

## Calamity 481

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

### Chapter 481: A Capable Subordinate (1)

Moving at a rapid speed, Fujin reached close to the cave where Fujin had carved seals to create a safe hideout for Shigeki. When he was 12 kilometers from the cave, a smile appeared on Fujin's face. He thought, 'Though I'm not sure it is him, I can sense a disturbance in the Space-Time field. If it is him, then I'll be impressed. To have such perseverance... Hehe, I got lucky in being able to recruit such a good subordinate so easily.'

Gaining a capable person to handle matters when he wasn't present was important for the organization's ability to survive and become stronger. It was the reason why Fujin made a move when he got the chance. Though Fujin couldn't visit him since then, that also served a purpose. It allowed Fujin to test his character and perseverance. After all, Fujin was the one who saved his life and gave him an opportunity to get revenge for his family. While this wasn't something Fujin did intentionally, he wouldn't reject the observations he gained due to it.

As he reached closer, Fujin could finally sense the chakra signature. Behind the mask, his smile grew wider. Meanwhile, inside the cave, Shigeki looked outside and wondered, 'Someone is able to sense me despite the seals in the cave?'

He immediately became alert. It was the first time someone had sensed him inside the cave. At the same time, he became hopeful and wondered, 'Has the Lord returned?'

Shigeki hoped that was the case. However, he prepared himself for a battle as well. While Shigeki wouldn't stand out if placed in a strong village like Konoha, in a minor village, he was ranked quite highly. After training continuously for nearly 3 years, his confidence had grown.

Very soon, Fujin appeared in front of the cave and entered it. On entering, he saw Shigeki in front of him. Shigeki immediately recognized him. He bowed slightly and said respectfully, 'It's good to see you again, Lord Shiden.'

Fujin nodded and said, 'Drop the 'Lord'. It's good to see that you are still here, Shigeki. I'm impressed that you haven't left.'

On hearing the command to drop 'Lord', Shigeki sighed in relief. It wasn't anyone in disguise nor had his savior's nature changed over the last 3 years.

Shigeki said, "You saved my life and gave me an opportunity. I won't break my promise unless you do something that goes against my beliefs."

Fujin nodded and said, "Good."

Shigeki asked, "If I may ask, can you tell me why you didn't appear for so long?"

While he did wait patiently, he couldn't help but think that Shiden had abandoned plans to build a branch there and hence hadn't come to visit him. Had he been strong enough to get his revenge, he might not have waited.

Fujin nodded and said, "It was a test."

Shigeki was surprised. He asked, "A test?"

Fujin replied, "Yes. It served two purposes. The first purpose was to test your nature. If you had left during this time, then it would have implied that you are ungrateful and don't stick to your words. I wouldn't want someone like that in our organization.

The second purpose was to test your perseverance. You were too weak to avenge your family back then. This time in isolation was the perfect environment for you to train yourself. I will need to check whether you have stayed true to yourself and your family and used this time well. Then I'll judge how you performed in this parameter."

Shigeki was surprised. At the same time, he was relieved and thought, 'Luckily, I didn't leave and kept training all the time!'

Shigeki nodded and said, "Alright. I hope I don't disappoint you. Can you tell me more about the organization?"

Fujin shook his head and said, "First, I'll need to see your strength. I'll then decide what your role will be and what you should know."

Shigeki was surprised. He asked, "Should we fight here?"

Fujin shook his head once again and said, "No. Though this place is decently hidden, a fight here can attract attention if someone is passing by. This is your first task for the organization. Identify a place in the Land of Rivers that is so remote that no one would visit there even by accident. Also, the place has to be large enough to house hundreds of people and have a lot of space for training, sparring and other activities."

Shigeki was surprised by Fujin's words and realized, 'He plans on building a base!'

He thought for a bit and said, "I do know a couple of such locations."

Fujin said, "Choose one and lead the way."

Shigeki thought for a couple of minutes before saying, "Alright, follow me."

Shigeki began moving. Fujin followed him. The two moved around a couple of hundred meters, travelling past dozens of rivers. Finally, they entered a location that didn't have any rivers at all. Instead, there was an extremely deep and large valley surrounded by mountains on all sides!

Standing on the edge, Shigeki said, "No one in this country ever travels inside this valley. It has an extremely high number of deadly wild animals. Hence, normal people don't dare to enter. As a result, our ninjas never receive any missions to this place."

Also, since there aren't any rivers nearby, there are no settlements for dozens of kilometers around this valley either. Another advantage is that there are no trade routes near this area. The closest trading route is the one between Sunagakure and Tanigakure and even that is 37 kilometers away."

Fujin thought for a bit and nodded. The location was excellent. Even if there were human settlements around the valley, the valley itself was extremely huge and deep, making sensors more or less useless

unless they decided to venture in deep. In addition, the valley was covered in mist, blocking sight. As a result, even if a fight happened in the valley, it wasn't possible for anyone to see any flashes.

Fujin asked, "Is this valley always covered in mist?"

Shigeki nodded. Fujin asked, "Did Tanigakure investigate the valley in the past?"

Shigeki replied, "Yes. We did it sometime after the end of the First Great Ninja War. We were hoping to find some resources in the valley. Unfortunately, there wasn't anything worth considerable value to create a base in the valley. It has pretty much been abandoned since then.

The only usage this valley sees is if Sunagakure or Konohagakure are trying to sneak troops to the other side during a war. Even then, they mostly stay on the edges as it provides sufficient cover in any case."

Fujin nodded and enquired about some more details, such as the wildlife and the presence of any poisonous species. Once he was satisfied, he said, "Alright, this should be good enough. Let's go."

Fujin began moving down the slope. The slope wasn't very steep, so normal people could still climb out if they went in as long as no wild animals attacked them. For Fujin and Shigeki, it wasn't worth mentioning. Shigeki followed Fujin and asked, "Where are we heading inside the valley?"

A smile formed behind Fujin's mask as he said, "To the deepest point obviously."

Shigeki was surprised. The Valley was surrounded by tall mountains. Compared to the edges, the deepest point of the Valley was almost a kilometer and a half deep. If it was a flat surface, then the deepest point would be around 10 kilometers away from the closest edge. As a result, the deepest point will be completely hidden from anyone!

He couldn't help but wonder, 'Is Shiden planning to create a base so deep in the valley? Wouldn't it make accessing it very difficult? Also, what's the purpose of this organization? He didn't even tell me the name of his organization.'

As they moved rapidly, Fujin asked, "Shigeki, before we fight, how would you evaluate your strength?"

Shigeki answered, "If I return to Tanigakure, then I'm sure I'll be able to contend for the spot of the strongest ninja in the village. If I was in a major village, I guess I would be an Elite Jounin."

Fujin was surprised by his self-evaluation. That said, he didn't assume it to be true. After all, most minor villages didn't believe themselves to be much weaker than major villages. The only points where they accepted their inferiority were the absence of rank S ninjas, Jinchurikis and the total number of ninjas.

Fujin asked, "And, what do you specialize in and what are your abilities?"

Fujin already knew the answer to this question. However, he didn't know what Shigeki did after their meeting. As such, he was curious to know.

Shigeki answered, "I specialize in Ninjutsu. More specifically, Wind and Water nature manipulation. The Land of Rivers is covered by numerous rivers. These two natures allowed me to restrict our enemies and keep them on the opposite bank. I'm decent at Taijutsu and can use some Genjutsu as well. Though they aren't as good as my Ninjutsu."

Fujin already knew that information. He asked, "And which are your strongest jutsus?"

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 482: A Capable Subordinate (2)

Shigeki was about to answer when Fujin said, "Leave it, just use them in our spar. It won't be fair to you if I know everything beforehand."

Shigeki nodded. The two travelled to the deepest part of the valley. As they ventured deeper into the valley, an expanse of lush, verdant landscape greeted their eyes. Towering trees draped in moss and vines, their canopies interlocking in a verdurous ceiling, cast intricate patterns of light and shadow across the forest floor. Due to the absence of human interference, myriad species of flora carpet the ground, from delicate ferns to vibrant, sprawling bushes bearing succulent fruits.

Amid this tranquillity, there was a range of wild animals. As he moved deeper, Fujin saw a bunch of deer, bison and rabbits. He also saw various predatory animals, such as a small pack of wolves, a few

sleek panthers hiding among the trees waiting for their prey and an array of snakes, some poisonous, and some gigantic.

Fujin thought, 'This brings back the memory of that wolf valley I entered while finding my summon. If the animals in this valley could use chakra as the summons can, then this valley would have been a forbidden area even for ninjas. Even rank S ninjas won't casually enter too deep if that was the case.'

Fortunately or unfortunately, it wasn't to be. Very quickly, Fujin and Shigeki reached the deepest part of the valley. The place was entirely covered in mist. Shigeki looked around and asked, "Are you sure that we should make our base here? The visibility isn't good and this place isn't exactly safe."

The area was sprawling with wild animals. While they weren't a concern for Fujin or Shigeki while they were awake, even they would be on guard while they slept.

