

Calamity 141

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 141: Death of a Powerhouse!

Team Renjiro ran in different directions at a fast speed. However, they were all very exhausted. Kakuzu could match Renjiro's speed. While Kaminari and his clones were faster than Fujin and his teammates.

After flickering 8 times, Fujin's chakra finally hit a low. He hid behind a tree and took deep breaths. Using the last bits of his chakra, he made a few hand signs.

Kaminari arrived almost immediately after Fujin. He saw the tracks left behind by Fujin and saw where he was hiding. He went around the tree and appeared in front of Fujin.

An evil smile appeared on his face. He said, "You brat destroyed half of my right ear. I will make you pay a thousand times."

He expected Fujin to be afraid. However, there was no hint of fear on Fujin's face. He was surprised. Fujin spoke with determination, "Ever since I became a ninja, I have always been determined to give my life for the village. Death doesn't scare me!"

Kaminari was stunned. But soon, he broke into a huge laughter, "Hahahahahaha"

He looked at Fujin with a cruel look in his eyes and said, "Brat, let me educate you. Death is kind. I will show you how miserable life is. By the time I am done with you, you will be begging for death! Hahaha."

Immediately a scared look appeared on Fujin's face. Kaminari's evil smirk grew bigger as he extended his arm to grab Fujin's neck.

At the same time, Hoka and Mieko were also caught by Kaminari's clones. They seemed too exhausted to fight back. Kaminari's clones approached them.

Soon after them, Renjiro was also chased down by Kakuzu. Kakuzu's Lightning mask appeared behind Renjiro and pushed him to the ground and pinned him down. Kakuzu appeared and said, "Your mastery of Water Element is very good! I will take your heart and replace my Water Mask with your heart!"

Renjiro's eyes widened as he processed this information. Threads appeared from the Lightning Mask and drilled into Renjiro's chest. However, Renjiro smirked. Kakuzu immediately had a bad feeling!

BOOM!!!!!!

Renjiro exploded under the Lightning Mask. Kakuzu moved away quickly, but his Lightning mask wasn't able to. It took the full brunt of the explosion. The mask cracked. Kakuzu was stunned! He lost one of his hearts!

He watched where Renjiro exploded and thought, 'Shadow Clone Explosion jutsu! But when did he make a shadow clone? Was it when he was escaping? No, I was keeping an eye. He didn't have any chance to make a shadow clone. So when did he do it?'

Kaminari's Lightning clones approached Hoka and Mieko. As soon as they reached within range, both Hoka and Mieko exploded. The clones couldn't react fast enough and were caught in the explosion. Both were dispelled!

Though Lightning clones didn't transmit information, the main body could sense when the clones were dispelled. The clones were dispelled when Kaminari's hand was extending towards Fujin. Kaminari realized that both his clones got dispelled and became distracted for a fraction of a second.

Fujin noticed it and he exploded as well! Kaminari noticed and immediately moved backwards. However, his right forearm felt the explosion. Its skin was burnt!

His face became ugly. He thought in rage, 'When the heck did he create a shadow clone? He didn't have any chakra left to be able to create shadow clones!'

He looked around the area but found no signs of someone escaping. He moved towards where his other two clones were dispelled. But once again, he couldn't find any signs of Mieko or Hoka escaping.

After a few minutes of fruitless search, he ran back to where the fighting had happened. Kakuzu was inspecting the area.

He appeared behind Kakuzu. Kakuzu immediately noticed the half-blown ear and a burnt right eye. Kaminari also noticed that Kakuzu's cloak was destroyed.

Kaminari said, "The ones I chased were all clones! There were no tracks that showed someone running away."

Kakuzu said, "Same here. The Renjiro I chased and escaped turned out to be a shadow clone. Bastard exploded it when I caught him."

Kaminari said, "You too? The same happened with that wind user. I am guessing it was the same with the other two as well. But when did they create the clones?"

Kakuzu replied, "We were probably fighting the clones the whole time. Though they tried to hide their tracks, signs are showing that four people escaped from this route.

And their clones all escaped in opposite directions of the Land of Fire's border. It looks like they wanted to lure us away and buy some time to escape!"

Kaminari was surprised. Immediately he became very angry. Blood vessels could be seen on his forehead! He said, "No wonder those two brats were so good with Earth release and Water release! They were Renjiro's disguised clones!"

His chakra flared up as he yelled, "Those bastards think that they can make a mockery of us? Kakuzu, you check their tracks, and I will bring you to them! Those bastards can't escape from us!"

Kakuzu nodded. Sparks appeared on Kaminari's body. He grabbed Kakuzu and moved along the path Kakuzu said rapidly. They were taking the shortest route to the Land of Fire!

After running at max speed for 5 minutes, they finally saw four silhouettes. Kaminari immediately shouted, "BASTARDS! YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN MAKE A MOCKERY OF ME?"

Team Renjiro heard the shout and stopped. They immediately took a battle stance. Kaminari dropped Kakuzu and rushed towards them.

Kakuzu followed him, but thought, 'Something is off!'

Kaminari was much faster than Kakuzu. He reached them in a blink of an eye. Renjiro unsheathed his sword and attacked Kaminari. Kaminari grabbed a kunai and flowed lightning through it and attacked Renjiro.

Renjiro blocked his attack. At the instant their weapons clashed, Fujin, Hoka and Mieko flickered next to Kaminari to surround him from all sides!

Kaminari was surprised by this maneuver. He had a bad feeling. Immediately, all four exploded!

Kakuzu sensed it and stayed behind. Kaminari, however, was completely caught in the explosion! He released Lightning from all over his body to form armor, but he wasn't proficient in such an application of Lightning. It helped reduce the impact of the explosion, but he was hit nonetheless!

After a second, Kaminari jumped out of the dust cloud created by the explosions. His clothes were blasted. Almost all the skin on his body was burnt. He was bleeding a lot as well.

Kakuzu appeared next to him and said, "The trail was left behind by clones! Since this was the shortest route to Konoha, we assumed that they escaped here. To think that they would set up another trap here!"

Kaminari looked at Kakuzu in rage and yelled, "BASTARD! You led me into a fucking trap! And then hid behind and watched me getting hit!"

Kakuzu looked at him and said, "I didn't ask you to rush ahead like a moron. It was your stupidity."

Kaminari yelled, "Asshole, are you calling me a moron? It was your dumb head that led us into this trap in the first place!"

Kakuzu didn't reply, but Kaminari kept yelling at him! After yelling for a bit, Kaminari turned around and walked away.

However, in the next instant, an arm pierced through his right lung. Kaminari looked down in horror. Threads drilled into his body as Kakuzu began taking his heart.

Kakuzu said, "I guess they didn't tell you. My previous partners died because I couldn't stand them and killed them."

Kaminari was stunned. A rogue ninja from Kumogakure, who was on the threshold of reaching S rank, died without anyone seeing.

Well, not without anyone seeing, as two pairs of eyes were watching this act. The first pair of eyes belonged to Zetsu. The other belonged to Renjiro's shadow clone.

Fujin's clone sensed when Kakuzu and Kaminari were chasing after them. He relayed the information to Renjiro's clone who used the minimum amount of chakra needed to create a shadow clone. The clone moved out of the path and hid underground.

After killing Kaminari, Kakuzu removed his heart. Threads gathered around that heart and a new Lightning mask was formed!

Renjiro's clone watched the whole process. Surprisingly, Kakuzu didn't feel anyone keeping an eye on him until he was done with the process.

After the Lightning Mask formed, it entered into Kakuzu's body. Knowing that any further hunt was meaningless, Kakuzu retreated away from the Land of Fire. Renjiro's clone dispelled itself to transmit the information back.

Long away from where Kaminari died, Team Renjiro entered the Land of Fire.

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Chapter 142: Formation Nine!

Flashback -

Team Renjiro was about to press on the attack, when Fujin said, "Formation nine!"

The eyes of Renjiro, Mieko and Hoka widened. Formation nine was a code word for a battle tactic that Renjiro had taught them.

It was a tactic used under a specific condition. The condition was that they are facing adversity so strong that they have no chance of victory and a high chance of death!

Renjiro's eyes widened, but he completed his jutsu. Fujin made one shadow clone and poured around 70% of his chakra into it.

Renjiro made three clones and poured 60% chakra into one clone and 5% chakra into each of his remaining 2 clones. The weaker clones used the Transformation jutsu to transform into Hoka and Mieko as neither of them knew the Shadow Clone jutsu.

He followed up with the summoning jutsu to summon the Sloth. All this was done in under 2 seconds while Kakuzu and Kaminari were hiding under the dome. The clones stayed behind while the real ones escaped by flickering continuously.

After escaping for a kilometer, Renjiro made 3 more clones while Fujin made another. A couple of clones transformed into Mieko and Hoka once again and continued escaping forward. While the real team took a different and longer path and left behind no tracks at all!

After splitting, Fujin was breathing hard. He had lost most of his chakra to the clones. Since he planned to end with Shadow Explosion jutsu, his clones won't return any chakra.

After moving for a bit, Mieko asked seriously, "Why did you say formation nine? Who were those guys?"

Fujin didn't reply and tapped one of the pockets of his flak jacket. A scroll dropped. Fujin opened it and summoned a bottle.

Everyone watched as a bottle of Soldier pills appeared in Fujin's hands. Fujin opened and consumed a pill. He looked at Renjiro and asked, "Do you want one as well, Sensei?"

Renjiro nodded and took a pill. Fujin kept the bottle back and answered, "The masked man is Kakuzu. I read his information in the Bingo book. He is, or rather was, an S rank ninja!"

This information surprised them. Especially Renjiro who knew the information of all S rank ninjas. Renjiro asked, "What do you mean by 'was'?"

Fujin answered, "According to the information, he was sent by Takigakure to assassinate Lord First Hokage. But he failed and was presumed dead. However, somehow, he managed to make it alive and returned to his village. After returning, he revolted against his village and became a rogue ninja. He was never seen again. I guess everyone assumed that he died and hence he isn't put in the shorter Bingo books."

The explanation shocked them. But soon, they became skeptical. Mieko said, "The first Hokage lived a loooooonnnnggg time ago! How would that guy still be alive if he fought back then?"

Mieko purposefully stretched the word 'long' while speaking to tease Fujin.

Even Renjiro was doubtful of this information. How could someone that old look so young?

