NINJAI
THE LITTLE NINJA

THE SCARECROW'S HAT









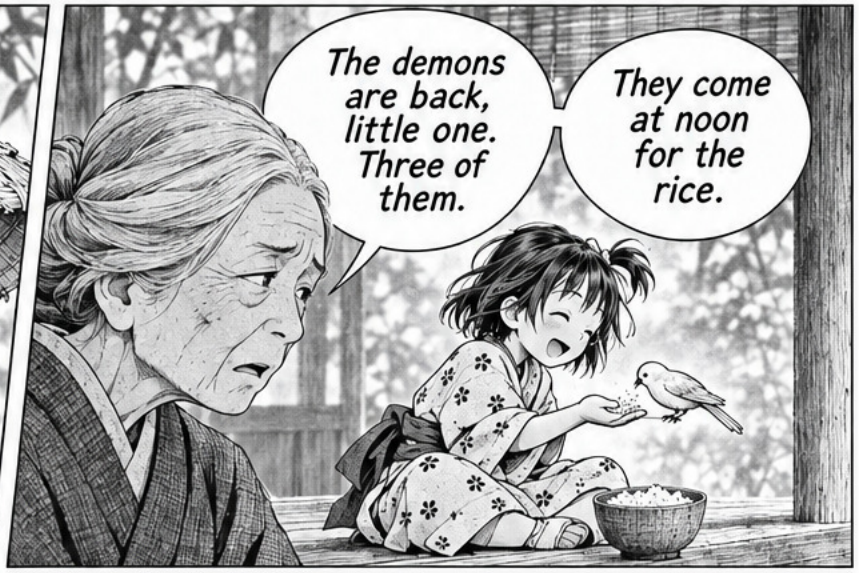

Same hat. Same sword. Better posture.
It is not dressed like me. Perhaps I am dressed like it.
You came back!
...Who did?
The Little Guardian! He walked out of the mist a hundred harvests ago
and chased the demons off. Then he walked on.
We keep his hat warm for him.
A hundred harvests. You look good for your age.

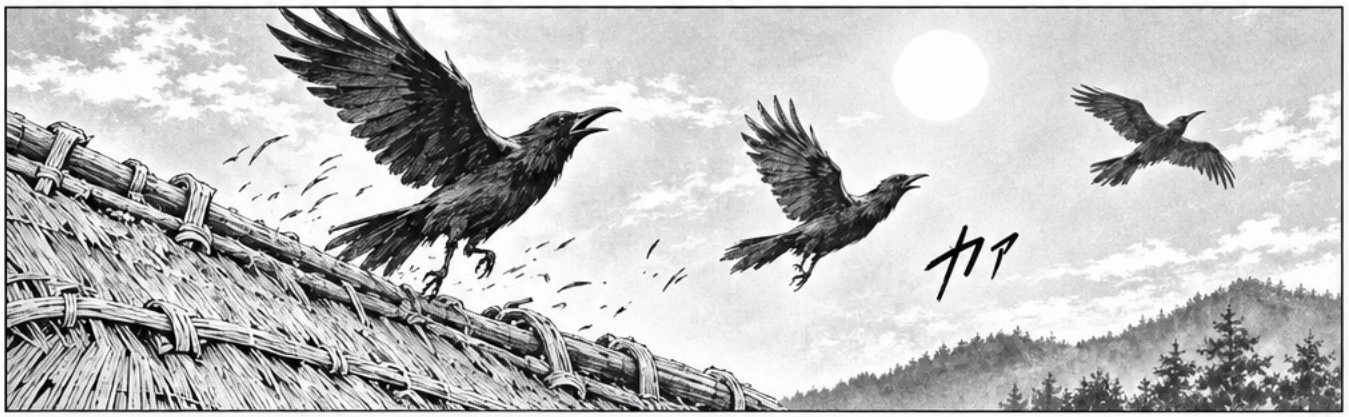



You have his walk.


Whose?
The one who never told us his name.


Then we have that in common.

