

## Calamity 251

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 251: The Neverending War

As the sun set, a bunch of memories started popping up in his mind. He analyzed all the memories and thought, 'Good, all my clones have safely dispelled themselves. No one noticed them. Finally, it's time to begin my mission.'

One week ago :

After eliminating the two groups of bounty hunters, Fujin split off from Kakashi's group and continued his journey forward. However, the fight had exhausted nearly half his chakra. So he decided to take a break in a nearby town.

He entered the town after using the Transformation jutsu and looked for an ordinary hotel. After renting a room, Fujin opened the scrolls Shikaku had handed him and began reading. The scrolls had a lot of details regarding the nobles in the Land of Wind. It contained a detailed list of all nobles, their families, friends and their political standings.

After a few hours, Fujin let out a sigh. He muttered in his mind, 'I used to think that the number of ninjas is quite high. But, until I joined the Anbu, I never ever imagined that the number of nobles would be this high. Every major country has at least a couple of thousand people related to the Daimyo. Do they spend all their time breeding?

And Shikaku's reports have over 500 nobles who he wants to be targeted. Sigh, when we talk about wars, everyone only thinks about the three Great Wars that have happened. Meanwhile, everyone is worried about when the Fourth Great Ninja War will happen.

But, in reality, the 5 major villages are at war with each other constantly with no breaks. It's just that these wars don't have a battlefield. Instead, they are fought by the special forces of each village. Instead of clashing openly, the war is about sabotaging others while increasing your own influence.

In the last 12 months, I have basically been targetting nobles in the nearby smaller countries who are against Konoha. Like in the previous mission, we killed the forces of that noble from the Land of Waterfall who sided with Iwa.

The end result of such clashes is to make these nobles favor your village and hate the enemy's villages. And in this competition, Konoha has a huge advantage. Other than the Land of Rain, every neighbouring country favors Konoha more than its other neighbours. The superiority of Hiruzen and Shikaku's scheming abilities can be seen through this.

Of course, there is another big reason. Konoha has no ambition to claim the lands of other countries. But other countries want Konoha's lands. However, the smaller countries act as a buffer between them. If some country successfully manages to capture territory within the Land of Fire, the smaller countries acting as a buffer will also have to be conquered by them or at least some parts of the country would have to be annexed. And if Konoha couldn't resist them, there's no way any smaller country could resist them.'

Fujin let out a sigh and thought, 'When I first read Naruto, I was disgusted by the fact that Kumo tried to kidnap a little girl. If kidnapped, her fate would have been terrible. Just the thought of it was revolting. But, now it doesn't seem very extreme.

The chances of kidnapping someone from the Hyuga compounds should be close to zero. Perhaps the goal of that kidnapping attempt wasn't to kidnap Hinata but rather to have the kidnapper die in the Hyuga compounds. Perhaps, even if Hiashi didn't kill the kidnapper, as long as he was caught, he'd have committed suicide and died in the Hyuga Clan Compounds.

This way, they would be able to exchange the life of a normal ninja with a strong Clan Leader. Even though Hiashi preserved his life, Konoha and the Hyuga clan lost an Elite Jounin. In peacetime, that is a great loss. I guess they also wanted to sow discord between the Village Leadership and the Hyuga clan. After all, by then, the Uchiha clan were already made to live on the outskirts of Konoha. If the two strongest clans were unsatisfied with the Konoha leadership, the village would become quite unstable. Even if nothing bad happened, as long as the process of recovery is slowed down, Konoha would be in trouble when the next Great War starts.'

Fujin let out another sigh, 'The more I get involved, the more I realize how deep the schemes run in this world. And, for some reason, I have a feeling that soon it will be my turn to play these schemes. If I can't, then I won't be able to achieve much in this life either.'

Fujin rested the night in that hotel before continuing his journey the next day. He crossed the border and entered the Land of Rivers under a random disguise. He found an unoccupied cave and entered it. He inscribed a few seals in the cave to provide some protection and to stop and misdirect any attempts of scouting that place.

He quickly changed into the attire of Suna Anbu and thought, 'For the next few months, this will be my disguise while doing shady work.'

He left the cave and journeyed towards the Land of Wind.

The border of the Land of Wind was as massive as that of the Land of Fire. However, unlike Konoha, they were suffering from a massive budget crunch. In addition, the desert conditions in the Land of Wind were many times rougher than the green forests in the Land of Fire.

So very few patrolling teams used to patrol the borders. Fujin had no trouble infiltrating the Land of Wind. He continued moving rapidly across the vast deserts while thinking, 'Though the rough environment makes patrolling difficult, the vast open desert makes hiding very difficult.'

After travelling a few hundred kilometers into the desert, Fujin took a break and began making a plan. He analyzed, 'Most of my targets are in the Wind Capital. I will have to begin from there. But, how should I infiltrate it? Should I just sneak in?'

Fujin calculated his chances of sneaking in successfully. After some time, he rejected that idea, 'No. I have been to the Fire Capital a few times. Though the security wasn't as good as Konoha, it was still very tight. Samurais patrolled the walls and the walls themselves had numerous seals carved in them. Though I could still infiltrate without alarming any seal, it will be incredibly difficult. So, I guess my only option is to enter through the city gates.'

Suddenly, Fujin changed his direction. Instead of travelling towards the Wind Capital, Fujin began travelling towards the north. After travelling for another day, Fujin stopped and opened a map. He concluded, 'This should be the route where trading caravans pass through while trading between the Land of Wind and the Land of Earth. I'll just wait until I can catch a ride.'

He carved a seal on the sand and made a hand seal. The seal began sinking into the sand. He repeated the same process at distances of 25 meters dozens of times. Finally, he weaved another hand sign and placed his hand on the ground.

'Earth Release: Underground Camp jutsu'

He poured his chakra into the ground as the rocks and sand began moving. In a few minutes, one small underground room was formed. Fujin inscribed a seal on the wall of this room and thought, 'Good. Now if anyone passes through this route, the seals will detect the vibrations in the ground and cause this seal to light up. I will wait here for up to a week. If no one shows up, then I will try to actively find a group of travellers instead of just sitting here.'

Fujin carved some seals to ensure that the room can't be sensed. He entered it and rested while waiting patiently.

In the next 2 days, the seal lit up thrice. Fujin exited the room to observe each time. Unfortunately, all three groups were ninja squads from Suna. Luckily, none of them was sensing when Fujin exited the room. So his location stayed hidden.

Finally, on the 3rd day, the seal lit up once again. Fujin sighed and muttered, 'If it is another group of ninjas, I will kill and impersonate them instead of traders or merchants.'

He exited the room. Chakra gathered in his eyes as he began observing the chakra signature while staying under the sand. A smile appeared on his face as he thought, 'Finally! A group of sixteen people. Twelve have civilian levels of chakra while four have Chunin levels of chakra.'

He made a hand seal and his figure disappeared from under the sand. Suddenly, one of the four ninjas turned and looked at where Fujin was. The ninja next to him asked, "Did you notice something, captain?"

The captain replied, "It felt like a breeze suddenly passed through that area. Leave it, I might be imagining it."

They continued on their journey. After travelling for around 2 kilometers, one of the ninjas said, "Captain, there is someone ahead."

The ninjas got alert. The Captain said loudly, "Be careful everyone. It might be another bandit group."

However, the ninja shook his head and said, "No captain. It is only one person and his chakra is very low. So he isn't a ninja."

The group travelled forward carefully. After a couple of hundred meters, they saw the person. He was a man in terrible shape. His clothes were torn in multiple places and dyed in blood. He had multiple injuries on his body. He turned his head towards them and hope appeared in his eyes.

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Chapter 252: Test Subjects

The man immediately got up and walked towards the caravan. However, he was limping. The group noticed a deep cut just above his left knee.

The man walked to them with tears running down his face and hurriedly begged, "Please help me! I am a trader just like you but my caravan was attacked by desert bandits. All of us were captured. I luckily managed to escape but they are still hunting for me. Please hel...!"

However, before he could finish speaking, a kick landed on his chest and sent him flying backwards. A look of shock appeared on the face of the man. He looked at them in disbelief.

The four ninjas were wearing headbands that didn't belong to any ninja village. The caravan had a flag of the Land of Bird country.

The man still begged, "Please help us and save my friends. If not, at least take me with you. I don't want to die here."

One of the ninjas looked at him and asked, "What do we do with him, Captain?"

The captain shook his head and said, "It's better to kill him. If he is planted by a bandit group, then we might get in trouble."

Behind him, the leader of the traders, Hiroshi said, "Just kill him and get moving. I don't want to delay my first trade."

The injured man heard the words carefully. Fear showed on his face. One of the ninjas grinned and walked forward, "You heard him. You can say goodbye to your pathetic life."

He grabbed a kunai and walked towards the man. The man looked at him with terror in his eyes. He raised the kunai and was about to attack when his head was sent flying into the air.

The traders and the ninjas, who were looking at the spectacle with ridicule in their eyes, were suddenly shocked. Before they could even react, the heads of the remaining three ninjas were also sent flying.

