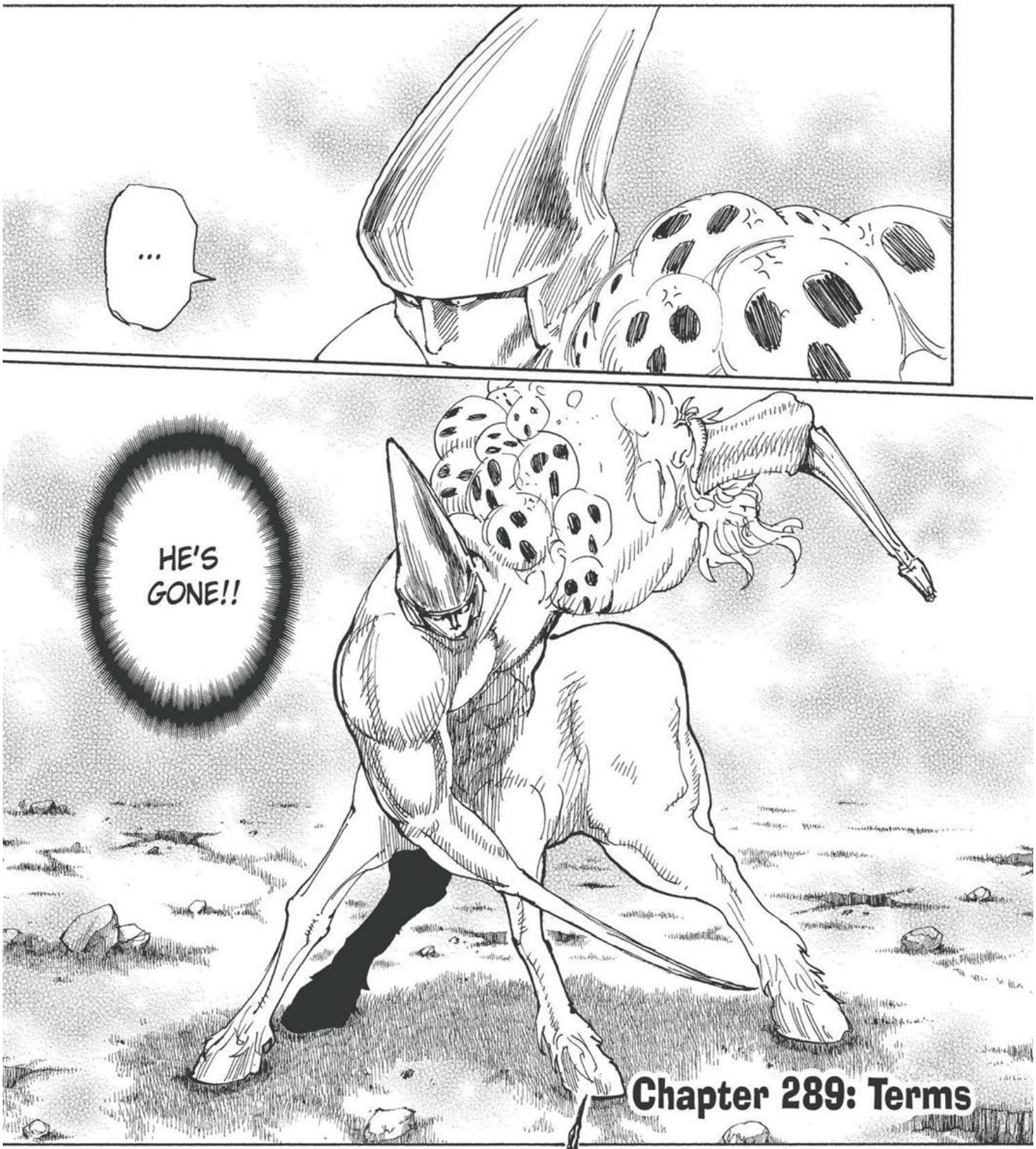
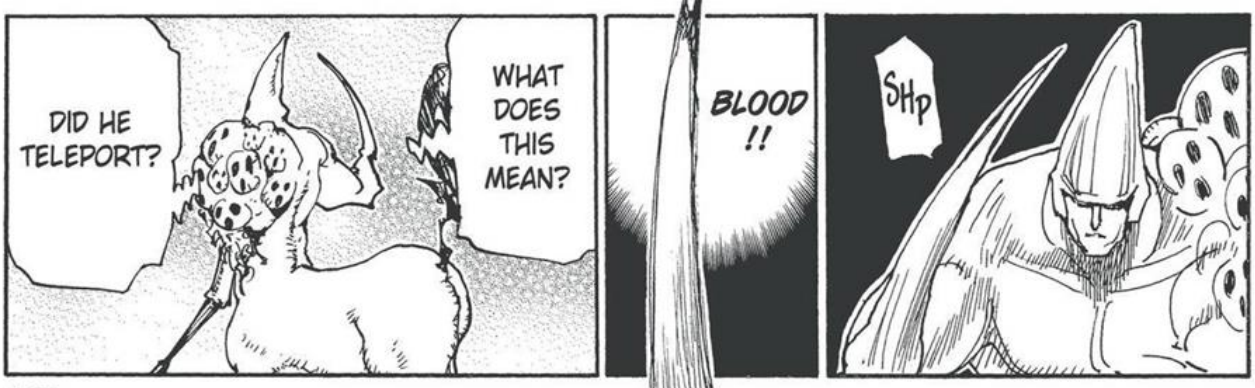
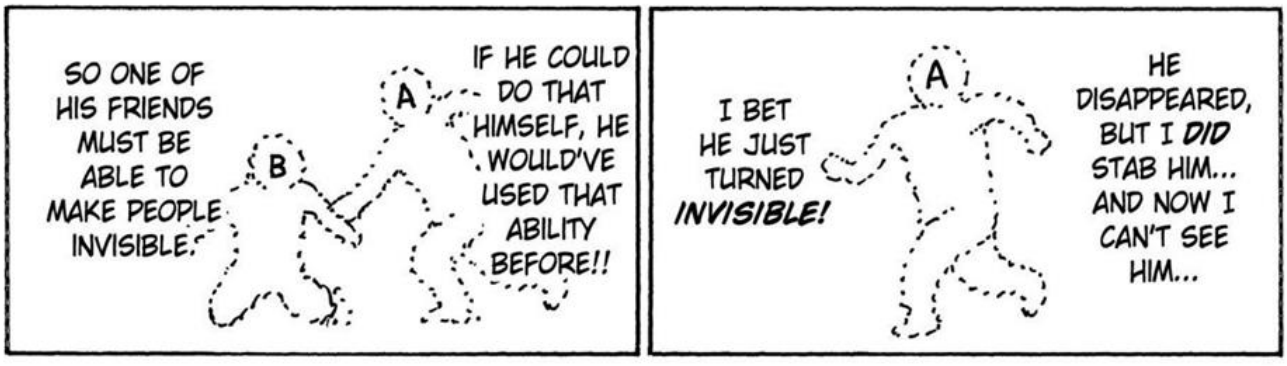


