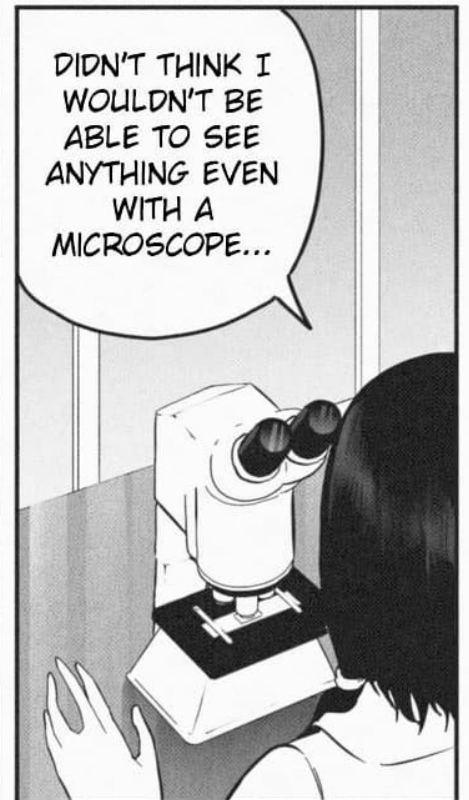
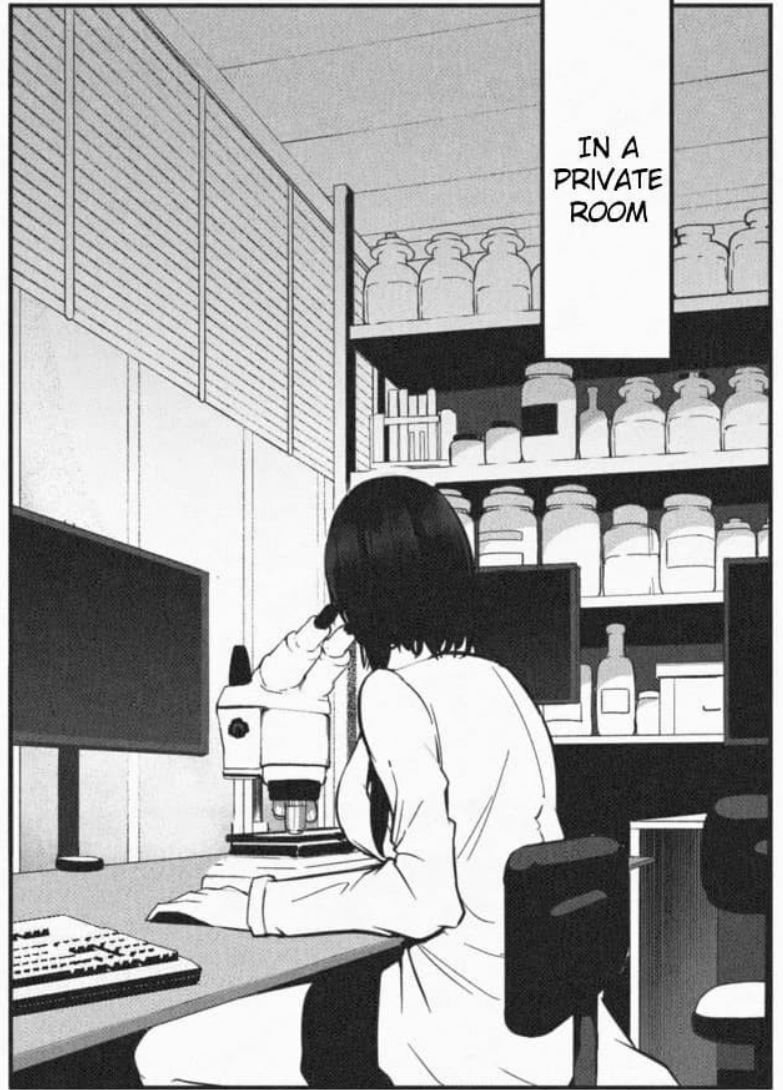




縮小聖地嬰
大盒





ISSEI-SAN!



KUROMI-SAN,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?



I'M TRYING
TO PRACTICE
OBSERVING
TINY PEOPLE.

LMM...
WELL...



EH...!?
REALLY?



THAT'S A
COMMON
MISTAKE
BEGINNERS
OFTEN MAKE...



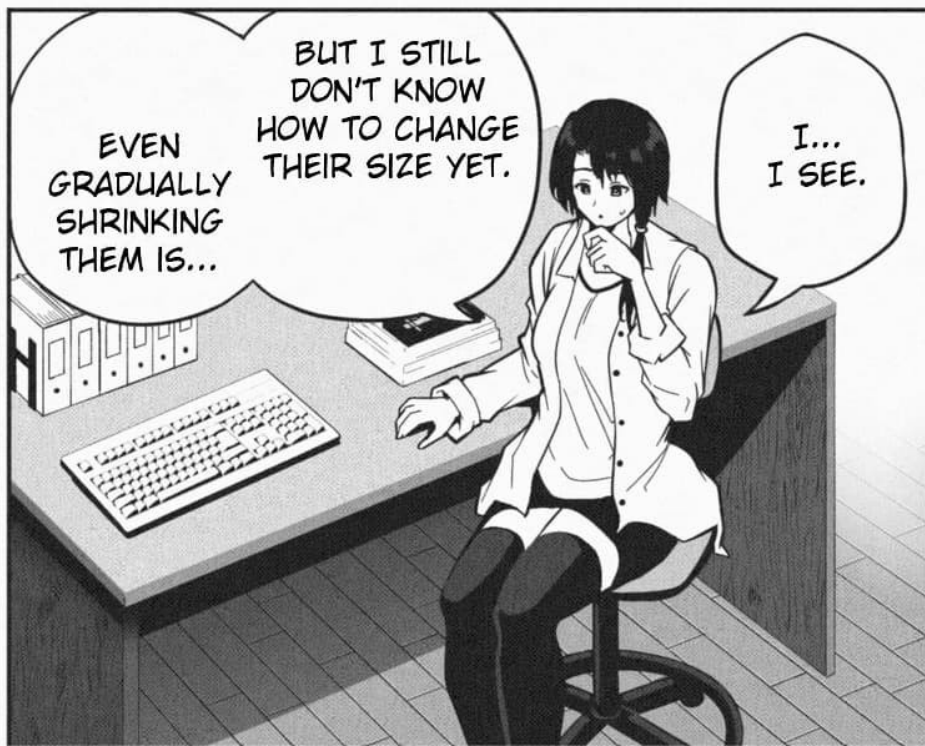
FEELING
THEM...?

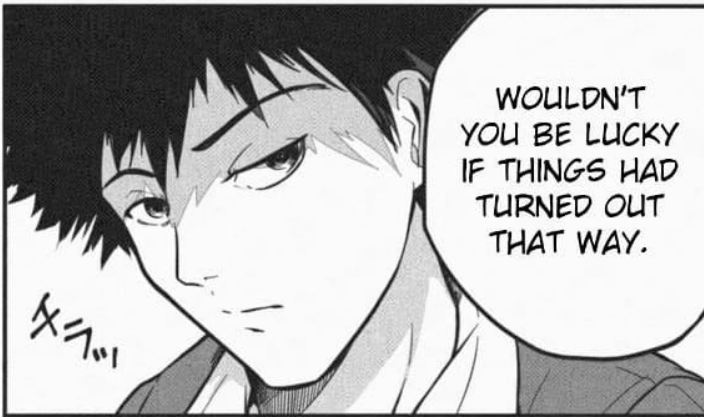
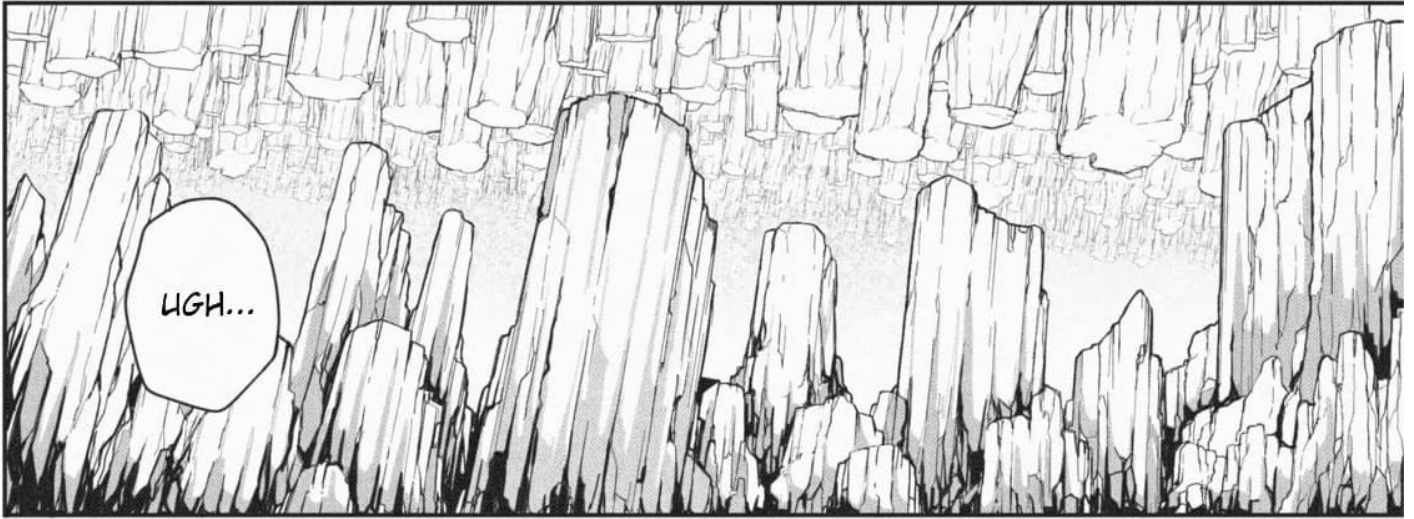


YOU FIRST
NEED TO START
BY FEELING
THEM.



THEN YOU GRADUALLY SHRINK HIM DOWN.







I'M MIRIYA.

I CAME HERE FOR THE PRIZE MONEY, JUST LIKE YOU.



ANYWAY... LET'S START BY INTRODUCING OURSELVES.

HEY, HEY, MY HEAD CAN'T HANDLE MULTIPLE QUESTIONS AT ONCE.



SO KIDDO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

.....

NICE TO MEET YOU.



IT'S CHIJIMU.

*TL NOTE: CHIJIMU CAN MEAN "TO SHRINK"



YOU SAID I WOULD BE LUCKY IF I'D DIED.

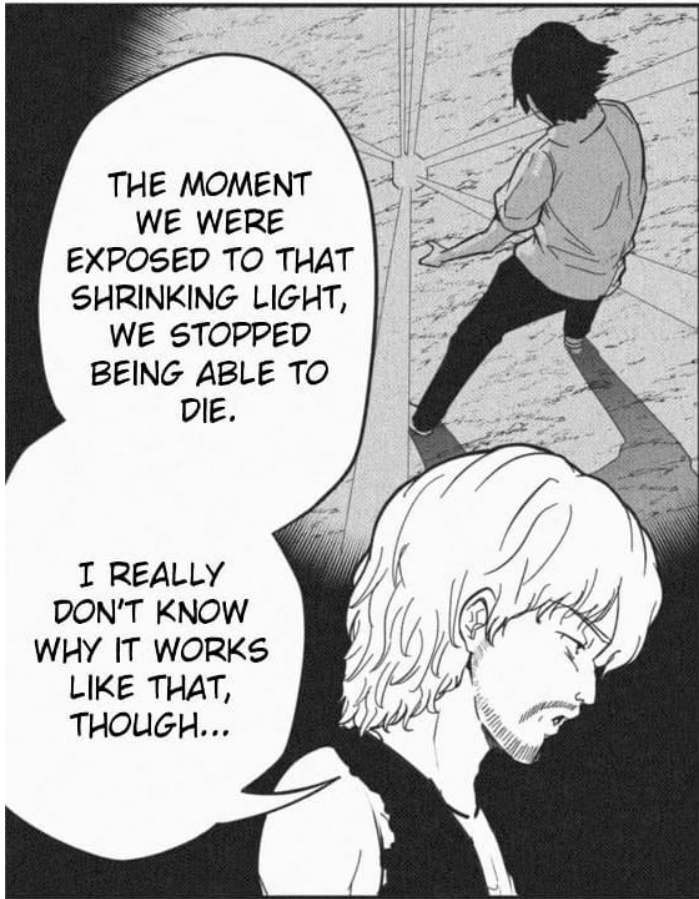
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?

SO? WHAT WAS THAT OTHER QUESTION YOU HAD?



SHUT UP...

HAHAHA! I GUESS YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE WITH A NAME LIKE THAT!



THE MOMENT WE WERE EXPOSED TO THAT SHRINKING LIGHT, WE STOPPED BEING ABLE TO DIE.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY IT WORKS LIKE THAT, THOUGH...



YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK TOO DEEP INTO IT, I MEANT EXACTLY THAT!

AHH! THAT'S RIGHT!



THE FACT WE ARE HAVING THIS VERY CONVERSATION PROVES IT, DOESN'T IT?

I GUESS THAT'S WHY WE'RE BOTH PRISONERS.

T-THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT...?



BUT FACTS ARE FACTS.

YOU'LL GET OVER IT SOON ANYWAY.



DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU FEEL SO HOPELESS RIGHT AFTER YOU WOKE UP...

MY BAD...



AH...!?





YOU GOT CHEERFUL ALL OF A SUDDEN, ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

YOU'RE GETTING AHEAD OF YOURSELF CHIJIMU!

WHOA, HEY WAIT UP!



YOU SEE, THIS SEEMINGLY ENDLESS LANDSCAPE...

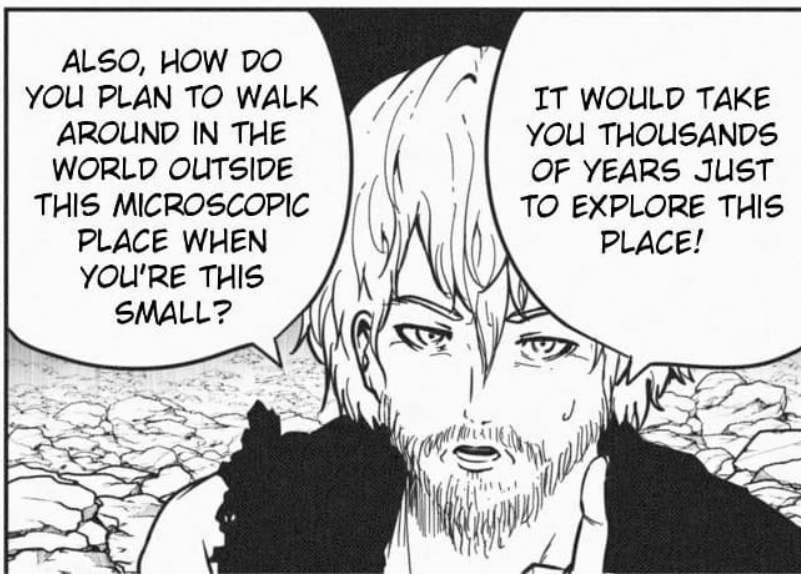
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE YET, DO YOU?



IT'S ACTUALLY A MICROSCOPE SLIDE!!

