

## Calamity 401

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 401: Building a Bond

"Gale jutsu."

Naruto thrust his palm forward but nothing happened as usual. He was about to do it again when he felt a hand on his shoulder. Naruto turned around to see Fujin standing there.

Fujin said, "You look tired. That's enough training for now."

Naruto immediately replied, "I can still keep training!"

Fujin replied, "I am sure you can. But rest is equally important. While you rest, think about what you practice and analyze how you can improve."

Fujin's words confused Naruto. He wondered, 'Analyze? What should I analyze?'

However, he still nodded his head. Fujin said, "For now, go and eat something. Do you want to train in the afternoon as well? Or will you be playing with your friends?"

On hearing the question, Naruto immediately became depressed. Though he would occasionally hang out with the boys in his classroom, it would generally happen when the academy was on. During vacations, meeting up with them would be very rare.

Naruto nervously asked, "Can I train with you?"

Fujin had expected such a response, which is why he had asked it in the first place. He answered, "Sure. You can go to eat and return in an hour."

Naruto excitedly said, "Yahoo! I'll be back in no time, believe it!"

He was about to run away when Fujin said, "Wait. What are you planning to eat?"

Naruto turned around and replied proudly, "Obviously instant ramen!"

Fujin put up a curious expression and asked, "Do you eat anything else?"

Naruto showed confusion on his face as he asked, "Why would I eat anything else?"

Fujin sighed and said, "You are coming with me."

Fujin began walking. Naruto quickly followed him and asked, "Where are we going?"

Fujin replied, "To eat."

Naruto became excited and asked, "Are we going to Ichiraku?"

Fujin chuckled and answered, "Nope. No Ramen for you today."

Naruto stopped moving. A look of horror appeared on his face. He shrieked, "You can't do that to me!"

Fujin smirked and said, "Sure I can."

He raised his right hand and snapped his fingers. Immediately, the wind began flowing around Naruto. Naruto tried moving, but it was very difficult. Fujin grinned evilly and said, "If I want to, you won't even be able to eat."

Naruto was dumbstruck. The wind around him was so dense that he couldn't move his arms and legs. In addition, he felt the wind revolving around him at a very high speed. He looked at Fujin fearfully. He hadn't expected Fujin to do something like that. He understood that Fujin's threat was true.

Suddenly, the pressure around him disappeared and Fujin began laughing loudly. He said, "Hahaha! You should have seen your face! Hahaha."

Naruto immediately understood that he was pranked. His face immediately became red in embarrassment. He was the one who always pranked others and not the other way around.

He cursed, "You jerk!" and ran towards Fujin and punched towards him. Fujin easily blocked all his punches and kicks with just one arm without moving and slightly pushed him back, making him lose his balance and fall on his buttocks.

Fujin chuckled and asked, "After doing so many pranks, you never expected that someone would prank you as well?"

Naruto snorted childishly and turned his head away and said, "I just didn't see it coming. Besides, that was so uncool!"

Fujin said, "Alright, don't keep moping and follow me. Though what I did was a prank, you aren't eating Ramen today."

Naruto tried arguing, "But..."

However, Fujin cut him off and said, "Don't worry, there are a lot of delicious foods in Konoha. I'll take you there. If you don't eat any noodles today, I'll teach you some techniques to help you learn Gale jutsu faster."

Naruto asked, "Really? But..."

Naruto was in two minds. He didn't want to give up on Ramen but Fujin's offer was very tempting as well. Fujin sighed and said, "I'll treat you to Ichiraku tomorrow. So just follow me."

Naruto's eyes immediately sparkled. He jumped and said, "You are the best, Fujin!"

Fujin began walking towards one of the Sushi restaurants in Konoha. On the street, several odd looks fell on Fujin and Naruto. Naruto became a bit nervous, but since Fujin didn't react, he didn't say anything and tried to ignore them.

Fujin couldn't help but wonder, 'Facing such looks every time he steps out on the street. How bad would that be?'

He thought for a bit and concluded, 'It won't affect me at all. Why would I care about what random people think? However, this is because I am far more mature mentally. Had this happened when I was under 12 in my previous life, then I would have been affected a lot too.'

Unfortunately, there wasn't much Fujin could do in regards to those stares. The damage was long done. Hiruzen and others in charge had messed up long back. It was already too late for anyone to do anything about it. As unfair as it was, the change could only happen slowly as Naruto gained more respect due to his actions.

Fujin shook those thoughts from his mind and entered the restaurant with Naruto following him. Once again, they received very unfriendly looks. Fujin ignored them and sat on a table. He looked at Naruto and asked, "What do you want to eat?"

Naruto ignored the looks and began going through the menu. Since he hadn't ever been to that restaurant, he was confused. So Fujin asked him about his preferences and gave him some suggestions.

While the two of them were busy deciding, the rest of the restaurant wasn't very peaceful. A few customers saw Naruto, got up and left. As for others, they became much silent. The owner had a frown on his face as he saw that he was losing customers.

He looked at Fujin and thought, 'That boy comes here frequently and orders a lot. But why did he suddenly bring that demon here?'

He walked towards Fujin and Naruto with an unfriendly look on his face. He stood next to their table and asked angrily, "What are you doing in my restaurant?"

Naruto immediately had a grim expression. He had already experienced that several times and knew what was about to happen. While he had gotten used to it by now, he was afraid that it would force Fujin to go away from him.

However, to his surprise, Fujin didn't react much and just stared into the owner's eyes. He replied with a hint of amusement, "To eat, of course. Why else would someone come to your restaurant?"

Naruto had expected the owner to blow up, but to his surprise, nothing like that took place. Fujin smiled kindly and said, "I hope you give us your best hospitality. Naruto, make your order."

The restaurant owner was shaking in his boots. Though Naruto felt that Fujin's smile was kind, the restaurant owner was terrified due to the killing intent he felt when their eyes met. Fujin hadn't unleashed his killing intent entirely like he did with Root Ninja, but what little he used was enough to terrify a civilian.

He immediately nodded and said enthusiastically, "Of course. Everyone who comes to my restaurant is my valued guest. What do you like to eat? It will be on the house."

Fujin pointed towards Naruto and said, "Ask him. As for the money, don't worry, I have plenty."

The owner looked at Naruto and tried smiling as well as he could in that circumstance and asked, "What would you like to eat, young man?"

Naruto was surprised by the sudden change in the owner. He placed a rather large order for himself. Fujin ordered some Sushi as well. The owner wrote down their order and immediately left.

As soon as he exited from the dining room, his legs finally gave up. He dropped to the floor and sat down. His entire back was wet due to fear. He thought, 'Why didn't he ever say that he was a ninja? I wouldn't have dared to do something so stupid.'

Though the crimes committed by ninjas on civilians were close to nil due to the strict laws of Konoha, they still happened at times. Even if they didn't, a civilian would naturally be afraid of a ninja due to the large difference in their strength. So, the owner didn't dare to offend Fujin after realizing the threat. Even if he got justice, he didn't want to pay for it with his life.

He quickly went to the kitchen and overlooked the process of cooking to ensure that nothing went wrong with the order.

Naruto was still confused. He asked, "How did he go from angry and grumpy to kind and gentle so quickly?"

Fujin shrugged and said, "Who knows? Maybe he had a bad day or a bad customer earlier. Or perhaps he didn't get a proper sleep. Hard to say. I guess my smile reminded him to act kindly. What do you think?"

Naruto tried thinking but he couldn't find anything wrong with Fujin's words. After all, Fujin had smiled and the man suddenly started acting nice. He just nodded absentmindedly and muttered, "I guess smiling is good to calm others down."

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Chapter 402: Promotion

As they waited for the food, Fujin made some small talk with Naruto and asked him some questions about his daily life, which Naruto talked about enthusiastically.

After some time, the owner arrived with the order. Fujin looked at him and wondered, 'Is he so scared that he won't even ask his employees to serve us fearing that they might make a mistake? Oh well, whatever.'

The owner arranged the food on the table in a way that made it very pleasing aesthetically. Though nervous, he put up a smile on his face and said, "Enjoy your meal. I hope it is to your liking."

A look of surprise appeared on Naruto's face. It was the first time someone had arranged food for him this way. He enthusiastically said, "I will. Thank you, old man!"

He immediately dug in. Fujin didn't particularly care about the aesthetics but enjoyed the range of emotions the owner was experiencing. He began eating as well.

The food was obviously delicious. Naruto exclaimed, "This is delicious."

