A Brief Debunk of 2SD


THIS IS WHAT YOU FEARED THE MOST.
YOU FAILED TO
FILL UP MY ACCUMU-LATION ENOUGH.
TSK
TSK
TWO SECONDS OF DEVIATION.
THERE WERE
BEHIND THESE TWO SECONDS ?
WHAT'S THE REASON
I SEIZED THOSE TWO SECONDS AND SURVIVED.

Just to be clear, the 2SD doc definitely gets some things right and provides a very good insight into some of Leader's tactics throughout STL, so no disrespect to the creator, but the overall premises
of 2SD being Leader's main strategy are flawed.

Before we continue, there are a few facts about Souichi's character that everyone should be aware of to consider the moves taken fully during STL.

The Superorganism, Hivemind, Alien, and Rubik's Cubes:

For the sake of simplicity I will refer to the Perfect state (unification of all of his personalities + memories) of Kiruma Souichi as Leader throughout this debunk.

Leader possesses a deep trauma and sense of responsibility to achieve perfection, and in order to facilitate this, engages in a process of erasing his memories when his current form makes a mistake, starting anew with a fresh template of Souichi, only influenced by a certain amount of memories retained (otherwise he would essentially return to a child in terms of memories if he was literally reset to zero memories).

Leader's monthly memory loss is a result of cognitive overload; due to the re-implantation of memories, Leader's mind is continually flooded with what is essentially raw data rather than authentic experiences, resulting in a 'snowballing' effect where Leader's brain literally cannot maintain this load of information, resulting in cognitive overload and a cyclical memory loss, which as of recently has stabilised at once a month.

The Alien is the manifestation of this drive towards perfectionism, as shown during Air Poker. When achieving perfection, all of these versions of Souichi, including Hachina and Hal are absorbed into the superorganism. Hal is the one anomaly in Leader's superorganism however, straying from the path of 'destiny' and instead being infatuated with Baku and the idea of 'gambling'.

When Leader first achieves perfection, Hal is a part of this superorganism. However, this does not persist for the entirety of STL. Souichi's Rubik's cubes represent his thought process, and the memories of his personalities. One Rubik's cube contains all of Hachina's (post-TOK) memories (image 1, left hand) and the other contains Hal's memories after he is cut off from the superorganism during round 2 (held in the right hand during STL).

Souichi begins to search through Hal's memories in order to uncover the reason behind his failed check during Round 2, feeling that there was something important in his past that explains his failure, ultimately culminating in Souichi realising that Baku has been to the Arizuka Building, and so knows about his memory loss, during his second near death dream (image 2).

Main Points:

2SD supporters love to bring up the whole "surviving the hanging" part of Leader's first dream (image 3) as foreshadowing of Hal surviving using the deviation. This completely

misses the point of the comparison. The actual important part is "if you survive you get to start a fresh life" and Hal being interested in the small chance of survival (I.e gambling; this is literally said explicitly by Baku).

Given the time frame the dream shows, this obviously refers to Hal's attempt to gamble with Fukurou and win in order to become the 'true Hal' (image 4), abandoning his responsibilities to become a gambler with Baku (hence a fresh start). The clock pointing to 9:00 (image 5) also hints that Hal has already figured out Leap Second. The rest of the dream is a conversation orchestrated by Hal (represented by dream Baku) and the Alien (represented by dream Hal).

Eventually, the Alien emerges from dream Hal by turning into Baku, asking him who he was trying to turn into (images 6, 7, 8 –> notice the dark figure watching over Hal's attempt to jump onto a train just like Baku jumped onto a moving truck, image 9). The whole point of this is The Alien basically telling Hal that he is unreliable and unfit to lead the superorganism, as he has messed up in the past while pursuing gambling. I have a full analysis on STL including an explanation of Hal's first ND dream if anyone requires further clarification.

What has Hal done to gamble? His risky check at 5 seconds was actually to open the leap second route to Baku on purpose (image 10), but in doing so the Alien believes that Hal is falling into the friendship trap referenced in the Prince Bee book (image 11), so Hal must be removed to prevent Leader from falling for this trap. Notice the suspiciously Hal-shaped memory loss Leader experiences as a result (image 12, 13).

From here, Hachina and Souichi take over the superorganism; my proof for this is A) Leader speaks about destiny which opposed Hal's ideology completely (image 14), B) He assured Oofuna that it's still him (image 15, familiarity), and C) Something I think very few people notice, Baku's visualisation during Round 7 Turn 2 (image 16, 17, 18), with Hal + Hachina + Souichi being referenced for the first two rounds, then Hachina and Souichi, finally culminating in just Souichi after he uses both Rubik's cubes (notice who each Rubik's cube aligns with in image 16).

But that isn't that important for now. All you need to know is that Hal has been erased from Leader's superorganism, so his memories of Leap Second are gone, hence why he goes on to conclude 3ND instead of being due to 'abusing cognitive overload' to somehow be simultaneously aware and unaware of Leap Second.

Since Hal was erased for gambling, it doesn't make sense that Leader would actually be pursuing such a risky gamble as survival by 2SD in the first place. And before anyone says 'he NEEDED 2SD' or '2SD was his only possible way of winning', a quick reminder that Leader literally would've won by a landslide if his instant check during round 8 had succeeded, or even if he had just played that round a little safer.

Now let's use this to explain some things. Round 3, Turn 1? The 'dark shadows' aren't just a mental block on Leader recovering his memories, they're literal, look at the outline of image 19. The dark shadows can simply be seen as Leader's impeded thought process following his near-death.

Consider this, you just recovered from CPR, you're trying to recall the reason behind your failure and Baku is emitting an aura of determination so strong that even Yakou believes he wouldn't be able to drop the Handkerchief, no wonder Leader couldn't do it. It was by no means intentional. The whole 'he finally recovered the reason that led to his near death' panel (image 20) is literally just him concluding that he gambled and lost, because he doesn't have Hal's memories of leap second. The "and everything went dark again" can simply be understood using the lines that follow, Leader believes he has lost, his mind has gone dark with the mere possibility that he failed and made a mistake.

