

Calamity 191

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 191: Unexpected Guest

Fujin woke at 4 AM and stretched his hands. He looked out of the window to see that it was still dark outside. He thought, 'Damn, it feels like I have been sleeping for days!'

He began freshening up while thinking, 'I am really not in the mood to train today...'

Fujin wondered if he should take another day off. In the end, he sighed and left for the training ground thinking, 'I won't get strong enough if I train only when I feel like it. I need to continue grinding. It's pretty much the only reason I have an advantage over my peers.'

He began with his intense morning workout. As he trained he thought, 'No wonder there are so few S rank ninjas. I come from a world where such powers were a dream of pretty much everyone. And yet I am getting tired of the continuous training. For those who are born in this world, to keep training like this is very unrealistic. Only the select few who choose to keep training non-stop or are blessed with godly talent would even have a chance of reaching that level.'

No, even those guys eventually stop training. Though Hiruzen is as strong as he is, I doubt that he has trained seriously in years. After all, pretty much all Kage bury themselves in politics and administration. No wonder Guy surpassed them all. After all, no matter what level he was at, he kept his training at maximum intensity every single day.'

Having motivated himself, Fujin trained as hard as he could. After the morning workout, he practiced the Vacuum Cannon jutsu a few times and rested for half an hour. After catching his breath and eating a few ration bars, he went to his basement.

He decided, 'Time to learn the next set of Lightning jutsus. Rank D Burst jutsu, Rank C Lightning Transformation jutsu and Rank B Electric Skin jutsu.'

Fujin made the hand signs for the Burst jutsu. He transformed some of his chakra into Lightning and began expelling electric currents from his body. If someone saw Fujin, they would see Lightning flowing through Fujin's body.

Fujin focused his attention and analyzed, 'Another easy jutsu. Though it makes sense. After all, the only purpose of this jutsu is to teach new genins how to control Lightning chakra properly. Its only battle use is that if someone is stupid enough to touch me while I am releasing such electricity, then they would be electrocuted. However...'

Fujin tried taking a step forward but had a lot of difficulty in doing so. He sighed and released the jutsu, 'However while using this jutsu, the user can't move. The electric currents hinder my movements instead of assisting them. So anyone who uses this in battle is pretty much a sitting duck. Still, this jutsu should be quite useful to get my body used to Electric shocks and allow me to understand how to release Lightning from any part of my body..'

Fujin repeated the jutsu four more times. He didn't have any difficulty using it. He tried making the jutsu more usable by releasing lightning from just one part of his body but failed to do so. He concluded, 'Looks like this jutsu won't be helpful for that. I guess that the way to do this would be to first manage to do this jutsu without any hand signs. Once releasing Lightning becomes second nature to me, doing that will become very easy. But, I should learn the other two jutsus first as they are quite similar but better.'

Fujin decided to learn the Lightning Transformation jutsu next. He weaved the hand signs for the jutsu. Soon, Lightning appeared on his body. His entire body was covered with Lightning. He tried to take a step forward but suddenly stopped, "That fucking hurts!"

The Lightning around his body dispersed. Fujin shook his left leg while thinking, 'So embarrassing! The lightning around my body zapped my left leg. I guess it makes sense as the Lightning I released was much stronger than with the Burst jutsu.'

Fujin waited until his left leg felt normal. Though it stung him, it was only for a few seconds, so he wasn't injured. He analyzed, 'Hmm, I am not ready to use this jutsu yet. I should treat my body with the Burst jutsu continuously and slowly increase its power output. That way, my body will slowly get used to Electricity. Once I develop a sufficient degree of endurance, I can try the Lightning Transformation jutsu.'

A shame really, I was kinda excited to try this and the Electric skin jutsu. Lightning Transformation will allow me to move at tremendous speeds. Though I can't change directions, I can bounce off other objects till I reach my target.

Electric Skin jutsu also works on similar principles. It conducts electricity on the skin and boosts the power of any Lightning jutsus used. And the Lightning could electrocute someone who'd try to touch me just like the other two jutsus.

After I master these two jutsus, I will be able to move at speeds comparable to body flicker and zap my enemies on touch. Though it isn't comparable to Raikage's lightning chakra mode, it will still be very handy and should help me dominate weaker ninjas. This speed will be the basis of my Lightning combat system.'

Fujin began training his body to endure Lightning with the help of the Burst jutsu. He increased the power of the jutsu gradually such that he would be able to endure but his body would feel pain.

The jutsu used very little chakra, so Fujin kept at it for hours until he realized something, 'Shit! While it ached initially, now this pain feels good!'

He was left speechless by the development and a bit worried as he muttered in a sigh, "I hope I don't develop any weird fetishes. I have no interest in becoming another perverted ninja!"

Fujin kept training until he was interrupted when he heard his bell ringing. Fujin wondered, 'Who'd come to see me at this time?'

He stopped training and spread his chakra field.

Outside Fujin's door, a man was standing. He had a very peculiar expression on his face. He muttered, "When did this brat learn Fuinjutsu? And why the hell is his house covered in hundreds of seals? Even I can't be sure that I have identified all the seals!"

Fujin was surprised by who he sensed. He muttered, "He is back? I wonder where he was for so long."

Fujin left the basement and made a hand sign. The entrance to the basement was sealed and disguised. Fujin walked to the door wondering, 'Will he be able to sense the basement?'

Fujin opened the door and said very respectfully, "Hello Sensei. Welcome to my humble house."

Renjiro's eyes twitched once again. He thought, 'Your home is anything but humble!'

Knowing his student's antics, he sighed and said, "I see that you haven't changed one bit."

Fujin tilted his head and asked, "Why would I change Sensei?"

Renjiro ignored his question and entered the house. He said, "I have a lot of questions to ask you. Let me start with this."

He looked into Fujin's eyes and asked, "Why did you get such a huge house and that too so far away from the center of the village?"

Fujin replied, "Houses are expensive. And since I had the money, I decided to spend a lot just one time instead of worrying about switching houses later. Also, there isn't really anything else that I would like to spend my money on. I would have liked to buy the elemental stones, but I don't know where to buy them."

Renjiro replied, "Makes sense. You wouldn't be able to buy the elemental stones in the market. Lord Hokage has some facilities that allow Anbu to use elemental stones. So if you get an offer to join Anbu in the future, take it."

Fujin thought, 'Anbu... Unless the level of a rank B mission gets elevated to rank A, almost all rank B missions are quite boring and not so useful. Looks like joining Anbu would be the way to get exposure to better fights. Though I would prefer to join after the Root is disbanded.'

Fujin asked, "Sensei, how can I join the Anbu?"

Renjiro answered, "It isn't in your hands. If Lord Hokage thinks that you are worthy of being included in Anbu, he will call you and ask you."

Fujin said, "Oh. Alright, I'll wait then."

Renjiro chuckled on hearing his reply. Fujin's words showed that he had no doubts about his capabilities.

Renjiro asked, "So, when did you become an expert with Fuinjutsu?"

Fujin looked at Renjiro thinking, 'As expected, he discovered them.'

Fujin replied, "I learnt it sometime after our squad was disbanded."

Renjiro stared at Fujin but Fujin didn't say anything. Renjiro asked, "Fuinjutsu is extremely complicated. I have seen extremely talented ninjas slam their foreheads on failing to learn Fuinjutsu. You want to tell me that you learnt Fuinjutsu in slightly more than half a year?"

Fujin replied, "Complicated? I found it pretty fun and easy to learn. Though it has a lot of theory and symbols, I sped up the learning process with shadow clones."

Renjiro was surprised. He asked, "You spammed shadow clones to learn Fuinjutsu faster? You do know that it can be dangerous, right?"

Fujin nodded, "Yeah, it gives headaches. So I was careful with the number of clones and what they were learning."

While speaking, he looked up at Renjiro. Renjiro identified the look in Fujin's eyes. He had seen it numerous times.

Fujin continued, "But my biggest headache was to use the Shadow clone jutsu a dozen times every single time. Sensei, could you teach me the Multi Shadow Clone jutsu?"

Renjiro was left speechless. He thought, 'I have just returned from a 3-month long mission. And this brat doesn't even take 3 minutes to ask me for a jutsu! And he does it so naturally too!'

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Chapter 192: Another Get-Together

Renjiro replied, "Sure. Right after you show me what you are hiding under your home."

Fujin wasn't surprised. He nodded and replied casually, "Sure. That sounds like a fair deal."

He walked to the staircase and made a hand seal. Renjiro followed thinking, 'Meaning that it's not a fair deal.'

The stairways to the basement appeared. Fujin and Renjiro entered the basement. Fujin showed him the Meditation room, Gravity room and Dodging Practice room.

Renjiro was impressed with his student. He said, "You have done a great job with the seals. These are among the best training rooms I have seen. That said, no one puts so much effort into training rooms either."

Fujin said, "To be honest, the advantages they provide aren't very significant. I just had a lot of time on my hands and needed to practice inscribing seals."

Renjiro replied, "Though the benefits provided by the rooms are very small, they will add up over time."

Fujin nodded, "Yeah."

Renjiro asked, "Why are the other rooms empty?"

Fujin replied, "I don't have any ideas regarding any more training rooms. If I get my hands on some elemental stones, I can make a few elemental training rooms like in the Tower in the Forest of Death. But that doesn't seem like an option for now. I'll just set up what I want in those rooms if I have any good ideas."

Renjiro nodded. He realized that Fujin had left a lot of space for any future use he might have. Both headed down to the lowest level. A weird expression formed on Renjiro's face once again. He asked in a confused voice, "Why is this entire floor empty?"

Fujin had already cleared all the mannequins. He said, "I designed this place to try new jutsus and have some space to move around freely."

Renjiro looked at Fujin and asked, "Is this all you were hiding?"

Fujin looked back at him and asked, "What were you expecting Sensei? An elemental stone mine?"

