

Calamity 461

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 461: Standstill

Kakuzu, who was lying pretending to be dead, was dumbfounded. It was a common practice in the ninja world to collect the dead bodies of enemy ninjas instead of destroying them. After all, the dead body of a strong ninja was a treasure trove. It contained a lot of information. It was even more true in the case of Konoha ninjas due to the Yamanaka clan's ability to read memories. Hence, Kakuzu never expected that Fujin would try to destroy his dead body!

He immediately jumped up. The Vacuum Cannon hit where he was lying and created a canal in the ground as it moved. Of course, that wasn't the end of Kakuzu's trouble. He quickly hardened his body before he was hit by the Fire-Wind combination jutsu!

He wondered, 'Is there something wrong with his head? Or does he have information about my abilities? Did Konoha find out so much about me after that small clash with Renjiro?'

Kakuzu couldn't be sure. Unfortunately, he didn't have the time to ponder about it deeply. Even though Kakuzu managed to barely protect himself in time, it wasn't enough to completely stop the combination attack. The high speed and razor-sharp winds combined with hot flames forced Kakuzu backwards! The Akatsuki cloak on his body was blown away. Several burns and a few cuts appeared on his body.

Fortunately, he could endure the pain. Unfortunately, he didn't dare to use any defensive jutsus to help himself and instead focused entirely on the incoming attack. Immediately, he moved within the firestorm. A few Vacuum Bullets pierced through the space he was standing at earlier.

Outside the firestorm, Fujin sighed and thought, 'He dodged them so easily. Vacuum Bullets have no chance of killing a strong ninja unless I catch him completely by surprise. I need a large-scale Vacuum jutsu. He wouldn't have had much chance of dodging while playing possum if I had it. But how do I create one?'

Though Fujin had created an array of Wind Vacuum jutsus, he had failed to create one that had a wide range. The Vacuum Core would always collapse when he tried to do so. Though he hadn't practiced Vacuum jutsus much in recent times, he did keep thinking about solving this issue. Unfortunately, he hadn't had much luck.

As he fell back, a large number of threads began poking out of Kakuzu's body. They replaced his missing arms and the left side of his body. Two masks, the Fire Mask and the Wind Mask, appeared next to his head. Another mask, the Lightning Mask, appeared on his chest.

In an instant, the Fire and Wind masks began preparing their jutsus.

'Wind Release: Pressure Damage jutsu'

'Fire Release: Searing Migraine jutsu'

In order to stop the combination jutsu, Kakuzu decided to counterattack with a similar combination jutsu. Normally, the two jutsus would have been equally matched. However, Fujin's jutsu had already been active for some time. As a result, Kakuzu's jutsu managed to overpower what was remaining of Fujin's jutsu and his jutsu moved through the Firestorm Fujin had started.

Fujin saw the incoming attack and shot a few Vacuum Bullets before flickering to the side. The Vacuum Bullets had no chance of stopping the incoming attack. They were only meant to annoy Kakuzu who was standing on the other side of the firestorm. He dodged the incoming Vacuum Bullets as Fujin predicted. However, Fujin had achieved his goal. The Vacuum Bullets once again forced Kakuzu to be on high alert at all times and kept up the pressure Fujin had built up!

With no opposition, the Fire-Wind Combination jutsu moved through the snow-covered forest. Every tree in its path was set on fire. The snow on the ground began melting as well. In fact, even the remains of Kakuzu's arms were burnt to a crisp by the firestorm.

After travelling a few hundred meters, the combination jutsu finally died down. As for the target of the jutsu, he flickered a few times to completely avoid the jutsu and snuck behind Kakuzu. Kakuzu quickly turned around to face him and thought, 'His fighting style is as relentless as the intel said.'

Akatsuki had researched Fujin and the Spectral Swordsman after Juzo's death. According to their intel, Fujin's method of fighting was being extremely relentless and peppering the enemy with jutsus that consumed less chakra but had high speed and high penetrative power continuously. His enemy has to fail to dodge just once and the battle would be over. Unfortunately for Fujin, Akatsuki had several

individuals who didn't have a normal body. As a result, fighting with his usual fighting style was very restrictive for Fujin.

On seeing Kakuzu's form, Fujin wondered, 'Is this his most powerful form? After all, he used it against Kakashi when he had lost two of his hearts. Seeing the Lightning Mask on his chest, I guess his current level is stronger than what he was against Naruto. I wonder how strong he'd be if he had the 5th heart as well...'

Fujin quickly moved closer to cut him with his sword once again. However, Kakuzu had no intention of engaging in close-range combat with Fujin after getting hurt twice. The Wind Mask shot Air bullets, the Fire Mask shot small fireballs and the Lightning Mask shot a few lightning bolts to keep Fujin far away. At the same time, threads extended from Kakuzu's body to make it very difficult for Fujin to engage in close combat.

The barrage of attacks forced Fujin backwards as he dodged. A few threads drilled out from the ground to trap Fujin, however, he flickered far away as soon as he felt something drilling through the ground. He concentrated his wind chakra into his sword and swung it horizontally.

A massive sword slash accompanied by several sharp winds flew towards Kakuzu. However, Kakuzu once again resorted to the Fire-Wind Combination jutsu, forcing Fujin to escape once again.

After dodging, Fujin flickered a few times to approach Kakuzu from another direction but was stopped again. The masks fired a few more shots as Kakuzu asked, "You are good. How did you detect that I wasn't dead?"

Kakuzu didn't get any response from Fujin. Though Kakuzu was the one at a disadvantage, Fujin didn't dare to underestimate him. Every one of the elemental attacks could hurt him considerably. And, the threads were constantly trying to sneak up on him through the ground. He had to maintain full attention on the battle to ensure that Kakuzu didn't gain momentum once again.

The two continued fighting. With his sword and Blades of Wind jutsu, Kakuzu's threads weren't of any danger to him as long as he detected them. Whenever they got too close, Fujin would cut them off. However, due to the elemental bombardment along with attacks from the threads, Fujin was unable to get close to Kakuzu. His Vacuum Bullets and other attacks didn't pose much of a threat to Kakuzu as he had plenty of time to dodge them.

To pressure Kakuzu, Fujin used his Shadow and Wind clones to bombard him with more Vacuum Bullets from various angles. It put Kakuzu under a lot of pressure. But even under such pressure, not a single Vacuum jutsu hit Kakuzu!

The battle entered a standstill with Kakuzu successfully keeping Fujin at midrange. Though he couldn't harm Fujin, Fujin was unable to harm him either. He also used Fire-Wind Combination jutsu several times, but Fujin dodged each time without counterattacking.

The main reason for not counterattacking with large-scale jutsus was that this battle was one of the few ones where Fujin didn't have the advantage in terms of chakra reserves. Kakuzu was considerably superior to Fujin in this aspect. Since Fujin didn't see any way to overpower Kakuzu's combination jutsu, he didn't bother wasting his chakra as there wasn't much point in merely stopping it.

As a result, several Firestorms moved unrestricted through the snowy forests. A large area was burned down. If not for the snow, multiple forest fires would have started spreading throughout the Land of Frost.

Fujin sighed internally after being unsuccessful in closing the distance for the nth time. He thought, 'There is no end to this. We will just have to keep fighting until one of us runs out of chakra. Of course, no one is stupid enough to reach that stage.'

Worse, he is getting used to my fighting style. Even if I somehow make him run low on chakra and be unwilling to use so many elemental attacks, I doubt I'll be able to injure him as well as I did earlier. I will need to use my Wind Domain if I want to injure him now. Unfortunately, my Wind Domain isn't strong enou...'

Suddenly, Fujin sensed a disturbance. During the fight, he had kept his Space-Time Sensing Technique activated at all times. Someone had entered into it!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 462: Fooling Kakuzu

Fujin thought, 'Hmm, someone is heading towards here. Is it Itachi or Konan or someone else?'

Unfortunately, Fujin couldn't sense who it was as his Space-Time Sensing Technique didn't allow him to identify chakra signatures. A moment later, he sensed another disturbance. A few seconds later, both of those entities entered his chakra field.

However, a peculiar expression appeared on Fujin's face. He muttered to himself, 'What's the use of being able to identify chakra signatures if my chakra field can't even detect that a couple of ninjas have entered it?'

Fujin's chakra field failed to pick up either of the chakra signatures. If not for the Space-Time Sensing Technique, he would have been in the dark about their arrival. Being able to hide themselves so well left little doubt of their identities.

Fujin looked at Kakuzu and said, "You are quite stronger than what we thought. We will have to reevaluate your threat."

Kakuzu was confused by Fujin's words. Fujin hadn't spoken a word since they started fighting. He couldn't help but wonder why he talked all of a sudden.

Suddenly, 4 Shadow Clones popped next to Fujin. A breeze could be seen flowing around Fujin. He disappeared within that breeze. Kakuzu immediately recognized, 'Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu? Why did he escape when he had the upper hand?'

Though the fight was a stalemate for a long time, Fujin held the initiative due to his Vacuum jutsus. Of course, that little advantage wasn't much of a threat for Kakuzu. He believed that he would gain the upper hand if the fight continued for a long time. Breeze began flowing around him as well, however, Fujin's clones immediately attacked him, interrupting his attempt to use the same jutsu to chase after Fujin.

One of the clones said, "Give it up. You can't chase after me anymore. Even though you can use Wind jutsus, they can't compare to my mastery of Wind jutsus."