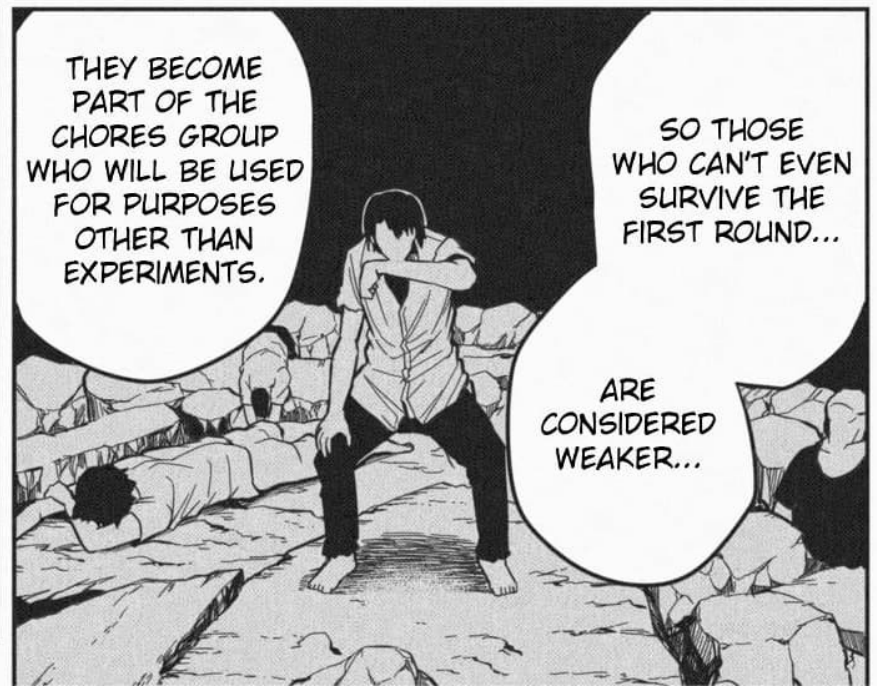
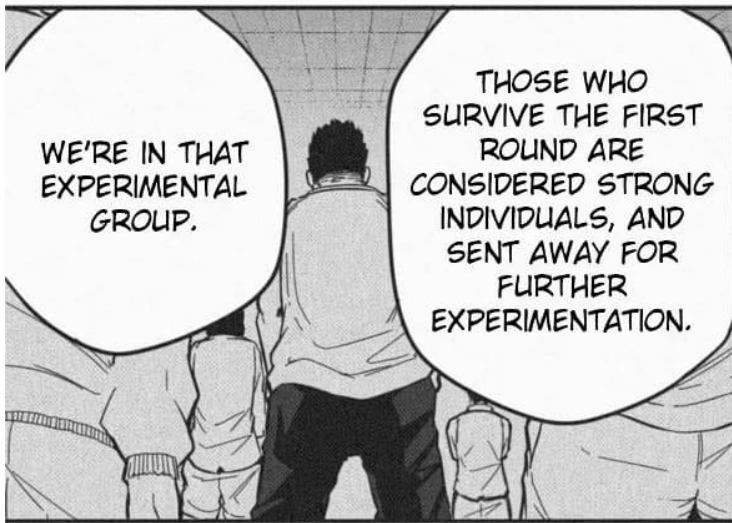
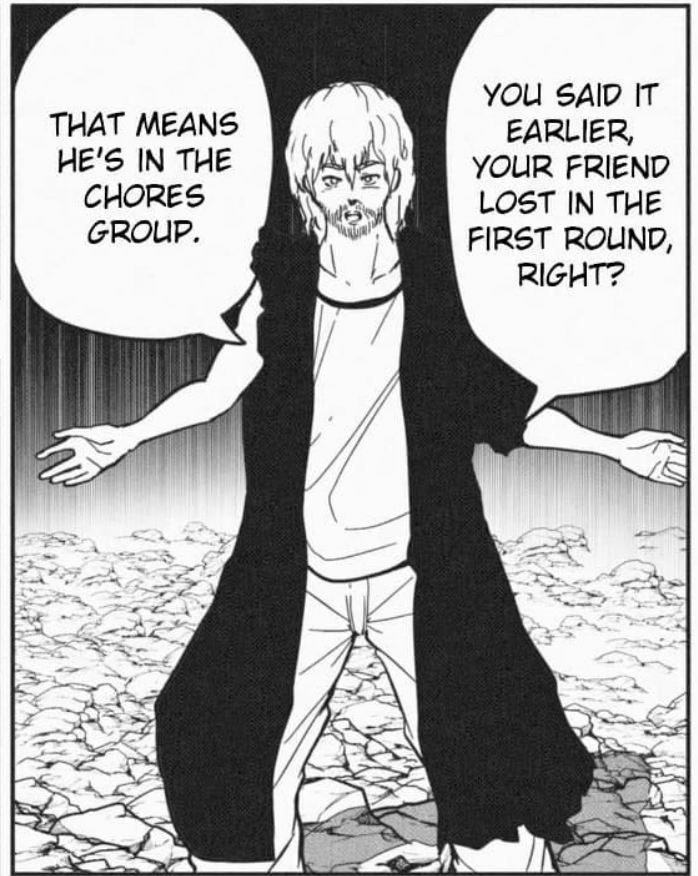


ALSO, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO WALK AROUND IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE THIS MICROSCOPIC PLACE WHEN YOU'RE THIS SMALL?

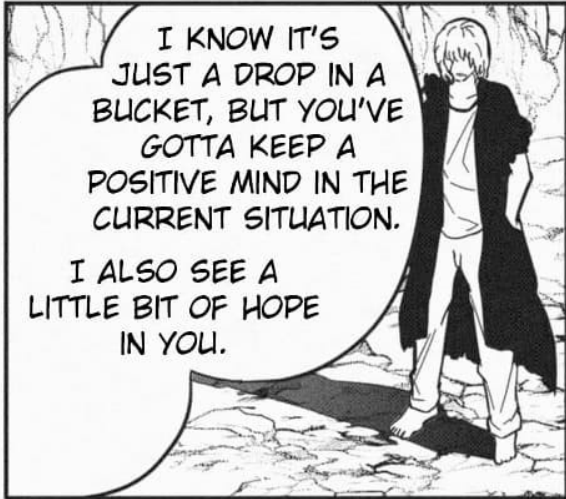


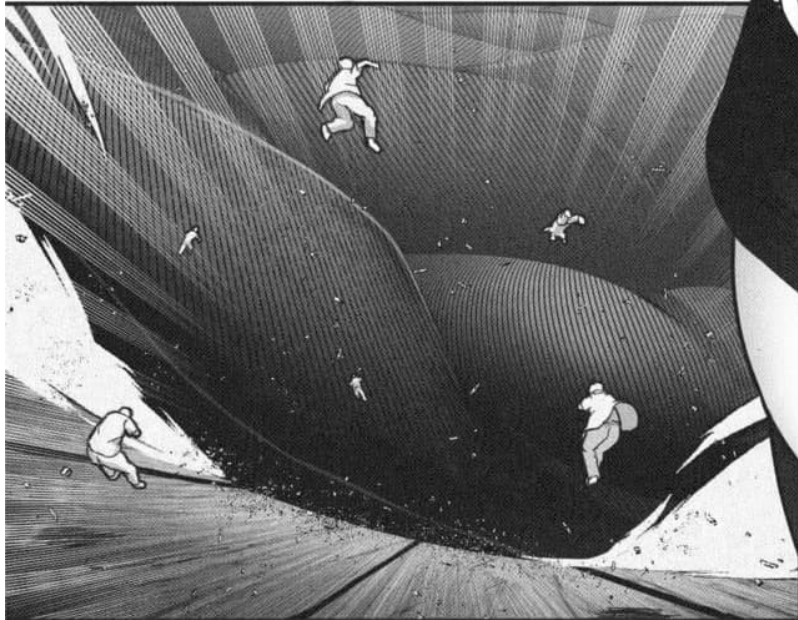
IT WOULD TAKE YOU THOUSANDS OF YEARS JUST TO EXPLORE THIS PLACE!

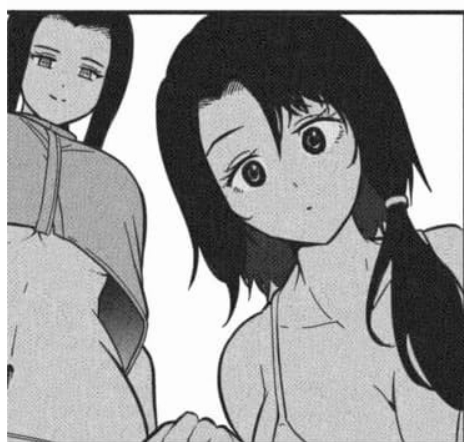


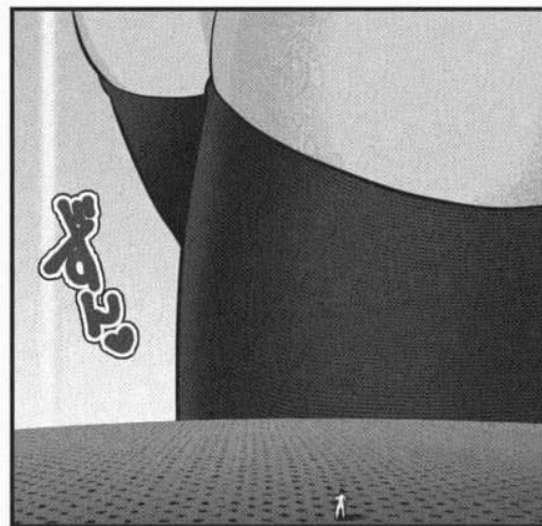


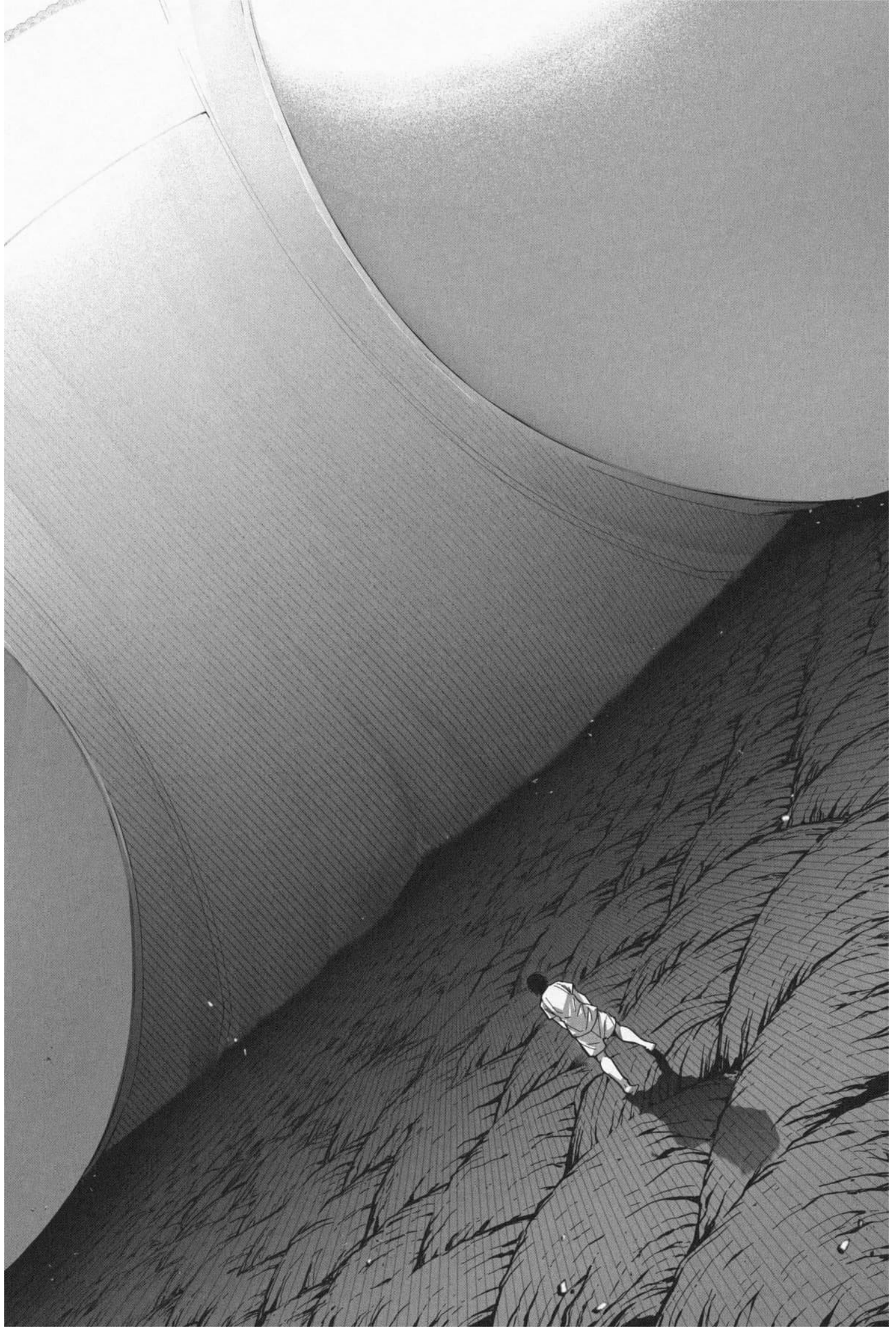


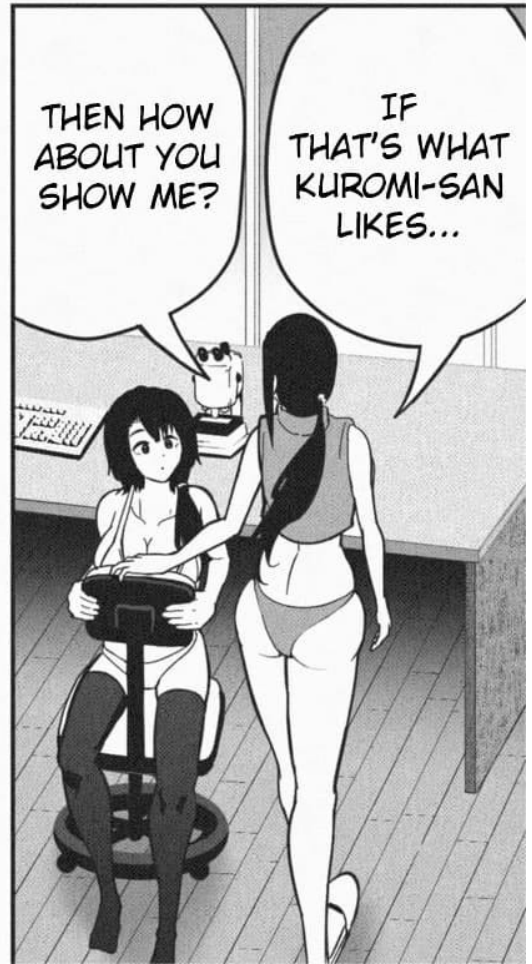
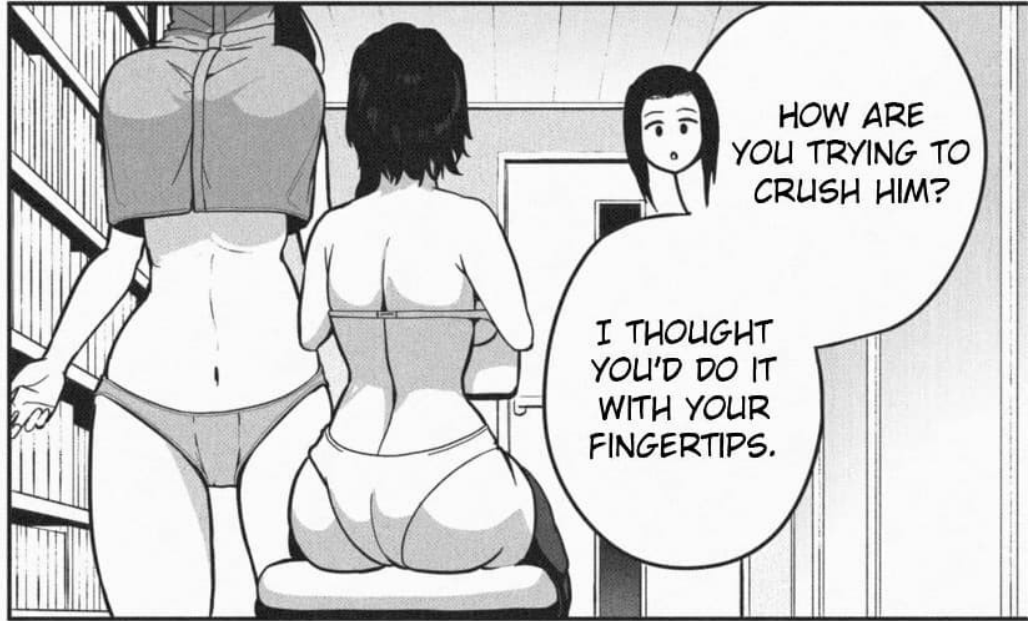


