

Calamity 161

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 161: The Carefree Foodie

Over the next couple of days, Fujin tried 17 varieties of noodle dishes. All were delicious and could be put at a similar level as Ichiraku.

Sotan was dissatisfied with Fujin's carefree nature and acting as if he was on a vacation. But Fujin paid him no heed. Tamotsu and the rest also noticed Fujin's attitude but didn't say anything.

They concluded that Fujin had gotten carefree after a couple of very easy missions. They themselves had a similar experience. They believed that Fujin's attitude would improve after they get a mission that gets very serious.

Of course, their analysis was incorrect. Fujin was very alert. Despite his carefree attitude, he was very serious. Once the fighting begins, he will be as serious as he can be. His actions were only a result of him deciding to relax mentally and physically after a longish training routine as they had nothing to do until their opponents decided to show up.

On the 3rd afternoon in the castle, Fujin was sitting on the edge of the balcony on the top floor, eating the last of the 19 dishes. It was Chicken and Mushroom Sauced Noodles with Basil.

As he grabbed the noodles with his chopsticks and ate, he looked straight ahead. His eyes glowed blue as he observed numerous silhouettes trying to approach the castle stealthily.

He swallowed the noodles and said with a steady voice, "They are here."

After saying that, he began eating again while thinking, 'Just 18? These guys need to find their source and hang him. There are over 50 attackers. And all have chakra. Though none are exceptionally strong.'

Anyways, I didn't think that standing at an altitude would increase the range of my chakra-enhanced eyesight so much. I can barely see a few hundred meters when at ground level. But from here, I can observe for almost 3 kilometers. A shame that the chakra field doesn't extend in this manner too.'

Fujin's voice was heard clearly by the people on the top floor. Tamotsu, Ryota, Katsumi and Tadashi immediately appeared behind him, only to see him eating in a very relaxed manner. Black lines formed on their faces.

Fujin said, "The intel was incorrect. There are over 50 attackers."

Hearing that, all four became serious and began observing the surroundings. The attackers were still over a couple of kilometers away. But the Konoha Chunins could see the slight movements in the trees as they moved.

Tamotsu made a shadow clone who went to warn Sotan and get him to ready his men.

Ryota said with a bitter smile, "It looks like we hit a steel plate this time. It will be a tough fight."

Tamotsu said, "Focus on keeping yourself alive. I know that the mission statement is to keep them alive. But keeping ourselves alive is the most important thing. We can't do our mission if we are dead. Especially you, Fujin. Don't get too excited."

Fujin replied, "Don't worry. Though their numbers are high, none of them seems exceptionally strong. So we should be fine."

Tamotsu was surprised. He said, "I didn't expect your sensory skills to be so strong."

Fujin replied, "The altitude helps in covering more area. But I can't extend my chakra field that far away. So I am not 100% sure. And we should consider the possibility of someone being able to conceal their chakra."

Tamotsu nodded and said, "It's good that you are considering these aspects."

Fujin asked, "So, what's our plan? With the enemy outnumbering us almost 2:1, the old plans are unusable."

Tamotsu nodded and said, "We won't focus on trying to defend. Instead, we will move in groups and kill as many of our enemies as quickly as we can. Tadashi and Katsumi will move together. Ryota and Fujin will move with me."

Fujin said, "My teamwork with you guys isn't that good yet. It could be bad considering the scale of this battle. Can I move alone instead?"

Tamotsu frowned. He didn't expect such a request to be made by Fujin. He thought, 'His request is logically correct. But, Lord Hokage asked me to ensure that he doesn't die prematurely. That said, he also said that Fujin is quite strong and could put up a fight even against me.'

Tamotsu asked, "Are you sure? It will be very risky with no one to watch your back."

Fujin said, "Don't worry. I can sense who is strong and who ain't. So I will focus on clearing the weaker ones."

Tamotsu agreed and said, "Alright. But be careful."

Fujin nodded without looking at him and continued eating his noodles. His teammates watched him with strange looks in their eyes.

Meanwhile, Sotan began arranging his subordinates into proper positions. Every ninja in the castle became very alert. The common people realized that they were about to be attacked and quickly evacuated to the underground safehouse under the castle.

The attackers finally began entering within 1 kilometer of the castle and into Fujin's chakra field. Fujin began sensing all of them properly. He didn't find anything odd with any of them. The attackers were spread out across the forest moving in groups of 2 or 3.

He analyzed, 'Hmm, 43 are at the Genin level, 14 barely into the Chunin level and 2 might be closer to the Elite Chunin level. Though, since they aren't from Konoha, their official ranks might be higher. I guess that the strongest 2 are Jounins. Still, they are weak. I kinda wish that I got some experience points for grinding these weaklings.'

Fujin swallowed the remaining noodles in his bowl and placed the bowl down.

He said, "I'm going in first."

Without waiting for anyone's response, he used Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu.

His teammates were surprised again. Tadashi said, "Did he really go to take the attack to the enemy?"

Katsumi noted, "More importantly, he left with chopsticks in his hands rather than his swords."

Ryota asked, "Will he be alright?"

Tamotsu said, "Let's hope that he stays fine. Anyways, they are almost here. Get ready!"

All four began preparing their opening jutsus.

Fujin appeared on a tree about 50 meters from a group of 3. Two in the front were at the Genin level, while the one in the back was at the Chunin level. Fujin hid behind a tree.

Soon, 3 figures appeared close to Fujin. Chakra flowed through the two chopsticks Fujin was holding. Fujin threw them at the two genins. Both chopsticks pierced through their throats. They dropped down while holding their throats.

The Chunin in the back was shocked. They hadn't even reached the castle walls yet! Before the Chunin could shout to attract attention, a sharp wind cut across his throat. He too joined the dead Genins.

Fujin flickered to the nearest group. He killed 2 groups, consisting of a total of 5 Genins in a row before getting to the rear of the attacking forces.

Fujin's kills were done very silently. The enemy group wasn't aware of his actions. After killing 8, he set his target on one of the Jounins.

Behind the enemy lines, there were no obstacles for Fujin. He flickered close to the nearest Jounin. After getting in range, he attacked from behind.

'Wind Release: Vacuum Bullet jutsu'

The Jounin and his two subordinates were moving ahead confidently. They were sure about winning. However, the Jounin suddenly felt some danger and moved to his left. The Vacuum Bullet grazed past his right arm leaving a cut. The Vacuum Bullet kept going ahead and pierced through multiple trees. They were shocked and quickly turned around to confront the sneak attacker.

Fujin was surprised, 'He dodged? I guess it might not be so boring after all.'

The Jounin and the two Chunins didn't see anyone behind them. Fujin had already flickered after attacking.

One of the Chunins asked, "Who attacked us, boss?"

The Jounin said, "Stay on alert. The enemy should be watching us! And don't get hit by his attack!"

They stayed on guard for a few seconds, but no new attack happened. The Jounin frowned, 'Is someone trying to kill me? Or is it just a tactic to stop me here? No, that attack was strong. I have to keep my guard up!'

The three stood with their backs to each other, watching every direction. Soon, some noise was heard from one direction. Two Wind Gale Wolves appeared and pounced on them.

The Chunins immediately threw a kunai with an explosion tag on each wolf. Both wolves were dispersed.

However, when they were distracted by the wolves, Fujin silently flickered behind them and used Air Bullet jutsu.

The Jounin realized and shouted, "DODGE!"

He immediately moved away. But the two Chunins were distracted by the wolves. Both got hit by multiple bullets. One of the bullets pierced through one of their hearts, while another pierced through the head of the other Chunin.

As soon as the Jounin dodged, he threw Shurikens at Fujin. However, Fujin flickered out of the way.

The Jounin was angry at how easily two of his subordinates died! He shouted, "Bastard! I will kill you!"

Fujin didn't reply. Instead, he threw a few shurikens at him. The Jounin easily blocked them with his kunai. However, while he was blocking, Fujin's shadow clone attacked with Air Bullet jutsu from the rear.

The Jounin once again dodged quickly. A few scratches appeared on him, but none were life-threatening.

The Jounin realized, 'He had a clone attack us with those wolves while his main body sneak attacked us. And now he has done the reverse. What a troublesome opponent!'

Meanwhile, Fujin was thinking, 'Does he have eyes at the back of his head?'

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Chapter 162: Chapter 159: The Ghostly Swordsman!

While Fujin was fighting, the remaining forces reached the castle walls. The fight had begun. However, with Sotan holding back the 2nd Jounin, the Konoha chunins began cutting through enemy ranks with ease.

After dodging Fujin's attack, the Jounin opened a scroll and made a hand sign. The scroll opened in a way that it circled around him. Soon, dozens of kunais with explosion tags were launched from the scroll.

Fujin immediately used Infinite Breakthrough jutsu while his clone hid underground. The jutsu stopped all the kunais heading towards Fujin. They all exploded. The explosion, however, also dispersed Fujin's jutsu and created a lot of dust cover.

The Jounin took the opportunity of the dust cover to run away from Fujin. He thought, 'Is that a kid or a monster? How does he know so many jutsus? I don't want to fight him. This attack can fail for all I care!'

Fujin noticed him running and thought, 'Did he really not figure out that I am a sensor? And why hasn't he used any jutsus?'

As he was running, he suddenly jumped. But, his legs were still caught by Fujin's clone. He lost his balance and was about to fall on his face. However, to Fujin's surprise, he managed to get a hold of himself immediately. He pointed his right arm towards the ground to ensure that he didn't fall on his face. At the same time, he threw a kunai at Fujin's clone with his free hand.

Unfortunately for him, the clone had caught his legs with just one purpose. The clone immediately exploded. The majority of the force of the explosion was focused on his palms.

The explosion completely ruined his two legs. His left leg was blown into two. His right leg was burned to the bone and was barely attached. He yelled hoarsely in pain. His yells stopped the next second when an Air Bullet pierced through his heart, killing him.

