

Calamity 501

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 501: As long as Konoha benefits, I am happy

Katsuhiko explained, "In the ninja clans, the seniors in the clan always instruct and guide the juniors. They pass them their secret techniques which make it very easy for them to become Special Jounins with little effort. In addition, they also arrange groups for them to join once they become Chunins. By comparison, we have no access to any jutsus or guidance from any seniors. I want to level the playing field."

Fujin's clone tilted his head and said, "The village library is open to all and has hundreds of jutsus. Anyone can pay a visit and take the jutsus that are suitable for them. Similarly, everyone can ask their Sensei for guidance. What exactly are you complaining about?"

Katsuhiko shook his head and said, "It's not the same. The normal jutsus in the library aren't as useful as the secret techniques."

Fujin's clone said dismissively, "I disagree. Instead of complaining about not having secret techniques, we need to train with more dedication and train our jutsus to the next level. There is no excuse for not having stronger or suitable jutsus other than a lack of effort."

Fujin himself had depended heavily on the library. Though he received some help from Hiruzen and Renjiro who taught him Samurai Saber Techniques, Wind Vacuum Technique, provided the scroll for the Flying Thunder God and allowed him to learn Shadow Clone jutsu quite earlier than he would have normally, there was no denying the help the library provided.

Even without Renjiro and Hiruzen's help, Fujin wouldn't have any issue becoming a rank S ninja. The only difference would be that he would have needed more time and progressing further would have been difficult. That said, which rank S ninja wouldn't receive special attention from Hiruzen? Fujin saw little reason why someone wouldn't become a Jounin other than unwillingness to put in the required effort.

Katsuhiko understood that he wouldn't be able to beat Fujin in this debate. After all, he had depended on the library as well. He said, "Even if jutsus are available, it isn't the same. Without proper guidance, it is difficult to learn the jutsus. Even though everyone gets a sensei assigned, most civilian genins get assigned just a Chunin sensei. They aren't very qualified to help them after they become Chunins."

That is why, I want you to propose the construction of a Guidance Hall for civilian ninjas."

Fujin's clone was intrigued again. He asked, "What will the Guidance Hall be?"

Katsuhiko explained, "It'll act as a hall where civilian ninjas can put up requests. For instance, say someone wants help in learning the water dragon jutsu. He could put up the request in the Guidance Hall. Everyone else will be allowed to view the existing requests. If a veteran civilian ninja who has mastered that jutsu has time, then he can guide that ninja.

Of course, teaching one at a time will not be very feasible. That is why, the Guidance Hall will analyze all the requests and group them together. That way, the veteran ninjas can see which jutsu has the highest number of requests and guide several ninjas at the same time. This will allow us civilian ninjas to be more courageous while deciding the jutsus we learn and avoid any mistakes we might make while learning them."

Fujin's clone was surprised. The proposal was indeed very good. There was no question that the civilian ninjas would benefit a lot. Fujin's earlier suggestions in the Council were extremely beneficial for the future civilian ninjas. On the other hand, Katsuhiko's proposal would benefit the existing civilian ninjas who still had the hunger to become stronger.

He thought, 'I see. Such a plan... Not bad. Not bad at all. What a good scheme this is... He wants my seat on the council. That said, who gave him the confidence to think that he would be able to take my seat?'

Fujin hadn't gotten the seat on the council due to his political acumen. He received due to Hiruzen acknowledging and making use of Fujin's overwhelming strength. Apart from Hiruzen, there was no one on the council that could defeat him in a fight. As such, he wasn't very worried.

He nodded and said, "It will be very beneficial. This is a great idea, Katsuhiko-san."

Katsuhiko added, "Another method to make civilian ninjas stronger would be getting Elemental Crystals allotted to us. The clan ninjas are stronger than us because they have had the support of Elemental Crystals since they were young. On the other hand, we can only access it if we are in the Anbu. I want you to demand Elemental Crystals for civilian ninjas as well."

Fujin's clone shook his head and said, "Already asked. Lord Hokage refused. The village is already facing a shortfall."

Katsuhiko argued, "But the clans still get a large amount of elemental crystals every year. We deserve to get the sa..."

However, the clone cut him off and said, "As I said, Lord Hokage has refused. If you want to take it up with him, feel free to do so."

Katsuhiko didn't expect to be refused so directly. He analyzed, 'Looks like Danzo was right. Fujin would only follow what Lord Hokage says. What a shame.'

He replied, "Alright, I will take this matter up with Lord Hokage. Can you get the proposal passed in the next council meeting?"

Fujin's clone smiled and said, "Actually, since you were the one to come up with this brilliant idea, why don't you make the proposal as well? I'll present it during the next council meeting and mention that you are the one who came up with this proposal."

Katsuhiko was shocked. He thought, 'What the hell? He isn't going to try to steal the credit for coming up with this idea? That said, this isn't bad either. Everyone will directly know that I was the one who put forth this idea. I won't need to spread the word that it was me who came up with this... No, I should do that as well.'

He nodded and said, "Alright. I'll get it done."

He began leaving. However, before he could leave, Fujin's clone said, "Once you are done, hand it to these two. Next time, you don't need to get worked up. I'll call you as soon as I am free."

Katsuhiko understood what Fujin implied. Yasushi and Haruma were also relieved to hear that. Katsuhiko nodded and agreed before he left. He wanted Fujin's seat and didn't have any beef with his two subordinates. As he left, Fujin's clone's eyes began glowing as he observed Katsuhiko's chakra flow.

A smile appeared on his face as he thought, 'I should have guessed. His chakra isn't flowing naturally. There is a slight difference from when I had last seen him. Danzo... So he is the one pushing him from the background. That said, Katsuhiko should have had such intentions normally. Otherwise, Danzo wouldn't have been able to push him against me so easily while being completely unaware of any external influence.'

Seeing that Katsuhiko had disappeared from his view, Yasushi softly said, "Fujin... You are still new to the council and haven't been very active. So you may not have seen this, but he wants your seat on the council."

Since Fujin had stood up for him, Yasushi felt compelled to inform him about the political plays others played. To his surprise, Fujin's clone nodded and said, "I know."

Yasushi asked, "Then why are you letting him put forth the proposal and giving him the credit? If you had made the proposal, then you could have taken the credit."

Fujin's clone smiled and asked, "What will I do with this little credit? I'm not interested in political games. As long as Konoha benefits, I am happy."