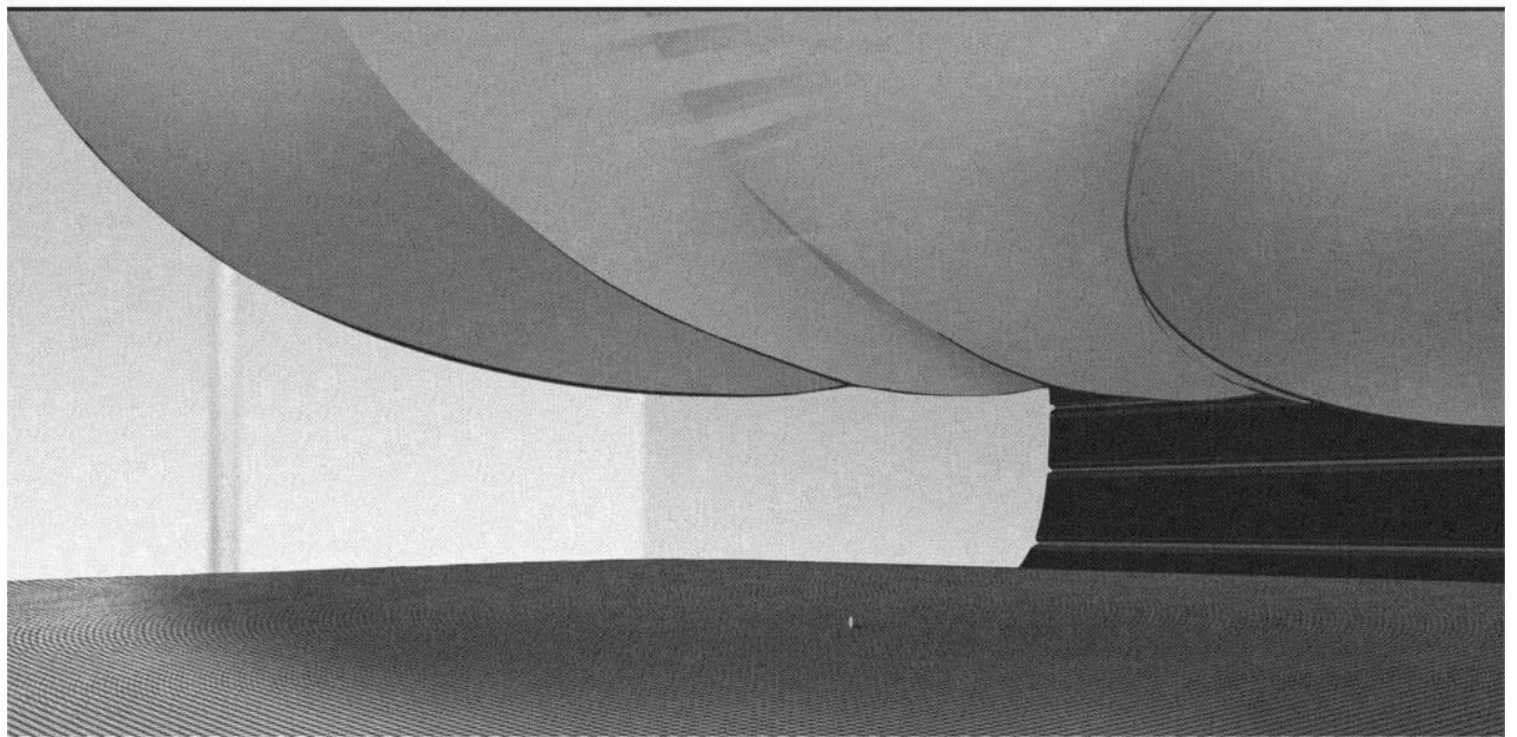
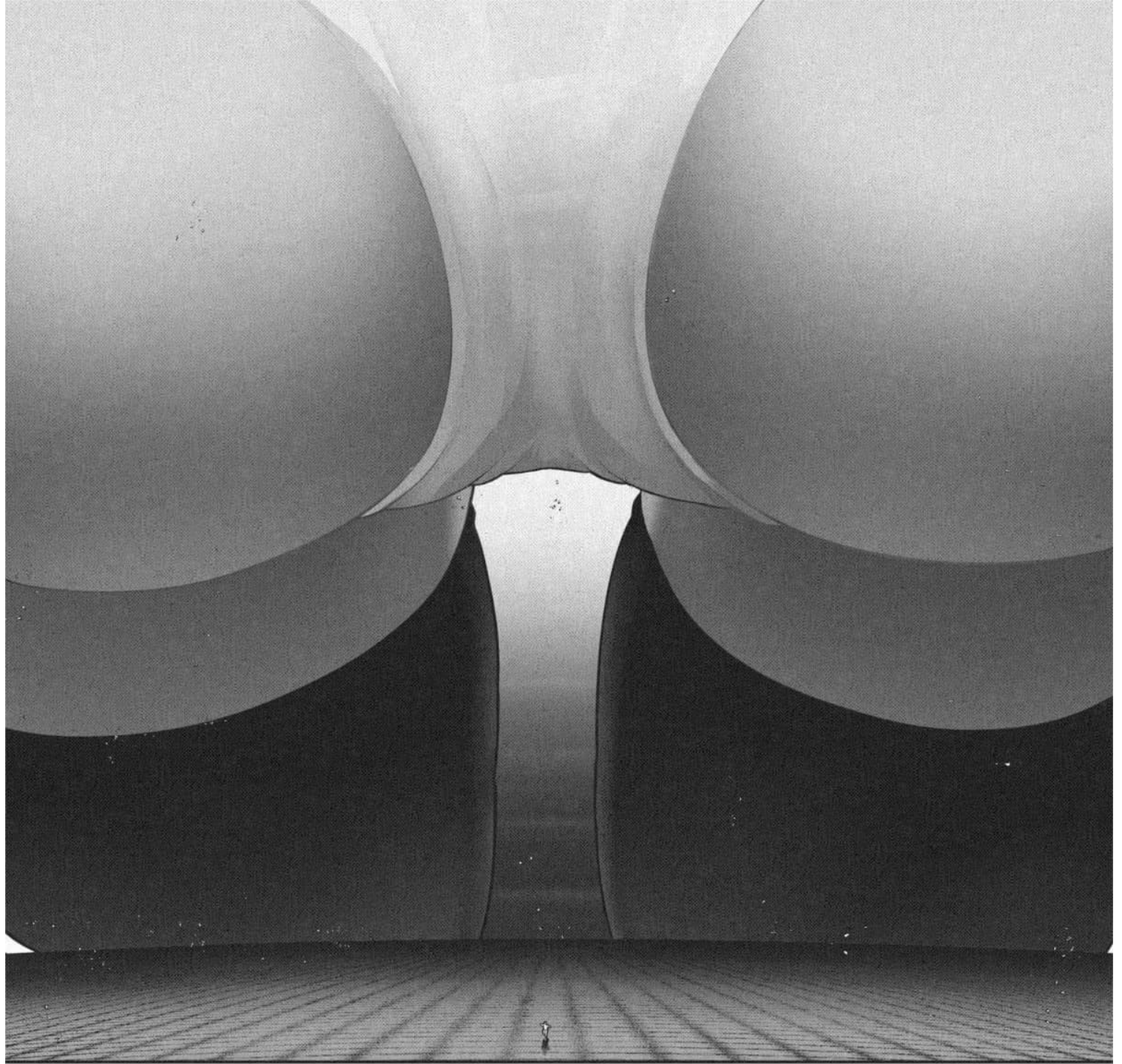


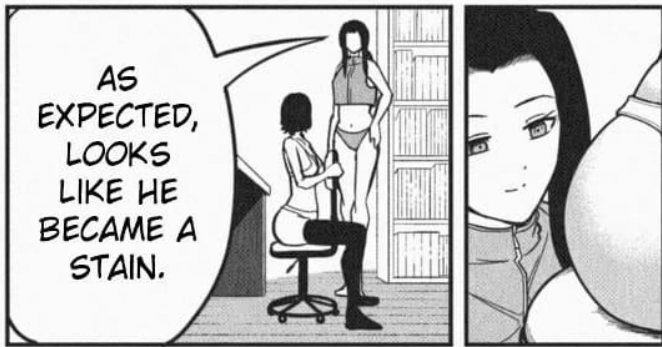












AS EXPECTED, LOOKS LIKE HE BECAME A STAIN.



A STAIN... YOU SAY?



AAH...

HNG...

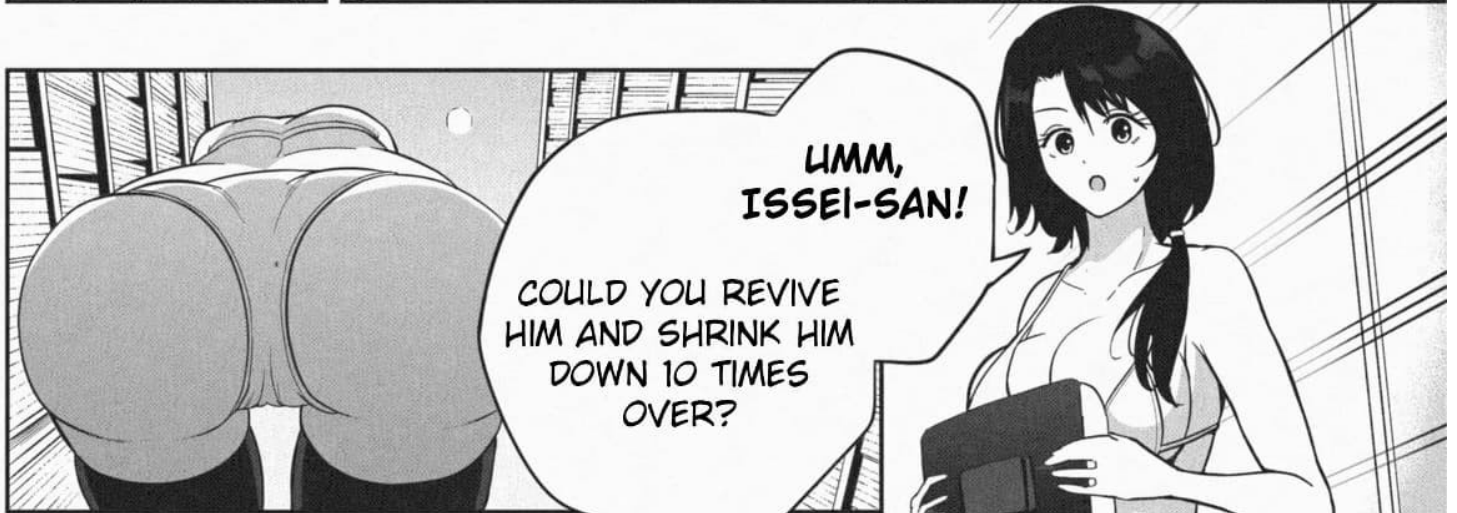


HEH...? WELL...



ARE YOU SAYING IF HE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE A STAIN THEN HE'S STILL TOO BIG?

HEHE...



LMM, ISSEI-SAN!

COULD YOU REVIVE HIM AND SHRINK HIM DOWN 10 TIMES OVER?



WELL OF COURSE.

I WANT TO CHECK IF I CAN STILL SEE HIM.



HE'S NOW
1/100,000TH
HIS ORIGINAL
SIZE, IS THIS
OKAY?



YET...
HE'S STILL
TOO BIG...

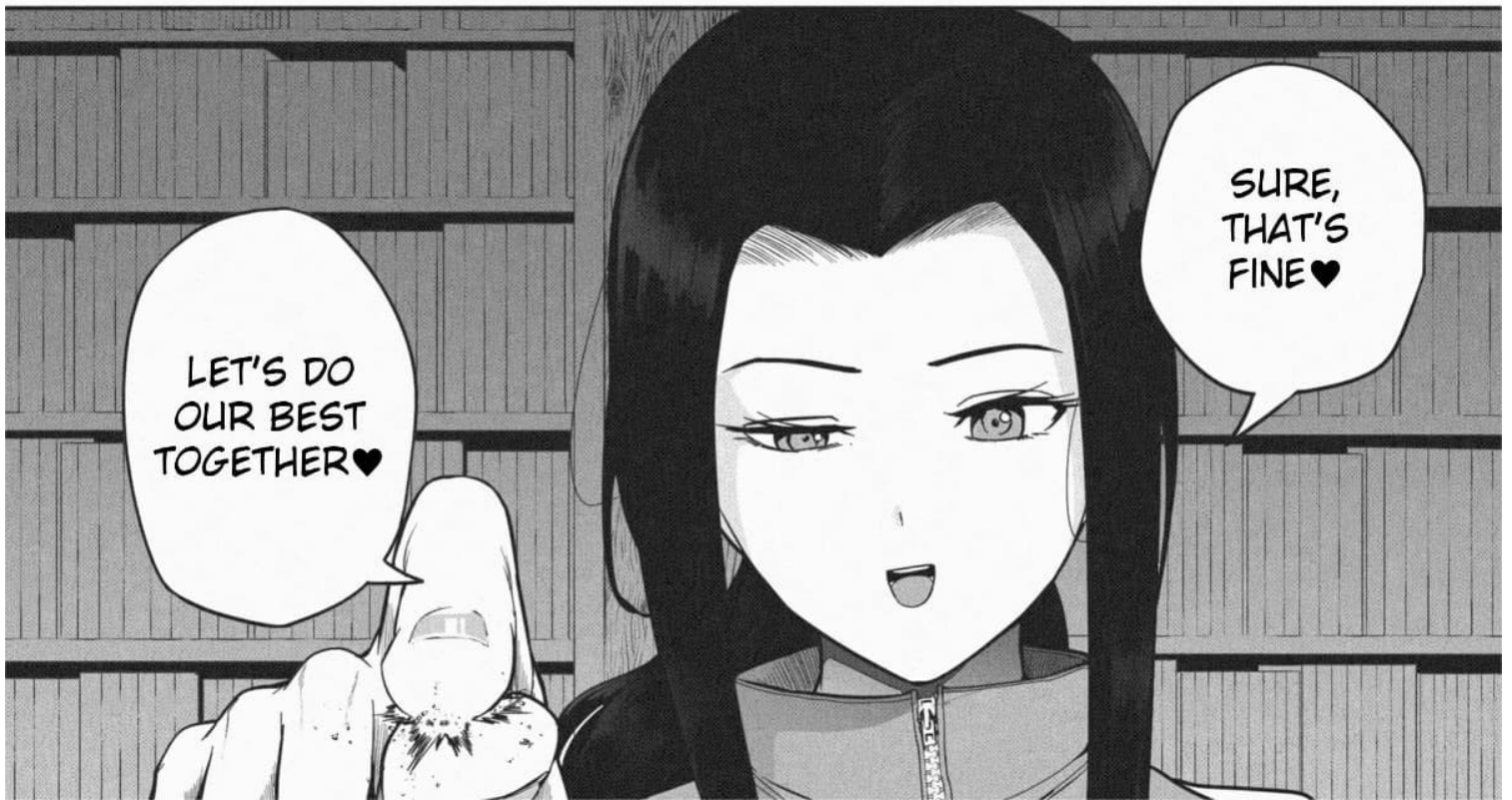
THAT'S
NOT GOOD...
I CAN'T
SEE HIM
ANYMORE.



PLEASE HURRY
AND MAKE IT SO I
AM ABLE TO SEE
HIM AGAIN!

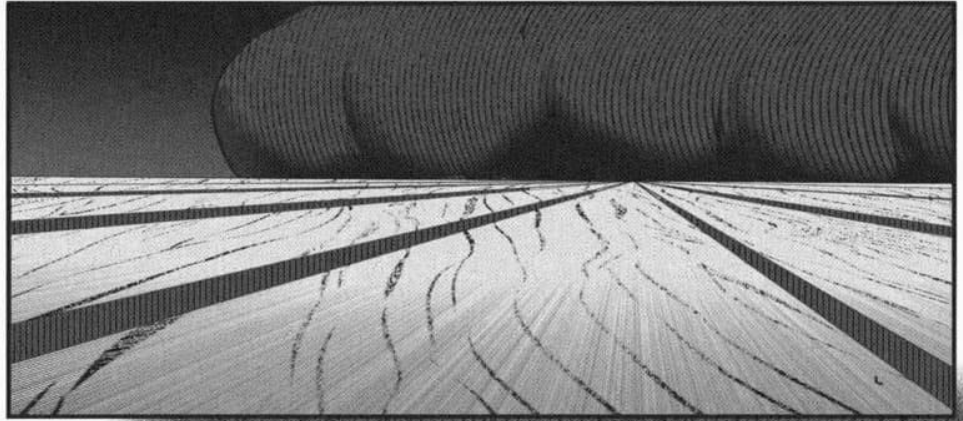
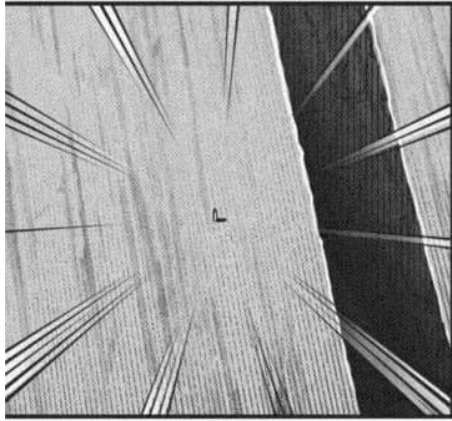


ISSEI
-SAN!!