Fujin made a clone to collect his body as he thought, 'What a strange opponent! His survival instinct was top-notch. He could dodge deadly attacks from blind spots with ease. The only reason why my clone managed to grab his legs is that that act itself didn't have any possibility of harming him, which is probably why he was slow at jumping.

But, he didn't use any jutsu at all other than summoning those exploding kunais. Could it be that he didn't know any good jutsu at all?'

Fujin analyzed for a few seconds before concluding, 'Yes, that is probably the case. I have to admire his perseverance to train to this extent without any proper system. If he was a part of any of the major villages, he might have actually become a famous Jounin.

Sigh, I should be glad that I transmigrated to Konoha. If I wasn't a part of the major villages, then I would only have the knowledge of learning Wind Manipulation, Rasengan and Chakra Control exercises. Even becoming a ninja would have been difficult!

Fujin spread his chakra field to observe the battle happening on the walls. The battle had just begun and was at full force. Fujin unsheathed a sword. Chakra began flowing through it as he thought, 'Oh well, time to harvest some lives!'

'Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu'

Fujin appeared close to where the fighting was happening. He had already eliminated 11 enemies, bringing the total numbers close to equal.

A Chunin from the Land of Noodles was engaged in an intense battle against a rogue Chunin. However, he was shocked when he saw a sword cut off his opponent's head in one swing. But, before he could see the face of the swordsman, he had already disappeared.

The same scenes began happening all throughout the battlefield. 16 ninjas fell to Fujin's sword with this tactic.

With the Land of Noodles ninjas getting free, they began ganging up on the enemies. Soon the rogue ninjas were at a complete disadvantage. The leader of the rogue ninjas frowned upon noticing this. He didn't understand how this was happening.

Seeing the tides of the battle change, all 5 Konoha chunins focused on the enemy leader and appeared around him. His face became very ugly.

He thought, 'How the fuck did I fail so badly?'

He stopped fighting and said, "I surrender."

Sotan was surprised. He stopped attacking and said, "Alright. Don't resist."

He knocked the enemy out and restrained him. Soon after, the other rogue ninjas were killed as well.

Sotan sighed in relief. He looked at Tamotsu and said, "Thank You. Without your warning and help, we would have been in a very difficult spot!"

Sotan was fully aware of the capabilities of his subordinates. He had prepared himself for a loss and prayed for a miracle when he heard the enemy numbers. Seeing how easily they won, he figured that the Konoha ninjas won him the war.

Tamotsu chuckled and said, "You need to thank Fujin. He was one who sensed and reported them to me."

Tamotsu said this intentionally as he was aware that Sotan was dissatisfied with Fujin. Sotan was surprised. He recalled how he was angry at Fujin. He thought, 'Thank God I didn't say anything and asked the chefs to ensure that he got our best food!'

He bowed to Fujin and said, "The Land of Noodles will remember your assistance. Thank You, young man. We are in your debt."

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'Wow! A 180° turn! And even faster than Sasuke! Looks like he really loves his village. Makes sense I guess considering that he stayed behind to defend.'

Fujin said, "You are welcome. There are 10 dead bodies in the forest. Preferably have your subordinates clear them. If the civilians see them, they might freak out."

Sotan was about to nod when he realized what Fujin had said. He thought, 'TEN?'

Fujin's teammates were shocked as well. Tamotsu asked, "Fujin, did you kill 10 enemy ninjas in the forest before the attack reached us?"

Fujin replied, "Well, eleven. One of them was a bit strong. So I stored his body in case he has a bounty."

Hearing Fujin's answer left them speechless. Unlike the Land of Noodles ninjas, the Konoha ninjas had noticed Fujin cutting down the enemies. Though they didn't see all his kills, they all had only one thought, 'Did this eleven-year-old kid kill more than us four combined?'

Sotan was the first one to overcome his shock. He said, "Show me the body. I'll tell you whether he has any bounty."

Fujin looked at Tamotsu who nodded. Fujin summoned his body from the scroll. When Sotan's eyes lay on the dead body's face, he was terrified!

He yelled, "THE NOODLE THIEF!"

His shout attracted attention. The Land of Grass ninjas were very surprised on hearing it. On the other hand, the Konoha ninjas thought, 'The what?'

Sotan looked at Fujin with a terrified expression on his face. He said, "He is the Noodle Thief! He is a terrible rogue ninja. How did you manage to kill him?"

Tamotsu and others watched Fujin. However, Fujin was dumbfounded. He thought, 'Terrible rogue ninja? He really was terrible, but I don't think he means the same. How the heck did this weakling get such a response from him?'

Fujin asked calmly, "Can you give details about him?"

Sotan said with some fear in his voice, "He is a rogue ninja from the Land of Tea. He was expelled from the village when he was only a genin. Apparently, he trained by himself to reach the Jounin level without any guidance. He migrated to this country and began stealing our Caravans when they exported Noodles.

He used to only attack caravans that weren't guarded by ninjas or only guarded by Genins. We were forced to issue a rank B protection mission for every Caravan we set. We issued rank B, rank A and even rank S missions to hunt him down. Unfortunately, no matter what we did, no one ever managed to find him! He was so good that we never even received any information on the jutsus that he specialized in!

Due to him, we lost noodles worth tens of millions Ryo and have to spend millions on protection every year. In the end, our Daimyo issued a 13 million Ryo bounty on his head hoping that someone might kill him."

Fujin was shocked, 'What the fuck? This weakling has a 13 million bounty? And how the fuck did he survive against Rank S missions? Don't tell me that his freakish survival instincts warned him every time and enabled him to hide properly from the hunters. Or did he just find a perfect hiding spot?'

Fujin's analysis was on point. The Noodle Thief had found an old base created in secret by the Land of Water during the Third Great Ninja war. The base was difficult to spot naturally and was made to be a perfect hidden base with the help of Fuinjutsu.

Post the war, Kirigakure got embroiled in a civil war and the base was forgotten. In addition, his survival instincts always alerted him when someone very strong was out to hunt him, ensuring that he stayed hidden. Due to this, his reputation got built rapidly. Unfortunately, his instincts didn't kick in this time until he was attacked by Fujin and his lucky run was over!

Seeing that Fujin wasn't saying anything, Sotan stopped asking and said, "Lord Daimyo will be thrilled to know that you managed to neutralize him. Wait here for a day. Lord Daimyo should arrive at the castle by tomorrow morning."

Tamotsu agreed to stay back another day as they needed some rest as well.

While Sotan was talking with them, the ninjas from the Land of Noodles were talking about their fights. Soon, they all began talking about the Ghostly Swordsman who helped many of them! For years to come, the Legend of the Ghostly Swordsman will be spoken in this country. Many would speculate that Fujin was the Ghostly Swordsman, but none would be sure as they never saw the face of the Ghostly Swordsman.

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Chapter 163: Chapter 160: Future Daimyo's Invitation

Konoha chunins retreated to their room after the battle was over.

Tadashi couldn't resist but asked, "Fujin, how did you manage to kill a Jounin?"

Fujin shrugged and said, "He was very weak."

Ryota asked, "He is a Jounin. How can he be weak?"

Fujin chuckled and said, "If he was in my chunin exam, I am sure that he won't even get promoted to Chunin."

Fujin's teammates suddenly had strange expressions. Initially, they assumed that Fujin was being modest. But now, Fujin had implied that the students in his chunin exams were stronger.

Ryota asked, "What do you mean? Didn't he know some sort of secret jutsu?"

Fujin said, "During our fight, he had plenty of opportunities to use jutsu, but he didn't use any. Even in death, he didn't use any jutsu. So most likely, he didn't know any jutsu at all. He just had a very strong survival instinct that allowed him to dodge multiple killing blows. I guess that he was just lucky to never be discovered."

Fujin's answer left them dumbfounded. Tadashi's chin dropped. He exclaimed, "You've got to be kidding me!"

His dog Kenta barked in agreement.

After the moment of disbelief passed, Tamotsu said, "Fujin, about the bounty reward..."

Fujin looked at him and asked, "What about it?"

Before Tamotsu answered, Fujin said, "Oh, we divide the bounty rewards as well, right?"

Tamotsu nodded.

Fujin said, "Alright."

Tamotsu smiled. He was hoping that Fujin would answer this way. If Fujin had refused to share, he would have kicked him out of the team.

He said, "While we do usually share such bounty rewards, all the work was done by you in this case. So you can keep the entire reward. Does anyone else disagree?"

Fujin was surprised to see that no one showed any dissatisfaction. He asked, "Are you guys sure? I don't mind dividing the reward equally."

Fujin really didn't mind. After all, money wasn't much help in this world. The stuff that could aid Fujin in getting stronger, such as the Elemental crystals, couldn't be bought with money. At the very least, it couldn't be bought with just a few million Ryo.

Tamotsu said, "Yup. We are sure."

Fujin didn't insist anymore and just nodded. He thought, 'Wow, never thought an entire group would say no to millions of Ryo. If this was my old world, even the richest person would have said yes without a single thought!

Heck, I'd be worried whether they would plot something when I sleep! So many cases where friends and even family turned on each other just for money despite doing well financially!

Fujin looked at the smiling faces of his teammates and sighed in his mind, 'How good it'd have been if that Monkey-Fox hybrid was as kind as them!'

The next morning, Daimyo, his family and the guards return to the castle. Saton updates him on all the events. After doing some preparations, they organize a small ceremony and invite the Konoha ninjas.

The Konoha ninjas arrived. The room was big and almost occupied the entire floor. At the center of the room was a long conference table with chairs around it.

Fujin observed carefully. The Daimyo sat at one end with a couple of Samurai bodyguards standing next to him. The Daimyo was very old. In the chairs adjacent to him, a young man and a young girl were sitting. A few more officials sat next to them.

