

Calamity 151

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 151: Be Careful of Explosions

Yasuoka, Tadao and Kaneie moved quietly. They began from one edge of the base. They silently entered a hut, killed everyone in it, and moved on to the next hut.

They were quite successful and kept killing in this manner. It continued until one of the bandits who was moving towards the hut noticed something entering it very quickly. He quickly moved towards the hut.

Tadao, who was killing the ones inside the hut, noticed a bandit coming in. He killed everyone and waited inside the hut to kill the incoming bandit. But, the bandit never entered the hut. Instead, he stopped around 10 meters away from it.

Tadao frowned, 'If he doesn't come in quickly, then the smell of the blood will spread!'

Tadao lost his patience and ran outside towards the bandit. The bandit noticed and screamed, "INTRUD..."

Tadao cut his neck before he could finish. Unfortunately, that yell alerted everyone.

However, they weren't worried. They had already killed over half the bandits. All three immediately hid behind the huts. They waited for the bandits to rush out.

The scream had made all bandits rush out. Kaii was displeased at being disturbed. He left his tent grumpily.

As soon as the bandits exited the huts, they were ambushed. Another 10 bandits were killed.

Fujin thought, 'Not bad, these guys are neat. Anyways, there don't seem to be any traps here. Is it just a brainless rogue ninja?'

The remaining bandits were terrified. They prepared themselves for a fight.

Kaii screamed, "Konoha scums! Die!"

He immediately made a move towards Yasuoka. Yasuoka's eyes widened as he noticed that Kaii had chakra! He immediately made hand signs.

'Water Release : Fish Spit Jutsu'

Yasuoka spat a jet of water at Kaii. However, Kaii scoffed, "Water release? Worthless!"

He made hand signs as well.

'Lightning Release : Lightning Bolt Jutsu'

He extended his finger towards the incoming jet of water. A small bolt of Lightning was released through his finger. It hit the jet of the water and travelled through it to Yasuoka.

Yasuoka didn't expect it. The lightning hit him and shocked him. Though it didn't injure him critically, it made moving harder. And in combat, this alone was fatal!

Kaii smirked at seeing the terror on Yasuoka's face. He grabbed a kunai and ran towards Yasuoka. Tadao and Kaneie noticed it as well and got very worried! They immediately killed the bandits in their path and moved towards Yasuoka. Unfortunately, they were too far away!

Yasuoka's life flashed in front of his eyes as he saw Kaii approaching him. He barely managed to grab a kunai and raise it, but his movements were very slow.

Kaii began swinging his kunai at Yasuoka when a Vacuum Bullet hit his forehead and pierced through it. His body was thrown behind by a couple of meters due to the momentum of the vacuum bullet.

Yasuoka, who had almost given up on his life, was stunned. So were Tadao, Kaneie and the bandits. The bandits immediately began running.

Fujin had been sensing continuously but didn't find anyone else. So he decided to make a move. After all, losing a ninja on his first mission as a team leader won't look good.

Tadao and Kaneie exchanged glances and thought, 'Didn't he say that he only knew a bit of Wind nature manipulation?'

Fujin, who was still alert, suddenly became very serious! He made a hand sign and yelled, "MOVE BACK!"

The trio were surprised. Tadao and Kaneie immediately moved backwards. Yasuoka was still struggling. Fujin's Wind Clone appeared behind him. He grabbed Yasuoka's collar and tossed him behind. At the same time, he extended his other arm towards Kaii. A Spinning Shield of Wind appeared in front of the clone.

Kaii's body suddenly exploded! The explosion burnt everything within a radius of 10 meters and sent dust and small pebbles flying for a long distance. The Spinning Shield of Wind was destroyed as well. But no debris flew past it and hence Yasuoka was safe.

However, Tadao and Kaneie were injured lightly by some pebbles. So were the bandits. Fujin frowned. He created 5 wind clones. 3 stayed around him while the other 2 flickered towards the bandits and killed them all.

Fujin thought, 'What the hell? Did he carry a hundred explosion tags to take revenge on the one who kills him? No, why would anyone do that? The more likely case is that someone used him as a booby trap. But who? And for what purpose?'

Fujin wasn't sure of his analysis, but it was on point. A had sent a few dozen prisoners to the Land of Fire. They were instructed to act as bandits, or else Kumo would come after them again. Every one of these ninjas had seals inscribed on their bodies. Seals that would explode with a huge force after being killed. In order to ensure that they won't surrender, all of them were threatened with terrible consequences to either themselves or their loved ones.

A's target was to reintroduce uncertainty for trading caravans in the Land of Fire. And, he would also hit Konoha's ninjas. Most of the prisoners he released could easily kill genins. It'd be especially good if they killed younger genins.

And if they were killed by Chunins or Jounins, then the explosion could have a slight chance to kill them as well. For Konoha, who had just begun recovering, such a loss could be a setback.

Unfortunately for A, in this particular instance, his opponent was a ninja who loved his life too much to fall for such a trick. But, if A was to learn of the disappointing performance of Kaii, he wouldn't care much. Kaii and his bandit group had already killed 3 trading caravans mercilessly. When this news spreads, it'll create panic among the traders and they won't trust the Land of Fire to provide them with complete safety.

Even after all the bandits were killed, Fujin didn't sense anyone. So he flickered on the nearest tree to the explosion and said, "Gather here."

The trio nodded and began moving towards Fujin. The genins now looked at Fujin in a new light. Without him, it was very likely that they might have not returned alive!

Fujin created a shadow clone who gathered and stored whatever remained of Kaii's body in a scroll.

Fujin asked, "How are your injuries?"

Yasuoka said, "I am fine. My body was restricted a bit by the electric shock. It has recovered."

Tadao said, "I am fine too. Just some scratches from the pebbles."

Kaneie said, "Same here."

Fujin nodded. None of them had any serious wounds.

Yasuoka asked, "Fujin, you are a sensor, right? Did you sense that ninja before we attacked?"

Fujin shook his head and said, "No. I didn't sense any chakra from him. I guess either he knew how to suppress his chakra or had some sort of seal that allowed him to hide his chakra from sensors."

Yasuoka's face became grim. If such events happened frequently, then their risk while doing rank C missions would increase exponentially!

Both Tadao and Kaneie had grim faces too.

Fujin understood why their faces were grim but didn't say anything. Fujin's shadow clone had stored the dead body and then gathered all the survivors in the camp. There were 8 young girls. All were very afraid due to their horrible experience and the gore around them.

Fujin asked, "Are any of you good with first-aid?"

Kaneie said, "Me."

Fujin said, "Alright. Apply the necessary first-aid to them. We will move away quickly."

Kaneie applied first-aid to them and comforted them a bit. Seeing that they were Konoha ninjas, the girls relaxed slightly.

The group moved away a few kilometers before setting up a camp to rest. They rested for the night and began the journey back to Konoha the next day. Since the civilian girls also travelled with them, the journey back took one and a half days!

After returning to Konoha, they handed the girls to the proper authorities and went straight to the Mission Center. Fujin reported the details of the mission to Shichiro. Shichiro was surprised. He said, "I didn't think that such a new bandit group would have such a strong ninja."

He sighed in relief, 'I am glad I chose Fujin. Else some of them might have died.'

Shichiro had seen many of his classmates die. He didn't want to see more dying.

He handed a paper to Fujin and said, "Fujin, as the team leader, you have to write the mission report. Please fill in the details in this form and describe how the mission went and any observations you made."

Fujin nodded and took the form. Shichiro continued, "Since this mission involved a Chunin level ninja as the enemy, I will upgrade your mission to rank B. Your rewards will also be increased from 50 thousand Ryo to 500 thousand Ryo."

Hearing that improved the moods of the genins. With ten times the rewards, they could afford to not take a mission for almost a year. They could perform safe rank D missions for some money if they needed it.

Fujin took 200k Ryo and gave the three 100k Ryo each. The four said farewells and left. Before leaving, Fujin looked at Shichiro and reminded him, "Don't assign me to rank C missions again."

Shichiro's eyes twitched. He said, "This was a rank B mission."

Fujin replied, "It's not the same. If you assign me another rank C, I'll refuse to take it."

Without waiting for his reply, Fujin left.

Shichiro muttered, "These kids are so annoying! And how can I even assign him to a rank B mission? Did Renjiro-sama not talk with him?"

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Chapter 152: Three Months of Non-Stop Training!

After returning home, Fujin began writing the report. He finished it before having dinner and meditated for a bit before sleeping.

The next day, Fujin submitted the report and got back to training. He began practicing the Vacuum Bullet jutsu. He had two aims. The first was to decrease the amount of time needed to form and shoot the Vacuum Bullet. The second was to create two Vacuum Bullets at the same time.

While Fujin was training, his report, along with a few others, landed on Hiruzen's table. Hiruzen's expression wasn't good. There were quite a few people in his office. And most were waiting for the thoughts of one person.

Nara Shikaku said, "It looks like someone isn't happy with the trade boom that we experienced recently. And seeing the jutsus used, these ninjas are most likely from Kumogakure. I believe that Kumogakure is using its prisoners to do this suicidal task. They should be unaware of the seals on their body."

Hiruzen nodded. He too had reached the same conclusion. He asked, "What do you suggest we do?"

Shikaku said, "It's quite easy. We will analyze the data of bandit groups and see which bandit groups rose abruptly. We will dispatch Anbu squads to crush those bandit groups. Jounin squads who are moving out to perform rank A and S missions will also be tasked to clear out such bandit groups if they are near their route."

Hiruzen nodded and said, "Alright. I'll hand the command of this mission to you Shikaku. Clear them out."

Shikaku thought, 'I analyzed the information and strategized so that you could assign them missions. Why are you handing me the command?'