Yasushi and Haruma were surprised by the words. Though Yasushi didn't say anything he was disappointed. He thought, 'He is still too young. If he maintains this attitude, he might not be able to keep his seat. What a pity. Someone like him will be able to help the village a lot. Unfortunately, people like him don't last in the political arena.'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 502: Fujin's Counterattack

Yasushi's thoughts were extremely accurate. Or rather, they would have been, had Fujin's words and thoughts been the same. Fujin thought, 'What's the use of trying to take credit? He obviously came prepared. If I had tried to steal the credit, I would have fallen into a trap. Even Hiruzen would have been unlikely to support my seat in the council if that happened.'

Since I can't take the credit, why should I put in the hard work? Let him do it all by himself or with Danzo's aid. Besides, even though I never did any politics in my previous life, I do know how bureaucracy works. In the council, only I can put forth this proposal due to its nature. The civilian members can't do it

as they represent the non-ninja population. The Elders obviously won't do it as they will offend the clan leaders. As for the clan leaders, there is no reason to even think.

So, let him put forth a proposal. I'll delay my response as much as I can and then point out the flaws in his proposal and ask him to redo it. As long as he fails to complete the proposal before the council meeting happens, he'll have to wait for 6 months until the proposal can be put forth again. That's enough time for me to figure out why Danzo's attempting this and who are the others that are helping him...'

Fujin's clone looked at Yasushi and said, "Let's handle the remaining cases. We will complete all the pending ones today."

Since he was there, he might as well complete everything. Yasushi and Haruma immediately got to work. While he continued working, Fujin's clone was thinking about the new issue that popped out of nowhere.

He analyzed, 'My position in the council should have been stable. If there is any instability, then it should be due to my last proposal. I didn't think much back then as I had thought of them on the spot. But when I analyzed it more later, I realized that it compromises the authority of the ninja clans.

In fact, it also affects Hiruzen's Sarutobi clan. So, if he decides against it, there is little I can do about it. However, this shouldn't be a reason for my seat to be vulnerable. After all, if Hiruzen is against it, then those changes will never be implemented. As such, no one has any reason to oppose me as long as I don't try to force those changes.

On the other hand, if Hiruzen is onboard, he'll convince the rest of the clans. In fact, even Homura and Koharu should support those changes. The only way an issue can occur is if Danzo manages to turn 1 or 2 clan leaders against me and also gains the support of the 5 civilian members and the 2 other elders.

Since he is pulling off this move, it means that he has made at least some gains. Otherwise, there is no point to it. But, why would any clan leader support him?

It's not like the issue is big. They will just need to put in more effort. As long as they can train their ninjas to be Jounins instead of stopping at Special Jounins, they will still be the ones in charge of the village. Not to mention, their survivability will increase.'

Though it was a plausible reason, Fujin didn't think it was big enough for anyone to actually oppose him. After all, Fujin's strength would remain irrespective of whether he was a part of the council or not.

The clone concluded, 'I guess he was hoping that I would mess up against this scheme. If I had presented this proposal as my own, then the clan leaders could have seen me as someone who wanted to make the civilians strong very aggressively. My proposed changes to the academy will make an impact in around 10-15 years. However, Katsuhiko's proposal will make an impact within 2 years. One is a future threat while the other is an immediate threat.

It would have allowed Danzo to influence a few clan leaders. And once he made it public that I tried to steal credit, he could have easily made Homura and Koharu vote against me and pressured Hiruzen against taking sides.

Hehehe, a good scheme indeed. Looks like that bastard is still not content. Killing him right now isn't beneficial for me. But it's time to clip his wings. Those Ame ninjas weren't good enough for practice. I was planning on visiting Kiri later but the Root ninjas should provide decent practice as well.

Also, I need to increase the attention I pay to the events inside the village. Specifically, those 5 civilian council members. They hold a significant vote share in the council... I haven't agreed to any of their meeting invites despite being on the council for so long. So, it isn't a surprise if they want to play political games. But, I don't have time to waste on them.

If they become a headache, I'll have to eliminate one of them. That should ensure that the remaining four stay within their limits. It'll also give Hiruzen an opportunity to induct someone more loyal to him. That said, why exactly did Hiruzen allow Danzo's influence on them to be so strong? It's such an unnecessary headache!

He couldn't guess what Hiruzen was thinking. However, Fujin's clone was satisfied with the plans he created and stopped thinking about it. There was no need to overly complicate the situation. He continued working until late in the night until all the work was completed before dispelling himself and sending the memories back to Fujin.

In the basement, Fujin opened his eyes as he received all the memories. A smile appeared on his face as he thought, 'It looks like Danzo grew impatient with me staying in my house and in the training ground

for months... Sigh, he is a lot tougher to deal with. Despite messing with me so many times, he hasn't given me a single opening to act upon.

As expected as someone who operates an organization like Root. He doesn't leave any tracks behind. If not for my knowledge, I wouldn't have been able to link these incidents to him... Though, it isn't entirely bad. Killing him this early would have made me miss out on a future opportunity. Besides, since he has so much free time on his hands, I'll give him something to be worried about instead of wasting his time on me.'

In an instant, 4 Shadow clones appeared next to Fujin. Each had 20% of the chakra Fujin currently had left. Immediately, all four changed their appearances and physiques to be completely different from each other. On top of it, they wore masks and cloaks to disguise themselves further.

Looking at each other, one clone said, "I'll go East."

"I'll go West."

"I'll take the Northern base."

The last clone didn't say anything. All four hid their chakra and disappeared from Fujin's house.

Inside Konoha, Root had one main base where Danzo generally stayed. However, that was one of the many bases Root controlled. When Fujin secretly inspected the village, he found as many as 37 other hidden underground bases! Of course, most of the bases were closed after Hiruzen cut off Danzo's manpower following the Uchiha Massacre.

However, the Root still operated 4 of those bases, covering every direction. Each of those four bases had 2 to 6 Root ninjas managing it at any point depending on the available manpower. Only if Root had to deploy all its forces outside the village would those bases be shut down. Fujin's target was those 4 bases!

Fujin's clones moved secretly through Konoha, leaving no signs of their tracks. Not a single ninja was able to detect them. The clone heading South reached his target first.