Fujin nodded and said, "Of course it is. Did you think that only noodles taste good?"

Naruto said, "I didn't know. I have never been here before."

He continued eating. Fujin thought, 'Of course, he didn't. Only one restaurant in the village accepts him enthusiastically. It's little wonder why he prefers eating ramen all the time. Though, to be fair, it does taste good and needs minimal time and effort to make at home, making it very convenient for an orphan who lives alone and has no idea on how to do so properly.'

The owner watched nervously from a distance. Seeing that both were enjoying the food, he breathed a sigh of relief. After some time, all the food on the table was cleared. Fujin asked Naruto whether he wanted more, but Naruto was full. So, Fujin asked the owner to bring the bill.

The owner offered to have the food on the house once again, but Fujin insisted on the bill. Not wanting to offend him unnecessarily, the owner brought him a bill.

Naruto looked at it curiously and was shocked. The total amount was 5460 Ryo. He asked, "So much?"

Naruto generally spent only a few hundred Ryo in Ichiraku and depended a lot on the coupons to get free or discounted ones. Fujin nodded and said, "Yup. And considering how much you ate, you have to pay 4380 Ryo."

He placed the bill in front of a shocked and tongue-tied Naruto. Naruto nervously grabbed his frog-shaped wallet and said, "I don't think Gama-chan can afford that!"

Fujin immediately laughed lightly and said, "I'm just messing with you."

Naruto looked at Fujin and pouted in annoyance. It was the second time in a very short time that he got pranked. Fujin paid the bill and they returned to the training ground.

Recalling Fujin's words, Naruto excitedly asked, "Which trick will you teach me to help me learn the Gale jutsu quickly?"

Instead of answering him, Fujin asked, "Did they teach you the Leaf Concentration exercise in the academy?"

Naruto nodded and replied, "Yes, Iruka-sensei did."

Fujin asked, "How long can you hold it?"

Naruto answered, "I am not sure. Maybe 5 minutes."

Fujin sighed internally and thought, 'Yeah, I guess so.'

Almost everyone from Fujin's class could hold it for longer after just their first year. So, Naruto's current ability was just too bad. And it had nothing to do with his large amount of chakra and instead just showed a serious lack of effort on Naruto's part.

Fujin said, "My trick is very similar. You'll sit on the ground, stick a leaf to your forehead and use chakra to ensure that it doesn't fall off your head. However, while you do that, you will also try to feel the winds flowing around you that will make that leaf fall off your head.

If you can feel the winds properly and ensure that the leaf sticks to your head for 2 hours continuously, you'll be able to learn Gale jutsu in a few days."

Naruto's eyes widened. He asked, "Only a few days?"

Fujin nodded and said, "Yes. However, keeping the leaf stuck to your head for that long won't be very easy either. You'll need to be very serious to do so. But, if do manage to do that, it will be very helpful in any Wind jutsu you learn in the future."

Naruto immediately replied, "I'll keep the leaf stuck to my head for 2 hours. Believe it!"



He immediately grabbed a leaf, sat on the ground and placed it on his head.

Fujin's words about feeling the wind were obviously bullshit. It had nothing to do with the Leaf Concentration exercise or the Gale jutsu. He just said it so that Naruto would have something to do while doing the Leaf Concentration exercise and wouldn't quit out of boredom like he did when Iruka tried to get him to do that.

Fujin looked at Naruto and thought, 'As long as I don't teach him the Shadow Clone jutsu and use it to train him, his growth shouldn't explode beyond control. I'll get him to improve his chakra control and teach him a few Wind until Graduation. I'm interested to see how Naruto would develop if he already has a few Wind jutsus under his belt before Graduating.

Anyway, Naruto will be here for a while. I have already spent a lot of my time with him. This is enough rest for me.'

Fujin created a Shadow Clone and went back to his home. He dismissed the clones in his basement, created new ones and continued working on the Flying Thunder God Seal.

A couple of hours later, the Shadow Clone watching over Naruto suddenly became alert and turned his eyes in a direction. A few seconds later, an Anbu ninja stealthily flickered behind him. He muttered a few words in his ears and left. Naruto, who was still training, didn't notice the Anbu arriving and leaving.

Fujin's clone wondered, 'Hiruzen wants to see me? That's strange. I expected Danzo to make a move. However, he hasn't done anything yet while Hiruzen called for me.'

He created a Shadow Clone with the least amount of chakra and dispelled it. Immediately the memory was sent to Fujin and the clones in the basement. Fujin wondered the same but couldn't say for sure. He grabbed the report he had written and left towards the Hokage Building while his clones continued working.

A few minutes later, he appeared inside Hiruzen's office and asked, "Did something happen?"

At the same time, he handed over the report and said, "This is the mission report for my previous mission."

Hiruzen accepted the scroll and handed him another scroll. He said, "The reason for calling you is related to this mission. Due to your recent achievements, I have decided to officially promote you to the Elite Jounin rank."

Fujin's eyes widened for a moment. He asked, "Officially? Isn't that too soon?"

Though Fujin's strength had long reached that rank, Konoha would rarely grant it to ninjas who were still very young. In fact, Kakashi was promoted to that rank just slightly more than a year ago while Guy had been promoted only a couple of months ago and both were nearly a decade older than Fujin. So, Fujin wasn't expecting this promotion.

Hiruzen replied, "No. I don't promote ninjas officially to this rank to avoid them being targeted too much by our enemies. But, you have already been attacked several times and have proven yourself to be strong enough to ensure your safety and inflict heavy losses on the enemy. So no need to worry."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright. Thanks for the promotion."

Fujin didn't particularly care much about the promotion. It didn't grant him a lot of benefits other than increasing his reputation. And, it didn't have much disadvantage either as his bounty was already very shocking.

Fujin asked, "Is that all?"

Hiruzen nodded. Fujin said, "Alright. I'll see you later, Grandpa."

He turned around and was about to walk out when Hiruzen said, "I almost forgot."

Fujin stopped and turned around. Hiruzen said, "I recently saw you with Naruto. What is your opinion of him?"

Fujin looked at Hiruzen and wondered, 'He should have been told about this yesterday or this morning. Don't tell me that he promoted me just to get a good excuse to call me here without seeming overbearing...'

Of course, he didn't show his thoughts on his face and said, "He is definitely interesting. The amount of chakra he has is enviable. Unfortunately, he hasn't trained properly. His ability to manipulate and control his chakra is extremely bad."

A frown appeared on his face as he asked, "Did the Academy teachers ignore him? Or has the Academy become very lenient lately? There is no way he'd be this bad if he had someone like Genki-sensei looking over him."

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Chapter 403: Hiruzen's Knowledge, Danzo's Opportunity

Hiruzen was surprised by the question. He thought, 'I never imagined that Fujin would be interested in the affairs of the Academy. Now that I think about it, he was very methodological and disciplined in his training.'

He answered, "It is the second case. Our number of ninjas has recovered from the several losses we took. So, there is no need to push the Academy students to graduate earlier or train too hard. Let them enjoy their childhood and maintain their innocence for a bit longer."

Fujin wasn't surprised by the answer. He had expected that such a thing would happen. After all, it was very difficult to maintain the same level of discipline when people lived peacefully and without any grave threat.

However, he was still curious about Hiruzen's thinking. From his point of view, Hiruzen should have pushed for students to be properly trained instead of taking it easy. He asked, "Is that so? I can understand not allowing early graduation, but why is the training lenient as well? Won't it be beneficial if they are trained properly so that they will be able to fight well on graduating?"

Hiruzen shook his head and said, "Your analysis isn't incorrect but you are missing a few critical aspects. Maintaining the same intensity for a long time is difficult. If I sustain it forcefully, then the village will slowly feel the exhaustion and when the time for battle comes, they won't be able to give it their all.

It's like how you felt the exhaustion of continuously doing missions and wanting to take a rest. The same also happens with other ninjas and also the Academy teachers. Once they see their teachers, parents and other elders exhausted all the time, the exhaustion will also brush off on the students and negatively impact their growth."

Fujin was surprised by Hiruzen's words. He hadn't considered that aspect. He thought, 'Now that I think about it, Konoha has been tense ever since Minato's death. When conditions seemed to have improved, the Uchiha clan was massacred and Konoha lost 2 young rank S ninjas and a lot of Jounins and Elite Jounins. Now that the village can relax again, it's no surprise that everyone is relaxing until hell breaks loose again.'

Fujin was snapped out of his thoughts as Hiruzen added with a smile, "Besides, the methodological way of training isn't always good for raising the next generation."

