

Calamity 41

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 41: Importance of Rank C Jutsus

The next day again began with the brutal morning workout. At 10 am, Renjiro asked, "So what have you guys decided to learn?" Mieko, wanting to talk first, quickly said, "Sensei, I've decided to learn Fire Release : Four jutsu, Flame Sphere jutsu, Fireproof jutsu, Earth Military Movement jutsu and Hiding like a Mole jutsu."

Renjiro nodded and asked, "Why?" Mieko said, "I already know Fire Release : Three jutsu, so Fire Release : Four is the next step. It'll also be a very strong option in close combat. Earth Military Movement jutsu and Hiding like a mole jutsu are to evade an enemy attack and once I'm underground, it'll be a strong defense too. And if I have jumped and can't reach the ground, then I'll use Flame Sphere jutsu to defend. And Fireproof jutsu would help me become immune to Fire Release jutsus."

On hearing her reason, Fujin thought, 'Hehe, she memorized the whole thing! Still Hiding like a Mole jutsu. I should learn that one. I hope that jutsu has some way to breathe underground. Though I did develop a few ways to ensure cracks in the surface to allow some flow of air underground, it is not very reliable.'

Renjiro too noticed the memorized answer and sighed internally, 'They still assisted her in the decision. Though this plan should be good enough.' He then said, "That should be good enough. However, you will train to be able to perform Fire Release : Four jutsu without any hand signs." Mieko was confused, "Without any hand signs? How and why?" Renjiro replied, "Do you think that your enemies will wait for you to perform your hand signs when you are in a close combat? As to how, don't worry. I'll teach you." Mieko was very intrigued by it and nodded excitedly.

He then looked over to Fujin. Fujin said, "I've decided to learn Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu, Wind Gale Wolf jutsu Wind Dragon jutsu, Faithful Wind Blade jutsu and Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu." This surprised Renjiro a bit. He thought, 'That's surprising. He wants to learn 5 rank C wind release jutsu? I did have plans to suggest a couple of jutsus in case he chose only 1 or 2. I suppose this will be good too. I'll just teach those to him sometime later.' Though Renjiro hid it soon, Fujin did notice him getting surprised. He sighed internally, 'I would have preferred to train in them in secret, but he barely allows me any free time to do that. So if I only mentioned one or two, then there's a chance that I might be stuck with only those for some time.'

Renjiro then nodded and asked, "Why?" Fujin replied, "Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu will help me defend from frontal assaults and even counterattack. Gale Wolf and Wind Dragon jutsu will allow me to attack from a distance and control the battlefield. And I could attack from both land and the sky with them. Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu is an escape jutsu. As for Faithful Wind Blade, I think that it'll complement Samurai Saber Techniques well, so I plan to start with it."

Renjiro thought, 'Very good, considering that he didn't have anyone to guide him. 2 jutsus very long range, 1 defensive, 1 close range and 1 escape jutsus and he already has 2 usable mid-range jutsus.' He then commented, "Good thinking. But, later on, you'll also have to learn your second element. Wind is good for offense, but not very good for defense. Also, don't learn Faithful Wind Blade jutsu right now. While it will complement Samurai Saber Techniques, but that's only after you've mastered it. Right now it'll become an obstacle instead. Start with Wind Dragon jutsu."

Fujin nodded and asked, "Why should Wind Dragon jutsu be learnt first? Wouldn't it be easier to learn Wind Gale Wolf jutsu first and then learn Wind Dragon jutsu?" Renjiro was impressed with the question. He answered, "I have some plans for your Wind Dragon jutsu. So don't worry about it. As for the learning order, once you learn Wind Dragon jutsu, it'll be much easier to learn Wind Gale Wolf jutsu." Fujin nodded while thinking, 'Yeah, but that doesn't make learning Wind Dragon jutsu any easier!'

Renjiro then looked at Hoka. Hoka said, "I've decided to learn Body Flicker jutsu, Stone Shuriken jutsu, Rock Thorn Bed jutsu, Rock Thorn launch jutsu and Water shuriken jutsu." Both Fujin and Mieko noticed the sorrowful tone of Hoka. Renjiro thought, 'I know you don't like Ninjutsu, but is there a need to look at me like I owe you a million Ryo?' He ignored that and thought about the jutsus, 'Just like us, the Hyugas focus on earth and water elements too. The Gentle Fist style has both the sturdiness of Earth and the flexibility of Water. So even if they don't have those affinities, they are still trained in those elements. Luckily for him, he does have the Earth affinity. Still, he chose only one rank C jutsu. All others are rank D. I guess I need to take it slow with this kid.'

Renjiro asked once again, "Why?" Hoka replied the answer that his father had made him memorize, "Body Flicker is to increase my speed. My Gentle Fist style is restricted by range. So I can use Body Flicker to force the enemy into close combat. And if an enemy stays barely outside my range, then I can engage him with Stone Shuriken jutsu. If the fight is on water, then I can engage him with Water Shuriken jutsu. Rock Thorn Bed jutsu is to stop the enemies from running away and Rock Thorn Launch jutsu is in case the enemy jumps to avoid the rock thorns." Renjiro nodded and thought, 'The usual Hyuga tactic of using Rock Thorn Bed jutsu for the reverse purpose. Though I'll have to make him learn more rank C Earth and Water Release jutsus.'

Renjiro then looked at all 3 of his students and said, "I'll now explain to you why I made you go through this exercise. But first, tell me, which rank jutsu would you guys like to use?"

Mieko replied immediately, "I'd like to learn and use Rank S jutsu." She then looked at Renjiro with hopeful eyes. Renjiro chuckled internally and looked at the other 2 kids. Fujin was in thought, and Hoka appeared tense. Hoka, while sweating, said, "Ra.. Rank D ju... jutsus are enough for me!" Mieko glared at Hoka for saying that. Renjiro then looked at Fujin and asked, "Fujin?" Fujin looked at his sensei and said, "I'd like to use rank A or S jutsus too. But I'm not sure of how much chakra they would need. If just using 1 rank S jutsu completely drains my chakra, then it's kinda pointless, isn't it?"

Renjiro smiled on hearing that answer, 'Perfect. This kid's analytical ability is very good.' Renjiro said, "You are right. This exercise is for you guys to find the jutsus most suited for you. No matter what rank ninja you become in the future, the jutsus you'll use the most are rank C jutsus. The reason is that the jutsus that are rank B and above drain a lot of chakra and affect your ability to fight for long." He waited a few moments for the genins to understand. He continued, "So, in the future, how good of a ninja you become will depend on how good you are at using the rank C jutsus you have." He then looked at Mieko and said, "It isn't about the number of rank C jutsus you know, but about how good you are at using them."

He then looked at Fujin and said, "Fujin, use your Great Breakthrough jutsu on those trees." Fujin nodded, made the hand signs, and released his Great Breakthrough jutsu. The jutsu created a lot of winds, causing the branches to shake wildly and a lot of leaves and twigs to fall down. The winds left deep cuts in most trees. After a minute, the winds died down. Fujin thought, 'Alright, that's about 25% of my full power with this jutsu.'

Renjiro said, "Good, now watch this." Renjiro then made 1 hand sign, and then used Great Breakthrough jutsu himself. The power behind his jutsu was easily over ten times of what Fujin had done. The winds went through a few trees. 3 trees were uprooted. And even though the jutsu wasn't directed at them, Fujin, Hoka and Mieko all felt those winds and had to hold on to the ground. Hoka and Mieko were very shocked by what they saw. Whereas Fujin had only one thought, 'Isn't this illegal deforestation? Someone call the cops and the media! Old man, Hashirama is no longer alive to just create more trees out of thin air.'

Mieko asked enthusiastically, "But how? Why is your jutsu so much stronger than Fujin's?" Renjiro replied, "Because I have mastered this jutsu to a greater degree than Fujin." Fujin rebuked internally, 'Incorrect old man, you still had to use 1 hand sign. You just charged the jutsu with way more chakra than I did or can. Though I guess you were more efficient in chakra use.' Renjiro continued, "And this wasn't my full power. Nor have I completely mastered this jutsu. Had it been lord Hokage, then he could have leveled this whole forest with just this jutsu." Mieko, Fujin and Hoka were very surprised and excited at that information. Or at least the other 2 were. Fujin sighed internally thinking, 'Hiruzen is a lot scarier here than in Naruto. I really wonder if Orochimaru will really be able to kill him or not.'

Satisfied with his students' reactions, Renjiro said, "So this is why, you need to focus on learning and mastering the proper rank C jutsus. In the future, these jutsus are what you'll be using the most. Of course, it doesn't mean that you should not learn higher rank jutsus. The additional power they provide is very useful. However, if you don't have a good set of Rank C jutsus mastered, then you won't ever be able to become truly strong." Mieko and Fujin nodded, but Hoka still looked a bit reluctant. Renjiro looked at Hoka and said, "Hoka, no matter how good you become at Taijutsu. You'll never become a strong ninja without mastering a few good Rank C jutsus."

Hoka looked down and softly murmured, "Even without Ninjutsu I can still become a very strong ninja." Renjiro sighed and said, "Alright, we will have one spar between Fujin and you right now." Mieko pouted as she wasn't involved in the spar. Renjiro made Hoka and Fujin take their positions. While they were heading towards their position, Renjiro secretly whispered to Fujin.

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Chapter 42: Fujin Vs Hoka

Hoka and Fujin were facing each other and were 10 metres apart. Renjiro announced, "You can use everything you know in this spar. Ninjutsu, Genjutsu, Taijutsu and Kenjutsu are all allowed. But don't hurt each other fatally." Both kids nodded.

Renjiro announced, "Fight!" As soon as he said that, Hoka activated his Byakugan and rushed forward as fast as he could to engage Fujin in close combat. However, Fujin just flickered away. On gaining sufficient distance, he prepared one Wind Explosion jutsu in each hand.

On seeing that, Hoka stopped and quickly started using hand signs for Rock Shield jutsu. Fujin recognized the hand signs and threw one wind sphere on Hoka. That put a lot of pressure on Hoka, but he managed to create the rock shield in time. The wind sphere hit the rock shield and exploded, creating a lot of winds. Seeing that his jutsu worked, Hoka sighed in relief, and put his guard down for a moment.

That turned out to be a mistake, as Hoka's Byakugan saw a wind sphere heading towards him from the left. He tried to jump away quickly, but the wind sphere exploded near him. The explosion created more winds, which hit Hoka while he was in the air. The winds threw him off course, causing him to fall badly. Hoka quickly got on his feet, only to see one more wind sphere headed straight towards him. This time, he didn't jump and instead tried running away. However, more and more Wind spheres kept heading towards him. For the next 15 seconds, Hoka just kept dodging. The winds created by the explosion had created small scratches all over his body, and his clothes were in a very bad shape.

Finally Hoka adjusted himself, and began dodging the wind spheres properly. He used his Byakugan to see the wind spheres as soon as they were launched, and dodged in the right directions. Fujin thought, 'Excellent. The rate at which I'm creating the wind spheres is just one fifth of what I'm truly capable of, while their power is one third of their max power. Still he's struggling so badly. Oh well, time to end this farce I guess.'

Fujin halved the number of wind spheres he was throwing. This allowed Hoka to close the distance between him and Fujin. He thought, 'Finally! He slowed down. Time to finish him with my Gentle Fist.' When the distance between the two was just 10 metres, Fujin began moving backwards. Hoka thought, 'It'll be annoying if he creates the distance again' and increased his speed.

However, Fujin quickly made a few hand signs. Seeing Fujin making hand signs, Hoka tried to increase his speed further, however, he quickly realised and panicked. He quickly tried making hand signs for Rock Shield jutsu, but it was too late. Fujin, who was merely a few metres ahead of him, blew strong winds straight at him. The resultant winds blew Hoka back with force. Renjiro, who was planning to jump in, noticed, 'I see. Fujin put a very low amount of chakra in the jutsu. And it seems like he also made it very mild. Had he used as much force as he displayed earlier, that jutsu could have maimed Hoka.'

The winds blew Hoka around 50 metres back. Though Fujin tried to limit its power, Hoka still got dragged along the ground, causing him a lot of scratches which bled. After the winds subsided, Fujin picked up a small pebble nearby and threw it at Hoka. As Fujin had expected, Hoka still got up and wanted to fight more. He noticed the pebble heading towards him and stepped aside. He was about to rush towards Fujin again, however, the pebble suddenly took a hard turn and headed straight at him. Hoka couldn't react and the pebble hit him straight on his chest.