Renjiro's face went dark because of Fujin's question. He thought, 'His tongue sure has gotten sharper.'

He commented, "Nothing much, just something worth hiding."

Fujin smirked in his mind while thinking, 'Who'd hide something worth hiding in their home? That's the first place anyone would look for in case they are ever suspected.'

Fujin ignored his comment and asked, "Anyways sensei, you promised to teach me the Multi Shadow Clone jutsu!"

Renjiro replied, "I am tired. I'll just show you the hand signs and how it is done. You can practice by yourself."

Renjiro made the hand signs. Soon, 5 shadow clones appeared around him. Renjiro explained to Fujin how the Shadow Clone and Multi Shadow Clone jutsus were different.

Fujin followed his instructions and weaved the hand signs.

'Multi Shadow Clone jutsu'

Immediately, 5 shadow clones appeared around him. Fujin smiled, 'Another jutsu down. This one will be very helpful.'

Renjiro said, "That's good. Just practice until you have it down. Also, this is a forbidden jutsu as it can lower your chakra to dangerous levels. So be careful of how many shadow clones you try to make."

Having taught Fujin for almost a year, Renjiro wasn't concerned about him messing up as long as he knew how cautious Fujin was.

Fujin nodded, "Alright Sensei."

He dispersed his clones.

The two began leaving the basement. Fujin asked, "By the way Sensei, where were you for so long?"

Renjiro replied, "I was assigned a rather long and difficult mission. I returned yesterday. What about you? How many missions did you go on and anything interesting?"

Fujin and Renjiro began chatting. Fujin filled him in on his missions. Fujin's mission experience was as he expected. He was surprised just twice. The first time was when Fujin told him about the 13 million Ryo bounty he claimed. The second time was when he talked about the Jashinists.

During the conversation, Fujin asked, "Are you aware of them sensei?"

Renjiro nodded and answered, "Yeah, I had encountered one of their factions before the 3rd Great Ninja War. But they weren't very strong. I remember them because they had sacrificed all the young children from a village to their god and slaughtered all the adults. Unfortunately, they didn't have any information on where other Jashinists would be. Otherwise, we would have wiped all of their branches."

Fujin said, "Now that I think about it, even these guys never mentioned any other Jashinists. I wonder if their Grand Priest had any details though."

Renjiro replied, "No point in thinking about him. It's been a long time since we ate together. Let's go to Yakiniku. My treat."

Fujin and Renjiro had food before leaving their separate ways. Fujin decided, 'Since I am here, I might as well see if Hoka and Teru are free.'

He made a few hand signs.

'Multi Shadow Clone jutsu'

Two shadow clones appeared next to him. Both flickered away.

Fujin analyzed, 'My chakra was divided equally... I'll have to learn how to control the amount of chakra I allot to this jutsu and distribute it among the clones. Though from my experience with the Shadow Clone jutsu, it'll be better to do so after I use this jutsu a few hundred times.'

Fujin's clones moved towards Teru and Hoka's houses. Unfortunately, Hoka wasn't home. Fujin's clone talked with Hoka's father and asked him to tell Hoka to come to visit him when he is back.

Fujin's other shadow clone met with Teru. Teru was intrigued by the idea. But he asked for a few days to answer. Fujin's clone replied, "Alright. Let's meet up at my home 5 days from now at 1 PM. Mieko should be completely healed by then."

Teru quickly replied, "Alright. We will have food at your home again in that case."

Fujin's clone nodded and said, "Sure."

He dispersed into smoke. Teru looked at the smoke and muttered, "Will he ever come to visit in person?"

Fujin received his clones' memories. He made a shadow clone and sent him to inform Mieko about the meeting. Fujin created another shadow clone which flickered towards the library. With all the tasks completed, Fujin returned to training his body with the Burst jutsu.

For the next 5 days, Fujin focused on physical training and conditioning his body with the Burst jutsu. His physique improved at a very rapid speed. He practiced Vacuum Cannon and Multi Shadow Clone jutsu a few times daily. In addition, one of his shadow clones stayed in the library for over 12 hours daily. During this time, he was visited by Hoka once. He too liked the idea and gave the same reply as Teru.

Finally, the day arrived. Fujin was training with his chakra field spread. He opened his eyes when he sensed Teru. He stopped training and left the basement and sealed it up in a few seconds.

A minute later, Teru rang the doorbell. Fujin opened the door. His eyes immediately focused on the bag in Teru's hands.

Teru noticed Fujin's gaze and said, "My mom felt bad that you cooked everything last time. So she sent some ready-to-fry prawns with me."

Fujin took the bag and said, "She is wiser than you."

Teru smirked and said, "Oh, I am so glad that you like that."

Fujin furrowed his eyebrows wondering what Teru was up to.

Teru continued, "She has invited you to have dinner at our home tonight."

Teru thought, 'I know he doesn't like socializing a lot. So I was worried I'd have to hear my mother nagging. Luckily he dug the pit himself.'

At the same time, Fujin thought, 'I was kept hanging for 2-3 months due to not having any connections. So it's better to accept the invitation. If I am lucky, I might get a mission invitation similar to how Mieko got me on a rank A mission.'

Fujin replied, "Alright. I'll show up."

Teru smiled but suddenly his smile froze. He suddenly had a weird expression as he asked, "Just to confirm, you are going to come yourself instead of sending a clone, right?"

Fujin looked at him with a deadpan expression. He asked, "Did you and Yori swap your brains?"

Teru chuckled awkwardly and said, "It's just that I only see your clones making a visit."

Fujin replied, "That's just for sending messages. Why would I send a clone to eat?"

As they were chatting, Mieko and Hoka showed up. Fujin invited them all in. Mieko asked, "What's in that bag?"

Fujin replied, "Teru's mom sent some prawns."

He made a shadow clone who grabbed the bag and said, "You guys continue discussing. I'll bring chicken and prawns in a few minutes."

Hoka replied, "Great!"

Mieko teased, "Fujin, your clones are much better at cooking than you!"

Suddenly, all three looked at Mieko without speaking a word. Realizing how stupid her sentence was, she immediately became embarrassed and quickly went into the circular room while saying, "Why are you three standing at the door? Let's go in and discuss what we will do quickly."

The boys followed her. Teru commented softly, "She is very quick to change subjects."

Fujin and Hoka nodded in agreement.

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Chapter 193: A Heated Debate

Fujin, Teru, Hoka and Mieko took their seats around the round table. Mieko asked Fujin, "Did you tell them about the dialogue we had?"

Fujin nodded, "Yup."

Mieko looked at Hoka and Teru and asked, "So, what do you think guys?"

Teru answered, "It is a good idea. My current squad takes a lot of breaks between missions. If we form a team, then we can take missions continuously and reach the required number of missions for Elite Chunin promotion quickly.

But, even if we reach the required number of missions, we won't get promoted anytime soon. And, taking missions with our current squads ensures that we may be able to handle the mission even if it goes wrong."

Hoka nodded in agreement. Fujin said, "That's true. But the current rank B missions are very boring and don't challenge us much. My idea is that we should take rank B missions that have a low chance of going wrong and do them rapidly. Even if we don't get promoted at the end of it, we may get asked to assist with rank A missions more often if our mission record is good."

Teru replied, "That is true. I'm guessing that your plan is to reach 50 missions quickly with our team and then try being a part of stronger teams."

Fujin nodded, "Yeah. That would be ideal for us. Though it'll be better to finalize such a decision after we reach that stage. We may as well continue with this team if we can take tougher missions."

Mieko agreed, "Yeah, that's true. So, is everyone on board?"

Hoka nodded, "Yeah, I talked with my parents and teammates. I am in."

Teru nodded, "Same here. But, why didn't you invite anyone else?"

Fujin answered, "Well, the only other two I could think of were Hana and Yori. And their skills would be very similar to Hoka and Mieko respectively. Not to mention that Hana is still in her genin squad. So I figured that it'd be better to go with just us 4. All four of us are good at Taijutsu. We cover all elements except Lightning. We will have 2 Doujutsus and 1 sensor in the squad. So pretty much all aspects get covered."

Teru thought for a bit and said, "Alright."

Since no one asked anything else, Mieko said, "So now the main question is..."

She looked at all three and said, "Who will be the team leader?"

Hoka and Teru too looked at everyone. Meanwhile, Fujin thought, 'I never considered this... Makes sense though as every team needs to have a leader.'

Hoka, Mieko and Teru prepared themselves for an intense debate.

Hoka asked Mieko, "What do you suggest?"

Mieko replied, "Of course, it should be me."

Hoka saw her with a deadpan expression as he thought, 'Why am I not surprised?'

He asked, "Why?"

Mieko answered, "Because I am the only one who is an expert at Ninjutsu, Taijutsu and Genjutsu. You guys don't have any skills in Genjutsu."

Hoka argued back, "What does Genjutsu have to do with leading? My ability to see up to a kilometer is more important. This way, I can pass orders quickly and get us more time to react."

Mieko said, "You can do that even when you aren't a leader."

Teru entered the debate saying, "Yes, and you can use Genjutsu even if you aren't the leader. The most important aspect of a leader is experience. And I have been a ninja for a year longer than you three."

The three entered into a heated debate. At some point, the Sharingan and the Byakugan got activated. Chakras began flaring. Fujin didn't speak and just watched with amusement. He thought, 'Wow, this looks awfully like those pre-interview debates for placements in my previous world.'

The trio continued arguing for 15 minutes when Hoka's eyes fell on Fujin. He saw that Fujin was eating the fried chicken alone and realized that Fujin never spoke a word.

He asked, "Why are you eating chicken and not talking? Aren't you interested in becoming the team leader?"

Fujin answered in his mind, 'Unfortunately I don't have popcorn.'

He said, "It's more amusing to see you three arguing. Don't worry, I won't let the food go cold."

