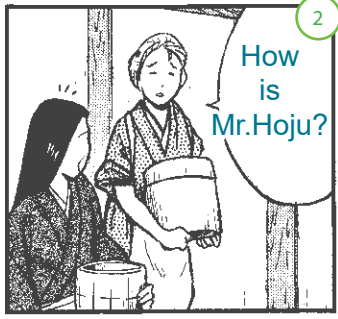
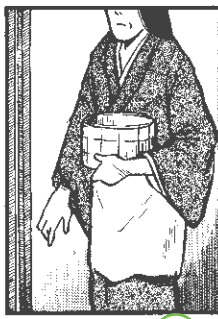
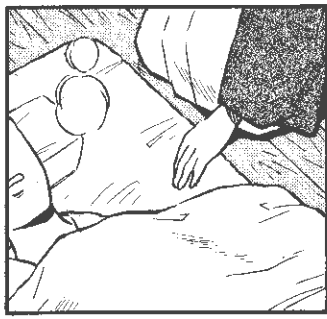
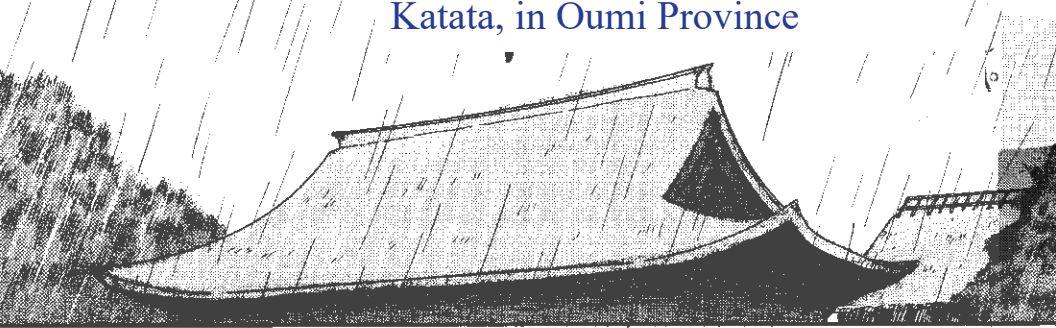

The Story of MASTER RENNYO

Zaaa

Honpuku-ji (Zen Buddhist temple)
Katata, in Oumi Province

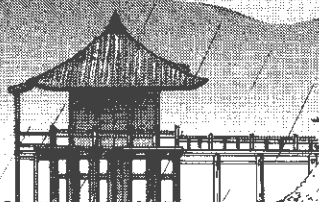


1

This was in 1413, two years before Master Rennyō was born.

Zaaaa

Katata was a lively town of merchants who would come and go across lake Biwa



The Story of Master Rennyō

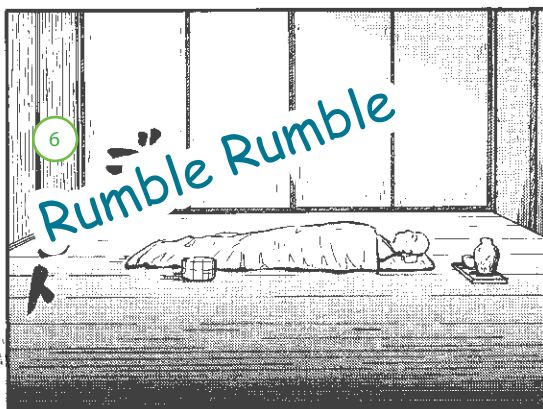
Like a Blazing Field

Part 1

Hoju's Dream

6

Rumble Rumble



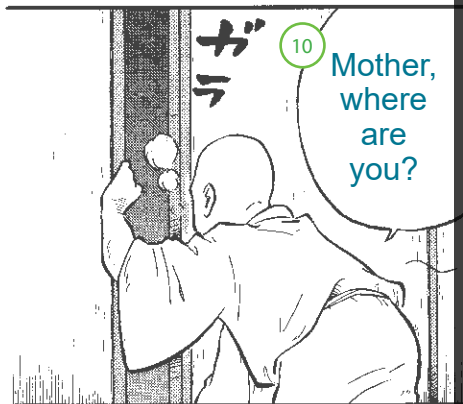
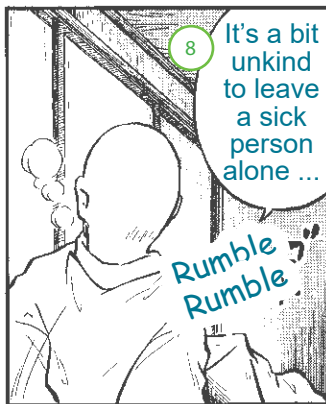
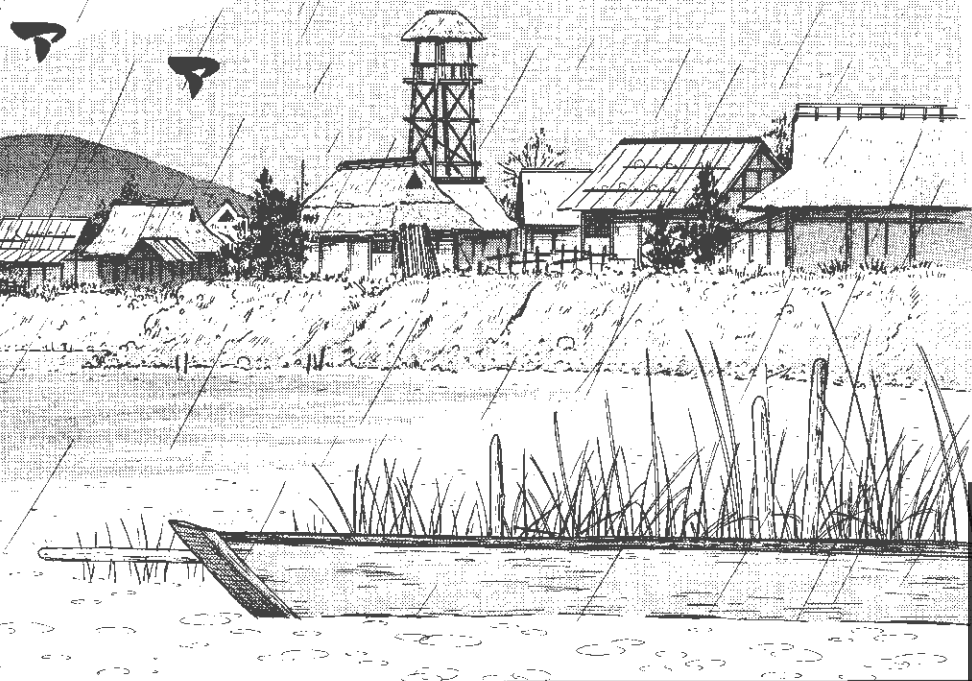
7

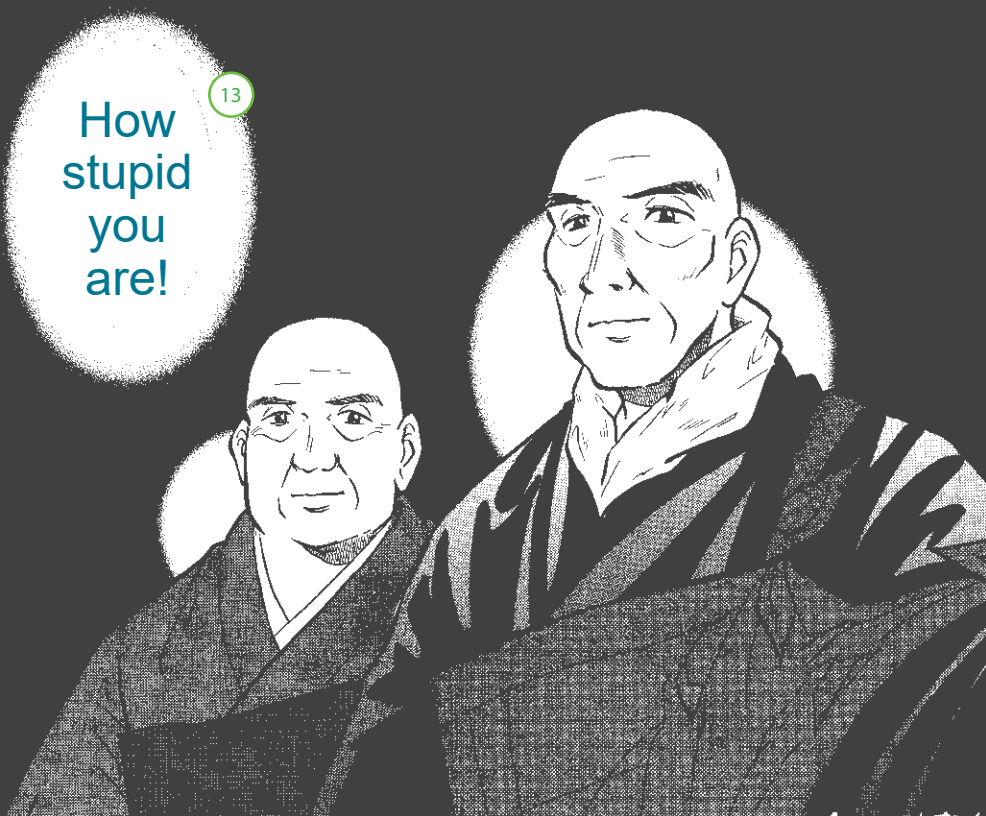
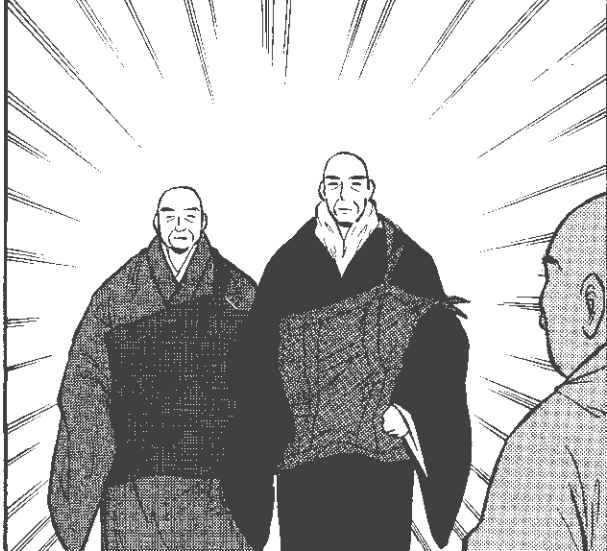
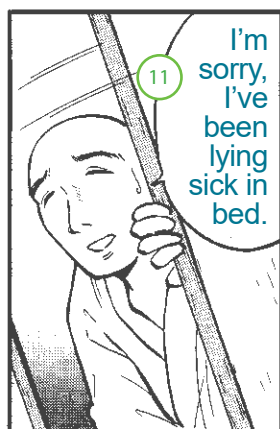
Do we have guests ...?

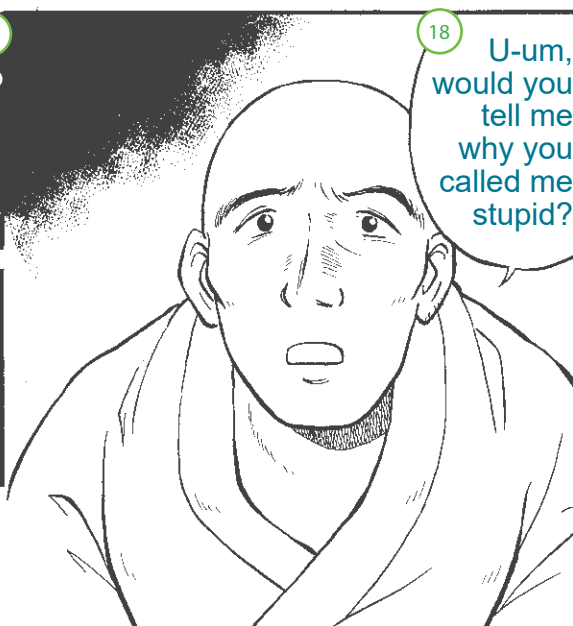
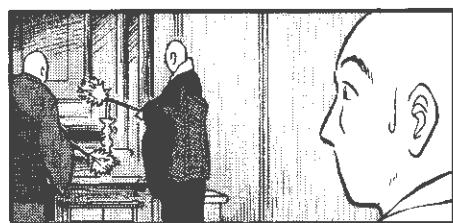
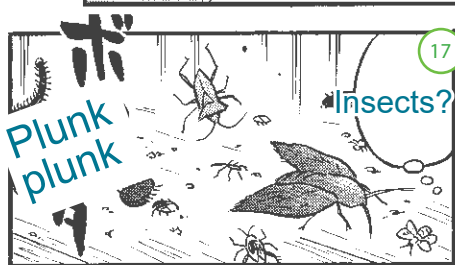
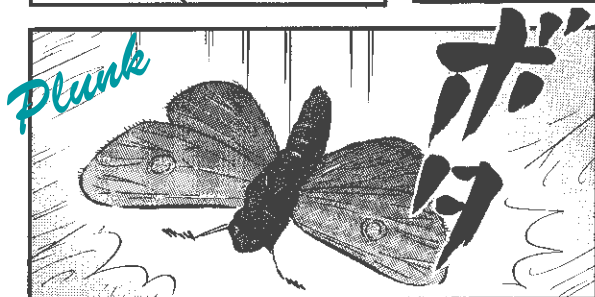
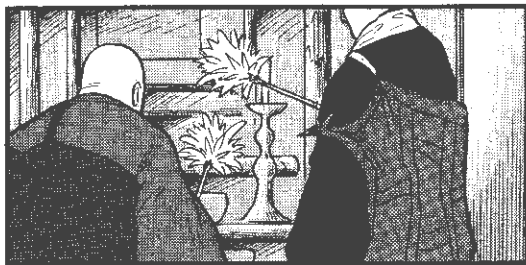
Rumble

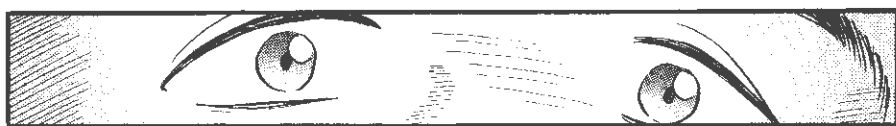
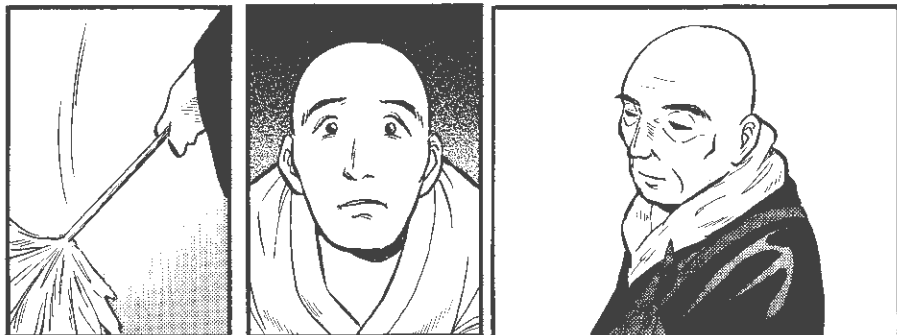


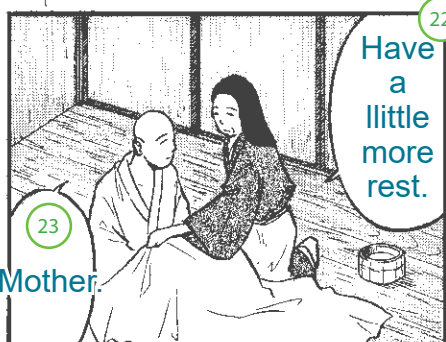
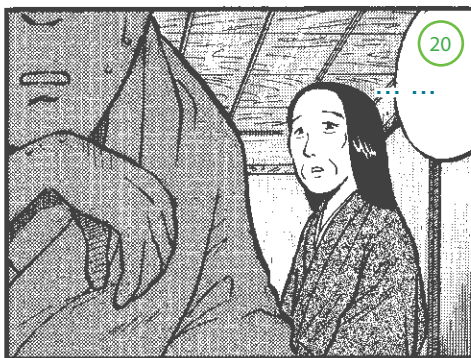
Zaaaa



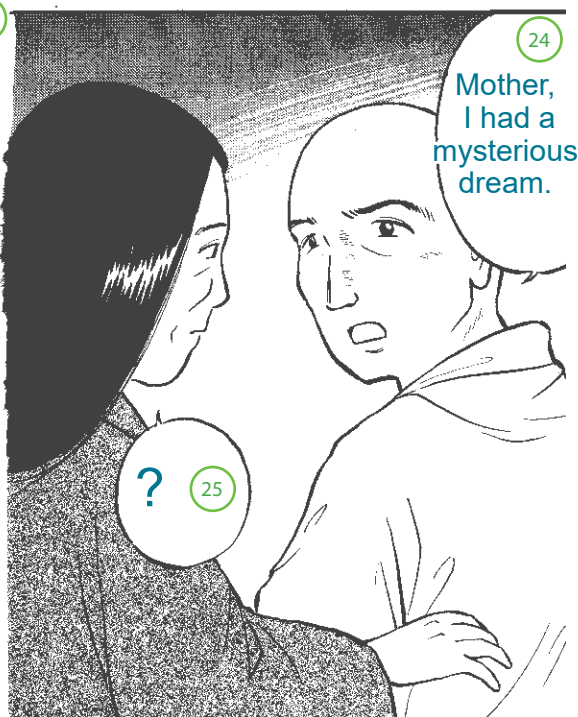


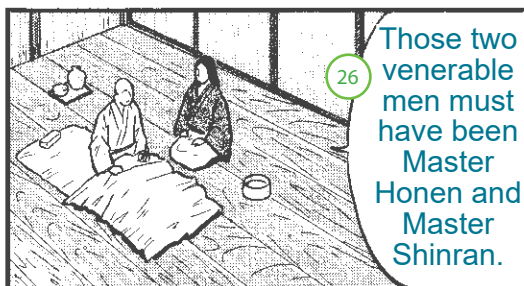






23
Mother.

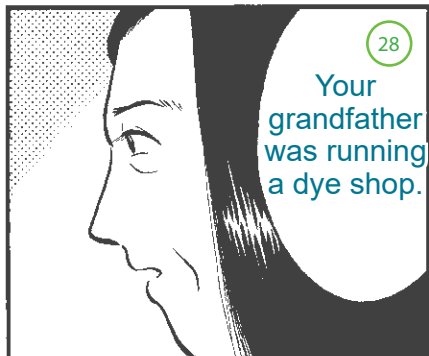




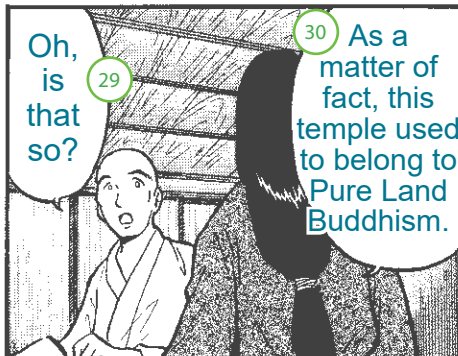
26 Those two venerable men must have been Master Honen and Master Shinran.



27 Master Shinran?

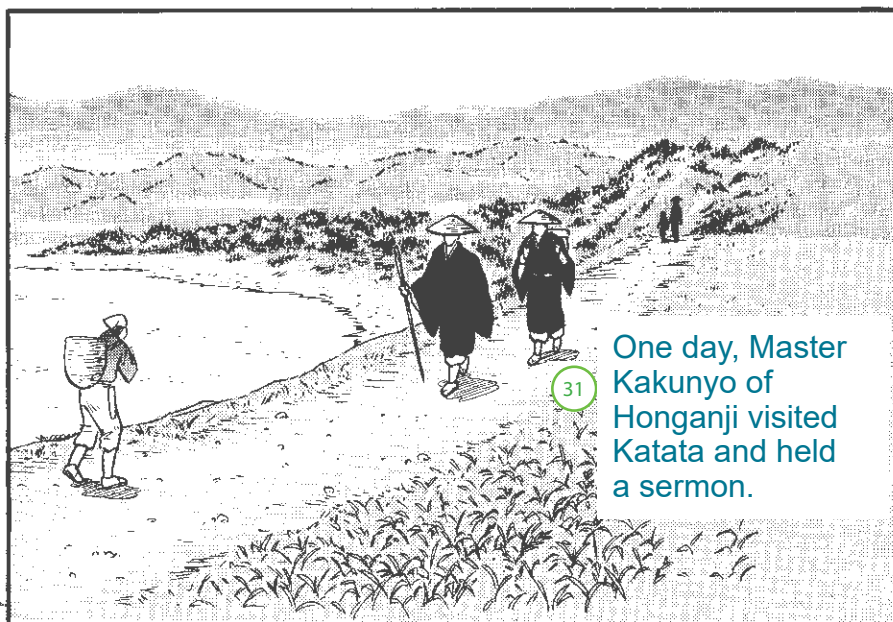


28 Your grandfather was running a dye shop.



29 Oh, is that so?

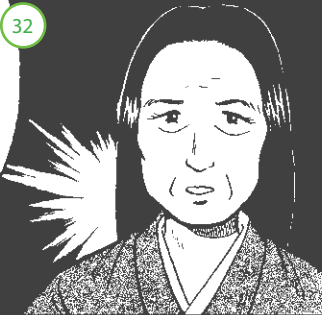
30 As a matter of fact, this temple used to belong to Pure Land Buddhism.



31 One day, Master Kakunyo of Honganji visited Katata and held a sermon.

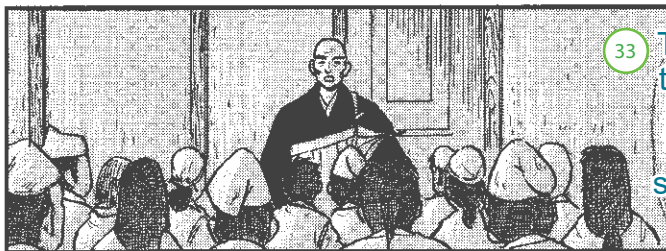
Master Kakunyo clarified the path to attain true happiness, which is the reason why we have to live out this life that's full of suffering and agony.

32



33

There is no other teaching through which everyone will be equally saved by the Vow of Amida.

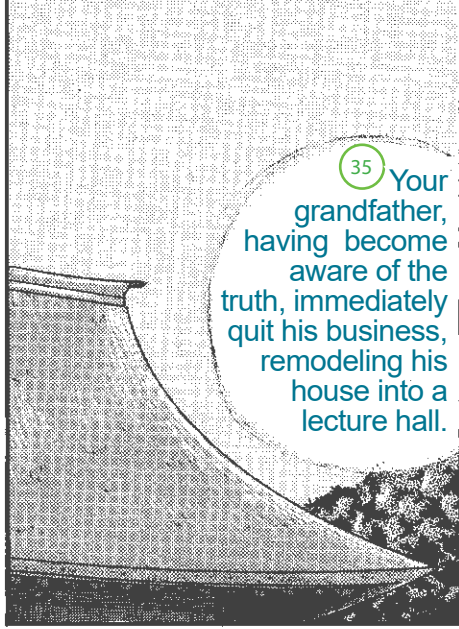


34

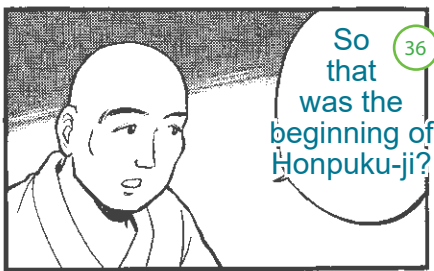
It is Master Shinran who elucidated true Buddhism, risking his life to do so.



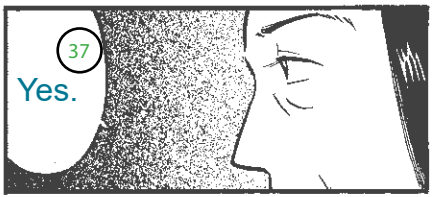
Master Kakunyo



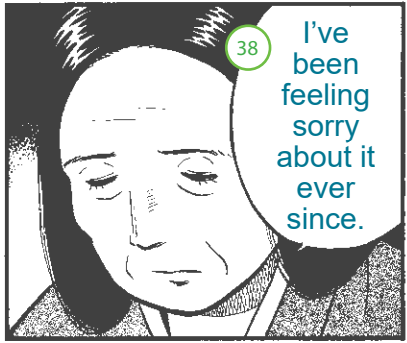
35 Your grandfather, having become aware of the truth, immediately quit his business, remodeling his house into a lecture hall.



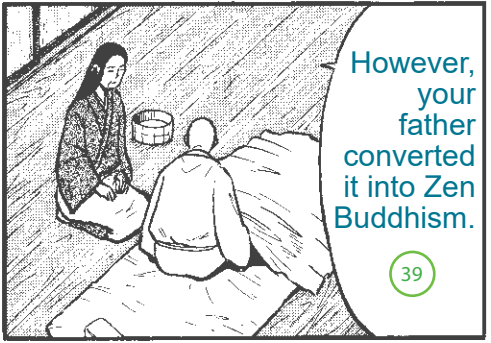
36 So that was the beginning of Honpuku-ji?



37 Yes.

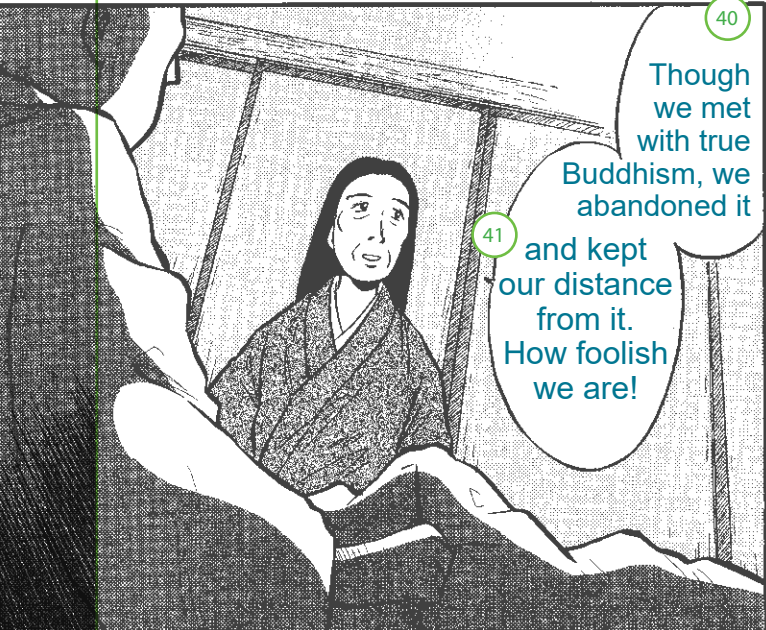


38 I've been feeling sorry about it ever since.



However, your father converted it into Zen Buddhism.

39



41 and kept our distance from it. How foolish we are!

40 Though we met with true Buddhism, we abandoned it



42

This must have been what Master Shinran was telling you in your dream.



43

Hoju.



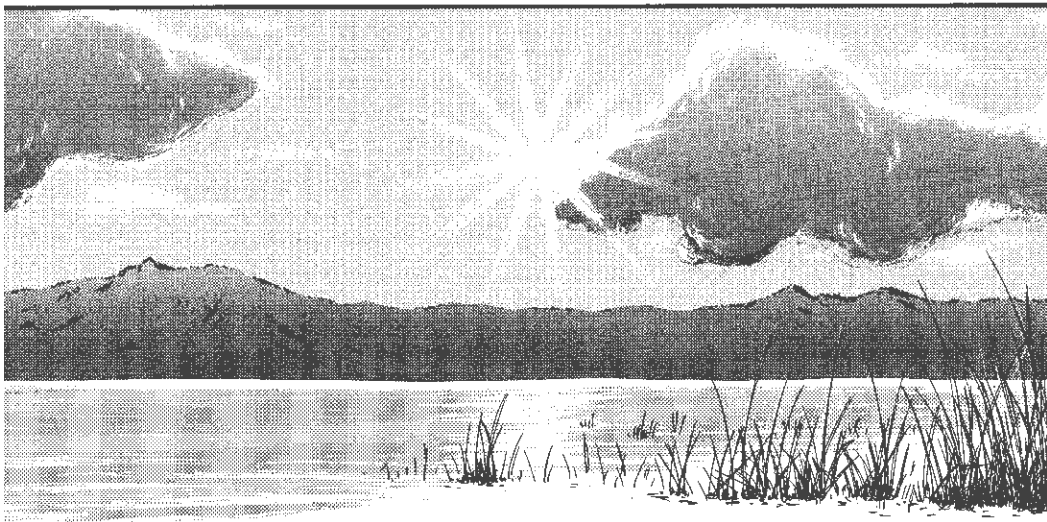
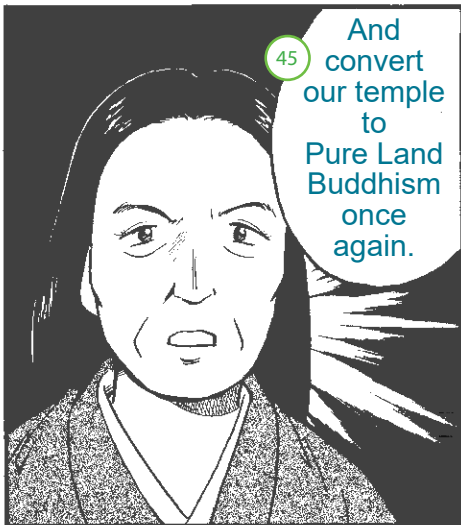
44

Once you recover from your illness, visit Honganji in Kyoto

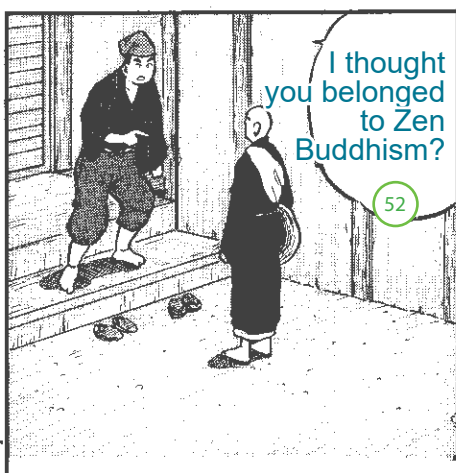
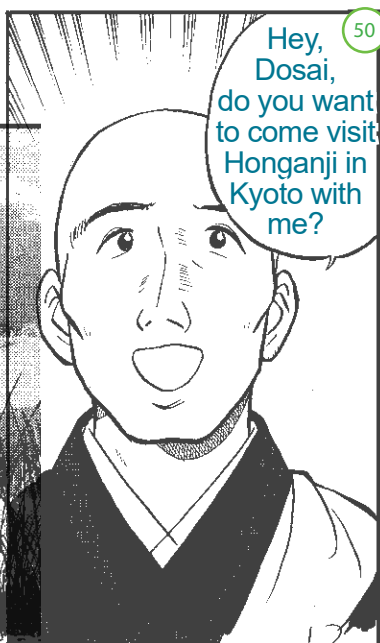
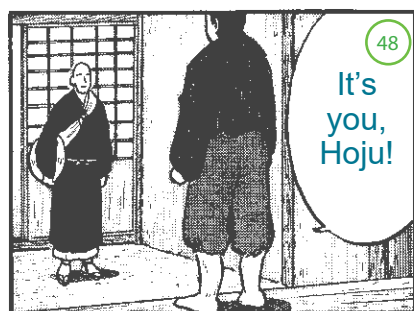
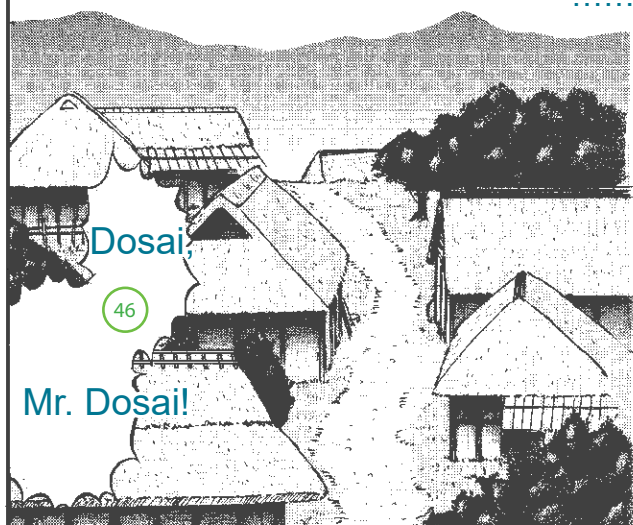


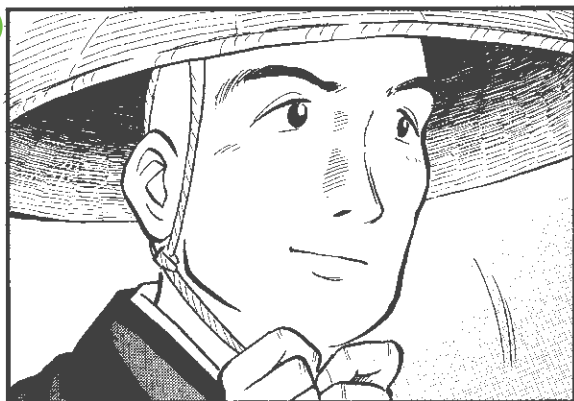
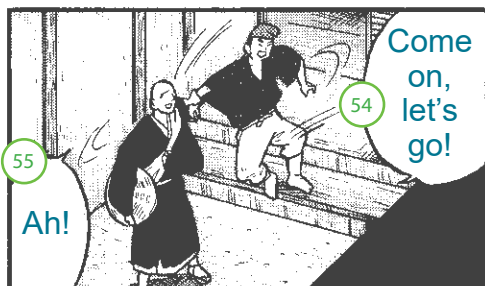
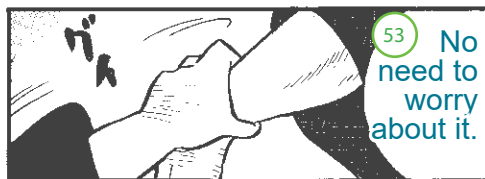
45

And convert our temple to Pure Land Buddhism once again.