Sotan asked the Konoha ninjas to take the seats opposite the Daimyo. Tamotsu sat on the chair exactly opposite the Daimyo, while Fujin and the rest sat in adjacent chairs.

The young man beside the Daimyo said, "I am Chikara. I thank you for doing the job so efficiently. Despite our estimates being incorrect, we were able to eliminate all the enemy with zero losses thanks to you."

Tamotsu replied with a smile, "No need to thank us, it was our mission."

Chikara and some of the subordinates of Daimyo praised the Konoha ninjas a lot. They paid additional monetary rewards to them due to the increased difficulty of the mission. The Daimyo signed a letter addressing Hiruzen praising the work done by them.

After an hour of boring talks mixed with great food, Fujin was given the 13 million Ryo bounty. Chikara, who presented the bounty, said, "Sotan couldn't stop singing praises of you. Are you also the Ghostly Swordsman who helped out others?"

Fujin replied, "Nope. I am just a normal swordsman."

Chikara observed Fujin's face. But he couldn't read anything. He thought, 'Based on the information, I'm sure that he is the one who cut them down. But looks like he doesn't want the extra attention.'

Chikara was very impressed with Fujin. He was young, strong and didn't seek fame. He said, "Fujin, I will be sworn in as the Daimyo for this country in a couple of years. Would you like to be a part of my Guardian team?"

Chikara's proposal surprised a lot of people. Meanwhile, Fujin's eyebrows twitched involuntarily. He politely said, "I will consider it."

Before waiting for any response, he turned around and joined his team. Chikara looked awkwardly as his first-ever invite was ignored in this manner.

Knowing his inexperience, the old Daimyo finally spoke, "The Land of Noodles will be in your debt. If you ever want to or have time, feel free to visit us."

He looked at Fujin and continued, "Our chefs will have the best dishes prepared for you. As for the Ghostly Swordsman, I will see that no one mentions him being you."

Fujin nodded while thinking, 'This old guy is smart.'

After some more formalities, the Konoha team left. While leaving, Ryota said, "Wow! I thought you would accept Fujin. Being a guardian of a Daimyo is a huge honor."

Fujin replied, "I doubt I'll get many opportunities to gain experience as a bodyguard. And, it's unlikely that they will suffer a bigger threat than the last attack any time soon. So it would be very boring."

While Fujin said that, his thoughts were completely different, 'Seriously, why do strong ninjas even have respect for the Daimyos? It's not like they have any real power. Their only real achievement is being born as the first child of a Daimyo.'

I am surprised that someone like Danzo or any other psycho didn't get rid of them and took control of all the finances and management of entire countries.'

Tamotsu said, "While the job is boring, it is very prestigious. And there are a lot of perks to being a Guardian of a Daimyo. The most important being that you can be an ambassador for our village and use your influence to send most of the missions to Konoha."

Fujin said, "Oh, I didn't think from that point of view. But, isn't our Mission center full of missions anyways?"

Tamotsu said, "Yeah, that's true."

He became silent as he recalled the losses from the previous Great Wars.

After a day's journey, the group returned to Konoha and accepted the mission rewards. Tamotsu said, "You guys can leave. I will hand the Daimyo's letter to Lord Hokage and report him on the mission as well."

Others nodded and left. Tamotsu entered the Hokage's office and greeted Hiruzen and handed him the letter and said, "Our mission this time became a few times more difficult. The Daimyo of the Land of Noodles sent you a letter."

Hiruzen read it and said, "Looks like the Daimyo is very impressed by your work. He has especially praised Fujin a lot. How is your experience with him so far?"

Tamotsu nodded and said, "The kid is good. He didn't do anything in the previous two missions, but in this mission, he was invaluable. He spotted the attack long before others. In the fight, he killed 1 Jounin, 6 Chunins and 20 Genins. And he helped subdue the leader of the rogues as well."

Hiruzen analyzed for a bit and said, "The data on the Noodle Thief seems inconsistent. Though he had a huge bounty, there are no records of him being in any significant fight."

Tamotsu said, "Yeah. Actually, Fujin said that he was very weak. He just had a good survival instinct. I thought he was just being humble. But that might indeed be the case."

Hiruzen nodded and said, "Regardless, it is a very good performance."

Tamotsu agreed and added, "His attitude is good too. Though he killed the Noodle Thief by himself, he was willing to share the bounty with the entire team. We didn't accept it, but the kid is very selfless."

A weird expression formed on Hiruzen's face as he thought, 'Selfless? Is he talking about the same person?'

Tamotsu didn't notice the change in expression. He reported the remaining details to Hiruzen before leaving.

After he left, Hiruzen wondered, 'It's good that he was willing to share the rewards with his team, but how did he become so selfless all of a sudden? Does he only become greedy in front of me?'

Hiruzen's analysis was very close to the truth. Strong ninjas like Hiruzen and Renjiro knew a lot of jutsus that Fujin wanted. And it didn't cost them anything to teach apart from maybe time. So he will always use any means necessary to get some jutsus from them. As for money, in Fujin's eyes, Hiruzen handled all finances of Konoha. And Konoha was the richest hidden village. So he operates under the assumption that Hiruzen is loaded!

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Chapter 164: Training Lightning Release

After reaching home, Fujin thought, 'I guess that's the highest level of difficulty a rank B mission can get. Looks like my self-analysis of being Jounin level wasn't incorrect. Unfortunately, Konoha wouldn't promote me anytime soon. Also, tougher missions would mean that my life will be at more risk. My calculations were right. I should use this time to strengthen myself as much as I can.'

Fujin entered one of the rooms in the basement and turned on the lights. The room was empty. Fujin took out a scroll and summoned a few devices. There was a transformer, an Ammeter, an Ohmmeter, rubber boots, rubber gloves and a few wires.

Fujin wore the boots and began arranging the set-up while thinking, 'In order to avoid suspicion, I memorized the training process for all five elements long back. Only training methods for Yang and Yin elements aren't available in the library.'

For the Lightning element, the way to train is a bit complicated as compared to Wind and Earth. Though at the same time, it is straightforward. I just have to endure shocks in increasing intensity to master it.

I will first need to measure the resistance of my body. And then I will have to use the Transformer to subject my body to increasing voltages. That will induce a current to flow through my body.

Even that has to be done in phases. My limbs can endure a higher current. But if a current passes through my heart or brain, then it could be lethal. Those two parts will have to be trained separately.

Anyways, the first step of learning Lightning release is being able to withstand 10 Ampere current through my whole body for one minute. The second step is to produce that much current on my hands. With these 2 steps alone, I will be able to learn Lightning jutsus up to rank B. Rank A and S will need me to be able to resist and produce a stronger current.

That said, increasing the intensity of the current that I can produce will strengthen the lower-ranked jutsus. Of course, on the flip side, I can use rank C and lower jutsus after being able to produce a current of 100 milliamperes. But it won't be very strong.

Fujin completed the setup. He created a Shadow clone to control the voltage. The setup had 2 open-ended wires. Fujin grabbed one with his left hand. He taped the 2nd wire to his upper arm. This way, the current would enter his hand, pass through his arm and leave through the wire attached to his upper arm.

The clone set the output of the transformer to 10V and switched it on. The current began flowing through Fujin's body. A number appeared on the Ammeter which was attached to the circuit. It read 0.125 mA.

Fujin began calculating, '0.125 milliamperes for 10 Volts would mean that my body resistance is 80,000 Ohm. The scroll said that I should be able to feel the current when it reaches 1 milliampere.'

He looked at his clone and said, "Increase it to 80 Volts."

His Clone nodded and increased the output of the transformer. Immediately, Fujin began to feel a slight tingling sensation through his arm.

Fujin let the current flow through his arm for a minute. He looked at his clone and said, "Increase to 200 volts."

His clone increased it. The current rose to 2.5 mA. It still wasn't painful for Fujin. Fujin recalled the details in the scroll, 'The Scroll was right at stating that we will feel the current at 1 milliamperes. At 5 milliamperes will feel very disturbing to a normal human being, but it won't be very painful.

From 6 milliamperes, it will start getting painful. From then on, the muscles will start losing control. If a normal human is hit by this, he will just let go of the object that electrified them involuntarily.

Beyond 17 milliamperes, a normal human will begin experiencing extreme pain. He can't let go of the object and there is a chance of death.

Beyond 100 milliamperes, pumping of the heart becomes uncoordinated and nerve damage begins. At 2 Ampere, there will be a high chance of cardiac arrest, internal organ damage and severe burns. Death becomes very likely.

But, as a ninja who has trained my body using chakra, my endurance could be higher. It will still be very dangerous though. I should be very patient once it begins to hurt.'

He said, "Increase it to 400 Volts."

The clone increased it and said, "Don't forget that the body's resistance will suddenly decrease after 500 Volts."

Fujin nodded and said, "Yes. But the decrease in resistance is due to the outer layer of the skin breaking down. Due to my training, it might be higher for me. Anyways, keep an eye on the Ammeter. If the value suddenly begins increasing, turn the switch off. A second or two of high current won't be lethal. Besides, there is also the fuse which will melt at 100 milliamperes."

The clone nodded. Fujin kept raising the voltage slowly. After half an hour, the clone had increased the output of the transformer to 4000 Volts! A 50 mA current passed through Fujin's arm.

Fujin thought, 'Finally I can feel some pain! Looks like my endurance is around 8 to 10 times higher than a normal human when it comes to electricity.'

He took some time to get used to the pain. Once the pain subsided, he increased the Voltage more. At 5000 V, the reading on the ammeter was 62.5 mA. However, it suddenly began increasing rapidly! The clone immediately turned the switch off.

Fujin let go of the wire and removed the one he attached. He shook his arm a few times and said, "That hurt!"

The clone chuckled and said, "62.5 milliampere in under an hour is great progress."

