

Calamity 381

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 381: A Massacre!

A frown formed on the officials from the Land of Hot Water. Tokuhei said, "We have that suspicion as well. But it still doesn't answer why there are only four of you here?"

Fujin answered, "We will be entering into their territories to investigate. If Kirigakure is involved, then Lord Hokage will send the required forces a week later. You can join them but be prepared. The conflict could be a lot more intense than what you have calculated. If Kirigakure isn't involved, then we will be completing the mission by ourselves."

Tokuhei thought for a bit and replied, "Alright."

Fujin said, "Hand over what you have already analyzed so that we won't waste any time repeating the same or searching fruitlessly."

Tokuhei nodded and placed a map on the table. He quickly explained their findings and analysis to Fujin and his team.

After getting all the required information, Fujin and his squad left immediately. After they left, Tokuhei sighed and muttered, "It is so difficult to cooperate with the Anbu of other countries."

However, one of the Nobles snorted and commented, "At least they are willing to undertake such risky missions."

Tokuhei looked at the Noble but didn't say anything. The amount of ninjas in the Land of Hot Water was already pitifully low. He had no intention of wasting their lives just to prove a point.

Fujin's team rapidly moved through the Land of Hot Water towards the coastal areas. While moving, Fujin instructed, "As I said, this mission will be up to you. Yugao, you will take over my role. I will keep an eye out from far and will jump in if need be, but operate under the assumption that I'm not here."

Everyone nodded. Within a couple of hours, they reached one of the locations that Tokuhei had pointed out. The location was a small hill that had a large cave within it. Fujin stayed back while Yugao took charge. She moved close to the cave along with Fumito and Bunjiro.

Bunjiro softly said, "The cave seems to be abandoned."

Yugao nodded and instructed, "Fumito, send a Shadow Clone through the underground. See if you can feel any chakra signatures. If you don't, then activate your chakra field and inspect."

Fumito nodded and created a Shadow Clone. The clone moved through the ground into the cave. He tried to feel any chakra fluctuations in the cave passively but didn't sense anything. After a few minutes, the clone activated his chakra field. It covered the entire hill. He didn't detect anyone and came out of the ground and began inspecting the cave. After some time, the clone dispelled himself.

Fumito received his memories and said, "There is no one inside the cave. There aren't any traps inside either. Even if there was anyone here earlier, all traces have been eliminated."

Yugao said, "Alright, we will move on to the next location."

The group immediately began moving towards other bases that Tokuhei had pointed out earlier. However, every base they went to turned out to be empty.

Yugao fell into a dilemma. After thinking for a bit, she said, "The mission also requires us to check up on the villages in this area. We will do that before moving closer to the shore."

Fumito and Bunjiro nodded. They arrived at the first village. However, to their surprise, it was empty as well!

Bunjiro frowned and asked, "What the hell is going on here? Why is everything that guy pointed to empty?"

Fumito muttered, "I'm afraid that something huge is happening here."

Fujin, who was observing from a bit away, wondered, 'That's strange. Why is this village empty as well? If there was a clash, there would at least be blood stains in the village. But there is nothing of that sort. It's as if everyone left obediently.'

He thought for a bit before his eyes suddenly widened. He thought, 'Don't tell me Hidan is planning his ritual. I haven't heard any news of his slaughter yet. Things will be a lot more complicated if he gets involved.'

Yugao instructed, "Let's check up on the other villages."

They immediately began moving. The next village turned out to be empty as well. Fujin wondered, 'Exactly how many people does he need for the ritual? Hmm, now that I think about it, Hidan would be the perfect target to master reading memories perfectly. But should I kill him now? It'll create some changes in the Akatsuki.'

Fujin was on the fence. He followed his subordinates while analyzing, 'Right now, Hidan is the only future Akatsuki member that I'm confident in defeating other than Deidara who hasn't gone rogue yet. I can cut him into pieces and seal him up. But who would partner up with Kakuzu if I eliminated Hidan now?

It will be a pain in the ass if the pairings of Akatsuki are changed. It could change the future completely. If they decide to not recruit Deidara and partner Sasori and Kakuzu, then I'm not sure how the Gaara rescue mission would go. I will have to convince Tsunade, or Hiruzen if he lives, to add me to that squad as well to ensure that the future doesn't get too disrupted.'

Fujin suddenly looked up and a frown appeared on his face. He decided, 'I'll decide when I encounter Hidan.'

Just like Fujin, the expressions of his teammates became dark as well. Despite wearing masks, their gloominess could be sensed.

Bunjiro entered the village and muttered, "Which bastard would do something like this?"

After finding 5 empty bases and 2 empty villages, the group finally entered a village that wasn't empty. Instead, it was dyed in blood. The streets were littered with dead bodies. The three of them immediately began inspecting the bodies.

Fujin entered the village as well and began observing. He thought, 'It looks like everyone was killed by a sword. It doesn't look like a ritual.'

He was confused. He wondered, 'This should be done by rogue Kiri ninjas. So is Hidan not involved? Or did he take the opportunity of the chaos to kidnap normal civilians for his ritual?'

Bunjiro asked, "Should we bury them?"

Yugao shook her head and said, "They are already dead. There is no point in wasting time here. The killings happened more than a day ago. We will move to the next village."

Bunjiro didn't argue. He knew that saving the ones alive was more important than burying the dead. They immediately began moving towards the next village.

After a few minutes, they arrived in the next village. This time, they finally found someone alive! The village was largely abandoned as well. Only a few dozen elderly and a handful younger people were in the village.

The people immediately became tense after seeing them. Yugao approached an elderly man and started having a small conversation. After learning that they were sent by the Daimyo, the people finally relaxed.

Yugao asked, "Why are there so few people in the village?"

The elderly man sighed and said, "Around 2 months ago, all the money in our homes started disappearing. Every house in the village had most of their money taken away. And not a single person saw anything. So we believe that a ninja stole all our money."

Yugao and the rest were surprised to hear that. The elderly man continued, "It caused a lot of unrest in the village. However, we slowly moved on from it as nothing could be done. But then it happened again a month ago.

That made many people leave the village and migrate closer to Yugakure. Until the day before yesterday, around half the people had migrated. However, yesterday, one person came running to the village.

He told everyone that everyone in the neighbouring village was killed and their bodies and blood littered the village. That caused almost everyone in the village to panic and escape immediately. Only us old fellows who don't want to leave our home stayed behind."

Yugao, Fumito and Bunjiro let out a sigh. They understood the trauma those people would have faced. However, they were glad to realize that the people in the empty village were moving to Yugakure instead of being dead. Yugao said, "Thank you for telling us. We will take action immediately."

The elderly man and others around him immediately thanked her. The Konoha ninjas moved out and began moving towards the shore. As she moved, Yugao thought, 'Being a captain is a lot more taxing than just having to follow orders. I have to accept the responsibility for the lives of so many people. One wrong decision could result in more massacres like the one in the previous village. No wonder Lord Hokage hasn't promoted me yet.'

A few dozen kilometers away, along the shores of the Land of Hot Water, a miserable shriek was heard. A person, dressed in civilian attire, was on his knees. Though he looked ordinary, he was a Jounin from Kirigakure.

His right arm had been cut off at the elbow. However, instead of being concerned about it, he looked hatefully at the person standing in front of him.

In front of him was a tall and slender man. He had no eyebrows, creases under his eyes, and a cross-shaped scar on his right cheek. His hair and eyes were dark grey in color and his hair was short and spiky. He also had a red grid-shaped marking covering his jaw. However, the thing that stood out the most was that he held a sword that was as long as his height!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 382: Betrayal!

The man cursed, "Juzo! You bastard! Our village raised you and trained you for years. The Third Mizukage even gave you that sword! Why the hell did you betray us? And why are you attacking me? Did you forget how long we fought together before you were chosen as one of the Seven Swordsmen of the Mist? Also, what's with that weird cloak?"

Juzo didn't answer his question and instead asked, "Mitsuru, were you the one to slaughter those two villages?"

Mitsuru frowned. He asked, "What of it? We have done the same thing so many times in the past war! Our village needs funds for defeating those fucking rebels. Don't tell me you have gone soft after betraying our village."

Suddenly, a grin appeared on Juzo's face. He said, "I don't care about that trash. I have just been asked to collect the bounty on your head."

In the next moment, Juzo disappeared from his spot. He appeared behind Mitsuru. A second later, Mitsuru's head flew from his head. He looked at Juzo hatefully as he, a Jounin from the Mizukage faction, died.

Juzo collected his head while recalling his interaction with Pain.

A few days ago, in a hidden base inside the Land of Rain, a silhouette suddenly appeared. Two pairs of eyes glanced towards the figure.

The Deva Path Pain instructed, "Juzo, go to the southern shores of the Land of Hot Water. A large number of Kiri ninjas have infiltrated there and are causing several massacres. You will collect the bounties of the Kiri ninjas that are attacking."

A frown formed on Juzo's expression. He said, "I already informed you that I have no intention of dealing with Kirigakure. You can send Kakuzu or Itachi there instead of me."

Pain shook his head and replied, "Kakuzu is finding information about the two Jinchurikis in Iwagakure. However, he had hit a dead end. Itachi will be sent there to cooperate with him. Not to mention, you are

more familiar with how the Kiri shinobi operate. For that reason, I have also sent Kisame to that location."

Juzo sighed and said, "Alright."

Pain nodded and instructed, "Both of you will leave right away."

His figure disappeared from the base. Soon after, Itachi and Juzo disappeared as well. One moved towards the Land of Earth while the other moved in the opposite direction and entered the Land of Fire.