Terror flooded into the minds of each of the twelve traders as they saw the injured man behead the ninjas they hired for their safety.

The injured man said in a cold tone, "You'd have died either way but your actions avoid any feeling of guilt that I might have felt."

He suddenly disappeared. Hiroshi saw as every trader began falling down to the ground one by one. Only he was left standing. The injured man, who was now a shinigami in his eyes, stood in front of him and looked into his eyes. He couldn't move as the man's hand squeezed his neck. Suddenly, the entire world became pitch black. He couldn't even see the arm that was holding his neck.

He heard Fujin speaking, "If you want to live, tell me every detail about yourself and your trading caravan."

Hiroshi was completely terrified. He screamed, "I will speak. Please don't kill me!"

Hiroshi immediately gave him all the details that he wanted. He also took all the documents from Hiroshi. An electric current passed through Hiroshi's body and knocked him out. Fujin walked towards

one of the knocked-out traders and lifted him. A current passed through his body and woke him up. Fujin interrogated him to cross-check the information. He repeated the process with all 12 traders.

After collecting all the data, Fujin analyzed, 'I was lucky. This is a perfect group for me to impersonate. It is their first mission, so they shouldn't have any contacts in the Wind Capital. Not to mention, they come from the Land of Bird instead of the Land of Earth. So their backing will be much weaker. In addition, the ninjas they hired don't work for any village. Instead, they work for the mercenary group Kurogane no Sensen.

Though this mercenary group is quite influential, it mostly operates in the countries between the Lands of Wind and Earth. It shouldn't have much sway here. And even if they do, they will be much slower than a ninja village to investigate their missing ninjas.'

Fujin observed everyone around him and thought, 'It'd be a huge waste to just hide their bodies.'

He walked towards one of the detached heads and extended his right hand towards it while thinking, 'It should work against detached heads too. Though I am not sure if using them for my first try is a good thing.'

Yin chakra appeared on his palm and poured into the detached head. Fujin controlled the chakra to gently enter the brain. He closed his eyes to properly control the chakra. As chakra surged unhindered, a profound strain befell the brain. The delicate neural pathways, unaccustomed to such a surge, begin to falter and distort under immense pressure.

Fujin frowned. He stopped pouring the chakra into his mind and wondered, 'How the fuck do the Yamanakas train? Despite my chakra control, the brain was destroyed so easily. And, I didn't even see a single memory. Do the Yamanaka have secret methods of learning? Or do they test on test subjects before being allowed to use it on alive people?'

Fujin fell in a thought, 'As I expected, this is very complicated. Though I know that it requires Yin chakra, just that isn't enough to learn this jutsu. If I am right, several generations of Yamanaka clan ninjas probably worked on this to create this secret technique.

So I am basically trying to replicate a decades-long process without much information. Right now, I have only two pieces of knowledge. The first is that the chakra has to be pure Yin and the chakra control has

to be very good. The second is that memories aren't stored in just one single part of the brain. They are distributed across multiple brain regions and involve intricate neural networks and connections rather than being confined to a single location.

Unfortunately, I have no idea which those regions are. The library didn't have any information regarding this. I am sure my previous world had better information about this. Unfortunately, I hadn't studied biology for years. I simply don't have any memories regarding this.'

Fujin analyzed for a few minutes before sighing, 'Leave it. I can't think of anything good. I will just experiment on them.'

Fujin experimented on the 3 detached heads. The first two had their brains destroyed. On the last one, his chakra control with the Yin chakra became much better. He managed to continue invading his brain with Yin chakra without turning it into mush. However, he didn't get any memories from it.

Fujin wondered, 'Do I need to make more modifications to my Yin chakra or move it in a certain way to read memories?'

He couldn't say for sure. He looked towards the 12 unconscious traders and muttered, "I hope I have luck with living test subjects."

He walked towards one trader, tied his limbs and woke him up. The trader woke up terrified. He shouted and begged, but Fujin didn't pay any attention to him. He placed a hand on his head and began inserting Yin chakra into his head. He delicately controlled his chakra to enter his brain and access the neural networks in his cerebral cortex.

However, the man suddenly yelled. Soon, his expression changed. He spoke gibberish and he began making weird faces. Fujin looked at him with a solemn expression, 'He has become intellectually impaired! Another reason why I should never let anyone try to read my memories. If they wish to harm me, I won't even be able to resist!'

Fujin continued trying to read his memories until his brain was destroyed and he stopped moving and dropped dead. Fujin experimented on the remaining 11 traders and all faced the same result.



Fujin sighed and began storing everyone's dead bodies in scrolls. He stored the four dead ninjas in one scroll and the 12 dead traders in another. He placed the scroll of the dead ninjas in the underground room he had created and completely sealed it up.

He analyzed, 'If the mercenary group had any means of tracking them, they would be led here. Even if they find the blood where I killed them, they will only find the blood of these 4 ninjas.'

Fujin walked back to the caravan and created shadow clones. They transformed into the eleven traders while Fujin transformed into Hiroshi. They buried the sand dyed in blood a few meters below the surface and began their journey to the Wind Capital.

Mid-route, Fujin made another Shadow clone who travelled a few kilometers and buried the scroll with the dead bodies of the traders deep within the sand. In these vast deserts, the chances of it being found were negligible.

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Chapter 253: Assassination

Fujin was enjoying his evening breakfast on his balcony while enjoying the beautiful sunset. He thought, 'This lifestyle is kinda good. I see why so many ninjas want to be recruited by a Daimyo. Unlike the daily life of going through deadly missions and not knowing whether you'd live or not, the life here is just too relaxing and stress-free.'

Fujin had stayed in the Wind Capital for a couple of weeks. He spent it relaxing in his luxurious hotel room and sightseeing around the city.

He analyzed, 'There hadn't been any news about anyone looking for Hiroshi or the ninjas protecting them. So I should be able to maintain this identity for some time.'

He turned his eyes towards a few mansions in the city. They were quite far from his location but still visible. Though he couldn't see every detail, he knew that a few were moving sneakily into those mansions.

Just like Fujin, one Noble was enjoying his life in one of the mansions Fujin eyed. He was enjoying his luxurious life while thinking, 'I am so glad that the Daimyo decided to favor Konoha instead of Suna.'

Otherwise, there is no way I would be able to sign such a huge deal with the Kazekage! Once the deal is finalized, money will start rolling into this mansion! Hahaha.'

At that moment, a maid entered the room. She was in her teens and looked very beautiful. The Noble, who was in his fifties, lecherously eyed her. She brought a tray filled with various sushi to him and said respectfully, "My Lord."

The Noble looked at it and said, "It looks delicious."

He turned his eyes towards her and said, "I am sure it'd taste even better if you feed it to me."

He opened his mouth wide open. The maid knew about how perverted he was. Unfortunately, she had no other option. She picked up a piece of sushi and was about to feed him when she saw a red line appearing on his throat. Before she could think, the line split open and blood sprayed out and covered the maid's face and chest. She freaked out and screamed loudly!

Immediately, a Samurai appeared in the room and asked, "Lord Atsushi, What happened..."

His words were stuck in his mouth as he saw the noble he was supposed to protect lying in his chair with his throat cut open with the maid standing in shock in front of him. He got angry and muttered, "Someone dared to kill a person protected by me? They are disrespecting the great name of Isamu! I will kill them."

He quickly approached the maid and asked her menacingly, "Did you kill him?"

The maid was terrified by his expression. She feared the worst. Unfortunately, there wasn't much she could do. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she said, "No, I didn't do it. I was about to feed him when a red line appeared on his neck and split it open."

Isamu believed her. He thought, 'She isn't lying. It looks like the work of a ninja. A Wind user to be specific. Did he upset Suna during the negotiations? Or is someone trying to frame Suna?'

Chakra gathered in his eyes as he began to observe everything in the mansion. Suddenly he discovered, 'Hmm? Since when did someone with so much chakra appear in the mansion? He must be the culprit.'

Chakra flowed through his sword as he stabbed it into the floor. A hole appeared in the floor and he jumped on the floor below. In front of him was a butler. Isamu looked at him and said, "Good disguise. If it was someone else, they'd be fooled."

A frown formed on the face of the butler. He asked, "What do you mean?"

However, instead of replying, Isamu swung his sword. A blue sword wave was shot from his sword and approached the butler. The butler immediately moved out of the way, displaying physical skills far beyond what a civilian could display.

The Samurai moved forward and attacked him with his sword once again. The butler took a kunai and used it to block the sword. Unlike Isamu, he didn't use chakra flow. However, since Isamu's chakra flow wasn't charged with Wind nature, his kunai could hold on.

However, Isamu used the opportunity to kick his chest. The butler was sent flying backwards and crashed into a wall. His transformation jutsu was dispelled. Isamu saw a ninja wearing a Scorpion mask and in the Anbu uniform of Sunagakure. His expression became grim. It looked like he was caught in an internal struggle in the Land of Wind.

The ninja got up and said in a cold tone, "I didn't expect you to be so good. However, you should have just looked the other way. Now, I will have to kill you as well."

Isamu didn't attack and asked, "Why did you kill him?"