However, Fujin shook his head and said, "This is just the natural endurance I have developed over the years. The main training will start from now onwards. I have a feeling that this will take a long time just to reach the necessary endurance."

He thought, 'I wonder how Sasuke managed to learn lightning Release and master Chidori in under a month. Was it just his talent and the Sharingan? Or does Kakashi, no, the Hatake clan have a better way to master the Lightning Release?'

Fujin repeated the same training for his remaining 3 limbs. He followed it up by sending current from one hand to the other, allowing the current to flow through his chest. He started low and stopped at 5 mA. He repeated the same for a current to pass from the top of his head to the ground after removing his shoes.

Fujin trained this way for a week. By then, he could endure currents of 500 mA passing through his limbs and 100 mA through his whole body. He also managed to generate a current of 250 mA on his hand.

In these 7 days, in order to avoid any suspicion, he also went to the training ground for an early morning workout and after lunch to practice his Wind Release and Wind Vacuum Technique for a couple of hours daily.

The Lightning training also had a great effect on Fujin's physique. Fujin noticed, 'In addition to learning Lightning release, this method has a great effect on my body. I can feel my body getting slightly stronger due to those electric shocks. Though I guess that it will become ineffective after some time. Just like the Senju Taijutsu style increased my Chakra. Still, this physical buff will be very helpful.'

For the next couple of months, Fujin focused on training his Lightning element. The Lightning training along with the intense morning workout had done wonders for his body. He now operated the training seal at 95% capacity.

During this time, his team did 7 rank B missions. Having seen his capabilities, Fujin was given a much more active role in the team. Unfortunately, the missions weren't very challenging.

Finally, Fujin managed to generate 10 Ampere current. He and his clone grinned as they read 10A on the Ammeter.

Fujin said, "Time to learn Lightning Ninjutsu now. You go to the library. Check out the jutsus of Lightning, Fire and Water release."

The clone nodded and left. Fujin meditated in the meditation room until the clone sent the info back.

The clone began going through all Fire, Lightning and Water jutsus in Sections E, D, C and B. Of course, he only read the Lightning jutsus with full focus. As for the Fire and Water element scrolls, the clone analyzed the Lightning jutsus he read while pretending to read those scrolls.

After a couple of hours, the clone dispelled and sent the information back!

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Chapter 165: Should I form a Personal Force?

Fujin's eyes in the meditation room suddenly opened. A frown formed on his face when he received the information, 'Wind and Lightning are indeed a bad combination. Though the clone found decent ninjutsus, there wasn't a single Lightning jutsu that could compliment my current skills.'

He analyzed for some time before concluding, 'Looks like other than Raikage's Lightning cloak mode and Sasuke's Kirin, the remaining Lightning jutsus won't be of any use to me when it comes to improving my strength. So that leaves only concealment.'

Alright. I'll form a new combat system based on my Lightning jutsus. I won't use any Wind jutsus or jutsus that can connect me with Konoha except the Shadow Clone and Body Flicker jutsus. The basis of this new system will be speed complemented by high accuracy and high penetration power attacks.

While I don't have any immediate need of creating such a persona, I am currently in a very peaceful phase with a lot of free time. It's best to create this combat system before my life becomes hectic.

With that decided, time to start learning the jutsus. I'll start with...'

Fujin's thoughts were interrupted as he heard a doorbell. He wondered, 'Who'd come to visit at this time? Is Renjiro back? No, the chakra signature is too low.'

Fujin went up to check. Before opening the door, he sealed up the entrance to the basement. Fujin opened the door to see 5 faces that he didn't recognize. After a few seconds, he recognized a couple of them and was surprised. He thought, 'Well, what a surprise. I nearly forgot about these two. I wonder why they are here.'

Aoki Daisuke said with a bit of nervousness, "Hey Fujin. How have you been?"

Tatsuya also greeted Fujin.

Fujin said, "I have been doing well. How about you two? Anyways, come in."

The 5 young boys entered his house.

Daisuke looked around the house with marvel. He was already surprised when he saw it from the outside. He exclaimed, "Your house is magnificent Fujin!"

Fujin said, "Thanks."

They sat in the circular room. Fujin asked, "So, what brings you here? Also, who are these 3?"

Daisuke introduced them, "They are our good friends. They are Anzai Buncho, Handa Bunjiro and Iriye Ryoma. They are our best friends from our class and are orphans just like us."

Fujin checked each one of them. All seemed normal. He said, "Hey"

They greeted Fujin back.

Fujin noticed a bit of nervousness on Daisuke's face. He said, "Fujin, we actually came here because we wanted to ask for your help."

Fujin asked, "What help?"

He said, "Actually, we are struggling in the academy. Our graduation exams are less than half a year away and I am afraid that we will fail. We saw your fight in the Chunin exams and saw how you defeated everyone with ease. Even the kids from ninja clans weren't a match for you! So we wanted to ask for your help and guidance to pass the exam."

Fujin was surprised to hear that. It wasn't just the request that surprised him, but rather the change in Daisuke. He thought, 'I know that the adults in this world are scheming bastards. But how the fuck did this straightforward guy become such a smooth talker. He perfectly blended flattering with the request such that it wouldn't seem too much and instead look very genuine!'

Seeing that Fujin was not answering made the 5 boys a bit nervous. They had decided to let Daisuke do most of the talking as he was familiar with Fujin. But as Fujin didn't reply, Tatsuya asked, "Fujin?"

Fujin replied, "Can you tell me what have you learnt so far? And what areas are you struggling in?"

They immediately began telling Fujin their issues. Fujin paid half attention to their words. As for the remaining half, he was thinking, 'Hmm, what to do? I have no interest in teaching them. After all, even though I have time, I also have a crazy amount of stuff that I want to learn.'

The only gain I can see from helping them is getting their favor. Another possible gain could be an improvement in reputation if my kind deeds are spread. But, neither gain is significant. Even if I gain their favor, what can a bunch of genins do for me? And, in a world where power reigns supreme, reputation isn't worth anything. At most, it could improve my image in Hiruzen's eyes, but I don't expect him to give me any more benefits anytime soon.

The only gain that could be worth it is if I gain their loyalty and they become my subordinates. In that case, I could create a small powerbase in Konoha. It won't be as powerful as any clan, but it would have great potential to grow. Especially once Danzo is out of the picture and the insane casualties of the 4th Great War leave a lot of Orphans that I could recruit.

But, do I even need such an organization, especially within Konoha? And will these guys be that loyal?'

Fujin analyzed quickly before reaching the conclusion, 'No. A faction within Konoha will be watched by many eyes. If I infringe upon the benefits of others, we will be hit by a multitude of schemes that would leave us a mess. And it would eat into my precious training times. All the attention would also make it much more difficult for me to do anything in the dark.'

More importantly, these guys cannot be trusted to be that loyal. The Root is loyal to Danzo as he picked them up when they were orphans and has completely brainwashed and indoctrinated them. While Orochimaru picked up kids who had lost everything and had no hope and gave them food, power, hope and dreams. Which is why his subordinates were loyal to him. Of course, in addition, both also used seals to keep their subordinates in check.

Neither of those 2 cases applies here. Even if I stayed in touch with them after I entered the academy and became best friends and helped them, I wouldn't have that level of loyalty. At most, it will be a strong friendship bond and a sense of comradery like the bond between Naruto and Shikamaru.

That said, I do plan on creating an organization outside Konoha. I have a lot of plans that an organization could simplify. Perhaps training these guys could provide me with insights on how to train the ones I take in my future organization. I guess I will need to create a proper training system for the organization in order for them to be useful. Or perhaps create something like the curse mark to strengthen and control them.'

After a long internal debate, Fujin decided to aid them. He had heard what Daisuke said. Apparently, their class wasn't taught as much as Fujin's class was. They were taught the 3 Academy ninjutsu in the 6th year. In the previous 5 years, they were only taught theory, hand signs, leaf concentration, shuriken throwing, kunai wielding and various survival skills needed to be a ninja. None of the 5 ever mentioned visiting the library.

After they stopped speaking, Fujin said, "Let's go outside. Show me how you perform the three jutsus."

Their eyes brightened when they heard it. It meant that Fujin was planning to teach them. They left the house.

Daisuke started first. He said, "I will start with the Substitution jutsu."

He began making hand signs. Fujin thought, 'Correct hand signs, but too slow.'

Daisuke wanted to use the substitution jutsu to impress Fujin, but Fujin was staring right at him without looking away. The substitution jutsu worked on misdirection. With Fujin staring directly at him, he had no way to misdirect Fujin.

He tried to time his substitution jutsu to the time Fujin blinked his eyes. But, Fujin saw it clearly as he grabbed the log next to him and swapped positions with it.

Seeing Fujin's eyes following him left him embarrassed. Fujin said, "This looks alright. Though you have to be faster. Show me the transformation jutsu. Transform into Tatsuya."

Daisuke nodded and made hand signs and transformed into Tatsuya. There were a lot of imperfections in the jutsu.

Fujin said, "You will have to practice this more. Show me the Clone jutsu."

Daisuke made hand signs. Immediately, a clone appeared next to him. But the clone looked nothing like him. In fact, Fujin doubted whether it could even walk!

Fujin thought, 'I guess Naruto isn't the only one who sucks at this.'

Daisuke was embarrassed looking at the clone. Fujin asked the others to display their jutsus as well. All four could do one jutsu satisfactorily but struggled in the remaining two.

Fujin said, "Actually, there is not much I can do to aid you with the jutsus directly. You guys will just have to practice until you learn. I will instead help you with some other techniques that would aid you in learning jutsus faster."

Their expressions fell when they heard that Fujin won't be able to help them. But on hearing that he will teach them other techniques, they got excited. They had seen the jutsus Fujin used in the Chunin exam. They thought, 'If he taught us even one jutsus from the ones he used in the exam, we will be the strongest in our class!'