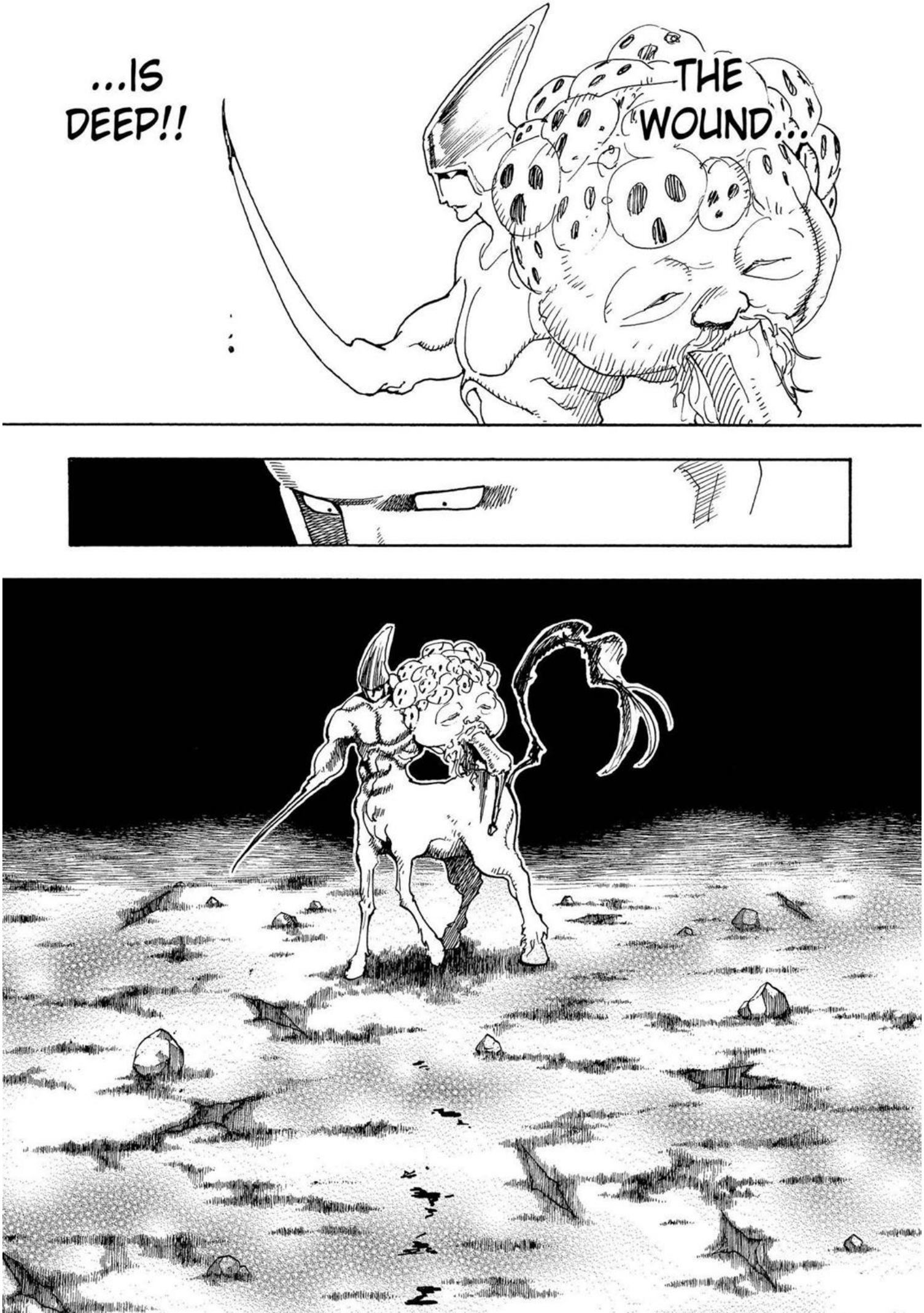
Chapter 289: Terms




I FIGURED ONE OF THEM HAD THE ABILITY TO TELEPORT...
!!
HE DISAPPEARED RIGHT BEFORE I STABBED HIM.
BESIDES, IF HE'D TELEPORTED, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DRAW BLOOD, RIGHT?
...BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANYBODY ELSE AROUND!


SO ONE OF HIS FRIENDS MUST BE ABLE TO MAKE PEOPLE INVISIBLE.
A
B
IF HE COULD DO THAT HIMSELF, HE WOULD'VE USED THAT ABILITY BEFORE!!
I BET HE JUST TURNED INVISIBLE!
A
HE DISAPPEARED, BUT I DID STAB HIM... AND NOW I CAN'T SEE HIM...

