



Koxinga Z

A Full English translation is available.

1661 國姓來襲

Scriptwriter: Li Lung-Chieh **Comic Artist:** Li Lung-Chieh **Publisher:** Gaea Books

Date: 05/2017 **Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

304 pages | 14.8 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1

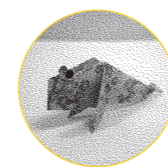
Awards: 2018 the 9th Golden Comics Awards Best Comic for Young Adults & Comic of the Year

Rights sold: French

BFT2.0 Translator: Chris MacDonald

April 30, 1661. Koxinga launched a surprise attack, aiming to seize control of Taiwan. The Dutch strongholds of Fort Provintia and Fort Zeelandia teetered on the brink of disaster. Frederick Coyett, the 12th and final Governor of Formosa under the Dutch East India Company, faced the daunting task of defending the colony with only 1,000 troops against Koxinga's 25,000-strong army. Will he uphold his convictions and protect the territory entrusted to him?

Based on the memoirs of Coyett, this riveting work portrays key historical figures and the decisive turning point in Taiwan's history—from Dutch rule to the Kingdom of Tungning under Koxinga. The long-buried showdown between the Dutch and Zheng forces, as documented in historical records, now comes vividly to life.



Author **Li Lung-Chieh**

A hard-boiled comic artist devoted to traditional techniques, Li Lung-Chieh is known for bold lines and striking black-and-white crowd scenes. His work combines dark humor with raw, passionate energy, using a distinctive visual language to reinterpret Taiwanese history beyond conventional boundaries. His major works include *Ichthyophobia*, *Taiwan Determination: Legend of Beigang*, *Koxinga Z*, and *Formosa X*. *Ichthyophobia* won the Excellence Award at the 9th Japan International Manga Award and the Youth Comic Award at the the 9th Golden Comic Awards, while *Koxinga Z* received multiple honors, including Japan International Manga Award Bronze and Golden Comic Awards' Comic of the Year. *Formosa X* won Comic of the Year at the 13th Golden Comic Awards and was selected for national recommended reading lists.

This Riveting Historical Manga Reframes the Han Heroic Epic Through a Dutch Lens

by Chih-Chi Weng

(originally published on OKAPI.BOOKS.COM.TW)

“Paragon of virtue,” “embodiment of loyalty,” even “peerless handsome hero”—these are the images of Koxinga we inherit from history textbooks and popular discourse. Yet *Koxinga Z* by Li Lung-Chieh presents a radically different portrayal. In this comic, Koxinga is perpetually hidden behind a mysterious mask: somewhat lecherous, intensely brutal, and narrow-minded. Despite this stark reimagining, all key historical events adhere closely to documented facts. In this sense, Li directly challenges centuries of Han-centered heroic narratives through a rigorously researched, image-driven storytelling approach.

Stylistically, when depicting warfare or scenes charged with intense

emotional impact, Li establishes a distinctive language of full-spread compositions. He uses screentones sparingly, favoring perspective and visual golden ratios in his drawing. Across the ten full-page spreads in *Koxinga Z*, meticulous attention is paid to shifts in viewpoint, spatial choreography, and the interplay between the real and the imagined. Most importantly, he tells a compelling story—one that is both engaging to read and striking to behold—through the medium of comics.

Koxinga Z draws on the perspective found in *Neglected Formosa*, narrated by Frederick Coyett, the last Dutch governor of Taiwan during the Dutch colonial period. The story centers on the outbreak

of the Sino-Dutch War. In the spring of 1661, Koxinga launched a surprise attack on Tayouan, deploying iron-armored troops and rattan-shield soldiers against Dutch musketeers. He swiftly captured Fort Provintia (now Chihkan Tower), and in May laid siege to Fort Zeelandia (now Anping Fort), where Coyett was stationed, beginning a prolonged standoff that lasted more than nine months.

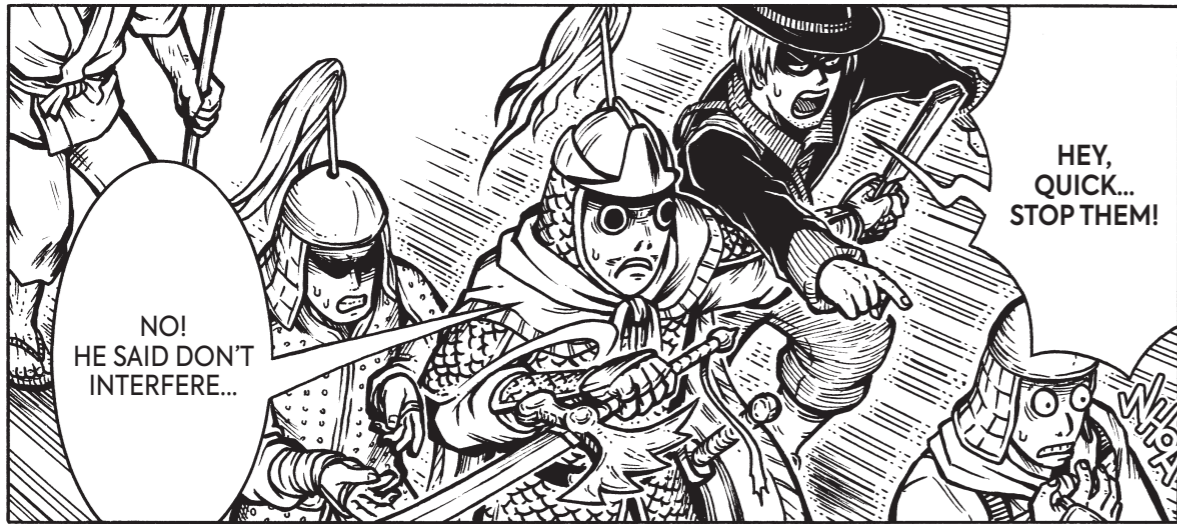
A war without allies or international support must eventually come to an end. In January 1662, Coyett raised the white flag on the hill behind Fort Zeelandia. Koxinga went alone to negotiate. During the talks, the two men engage in a visceral, hand-to-hand combat. Coyett declared, “Before I surrender the city, I will make sure your body remembers my fists and my sword forever!” After the fierce clash, both sides signed a peace treaty and agreed to include one additional clause: “Both sides must forget all hatred. For on Formosa, there is no hatred that cannot be laid to rest.” On February 9, the Dutch withdrew from Fort Zeelandia, ending 38 years of rule over Formosa.