Unfortunately, their sky-high expectations were set to fall on the ground and be broken into a million pieces!

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Chapter 166: Learning Lightning Jutsus

Fujin said, "How long can you guys hold the Leaf on your head during the Leaf Concentration exercise?"

Daisuke answered, "23 minutes."

Tatsuya said, "28 minutes."

Buncho said, "17 minutes."

Bunjiro said, "38 minutes."

Ryoma said, "26 minutes."

Fujin said, "That's very low. No need to practice any ninjutsu for now. Increase that to one hour."

Tatsuya immediately complained, "But that exercise is so boring!"

Fujin said, "Not really a choice Tatsuya."

Ryoma complained, "Can't you just teach us any of your jutsus Fujin?"

Fujin looked at him and said harshly, "The reason why I could become strong is that my basics are good. If any of you can't maintain the leaf for an hour, you should give up your dreams of becoming a ninja and drop out of the academy."

Fujin's reply shocked them. Fujin was their age. They expected him to be cordial with them and help them like a friend. They never imagined that he'd be stricter than the academy teachers.

Before anyone could make another comment to upset Fujin, Daisuke said, "Alright Fujin. We will work on it."

Fujin said, "Come back after you guys manage this. Oh, and come around noon. If I'm not at home at that time, then I'm doing a mission. So check after a few days."

Daisuke nodded. Fujin returned back home while they left his property.

They immediately began complaining. Banjiro said, "This was a waste of time. I admired him so much. I never thought that he would be so arrogant!"

Ryoma agreed, "Yes. He asked us to quit the academy if we can't do a stupid Leaf exercise!"

Daisuke said, "Though we grew up together, we haven't been very close since we joined the academy. We should be glad that he at least agreed to help us."

Buncho added, "I heard that he was able to hold the leaf for over an hour in his 2nd year in the academy. So his advice could be right."

Tatsuya sighed and said, "Anyways, we are struggling in the academy. Let's give his method a try. If it works, we will become ninjas. If it doesn't, it won't be much different."

They talked for a bit before deciding to follow his instruction. Fujin had anticipated such a reaction when he said those harsh words. But he didn't care. He didn't care about these 5. It didn't matter to him if they graduated or not. He was just seeing how he could instruct any future subordinates properly.

If his future subordinates complained as they did, he would just let them go or kill them depending on the situation. He didn't have the time to raise someone who was both lazy and untalented.

Fujin left this whole episode behind him and began deciding which jutsu he should start with.

He entered the bottom basement and thought, 'My clone picked 11 jutsus to learn. However, 3 of them are very inconvenient to use in battle. However, these 3 look like they are preparatory jutsus for Raikage's Lightning Cloak. I guess Konoha managed to deduce some of the steps to learn it. Not really surprising. But they didn't manage to completely deduce it. Though there is a possibility that they did deduce it but didn't put it in the library.'

Another 3 jutsus are a series of jutsus. The D and C rank Variants will be dropped in the future. Another jutsu has potential but is highly inaccurate.

That leaves me with 1 utility jutsu, 1 defensive jutsu, 1 long-range jutsu and 1 mid-range jutsu in addition to the rank B jutsu. Konoha's stock of Lightning jutsus is disappointing. Another issue is that there is no Lightning Instantaneous Body jutsu. So long-range escape with this element isn't possible. I'll have to depend on the Flicker jutsu.

Anyways, I'll start with the series and then move on to the 3 preparatory jutsus. Even though they don't have much use on the battlefield, they might be able to strengthen my body further.'

Fujin made hand signs and extended his right arm straight. A lightning bolt formed in his palm and shot towards the metal statue and barely missed it.

Fujin analyzed, 'Wow, learnt in one try! I suppose now that I have learnt so many jutsus, I'll have an easier time learning new jutsus. Especially if it's only a D rank jutsu.'

Anyways, it looks like I will have to perfect the aim of this Lightning Bolt jutsu. Then I can move on to the Lightning Blast jutsu. Shouldn't take long.'

Fujin began practicing. In a few hours, he managed to gain 100% accuracy with the jutsu. The Lightning Bolt jutsu didn't do much damage. At best, the opponent will suffer minor electric shocks. Though it could paralyze the opponent temporarily.

Fujin moved on to the Lightning Blast jutsu. It was a C rank jutsu. It worked the same as the Lightning Bolt jutsu. The only difference was that instead of one Lightning Bolt, it would attack the target with a continuous blast of Lightning. The jutsu would continue hitting the opponent until the user decided to stop it or doesn't have the chakra to keep it up.

Fujin managed to learn and aim it correctly in under a day. However, he realized a crucial issue, 'Though I can aim properly, I can't control the intensity of the shocks perfectly. Only in around 15% of cases, it was as intense as I wanted it to be.'

Fujin sighed in relief, 'I'm glad I didn't try those jutsus before realizing this issue. It could have been bad! Sigh, I keep underestimating this world. There is danger even while learning a jutsu!'

Anyways, this issue shouldn't affect me while learning the Lightning Beam jutsu. I'll train my control after learning this jutsu.'

Lightning Beam jutsu was a B rank jutsu. This jutsu was just a powered-up version of the Lightning Blast jutsu. It could fire a beam twice as wide as the Lightning Blast jutsu. The shocks from this jutsu would be very painful and fatal.

Even if someone dodges this jutsu, they could still be attacked if they are within 2 feet of the beam. Due to the high power of the jutsu, small lightning arcs are expelled occasionally from the beam that can hit anyone in the vicinity and cause more damage than the Lightning Bolt jutsu.

Three days after Fujin began learning the jutsu, Fujin was standing in front of a metal statue. He made the hand signs and aimed his right palm at the statue. Lightning appeared in his palm and a beam was fired at the statue.

The Lightning Beam hit the statue. The statue kept getting hit by the beam for 30 seconds when Fujin finally stopped it. The statue was in a bad shape. The face had melted and couldn't be called a face anymore. Multiple cracks had occurred on the surface of the statue.

Fujin smiled, 'Alright. Single Target mid-range jutsu learnt. Now, I should work on control.'

Fujin returned to the room where he had endured electric shocks. He opened his scroll and took out a few items. He set up a circuit.

The circuit had an 80 Kilo Ohm resistor and an ammeter connected with a wire. Another couple of wires were connected to the other end of the ammeter and the resistor. These wires were left open.

Fujin grabbed the wires and began generating electricity with his right hand. The current flowed through the circuit and values began appearing on the ammeter.

Fujin decided, '2.3 Ampere current. Let me try to keep it at 1 Ampere for 10 minutes. Then I will try keeping it stable at other amperes. I should also check this with the Voltmeter instead of the Ammeter to check both readings. The resistance of the resistor doesn't decrease like the human body, but it would still be better to check.'

Fujin began practicing. His control improved slightly, but not much. The lightning was very unstable. Fujin could easily provide the max power continuously, but controlling it at lower levels was challenging.

He kept practicing till he had to go on a mission. His team gathered outside the Mission Center.

Tamotsu went in and accepted a mission. He came out and said, "I accepted a Mission to the Land of Frost. Apparently, a family heirloom was stolen. They issued a rank B mission to retrieve it. The opponents will be rogue ninjas from Kumogakure. Fujin, your Wind jutsus will be important to counter their Lightning Release."

Fujin nodded. The group made some preparations and left the village. The group travelled across the Land of Fire and the Land of Hot Water to enter the Land of Frost. The journey took a day and a half before they finally reached their destination.

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Chapter 167: Chapter 164: A Chakra Metal Sword & Ice Kekkei Genkai

The Land of Frost didn't have a ninja force. While they did have some in the past, their army was destroyed in the 2nd and 3rd wars by Kumogakure. Right now, they only had a few ninjas for the protection of the Daimyo and the city. All their missions would be issued to Konoha or Kumo.

Tamotsu briefed Fujin on the details of the Land of Frost en route. Tamotsu also warned his group saying, "I don't have the exact information, but I heard some rumors about our Anbu squad clashing with some ninjas from the Land of Frost. So keep your guard up in case this mission is a trap."

Everyone nodded. They entered the city as soon as they reached it. After going through some formalities, the group was received by an old politician and his bodyguard.

Fujin and his group observed their client. He was very old, probably in his eighties. His back seemed to have been bent permanently and he walked with the help of a walking stick. A Samurai acted as his bodyguard.

The old man introduced himself, "I'm Konda Kunio. I'm happy to see that Konoha sent a strong group for my mission."

Tamotsu asked, "Konda? Are you related to the Daimyo?"

Konda Kunio smiled and said, "Looks like you are well-informed as well. The current Daimyo is my nephew."

Tamotsu said, "Can you tell us more about the mission? The mission statement didn't have much information."

Kunio nodded and said, "For generations, we had a family heirloom passed through our family. It was a sword made from chakra metal. Unfortunately, we had a break-in last week and our sword was stolen. We did some investigation and found that the thief was a rogue ninja who was formerly from Kumo.

His name is Saigo Rikyu. He used to be a Chunin. He became a missing-nin 3 years ago. We discovered that he has created an organization and has set up multiple bases in our country. We don't have the ability to track and kill him."

As he was speaking, the Samurai led down a map on the table. It was a map of the Land of Frost. It had 5 red crosses.

Kunio continued, "We have discovered that his organization has these 5 hidden bases. But we don't know which one he is hiding in. We also don't know the exact number and strength of his forces. So your mission is only to retrieve the heirloom. There's no need to kill him or his group. Of course, if you kill him and eliminate his group, that would be the best. You can claim his 2.5 million Ryo bounty if he is killed."

The Konoha ninjas analyzed the information. There was a lot of information that hadn't been confirmed. The mission could be very risky if stronger ninjas were hiding in the hideouts.

