

Calamity 311

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 311: Restlessness!

Fujin's gaze landed on the peak of Mount Muteki. He thought, 'One easy way to break through this should be learning how to harness Nature energy. With Sage Mode, I'll be able to keep up with the best of the current ninjas.

The other alternative is learning Flying Thunder God. With it, I'll be able to teleport. It will make dodging my Vacuum jutsus almost impossible. And I will be able to retreat at will.

Unfortunately, when I learn either of them isn't in my hands. It depends on Ryu and Hiruzen. And I can't be sure whether I'd manage to learn them or not. If I end up failing to learn both, Senjutsu and Flying Thunder God, then my future prospects drop hard.

Apart from these 2, there are four other methods I can think of. The first is creating Scorch or Swift Release. Though in terms of difficulty, it might be even more difficult as I would have neither guidance nor any information and just have a book with unsuccessful attempts towards a different Kekkei Genkai to refer to.

The second method is to improve my speed even further. With the aid of Assassin's Rush jutsu and training my body even further, I could enhance my speed even further. That could allow me to crush Elite Jounins. In addition to this, I need to create a few original jutsus. Though they won't be as strong as the rank A jutsus in the library, I will have to create them such that they complement my high-speed style of combat.

The third method is likely the one that has the highest prospects. That is Fuinjutsu and Juinjutsu. Once I become a Grandmaster, I can make a list of seals that I can use on the battlefield. If I can use them as skillfully as Hiruzen did against Suna ninjas, it will be at the same level as my Vacuum jutsus.

The above two methods will need time as well but they are the ones I am most confident in achieving. However, if I'm not able to learn Senjutsu or Flying Thunder God, then they won't allow me to reach the top of this world. That would leave me with just one option. Learning Eight Inner Gates from Guy...'

Fujin let out a sigh and stretched. He immediately winced due to pain. He muttered to himself, 'This is so taxing. All these methods will need a lot of time. The time that I just don't have. I will need to quit Anbu soon. If I waste my time on long missions, I won't have enough time to train.'

Fujin let out another sigh. How to inform Hiruzen and convince him to let him quit Anbu was another headache. He stopped thinking about it and muttered, "My chakra has recovered a bit."

Fujin got out of the lake and sat down. A shadow clone appeared next to him and began healing him.

The cold water in the lake had soothed the burns on his body. The clone healed all the burn marks with ease and finally turned his attention towards Fujin's back. He poured chakra into his back and said, "3 ribs are cracked. Luckily the spine is not damaged. Though I can heal them, it's better to avoid training or fighting until we visit Konoha Hospital."

Fujin nodded. The clone healed his back before dispelling itself. Fujin got up and stretched his back once again. A loud and satisfying cracking sound was heard. Fujin muttered, "Finally, it feels better."

He looked up and said, "Goro, it's time to visit your father."

Goro was flying above. He immediately landed next to Fujin and asked, "Done healing?"

Fujin jumped on his back and said, "Yes."

Goro replied, "You humans need such a long time and complicated procedures to heal."

Fujin shrugged and replied, "Our physique isn't as strong as a Winged Sabertooth. And our bodies aren't infused with nature's energy. Obviously, we can't heal as quickly as you guys."

Goro chuckled and replied, "Sucks to be you."

He took flight. In less than a minute, they appeared outside Ryu's cave. Goro said, "You can go alone. Summon me some time to have some fun. But don't summon me if that dangerous beast is around."

Fujin chuckled and asked, "Why, wasn't that fun?"

He jumped off him. Goro angrily replied, "Hey! I am only 41 years old! I want to live up to at least 41 thousand years!"

Fujin chuckled and didn't reply. Goro flew away. Ryu opened his eyes and watched Fujin walking towards him. He asked, "So, what did you encounter?"

Fujin informed him about his encounter with Roshi and the Tailed Beast within him.

A frown formed on Ryu's face. He muttered, "A Jinchuriki... Humans managed to subdue the Tailed Beasts? I didn't expect that they would advance so much over the last few decades."

Fujin thought with a sigh, 'As I expected. Due to not having any summoner for so long, they aren't in touch with recent happenings in the Ninja world. Though I suppose they don't particularly care.'

Fujin asked, "How would you fare against the Four Tailed Beast?"

Ryu replied, "It's hard to say. I haven't fought any Tailed Beast yet. However, my grandfather did fight the one named Saiken. He said that they were quite evenly matched until Saiken used a technique that created a gigantic black ball of compressed chakra. It should be the Tailed Beast Bomb you stated. That forced my grandfather to retreat and run away.

As for the Four Tailed Beast, from what I heard, he could use lava. So I will likely be at an even greater disadvantage. But I will have to see him to say for sure. That said, Great-Grandmother has instructed that even I would have to retreat if I ever face one in battle."

Fujin nodded. It was as he had expected. Though Ryu was strong, against the Tailed Beasts, he wouldn't stand much of a chance. At max, he would be able to stall them for some time.

Seeing Fujin silent, Ryu asked, "Are you planning to go back?"

Fujin shook his head and replied, "No way. If he is still waiting for me, I'll be dead. Not to mention, his village has an even scarier old man."

He looked into Ryu's eyes and said, "I was hoping to stay here for a while and learn Senjutsu."

Ryu looked back and observed Fujin for a few seconds. He replied, "You aren't ready yet."

Fujin complained, "Come on! The world is so scary. I almost died today. With Senjutsu, I will be able to protect myself."

Ryu looked down at Fujin and said, "Stop being childish. Your body isn't strong enough to contain nature energy yet. Nor is your chakra reserve high enough. More importantly..."

He stared at Fujin for a few seconds before continuing, "You are restless. I can feel restlessness and impatience from your mind, body and will. In such a state, you will never manage to learn how to harness nature energy."

His words surprised Fujin. Ryu waited for Fujin to digest them and continued, "Stop being so impatient. For your age, you are very strong. Your attacks can even threaten me. Instead of worrying and taking needless risks, slow down and focus on all-round development. You still have a lot of time ahead of you."

Ryu's words made Fujin think. After a couple of minutes, he let out a sigh and thought, 'He is right. I have been too restless lately. I am too worried about the Fourth Great Ninja War and increasing my strength. However, my restlessness might become the biggest obstacle.'

He took a deep breath and said, "Thank you, Ryu."

Ryu nodded. In the last couple of years, he was quite impressed with Fujin's intelligence and maturity. He knew that he didn't need to say more. He said, "Rest here for as long as you want. You can fly back on Kaito."

Fujin nodded. He was about to leave when he recalled something. He said, "Ryu, I have created a new seal. I was wondering if I could leave one with you. It works on the principle that if I destroy my seal, it will cause the corresponding seal with you to catch fire. I can use that in times of danger and inform you to reverse summon me immediately."

Ryu replied, "That sounds handy. Unfortunately, we, Winged Sabertooths, sleep for long periods and at times engage in battles with other worthy foes. If it doesn't catch our attention, then you'll be left in danger with false hope. Stick to the traditional method with us as it doesn't take very long."

That said, leave the seal with me. If you can't even summon Goro for some reason, then you can use it as a last resort and pray that you are lucky."

Fujin agreed and handed him a paper tag similar to the one he had given his squad. He rested for a day on Mount Muteki. While Fujin rested, the situation in the elemental nations became turbulent once again. Ryoichi reached Kusagakure and reported all the events to Ashikaga Hiroshi, the leader of Kusagakure.

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Chapter 312: The Difference between Iwa and Suna

Hiroshi's expression became grim. He muttered, "It hasn't been even a month since the Iwa and Konoha armies withdrew from our borders. I thought the situation would calm down since Suna no longer made any strange moves. Instead, they clashed inside our country. And Iwa even deployed their Jinchuriki while Konoha sent someone who could fight a Jinchuriki!"

Ryoichi said, "Kagawa Noriyuki was probably aware of something. That's why he had issued a secret mission to Konoha. So we can't blame Konoha."

Hiroshi shook his head and said, "No. The fact that their Anbu Captain was The Spectral Swordsman shows that they had ulterior motives as well. But you are right. We can't blame them. We can't afford to offend both villages."

Besides, I have already received multiple messages from Mizukoshi. The area around the town is extremely damaged. Even the town walls have suffered a lot of damage. Fortunately, there weren't many casualties.

I have discussed this with Daimyo. He has already started the process of launching a protest against Iwagakure by sending an official letter to the Earth Daimyo. He also sent a message to the Fire Daimyo and Waterfall Daimyo. A diplomatic process will begin soon. It should apply a lot of pressure on Iwa and Onoki."

Ryoichi nodded. He had anticipated a similar action. The only thing that he didn't expect was that Mizukoshi would send a message before he reached. He asked to see the messages to confirm that there were no falsehoods. To his surprise, all messages stated the truth other than the fact that Ide Tomoki feigned ignorance about any collusion with Iwa.

Hiroshi said, "I have asked our ninjas to begin preparing for an emergency situation. You should join them. Your participation will increase their morale a lot. Help them increase their preparedness. Though I doubt Iwa and Konoha would start a war, I want to make them unwilling to start a war on our lands."

Ryoichi nodded. Before he left, he said, "We need to investigate the Ide Family. Noriyuki was confident that they had invited the Iwa ninjas. In addition, they didn't help us in the fight."

Hiroshi's expression became serious. He said, "I know. Don't worry, I have already made my move. They won't be let off easy."

Iwagakure -

The next morning, a letter from the Earth and Fire Daimyo reached Iwagakure and Konohagakure respectively. Onoki had just gotten to his office while complaining about his back problems. Suddenly, the door slammed open and a ninja rushed in, "Lord Tsuchikage! We have an emergency letter from Lord Daimyo."

Onoki looked at him and scolded, "Why are you creating such a ruckus? I almost pulled my back once again!"