On Formosa, is there truly no

hatred that cannot be put aside? In *Koxinga Z*, Li Lung-Chieh indeed offers a freeze-frame conclusion characteristic of classic comic storytelling. Yet he also “schemes” deliberately, guiding readers swiftly through Formosa’s subsequent history: the Kingdom of Tungning, Qing rule, the Japanese colonial period, and finally the post-World War II moment when a man steps off an airplane to be received by Taiwan’s Chief Executive Chen Yi. This man—the only unnamed figure in the comic—carries numerous clues pointing unmistakably to Chiang Kai-shek, and he wears the same mysterious mask as Koxinga.

This essay has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.

Chih-Chi Weng, a native of Nanzi, Nantou, he is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Institute of Taiwanese Literature at National Chengchi University and has previously served as a visiting scholar at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris.



NO!
HE SAID DON'T
INTERFERE...

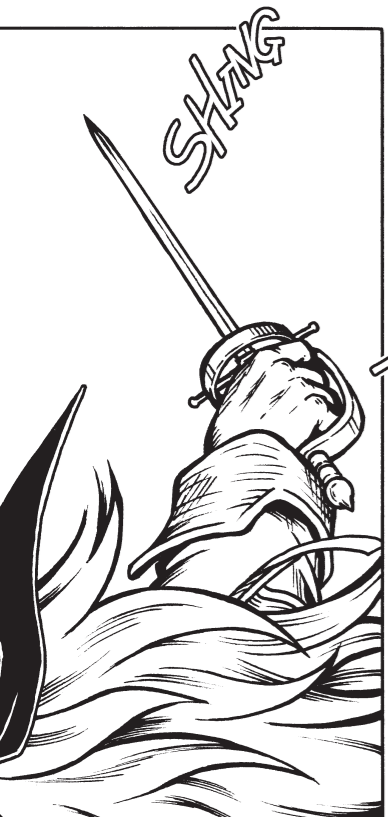
HEY,
QUICK...
STOP THEM!



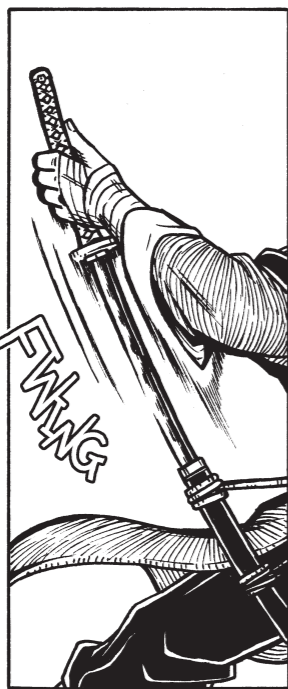
THAT'S
ENOUGH...

WTF

SIRE!