Fujin shrugged and said, "We will get the information when our clones are dispelled. If you have the bigger Bingo book, you are free to check."

He looked at Mieko with a smirk on his face and said, "If you want to go back to check with your own eyes, then good luck. I'll be sure to offer flowers to your grave, haha."

Renjiro instantly shut him up, "Don't joke about such things. Anyways, fighting them wasn't a part of our mission. So there is no need to risk our lives against enemies we don't have information about."

Fujin looked at Hoka and asked, "Hoka, you said his body was disgusting. What did you see?"

Hoka answered, "Instead of nerves and blood vessels, his body seems to be made of threads. And he had 5 hearts in his body!"

Mieko was shocked. She asked, "5 hearts? How can something like that be possible?"

Hoka replied, "I have no idea."

They both looked at Renjiro. So did Fujin. Renjiro shook his head and said, "I have never heard about any such technique. But, if we assume that having just 1 heart would keep him alive, it could mean that he just faked his death against Lord First."

Fujin, Mieko and Hoka nodded. They all analyzed the information.

After some time, Fujin asked, "Sensei, who was the other guy?"

Renjiro looked at Fujin and asked, "You didn't see him in the Bingo book?"

Fujin answered, "The Bingo book has way too many names. I probably forgot. I only read the S ranked ninjas in detail."

Renjiro understood. The Bingo books had a lot of names. It was impractical to remember everything. He said, "The other guy is Kaminari. He was an Elite Jounin in Kumogakure. He is strong, and very close to being ranked S. He was deployed against Kirigakure in the 3rd war. So I never fought him before."

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'Akatsuki recruits ninjas who aren't S ranked? I guess none of Kakuzu's previous partners was S ranked. That's why they died at his hands. This guy will be killed by him as well.'

Fujin asked Renjiro, "Why did he go rogue?"

Renjiro answered, "We don't have much information regarding that. He went missing after the 3rd war. We speculated that the 3rd Raikage passed the secrets of his Lightning Release : Chakra Mode to his son and not to him.

That is why he couldn't master the Lightning Release : Chakra Mode and hence didn't have any chance at becoming the 4th Raikage. Seeing that he has gone rogue, it looks like this is indeed the case."

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'Oh well, no matter the world, nepotism exists everywhere!'

Fujin replied, "I see. That seems dumb."

Renjiro nodded, "Yeah, it is."

Fujin said, "Did you notice their cloaks Sensei?"

Renjiro nodded.

Fujin said, "They are both rogue ninjas. And both are very strong. Seeing that they both wore the same cloak, they probably have some organization behind them."

Renjiro agreed, "Yes. It is disturbing. I'll ask Lord Hokage to look into this. If there are more ninjas at this level in this organization, then they could pose a threat to even Konoha."

They moved alongside the longer path for around 10 minutes while discussing more. Mieko and Hoka complained about missing out and decided to learn the Shadow Clone jutsu after returning to the village.

Team Renjiro flickered numerous times in order to ensure that they can't be chased. Mieko and Hoka also consumed a soldier pill each.

While moving, Fujin wondered, 'Renjiro was never mentioned in the original story. Could it be because he was killed by Kakuzu? Then again, he is getting old. He could have just retired and stepped aside. And

he probably became one of the thousands of nameless ninjas who participated in the 4th war. Not much point thinking about it.'

Finally, Renjiro and Fujin received memories of their clones.

Sweat immediately formed on Renjiro's face. He said in a shocked voice, "You were right Fujin. Kakuzu is strong. Very strong. If we had stayed back, the most probable result would have been our death!"

Mieko and Hoka were shocked. Hoka asked, "He is stronger than even you, Sensei?"

Renjiro nodded. He answered, "Don't overestimate me. There are many who are stronger than me. While killing my clone, Kakuzu said something about taking my heart. I guess his longevity secrets have some relation with his multiple hearts.

Also, he probably went a bit easier on my clone as he didn't want to damage my heart. If he was serious about killing me, my clone wouldn't have lasted that long."

Mieko and Hoka were stunned by Renjiro's admission. Fujin wasn't surprised. He was well aware of how strong Kakuzu was.

Renjiro looked at Fujin and said, "You did great. If it was known that you managed to injure Kaminari, your reputation would explode."

Mieko and Hoka looked at Fujin with envy. Knowing their thoughts, Fujin looked at them with an innocent smile on his face and said, "I probably burnt his right forearm with the clone explosion too."

They immediately snorted and looked away. They both hated looking at Fujin's smug face!

Fujin looked at Renjiro and said, "Keep it a secret if you can, Sensei. I don't want a bounty so soon."

Renjiro nodded. Getting attention wasn't always a good thing. He said, "I'll report it to Lord Hokage secretly. Mieko, Hoka, don't talk about this to anyone."

Both nodded. As a ninja, keeping secrets was critical. The lesser others knew about you, the higher your chances of victory would be. Kaminari was much stronger than Fujin. The reason that Fujin managed to injure him was that he got overconfident and wasn't aware of Fujin's skill with the Wind Vacuum Technique.

Fujin looked at Renjiro and said, "Using long and wide range Ninjutsu is very useful. Especially when fighting against someone stronger."

Renjiro nodded and said, "It's especially true for Wind Element. Facing Sunagakure in the desert is a nightmare. Even more so when they mixed poison with it.

But, don't get overconfident. Kaminari didn't go all out as your chakra would eventually run out. If you are outmatched, then this tactic is only good for wasting time."

Fujin nodded. He had sensed that Kaminari stalled only because his fighting tactic was unsustainable.

Fujin said, "I wonder if they will chase or not."

Renjiro analyzed and said, "Probably no. They took 10 minutes to dispel our clones. Tracking would be tougher and they would have to move a lot faster."

Fujin nodded. Chasing would be rather pointless now. But, they were both wrong. A bit later, both received the memories of their clones again.

Fujin said, "That was impulsive."

Renjiro nodded, "Yes, it was."

Mieko and Hoka asked, "What happened, Sensei?"

Renjiro answered, "They tracked our clones. Kaminari attacked recklessly. All four clones surrounded him and exploded. He should be injured, but his life won't be in danger. I guess he was just annoyed at getting fooled."

Mieko chuckled, "That would teach him a good lesson for chasing after us."

Renjiro replied, "Don't take it too lightly. This time we were saved due to Fujin reading the Bingo books. When we return, you and Hoka should read it too. Also, this tactic worked perfectly this time. Next time, it won't work so well. So work hard and become stronger."

His students nodded. Though they got away without any injuries, the experience was very scary. After travelling for a bit, they finally reached the borders of the Land of Fire.

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Chapter 143: Akatsuki

While they were entering, Renjiro suddenly stopped. His students looked at him. Hoka asked, "What happened, Sensei?"

Renjiro replied, "Kaminari died!"

His students were shocked.

Mieko and Hoka thought, 'How could someone so strong die suddenly?'

Fujin recovered from the shock fastest and concluded, 'Looks like Kakuzu killed him for his heart. Though Renjiro didn't say anything, he probably managed to destroy one heart with his clone. Most likely the lightning one.'

Hoka asked, "How did he die, Sensei?"

Renjiro answered, "Looks like they had an argument. When Kaminari turned his back, Kakuzu attacked him. His technique does depend on hearts. He stole his heart after killing."

Renjiro thought hard. After some time, he said, "Don't tell anyone about him. I'll make a secret report to Lord Hokage and have him investigate Kakuzu."

His students nodded. The death or betrayal of an Elite Jounin during peacetime would always be a huge deal. Such matters are better left to the village to handle.

The team kept moving forward at a fast speed. Hoka asked, "Sensei, aren't we going to go to the patrol outpost?"

Renjiro shook his head and answered, "No. A lot of things happened during this mission. It's best to report to the village right away. As for Seiichi, I'll talk with him later."

Fujin thought, 'Yeah, that would be the best. Though we are inside the Land of Fire, I wouldn't call it safe.'

Due to eating the soldier pills, they weren't tired. So they continued moving without any breaks until they reached Konoha.

Land of Rain :

Deep within the dense forests of the Land of Rain, a hideout existed. Even light had difficulty reaching it. The number of people who were aware of its presence can be counted on one hand. A man sat still in this hideout.

Suddenly, a figure began appearing from the ground. It appeared right in front of him. The man opened his eyes. His eyes shone with purple colors. Multiple circles can be seen in his eyes.

White Zetsu said, "Pain! Pain! You won't believe what I saw!"

The man sitting was the Deva Path of Nagato. Pain looked at White Zetsu, waiting for it to say. But he didn't say anything.

Pain asked, "What did you see?"

White Zetsu said excitedly, "Kakuzu and Kaminari fought against a squad from Konoha. The Konoha ninjas managed to run away and injured them. In the end, Kakuzu and Kaminari entered into an argument and Kakuzu killed him."

Nagato was surprised. He asked, "Which squad of Konoha did they run into? Did the remaining two Sannins return?"

Black Zetsu replied, "No. It was Senju Renjiro, an elite jounin from Konoha, and his students."

Pain asked, "How strong are he and his students?"

Black Zetsu replied, "He has a bounty of 45 million Ryo. He is quite strong, but not in S rank. His students just got promoted to Chunins."

Nagato was surprised once again. However, soon he was disappointed. He thought, 'A squad of fresh chunins led by an Elite Jounin managed to injure and run away from a couple of Akatsuki members. And they even caused an argument which resulted in one of my members dying. So disappointing.'

White Zetsu said, "It was so surprising! Kaminari just turned his back to Kakuzu and got stabbed in the back."

Nagato and Black Zetsu ignored White Zetsu. Black Zetsu asked, "What do we do now?"

Pain answered, "Let Kakuzu move alone. Scout a partner for him that he can't kill."

White Zetsu said, "Since Konoha ninjas fought with them, Konoha will now have information about us. If they focus on us, it may cause a lot of issues! They have some scary ninjas!"

Pain replied, "They most likely already know about us. Even if they take any action against us, they are no threat. You don't need to worry about it. Just scout for stronger members."

Zetsu nodded and left. White Zetsu said, "That was surprising. I thought he'd be upset or angry."

Black Zetsu replied, "He is strong. Even without Akatsuki, he could capture all 9 Tailed Beasts. So he doesn't attach any importance to weaklings who'd die so easily."