As Juzo stored Mitsuru's head, he thought, 'Though he asked me to collect the bounty, I believe his main concern was the innocent people who were dying due to the actions of the Mizukage. Being soft like that won't be of any help in fulfilling his goal.'

Regardless, I need to speed up. Once the Kiri ninjas learn about Mitsuru's death, they will escape. I need to find their main base before that happens. That said, I have to admit that they have become far better at hiding. From what I remember, they should have been moving openly in a weak country like this one. I wonder what changed after I left.'

He sighed and wondered, "Why couldn't he send Kakuzu here and send me with Itachi instead? Isn't collecting bounties his job? Also, why does Akatsuki need so much money? I don't recall any operations needing money so far."

He disappeared from his spot and began looking for the remaining Kiri ninjas. Just like him, another group was searching for the Kiri ninjas near the shores.

After searching for almost half a day, Yugao and the rest had gone through every suspected base and had returned empty. With his shoulders dropped, Bunjiro complained, "This Land of Hot Water is completely useless. Not a single base they marked had anyone inside it. Forget people, we didn't even find any signs of the bases being occupied previously!"

Fumito sighed as well. Since no conflict occurred, he had to do all the work. Though Yugao and Bunjiro were sensors as well, they paled in comparison to Fumito's sensing skills. Since the opponents were suspected to be quite strong, they didn't take any unnecessary risks.

Yugao said, "It's already past midnight. Let's take a break. We will begin our investigation again tomorrow."

The three of them began looking for a decent place to rest for the night. While looking for it, they found a cave that was very well hidden from sight. They were about to walk towards it when all three suddenly stopped and hid behind trees. A moment later, 2 ninjas appeared out of the cave.

All three Konoha ninjas had a peculiar expression. They cursed in their minds, 'We searched for these bastards all day! And just when we were about to quit and take a break, they appeared in front of us by themselves?'

Of the two ninjas that appeared from the cave, one was a Jounin while the other was a Chunin. The Chunin exclaimed, "Finally, we can move out again. I can't spend any more time in that dull cave."

He looked at the Jounin and asked, "Captain, why do we stay so careful? Unless Yugakure mobilizes its entire force, they won't be able to do anything to us."

The Jounin frowned and said, "Don't get too overconfident. This isn't the first time we are doing such a mission. The last time we tried it, we suffered heavy losses. That is why we are acting so carefully this time."

The Chunin was surprised. He asked, "How could Yugakure have someone who can defeat us?"

The Jounin answered, "It wasn't Yugakure ninja. They issued the mission to Konoha who sent that cowardly swordsman. That coward cut down dozens of our dispersed ninjas one by one. If we hadn't been lucky, we might not have even understood who it was. But, by the time we realized it, our forces had already suffered a heavy loss. When we grouped together, he didn't attack us even once."

The incident that he said was before Fujin had become an Anbu Captain and the title of the Spectral Swordsman wasn't given to him yet. During one assassination during the mission, 3 Kiri Jounins suddenly appeared, forcing Fujin to retreat. It was the first instance of him being seen in action by someone who didn't end up dead.

The Chunin was shocked. He said, "I had heard rumors about the Spectral Swordsman. But I thought they were just rumors. Why would Konoha dare to attack us? We are a major village too."

The Jounin replied, "But we are embroiled in a war. At such a time, we can't afford to go to war with Konoha. Besides, we didn't know for sure if it was Konoha back then. But now we do."

The Chunin nodded. He said, "That's enough depressing talks. Let's just go and steal from those losers again."

The Jounin nodded. Both he and Chunin began moving towards a village.

Though Yugao and the others couldn't hear their words, they understood that the Kiri ninjas were moving out to attack the villages. All three exchanged glances. At the same time, all three disappeared from their spots and silently trailed the two Kiri ninjas.

After moving a sufficient distance away from the cave, they immediately sprung into action. Yugao grabbed her sword.

'Hazy Moon Night'

She flickered and moved towards the Jounin. Though he hadn't sensed the Konoha ninjas, as soon as Yugao made her move, he became alert. He grabbed a kunai and turned around while shouting, "There are enemies!"

The Chunin also became alert. The Jounin saw Yugao moving rapidly and the afterimages of her sword. A grim expression appeared on his face.

Yugao appeared in front of him and swung her sword straight at his neck while utilizing her high speed. To her surprise, the enemy Jounin blocked her sword with his kunai perfectly.

Yugao quickly followed up with several dozen high-speed sword attacks. The Kiri Jounin also moved his kunai rapidly and blocked every attack while retreating backwards.

The Kiri Chunin was shocked to see such a high-speed battle. He was about to attack Yugao when he noticed another figure from the corner of his eye.

Bunjiro appeared and threw six Shurikens at the Chunin. The Chunin blocked a couple with his kunai and dodged the rest.

The Jounin moved towards him and shouted, "Send a signal immediately. I will cover you."

The Chunin shouted, "I will!"

The Jounin couldn't take his attention off Yugao for even a second. He was having difficulty in blocking her sword. And due to her fast-paced attacks, he didn't have any time to weave hand signs.

The Jounin blocked another Yugao's sword once again and cursed, "I will make you regret... Ugh!!"

In horror, he turned his head to look behind him. His subordinate had stabbed him with his kunai instead of sending a signal!

Before he could understand what was happening, Yugao took advantage of the distraction and beheaded him! He died without understanding why his loyal subordinate had betrayed him.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 383: Ambushes!

Bunjiro flickered next to Yugao. Both of them looked at the Kiri Chunin. The Chunin looked at them and said, "Tie me up as usual."

Yugao and Bunjiro nodded. They knew that it was Fumito who was hiding earlier and took over the Chunin's body. In a few seconds, the Chunin was properly tied up. Fumito released his jutsu and returned to his original body. The Chunin had just regained consciousness when he was knocked out by Yugao.

Fumito immediately began reading his memories. After around 10 minutes, he said, "There are 23 ninjas inside that cave. All are Kirigakure ninjas and none have gone rogue. Of them, 4 are Jounins while the rest are Chunins."

A frown appeared on Yugao's face. She muttered, "We won't be able to take on such numbers in a direct conflict. We will have to sneak into the cave and eliminate them silently one by one. But even that will be very risky."

She looked at Fumito and asked, "Did you see the internal layout of the cave from his memories? Is there a way to target the ninjas inside one or two at a time?"

Fumito answered, "I did see the layout. Unfortunately, there is no way to do that as we won't be able to enter the cave without being detected. The cave is covered in numerous seals. They can detect if anyone who isn't a part of their group enters the cave. And there are numerous barriers as well."

This man doesn't know which seals were used. I could read the Jounin's memories, but I doubt they would help much either."

Yugao nodded and said, "I see. We can't infiltrate in that case. We don't have the same Fuinjutsu skills as Captain."

Fumito and Bunjiro nodded. Yugao said, "I guess that leaves us with just one option."

Her eyes moved towards the unconscious ninja. She asked, "Where were they planning on going? And will the others inside the cave be moving out as well?"

Fumito answered, "These two were heading towards a village. Their goal was to steal all the money inside it. As for others, they won't be moving out. They have a rule that only 2 pairs of people can move out at the same time. The rest stay within the cave. The second group is already out. So the others won't move out until the other group returns."

Yugao analyzed for a couple of minutes and said, "Read both their memories. Find out who was in the other group that is outside. Find any other information you will need to impersonate them. You will be the one infiltrating inside the cave."

Fumito nodded and got to work. He ate a soldier pill and began reading memories of the dead Jounin and the unconscious Chunin. In an hour, he had collected all the information that he wanted. He learnt that Mitsuru had moved out alone a couple of days ago.

He stopped reading memories and sat down to relax for a bit while informing Yugao about what he found. Yugao immediately created a basic plan and explained it to Fumito.

A few minutes later, the unconscious Chunin finally showed signs of waking up. Fumito got up. He grabbed a pill and swallowed it. Bunjiro and Yugao did the same.

Fumito looked towards the Kiri ninja and made a hand seal.

'Ninja Art: Mind Transfer jutsu'

His consciousness turned into spiritual energy and entered the Chunin's body once again. At the same time, his body collapsed. Bunjiro caught Fumito's real body while the Kiri Chunin's eyes snapped open.

He looked at Yugao and nodded. Yugao grabbed her sword and cut off his bindings, freeing him. He got up, stretched his body and said, "Look after my body. Keep it at the same location that we were hiding earlier so that I can return to it immediately."

Yugao said, "We will move first. Memorize the location properly. I'll leave a Clone to watch over your body."

He nodded. Yugao and Bunjiro immediately left while carrying Fumito's body. Fumito saw them leave. He waited for a few minutes and got used to the new body. At the same time, he took a kunai and made numerous light cuts on his arms, legs and cheeks. He made a few more preparations.

After 5 minutes, a look of panic appeared on his face and he began running towards the cave. Fear could be seen on his face. As he reached the cave, he glanced towards the spot where Yugao and Bunjiro were hiding and saw his body.

He continued running, entered the basement and shouted as loudly as he could, "There is trouble!"

His loud voice immediately woke up every sleeping Kiri ninja. Fumito continued running towards the central room in the cave while breathing roughly. All Kiri ninjas, including the SealMaster, arrived in that room as well.

The Kiri ninjas immediately noticed all the blood covering his clothes and the injuries on his body. Everyone immediately became serious. One asked, "What's the situation?"

Fumito spoke hurriedly, "Mitsuru-sama was attacked while he was returning here. We saw him fighting with 8 ninjas by himself. So Captain and I jumped in to help him. However, they were too strong for us. They bought an opportunity for me to escape. We have to reinforce them quickly."