Mieko suddenly realized. She complained, "Hey! Don't eat all the food!"

Fujin shrugged and continued eating.

The change in the subject made the trio calm down. Teru realized that arguing was pointless and said, "It doesn't look like we will reach any conclusion."

Fujin replied, "You sure? Maybe another 15 minutes of debate might provide a result."

Mieko, Teru and Hoka's faces went dark. They realized that Fujin was mocking them. Mieko said, "Alright, stop being a prick and tell us what great idea you have!"

Fujin put up a sad face and sighed, "But I wanna see you guys debating."

All three stared at him. Having teased them enough, Fujin said, "I don't recall where I read or heard this quote, but it went something like this - A great team is where no one knows who the Leader is."

Fujin's words made the three of them enter into thought. After a while, Hoka asked, "Do you mean that we shouldn't have any team leader?"

Teru shook his head, "No, having a team leader is compulsory. Otherwise, we won't get the missions."

Mieko said, "Well, we can just lie."

Fujin interrupted their conversation and said, "No, it means that everyone should be capable of leading. So we will take turns in leading the missions. This way, all 4 of us will become capable leaders."

Teru replied, "Nice idea. I never thought in this way."

Hoka and Mieko nodded.

Mieko said, "So now we just have to decide in what order we will lead."

Once again, Mieko, Hoka and Teru looked into each other's eyes. Fujin looked in anticipation while eating chicken. He could almost see sparks flying between them once again.

However, Mieko suddenly looked and pointed at Fujin and yelled, "Stop taking pleasure from our arguments!"

Hoka and Teru too looked at Fujin with irritated looks.

Fujin said, "Hey, unlike you three, I live alone. There aren't many opportunities to see something this fun!"

Mieko, Teru and Hoka ignored Fujin's lousy excuse. Though they knew that he was an orphan and felt bad about it, they never saw Fujin complain about it or feel down due to it.

Hoka said, "Alright, you have had your fun. Now say what you think."

Fujin said, "The order that I think is ideal would be me first, then Hoka, followed by Mieko and lastly Teru."

Teru and Mieko immediately complained, "Why are we last?"

Fujin replied, "Teru, I put you last because you have never gone on a mission with us before. In fact, in the last 2 and half years, we have fought just once. So by leading last, you will be able to understand more about us three."

Teru thought about it and nodded his head. He said unwillingly, "Alright, that sounds reasonable."

Fujin looked at Mieko and said, "You are second last because you just got injured. Though you have healed, it will be better for you to take it easy for a couple of missions."

Mieko wanted to argue, but she recalled the medical nins asking her to take it easy for a week or so. She too begrudgingly agreed.

Hoka asked, "Why am I after you?"

Fujin smirked and said, "Because you like to engage in pointless battles instead of taking the easy way while I do the opposite."

Hoka immediately complained, "Hey, that's not fair. I only do it when our opponents are very weak. And it doesn't give them any chance at success."

Hoka expected Fujin to counter back, but instead, he saw Fujin shrugging. Fujin said, "Well, that's pretty much all I got. The only other way I see is if we fight to decide the leader."

Normally, Hoka would be excited to face Fujin. However, he frowned and said, "You will just keep your distance and fight with clones, right?"

Fujin smirked and said, "As I said, I prefer the easy way."

Hoka was annoyed by his smirk. But he thought rationally, 'Fighting with Fujin would only make me more annoyed and I won't win. Worse, if the fight becomes intense, I'll be left with a lot of cuts on my body. We may have to delay our missions if that happens.'

Hoka sighed and said, "Leave it. I'll be the bigger man and let you lead first."

Teru and Mieko immediately realized their opportunity and said the same thing. Fujin watched them with a deadpan look as he thought, 'Man? Woman? Should I get them a mirror?'

With the order of team leaders decided, the group began enjoying the food. They discussed their abilities and thought of some combination of jutsus they could use.

After discussing everything they wanted to discuss and finishing off all the food, Fujin said, "We will start taking missions from the day after tomorrow. Let's meet up outside the mission center at noon."

Everyone nodded and left.

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Chapter 194: Terrifying Efficiency

Fujin continued his training and visited Teru's house in the evening. Fujin expected that Teru's parents would be Jounins as well. Surprisingly, his father was an Elite Chunin while his mother was a normal civilian.

Fujin thought, 'Well that's a bummer. I thought I could make some connections with another Veteran Jounin. That said, it makes sense that not everyone's parent is a Jounin. I guess my expectations were just high due to knowing Mieko's and Hoka's parents.'

Since he didn't have any benefits to gain, Fujin let go of any schemes and just chatted casually with Teru's parents and enjoyed a delicious dinner.

Two days later, the group gathered outside the Mission Center. As usual, Fujin was the last one to arrive earning him stares from all his new teammates.

Mieko said, "You know, a team leader has to be the first to show up!"

Fujin raised his eyebrow and asked, "Says who?"

He thought, 'I remember someone who was 3 hours late on average.'

To stop Mieko from exploding, Hoka said, "Fujin."

Fujin shrugged and said, "It's still 5 minutes to noon. We can agree on an earlier time if you wanna show up early."

Teru sighed at Fujin's stubbornness and said, "Leave it. Let's go get a mission and register our squad."

Everyone entered the Mission Center. They saw Shichiro and approached him. Shichiro noticed them as well and smiled, "Why are you guys here?"

Fujin said, "I want to register a new squad and accept a mission as well."

Shichiro observed the 4 youngsters. He asked, "Are you four forming a squad?"

They nodded. Shichiro was surprised. He thought, 'This is the first time I am seeing such a young team.'

Fujin asked, "Is there an issue?"

Shichiro said, "Not really, but are you guys sure?"

Mieko said, "We wouldn't be here otherwise."

Shichiro said, "Alright. Let me get the paperwork."

Shichiro got busy. The group waited and watched him doing all the work. Mieko suddenly had an idea. She looked at Teru and asked softly, "Teru, will we have to do more paperwork while changing the leader?"

Teru thought for a bit and nodded, "Yes, but we can avoid it by not doing it officially."

A grin formed on Mieko's face. She said, "Let's keep changing our leader officially for every mission. It's about time that we got some revenge for those insane number of bandit-hunting missions!"

Fujin and Hoka immediately nodded. Hoka said, "That sounds great!"

Fujin added, "I agree."

Teru looked at the three of them in surprise and asked, "How many bandit missions were you guys assigned?"

Fujin replied, "Too many."

Mieko followed up, "I did 75!"

Fujin was surprised. He looked at Mieko and asked, "75? Why so many?"

Mieko said, "He kept giving me bandit hunting missions till I joined an Uchiha squad. I was so mad at him back then!"

Hoka said, "Me too!"

Mieko looked at Fujin and asked, "How many bandit extermination missions did you do after we disbanded?"

Fujin replied, "Just one."

Mieko and Hoka looked at him with surprise. Hoka asked, "Why just one for you?"

Fujin replied, "I remember threatening him that I'll plant evidence stating that he is the boss of those bandits if he gave me another mission like that."

Mieko and Hoka were surprised. Mieko grumbled, "I threatened him with violence and Genjutsu, but they never worked! Also, my parents asked me to take those rank C missions."

Teru watched their conversation. He finally asked, "Why did you do so many bandit-hunting missions?"

Fujin said, "Our sensei took us to do a lot of them and we kinda gained a reputation. Leave it, it's embarrassing. Anyways, I like your idea Mieko. Let's do that."

Shichiro was finally done. He handed Fujin a paper and said, "These are the details of your team."

Fujin read the paper. It had some basic details about those 4 and Fujin was mentioned as the team leader.

While Fujin was reading the paper, Shichiro asked, "Which missions are you interested in taking? I have a bunch of bandit extermination missions lined u..."

He suddenly stopped talking and involuntarily stepped back. 3 pairs of eyes stared at him. One pair was as black as the abyss itself. Another pair of eyes were red and spinning. The last pair of eyes were as white as they could be!

He quickly said, "I'm just kidding, no need to look at me like this."

He picked up a file and handed it to Fujin and said, "You can select a rank B mission from this file."

Suddenly, his voice became serious as he warned, "Don't bite off more than you can chew."

Fujin nodded. He looked through the missions. Most of the rank B missions were escort missions for merchants or important officials. Fujin wasn't interested in taking missions that would be slow to complete. He began looking for target elimination missions.

After looking through all of them, he thought, 'As I thought. None of them is in the Land of Fire.'

He removed 3 mission papers from the file and handed them to Shichiro and said, "We will take these three missions."

Shichiro was surprised once again. He accepted the mission papers and asked, "3 at the same time?"

Fujin nodded, "Yeah, they are close to each other."

Shichiro read the papers, 'Hmm... All are missions to eliminate rogue forces in the Land of River. Given the data, it's unlikely that either of these would be tougher.'

He looked at the youngsters in front of him and said, "Alright. Good luck and ensure that you stay safe."

Fujin nodded and accepted the papers and left along with his team. Fujin shared the mission papers with his squad and said, "I have selected 3 missions in the Land of River. They are very close to each other

and not very far away from the Land of Fire border. So if anything goes wrong, we can retreat to safer places quickly."

Everyone nodded. After they were done reading, Fujin said in a serious tone, "I am the leader of these missions. And my policy is always safety first. I am fine if our mission fails, but none of us must die or be crippled. So always emphasize more on our safety rather than the mission. Is this clear?"

Hoka, Mieko and Teru were surprised by the seriousness in Fujin's voice. Mieko teased, "Wow Fujin, you sound exactly like Sensei!"

Hoka agreed, "That's true."

Fujin sighed at their antics and asked again, "Is it clear?"

All three nodded and said, "Yup."

Since everyone agreed, Fujin asked, "Is everyone prepared to go?"

Everyone nodded. The squad immediately left Konoha.

The group travelled the whole day at top speed and took a break at a Patrol camp close to the border at night.