Fujin nodded and answered, "It's fine. Our spar will scare away the wild animals. As for the environment, I'll handle it. Don't worry."

Fujin flickered and appeared 20 meters in front of Shigeki, facing him. While Shigeki couldn't see through the mask, he could see a pair of eyes staring at him. Fujin said, "Let's start. Come at me with the intention to kill me. Show me your full strength."

Shigeki prepared himself and began building up his chakra. The wild animals, who were on guard and observing the two intruders who entered their territory, immediately began fleeing away on sensing his aura.

Shigeki grabbed a kunai and said, "Here I come!"

Having trained continuously for nearly three years, Shigeki was excited to test his strength. If it wasn't for the fact that he wanted to keep his survival a secret, he would have long challenged other ninjas to a spar. At the same time, he was curious how strong Fujin, or rather, Shigan was. After all, Fujin had killed his pursuers in the blink of an eye, giving him no opportunity to evaluate his strength.

He moved forward at a fast speed and thrust his kunai towards Fujin's heart. However, Fujin easily moved out of the way. He continued attacking Fujin with his kunai, shot a few shurikens and tried kicking several times, but Fujin dodged them all with relative ease.

Fujin was about to counterattack when Shigeki retreated realizing that he was completely outmatched in close combat. He began weaving hand signs as he moved away from Fujin.

Fujin observed him and thought, 'Those hand seals... The Water Dragon jutsu, huh? Sigh, it is so tempting to attack. I'm too used to killing. Thankfully, my spars with Guy helped curb some of the killing instincts I developed during my Anbu days.

That said, even if I wanted to, I doubt I could kill Guy even with a sneak attack. Of the ninjas I have seen fighting, he has the highest alertness other than Hiruzen. If Kakuzu didn't have five lives, perhaps he would have been as alert as Hiruzen.

Hmm, a water dragon of this size... Not bad. Even in Konoha, he could be promoted to the Jounin rank, but only barely. As for Elite Jounin, that's out of the question.'

As Fujin was thinking, a 25-meter-long Water Dragon formed in front of him. In a second, it came rushing straight at him. Shigeki saw as the Water Dragon hit Fujin and swallowed him. However, a frown formed on his face as he failed to see Fujin's figure anymore.

As the water wave created by the Water Dragon hitting the spot Fujin was standing began settling, Shigeki looked around himself and thought, 'How did he disappear? Now that I think about it, he had disappeared the last time as well. All this mist around me... Is he using the infamous Hidden Mist jutsu? Not good!'

He quickly weaved hand seals while keeping a watch around him to prevent any sneak attacks.

'Wind Release: Great Breakthrough jutsu'

Instead of launching the jutsu in a direction, Shigeki spun once while exhaling high-speed and razor-sharp winds. As a result, the winds moved in every direction, dispersing the mist around the area.

Shigeki quickly looked to his right and saw Fujin standing around 50 meters from him. He couldn't help but wonder, 'How did he dodge those sharp winds? Or is he invulnerable to attacks somehow?'

He didn't think much about it. In fact, even before the mist had dispersed, Shigeki had already begun weaving hand seals for the next jutsu.

'Water Release: Exploding Water Colliding Wave jutsu'

Shigeki spat out a large volume of water from his mouth. It immediately turned into a giant wave. A major portion of the water moved in the direction of Fujin, but the rest spread equally in all directions. Seeing Fujin's ridiculous speed, Shigeki understood that single-target attacks would have no chance of hitting Fujin.

A smile appeared on Fujin's face as he saw the massive volume of water heading towards him. He thought, 'Not bad. Not bad at all. He's able to take advantage of the terrain very well. In a place where water is abundant, he'll be able to pack quite a punch. I'll need to correct my judgment. He will have no issue in becoming a Jounin in Konoha.'

Fujin would have to reevaluate Shigeki once again. After all, he wasn't done. The massive amount of water was just the start. Even before it could reach Fujin, Shigeki had shot another Great Breakthrough jutsu, this time into the large amount of water he had just spat out.

Fujin was intrigued. He quickly moved backwards while analyzing, 'Is he planning to use the Great Breakthrough jutsu to speed up the water? However, how will that be of any help against someone as fast as me?'

As Fujin expected, the speed of the water indeed increased. However, there was one thing he didn't anticipate. The winds didn't just speed up the water, but they also allowed Shigeki to control the water to a great extent.

Dozens of water blades flew at Fujin at a rapid speed. It was far faster than a normal water jutsu. Fujin stepped out of the way, but his new position was bombarded with high-speed jets of water, forcing Fujin to flicker repeatedly.



Shigeki observed Fujin's movements and thought, 'He is still able to dodge them so easily? How did he even train to have such a speed? I'll have to change my style of attack.'

He exhaled more wind into the water. A second later, hundreds of shurikens were shot at and around Fujin, leaving him no space to dodge. Of course, it wasn't enough to stop Fujin who flickered a couple of times and appeared to Shigeki's left.

For a moment, Shigeki was left speechless. He thought, 'He flickered such a long distance? Though my shurikens covered a large area, it was useless against him. How am I even supposed to land an attack on someone like him?'

As opposed to Shigeki's helplessness, Fujin was excited. He thought excitedly, 'He improved so much in these few years? Marvellous! To be able to keep me on my toes. Now, let me see the limits of this combination jutsu, hehehe.'

To Shigeki's surprise, Fujin flickered on top of the large water body he had created and shouted, "Give me your best shot."

A sword appeared in Fujin's right hand. It wasn't his usual sword and instead was just an ordinary sword he had picked up from the targets he eliminated earlier. With Fujin standing atop the water, Shigeki's attacks became much faster as they didn't need to travel.

Fujin flickered continuously to dodge the incoming attacks. In most cases, he moved just a couple of meters away to dodge an attack. However, every now and then he'd be forced to flicker long distances or defend with his sword.

Fujin stayed atop the water for 5 whole minutes, dodging everything Shigeki could throw at him. The combination jutsu surprised Fujin a lot. He had researched Shigeki before he left the village. Shigeki did have a history of using Wind attacks in water bodies to block enemies from progressing. However, what he was using was in a completely different league.

Fujin judged with excitement, 'He is good. He's at least on par with Tokuhei from Yugakure. Though he still can't be considered an Elite Jounin, he isn't too far away. With my help, he'll reach it in no time at all. Anyway, it's time to end this. His chakra has almost run out.'

## Naruto: The Wind Calamity

### Chapter 483: The Cover Story

Fujin's figure suddenly disappeared. Shigeki couldn't see him but could still track his movements due to the splash he would create whenever he stepped on the water. He tried attacking, however, he was late every time. After missing 3 attacks, Shigeki realized, 'He is coming towards me. In close range, I'm no match for him!'

He immediately weaved hand seals and shot another Great Breakthrough jutsu in the direction that Fujin was last in. However, at the next moment, he felt a light tap on his back.

In an instant, various symbols covered his body. Shigeki became paralyzed! He couldn't move his body nor could he use his chakra. He immediately realized, 'Self-Cursing Seal! To be able to apply and activate it so quickly... He should be a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu! No wonder no one could detect that cave!'

Without Shigeki's control, the water began spreading in all directions. Fujin deactivated the seal and said, "That's enough for now. Your skills have impressed me."

Shigeki smiled but didn't think much of it. He was already in his late thirties. Hearing such praises wasn't something that would make him happy. However, to his surprise, Fujin added, "That said, you are still some distance away from becoming an Elite Jounin."

Shigeki was surprised. He wondered, 'Even my combination jutsu won't allow me to fight against an Elite Jounin?'

Fujin continued, "Your chakra reserves are slightly lower and they are unlikely to increase much considering your age. And, you are still falling short in some aspects. Can you use the Body Flicker jutsu?"

Shigeki nodded and said, "Yes. I just didn't use it in the fight because there wasn't any chance to use it."

Fujin said, "Good. However, can you use it without any hand seals?"

Shigeki replied, "No."

Fujin advised, "The first thing you need to do is train yourself to use the Body Flicker jutsu without any hand seals. It will improve your mobility a lot and you can move around like how I did. Other than that, your Water manipulation and that combination jutsu is very impressive, but do you know any Wind jutsus stronger than the Great Breakthrough jutsu?"

Shigeki shook his head and answered, "No. Tanigakure doesn't have many Wind Release jutsus. Due to the high number of rivers in this country, Water Release is the one that has been focused on the most. So I only had access to stronger Water jutsus."

Fujin replied, "I see. In that case, I'll give you these."

Fujin grabbed a couple of scrolls and handed them to Shigeki. He said, "Your Water jutsus are sufficiently strong. I don't have anything that'll strengthen you in that aspect. However, your wind element can be strengthened.

These are two of the strongest Wind jutsus which are popular among the Sunagakure ninjas. The first is the rank B Pressure Damage jutsu. It is a wide-range jutsu that is far stronger than the Great Breakthrough jutsu. It will help you strengthen your combination jutsu.

The second is the rank A Blades of Wind jutsu. It'll provide you with a good option to use in close combat and will also make you versatile in battle."