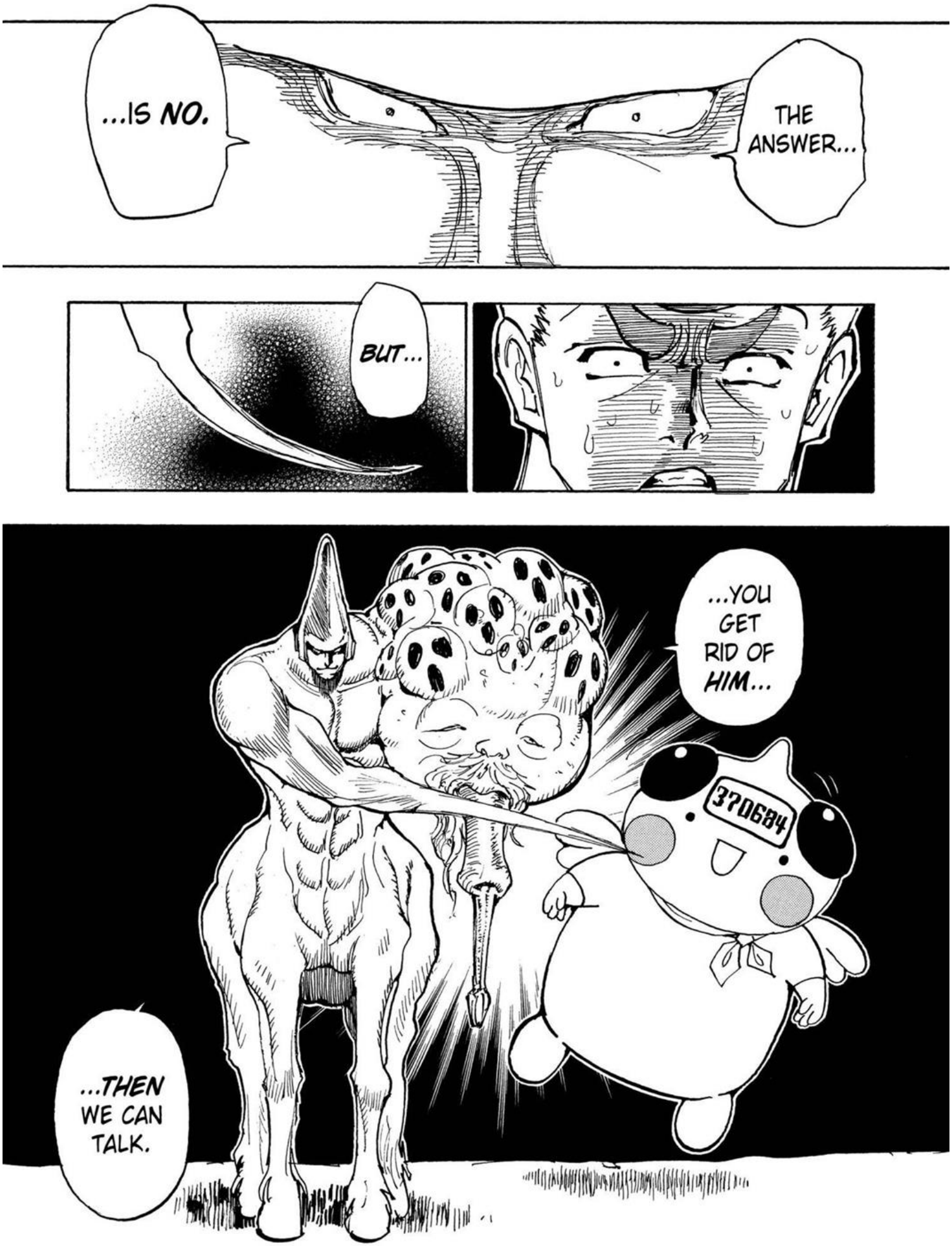

BUT HE DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME!!
HE TRIED TO HELP SHADES RIGHT BEFORE I STABBED HIM.


...IS DEEP!!
THE WOUND...

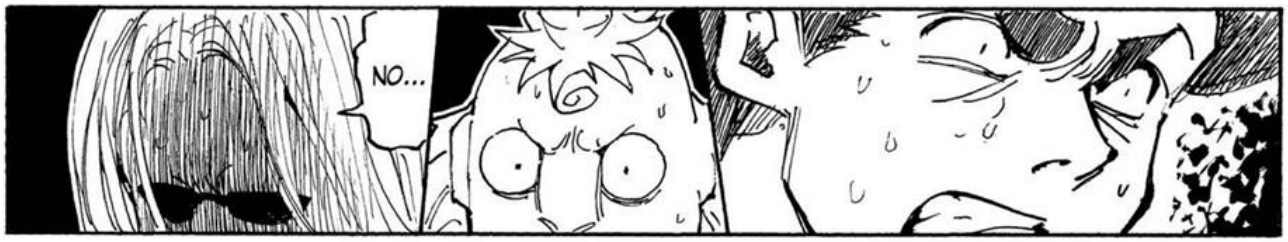

...
SHF
SHF
SHF
HERE HE COMES!!
...I'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE BY MYSELF!!
IF HE RAISES HIS SWORD AGAIN...
HE CAN'T SEE US... BUT HE KNOWS WHERE WE ARE!!
IT'S THE BLOOD!! YOUPI CAN SEE IT!!
SHF
SHF
CRUD !!
I CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH FOREVER !!

