

## Calamity 351

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 351: Training Plan - New Vacuum Jutsus

While Takigakure got busy, Fujin finally stepped out of the Anbu training facility. He stretched his body and thought, 'My chakra has completely recovered. Looks like I can return to training. But first, I need to inform them of the vacation.'

3 Shadow Clones appeared around Fujin. They immediately flickered away and informed his teammates about the 3 months long vacation. Everyone thanked him and promised to spend the entire vacation training to become stronger. The clones gave some tips to them, especially to Bunjiro, before dispelling themselves.

When Fujin received their memories, he was back in his home. He thought, 'Not bad. Their determination hasn't decreased. But... how should I move forward?'

He thought for a bit and analyzed, 'My initial plan was to have my clones continue learning the Four Symbols Seal while I begin Ninjutsu training. But, I won't be able to sustain such training until I eat the Soldier Pill Hiruzen gave me. So for the next couple of days, I will focus on ninjutsu.'

Even in Ninjutsu, I can't keep moving blindly anymore. Though I did create a few combat systems in the past to ensure that I have no weaknesses, those systems won't be very useful against rank S ninjas or Jounins who have been trained to counter me.

But, that doesn't mean I need to scrap everything I learnt in the past and come up with something completely new. After all, these techniques are still very lethal and provide a skeleton for my future combat systems. I just have to make a few additions or changes that would make any preparations against the current me useless against the future me.'

As he analyzed, Fujin walked into his basement and entered one of the rooms. This room was his study room. It had a few desks, a lot of books, scrolls and writing and drawing tools. Of course, nothing in the room was something that needed to be kept a secret.

Fujin grabbed a pen and a piece of paper and made a few notes as he thought, 'My current strengths are my high movement and combat speed, high speed and penetrative power of Vacuum Bullets, Cannon and Waves, the versatile nature of my Infinite Breakthrough jutsu and my swordplay.

In these aspects, I can compete with almost everyone except the ones that stand at the very top like Hiruzen, Ay or Onoki. Among the ninjas still alive, I guess Ay and Obito are the only ones who can dodge my Vacuum jutsus with ease and would dare to get hit by it. Even though Hiruzen and a few others could dodge, while some like Orochimaru and Kakuzu have their quirks, they would still be very wary when facing me and would be forced to place the majority of their attention on me.

But, it's this penetrative power that made me a bit complacent. Iwa took the perfect advantage of this complacency. I currently use 3 Vacuum jutsus regularly. Vacuum Bullets, Vacuum Cannon and Vacuum Serial Waves. All 3 have to be shot from my mouth. And though short, all 3 need some preparation time.

The Iwa ninjas used this fraction of a second to comfortably dodge my attacks. And, this isn't something I can improve on. The time I take is already very low. Decreasing it any further by a substantial amount isn't viable.

So that leaves me with two options to make my Vacuum jutsus even more threatening...'

Fujin raised his left palm. A Wind Sphere with a vacuum core began forming quickly. Fujin looked at the Vacuum Sphere and thought, 'This was the first Vacuum jutsu I learnt. Iwa ninjas didn't know about this. I could have used it in the battle, but I didn't because I wouldn't have got a lot of kills.

The main reason is that unlike Vacuum Bullets and Cannon, this attack is much slower. After killing 2 or 3 with the element of surprise, the rest wouldn't have fallen for it. I would have just needlessly exposed the fact that I have other methods of using Vacuum jutsus.

What I need to do now is to develop Vacuum jutsus that don't need to be shot from my mouth but can still be fired at a high speed. Like say, if I could fire high-speed Vacuum Bullets from the tip of my fingers, the Iwa ninjas wouldn't have dared attempt something like this. So this will be one thing I will need to work on.'

He dispersed the Vacuum Sphere and continued analyzing, 'The second thing is the scale of my Vacuum jutsus. Other than Serial Waves, all my Vacuum jutsus are single-target attacks. And though Serial Waves can target multiple, it is much slower than the other two in speed.'

I remember that Danzo had somehow used Vacuum Serial Waves to pierce Sasuke's Susanoo. Though that attack was named the same, it was more like a vacuum version of the Great Breakthrough jutsu. I need to develop one such jutsu.

An AoE attack that shares the penetrative power and speed of Vacuum jutsus. Once I develop it, just barely dodging my attacks won't be of any further help. The opponent will either need a very good defense or be fast enough to escape the range of the jutsu. A feat that very few would be capable of.'

Fujin kept the pen down and thought, 'Once I master these 2 aspects, Iwa's current preparations against me will become useless. Unless of course, they could come up with something new to counter that. But...'

Fujin's expression became very serious and determined as he muttered, "But, in order to get that information, they will have to pay the lives of hundreds of Jounins. A loss that would make their hearts bleed!"

Fujin shook his head and analyzed, 'This should be enough to break out of the current situation. But, it won't be enough to dominate the rank S ninjas. I need to create jutsus and techniques that complement my fighting style and keep improving them until I can reach rank S through this.'

One idea I have had for a long time was using Wind chakra for Taijutsu. Though the Senju Taijutsu style is strong, just like Vacuum Bullets, dodging them is easy. But if I can cover my fists with Wind, then merely dodging won't be sufficient. If I succeed, my punches can become as lethal as my sword.

If I can go a step further and create a Wind Cloak similar to Raikage's Lightning Chakra Mode. But that will be very difficult. I will have to see how I could use Wind to enhance me. I can see how I can use it to make a threat to anyone attacking me, but if I can also use it to increase my speed and power, then the effect will be numerous times higher. And, I will have to do the above without putting a huge strain on my chakra reserves.

Apart from this, there is the idea I had with the rank E and D jutsus before I decided to drop them. That idea might be the key to implementing the idea I had when I was learning Susumu's Wind Style Genjutsu. If I can master this and reach the level I am imagining, then I'm certain that I will be able to go against any rank S ninja.

Though that is a big if. This will be a long-term project. I can't complete this one or the cloak in a short time. But I will begin studying the basics. I will get more ideas to improvise once I start the training.'

Fujin stopped thinking and looked over the notes he had made while analyzing. After a few minutes, he nodded and crumbled the piece of paper in his fist. The paper caught fire and was soon reduced to ashes.

Fujin left his home and stepped into Training Ground 23. He entered into the deepest part of the Training Ground as he thought, 'It's been a while since I learnt a new jutsu. More importantly, this is the first time I am developing my own jutsus without much reference from this world.'

He stretched his body and muttered, "Oh well, I hope everything goes well."

He clenched his right hand into a tight fist and stared at it. Chakra gathered around his fist and forearm. The chakra transformed into the wind and began revolving around Fujin's arm. Fujin focused on the wind and made it revolve faster.

Under Fujin's control, the wind began revolving at a higher speed, almost forming a mini-tornado around his fist and forearm. Suddenly, a long cut appeared across Fujin's forearm! Blood spouted like a fountain and mixed with the mini-tornado, giving it a reddish shade!

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Chapter 352: Training Begins!

Fujin immediately stopped providing the chakra. The winds lost their sharpness and slowly dispersed away. 3 long cuts had appeared on Fujin's forearm.

Fujin sighed and thought, 'I was expecting something like this to happen. That is why I didn't try this idea when I had it. Unfortunately, after learning medical ninjutsu, I became busy with a lot of matters. Since high-level ninjutsu were readily available, I didn't bother learning this jutsu.'

A green glow appeared on Fujin's right forearm. The 3 cuts stopped bleeding and started healing at a rapid speed. If Hiruzen saw this sight, he would be shocked. Fujin was healing himself without using any hand seals. An extremely small number of ninjas were capable of this feat.

Fujin observed as the cuts closed up and thought, 'Sealless healing sure is convenient. But the chakra control needed for this is nuts. I needed over two and a half years to learn this. And my current speed of healing isn't high enough to shrug off any damage I take in between a fight. Fortunately, I can play a game of cat and mouse until I am healed.'

Once the cuts closed up, Fujin's right forearm became black in color. He once again gathered chakra around his fist and forearm. The chakra transformed into wind and began revolving around his arm at a rapid speed.

As the speed increased, Fujin felt several blows to his arm. Fortunately, the Iron Skin jutsu prevented any more injuries. Once the speed reached an optimal level, Fujin flickered and appeared before a tree. He sent a punch towards it but stopped just before his fist made contact with the tree.

The mini-tornado around his fist moved forward and hit the tree. It created hundreds of cuts on the tree every second. After around 5 seconds, the winds began losing their sharpness and dispersed away. Fujin withdrew his fist and observed the tree. The tree had thousands of small cuts on its trunk and a few small holes drilling through it but was still standing.

Fujin analyzed, 'Hmm... This is much weaker than I thought. But it's understandable as this is the first time I did it and didn't physically punch the tree. Once I master it, I should be able to blow the tree apart. The power will still likely be weaker than the Senju Taijutsu style but it will be more lethal. But, something doesn't feel right. It's as if the jutsu wasn't as free-flowing as I imagined it to be.'

Fujin went silent. He once again hardened his right arm and created the tornado around it. He closed his eyes and allowed the winds to flow rapidly for a few minutes. He submerged his mind focusing only on feeling the wind to understand what was wrong.