They got up early the next morning and continued their journey. At around 8 AM, they finally arrived close to their destination. They stopped around 2 kilometers away from their destination.

Fujin looked at the map and said, "They should be around 3 kilometers to the west from here. Keep an eye for traps"

Hoka activated his Byakugan and Mieko activated her Sharingan. The squad moved forward.

Finally, Hoka said, "I can see them. They have built a small camp ahead."

Fujin asked, "What sort of camp?"

Hoka replied, "Mostly bamboo huts next to a river. There are 35 people in the camp. Only 12 have chakra with 3 at Chunin level and 1 at Elite Chunin level."

Fujin said, "Alright, that should be manageable. Let's get close and stick to the plan."

The group immediately flickered through the forest and stopped at the outskirts of the camp. Fujin asked softly, "Are there any who aren't in the camp?"

Hoka checked the surroundings and answered, "I can see 4 people in a 1 kilometer radius. But they don't have chakra."

Fujin thought for a bit and replied, "Alright, let's ignore them. We will destroy this camp directly. Prepare your jutsus."

Everyone quickly made hand signs.

'Wind Release: Infinite Breakthrough jutsu'

'Fire Release: Majestic Destroyer Flame jutsu'

Instantly, a massive Fire approached the camp. Since they didn't detect anyone, everyone was caught off-guard. Only their leader acted quickly and weaved hand signs.

'Water Release: Water Wall jutsu'

The water from the river suddenly flowed out and formed a wall between the camp and the incoming fire. The Fire-Wind combo jutsu hit the Water Wall and went straight through it. Their leader shouted, "Everyone, escape underground!"

The few ninjas who knew Earth Release quickly escaped underground. The Fire engulfed the entire camp and burned everything down. Over 30 died by being burnt alive. Their screams were all that could be heard in the vicinity. However, the attack wasn't over.

Hoka saw the 4 rogue ninjas escaping underground and said, "Now!"

Both he and Teru slammed their hands on the ground.

'Earth Release: Stone Spear jutsu'

Immediately, spears formed around everyone who had escaped underground. The rogue ninjas had just relaxed slightly on escaping death. Not a single one was prepared to defend. A dozen spears pierced into the body of all four of them.

Hoka watched and said, "They are all dead."

Fujin spread his chakra field to recheck. He said, "Yeah, none of those 35 survived. And there is no one in a 1 kilometer radius who can use chakra."

Mieko sighed and said, "That doesn't feel like a rank B mission at all!"

Fujin replied, "It is a rank B mission. Just that they feel too easy. This was the reason for forming this team, remember?"

Teru said, "Yeah. Let's complete the remaining 2 missions today as well."

Everyone began moving towards their next target.

After completing a rank B mission in less than a minute, the newly formed squad completed another 2 rank B missions on the same day with terrifying efficiency!

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Chapter 195: A Date?

Having completed the 3 missions, the group returned to Konoha on the evening of the following day.

Mieko asked, "Will we be going on a mission tomorrow?"

Teru said, "I think it'll be better if we take a day's break. Otherwise, the constant travel might wear us down."

Fujin agreed, "Yeah. Let's have a day's break between missions. We can have a longer break if the mission is tiring or if someone gets injured."

Hoka agreed with Fujin.

Mieko said, "Alright. Let's meet at noon..."

As she spoke, her eyes landed on Fujin. She corrected herself, "No! Let's meet 30 minutes before noon on the day after tomorrow outside the Mission center."

Fujin's left eye twitched on seeing how she changed the time after looking at him. He thought, 'Well, it doesn't really make a difference to me. It'll be the same if you show up 15-20 minutes before the decided time.'

The group left. Fujin was flickering to his home when he noticed, 'Hmm? Someone's following me.'

He immediately began sensing and saw who was following, 'Why is she chasing after me?'

He stopped moving. A few seconds later Mieko appeared.

Fujin asked, "What's up?"

Mieko asked while breathing slightly heavily, "Do you have to run at this speed to your home?"

Fujin replied, "Not really. Just saves some time. Anyways, why did you follow me?"

Mieko began a bit fidgety. She said, "Well, I never thanked you properly for saving my life. I thought about how I should thank you properly but couldn't think of anything. So I..."

Fujin interrupted her saying, "I already said that you don't need to thank me. We are teammates. I got your back and you got mine."

Mieko was about to nod in agreement but suddenly stopped as she realized, 'Wait, did I ever have to save him? No, I have never seen his life ever be at stake!'

She said, "That's all good, but I still want to thank you. I asked my mother how I should thank you and she suggested that I treat you to dinner."

Fujin was surprised. He asked, "What did she say?"

Mieko replied, "That I treat you for dinner."

Fujin's left eye twitched once again. He thought, 'Is her mother trying to set us up? Did she find out about dango and wanted to get revenge on me or something?'

Seeing that Fujin wasn't speaking, Mieko got upset and asked, "What's the issue? I'm treating you to a free dinner. Just come."

Fujin was about to say no, but hearing what Mieko said, he thought, 'Well, if she puts it that way, then how do I logically say no?'

Fujin said, "I am not a fan of eating dango for dinner."

Mieko complained, "Hey, who said I eat dango for dinner? I wanted to go to that Sushi restaurant."

Fujin sighed in his mind, 'Leave it, I'll agree. It will be annoying if she tries to find more ways to thank me if I keep refusing.'

He said, "Alright. Let's go."

Mieko cheered upon hearing him agree. She said, "Great, follow me."

She walked in front of Fujin. Though Fujin couldn't see, a blush appeared on her face.

Fujin followed thinking, 'Never thought I'd go on a date at 11 in this world. Though to be honest, I never thought I'd go on any date at all. Oh well, since I am on one, I might as well enjoy it.'

En route, Mieko tried making small talk with Fujin. Fujin replied, but there wasn't much to talk about. After all, Fujin's life in this world was very monotonous. He didn't have a life outside of being a ninja.

After many failed attempts of finding a common topic to talk about, the duo reached the restaurant. While ordering, they finally found a common topic to talk about. The topic was 'Food'.

While eating, the two talked about all the delicious foods they came across outside Konoha when they were on rank B missions. Fujin mainly talked about the noodles from the Land of Noodles while Mieko talked about an array of sweets! The two chatted for over an hour while enjoying sushi.

By the time they left, it was very dark. Fujin said, "I'll drop you home."

Mieko asked, "Alright."

The two walked to the Uchiha clan compound. Fujin walked with her to the entrance before saying goodbyes. As he watched her leave, Fujin sighed, 'She has a crush on me. I guess it happened when I saved her life.'

Fujin turned around and began walking home. He sighed again, 'Why does life have to keep getting complicated?'

Over the next month, their team completed 19 rank B missions! They chose every mission very carefully. As a result, all the missions were completed with extreme ease. Fujin, Mieko and Hoka already had very strong teamwork. Teru blended in with ease resulting in even more combination jutsus. Due to completing missions together, their bond also got stronger.

On one of the rest days, while Fujin was training his body to get used to stronger electric shocks, he heard the bell ring. He stopped training and sensed who rang the bell. Fujin thought, 'Oof, so much stuff happened that I completely forgot about them.'

He sweatdropped a bit thinking, 'For some reason, I'm a bit worried about my future subordinates now.'

He created a Shadow Clone and continued training. The clone went out and greeted the visitors. He opened the door and saw Daisuke and the other 4 orphans standing with him.

Daisuke immediately greeted Fujin, "Hey Fujin. How have you been?"

Fujin's clone replied, "Good. It's good to see you guys again."

Daisuke replied, "We tried visiting you 2 days ago, but it looks like you were on a mission."

Fujin's clone nodded, "Yeah, I returned last night. Anyways, have you completed the Leaf training exercise?"

Daisuke replied, "Yup. That's why we wanted to visit you."

Fujin's clone thought for a bit, 'It's just over a month and a half since I asked them to do it. Isn't it a bit too fast?'

However, he soon realized, 'No, they have been using chakra for a lot longer than we were back in 1st and 2nd years in the academy. So their speed makes sense.'

Fujin's clone exited the home while asking, "All 5 of you can keep the leaf on for over an hour?"

Suddenly, he noticed them getting a bit nervous. Daisuke said, "Well, 4 of us can. Buncho is still a bit short. He can stick the leaf for 48 minutes. But exams are coming close. We only have around 3 months left. So we couldn't wait any longer."

Fujin's clone said, "It's fine. 48 is decent as well. Your next task is to learn how to climb trees with only your feet."

His words confused them. Tatsuya asked, "What do you mean by just our feet?"

Fujin's clone walked towards a tree and said, "Like this."

He began walking on the tree. All 5 students were surprised at his action and got excited to do it themselves. After all, this was infinitely more fun than meditating with a leaf stuck on your head.

Fujin's clone said, "To be able to do this, you have to concentrate chakra on your feet. And your chakra has to be the right amount. If it's low, then your foot won't stick to the tree. If it is high, then you will damage the tree and be pushed away."

Fujin's clone got off the tree and said, "Now you guys try it."

Immediately, all 5 tried climbing the tree. 2 seconds later, all 5 fell down. Fujin's clone chuckled at that sight. He said, "This isn't as easy as it looks. So keep practicing until you can climb properly. Once you do, you won't have any issues in mastering those 3 jutsus needed for the graduation exam."

Fujin's words surprised them again. Bunjiro asked, "Will we be able to do all 3 jutsus easily?"

Fujin's clone replied, "Well, you will still need to train. But learning it will become very easy."

Daisuke excitedly said, "Alright! Thank You Fujin!"

Fujin's clone replied, "No worries. You guys can continue training in the tree climbing exercise. Once you can do it flawlessly, you can come back to me. Also, unlike the leaf concentration exercise, you can't leave this one halfway."

Everyone said, "Don't worry, we will climb to the top of the tree!"

