

Detective CONAN

THE FOOTSTEPS OF DARKNESS 3

Vol 37 - File 7





SURE
.....

PLEASE TAKE
CARE OF THE
AUTOPSY
!

WELL
THEN,
CORONER
...



YES
SIR
!

AND YOU,
TAKAGI, TAKE
THAT DISK TO
THE LAB.



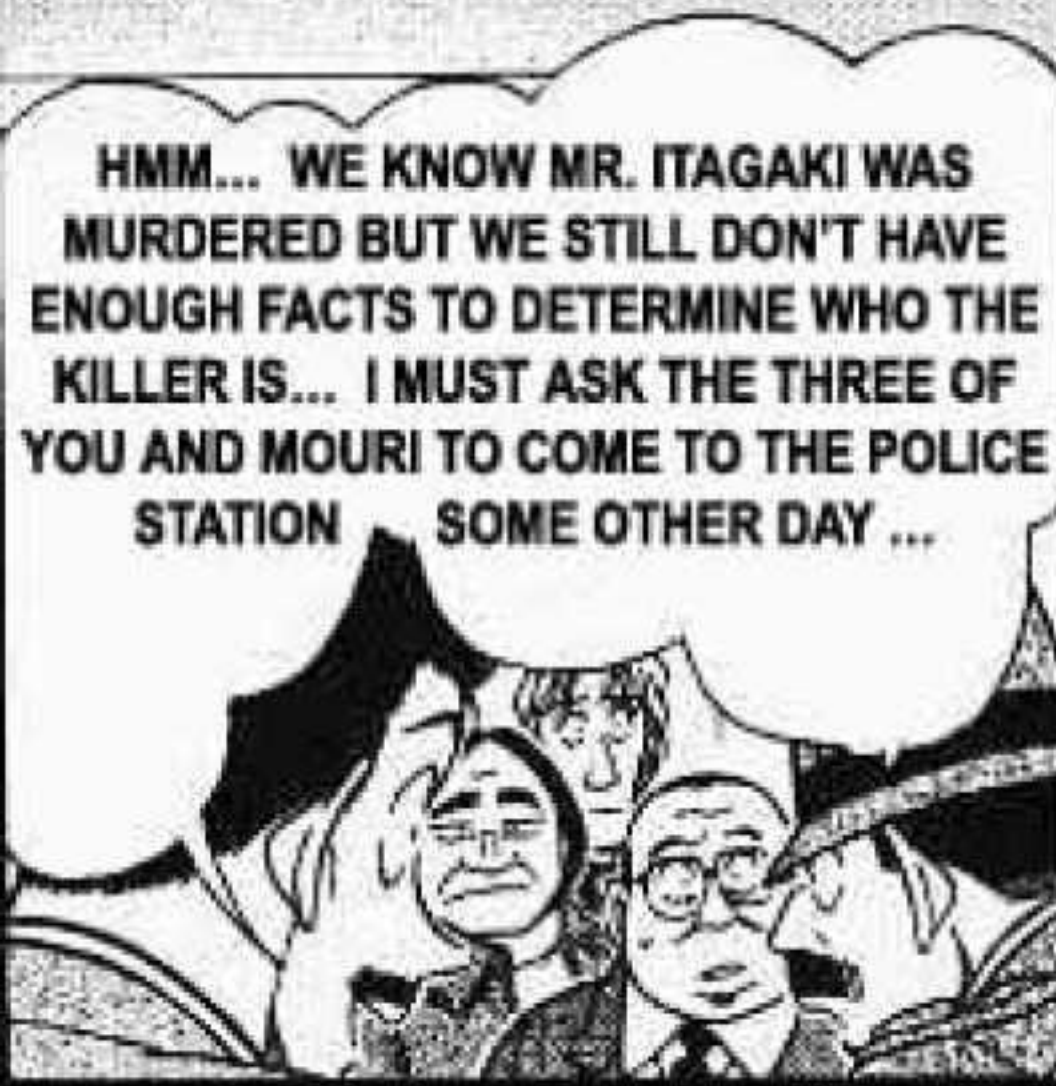
I'M
SOUMA.
I NEEDED
A SHOGI
SYSTEM
!!

MY NAME
IS NAITO. I
REQUESTED
A CHESS
PROGRAM
...

I'M SUGAI
AND I
ASKED
FOR AN
IGO
GAME
!

WE ARE FROM
DIFFERENT
COMPANIES
!

NOW, LET'S GO BACK TO
YOU THREE THAT
REQUESTED MR. ITAGAKI
TO CREATE A GAME FOR
YOUR COMPANY
...



HMM... WE KNOW MR. ITAGAKI WAS MURDERED BUT WE STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FACTS TO DETERMINE WHO THE KILLER IS... I MUST ASK THE THREE OF YOU AND MOURI TO COME TO THE POLICE STATION SOME OTHER DAY ...



UM... INSPECTOR WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?

PLEASE RELEASE US. WE ARE ONLY DISCOVERERS WHO HAPPENED TO COME HERE WITH MR. MOURI ...