Anyways, after that rant, we'll just skip to Round 7. As we already know, the second Rubik's cube represents Souichi's search through Hal's memories, reconnecting the link between Hal and Souichi, hence why he begins to conclude the time trick again (image 21, notice the clock forming from the cube). The reason why Leader knows he will lose his memories in Round 8 is because of the effect of the first near death drug (image 22, he still believes that it could be a side effect as he hasn't recovered the reason behind his failure in Round 2 yet).

Specifically, Leader believes he will lose his memories, but not his perfection (images 23) hence the whole "The crisis awaiting ahead" (What's the point of showing this if Souichi already knew what the crisis was), eventually concluding that he will lose if he loses his perfection, directly contradicting his prior statement in image 24; yes arguably it's just a bluff, but that contradicts his after deliberation statement, which is clearly significant; it's literally the chapter title.

Furthermore, there is exactly ZERO indication that Leader knew already that he would lose his memory during STL, he only realises during Round 7-8 (i.e not a single panel showing or even hinting at Souichi thinking 'hmm I know I'm going to lose my memory so I will do x to counteract it). Same here (image 25) for during Yakou's final CPR on Hal, some people argue that 'Sako didn't have enough time to fully explain 2SD', are you really telling me you that Sako couldn't just write one single text box alluding to 2SD during apparently the most pivotal moment of the match?

The entire hallucination Round says yes 'he seized those two seconds' and a miracle has reasons behind reasons, and what reason does he provide? "It's destiny!". "I was destined to win, to surpass my rival Baku, and it can only be fate that I revived!". That's all it means. Hachina's 9 seconds accumulation in Rounds 6 and 7 had a butterfly effect of creating the deviation, and Hal clings to this hope to survive, but of course, it isn't true.

Oh yeah and one more thing: image 26. "Everything will be decided in this 'moment'," referring to Leader's Round 8 instant check. In a sense, Round 8 is the most pivotal moment of the gamble: had the check been successful, Leader would have won easily regardless of Leap second. But by failing, this indirectly led to his memory loss, then falling for leap second and being unable to be revived within the time limit.

This statement would be contradicted if Hal had a chance to be revived and win if Yakou's CPR was sufficient; we can't even say for sure that the quality of Yakou's CPR was decreasing with his worsening condition, only that Yakou had a physical limit on how much CPR his necrotic hand could allow him to do before collapsing. Essentially, the match was

already decided once Leader failed his instant check, which also contradicts the ideas of 2SD.

Any other strange moves Leader makes thorough STL can likely be explained by his Endurance Battle Strategy, which I also detail in my own analysis of STL.

Thanks for reading 🙏

Image 1)