The ninja snorted, "Do you think it is so easy to take advantage of our village? Even your Land of Iron doesn't have the same standing as our village. Let alone some no-name Noble."

He raised two fingers. Wind began flowing around them. Isamu once again attacked with his sword. However, the Anbu easily dodged the sword slash.

Isamu's eyes widened as four cuts appeared on each of his arms. Two of them were right on his elbow and severed his blood vessels and nerves in it. Isamu suddenly felt weak and dropped his swords.

The Anbu said, "In your next life, don't poke your head into other people's businesses."

Wind once again began moving around his two fingers as he pointed them towards the Samurai. Though Isamu was wearing armor, a lot of areas on his body weren't protected by it. Dozens of cuts appeared on his legs and neck.

Isamu dropped to the ground and lost consciousness. He was no match for the Anbu. Having completed his job, the Anbu disappeared.

After the fighting noises stopped, the servants immediately ran towards where the fighting was happening. To their horror, they noticed Isamu lying in a pool of blood. They immediately ran forward and checked on him.

Surprisingly, one maid said, "He is still breathing! Call for doctors! Also, inform Lord Atsushi about this!"

Some servants left hurriedly to call for the personal doctor employed in the mansion. A couple of other servants ran to the upper floor. They were horrified to see that their Lord Atsushi was dead and the maid was lying unconscious. They carried the maid down to be in the same room as Isamu. After laying her down, they went to the basement to inform the family of the Noble who had hidden there immediately after hearing the sounds of a battle.

The doctor soon arrived. His expression became grim after checking the Samurai. He said, "His condition is very bad. Go and call for a Medical ninja from the hospital. Hurry!"

A couple of servants nodded and left. The doctor removed Isamu's armor and clothes around the cuts. He provided first aid and stopped the bleeding.

Suddenly, loud wailing was heard from the floor above. The family members of the Noble were crying due to his loss. After a couple of minutes, his son walked down and saw the doctor treating Isamu while his father was completely ignored.

He shouted, "How dare you treat others when my father has died? Leave them to die along with him."

His expression became cruel as he said, "In fact, all of you should join him too!"

Fear appeared on the face of all servants.

However, the doctor was calm. He continued cleaning the wounds and said without looking at him, "Young Master, he is a Samurai from the Land of Iron. A proper explanation has to be given every time a Samurai dies. If the Land of Iron finds out that a Samurai died because you didn't allow him to be treated, you and your whole family might have to join your father. Even Lord Daimyo won't do anything to save you."

His words caused the young master to be covered in sweat. He gritted his teeth and said, "I will remember this."

He quickly left the room and walked back towards his father.

The doctor let out a sigh. He thought, 'I have completely offended him. Oh well, if I didn't, he'd have killed me anyway. As long as I save Isamu, I will be safe.'

Soon all the bleeding stopped. The doctor began the blood transfusion to stabilize his condition. He breathed a sigh of relief and said, "He will be fine."

His words caused relief to spread among the servants in the mansion.

The doctor turned his attention towards the maid and inspected her. Soon he got up and said, "She has just lost consciousness due to being terrified. She will be fine."

The servants tended to both of them while waiting for the medical ninja to arrive. In around an hour, a medical ninja arrived. The doctor exchanged a few words with him and he began inspecting Isamu. He nodded his head and said, "You have done a great job."

He weaved a few hand signs and extended his palms towards Isamu.

'Mystical Palm jutsu'

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Chapter 254: Framing Sunagakure

Chakra poured from the Medical ninja's hands. One by one, he completely healed every cut on Isamu's body. Only some scars were left behind. Soon, Isamu woke up. The memories of nearly dying returned to his mind. He sat straight and began sweating profusely due to fear.

The medical ninja noticed his condition and placed his hand on his shoulder and said, "Don't worry, you are alright. Do you recall what happened?"

His words snapped Isamu out of his shock. He looked down at his body and thought, 'I thought I was dead for sure. The enemy was much stronger than me. I was no match. Did he assume that I was dead and left in a hurry?'

He turned his eyes towards the medical ninja and became scared once again. He thought, 'First a Suna Anbu almost kills me and then a Suna medical ninja saves me? What the heck are these guys playing at?'

The medical ninja saw the fear in Isamu's eyes and frowned. It felt as if Isamu was afraid of him. He asked, "Who injured you?"

Having just gotten another chance to live, Isamu didn't wish to risk it again. He replied, "I can't say as I didn't see his face. I need to make a report to Lord Daimyo. After all, he killed the noble I was assigned to protect!"

At the same time, a doubt appeared in his mind, 'The ninja who attacked me was very well-versed in Wind jutsus. He was a natural at it. But, could it be that someone from another village was impersonating to frame Suna? I was certain that he was from Suna. The only flaw is that he left me alive. After all, it wouldn't make much sense for him to not ensure that I am dead. The only way he would profit is if he is an enemy of Suna and the blame falls on Sunagakure entirely.'

He thought a lot but couldn't come up with a definite answer. He decided, 'Leave it. I will report the event as it is to the Daimyo. I will let Daimyo make the decision.'

He was about to get up when the doctor softly said, "Lord, we need your help."

Isamu squinted his eyes and looked at him. The doctor informed the actions of the young master. Anger appeared in Isamu's eyes. However, he couldn't take action directly. He said loudly, "Anyone who wants to leave this mansion, can do so along with me. I will ask Lord Daimyo to ensure that you don't suffer injustice."

Smiles and relief appeared on everyone's faces. They were about to leave the Mansion when another Samurai appeared in front of them.

Isamu noticed him and quickly bowed down, "Lord Hajime."

Hajime was in charge of all Samurais in the Wind Capital. He was also the strongest Samurai in the Wind Capital.

Hajime nodded and said, "I received a report that Noble Atsushi was assassinated. Is it true, Isamu?"

Isamu nodded, "Yes. I am ashamed."

Hajime said, "I trust that you gave your all, Isamu. So give me the exact details of what happened."

Isamu didn't want to speak in front of everyone. He said, "This... Lord Hajime, can we speak in private?"

Hajime nodded. Both walked into one of the many rooms in the mansion. Hajime said, "Speak."

Isamu quickly reported the details of his clash along with his analysis. He ended by saying, "All evidence points towards Sunagakure. However, I still have a nagging suspicion that something else might be happening."

Hajime nodded and said, "Good analysis. I might have sided with you if not for other events that have happened the same time you fought."

Isamu furrowed his eyebrows.

Hajime continued, "Atsushi wasn't the only Noble who was targeted. Nine others were killed at the same time. In three cases, the culprits were able to escape undetected. Including you, seven Samurais fought them. Unfortunately, five are already dead. Apart from you, only one is alive. But his condition is critical."

Isamu's eyes widened. His back became covered in sweat. He muttered, "I was lucky that he didn't check whether I was alive or dead."

Hajime nodded. He added, "Everyone was injured with blades made of wind. This is a rather commonly used technique among the Jounins of Sunagakure. Though other villages could replicate it, sending 10 expert Wind users on the same mission is quite unlikely. Regardless, Daimyo is pissed at Sunagakure. Our country might also take some actions to avenge the death of our 5 comrades."

Isamu had a bitter expression. He said, "Everyone can see that the Daimyo has been upset with them since the time they lost in the Third Great Ninja War. We were unfortunately the ones to be caught in between them."

Hajime agreed and said, "Yes. But, we can't take any decision regarding this. I have to meet with Daimyo. You take care of your health."

He was about to leave when Isamu stopped him and informed him about the actions of Atsushi's son. Hajime frowned and said, "Leave the mansion and take everyone with you. I'll ask Daimyo to take appropriate actions for them. A family that treats people like this will fall no matter how rich or influential they are."

He left the mansion. Following him, Isamu and every commoner employed in the mansion left, only leaving Atsushi's stunned family in the mansion.



Back in the hotel, Fujin received the memories of his ten clones. He analyzed, 'Everything went as planned. Now it's time to be patient.'

Throughout the night, Samurais kept moving around the city. The security had become very tight. Many sudden inspections were being carried out. However, Fujin wasn't affected. It wasn't surprising as the number of civilians far exceeded the number of samurais and ninjas working under the Wind Daimyo. He did sense numerous chakra fields covering him. However, no one detected anything strange about him.

These acts made the city quite tense. The next morning, two pieces of information spread through the city. The first one caused panic and restlessness among the civilian population. After all, ten Nobles were murdered in broad daylight! If Nobles who were protected by Samurais weren't safe, then how could common people feel safe?

However, the second news made everyone feel peculiar and amused them. Rumors floated in the city that a Noble's family threatened to execute all servants. So everyone serving that family quit and left the mansion. The Daimyo himself had given assurances that these people wouldn't be harmed. In addition, no new worker signed up to serve that family due to the bad reputation it gained, making them a joke in the Wind Capital.

As the culprit behind the assassinations, Fujin was sitting relaxed in his room. He analyzed, 'These ten were all very close to Sunagakure according to the scrolls. Now that they are dead and Suna is the first suspect, their families will stop relying on Suna. Since the Land of Wind and Fire are allied, Konoha will become their new reliance soon.