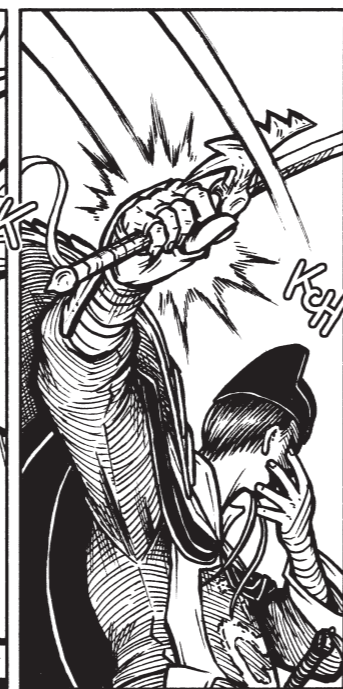
SHING



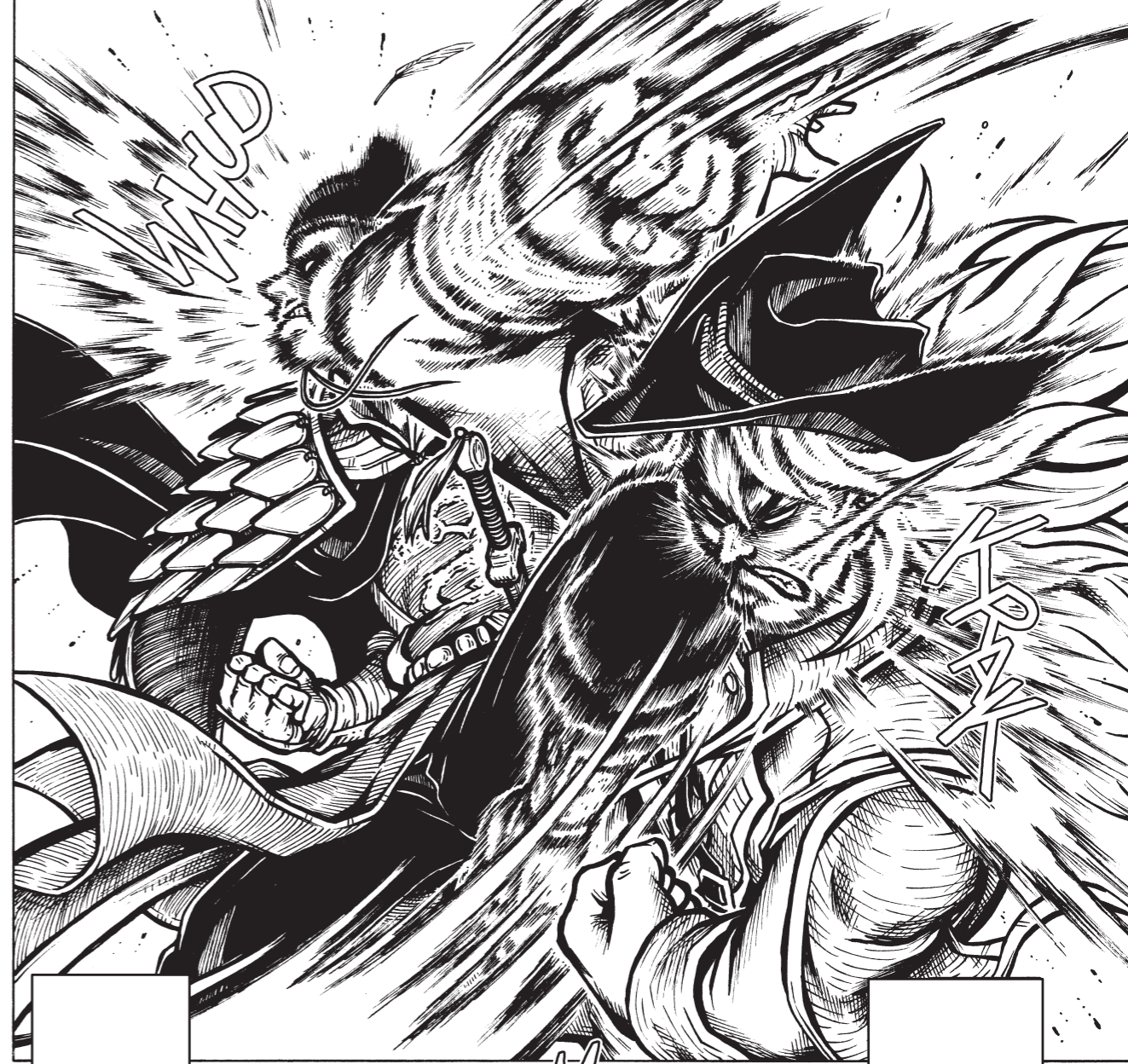
FWING



KRYK