His words immediately made everyone's expression grim. The SealMaster immediately said, "We need to se..."

Suddenly he noticed something odd and took a look at the ninja. His eyes had become unfocused as if he was waking up from a sleep. At the same time, he sensed a bit of chakra emitting from his body.

He wasn't the only one. The other Jounins also noticed something odd. Before they could say anything, the Kiri Chunin exploded with a massive bang!

So The explosion was incredibly powerful. Fire and shockwaves immediately engulfed the surrounding Kiri ninjas, most of whom were completely caught off guard. Only the Jounins and a few Chunins managed to react in time and retreated backwards.

13 Chunins took the full brunt of the explosion. Their bodies were blasted into the walls of the cave. Not a single one survived. Another 4 Chunins managed to barely retreat in time. They were still hit by the explosion which left burns of varying degrees on their bodies. The remaining 2 Chunins and the 4 Jounins managed to retreat safely. However, everyone had grim expressions.

One cursed, "That incompetent bastard!"

Another said, "How will we explain such losses to the Mizukage?"

The third one asked, "Was he under a Genjutsu? But who can cast such a strong Genjutsu?"

The SealMaster thought for a bit and said, "It could be Genjutsu or the Yamanaka technique. Regardless, we are in danger. The culprit should be waiting outside for us. We need to prepare for a batt..."

He stopped speaking and suddenly began coughing nonstop. Several drops of blood fell on the ground. Immediately, the others also began coughing. After some time, one of them cursed, "Poison! That explosion also contained poison!"

The SealMaster said, "Our health will get worse with time. We need to retreat into the sea."

Just after he said it, sounds of explosion were heard once again. Soon, tremors were felt as the cave started collapsing. While running inside the cave, Fumito had discretely planted a few explosion tags on the floor and walls of the cave. The cave's structure was already damaged heavily due to the earlier explosion. The new explosions immediately caused the cave to collapse.

Outside the cave, Bunjiro's clone said, "That was a good explosion. The cave is collapsing."

Fumito, who had just returned to his body, said, "It better be. I had stuck 60 Explosion tags on that guy's body. I'm surprised that the cave is still standing despite that explosion. I wanted to use the other tags to ambush them while they were escaping."

Inside the cave, the surviving ninjas immediately used jutsus to ensure that the cave didn't collapse. Using that time, they began escaping from the cave. As they moved, they prepared themselves for a fight. Everyone had a grim expression as the poison was making it difficult for them to move normally.

As soon as they exited the cave, Yugao and Bunjiro along with their clones bombarded them with Kunai that had explosion tags attached to them.

The Kiri ninjas noticed it and immediately made hand seals.

'Water Release: Water Wall jutsu'

Multiple water walls went up in front of them. The kunais hit them and exploded. The water walls collapsed but the explosions were stopped.

As soon as the water walls collapsed, Yugao appeared next to one of the Kiri ninjas who was injured. He turned his head and his eyes widened as he saw several afterimages of her sword. At the next moment, his head was sent flying in the air.

Before the others could react, another head was sent flying. Finally, the Jounins managed to react and counterattacked, forcing Yugao to retreat. However, she was very determined. As Bunjiro and her clones bombarded them with another round of explosion tags, she prepared herself to attack once again. At the same time, Fumito was also looking for an opportunity.

Fujin's eyes glowed as he observed the conflict while standing on a tree branch. He analyzed, 'Hmm, that's good. They were heavily outnumbered and outmatched as well. But by killing many of them in a trap and poisoning the rest, they have a complete advantage now. This mission has been completed almost perfectly. The only imperfect factor was that a bit of luck was involved in how they found the cave.

Still, both Yugao and Fumito are good enough to be Anbu Captains. Not many Anbu Captains would be able to replicate such a result.'

The Kiri ninjas were fighting desperately while retreating to save their lives. They absolutely hated Yugao and the others. But unknown to them, an even stronger enemy was watching them.

Actually, not one, but two. Unknown to Fujin, another terrifying ninja was hiding and watching the fight.

Juzo watched Yugao cut down 4 Kiri ninjas while thinking, 'They were supposed to be my targets... But that ninja's sword style... They are from Konoha. I don't know why Akatsuki needs money, but my mission will fail if the Konoha ninjas leave with their bodies.'

Yugao had just completed her second round of attack and was forced to retreat once again. However, before she could relax, she immediately slashed her sword to her right. A much larger sword clashed with her sword!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 384: Second Clash with the Akatsuki!

Yugao had just completed her second round of attack when she sensed a grave danger. She swung her sword to her right, clashing with a much larger sword coming her way.

The force behind Juzo's sword forced Yugao back, but she managed to hold on and not let go of her sword. At the same time, her eyes widened when she saw Juzo's face. She thought, 'One of the Seven Ninja Swordsman of the Mist? But hadn't he gone rogue? Don't tell me that it was a lie as well!'

The Kiri ninjas, who were in a clutch, were surprised as well. They recognized Juzo in an instant. A few of them thought, 'Juzo? Why is he here to help us? Does he want to take this chance to return to the village? But didn't he hate the village a lot?'

Fumito and Bunjiro were surprised as well. Neither saw nor sensed Juzo's movements. They wanted to help out Yugao but the Kiri ninjas attacked and stalled them.

A wide grin appeared on Juzo's face as he felt Yugao struggle. Yugao's eyes widened while the others on the battlefield were stunned as they felt Juzo's intense bloodlust! He said, "Not bad! You should be able to keep me entertained for a while."

He suddenly applied a lot more pressure on his sword, forcing Yugao to her knees. At the same time, he formed his left hand into a claw and was about to attack Yugao.

However, he stopped and leaned backwards. Multiple Vacuum Bullets tore through the space he was previously occupying. Since he was too close to the bullets, the bullets tore through his cloak and left a few small cuts on his chest and upper arms.

Juzo's eyes widened as he immediately stepped away from Yugao while thinking, 'Vacuum attacks? I didn't even sense them. Who is it?'

Yugao immediately took the opportunity to move away from Juzo.

Juzo, who was now on full alert, turned around and swung his sword behind him. As he did, he noticed chakra flowing through Fujin's sword through the corner of his eyes. In an instant, chakra began flowing through his sword as well.

The two swords clashed, producing a loud sound. Both were equally matched. However, instead of engaging in a sword fight, Fujin forced his sword out of the way and punched Juzo with his left hand. Noticing the chakra concentrated in his hand, Juzo concentrated some chakra in his feet. He used the force of Fujin's sword to step away from him and kicked the incoming punch.

Unlike the swords that were equally matched, this time Juzo was sent flying for a few meters. He winced as he felt a pain in his foot. However, he ignored it and flipped in the air to land on the ground while staring at Fujin. His entire attention was on Fujin.

Seeing Fujin take action, his teammates sighed in relief. They didn't have any confidence in taking on one of the few remaining Seven Ninja Swordsman of the Mist. At the same time, the Kiri ninjas were shocked once again. They were already surprised to see Juzo. But seeing him getting forced back so easily was an even greater surprise.

Fujin didn't continue his attack. He was in an even more serious mood as compared to Juzo. He cursed internally, 'What the hell is Juzo doing here? And since he is here, does that mean Itachi is here as well? Shit...'

Fujin activated and spread his chakra field over a radius of 3 kilometers. However, other than Juzo, his team and the Kiri ninjas, he didn't detect anyone. However, a frown existed behind his mask as he analyzed, 'I can't fully trust my sensory skills. Itachi might be able to stay hidden. Though I will sense him if he uses his chakra.'

Another one I need to look out for is Zetsu. I can't use the skills I want to keep a secret if he is spying on me. But without them, defeating Juzo would be very challenging.'

Since Fujin didn't press on the offence, Juzo managed to get a breather. Fujin's team and the Kiri ninjas were on alert as well. The battlefield entered a deadlock as no one made a move.

Juzo broke the silence as he chuckled and said, "I thought I was only attacking some small fries from Konoha. To think that I would draw out the Spectral Swordsman. Haha, what a lucky day."

Though Fujin was wearing his mask, using the Vacuum jutsus gave away his identity easily.

Juzo thought, 'This bastard has a higher bounty than all these Kiri ninjas combined. Kakuzu would be pissed at missing out on such a bounty. Hahaha.'

Hearing the name, the expressions of the Kiri ninjas became grim. However, they soon recovered as they had Juzo who looked to be on their side. But they weren't too sure as everything happened too suddenly.

Fujin instructed, "Leave this guy to me. Hunt down the rest."

Yugao, Fumito and Bunjiro immediately flickered. Juzo didn't move. Unlike what the Kiri ninjas thought, he was here to collect their bounties. It didn't matter to him whether he killed them himself or collected their dead bodies from the Konoha ninjas.

The Kiri ninjas immediately retreated leaving only Fujin and Juzo facing each other. Fujin continued scanning everything in his surroundings properly and talked with Juzo to buy some time. He asked, "Haven't you gone rogue? Why are you getting in the middle of my mission?"

Juzo replied, "If you let me kill you, I will let your team complete the mission and go back to Konoha. Otherwise, all of you die."

As he said, he once again unleashed his bloodlust. Fujin was unaffected by his bloodlust. He muttered in a soft but audible voice, "Juzo Biwa, one of the Seven Ninja Swordsman of the Mist, known throughout the world for your inhumane brutality and slaughtering the weak without any reluctance."

A grin appeared behind his mask as he unleashed his killing intent as well and said, "It's not often I meet someone with a more intense bloodlust than mine. I wonder whether you live up to your reputation."

Though Fujin had killed a lot of people in the past 3 years, it still paled in comparison to someone like Juzo who was known to inhumanely slaughter for a longer time than he spent in this world.