After 5 minutes, the wind slowed down and dispersed. He opened his eyes and thought, 'There are two main problems. Though using Iron Skin jutsu protects my hand, it also takes some of my concentration away from the Winds. The reason for this is that I have to simultaneously convert my chakra into Wind and Earth at the same time. So the jutsu isn't as free-flowing as I envisioned.'

The other issue is the very fact why I need to use the Iron Skin jutsu. I can feel the wind hitting my arm randomly. Just like the tree, the wind hits my arm hundreds of times per second. Even though the Iron Skin jutsu protects my arm, the hit from the wind imparts some force to my arm. And this force isn't aligned with my punching force.

One way of seeing this can be me punching an opponent and my opponent using his palm to attack my forearms and divert my punch away. Due to these random hits on my arm, the direction of my punch will change slightly.

So my punches won't necessarily hit where I want them to. But... Is this a bad thing? After all, some unpredictability is always good.'

Fujin began analyzing the pros and cons of his wayward punch. Soon, he shook his head and realized, 'No. This waywardness will be useful only when my opponent is dodging. If my opponent hits back, then this uncontrolled punch can cost me dearly.

The most ideal way would be to properly control when the wind would hit my arm and use it to catch my opponent off guard. Unfortunately, that is quite difficult. I will first have to completely prevent any such random winds from hitting my forearm and fist.

Then I will have to find a way to hit my arm with the same winds, but without their sharpness and in a controlled manner. Either that or I could use the Assassin's Rush as a reference to do something like that. But first thing first. I need to stop getting hit.

Luckily, this training will also allow me to improve my control over the winds further. Something that will be very useful for my plans to create new Vacuum Jutsus and Wind jutsus.'

Fujin began his training. Since the technique didn't require a crazy amount of chakra, he created 3 Shadow Clones. Fujin and a clone continued hardening their right arm and tried to control the winds while the other two did the same with their left arm.

While Fujin lost himself in his training, Shikaku and Hiruzen were very busy. Shikaku had already arranged for the next 500 ninjas to move. So he and Hiruzen focused on the next most important issue - How Iwagakure could know that Fujin would be sent there a few months in advance.

Hiruzen entered Eagle's office. Eagle, who was busy handling the files, looked up and saw Hiruzen standing in front of him. He asked, "What brings you here, father?"

Hiruzen said, "The current deployment is due to the mission you assigned to Fujin. The one behind those incidents in the Land of Waterfall was Iwagakure. Fujin's identity was compromised and Iwagakure knew about his arrival far in advance."

Eagle's eyes widened. He was surprised to hear that. Hiruzen obviously wouldn't doubt his own son. He asked, "Did Danzo or anyone else influence you to send him?"

Eagle shook his head and said, "That's impossible. No one asked me or even hinted at sending Fujin to that mission. In fact, I didn't know I would send him there myself. I only decided that after the previous Anbu squad returned empty-handed. Considering that the incidents started around 4 days ago, there was no way Iwagakure knew that he would be sent there."

Hiruzen fell into a thought on hearing his words. He thought, 'His words are logical. How could anyone know that Fujin would be deployed four months ago? The only way would have been if Iwa could arrange for him to be sent. But that doesn't seem to be the case. Did they somehow predict, or perhaps gamble, that we would send Fujin when we learnt that this matter needed an Elite Jounin to handle?'

Hiruzen said, "Alright. If you find or recall anything strange about this incident, come to my office."

Eagle nodded. Hiruzen disappeared as quickly as he arrived. Later in the evening, Shikaku once again arrived in Hiruzen's office. Dark bags were visible under his eyes due to his lack of sleep. He asked, "Did you find anything from Eagle?"

Hiruzen shook his head and answered, "No. No one influenced his decision to send Fujin. Did you find anything?"

Shikaku replied, "No. I didn't find anyone suspicious. This means that Iwa didn't know that Fujin would be sent there in advance. They might have been wanting to target any Elite Jounin we send sneakily and eliminate him."

It's likely that they had some spies in the Land of Waterfall who identified Fujin's squad when they reached there. So they either activated the trap that they had in place or called for reinforcements within the 3 days when they were silent."

Hiruzen nodded. He had reached the same conclusion as well. He said, "So that leaves us with just one more question..."

Shikaku muttered, "How hard Iwa will retaliate considering the losses they took?"

Hiruzen nodded and said, "47 Jounins is a huge number. Onoki should be in a rage once he gets the information about the losses his forces took. But, he should also know that a war between us will be detrimental to both our villages. Suna and Kiri aren't in shape to take advantage of it. So Kumo will benefit heavily."

Shikaku agreed. He said, "Yeah. In addition, though they suffered a heavy loss, they were the ones who attacked first. And the war won't be just between us. Taki will assist us as well.

Kusa might help as well considering that Iwa sent their Jinchuriki into their territory a few months back. At the very least, we can ask them to deploy their forces on Iwagakure borders to pressurize them and split their forces."

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Chapter 353: Taki Moves, Iwa Schemes!

Hiruzen nodded and said, "Yeah. Let's hope that Onoki follows common sense and doesn't act irrationally. Keep a close eye on the situation. If the situation worsens, deploy any tactics you can to inflict heavy losses on Iwagakure as soon as the war starts.

That would deter Iwa from escalating the situation, or at least slow them for some time, allowing us important time to reassess the situation and mobilize our forces appropriately. Also, call Renjiro here. Call Eagle as well. He will act as Renjiro's deputy and both will lead tomorrow's army. If a war starts, then they could inflict high damage quickly."

Shikaku nodded and left the office. He sent messengers to call for Renjiro and Eagle.



In Training Ground 23, Fujin dispelled his clones. Over the past 7 hours, he had frequently dispelled his clones to get their experiences and chakra and created new ones to continue training. His right arm hardened once again. Winds began flowing around it.

The amount of times the winds hit his arm was very low compared to when he had started. Fujin flickered and punched at another tree, stopping just before his fist hit the tree.

The sharp winds around his fist bombarded the tree, creating thousands of cuts and a few holes through the stem. Though the tree still stood, it looked like it might split into two with just a small force.

Fujin observed the damage and thought, 'Much better. Currently, I'm only being hit around 22 times per second. I should be able to reduce it to zero in a few more training sessions. The damage also has increased. It looks like I'll be able to add this attack to my arsenal soon.

Unfortunately, my chakra is too low right now. I'll go to meditate again. After my chakra recovers, I should be able to train for another session before the effect of this soldier pill is over and I'm forced to take a long sleep.'

Fujin immediately flickered towards the Anbu Training Facility.

Shikaku returned to the office with Renjiro and Eagle after some time. Both Hiruzen and Shikaku briefed them on the situation and properly explained the plan they had come up with. Renjiro and Eagle immediately understood the severity of the situation.

Both immediately got to work. In order to have the ability to quickly inflict damage on Iwa, both used their connections to call multiple veteran Jounins to assist them during the mission. Neither called in Fujin as they knew that he needed some time to rest.

Land of Waterfall -

At midnight, a thousand ninjas snuck out of Takigakure in search of Iwagakure ninjas who had long left. So they didn't find any enemy en route. Before dawn, the Takigakure forces reached the village where Iwa forces had clashed with Fujin. They were welcomed by a massive fire, covering the entire horizon!

Before leaving, Iwa ninjas had eliminated any and all traces of combat. The ground was brought back to normal. All the holes dug due to Fujin's Vacuum Bullets or craters formed due to explosions or changes due to other Earth jutsus were fixed.

The only thing they couldn't hide was the massive forest fire Fujin's and Kurogane's combination attack had created. Though they could douse the fire, they weren't confident of hiding the traces.

Kitsuchi had analyzed, 'Fixing this is impossible. I can't raise so many new trees in the blink of an eye. What we could do is douse the fire and bury the burnt trees deep underground. This will remove all traces of the fire.

But, it will leave a lot of flaws. For one, the people familiar with the surroundings will notice a huge patch of forest missing. Also, since the fire was shot from the skies, it is possible that others noticed it as well. Leave it. I'll let this forest fire spread. Hiding it will raise more questions than solving them. Besides, Iwa isn't known for Fire jutsus anyway. It might align properly with our cover."

Kitsuchi decided against dealing with the Forest Fire. So for over a day and a half, the fire had been spreading throughout the area. Millions of trees had burnt down. Even more wildlife was escaping the area.

Despite the nighttime, the Taki ninjas didn't have any cover of the night due to the light from the massive fire! Fortunately, the forest fire was a long distance away from the village and was spreading in the other direction. The Taki ninjas tried to hide as much as they could and moved towards the village, encircling it slowly.

Taking utmost precaution, they stayed some distance away and kept an eye on the village. They hadn't expected to find anything and were planning to send clones first and then a few weaker ninjas to inspect the village. However, to their surprise, they spotted a few people moving in and out of the village. The people looked like normal villagers.

Confused, they decided to inspect properly. One brave Jounin, Kego, along with a few genins were sent into the village to inspect. Kego inspected the people and interacted with them.

He thought, 'What the hell is happening here? These people all look fine. The village itself has no damage at all! It's almost like nothing has happened here.'