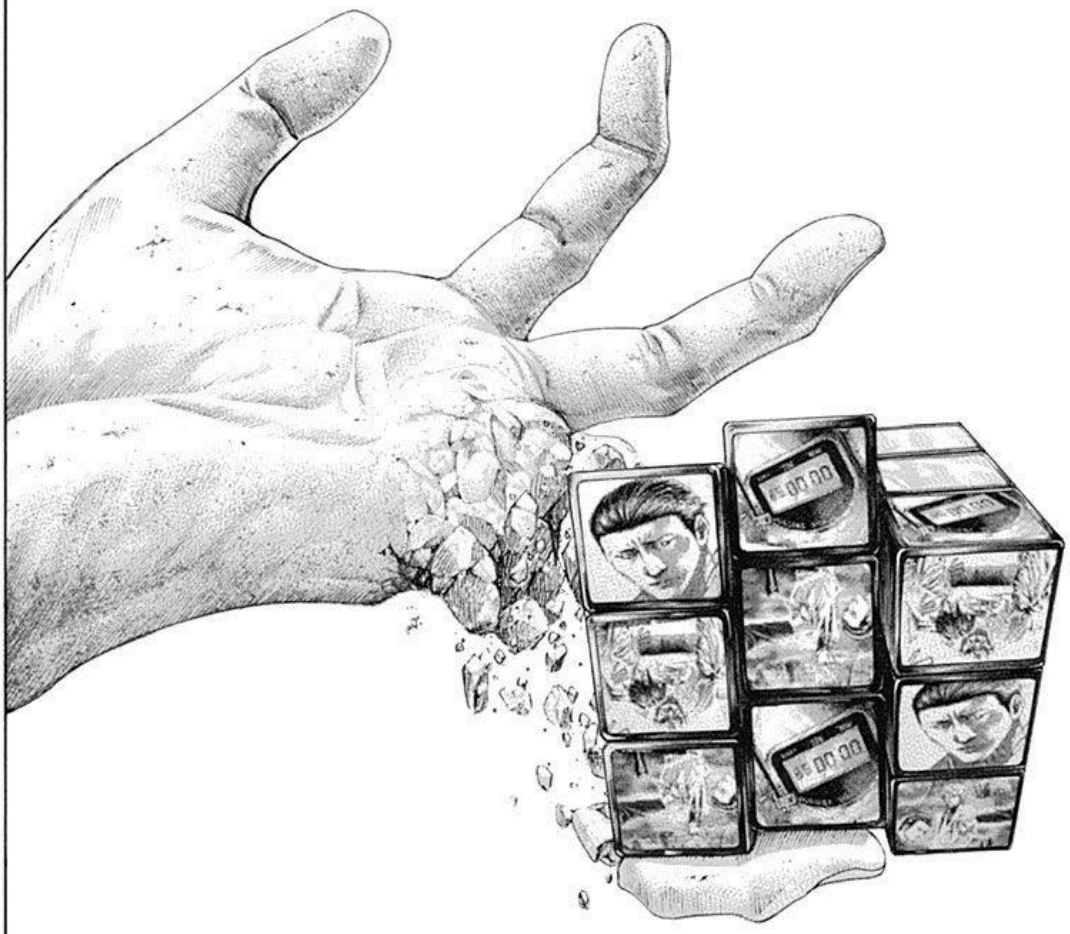
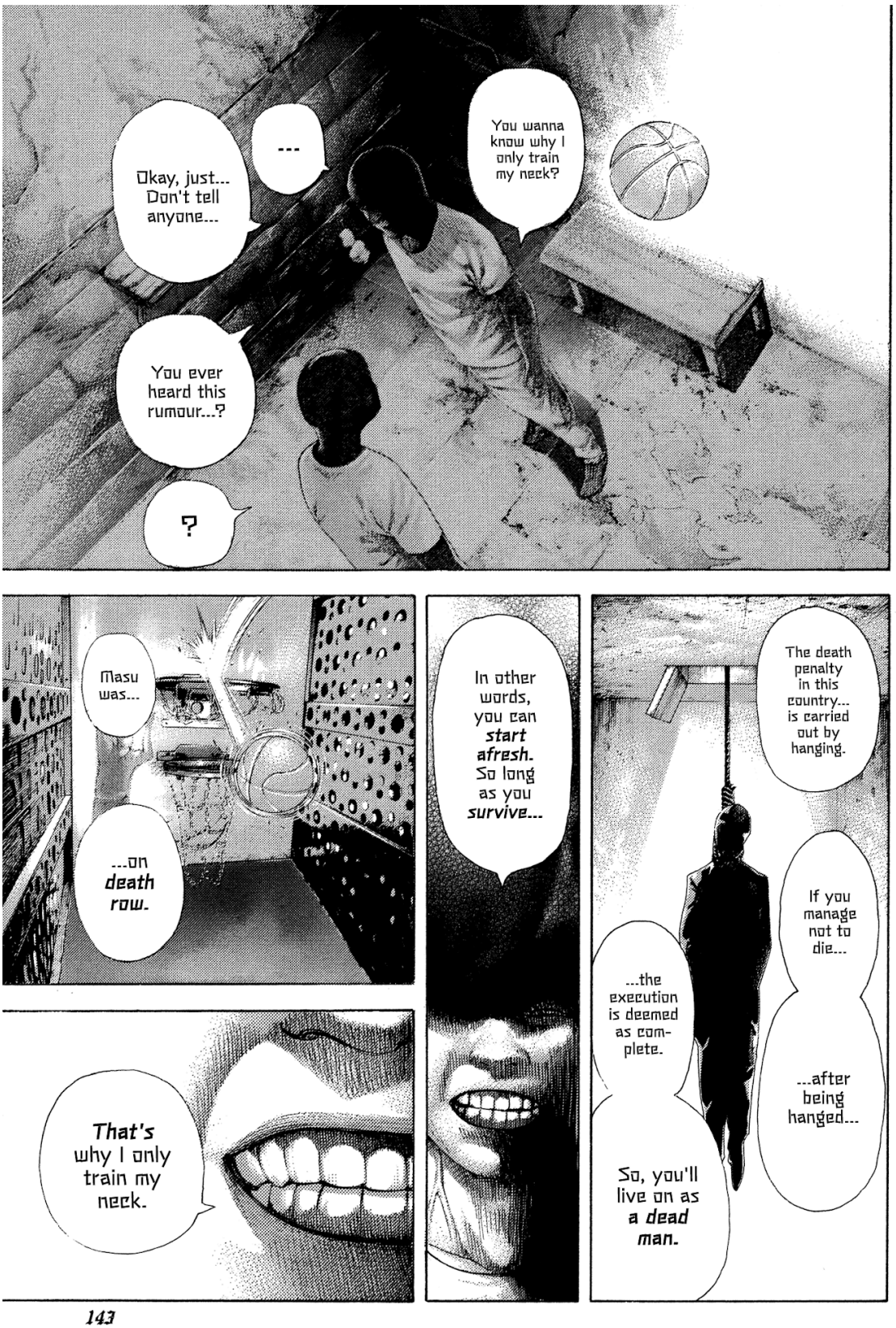


Image 2)


YOU
LIAR.
YOU WERE PERFECT...
HOWEVER, PEOPLE CAN'T KEEP THEIR IDEAL FORMS FOREVER...

Image 3)


You wanna know why I only train my neck?

Okay, just... Don't tell anyone...
You ever heard this rumour...?
?
Masu was...
...on death row.
In other words, you can start afresh. So long as you survive...
The death penalty in this country... is carried out by hanging.
If you manage not to die...
...the execution is deemed as complete.
...after being hanged...
So, you'll live on as a dead man.
That's why I only train my neck.

Image 4)



Image 5)


Huh?
Don't hassle me, just leave me out of it...
Hal... You're a guest in my home, you know ...?
I just remembered, I've got something to do...
Hal...
10月
I think that was his name, at least.
Right...
Masu Kijuuin?
Is that even a real name?
Doesn't matter...
So, Masu answered the question...

Image 6)