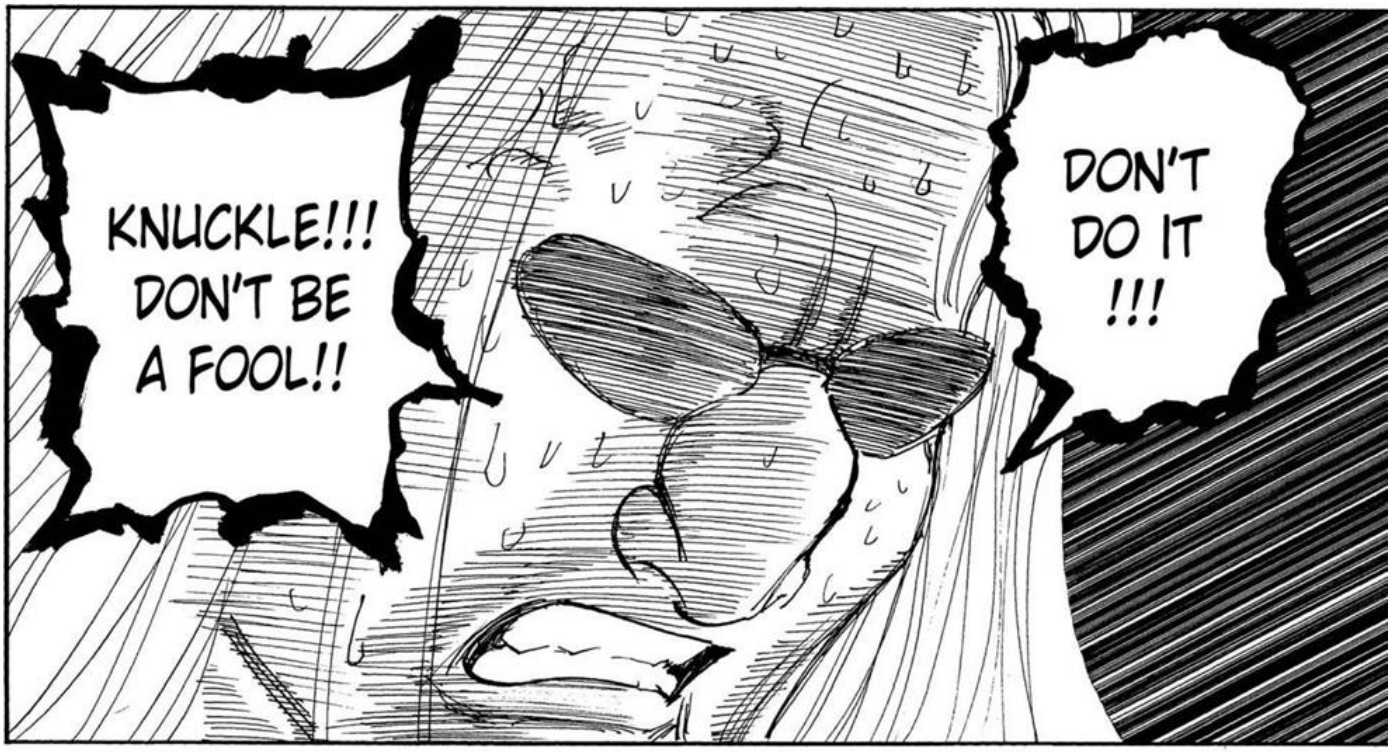

?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
KNUCKLE?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY HIDDEN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!!
YOU KNOW THE PLAN!!


SO...
I'LL TAKE YOU ON.
I WON'T RUN OR HIDE.
...PLEASE LET THEM GO!!
KNUCKLE TOOK A CHANCE ON WORDS AND NOT FISTS...
...
...BECAUSE YOUPI'S COMMENTS HAD TOUCHED HIM.
IT'S NOT EVEN A FAIR TRADE.
THAT'S ABSURD.

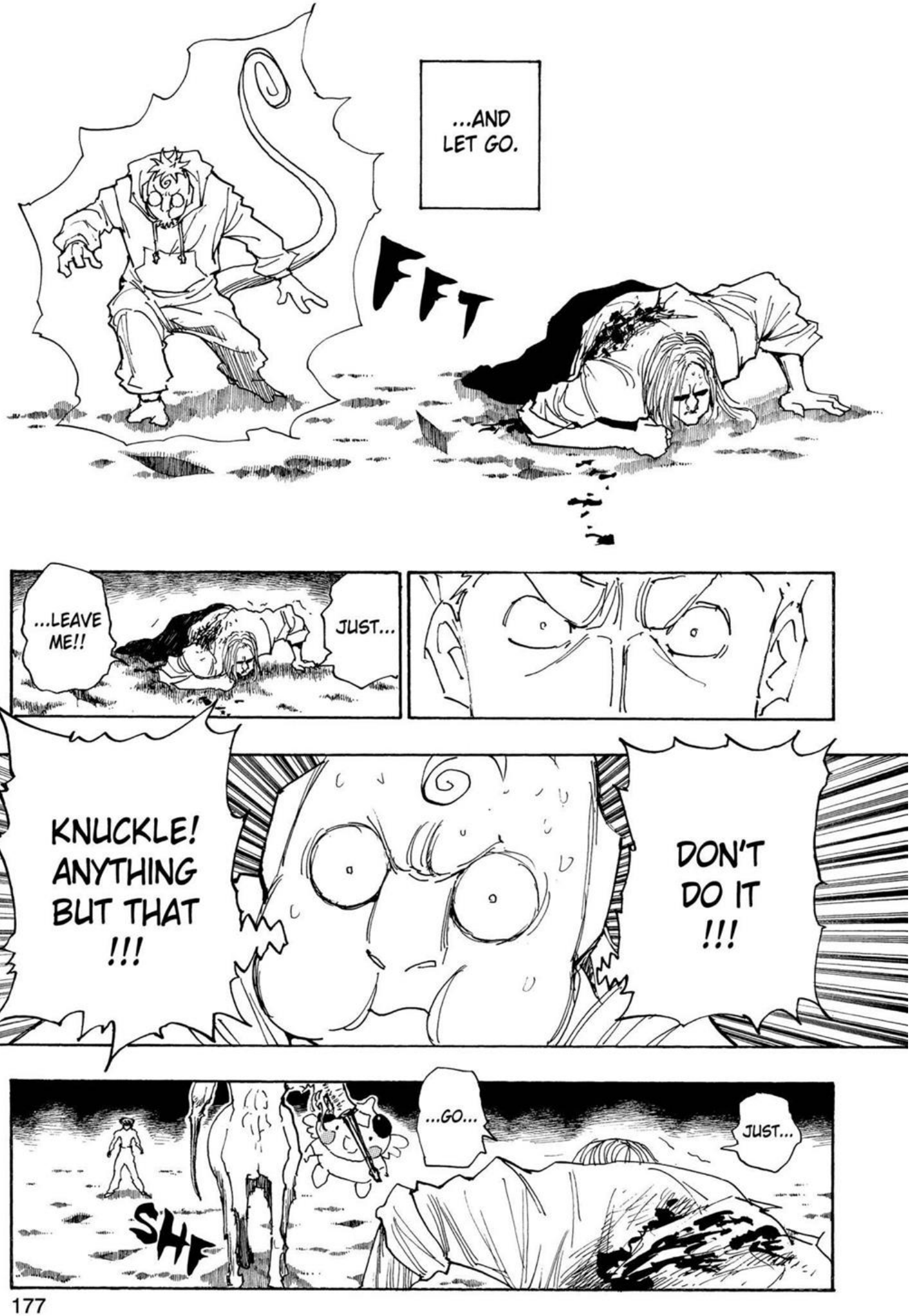

...IS NO.
THE ANSWER...
BUT...
...YOU GET RID OF HIM...
370684
...THEN WE CAN TALK.