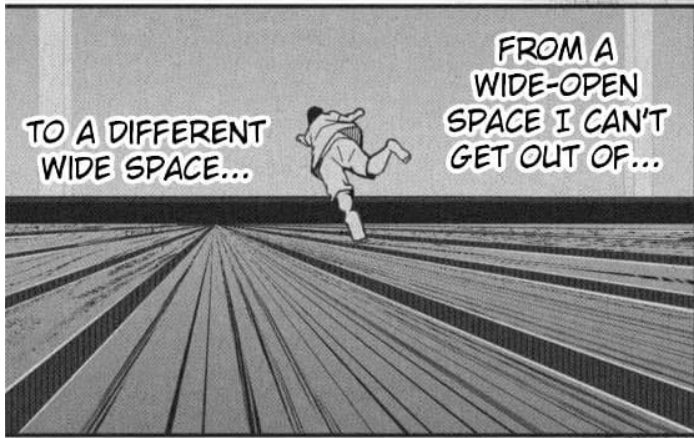


LET'S DO
OUR BEST
TOGETHER ♡

SURE,
THAT'S
FINE ♡

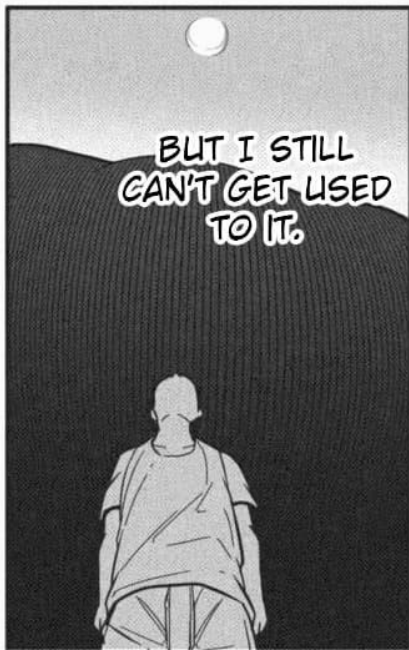


I'VE
EXPERIENCED
THIS SO MANY
TIMES SINCE I
CAME HERE.



TO A DIFFERENT
WIDE SPACE...

FROM A
WIDE-OPEN
SPACE I CAN'T
GET OUT OF...



BUT I STILL
CAN'T GET USED
TO IT.



AND WHEN I
THOUGHT I'D DIED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW
MANY TIMES I'VE
EXPERIENCED THIS...

A close-up, black and white illustration of a giant's foot, wearing a dark, ribbed sock, stepping onto a wooden plank. The foot is positioned diagonally across the frame, with the toes pointing towards the bottom right. The wooden plank is part of a larger floor made of similar planks.

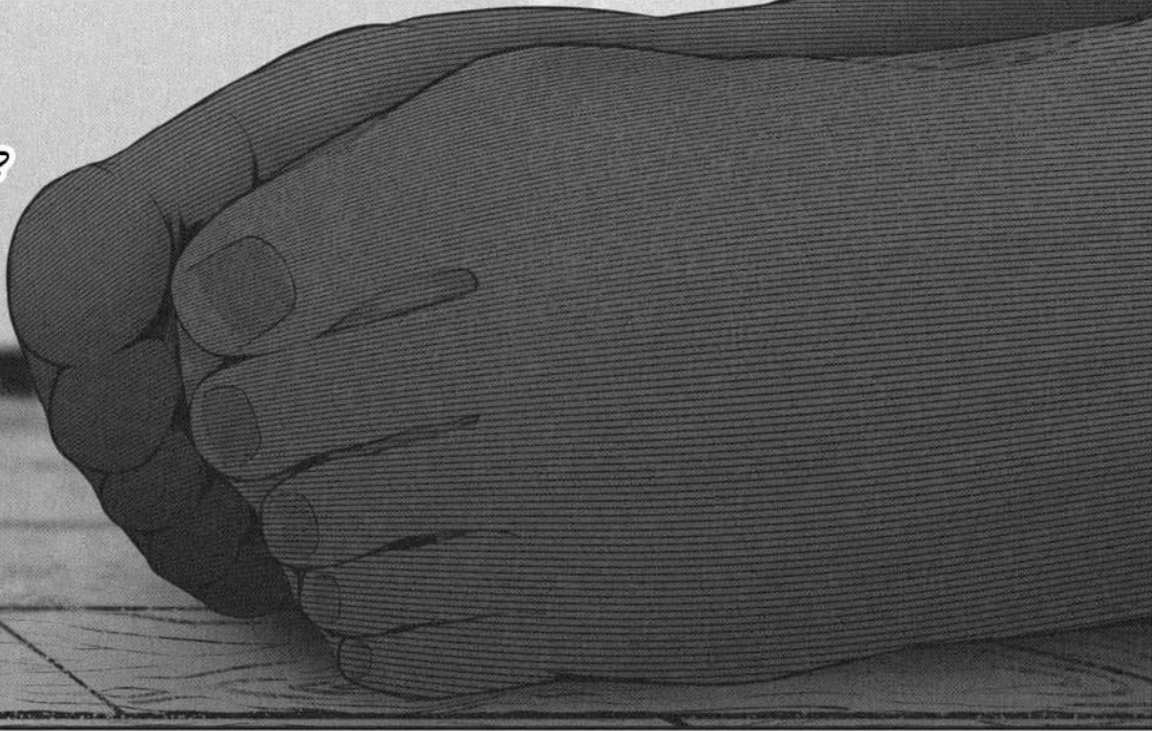
BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS SO
TERRIFYING, AFTER ALL.

A wide, black and white illustration showing the lower leg and foot of a giant. The foot is resting on a wooden plank. At the very bottom edge of the frame, a tiny human figure stands on the edge of the plank, looking up at the foot. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a large, cavernous space.

GIANTS SO HUGE I HAVE
NO CLUE WHICH BODY
PART I'M LOOKING AT.

I'M BEING TERRORIZED
BY THESE GIRLS.

THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING
WRONG IF YOU WEREN'T
TERRIFIED IN THIS SITUATION.



STILL, MAYBE
TODAY WILL BE
SLIGHTLY BETTER?

IT'S NOW RARE
FOR ME TO SEE A
GIRL SMALLER
THAN THE EARTH.



SMELLS, OR EVEN HAIR
OIL WOULD BE ENOUGH TO
EASILY ELIMINATE ME.

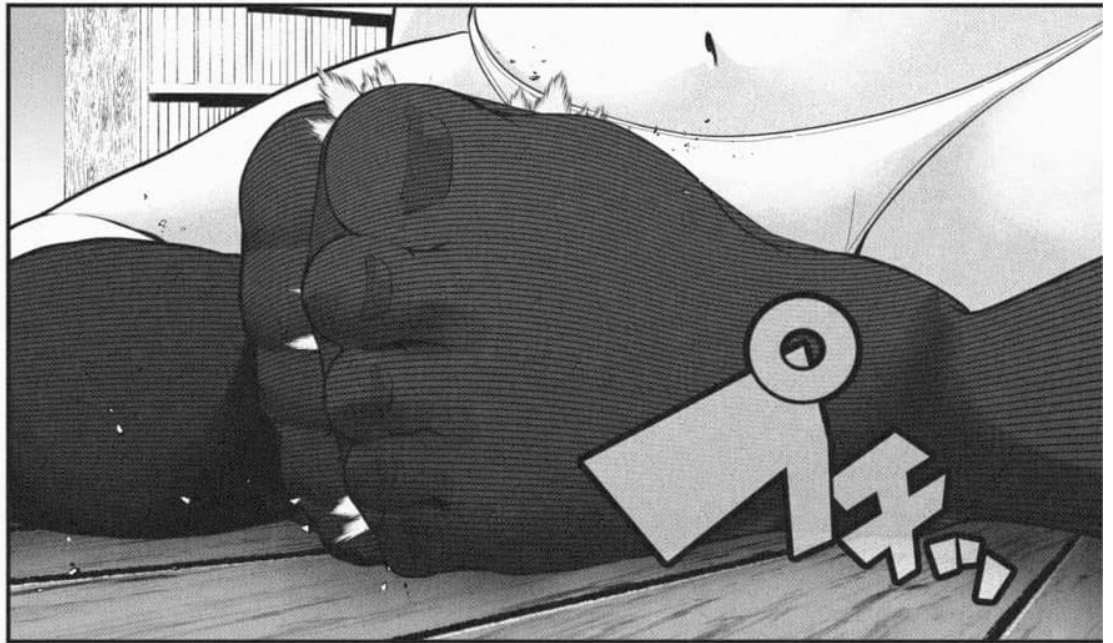
BEING SHRUNK SMALL
ENOUGH THAT NORMAL
SWEAT, BODY HEAT...



I DON'T THINK I'D
BE ABLE TO KEEP
MYSELF SANE...

IF I THOUGHT ABOUT
THE ALTERNATIVES...

RIGHT... IN THAT CASE, BEING
CRUSHED RIGHT AWAY MIGHT
BE PREFERABLE.



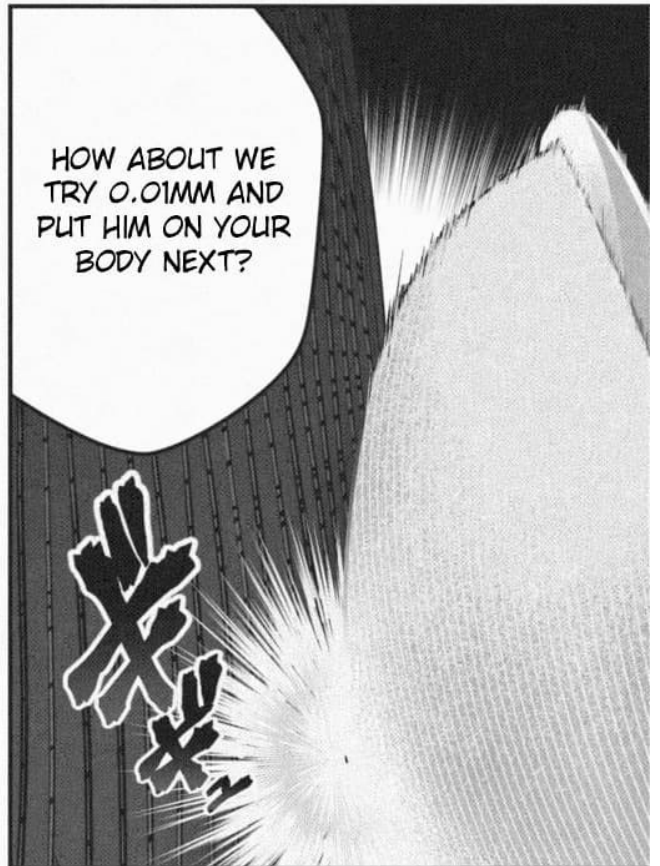
THAT'S A SIGN
YOUR SENSITIVITY
HAS IMPROVED.

IF YOU WERE
ABLE TO RECOGNIZE
CRUSHING A TINY
PERSON LESS THAN
A MILLIMETER TALL,
THEN...

OH! I WAS ABLE
TO SLIGHTLY FEEL
SOMETHING WHEN
I CRUSHED HIM!



HE'LL BE COMPLETELY
INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED
EYE, BUT MAYBE
KUROMI-SAN WILL BE
ABLE TO FEEL
SOMETHING NOW.



HOW ABOUT WE
TRY 0.01MM AND
PUT HIM ON YOUR
BODY NEXT?





WELL THEN,
HOW ABOUT...



WE DROP
HIM AROUND
HERE ♡





THERE'S A 100,000 TIMES SIZE DIFFERENCE.

NORMALLY HE WOULD BE IN THE RANGE WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER, BUT...

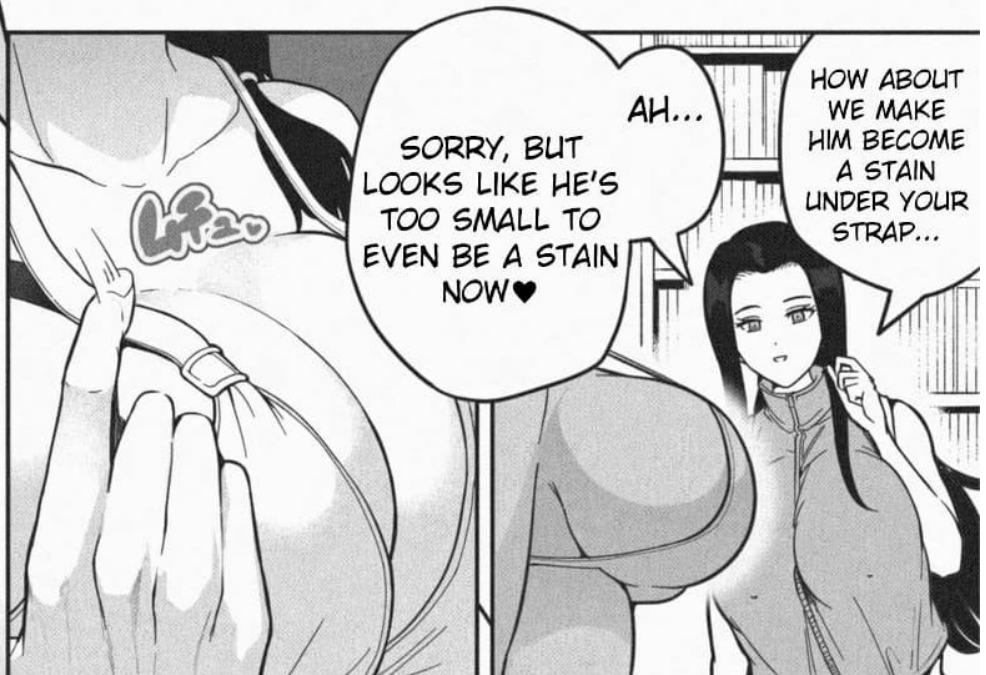
I CAN CERTAINLY STILL FEEL HIM.

I ROUGHLY KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW.



SEEMS YOU HAVEN'T REACHED THE POINT WHERE YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM, BUT...

YOU CAN AT LEAST SENSE HIS PRESENCE COMPARED TO WHEN WE STARTED.



SORRY, BUT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TOO SMALL TO EVEN BE A STAIN NOW ♡

AH...

HOW ABOUT WE MAKE HIM BECOME A STAIN UNDER YOUR STRAP...



I-IS THAT SO!?

AT THIS RATE, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AT ANY SIZE BY THE END OF THE DAY.

KUROMI-SAN, YOU'VE PROGRESSED REALLY WELL.

