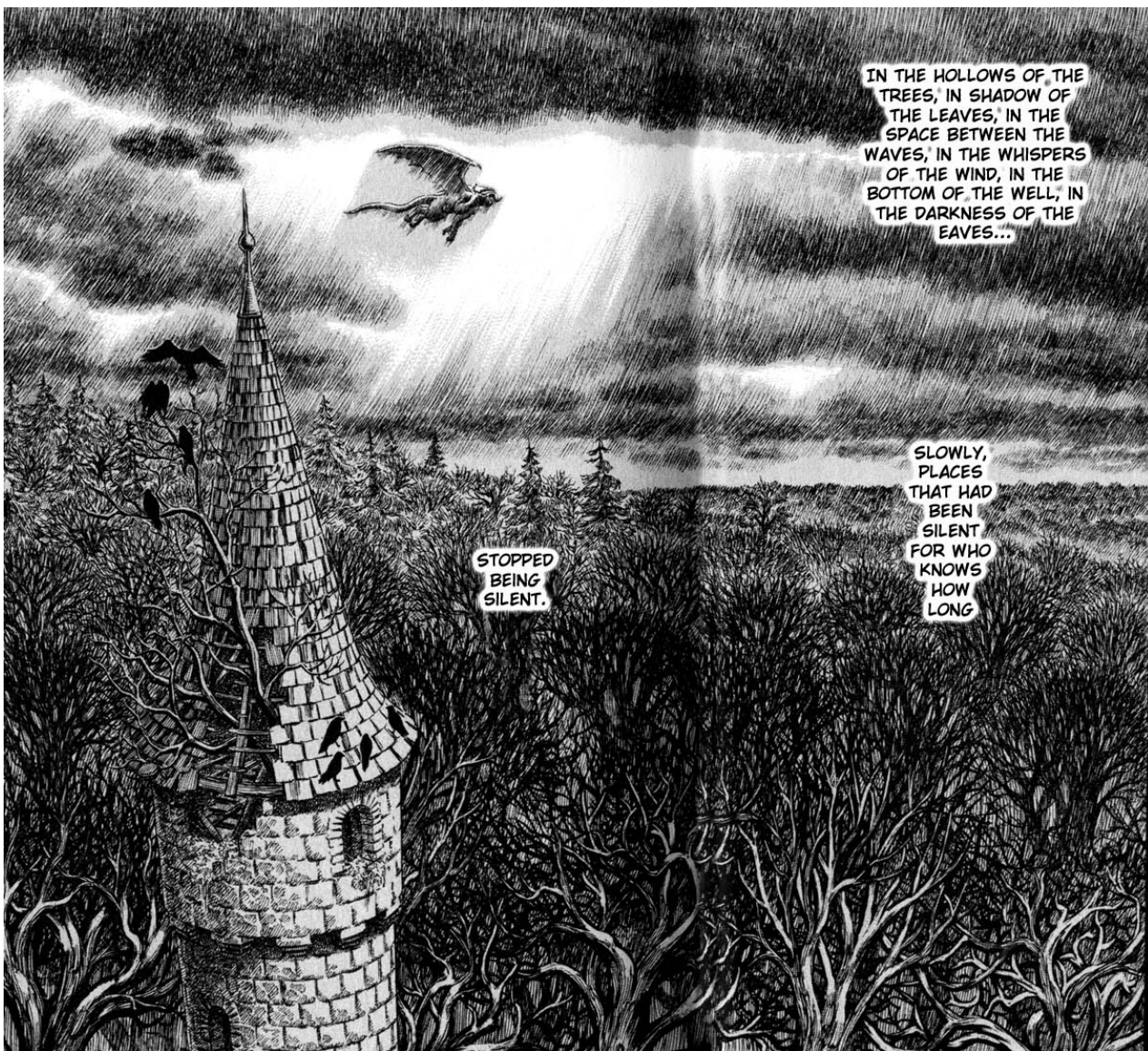












IN THE HOLLOWS OF THE
TREES, IN SHADOW OF
THE LEAVES, IN THE
SPACE BETWEEN THE
WAVES, IN THE WHISPERS
OF THE WIND, IN THE
BOTTOM OF THE WELL, IN
THE DARKNESS OF THE
EAVES...

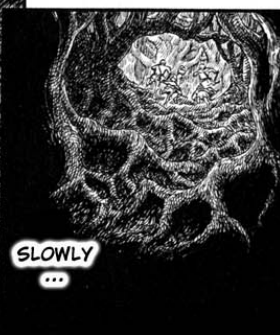
STOPPED
BEING
SILENT.

SLOWLY,
PLACES
THAT HAD
BEEN
SILENT
FOR WHO
KNOWS
HOW
LONG

IT'S A
FOREST
DEVIL!



MONSTER
!



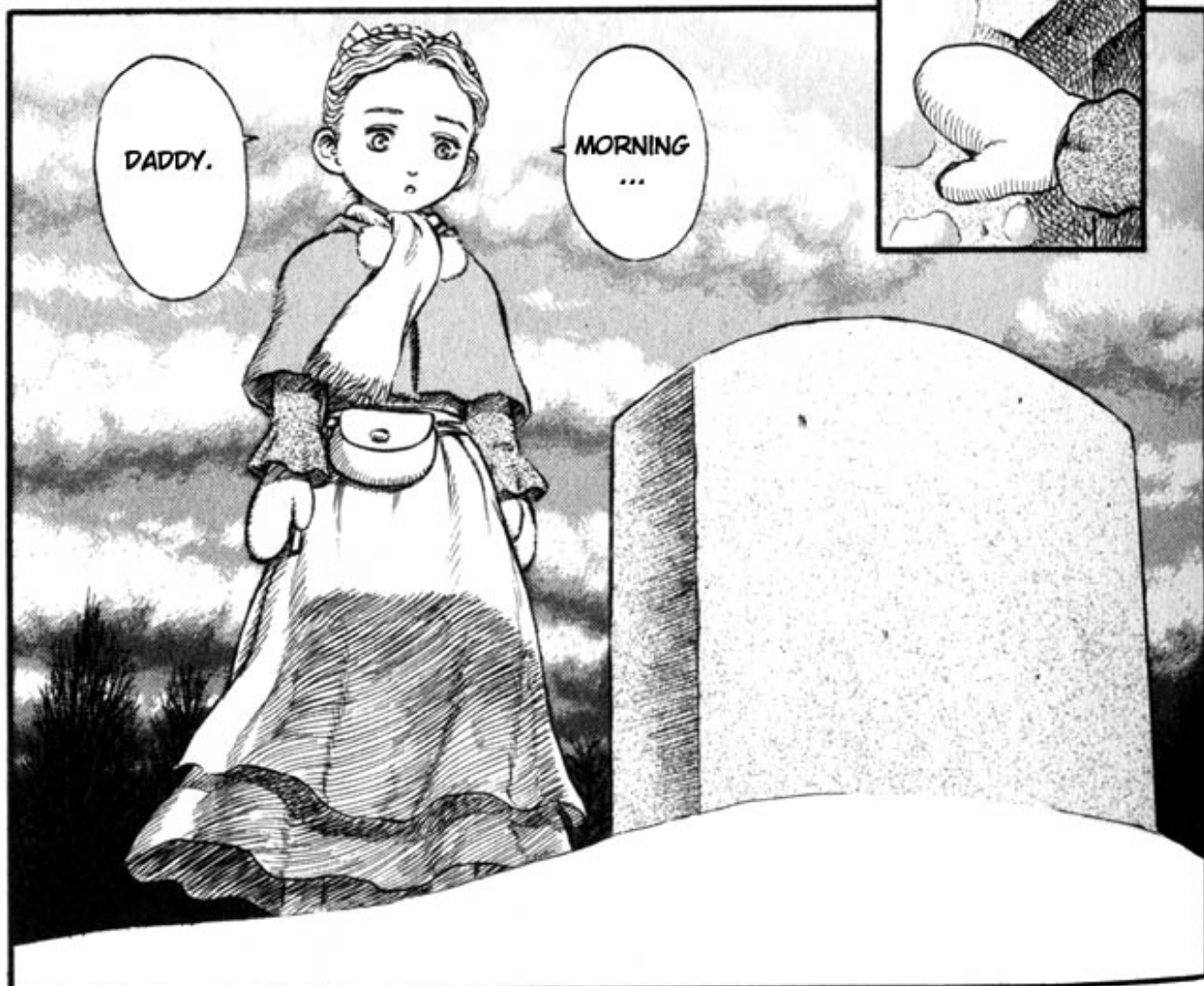
SLOWLY
...

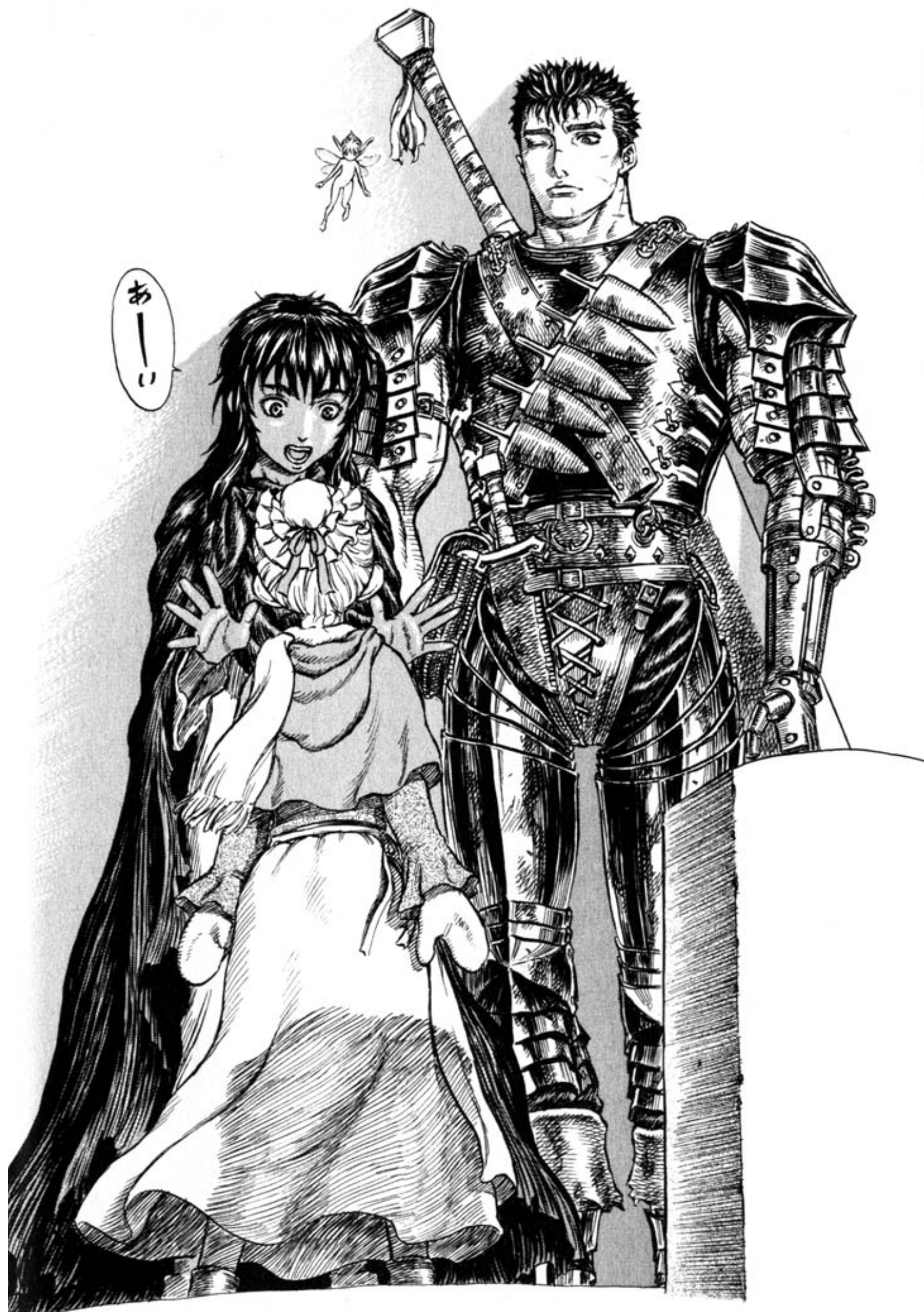
IN THE
SILENCE,
SOMETHING
BEGAN TO
BREATH.

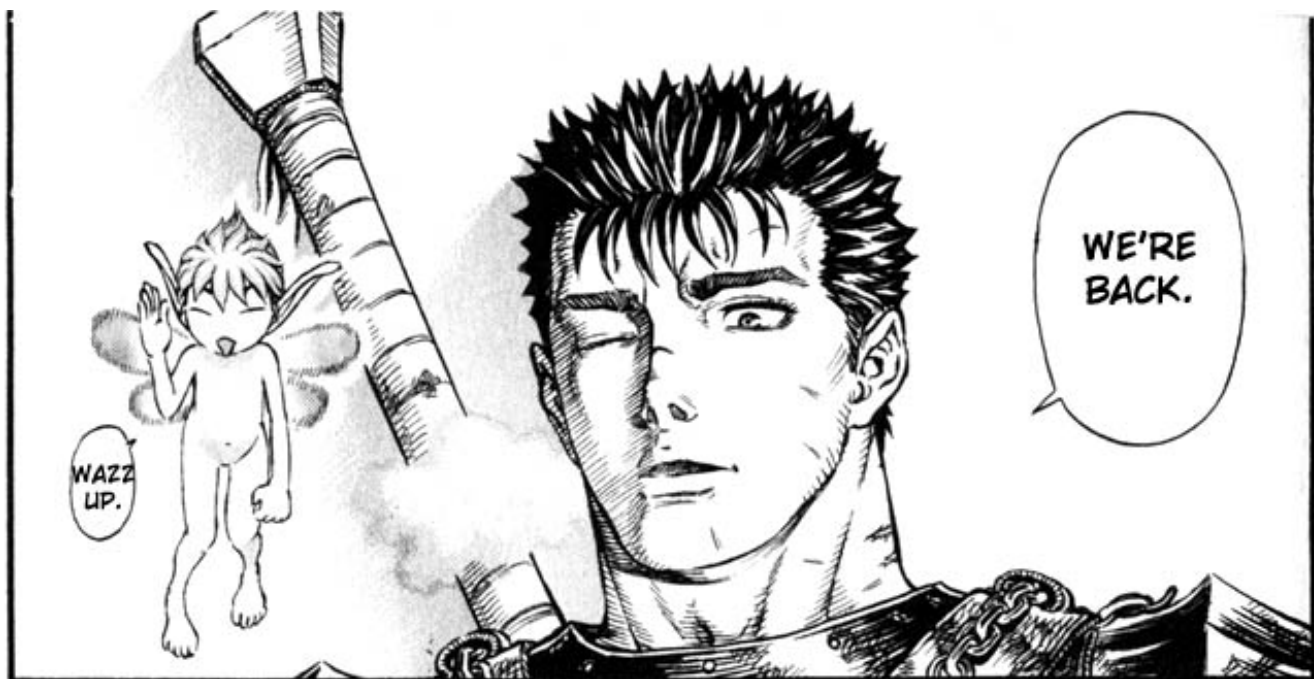
FOR ALL THE
WORLD AS IF
IT SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
THAT WAY ALL
ALONG...

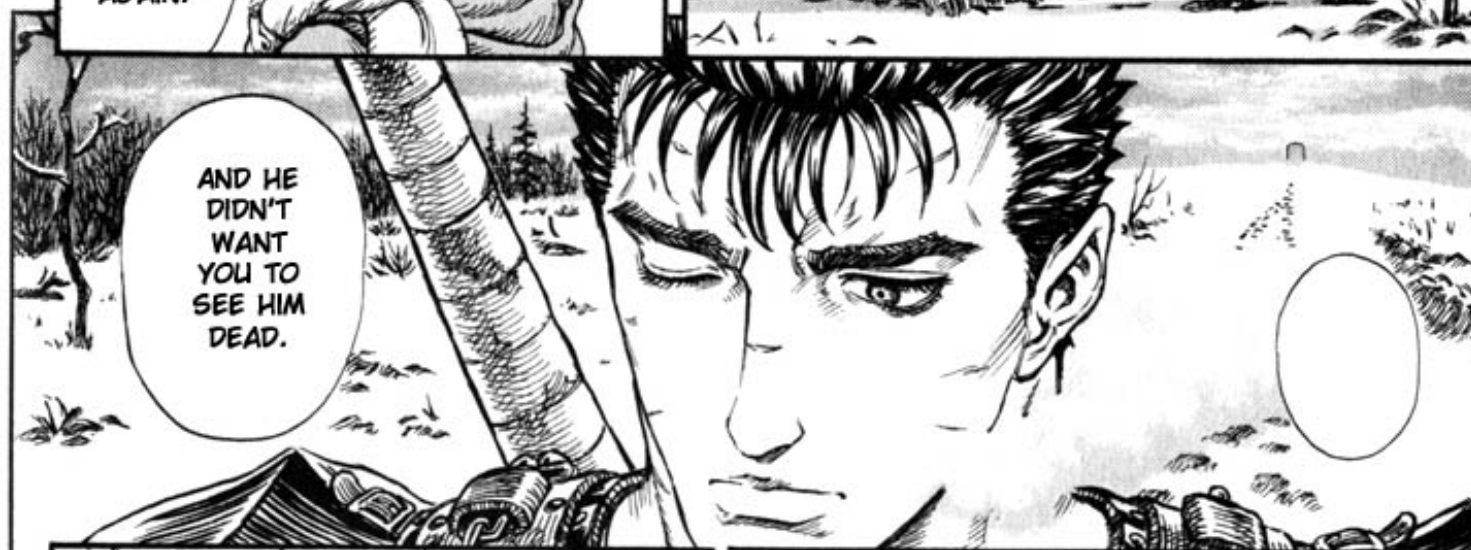
LIKE THE
STORIES
THE OLD
FOLKS
ALWAYS
TELL THE
CHILDREN...



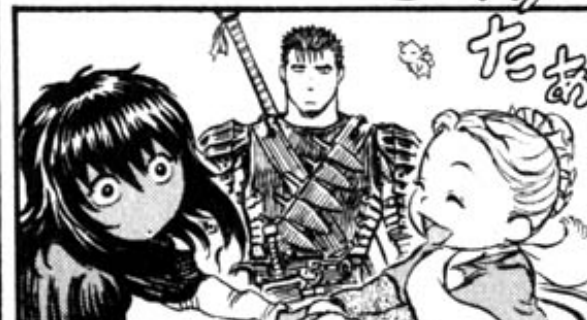
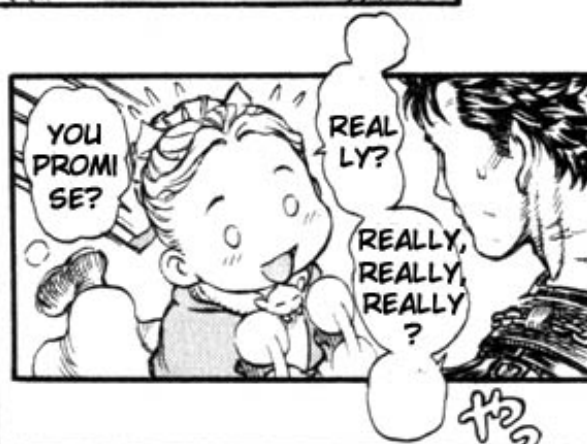












I STILL
CAN'T...

WHEN CASKA CALLED
ME BACK...NO, WHEN
SHE CALLED ME BACK
WHILE I WAS IN THE
MIDDLE OF SWINGING
MY SWORD...

BUT
WHAT
LOOKED
LIKE A
HUMAN.

HE
APPEARED
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
ME, AND HE
WASN'T A
DEMON...

AS IF HE'D
BEEN YANKED
FROM BEFORE
INTO THE
PRESENT
UNCHANGED.

I FORGOT
TO KILL
HIM.

I LOOKED
AT HIM, AND
FOR A
SECOND...



IS
WHAT
GALLS
ME.

AND
THAT
...



NOT EVEN SURE
IF HE WAS IN
THIS WORLD, I
CHASED HIS
SHADOW
THROUGH THE
HORDES OF
LOST, DEAD
SOULS.

NO IDEA
WHERE HE
WAS.

MY
JOURNEY
WAS
AIMLESS
...

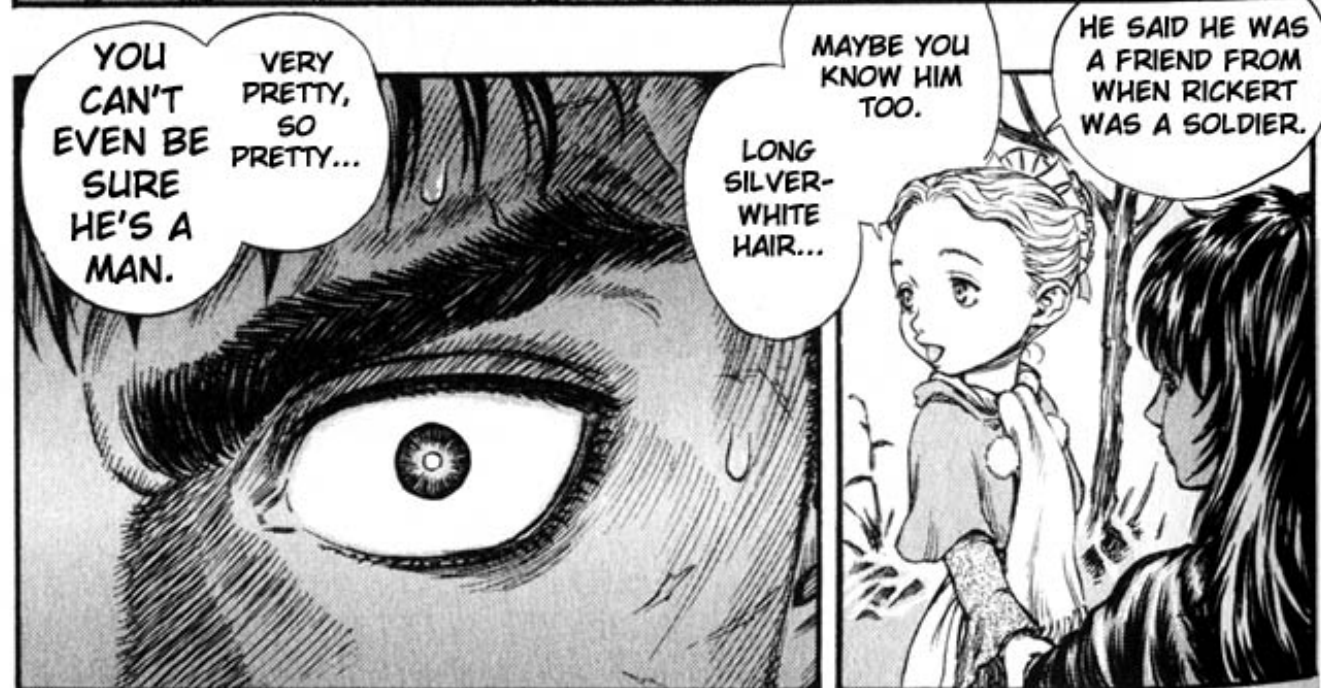
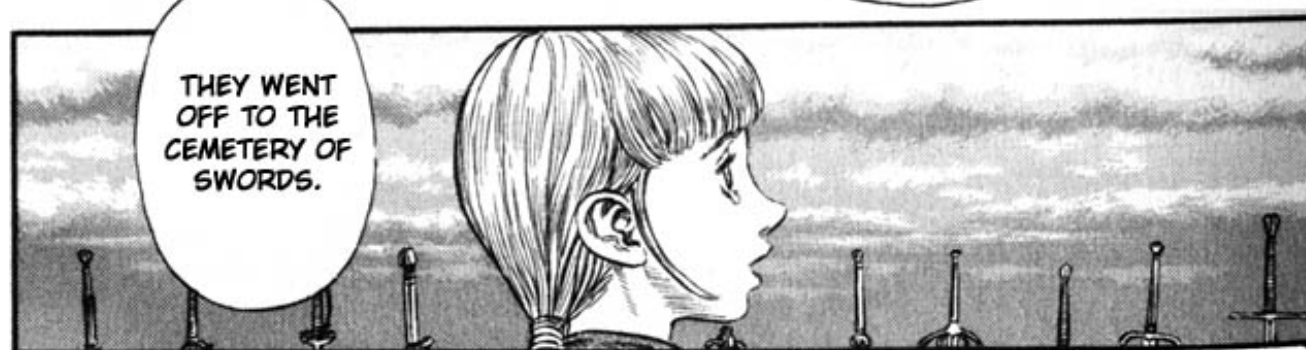
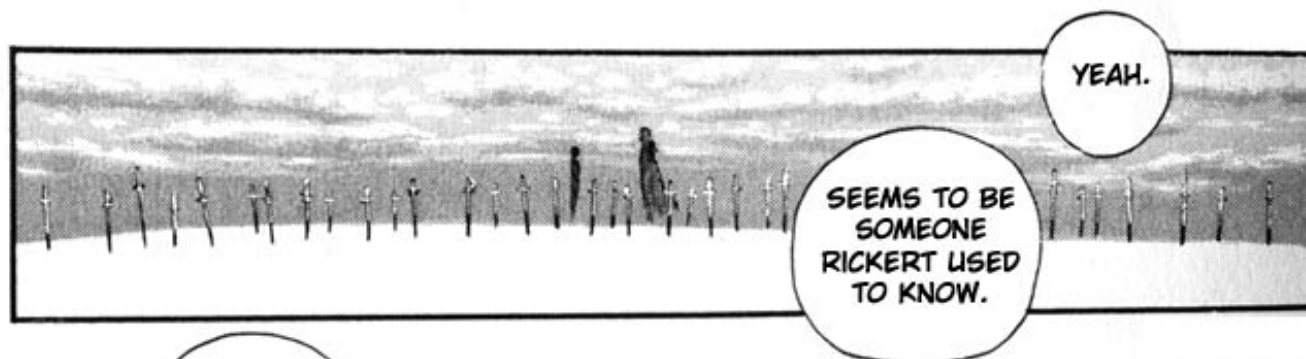
SOMETIMES
FOLLOWING
SOME
SUSPICIOUS
GOSSIP OR A
FEELING IN
MY BRAND...



WHERE
MY
SWORD
CAN
REACH
HIM.

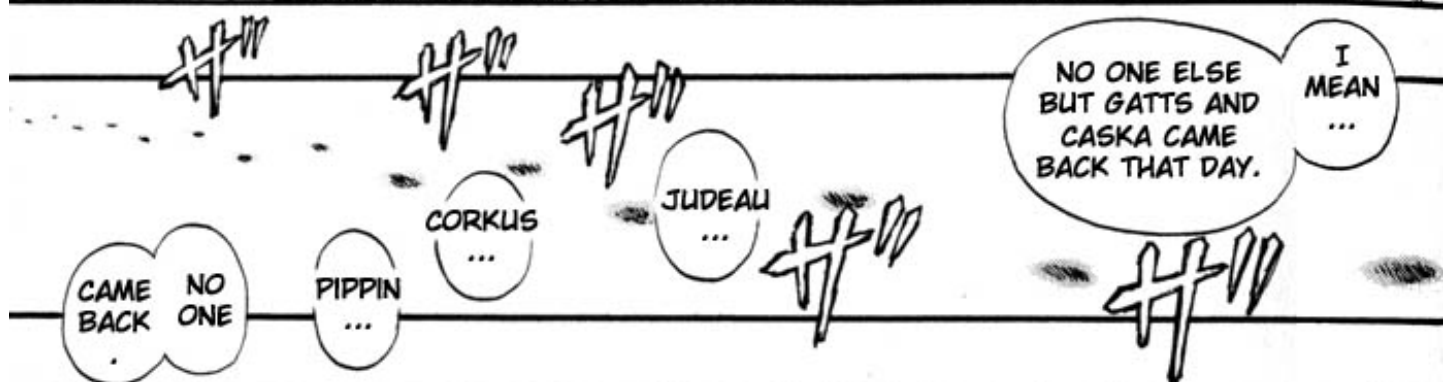
ON THE
SAME
LAND
THAT
LIES
BENEATH
MY FEET.

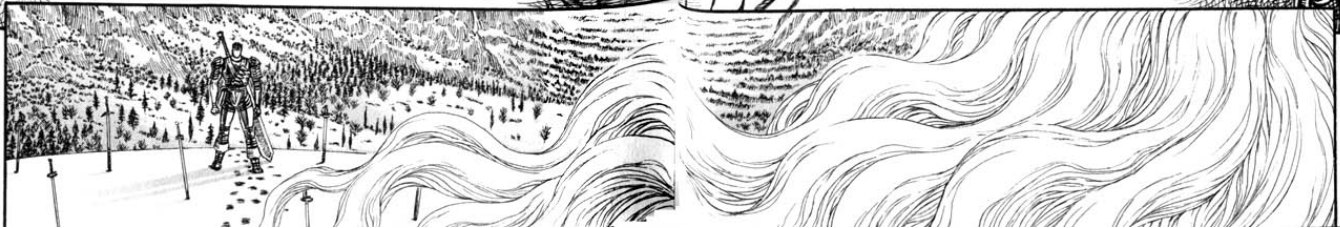
BUT NOW
HE'S IN THE
SAME WORLD
AS ME.





LIKE
SOMEONE
OUT OF A
FAIRY TALE.











I
COULD
SEE IT
IN YOUR
EYES!

I WON'T!
YOU
WERE
ABOUT
TO KILL
HIM!



LET
GO,
RICKERT
!



IT'S
OUR
GRIFFITH
!

IT'S
GRIFFITH
!

WHY?





IS NO
LONGER
THE
GRIFFITH
YOU KNEW.

THAT
...

THAT
THING
...



NO!

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND!

JUST
LET
GO!



YOU
NEVER
CHANGE



BEFORE
YOU
TALK.

YOU
ALWAYS
SWING
...



THE
SAME
FACE...

IF
ANY-
THING
... NO
...



YOU'RE
LIKE YOU
WERE
WHEN WE
FIRST
MET.

THE
SAME
SMILE...



THE
SAME
VOICE

...

TALKING
TO ME!



WHY THE
HELL DID
YOU COME
HERE?



TO SEE
YOU.



WE SIMPLY
DIDN'T HAVE
A SECOND
TO TALK
TOGETHER.