Unfortunately, it wouldn't look good if he complained in front of so many people. So he agreed. In the next week, every single of these groups was eliminated by Shikaku with the help of Anbu, Root and Jounins. Though A's goals were successful initially, they didn't affect Konoha much overall.

After a week of training, Fujin analyzed, 'I managed to improve my control over the Vacuum bullet and decrease the time needed to use it considerably. But, I had no success at all in forming the 2nd Vacuum Bullet. I guess Hiruzen was right.'

Since he couldn't create another Vacuum bullet at the same time, he decided, 'Alright. From now on, I'll focus entirely on Fuinjutsu!'

He created a Shadow clone with 10% of his chakra. The clone flickered to the library.

Fujin created a bunch of more clones. Four of them split in four different directions and began and activated their chakra field.

Fujin sensed the chakra fields and thought, 'I would have loved to master Fuinjutsu at home. But, my house doesn't have enough space for my clones. Oh well, it's not like my house can hide me from Byakugan or that perverted crystal ball.'

Besides, the training ground rarely has any visitors. The only two who visited me here so far are Renjiro and Tadao. So it should be safe. Anyways, if someone does see me, I'll just say that my grandpa asked me to learn it to prepare for Flying Thunder God jutsu, haha. My skill at Fuinjutsu becoming public shouldn't have any effect on me now. Only the surprise element will be lost.'

While his clone went to the library, Fujin started with the Finger Carving Seal. It was very easy and he mastered it within a few minutes.

He opened a scroll and summoned the items that will be needed to practice and waited while meditating.

Library -

Fujin's Shadow Clone entered the B section of the library. He grabbed the Advanced Fuinjutsu theory and Sealing Tags scroll.

He sat down and read how to create the Sealing Tag. He also checked the new symbols that he would have to learn to create it. After 15 minutes of careful reading, he made a hand sign.

'Shadow Clone jutsu'

A shadow clone appeared next to him. As soon as the new clone appeared, the new clone dispelled itself.

As soon as the clone dispelled himself, Fujin received the memories. Knowing all the information needed to learn the Sealing Tag, Fujin made a hand sign.

He used Shadow Clone jutsu repeatedly until he created 10 clones. He thought, 'This is my first time. So I'll limit myself to 10 clones. If my head is fine, I'll create more.'

Fujin and the 10 clones began creating the Sealing tag individually. The 4 sensor clones kept an eye out for any intruders while the clone in the library began reading information on other seals.

Fujin and his 10 clones practiced for half an hour. Fujin dismissed his clones. Memories of the clones rushed into his head causing a small headache.

Fujin thought, 'That wasn't bad. Working on the same thing reduces the impact of sudden memories. I can try with 15 this time.'

Fujin meditated for a few minutes to properly understand the gains of all 10 clones and combine all information into one. After 5 minutes, he began using Shadow Clone jutsu again.

While making the clones, he thought, 'I need to get the Multi Shadow Clone jutsu. Creating them one by one is kinda tedious. That said, how do I ask Hiruzen or Renjiro for a forbidden jutsu?'

He thought for a bit, but couldn't come up with anything reasonable. He thought, 'Leave it. I'll ask when the opportunity presents itself. Till then, I will consider this as a form of training to master the Shadow Clone jutsu. I still can't do it without that last hand seal.'

Fujin continued learning Fuinjutsu in this manner. Eventually, he increased the number of Shadow Clones to 20. For three whole months, no one disturbed him!

In these three months, Fujin managed to learn to create the Explosion Tag, Sealing Tag, Chakra Suppression Seal, Barrier Tag, Five Elements Tag, Cloth Binding technique, Silence Seal, Anti-Byakugan

Seal, Anti-Sharingan Seal, Stealth Seal, Light Absorption Seal, Training Seal, Resistance Seal, Gravity Seal and a bunch of other seals.

While he didn't learn all the seals, he learnt enough to be able to replicate the Meditation room from the tower. He also managed to create storage seals that can store living beings and tested them with some rats. While he couldn't be considered a Fuinjutsu Master yet, he was very close.

In these 3 months, he also kept increasing the difficulty of his morning physical workout. He had increased the training seal's power to 68%. In addition, he also practiced his Ninjutsu once a week.

During this period, Eiji contacted Fujin twice to view the two times when the Fuinjutsu master that he invited inscribed seals on his house. Fujin observed the process carefully. He didn't recognize the Fuinjutsu master. But, the Fuinjutsu master was definitely more skilled than him. However, Fujin recognized all the seals he inscribed. There wasn't any funny business.

While Fujin made massive progress, one thought popped up often in his mind, 'Why am I not being called for any missions? I expected that I would be assigned to a few B rank missions at least. After all, shouldn't wind element ninja be in demand in a village where most have the fire element?'

However, he never did anything about it. He was very happy with the progress he was making with Fuinjutsu.

Finally, Fujin's training in isolation was disturbed. While he was practicing a seal, a chunin entered Training Ground 23. One of Fujin's clones sensed him and dispelled himself.

Fujin and his clones received the memories. In a few seconds, all items were packed and stored in the scroll. Fujin kept the scroll back and dispelled his clones.

The chunin didn't realize that he was sensed. In a few seconds, he arrived where Fujin was. Fujin saw him. He looked like in his late teens. The chunin said, "Hey Fujin, I am Hatake Ryota. You have been assigned to our squad for a mission. Come with me."

Fujin nodded and followed him. He dispelled his clones that were sensing. Fujin wondered, 'Why exactly did I not get any mission for 3 months? Did Hiruzen spy on me learning Fuinjutsu and decide to give me a break? But, that doesn't sound like him at all!'

Fujin's analysis couldn't have been farther from the truth!

Two days ago in the Hokage Office -

Hiruzen asked, "Takao, can you tell me the status of Renjiro's students?"

Takao answered, "I'll have to check Lord Hokage. I'll let you know later."

Hiruzen nodded.

A few hours later, Takao entered the Hokage office. Hiruzen saw that he had a rather strange expression.

Takao said, "Lord Hokage, I checked the information about Renjiro's students.

Hyuga Hoka joined a Chunin squad arranged by his father. He fulfils the typical Hyuga role in a squad. He has led in 7 rank C missions and participated in 3 rank B missions.

Uchiha Mieko joined the Uchiha Police Force. In addition, she has led in 3 rank C missions and participated in 5 rank B missions. Both Mieko and Hoka have shown great promise.

About Fujin..."

Hiruzen was looking forward the most to Fujin's performance. But he wondered, 'What exactly did Fujin do for Takao to make such a strange face?'

Takao said, "Fujin has led in just one rank C mission about 2 weeks after that rank A mission. The mission got upgraded to rank B, but he completed the mission without any casualties. But, after that, he took no mission at all."

Hiruzen was surprised. He didn't understand Fujin's behavior. He asked, "What has Fujin been doing?"

Takao said, "I did some research. He booked Training Ground 23 for 9 months. He has been visiting it daily and spends most of his time there."

Hiruzen said, "I can understand Fujin training. But why didn't he take any missions?"

Takao said, "I am not sure."

Hiruzen thought for a bit. Suddenly, it hit him! He said, "Wait, don't tell me!"

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Chapter 153: The Importance of Socializing

Takao saw Hiruzen. He wondered, 'What did Lord Hokage realize for him to be so surprised?'

Hiruzen thought, 'No wonder Fujin never did any mission. He never joined a team. From what Genki had said, Fujin stayed alone and never interacted much with others. Renjiro noted the same thing and said that Fujin preferred being and acting alone.'

So Fujin has no contacts outside his small bubble of friends. And most of those friends are still in their genin squad or in the academy. He shouldn't be in touch with any chunins other than maybe his academy teachers.

And since he is an orphan, no one arranged for him to enter a squad. And with both his teammates being from big clans who were arranged in squads by their families, he was left with no one to make a team with.'

Hiruzen said, "Takao, call Sarutobi Tamotsu to my office."

Takao nodded and left the office.

Hiruzen sighed, 'Renjiro didn't teach that kid to socialize! And Fujin didn't even approach anyone about it. If he had visited the Mission Center a few times and let others know about his Wind Release Capabilities, lots of teams would have extended an invitation to him. Even if no one invited him, at least he could have improved his leadership skills by clearing out the rank C missions. Instead, he just chose to not do any missions at all.'

Hiruzen analyzed a few more things. In the end, he decided, 'I need to keep checking on Fujin's progress every month. While he isn't as talented as Minato or Orochimaru, he is still good. It'll be a waste if he loses interest due to not doing any missions and only training.'

Back to the present, Ryota led Fujin to Yakiniku.

Fujin asked, "Shouldn't we be going to the mission center?"

Ryota replied, "Not really. Meet up with the team first. We will accept the mission officially tomorrow."

Fujin wasn't sure what Ryota was up to. But he followed him in. Ryota led him to a table where 3 other people and a dog were sitting.

Fujin observed them. One of them was overdressed. Fujin noticed some bugs buzzing around him. Fujin concluded that he was from the Aburame clan.

Another was a definite Inuzuka. He was in his late teens as well. A huge ferocious-looking dog lay behind him. The dog noticed Fujin's gaze and stared back at him.

The last person looked to be in his mid-20s. His face had a large burn mark. There were multiple scars on his arms as well. Of the four people in this team, his chakra was the highest.

The scar-faced guy looked at Fujin and smiled. He said, "So you are Fujin. I have heard a lot of good things about you. Come sit."

Fujin sat down and said, "Hmm, I wonder who spoke about me."

He chuckled, "It was Lord Hokage."

Fujin wondered, 'Hmm... What is that old fox up to?'

The scar-faced guy said, "Let us introduce ourselves properly. I am Sarutobi Tamotsu. I am an Elite Chunin and the leader of this group. I specialize in Fire Release."