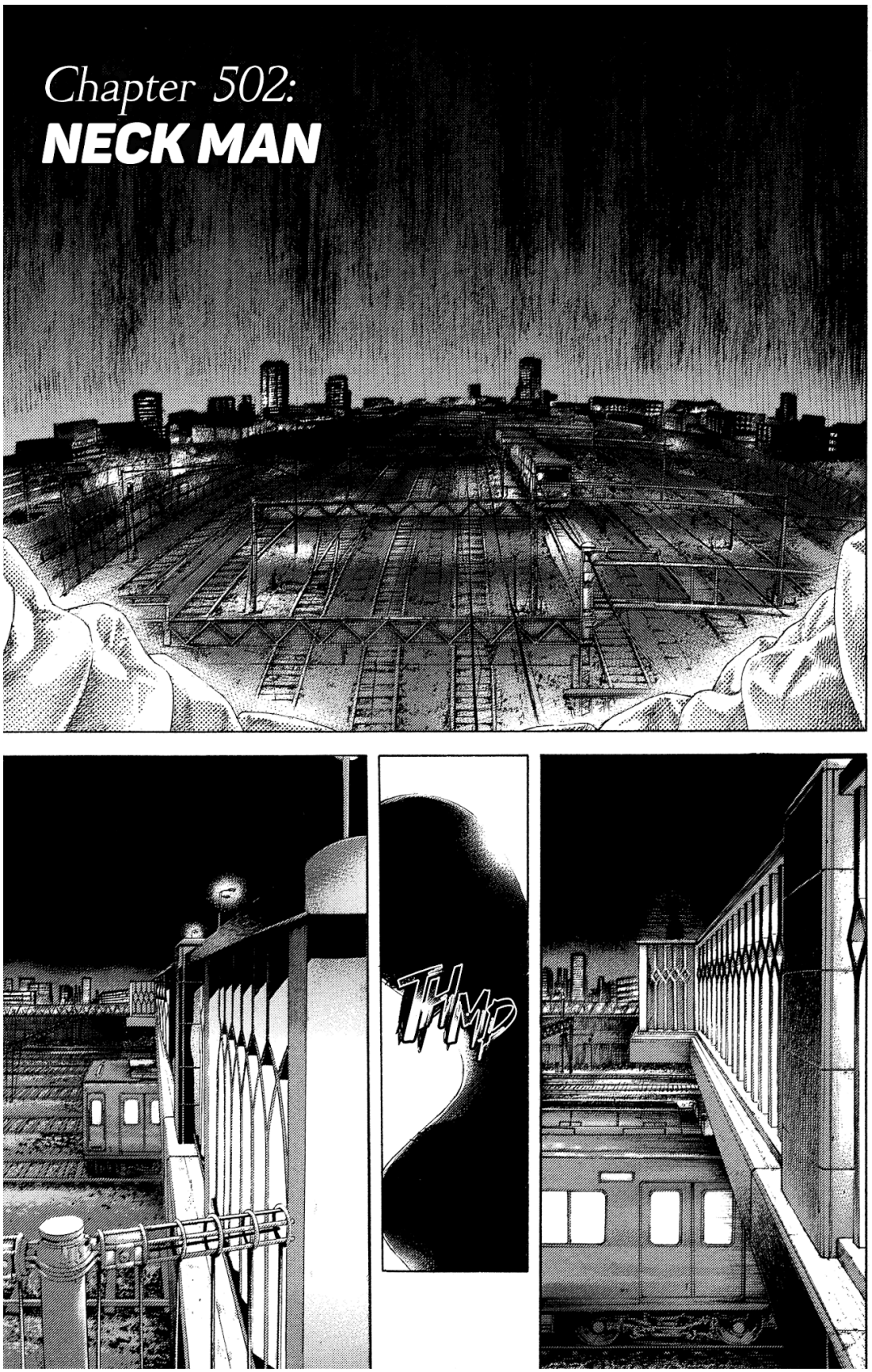
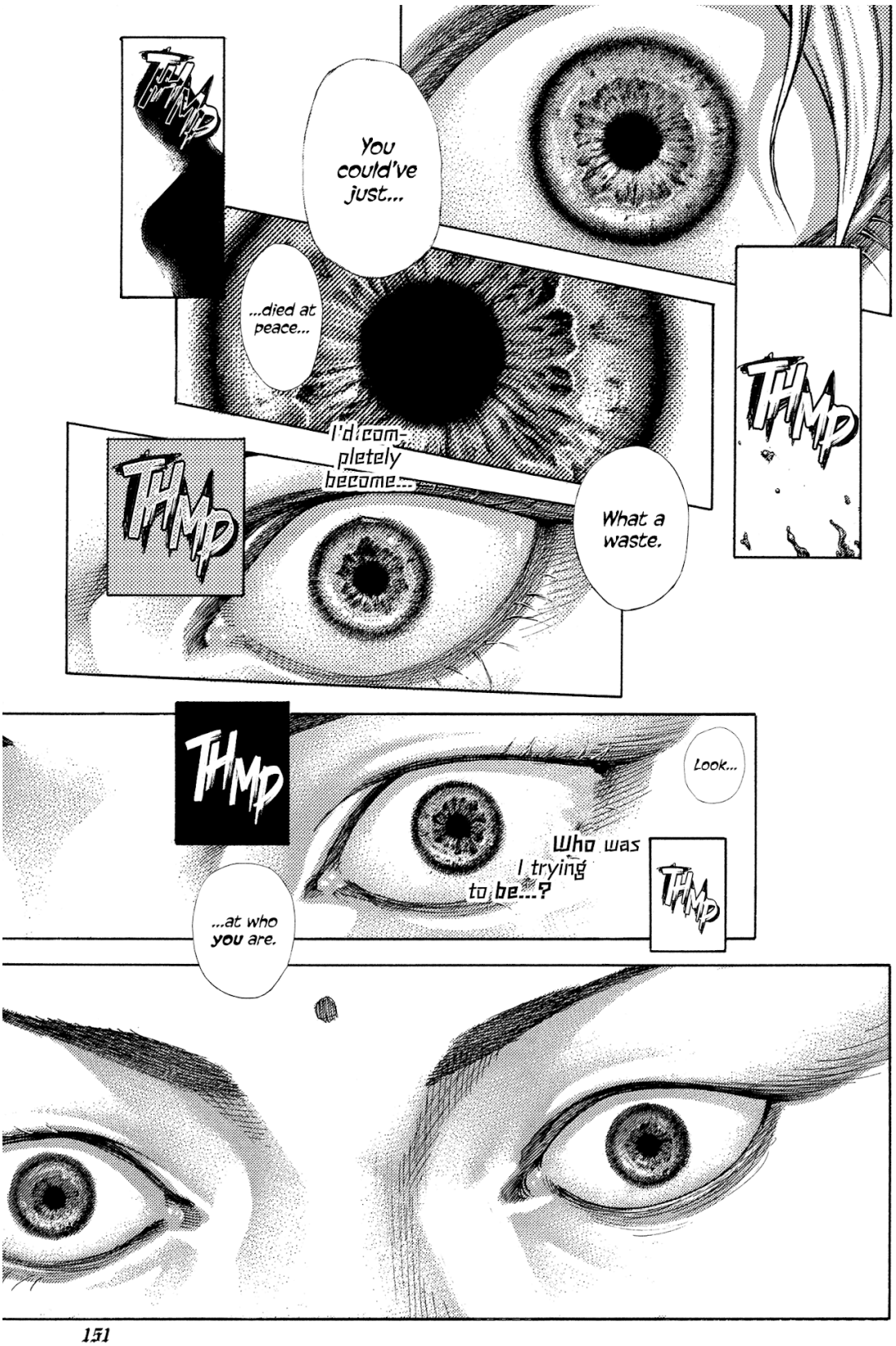