He stopped just outside the base as surprise appeared on his face. He analyzed, 'Hmm, there are 9 ninjas inside this base? That's strange. Is Danzo up to something? I need to check who it is. If Danzo is present here, I'll have to retreat. My main body can send a clone to target the main Root base instead.'

Fighting someone like Danzo would leave a lot of clues. Not to mention, killing someone as strong as Danzo would require Fujin to go all out and he still wouldn't be able to guarantee Danzo's death let alone keep that fight a secret. It couldn't be done with a mere clone.

However, since Fujin was attacking all four bases, the clone didn't see a need to be too careful. The Root bases were hidden very well from the public. All the bases were several meters below the ground. In addition, they were covered in numerous seals to ensure they stayed hidden and were strong enough to not collapse due to a few jutsus. So, there was no fear of any external forces interfering in the fight.

The clone directly entered into the base and activated his chakra field, covering the entire base. Immediately, all the 9 Root ninjas detected the chakra field and flickered towards the clone's location.

Behind his mask, a smile appeared on Fujin's clone's face. He thought, 'Good, Danzo or any other Elite Jounins aren't here. Time to go on a rampage!'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 503: Lightning Release

It was late at night in Konoha. Most people had already gone to sleep. Only a few Anbu and some ninjas on Patrol duties and similar jobs were awake. In a rather inconspicuous spot in between two remote training fields, a hidden base existed around a couple of dozen meters underground. The base wasn't very big like some of the other bases in Konoha. It only had 7 rooms and 2 paths to enter and exit the base.

Under normal circumstances, this base was never disturbed. However, on this day, every Root ninja sensed a Chakra field aggressively detecting everyone in the base. It stunned the Root ninjas momentarily. Ever since they joined the Root, they had never experienced someone barging into a Root base with so little restraint. Even the Hokage wouldn't do so.

Another important factor to remember was that the base was covered in numerous seals. It was perfectly hidden. Even a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster would have trouble spotting the base. Yet, someone had barged in.

In less than a second, all 9 Root ninjas got into the act. They began moving towards the source of the chakra field. Unfortunately, the intruder was much faster.

Having sensed that there were no chakra signatures that he was familiar with, Fujin's clone didn't have any reason to hesitate. He moved forward and broke through the door blocking his path. Inside the room, the eyes of the two Root ninjas who were moving rapidly as well widened. There was indeed someone who was barging into the Root base!

The Root ninjas immediately grabbed their weapons. There was no need to exchange words with someone who'd do that. They only needed to kill or capture him. Both threw several shurikens and kunai at Fujin's clone.

Seeing the incoming attack, Fujin's clone flickered and appeared to their right. At the same time, 3 senbon appeared in Fujin's right hand and Lightning began flowing through them. In a flash, Fujin threw the three senbon at the Root ninja next to him.

The Root ninja immediately grabbed his kunai to block the senbon. However, even before he could move his arm, the senbon moved at lightning speed and pierced through his eyes and forehead!

Due to Fujin's position, the two Root ninjas were in a straight line. As a result, the Root ninja behind the one Fujin targeted wasn't spared either. Two senbon pierced through his head while the third one pierced through his neck.

Both the Root ninjas dropped dead in an instant. Their brains were damaged as well, making it impossible for anyone to read their memories. As for the Senbon, they continued piercing through several walls before they stopped.

At the same time, the remaining Root ninjas entered the room from opposite directions. They were horrified to see that two of their comrades had already fallen!

The Root ninjas were extremely efficient while working in the dark. Among the ninja villages, there wasn't any other force that came anywhere close to Root in this aspect. However, in terms of frontal assault, the Root ninjas were no better than a normal ninjas. In fact, due to the lack of practice in fighting openly, they could be even considered weaker.

Not to mention, the Root ninjas in the base were only at Elite Chunin and Jounin levels in terms of strength. Even though Fujin wasn't using Wind jutsus and his Lightning combat system wasn't as mature as his Wind combat system, it wasn't an issue for Fujin to face a bunch of Jounins.

Even if Fujin didn't use any Elemental Ninjutsu, strong jutsus like Rasengan or the Flying Thunder God, forbidden techniques like the Eight Inner Gates and his sword, Fujin's speed and physique made him far stronger than a Jounin. It would take an Elite Jounin to stop Fujin even if he didn't use the techniques listed above.

With his Lightning jutsus, a normal Elite Jounin wouldn't stand much of a chance against him either. It would take someone like Juzo or Zabuzo to stop him. Of course, against rank S ninjas, Fujin didn't stand any chance with merely Lightning jutsus for the time being.

Unfortunately for the Root ninjas, they didn't have someone like that. They were about to attack when something happened that horrified them! Lightning suddenly appeared on the right hand of Fujin's clone. It released a distinct sound of birds chirping!

One Root ninja exclaimed, "Chidori!"

Another shouted, "Hatake Kakashi! What are you doing?"

Unfortunately, they didn't receive any answer. Fujin's clone flickered once again and appeared moved towards the four Root ninjas who were together.

Suddenly, one Root ninja felt pain in his chest and looked below. His eyes widened as he saw a hand poking through his chest! He vomited blood and collapsed to the ground.

The Root ninjas next to him immediately became on guard. Their expressions behind their masks were grim as they realized how far outmatched they were in terms of speed.

However, even before they could react, the clone's lightning-covered palm slashed through the neck of another Root ninja, beheading him. The remaining two Root ninjas immediately attacked Fujin's clone with Shurikens and began weaving hand seals.

However, 3 Senbon appeared in the clone's left hand. They charged with Lightning as Fujin's clone threw them at the Root ninja on his left. At the same time, the remaining lightning on the clone's right hand concentrated on his palm as he unleashed a Lightning Beam at the fourth Root ninja.

The Lightning Beam knocked out every shuriken that the Root Ninja had thrown and hit the Root Ninja. His entire body was electrocuted. Though he hadn't died, he was in no shape to fight. The other Root ninja wasn't as lucky. His forehead and eyes were pierced by the Senbon before he could even react. Fujin's clone caught the shurikens heading towards him from the other direction.

While Fujin's clone was dealing with these four Root ninjas, the other three Root ninjas immediately realized the disparity in their ability. Two weaved hand signs as one of them said, "You are the fastest among us. Quickly go and inform Lord Danzo."