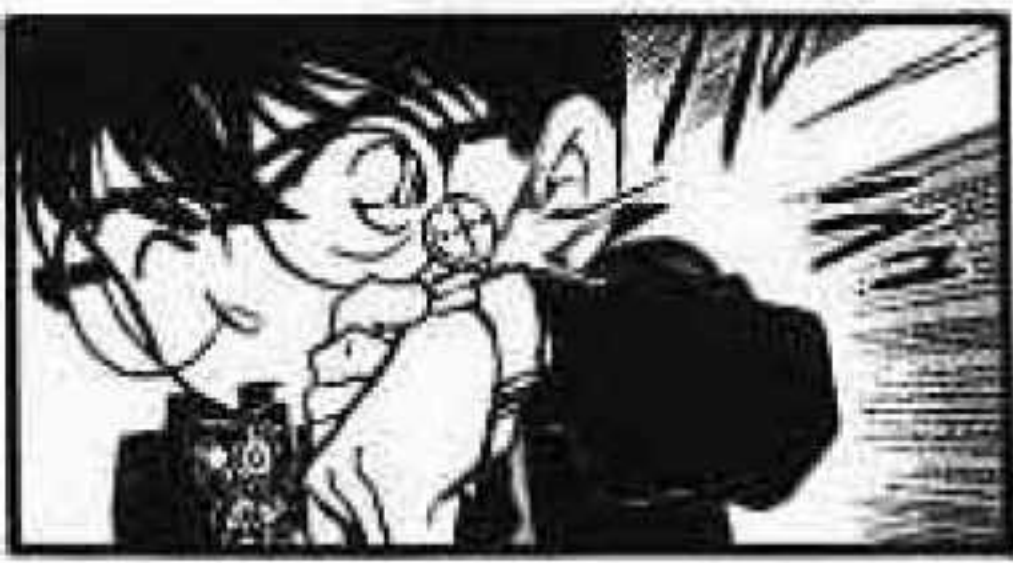


YOU CAN'T RELEASE THE SUSPECTS YET ...

WHO ?

N, NO... THAT WASN'T...

HUH ?



IS WHAT YOU'D EXPECT TO HEAR FROM ME ...

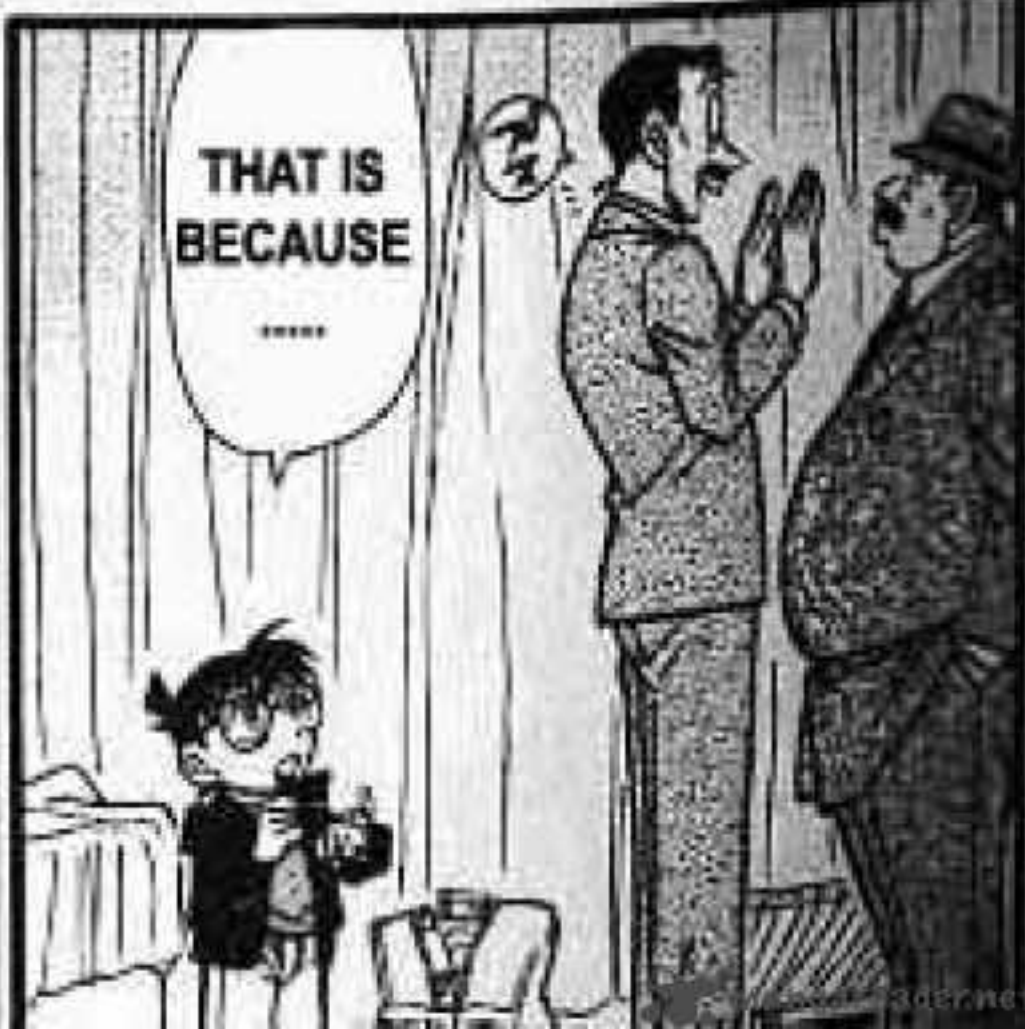


WELL, THANKS FOR EXCUSING US ...

THAT'S GREAT ! I WAS WORRIED IF I CORRECTLY SET VCR TO TAPE A TV DRAMA ...



THE CULPRIT IS



THAT IS BECAUSE



INSPECTOR
WAS SUCH A
GOOFBALL
...