Image 7)


...and then you slipped up.
answer me as if you knew Fukurou...
And then the third king said...
trying to hide your identity,
Nor would you,
I'd never ask about Fukurou...
Back then, I had no idea who you really were.
"So, you're the one that made it here..."
And the
the thi
king s

Image 8)


THMP
You could've just...
...died at peace...
I'd com- pletely become...
THMP
What a waste.
THMP
THMP
Look...
Who was I trying to be...?
THMP
...at who you are.

151

Image 9)


HA HA!
I TOLD YOU! I'M LUCKY!
.....
HA!
AH~
BECOME A VIOLENT POISON THAT COULD
DESTROY ONESELF.
HA HA!
ONE HAS TO BE PRUDENT.
HOW-EVER,
ONE DAY, THE SEED ONE HAS PLANTED MAY ALSO
IT'S NOT LIKE EVERY SEED PLANTED WILL GROW INTO A FRUIT.
ESPECIALLY IF ONE IS NOT AWARE OF HAVING PLANTED IT AT ALL.

Image 10)


FROM THEN ON, USOGUI ONLY NEEDED TO CONSUME ANOTHER "5 MINUTES" BY FAILING HIS "CHECK" AT SOME POINT.
HE WOULD EASILY ENTER...
BAKU, NEAR-DEATH
BAKU, NEAR-DEATH
SOUICHI, NEAR-DEATH
THE LEAP SECOND ROUTE!!
WHAT I SAW AT THAT TIME WAS THIS.
UNBELIEV-ABLE.
THE GATE OF THE LEAP SECOND ROUTE WAS OPENED IN FRONT OF HIS EYES.
IT WAS LIKE BEING GUIDED BY SOMEONE.
213

Image 11)



You're being too cocky.
Can you *really* say they're more likely...?
If you're intent on fighting *him*...
I feel as if Fukurou has a ***fondness*** for you... being that you're both gamblers.
I think you can...
...take advantage of that fondness.
Are you...
...referencing the fight in the second chapter of "The Bee Prince"?
Yes.
In order to beat the bee prince, the rival prince took advantage of their camaraderie to lay a trap.
But... Wait...
Even though the rival prince tried to trick the bee prince...
...didn't he still lose anyway? He couldn't return to the third king...
You misunderstood.

Image 12)


I... FAILED TO CHECK ...?
YES.
DO YOU NOT RECALL?
IT MUST BE A SIDE EFFECT OF NEAR-DEATH. YOU'LL REMEMBER GRADUALLY.


AFTER THE SECOND HALF OF THE SECOND ROUND...
...HAD JUST BEGUN...

Image 13)


...IS NO LONGER WITH US...
BUT THE PERSON FROM BACK THEN...
THE PERSON THAT I AM TODAY IS NOT THE SAME AS THEN.
INDEED, THERE ARE TRACES OF MEMORIES...
THOSE BYGONE DAYS...
...OF THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER...
IT WILL SOON BE 08:30:00 A.M.
WE'LL BEGIN THE FIRST HALF OF THE FOURTH ROUND AT THAT TIME.
...WERE TO SEE THIS DUEL?
...THINK, IF HE...
...THAT I WAS BACK THEN...
WHAT WOULD THE MAN...
...

Image 14)


IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S ANOTHER REASON FOR YOU TURNING AROUND.
IF I CAN FIND IT OUT, IT'LL BE MY VICTORY.
I WILL WIN,
IT'S MY DESTINY.
...
28

Image 15)


DON'T WORRY, GAKUTO... I'M STILL ME.
HUH?
REFEREE KADOKURA,
REFEREE NOWA,
REFEREE MAKAMI,
!!
IN THIS LIFE THREATENING FIGHT, YOU'RE STILL JUDGING THE SITUATION ONLY BY RISK? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING IN USOGUI UNTIL NOW?
WAIT...
QUIET... LEADER IS SAYING SOMETHING!

Image 16)