Kakuzu knew that the clone was right. Though he had other advantages over Fujin, in terms of control over Wind jutsus, Fujin was in an entirely different league. Since he failed to give chase instantly, he understood that he wouldn't be able to catch up with Fujin anymore. However, he still didn't understand why Fujin escaped.

He asked, "Why did you escape?"

The clone shrugged and said, "What's the point of our fight? You don't dare to engage me in close range. And neither of us can hurt each other at mid-range."

Kakuzu agreed with the clone's words. Ever since they stopped fighting in close combat, neither of their attacks landed as both Fujin and Kakuzu were too fast. However, he couldn't help but wonder, 'If that is the case, then why did he fight for so long? Besides, without the Hyuga and the Inuzuka ninja, he can't track Hidan anyway.'

Seeing Kakuzu in thought, the clone asked, "By the way, what is up with your body? I'm pretty sure I slashed your heart. How are you still alive? And what's with all those threads? I haven't ever seen a body like yours."

Kakuzu watched the clone with a deadpan expression. Of course, he wouldn't answer the question and instead asked, "Is that so? Why did you attack me after you destroyed my heart then?"

The clone replied, "Well, sensei said that your body was very weird. I just wanted to make sure that you are dead. Fortunately, I made the right decision seeing how lively you are."

The clone's reply was very casual. It caused Kakuzu to be even more confused. He wondered, 'Did he leave some clones behind to chat with me? I expected them to use suicidal attacks. But it seems like they are content with wasting time. Besides, how could Renjiro analyze so much of my abilities in that short fight? He shouldn't have been aware of what happened after his Shadow Clone exploded.'

Having no intention to talk any further, Kakuzu was about to attack when he felt someone approaching. He looked back and saw Konan arriving. At that very instant, the clones launched Vacuum Bullets at Kakuzu.

However, despite getting distracted, Kakuzu was still very alert. He dodged all the incoming attacks. The Vacuum Bullets kept travelling forward towards Konan, who was approaching from behind.

She saw the incoming bullets and got out of the way as well, glancing at them as they passed her. She thought, 'Vacuum Bullets? Kakuzu's opponent is the Spectral Swordsman of the Hidden Leaf?'

Right after dodging, Kakuzu's Fire and Wind Masks used their combination jutsu on the clones. While the clones dodged, Konan gathered a large number of paper sheets into 4 chakram-like shapes and threw them at the clones who were dodging the Fire-Wind combination jutsu. At the same time, Itachi arrived from the opposite direction as well. However, he didn't attack and instead stood next to Kakuzu and Konan who were standing together.

Dodging the combination jutsu wasn't difficult. However, Konan's Paper Chakrams were very difficult to dodge as they chased them continuously. The clones had to use Vacuum Cannons to shoot down the chakrams.

After dealing with the jutsus, the four clones got together once again and stood opposite the three Akatsuki members. One of the clones muttered aloud, "Uchiha Itachi... How many rogue ninjas does Akatsuki have? And who is the lady?"

Konan wasn't wearing any headband. So Fujin shouldn't know anything about her under normal circumstances. Hence his clones acted ignorant.

Konan and Itachi were slightly surprised. They believed that Fujin should be able to sense how strong Konan was even if he didn't know her. As for Itachi, there was no explanation needed. In addition, there was also Kakuzu. Facing 3 rank S ninjas, there wasn't a hint of fear on Fujin's or his clones' faces.

Konan said, "The Spectral Swordsman of the Hidden Leaf. To not be afraid in such circumstances, it seems like everyone has still underestimated you."

Meanwhile, Itachi wondered, 'Suzuki Fujin... I still remember him asking Lord Third for a reward for breaking my record in the Chunin Exams. I didn't think he'd become so strong so quickly. I hope he'll be able to escape unharmed.'

Kakuzu understood the thought process of his fellow members and said, "All four of them are clones. That is why they aren't afraid. His main body escaped some time ago. He should have detected you two coming and decided to leave."

Konan and Itachi understood why their opponent was fearless. Both were also surprised by the fact that Fujin was able to sense them. Konan asked Kakuzu, "Why were you fighting him? Our mission doesn't involve him."

Kakuzu replied, "He has a large bounty. Besides, his mission was the same as ours. We would have had to fight either way. They gave up after encountering me. We just need to destroy these 4 clones and continue."

Konan and Itachi finally understood the entire picture. They were about to attack when one of the clones chuckled. He asked, "Gave up? Who told you that?"

Kakuzu was surprised. However, he immediately thought of a possibility. He thought, 'Wait! Were his orders false? Now that I think about it, his subordinates withdrew very quickly. Don't tell me that they just pretended to leave and instead went around me to continue their chase. In that case...'

Kakuzu's expression changed. Though he didn't particularly care about Hidan, getting played in such a manner by someone so much younger than him didn't feel good. Fujin's clone chuckled once more and said, "By now, my main body should have already caught Hidan. As for you three, we will kill you here right now!"

Immediately, the four clones flickered and entered into an intense combat with the three Akatsuki members. Of course, the clones weren't a match for the three of them. They just wanted to get a feel of Uchiha Itachi and Konan and experience their prowess first-hand. Apart from checking out their chakra signatures, that was the main reason why Fujin left his Shadow Clones behind.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 463: Collecting a Skeleton!

After a few minutes of very high-speed combat, all four Shadow Clones were dispelled. However, the Konan was very annoyed. Fujin's clones had flickered almost non-stop and peppered the three of them with Air and Vacuum Bullets all the time! As a result, dispelling them took longer than it should have. In fact, the main reason why the clones were dispelled was because they ran out of chakra.

Konan looked at Kakuzu and asked, "What did he mean by those words?"

Kakuzu replied, "I guess his team only pretended to retreat and went around me instead. However, his claim of being able to catch Hidan by now should be a bluff because his team would have slowed down due to having to move around me. Still, their team had a Hyuga and an Inuzuka. So, this should be the path Hidan must have taken. We need to chase faster and catch up with them."

Konan was about to speak when Itachi said, "This area has completely been destroyed by your jutsus. Finding Hidan's trail from here would be impossible."

Konan frowned upon hearing Itachi's words. However, she realized that he was right. The terrain was completely ruined. All trees nearby were burnt and even the snow below had melted into water. Whatever trail Hidan might have left behind would have long been destroyed in their fight. She said, "I will call Zetsu. We will depend on him to find Hidan."

Kakuzu and Itachi agreed with her decision. There was no other alternative. As for the person who had given them the headache, he was flying above the clouds while relaxing on Kaito's back.

He let out a chuckle on receiving the memories of his clones and thought, 'I wonder if they are panicking right now. Though chances of it are low. Oh well, it doesn't matter. This will ensure that they focus on finding Hidan rather than chasing after those three. Besides, let them experience 1% of the frustrations that I felt over the last couple of days.'

The words Fujin's clone said were all lies. He just wanted to make them feel a sense of urgency and fight seriously so that he could get a better measure of their abilities and strength. While Fujin could have done what his clone said, it involved a lot of risk.

For starters, catching Hidan was difficult as he constantly kept on changing his location. Until he stopped moving, his squad would have a very difficult time catching up to him. Not to mention, they might have to face Akatsuki on their way back. With little chance of being able to read the Bishop's memories, Fujin had no interest in taking such a huge risk.

Lying on Kaito's back, Fujin began analyzing his battle with Kakuzu and the skills of Konan and Itachi. He analyzed, 'Konan and Itachi's powers are quite similar to what I remember. Though Konan's control over the paper is too good. If we fought seriously, I'll likely end up on the losing side. But, once my Wind Domain is ready, she'll be at a huge disadvantage against me.'

Itachi barely did anything in the fight. I guess he didn't want Akatsuki to gain another S-rank ninja. I can't judge him yet. That said, there is no need to judge him. As for Kakuzu...'

Fujin had a complicated expression on his face. He thought, 'Rank S ninjas are difficult to deal with. Apart from Kisame, Kakuzu might be the worst match-up for me. I guess he'll compete with the Raikage for that spot.'

My fighting style is based around high speed and relentless assault with jutsus that have high penetrating ability. Though directly killing is difficult, one mistake against me would imply a hole opening up in their body. At that level of combat, one major injury is all I need to turn the advantage in my favor and eventually win the battle.

However, against Kakuzu, my fighting style fails. As long as I miss his heart, I basically do him no damage. His threads reconnect with each other after being pierced or cut through. They can also replace his missing body parts. So I can't whittle him down like whittled down Juzo.

I guess dealing with him like Naruto did would be the best way to take him down. Actually, if he had split into five, or rather, four bodies like he did against Asuma's team and Kakashi, I would have a better chance of defeating him.

Those bodies individually aren't a threat to me. I could have used clones to destroy them one by one without letting Kakuzu merge back with them. Unfortunately, he seemed to have realized that as well and hence never gave me the chance to do so.

After I learn the Flying Thunder God jutsu, I should start learning the Rasenshuriken. It's about time I had an extremely destructive jutsu in my arsenal. Also, what do I do about the large-scale Vacuum jutsu? I could have destroyed all 4 remaining hearts while he was pretending to be dead if I had such a jutsu. Sigh, so much to do...'

Though Fujin had quit the Anbu and devoted all his time to training, he still felt like he needed more time. It was a result of him trying to learn a lot of high-level techniques that weren't related to each other at the same time.