Fujin was confused. He asked, "What do you mean?"

Though Fujin had his thoughts on the matter, he wasn't arrogant enough to think that he knew better than Hiruzen at how to train ninjas. After all, Hiruzen had trained 3 ninjas who were strong enough to become a Kage. And, two of them weren't even part of any clans or had any good background. Not to mention, he had looked over Konoha's academy for decades.

Hiruzen answered, "Training students methodologically is a good way of ensuring that most of them become Chunins and some of them become Special Jounins or Jounins. But it is very rare for an Elite Jounin or a rank S ninja to come from this method of training.

For instance, from your batch, you are the only one to have reached this level. No one else has even been officially promoted to the Jounin rank, though Hoka and Teru have reached that level of strength. The rest from your Elite classroom have become Chunins. As for the other classes, most are still Genins. They will need another 3 to 5 years to become Chunins.

If I compare other batches that graduate a few years before you, they are even worse when it comes to the number of Jounins despite having a similar number of Chunins."

Fujin thought for a few seconds and said, "I see. But I don't see how not following a methodological way would help someone to become stronger."

Hiruzen shook his head and said, "It's difficult to explain. As you grow older and experience more, you might understand."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright."

He was about to leave when Hiruzen said, "I am surprised that you are so interested in this matter. Do you want to be involved in the academy or perhaps become a Jounin sensei?"

Fujin shook his head and said, "Not in the near future. I was just curious about it due to meeting Naruto. Besides, I am too young to be a Jounin sensei."

Fujin had too many things planned. He couldn't assign any time to guiding more kids. Hiruzen nodded disappointedly and thought, 'He just started his vacation. I'll have a discussion with him before the next batch graduates.'

Fujin said, "I'll see you later, Grandpa. Thanks for the promotion again."

Fujin turned around and left. Hiruzen smiled and thought, 'Perhaps, getting him into the council would bring more benefits to Konoha than I assumed.'

He went back to his work while Fujin went back to his basement and continued working on the Flying Thunder God Seal until noon.

At noon, Fujin asked Naruto to stop training and took him out to lunch. Their experience was quite similar to the Sushi restaurant. Naruto couldn't help but marvel as he thought, 'Wow! Fujin is so good. Just a smile from him turns all their angry faces into a smile and they treat me so well.'

Fujin could read Naruto's thoughts from his expressions easily. He couldn't help but wonder what Naruto's reaction would have been had he known what was actually happening.

After lunch, the two returned to the training ground. Fujin grabbed a leaf and said, "This is the next trick to help you. Observe carefully."

Naruto observed the leaf in Fujin's hand with full seriousness. Suddenly, it was cut into two without Fujin taking any action. Fujin explained, "This is the training to improve your ability to manipulate the Wind chakra. Once you can do it, it will help you in learning other Wind jutsus. So this, along with keeping the leaf stuck to your forehead for two hours, are two things you'll need to complete if you want to learn all my four jutsus quickly."

Naruto nodded and said, "Alright, it's just cutting the leaf. I'll get it done in no time, believe it!"

He immediately began trying it. Fujin thought, 'It's good to see that he is still upbeat despite failing in everything I have asked of him so far. Oh well, these should keep him busy for a few days until his patience runs out.'

Fujin left a Shadow Clone to watch over Naruto and answer his doubts if he had any. While the two of them trained, the news of Fujin's promotion reached the Clan Leaders in Konoha. Since they already knew about his bounty and title, they weren't surprised. However, they wondered why Fujin was no longer in Anbu.

Under Konoha, in a dark hidden room, Danzo sat with two scrolls in front of him. Both were open. He stared at them but wasn't reading and instead was analyzing them. He thought, 'Hiruzen promoted Fujin to Elite Jounin. On the surface, this doesn't look odd. He promoted Hatake Kakashi and Might Guy not too long back. Soon, he will promote his younger son as well. These new promotions signal to our enemies that Konoha's next generation is ready.'

However, Fujin's promotion is different. It means that he is no longer a part of Anbu. But...'

Danzo wondered, 'Why would Hiruzen let go of such a good piece? No, that isn't his nature. It's too early for him to allow the boy to retire. Most likely, Fujin quit himself. As for the reason...'

Danzo's eyes moved towards the second scroll as he thought, 'My Root spies in the Land of Water sent an intelligence report. Hozuki Mangetsu led numerous Hunter Ninjas into the land of Waterfall. He returned with the Kubikiribochō and the news that Biwa Juzo was dead.'

However, they didn't claim that Mangetsu killed him. That means someone else killed Juzo. In addition, several dozen Kiri ninjas died.

Fujin's Anbu squad didn't go to the Land of Waterfall and instead went somewhere else. Most likely, he took that mission to the Land of Hot Water. However, instead of just facing Kirigakure, he also had to face an Akatsuki member.'

Danzo analyzed it for some time. A glint appeared in his eye as he sensed an opportunity. He thought, 'In his previous mission, he was ambushed by Iwagakure and put in a difficult spot. This time, he had to fight Juzo, someone who shouldn't have been there. Did he get upset at how bad Hiruzen's intelligence reports are?

If he did and is upset with Hiruzen, then it makes sense for him to quit Anbu in frustration and disappointment over Hiruzen. In that case, this is the right time to recruit him into Root. But I need to prepare first.'

Danzo sensed an opportunity. An opportunity that he wasn't willing to let go of. Fujin was unaware of Danzo's misunderstanding, but he was expecting him and waiting for him either way.

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Chapter 404: Come inside if you dare!

Naruto spent the entire afternoon and a better part of the evening getting frustrated. But since Fujin was the first and the only person who had helped him train so far, he didn't complain.

Understanding that Naruto had enough training for one day, Fujin's clone brought him to his house. As they arrived in front of Fujin's house, Naruto's eyes widened as he took a proper look at Fujin's home. He said, "Your house is damn cool, Fujin!"

Fujin's clone nodded and said, "Thanks. Come on in."

Fujin sensed his clone and Naruto entering his house. He stealthily swapped places with his clone. Naruto was too busy looking at Fujin's house to notice the swapping. He asked, "What will we do now?"

Fujin said, "Though we didn't eat noodles today, eating outside all the time isn't cheap and you'll run out of money in a few days. So I'll give you a few simple cooking tips that I used to use during the academy days."

Naruto immediately complained, "That's boring!"

Fujin chuckled and replied, "Just a little. Besides, it is a lot more fun when you can make something to eat other than just instant ramen."

He added, "Of course, it's not always possible to have the time. That's why fruits and ration bars exist."

As soon as Naruto heard 'ration bar' he made a disgusting face. It earned him another light knock on his head. Naruto held his head as Fujin said, "Once you go out of the village for a mission, you might not have any choice but to eat just ration bars and soldier pills. If you can't even do that, then you should give up your dream of becoming the Hokage."

Naruto was shocked. His mind was in a mess. He couldn't keep up with Fujin's words. He wondered aggrievedly, 'How did he go from there to giving up on my dream?'

He pointed at Fujin and argued loudly, "Hey, how are those two even connected?"

Fujin chuckled and said in a teasing tone, "Imagine yourself hiding behind enemy lines and you get hungry. Now, will you light a fire to heat water so that your enemies can see that fire?"

Naruto's mouth opened wide. Despite how unrealistic it sounded, Fujin's words made total sense. Fujin continued, "Even if they somehow didn't spot the fire, won't the smell of your delicious instant ramen spread throughout the entire area like you said it does?"

Naruto recalled praising ramen non-stop in front of Fujin earlier. His shoulders dropped in defeat as he couldn't think of any good points to argue against Fujin.

Seeing his hilarious reactions, Fujin decided to push him a bit more. He chuckled again and said, "Maybe instead of becoming a Hokage, you should become a cook."



Naruto looked at Fujin with a confused look. Once again, he couldn't follow Fujin's logic. Fujin continued, "After your enemies find and kill you, they will enjoy the instant ramen you cook. So, it wouldn't be wrong to call you a cook."

He immediately burst out laughing. Naruto annoyingly said, "Stop mocking me. Hmph, I'll eat ration bars to become the Hokage. Believe it!"

Fujin smirked and thought, 'So easy. I can't believe that Iruka couldn't do such a simple thing. No, what's more unbelievable is that Hiruzen didn't take advantage of Naruto's gullibility. Considering how much he invested in me and tried to manipulate me, he should have taken Naruto as his personal student and trained the shit out of him. The only explanation I can think of is that he doesn't think Naruto can reach the rank S without resorting to Kurama. If he knew about his potential, Hiruzen would have probably adopted Naruto regardless of any political pushback.'