White Zetsu smiled and said, "Yeah. His eyes are so scary!"

Zetsu would search for new members for Akatsuki. Unfortunately, Hidan won't complete his ritual for quite a few years. So many more Akatsuki members would die at Kakuzu's hands.

Konoha :

After travelling the whole night, Team Renjiro returned to Konoha early in the morning. En route, Renjiro imparted his vast knowledge to his students to prepare them for their future.

After entering Konoha, they went to the Hokage building right away. They walked towards the Hokage's office. The door was closed. Renjiro walked forward to knock on the door. However, an Anbu ninja appeared in front of him.

The Anbu ninja said in a serious tone, "Lord Hokage is busy. You will have to wait."

Renjiro looked back at him and said, "It's important."

The Anbu ninja was surprised. He knew Renjiro. He said, "Lord Hokage is having a meeting with the elders."

Renjiro replied, "It's more important. Besides, it's good that the elders are there. They would like to hear my report as well."

The Anbu ninja nodded and said, "Wait a few seconds."

He knocked on the door.

Inside the office, Hiruzen was discussing some matters with Homura and Kohaku. They stopped as soon as they heard the knock.

The Anbu ninja entered and said, "Lord Hokage. Senju Renjiro has returned and has something important to report."

Hiruzen furrowed his eyebrows. He thought, 'Knowing Renjiro, he wouldn't interrupt for no reason.'

He said, "Alright, send him in."

On hearing Hiruzen, Renjiro entered the office. His students followed him. The Anbu ninja left the office and closed the door.

Hiruzen looked at Renjiro and asked, "How did the mission go Renjiro?"

Renjiro answered, "The mission went well. There were 16 rogue ninjas who were formerly from Kirigakure. We killed 13. I'll report the details later. What happened while we were returning is important."

Hiruzen and the elders paid close attention. Renjiro was one of the very few active Elite Jounins in Konoha. If he thought something to be important, it would be a serious matter.

Renjiro said, "We were attacked by two rogue ninjas while we were returning. One of them was Kaminari from Kumogakure."

Hiruzen and the elders immediately became serious.

Renjiro continued, "The other was called Kakuzu. He is a rogue ninja from Takigakure. Fujin remembered his data from the Bingo book. Apparently, he had tried assassinating Lord First."

This surprised them. Kohaku immediately said, "That can't be right. Even if it is, that person would be very old and not worth our attention."

Renjiro replied, "He is stronger than me. He would easily be categorized as an S rank ninja. Luckily we escaped while deceiving them with clones. Otherwise, even getting away would have been unlikely."

This shocked them. Renjiro's strength was top tier in Konoha. Only 3 in Konoha could claim to be able to kill him without allowing him to escape. Hiruzen asked, "Even you wouldn't have been able to get away?"

Renjiro nodded. He said, "Even more worrisome is that they were wearing the same uniform. Both wore black cloaks with red clouds on them."

Hiruzen's eyes widened. Renjiro noticed it. Hiruzen said, "Akatsuki."

After a pause, he continued, "It's where my treacherous student joined after betraying us."

Renjiro was shocked. He asked, "Even Orochimaru is there? What do we know about this organization?"

Hiruzen replied, "Not much. Jiraiya tracked Orochimaru and they entered into a fight. He got this information from Orochimaru. We did some searching. Apparently, it is a mercenary organization. Iwa and smaller countries around it often employ them.

We don't know much about them. Their leader is a mystery. So is their total number of members. Other than Orochimaru, we had heard just about Juzo joining them. And now we know about Kaminari and Kakuzu joining them as well."

Renjiro analyzed and replied, "That's not much information."

Hiruzen nodded. They discussed a bit about Akatsuki and what steps they should take. Renjiro proceeded to provide them with all the details of the encounter. Fujin, Hoka and Mieko paid attention and observed how Renjiro interacted with the leaders and provided the information.

They noticed that Renjiro made no mention of Fujin's battle achievements against Kaminari.

After half an hour of discussion, Hiruzen handed Team Renjiro the mission rewards. Hiruzen looked at the newly promoted chunins who just had to undergo such a frightening encounter.

He thought, 'Sigh, I don't want such young kids to encounter such dangers. But since they survived, this incident will make them stronger. Should I reward them with something to motivate them more?'

As the thought crossed his mind, Hiruzen's gaze fell upon Fujin. He immediately decided, 'No, there is no need to.'

Team Renjiro was dismissed. They left the Hokage's building.

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Chapter 144: Chapter 141: Farewells

Renjiro looked at his students and said, "Come, let's go out to eat."

His students followed him.

Mieko asked, "Which restaurants are open at this time of the day, Sensei?"

Renjiro replied, "The Ramen shop should be open. Follow quickly. It's my treat."

He flickered. His students immediately began the race. They arrived at the shop and ordered their ramen.

Renjiro asked, "What have you planned for the future?"

Mieko replied, "I will join the Konoha Police force."

Hoka said, "My father will arrange for me to join a squad. So I will be doing more missions."

Fujin answered, "I am not sure. I haven't thought about it. I guess I will spend some time mastering the Wind Vacuum Technique."

Renjiro thought and said, "Mieko, I know all Uchiha join the police force. However, there aren't many opportunities to fight in the Police force. I would recommend you to go on a few missions. It will provide you with more experience that will be helpful in becoming a jounin."

Mieko nodded and said, "Yes Sensei. If the police force isn't a challenge, then I'll take difficult missions as well."

Renjiro smiled. He looked at Hoka and said, "Hoka, don't forget to train ninjutsu as well."

Hoka nodded and said with reluctance, "Yes Sensei."

Renjiro looked at Fujin and said, "Fujin, training is good. But don't forget to do missions as well. In a battlefield, your skills will grow at a much faster pace than in a training field."

Fujin nodded and said, "Yes Sensei."

Teuchi served ramen. They began eating. While eating, Renjiro said, "Chunin is an important phase. Your leadership skills will be developed at this rank. And you will be able to undertake a variety of missions and cooperate with a large number of fellow chunins."

When undertaking missions, do a few missions with chunins you have never worked with. It will help you understand the skills of a lot more ninjas. And you could also find techniques or jutsus that suit you perfectly. So keep your mind open and observe everyone properly."

He took a pause and said with a serious tone, "Of course, the most important thing is that you take care of your life. Don't take unnecessary risks and complete the missions in the most efficient ways. Don't try to get interesting fights when you can finish your enemy off with lesser efforts."

All three nodded seriously. Until now, they could play around as they had Renjiro looking after their backs. But that won't be the case anymore.

Renjiro said, "There is another thing that I want you to know. Fujin, do you recall our conversation about Kekkei Genkai?"

Fujin thought for a bit and said, "Yes Sensei."

Mieko asked, "What did you discuss?"

Renjiro replied, "We didn't discuss much."

He looked at Fujin and said, "Last time, I didn't tell you some details as you were still training. The truth is, that other than inheriting a Kekkei Genkai from a bloodline, you can also create a Kekkei Genkai by fusing two natures."

Mieko and Hoka were surprised to learn this. Fujin was shocked. He thought, 'What the hell? Kekkei Genkai can be created? By people who don't have any relations to that bloodline?'

Mieko asked, "How can Kekkei Genkai be created, Sensei?"

Renjiro said, "Let's take the example of Scorch Release. It is a Kekkei Genkai that forms from the Fire and Wind natures. If a ninja has mastered these two natures and can fuse the two natures perfectly, then that ninja will be able to use Scorch release."

Mieko quickly asked in an excited tone, "Does this mean that I can have two Kekkei Genkai?"

Renjiro nodded and said, "If you can fuse two elements perfectly, then yes."

He paused for a few seconds to let his students absorb this information. He continued, "However, it is almost impossible to do this. Very few are known to attain a Kekkei Genkai through this method. I didn't tell you about this earlier because I didn't want you to waste your time on this. Even someone as talented and strong as Lord Hokage couldn't manage to do this."

Fujin thought, 'Oh. Even Hiruzen can't do it. But, he said that very few could do this. Who were they? And how did they manage to fuse them?'

Mieko asked, "How to fuse two elements, Sensei?"

Renjiro smiled and answered, "I don't know. I never managed to do it. The basic requirement is that you should have a complete mastery of two natures. Only then can you attempt to fuse them.

No one from Konoha ever managed to do this. Lord Second and Third spent quite a few years trying this but never succeeded. One of the Sannins, Orochimaru, also tried without any success.

But, we researched this a lot and concluded that managing to fuse two natures needs a lot of luck and maybe some sort of epiphany. While talent is also a factor, it isn't enough to achieve this."

This information decreased the hopes of Fujin and Mieko. Hoka wasn't concerned about this. Fujin thought, 'An epiphany. I guess that is the only explanation that can explain the likes of Kakashi, Hiruzen and Orochimaru not achieving this. Still, this is definitely worth a try. Though I need to decide which elements to try.'

After analyzing, Fujin asked, "Sensei, is this method only valid for Elemental Kekkei Genkai? Can Kekkei Genkai such as Sharingan, Byakugan or Shikotsumyaku also be created?"

Mieko and Hoka were surprised by this question. They both looked at Fujin as he had just mentioned their Kekkei Genkai.

Renjiro answered, "No. At least, there has been no record of those 3 Kekkei Genkai appearing outside their bloodlines."

Fujin was disappointed. He sighed internally thinking, 'Just when I thought I had an easier way to climb to the top. I am not sure how much aid an elemental Kekkei Genkai will provide me. But something like Sharingan or Shikotsumyaku would have buffed me up a lot.'

Renjiro said, "Anyways, don't bother trying to fuse two natures anytime soon. None of you has even mastered one nature manipulation to a sufficient degree. Fusing would need two natures at a similar level as my Earth and Water natures.

I told you just so that you guys would be aware. So that if one of you gets lucky and has that epiphany in the future, you won't miss out on the good fortune."

The trio nodded. Fujin thought, 'My Wind element is still not at that level? Guess there really is no need to consider this anytime soon.'

The group finished their ramen and left the shop. Renjiro looked at his students and said, "I am glad that Lord Hokage assigned me as your sensei. You have become fine ninjas."

All three respectfully bowed and said in unison, "Thank you for teaching and training us Sensei."

Renjiro looked with an emotional look and said, "Leave. Take some rest."

He flickered away.