The ninja was quite used to the scolding and didn't get offended. Kitsuchi took the letter and said, "Don't mind father."

He opened the letter and began reading. His eyes widened. He quickly handed the letter to Onoki and said, "This matter is serious."

Onoki read the letter. His eyes widened. He muttered, "What the hell are those fools doing? Why did they create such a ruckus?"

Kitsuchi asked, "Which mission were they sent on, Father? And why did you deploy Roshi? I could have gone if needed."

Onoki replied, "I have to keep giving him and Han missions occasionally to keep them active."

As he was talking, he suddenly heard some footsteps. Roshi, Gin and a few Iwa ninjas appeared outside his office. Onoki's eyes widened on seeing Gin's right arm. He became serious and said, "Roshi, Gin stay here. Others leave. The ones who are injured visit the hospital."

Everyone immediately obeyed. Only Onoki, Kitsuchi, Roshi and Gin were left in the office. Onoki tossed Roshi the letter and said, "Explain."

While Roshi read the letter, Onoki asked Gin, "How did you lose your arm? And why did so few ninjas come with you? Where are the rest?"

Gin was an Elite Jounin. Though Iwa wasn't in a bad situation like Suna, every Elite Jounin was precious. They were an important pillar of their village. They wouldn't want to lose one pointlessly.

Gin sighed and said, "I made an error and it cost my arm. Without Roshi's help, I might have died. As for the others... They were all killed."

Onoki and Kitsuchi were shocked. Losing 19 capable ninjas in one single mission was a big blow. All of them had Chunin or Jounin ranks. Onoki became very serious and asked, "You mean that 19 ninjas died on the mission? Including Chiharu whose aid you requested?"

Seeing Gin stand silently, Onoki commanded, "Tell me everything that happened."

Gin nodded and informed Onoki about the events from their ambush on the bridge until he retreated.

A grim expression appeared on Onoki's face. Gin's plan was appropriate. But other than the first move, nothing went according to his plan.

He wondered, 'Since when did Konoha get the guts to openly kill 19 ninjas of my village in one single operation? Is Hiruzen no longer afraid that we might not help them when Kumo attacks? Why did his Anbu not retreat after seeing such a large-scale attack? Or did he deploy them specifically to target us?'

He muttered, "How did Konoha know that we would ambush the Kagawa family? And why did that old monkey send such a strong Anbu squad? Besides, who other than Danzo learnt Vacuum jutsus? Was it Hiruzen's younger son?"

Gin shook his head and said, "His fighting style and physique were very different. He is probably much younger. Someone who didn't participate or didn't gain any fame in the Third Great Ninja War."

Roshi interrupted the conversation and said, "He was The Spectral Swordsman who gained fame over the last year. As suspected, he was from Konoha."

Onoki frowned and said, "Konoha always raises new talent. Fortunately, I sent you. Did you bring his body back?"

Roshi plainly replied, "Unfortunately, I couldn't kill him."

Kitsuchi was surprised. He asked, "Even you couldn't kill him?"

Roshi's strength was above his own and on par with Han's. If he couldn't kill him, it meant that only one person in Iwa could kill him. His eyes moved towards Onoki who looked visibly angry.

Onoki got up and scolded, "Don't you feel any shame in admitting that so bluntly? How did he get away from you? Tell me everything that happen... Ugh"

He immediately sat back in his chair and said in a pitiful voice, "I pulled my back again!"

Roshi sighed at his old Kage's antics and narrated his fight with Fujin. His words shocked Kitsuchi and Onoki. Both their expressions became grim. They recalled that in the past, Minato had managed to escape from Tailed Beast Bombs as well.

After thinking for a bit, Onoki sighed and said, "Another fearsome talent has appeared in Konoha. And he will be even more troublesome due to his Wind nature. Kitsuchi, get to work and find out who this ninja is.

Also, make plans to eliminate him. Considering his speed, Hiruzen might be planning on making him the next Yellow Flash. He needs to be eliminated before the start of the next war.

And send some spies to check on Konoha's current strength. They are acting too brazenly. I am afraid that their strength might have already recovered sufficiently enough to start the next Great War or at least close to it."

Kitsuchi nodded. Roshi waved the letter and asked, "What should we do about this?"

Onoki replied, "I will just reply that the information is false. Even if Kusa provides proof, what can they do?"

Gin became a bit serious and asked, "But what if the Daimyo gets offended and decreases our budget like what happened to Suna?"

Onoki scoffed and replied, "Do you think I'm as weak and stupid as Rasa? The Earth Daimyo won't dare to do something like that. If he dares to, I'll just reduce him and all the Nobles to dust."

Kitsuchi and Roshi weren't surprised by the claim. However, Gin's eyes widened. But he didn't say anything. After all, though Onoki often suffered from back pain and looked silly, he was still his Kage.

Onoki noticed his expression and said, "You are thinking too much. Even if I kill the Daimyo, we won't suffer any consequences. After all, Rasa looks like he wants to do the same. If I do it, he will kill the Wind Daimyo as well. The Water Daimyo currently holds no power.

So only Konoha and Kumo can try to attack us and Suna. But, there is no way they can cooperate properly with each other. It's more likely that Kumo will take the opportunity to attack Konoha. Though we may enter the Fourth Great Ninja War, our strength will not be affected."

Gin understood the situation and said, "I didn't think about it so deeply."

Kitsuchi added, "But, our relations with the Daimyo are quite good. So things won't deteriorate to that extent."

Onoki nodded and said, "So you don't need to worry about this. Leave and treat your arm first."

Gin nodded. The meeting ended. Onoki wrote a reply to the Daimyo denying the accusations. He wrote a letter to Ide Tomoki as well.

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Chapter 313: Consequences!

Mount Muteki -

Fujin rested the entire day and left Mount Muteki the next day on Kaito's back. While flying high in the sky, Kaito asked, "Have you ever toured outside the continent you live on?"

Fujin replied, "Nope. I haven't even visited my continent entirely."

Though his time in the Anbu had him make several trips, they were mostly within the Land of Fire and the weaker countries surrounding it. He hadn't visited the Land of Water, Earth and Lightning much. And there were still some countries beyond them.

Kaito replied, "Then you will be in for a hell of a ride. Enjoy the scenery. I'll explain some important locations to you."

Fujin replied, "Cool. I always wondered how the world outside the elemental nations is."

He thought, 'I wonder how it will compare to my previous world. And whether there are other civilizations in this world.'

Kaito flew the entire day without needing to rest. As someone who was addicted to roaming around the world, Kaito could fly for over 3 days without rest.

Fujin rested his body while watching below. Most of what he observed was just a never-ending ocean. But, there were many islands that were full of life. However, Fujin didn't notice a single human living there.

He asked, "Kaito, do no humans live outside the continent I live on?"

Kaito replied, "I don't recall seeing any. But I have barely seen around 15 to 20% of the world. So there might be some in other places. But the chances are low."

Fujin was puzzled. He asked, "Why is the chance low?"

Kaito smirked and answered, "You will understand it soon."

Fujin sighed. He recalled that Kaito loved showing rather than telling. The two continued their journey. It was his way of making others accompany him rather than losing interest after hearing the answer. Though Fujin was stuck with him regardless, his habit couldn't be changed so easily.

Land of Grass, Mizukoshi Town -

Ide Tomoki was sitting in his office. It was already late in the evening. He had two letters in front of him. One was from Onoki while the other was from Hiroshi. And his expression was very ugly.

He thought, 'These guys! Hiroshi has left me with no choice. Though he hasn't asked me to admit that I colluded with Iwa, the price he is asking me to pay is unreasonable. My family will have no chance of rising any further for decades. Instead, we may have difficulty maintaining power here as well.'

But, Tsuchikage's proposal is too drastic. He said that Iwa won't be able to support me any longer. So he is recommending breaking off from the Land of Grass and becoming a part of the Land of Earth. If I do that, I will be able to maintain all my current territory. In addition, I can also get more lands in the future if Iwagakure is successful in war.'

He fell into a thought. After a long time, his expression hardened. He muttered, "Kusagakure is leaving me with no future. But Iwagakure has not only promised me a better future, but they aren't even trying to force me to make a decision. Though I don't want to betray my birthplace, the choice I have to make is obvious!"

He immediately called 3 of the 5 most influential Nobles in the city. They were the closest to him and his family. Half an hour later, Tomoki, all his family members and 3 Nobles gathered in the meeting room. Tomoki explained to them the contents of the two letters and informed them about his decision to join the Land of Earth.

His declaration shocked everyone in the room. No one even considered such a drastic step. But after thinking for a bit, his family members agreed with his decision. Just the Nobles hadn't said anything.

A couple of them were extremely opposed to the idea. Hiroshi's restrictions would restrict the Ide Family and not them. However, the third Noble got up and walked to Tomoki. He bowed and said, "Tomoki-sama, no matter what you decide, my Sato family will always support your decision."

A smile appeared on Tomoki's face. He said, "I am honored to have a loyal friend like you, Sato Seiya."

He looked towards the remaining 2 Nobles. They immediately cursed in their mind, 'This fucking bootlicker!'

They were heavily outnumbered by the Ide Family in that small room. Both knew that they wouldn't leave alive if they didn't agree. Just when they were about to speak, their eyes widened in shock.

Ide Tomoki had a look of disbelief on his face as his eyes moved and landed on Sato Seiya. Seiya had stabbed a knife in his chest when he was looking at the other two Nobles. He asked in disbelief, "Why?"

Seiya looked into his eyes and said, "Hiroshi-sama instructed me to pass a message. These are the consequences of betraying the village."

Those were the last words Ide Tomoki heard before closing his eyes forever. His family finally snapped out of shock. 2 teenagers shouted in grief with tears running down their cheeks, "Father!"