Seeing Fujin smiling, Naruto pouted and said, "But, even if I want to, I can't follow what you said. The groceries are too expensive and I haven't been given any ration bars for a long time."

Fujin raised an eyebrow and asked, "How much money does Lord Hokage give you every month?"

Naruto answered, "He gives me full one thousand Ryo!"

Fujin's eyes twitched. He muttered to himself, 'The son of Minato, the Fourth Hokage, and the godson of Jiraiya, a Sannin, lives on merely 1000 Ryo per month?'

Though Fujin had received the same amount, he had understood that it was very difficult to survive on it alone if he didn't eat the ration bars that were provided for free by the Academy. Even then, he had resorted to Fuinjutsu to earn some money to buy tools and weapons.

Fujin thought, 'Since Naruto didn't eat the ration bars, cheap instant ramen was probably all he could afford anyway. Though Hiruzen wants to avoid any suspicions, Naruto's secret is out in the open anyway. Nearly every adult in the village hates him. And, there is no way that there isn't a single spy in the village who doesn't know why that is. Does he still need to be so stingy?'

I suppose Iruka or perhaps even Hiruzen would bring him groceries for free if he asked. But which kid would ask for groceries? Even more so when he has little to no idea about cooking?'

Fujin sighed internally and thought, 'I was a bit too lenient towards the ending days. Maybe I should rejoin the Anbu and use up those Wind Crystals for good.'

He said, "Don't worry. I'll stock some extra groceries and fruits. Just come pick up whenever you want to. Just don't try to enter if there is a sign on the door saying that I'm not home. As for the ration bars, just ask your sensei for them. He should provide them to you for free, but if he doesn't, let me know."

Naruto nodded and thanked Fujin. He spent the evening at Fujin's home until they were done with dinner. When it was time to leave, Naruto asked, "Can I come to train with you tomorrow as well?"

Fujin shook his head. His soldier pill would run out of effect around midnight. So he won't be getting up until late the next day. He said, "No, I have some work to do tomorrow. So I won't be able to look over you. Just train by yourself and visit me at 5 in the morning the day after tomorrow."

Naruto excitedly said, "Alright!"

He left Fujin's house. Fujin closed his door and sighed tiredly. He muttered, "It's been such a long time since I had to interact with someone for an entire day without talking about or doing any official matters. Hmm, now that I think about it, I have never done that in this world. Any casual meetups I had were generally for just a few hours and never for an entire day."

Trying to become social after being alone for years is a pain in the ass. Oh well, at least Naruto isn't as troublesome as I thought he would be and is even less social than me due to his messed-up situation. And luckily, his reactions are fun enough to keep me entertained."

Fujin continued working on the seal until the effect of the pill ran out and went to bed.

The next day, Fujin woke up after noon and freshened up. He had just grabbed a bite to eat when his doorbell rang. Fujin wondered, 'Who was planning to meet me today?'

He tried sensing the person outside the door but his chakra didn't feel familiar. Fujin muttered, "That's weird."

He went up to his door and opened it. What he saw momentarily shocked him, but his expression didn't change. Outside his door was an old man holding a cane in his left hand to support himself and looking straight into Fujin's eyes. His forehead and right eye were covered in bandages, while his robe concealed his right arm, which was covered in bandages as well.

Very few from Konoha's younger generation would recognize that man. However, Fujin knew too much about him. A part of his consciousness immediately focused on his chakra network, looking out for any external interference. Yet, his expression didn't show any alertness.

Instead, he smiled and said politely, "Elder Danzo. I didn't expect you to visit my house. Come in."

He opened the door wide to welcome him in. However, would Danzo step into Fujin's house? The answer was a clear no. He didn't dare to take a step inside Fujin's house! What he had sensed a few minutes ago had shocked him and made him very alert against Fujin! He no longer thought that the task of recruiting him would be an easy one!

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Chapter 405: Chaoter 402: Fujin Vs Danzo

A few minutes ago, Danzo had completed all of his preparation. He was ready to approach and talk to Fujin for the first time and manipulate Fujin into joining the Root. Next to him were several Root ninjas who had helped him gather the information he needed about Fujin and his activities to allow Danzo to create the optimal strategy to recruit Fujin.

Torune asked, "Lord Danzo, should we accompany you?"

Danzo replied, "No. Hide yourself in the vicinity such that he can't sense you, but don't step anywhere near the seals. I'll meet him alone."

Everyone nodded. Torune led a few Root ninjas and they hid around Fujin's house but stayed far enough to avoid any seals and hid their chakra signatures.

A few minutes later, Danzo flickered to Fujin's house and stepped in front of his house. He was planning to walk normally and knock on his door, however, his feet stopped moving as he sensed something extremely absurd!

He looked at Fujin's house in disbelief and shock while thinking, 'What the hell? It feels like there are hundreds... no thousands of seals inscribed on his house.'

He focused chakra in his left eye to observe Fujin's house properly. The sight stupefied him! He wondered, 'Which maniac put seals on his house? Without using my Sharingan, I won't be able to even count exactly how many seals are inscribed on those walls. There should be at least over three thousand Seals.

And I can feel that several of these seals are stealth seals. But, since his house isn't hidden, those should be used to hide more seals. So the real number of seals could very well be much higher than three thousand.

Even someone like me will likely need days to find every seal and I still won't be sure of success. Even my Root headquarters doesn't have so many seals. Besides...'

Danzo's eyes focused on one spot on Fujin's house as he wondered, 'Why is there a Four Symbols Seal on his house? Is a Tailed Beast sealed inside? And why would Hiruzen put so many seals on his house? I need to reevaluate Fujin and Hiruzen's relationship.'

Danzo kept standing in front of Fujin's house while analyzing for a couple of minutes, confusing the Root ninjas. The only one who had a clear understanding was Hiruzen, who was sneakily watching from his crystal ball.

He observed Danzo's reaction and a peculiar expression appeared on his face. He wondered, 'Did this boy put every seal he ever learnt on his house? Still, this should be interesting.'

Hiruzen kept observing silently. Danzo concluded, 'No, this isn't Hiruzen's style. None of the Grandmasters in Konoha will do something like this. There is only one explanation. Hiruzen didn't make someone put seals on his house. This boy is a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu as well.

Unbelievable, Hiruzen kept something like this hidden from me? Fighting Roshi, slaughtering numerous Iwa Jounins, killing Juzo and this level in Fuinjutsu... Once a war happens, he will easily be able to compete for the Hokage seat.'

Danzo's mood became very gloomy. The stronger Fujin was, the lower the chance of recruiting him. In addition, despite his extensive research, Danzo realized that he didn't have enough information about Fujin.

Unfortunately, he didn't have the time to wait. Despite the surprise, this was still the best time to talk with Fujin. He walked forward and rang the doorbell.

However, knowing how many seals Fujin's house had, Danzo didn't take a step through the door and kept standing outside. Though he was sure that he wouldn't be in any danger in Konoha, the vast number of unknown seals made him feel very uneasy.

So, when Fujin invited him in, Danzo said, "It's fine. We can talk here."

Fujin didn't insist on it and asked with a smile, "Okay. I wonder why an Elder is visiting me."

Danzo didn't reply immediately and observed Fujin properly. The start of the conversation wasn't how he wanted. Fujin seemed to hold the initiative instead of him. Danzo asked, "Suzuki Fujin, what are your opinions about the Anbu?"

Danzo had initially planned to butter Fujin up at the start and then try to recruit him. However, since he didn't hold the initiative, he decided to change his tactics.

Fujin wasn't too surprised by the question. Since Danzo approached him openly, he understood that Danzo didn't come in to attack him. If he wanted, he wouldn't meet him at a place where Fujin was the safest and he wouldn't appear alone. Of course, he still kept his guard up against any attempts of Genjutsu.

Instead of answering, Fujin showed a confused expression and asked, "What do you mean?"

Danzo replied, "I want to know what you think about the Anbu organization, the role it plays for the village, whether you think it should exist or not, and any other thoughts you might have on it."

Fujin thought, 'Indeed, it looks like this visit is for recruiting me. Does he think I'll be as easy to influence as Kakashi? After all, I don't have the mental baggage that Kakashi does.'

Fujin raised an eyebrow and said, "I wasn't aware that the Elders in the village are responsible for taking exit interviews and doing surveys. Did Grandpa send you?"