Kegon quickly found the old village chief and said, "What happened here?"

The village chief quickly recognized his headband. He immediately said, "We are not sure ourselves. A few days ago, a few ninjas appeared in our village. They captured us all and did something. I and everyone else fell unconscious. We don't remember anything after that.

We woke up around a couple of hours ago and were scared by the massive fire outside. Fortunately, our village is safe from it. Also, nothing from the village was stolen. We decided to fill our stomachs first as everyone was hungry and planned to send a messenger to the Ito family after Sun rose."

Kegon was confused. He thought, 'What the hell? Their falling asleep should mean that Iwagakure ninjas used Genjutsu on them. But why did they keep everyone in the village alive? What were they planning? And where are those Iwagakure ninjas?'

He looked at the village chief and asked, "Do you remember what those ninjas looked like?"

The village chief tried to think, but he couldn't recall any face. He said, "I can't recall anyone's face. But I remember one thing."

Kegon asked, "What do you remember?"

The village chief answered, "They all wore a headband on their foreheads, just like you. But the symbol was different. It looked like a leaf. Like the symbol of Konohagakure."

Kegon's eyes widened on hearing that. He became serious and thought, 'Does he mean to say that Konoha was behind this incident? Or did Iwagakure try to set them up by disguising their headbands?'

He thought for a bit before deciding, 'I can't make a decision on this matter. I will have to report it to the advisors.'

He said, "You don't need to send a messenger to the Ito family. Stay in the village and check whether everything is in place. If you remember something else, contact me."

The village chief nodded. Kego asked similar questions to others in the village. However, everyone he asked gave the same answers. He left the village and reported what he found to the advisors hiding outside.

The advisors were also stumped by the information. But they decided to ignore it for the time being and decided to inspect the village. A couple of SealMasters were sent to check the village for any seals.

Iwagakure -

A few hours after the Taki army reached the village, Kitsuchi returned to Iwagakure. The forces with him would return to the village in smaller batches to avoid any suspicions.

In order to show that Iwa had nothing to do with the incidents, Kitsuchi didn't deploy any forces on the border. He wasn't worried about Takigakure attacking their borders. If they did, then Iwa would hit back hard and Konoha wouldn't have any righteous excuse to help Takigakure.

Kitsuchi entered Tsuchikage's office. Onoki looked up and saw him. He said, "Good to see you back..."

A frown formed on his face as Onoki asked, "Why is your expression so down?"

Kitsuchi sighed and said, "Everyone leave."

Immediately, all the ninjas and the Anbu in the room left. The doors and windows were shut and the secrecy seals were activated.

Onoki asked, "What happened in the Land of Waterfall?"

Kitsuchi said, "We lured Suzuki Fujin into the trap. But nothing after that happened as per our plan."

Kitsuchi narrated the fight against Fujin to Onoki. Onoki's eyes widened. His expression became serious as he learnt the full range of Fujin's abilities. He muttered, "Vacuum jutsu, a Summon that can fly and is equivalent to an Elite Jounin in power, high Fuinjutsu attainments, 47 Jounins..."

He went silent for a minute. Despite having seen so much, the details were still too much for Onoki to digest easily. A well-planned trap that was created by Kitsuchi and overseen by him was broken. They suffered heavy losses and only received more information in return.

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Chapter 354: Onoki's Decision

Kitsuchi waited without speaking, waiting for Onoki. Finally, Onoki sighed and muttered, "This brings back the bitter memories of the last war."

Kitsuchi understood what Onoki meant. Iwa had paid a bitter price to eliminate the 3rd Raikage. Soon after, Minato eliminated an entire army of thousand ninjas consisting of only Jounins and Chunins by himself. The twin blows forced Onoki to back down and sign a peace agreement with Konoha.

Onoki could see that Kitsuchi was very dejected by his loss. In order to lift his morale, he said, "Though the losses are high, they show how dangerous this kid is. Any one of these 3 aspects would force us to take that ninja seriously. But this kid has all 3. And that too at the age of 14.

In the future, he will be as dangerous as Hatake Kakashi. Perhaps, he might even reach the same heights as Minato. If a similar incident like the Kyubi assault doesn't happen again, Konoha will once again enter a Golden period. We have to crush him before he completely matures. Otherwise, we won't have anyone to defend against Konoha in the future."

Onoki thought, 'Though we too have 3 promising youngsters, they are far lacking as compared to Fujin and Kakashi. It's very unlikely that Kurotsuchi, Akatsuchi or Deidara will reach the same level as me. So once my power begins to fade, we will be very vulnerable to any attacks from Konoha.'

Kitsuchi interrupted his thoughts and asked, "I agree. But how should we kill him? On seeing his speed first-hand and knowing that he has a summon that can fly, I can't deal with him myself. In fact, when he works together with his summon, even I am at risk."

Onoki nodded and said, "Yeah, you can't. The only way to kill him will be by catching him off guard with my Dust Release or with the Tailed Beast Bomb."

Kitsuchi argued, "But creating chances to do that will be very difficult. He will be more careful while going on missions from now on. Not to mention, you, Han and Roshi can't move around normally. It will raise a lot of questions if you do and enemy villages could set up traps to lure and eliminate you as well."

Kitsuchi understood that Konoha and other countries could set up traps as well. Konoha especially was very dangerous in this aspect due to having intelligent and devious planners like Hiruzen, Shikaku and Danzo and also had the Sannins to ensure the success of such traps.

Onoki said, "That's true. In addition, creating such chances will cause a lot of losses to our village. We could endure losing 50 Jounins once. But if it happens a couple more times, our strength will be crippled. So we will need outside aid."

Kitsuchi was surprised. He asked, "You mean?"

Onoki nodded and replied, "Even though Fujin is a threat, he specializes in Wind Release. Hiruzen should be developing him to restrain Kumo. Ay would understand what threat he would pose to them in the future. In fact, he will be even more worried than us."

Kitsuchi nodded. Onoki said, "I will send a messenger to Kumo and ask them for one thousand Earth Crystals in exchange for his information. Once they understand his threat, Ay will also act to kill him. Irrespective of whether Kumo kills him or he kills numerous Kumo ninjas, we will benefit from their losses.

Once Kumo sends over the resources, I will increase his bounty from 20 million to 50 million Ryo. Luckily, there is a certain mercenary organization that seems to need a lot of money."

Kitsuchi asked, "Akatsuki?"

Onoki nodded. Kitsuchi asked, "What about Suna? Considering his skills, it was likely that Fujin was the one behind the incidents in the Land of Wind a year ago."

Onoki snorted and answered, "That brat Rasa is useless. We have already provided them with so much information and yet, they have done nothing. Besides, they won't be able to afford the price of this information. Let them be caught off guard and suffer just like us."

Kitsuchi replied, "Alright."

Onoki said, "For now, focus on the ones who were killed. Find suitable excuses for their death and inform their families one by one. Keep the matter as quiet as you can. If the news of so many Jounin deaths is leaked, panic will spread in the village."

Kitsuchi's mood became heavy once again. He blamed himself for those losses. He nodded and said, "I will get it done personally."

He began walking out of the office. Onoki looked at his back and said, "Though this loss was unfortunate, it isn't a reason to give up what you started. Continue building this unit. Raise its numbers to beyond 200. Use what you learnt about him from this battle against him and train the ninjas to counter that.

Even if we don't get to use this unit against Fujin, a unit like this will become an asset for our village. Its impact might be as good as a rank S ninja."

Kitsuchi looked back and said with determination, "I will keep working with the ninjas and provide them with more training. Next time, we won't suffer such a loss."

Onoki nodded. Kitsuchi left the office. Onoki stayed silent for some time before letting out another sigh. He muttered, "What a troublesome brat. I need to provide more training to the youngsters."

Onoki grabbed a scroll and began writing a letter to Kumogakure.

Land of Waterfall -

Around the same time that Kitsuchi exited Onoki's office, Kakashi reached the border with the Land of Waterfall.

By then, the forest fire was doused and Takigakure's SealMasters had checked the village several times. However, no matter how many times they checked, they found no evidence of any seals in the village. They declared the village to be perfectly safe.

During this time, the other villages, where the villagers were supposed to be missing, sent messengers to nearby villages and the Ito family's town. Since those villagers also remembered just the headband, they informed everyone about the same. Due to the same thing being said to dozens of villages, a rumor started forming in the Ito Family's territory.

The rumor stated that Konoha ninjas were behind the recent missing incidents! Neither Konoha nor Takigakure were aware of the start of this rumor. Since the Ito Family wasn't in their town, they were unaware as well and did nothing to stop it.

Since the Takigakure army didn't find anything wrong in the village or any signs of Iwagakure ninjas, they decided to move on. They left just 2 squads in the village so that they wouldn't fall into a trap if Iwa had left one behind. They separated into smaller groups and began moving around the Ito family's territory to find any traces of Iwa ninjas.

However, despite searching for hours, they didn't find any traces of Iwa ninjas. Instead, they found that people in the remaining villages that had gone missing months ago also reappeared safe and sound. In addition, they also heard the rumors that were spreading.

They sent a message back to Takigakure and continued looking.