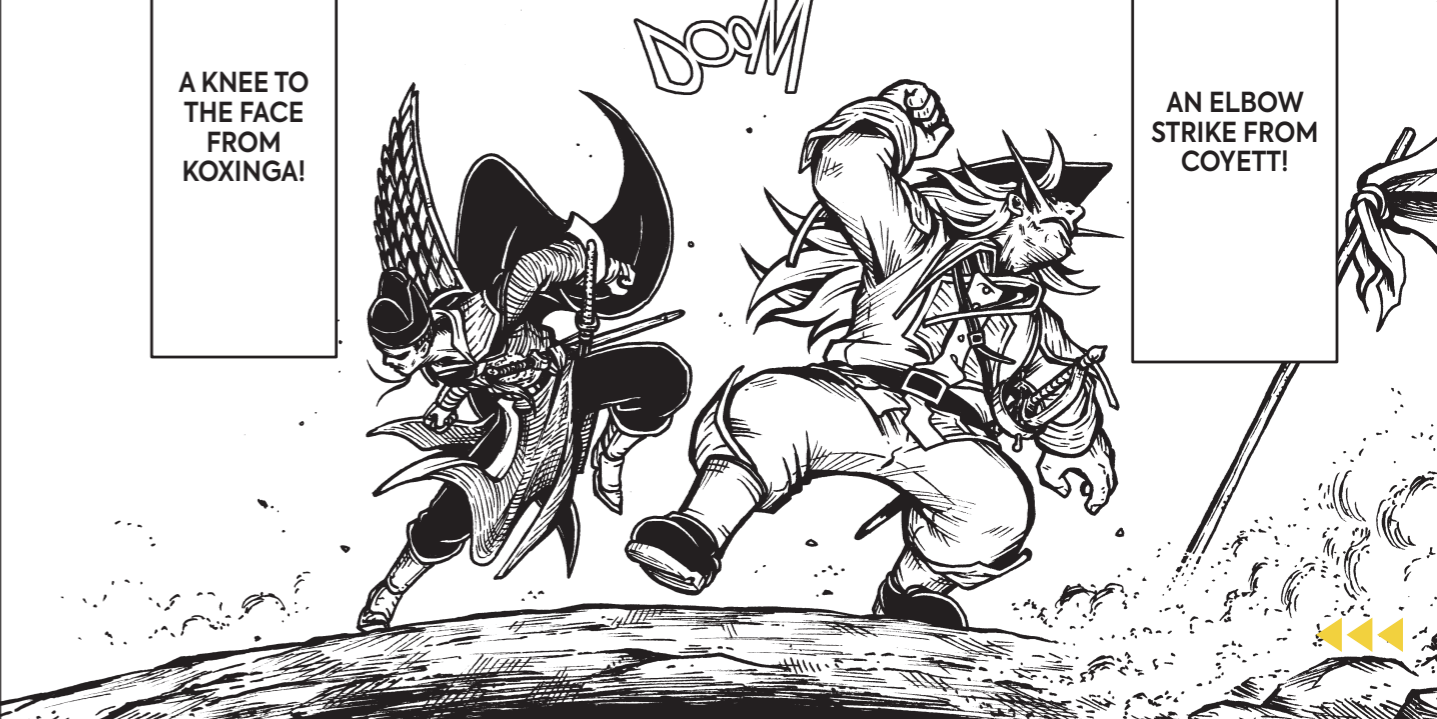
Keh

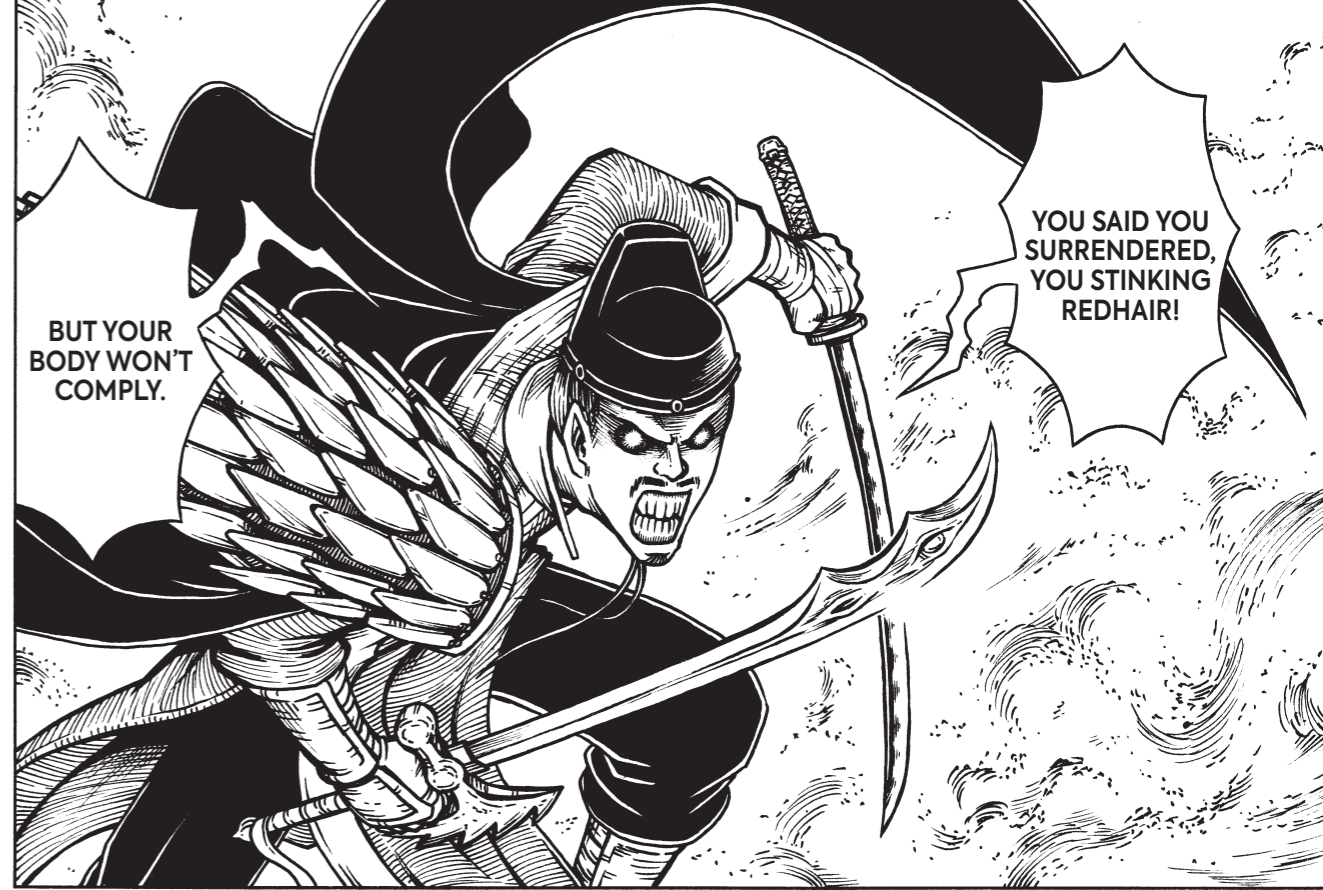
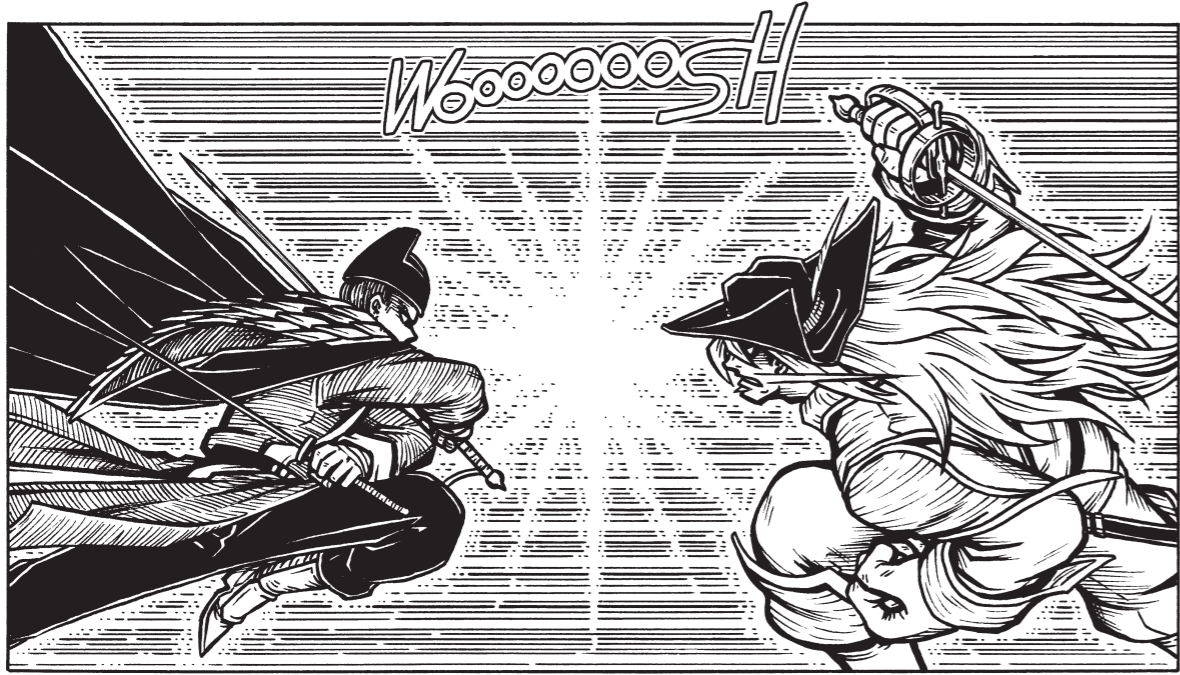