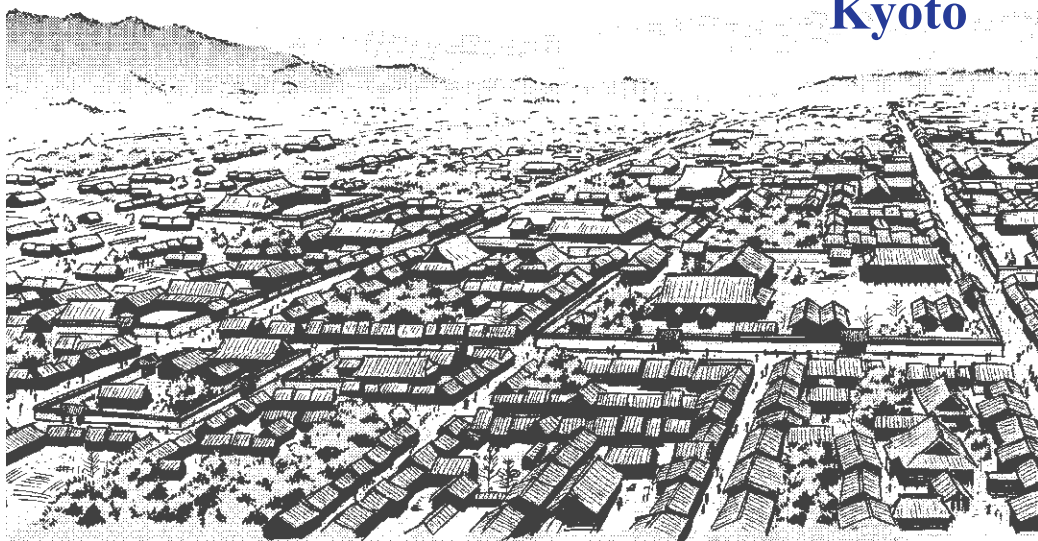


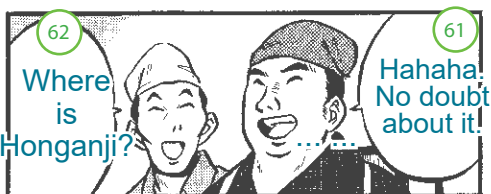
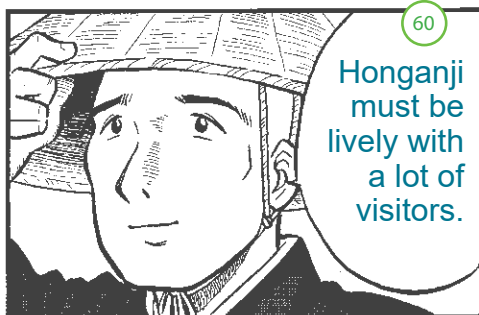
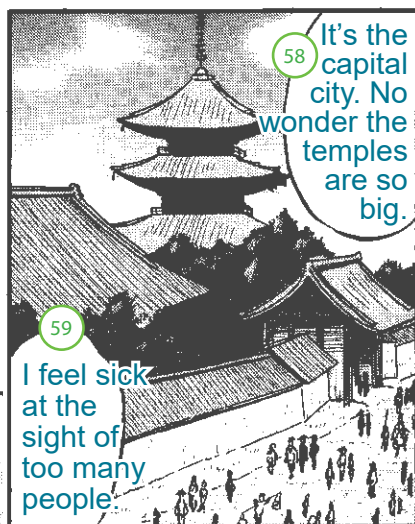
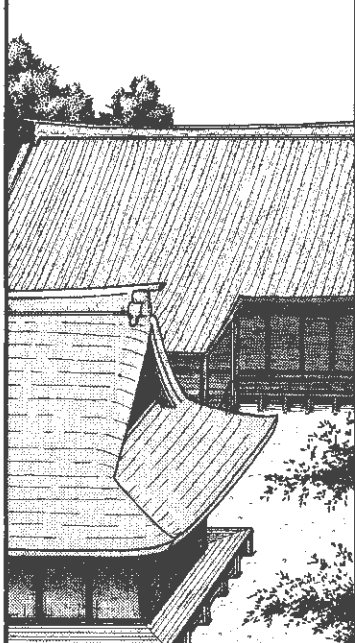
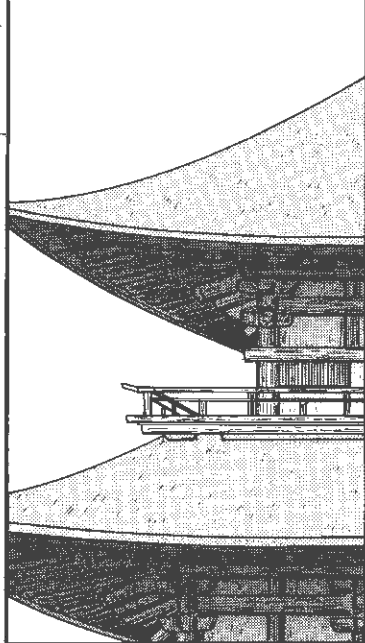
Kanagamori





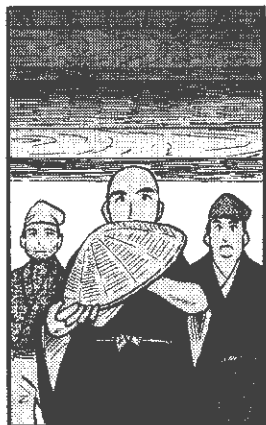
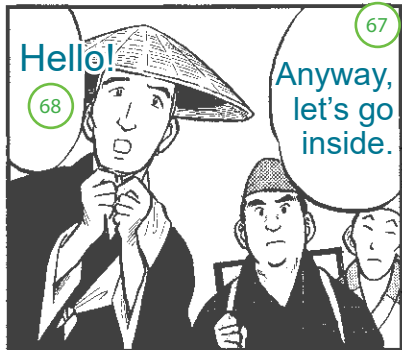
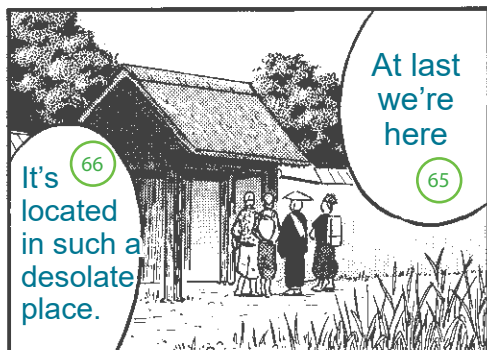
Kyoto

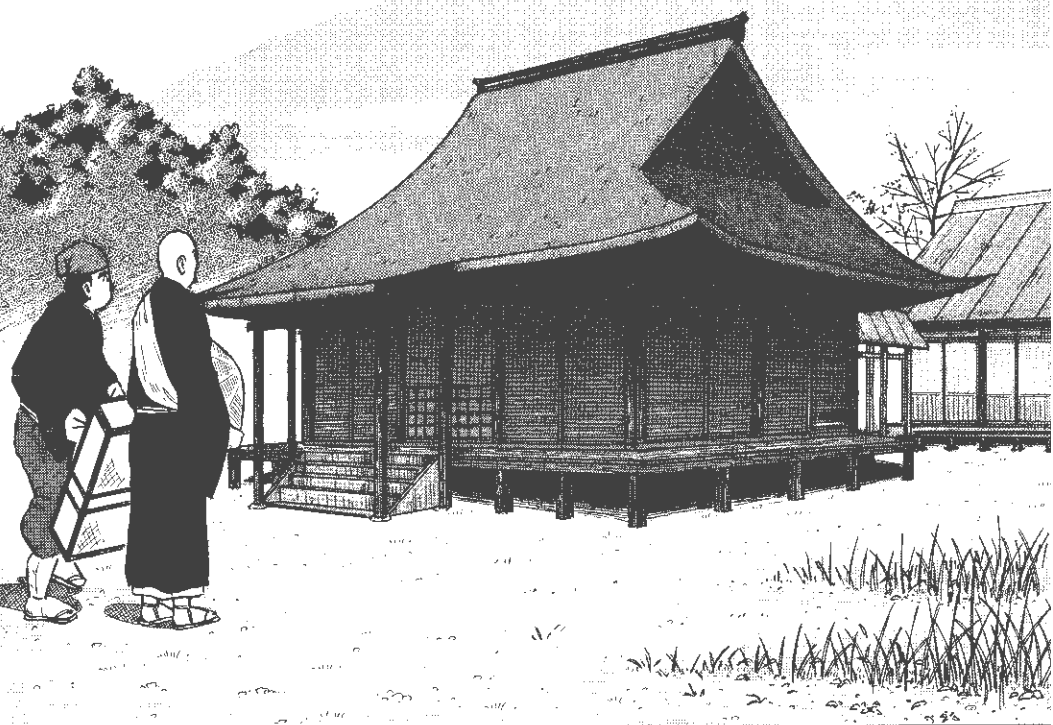






Honganji



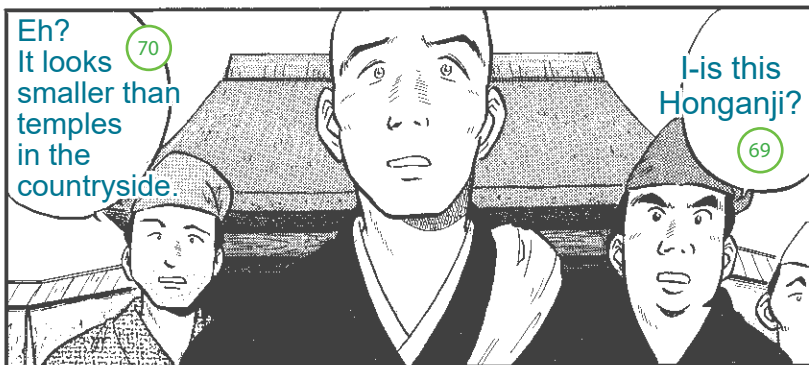


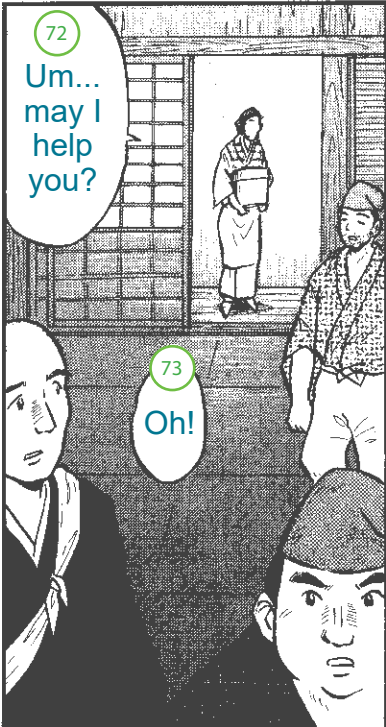
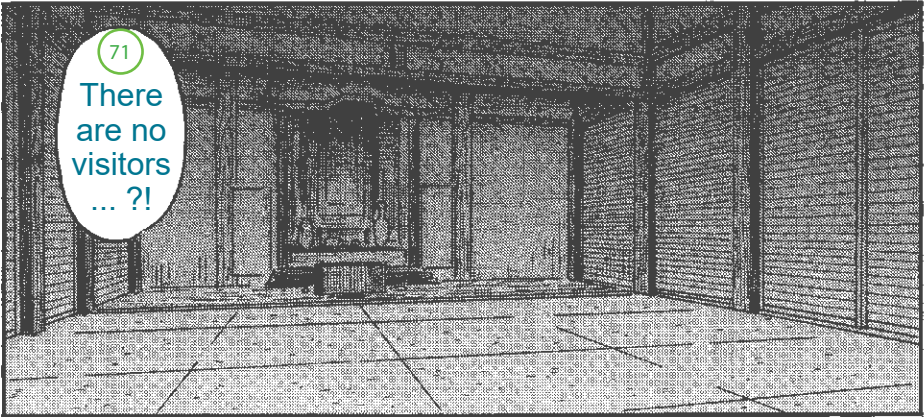
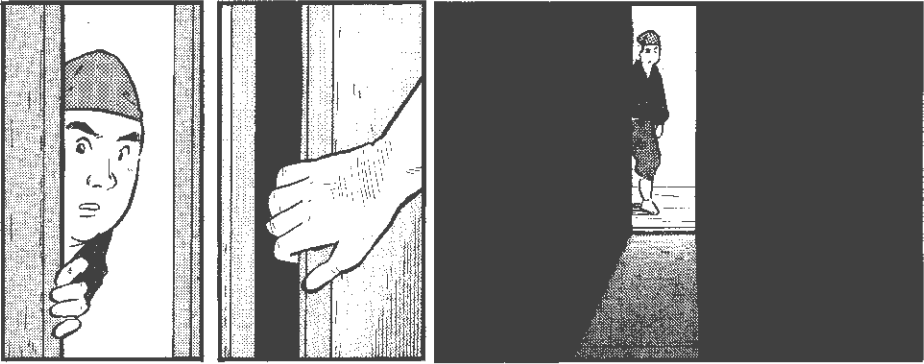
Eh?
It looks
smaller than
temples
in the
countryside.

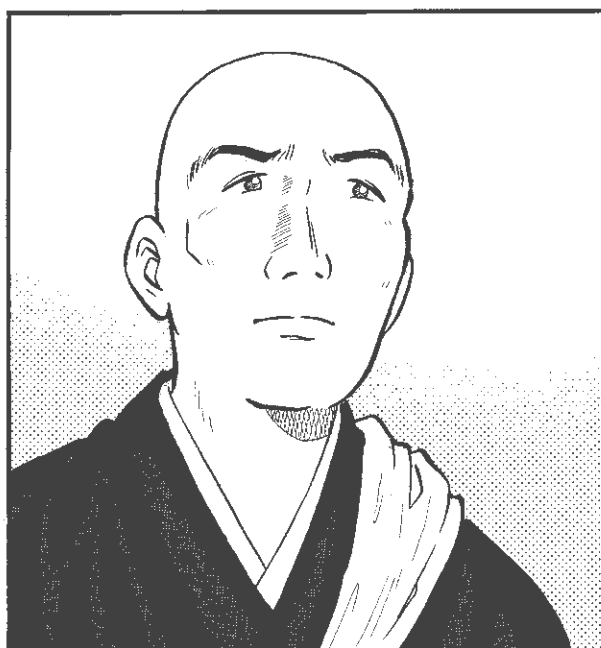
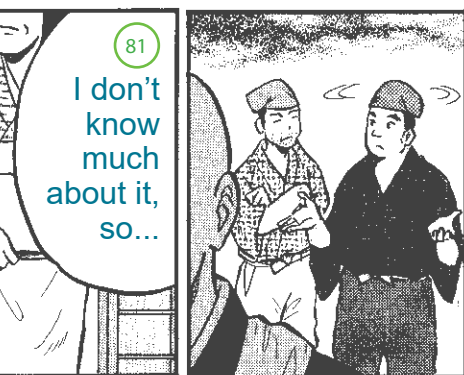
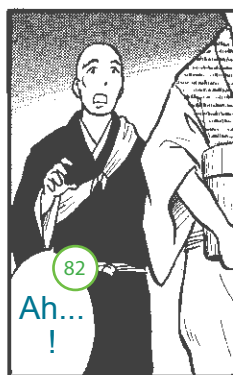
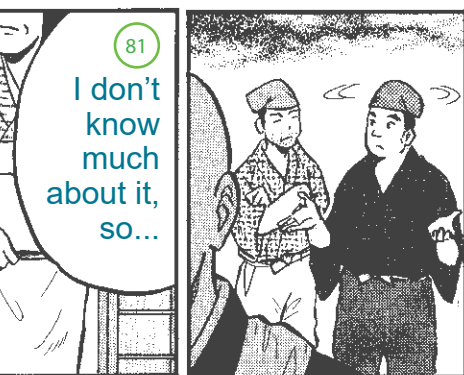
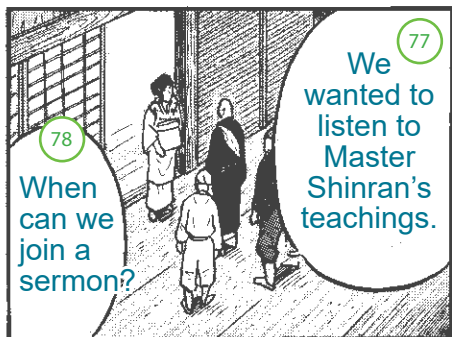
70

I-is this
Honganji?

69

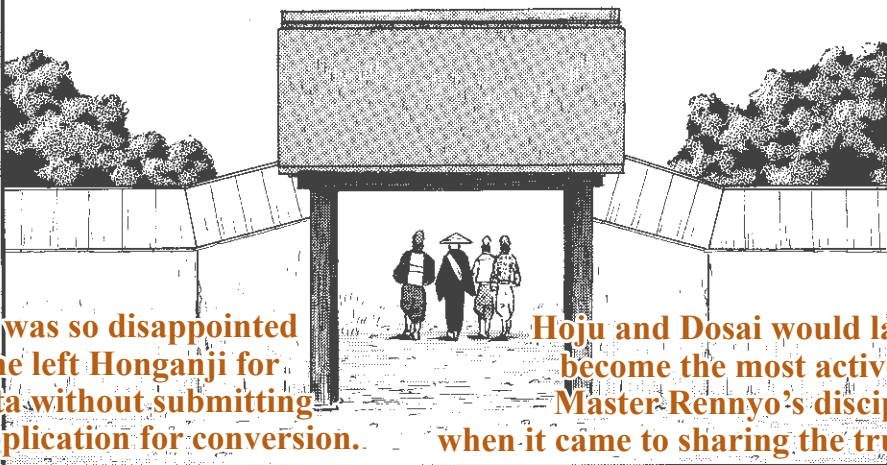






84

Hoju was so disappointed that he left Honganji for Katata without submitting an application for conversion.



85

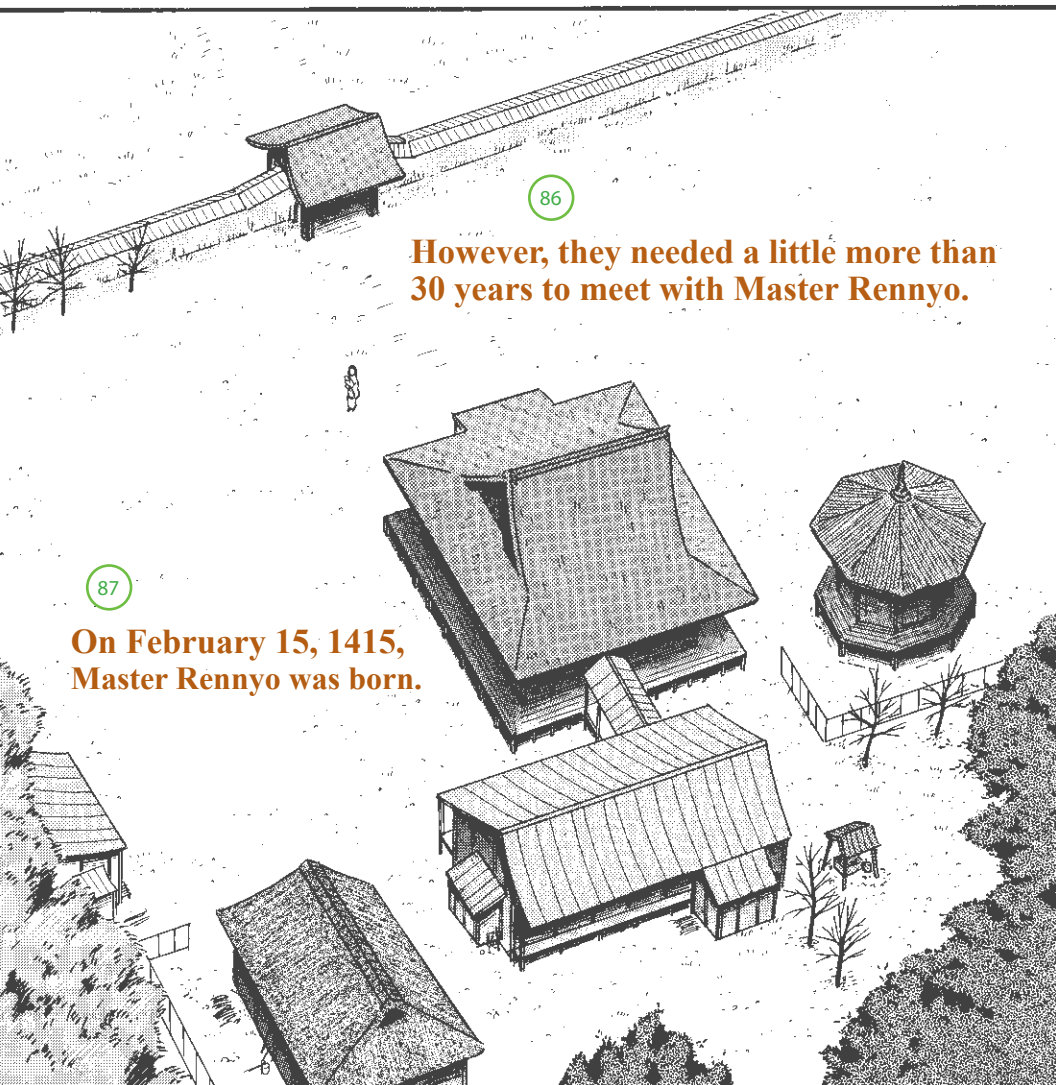
Hoju and Dosai would later become the most active of Master Rennyo's disciples when it came to sharing the truth.

86

However, they needed a little more than 30 years to meet with Master Rennyo.

87

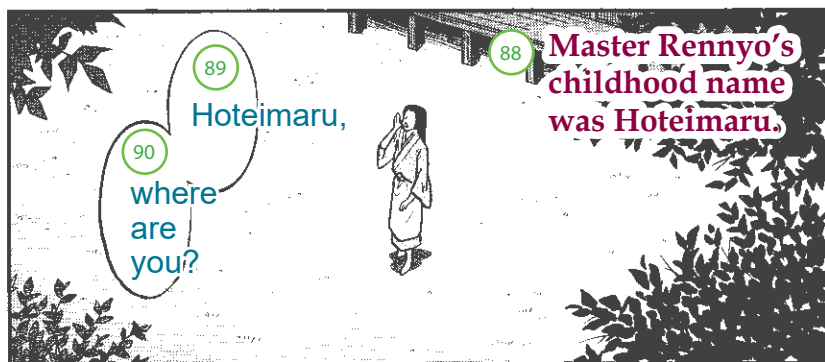
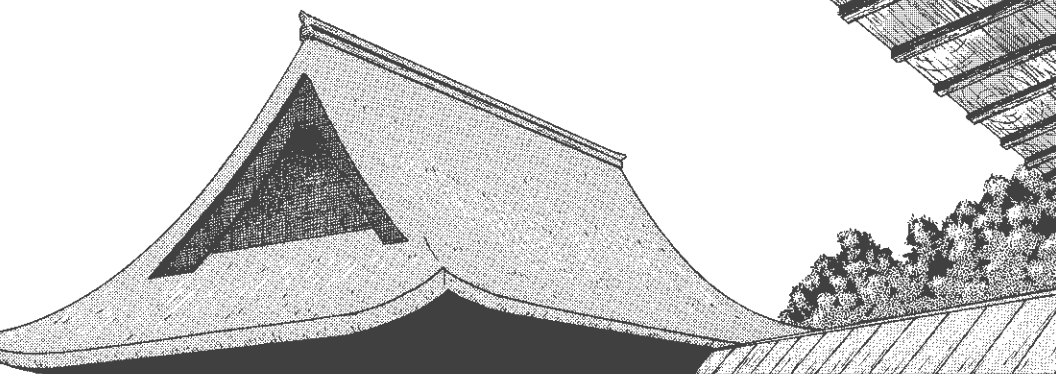
On February 15, 1415, Master Rennyo was born.

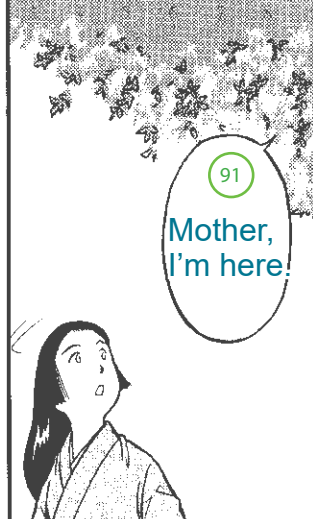


Like a Blazing Field

Part 2, Parting from His Mother

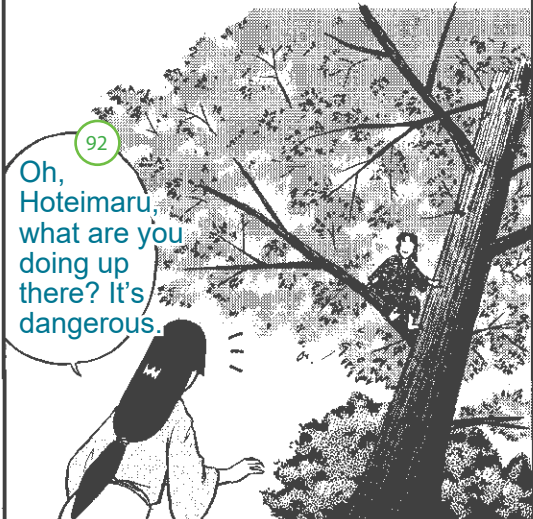
Honganji temple
in Kyoto





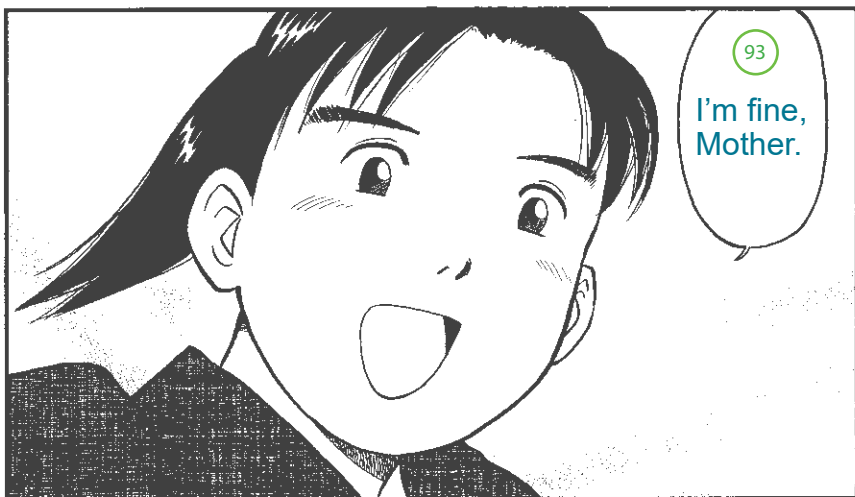
91

Mother,
I'm here.



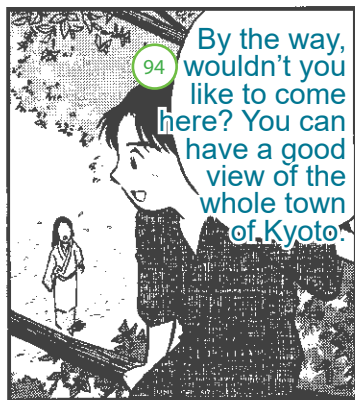
92

Oh,
Hoteimaru,
what are you
doing up
there? It's
dangerous.



