

## Calamity 181

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 181: Blood can Heal???

Fujin, Mieko and Masaru were keeping the Jashinists busy. After his big jutsu, Zankoku didn't attack much. His Priests and Devotees were the ones who were counter-attacking.

Fujin kept flickering around the place. Seeing an opportunity, he flickered right behind the enemy lines and fired another round of Air Bullets. However, one of the Priests turned around and countered with Water Bullets without using any hand signs. Each of his Water Bullets hit Fujin's Air Bullets and neutralized them. In addition, another 4 Water Bullets were headed at Fujin.

Fujin fired a Vacuum Bullet at the Priest and flickered away. The Priest smirked and fired a Water Bullet to intercept the Vacuum Bullet. Both attacks clashed. The Priest's smirk died when he saw Fujin's attack piercing through his as if it was just air! He immediately moved to his side. The Vacuum Bullet missed him by just a few inches.

The Priest could feel the suction force of the vacuum bullet as it passed him. A servant was behind him in line. The Vacuum bullet pierced through his chest and left a hole in his right lung!

The Priest shouted, "Be careful of that boy's air bullets! They have a very high penetrative power!"

Fujin wasn't out of harm's way either. As soon as he flickered, his new position was pelted with shurikens and kunais by the Devotees. He had to flicker a few more times.

On the other side, Masaru and Mieko were fighting with the other Priest and his devotees. Both spammed the Phoenix Sage Fire jutsu but were stopped by Earth Walls raised by the devotees.

The Priest stayed behind his devotees while making hand signs.

'Lightning Release: Lightning Fingers Jutsu'

He pointed his fingers at Mieko and Masaru. Lightning Bolts were fired at high speeds at them!

Both dodged in a hurry. Some sparks hit Mieko causing the hair on her body to stand up. However, no harm was done.

At that moment, a few blood drops gathered at the tip of Zankoku's fingers. He waved his hands as if to throw the blood. Those blood drops moved at a very high speed at Fujin and the other two.

Fujin noticed it immediately. He immediately flickered and got out of the way. He formed two Vacuum Bullets in his mouth and fired them at Zankoku. Mieko and Masaru dodged as well. But their positions were attacked further by the other Priest. They had to keep dodging.

Zankoku dodged Fujin's Vacuum Bullets with ease. Fujin frowned, 'These guys are good. I guess these 2 are his strongest Priests. Winning against them won't be easy. Not to mention that this Grand Priest is definitely at least at Elite Jounin level. What is Akihiko doing?'

Akihiko, who was observing the situation, made the confrontation hand seal right when Zankoku dodged Fujin's attack. When he moved, he had come closer to three Devotees.

All of a sudden, 2 Devotees attacked the Priest who was keeping Fujin at bay. They grabbed their kunais and attacked the Priest's back!

At the same time, the 2 Devotees with the Earth Element attacked the Priest who specialized in Lightning Release. The Devotees slammed their hands on the ground and the Priest was attacked by multiple stone spears!

As for Zankoku, the three Devotees around him immediately rushed towards him.

Fujin noticed this situation and was surprised. He thought, 'What the heck did these Uchiha Jounins do exactly? How can they control so many chunin-level ninjas so perfectly? First 3 in the cave, and now these 7 despite it being more than just a few minutes since they cast the Genjutsu. I don't recall any ninja being controlled in this way in the original series. Except maybe the 4th Mizukage. Still, Obito had the Mangekyou...'

Fujin's thoughts were cut short as he was surprised by what he was witnessing.

A water wall appeared behind the priest that he had engaged earlier. The kunais of his devotees were blocked. He made a hand sign and water spears appeared from the wall and impaled his devotees.

The Priest with the Lightning element jumped out of the way. He fired two lightning beams that pierced through the heads of the devotees that attacked him.

Blood appeared on the fingerprints of Zankoku. He smiled as he launched them at the three devotees surrounding him. Three drops pierced through each of their chests. They coughed some blood.

Unlike Fujin and Mieko's surprise, Akihiko and Masaru weren't surprised at all. Akihiko analyzed, 'We already got one Jounin by this tactic. The others will keep their guard up. Anyways, their lower-level fighting force is pretty much wiped out. It's still our advantage. Besides...'

The four Devotees who attacked the Priests died. However, the three Devotees who attacked Zankoku were still alive. They all made a hand sign. A dozen explosion tags appeared on their bodies. Their eyes went red as they made them explode at the same instance!

Zankoku, who was grinning at how easily he thwarted the Uchihas' tactic, was surprised. He yelled, "Fuck!"

A thin layer of blood began forming on his body. The explosions went off. The bodies of the Devotees were decimated. The explosion ripped through the thin blood layer and hit Zankoku's body with full force.

The two Priests, the remaining Servants and the lone devotee were shocked. They yelled, "Zankoku-sama!!!"

Akihiko and Masaru smirked as they thought, 'It's over!'

With the leader dealt with, they only had to deal with the two Priests. Defeating them wouldn't be much of a challenge.

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'The Sharingan definitely has a lot more depth to it. I didn't think I'd reach such a conclusion despite knowing about Izanagi, Izanami and the crazy things Mangekyou can do.'

Fujin looked at the two Priests and wondered if he could sneak attack them. He sighed, 'Unfortunately, despite the shock, they are still at full alert. I guess catching a Jounin off guard in battle won't be possible.'

The smoke of the explosion finally cleared away. Zankoku was still standing on his two feet. However, all his clothes were destroyed. His flesh had burn marks all over his body. His right eye had been destroyed by the blast. A lot of his blood had spilt on the ground around him.

Fujin shot a Vacuum Bullet at him as he thought, 'He is still standing. Have to ensure that he is dead. After all, who knows what crazy abilities these Jashinists have!'

Surprisingly, Zankoku saw his attack and moved out of the way. Soon, the blood on the ground rose and covered him, forming a cocoon-like structure around him! The Konoha ninjas were shocked. Not wanting to see anything crazy, Fujin shot multiple Air Bullets at him. However, his attack was intercepted by Water Bullets once again!

Mieko and Masaru too tried attacking, but they were intercepted as well. Akihiko decided to not attack impulsively and kept his eye on Zankoku.

In a few seconds, Zankoku stepped out from the blood cocoon. However, when he did, all the Konoha ninjas were shocked! Akihiko muttered, "How? Even the best Medical Ninja doesn't have this efficiency!"

Zankoku's wounds were all healed. Only horrible scars were remaining on his body. The only wound that still could be seen was his eye. It wasn't healed.

Fujin wondered, 'Was he healed by Jashin's blessings? Or is it due to his blood jutsu? After all, he hasn't completed the ritual to gain Jashin's blessings, right? If this healing is only due to blood jutsu and not due to Jashin, then it would be a very important jutsu to learn. Though it leaves scars on the body, I don't mind them. After all, what use is looking good if I am not even alive?'

Zankoku looked viciously at the Konoha ninjas. He said, "Kill everybody!"

The Jashinists were excited at his order. However, suddenly, the Priests and Zankoku attacked the remaining Devotee and Servants. All were killed off.

The Konoha ninjas were caught off guard by this development. Akihiko thought, 'Oh well, saves us the effort. Now we have the numerical advantage!'

Zankoku said, "Now no one will backstab us. You two, don't look into those red eyes. Else I will have to kill you too."

The Priests nodded and said, "Don't worry. We know how to deal with the Uchihas."

Akihiko flickered behind Fujin and said, "You and Mieko take care of the Lightning user. Your Wind manipulation should have an advantage."

Fujin nodded. Both he and Akihiko flickered next to Mieko and Masaru. Akihiko said, "Masaru, you take care of the Water specialist. Mieko, aid Fujin against the Lightning specialist. Leave the main enemy to me."

Both nodded.

Mieko stepped next to Fujin and said with a grin on her face, "Time to kill our first Jounin."

Fujin smirked and replied, "Your first Jounin kill."

Mieko looked at Fujin and exclaimed, "You already killed one?"

Akihiko interrupted them and said sternly, "Pay attention, they are making a move!"

They stopped speaking and focused entirely on their enemy.

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Chapter 182: Fierce Clash in the Grasslands!

The two Priests weaved hand signs quickly.

'Water Release: Waterfall Jutsu'

'Lightning Release: False Darkness Jutsu'

One of the Priests expelled a huge amount of water at the Konoha ninjas. It formed a huge wave and headed towards the Konoha ninjas. The other fired his Lightning jutsu into the Water, electrifying it.

A smile formed on Fujin's face, 'This isn't like that Noodle Thief. These guys are strong.'

Fujin gathered a huge amount of chakra. For the first time in a long while, he showed off his entire chakra. The sudden spike in his chakra gained the attention of the Uchihas around him. They were about to do multiple flickers when they felt Fujin's chakra spiking.

Mieko looked at him and wondered, 'When did his chakra grow so much? It is almost as high as some of the Jounins in my clan.'

Akihiko and Masaru were shocked as well. They both thought, 'What chakra! It's almost as if he is from the Senju or Uzumaki clan!'

Akihiko thought, 'If he doesn't get involved in the coup, then his future will be very bright.'

While Masaru thought, 'Shit, his chakra level isn't far away from my own level!'

Fujin rapidly converted his chakra into the wind element.

'Wind Release: Infinite Breakthrough Jutsu'

He exhaled a huge wind. It hit the incoming electrocuted water wave. The high-speed winds halted the water wave. It pierced into the wave and neutralized the electric charges within it. However, the water wave also absorbed the winds and didn't allow them to move towards the Jashinists.

Both jutsus neutralized each other. The water fell down on the ground and spread slowly in all directions. Fujin's jutsu also raised a huge dust cover over the battlefield.

Seeing the opportunity, Fujin began forming a couple of Vacuum Bullets. He could sense their positions accurately. He was about to shoot out the Vacuum bullets when his eyes widened! He and the Uchihas immediately flickered away.