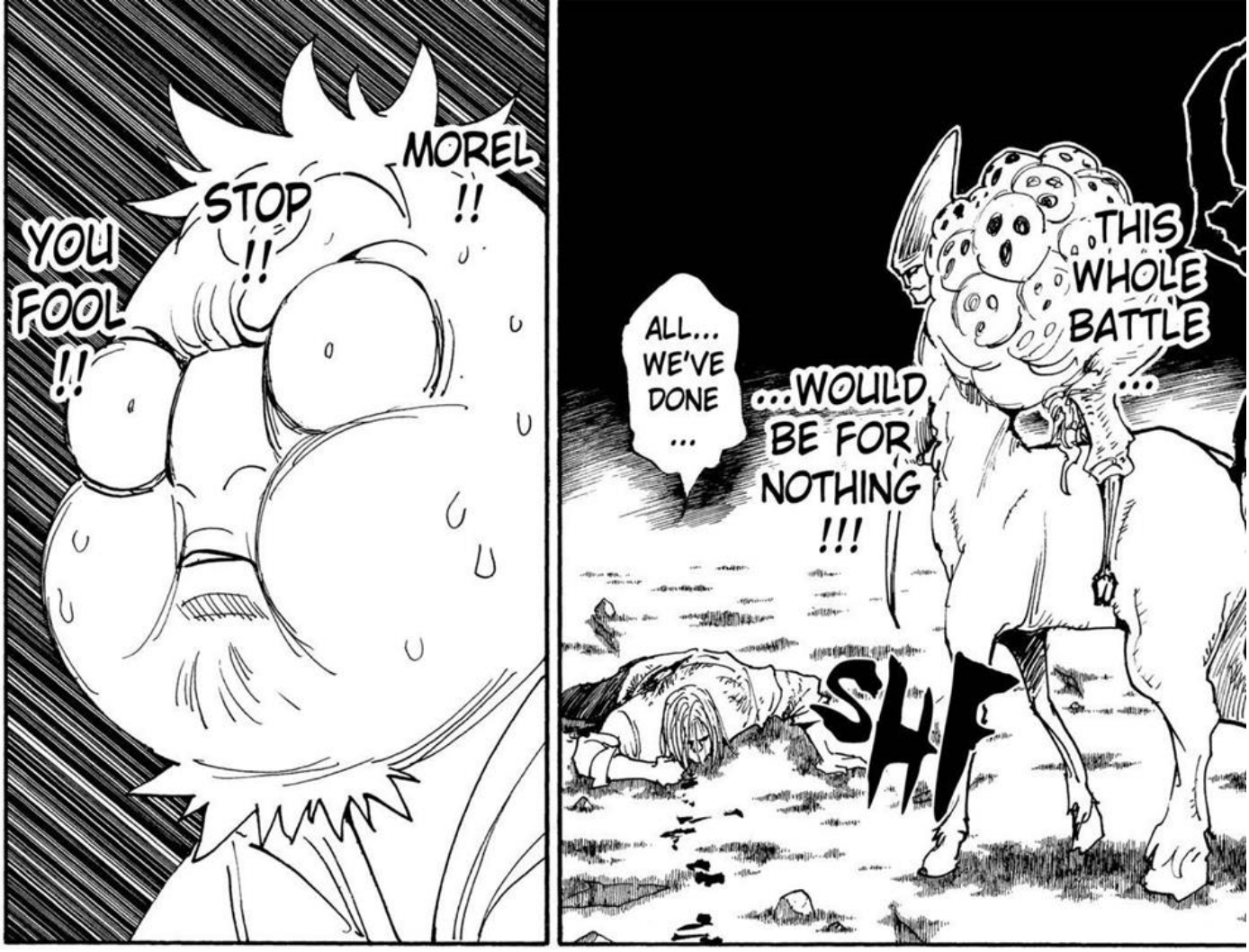

NOW *THOSE* WOULD BE EQUAL TERMS.
HE'S THE THING YOU'VE BEEN DODGING AROUND TO PROTECT, RIGHT?


NO...