Fujin, Hoka and Mieko saw Renjiro flickering. Hoka said in a sad voice, "I'll miss training under him. We got so strong in a year!"

Fujin nodded, "Yes. We were lucky to have him as our sensei. From what I have heard, other senseis don't put this much effort into their students."

Mieko nodded and said, "Yes. Even my parents were very respectful of him."

The trio looked at each other.

Fujin said, "I guess it means that we won't see each other often either."

Hoka and Mieko nodded.

Hoka said, "Well, we could take missions together once in a while."

Mieko nodded, "Yes, that will be fun."

She looked at Hoka and smirked, "Maybe you would learn something that could help you join my and Fujin's combo attack."

Hoka's shoulders dropped. Though he had developed a lot of combination jutsus with Fujin and Mieko, none came close to Fujin and Mieko's wind and fire combination.

Fujin said, "I heard that Jiraiya of the Sannins uses Oil jutsu to strengthen his Fire jutsus. I am not sure if that is a part of Water Release. But if it is, then you can check that. That way both oil and wind would amplify Mieko's fire jutsu."

Both Hoka and Mieko were surprised by the suggestion. Hoka said, "I had never thought of Oil."

Mieko said, "Me neither. Fire, Wind and Oil combination seems very strong. Great idea Fujin."

Hoka asked, "Why didn't you tell me about this sooner?"

Fujin shrugged and answered, "I just had that thought. Besides, did you really want to learn more ninjutsu while our training was on?"

Hoka immediately became embarrassed. He replied, "Sorry, good point."

The three exchanged glances. They didn't have any more words. Hoka said, "Let's leave guys. Good luck. Next time we meet, let's have a Battle Royale again!"

Hoka and Mieko grinned.

Fujin replied, "Sure. Hopefully the next time you two will last longer."

Fujin began laughing.

Mieko and Hoka angrily looked at Fujin, but he had flickered away. Only his laugh could still be heard.

Mieko said, "That jerk is still as annoying as ever!"

Hoka sighed and said, "Yes. He was so quiet in the academy. I didn't think he'd have this side as well."

Mieko said, "Anyways, see you later Hoka."

Hoka nodded and replied, "See you as well."

They both left towards their home.

Team Renjiro, which was assembled a year ago and completed 7 rank D, 41 rank C and 3 rank A missions, was finally disbanded!

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Chapter 145: Plans for the Future

Fujin went straight to his home after leaving. While moving, he thought, 'What a crazy mission. Never thought I'd run into Kakazu so early. I'm not ready to face Akatsuki. It's doubtful that I'd be anytime

soon. Sigh, this world is so dangerous. I need to increase the intensity of my training. And I need better ways of escaping. I am not sure if Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu would be sufficient.'

After reaching his house, Fujin jumped into his bed. He was mentally exhausted from the encounter and physically exhausted due to running non-stop for hundreds of kilometers. He fell asleep.

He slept till late afternoon. After waking up, he thought, 'So what to do now?'

He thought for a bit and said, 'I will have to calculate a lot! Let me fill my stomach first.'

He went out for lunch and returned in the evening. Before returning, he went to the Hokage's building and booked the training ground 23 for himself for the next few months. After returning home, he grabbed a book and a pen and sat on his bed. He sat in a meditative pose and began analyzing.

After a while, he opened his eyes. He concluded, 'Konoha is notoriously famous for being very strict with Jounin promotions. It's safe to say that I won't become a Jounin for at least three years. Likely more.

So I won't get any access to any A Rank wind jutsus for a long time. And I already have learnt the good B rank wind jutsus. So once I master those B rank wind jutsus, I can work on diversifying my skill set.

Problem is that there are way too many things that I want to learn. Right now, the most important thing is mastering Air Bullet Jutsu and Vacuum Bullet jutsus. I need to be able to perform them without any hand signs.

I also need to learn to shoot multiple Vacuum bullets. But, from what Hiruzen said, I'll need quite some time before I'll be able to do it. He said that it will come naturally to me after performing a crazy number of Vacuum bullet jutsus. But, he didn't say how many times I'd need to practice it. I will make a decision on this after learning to use it without any hand signs.

Next, I'll need to learn the B rank wind jutsus and perform them without hand signs as well.

The next two important aspects are learning the Lightning element and learning Fuinjutsu. I am not sure how easy or difficult the lightning element will be. Especially since I have to keep it a secret.

As for Fuinjutsu, that should be easy. I can spam shadow clones for learning Fuinjutsu. But I won't be able to practice it alongside ninjutsu training. The best time to learn Fuinjutsu will be when I am learning Lightning manipulation. But, it will have to stop when I start learning Lightning jutsus. Hmm, I'll make the decision when the time comes.

After Lightning and Fuinjutsu, I will try those ideas I have for Wind jutsus. But, I am afraid that some of those applications of wind chakra could injure me if I don't control it perfectly. So I will need to learn Mystical palm before it.

My chakra control is very good, so learning Mystical Palm shouldn't be an issue.

Right now, the skills that I am happy with are the Senju Taijutsu style and Samurai Saber Technique. My Taijutsu and Swordsmanship are both excellent. Especially when paired with long-range Wind jutsus.

I would like to raise my Senju Taijutsu to Tsunade's way of fighting. But, it won't be easy. I had been trying it while training with Renjiro without a hint of success.

Also, before I try to learn more ninjutsus, I have to sort out my current jutsus. I have learnt quite a lot of jutsus. But I don't use a few of them. First, I have to decide which jutsus I want to keep using. Then I will have to perfect them.

That leaves just Genjutsu... I haven't focused on Genjutsu much. My focus has been more on Ninjutsu, Taijutsu and Kenjutsu. I guess I should learn that genjutsu Tobirama had created to fight against the Uchiha. But for the rest, it's probably best to not even try.

After all, no matter how skillful I may become, it's impossible to match the Sharingan in genjutsu. I might as well just focus on countering Genjutsu.

I would also like to learn Juinjutsu, but I guess that will follow after Fuinjutsu. So that can wait.

I guess that's all for now. The only idea left is...'

Fujin extended his right forearm forward. He tightened his palm. Chakra appeared on his palm. It rotated at a high speed and began taking the form of a sphere. It was slightly unstable initially, but soon it maintained a proper sphere shape.

Fujin thought, 'I haven't practiced Rasengan at all for over a year. I could barely form it before I graduated. Now, I need to master this jutsu properly. From the time I graduated, my chakra reserves and control have improved many folds. So mastering Rasengan shouldn't be taxing now. I need to be able to use it in combat situations.'

He went back to his bed and began writing down all the jutsus that he had learnt so far!

Transformation jutsu

Clone jutsu

Substitution jutsu

Body Flicker jutsu

Shadow Clone jutsu

Rasengan

Shadow Clone Explosion jutsu

Wind Release :

Gale Jutsu jutsu

Wind Clone jutsu

Wind Levitation jutsu

Projectile Control jutsu

Wind Retrieving Jutsu

Gale Surge jutsu

Breakthrough jutsu

Dust Cloud jutsu

Wind Explosion jutsu

Propelling Winds jutsu

Great Breakthrough jutsu

Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu

Wind Gale Wolf jutsu

Wind Dragon jutsu

Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu

Wind Sword Jutsu

Infinite Breakthrough jutsu

Wind Torpedo jutsu

Air Bullet jutsu

Vacuum Sphere jutsu

Vacuum Bullet jutsu

Earth Release :

Rock Shield jutsu

Earth Military Movement jutsu

Mud Moat jutsu

Earth Release Camp jutsu

Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu

Earth Holding jutsu

Earth Wall jutsu

Genjutsu :

Double Vision jutsu

Demonic Illusion : Hell Viewing jutsu

Fujin saw the list and had just one thought, 'When the fuck did I learn 37 jutsus????'

He sighed and exclaimed, 'No wonder I felt the need to sort my jutsus! Sigh, this is so much work!'

He began analyzing all his jutsus and their utility. After what seemed like an epoch, Fujin was finally done!

He concluded his thoughts, 'Among 36 jutsus, only 3 jutsus are completely useless for me! Clone jutsu, Wind Torpedo jutsu and Earth Holding jutsu. Wind Clones are a much better option as compared to clone jutsu. As for Wind Torpedo jutsu, Vacuum Bullet jutsu does a much better job. As for Earth Holding jutsu, it is too slow to be useful for anything.'

There are also some redundancies. Breakthrough, Great Breakthrough, and Infinite Breakthrough jutsus are just advanced forms of each other. In fact, aspects of both jutsus are covered in the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. So, once I master the Infinite Breakthrough, I'll be able to increase its power by supercharging or decrease its power to Great Breakthrough or even Breakthrough by just controlling my chakra.

It is the same with Rock Shield and Earth Wall jutsus, and with Earth Military Movement and Earth Instantaneous Body jutsus.

Then, there are some very basic jutsus. Gale, Wind Retrieving, Projectile Control, Wind Levitation jutsu, Propelling Winds jutsu and Dust Cloud jutsus. Though these jutsus seem good, they don't work in a fast-paced battle. But, I have already mastered them. And I have a cool idea for them. So I'll set them aside for now.

Next are utility jutsus. These can provide some uses. Gale jutsu can be used to cover up footprints and smell. Earth Release Camp jutsu can be used to make a hideout. Mud Moat jutsu can be used to set up traps. These jutsus are handy, but I don't need to master them as I won't use them in battle.

Now, for the important part. That is combat. I will divide jutsus into 4 parts - Offense, Defense, Movement and Support.

For Defense, I have Earth Wall jutsu and Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu. Both are good and mastered. And I have some ideas to improve the Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu. And, I always have the option of escaping underground. This should be sufficient.

For Movement, I have Substitution jutsu, Body Flicker jutsu, Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu and Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu. All four have been mastered. I wonder if there would be any Lightning jutsu that promotes speed in the library. Anyways, this is good for now. The only ways that I know to improve this substantially are learning the Lightning Chakra Mode or Flying Thunder God.

For Support, I have Shadow Clone and Wind Clone jutsus. Both are good. Especially when combined with Shadow Clone Explosion jutsu. I also want to transform Wind Dragon jutsu and Gale Wind Wolf jutsu into support. Otherwise, they aren't very effective.

Lastly, Offense! I guess I can further divide Offense into close-range, mid-range and long-range.