Fujin flickered and appeared in front of Juzo, swinging his sword at full power. Juzo replied in the same manner. The two swords clashed. However, the result was different from the earlier clash.

Juzo's eyes widened as he noticed the large amount of force behind Fujin's sword. In addition, a crack appeared on his Kubikiribucho sword. However, even before he could react to that danger, he noticed another grave threat.

Instead of engaging in a pure swordfight, Fujin shot a dozen Vacuum Bullets at a close range. Juzo immediately retreated and barely managed to dodge the incoming Vacuum Bullets. However, several more cuts appeared on his body.

At the same time, he became very serious as he realized, 'His reputation isn't fake. This will be a tough fight.'

Fujin didn't give Juzo any time to rest. He flickered behind him and shot a Vacuum Cannon at Juzo. Juzo immediately got out of the way and counterattacked with Water Bullets, forcing Fujin to dodge as well.

As for the Vacuum Cannon he dodged, it kept travelling through the forest. Weirdly, it didn't hit a single tree and kept moving in a straight line for 200 meters, as if Fujin had aimed it in a manner to avoid all the trees in its path.

Finally, it was about to hit a plant that had a weird shape and was made of two distinct colors, unlike every other plant in the forest. In an instant, that plant moved and went underground.

As soon as it did, one of its halves exclaimed, "That was scary! That attack nearly killed us! But how did he know that we were here? Or was that attack just a fluke?"

The other half, which was completely black, said, "He was sensing the entire area earlier. I felt his chakra field at our location a few times, but he didn't focus on us. So I thought that he couldn't sense us. His information in the Bingo book isn't accurate. With such sensing abilities, he is among the best sensors out there."

As soon as the Zetsu moved, Fujin sensed their chakra fluctuations. A smile appeared behind his mask as he thought, 'That area felt a bit off for some reason. My guess was right. That bastard Zetsu is keeping an eye as usual.'

Juzo didn't notice that Fujin's real attack wasn't aimed at him. He continued attacking. Several Water Dragons formed in front of him and moved towards Fujin. Fujin moved back and jumped on top of the trees. Several Vacuum Bullets formed in his mouth and he aimed at the heads of the Water Dragons.

The Vacuum Bullets pierced through the Water Dragons and dispersed the jutsu. Juzo ignored them as they weren't heading at him, but they kept travelling and pierced the ground a long distance away.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 385: A Foreign Chakra!

Zetsu, who was hiding underground, instantly felt something drilling through the soil. It immediately went deeper into the ground. A fraction of a second later, the Vacuum Bullets passed through the space it was in earlier, barely missing its head by a few inches. It pierced through the Venus Flytrap-like extensions around its head, tearing away a good chunk of it!

White Zetsu looked at the damage and said, "This guy is scary! He almost killed us again. I'm afraid Juzo will have a tough time if he can even find time to attack us while fighting him."

Black Zetsu said, "Juzo is strong as well. But we need to inform Tobi and Pain. This fight will be a close one. Let's first ask Kisame to reinforce him."

Zetsu immediately left the battlefield. Fujin sensed his movement and wondered, 'Did I scare it away?'

He dodged Juzo's attack and analyzed, 'Unlikely. Black Zetsu doesn't want to expose its fighting abilities. He should have gone to call in for reinforcements. I will have to end the fight before they arrive. I can't take on two ninjas close to the rank S at the same time.

I should also consider the possibility of just one half having left and the other half staying back to observe or interrupt. Though I doubt he would want to expose himself, I should maintain my chakra field in case he does so.'

He turned his attention towards Juzo as he wondered, 'Why is he so determined to kill me? I have given him several opportunities to retreat. Sigh, I didn't want to get on Akatsuki's radar so quickly.'

Despite being aware of him, Fujin barely had any memories of Juzo. After all, he was barely even shown in the series. Though Fujin did collect all his information available with Konoha, it didn't include any information about how loyal Juzo was to Akatsuki and Pain as Hiruzen couldn't make information he received from Itachi public. So Fujin couldn't guess his intentions.

As they battled, Fujin felt Juzo's killing intent increasing steadily. He thought, 'I don't remember who killed him and how, but I know that he will end up dead soon. So I wasn't very interested in killing him. But if he wants to go all out, I can't afford to hold back.'

Without having to monitor Zetsu's location, Fujin became very determined and focused entirely on Juzo. He flickered to dodge the incoming attacks and flickered again to appear next to Juzo and slashed his sword at his waist.

However, Juzo flickered away without any seals as well. He appeared behind Fujin and attacked him with his sword. However, Fujin flickered out of the way as well. Juzo immediately followed him.

Both Fujin and Juzo flickered continuously trying to outspeed one another and land a fatal blow. Loud sounds of their blades clashing with each other were heard several times. Several scars were left in the ground and several trees were cut. However, Fujin was unharmed while Juzo didn't take any more damage.

Fujin appeared in front of Juzo once again and attacked with his sword. Juzo flickered away to dodge. Fujin stopped swinging his sword and immediately flickered as well. Both appeared close to each other at the same time. Having the initiative, Fujin slashed horizontally aiming to hack Juzo into two.

Juzo raised his sword defensively while building up his chakra. Fujin's sword hit Kubikiribochō once again. And yet again, a new crack appeared in the sword. This one was the largest yet as it moved almost halfway into the sword!

The large Kubikiribocho had around a dozen cracks in it by now. Though Juzo was also proficient in using Chakra Flow, his chakra flow didn't have any element to it. Due to Fujin's Wind Chakra, his sword was much sharper than Juzo's despite the Kubikiribocho being a better sword.

Juzo used the force of Fujin's attack to fly backwards while spitting out a large amount of water towards Fujin. Due to its volume, it built momentum and began collapsing towards Fujin.

Fujin stood his ground and built up chakra as well.

'Wind Release: Infinite Breakthrough jutsu'

He exhaled extremely strong winds. The Winds directly broke through the water and forced it back. They continued moving towards Juzo who was quickly backing away while weaving hand signs.

'Water Release: Great Waterfall jutsu'

Juzo expelled a large amount of water from his mouth high into the sky. After reaching high enough, it began cascading down towards the Windstorm heading at him.

The Winds broke into the Water and changed its direction back towards Juzo. However, the high volume of water dulled the wind blades in the jutsu and slowed down the jutsu until it was harmless.

Fujin didn't attack anymore and just observed Juzo getting hit by his own attack despite knowing that it wouldn't harm him. He analyzed, 'He is strong. Very strong. Though I have an advantage in chakra reserves and strength, I don't have an advantage in speed. His movement and combat speed are as fast as mine while his reaction speed is even faster.'

Due to his significantly richer battle experience, he is able to negate my advantage in terms of strength very easily and has no issue dodging my Vacuum Bullets and Blades of Wind. Even if I use Vacuum Slash, I will probably be only able to cut that sword in half while he will flicker away. It will be the same with Vacuum Gatling.'

Fujin sighed internally as he thought, 'These attacks can easily rip into those Iwa Jounins trained to counter me. But against Juzo, though I will make things difficult for him, I won't be able to land a killing blow.'

Not to mention, I doubt this will be my last clash with the Akatsuki. Exposing those skills now would put the entire Akatsuki on guard against those attacks. It will be disadvantageous for me in the future.'

As Fujin was analyzing, Mist began covering the entire region. Fujin stood in his spot as the mist engulfed him. Unknown to Juzo, a glint appeared in Fujin's eyes.

Just like Fujin, Juzo was thinking hard as well. He thought, 'From the reports, he should be barely 15 years old. To be able to give me such a hard time at such a young age... Another fearsome talent has appeared in Konoha.'

Juzo couldn't help but shudder as he suddenly had a thought. It was, 'They still have the 3rd Hokage in addition to the two Sannins who are in their prime. And from Itachi's words, Hatake Kakashi and Might Guy are very impressive as well and live up to their father's reputation. Now this guy. If Konoha still had Uchiha Fugaku and Itachi in addition to them...'

Juzo felt a chill at that thought. Once Fujin, Kakashi and Guy reached rank S, Konoha could have had a greater number of rank S ninjas than Akatsuki!

Juzo stopped thinking about such a hypothetical scenario and turned his attention back to Fujin who was being engulfed by the mist. He was confused as he wondered, 'Why didn't he push on the attack? Is he afraid of fighting me when there is a lot of water around me? But that doesn't explain why he is letting the Mist engulf him and not blowing it away.'

Juzo had expected Fujin to use a Wind jutsu to blow the mist away. He intended to take action at that time and create an opening. However, Fujin's inaction made his tactic pointless. So Juzo decided to make use of the mist and made a hand seal.

'Water Release: Water Clone jutsu'

4 Water Clones appeared around him. They immediately moved silently towards Fujin's location. Juzo looked at the cracks in his blade and thought, 'I will have to let Kubikiribocho drink some blood now.'

He disappeared and began moving through the mist. Not a single sound was heard as he moved.

The 4 Water Clones arrived where Fujin was standing. To their surprise, he was still standing in his spot with his eyes closed. They observed him for some time, but Fujin didn't make any movements at all and stayed like a statue. All 4 clones wondered, 'What scheme is he cooking?'

In order to not let him bide time, 2 of the Water Clones moved towards him. One appeared behind him and another appeared in front of him. Both swung their swords at the same time.

Fujin's eyes snapped open and gazed into the eyes of the Water Clone in front of him. Despite the attack, he didn't move. The two swords cleaved him into 3 pieces!