WHAT
!!?



FLIPPING OUT
OVER HIS
FORTUNE
THINKING THAT
.....



ALL RIGHT.
THEN TELL
ME. YOU
MUST KNOW
WHO DID
IT ...

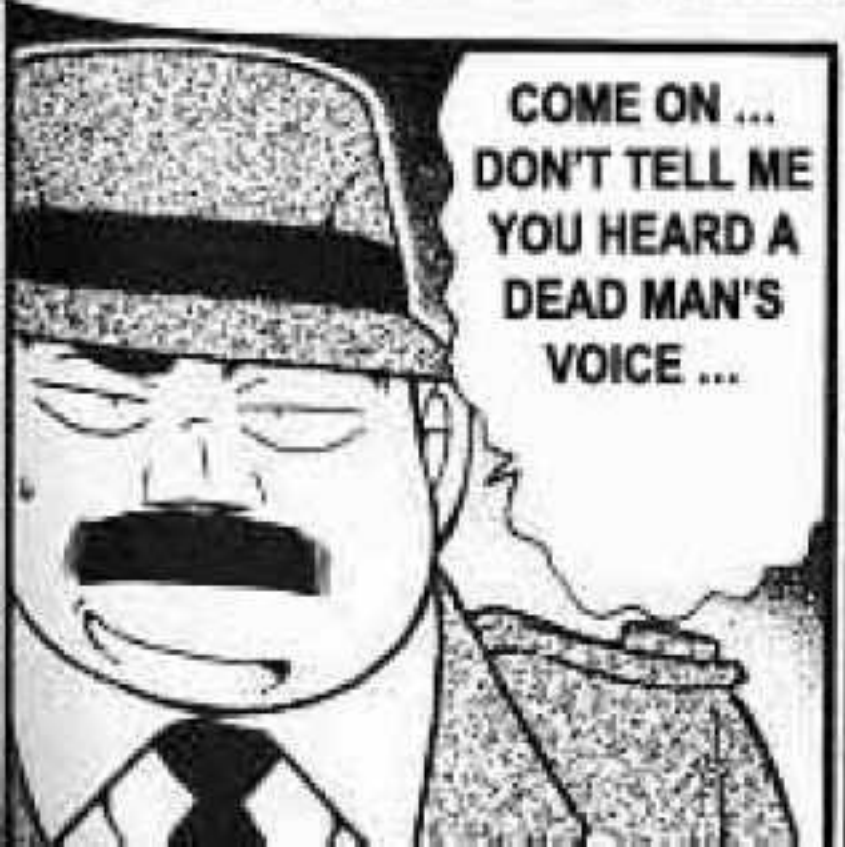
DAD !!
THAT'S
RUDE !!

UNCLE,
PLEASE
SNAP
OUT OF
IT !



SO THAT HE
COULDN'T TAKE
HIS CARDIAC
DRUGS AND DIE
ON HIS OWN !!

TELL ME WHO
WRAPPED MR.
ITAKURA IN A
BLANKET, TIED HIM
SITTING ON A CHAIR
TO THE LEG OF THE
DESK, AND LEFT
HIM FOR A
LONG TIME



COME ON ...
DON'T TELL ME
YOU HEARD A
DEAD MAN'S
VOICE ...



HUH
?

OF COURSE. MR.
ITAKURA HIMSELF
TOLD ME WHO
KILLED HIM ...



SOMEHOW
MR. ITAKURA'S
RIGHT ANKLE
HAD NO
APPARENT
MARK OF THE
SOCK ...

YOU SAW
IT TOO.

IT'S HIS
ANKLE
...



W...
WHY
?

NOW, WHY
DID MR.
ITAKURA
HAVE TO
TAKE OFF
HIS SOCK
...?

THAT IS BECAUSE MR.
ITAKURA TOOK OFF THE
SOCK FROM HIS RIGHT
FOOT. WHEN THE
CULPRIT RETURNED TO
THIS ROOM, HE PUT IT
BACK ON, AS IT
SEEMED
UNNATU-
RAL...



MOVED
CERTAIN
SOMETHING
...

IF HE DIDN'T,
HE COULD
NOT HAVE
PICKED UP
OR



IS IT
...?

IS...



PICK
UP
WHAT
?