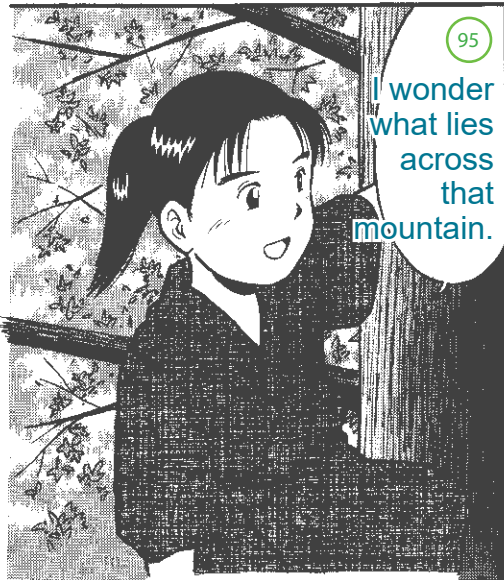
93

I'm fine,
Mother.



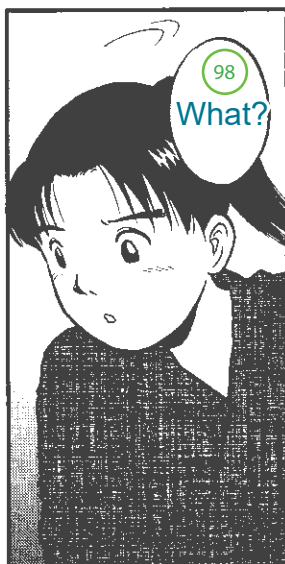
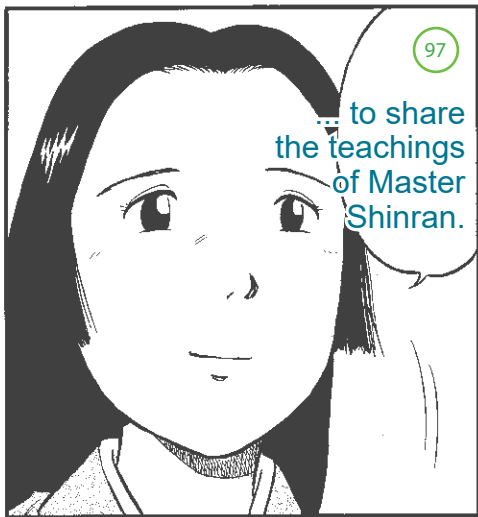
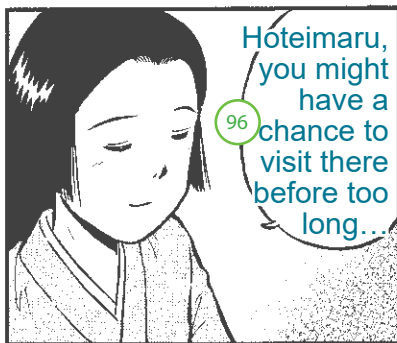
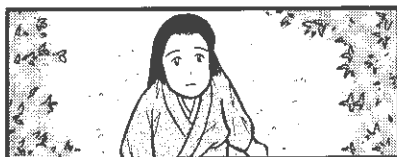
94

By the way,
wouldn't you
like to come
here? You can
have a good
view of the
whole town
of Kyoto.



95

I wonder
what lies
across
that
mountain.



101

flop



103

Dear,
welcome
back.



102

Ah,
Father!



104

Hey,
I see you're
bothering
your mother
again by
being
naughty.



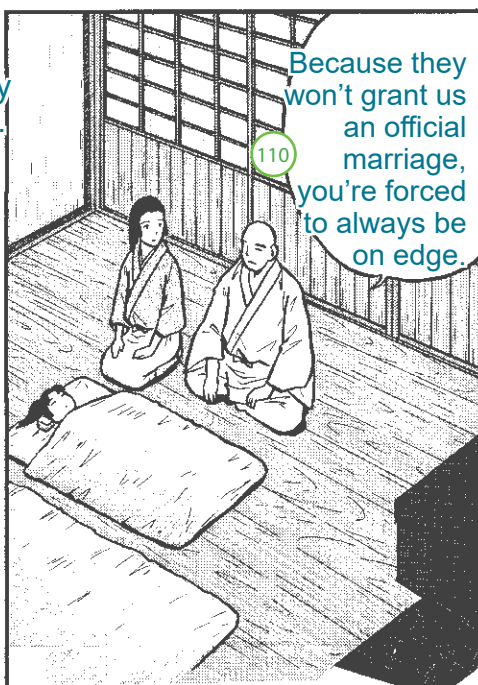
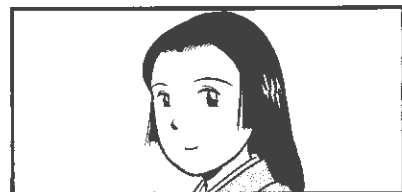
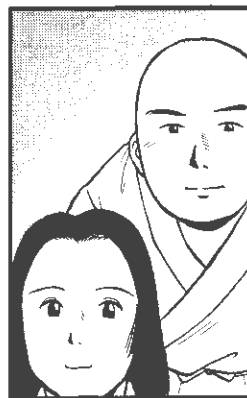
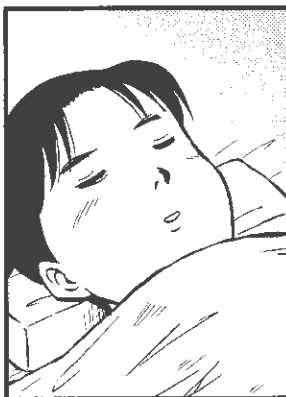
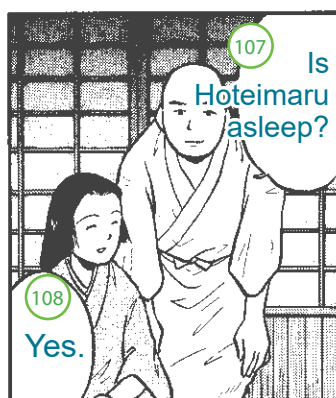
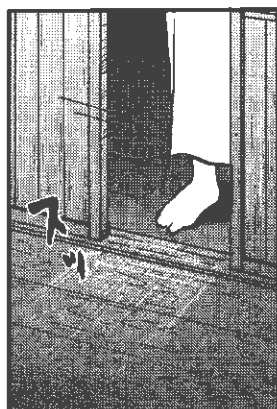
105

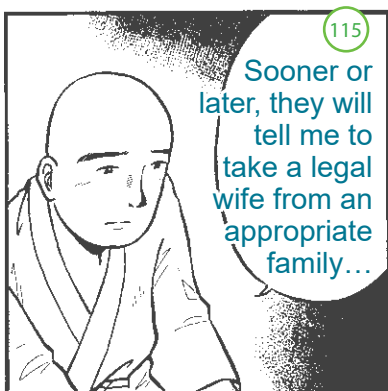
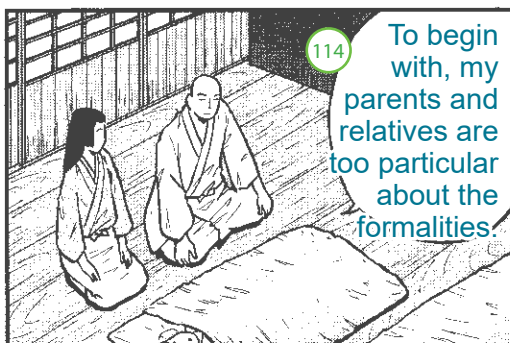
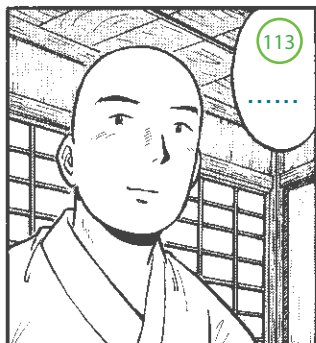
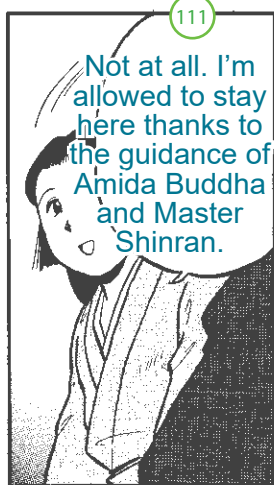
I-I'm
sorry...

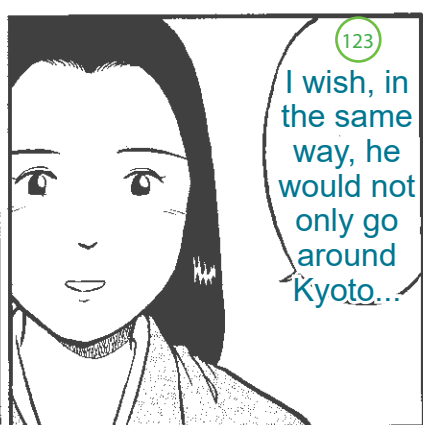
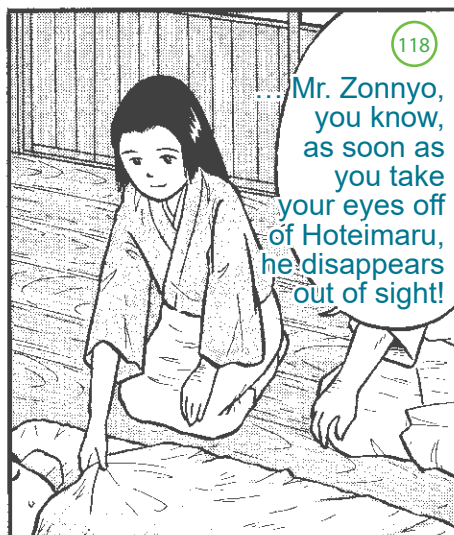
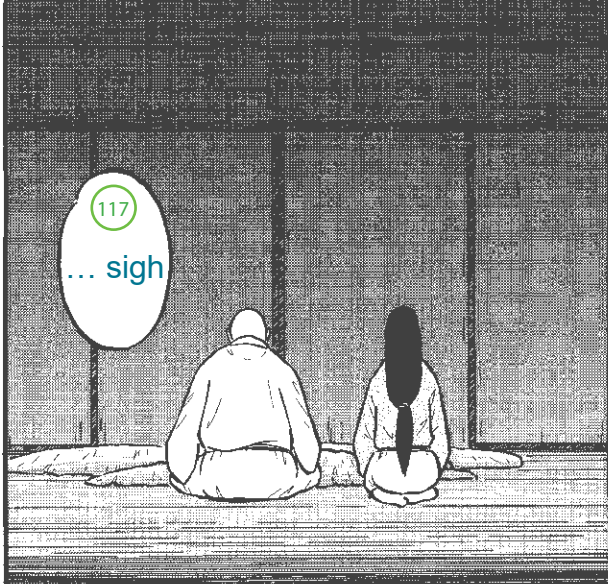


106

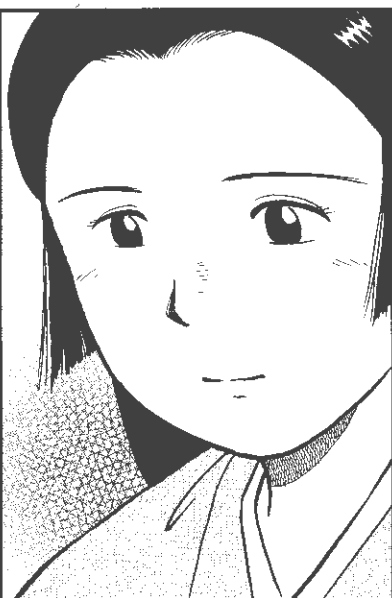
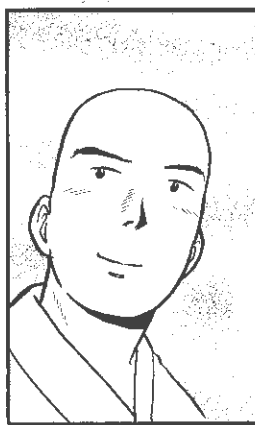
は
は
は
Ha ha ha.

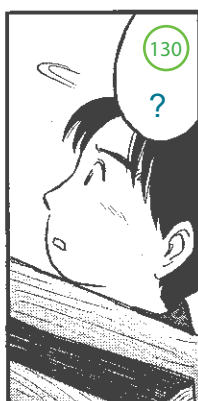
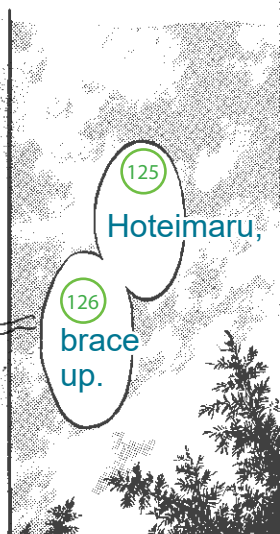


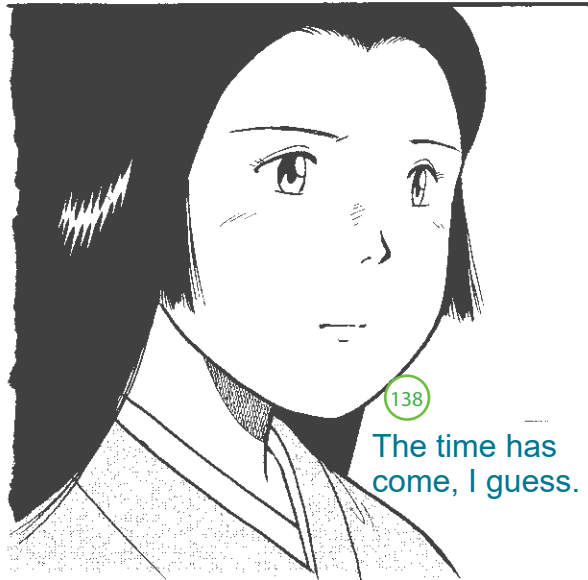
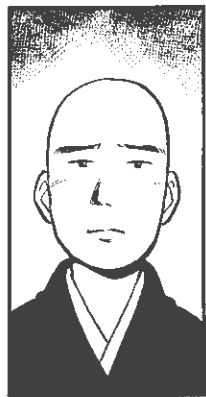
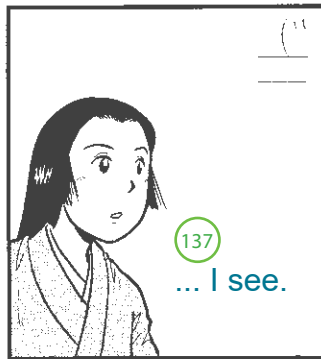
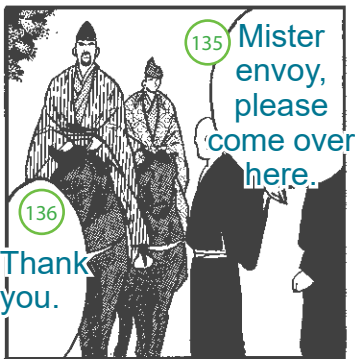
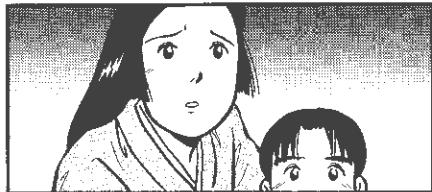
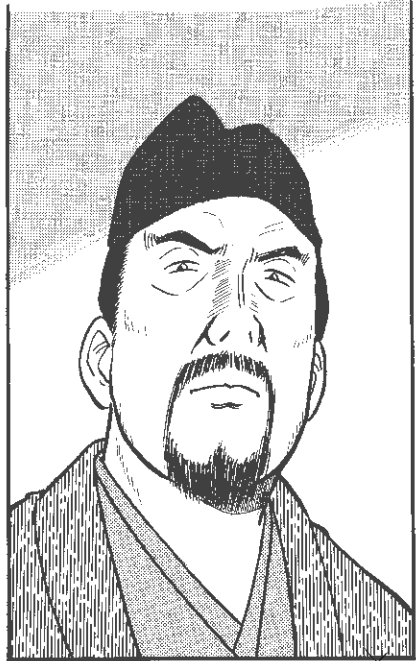
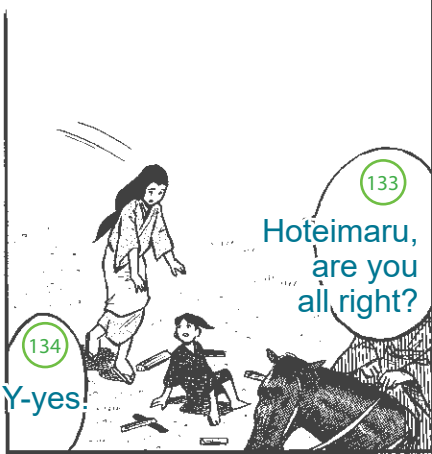




... but also travel all over Japan to share the teachings of Master Shinran.

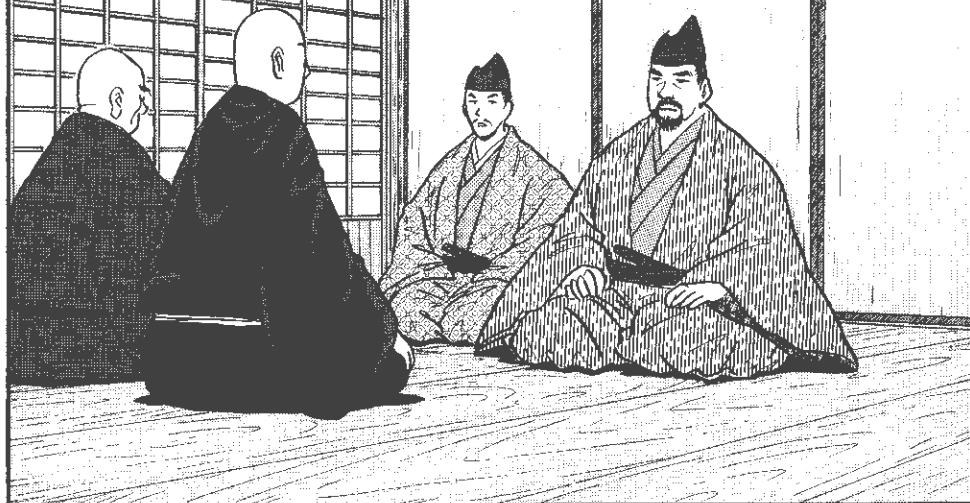






139 Master Zonnyo is now going to take a legal wife.

140 Her name is Nyoen. She is the daughter of Mr. Ebina, one of the magistrates of the shogunate.



141
Wow!

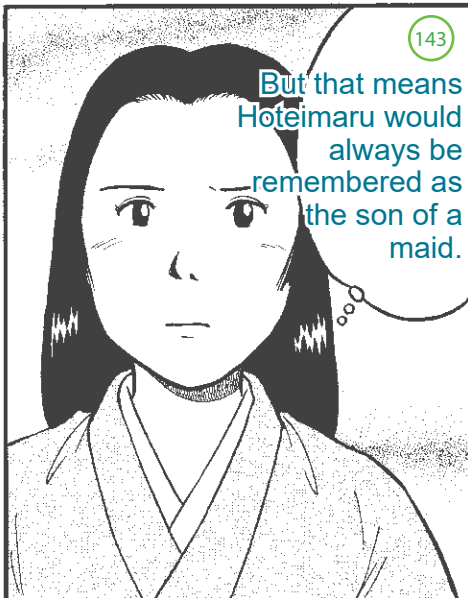
142 At this time, Master Rennyō was six.

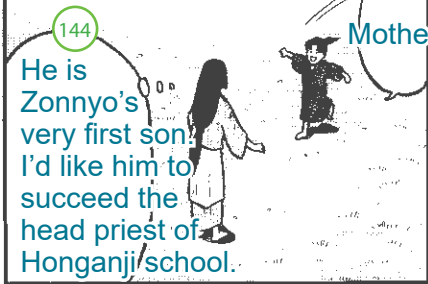


142 I want to be close to him however badly people treat me for not having a high status.



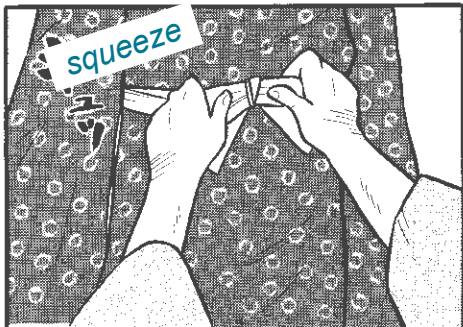
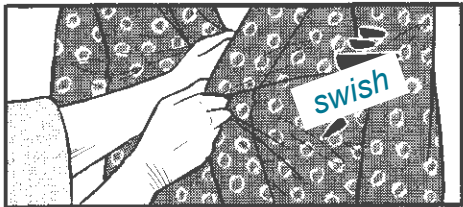
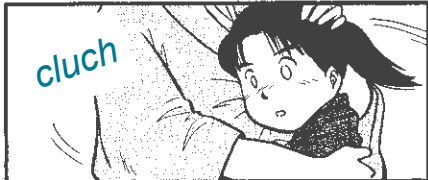
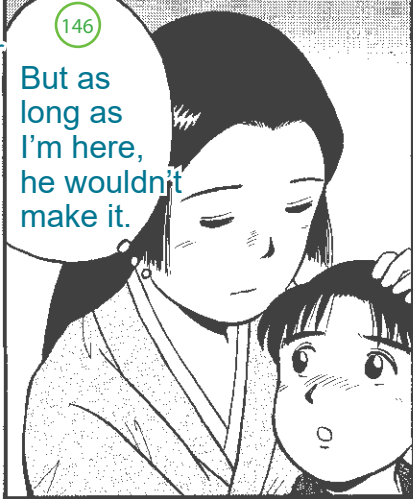
143 But that means Hoteimaru would always be remembered as the son of a maid.

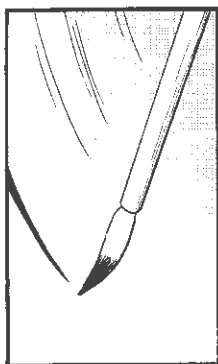
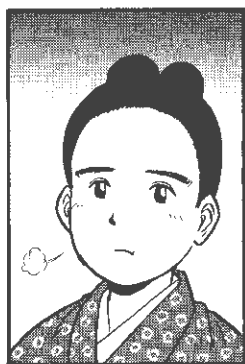
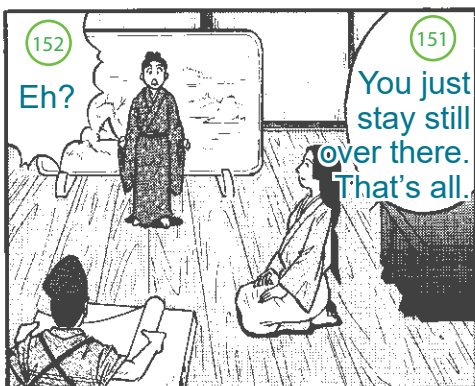
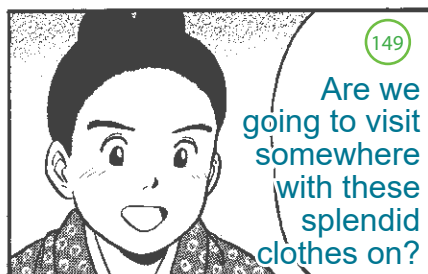
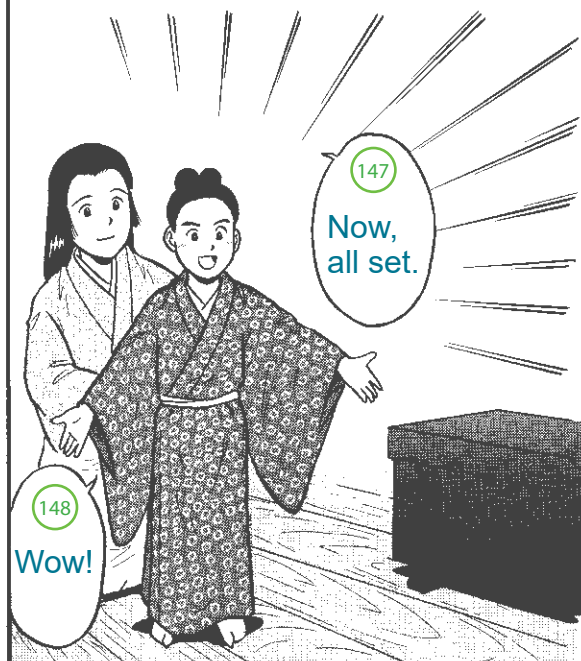


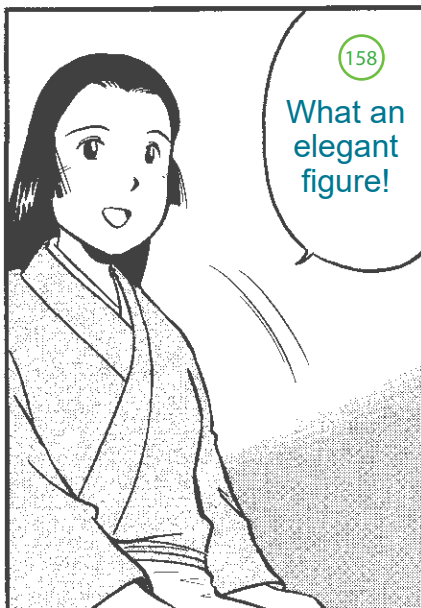
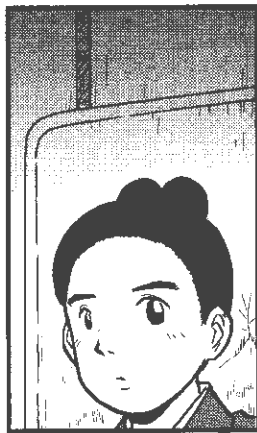
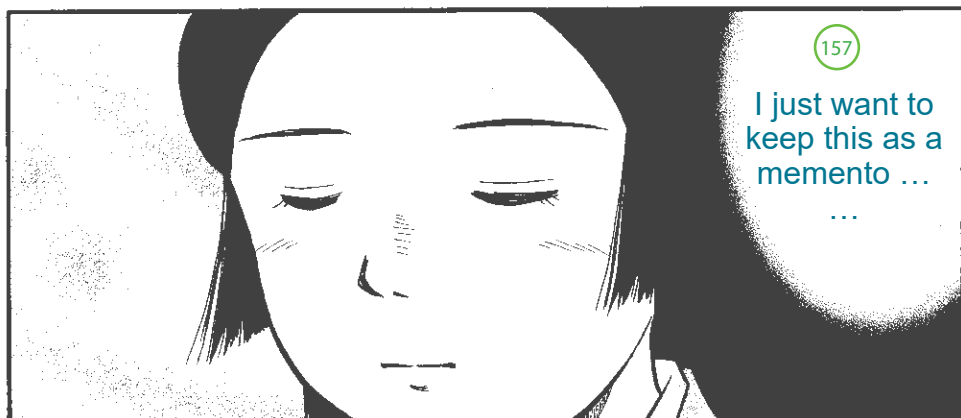
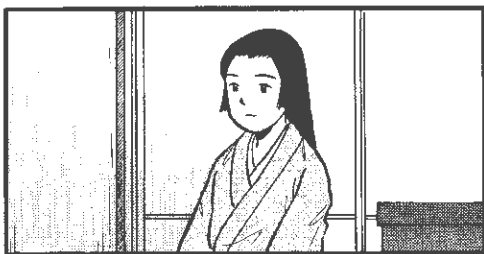
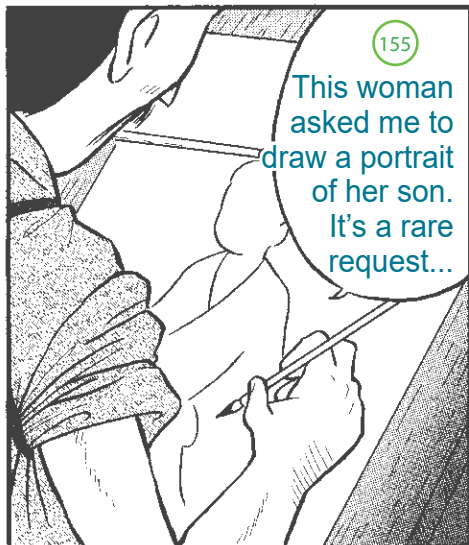


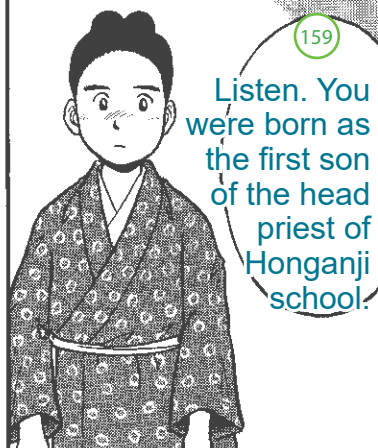
145

Mother









159

Listen. You were born as the first son of the head priest of Honganji school.



160

Make sure you carry out your mission of conveying true Buddhism masterfully.