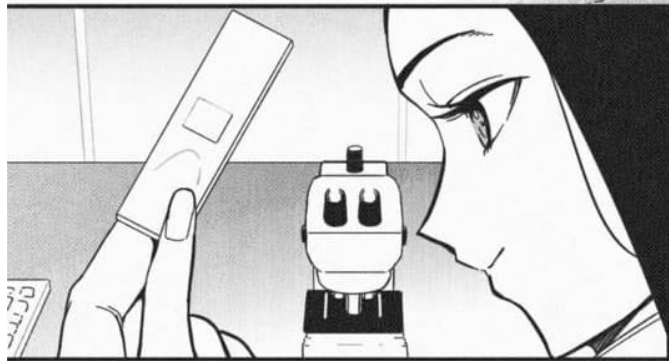


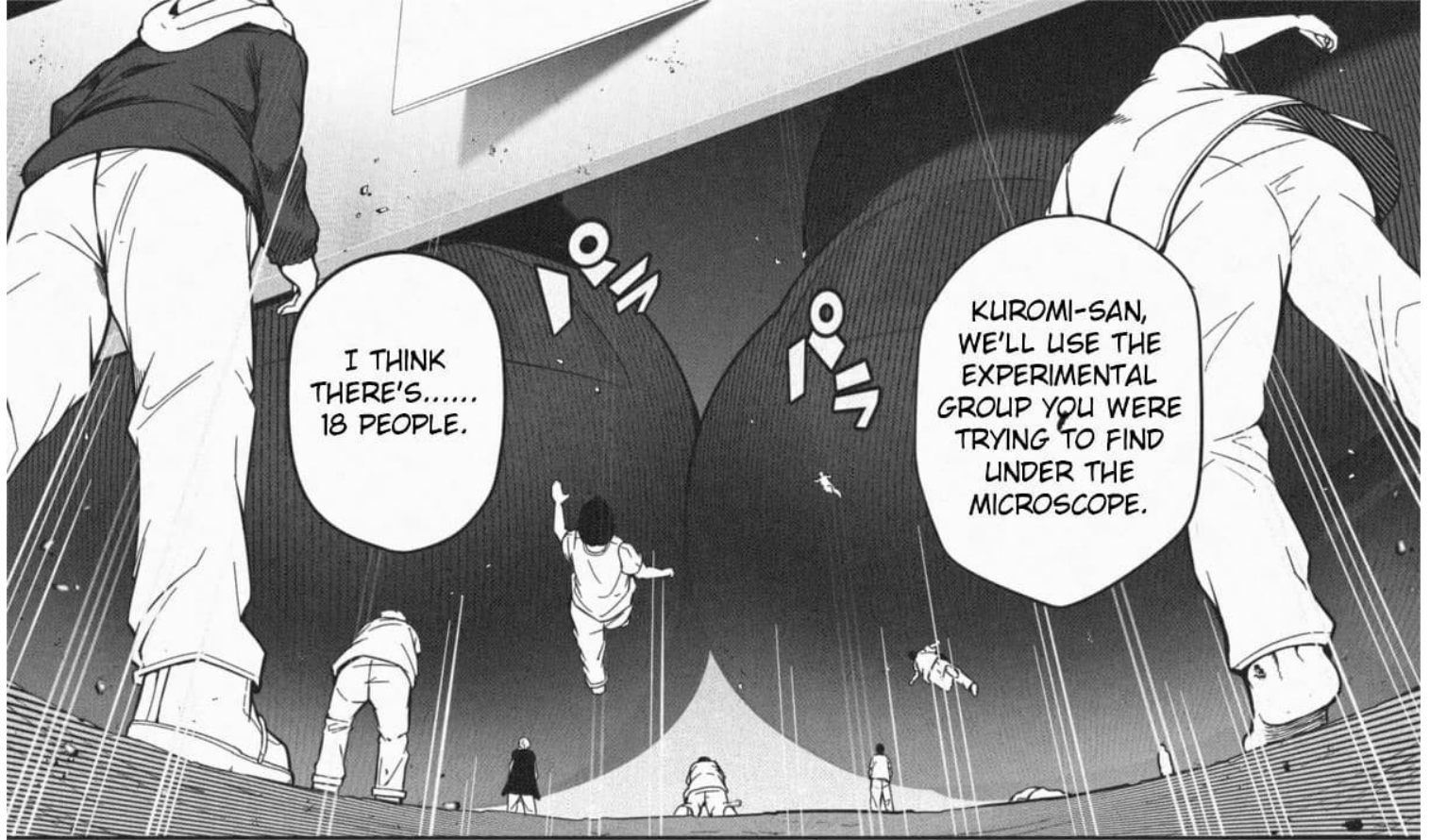
IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FEELINGS.

I REALLY NEEDED THIS OPPORTUNITY!!



HOW ABOUT WE TRY WITH A BIT MORE STIMULATION NEXT?





I THINK THERE'S..... 18 PEOPLE.

KUROMI-SAN, WE'LL USE THE EXPERIMENTAL GROUP YOU WERE TRYING TO FIND UNDER THE MICROSCOPE.



BUT YOU KNOW, JUST CRUSHING THEM MIGHT NOT BE THAT EXCITING, RIGHT?



LET'S HAVE SOME FUN WITH THEM AFTER WE GROW THEM BY A THOUSAND TIMES.



SO LET'S DO SOMETHING SPECIAL...



AND I'M SURE THIS EXPERIMENTAL GROUP IS ALREADY AWARE THEY WON'T BE SAVED.

I'M SURE THEY WON'T BE AS MOTIVATED LIKE THIS.



WHICHEVER ONE OF YOU IS THE LAST TO SURVIVE WILL GET TO LEAVE!



SURE, I DON'T MIND.



YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE A TINY PERSON SOMETHING THAT BENEFITS THEM...

ISSEI-SAN, IS THIS REALLY OKAY?

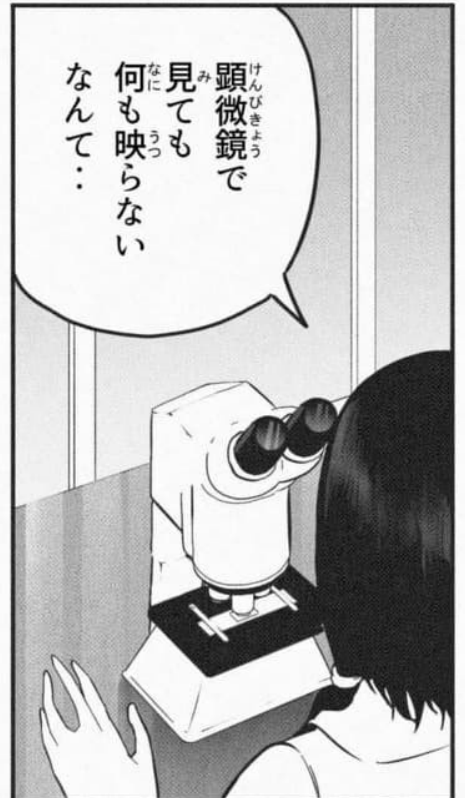


THEY WON'T FEEL DESPAIR UNLESS THEY HAVE A GLIMMER OF HOPE AFTER ALL ♡

とある個室^{こしつ}



はあ：
やはりなにも
見えません：



顕微鏡^{けんびきょう}で
見^みても
何^{なに}も映^{うつ}らない
なんて：



ほんとに
この中^{なか}にいるの
でしょうか…？





いっせい
一生さん!



なにしてい
るんですか?
黒美さん



こびと
小人を見る
練習を
顕微鏡で
してました

えっと..
その...



えっ:!?
そうなん
ですか?



初心者
やりがち
ミスです
よそれ



実感:
ですか...?



まず
実感する
こと
から始
めない
と



じょじょ
徐々に
ちぢちぢ
縮めていく



肉眼で見える
サイズから
始めて



コツは
楽しんで
興奮すること



そうすれば
見えなくなっても
そこに存在する
ことは認識
できますよね？

はい

その感覚が
どんなサイズでも
見えるきっかけに
なります



それが
なによりの
集中力を
生み出します



大丈夫！

私を手伝って
あげますから

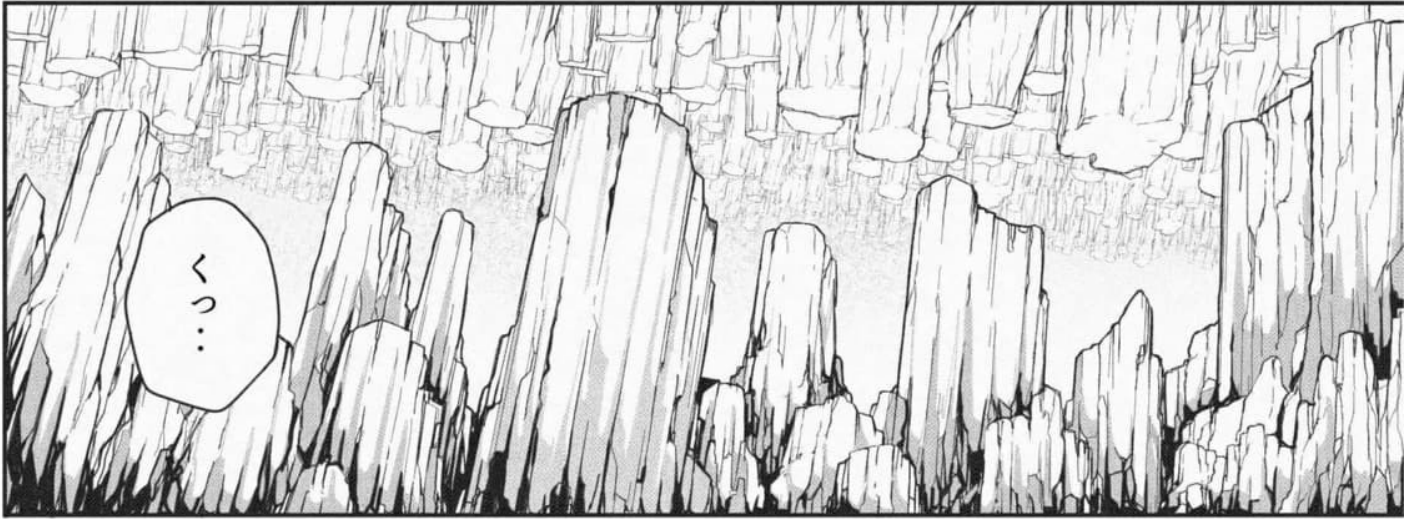


な：
なるほど

でも私まだ
サイズ変更の
やり方も
分かってなくて

徐々に
縮めるなんて
とても...







俺は
ミリヤ

あんたと同じ
賞金目当てで
やってきた口だ



おいおい
いっぺんに
質問すんなって
俺の頭じゃ
処理できん

とりあえず：
そうだな
まず自己紹介
させてもらう



よろしく

あんちゃん
名は？



！……
チヂムだ



んでもう1つ
質問してたな
なんだっけか？

死ぬとか
死なないとかって
話だ

あれはどういう
意味だ？



ハハハッ！
来るべくして
ここにきたって
名前だな！

っせーな：



俺等は
縮ませる光を浴びた
時点で死ねない体にな
ってんだ

どういう
理屈でかは
さっぱりだけどな



あー！
そうだったな！

深く考え
なくていい
言葉通りの
意味だ



あ、ありえんのか
そんなこと…？

こうやって
会話できてるのが
何よりの証拠だろ？

だからお互い
囚われの身に
いるってわけだ



だが、
事実
事実
早うちに
受け入れときな



わーい
起きて
そうそう
絶望させ
ちまったかな



あ…！?





おいおい
待て待て!!

急に明るく
なったと思ったら
馬鹿かお前

先走り過ぎ
なんだよ
落ちて着けチヂム



まだなんにも
分かつちや
いないだろ?
ここのこと

無限にも
思えるこの
大地はな:



プレパラートの
上なんだぞ!!



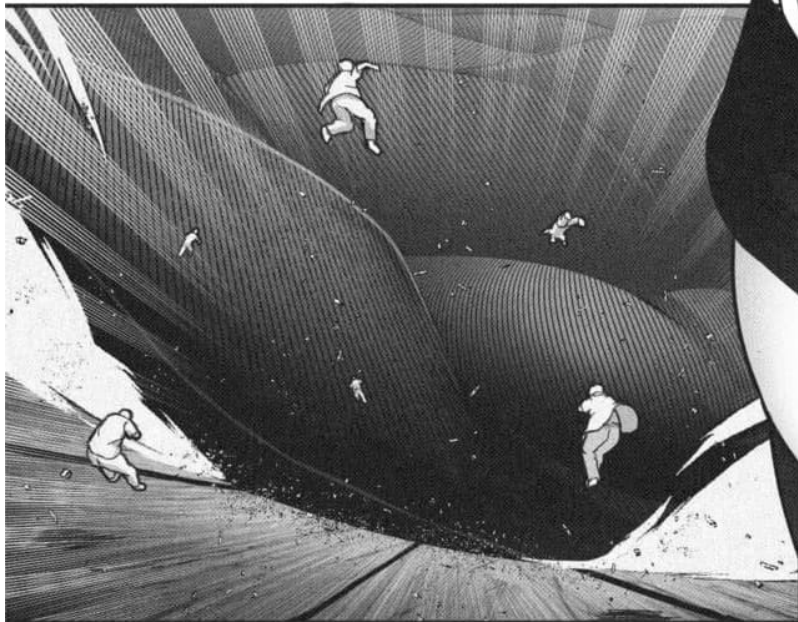
プレパラートの
中だけでも
探索しきるのに
数千年かかる
広さだ

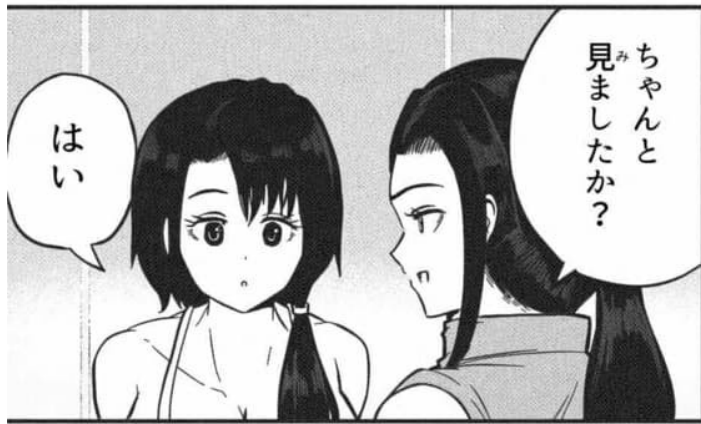
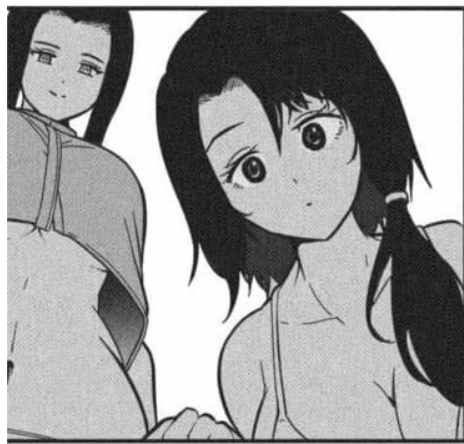
その上
こんな小ささで
顕微鏡の外の
世界まで歩いて
回るつもりか?

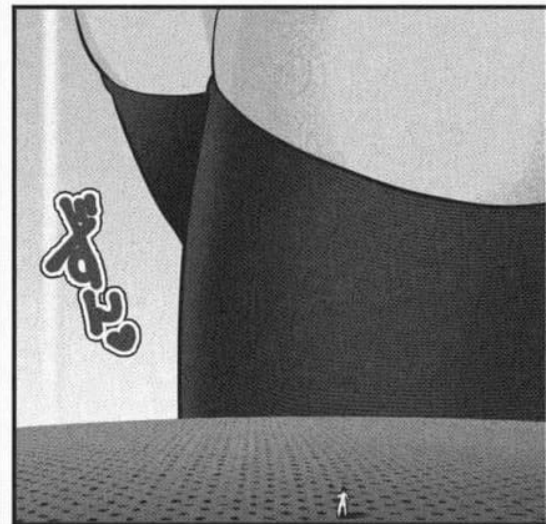
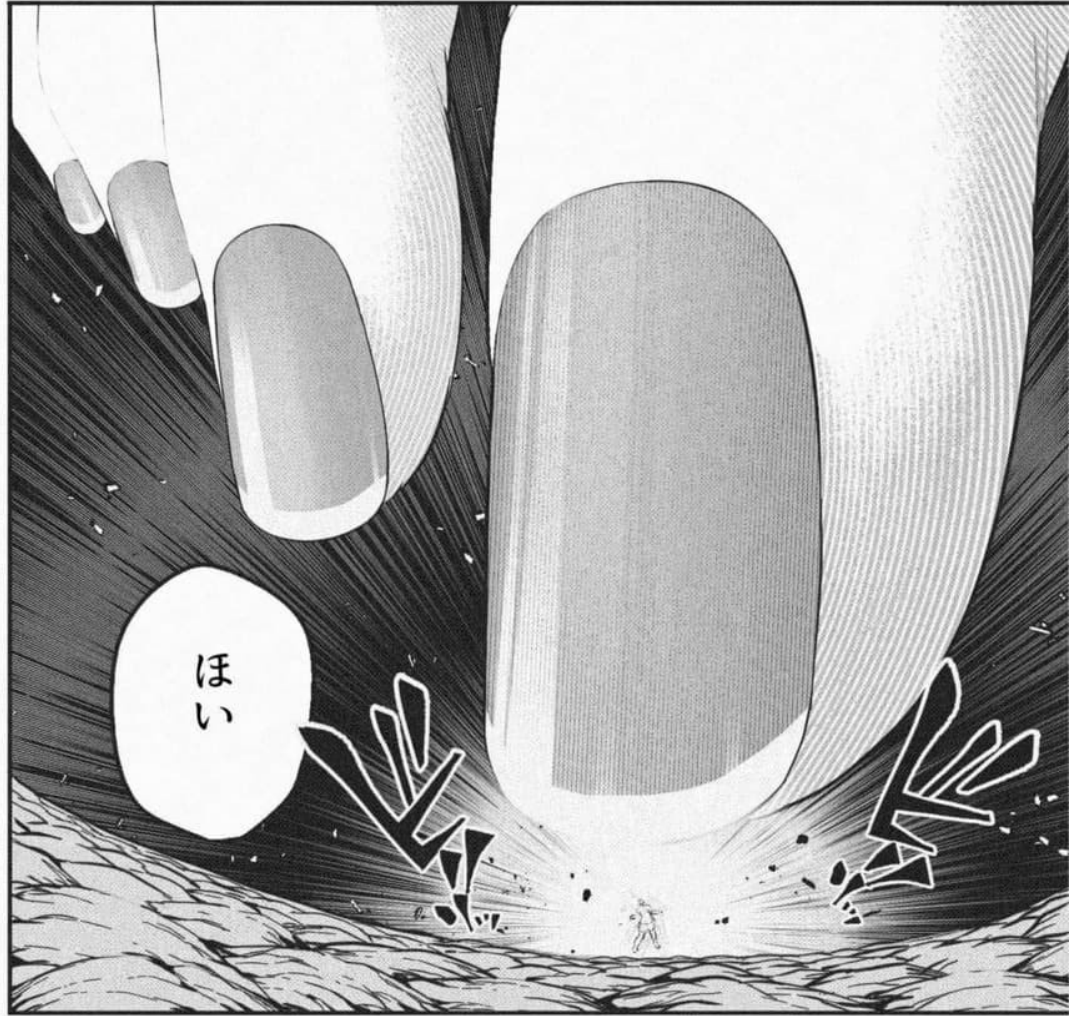