The third Root ninja began escaping without any hesitation. However, he was a bit confused. He thought, 'Something is weird. I worked with Hatake Kakashi in the past. He wasn't this bloodthirsty. Also, that Chidori he used... Though it looked similar, it was much weaker than Kakashi's Chidori. The sound of birds chirping was softer as well. Is it really Kakashi?'

He didn't know that his guess was accurate. Regardless, he had no choice but to continue escaping!

'Wind Release: Great Breakthrough jutsu'

'Fire Release: Searing Migraine jutsu'

The two Root ninjas weaving hand seals unleashed two powerful jutsus. Due to the small size of the base, it covered the entire space and moved towards Fujin's clone leaving him no way of dodging. The two of them didn't care about the remaining Root ninjas that Fujin's clone had just dealt with.

Fujin's clone immediately saw the combination jutsu and noticed the third Root ninja escaping. He charged the Shurikens in his left hand with Lightning and threw them at the two Root ninjas. At the same time, he escaped underground.

'Earth Release: Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu'

Due to the considerable distance between them and the fact that Lightning-charged Shurikens were much slower than the Lightning-charged Senbon, the two Root ninjas were barely able to react and get out of the way of the Shurikens. Only a cut appeared on their bodies.

However, Fujin's target wasn't them. The Root ninja who was running away felt something coming at him. He was about to flicker away, but he wouldn't be able to do so before being hit by the shurikens. Hence, he stopped weaving hand seals and stepped out of the way. Unfortunately for him, this small pause would prove to be fatal.

As soon as he stepped out of the way, he felt a hand grabbing his leg.

'Earth Release: Headhunter jutsu'

Immediately, his entire body was buried underground while Fujin's clone appeared in front of him. Before he could understand what was happening, a finger, which was covered in Lightning, jabbed into his forehead. The Lightning released from the finger completely destroyed his brain, killing him directly.

The remaining two Root ninjas turned around to see that their comrade who was supposed to pass the message had already died! It didn't take a genius to know what fate awaited them. Their attacker was in an entirely different league!

However, that wasn't entirely a bad thing. Once your death was inevitable, the ninja had no reason to be afraid. One of them weaved hand signs while the other grabbed a tag while shouting, "Hatake Kakashi! Don't think that you can kill us and leave scot-free! Lord Danzo will deliver justice!"

The clone's eyes widened as he noticed the hand seals and the tag. Immediately, senbon appeared in both his hands and he threw them at two Root ninjas. Having seen how fast the senbon was a few times, both the Root ninjas acted immediately and began moving as soon as the senbon left the clone's hands. As a result, the senbon didn't hit any critical part. Though two small holes were drilled through their bodies, the injury wasn't critical.

However, that was enough time for Fujin's clone to attack again. He flickered behind the one holding a tag and beheaded him in a flash. At the same time, he shot another senbon at the other Root ninja.

From a short distance and without seeing the clone's attack clearly, he had no chance of dodging. The senbon pierced through his forehead. However, he was still smiling as his hand seals had completed!

'Mutually Multiplying Explosive Tags'

In an instant, the ground around Fujin's clone began transforming into explosive tags! He was surrounded by thousands of explosive tags in mere moments!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 504: Enemy of all 5 Villages???

Just as the Fujin's clone was surrounded with explosive tags, he released a large amount of lightning from his body which spread in every direction, forming a lightning field. It covered every explosive tag around him causing lightning to pass through the tags, diffusing them within a few moments.

In a few seconds, the ground stopped transforming into explosive tags and the clone was done defusing them. However, it drained away almost all of his chakra. He sighed and muttered to himself, 'After I did such a good job creating such a good crime scene, why do you want to ruin it with explosions?'

As for the tag, that was even more dangerous! It was the standard tag used to blow up the entire base! It would have dispelled me and instantly alerted everyone. I wouldn't have been able to decorate this crime scene like I want to if that happened.

Anyway, time to get to work. Hehehe, I can't wait for Danzo to come and look at this scene. Let me see if you still have the time and energy to try and create trouble for me.'

Though the clone was very low on chakra, he could still maintain himself. He walked towards the Root ninja who had survived after being hit by the lightning beam. Though his resistance was rather admirable, his paralyzed body was covered in deep cuts and was burnt thoroughly by the combination jutsu. He didn't survive such a torture.

Fujin's clone used a senbon and charged it with lightning to destroy his brain. He did the same to any other Root ninja who still had their brains intact so that no one could read any memories.

Needless to say, Fujin wanted to divert the blame to Kakashi. Had someone's memories been read, Danzo could openly question Kakashi. However, doing that would be equivalent to proving that Kakashi was innocent. Kakashi was an extremely experienced ninja! He had been a ninja for more than a decade when Fujin graduated. He had spent several years in the Anbu.

Would someone like him make the mistake of not destroying memories? All it would prove is that someone was framing Kakashi. So, Fujin's clone didn't bother leaving something so obvious. There were only two clues he left behind to point towards Kakashi.

The first was that almost every wound on the dead bodies, other than the ones caused by the combination jutsu, had signs of damage due to Lightning. Any decent medical ninja will be able to find that out during the autopsy. Even the large number of explosive tags were damaged due to Lightning. Danzo would easily see that.

The second clue was the hole he left in the chest of one of the Root ninjas. Kakashi's Chidori was extremely famous. This injury plus the Lightning would force Danzo to suspect Kakashi. Of course, it wasn't an ironclad proof. In fact, even this would be considered as someone setting up Kakashi. However, it was exactly as Fujin wanted. After all, he didn't have any enmity with Kakashi and just wanted to mess with Danzo.

After inspecting the base once again, Fujin's clone dispelled himself. As soon as he was dispelled, every senbon he had used to attack also disappeared!

All that was left behind were six burnt dead bodies, one of which had a hole in the chest, and three more dead bodies that weren't burnt. A few of the dead bodies were beheaded while one was buried upright in the ground, with only his head visible above the ground with a small hole in his forehead.

Due to the remote location of the base and the seals covering it, no one detected the fight that just happened there. Until another Root ninja shows up at this base, no one would know that anything had happened!

While Fujin's clone was dealing with the Root ninjas at this base, his other three clones were already done as the bases they targeted only had two Root ninjas each. In all, 15 Root ninjas had died within the span of a few minutes!