THINGS AT
THE TOWER
ENDED UP
RATHER
ABRUPTLY



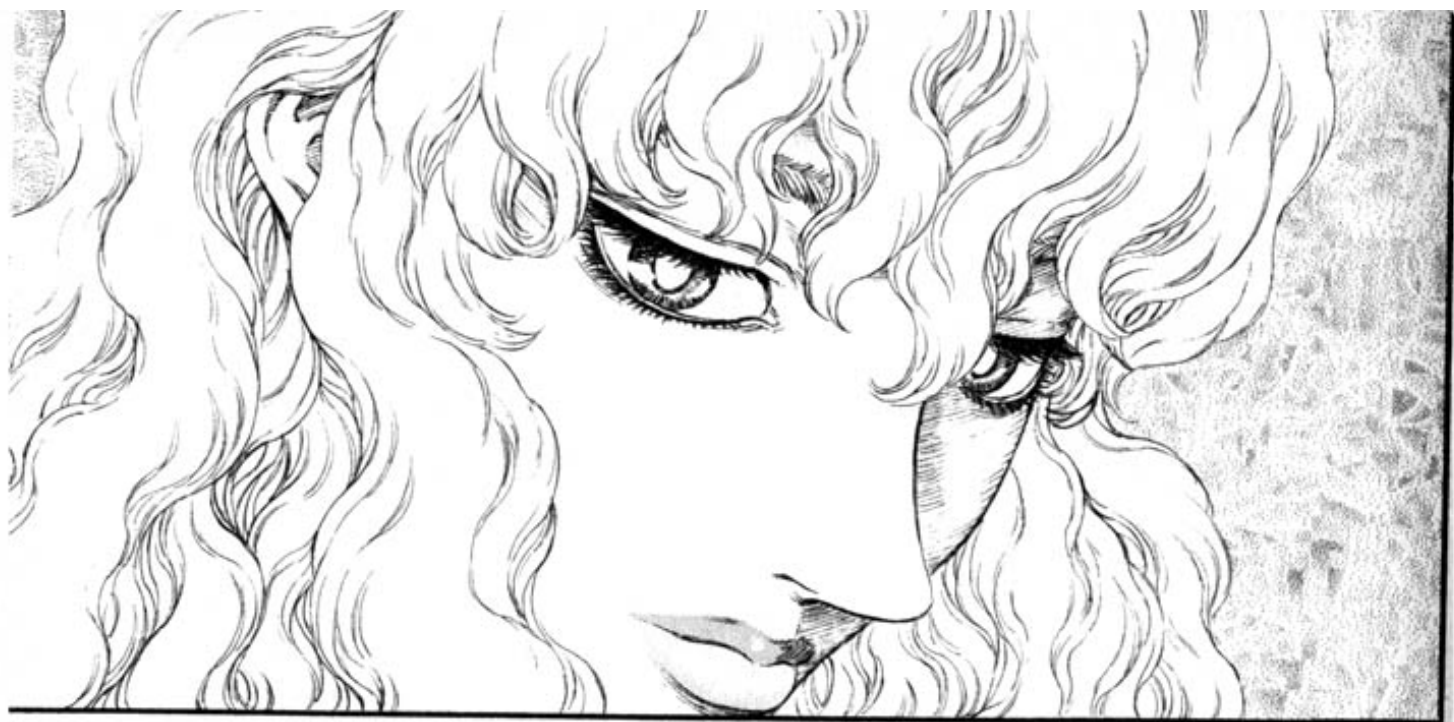


AND SEE IF
THERE WAS
ANYTHING
THAT COULD
SWAY MY
HEART.



I CAME
TO MAKE
CERTAIN.

TO STAND
BEFORE
YOU IN
THIS NEW
BODY.





EVERYONE
YOU
BETRAYED
...

ALL
THAT
YOU
DID...

DON'T
FEEL
ONE
THING?

AND
YOU...









ZODD
!?



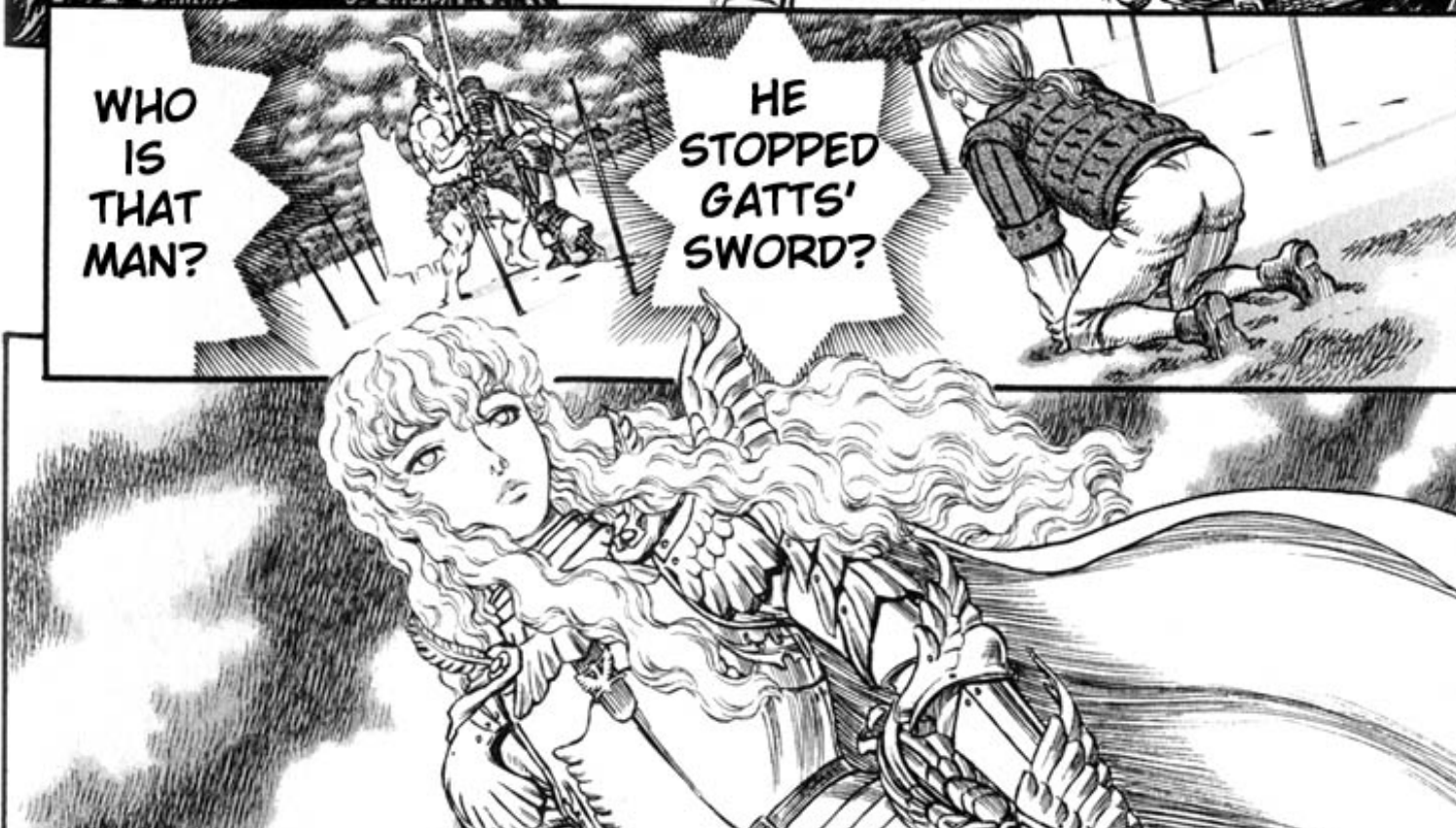






WHO
IS
THAT
MAN?

HE
STOPPED
GATTS'
SWORD?

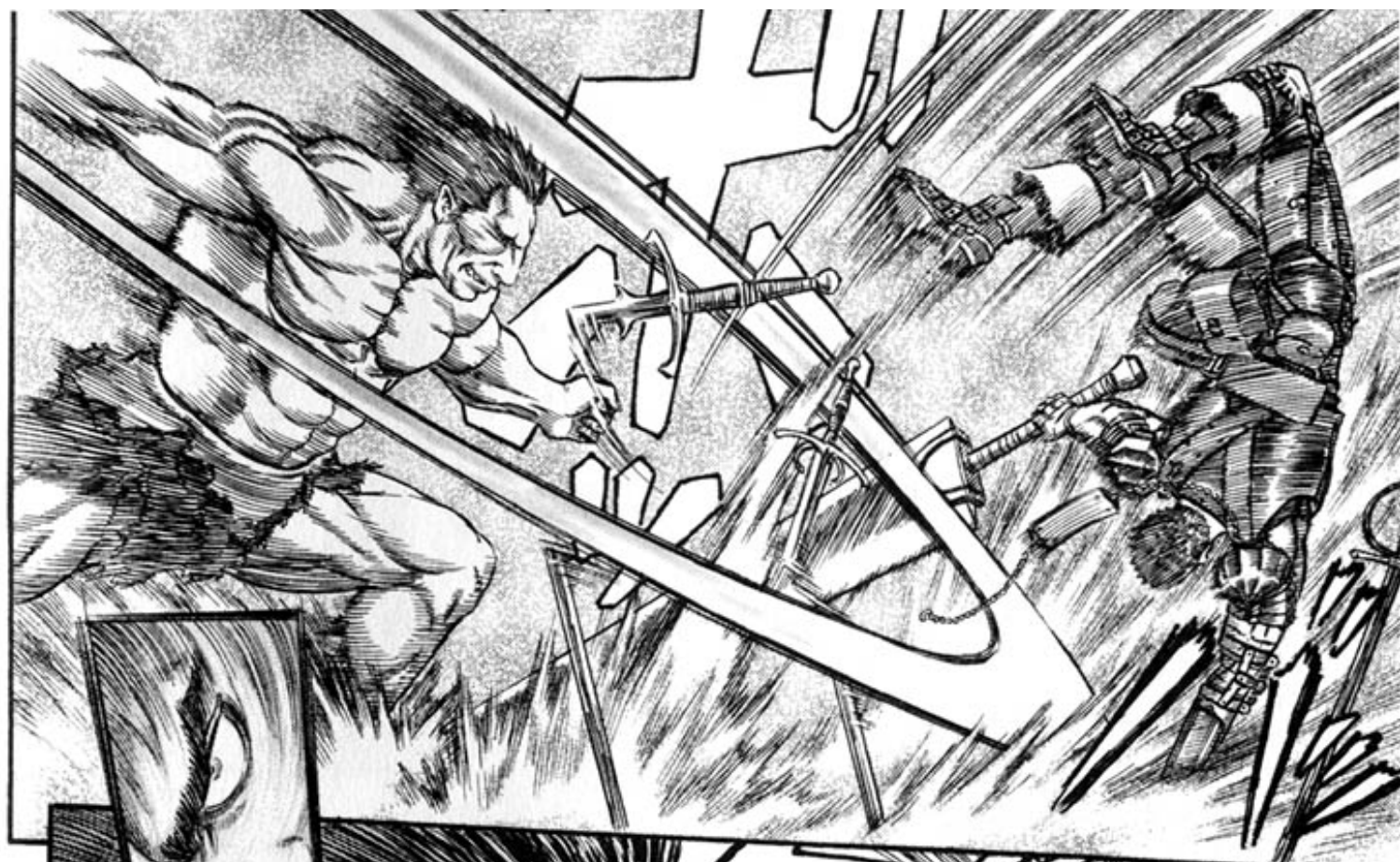




WELL
DONE,
BOY!

YOU SEEM TO
HAVE
SURVIVED
DESPITE MY
PROPHECY!













SPLENDID! I
RARELY MEET A
HUMAN WITH A
BODY AS GOOD
AS YOURS!

I WANTED TO
CROSS BLADES
WITH YOU IN THIS
FORM AND SEE
WHAT SURVIVING
DID FOR YOU.



WHY ARE
YOU
WITH
GRIFFITH
?

WHY?



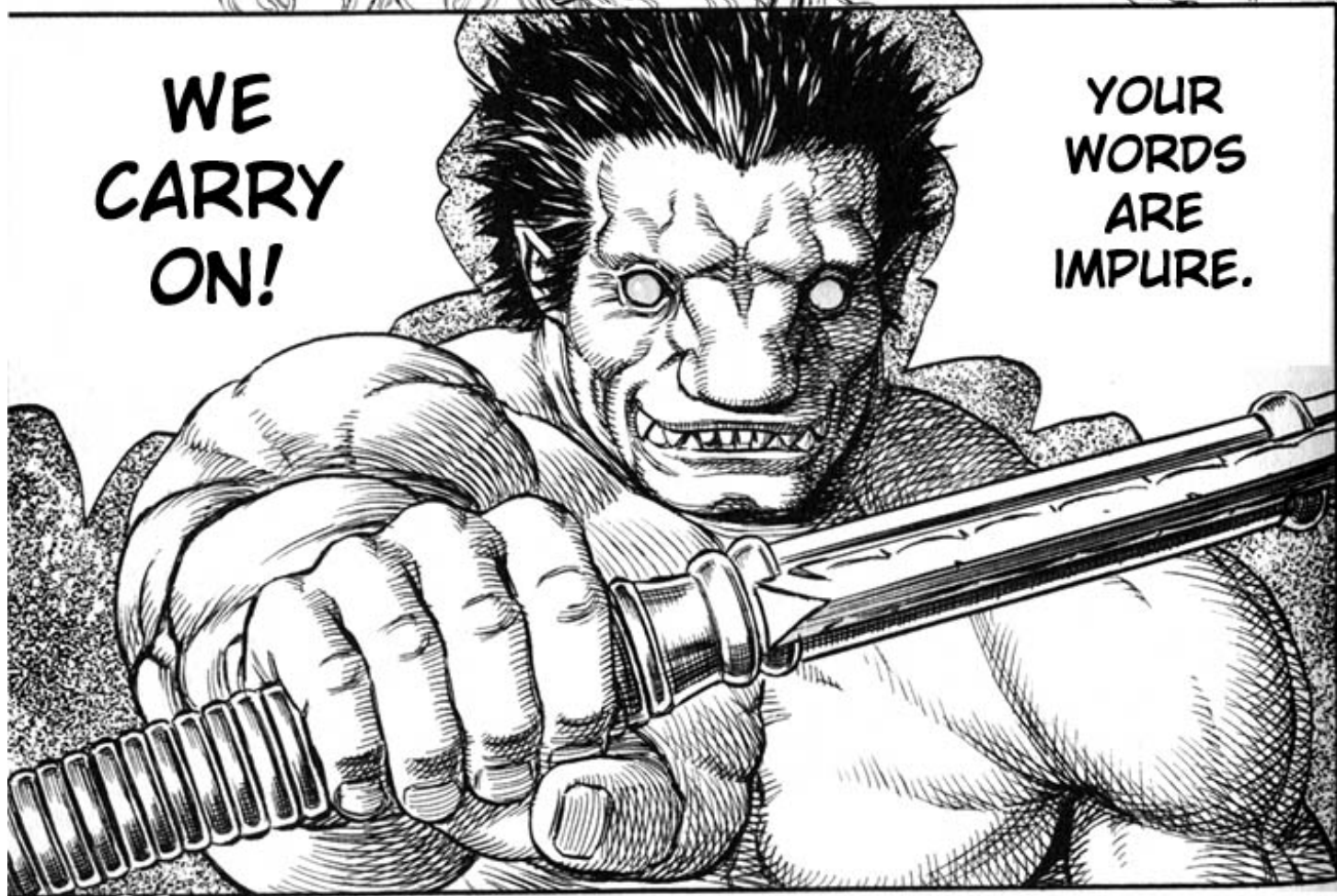
MY
BUSINESS IS
WITH HIM
ALONE!

STEP
ASIDE!



**WE
CARRY
ON!**

**YOUR
WORDS
ARE
IMPURE.**





HE
DUCKED!

HE DODGED?
THOSE
REFLEXES ARE
INHUMAN!





THIS
POWER
...

IF I DIDN'T
HAVE THIS
SWORD I'D
BE MINCE-
MEAT!



HE'S
STILL
ONE HELL
OF A
MONSTER

IF I MISS
ONCE I'LL
BE
CRUSHED!







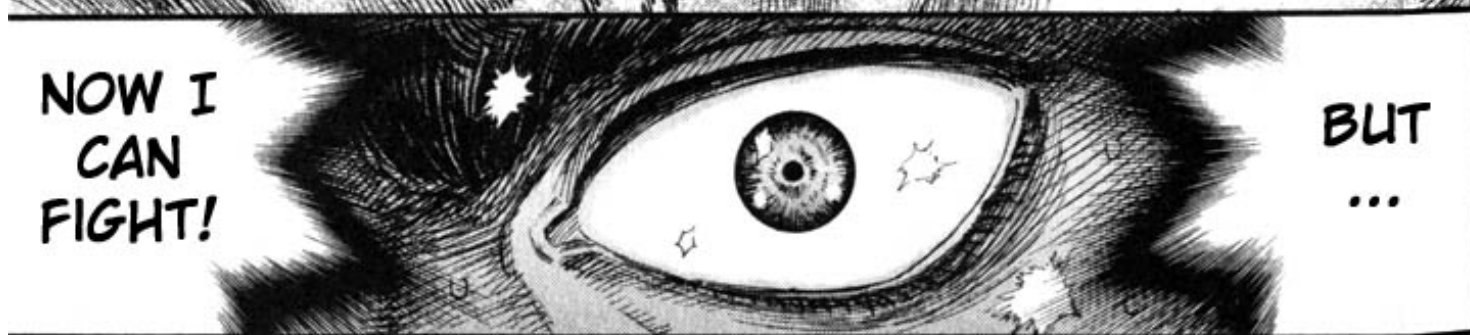
IF I BLINK
EVEN ONCE
HE'LL LAND
ONE OF
THOSE ON MY
HEAD!

HE
HASN'T
CHANGED
!



EVEN
BLOCKING
THEM IS
MAKING MY
BONES
CREAK! IT'S
LIKE I'M NOT
PARRYING AT
ALL!

NOW I
CAN
FIGHT!



BUT
...

JUST TO
GET TO
HIM...



I'VE
STRUGGLED
THROUGH
COUNTLESS
NIGHTS...



AND
YOU'RE
IN MY
WAY!

I'VE NEVER
SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE
THIS ON ANY
BATTLEFIELD!

THIS IS
TREMEN-
DOUS!

TO USE
THAT
HUGE
SWORD
LIKE
THIS...

HE'S GROWN
STRONGER
THAN I
COULD EVEN
IMAGINE!

THIS FURY IS
ALL TOWARDS
GRIFFITH?
WHY?

BUT THIS
RAGE...

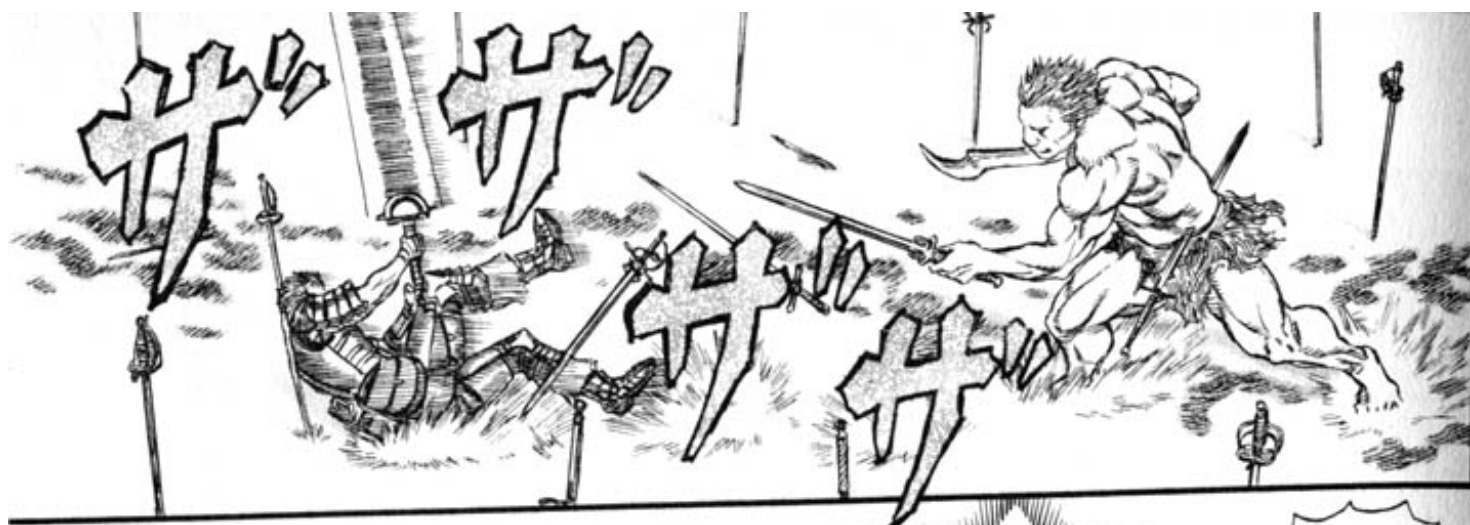


THAT'S
MINE!









BUT UNDER
FIRE, SPYING A
SWORD LYING
IN THE SNOW
AND USING IT
LIKE THAT...
GATTS' WITS
ARE
INCREDIBLE!

THAT
OTHER MAN
DIDN'T WASTE A
MOMENT AFTER
HIS SWORD WAS
DAMAGED TO
SWITCH TO
FIGHTING WITH
TWO SWORDS, SO
HE'S AMAZING
TOO...

WHAT
A
FIGHT!



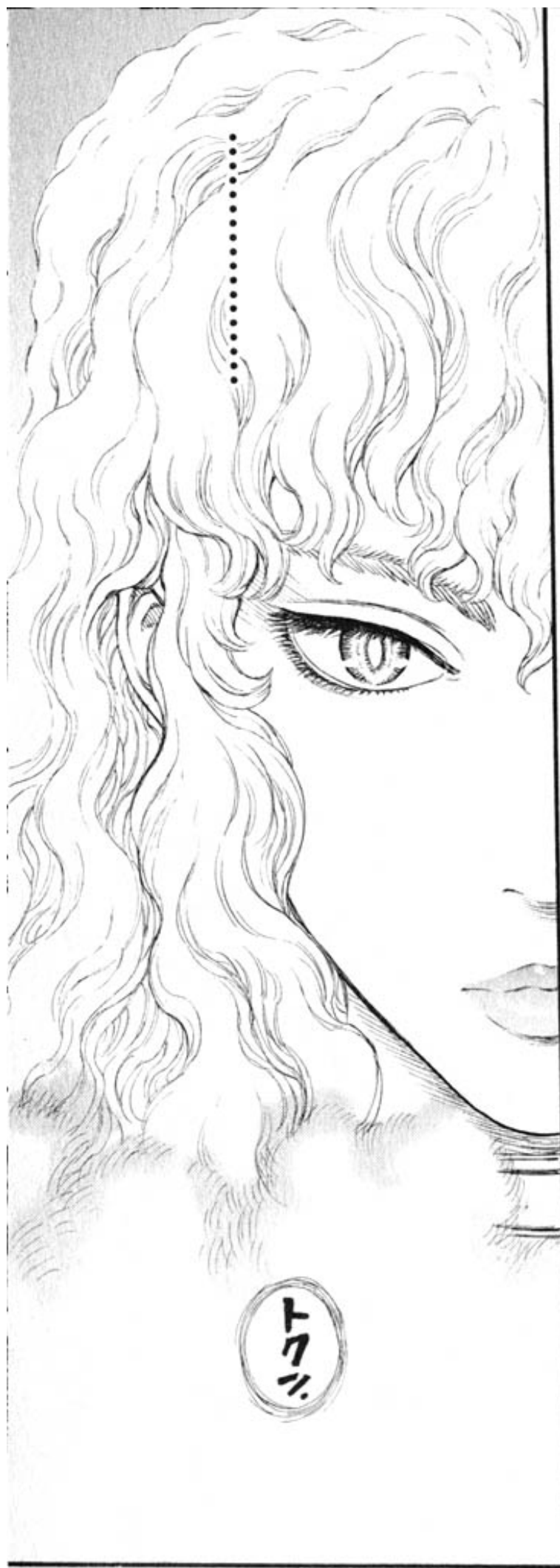
I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
ANYONE
SKIRT
DEATH
THIS
CLOSELY!

ANY
SLIP
IS
DEATH
...





IS
THIS...



IMMUTABLE

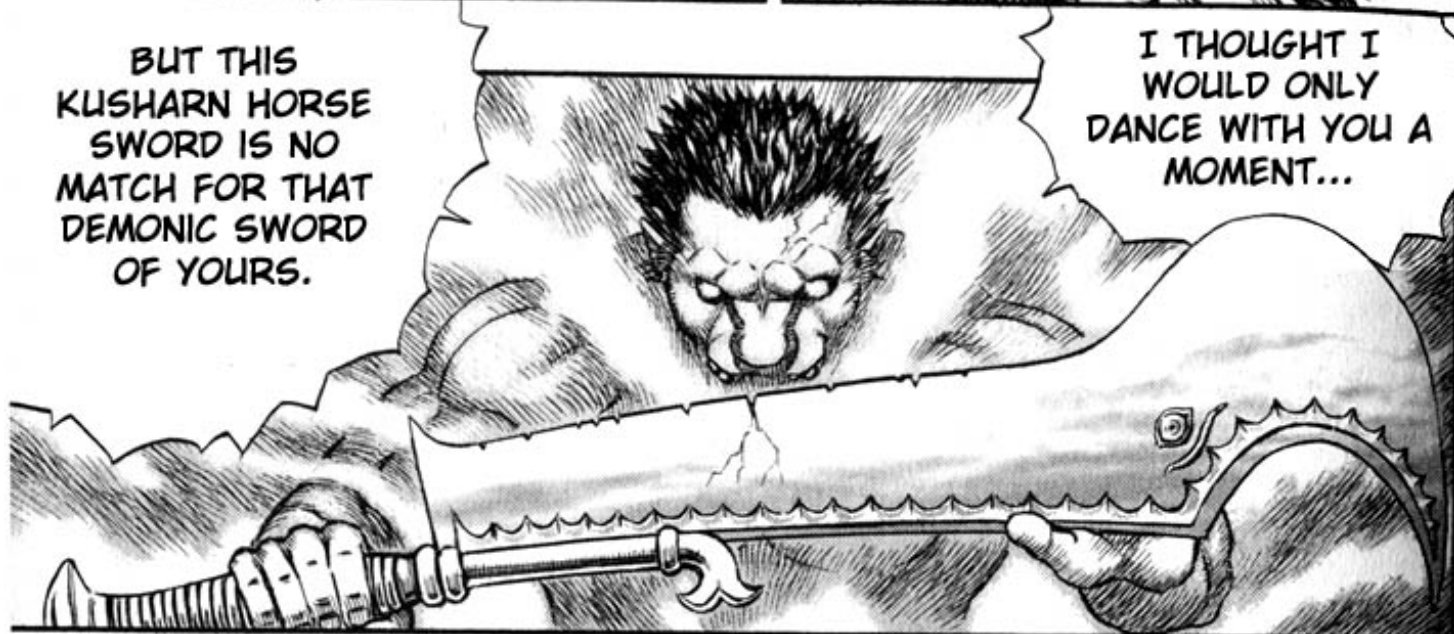
BERSERK



THE
POWER TO
FIGHT AND
ESCAPE
THE
APOSTLES
...

FOR A
HUMAN BODY
TO SURVIVE
THE
ECLIPSE...

MAG-
NIFI-
CENT.



BUT THIS
KUSHARN HORSE
SWORD IS NO
MATCH FOR THAT
DEMONIC SWORD
OF YOURS.

I THOUGHT I
WOULD ONLY
DANCE WITH YOU A
MOMENT...



AND YOU
USE IT
FITTINGLY.

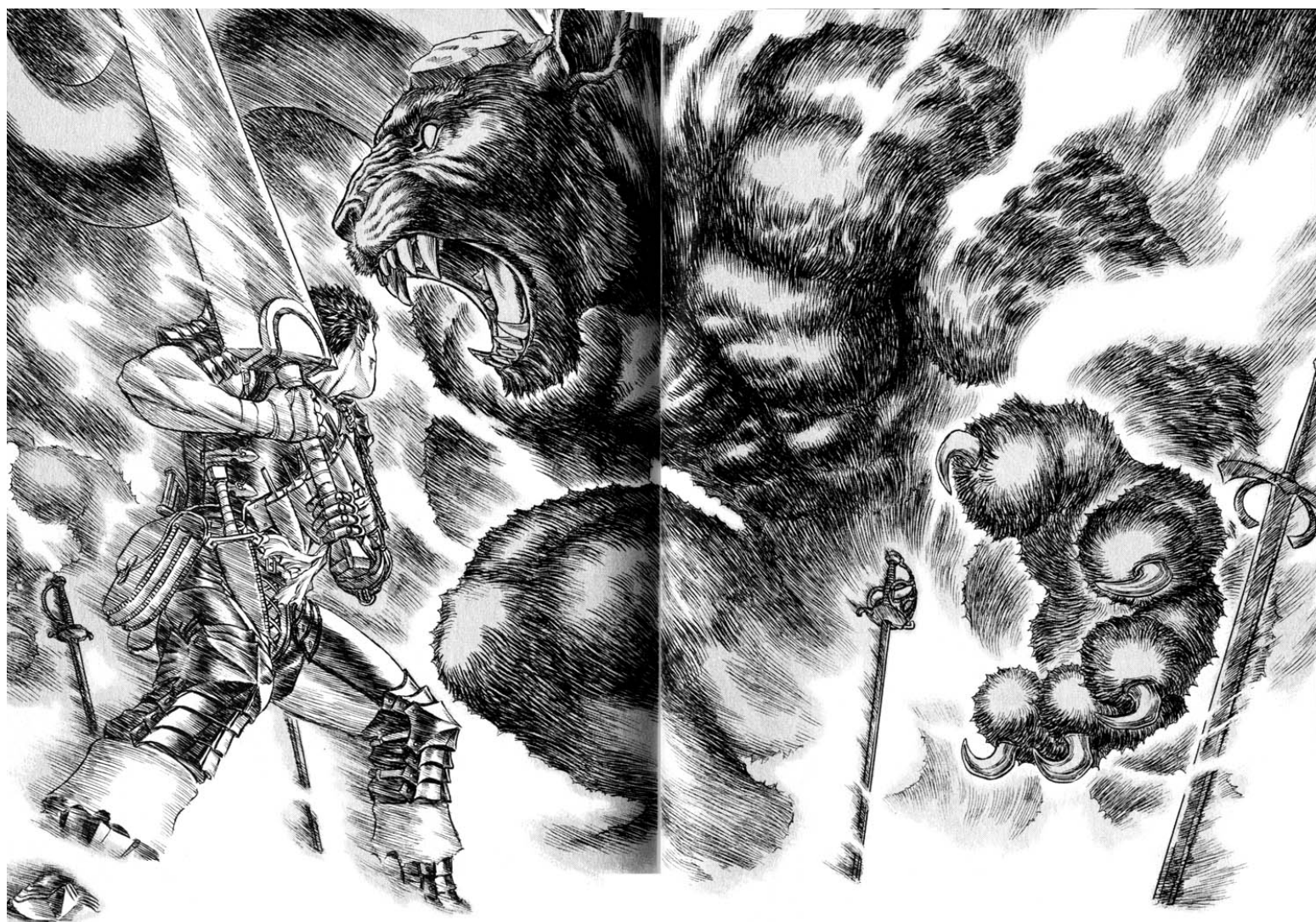
IT IS A
SPLENDID
BLADE!



TASTED
ENOUGH

BUT WE'RE
JUST
BEGINNING.

I
HAVE
NOT
YET
...