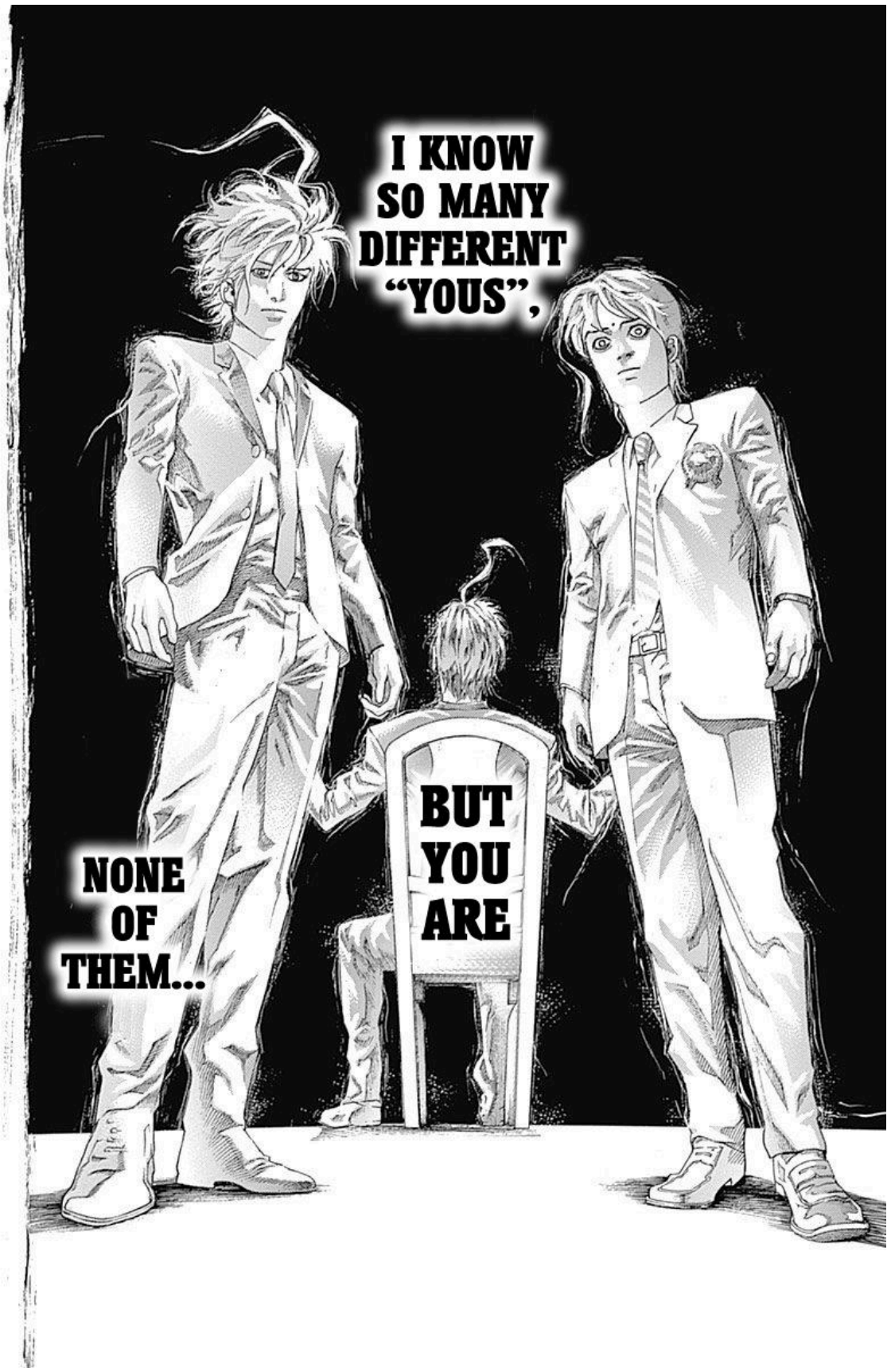


Image 17)


I DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CONVEY MY WORDS LOUDLY AND ENDED UP MUTTERING.
YAKOU-SAN...
THE NEXT... ROUND?
WHEN WILL BE...
WHEN I CAME BACK TO LIFE PREVIOUSLY, AND WAS STILL RECOVERING...
A FAINT VOICE CANNOT BE HEARD BY THE ONES WHO WANT TO HEAR IT.
"BECAUSE NO ONE CAN HEAR IT".
AND HOW DOES THAT RELATE TO THE SPEAKING CLOCK VOLUME BEING DECREASED?
ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE ACTUALLY DECREASED THE VOLUME OF THE SPEAKING CLOCK.
SO IN ORDER TO LISTEN TO OUR VOICES BETTER,
YOU MANIPU-LATED
PEOPLE WHO AREN'T EVEN HERE.
IT ALREADY HAPPENED BEFORE...
THAT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME.
TICK
TICK
THINKING ABOUT IT,
ARE A SCARY MAN.
YOU

Image 18)