The only way for Danzo to recruit a capable ninja would be by creating a wedge between that ninja and Hiruzen. The wedge can be created with real reasons or by the stuff he made up to manipulate that ninja. However, by calling Hiruzen Grandpa, Fujin crushed most of Danzo's hopes.

Danzo didn't show any emotion on his face and replied, "We don't and Lord Hokage didn't send me. Suzuki Fujin, I'm interested in your answer."

Danzo's calmness and immunity to all hidden taunts surprised Fujin. However, seeing how different and scheming Hiruzen was, Fujin wasn't too surprised.

He sighed and said, "That's a rather complicated thing to answer on the spot. In my opinion, the Anbu is what absorbs the darkness in the ninja world and allows the village to enjoy the light. Of course, it won't be able to do that successfully all the time. Otherwise, the Great Ninja Wars would not have happened. As for its necessity..."

A smile appeared on Fujin's face as he continued, "I am sure that you Elders know the answer the best."

Danzo nodded and said, "Good answer. You are right. It is because of the work we do in the dark that our village can enjoy peace. However, there are still things that Anbu won't do. Or rather, it can't due to several issues such as manpower or secrecy.

For that purpose, I created the Root. We ensure that everything that is needed to be done for the village gets done. We are the roots that ensure that Konoha can stand strong."

Fujin asked, "Wasn't Root disbanded around 3 years ago?"

Danzo didn't answer Fujin directly and instead said, "The village will always need us. The Root will never be disbanded in its entirety. And, the members who were disbanded still have the same capability."

Fujin said, "I understand. But why are you telling this to me?"

Danzo said, "Suzuki Fujin, you might not know this, but I have kept an eye on you ever since you were young due to your talent. I wanted to invite you into the Root, but the Hokage didn't allow me. Seeing your current state, my expectations about you were correct."

The purpose of my visit is to invite you to the Root. With your capability, the best way you can serve the village is by joining Root. Every mission in the Root is completed with anonymity. So your identity will never be leaked. In addition, no one will be able to track your movements either. There won't be any incompetence in Root. And, you won't need to hold back while dealing with our enemies."

Fujin was surprised. He analyzed, 'I see. He is taking advantage of what Iwa managed to do and driving a wedge between me and Hiruzen while trying to fan and exploit any Will of Fire in me. Hmm, not bad. As expected from Danzo. No wonder so many talented folks stay loyal to Root. Unfortunately, he's trying it on the wrong guy.'

Fujin shook his head directly and said, "I'm afraid you have the wrong information. I'm tired of fighting in the darkness. I have no intention of joining Root or rejoining Anbu."

Danzo was surprised once again. This time, it was for a completely different reason. He thought, 'Strange. Not only did I miscalculate his abilities, but I also miscalculated his nature. He quit because he is tired of the darkness?'

Danzo felt a sense of disappointment. It was disappointment in failing to recruit Fujin, but rather a disappointment that Fujin couldn't adapt to the darkness. At the same time, he had nothing to say to Fujin to convince him to join Root. Fujin's excuse eliminated almost every reason he could use to convince him.

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## Chapter 406: Readiness to kill Danzo!

However, that reason alone would not cause Danzo to back off. He had led the Root for decades. The amount of schemes he created and the number of ninjas he manipulated during that time far exceeded anyone's imagination. Even Hiruzen, the person who was the most clear about what Danzo did, wasn't entirely aware of all of his operations.

Danzo said, "Our village is right in between four major villages and numerous minor ones. We constantly face crises. Even a moment's carelessness could lead our village into a life-and-death situation. And yet, despite having such amazing talent, you don't want to serve the village the best you can?"

Danzo's tone had changed. It was no longer neutral and instead sounded disappointed with a hint of anger. It sounded like he was offended due to Fujin's lack of passion to serve the village. Though the emotions he displayed weren't his real emotions, even Fujin couldn't see through them.

Fujin thought, 'Wow! He is good. I had thought Hiruzen would be the best actor in Konoha. I was wrong. If I didn't know what kind of scum he is, Danzo could have fooled me with his fake passion.'

To Danzo's surprise, a smile appeared on Fujin's face. He said, "While the duties of Anbu are important, those aren't everything. I can serve the village in numerous ways, Elder Danzo. After all..."

Fujin's smile disappeared and he looked straight into Danzo's left eye. His voice changed from a pleasant respectful tone to a completely neutral one as he added, "If I couldn't, I doubt you'd even be here looking for me and standing outside instead of entering my home."

The smile reappeared on Fujin's face. He continued, "So, you don't need to worry about my passion, Elder Danzo. What I do will benefit the village a lot more than staying in the Anbu and getting consumed by the darkness."

Though Danzo didn't have any change of expression, his mood became very bad. He thought, 'This boy... Those words and the threat he gave a couple of days ago. He knows more about the Root than what someone like him should know. Did Hiruzen warn him about me?'

Not to mention, though he is behaving respectfully and politely, he has his guard up. If I were to make any move, he would probably counterattack in the blink of an eye.'



Though Fujin's actions didn't give any signs, as an experienced fighter, Danzo could easily feel that Fujin was completely on guard. Indeed, Fujin was prepared. In fact, Danzo had underestimated Fujin's preparation. After all, he couldn't have known that Fujin would be completely aware of his abilities.

Fujin looked at Danzo and thought, 'There are four ways he can attack me. The first is Wind Vacuum jutsus. But, they are too slow and easy to see. I can counterattack faster.

The second is Juinjutsu. If he acts kind and tries to touch me, then that's what he would be doing. So, if his hand extends towards me, he will be losing it. Even if he somehow surprises me, I have several means of dealing with them.

The third is the Genjutsu of Shisui's eye, the one that he cast on Mifune. It is difficult to sense and can give him a complete advantage in a sneak attack. However, it is easy to break. And, since I'm on full guard, it will be difficult for him to cast it on me. Especially because my chakra flow is already in a state of disruption. Any external interference will easily be detected.

The fourth is if he removes those bandages and uses the Sharingan on me directly. If he succeeds, I will be defeated. However, he will have to remove those bandages first. That's enough time for me to attack at such a close range.'

The moment Danzo showed any signs of making any of the four above moves, Fujin would attack. And his attack wouldn't be to force Danzo back. Instead, it would be to kill him in one shot.

Though killing a ninja of Danzo's capabilities wasn't easy and Danzo was probably stronger than Fujin at that point, the circumstances were special. Fujin's plan was to sneak attack Danzo while Danzo was sneak attacking him and wouldn't expect Fujin to counterattack so quickly and viciously. The chances of pulling that off successfully were very high.

Though killing Danzo could cause some troubles, with his current power, Fujin wasn't afraid of any political backlash that would arise. Just by exposing the Sharingans and the first Hokage's cells, he could easily turn the entire Konoha against Danzo. After all, who would defend a dead guy?

Though it could destroy his relationship with Hiruzen, Fujin had already gotten almost everything he wanted from Hiruzen. So he didn't care much. Besides, Hiruzen wouldn't want Konoha to lose another

young talent. Even if he failed to convince everyone and Konoha decided to hunt him, Fujin could just leave Konoha, go to Mount Muteki and train in seclusion until it was time to implement his plans.

Unfortunately or fortunately, all the plans Fujin made would be a waste. Having realized Fujin's guard, Danzo dropped any plans of attacking Fujin. He thought, 'A fight here wouldn't be good for me. Though I can't sense him, I'm sure Hiruzen is keeping an eye on me. Not to mention, I don't have the exact information of his skills and abilities or the seals on this house. Regardless, I need to keep an eye on this boy. He isn't as simple as I thought.'

Though the two thought a lot, in reality, not a lot of time had passed as both were thinking very quickly. After half a minute of silence, Danzo said, "Alright. I will keep an eye on you, Suzuki Fujin. I hope that you don't waste your talent and serve the village the best you can."

Danzo turned around and began walking without waiting for Fujin's response. Suddenly, he stopped and looked back at Fujin and said, "Uzumaki Naruto is a very important member of the village. He holds a power that can reduce the village to rubble within minutes. Keep your distance from him."

One of the main reasons why Danzo didn't try to attack was the fact that Fujin was a rank S ninja. So he wasn't sure of his victory. As such, he didn't want Fujin to take control of Konoha's only Jinchuriki and increase his influence more.

However, Fujin chuckled and replied, "Sorry, no can do."