It didn't cause any damage to Hoka, but Renjiro announced, "That's enough. Winner is Fujin." On hearing that, Hoka dropped to his knees dejectedly. Though he didn't want to admit it, he knew that if Fujin had used a shuriken instead of a pebble, he'd have been injured very badly. This loss hit him hard. Fujin expected it, and so did Renjiro. During the 4 years of his academy, Hoka had never lost a fight to any of his classmates. In his 2nd graduation exam, he even beat his seniors. However, this time he was defeated, and he never even had a chance.

Looking at Hoka's crestfallen expression, Renjiro sighed, 'While I expected this result, I didn't think it'd be so bad. He didn't even have a chance.' He then looked at Fujin and thought, 'This kid though. Even though I asked him to maintain distance while fighting, I didn't expect him to do this well. He controlled the flow of the whole battle, and had Hoka moving exactly how he wanted. He even threw a sphere on Hoka's defense on purpose, just to get his guard down. There's a lot more to this kid than we thought. Hehe, it makes me very interested in his future. Perhaps in the next great war, he might be an important figure.'

He then looked at Hoka and said, "So, do you understand now why Ninjutsu is important?" Hoka looked up at his sensei. Renjiro continued, "Your opponent used 2 rank D and 1 rank C jutsu. 1 was a movement jutsu and the other 2 were mid range jutsu. While you only used 1 defensive rank E jutsu. You specialize in Taijutsu, but you didn't even get a chance to engage your enemy in Taijutsu." Hoka nodded sadly.

Renjiro then put up a kind smile and said reassuringly, "I know that you like Taijutsu a lot. And I support your enthusiasm for it. But you need to know Ninjutsu too in order to be able to use your Taijutsu effectively. There hasn't been any ninja who has become strong by only focusing on Taijutsu and neglecting everything else."

While he was saying that, he secretly thought, 'Though there was one ninja who could challenge what I said. Might Duy, he killed 4 Swordsman of the Mist and forced the remaining 3 to run away. Just like Minato was credited for our victory against Iwa, Duy can be credited for our victory over Kiri. They never dared to ever fight us again after that incident. Though, I would still stand by what I said to Hoka. Despite Duy being as strong as he was, he still struggled at completing normal missions. Not knowing any good Genjutsu or Ninjutsu and just depending on Taijutsu is a bad idea. His son, despite preferring Taijutsu and mostly using it, does know a decent amount of Ninjutsu. But if his Taijutsu keeps advancing at the same rate, he might make what I said invalid.'

Hoka nodded his head and said with determination, "Yes sensei. I will work hard on my Ninjutsu too." Renjiro kept his kind smile, and sighed in relief internally, 'Finally, I got another kid on the right track! I have to admit. The old man's tactics in handling kids are the best. No wonder he was able to train 3 Sannins! Anyways, my team is finally set.'

He then looked at all 3 of his students and said, "I hope all of you have realised the importance of rank C jutsus by now." Fujin, Hoka and Mieko nodded. Renjiro continued, "In terms of Ninjutsu, your next focus will be on learning and mastering rank C jutsus. Until I say otherwise, none of you will attempt to learn a rank B or higher jutsu."

He then advised the kids more and ended the day by saying, "This will be your today's assignment. Fujin, you and Mieko will take Hoka to the village hospital and see that his wounds are tended to. And Fujin, meet me here at 2 pm." He then flickered away.

On the way to the hospital, Hoka was walking in an awkward manner. The morning training followed by getting several cuts took its toll. Seeing him wobble, Fujin said, "Sorry about that." Hoka replied, "It's okay. Don't worry about it." Mieko said, "Yeah, it's just a few cuts. Stop wobbling and walk faster." Hoka,

however, replied with his usual stoic face, "Perhaps if I slept for over 2 hours during the morning workout, I might have been able to walk properly." Hearing that, Fujin chuckled, while Mieko became very embarrassed.

Fujin and Mieko accompanied Hoka in the hospital. Hoka was asked to go to a ward. First a civilian doctor arrived, and cleaned all his wounds up. 5 minutes after the doctor left, a medical ninja arrived and healed all the cuts on him and advised him to take rest for the remaining day. Fujin observed the entire process, and then looked at Mieko with a hint of jealousy. He sighed thinking, 'If only I had the sharingan. I'd have just copied Mystical Palm jutsu and been done with it.'

They then said farewell to each other and left.

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Chapter 43: Training under an Elite Jounin

In the afternoon, Fujin visited the training grounds where Renjiro trained him in the basics of Samurai Saber Techniques.

Next day again began with the same workout. At 10 am, Renjiro said, "Today, we will begin learning new jutsus. Hoka, you'll begin with Rock Thorn Bed jutsu. Fujin, you'll start with Wind Dragon jutsu and Mieko, you'll start with Fire Release : Four jutsu."

The kids nodded. Renjiro then made a hand sign and prepared 3 shadow clones. Each of the shadow clones took a scroll from the main body and then took one genin. Hoka stayed at the same place, whereas Fujin and Mieko were moved to a different location in the training ground. The clones then gave the scroll to the genins, and asked them to read and start attempting the jutsu. As the kids began to learn them, the clone constantly kept a watch, and gave tips and advice when they felt the need to.

The training under Renjiro continued in this manner. The morning workout remained the same. Whereas, in the 10 am to noon session, Renjiro alternated between training them in team formations and Ninjutsu training. In the afternoons, Renjiro trained Fujin with the sword. And from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, Fujin trained by himself. He either practiced the jutsu he was learning, or fought against his shadow clones.

Fujin found the training under Renjiro to be very helpful. Even though Fujin was already able to perform a few jutsus without hand signs, getting tips from Renjiro on the same helped him optimize it even

further. Learning new jutsu became much easier too due to the tips Renjiro gave. He learnt the Wind Dragon jutsu in a week, Wind Gale Wolf jutsu in 2 days, Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu in 9 days and Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu in 3 days. The rank C jutsus provided some challenge for Fujin. Wind Dragon and Spinning Shield of Wind was difficult to learn. Wind Gale Wolf jutsu however, was very easy to learn after having learnt Wind Dragon jutsu. Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu too was very similar to Body Flicker jutsu. Only, instead of depending on their own force, the user had to create a gust of wind and use it to move. It's range was larger than Body Flicker jutsu. Fujin was instantly able to move 300 metres away with the aid of this jutsu. Another advantage was that it didn't leave any traces behind for the enemy to track. While right now, Fujin could escape better by spamming Body Flicker jutsu, he was sure that once he mastered this jutsu, it'll be much better at escaping than Body Flicker jutsu.

His sword skills too had improved drastically. He and Renjiro decided on the length of the swords Fujin should get. It was 57 cm. After 3 weeks as a genin, Fujin received the 2 samurai swords he was promised. He was called to the Hokage's office along with Renjiro and given the swords. Fujin did note the fact that Hiruzen took every opportunity he could in order to make the kids more loyal to Konoha.

In the training grounds, he held the 2 swords. Even though he wasn't an expert in swords, he clearly felt that these 2 were much better in quality. On that day, Renjiro began teaching Fujin chakra flow. Fujin, who already knew it, calmed himself and acted like it was the first time he was seeing it. He thought, 'I am not sure I can hide my skill from him. I guess I should just not do what I know and follow his instructions to the T.' Luckily for Fujin, Renjiro's methods to create chakra flow was much different from what he had tried. It was also much more suitable. So he just honestly tried that method. Due to the method being different, he struggled initially. However, once he got a hang of it, the remaining phase was extremely easy for him. In merely three days, he managed to flow his chakra through his new swords. He noticed, 'Wow, this is so easy with this sword!'

Renjiro on the other hand, was very shocked. He thought, 'The hell? He learnt Chakra Flow in merely 3 days? Even assuming that he trained at home, he couldn't have trained for more than 15 hours.' He tried to make sense of it, 'Did he already know it?' He tried analysing, and concluded 'No, his struggle initially was very real. It's just that after he managed to do it a little bit, the rest became very easy for him. It's as if it was second nature to him.' His analysis shocked him even further. He finally chuckled and thought, 'Master Mifune, it seems like I have picked up a student more talented than anyone in the land of iron.' With that thought, he began laughing loudly, "Hahahahaha" That laugh did attract Fujin's attention. He thought, 'Did he notice? No, that shouldn't be it. I guess it's my talent. Sigh, there was no other choice. Still, he doesn't need to laugh like a retard.'

Renjiro noticed Fujin looking at him with a concerned look, as if he was wondering whether his sensei needed some medical attention. He said, "Don't worry about it kid. I just recalled an old geezer who was bragging about the talents in his village. Anyways, now that you have learnt chakra flow, we'll work towards mastering it. The intensity of the training too will increase a lot." Fujin nodded. From that day

onwards, Renjiro became much more enthusiastic in teaching the Samurai Saber Techniques to Fujin. That also meant that the training became much tougher. It almost became half as intense as the morning workout.

Mieko and Hoka too made a lot of progress. Mieko learnt all her jutsus within the first 2 weeks, whereas Hoka needed a month to learn his. Learning Body Flicker made Hoka a much better ninja. By the end of the month, Mieko finally managed to get through the entire morning workout. As soon as she did that, Renjiro asked her to start activating the Training seal to 1% of its maximum capacity. Poor girl's joy at completing the workout quickly turned to horror. He had increased the pressure on Hoka's and Fujin's bodies too by making them increase the pressure of their seals to 32% and 15% respectively.

[A/N : I'll call that seal 'Training seal' from here onwards. Probably should've named it when I introduced it.]

Apart from the personal improvements, the squad had also improved as a team. Within the first week, all the basic 4 man and 3 man formations were drilled into the trio. After that, Renjiro began working on their teamwork and combination attacks. A lot of exercises and spars were conducted to improve teamwork. For combination attacks, Fujin and Mieko were made to combine Wind Dragon and Fire Dragon jutsus. It took a few days to learn, but the result was excellent. The fire dragon was enhanced by the wind dragon, nearly doubling its size. Its power was around 4 times the power of both the jutsus individually. The dragon could shoot Wind Explosion jutsu from its mouth, however, instead of normal winds, it was made of incredibly hot winds. On their first experiment, they nearly caused a forest fire! Luckily Renjiro was closely monitoring this training and quickly used Waterfall jutsu to douse the fire.

Seeing that Fujin thought, 'Isn't this very similar to Scorch style? I guess, only the power is lacking.' Fujin looked at Renjiro and asked, "Sensei, is it possible for only one ninja to perform this combination jutsu? And I mean without using clones." Mieko was very intrigued by this question and paid attention. Renjiro answered, "Yes, it is possible. You have to use both the nature transformations at the same time and release them together. One way to do it is by doing hand signs for Fire Dragon jutsu with one hand, and for Wind Dragon jutsu with the other. But don't worry about it for now. This is too advanced. You can't do it right now." This answer surprised Fujin. He quickly asked, "But sensei, wouldn't using 2 elements at the same time be a Kekkei Genkai? How can anyone do that without having the bloodline?" Renjiro answered, "This ain't Kekkei Genkai. It's merely using 2 elements to complement each other. For example, the Yuki clan has Ice release Kekkei Genkai. Ice release is a combination of water and wind. However, if you combine Wind and Water Dragons, all you get is a water dragon that cuts very sharply. There is no sign whatsoever of any ice forming. Combination jutsus merely enhance each other, whereas Kekkei Genkai bring a qualitative change to create something very different."

On hearing that answer, Fujin fell into his thoughts, 'I see. So it's possible to combine jutsus in this manner. I didn't know it was possible. This does open up more options for me. I guess I need to start training other elements too. Wind works great with both Fire and Water. I wonder if it's possible to make it work along with Lightning too. Sadly, I don't think there's a lot of scope in using the Wind element with Earth. I wonder when I'll be ready to learn this though. Would showing off all my cards make him teach it to me? Though, not having hidden cards in a world as dangerous as this will suck.'

He asked, "Sensei, when do you think I'll be ready for this? If I learn a second element now, would I be able to do this combination jutsu by myself?" Renjiro shook his head and said, "Don't think about this right now. Think about this only after you become a jounin. Your skills in chakra control, chakra moulding will need to improve a lot before you begin practicing this. The amount of chakra you have will also need to be much higher. So as I said earlier, for the time being, you'll only be mastering rank C jutsus." Fujin nodded dejectedly. Mieko too hung her head in disappointment on hearing this.

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Chapter 44: Combination Jutsus

One day, when the 10 am session began, Renjiro said, "I have taught you one combination jutsu. And you can see how strong it is. I want you guys to think about more jutsus you can use in combination with each other. It doesn't have to be as strong as Fire-Wind dragon jutsu, but it should increase your capabilities in some way. So think about it, but don't experiment. I'll meet you guys at 11" He then flickered away, without giving anyone a chance to say anything.