Flying Thunder God and the Eight Inner Gates were extremely difficult techniques to learn and needed a lot of time. The Wind Domain was equally difficult and Fujin didn't even have any guidance for that technique.

As a result, Fujin never felt like he had enough time. Only after he finally masters these techniques, would he have free time to pursue other techniques he intended to learn.

While Fujin was in deep thought, Kaito continued flying. He flew across the Land of Hot Water and entered the Land of Fire. However, he wasn't headed towards Konoha. Instead, he flew towards the Land of Rivers. One of the reasons why Fujin made his team retreat without him was because he wanted to make a quick trip to the Land of Birds.

Back in the Land of Frost, without interference from Fujin and with Zetsu's help, the Akatsuki members quickly found Hidan. They had taken the threat of Fujin's clones seriously and hence moved very quickly. To their confusion, Zetsu and his clones didn't find any traces of either Fujin or his squad.

After intercepting him, Kakuzu fought with him and lost another heart before defeating Hidan. Intrigued by Kakuzu's immortality, Hidan agreed to join the Akatsuki and became Kakuzu's partner.

In a remote place in the Land of Birds, a large Flying Sabertooth landed in front of a hill. Kaito asked, "Is this the place, Fujin?"

Fujin got off and said, "Most probably from what I remember. Let me inspect."

Fujin's eyes glowed as he observed the hill. As he recalled from Zankoku's memories, he found the cave hidden behind one of the walls of the hill. Zankoku had sealed the entrance when he abandoned this hideout. Fujin destroyed the cave and entered it.

He quickly moved towards a corner of the cave. He weaved a hand seal and placed his palm on the ground. The ground opened up and a skeleton appeared underneath it.

Fujin stored the skeleton and thought, 'If I manage to get my hands on Edo Tensei, I can use this skeleton to revive the bishop Ketsueki. I have a feeling that the intel I'll get from him will be the key to

understanding what Jashin is and how those rituals work. At the very least, it'll be more useful than Zankoku's memories and his dead body.'

Fujin turned his attention to the cave. It had been a long time since the ritual was conducted here. Though the cave wasn't destroyed, it wasn't in an optimal condition due to the passing of time. Many seals had faded away. Quite a few were no longer complete. Fujin still recorded as many of the seals as he could find in a scroll. Unlike the seals he found from Hidan's ritual, Fujin had no intention of sharing these seals with anyone.

He left the cave and sealed the entrance once again before flying towards Konoha on Kaito's back. Though Hidan had escaped, this matter wasn't closed. In the original story, no one found the place where Hidan underwent the ritual. However, Fujin's involvement meant that it was no longer the case.

Fujin, his squad and a couple dozen Yugakure ninjas had all been to the cave where the ritual took place. It was impossible to keep that place hidden anymore. Once it was understood that the cave had seals that were never seen before, every major force would flock to that cave.

In addition, Hidan's abilities were revealed to Darui and other Kumo ninjas. If his abilities were linked with the seals in the cave, the entire ninja world could become chaotic once again!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 464: The Key Person!

While Fujin was aware of the complications that could arise, he didn't particularly care. Hidan will be joining Akatsuki and will be travelling with Kakuzu. Without proper information, taking them down would be pretty much impossible unless multiple Kages teamed up against them. The chances of that happening were more or less null. Even with proper information, it would take a couple of rank S ninjas to defeat them. Apart from Konoha, no other villages had a couple of rank S ninjas who took missions actively.

As for the new seals, Fujin was hoping that someone would succeed in cracking them and understanding their secrets. He just intended to stay back and swoop in to steal their gains in case he didn't succeed. Hence, Fujin decided not to interfere much in whatever would happen due to the recent movements.

Kaito brought Fujin to Konoha from the Land of Birds in a few hours. Though Fujin travelled a lot more, having to go to the Land of Birds which was on the opposite side of the Land of Fire and didn't even

border it, and spent some time noting down the seals from Zankoku's ritual, he still reached Konoha earlier than his teammates thanks to Kaito. The two bade farewell a few kilometers from Konoha.

On entering Konoha, Fujin went straight to Hiruzen's office. Hiruzen was surprised to see Fujin so quickly. He asked, "Is the mission over?"

Fujin nodded and said, "More or less. Did my teammates return?"

Hiruzen was confused by Fujin's question and wondered, 'Did they split up?'

He replied, "No. What happened during the mission?"

Fujin replied, "Quite a bit. I might have some confidential news."

Hiruzen understood the message and glanced at his Anbu Guards. They immediately left the room and shut all doors and windows. Hiruzen activated the privacy seals.

Fujin said, "The mission was a bit complicated. We managed to find the missing civilians. Unfortunately, they were all killed before we reached. It was the same as my previous mission against Jashin followers. The only difference was that we were late."

Hiruzen sighed and said, "That's a shame."

Fujin nodded and continued, "I have a feeling that something weird is going on. The dead bodies of the civilians were in a sealed-off cave in a remote mountain range. Inside the cave, there were also a few other dead bodies. I speculated that they were followers of Jashin. Their bodies were cremated.

Meanwhile, the dead bodies of the civilians had decomposed at a very fast rate. Just by looking at the dead body, one would assume that they have been dead for several years. Probably due to that, Yamanaka Ken couldn't read any of their memories for us to understand what happened in the cave."

A frown appeared on Hiruzen's face. The mission was a lot weirder than he expected. Fujin continued, "The inside of the cave was covered in various seals. It was almost as if they had created a formation of some sort. And there were numerous seals in the cave that I had never seen before."

Hiruzen's eyes widened. He immediately understood its importance and why Fujin said the information be kept confidential. He asked, "Did you record the seals?"

Fujin nodded. He took out a few scrolls and placed them on the desk. He said, "I recorded the seals I had never seen before in these scrolls. Unfortunately, I didn't have the time to look into what these seals do or what purpose they served in the formation."

Hiruzen immediately opened the scrolls to check the seals. To his surprise, even he failed to recognize any of the seals. He thought, 'These seals... Even the Uzumaki clan didn't have these seals. Or could it be that they did have these seals but managed to keep them hidden from us?'

But if so, why did they surface suddenly? More importantly, who has access to them? Are there any survivors of the Uzumaki clan or were they stolen by someone when Uzushigakure was destroyed? And why do these seals have to do with the death of those civilians?'

Hiruzen had a lot of questions. And, he was very curious about what was happening. Unfortunately for him, Fujin had no intention of telling him something that no one else apart from Fujin and Jashin's followers knew.

Hiruzen asked, "Did you record the seal formation?"

Fujin shook his head and said, "It was very complicated. I would have needed a lot of time to inspect and record it. I will recommend sending another Grandmaster to the cave secretly to record it. I would have done it myself after the Yugakure ninjas left, but we received news of Hidan's whereabouts and gave chase."

Hiruzen understood the importance of catching Hidan. He nodded and asked, "Did you catch him?"

Fujin shook his head and said, "We chased for over half a day. Unfortunately, it seems like he was being chased by others as well and hence was constantly on the move. He was chased by a couple of Kumo squads and for some reason was also chased by Akatsuki.

I called off the mission after we encountered Kakuzu. I asked my teammates to withdraw and report the mission to the Hot Water Daimyo before coming back to the village. I stayed and fought Kakuzu until he received reinforcements."

Fujin looked at Hiruzen and said in a serious tone, "Uchiha Itachi has joined Akatsuki as well. Along with Kaminari, Juzo, Kakuzu and Kisame, that's 5 powerful Rogue ninjas in Akatsuki. Even though two of them are now dead, it is concerning that so many rogue ninjas are in it."

Hiruzen was already aware of all the details. He acted as if it was the first time he heard it and had a grim expression. He said, "Yes, this development is concerning."

Fujin added, "Apart from Itachi, a blue-haired kunoichi also assisted Kakuzu. She could control Paper and was a rank S ninja as well. My clones fought against the three of them while I retreated. I took a different route in case they chased me. So I guess I overtook my teammates at some point. They should arrive in the village soon."

Hiruzen nodded and fell into deep thought. Fujin had given him a lot of unexpected news. Be it Akatsuki's movements, the dead civilians or the never-seen-before seals. On analyzing, he realized, 'Everything finally comes back to one person. That is Hidan... Who is that kid? And how did he get access to something like this?'

He looked at Fujin and asked, "Is there any chance we can capture Hidan?"

Fujin replied, "Very difficult. We have lost his trail. Even assuming that he is alone, finding him will be very difficult. Not to mention those 3 rank S ninjas from the Akatsuki. If they were there to kill him, then it's already too late. And, if they were there to recruit him, then I'm not sure how much manpower we will need to get him from them. I'm not confident in being able to kill either of those three by myself."

Hiruzen understood Fujin. Facing three rank S ninjas was very difficult. Even if Hidan was accompanied by just 1 rank S ninja, Konoha would struggle to capture Hidan unless he encountered Jiraiya or Hiruzen or decided to attack Konoha for some reason.

Hiruzen sighed and said, "Then there is very little we can do. Regardless, you have done a great job. Tell me about Kakuzu's abilities in the report. We don't have enough information on him. For now, I will call a council meeting tomorrow. These new seals will generate a lot of interest and could start a new conflict. So our village should be prepared. Also, the clans would want to study the seals as well.

I will send a Grandmaster and a squad there to investigate it properly and record the formation. In the meeting, inform everyone about your findings. It'll expose the fact that you are a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu, but this matter is serious."

Fujin nodded and said, "I understand."