For close-range offense... Well, that's a surprise! I only have Rasengan. Makes sense I suppose. My sword is plenty. And my Taijutsu is good as well. I guess I can improve this further by learning elemental Rasengan and maybe a jutsu like Chidori.

For mid-range offense, I have Wind Explosion jutsu, Wind Sword Jutsu, Infinite Breakthrough jutsu, Air Bullet jutsu, Vacuum Bullet jutsu and Vacuum Sphere jutsu.

Hmm... I should stop using Wind Explosion and Air Bullet as soon as I can. And instead, use Vacuum Sphere and Vacuum Bullet. Only with sufficient practice will I be able to reach a stage where Vacuum jutsus feel as natural as those jutsus.

I guess Genjutsu would come under mid-range offense as well. I need to try using these two jutsus during missions against enemy chunins and see how effective they are. Though, in the long run, they won't be very effective.

Lastly, long-range offense. All my support jutsus double up as long-range offense. Infinite Breakthrough and Vacuum Bullet jutsus also double up as long-range jutsus. Especially Vacuum Bullet which has a fearsome penetrating power.

Alright, this is it. That covers all my jutsus. I can form a battle system.

Senju Taijutsu style and Swordsmanship for close range.

Vacuum Bullet, Wind Sword, Vacuum Sphere, and Infinite Breakthrough for mid and long-range attacks.

Earth Wall and Spinning Shield of Wind for defense.

Wind and Shadow clones for support.

Body Flicker and Substitution for dodging.

Wind/Earth Instantaneous Body jutsus for escaping.

And my chakra field to sense or scout enemies.

The only aspects that are missing are Healing and maybe sealing. Once I learn Mystical Palm jutsu and a good seal, I should be a complete ninja who covers all aspects. Once this is done, I will pick one aspect and just focus on it till I reach among the top-tier ninjas in that aspect!

Fujin's face became very determined. The determination to become strong could be seen in his eyes.

Fujin once again looked at the jutsus he had written and sighed, 'To think that just analyzing my current skills will get so complicated! That too when I have just focused on only one element. What a mess will this become if I master a few more elements and learn more jutsus!'

Fujin took one final look at the book. Suddenly, chakra appeared in his hands and covered the book. The book was shredded into tiny pieces!

Fujin used Wind Levitation jutsu to keep the small pieces afloat. He collected them and burned everything, leaving no signs of it.

With the jutsus analyzed, Fujin began thinking about Renjiro's words, 'So elements can be fused to create a Kekkei Genkai, huh? While I had thought, I really didn't think it'd be possible. But, should I try to create one?'

Fujin began thinking. After a while, he concluded, 'An elemental Kekkei Genkai is very helpful in distinguishing from other normal ninjas. If I were to master an elemental Kekkei Genkai at this very moment, I'll become strong enough to confront Veteran Jounins by myself. I might not win, but fighting equally and retreating would be very easy.

But, beyond this, an Elemental Kekkei Genkai isn't much help. At max, I can expect to reach the Elite Jounin level. But considering that it'll be a few years till I master two elements, I should already be close to that level. So an elemental Kekkei Genkai wouldn't be that useful.

Another question is that if I decide to create one, which Kekkei Genkai should I create? My top two elements are Wind and Lightning. That gives Swift Release. My third element is Fire. I am not sure what Fire and Lightning do together. Fire and Wind together should give Scorch Release.

Scorch Release is relatively good. The only known user was at S rank. So getting it could be a good help to reach that level. As for Swift Release, their bloodline was wiped out during the warring period. Though a few Swift Release users pop up, none have been famous. And there is barely any information in the library.

That said, Swift Release is a bit unidimensional. All it does is increase speed. And I am already very fast. The main question will be, does Swift Release amplify my max speed? Or would it just help me reach some default speed and be useless if I already exceed that speed?

If it's the latter, then it'll be a waste. But if it's the former, then it can be insanely good! If in the future I get my hands on the Raikage's Lightning chakra mode technique and combine it with Swift Release and my own speed and they all stack up, I'll easily be the fastest ninja ever. And there is no need to even

think about how overpowered that speed would make me. Especially if I even add the Flying Thunder God to the mix.'

Suddenly, Fujin stopped thinking. A wry smile appeared on Fujin's face as he realized, 'I am dreaming needlessly. I don't know whether I'd manage to learn even one of those 3 skills let alone all 3! Not to mention, I have no whatsoever expertise in Fire or Lightning elements. I haven't learnt even a single jutsu of those two elements. And Renjiro said that even my Wind nature hasn't reached that level. So it's pointless to think or dream about this right now.'

After concluding his thoughts, Fujin decided, 'I'll rest for today. Tomorrow morning, my solo training begins!'

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Chapter 146: New Routine & Advanced Fuinjutsu

Fujin woke up at 4:30 AM. After freshening up, he turned up his training seal's power to 60% and left for the training ground he had booked.

He began the physical training that Renjiro used to put them under. He trained hard till 9 AM.

After a short break to rest and eat, he began practicing the Air Bullet Jutsu. His aim was to reduce its required hand signs to zero!

He trained for a couple of hours, before taking a break for lunch. He trained another couple of hours after lunch, till his chakra started to drop low.

He sighed, 'So stupid... I didn't consider the fact that I will run out of chakra! Especially while practicing B rank jutsus. Anyways, what to do...

I could increase my stamina by consuming soldier pills. But it won't be healthy in the long run. I guess I should just devote time to other activities.

When I am close to running out of chakra, I should go to the library and read Fuinjutsu scrolls. Though Ichiraku comes first. And once my chakra has regenerated, I can do something less chakra intensive. So I suppose Taijutsu or Kenjutsu.

Alright, let's do that. I'll practice sword fighting with a shadow clone.'

Fujin left for Ichiraku. He filled his stomach with a few bowls of ramen and went to the library.

He thought, 'I have completed the Fuinjutsu scrolls from Sections E and D during the academy days. Let's see what the scroll in Section C has.'

He entered the C section of the library. He searched for a bit and found the scroll he was looking for.

He grabbed the scroll and went to a desk and sat down. The title of the scroll was - 'Intermediate Fuinjutsu Guide'

He opened it and began reading it.

He read the entire scroll in one go and summarized, 'So Finger Carving Seal is at Intermediate level. And so is the Five Seal Barrier... Considering that this Barrier stopped a Jinchuriki, a medical ninja surpassed only by Tsunade, an S rank ninja and a former S rank ninja, I thought that it would be much higher in rank... Still, it is very complicated. Learning it will be tough.

Binding Cloth is also here. It was what was used to seal the edo tensei. But, the seal tag isn't here. Binding cloth without that sealing tag is kinda useless.

And lastly, there are details about making Explosion Tags.

Sigh, there isn't much in this scroll. It was disappointing. I hope that the scroll in the B section has better and more Fuinjutsu.'

He closed the scroll, put it back where it was and went to the B section.

The number of scrolls in the B section was very low. But, when he found what he was looking for, he was surprised!

Fujin thought, 'What the hell? The C section barely had anything related to Fuinjutsu. And this section has 6 scrolls?'

He began reading the names of each scroll. They were titled -

Advanced Fuinjutsu Theory

Miscellaneous Seals I

Miscellaneous Seals II

Miscellaneous Seals III

Battlefield Seals

Sealing Tags

Fujin grabbed the Advanced Fuinjutsu Theory scroll and began reading. This scroll had a lot of advanced-level theories about Fuinjutsu. It introduced a few more special characters that were needed to make more seals. And it described the information about other scrolls.

After reading, Fujin analyzed, 'So many additional theories. But many of them haven't been implemented successfully yet.'

Anyways, the Miscellaneous Seals scrolls apparently have a lot of seals to make daily life easier. They were made for the benefit of the common people and to promote safer trade and transport. Looks like it was a project undertaken by Uzushioakure. But left incomplete due to its destruction.

The Battlefield Seals scroll has seals that can be used on the battlefield. Though they aren't useful in an actual battle, they can be used for other purposes.

And lastly, the Sealing Tag scroll. This is what I am looking forward to the most!

Additionally, the scroll also says that if I manage to learn all the seals in these 5 scrolls, I will be considered a Seal Master!

He put back the scroll and grabbed the Sealing Tag scroll and began reading it. His excitement dropped a bit.

He analyzed, 'There are only 3 seals here. The Sealing Tag, which can be used to seal Edo Tensei. It can also be used to stop summons and has quite a few applications. Then there is the Chakra Suppression Seal that Renjiro used. And lastly, the Barrier tag. It can be used to form barriers. Though it needs maintenance. So I can't use this and leave.

Anyways, though not plenty, they are good. Kinda wished that the Four Symbols Seal or Five Elements Seal was here. But looks like they will be in the A section. Or at least I hope so. It would suck if it isn't available in the library at all.'

He changed the scroll for Battlefield seals and began reading. This scroll had a lot of seals. After reading them all, Fujin analyzed, 'Wow! I didn't think this would be so useful! There are seals for all sorts of battlefield applications!'

Fujin's surprise wasn't unwarranted. The scroll had seals to isolate sound. It even had seals to absorb light and make a place or object very difficult to see. In addition, there were seals to prevent being seen by the Byakugan or the Sharingan or even by sensors.

Fujin guessed that these were the seals used by those Kiri squads who they eliminated inside the Land of Fire.

There were a lot more useful seals in the scroll. Fujin was very impressed. He thought, 'No wonder Uzushioakure was eliminated! These seals are very potent. If an entire army learnt these seals, they would become a nightmare to face. Especially in the midst of battle.'

Finally, he began reading the Miscellaneous scrolls. While reading, Fujin's eyes lit up! The seals that were in the meditation room in the central tower of the Forest of Death in these scrolls! Even the seals on his Training seal were in these scrolls.

After reading all three scrolls, he concluded, 'These seals are good too. If the 5 big villages had cooperated and focused on these, then this world might have been a much better place. These seals are very good to develop this world quickly.'

Anyways the most useful seals for me would be the ones used in that meditation room. In addition, there are also storage seals that can store living things safely. These too could be useful.'

After reading all the scrolls, Fujin put them back and sat in the library. He analyzed, 'There is a heck of a lot to learn in fuinjutsu. Actually, much of the stuff in the B Section should have been placed in the C Section. But I guess the Village wanted to restrict their access to Elite Chunins and above.'