Takigakure -

Shibuki sat in his office with a confused expression. He read the scroll once again and wondered, 'What the heck is going on in the Ito Family's territory? First, so many people went missing without leaving any traces. Then Konoha ninjas claimed that they fought against Iwa ninjas and blamed them for the incident.

But our armies found no traces of combat. They only found a burning forest. And the missing people suddenly appeared back without any harm done. Only the people who were kidnapped individually are still missing. But the people who returned say that Konoha is behind the incidents...'



He wondered, 'Is Konoha trying to make a fool of me? But what would they get from such actions?'

He analyzed for a few minutes before shaking his head. He concluded, 'No, Konoha doesn't have anything to gain from this. If they wanted something, they could have easily hidden their identities from normal civilians. They won't do such a sloppy job. So Iwa is still the most suspicious one. But why is Iwa doing this?'

Shibuki called for a council meeting. After a long discussion, they reached the same conclusion. The only thing they couldn't agree upon was the intention behind Iwa's actions.

They waited for a day to receive more updates from their ninjas. However, they didn't find any additional information. The only thing that happened was that the rumor spread even more and started spreading to nearby territories.

Shibuki sent a messenger to Kakashi's camp, informing him about the situation. By the time the messenger reached, Renjiro and Eagle had already reached and joined up with Kakashi's 250 ninjas, taking the total number to over 750.

Kakashi, Renjiro and Eagle sat in the commander's camp with confused and peculiar expressions on their faces. All three were trying to make sense of the situation.

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Chapter 355: Hurricane Fist

Kakashi asked, "What is Iwagakure planning?"

Renjiro said, "It's tough to say. They might still be hiding considering that they have a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu. But, if they wanted to attack, they could have already taken out a good number of Taki's forces without taking much damage."

Unlike the two of them, Eagle, who frequently dealt with things in the shadows, could see a few clues. He said, "It looks like they want to change the public perception."

Renjiro and Kakashi immediately understood. They thought for a bit. Renjiro said, "I see. The important part isn't what the people in the villages saw and instead, the rumor they started. Once the rumor spreads, the common people in the Land of Waterfall will hate us or be fearful of us."

Kakashi added, "Not just the Land of Waterfall, the people in the surrounding countries will also be alert. They will develop some vigilance towards us."

Renjiro nodded and said, "True. But it will only spread to the common people. The military leaders will be able to see the truth at first glance. Takigakure will be forced to ally more deeply with Konoha. That's the most important matter."

Kakashi argued, "But if we leave this matter unchecked, it could develop into a big problem. Especially if the next generation of Nobles and ninjas grew up hearing this rumor."

However, Renjiro shook his head and said, "That will take over ten years to happen. We can change the public perception a hundred times during this time."

Eagle nodded in agreement. He could see that he would have to assign numerous Anbu missions in the Land of Waterfall to clear their image. He said, "It looks like Iwa has accepted their defeat in this matter. These rumors are like a consolation win for them."

Renjiro nodded. Kakashi sighed and thought, 'Another big troop movement without any fight.'

He asked, "So, do we stay or leave?"

Renjiro replied, "It's better to stay for some time to dissuade Iwa from getting adventurous. Besides, Taki would want us to wait here as well."

Neither Eagle nor Kakashi opposed his decision. Eagle sent a reply back with the messenger, asking Taki to rein in the rumors and lay the blame on Iwa. However, considering the bleak mood in the common people due to recent events, Taki decided against blaming Iwa and instead just tried to clear Konoha's name without much success.

This would create a peculiar situation in the Land of Waterfall. A situation that neither Taki nor Konoha foresaw when they dispatched their armies.

The ninjas and the nobles in the Land of Waterfall believed that Iwagakure was behind the recent incidents and that Konoha saved them.

While the common people believed that Konoha was behind the recent incidents and blamed them for the people who were still missing.

When Hiruzen and Shikaku received the reports, they analyzed the situation as well. After some time, Shikaku said, "It looks like a last-ditch effort to get some sort of benefit. Iwa really suffered in this adventure."

Hiruzen nodded and added, "Onoki won't start a war. But, he might try to assassinate our top talent. Fujin and Kakashi would be at the top of his list. Start developing countermeasures if he does act."

Shikaku replied, "I will. It's also possible that he might get other villages involved. Especially Kumo. They might see Fujin's Wind Release as a threat."

Hiruzen nodded.

Just like Shikaku speculated, a messenger reached Kumogakure about a week after the clash in the Land of Waterfall. He asked for an audience with the Fourth Raikage and handed him the scroll before being escorted into a guesthouse.

In his office, a frown formed on Ay's face as he read Onoki's message. He muttered, "What information does that geezer have to charge such an exorbitant price?"

Mabui, who looked into the scroll as well, said, "1000 Earth Crystals is a huge price, Raikage-sama. It's worth billions of Ryo. Do you think that the Tsuchikage is trying to make a fool out of us?"

Ay thought for a bit and said, "It's unlikely. Though the price is huge, it's not enough to completely give up his credibility. And from his warnings, it's likely that isn't the information that is costly. Rather, the cost that we may have to bear if we don't know about this."

Mabui thought for a bit and agreed. Though 1000 Earth Crystals was a high price, it wasn't enough to give up a Kage's credibility.

Ay said, "Arrange for the crystals and hand it to the messenger."

Mabui nodded and left the office.

Despite many schemes being devised against him, Fujin was clueless about these developments. However, ever since his clash with Kitsuchi, Fujin was aware that it was only a matter of time before his information was leaked. So he didn't dare to slack off.

Fujin's breathing was rough, he looked exhausted and both his fists were visibly bruised. Around him were several broken trees and numerous rocks with cracks on their surface.

He sighed and muttered, "I'm low on chakra once again."

He took a few deep breaths. A smile slowly appeared on his face. He clenched his right fist and pulled it back while he thought, 'But it's worth it!'

Winds appeared around his right fist and forearm. In the blink of an eye, they began flowing like a tornado around his arm. To an untrained eye, it would appear that winds were revolving around his arm at a very high speed.

However, there were multiple layers and features to this wind. Underneath the winds, his fist and arm were covered with concentrated chakra. The concentration was more on his fist with a very thin layer on the rest of his arm. If Fujin punched anyone who didn't use a good defensive jutsu or didn't have an insane physique, it was sufficient to kill that person.

In addition, the chakra wasn't static. Instead, it moved in the opposite direction of the wind that was revolving around Fujin's arm. Due to this, in addition to its offensive nature, it also protected Fujin from his own technique. Fujin was inspired by the thin film of chakra that he used to isolate Vacuum cores while using Vacuum jutsu while creating this.

In the past few days, Fujin had managed to ensure that no winds hit his arm. However, he decided to do this in order to ensure that he wouldn't be injured in case he ever made a mistake. If he ended up making a mistake in the heat of battle and got distracted by the pain, that split-second distraction could put him at a disadvantage or, in the worst case, cost him his life.

The winds themselves were extremely sharp. They could easily tear apart a person leaving only his skeleton behind.

Fujin flickered and appeared in front of a small hill he had raised earlier using Earth Release. He punched it with his full might. The chakra-enhanced punch immediately created a giant crater on the side of the hill. Several giant cracks spread throughout the hill.

At the very next moment, the winds around Fujin's arm hit the damaged hill. Some winds bombarded the parts that were still undamaged, creating hundreds of deep scars in the hill. Some wind moved into the cracks that were created by the punch and began damaging the hill from inside.

Fujin immediately jumped back. The part of the hill where he had punched crumbled and fell on the ground, releasing a lot of dust.

Fujin looked at the damage with a smile and thought, 'Great. Iron Skin jutsu won't be able to block this attack. The chakra-enhanced punch is sufficient to create cracks in Iron Skin jutsu used even by a top-level ninja like Kitsuchi. When followed up by sharp winds that invade into the cracks, the attack would end up ripping the person from inside!'

Fujin had a thoughtful expression. He analyzed, 'Actually, I can make this technique several times more lethal. No, I can make it so lethal that no one would dare to fight me with Taijutsu. Perhaps only the last 2 gates of Guy, maybe the sixth as well, might be able to counter me then. It's likely that I could hurt Raikage with it as well.'

The way to make it so lethal is to add Vacuum waves to the winds rotating around my arm. As long as I managed to add it properly, no one would dare fight me in close range. Unfortunately...'

A wry smile appeared on Fujin's face. The idea he came up with was great. It had the potential to be classified as a rank S jutsu and the potential to revolutionize Taijutsu. But, Fujin didn't dare attempt it!

He thought, 'If I mess up even once, I will directly lose my arm. No amount of chakra or protection from Iron Skin jutsu would help me avoid that. Though I could use Shadow Clones to master this, there is always a risk while using a technique like this even if I master it. Despite its potential, the benefits from this technique are just not enough to justify the high risk.'

Fujin shook his head and thought, 'Anyways, even without adding Vacuum, to develop a new jutsu from scratch in just a week... and such a lethal jutsu at that... Hehe, these 3 months are going to be fun.'

Sadly, this was the easier part. I had some inspiration from Kurogane's attack as well as from the way Vacuum jutsus were formed. The next part won't be easy. Regardless, this calls for celebration.'