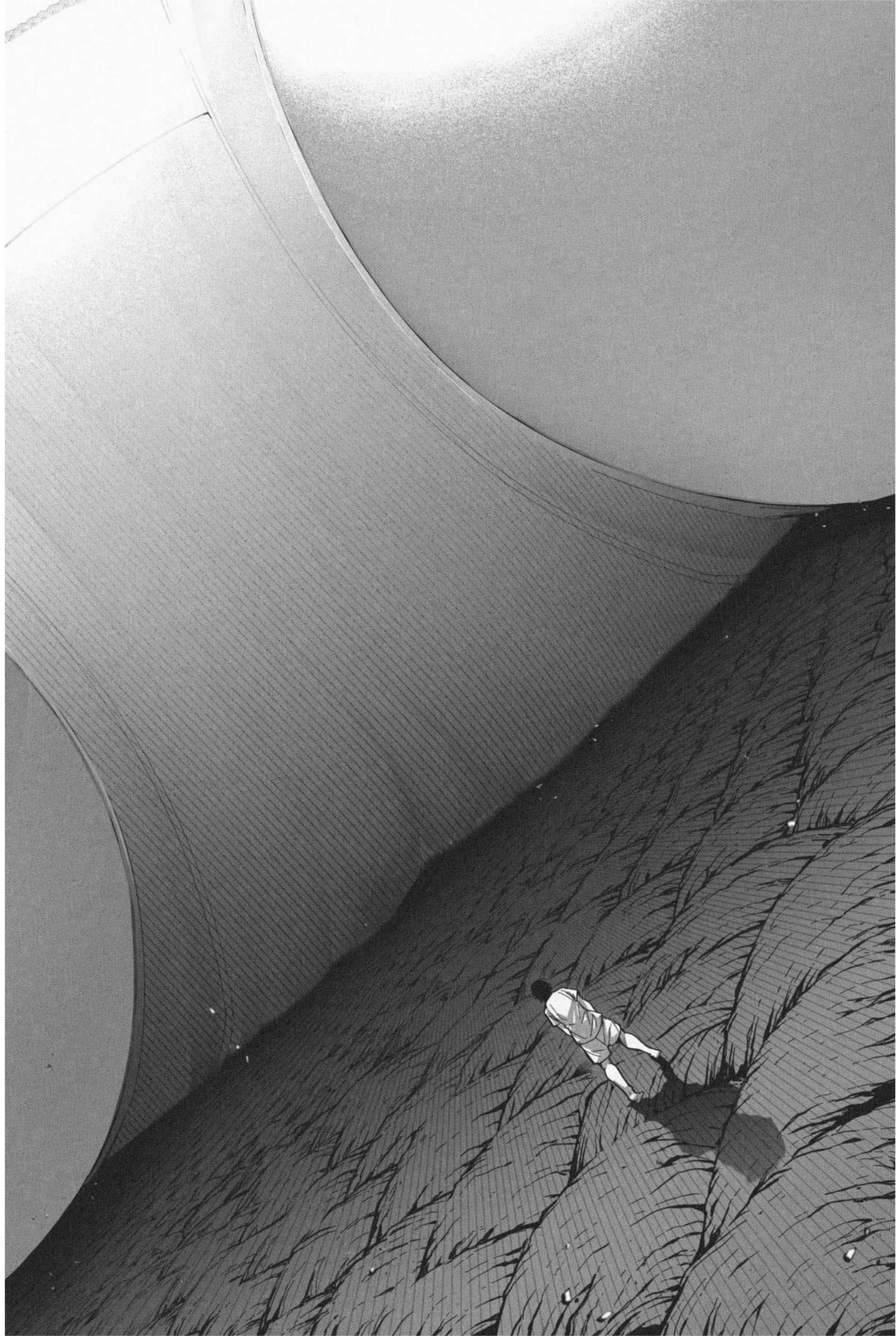


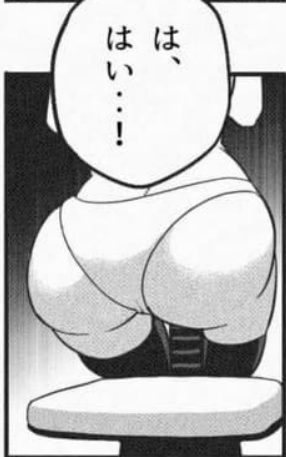


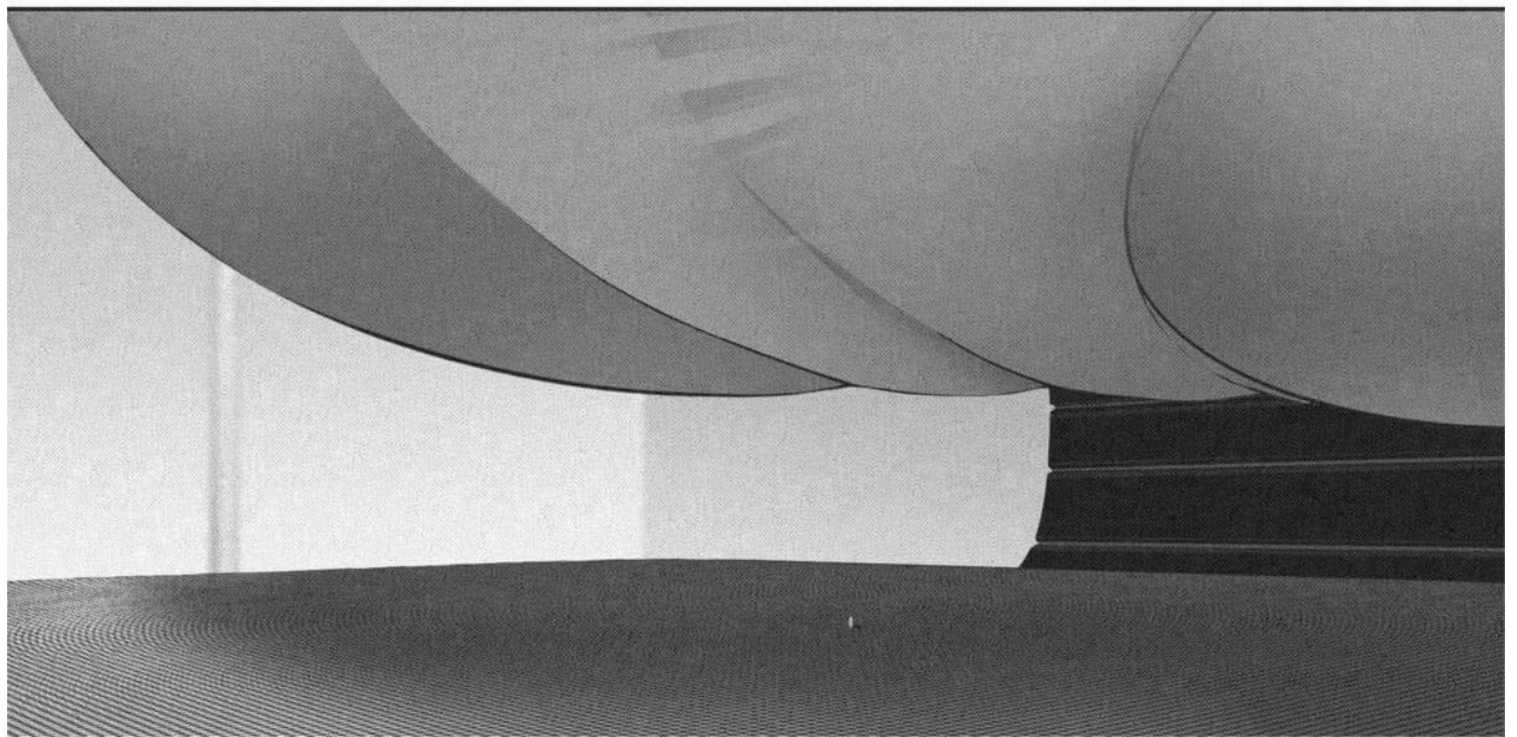
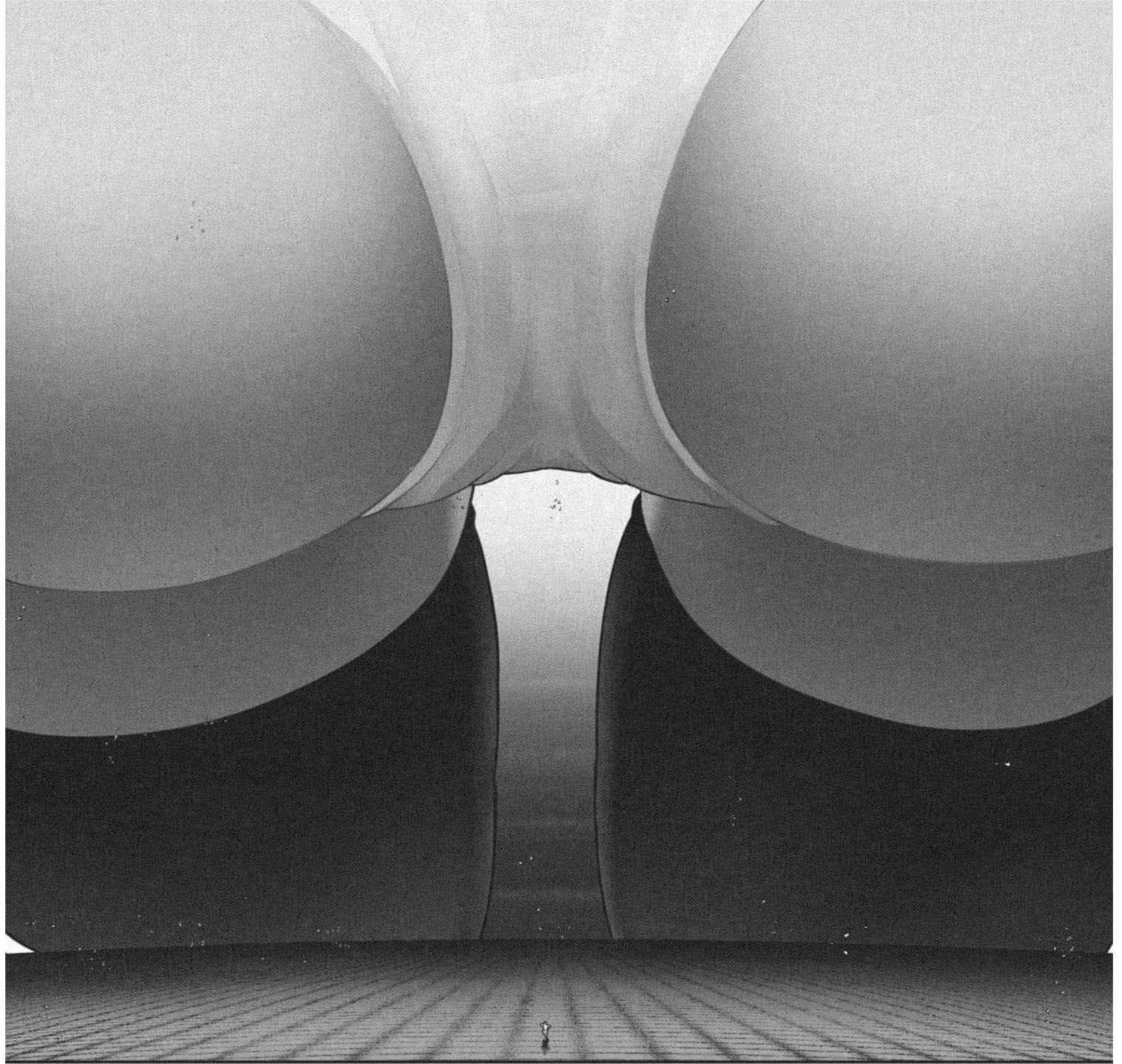
