However, no blood was spilled. Instead, the two clones felt a breeze. At the very next moment, Fujin exploded, launching wind blades around him. Both the water clones were too close to react and were hit by the blades. Though the attack wasn't extremely fatal, it was enough to dispel them both.

Juzo's remaining two Water Clones were surprised. They realized, 'A Wind Clone!'

Juzo, who was hiding not too far away, was shocked as well. He thought, 'Impossible! I didn't feel him move at all. Where is he? I can't feel him at all in this Mist.'

Juzo and his clones became very alert. Not being able to find Fujin in the mist made Juzo nervous for the first time. He stayed on alert but his eyes suddenly widened. He thought, 'The mist is mixed with some foreign chakra. SHIT!!!'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 386: Clash of Swords!

Juzo felt a chill in his heart. He turned around while swinging his sword with full strength.

Fujin chuckled internally while attacking with his sword as well. He thought, 'Though the Hiding in Mist assassination technique is impressive, how can it compare to Tobirama's Bringer of Darkness? It even counters the Mangekyou Sharingan to a certain extent. In order to prepare myself for any future fights with Itachi, Obito or Madara, I have trained a lot in that darkness. Compared to it, fighting in this mist is a child's play.'

The two swords clashed. Fujin's sword hit the largest crack in Kubikiribocho. The crack immediately began enlarging and moving across the blade.

At the same time, Fujin shot several Vacuum Bullets at Juzo. To his surprise, Juzo didn't flicker away like before and instead dodged them without using any jutsu. At the same time, he disrupted his own chakra flow.

Due to the close distance and being taken by surprise, Juzo couldn't dodge by a large distance. In fact, one Vacuum Bullet grazed past the right side of his abdomen. Several new and deeper cuts opened up on his arms and legs. The Vacuum Bullet that grazed past his abdomen took out a large chunk of flesh as it passed him, causing it to bleed profusely.

However, Despite injuring him, Fujin wasn't happy. He thought, 'He realized that my Wind chakra was infiltrating into his body and hence didn't flicker. Tsk, so much for keeping it a secret. I was hoping to kill him or at least fatally injure him.'

Juzo flickered away and disappeared within the mist. Though Fujin couldn't see him, he could hear Juzo's voice from all directions. Juzo said, "You know Susumu's Wind Style Genjutsu? So you were the one who made that mess in the Land of Wind."

Though Akatsuki wasn't interested in the affairs of Sunagakure, they were forced to look into it when they received the news that Suna's Jinchuriki was injured. So Juzo was aware of the events that occurred back then despite not interfering in it.

Juzo's remaining two Water Clones moved towards Fujin. Two Wind Clones formed around Fujin and moved to intercept them. As for Fujin, a dense wind chakra began flowing through his sword once again.

Suddenly, a sound of metal hitting the ground was heard. In an instant, Fujin flickered to that spot. The large crack that he had created in Kubikiribocho expanded along the length of the sword as it snapped

into two. Though Juzo was aware of his sword's state, his attention was more towards the injury on his abdomen. This created a temporary opening.

As soon as Fujin appeared, he attacked with his sword while preparing more rounds of Vacuum Bullet. Despite having just half of his sword, it was still larger than Fujin's sword. Juzo's chakra flowed through Kubikiribocho as he used it to block Fujin's sword and flickered away to dodge the Vacuum Bullets. At the same time, he constantly disrupted his chakra to not be affected by any Genjutsu.

Fujin gave chase and the two engaged in high-speed combat once again. The two Water Clones were dispelled by kamikaze attacks by the Wind Clones. Due to how evenly they were matched, Fujin knew that the clones would be in a deadlock as well. So Fujin chose to explode his clones to finish their battles in a rush and gain an advantage. After all, if both of them consumed their chakra at an equal speed, he would get the advantage.

While Fujin and Juzo were fighting, Yugao and the rest chased down the Kiri ninjas. Though the Kiri ninjas put up a good resistance, the poisoning kept worse as time passed on. So they kept on getting weaker and had difficulty in dodging and controlling their chakra. Eventually, despite reaching the sea, they were still all killed by Fujin's team.

As they sealed and stored the bodies, Bunjiro said, "Getting poisoned with an unknown poison before a battle is extremely disadvantageous."

Fumito nodded and said, "We would have lost easily and the Captain would have to step in if they weren't poisoned. But the situation was completely reversed."

Yugao sealed the last body and said, "We still have to help our captain. Juzo is one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist. He is incredibly strong. Though we have to be careful about not getting in his way."

Fumito thought for a bit and replied, "I don't think Mind-Body Switch will work on him if we can't pin him down first. Even if I succeed, maintaining it will be very difficult."

Yugao nodded and said, "Yes. Let's go back and observe the situation first... What happened?"

As Yugao was talking, she noticed Fumito's eyes widening all of a sudden. A look of shock appeared on his face. Fumito looked towards the sea and thought, 'What an immense chakra! Who is it?'

He quickly said, "Retreat!"

In an instant, all three flickered and began moving towards Fujin. En route, Fumito explained what he had sensed.

Fujin and Juzo continued fighting without any external interference. As the two fought, Fujin's expression became grim. Despite his injuries, the only effect it had was that Juzo became more and more bloodthirsty. He became far more aggressive and his fighting style. Fujin didn't mind that and wanted to take advantage of any opening he might get due to over-aggression. However, Juzo didn't give him a single opening.

Fujin analyzed, 'His resilience is mindblowing. Despite those injuries and the blood loss, he is fighting as if he hasn't been injured at all. He is also constantly disrupting his own chakra to eliminate any chances of me casting Genjutsu on him.'

Despite the bloodlust he was projecting on Fujin, Juzo's mind was calm and serious. He analyzed, 'Not good. Despite having an advantage, this kid isn't getting cocky and seems content to slowly whittle me down. I can't deal him a fatal blow if he maintains such a guard the entire time. More importantly, my sword is almost completely ruined!'

Juzo was no longer uncaring about his sword. Due to their frequent clashes, it was completely covered in cracks and it was only a matter of time before it crumbled entirely. Though he could repair his sword later, Juzo understood that he would be in deep trouble against Fujin without his sword.

As they were fighting, Fujin's eyes suddenly widened. Juzo noticed that and instantly attacked Fujin's wrist with his free hand as their swords clashed once again. Fujin saw the attack and hardened his right arm with the Iron Skin jutsu while kicking Juzo's elbow.

Despite hardening his arm, the strike on his wrist caused Fujin to open his hand and lose his sword. Fujin's kick did the same. It knocked the sword from Juzo's hand and worsened the cuts on his right arm.

Fujin ignored his dropped sword and unleashed a flurry of punches and kicks on Juzo. Fujin knew that if he concentrated chakra in his fists, Juzo would run away. So he didn't bother doing it and focused entirely on the speed of his punches.

As he didn't sense any Chakra Concentrated on his fists, Juzo fought back as well. However, to his surprise, he was outmatched once again! Though he defended himself well, Fujin's fists landed on his chest and abdomen several times. He had to use his bleeding arms to defend himself several times, especially because Fujin kept targeting the injury on his abdomen.

Even though none of the hits were fatal, Juzo felt the impact of every punch, causing him to cough blood as he fought. Finally, he raised his leg to block Fujin's kick and used it to get away from him.

At that moment, Yugao and the rest arrived and landed next to Fujin and shouted, "Captain!"

However, Fujin ignored them and fired a few Vacuum Bullets at Juzo who was still in the air. Juzo immediately shot water from his mouth into the air and used the force to fall back to the ground. He barely managed to avoid the bullets, but he crashed into the ground and was dragged due to his speed.

Fujin flickered and summoned his other sword in his left hand. Juzo quickly recovered and got onto his feet. He saw Fujin appearing in front of him and swinging his sword vertically, aiming to hack him in two. Without his sword, he had no method of defending against the sword. He moved back while building up his chakra and weaving hand signs.

'Water Release: Water Prison jutsu'

A water bubble began covering Juzo in order to provide him with some defense. At the same time, he concentrated chakra on his chest, neck and head to slow down Fujin's sword.

Despite the dense water, Fujin's sword easily pierced into the water prison. Juzo gritted his teeth and weaved hand signs. He thought, 'I'll endure this hit and use my body to slow him down. Once his sword lands on me, I'll kill him!'

Fujin understood Juzo's thought but he wasn't concerned about his counterattack. He was confident in cutting him in two before Juzo could attack. He kept going. However, at that very moment, another

figure broke into the Water Prison and appeared in front of Juzo. A large white sword blocked Fujin's sword and began sucking the chakra flowing through it.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 387: Explosions!

As Fujin's sword slashed into the Water Prison, a tall, muscular ninja with a shark-like appearance appeared in front of him and blocked his sword with a large sword that was wrapped in a white cloth. Even before the two swords clashed, the wind chakra flowing along Fujin's sword was sucked by the sword.

As their swords clashed, both Fujin and Kisame stared into each other's eyes. However, their confrontation was cut short as Juzo completed his hand seals.

'Water Release: Water Bullets jutsu'

He shot several water bullets at Fujin. Fujin pulled back and flickered out of the line of attack and appeared next to his sword that was knocked out earlier. He picked it up and flickered next to his team while storing the other sword back in the storage seal on his bracer.

Fujin's squad had very grim expressions. Just taking on one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist was already an extremely difficult task. If not for Fujin, they would have retreated after just seeing Juzo. So facing two was just too much for them to think about.

Kisame didn't press on the attack immediately and checked on Juzo first instead. On seeing that his injuries weren't fatal, he chuckled and asked in a taunting tone, "Looks like the kids roughed you up pretty badly. Can you still fight?"