A KNEE TO
THE FACE
FROM
KOXINGA!

DOOM

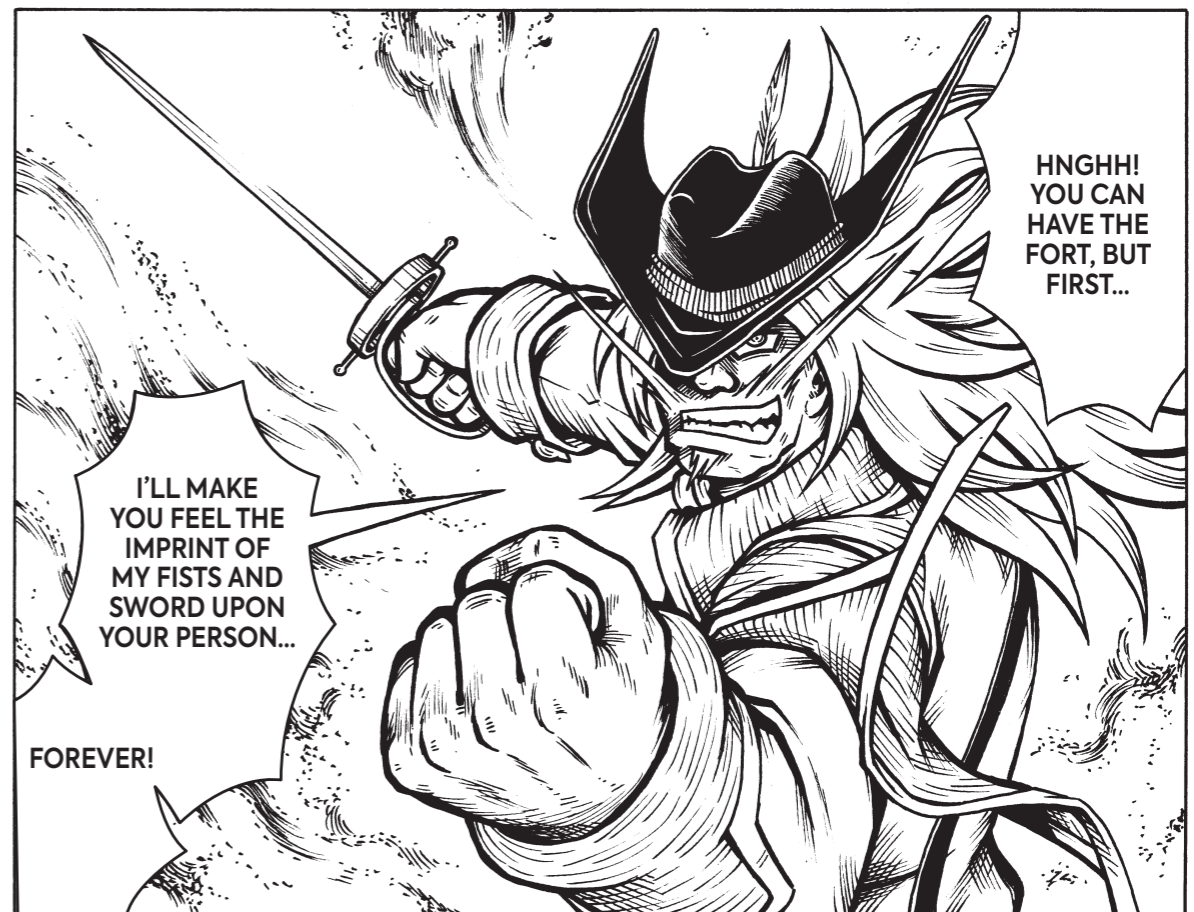
AN ELBOW
STRIKE FROM
COYETT!