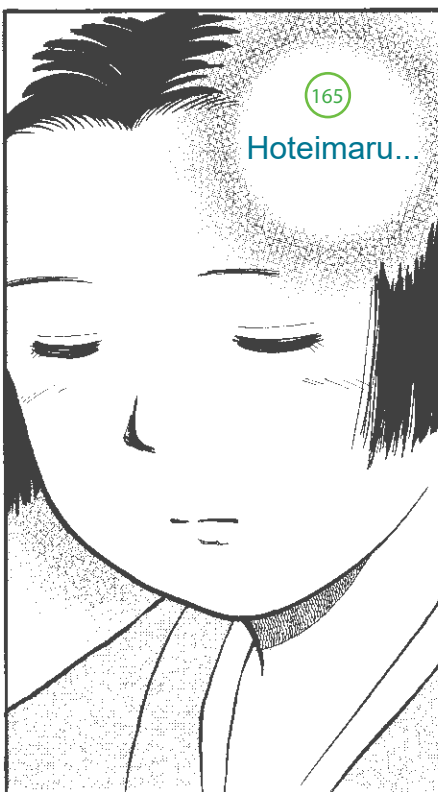
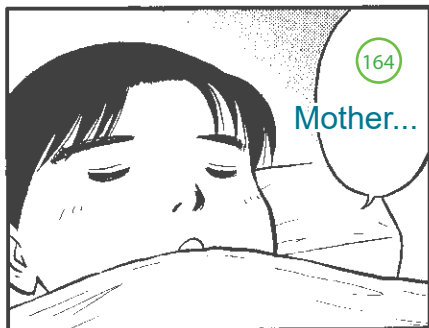
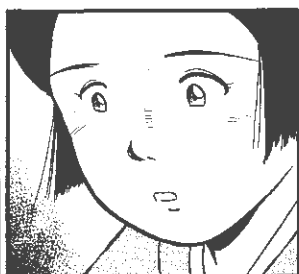
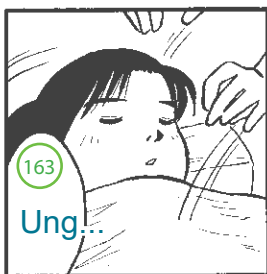
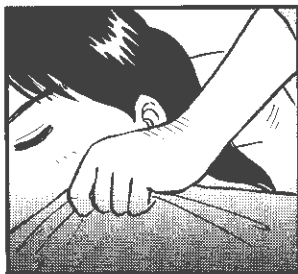
161

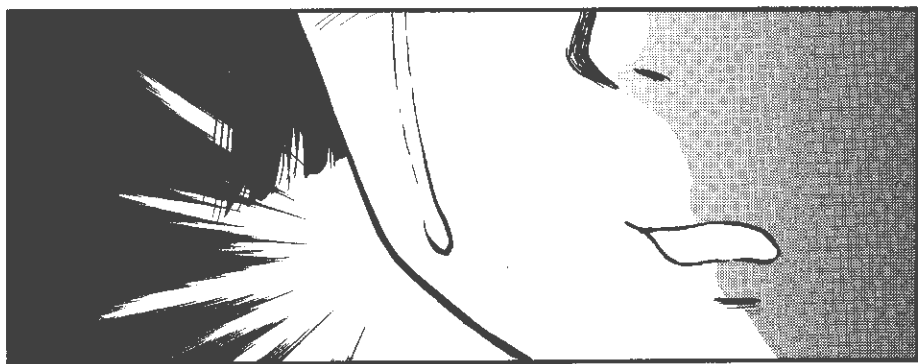
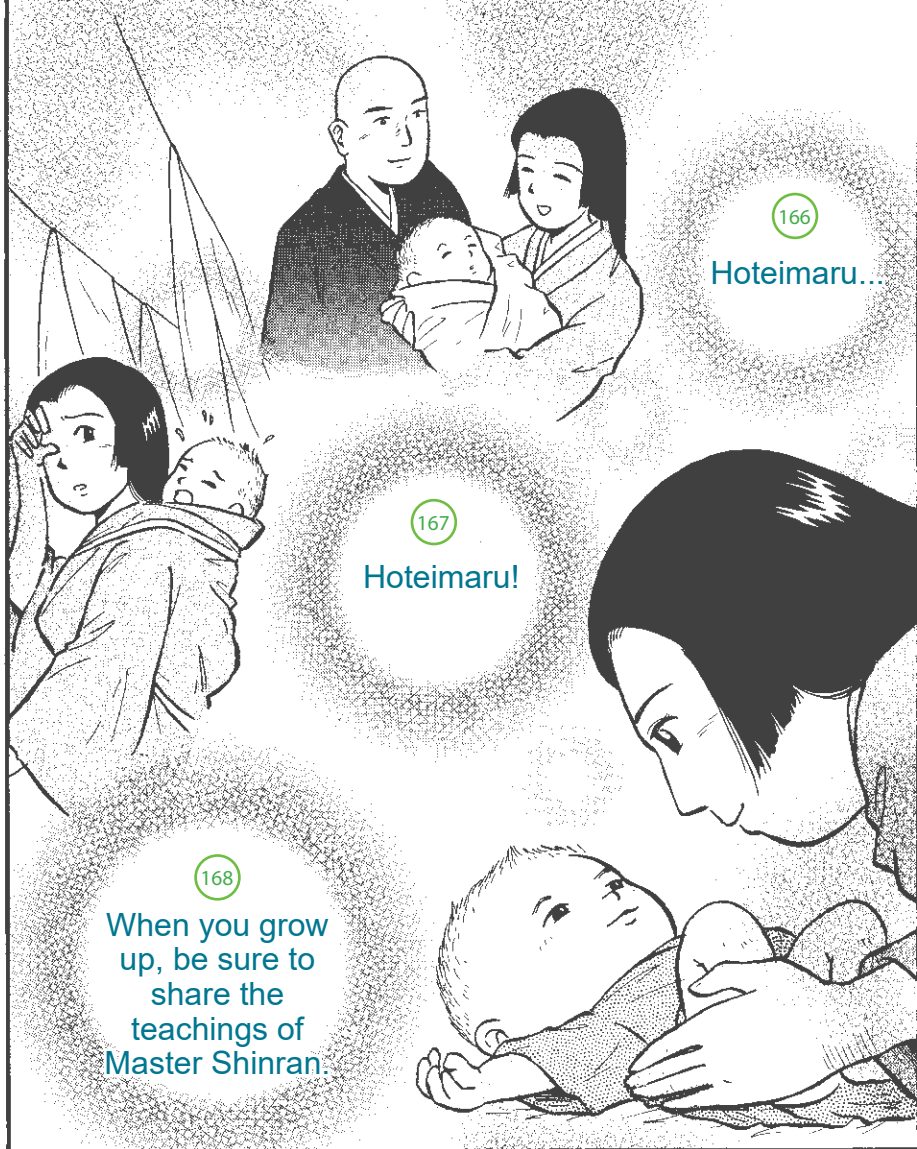
In later years, Master Rennyō tracked down this painter, who had a copy of the picture that Master Rennyō's mother had requested to be drawn.

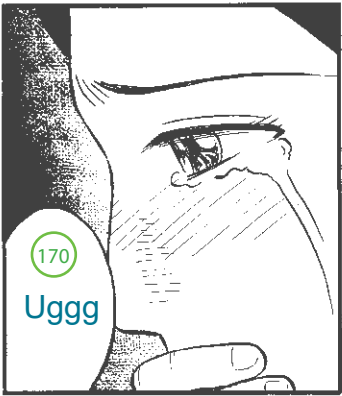
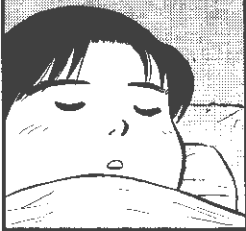
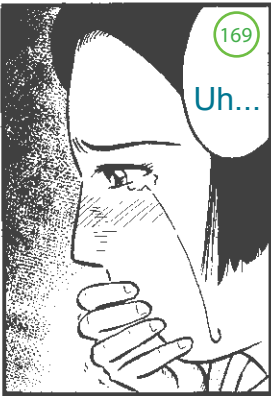


162

To this date, this picture has been passed down as "Kanokono-goei," the portrait (of Master Rennyō) with Kanoko clothes on.







172

On December 28
at the close of the
year,

173

Master Rennyō's
mother vanished
from the temple,
leaving her own
son behind while
he was sound
asleep,

174

Without telling anyone,
she went out from the
back door and trotted
along

175

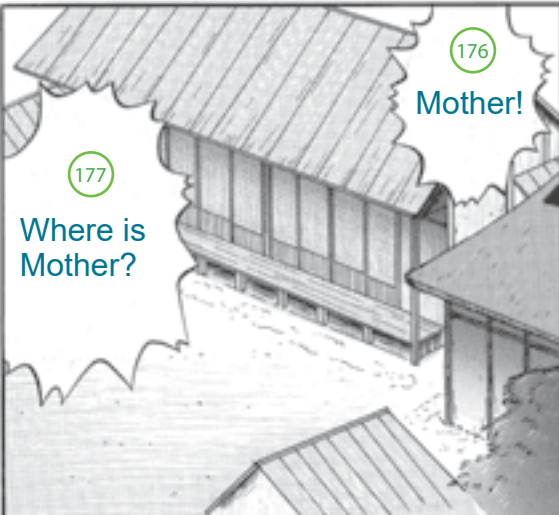
into the darkness,
embracing the portrait
of Hoteimaru,

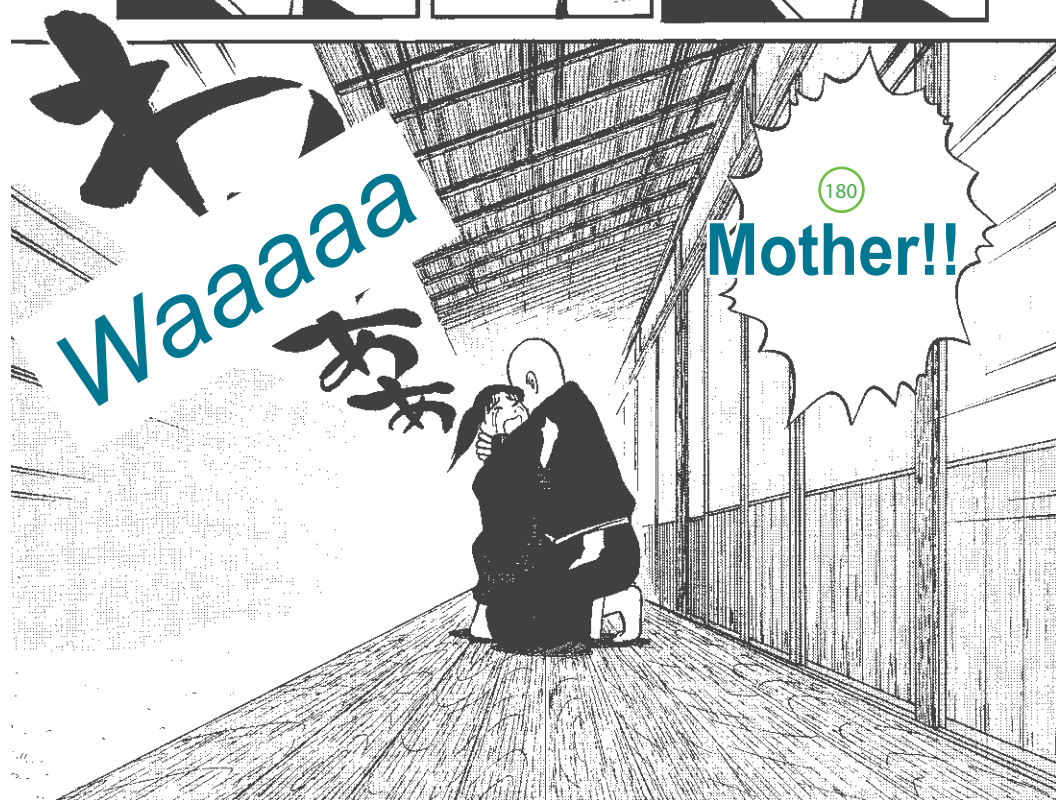
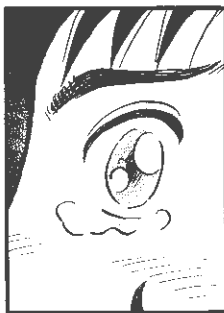
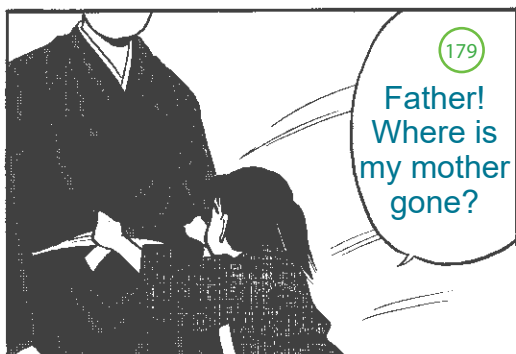
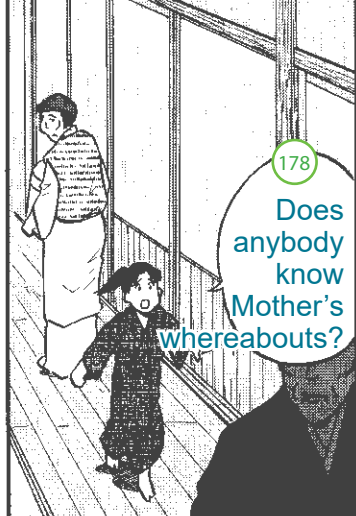
176

Mother!

177

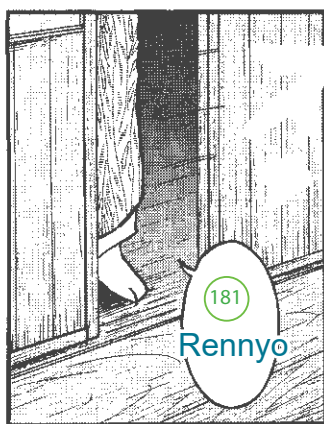
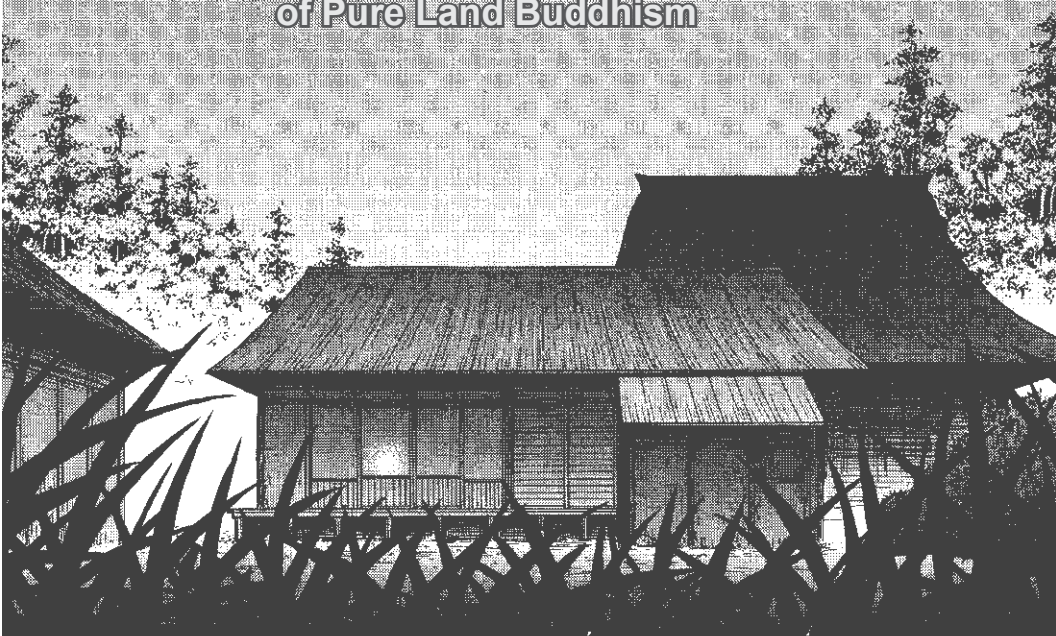
Where is
Mother?

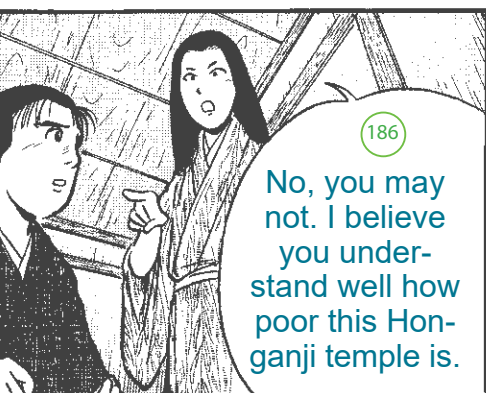
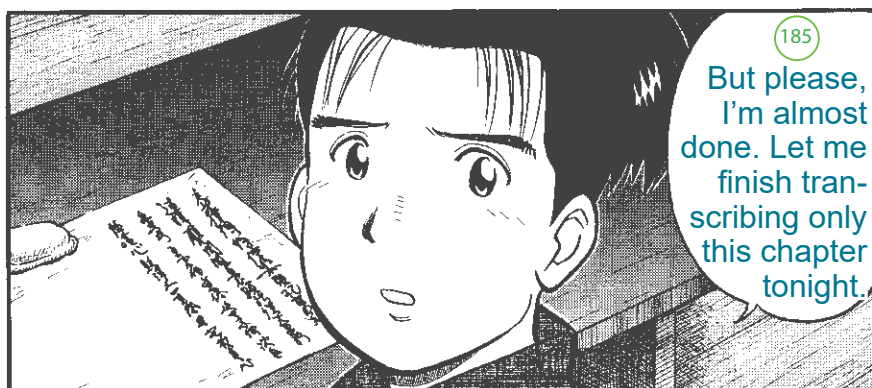
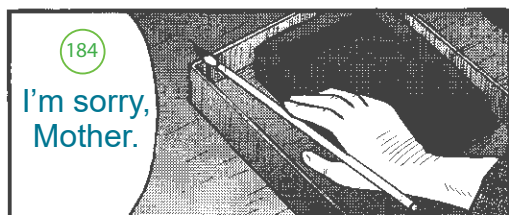
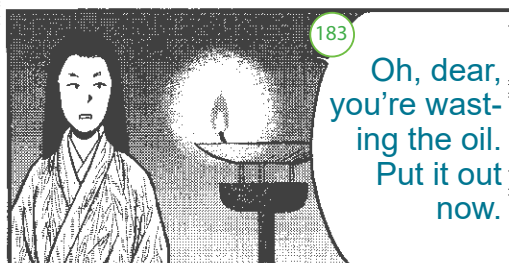
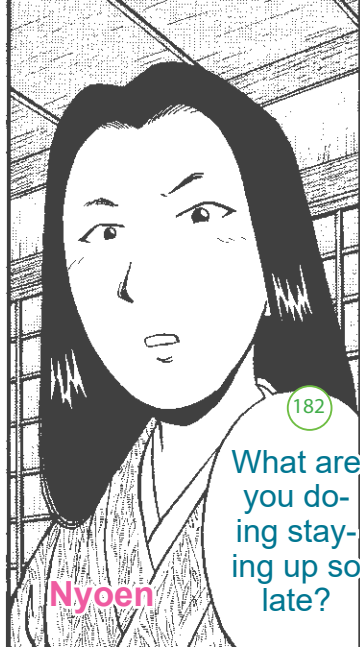


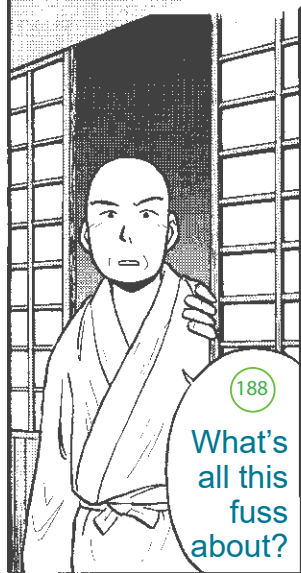


Like a Blazing Field

Part 3 Ardent Wish for the Reconstruction of Pure Land Buddhism







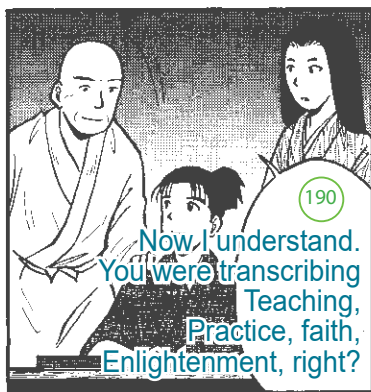
(188)

What's
all this
fuss
about?



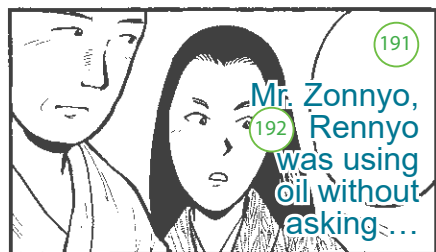
(189)

Oh,



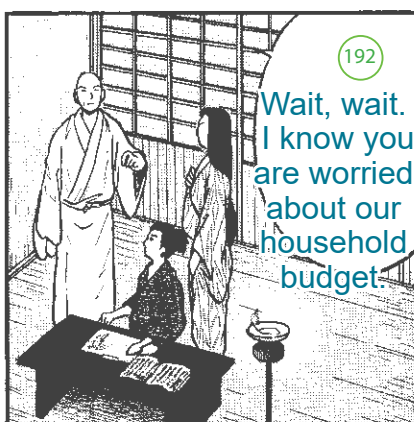
(190)

Now I understand.
You were transcribing
Teaching,
Practice, faith,
Enlightenment, right?



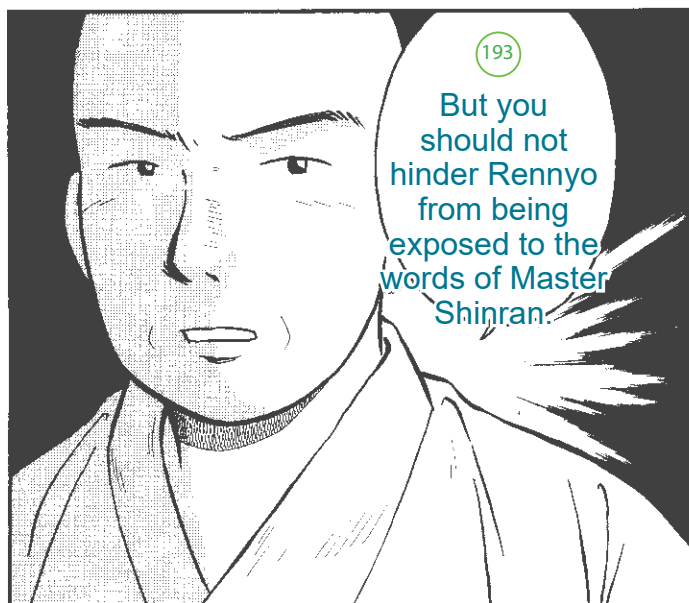
(191)

Mr. Zonnyo,
Rennyō
was using
oil without
asking...



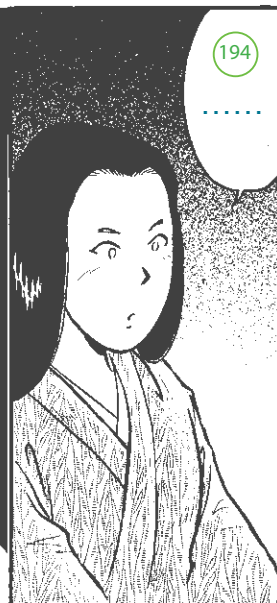
(192)

Wait, wait.
I know you
are worried
about our
household
budget.



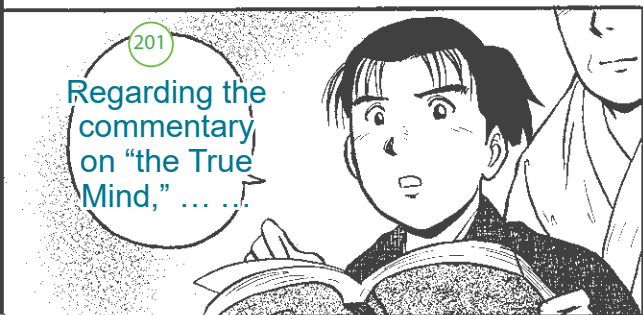
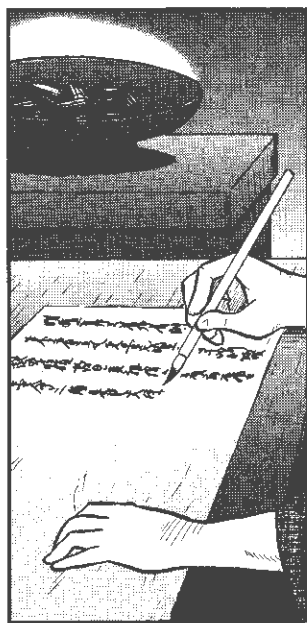
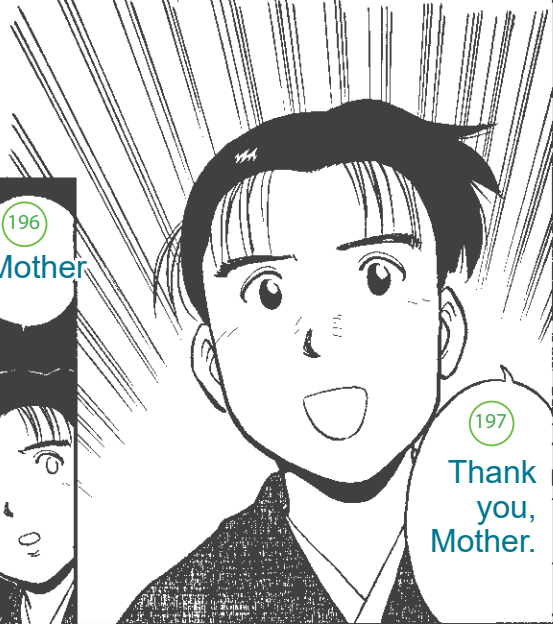
(193)

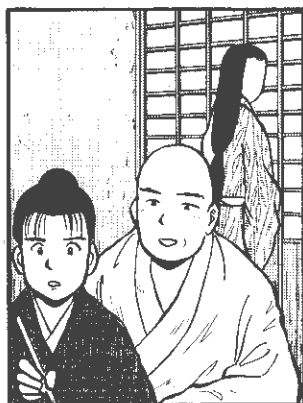
But you
should not
hinder Rennyō
from being
exposed to the
words of Master
Shinran.



(194)

.....





202

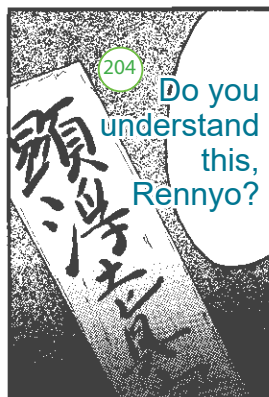
Nyoen was the legal wife of Master Zonnyo. She entered Honganji when Master Rennyō was 7 years old.

203

The presence of Master Rennyō, who became her son-in-law, must have caused some ill humor in her.

204

Do you understand this, Rennyō?

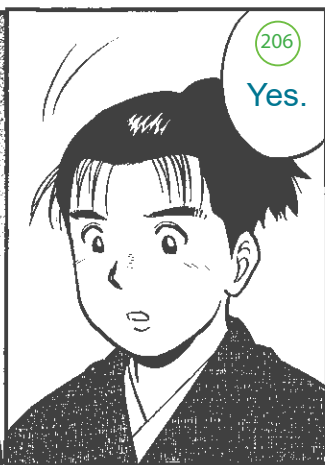
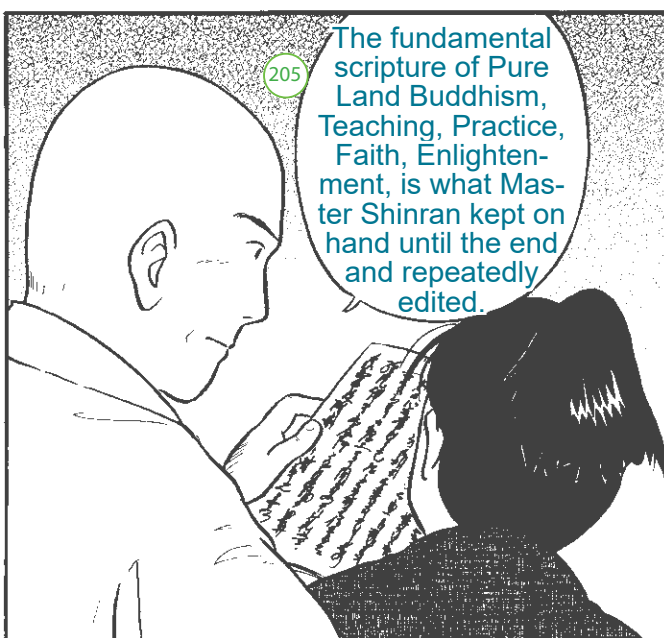


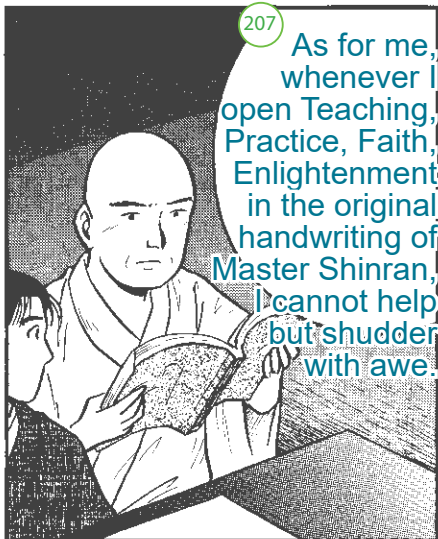
205

The fundamental scripture of Pure Land Buddhism, Teaching, Practice, Faith, Enlightenment, is what Master Shinran kept on hand until the end and repeatedly edited.

206

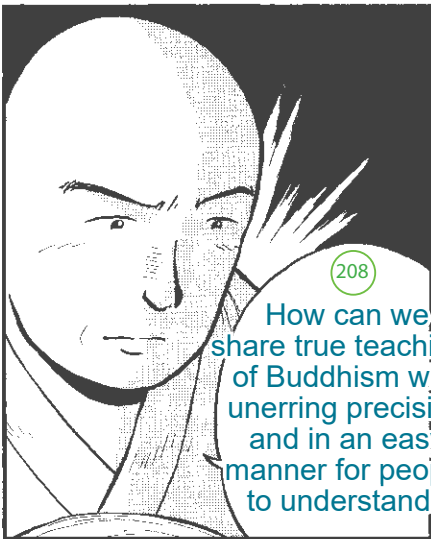
Yes.





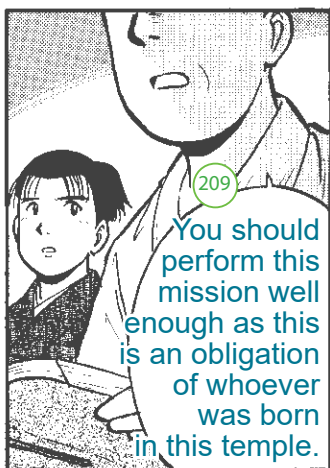
207

As for me,
whenever I
open Teaching,
Practice, Faith,
Enlightenment
in the original
handwriting of
Master Shinran,
I cannot help
but shudder
with awe.