At the same time, more than a dozen ninjas rushed at Seiya with killing intent. However, Seiya was unmoved. 6 ninjas appeared next to him. They were elites from Kusagakure that were sent by Hiroshi. Within minutes, every member of the Ide Family, no matter if they were old or young, male or female, guilty or innocent, were all killed!

Sato Seiya watched the slaughter without a trace of pity in his eyes. He looked at the two Nobles and said, "By the command of Kusagakure and Daimyo, the Sato family will be in charge of Mizukoshi from now. Do you have any objections?"

Both immediately shook their heads. They were still in shock at how swiftly and brutally the Ide family was eliminated. Seiya said, "Good. Spread the word around the town. The Ide Family betrayed Kusagakure by colluding with Iwagakure and killing Kagawa Noriyuki. As a result, they were eliminated. I will be the new Lord of the city."

Both nodded and immediately left the slaughterhouse. After leaving, one said, "I never thought that Seiya would betray Tomoki for power."

The other shook his head and replied, "From the performance, it might be more appropriate to say that he was a pawn Kusagakure planted next to Tomoki long ago. It's scary to think about. I'm glad that neither of us decided to betray our country. We need to check the backgrounds of our subordinates once again. I don't want to die as miserably as the Ide family."

The news of Tomoki's betrayal spread like wildfire in Mizukoshi and then throughout the Land of Grass. His death directly crushed Onoki's plans. The citizens of the Land of Grass also began hating Iwagakure for pulling such a stunt in their country.

However, Onoki wasn't bothered much. After all, Iwagakure's reputation in the Land of Grass was already very bad. It didn't have any effect on him if it worsened any further. After all, why would it matter if an ant hated you a little or a lot? Both situations were the same in Onoki's eyes.

Around the time Tomoki was killed, Yugao, Fumito and Bunjiro finally reached Konoha. They reported to Hiruzen and informed him about how the mission went. Hiruzen had already received a letter from Daimyo. So he had some ideas, but their report cleared the picture for him.

His expression became grim as he analyzed, 'Why did Onoki send Roshi on such a simple mission? Was he aiming for something else? And, where is Fujin?'

He looked at the trio and asked, "Which seal did Turtle give you?"

Yugao replied, "Captain said that it was a simple seal he created himself. If he crushed the seal that was with him, it would cause our tags to vibrate and burn."

Hiruzen asked, "What if it was destroyed?"

Yugao replied, "In that case, our tags wouldn't activate."

Hiruzen eased a bit and thought, 'This means that he shouldn't have died. I was worried. Roshi is very strong. He can pose a danger to me as well. As for those seals... I recall a couple of simpler seals. I guess he combined two to create this effect. It is very convenient to pass simple instructions.'

He said, "Alright, you can leave. Until Turtle returns, take a break."

The group nodded and left. They returned to their Anbu room and changed into their usual attire. Bunjiro asked, "Is there anything we should do?"

He was worried. It was the first time that he returned from a mission with one person short.

Fumito shook his head and asked, "What can we do in this situation?"

Yugao added, "We can't help Captain. The only thing we can do is train harder so that the next time we can help the Captain instead of just escaping."

Fumito nodded. Bunjiro decided, 'I thought that I already trained hard. I will need to train harder. Otherwise, I might never be able to catch up to him.'

Determined, all three dispersed. Unknowingly, Fujin added fuel to the fire burning in the hearts of his three subordinates. If Hiruzen knew it, he would be extremely pleased with his decision to assign them under Fujin.

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Chapter 314: The Dangerous World!

While the Ide family was eliminated and his subordinates returned to the village, Fujin was enjoying flying under the starry sky. This journey expanded his horizons a lot. Kaito had shown him various sights and numerous wild beasts including some species he had never seen before. He even informed Fujin about locations and information of stronger wild beasts from whom he stayed away. Fujin saw a couple of mountain ranges that were on par with Mount Muteki in height.

Finally, around midnight, they reached a location from where they could see nothing but water. There wasn't a single island in sight. Kaito suddenly flew very high in the sky.

He said, "This is the sea surrounding the elemental nation continent. For thousands of kilometers, there is nothing but water. I haven't seen a single island in this area. This is one of the reasons why I said that the chances of finding humans elsewhere are low. After all, who would continue sailing for thousands of kilometers despite finding nothing but water?"

Fujin fell into thought. He analyzed, 'Though this world doesn't have aircraft, the ships are quite well developed. Though they are poor technologically as compared to my previous world, especially in maps and radars, it should be better than what was in the medieval era in my world.'

In addition, they are much stronger in terms of defense due to ninjas. Surely there would have been some adventurous folks who made it all the way through.'

He asked, "What are the other reasons?"

Kaito chuckled and replied in an evil tone, "These oceans have terrifying beasts living within them! I have seen at least 13 who are as strong as my father. Some are even stronger. Even if someone as strong as you sailed these oceans, the chances of making it through alive would be very low.

And I am not even considering the natural calamities that suddenly happen in the ocean. Numerous times I have seen a giant whirlpool forming out of nowhere. At times, a giant tide arises without any prior signs.

Even if a ninja strong enough to defeat the stronger beasts and overcome any calamity sailed, they would have to suffer countless attacks from smaller beings in the ocean. They will definitely damage the ship and leave you stranded in the middle of the ocean. Eventually, all of them will die."

Fujin was surprised by the answer. He hadn't expected the calm ocean to be so dangerous. However, instead of being afraid, he let out a chuckle and said, "Perhaps after the wars are over, I should build a good ship, gather a few friends, wear a straw hat and sail these waters. Hahaha."

Kaito asked, "Why a straw hat?"

Fujin replied, "You won't understand."

Kaito was confused. But he replied, "Alright. Call me if you do so. That sounds like an interesting adventure."

Fujin replied, "Sure."

Kaito said in a mocking tone, "Though I won't join you, I would love to see you struggle from the sky. If you die, I'll be sure to weep for you and inform everyone back home about your heroic demise."

Fujin had a deadpan expression. He thought that Kaito was genuinely interested in that adventure. He replied, "Don't worry. If I am in such deep trouble, I will be sure to summon you down. I'm sure those gigantic beasts would prefer eating someone big instead of someone tiny like me."

The two continued their banter all night. After all, Fujin couldn't sleep due to the soldier pill and there was nothing interesting to see other than the stars in the sky.

The night slowly faded away as the first glimmers of dawn lit up the horizon, painting the vast ocean below in hues of gold and pink. The first rays of sunlight kissed the water, setting it ablaze with a thousand shimmering lights. A sense of serenity washed over Fujin as the vast expanse filled with awe-inspiring solitude.

A smile appeared on Kaito's face. He said, "No matter how many times I see this, it always feels as serene and refreshing as the first time. It's one of the reasons why I fly so much!"

Fujin nodded. The sight reminded Fujin of the first time he rode on Ryu. Noticing how engrossed Fujin was, Kaito let out a chuckle and said, "Look towards the right."

Fujin saw to his right but couldn't see anything. Kaito said, "It's very far. Use your chakra."

Fujin's eyes began glowing as he focused chakra into his eyes. As there were no obstacles, he was able to see for extremely long distances. At the same time, Kaito began flying higher into the sky.

At first, Fujin enjoyed the sight of sunlight grazing the ocean surface. However, as Kaito kept going higher, he noticed a strange wave. Despite travelling for so long, he hadn't seen any waves in the ocean. It was extremely still.

As Kaito kept flying higher, Fujin finally understood what the strange wave was. His eyes widened in surprise. It was a whirlpool. He muttered, "What a fucking gigantic whirlpool!"

Kaito agreed. He said, "That whirlpool always changes in size. At the smallest, it has a radius of 25 kilometers. And at its highest size, it exceeds 100 kilometers in radius. Underneath it lives a fearsome beast. It is a nine-headed Hydra. The entire whirlpool is caused by it."

Fujin was stunned. He asked, "That freaking thing is caused by an animal?"

Kaito nodded and said, "Around 200 years ago, my Grandfather and 3 of his siblings were attacked by it when they were flying over. Father said that all four of them were as strong as he is now. And still, they were defeated. They barely managed to make it out alive and were severely injured. From that moment, flying over that whirlpool is forbidden for us."

Fujin replied, "I am surprised that flying over this Ocean isn't forbidden for you considering that it was that strong 200 years ago. If it is that strong, then it is almost as strong as the Tailed Beasts. Without the Tailed Beast Bomb, it might even have an advantage."

Kaito said, "I don't know what that attack is. But our Sage did say that the Tailed Beasts are stronger. But I haven't seen either of them in action. So I can't give my opinion."

Fujin thought, 'It will be interesting to see what would happen if I drop Isobu in this whirlpool. Will it kill the beast or force it to withdraw? Or will it be forced to retreat? And how much damage will it take?'

Suddenly, he had an idea, 'Now that I think about it, this might be a very easy way to subdue Isobu. Just have to move him here and make these two fight. Zetsu shouldn't be able to keep an eye on this place. It is the perfect plan.

Or would have been if I had any means of transporting Isobu so far. Even the Flying Thunder God shouldn't allow me to do that unless my chakra is at a ridiculous level.'

He looked at the whirlpool and wondered, 'Were those whales I saw while using the summoning jutsu from this ocean as well? Now that I think about it, it's fortunate that I appeared there and not next to this monster. That water flow alone is insane. No ship will be able to survive that. Let alone face that beast inside.'

Kaito continued flying forward. En route, he shared the location of another strong beast. This one wasn't as strong as the Hydra but still very strong. By afternoon, they finally saw land!

Fujin observed the land but couldn't identify where it was. He asked, "Which country is this?"

Kaito replied, "This should be an island in the Land of Water."

Fujin replied, "I see. So Mount Muteki is to the East of this continent."

Kaito nodded and said, "Yes. Though more like it is on the other side of this world. You'll reach it even if you fly West. But the journey is around twice as long."