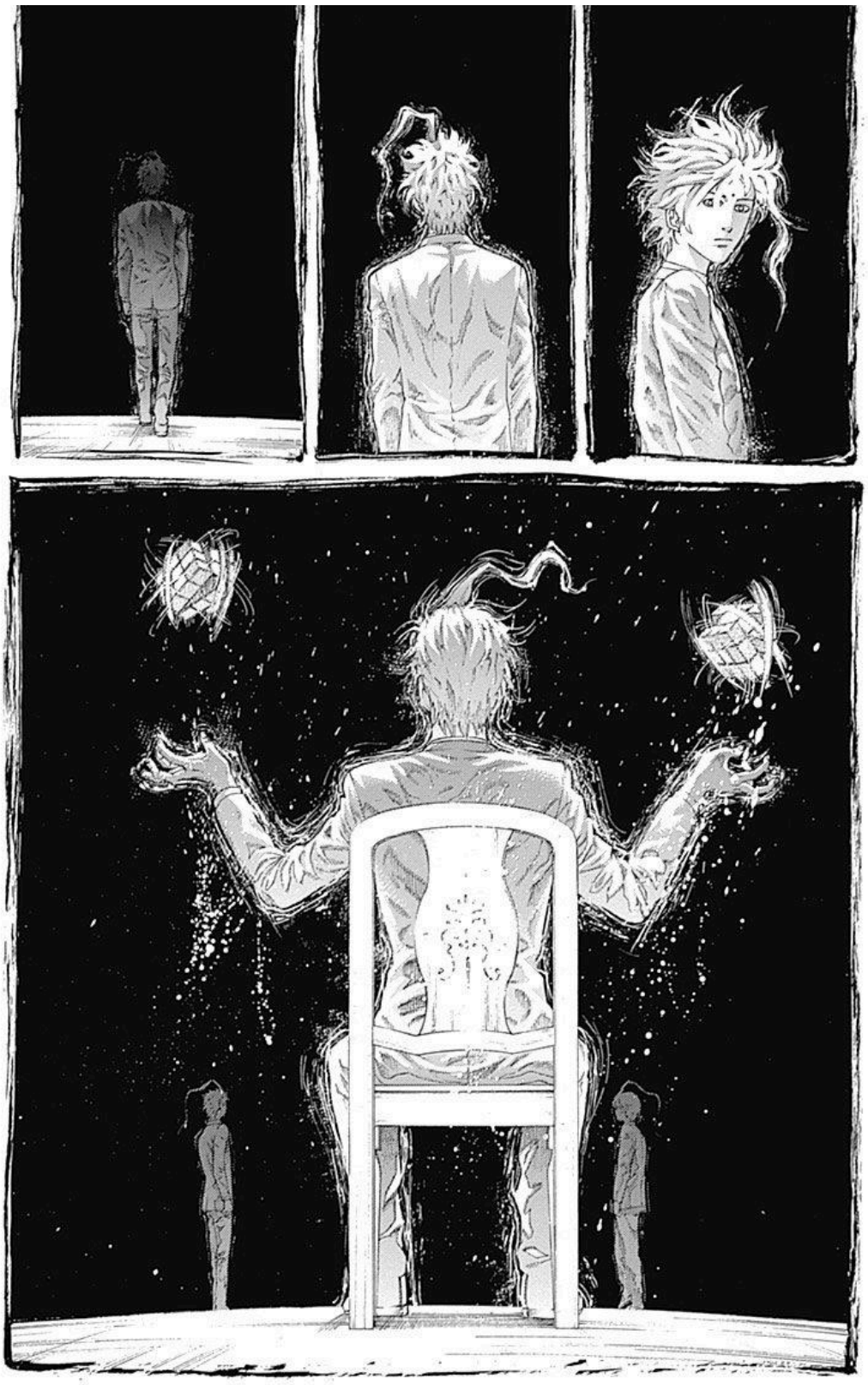


Image 19)



Image 20)

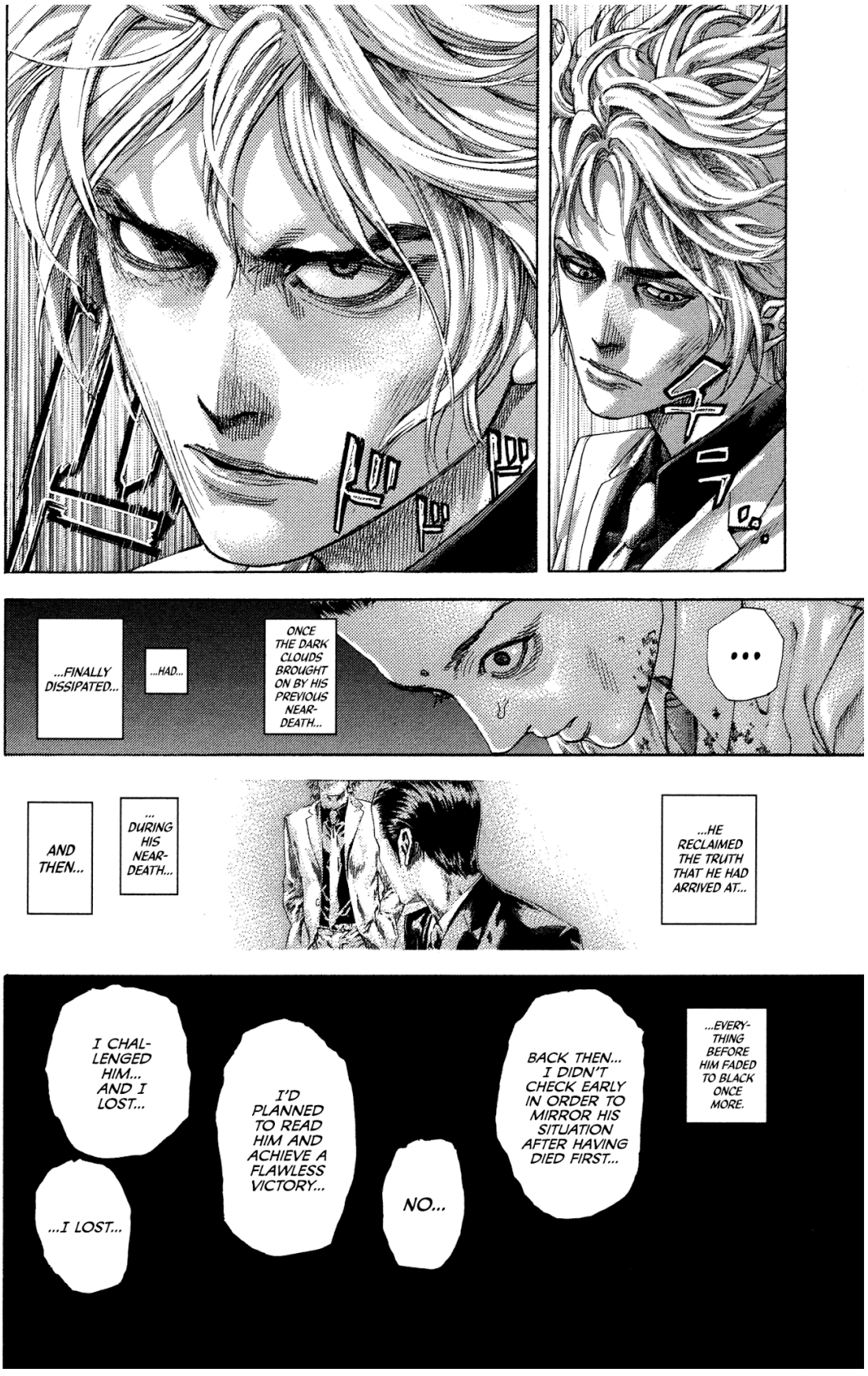

...FINALLY DISSIPATED...
...HAD...
ONCE THE DARK CLOUDS BROUGHT ON BY HIS PREVIOUS NEAR-DEATH...
...
AND THEN...
... DURING HIS NEAR-DEATH...
...HE RECLAIMED THE TRUTH THAT HE HAD ARRIVED AT...
I CHAL-LENGED HIM... AND I LOST...
...I LOST...
I'D PLANNED TO READ HIM AND ACHIEVE A FLAWLESS VICTORY...
NO...
BACK THEN... I DIDN'T CHECK EARLY IN ORDER TO MIRROR HIS SITUATION AFTER HAVING DIED FIRST...
...EVERY-THING BEFORE HIM FADED TO BLACK ONCE MORE.