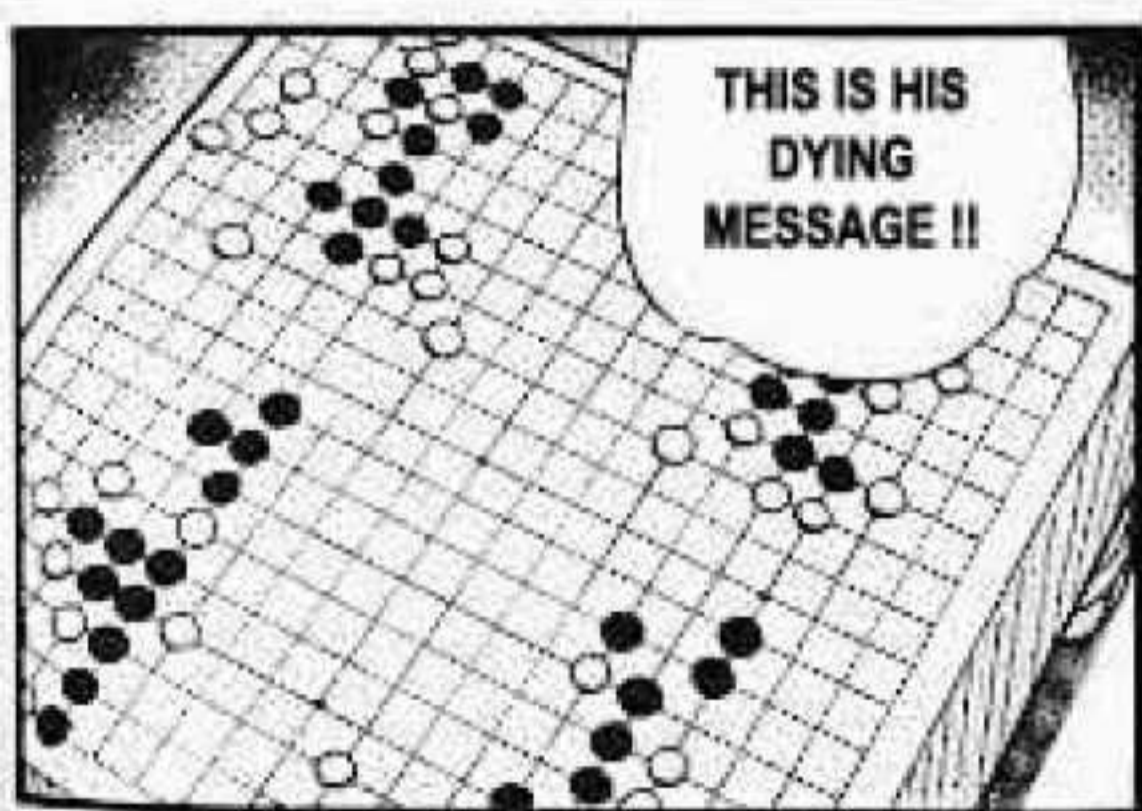


MR. ITAKURA REARRANGED THE STONES WITH THE RIGHT TOES TO LEAVE US THIS ...

EXACTLY. HE USED HIS TIME WISELY UNTIL THE EFFICACY OF THE HEART DRUG WEARS OFF



GO STONES !?



THIS IS HIS DYING MESSAGE !!



WHAT DOES IT SAY ? IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR IGO MATCH TO MY EYES ...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...



WHAT DOES IT ALL HAVE TO DO WITH THE DYING MESSAGE ...?



INSPECTOR, TAKE A SEAT AT THE DESK WHERE LAPTOP'S ON.



R, RIGHT ...

DETECTIVE TAKAGI ! PLEASE GET THE DIARY DISK AND A NEW EMPTY DISK FROM MR. ITAKURA'S BAG AND HAND THEM OVER TO INSPECTOR !



LET ME EXPLAIN THIS ONE BY ONE WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE, INSPECTOR ...

+ LOG ON
(LITERAL TRANSLATION)





YOU CAN'T DO THAT !
IT MIGHT CAUSE
MALFUNCTION OR EVEN
LOSS OF DATA STORED
IN THE COMPUTER
!!

HUH
?



AH
HH
HH
!!

UNABLE TO
WORK ONCE
UNPLUGGED
!!



IT TURNS OFF
ONLY WHEN YOU
KEEP THE BUTTON
PRESSED FOR A
WHILE! IT'S FOR
A SAFETY
REASON !!

BUT IT DIDN'T
TURN OFF WHEN
I PUSHED ON/OFF
BUTTON
...



AND "LOG ON" OR
"OPEN" ARE THE
TERMS YOU
WOULDN'T KNOW
IF NOT
FAMILIAR WITH
COMPUTERS
...

YES ...
WHAT INSPECTOR
DID WAS A TABOO
FOR THOSE WHO
USE PC ...



I
MEAN,
LOOK
...

OH ?
AREN'T THEY
STRANGE ?

EH
?