Fujin replied, "Alright."

At the same time he thought, 'Now that I think about it, I haven't ever been to the Land of Water. A shame that I can't start my organization yet. This would have been the best place to recruit from. I might have even found a few kids with Kekkei Genkai with some luck. That said, I wonder how Shigeki is doing.'

Unknown to Fujin, his former sensei was doing the very same thing in the Land of Water. Except for the fact that it was a mission from the village rather than some personal ambition.

Fujin decided against stopping in the Land of Water. After all, he had already created conflicts in the remaining 3 major villages. Against Kumo, his squad had killed over a dozen ninjas, which was followed by Jiraiya killing more than 250. Against Suna, he had created a giant mess. And not long ago, his team killed 19 Iwa ninjas and injured an Elite Jounin. He didn't want to create a mess in Kiri as well.

By evening, Kaito flew over the vast Land of Water and landed inside the Land of Fire. The two bade farewell. Fujin stretched his body and thought, 'This is the first time I flew for almost 36 hours straight. Luckily his back is quite comfortable to lay on.'

He moved towards Konoha. The spot Kaito dropped him at was very close to it. So he reached within an hour and directly went to see Hiruzen.

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Chapter 315: Konoha Under Attack???

Hiruzen was surprised to see Fujin return so quickly. He emptied his office and asked, "So, how was the fight with a Jinchuriki?"

Fujin sighed and said, "Very difficult. I almost died. Why isn't there any information about Roshi being able to use the Tailed Beast Bomb? He caught me off guard."

Hiruzen let out a sigh as well. He answered, "The abilities of Jinchuriki are too strong. If I put it out in public, then panic will spread among the citizens. Even with the little information everyone has, they are still terrified."

Fujin furrowed his eyebrows. He said, "I can understand about hiding it from common people. But why are Anbu and Anbu Captains not informed about them?"

Hiruzen replied, "Because you are not supposed to engage them. Even an Elite Jounin has to retreat on sight. Only rank S ninjas have the ability and permission to engage with them. Even a Jinchuriki who has no control over their tailed beast can lose control and unleash its full strength."

Fujin thought for a bit and said, "That makes sense. But there's still no reason to hide the information. There are so many ways with which we can neutralize them before they can unleash their full power."

Hiruzen's expression hardened. He replied, "You shouldn't be neutralizing them. That can directly lead to a major war. Jinchurikis are the backbone of those countries. Harm them and other countries will think that we are decreasing their strength in preparations for a war. It will cause them to ally with other countries."

A frown appeared on Fujin's face. He asked, "But isn't that Anbu's job? Every mission I took in the last couple of years restricted other villages in one way or the other."

Hiruzen shook his head and answered, "All those acts were subtle. They left no links or proofs pointing towards us. And they were far from the bottom line of other countries."

Hiruzen could see that Fujin wasn't being combative with those questions. Otherwise, he might have had to reevaluate Fujin.

Fujin replied, "Alright. But pass me information on the other Jinchuriki. I don't want to be short on information again."

Hiruzen nodded and asked, "This matter aside, describe the battle between you and Roshi."

Fujin nodded and briefly narrated the battle. Though he didn't show it on his face, Hiruzen was shocked to know that Roshi had to resort to that form to defeat Fujin. Fujin's performance far exceeded what Hiruzen had expected.

He said, "You did well. Don't be discouraged by the result. Roshi is a veteran of two Great Wars and one of the strongest ninjas in Iwa. But avoid fighting Jinchurikis. Even if it was someone weaker, they will give up control to the beast inside them when their life is at risk. When that happens, not only will you be at risk, but so will your teammates and the common citizens around that place."

Fujin nodded and said, "I need some time off. I'll need to get my back looked at."

Hiruzen nodded and said, "Take the next 5 days off. But meet up with your team once. And meet up with Eagle tomorrow or someday later. He will have a scroll with the necessary information. I have another rank S mission planned for you after 5 days. It won't be an Anbu mission, but a secret mission in another squad that I will assemble. So get back into your best shape."

Fujin thought, 'I was hoping for at least 5 weeks... But unfortunately, it doesn't look like he will let go of me that easily. Sigh, if I didn't need the Wind Crystals and access to section A, I would have quit right away. Though I don't think he would stop me from accessing the library, I don't see him allowing me to use the training rooms after quitting the Anbu.'

He replied, "Alright."

He left the office and went straight to the Konoha Hospital. Meanwhile, Hiruzen turned his attention to the report on his table and thought, 'No wonder Onoki didn't try harder to increase his influence in Mizukoshi. They suffered a thorough defeat despite Roshi winning against Fujin. And, the information regarding Fujin is far more valuable than a pointless town.'

Having been a part of every Great Ninja War, Hiruzen knew what the most important factors in the war were. And as someone with a similar level of experience, Onoki also understood it. Once a ninja like Fujin matured, he would be a nightmare on the battlefield.

Not only could he cut through the enemy ranks with ease, but he could also stay back and amplify the fire jutsus of thousands of ninjas from Konoha. Both would bring a qualitative change to Konoha's forces. Alternatively, he could also be assigned to assassinate stronger ninjas in enemy ranks.

Hiruzen thought, 'If he continues at this trajectory, Fujin's ability to create an impact on the battlefield will far exceed Kakashi. It will be under only Minato and Tsunade's abilities. Still, he is a bit too radical in his ways. Though it might be my fault considering the missions I have been assigning him.

I will need to give some diplomatic missions to tone down his aggressive means. Not to mention, he already has sufficient experience in fighting and elimination missions. Any more won't be much helpful unless he gets to face Elite Jounins or rank S ninjas. But that would be very risky.'

Fujin rested the night in the hospital. Hiruzen ensured that the best medical ninjas tended to him. His back was inspected and healed several times until it completely felt normal. To his surprise, the last person who healed him was a familiar face.

Isamu looked at Fujin and said, "When Lord Hokage asked me to check up on a patient, I didn't expect it to be you, Fujin."

Fujin looked at Isamu and said with a smile, "Isamu-sensei. It's good to see you after a long while."

Isamu said with a grumpy tone, "Good my ass. You didn't even come to say hi. I and Yoshi-sensei were still hopeful for you becoming a medical ninja."

Fujin shrugged and said, "I already told you I am not interested as of now. Besides, I don't have any time. Lord Hokage keeps sending me on missions."

Isamu replied, "Obviously. You are still young. Besides, you are lucky to have not faced any war. Otherwise, you have to keep going even when you are injured or exhausted."

Fujin nodded. However, unlike others, he knew that the next Great War was still quite far away. So he wasn't concerned at that moment.

Isamu asked, "So, where were you injured?"

Fujin replied, "On my back, around 3 days ago. I had 3 broken ribs, but I healed them. Just came here to ensure everything is fine. But for some reason, you are the fourth medical ninja to show up here."

Isamu thought, 'Obviously that reason is Lord Hokage. It looks like he needs Fujin ready for a mission rather quickly.'

Isamu inspected Fujin back. The bones were already healed properly. However, Isamu was taken aback after inspecting his back with chakra. He wondered, 'How much does this kid train? Looking at his muscles and their wear and tear, it's as if he has trained continuously for over a decade.'

Isamu was surprised. Extremely few ninjas would put their bodies through such continuous training for such a long period. Even if someone was enthusiastic, they would lose that enthusiasm in a year or two. After all, after the initial boost in strength, the effects of training on the body diminish a lot. No visible effects would be seen. Most ninjas would stop training their bodies at that stage and focus on other skills.

Isamu didn't say anything and slowly healed the hidden issues and internal trauma that were caused due to constant training and fighting. He couldn't help but sigh in admiration, 'No wonder Lord Hokage values him so much. If someone learning Medical ninjutsu also had such dedication, we might have another ninja of the same calibre as Lady Tsunade.'

As his back slowly healed, Fujin's back felt very relaxed. In fact, he had never felt that good in either of his lives.

Isamu said, "You don't have any major injuries and I treated some old ones. Rest for the next couple of days. You can return back to training or missions."

Fujin got up and nodded. He said, "Thank you. I don't recall my back ever feeling this good."

Isamu replied, "Every time you train or fight, some trauma accumulates in your body. Over time, it accumulates and can cause hidden injuries. If you train a lot, then visit me every 3 months or so. Your

progress will become much faster and threats to your body will decrease if you get checked up once in a while."

Fujin nodded and replied, "Alright."

Isamu turned around to leave. A smile formed on his face. As he walked out of the door, he said, "Normally I charge 500 thousand Ryo for that treatment. But since I know you so well and want you to become a medical ninja, I will offer you a 50% discount. Take care."

In a flash, he disappeared. Fujin watched with a deadpan expression. He cursed, "This damned world. Every freaking one is shameless!"

Fortunately, money wasn't an issue for Fujin. Even if he ever ran short on it, he knew numerous corrupt Nobles and officials. He wouldn't bother thinking twice before stealing from them.

Fujin left the hospital in the morning thinking, 'Isamu only asked me to rest physically. Should I continue Fuinjutsu training?'

Fujin pondered for a bit before shaking his head. He decided, 'I should take a proper rest. After all, even my brain needs some rest. Perhaps a decent break would help me master those seals even faster. Oh well, time to indulge in some delicacies.'

Suddenly, Fujin's eyes moved and landed on a mask shop to his right. His eyes landed on a small ball that was releasing some smoke and the shopkeeper who was inspecting it. A moment later, the ball exploded with a loud sound, engulfing the shopkeeper and some early-morning customers around him in smoke!

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Chapter 316: What Moves?

Fujin didn't have any time to rescue them. He instinctively moved away and observed from a distance with a frown on his face. He wondered, 'Someone is planting explosions inside Konoha? But who? Don't tell me that Iwa or Suna went crazy and decided to retaliate this way... Wait, what's this?'