In his basement, Fujin received the memories of all his four Shadow Clones. A smile appeared on his face. He had stopped training as he needed chakra in case something happened after the details of the incident were leaked. Apart from one clone, the remaining transferred back most of the chakra. As a result, he had more than half of his chakra reserves, which was sufficient to deal with most matters.

Fujin chuckled as he analyzed, 'Perfect. 15 Root ninjas. Hehehe, this might be the most Root ninjas Danzo lost within a few minutes. Hiruzen had already taken away most of his subordinates post the Uchiha Massacre. I wonder how many are left after today.

Regardless, the village will heat up. The evidence clearly points towards Kakashi. However, I doubt whether he is even inside the village considering how many missions Hiruzen assigns him. Even if he is, there is no way Hiruzen that I know would take any action against him without any ironclad proof.

After all, for what reason would Kakashi do something so outrageous? Even Danzo would ask that question. As for its answer, there is only one that makes sense. It is that Hiruzen ordered Kakashi to do so. There is no doubt that Danzo would suspect that Hiruzen wants to finish Root for good.

Hmm... No. That's probably not how it'll go. I'll be looking down on Danzo and Hiruzen to think that the action will cause them to be at each other's throats. Though I left evidence pointing towards Kakashi, any intelligent ninja would be able to see that he was set up. Danzo will see that as well. After all, all Kakashi would need to do is take away the bodies and no evidence would remain.

However, even though it is clear that Kakashi was set up, Danzo has no other leads. And, he has faced a huge loss. He'll be left with no choice but to make a move against Hiruzen. Otherwise, everyone will think that he is an easy target.

This should cause a political battle to begin between Hiruzen and Danzo. Hehe, now that would be a fun battle to watch. Once it starts, Danzo won't have much energy left to try and replace me on the council.

If he still interferes somehow, I'll just add some more oil to the fire. It's not as if he can keep all the remaining Root ninjas close to him all the time. Though I need him alive for some time, there is no reason for Root to exist. I'll continue picking them apart one by one.'

Suddenly, a weird expression appeared on Fujin's face as he realized something. He thought, 'Now that I think about it, my actions in the Land of Hot Water led to Jiraiya killing over 250 Kumo ninjas, the largest loss they faced in peacetime. I probably killed a similar number of Kiri rogue ninjas during my time in Anbu.

In Sunagakure, I killed an Elite Jounin and several dozen other ninjas. Not to mention, I completely ruined Rasa's reputation in the eyes of the civilians. If this was my old world, a revolution would have started long ago and perhaps a new country would have already formed by now. And, I also killed around 4 dozen Jounins of Iwagakure which is their worst loss during peacetime as well.

And now, I also killed 15 Root ninjas in one go, something I don't think has happened in the past. After all, Root ninjas don't fight on frontlines or move in large groups. If all my actions are made public, I'm afraid that all 5 Great Villages might want to hunt me down!'

Fujin chuckled at that thought. Unknowingly, he had caused losses to every major village and almost every minor village around the Land of Fire. He stopped thinking about it and began analyzing his Lightning jutsus, 'My Lightning combat system is developing very well. Though there weren't many Lightning users in Naruto, the ones that were focused on were all top-tier.

The range of Lightning jutsus in the library isn't very impressive. However, it was easy to replicate some of the ideas. The entire basis of my Lightning Combat system is speed and high penetrating power.

One of the uses of Lightning that impressed me the most was when Killer Bee sneak attacked Kisame with a pencil that was enhanced with Lightning. Kisame could dodge those due to his strength and speed and also the fact that Bee didn't spam them. However, even he found those troublesome.

I have merely applied the same technique to senbon, making them extremely deadly. Even someone like Renjiro will have to be extremely alert against this tactic. As for the ones weaker than him, they'll struggle heavily.

Until I can replicate Raikage's Lightning Chakra Mode, this will be my main tactic while fighting with Akuro's identity. The Lightning Chakra Mode is difficult to replicate though. I already have a decent base thanks to the Burst jutsu, Lightning Transformation jutsu and Electric Skin jutsu in the library. However, Lightning Chakra Mode is several levels above basic stuff like that. It's difficult to say whether I'd manage to replicate it without getting some help...'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 505: A Grave Loss

Fujin continued analyzing, 'Compared to that, the Chidori is a bit easier. While my Chidori isn't as good as Kakashi's Chidori, it's only a matter of time before it becomes as good as his. Actually, even without it, my current level with Chidori is sufficient to poke holes or overwhelm the usual defenses. The only time I'd struggle would be if I try going head-on against another Chidori or a Rasengan or go up against a defense at the level of Gaara.

In addition, I also managed to create a 1 finger lightning jab by taking inspiration from the 3rd Raikage's attack. Though it is nowhere near his level, it'll continue improving.

My initial plan with the Lightning Release was to have a combat system like this. I did create some more jutsus to help out with defenses and for some other uses. What I didn't expect was that I would get the Blade of the Thunder Spirit. It allows me to fight comfortably from a range as well.

It was indeed a very helpful gift as it directly resolved the issue of me not having good mid and long-range jutsus. I was overly dependent on the Lightning Beam and the False Darkness jutsus. And, neither was strong enough to threaten an Elite Jounin. Now, it is a completely different story with the amplification the sword provides me. Looks like my Lightning Combat System is almost complete.'

A smile formed on Fujin's face. Unlike with Wind, he had received very little help to improve his Lightning jutsus. Reaching such a level with just himself was a great accomplishment.

Fujin let out a yawn and muttered to himself, 'It's late at night. I need to sleep. There is still some exhaustion from the soldier pill. Tomorrow, I need to see what happens after Danzo finds the dead bodies.

If nothing serious happens, I need to start working on creating the Eight Trigrams Divination Seal. I'll have my clones work on it while I train Flying Thunder God and the Eight Inner Gates.'

Fujin went to sleep. The night was very peaceful in Konoha. However, no one knew the storm that would soon hit the higher-ups in the village!

The next day, a Root ninja visited one of the four bases on a routine visit. When he entered it, his eyes widened as he saw two Root ninjas lying dead. He immediately sent a clone to inform Danzo.

Within a few minutes, Danzo and 8 Root ninjas arrived at the base. Root ninjas dying inside Konoha was a huge matter. Danzo bent down and began observing the two dead bodies. So did a couple of other Root ninjas, one of whom was a medical ninja.