BUT YOUR BODY WON'T COMPLY.

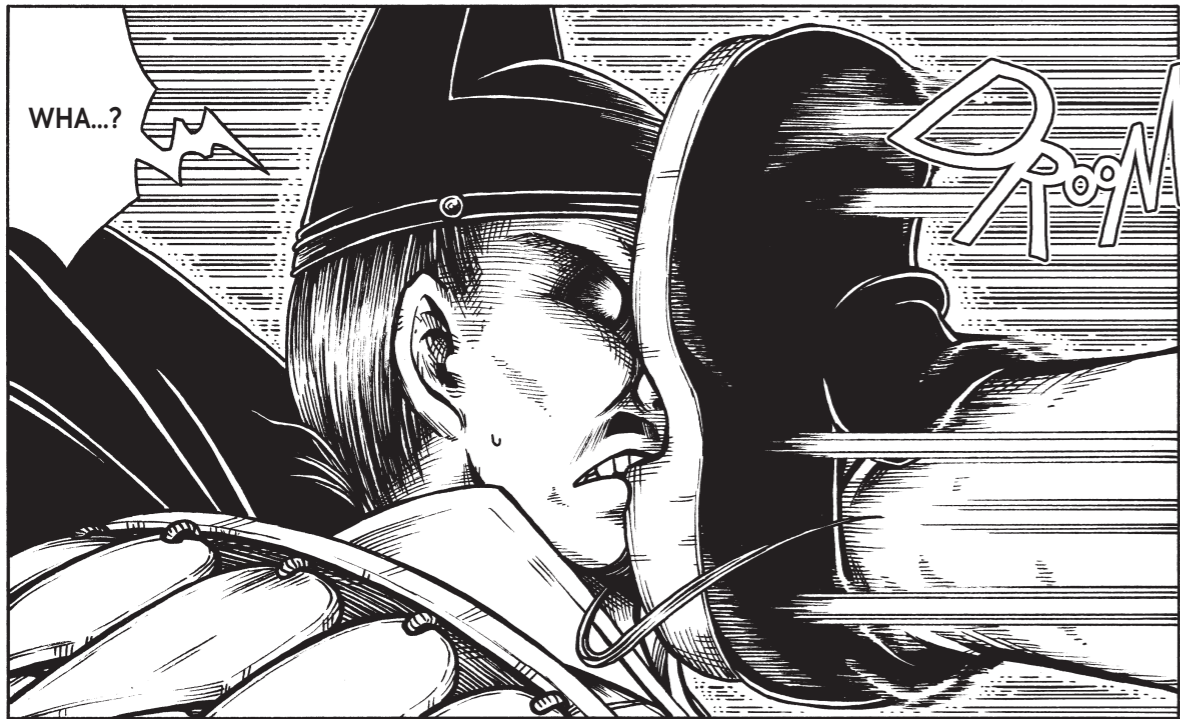
YOU SAID YOU SURRENDERED, YOU STINKING REDHAIR!



I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL THE IMPRINT OF MY FISTS AND SWORD UPON YOUR PERSON...