To Fujin's surprise, none of the people were harmed by the explosion. Instead, the people engulfed by the smoke began coughing. Soon after, they covered their nose and mouth and ran out while feeling nauseated.

Fujin had a weird expression upon seeing that sight. His eyes moved and landed on a corner of the street. He chuckled and muttered, "Now it makes sense. Still, my missions lately have been so intense that I almost considered this an attack... I really need a long break!"

In the corner, a blond goofball was struggling to contain his laughter. He jumped out and laughed loudly, "Hahahahaha. You fell for it!"

Without waiting for another second, he immediately began running away. Fujin watched in amusement as the shopkeeper ran behind him but was obviously much slower.

Fujin's eyelids twitched as he observed, 'This kid. He is purposefully moving slowly so that the old man can chase him. I almost forgot how much of an attention seeker he was before becoming a ninja.'

Fujin suddenly had an idea. A malicious smile appeared on his face as he decided, 'If Hiruzen doesn't give me access to the Flying Thunder God jutsu after I become a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster, I will teach Naruto a few simple Wind jutsus and give him some ideas to prank Hiruzen. That would be a satisfying sight.'

A shame that the old fox is just too damn capable. Otherwise, I would have definitely hidden around to click some pictures, haha.

But that will have to wait for another year or so. He should be entering the penultimate year in the academy after the vacation. If I help him now and he somehow passes this year, then most of my future knowledge might become useless.

That said, I doubt Hiruzen would allow him to graduate early even if he does well. Especially considering that the current situation is quite peaceful despite the occasional movements. Not to mention, he might already have some ideas about putting him and Sasuke on the same team under Kakashi.'

Fujin ignored the incident and walked to Yakiniku for a large meal! He spent the next couple of days visiting his favorite restaurants, spas and hot springs in Konoha to relax his mind and body. On the third

day, 60 Shadow Clones began learning new seals while he did his intense morning workout and called his squad for a meeting in their assigned room.

While waiting for them, he met up with Eagle and took the scroll that had information related to the Jinchurikis. While reading, his teammates arrived one by one. In a few minutes, all four were sitting in that room. Bunjiro looked at Fujin and sighed in relief secretly, 'Fortunately, he is fine. I was worried for him.'

Yugao and Fumito were also glad to see him.

Fujin asked, "So, did anything happen after I asked you to retreat?"

Yugao answered, "Nothing much of importance. Ryoichi asked us to not spread the news, but now the decision lies with Lord Hokage."

Fujin nodded and said, "True. Besides, I doubt such information can even be hidden."

Fumito asked, "Why did you burn that seal?"

Fujin answered, "I miscalculated his strength. He was too strong for me. So I had to retreat in a different direction."

Bunjiro exclaimed in surprise, "He was stronger than even you?"

Fujin shrugged and replied, "There are numerous people who are stronger than me. Anyways, it's good to see that all of us are fine. We may not get a mission for a few days. So use this time to train or rest. I have a feeling that we will have very busy months ahead."

Bunjiro replied, "Alright."

The others nodded. Fujin dismissed them. After they left, Fujin looked at his Turtle mask and pondered, 'I used this mask to prevent being identified. But... It was inevitable to be linked to the Spectral

Swordsman after such a long fight. I exposed most of my cards as well. I might not have the element of surprise from now onwards. In fact, I am afraid that my real identity could be compromised as well. After all, how many ninjas use Vacuum jutsus? Now, should I still with this mask or change it again?'

Fujin thought for a bit before shaking his head. He decided, 'It's pointless. If my new mask is leaked, then the details of my teammates will also be leaked. And Yugao's purple hair is just too easy to recognize. Oh well, it doesn't matter much. At the end of the day, strength is all that matters! Even if they know me, how many can resist or defeat me like Roshi? And if it is needed, we can all use Transformation jutsu to prevent others from identifying us.'

Having made his decision, Fujin put the mask back in his pouch. He was about to leave when Yugao entered the room again. Fujin was puzzled. He asked, "Did you forget something?"

Yugao replied, "No. I just can't resist my curiosity. My apologies for being unprofessional, but are you really The Spectral Swordsman?"

Had Fujin not analyzed, he would have denied it. But since it wouldn't have much effect, he nodded and said, "You are too obsessed with your sword. Yeah, I am. But don't spread it around."

Yugao nodded. After catching a glimpse of his fight with Roshi, she had expected it to be the truth. However, she couldn't help but think, 'I never would have guessed that the infamous Spectral Swordsman would be someone so younger than me.'

She immediately asked, "Can you teach me swordplay?"

Fujin immediately shook his head. He barely had any time for himself. How could he waste it training someone else? But he knew that he couldn't deny so bluntly. He immediately thought of a convenient excuse and replied, "My style is completely different than yours. I won't be able to teach you. You should continue learning from the one you currently are."

A frown formed on Yugao's face. She quickly said, "I know that I can't change my style now. But I can still learn a few moves from you and incorporate them into my swordplay."

Fujin tilted his head and asked, "What do you mean by moves?"

Yugao was confused by the question. She answered, "I mean something like my Hazy Moon Night or the Dance of the Crescent Moon."

Fujin shook his head and said, "I don't know any sword moves."

Yugao was surprised. She asked, "What do you mean?"

Yugao had always assumed that Fujin wasn't taking her seriously. She never expected such an answer. Fujin chuckled and replied, "What moves do you need to learn with a sword? It's a sword. It has sharp edges. Just grab the handle and hack or stab the ones you want dead. Or block an incoming attack. It is very simple and uncomplicated, isn't it?"

Yugao was stunned by the answer. She thought about it deeply. At first, it seemed like Fujin was completely bullshitting her. However, the more she thought, the more sense Fujin's answer made. She realized, 'That's right. Other than slashing and blocking, there isn't anything to swordplay. Even my techniques can be broken down to just slashing. But, is it really everything to his swordplay?'

This wasn't an answer Fujin had made up. In fact, it was something that he had realized when Renjiro was teaching him. Renjiro's own swordplay was based on this principle. When he had asked Renjiro his opinion on the various dance forms of Swordplay, he had a similar answer.

After thinking for numerous months, this was the answer Fujin had reached. His swordplay didn't have anything fancy. It was just plain old slashing and stabbing. He just added wind chakra to enhance its lethality to an extreme. While he did have some variations in flying slashes, those were more of a Wind jutsu rather than a sword move.

Yugao looked at Fujin while recalling the wind slash released from his sword. Fujin noticed her gaze and realized what she was thinking. He said, "That is everything to my swordplay. I just use chakra flow and change it to wind nature to enhance its sharpness and range. There are no other complications in my sword skills."

Yugao thought for a long time, but couldn't think of a response. Fujin let out a sigh and said, "That's why I said that you should stick with your current master. My ways will just confuse you. If you want, you can

try to learn chakra flow to strengthen your current moves. But apart from that, there is nothing else I can contribute."

Yugao calmed herself and replied, "Alright. Thank you for the guidance. I'll stick with my current methods for now."

Fujin nodded. That was indeed the best. She took her leave. Fujin sighed in relief, 'Fortunately, she didn't ask me to teach her chakra flow. Now, should I go raid the Wind Crystals in training rooms or should I try improving my wind jutsus and perhaps creating new ones?'

Fujin already had a few ideas for new jutsus. And he had thought of proper training plans to learn them. However, he shook his head and decided, 'No. I won't be able to sustain training for a long time as my clones have the majority of my chakra. I'll go raid those wind crystals.'

He moved to the Wind Training Rooms and began meditating.

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Chapter 317: Infiltration

Three days later, Fujin was summoned to Hiruzen's office. He quickly went to his office in his regular ninja outfit. After entering, he noticed that there were 4 other ninjas there. Yugao looked at Fujin and gave a small nod in acknowledgement. Fujin gave a small nod back.

The other faces were familiar as well. They were Genma, Yamanaka Ken and the head of the T&I department, Ibiki. Ken recognized Fujin instantly. After all, Fujin had left quite an impact on him during the mission where Fujin acted as the bait against the Bounty Hunters. Ibiki and Genma looked at Fujin for a few seconds before recalling who he was.

Ibiki was the first one to recognize him. He said, "Suzuki Fujin. I didn't expect you to be assigned missions with us so soon."

Genma nodded. Just like Ibiki, he recalled judging Fujin during the last round of the Chunin Exams.

He thought, 'I didn't expect him to become capable enough to be deployed on the same mission as us. Did he train his Wind jutsus to such an extent that he can aid Jounins? Or did he develop some other speciality?'

Fujin nodded and replied, "It's good to see you as well."

He looked at Hiruzen and asked, "So, what's the secret mission?"

Hiruzen looked at the door and said, "Wait for some time. There is still one ninja yet to arrive."

Fujin nodded and waited patiently. After a couple of minutes, everyone looked at the door.

Kakashi walked in and said in an unapologetic tone, "Sorry for being late. I was on my way here when I saw a black cat cross my path, so I had to take a different route."

Yugao, Ibiki, Ken and Genma gave Kakashi a deadpan look. Meanwhile, Fujin was confused. He wondered, 'I know that he tends to be late by a few hours. So why is he apologizing for being late by just a couple of minutes?'

Hiruzen replied, "It's fine. You are here after all. Close the door."

He thought, 'That is why I asked you to come 3 hours before everyone else.'

He looked at a corner of the room and said, "Leave and activate the privacy seals."

The four Anbu guards, hiding in the room, immediately left the room. All windows were shut close and seals were activated. Realizing the importance, everyone in the room became serious.

Hiruzen said, "Recently, there have been sightings of some Suna ninjas sneaking into the Land of Fire. Their activity is especially high around the Fire Capital."

Fujin immediately realized, 'Is this in regards to those six unlucky fellows?'