Even if they don't ally with Konoha and continue the same level of interaction with Suna, it isn't actually our loss as just the status quo is maintained.

In addition, the Daimyo and remaining Nobles will now be very alert against Sunagakure. Though they can't pin the blame on Suna, seeds of doubt will take root in their minds. Of course, just this isn't enough. I'll have to keep providing water to these seeds to create the required effect.'

Numerous plans and schemes kept running through Fujin's mind. For quite some time, the Wind Capital was fated to remain restless.

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Chapter 255: Sunagakure makes a move

Sunagakure, Kazekage Building :

A ninja was hurrying inside the Kazekage building. Without waiting to knock and get permission, he opened the door and said loudly, "Lord Rasa, we have an important matter."

Rasa frowned. He was in a meeting. He looked at them and said, "We will continue the talks later."

Everyone nodded and left the meeting. Rasa looked with annoyance and asked, "What is the rush? Didn't you know that I was in an important meeting?"

The ninja replied, "I am sorry but this is important, Lord Rasa. Ten Nobles in the Wind Capital have died. Five Samurais have also died. And we are the prime suspect."

Rasa frowned and asked, "What did you say?"

The ninja handed him a scroll. Rasa opened and began reading. The ninja said, "It is suspected that all were killed using the Blade of Wind jutsu. And since all ten murders happened at the same time, they don't think any other village could have done this."

Rasa's expression became grim. He thought, 'Wind Daimyo's support for us has been decreasing continuously since the end of the third war. I had just managed to stabilize our standing and was about to pull out of the alliance with Konoha, but this happened. It will push the Daimyo even further away from us.'

His mood worsened as he cursed, 'Which bastard is scheming against me? Kiri shouldn't be involved in this. So it should be either Hiruzen or Onoki. But which one?'

He kept analyzing, 'The important matter is that ten ninjas simultaneously used Blade of Wind jutsu. Is one of them building a specialist unit of Wind?'

Rasa thought for a bit and concluded, 'No, Blade of Wind is a Jounin level jutsu. I doubt any of them would be willing to send 10 of them here. The most likely possibility is that Wind Sword jutsu was used. Gathering 10 users of that jutsu wouldn't be difficult for Konoha or Iwa.'

Among the two of them, Konoha is the most suspicious. If their number of Wind users increases, their destructiveness on the battlefield will go up a few notches. But, for Hiruzen to do this, did he discover my attempts to break the alliance? If so, this wouldn't be his only move.'

Rasa's analysis was on point. Fujin's clones had all used Wind Sword jutsu to kill or injure their targets. However, Rasa still didn't consider the point of someone using Shadow clones. So he overestimated the number of attackers by a factor of 10!

He looked at the ninja in front of him and said, "Call Baki here."

The ninja nodded and left.

In a few minutes, Baki arrived. Rasa tossed the scroll over to him and said, "Read."

Baki nodded and began reading. His expression became grim. Rasa said, "I want you to lead a squad of 20 ninjas to the Wind Capital. Find who the culprit is and clear our name. If you can't find the culprit, then stay there and ensure that no more incidents occur. At the same time, make sure that our reputation among the Nobles in the Wind Capital improves."

I suspect that Konoha is behind this incident, but we can't rule out Iwagakure either. They may want us to suspect Konoha and break our alliance. So be on guard against both of them."

Baki nodded, "Yes, Lord Kazekage."

He immediately left and began preparations to leave. In a couple of hours, Baki along with 19 ninjas at the rank of Chunin and above left towards the Wind Capital.

Wind Capital :

Fujin was still staying in the same hotel. Due to being one of the most luxurious hotels in the Wind Capital, the impact of the stricter security and frequent checks wasn't felt much there. However, a Samurai still visited to ask him some standard questions before leaving without suspecting anything.

Fujin didn't make any moves in these two days. He thought, 'Though I could still kill some targets irrespective of how much security the Samurais provide, it won't help my mission.'

On one hand, the Daimyo will begin considering why Suna is attacking despite being the prime suspect. So their suspicion of Suna will decrease instead of increase. On the other hand, if I overdo it, Daimyo and the other Nobles might get terrified of Suna. They might stop increasing relations with Konoha and obediently support Suna. I am sure Rasa might just go ahead and begin killing the Nobles himself as well until the Daimyo capitulates, taking full opportunity of my blunder.

So my best course of action is to keep striking at regular intervals. Hmm?'

Fujin's attention was suddenly attracted. He got up and went to the balcony and looked at one of the entrances to the city. Though he wasn't actively sensing, he could feel that a group of ninjas with strong chakras were coming towards the city. He wondered, 'Did Rasa send a few ninjas?'

A smile appeared on his face. He thought, 'Good, I was getting bored. Though this mission is quite relaxing, I don't want to do it much longer. After all, I can't train at all while staying here. The longer I stay here, the more time I will be wasting. Unfortunately, this mission requires me to stay here for around 6 months. But, if I can do a great job, I'll be able to leave early.'

Not to mention, this city doesn't deserve its name. Wind Capital my ass. I have sent dozens of clones to find and steal any wind crystals here. Unfortunately, they have none! I had planned to steal the entire treasury of it but I never thought they won't have a single one! What a waste.'

Fujin sighed and eliminated that thought. He had felt enough heartache over the last week due to this matter. He turned his attention towards the Suna ninjas and waited in anticipation for them to arrive.

A few minutes later, Baki and his group entered the Wind Capital. His arrival immediately gained everyone's attention. Due to the incidents and the rumors, the common people were quite afraid of them. Even the Samurais and other guards were alert against them. The moods of Suna ninjas became

grim on seeing how much the public perception was against them. Seeing the circumstances, they immediately travelled towards the Daimyo's estate.

However, the entrance of the Daimyo's estate was guarded by a dozen samurais led by Hajime. Baki greeted with a smile, "Hajime-san, it's good to meet you again. I am here to deliver a message from Lord Kazekage to Lord Daimyo."

Hajime replied with a smile as well, "It is good to see you as well, Baki. I would have loved to escort you in. Unfortunately, Lord Daimyo is busy with important meetings due to recent events and has asked to not be disturbed. I'll have to politely ask you to wait here until he allows for visitors."

Baki and the Suna ninjas frowned. The Daimyo was trying to humiliate them. Baki said, "Alright, I will wait here until Lord Daimyo sends a message."

The Suna ninjas following Baki knew of the circumstances. So none spoke anything despite the blatant disrespect. Baki analyzed, 'A power play. The Daimyo intends to show his displeasure by making us wait here. The longer we are made to wait, the more he is displeased. Still, he is also disrespecting our Kazekage.'

Baki looked at the ninjas behind him. They had run non-stop from Sunagakure to Wind Capital. He said, "You guys can leave and have some rest. I will meet up after meeting Lord Daimyo."

The ninjas nodded and left. Hajime was surprised. He analyzed, 'Letting the ninjas leave signifies that he isn't here to fight. However, on the other hand, it also could be seen as an insult to the Daimyo as he isn't making his subordinates wait patiently for the Daimyo. Oh well, it is none of my business whether he worships or disrespects the Daimyo as long as he doesn't attack.'

Baki and the rest had arrived in the Wind Capital in the morning. However, despite the Sun being right on top of their heads, the Daimyo still hadn't called Baki in. He kept waiting outside Daimyo's estate until the Sun began setting. Finally, when the Sun was about to set, a messenger came out of the estate and whispered a message to Hajime.

Hajime looked at Baki and said, "Lord Daimyo is finally done with his meetings. You can meet him now, Baki."

Baki's mood was terrible. He was made to wait outside for nearly half a day. They didn't even bother providing him with any food, water or even a chair! He walked in thinking, 'What a terrible mission I accepted. Rasa-sama should have sent a diplomat along with me.'

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Chapter 256: Rage and Sorrow

Baki entered the Wind Daimyo's office. It was a large circular room with a circular table at the center of the room. The Daimyo was sitting on the chair exactly opposite Baki's location. Baki bowed respectfully and said, "Greetings, Lord Daimyo. Lord Kazekage wanted to send you a message."

He handed a scroll to the Daimyo. The Daimyo didn't speak a word and took the scroll and began reading. The scroll expressed condolences on the recent deaths. It also mentioned that Rasa speculated that these attacks were done by Konohagakure or Iwagakure.

Baki said, "Lord Kazekage heard about the recent assassinations and was concerned about the safety of everyone in the Wind Capital. He sent me here to investigate the assassinations and increase the safety of the Wind Capital."

Neither Baki nor the scroll mentioned anything about clearing Suna's name. No words were needed for that.

The Daimyo replied while watching Baki carefully, "The recent events have alarmed me. So I have reached a deal with the Land of Iron to send 200 more Samurais here. Unfortunately, I don't have any access budget for it. So it will have to come out of the budget assigned to Sunagakure."

Baki frowned. He said, "Lord Dai..."

However, he was cut off by the Wind Daimyo, who said, "Save your breath. My meetings today were all about this matter. All my advisors and ministers have agreed upon it. I will send an official letter to Rasa soon."