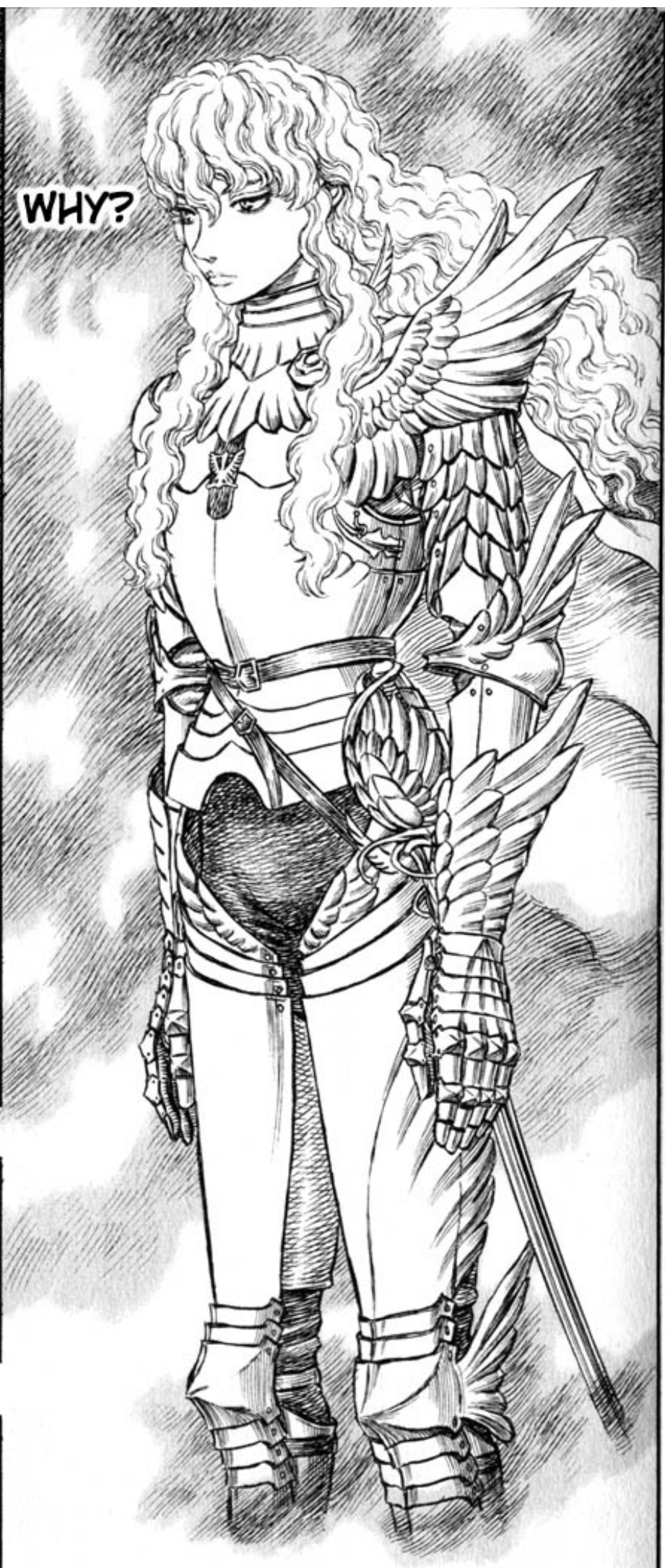
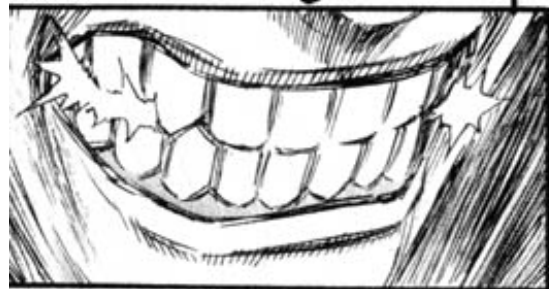
Z....
ZODD!?



TH-THAT
MAN IS
NOSFERATU
ZODD!?



I HAVE
NOT HAD
MY FILL





















CASKA
キヤスカ!!



ドドオオッ



















I WILL
...

TAKE MY
OWN
COUNTRY.

PREFACE TO



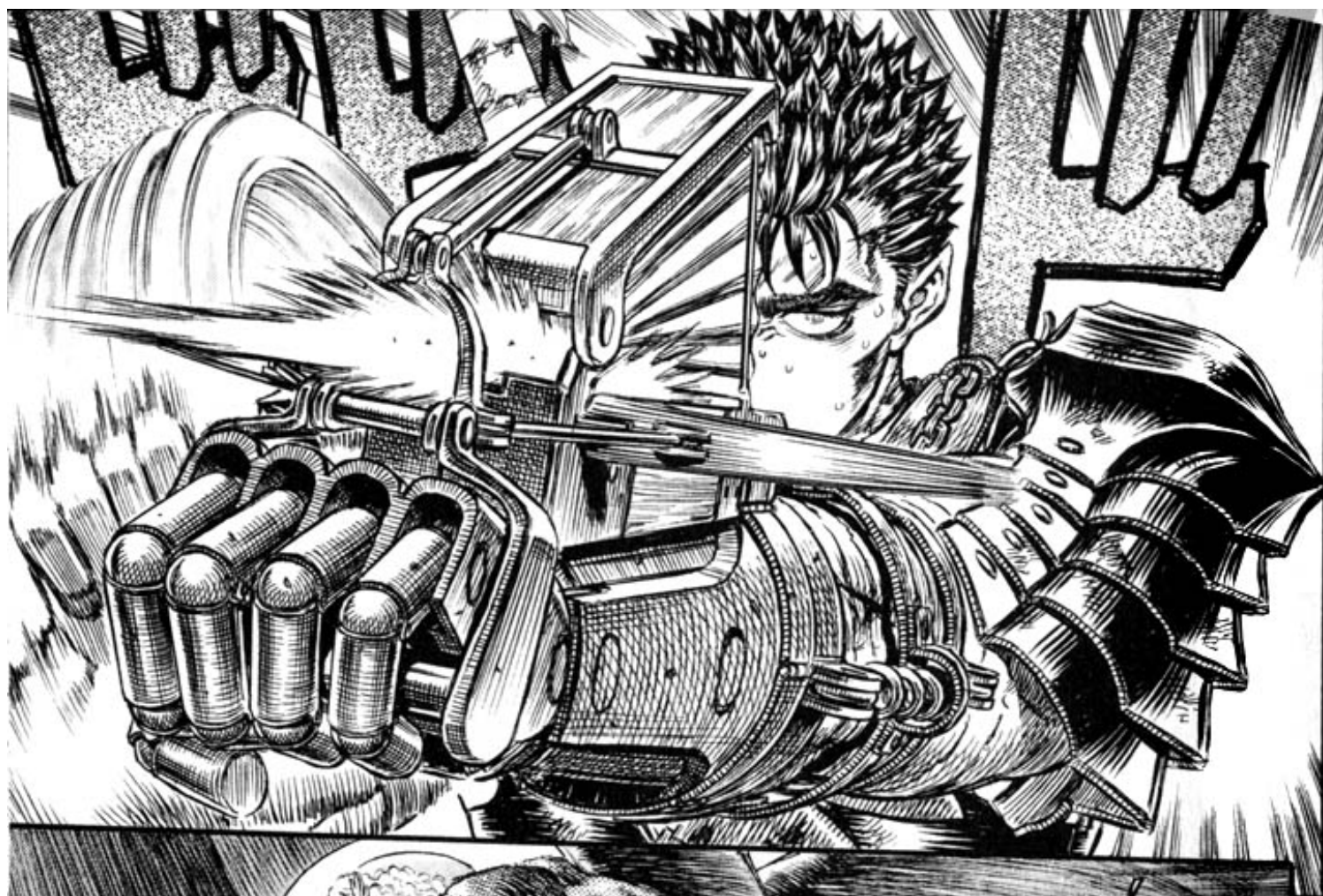
NOTHING

...

WILL
CHANGE
THAT.







NOTHING
WILL
CHANGE
THAT, HUNH?

GET DOWN!

STOP THAT!

リド
グ
ケ
ル
エ
ト!!

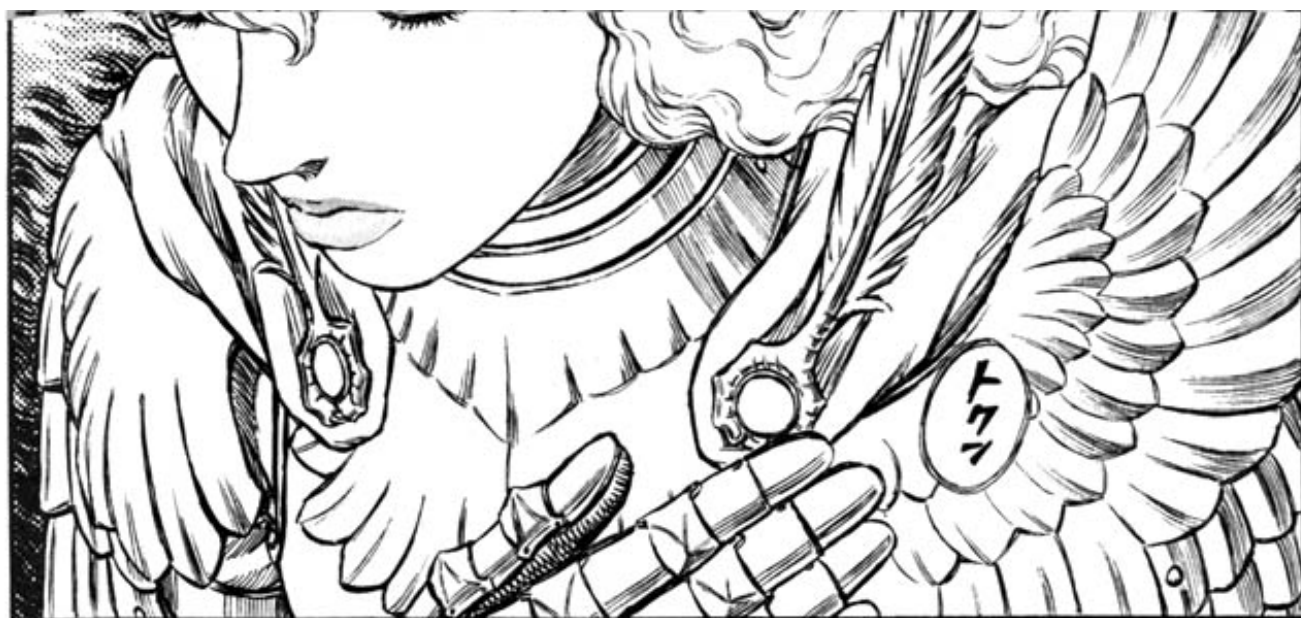
ガ
だ
め
だ
!!

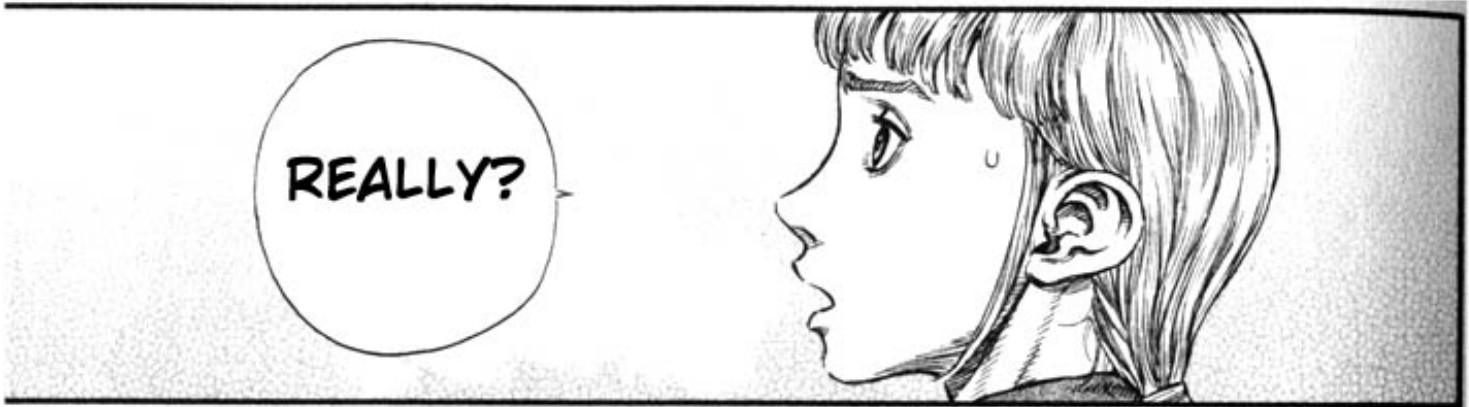












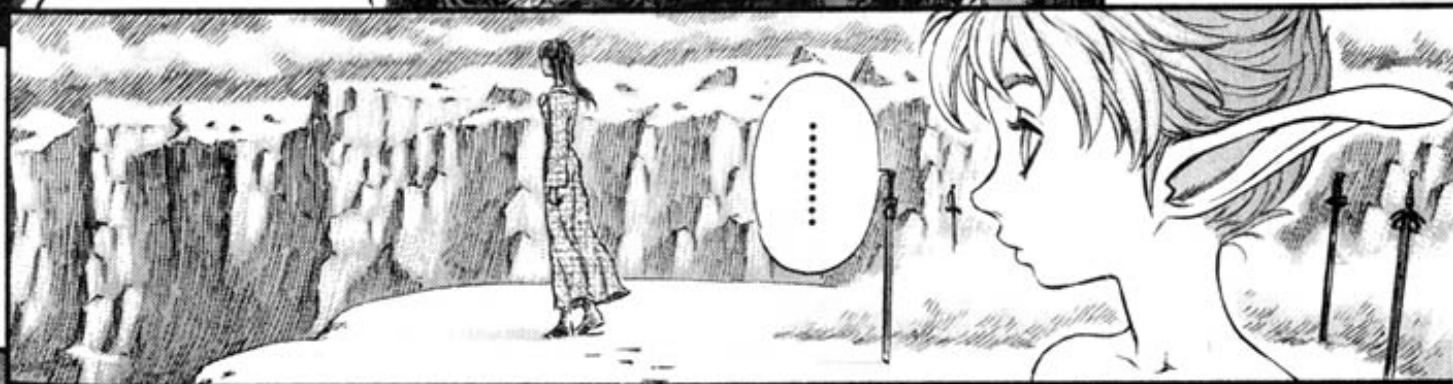


THAT'S
WHERE
IT'S
FROM.

THAT
IMAGE
...

YEAH.

SORT OF
FIGURED
THAT
OUT. I GUESS
I'D...



.....



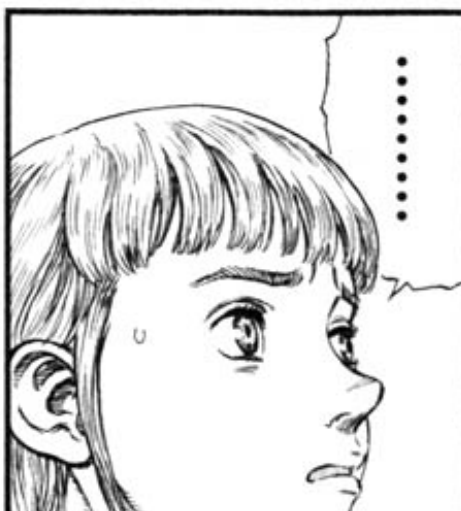
あ
！
！



JUST SETTLED
IN COMFORTABLY
HERE...

ALL THIS
TIME,
KNOWING
NOTHING...







NOW
WHADDA
WE DO?

SO?



CHASING
REVENGE
?

KEEP
...



TAKE
HER
ALONG.

YOU
CAN'T
...





THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

I KNOW THAT.



I MEAN, YOU TAKE HER ALONG AND REVENGE JUST...

I KNOW



THE TOWER OF JUDGMENT PROVED THAT...

IF TWO OF BRANDED FOLK STOP IN THE SAME SPOT FOR VERY LONG ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.



BUT THE ELF MINE'S CRUSHED

STOPPING HERE'S JUST AS BAD,



POOR THING...

ANYWAY, WE JUST GONNA LOCK HER UP AGAIN?

THAT'S WHY SHE KEEPS RUNNING AWAY, AIN'T



I SURE CAN'T THINK OF ANY.

NO OTHER ELF HOMES NEARBY?





YOU
WON'T
EVEN
STAY THE
NIGHT?

KUSHARN ASSAULT



THAT PUTS
YOU IN
DANGER
AS WELL.
BUT
I...

I TOLD YOU.
THIS BRAND
SUMMONS
ANY GHOSTS
AND DEMONS
AROUND.



GODO
USED
TO SAY
THAT.



THEN
ERICA.

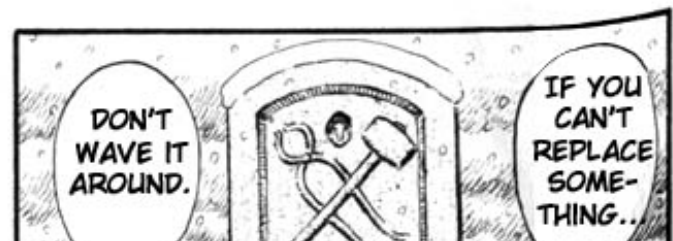


...



I WANT
TO...

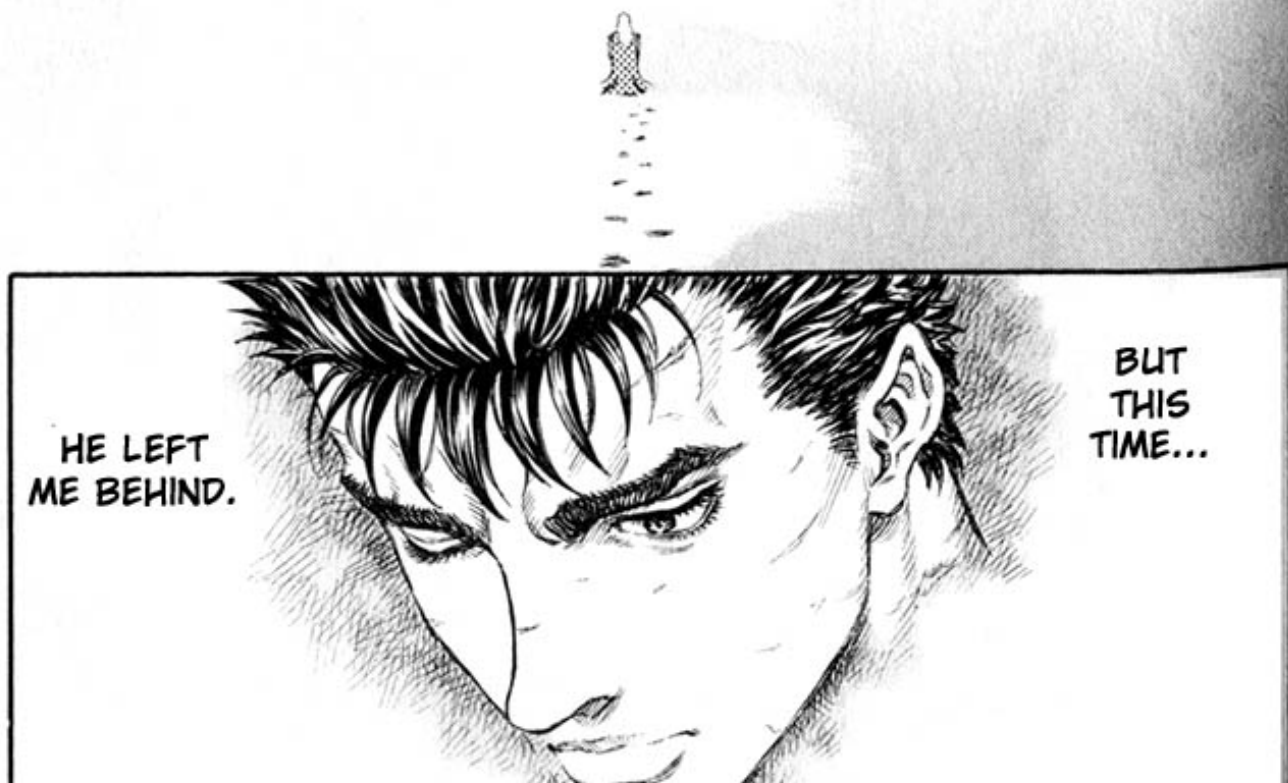
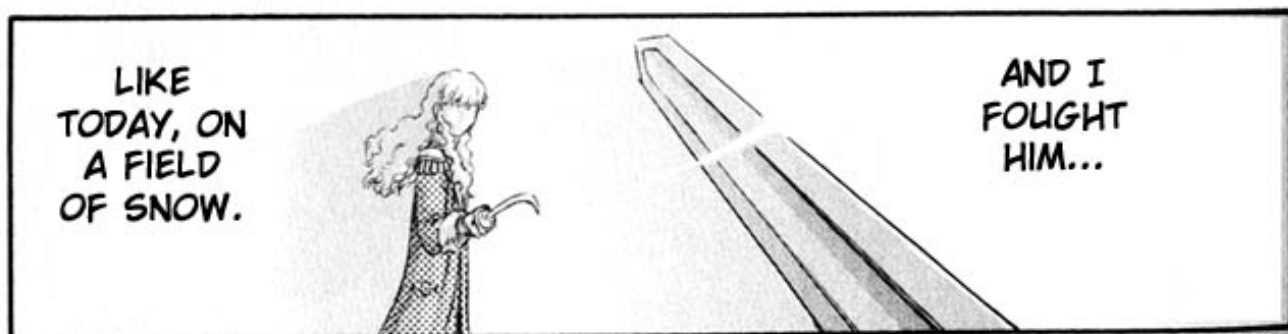
BUT
STILL,



DON'T
WAVE IT
AROUND.

IF YOU
CAN'T
REPLACE
SOME-
THING...








THIS IS
WHAT I
WILL DO.

YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
THIS...



I
THOUGHT
I SAID.



I WILL
...

TAKE MY
OWN
COUNTRY.



**BETTER
THAN
ANYONE.**



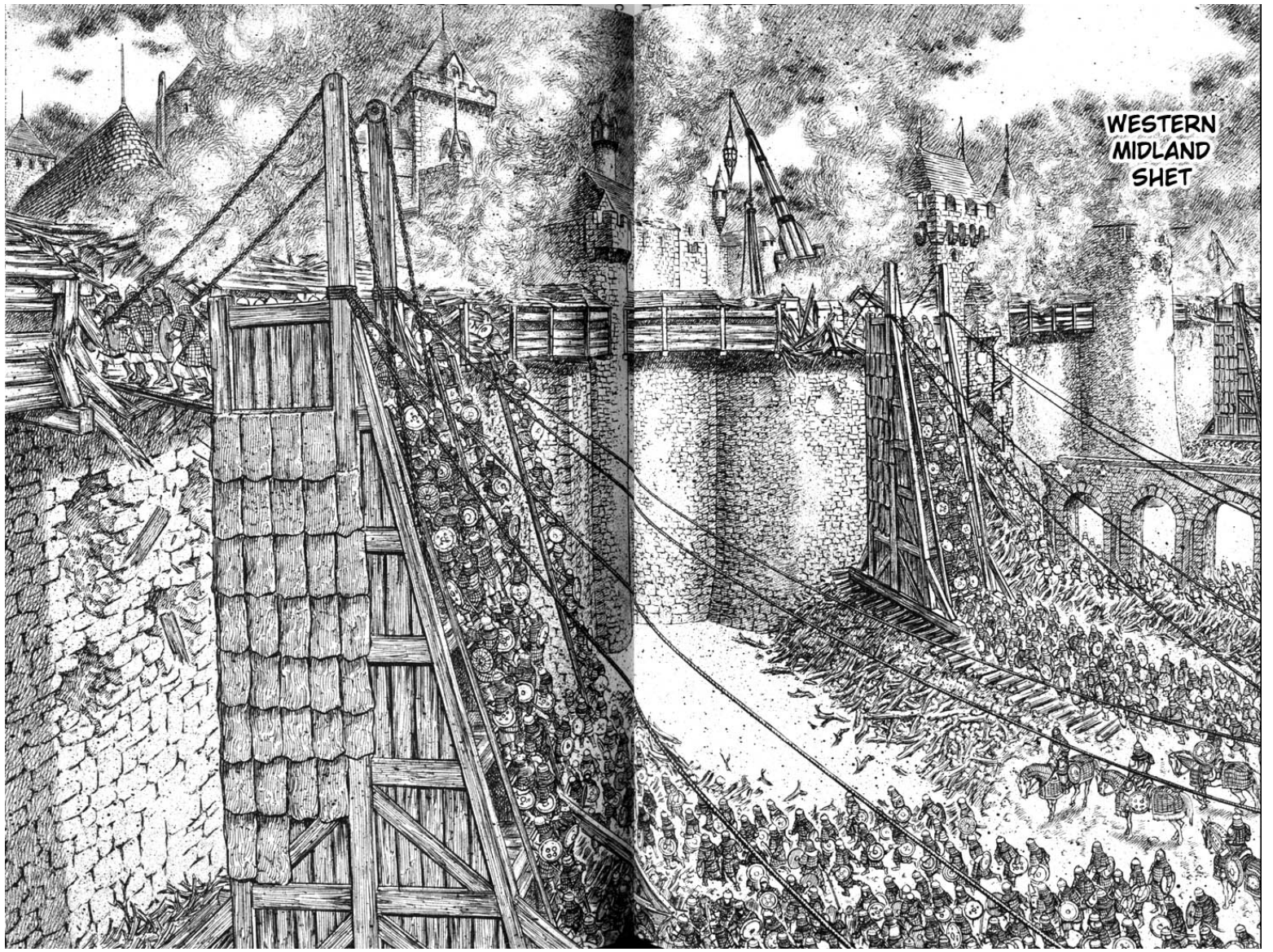


I WILL
NOT
LOOSE
YOU.

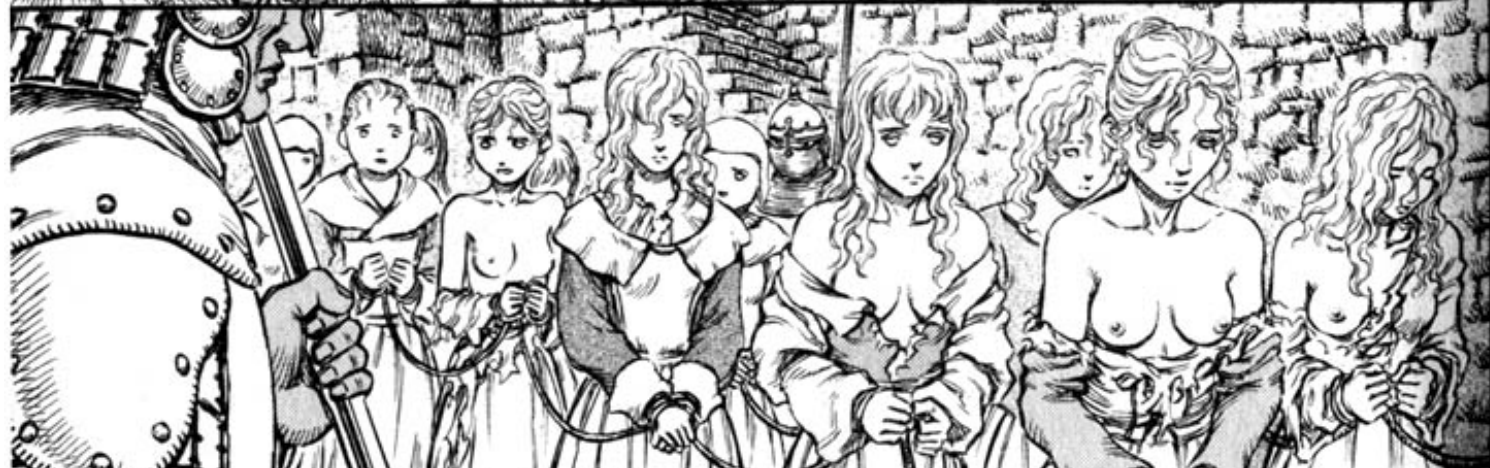
THIS
TIME...













MADE
INTO
SLAVES
AND
WHISKED
OFF TO
THEIR
COUNTRY.



WHO
KNOWS



NO MATTER
WHAT, WE'RE
DONE FOR.

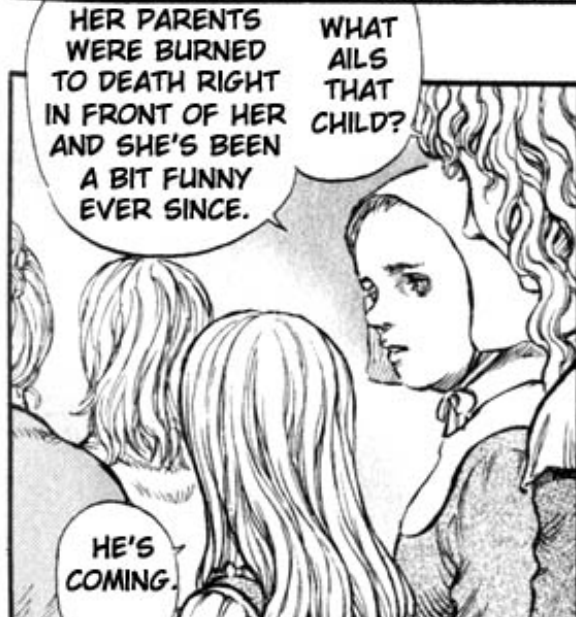
THIS IS JUST A
RUMOR, BUT I
HEAR THE
KUSHARN
SACRIFICE WOMEN
TO THEIR GOD.



IF ONLY
THAT MAN
WERE
HERE...

THEN
NONE OF
THIS...

IF ONLY
THE BAND
OF THE
FALCON
...



WHAT
AILS
THAT
CHILD?

HE'S
COMING.



HE'S
COMING



THE
WIND IS
WHISPERING.

I CAN
HEAR
IT

THE
FALCON OF
LIGHT IS
COMING.

LET US GIVE THEM
A SAMPLE OF THE
MEDICINE OF FEAR
OUR FORCES
TRADE IN.

BUT
GENERAL,
THEY
REFUSED
OUR THRICE
OFFERED
ADVICE TO
SURRENDER.
WE CANNOT
SIMPLY
IGNORE THAT
RESISTANCE.

LANDS, BUT IT
DOES TAKE
SUCH A LONG
TIME TO RUIN A
CITY.

THEY
INVITE
THIS
MASSACRE
UPON
THEM-
SELVES.

IF THEY
WOULD
SIMPLY
SUBMIT THEY
MIGHT LIVE
ACCEPTABLY
LONG LIVES.

AND YET
HERE
YOU
ARE...

OUR
ARMIES
HAVE NOW
DESTROYED
SIX OF
THEIR FORTS.

I'M
THOROUGHLY
DISGUSTED WITH
YOU, VARKILAKA.

AND YOUR
ENTIRE FAMILY
CANNOT
CAPTURE ONE
MAN.

IT'S
ABSURD.

AND YOU
CALL
YOURSELVES
WARRIORS?

SINCE OUR MISSION TO THE CHURCH WAS APPOINTED TO US BY AN ORACLE, THAT WE ALL MUST BE WILLING TO ADMIT TO THE EXISTENCE OF MATTERS BEYOND OUR KNOWLEDGE.

I HUMBLY SUBMIT THAT,

WHO ON EARTH WOULD BELIEVE SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS LIE?

AND THIS STORY OF YOURS THAT THE FALCON MOUNTED ON A BEAST AND FLEW AWAY...



BUT LOOK LIKE A SLAVE.

YOU PUT ON AIRS...



A WHIM.

THE VERY FACT THAT THE SULTAN HAS CHOSEN TO GRANT THE LIKES OF YOU THE SLIGHTEST FRAGMENT OF DUTY IN MILITARY AFFAIRS CAN BE ONLY ONE THING...

THEY DO WHAT WE OFFICERS TELL THEM TO.

DO YOU KNOW THE ROLE OF CHURCHES IN WAR?

ORACLES AND THE LIKE ARE MERELY A CONVENIENT WAY TO LIGHT THE FUSE OF WAR.

YOU BEGAN AS SLAVES, BUT GOT INVOLVED WITH THAT CONFLICT OVER THE SULTANATE SUCCESSION BEFORE BEING DRIVEN FROM THE LAND BY THE NEW ROYALTY; WHY HAVE YOU BEEN PERMITTED TO RETURN?

WE HANG ON TO THEM FOR THE SAKE OF THE LOST.

I TAKE PITY













THEY JUST
TORE
THROUGH
STEEL WITH
THEIR BARE
HANDS!