Hoka said, "So what do we do?" Fujin, who had already thought a few over the past couple of weeks said, "Well let's just think about it. And then discuss to see if everyone is fine with the idea." Mieko said, "Alright"

After around 15 minutes, Mieko said "Hoka, can your Water element mix with my Fire element?" Hoka asked in a confused manner, "But how, won't my water douse your fire?" Mieko smirked and said, "No it won't. Fish Spit jutsu is the only one you have that can generate a small stream of water, and it is very weak compared to my jutsus. So my Fire jutsu will evaporate all your water and create a lot of steam." Hoka fell into a thought after hearing it. Fujin was quite surprised with this suggestion. He thought, 'I didn't expect this brat to come up with something like this.' He said, "Yeah, it'll generate a lot of steam, but can either of you control it?" Both shook their heads. Fujin replied, "In that case, that can only be used to create a cover and hide ourselves." Mieko sighed dejectedly and began thinking again.

After a couple of minutes, Fujin said "I have one idea. We can create a double layered defense. My Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu can stop and reflect all thrown weapons and some weaker Ninjutsu. However, if the enemy uses strong Ninjutsu, it'll be breached. So my idea is to create a shield of wind,

and right after that, Hoka will create a Rock Shield behind the shield to cover us further." Hoka thought and nodded, "Yes, that could work." However Mieko groaned and said, "Hey, don't leave me out!" Fujin chuckled and said, "Actually I have one more idea. Hoka, can you use your Rock Shield jutsu?" Hoka was confused and asked, "But didn't sensei tell us to not test anything?" Fujin replied, "He said that to prevent us from causing an accident. Just using Rock Shield jutsu will be fine. Also, quickly move behind a few metres after using the jutsu." Hoka nodded and got up. He performed the jutsu and quickly jumped back. Fujin thought, 'Not fast enough.' He then said, "Alright, do it again. Only this time, I'll throw a small pebble on you. Dodge that by moving backwards." Hoka made the hand signs and slammed his hands on the ground. Fujin waited for the jutsu to be completed. As soon as it was completed, he threw the pebble on Hoka. Hoka quickly dodged back. Fujin nodded and said, "Alright, that's fast enough."

Mieko asked, "So what's the big idea?" Fujin replied, "I'm thinking that both of us should learn this jutsu too. If we do, then as soon as Hoka uses the jutsu and jumps back, one of us can create another rock shield behind his and repeat the same. This way a multi-tiered defense can be made on the fly. Another idea is, if all 3 of us can channel our chakra in the same rock shield, then will the shield become sturdier or will it become larger? If that works, then it'll be very useful too."

Both Hoka and Mieko nodded and agreed. They began brainstorming once again and came up with a few more ideas. At 11 am, Renjiro reappeared. He asked, "So, what did you guys think of?"

Fujin started, "We came up with an idea of a multi-tiered defense. The basic idea is for me to use Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu and Hoka to use the Rock Shield jutsu to create the rock shield behind my shield of wind. And we can create more tiers by having Hoka move back as soon as he creates the jutsu and then Mieko could create another Rock Shield and repeat the same." Renjiro was actually surprised by this idea and asked, "What exactly are you planning to defend from?" Mieko and Hoka looked at Fujin, who replied, "Umm... A very strong jutsu?" Renjiro rebuked him saying, "If an enemy uses a jutsu so strong that you need to do this, then you are out of your league and need to retreat. Also it's never a good idea to have everyone in the squad defending. Also, Rock Shield jutsu isn't the strongest defensive jutsu. There are many more which can do a much better job. For now, the combination of Spinning Shield of Wind jutsu and 1 Rock Shield jutsu is enough. However, if you and Mieko want to learn Rock Shield jutsu, go for it. It's quite handy in combat."

Fujin nodded and sighed internally, 'I guess too much defense isn't a good thing after all.' He said, "Another idea we came up with is for Hoka to use Stone Shuriken jutsu and for me to control them using Projectile Control jutsu." Renjiro nodded and said, "That should work. Anything else?"

This time Mieko answered, "Sensei, I came up with the idea of Fujin throwing his Wind Explosion jutsus within my Fireball jutsu. So the range of the explosion of my fireball will be extended considerably. The

winds caused by Wind Explosion jutsu's explosion will make the flames of fireball go in all the directions randomly." Renjiro nodded again and said, "That's a good idea. However, Fujin, you will have to make your Wind Explosion jutsu much stronger if you want to help Mieko pull this off." Fujin nodded and said, "Yes sensei."

Hoka suddenly said, "Sensei, I too came up with an idea. My idea is to throw stone shurikens within Fujin's Great Breakthrough jutsu and Mieko's Fireball jutsu. That way, more chaos can be created and the enemy will have to be careful of the stone shurikens within those jutsus too." Renjiro replied, "I see. I won't recommend throwing your stone shurikens within the Fireball jutsu. If the enemy dodges the Fireball, then your jutsu will be dodged too. And if the fireball jutsu hits the enemy, then it'll do sufficient damage by itself anyways." Hoka nodded.

Seeing that none of the kids were speaking, Renjiro asked, "Any more ideas?" All the kids shook their heads. Renjiro replied, "Alright, that's sufficient for now. Begin practicing these combination jutsus. Fujin, make a shadow clone and have it practice the combination of Stone Shuriken jutsu and Projectile Control jutsu with Hoka. You and Mieko will practice together." The genins dispersed according to the instructions of their sensei. Renjiro too made a couple of shadow clones to keep a watch on them. Hoka and Fujin's clone weren't going to be an issue, however Fujin and Mieko were sure to start a few fires. He had no doubts regarding that.

Hoka and Fujin's shadow clone moved to a different spot. The clone moved to different trees and marked a large 'X' on them. They looked at each other and nodded. Both made the hand signs. Hoka launched his stone shurikens towards the various Xs Fujin had marked and the clone tried to control those shurikens to hit the marks. However, the first problem, which Fujin knew, occurred. Hoka looked at Fujin and said, "So you really can control only 9 shurikens." Fujin nodded and said, "Yeah, just as I had said. And because these are stone shurikens and not as well made as a normal shuriken, controlling it is slightly more difficult. Anyways, let's try the second approach." Hoka nodded and launched Stone Shuriken jutsu again. This time, Fujin used Projectile Control jutsu to manipulate all the shurikens. He used it to change the direction of the shurikens towards the left. Hoka observed, "This time all the shurikens changed direction. However, only 3 hit the mark, unlike 16 last time." Fujin nodded and replied, "Yeah, if I try to control all the shurikens, I can only move them in one direction. So there's not much control on any one shuriken. In fact, it also messes up the aim you have taken."

Suddenly Renjiro's clone flickered behind Fujin and Hoka. One month of constant exposure to Renjiro suddenly flickering behind them had made them accustomed to it. Renjiro asked, "So, which approach are you going to use and in which scenario? Hoka, you answer first." Hoka began thinking. After a couple of minutes he said, "The first approach will be more useful if the number of enemies is less. The enemy will first have to dodge my initial aim, and then worry about the shurikens Fujin controls. The second method will be more useful when we are facing a lot of enemies. Sudden change in direction of all shurikens can result in a few casualties. Also, even if the enemy avoids it, they'll need to pay more

attention to it, giving us more time." Renjiro nodded and looked at Fujin. Fujin replied, "Same answer. Just that, I should try and improve my control even further. In the first scenario, the result will probably be satisfactory. However, the second scenario still has a lot of scope for improvement. For instance, if, after I change direction of the shurikens, if I can then take control of a few shurikens to manipulate them even further, then I am sure I'll get some hits in and it won't be all just luck based." Renjiro said, "Good, so keep practicing."

Over at Mieko and Fujin, they too had begun their practice. Their practice was very straightforward. Mieko launched Fireball jutsu, and Fujin threw 2 wind spheres at them from the rear. The wind sphere distorted the flames a bit, but it wasn't an issue. However, before the Fireball exploded, the wind spheres left the fireball from the front. The Fireball exploded as it normally did. The wind spheres however exploded with a lot more force due to the air being heated up and caused a small heat wave. Mieko spoke in an annoying manner, "Hey, your jutsu speed was too fast!" Fujin countered, "Yours was too slow." This earned him a glare from the little girl. Fujin shrugged and said, "Let's try again."

This time Fujin matched the timing properly, and both the jutsus exploded at the same time when the wind spheres were still in the fireball. The result was a bit surprising. Mieko said, "The power of the explosion decreased!" Fujin nodded and added, "But it's range increased. And the increase is totally random. In some directions, the flames extended twice more than usual, whereas in some directions, the range of flames was seven times as high as usual!" Suddenly, a jet of water was launched to douse the fires caused by the explosion. Renjiro's clone looked at them and said, "We are changing the location. Follow me."

Fujin and Mieko ran behind the clone. On the way, the clone asked, "So, what are your thoughts on this jutsu?" Fujin replied, "Unpredictable. The enemy won't be able to guess the direction of the flames. If he gets careless, he'll end up with a few burns. Even if he is lucky or skilled enough to dodge them all, he'll be put under a lot of pressure." Mieko agreed, "Yes. Once he gets burned, we can dominate him." Renjiro asked, "Any scope for improvement?" Fujin and Mieko began thinking. After a few seconds, Fujin replied, "I am wondering whether the explosion's direction can be controlled. I think that the position of the wind spheres within the fireball is what controls the direction of the explosion. For example, if the wind spheres are to the front of the fireball, then maybe the flames move more in the forward direction. If I know the direction in which the enemy will dodge, I can place the wind spheres in an appropriate position so that the flames move to his new location."

While Fujin was talking, Renjiro stopped moving. They had arrived on a riverbank. Renjiro thought, 'As expected.' He replied, "Good. However, don't forget that even your Wind Explosion jutsu by itself is very random. So you won't be able to control the direction by yourself." He then looked at Mieko and said, "If you two want to improve this combination further, then it'll depend on how well you can analyse the explosion with your sharingans, Mieko." Mieko nodded, "Yes sensei. I'll improve it to its limits!" Renjiro nodded and looked at the river. Fujin and Mieko followed his line of sight. Renjiro said, "All your

explosions must happen over that river. No more fires." Both nodded awkwardly, and continued their training.

[A/N : More ideas for combination jutsus are welcomed]

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 45: The First Mission

Exactly 1 month had passed since Renjiro had begun training his genins. After the morning workout and some rest, Renjiro announced, "Today, we'll do our first mission as a team." The squad reacted as soon as they heard that. Hoka said loudly, "Finally!" Mieko too excitedly said, "Yes! Now I'll show what an Uchiha can do. Sensei, what'll be our first mission? Will we fight with any enemy villages? Like Kumo or Iwa?" Hoka quickly followed up, "Yes sensei, what will our mission be? I want to use my Taijutsu to show how strong Konoha is to our enemies." Fujin looked at them and saw, 'Woah! Their eyes really are sparkling... I need to learn how to do that.'

Fujin just maintained an excited expression, but didn't say anything. His teammates' reactions made him feel very awkward. He thought, 'If only they knew what our first mission will be.... I wonder if all the adults have an unspoken truce to not mention this to any kid. Is it because they don't want to discourage anyone, or is it just the age old human behaviour - I had to go through this, so I want you to go through it too..... Eh, probably the second case. Just looking at Renjiro's smug face says it all!'

Renjiro thought, 'Ah, it never gets old. Seeing fresh genins so enthusiastic about their first mission. Now, I wonder if that cat has gone missing again or not.' He said, "The mission will be given by Lord Hokage. So wait till we reach there to know which mission you'll be doing."

They began moving towards the Hokage's office. Hoka and Mieko ran at a lot faster pace than usual. On the way, Fujin thought, 'I didn't think we'd need to wait 1 whole month before taking our first mission. Such intense training for a whole month. I guess my timing of transmigration was really lucky. Having missed the 3rd war and Kurama's attack, and growing at a time when Konoha is lacking in manpower. I hope that training under Renjiro continues for a long time. Though it doesn't leave me with much free time, it has been very helpful in increasing my strength.'

The team arrived at the Hokage building, and had to wait a few minutes to enter the Hokage's office. On entering the office, everyone respectfully greeted Hiruzen, "Lord Hokage". Hiruzen, like always, had multiple stacks of papers on his table. He looked at team 3 and said, "Oh, so you guys are finally doing your first mission." He stared at Renjiro while saying that. However, Renjiro just shrugged and ignored the stare. Hiruzen sighed internally thinking, 'He messed up all the protocols. No missions for his squad

for a whole month. The only other instance like this was when Orochimaru didn't make his squad do any missions at all for 6 months! Well, at least he agreed to take a few rank D missions unlike my student.'