The medical ninja said, "They died without any struggle. There is only one small injury on their foreheads which looks to be made by a senbon piercing through their head. Their opponent should have been much stronger than them."

Another added, "There is no senbon inside this room."

Danzo's eyes landed on the two small holes in the walls. He walked towards them. Immediately, everyone else noticed them as well. Danzo said, "The senbon were thrown with a lot of power. Not only did they pierce through their heads, they also pierced through the wall. Follow this hole to see where the senbons are."

A couple of Root ninjas immediately disappeared. A frown appeared on Danzo's face as he analyzed, 'One of these two is at the Jounin level. Yet, he died in the same manner as the other. Who attacked them?'

Danzo fell into deep thought. He had a bad feeling. He wondered, 'Did an enemy village send a spy? But, who'd send such a strong spy into Konoha? And, how did they find the location of this hidden base and manage to enter without triggering any alarms? Something doesn't add up.'

The Root ninjas returned and reported, "Lord Danzo, the trail ends on the other side of the base. There are two deep holes, but there is no senbon in either of the holes. However, the holes aren't damaged. I don't understand how anyone would retrieve them."

Danzo's frown deepened. He immediately followed them. It was as they said. There were two tiny holes that were about 3 meters deep. However, there was no senbon inside them. And, there was no sign of any external damage to the hole for anyone to remove the senbon.

Danzo immediately began analyzing, 'Did the attacker retrieve the weapon as it would leave clues? However, removing a weapon from here isn't easy unless the attacker is a puppet master. Another possibility is that it wasn't a senbon and instead was a chakra-based attack that is similar to a senbon. Perhaps made of wind or ice.'

As Fujin had guessed, it wouldn't take long for Danzo to figure out what had happened. After all, in terms of experience, Danzo was leagues ahead of Fujin. Even more so when it came to acting in the dark.

One Root ninja suddenly appeared behind Danzo and reported, "Lord Danzo, I inspected the injury. The insides of their head are hit by Lightning. I suspect that their memories can no longer be read. I inspected the holes in the wall as well. They also show signs of Lightning damage as well. I suspect that they were attacked with a Lightning-enhanced senbon."

Danzo said, "I see. Call Yamanaka Fu here and have him inspect their memories to see if their memories can still be read."

Danzo secretly deactivated the seal on their brains that was responsible for attacking anyone who tried to read their memories.

He continued analyzing, 'An Elite Jounin or a rank S who can use Lightning enhanced senbon assisted by someone skilled in controlling puppets. Or, someone using Shadow Clones to achieve the same effect. Is it an external scheme? Or is it someone from within the village?'

An image of a certain silver-haired ninja appeared in Danzo's mind. However, Danzo couldn't see any reason why he would do something like this. More importantly, the bad feeling he was getting had only gotten worse, but he didn't understand where it was coming from. He asked the ninja who informed him about the dead bodies, "Did you visit the other 3 bases?"

The Root ninja answered, "No, Lord Danzo. This was the first base I visited."

Danzo immediately instructed a couple of ninjas to collect any and all evidence there. The remaining ninjas followed him. To their shock, the next two bases were in a similar state. The situation in those two bases was nearly identical. After inspecting for some time and leaving behind more Root ninjas to gather any evidence left behind, Danzo and 3 Root ninjas headed towards the last base.

As they did, even Danzo became a bit nervous. He thought, 'I haven't heard anything from the last base either. There were 9 ninjas there. If they also met the same fate...'

Danzo didn't particularly care about the lives of his subordinates. During the Great Wars, many of them would die frequently while doing extremely high-risk missions behind enemy lines. However, that was a different era. Danzo had several hundred ninjas in Root at that time. And, Danzo could freely recruit hundreds of talented kids and train them to replace the dead Root ninjas.

Unfortunately for him, it was no longer the case. Hiruzen had been hard on the Root after the Uchiha massacre. He didn't have many subordinates. Losing 15 subordinates in one go would mean that he would lose more than a third of his manpower!

In actuality, that was even worse than it sounded. Danzo thought, 'Though I had 41 subordinates in Root, many can't be deployed due to their duties. Losing 15 would mean that I would lose more than half the forces that I could deploy for missions... It will be a grave loss for Konoha if they are dead.'

Another aspect was that Danzo couldn't recruit any kids either. He had managed to get his hands on slightly more than a hundred kids from the Land of Water, but they were still in training. It would easily take half a decade for some of them to meet the minimum requirements of taking a Root mission. The remaining kids could take an even longer time.

In addition, Danzo couldn't kidnap any more kids from the Land of Water. Both the Mizukage faction and the Rebel faction had noticed the cases of children going missing and understood that someone was kidnapping young kids. Despite their conflict, both came to a tacit understanding and began taking action to prevent such incidents, making it extremely risky for Root to continue their operations. Danzo had long withdrawn his subordinates from the Land of Water as he didn't want to lose the few capable Root ninjas he still had under his command.

Danzo's group finally reached the last base. Every single person, including Danzo, was stunned by the sight!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 506: Reminding Danzo of his 'Situation'

As soon as they entered the base, they were greeted by the sight of one Root ninja stuck underground with only his head stuck above the ground facing them. A finger-sized hole could be seen in his forehead.

Some distance behind him were innumerable damaged explosive seals. On those seals laid two dead bodies, one of which was beheaded. Behind them was a burnt room. The smell of burnt flesh still lingered in the air.

Danzo's expression became very grim. It was a great loss. In terms of percentage, this was the second-worst loss that Root experienced. The worst was of course when Hiruzen disbanded the Root and inducted a large amount of Root ninjas into the Anbu.

They quickly began inspecting the dead bodies. Danzo's expression became very serious when he noticed the hole in the chest of one of the dead bodies. He quickly thought of Kakashi. In the past, he had looked at the bodies of a few enemy ninjas who had fallen to Kakashi's Chidori. The injury was identical.

Danzo's expression became ugly as he thought, 'Hatake Kakashi! This attack is undoubtedly his work! How can an enemy find all the hidden bases and pinpoint the four where ninjas were deployed? However, why would he suddenly do this?'

Danzo fell into deep thought. This time, none of the Root ninjas dared to disturb him. This loss was too big for Root. Danzo quickly concluded, 'Kakashi has no reason to do this. The only reason why he would do something like this is if he was ordered by Hiruzen.'