Fujin's clone nodded and said, "Good. See you guys later."

They said their goodbyes and left. Fujin continued his training feeling better about his capabilities to teach his future subordinates.

Fujin's squad continued missions as usual for another week. When they returned from their last mission, Mieko received shocking news after she went home.

She went home in a cheerful mood. However, on entering her home, she saw that her parents were dejected and serious.

She asked, "Mom, why are you sad?"

Her mother looked at her. She wondered how she should deliver the news. After a minute of silence, she sighed and said, "Shisui is dead. He committed suicide."

Mieko was shocked.

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Chapter 196: Dilemma - Emotional or Rational Choice?

Fujin had completed his morning workout and was about to enter the basement when he heard the doorbell. He checked and opened the door and said, "Hey Mieko. Come in."

Mieko entered his house. Fujin noticed, 'Hmm, she is uncharacteristically silent. And her mood seems down.'

He asked, "What's up?"

Mieko said, "I won't be able to come for missions for some time."

Fujin could feel the sadness in her voice. He wondered, 'What's up with her? I haven't seen her so down until now...'

He asked, "Why? Did something happen?"

As he asked her, he could see tears forming in her eyes. Fujin sighed in his mind and helped her take a seat. He also grabbed some water for her to drink.

Mieko drank the water and said, "Shisui died. Mother said that he committed suicide."

Fujin's eyes widened. He thought, 'So it's time?'

Fujin knew that Shisui had mentored Mieko at some point in the past. She had stated about learning the Body Flicker jutsu from him.

Fujin said, "That is sad news. Were the two of you close?"

Mieko nodded, "We didn't hang out much for the last couple of years, but he used to mentor me a lot before it. He taught me Fire Dragon jutsu and Body Flicker jutsu..."

Mieko continued talking about Shisui for over 5 minutes. Fujin just patiently listened to her while sitting next to her.

After she was done, both sat silently for a minute. Finally, Mieko got up and said, "Could you tell Teru and Hoka that I won't be able to come for missions?"

Fujin nodded and said, "Don't worry. I'll tell them."

Mieko thanked him and left. Fujin saw her leaving his home and involuntarily said, "Mieko."

Mieko turned around and asked, "Yes?"

Fujin sighed and asked, "Would you like to go on missions to take your mind off this?"

Mieko was happy that Fujin asked her this. However, she said, "No. My parents instructed me to not go on any missions for some time. But thanks for asking Fujin."

Fujin thought, 'They instructed? I see. They want her to participate in the coup. So every Uchiha ninja should be called back using the excuse of Shisui's death. No wonder there wasn't any Uchiha survivor other than Sasuke!'

He said, "Alright then. Take care."

Mieko nodded and left.

Fujin saw her leaving and sighed. He closed his door and muttered, "I ended up asking her that."

He sat down as he thought, 'When I realized that I was in the Naruto world, I decided that I won't form any relationships or be emotionally attached to anyone. I decided that I won't even make a lot of friends and won't be emotionally attached to any that I make.'

After all, this is the dangerous world of deadly ninjas. And I know for a fact that at least 80% of all ninjas would die in the 4th Great Ninja War. This means that any friend I have will have an 80% chance to die before I reach 22 years of age. Meaning that unless I'm lucky or become insanely strong to protect everyone I care about, every 4 out of 5 friends of mine will die in the next 10 years.

So getting emotionally attached to them could result in me breaking down similar to how Kakashi broke down after the 3rd war. And I don't want to suffer emotionally like him or hundreds of others who went through the same shit that he did in this world.'

Fujin stopped thinking for a few seconds before letting out another sigh, 'Unfortunately, though my plan was right, I didn't take human nature into account. Due to having spent so much time with them, I guess I have become quite fond of Renjiro, Mieko and Hoka. Maybe Teru and Genji as well. Looks like I am not as emotionless as I want to be.'

He chuckled and continued introspecting, 'Fortunately, it hasn't reached a stage where I would do something crazy for them. But, leaving my emotions aside, is there anything I could do for Mieko?'

Fujin began thinking. After a while, he concluded, 'There are only two ways to directly get involved. One would be to stop Itachi and Obito head-on. Another would be to convince Hiruzen to lift the restrictions on Uchiha and reintegrate them into Konoha.

Unfortunately, the first option is pure suicide. I don't know if I can be strong enough to face either of them 10 years from now. If I do anything right now, I'll just die pointlessly. As for the second option, even that is very pointless. All it will do is expose the fact that I know about the coup Uchiha has planned and attract suspicions from all the elders and Hiruzen himself.

The attention would mean that I could be watched in the future and my freedom will get restricted. Not to mention, I have no confidence in being able to convince them to integrate Uchiha back into Konoha. After all, I doubt Hiruzen wants to see something like this happen and he still hasn't been able to do anything to stop it.

So my only reasonable option is to only save Mieko. And the only way to do it would be to force her to go on a mission against her parents' wishes. Could I do it? And what would be the risks?'

Fujin began analyzing again. After a while, he concluded, 'I might be able to make her go on a mission with us. If I choose a long mission that would take us around a month to complete, she will stay out of Konoha when the massacre happens.'

As for the risks, there are two critical risks. The first is Danzo. If he is insistent on eliminating all Uchihas, he could send his Root agents to kill any Uchiha out of Konoha. If he does, we will have to confront them. And I am not confident about my team's chances against them. Especially if he sends a squad of only Jounin-level Root agents.

The other risk is Mieko herself. Assuming we stay safe and return to Konoha, there are two possibilities I see with her. The favorable possibility for me is that the trauma caused by the news of the death of her parents and her clan makes her awaken the Mangekyou Sharingan. Assuming that she still has a crush on me, she could be a great asset to have as a friend as long as she doesn't go crazy.

Though Danzo may want to have her in that case, I doubt Hiruzen would allow him that. After all, though the elimination of the Uchiha clan could be considered a great feat for Danzo, it is also the death of his political career. Hiruzen won't let go of such an opportunity. I know that he will shut down the root, but with my few interactions with that old fox, I am sure that he will do a lot more. I'm guessing that he inducted a majority of Danzo's Root ninjas into Anbu and only left Danzo's most faithful subordinates with him in case Hiruzen ever needs Root's help in the future.

However, the chances of awakening Mangekyou are infinitesimally low. The more likely possibility is that she will reach 3 Tomoe Sharingan. And that would make her a huge threat. After all, Uchiha's Stone Tablet states that they should kill the person closest to them to awaken Mangekyou. If Mieko reads that, I'll have to forever watch my back around her if she considers me the one closest to her.'

Fujin began deciding his course of action. He struggled for a long time between his emotional and rational mind. Finally, rational thoughts won over emotions as he decided, 'I need to stop being emotional. Though I would like to see Mieko stay alive, I shouldn't be putting my life and future in grave danger for her. After all, the events that will play out will be controlled by forces far beyond my capabilities.'

He made two shadow clones to deliver the message to Hoka and Teru. Fujin thought, 'It's unfortunate, but I always knew that this was about to happen. And there is nothing I can do to stop this. Now, it's time to put the plan into action. I wonder who has the body of the Grand Priest. Is it with Sora or Akihiko or did they hand it to Fugaku?'

To avoid constantly thinking of Mieko and having a change of heart, Fujin began planning to get the Zankoku's body from the Uchihas.

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Chapter 197: All Parties Prepare

To create a workable plan, Fujin had one clone in the library the entire time that he wasn't on missions. His clone looked through the entire library to find any methods and seals to help him find a way to infiltrate the Uchiha compound.

After researching and practicing for a month, Fujin had found all the means to create a plan and try his luck while ensuring his safety and anonymity. He began the preparations.

While Fujin was making his preparations, the Uchiha clan too began their preparations. All active Uchiha ninjas were called back. Every single Uchiha ninja returned back to Konoha. They began to prepare themselves for the war.

Meanwhile, Danzo met Itachi in secret and explained to him what would happen when the Uchiha revolted, once again. He convinced Itachi to take action against his own clan.

However, while the two were talking, their actions were seen by one person. In his room, Hiruzen watched their whole interaction in his crystal ball. Surprisingly, neither Danzo nor Itachi sensed anything off.

Tiredness could be seen on Hiruzen's face as he sighed on seeing his friend's actions, 'I would have stopped him. Unfortunately, the relationship between the village and the Uchiha clan has deteriorated beyond repair.'

His expression became firm as he decided not to interfere, 'While it's true that they were relocated to the outskirts of the village and monitored by Anbu, no Uchiha was ever mistreated by us. I can understand that they would be dissatisfied with such a treatment. However, this is no excuse for launching a coup that would destroy the village.'

On deciding the fate of the Uchiha, Hiruzen's eyes fell on Danzo, 'My old friend, it looks like you have completely fallen into Darkness. This will be the last time you will interfere in the matters of my village.'

While the undercurrents were flowing in Konoha, Fujin was busy in his basement making a lot of complicated seals. A day after Mieko told him the news, Fujin completed the first step of his plan.

He took a deep breath, 'Finally, it's done!'

He made a hand sign. A shadow clone appeared next to him. The clone made multiple hand signs. Fujin observed the clone by concentrating chakra in his eyes. He could see that the chakra signature of the clone was slowly changing. Soon, it was very different from Fujin's chakra signature. His scent also changed.

Fujin thought, 'Good, now it will be difficult to link the clone to me.'

After the clone completed the process, Fujin applied another scent to the clone to make it look like he was hiding his real scent. Next, the clone used the Transformation jutsu to transform into a Honey badger. Fujin thought, 'Normally, seeing this animal in the streets of Konoha would raise suspicions. But, the Uchiha clan compound is on the outskirts of Konoha. If it appears there, it won't cause any suspicion. After all, there are many of these in the forests inside Konoha.'