A fraction of a second after they flickered, dozens of blood drops passed through their previous location at a very fast speed! Fujin frowned, 'Shit! That bastard used the same tactic! And was faster than me too!'

Zankoku had the same idea as Fujin. He too used the chaos created by the two wide-range jutsus to sneak attack. Unfortunately, all the Konoha ninjas had very good senses. So his sneak attack didn't have any effect.

After flickering, Masaru weaved hand signs and slammed his hands on the ground.

'Earth Release: Ground Splitting Jutsu'

The ground in between them began cracking. As a result, all the water due to the earlier jutsu began draining into the ground. Fujin observed it and thought, 'Nice. Fighting a Lightning user over water would have been annoying.'

As soon as the water began draining, Akihiko weaved hand signs.

'Earth Release: Earth Flow Spears Jutsu'

Masaru's jutsu had loosened up the ground. Akihiko took advantage of it. Hundreds of stone spears began appearing on the ground. In an instant, they were launched at the Jashinists.

The faces of the Jashinists became grim. They realized, 'First that massive Wind Jutsu. Now back to back large-scale Earth jutsus. These guys aren't weak!'

Blood immediately began gathering around Zankoku.

At the same time, one of the Priests weaved hand signs and extended his arms forward.

'Lightning Release: Static Wave Jutsu'

A lightning current was released from his palms in all directions forming a net. The incoming stone spears hit it. Almost all the stone spears crumbled. The rest slowed down. The Priest smirked, 'Earth jutsus are very weak against Lightning.'

However, the debris was still headed towards the Jashinists. But, a blood dome formed around the Jashinists. The stones and pebbles were about to hit the dome when hundreds of needle-shaped blood drops were launched in all directions from the dome. They pierced through the stones spears and debris, reducing or halting their momentum as well as attacking the Konoha ninjas.

The Konoha ninjas dodged once again. Fujin, who had to stop creating Vacuum Bullets once again, frowned. He thought, 'Shit! This bastard keeps attacking even while defending. It restricts my ability to use sneak attacks successfully!'

Mieko noticed Fujin's frown and commented with a smirk, "Now you know how I and Hoka feel while fighting you."

Fujin replied, "Pass smart comments later. Any idea how to deal with them? I'm afraid we will run out of chakra faster than that bloody priest!"



Even before Fujin completed his statement, both Akihiko and Masaru flickered towards the blood dome. While moving, they tapped a scroll holding pocket on their jacket and retrieved a scroll each. At the same moment, both weaved the same hand signs.

'Fire Release: Exploding Flame Formation'

They opened the scroll. The scroll transformed into hundreds of Explosive Tags with Fire Release Technique which were launched at the Blood Dome in the blink of an eye. The explosive tags began exploding as soon as they hit the dome. The explosions released a huge amount of fire that wrecked the dome and allowed the remaining explosive tags to enter the dome.

Fujin saw the damage and wondered, 'Is this a variation of Tobirama's jutsu? I wonder what Tobirama would think if Uchihas are so good with a Jutsu he created. That said, he did have an Uchiha student.'

The Jashnists immediately moved backwards. However, Akihiko and Masaru controlled the explosive tags and aimed at them. They aimed the explosive tags such that they would have to separate from each other. The explosions forced them even further from each other.

Fujin and Mieko were watching them carefully. As soon as their target was separated from the other two Jashinists, Fujin flickered in front of him. The Priest was surprised to see him. He was about to attack when Fujin blew very strong winds straight at him. Facing such a wide-range jutsu at such a close range meant that the Priest couldn't dodge the attack.

The winds hit him head-on and sent him flying and rolling backwards for more than a hundred meters! Multiple cuts appeared on the body of the Priest. In addition, getting dragged along the ground caused him even more minor wounds. Despite the wounds, the Priest got in a fighting stance right away!

However, his opponent wasn't just Fujin. As soon as he got up his position was showered by Shurikens. The Priest immediately moved, but Mieko flickered in front of him.

'Fire Release: Great Fireball Jutsu'

The Priest saw a giant Fireball heading towards him. He frowned, 'These kids are relentless. I need to take the initiative back!'

He quickly made hand signs.

'Lightning Release: False Darkness Jutsu'

He fired a Lightning Spear at the incoming Fireball. The Lightning Spear pierced through the center of the Fireball and dispersed it. However, the Priest had no time to celebrate. Mieko was no longer behind the Fireball and Fujin had appeared right next to him and was swinging his sword at him.

The Priest stepped behind and pulled out a black colored retractable spear. It was a spear he used during rituals. As he moved it to block Fujin's sword, Lightning began flowing through it. The Sword and the spear clashed!

The Priest was expecting Fujin to be electrocuted. However, his eyes widened as he saw Fujin's sword cut through his spear. Realizing the danger, the Priest leaned backwards. Displaying excellent flexibility, the Priest almost leaned parallel to the ground by bending at his knees and leaning backwards completely. Fujin's sword slash went from above him. Even the winds alongside the slash didn't hit the Priest due to how well the Priest moved! A sword slash cut through the grass for over a hundred meters without hurting anyone.

As soon as the sword slash passed, the Priest kicked at Fujin. Fujin, who was planning to bring his sword down, kicked his leg. Not wanting to face his sword in close range, the Priest used the force of Fujin's kick to fly backwards. Fujin followed his kick with a vertical slash with his sword at his opponent who was still in the air.

Seeing the attack, the Priest dug the half-cut spear into the ground and used it as a base to move out of the line of attack. Mieko, who was watching his every movement with her Sharingans, realized the direction where he would be dodging. She launched multiple kunais with explosive tags at the place where he would land.

However, the Priest noticed the attack and extended his arms at them. Lightning sparks were released from his palms. They hit the explosive tags and disarmed them. They also slowed down the kunais and just side-stepped them.

Fujin and Mieko were about to press on the attack once again but they halted after seeing their enemy's actions. Lightning had once again gathered in the palms of the Priest without any hand signs. He slammed his hands on the ground. Lightning was discharged in a radius of 25 meters around him!

Mieko immediately flickered behind Fujin who casually swung his sword and sent out a wind wave that neutralized the Lightning discharge heading around him.

The Priest looked at his two opponents and took a deep breath. At last, he had broken their initiative! He said, "This one never expected that he would be pushed so much by little kids like you. Lord Jashin would be very pleased when this one sacrifices you to him."

Fujin and Mieko's eyes twitched as they thought, 'This one? Who the hell speaks like that?'

However, without replying, both Fujin and Mieko pressed on the attack once again. The Priest, who had just found some respite, was once again in a tough situation!

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Chapter 183: Akihiko Vs Zankoku

Fujin and Mieko both had spent a lot of their chakra due to the jutsus they used earlier. So they attacked the Priest with Kenjutsu and Taijutsu. Due to the threat of Fujin's sword and Mieko's Sharingan, the Priest was having a tough time. Despite the advantages, Fujin or Mieko didn't manage to land any hits on him.

However, the Priest couldn't help but complain in his mind, 'What the fuck does Konoha teach in their academy? I spoke in such a hilarious tone. And I provoked them. But they kept attacking me without a single emotion on their face! I expected these brats to say at least something to give me some time to catch my breath and attack first!'

Some distance away from them, Akihiko and Masaru too had entered into fights. They successfully separated all the Jashinists. Akihiko took on Zankoku while Masaru took on the remaining Priest.

As soon as he was far away from Zankoku, Masaru attacked the Priest. He flickered in front of him and launched a fireball at him. However, the Priest created a Water Wall to defend himself and counter-attacked with sharp jets of water.

Masaru dodged while closing in on the distance between them. The Priest frowned while moving backwards as he thought, 'He is strong! I can't get into a Taijutsu fight with an Uchiha. And I have to avoid looking into his eyes. So annoying. I hope Zankoku-sama wins quickly and comes to aid me.'

As the Priest decided to stall and fight defensively, the fight entered into a stalemate. The Priest's Water jutsus completely shut down Masaru's Fire jutsus. Though Masaru resorted to Earth jutsus, they didn't have much effect on the Priest.

Some distance from them, Akihiko and Zankoku faced each other. Like all Uchihas, Akihiko launched a huge Fireball at his enemy. He launched shurikens into his fireball to double up. Zankoku waved his arm. A blood wall appeared in the path of the Fireball.

The fireball hit the blood wall and exploded. Though the explosion didn't reach Zankoku, it cleared the path for the shurikens. Zankoku's attention was entirely on Akihiko. So he didn't notice the shurikens until they were very close. He immediately moved out of the way, but a few shurikens left cuts on him.

Without giving him any respite, Akihiko pressed on the attack. He flickered in front of him and attacked with a tanto. Zankoku grabbed a retractable spear and used it to block the tanto. While he blocked, Akihiko's sharingans noticed the cut wounds on his body closing by themselves. He kept attacking, however, his expression grew grim.

Akihiko analyzed, 'His self-healing is off the charts! The only one I have heard about having such healing is the First Hokage. But how can this lunatic have such a healing ability? And what are its limits? If he can heal non-stop, then it wouldn't matter how many times we hit him. He will still keep healing.'

Zankoku looked at Akihiko's face and guessed his thoughts. He smirked and said, "That's right. No matter how many times you wound me, I will always heal. Your whole squad is doomed to die at my hand..."

He suddenly stopped speaking and stood still. Akihiko smirked, 'It doesn't matter how much you can heal. Once you look in the eyes of an Uchiha, it's all over!'

While he was speaking, Zankoku looked into Akihiko's eyes. Akihiko didn't waste the opportunity and cast a Sharingan Genjutsu instantly. Akihiko stepped forward while thinking, 'Now let me see if you can heal yourself after being beheaded.'

He raised his arm and swung his tanto at Zankoku's neck. However, all of a sudden, Zankoku attacked. He swung his spear with all his might. Akihiko's sharingans noticed the movements and he immediately jumped backward. However, he couldn't dodge completely. The spear hit his right shoulder and left a deep cut up to his abdomen. He began bleeding profusely!