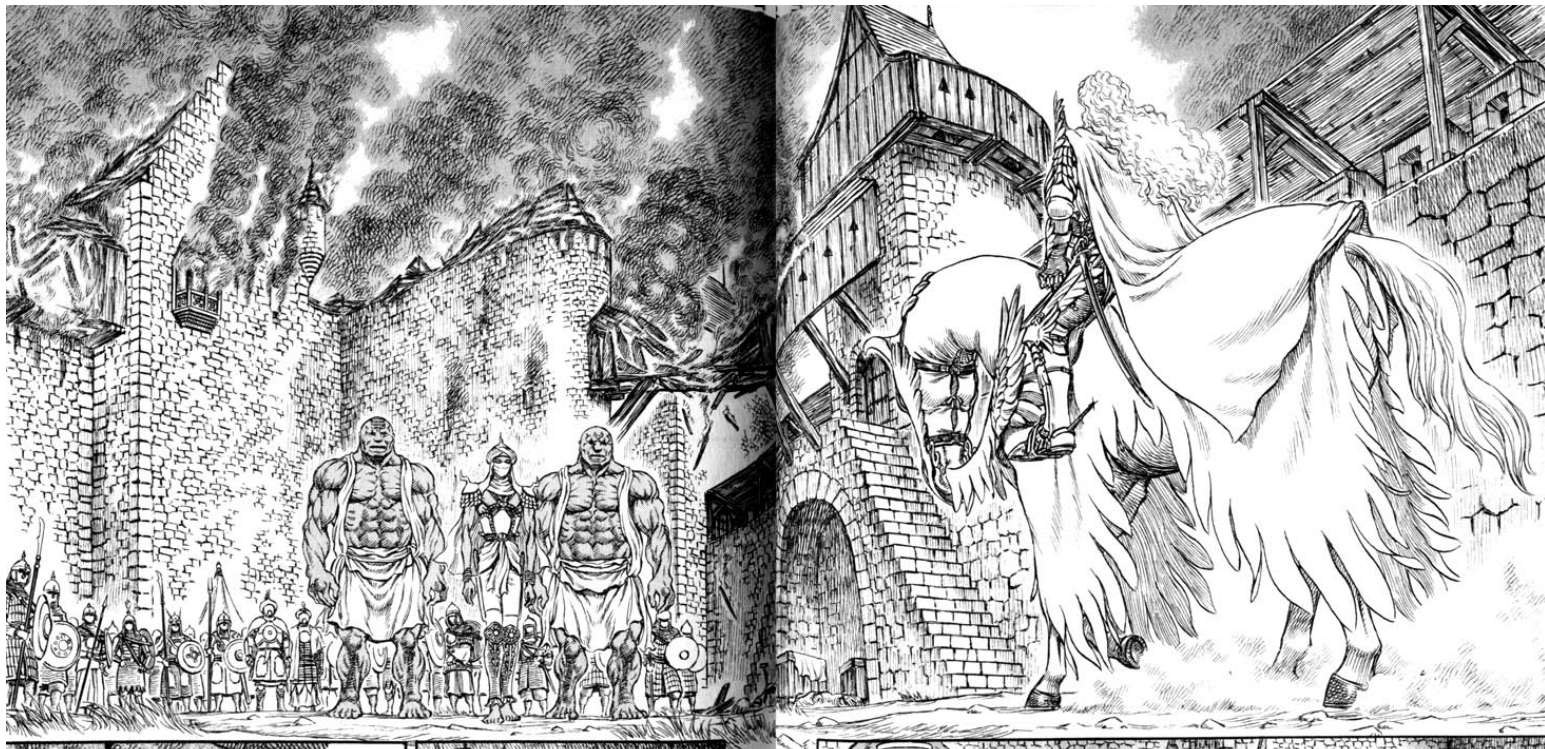
HOW DO
THEY
MOVE
THAT
FAST?





WIND OF
TIME 1



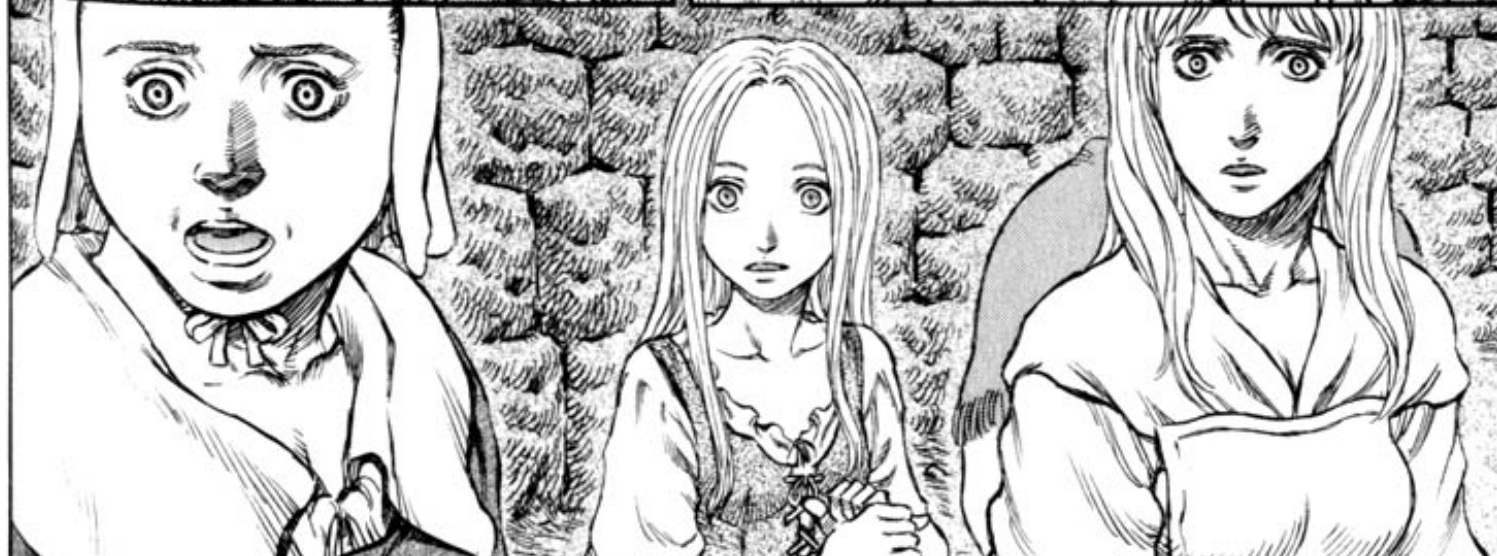


WHO
IS...
!?











WH-WHY ARE
YOU JUST
STANDING
THERE!



S-SIR!



KILL
HIM!!

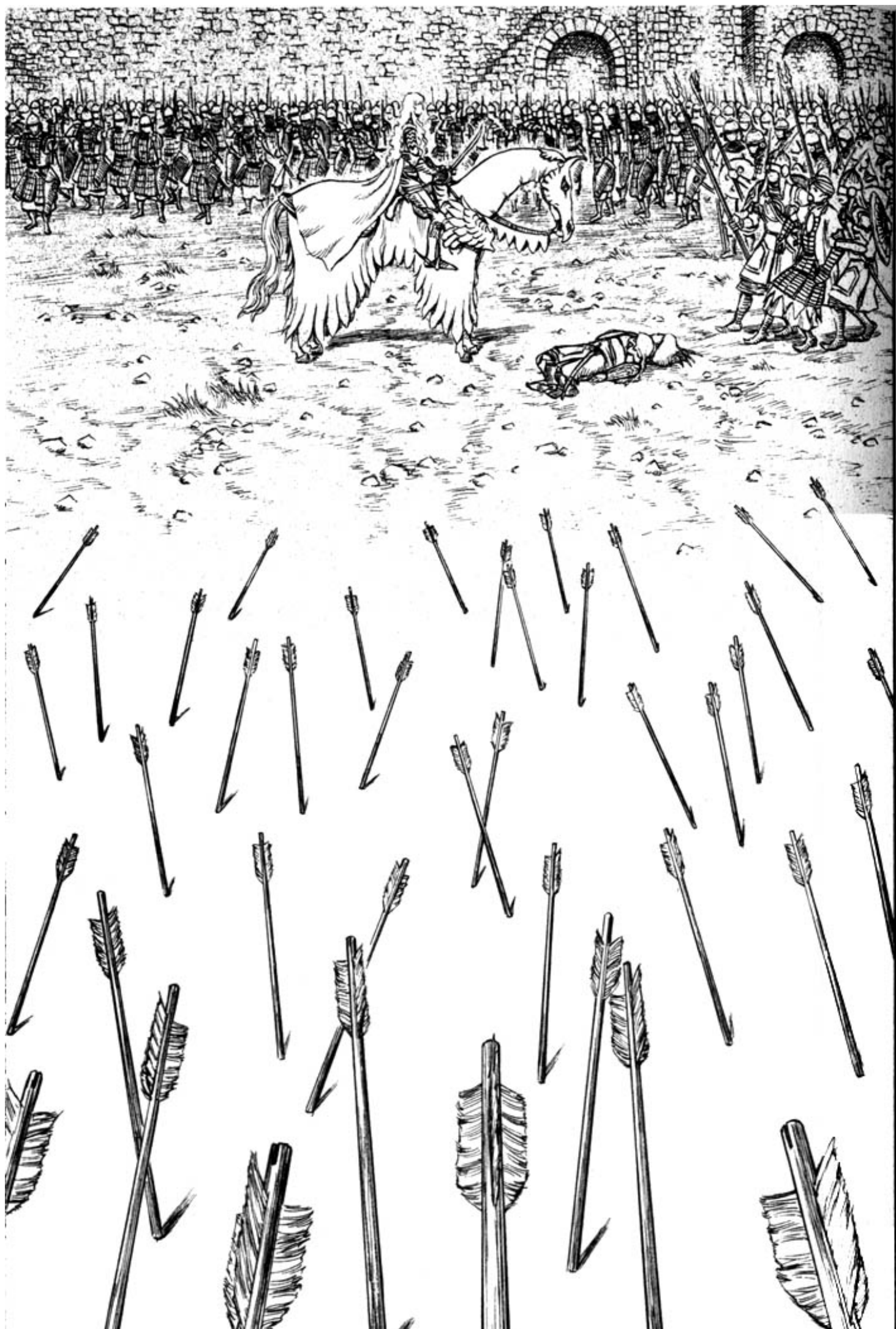
AIM!
FIRE!

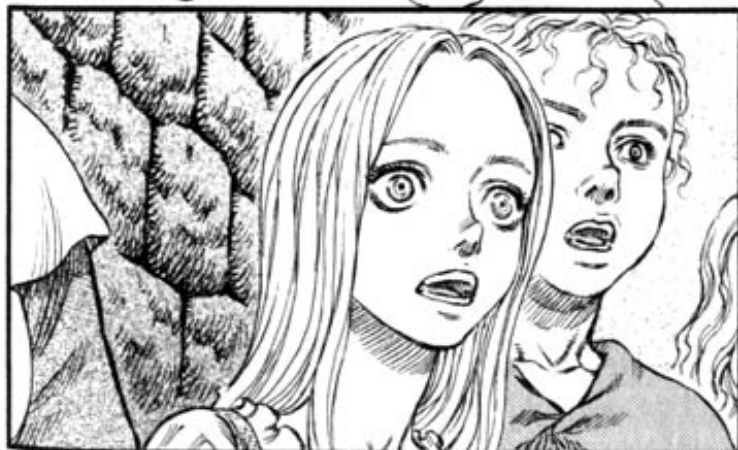


WAIT!

W
...











WHAT IS HE!?



KILL HIM TOO!

HE'S WITH HIM!



ゴ
ル
ル



カ
ン



THERE'S
ONLY
TWO OF
THEM!

DON'T
PANIC!

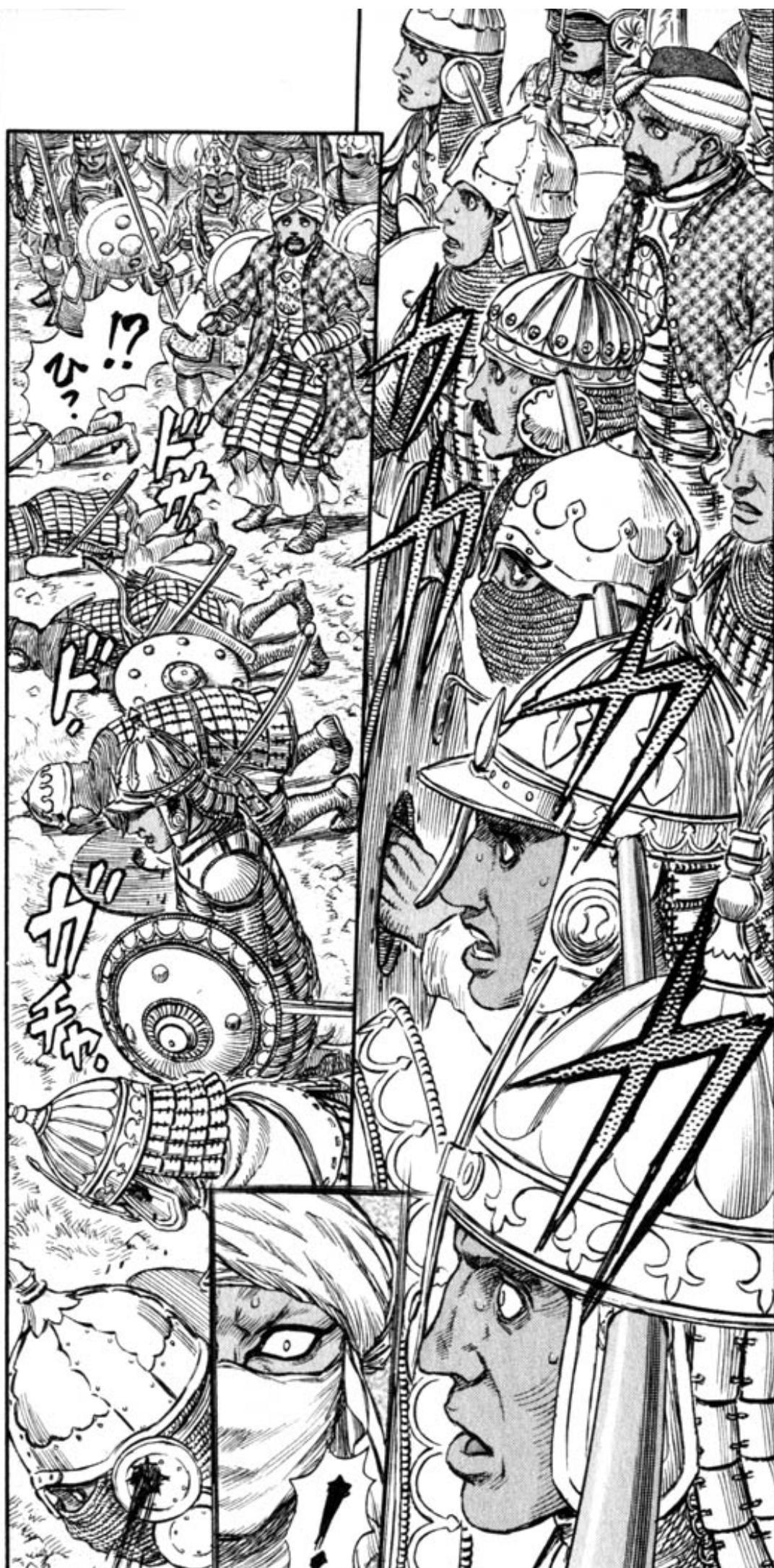
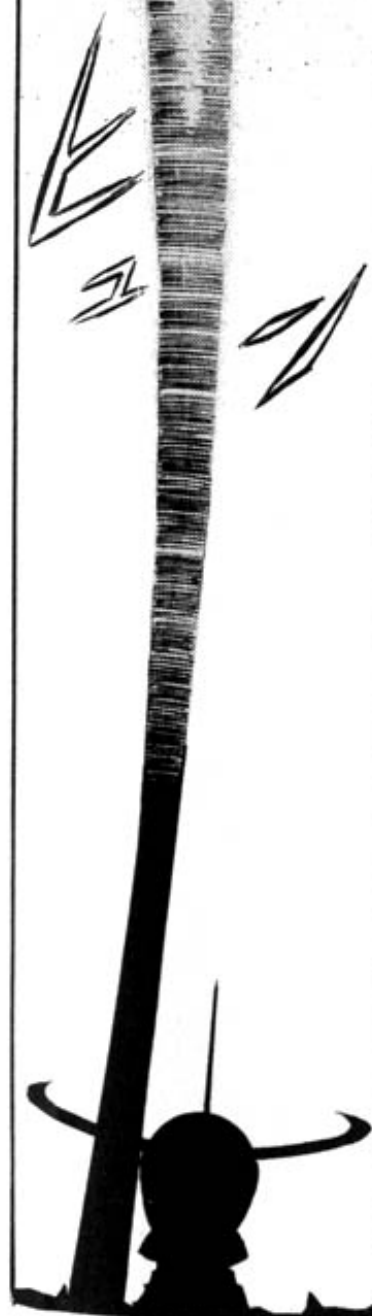
THAT'S
A
MONST
ER!

THAT'S
NOT A
KNIGHT
!

GET
MOVING!

STOP
THEM,
AND
QUICKLY!







YOU WERE
NOT
MOUNTED.
FORGIVE
ME.

THOUGH
ENEMIES
...



I HAVE
SOUGHT
THIS
GROUND
UNDER THE
GUIDANCE
OF AN
ORACLE.

MY NAME
IS
LOCUS.

I SEEK
THE
FALCON OF
LIGHT.

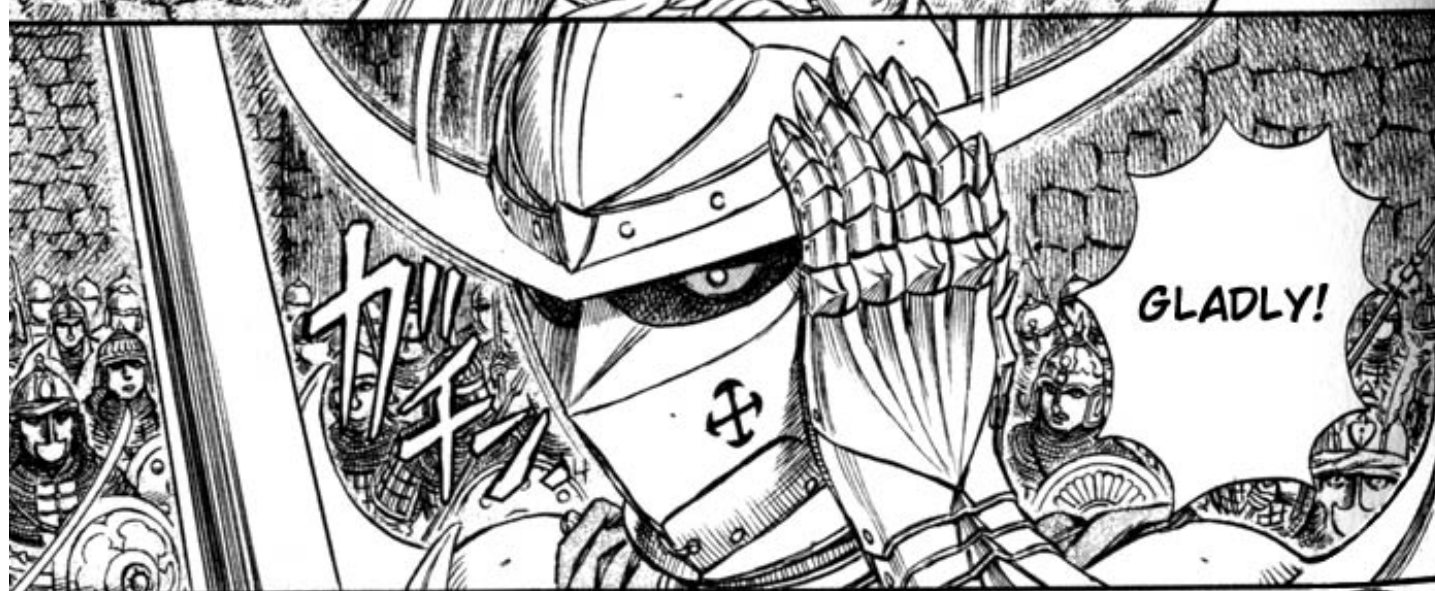
THAT IS
YOU, I
PRESUME
?



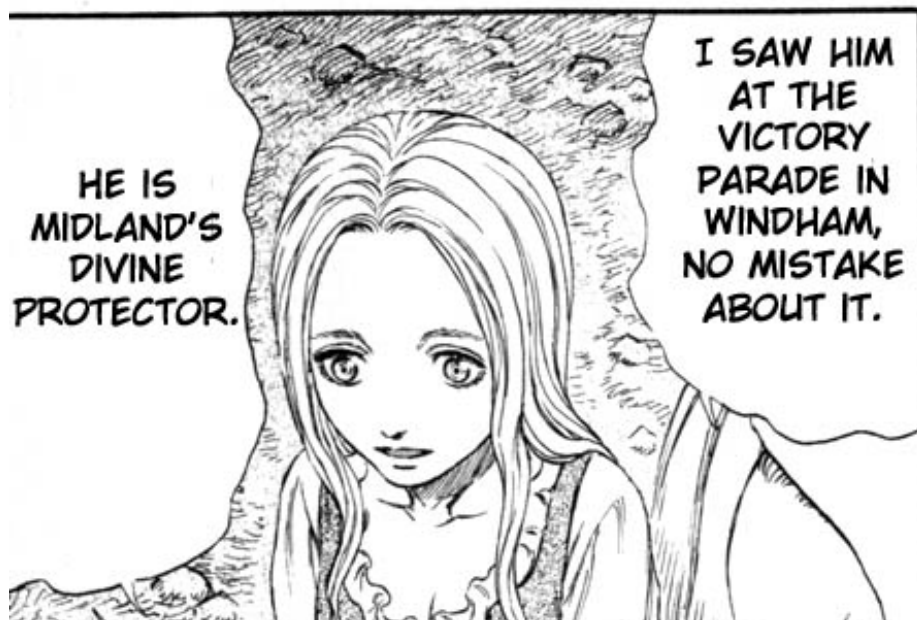


YOU SHALL
JOIN YOUR
SWORD
WITH MINE.

THE MOON-
LIGHT
KNIGHT,
LOCUS.



GLADLY!



HE IS
MIDLAND'S
DIVINE
PROTECTOR.

I SAW HIM
AT THE
VICTORY
PARADE IN
WINDHAM,
NO MISTAKE
ABOUT IT.



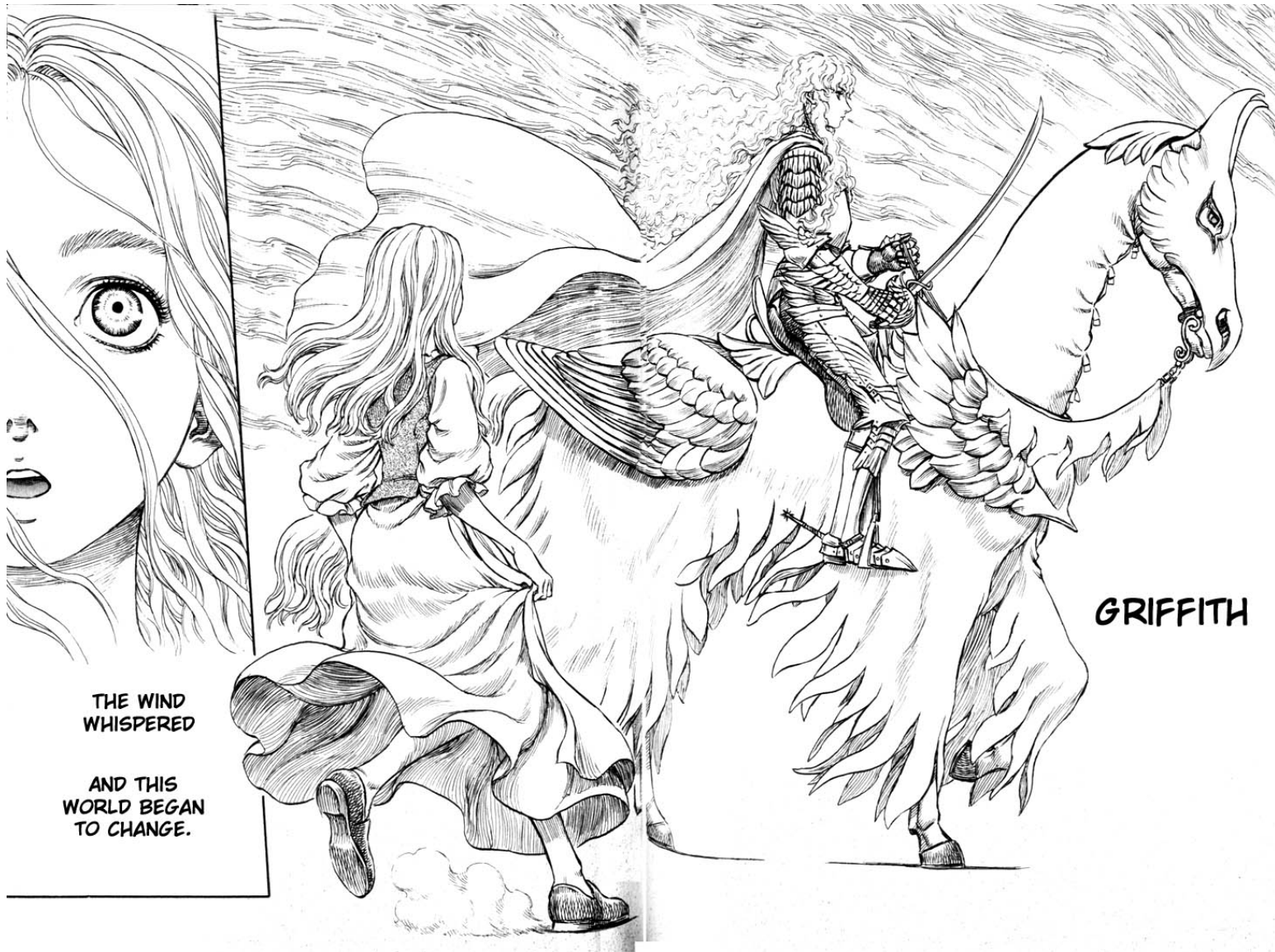
NO,
THAT
COULDN'T
BE...

THE
FALCON
OF LIGHT...

BUT IT'S
HIM, SURE

I
HEARD
HE





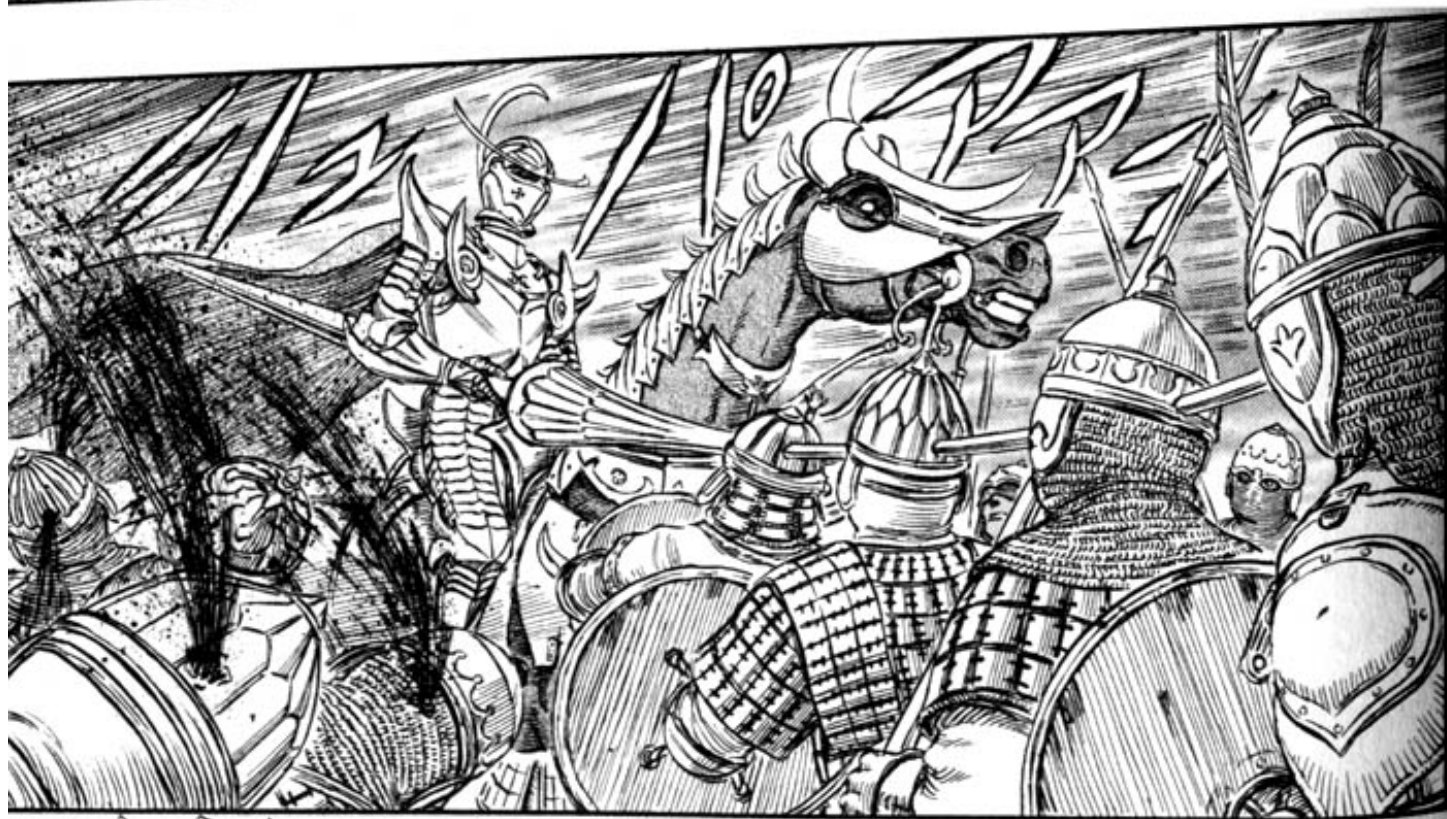
THE WIND
WHISPERED

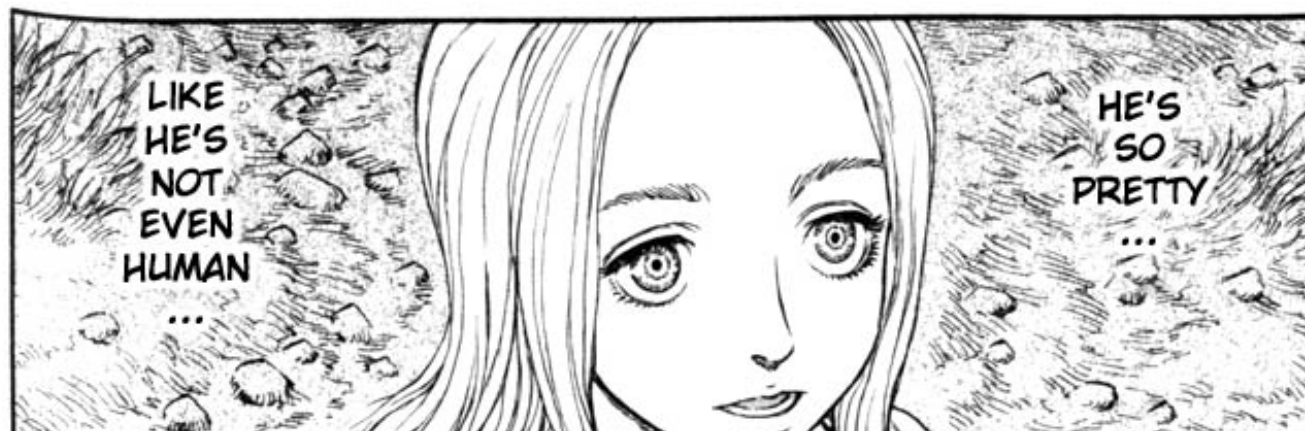
AND THIS
WORLD BEGAN
TO CHANGE.