NOT
A
CLUE

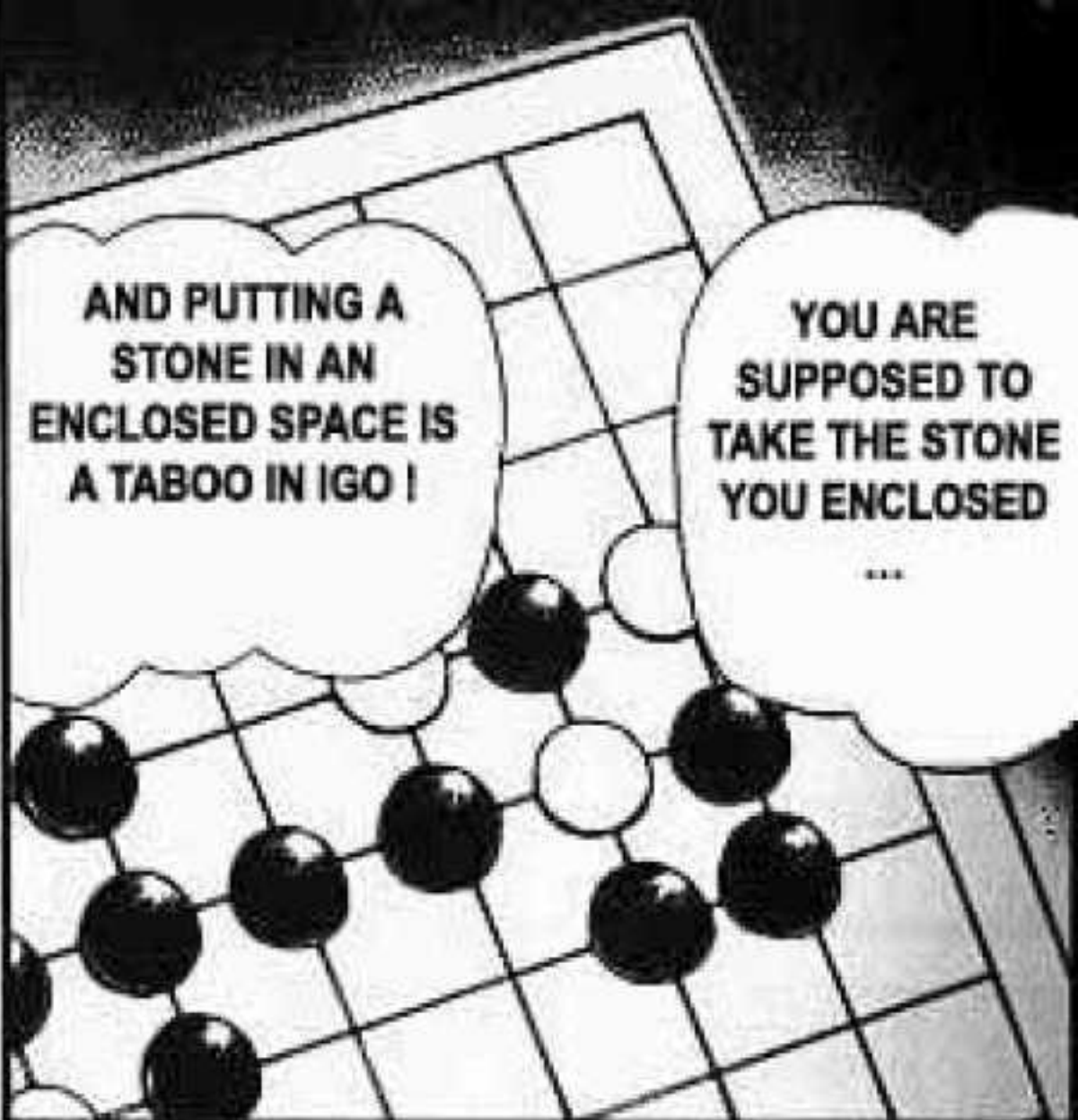
DO YOU
GET IT
?

I THINK YOU KNOW
WHAT THE STONES
SAY NOW
...



THESE STONES MUST REALLY HAVE MEANINGS ...

T, TABOO !?



AND PUTTING A STONE IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE IS A TABOO IN IGO !

YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THE STONE YOU ENCLOSED ...



NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET THE COPY OF THE DIARY ...

EVERYONE'S FOCUSING HIS ATTENTION ON THE STONES ...



ALL RIGHT ...

BUT WHAT ?



I... I THOUGHT THOSE STONES KIND OF LOOK LIKE

THEN WHAT'S UP ?



N, NO... I DIDN'T ...

HEY, DID YOU HIDE SOMETHING ?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?



ON THE
KEYBOARD
OF THIS
LAPTOP
!

THE PATTERNS
OF THOSE WEIRD
STICKERS



BRAI
LLE
...

JUST LIKE
MINE
...

OH... MR. ITAKURA
WAS LEARNING
BRAILLE BECAUSE
HIS VISION WAS
GETTING WORSE



PATTERN,
YOU MEAN
THE
BRAILLE
?

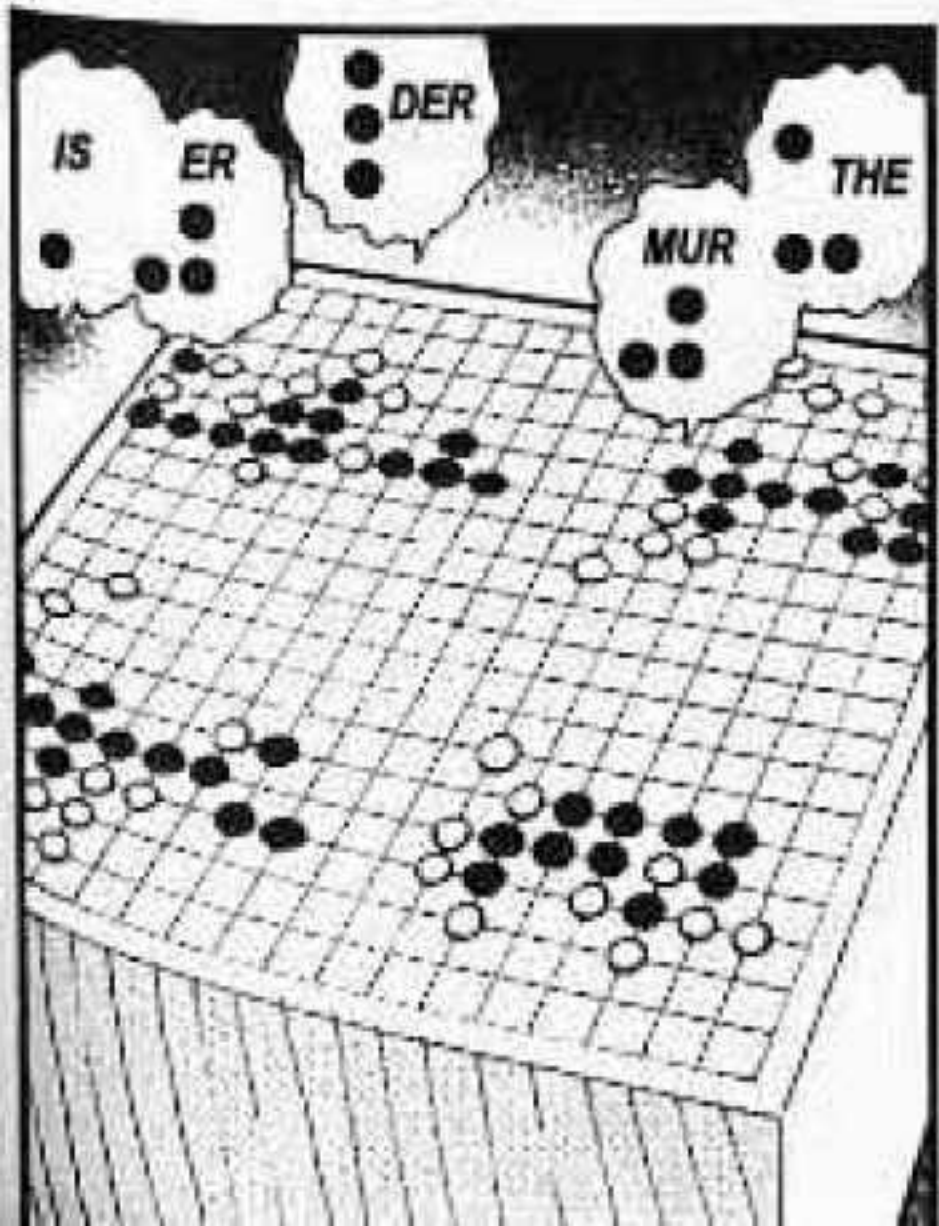
EH
?