He then looked at his assistant and asked, "So which missions do we have?" His assistant pulled a paper out and handed it to him. Hiruzen looked at it and said, "Lady Saigo wants a squad to weed her garden. This will be your mission." He then smiled kindly and said, "Do the job properly. Ensure that she gives us good feedback, and make Konoha proud."

Hiruzen's words shocked Mieko and Hoka. Hoka was muttering softly, "Wee...ed a ga..rde...n?" Mieko too muttered something similar. Fujin was shocked too. However, it was for a different reason. He really admired Hiruzen now. He thought, 'Damn!! He said that with such a straight face and with such a kind smile! Screw Danzo, this old man here is the real evil incarnate! It's no wonder that despite being so scheming and commanding such a strong force, Danzo never could do anything to Hiruzen. Poor guy never even had a chance. It almost makes me pity him!'

Renjiro saw his genins' reactions and chuckled. He thought, 'It's a pity that the cat isn't missing right now.' He grabbed the paper, saw the address and said, "Follow me." The genins followed him, however, this time Mieko and Hoka were moving very slowly.

On reaching the estate, Renjiro asked the guard to call Lady Saigo. Fujin observed the estate. It was huge! Mieko and Hoka didn't have much of a reaction as their clan estates were even larger. In a couple of minutes, a lady arrived. She was around 40-45 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, had long blonde hair, looked very mature and carried herself in a proper manner. She greeted them, "Welcome Lord Renjiro. It's a great honor to have you here." Renjiro nodded and handed her the paper. She then looked at the kids and said, "So these strong ninjas will complete my missions. I am very fortunate to get ninjas as capable as you." Mieko and Hoka cheered up a bit on hearing the praise. However, Fujin could clearly understand that she was 'teasing' them. He sighed internally, 'There is no need for this mission to be given to ninjas. The only reason why she did that is for her own amusement. Sigh, these rich old ladies need to get a better hobby.'

She said, "Follow me, I'll take you to the garden." Team Renjiro followed her. They went behind the huge mansion. And soon, the 3 genins were shocked. Lady Saigo kindly said, "This is the garden you have to weed." Fujin was speechless. He thought, 'Garden? How the fuck is this a garden? Who the fuck has a garden that is more than an acre in area?' Hoka muttered, "This is a garden?" Mieko almost lashed out and yelled, "How the hell is this a garden? This is..." However, she was held in place by Renjiro. Lady Saigo suddenly showed a sad face and said, "I actually wanted it to be at least 5 acres. Sadly, that much land wasn't available in Konoha." It, once again, left the genins speechless. Mieko was pissed even further. Renjiro just chuckled and said, "That's enough talk. Get to work."

The genins began walking forward. Mieko softly asked Fujin, "Hey, can we use Fire-Wind Dragon jutsu?" Hoka perked up on hearing that. Fujin, too, was very intrigued by that idea. Though he'd definitely not act upon it. However, Renjiro heard that and announced loudly, "No using any elemental Ninjutsu. No using any tools. And increase the pressure of your training seals, Mieko by 1%, Fujin by 2.5% and Hoka by 5%." Mieko hung her head and walked forward. Fujin said, "Let's divide the garden into 3 parts and clear each." Hoka and Mieko reluctantly nodded and got to work. Their muscles still ached from the morning workout. And they still had more work to do under higher pressure.

While they were working, Lady Saijo returned to the mansion. She entered a balcony that faced the garden, and asked her servants to arrange a chair, an umbrella and a few snacks for her and Renjiro. She sat there monitoring the kids doing the work. That pissed the genins even more. Fujin muttered under his breath, "First that Hiruzen and now this lady. The Dao of Shamelessness is very very very strong in this world!"

Weeding the garden continued. Fujin got done with his part in an hour and half. He then returned to where Renjiro was. While he was returning, both Hoka and Mieko looked at him with angry gazes. He thought, 'Should I help them out?' After a few seconds he dismissed that thought, 'Nope, there's no need to.' He just ignored them and left the garden. He found a clean spot and sat down. Unfortunately for Fujin, Renjiro flickered behind him and said, "Until they are done, run around this estate. I want at least one round per minute." That nearly triggered him, 'What the fuck? It ain't my fault that I did the work faster!' Luckily, he held it in, put his head down and began running. Each round was over a kilometre long.

After 15 minutes, Hoka joined him. Mieko worked for another half an hour. Both Fujin and Hoka were sure that she was delaying on purpose and sent her a few glares. When she was done, Fujin and Hoka stopped after completing that round and glared at Mieko. Mieko smirked thinking, 'Serves you right for finishing before me.' That smirk pissed Hoka, but Fujin just sighed and said, "Who would have thought that the mighty Uchiha would need 2 hours and 15 minutes to merely weed a garden." Hoka quickly nodded and agreed, "Yes, this was so unexpected. Is this what she meant by 'I'll show what an Uchiha can do?'" That jibe made Mieko go red with anger and embarrassment. She was about to reply angrily when Renjiro stopped her.

Lady Saigo stepped forward and said, "Thank You for clearing the weeds in my garden young ninjas. You guys did an amazing job." This earned her a glare from all the 3 genins, but she maintained her smile. She then handed Renjiro a paper, and they left her estate. They returned to the Hokage building. Renjiro led his genins to a room on the first floor. He handed the paper to an employee there. The employee checked the paper, stamped and filed it. He then gave Renjiro a white packet and they left the room.

Renjiro then led them to another room. There were a few more employees working here. One of them was a chuunin, while the others were just normal civilians. Renjiro said, "Remember this room. In the future, if you ever want to take any missions, you can come here and ask the chuunin who is in-charge here. He will assign you your mission depending on your preference, past performance and ranks." The genins nodded.

They then moved to the ground floor. Renjiro said, "That's it for today. From now onwards, we'll be doing one mission every week. The remaining training continues as usual. Fujin, on the mission day, you won't have training in Samurai Saber Techniques." Fujin nodded. Renjiro then took out the white packet he had received earlier. He said, "This is the reward for our mission. We'll be splitting it 40-20-20-20. 40% for me, and 20% for each one of you. When you do missions with others in the future, remember that this is how the rewards are usually split. The leader gets more than the other squad members." The genins nodded, but all 3 had the same thought, 'But you didn't do any work at all sensei!' However no one spoke it out loud. After splitting the rewards, the squad dispersed.

On his way to Yakiniku Q, Fujin thought, 'Hmm, 10k Ryo reward for a 2 hours job. If I had made clones and worked with them instead of my teammates, I'd have finished faster. Not bad, but not as fast as earning money by selling scrolls. Either way, getting 2k Ryo per week would be much better than the 1k Ryo per month they provided me earlier. Though it won't be enough to allow me to make as big a purchase as I did earlier. I wonder if I should do a lot of rank D missions in a day or two sometime later to show that I've earned money via legitimate means.... Or, should I come clean with my ability to create storage scrolls?' He thought for a bit and decided, 'No, right now Renjiro barely gives me any free time. If I say that I'll study Fuinjutsu in the evening, then that'll be considered suspicious or stupid. I should leave it till my training under Renjiro is completed, or the training time is decreased. He is an Elite Jounin after all. I don't think Konoha can allow him to train 3 genins for very long.'

While thinking, he had already reached the restaurant. He went in and made the order. While waiting for the food to be delivered, he thought 'This world is pretty dangerous. While initially I was just being cautious, I'm now glad that I was so cautious and kept most of my abilities hidden. Even ignoring the crazy strong abilities so many here have, just the mere shamelessness of these people is alarming. Hiruzen saying what he said with a straight face, Renjiro taking 40% of the reward, today's client sitting on the balcony to enjoy the misery of little kids.... The Dao of Shamelessness is crazy strong in this world. Their skins are thicker than the Hokage monuments! The same will also apply to the enemies. Sigh, I hope Obito and Nagato play according to the script. If they don't, then it'll be chaos.'

The meal arrived. Fujin picked up the meat with tongs and laid it on the charcoal brazier. Waiting for the meat to roast, he thought, 'Well, no point in worrying about these things. There is nothing I can do about it anyways. Let's just hope for the best.' Concluding his thoughts, he turned his focus on his lunch.

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Chapter 46: Triggered

The next day, after the morning workout, Renjiro had another discussion with his team. He said, "You have made good progress over the last month. So I'll now tell you how to progress further." The genins nodded and listened attentively.

Renjiro looked at Mieko and said, "The jutsus you know currently are sufficient enough. So you don't need to learn any more Ninjutsu. Just focus on mastering the ones you know currently. Especially Fire Release : Four jutsu. In addition to Ninjutsu, you also need to learn Genjutsu. So in your free time, ask your parents or clan elders to teach you more sharingan based Genjutsu. And keep working on your physique. You need to be able to complete the morning workout while enduring 10% pressure from your Training seal." Mieko nodded and said, "Yes Sensei. I'll work hard."

He then looked at Fujin and asked, "Have you decided on your second element?" Fujin nodded and said, "Yes Sensei, I have decided to choose Earth as my second element." Renjiro nodded and asked, "Any ideas on which jutsus you want to learn?" Fujin replied, "I've decided to learn Rock Shield jutsu, Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu and Earth Holding jutsu." Renjiro asked, "Why?" Fujin replied, "Rock Shield jutsu will provide me with a very good defense. Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu is a movement jutsu. And I can use Earth Holding jutsu to trap the enemies, or keep me and my squad on the ground."

Renjiro thought for a few seconds and said, "Rock Shield jutsu will be good for you. But why do you want to learn Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu? You already have 2 movement jutsus. Also, Earth Holding jutsu is very slow to actually trap anyone capable enough. So it isn't very useful. So why do you still want to learn it?" Fujin replied, "Well there's no harm in learning more movement jutsus. Also, escaping through the ground will also provide a good defense as well as stealth. If the enemy isn't a sensor, it can also be used to sneak up on the enemy. As for Earth Holding jutsu, my main aim is to split the enemy's attention and have him keep an eye on the ground. Especially if I can do it without hand signs. I also wonder if I can suppress its chakra signature to perform it very stealthily. If I can trap the enemy momentarily, it'll be enough for us to incapacitate him." Renjiro thought, 'Hmm, nice thinking once again. Though learning a third movement jutsu is wasteful even with his explanation.' Renjiro nodded and said, "Alright then. Rock Shield jutsu you can learn by yourself. The remaining two will be learnt under my supervision. In addition to these, we'll work on mastering the jutsus you already know."

Finally, Renjiro looked at Hoka and said, "Hoka, your current status in Ninjutsu is much better than before we began the training. However, it's still not enough." Hoka nodded and paid attention. Renjiro continued, "You will learn 4 more Earth Release jutsus. They will be Boulder Throw jutsu, Quicksand jutsu, Stone Spear jutsu and Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu. Boulder Throw is a mid-range offensive jutsu. Quicksand is a trapping jutsu. Stone Spear is a mid-range jutsu and Earth Instantaneous Body is a movement jutsu." Hoka sighed and nodded.

Renjiro smiled and said, "Don't worry. These would be the only rank C jutsus, I'll force you to master. I will advise you to learn more in the future, however the decision is in your hands. Learning rank C Water Release jutsus will help you. In addition, once you have mastered these Earth jutsus, you should learn 2 rank B Earth Release jutsus. The first is Earth Dragon jutsu, which will increase your capabilities in fighting a ranged battle. And Earth Wall jutsu, which is one of the best defensive jutsus in existence. They will complement your Gentle Fist style perfectly and you can then focus entirely on your Taijutsu." Hoka showed a look of determination and replied, "Yes sensei. I'll master these Ninjutsu."

Renjiro continued, "In addition to your Ninjutsu and Taijutsu training, we will also focus on your Genjutsu training...." He wanted to continue, however, Hoka's expression was a sight to see after hearing that. Renjiro chuckled and continued, "Whether you learn Genjutsu or not will be left for later. For now, I will teach you how to counter Genjutsu." Renjiro's chuckling and his gaze gained the attention of his students. Both Fujin and Mieko looked at Hoka and had a laugh.

The training under Renjiro continued. Over the next 6 weeks, Fujin and Hoka had got all the jutsus down and were practicing to master them. Fujin could now do all the newly learnt rank C jutsus with just one single hand seal. Renjiro's instructions while learning Earth Release jutsus were much better as compared to Wind Release jutsus. He also had a more in-depth explanation regarding how chakra should be moulded and how to do it faster. Due to this, Fujin's speed of learning Earth Release rank C jutsus was almost comparable to when he was learning Wind Release jutsus.