Hiruzen noticed Fujin's change of expression and said, "That's right Fujin. Some time ago, when I was returning from a diplomatic visit, the Patrol camp I was staying at was attacked by a squad of six Suna ninjas. They were neutralized. But more of them have entered the country.

We have located the base they gather at. You six will be transforming into those 6 ninjas and entering that base. Your mission has two parts.

Firstly, kill or neutralize every Suna ninja there. And secondly, gather information. You can check their memories or resort to any other means you want to."

Apart from Fujin who knew why the Suna was acting like this, the other ninjas were shocked. After all, Suna was supposed to be their ally. However, they didn't question Hiruzen. After all, every one of them was an active or former Anbu. They knew about the dark undercurrents that flow in the ninja world.

Hiruzen provided everyone with more details about the six ninjas they were supposed to impersonate, the plans, expected enemies and other minute details. In the end, he said, "Kakashi will lead this mission. But since their leader, Hideyoshi, specialized in Wind manipulation and because Fujin saw him in action, Fujin will disguise as him."

Everyone nodded. Since Fujin was suppressing his chakra, Ibiki and Genma were surprised that he was given such an important role. But both knew the importance of replicating minute behavior patterns during such missions. So they understood why Hiruzen asked him to do it.

Since everyone had arrived prepared for the mission, the group left right away. They travelled for six hours straight before finally halting.

Ken muttered, "A base so deep into the Land of Fire. They have guts."

Ibiki replied, "It is safer to create a base here rather than in the border regions or close to any cities or towns. No one would suspect them normally. If it wasn't for that squad unluckily attacking Lord Hokage, we might not have found this base."

Kakashi said, "That's enough chit-chat. We will first transform into the faces they were originally disguised as. When we are intercepted by the Suna ninjas, we will dismiss this transformation and transform ourselves into their original appearances at the same time. Is everyone ready?"

Everyone nodded. Kakashi instructed, "Good. Fujin, take the lead. Remember to act arrogant. As for others, keep a close eye. Once Fujin attacks, we will follow up. Kill without letting anyone run away."

Everyone immediately transformed into the disguises that Hideyoshi and his teammates were using and continued moving towards the base. After travelling for another mile, they sensed a chakra field scanning them.

They continued moving. Around half a mile from the base, 12 Suna ninjas appeared in front of them. Of course, all were disguised as Konoha ninjas. One of them spoke, "This is a restricted area by the order of Lord Hokage. Turn away or identify yourselves."

Fujin snorted and said, "It's me."

A smoke cloud appeared around him. His appearance transformed into Hideyoshi. At the same time, the other 5 also transformed. Yamanaka Ken transformed into their sensor, Naomasa while Ibiki transformed into Kaname.

Seeing their appearances, the Suna ninjas sighed in relief. However, they were still vigilant. One of them transformed into his real appearance and said, "It's good to see that you are safe, Hideyoshi-sama. The council was worried about you since we haven't heard from you for over a month. They were even wondering if they should cancel the entire operation."

Fujin walked ahead and said, "Yosuke, we were ambushed by that damned Copy Ninja. We were fooled. Somehow, that Copy Ninja had already escaped through all the perimeters we established. We fought several rounds with his squad and had to go into hiding."

Yosuke was surprised. He asked, "You encountered the copy ninja? Doesn't that mean..."

Fujin nodded and continued, "Yes, reindeer. We have to ask Lord Kazekage to stop wasting manpower there and focus here."

Hearing the word 'reindeer', the Suna ninjas sighed in relief. In order to prevent anyone from infiltrating their secret base, the Suna ninjas were made to follow a certain protocol. The first was to show their real face. The second was to call the name of the ninja who talked with them accurately. And the third was to call him reindeer.

Since the conditions were satisfied, Yosuke said, "Welcome back Hideyoshi-sama. Please exert your chakra so that I can confirm your identity."

While the above means were good enough in most circumstances, they weren't good enough in the Land of Fire. Konoha had the Yamanaka clan that could read memories. That is why Suna had placed a capable sensor in charge of the secret base. He remembered the chakra signatures of the important ninjas so that he could cross-identify them.

Fujin exerted his chakra. The amount of chakra he exerted was just higher than the amount of chakra Hideyoshi had used against Choza.

Yosuke observed him and nodded, 'Similar chakra signature, just more than the amount I saw last time and shows off his affinity to wind. Just like I remember. Looks like there shouldn't be any issue.'

He also asked Kaname and Naomasa to show their chakra and identified both their chakras as well. As for the other three, he didn't remember. He said, "Come..."

However, Fujin interrupted him and said, "Enough wasting time, let's go to the base. I have important information to report to Lord Kazekage. If we don't report this, then we will suffer during the next war."

Yosuke nodded and quickly welcomed him to the base while thinking, 'His arrogance is still the same.'

Suna's plan was almost foolproof. While some ninjas could replicate the chakra signatures as well, such ninjas were very rare. They would either be very capable sensors or experienced jounins. More importantly, reading memories from a dead ninja wouldn't allow a Yamanaka to copy their chakra signature. The ninja had to see and observe it properly, only then they could do so.

Unfortunately, Hideyoshi's squad ran into Hiruzen of all people. That encounter sealed the fate of all ninjas in the secret base.

He was able to memorize the chakra signatures of all 6 ninjas at a glance and could replicate them well enough for all of Kakashi's team to copy it. Even Fujin had forgotten Hideyoshi's chakra signature and only managed to replicate it with Hiruzen's help.

The Konoha ninjas walked into the base along with the Suna ninjas.

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Chapter 318: An Intense Confrontation!

As they walked into the base, Fujin commanded, "Call everyone. I have important information. Konoha's forces have been moving. The coming period will be very critical. If we make a mistake, the entire operation will become a failure and we may be wiped out!"

Yosuke realized the gravity of his words and nodded and said, "Alright."

He immediately asked a subordinate to call everyone. The group entered into an underground base. Within a minute, 28 Suna ninjas arrived in the meeting room. Fujin observed them and thought, 'Hiruzen's analysis was right. None of them is Elite Jounins. 11 are Jounins while the rest should be special jounins or close to that level.'

Yosuke said, "This is everyone currently here."

Fujin nodded and asked, "How many have gone to the Fire Capital?"

Yosuke answered, "9 have currently infiltrated the Fire Capital. Four more have infiltrated other cities."

Fujin had a grim expression. He said, "The other cities are fine. But Konoha has sent their Sannin, Jiraiya the Gallant into the Fire Capital."

The eyes of the Suna ninjas widened in fear. Though none of them had faced Jiraiya, they knew the horror of the Sannins. After all, one of the Sannin was directly responsible for Sunagakure's horrible defeat in the Third Great Ninja War against Konoha forcing Sunagakure to sign an alliance agreement with Konoha.

Yosuke said, "Wha..."

Suddenly his eyes widened and he immediately ducked down. Among the 28 ninjas, only 12 others managed to react and quickly jumped or ducked.

Taking advantage of their distraction after mentioning Jiraiya's name, Fujin used Vacuum Serial Wave jutsu at the Suna ninjas. 15 died without even reacting!

As soon as he attacked, the 5 Konoha ninjas flickered.

A loud chirping-like sound was heard as Kakashi appeared in front of Yosuke. Yosuke saw the attack coming. Thoughts ran rapidly through his mind, 'Vacuum jutsu and Lightning jutsu? They aren't Hideyoshi's squad! We were fooled. But how? Was Hideyoshi's squad killed? Not good...'

He wanted to fight back. Unfortunately, he was completely outmatched. Kakashi pierced his heart with the Chidori.

Yugao flickered behind one of the Chunins that survived and slashed her sword towards the back of his neck. The Chunin quickly tried to move forward while throwing a shuriken behind him. Yugao moved forward while dodging the shuriken and cut his head off.

At the same time, Ebiki also killed one Chunin while Genma and Ken began fighting a Jounin each.

Fujin himself flickered in front of a Jounin and slashed at him. The jounin had just dodged the Vacuum Wave. He grabbed his kunai and tried to block the sword. Unfortunately, Fujin sliced straight through the kunai.

The Jounin's eyes widened. He quickly stepped back and stretched his head backwards in order to dodge the sword. He managed to barely dodge the sword by a few millimeters. Unfortunately, his throat was still sliced through.

The remaining Suna ninjas finally collected themselves and realized the grave danger they were in. Their survival instincts kicked in and they began retaliating.

Two Jounins appeared focused on Kakashi and appeared on his sides.

'Wind Release: Wind Sword jutsu'

'Wind Release: Blade of Wind jutsu'

Seeing the dangerous Lightning chakra on his arm which was still lodged in Yosuke's chest, they didn't dare to fight him using Taijutsu or Kenjutsu.

Kakashi withdrew his arm, weaved a hand sign and slammed his hands on the ground. The earth quickly raised up and formed a dome around him just in time. The wind blades hit the dome leaving some scratches on it.

At the same time, Ibiki and Yugao were also attacked by one Jounin each.

One Jounin noticed the chakra flow on Fujin's sword. He grabbed his own sword and attacked Fujin. Wind chakra flowed through his sword as well.

Meanwhile, one opened a scroll and made the confrontation hand seal. A wooden puppet that looked like a Cactus appeared. It had needles sticking to its entire body! The Konoha ninjas were instantly alarmed.

The last ninja retreated to the back of the room and crushed a seal. A bird was released and it quickly flew out of the underground base. He began weaving hand signs.

The puppeteer moved his fingers. Three mouths opened up on the puppet. It fired needles at Fujin, Ibiki and Yugao.

Almost instantly, all three aligned themselves such that they would be covered by the Suna ninjas who had attacked them, forcing the puppeteer to stop his attack.

As soon as he stopped, the sound of chidori was heard once again. Kakashi's hand pierced through the ground and grabbed the leg of one of the Jounins who attacked him. Taking advantage of the cover of the Earth dome, Kakashi had escaped underground and snuck under his opponent. He released a massive amount of lightning into his body! He was electrocuted to death on the spot.