Shigeki was surprised once again. He thought, 'What the hell? Suna ninjas take pride in those jutsus. He just brought them out like this?'

Fujin already knew about Shigeki's skills. Though he had trained for a long time by himself, Shigeki didn't have access to new jutsus. As for creating original jutsus, that was extremely complicated and required a great deal of luck, inspiration and skill.

So, he had prepared these two jutsu scrolls for Shigeki. The information was from Konoha's library. However, Fujin changed the wording and added some of his own insights to ensure that no one would recognize it came from Konoha even if someone from Konoha got their hands on it.

Fujin actually intended to go one step further and teach Shadow Clone jutsu. With Shadow Clones along with soldier pills, the speed of training could be increased by several times. It was especially helpful while learning chakra control, nature manipulation or studying Fuinjutsu and Medical Ninjutsu.

However, after analyzing it for a long time, Fujin decided against it thinking, 'Konoha is quite protective about some of the secret jutsus like the Shadow Clone. It might not be able to do much if a major village began practicing it on a large scale, but if a minor village or an upcoming organization were to know it, Hiruzen would send forces to eliminate them. Heck, he might deploy me to do the job.'

Even if I'm able to save the organization, it'll restrict its movements heavily. Leave it. It's not as if I'm counting on anyone here to help me in a fight. There is no need to take such a needless risk. If I need a strong army in the future for some reason, then I'll reevaluate the situation.'

Shigeki looked at the scrolls again and said, "Thank you. I'll learn them immediately."

Fujin said, "Once you learn these 2 jutsus and become capable of using Body Flicker seallessly, then you should be able to contend against Elite Jounins from the major villages. Anyway, now onto the important topic. I'm sure you are curious about what organization I'm building and what our goals and purposes are."

Shigeki nodded. Apart from taking revenge, this was the matter he thought of the most.

Fujin said, "The organization I'm building is called the Phantom Haven Society. As I had said when we met the first time, this is just another branch I'm opening. It'll be independent of other branches. You'll be the one handling all matters here in my absence."

Shigeki thought for a bit and asked, "Why have I never heard of such an organization before? Also, what does the Phantom Haven Society do?"

Fujin answered, "It's simple. The Phantom in the name is to indicate our method of operation. We operate in absolute secrecy and stay elusive, rarely appearing in the light. Even when a member appears in the light, he or she shouldn't be mentioning the name of the organization. The same rules will apply here as well. This is why it is very unlikely for anyone to have heard of us. As for my goal..."

Fujin paused for a few seconds before continuing, "The goal of Phantom Haven Society is to save the innocent and the weak from the evils of society. A good portion of the world's population suffers due to torment inflicted by bandits, rogue ninjas, greedy Nobles or by becoming targets of schemes of the leaders of various hidden villages.

You, despite having decent strength and status, still fell prey to the schemes of an elder. The normal people who can't utilize their chakra have it far worse. They are entirely dependent on the whims of the strong. The Phantom Haven Society will work to get strong to be able to help such people."

Shigeki was stunned. In such a cruel world, he never expected there to be someone with such noble goals! In fact, even he himself wasn't that noble and only wanted revenge. Though Shigeki couldn't see Fujin's face, he could sense how serious Fujin was through his voice!

He thought, 'Such a noble goal. I was lucky to be saved by him. Once I complete my revenge, I'll dedicate my life to this goal. To ensure that no one else goes through the same suffering as my family. I'm sure my daughter and wife would want that as well.'

Shigeki had several doubts about who Shiden was and what his goals were. On learning the truth and realizing Fujin's seriousness, he was heavily influenced by the idea of making the world a better place. Fujin observed his expression and sighed in relief while thinking, 'Good. He bought it!'

While Fujin regularly played games with Hiruzen and at times with Shikaku and Danzo, this was the first time he tried it when something was at stake. He immediately became pleased after he tested what he learnt from them.

Shigeki said, "I'll be honored to help you make that goal a reality. However, such goals will harm the benefits of several Nobles and Leaders. We could be targeted by major and minor villages."

Though he was influenced, Shigeki understood how difficult the task was. Fujin nodded and said, "Yes. That is why it is necessary to be elusive and act in secrecy. If the word of our activities spreads, others will ignore us at the start. However, once we begin intruding on anyone's benefits, we will be opposed heavily. Even with my strength, I can't bear the force of an entire ninja village.

Even if we keep acting in secrecy, there is always a chance that details still get leaked. That is why, every branch is independent of each other. If one branch messes up and attracts trouble, the others will be

safe. I'll dissolve that branch and have them help other branches or create another secret force that will secretly aid other branches."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 484: Phantom Will

Shigeki nodded. He agreed with the steps Fujin had taken. He asked, "Alright. What should I do right now? How will I manage this branch?"

Fujin said, "Though the goal of Phantom Haven Society is good, we can't do good just by wishing for it. Otherwise, this world would have long achieved peace. To help progress towards our goal, we need to do three things. They'll be your main activities.

One, we need to recruit more people. I can't stay here all the time. And you won't be able to handle everything by yourself. For starters, you'll be responsible for recruiting other ninjas like you. Ninjas who you trust, are good-natured and will be willing to work with dedication towards such a goal.

Of course, considering the risky nature of the job, you should only recruit ninjas who don't have anything to lose and don't have anyone dependent on them."

Shigeki understood the reason behind Fujin's words. Once someone joins such a secret organization with such an outrageous goal, they will have a difficult time returning to live with their loved ones. Not to mention, they could be hunted down once their past is exposed. Even if they escape, their families will suffer.

Fujin continued, "Once you have recruited a few capable ninjas, you can start operating. To start with, we will be focusing on two things. Our goal is to help unfortunate people who face calamities.

But, in order to help such people, we need to know that they are suffering and need to know that quickly enough. Otherwise, we won't be able to help them all. To do so, you will need to build an information network.

The third thing will apply when we get into action and rescue an affected village or community. We will help them resettle, either in the same place by eliminating the danger if we can or in a nearby village if we can't and they are willing to move.

During such rescues, we will also recruit young kids who have the passion to join an organization like ours and the talent to become a ninja. Unlike the hidden villages, we will never send the kids to war. Instead, they will stay safe in this hideout until they are trained enough to be considered Chunins. This will be your most important task.

Though we are decently strong, there isn't much two people can do by themselves. In fact, even with help, we can't be sure if this goal will be achieved during our lifetime. We will need strong and passionate youngsters with the drive to see that our goal will be achieved even if we pass on."

Fujin looked into Shigeki's eyes and asked in a serious tone, "Kasai Shigeki, are you willing to take over this role?"

Shigeki replied respectfully, "I am willing."

Fujin nodded and said, "Good."

He extended his right palm towards Shigeki. A seal appeared in his right hand. Fujin said, "This is the Phantom Seal. Every member of the Phantom Haven Society will have this seal. This seal has several functions. For starters, it'll allow me to identify the members of our society.

Secondly, this seal will prevent anyone from betraying us. If anyone tries to leak our secrets, then his or her body will be paralyzed. Even other Fuinjutsu Grandmasters won't be able to help them. In addition, this seal also prevents anyone from controlling or reading the minds of our members. Show me your back and lift your shirt. I'll apply the seal to you."

Shigeki followed his instructions and presented his back. He thought, 'As I guessed, he is a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster. He might even be one of the best ones seeing how confident he is in this seal.'

Shigeki didn't suspect Fujin and accepted the seal. As a result, Fujin didn't face any obstruction and was able to place the seal properly. Fujin said, "One important aspect of this seal is that I can only place it on those who are willing to join us. Otherwise, I won't be able to place the seal.

It will prevent the ones who are unwilling or forced due to any reason from being able to join us. In the future, when you recruit, you have to ensure that you don't force someone to join us. I won't accept anyone if they aren't willing. By accepting this seal, it shows that you believe in the Phantom Will."

For the umpteenth time, Shigeki was surprised. The Seal was far more advanced than any seal he had seen or heard of. However, he was also confused. He asked, "What is Phantom Will?"

Fujin answered, "It's an illusionary will that we believe in."

Shigeki was even more confused. He asked, "What do you mean by illusionary?"

Fujin answered in a serious tone, "Who in this world doesn't want peace? Who doesn't wish that everyone prospers and no one suffers? If you randomly take 10 people, at least 9 will say that they want the world to be peaceful. Even among ninjas, the number will be the same.

However, the world is still filled with non-stop conflict. Even during peacetime, the Anbu of major villages are engaging in secret wars. Several minor villages go to war frequently. The ordinary people suffer due to such wars. Even if there are no wars on the surface, they still have to suffer due to bandits, rogue ninjas, famines, illness and in several other ways. This world has enough resources for everyone to be satisfied and to ensure that no one suffers.

Yet, people suffer. The Phantom Will is the will everyone has to bring peace to the world. However, since no one acts on it, I call it the Phantom Will. The Phantom Haven Society will follow the Phantom Will. Though we aren't strong enough to bring about world peace, we will do every little thing in our power to bring peace, even if it is temporary and restricted to a small area. In the future, if we gain sufficient strength, then we will focus on making the entire world a peaceful place."