The other members of the group began introducing themselves.

Ryota said, "As I said, I'm Hatake Ryota. I am a Chunin. And I specialize in Earth Release."

The man sitting with the dog said, "I am Inuzuka Tadashi. This is my partner Kenta. I am a chunin too. I am responsible for scouting, tracking and smelling danger. I specialize in Taijutsu and I can use a few Fire jutsus as well."

Kenta barked at Fujin as if to say hello.

The last member, who was very quiet, said in a neutral tone, "I am Aburame Katsumi. I am a Chunin. I am responsible for scouting, tracking and trapping enemies. I can use some Water jutsus."

Fujin heard them carefully and remembered their specialities.

Tamotsu said, "Our team lacks explosive power. So we were looking for someone who specialized in Wind Release. That way, we could use a Fire-Wind combination jutsu. Unfortunately, ninjas with good control over wind manipulation are very rare in Konoha. That's why, when Lord Hokage recommended you, I agreed. So Fujin, would you like to join our squad?"

Fujin was a bit surprised. He asked casually, "I can refuse?"

Tamotsu chuckled and said, "Of course, you can. I can't force you to follow us. Hahaha."

Fujin nodded and asked, "Can you tell me how teams work? Like how many missions you do. What are the rules or common practices of your group? I haven't been a part of any team before. So I don't know much about this."

Tamotsu answered, "You don't need to worry much Fujin. We are very casual. So there are no strict rules as such. The most important thing is to give your all in the mission and maintain good teamwork. Also, never abandon your teammates. If you are found slacking or putting your teammates at risk, then we won't keep you in the team anymore. Of course, the same applies to the rest of us too"

Fujin nodded. What Tamotsu said was basic.

Tamotsu continued, "As for missions, we only do rank B missions. We take them continuously with a few days' break between missions depending on how tired we are after the missions. The reward money is equally divided among all team members.

When you are a part of the team, all your rank B missions will be with us. You can take up missions with other teams only if we take a long break. I wouldn't recommend wasting time on rank C or D missions, but you can take them on your own on rest days if you want.

The only exception would be if Lord Hokage assigns you on a separate mission or if you get invited for a rank A mission. In that case, give preference to those missions. Of course, let us know that you'll be busy on those missions if possible."

Fujin thought for a bit and concluded, 'That's very reasonable.'

Tamotsu asked, "So, do you want to be a part of our team Fujin?"

Fujin replied, "Sure. I would like to be a part of your team."

He sighed and said, "Besides, I haven't been assigned any mission for 3 months. So I don't really have any other choices."

On hearing Fujin, Ryota, Katsumi and Tadashi had weird expressions. Tamotsu had an idea. He said, "Fujin, you are aware that you have to form a team and then go to the mission center to get missions, right?"

Fujin looked at him and raised an eyebrow. He asked, "What do you mean?"

He said, "You get missions only if you go to the Mission center with a team."

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'What the heck? I recall Hiruzen and Tsunade sending messages when they had to assign missions. I thought that job is done by Mission Center here instead.'

He asked, "Are you sure?"

Tamotsu replied, "Yes. You will be called only if Lord Hokage has a special mission for you. And usually, only Elite Jounins get missions assigned that way."

Fujin was stunned. He exclaimed internally, 'Fuck! No wonder I never got any missions!'

Fujin's new squad chuckled at his expression. Tamotsu didn't want Fujin to feel embarrassed on day 1. He said, "Introduce yourself Fujin."

Fujin sighed again and said, "I am Suzuki Fujin. I specialize in Wind jutsus. I am also a sensor. So I could aid Tadashi-san and Katsumi-san a bit."

Tamotsu said, "Good. Also, no need to be formal with us Fujin. Just use our names."

Fujin nodded, "Alright."

At that time, a waiter came in and delivered meat. Tamotsu said, "Let's celebrate getting a new team member!"

The group began eating while chatting casually.

At one point, Fujin asked, "Tamotsu, how do you become an Elite Chunin? Is there an exam similar to the Chunin Exam?"

Tamotsu said, "No. There is no exam. You get assigned this rank by doing missions. The missions that you complete are analyzed by the village. When they are satisfied with your performances, they promote you to Elite Chunin."

Fujin was surprised. He asked, "On what parameters do they decide?"

Tamotsu replied, "Well, the basic requirements are your strength and overall capability. If you have any obvious weakness, you won't be promoted to Elite Chunin. Once you meet those requirements, they check your mission record.

There are no fixed criteria regarding the missions. So I can't comment on what parameters they check here. But, it'd be safe to say that you need to have completed at least 50 rank B missions."

Fujin thought and said, "Oh. Thank You."

Tamotsu smiled and said, "No worries. There are a couple more things that you should know about Elite Chunins. Other villages aren't as strict as Konoha while promoting to Jounins. So most Elite Chunins from Konoha can go up against Jounins of other villages. So don't expect to be promoted quickly.

Also, if you want to be promoted to Jounin or Special Jounin ranks, then you first need to be an Elite Chunin. Otherwise, you won't be considered for Jounin promotions."

Fujin nodded. He had expected that. After eating the food, Tamotsu said, "I have already accepted a mission. Tomorrow, we will escort a noble from the Land of Rice back to his country. Meet up at the gate at 11 AM. And bring enough supplies for a couple of months."

Fujin and the others nodded and left. After leaving, Fujin headed back to the training ground.

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Chapter 154: The First Mission with a New Squad

En route, Fujin thought, 'So that's why I never got assigned a mission again! Sigh, at least someone should have said something to me... I guess Tamotsu's words indirectly came from Hiruzen.

That said, even if I did know this, I don't have connections with any chunins. It's the same issue that I concluded while going on the mission with Yasuoka and the rest. Just going around advertising my Wind jutsu capabilities would have been stupid. After all, who knows what squad I'd join up with? I guess the only choices available were to ask Renjiro or Hiruzen to assign me to a team. It's probably what Hiruzen did.

That said, not having any connections is kinda an issue. I didn't give much thought to this earlier as this is the world of the strong. As long as I keep working hard and reach the top, everyone would be trying to create a relationship with me. But, reaching such a level will need a lot of time. And I might need aid along the path.

At the very least, the help I got from Renjiro was critical. And unlike Hiruzen, it was a selfless act from him. Sigh, I will have to interact more with other ninjas. While I won't ever need as much aid as Renjiro gave me, I will need to have connections in order to make different sorts of teams depending on missions.

Still, how do I do that? It's not like I can hang around and drink alongside them, can I? Leave it. No point in acting desperate. I'll just make connections as I get opportunities in the future.

Anyways, it's not an issue to not have done any missions in the last 3 months. These months have improved my skill with Fuinjutsu a lot. I have learnt all the important seals. In terms of effectiveness, I should be on par with Seal masters. I'll probably need a couple more months to learn all the remaining seals. But, I think it'll be better to stop for now. I should practice the seals I have learnt for some time. After all, it's very unlikely that Hiruzen would give me the scroll for Flying Thunder God so soon.'

Fujin trained with his shadow clones to practice his ninjutsu, kenjutsu and taijutsu for a few hours.

The next day, Fujin began moving towards Konoha's entrance gate. He thought, 'Land of Rice... I hope I don't end up encountering Orochimaru. Encountering Kakuzu was plenty of excitement for a few years.'

Fujin gathered with his new squad at the gate. Tamotsu said, "Our client will arrive here in a few minutes. I'll brief you on the situation. The Land of Rice had been peaceful after the Third Great Ninja War. But, in the last few years, there have been many turbulences in the Land of Rice.

Many rogue attacks have been reported. Many nobles are targeted too. Even their Daimyo's retinue was targeted once. So, we have to be very careful during this mission.

Tadashi, you will be responsible for smelling any possible attackers. Katsumi and Fujin, you two will back him up. Ryota, you will be responsible for keeping our client safe. You will cooperate with his bodyguard. I will be responsible to attack any attackers. Tadashi will assist me and Katsumi will provide long-range support. Fujin, for this mission, only observe us. If you get an opportunity, you can attack."

Fujin nodded. The arrangement was reasonable as he would need some time to fit into their team. Tamotsu briefed his team on a few matters until 2 men arrived at the gate.

The younger man was a blonde wearing an expensive robe. The older man dressed as a ninja and had a similar mask to Kakashi. Two swords could be seen on his back.

They greeted Tamotsu as they interacted with him on the previous day. After discussing for a bit, they left.

The young noble and his protector walked at the center. Tadashi, Kenta and Tamotsu walked in front of them. Fujin walked to their right and Ryota to their left. Katsumi handled the rear.

The group took 7 days to reach the border between the Land of Fire and the Land of Rice. They didn't encounter any troubles on the way.

On reaching the border, the protector said, "We have been experiencing a lot of rogue attacks in the last year. We will need to travel another day and a half. Please be on guard and protect us."

Tamotsu replied, "Don't worry. We are always alert."

The group continued moving. After a few hours, Inuzuka Tadashi stopped and said, "There are three scents at this location. Someone was here not long back."

Tamotsu looked at Fujin and Aburame Katsumi. Fujin activated his chakra field. Some bugs appeared around Katsumi and spread in the forest.

Fujin said, "No one in one kilometer radius around us."

Fujin chakra field could sense up to 1.25 kilometers. But, he decided to report only one kilometer. In the future, if someone became aware of Fujin's capabilities and decided to hide just outside his stated range, then they would lose their element of surprise.

Tamotsu nodded and looked at Katsumi. After a few minutes, Katsumi said, "No one is hiding around us."

Tamotsu instructed, "Have your insects keep a watch. If those guys are planning trouble for us, then they might appear soon."

Katsumi nodded and let his bugs fly around the group. The group continued walking for another kilometer.