By now, Iwagakure and Akatsuki were aware of the fact that Fujin was a Grandmaster. He didn't know to whom the information had spread and who all knew it. Regardless, he couldn't count on it being a surprise anymore. As such, it was pointless to keep it a secret anymore.

Hiruzen said, "I will call you later."

Fujin was about to leave when he stopped and suddenly asked, "Grandpa, I am facing an issue. I was wondering whether you could help me."

Hiruzen's instincts immediately warned him. The word 'Grandpa' along with Fujin's tone made him realize that Fujin was about to ask a favor.

He sighed internally and asked, "As long as I can. What is the issue?"

While he spoke, he prayed, 'I hope he doesn't ask for my kidney this time.'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 465: Who is more Shameless?

Hiruzen was indeed very fearful of Fujin's tendencies to ask something very unreasonable. And even though what Fujin asked would be unreasonable, in most cases, it was something Hiruzen couldn't refuse without looking like a terrible leader and damaging the image he had created.

Fujin said, "It's nothing too serious. I was developing a range of Vacuum jutsus to make my arsenal more versatile. Unfortunately, no matter what I do, I can't create a Vacuum jutsu that has a wide range like say the Great Breakthrough jutsu. Whenever I try, my Vacuum Core collapses. Do you know any large-scale Wind Vacuum jutsu?"

Hiruzen breathed a sigh of relief on hearing the request and thought, 'Fortunately, he isn't asking for my kidney this time.'

He answered, "Though I can use the Wind Vacuum technique, I'm not very proficient in it. I don't have such a jutsu. However, there is someone else in the village who does know it."

Fujin knew who that someone else was. He was hoping that Hiruzen knew the jutsu, or that he would mention that Danzo knew it. However, to keep up the act, he still asked with a curious expression on his face, "Who is it?"

Hiruzen replied, "It's Elder Danzo."

Fujin put up a thoughtful expression and appeared to be in deep thought for a few seconds. Finally, he looked at Hiruzen and said, "I rebuked him quite a bit in the only two meetings we had. I doubt he'll tell me about it. Is there any chance you can get it from him and then teach it to me, Grandpa?"

Hiruzen looked at Fujin with a deadpan expression. He cursed internally, 'So he wants Danzo to ask for my kidneys?'

Hiruzen coughed and said, "Fujin, at your level, especially considering your mastery of Wind Vacuum Technique, I'll recommend you to depend on yourself. Every person's understanding of the technique differs slightly. If you just copy it from others, then you won't be able to form your own ideas and might lose out on something special."

Fujin sighed and replied, "I had the same feeling. That was why I never asked you about this and worked on it by myself. Unfortunately, it caused me to lose out big time. If I had such a jutsu, I might have been able to kill Kakuzu during this fight."

Hiruzen's eyes widened. He was aware that Kakuzu was far stronger than someone like Juzo. Fujin continued, "Unfortunately, I don't think he'll ever give me such an opening again. I just don't miss out on any such opportunities to eliminate strong foes in the future.

Though I might lose out on the opportunity to create my original jutsu that is very compatible with me, I'm willing to make that sacrifice for the sake of our village!"

If anyone were to hear Fujin's words, they would be shocked and impressed by Fujin's righteousness and his spirit of sacrifice for the sake of the village! For a moment, even Hiruzen was caught off guard. He couldn't help but think, 'He is asking for a jutsu... Why does it sound like he is making some big sacrifice for the village?'

Fortunately for Hiruzen, he was no stranger to Fujin's greedy nature and saw through his lies in a few seconds.

He let out a sigh as well and said, "That's a shame, but I can understand your reasoning. When I was young, I was filled with the spirit of sacrifice for our village and had to make such decisions several times. You can ask Elder Danzo for the jutsu.

Though you two had some disagreements, both of you want the well-being of our village. Such disagreements shouldn't get in the way of helping out each other. Otherwise, the village wouldn't function."

This time, it was Fujin's turn to be surprised by Hiruzen's shamelessness. He sighed internally and muttered to himself, 'Why did I expect this shameless old fox to become kind and helpful? Asking it from Danzo... As if he'd give it to me! If such disagreements didn't get in the way, the village might still have had the Uchiha clan.'

Unfortunately, just like Hiruzen, Fujin couldn't speak his thoughts out loud. In fact, since Hiruzen recommended it, he would have to ask Danzo for the jutsu. Otherwise, it would be clear to Hiruzen that Fujin has a major issue with Danzo, causing him to be even more suspicious considering the fact that Fujin and Danzo had never had any confrontation. He said, "Alright. I'll try asking Elder Danzo."

Fujin took his leave. A smile appeared on Hiruzen's face as he imagined the scene of Fujin asking Danzo for a jutsu. He muttered, "Tomorrow's meeting will be interesting in more ways than one."

Hiruzen stopped his work and opened the scrolls Fujin had given him. He began studying the seals that Jashin Bishop had inscribed in the cave. Though Fujin had failed in studying them, Hiruzen was far more experienced than Fujin. Even if he couldn't understand the entire seal, he was hopeful of uncovering some of their functions.

While Hiruzen studied the seals, Fujin returned to his house after leaving one Shadow Clone in the Hokage Building to meet up with his team when they returned.

After entering his house, Fujin thought, 'Asking Danzo for the jutsu... That seems to be a dead end. Even if I ignore his nature, it hasn't been a long time since I killed a couple of the Root ninjas he sent after me. Though I left no clues, it is inevitable that he would suspect me considering the fact that they were trailing me.'

It looks like I'll have to depend on myself to master this jutsu. The only other way would be if I catch Danzo outside the village, ambush him with my clones and make him use that jutsu. Unfortunately, that is just too difficult. That bastard's movements are too secretive. It'll be hard to know if and when he leaves the village.

Oh well, time to return to my training. Once details of Hidan's abilities and the news of new seals get leaked, every major village will get restless for some time before things calm down.

By the time things calm down, I want to master the Flying Thunder God jutsu. Even if it is just short distances, being able to teleport will be very handy. I also want to master Danzo's curse seals by then and create my own seals. I'll finally be able to continue working on my organization then. Of course, I can't stop working on Wind Domain and the Gate of Life either. Only after I'm done with these, can I move on to other areas that need my attention.'

Though Fujin had just returned from a mission, Fujin began training immediately. He had no time to waste. The events of the Naruto story were only a few months away. Fujin no longer had years' worth of time to train. Fortunately, the soldier pill he had consumed earlier still had a couple of days left. So being tired wasn't an issue.

The day continued as normal for the people in Konoha. Fujin's teammates returned a few hours later and met up with his clone. They informed him about their meeting with the Daimyo. Apart from that, nothing else happened during their return journey.

As for Hiruzen, he sent messengers to every clan leader and elders to inform them about the council meeting the next day. Fujin already knew about it. Considering the nature of the meeting, Hiruzen didn't invite any civilian council members.

He studied the seals until late at night. He took a look at every seal that Fujin had handed him. Though he didn't study any seal in detail, he was still expecting some gains. To his surprise, he failed to figure out the functions of any seal.

He thought, 'These seals are quite different from the normal seals we use. It looks like this will require a thorough study to understand what these seals do. To completely understand their functions, it might take years.

I'll need to hand these seals to every Grandmaster in the village and have them study it. Fortunately, I won't have to persuade them as everyone will be intrigued by these new seals.

Apart from this, the only way to speed up the process of understanding the seals would be if that formation has any clues. Regardless, these seals have the potential to cause a breakthrough in our current mastery of seals. If their functions are useful, then Konoha will have an advantage over other villages.'

Hiruzen could easily see the advantages of these seals. While he couldn't be sure, any chance of getting an advantage over your enemies that didn't involve much risk was precious. Hiruzen had no intention of letting it go. He immediately sent his Anbu ninjas to call for a few ninjas.

Within half an hour, four ninjas gathered in his office. They were Kakashi, the Anbu Commander Eagle, the Fuinjutsu Grandmaster of the Senju clan and the Fuinjutsu Grandmaster of the Yamanaka plan. Hiruzen informed them about Fujin's mission and findings and shared some of the new seals with the Grandmasters. Seeing seals that they had never seen before immediately made them very curious. Kakashi and Eagle understood the importance as well.

Hiruzen instructed, "Leave the village secretly and reach that cave. Once you do, record the entire formation properly. Don't miss a single detail. Once you have recorded everything, destroy the cave.

No other village should get a hand on these seals. Though Yugakure sent a few ninjas earlier, they didn't include any SealMaster. So they should be unaware of the uniqueness of these seals. I want it to stay that way.

The cave should be empty as the process of storing the dead bodies should be long done. However, if Yugakure has stationed a few ninjas at the cave, eliminate them and don't leave behind any proof."

Everyone nodded seriously. They understood the importance of the matter and the need to keep it a secret from other villages. They left the village secretly under the cover of the night.

The next morning, the Council of Konoha met once again. It was the third time a council meeting was convened due to Fujin.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 466: Emergency Meeting

Hiruzen, the three Elders, the seven Clan Leaders and Fujin sat in the council room. Since it was an emergency meeting, everyone had arrived on time. Except for Fujin, everyone looked at Hiruzen, waiting for him to start the meeting and state the reason for the emergency meeting.

Hiruzen looked around the room, meeting his eyes with everyone in the room. He started the meeting by saying, "I'm sure every one of you is curious about why I called this meeting. This meeting is due to some recent events that Fujin discovered during his mission to the Land of Hot Waters."