GRIFFITH

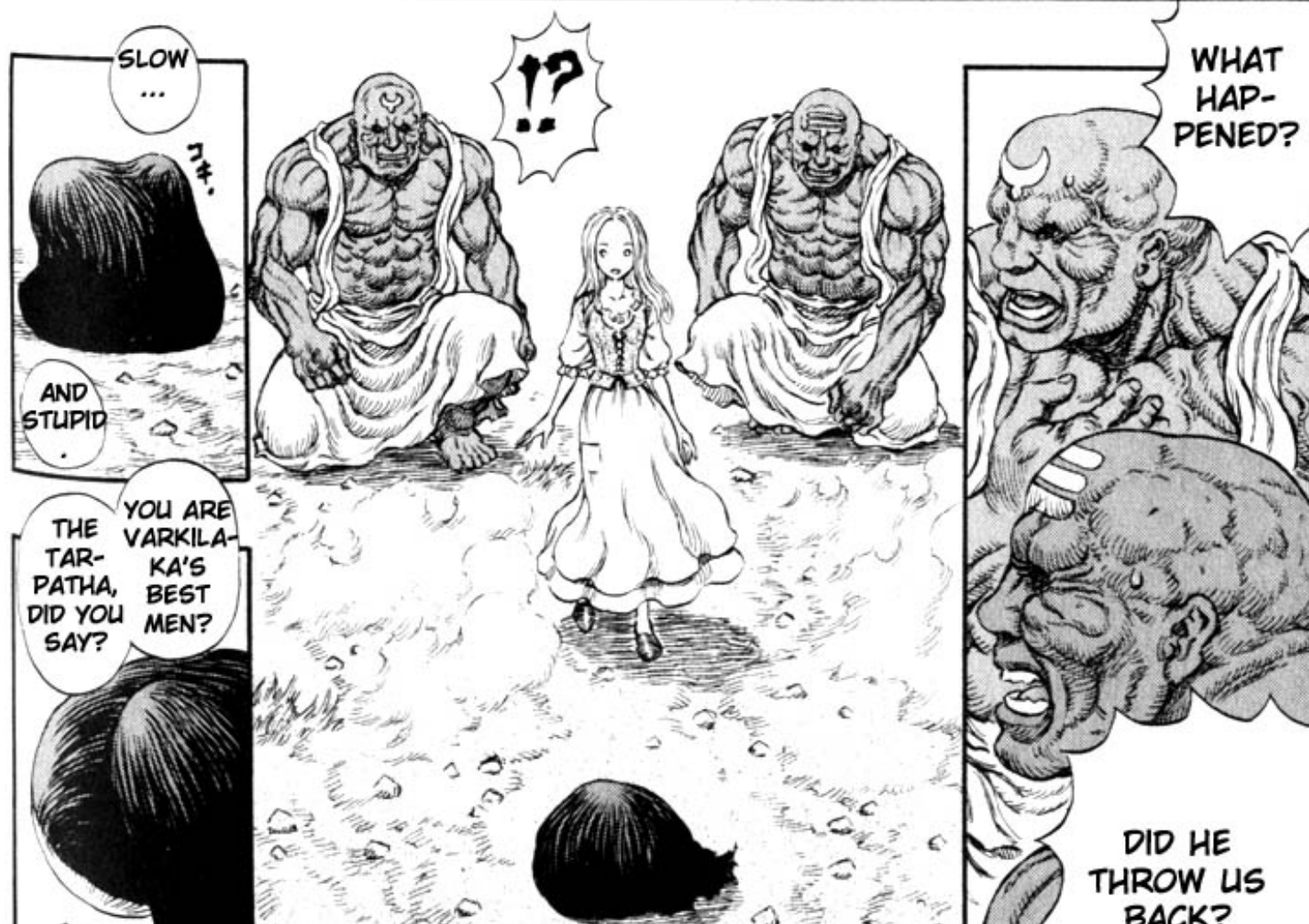
WIND OF TIME 2

BERSERK











YOU ARE
THE
FALCON
OF
LIGHT.

AS THE
ORACLES
SAID.



THAT
MASK
...

YOU'RE
LA'KUSHAS
!



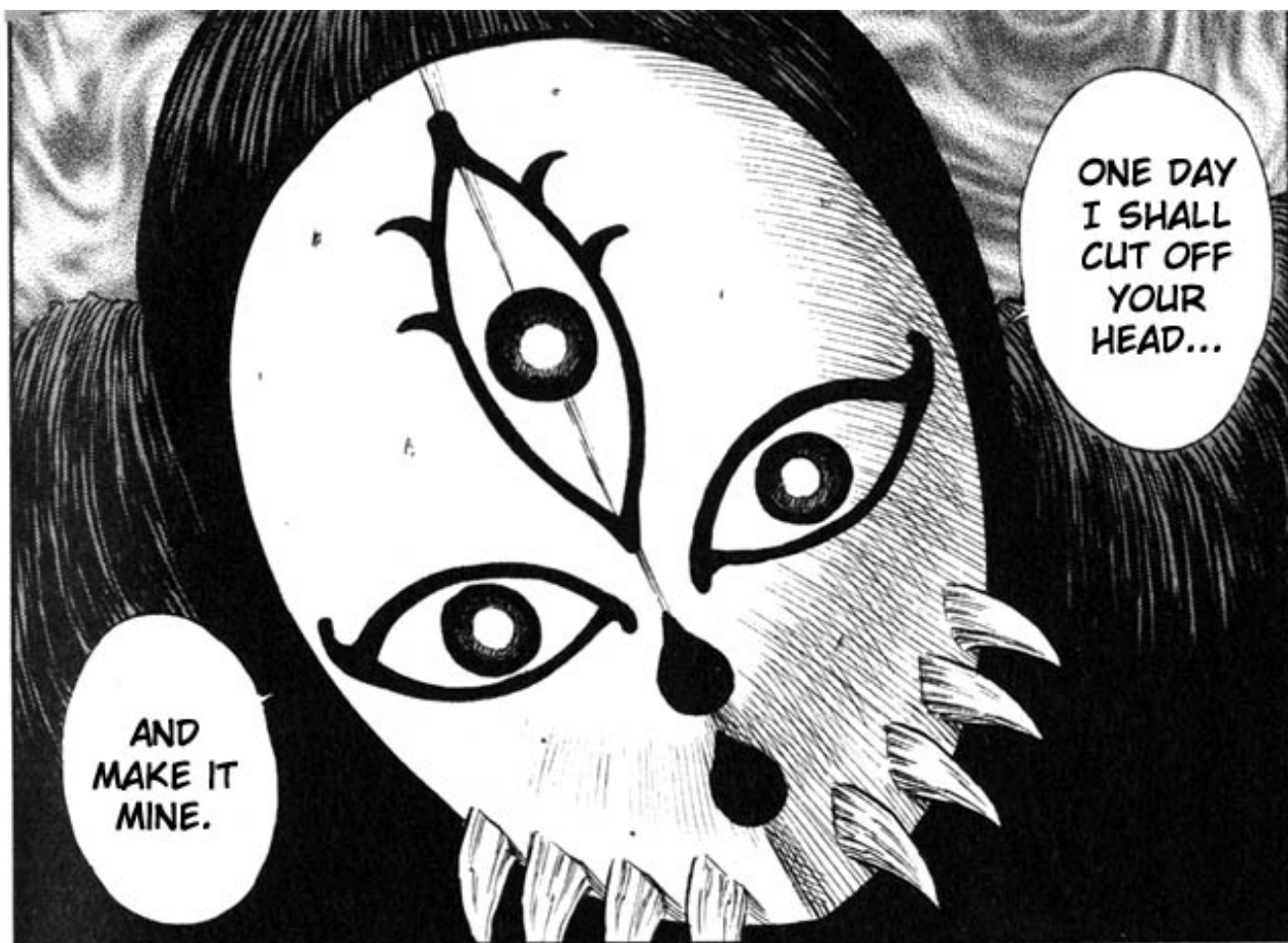
BEA

AND
YOU

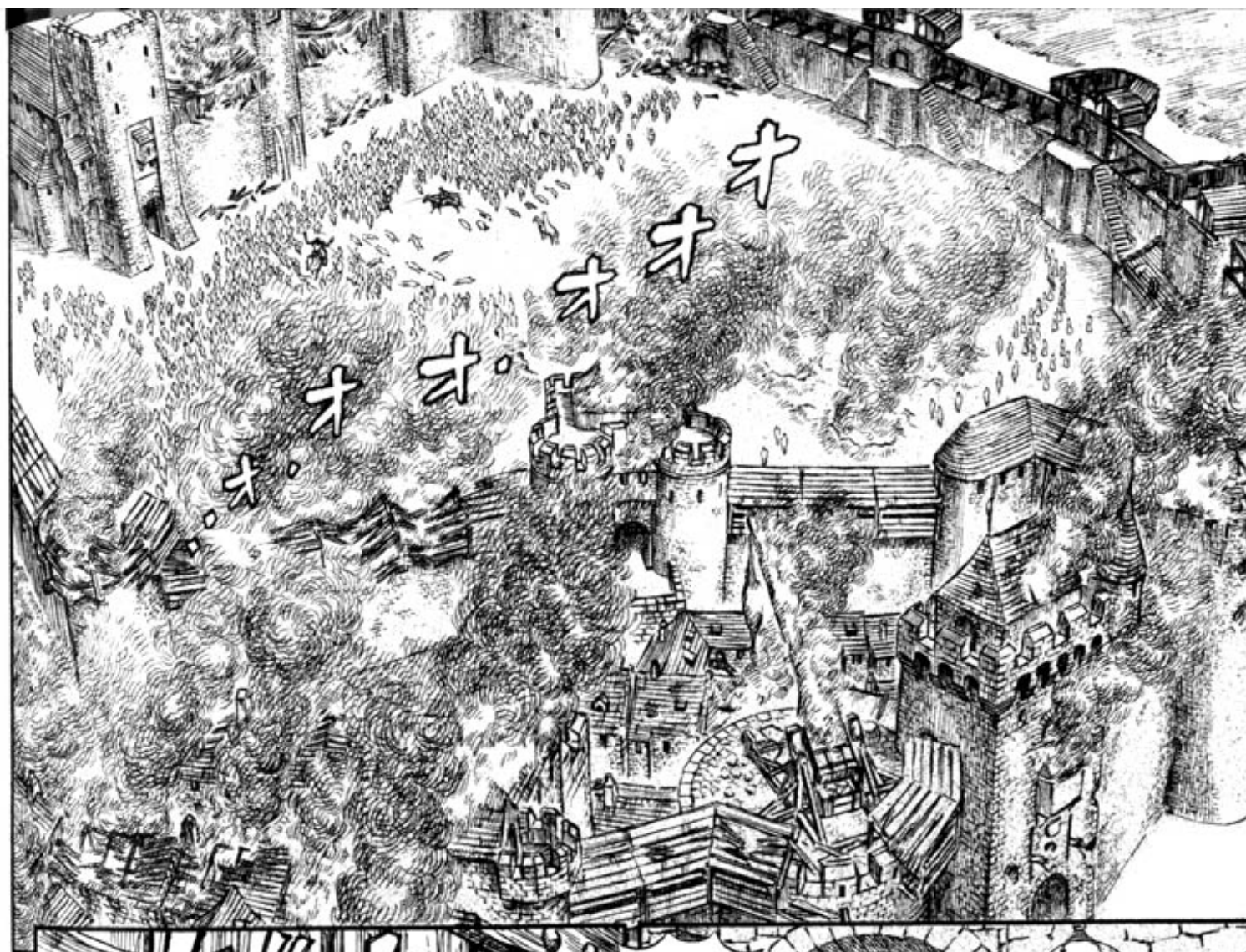


WHY
IS
HE
HERE
?

BUT HE
WAS
EXILED
!









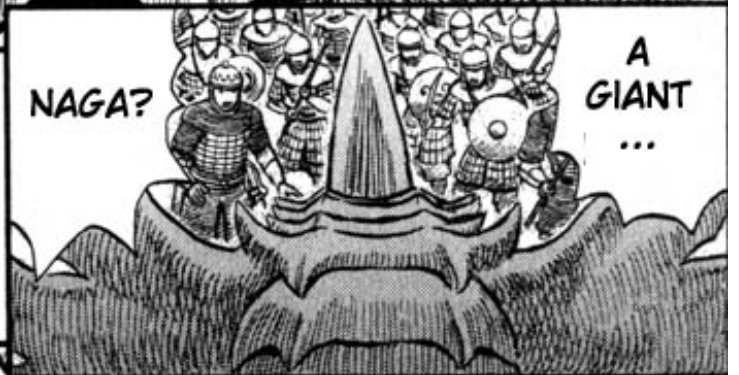


ムッ
ムッ
ムッ



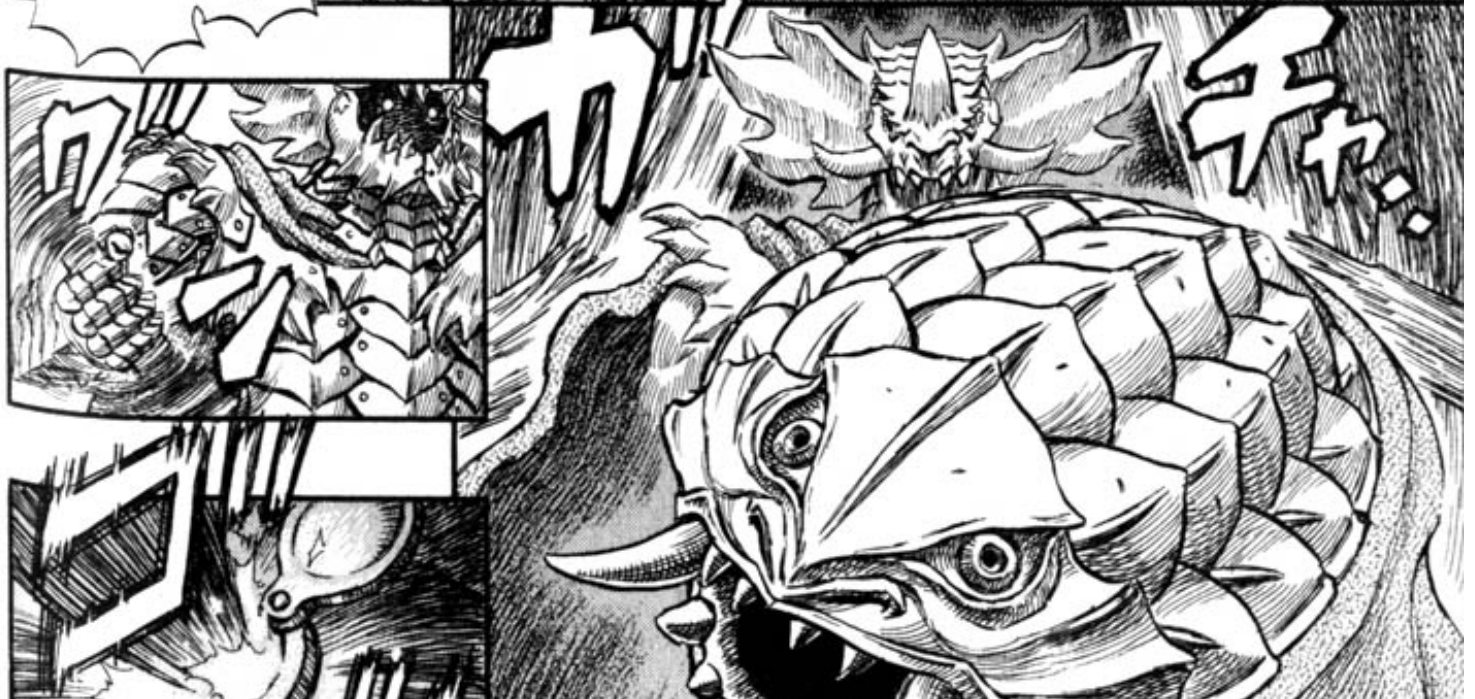
HE IS
ALONE
!

STAY
YOUR
GROUND
!



NAGA?

A
GIANT
...



チヤッ







BRING
FORTH
THE
CASTLE
RESERVES
!

RUNNER
!



TH
...

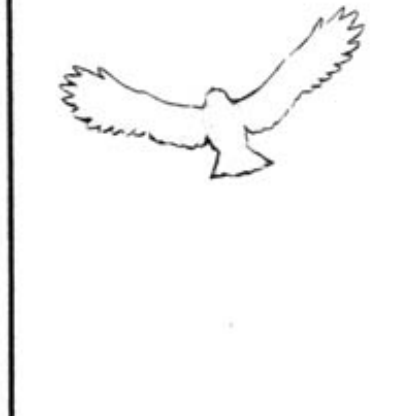




SO THAT
IS THE
FALCON
OF
LIGHT...

THE MAN
WHO WILL







AW, MAN, SHILKE, YOU ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HARD STUFF I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

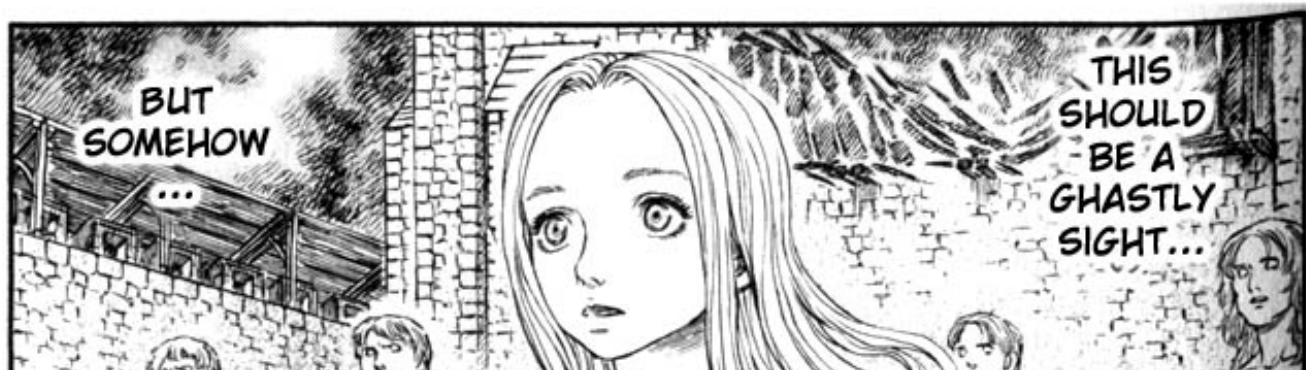
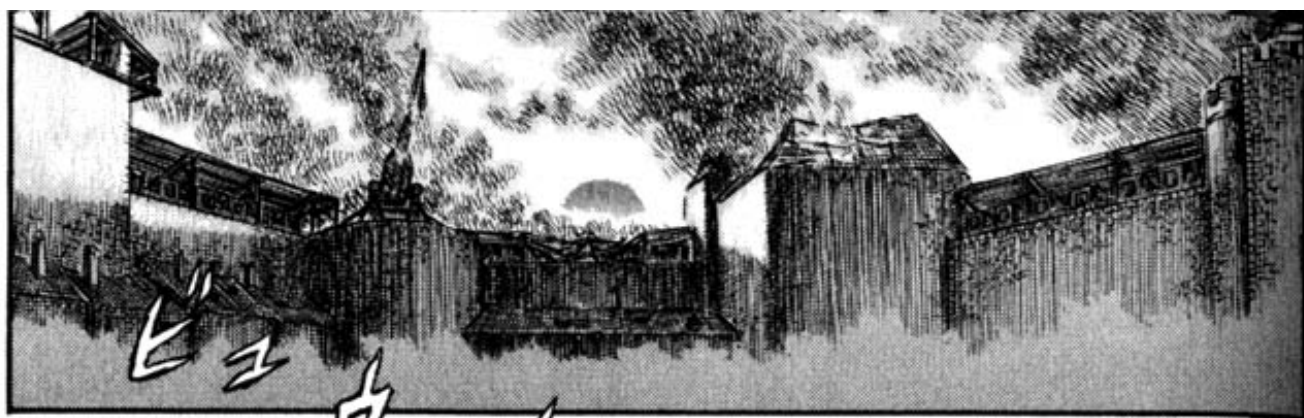
GETTING CLOSE TO POWER LIKE THAT, IN MY ASTRAL BODY WOULD BE DANGEROUS; ONE SLIP AND I'D BE LOST IN THE OTHER WORLD.

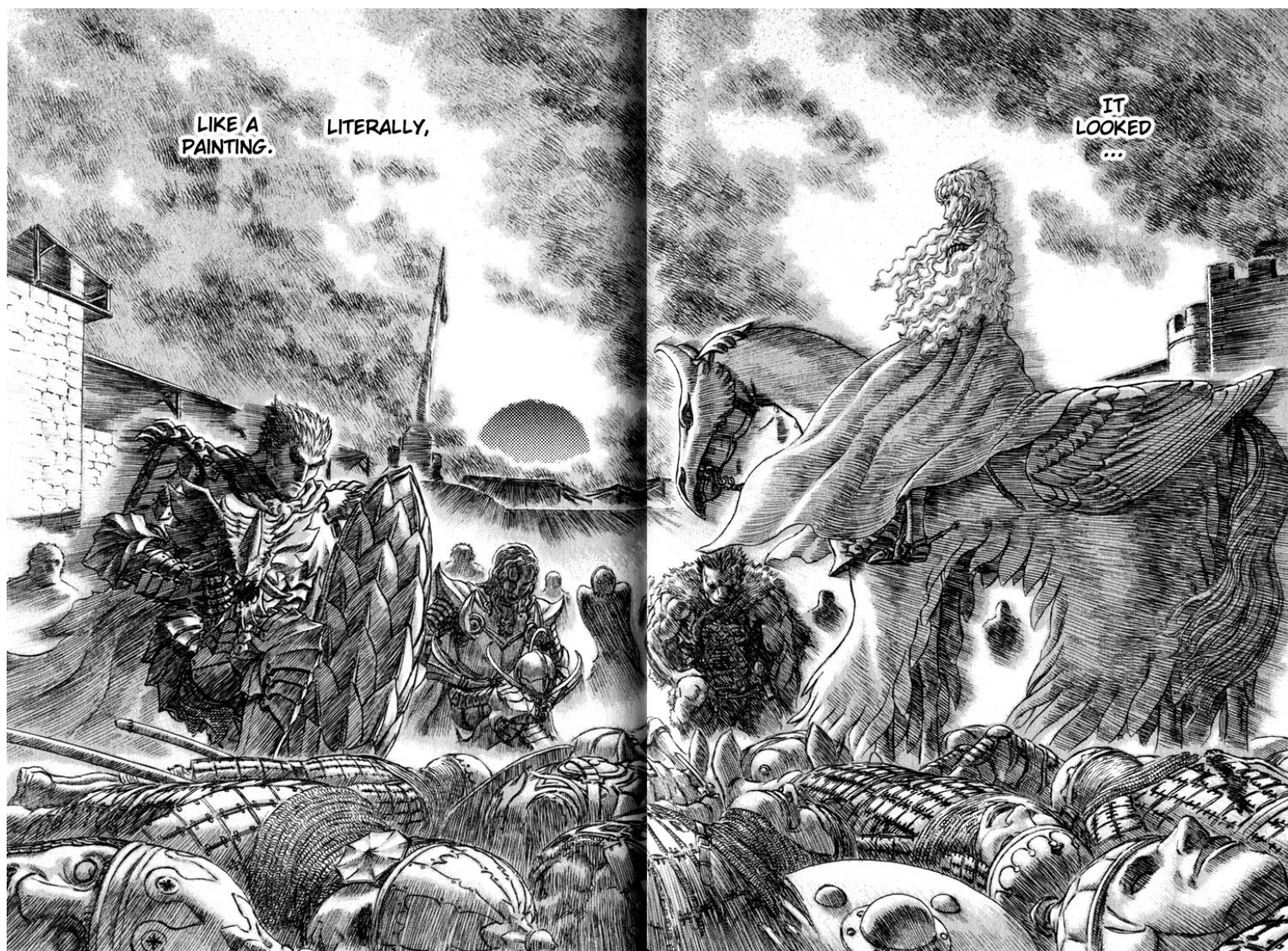


HE IS THE ONE WHO SHALL BRING TRUE DARKNESS TO THE WORLD.

WE MUST MAKE USE OF THE FALCON OF DARKNESS.

THE KING OF THE BLIND WHITE SHEEP IS THE MASTER OF THE BLACK SHEEP WITH A BURDEN OF SINS.







**WE ARE ALL
STARRING IN A
STORY WITH NO
ENDING IN SIGHT.**

BERSERK

SNOW AND FIRE
(PROLOGUE)

BERSERK



THIS IS NICE
ISN'T IT?
GETTING AWAY
FROM CROWDS
AND JUST
BEING ON OUR
OWN.

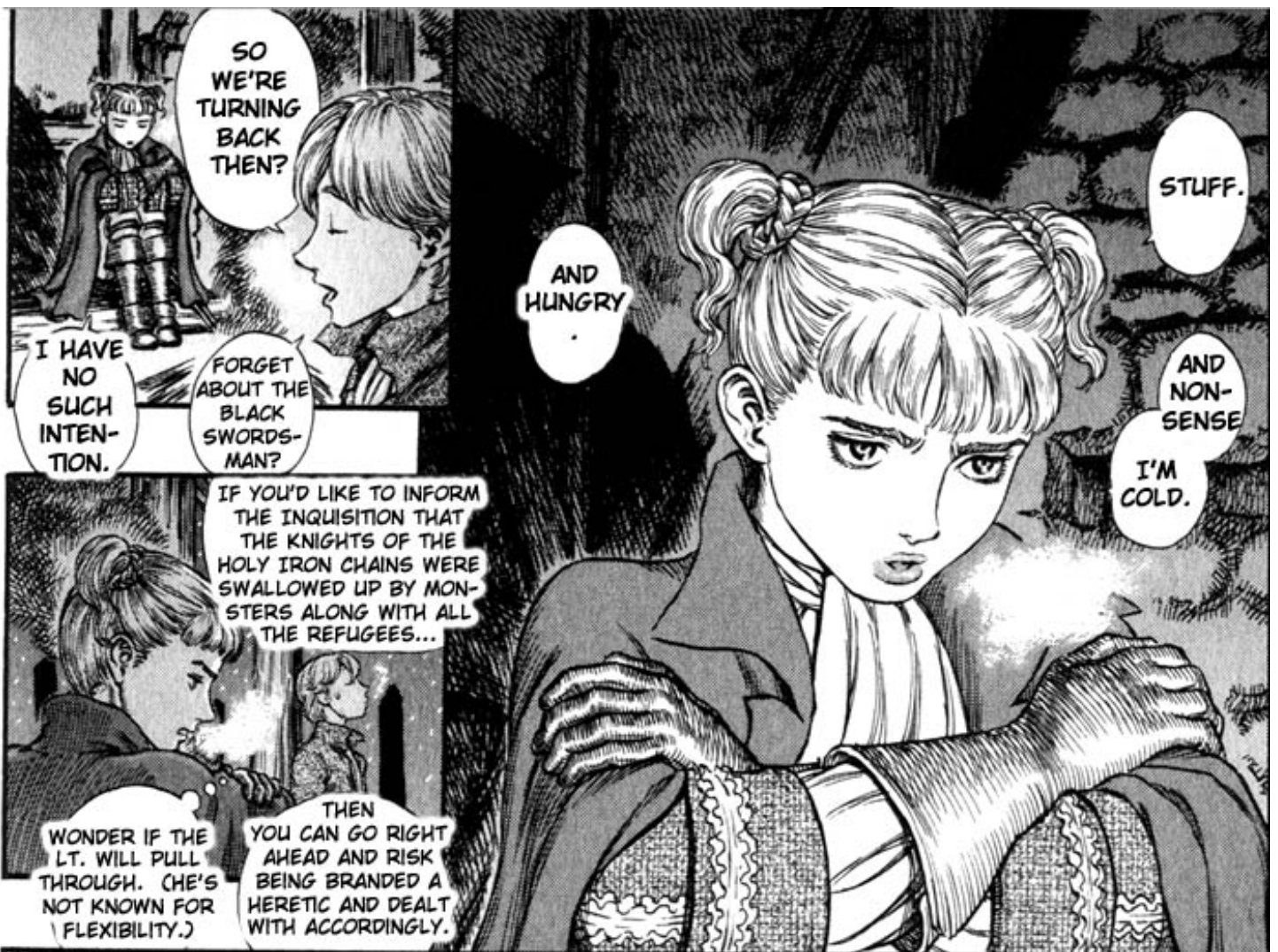


FINALLY
FEELS LIKE
WE'RE
TRAVELING.



THANK
GOODNESS
WE MANAGED
TO FIND A
SPOT OUT OF
THE WIND
AND SNOW.





SO
WE'RE
TURNING
BACK
THEN?

I HAVE
NO
SUCH
INTEN-
TION.

FORGET
ABOUT THE
BLACK
SWORDS-
MAN?

AND
HUNGRY

STUFF.

AND
NON-
SENSE

I'M
COLD.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO INFORM
THE INQUISITION THAT
THE KNIGHTS OF THE
HOLY IRON CHAINS WERE
SWALLOWED UP BY MON-
STERS ALONG WITH ALL
THE REFUGEES...

WONDER IF THE
LT. WILL PULL
THROUGH. (HE'S
NOT KNOWN FOR
FLEXIBILITY.)

THEN
YOU CAN GO RIGHT
AHEAD AND RISK
BEING BRANDED A
HERETIC AND DEALT
WITH ACCORDINGLY.



TO SEE
THAT
ROOM
AGAIN.

I HAVE
NO
DESIRE
...

AS
FOR
ME...



WHY ARE YOU
SITTING OVER
THERE? COME
OVER HERE BY
THE FIRE.

AND AS
FOR YOU,

AH, NO
THANKS.
JUST IN CASE,
I THOUGHT I'D
KEEP A LOOK
OUT FOR
KUSHARN ARMY
SCOUTS OR
THE LIKE...

YOU'RE IN
CHARGE OF
OBTAINING
PROVISIONS,
AND I
WOULD BE
MOST PUT
OUT IF YOU
FELL ILL.

JUST
COME
HERE AND
WARM
YOUR-
SELF

NO ONE IN THERE
RIGHT MIND
TRAVELS IN
WEATHER LIKE
THIS

.....



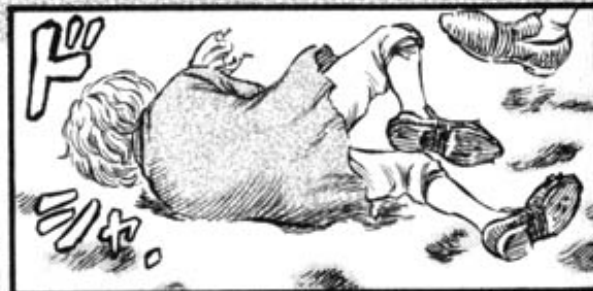
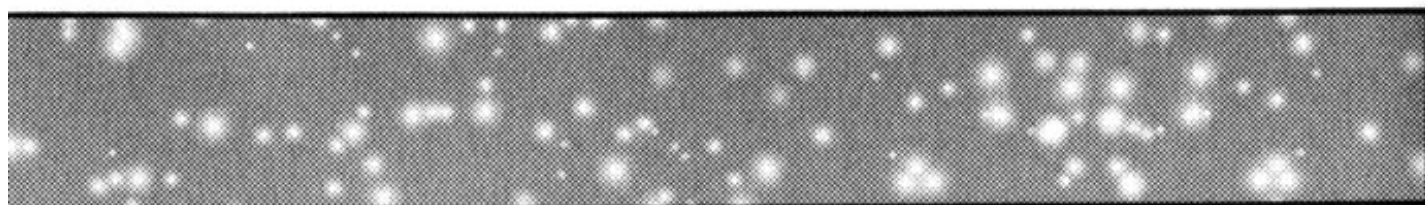
I WAS
STILL A
CHILD,
BESET BY
COLD AND
HUNGER.