+ BRAILLE = LANGUAGE FOR THE BLIND



MAYBE
IT'S
WRITTEN IN
BRAILLE+
...

I KNOW! THE
WRITING
SYSTEM ONLY
READABLE
TO THE
FAMILIAR
...

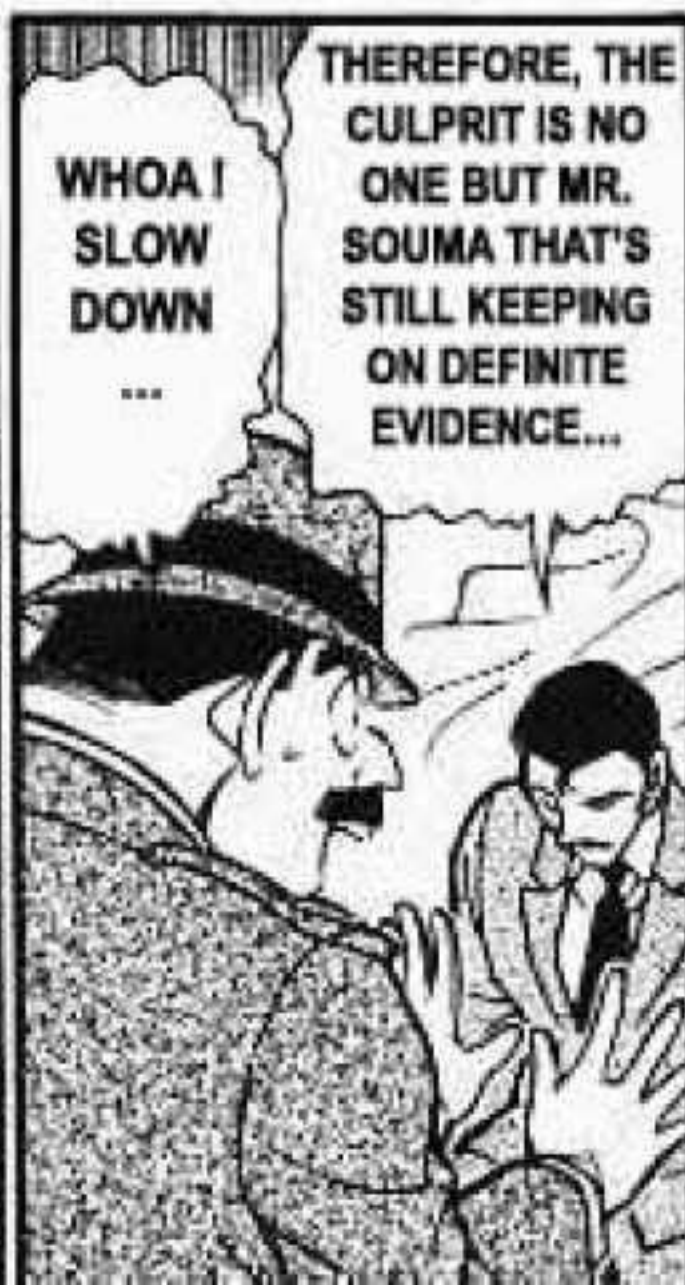


ACTUALLY, I
THINK I CAN
READ IT IF I
IGNORE THE
BLACK STONES
...



UM... I
HAVE
NEVER
SEEN ANY-
THING LIKE
IT...

WELL,
IS IT
?



AFTER ALL,
MR. ITAKURA
HAD TO BE
UNTIED
BEFORE
ANYONE FINDS
HIS BODY
...

MR. ITAKURA KNEW
THE CULPRIT WOULD
COME BACK BY THE
TIME HE'S GONE
...

CALM DOWN
CALM
YOURSELF...