The practice of combination jutsus too continued and they got much faster at performing them. For Genjutsu, Renjiro's clones started by casting rank D Genjutsu on Hoka and Fujin. Within a couple of days, Fujin was able to break them. Renjiro's clone then moved onto Rank C Genjutsu for him. He began breaking the rank C Genjutsu in a couple of weeks and was currently working on breaking rank B Genjutsu. Hoka needed a month before he could break rank D Genjutsu.

Fujin's swordplay too had come a long way. All the basics of Samurai Saber Techniques were drilled into him by Renjiro. They were now moving on, to the more advanced maneuvers. Renjiro had informed him that after he got these advanced forms down, he'll teach him the flying slashes.

In these weeks, they had done 6 more rank D missions. It started with bathing the dogs in the Inuzuka kennels. Renjiro pranked his genins by telling them that they would have to clean all the excrement in the kennels, causing Mieko to flicker away, only to be caught by Renjiro and carried over by the back of her neck. On hearing the real mission, the kids sighed in relief.

The next one was finding the dreaded cat, who scratched Mieko's face all over and bit Hoka a couple of times. Fujin now understood why everyone struggled so much to catch the cat. It was a freaking Ninja cat and was a master in sneaking and using diversions! Even with that, the mission wouldn't have been challenging, however, Renjiro added a condition. The genins weren't allowed to walk or run on the ground and were only allowed to run on the walls. If there weren't any walls, they had to create rock shields in order to create such a surface.

It was followed by cleaning all the emergency shelters. Fujin figured that it was the village's way to make them remember all the shelters around Konoha. After that, they had to deliver mail all over Konoha to various clans and nobles. It was followed by babysitting a couple of Yamanaka kids. And lastly, they had to sow seeds in a farm. Observing his teammates, Fujin was sure that they were very close to completely triggering and making a scene.

One difference Fujin noted was that after the first mission, the remaining missions weren't handed to them by Hiruzen. They were instead collected from the mission room on the first floor of the Hokage tower. Fujin thought, 'Didn't Hiruzen assign all the missions personally in Naruto? So why not for us? Or perhaps, why for them?' He thought a bit and concluded, 'Either he only assigns the first mission, or he assigned their missions due to their importance. Naruto was a Jinchuriki, Sasuke was the last Uchiha as well as the Uchiha heir. And Team 8 and 10 were entirely made of heirs of important clans in Konoha. I guess he had to take responsibility in ensuring their safety.'

One day, after the morning workout, Mieko asked Fujin and Hoka, "Hey, I saw a few ninjas from other villages earlier. So the chuunin exams will be conducted soon. Do you think that we will participate too?" That gained the attention of both her teammates. Hoka excitedly said, "I hope we do. I would like to fight against the ninjas from other villages." Fujin thought, 'If I recall right, the squad needs to have completed 8 missions before being eligible. I wonder if Renjiro planned this way so that our team won't be eligible for the exam and hence no one would pressurize him.' Seeing Fujin in thought, Mieko asked, "What are you thinking about?" Fujin replied, "I heard that chuunin exams have a lot of danger. So I really doubt they would allow us to participate so early." Mieko angrily replied, "Hey! We are ready to take the risks." Hoka nodded and said, "I agree. We are ninjas, how can we back down from a little risk." Fujin shook his head due to his teammates' naivety. He replied, "Yeah, but we are still only babysitting and cleaning dust." That statement downed their moods. Soon they went on a mini-rant. And looked at Renjiro begrudgingly when he appeared, causing him to raise an eyebrow and ask, "What happened?" Mieko and Hoka merely humphed and looked in the other direction.

Despite waiting for a few days, Renjiro didn't inform them about the exam. The next day, Hoka informed his team, "I heard that Teru and Yori will be participating in this exam." Fujin asked, "Oh, didn't they participate earlier?" This time, Mieko replied, "No, Yori didn't participate in the earlier exams." Fujin nodded and said, "I see, I guess we won't be participating in the exam until next year too." Right then Renjiro appeared, and Mieko quickly asked him, "Sensei, can we participate in the chuunin exam?"

Renjiro shook his head and said, "No, you guys aren't ready yet." Mieko replied, "Why? We are very ready sensei!" Renjiro denied her again and said, "I'll be the judge to decide that. No more questions."

The next day, when they visited the mission room, the chuunin in-charge searched for a mission and said, "Team Renjiro, your next mission is to babysit the newborn of Lord...." However, he was cut. Mieko finally had enough. She yelled, "Hey you! Why the hell do you always give us such lame missions? Which ninja babysits kids? Get a nanny to do that!" The chuunin replied with authority, "Brat, you are just a...." However, he was again cut, this time by Hoka. He commented with a stoic face, "I agree with Mieko. This is a mockery of our skills."

Fujin observed Renjiro's reactions, and saw that he was chuckling. He thought, 'I guess we are finally moving onto rank C missions. Oh well, I might as well say something then.' The chuunin was pissed at being cut twice, he angrily began saying, "Now listen you brats. I ma...." Poor guy was cut again. Fujin commented, "You know mister, in the last mission we were very worried that Mieko would burn the whole farm down. Even though sensei can use Water Release jutsus, it would have still caused a lot of damage. I am really worried what will happen if you make us babysit a little kid today." The chuunin shuddered when he understood what Fujin was implying. Renjiro was very amused too. He thought, 'Well I was planning on making them do a few more rank D missions. But if they are able to win a debate against a chuunin official, I won't mind starting to do rank C missions now.'

If Fujin knew that Renjiro didn't plan on taking rank C missions just yet, he'd have kicked himself for opening his mouth. As boring as rank D missions were, they took very little time and left a lot more time for training and didn't have any danger. The chuunin was left speechless and didn't know how to reply. He opened his mouth a couple of times, but didn't manage to say anything. He looked at Renjiro, who nodded his head. He relented and said, "Alright, let me search for a rank C mission for you." When he moved to grab the rank C mission file, Renjiro stated, "Just pick out a few bandit clearing missions in the vicinity of the village. Would be preferable if the bandit bases are near each other."

The chuunin nodded and searched his file. He soon took out 4 papers from the file and handed them to Renjiro. Renjiro read them. He then looked at his squad and said, "We'll do our first rank C mission today. Meet me at the main gate in a couple of hours. Pack up for a week-long journey." The genins nodded and dispersed.

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Chapter 47: Raiding the Bandits

After leaving, Fujin went to his home and sat down in a meditative position. He thought, 'Finally I am going out of this village. So what do I prepare? As per the protocol, the ration bars will be arranged by the squad leader. So food wouldn't be a concern. Though I suppose I should pack up the ration bars I

have with me as well. Regarding the weapons, I still have the stock that the academy had provided us with. Though some of them are damaged. I guess I should buy 12 shurikens and 3 kunais. That'll cost me 7k Ryo. I probably should buy a couple of Explosion tags too. That'll be most of the money I earned from missions. Hmm? Yeah money, I need to carry all my money with me preferably. It can go in the spare waist bag.

Of course I still carry the stock I had purchased earlier and always carry them with me. As for the swords, I guess they'll be hanging on my waist. Though I do have the wristbands, explaining where I got them will be troublesome. So I'll let them be in my spare waist bag.'

He then meditated for half an hour, and then got packed up to leave the house. On his right leg, he had a leg pouch. It had 6 shurikens and 2 kunais. In addition, it also had 48 shurikens, 6 normal kunais and 6 kunais with explosion tags attached to them in the seals in it. On his waist, he carried his waist bag. He had 8 shurikens, 3 kunais and a small scroll in it. The scroll contained basic items like rope, tape, wire and First-aid kit. The bag had 7 storage seals on it. In one he had stored his spare waist bag and leg pouch. Another had his stock of ration bars. There was an additional First-aid kit in one. The 4th seal stored a few bottles filled with drinking water in it. The remaining seals were left empty for now.

He then visited a weapon shop to get the stuff he wanted to buy. After buying them, he visited Ichiraku for an early lunch. He then went to the main gate, and sat on a branch of a nearby tree. Hoka and Mieko arrived around 15 minutes before the couple of hours were up. On arriving, they both spotted and approached Fujin. Fujin thought, 'Wow, talk about being excited.' Renjiro arrived 5 minutes after them.

Renjiro asked, "Are you guys prepared?" Everyone replied in sync, "Yes sensei." Renjiro then grabbed 3 scrolls from his bag and tossed one to each of his students. They began wondering, 'What's in the scroll?' Renjiro said, "This is a gift from me to you guys. Each scroll contains 100 shurikens, 24 kunais, 6 giant shurikens, 12 explosion tags and 60 packets of ration bars that will expire after 12 months. Fujin, your scroll has a couple of spare swords too, though they ain't as good as your current swords. I don't know what protocols they taught you, however, this is the least you should always carry with yourself while leaving the village, irrespective of what you expect your team leader to carry."

The kids were a bit shocked by this gift. Especially Fujin. His mind went blank for a second as he quickly calculated, '100 -> 300 -> 100k. 24 -> 72 -> 72k. 6 -> 18 -> 54k. 12 -> 36 -> 27k. That's worth over 250k Ryo! And that's without considering the swords and the ration bars. Was I wrong about him being shameless?' Everyone quickly thanked Renjiro for the gift.

Renjiro continued, "Though I have gifted this to you, from here onwards, you'll be responsible for maintaining this stock. So don't waste them, and refill them after you complete your mission. Of course don't be a miser with them. Your life and the mission is more important." All 3 kids nodded.

They then left the village. Renjiro said, "Our mission is to clear a few bandit bases around Shukuba Town which is North-west of Konoha." He then asked, "Do you have your training seals activated?" All the three kids nodded. Renjiro said, "Deactivate them. Never keep those training seals active outside Konoha. You never know who is out there to kill you, and those seals could become the reason for your death." Fujin and Mieko nodded, but Hoka asked, "But sensei, can't you just protect us from any such danger? It seems a waste to not train our body during this journey." Renjiro shook his head and said, "There are many ninjas who are stronger than me in this world. And there are numerous hidden jutsus. Even I can't protect you from every sneak attack. It'll be upto you to dodge or block them." Hoka nodded and deactivated his seal.

Renjiro said, "With that out of the way, let's run. We'll move in a kite formation. Fujin, you take the lead, Mieko on the right, Hoka on the left and I'll take the rear. And move fast. Let's get there in a few hours." As soon as they received the instructions, they moved into the formation. Fujin stood ahead. Mieko stood 2 metres to his left and behind. Hoka did the same, but on the right side. Renjiro stood around 6 metres behind Fujin. The squad then began moving at a high speed, while maintaining those distances.

By 3 pm, the team reached Shukuba town. On entering the town, Renjiro said, "We'll do the mission tomorrow. For now, let's rest in an inn." The kids nodded and followed him. On the way Fujin noted, 'Hmm, this town feels a bit familiar. But I don't recall where I saw it. Was it shown in Naruto? Sigh, I barely remember any scenery now.'

Renjiro led the squad in to the town. Fujin, Hoka and Mieko noticed that the town had a lot of inns. They also noticed a couple of gambling houses, and an area that had lots of games with prizes for winners. However, Fujin noted a peculiarity. He observed, 'Every game here is based on luck. No game requires any skills. I guess it makes sense though. Making games like that is just asking to loot themselves in this ninja world.'

Finally Renjiro entered an inn. Mieko thought, 'Finally! After skipping past 13 inns.' When Renjiro began chatting with the innkeeper, Fujin noticed, 'Oh, he seems very familiar with the innkeeper. Is that why we skipped so many inns?' After discussing with the innkeeper, Renjiro approached the trio. He handed each of them a key and said, "These will be your rooms. Stay in the inn. I'll scout out a bit and return in a couple of hours."

After Renjiro left, Mieko asked, "So, what should we do now?" Fujin sighed and commented, "I'd have liked to tour this town, sadly he asked us to stay in the inn." Hoka added, "Yeah, and we can't even train physically." Fujin said, "Let's just retire to our rooms and meditate. Tomorrow will be our first instance of real combat." Everyone nodded and retired to their rooms to meditate and rest. Renjiro returned in the evening and took everyone out for dinner.