A sadistic grin appeared on Zankoku's face. In order to not alert Akihiko, he used no chakra in that attack. That is why Akihiko was caught off-guard.

Akihiko quickly moved back while inspecting his injury. He looked at Zankoku and asked, "How did you break my Genjutsu?"

Zankoku grinned and said, "I have been blessed by Lord Jashin! Do you think your pathetic eyes will be able to cast a Genjutsu on someone blessed by Lord Jashin?"

While he was speaking, Akihiko analyzed, 'While the cut is deep, he only managed to cut my flesh. None of my organs is hit. However, it hurts to move my right arm. I won't be able to fight with my right arm with my full strength or speed. What a shit situation to be in...'

Akihiko narrowed his eyes and replied, "The ones who worship Jashin can't be put under a genjutsu? Bullshit, I slaughtered all your forces with my Genjutsu."

Zankoku didn't reply and began attacking. He noticed that his words didn't have any demoralizing effect on Akihiko. Instead, Akihiko was just taking the opportunity to rest and stall for time.

Akihiko fought back while cursing in his mind, 'So he heals his wounds and is immune to Genjutsu. How the fuck should I fight him?'

The two engaged in an intense Taijutsu and Kenjutsu battle. Zankoku held the advantage, but Akihiko managed to hang on and didn't take any more damage. Seeing him not making any headways, Zankoku controlled his blood and attacked Akihiko with a blood needle rain once again!

Akihiko quickly flickered away while making hand signs.

'Fire Release: Fire Dragon jutsu'

A huge 50-meter-long fire dragon was formed. It headed straight at Zankoku. Zankoku once again defended himself with a blood dome. The Dragon hit the dome and exploded, but no harm was done to Zankoku.

While Zankoku was defending, Akihiko made hand signs and placed his left palm in front of the cut. A gentle chakra was released from his palm and he began healing the wound. He immediately stopped the bleeding. He wanted to heal more, but he was once again attacked. He stopped using Mystical Palm jutsu and defended himself.

As he defended, Akihiko analyzed, 'I can't defeat him. Though I know more jutsus, the blood he controls is very versatile. And his chakra is higher than mine as well. I guess I should just stall. Defeating him without Sora's Fuinjutsu wouldn't be possible.'

Seeing that he couldn't win, Akihiko fought with the intent of only stalling. Zankoku attacked very aggressively, but he couldn't get through Akihiko's defense again. He also tried to get away from Akihiko without any success.

The entire battlefield turned into a stalemate. Whoever won first would turn the scales in their favor.

Mieko and Fujin were extremely annoyed. They held the advantage for the majority of the time. And yet, they didn't manage to land a single hit on their opponent. And while Renjiro's training had taught them to ignore all enemy's words, his constant taunts and slurs were getting on their nerves.

Having fended off the latest round of attacks, the Priest said, "This one was born in the Land of Lightning. When this one fought in the Great Ninja wars, your parents hadn't even fucked each other! Run back to your academy, runts."

Finally, Mieko couldn't control her mouth. She attacked while yelling, "By the time I am done with you, you won't be capable of fucking anyone!"

The Priest blocked her kunai and dodged Fujin's sword and replied, "I serve Lord Jashin. I haven't fucked anyone for over a decade."

Fujin glanced at Mieko. He thought, 'She is about to lose her cool.'

He looked at his opponent and thought, 'I haven't engaged much in trash-talking. I should consider adding it to my skills. I can think of a bunch of strong opponents who would go berserk with a good trash talk.'

Not wanting Mieko to lose her control, Fujin commented casually, "I heard that you Jashinists have to sacrifice to your dumb god. Don't tell me that you have to sacrifice your private parts in order to be inducted into your little cult."

Mieko was surprised by Fujin's words. She wondered, 'When did he become so foul-mouthed?'

Even the Priest watched Fujin with surprise. He said, "Of course not, we have to con..."

Fujin interrupted him and said, "Considering that you are so proud about sacrificing them, I guess that they were very pathetic."

The Priest immediately yelled, "You little br...!"

However, Fujin instantly flickered in front of him and slashed with his sword horizontally! The Priest immediately moved backward and jumped out of the path of Fujin's attack. Seeing that his opponent was in the air, Fujin fired a dozen Air bullets at him. While attacking, he thought, 'What a pro! Even his anger was fake.'

The Priest immediately weaved a couple of hand signs and extended both his arms forward. Lightning arcs appeared between his palms.

'Lightning Release: Lightning Beam jutsu'

The Priest fired a Lightning Beam straight at Fujin. The beam was very wide and completely covered the priest. All the Air Bullets crashed into the beam. They hindered the lightning beam slightly, but couldn't pierce through.

Fujin watched the Lightning Beam coming at him. He didn't move. He focused chakra in his throat and converted it into Wind. When the beam was just a meter away from him, he opened his mouth and fired a Vacuum Bullet.

However, unlike Fujin's earlier Vacuum Bullets, this one was huge. It would be more appropriate to call it a Vacuum Cannon instead! It pierced straight through the center of the enemy's lightning beam and dispersed most of it.

The Priest was shocked. He tried to use the force of his own jutsu to move out of the way while in the air. Mieko was surprised as well. Launching an attack in such a way meant that Fujin won't be able to dodge. However, realizing the risk Fujin took, Mieko flickered close to the Priest to attack him.

It looked like this fight would finally have a result soon.

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Chapter 184: A Close Call

The recoil from his jutsu helped the Priest move away from the line of Fujin's attack. However, it wasn't enough. The Vacuum Cannon grazed the right side of the Priest's abdomen and tore a huge chunk of it! His wound began bleeding immediately. His liver and intestines were damaged.

At the same time, whatever remained of the Lightning Beam rained down on Fujin. Fujin extended his left arm forward to block it. All the lightning charges hit his left arm and Lightning flowed through his body.

Fujin endured while thinking, 'Not bad. Due to my training in the lightning element, this attack doesn't feel much. Though if I took the entire beam head-on, it would have hurt. Anyways, I now see why Renjiro emphasized the importance of undertaking missions. Though deciding to counterattack was risky, the danger allowed me to perform my jutsu even faster.



I wanted to create a Wind Vacuum Beam. The center of the beam would be made of vacuum. It would be only a few micrometers wide but would be very long as it would have to extend across the entire length of the beam. Instead, I managed to create a much stronger Vacuum Bullet. I will call it Vacuum Cannon after I train it properly. Though the result wasn't what I envisioned, it is still a very good improvement.'

While Fujin was enduring the electric shocks, Mieko flickered next to the Priest while weaving hand signs.

'Fire Release: Phoenix Sage Fire jutsu'

She Fired 6 small fireballs at the Priest. 2 of these were headed at him while the other 4 cut off his escape routes. The Priest, who had just suffered a huge injury, now had to face another attack. She smirked, 'It's over.'

Unfortunately for Mieko, her calculations were horribly wrong! Humiliated at being injured to this extent, the Priest entered into a frenzy. His eyes turned reddish as he exerted all his chakra. A high amount of Lightning gathered on his palms. He screamed in rage as he attacked his surroundings indiscriminately. The Lightning hit the fireballs and deflected or dispersed them. The grass around him was hit and it caught fire.

Mieko was very close to him and was in range as well. She tried to flicker but wasn't fast enough. Lightning bolts hit her and made her scream in pain. The lightning electrocuted her and left multiple burns on her body. She fell to the ground in pain and was unable to control her body properly.

Seeing that his opponent was vulnerable, the Priest grinned. He immediately moved towards Miekeo while pulling out another retractable spear and making lightning flow through it. Fujin's expression grew grim. He had just finished enduring the previous attack. He flickered instantly.

While Fujin, Miekeo and Akihiko were engaged in intense battles, Masaru was under no threat. His opponent acted like a turtle and defended everything Masaru threw at him without counterattacking.

A water wall was erected in front of the Priest. On the opposite side, a dozen explosive tags exploded. The wall collapsed but the Priest was unharmed. Masaru had a frown on his face. He cursed in his mind, 'Not only does this bastard defend well, but he also does so without even looking at me.'

The Priest was relaxed when he suddenly sensed danger. He immediately jumped up while weaving hand signs. Half a second after he jumped, a fire dragon erupted from the ground and moved straight at him. The Priest completed his hand signs.

'Water Release: Water Prison jutsu'

A water prison formed around him. The Fire Dragon hit the prison and exploded, but the Priest was safe. However, his expression wasn't good. He analyzed, 'Who attacked me from there? Did he create a clone sneakily or is it someone else?'

He prayed that it wasn't the 2nd scenario. If Zankoku or the other Priest was defeated, then his death would be only a matter of time.

Right after the Fire Dragon exploded, a dozen kunai with explosive tags were launched from the ground at the Water Prison. At the same time, Masaru flickered and tossed more explosive tags at the water prison. Under the intense attack, the water prison crumbled. However, the Priest jumped out of harm's way.

Masaru followed him and attacked him with kunai. Not wanting to risk looking into his eyes, the Priest moved away from him while looking at his feet. Surprisingly, he saw the Sharingan eyes on the ground in front of his feet. In an instant, he fell into a genjutsu. At the very next moment, a kunai stabbed into his skull through his eye.

Masaru smirked as a figure appeared from the ground. He said, "If he avoids looking into two Sharingans, we can just use 4. The enemy will succumb eventually. Great job Genji. Is Shunko safe?"

The person who had just interfered in the fight was Genji who had earlier taken Shunko away.

Genji nodded and said, "I healed his wounds as best as I could and left a shadow clone with him. He isn't in any mortal danger. Though we can't expect him to join the fight and might have to carry him on the way back."

Masaru replied. "Great work. I will go and aid Akihiko. You aid the two kids. They are fighting above their weight class."

Genji was surprised to hear that Mieko and Fujin were fighting against a Priest by themselves. He had observed Masaru's fight and had realized that the Priest he was facing was stronger than him. He nodded and quickly moved towards them.

