
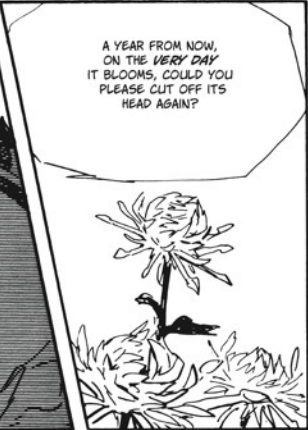


I HAVE A
DISCIPLE NAMED
TAKAKO.
SHE CULTIVATES
ATSUMONO.


SHE TALKED
TO ME AND SHE
WOULD VERY
MUCH LIKE
YOU TO
GROW IT.



I'M BEGGING YOU
BECAUSE YOU'RE
GOING TO CUT OFF
BOTH *MY* HEAD
AND *ITS* HEAD.



A YEAR FROM NOW,
ON THE *VERY DAY*
IT BLOOMS, COULD YOU
PLEASE CUT OFF ITS
HEAD AGAIN?



IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING
TO TELL ME ABOUT
CHRYSANTHEMUMS,
IT WOULD BE BEST IF
YOU WENT RIGHT
AHEAD AND SAID IT.

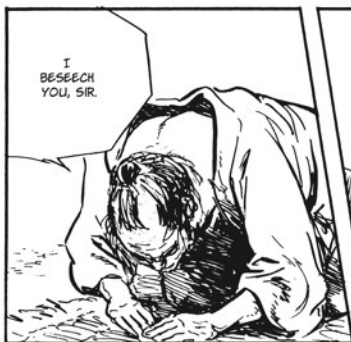
NO, NOT EVEN
A *MILLION* WORDS
COULD MAKE YOU
UNDERSTAND.

IF YOU *FEEL*
SOMETHING WHEN YOU
CUT OFF THE HEAD OF
THAT SECOND-GENERATION
CHRYSANTHEMUM, THAT
WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH.

I AM SO SORRY
TO TROUBLE YOU.
I REALIZE THAT
MY WISHES MAY BE
LAUGHABLE, BUT...

...I HAD BEEN ASKING
ABOUT YOU, AND YOU
HAD ALWAYS SAID THAT
AN EXECUTIONER MUST
UNDERSTAND THE
EXECUTED.





I
BESEECH
YOU, SIR.



I HAVE NEVER
GROWN ANY
CHRYSANTHEMUMS
BEFORE, BUT I
WILL TRY TO DO
SO IF YOU WISH...



SINCE THAT'S HOW I'LL
BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU'LL FEEL AT
THE MOMENT OF YOUR
DEATH.



TH-THANK
YOU.