I'll need a lot of time to master these. Fortunately, I do have a lot of time. Additionally, I should check all the scrolls in the B section. It would be good if I find any good jutsus. More importantly, I want to see if there are any Barrier jutsus.

But, I guess they can wait. Let me complete my current plans.'

He left the library and returned back to the training ground. He made a hand sign and created a shadow clone. The Shadow clone appeared in front of him.

Fujin summoned a couple of normal swords from his scroll. Both grabbed one sword each. They began fighting without exchanging any words. The main focus of the spar was swordsmanship. Neither used chakra flow.

After a couple of hours, Fujin and his clone were standing in front of each other. Both were breathing hard. The clone stabbed the sword into the ground and said, "My chakra is exhausted."

It dispelled. Fujin received all his memories and experiences. Fujin thought, 'This is good. Getting experience from both sides provides me with both perspectives.'

He sealed the sword back and left for Yakiniku. He needed a lot of meat to keep up with his planned routine!

From the next day onwards, Fujin settled into this routine. In the morning, he would do physical training. That would be followed up by practicing and trying to master the Air Bullet jutsu. Once he ran low on chakra, he would either go to the library and read the seals or meditate. And he would end his training with Kenjutsu practice.

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Chapter 147: New House

On the 7th day of this routine, when Fujin returned back to his home, he noticed an envelope attached to his door.

Fujin thought, 'That's new.'

He ripped it off and began reading. He thought, 'Oh, this is a notice to call me to the Mission office in the Hokage's office tomorrow at 8:15 AM. Did the Hot Water Daimyo send the bounty rewards?'

The next morning, Fujin began training once again. He ended his morning training an hour earlier and went to the Hokage building. On reaching, he saw Hoka and Mieko.

He went up to them. Hoka asked, "Hey Fujin, how have you been doing?"

Fujin replied, "Well. I got back to training. What about you guys?"

Mieko gave Fujin the stink eye and said, "Back to training already? You need to get a hobby, Fujin!"

Fujin smirked and replied, "Training is a hobby!"

Mieko scoffed at his reply.

Fujin looked at her and said in his mind, 'Unlike you, I have more than a year to live.'

Hoka said, "Stop arguing. Let's go inside."

The trio went inside. Fujin was thinking, 'Naruto and Sasuke should be 7 years old when the Academy starts. So I guess the Uchiha Massacre will happen in the next 12 months.'

My transmigration shouldn't have affected the politics around this incident. The only thing that could be considered is Hiruzen teaching Mieko. But, I don't think it'll have much of an impact.'

They reached the Hokage's office and knocked on the door. Hatake Takao opened the door and looked at them and said, "The Bandit Exterminators?"

Just three words instantly annoyed the trio. All their faces became dark. He said, "Come in."

The trio entered the office with dark faces. Hiruzen stopped doing paperwork and looked at them. He wondered, 'Why do they look like they have come here to give me money instead of coming here to take money?'

Takao opened a drawer and grabbed 3 packets. He handed one to each one of them.

Hiruzen said, "You guys did a great job in the Land of Hot Water. The joint commander of the mission, Tokuhei, and their Daimyo praised your work a lot."

He looked at the package in their hands and said, "These are the bounty rewards that Daimyo has sent for you. Fujin, yours has 4.5 million Ryo. Mieko and Hoka, your packets have 2.5 million Ryo each."

Fujin saw his packet and thought, 'Rank A missions give a shitload of money!'

Hiruzen's eyes didn't miss Fujin looking at his packet. He thought, 'This brat is very greedy! I have to ensure that he doesn't pick up any bad habits.'

He asked, "What are you three planning to do with the money?"

Mieko answered, "Nothing. My Mom will take it all and put it in the bank. I can have access to it when I am older."

Hoka said, "Same here. Though I'll be asking my dad to get me more tools to improve my strength."

Hiruzen looked at Fujin, "What about you Fujin?"

Fujin thought for a bit and said, "I'll probably buy a new house... The one that the Academy assigned me is too small and kinda old."

Hiruzen was surprised. He never thought that Fujin would consider housing. Most orphans would live in their assigned houses for a long time. They would usually move out only when they get married.

Hoka and Mieko were surprised as well.

Hoka said, "That's good! Good luck Fujin."

Mieko added, "Yes, good luck Fujin. Invite us when it's ready."

Fujin nodded.

Hiruzen said, "Good. Takao, arrange for a proper contractor to meet up with Fujin. Good luck Fujin."

Fujin nodded and thanked him. They left the office. Takao followed Fujin. He said, "Fujin, follow me."

Mieko and Hoka said goodbyes and left for their respective homes. Fujin followed Takao. He led Fujin to a huge shop. It was quite close to the Hokage building.

Fujin observed the shop. Many workers were working here. And all seemed busy!

He entered and said, "Old man Eiji."

An old man looked at the entrance. He was around 60 years old. All his hair was white, but his back was still upright. Seeing Takao, he walked towards him. Takao began walking towards him. Fujin followed.

Eiji said, "Takao. To what do I owe the pleasure? Does Lord Hokage require my services?"

Takao shook his head. He said, "This young man is planning to buy a house. Lord Hokage sees a lot of promise in him. So he asked me to recommend you to this young man."

Eiji took a good look at Fujin. He suddenly realized and said, "Fujin-kun! I remember watching you in the Chunin Exams. No wonder Lord Hokage values your talent."

Fujin thought, 'Wow, I didn't think I'd be recognized. Does that make me a minor celebrity? Haha'

The old man continued, "I actually lost some money in the betting. But seeing promising young men like you was worth it! Hahahaha"

He began laughing loudly. Fujin watched him with a deadpan look.

Takao looked at Fujin and said, "Fujin, old man Eiji here is one of the best architects in Konoha. He has built many houses and usually has a few on sale too. He will give you the best deals. So choose the house you like."

Fujin nodded. Takao left. Eiji watched his back as he left. Though Takao spoke only a few simple sentences, which any outsider might think were casual, there were a lot of hidden messages in them. Even Fujin didn't notice any.

When he said that Hokage found Fujin promising, it meant that Fujin was someone with a bright future. Eiji shouldn't try to be underhanded with him or take advantage of his younger age.

When Takao told Fujin that Eiji would give him the best deals, it was actually a message for Eiji to give Fujin the best deal he could and only make minimal profits.

Eiji obviously picked up on them. This wasn't the first time he had interacted with Takao. While he was impressed with Fujin's dominance in the Chunin Exams, he was more impressed with the fact that he made Takao speak for him.

Usually, Eiji would give the job of showing houses to one of his employees. But since Takao brought Fujin, he decided to attend to him.

He looked at Fujin and asked with a smile on his face, "So Fujin-kun, have you decided on what type of house you want?"

Fujin thought for a bit and answered, "I haven't decided much. The only requirements I have are that it'd be big and spacious."

Eiji looked at Fujin for a second and thought, 'That is pretty much like saying nothing.'

Fujin looked at him and asked, "Can you show me some houses first?"

He said, "Sure. Can you tell me what your budget is?"

Fujin replied, "That will depend on the house."

Eiji was speechless by the reply. He sighed and thought, 'This will be a long day!'

He didn't know how right he was.

He nodded and said, "Alright. Follow me."

He began walking outside. All the prime area in Konoha was already sold and occupied. So no place near the Hokage's buildings was for sale.

They walked a few blocks away. After walking a bit, they reached a place where 5 houses had just been built.

Eiji said, "In this area, I have just constructed these 5 houses. Check if you like any of them."

Fujin observed the houses. From the outside, all looked great. All were built on an area of around 1,200 square feet. And all houses had a spacious living room on the ground floor along with a kitchen and a bathroom. On the upper floor, there were multiple master bedrooms.

Fujin thought, 'Not bad. The houses are good. Well, at least much better than my current one. But, none of them has a basement. I could try to build a basement using the Camp jutsu, but I am not sure that it won't harm the foundation of the house.'

Also, the houses are kinda close to each other. Though they are separated by a fence, I'd like it if the houses were farther apart.'

Eiji stayed outside and watched Fujin. He just kept flickering from one house to another. He chuckled, 'Kids. So enthusiastic about everything. Though this one would not be in his budget. Unless of course Lord Hokage is paying for it.'

After a few minutes, Fujin left the house. He looked to be in thought. Eiji asked, "Did you like the houses Fujin-kun?"

Fujin looked at him smiling. He answered, "Yes, they are well built. But, do you have any houses that are not close to other houses? Also, it'd be great if they have basements."

Eiji didn't expect that reply. He thought, 'These are a few of my best houses. But he doesn't look impressed at all!'

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Chapter 148: Picky Youngster

He said, "Why do you want your house to not be close to other houses?"

Fujin tilted his head and said, "I did say I want them to be spacious, right?"

Eiji was surprised again. He thought, 'What do you plan on doing with so much space?'

He said, "These are my houses with large empty spaces around them. I do have a few with even larger space. But they don't have any basements. As for the ones with basements, they don't have a large space around them."

Fujin thought and said, "Can you show them to me?"

Eiji nodded and said, "Sure, follow me."

They began walking to the next house.

While walking, Fujin asked, "How much were those houses for Mr Eiji?"

Eiji replied, "I can sell one of those houses to you for 2.2 million Ryo."

He thought, 'They can go for over 3 million Ryo. But due to Takao's words, I can sell them for just above my bottom line.'

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'So an elemental crystal is worth more than one house? Renjiro wasn't kidding about their rarity!'

Eiji took Fujin to look at a lot of houses. The one Fujin liked the most was a two-storey house built in a 1,500-square-foot area. The land around the house was unoccupied. But it didn't have a basement. And the roads around the houses were quite busy. Since the house was in a good area, it was very pricey too.

After seeing all of the houses, Fujin asked, "Do you construct new houses as well?"

Eiji was tired from taking Fujin on a tour. He answered, "Yes, I do."

Fujin asked, "So, can you make a new house for me with a new design?"

Eiji's eyes twitched, 'After hours of touring, he wants me to build a new house?'

He said, "Building a new house takes time. And you will have to buy the land first."

Fujin looked at him with a confused look and asked, "Don't you have contacts with any sellers of land? How did you build all these houses?"

Eiji didn't reply. He didn't want to argue against Fujin. It just felt like hitting his head on a wall.

He sighed and said, "Yes. But buying land suddenly is very expensive. Especially if you want it in a good area. Only the land at the outskirts of the village would be cheaply available."