Some distance ahead of the group, 4 ninjas were waiting on a tree. One of them said, "Boss, that noble called Kobi Takuma should be travelling on this route soon. But he should be escorted by Konoha ninjas. Should we attack?"

Before he could answer, another guy said, "Let's attack them and even kill Konoha ninjas. That way we will become famous throughout the Land of Rice!"

The third guy also wanted to attack. So their leader agreed and said, "We will attack and kill them all. Hide properly. We will launch a sneak attack and kill them before they even understand what's happening!"

All four dispersed in different directions and got in position. Unknown to them, their small meeting was conducted under the surveillance of a few bugs.

Katsumi spoke without giving any signs of tension, "Don't react. Four rogue ninjas are planning an ambush ahead. About 1.5 kilometers from here."

Tamotsu asked, "How strong are they?"

Katsumi replied, "Not sure. Guessing at Chunin level."

Tamotsu instructed, "Alright, keep moving this way. When we are close, Katsumi and Tadashi will attack. Ryota and Fujin will defend. Fujin, don't sense them."

No one replied to Tamotsu and the group kept moving forward. The noble and his bodyguard were tense but didn't show it. They were already prepared to get attacked.

Around 500 meters from the ambush spot, Tadashi said, "I can smell them."

Katsumi said, "My bugs have passed me their location as well."

Tamotsu said, "Good. Attack as soon as you can."

The group walked until they were just a hundred meters from the ambush spot. Suddenly, Tadashi, Kenta and Katsumi disappeared. They moved stealthily through the forest towards the ones waiting in hiding.

Fujin's eyes glowed as he observed them. He checked the ambushers and thought, 'Chunins? At max those guys are Genins. Only one has Chunin level chakra reserves.'

Tadashi and his dog were faster. They reached their opponent first. Their opponent didn't see them until the last moment. When he heard something and checked behind him, Tadashi stuck his kunai into his back while Kenta bit his throat.

Another attacker was a few meters away from Tadashi. He was shocked at seeing one of them being killed so quickly. He shouted to alert others and grabbed his weapon. However, Tadashi and Kenta suddenly began spinning.

'Man Beast Taijutsu : Fang Over Fang!'

The ninja hadn't seen such a technique before. Both Tadashi and Kenta hit him. Their claws ripped his throat.

Both stopped and looked at their victims and thought, 'They were only genins.'

On the other side of the road, Katsumi watched from a distance as his bugs devoured one of his opponents. The last remaining member of this group was their leader. He was terrified by the screams of his underlings on the other side and the bugs eating one of his men in front of him.

He began making hand signs in a panic when Katsumi said, "Give up. Your death is a certainty."

He was humiliated but kept making hand signs. Suddenly, he felt something bite his chest. The tense situation made him ignore the pain, but suddenly his hands and legs trembled. His knees fell to the ground.

Katsumi said, "You shouldn't fight when your clothes are full of my poisonous bugs."

The enemy fell to the ground. He could see some bugs crawling out of his shirt.

Tamotsu appeared behind Katsumi and asked, "Is it done?"

Katsumi said, "Yes. Looks like only he was at the Chunin level. Though it's doubtful that someone like him can have a bounty."

Tamotsu said, "Even if he doesn't, we can use his head to improve relations with the Daimyo slightly. So collect it."

Katsumi nodded and stored his head in a scroll.

The group continued their journey.

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Chapter 155: Boring.....

As the group proceeded ahead, they were attacked again on two occasions. However, in both instances, all enemies were killed without Fujin getting any chance to fight.

Fujin wondered, 'Are there so many rogue ninjas in this country? Or is Orochimaru trying to influence the environment here? After all, he shouldn't be able to create a hidden village while the Daimyo still exists. Then again, for him to kill off a Daimyo in secret shouldn't be much of an issue.'

Fujin wasn't able to arrive at any conclusion. So he dropped the thought.

On the day after, they reached the location and completed the mission. Without waiting, the Konoha team left back for Konoha.

As they were running on branches, Tamotsu asked, "So Fujin, how did you feel this mission was?"

Fujin answered, "Well... It was kinda boring."

Tamotsu laughed at that answer. He said, "Yeah. Most missions are boring. If we have exciting missions all the time, then we won't live for long."

Fujin thought, 'Yeah. That's true. Still, this is very boring.'

Ryota said, "Most rank B missions are like these. Our missions get interfered with by rogue Genins and Chunins. They are very easy to kill off."

Tamotsu added, "If the missions involve rogue Jounins or ninjas from another major village, then it'll be categorized as rank A or S. Or the Anbu will handle them."

Fujin nodded and said, "Yeah, that makes sense."

Tamotsu said, "Don't worry. I'll give you a more active role in future missions."

Fujin smiled and thanked him. However, internally he sighed, 'What's the use of having an active role against such enemies? They will die without even seeing me! It's fine for now, but I will need to find a way to get better missions after I'm done with my training plans.'

The team returned to Konoha without any issues and divided the rewards equally. They had a group dinner before leaving for home. Tamotsu asked the group to meet again in the Mission center after a week.

Fujin began meditating after reaching home when he heard a knock on his door. He wondered, 'Who'd come to visit at this time?'

He opened the door to see a familiar face. That person worked in Eiji's shop. He said, "Fujin-kun, the work on your house is completed. Eiji-sama wants to show it to you tomorrow at 9 AM."

Fujin replied, "Oh, that's great. I'll be there. Thank You."

The messenger nodded and left. Fujin thought, 'Kinda convenient that it got completed today. Right after my mission was completed.'

The next day, Fujin headed to the land he bought after completing his morning workout. When Fujin reached, he saw his new house.

Fujin thought, 'Wow! This looks great!'

The house in front of him was 3 storeys high. It was circular in shape and was quite huge. A circular fence was built around the house. The rest of his land still had trees making the surrounding of the house look great.

While Fujin was admiring his house, Eiji arrived. He asked, "Are you lost in its beauty?"

Fujin chuckled and said, "You have done a great job old man!"

Eiji chuckled and handed him a key and said, "I finished constructing it 3 days ago. But it seems like you were out on a mission."

Fujin thought, 'Oh. Was that guy checking my old house every night then?'

He nodded and said, "Yes, I returned yesterday evening."

Eiji said, "Let me show you the house from the inside."

Fujin took the key and entered the house. The ground floor was huge. After entering the house, there was a circular room on the left. It had a big round table at the center along with multiple sofas between the table and the wall. In addition, this floor had a kitchen and a couple of washrooms. At the center of the floor, there was a circular staircase.

The remaining space on this floor was open. Eiji had placed a dining table, a few seats, and a few flower pots in proper positions to add to the aesthetics.

After checking the ground floor, Fujin decided to check the floors above. The area of the floors above decreased successively. The first floor had 5 rooms while the second had 3. On top was an open terrace.

On both the first and the 2nd floor, one room each had proper furniture to be considered a bedroom. The remaining rooms were empty.

Fujin saw his house and commented, 'Now that's money well spent. That said, I have no use for most of these rooms for now. But, it's good to have some extra space in case I need it for some reason in the future. Anyways, I should check the important stuff now.'

Fujin and Eiji moved down the stairs to the basement. The basement had two floors too. If these 2 floors were included as well, then Fujin's house was a 5 storey house!

The first basement floor had very little space around the staircase. There was a 2 feet wide circular passage around the staircase. On the other side of this circular passage were 8 rooms. Fujin checked the rooms and all were built very well. All the rooms were completely empty other than having a few lights and some wire extensions in case Fujin decided to add some electronics in the rooms.

Lastly, they moved to the bottom floor of the basement. In complete contrast to the floor above, this basement floor was completely open! There were only a few pillars on this floor to support the house above, but other than the pillars, nothing existed on this floor.

Eiji said, "As you had asked, this floor is completely open. And everything here is extremely sturdy and strengthened even further by the Sealmaster."

Fujin nodded and built his chakra up.

'Wind Release : Breakthrough Jutsu'

Fujin suddenly exhaled a strong stream of wind from his mouth. The wind moved rapidly and hit all the pillars and the walls. Not a scratch appeared.

Eiji, who was standing next to Fujin, was surprised. The high-speed winds crashed into the walls and some part of it was reflected back at them. He found it very difficult to stand steady. He said loudly, "What are you doing?"

Fujin chuckled and waved his hand. He used Gale Palm jutsu to quiet down the winds. He said, "Great work. Though that was one of my weaker jutsus, this room is very sturdy. Thanks again."

Eiji grudgingly said, "Alright. But don't try to kill me again."

Fujin chuckled.

Eiji said, "I have made the house according to our plan and even placed furniture as you asked. If you need anything in the future or want furniture for the remaining rooms, you can come to my shop."

Fujin nodded. Eiji left the house leaving Fujin alone in his new house. Fujin saw Eiji out and then checked his house once again. This time, he concentrated chakra in his eyes and inspected everything.

After half an hour, he concluded, 'Alright. I know I am being overly cautious, but there doesn't seem to be anything wrong in the house. And, all the walls are as sturdy as Eiji promised them to be. Anyways, now that I have my house, I can finally start my plans. But, first I need to clean the house.'

As Fujin thought that, the wind began gathering around him. The Wind gently flew through his entire house. It gathered most of the dust and soil and left his house. Then, Fujin created as many Shadow Clones as he could and they all cooperated to clean the home properly.

When his house became very clean, Fujin closed the door and began inscribing seals on his new house.

During the last 3 months, Fujin had debated a lot on whether or not to cover his house in seals. After a lot of analysis, he concluded the pros and cons of it.

He concluded, 'If I don't inscribe my new house with seals, then my Fuinjutsu capabilities can stay a secret for long. That's the only plus point. On the flip side, my house could be checked by any passing Hyuga. If my luck is bad or someone decides to spy on me, then my training of Lightning release and other stuff that I plan to keep a secret could be exposed.'