He cursed internally, 'Hiruzen! What scheme are you making this time? Still, to secretly kill Konoha's shinobi... This is so unlike Hiruzen. Did he discover something? Or, is someone scheming in the shadows to make me go against Hiruzen?'

Danzo couldn't be sure. However, all clues pointed directly towards Hiruzen. He didn't see any way that enemy countries would be able to sneak inside Konoha, search the hidden Root bases and kill 15 Root ninjas without drawing any suspicion at all! Even a Kage might not be able to pull that off. However, the Hiruzen he knew wouldn't have done such a sloppy job. Having worked with Hiruzen for so long, Danzo knew that if Hiruzen was the one behind this incident, then the evidence would have been such that Hiruzen would have been the last person Danzo suspects.

One of the Root ninjas asked, "Lord Danzo, should we shut down the entrance of the village to prevent culprits from escaping?"

Danzo answered, "No. If they wanted to escape, they would already have. How long has it been since their death?"

The medical ninja who was inspecting the bodies answered, "All 15 ninjas died roughly around 12 to 14 hours ago. I'll need to perform an autopsy to be sure."

Danzo ordered, "Alright, keep inspecting the bodies."

He looked towards the other two subordinates and instructed, "Inspect the entire base. See if you can find any clues. The fight here is much more intense than the rest. Hopefully, there might be some clues left behind."

The Root ninjas immediately got to work.

While the Root ninjas worked, Danzo began planning what action he could take. Despite his decades of experience, he didn't see an easy way out of that situation. It was bad no matter what he assumed.

If the current situation was created by enemy villages, then his Root faced an existential crisis as they seemed to want to take out Root before making any moves on Konoha. On the other hand, if it was Hiruzen, then Danzo was outmatched once again. While Danzo still had several trump cards and could make Hiruzen suffer as well, there was no doubt that Danzo would be the bigger loser.

While Danzo planned his next move, the Root ninjas completed their job. They approached Danzo and reported, "Lord Danzo, there are no clues in this base either. It is just like the previous three bases."

The medical ninja reported, "Lord Danzo, the method of killing is more varied here. However, all the stab wounds are due to a Lightning enhanced object or jutsu. Though six bodies were burnt, I suspect they were hit after they had died. It was probably an attack from these 2 ninjas."

Danzo nodded. He looked at one subordinate and ordered, "Go to Hiruzen in person and ask him to come here. Tell him that I have called him and it is an emergency. Don't tell him the reason and observe his reaction carefully. Send Shadow Clones to call the remaining two Elders here as well."

The Root ninja said, "Yes, Lord Danzo."

He quickly disappeared from the base. Danzo muttered to himself, 'Hiruzen, let me see what exactly you are up to! If you think I'll let you take the Root away from my hands once again, then you are mistaken. The last time I couldn't do anything due to the situation. It won't be the same this time.'

After the Uchiha Massacre, Danzo had no choice. If he had resisted, all Hiruzen had to do was tell the truth of the situation to the clan leaders. In an instant, everyone would be asking for Danzo's head. While that would have been impossible, the Root would truly be stripped from Danzo. Unlike Hiruzen, they wouldn't have let him keep even a single Root ninja.

Hiruzen was talking with a few ninjas when the Root ninja suddenly barged into his office. A frown appeared on Hiruzen's face due to the Root ninja entering without asking for his permission. At the same time, the four Anbu Guards became alert as well.

Without waiting, the Root ninja directly said, "It's an emergency. Lord Danzo has asked for your presence immediately."

Hiruzen wondered, 'Emergency? What happened?'

He looked at the ninjas in his office and said, "You four leave. I'll call you again later."

The four ninjas respectfully said farewell and left while wondering what the emergency was. Hiruzen followed the Root ninja along with his Anbu Guards. At the same time, Homura and Koharu also began making their way towards the base.

En route, Hiruzen wondered, 'Is he leading me to one of the Root bases? Why is Danzo there instead of the main base?'

He didn't need to wonder for long. A minute later, Hiruzen entered the base. As soon as he did, his eyes widened as he noticed the 3 dead bodies and Danzo standing along with two Root ninjas. He asked, "What the hell happened here?"

Before Danzo could answer, Homura and Koharu entered the base as well. Just like Hiruzen, they were stunned as well and asked the same question.

Danzo frowned on seeing Hiruzen's expression. He thought, 'His expression doesn't give away anything. Is he acting or was he really not involved?'

Seeing that Danzo wasn't answering, Homura asked with more emphasis, "Danzo, what happened here?"

Danzo snorted and said, "Why don't you ask Hiruzen?"

Hiruzen's expression hardened. He asked with a hint of aggression, "What do you imply by that, Danzo?"

Danzo turned around and said, "Follow me."

He led the group to the body with a hole in his chest and said, "All my subordinates in the 4 Auxiliary Root bases were killed last night. Everyone was killed with Lightning Release. Do you still want to feign ignorance, Hiruzen?"

Hiruzen, Homura, Koharu and the Anbu Guards immediately connected the dots. Every single one was surprised as Danzo was blaming Kakashi!

Before anyone could say anything, Danzo asked angrily, "Why did Kakashi kill my men, Hiruzen?"

Hiruzen's face became very serious. He harshly replied, "Watch your tone, Danzo. Kakashi isn't even in the village. He left for a rank S mission a week ago. Besides, if I wanted to deal with you, I would have disbanded Root for good. Why would I waste the lives of capable Konoha shinobi?"

Danzo replied equally harshly, "Is this how you want to play, Hiruzen? Since you don't want to accept responsibility, I'll arrest and question Hatake Kakashi."

Immediately, Koharu said sternly, "Danzo, control yourself. Arresting Hatake Kakashi is out of the question no matter what the situation is. The evidence you have is only speculative. Besides, even if you had solid evidence to prove that Kakashi was the culprit, we can't arrest him."

Homura added, "The Root was disbanded 4 years ago. Officially, no Root Ninja exists. The village can't punish a ninja for killing someone that doesn't exist. So calm down and work together with us. We first need to investigate to understand for sure who was behind this incident. If we fight among ourselves, then whoever is behind this will benefit at our expense."

Unlike Danzo, Koharu and Homura had nothing at stake and hence weren't affected by emotions. Both could clearly see the fact that it was not Hiruzen's style. Hiruzen wouldn't have killed Konoha's shinobi. If he was forced to do so by circumstances, there was no way he'd leave behind such a flaw.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 507: A Bizarre Situation...