He began walking towards Ichiraku while thinking, 'What should I call this jutsu? Hmm... Well, it doesn't have to be something very complicated. I'll just call it the Hurricane Fist!'

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Chapter 356: Hiruzen's Soldier Pills

Fujin celebrated his success in creating a new jutsu within a week by eating in Ichiraku until he couldn't eat anymore. He followed it up by taking a long, well-deserved sleep.

At dawn, Fujin woke up as usual, freshened up and got ready for another day of training. He thought, 'It's been 6 days since the effects of the previous soldier pill ended. My body is rested sufficiently. There shouldn't be any danger in consuming another soldier pill. Let me see how good Hiruzen's pill is.'

Fujin grabbed the bottle that Hiruzen had handed him and moved to the lowest floor in his basement. He opened the bottle and tossed a pill in his mouth. At the same time, the chakra in his body separated into two parts, one having 80% of his chakra and another having 20%.

At the next moment, the entire basement was filled with smoke. 80 Shadow Clones appeared in the basement, each having 1% of Fujin's chakra. Without any word, every clone began working on the Four Symbols Seal. As for Fujin, he left his home and entered the Wind Training room in the Anbu facility.

As he began meditating, he thought, 'I'll skip my physical training when I'm using this chakra pill. While physical training is important, I won't be making any major breakthroughs anytime soon. I can delay it for a bit and use the time to focus on Ninjutsu. Anyways, let's see how effective this pill is.'

Fujin closed his eyes and started his meditation. Two hours later, Fujin opened his eyes. A look of surprise could be seen on his face.

He muttered to himself, 'This pill is incredible. The pill I was using earlier would have needed 10 hours to bring me back to full chakra. But with this pill, I managed to reach it in just slightly over 2 hours! This pill is nearly 5 times as effective!'

Such a good pill! I should have asked Hiruzen about this earlier. Once this batch is consumed, I should ask him to procure more for me as well. These are too good. Anyway, it looks like I can train at full strength for at least 80-90 hours in the next 5 days.'

With his chakra back to full, Fujin immediately left the training facility and returned to Training Ground 23. He decided, 'It's time to work on Wind Vacuum Technique. I will first start by creating Vacuum jutsus that don't have to be shot from my mouth. Once I have a sufficient number of them, I will start creating a Vacuum jutsu that can affect a large area.'

The first part will also have to be divided into multiple phases. The first phase will involve deciding on a structure of the jutsu and creating it. This should be relatively easier.

The second phase will involve increasing the number of jutsus I can use at the same time as well as using the jutsu in creative ways to catch enemies off guard.

And the last phase will involve granting speed to these jutsus. As long as I can reach the same speed as Vacuum Bullet, then this fighting style will become very difficult to counter.

Anyway, enough planning. Time to convert my ideas into a reality.'

Fujin extended his right arm forward and pointed his finger at a tree. Slowly, a vacuum core, shaped like a bullet, began forming in front of his finger. As soon as the Vacuum Core was formed, it was covered by a multi-layered chakra film and engulfed by winds.

Fujin fired the bullet at a rock. However, mid-route, the bullet collapsed and dispersed into the air. Fujin analyzed, 'Though the concept is similar, I am not used to creating Vacuum Bullet outside my mouth. Still, I should be able to learn this quickly. The difficult part will be travelling speed. It was too slow...'

Fujin began practicing creating and firing a Vacuum Bullet with his finger. After a few tries, he managed to make a proper bullet which pierced through the rock. He continued the training as he couldn't do it with 100% accuracy.

A few hours later, Fujin stood at the same spot in the training ground. 3 Shadow clones stood around him, facing in different directions. Each one was facing a different rock. Each rock had hundreds of small holes in them.

At the same time, they pointed at the rocks. Vacuum Bullets began forming in front of their fingers at a quick speed. 1 second later, they fired the bullets at the rocks. The Vacuum Bullets pierced through the rocks and travelled for over a hundred meters, piercing several trees in their paths.

Fujin dispelled his clones and got their experiences. He thought, 'Good. I can now use it without any mistakes all the time. Though the time needed to create it is still high, it should come down as I practice it more. I will begin creating multiple bullets at the same time.'

Fujin extended his right hand forward once again, this time extending all 5 fingers. 5 Vacuum Cores began forming simultaneously, 1 in front of each finger. However, after forming partially, all 5 collapsed.

Fujin sighed and muttered, "Looks like it won't be as easy as I imagined it to be."

He created 3 Shadow Clones and continued his training.

Half an hour later, Fujin sat down with his back against a tree while breathing heavily. He had already dispelled his clones. After catching his breath, a bitter smile appeared on his face. He thought, 'Creating



5 Vacuum Bullets at the same time increased my chakra expenditure by 5 times as well. Using Shadow Clones here isn't very helpful.'

Since his chakra was very low, Fujin returned to the Anbu training facility to meditate for a couple of hours until his chakra recovered.

For the next 4 days, Fujin followed this training plan. He would practice creating Vacuum Bullets with his hands until he ran out of chakra. Once out of chakra, he would go back to Wind Training rooms and meditate for a couple of hours until the soldier pill did its job.

In addition, once every 8 hours, Fujin would dispel the Shadow Clones who were learning the Four Symbols Seal and create new ones. For the first time in his life, Fujin didn't take a single break for 4 days straight. Instead, he considered the meditation time as a break.

As a result, he made rapid progress in two very complex techniques. He could feel that he was getting close to mastering the Four Symbols Seal. And, his control over Vacuum Bullets created outside his body also increased.

And, despite making such rapid gains, no one was aware of Fujin's progress. No one except one person who had rather mixed feelings about the same.

Hiruzen watched in his crystal ball as a few drops of sweat rolled down his face. He swallowed his saliva and wondered, 'Does he have to return to meditate there every time he runs out of chakra? Those Wind Crystals shouldn't even have any more effect on him. It's a complete waste for him to keep using so many of them! In fact, I think he has already consumed more Wind crystals than I consumed Fire crystals!'

As the successor of the mighty Sarutobi clan and Tobirama's student, Hiruzen received abundant help from his clan and the village. So he used a lot of Elemental Crystals. But once the effect of the crystal began reducing, he was made to stop. After all, the Sarutobi clan as well as Konoha had a lot of other ninjas to nurture. Hiruzen understood it and never used an Elemental Crystal after its effect decreased under a certain level.

However, Fujin didn't think about such matters. Unlike a young Hiruzen, Fujin couldn't care less about whether others received Wind Crystals or not. He just focused on becoming strong himself.

Unfortunately, Hiruzen couldn't complain to anyone. He couldn't even ask Fujin to stop using them or use them within limits. After all, ever since the day Fujin stepped into the academy, he had bombarded him with the Will of Fire. Though Fujin was quite mature for his age, Hiruzen wasn't sure how Fujin would take the news of him not being allowed to use any more Wind Crystals.

Hiruzen thought, 'Considering his greedy nature, he will question my Will of Fire if I ask him to limit its usage.'

A bitter smile appeared on Hiruzen's face as he sighed. He muttered, 'Now I see why he agreed for 3 months without any argument. I messed up... I should have said 1 month and settled for 1 and a half or 2 months vacation.'

Fujin was blissfully unaware of Hiruzen's sorrow. Of course, even if he knew, he would just grin and continue doing the same. Once his chakra reserves recovered, Fujin returned to the training ground.

He extended both his arms forward and stretched his fingers. In about a quarter of a second, 10 Vacuum Bullets were created. He launched them all at the rock in front of him. The Vacuum Bullets pierced through the rock leaving 10 new holes in it.

Fujin repeated the attack a dozen times until the rock crumbled. Fujin observed the result and analyzed, 'Alright, I can use this attack without any mistakes. The basic form of this jutsu can be considered as mastered. Though I still need a few improvements.'

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Chapter 357: Chapter 354: Three Improvements!

Fujin analyzed, 'The first improvement is increasing the amount of bullets I can fire. The ideal will be if I can fire ten rounds of this attack in less than a second. That will make trying to outnumber me very expensive in terms of life. This attack alone could force an army to retreat. Of course, that is if that army isn't suicidal like the one that fought the Third Raikage until he died.'

The second improvement is to increase my control over these bullets. Right now, I can change the direction, in which I want to fire the bullets, by pointing each finger in a different direction. But once I fire it, I can't control it any longer and it only travels in a straight line. Also, I can't twist my fingers too much.

But if I can make the bullets curve in the air, or better, get the ability to freely change their direction mid-flight, then it will add even more aspects to this jutsu. It will completely make all preparations against me completely redundant.

And the last and the most critical improvement needed is speed. Though the speed of these bullets is higher than my Vacuum Sphere, it is much slower as compared to the Vacuum Bullets I shoot from my mouth. In fact, it is even slower than the Air Bullet jutsu.

At this speed, the jutsu wouldn't be as effective as I wanted it to be. Though it will still add a new dimension to my fighting style, it won't be that threatening. After all, those Iwa ninjas could dodge the Vacuum Bullets consistently.

In addition to the above, I also need to decrease the amount of time I need to create and launch the jutsu. But that will keep decreasing just like it did during the last three days.'