Image 21)


IF IT KEEPS GOING A LITTLE MORE,
I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT...
I WILL BE ABLE
TO SEE IT.
THAT
SECRET.
THAT
...THAT
ANSWER.
AND
I AM CHANGING.
RIGHT NOW,
I AM TURNING INTO SOME-THING.

Image 22)


THEN, I WILL INJECT THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG.
...YES?
THE DURATION IS 2 MINUTES AND 34 SECONDS.
REFEREE YAKOU...
I AM RELIEVED.
THAT WOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE AT ALL.
NO,
FROM A REFEREE'S POINT OF VIEW, WOULD THAT BE AN ACTION THAT WOULD INFLUENCE THE RESULT OF THIS MATCH?
AND REMIND ME OF EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THIS GAME UNTIL NOW,
IF YOU EXPLAIN TO ME THE RULES OF THIS SURPASSING THE LEADER,

Image 23)


AND THAT'S THE CRISIS AWAITING AHEAD OF YOU.
YOU ARE GOING TO LOSE IT.
ANNOUNCE-MENT?
9TH ROUND?
...
I WILL JUDGE THIS AS LEADER'S LOSS.
IF THE GAME CAN'T BE CARRIED ON,
...
76

Image 24)

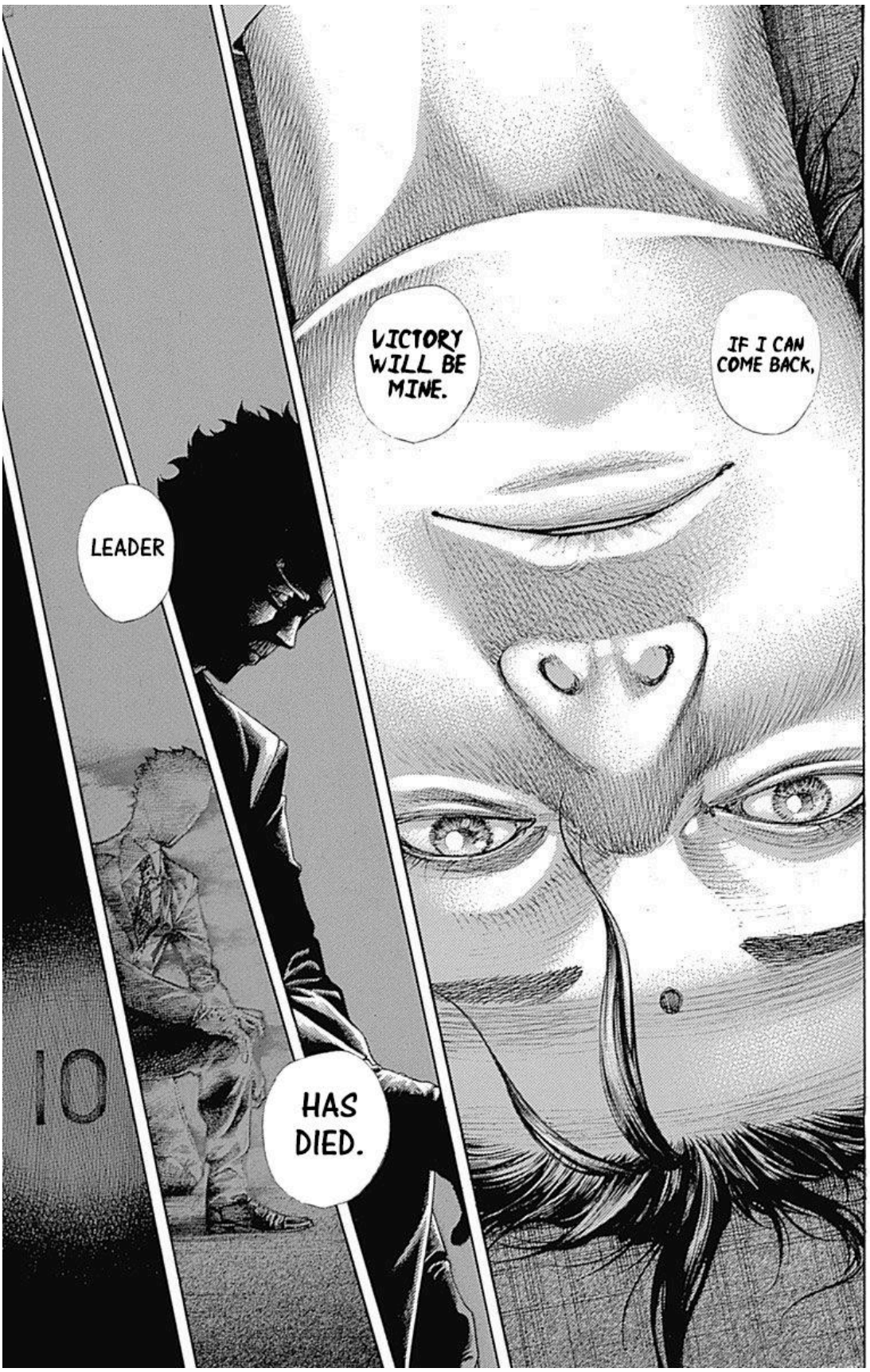


Image 25)



Image 26)


"C"
KIRUMA
SOICHI
8TH
ROUND,
2ND
HALF
"D"
MADA-
RAME
BAKU
IT WILL
ALL BE
DECIDED
IN THIS
"MOMENT".
"CHECK"
.....