A frown appeared on Danzo's face. Fujin had done nothing that he had asked for so far. Danzo said, "Though I admire your talent, don't forget that I am an Elder of Konoha. Acting against my orders won't be good for you."

Since he couldn't recruit Fujin, Danzo no longer maintained the image of a just leader. He threatened Fujin directly. Unfortunately for him, Fujin didn't intend to back off. He replied, "The Elders have no authority to command a ninja in Konoha. If you have an issue with me, feel free to raise it with Grandpa. I'll follow his order."

Danzo's frown deepened. He didn't expect Fujin to keep rebuking him. Fujin continued, "Besides, a Jinchuriki who is isolated and hated by all and has no proper training is a disaster waiting to happen."

I wonder what Elder Danzo thinks would happen if Konoha's only Jinchuriki hates the village and doesn't have any strength to resist the beast inside of him."

Fujin's words left Danzo without a good reply for the second time. After all, Danzo completely agreed with Fujin's analysis. He had the same thoughts about Naruto as well. It's just that he wanted Naruto in Root and not with someone else.

With Jiraiya and Tsunade not in the village and Hiruzen busy with the Hokage duties and unwilling to confront Danzo too much, he could ensure that no clan managed to get Naruto. His Root subordinates scared away any civilian ninjas who took pity on Naruto, just like the one who tried scaring Fujin.

However, now that Konoha had a new rank S ninja who took an interest in Naruto and had no intentions of following Danzo's instructions or worrying about his threats, Danzo immediately felt difficulty in ensuring that Naruto stayed away from any faction.

Knowing that Fujin would argue against whatever he said, Danzo turned around and continued walking while saying, "I will talk with Hiruzen."

Fujin watched Danzo leave. He wondered, 'Would Danzo be able to convince Hiruzen to make me leave Naruto alone? Difficult, but Hiruzen does have a soft spot for Danzo. Regardless, even if Danzo managed to convince Hiruzen, how can Hiruzen convince me?

I have already promised Naruto to train him and overlook his training. If Hiruzen wants me to not do that, he will be forcing me to break my promise. The promise of a rank S ninja. How can anyone trust what I say in the future?

Granted that any promise made by a cunning ninja has no real value, Hiruzen can't say that to my face. I'll just ask him for twenty thousand Elemental crystals of each element as compensation if he wants me to break my promise.

Let me see if he still dares to ask me to break my word. Even if that greedy fox pays that price, I'll just keep the crystals and say that I felt pity for Naruto and keep training him. What can he do when I'm morally correct?'

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### Chapter 408: Hiruzen's Headache

Fujin stopped thinking about Danzo and shut his door. From the meeting, he understood that Danzo wouldn't take any direct actions against him. As for the indirect actions, he wasn't much worried. On the contrary, he was looking forward to it.

Irrespective of Danzo's morals, it was undeniable that he was at the top of the ninja world when it came to scheming and hiding in the dark. Fujin hoped to gain some experience by engaging in such tactics against someone like Danzo.

Even if Fujin suffered any losses, he wouldn't be too concerned considering that Danzo's influence was already waning while his influence would keep increasing as he kept getting stronger and started involving himself in Konoha's internal politics.

Not to mention, Fujin didn't particularly care much about his influence in Konoha. As long as he stayed strong, any loss of influence or reputation was inconsequential. So, even a complete defeat won't actually cause him any loss and would just improve his political skills.

After Danzo left, the Root ninjas hiding around Fujin's house left as quietly as they arrived. Only Hiruzen kept looking at the crystal ball with a thoughtful expression on his face.

After a few minutes, he thought, 'The exchange was quite different from what I guessed. Fujin faced numerous deadly opponents in his last two missions. To think that Danzo would take advantage of that and exploit any wedge between us.

Fortunately, Fujin hadn't blamed me for any of those and I just gave him the Flying Thunder God jutsu without creating any trouble. So, our relationship was very good. Otherwise, Danzo could have temporarily poached Fujin just like he poached Kakashi. That would have been rather annoying to deal with.

Though I am sure that Fujin won't act against me, it would have been hard to say what he would have done due to Danzo's manipulation and his devious schemes. Thankfully, I don't have to worry about that. Still...'

Hiruzen looked at Fujin's house and analyzed, 'Fujin gave me another surprise. Though he looked casual, it was obvious that he was prepared to fight. Though doubtful, I suspect that he was prepared to even kill Danzo. And, for some reason, I feel that Danzo would have been the one getting beaten badly despite having those eyes.'

Did Fujin have any previous contact with Root or Danzo? Or rather, does he have any enmity with them?'

Hiruzen went through his memories but couldn't recall any instance that would make Fujin despise Root or Danzo. He shook his head and thought, 'Leave it. Fujin being on guard against Danzo is a good thing. I could use him to suppress Danzo further. Still, this boy's habit of causing trouble for me hasn't changed. This time I can't even toss it to Shikaku.'

Hiruzen looked towards the door and wondered, 'Since when did he become so obedient that he would do everything I tell him? If that were the case, would I allow him to quit Anbu? Yet, he claimed he would listen to my commands and sent this trouble over to me.'

A couple of seconds later, Danzo arrived in Hiruzen's office. The two stayed alone in the Hokage's office while Danzo did his best to convince Hiruzen to instruct Fujin to stay away from Naruto.

Half an hour later, a fuming Danzo left Hiruzen's office. He had an ugly expression on his face as he thought, 'No matter what I said, Hiruzen didn't budge an inch! I was right. Getting a new rank S ninja who is loyal to him has given him a lot more liberty and allows him to make a few political maneuvers.'

And with Hiruzen taking Fujin's side, the other clans won't support me if I try to use them to pressure Hiruzen. After all, Fujin doesn't have any faction of his own. Him looking after Naruto won't harm their interests and they might see it positively instead. They could also use this chance to improve their relationship with him.'

Danzo didn't see any way of keeping Fujin away from Naruto. He returned back to Root headquarters while thinking about what his next move should be.

In his office, Hiruzen had a tired expression on his face. Unlike the earlier times when he faked tiredness to gain Fujin's sympathy, this time, he really was tired. He thought, 'I'm too old for shit. That brat...

purposefully sending Danzo to me... As if I can stop him from doing something without any good reason. Even if I somehow could, I'm sure that greedy boy would ask for something very ridiculous!'

Hiruzen knew that he wouldn't be able to convince Fujin. So he couldn't agree to Danzo's idea. As such, their argument had become very heated and pointless.

He sighed and decided, 'I'll let it go this time. I doubt they would act openly against each other. I'll just turn a blind eye to whatever they do in the dark. Let them fight it out and leave this old man out.'

Fujin spent his day taking a well-deserved break. From the next day onwards, he sent a clone to guide Naruto. At the same time, he practiced his Wind Domain while some of his clones kept working on Flying Thunder God Seal.

Around a week later, Fujin decided to approach Guy once again. The two hadn't sparred for almost a week and a half.

Fujin arrived at noon at the training ground where Guy usually practiced at. As he expected, Guy's team was with him and was lying on the ground, completely exhausted.

Fujin flickered next to Guy and asked, "Since when did you start arranging sleepovers? And that too in a training ground and at noon. No wonder there are only three kids here."

Guy laughed at Fujin's taunt while a tick mark appeared on the foreheads of his three students. Unfortunately, all three were too exhausted to argue or even wonder who had arrived. Guy said excitedly, "Fujin, meet my students."

He pointed at the lying kids one by one and said, "He is Neji. She is Tenten. And this one, who looks like me, is Lee. Get up you three. How long are you going to lie down?"

Neji, Tenten and Lee reluctantly got up but still stayed sitting on the ground. Guy pointed at Fujin and said, "He is Suzuki Fujin, my sparring partner who I told you about."

The genins were surprised to see someone whom Guy had spoken about. Even more so, they were surprised at how young Fujin was.

Fujin looked at them and smiled. He said in a gentle voice, "To get a sensei like Guy, you three are very lucky. I just hope you have the will and determination to endure through his training to enjoy the fruits of your hard work."

Lee immediately said enthusiastically, "Of course we do!"

Meanwhile, Neji and Tenten looked at Fujin suspiciously and wondered, 'Why does it feel like he is taking pleasure out of our misery?'

Guy clearly saw it as well, though he didn't mind it. He asked, "So, why did you come to meet me, Fujin?"

Fujin replied, "It's been a while since we sparred. Wanna have a go?"

Guy grinned and replied, "Sure."

He looked at his students and said, "No afternoon training session today. Instead, you will observe our spar and learn from it."