Next day, 8 am in the morning, the squad assembled outside Renjiro's room and moved out. Their first target was located around 25 kilometres to the west of the town. After reaching there, Fujin sensed something. He said, "Sensei, I can sense 6 normal people around 400 metres ahead." Renjiro nodded and said, "There's a village in that direction. So it's probably the villagers. Our target is the bandits that are harassing that village." Renjiro continued in that direction. Fujin soon noticed those six people he sensed were farming. They continued further and reached the village.

On entering the village, Renjiro asked around and then reached the Village Chief's house. The house was very old, and the man who opened the door was even older! As soon as the Village Chief saw the headbands, he respectfully invited everyone in and said, "Welcome to our village Lord." Renjiro nodded and said, "Just call me Renjiro." He then handed a paper to the village chief. The village chief read the paper and became very happy. He bowed to Renjiro and said, "Thank you Lord Renjiro for saving us from the bandits. After you deal with them, we can live peacefully once again."

Renjiro stated, "I need more details about the bandits." The Village Chief nodded and replied, "Please ask. I'll help you however I can." Renjiro asked, "Since when did the bandits begin harassing your village?" The Village Chief answered, "Around 9 months back. Just before our harvest in the previous year. However, they became a lot more aggressive in the past couple of months." Renjiro continued asking, "I see. And what crimes have they committed?" The village chief answered in a shaking voice, "Initially, they just stole our crops and money. But recently, th...." Fujin could see the Village Chief tearing up at this point. He continued, "they killed 9 villagers and kidnapped 6 young girls. They eve..." He began sobbing and said, "They even killed my son." And he began crying.

Renjiro was about to calm the old man down, however, the old Village Chief quickly controlled himself and showed a face of determination. Fujin was very surprised, he thought, 'Admirable. To have this strong determination despite not being a ninja.'

Seeing the look of determination on the old man's face, even Renjiro was impressed. He asked, "How many bandits are there and from where do they attack you?" The Village Chief replied, "In their attack 5 days ago, there were over 15 bandits. And they always approach us from the north." Renjiro nodded and said, "Alright, thanks for giving us the information. Don't worry, we will deal with them." The Village Chief quickly thanked him.

Renjiro and the kids left the house. Mieko asked Renjiro, "So what now sensei? Do we begin our search in the north?" Renjiro nodded and answered, "Yes" Fujin then asked, "But sensei, why will they attack from the direction their base is in. Won't they attack from a different direction just to confuse us?" Renjiro shook his head and replied, "These are just common bandits. I doubt they have enough smarts to think about something like this. If they were smart enough, then they wouldn't have killed the villagers or kidnapped girls."

They then moved towards the northern part of the village. They noticed that a few houses were burnt. Renjiro commanded, "Mieko, use your Sharingan to see if you can find any tracks they left behind." Mieko activated her Sharingan and began investigating. Soon she found a few tracks that were left behind. She said, "Sensei, found them!" Renjiro nodded and said, "Good work. Lead the way. Kite formation, with Mieko in the lead and me in the rear. Fujin, Hoka keep an eye on the surroundings and try to find those bandits."

The squad followed Mieko. On the way, Fujin noticed a few trees that had sword cuts on them. After traveling around 3.5 km to the north, Fujin said, "Hoka, check 500 metres to the north-west." Hoka activated his Byakugan, and soon said, "Sensei, found them." Renjiro nodded and the squad travelled in that direction.

On reaching there, they saw that there was a small hill with a cave in it. On the entrance, there were two bandits guarding the entrance. Each had a sword with them. They were standing behind trees, so those bandits couldn't see them. Renjiro sensed everything within the hill, and said, "So which one of you wants to handle this?" Fujin quickly replied, "Me sensei!" Mieko and Hoka, who were just about to reply, glared at Fujin. Renjiro nodded and said, "No clones. And our mission is to eliminate them all."

Fujin began sensing once again. In all, he could sense 23 people within the cave, including the 2 guards. He then looked at Hoka and asked, "Hoka, could you take a look to see if there are any traps? Also, what is the layout of the cave?" Hoka nodded and activated his Byakugan. After observing properly, he replied, "In all, I see 3 traps. 2 are behind the first entrance and the second entrance. They are basic arrow traps, which trigger when you step on the wire. The 3rd is a small hole dug in front of the second entrance, and has spikes in it. As for the layout, there is another entrance inside this outer entrance. Then there is a big room, which has 3 more mini-caves in it." Fujin replied, "Alright, thanks. And is there anyone who has tried to hide his chakra?" Hoka shook his head and Fujin thanked him.

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Chapter 48: The First Kill

Fujin closed his eyes and calmed himself. He thought, 'Finally the time for my first kill.' He then took a deep breath and let it out. He made a few hand signs, and disappeared within the ground.

On the entrance, the 2 bandits were very bored of keeping watch. One complained to the other, "Why do we have to stand guard here? I wish we could just go and attack the village again and capture a few more girls." The second bandit laughed in a lecherous manner and replied, "Yeah, the girls we captured a few days back were so fun! I can't wait to get my han...."

However, his sentence was cut short. While he was talking, a sword appeared out of the ground and moved towards his waist, a sword enhanced by chakra flow. Before either of the bandits could notice, the sword cut through the waist of one bandit, and split him in two. He died without even knowing how! The remaining bandit panicked. His arm subconsciously moved towards his sword. However, before he could even grab his sword, his head was separated from his body.

After killing the two, Fujin again disappeared within the ground and entered the cave. The next two bandits were on guard in the space between the entrance to the hill, and another entrance which was located inside the hill. They were standing with their backs to the wall, and facing each other. Fujin moved through the hill, and pierced one bandit straight through his heart. The bandit opposite saw a sword coming out of the chest of the bandit in front of him. However, before he could shout for everyone's attention, a shuriken came straight at him and went through his throat, killing him on the spot.

Fujin moved through the ground again, and avoided the hole the bandits had dug. He had now entered the main hideout of the bandits. He stealthily observed through a wall. He saw the 3 more mini-caves that Hoka had mentioned. The place where he currently was, had 12 bandits there. The remaining 7 were in those 3 mini-caves, which made him think, 'Are they leaders or something?' He then observed those 12 bandits carefully. 4 were sleeping in a corner. 2 seemed to be working on something. One of them was looking at something intensely, whereas the other was sharpening his sword. The remaining 6 were drinking alcohol and playing cards.

Fujin moved through the ground towards the bandit who was sharpening his sword. He appeared behind him and chopped his head off. Even before his head could fall on the ground, Fujin moved towards the bandit who was looking at a map. He stabbed a sword straight through his heart and pulled it out quickly.

At this moment, the head and the sword of the earlier one dropped on the ground, creating a noise. This attracted the attention of the six who were drinking. Seeing the chopped head of their fellow bandit shocked and scared them. However, before they could make a move, Fujin had already flickered behind

them. He quickly chopped two more heads off in one clean swing. He chopped another two heads off before they could even know what was happening. Only the last 2 bandits saw Fujin, however, they too were killed before they could do anything.

2 of the 6 bandits had alcohol bottles in their hand, which crashed on the ground. The noise woke up 2 of the 4 sleeping bandits. One ignored the noise and just changed his sleeping position. The other, however, got up to see what was happening. However, even before he could completely open his eyes, his head was slashed off by Fujin. Quickly, Fujin also stabbed his sword in the throat of the guy who turned and followed by stabbing the hearts of the remaining two.

He then disappeared in the ground again and entered one of the three mini-caves. The first one had 2 bandits, who were quickly stabbed through their hearts. In the second cave, Fujin could sense 3 people. Fujin quickly moved in, and stabbed the one who was resting along the wall through his heart. He quickly moved in to kill the second one who was laying on the ground. However, his sword stopped a few inches away from her chest. The one who was laying there was a teenage girl, who was nude, bruised and bleeding from a lot of places. He quickly shifted his attention to the other person in the room.

The young girl's appearance had disturbed Fujin, causing him to pause for half a second. This gave the bandit an opportunity to grab his sword and charge towards Fujin. Fujin just raised his left sword to block his sword, and stabbed his other sword through the bandit's heart. He decided to move in the remaining mini-cave, but he heard a loud shout. The last bandit yelled, "Bastards! Who is wasting my good wine? It doe...." However, his words stuck in his mouth when he saw the gore in his hideout. All he saw were chopped heads and the dead bodies of his bandits. He saw all the blood that was flowing on the ground. He was horrified, and asked in a shaking voice, "Wh..." However, he never completed his question, as a sword pierced through his heart from his back.

Fujin pulled his sword out and created a shadow clone. The clone went out to report to Renjiro and to call him in. Whereas, he began cleaning the blood off his sword. Finally, while cleaning his sword, he looked up at the dead body lying in front of him, as well as the 12 dead bodies in the hideout. The sight and the stench, caused him to vomit immediately. He thought, 'Damn, as I thought, the first kill was a big deal. I didn't feel anything while I was in the midst of killing them. But now...' He vomited more and shivered at what he had done.

As soon as he began vomiting, Renjiro's shadow clone popped out of the ground and asked, "Are you fine?" After Fujin was done vomiting, he nodded his head. He got up and sat in a corner. Renjiro said, "It's alright. The first kill is always difficult. In the future, you'll have to kill a lot more." Fujin nodded. Renjiro said, "Close your eyes, and calm yourself." Fujin listened to Renjiro and closed his eyes and began clearing his mind.

At that time, the clone reached Renjiro and reported the success of the mission to him. Renjiro then brought Hoka and Mieko to the cave. When they reached the entrance, Mieko and Hoka finally got a very clear view of the dead bodies and smelled the stench. Hoka resisted his urge to vomit, however, Mieko couldn't and she vomited on the spot. Renjiro saw that, however he didn't say anything.

Renjiro used Earth spear jutsu to disable all the traps and said, "Follow me." They followed him to the interior of the cave. Mieko and Hoka tried their best to ignore the two dead bodies there. However, after entering the main hideout and seeing the 12 dead bodies and a few heads, they couldn't bear it. Mieko vomited again and Hoka too vomited this time.

Renjiro waited for them and said, "These are just dead bodies. People who were killed by someone else. How will you become a ninja if you can't even stop yourself from vomiting? How will you become a ninja if merely this sight makes you drop to your knees?" Those words forced Mieko and Hoka to toughen up and they stood up. Seeing that Renjiro had calmed Hoka and Mieko, his clone dispelled. Renjiro then brought Mieko and Hoka to the mini-cave where Fujin was. Sensing them, Fujin got up and looked at them.

Renjiro was impressed with Fujin. He thought, 'Excellent. To gather himself and calm down so quickly after his first kill.' He then looked at Mieko and Hoka, who looked determined, and thought, 'These two should perform well too.' Fujin said, "Sensei, there's a girl in the cave besides this one." Renjiro nodded and led his team there.

The gruesome sight made the genins wince their faces. The girl laid bare without any clothes. She was bleeding from her private parts. She had multiple sword cuts all over her body which were bleeding. On her left hand, 2 fingers were cut, and on her right leg, 3 toes were cut. There were even some burns on her. Even Renjiro sighed at that sight, he thought, 'I didn't want them to see something like this so early.' Renjiro then said, "Fujin, Hoka, wait outside this cave. Mieko, apply her first-aid." Fujin and Hoka left the cave, while Mieko took out her First-aid kit and began cleaning her wounds and applying bandages.

Outside, Hoka asked Fujin, "You alright?" Fujin nodded and replied, "I didn't think the first kill would be so hard to adjust to." Hoka sighed and said, "I was warned repeatedly by my parents. There were a few ninjas, who after their first kill, couldn't even continue as ninjas." He then looked at the dead bodies and stated, "You are strong Fujin." Fujin smiled and said, "Thanks, but you should prepare yourself. Tomorrow, or the day after, it'll be your turn." Hoka nodded grimly.

It took Mieko around 25 minutes to fix the girl. Renjiro then carried her out. He then looked at the girl and said to his students, "Ensure that you become very strong. So that such a misfortune doesn't befall you." The genins could hear an uncharacteristic sadness in Renjiro's voice. They all replied with determination, "Yes sensei."

After leaving the cave, Renjiro made a clone. The clone grabbed the two dead bodies outside the cave, and tossed them inside. He then used Earth Wall jutsu to seal the entrance to the cave. Fujin asked, "Sensei, don't we have to give any proof to the village chief about completing the mission?" Renjiro shook his head and said, "Not on rank C missions that require elimination of bandits. Proof is required for assassination missions. If the heads of the bandits are given to the village, then more bandits will target the village in the future." Renjiro then said, "Let's go back to the village."