Fujin's words made Shigeki fall into deep thought. While he was always an upright and kind-hearted person, he hadn't ever gone out of his way to help the common people unless it was a mission. When he heard Fujin's goals, he was impressed that someone so strong could devote his life to such a noble cause. It was completely opposite of every higher-up he had ever seen.

Hearing Fujin speak about the Phantom Will made him place Fujin at an even higher place in his heart. He had never heard about something like it. Though many villages had their own wills, starting from the



famed Will of Fire propagated by the First Hokage, it was his first time hearing about a Will that compassed every human! It was also the first time he felt so attached to a will.

Memories resurfaced as he thought of his own experiences. He recalled how he observed the unfairness in the world several times. However, he never did anything to reduce it despite wanting to and having a few opportunities.

He was also at the receiving end during the previous Great Ninja Wars when the Land of Rivers was completely at the mercy of Konoha and Suna ninjas. He felt helpless but didn't have the strength to do anything about it. The ones who did have the strength were engaged in a deadly war instead of helping others.

Within a few minutes, Shigeki had convinced himself and become the greatest follower of the Phantom Will. It was a strange situation where his belief in the Phantom Will was infinitely greater than the one who could be considered its founder!

Shigeki looked at Fujin and asked, "Shiden, can you tell me how strong you are? Are you a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu? Also, what are your other specialties?"

The sudden question surprised Fujin. He wondered, 'Exactly what conclusion did he reach to suddenly ask me such a question?'

To maintain the flow and ensure that Shigeki stayed loyal to him, Fujin had no choice but to satisfy his query. For a moment, Fujin felt just like how Hiruzen feels while dealing with him.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 485: Structure and Ranks

Fujin answered, "Yes, I'm a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu. It is why I dare to make a base in such a place. I don't specialize in anything else, but I do know a little bit of everything. I can use all five nature manipulations, Samurai Saber Techniques, Genjutsu, Taijutsu, Medical Ninjutsu and Sensing. Of course, they aren't comparable to my Fuinjutsu. Overall, I can be considered as a rank S ninja."

When Fujin had thought about how to answer this question, he had expected Shigeki to be awed. However, the sudden change in Shigeki's attitude made his speculation incorrect. There was no awe on Shigeki's face. Instead, there was pride!

Learning all 5 elements was an extremely rare feat. Very few ninjas could claim to have done that in history. And, very few of them could claim to be Grandmasters in Fuinjutsu. Not to mention, Fujin had mentioned that he had some expertise in nearly every other field. To have such a person as the leader was something to be proud of. Shigeki immediately felt much more confident in achieving the goals of the Phantom Haven Society.

Fujin felt uncomfortable on seeing Shigeki's passionate stare. The hair on his body stood as he felt goosebumps from the gaze. He muttered to himself, 'If I ever decide to take off the mask, I need to disguise myself as an old man. Maybe I shouldn't have bluffed about the five elements.'

Though Fujin said he could use all 5 elements, his ability in the Water element was extremely lousy. Fujin had only managed to learn some rank E and D jutsus which were more or less useless in battle. In fact, his most effective way of using water in a fight was unleashing a large amount of water that he kept in a few storage seals and speeding it up with wind. Of course, he wasn't particularly concerned about it being exposed as he never planned on fighting much with this identity.

Ignoring Shigeki's passionate stare, Fujin was very satisfied with his reaction. He had to think extremely hard to come up with the philosophy of the Phantom Will. Though the goal of the Phantom Haven Society was something people would support and would want to be a part of, in Fujin's perspective, the Phantom Will was even more important.

Looking at the history of the ninja world, there was no doubt that the most successful organizations were the major villages. Each of them had their own Will and passed it on to the next generation who firmly believed in it. If Fujin wasn't a transmigrator and had directly been born in Konoha or didn't have the memories of his past life, he didn't doubt that he would have been a staunch believer in the Will of Fire too.

By comparison, Akatsuki had terrifying power and a noble goal as well. However, they didn't have any such Will to believe in. With none of their members believing in a common Will, they lacked the same cohesiveness as a ninja village. Most of their members had their own goals. Even the loyalty of most members was questionable. Despite having so many top-tier ninjas, the fact that they didn't even bother trying to avenge a fallen comrade said a lot about the nature of their organization.

For Fujin, the strength of his organization wasn't very important. Instead, he needed loyalty and diligence. As long as they created and maintained a good information network and provided real information to Fujin, he didn't care as to whether they actually did anything else. As a result, having a Will that united everyone became very important for Fujin. Seeing Shigeki's reaction, Fujin became confident that the Phantom Will would be good enough to keep his organization united for a long time.

He thought, 'I guess I need to be thankful to Hiruzen. Without his frequent attempts to influence me with the Will of Fire, I might not have been able to create this.'

Fujin took out a scroll and said, "I'll explain to you the structure of the Phantom Haven Society. Of course, these are just the guidelines. If you want to make some changes to improve the efficiency, feel free to do so."

Shigeki accepted the scroll and opened it as Fujin explained, "While I'm the Leader, I won't be here very frequently. In my absence, you will be handling all the activities here. Hence, your rank will be the second highest, that is, the Vice Leader.

The lowest rank will be of the young kids you recruit. They will be the students and the future of the Phantom Haven Society. We won't be accepting anyone who can't become a ninja here, so there won't be any ordinary civilians here. The students will be trained until they can be considered as a Chunin in minor villages."

Shigeki interrupted Fujin and asked in confusion, "Chunins?"

Fujin nodded and explained, "Yes, Chunins. In a fight between ninjas, the fatality of Genins is very high. I don't want to see young kids meeting their death meaninglessly."

Shigeki's respect for Fujin increased once again. Fujin continued, "Unlike the hidden villages, the academy here will continue training kids until the age of 15. If they reach the Chunin level earlier, they'll be allowed to graduate early. If they fail to reach that rank, then they can be developed as spies or informants or they can be given non-combative miscellaneous roles within this base depending on their talents. If their strength improves in the future, they can be promoted to Field Agents.

As for the ones who manage to pass, they will become Field Agents immediately and can participate in our rescue missions. They will likely make the bulk of our forces. They will be divided into smaller teams and be led by Captains.

A captain will have to be as strong as an Elite Chunin or a Special Jounin from the major villages. Your strength when we met the first time was probably at this level.

If someone manages to become strong enough to be considered as a Jounin in major villages, they'll be promoted to the Commander rank. They will be the ones commanding any operation. Every promotion to this rank will have to be approved by me.

Apart from these ranks, I'll also label a few members as Special Elites. This will be for members who develop one skill to an extreme, like say becoming Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu or becoming one of the best medical ninjas or developing a Kekkei Genkai beyond a certain limit and so on. Of course, if anyone manages to reach the Elite Jounin level, they'll also be included here. We will decide their duties when we have anyone at this rank."

Shigeki took a couple of minutes to digest all the information. While he was in thought, Fujin added, "Of course, this will only work properly once we have sufficient members at each rank. For the time being, you'll need to make do with what you have. You'll have to command the missions yourself and appoint others depending on their skills and your needs."

Shigeki nodded. It was a tough task. Fujin was asking a lot. Fortunately, Shigeki was willing to make the efforts needed to make the goal of the Phantom Haven Society a reality. He said, "If a day comes when we have thousands of field agents, hundreds of captains, dozens of commanders and several Special Elites, we might be able to make this dream a reality."

Fujin nodded. If the Phantom Haven Society reached such a level, then it might truly become a reality. Unfortunately, the chances of that happening before the Fourth Great Ninja War started were more or less nil.

Despite having good guidance in the academy and an amazing sensei after Graduation, Fujin still needed almost 6 years to reach the Jounin level. Though he managed to reach the level of Elite Jounin soon after, it would have taken a lot longer if Hiruzen hadn't taught him the Wind Vacuum Technique as a reward for beating the record in the second stage of the Chunin exams.

Similarly, to become a rank S ninja, Fujin was extremely overdependent on using Shadow Clones to become a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster and developing a few extremely stealthy seals. Without either of those factors, Fujin's route to becoming a rank S would have been much more difficult and time-consuming.

That is why, Fujin wasn't counting on any young kid the organization recruited to have the ability to reach rank S in the next 5-6 years. Even reaching the Elite Jounin level would be only possible if Fujin or Shigeki managed to directly recruit a promising young Genin or Chunin. The only possible exceptions would be if Fujin managed to recruit someone who was already a rank S ninja or an Elite Jounin. Unfortunately, the chances of someone that strong joining and willingly accepting the Phantom Seal were extremely low.

Shigeki followed up by asking several questions that were important for running the base successfully. Fujin had already thought of all the questions and patiently answered every question properly.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 486: Two Choices

At one point, Shigeki asked, "What if one of our members wants to quit and return to a normal life?"

Fujin answered, "Then we let them go. As I said, though the Phantom Will exists in everyone, it is unrealistic to expect everyone to act on it. Of course, we won't be removing the Phantom Seal. So there won't be any danger of them leaking sensitive information.