The mood of the three Genins immediately brightened up. Suddenly, they looked at Fujin as if he was their savior. Fujin and Guy immediately moved to the center of the training ground while the genins kept sitting where they were.

Lee observed Fujin and Guy taking stances and exclaimed, "This is so exciting! To see Guy-sensei in a fight so quickly!"

Tenten nodded. However, Neji's eyes were on Fujin. He said, "Pay attention to that guy as well. I heard from some of my clan members that someone named Fujin was recently promoted to Elite Jounin at the age of just 15. It should be him."

Neji's words surprised Tenten and Lee. They looked at Fujin more carefully. Guy said, "Let's begin!"

The eyes of the three Genins, who were watching carefully, suddenly widened. In front of their eyes, both Fujin and Guy disappeared! A moment later, the sound of two fists clashing was heard. And in a few seconds, hundreds of such clashes occurred. None of the three could see even the shadow of Fujin and Guy!

Neji immediately activated his Byakugan. However, despite his Byakugan, he could still not see Guy and Fujin and just saw the trails of their chakra that were left behind. He was astounded. It was the first instance of his Byakugan not seeing something clearly.

Unlike Lee and Tenten, Neji had been upset about receiving Guy as his sensei until he learnt that Guy was an Elite Jounin. However, he hadn't seen him do much and was skeptical about it. Now that he saw Guy in action, Neji had no words.

He thought, 'Incredible! So this is an Elite Jounin? I can't see them move despite my Byakugan. Also, why does it feel like two mountains are clashing with each other instead of fists and feet?'

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Chapter 409: Respect & Awe

While the three genins observed with shocked expressions, Fujin dodged Guy's kick and Guy's heel slammed on the ground, creating a large crack on its surface. A lot of stones were sent flying in every direction from the crack. A few of them barely missed the three Genins. A look of horror appeared on their faces as they felt a few stones moving past them like bullets.

All three immediately got up, ran backwards and jumped on trees. Lee muttered, "So scary! We nearly got hit!"

Tenten said, "I thought we were a goner. I didn't know that just watching a fight could be so dangerous."

As for Neji, he didn't say anything and kept observing. Despite only being able to follow their trails, he didn't want to miss a single second of this battle. Only Fujin thought differently.



He observed the trajectory of the stones and wondered, 'That's weird. For every stone to miss those 3. Did he control his kick such that the stones that would fly off from its impact would avoid them?'

Fujin's speculation was very wild. To do something like that was very difficult. Perhaps only a Sharingan could allow any ninja to make the necessary calculations and even then it would be extremely difficult.

However, Fujin didn't think it was too odd. He dodged the incoming attacks and counterattacked while analyzing, 'Though calculating it will be impossible, developing those instincts with practice might be doable. Once my Wind Domain is properly developed, I'll be able to change the direction of stones flying in my domain with ease.

And Guy has focused a lot more on Taijutsu than I have on Wind manipulation. So it wouldn't be impossible for him to do so. Still...'

Though Fujin had focused a lot on Wind jutsus, he had also worked on his other skills. His Taijutsu was extremely good, his Genjutsu was better than most Jounins and Special Jounins who focused on Genjutsu, he was a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu and his Sword skills were phenomenal as well.

By comparison, Guy devoted almost all of his time to Taijutsu. Though he had raised his other skills to acceptable levels, he never focused much on them. In addition, he had been a ninja a lot longer than Fujin. So the amount of time he spent on his Taijutsu was several times the amount of time Fujin spent on Wind jutsus even if his clones were considered.

Fujin sighed internally and thought, 'His Taijutsu is just ridiculous. Heck, he is even mocking me by giving lessons to his students while fighting me. If they keep sitting like a fool while two Elite Jounins or stronger ninjas are fighting, they'll end up dead even if they aren't targeted.'

Fujin and Guy kept fighting while the three Genins tried to see them. After 5 minutes, Tenten asked in a dejected tone, "How can we learn if we can't even see them? Neji, do you see anything?"

Neji answered without looking at her, "No. But they won't be able to maintain such a high-intensity battle for long. So we will be able to observe them soon."

Lee and Tenten nodded. Neji's reasoning was reasonable. Unfortunately, the two ninjas sparing in front of them were anything but reasonable. Not only did their speeds and intensity not decrease, but instead they increased!

For the next 3 hours, the Genins only hopelessly tried to follow the sounds made by fists and feet colliding. Apart from a few rare instances when Fujin or Guy stopped and stood at the same spot, the Genins didn't even manage to see them. In addition, they had to move away several times during these 3 hours.

Finally, Fujin and Guy stopped. Both were breathing roughly and were covered in dust, but neither had any injuries. Guy gave Fujin a thumbs up and said, "Your Taijutsu is improving rapidly. Your punches and kicks are no longer as slow as they were when we first fought."

Fujin nodded and said, "It's thanks to you. Senju Taijutsu style needs a fraction of a second longer due to having to concentrate chakra on my fists or legs. Though the Strong Fist style lacks in power slightly, it doesn't have that weakness."

Guy laughed and replied, "You can't have it all, Fujin."

Fujin chuckled as well. Though the Strong Fist style wasn't as destructive as the Senju Taijutsu style, Fujin could easily switch between the two styles and use what he wanted. So, his Taijutsu hadn't gotten weaker in any sense.

If he wanted speed, he could stick to the Strong Fist style. If he wanted power, then he could concentrate his chakra like in the Senju Taijutsu style while using the Strong Fist style. And even without the extra boost, the Strong Fist style still hit hard.

Fujin asked, "Will you be taking missions for your new team?"

Guy answered, "Not for the next couple of months. So you can find me to spar if you want to."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright. I'll see you later. I have a feeling that I'll be needing a lot more sparring to improve further."

Guy nodded. Fujin glanced at the three genins once again and disappeared from the training ground.

As soon as he left, the three Genins moved towards Guy. However, when they saw Guy this time, respect and awe could be seen in their eyes. Though Lee already worshipped Guy, Tenten and Neji were a bit sceptical until they saw the fight.

Lee thought, 'I knew Guy was strong but I didn't know humans could move at that speed. Will I be able to do that one day too?'

Unlike during the Chunin exam before Suna and Oto's invasion, Lee was still very weak and could barely be considered a Genin. So he didn't have the same confidence and excitement as he would have in the future.

Tenten thought, 'I never expected Guy sensei to be so strong. Hehehe, I lucked out. That Fujin guy was right when he said we were lucky. Sadly the training though...'

Neji clenched his fists and thought, 'I knew that he was an Elite Jounin, but are all Elite Jounins as strong as these two? If Hiashi is also as strong as them, then I need to train a lot harder to reach their level.'

Neji suddenly felt a lot of pressure. While he was regarded as a genius in the Hyuga clan, he understood that he would need to train hard for a long time to reach the level of Guy and Fujin.

Guy noticed the expressions on the faces of his students and was pleased. He thought, 'Good timing Fujin. This will make my job much easier.'

He asked enthusiastically, "Are you ready to begin the evening training?"

Lee shouted, "Yes, Guy-sensei!"

The other two nodded as well.

Guy shouted enthusiastically, "Good! We will run a thousand rounds around this training ground on our hands!"

He immediately stood on his hands and began running. The three genins followed him enthusiastically as well. Unfortunately, their enthusiasm wouldn't last for too long.

Fujin appeared in his home and began planning, 'Hmm... This spar was good. A couple of months of intense physical training along with regular spars with Guy should complete the process of infusing chakra through my entire body.

Once that is done, I'll ask Guy whether he can teach me the Eight Inner Gates technique! If he agrees, then it'll add another fearsome trump card to my arsenal. And, unlike the Flying Thunder God and Senjutsu, I'm sure that I'll easily learn how to unlock the first few gates.

While I train my body, I'll also work on the Flying Thunder God seal and the Wind Domain simultaneously. The wind domain doesn't have much scope to give me quick results. I guess I'll need another year for it to become a viable technique to use against enemy rank S.

Fortunately, my progress in the Flying Thunder God seal is much faster. At my current speed, I'll be able to learn it around 5-6 weeks if I start using Hiruzen's special soldier pills again. Then I can focus on the second step of the Flying Thunder God.

Unfortunately, this won't allow me any time to learn the Rasenshuriken or work on the Eight Trigram Divination Seal.'

Fujin sat silently and began analyzing whether it would be right to not focus on those two techniques for the time being. After a few minutes, he decided, 'It's fine. Though Rasenshuriken is very powerful, Vacuum and Wind jutsus get the job done for now. Only if I encounter someone like the Fourth Raikage, Orochimaru or Kakazu will I need it. I don't need that jutsu while I keep hiding in the village.