His tone became serious as he said, "What will be discussed today will be very important for the future of our village. It goes without saying that all the information must stay within these walls. If any information gets leaked, I'm afraid that it will provoke some countries into starting a war."

Hiruzen's words made everyone serious. Even Shikaku, who was looking sleepy and yawning until then, became sharp. Meanwhile, Danzo looked at Fujin and thought, 'This meeting is due to him as well? I still haven't discovered what happened to my two subordinates. And he is already a part of something that involves the future of the village?'

He looked at Hiruzen and wondered, 'Did Hiruzen give him some secret mission and ask him to eliminate everyone who interfered? But what mission could that be?'

Danzo was indeed confused. His ninjas had looked along the path Fujin should have taken when he eliminated the bandits. However, they didn't find any clues regarding the two missing Root ninjas. So even though Danzo suspected Fujin, he had no evidence to blame him or make Hiruzen investigate him.

Seeing that everyone in the room was serious, Hiruzen said, "In Yugakure, a ninja named Hidan went rogue recently. He killed 18 ninjas and several civilians before going rogue. He was also involved in kidnapping more than 300 civilians. Fujin was sent to hunt him down and rescue the kidnapped people, however, he arrived late.

All the kidnapped people were killed in a mysterious way, their bodies decomposing several hundred times faster than normal. And, the cave they were in was covered in a formation made of seals. Many of those seals and symbols are the ones we have never seen before. They are completely different from our usual seals and..."

He looked around the room before completing his statement, "Even I couldn't identify their functions despite studying them for several hours."

The words surprised everyone in the room. Though most in the room weren't good with seals, they all understood what Hiruzen's words implied. At the same time, everyone looked at Fujin as well. Since Fujin was the one who discovered it, that meant that he should be able to identify every seal in Konoha at the very least.

It implied that he was close to being a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu if he wasn't one already. Except for Danzo, Shikaku and Senju Hiromasa, no one had heard about Fujin even being a SealMaster, let alone a Grandmaster. It made everyone reevaluate the young man.

Danzo asked, "Do you mean that the seals are completely different from any other seals we studied?"

Danzo looked into Hiruzen's eyes. Though his question seemed normal, it was different for Hiruzen. Both of them had looked a lot into the Uzumaki seals, be it with Uzumaki Mito's help or scavenging the village after it was destroyed. No one else in Konoha had studied seals as much as either of them. The only one who came close in this aspect was Orochimaru who was no longer in the village. To his surprise, Hiruzen still nodded and said, "Yes."

Danzo's eyes widened. He immediately understood the importance of that matter. Hiruzen placed the scrolls that Fujin handed him the previous day and said, "Fujin recorded these scrolls. If anyone is interested, you can see them."

Danzo immediately grabbed one scroll. A few others also looked into the other scrolls with some curiosity. While they did, Hiruzen said, "Due to the mission, Fujin couldn't record the entire formation. I have dispatched a squad to record the entire formation. They should be done in a few days. The cave will be destroyed to prevent the other villages from getting access to this seal."

Fujin sighed internally on hearing that. He thought, 'I was hoping that the other villages work on this too. That way I'll be able to get a lot more help in studying these seals. That said, it isn't a surprise that Hiruzen chose this. I'd have done the same if I was in his shoes. Oh well, getting help from the Grandmasters in Konoha isn't bad either. They'll be able to devote far more time to it than me. After all, researching new seals will take a long time and there won't be any guarantees of success.'

Hiruzen continued, "The knowledge of these seals and the formation will stay only among us, the Grandmasters in our village and Kakashi and the Anbu Commander. Once we record the formation, every Grandmaster in the village will be allowed to study these seals and figure out what the seals do and what the symbols mean.

Once every month or so, I'll organize a meeting for all the Grandmasters to share their findings and decide on how to progress further. If anyone has a different opinion, feel free to share now."

Hiruzen knew that there could be some obstructions. He only allowed Grandmasters to study the seals. Not every clan had a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu. After all, it wasn't easy to reach that stage. Not everyone had the time, interest, patience or ability to create dozens of Shadow Clones and sustain them for hours to study the seals.

As he expected, Tsume said, "I have just one suggestion. Open up those meetings to us clan leaders to observe so that we may know what the progress is."

Hiruzen thought for a few seconds before nodding and said, "Alright, that can be arranged. However, any clan leader who isn't a Grandmaster will be there only as an observer. Also, the attendance of clan leaders will be optional."

Tsume nodded and said, "That's fine with me."

Hiruzen looked around the room. There weren't any other objections or suggestions. Hiruzen said, "Since everyone agrees, the meeting ends here. Once Kakashi's squad returns, I'll make copies of the formation and distribute them among the Grandmasters. Once again, nothing discussed here gets out. The meeting has concluded."

Everyone nodded and began leaving. Only 3 people didn't leave. They were Hiruzen, Fujin and Danzo, each of whom continued sitting in their spots.

Once everyone left, Danzo said, "Hiruzen, did you make copies of these seals? I want to take these to study."

Hiruzen nodded and said, "I did make a copy. However, this one was made by Fujin. I was intending to return it to him so that he can continue studying them."

Danzo was confused. He wondered, 'What is he planning by giving such an answer? Does he want to give these to Fujin and stop me from getting access to them? But what will that accomplish considering that he is planning to distribute the formation to every Grandmaster?'

Unlike Danzo, Fujin didn't miss the obvious helping hand Hiruzen had given him. Danzo looked at Fujin and asked, "Are you planning on studying these or can I take them?"

Fujin put up a thoughtful expression and replied, "I was planning to study them. It is the first time that I've seen seals that aren't recorded in our village."

Danzo frowned. He thought, 'Though I don't know what these seals do, I have a feeling that they will be very beneficial for me! I don't want to give Hiruzen any opportunity to play any games.'

Before Fujin could continue, Danzo replied, "I can study the seals far faster than you. Considering the importance of the seal, I insist that you let me study them for now."

Fujin replied with a smile on his face, "That's true. I can wait. Actually, even if you didn't say it, I was planning to let you take it, Elder. But I hope that you can help me resolve an issue I'm facing."

Danzo immediately realized. He glanced at Hiruzen and cursed in his mind, 'So this is why he said those words. He wanted me to owe Fujin one and help him out.'

He asked, "What is the issue?"

Fujin replied, "I was trying to create a Vacuum Jutsu that covers a wide range, something similar to the Great Breakthrough jutsu. Unfortunately, I couldn't create a Vacuum Core stable and large enough to do so."

Danzo immediately realized the issue. He couldn't help but think, 'I heard that he is extremely good with Wind Vacuum Technique, but is he treating it as just Wind Manipulation? Still, before I answer, I need to know one thing.'

Danzo said, "Before I help you, I have one thing I wanted to ask you as well. I heard that you had taken a few missions around 3 weeks earlier and moved south. During your journey, did you see any ninjas from the Root?"

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 467: Forcing Danzo to Teach!

Danzo's sudden question surprised Hiruzen. He looked at Danzo with suspicion and wondered, 'Was it a coincidence or did he specifically send them after Fujin?'

Even Fujin was surprised. He didn't expect Danzo to openly ask such a question. Fortunately, he was prepared just in case. He put up a confused expression and replied, "I didn't. In fact, I didn't come across any Konoha ninja during my time down south. Did something happen?"

While Fujin answered, Danzo observed him carefully. He analyzed, 'His chakra flow was calm as he answered. But he is an experienced sensor. It shouldn't be difficult for him to disguise it if he is lying.'

Danzo replied, "Yes. Two Root ninjas left around the same time that you left the village and were headed in the same direction. Both went missing immediately. I never heard back from either of them."

Fujin put up a thoughtful expression. Meanwhile, Hiruzen observed both Fujin and Danzo. Unfortunately, neither of their expressions gave any hint of the truth. Hiruzen speculated, 'Knowing Danzo, it is likely that he sent them to keep an eye on Fujin. The chances of it being a coincidence are very low. But what happened to them? Don't tell me Fujin really eliminated both of them.'

Hiruzen became serious. While he knew that there was some tension between Fujin and Danzo, he didn't want it to develop into an all-out battle. He immediately started feeling a headache.

Cutting his thoughts off, Fujin asked, "Did you find out whether they left the village before me or after me? Also, how strong were they?"

Fujin's questions confused both of them. Neither Danzo nor Hiruzen could understand the reason behind the questions. Danzo answered, "Both were Jounins. They left the village a few minutes after you."

Fujin replied, "No wonder I didn't sense them. I was travelling at a very fast speed. A normal Jounin wouldn't be able to catch up with me. Besides, I activated my chakra field several times while moving. Had they come close to me, I'd have detected them even if they hid their chakra.

That said, I did inspect the route I was travelling along. I didn't detect any ninja hiding along the route. Unless it was a rank S ninja or someone absurdly good at stealth, I'm confident that there was no one hidden along the path. The only possible explanations are that those two took a different route or someone crossed that encountered them long after I had already moved on.

Unfortunately, I am afraid that I can't help you in either of the cases. I'll recommend asking ninjas who left the village after them. If there was someone faster among them, maybe they might have seen something."

Fujin's reply left Hiruzen and Danzo speechless for a moment. Danzo thought, 'No Jounin can catch up with him? He stated that as if it was a fact without a shred of doubt in his voice. What arrogance! Even Minato wasn't this arrogant despite his power!'