I
HATE
FIRES

IT WAS
SNOWING
JUST LIKE
THIS THE
DAY I FIRST
MET
FARNEZE.

?



WE'LL BE TAKEN CARE
OF FEED ROUND HERE
FROM NOW ON. AIN'T
NO JOB FOR A TITCHY
LITTLE SHIT
LIKE YOU.



DON'T
COME
BACK
!



THE SEAT OF
GOD'S
POWER.

THIS IS A
HOLY CITY.

EVERYTHING
HERE EXISTS
FOR GOD, IS
SACRIFICED TO
GOD.

THE
RINGING
BELLS LET
SOUND
THEIR
SONG OF
PRAISE TO
GOD.

STEEPLES
SCRAPE
THE SKY,
PRAISING
GOD.



IT CAN BE
A VERY
HEARTLESS
CITY
INDEED.

FOR THOSE
WHO HAVE
NOTHING TO
SACRIFICE
...

JUST OPENING
THE DOOR WAS
ALWAYS ENOUGH
TO DEPRESS ME.



THAT WAS IN
THE INNER-
MOST ROOM
ON THE
SECOND
FLOOR.



IN A
RUN-DOWN
BUILDING
LOCATED A
WAYS FROM

AS I
CHILD, I
LIVED
WITH
THAT

FROM INFANCY
I WAS
SURROUNDED
BY THE SCENT
OF DEATH.

ILLNESS HAD
LEFT THAT
NOTHING BUT
SKIN AND
BONES.

I HAVE
YOUR
FOOD,
MOTHER.

MY BACK
HURTS,
RUB THE
PAIN
AWAY.

WHERE DID
YOU WANDER
OFF TO?
I'VE BEEN
SUFFERING
HERE
ALONE...

WHERE
DID YOU
GET
THAT
BRUISE
?
FIGHT-
ING
WITH
THE
BOYS IN
TOWN...

THEY OFTEN
MADE ME
THINK OF
HER AS
SOME SORT
OF
UNKNOWN
MONSTER.

HER SPINE
AND RIBS
STOOD OUT
FROM HER
BACK LIKE
THEY'D BEEN
CARVED
THERE.

DO NOT
DEBASE
YOURSELF BY
ARGUING WITH
THOSE
BENEATH YOU.

BE
PROUD!

YOU
ARE OF
NOBLE
BLOOD!



SOMEDAY
YOUR FATHER
WILL COME
FOR US

WHEN HE
DOES, YOU
MUST BE
FLAWLESS, A
NOBLEMAN
HE CAN BE
PROUD OF.



IN OTHER
WORDS, I AM A
NOBLEMAN'S
BASTARD.



SOMETIME YOU
MAY HAVE TO
USE THIS TO
PROVE WHO
YOU ARE.



AND EVERYDAY
THE TOWN
RIPPED THAT
PRIDE OUT BY
THE ROOT.

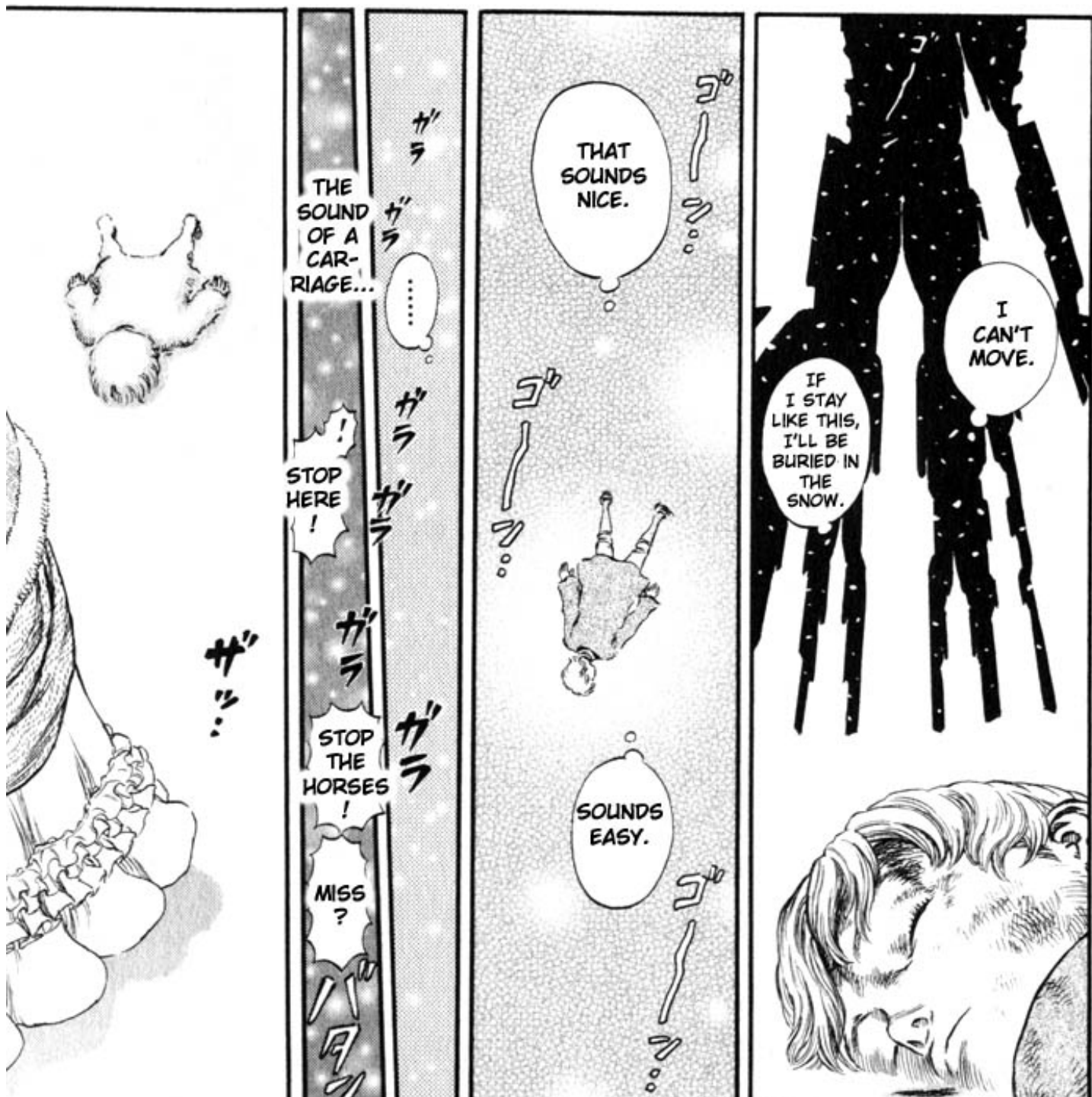


EVERYDAY MY
MOTHER
STRENGTHENED
THE BURDEN OF
PRIDE...

AND FELT NO
EMOTIONS.



EVENTU-
ALLY, I
WAS
LEFT
WITH NO
EXPRES-
SIONS...



THE
SOUND
OF A
CARRIAGE...

STOP
HERE
!

STOP
THE
HORSES
!

MISS
?

THAT
SOUNDS
NICE.

SOUNDS
EASY.

I
CAN'T
MOVE.

IF
I STAY
LIKE THIS,
I'LL BE
BURIED IN
THE
SNOW.

TO ME
THE
WORD
WAS A
CURSE.

"NOBLES."

I KNEW
IT AT A
GLANCE.

WEIRD
RABBIT
...

SHE WAS A
NOBLE'S
DAUGHTER.

THE GIRL
LOOKING
DOWN AT ME
WAS NO
IMITATION
NOBLE LIKE I
WAS; FROM
HER HEAD TO
HER TOENAIL,
THERE WAS
NOT A
BLEMISH.

WHY IS A
CHILD SO
YOUNG
DYING IN THE
STREET?

WHAT'S THE
MATTER?
WE SHALL BE
LATE FOR
COMMUNION,
MISS...

LOAD THIS
CHILD IN THE
CANCEL COM-

INSO-
LENT
DOG!



SHE'D
PICKED ME
UP LIKE AN
INJURED
PUPPY.



I SHALL
CARE
FOR HIM!

YOU
GO
AWAY!

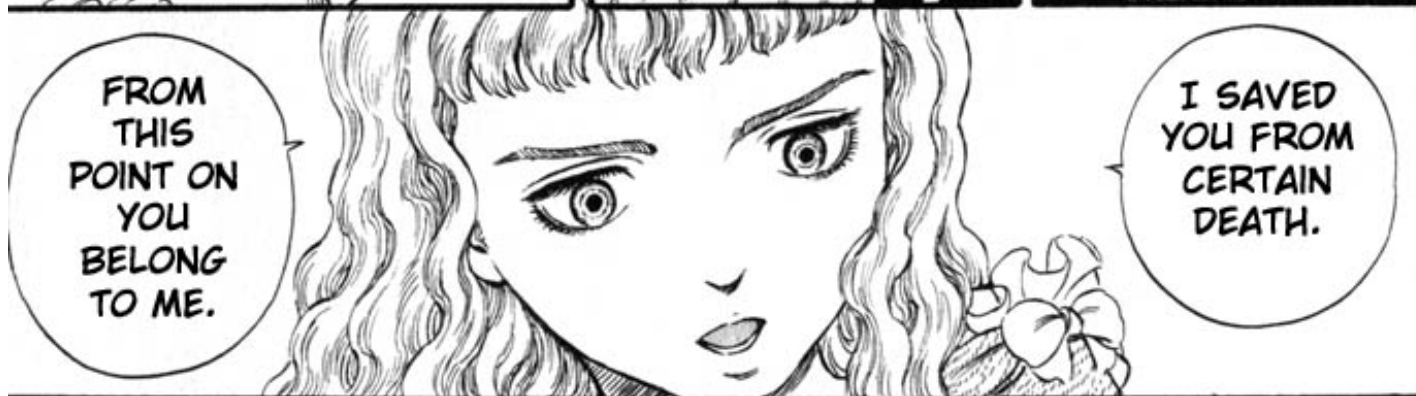


MISS,
WON'T YOU
LEAVE
SUCH
THINGS TO
US?

ABSO-
LUTELY
NOT!



RIGHT.



FROM
THIS
POINT ON
YOU
BELONG
TO ME.

I SAVED
YOU FROM
CERTAIN
DEATH.



I HAD
NEVER
PLANNED
ON.

SWEAR
TO IT.

THIS WAS
SOME-
THING...

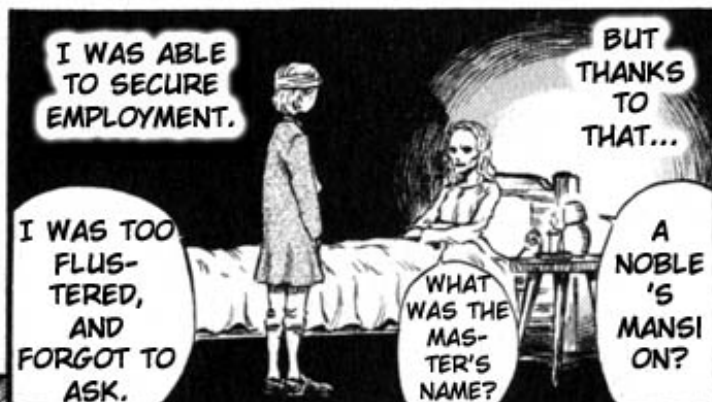


IF I SAID MY
HEART WAS
HEAVY I WOULD
BE LYING.

I WAS
RELEASED
FROM THE
DEPRESSING
MONSTER.

DON'T WORRY,
MY WAGES WILL
BE ENOUGH TO
EMPLOY A
NURSE TO TAKE
CARE OF YOU.

THEY TOLD ME
THAT, STARTING
TOMORROW, I
SHOULD COME
AND LIVE WITH
THEM TO WORK.



I WAS ABLE
TO SECURE
EMPLOYMENT.

BUT
THANKS
TO THAT...

I WAS TOO
FLUS-
TERED,
AND
FORGOT TO
ASK.

WHAT
WAS THE
MAS-
TER'S
NAME?

A
NOBLE
'S
MAN-
SION?



IT LEFT ME
WITH A
SINNER'S
GUILT.

WORD
HARD
AND

THIS IS A
CHANCE TO
REENTER

SHE
SAID
BUT ONE

FROM TODAY YOU
ARE MY PAGE. YOU
ANSWER ONLY TO
ME.



OF COURSE,
I WAS TO
YOUNG TO
KNOW ANY OF
THAT.

THE VENDEMIAN FAMILY'S
PERSONAL ASSETS WERE SAID TO
SURPASS THE BUDGET OF THE
LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.
KINGS OF SEVERAL REALMS HAD
SPRUNG FROM THEIR STOCK; AND
MANY RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS.
WITHIN THIS HOLY CITY. THEY
WERE THE POWER BEHIND THE
POWER, THE SINGLE GREATEST
INFLUENCE UPON ANYTHING.

NOW THAT
I LOOK
AGAIN, THIS
PLACE IS
HUGE...



UNREASON-
ABLE
COMMANDS
...



FOR THE
MOST
PART...
MY NEW
MASTER'S
...



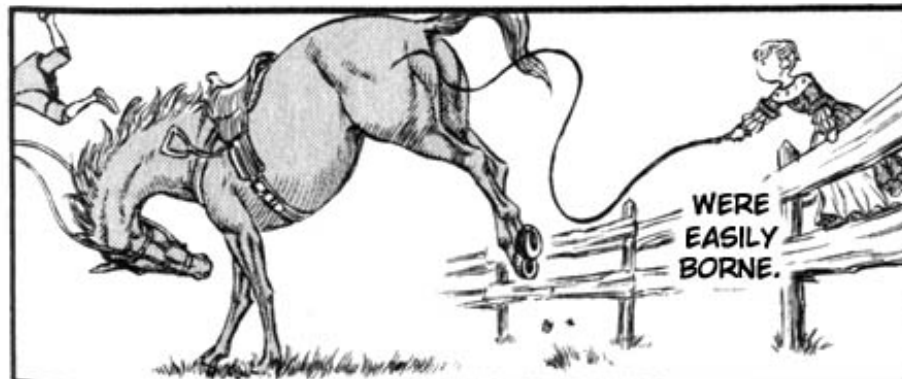
YES,
MISS
FARNEZE

ANY-
THING
I
SAY...

YOU
DO.

HOLDING
THAT
THOUGHT...

SHE HAD
RELEASED
ME FROM
MY
MISERABLE
EXISTENCE.



WERE
EASILY
BORNE.

BE CAREFUL
YOU DON'T
FIND
YOURSELF
ON THE
SHARP END
OF ONE OF
HER MOODS.



SHE EVEN
SET ONE
POOR
GIRL'S
CLOTHES
ON FIRE
WITH HER
STILL IN
THEM.

EVERYONE ELSE
WE'VE TAKEN ON
TO SERVE HER HAS
FLED RIGHT QUICK
ON ACCOUNT OF
HER DISPOSITION.

YOU
COUL
HAVE
BROKE
A FEW
BONES
...

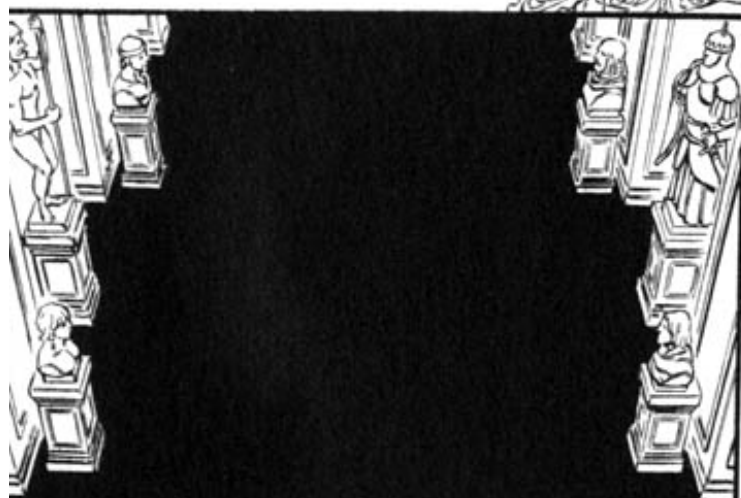
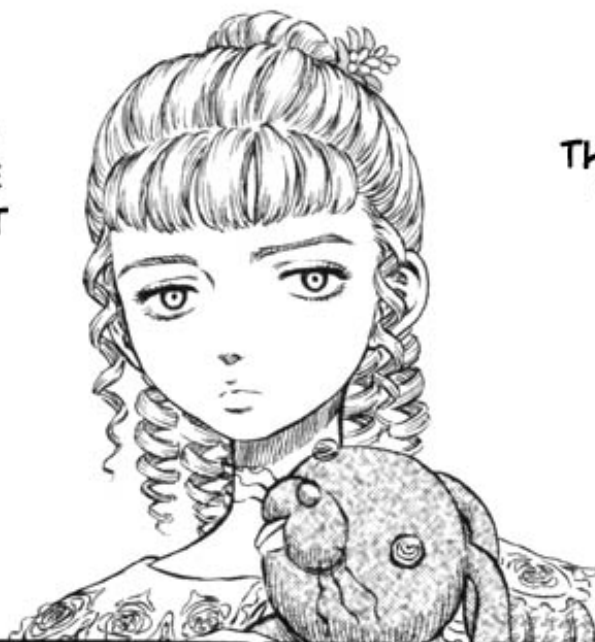
YOU SAID
YOU FELL
OFF A
HORSE?

YOU'RE
HOLDING POOR
UP WELL, THING
CONSID-
ERING.



WAS VIEWED
BY EVERYONE
WITH DISGUST
AND ANGER,
LIKE A BOIL
ABOUT TO
POP.

THIS LITTLE
TYRANT



SHE WAS LET
OUT TO PASTURE
IN THE HALLS OF
THE MANSION.

PARENTAL
AFFECTION...



MANIFESTED
ITSELF ONLY
IN A
MOUNTAIN OF
THINGS THAT
THREATENED
TO BURY HER
AT ANY
MOMENT.



SHE
GREW
UP THAT
WAY
WITH
GOOD
REASON.

HER
MOTHER
HAD NO
TIME FOR
HER
DAUGHTER,
SPENDING
EVERY
WAKING
MOMENT
PARTYING.

HER
FATHER,
THE LORD
OF VENDE-
MION, WAS
SO PAS-
SIONATE
ABOUT HIS
WORK THAT
HE RARELY,
IF EVER,
CAME
HOME.





A MAZE
SHROUDED IN
OPPRESSIVE
GLOOM.

ROWS OF
FORBIDDING
CARVINGS
STARE DOWN
AT US.



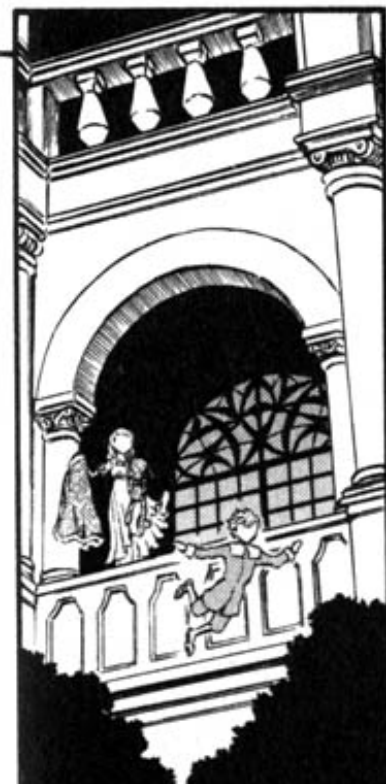
WE COULD
NOT EVEN
SAY WE
SAW THEM
INFRE-
QUENTLY.

THOUGH
DOZENS OF
SERVANTS
WORKED
HERE...

WHERE I'D
GROWN UP
WITH MY
MOTHER.



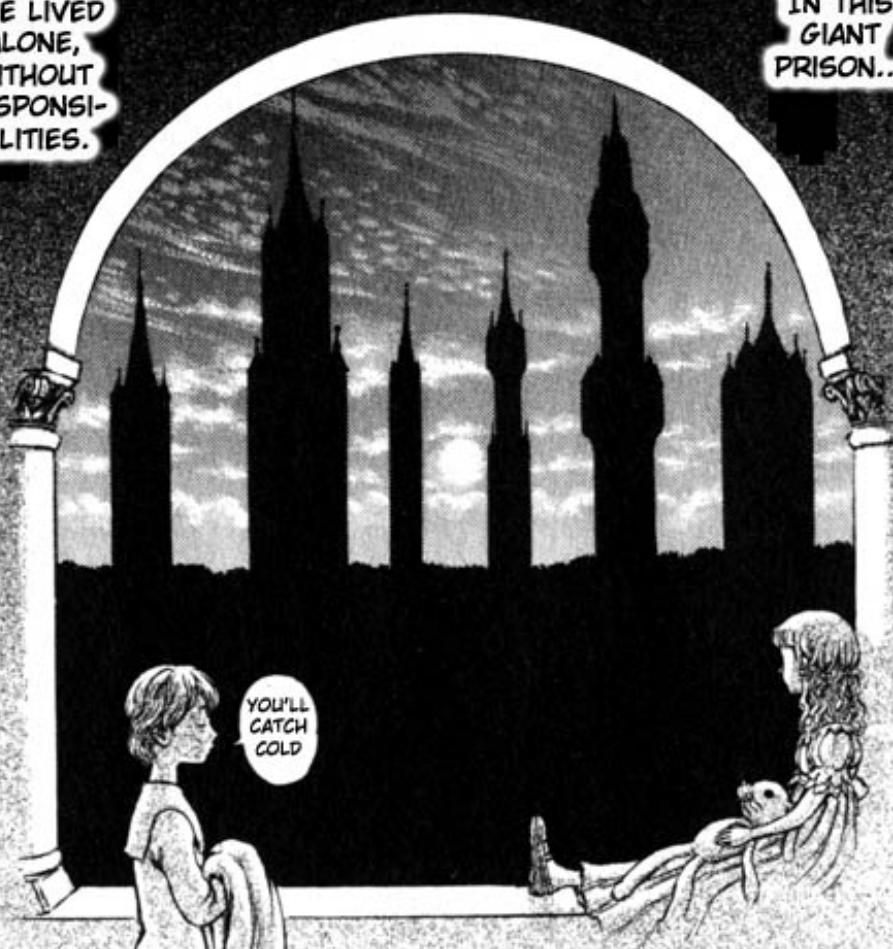
IT REMINDED ME
OF THAT
GLOOMY
RUN-DOWN
HOME...



HER ACT OF
COMPASSION HAD
NOT BEEN JUST
CALCULATED; SHE
MAY HAVE SENSED
THAT I GAVE OFF

SHE LIVED
ALONE,
WITHOUT
RESPONSI-
BILITIES.

IN THIS
GIANT
PRISON...



YOU'LL
CATCH
COLD

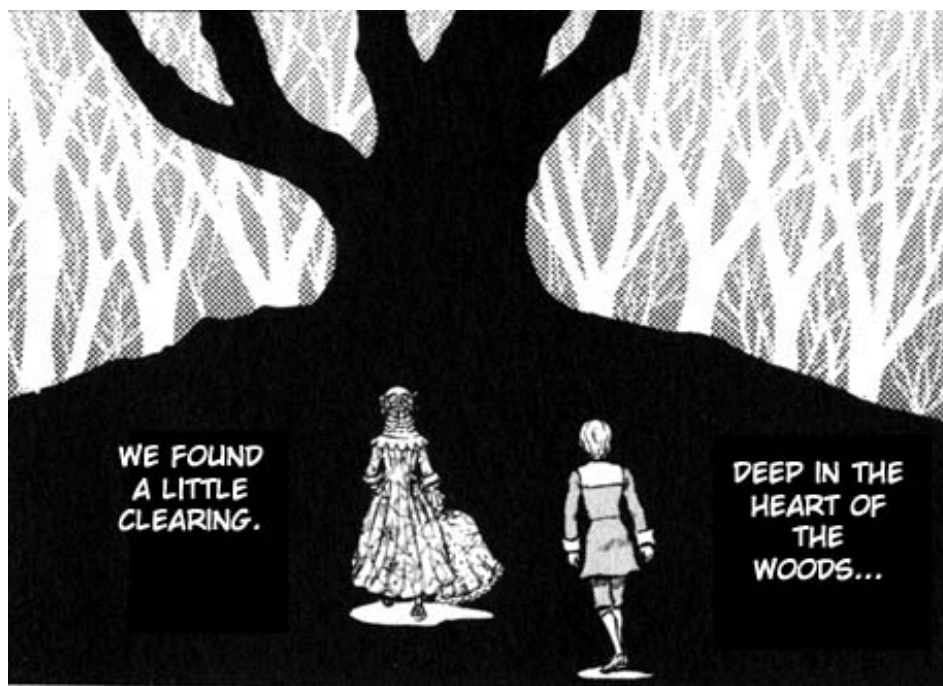


ROUND AND
ROUND LIKE
SHE WAS
DANCING,
CRYING OUT IN
A VOICE THAT
WAS NEITHER A
SHRIEK NOR A
LAUGH.

INTO THE
STORM
SHE RAN,

IT WAS AS IF
SHE HAD BEEN
POSSESSED.





WE FOUND
A LITTLE
CLEARING.

DEEP IN THE
HEART OF
THE WOODS...



I
FOLLOWED
HER INTO
THE
WOODS
BEHIND
THE
MANSION.

ONCE
...



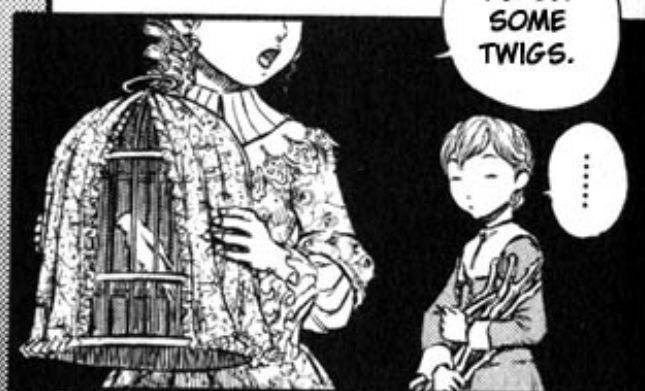
WERE
WHAT
LOOKED
LIKE THE
BONES OF
SMALL
ANIMALS.

I NOTICED
THAT, ALL
AROUND
US...



AND
THEN IT
FELL
SILENT.

FOR A
WHILE, IT
FLUTTERED
VIOLENTLY,
CRYING
OUT.



FETCH
SOME
TWIGS.

...



SHE HAD
HAD BEEN
QUITE
TAKEN
WITH THIS
BIRD.

A FEW
DAYS
BEFORE
...



THIS BIRD
HAS NOT
GROWN
TO LOVE
ME.

MISS
FARNEZE
?



I BURN
ALL BAD
THINGS
HERE.

THIS IS
MY
CREMA-
TORIUM.

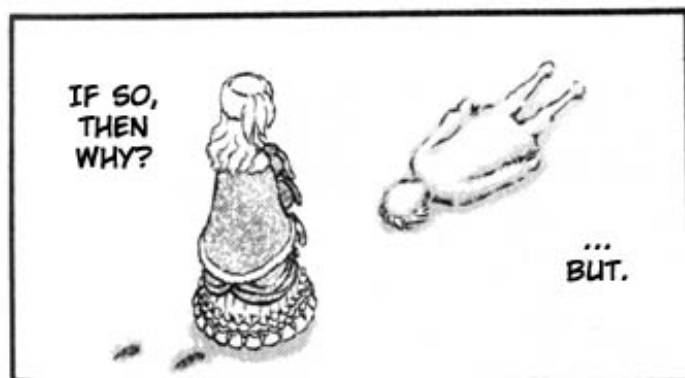
MY
SACRED
ALTER.



AND SHE SMILED
AS IF IN A
TRANCE.

THE
SERVANTS
WEREN'T
KIDDING
ABOUT THE
FIRE...)

THE LIGHT SHONE
ON HER AS SHE
SPOKE...



IF SO,
THEN
WHY?

...
BUT.



IT SEEMED
AS IF SHE
WAS TRYING
TO PUSH
PEOPLE
AWAY, TO
MAKE THEM
AFRAID OF
HER.

WHEN
SHE DID
THAT...

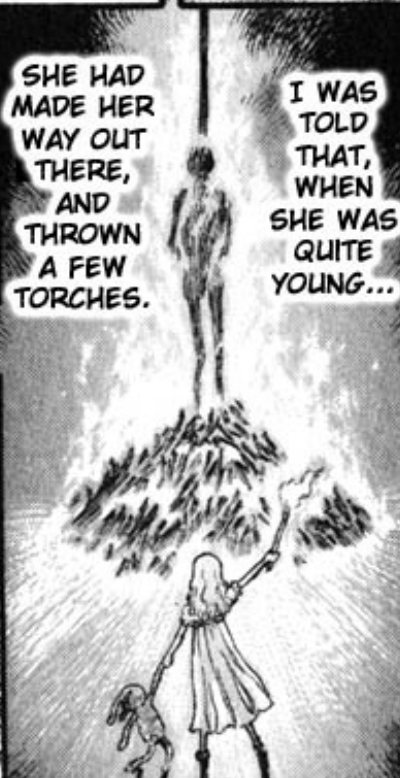


SHE HAD
MADE HER
WAY OUT
THERE,
AND
THROWN
A FEW
TORCHES.

I WAS
TOLD
THAT,
WHEN
SHE WAS
QUITE
YOUNG...