On the other hand, if I inscribe seals in my house, then my skills at Fuinjutsu will be exposed very easily. I could lie that I had hired a Sealmaster while building the house, but I can't be sure how long that lie would last. Furthermore, others might think that I have something to hide and might get more interested in my house.

As for the positives, seals would secure my house and I can do all the shit I want without worrying about the n number of sensory abilities in this world.'

After analyzing both scenarios, Fujin decided, 'I'll cover my house in as many seals as I can! I'll eventually have to expose my ability in Fuinjutsu anyways. So might as well do it now. If Hiruzen or Renjiro ask me, I'll tell them that I used the shadow clone trick and instead pass hints to them that I need the Multi Shadow Clone jutsu. As for the rest, I'll just give some lame excuses.'

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Chapter 156: When a Psycho becomes a SealMaster!

Fujin spent the entire day inscribing seals in his house. He started with the Anti-Byakugan, Anti-Sharingan and Stealth Seals. He followed it up by using seals to strengthen the doors, walls and pillars even more and also used seals to increase their resistance to Fire, Wind, Lightning and Water.

When he was satisfied with the protection that his house provided, he went to the basement and entered one of the rooms. Fujin observed this room and thought, 'The dimensions of this room are exactly as the Meditation room in that Tower.'

Fujin opened the scroll where he had recorded the details of that room. He inscribed all those seals in his room and recreated that room.

Fujin thought, 'Great. Now I just have to buy those incense sticks and candles. Then this will be the only room where I meditate.'

Fujin checked all the seals again to confirm that everything was fine. He left the room and used the Finger Carving Seal to write 'Meditation Room' on the door.

Fujin then went into the room on the opposite side. This one had a lot of holes in the walls. Fujin inspected them properly and thought, 'I'll need to buy the proper tools to make this similar to the training room for dodging. I'll do that tomorrow.'

Fujin used his Finger Carving Seal to write the name on the door and moved into another room. This room was completely empty. Even light bulbs weren't present. Fujin inscribed a few seals on the walls to produce light.

Once there was sufficient light, Fujin began inscribing Gravity Seals on the floor.

After some time, he analyzed, 'Gravity seals have been inscribed evenly in this room. The gravity in this room is approximately 2.5 times as compared to the outside. Combined with my training seal, this place would be good to practice my Taijutsu forms and do weight training. And I can increase the gravity by inscribing more gravity seals on the floor.'

But, first I should isolate this room properly. The increase in gravity in this room shouldn't affect the rest of the rooms. And it shouldn't damage the structural integrity of the house. It would suck if my new house just collapsed.

That aside, in the future, I should experiment with whether I can combine the meditation room and gravity room. I wonder if that would help me meditate and condition my body at the same time. After all, I kinda have been having a feeling that in the future I will need to meditate a lot.'

Fujin decided to experiment with it later. He currently didn't have the expertise to create such a room as the design for the meditation room was copied and not created by him.

Fujin made a hand sign. It deactivated all the gravity seals he had inscribed in the room. Fujin began inscribing anti-gravity and isolation seals around the Gravity room. He had to check multiple times. After some time, he was satisfied. The increased gravity in the gravity room was successfully isolated and wouldn't have any effect on the rest of the house.

Fujin analyzed, 'After I buy the tools, I will have these 3 rooms ready for use. As for the other 5 rooms, I haven't decided anything yet. I would have loved to make Wind, Lightning and Fire training rooms. Unfortunately, the elemental crystals aren't accessible to me yet. Even if they were, I am guessing that I would need a lot of them. Oh well, time for the Five-Seal Barrier.'

Fujin summoned 5 papers and laid them on the floor. The papers were brown in color and almost looked like the trunk of a tree. He grabbed a brush and made his chakra flow through it. He wrote 'Forbidden' on each of the 5 papers. He made a hand seal and all 5 words disappeared.

Fujin looked at the papers and thought, 'Fuinjutsu is strange. Such a simple seal can defend against freaking S rank jutsus! Unfortunately, the other four seals can't be placed inside the house. Otherwise, this seal would be completely broken!'

Fujin wrote 'Not at Home' on one of the papers and attached it to his door. The remaining 4 papers, he attached to the trees around the house. After the papers were attached, they were almost invisible to the naked eye.

Fujin made a hand seal. The chakra that could be sensed from the papers became suppressed as well. He thought, 'Perfect. Even Byakugan will have a tough time locating them now.'

Fujin walked to the front of his house. He formed a fist and concentrated chakra. He punched the door with full force. Fujin saw the result and exclaimed, "Excellent."

As he had expected, there wasn't even a dent in the door.

He thought, 'This should keep the home safe during Orochimaru's invasion. I wonder if it can withstand the Shinra Tensei as well. I'm guessing that it won't.'

Fujin made a hand seal and deactivated the seal. He pulled the paper off and carried it back home. He began making more tags. He created 64 Barrier Tags. He installed them at appropriate locations inside his house.

Once that was done, Fujin thought, 'Barrier tag isn't as strong as the Five-Seal Barrier. But, it can still take a couple of B rank jutsus. Any more and it will need to be provided with chakra. But, this is enough for my needs. This will ensure that no one can sneak into my house. And it will also alert me. So Barrier tags when I'm at home will be plenty. When I'm not at home, the Five-seal Barrier will be up.'

With the barriers set up, Fujin began wondering whether he could use any more seals to make his house more secure. If someone knowledgeable in Fuinjutsu was to inspect Fujin's house, they would freak out! They would wonder which lunatic inscribed the seals.

On top of the seals inscribed by the Seal Master, while constructing the house, Fujin had inscribed over a thousand seals in his house! Even the Hokage building didn't have so many seals!

Fujin couldn't think of anything else. So he began checking his scrolls. Soon, he found the one he was looking for. He made a hand sign and 2 items appeared in front of him. They were an incense stick and some wax from a candle. Fujin lit both of them on fire and inspected them properly.

He thought, 'I memorized their appearance and smell. Now, which shop sells these things...'

Fujin left his house, locked the door and put up the 'Not at Home' sign. He had a meal and then began searching through Konoha's stores.

Fujin searched various stores that sold ninja weapons and tools without any luck. Finally, he found one. It was a multi-storey shop that sold ninja tools and was very close to the Hokage Building. Fujin bought a few meditation mats and a lot of those incense sticks and candles.

He also bought a lot of training equipment to be placed in the gravity room. While checking the store, he also found the equipment and blunt wooded weapons needed for the dodging room and bought them as well.

After that, Fujin bought groceries, utensils and other necessary items for his house. He also took all the items that he needed from his old house, vacated it and completed the formalities and procedures related to it.

By the evening, Fujin's new house was set. Fujin exhaled in relief, 'I forgot how much work it is to change residence. When I left the orphanage, I didn't own anything and barely had any necessities. Anyways, pretty much everything is set. The only remaining task is setting up the equipment and mechanisms in the Dodging room. I'll do that tomorrow. For now...'

Fujin entered the meditation room and began meditating. He opened his eyes after 3 hours of meditation. A smile could be seen on his face. He thought, 'Excellent. This room is a total success!'

Happy with his work, Fujin went to sleep in his new cosy bedroom. The next day, Fujin made a change to his training routine. He cut the morning physical training in the training ground from 4 hours to 3 hours. That last one hour, he spent training in the Gravity room.

He spent the remaining day setting up all the mechanisms in the dodging room. He tested the room a few times and had to make some changes until he was satisfied.

Fujin thought, 'I think I can improve the efficiency of this room even more. Right now, I depend on my eyes and ears to sense incoming weapons and dodge. Once I'm able to dodge all weapons consistently, I will begin attempting it with my eyes closed. When I'm able to do that, I will use the Silence Seal to eliminate all noise. That should help improve my instincts.'

Anyways, all the plans that I had are completely implemented. Only one last thing to do...'

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Chapter 157: Party!

Fujin left the basement and got on the ground floor. He opened a scroll and summoned a very long cloth. Fujin began inscribing some seals on the cloth.

After some time, Fujin made a hand sign.

'Cloth Binding Jutsu'

The cloth began moving around the staircase. Soon, it covered up the way down to the basement completely. The remaining cloth kept rolling over it to form multiple layers. The staircase and the basement below became completely invisible.

Fujin made a hand seal and the cloth began hardening. Fujin walked towards it and stepped on it. He moved around on the cloth and analyzed, 'Excellent. It looks and feels just like the rest of the floor now.'

Fujin spread his chakra field and tried to sense the basement. But, he couldn't. He smiled, 'Now even sensors can't sense it. Though I guess someone like Renjiro can still find it. After all, he never said how he found the hiding spots of those Kiri ninjas. Anyways, it's fine. It's not like I really need to hide anything there.'

The main purpose of this is just distraction. In the future, if I'm suspected of doing anything fishy, then Konoha is sure to check my house. They will waste a lot of effort to check my house and find nothing in here at all, hahaha. And, it'll let me know that I'm being suspected and I can preemptively take some precautionary measures.

Of course, until then, I can keep improving my seals even more and make the defenses even sturdier. Hehe, how fun it'd be if I can have half a dozen types of barriers and a few dozen traps in my home. And all that to hide nothing!'

Fujin laughed at that thought. He calmed down thinking, 'Anyways, now that the house is ready, I should call a few people in. Mieko and Hoka had asked me to invite them. And I can invite Renjiro as well. Should I invite others?'

Hmm, who all? I can invite Genki in. Though he would probably not like to be among kids. I should also invite Teru, Yori and Hana. But probably best to not have them alongside Renjiro. As for my new team, I have just met them. So probably not a good idea to invite them right now. I could mention it after the next mission. So, in what order to invite?'