Juzo gathered himself and stood up. He replied annoyingly, "Stop mocking me. Of course, I can."

His tone became serious as he warned, "Don't underestimate that Spectral Swordsman brat. He is strong."

While Kisame was checking up on Juzo, Fujin instructed, "Prepare to fight. Also, be ready to retreat in case more of them appear."

Fujin's teammates were surprised. They had expected Fujin to focus on retreating. With his summons, none of them felt that retreating would be difficult.

Yugao said softly, "Captain, we need to retreat. We can't take on two Swordsmen..."

Fujin cut her off and commanded, "It's fine. Focus on the fight. When you get a chance, help me distract one of them."

Yugao had a bitter smile behind her mask. She couldn't help but recall Hiruzen's words to her before she joined Fujin's squad. She recalled his warning about Fujin's tendencies to take the missions to an extreme. Unfortunately, there wasn't anything she could do in that situation. Fujin was insistent on facing the enemies and she didn't have any time to logically argue against him.

Kisame nodded on hearing Juzo's warning. He turned his attention to Fujin and said, "The Spectral Swordsman of Konoha. Do you think that you can increase your reputation by taking on the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist?"

Fujin ignored his question and said, "Biwa Juzo and Hoshigaki Kisame... Two of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist joined Akatsuki?"

Juzo and Kisame were surprised to hear the name of their organization. Akatsuki wasn't very active around Konoha. Kisame said, "I'm surprised that someone from the mighty Konoha knows about me and the Akatsuki."

Unlike Juzo, Kisame hadn't gained much fame in the world. After all, he had joined Akatsuki immediately after getting one of the seven swords. And despite being strong, he didn't have much fame as he hadn't accomplished anything spectacular.

Fujin ignored him once again and continued, "I had heard that your group was active around the Land of Earth and the smaller countries around there. But by showing here and assisting Kirigakure, are you two also fake rogue ninjas who keep serving the Mizukage obediently?"

Or is Akatsuki secretly controlled by the Mizukage? Regardless, it is impressive. Every other village considers Kirigakure to be very weak right now. But now, everyone will need to reconsider Kirigakure's forces."

Fujin was very careful with his words. He said nothing about the Jinchurikis like Kakashi had. If he did, he didn't doubt the fact that returning to Konoha would be an incredibly difficult task.

Kisame was amused by Fujin's analysis. He had no reason to correct Fujin. However, Juzo was offended. He snorted and asked loudly, "Do you think I'll work for those scumbags?"

Fujin asked, "So why did you stop us? Why are you even fighting and risking your life?"

Juzo answered in an annoyed tone, "I already told you. I want your bounty. Just hand over your head obediently and I'll let your subordinates escape."

Both Kisame and Juzo began charging up their chakra. Though they had the advantage and had a confident expression, both were very alert towards Fujin. After all, his Vacuum attacks still posed a great danger to them. One careless moment could cost them their lives. At the same time, Zetsu spectated the fight once again. This time, Fujin couldn't detect his presence.

On seeing them charge their chakras, Yugao, Fumito and Bunjiro grabbed their weapons and took a fighting stance.

Fujin, holding his sword in his right hand, also began exerting his chakra. However, instead of attacking, he looked at Kisame and said, "Why would I want to take on the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist to enhance my reputation? A group that was claimed to have the capability of hunting a Kage but was annihilated by a mere Genin! If I was a part of your little playgroup, I would have long killed myself from shame."

Juzo's expression immediately became dark. Kisame was a bit offended as well. It was truly as Fujin said. Might Duy had dragged the name of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist through the dirt.

Even though Duy had power beyond the Kage level, he was only a Genin officially. Once the news regarding their defeat spread in Kirigakure, their reputation hit rock bottom. The seven ninjas, who were treated as the heroes in Kirigakure, became the butt of all jokes. Though none of them committed suicide, their situation was far worse than Hatake Sakumo's. It was one of the main reasons why 2 of the remaining 3 betrayed Kiri.

Of course, Fujin didn't care about that. Instead, he was one of the very few who knew about Might Duy and admired him. He had only said those words for one reason. A glint appeared in Fujin's eyes as soon as their expressions became dark. He just wanted a momentary distraction!

In an instant, 12 Wind Clones appeared around Fujin. Kisame and Juzo immediately became alert. However, that moment's delay was sufficient for Fujin. All his clones flickered and surrounded Kisame and Juzo on all sides. At the same time, all 12 blasted Infinite Breakthrough jutsu from all directions.

The process of creating 12 clones, surrounding the two Akatsuki members and blasting them with Infinite Breakthrough jutsu from all sides took merely a fraction of a second. So Juzo and Kisame barely had any time to react.

They quickly stood with their backs to each other while weaving hand signs rapidly. They completed their hand seals at the same moment and expelled a massive amount of water from their mouths. The water surrounded them on all sides and began rushing out and hit the intense winds, acting as a barrier for the two Swordsmen.

Fujin's teammates were surprised by the quick attack. Fujin didn't pay any attention to them as his entire attention was on Kisame and Juzo, who were trapped at the center while surrounded by water and intense winds. Though the situation was temporary, Fujin thought, 'This is sufficient.'

Chakra flowed through Fujin's sword once again as he took a step forward.

Juzo shouted as he controlled the water around him, "Look out for Vacuum Bullets. They are very fas..."

Suddenly, both Juzo and Kisame felt danger. Juzo looked at his body while Kisame turned his eyes towards Juzo. Juzo immediately tried to cover his own body with chakra. But it was too late. With multiple loud booms, a series of explosions went off on Juzo's body as if his body was covered in Explosive tags!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 388: The number keeps decreasing...

First, an explosion went off on Juzo's right foot. Immediately after, around a couple of dozen explosions went off on his chest, abdomen and arms! Each explosion was just slightly weaker than the explosions from an explosive tag.

Kisame, due to being very close to Juzo, was caught off guard. He was caught in some explosions. Fortunately, he was facing Juzo's back, so the explosions didn't harm him much. Only his cloak was badly damaged. He immediately moved away from Juzo and looked at him with a frown on his face. He wondered, 'What the hell? Why did so many explosions go off on Juzo's body?'

He turned his attention towards Fujin and wondered, 'Did he do it? But how could he set up Juzo?'

As Juzo was hit and Kisame was distracted, their control over the water defending them from the winds was lost. So the Wind immediately began piercing through the water.

Noticing the danger, Kisame took control of the water around them. It gathered around him forming a protective barrier. At the same time, 12 powerful jets of water were launched at the 12 Wind Clones who were still blasting them with Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. In addition, Kisame also launched water towards the winds to reduce their momentum and dull its sharpness.

Though it consumed a high amount of chakra, Kisame's quick action forced the Wind Clones to stop attacking and take evasive actions. It also dealt with the winds trapping him and Juzo. Having caught a breather, Kisame looked towards Juzo. His eyes widened and his pupils dilated as he saw Juzo's condition.

The smoke around Juzo due to the explosion had finally cleared. Despite the explosions, Juzo still stood straight! However, his condition was terrible. The skin on his right foot's sole was torn off due to the explosion. Attempting to walk on it would be worse than any physical torture.

His arms were in a similar state. The explosions were even worse here due to preexisting cuts on his arms. In some spots, the impact was so bad that all skin and muscles had been blown off and his bones were exposed to the air. However, they weren't visible due to being covered with blood.

The worst was his chest and abdomen. They were a complete mess. Despite having already seen a lot, Fujin's teammates were still affected by the gory state of his chest and abdomen. It was a shock that Juzo could still keep standing!

Kisame was shocked as well by the sudden change in the situation. So was Zetsu who was observing the fight from some distance. Only one person was unaffected by it. It was Fujin, who was observing without any emotion behind his mask. The entire situation played out exactly like he had pictured it in his mind.

Kisame's breather was short-lived. As per the plan, the Wind clones turned their attention towards Kisame and fired multiple Vacuum Bullets at him. Despite being much stronger than the clones, Kisame had no choice but to give those attacks all his attention and take evasive actions.

Fujin's teammates also understood Fujin's intentions behind his actions and words earlier and moved. All three attacked Kisame from range to keep him occupied.

With Kisame occupied, Fujin made a move. He shot a Vacuum Cannon at Juzo while moving towards him. The Vacuum Cannon easily pierced through the Water surrounding Juzo and moved towards him. At the last moment, Juzo snapped his eyes open and moved out of the way.

His resilience shocked Fujin once again. Despite such lethal injuries, Juzo moved as if he wasn't injured at all! However, it wasn't going to be enough to survive. After all, Fujin wouldn't take pity on someone who tried to kill him.

Fujin swung his sword to blow away all the water around Juzo and appeared in front of him. Juzo looked at Fujin and asked in a coarse voice, "You are a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster?"

Fujin didn't answer. However, Juzo knew he was right. But he was still confused. He wondered, 'Why couldn't I sense the explosive seals he placed on my body? Though I wasn't expecting him to be able to do this, I should have sensed it after he placed one on me and taken the required precaution.'

Fujin could easily guess what Juzo was thinking. The answer to it was the break Fujin had taken earlier. During his vacation, Fujin created Seal Imprints for the Explosive Seal. His idea was to simply put these seals on enemies when engaging them in Taijutsu or even touching them in general and blow them up after he had accumulated sufficient seals on the enemy's body.

But he faced one major issue. It was that the seal could easily be detected when a ninja circulated their chakra. So using them to surprise his enemies on the battlefield wasn't viable. Understanding the danger, any ninja would cut off that part of their skin in order to survive. Only Chunin-level and weaker or indecisive ninjas would fall prey to it. While it would still give Fujin an advantage, he wasn't satisfied with it.