Mieko was in a state of shock. She had seen Fujin's attack wound their enemy critically. She pressed on with the intention to finish the fight, but the tables were turned in the blink of an eye. A lot of her skin was burnt due to the lightning shocks. Her body couldn't move properly. And her Sharingan saw the Priest running towards her like a savage.

She desperately tried to get her body to move but to no avail. The Priest reached her and raised his spear up and slashed it down at full power. Terror spread through her mind as she realized that her life could end. Memories flashed through her mind. She thought about her mother, her father, her childhood friends, her relatives, her sensei, Hoka and Fujin.

At that very instant, Fujin appeared in front of her and slashed his sword at the spear. Mieko's eyes shined as she watched Fujin. The Priest also noticed him and the grin on his face grew wider. The two weapons clashed. Fujin expected his sword to cut through the spear once again, but unexpectedly, it didn't.

The Priest yelled loudly and exerted all the force he could on the spear as he thought, 'I knew this kid would jump in front of her. Even though these kids are ruthless, the Konoha ninjas are all softies. If they were from Kumo or Kiri, I would have worried about the other cutting my head while I cut their teammate's head. But with Konoha, the possibility of such an action is minuscule. So I have poured all my remaining chakra into this spear. The victory or defeat would be decided with this one attack. With one swing, I'll kill them both!'

Fujin realized that his opponent had focused all his chakra on the spear. The force that the Priest exerted began to push Fujin's feet backwards. But suddenly, Fujin controlled and focused his chakra. Some chakra gathered on his soles to stabilize his position. He was no longer being pushed behind. However, compared to his feet, a lot more chakra flowed through his sword. He pushed back with his full power.

A crack appeared on the Spear. The Priest's eyes widened as he saw his spear being cut into two once again. He watched as the sword continued ahead. He tried to move, but his body was too exhausted to

respond in time. The sword reached him and severed his neck. His severed head had a look of disbelief as he watched Fujin. His last thoughts were, 'To think that I would die at the hands of a kid...'

The last Priest under Zankoku was killed.

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Chapter 185: Evolution

Mieko watched the Priest's head fly in the sky. Her body and mind finally relaxed. For the first time in her life, she was genuinely grateful to someone.

Genji reached this battlefield to see Fujin cut his opponent's head off. His eyes noticed Fujin's chakra flare at the last moment and left him astounded. Fujin sensed someone rushing towards him and immediately looked at Genji. Seeing that it was an ally, Fujin relaxed.

He turned his attention to Mieko in order to check her injuries. However, he suddenly stopped. A surprise could be seen on his face. Genji flickered next to him and looked at Mieko. His expression grew grim on seeing her injuries, but suddenly shock could be seen on his face. Mieko didn't understand why Fujin and Genji were looking at her like this.

Soon, a huge smile broke on Genji's face. He exclaimed in excitement, "Mieko, your Sharingans have evolved into 2-tomoe Sharingans!"

Mieko was shocked to hear that. After a moment, the shock passed and excitement rushed in. She tried moving but the pain brought her back to Earth. Seeing her grimacing in pain, Genji said, "Don't move, I will heal you as much as I can first."

He began using Mystical Palm jutsu to treat the burns on her body.

Fujin observed them as he thought, 'I thought I had huge gains from the fight. But mine don't even compare to hers! That Sharingan is a huge cheat. Though to be fair, my life wasn't at risk. Even if my jutsu had failed, I was confident about surviving that attack without affecting my ability to fight. On the other hand, her life probably flashed in front of her eyes.'

Fujin turned his attention to his dead opponent as he analyzed, 'This guy was very good. His every move was a scheme. And he managed to reset initiative and flip the table multiple times. My attack should have finished him off and yet he managed to reverse the situation. If I didn't know chakra flow or if my chakra reserves were close to empty, he would have managed to kill us both.'

Even assuming that I didn't make a move or was slow, Mieko would have died. Perhaps in that case he wouldn't have exerted all his chakra in that attack. Either way, he perfectly calculated or guessed our moves and made the right plan.

More importantly, I shouldn't underestimate someone just because they are critically injured. Even though no one will go off like Deidara, the final struggle can be very tricky. Especially when dealing with veteran Jounins.'

He focused back on Mieko and observed Genji's jutsu without disturbing him. Genji was slowly healing the burn marks on her body. Fujin realized, 'He doesn't seem to be very good with Medical ninjutsu.'

Genji noticed that Fujin was observing him. Without taking his eyes off Mieko, he said, "Don't worry, I'll take care of her. If you can still fight, you can go help out Akihiko and Masaru. They are fighting against the Grand Priest."

Fujin asked, "So Masaru won his fight?"

Genji nodded.

Fujin looked in the direction that Akihiko, Masaru and Zankoku were fighting. He could feel that an intense battle was happening there. He said, "I am very low on chakra. I won't be able to help much in the fight. And seeing the way he controls blood, I could be a burden instead."

Genji was disappointed with that answer. However, he said, "Alright. Look after Mieko after I am done healing her."

Fujin replied, "I will."

Genji stopped talking. After a minute, Fujin asked, "Are you a medical ninja, Genji-san?"

Genji answered, "No. I just copied the Mystical Palm jutsu and practiced it for a bit."

Fujin replied, "I see."

He thought, 'As I thought. I guess most of the Uchihis have copied this jutsu. After all, it should be very convenient to heal yourself and your teammates without having to depend on a medical ninja that can't fight or defend well.'

Just like Genji, Masaru rushed towards Akihiko's battlefield. He went sneakily and hid in the tall grass as he observed the fight. His eyes widened as he saw Akihiko's condition. A huge scar was visible on his right chest. His jacket was dyed red by blood! A frown formed on his face, 'How is Akihiko struggling so much? Is the opponent so skilled that he can dominate him while needing to avoid looking into his eyes?'

As he was analyzing, he suddenly realized something, 'Wait a minute, he is directly looking at Akihiko. He isn't avoiding the Sharingan at all. But why isn't Akihiko casting Genjutsu?'

He thought hard and concluded, 'The only possibility I can think of is that Genjutsu doesn't work on him for some reason. Whatever, I'll know when I join the battle.'

He stayed put in his spot waiting for an opportunity to sneak attack. Akihiko and Zankoku kept fighting, unaware of Masaru's presence. Tanto and spear clashed multiple times without anyone landing hits. In one such clash, Zankoku exerted a lot of force and pushed Akihiko backwards. However, Akihiko just used Zankoku's force to move away from him.

Tired of being stalled, Zankoku chased with full speed. Unfortunately, he moved very close to where Masaru was. As he was chasing, he felt heat on his right. He turned his head to see a long Fire Dragon heading straight at him. Due to how close they were, he couldn't dodge or defend. The fire dragon opened its huge mouth and chomped down on him.

Inside the fire dragon, Zankoku screamed loudly as his flesh burned. In a few seconds, the fire dragon exploded. Akihiko moved away from the explosion and Masaru appeared next to him. He smirked and said, "Bullseye."

However, Akihiko's expression didn't change. He said, "It isn't over. He can heal from all wounds. And Genjutsu doesn't work on him. So don't put your hopes on it."

Masaru frowned. He pulled out a scroll and said, "No wonder you have been struggling so much."

He made the confrontation hand seal. The scroll transformed into hundreds of explosive tags and rushed into the place where the explosion had happened.

All of Zankoku's skin was burnt. He was covered in blood. However, he still stood straight. The blood on his body rapidly healed him. New skin was forming. But it was horrible to look at. At that moment, he saw hundreds of Explosive tags heading at him.

He immediately formed a cocoon of blood around him. The explosive tags stuck on the cocoon and began exploding. The cocoon was destroyed. Zankoku tried running away, but most of the explosive tags exploded right next to him.

Akihiko and Masaru observed him with their Sharingan. They saw as his flesh was blasted. But the blood that poured out of his body kept protecting and healing him.

Masaru asked in an annoyed tone, "Does his body have an infinite amount of blood?"

Akihiko answered, "My guess is that he produces it with his chakra. We may have to exhaust his chakra to truly win. Or we will need Sora's fuinjutsu."

Masaru asked, "Have you tried cutting him into pieces?"

Akihiko answered, "Haven't been successful so far."

As they were speaking, they heard Zankoku yelling in anger. A few dozen blood drops formed around him and he fired them in all directions. Akihiko and Masaru dodged quickly.

Akihiko said, "That's why. Every time I manage to get an upper hand, he resets my advantage with a wide-range jutsu forcing me to evade."

They saw an intact Zankoku walk out of the smoke. However, his body was horrible to see. He had no clothes on his body and his entire body was covered in horrible scars!

Masaru said, "He looks disgusting. But this is indeed annoying. Our chakra is already about to run out."

As they were about to engage in another round of battle, Genji was done healing Mieko. He said, "I have healed your burns. They won't be harmful to you. But don't move around a lot. I can't deal with the damage the lightning might have inflicted on your inner organs. Fujin, look after her. I'll go help out Akihiko."

Fujin nodded. He saw Genji leaving. He made a hand sign and a shadow clone appeared next to him. Without speaking, the shadow clone followed Genji's path.

Mieko asked, "Why did you make a shadow clone with so little chakra?"

Fujin shrugged and said, "I'm interested in seeing how that battle ends. This guy is probably the strongest opponent we have ever faced. Other than that incident when we were returning from Hot Water of course."

Mieko said, "That's true. I wish I could see it too."

They didn't say anything for a few seconds. Suddenly, Mieko said, "Fujin, thank you. I was very scared after I got hit."

Fujin looked at her. He could feel that she was very grateful to him. He said, "Our team might have been disbanded, but we are still teammates. No need to be thankful for such stuff."



Mieko didn't reply and just smiled.

Fujin asked, "How are your injuries?"

Mieko sighed and said, "My whole body is aching. That bastard fried my body inside out!"

Fujin replied, "Yeah, he was fierce. Veteran Jounins are still too strong for us."