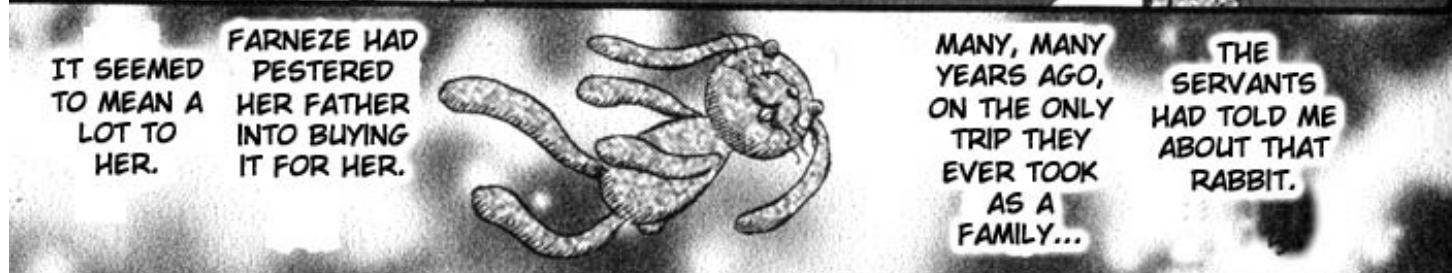
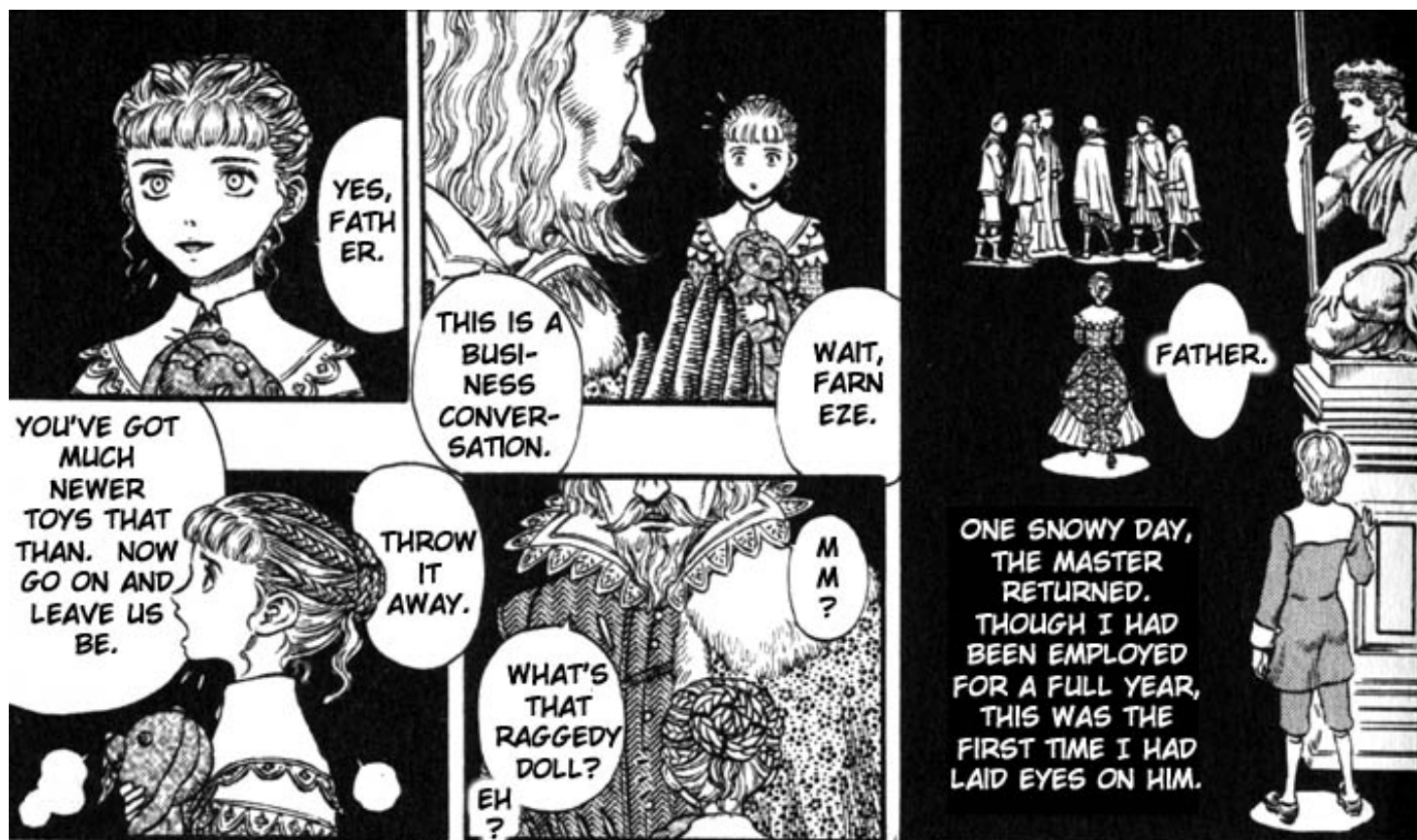


THE FLICKERING LIGHT
OF THOSE FIRES MUST
HAVE SHONE
THROUGH THIS
WINDOW LIKE A



THAT, LONG
AGO, HAD
BEEN
FREQUENTLY
USED FOR
THE BURNING
OF HERETICS.

THE
WINDOW
OF HER
BEDROOM
LOOKED
DOWN
UPON A
PLACE





BURN
YOU
TOO.

OR
I'LL
...



BECAUSE
SHE WAS
AFRAID, SHE
FRIGHTENED
EVERYONE
NEAR HER.

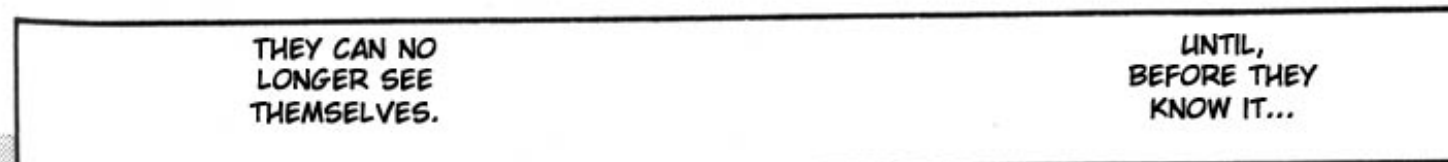
BECAUSE SHE
WAS AFRAID
SHE HURT
PEOPLE.
BECAUSE SHE
WAS AFRAID
SHE PUSHED
THEM AWAY.

SHE WAS
AFRAID.
LEFT ALL
ALONE IN
THAT
ENOR-
MOUS
PRISON...



THEY ADAPT TO
THEIR LIVES,
AND BURY
THEMSELVES.

BEFORE A
CHILD REACHES
OUT FOR
HAPPINESS
...



THEY CAN NO
LONGER SEE
THEMSELVES.

UNTIL,
BEFORE THEY
KNOW IT...



COVERED IN
SNOW.

IN THE
MAZE...



INSIDE WAS
A TINY
IMAGE OF
MY MOTHER
AND FATHER,
IN THEIR
YOUTH.



YES,
SIR?

WHAT'S
THAT
AROUND
YOUR NECK?



AND THEN
ONE DAY,
MY
MASTER
STOPPED
ME IN THE
HALL.



AH, I
THOUGHT
SO.

I THOUGHT
HE WAS
ABOUT TO
ACCUSE ME
OF HAVING
STOLEN IT.

LET ME
SEE IT
CLOSER...



THIS,
SIR?



I WAS
MEETING HIM.

AND NOW...



PERHAPS IT
SHOULD
HAVE.

AH,
SO THIS
IS HIM...

THIS DID
NOT CAUSE
ANY PAR-
TICULAR
EMOTIONAL
REACTION.

WAS RATHER
A JOLT.

BUT THE
KNOWLEDGE
THAT FARNEZE
WAS MY
HALF-SISTER...

HE SAID THERE WAS
ABSOLUTELY NO WAY
HE COULD AFFORD TO
RECOGNIZE THE
PRODUCT OF HIS
MISTRESS, ME, AND
RISK INFLAMING
EVERYTHING INTO A
TORRENT OF
USELESS VIOLENCE.

HE SAID THAT THE
THREE MALE HEIRS
TO THE VENDEMION
FAMILY -- MY
BROTHERS --
WERE ALREADY
ENGAGED IN A
BATTLE OVER THE
SUCCESSION.

SHOULD
I TELL
MY
MOTHER
?

AND
WHAT
...

AND SEE
THAT I
WAS
RAISED IN A
MANNER
BEFITTING
MY STATUS
AS SUCH.

HOWEVER, IF
I WOULD
PROMISE TO
KEEP MY
BIRTH A
SECRET, HE
WOULD
BESTOW A
NOBLE RANK
UPON ME...

AND SO MY
LIPS WERE
SEALED.

JUST
THAT.

MY POOR
MOTHER...

THANKS
TO
GOD...

BUT EVEN THIS
MUCH WAS FAR
MORE THAN EITHER
OF US HAD EVER
HOPED TO FIND.

BUT I'M TOLD
THAT YOUR
PRESENCE
HAS BEEN A
GODSEND TO
THE REST OF
THE HELP.

TO BE HONEST, I'M
SOMEWHAT AT A
LOSS AS TO WHAT TO
DO WITH FARNEZE.
WHEN I'M AROUND,
SHE ALWAYS FEIGNS
INNOCENCE.

HE SPOKE WITH
NO
COMPUNCTIONS,
DESPITE
HAVING
SPOKEN TO
HER BUT ONCE
THIS YEAR.

VERY
WELL

I ACCEPTED
MY
FATHER'S
CONDITIONS
...

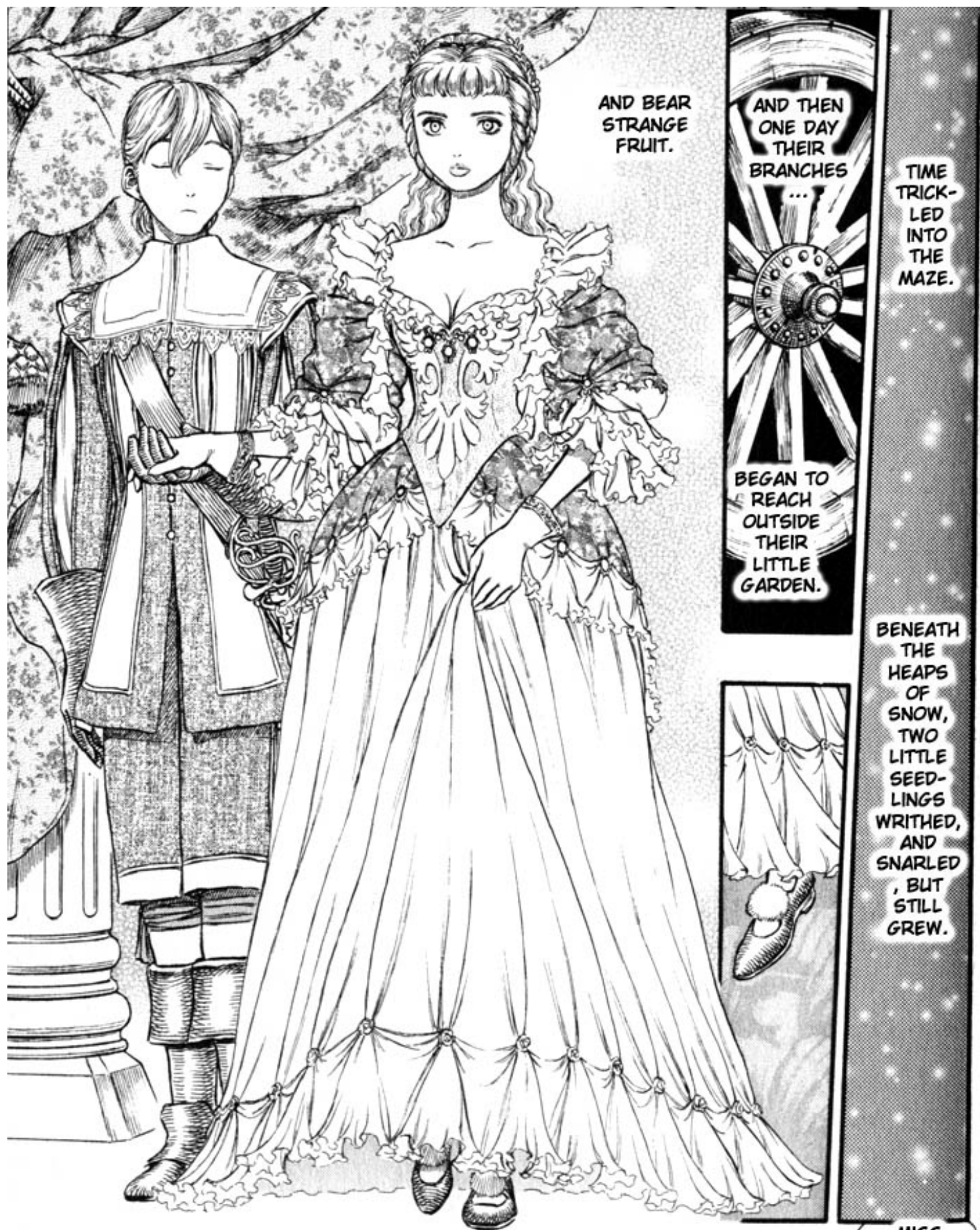
IN THE
HOPES THAT
I MIGHT BE
ALLOWED TO
CONTINUE
LIVING IN
THIS
MANSION.

BUT PERHAPS
WE EACH FELT
A SLIGHT
WARMTH IN
THE OTHER.

THE TWO OF US
HAVE NOT THE
POWER TO MELT
THE SNOW
MOUNTING UP
UPON US.

SNOW AND FIRE
(CONCLUSION)

BERSERK



AND BEAR
STRANGE
FRUIT.

AND THEN
ONE DAY
THEIR
BRANCHES
...

TIME
TRICK-
LED
INTO
THE
MAZE.

BEGAN TO
REACH
OUTSIDE
THEIR
LITTLE
GARDEN.



BENEATH
THE
HEAPS
OF
SNOW,
TWO
LITTLE
SEED-
LINGS
WRITHED,
AND
SNARLED
, BUT
STILL
GREW.

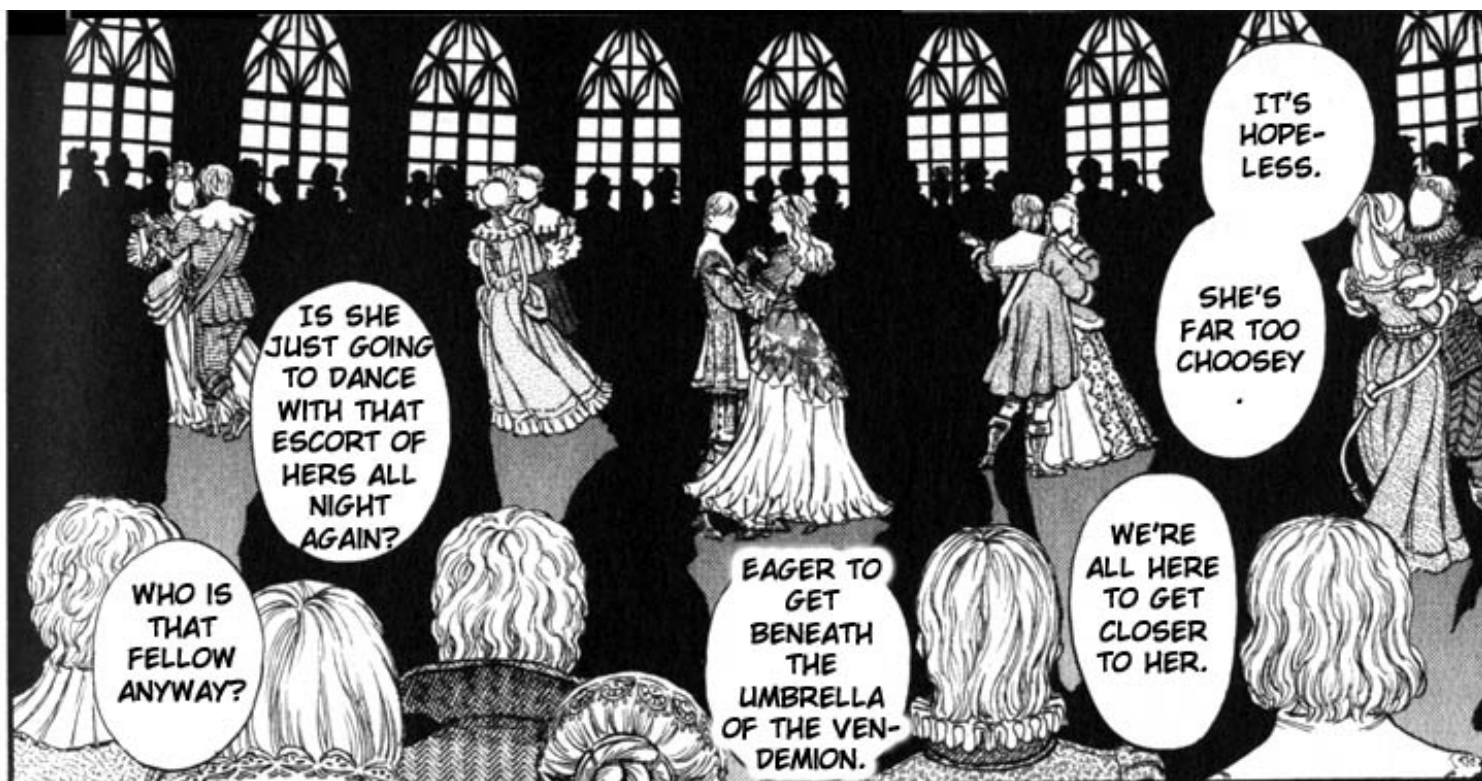


SERPICO, NO
COME, THANKS
DANCE.



I TOO
WOULD

MISS
FARNEZE, IF
YOU WOULD
BE SO KIND
AS TO TAKE
FARNE THIS DANCE
ZE... WITH ME...



IT'S
HOPE-
LESS.

SHE'S
FAR TOO
CHOOSEY

IS SHE
JUST GOING
TO DANCE
WITH THAT
ESCORT OF
HERS ALL
NIGHT
AGAIN?

WHO IS
THAT
FELLOW
ANYWAY?

EAGER TO
GET
BENEATH
THE
UMBRELLA
OF THE VEN-
DEMON.

WE'RE
ALL HERE
TO GET
CLOSER
TO HER.



HE'S A
COM-
MONER!?

HE DOES APPAR-
ENTLY HAVE A
TITLE, BUT HE
WAS ORIGINALLY
JUST HER LITTLE
SERVANT BOY.

HAVEN'T
YOU
HEARD?

MISS
FARN
EZE?

IT SEEMS HER
FATHER, LORD
VENDEMON, IS
HIS GUARDIAN.
HE CERTAINLY
SEEMS GOOD AT
INSINUATING
HIMSELF, AT
ANY RATE.



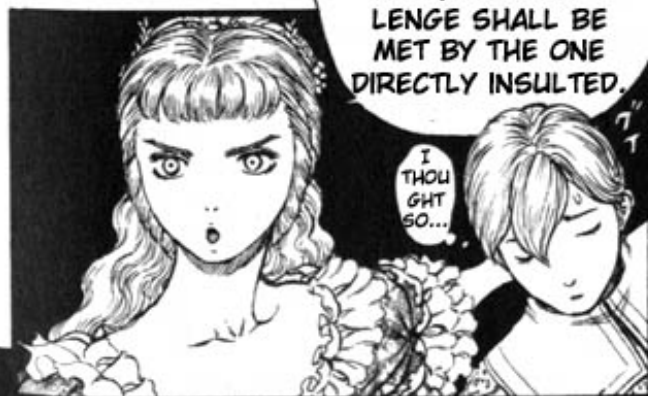
BUT SINCE I AM A
LADY, THE CHAL-
LENGE SHALL BE
MET BY THE ONE
DIRECTLY INSULTED.

I
THOU
GHT
SO...

I
DEMAND
A DUEL!

FAR
...

AN INSULT
TO MY
COMPANION
IS AN
INSULT TO
ME.





MISS FARNEZE, I HUMBLLY WITHDRAW MY OFFENDING WORDS.

FOR A COMMONER, YOU ARE QUITE PROFICIENT. I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED SUCH FROM THE GUARD TO THE MISTRESS OF VENDEMION.

NOT AT ALL.





YOU
THINK
TOO
HIGHLY
OF ME.

PERH
APS
...



HMPH

NO
MATTER



THE
IDEA OF
YOU AS
A RAG
DOLL...

IS
STRANGELY
COMPELLING.



WHY DO
YOU
HOLD
BACK?

YOU
COULD
BEAT THESE
FOOLS WITH
ONE HAND
TIED BEHIND
YOUR BACK.



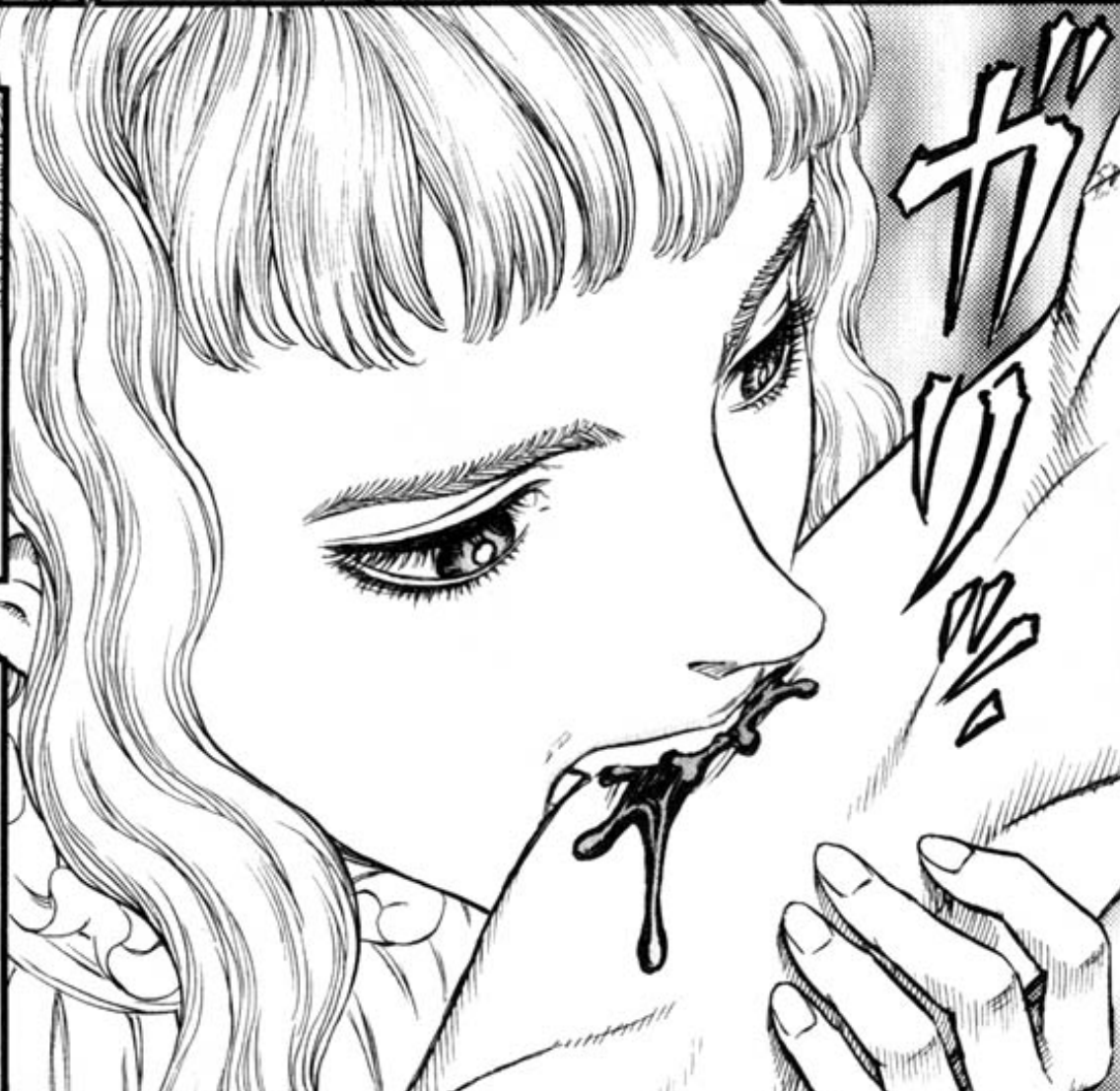
IF YOU GO ON
LIKE THIS YOU'LL
WIND UP LOOKING
LIKE A RAG DOLL.



WHEN DID
THIS
START, I
WONDER?



IN SOME WARPED
FASHION, SHE
BEGAN TO VIEW
OUR RELATIONSHIP
AS SOMETHING



SO PERHAPS
SUCH
DEVELOPMENTS
WERE ONLY
NATURAL.



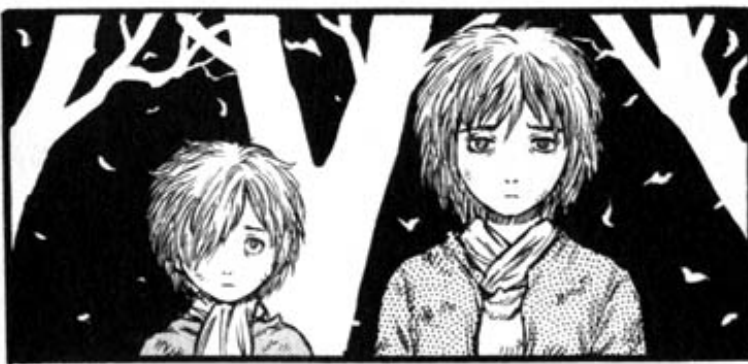
THE TWO OF
US WERE
RAISED SIDE
BY SIDE IN THE
CRADLE OF
THAT LITTLE
GARDEN...



THIS IS THE
BEST WAY TO
PRESERVE MISS
FARNEZE'S
HONOR
WITHOUT
MAKING WAVES.



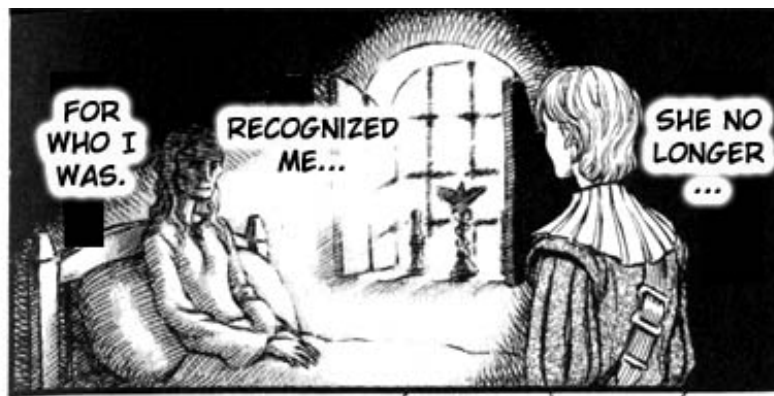
MY UPBRINGING ON
THESE STREETS
TAUGHT ME OVER
AND OVER AGAIN
THAT REVENGE IS A
FOOLISH THING THAT
CAUSES NOTHING
BUT MORE REVENGE.



STREET
URCHINS
OF THE
HOLY
CITY.

THAT
YEAR
YOU
OFTEN
SAW
THEM...





FOR WHO I WAS.

RECOGNIZED ME...

SHE NO LONGER ...



HAD VANISHED FROM HER FACE.

BUT ALL THAT GRIMNESS...



HOW GOOD OF YOU TO COME!

OH, MY LORD!



PERHAPS INEVITABLY, SHE WAS ADMITTED TO A SANATORIUM.

MY MOTHER'S ILLNESS ADVANCED



THE DAY SHE BEGAN LIVING IN A DREAM WAS, PERHAPS, THE DAY OF HER SALVATION.



AND SO SHE DREAMED



IN THE END, MY FATHER HAD NOT COME TO SEE HER AGAIN



MARRIAGE ?

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS ABSENCE, THE MASTER RETURNED AGAIN.

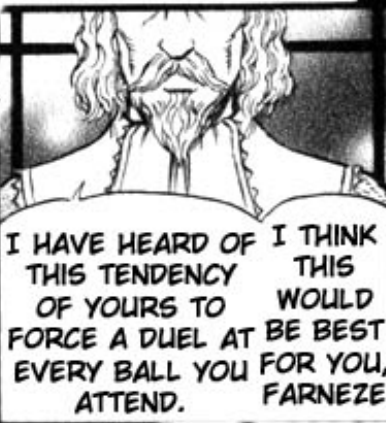
YOU ARE SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, AND IT IS HIGH TIME YOUR LEARNED TO ACT LIKE A LADY.

YOU ARE MY ONLY DAUGHTER, AND I THINK PERHAPS I LEFT YOU TOO MUCH ALONE.



BUT FATH ...

B ...



I HAVE HEARD OF THIS TENDENCY OF YOURS TO FORCE A DUEL AT EVERY BALL YOU ATTEND. I THINK THIS WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU, FARNEZE

DO YOU OBJECT ?

SURELY, I DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN HOW THE VENDEMIAN FAMILY WOULD BENEFIT FROM



YOUR GROOM IS A MEMBER OF A CERTAIN ROYAL FAMILY, AND OF A FORGIVING DISPOSITION; HE AGREED TO OUR PROPOSAL EVEN




B ...

THIS IS...

SO SUDDEN ...

FATHER.

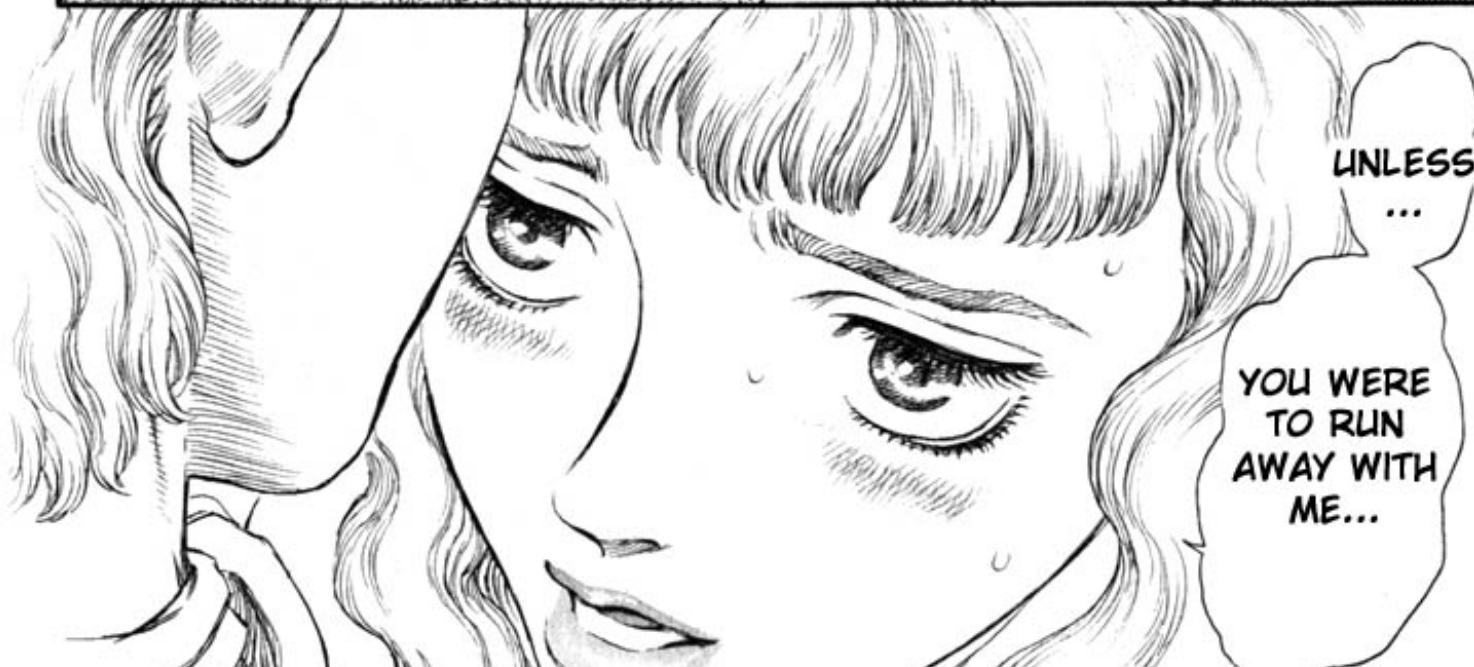
...
YES,

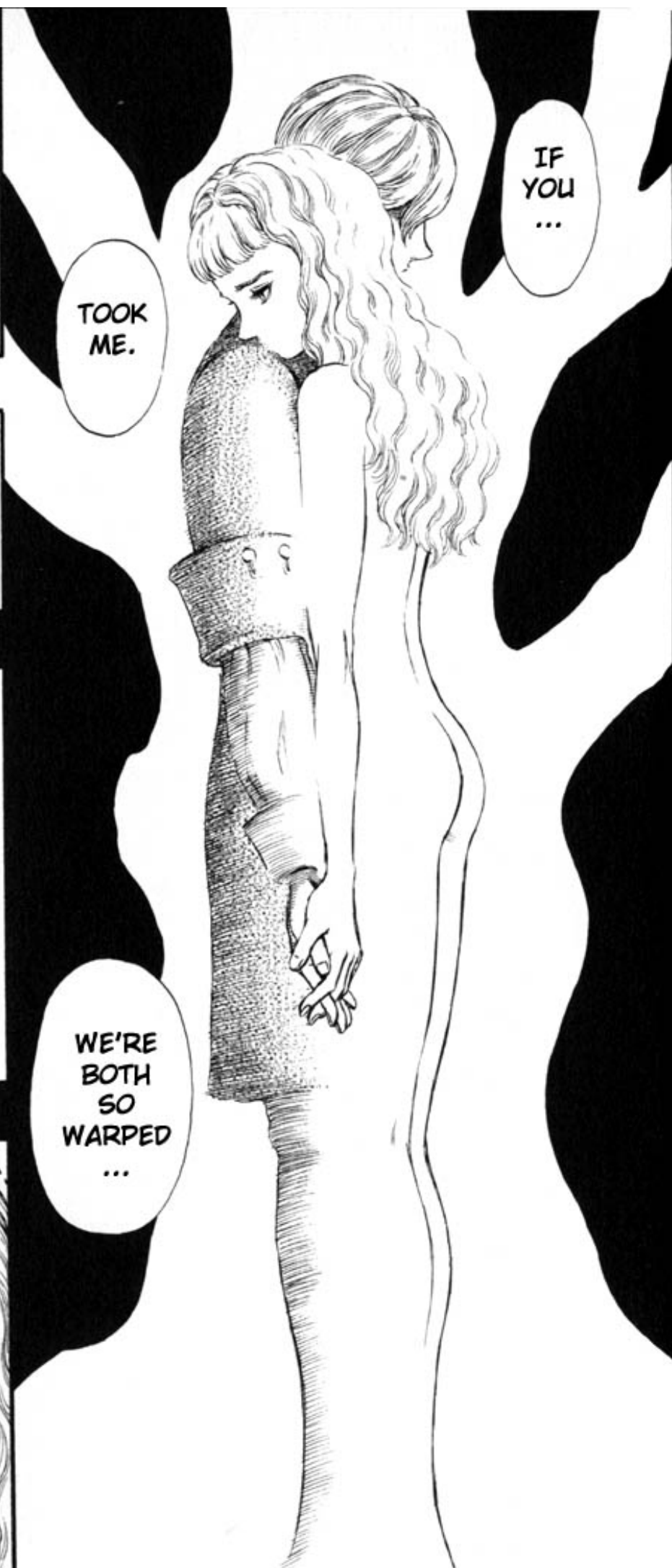


THE FOREST
OWNER HAD
IGNORED THE
FRUIT, ALLOWING
NATURE TO TAKE
ITS COURSE, BUT
ONCE IT RIPENED,
WAS READY TO
PLUCK IT.