If they change their mind in the future, they can rejoin. They could also recommend others to join us. Not to mention, any former member will help us with gathering information. Whether they do it actively or passively will be their choice. So, they will still help us reach our goal faster. Besides, with them out there, they can ensure that the crimes against the weak are reduced. At the very least, no normal bandit group will be able to harm the village they are staying in."

Shigeki nodded. Though it could reduce their fighting power temporarily, it'll make their unity stronger if they aren't forced to serve. Shigeki continued asking more questions until he covered every aspect.

Once he was done, Fujin asked, "Do you have anyone in mind that you would like to recruit?"

Shigeki nodded and answered, "Yes. I thought of them when you said that I would have to recruit. I know 13 former ninjas from Tanigakure who were falsely accused at different times. They became rogue ninjas and I was even sent to hunt a few of them down. But after learning the truth, I let them off and reported that those missions had failed.

All of them became rogue ninjas. Some lived while hiding from the official ninjas while some became bounty hunters. 5 of them stayed together in a group and 4 more stayed together forming another group. The remaining four moved alone.

Unfortunately, it has been 3 years since I heard about them. So I'm not sure if I'll be able to find them or even if they are still alive and well."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright, that'll be a start. How long will it take you to find them?"

Shigeki answered, "I can't say for sure. If I'm lucky, then in 3 days. If not, then it might take a month and I still might not track all of them down."

Fujin thought for a bit and instructed, "Alright, you'll set out to find them. Return here in 10 days' time irrespective of how many you find. I'll build the basic structure of the base until th..."

He suddenly paused and began thinking. Shigeki wanted to ask something but stopped since Fujin was busy thinking. After a minute, Fujin looked at Shigeki and said, "Actually, I'll build the main base here and a mini base halfway into this valley. Only the members I have applied the seal on will be allowed in the main base. The rest will have to stay in the mini base until I visit to apply the seals. This will reduce the risk of any spy leaking information about our main base. Also..."

Fujin grabbed a storage scroll and opened it. From one of the seals, he summoned a few hundred tags with some sort of seal on them. Fujin handed them to Shigeki and said, "Though my Phantom Seal is very safe, accidents could always happen. If someone accidentally triggers the seal and it paralyzes them, you can use these tags to undo the paralysis. The Phantom Seal will reform itself, so don't worry about someone trying to use this to get rid of the seal.

When you try to recruit those guys, be careful what you speak. You can't leak the secrets of Phantom Haven Society until the Phantom Seal is applied to them."

Shigeki nodded and said, "Yes, I figured that out. And thank you, this will make my job easier."

He accepted all the tags. Fujin instructed, "Now get going. I'll send a Mud Clone with you to inform you of the location of the mini base."

Fujin was about to create a clone when Shigeki said, "Actually, I wanted to ask something."

Fujin stopped and said, "Ask."

Shigeki said, "You had promised to help me get revenge. Can I know when we can do so?"

Though Shigeki was impressed by the Phantom Haven Society, he never forgot the fate of his family. It had tormented him for years. Fujin had thought of this matter as well. Initially, he wanted to have Shigeki give shape to the organization and only then help him. After all, if Shigeki lost his will after getting revenge, Fujin would suffer a needless loss. However, Fujin changed his mind after seeing how much he was influenced by the Phantom Will.

Fujin said, "I'll give you two choices. The first one is that we'll go now and eliminate the ones who caused injustice to your family. However, since it will be just the two of us, the entire operation will be done silently. I'll give you an opportunity to assassinate them. Or, you can knock them out, take them away from Tanigakure and torture them for a few hours before killing them. Regardless, no proof would be left behind. No one will know that this was done by you or that those scums were finally served justice.

The second choice is that you wait a few years and form a formidable force in this base. You can then lead them openly to help get your revenge. Everyone will know that justice was served. Everyone will know that it was you who did it. In the future, the higher-ups will think ten times before subjecting anyone else to such a fate.

The choice is yours."

Fujin stayed quiet after speaking. It was quite easy to deduce which path he wanted Shigeki to take. Shigeki fell into deep thought. He spent nearly 5 minutes thinking before he answered, "When I work towards the goal of Phantom Haven Society, I don't want to be distracted by anything else.

Nor do I want to feel resentful that the killers of my family are still alive. I choose the first option. I don't want any glory nor do I want to use the Phantom Haven Society to fulfil my goals. I just want to deliver justice for my family. I hope you can help me kidnap them and give me a few hours alone with them.

Also, if I am able to kill them first, it'll be very helpful in recruiting others to join us as most of them hate the higher-ups in the village. In addition, I also want to gather some information about the village. If more were subjected to a similar treatment as me, I might be able to recruit them as well if they are still alive."

Fujin was surprised by the answer. He thought, 'Weird. After getting entranced by the Phantom Will, I expected him to choose the second option. I guess I'm not that good at reading people yet. Oh well, it shouldn't matter much. With this out of the way, he'll focus entirely on making this base stronger.'

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright, let's go."

The two left immediately. En route, Fujin showed him where the mini base would be created. It was around 6 kilometers from the main base and still very well hidden from outside the valley, making it extremely unlikely for anyone to stumble upon it.

In one of the palaces in Tanigakure, a loud shriek could be heard in the middle of the night. Two medical ninjas were around a man in his twenties, while an older man was standing behind them. He frowned and asked, "How long would it take you to heal my son's injuries? It has been over two and a half years now!"

Anger could be heard in his voice. However, the old man was still restraining himself. One of the medical ninjas sighed and answered, "We already told you, Kanji-sama. There isn't much we can do. Itsuki's chakra network was extremely damaged when he was attacked. Even though we have repaired his chakra network as much as we could, it is still very fragile. Every time he uses his chakra, he'll feel an extremely high amount of pain."

Suddenly, Itsuki screamed once again. He could hear everything the medical ninja said. However, it wasn't his chakra network or the pain that caused him the most sorrow. It was what was missing between his legs. He shouted angrily, "Father, I want to see that motherfucker Shigeki and mutilate him too!"



Kanji sighed seeing his son's situation. As time passed, his mental state continuously became worse. He said, "Shigeki is long dead, Itsuki. If he was alive, he would have tried to get his revenge long back."

Kanji had sent 5 ninjas to kill an injured Shigeki. He had expected it to go without any accident. Unfortunately, Fujin had ruined his plans. He never heard about those 5 ninjas again. For some time, he was afraid that Shigeki had killed them. However, as time passed, he believed that Shigeki died as well. He speculated that he did a suicide attack that killed all six of them. Of course, that didn't do much to reduce the hatred he felt for Shigeki.

Just as the father-son duo were cursing Shigeki, a voice was heard, "Oh, you wanted to see me? Good. I have been wanting to see the two of you for every second since that accursed day!"

Suddenly, everyone in the room turned around and looked in the direction of the voice. To their surprise, Shigeki stood there, along with a masked man.

Itsuki jumped out of his bed while screaming, "Bastard! I'll kill you!"

Luckily for him, the medical ninjas held him back.

Meanwhile, Kanji asked in surprise, "How did you enter here undetected?"

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 487: Revenge

Memories flooded Shigeki's brain as he recalled the answer to Kanji's question. He had prepared himself for an extremely difficult battle when he and Fujin were moving towards Tanigakure. In fact, he was surprised when Fujin claimed that he could help take revenge with just the two of them despite seeing a portion of his strength. They would have to pass through several layers of defenses to reach Kanji.

For the first time in his life, Shigeki discovered how convenient it was to work alongside a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster. Is the wall around the village covered with seals and a barrier? Not an issue. Fujin created a small hole in the barrier which went undetected. He freely manipulated the seals on the wall and the two of them entered the hidden village without any obstacle!

From there, reaching Kanji's palace was a walk in the park. Of course, the palace had some defenders. They were mostly ninjas from Kanji's family who patrolled occasionally. Needless to say, every single one of them was killed. Their bodies were pinned to the walls of the palace with their own weapons. Thanks to Fujin, no one else heard a single thing.

Shigeki answered, "That's not something you should worry about. Instead, you should think about the disgusting and vile acts you and your son committed all these years."

He began walking forward while saying, "Karma has finally caught up with you. I'll let the two of you feel the pain I felt since that accursed day!"

Kanji snorted and prepared himself for a battle. He said, "You have grown very cocky. Do you think that you can defeat me? Actually, I am glad that you have appeared here yourself. I'll shred you to pieces with my own hands!"

Kanji wasn't afraid of Shigeki. His attention was instead on the mysterious masked ninja next to him. If Kanji and Shigeki had fought 3 years ago, Kanji would have easily won. After all, his strength was the reason that he could become an elder in a hidden village. Even if he was placed in a major village, he could be considered a Jounin. It was one of the main reasons why Shigeki listened to Fujin and didn't try to get his revenge instantly.

Even now, though Shigeki had grown a lot stronger, defeating and killing Kanji would still take some time. The commotion it would cause would make the other ninjas in the village rush over there. As a result, if Shigeki had come by himself, he would have lost and been captured instead. Thankfully, he had a very strong ally.