Baki knew that speaking anymore would be pointless. He turned around and said, "Alright. I will start investigating the assassinations."

He left without bidding any farewells. The Daimyo saw him leave and let out a sigh while thinking, 'These warmongers keep getting more and more power-hungry. I had advised them against starting the Third Great Ninja War. But they completely ignored me and started it without my knowledge or permission. In the end, they lost so badly that they were forced into an alliance with Konoha. Even then, they still haven't learnt their lessons.'

The Daimyo snorted and decided, 'If they want to continue being arrogant, so be it.'

He looked at Hajime and said, "Send that letter to Mifune."

Hajime nodded and left the room.

After leaving, Baki's mood was terrible. He could see that the Daimyo was intent on making Suna pay for the recent assassinations. He muttered, 'At this rate, Lord Rasa might decide to kill him instead of trying to come to terms with him.'

He met with the other 19 ninjas. Soon they began investigating the deaths. After inspecting all the dead bodies, Baki concluded numerous clues.

He analyzed, 'All 15 bodies have very similar injuries. It's as if the same person has killed them. Or at the very least, all of them were probably trained by the same master. The wounds are definitely from wind blades. But the same effect could also be achieved by the Wind Sword jutsu. So it is likely that 10 chunins had attacked instead of the speculated 10 Jounins. This alone should be enough to get rid of most of the suspicions from us. But...'

Baki frowned as he recalled his conversation with the Wind Daimyo and Hajime's attitude. He thought, 'Unfortunately, the Daimyo seems to be intent on making us pay. He won't pay any attention to this matter unless he has no other choice. In fact, even if we catch the culprits, he might still think that it is us framing someone else.'

Suddenly, Baki had an idea. He realized, 'The only way to completely remove all suspicions would be to catch the culprits in this city and fight them openly. As long as they use Wind jutsus, no one will be able to blame Suna. The only issue here is that the fighting in the city could cause a lot of damage to the city.'

Baki's expression hardened as he decided, 'But, seeing how the Daimyo treated us, I don't need to be concerned about such damages. As long as the culprits are from Iwa or Konoha, the Daimyo will have no choice but to readjust the budgets and closely align himself back with us. Now, I just hope that those cowards haven't run away!'

The 'cowards', who Baki had referred to, was sitting in one of the restaurants where he could occasionally notice the Sunagakure ninjas. Numerous thoughts were running through his mind and numerous plans were being created.

Fujin heard all the talks happening in the restaurant and outside. He thought, 'So 20 people were sent here just for me, huh? Looks like they didn't suspect Shadow Clones. And their leader is Baki.'

A smirk formed on Fujin's face, 'Still, this is making it so easier for me. I have already seen 6 faces other than Baki. The next time, I will transform into them, hahaha. I wonder what Rasa's thoughts would be if he received a message that the very ninjas he sent to investigate were being accused of murder.'

For the next couple of weeks, Baki and his squad searched the entire Wind Capital to find the culprits. Unfortunately, they didn't find anyone.

In these 2 weeks, no new incident occurred. The Wind Daimyo and Hajime became more and more certain that the assassinations were carried out by the Sunagakure.

Hajime wondered, 'Couldn't Suna come up with a better scheme? First they kill Nobles and Samurais here and then they put up a charade of trying to desperately look for the culprit. Next, they will say that they haven't found any culprit and hence will station some troops here permanently for 'protection'. Even a child could see through this scheme.'

As Hajime predicted, after 2 weeks of desperately looking for the culprits, Baki stopped. He and his unit decided to stay there to stop the next wave of attacks.

Another week and a half passed by peacefully. Most of the common citizens had begun forgetting about the incident earlier and moved on with their lives. Even the Suna ninjas and the Samurai had stopped maintaining full alertness.



In one of the numerous mansions in the Wind Capital, a teenage girl was watering plants in her room while singing merrily. Suddenly, she felt a pain in the back of her neck. Instantly, she lost consciousness and began falling down. However, a hand held her and stopped her from falling to the ground.

At the same time, the door of the room opened. A middle-aged man walked in saying, "Kohei, how many times should I te... Who are you?"

The man suddenly became stunned to see his daughter lying unconscious in the arms of an unknown Suna ninja. Memories of the 10 assassinations surfaced in his mind. He was about to yell when the Suna ninja suddenly appeared in front of him and grabbed his mouth and said, "Scream and both you and your daughter will die."

The man felt an intense bloodlust from the ninja. Without letting the man speak, the ninja said, "Did you think that you could double-cross us by forming a secret deal with Amegakure?"

The man's eyes widened. The ninja was amused as well. He thought, 'I just made up a lie. To think that it would be true.'

The man wanted to scream that his deal with Amegakure wasn't harmful to Sunagakure in any way. On the contrary, it might benefit Sunagakure in the long term. However, he could not speak. The ninja was still grabbing his mouth so tightly that his cheeks had begun bleeding. The ninja said, "As this is just your first offense, I will only take the life of your daughter."

The man's eyes widened. He began struggling, but he was no match for the ninja. The ninja continued, "If you continue to betray us, or if you tell anyone about this interaction, then you and your family will be eliminated."

The ninja grabbed the neck of the unconscious girl and strangled her till it popped. The man struggled helplessly, but he could only see his daughter die in front of his eyes. Tears rolled down his eyes.

The ninja tossed the man away and disappeared. Rage and sorrow were visible in the man's eyes. He screamed, "KOHEI!!!!!"

His screams alerted the entire mansion. Immediately a Samurai and a few others came running. They saw their Lord sobbing with the dead body of his daughter in his arms.

Her mother saw her dead daughter and began crying in disbelief and pain as well. She cried, "Who did this, Kojiro?"

Kojiro's eyes reddened. He said hatefully, "Sunagakure! I will never forgive them."

He looked at the Samurai and said, "I want to meet Lord Daimyo. Come with me. But first, call a few more of your comrades to protect my family."

The Samurai nodded and immediately got to work. After ensuring sufficient protection, Kojiro along with a Samurai began moving towards the Daimyo's estate. However, he wasn't alone. Eleven more Nobles were also walking towards the Daimyo's estate in rage and sorrow.

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Chapter 257: Proving their Innocence

Fujin received all the memories and sighed, 'I don't mind killing the greedy Nobles. None of them have their hands clean. But killing innocent ones always leaves a bad taste.'

Though the training in Anbu wasn't as messed up as Root training, it still was quite dark. Every new Anbu was made to kill a few innocent people on missions by the Anbu Captains. Of course, their deaths would benefit Konoha in some way, but they themselves didn't harm Konoha or anyone else. Hence no one would think that they deserved death.

Under normal circumstances, every new Anbu would be made to do this within a month of joining the Anbu. However, since Fujin's group was much younger with ages of just 12 and 13, they were asked to do this on a mission around six months after joining and after they had already completed a few missions. Despite not liking it, all three did it.

After the first time, the Anbu commander would ensure that every once in a while, the Anbu ninjas would receive a mission that would include killing innocent civilians. It would be asked of them in a very subtle manner. The method was the complete opposite of the Root. Eventually, after years of serving in the Anbu, the Anbu ninjas would begin considering this as normal.

Fujin, despite his intelligence and knowledge about the Naruto world, didn't notice this subtle scheme. But, to be fair, he wasn't the only one. Every Anbu ninja, including the likes of Kakashi and Itachi, was subtly influenced over the years. However, since Fujin's time in the Anbu wasn't very long, he wasn't influenced to an extreme end and would avoid it if he had the option.

Of course, if anyone couldn't do this, they were allowed to leave the Anbu. However, the instances of someone leaving Anbu, for this reason, were very low. The main reason was that Hiruzen would be very careful while selecting ninjas into the Anbu ranks. This was why someone like Might Guy was never invited into the Anbu.

Daimyo's Estate -

12 Nobles accompanied by 12 Samurais arrived in Daimyo's office. All reported the assassination angrily and demanded to the Daimyo to take action against Suna ninjas and the village as well. The entire room was in complete chaos!

The Wind Daimyo sighed. He wondered, 'What are these lunatics doing? Do they want to rebel against me? Or is it really someone else who is pushing the blame on them?'

The Wind Daimyo was confused. At the same time, he was a bit fearful. After all, even though he held the authority, in terms of power, he was no match for the Kazekage. If the Kazekage decided to kill him, it wouldn't matter how many Samurais he hired to protect himself.

However, he shook his head and concluded, 'No, if Rasa attacks me, then he will have to face retaliation from the other Daimyos. Though their Kages don't have to listen to them, they will as they could all plunder Sunagakure together and divide the benefits among themselves.

The only fear is if three or more Kage decided to revolt against their Daimyo. In that case, we will be history. However, the other Kages haven't shown any such indications yet. So Rasa would not dare to make a move against me yet.'

Though he didn't want to take action, he couldn't let the grievances of the 12 Nobles go unanswered. He instructed, "Call Baki and the other Sunagakure ninjas. Hajime, increase the defenses of the estate."

Hajime nodded and said, "It will be done, Lord Daimyo."