208

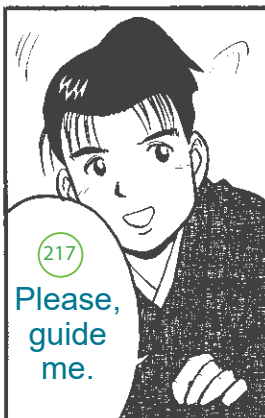
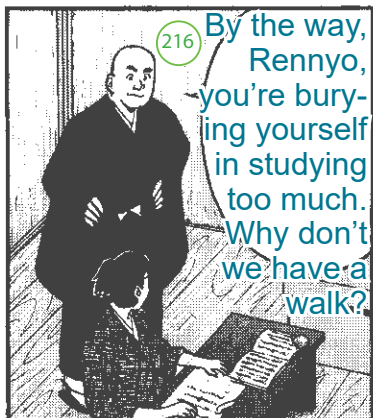
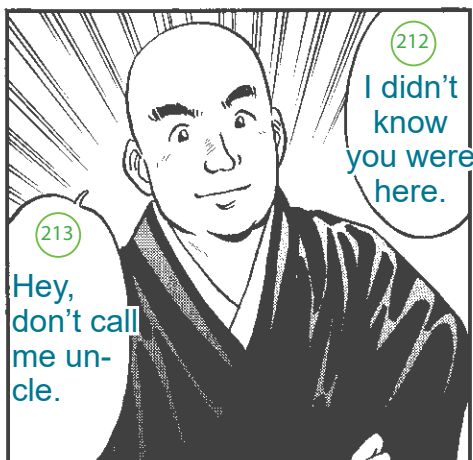
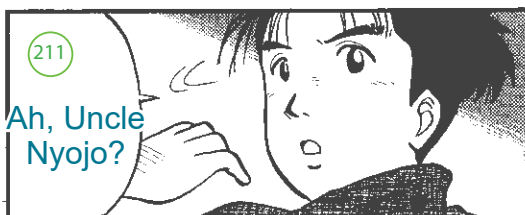
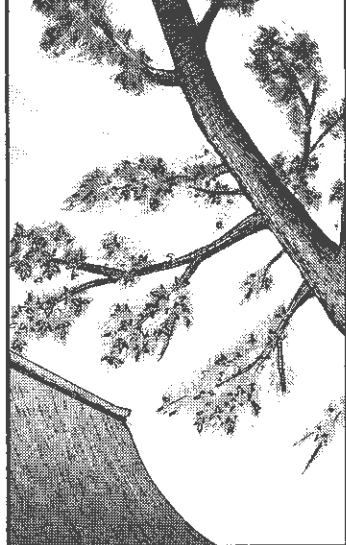
How can we
share true teachings
of Buddhism with
unerring precision
and in an easy
manner for people
to understand?

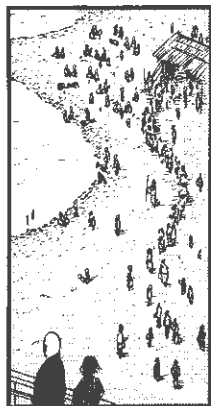
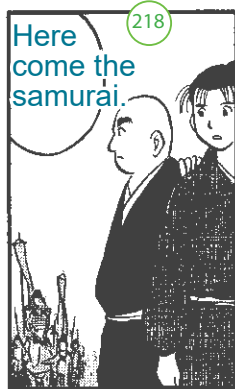
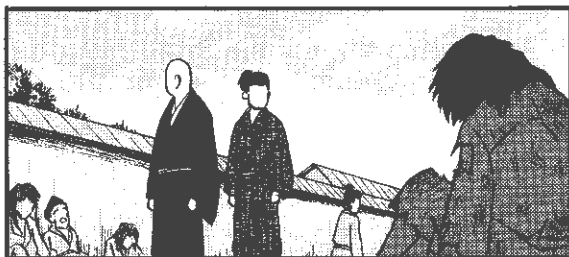
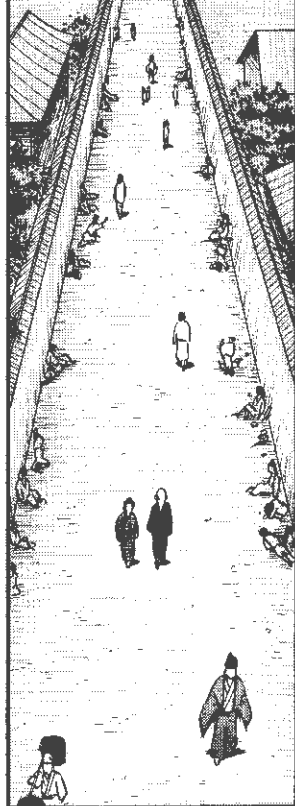


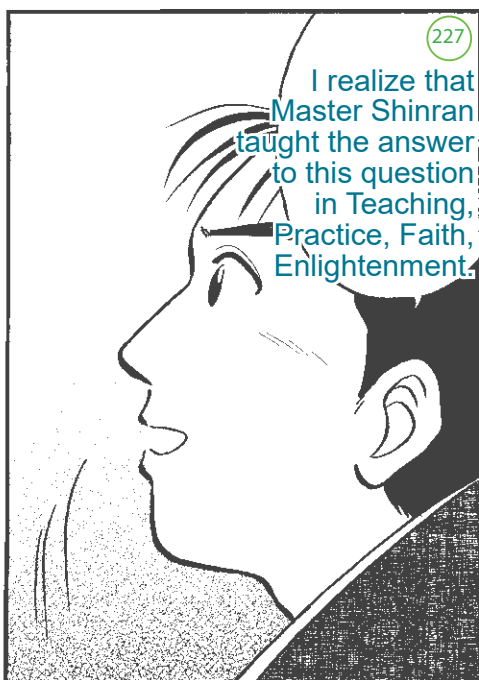
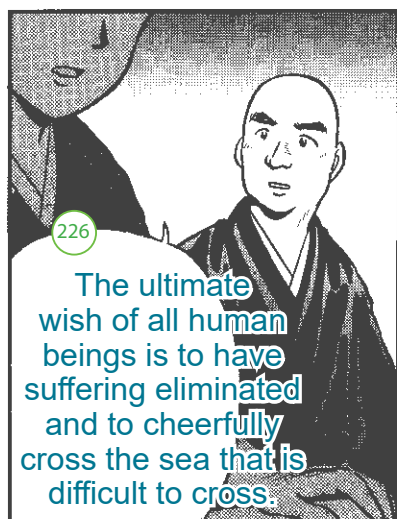
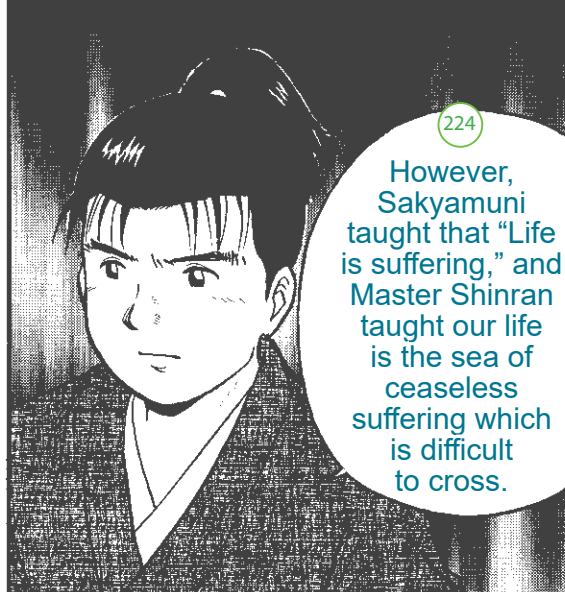
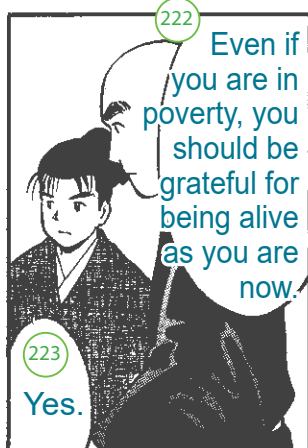
209

You should
perform this
mission well
enough as this
is an obligation
of whoever
was born
in this temple.



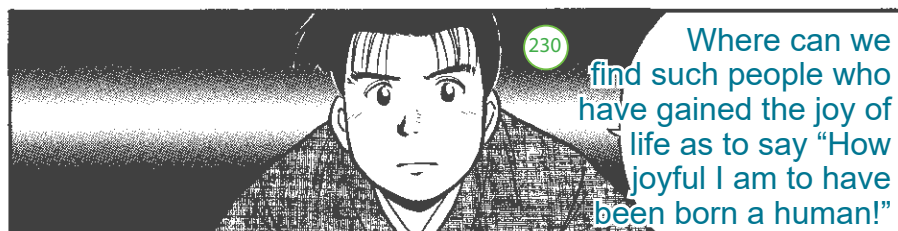


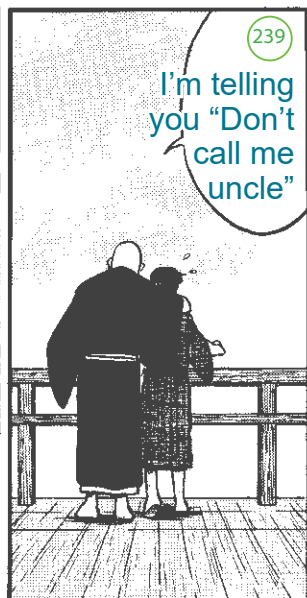
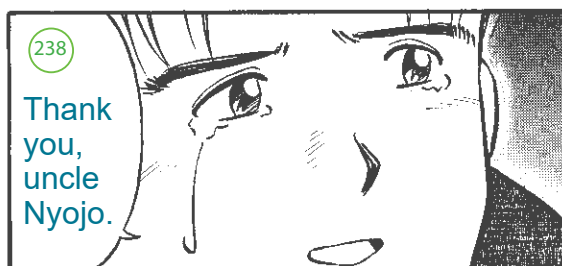
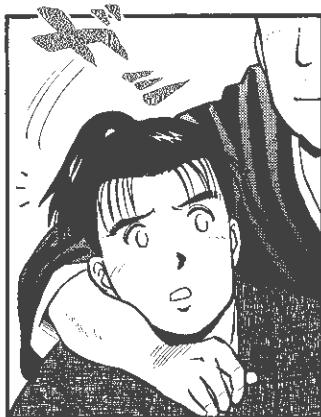
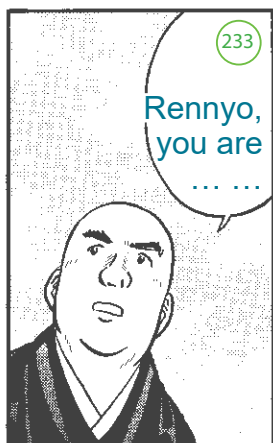


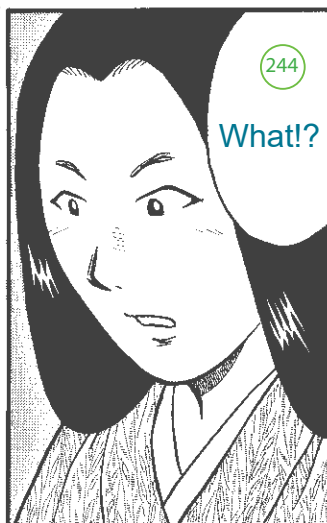
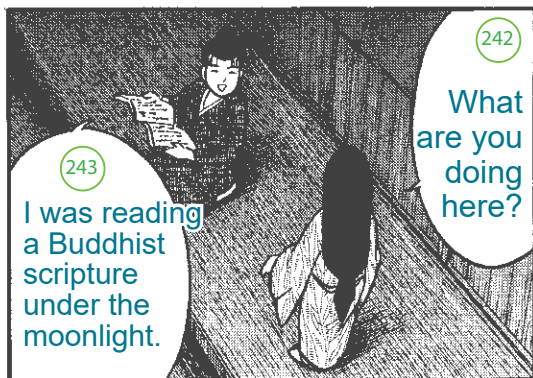
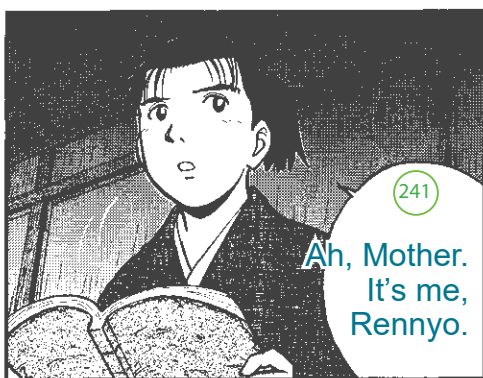
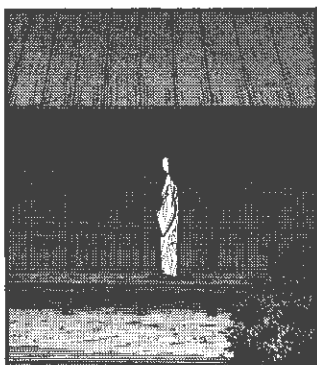


228 Amida's inconceivable Vow is a great ship that carries us across the sea that is difficult to cross. And his unimpeded light is the sun of wisdom that destroys the mind of darkness.

229 Amida's Vow to save all beings is a great ship on which all are borne cheerfully and happily across life's sea of endless waves of tribulation. Humans were born and are living in order to board this ship and live in eternal happiness.

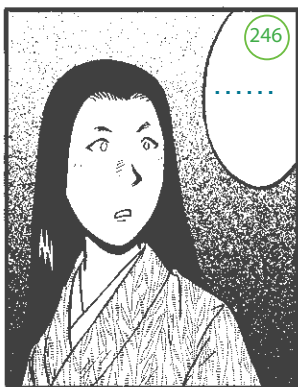




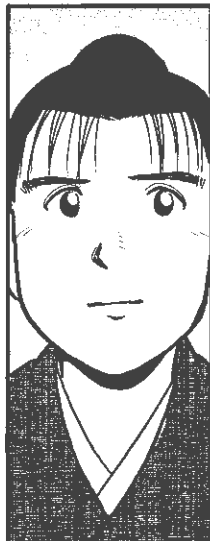


(245)

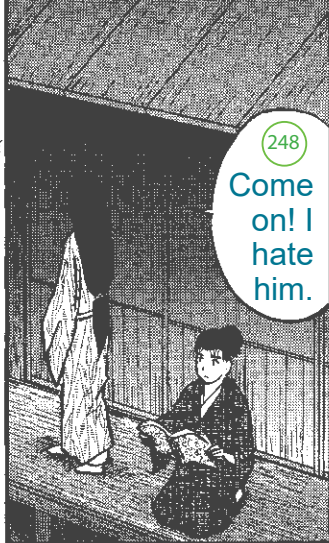
Look, it's a beautiful full moon tonight.
I can read books without using charcoals.



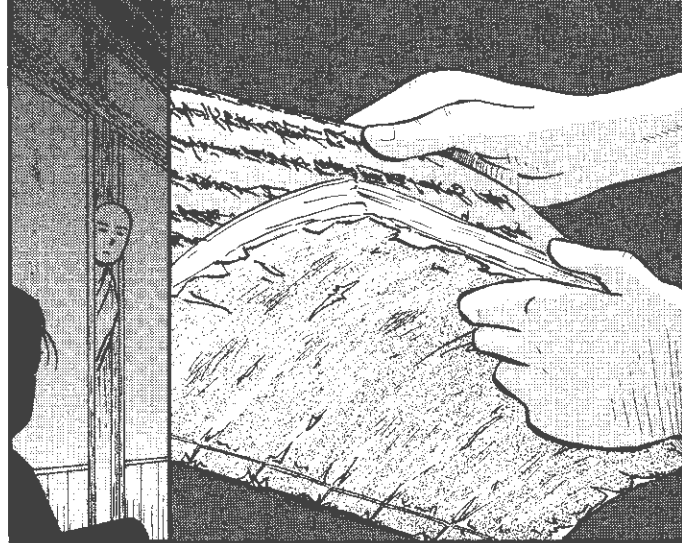
(246)



(247)



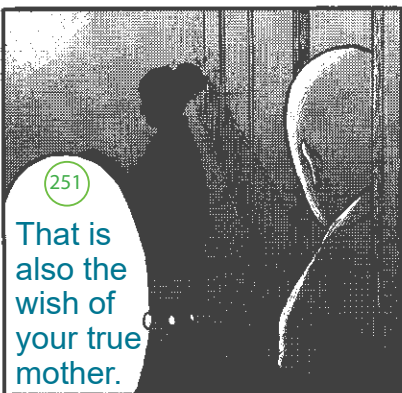
(248)
Come on! I hate him.



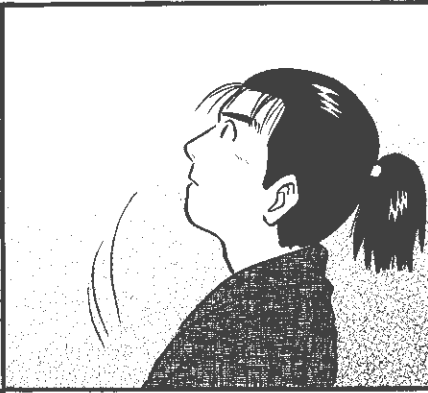
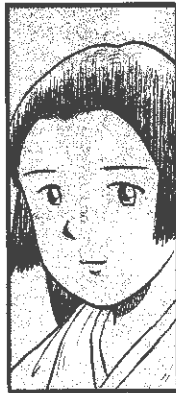
(249)
He has read this until the cover is torn ...

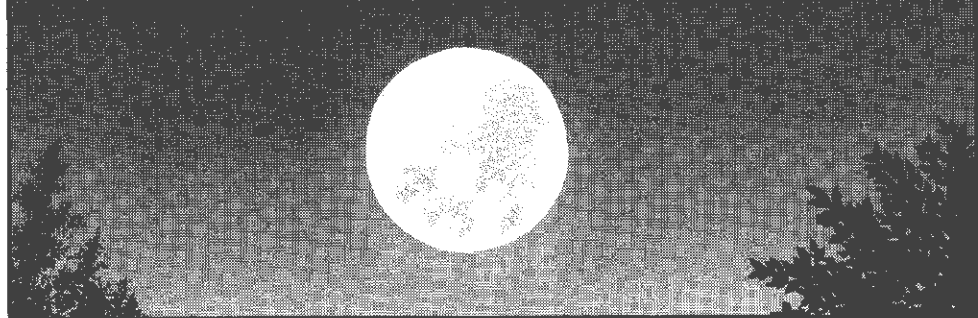
(250)

Listen Rennyō.
Be sure to convey the teachings of Master Shinran without adding any of your own idea, as if transferring a bowl of water to another bowl.



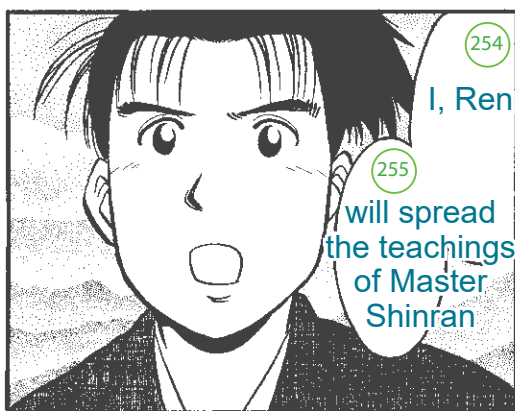
(251)
That is also the wish of your true mother.





252

Master!



257

Master Rennyo firmly
pledged to revitalize Pure
Land Buddhism in spring at
the age of 15.

256

all over
Japan within
my lifetime.

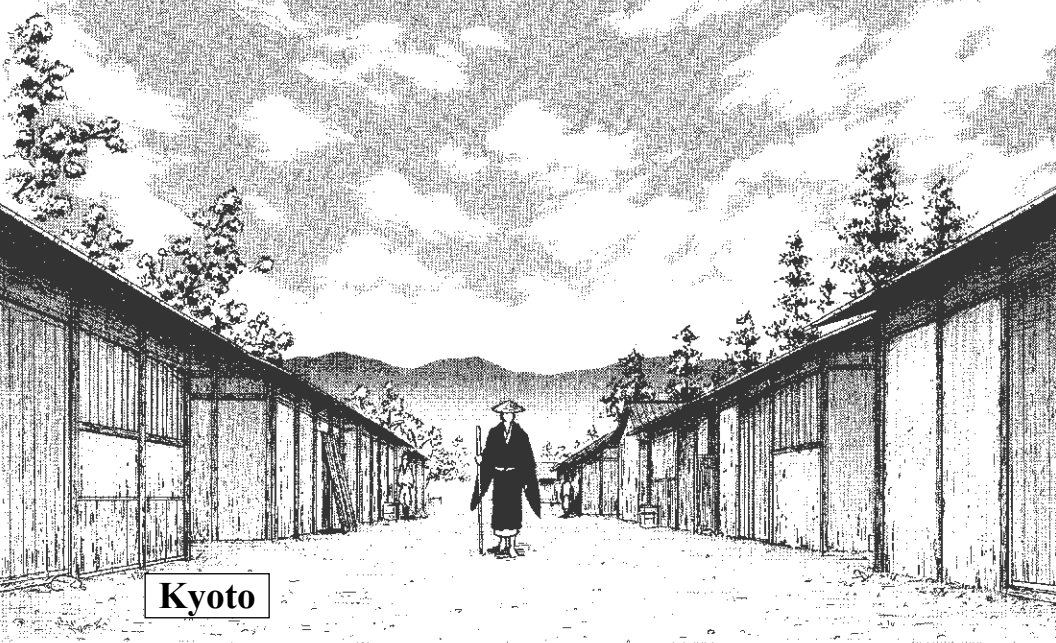


to be continued

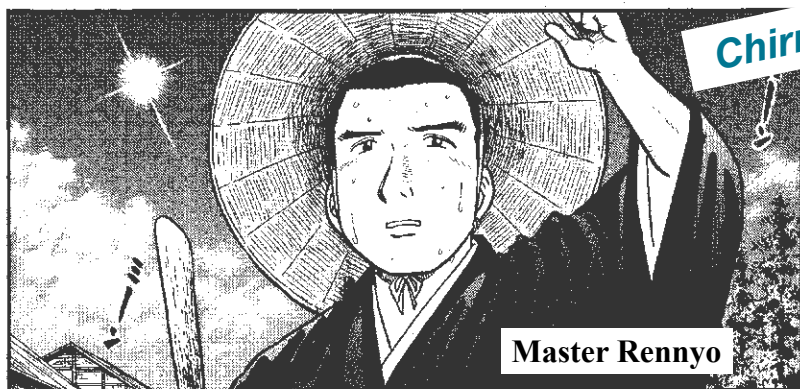
Like a Blazing Field

Part 4 57

To the province of the Lake

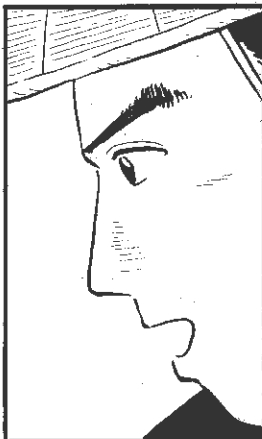
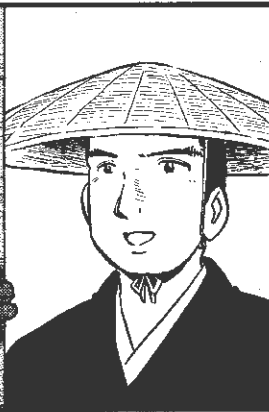
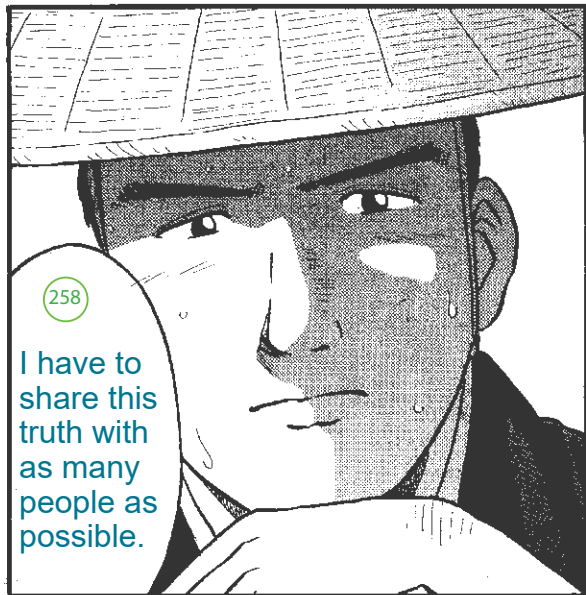
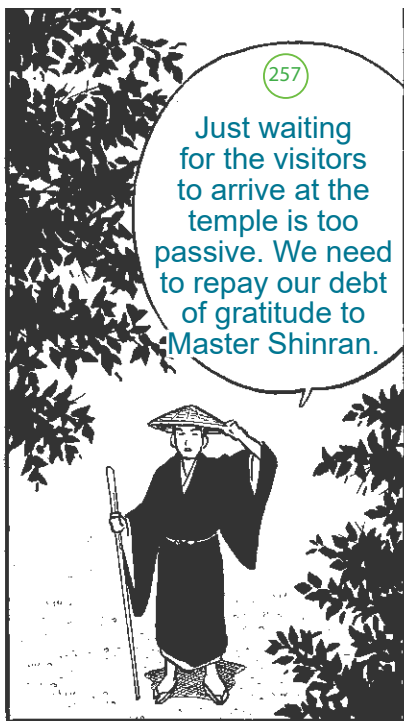


Kyoto



Chirrrp

Master Rennyō





260

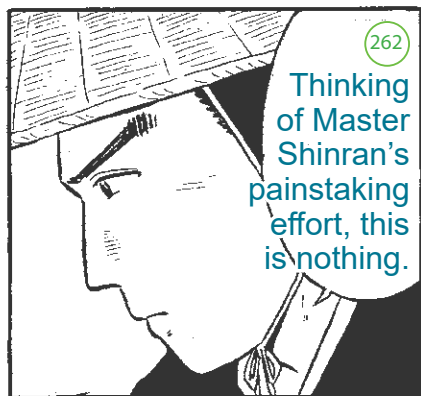
Off
you
go!



Bam

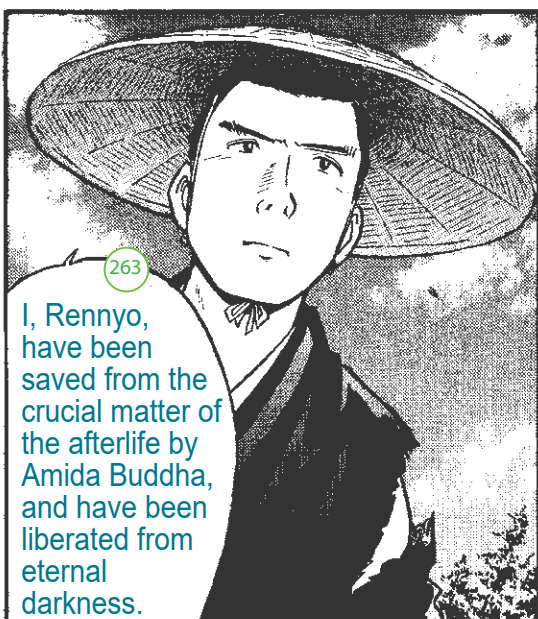


261



262

Thinking
of Master
Shinran's
painstaking
effort, this
is nothing.



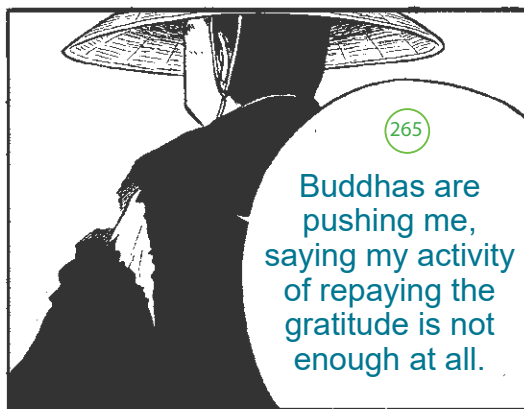
263

I, Rennyō,
have been
saved from the
crucial matter of
the afterlife by
Amida Buddha,
and have been
liberated from
eternal
darkness.



264

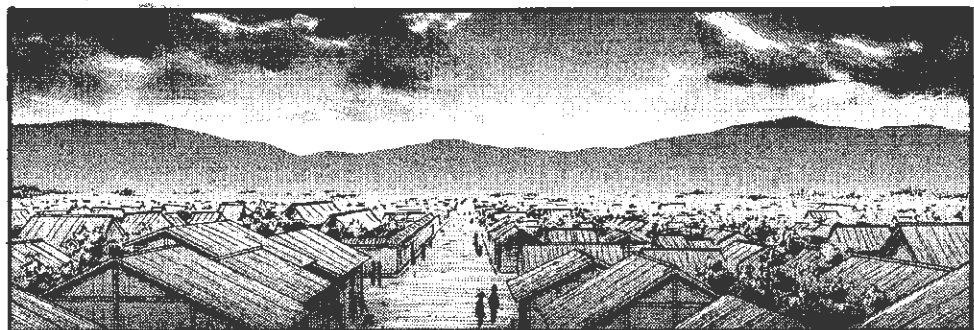
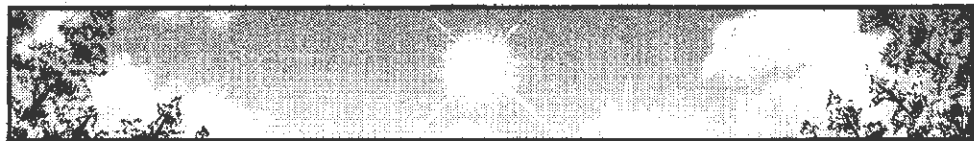
It would not be enough if I wear myself to bits and work myself to bones to repay my debt of gratitude.



Buddhas are pushing me, saying my activity of repaying the gratitude is not enough at all.

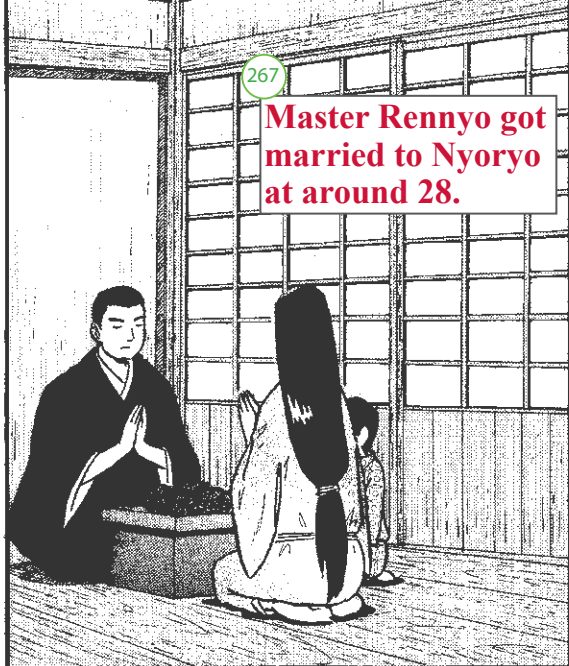


I appreciate that.



267

Master Rennyō got married to Nyoryō at around 28.