After the clone transformed, Fujin began making seals on its body. He first applied seals that would increase its affinity to Earth nature manipulation. This way, it would have an easier time moving underground and would also reduce any chances of it being related to Fujin as Fujin wasn't known for his Earth element.

He followed it up by applying numerous stealth seals on the body of his transformed clone. Soon, the honey badger couldn't be seen, heard, smelled or sensed! Fujin checked his work several times until he was satisfied.

Finally, he nodded and said, "You'll be responsible for the first task."

The honey badger didn't reply. Fujin made a hand sign and sealed him in a special storage scroll.

He created a wind clone who took the storage scroll with him and flickered multiple times in the forests next to his house. After coming to a very secluded place far away from his house, the wind clone opened

the scroll and let the honey badger clone out. The honey badger clone checked his surroundings and moved stealthily towards the Uchiha clan. He moved under the ground so as to not leave any trails.

The wind clone also left. After going away sufficient distance, he destroyed the storage scroll and dispersed himself.

The honey badger quickly moved towards the Uchiha clan compound but did not enter it. He had no intention of testing his seals against the Sharingan. Instead, he went to the route that Uchiha kids would take while going to and coming from the Academy and stayed there.

The honey badger clone thought, 'The first task consists of two missions. The first is to keep an eye on Uchiha Sasuke. The day Sasuke returns very late from the academy will most likely be the day the massacre happens. And, the second task is to see if anyone notices me. If someone does, I will drop all plans of stealing that dead body.'

While this clone kept an eye, Fujin created 5 more honey badger clones. They would roam through the forests and training grounds in Konoha to see if anyone notices anything suspicious in them.

Fujin had calculated, 'Honey badgers are rather common in Konoha. So a few more of them shouldn't raise any eyebrows. However, if someone is still able to somehow figure out that they are my clones, I can just admit that they were made by me and I was practicing stealth for missions. After all, I haven't done anything wrong yet. If no one notices anything strange, then I'll deploy them around the Uchiha clan.'

The honey badger clones would roam around Konoha all night and disperse themselves when the Sun rose. Fujin experimented for two days before deciding that they were safe to be used. From the 3rd day, all 6 of his honey badger clones used to stay around the Uchiha clan compound. In addition, Fujin would maintain 2 wind clones at one secluded spot a few kilometers from the Uchiha clan compound.

With the preparations done, Fujin just waited for the right moment.

A few days later, in an underground base under Konoha, Danzo stood with a subordinate. The subordinate respectfully asked, "What job do you have for me, Danzo-sama?"

Danzo looked at him and said, "Your Triatominae bugs can induce sluggishness, right?"

The Root ninja was from the Aburame clan. He replied, "Yes Danzo-sama. They can cause slight sluggishness with their poison. And since it poses no direct threat and doesn't have any color or smell, it is almost impossible to detect."

Danzo said, "Good. Your mission is to poison the drinking water that reaches the Uchiha clan with this poison. Use very small quantities. Your main priority is that this poison isn't noticed. Once you are done, go to training ground 49 and wait for me."

The Root ninja was surprised by the mission. However, it wasn't his place to question Danzo. He nodded and left. Danzo watched him leave as he thought, 'He was a good subordinate. A shame that he has to die.'

Danzo called another subordinate of his and instructed him to approach the Aburame ninja in the training ground 49 and kill him and dispose of his body as well. Though Danzo's subordinates had his curse seal, no seal was perfect. Considering the importance and severity of this matter, Danzo decided to take this step. This way no one other than him and the elders would know about the truth of the Uchiha massacre.

The Root ninja from the Aburame clan did his job exceptionally well. Since it only caused a slight sluggishness, no Uchiha ninja realized that they had been drugged. After all, they didn't have to move at full speed in their normal lives.

Danzo made a few more moves that day. He ensured that no Hyuga, Inuzuka or Sensor ninja was in the vicinity of the Uchiha clan compound to prevent any interference. In fact, he had ensured that most of their active ninjas were on duty outside Konoha.

Finally, on that evening, Uchiha Itachi and Uchiha Obito appeared in the Uchiha clan compound. Almost everyone in the village was oblivious to the massacre that was about to unfold. Only 3 were aware of it and waited patiently.

Danzo was busy with his Root ninjas to ensure that Itachi wasn't interrupted. Meanwhile, he also had to ensure that his Root ninjas weren't close to the Uchiha clan compound and get caught in the fighting.

Hiruzen had recalled all Anbu ninjas that were keeping an eye on the Uchiha clan. While Fujin was waiting in his basement for his clones to send him a message.

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Chapter 198: The Massacre!

So I wasn't aware of the huge time gap between Shisui's death and the massacre and assumed that they happened in quick succession as they were shown in the manga. By the time I realized this, the story had long crossed the point when Shisui should have died (it should have been around the time Fujin graduated or when he was in the Genin squad). So, unfortunately, the timing of Shisui's death will not be consistent with the canon. The rest stays the same (with a few obvious changes I made).

Since it was getting late, most of the Uchiha clan members were in their homes with their families. For them, it was like any other evening. Their Jounins were aware that they would have to fight a tough war very soon. So they cherished their peaceful days with their family unaware of the tragedy about to befall them!

As soon as Itachi and Obito appeared in the clan, both immediately began the massacre. Obito freely moved through the walls and attacked the unsuspecting Uchihas. Itachi too flickered into their homes. Since he was the son of the clan leader, no one expected him to attack when he did. They began slaughtering the Uchihas with extreme ease and stealth.

While slaughtering, Itachi showed up in Uchiha Akihiko's house. Akihiko was having dinner with his wife and children when he suddenly got up and turned around to face the intruder. He squinted his eyes on seeing Itachi wondering what he was doing here. Most of the top-tier ninjas in the Uchiha clan were disappointed in Itachi and slightly suspicious of him. Unlike others who didn't expect any attack from the son of their leader, Akihiko was on guard and asked, "Why did you show up unannounced?"

Without replying, Itachi attacked him with his blade. Akihiko didn't have any weapons on him. He tried to move out of the way. Unfortunately, his body reacted a split second slower. That was sufficient time for Itachi's blade to slit his throat open.

Akihiko's family were shocked. However, before they could scream in horror, Itachi dealt with them too.

Some distance away from Akihiko's house, Obito entered Mieko's home. They too were having dinner. Both of Mieko's parents were at the Jounin rank. Sensing that someone had broken into their home, they both got up and prepared themselves. Mieko noticed her parents' actions and got alert as well.

She asked softly, "What happened, Mother?"

Her mother replied, "Someone has broken into our house. Stay on guard."

At the next moment, Obito appeared in front of them. Not identifying the masked intruder, Mieko's father made hand signs rapidly without caring about his house.

'Fire Release: Fireball jutsu!'

A massive fireball appeared in front of Obito who thought, 'Interesting. Their house had seals to alert them. Unfortunately, I can't let this fireball explode.'

He stood without moving and let the fireball reach him. However, instead of the fireball hitting him, the Uchiha family was surprised to see the fireball being sucked into his mask.

Taking advantage of the surprise, Obito went on the attack without giving them any time. Obito's speed was much higher than the three. Combined with their sluggish moments, they didn't last even a few seconds against him. Mieko saw in horror as both her parents were beheaded! Tears rolled down her eyes.

Her eyes began transforming as another tomoe appeared in her eyes. Obito watched her eyes and commented in a deep voice, "Interesting. To awaken 3 Tomoe Sharingans at your age. Very impressive."

However, Mieko was in no mood to hear any praise. She screamed, "Return my parents to me!"

She attacked Obito with all her might. However, a rod pierced through her heart in the next second. Mieko coughed out blood as her memories flashed in her eyes.

As she died, she heard Obito's deep voice, "Unfortunately, you don't have the time to grow."

As she fell down, she remembered the scene of Fujin saving her the last time. Unfortunately, she knew that it wasn't possible this time. It was already too late. She closed her eyes and fell to the ground.

Obito thought, 'A family with three pairs of 3 Tomoe Sharingans. How rare.'

In a flash, he took the Sharingans of all three of them and stored them before continuing his massacre.

Itachi and Obito continued massacring unopposed. After some time, Fujin opened his eyes in his basement. The honey badger clone that kept eye on the route from the Academy to the Uchiha clan saw Sasuke running towards home. Fujin's other shadow clones also received the memories. They prepared themselves to move after a few minutes.

Fujin left his basement and got out of his house. He analyzed, 'From what little I remember, there was some time gap between the massacre and the Anbu ninjas reaching the Uchiha clan compound. That is the only window I have.'

Fujin became a bit restless, but he didn't move away from his home. This entire mission was left to his clones.

In the Uchiha clan compound, Itachi finally entered his house ready to confront his father, only to see his parents not willing to fight.

Fugaku said, "I see, you have aligned with the other side."

Itachi controlled his emotions as he said, "Father, Mother, I..."

However, Mikoto interrupted him, "We know already... Itachi..."

Fugaku said, "Itachi, just promise us this. Take Care of Sasuke."

With tears in his eyes, Itachi said, "I will."

Fugaku sensed Itachi's struggle and said, "Do not fear it. You chose this path, right? Compared to you, our pain will be over in an instant."

He continued, "Even if our Philosophies differ, I am still proud of you. You are a truly kind child."

With tears in his eyes, Itachi pierced his blade into his mother and father. Fugaku looked at his wife as he died. With his last breath, he said, "Destroy our eyes."

Itachi understood his father's wishes. Though he didn't fight against his son, he didn't want his eyes to end up in the hands of those who schemed against his clan and led them down this path of no return. Respecting his father's wishes, Itachi destroyed both their eyes.

With Fugaku and most of the Uchiha clan dead, the coup was finally averted. It was at this moment that Sasuke entered home with fear in his eyes. He saw his dead parents. After a small fight, Itachi placed Sasuke under Tsukuyomi and flickered behind Obito and said, "It is over."