現在の大きさは
1万分の1です
どうですか？



だめです：
やっぱり見えません

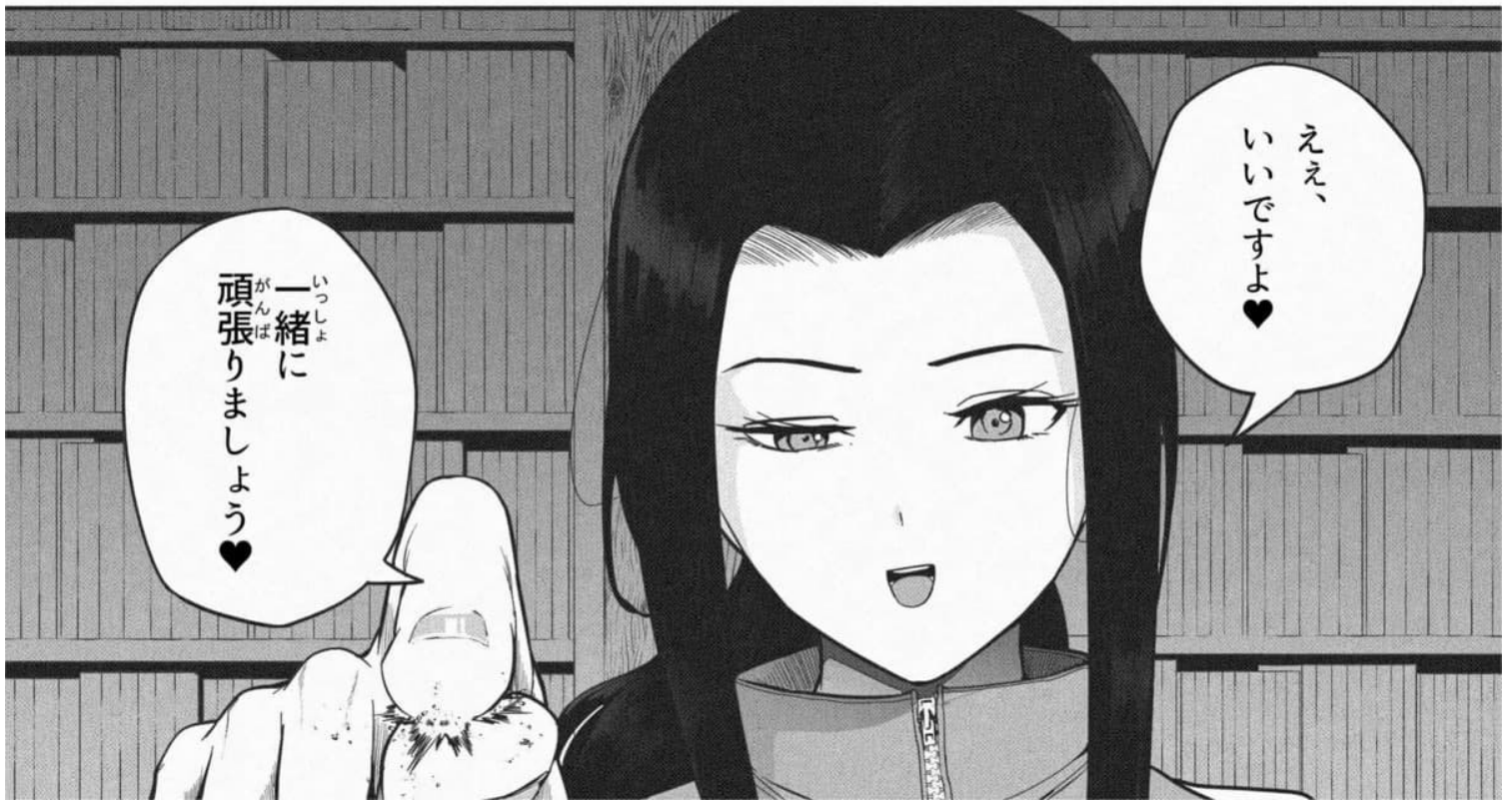
まだまだ。。。
巨大な
はずなのよ。。。



早く見えるよう
になりたいので
どんどん
お願いします！

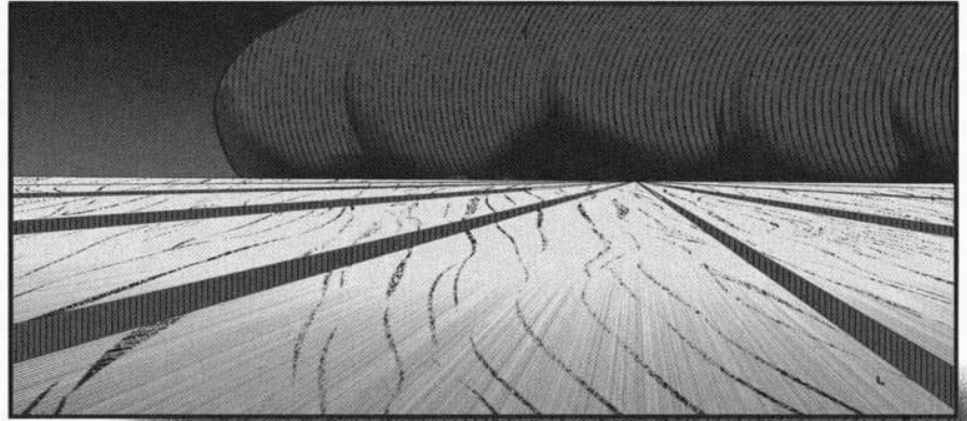
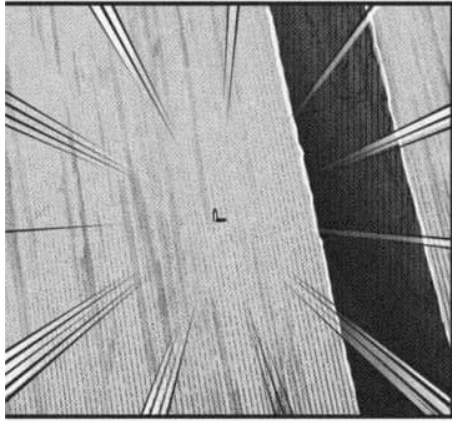


一生さん！！



ええ、
いいですよ♥

一緒に
頑張りましょう♥



ここにきて
何^{なんど}度^{だい}かこういうことを
経^{けいけん}験^{けん}している



ちが^{ちが}い^いな^なら^らず
違^{ちが}う^う広^{こう}大^{だい}な^な
場^ば所^{しょ}へ^への^の移^い動^{どう}

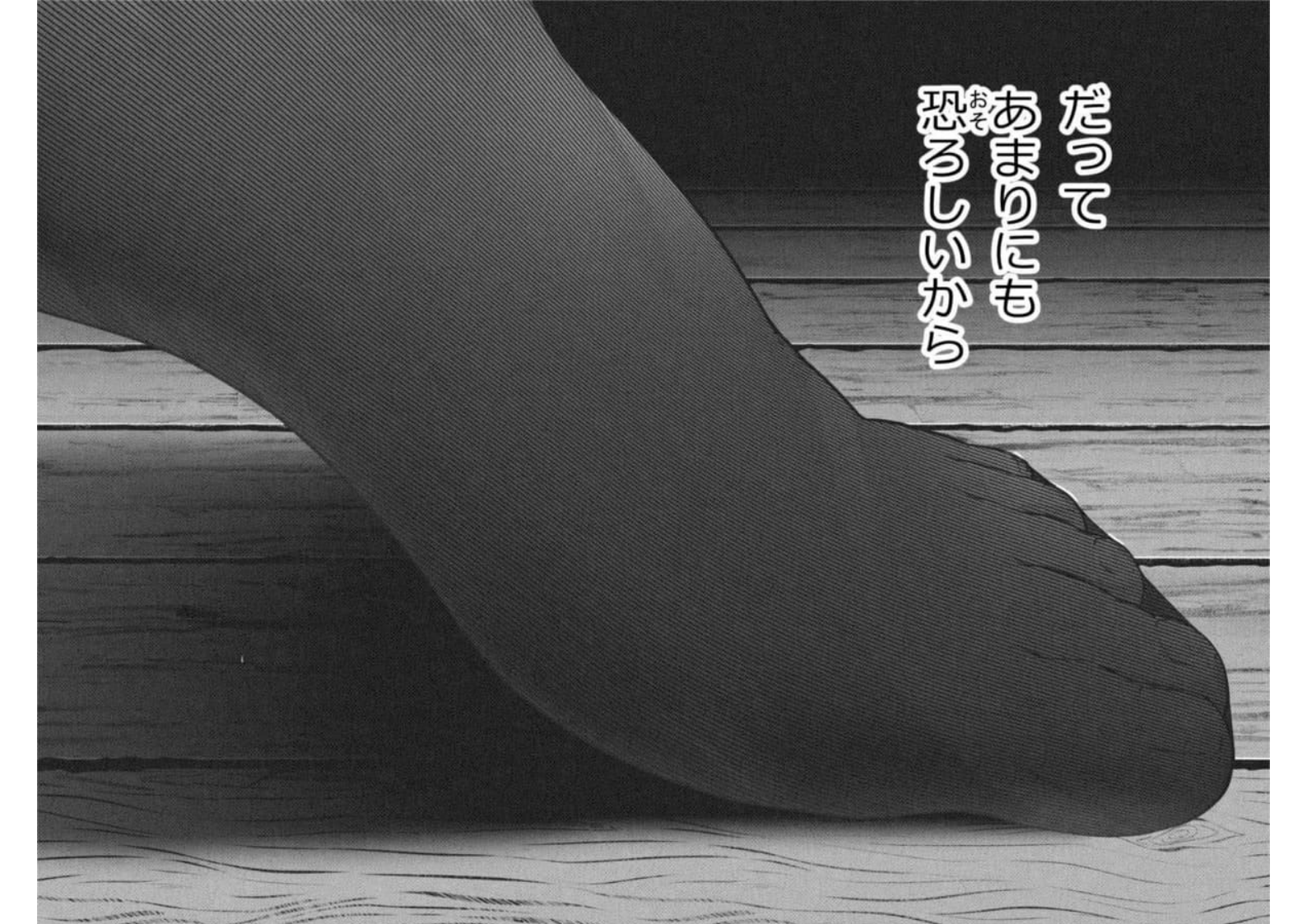
広^{こう}大^{だい}では
おさ^{おさ}まり^{まり}き^きら^らない
場^ば所^{しょ}か^から



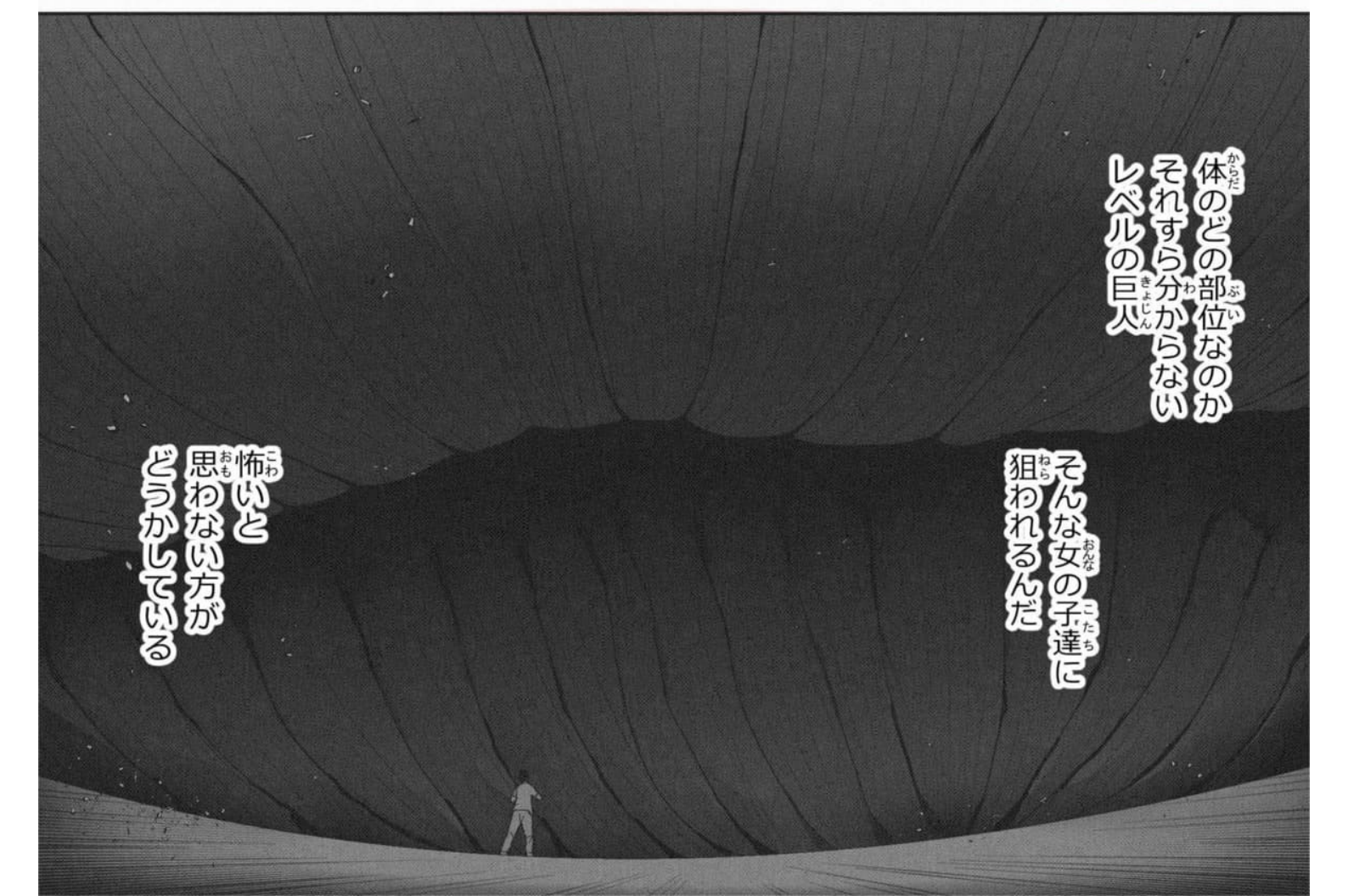
だ^だが^が
ま^まだ^だ二^に向^むか^か
慣^なれ^れな^ない



死^しん^んだ^だと
思^{おも}っ^ったら
ま^また^た知^ちら^らな^ない
場^ば所^{しょ}に^にい^いる
こ^こん^んな^な経^{けい}験^{けん}も
何^{なんど}度^{だい}目^めだ^だら^らう^うか