He immediately got to work. Soon, over 50 Samurais arrived at the Daimyo's mansion and took positions. Hajime stayed by the Wind Daimyo's side.

Baki received the message. He frowned and wondered, 'What now? Does the Daimyo have any problems with us staying here?'

He gathered all his subordinates and went towards the Daimyo's estate. Fujin was sitting in a restaurant near Daimyo's estate using Hiroshi's appearance. He noticed the twenty Suna ninjas running towards the estate. He wondered, 'Will they be imprisoned? Or will Baki manage to convince the Daimyo? Sigh, I want to watch their meeting. It'll be fun for sure.'

Baki and the rest entered the estate. A frown formed on Baki's face. The remaining Suna ninjas also became alert. They could see that the number of Samurais in the mansion had increased a lot.

They walked to Daimyo's office. As soon as they did, the eyes of the Nobles widened. Kojiro pointed at one ninja and screamed, "It was him! This bastard killed my daughter! I want him dead!"

The other 11 Nobles also screamed at the same time while pointing towards other ninjas. The room became complete chaos once again and was drowned in their screams.

The Sunagakure ninjas were dumbfounded at the accusations. Baki had a bad feeling.

The Daimyo commanded, "Quiet down!"

Soon, the entire room became quiet. However, the nobles kept looking at the Sunagakure ninjas with hateful gazes. If looks could have killed, then all Sunagakure ninjas would have already been dead!

Daimyo said, "How would you explain this, Baki?"

Baki replied, "I have no idea what you or they are talking about, Lord Daimyo."

The Daimyo frowned. He analyzed, 'From his expression, it looks like he really doesn't know anything. The faces of others are clueless as well. But, do they really not know anything or are just acting?'

He said, "Do you really not know? Twelve of your subordinates assassinated family members of these nobles. And you say you have no idea. Has the Kazekage decided to break all ties with me?"

Baki's bad feelings increased. He quickly replied, "That's impossible. Why will we kill them?"

He looked at the nobles and identified a few. He added, "Some of them have a good relationship with our village. We have no reason to destroy our ties with them."

Kojiro screamed, "You found out about my trade deals with Amegakure. You killed my daughter to make me stop doing that despite that trade deal having no adverse impact on Sunagakure."

Another Noble screamed, "Bastard, I don't even have any trade deals with any other country. Still this lunatic falsely accused me and killed my wife!"

The Suna ninjas immediately defended themselves and said that they didn't kill anyone. Soon, a verbal argument broke out.

However, Baki was silent. He was sweating as he realized, 'Don't tell me... The previous attackers kept hiding in the city until we dropped our guard down. In the meantime, they must have seen us and decided to disguise themselves as us to kill their next target. Additionally, there were two more attackers this time.'

The previous time, we were only suspected due to the use of the Wind jutsu. However, this time, their suspicion will be entirely on us. Due to the rage of losing a loved one, they won't even listen to any explanations.'

Baki stopped his subordinates and said, "Lord Daimyo, you know that ninjas are able to transform into others. I believe that the culprits of the previous assassinations disguised as us so that our relations will deteriorate further."

Kojiro snorted, "Sure they can transform. But can they replicate their voice as well? Even if they can, how can they replicate his voice so perfectly? Even if someone transformed, it will have to be someone from your group!"

Baki was stunned. He muttered to himself, 'Don't tell me that we interrogated all the culprits and still didn't notice them? How else could they replicate our voice?'

However, Baki shook his head and said, "We have been very active in the Wind Capital recently. It isn't surprising that they could have overheard us."

Kojiro's anger kept soaring. He said, "Good good. So what you mean to say is that you are so incompetent that not only could you find the previous culprits, but instead you allowed them to completely disguise themselves as you? And you call yourself a ninja?"

This insult angered many of the Sunagakure ninjas. They immediately argued back and said how competent and capable they were.

Kojiro replied while pointing at a ninja, "If that's the case, then my daughter was murdered by none other than him!"

The Sunagakure ninjas were left speechless. Though they were much stronger in strength, when it came to debating, they were no match for the Nobles who spent all their time scheming for benefits. After all, not every ninja could scheme or argue as well as a Kage could.

Baki stepped in once again and said loudly, "This is a pointless argument. I can assure you that none of my ninjas were involved."

He looked at the Nobles and said, "One by one, point out the ninjas you saw in your mansions and at what time. I will ask them where they were at that time and we will verify. That will prove that my men are innocent."

Before the Nobles could say anything, the Daimyo nodded, "Alright, let's do that."

The Nobles complained but the Daimyo said, "We will first have to know the truth. Your loved ones won't rest in peace if the real murderers roam free while we punish the ones who didn't."

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Chapter 258: Forcing the Kazekage out of Sunagakure

Since the Daimyo had made his decision, the Nobles quieted down. Soon, the 12 ninjas whom Fujin impersonated were being questioned. They all stated where and with whom they were and what they were doing. The Samurais began verifying all the information and cross-checking it with people who could vouch that they were indeed in those locations.

11 ninjas were around other people and hence they had multiple alibis. However, one ninja was hiding and doing an undercover task. Hence no one noticed him during that time. So despite telling his location, he had no alibi.

The locations of the remaining 8 ninjas were also asked as the Nobles mentioned that they could have transformed. Even among them, except one, all had good alibis. The Suna ninjas left no stone unturned in order to clear their name!

All proof indicated that the Suna ninjas were innocent and were framed. The Nobles went quiet. Though two ninjas didn't have any alibi, the rest had them. So they weren't sure anymore. However, they didn't want to give up. After all, their loved ones were killed in front of their eyes.

If they assumed that someone else was the culprit, then they would never get justice. After all, the killers of the previous incident were still roaming free. No matter how much the families of the dead nobles cried and created a ruckus, they didn't get the justice they deserved.

Suddenly, one Noble recalled something. He quickly said, "Can't ninjas use clones? What if they stayed there while their clones did their dirty work for them? After all, we can't put up a fight against clones either."

Baki and the Suna ninjas were put under pressure once again. Baki said, "According to what you described, the ninjas who attacked you had solid bodies. We use Wind clones who don't have solid bodies and are easy to be dispelled. If your killers were clones, then they would be Shadow Clones of Konohagakure or Rock Clones of Iwagakure. None of us know how to do those clones."

Hajime raised his eyebrows. He could counter Baki's point, but he didn't, as he recalled the scroll he received, 'Lord Mifune asked me not to take sides in this matter as long as no one is fighting. Though I don't like how Suna is behaving, I should let it go as it isn't my business.'

In order to pacify the Land of Iron, Rasa had reached a deal privately with them and compensated them appropriately despite not having committed the crime. As a result, Baki was saved from being pushed further into the corner by Hajime.

One of the Nobles asked, "How can you prove that you can't create those types of clones?"

Baki was annoyed. He asked, "How can you prove that we do?"

The Noble didn't back off and replied, "You can't prove that you can't create those types of clones. And two of your ninjas were still missing at the moment of the murders. Perhaps these two are the only ones who can create those types of clones and hence were missing. So you guys still are the most suspicious ones."

Baki showed an annoyed expression. He argued, "Do you think a ninja can create clones at will? Do even know how much chakra is needed to create one?"

Despite showing an irritated expression, Baki was relieved. He thought, 'Good. From certainty, they have backed off to just suspicions.'

They entered another debate which lasted 15 minutes. Finally, the Daimyo said, "Enough. You have made your point Baki. But you Suna ninjas are still the most suspicious ones. For the time being, I will be placing the 12 ninjas they saw and the missing ninja under arrest. As for the rest, you will be accompanied by Samurais at all times."

Baki's expression became ugly. He said, "Lord Daimyo, you can't..."



However, the Daimyo interrupted him and said, "Calm down. They will only be placed under house arrest. And all thirteen ninjas will stay together. So you don't need to worry about them being treated unfairly. If you want, you can visit them daily. I'll send a letter to Rasa and ask him to come here before this matter explodes beyond the point where we can resolve it."

Baki analyzed for a few seconds and agreed to those terms. He gave some instructions to the 13 ninjas and, left the estate with the remaining 6 Suna ninjas. The remaining 13 Suna ninjas were placed in a large room with Samurais watching over them.

Fujin noticed the 7 ninjas leaving and began analyzing, 'Only 7 left the estate? Meaning that 13 are still in the estate. But I only impersonated 12 of them. After all, I heard only their voices and have no idea how the rest sounded. Did someone else also try the same tactic coincidentally? What exactly happened inside?'

Fujin kept analyzing but couldn't be certain. He concluded, 'Since only 7 came out, I am sure that they weren't let go scot-free. But since they seem fine, no conflict should have taken place. Meaning that Baki and the Daimyo came to some agreement. Looks like I will have to wait for information to be released or for rumors to spread.'

Fujin got up and began leaving. He sighed and muttered to himself, 'Why is everyone so smart? It'd have been so easy if they accepted the events as presented to them and just suspected Sunagakure blindly. I could have returned to Konoha by now if they did so and their troubles would also end.'

Fujin returned to his hotel room and waited patiently. He knew that the next few days would be very tense in the Wind Capital.