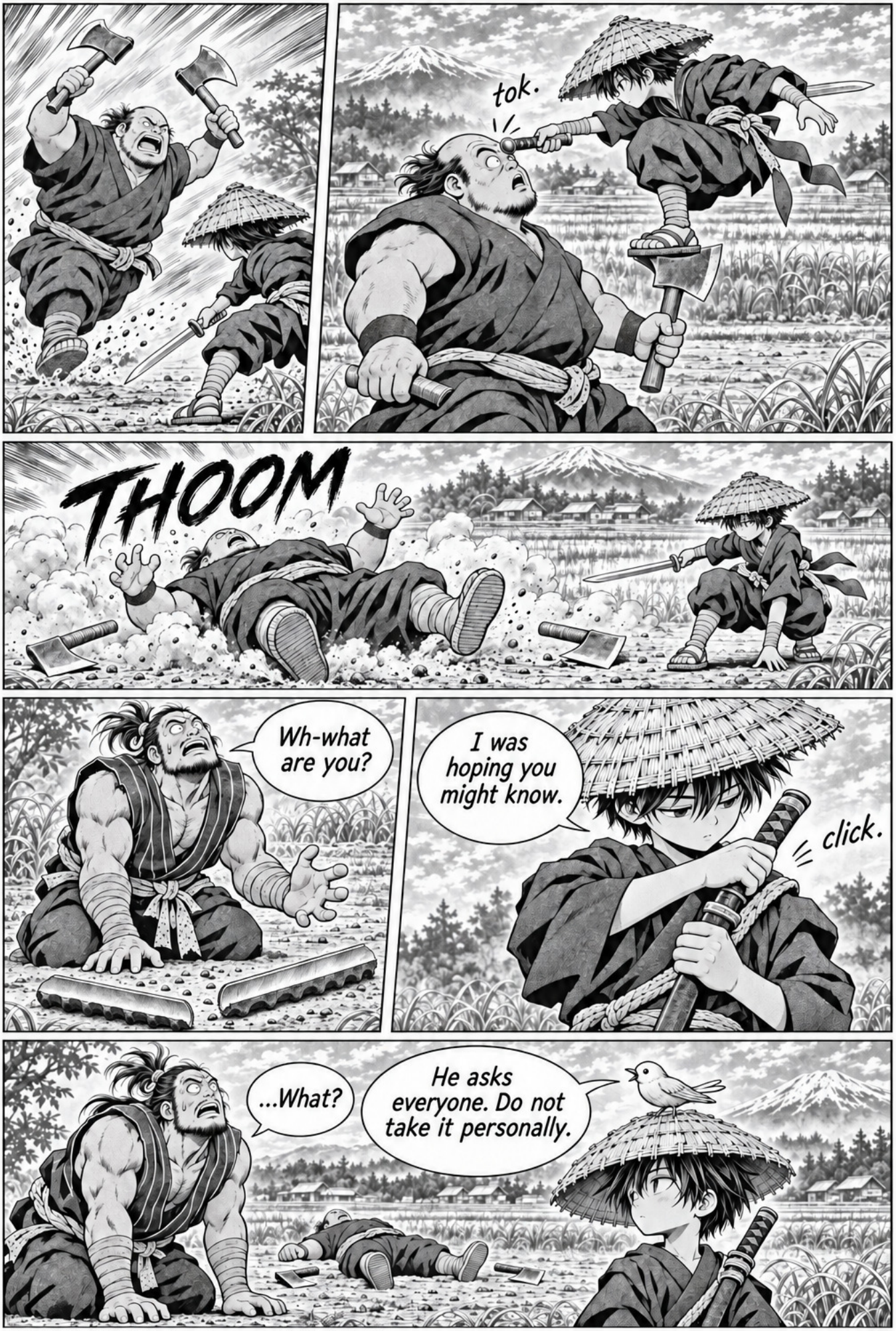

The demons are back, little one. Three of them.
They come at noon for the rice.