MISS
FARNE
ZE!







TOOK
ME.

IF
YOU
...

WE'RE
BOTH
SO
WARPED
...



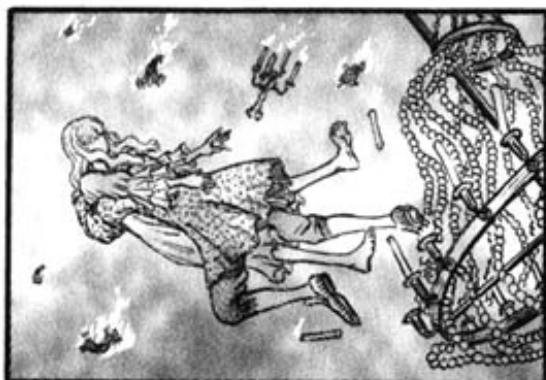
OF ALL THE
YOKES THAT
BOUND US...

WHY WAS IT I
COULD NOT
RUN AWAY
THEN?



FATHER'S
MOTHER'S
SIBLING'S...





THE WEDDING IS CANCELED.

IT WOULD SOIL THE VENDEMIAN NAME.

WE CAN'T ALLOW WORD OF THIS MATTER TO SPREAD.

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D...

FOOLISH GIRL.

THE MANSION BURNED TO THE GROUND.



TAKE HER OFF MY HANDS.

THAT GIRL IS A DEVIL.

FARNEZE WAS SENT TO A CONVENT.

IN A SENSE, HER WISH HAD COME TRUE, BUT...

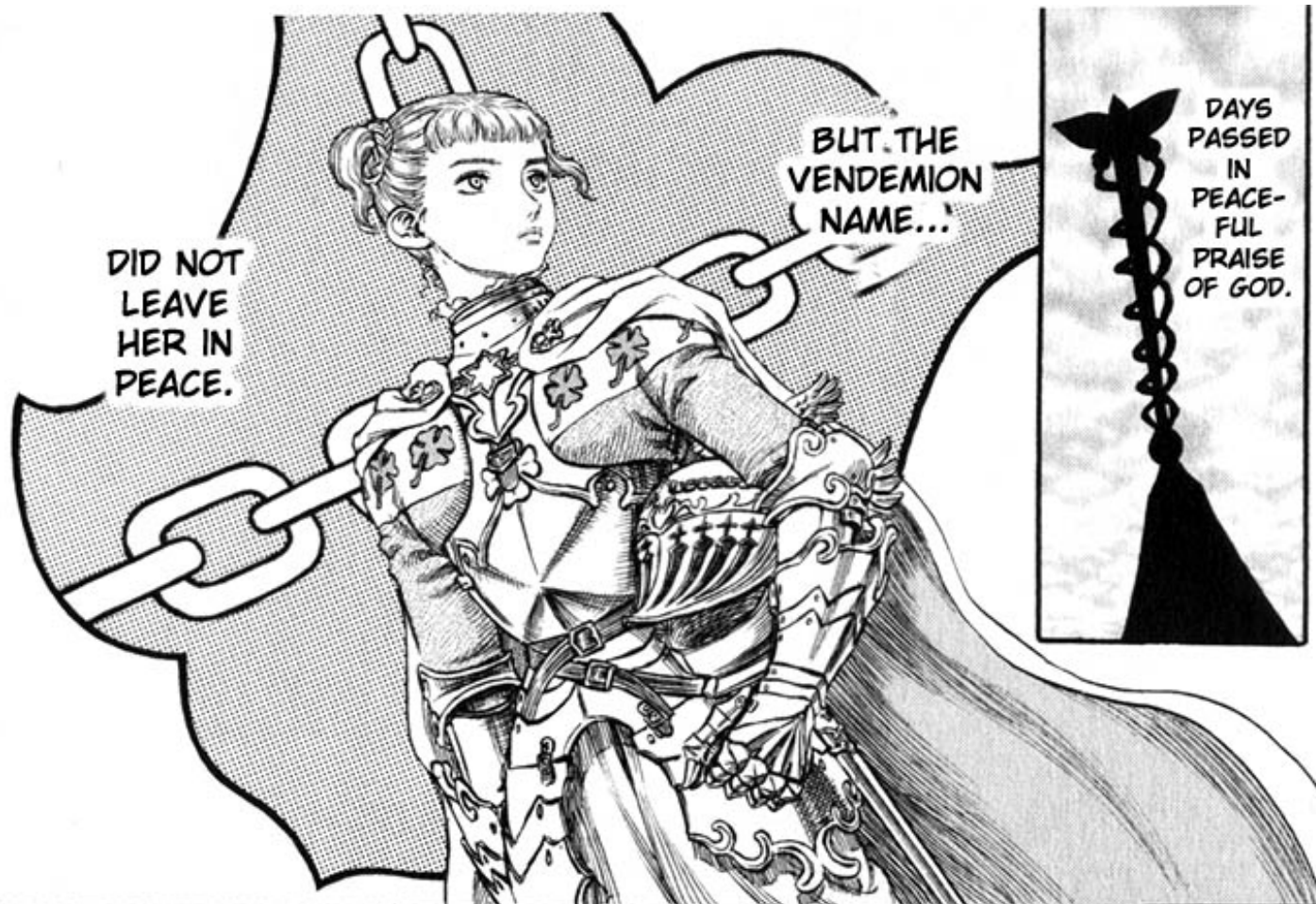


BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE LORD, I WAS SENT WITH HER, BECOMING A COMBINATION SERVANT AND SUPERVISOR.



HAD RETURNED TO THAT OF MASTER AND SERVANT.

FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US...



DID NOT
LEAVE
HER IN
PEACE.

BUT THE
VENDEMION
NAME...

DAYS
PASSED
IN
PEACE-
FUL
PRAISE
OF GOD.



MAY YOU
SURPASS
OUR
EXPEC-
TATIONS.

IT IS INDEED AN
HONOR TO HAVE A
DAUGHTER OF
THE GREAT VEN-
DEMION FAMILY IN
THAT ROLE.

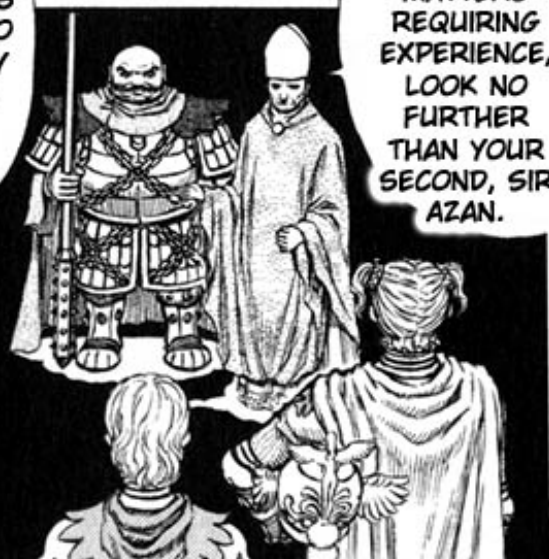
THE LEGENDS
SAY THAT THE
KNIGHTS OF THE
HOLY IRON
CHAIN MUST
ALWAYS BE COM-
MANDED BY A
WOMAN, BUT...

THIS IS
INDEED
STRIK-
ING.



IT IS AN
HONOR TO
MEET YOU.

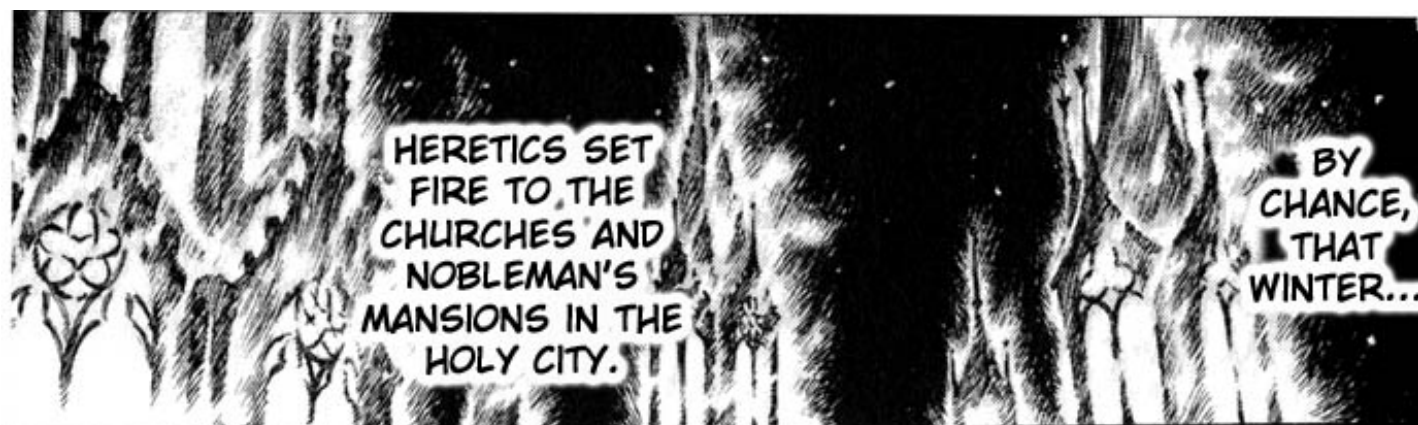
LIKE ANY
KNIGHT, HE IS
PREPARED TO
ANSWER ANY
QUESTIONS
YOU MAY
HAVE FOR
HIM.



FOR
MATTERS
REQUIRING
EXPERIENCE,
LOOK NO
FURTHER
THAN YOUR
SECOND, SIR
AZAN.



MM



HERETICS SET
FIRE TO THE
CHURCHES AND
NOBLEMAN'S
MANSIONS IN THE
HOLY CITY.

BY
CHANCE,
THAT
WINTER...



WE WERE
SENT FORTH
TO SUBJU-
GATE THE
HERESY.

THOUGH THE
KNIGHTS OF
THE HOLY
IRON CHAIN
SERVED PRI-
MARILY AS A
CEREMONIAL
GUARD...



THAT IT
LEFT HER
SUPERI-
ORS
SPEECH-
LESS
WITH
ADMIRA-
TION.

THIS
LOOKED
LIKE
SUCH
INTENSE
DEVOTION
TO
DUTY...

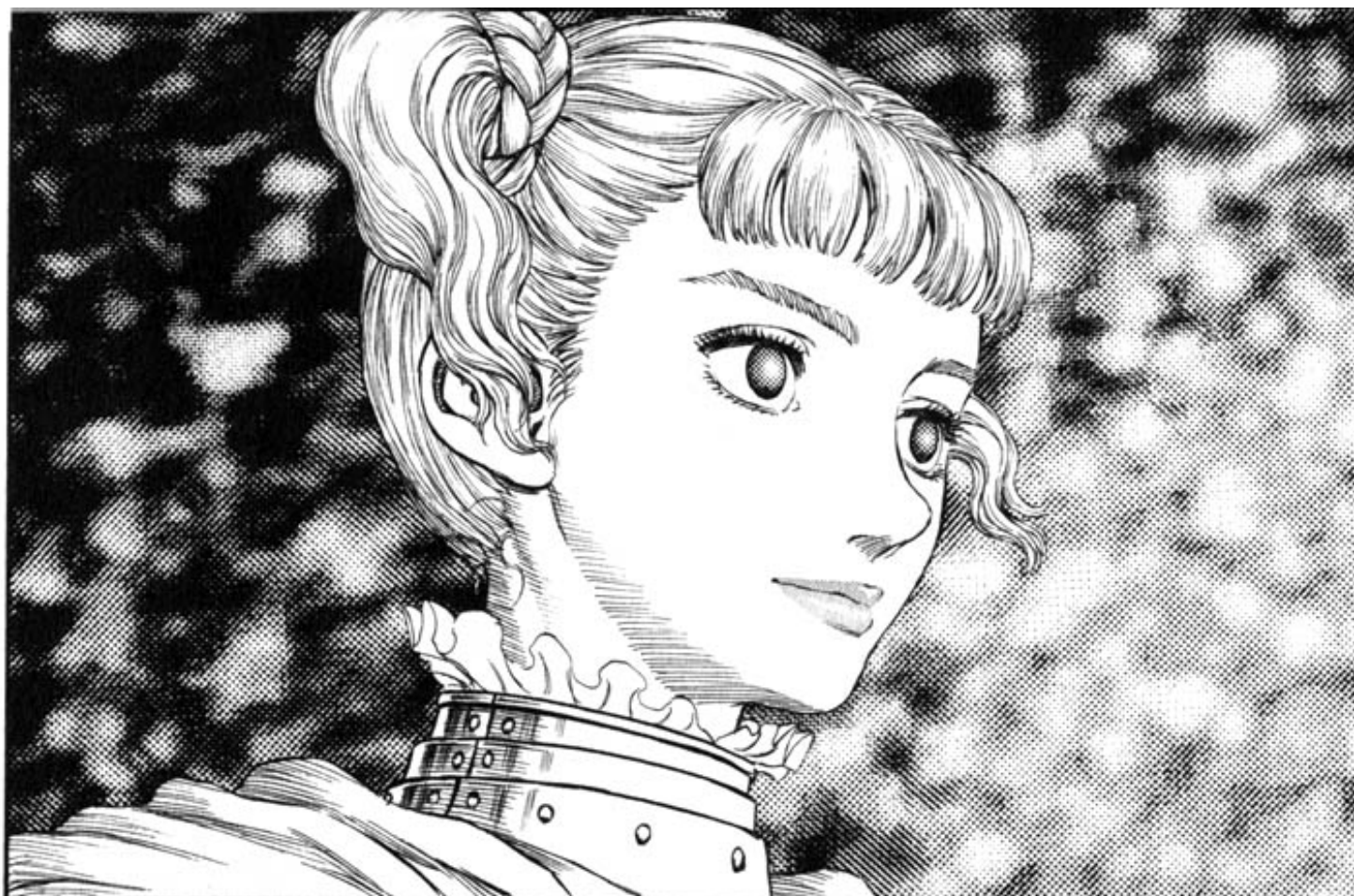
SHE PLACED
HERSELF RIGHT
AT THE FRONT
OF THE ARMY AS
WE HUNTED THE
HERETICS DOWN.

IT WAS AS
IF FARNEZE
HAD BEEN
POSSESSED.



THAT BUILD-
ING!
COMPANY
CHARGE!





LIT BY THE
LIGHT OF THE
FIRE.



ONCE AGAIN,
THE SAME
EXPRESSION...

SHE HAD
FOUND
HER
PLACE IN
LIFE.



PERHAPS
...

BURNED
WITHIN
HER
HEART.

FIRE
...



IT
DOMINATED
HER



THEY WERE
SIMPLY
PEOPLE
THAT
BELIEVED IN
A HERESY.

THE
HERETICS
WERE NOT
'SATANISTS'.

AND THE
VATICAN
DECLARED
THEM
HERETICS.

"IN GOD'S EYES,
ARE WE NOT ALL
EQUAL?" THEY
CRIED.

THEY SIMPLY
OBJECTED TO
THE NOBLEMEN
AND THE
CHURCHES
MONOPOLIZING
THE WEALTH OF
THE WORLD.

AND
REGARD-
LESS OF
THE
TRUTH,
THE FAMILY
WERE
THEN ANNI-
HILATED.

RATHER
THAN LET
A SINGLE
HERETIC
ESCAPE,
ENTIRE
FAMILIES
WERE PUT
TO TRIAL.

FEARING
FOR THEIR
STATUS AND
POWER,
THEY
CRUSHED
THEM
UTTERLY.

WITH NOT
ENOUGH
FOOD TO
LIVE
ANOTHER
DAY.

IMPOVERISHED,
INDIGENT...

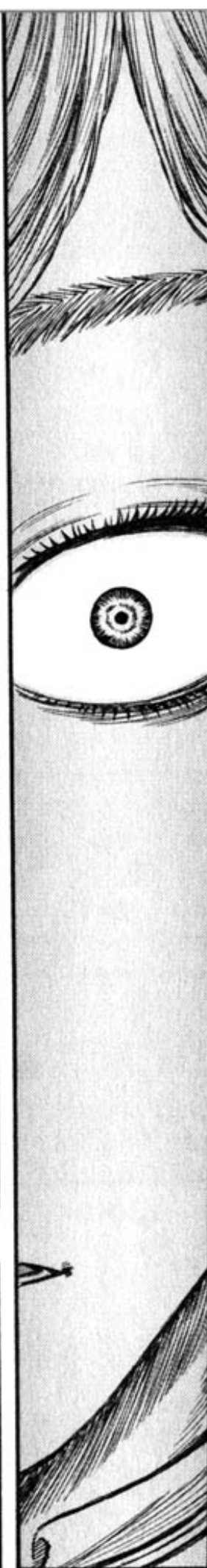
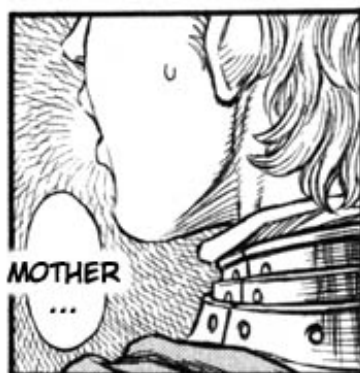
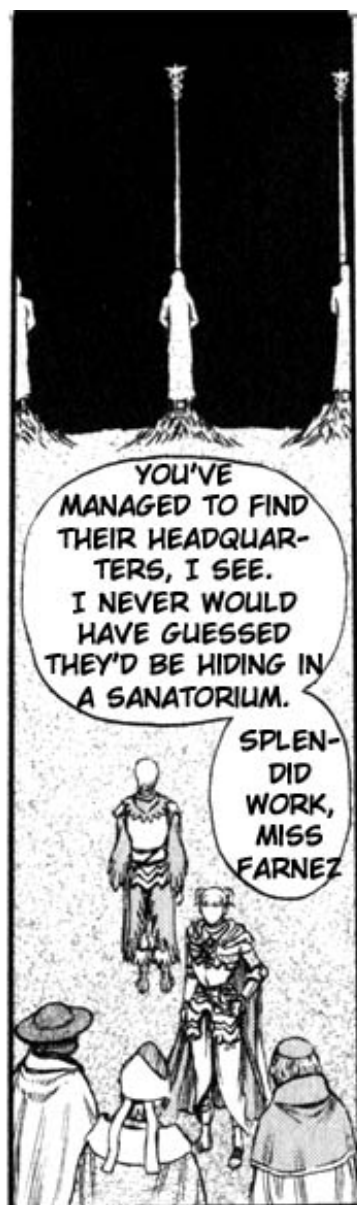
THOSE
WE
CAUGHT
WERE
ALMOST
TO A
MAN...

IS WHAT
DOMINATED
MY
CHILDHOOD.

THIS...

NOTHING
COULD
SWAY MY
HEART.

BUT NO
MATTER HOW
GHASTLY THE
SPECTACLE I
WITNESSED...





LEFT YOU
ALONE TO
GET AWAY
FROM
THERE?

BECAUSE
I...

NO MEMBERS OF THE
KNIGHTS OF THE
HOLY IRON CHAIN
COULD BE TAINTED
WITH HERESY!

SHE
IS
NOT!

BUT HE
CER-
TAINLY
...

IS THIS
MY
FAULT?

IF THAT IS
TRUE, THAN
THIS COULD
BE A
SERIOUS
PROBLEM.

I MET MY FATHER
AND GAINED A
TITLE JUST LIKE
YOU ALWAYS
WANTED!

MY
LORD
!

OHH!

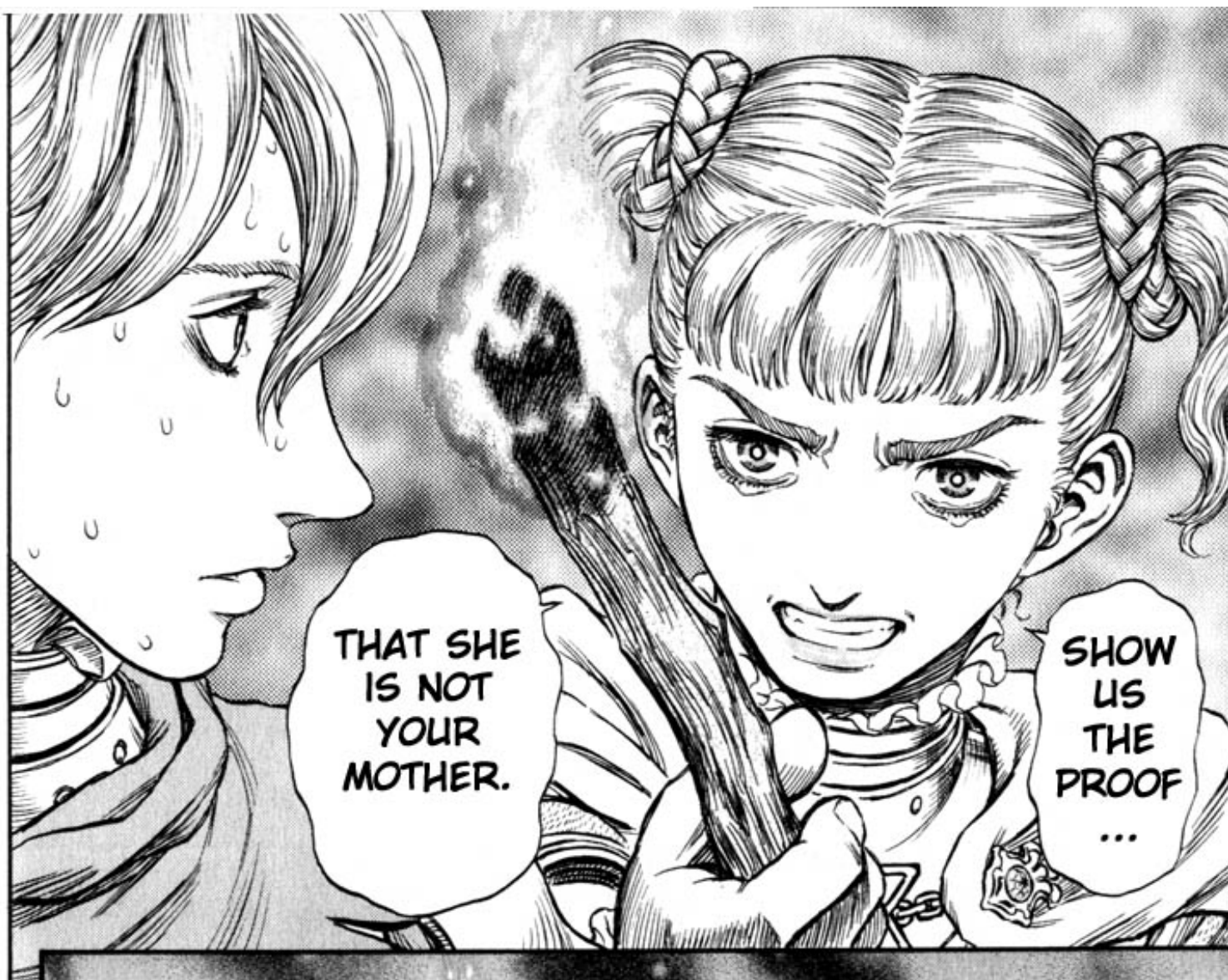
BUT
WASN'T
THAT
WHAT YOU
WANTED?

YOU WERE
LONELY...AND
SO YOU
RETREATED
INTO YOUR
DREAM,
CLINGING TO
GOD...

JUST
LIKE
OLD
TIMES,
EH?

HAS THAT
REALLY LEFT
YOU WITH
NOTHING BUT
YOUR OWN
MISERY?





THAT SHE
IS NOT
YOUR
MOTHER.

SHOW
US
THE
PROOF
...



YOUR
ONLY
MASTER

AND
FROM
NOW
ON.

UNTIL
NOW
...

SWEAR
TO IT
AGAIN.

I AM
YOUR
MASTER

WE BURIED
SOMETHING.

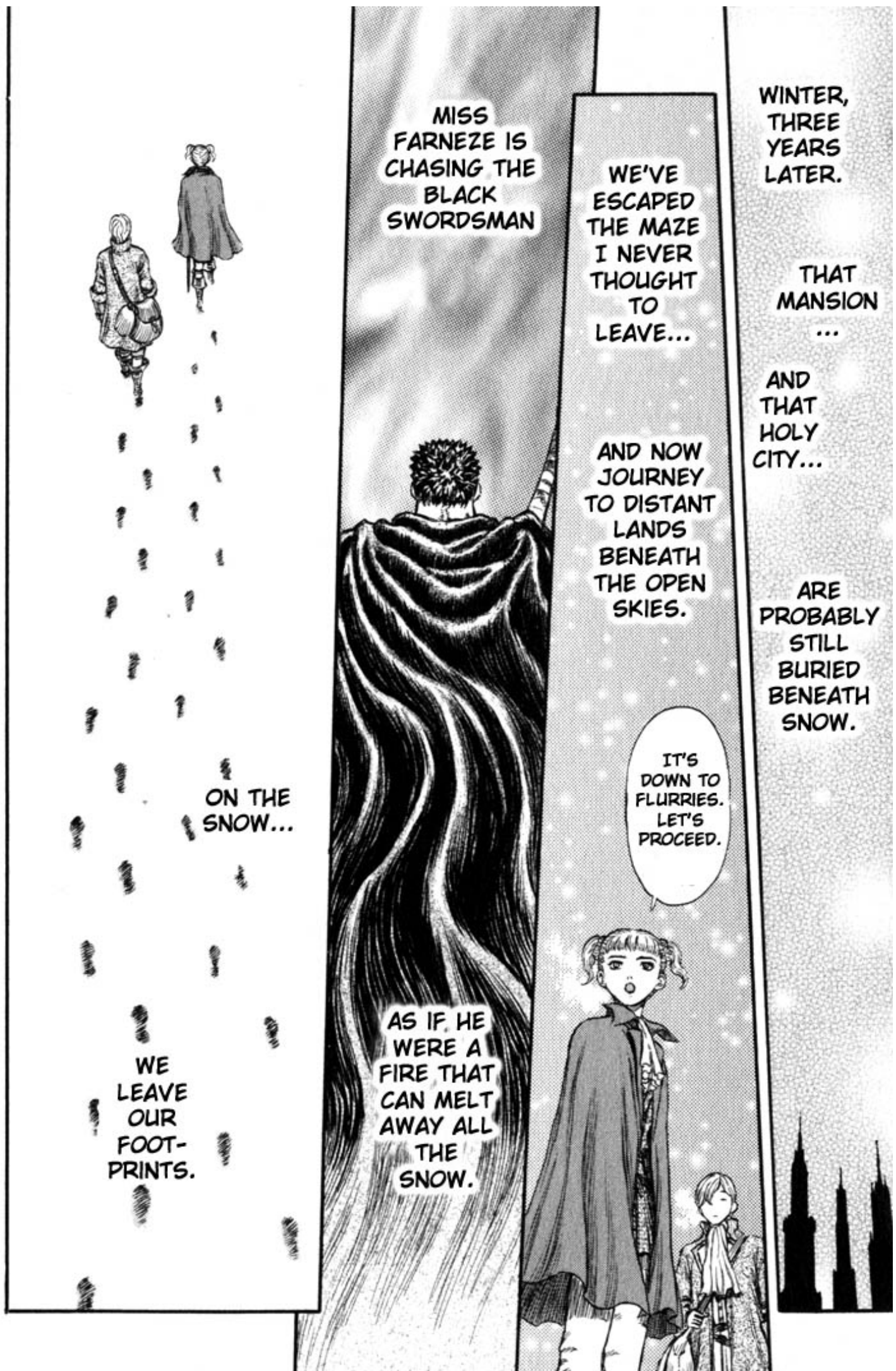
THE
TWO OF
US...



WE WERE
SET
LOOSE
FROM
SOME-
THING
...

WE
BURNED
SOME-
THING
...

WE
WERE
BOUND
BY
SOME-
THING.



MISS
FARNEZE IS
CHASING THE
BLACK
SWORDSMAN

WE'VE
ESCAPED
THE MAZE
I NEVER
THOUGHT
TO
LEAVE...

AND NOW
JOURNEY
TO DISTANT
LANDS
BENEATH
THE OPEN
SKIES.

IT'S
DOWN TO
FLURRIES.
LET'S
PROCEED.

AS IF HE
WERE A
FIRE THAT
CAN MELT
AWAY ALL
THE
SNOW.

ON THE
SNOW...

WE
LEAVE
OUR
FOOT-
PRINTS.

WINTER,
THREE
YEARS
LATER.

THAT
MANSION
...

AND
THAT
HOLY
CITY...

ARE
PROBABLY
STILL
BURIED
BENEATH
SNOW.