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Chapter 186: How the fuck did Itachi kill them all?

While Fujin and Mieko talked, Genji and Fujin's shadow clone reached the battlefield. Genji hid the same way as Masaru had while Fujin's clone stayed away and observed from a long distance. He had no intention of interfering in the fight.

With Masaru's help, Akihiko finally had the upper hand. They inflicted injuries on Zankoku frequently. But all of his injuries healed automatically. Genji was stunned. He thought, 'How do I sneak attack someone who heals without any jutsu?'

Fujin's clone too was shocked. He watched the fight as he analyzed, 'This guy is strong. Ridiculously so! While Hidan couldn't be killed, I don't recall him having such a healing ability. Tsk, now I am even more interested in his blood jutsus. I hope Hiruzen orders the Yamanakas to dig out all the information from his brain! Though asking it from Hiruzen would require some effort. He no longer rewards me sadly.'

After observing for a while, Genji decided, 'My sneak attacks work on the basis that I would injure my prey critically or trap him in a Genjutsu. It's pointless to hide against an opponent like him. The kid made a good decision to not show up here.'

Genji revealed himself by throwing some shurikens at Zankoku. Zankoku barely dodged them. His expression grew grim as he saw another opponent. He asked, "You killed all my Priests?"

Disbelief could be felt in his voice.

Masaru replied, "That is the case. You are all by yourself. Stop your misery and surrender. Only then you would live."

Hearing those words, Zankoku began to laugh loudly like a lunatic. He said loudly, "Do you think that killing those weaklings will make me surrender? I will sacrifice all of you to Lord Jashin and get even more blessings from him!"

As he was speaking, he began bleeding. Soon, his entire body was covered in blood. His chakra, which was getting exhausted, spiked once again. Without paying any attention to his defense, he moved towards the Uchihas. Akihiko and Masaru's expressions grew grim.

Zankoku closed the distance and swung his arm at them. Multiple drops of blood were released from his arm at the Uchihas. They immediately flickered away. Zankoku chased them. Not wanting to waste chakra unnecessarily, the Uchihas tossed explosive tags at him to hinder his path. But Zankoku ignored it all and continued the chase. Fortunately, he wasn't as fast as the Uchihas.

While engaging in combat, Akihiko said, "Genji, what's the status of others."

Genji threw a kunai at Zankoku and said, "Mieko and Shunko are injured. Fujin is fine but his chakra is very low."

Akihiko instructed, "Okay, leave this battlefield. Team up with Fujin and get Sora out. Leave a clone to watch over Shunko and Mieko."

Genji replied, "Alright!"

He flickered away from the battlefield. Akihiko looked at Masaru and shouted, "Masaru, let's go all out. We will keep him tied down here!"

Masaru nodded and launched a Fire Dragon at Zankoku. A blood armor formed on Zankoku as he rushed into the Fire Dragon. However, unlike a normal Fire Dragon jutsu, this one had dozens of Explosive tags in it. The Fire Dragon caused a massive explosion while Zankoku was in it. His momentum was finally stopped!

Without waiting for the dust to clear up, Akihiko flickered into the spot of the explosion. Zankoku's body was being healed when Akihiko attacked him once again. He was blasted back as he cursed in his mind, 'How many fucking explosive tags do these Uchihas have? Bastards have used more than a thousand so far!'

Despite the damage, Zankoku counterattacked immediately. Akihiko and Masaru engaged in an intense fight!

Fujin's clone watched as the battle went on. After a few minutes, Fujin was awed. He thought, 'Holy fuck! These two are very good! I didn't expect Masaru to be this good as well. And Akihiko is a beast as well!'

However, he suddenly had a thought. A thought that troubled him a lot. He thought, 'If these guys are so strong, how the fuck did a 13-year-old Itachi kill them all by himself? Even with Obito's help, killing all of them in a single night would have to be a herculean task. After all, Akihiko isn't the only Elite Jounin in the Uchiha clan. From what I remember, there are 4 more Elite Jounins other than him and Fugaku in the Uchiha clan. And they also have far more Jounins than any other clan in Konoha.

Not to mention, not everyone would give up and offer their lives like Fugaku and Mikoto. In fact, I doubt anyone did so.

So is Itachi so ridiculously overpowered or will there be some other factors involved as well?'

Fujin's clone tried thinking, but he couldn't figure it out. Even with 2 S rank ninjas, killing so many strong ninjas in a few hours didn't seem to make any sense. Especially after he had just witnessed the abilities of some of the Uchihas. In the end, he concluded, 'Either there were more factors involved in the massacre, or the gap between a rank A and rank S ninja is way bigger than what I remember.'

He sighed, 'If it is the 2nd case, then reaching that level will be a lot tougher.'

While the fight was going on, Genji moved towards Fujin. He created a shadow clone and dispersed it to send a message to his clone which was looking after Shunko. The clone carried Shunko and moved towards Fujin's location.

Fujin and Mieko were chatting casually. Mieko finally managed to get up and sit. Suddenly, Fujin looked away in a direction. Mieko asked, "What happened?"

Fujin replied, "Genji is back for some reason. Did they already win?"

At the next moment, Genji appeared in front of them. He said, "Fujin, you'll be helping me get Sora out."

Fujin raised an eyebrow. He asked, "What's the situation?"

Normally Genji wouldn't have wasted time. But since he was waiting for his clone, he said, "The opponent has a very high regenerative ability and is immune to Genjutsu. We need Sora's Fuinjutsu to trap him."

Fujin and Mieko were surprised. Mieko said, "I didn't think the opponent would be so strong!"

Genji's clone finally arrived. He was carrying Shunko on his back. Genji said, "Fujin, follow me."

Mieko quickly said, "I want to come too!"

Genji looked at her and shook his head. He said, "No, you are too weak right now. If he assaults us when we are getting Sora out, you will be a burden."

Without waiting for her reply, he left. Fujin followed him. They arrived at the place where the cave had collapsed. Fujin said, "Uncle Sora should be alright. I guess he didn't come out as he needs to stay there to ensure the kids are safe."

Genji nodded and said, "Yeah. I guess that he created some barriers to keep them safe. So getting the kids out will put them at risk. Let's just go down and see what the situation is."

He made hand signs and disappeared into the ground. Fujin followed him. After reaching down, they both noticed 5 pairs of chakra signatures. Fujin said, "The one in the north has the highest chakra level. The rest should be clones."

Genji and Fujin went towards them. They moved until they reached the barrier. Genji knocked on the barrier. Sora and Haru were meditating to regain their chakra quickly. As soon as they heard the knock, both opened their eyes and looked at the spot Genji tapped. Seeing that it was allies, they relaxed.

Sora made a hand sign and created an opening in the barrier. Fujin and Genji got in. Without wasting any time, Genji briefed Sora about the situation. Sora and Haru frowned after hearing about Zankoku's abilities.

Sora made a shadow clone and said, "The barrier needs me to monitor. So I'll leave a shadow clone here. Haru and Fujin stay here and ensure that the kids remain safe. Genji, come with me."

Everyone nodded and followed Sora's instructions. Fujin and Haru were low on chakra, so Sora didn't involve them in the fight. Sora and Genji left, leaving Haru, Fujin and Sora's clones to look after the kids.

Sora's clone said to Fujin, "We shouldn't be in any danger here. The barrier can withstand all the weight above it and can withstand some attacks too. The only danger is if that Grand Priest decides to launch an all-out assault on the barrier. But that isn't likely to happen. So just relax and focus on recovering your chakra."

Fujin nodded and sat in a meditative posture.

Sora and Genji reached the battlefield and observed from a distance. Akihiko and Masaru were engaged in an intense battle. Both were breathing heavily, but so was Zankoku. His inability to land a hit on the two Uchihis in front of him annoyed him. Sora observed Zankoku's fighting style and jutsus carefully and began analyzing and calculating how he should trap Zankoku.

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Chapter 187: The Result

After observing for a minute, Sora said, "He is very strong. I'm surprised that someone so strong has managed to keep his identity and ability hidden for so long."

Genji asked, "Can you trap him with Fuinjutsu jutsu?"

Sora replied, "It'll be tough. Hopefully, Akihiko and Masaru will keep him occupied. Keep an eye on the battle. If he suspects something and tries looking for me, you'll expose yourself and attack him."

Genji nodded. Inscribing seals around the battlefield would need time. And anything could happen in battle. His job would be to ensure that Sora's presence stays hidden.

Sora began inscribing seals around the place where the fighting was happening. Genji followed him closely. Luckily, Zankoku's entire attention was on Akihiko and Masaru. Since Sora didn't leak any killing intent or take any actions that would directly threaten him, Zankoku stayed oblivious to his actions.

Akihiko and Masaru were oblivious to Sora's actions too and fought intensely. Multiple fires were burning in the area due to their Fire jutsus. A lot of the ground was dyed in blood. Akihiko and Masaru stayed away from such areas. Zankoku's Blood manipulation had raised their alertness to the maximum.

Fujin's clone, who was secretly observing, had to change his locations a few times due to Zankoku's wide area attacks accidentally targeting his locations.

After a few minutes, Zankoku stopped attacking. He looked at Akihiko and Masaru. They were breathing heavily. Though there weren't any critical injuries on them, Zankoku knew that they wouldn't last for much longer. He said, "You won't last much longer."

Masaru was looking for opportunities to waste time. He said while breathing heavily, "We can still go on for hours. You haven't seen anything yet!"

Zankoku laughed and replied, "And how would you do that without any chakra? It's only a matter of time before you drop dead. But, I have an offer for you two."

Akihiko squinted his eyes and asked, "What offer?"

Zankoku answered, "Serve Lord Jashin. I'll accept you as my Priests and teach you the ways of Lord Jashin. When I complete the ritual, I will become the strongest person in the world! Then you can rule the world alongside me."

Both Akihiko and Masaru were speechless by his confidence. However, neither showed it on their face. Akihiko stayed quiet for some time before saying, "I need a few minutes to think."