Fujin thought for a bit and decided, 'I'll invite my old team first. Then I can invite Hoka again to hang alongside our classmates. Genki I'll call later.'

Fujin made 3 shadow clones. The first one flickered towards the Senju Clan compound. The other two waited for a bit and left for Uchiha and Hyuga Clan compounds.

The clone headed to the Senju clan reached first. Unfortunately, Renjiro was out on a mission. The clone passed a message about his new house and left. He searched for Teru's house and invited him. He chatted for a bit with Teru and dispelled himself.

The memories of the clone were transferred to Fujin and other clones. The other clones had reached the respective compounds but didn't enter till they received the memories. Since Renjiro wasn't available, they invited Miekko, Hoka, Yori and Hana.

After Fujin received their memories, he thought, "That's surprising. All are available for tomorrow. Luckily I bought a lot of snacks. Oh well, let's see how my first time playing host in this world goes. Unfortunately no video games here. I should buy some board games and cards though. Might be handy if I decide to keep interacting in the future."

Fujin created a couple of clones. One went to Genki and invited him to visit in the evening. The other clone went to civilian shops and bought some games.

The next day, Fujin once again began his day with the new morning workout routine. At 9 AM, he went out to buy chicken. He made a shadow clone and went to the meditation room.

The clone washed the chicken and left it to marinate with salt, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, ginger-garlic paste and lemon juice.

At noon, Fujin's friends began arriving. Senju Teru was the first one to reach. Fujin welcomed him home. Teru said, "Long time no see. I was surprised to see you yesterday."

Fujin nodded and said, "Yup. One of the reasons why I thought it'd be fun to get together."

Teru asked, "Who else is coming?"

Fujin answered, "Hoka, Yori, Hana and Miekko."

Teru asked, "Who is Miekko?"

Fujin answered, "She was on the same genin team as me and Hoka."

Teru and Fujin chatted about their life after leaving the academy till others arrived. They sat in the circular room with the round table. Fujin had already arranged snacks on the table. They chatted while Fujin's clones served them Fried Chicken.

Hana commented, "This is delicious Fujin! I didn't know you were such a good cook."

Teru agreed with her, "Yeah, this is good."

Fujin said, "Thanks, I'm glad you guys liked it."

Teru looked at Fujin and asked, "So Fujin, how did you manage to buy such a huge house? Aren't they expensive?"

Hoka added, "Yes. This house is bigger than my house. And Fujin lives alone here."

Fujin answered, "It wasn't very expensive as it is towards the outskirts of the village. Most of the money came from mission rewards."

Yori asked, "Mission rewards? I have been doing missions for a year longer than you. I have completed 19 rank B missions and still don't have that kind of money."

Fujin chuckled and said, "We did 3 rank A missions with our sensei."

Yori was riled up, "What? 3 Rank A missions? How? I haven't been to even one!"

Mieko laughed and teased him, "That's right Yori. And of those 3, we did 2 back-to-back."

Teru sighed and said, "You guys lucked out by getting Renjiro sama as your sensei. He's a badass!"

Yori snorted and said, "Who cares about that? I bet I can beat all 3 of you by myself."

That pissed Mieko off. She yelled, "Bastard! What did you say?"

Yori replied, "You heard me."

Mieko activated her Sharingan, stood up and said, "I'll take you on one on one right here!"

Yori also activated his Sharingan, stood up and said, "Try me. You aren't the only one with Sharingan."

Fujin thought, 'Oh, he activated his Sharingan too?'

Fujin coughed. Mieko and Yori looked at him. He said, "I just built this house. If either of you fights, I'm tossing you both out."

Both calmed down a bit. They didn't want to ruin a new house. The others chuckled at their reaction. Fujin grinned and said, "Besides, if you want to fight, then I have booked the training ground closest to here. Let's go and check Yori's claim there."

He thought, 'Why did I even bother buying board games? The best way to build a bond in this world is to fight! Well, other than using Talk-no-jutsu.'

Teru chuckled and asked, "You booked a training ground? Did you anticipate that Yori would start a fight?"

Fujin said, "Not really. I booked a training ground for a few months."

Hana was surprised. She asked, "A few months?"

Fujin said, "You guys use your clan grounds for training. I don't really have that option."

Teru said, "Still. A training ground for a month would cost around 75 thousand Ryo. That's almost worth 1 rank B mission. Are you sure you aren't secretly loaded Fujin?"

They began moving towards the training ground. Fujin said, "Well, I did win a few million Ryo by gambling some time back. So training ground costs aren't really an issue."

The group was surprised. Mieko furrowed her eyebrows and nagged, "Fujin, you are gambling? Have you been wasting your time and risking your money in gambling after our team was disbanded?"

Fujin was surprised. He stared back at Mieko. After a few seconds, he commented, "You are taking after your mother well."

Mieko's face immediately became red. She looked away.

Fujin said, "And no. I gambled before our team disbanded."

Hoka asked, "When?"

Fujin smiled and said, "During the chunin exams."

Hoka and Mieko took a few seconds to realize. Both their eyes widened as they looked at Fujin. They said, "You didn't!"

Fujin chuckled and didn't reply. Yori asked, "You didn't what?"

Hana realized it as well as she said, "You bet on yourself during the chunin exams?"

Fujin replied, "Bingo. I bet most of my money on myself."

Mieko cursed, "Asshole. We were participating in it too!"

Even Hoka was displeased.

Fujin chuckled and said, "Sorry. But it was kinda good money."

Both snorted.

Soon, they arrived at the training ground. Yori looked at the destruction around him and asked, "Did a hurricane pass through here?"

Fujin chuckled and said, "I guess you could say so. Anyways, how do you guys wanna fight? One-on-one or something else?"

Mieko said, "I'm kicking Yori's ass first!"

Yori snorted and replied, "I can beat all of you together!"

Fujin chuckled and said, "Alright. Let's have a battle Royale then. All 6 will fight and no one will form teams."

Teru said, "Oh, that sounds fun. When do we start?"

Hoka shouted, "NOW!"

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Chapter 158: Another Battle Royale

As soon as Hoka said yes, both he and Mieko attacked Fujin. However, Fujin flickered before they got close.

Teru, Yori and Hana moved behind to create a safe distance. They were surprised to see Mieko and Hoka attack their former teammate.

A scowl formed on Mieko's face. She complained, "Now he will keep hiding till we are done fighting!"

Teru asked, "What do you mean?"

Hoka was about to answer when everyone noticed something. Very strong winds were headed towards them.

Yori thought, 'Right. Fujin has an affinity to Wind nature. Wind is weak against Fire.'

He quickly made hand signs.

'Fire Release: Fireball jutsu'

Mieko and Hoka saw the fireball and flickered away. The Fireball hit the winds and was amplified and dispersed. Unfortunately, the winds carried these amplified flames back towards the group.

Yori was shocked. Hana and Teru escaped underground. Yori also tried escaping, but he was slow.

Fujin saw the flaming winds and smirked, 'As I expected, that moron blew fire into the winds.'

The jutsu he used was a powered-down variation of the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. It focused more on the wind flow rather than creating sharp winds. So the jutsu was pretty harmless despite its great momentum. At most, it could send someone flying for a few meters.

The flaming winds hit Yori. However, his resistance to fire was quite high. He wasn't injured much. Just some of his clothes caught fire, but he doused them quickly.

Unfortunately for him, Fujin wasn't his only opponent. His words were fresh in the minds of Hoka and Mieko. Both flickered and appeared next to him.

Yori's Sharingan noticed them flickering towards them. He immediately tossed shurikens at them. Mieko neutralized his shurikens with her own, while Hoka attacked from a range with Vacuum Palm.

At such a close distance, Yori couldn't dodge. The Vacuum Palm hit one of his chakra points and sealed it. It disoriented him. Hoka noticed the opportunity and attacked him again.

'Eight Trigrams: Sixteen Palms'

Yori tried struggling, but he was no match for Hoka's Taijutsu. Hoka sealed Yori's chakra points.

After getting his last hit, Hoka said, "You are out."

He placed his palm on Yori's chest and pushed him towards a tree.

However, at the same time, he heard, "So are you."

Teru appeared under Hoka and grabbed his legs.

"Earth Release: Headhunter jutsu"

Hoka was dragged underground, leaving only his head above the ground. Teru placed a kunai on his forehead.

Hoka cursed internally, 'Shit! I got distracted.'

He sighed and said, "I give up."

At the same time, Mieko launched shurikens at Teru. Teru immediately blocked them all with the kunai. They both began fighting.

Hana stayed away from Teru and Mieko and just observed them. Fujin too observed from a distance while thinking, 'Did they forget about me?'

His eyes wandered towards Hana. He commented, 'Eh, looks like I am not the only one who likes to wait till others are exhausted and injured. Unfortunately, there are no rewards for winning.'

'Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu'

Fujin flickered along with the wind. Hana, whose attention was majorly on Teru and Mieko, was also keeping an eye on Fujin. Though she didn't expect Fujin to move so quickly, she was prepared to face him. She attacked him with the gentle fist style.

The basic rule, while fighting against a Hyuga, is to keep a distance. But Fujin was interested in measuring his progress. So he engaged Hana in Taijutsu.

Hana's strikes were on point. But Fujin blocked all the attacks with ease. His speed was much faster than hers. He never allowed her fingers or palm to touch his body.

Hana was shocked, 'How much did he improve in just over a year? I can't even touch him!'

After blocking her continuously for a minute, Fujin concluded, 'In terms of Taijutsu, she isn't anywhere near Hoka's level.'

Not seeing any point in extending it any further, Fujin decided to attack. Hana attacked Fujin again, but he grabbed her wrist and threw her into the air. He exhaled a gentle but strong wind at her which sent her flying back towards a tree. She flipped in the air and landed on the tree on her feet.