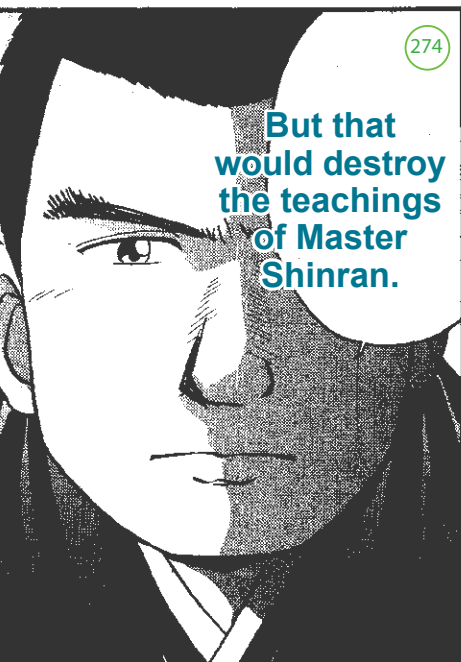
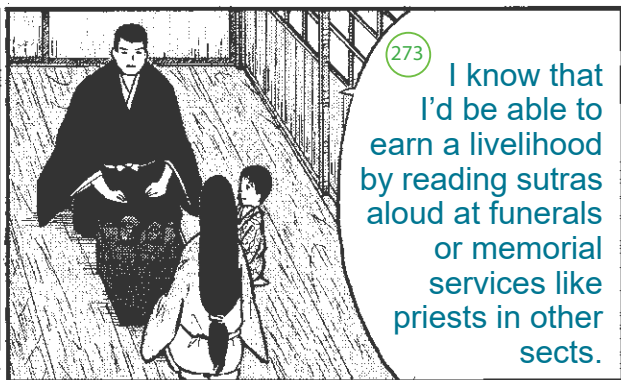
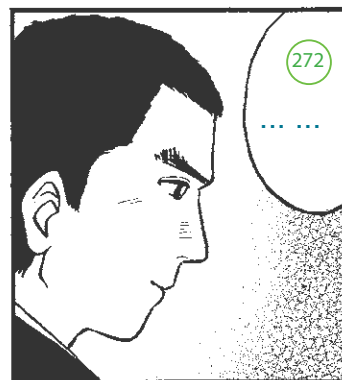
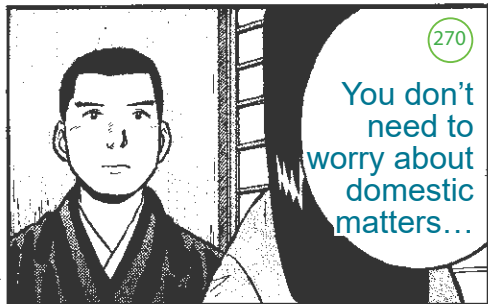
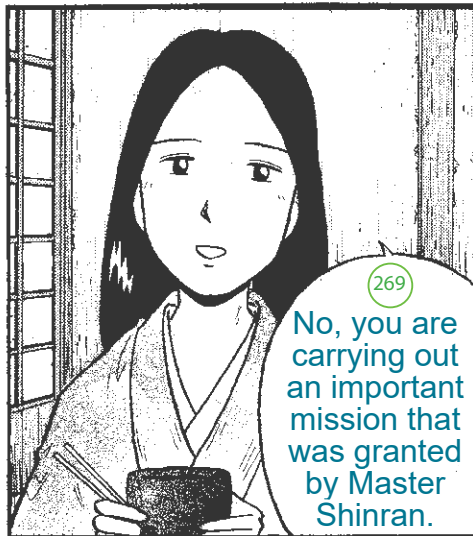


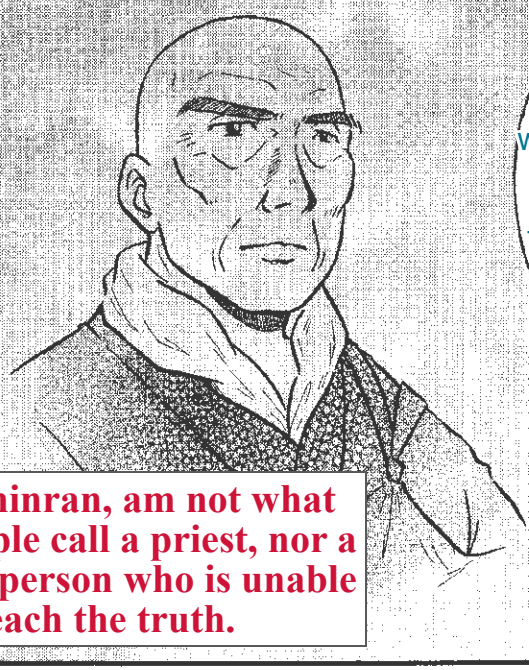
Nyoryō



268

I'm sorry that I can't offer you sufficient food.



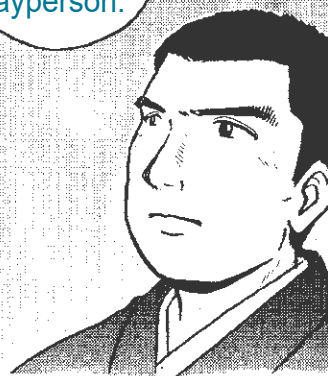


277

Master Shinran clearly wrote in Teaching, Practice, Faith, Enlightenment that he is neither a priest nor a layperson.

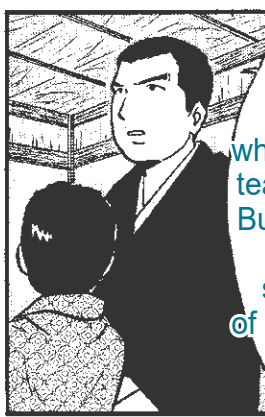
276

I. Shinran, am not what people call a priest, nor a layzperson who is unable to teach the truth.



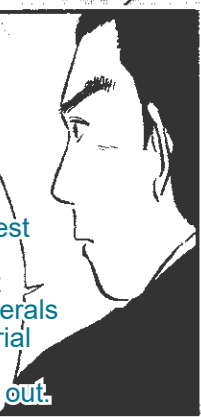
278

A real priest is a person who thoroughly teaches Amida Buddha's Vow, which is the sole purpose of Sakyamuni's birth in this world.



279

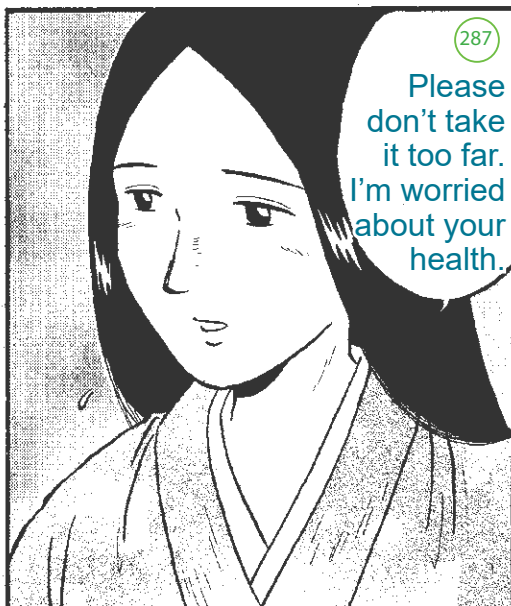
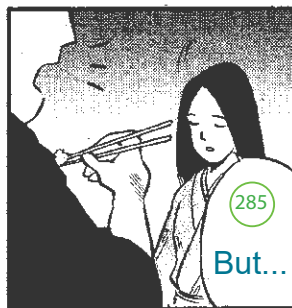
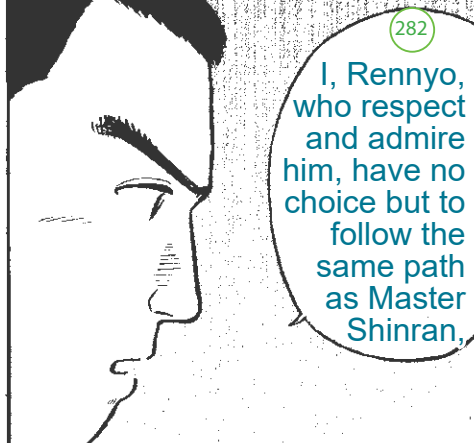
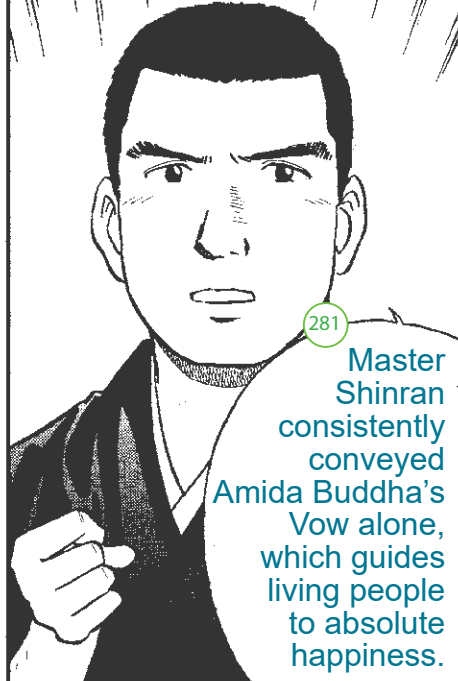
It is not a business-minded priest who does nothing but holding funerals and memorial services, day in, day out.



280

That's why Master Shinran never dealt with dead people or performed funeral or memorial services as is usual for priests.

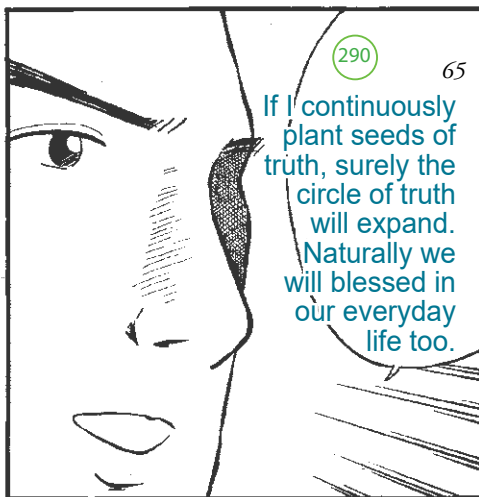






(289)

It's only a
matter of
time.



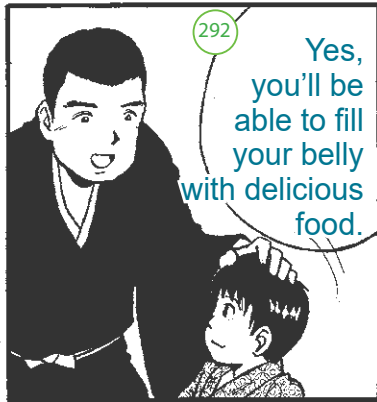
(290)

If I continuously
plant seeds of
truth, surely the
circle of truth
will expand.
Naturally we
will be blessed in
our everyday
life too.



(291)

Are we
going to have
delicious
food,
Father?



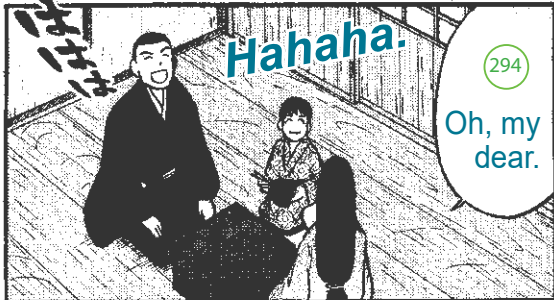
(292)

Yes,
you'll be
able to fill
your belly
with delicious
food.



(293)

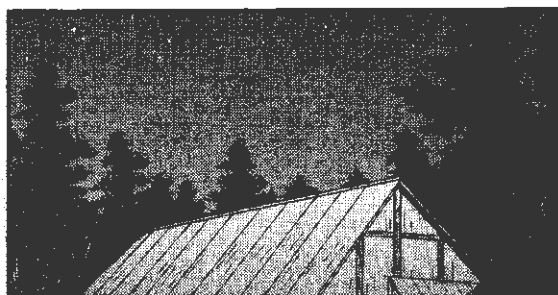
Really?
I can't
wait for
it.

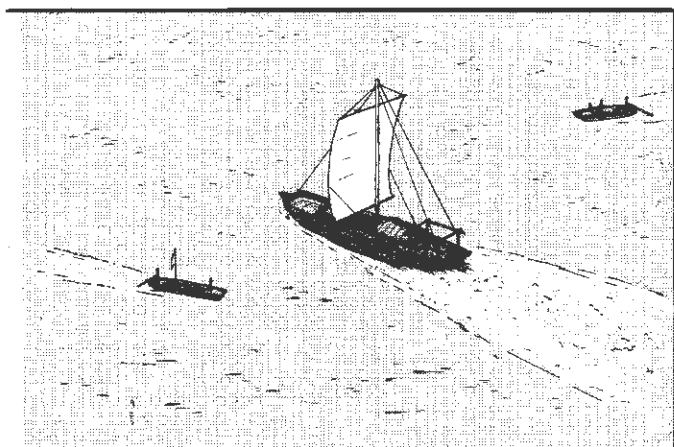
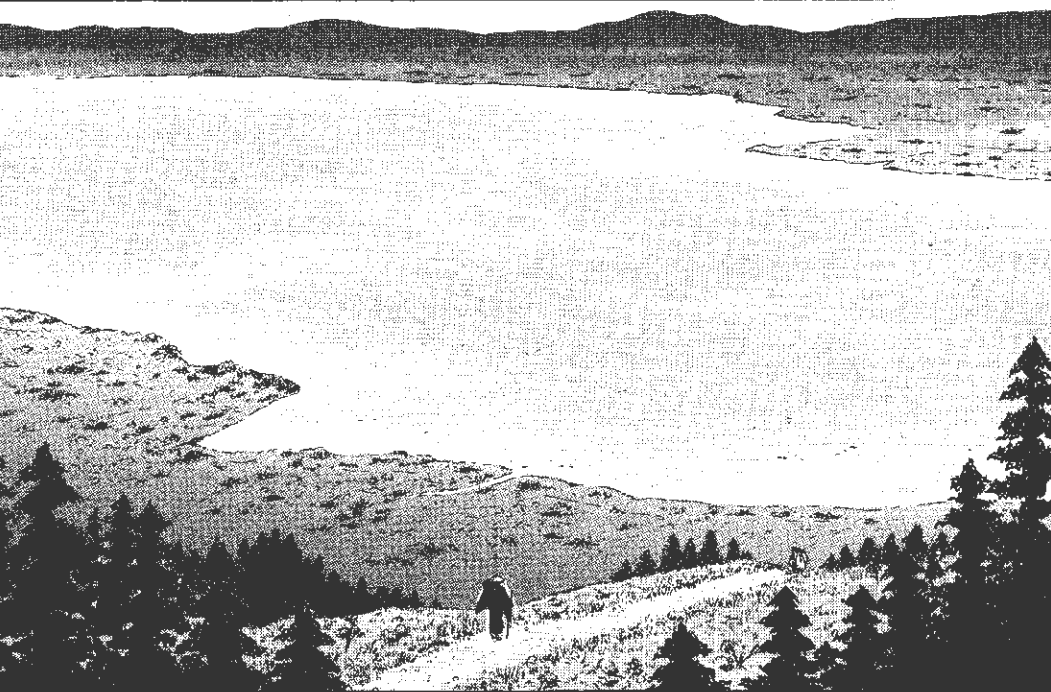
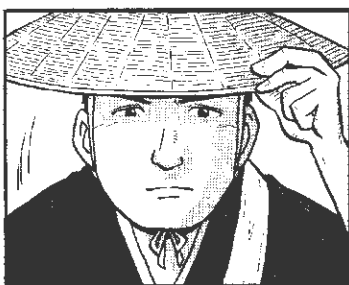
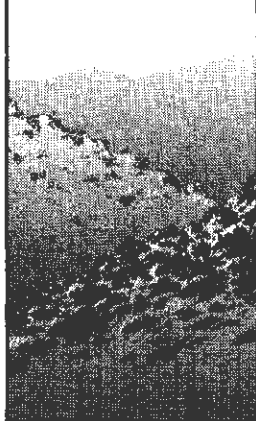


Hahaha.

(294)

Oh, my
dear.





296

If we compare
all the people
in Japan to the
water of Lake
Biwa...

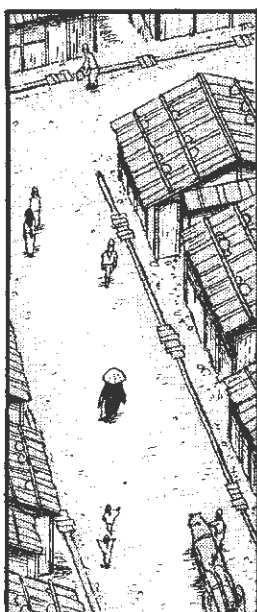
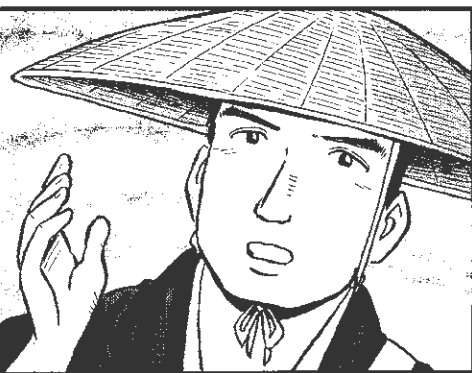


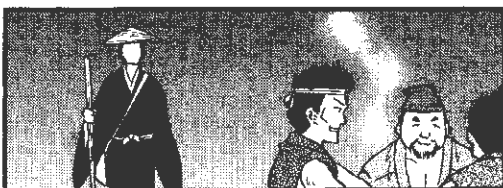
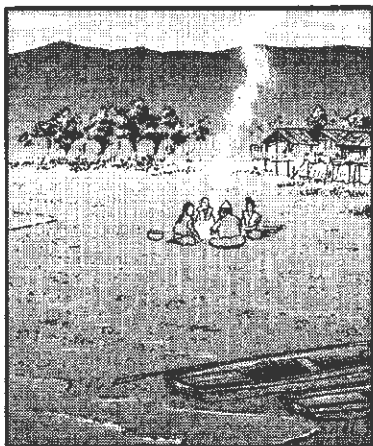
297

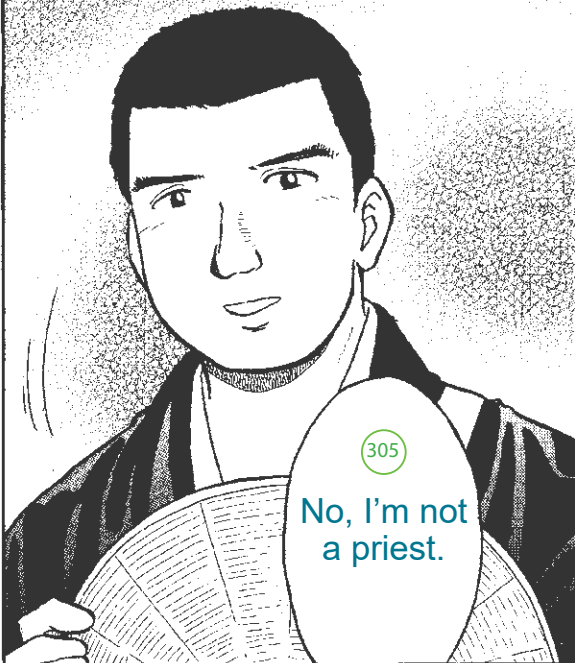
Then those
who have
already
encountered
the teachings
of Master Shinran
might be less
than the
water in a
small bowl.

298

I must
share the truth
that has been
revealed to
me.







305

No, I'm not a priest.



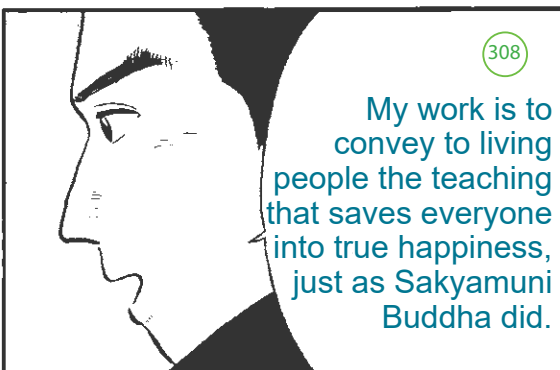
306

Hm? Now that you mention it...



307

You look strange.



308

My work is to convey to living people the teaching that saves everyone into true happiness, just as Sakyamuni Buddha did.



309

I don't deal with dead people.

54

You sound all the more strange.



310

But Buddhism would not deal with people like us who make living by killing fish, would it?

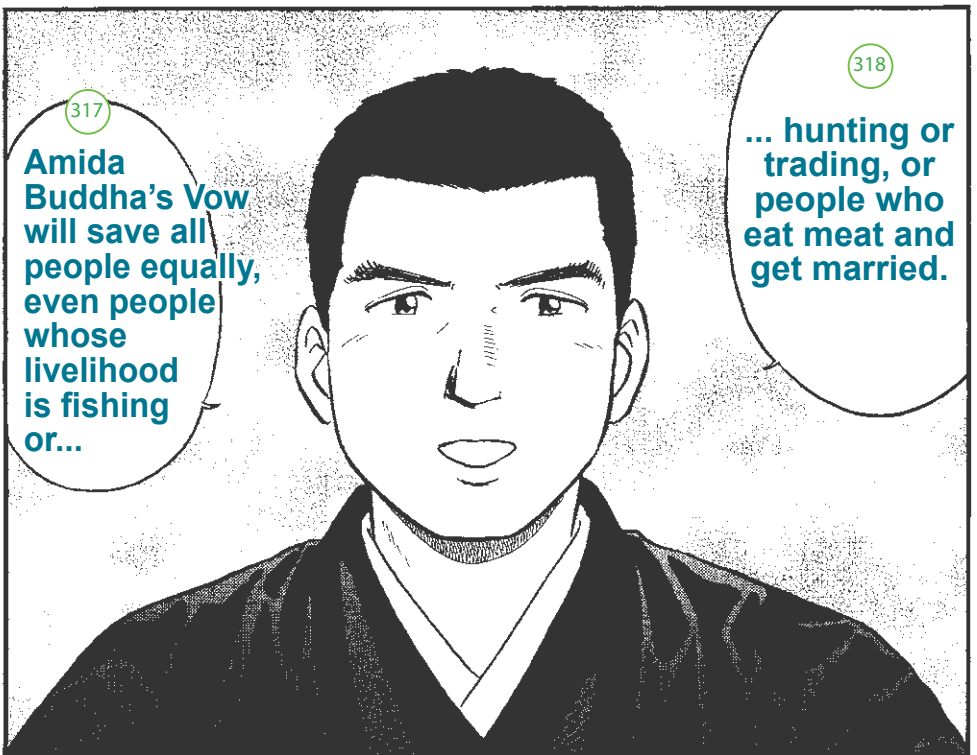


311

I heard that only those who enter a high mountain and do ascetic practices can be saved.

312

Yeah.



319

Really?

321

Well, come closer to us.

320

I've never heard such a thing.

323

I guess a priest must not eat meat or fish, right?

322

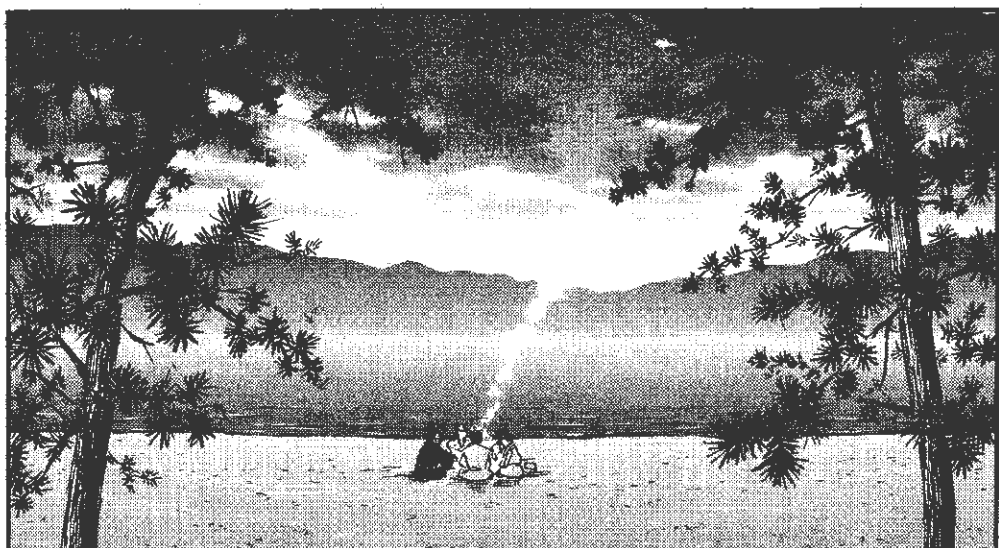
Have the fish, too.

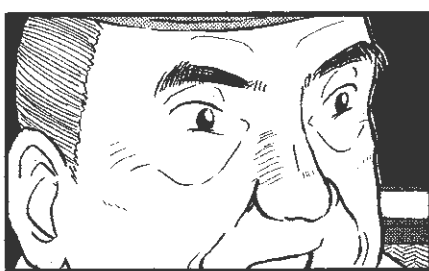
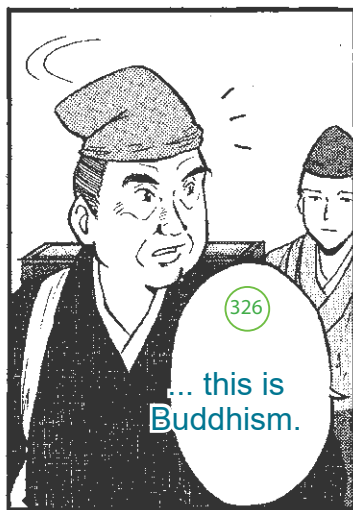
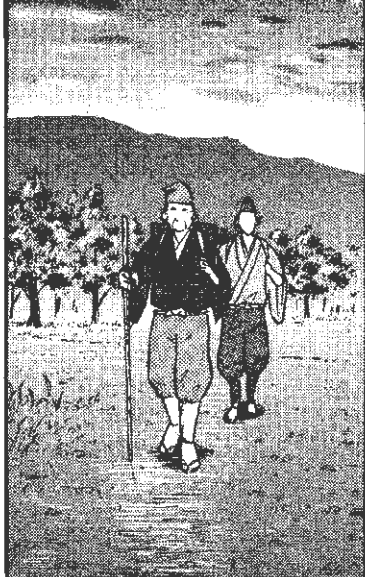
324

But he's telling us he's not a priest.

325

Oh, yeah, that's right. Anyway, let us hear more.





332

Amida Buddha, taking pity on us who are trapped in the cycle of suffering, made a Vow in which he pledged to...

333

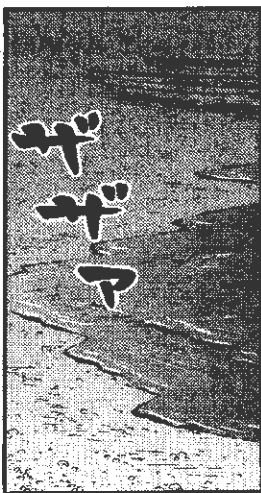
...remove our suffering, not only in this life but also in the life to come, and grant us supreme happiness.

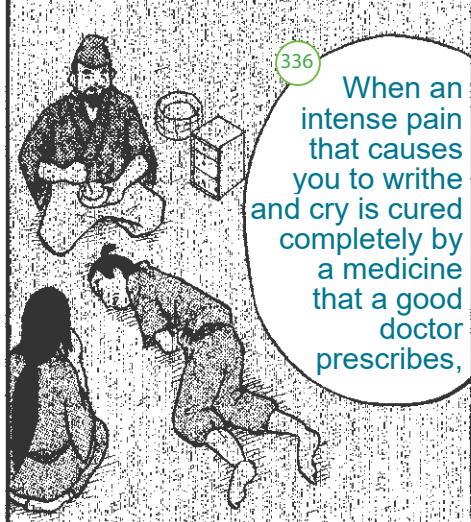
334

So we will be saved in this lifetime.

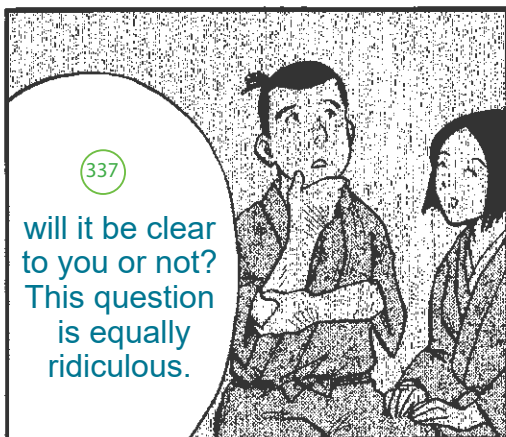
335

Isn't it ridiculous if a person who claims to be liberated from the cycle of suffering doesn't know clearly if he is saved or not?

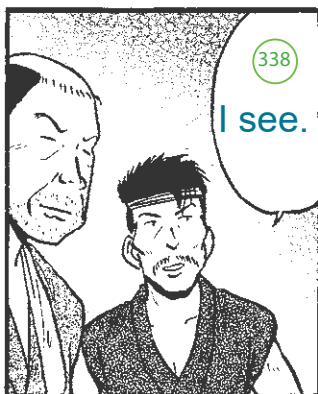




336
When an intense pain that causes you to writhe and cry is cured completely by a medicine that a good doctor prescribes,



337
will it be clear to you or not? This question is equally ridiculous.