THE COPY OF
THE DIARY IS
ALREADY IN
MY HAND
...

IF HE DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT IT
IS, HE CAN'T
DESTROY IT
...

THAT'S WHY HE
CHOSE GO STONES
TO LEAVE HIS
DYING MESSAGE.
IT'S A CODE
UNDECIPHERABLE
TO MR.
SOUMA.

THEN THE
POLICE
WILL CRACK
THE CODE
!

EVEN IF HE
DIDN'T, MR.
SUGAI WHO
REQUESTED
AN IGO GAME
MIGHT NOTICE
THE TABOO !

MR. NAITO'S VISION IS
BAD ENOUGH THAT HE
RELIES ON BRAILLE ON
AN ELEVATOR. THERE
WAS A GOOD CHANCE HE
RECOGNIZE THE
HIDDEN MESSAGE !

ALSO, IT WAS WELL
EXPECTED THAT HIS
THREE CUSTOMERS
COME LOOK FOR HIM !
THEN THE POLICE WOULD
SHOW THEM A
PHOTOGRAPH OF THE
STONES !

WITH HIS
VISION BEING
SO POOR
...

MR. ITAKURA
DISAPPEARED A
WEEK AGO ...
AND HE WAS A
WATCH LOVER ...

IT'S THE
ONE MR.
SOUMA IS
WEARING
NOW
...

WHAT ABOUT
THE WATCH
BEING THE
EVIDENCE ?

I SEE
...



THE WATCH YOU BOUGHT ONLY FIVE DAYS AGO!

MR. ITAKURA MUST HAVE TAKEN IT IN HIS HAND WHEN YOU FIRST VISITED HIM HERE

...



YOU SHOULD FIND HIS FINGER-PRINT ALL OVER IT

GO AHEAD ... EXAMINE IT

WE'LL TAKE THIS WATCH TO THE LAB AND...

...

THAT'S TRUE... A DEAD MAN THAT YOU REUNITED WITH AFTER A WEEK COULDN'T HAVE TOUCHED THE WATCH YOU BOUGHT FIVE DAYS GO

IT WOULD BE PERFECT EVIDENCE IF MR. ITAKURA'S FINGERPRINT WERE DETECTED FROM THE WATCH!

...



THAT'S WHEN I GAVE HIM WINE CONTAINING A SLEEPING PILL AND WRAPPED HIM IN A BLANKET

ITAKURA BECAME PREOCCUPIED WITH STUDYING THE WATCH

...



+ PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONS



BUT... WHEN I FINALLY FOUND ITAKURA THREE DAYS AGO, THIS IS WHAT HE SAID

OUR DREAM WAS TO CREATE THE BEST SHOGI PROGRAM THAT CAN BEAT MEIJIN+

...



TWENTY YEARS AGO WHEN ITAKURA WAS STILL AN UNKNOWN GAME CREATOR AND I WAS AN ENTRY-LEVEL EMPLOYEE OF A GAME COMPANY... WE WERE BOTH MEMBERS OF SHOGI SOCIETY...

MEMBERS OF SHOGI SOCIETY...

* MATTA = STOP, PASS



HE WAS CONSIDERING MATTA ...

IT'S A JOKE... I GATHERED NUMEROUS RECORDS OF MEJIN GAME OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. I BELIEVED WHEN HE SAID THE TIME HAS COME, AND I GOT INTO HUGE DEBT TO INVEST IN HIM. AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE TO CREATE THE BEST GAME EVER,



THAT'S WHEN I BOUGHT A ROLL OF TAPE AND SLEEPING PILLS ...

I TOLD HIM I'D GO GET WINE TO CELEBRATE BEFOREHAND.

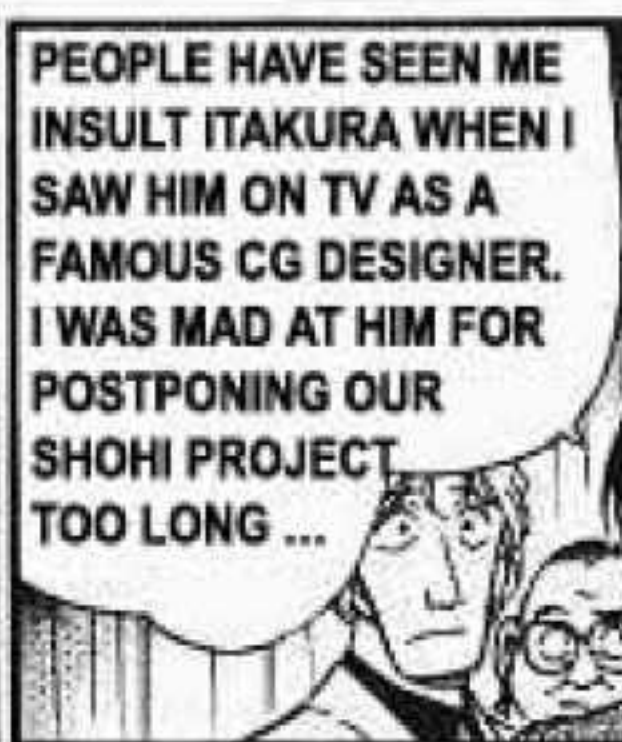


"HOW MANY MATTA SHOULD WE HAVE ?"



BOTH HEARTS AND DREAMS CHANGE IF TWO ARE SEPARATED TOO LONG ...

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE WAITED FOR TWENTY YEARS ...