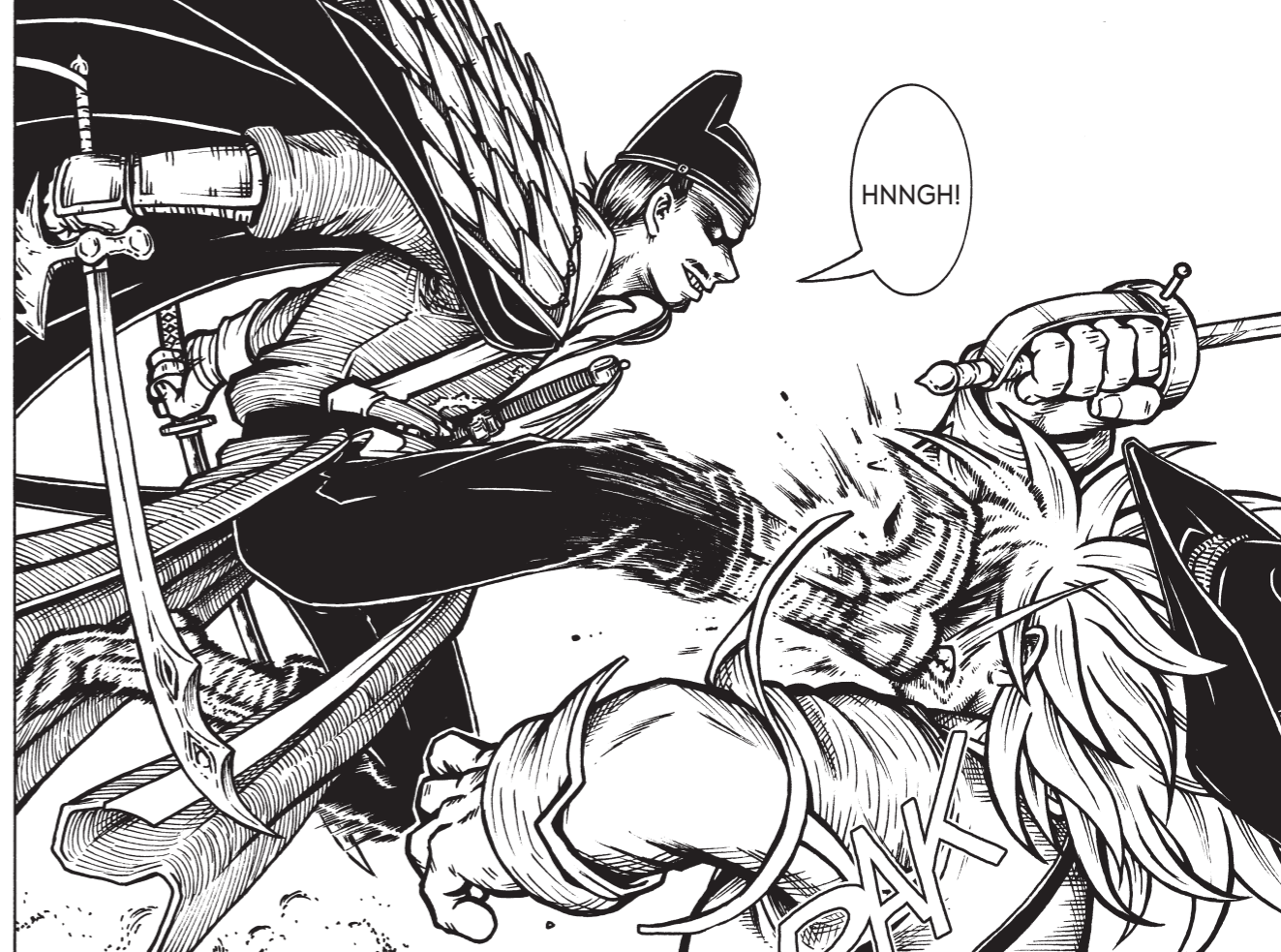
HNGHH!
YOU CAN HAVE THE FORT, BUT FIRST...

FOREVER!



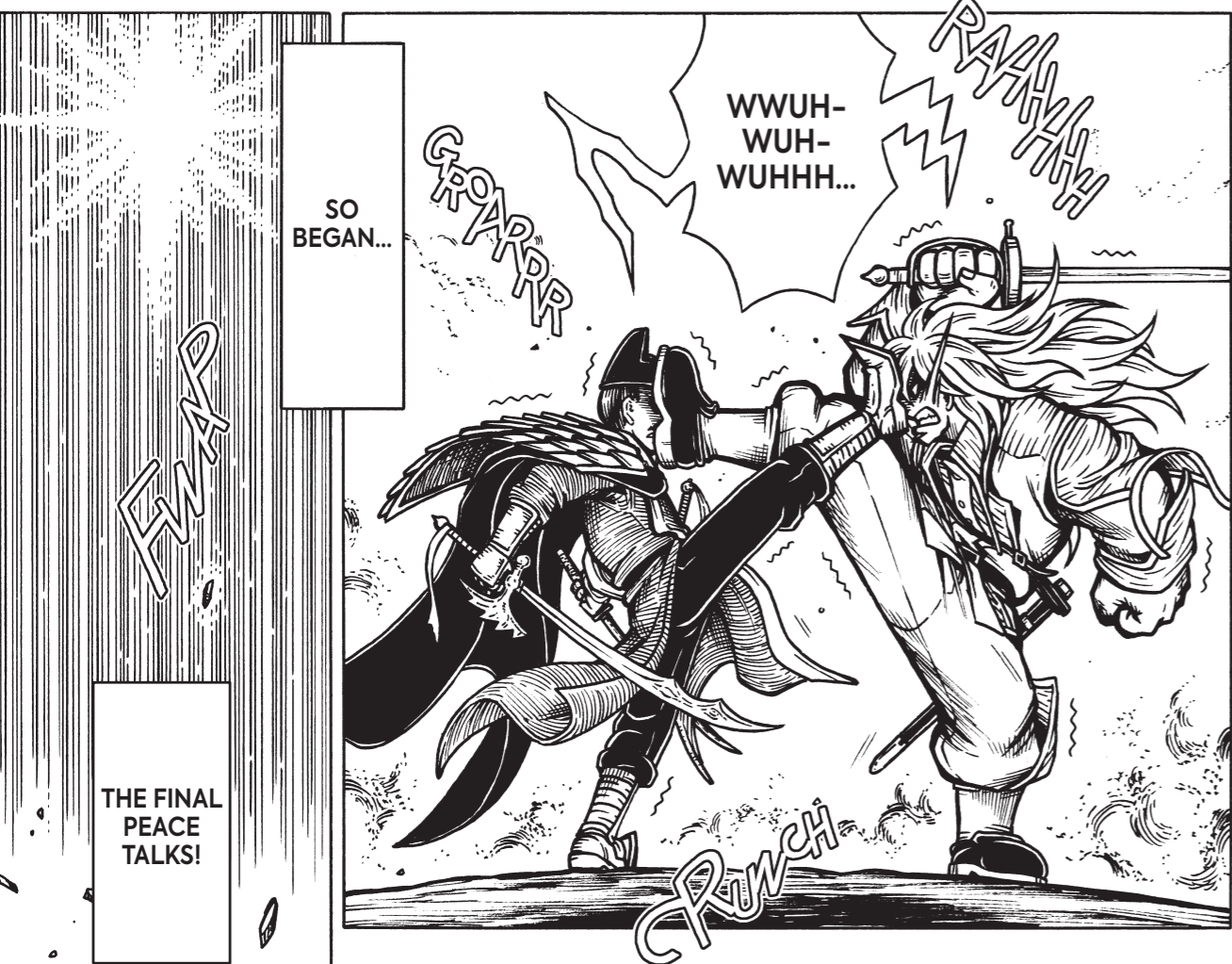
WHA...?