338
I see.

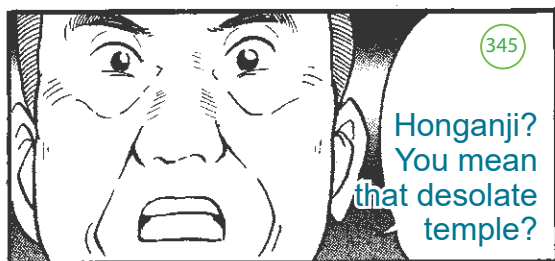
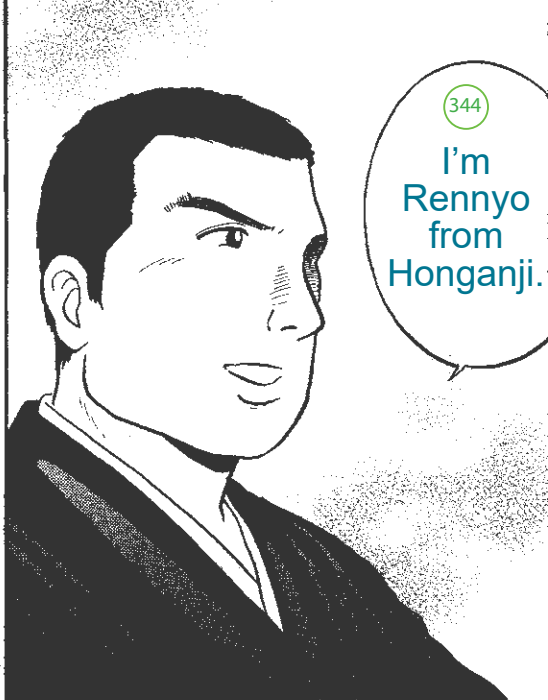
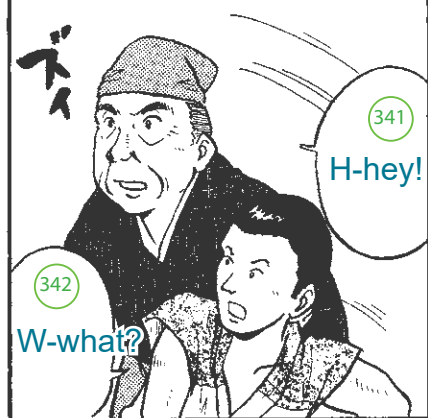


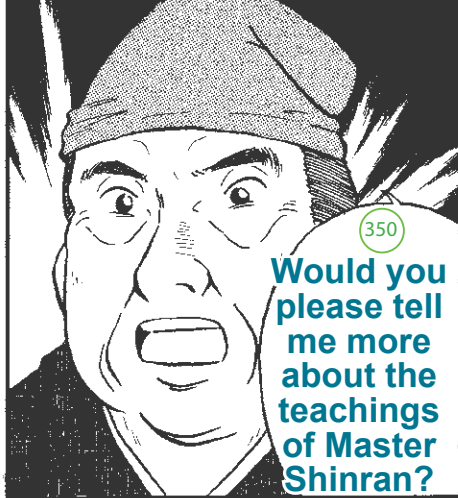
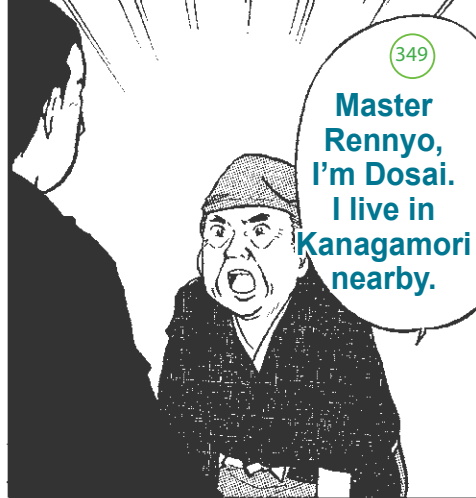
339
If you are saved, it will be clear to you.



340
At the same time, you become eager to tell people that you're saved.







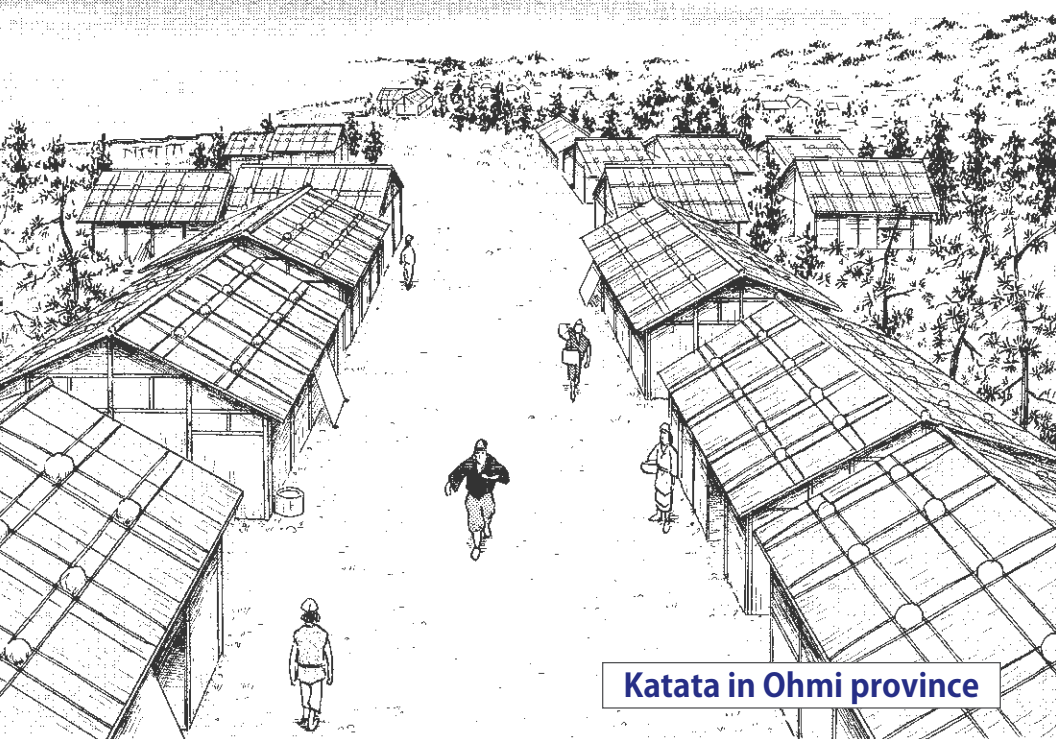
To be continued

Like a Blazing Field

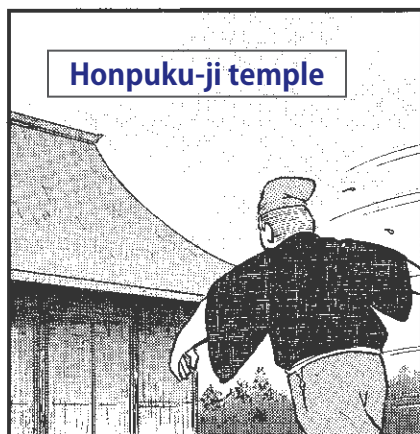
Part 5

77

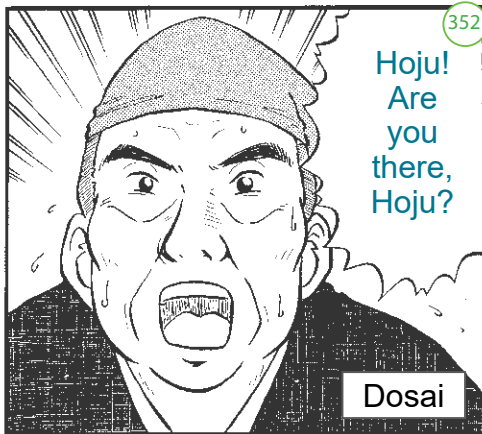
The Encounter with Hoju



Katata in Ohmi province



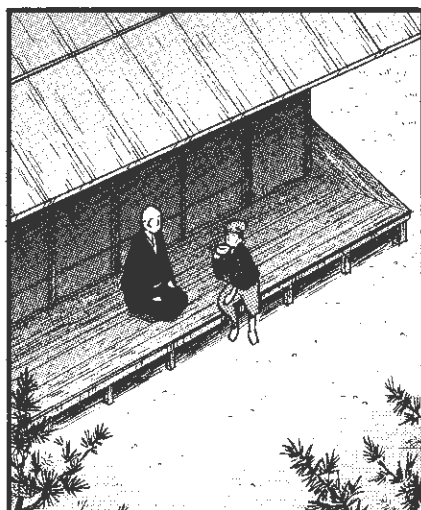
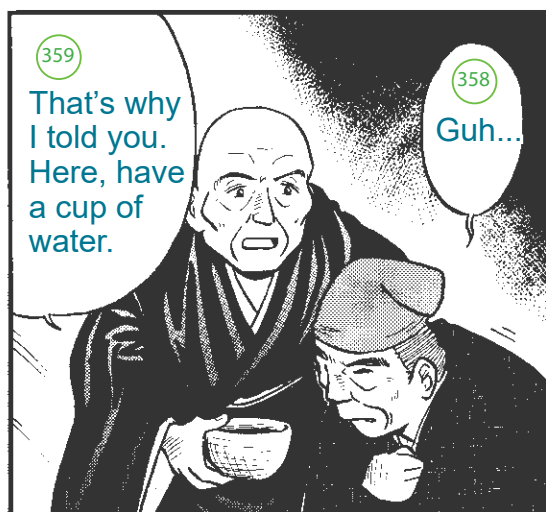
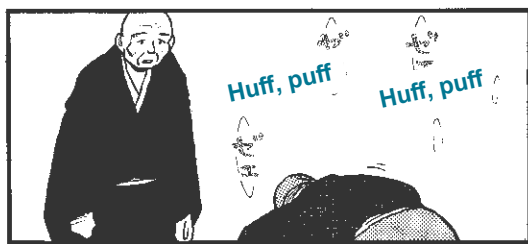
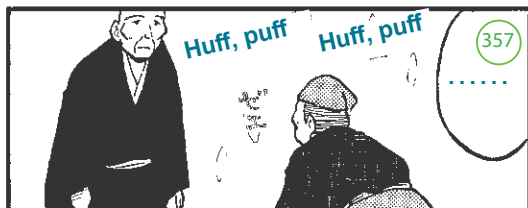
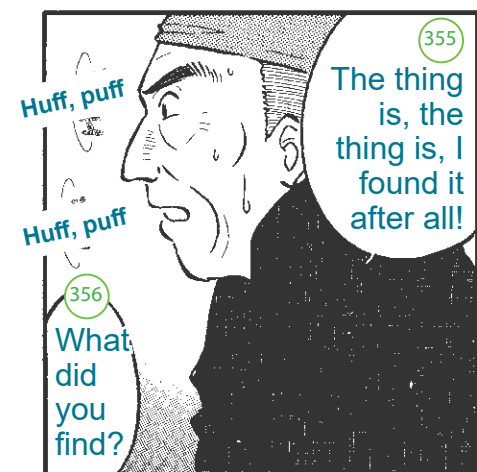
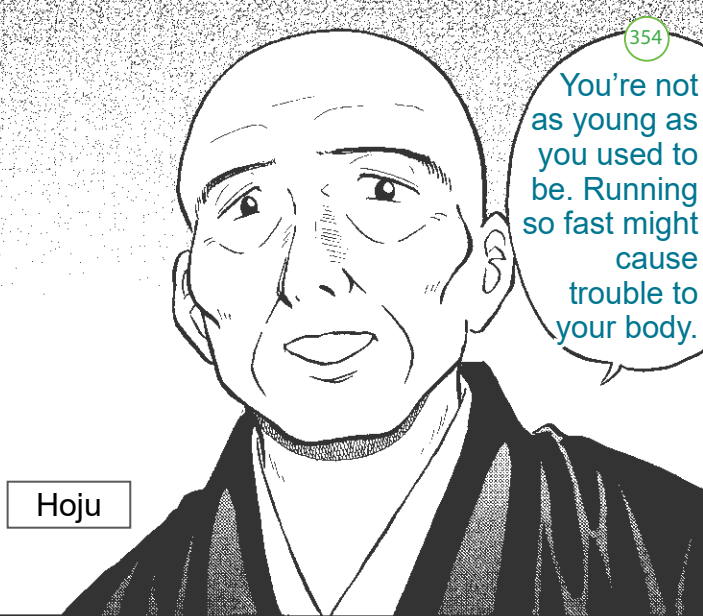
Honpuku-ji temple



Hoju!
Are
you
there,
Hoju?

Dosai

The story so far: 40 years ago, when Dosai of Kanagamori saw the dilapidation of Hongan-ji, disappointment overcame him. But he later made a fateful encounter with Master Rennyō when young Rennyō was preaching on the shore of Lake Biwa.



(360)

I've encountered the true master of Buddhism that I've been searching for.

(361)

What? Did you say "the true master of Buddhism"?

(363)

W-who is that person?

(362)

That's right. I met a monk who conveys the teachings of Master Shinran so faithfully!

(364)

Master Rennyō of Hongan-ji temple.

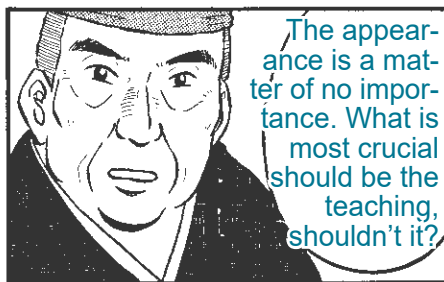
(365)

Hongan-ji temple?

(366)

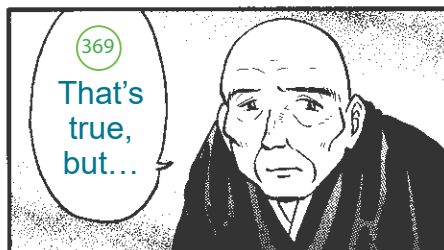
You mean that run-down temple that I invited you to visit with me 40 years ago?

367



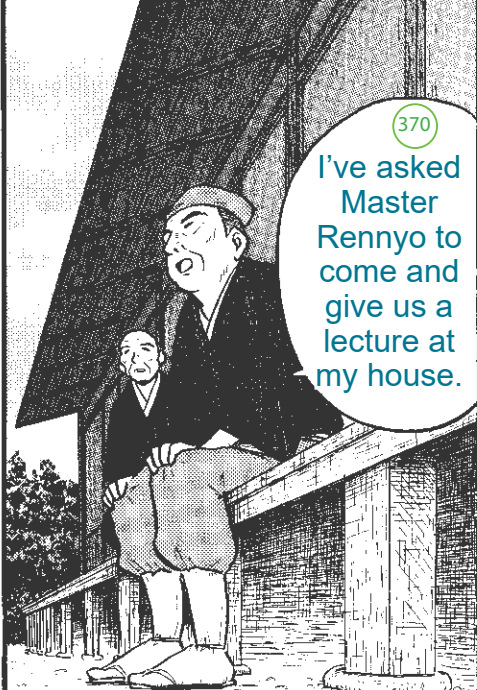
369

That's true, but...



370

I've asked Master Rennyō to come and give us a lecture at my house.



371

Now it's my turn to invite you. Just come and join us.



372

Um...

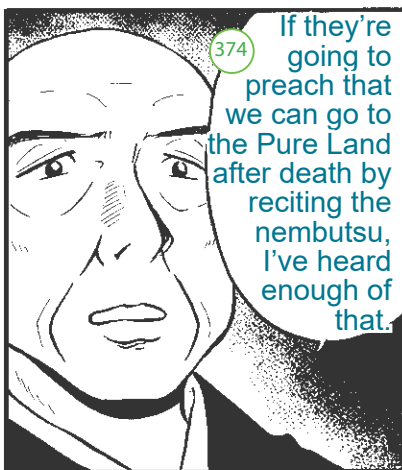
373

I'll be coming since you insist, but...



374

If they're going to preach that we can go to the Pure Land after death by reciting the nembutsu, I've heard enough of that.



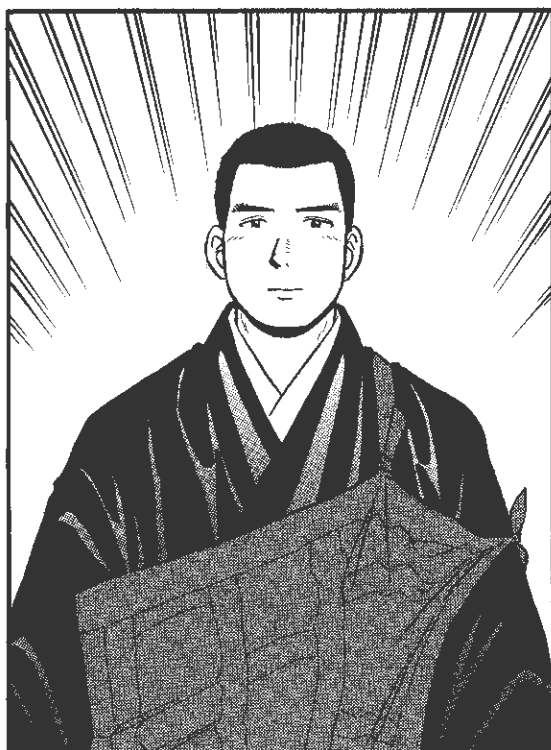
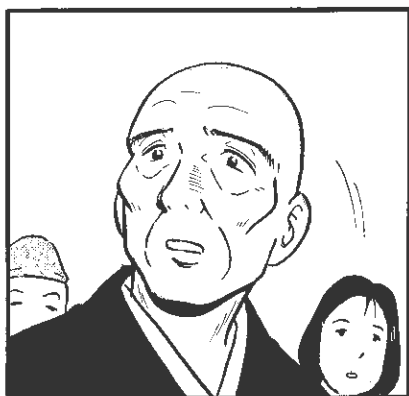
375

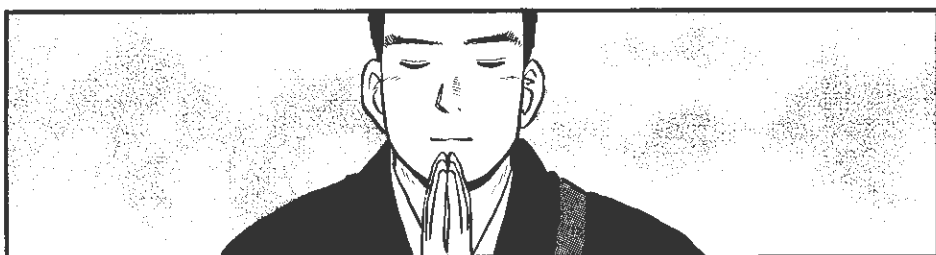
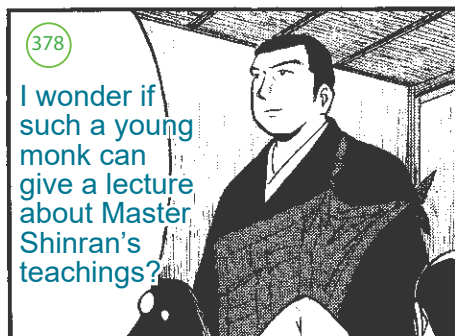
You'll find out once you come and hear. I bet you'll be astonished.



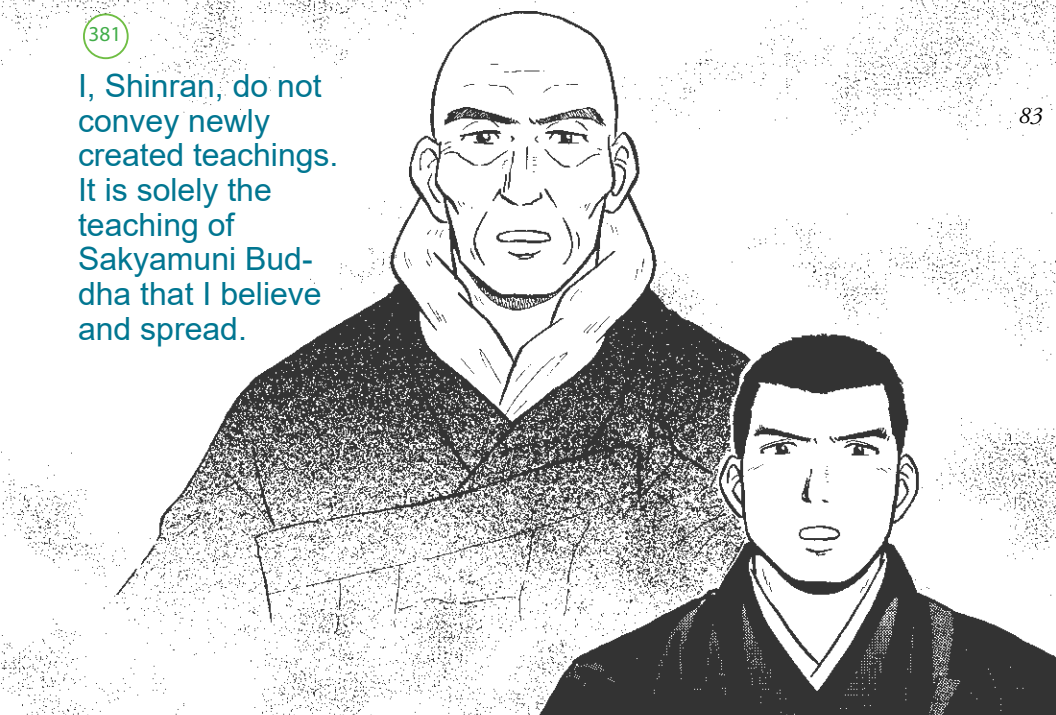


81

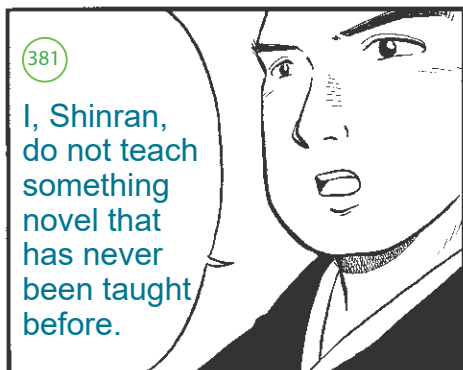




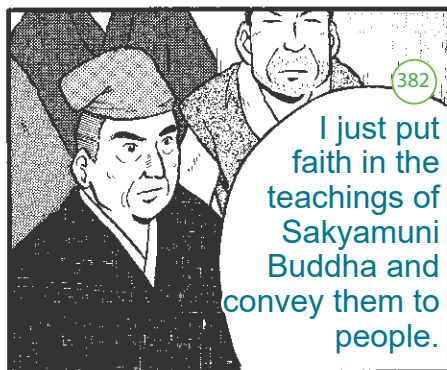
I, Shinran, do not convey newly created teachings. It is solely the teaching of Sakyamuni Buddha that I believe and spread.



I, Shinran, do not teach something novel that has never been taught before.

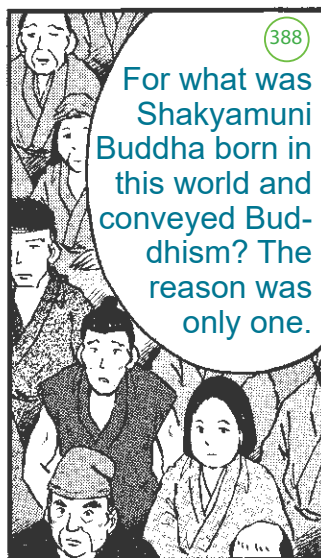
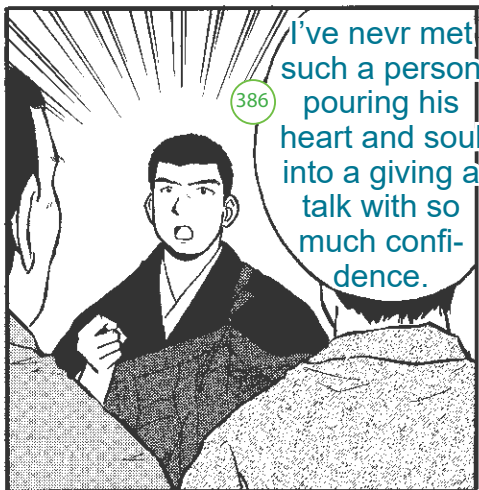


I just put faith in the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha and convey them to people.

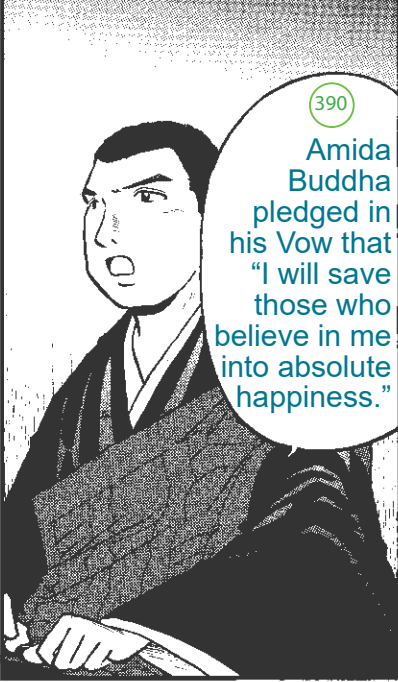


Master Shinran's teachings are none other than the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha.



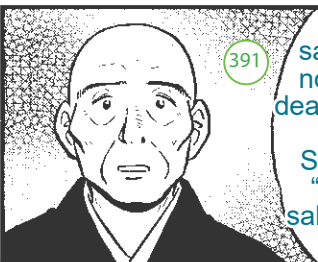


390




Amida Buddha pledged in his Vow that "I will save those who believe in me into absolute happiness."

391



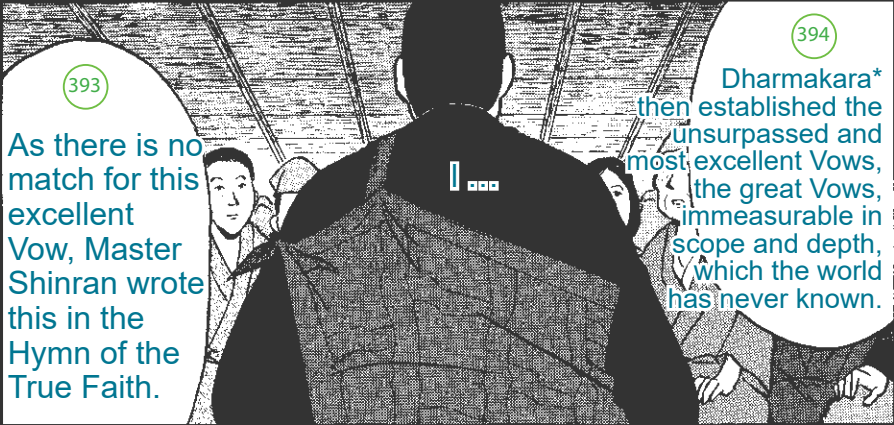
Of course salvation does not occur after death - so this is what master Shinran called "Heizei-gojo", salvation in this lifetime.

392



Amida pledged that he will turn your life full of distress into a life full of bright light here and now.

393

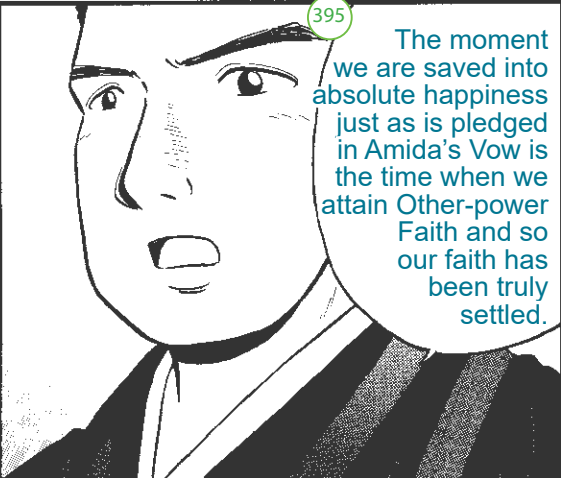


As there is no match for this excellent Vow, Master Shinran wrote this in the Hymn of the True Faith.

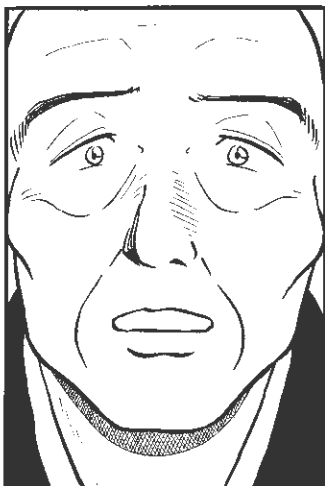
394

Dharmakara* then established the unsurpassed and most excellent Vows, the great Vows, immeasurable in scope and depth, which the world has never known.

395



The moment we are saved into absolute happiness just as is pledged in Amida's Vow is the time when we attain Other-power Faith and so our faith has been truly settled.



396

Master Rennyō just shows us Master Shinran's words without expressing his own opinion...



397

I'm amazed how he gives a lecture referring to Master Shinran's teachings, word for word.



398

Mother!



399

You should listen to the true teachings of Buddhism that Master Shinran conveyed to us at the risk of his life.



400

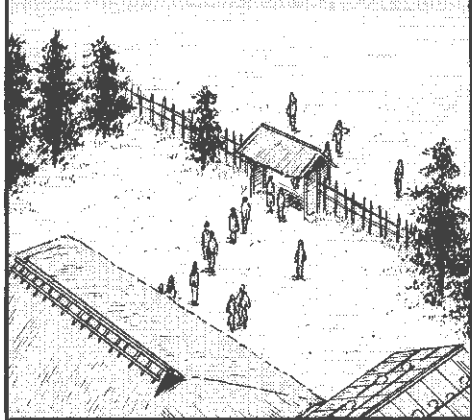
Ah, he is the one who can shed light on the teachings of Master Shinran.



401

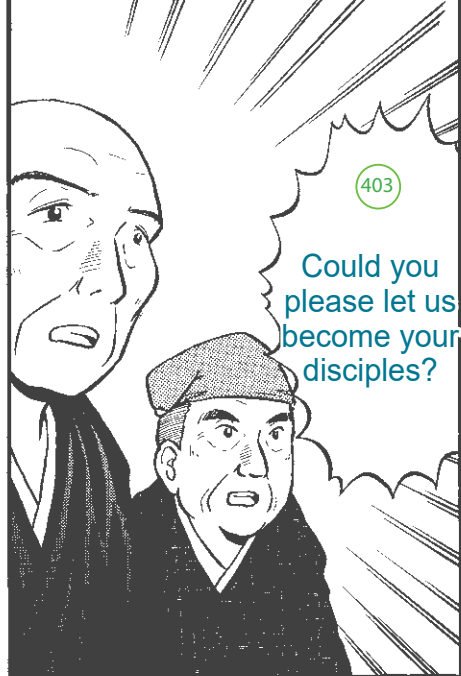
I've finally encountered the true master of Buddhism!!





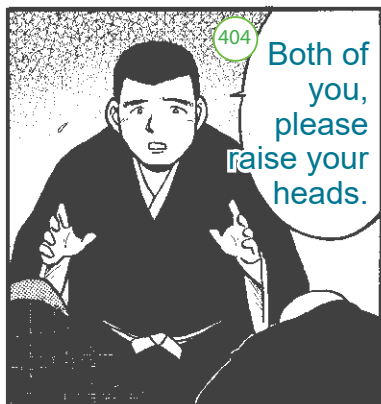
402

Master
Rennyō



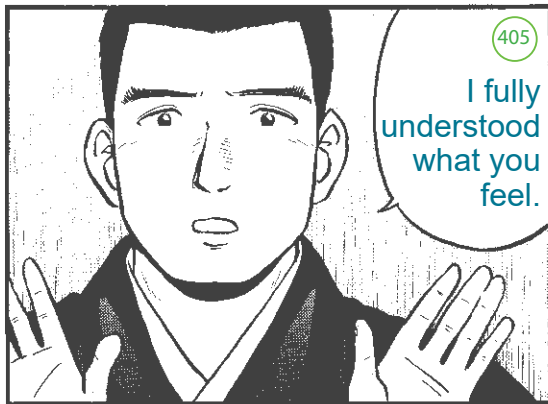
403

Could you
please let us
become your
disciples?