Obito nodded and both disappeared. Fujin's clones stayed patiently for a few minutes. They didn't look at anything and instead focused chakra in their ears to pick up any sound. A few minutes after all sounds died down, they entered the Uchiha clan compound through the ground.

This was one of the main reasons why Fujin chose the honey badger disguise. They were known to be excellent diggers. On entering, all clones had a specific job.

One clone headed towards Akihiko's house while another headed towards Fugaku's house. One clone kept an eye on the entry route to warn others when the Anbu came. The last 2 searched the Uchiha clan compound to see if they could find Sora's house to see if he had the scroll.

The clone heading towards Fugaku's house reached there first. He focused chakra in his eyes and checked if there were any active chakras around him. Fortunately, there were none. He thought, 'Good. If Fugaku does have Mangekyou, then I want it.'

He got closer to his house while still staying underground but suddenly stopped as he felt danger. He focused chakra in his eyes once again as he wondered why he felt the danger. On noticing, he frowned, 'Shit, his house is covered in seals. And I can't identify many of them!'

He analyzed the seals and concluded, 'These seals shouldn't stop me from entering the house. But knowing what seals can do, I am afraid that there will be some consequences. It's fine if I am dispersed, but I don't want my main body to be implicated. That said, the rewards here are the greatest. Be it his Mangekyou or the fact that the Grand Priest's body is most likely to be with him.'

He decided to keep analyzing until he cracked the seals or the Anbu arrived.

Meanwhile, the clone that was heading to Akihiko's house didn't face any obstacles. Though Akihiko's house also had some seals, they were rather simple and Fujin's clone had no issues getting around them and entering the house.

After entering, the honey badger clone saw the dead bodies of Akihiko and his family. He immediately began searching for any and all scrolls in his house. He found multiple scrolls. Fortunately, one of the scrolls looked just like the scroll Sora had used to seal Zankoku. He immediately took it and checked it. He sighed in relief, 'This scroll still has his body!'

He put the scroll on his back. Fujin had inscribed a storage seal on the back of his clones before letting them go. After storing the scroll, the clone walked back to where he had seen Akihiko. He used his paw to open his eyes and saw that his eyes were still intact.

He thought, 'Good, his eyes are still intact. I saw that some of the Uchihas were missing their eyes. I guess that Obito took the eyes of the ones he killed while Itachi didn't.'

He summoned a container from the storage space on his back. He took both his eyes carefully and stored them in the container. He observed his eyes while analyzing, 'Though I have no intention of implanting a 3-Tomoe Sharingan in my eyes right now, it'll be good to have them. If I change my mind in the future or have any particular need, I can rely on these.'

Since he got what he wanted, he left the house. He went towards Fugaku's house to meet up with the clone outside his house. The clone noticed him approaching. He appeared behind the clone and tapped his back thrice. That was the code for saying that he had found the body of the Grand Priest.

The clone that was working on the seals around Fugaku's house looked back at his house unwillingly before leaving. They quickly dispersed to find the other clones and soon dispersed into 5 separate directions.

One clone headed towards the Akimichi territory, another towards Nara territory and one headed towards the Senju territory. They dispelled themselves after reaching close to their territories.

The last 2 clones moved towards the forests. One dispersed himself near the Konoha border wall while the last one moved towards Fujin's wind clones. On reaching the spot, he came out of the ground and handed them the storage scroll and the storage container. He went underground again and continued to move towards the border wall of Konoha and dispelled himself close to it. This way, all 5 clones were dispelled.

The Wind clones used Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu to reach another spot where Fujin's shadow clone was waiting for them. Fujin's shadow clone collected the items and returned home while the wind clones followed the same procedure as the Honey Badger clones.

Fujin saw his clone returning home. He accepted the items and returned back to his basement.

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Chapter 199: Aftermath & Survivors?

After entering the basement, Fujin sat down in meditation to analyze his actions, 'Alright, almost everything went as I planned. My honey badger clones didn't leave any traces behind. However, if anyone still picks up on their trail somehow, they will be led to the Akimichi, Nara and Senju clans. So the suspicion will be cast on them and there wouldn't be any clue to reach me.

Even if they speculate that those clans were being set up, they would suspect that the ones who meddled left the village from the spots my last two clones dispelled themselves. And as a precaution, I did the same with my Wind clones. So I should be safe.'

Fujin opened the scroll and summoned two items. One was the scroll with Zankoku's dead body while the other was the equipment that had Akihiko's eyes. Fujin first focused on Zankoku's dead body, 'Impressive. The storage seal Sora used stops his body's condition from deteriorating. I was worried that

stealing the body won't help me much if I can't use it soon. But with this, I can work on this even after a few years. That's good as I have no means to extract information from this dead body right now.'

Fujin shifted his attention to Akihiko's eyes, 'I didn't make any plans to steal Sharingan. After all, I can't use them. I guess my clone just couldn't resist after seeing that they were available so easily. Now, what do I do with them?'

Fujin began analyzing. After a few minutes, he concluded, 'Directly implanting them is out of the question. I won't be able to hide this and it would draw too much attention. The only way to use it would be if Hiruzen gives me permission. But considering what Itachi sacrificed to do this, I doubt Hiruzen would go around giving permissions to implant Sharingans. Not to mention, that I can't tell him that I have a pair of Sharingans and instead will have to ask him to give me another.'

So, the only viable way I can use one of these is if I lose one of my eyes in a mission. Once one of my eyes is blinded, I won't draw any suspicion from putting on an eye patch. After some time, I can implant Sharingan secretly. But, is it worth doing it?'

Almost immediately, Fujin shook his head, 'The only advantage a Sharingan can provide me is allowing me to copy jutsus. And since I'll have to keep my Sharingan a secret, there won't be much opportunity to use them for that purpose. Not to mention, fighting with just one eye will be tougher. Considering the fast pace nature of battles, it could even be lethal. I'll have to keep my chakra field active in all battles which would drain my chakra.'

And, there is also the matter of Kakashi. 12 years old Kakashi was a monster. His talent was almost unmatched. One could easily compare his talent with the Sannins and Minato. Yet, when he became a Jounin sensei at around the age of 26, he wasn't an S rank ninja. Despite learning a thousand jutsu, he still couldn't create a jutsu stronger than Chidori. And he could only use Chidori 4 times a day.

So there is a big question on how much strain a Sharingan will put on chakra reserves. If Kakashi not living up to his potential was caused due to the Sharingan, then it's a big no for me to have. That said, there were other factors involved with Kakashi too. Like him being depressed and spending hours in front of that stone. So the drop in his training time due to those factors could also be a reason why his strength wasn't that high.

So I'm not sure how much of a role Sharingan had in restricting his growth, but I don't want to try it right now. In the future, when the growth in my chakra reserves stagnates, I could consider this option.'

Having made his decision, Fujin looked at the two items thinking, 'Now, the main question is where and how do I hide these two items?'

Around 8 minutes after Fujin's clones left the Uchiha clan compound, Hiruzen led a team of his Anbu ninjas and entered the Uchiha clan compound. Danzo joined him as well along with some of his Root ninjas. However, as soon as they entered the clan, they stopped. The Anbu and the Root ninjas had performed many shady missions. But seeing the entire street littered with the dead bodies and blood of the members of the strongest clan in the village shocked them.

One of the Anbu asked, "How could something like this happen in Konoha?"

Hiruzen frowned and said, "Scatter and quickly check everyone. Find the survivors and give them proper treatment or take them to the hospital."

Both the Anbu and the Root ninjas scattered and began checking, leaving just Hiruzen and Danzo standing.

Danzo said, "It's unfortunate, but Itachi did what had to be done. Now our village won't plunge into chaos."

Hiruzen looked back at his old friend and said, "You went around me and did this without consulting or even informing me."

Danzo didn't like the tone Hiruzen was speaking in. He said, "Hiruzen..."

However, Hiruzen interrupted him, "No need to say anything. As of this moment, I am officially dissolving Root. The Root shinobi will be placed under my command in the Anbu. The foundation system of recruiting and training orphans will be abolished as well."

Hiruzen's words shocked Danzo. He realized that this would mean the end of any influence he had in Konoha. Even if he managed to keep some core Root ninjas under his command, he would be left with a very limited force if he couldn't train more Root ninjas.

He quickly protested, "Hiruzen, Konoha needs Root to survive. We are the unseen ones who support the great tree of Konoha from the depths of the earth. Without the Root, Konoha would face a lot of issues without any means of handling them."

Hiruzen replied, "Your actions cost Konoha its strongest clan."

Hiruzen looked at Danzo and stared at his bandaged right eye and said, "And it cost us two loyal and patriotic youngsters with the Mangekyou. They could have kept the village safe for the next few decades. Unfortunately, due to your actions, we no longer have them."

Danzo was about to argue back, when Hiruzen said, "Say no more. My decision is final."

The Anbu began returning. The first one to return was Kakashi. He was carrying Sasuke. He said, "Lord Hokage, I found him. He is still breathing but is unconscious."

Hiruzen looked at Sasuke and realized, 'It looks like he was placed under a strong Genjutsu. Did Itachi also gain a strong Genjutsu like Shisui?'

He said, "Take him to the hospital and have the doctors look after him. Ensure that he stays safe."

Kakashi nodded. However, he couldn't help but ask, "Lord Hokage, who killed all the Uchihas?"

Hiruzen replied, "We will have to investigate. I'll let you know when we find the culprit."

Kakashi wanted to ask more but knew that it wasn't the right time. He nodded and left with Sasuke.

After a few minutes, more Anbu returned. One of them stepped forward and said, "Lord Hokage, in the area we investigated, all Uchiha except small children have been killed. On investigating, we realized that all Uchiha who were ninjas or academy students were killed. Only the ones who haven't enrolled in the academy are alive. But they have been knocked unconscious."

Hiruzen frowned and said, "I see. Take all the kids away from here. It's best if they don't see any of this. You investigate and tell me the total number of survivors."