However, Zankoku said, "No, tell me your answer right now. Either you agree, or you die!"

Akihiko put on a thoughtful face. He looked at Masaru and asked, "What are your thoughts?"

Masaru thought and answered after a few seconds, "His proposal is tempting. But what about our families? We can't abandon them."

Zankoku heard his answer and said, "When you serve Lord Jashin, all your fellow believers are your family. If you want to, you can convert your current family too."

Masaru replied, "That sounds good. But what if my wife or son doesn't want to follow Lord Jashin? You know the new generation doesn't believe in god."

His question stumped Zankoku. However, Zankoku soon realized that something was amiss. He looked at them. Two spears made of blood appeared in his arms as he threatened, "Enough wasting time. Give me your answer now!"

Masaru said, "Akihiko, I will trust your decision."

Anger formed on Akihiko's face. He looked at Masaru and shouted, "Why the fuck do you always leave tough decisions to me! For one fucking time think with your own brain."

Masaru barked back, "What the fuck do you mean? Didn't you go around saying that you are the leader since you were a kid? So make a fucking decision."

Akihiko shouted back, "Why you runt..."

However, his shout was interrupted by Zankoku throwing the spears at them. Both immediately dodged. Zankoku's face, which already was full of horrifying scars, was dark. He said, "Do you two think that I am a fool?"

A smirk formed on Akihiko and Masaru's lips. Though they didn't say anything, anyone could see their answer. Zankoku was about to attack again when he felt a chakra behind him. He quickly turned around to see Sora some distance from him. A smile could be seen on his face as he made the confrontation hand seal.

In the next second, a barrier appeared around Zankoku. Zankoku quickly moved and punched the barrier with full force, but there was no dent on the barrier. He quickly tried escaping underground, but there was a barrier on the ground as well. Soon, more barriers began forming.

Zankoku was trapped in a 3 layer barrier formation! He was inside the 1st layer. Akihiko and Masaru stood in the 2nd layer. Sora and Genji joined them. They stood outside the barrier under which Zankoku was trapped.

Realizing the danger, Zankoku attacked the barrier with full power in order to break free. His attacks made the barrier shake, but it didn't break.

Masaru smirked and taunted him, "You should have surrendered when you had the chance."

Zankoku stopped struggling and sat down. He replied, "The barrier is strong, but not strong enough. Once my chakra recovers, I can break through it. And though I am trapped, you can't attack me either."

However, Sora smirked and replied, "I am not a half-assed SealMaster like your Priest."

He grabbed a kunai with an explosive tag attached and threw it at Zankoku. The kunai travelled through the barrier like it was air. Zankoku's eyes widened. A blood barrier appeared in front of him. The explosive tag exploded, but he was safe.

Sora said, "This barrier allows one-way travel. Meaning, we can attack you however much we want to. And you can only endure our attacks without being able to counterattack. How long do you think you will last?"



Zankoku's expression became grim. Immediately, layers of blood surrounded him. A multilayered cocoon formation of blood protected him.

Masaru taunted, "Our chakra might have hit rock bottom, but we still have thousands of explosive tags. How long do you think you will last?"

Without another word, the Uchihas encircled the barrier. Everyone began throwing explosive tags into the barrier. Huge explosions took place in the barrier. The Uchihas, who were standing outside it, didn't feel anything at all. Slowly, the layers of cocoons began breaking apart.

Fujin's clone couldn't hear their words but sweatdropped as he saw that scene. He thought, 'How shameless! This is just bullying. They used so many explosive tags during the fighting. And now they have used at least a hundred more. Do Uchihas don't know the difference between a normal paper and an explosive paper tag? No wonder Mieko was spamming explosive tags in the Chunin exams. It's as if they have a printing factory to make them.'

After enduring a few hundred explosive tags, all of Zankoku's defenses crumbled. His body began taking the explosions head-on. His body tried to heal itself, but the amount of damage he was taking was too high.

Akihiko was observing him carefully with his Sharingan. He kept observing until his chakra reserves ran out. He instructed, "Stop!"

Immediately all Uchihas stopped. Akihiko grabbed his Tanto. Chakra flowed through it. He threw it inside the barrier. Zankoku had no energy to move. The Tanto sliced through his neck and beheaded him. The four Uchihas observed him to see if he could still heal up.

So did Fujin's shadow clone. He wondered, 'Will he be alive like Hidan? Or does he not have the same sort of immortality that Hidan will have in the future?'

Zankoku's body didn't move. He was dead. Akihiko looked at Genji and said, "Make a shadow clone and check him."

Genji nodded and made a shadow clone. The clone entered the barrier and checked. Zankoku's body was in terrible shape. The explosions had destroyed a lot of his flesh. Whatever flesh he had was completely burnt. Both his eyes were destroyed. His nose, ears and lips were destroyed too. Even his bones were cracked in many places.

After inspecting, Genji's clone said, "He is completely dead."

Akihiko and Masaru sighed in relief. They had fought him the most and knew what frightening vitality he had. Akihiko said, "Sora, seal his body properly. We will study him thoroughly."

Sora nodded and began sealing Zankoku's body. Akihiko said, "In the mission report, we will mention his abilities and say that his body was thoroughly destroyed by our explosive tags. Nothing was left behind. Don't tell Haru or the kids about this either. You can tell Haru later, but no word to the kids."

On hearing that, the three Uchihas became serious and nodded. Sora asked, "Is it due to..."

Akihiko interrupted, "Yes. The relationship between the village and the clan is deteriorating. Though Fugaku-sama is against the Coup right now, it is probably unavoidable unless the village elders stop mistreating us. If the Coup does happen, then the abilities of this guy would help us immensely if we can learn them."

Everyone nodded. They had seen what fearsome ability Zankoku had. If multiple Jounin level Uchihas could control their blood in a similar manner or even get just the self-healing ability, then defeating them would become very difficult. Only an S rank ninja could defeat them quickly.

Fujin's clone didn't hear their words. After seeing Sora seal Zankoku's body, he dispersed himself. The Uchihas were unaware that the fight and the result had been witnessed by him.

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Chapter 188: The Dangerous Uchiha Clan!

Fujin received the memories of his clone. He opened his eyes but closed them again. He thought, 'Damn! I never thought they'd be so strong. That said, that Grand Priest turned out to be the real surprise. I never imagined he'd be able to face off against an Elite Jounin and 2 Jounins at the same time and still have an upper hand. I can understand the healing ability, but why was he immune to Genjutsu?'

Fujin tried analyzing but didn't reach any conclusion. He sighed, 'I hope Hiruzen is able to get the Yamanaka clan to read all his memories. Autonomous healing and Genjutsu immunity are skills that would be immensely helpful. Though considering that I never saw anyone use this in Naruto, it's likely that these abilities can't be gained without worshipping Jashin. I hope that isn't the case.'

Sora sealed Zankoku's body parts. He also collected as much blood as he could that was scattered on the ground. After he was done, Masaru asked, "What next?"

Akihiko looked at Sora and asked, "Are the kids safe?"

Sora nodded, "Haru delayed the collapse of the cave until I could raise the barriers. He also put them to sleep. With all enemies dead, they will stay safe."

Akihiko said, "Great. We will pick up Mieko and Shunko and rest in the barrier. In a few hours, the pills should bring our chakra back to full. We will return the kids and head back to Konoha before the effects of the Soldier pill ends and exhaustion hits us."

Everyone nodded. The group moved towards Mieko and Shunko. Both were resting. Genji's clone noticed them coming. After confirming that they weren't enemies in disguise, he dispersed himself. Mieko saw Akihiko and asked, "Did we win, Uncle?"

Akihiko nodded, "Yes, all enemies are dead."

Mieko asked, "Where is Fujin?"

A worry could be seen on her face. Masaru chuckled and said, "Don't worry, he is with the kids along with Haru. We will be heading there as well and will take a break for 6 hours."

Mieko blushed on hearing the chuckle. She said, "Alright, let's go."

She walked ahead of the group. Shunko still couldn't move properly. So Genji picked him up and carried him.

They arrived in front of the collapsed mountain. Akihiko looked around to see a bunch of dead bodies. He said, "Collect and store all the dead bodies. We will hand them to the authorities of this country."

Everyone nodded and began sealing the dead bodies. Except for the bodies that were buried under the mountain, the remaining bodies were stored in storage seals. They entered the place where Fujin and Haru were resting. Fujin and Haru got up on seeing others arrive.

Haru asked with a smile on his face, "Is it over?"

Akihiko nodded. He looked at everyone and said, "We have killed all the Jashinists that we had investigated. All the Priests, Devotees and Servants are dead. We collected most of their bodies. Their leader, the Grand Priest, had a terrifying healing ability. So he had to blow him to smithereens to defeat him. His body has been completely destroyed."

Fujin was surprised. His thoughts ran at lightning speed, 'What the hell? Shit, these guys have the same idea as me. But they want to keep it with their clan instead of passing it to the village. Fucking hell! Their coup should be very close. So it's understandable that they want to build up some trump cards. But, should I let this opportunity slip?'

Though Fujin tried his best to not show any emotions on his face, Akihiko noticed that something was off. He asked, "Is there any issue, Fujin?"

Fujin looked back while thinking, 'Shit, he sensed that something was off.'

He quickly said, "No, I just have one doubt. But I wasn't sure if it would be appropriate to ask."

Akihiko said, "Don't worry, just ask. If it is inappropriate, I won't answer."

Fujin nodded and said, "I was wondering how you could place so many ninjas under Genjutsu and control their actions. After all, I heard that it is difficult to control more than one at a time."

Masaru smirked and commented, "That would have been inappropriate if it wasn't already known to every veteran ninja in Konoha."

Sora explained, "The Genjutsu that we cast on them jumbles up their memories. We implant some false memories in their mind and make them surface at the right moment. So, we don't control them, rather they just make a move due to their false memories. For instance, the ones who killed the SealMaster all thought that he killed one of their loved ones."