Kanji and the medical ninjas began grabbing their weapons. However, even before Kanji could take out his kunai, Fujin's left hand clutched his throat. Kanji's eyes widened in horror as he realized, 'So fast! Who is he? And is this Swift Release?'

Before he could figure anything out, Fujin lifted him and slammed Kanji's entire body into the ground, creating cracks in the floor. Kanji's back and spine were severely damaged due to the impact. He still tried to attack, but various symbols appeared on his body. Fujin had used the Self-Cursing Seal to restrain him.

The medical ninjas and Itsuki were shocked by the sudden development. They looked at Fujin who was staring back at them instead of paying attention to Kanji. Before either of them could react, two shurikens pierced through the necks of the two Medical ninjas. Both died on the spot, leaving only the Father-Son duo alive.

Seeing his father and the two medical ninjas on the ground, Itsuki was horrified. He walked backwards while asking, "Who are you?"

Terror could be heard in his voice. Unfortunately, there would be no mercy as Shigeki flickered behind him and knocked him out. Kanji wanted to speak but couldn't move his mouth. Fujin knocked him out as well and asked, "Do you still want to torture them?"

Shigeki nodded. Fujin said, "Alright, carry their bodies. We need to leave this village first before someone discovers something odd."

Shigeki nodded. He carried the both of them as they left the village as silently as they arrived. A few kilometers from the village, they entered a cave. Fujin inscribed a few seals on the cave as well as on Kanji and Itsuki and said, "No one should be able to detect you in this cave. No one will be able to hear any screams from the cave either. I'll leave them to you. But, don't spend too much time here. Find the ones you want to recruit and return to the base within ten days."

Shigeki nodded. Before Fujin left, he bowed and said, "Shiden, thank you for helping me get revenge. I will forever be in your debt."

Fujin continued walking away as he said, "Don't worry about it. Just give your all to the Phantom Haven Society. It's the only thing I would ask from you."

His figure disappeared. Shigeki finally raised his head. He was genuinely thankful to Fujin. Without him, this day would have never come. He entered the cave. Alone with the culprits who tortured and killed his family, Shigeki finally couldn't restrain his rage.

For nearly half a day, abominable screams were continuously heard in the cave! Thankfully, none of the screams could be heard outside the cave. Otherwise, if anyone were to stumble nearby, they would be horrified.

During this time, Tanigakure wasn't calm either. It didn't take very long to discover the dead bodies in Kanji's palace. The entire village became alert within minutes. One of their Elders was missing and many of his family members were dead and pinned to the walls of his palace!

Immediately, they began investigating. At the same time, the other families in the village raised their protection several times. Several ninjas were seen moving around the village to check if anyone was hiding. A few patrol teams searched outside the village as well. They even moved past the cave Shigeki was in but failed to detect anything strange about it.

After nine hours of non-stop torture, both Kanji and his son died. Shigeki remained in the cave for some more time, reminiscing about his family who he couldn't protect. He cried, he drank and stayed in the cave for a day.

Finally, he got up. As he walked out of the cave, he muttered, "I have finally got justice for my family. From now on, I'll dedicate my life to seeing Phantom Haven Society achieve its goal."

He left the cave and began moving towards the location of the rogue ninjas that he recalled.

Eight days later, a group of 12 ninjas were moving across the Land of Rivers. Needless to say, they were being led by Kasai Shigeki. They reached the valley that was chosen to be the base of Phantom Haven Society. As they stood on the edge, one of them asked, "Of all the places, you chose this freaky place? Will we even be able to sleep peacefully here?"

Another added while adjusting his spectacles, "Ignoring Mitsuo's concern, it's actually not a bad idea. No one will think that someone has built a base here. That said, making a safe base here is very difficult. How did you manage it?"

Shigeki himself wasn't aware of the answer. He just decided to trust a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster and said, "It is my benefactor who is building a base here, Hayato. You'll see soon, follow me."

He quickly moved towards the location of the mini base that Fujin had decided. Soon after they entered the valley, Fujin detected disturbances in his Space-Time field. He looked in their direction and thought, 'Looks like Shigeki has returned. I overestimated the amount of time I'd need to build a base. I managed to do it in just 4 days. Oh well, it's not like it was a loss. I did spend my days training...'

If one were to look in the valley, the place where Fujin was sitting at was quite normal if one didn't try to find any seals. However, a couple of kilometers away, the slopes were covered in hundreds of small craters! In fact, almost every animal had moved away from that location! It would be a long time before they dared to return back to that place.

Fujin disappeared from the base and moved towards the mini base as well. With Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu, he didn't require a long while to reach. A few minutes later, Shigeki's group arrived at the spot where the mini base was. However, confusion appeared on Shigeki's face as he stopped moving.

Hayato asked, "What happened? Why did you stop?"

Shigeki answered in an unsure tone, "The base was supposed to be here."

Everyone immediately looked around in confusion. After a few seconds, Hayato said, "There is nothing here."

Mitsuo sighed in disappointment and asked, "Shigeki, is your benefactor unreliable or has your memory gone bad in these last few years?"

Shigeki was confused. He wondered, 'Did something happen to the benefactor? Why else would there be nothing here? Should I go and check the main base? But, I can't take these guys there. There is no choice. I'll have to ask them to wait here while I go ahead and check.'

Shigeki was about to leave when suddenly everyone felt a killing intent. Before anyone could react, a voice was heard, "I wouldn't move if I was in your place."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 488: New Recruits

"I wouldn't move if I was in your place."

Everyone except Shigeki, who identified the voice, wanted to move. However, their legs froze as the scenery around them changed. Instead of a lush green valley, everyone was surrounded by long spears that had risen from the ground. Had they moved, they would have been stabbed by several spears.

They quickly looked in the direction of the voice. A large cave opening appeared out of nowhere on the surface of the slopes. A masked man stood next to it while leaning against the wall.

Mitsuo asked, "What's the meaning of this? Shigeki, we trusted you. How could you betray us, you bastard?"

The same thoughts ran through everyone's head. Fujin chuckled and said, "Relax. He didn't betray you. I just wanted to test out the new base."

Fujin snapped his fingers. In an instant, all Earth Spears crumbled and fell to the ground. The rogue Tanigakure ninjas finally relaxed. Hayato asked, "Is this the benefactor you mentioned? Quite an impression he made. I have never seen such a high level of Genjutsu. I never felt anything influencing my chakra."

Fujin said, "This isn't Genjutsu. Instead, it is Fuinjutsu. It'll ensure that the base is safe even when I am not here."

Fujin's response surprised them. None of them had ever seen Fuinjutsu in this way and to such a degree. In fact, some of them were still suspicious.

Fujin said, "Anyway, enough small talk. Shigeki, are these the ones you wanted to recruit?"

Shigeki nodded and said, "I managed to find 10 of the 13 I mentioned and found another friend who was banished from the village a year ago."

One by one, Shigeki introduced all 11 members. The members covered a lot of specializations. There were a couple of sensors and a decent medical ninja. At the end, he added, "Mitsuo and Hayato were formerly Jounins in our village. The rest were Chunins."

Fujin observed them properly and said, "Alright. Hayato and Mitsuo will be Captains. The rest will be Field Agents."

Shigeki immediately realized, 'Shiden doesn't think that they are strong enough to be considered Jounins in a major village.'

Hayato said, "While we have agreed to join, Shigeki said that we won't learn any more information before we actually join you. We would like to hear the further details."

Fujin nodded and said, "In order to be a member of the Phantom Haven Society, you have to accept the Phantom Seal. It will prevent you from ever leaking the secrets about the organization or your fellow members. At the same time, it will also give you some benefits."

Hearing that a seal would be placed on them made them tense. Though Shigeki had impressed them with the Phantom Will, they didn't share his trust in Fujin. Hayato asked, "How can you guarantee that you won't harm us?"

Fujin shrugged and said, "If I wanted to harm you, you'd all be dead. Regardless, I'm not forcing you. If you want to leave, you can. If you want to stay and achieve our common goals, then stay. Without the seal, the members of the Phantom Haven Society will be very vulnerable to spies from hidden villages. I can't risk that. I hope you understand."

Fujin's words were very nonchalant. It was as if he didn't care whether they stayed or not. It irked the Tanigakure ninjas. Mitsuo asked, "Don't you care about helping the weak and the innocent?"

Fujin replied, "I do. But I can't force others to do so. After all, everyone wishes that the world would be at peace. However, how many actually do something about that wish? If I have to force someone to do it, then I'll be better off without trying at all."

In an instant, everyone suddenly remembered what Shigeki had explained to them about the Phantom Will. They understood why Fujin was nonchalant. It wasn't that he didn't care about the goal. Rather, he didn't have any interest in forcing or pursuing anyone to work towards that goal. It would be rather pointless if he had to do that and the organization wouldn't have many people who are truly dedicated to its goal.

Everyone became quiet. The 11 ninjas Shigeki brought with him exchanged eye glances. Finally, Hayato stepped forward and said, "We are willing to join, but we need your help in getting justice for us like you helped Shigeki."