Fujin said, "You have lost."

Hana had a complicated expression. She nodded. Fujin smiled and left towards Teru and Mieko.

Hana saw him leaving and thought, 'Though they didn't say anything, I am the only genin in this group. And I'm the weakest. I need to work hard or else I will never be at their level.'

Fujin guessed Hana's inner turmoil. After all, being the only one who wasn't promoted to a chunin would hurt. Especially considering that she was only eleven.

Mieko and Teru were engaged in a tough fight. Teru was superior in speed and Taijutsu. Even in ninjutsu, he had an edge with Earth and Water elements. But he had to be very careful about not looking into her eyes.

Suddenly, they heard, "You two didn't forget about me, did you?"

Immediately they looked towards Fujin. He was sitting on a branch. As soon as they saw him, Fujin exhaled strong winds towards them. Both made hand signs and escaped underground.

Fujin muttered, "While escaping underground is a good defense, it doesn't mean that you can abuse it without any consequences."

Fujin jumped off the branch. Chakra gathered on his fist. He punched the ground right above them.

Cracks formed on the ground. The impact of the punch could be felt underground. Teru felt the shockwaves and frowned. He wondered, 'Is Fujin good at Earth release as well?'

Teru made a few hand signs. The ground around him hardened. It protected him from the shockwaves. However, Mieko was hit.

She escaped above ground, only to have a kunai placed at the back of her neck. Fujin said, "You have lost."

A scowl formed on Mieko's face. She gave up unwillingly while complaining in her heart, 'I always manage to detect and neutralize sneak attacks in mission. Why do I fall to his sneak attacks every time?'

As soon as she gave up, spikes formed on the ground and launched at Fujin. Fujin instantly flickered out of the way. His eyes glowed as he watched Teru's location underground. More spikes and spears kept forming and launching at Fujin. Fujin dodged all.

He thought, 'While hiding underground isn't always good, if someone hides like a porcupine, then I don't have a 2nd way of dealing with them. Just Vacuum Bullet, but that might kill him. So not usable in this situation.'

Realizing that he was only wasting his chakra, Teru left the underground. He said, "You have grown strong Fujin. I didn't expect your Wind Release to improve so much."

Fujin replied, "So have you. I never thought you would develop a porcupine-like battle tactic."

Teru smirked. This battle tactic was very annoying. He enjoyed using it against Yori.

Fujin said, "Wanna end this the old way?"

Teru replied, "With our fists? Sure."

Both rushed towards each other. Their fists clashed. They followed up with a flurry of punches and kicks. Teru was stronger and faster than Hana. But Fujin was still faster and stronger than him. In a minute, Fujin landed 7 hits on Teru.

Fujin kicked at his chest. But Teru raised his forearms in defense. The kick landed on his forearms and sent him flying for a few meters. Fujin didn't pursue him. Teru flipped in the air and landed on his feet.

He complained, "Shit! What have you been eating?"

Fujin just grinned without replying.

Teru said, "I'll use my full power. Be careful, this is the Taijutsu of my clan."

Chakra began gathering around Teru's fists and feet. Fujin could see it clearly. He understood what Teru was up to. A smile crept on his face.

Teru didn't understand why Fujin was smiling. He sent a punch straight at Fujin's chest. Fujin formed a fist and gathered chakra in it. He punched Teru's fist.

Both the punches clashed. Teru's eyes widened in shock as he felt the strength in Fujin's punch. Fujin applied more force and sent him flying.

Teru flipped in the air once again and landed on his feet. But, this time he was sent flying for 25 meters. And he skidded backwards a few meters more.

He asked, "How do you know Senju Taijutsu Style?"

Fujin said, "Did you forget who my sensei is?"

Teru smiled bitterly, 'I didn't think he would teach it to someone outside the clan.'

Teru shook his right hand and said, "I give up. I can barely feel my right hand anymore."

Fujin said, "Yeah, mine kinda hurts too."

He thought, 'I should check whether Kakuzu's skin hardening jutsu is in the library. It might be a perfect combination with the Senju Taijutsu Style. Maybe I should discuss it with Renjiro.'

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Chapter 159: Questioning Life Choices

With the fight over, the other four gathered around Fujin and Teru. Mieko looked at Yori and taunted, "Yori, how does it feel to brag and get eliminated first?"

Yori argued back, "You guys cheated. The rules said no teams, but you two, no, you three cooperated to deal with me!"

Mieko scoffed, "Who said they could take all three of us by himself?"

Yori was about to argue more, but Teru said, "Drop it, Yori. There's no point in arguing."

Yori snorted and stayed quiet.

The group discussed for some time their jutsus, battle tactics and so on. After an hour, they dispersed.

Fujin went back to his home while thinking, 'Not bad, this went much better than I thought. I never thought we would spend most of our time talking about jutsus and tactics. Was surprisingly insightful.'

After reaching home, Fujin cleaned up the mess and waited for Genki to return. He made a shadow clone and sent it to the library. The aim was to find Kakuzu's skin-hardening jutsu and any other good jutsu available in the B section.

Sometime later, Genki arrived. His jaws dropped on seeing Fujin's house from the outside. He thought, 'What the hell? Why does he need such a huge house? And where did he get the money for this? Did he somehow convince Lord Hokage to give him another reward?'

He knocked on the door with his mind full of questions. Fujin opened the door immediately and welcomed him in.

Genki awkwardly said, "It looks like you are doing very well, Fujin."

Fujin didn't understand the context. So he just nodded and said, "Yes Sensei."

Genki sighed internally. He realized that Fujin didn't understand him.

Fujin asked, "Would you like to have something Sensei?"

Genki was surprised. He asked, "What do you have?"

Fujin answered, "Well, I have some snacks. And can cook a few pieces of Fried Chicken quickly."

Genki said, "Sure."

Fujin made a Shadow Clone who got to work.

Genki saw the clone and thought, 'He is using clones for this? Don't tell me he made such a huge house to accommodate his clones!'

Genki said, "While your clone cooks, tell me what all you have experienced after graduating Fujin."

Both sat down as Fujin began telling Genki most of the unimportant events. Genki listened carefully while asking questions or passing comments, compliments, and criticisms. They ate the fried chicken while discussing.

After they finished chatting, Genki asked, "Fujin, did Lord Hokage give this house to you as a reward?"

Fujin tilted his head and asked, "Does Lord Hokage give houses as rewards?"

He looked down and muttered softly, "Did I just get scammed? I should go and ask him!"

Genki heard that and freaked out! Given his past experiences, Genki was sure that Fujin would take his name and ask the Hokage to reimburse him. Heck, he might even ask for interest!

He quickly refused, "NO NO NO. Lord Hokage doesn't reward like this. I just asked because I was wondering how you could afford such a place."

Fujin understood and said, "Oh. We did back-to-back rank A missions. I killed some ninjas with a bounty during it."

Genki was surprised. He asked in disbelief, "Rank A missions?"

Fujin nodded and said, "Yup. Renjiro sensei took us with him."

Genki didn't say anything. He thought, 'Fujin and his squad already did rank A missions? They did rank A missions at an age when I was still in the academy. Heck, I did my first rank A mission after Fujin graduated!'

Genki had arrived here to motivate and encourage his student and inspire him a little bit. Instead, he began questioning his life choices and achievements.

He recalled how he introduced himself as an Elite Chunin to every class he taught. He recalled how he celebrated all night when he was promoted to Jounin. And now he found out that his students undertook missions at the same level of difficulty as him in just a year's time! And his student seemed to be doing financially better than him too!

Genki sighed in his heart thinking, 'When I taught the class, I always thought that I will feel pride when my students surpass me and have great achievements. I never imagined that I'd be depressed. In all those thoughts I was already old and my students were in their twenties.'

Fujin didn't understand why Genki was lost in thoughts. He said, "Unfortunately, the missions were classified. So I can't tell you the details, Sensei."

Genki replied, "It's fine. Anyways, rank A missions are very dangerous. It's fine when someone as strong as Renjiro leads. But don't try it without him."

Fujin nodded. Even with Renjiro, they almost died. Though it was likely that Renjiro's presence attracted Kakuzu.

Fujin asked, "Are you still teaching Sensei, or are you doing missions?"

Genki answered, "I was promoted to Jounin after you guys graduated. So I have been doing rank A missions."

Fujin's eyes brightened. He said, "Congrats Sensei!"

Genki smiled. Some of his pride returned. Though it was fated to be crushed again.

Fujin asked, "Can you invite me on Rank A missions, Sensei?"

Genki immediately refused, "No. They are too dangerous!"

He thought, 'What the hell? I thought he admired me. Instead, he just wants to take advantage of me! His greediness hasn't decreased one bit!'

Fujin said, "Come on Sensei! I can handle myself as long as I am not facing Jounins. And my Sensor skills and Wind nature manipulation provide the perfect support!"

However, Genki remained adamant, "No"

Fujin looked at Genki with a deadpan expression.

Genki thought, 'Why is he looking at me like this?'

He became a bit uncomfortable and asked, "What?"

Fujin said, "At least give a proper argument..."

Genki sighed and said, "I am a newly promoted Jounin. I am not our team leader. So I can't bring you along anyways."

Fujin thought for a bit, 'That is reasonable. Still...'

Fujin sighed and said, "Alright Sensei. But at least recommend my name if you need someone with a skillset like mine."

Genki finally nodded and said, "Alright. But don't keep your hopes too high."

Fujin smiled and nodded.

Genki gave Fujin some advice on how to take care of the house and left.

After he left, Fujin sighed, 'Playing host is too much work. Though it should be fine once in a while. Also, none of my guests today noticed the basement. Looks like this cover is good enough.'