Fujin's face became serious. He said, "Wow, that is a very strong method. No wonder we won so easily."

However, Sora shook his head and said, "Though this technique might seem very strong, it isn't that effective. In war, most enemy ninjas will frequently disrupt their chakra to ensure that they aren't placed under a Genjutsu by us. So, unfortunately, it isn't that effective anymore."

Fujin instinctively wanted to disrupt his chakra but controlled himself. He thought for a bit and nodded, "That makes sense. Though if it did work as well as this time, Konoha might win all the wars without any problem."

Akihiko nodded, "Yeah. Unfortunately, it won't happen again unless we create a more advanced Genjutsu. Anyways, we can discuss this later. For now, let's rest."

Everyone sat in a meditative posture. Fujin recalled Sora's words and analyzed the implications of such a jutsu. Though nothing could be seen on his face, his thoughts became very grim, 'Damn! No wonder Danzo, and perhaps Hiruzen too, chose to let Itachi cause the massacre. If a coup were to happen, I don't think the Uchihas would be a match for Konoha in a head-on confrontation. But with this jutsu, they could wreak havoc in Konoha.'

My memories from my previous world have faded a lot. But I remember this very well. Every single Naruto fan thought that the Uchiha coup was a stupid idea. The Uchihas were just no match against Konoha's entire might. They didn't even know that Fugaku had Mangekyou Sharingan. Everyone agreed that in a war against Konoha, they would be vastly outnumbered and lose pointlessly.

But, with jutsus like these, their chances wouldn't be low. They could plant fake memories into multiple ninjas. When they launch a coup, they would trigger these memories and cause chaos within every clan and prevent or delay them from joining the war. After all, we aren't at a war, normal ninjas won't go

around disrupting their chakra for no reason. And since Uchiha control the police force, coming in contact with many ninjas isn't an issue for them.

More importantly, the way Sora spoke, implied that they don't have a better way to control multiple enemies. But, he didn't speak about controlling just one. Assuming that they have stronger Genjutsus which can't be broken off normally, the Uchiha's chances of winning a coup would rise even more. If they could cast a genjutsu on some clan patriarchs, then they could even get allies in the coup.

Especially Fugaku with his Mangekyou. Obito was able to control a perfect Jinchuriki despite not having any Genjutsu-based Mangekyou ability. So Fugaku placing some clan leaders under his control isn't very far-fetched.

In addition, if they were to plant some fake memories into Anbu or Root members, they could launch sneak attacks on Danzo and Hiruzen too.

So the coup would definitely not be a one-sided affair. Instead, it would be a bloody war. A war that would shake the foundations of Konoha and likely trigger the Fourth Great Ninja War. A war that would likely wipe Konoha off the map.'

Fujin sighed in his mind. He had never taken the Uchiha coup seriously. Even though the information he gained wouldn't have any impact on how the events progress, he realized how deep the waters in this world ran. A clan that was isolated and schemed against for years still possessed the power to shake the entire ninja world.

He concluded, 'I never thought I'd say this, but Itachi's actions make more sense now. With the Konoha leadership staying stubborn with their restrictions on the Uchiha clan and the Uchiha clan wanting to revolt, the end result would be the complete destruction of the village. His choices were to either see the village and his clan be destroyed, or just see his clan's destruction.

That said, I wonder why Itachi and Shisui didn't compel the elders to drop the discrimination against the Uchiha. Wouldn't that have dropped all the plans of a coup?'

Fujin analyzed for some time before stopping, 'Leave it. I can't think of a reason that I can be sure of. Perhaps there were more factors involved or the Village elders convinced them that the Uchihas needed

to be monitored and kept on the outskirts of the Konoha. Either way, this issue is way beyond my power to even consider interfering.

For now, my main concern is, how the heck should I take that Grand Priest's body from them? Asking shamelessly is out of the question. I'll end up buried along with the Jashinists. Could I try to steal? No, they will keep it in the Uchiha clan compound. Not only do the Uchihas monitor it, even the Anbu and Root monitor that area.

Should I try to tell Hiruzen? I could approach him innocently and tell him that the Uchihas lied. But, does he have the power to take the body back from the Uchihas in that case?'

Fujin analyzed this method carefully. After a lot of analysis, he concluded, 'It is too risky. For starters, the Uchiha clan and Hiruzen are at odds. Hiruzen might not even ask them for it. If he does, he will most likely mention that I reported it to him and the Uchihas might get very upset with me. Though they aren't going to live for long, I don't want to antagonize them when rewards aren't a certainty.

Worst case scenario, what if Akihiko and the rest deny that and demand Hiruzen to verify my information? I'd be fucked if Hiruzen asks a Yamanaka to inspect my memories to get proof. Shit! There is no good way!'

Fujin thought more until an idea struck him, 'That might be possible. But it is still very risky but at least my life won't be threatened directly. More importantly, there is no guarantee of success. And even if I succeed, I might not get what I actually want.'

He tried to think of more options before giving up, 'I can't think of any other way. Leave it, I'll just have to prepare better in order to ensure that my identity doesn't get leaked.'

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Chapter 189: Concluding the Mission

The Konoha ninjas rested for 6 hours. Everyone recovered most of their chakra. During this period, Mieko and Shunko's wounds were healed twice more. The wounds that could be seen were all healed. Only the internal wounds remained as no one had the expertise to deal with them.

When everyone was well rested, Akihiko said, "Work with Sora to get all the children out. I will contact Hiroshi."

He left the underground barrier. And opened a scroll and led it on the ground and made a hand seal.

At the next moment, a man was summoned. He opened his eyes and looked at Akihiko and asked, "Are the children safe?"

The man was a clone of Hiroshi, the leader of Kusagakure.

Akihiko nodded, "They are. But we are very far away from any village. You'll have to call your forces here to escort them safely."

Hiroshi nodded and handed Akihiko 6 scrolls and said, "You can summon them. They will make the arrangements."

Akihiko took the scrolls. He was about to summon them when Hiroshi's clone bowed deeply and clasped his hands together in front of him as he expressed his thanks. "Akihiko-san," he said, his voice full of emotion, "I cannot express how grateful I and the entire Kusagakure are for what you have done. We will never forget it."

He stayed bowed for a few moments longer, his head lowered as a sign of respect and gratitude, before straightening up and looking at Akihiko with a deep sense of appreciation. Akihiko nodded and said, "It's fine. We too don't want to see young children having to suffer. I am glad that they are safe."

Hiroshi's clone smiled. Akihiko opened the 6 scrolls and activated them. 6 Jounins of Kusagakure appeared. Hiroshi's clone instructed them to follow Akihiko's instructions and asked them to arrange for the children to be sent back.

All 6 Jounins used whatever means they had to send messages to the villages from where the children went missing. When the villages got the messages, they immediately sent their forces out to bring the children back.



Meanwhile, Akihiko informed Hiroshi's clone about the Jashinists that kidnapped the children. Hiroshi's face grew grim after hearing how strong and numerous the enemies were. He upgraded the Mission rank to S.

Akihiko passed a few scrolls to Hiroshi's clone and said, "These contain dead bodies of kidnappers. You can use them to placate any anger towards you."

Hiroshi accepted the scrolls and thanked him again.

In the barrier, the Konoha ninjas made a tunnel to exit underground. Haru cancelled his Genjutsu. The kids began waking up. The Konoha ninjas brought them out of the underground.

They left the kids in the care of the 6 Jounins and just stayed around to ensure that nothing unexpected happened. One of the 6 Jounins had brought a lot of food materials. They cooked a delicious lunch for the kids to calm them down. The Jounins also checked every child and verified whether every child was present. They sighed in relief after verifying that all children were safe and present.

After a few hours, Kusagakure ninjas sent by the villages began arriving in groups. They took the children from their villages and left after thanking Konoha ninjas. After the last group left, Hiroshi's clone handed Akihiko the mission rewards for the upgraded rank. He thanked Akihiko once again and handed a scroll to one of his jounins with all the details of his talks with Akihiko before dispersing into a rock.

The Konoha ninjas left. Shunko and Mieko were having trouble moving at full speed. So Genji and Haru carried them on their backs respectively. After a day's travel, the group returned to Konoha.

Akihiko said, "Great work with the mission. It was completed successfully. I'll report the mission to the Hokage. Sora, take the kids to the hospital. Masaru, inform their parents about it. Others can leave."

Akihiko looked at Fujin and said, "Fujin, I was a bit skeptical when Mieko suggested your name. I accepted because we didn't have time to wait for someone else. But, you have done a great job on the mission. Keep training hard."

Fujin nodded and said, "Thank you, Uncle Akihiko."

Shunko saw Fujin with some jealousy in his eyes. Of the 3 chunins to take part in this mission, Fujin was the only one who wasn't injured. While he and Mieko had to be hospitalized, Fujin didn't even have a scratch on him.

The group dispersed. Fujin walked back to his home while analyzing what he should do next, 'I have to talk with Teru and Hoka and check whether they are ready to form a team with me and Mieko. Though I'll have to check up on Mieko first and see when she will be fit for undertaking missions.

I also have to do some research to come up with a proper plan to sneak in. If I can't find and learn methods that would assure me of safety and anonymity, then I might have to scrap those plans. No point in risking my safe environment for rewards that I might not even get.

In addition, I also have to learn Vacuum Cannon. And since it needs so much chakra, I won't be able to use chakra for anything else when I train. Once I learn it, I will get back to training Lightning release jutsus. The next set of jutsus will focus on enhancing my body. They should be exciting.

Anyways, it's late afternoon. Though the travelling and fighting have been exhausting, my soldier pill should last until tomorrow afternoon. So I might as well train like crazy today. I'll take a 24-hour break when the drawback of the pill hits me. Though I should check on Mieko in the evening.'

Fujin made a hand sign. A shadow clone appeared next to him. Without a word, he flickered away. Meanwhile, Fujin rushed to training ground 23. He went to the center of the ground and sat to meditate as he went through his memories of using Vacuum Cannon jutsu.