The Anbu ninja nodded and got to work. Hiruzen gazed at Danzo. Danzo looked back at him thinking, 'As long as I can eliminate Itachi, I would have been able to integrate all the Uchiha orphans into Root. So the threat of the Uchiha clan would forever be neutralized and instead, they would be the most loyal and patriotic in the village.'

In addition, by using the death of their family, I could easily awaken Sharingan in most of them. In a decade, I would have had the strongest special force among all the 5 villages. But, it looks like he figured out my plan and hence decided to disband Root.'

The Anbu and the Root ninjas sent all the kids to the hospital. The Anbu that had been tasked by Hiruzen reported, "Lord Hokage, in all 34 children are still alive. 19 are girls and 15 are boys."

Hiruzen replied, "Good work. I'll leave the safety of the Uchiha children to you. Ensure that they stay safe in the hospital."

The Anbu nodded and flickered away.

With just the two of them together, Hiruzen asked, "Did you have to kill the ones in the academy?"

Danzo replied, "In a war, we send students from the Academy to the battlefield. It's unknown if some of the Uchiha families decided to train the academy students and have them participate in the coup. If they know about the truth, then it will only result in another Uchiha Coup after they grow up. So I wanted to get rid of all of them. Unfortunately, Itachi was insistent on letting his brother and the children alive."

Hiruzen snorted at Danzo's reply and left. Danzo saw him leaving and had a headache. He thought with a frown, 'Now, how do I still keep the Root with me? Hiruzen seems determined to take it down. I don't think words would change his mind.'

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Chapter 200: The Deterrence of Uchiha Itachi

As Danzo was contemplating his options, two Root ninjas flickered next to him and began reporting all their findings to him. They began moving towards a root base.

Suddenly, one of the Root ninjas said, "Lord Danzo, while we were inspecting the Uchiha clan compound, we found a secret message. We wanted to let you know first."

That attracted Danzo's attention. He asked, "What is the message?"

The Root ninjas spoke. However, his voice was now different. And there was no reverence or respect for Danzo in the voice. He said, "If any of the Uchiha children end up in Root, I will sell all the secret information I know about Konoha to enemy villages."

Danzo's eyes widened as he saw the Root ninja turn into crows while speaking. A frown formed on his face when the other Root ninja spoke in the same voice, "And if anything happens to Sasuke, I will act myself."

He too dispersed into crows leaving Danzo all alone. He muttered, "Damn Uchiha!"

While Hiruzen and Danzo were busy handling the situation, Fujin was inscribing a seal on his right forearm. He inscribed it right on the part that would be covered by his bracers.

After completing it, Fujin inspected it as he thought, 'Good. This seal is completed. Though inscribing storage seals on your own body isn't recommended, it isn't really difficult to do. Anyways, I have sealed the Sharingan eyes in Sora's storage scroll as well. I'll hide this scroll in the seal. So there is no way anyone would find it. In the event that someone somehow understands about this seal and suspects something, I can always destroy the seal with a mere thought.'

He stored the scroll in the seal on his forearm and made a hand sign. Soon, the seal disappeared. Fujin wondered, 'I wonder how the space that stores Tailed Beasts is created. And if I can store other things, like this scroll, there.'

Itachi stayed in the village until he saw Hiruzen was alone. He approached him and had a discussion with him. After getting assurance from Hiruzen that his brother and other Uchiha orphans will be looked after, he left the Hidden Leaf village and became a rogue ninja.

Hiruzen put Konoha under maximum security. The next day, news spread throughout Konoha that shocked everyone to the core! Uchiha Itachi had slaughtered his entire clan! Only a few dozen young children were left alive!

When the news spread throughout the world, every single ninja village was shocked. After the death of Senju Tobirama, the Senju clan declined in power. The Uchiha clan was estimated to be the strongest clan among all 5 major villages. And yet, such a clan was annihilated by a 13-year-old boy. Both minor and major villages began having meetings to ensure that their village's security was up to the mark and discussed countermeasures in case Uchiha Itachi showed up in their village.

Only one village thought about more than just defense. That village was Kumogakure. In the Raikage's office, most of Kumogakure's strategists and elders were present. All were considering whether they should take any action against Konoha. After all, the sudden loss of their strongest clan would have shaken Konoha.

After some time, one old man said, "Lord Raikage, I don't think it's in our best interest to attack Konoha right now. Though they lost the Uchiha clan, their overall strength is much higher than when Orochimaru left the village. Most of their Chunins who survived the 3rd Great War have been promoted to Jounins. And they have raised thousands of new ninjas.

Besides, though the Uchiha clan had a lot of Jounins, they didn't have any S rank battle power. If we go to war, the two Sannins would return to Konoha."

The fourth Raikage said, "Though their strength has increased, ours has increased even more."

However, his viewpoint was opposed by another elder, "And so have the strengths of other villages. If we go to war, Iwagakure will wait until we exhaust our strength and jump in at the worst time."

The Raikage frowned. At that time, one of the younger advisors spoke, "We need to probe them to see what their response will be. If they cower like last time, then this might be a good opportunity for us to attack quickly and with full force."

The Raikage looked at him and asked, "Hari, do you have a target for probing Konoha?"

The advisor, Hari, grinned and said, "I have just the perfect target for it."

He opened up a map and explained the plan to everyone in the room. The people in the room were first shocked due to the information he provided. However, soon greed could be seen on everyone's face.

One of the elders said, "Great work. If we can get this, we don't even need to attack Konoha for now. After all, the profits from this would be mind-boggling."

However, Hari said, "No, this doesn't compare to what we can gain from Konoha. However, since this is so valuable, Konoha's response will tell us about their current capability and morale. If it is strong, we can dispatch more forces to secure this and negotiate another deal with them like the last time. If they let us have it, then we will use this place as a base for our future assault."

The Raikage said, "Alright, it's decided. We will go with this plan. Darui, you will lead a team of 50 ninjas and claim this. Hari, you will accompany them as the advisor."

Darui and Hari nodded and were about to leave when another old elder asked, "Lord Raikage, what do you think about kidnapping some Uchiha orphans? With their clan dead, there won't be anyone to protect them. The task will be a lot easier than kidnapping the Hyuga princess."

A fell into thought. After some time, he said, "No, even though the task might be easier, it's full of hidden risks. We don't know why Uchiha Itachi massacred his clan. Nor do we know why he left the kids alive. If he intends to hunt them later, then all our efforts will be wasted and instead, we would have pointless casualties.

Considering what he has done, it's safe to say that he has the Mangekyou Sharingan that Uchiha Madara had. If we attract his attention in the middle of a war, our casualties will go up several times."

The mention of Uchiha Itachi lowered the excitement in the room. Hari said with a grim face, "Lord Raikage, we need to find a way to kill him. After all, he slaughtered the entire Uchiha clan and is only 13 years old. If we give him time to grow further, he'd become an even bigger threat. He might become a menace for the entire ninja world."

However, Raikage dismissed his concern, "Right now Konoha would be the most pressed to kill him. Hiruzen should have sent all his Anbu and Jiraiya after him. Let them exhaust their strength on him while we make our moves."

Hari nodded and left with Darui.

Back in Konoha, Hoka and Teru showed up at Fujin's house the morning after the massacre. The news of the Uchiha massacre shocked them. Fujin invited them in with a sad expression. They all sat in a room without speaking.

Finally, Hoka asked, "Did you go to the Uchiha clan compound?"

Fujin replied, "I did, but they have barricaded the whole area. And they didn't answer any questions."

Teru replied, "Same here, but I got some news from my parents."

Hoka said with a dejected voice, "Yeah. Most Uchihes were killed. It probably also includes Mieko as there was no news about her. Only a few dozen children survived."

Fujin was surprised. Though he didn't show anything on his face, he looked at Hoka and asked, "Some children survived?"

Hoka nodded. Teru said, "From what I heard, only those who hadn't entered the academy were left alive. Lord Hokage will make an announcement in the afternoon."

Fujin said, "I see."

However, he was in shock, 'Sasuke isn't the only survivor? Shit, did I somehow change the future?'

Fujin went quiet and began thinking. Hoka and Teru assumed that he was sad and stopped talking as well. After thinking about every possibility, Fujin concluded, 'No, none of my actions should have any impact on Itachi's, Obito's or Danzo's actions. Even assuming Itachi saw me being shameless in front of

Hiruzen, I doubt I'd be the most shameless or selfish person he saw. So it shouldn't have any impact on his actions. Regardless, how will this affect the future?'

Fujin kept analyzing, 'The biggest impact should be a sense of responsibility on Sasuke's shoulder. Since he is in the 2nd year of the Academy, he should be the eldest and the strongest Uchiha in the village. So he will have to take responsibility for the other Uchiha orphans and lead them. And, the question that this raises is whether he would still go rogue and train under Orochimaru?'

Fujin thought for a bit before realizing, 'Wait, I recall that Sasuke had two goals. One was to restore the Uchiha clan and the other was to kill Itachi. But, since there are other orphans alive, Sasuke wouldn't have to worry that his death would cause the Uchiha clan to go extinct. He can completely focus on taking his revenge and restoring the honor of his clan by killing Itachi. From this perspective, the future shouldn't change.

The only complication that could arise is if the sense of responsibility somehow changes him. Though that might not be a bad change. After all, Shippuden Sasuke was an asshole. Even assuming that he doesn't accept Orochimaru's offer and doesn't get strong enough, Itachi will still die at his hands. And if he does go to Orochimaru, then he can't possibly get worse as compared to what I remember.

Sigh, leave it. There is no point in trying to speculate so much. I always expected that things might not go down as I remember. I'll just act according to what happens in the future.'

While Fujin, Hoka and Teru were sitting together in silence, there was another meeting happening in Konoha. It was between Hiruzen and the elders who were discussing how to handle this event.