Fujin analyzed for a bit and decided, 'I will start by working on the speed aspect. I'll move on to the other two improvements once its speed is at least greater than the Air Bullet jutsu.'

Fujin began working on the jutsu again. Since he was only working on the speed of the bullet, he created 3 Shadow clones and worked with just one bullet at a time.

Fujin and his clones worked on the jutsu for around half an hour. A frown formed on Fujin's face. He dispelled his clones and got their memories.

His frown deepened as he thought, 'I have made no improvements at all. Is this the max speed I can go?'

Fujin shook his head and thought, 'No. How can that be? There should be some method of increasing the speed. But, I will have to innovate because the normal method doesn't seem to be very effective.'

Fujin began thinking. However, even after 10 minutes, he couldn't come up with anything. Fujin sighed and muttered, "This is tough. I can't think of anything that could give me a breakthrough. When I shoot the Vacuum Bullets or Air Bullets from my mouth, I am able to give an additional push to it due to the wind chakra I gather in my mouth and throat and use it to blow the bullets.

But doing so with hands is difficult. For some reason, when I try to infuse wind chakra from my finger in the same way, the result is very subpar. I need a better way... Should I ask Hiruzen for help?"

Fujin thought for a few seconds before shaking his head. He thought, 'I'm sure Hiruzen would have some methods to resolve this. Even if he doesn't, he could apply the concept behind Tobirama's high-speed Water jutsus to Wind jutsus and teach me. But, I don't want to take such a shortcut. At least not yet when I haven't given it my all.

If I become dependent on him, then I will struggle a lot in the future when I try to develop even more advanced jutsus. Of course, if there is no choice, I won't shy away from asking him. I could think of at least a dozen ways of using the Will of Fire to make that old fox teach me.'

Having made his decision, Fujin immediately created Shadow Clones. A couple of dozen clones appeared next to him. All of the clones had very low chakra. They all sat down and began thinking about methods to increase the speed of the bullets.

Despite thinking for another hour, Fujin couldn't think of any good ideas. He looked at his clones and thought, 'I hope some of them had better luck.'

He dispelled his clones and received their memories. After organizing all his thoughts, Fujin analyzed, 'Hmm, nothing too revolutionary. The only decent idea I could come up with was using my own speed to grant more momentum to the Vacuum Bullets. But this isn't very promising. In combat, I might not always get the chance to move at a very high speed to provide momentum to the jutsu.

One way to overcome this could be by providing momentum by just moving my hand at a fast speed. However, it is a problem as well. My main reason for making this jutsu is to not give a lot of signs to show that I'm preparing Vacuum jutsu. The jutsu will lose its purpose if that is compromised.

Regardless, I don't have any better ideas. I will first try with increased momentum and then try to increase the amount of Wind chakra I infuse in the jutsu.'

Fujin extended his arm forward and began creating a Vacuum bullet in front of his index finger. Suddenly, he moved forward at a rapid speed while the Vacuum Bullet was still being created. As soon as the Vacuum Bullet was created, he shot it straight in front of him.

The Vacuum Bullet travelled at a high speed, piercing everything that stood in its way. Fujin analyzed, 'That's better. The speed is comparable to Air Bullet jutsu, though it is still slightly slower. Unfortunately, this method has one big weakness.'

Fujin began creating another Vacuum Bullet and moved at a high speed. As soon as the Bullet was prepared, he turned his hand towards his right and fired it.

The Vacuum Bullet began travelling towards his right. However, due to his momentum, the Vacuum Bullet also moved forward. Fujin missed his target by a huge distance. And, the speed of the bullet was much slower.

Fujin thought, 'As I calculated. The momentum is only useful while firing the Bullet in the same direction. But which fool will keep standing at the same place in a battle? The technique is almost completely useless while firing in other directions. Not to mention, it will put a huge retrain on my fighting style.'

Fujin raised his right arm and thought, 'I wonder if the momentum from a jab will be sufficient.'

Fujin pulled his arm back, preparing to jab the air in front of him. A Vacuum Bullet began forming once again. He jabbed forward as fast as he could. The hand stopped exactly when the Vacuum Bullet was formed. At the same moment, the Vacuum Bullet was fired.

It travelled at nearly the same speed as the Vacuum Bullet Fujin fired earlier. Fujin analyzed, 'Hmm, not bad. It's faster than I expected. This is more usable in battle. Though it still gives a little clue due to my arm movement, it's probably better than puffed cheeks.'

Unfortunately, the speed is still slower than Air Bullets. There is no point in comparing it to the Vacuum Bullets I shoot from my mouth. How can I increase it further?"

Fujin analyzed for a minute and concluded, 'I guess I could move at a fast speed while jabbing forward. The two boosts shout stack up and increase the speed to at least beyond the air bullet. But it still has the same weakness. I should instead focus on making my jab faster.'

Fujin suddenly had an idea. He thought, 'The Assassin's Rush jutsu works by expelling a large amount of wind behind me at a high speed. What if I create a smaller, localized version of this jutsu?

I could expel the winds just behind my elbow and move my arm forward at a high speed using the Assassin's Rush. It will not only increase the speed of my bullet but will also reduce the amount of time I need to jab and hence reduce the warning time that my enemy has.'

Fujin thought for a bit to analyze whether the idea was feasible. After a few minutes, he nodded and thought, 'Yes, this should be the way to go. Not to mention, I could also use this method to improve my Taijutsu. I can use a similar force to increase the speed of my punches and kicks. Maybe even the speed of my sword slash. In fact, I can even do a...'

Fujin's mind suddenly went silent as another idea appeared in his mind. A weird expression appeared on his face. He felt an overwhelming urge to facepalm himself.

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Chapter 358: Difficulty Level - Insane!

A wry smile appeared on Fujin's face as he thought, 'Since when did I become so stupid? Why should I develop a localized version of the Assassin's Rush jutsu to increase the speed of my jab? Instead of releasing wind towards the back of my elbow, why don't I release it from the tip of my fingers? All the speed will be transferred to the Vacuum Bullet directly. And I won't need to do any wasted movements that could drop hints to my opponent.'

Fujin maintained a minute of silence for missing such an obvious trick to solve his issues. Finally, he shook his head and thought, 'Leave it. Such things need to click. Otherwise, one may not see it even if it is in front of their eyes. Still, I should work on the localized version of Assassin's Rush as well later on. Perhaps I could test it against Guy.'

Fujin raised his right hand to his chest level and pointed his index finger forward. He closed his eyes and recalled how he normally used the Assassin's Rush jutsu.

Soon, a small amount of chakra appeared on Fujin's finger. It quickly transformed into wind and was released from Fujin's entire index finger instead of just the tip. Fujin watched with deadpan eyes as a gentle breeze moved for a couple of feet before dissipating.

He let out a sigh and complained, "This won't be as easy as I thought. Why does everything have to be so difficult?"

Fortunately, it consumed very little chakra. Fujin created a dozen Shadow Clones and started his training to modify the Assassin's Rush jutsu.

Fujin trained till 2 AM. Since the jutsu consumed very little chakra, he needed to visit the Wind Training room to rest just once. Due to his clones, he made rapid progress. However, he was still far away from reaching a satisfactory level.

He walked to his home and took a bath before diving into his bed. Lying in his bed, he thought, 'Just another couple of hours for the effects of the pill to end. To think that I still don't feel any physical tiredness. This pill is good. Still, this is so difficult...

In the last 118 hours, I have had 80 clones working on the Four Symbols Seal for at least 108 hours. Which means that I spent 8960 hours learning that seal. That's more than a freaking year! A freaking year without any break! And still, I haven't mastered it. How the fuck did Minato, Jiraiya, Orochimaru and Hiruzen even master this?

I wonder if the Uzumaki clan had some sort of shortcut to learn this seal that they know of. Or is it simply a difference of talent? Then again, it is possible that all four of them took the same route as me and needed to work on it for a long time with numerous clones. All four have or had more chakra than I have right now.

Leave it. It doesn't matter. I am very close to mastering it. I should be done in another session or two with these pills.

Hiruzen said that I should take a day's break after the effect of the pill runs out. But I suppose he didn't imagine that I would train for so long. It might be better to take two days off.

Then I'll focus on physical training while simultaneously improving my control over Assassin's Rush for a week. Then I can consume the pill once again and repeat the entire process 5 more times until the 3 months are up.'

Fujin closed his eyes and kept lying in his bed without thinking about anything else. The last 5 days were very taxing on his mind. He needed a long sleep and a break from continuously straining his brain to find ways of increasing his strength.

At dawn, the effects of the chakra pill ended and Fujin fell into a deep sleep.

While Fujin slept peacefully, a ninja entered Iwagakure. He moved stealthily and entered into the Tsuchikage's building without attracting much attention.

The messenger, who Onoki had sent to Kumo, returned and silently entered the Tsuchikage's office.

Onoki saw him and said, "Everyone, leave."

Immediately, everyone except the messenger left. Onoki asked, "How did it go?"

The messenger said, "It went as you predicted, Tsuchikage-sama. The Raikage didn't give me much trouble."