On the way, Fujin asked, "Sensei, have we eliminated all the bandits? What if there are any who weren't in this base?" Renjiro shook his head and said, "Doubtful. You can sense upto half a kilometre and still didn't find anyone. Even if there are one or two outside, seeing that their fellow bandits are dead, they won't cause anymore trouble for the village. Anyways, we were told that there were over 15 bandits, and we killed 22. That's more than enough for completing our mission."

However Mieko argued back, "But sensei, in that case, won't the criminals roam free? What if they were responsible for torturing this girl? What if they join some other bandits, and continue doing this?" Renjiro replied, "Our mission was to eliminate the bandit group harassing the village. Anything further isn't our responsibility." However Mieko wasn't convinced and she glared at her sensei. Renjiro sighed and said, "Just killing off an entire bandit group doesn't mean that more won't appear. In a couple of years, another group will be formed. This isn't something you or I can change. So searching for any bandit not in the hideout is pointless. If they join some other group, they'll die when we get the mission to eliminate that group."

Mieko was still unconvinced, but she stopped arguing. Fujin sighed internally thinking, 'No matter the world, the cruelty of humanity always exists. It's many times worse in this world than in my previous world. To torture and mutilate this girl for nothing but fun and amusement. I can't even imagine what they did to the other girls they kidnapped.'

He then glanced at Renjiro and thought, 'Konoha. It is reputed to be a very peace-loving village. Led by a Kage who propagates peace. Of course, anyone with little brains can see that Konoha is nowhere near as peace-loving as it claims to be. The mere existence of Root throws that claim in the trash. However, there's no denying that it still is more peace-loving than the other 4 Great Villages. Still it engages in such a practice. While it's true that finding other bandits will be a pain in the ass, it still won't be very difficult. Now these bandits will form a bandit group in the future and become its leaders. In the future, they'll again target this village, and the village will again send a mission to Konoha.'

This cycle will ensure that this village will always need Konoha's help and will always feel indebted to Konoha. Similarly, every village in the Land of Fire will feel indebted to Konoha. Thus, a pressure will be maintained on the Daimyo to keep supporting and perhaps funding Konoha. Such a simple way to maintain influence. It doesn't cost Konoha anything, but costs dozens of lives to each of these villages. Sigh, if the most peace-loving village is so brutal and cruel, I wonder what a cruel village will be.'

He then let a breath of air out and thought, 'Well whatever, it doesn't exactly concern me.'

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Chapter 49: Consecutive Rank C Missions

They soon reached the village. On entering the village, the girl on Renjiro's back got a few curious looks. The squad entered the Village Chief's house again and laid the girl down on a bed in his home. Renjiro said, "She needs immediate medical care." The Village Chief nodded and went out to send someone to call the village doctor.

At that moment, a middle-aged man came running towards the Village Chief house. On seeing the Village Chief, he quickly asked while sobbing, "Chi... Chief, m..my daughter? Is she...?" The Village Chief quickly calmed him and said, "Yes, she's safe. Enter my home." He quickly ran to the house and rushed to his daughter. On seeing him running, Renjiro stopped him and said, "She's injured, don't hug her or hold her tightly." The man finally stopped and sat down next to the bed and began sobbing after seeing the bandages on his daughter.

Soon a doctor arrived and began attending to her. The father and the village chief thanked Renjiro and the genins again and again. After a few minutes, the Village Chief handed Renjiro a paper, and the squad left the village and moved back to the town.

After reaching the town, Renjiro said, "Take today off. Explore this town. However, stick together. We'll meet in the same restaurant as yesterday's at 1 pm." After he left, Hoka said, "You know, because so much happened, I didn't notice that we completed the mission and returned back to this town in merely two hours!" Mieko nodded. Fujin sighed and said, "Yeah, and the actual fight didn't even last for a couple of minutes. Even though killing was hard to adjust to, the fight itself wasn't a challenge."

Hearing that, Mieko asked for all the details. Hoka had already seen it all with his Byakugan, so he didn't ask for it. After giving out the details, Mieko felt a bit anticlimactic about the rank C mission. Fujin chuckled and said, "Next time you snap at that guy, force him to give us a rank B mission." Hearing that,

Mieko loudly replied, "Hey, who snapped?" This yell attracted the attention of nearby people and made Mieko go red with embarrassment. She thought for a bit and said, "But yeah, I guess we should ask for rank B missions."

The kids then toured around the town. They tried some of the local food there and played a few games. At 1 pm, they met up with Renjiro in the restaurant. After occupying the seats, Renjiro looked at Fujin and asked, "So, how are you doing?" Fujin said, "I am doing fine sensei." Renjiro nodded satisfactorily and said, "Good. You have handled your first kill very well. I am proud of you." He then looked at Mieko and Hoka and said, "Next, it'll be your turn. Prepare yourselves." The two young ninjas nodded nervously.

Lunch came and the team started eating. While they were eating, Mieko suddenly asked, "Sensei, when can we do Rank B missions?" Renjiro squinted his eyes and asked, "What brought this on?" Mieko said, "We want to fight against the enemy ninjas. Just fighting bandits is not much fun." Renjiro scoffed and said, "Hmph. You guys ain't ready." However, he saw Mieko's determined face. Knowing the trouble she'll cause, he quickly added, "If you ask this again, or pester me for rank B missions, I'll make you do rank D missions for an entire year." This threat made Mieko quiet down quickly.

Team Renjiro didn't do much for the rest of the day. The next morning, a similar procedure was followed. Team Renjiro was hiding in a Bamboo forest, while looking at the Bandit hideout. The bandits had cleared out a small area, and constructed 3 small huts and 1 medium-sized hut to serve as their base. The medium-sized hut was in the centre, while the other 3 were around it. Fujin had sensed 12 people inside those huts. Renjiro asked, "So, who wants this one?" Mieko beat Hoka by saying, "ME!" Renjiro nodded and said, "Alright, we'll leave this hideout to you."

Mieko began walking forward stealthily. But soon she stopped and returned. She looked at Hoka and asked, "Hoka, do they have any hostages?" Hoka checked and answered, "No, all 12 seem to be bandits." Mieko asked, "How many are there in each of the huts?" Hoka answered, "There are 9 in the central hut, 2 in that hut, 1 in the hut on the right and the last one is empty." Mieko nodded and used Earth Military Movement jutsu to stealthily move forward.

She stopped 5 metres away from the hut which had 2 bandits and appeared out of the ground. The bigger hut was exactly behind the small hut from where she was standing. She quickly made the hand signs, 'Fireball jutsu'. The fireball quickly moved through the smaller hut. As soon as it moved through it, 2 people screamed loudly. Since the fireball didn't explode, it just burnt them and didn't kill them right away.

The fireball moved through the smaller hut to the bigger hut. It exploded right at the centre of the bigger hut. The explosion completely demolished the hut. Fujin saw 4 bodies being thrown out due to the explosion. The explosion killed 7 bandits on the spot. 2 bandits, who were thrown out, were still alive and were screaming due to being on fire. The status of the 2 bandits in the smaller hut was the same. Due to the huts being made of bamboo and leaves, they offered no resistance to the fireball. Hearing the screams, the last remaining bandit got out of his hut, only to see 2 huts on fire. He looked around and saw one of his fellow bandits burning and screaming. The view horrified him. Before he could decide to do anything, Mieko flickered behind him and used Fire Release : Four jutsu to produce a heat ray that stabbed him through the heart and killed him.

Now that all the bandits were killed or incapacitated, Mieko looked around her. She saw the dead bodies on fire. She could smell the flesh burning and hear the dying screams from 3 bandits. That scene immediately made her vomit. Renjiro quickly appeared behind her and consoled her. Fujin, having already killed, was able to look at this scene without much struggle. Hoka however, struggled due to the smell and the screams.

Soon the screams died down and all the bandits were dead. After giving Mieko a few minutes to adjust, Team Renjiro retreated from there. Before leaving, Renjiro buried the whole place underground using an Earth Release jutsu.

The next day, Team Renjiro again repeated a similar mission. This time, the mission was to arrest the bandits. Hoka completed it by knocking out all the bandits and tying them up. However, Renjiro made Hoka kill 2 bandits so that he could get his first kill too. Renjiro gave the squad off on the fourth day.

On the fifth morning, Renjiro said, "Today will be our last mission. You three have done well. Let's move out." On the way he said, "Today's bandit hideout will be much bigger. So you will have to cooperate with each other." The genins nodded in agreement. Continuous drills for 2 and half months had made their teamwork very good. And being there for each other when they made their first kill had brought them much closer. So working together wasn't an issue for any of them.

On reaching the hideout, the genins noticed that the entire hideout was actually underground. Fujin scanned the entire base. He said, "There are 63 people I can sense." He then looked at Renjiro and said, "And 5 have higher chakra levels. Though they are only Genin level." Renjiro nodded, whereas Mieko exclaimed cheerfully, "Yes, finally we will fight ninjas!"

Fujin asked, "But Sensei, aren't missions that involve ninjas ranked B?" Renjiro nodded his head and replied, "Yeah, but they are only Genin level. There are many cases of people outside the hidden villages unlocking their chakra and reaching genin level by themselves. There are also many cases of genins

defecting from the village. Anyways, they are barely ninjas, and many times rank C missions include dealing with them too. So be careful. After all, there are over a hundred thousand ninjas in the world, so who knows where one can be."

The genins nodded. Fujin thought, 'Hmm, this is unexpected. Though it makes sense I guess. If the village begins ranking missions as rank B for only a chance of having to deal with a rogue Genin, then rank C missions will probably not exist at all.'

The team began by first mapping the base. The base was quite big. There was one big room at the center of the hideout. Fujin suggested, "Let's call it the main room." There were 3 exits to the main room, all almost equidistant from each other. These exits were connected to one big corridor that surrounded the entire main room. On the other side of the passageway, were many smaller rooms. Hoka commented, "I guess they use the main room as a common room for planning, celebration, etc., while the smaller rooms are their personal rooms." There were a lot of traps all over the base, which were spotted by Hoka.

Of the 5 ninjas, 3 were together in the main room, while the other 2 were in the smaller rooms. Mieko said, "Hmm, both the ninjas in the smaller rooms have their rooms very close to that exit from the main base." Fujin nodded and said, "Yeah, we will have to be careful while killing them. If they make a lot of sound, it'll alert everyone in the main room." The bandits too were all over the base. In all, there were 4 exits from the hideout to above the ground. One was located in the main room, while 3 were just outside the exits from the main room to the corridor.

Fujin thought, 'This base is very well built. I wonder if it started with something small and was slowly expanded as the bandit group grew larger. Or, if the base is something that naturally existed and was just occupied by these bandits. Also, if we didn't destroy those bandit groups, would they have grown in this manner too?'

Fujin looked at his teammates and said, "So first, we have to decide from where to attack them." Mieko replied, "Let's just attack the main room. Most bandits are present there." Hoka nodded and added, "Yeah, this way we'll deal with the majority of them in one blow, and we can then pick out the scattered bandits one by one." Fujin replied, "Yeah, good idea. But if we do that, then the scattered bandits can try to escape." Hoka replied, "Yeah, but we can just chase and kill them." Fujin replied, "But it'll be very troublesome to hunt them all down one by one. Especially if all of them run in different directions. Also, by destroying the main room, the bandits in all the other rooms will be alerted, and the ninjas will be alerted too."

Hoka thought a bit and nodded in agreement. Mieko asked, "Then, what do you think?" Fujin pointed in a direction and said, "That room there is at one edge of the hideout. And also has one of the five ninjas there. Let's start with that room. We will sneak up on the ninja and kill him. Then we will clear the nearby rooms and slowly and stealthily head to the main room. This way, this direction will already be cleared when we destroy the main room. So killing them all will be much easier." Mieko and Hoka thought for a few seconds and agreed with the plan.

The genins then discussed the plan further and decided on the details. Once everything was planned, they checked their weapons, and were about to begin their attack. But Mieko suddenly asked, "Wait, who will kill the ninja?" Hoka quickly replied, "I'll kill him." Mieko rebuked him, "Why you? I will kill the ninja." They then looked at Fujin. He said, "My sword provides me with a longer range, I think I'll be more suited to killing him." However neither Hoka nor Mieko agreed to that logic.

The argument about the kill went on for a minute. Renjiro observed his genins and sighed. Fujin then said, "Well, all three of us can kill him. So let's just decide with Rock, Paper, Scissors." On hearing that, both Hoka and Mieko looked at Fujin with a deadpan expression. Mieko said, "That's so childish! We are ninjas!" Fujin scoffed and asked, "Well, do you two have any better ideas?" Hoka and Mieko looked at each other. Not having any other idea, they reluctantly agreed.