Fujin and his opponent fought with their swords. Fujin couldn't cut through his opponent's sword. But he wasn't worried. Using his position, Fujin built his chakra. His cheeks puffed up. His opponent, who had seen Fujin firing those dangerous waves, was alarmed.

'Wind Release: Vacuum Cannon jutsu'

Fujin fired a Vacuum Cannon. His opponent was expecting an attack similar to air bullets and moved to his right preemptively. Unfortunately, he underestimated the power and speed behind Fujin's attack. The Vacuum cannon hit his left arm and severed it in an instant.

In addition, due to their alignment, the Vacuum Cannon was headed straight at the Cactus puppet. The Puppeteer couldn't even react as the jutsu annihilated the puppet! The Vacuum Cannon continued forward through the walls of the underground base for 20 meters before stopping.

The attack horrified the Puppeteer. He immediately focused his attention on Fujin. Meanwhile, Fujin thought, 'Tsk... I should have targeted the Puppeteer instead.'

He didn't have any time to think about it or do a follow-up attack. Despite the loss and incredible pain, the Jounin he was fighting didn't flinch. He immediately took advantage of the fact that Fujin was open on his left and attacked with the sword in his right hand.

Fujin stepped to his right while raising his left hand. The seal on his bracer lit up and a sword appeared in his left hand as well. Almost instantly, wind chakra began flowing through his sword. His opponent's sword clashed with his and was stopped.

His opponent's eyes widened. He screamed, "Impossible!"

A smile appeared on Fujin's face. Now his opponent was completely open. His other sword immediately moved towards his opponent aiming to hack him in two.

'Wind Release: Air Bullet jutsu'

Fujin's smile soon changed into annoyance and he immediately jumped backwards. Realizing their threat, the Suna Jounin, who sent the bird out, targeted Fujin and Kakashi. Half a dozen bullets were fired at each of them.

Kakashi immediately withdrew back under the ground to avoid the attack. As for Fujin, he stepped backwards and maneuvered his body to dodge all 6 air bullets in time.

Fujin's opponent attacked him again. At the same time, the Puppeteer grabbed another scroll while throwing a purple ball into the hole that Kakashi had escaped into. He made the confrontation hand sign once again. Another puppet appeared while the purple ball exploded, releasing poisonous gas into the hole.

Kakashi immediately jumped out from another spot and slammed his hands on the ground again. Both the holes in the ground were sealed, trapping the poisonous gas underground.

However, that was enough time for the Puppeteer to take control of the second Puppet. It was shaped like a Crocodile. It opened its mouth and shot needles at Kakashi. At the same time, the other Jounin used the Blade of Wind jutsu to cut off Kakashi's escape route.

Kakashi slammed his hands on the ground once again. A wall rose in front of him, blocking all the needles. Since the blades of wind were aimed at his escape routes, he didn't need to avoid them.

The Puppeteer looked at Kakashi and Fujin and thought with a frown on his face, 'The battle has entered a deadlock. I need to poison one of them quickly. Otherwise, we may be wiped out here.'

Unfortunately, for him, the situation didn't last. Genma and Ibiki neutralized their opponents at the same time. Almost instantly, they sneak attacked the ones fighting Yugao and Ken.

Realizing the danger, the Suna ninja at the back shot Air bullets at Ibiki and Genma to slow them down. The crocodile puppet launched its poisonous scales at them as well, blocking them and saving the lives of the Jounins fighting Yugao and Ken.

Unfortunately, this reduced the pressure on Fujin. Without the support from the Puppeteer and the Wind ninja hidden in the back, Fujin went on the attack immediately. He slashed his right sword vertically at his opponent's head.

Realizing the danger, the opponent blocked it with his own sword. However, at the same time, he saw Fujin's other sword heading at his waist. He immediately jumped up and barely managed to dodge it as well. Unfortunately, Fujin shot an air bullet at point-blank range. Due to the close range and his feet being off the ground, he couldn't dodge. It pierced his heart and he dropped dead.

At the same time, Kakashi neutralized the Jounin that was engaging him. Both turned their gaze towards Puppeteer and the ninja hiding behind him. Their gaze made their scalps tingle in fear.

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Chapter 319: Ruthlessness!

After the first round of assaults, Suna had 8 ninjas against Konoha's 6. But when Ibiki and Genma killed their opponents, they equalized the numbers. And after Kakashi and Fujin killed their opponents, it became 4 Vs 6. All Suna ninjas realized the inevitable result of that fight.

The Puppeteer observed the situation. His heart ached at the fact that 24 of his fellow ninjas had been killed in less than a couple of minutes. He looked at Kakashi, who had stopped disguising himself, hatefully and shouted, "Retreat!"

The Suna ninja in the rear immediately left the base. The ones fighting Yugao and Ken also tried retreating but were stopped by Ibiki and Genma. At the same time, Fujin and Kakashi moved towards the Puppeteer. However, their eyes widened and both stopped.

The Puppeteer made the confrontation hand seal. His crocodile puppet exploded! Numerous hidden mechanisms were fired in all directions! Even the two Suna ninjas in the room were targeted. At the same time, purple gas began spreading out.

Fujin and Kakashi were shocked at the brutality of the attack. The first person who was hit was the Puppeteer himself. His body was turned into a pincushion!

Both Kakashi and Fujin immediately jumped underground. So did the remaining 4 Konoha ninjas and one of the two Suna ninjas. But, surrounded by four Konoha ninjas, he was killed as well.

Kakashi and Fujin ignored that ninja and immediately travelled far away from the base before exiting the ground. Fujin immediately spread his chakra field. A frown formed on his face as he said, "I can't sense him. He must be good at Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu!"

Kakashi nodded and said, "The Puppeteer provided a good opportunity for him to escape. Who'd have thought that he'd be so ruthless."

Fujin nodded. There were numerous people who could act ruthlessly against others who are weaker or helpless. But to be the same with themselves was extremely rare.

In half a minute, their allies crawled out of the ground as well. Ibiki looked around and asked, "He managed to run away?"

Kakashi nodded. Ibiki sighed, "This means that the mission wasn't entirely successful. With him on the run, we won't be able to use this base as a trap to catch and kill any Suna ninjas that might return here."

Kakashi replied, "They had managed to send a message out. It would have been tough to do that even if we killed him. It's fine. I'm just glad that all of us are alright. The fight was much tougher than I had anticipated."

Everyone nodded. Despite the overwhelming victory, the fight was very close. One mistake could have caused a few deaths on their side.

Ibiki turned his attention towards Fujin. Though there was no expression on his face, he was shocked by Fujin's abilities. He thought, 'This kid is very good. I thought that he'd be the weakest in the group. But he is second just to Kakashi.'

No, in terms of impact, it was higher than even Kakashi. After all, that first attack killed more than half of them and allowed us to kill a few more. Despite using such a deadly jutsu, there was almost no sign of him preparing it. No chakra leak was detected. And he properly diverted their attention just before attacking.'

Genma had the same thoughts running through his mind. With a chuckle, he thought, 'I guess our evaluation was incorrect. Using him as a support would be a big waste of his talents. I guess no one's a better judge than Lord Hokage.'

He looked at Yugao and analyzed, 'I had heard that Yugao was recently assigned to a different Anbu squad. And seeing how familiar they acted with each other on our way here, they should be in the same squad. Or more likely, she should be in his squad.'

Fujin agreed with Kakashi as well. He thought, 'These guys were very good. I was expecting to cut through them with ease as there wasn't any Elite Jounin among their ranks. I guess fighting underground in a small room played a huge role. It heavily restricted movements and prevented me from taking advantage of my speed.'

If I had attacked in the open, I wouldn't have been at any risk. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to do so in these circumstances. Apart from the underground base, they wouldn't have assembled at any other spot.'

Kakashi looked towards the base and said, "The Poison will begin leaking into the surroundings. Send Shadow Clones to neutralize the poison and recover the dead bodies. Once the poison on them is cleaned, read their memories, Ken."

Everyone nodded and sent Shadow Clones to the base. The poison had begun leaking out from the opening to the underground base. The Shadow Clones used various methods to neutralize the poisonous gas in order to ensure that the surroundings weren't affected.

While the poison was being dealt, Kakashi quickly wrote a report and summoned a dog and asked him to give it to Hiruzen.

By then, the poison was finally dealt with. The Shadow Clones brought the dead bodies out of the bases one by one. Yamanaka Ken's Shadow Clone placed his hand on one of the dead ninja's head to read his memories. He inserted his chakra into the head. A moment later, his eyes widened. He muttered, "This???"

Kakashi's clone asked, "What's the issue?"

Ken's clone replied, "I can't read the memories."

He quickly began checking the memories of the dead bodies that still had their brains intact. However, he couldn't read any memories! His face was very dark. He said, "The poison that Puppeteer used is the one that affects the neural system. Though I have the antidote that Lady Tsunade created, it works on alive humans and not dead ones. So I can't read any memories."

The remaining clones were shocked. Fujin's clone paid attention to his words. Unfortunately, Ken didn't say anything about reading memories that he didn't already know.

Ibiki's clone said, "No wonder he chose to explode the puppet. It wiped away all information. Now Konoha can't pursue Suna even if we wanted to. They can just disown these ninjas or try to pin the blame on us. In addition, we can't know what their exact plans were."

Kakashi's clone nodded and said, "Fortunately, we know that there are 9 Suna Ninjas in Fire Capital and four at other places."

Ibiki's clone responded, "Yeah, but Fire Capital doesn't really have Jiraiya. We can't snuff them out. Finding them will be difficult unless they make a move."

Genma's clone chuckled and said, "It's fine. We will let Lord Hokage worry about it."