Fujin shook his head and said, "I won't help anyone get their revenge. If you join the Phantom Haven Society, then you won't be allowed to use our members to get your revenge. While I won't stop you if you were to go alone, you won't be allowed to take anyone else with you, no matter how close you are."

Fujin's words surprised everyone. Considering that Shigeki had appeared to recruit them, they assumed that they would be able to put forth some demands. To their surprise, Fujin didn't entertain any demands at all. It left them in a tough spot.

They did agree with Phantom Will and hence followed Shigeki. However, they were more interested in how Fujin helped Shigeki get revenge and wanted to use his help as well. In addition, life as a rogue ninja was very difficult. If they were to get a safe haven where they could stay together and form a strong force, then their life would go much easier. So, their intentions weren't entirely noble.

However, Fujin's words forced them into a corner. Fortunately, Fujin added, "Of course, if the one who you want to take revenge on does something that harms the innocent, then it would be a good reason for the Phantom Haven Society to make a move.

However, the Phantom Haven Society will only move when there isn't a grave danger to us. After all, we won't be able to help anyone if we are dead. If your targets hide inside Tanigakure, you shouldn't expect to get revenge any time soon. How soon you'll be able to get revenge will depend on whether your target is actually a scum and how much effort you put into the Phantom Haven Society."

Fujin's words finally gave them hope. They exchanged glances and said at the same time, "We want to join the Phantom Haven Society."

Fujin nodded. One by one, he applied the Phantom Seal on everyone. It failed once when the ninja resisted subconsciously, but was applied on the second try after Fujin explained it.

Once the seal was applied, Hayato asked, "Shigen, now that we have joined you, I hope you can answer this question truthfully. Would you have really let us go if we had refused to accept the Phantom Seal?"



Fujin chuckled and answered, "Why would I stop you? Besides, what will you even do with this information? Will you go out and tell the world that a guy who is supposed to be dead and a masked person wants to make an organization that aims to bring peace to this world?"

Fujin's words left everyone, including Shigeki, speechless. Fujin had instructed Shigeki to not mention the fact that he had created similar organizations to anyone else. So, for everyone apart from Shigeki, the Phantom Haven Society was merely a two-man organization. What was even the point of leaking this information?

Hayato coughed and said, "Well, if you had become successful in the future, we could have leaked the location of your base."

Fujin waved his arms dismissively and said, "This is just a mini base. There are 3 other such bases in this valley. And that's apart from our main base. If you guys had left and betrayed us in the future, all that would welcome you would be a deadly trap. Even a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster wouldn't have noticed the trap until it's too late. While some ninjas could survive, you fellows would definitely have died."

Once again, everyone was speechless. There was no need to think about how advanced that base was. All 12 of them would have died without any chance of resisting had Fujin wanted them dead. Heck, they wouldn't even know how they died! And now they learnt that Fujin still had 3 more similar bases along with a main base that would have undoubtedly been much more advanced!

Unknown to them, Fujin had initially planned just one mini base to act as a cover for any spies that infiltrated. However, on seeing how easy it was to create it, he created 3 more. After all, the more the merrier. If Hiruzen was here, he would have understood Fujin's point of view.

Fujin said, "That said, even though I built the bases, they are still very basic. You guys will need to do some construction. Come on in."

Fujin entered the cave. The others quickly followed him in. As soon as they did, their eyes widened. Mitsuo muttered, "I never would have imagined that there would be something like this in the normal-looking valley!"

In front of them was a massive base. Though its appearance was basic as everything was carved out of rocks and had no decorations whatsoever, the base in itself was extremely huge! They could easily house over a couple of hundred people inside the cave without making it seem crowded.

While everyone was observing, Fujin said, "There isn't much more to see here. I'll let you guys handle the decorations and make this place look more welcoming and accommodating. I'll inform you guys later how the seals here work and how you can use them in case someone somehow discovers the base and manages to forcefully enter. For now, let's visit the main base."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 489: Phantom Haven Base & Possible Future Expansions

Fujin's words caused the 12 members to feel excited. All of them knew how rare Fuinjutsu Grandmasters were. Even Major Villages would treasure them. To be able to control the seals created by a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster was a huge honor.

In addition, everyone was anticipating how majestic the main base would be. Even though the mini base looked simple, none of them doubted that it would look grand once they improved the aesthetics. And, with all the protective seals along with the locations of the bases, they no longer had to worry about someone trying to hunt them.

In a few minutes, the group reached the deepest point of the valley. Shigeki looked around. The place looked exactly how it was when he and Fujin had gone there the first time. Everyone was looking around as well. Mitsuo asked, "So, where is the base hidden?"

Fujin made the confrontation hand seal and said, "Watch your feet."

In the next instant, the ground under their feet disappeared, surprising all 12 of them. Fortunately, they could see another layer of ground below them as they fell and landed safely on it. It was 25 meters deeper than the land they were standing on initially.

Shigeki asked in surprise, "What was that?"

Fujin answered, "A barrier. Look up."

Everyone looked up. The sky looked normal. Suddenly, a brown net appeared 25 meters above them. Fujin explained, "I created a barrier on the top of the base. As you saw, it looks just like the ground and stays consistent with the terrain. It also guards against all forms of sensory skills. So, it is impossible for anyone to sense anyone who is hiding in this base even if they are standing above it.

Of course, if another Fuinjutsu Grandmaster appears here, then he or she might be able to find the barrier. I have prepared a few escape routes with several traps to slow down the enemies in that scenario. I'll show them later."

Everyone marvelled. They truly were speechless. Mitsuo muttered, "Even our village isn't this well protected."

Hayato added, "Yeah. This is truly a hidden base. If anyone finds us here, then it only means that even the Gods want us dead!"

Shigeki was more focused on the defense of the base as he would be the leader in Fujin's absence. He asked, "Shiden, how strong is that barrier?"

Fujin answered, "Not very strong. While normal animals and humans won't be able to do anything to it, a few rank A jutsus will easily destroy the barrier. So will a bombardment from lower-ranked jutsus or even explosive tags. Of course, that is under normal circumstances.

If you guys provide chakra to it, then it'll be just slightly weaker than the Four Violet Flames Formation. In that case, it'll only be destroyed once you run out of chakra. Though it is weaker than the Four Violet Flames Formation, it is more practical for our base.

As many as eight people can provide chakra to the barrier and all eight will have to run out of chakra for the barrier to collapse, unlike the Four Violet Flames Formation. In addition, the people providing chakra to the barrier can be swapped with others inside the base. So, if our size grows large enough, only something like a Tailed Beast Bomb or an assault by a large ninja army would break it.

That said, once you provide chakra to the barrier, any decent sensor will be able to detect the barrier. So, don't do it unless we are under attack.

There is another thing you need to keep in mind. The brown net 25 meters above us indicates that the barrier is active. If the brown net doesn't exist, it means that the barrier is turned off."

The former Tanigakure ninjas just helplessly exchanged glances. They didn't even know what to say. For a moment, they couldn't help but wonder, 'Such level of preparation... It's as if he is preparing to take on all 5 major villages in this valley!'

Fujin ignored their glances and added, "The barrier surrounds the base from all the other sides as well. It ends 100 meters under the ground from here, completely enclosing the base. So, any construction you plan on doing here can be done in two ways.

One, on this ground, but it'll be restricted in terms of height by the barrier above us. Alternatively, you can dig and carve buildings and houses in the ground but pay attention to ventilation. I have already done so for the official building, the academy, library, training facilities, meditation center and staying quarters. Apart from the library and the meditation center you can make changes to the rest. Feel free to check out the base as much as you want to. Meet me in the library in half an hour."

Fujin could feel that all of them were overwhelmed by the base. As a result, he decided to give them some time to cool down. Even though they were mature and hardened ninjas, it was a no-brainer for them to be surprised at seeing such a high level of Fuinjutsu. It was even more so for Shigeki who knew how barren the place was merely 10 days ago!

Hayato looked at Shigeki and asked, "Shigeki, how did you even meet this guy?"

His question brought Shigeki out of his thoughts. He looked towards him and answered, "I was just lucky. When I was escaping from the ninjas Kanji sent, I ran into him. Otherwise, I would have long been dead."

Hayato thought for a few seconds and replied with a sigh, "You were very lucky. When you approached us, I felt that you had gone insane. The only reason why I agreed to come with you was because Kanji was killed. However, with such an expert supporting us, the goal you spoke of isn't merely a talk.

At the very least, we should be able to maintain peace in the Land of Rivers when no Great Ninja Wars are happening. That said, moving beyond this country would be impossible. All of our neighbors have very strong armies and leaders."

Shigeki nodded. The Land of Rivers was surrounded by the Land of Wind to the west, the Land of Fire to the east, the Land of Rain to the north and a sea to the south. Their respective hidden villages were in an entirely different league when compared to Tanigakure.

However, Shigeki wasn't worried as he thought, 'This isn't the only base. Shiden said that he has created several other such bases. So our responsibility should be only limited to this country. I'm sure he has his plans for the remaining countries as well.'