Even Hiruzen had the same thought. He sighed internally while thinking, 'Now that I think about it, we were arrogant when we were young as well. That said, we never acted arrogant in front of Lord Second.'

However, even though they were irked by Fujin's arrogance, both understood that he was right. While Hiruzen had barely seen a glimpse of Fujin's battle and Danzo had only heard about his achievements, the reputation of the Spectral Swordsman was too high. Despite being inactive for quite some time, the minor villages still feared that name. He was known for appearing out of nowhere, killing his enemies at blinding speed and disappearing before anyone understood what was happening. An ordinary Jounin stood no chance against him.

Not to mention, since Danzo had no proof, he had to accept whatever Fujin said. He had no points to counter Fujin or interrogate him more. He could only reply, "Alright, I'll look into the matter more deeply."

Fujin nodded while thinking, 'Look as much as you want. Both of them are dead, cremated and even their ashes are buried deep under the ground somewhere in the Land of Rivers. Good luck finding them.'

Fujin quickly changed the topic and asked, "So, can you tell me how to create a stable Vacuum Core for wide-range Vacuum jutsu?"

Danzo shook his head and said, "It is impossible to do so. A jutsu like the Great Breakthrough jutsu works because winds can spread very easily with little to no resistance.

To be able to create a Vacuum core to support such a jutsu, your Vacuum core should be able to expand itself and spread along the jutsu. And the expansion wouldn't just be horizontal, but also vertical. It is impossible to create such a large Vacuum Core normally, let alone by making a smaller core expand."

A frown formed on Fujin's face. He had obviously thought of all the complications Danzo had stated. It was why he had failed to create the jutsu. However, he recalled Danzo using a jutsu to pierce Sasuke's Susanoo.

Though the jutsu wasn't as wide-scaled as a Great Breakthrough jutsu, it still was far better than the Vacuum Bullet or Vacuum Cannon. The only thing that Fujin wasn't clear on was how much of a factor Danzo's summon was in that attack.

Fujin said, "I have thought of it as well. So, how do we bypass these issues and create one?"

Hiruzen chuckled internally at Fujin's response. He thought, 'He directly ignored all the complications and demanded for the jutsu.'

He found the situation extremely amusing. For once, he wasn't the target of Fujin's demands. Instead, it was the guy who constantly gave him headaches. Danzo was surprised once again. He couldn't help but glance at Hiruzen. Having known Hiruzen for so long, he could easily recognize the amusement in his eyes.

He cursed internally, 'Now I understand. I wondered why Hiruzen pushed this boy to the council despite never attempting to do the same for Kakashi, whose background is considerably stronger and would have received a lot more support.'

Hiruzen didn't get Fujin into the council because he was strong. He did it because this boy is as shameless as him!

Danzo had no choice but to answer. Hiruzen's earlier words implied that Danzo was receiving a favor from Fujin. In addition, Fujin also cooperated in providing information regarding the missing Root ninjas. Not to mention, passing knowledge to the next generation was a part of the Will of Fire.

Even though Danzo had fallen into the Darkness, he still needed to keep up his image. So, even if Fujin didn't do him any favors, he would have still had to tell Fujin about it. After all, Danzo was no longer active on the frontlines while Fujin would be active for decades. If he declined, Hiruzen would find another reason to restrict whatever remained of his Root even more.

Danzo answered, "It's simple. Just reduce your goal. Though it won't be as wide or as strong as you want it to be, the jutsu will still be very strong. Observe this."

Danzo stretched his left arm forward. A Vacuum Core began forming in his hand. Fujin's eyes began glowing as he concentrated chakra in them. So did Hiruzen's eyes. As the core formed, both were surprised. While Danzo had created a Vacuum Core, it was very different. The Vacuum Core itself consisted of several Vacuum Cores. Fujin could see 9 Vacuum Cores inside it.

Danzo explained, "Create a Vacuum Core that can store multiple Vacuum Cores inside it. When you use it to attack, you can split the Vacuum Cores inside and send them in different directions, increasing the area your jutsu can cover.

You have two choices in this aspect. One, you can send the Vacuum Cores very far away from each other. This is helpful when you are facing several ninjas that are considerably weaker than you and close to each other. However, stronger ninjas can easily dodge the vacuum cores and endure the rest of the jutsu.

The other way is to have those Vacuum Cores move close to each other. The distance should be such that no one can slip in between any two Vacuum Cores. This way, the area the jutsu covers is far less than the first way. However, it is still greater than a normal Vacuum jutsu.

You can compare it to shooting multiple Vacuum Bullets very close to each other. To dodge them, your enemy would have to move out of the way entirely. However, since those are individual bullets, they aren't as impactful as this. If you do it by storing those Vacuum Cores in another Vacuum Core, sharp winds will naturally form between each individual Vacuum Core once they split up. As a result, they are far more dangerous.

In addition, there is a limit to how many Vacuum Cores for Vacuum Bullets or other techniques you can form at the same time. By comparison, it is easier to increase the number of cores stored inside this Vacuum Core. Of course, there are limits as well, but that limit is much higher. Creating over 50 Vacuum Cores inside it isn't difficult. Then, you can increase the range further without losing its power and threat."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 468: Tunnels in the Training Ground

Fujin properly observed the Vacuum Core while listening to every word Danzo said. He wasn't worried about Danzo lying. After all, he had the Professor sitting with him and listening as well. Not to mention, Fujin's own expertise in the Wind Vacuum technique wasn't very far from Danzo's.

In fact, Fujin was even more efficient than Danzo considering the fact that Danzo hadn't been active for years while Fujin had several run-ins with Elite Jounins and Rank S ninjas.

Fujin only fell short in the amount of time they had the jutsus for.

Analyzing Danzo's words, he realized, 'I see. I had nearly got it right! I created multiple Vacuum Cores and spread them inside the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu. Unfortunately, those independent cores don't amplify the effect and don't have any interaction between themselves. Instead of creating multiple separate Vacuum Cores, I have to create multiple Vacuum Core inside one Vacuum Core!'

Fujin finally understood the point he overlooked. Though Danzo's method wasn't as good as the one he wanted, it was still far stronger than what he had come up with. Regardless, it was still a major improvement for Fujin. If he had learnt that jutsu earlier, Kakuzu would have lost far more than just 1 heart.

Fujin looked at the Vacuum Core in Danzo's palm and analyzed, 'The Vacuum Cores inside it are for the Vacuum Bullet. Once he shoots it, it'll split into 9 different Vacuum Bullets. Assuming he keeps one at the center and the remaining 8 forms an octagon around it and stay a foot away from it, it'll cover a distance of 1 foot in every direction.

Considering the ability of the Vacuum cores to absorb nearby items, the target would have to move slightly more than a foot in any direction. That said, Vacuum Bullet isn't the ideal jutsu for this. Vacuum Waves jutsu will be ideal for this as it covers a larger area than a Vacuum Bullet.

Once I increase the number of cores I can store inside it beyond 30, it'll cover more area than a Great Fireball. Not too extravagant but still far better than my current attacks.'

Danzo extinguished the Vacuum Core in his palm, snapping Fujin out of his thoughts. He asked, "Anything else?"

Fujin shook his head and said with a smile on his face, "No. Thank you for your guidance."

Though Fujin had long planned out Danzo's death and still intended to follow it unless Danzo forced him to kill him earlier, he saw no issue in accepting Danzo's help. In fact, if Danzo offered more help, Fujin was willing to accept all help with a smile on his face. After all, how could he get anything from Danzo after Danzo died?

Of course, Fujin understood that this was a one-off event. Danzo only helped Fujin because he wanted those scrolls and because Hiruzen was there.

Danzo nodded and grabbed the scrolls on the table before leaving. Fujin took a look at the scrolls and thought, 'Though Hiruzen applied some pressure, the main point was those seals. I hope that it is just his instincts and not some clue he found. With Izanagi, though he is annoying, killing him isn't difficult. However, if he gains something like Hidan's immortality, he could be a pain in the ass to deal with.'

After Danzo left, Hiruzen smiled and said, "Didn't I tell you? All elders will support the youngsters in our village. Especially if the youngsters are as promising as you. Though I'm normally busy, you can approach the other Elders whenever you want."

Fujin looked at Hiruzen. He understood that Hiruzen wanted him to trouble Homura and Koharu as well. Unfortunately, there wasn't anything Fujin could think of to ask them for. Instead, Hiruzen's mischievous speech caused him to have an irresistible temptation to ask for the Edo Tensei jutsu!

Fortunately for Hiruzen, Fujin was able to resist the temptation. There wasn't any good argument Fujin could make to demand a forbidden and controversial jutsu like the Edo Tensei. He smiled and said, "You are right. I'll approach them when I need something."

He got up and said, "I'll leave now, Grandpa. I want to try out this jutsu."

Hiruzen nodded. Fujin disappeared from the council room. A smile formed on Hiruzen's face as he recalled the interaction between Fujin and Danzo. He muttered to himself, 'It was worth it. Perhaps agreeing to Danzo's request of inducting Fujin into the Root four years ago wouldn't have been an entirely bad thing. If it wasn't for those seals, it might have been better to agree.'

Hiruzen disappeared from the meeting room as well. For the rest of the day, his mood was quite good.

Fujin didn't waste any time and began practicing. Though the concept of creating multiple Vacuum Cores inside another Vacuum Core was a new one, it wasn't very difficult for Fujin. Within a few hours, he managed to create one Vacuum Core inside another. Two days later, he managed to replicate the Vacuum Core that Danzo had created.