As for the Eight Trigram Divination Seal, I won't need it until I decide or have to face Tailed Beasts. The next encounter I could have with a tailed beast will probably be Shukaku, which still has some time. So there is no hurry here either. I will have my clones work on this seal after the Flying Thunder God Seal is mastered.'

Having made his decision, Fujin ate the special soldier pills that he had taken from Hiruzen and restarted a similar training regime that he followed for 3 months continuously earlier. The only change was that he would leave one clone to watch over Fujin.

Fujin decided to focus on nothing but his training until he reached his short-term goals. Unfortunately, he would manage to do so for only a week before he got dragged into an unexpected mess.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 410: Chaoter 406: Konoha's Internal Political Structure

Around a week after Fujin restarted his high-intensity training, numerous important people in Konoha received a notice from Hiruzen.

Inoichi read the notice and wondered, 'The Quarterly Council meeting won't happen for another couple of months. Why did Lord Hokage call for a council meeting all of a sudden?'

The same thought ran through the minds of all but one of the remaining clan leaders, elders and civilian council members.

A couple of hours later, everyone from the Konoha council arrived in the council room and took their seats. Quite a few of them were surprised to see that even Danzo was present for the meeting.

The council room had 15 people. They included the 7 Clan Leaders, that is, Hyuga Hiashi, Nara Shikaku, Yamanaka Inoichi, Akimichi Chōza, Aburame Shibi, Inuzuka Tsume and the Senju clan leader. In addition, there were the three elders, Shimura Danzo, Mitokado Homura and Utatane Koharu. Finally, there were 5 civilians who looked after the policies for normal civilians in Konoha and helped the Hokage in issues such as Finance, Trade and other non-ninja matters.

A couple of minutes after everyone arrived, Hiruzen stepped into the room and took his seat.

Homura asked, "Why did you call for a council meeting suddenly? Did something unexpected happen?"

Though Konoha was currently enjoying peace, the situation in the ninja world was very volatile. Especially in the Land of Water, where two factions were engaged in a civil war. Since nothing strange had happened in Konoha, that was their best guess.

However, Hiruzen shook his head and said, "Nothing important took place recently. Well, other than a new ninja being appointed as one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist by the Mizukage faction. Anyway, this meeting isn't for that purpose. I have summoned you all here to discuss expanding the council."

Hiruzen's words surprised everyone. Homura asked, "What do you mean?"

Hiruzen said, "When the village was formed, all the ninjas in the village belonged to clans. However, ever since the First Great Ninja War, we began training civilians to become ninjas.

The three great wars inflicted heavy damage to our clans, to the extent that some of the clans are no longer considered clans and have lost their seat in the council. On the other hand, the number of civilian ninjas is continuously increasing. After this year of graduates, their number has exceeded 50% of the total forces. In the future, it will continue increasing."

Hearing Hiruzen's words, everyone went quiet. The Clan Leaders knew about the state of their clans. The Great Wars were like a grinding machine that killed their promising ninjas. So, despite the long peacetime, their numbers were a far cry as compared to their peaks.

Hiruzen continued, "Due to the circumstances, I propose adding a seat in the council to represent Civilian ninjas, or rather, ninjas who aren't part of any clans."

Most of the Clan Leaders sighed internally.

Hiashi thought, 'So it's finally time to do this...'

Tsume thought, 'Creating seats for civilian ninjas will cut into our authority.'

Shibi thought, 'Unfortunately, even though our authority will get reduced, this step is inevitable.'

Inoichi thought, 'Though right now there isn't much demand for this, with time, many will start demanding this. They might even demand more seats to represent their large population.'

Choza thought, 'Besides, even at the top level, the civilian ninjas have been dominating. At the end of the 3rd Great Ninja War, almost half of our rank S ninjas were from a civilian background. Considering that Lord Hokage and Danzo had retired, that number rose to 60%. Even right now, of the three most promising upcoming ninjas, two have civilian backgrounds and one is from a clan that no longer has a seat on the council.'

As Inoichi had thought, one of the civilians on the council asked, "Lord Hokage, since their population is so high, why don't we create more seats to represent them?"

Hiruzen immediately answered, "Let us start with one and understand what complications happen. If it is beneficial for the village, then an expansion can be considered in the future."

The council member nodded and didn't say anything else. Koharu frowned and said, "There are many problems with your proposal. The biggest one is about how a clan functions. In a clan, the clan leader thinks about the welfare of all his clan members.

However, the same won't work with civilians. They only look after their family and some friends. So despite having more than 50% ninjas, anyone sitting in this seat will only represent a minuscule fraction of the ninjas."

Koharu's points were valid. She immediately got support from some of the clan leaders who put forth similar points in front of Hiruzen. For them, this represented a barricade. Once this barricade was breached, in the future, their power in the council would keep diminishing.

On the other hand, the civilian council members saw it as an opportunity to expand their influence in the village and gain more opportunities for them. Though they were apprehensive about opposing the strong clan leaders, with Hiruzen's support and encouragement, they defended Hiruzen's idea and kept listing the benefits of such a move.

The entire group kept debating for over 2 hours until they had nothing more to add. Hiruzen said, "Since the opinion is split, we will have a vote to decide this. Everyone will have 2 minutes to make a decision."

As soon as it was announced, everyone exchanged glances. Shikaku looked at Inoichi and Choza and nodded. At the same time, Hiruzen glanced at the 5 civilians before glancing at Shibi, Tsume, Hiashi and the Senju clan leader, hoping that they would support him as well. Meanwhile, Danzo looked at one of the 5 Civilians. The Civilian council member became nervous on noticing Danzo glaring at him.

Finally, Hiruzen asked, "All those in favor, raise your hands."

Immediately, Shikaku, Inoichi, Choza and 4 of the 5 Civilians raised their hands.

Hiruzen looked at the civilian who didn't raise his hand and was displeased. He wondered, 'He isn't under any influence. Since when did Danzo dig his claws into him? Sigh, I will need to make a move here. And later on, I will have to replace this guy as well.'

Since there were only 7 votes in favor as opposed to the 8 he wanted, Hiruzen raised his own arm to support his proposal.

A frown appeared on Danzo's and the remaining two Elder's faces. However, they quickly realized, 'With the Nara, Yamanaka and Akimichi clans supporting them, the result would be obvious. Hiruzen must have already convinced Shukaku.'

Hiruzen nodded and said, "All those who are against, raise your hands."

Danzo, Koharu, Homura, Hiashi, Tsuma and 1 Civilian council member raised their arms.

Hiruzen nodded and announced, "8 in favor, 6 against it and 2 abstained. From now on, there will be a new seat on the council to represent ninjas not a part of any clans."

Hiruzen thought, 'It's good that those two abstained. Though even if they hadn't, the vote would have only been a tie. I could have still pushed it through by using my second vote. Unfortunately, that would have damaged my relationship with the clan leaders.'



Luckily for Hiruzen, he didn't have to face that. Since the results were clear, no one argued. The Senju Clan leader asked, "What about the clans who have lost their seat at the table due to the losses they took? The White Fang's son is a genius just like him."

Hiruzen answered, "The Hatake clan was badly hit in the previous war. So was the Kurama clan. I gave them 5 years to increase the number of their ninjas to beyond 100, but both failed. Once they hit the minimum requirement, they will be reinstated into the council. Hopefully their clans not being in the council will spur them to raise their youngsters more passionately."

As for the Uchiha clan, Sasuke is still too young and the remaining kids are still in the academy. So, they have no ninja among our ranks currently. Considering the tragedy they faced, they might require a couple of generations to reach the minimum number. But considering their case, Sasuke will get a seat on the council once he gets promoted to Jounin.

The clan leaders nodded satisfactorily. As long as a new war didn't happen, the Hatake clan and the Kurama clans could regain their seats. Sasuke just needed time as well. Considering his father and brother, everyone believed that he would need less than 6 years to reach the Jounin rank after graduating. So the number of seats held by Clan ninjas would increase further.

And, if a new war did start, then a seat on the council would be the least of their worries.

Finally, for the first time since the meeting started, Danzo opened his mouth. And the question he asked was what everyone was thinking about. He asked, "Who do you have in mind for this seat?"

Everyone's eyes immediately turned towards Hiruzen. Since he had put forth this proposal, it was obvious that he would have someone in his mind.