He quickly handed Onoki a scroll. When Onoki grabbed it, a huge pressure was lifted from his shoulders. The messenger thought, 'Finally. I was so tense and worried that someone might rob me. And I had to travel to such dangerous areas as well!'

Onoki noticed his expression and chuckled. He said, "You have done well. You can take a couple of weeks off. When you leave, ask the Anbu outside to call for Kitsuchi."

The messenger quickly said, "Thank you, Tsuchikage-sama."

He took his leave. Onoki inspected the scroll and thought, 'All 1000 Earth Crystals here. It looks like Kumo hasn't developed a substantial number of Earth affinity ninjas.'



Though Onoki was pleased with getting so many resources, there wasn't any happy expression on his face. He stared at the scroll and sighed while thinking, '1000 Earth Crystals for the lives of 47 Jounins. This is so not worth it.'

Onoki kept the scroll down and began writing another letter. It was addressed to the Fourth Raikage and included numerous details about Fujin's abilities.

While he was writing, Kitsuchi arrived and entered the room. He noticed the scroll on the desk and asked, "Kumo paid the price?"

Onoki nodded. He finished writing on the scroll and tossed it at Kitsuchi.

Kitsuchi grabbed the scroll and began reading. His eyes widened. He exclaimed, "This? Shouldn't we..."

Onoki cut him off and said, "None of the information there is a lie. Besides, we just suffered a heavy loss. Why should we ensure that Kumo doesn't lose any ninjas? Let them fight him. No matter which side gets hurt, both results are good for us."

Kitsuchi nodded. Onoki instructed, "Send this scroll with a messenger bird. After a couple of days, increase Fujin's bounty. Raise it to 50 million Ryo. But don't mention any skills beyond Vacuum jutsus and Fuinjutsu."

Kitsuchi became a bit thoughtful. After a few seconds, he asked, "Do you want to deal with the Akatsuki as well?"

Onoki's expression became a bit grim as he said, "That organization gives me a bad feeling. To have so many rank S rogue ninjas gathered together. If they decide to partner with some village in the future, that village will immediately have a huge advantage over the others. If they want to, they could take over a minor village and turn it into a major one.

An organization that is so strong and with no mentioned goals can pose a lot of danger. Though I doubt Fujin would be able to kill their members, it'd be great if Hiruzen tasked his students to hunt them down."

Kitsuchi nodded. He realized, 'No matter whether Kumogakure takes action or whether Akatsuki does, irrespective of their success or failure, Iwa will get a lot of advantage. Sigh, the old man is worthy of his title.'

Kitsuchi immediately got to work. Around a day later, Raikage received the scroll Onoki sent.

Raikage's office -

Ay sat in his chair, reading the letter. Around him, Mabui, Darui and C were present. Ay read the scroll and muttered, "This brat has become strong."

He handed the scroll to the three to read. Darui, C and Mabui's expressions became serious as they continued reading. Finally, Darui sighed and muttered, "I knew that he would become strong. But I didn't expect him to reach this level in less than 3 years."

Mabui questioned, "The Tsuchikage said that he could run away from Roshi and Kitsuchi. Do you think that he is telling the truth?"

Ay replied, "It should be the truth. In fact, I suspect that Iwa experienced some sort of painful loss against him. That's why they are trying to get us involved."

The information he sent mentions the same Vacuum jutsu that Darui reported. The only addition is the Vacuum Waves jutsu. The more critical matter is his Fuinjutsu skill and his Flying summon. This information, along with the fact he managed to escape from Kitsuchi and Roshi shows what threat his talent could be in the future.

But, Onoki should be hiding a lot more information. Information that could cause us a lot of losses. We can only have a chance of killing him after we figure out this information."

Mabui nodded and asked, "That's right. We can't expect him to care about our well-being. But, should we still make a move against him?"

Ay answered, "We don't have an option. Since Onoki sent this information, he must have concluded that this kid has a very high potential. Since he specializes in Wind Release, Konoha likely intends to raise him as someone to handle our village during a war. So getting rid of him before he matures will be the best scenario for us. Otherwise, he could cause a lot of deaths in our future wars with Konoha."

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Chapter 359: A Sparring Partner

Mabui, Darui and C listened silently. None of them objected to Ay's decision.

After a few seconds, C said, "I guess the only question is how we kill him. If Iwa's information is right and he is good at Fuinjutsu, we can't use it to set a trap for him. In addition, he is also a damn good sensor. Drawing him into a trap would be nearly impossible. Even if we succeed somehow, he can easily escape using his summon."

Darui added, "No, even without his summon, his escaping skill is very good. Last time, we only gave him a few seconds of rest and he created an opportunity to escape. And now, they should be even better. Pinning him down to kill him will be very difficult. Iwa should be hiding this information or perhaps didn't get to see it as he decided to fly."

C nodded and said, "Yeah. Such a troublesome fellow. Considering his speed with Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu and his summon's flight, the only sure shot way I can think of killing him is if Raikage-sama and Bee-sama act together against him."

C's words left the entire room, including the four hidden Anbu guards, speechless. To deploy their Kage and their perfect Jinchuriki against a mere 14-year-old ninja!

However, no one countered C. Without Ay, Fujin could just run away by spamming Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu. No one apart from Ay would be able to give chase. But, Ay didn't have any good means of attacking someone who flew at a high altitude. Though he could kill Fujin before he got an opportunity to use the summoning jutsu, if Fujin managed to summon, there wouldn't be much he could do. So, they would need Bee's Tailed Beast Bomb to target Fujin in that case.

But, to deploy them both would be very embarrassing for Kumogakure. Ay thought, 'For both me and Bee to go on a hunt to kill one 14-year-old boy... What an embarrassment will that be!'

Just like Onoki and Iwa, Ay and Kumo fell into the same dilemma. Though Fujin wasn't necessarily stronger than their top ninjas, killing him was an incredibly difficult task. Even if Fujin was defeated, the victory would be pointless if Fujin managed to escape. Due to his young age, he would steadily grow stronger and eventually become a headache for them.

Mabui said, "That wouldn't be wise. If we have to deploy our Leader and our Jinchuriki against him, we will become a joke in the ninja world. Not to mention, their movements will attract a lot of attention. And Konoha could retaliate by sending their Sannins after our talents as well."

Ay replied, "I don't mind being laughed at. Killing him now will save a lot of lives in the future. But you are right. I can't move around rashly. Once I move, I will have to guarantee his death. Until that opportunity arrives, you will have to deal with him and find the information that Iwa hasn't mentioned, Darui."

Darui nodded and said, "Alright boss."

He followed it up by sighing and muttering, "That's such a pain in the ass."

Ay's fury surged on hearing Darui complain. Veins visibly pulsated on his forehead. He scolded, "It's all your fault for being soft! If you hadn't shown mercy the last time and killed him there, we wouldn't have this problem."

Darui immediately apologized, "Sorry boss."

Ay snorted and said, "No need to keep analyzing. Have our spies check to see what he is doing. We could try to attack him if he takes a mission in the Land of Frost or the Land of Hot Water."

Darui nodded. Both he and C left the room while Mabui continued her work. As he left, Darui thought, 'I'm curious to see how strong he has become since the last time.'

Despite their plans to kill Fujin, both Onoki and Ay missed one crucial aspect. That crucial aspect was the intense training Fujin was undergoing to eliminate his current weaknesses.

Onoki, despite all his intelligence and experience, never imagined that his failed trap would result in Fujin taking training so seriously and working to completely revamp his fighting style and habits.

Instead, both he and Kitsuchi believed that Fujin would be very happy considering the number of Jounins he killed despite falling into Iwagakure's trap. Any other 14-year-old would be thrilled by having such an achievement under his belt. But, with Fujin's mentality about caring just about himself, he didn't feel any sense of achievement and instead focused entirely on the huge threat to his life.

Of course, that training could still not yield any result if he encountered the likes of Ay or Onoki prematurely. But if the two Kages and their Jinchurikis didn't make a move and instead sent their subordinates, their village could end up paying a heavy price for targeting Fujin!

As he planned, Fujin spent a couple of days entirely resting. The backlash from using the pill was as bad as how effective the pill was. Fujin didn't have any energy or stamina to train on the first day. For safety reasons, he decided to rest on the second day as well while treating himself to a lot of delicious and nutritious food.

On the third day, Fujin got up early and began his morning training routine. He increased the training seal pressure from 69% to 88% for the duration of the training to exert his body as much as he could.

Four hours later, Fujin sat exhausted in the training ground. He drank some water and ate a few ration bars while thinking, 'My Taijutsu is stuck at the same level for quite some time. Even though my body is growing stronger steadily and my chakra control is improving, in terms of basic Taijutsu, I have long grown stale.'

I guess the main reason for this is how rarely I use Taijutsu in combat. Generally, my sword gives a far better result. And when I do use it, it's just a chakra enhanced punch or kick to win the fight or gain an advantage. Modifying the Assassin's Rush jutsu will aid, but the improvement will just be on top of my basic Taijutsu which needs improvement desperately.'