He visualized the jutsu while analyzing, 'I wanted to make a very thin but long vacuum core. However, my attempt failed and I ended up creating a way bigger vacuum bullet core and hence managed to pour a lot of Wind chakra into it. So it became faster and more powerful.'

Fujin got up and began forming the vacuum core. Soon, he poured wind chakra into the jutsu and expelled a Vacuum Cannon at the tree in front of him. The cannon hit the tree at the center. It didn't just create a hole in the tree, rather the impact of the jutsu exceeded the width of the tree. The top half of the tree was sent flying into the air. Any tree up to 150 meters in line with that tree was destroyed similarly.

A smile formed on Fujin's face, 'Powerful. Very powerful. I don't think any normal defense can withstand this attack. The only ones that possibly could resist might be Raikage's defense and Sussano. I wonder how this attack will fare against Gaara's defense and Rashomon.'

Still, the preparation time of this jutsu is more than twice that of the Vacuum Bullet. The chakra needed is close to 8 times it. I need to modify the vacuum core to be more efficient for such a huge size. And I need to see if I can achieve a similar result by using less wind chakra. Otherwise, breaking defenses would be the only thing this jutsu is capable of.'

Fujin began working on his ideas. He tried changing various shapes for the vacuum core but didn't have any success in improving the jutsu. He trained until his chakra ran out. Not having any success, he went to his home and freshened up and rested for a bit.

In the evening, he bought a few Dango and went to see Mieko. After reaching the room, he saw that Mieko and Shunko were both resting in the same room.

He walked to Mieko's bed and said, "Hey? How are your injuries?"

Mieko snatched the box of dango from his hands and said as she opened it, "I am doing well. It's just that since I was hit by such a strong lightning jutsu, the doctors want to keep monitoring my internal organs for a few days. I'll be released in four days."

She opened the box and began eating rapidly. Fujin's eyes twitched as he said, "You know that they can't run away, right?"

Mieko said with her mouth full, "They ran away last time!"

Fujin needed a few seconds but realized what she meant. He replied, "Ah, your mother! That makes sense. Hahaha."

Fujin's laugh annoyed her but she kept eating till she finished every last dango.

A smile appeared on her face. She looked at Fujin and said, "Now if she gets angry, I can put most of the blame on you."

Fujin waved his hand and said, "Running away is my speciality. So don't worry, she won't have anyone but you to yell at."

Mieko snorted in displeasure.

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Chapter 190: Vacuum Cannon Jutsu

Fujin said, "I'll talk to Hoka and Teru about forming a team."

Mieko apologized with a dejected look, "Sorry, I can't accompany you right now. But we can go on missions after 4 days."

However, Fujin shook his head and said, "No, take a week's rest. We will take missions when you are back to full strength. And don't worry about taking a few days to recover. I'll need some time to master my new jutsu."

Mieko asked, "Is it that cannon-like jutsu you used on our opponent?"

Fujin nodded.

Mieko snorted with some annoyance, "You are getting stronger once again!"

Fujin looked at her with deadpan eyes, "My eyes didn't evolve mid-fight."

A grin formed on Mieko's face. She smugly said, "That's right."

Fujin thought, 'I have always been curious about how Sharingan works. As every 3 Tomoe Sharingan wielder is ranked at Jounin or higher rank. Is it just everyone's hard work or does Sharingan's advancement bring other benefits to the Uchihas?'

Fujin asked, "By the way, do you feel anything different or any improvements after your Sharingan evolved?"

Fujin's question surprised Mieko. She fell into thought. Even Shunko paid full attention to Mieko. After some time, she said, "I feel like my chakra reserves have improved slightly. But the increase isn't very high. It's probably around 15 to 20%. More importantly, my chakra seems to be slightly denser. And, I am guessing that my eye powers will be stronger."

Fujin nodded and replied, "That's a great improvement."

He analyzed, 'Hmm, not too overpowered, but still very good nonetheless. Assuming that the improvements are higher when advancing to 3 tomoe Sharingan, it would make sense why every Uchiha with 3 tomoe Sharingan would be a Jounin. Especially considering that any advancement in Sharingan needs them to suffer emotional trauma or something similar. Anyone who experiences that will be more likely to train intensely.'

Mieko stared at Fujin who was lost in thoughts. She asked, "What are you thinking?"

Fujin casually replied, "Nothing. I am just wondering whether you'll have any chance against me now."

Immediately a tick mark appeared on Mieko's forehead. She muttered, "One of these days, I'll trap you in a Genjutsu and do things to you that you could never imagine!"

Fujin was caught off guard by her reply. He thought, 'Shit, since when did she become a pervert? Ninja village my ass, it should be called a Pervert village!'

Fujin said, "Yeah, right. Anyways, I'll see you later. Get well soon."

He was about to leave when Shunko said, "Fujin when I am healed, I want to fight you."

Fujin stopped and looked at him and asked, "Why?"

He said, "Though I don't want to admit it, you performed better than me in the mission. I want to fight with you to prove that I am stronger."

Fujin looked at him with a deadpan expression, 'What's in it for me?'

He turned around and said, "I have no interest in fighting you."

Fujin's attitude offended Shunko. He felt that Fujin was insulting him. He shouted, "Are you afraid of fighting an Uchiha?"

Fujin replied without turning around, "Not really. I just don't have any time to waste."

After speaking, he disappeared from the room.

Shunko was very annoyed. He asked Mieko, "Is he always this arrogant?"

Mieko was thinking, 'A fight between these two? It would be fun to see Shunko go crazy in rage in a few minutes. As annoying as Fujin normally is, he reaches the highest level of annoyance while fighting.'

Shunko asked again, "Mieko?"

Mieko looked at him and said, "You are just weak Shunko."

Mieko's reply annoyed him even more. He said, "Do you think that a civilian orphan is stronger than all Uchiha?"

Mieko replied, "Not all Uchiha, just you. If it was Itachi who asked, I am sure that Fujin would have accepted."

Shunko immediately complained, "Hey, it's not fair to compare me with Itachi!"

However, Mieko crushed every bit of his pride when she replied, "Why? Aren't you the same age as him?"

Shunko was left without any words. He just turned his head away from Mieko and sulked alone. Comparing him with Itachi was indeed very unfair. After all, Itachi was an Anbu captain. A rank that signified that he was strong enough to be considered as Jounin and even go against Elite Jounins!

After leaving the hospital, Fujin treated himself to a huge meal and returned to training. After experimenting with all shapes, he reached the conclusion that staying with the same shape as the Vacuum bullet core would be ideal. He used the jutsu again but frowned, 'No, though this shape is ideal, something doesn't feel right!'

He sat in meditation to analyze where the problem was while he recovered his chakra. After running multiple calculations, it finally hit him, 'Right! I am maintaining the exact ratios I use in the Vacuum Bullet core. I don't need to maintain the same ratios. I only need the deepest layer of the Vacuum Core to be huge. Shit, this is so basic. Why did I miss such a simple thing?'

He thought for a bit before sighing, 'I got too excited. I need to keep myself calm and not lose myself in celebrating little achievements.'

He formed a Vacuum Core in his mouth. It had the shape of a cone in the front while its body was cylindrical. A very thin chakra film surrounded it. It was encased by another layer of Vacuum which was divided into 6 parts. However, compared to what Fujin was doing earlier, this layer was very thin. Its thickness was the same as it would be when Fujin used the Vacuum Bullet jutsu. Thin threads of Chakra flowed through this layer of Vacuum. Soon, it was covered by another thin chakra film and winds began flowing around it.

Fujin opened his mouth and launched the jutsu at the tree in front of him. A smile formed on Fujin's face as it ripped through all the trees in front of Fujin. He thought, 'Good. I only needed 5 times the chakra this time. I saved 37.5% chakra without sacrificing the speed or power of the jutsu. With some practice, I

should be able to perform it at the same speed as Vacuum Bullet jutsu. And, if I have enough time, I could make it more deadly by forming a much larger central vacuum core!"

With the form perfected, Fujin spent the rest of the night alternating between practicing Vacuum Cannon, meditation and physical workout.

He finally stopped at 8 AM. He left the training ground while breathing heavily, 'Good. I only needed 20% more time as Vacuum Bullet. With time, it will improve even more, but there won't be any point in wasting more time to try to reduce the time needed forcefully.'

Satisfied with his progress for the day, Fujin went to Ichiraku. He sat on the stool and rested his arms and head on the table and said, "Bring me one bowl of every Ramen!"

Since it was early morning, Teuchi was preparing the essentials. He was surprised to have a customer so early in the day. Ayame came out to see Fujin. She and Fujin interacted often as Fujin visited Ichiraku rather often and they were of the same age. She was about to say hi excitedly when she saw his state. She asked in a worried tone, "Fujin, why do you look so bad?"

Fujin looked at her and replied without lifting his head, "Nothing much. Just ended up training a bit too much."

Ayame puffed her cheeks and said, "I told you to not train so much but you always keep training!"

Fujin sighed and replied, "Will you continue lecturing or get me something to eat?"

Ayame sighed at the unenthusiastic reply and left to help her father prepare the noodles more quickly.

Fujin ended up eating 8 bowls of Ramen before leaving for his home. He made his way to the bathroom and turned on the faucet, letting the cold water fill the tub. He grabbed all the ice he could find in his home and poured them into the tub and jumped in to rest. With a deep breath, he lowered himself into the frigid water, feeling the cold seep into his bones. Despite the sudden cold, he felt a sense of relief wash over him, the cold water soothing his tired muscles and calming his mind.



After resting for some time, he made a shadow clone and dispersed it. The clone that he had made earlier received his message. After a few minutes, he dispersed himself and sent all the memories back to Fujin. Fujin felt a slight headache but soon relaxed in the icy water.

He spent an hour in the bathtub before heading to his bedroom and fell asleep. He ended up sleeping for 18 hours straight to compensate for exhaustion and the drawback of the soldier pill.