Tamotsu asked, "If such a group is operating in your country, why didn't you issue a higher-ranked mission to eliminate them and resolve the issue forever?"

Kunio didn't reply for a few seconds. He let out a sigh and said, "It's complicated. Every time we issue a high ranked mission to clear such a rogue group, another takes its place. It's a never-ending cycle. My nephew decided that as long as they don't kill anyone, we won't spend money to hunt them down.

Unfortunately, I don't have the money to issue a higher ranked mission without getting funds from him."

He took out a small book and placed it on the table and said, "I reiterate that your mission is just to retrieve the heirloom. However, if you are able to exterminate the rogue group, I will reward you with

this book. This book contains research conducted by the previous generation of our ninjas on how to combine Water and Wind manipulation into Ice manipulation."

This info shocked the group. They began staring at the book. Fujin thought, 'You gotta be kidding me. How does a weak country have such a book and how did he manage to hold onto it?'

The old man saw the expressions on the faces of Konoha ninjas and said, "I would like to clarify that the research is incomplete. Though we tried a lot, none of our ninjas ever learnt Ice Kekkei Genkai."

The group calmed down. It made a lot more sense now. They guessed that the Land of Frost would have multiple copies of this book.

Tamotsu said, "Alright. We will get your heirloom back and investigate the rogue groups as well."

Kunio smiled and got up. He said, "Enjoy your feast. I'll send someone to show you your rooms for the night."

He and his Samurai bodyguard left. The Konoha group didn't discuss the mission at all. They rested for the night and left the city early in the morning before the Sun had risen.

After they were a sufficient distance from the city, Ryota asked, "What are your thoughts on the mission?"

Fujin answered first, "It is very tricky. We don't know how many are in his organization. We can't even be sure that he is the leader. If he is just a lackey instead of a leader, then this mission will be very difficult."

Tamotsu nodded and said, "You are right. It will be a rank A or even S in that case. Considering the risk involved, focus on your safety first. The mission comes after the safety of our group. So don't be impulsive. Especially you, Tadashi."

Tadashi's ninja dog, Kenta, barked in agreement. Tadashi replied, "Hey, I have enough control over myself."

The group ignored him and continued forward. They reached the first hideout. It was a small hill with multiple caves in it.

Tadashi said, "I don't smell anyone inside the hill. I do smell some scents, but they aren't fresh."

Katsumi said, "I will send my bugs in to check."

He sent a few bugs to investigate the hill. The remaining group stayed a considerable distance away.

After some time, even the bugs returned empty-handed. Tamotsu looked at Fujin. Fujin spread his chakra field and shook his head, "I don't sense anyone."

Tamotsu said, "Alright, let's check the next hideout."

The group checked the nearest hideout but didn't find anyone once again. So they moved to the 3rd location. There was a huge waterfall at this location. Apart from the river and some sparse trees around it, the area was open.

Ryota asked, "Where is the hideout here?"

Tadashi said, "I don't smell anyone."

Kenta barked in agreement.

Fujin asked, "Should I try to sense right away?"

Tamotsu said, "No, let Katsumi check the area first."

Fujin nodded. Katsumi's bugs scouted the location but didn't find anything either.

Fujin spread his chakra field. He didn't pick up any chakra either. But he felt something weird. He looked at the Waterfall. Chakra gathered in his eyes as he focused on it.

He said, "There is a cave at the bottom of the waterfall. But the entrance is blocked with a wall of rocks which look natural."

Tamotsu asked, "Do you sense someone hiding there?"

Fujin answered, "No, but I have a weird feeling. As if my chakra field can't enter deep into the cave. And as if something is trying to hide from my eyes."

Ryota asked, "What do you mean?"

Fujin said, "During my last mission with Renjiro sensei, we encountered a squad from Kiri who hid underground perfectly using Fuinjutsu. I have a feeling that the same might be the case here."

As he said that, Fujin thought, 'Well, I can't tell that I live in a house that is filled with seals, can I? It has helped in getting familiar with how seals feel when I try to sense them.'

Hearing Fujin, everyone frowned. Tamotsu said, "Fuinjutsu? That's troublesome. Even more troublesome is the fact that they have someone who could be a SealMaster."

He looked at Fujin and asked, "Are you 100% sure that this place is guarded by Fuinjutsu?"

Fujin shook his head. Despite his familiarity with the seals, he still couldn't guarantee. Tamotsu asked, "Is there any way we could enter undetected?"

Fujin replied, "Unless we have a much superior SealMaster, nope."

Tamotsu asked, "What would you recommend?"

Fujin said, "The best way would be to destroy the cave behind the waterfall. That way, most of them will die inside. We can stay far away and observe who stays alive and comes out. We can decide whether to attack or escape then."

Fujin looked at Ryota and asked, "Do you have any Earth jutsu that could make the entire waterfall collapse?"

Ryota said with a deadpan expression, "Of course not."

Tamotsu said, "None of us has any jutsu. Fujin, if we enter the cave, would we be ambushed?"

Fujin said, "Likely not. The initial part of the cave seems clear. They are probably hiding inside. Though I'm not 100% sure."

Tamotsu said, "Alright. Let's enter the cave then. We will see if there is any way to infiltrate deeper stealthily. If not, we will blow up the whole place with explosives."

The group grinned at that idea. The group entered the Waterfall. Fujin pointed at one spot and Ryota used a jutsu to create a path. Katsumi first checked the insides with his bugs and the group stepped in when they confirmed that there were no traps.

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Chapter 168: Safe Hideout? What's that?

The Konoha ninjas entered the cave silently and checked it out. There was nothing in the cave.

Fujin stood in front of a wall and focused Chakra in his eyes. He wouldn't have noticed it a few months back, but due to practicing Fuinjutsu so much, he could see some seals in the wall. He smirked and thought, 'At best the one who made these is a SealMaster and not a Grandmaster. It'd have been difficult to explain how I knew it was a grandmaster and convince these guys to retreat had that been the case.'

Still, this is a great hideout! For starters, there was nothing around the place that would cause suspicion. This cave itself has 2 layers of camouflage. The Waterfall and the wall, one of which is natural and the other is indistinguishable from the natural wall.

Even if someone still managed to find this cave, they would think that it is only a small cave and wouldn't suspect a bigger cave inside. Perhaps the only vulnerability of this hideout is the ones hiding inside it. If they didn't leave any trail, it'd be almost impossible for the Land of Frost forces to find this place suspicious.'

Fujin said, "I think they are behind this wall."

Tamotsu nodded. The whole group planted a few dozen explosives on that wall. Fujin and Ryota used Earth Military Movement jutsu to enter the cave walls and planted over 400 Explosion tags where Fujin asked them to. As Fujin could see the seals, the rogue ninjas who were hiding inside weren't alerted.

Fujin's squad left the waterfall and moved a few hundred meters away. Tamotsu asked, "Is everyone ready?"

The group nodded. Everyone made a hand sign. Tamotsu picked up a stone and said, "We will set off the explosion when this stone touches the ground."

He tossed the stone in the air. At the moment it touched the ground, all 5 ninjas activated the explosion tags they planted!

Inside the cave, there were 14 rogue ninjas. They were aware that the Land of Frost would try to find them, perhaps even issue a mission, but they weren't worried. They had recently stocked up their supplies and were planning to hide there for a month or more.

In the cave, Nishio Korenaga was trying out the Chakra Sword. He held the sword in his right hand and tried to extend his chakra through the sword. The chakra flowed through the sword very smoothly. He felt as if the sword was an extension of his own arm.

Suddenly, the chakra flowing through the sword was converted into Lightning in the blink of an eye! Almost all of the other rogue ninjas were watching this. They were surprised at how skilled Korenaga was!

Saigo Rikyu said, "Damn boss! You are on fire! It's as if the sword was crafted for you!"

However, Korenaga shook his head and said, "No, you have done a great job. This sword is amazing. I am surprised that this weak little nation had something so good."

Rikyu grinned and said, "It was their family heirloom. They might still have some good stuff that we can try to steal."

Korenaga nodded and said, "Yes. I'm interested too. But not now. They might have issued an A rank mission to Konoha or our former village to hunt you down."

Rikyu immediately got serious and said, "Yes. They must be hunting for me now."

Korenaga smirked and said, "Don't worry. As long as you are loyal to me, I will guarantee your safety. Besides, those morons don't know about me. Even if they manage to track this hideout, they will just feed my new sword!"

Hearing him, everyone calmed down and began cheering. After all, Korenaga was the true leader of this group of misfits. The investigation carried out by the Land of Frost ninjas never discovered him. So their information was incomplete. And this incomplete information could very well be fatal!

As the rogue ninjas were celebrating, the Explosion tags began exploding. The entire hidden cave began shaking. They didn't understand what exactly was happening.

One of them yelled, "What the fuck is happening? Did an earthquake hit us?"

Another one of the ninjas had his eyes closed as he sensed. His name was Fumihiko Mokuami. He was a rogue ninja from the Land of Water and was a SealMaster. He said, "Someone has planted hundreds of explosions around our cave. Take cover immediately!"

Everyone began using defensive jutsus. However, the number of explosions was too high! The cave soon crumbled. Rocks rained down upon them. The ground under them began collapsing. Explosion tags began exploding very close to them. All the large-scale defensive jutsus were torn down leaving every man for himself!

The explosions also disabled all seals. The Konoha ninjas could now use their senses to observe the ones hiding inside.

Fujin was the first one to speak. His voice was very serious as he said, "There is a Jounin among them! Their total number is 14. Everyone is at least a chunin!"

The entire group became very serious. A jounin from Kumo along with 13 chunins would be very difficult to handle!

Tamotsu said, "Let's pay attention from a distance and see how many survive. I will decide whether to attack or retreat."

He looked at Katsumi, who nodded his head.

The explosions broke all the cave walls. Water from the waterfall began pouring into it and submerging the entire cave!