Fujin thought for a bit before concluding, 'I need a Taijutsu partner. And a damn good one. The only decent ones I can think of are Guy, Renjiro, Kakashi and Hoka, in that order. But, Hoka won't spar with me right now, Kakashi might not agree to spar on a consistent basis and Renjiro and Guy are frequently out of the village. Even now, all four have been dispatched to the Land of Waterfall border due to my clash with Kitsuchi.'

Fujin sighed and decided, 'Leave it. I'll work on my Taijutsu forms with my clones and do a basic Taijutsu spar without using any chakra enhancement. At the same time, I will continue training my control over Assassin's Rush jutsu. It'll be the best if I reach an acceptable level before they return.'

Fujin continued his rest. After recovering sufficient stamina and chakra, he got up and created 11 shadow clones.

8 clones immediately moved away and began training. The remaining 3 stood around Fujin. At the next moment, 2 clones attacked Fujin, while the last clone tried to sneak attack the 2 clones.

They began a four-way battle involving only basic Taijutsu. Since a one-on-one Taijutsu would be boring, Fujin decided to have some fun with a four-way battle with all four fending for themselves.

The fight was as chaotic as Fujin imagined. Since all four had the same intelligence and thought process, they had to consider what others would think and do something that they normally wouldn't do. In addition, since there were no teams, temporary alliances would randomly form and when least expected, there would be backstabbing. So they had to stay on alert even against any temporary ally.

As the week progressed, Fujin's Taijutsu began showing slight improvements. The constant scheming and backstabbing also raised his awareness and added some new aspects to his scheming abilities. However, what had the most improvement was his Assassin's Rush jutsu.

Fujin stood on the training ground and pointed his index finger at a tree. Immediately, a stream or wind was released from the tip of his finger. The wind moved at a high speed like a ray for a dozen meters. After that it began spreading out, covering a slightly larger area.

Finally, it hit the tree. The highest amount of pressure was at the center of the ray, while the rest hit around it, forming a circle of about a 5 cm radius. Despite having a high speed, the attack didn't have much destructive capability. It left no marks on the tree.

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Chapter 360: Wind Laser

Fujin analyzed, 'It's almost like an entirely new jutsu. Though it can't maintain its form for more than 12 meters, that's not an issue. After all, I only need it to give a boost to the Vacuum Bullet.'

Fujin pointed at the same tree again. A Vacuum Bullet started forming in front of his index finger. As soon as it was formed, a stream of wind was released from his finger and the Vacuum Bullet was fired.

Due to the force from the wind stream, the speed of the Vacuum Bullet was much faster than what Fujin was capable of earlier. However, its aim was a bit off. Instead of hitting the center of the tree, it grazed past it.

Fujin analyzed, 'Hmm, aiming became difficult. The Vacuum Bullet has to be right in the center of the wind stream. If it is even a few micrometers away, my target will be off.

Though this isn't entirely bad. Once I master this, I can use this to control the direction of my Vacuum Bullet. I can be pointing at one ninja and shooting another.

More importantly, the speed is considerably more than the speed of my Air Bullet. Though it's still slower than the Vacuum Bullet I shoot from my mouth.

But, with practice and as I become more efficient in this technique, I should reach a similar speed. In fact, it is likely that I could even reach faster speeds. Even if it doesn't and is slightly slower, it will still be sufficient to fulfil my needs.

Though there are still a few more improvements that I need to make, I have overlooked one important fact...'

Fujin fell into a thought. He deeply analyzed and concluded, 'Though I have modified the Assassin's Rush jutsu to create this, it is more like a completely different jutsu. While I am only concerned about the boost it provides, it also has the potential to become a jutsu on its own...'

Fujin pointed at another tree. This time, instead of releasing the wind stream instantly, Fujin concentrated a large amount of Wind chakra on his index finger. Once the chakra reached the required level, Fujin released a highly concentrated beam of wind from the tip of his index finger.

This time, the beam maintained its form and travelled like a laser until it hit the tree. On impact, it immediately created a tiny 1 cm hole in the tree. However, since Fujin was continuously releasing the

stream, the hole was bombarded even more by the attack. Its depth continued to increase. In addition, the sharp winds also increased the size of the hole by hitting and eroding its walls.

After around 15 seconds, Fujin couldn't continue supercharging the attack and finally stopped. His attack immediately lost effect and dispersed after increasing the hole's size a bit more.

Fujin appeared in front of the tree and observed the hole. A smile formed on his face as he saw, 'The hole is around 20 cm deep. If I had continued for a few seconds more, it would have pierced through this tree.'

I was right. This attack can become a deadly one as well. When providing a boost to the Vacuum Bullet, I didn't pour much chakra into it. And whatever I poured was used to provide more momentum.

But this time, I supercharged it with Wind Chakra. Its principle is similar to the Wind Breath of my summons. Though it doesn't have the same penetrative power or speed as Vacuum Bullets, it does have its own advantage.'

Fujin once again extended his index finger and began concentrating his chakra on it. A few seconds later, he released another stream of extremely sharp winds. This time, he targeted a rock.

The wind stream hit the rock and created a few scratches on the surface. However, instead of focusing on one spot, Fujin moved his finger towards his right. As a result, the wind stream also moved towards his right.

Fujin kept moving his finger and observed as the wind followed. He began moving it in a circular motion causing a spiral-shaped Wind Stream to be released.

He stopped and thought, 'Yes. This can be a good option in some situations. Though the speed is slower, I can release it continuously and keep targeting the enemy. Though harming a strong ninja with this is unlikely, I could use this to draw them towards a trap. So this will work great with Fuinjutsu traps.'

Another possible way of using this will be by spamming it with shadow clones. A dozen Shadow Clones using this jutsu at the same time will make any enemy's skin crawl. And while defensive jutsus like Earth



Wall and Iron Skin jutsu can stop it, I can just shoot Vacuum bullets through this wind laser to break any defenses. In fact, the wind laser might make it difficult for enemies to spot the Vacuum Bullet.'

Fujin was very satisfied with the result. He was even more pleased as he basically learnt that jutsu for free without having to spend additional time to learn it to wreck his brain for several days to come up with it. After all, creating that jutsu wasn't what he initially intended and he had developed it just for support.

He thought, 'Since it is almost an entirely new jutsu, I will need another name for the jutsu. What should I keep?'

Fujin thought for a few seconds before deciding, 'I will go with Wind Laser jutsu. Seems appropriate. But I will need to increase its power a lot to live up to that name.

Regardless, I will work on this later to raise it to a level that can be used in combat. Right now, I still need to improve my control over this. For one, I need more speed. And more importantly, I have to be able to use 10 Wind Lasers at the same time to give a boost to 10 Vacuum Bullets.

That will need some practice to perform this jutsu correctly and consistently. In addition, I also need to improve my aim and work on controlling it such that I don't necessarily have to fire straight.

I will eat the soldier pill tomorrow. Hopefully, 5 days will be enough to bring this jutsu to a level good enough to be used on a battlefield. When I take the 3rd pill, I should do both, master this jutsu and learn the Four Symbols Seal.'

Since it was already dusk and his chakra reserves were low, Fujin decided to stop training and he returned to his home.

The next day, Fujin consumed the soldier pill once again. Just like a couple of weeks earlier, Fujin created 80 Shadow Clones, who continued studying the Four Symbols Seal, while Fujin went to the Anbu Training Facilities. En route, he thought, 'The Wind Crystals barely have any effect on me anymore. There is no point in meditating there unless I can somehow increase my absorption speed by several times and compensate quality with quantity.'

Fujin thought of ways to do that until he reached the training facility. Unfortunately, he couldn't come up with anything once again. He sighed and decided, 'Leave it. I'll visit other training rooms. A shame that I couldn't live up to the grand expectations of the benevolent Lord Third Hokage.'

Fujin entered one of the Fire Training rooms and meditated for a couple of hours to recover his chakra. After recovering his chakra, Fujin returned to the training ground. Fujin decided to focus on two things. The first was shooting Vacuum Bullets from his finger and propelling them forward using the Wind Laser jutsu.

The second was shooting 10 Wind Lasers simultaneously from the tip of his fingers. Of course, in both aspects, the Wind Laser wasn't the supercharged one that could do damage. Instead, it was harmless and just increased the Vacuum Bullet's speed by providing it additional momentum.

Fujin created a dozen clones and alternated his training between those two aspects. Unfortunately, the two aspects didn't require as little chakra as it did to try and master just one Wind Laser.

Using ten Wind Lasers at the same time needed ten times more chakra. While shooting a Vacuum Bullet needed more chakra than even the ten Wind Lasers. So Fujin needed to take a meditation break several times to recover his chakra.

Despite that, the progress was rather quick. After experimenting just for a day, Fujin got a feel of the Vacuum Bullet combined with the Wind Laser. He could position the Vacuum Bullet in the dead center of the laser about 70% of the time he tried. On the next day, the accuracy reached 100%! Fujin stopped training this and instead divided the training time into two more aspects.

The first was the speed aspect. He tried to increase the power of the Wind Laser so that it would grant more speed to the Vacuum Bullet. The second aspect was positioning the Vacuum Bullet just slightly off the center so that Fujin could aim the Vacuum Bullet in a direction where his finger wasn't pointing. Both were considerably more difficult to achieve as compared to merely placing the Vacuum Bullet at the center of the laser.