The Wind Daimyo soon sent a message to the Kazekage informing him about the recent events and asking him to come to the Wind Capital city. At the same time, Baki also sent a message to Rasa informing him of everything that happened in detail.

Sunagakure -

Unlike Fujin who was calmly bidding for time, Rasa was absolutely livid. Rasa crushed the scroll in his hand and cursed angrily, "What the hell? Who does he think he is?"

However, his advisors quickly said, "Please calm yourself Lord Kazekage. We are not in any position to make any move against Lord Daimyo. If something were to happen to him, all other villages would attack us like vultures!"

Rasa calmed down and snorted, "I will go and make a visit. You two, come with me. Also, bring our best sensors along."

The advisors nodded. They began gathering the forces and preparing to leave.

Rasa was disappointed in Baki. He wondered, 'What the hell is Baki doing? How could he allow things to deteriorate so much under his watch? Are the enemies so good that he is completely helpless?'

Not knowing the answers, Rasa left Sunagakure along with two advisors, two sensors and four Anbu ninjas. At the same time, 10 squads of Anbu left Sunagakure and began following Rasa's group from a distance. In total, 46 ninjas headed towards the Wind Capital city!

Wind Capital -

Back in Wind Capital, rumors had begun flying around the city. These were being spread by the twelve Nobles who were affected. Once again, the entire city began gossiping.

Fujin heard a bunch of rumors as well. However, unlike a normal citizen, he noticed a bunch of inconsistencies. He analyzed, 'The rumors say that Daimyo has decided to punish the evil Suna ninjas. But I doubt that would be the case. Otherwise, Baki wouldn't have withdrawn peacefully.'

I guess the rumors are being spread by those nobles so that the Daimyo is forced into taking action. But, why has the Daimyo not made any statement? It's almost as if the Daimyo wants these rumors to be known all through the city.'

Unlike Fujin, who was analyzing calmly, Baki and his subordinates were panicking. Baki too arrived at the same conclusion as Fujin. However, he had more information than Fujin. He realized, 'The Daimyo isn't crushing these rumors as he wants a public perception to be built against Sunagakure. This way, when Lord Rasa arrives, he will be under a lot of pressure.'

However, despite noticing Daimyo's scheme, Baki couldn't do anything. After all, he was being watched by Samurais at all times.

The rumors would continue spreading unrestricted. At the same time, they would be exaggerated to ridiculous extents. However, after some time, all the rumors would be silenced by one piece of news - The Fourth Kazekage had arrived at the Wind Capital city!

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Chapter 259: Trouble Comes

Irrespective of the rumors and politics, the Kazekage was still the leader of Sunagakure. He was one of the five people who stood at the top of the ninja world!

As such, he was looked at with awe and reverence throughout the Land of Wind. Immediately people flocked over to the place the Kazekage was walking through.

Most threw the rumors to the back of their minds. However, a few became alert. If the rumors were true, then it could mean trouble. After all, the Kazekage himself had to come to the Wind Capital city to clear up the matter.

Rasa continued walking through the streets slowly. He was followed by two advisors and two sensors. The Anbu had stopped outside the city. As soon as the news of his arrival spread, people began rushing towards him. At first, only a few people were on the side of the street. However, in a few minutes, both sides of the streets were jam-packed!

Rasa looked at the people surrounding the streets with a smile. He could have hurried through to the Daimyo's estate. However, he didn't as this was a good opportunity to show that he had public support and make the Daimyo think twice about alienating him any further.

Among the numerous people watching him was Fujin. Unlike his previously relaxed state of mind, he was very tense. He thought, 'Shit! Why the fuck did he show up? Granted I created a mess, but that shouldn't have been enough to call a Kage here, right?'

Fujin wasn't concerned when Baki arrived as he was confident of escaping even if Baki somehow discovered him. However, if Rasa was to find him, Fujin didn't have much confidence in his ability to run away. The resultant fight was sure to give away his identity as well.

However, despite being tense, Fujin wasn't panicking as he knew, 'He won't go around looking for the culprits. That would be unbecoming of a Kage. I just have to avoid making any moves while he is in the city.'

His expression hardened as he decided, 'Of course. Once he leaves, I will create a mess and leave this city for good.'

In the Wind Capital, Fujin wasn't the only one who was on alert. There were four more people whose expressions were ugly. One of them cursed, 'Which bastard is acting so brazenly? How can I do my promotion mission when the Kazekage is in the city? Shit! I should have left when the Samurais and the Suna ninjas had calmed down.'

A few Konoha Anbu were in this city as well for the promotion mission. However, they all had to stop acting after Fujin killed 10 nobles. Most of them had escaped the city in the week before Fujin made his second move. Only four had decided to continue their mission in this city. However, Fujin's actions endangered all of them. Just like Fujin, they decided to maintain a low profile as well.

Along with Konoha Anbu, there were dozens of other spies and undercover ninjas operating in the Land of Wind from every other village. They too cursed the bastard who operated in such a high-profile manner.

Rasa continued his journey towards the Daimyo's estate. Baki had met up with him mid-route and informed him about the rumors. Rasa maintained a smile on his face, however, his mood was gloomy. He was extremely upset with the Daimyo. Under everyone's gaze, he entered the Daimyo's estate.

Fujin sighed, 'I really need an inside man. How am I supposed to act when I have no idea what deal is taking place between them?'

Of course, Fujin could try to have his clones infiltrate the estate, but it would be very risky. If alerted, the Daimyo would know that someone other than Rasa is active in the Wind Capital city. That would be counterproductive for Fujin and would cause his previous efforts to go to waste.

Fujin entered a restaurant and waited for Rasa to leave the estate. However, he didn't expect to gain much, 'Though he is younger and probably much more foolish, he is still a Kage like that old fox. I doubt I'd see anything from his expression. But, since there are so many people here, one additional guy staring at him shouldn't alarm him. I might as well wait and see.'

Inside Daimyo's office, Rasa and the Wind Daimyo entered an intense debate. Rasa was upset at how the Daimyo had consistently cut his budget and placed his ninjas under house arrest. Meanwhile, the Daimyo was upset at the blatant killings of his Nobles.

After a couple of hours of intense discussion, both finally reached a consensus. The Daimyo said, "Alright. For the next twelve months, I won't lower your budget any further. However, you will have to ensure the safety of the Nobles in the Wind Capital."

Rasa noticed an opportunity and immediately said, "Alright, you can issue missions for protection in Sunagakure. I will reserve up to one thousand ninjas who will be ready to move out on notice."

Unlike Konoha which was suffering from a shortage of manpower, Suna had plenty of spare manpower. Though their total number of ninjas was far lesser than Konoha, the number of missions they received was very less compared to Konoha. So many ninjas didn't have any work to do. Rasa wanted to use this opportunity to alleviate some of that problem.

However, the Daimyo shook his head and said, "No. That won't work. You will have to deploy the ninjas by yourself to ensure their safety. You won't receive any payments for this."

Rasa frowned. He said, "How can that work? How will I even be able to afford that?"

The Daimyo replied, "Your budget has sufficient funds to be diverted here. Besides, most people in this city think that Sunagakure was behind the recent wave of murders. The nobles all think that you were behind the murders as well. So how can they even be willing to hire Sunagakure ninjas for protection?

You will have to deploy ninjas in this city without any missions and ensure the safety of all the Nobles. In time, they will forget about this event and their trust in Sunagakure will increase. If you don't, then don't expect a single mission from the Wind City. And if any more Nobles or their families die and you are the suspect, then they will put pressure on me to reduce your budget."

Rasa's frown kept deepening. He wasn't sure how to respond. After all, both options were bad for Sunagakure. One of the old advisors sitting next to him said, "Lord Daimyo, just like you, we also have to answer to public pressure. I understand your point of view, but please also understand our troubles. How about we find a common ground and you pay us an annual fee to deploy our ninjas in the Wind City permanently."

The Daimyo thought for a bit and nodded. After haggling for a bit, the old advisor managed to get 1.5 million Ryo per month from the Daimyo. However, Rasa wasn't happy. The amount was in no way even comparable to the amount of money that Sunagakure would have received if the Nobles had issued missions.

Unfortunately, he had no other choice. He nodded and said, "Alright. However, I have another condition. If there are no more incidents, then I want you to increase this amount next year by a huge amount."

The Daimyo nodded and said, "That is fair. We will renegotiate the terms next year."

The two talked for a bit before leaving. The thirteen ninjas that were kept under house arrest were allowed to leave with the Kazekage. However, instead of returning to Suna, Rasa stayed in the city. He looked at two sensors and commanded, "Roam around the city in disguises. Check if there are any spies or troublemakers and eliminate them."

They nodded and left. The news that the Kazekage has decided to stay in the city spread like wildfire. Every spy in the city, no matter from which village they were, immediately went into hiding. They employed every means they had to suppress their chakra levels to civilian levels and stayed hidden within the houses.

Fujin stayed in his hotel as well. He had no intention to try his luck against Rasa. However, he began analyzing, 'I made a Kage move. Will this make my mission a success? After all, a mere Chunin forced a Kage to make a move.'