404

Both of
you,
please
raise your
heads.



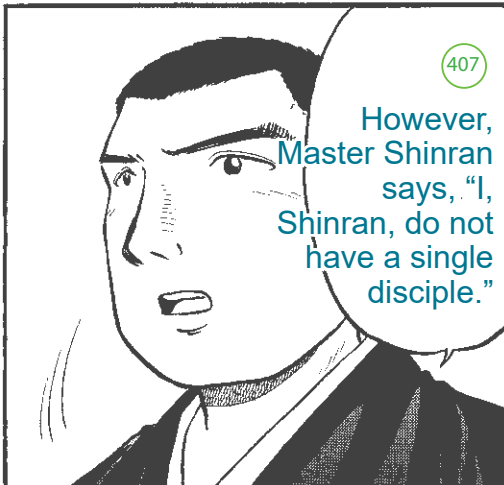
405

I fully
understood
what you
feel.



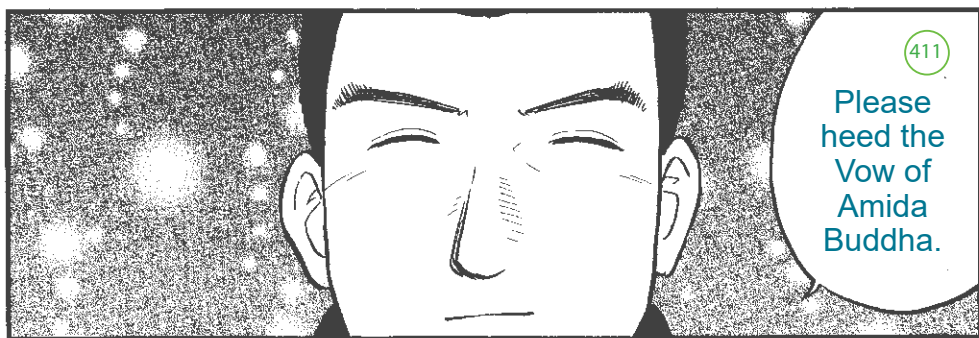
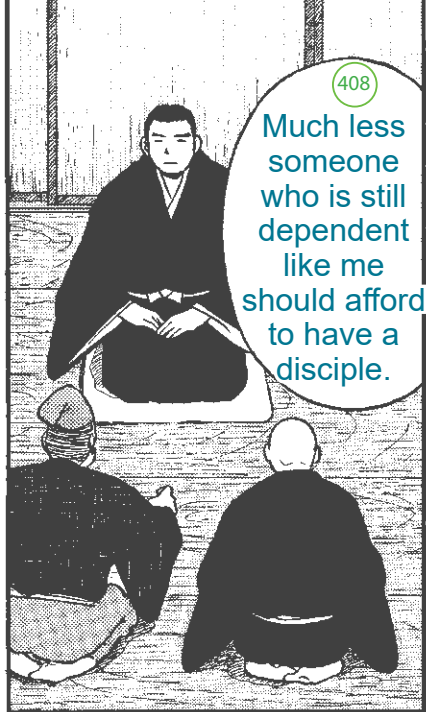
406

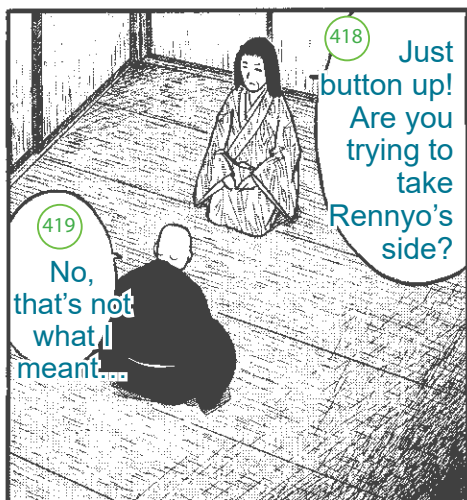
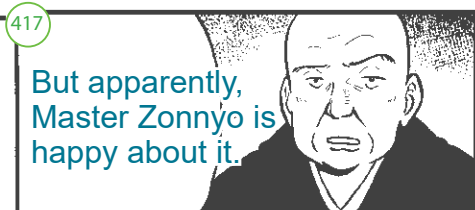
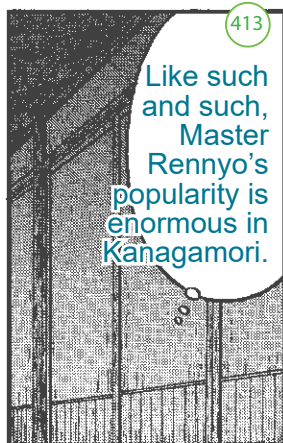
T-then, I
beg of
you!

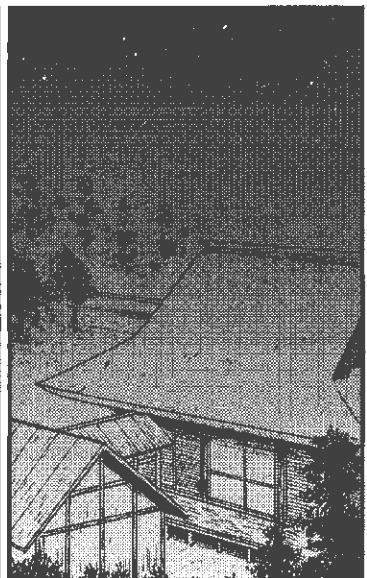
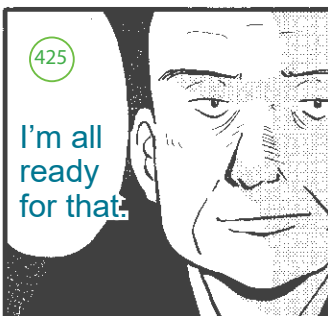
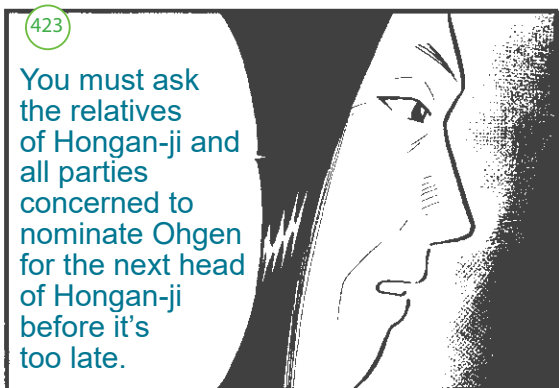
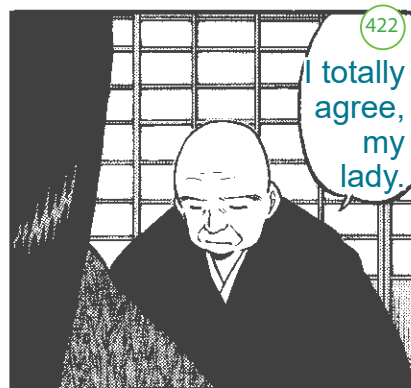
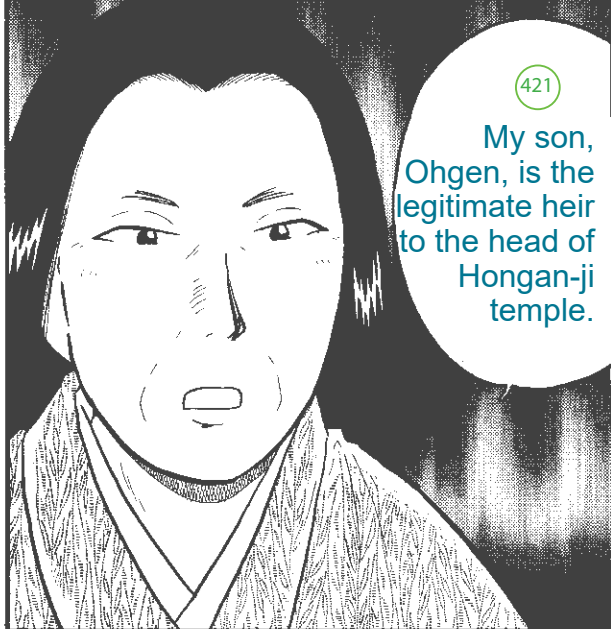


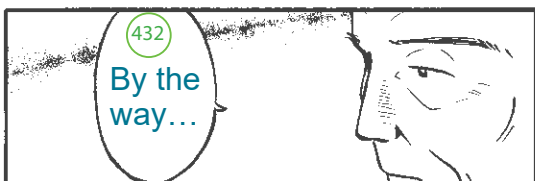
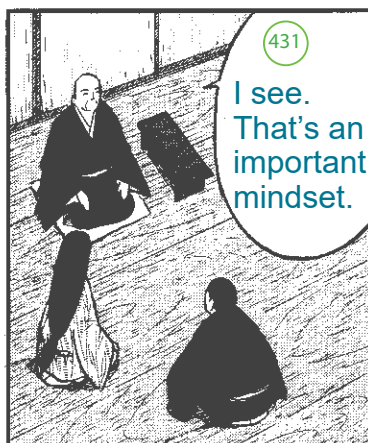
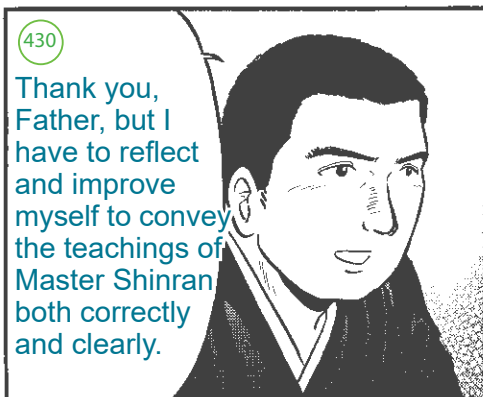
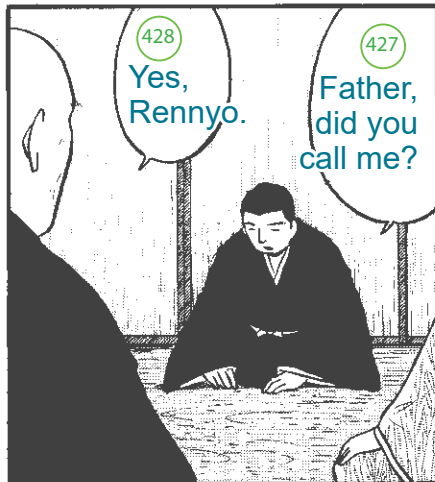
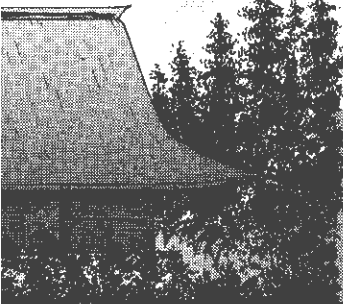
407

However,
Master Shinran
says, "I,
Shinran, do not
have a single
disciple."









433

I've decided
to dispatch
you to the
Kanto region
to teach
Buddhism
there.

434

Teach
Buddhism in
K-Kanto?!

435

Master
Zonnyo!!

437

You too follow
in the footsteps
of Master
Shinran and
share the true
teachings of
Buddhism.

436

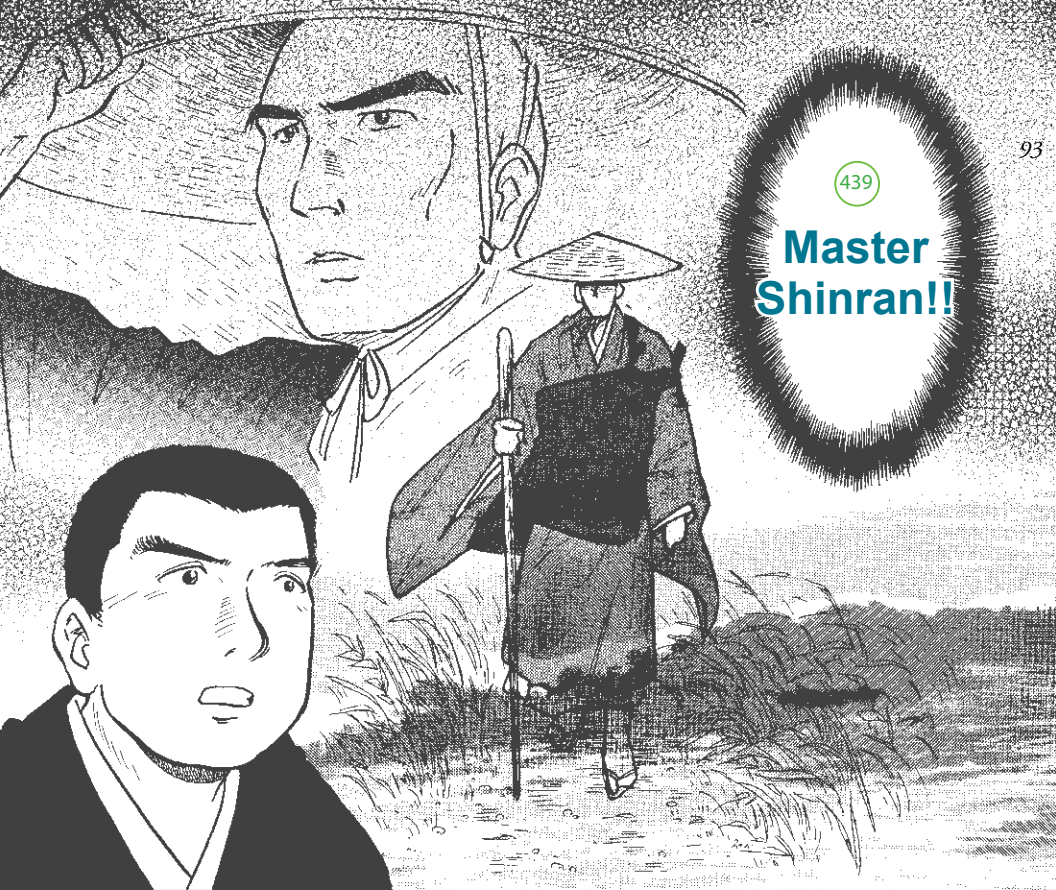
Master Shinran
left Kyoto and,
by way of the
place of his
exile, Echigo,
went to the
Kanto region.

438

...!!

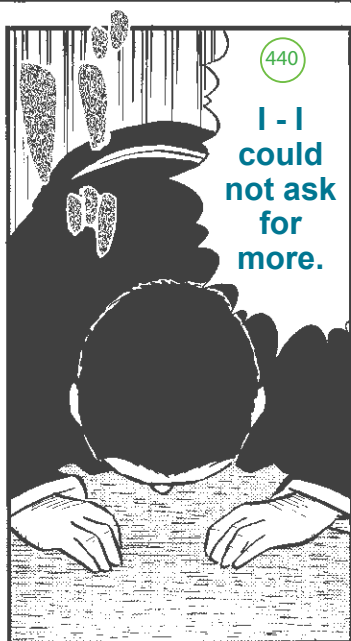
439

**Master
Shinran!!**



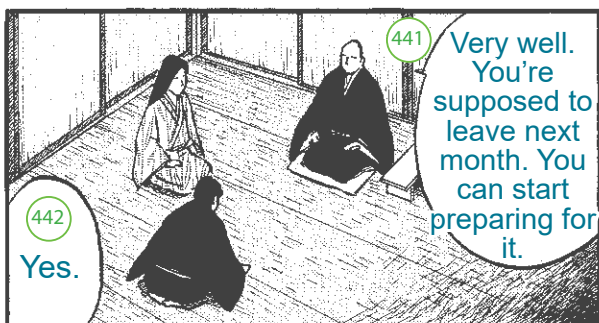
440

**I-I
could
not ask
for more.**



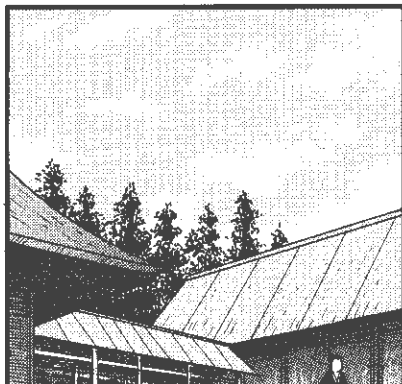
442

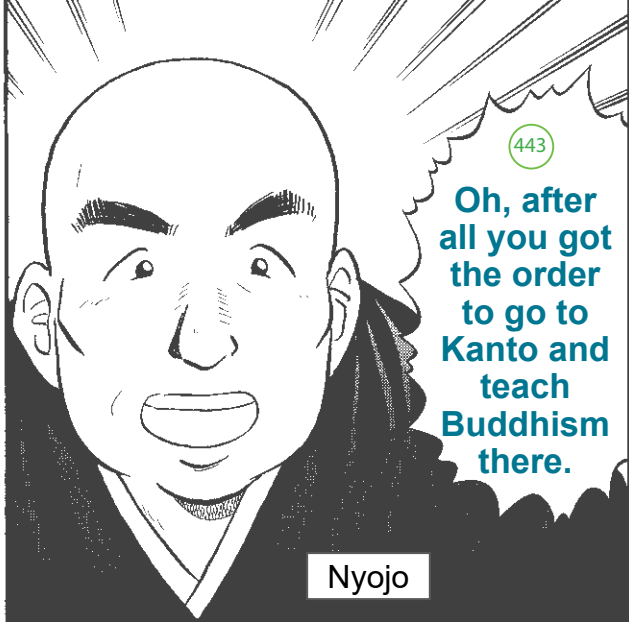
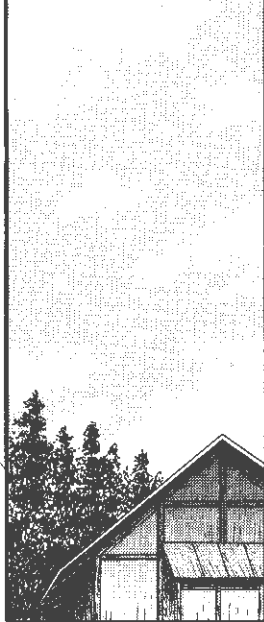
Yes.



441

**Very well.
You're
supposed to
leave next
month. You
can start
preparing for
it.**

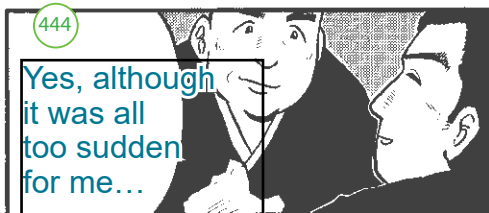




443

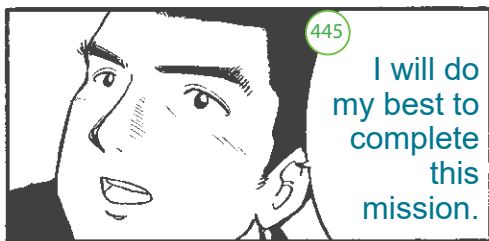
Oh, after all you got the order to go to Kanto and teach Buddhism there.

Nyojo



444

Yes, although it was all too sudden for me...



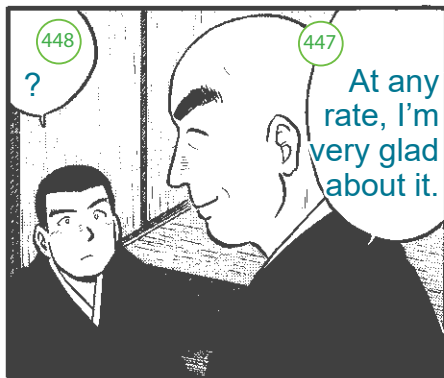
445

I will do my best to complete this mission.



446

Good. It may prove out a tough journey, but you can do it.

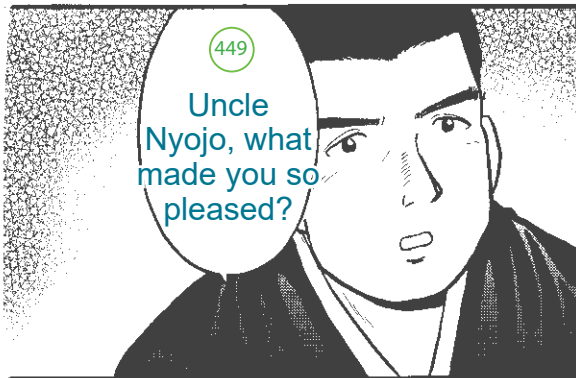


448

?

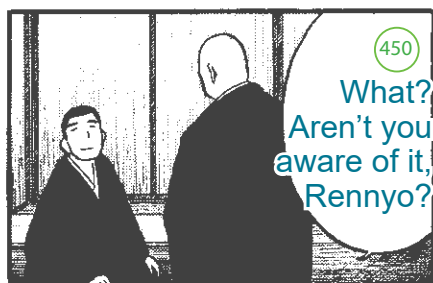
447

At any rate, I'm very glad about it.



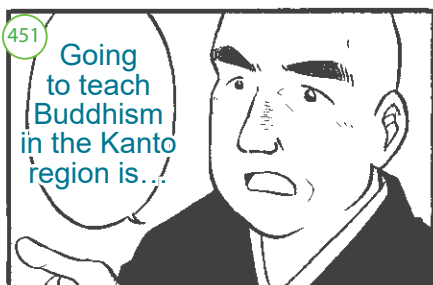
449

Uncle Nyojo, what made you so pleased?



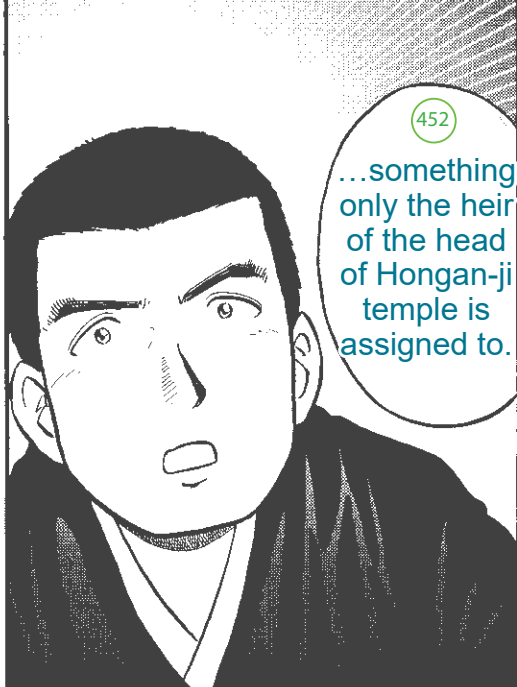
450

What?
Aren't you
aware of it,
Rennyō?



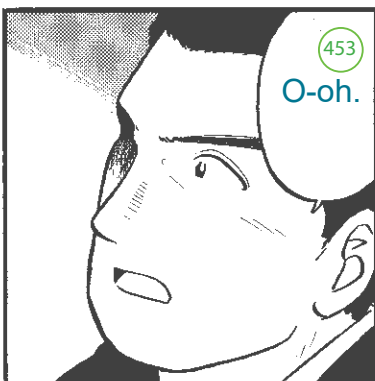
451

Going
to teach
Buddhism
in the Kanto
region is...



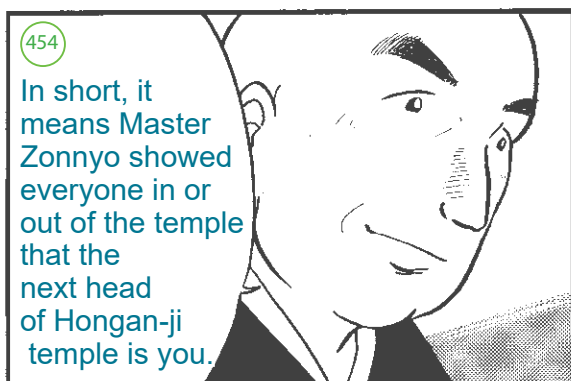
452

...something
only the heir
of the head
of Hongan-ji
temple is
assigned to.



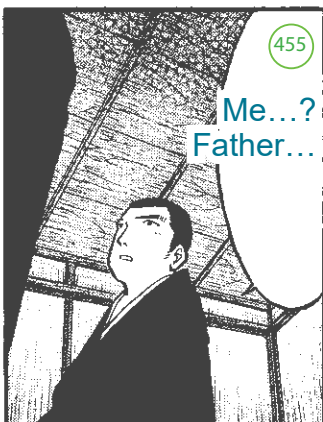
453

O-oh.



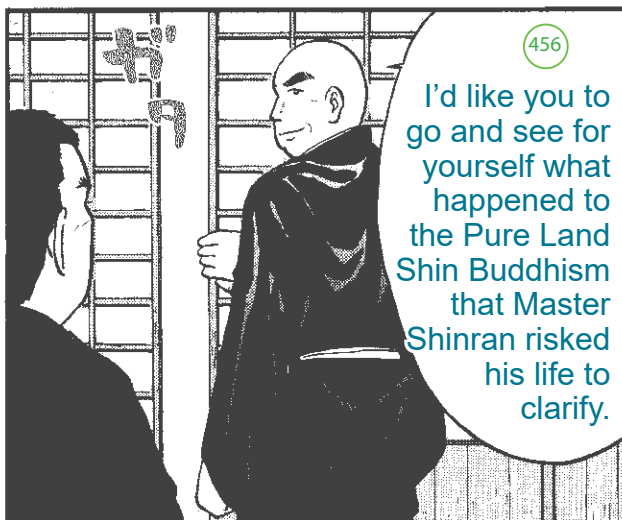
454

In short, it
means Master
Zonnyo showed
everyone in or
out of the temple
that the
next head
of Hongan-ji
temple is you.



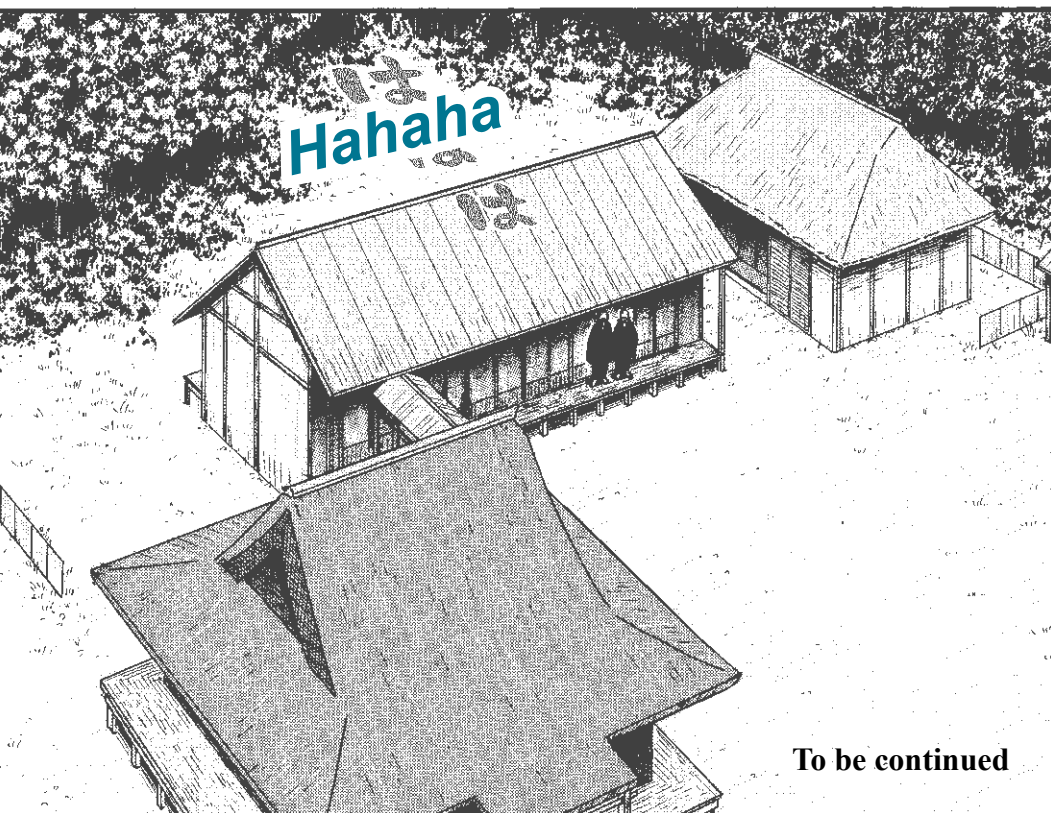
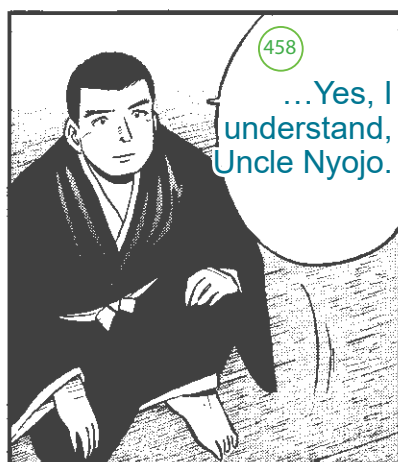
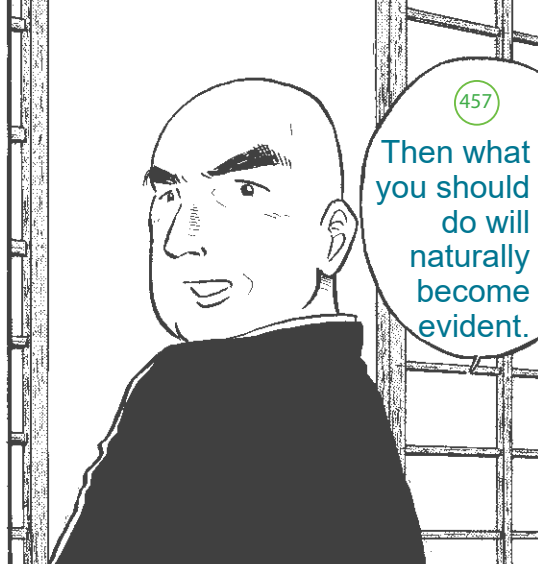
455

Me...?
Father...



456

I'd like you to
go and see for
yourself what
happened to
the Pure Land
Shin Buddhism
that Master
Shinran risked
his life to
clarify.



To be continued