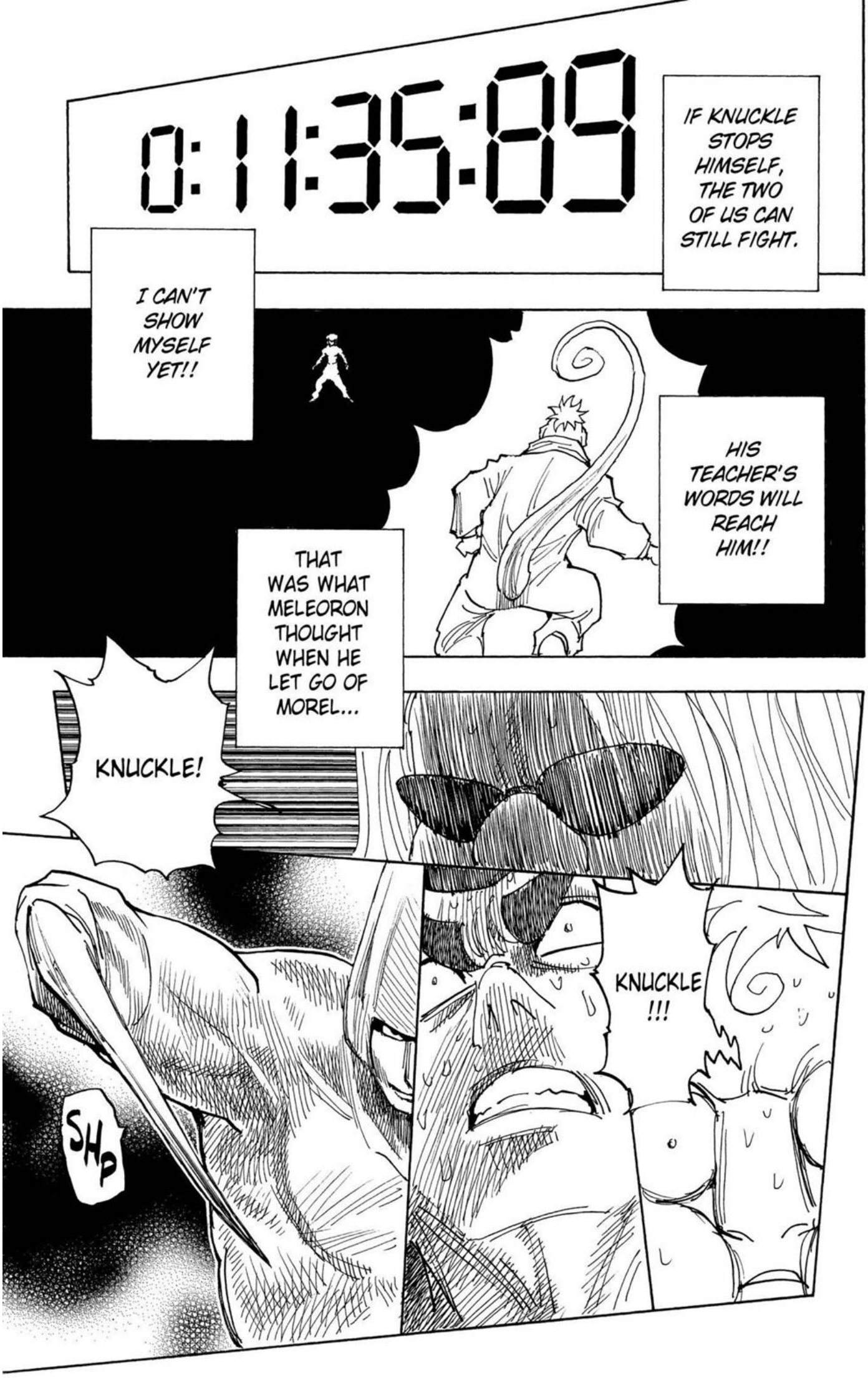

KNUCKLE!!! DON'T BE A FOOL!!
DON'T DO IT !!!

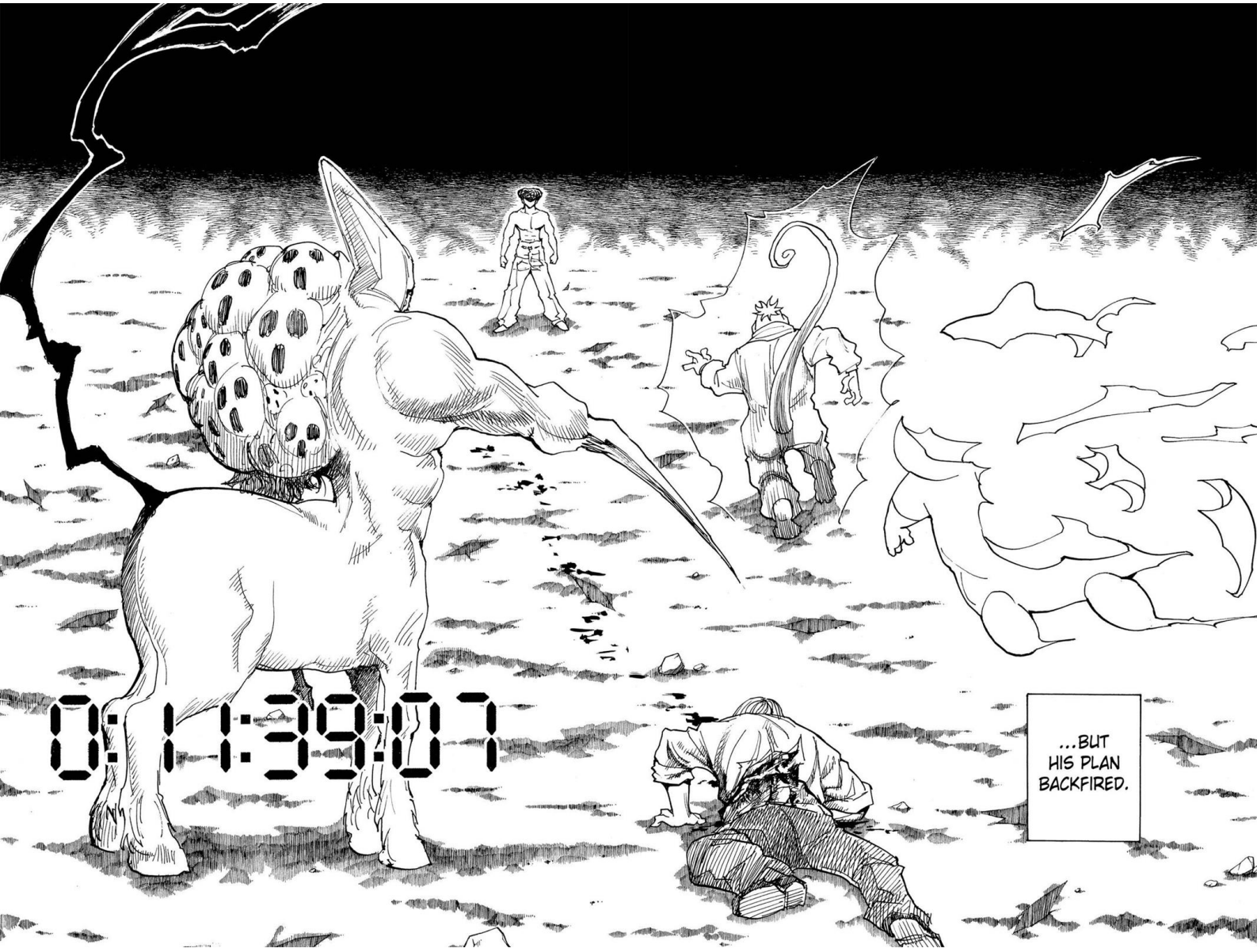

...MELEORON CAME TO HIS SENSES...
BUT...
GOD'S ACCOMPLICE MADE MOREL'S DESPERATE CRY INAUDIBLE.


...AND LET GO.
FFT
...LEAVE ME!!
JUST...
KNUCKLE! ANYTHING BUT THAT !!!
DON'T DO IT !!!
SHF
...GO...
JUST...