カア

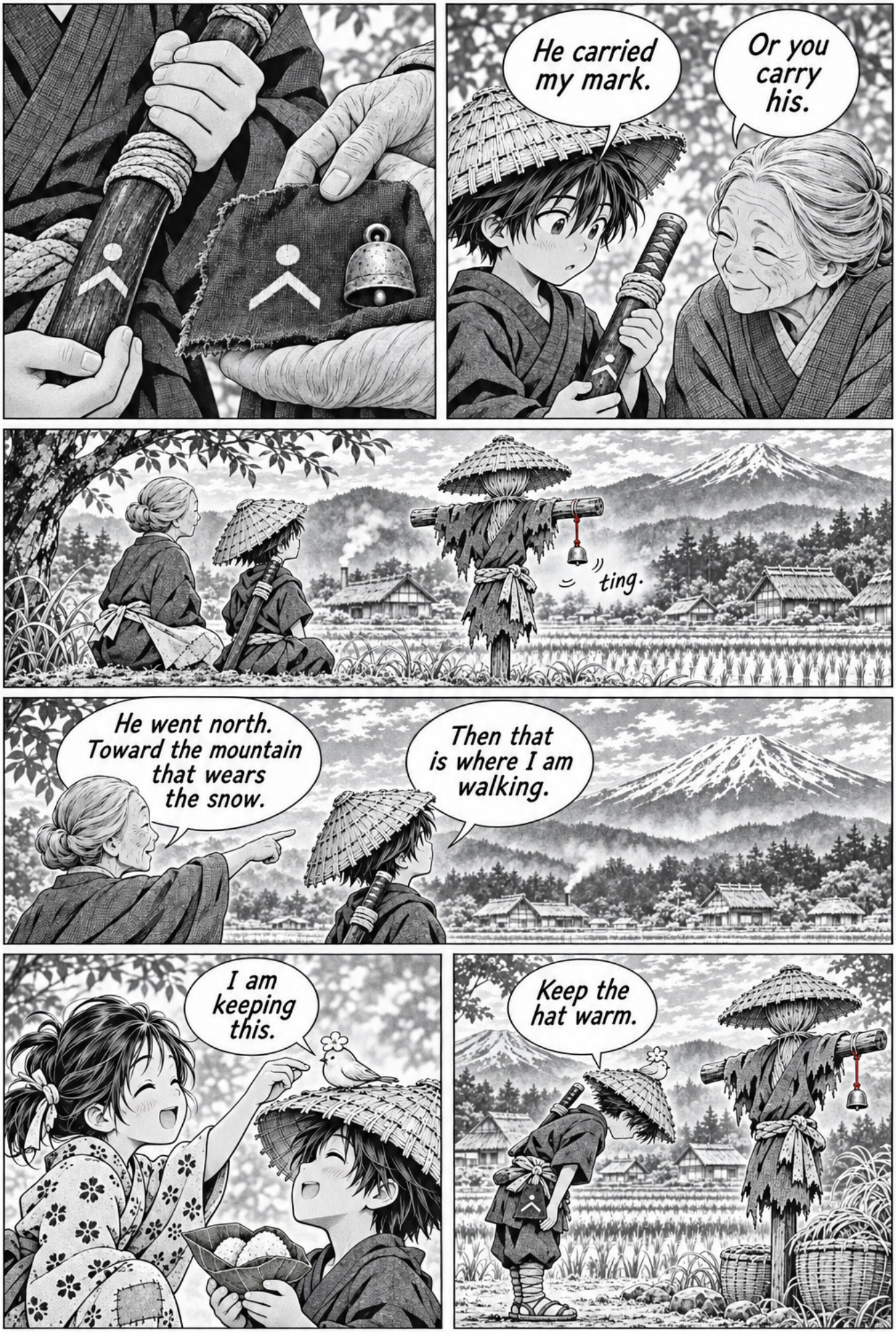

Harvest day! Where is **our** rice, old woman?
ドン
Still praying to your straw doll?
WHAK


You dropped his hat.
HA
HA
And who are you? Its little brother?
I would run now.
Not you. Them.
He has seen demons before.
They always laugh first.
click.


SHING
He does this. You get used to it.


tok.
THOOM
Wh-what are you?
I was hoping you might know.
click.
...What?
He asks everyone. Do not take it personally.


I told you he came back!
No, child. That one passed through a hundred harvests ago. This one is new.
But he left something.
'For whoever comes next wearing the hat,' he said.


He carried my mark.
Or you carry his.
ting.
He went north. Toward the mountain that wears the snow.
Then that is where I am walking.
I am keeping this.
Keep the hat warm.


チリン
So. Are you the one from a hundred harvests ago?
I do not think so.
Disappointed?
No. It means someone else was looking too.
He has a long way to walk.
But now the road has footprints on it.
END