In order to make it usable, Fujin's clones worked for several days in order to mix components of various stealth seals into the Explosive seal. That was why Fujin took longer to master all the seals in the Library.

After spending more than the equivalent of a year, Fujin's clones finally succeeded. The result was a seal that was very difficult to detect unless the opponent was a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu as well or had incredible sensor skills.

The only drawbacks were that the power of the explosion was reduced a bit and the seal was far more complicated. However, thanks to Seal Imprints, that wasn't an issue. Fujin immediately removed the earlier seal imprint and created new ones.

And he hadn't created just one but instead created four of them. Two on his palms and two more on his knuckles. So every time Fujin's punch landed or he used his hands to block his enemy, he could create one explosive seal on the enemy's body.

Against an opponent of Juzo's caliber, Fujin wasn't sure if his new Vacuum jutsus would have much impact on the battle. So he decided to keep them hidden and instead decided to expose his Fuinjutsu.

As luck would have it, Akatsuki wasn't aware of Fujin's capabilities in Fuinjutsu. Onoki hadn't exposed Fujin's expertise in Fuinjutsu to anyone other than Kumogakure who had paid a large price, hoping that he would be able to take out some of the ninjas, especially from Akatsuki, who tried to hunt him before going down. Onoki's little scheme succeeded on this battlefield.

Juzo didn't even consider that Fujin had put a seal on his foot right at the beginning of their fight. Instead, he was more focused towards Fujin's ability to concentrate large amounts of chakra easily.

Later, when Juzo tried to unarm Fujin, Fujin gladly accepted the exchange because he wanted to engage in a Taijutsu to fight to put more seals on Juzo's body. As a result, Fujin managed to put several seals on Juzo without him even suspecting Fujin.

Of course, Fujin had no intention of explaining this to Juzo. He moved forward. Kisame noticed it and wanted to interfere, however, the Vacuum Bullets made it extremely difficult for him to interfere directly.

He muttered to himself, 'So annoying! Having to keep an eye on 12 ninjas who are ridiculously fast and keep spamming jutsus that I can't block or afford to take is a headache. And then there is also that ninja who uses Lightning jutsus into the water I am controlling.'

He turned his gaze back to Juzo and thought, 'You will have to hang on for a few seconds, Juzo.'

Suddenly, everyone in the battle felt a massive amount of chakra emanating from Kisame. The chakra was incredibly intense and massive. It was as if a Tailed Beast had arrived on the battlefield. A massive amount of water appeared around Kisame and began flowing in all directions.

Fujin's team became nervous but kept attacking from a distance. As for Fujin and his clones, they knew that even with a large amount of chakra, Kisame still wouldn't want to get hit by the Vacuum Bullets. So they weren't concerned.

Seeing Fujin rushing towards him with a sword in his hand and sensing Kisame's massive chakra and the water he released, Juzo's hands moved to weave a hand seal.

However, his right hand suddenly stopped. Dark markings suddenly appeared on Juzo's body, paralyzing him! Shock could be seen in Juzo's eyes as he realized, 'The Self Cursing Seal? When did he put it on me? And why didn't he use it until now?'

Just like the explosive seals, Fujin had placed this seal on his body when they had engaged in a Taijutsu. Fujin had used his left palm to stop an incoming punch and had put the seal on his at that instant. Fujin didn't activate it earlier as Juzo could try and break through it with his chakra, but in his current exhausted state, he stood no chance.

Before he could get any answer, he saw Fujin's sword flash past his neck. Unable to move or resist or get any help, he was beheaded and his head was sent flying away from his body.

Juzo, one of the last two surviving members of the original Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist, died at the hands of Suzuki Fujin in the Land of Hot Water! The number of the Swordsmen from the Mist kept decreasing.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 389: Testing Kisame!

The act of beheading Juzo immediately gained everyone's attention. Despite working with him for over a year, Fujin's squad were still surprised to see Fujin kill off such a fearsome ninja so quickly. After all, though Fujin had fought with Roshi and Kitsuchi in the past, he hadn't succeeded in killing any of them.

Of course, the one who was shocked the most was Kisame. He couldn't help but exclaim, "Impossible!"

Had Juzo managed to hold on for a few seconds, Kisame would have been able to rescue him and force Fujin to retreat. However, to Kisame's disbelief, Juzo didn't last for even a short while.

Some distance away, White Zetsu said, "He is indeed scary. Poor Juzo was so helpless."

Black Zetsu agreed and added, "Yeah. He also used him as a trap to hit Kisame. Had Kisame not been careful, he would have been hit by the explosions as well. In that case, he could have tried to kill them both."

Black Zetsu's mind quickly began calculating why Juzo suffered a loss so quickly.

Despite the achievement of killing such a high-level ninja, Fujin didn't get lost in it. Instead, at the very next moment, he opened up a scroll, sealed Juzo's body and quickly moved towards his head.

However, multiple jets of water were launched at him suddenly. At the same time, water was moving towards him like a Tsunami. Fujin's team and his clones were already retreating. Fujin was about to seal Juzo's head when a water jet hit Juzo's head and pierced into his brain, destroying it from the inside.

Fujin frowned and retreated. He looked at Kisame. Annoyance could be seen in his eyes, but it was just an act. Though taking Juzo's head would seem like Konoha would get a lot of information and would benefit heavily, it was actually extremely counterproductive.

Itachi was a spy Hiruzen sent to Akatsuki. So he already had a lot of information about the Akatsuki without the Akatsuki, except Obito, knowing about it. As for Fujin, he was the person who was the most clear about what Akatsuki was, who their members were and what their goals were.

So any information that Juzo might have was borderline useless for both Fujin and Konoha. On the contrary, Akatsuki would know that Konoha had a lot of information about them. So they could be forced to make a move on Konoha and effectively change the future to a large degree.

It was something that Fujin didn't want to see. That is why he first sealed Juzo's body and used a storage scroll to seal his body instead of one of the many storage seals on his bracer to waste some time without making anyone suspicious of his actions. It warned Kisame and gave him an opportunity to destroy Juzo's head.

As they retreated, the massive amount of water kept following them like a Tsunami. Fujin said softly, "Back me up."

He immediately began building up his chakra. His clones and teammates immediately felt a massive amount of chakra from him. While his teammates would usually be very impressed, at that moment, the chakra that Fujin built up was much less than Kisame's. Regardless, everyone prepared themselves too.

'Wind Release: Infinite Breakthrough jutsu'

'Wind Release: Air Bullet jutsu'

'Fire Release: Searing Migraine jutsu'

'Lightning Release: False Darkness jutsu'

Almost at the same time, Fujin and his team launched their attacks. Fujin led with a massive Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. Bunjiro couldn't use Water jutsus while his Wind jutsus were far weaker than Fujin's. So he just shot a few Air Bullets in his attack.

Yugao shot her Fireball on one side of the Infinite Breakthrough while Fumito launched his Lightning jutsu on the other side. They were followed up by Fujin's Wind Clones who exhausted all their remaining chakra and launched Vacuum jutsus into the combination attack.

The massive combination attack combined seamlessly and hit the incoming Tsunami that Kisame had started! The intense winds put a stop to the water's momentum temporarily and even forced some of it backwards. Some sharp winds pierced into the water but couldn't travel far within it.

The fire evaporated a lot of water but wasn't very effective considering the large amount of water. Only Fumito's Lightning spears managed to enter the water and electrify it. However, Kisame created layers within the water and controlled their flow to keep the electrified water away.

The Vacuum jutsus shot by Fujin's clones pierced into the water easily and moved towards Kisame. However, due to the disturbance they caused in the water, Kisame could easily see and dodge them.

Sweat gathered behind Fujin and his team's masks. Despite the four of them attacking together, they were only evenly matched with Kisame. In fact, some water had already begun moving towards them through the intense winds!

Fujin analyzed, 'This guy is nuts! Kiri was crazy to use him merely to kill his teammates. He is already in a whole different league as compared to someone like Juzo.'

Though Fujin was already aware of how strong Kisame would be by the start of the Fourth Great Ninja War, he was interested in checking how strong he already was. His observation made him very unwilling to fight Kisame so far away from Konoha.

Fujin decided, 'It's time to retreat. But running away from him will be difficult if he doesn't intend to let us off. Even though I'm faster at escaping, the other 3 won't be able to shake him off. Sigh, I'll have to expose my summons as well.'

Fujin was about to summon Kaito when he suddenly sensed something. A look of surprise appeared behind his mask as he wondered, 'What are they doing here?'

He suddenly put over 10% of his chakra into the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. The sudden infusion of chakra into the jutsu powered it up considerably, causing it to force its way through the water Kisame was controlling.

His actions surprised Kisame and his teammates. Kisame retreated backwards while wondering, 'What is he intending? Though he forced me back, such a chakra expenditure will be very disadvantageous for him.'

Suddenly, 3 Shadow Clones, each with 10% of his maximum chakra appeared around Fujin. At the same time, a seal lit up on his bracer and 600 Explosive Tags appeared in front of him. He said, "Retreat!"

Fujin's teammates, who weren't able to understand the reason behind his actions, immediately flickered in the opposite direction along with Fujin. They finally guessed the reason behind Fujin's actions and wondered, 'Does he intend to delay Kisame long enough that we escape his detection range? But why is he still keeping his chakra field active? And why did we fight first if he wanted to withdraw?'

Unlike Fujin, his teammates weren't aware of Zetsu's existence and his abilities. Due to Zetsu, Fujin knew that escaping like usual wasn't possible. The only way to escape was by either deterring Kisame from chasing them or flying away.