Fujin thought a bit and said, "Being on the outskirts of the village doesn't matter. It'll be best if it's closer to the training grounds."

Eiji said, "Okay. I'll contact a friend of mine. Meet me back at the shop after a couple of hours."

Fujin nodded. He said, "Thank You for taking the time to show me the houses."

Eiji's dissatisfaction with Fujin decreased. He watched Fujin as he left and sighed, 'He is an orphan. No wonder he was speaking so formally and without much emotion. I guess that he is still an innocent kid. But, why are his demands for a house so strict?'

He sighed and went to contact his old friend who usually sold him the land.

Fujin had lunch and went to Eiji's shop in the afternoon. On entering the shop, he spotted another old guy next to Eiji.

When Fujin arrived, they showed him a map of Konoha that showed the plots he had for sale. There were 5 that were suitable for Fujin. However, 3 of them were close to the residential areas of the Uchiha, Hyuga and Aburame clans. Fujin didn't consider those.

One of the plots caught his eye though. It was a 2,500 square meters (around 26k square feet) plot. It was about 100 meters away from the civilian residential area. No clan was close to this place. And Training Ground 23 was very close to here!

Fujin visited the plot along with the two old men and decided to buy it.

Eiji was shocked again! Today was not a good day for his heart. He asked, "You want to buy the whole plot and not just a small part of it to build your house?"

His friend looked at him with a frown on his face! He was stopping his business.

Fujin said, "Oh, we can buy a small part of it as well. What's its cost?"

Eiji's friend replied, "That area is very far from the center of the village. So the prices are cheap. I can sell a 1000 square foot area plot for one hundred thousand Ryo. But, if you buy the entire plot, I can sell it to you for 2 million Ryo."

Fujin thought, 'Not bad, that's much better. Though still quite expensive. Anyways, I don't have any big expenses lined up.'

He looked at Eiji and asked, "How much will constructing a house cost?"

Eiji answered, "It depends on how big a house you want. A house like the ones I showed you first will cost around 500 thousand Ryo to construct."

Fujin replied, "Great."

He looked at his friend and said, "I'll buy the entire plot then. Can you go any cheaper, old man?"

Eiji and his friend only had one thought, 'How rich is this kid?'

Fujin bargained over the price for a bit. In the end, he bought the whole plot for 1.6 million Ryo. They did all the paperwork for the land transfer.

Fujin then discussed the design of the house with Eiji. Eiji showed some of his plans. In the end, Fujin decided on a great-looking design, built on an area of 4,000 square feet at the center of the plot, with three storeys and 2 basement floors.

They began discussing the price and the time needed to construct the house. Eiji had seen Fujin bargain earlier. He said. "Don't bother discussing the price of construction with me. I'll quote you the lowest price. Constructing this house will cost you 1.8 million Ryo and it will take around 7-8 months to be entirely built."

Fujin frowned, "7-8 months? That long?"

Eiji sighed and replied, "Do you think making a house is easy, kid? My men will first have to dig a deep hole to lay down a proper foundation. The digging itself will take 2-3 months. And your house will be very big. So we will need time to make it properly."

Fujin thought, 'That's reasonable.'

He asked, "I have one question, old man. Will you be digging the entire ground, or do you have to leave some pillars for support?"

Eiji was surprised by that question. He didn't expect to hear it from Fujin. He replied, "We will be digging the entire ground. Pillars made from the ground aren't very sturdy."

Fujin said, "Okay, I can get the digging done quickly then."

Eiji asked, "Do you have an affinity for Earth nature manipulation?"

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'I didn't expect a civilian to know about nature manipulation. Makes sense though. There should have been other ninjas who did the same.'

He nodded, "Yes."

Eiji replied, "That's great. Alright then. Once you have completed digging, I will reduce the construction cost depending on how much work is done."

Fujin nodded and asked, "Another question. Will this house be able to withstand any attacks?"

Eiji replied, "Only very weaker ones. If you want, I can invite a Seal Master to inscribe seals on your house to make it more sturdy. But even then, it won't be able to stop something very powerful. But, we are in Konoha. Such attacks won't happen on us anyways."

Fujin looked at him thinking, 'Yeah, there will be two deadly attacks on us within a decade. The house is certain to be destroyed by Pain. I'd just prefer it to survive Sound and Sand invasion.'

Fujin said, "Alright. You can invite the seal master then."

Eiji replied, "Inviting a seal master will increase the costs."

Fujin asked, "How much?"

Eiji answered, "I will have to talk with him. You can expect an additional 500 thousand to 1 million Ryo cost."

Fujin's eyes widened. He thought, 'Fucking million Ryo for just inscribing some seals? If money could be used to get stronger, I'd have stopped going for missions and worked as a seal master all the time!'

Fujin said, "Alright."

Eiji replied, "I will need a week to test this ground and decide on a plan to proceed. So come to my shop after a week. Once I have marked everything, you can dig the hole."

Fujin nodded and left. While leaving he thought, 'I didn't think that I would blow up almost the entire bounty rewards on the house. I could have saved money on the seal master. But I haven't ever professionally worked as a seal master other than selling storage scrolls.

And, putting seals on the house once it is done won't be as effective as applying them while constructing it. Let's forget it, I am not short on money. So it's fine. I will have to inspect the seals later though. I doubt a professional would try anything funny, but it is always better to be vigilant. Fuinjutsu has a lot of applications.'

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Chapter 149: First Mission as the Team Leader!

The next day, Fujin returned to his training routine.

A few days later, Fujin was breathing heavily. However, there was a big smile on his face. The trees in front of him were riddled with holes!

He exclaimed, "Finally! I can perform Vacuum Bullets without using hand signs!"

In 11 days of training, Fujin had mastered the Air Bullet jutsu. The hand signs for the Vacuum Bullet jutsu were the same as the Air Bullet jutsu. He was able to perform it without hand signs a minute after mastering the Air Bullet jutsu. He practiced the Vacuum Bullet jutsu till he was comfortable and then began practicing the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu.

On the appointed day, he met up with Eiji. Eiji had marked his entire plot. Eiji showed him the markings and told him where and how deep to dig.

Eiji and his employees cleared the area and watched with anticipation. They were looking forward to Fujin's display. In the past, they had seen some amazing feats.

Unfortunately, they would be disappointed. They stood for a couple of hours to see Fujin use Earth Camp jutsu a few hundred times to dig up the hole. In fact, most got bored and left with disappointment.

Fujin checked his work and left the hole. He walked towards Eiji only to see a dumbfounded expression on his face. He asked, "What's the matter?"

Eiji sighed and replied, "Nothing."

Fujin said, "Please check if everything is alright."

Eiji complained in his heart, 'How can there be any mistakes when you work so slowly?'

He said, "It's alright. It'll decrease your construction cost by 400 thousand Ryo. I also talked with a Seal Master. We decided on 600 thousand Ryo cost. Is that alright?"

Fujin nodded and asked, "Can I watch when he inscribes the seals?"

Eiji said, "Sure. It's your house after all. I'll send a worker to your house to give you the message."

Fujin thanked him and left back for training.

The next afternoon, Fujin was practicing the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. He had already learnt how to use it without any hand signs. Its similarity with the Great Breakthrough jutsu allowed Fujin to master it quickly. He was now practicing supercharging this jutsu quickly. However, he suddenly stopped practicing and looked in a direction.

He thought, 'Someone entered the training ground? Who? The chakra signature is very low. So either he is weak or good at hiding his chakra level.'

The person Fujin sensed was moving towards him. Fujin stopped practicing and waited to see who it was. After a little while, a young man in his early twenties appeared.

He looked at Fujin and asked, "Hey, you are Fujin, right?"

Fujin nodded and asked, "Yes. Who are you?"

He answered, "I am Endo Tadao. I came here to call you to the Mission Center. You are called there."

Fujin thought, 'Are they finally assigning me a mission? Is he a messenger or someone who works there?'

He replied, "Alright, I will be there."

Tadao looked at Fujin. He seemed to have no intention to leave. He said, "Can you leave now? They have called you immediately."

Fujin sighed and said, "Alright."

Tadao expected Fujin to follow him back. However, Fujin just disappeared! He was shocked, 'What the hell? I just blinked my eyes and he disappeared!'

He immediately looked around himself but didn't find anyone. However, he saw the destruction Fujin had caused in that training ground. He muttered, "He really left like that. Shichiro wasn't lying about his skill and strength."

He turned around and began running back to the Hokage building.

Fujin flickered to the Hokage building. He entered the building and walked into the mission center.

On entering, he saw a few chunins who were working there. In addition, there were a few more ninjas. Looking at Fujin, one of the chunin officers stood up and called him. Fujin recognized him. He was the one who assigned most of the Bandit Hunting missions to Team Renjiro.

Fujin walked towards him while noticing two other ninjas standing in front of his desk.

Shichiro said, "Fujin-kun, long time no see."

Fujin nodded. He hadn't taken a mission from this room since the mission to the Land of Tea.

Shichiro asked, "Where is Tadao?"

Fujin replied, "The messenger? Not sure. I came here after he asked me to."

Shichiro was dumbfounded. He sighed and said, "He isn't the messenger. He will be your teammate for the next mission."

Fujin thought, 'Really? He seemed weak. Was he hiding his strength?'

Shichiro introduced the two ninjas next to him, "He is Kimiyama Yasuoka and he is Obake Kaneie. Along with Endo Tadao, they will be in your team. You will be the leader of this team for this mission."

Fujin's eyebrows twitched. He thought, 'Both their chakra levels are weak as well. Don't tell me...'

Shichiro took a document and handed it to Fujin. Fujin read the title and his face immediately became dark.

Shichiro said, "Your mission is to eliminate this new bandit group. They have been creating a lot of trouble."

Fujin looked at him and handed him the document back. He said, "I don't want it. Call me when you have any rank B mission for me."

Yosuoka and Kaneie burned in embarrassment. A kid half their age was refusing to do a mission they couldn't undertake without supervision!

Shichiro sighed and said, "Fujin, you have just become a Chunin. Even if you are assigned a rank B mission, you won't be selected as the team leader. That role will be taken by the more experienced Chunins.

You will have to undertake rank C missions to build up your leadership skills. Only once you lead in a large number of rank C missions, will you be able to lead rank B missions."