The rogue ninjas who were struggling with explosions, debris and unstable footing suddenly had to deal with a strong water wave as well!

Korenaga grabbed Rikyu and began making his way out of the cave through the water. Mokuami created a barrier around himself and began making his way out as well.

In all, the explosions killed 3. Another 5 were killed when rocks fell on them. And 1 more was killed due to suffocating underwater.

The 5 who made it out had some injuries on them. Only Mokuami and Korenaga were completely fine. They expected to be ambushed as soon as they got out. However, there was no attack instead there was another trap for them.

Katsumi had some of his bugs move along the water that flooded the cave. These bugs could survive underwater and were very poisonous. They managed to bite all except Mokuami who was protected by a barrier.

As soon as they landed outside the waterfall, their legs began shaking. Korenaga said, "Fuck! I'm poisoned."

He looked around to see 3 more being in the same situation as he was. He looked at Mokuami who wasn't even a bit hurt and yelled, "Bastard! Did you betray us?"

Mokuami quickly defended himself, "I have done no such thing."

Korenaga didn't trust him and said, "First we were attacked despite your seals. And now all but you are poisoned. How would you explain that?"

Korenaga unsheathed his chakra sword as he spoke. However, he didn't attack and instead kept his attention on an incoming ambush.

Seeing that they wouldn't clash, the Konoha ninjas made a move. Tamotsu said, "I will take on the Jounin. Ryota, take on the unharmed guy. Others finish off the rest and come to help us."

The group nodded and flickered. The rogue ninjas noticed them and prepared for a fight. Mokuami said, "They are Konoha ninjas. Perhaps you four were poisoned by bugs. They couldn't poison me due to my barrier."

Korenaga snorted and focused on the Konoha ninjas. The Konoha group flickered until they were just 20 meters from the enemy. Fujin was at the center, Tamotsu and Tadashi were on both his sides and both had made hand signs.

'Fire Release: Great Fireball jutsu'

At the same time, Fujin used Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. The 3 jutsus combined creating a massive Firestorm. While their missions over the last couple of months weren't challenging, Fujin did improve his teamwork alongside the group a lot.

The rogue ninjas were surprised by the huge Firestorm heading for them.

Korenaga yelled, "Get underwater!"

The rogue ninjas immediately dove into the river they were standing on.

Ryota, Tadashi and Tamotsu followed them underwater. Katsumi didn't join them as most of his bugs were ineffective underwater. While Fujin didn't go as he didn't want to face an experienced Lightning user underwater.

Under the water, Korenaga saw the Konoha ninjas following him. He immediately became angry, 'They dare to fight me underwater?'

He made hand signs.

'Lightning Release: False Darkness'

He released a spear of Lightning from his mouth at Tamotsu.

Tamotsu watched the incoming lightning spear with a grim expression as he thought, 'I didn't expect him to use such a strong jutsu despite being poisoned!'

He threw a kunai with an explosion tag at the incoming spear. It exploded right before reaching the spear. The explosion dispersed the spear. However, since they were underwater, the current began spreading through the entire area.

The Konoha ninjas as well as the Rogues were electrocuted. Among the rogues, 3 had an affinity to the Lightning element. They were fine. While Mokuami once again insulated himself with the help of seals. Only one rogue was shocked.

On the side of the Konoha ninjas, all the 3 who went underwater and the dog were shocked. Though it didn't injure them, the shock had a paralytic effect on them and hindered their movement. They immediately began exiting the water. Their advantage had been reversed with a single jutsu!

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Chapter 169: The Hunt Begins...

The immediate reversal lifted the spirits of the Rogue ninjas. They began making hand signs to use more Lightning jutsus. However, Korenaga was frowning, 'My entire body is hurting. This poison is very troublesome. We will need to win this fight or escape successfully within 5 minutes. Otherwise, we all might die here.'

While the rogue ninjas were making hand signs, someone watched them like a hawk. Fujin's eyes were glowing as he watched the only Rogue ninja who got shocked. Vacuum cores began forming in his mouth.

He shot 2 Vacuum bullets at the same time. During the last 2 months of training, Fujin had finally learnt to use 2 Vacuum bullets at the same time.

One vacuum bullet was shot at Korenaga while the other was shot at the paralyzed rogue. Korenaga noticed the attack and immediately moved out of the way while weaving hand signs. However, there was another ninja just behind him who didn't notice the attack. The bullet hit his right thigh and pierced through it.

As for the paralyzed rogue, the Vacuum Bullet pierced through his head and killed him. The deadly attack shocked them once again and reminded them of the seriousness of the situation. Korenaga launched False Darkness once again. This time it was aimed at Fujin.

Fujin noticed it and used Vacuum Bullet jutsu once again and shot 2 bullets at the incoming Lightning Spear. His bullets tore through the lightning spear and dispersed it. Korenaga had to dodge them once again. He frowned, 'Wind user. Things just keep getting worse!'

Tamotsu, Tadashi, Ryota and Kenta exited the water. Katsumi helped them to get on the shore. All breathed heavily. Tadashi gritted his teeth and complained, "Shit! That bastard is strong!"

Ryota agreed, "Yeah. And the Lightning element restricts me too much! Luckily Tamotsu at least neutralized it. Otherwise, we might have been in a lot of trouble."

Tamotsu said, "Though our movement will be hindered a bit, they are poisoned by Katsumi's bugs. We just have to hold on for around 5 minutes and they will begin losing their ability to move."

Katsumi nodded and said, "Four more minutes left. It will be best if they escape. That way we can just hunt down their unconscious or dead bodies."

Fujin noticed that all his team were on the shore. The Rogue ninjas who were under the water were approaching him. And the SealMaster from the group was weaving hand signs for a water jutsu. Not wanting to be surrounded, he flickered to his team. When he reached them, he heard Katsumi softly whispering, "Focus on stalling them. It's fine if they escape."

A second after he flickered, a Water Dragon formed where he was standing. The Rogue group exited the river and stood behind the Water Dragon.

As soon as they exited the river, Katsumi's bugs attacked them. His bugs had already spread over the river and swarmed them. The rogues had noticed the bugs when they were underwater. They immediately launched Explosion tags on them. Mokuami launched his Water Dragon at the Konoha ninjas.

However, Fujin countered with a giant ball of wind. It hit the Water Dragon's head and exploded, neutralizing it. Fujin followed it up with a dozen Air bullets. However, the enemy managed to dodge.

The Konoha ninjas who were electrocuted earlier stood up on their feet. However, their movement wasn't very fluent. Korenaga observed their movements. He analyzed, "We could attack and try to kill them, but the Wind user will be tough to overcome. He can keep neutralizing our jutsus and keep us at a distance."

Every second that he stalls will be lethal for us. While that bug user is probably responsible for our poison. His bugs are an even bigger threat than the Wind user. We should escape while their mobility is hampered. No, I should!

Without saying anything, Korenaga suddenly flickered away. Mokuami had expected him to do this and flickered away as well. The other two were shocked. However, within a second, they tried escaping as well.

Fujin was surprised at how they suddenly ran away. He thought, 'Wow! That leader just abandoned them and ran.'

He made a hand sign. A shadow clone with 10% of his chakra appeared. He flickered immediately. Just two flickers and he appeared behind the rogue who was running away on one foot.

The rogue ninja noticed him and threw a few shurikens at him and began weaving hand signs. However, the clone dodged all shurikens with extreme ease. A sword appeared in his hand and he swung the sword at the enemy. Realizing the threat, the rogue ninja moved backwards. However, a sword slash was released from the sword. The clone watched as the enemy's head was split from his neck.

While the clone was fighting, Fujin created another shadow clone and 10 Wind clones which chased after the remaining 3. After finishing off his opponent, the first clone also joined the chase.

Tamotsu looked at it and said, "Good work."

Fujin nodded and asked Katsumi, "Did you plant your bugs on them?"

Katsumi nodded and said, "All except the guy who used the Water jutsu. They are poisoned as well."

Fujin and Katsumi stayed on guard while the others warmed up to get rid of any issues they might have in moving around. After a couple of minutes, they began chasing.

Fujin said, "The one who was injured is dead. The others are escaping in different directions."

Tamotsu looked at Katsumi, who told them the exact locations. He instructed, "Alright. Fujin and Tadashi will hunt Saigo Rikyu. The rest of us will hunt that Jounin. Ignore the 3rd ninja for now."

Everyone nodded and split off. Fujin analyzed, 'Good decision. The main mission is to retrieve the sword. While the additional rewards are basically for bringing Rikyu's head. And with the enemy poisoned, they just need to wait until that Jounin to just die by himself.'

Korenaga and Rikyu quickly began consuming the antidotes they had. They had a general-use Antidote that could neutralize the poisons of the bugs from the Aburame clan. Their situation improved slightly. The pain and dizziness they were experiencing began decreasing. Both smiled.

The speed of Fujin's clones was much faster than theirs. His clones began catching up with the enemies.

The Wind clones chasing Rikyu were the first ones to catch up. Rikyu turned around to see 3 Wind clones chasing him. He thought, 'Wind clones. So annoying!'

He began weaving hand signs while escaping. The Wind clones knew that they wouldn't be able to defeat him. So they only focused on stalling him.

Rikyu turned around and used the jutsu he prepared.

'Lightning Release: Discharge jutsu'

He extended his palms ahead. Lightning appeared on his palms and was launched towards the clone. However, instead of it moving at a rapid speed, it moved slowly and instead spread in all directions.

The eyes of the clones widened as they retreated. They thought, 'A low damage AoE jutsu. It's perfect for dealing with clones.'

As the lightning discharged approached the clones, one of the clones stepped forward and poured all his chakra into a Great Breakthrough jutsu.

The Winds neutralized all the discharge and instead attacked Rikyu. However, after using the jutsu, Rikyu had already started running. The remaining 2 clones began chasing after him.