DROOM



HNNGH!

BRAT



WUHH-WUHH-WUHHH...

GROARRR

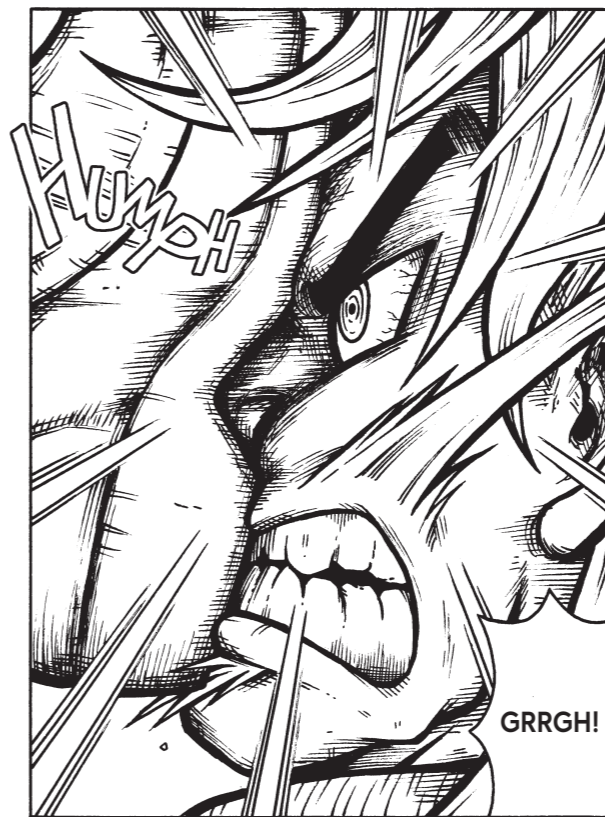
RASHHHH

SO BEGAN...

FWAP

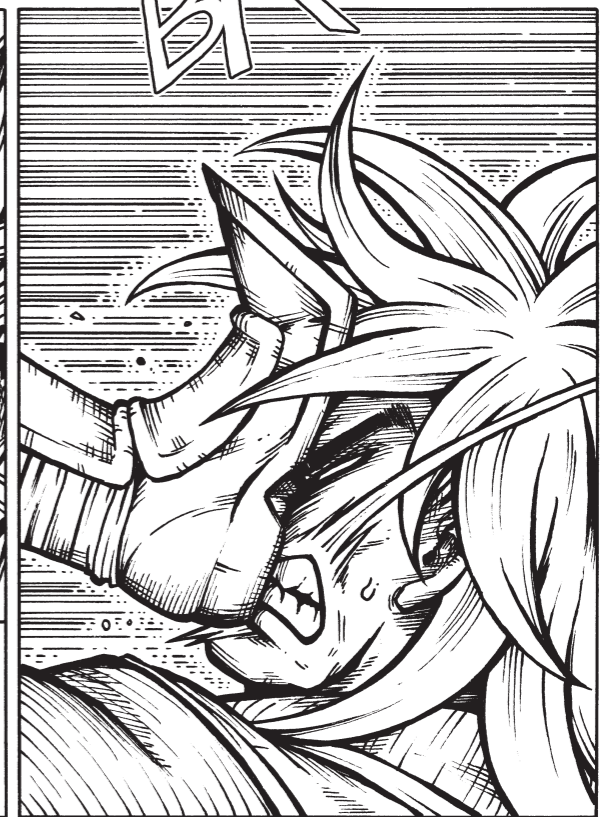
THE FINAL PEACE TALKS!

RUNCH



KUHUPH

GRRGH!



BRAT