MOREL !!
STOP !!
YOU FOOL !!
THIS WHOLE BATTLE ...
ALL... WE'VE DONE ...
...WOULD BE FOR NOTHING !!!
SHF

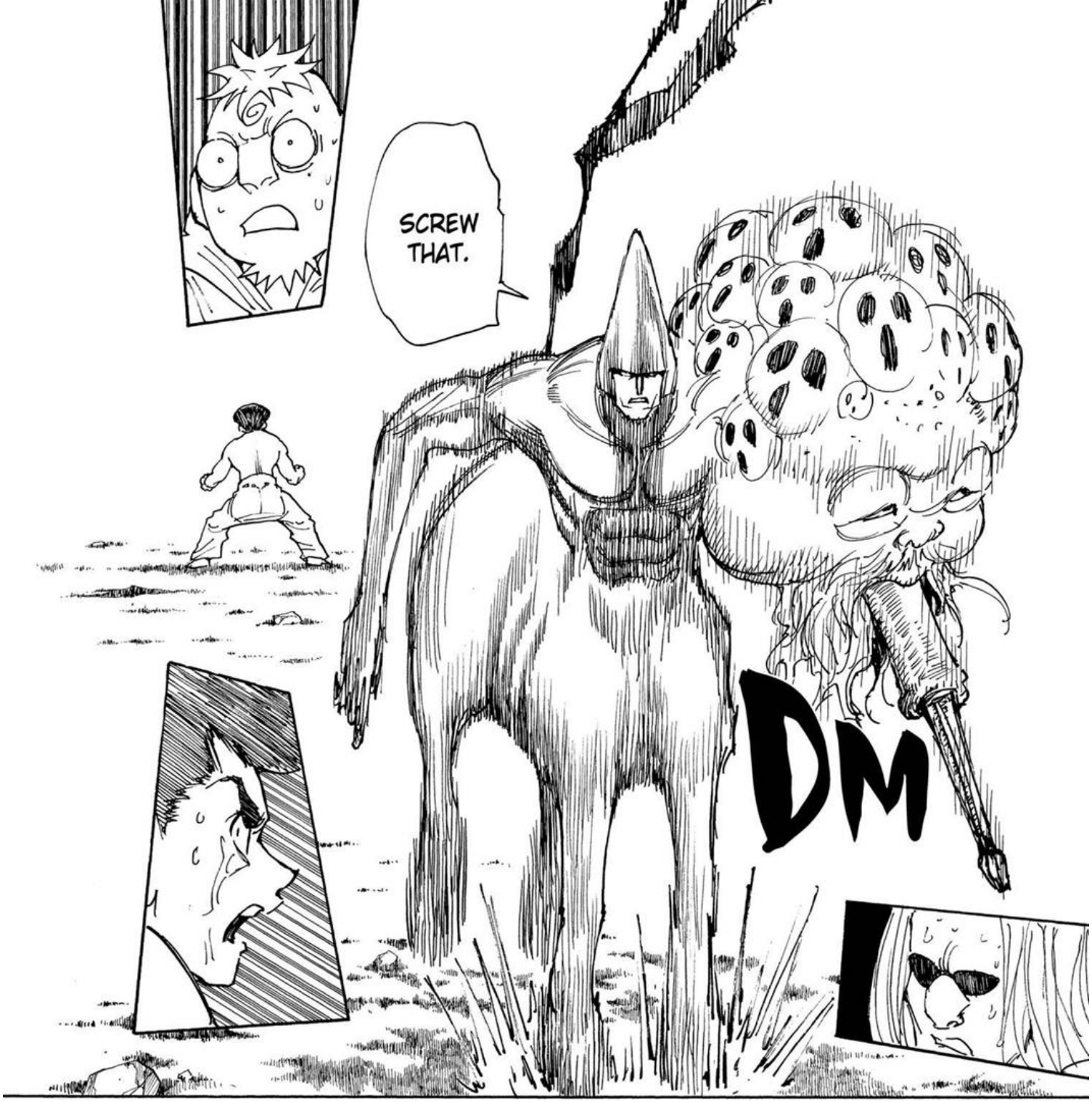

YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO GET THIS FAR !!!


0:11:35:89
IF KNUCKLE STOPS HIMSELF, THE TWO OF US CAN STILL FIGHT.
I CAN'T SHOW MYSELF YET!!
HIS TEACHER'S WORDS WILL REACH HIM!!
THAT WAS WHAT MELEORON THOUGHT WHEN HE LET GO OF MOREL...
KNUCKLE!
KNUCKLE !!!
SHD


0:11:39:07
...BUT HIS PLAN BACKFIRED.


HAAA
HHHH
...
...
NOW...
...WE HAVE NOTHING
... THINK
NO...
NO WAY ...
...TO DEFEAT YOU!!
WHY?