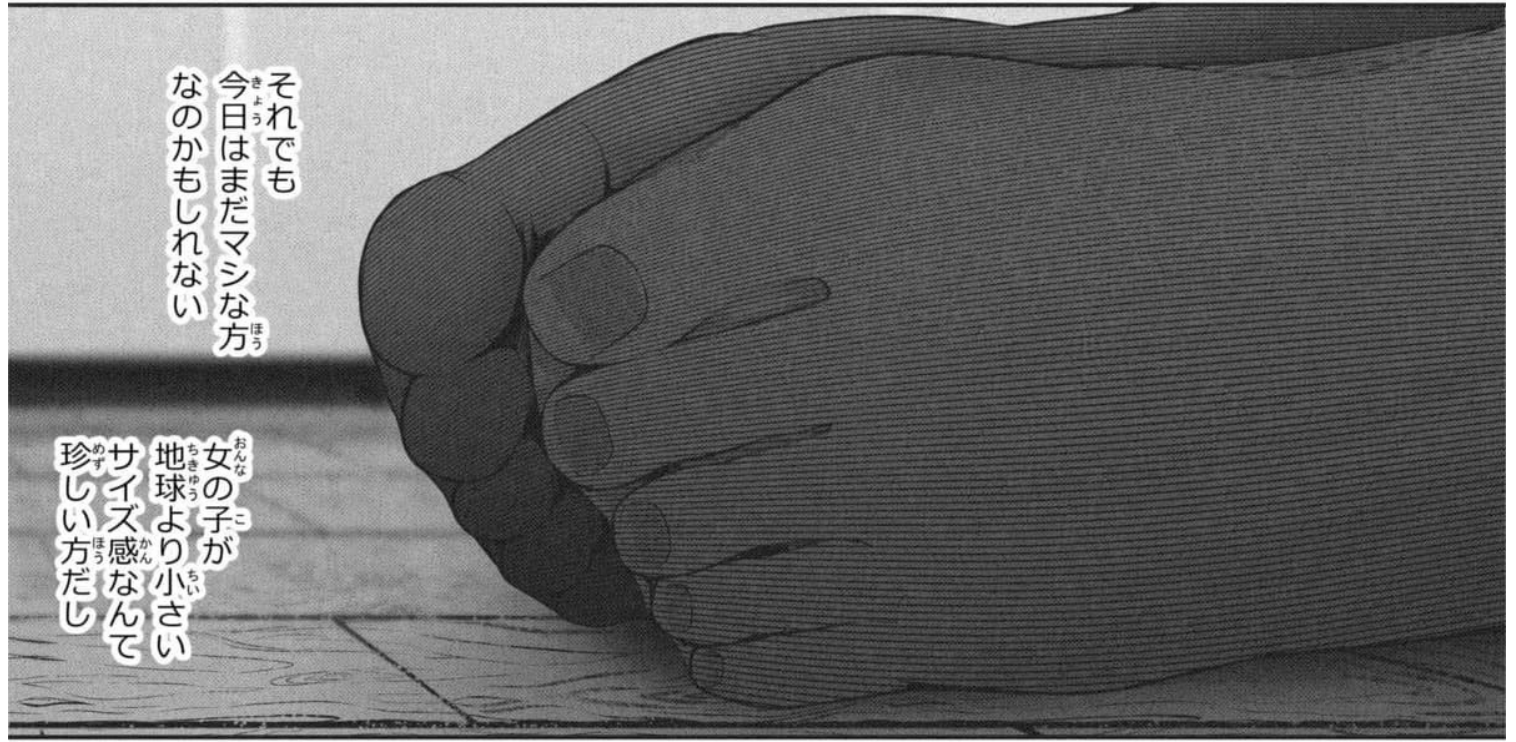
だって
あまりにも
恐るしいから



からだのどの部位なのか
それすら分からない
レベルの巨人

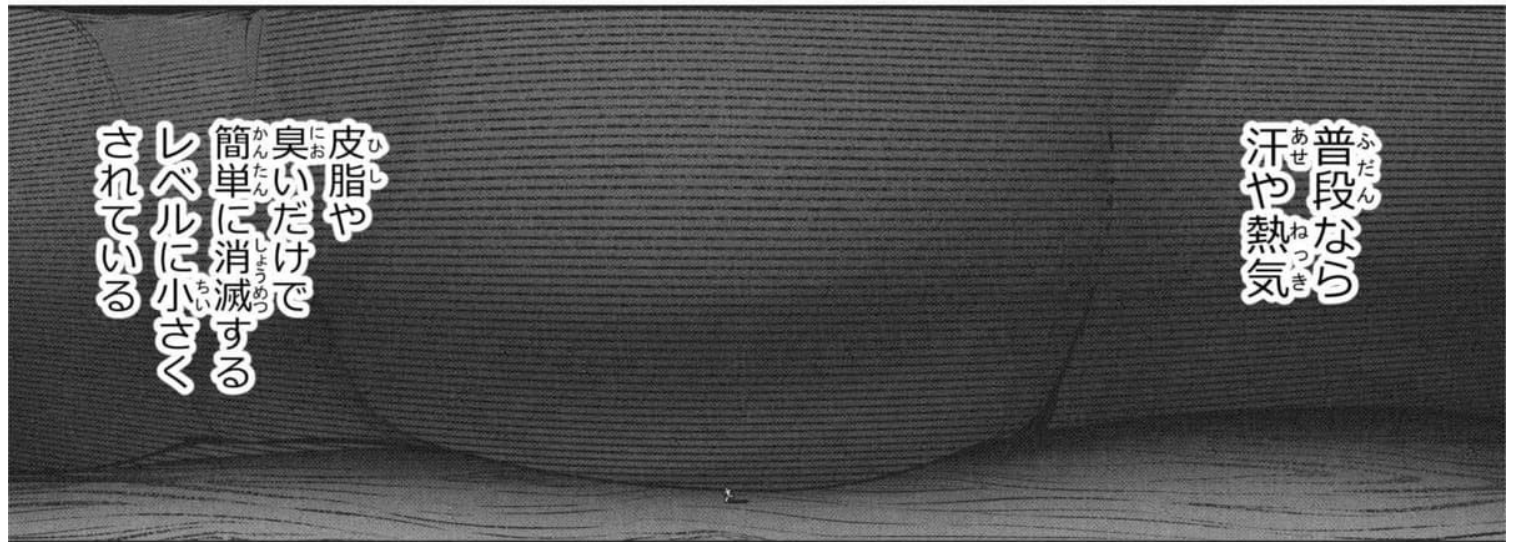
そんな女の子達に
狙われるんだ

怖いと思わない方が
どうかな



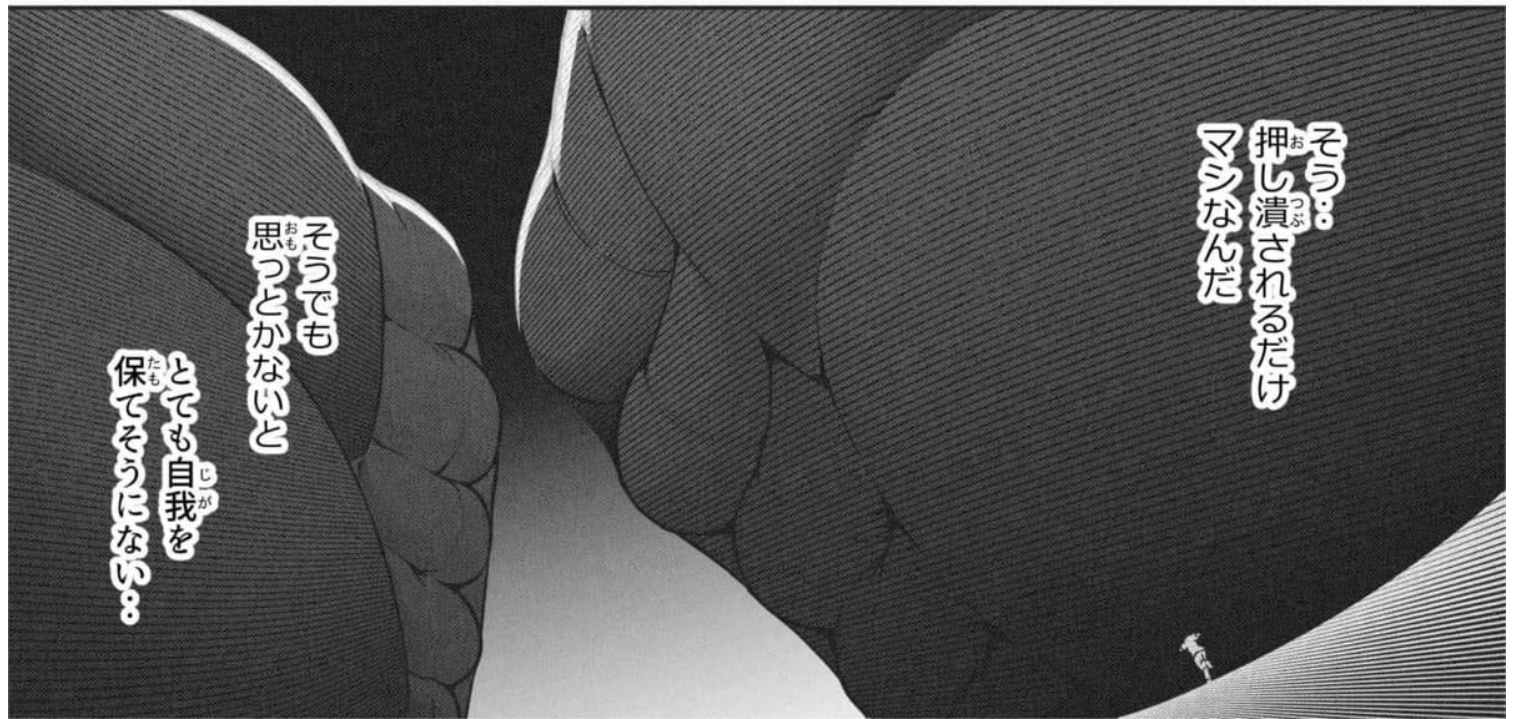
それでも
今日はまだマシンな方
なのかもしれない

女の子が
地球より小さい
サイズ感なんて
珍しい方だし



普段なら
汗や熱気

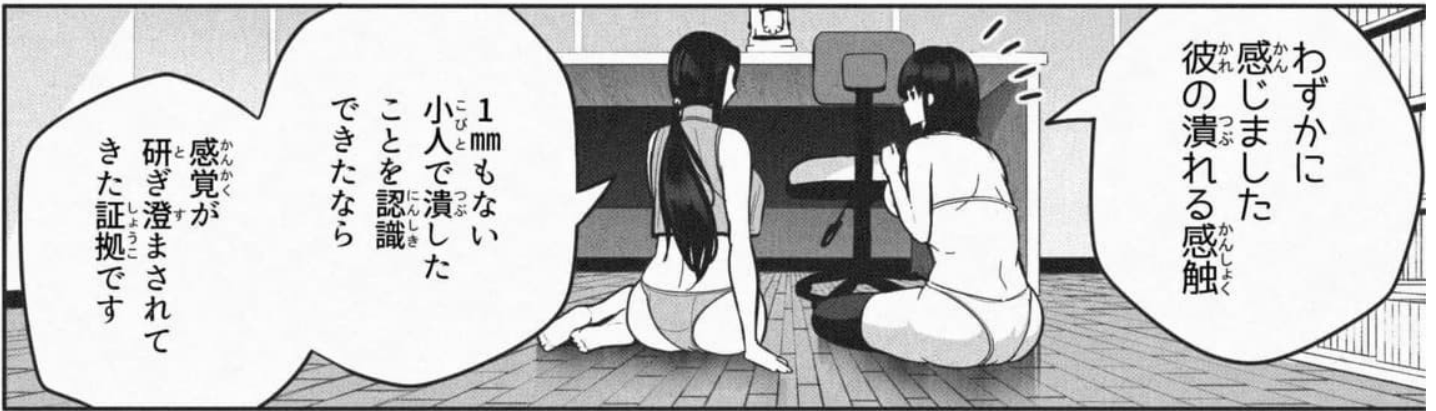
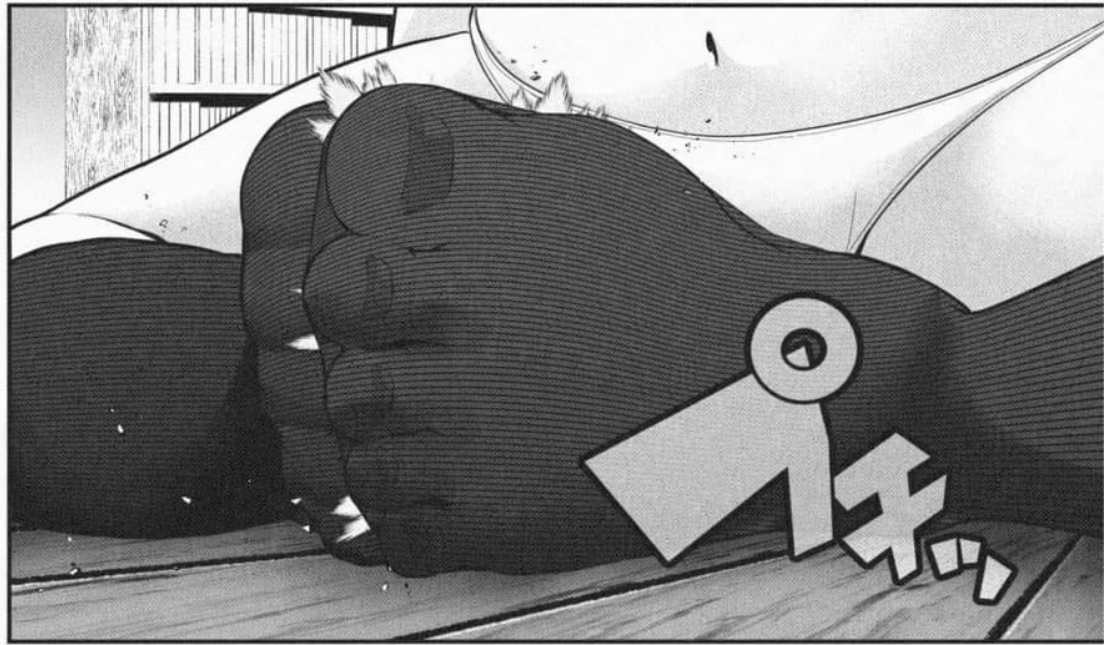
皮脂や
臭いだけで
簡単に消滅する
レベルに小さく
されている

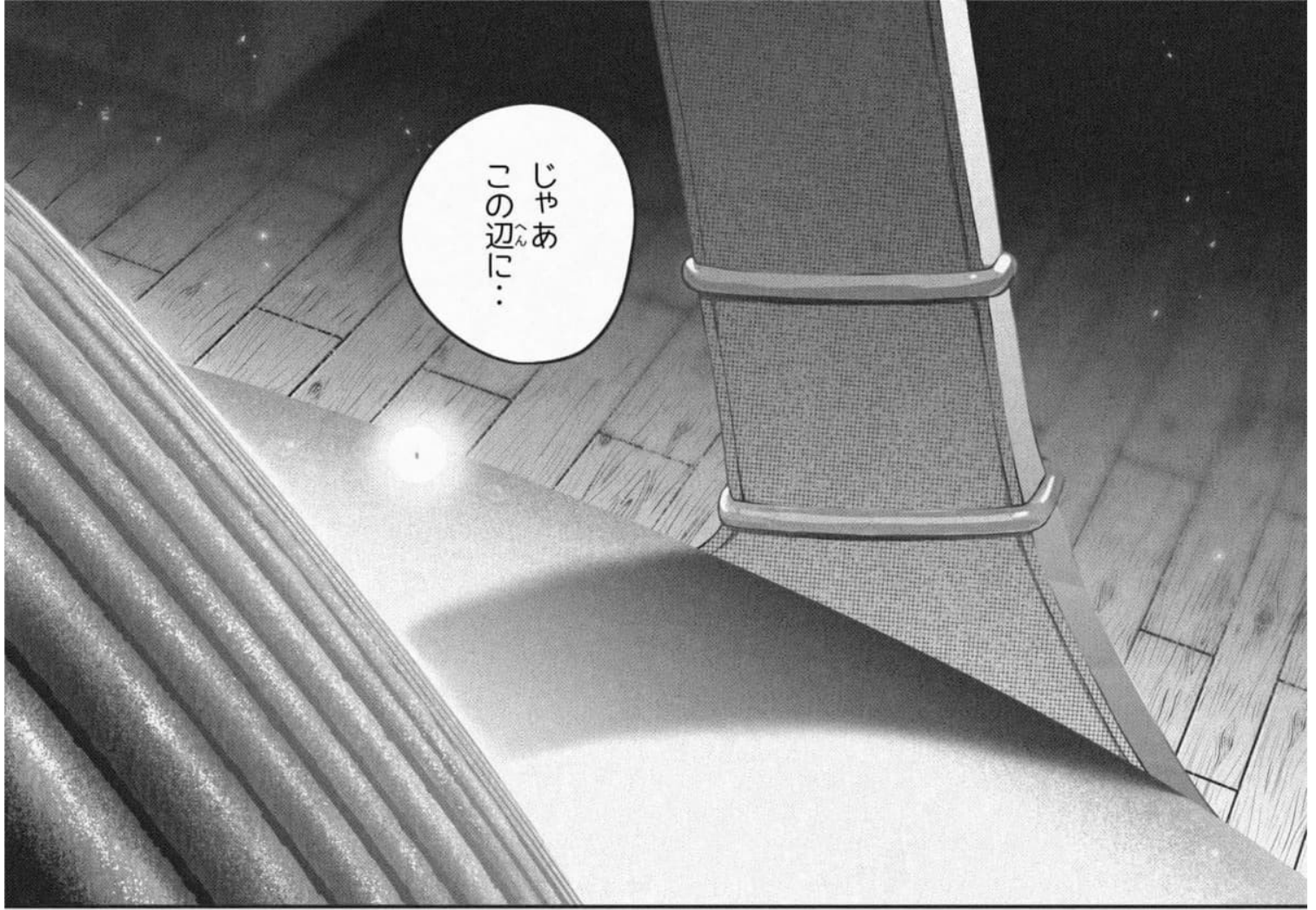


そう！
押し潰されるだけ
マシンなんだ

それでも
思っとかないと

とても自我を
保てそうにない。





じゃあ
この辺に...



投下^{とうか}
しますね ♡





サイズ差は
10万倍

本来なら
お互い見ること
できない領域の
はずですが

確かに
感じる

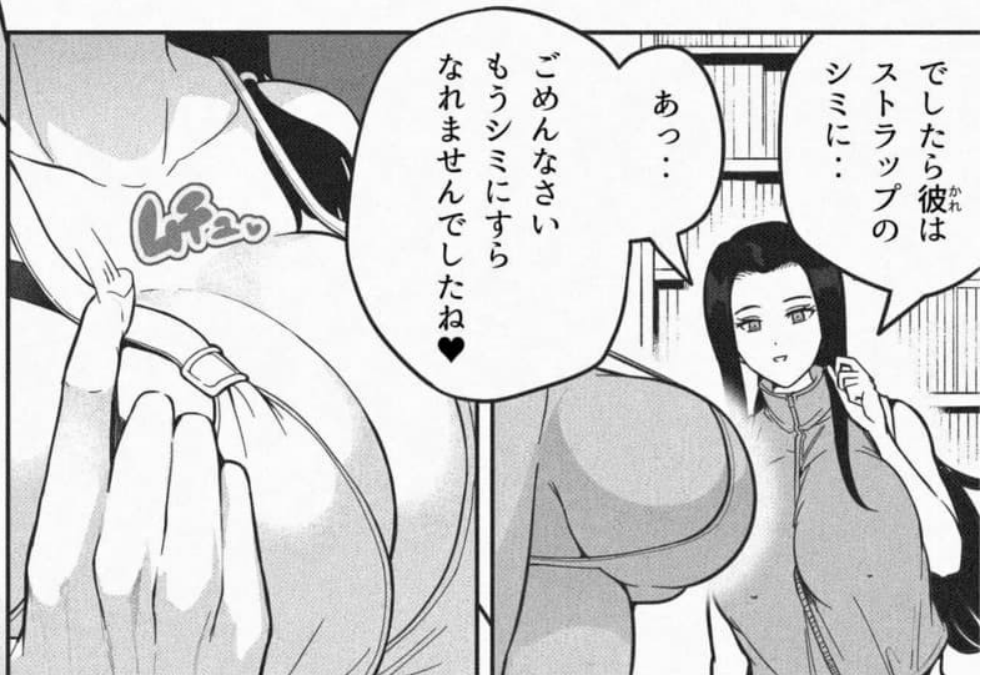
いる場所が
なんとなくですが
分かります

ドカン ドカン



まだ見える
レベルに達して
いないようですが

先程までと違い
気配を感じ取れる
ようになった
みたいですね



でしたら彼は
ストラップの
シミに：

あつ：

ごめんなさい
もうシミにすら
なれませんでしたね♥





人数は……
18名ですか

黒美さんが
顕微鏡で見つけた
実験組を利用します



ですが、
ただ押し潰す
だけだと刺激が
足りないですよ？



100分1に巨大化
させた彼らを使って
戯れてみましょう



なので
特別に



それに
助からないことは
実験組の皆さんも
十分理解している
でしょうし
このままじゃ
やる気も出ない
ことでしょう



最後まで
生き残った
1人には
ここを出る
権利を
与えます



ええ
構いません



いいんですか
一生さん？

そんな小人が
得るような
こと言って：



希望がないと
絶望することすら
できませんから♡