Involuntarily, Kakashi, Genma and Fujin's clones nodded while Ken and Yugao's clones looked at him with a deadpan expression.

As no one had any ideas, Kakashi's clone sealed the dead bodies into a seal that Kakashi had handed him. Though the dead bodies didn't have any memories, the bodies themselves could provide a lot of information. All the remaining clones dispelled themselves while Kakashi's clone handed him the scroll before dispelling.

After getting the memories, Kakashi sighed and said, "Let's wait here till Lord Hokage sends another squad with the mission to either create a new base or set up a parameter. Until then, let's keep an eye out. If any Suna ninja returns, we will neutralize him and check his memories."

Everyone nodded. They dispersed into teams of two and kept an eye out for anyone who'd stumble there.

A bit after Midnight, Hiruzen received the message from Kakashi's summon. Since he was expecting the message, he stayed in his office. He read the report and analyzed, 'One ninja managed to escape. And he also sent a messenger bird. Looks like keeping this a secret from Suna won't be possible. We can't use this base to lure more ninjas from Suna and kill them.'

A frown formed on Hiruzen's face as the situation caused him a headache. According to Shikaku's plan, Kakashi's squad should have killed all the Suna ninjas. After reading their memories, they would impersonate them and lure more ninjas from Sunagakure and kill them, creating a death trap for Sunagakure. By the time they realized, their losses would have already exceeded the acceptable levels and they would be forced to back off.

He analyzed, 'Now Sunagakure has two choices. In addition to the squad that we killed earlier and the two killed in the Fire Capital, 35 Suna ninjas have met their demise in the Land of Fire. They can either stop, or they will attack using different routes. Either by creating a new base, or more likely, giving individual missions to every ninja as we did.'

Hiruzen sighed and muttered, "I should have sent stronger ninjas there. Preferably a squad full of Elite Jounins."

Unfortunately, such a squad was rather difficult to assemble. Most of the Elite Jounins in Konoha were Clan Leaders or retired from active duty. They wouldn't agree to participate in such a small matter. The few Elite Jounins he could deploy were already stretched thin due to other important matters. For instance, Renjiro was currently in the Land of Water while Eagle was in the Land of Birds.

He shook his head and thought, 'Leave it. Even that wouldn't have been a guaranteed success. They probably were on guard against such a situation. The result we wanted was too idealistic. I'm sure Shikaku has planned for such a situation.'

Without any hesitation, Hiruzen decided to pass the headache to Shikaku. He deployed four Anbu squads to relieve Kakashi's squad and maintain an eye around the base.

Unlike Hiruzen, a certain person couldn't pass his headache to someone else.

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Chapter 320: Suspicions!

Despite it being a couple of hours past midnight, a loud banging sound could be heard. The man in the house grumpily woke up and walked to the door while muttering, "I should have made the door out of gold and created spikes on the surface. At least then no one would bang so loudly!"

He opened the door to see a messenger. The messenger quickly said, "Lord Kazekage, there is an extremely important matter."

Without giving Rasa any opportunity to speak or respond, he handed him a scroll. Rasa opened the scroll and his eyes widened. However, soon a look of tiredness appeared on his face. He let out a sigh and said, "Ask the council to meet tomorrow morning."

The messenger nodded and left. Rasa ignored Temari and Kankuro, who were woken up by the loud banging, and walked back while reading the scroll again. He thought, 'Another loss against Konoha. The base was compromised. The status and the number of the ninjas in the base are still not known. We need to revamp our plans in the Land of Fire.'

Rasa had grown sick of the recent incidents with Konoha. Ever since the day Fujin had stepped into the Land of Wind, he kept receiving one bad news after another! No matter how much he analyzed, calculated and planned, he was completely helpless in every instance. He even took action himself but never found an opponent to crush.

Not wanting to ruin his sleep, he kept the matter aside and went back to bed.

The next morning, every Council member gathered in the Council Meeting room. Goza asked, "What's this meeting about, Lord Kazekage?"

Rosa put forth 2 scrolls on the table and said, "I received these two scrolls. The first one is an emergency message sent from the secret base we established in The Land of Fire saying that the base was discovered by Konoha."

The expressions of everyone in the room became grim. They all understood what getting exposed so deep within enemy territory would mean.

Joseki gritted his teeth and asked, "How did Konoha find out so quickly?"

Ryusa added, "Yeah, we took so many measures while building that base. It shouldn't have been exposed so quickly."

Rasa said, "It's due to Hideyoshi's squad that went missing."

Rasa pointed at the other scroll and said, "I received this scroll a few hours later. It was sent by Takara Osamu. He said that Konoha ninjas disguised as Hideyoshi's squad and entered the base. They knew all the three codes and could imitate the chakra signatures well enough for Yosuke to not be suspicious."

His words stunned the room once again.

Ryusa asked, "How is that possible?"

Goza had a grim expression. He asked, "Could Hideyoshi have betrayed us? There is no way Konoha would be able to pull something like this off without his assistance!"

Tojuro shook his head and said, "But why would he betray us? Even if he wanted to for some reason, his subordinates wouldn't want to. And they were strong enough to stop him."

Gazo replied, "If he didn't betray us, then that would mean that they ran into someone strong enough to not only kill them but also replicate their chakra signatures and prevent them from destroying their neural network."

Unfortunately, he realized that Konoha had a few such ninjas. He grumbled, "Did they run into one of the Sannins?"

He looked at Rasa and asked, "What happened to the base?"

Rasa replied, "Before Osamu escaped, 24 of our ninjas had died and another self-destructed his puppet. He believes that everyone other than him might have died. As for Konoha, they attacked with just 6 ninjas. That is why he was able to run away. But, he gathered two important pieces of intel."

Rasa's face became very ugly as he said, "Hatake Kakashi was one of the attackers and was probably the leader of the group."

The eyes of the Council members widened. For the past couple of months, they absolutely hated that name! Not only did he kill dozens of their ninjas, but he hid so well that even a thousand ninjas searching for him had to return empty-handed! And due to the volatile situation in the country, they couldn't even call those ninjas back to the village. This strained their already tight finances.

Rasa continued, "And, the one who impersonated Hideyoshi could use Vacuum jutsus. He caught everyone off guard and killed 15 of the 28 ninjas in the base with his first attack."

The council members were shocked again. Tojuro asked, "Did that bastard Danzo participate in this matter despite his old age?"

Rasa shook his head and replied, "Probably not. Baki ended his meeting in the Land of Birds yesterday. Though nothing significant was achieved and the meeting had a lot of outside interference, Iwa gave him a piece of intel on the last day."

Rasa opened a page on the Bingo book and placed it on the table. The council members looked at it and had a peculiar look on their faces. Rasa noticed their confusion and said, "He is Suzuki Fujin. Two years ago, just before we began mining in the Land of Hot Water, Kumo placed a bounty on this boy and stated that he could use Vacuum jutsus. But he hasn't been seen outside Konoha since then. I guess he joined the Anbu.

Right now he should be 14 years old. Iwagakure ninjas encountered him during a mission and they gave his information to Baki. They are sure that his strength is at Elite Jounin level and is very lethal. And, he is extremely skilled at Wind jutsus and Wind Vacuum Technique. Onoki believed that he might have a hand to play in incidents that happened in our country earlier."

The Council wasn't surprised that Onoki knew about the incidents that had happened. But all were shocked to know that a 14-year-old Konoha ninja not only knew Wind Vacuum Technique but was so good with it that his strength was considered to be at the Elite Jounin level.

As for Fujin's identity, Kitsuchi looked into all available information on Konoha ninjas. His first suspect was Sarutobi Asuma, but he didn't find any evidence of him using swords or Vacuum jutsus. Though that could be hidden, Asuma had been sighted when the Spectral Swordsman was killing his targets. So Kitsuchi stopped suspecting him.

After days of looking into thousands of ninjas, he didn't have any luck. But when he decided to check the Bingo book, he was surprised to see a 12-year-old with a 20 million Ryo bounty! On seeing that he could use Vacuum jutsus, Fujin became the prime suspect in the identity of The Spectral Swordsman. Kitsuchi became even more suspicious when he found out that Fujin hadn't been on any mission after receiving the bounty.

He shared his thoughts with Onoki who agreed with him despite not being 100% confident. Onoki thought, 'Regardless of whether he is the Spectral Swordsman or not, he is a young talent. He must have done something big for that brat Ay to be so pissed. But, taking action will be difficult for now. I need to find someone else who will do the job for me.'

Onoki had heard that the issues in the Land of Wind were caused by a Wind affinity ninja. So he passed the information to Suna to let them make the first move. After all, it didn't matter to him who killed Konoha's ninja as long as he was dead.

In the Sunagakure Council room, Ryusa sighed and said, "I had seen his bounty earlier. But I thought that Kumo was lying about his skills and he did something to offend them."

Tojuro cursed, "Not only did those bastards steal Lord Second's jutsus, but they are now the only ones to have ninjas that can use the Vacuum technique!"

Gazo thought for a bit and said, "In addition, no information about him has leaked in the open apart from that vague information in the bounty. Having such power at merely 14 years means that he is sure to reach S rank when he matures. As expected of Konoha. Not only did they hype up the Copy Ninja to be the leader of the next generation, but they are also raising another in secret.

That said, the culprit of the previous incident should still be the Copy Ninja. After all, from the reports, he was in a clutch. If it was this kid, then he would have used Vacuum jutsus to deter or eliminate our ninjas. At the very least, he could have tried to eliminate our Jinchuriki. But he didn't."

Rasa nodded and said, "I have the same opinion. But we need to keep an eye on him. In a war, an Elite Jounin that is an expert in Wind Release will be far more lethal when considering the vast number of Fire affinity ninjas in Konoha.

We were already concerned about Hokage's younger son, but even before he could reach his peak, Konoha already has someone else who is younger and probably stronger."