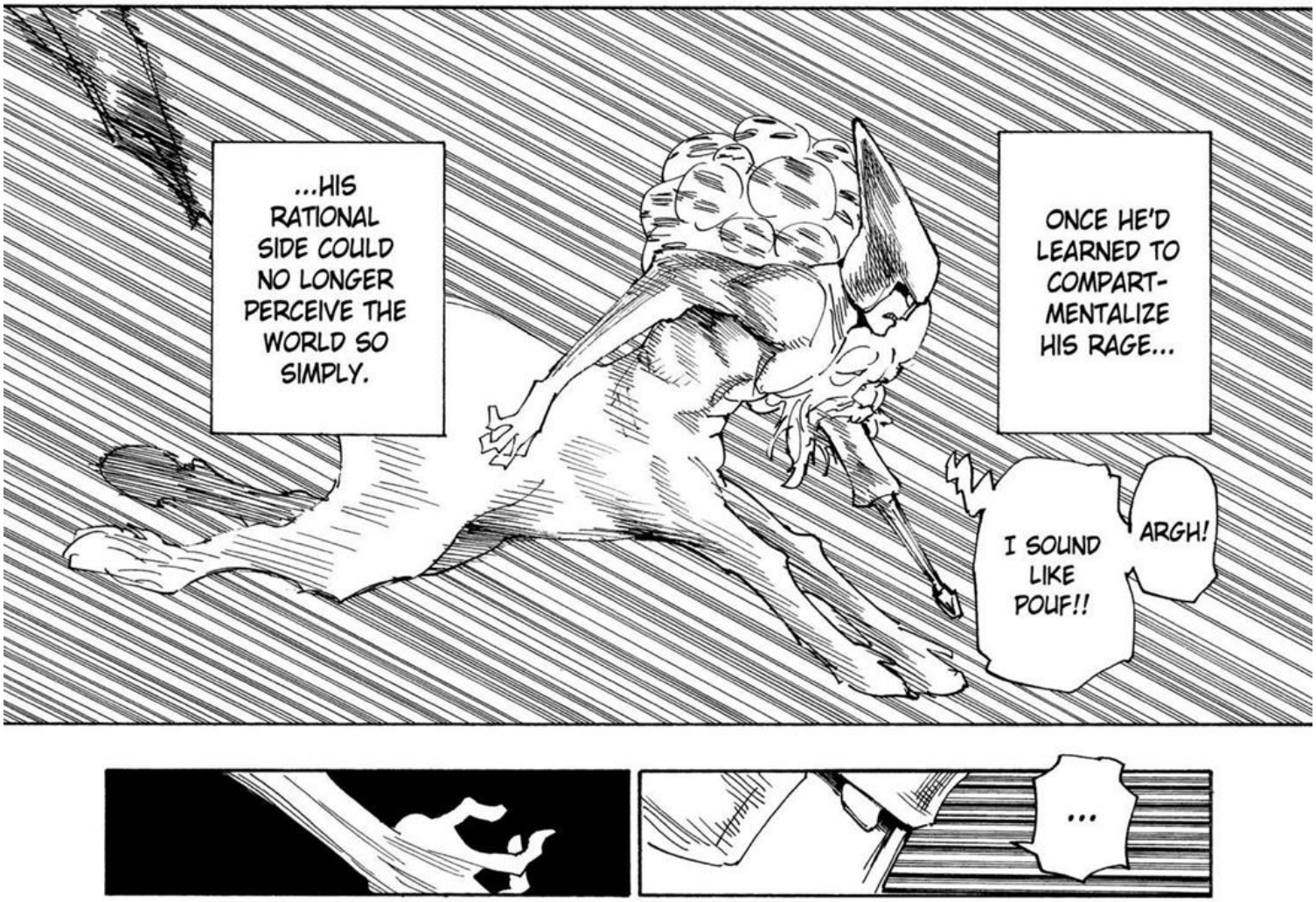

HIS WILL CRUMBLED.
SEEING MOREL COVERED IN BLOOD, IMAGES OF SHOOT FLASHED BEFORE KNUCKLE'S EYES.
WE'RE ON EQUAL TERMS!!
LEAVE THE BOSS...
THERE! I'VE DEACTIVATED A.P.R.!
KILL ME !!!
FIGHT ME!
FFT


SCREW THAT.
DM


TO THE KING. WHERE ELSE?
HUH?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHAT THE...? WAIT!!


...
...
YEAH, I GUESS NOT, DUMMY.
WANT TO COME WITH ME?


...
THEN YOU'D BETTER RUSH HIM TO A DOCTOR, OR YOU MADE THAT TRADE FOR *NOTHING!!*
HE CAN'T TELEPORT, RIGHT?
EEP!
FEH!
HE KNEW THAT, BUT HE DIDN'T DO IT. HE FELT IRRITATED IN A WAY DIFFERENT FROM HIS USUAL RAGE.
COME AFTER ME IF YOU WANT, SMALL FRY!! I'LL STOMP YOU BACK DOWN!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER!!
PROTECTING THE KING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HIS PRIORITY. HE SHOULD'VE KILLED THEM ALL ON THE SPOT.
WE'LL FIGHT AS EQUALS.
TRY ME ANY TIME.
IT HAD AWAKENED HIS PREVIOUSLY MEAGER SENSE OF SELF.
I DON'T NEED TO KILL THEM NOW!!
BIG DEAL!!
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DURING COMBAT, HIS ENEMIES HAD TAUGHT HIM HOW PROFOUND NEN TRULY WAS.


...HIS RATIONAL SIDE COULD NO LONGER PERCEIVE THE WORLD SO SIMPLY.
ONCE HE'D LEARNED TO COMPART-MENTALIZE HIS RAGE...
I SOUND LIKE POUF!!
ARGH!

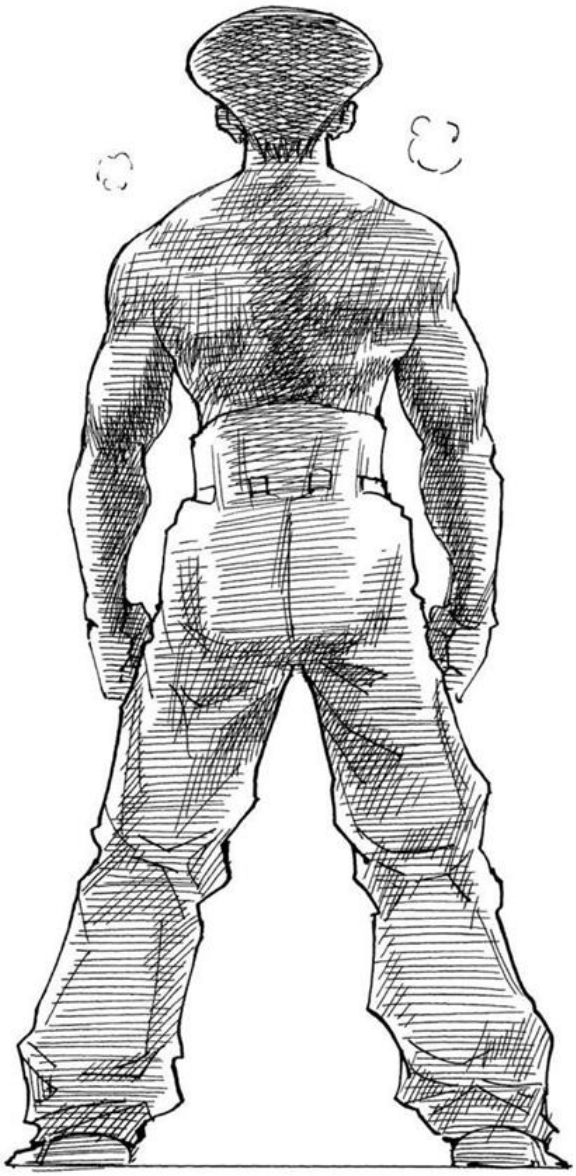
...


SO WHY DON'T I FEEL LIKE *USING* IT ON THEM?
I STORED ALL THIS RAGE AWAY!


WAS THIS MATURITY?
YOUPI DID NOT KNOW.
...SHOULD I USE IT ON?
NOW WHO...

...ON THE OTHER HAND...

KNUCKLE ...



...UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY...

I LOST...