The next day, Naruto entered the training ground early in the morning. He stretched himself and exclaimed loudly, "Today I'll cut the leaf in half, believe it!"

He went to grab a leaf but suddenly stopped and said, "Huh? What's this?"

Naruto saw that a part of the trunk of the tree in front of him was missing. It was as if someone had carved out a part of the trunk. He looked beyond the tree and his eyes widened. Every tree that was in line had a large chunk carved out. In addition, some trees had split into two. And, those two parts didn't fit together. It was as if some part in between was missing.

Naruto curiously followed the trail of destruction before he reached a small hill. His eyes widened in shock as he shouted, "What the hell happened here? How did such a deep hole appear inside the hill? Was someone trying to dig a tunnel?"

The curiosity caused Naruto to forget about training. He began looking around the training ground and found similar scenes all over the training ground. While he was looking around, Fujin entered the training ground and sensed Naruto moving around everywhere. He thought, 'What is this knucklehead up to?'

He flickered behind Naruto who was looking at a hill which in fact had a tunnel going through it. Naruto felt something behind him and looked back. He excitedly said, "Fujin, you are back! Check this out. Someone was digging tunnels in the training ground while you were gone!"

Fujin was amused by Naruto's excitement and curiosity. He thought, 'I wonder how he would have reacted if he had visited this training ground when I was training Vacuum Gatling.'

When Fujin trained Vacuum Gatling and other Vacuum jutsus, the entire training ground was covered in holes and debris at one point. Even the density of trees in the training ground had decreased considerably during that time. Their numbers still hadn't recovered and if Fujin continued training there, they were unlikely to recover any time in the future.

Fujin said, "Ignore them, how's your training going?"

Naruto grinned and said, "I have mastered the Wind Levitation jutsu. Watch this!"

Naruto weaved a few hand seals and shouted, "Wind Release: Wind Levitation jutsu"

Naruto was looking at a few twigs that were in front of him. In a second, winds began flowing around the twigs. Soon, they were lifted into the air due to the airflow and floated a couple of feet above the ground. Around 5 seconds later, Naruto couldn't maintain the jutsu and the twigs fell back to the ground.

Naruto said excitedly, "See! I told you that I will master it. Believe it!"

Fujin nodded and said, "Good progress. However, the time you can maintain the jutsu is too little. Try to maintain it for at least 30 seconds. Only then it can barely be considered as mastered."

Naruto nodded. Fujin asked, "What is your progress with Leaf Concentration and Leaf Cutting exercises?"

Naruto said, "I can stick the leaf to my forehead for 90 minutes. The Leaf Cutting exercise I'm almost done with."

Naruto picked up a leaf and placed it on his left palm. He placed his right palm on top of it and began releasing wind chakra. It slowly cut through the leaf and almost split the leaf into two halves. Only around half a centimeter was left.

Fujin observed it and thought, 'Not bad. His progress in these two exercises has surprisingly been quite fast. Looks like he didn't slack off. He should be able to cut through the leaf in a week. Leaf Concentration might take another month though. Still, that's fine. There will be enough time to teach him tree climbing and water walking before he graduates.'

Naruto asked, "Will you teach me the fourth jutsu?"

Fujin replied, "For now, focus on Leaf Cutting. When you can cut through it and maintain Wind Levitation for 15 seconds, I'll teach it to you."

He smiled and said, "Keep working hard Naruto. You have progressed a lot since I met you."

Hearing Fujin's praise, Naruto felt proud. He smiled and nodded his head while saying, "I will, believe it!"

Fujin said, "You can train at your home for the next couple of weeks. This training ground is going to be a bit busy."

Naruto was confused and wondered, 'Huh? Is it because of these tunnels?'

He nodded and left. Fujin saw him leave. Naruto's progress was very much in line with what Fujin had expected. However, for the time being, he didn't spend much time thinking about him. Instead, his focus was on his Vacuum jutsus. He thought, 'I have successfully learnt how to store multiple Vacuum Bullet Cores inside a Vacuum Core. Today, I'll master how to store Vacuum Wave Cores!'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 469: AoE Vacuum Jutsu

Fujin muttered to himself, 'This might take some time. With Vacuum Bullets, I could refer to and replicate Danzo's vacuum core. However, I will have to create an entirely new core this time to accommodate the cores of Vacuum Wave. After all, the shapes of the cores of the two jutsus are very different from each other. Still, it shouldn't take too long.'

Fujin extended his palm ahead. A large spherical vacuum core formed on top of his hand. Soon, a vacuum core began forming inside the larger core. Unlike the Vacuum Bullet core, which was shaped like a bullet, this one was shaped like a thread. It was a lot longer but very thin and curved in shape.

Since Fujin could already store 9 Vacuum Bullet cores inside the larger core, it wasn't a challenge for him to create one Vacuum Wave core inside it.

Suddenly, Fujin noticed something. He analyzed, 'Wait a minute! Unlike the Vacuum Bullet core, where I need to maintain the spherical shape and have to create proper spaces inside the larger vacuum core to hold them, the Vacuum Wave core has a huge advantage. Since their shape is elongated and doesn't need to be straight, I can just curve, or better yet, coil them inside the larger core while creating a small chakra film to keep them separated from each other.'

In that case, I'll be able to increase the number of Vacuum Wave cores inside it very easily. As I thought, Vacuum Wave is indeed the jutsu most suited for this technique.'

Fujin's expression lit up upon realizing it. He quickly began creating more Vacuum Wave cores inside the larger core. As he expected, he faced very little trouble in creating it. He quickly managed to create 7 cores inside it. The Vacuum Wave cores were just too compatible with this technique.

Fujin dispelled the vacuum core and thought, 'Wow! 7 on my first try! I needed a couple of days to reach 9 with Vacuum Bullet cores. Still, that bastard Danzo... He knew that Vacuum Wave would have been the most compatible jutsu with this, yet he only showed me Vacuum Bullets. I guess he was very reluctant to inform me about this technique. Well, whatever. It shouldn't be hard to apply this technique to my remaining Vacuum jutsus.'

Fujin began practicing again. On every try, the amount of vacuum cores he could store inside the larger vacuum core increased. An hour later, the number reached 76!

Fujin stared at the vacuum core in his hand and thought, 'This should be my limit for now. Though increasing it further shouldn't be much harder. I just need more practice. Anyway, It's time to test it.'

Fujin dispelled the vacuum core and a Shadow Clone appeared next to him. The clone stood around 25 meters in front of Fujin and slammed his palm on the ground. A large wall appeared in front of him. He moved backwards slightly while continuing to slam his palm on the ground.

In all, 4 large walls stood between the two. Each wall was about 0.5 meters thick. Fujin took a deep breath and began forming the vacuum core in his mouth. Soon, 76 Vacuum Wave cores formed inside that vacuum core and the large vacuum core was surrounded by Wind chakra.

'Wind Release: Vacuum Serial Waves jutsu'

Fujin shot out the jutsu. Immediately, the larger vacuum core collapsed and the 76 vacuum cores inside it were released. It was equivalent to Fujin using the Vacuum Wave jutsu 76 times!

The jutsu hit the first wall. Several Vacuum Waves hit the wall and pierced through it. Around a 10-meter-wide section of the wall collapsed. The remaining vacuum waves followed through the collapsing part of the wall, cutting through any stones that were in their way. The jutsu continued moving through all 4 walls in the same fashion!

The clone saw the jutsu coming at him, bit his thumb and slammed his bloody palm on the ground.

'Summoning jutsu: Rashomon'

A large metal gate having a demonic face on the gates appeared in front of the clone. A moment later, the gate was hit by Fujin's jutsu. Unlike the Earth Wall jutsu, the Rashomon could endure the Vacuum jutsus.

In the past, Fujin's vacuum jutsus had failed to create much of an impact on the Rashomon. Only the Vacuum Cannon jutsu had created a large dent into the Rashomon gate, but even it couldn't pierce through it. However, this time, Fujin watched with hopeful eyes.

The Vacuum Waves slammed into the Rashomon gate, each creating a small dent and damaging its structural integrity. Cracks soon developed on the gate. When the 59th Vacuum Wave slammed into it, the Rashomon gate collapsed before disappearing! The jutsu hit the clone hiding behind it and dispelled him.

Without any obstacle, the Vacuum Serial Waves jutsu continued moving for another 80 meters, destroying any tree and cutting deep into any small hill in its path!

A wry smile appeared on Fujin's face as he muttered, "I overdid it..."

The training ground was a wreck! If the tunnels formed due to the Vacuum Bullet jutsu intrigued Naruto and awoke his curiosity, the sight in front of Fujin would horrify him! First, there was the debris due to the broken walls. That was followed by every tree in the path of the jutsu being cut down for 80 meters! In addition, a couple of small hills had deep cuts in them while one had collapsed.

Fujin thought, 'I damaged the training ground a bit too much. Fortunately, there aren't any penalties for doing so. I'll just ask Hiruzen to do something about it.'

Anyway, the good news is that I finally have an AoE Vacuum jutsu! At a range of around 20 to 25 meters, I can spread this jutsu 10 meters wide and 5 meters high to have the optimal effect. Once I increase the cores inside it even further, the area it covers can be increased more or alternatively I can make it stronger by focusing on a limited area.'