Fujin observed Shichiro. He sensed that he wasn't lying. But he also sensed that what he said was complete bullshit! The reason that he was giving him this mission was just so he could get a laugh from Fujin's reaction. Fujin was sure that he would give Hoka and Mieko Bandit elimination missions as well.

Fujin was about to leave, but Shichiro stopped him and began giving a number of reasons to take this mission. Wanting to get him off his back, Fujin finally agreed.

However, he said, "This is the last time I am taking a rank C mission. The next time you assign me a Bandit Elimination mission, I'll forge evidence that you are their ring leader!"

Shichiro smiled and handed him the document back. Tadao finally returned to the Mission Center. He was breathing heavily.

Fujin looked at his three new subordinates and asked, "When do you guys want to leave for the mission?"

Yasuoka answered, "We are ready to leave anytime."

Fujin said, "Alright. Let's meet at the Village Gate in a couple of hours."

Fujin left to have his lunch. Tadao, Yasuoka and Kaneie saw him leave.

Tadao asked, "Are we getting too old?"

Kaneie refused, "No way! I am not even married yet!"

Yasuoka sighed at his teammate's antics. He said, "Well, at least he is strong. Though he seems to be very arrogant. He didn't put us in his eyes at all."

Shichiro chuckled and patted his back. He said, "Don't worry. He is very reasonable and balanced. And he is very strong. From what I heard, he is even stronger than me. And he has a reputation for being the Bandit Exterminator! You guys will be fine."

Tadao, Yasuoka and Kaneie sighed. They knew they had been set up by Shichiro. All four of them were 22 years old. They were in the same year in the academy and were good friends. Unfortunately, the three of them weren't very talented. They never managed to be promoted to Chunin and had already given up on it.

They stayed together as a team and would only take rank C missions occasionally for the money and to stay in shape. Shichiro was a bit more talented than them. He managed to be promoted to the Chunin rank in the 3rd Great Ninja War. But he became weary of risking his life and took a desk job.

After a couple of hours, Fujin and the three genins assembled. Fujin asked, "Have you prepared the necessary weapons and rations for the mission?"

All three genins nodded awkwardly as many were watching when Fujin asked this question.

Fujin asked, "What are your specialities?"

Tadao said, "I am good at throwing Shurikens. I can hit a bullseye every single time."

Yasuoka said, "I have mastered water nature manipulation."

While there was no change in Fujin's expression, he scoffed in his mind, 'Mastered? Why don't you put your name down as a candidate for the 5th Hokage?'

Kaneie said, "I can observe our surroundings carefully and pick up on clues."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright, let's go."

However, Tadao stopped him, "Wait Fujin. Can you tell us about your specialities?"

Fujin stopped and turned around. He answered, "I know a bit of Wind and Earth nature manipulation and am good with clones."

After answering he turned around and began leaving. The trio were a bit surprised. They expected the preteen to brag about his prowess. But, he didn't show off at all! They quickly followed him.

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Chapter 150: A Scheme Targetting Konoha

Fujin and his squad moved quickly through the forest. Kaneie took the position at the front while Fujin was in the rear. Occasionally, Fujin used to activate his chakra field and sense his surroundings.

Fujin sighed thinking, 'This is tough without Hoka. I could divide this job with him to reduce my workload. And, his eyes could notice the stuff I missed and vice-versa.'

After some time, Yasuoka asked, "Fujin, you became a Chunin in the last Chunin exam, right?"

Fujin replied, "Yes."

Yasuoka asked again, "Who were your Sensei and teammates?"

Yasuoka and his teammates were getting very bored by moving without talking even a bit. And talking among themselves while ignoring Fujin would have been rude. So Yasuoka began talking with Fujin.

Fujin didn't have much of an interest in interacting with them. There wasn't much benefit in doing it. But, as they kept on talking, Fujin realized that those guys were fun. So their talks became more cordial.

At some point, Fujin asked, "How often do you guys do such missions?"

Tadao answered, "It depends on our expenses. Usually, we do one or two missions per month. Shichiro assigns a Chunin to our team to lead the mission."

Fujin asked, "And do you always do missions together?"

Kaneie nodded, "Yes. For rank C missions, we are together as a team. But, if someone needs some extra money, then they take some rank D missions solo."

Fujin thought, 'Not bad. I guess it is a good method of making money. Well, at least to handle day-to-day needs. Plus with the same team, they should be very familiar with each other and should have solid teamwork. Unfortunately, they are too weak. If they were at least Chunins, their team could have been slightly famous.'

They continued moving towards their target. While moving, Fujin seriously considered, 'Should I create such a team too? Having teammates with a good bond, teamwork and complementary skills could ease up the missions quite well.'

But, even if I decide to make such a squad, who should I include? The only ones that come to mind are Mieko and Hoka. Perhaps I could even ask Teru and Yori as well. Though I haven't met them for over a year.

That said, both Mieko and Yori will die soon. So there isn't much point in including them. Also, both Hoka and Teru are quite headstrong. And, neither have the fire element or the genjutsu skills that an Uchiha brings to the table.'

Fujin thought for a bit before finally giving up, 'Leave it. Such a team works for these guys because they are all equally weak and have no great ambitions. Among the strong, no such teams ever formed. The only squad with an all S rank roster that comes to my mind is the Sannins. And, even they broke up.'

The journey to the reported area took 7 hours. Fujin sighed internally, 'If I was with my previous squad, we could have reached here in three hours. Unfortunately, not only were these guys slow, but they also needed 2 breaks! I guess expecting the same level of fitness and capability as my old squad was a bit too much. Probably only Anbu or Jounin squads will have a higher efficiency than us.'

Fujin and the genins were observing the area. There were clear signs of a fight happening at that place.

Yasuoka observed the surroundings and said, "There are multiple broken carts here. Looks like the attack had taken place here."

Kaneie snorted in displeasure, "Those cocky bandits didn't even bother to hide and cover up their actions."

Fujin too wondered about that, 'That's weird. None of the dozens of bandit camps we cleared had such stupid bandits. It's as if they want to let others know that they created trouble. But why would a bandit group attract unwanted attention?'

The weirdness of the situation suddenly increased Fujin's alertness to the max!

Kaneie began observing the clues. He said, "According to the clues, they ar..."

However, Fujin interrupted him, "Southwestern direction. About 1100 meters from here. Move quickly and quietly."

The trio were surprised. They never thought that Fujin would be a sensor as well! They immediately followed his instructions without any complaints or doubts.

They moved over a kilometer in the direction that Fujin pointed before they could see the camp.

Kaneie was very surprised. He said softly, "First they left all the clues on the road. And they have a campout in the open? Sure it's in the forest, but there is no cover for them at all when someone finds them!"

Yasuoka and Tadao were confused too. The place had multiple small huts made of bamboo and leaves. They were spread over a hundred meters and could probably hold around 60 bandits. There was no natural protection other than the forests.

However, Fujin's attention was on something else, 'Oh! I see. There is one ninja among this bandit group. And he seems to be at the Chunin level. Is he behind this stupidity? Or is he scheming up something?'

Fujin's eyes moved towards his temporary subordinates as he thought, 'Having subordinates is kinda nice. I'll let them test the waters. If it's just this guy, then I will assassinate him. If he is indeed cooking up some scheme, then they will be good meat shields. I'll stay back and observe what scheme is being cooked here.'

Sigh, they kinda seem good. Unfortunately, this world is too dangerous. If something were to happen to them, then it's their own fault for being so weak!'

Fujin steeled his resolve. He said, "You guys begin the assault. Move quietly and eliminate as many as you before alerting the whole camp. I'll stay behind and observe in case there is anything fishy."

Tadao, Yasuoka and Kaneie nodded and moved. They weren't aware that there was someone stronger than them among the bandits. Fujin stayed behind and observed them.

In the central hut of the camp, a large man was relaxing on a rather comfortable deck chair. Two slim ladies were around him, one massaging his shoulders and another his thighs. Both had scared looks on their face. The man grinned like a pervert while enjoying the treatment. Some other bandits in the room were looking at them lecherously.

The man sitting in the chair was Idane Kaii. He was a hotheaded chunin from Kumogakure. Due to his hotheadedness, he killed a civilian and hence ended up in a prison. Fortunately for him, he was able to get out of prison due to 'special' circumstances.

A month ago in the Raikage Office :

An old man entered the Raikage's office and placed some documents in front of him. He was an elder in Kumogakure. He said, "These are some reports that we received from the Land of Fire."

Mabui took the reports and began reading. The Fourth Raikage frowned. He asked, "Is Konoha up to something?"

The old man shook her head and said, "No, this is related to their trade. In the past couple of months, their trade has suddenly boomed. If their trade continues to increase at this rate, then they will earn a lot of money which they can use to train more ninjas."

A's frown deepened. He said, "Konoha controls the richest and the most fertile land in this world. If they begin growing rapidly, then their strength can once again surpass us."

The old man nodded and said, "Yes. And if that happens, then war will have to be started again to prevent Konoha from getting too strong. Though Minato died and Orochimaru betrayed them, their strength is still quite strong. Some of their younger ninjas are gaining fame quickly. We need to ensure that Konoha's growth is at least slowed so that we don't have to go to another war."

A's immediately became angry. He said, "Just a few years ago we could force them to hand over an Elite Jounin. And now they are becoming a threat again?"

However, the old man calmed him down, "I would advise you not to make such a reckless move again Lord Fourth. Konoha promoted a lot of chunins to Jounins in this period. More importantly, our spies have reported that Iwa is recovering its strength rapidly too. That Fence Sitter is spending a huge amount of money on raising new ninjas.

If Konoha decides to retaliate instead of being desperate for peace, then we could get in a pickle."

A calmed down slightly. He asked, "What do you suggest then?"

The old man said, "According to my sources, Konoha's trade suddenly boomed as their bandits were killed at a rapid pace. So we should increase their bandit groups."

A thought for a bit. He looked at Mabui and said, "Mabui, see if we have any useful prisoners. We will release them and let them be rogue ninjas inside the Land of Fire and have them start more bandit groups."

Mabui nodded and left to check their data.

The old man said, "While Konoha doesn't have the strength to retaliate against us, it'll be better if we don't leave any clues behind."

A nodded and said, "Yes, I know that. It'll be annoying if they retaliate with similar measures. Though if they do, I'll smash them all!"