Fujin created a shadow clone. It dispelled itself almost immediately. The memories of the clone were passed to the clone in the library. It dispelled itself.

Fujin received the memories and was surprised, 'Wow! I didn't think there was so much good stuff that I never checked! The jutsu Kakuzu used is called the Iron Skin jutsu. In addition, many Barrier jutsus are also placed in the B section. They will be good to have alongside my Fuinjutsu.

There is also the Summoning Jutsu: Rashomon! That would be another good defense to have. Though there is no triple or more layered Rashomon jutsus. Still, even without them, this is great.

Wild Lion's Mane Jutsu is another good one. It is the jutsu that Jiraiya used to extend and strengthen his hair. And Needle Jizo jutsu, based on this jutsu, is also there.

Actually, I can form a new defense system with Rashomon, Iron Skin and Lion's Mane jutsus. Combined with my high speed and intercepting or deterring attacks at mid-range with Wind Jutsus, injuring me will become very difficult.

Tobirama's Bringer of Darkness Genjutsu to target the Uchiha is present in the B section as well. Hmm, so 5 B rank jutsus that I will need to master. And might need some barrier jutsus as well. I will focus on these after I am done with my Lightning release.

Once I am done with all of them, I will try the summoning jutsu! With that good defense, I should be fine even if I encounter wild and ferocious summons who won't reason with anyone.'

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Chapter 160: Castle Defense

Fujin entered the lowest floor in the basement. He extended his palm and looked at it. Chakra began spinning in his palm taking a circular shape.

Fujin decided, 'It's been a long time since I practiced this jutsu. In fact, I haven't practiced it since I graduated from the academy!'

Fujin began practicing the Rasengan. With all the seals he inscribed, he was no longer worried about anyone seeing this. He was able to form the Rasengan properly, though it was a bit slower.

He continued his training using different methods. He initially tried decreasing the time needed to form it as much as he could. When he couldn't decrease it any further, he began trying to form the Rasengan while running.

After training for 2 days, Fujin managed to improve his control over Rasengan considerably. He was able to form a proper sphere. And he improved the speed of creating the Rasengan by a huge degree! He could now create a Rasengan in fractions of a second and while moving around freely and even while running on walls or ceilings.

A smile formed on Fujin's face as he watched the Rasengan. He thought, 'Great. Rasengan has been mastered to a sufficient degree! Though I should still test it out in mock battles. More importantly, I can

prepare for Rasenshuriken when I'm ready. That's an S rank jutsu that no living ninja would like to get hit by.'

Fujin played with the ball of chakra in his hand as he thought, 'That said, it's best to never use this jutsu. Aside from the trouble of explaining how I learnt this, there is also the issue of its effectiveness. A sword with wind chakra flow will be far more dangerous in most scenarios.'

The only time a Rasengan could be more effective is when I'm clashing head-on against another strong jutsu. But, considering the high-speed nature of my fights until now, such clashes are almost non-existent.

A giant Rasengan could be more effective, but it'll consume a lot of chakra. So again, it won't be worth it until I can find a way to significantly increase my chakra reserves.'

After observing the Rasengan properly, Fujin dispersed it and his clone and began training again. Since he already had formed a Rasengan properly, he was progressing rapidly.

Fujin's next mission with Tamotsu and the rest was uneventful once again. It was a protection mission again and they didn't even encounter any ninjas.

After the mission, Fujin returned to training in his basement. Around him, there were multiple metal mannequin dummies. He had bought them to test his jutsus.

Fujin created a Rasengan, stepped forward and smashed the Rasengan into a dummy.

The Rasengan sank into its abdomen creating a hole in it. Soon, it exploded and blasted the dummy, sending its pieces flying across the basement.

Fujin grinned, 'Excellent power! Now I need to test it in mock battles.'

Fujin made a hand sign and a Shadow Clone popped next to him. Both moved away from each other. Fujin began creating the Rasengan and charged at his clone at the same time. Meanwhile, the clone

attacked Fujin with wooden shurikens and Wind Explosion spheres to keep him away. And, it also moved away from him whenever Fujin managed to close the distance between them.

Fujin's goal was to hit his clone with the Rasengan without using any other jutsu or distractions. While the clone just tried to avoid getting hit.

After a day of intense training, Fujin was breathing heavily. He complained, 'What the heck? It's impossible to hit someone who is as fast as you to hit with the Rasengan! I chased after my clone the whole day without any success! Though my clone did use body flicker whenever I was about to succeed. I guess I should try performing Rasengan while flickering around. Otherwise, it will be hopeless.'

By the time he had to go for the next mission, Fujin could use the Rasengan while flickering in his basement. He had managed to hit his clone a few times. He was very happy with his progress.

Fujin met Tamotsu and the rest outside the Mission Center. Since he had mastered the Rasengan, his mood was quite good.

Sarutobi Tamotsu had just selected a mission. He said, "Since our last two missions didn't have much fighting, I have selected one where our opponents could be strong. Our mission is in the Land of Noodles. The Daimyo of that country received intel that some rogue ninjas are going to attack his castle. He is afraid that his current forces won't be able to stop them."

Inuzuka Tadashi grinned and said, "Now that sounds like a fun mission."

Fujin nodded and asked, "It does. But why is this mission only Rank B? I would assume that a threat to Daimyo would be classified as a Rank S mission."

Ryota said, "Could be multiple reasons. Like maybe the threat isn't that big."

Tamotsu added, "Or, the teams that undertake Rank A or S missions can deter those guys from attacking and they might postpone their attack until these teams leave."

Fujin said, "That makes sense. I didn't think that a Daimyo would be that brave."

Tamotsu chuckled and said, "Don't say that loud. Anyways, my guess is that Daimyo and his family have already escaped to a safe place. They probably left behind body doubles to trick their opponents into attacking the castle. Anyways, let's leave."

The group nodded and left immediately. After a day of travel, they reached their destination. The group observed the castle from a distance. It was a moderate-sized castle with a wall surrounding it.

Tadashi said, "So this is the castle that we have to defend."

Ryota said, "It isn't as big as I thought. Though it ain't a bad thing. At this size, we will be able to defend it properly."

Tamotsu asked, "Do you think you can make use of the walls Ryota?"

Ryota answered, "It's tough to say. Even if I could, it won't be much helpful against ninjas. At max, I can get a few surprise kills."

Tamotsu said, "Depending on our opponents, just that might be enough to give us an edge. Anyways, let's go."

They travelled quickly and reached the castle. Tamotsu handed the mission scroll to the gatekeeper and they were allowed to enter the castle.

As soon as they entered, a ninja flickered in front of them. He said, "Thank You for coming to protect us. I am Akera Sotan. I am responsible for the defense of this castle."

Tamotsu said, "I am Sarutobi Tamotsu. Let's enter the castle. You can brief us with all the details."

Sotan nodded and led the Konoha team to a room in the castle. Everyone took their seats.

Tamotsu said, "We didn't get much information in the mission statement. Can you tell me the exact details?"

Sotan nodded and said, "I can't give you the source of the information. But from what we know, we expect to be attacked by 18 rogue ninjas. Most of them will be at the Chunin level. We don't know who their leader is, but we expect him to be at the Jounin level as he is able to organize such an attack.

As for the defense, I am the only Jounin in the castle. So I will take on the enemy leader. We also have 12 chunins and 17 genins. So we are confident at defending. But we asked for help in case something outside our calculations happens and to decrease our casualties."

Fujin heard the details and his left eye twitched. He thought, 'This guy is considered a Jounin?'

Tamotsu nodded and inquired, "Do you know where those guys are located? We could launch preemptive attacks and cause them casualties."

Sotan replied, "No. We don't know their hideout. Also, the Daimyo wants us to kill every last one of them. If we attack their hideout, then many of them might manage to escape."

Tamotsu said, "Alright. Is the Daimyo still in the castle?"

Sotan didn't speak and just shook his head.

Tamotsu asked, "Do we have any idea when the attack will happen?"

Sotan answered, "No. I will arrange for you guys to live on the highest floor with Daimyo and his family. That floor also provides a good view of the surroundings. So you can keep an eye on any attackers. Of course, give priority to your rest as we need you guys at full readiness when the attack happens."

Sotan led them to the topmost floor. There were 3 rooms on this floor. There was also a small balcony on all sides equipped with Binoculars and other tools to assist in keeping a watch on the surroundings. One of these rooms had a few people who looked very scared. They were the body doubles of the Daimyo and his family.

Sotan explained the defenses and traps that they had set up and asked whether Tamotsu and his subordinates would like to set up more.

Tamotsu agreed and asked Ryota and Katsumi to add more traps. They both got to work. Tadashi volunteered to go scout the nearby areas. Tamotsu went to check out some stuff. Meanwhile, Fujin decided to laze on the top floor.

He thought, 'I was kinda excited, but this mission seems to be a bore too. If Sotan is considered a Jounin, then I could probably go and kill the entire enemy camp. Sigh, I guess only Rank A and S missions will be exciting.

Anyways, this country is known as the Land of Noodles. I wonder how good the noodles from here taste.'

Fujin left to find the cooks in the palace. The cooks and other common people weren't aware of the incoming attack. So they were relaxed. But they recognized the headband on Fujin's head and were very respectful to him despite his young age.

The head cook met Fujin and asked with a smile, "I am the chief cook here. How may I help you young one?"

Fujin replied, "Hello chief. I was wondering how good the noodles from this country are."

The chief cook's smile disappeared and he asked seriously, "Young man, are you underestimating the noodles from here?"

Fujin kept his smile and said, "Nope. I'm just a normal foodie. So give me your best."

The chief cook said, "We have 19 varieties of noodle dishes here. And all the 19 varieties are the best among any noodles."

Fujin said, "Oh, that's cool. I'll try all 19 varieties during my time here then."