They soon got in the posture to play the game and began playing. Renjiro now looked over with amusement. The first three rounds were tied. Fujin thought, 'This is fun. I guess that's why Goku and Vegeta did this so often.' Mieko thought, 'I am not sure if I'll wi..... Wait!'

As the trio began the 4th round, Mieko's eyes suddenly turned red. She saw that both Fujin and Hoka were about to do Rock, so she went with paper. And said, "I win." Hoka quickly protested, "Hey, no sharingan. That's cheating!" Mieko rebuked him, "Well, there were no rules stating that we couldn't use sharingans." Fujin, who just wanted to start the mission, chuckled and said, "Well she got us there. Remember to set the rules properly next time." Seeing that he didn't have Fujin's support, Hoka reluctantly agreed.

They then looked at each other and nodded. All three made hand signs and disappeared within the ground. The bandit base, which was properly hidden and even well defended due to being underground, was about to feel the terror of being hunted by a squad, in which every member could freely move underground.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 50: Raid

In the hideout, Hirota Masa was relaxing. He had joined the bandit group 3 years ago. He had already unlocked his chakra before joining the bandit group. When the leader of the bandits noticed him, he quickly recruited and trained him. Now he was one of the leaders of this group, and even had 2 subordinates who helped him in everything.

As Hiroto Masa was relaxing in a good mood, a hand, with two fingers pointing out, popped from the ground. It headed towards his chest from his back and released a heat ray that penetrated his heart and killed him on the spot. At the same time, Fujin slashed the head off one bandit, and Hoka jabbed two fingers in the chest of the remaining bandit. The raid had begun. All 3 bandits died, without even making a sound.

Fujin, Hoka and Miekeo looked at each other and nodded. They separated and headed towards the other rooms. In less than a minute, the rooms on this side were all cleared. They had assassinated 16 bandits, including a ninja. They gathered together again, and looked in the main room. The bandits there were still unaware of the calamity upon them.

As decided, Fujin and Miekeo split off in opposite directions, and began clearing the remaining rooms. Hoka, on the other hand, stayed there, and rigged the entrance to the main room with traps, so that the bandits couldn't escape in this direction. He created quicksand at the entrances, and also created a lot of rock spikes around the quicksand trap.

The second ninja bandit was closer to Miekeo's location than Fujin's location. Therefore, she was the first one to reach him after she had killed 6 more bandits. Even though Miekeo was as stealthy as she could be, the ninja still noticed that something was amiss, and asked his two subordinates to be prepared. As soon as he saw Miekeo, who was rushing towards him at a very high speed, he threw a few shurikens to disrupt her. Seeing her enemy throwing shurikens at her, Miekeo thought, 'Damn, they noticed.' Miekeo used her Sharingan to skillfully dodge the shurikens and thought, 'Oh well, this makes it more fun.' She quickly approached him. To maintain the stealth, she couldn't use any destructive Fire Release jutsus and had to close the distance to use Fire Release : Four jutsu.

She soon reached the appropriate distance and used her jutsu. Her right hand was stretched out, with her middle and index finger pointing towards the rogue ninja's heart and released the ray. Though the rogue ninja didn't know the jutsu Miekeo was planning to use, her outstretched fingers warned him and he quickly moved backwards. Miekeo followed, but the ninja hid behind one of his subordinates. Miekeo screamed internally, 'Coward!' and changed her target. She focused the heat ray on the subordinate and killed him. However, the rogue ninja used this opportunity to throw 3 shurikens on Miekeo. Miekeo had to dodge quickly due to the small distance. She barely managed to dodge at the last moment.

She recovered, and was about to continue her attack, when a sword pierced through the heart of the ninja from his back. This annoyed Mieko as Fujin had stolen her kill. She said angrily, "I could have killed him by mys..." But a loud scream interrupted her.

Seeing his boss getting stabbed through his heart shocked the remaining bandit. And he yelled in terror. Realising her mistake, Mieko quickly threw a kunai at the bandit and killed him.

Fujin ignored Mieko and focused on the main room. The battle had already created enough noise to attract some attention. And the loud scream had got the attention of all the bandits in the hideout. Fujin sighed and said, "You weren't stealthy enough." Mieko snorted and replied, "Well, it doesn't matter anymore." She began making hand signs. Fujin flickered next to her, and made a hand sign too. At the same time, they released their jutsu, 'Fire-Wind Dragon jutsu'.

In the main room, the bandits were busy with sorting their recent loot. Some of the bandits had heard some noises from the side where Mieko was killing the bandits. However it was mostly ignored by them. But soon, a loud scream attracted everyone's attention. The 3 remaining rogue ninjas too were on alert. One of them directed 2 bandits to go in and check what was happening. Those 2 carefully moved towards the exit in that direction. However, right before reaching there, they suddenly felt a lot of heat. But before they could do anything, a dragon head, made of fire, entered the room and engulfed them. They immediately began screaming in pain.

The dragon quickly entered the room completely. The sight of a dragon made of fire scared the bandits stiff. The dragon began spitting Wind Explosion jutsus all over the room. Seeing that, one bandit quickly made hand signs and slammed his hands on the ground, causing a rock shield to be created in front of him. Some of the nearby bandits quickly ran behind that shield.

The Wind Explosion jutsus hit 7 bandits head on. The winds created by the explosion, slashed the throats of 2 bandits, killing them on spot. However, they were much luckier than the ones who didn't die. For the remaining 5, the winds created small cuts all over their bodies. As it was a combination jutsu, the wind was incredibly hot. So, along with the cuts, it also caused low level burns on those bandits. And it was incredibly painful when their cuts were exposed to that hot air. One of those 5 bandits was even more unlucky as he didn't shut his eyes. It resulted in a lot of hot air bombarding his eyes, causing them to burn up. So though the jutsu didn't kill them, they were scarred and in immense pain.

Even the bandits nearby were harmed by the hot wind slashes. However, they could still fight or run. The attack caused panic among the bandits.

Three bandits quickly tried to escape out of the base. They rushed towards the ladder and began climbing it. Unfortunately for them, Hoka was standing just above the exit. Hoka waited for all 3 bandits to be on the ladder, and then made a few hand signs, 'Stone Spear jutsu'. From the walls around the ladder, dozens of spears began appearing. They stabbed all the 3 bandits on the ladder, killing them on spot. It also blocked the access to the ladder for the remaining bandits.

Two bandits ran towards the area which was cleared by Fujin earlier. On sensing the bandits running in that direction, Fujin made a hand sign and waited. As soon as the bandits exited the main room, Fujin exploded the explosion tag he had planted there. That caused the rocks from the ceiling to fall down, and crushed those bandits. It also sealed that exit.

Five bandits ran towards the room where Hiroto Masa was supposed to be. However, as soon as they exited the main room, they fell straight into the quicksand trap. The quicksand Hoka had created had a depth of 4 metres and had covered the entire entrance. All five bandits were trapped there and were slowly sinking in.

Eleven bandits were hiding behind the rock shield created by their leader and eight were still trying to escape in the directions of their fellow bandits. However, they stopped in their tracks after seeing what happened to them. Fujin used this opportunity to make the dragon bombard them with 3 Wind Explosion Jutsus, injuring all eight of them to a certain degree. The dragon then circled around to get a clear shot at the bandits hiding behind the rock. The leader quickly made another rock shield.

Sadly for him, Fujin and Mieko had anticipated it. Instead of bombarding, the dragon circled around more and launched 2 Wind Explosion jutsus in such a manner that they couldn't escape from there. They were surrounded by the rock shields on two sides and Wind Explosion jutsus on the remaining two sides. Only the 3 ninjas managed to jump and move to the other side of the rock shields. The remaining bandits were trapped and took minor injuries. The dragon then moved forward and engulfed all of those bandits. It set all eight of the bandits on fire, but also caused the Fire-Wind Dragon to dissipate.

This assault had incapacitated all the bandits in the hideout, with the exception of the three ninjas. Two among them were novices with no actual experience beyond their banditry. Only the leader had a bit of experience as he was once a genin in the Kusagakure. He had noticed that the jutsu was about to dissipate and said, "Hurry and follow me." He led the remaining two to the entrance from where the dragon had come in. However, on entering, he didn't see anyone there. Instead he saw the dead body of his fellow bandits and one of his ninjas. Seeing him dead alarmed him and he became much more cautious. He said, "Be careful, they might still be around. Let's look for them toge..."

Suddenly he jumped up and looked below. The ground had moved and wanted to trap his feet in it. Even though he dodged, Fujin smirked underground, 'Got them'. He had trapped the other two bandits.

Mieko saw that and appeared at the entrance. She quickly made hand signs, 'Fireball jutsu'. The trapped bandits couldn't dodge and were caught in the explosion. Only the leader managed to dodge. He saw his last two bandits burning with disbelief, 'It's all over... I need to escape.'

He quickly began running away. However, Fujin stealthily launched a shuriken enhanced with chakra flow at his left leg. Distracted by fear and the urgency to escape, the bandit leader didn't notice it. The shuriken hit his left leg from behind, and cut through it like a hot knife through butter. Suddenly losing his left leg made him fall down and cry in pain. Fujin then used Body Flicker jutsu to appear right above him and stab a sword through his heart. The bandit leader died with despair on his face.

Fujin looked at Mieko and said, "Looks like this is over." Mieko asked, "Aren't there a few still alive back in the main room?" Fujin chuckled and said, "Not anymore" and began walking towards the main room. Mieko followed him. In the main room, Hoka had already killed all the bandits who were still alive from the Fire-Wind Dragon's assault.

At that moment, Renjiro too appeared within the main room. He thought, 'Not bad, they killed every last one of them. And they have adjusted to killing well.' He said, "Good work. This mission is successfully completed." He then looked at his team and said, "It's good to see you guys being able to handle the killing very well." The kids nodded. Even though they were still repulsed by the gore around them, they could handle themselves without vomiting.

Renjiro then led his team out of the hideout. He then made the hand seal for an Earth Release jutsu. Fujin quickly stopped him by asking, "Sensei, isn't it a waste to destroy such a good base?" The sudden question stopped Renjiro from destroying the underground base. He asked, "What do you mean?" Fujin replied, "Can't we use this base for our own ninjas?" Renjiro asked, "And how will our ninjas use this base?"

Fujin thought for a few seconds and replied, "Well, they could use it as a base during war. Or they could use it as a temporary resting place or perhaps create an underground supply depot." Renjiro shook his head and said, "The closest hidden village from here is Kusa. And they are allied with us. Even if they weren't, they can't penetrate this deep into the Fire country. If there is any threat, then it'll be Iwa which is beyond Kusa. However, if they are able to penetrate this deep into the Land of Fire, then that base will be useless anyways as the majority of the Iwa ninjas are masters of Earth Release jutsus. They'll just bury all the troops underground. As for supply depots and resting places, there are already sufficient numbers of them. So it is unnecessary too."

Fujin fell in thoughts and realized, 'Yeah, that makes sense. Konoha has been around for decades. Surely their infrastructure would be top notch by now. And surely they'd have identified all the bases over the Land of Fire.' He then nodded to Renjiro, who destroyed the entire hideout.

On the way back to the town, Mieko asked, "Sensei, were they really ninjas? Only one of them used any Ninjutsu, and even that was only a rank E jutsu. They couldn't put up a fight at all." Renjiro answered, "They were just common bandits who had unlocked chakra by accident or luck. Only their leader was probably a former ninja gone rogue. However, he too barely had any proper training. So it wasn't a surprise that he wasn't a match for you guys, who are being trained by me."

Hoka asked in excitement, "Sensei, aren't there bounties on rogue ninjas?" Renjiro shook his head and replied, "Only if they are very famous. Someone who barely qualifies as a genin won't have any bounty at all." That drowned Hoka's excitement. He continued following the squad with his shoulders dropped.

Mieko, who was still stuck on how weak her enemies were, asked, "Sensei, when can we fight real ninjas then?" Renjiro turned his head and stared at her. He thought, 'Nice way of indirectly asking me for rank B missions.' On noticing that Renjiro had noticed her thoughts, Mieko was embarrassed. But she didn't allow that embarrassment to appear on her face. Fujin noticed that and thought, 'Damn, these ninjas are born shameless.' Renjiro smirked and answered, "After you have captured that cat a hundred times."

That answer drained the color off Mieko's face. Hoka glared at her. While Fujin chuckled thinking, 'I guess no one can compete with the older generation in shamelessness.' Mieko then began apologizing to Renjiro and began a funny banter. Sadly for her, she was no match for Renjiro.