Mokuami was the next one to clash with the clones. Unlike Rikyu, he waited on top of a small lake for the clones to catch up.

As soon as the clones appeared in sight, he began making hand signs. He thought, 'I could have hidden perfectly. Unfortunately, this kid is a sensor. He would have figured out the general area and I would be trapped. I have to finish the clones before the ninjas begin sensing me as well!'

1 Shadow clone and 3 Wind clones approached him and noticed him weaving hand signs.

'Water Release: Raging Waves'

Mokuami spat out water in all directions. Just like Rikyu, his aim too was to use a wide-range attack to dispel the clones.

One of the Wind clones again moved forward and used all his chakra to use an Infinite Breakthrough jutsu to nullify the enemy jutsu.

The Wind clashed with the water and sent the water back to Mokuami. The remaining clones flickered to close the distance while preparing a jutsu.

'Wind Release: Air Bullet jutsu'

All 3 clones used Air Bullet jutsu at the same time. The Shadow clone aimed his bullets at Mokuami, while the Wind clones cut off his escape routes.

However, Mokuami stood his ground. A barrier appeared around him. The Air Bullets hit the barrier and were stopped.

The Shadow clone observed him carefully. He analyzed, 'Impressive. His speed at creating barriers is very fast. I should study barriers properly. They provide a very strong defense. That said, he is lucky that I can't use Vacuum jutsus with a clone yet. Else he might have died despite the barrier.'

Behind the barrier, Mokuami was rapidly weaving hand signs. His chakra suddenly flared. The Winds from the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu had died down. Water once again began gathering around him.

'Water Release: Piercing Rain jutsu'

The water formed a sphere around him. The surface of the water sphere began forming spikes. Soon, innumerable water needles were shot in all directions at a high speed.

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Chapter 170: A False Sense of Security

The Wind clones tried dodging the incoming water needles, but there was no room as they were too densely packed. The Shadow clone escaped underground. Mokuami weaved more hand signs and slammed his hands on the lake.

'Water Release: Corrosive Liquid jutsu'

The water from the lake began spreading above the ground for hundreds of meters. This water was corrosive and harmful. If it came in contact with a ninja, it would begin feeling an itch over their body. However, if it hit a clone, the clone would be dispelled.

Mokuami observed as he thought, 'Though we made this jutsu to counter the ninjas who hide underwater, it also works for those who hide underground. Now that clone will be trapped there.'

He began planning his escape. Meanwhile, Fujin's clone frowned. He thought, 'What a troublesome opponent! He managed to neutralize my clones very easily. Still, all his fighting plans are based on the assumption that I don't know Lightning jutsus. A strong current through the water will reverse the battle situation. Unfortunately, I have to keep it hidden.'

The clone made a hand sign. A Wind clone appeared behind it containing half his chakra.

The remaining half of his chakra gathered on the clone's fist. He punched the ground above him diagonally.

A shockwave was sent through the ground. It hit the underwater walls of the lake and sent stones flying at Mokuami who had just relaxed his guard slightly. Around 4-5 stones hit him.

Unfortunately, the speed of the stones wasn't fast enough to make them lethal. Their speed was further reduced by the water.

Though the stones barely hurt him, his instincts were screaming. He quickly made a barrier in the direction from where the stones came.

The Shadow Clone's punch had created a small but linear hole. The Wind clone used Infinite Breakthrough jutsu and poured all its chakra into it. However, unlike the usual Infinite Breakthrough jutsu that spread for dozens, even hundreds of meters wide, this one travelled in a narrow hole. It almost looked like a Wind Spear.

The Wind jutsu hit the barrier hard. As the impact was only on a small area, the entire barrier was pushed back.

Mokuami controlled the barrier and made it turn slightly to divert the direction of the jutsu. However, the wind spear pierced through the barrier.

Fortunately, he managed to change the direction slightly. The spear passed through the side of his abdomen, cutting a half-inch semicircle through his right side.

Mokuami watched in shock as the left side of his abdomen began bleeding profusely! He thought, 'Who the fuck is that kid? And which jutsus did he use to do something like this?'

However, he stopped thinking about Fujin and began thinking about his own vulnerable situation, 'They have an Inuzuka! He will smell my blood. Hiding has become a hundred times more difficult now!'

He removed all his clothes as they all had some blood on them. He used the water to clean the wound. Once the wound was cleaned, he lit a fire and burned the wound to stop the bleeding. He gritted his teeth due to the pain. The fire cauterized the wound and stopped bleeding.

He applied some bandages over the burned area and made a hand sign. Four water clones appeared around him. Each of them picked up some of the bloody clothes and ran in different directions.

Mokuami ran in another direction without bothering to wear any clothes. He ensured that he left no trail behind. After moving some distance, he hid underground and used seals to hide properly.

The last set of clones clashed with Korenaga, but they were defeated promptly. Fujin, who was chasing Rikyu, received the memories of his two shadow clones. He analyzed, 'These guys are tough. I don't think this mission is rank B anymore.'

Rikyu also managed to dispel the last 2 Wind clones. They were escaping with confidence when something happened. Both Rikyu and Korenaga suddenly lost their footing! They fell to the ground and vomited blood.

Both were shocked, 'What the heck? What happened? Did I get poisoned again? How?'

Both were confused. They didn't understand. Other than Katsumi, the remaining Konoha ninjas were also in the dark about this. They were aware that the rogue ninjas were poisoned. However, they never saw the rogue ninjas use antidotes.

The sudden flaring of the poison in Rikyu and Korenaga was a hidden strategy of the Aburame clan. The entire clan used the same bug to poison the enemies. Hence, every major village had readymade antidotes available for that poison.

However, in reality, the Aburame clan had a large variety of poisonous bugs. One of those bugs had poison similar to the normal poisonous bugs. However, instead of being neutralized by the antidote, it would be temporarily suppressed and flare up a few minutes later.

The Aburame clan keeps this a secret by only using it against enemies when they are confident that they will kill the enemies. Otherwise, they wouldn't use it. Due to this reason, no one was aware of this. And

due to this reason, the Aburame clan would always be considered a clan that Konoha's enemies hated to fight during wars.

Rikyu and Korenaga stopped escaping and tried to inspect themselves. They both speculated that they were poisoned with a different poison. So their Antidote wasn't effective. However, even after speculating correctly, they couldn't do anything about it.

Rikyu decided to stop escaping and hid behind a tree as it was very difficult for him to move. On the other hand, Korenaga turned around and rushed back to where the Konoha ninjas were.

Around half a minute later, Korenaga encountered Tamotsu, Katsumi and Ryota. A vicious look could be seen in his eyes as he looked at Katsumi. He threatened, "Give me the antidote for your poison. If not, I will kill you all!"

Tamotsu chuckled and asked, "Do you really think that we would just hand you the antidote?"

However, he and Ryota were on alert. They had the same thought, 'Why did he escape if he didn't have the antidote? Did he set up any trap here?'

Unlike them, Katsumi wasn't that worried. They began fighting.

Fujin and Tadashi caught up with Rikyu as well. His blood was very easy to smell for Rikyu. While Fujin could sense him when they entered in range. They stealthily approached him from behind. They could hear him coughing.

Tadashi grabbed a shuriken that had a string attached to it. He threw it around the tree from behind. It went around the tree and trapped Rikyu.

Though Rikyu had stopped moving, his condition worsened. He vomited blood multiple times. Even moving had become difficult. Tears had formed in his eyes as he realized that he would die in that unknown place.

He saw the shuriken and the string. But it was too late. He didn't have any energy to move. The string tied him to the tree. He tried struggling, however, 2 Vacuum Bullets hit him. One pierced his heart and the other pierced his neck. He died without troubling Fujin and Tadashi much.

Tadashi said, "That was easy."

Fujin nodded, "Yeah. Katsumi's poison is very strong."

Tadashi grinned and said, "Yeah, it is. He bailed us out multiple times thanks to it."

He went forward and stored Rikyu's body in a scroll. They began moving towards Tamotsu and company. Tadashi asked, "Any idea what's happening at other places?"

Fujin shook his head and said, "No. They are both strong. They managed to defeat my clones. I think my clones managed to injure that Water user, but I'm not sure."

Tadashi replied, "Alright. Anyways, that Jounin is also poisoned. So Tamotsu and others should be able to win easily."

Fujin nodded.

They moved quickly and arrived where Korenaga was fighting in a few minutes. The scene surprised them. Tadashi quickly rushed towards Tamotsu and Katsumi and asked, "Are you guys fine?"

Fujin also followed him.

Both were bleeding. Katsumi's left leg was dyed in blood. Tamotsu's right arm also seemed to be bleeding in multiple spots. Korenaga's dead body was lying a few meters away from them.

Tamotsu said, "It's fine. He was stronger than we expected. And the poison made him very desperate."

They began applying first-aid to them. Katsumi's left leg had multiple nails embedded in it. Korenaga had charged the nails with Lightning and used them to attack from range as Katsumi always maintained a distance from him.

Meanwhile, since Korenaga was targeting Katsumi, Tamotsu decided to engage him at close range. That resulted in 2 long and deep slashes on his right arm with the chakra sword.

While applying first-aid, Ryota said, "This guy was very strong! Especially with the chakra sword. It's lucky that he was poisoned, else we might have been in severe trouble."

Tamotsu agreed, "Yeah, I thought I could take on him. Unfortunately, he was stronger."

While the first-aid was being applied, a few of Katsumi's bugs were moving inside Korenaga's dead body. They were cleaning all traces of the poison in his body. Due to this, if anyone inspects his dead body, no one would find the poison that was used. Hence, they won't be able to make the antidote.

All Aburame clan ninjas who used this poison would use this method to keep their poisons a secret. If they weren't sure about the kill and the fact that they would get access to their dead bodies first, they would only use the normal poisonous bugs.