Unfortunately for Shigeki, he would never know how much he was lied to by Shiden. That said, from Fujin's perspective, the situation wasn't that restricted. Once Nagato and Konan fell, the Land of Rain would no longer be as strong as it had been since Hanzo rose to power.

If Fujin developed any intentions of expanding the Phantom Haven Society in the future and making it a formidable force, then he could expand to the north without stopping by creating bases in the Land of Rain, Land of Grass and finally the Land of Waterfall, who would have lost their only Jinchuriki by then.

If that happened, then the Phantom Haven Society would stand directly between the Land of Fire and the Lands of Wind and Earth, becoming the new but hidden buffer zone. Of course, Fujin would need to create another similar organization to create bases in the countries between the Land of Fire and the Land of Lightning to spread his influence further and potentially raise a force greater than any of the 5 major villages.

That said, it was a matter for the future. For the time being, Fujin's attention was focused only on the events leading up to the Fourth Great Ninja War. Until Kaguya's threat was resolved, he didn't see any point in making plans for the time beyond it.

The group spent some time looking around the base. It was much larger than the mini base as it covered the entire plane in the deepest layer of the valley. The academy Fujin had constructed could hold more than a thousand students. The living quarters were even larger. The training facilities were inspired by Anbu Training facilities though there weren't any elemental training rooms.

As such, the base would have no issue in holding close to ten thousand people if managed well. The only real drawback was that there wasn't much space for things that would need a lot of space. For instance, there were no training grounds inside the base. However, that wasn't much of an issue as the entire valley outside the base could be used as Training grounds.

Another issue was that there were no farmlands. While it wasn't an issue for the time being thanks to the wildlife in the valley, food would need to be bought in large quantities once the population inside the base increased. It could raise some suspicions. Fortunately, there was abundant drinking water in the valley.

After looking around the base for a while and making some plans about future renovations and aesthetics, the 12 Phantom members walked towards the Library, where Fujin was waiting for them.

Once everyone arrived, Fujin glanced at everyone and said, "I'll now explain to you guys my plans for this base and what you need to do."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 490: Plans and Arrangements!

Everyone became serious upon hearing Fujin's words. At the same time, they were curious as well.

Fujin explained, "As I told Shigeki, I won't be staying here frequently. In my absence, Shigeki will be the leader here. As such, the rest of you need to follow his instructions."

No one opposed it. They were quite familiar with Shigeki and didn't have an issue in working under him. In fact, they preferred it to working under an unknown person like Fujin.

Fujin continued, "Once I leave, you'll have to focus on 4 tasks. The first one is obviously making this base and the mini bases more hospitable. As for the details, I'll leave it under your capable hands. You can visit nearby villages and towns to buy whatever you need. Just make sure to hide your identity and don't let anyone trail you."

Shigeki asked, "Will you be providing us with monetary support? Though we do have some money, I doubt any of us has enough to undertake such a huge project."

The others agreed with Shigeki. While they each had some money due to being rogue ninjas and bounty hunters, none were very rich. To their relief, Fujin nodded and tossed a scroll to Shigeki.

He said, "This scroll has over 41 million Ryo. I had arranged 25 million Ryo initially. However, I met a few bandits and rogue ninjas who were willing to 'donate' to our just cause."

Everyone had a weird expression on their faces. They all understood what 'donate' implied.

Fujin placed a few more scrolls on the rocky table he was leaning against and said, "These scrolls contain weapons that those kind souls donated. Put them to good use. Anyway, returning to our topic, the second task you'll handle is creating an information network.

Needless to say, these informants won't be members of Phantom Haven. So, no need to explain our goals or to give them much information. Just pay them and treat them as employees. Retain or replace them based on how useful they are.

You can use civilians or rogue ninjas who have a good reputation for this purpose. If any rogue ninja shares our values and goals, then we could recruit him or her in the future. You could divide yourselves into teams to handle these two tasks at the same time. You can start with the third task only after the first two are complete."

Shigeki interrupted Fujin and asked, "Shiden, which areas should our information network cover?"

Fujin replied, "Every place except the Hidden Villages. We can't keep an eye on them without attracting a heavy backlash. So leave them be."

Fujin's words surprised everyone. Shigeki said, "But, we are surrounded by strong countries. We won't be able to do anything in their territory even if something happens."

Fujin nodded and said, "Yes, we won't be. But that doesn't mean that we should stay oblivious to the atrocities happening there. Our information network will cover the entire world. I believe that our efforts will be very successful in the Land of Rivers. It might make us feel content and satisfied.

However, the information about the atrocities happening in the rest of the world is what we need to remind ourselves that there is still a lot more that we need to do. We need to know what else is happening in the world to give us the motivation to make ourselves strong enough that one day we might be able to make a difference for those helpless people as well!"

Fujin's little motivational speech immediately inspired and motivated them. None of them had thought from this angle. In fact, they would be extremely satisfied as long as they made the Land of Rivers a safe place!

Hayato looked at Fujin in disbelief and thought, 'I can't believe such a kind person exists. With his capabilities, he can easily live a peaceful life anywhere he wants to and yet he wants to do so much!'

Just like Hayato, the rest of them were touched as well. Fujin was satisfied with their reaction. He continued, "The third task is to use this information to rescue the people who are being attacked by bandits or rogue ninjas. Until I say so, we won't engage in a conflict against a hidden village. The tasks we undertake will only be the ones we are sure to complete without any loss. As I said earlier, we need to stay alive to do good work.

Anyway, if you manage to kill the bandits or the rogue ninjas, you will confiscate their money and weapons. What you confiscate has to be handed to Shigeki, who will be handling the finances. The money will be used for our operations or to help the affected people rebuild their villages and homes.

During these rescue missions, if you find any kids who are orphans and have the talent to become a ninja, you will give them the opportunity to join the Phantom Haven Society. If any parents want to send their kids who have the talent to become ninjas to us, you can accept them as well. However, let the parents and the kids know that they might not ever see each other again. If they still agree, only then accept them.

Your fourth and last task is to guide those kids. Raise them to become splendid ninjas in the future who believe in the Phantom Will. Though we have good intentions, changing the fate of the world wouldn't be possible in just one or two generations. They will have a far bigger role to play as compared to us.

Of course, since you'll be teaching the kids, only recruit as many kids as you can train properly and bond with. If you recruit too many, not only will you guys become exhausted, but the kids will also feel abandoned. I don't want to see that happening. Is this understood?"

Everyone began thinking. After some time, Mitsuo asked, "But, if we do this, won't we be doing just the job that the hidden villages do? The only difference is that instead of getting paid, we do it for free and help everyone."



Fujin answered, "In a sense, but not exactly. In truth, every hidden village has the power to eliminate all bandits and most of the rogue ninjas in their country. They just don't because these bandits bring in jobs for their ninjas and help run the economy of the ninja villages. After all, who will be hiring ninjas if the world is peaceful?

We don't need to think about that. Once our strength grows, we will be sweeping through all bandits and rogue ninjas in this country. What we do after that will depend on how Tanigakure reacts when they don't get many mission requests."

Fujin's words forced everyone to think. Suddenly, they all understood the implications of creating such an organization. They immediately realized how Tanigakure would react if they suddenly stopped getting mission requests!

The village would stop receiving funding soon if that happens. As a result, the interests of all forces in the village would be harmed. They would immediately begin investigating the reason behind such happenings. They might even resort to creating fake bandit groups and rogue ninjas to create trouble so that they get missions. It might put them at direct odds against the Phantom Haven Society.

Everyone nodded solemnly. They understood that they might have to clash with the mighty hidden village in the future. However, there was also a sense of excitement as everyone other than Shigeki had someone they wanted to kill from Tanigakure.

What none of them saw was that such a development could lead to other hidden villages becoming wary due to such a development. They might aid Tanigakure in eliminating the Phantom Haven Society. Only Fujin saw this threat, but he wasn't concerned as it was highly unlikely that the Phantom Haven Society would become that strong anytime soon.

Shigeki nodded and said, "Alright. We understand. We will do the best we can while keeping ourselves safe."

Fujin nodded and said, "Good. I'll now explain my plans on how to raise and guide the kids we recruit. Does any of you have any experience in guiding young children?"

Everyone exchanged glances. After a minute, one guy said, "None of us have taught in the Academy. However, all of us have some experience in guiding Genins."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright. But guiding Genins and guiding untrained kids are completely different. I have created training plans and noted them down in scrolls which I will leave with Shigeki for you to refer to in the future. For now, make yourself comfortable. It will take quite some time to explain everything."

Everyone sat on seats that were made of rocks as well. Fujin explained all his plans on how to train the kids. The plan was quite similar to how children were raised in Konoha's academy but with quite a few changes. For starters, the focus was very heavily inclined towards practical and combat skills instead of theory. The plan was created aiming to make every dedicated student as strong as a Chunin before they turned 12.

Unlike Konoha, which had only implemented a part of Fujin's recommendations, Fujin intended to implement everything here from the word go. The academy inside this remote valley would be the first in the entire ninja world to have clubs and offer specializations to every student despite being the youngest and having access to the lowest amount of resources.