Fujin thought for a bit and realized, 'No, there are two ways to see this. If I was being tested on my ability to make an impact, then this feat would be a very good one. However, my mission is to create a divide between the Wind Daimyo and the Kazekage. If this meeting results in their differences being resolved, then my mission would be a failure.'

Fujin sighed and muttered, "What a mess."

He decided, 'No more undercover missions for me. Though playing the game of chess is fun, I'd much rather just kill all my targets and return to training. Now that I think about it, it's been almost 2 months since I used the elemental training rooms. Hiruzen for sure would suspect that I was the one who kept draining the Wind crystals. Oh well. It's not like he can complain. Even if he discovers, he will stay quiet so that I don't begin using them openly and without any restraints.'

The two sensors Rasa brought with him kept roaming in the city for three days. Fujin felt chakra fields sensing him several times. In these three days, the two sensors found 13 spies and undercover agents. However, they were all from smaller villages. No one from the other major villages was caught by them.

The Sunagakure ninjas quickly made a move on them and neutralized them one by one. Their fights caused some property damage to the city. Unfortunately, none of them were wind users. So Sunagakure couldn't pin the blame on them.

After three days, the two sensors met Rasa and said, "Apologies, Lord Kazekage. We couldn't sense the culprits who did the assassinations."

Rasa replied, "It's fine. If they didn't have the confidence to hide, they wouldn't have done something so outrageous in the first place. Anyways, begin preparations to leave. You and Baki will stay back here. I'll send some Anbu to coordinate with you in secret."

At that instant, a group of twelve ninjas approached the city. The Samurais guarding the city were already on full alert due to the recent events. They immediately noticed them. The group wasn't aware of the recent events in the city and approached the guards.

Hayashi Ryota put one hand on the hilt of his sword and said loudly, "Halt. State your name and purpose."

The ninjas immediately stopped. One of them said, "I am Oda Seiji. I come from Kurogane no Sensen mercenary group. Around a couple of months ago, a squad of our mercenaries was hired to escort a trading group to this city. But since then, we haven't heard anything from them. So we came here to investigate."

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Chapter 260: Rasa's Gaze

The mercenary group from which the real Hiroshi had hired protection had arrived in the Wind Capital city to investigate the reason why their comrades didn't return for almost 2 months.

Ryota had handled several such cases in the past. In the majority of cases, this was a result of those squads being killed in action. He replied, "I see. Can you tell me the names of the ninjas and the traders?"

Seiji nodded and informed him of the names of his ninjas. He added, "They were tasked to guard a mercenary group led by Takahashi Hiroshi."

Ryota nodded and passed the details to a few civilians who used to sit with them. After a while, one person said, "Ryota-sama. The ninja names they mentioned haven't arrived here."

Seiji heard it and let out a sigh. He had expected this result.

Suddenly, another person said, "Takahashi Hiroshi and his trader group had arrived in this city 51 days ago. You were the one who accepted them, Ryota-sama."

The mercenary group were surprised to hear this information. Ryota took the document and read it. He said, "Yeah, I have some memories. This group was very polite."

Seiji squinted his eyes and asked, "But if our members are missing, how can they have arrived here unharmed?"

Ryota shrugged and replied, "How would I know?"

Seiji said, "We want to meet with Hiroshi and question him."



However, Ryota shook his head and said, "Unfortunately, I can't allow that. Once a trader or a merchant arrives in the city, he is our guest. We cannot allow him to be harassed."

Seiji frowned. He withdrew a bag and handed it to Ryota secretly and asked, "Can we meet up with him now?"

Ryota took a quick look inside the bag. It had around one hundred thousand Ryo. He smiled and said, "Sure. How can I deny our esteemed guests?"

The mercenaries maintained their smile but scoffed internally at his morals. Meanwhile, the other Samurai and civilians guarding the gate were joyous. After all, they too would receive a share. Ryota sent a samurai to find and bring Hiroshi to the gate.

An hour later, a Samurai knocked on the door. Fujin was surprised. He wondered, 'Are they still finding the culprits?'

He opened the door and politely greeted, "Hello. How may I help you?"

The Samurai looked at him and said, "Hayashi Ryota, the samurai who you met while entering the city wants to meet you. Please come with me."

Fujin frowned. He didn't understand what it was about. He asked, "Why? And why didn't he come here?"

The Samurai said, "He is busy and can't leave the City gates. That's why he sent me. As for the reason, you will have to ask him."

He began walking. Fujin followed while thinking, 'What the hell is this about? Did they figure out that I was the culprit? No, that doesn't make sense. A lot more people would show up if they did. Hell, Rasa might come himself!'

Fortunately, the Samurai wasn't walking in the direction of where Rasa was staying. Though suspicious, Fujin followed thinking, 'It doesn't matter what he is planning. As long as Rasa isn't involved, I'll be able to get away.'

They arrived at the city gates. Ryota looked at Hiroshi and warmly said, "We meet again, Hiroshi. Did you enjoy the city?"

Fujin nodded and said, "Yes. I have fallen in love with the city. I can't seem to want to leave it. Haha. But, why did you call me?"

Ryota pointed at a group of ninjas who were walking towards them and said, "These are from the mercenary group Kurogane no Sensen. They want to ask you about the ninjas who took the mission of protecting you."

Ryota looked at Fujin meaningfully. After all, there were no ninjas protecting his group. And he hadn't mentioned them when they arrived.

Fujin was surprised. He thought, 'I see. They have finally come to investigate. Sign, such bad timing. If they had arrived after Rasa left, I would have had so many more options. Looks like this identity can't be used anymore. Though it is probably not a bad thing to leave this city now. Rasa and Daimyo should have come to some sort of a deal. So if I make a move now, the Daimyo will lean more towards believing that someone is setting him up.'

Seiji approached Fujin and said sternly, "Hiroshi, I am Oda Seiji from Kurogane no Sensen. Can tell me why your group arrived in the city without the squad assigned to protect you?"

Unlike Ryota, Seiji was much more aggressive. Fujin walked back a couple of steps and showed a fearful expression. Ryota took a step in between them to remind Seiji that this was the Wind Capital city. Seiji stopped but still stared at Fujin.

Fujin answered with a hint of fear in his voice, "On our route, we encountered an injured man. He said that his group was attacked by bandits and asked for our help. The ninjas we hired initially refused the injured man. But the man promised to give them all his profits from the goods that he was going to trade.

That made them change their mind. Two of the ninjas followed the man while the remaining two escorted us to this city. However, since we didn't hear from those two ninjas again, the other two got worried. So after this city was in sight, they left us and went back to look for them. I don't know what happened after that."

Seiji frowned. He analyzed, 'Seeing how scared he is, I doubt he is lying. Besides, we are a mercenary organization. People chasing after more money is very common in our line of work. Did they fall into a trap? And why did the remaining two chase after them? No, something doesn't add up.'

He asked, "Where did you find that man?"

Fujin replied, "Around four days' journey from here."

Seiji replied, "Okay. You will come with us and take us to that place and help us find them."

Fujin immediately said, "No. The man was in a very bad state. I don't want to end up like him."

Seiji replied, "You won't. We will be there with you."

However, Fujin kept saying no. When Seiji was about to get aggressive, Fujin said, "This is the Wind Capital. You can't forcefully take me from here."

Seiji frowned and looked at Ryota who looked to be on Fujin's side. He said, "Help me out, brother. I will make sure that he is safe and that you are compensated."

Fujin immediately wondered, 'Compensated?'

Ryota nodded and looked at Fujin and said, "Hiroshi, you don't need to be worried. With twelve ninjas, even I won't be able to do anything to them. So the bandits won't pose a threat to you. In addition, you need to save the ninjas who brought you here safely. Or at the very least, you should get justice for them."

Seeing that everyone was against him, Fujin's face became very ugly. He reluctantly nodded, "Alright."

The Samurais and the mercenaries smiled. After all, Hiroshi was just an ordinary trader. How could he disobey them? Seiji secretly passed another hundred thousand Ryo to Ryota.

Fujin obviously noticed it and decided, 'In the future, if I decide to steal or plunder, I will definitely start with the Land of Iron. In terms of cash flow, that will definitely be the richest country in this world!'

This wasn't the first time Fujin had seen an 'honorable' samurai act in this manner. Almost every Samurai working for Daimyo or in Capital cities was very liberal when it came to accepting bribes. In addition, the Daimyos also paid them a lot for the protection they provided. In addition, they were also the largest suppliers of basic ninja tools and chakra metal weapons and also mined the last few remaining Elemental Crystal mines. So a lot of money keeps getting funneled continuously into the Land of Iron.

They were about to leave when suddenly a commotion was heard. The entire group looked back to see the Kazekage walking towards the city gate along with a few Sunagakure ninjas.

Everyone immediately became tense. They quickly moved out of the way and stood on one side of the road respectfully. Rasa passed through the gate without paying any attention to them. The mercenary group sighed in relief.

However, Rasa suddenly stopped and glanced towards the mercenary group and thought, 'Weird, why do I get a peculiar feeling from this group?'

Rasa didn't sense anything from this group. However, he just felt as if something about them was off.