Unfortunately for them, Fujin didn't bother clearing their doubts. He consumed a soldier pill and said, "We will keep running until we reach Konoha. No breaks. And at least one of us will keep chakra fields active at any given time. If any more strong enemies appear, we will avoid them."

His teammates nodded and kept moving at a fast speed.

Back on the battlefield, Fujin's Shadow Clones controlled the explosive tags and rained them down towards Kisame in waves. Kisame immediately spat out more water to douse those explosions.

As he did, he realized, 'Despite having so many tags, he is only using a few in every wave. He wants to delay me until he can get out of the range. It looks like he doesn't know about Zetsu's abilities.'

Kisame didn't mind wasting some time to defeat the Shadow Clones. He could find Fujin easily with Zetsu's aid. He blocked all the waves of the explosive tags and then rode a water wave to move closer to Fujin's clones.

Fujin's clones analyzed, 'This might be a good time to test some of Kisame's abilities. For instance, would contact with the sword immediately pop up a Shadow Clone due to its ability to suck chakra?'

One of the clones flickered and appeared on top of Kisame. Chakra concentrated on his fist as he punched Kisame. Kisame immediately raised his sword to block the punch. The chakra gathered around the clone's fist was easily absorbed by the sword.

Despite that, when the clone's punch landed on the sword, Kisame felt an intense force. Had he been weaker, he would have been forced under the water.

As soon as his fist landed on the sword, the sword began absorbing his chakra. The clone analyzed, 'Hmm, so the clone won't be dispelled in an instant. I guess it will only happen after it sucks away enough energy.'

As he was analyzing, sharp scales broke through the bandages and hit the clone's hand. Fujin's clone immediately used Iron Skin jutsu to harden his fist, however, the chakra the sword absorbed caused his jutsu to fade away instantly and created deep cuts in his arm, dispelling him.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 390: Swordsmen of the Mist Clash!

Zetsu, who was observing the fight, felt something and turned its head around. Its eyes immediately widened as it thought, 'Not good. We can't stay here.'

Kisame turned his attention towards the remaining two clones as all the bandages around his sword were torn apart by Samehada. Neither clone had made any move. He wondered, 'Why are they just observing like they want to test out my abilities? I thought that he wanted to buy some time.'

The clones received the memories of the dispelled clone and realized, 'It looks like the Senju Taijutsu style is ineffective on him. No, rather, it benefits him instead of harming him. And he also absorbs the

chakra flow from my swords. Sigh, what an annoying fighter. Apart from those annoying Mangekyou and Rinnegan users, Kisame might be the toughest opponent for me.'

Immediately, a sword appeared in each clone's hands as they prepared for another clash with Kisame. Kisame weaved hand signs rapidly.

'Water Release: Shark Bomb jutsu'

Immediately, the water around Kisame transformed into 5 sharks and moved towards the clones rapidly. Both clones just slashed their swords, generating wind slashes that destroyed the sharks. At the same time, both flickered away from Kisame as a lot of water was flooding towards them from behind the sharks.

Kisame riled up his chakra and was about to attack when he suddenly stopped and looked behind. From the ground, two Venus Flytrap-like extensions emerged before Zetsu became visible.

Immediately, the eyes of Fujin's clones began glowing as they observed Zetsu, or more specifically, Black Zetsu. One of the clones muttered aloud, "What kind of freaks do you have in this organization? What is that? A Venus Flytrap?"

Zetsu ignored Fujin and said in an urgent tone, "Kisame, you need to retreat. A large number of Kirigakure ninjas are rushing towards us."

Meanwhile, Fujin's clones observed, 'He has such a strange body. I can barely detect anything from him. I wonder if the Sharingan or the Byagukan can see more. Probably not considering how much Madara trusted him and that no Hyuga mentioned anything odd about him. I'll need someone like Orochimaru to dissect him and study him properly.'

Kisame was surprised. He looked at Fujin's clones and said, "I see. So you retreated on sensing them."

Kisame had felt Fujin's chakra field while approaching that place. So, he was aware of how large the range of his sensor ability was.

One of Fujin's clones nodded and answered, "Yes. Though I wasn't sure who it was, I guessed it was Kiri. However, I'm surprised that you want to retreat so quickly. Aren't you just an undercover Kiri ninja? I thought that you would ally with them and outnumber us."

Kisame understood that Fujin's clone was talking because he wanted to waste time and keep Kisame there until the Kiri ninjas arrived. He said, "I will remember you. Next time, you won't escape so easily."

Fujin's clone chuckled and replied, "If there is a next time, that is. Do you think that escaping will be so easy?"

Immediately, both clones flickered and peppered Kisame with Vacuum Bullets. They had only one goal, and that was to delay Kisame. Though they were just Shadow Clones, Kisame couldn't dispel them easily as they kept their distance from him and dodged all attacks. He tried escaping in other directions, but the clones would always follow him and slow him down.

Half a minute later, another figure appeared on the battlefield. He observed, 'Kisame? What is he doing here? Didn't Mitsuru say that Juzo was the one attacking him? Where are he and Juzo? And who is that masked ninja making Kisame retreat?'

Zetsu had already disappeared under the ground. So he wasn't seen by the newcomer. His appearance immediately attracted Kisame and Fujin's clones' attention. Fujin's clones thought, 'Ah, he is the one leading them. Not bad, he is quite strong. It'll be interesting to see how this goes.'

Meanwhile, Kisame had a serious face as he muttered, "Hozuki Mangetsu."

Fujin's clones immediately flickered and moved to a location such that Kisame would be between them and Mangetsu. They launched supercharged Infinite Breakthrough jutsu at Kisame, cutting his path off and forcing him to defend.

As Kisame defended, Fujin's clones observed Mangetsu. To their disappointment, Mangetsu didn't make a move to attack Kisame and instead observed the situation carefully from a distance. The clones realized, 'I see. He is unclear about what the situation is. Or perhaps he wants us to fight it out and then take advantage of our weakened state.'

They understood Mangetsu's thoughts as Fujin would have had similar thoughts had he been in Mangetsu's place. Immediately, one clone looked at Kisame and loudly declared, "You are lucky that your allies have arrived. Next time, I will kill you and take your sword!"

In an instant, both clones disappeared by using Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu and escaped in opposite directions.

Kisame was incredibly annoyed. He thought, 'What an annoying piece of shit! Kill me my ass! Had he stayed, he would have been the one to die. He just wants to force a conflict between me and Mangetsu and reap benefits without risking anything.'

Mangetsu heard his words and thought, 'So my presence forced him away? No matter. Seeing his speed, catching him would be impossible anyway. And without an unknown factor, Kisame wouldn't be able to escape me.'

Mangetsu flickered and appeared behind Kisame in the blink of an eye. Unlike Fujin, he wasn't wary of stepping into the water while fighting Kisame. He was more proficient than Kisame in fighting on water. Kisame immediately turned around and swung his blade to block the incoming strike.

A large sword hit the Samehada and immediately a series of explosions took place, forcing Kisame to retreat. Both Mangetsu and Kisame moved away from each other. Kisame looked at Mangetsu and the Shibuki sword he was holding. He said, "Mangetsu, I didn't expect to meet you here."

Mangetsu looked at Kisame and said, "I didn't expect to meet you here either. I know Fuguki was a traitor. So I won't hold you to his murder. But I want the Samehada back. Give it up and you can go."

Kisame grinned and asked, "Do you think you can take it from me?"

A massive amount of chakra was released from Kisame. The chakra was so intense that even Mangetsu was surprised for a moment. His expression changed to normal immediately as he threatened, "If you don't hand it over obediently, then I will have to take it from your corpse."

As soon as Mangetsu finished his statement, several figures appeared. In a second, they became visible. Kisame became serious as he observed, '24 Hunter ninjas...'

Though Kisame's display of his chakra surprised Mangetsu, he wasn't worried about taking him on due to the backup he had. Both sides immediately entered into an intense conflict. The two sides battled for about half an hour before the battle concluded. Unknown to any of the parties involved, a pair of eyes observed their entire battle.

Fujin's squad kept moving rapidly through the Land of Hot Water. As everyone had eaten soldier pills and frequently used the Body Flicker jutsu, they moved very quickly. They weren't too far away from the border with the Land of Fire. Suddenly, Fujin's eyes widened as he received new memories.

He realized, 'I see, so they were all Hunter nins from Kiri and were led by Mangetsu. Still, Kisame still managed to escape. And he also killed 7 Hunter nins before getting away.'

Fujin analyzed, 'That was expected though. I don't see Kisame being killed so easily. I am surprised that he had to face as much trouble as he did. Mangetsu is quite strong. And, he also has several of the seven swords. Even without the reinforcements, he would have managed to hold Kisame back for a long time.

Kisame's performance was surprisingly underwhelming against the Kiri ninjas as compared to me though. But it is probably due to our fighting styles. My Taijutsu and Sword skills were completely nullified by him. And, the large amount of water allowed him to create sufficient distance from me, giving him plenty of time to dodge or stop my Wind attacks.

By comparison, Kiri ninjas who weren't afraid of stepping into that water were able to give him a tougher fight. And since they don't use chakra flow or supercharged jutsus, they don't provide Kisame with a lot of opportunities to absorb their chakra.

Of course, the biggest factor was Mangetsu himself. He has mastered all 7 swords. So it is likely that he has raised special forces to target the Seven Ninja Swordsmen members who went rogue, kind of like what Iwa did against me.

This fight also made me realize. I completely overlooked an important aspect during my training. Now that I think about it, I was lucky that I didn't manage to kill Juzo quickly and hence got to fight Kisame. Otherwise, I wouldn't have thought of it even though it was so obvious.'