PEOPLE HAVE SEEN ME INSULT ITAKURA WHEN I SAW HIM ON TV AS A FAMOUS CG DESIGNER. I WAS MAD AT HIM FOR POSTPONING OUR SHOHI PROJECT TOO LONG ...



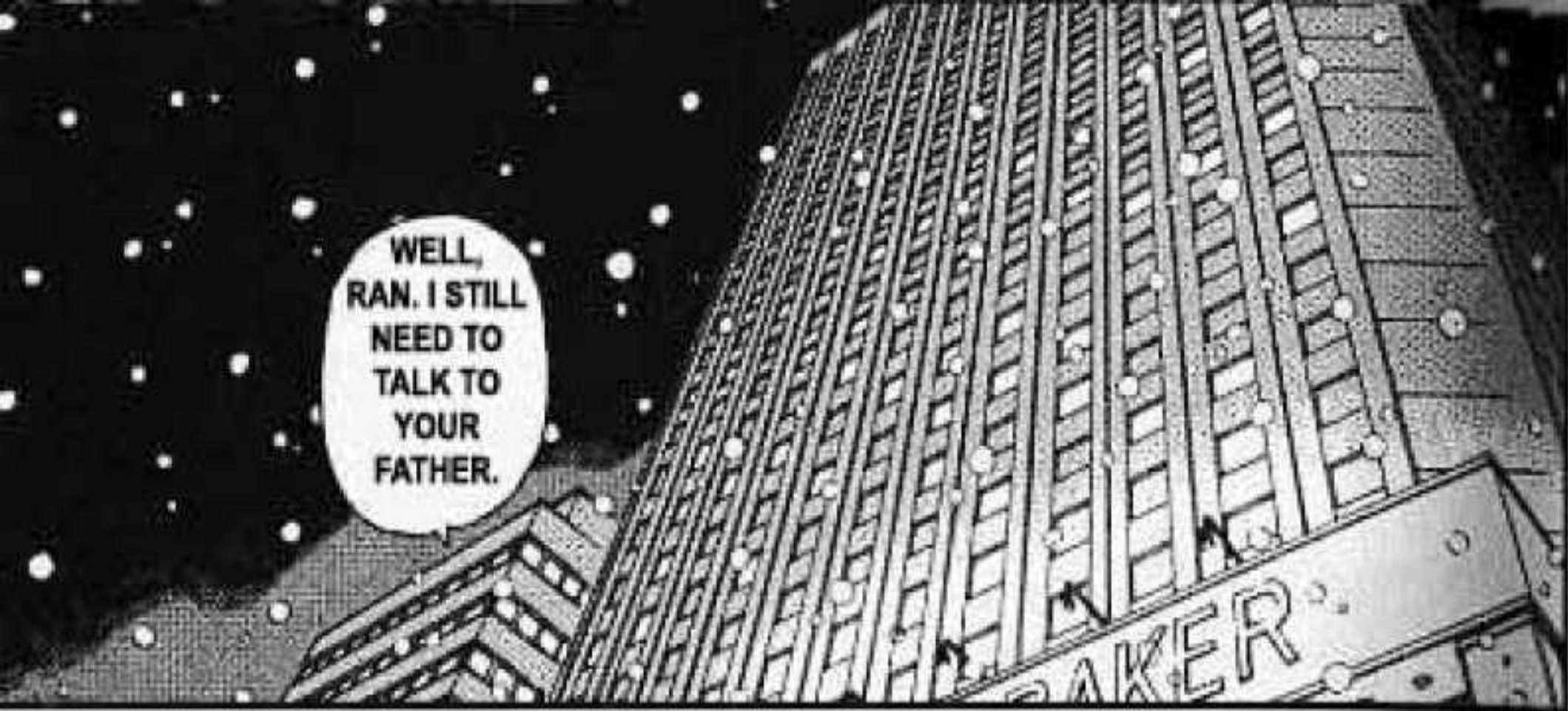
I WENT ALONG WITH YOUR IDEA TO SEEK FOR MOURI KOGORO'S HELP BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO BECOME SUSPICIOUS OF ME IN THE FUTURE ...



WHEN WE WERE STILL DREAMING TOGETHER ...



IF THERE IS MATTA IN REAL LIFE, I WISH I COULD GO BACK TO TWENTY YEARS AGO ...



WELL,
RAN. I STILL
NEED TO
TALK TO
YOUR
FATHER.



I HAVE
IT ...

YES
...



THE LEAD TO
BRING DOWN THE
MEN IN BLACK
!!

IT'S IN MY
POCKET
...



NO, IT'S
ALRIGHT.
IT'S ONLY
THIRTY-
MINUTE
WALK
...

PERHAPS YOU
SHOULD GET A
CAB TO GET
HOME ...

BYE-BYE,
INSPIC-
TOR
!!



HEY,
CONAN
...?



ON DOCTOR'S
COMPUTER
...

I WILL
EXAMINE
EVERY INCH
OF IT



EH?
?

DO YOU
THINK
PEOPLE
WOULD
CHANGE
...?
?



YOU KNOW,
IT'S KIND
OF DIFFI-
CULT...

I CAN DO
NOTHING
BUT
WAITING...



THERE
IS NO
NEED
TO WOR...



I'M SURE
HE'S AS
YOU
REMEM-
BER HIM
!!

SHINICHI
HASN'T
CHANGED
!



DO
HEARTS
GO APART
IF PEOPLE
ARE SEPA-
RATED...?





THAT
IS
.....



TH
...