Fujin chuckled while thinking, 'I never would have imagined that Danzo would have been the one to help me take my Vacuum jutsus to the next level!

I can replace my older Vacuum Serial Waves jutsu with this one. This one is far more efficient and powerful in every way. As for the Vacuum Bullet jutsu, I should replace it as well. By keeping several vacuum cores within one, I'll be able to create more Vacuum Bullets at a time. Not to mention, sharp winds flow between the Vacuum Bullets, making dodging far more difficult.

The only time I'll need to use my normal Vacuum Bullets is when my enemies are very far from each other or to conserve my chakra if the enemy is too good at dodging. With this method, even though I can spread the Vacuum Bullets, they still have to be in a similar direction. Unless I can create two large cores with multiple cores within them. Hmm, I'll try this out later once I'm comfortable with this technique.

That said, there is one drawback. The time needed in this method is higher. But, that shouldn't be an issue after using this method for a few months. Not to mention, needing more time to create more cores is a natural thing. There isn't much I can do about it if I have to create several dozen cores.

Due to this drawback, using this technique on Vacuum Gatling isn't very practical. After all, the essence of that technique is speed and surprise. Though there is no harm in learning it in case I need it for some reason. It could be a good way to learn how to create multiple such cores.

As for Vacuum Cannon, this method would be good only when I have a defense to pierce. I can line up the Vacuum Cannons behind one another and have them hit the same spot. I wonder if Susanoo would be able to resist such an assault...

Anyway, in all other cases, the normal Vacuum Cannon will be better. As for Vacuum Blade and Vacuum Slash, this method isn't very compatible with them. Is there any way I can use them?'

Fujin thought for a few minutes and concluded, 'Using this method with Vacuum Slash is pointless. I need to form it in the time I swing my sword. I can't waste time creating multiple vacuum cores. However, Vacuum Blades can have a possible use.

If I can store Vacuum Blade cores in this vacuum core and activate it after I have thrown the jutsu, then it has the potential to catch enemies by surprise. The enemy might see it as a normal Vacuum Bullet or Vacuum Sphere and dodge it, only to be attacked by several Vacuum Blades. This has some potential. If I manage to store it in a seal, then it can act as a deadly trap. Alright, I'll learn this as well.'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 470: Hiruzen's Disbelief!

Fujin analyzed his plans for a while before nodding. He thought, 'Alright, these plans should be good. It'll make my attack patterns extremely unpredictable and increase the difficulty of dodging. At the very least, there is no way a group of well-trained Jounins will be able to counter me as Iwa did.'

In fact, once I master them, even a rank S ninja will have to be very careful against me. It'll no longer be as easy as dodging my Vacuum jutsus and putting up a defense for the rest.'

Fujin's eyes moved towards the spot where his clone had dispelled and thought, 'There is just one other thing. Rashomon isn't good enough for me. I need the Triple and the Five-Layer Rashomon. Unfortunately, they aren't available in the library.'

That said, creating them shouldn't be very difficult, but it'll require some time for me to create those variations...'

Fujin thought for a bit before deciding, 'Unfortunately, I have been feeling that I have very little time as of late. Screw it, I'll just ask Hiruzen. Once my chakra recovers, I'll tell him to send a Shadow Clone and also take the opportunity to find a better training place. If I keep practicing my Vacuum jutsus here, the scenery in front of my house will be completely destroyed!'

Increasing the number of vacuum cores also increased the amount of chakra required in the same ratio. As a result, Fujin's chakra reserves had become quite low. He decided to do physical training until his chakra recovered.

While Fujin got busy with his training, one place became quite chaotic and heated up.

"What did you say?" A loud shout was heard in the Raikage's office. Darui, C and Samui stood in front of the Fourth Raikage. There was no one else in the room and all privacy seals were activated. Otherwise,

everyone in the building would have heard that shout. Even then, the ones near the office felt some tremors.

Ay looked at his three subordinates and asked, "I sent you three to find and kill Suzuki Fujin. You didn't even meet him and yet ten of the sixteen ninjas died? What the hell were you three doing?"

Ay was mad. When Kumo ninjas met Fujin for the first time, he managed to kill more than a dozen ninjas and escape despite facing Darui. His escape resulted in Konoha getting crucial information which resulted in Jiraiya wiping out more than 250 Kumo ninjas while Hiruzen's political maneuvers eliminated every possibility of Kumogakure getting revenge without having to face extremely serious consequences.

Since he couldn't attack Hiruzen or Jiraiya, he set his eyes on Fujin. However, Fujin stayed holed up inside Konoha and later in the Anbu for years, leaving no traces of himself. While it annoyed Ay and strategic planners in Kumo, their annoyance reduced with the passage of time and eventually no one thought of him anymore.

That was until Onoki informed him that Fujin was the Spectral Swordsman and he had become extremely ferocious. Since that day, Kumo once again began looking for an opportunity to eliminate Fujin. To their dismay, Fujin stopped taking missions and stayed hidden inside Konoha once again!

In the seven months since then, Fujin left the village just once and that too under a disguise. So Kumo failed to track his movement until a few days ago when Fujin left with a new squad to Yugakure. They responded quickly, dispatching a Sealmaster and several Jounins and Elite Jounins under Darui.

For the first time in 3 and a half years, they had a trail. As a result, when Darui and his team returned with more than half their members dead without even seeing Fujin, Ay couldn't control his rage! His desk was completely pulverized. Fortunately, Darui, C and Samui were used to his antics.

Darui sighed and answered, "Nothing we could do Boss. The circumstances were out of our control. The other two squads you sent ran into a formidable opponent and were eliminated. Without the SealMaster, chasing after Suzuki Fujin was pointless. We could have fallen prey to his seals."

Ay frowned and asked, "Who was it? To be able to eliminate two entire squads, did they run into a rank S ninja?"

Darui nodded and informed him about Hidan. He carefully explained Hidan's skills to him. Ay's expression became serious upon learning about Hidan's skills. It was too unbelievable to believe.

Darui added, "Since we couldn't hunt Suzuki Fujin, we decided to take down and capture this guy. If we can torture him and force him to tell us how to learn that technique, our village's strength will increase drastically."

Ay agreed with the analysis. He thought, 'While I don't need that technique as no one can pierce through my defenses, if a few Elite Jounins managed to learn it, they could easily be classified as rank S ninjas. Even Jounins with these skills would be superior to normal rank S ninjas in terms of survival.'

Ay could easily see the unimaginable advantages Kumo would gain. Darui continued, "Unfortunately, he was too good at escaping. We tried finding him in the Land of Frost, but couldn't find him. During the chase, we met up with two Akatsuki members.

Uchiha Itachi has joined Akatsuki. There was another Blue-haired kunoichi, but we couldn't identify her. She isn't in the Bingo book but is most likely a rank S ninja too. We later found traces of a huge fight that happened very close to where we met them."

Ay furrowed his eyebrows. While he knew about the existence of Akatsuki and the presence of some strong ninjas in it, learning that Itachi and an unknown rank S ninja were a part of him caused him to feel a headache.

Darui continued, "We aren't sure what their aim was but I suspect that they were after Hidan as well. We continued looking for Hidan after that, but completely lost his trail. However, I suspect that he is still hiding in the Land of Frost or the Land of Hot Water."

Samui said, "There is another piece of intel we received. Apparently, Hidan had kidnapped 300 civilians inside the Land of Hot Water. Suzuki Fujin's mission was to find them. He managed to find them, but could only recover their corpses.

Our spy reported that the cave where the corpses were was covered in seals, which is why Yugakure ninjas couldn't find them. In addition, every corpse had decayed at an extreme speed. Suzuki Fujin chased after Hidan in the Land of Frost as well, but we aren't sure what happened to him after that.

However, the cave where the corpses were found was destroyed yesterday. Someone eliminated the six Yugakure ninjas stationed there and destroyed the cave. There is no information on who did that."

The additional information troubled Ay even more. He thought, 'So many events... I have a feeling that there is something important happening here. But what is it?'

Unfortunately, Ay had very little information. He said, "We have a lot of ninjas who don't have any missions. I'll deploy them in the Land of Frost and the Land of Hot Water. Lead them and try to find Hidan. Give proper instructions to ensure that they don't fall prey to his technique. I don't want to lose more ninjas meaninglessly.

As for Suzuki Fujin, ignore him for now. I'll send a Grandmaster with you to inspect that cave. I have a feeling that it will have the clues we need."

Darui and the other two nodded. They had the same thoughts as well.

Within a few hours, several hundred Kumo ninjas were dispatched. Every single one was instructed to not engage Hidan in a fight. Their only job was to inform the Elite Jounins they were under about Hidan's location once they found him. Every ninja was given hundreds of Explosion Tags to help escape if Hidan chased after them.

Once an Elite Jounin found Hidan, he would trail him without engaging in a battle while waiting for Darui's team to reinforce him.

Needless to say, the entire mission was pointless. Hidan had already joined Akatsuki and was moving towards the Land of Rain. As for the cave, the Grandmasters Hiruzen deployed had eliminated most seals inside them before the cave was destroyed. The only seals that still remained were the ones that were very well-known throughout the ninja world. So, there was nothing that they could gain.

While Kumogakure was carrying out a meaningless operation, Hiruzen was staring in disbelief at the person in front of him. For the second time, Fujin had sent a Shadow Clone and asked Hiruzen to send a Shadow Clone to help him out. In fact, this time Fujin didn't even bother requesting or asking it!