Danzo snorted and said, "I said, my subordinates in all four bases were killed. Do you think an external enemy can locate the exact 4 out of all the hidden bases and kill Root ninjas without raising any suspicions at all?"

Homura added, "I didn't rule out an internal hand in the incident. But blaming someone without any evidence is pointless. Though the signs here point towards Kakashi, Kakashi is someone who knows a thousand jutsus. Why would he use his signature jutsu? Even if he was forced to, why would he leave such evidence behind? He could have just taken the body with him or changed the nature of the injury to fool us.

Instead, everything is precisely set up to blame Kakashi. If anything, it looks like someone tried to set him up to cause an argument between you and Hiruzen."

Danzo finally calmed down. Or rather, he was always calm but had only just shown it. His attention was focused on Hiruzen all the time. He didn't see any flaw in Hiruzen's expressions. He sighed internally and thought, 'Looks like it isn't him after all. However, there is no other clue... Whoever it was, they did a

damn good job. Even if Hiruzen is innocent, I can't take this lying down. Otherwise, the Root will really be finished!

Seeing that Danzo had finally stopped pretending to be angry, Hiruzen said, "I'll say it again, Danzo. This incident has nothing to do with me. If you want, you can cross-check Kakashi's mission as well. For now, look for evidence. I'll dispatch 4 Anbu squads to help you out in this regard. Once all evidence is gathered, we will meet in my office."

Homura and Koharu agreed with Hiruzen's decision while Danzo stayed silent. Hiruzen and his guards left. He quickly dispatched four Anbu squads who specialized in investigation to investigate this matter. As for the other three, they stayed to look over the investigation.

Though Hiruzen and Danzo's conflict had settled for the time being, all four of them were still left with a big question. Who was the one behind this incident? The matter was very serious.

If it was done by outside forces, then it was a huge lapse in Konoha defenses! Someone could enter the village without being detected, search the bases without raising any suspicion and kill 15 Root ninjas in one go. The other possibility was the existence of an exceptional spy or a traitor inside Konoha. No matter what it was, they needed to solve the situation before something worse happened.

Not a single one of them considered the possibility that this was done merely as a retaliation for a political play. Like every other village, deaths due to political conflicts, though rare, happened in Konoha as well. However, it was always Root eliminating the ones creating trouble for Danzo or Hiruzen. There had never been any incident where someone else had taken the initiative to eliminate Root ninjas without Root ninjas attacking first.

For the next few hours, the investigations continued. However, just like their initial investigation, they came up empty-handed. The only new information they received was from the autopsy of the dead Root ninjas. However, there wasn't any useful information in that data either.

The four of them gathered in Hiruzen's office in the evening. Danzo snorted while looking at Hiruzen with displeasure, "The job has been done too cleanly. There isn't any information for us to use."

Everyone understood that Danzo was blaming Hiruzen. However, all 3 understood that Danzo had no other choice. They didn't bother pacifying him once again. They stayed quietly in the room while thinking for a while. Unfortunately, none of them could come up with any reasonable explanation.

Koharu sighed and muttered, "There is just too little information. From what we know, we can only say that a group or a single person who is an expert in Lightning Release and is a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster was involved. We could lay the blame on Kumogakure, but there is no proof."

Hiruzen nodded and added, "Even if there was proof against them, retaliating won't be easy. More importantly, it'll be a huge danger if the culprit is still inside the village. Very few ninjas in the village will be able to resist an attack from them."

Koharu agreed and said, "We need to increase the security of the village. We need to deploy all forces to find out whether the culprits are still in the village and how they were able to enter and leave undetected. Fuinjutsu Grandmasters will have to be deployed to find them if they are hiding with the help of a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster."

Hiruzen nodded. Danzo said, "If they are still in the village, then it'll mean that they are confident of staying hidden from our methods. Even though we should do it, nothing will come from it. I have already sent Root ninjas to check the barrier around the village."

Homura, who was quiet until then, suddenly said, "I have a feeling that something is off about this matter. A lot doesn't make sense."

It immediately attracted everyone's attention. They all had the same feeling as well but it wasn't something they could act on. Homura added, "I feel like we have overlooked some important aspect, but no matter how hard I think, I can't see anything we might have ignored. I feel that we need to hear the perspective of someone else. It might help us see something that we might have missed."

The room fell silent for a few seconds. Soon, everyone silently agreed with Homura's suggestion. After half a minute, Hiruzen looked towards his guards and said, "Call Shikaku and Fujin here."

Immediately, two Anbu Guards disappeared from the room. The three elders were surprised. Danzo thought, 'Suzuki Fujin? Didn't Katsuhiko say that he was missing? Has he returned?'

Meanwhile, Koharu asked, "I can understand Shikaku, but why Suzuki Fujin?"

Hiruzen answered, "The boy has interesting takes on important matters. You already heard his recommendations for the Academy. He might surprise us. Regardless, there is no harm."

Koharu thought for a bit before nodding. There was indeed no harm. Instead, it provided them with an opportunity to test Fujin.

A minute later, Fujin's bell rang. Since he hadn't noticed much commotion the entire day apart from irregular movements by Anbu and Root, Fujin had gone back to training. Fujin immediately activated his chakra field. Surprise appeared on his face as he thought, 'Hiruzen's Anbu Guard? They shouldn't have linked the event to me, or else a single Guard wouldn't have come. What does he want?'

He dispelled his clones and went up. As soon as he opened the door, the Anbu Guard said, "Lord Hokage has called you. Come with me right away."

Fujin nodded and followed him to Hiruzen's office. By the time he reached, Shikaku had already arrived at the office. He looked at Fujin and thought, 'As I guessed, something big must have happened. Root and Anbu have been restless all day. I wonder what it is.'

The Anbu Guards closed the door and activated all the seals. Hiruzen said, "Something terrible happened last night."

He filled in Fujin and Shikaku about the killings. Surprise could be seen on both their faces. However, both immediately became serious as Hiruzen said, "We brainstormed for a long time but haven't come up with anything substantial. What do you think about the situation?"

Both Shikaku and Fujin fell into thought. Shikaku was actually thinking about what the situation could be. On the other hand, Fujin cursed internally, 'What the hell? They called me to analyze and speculate on the crime I committed? What the hell do I say?'

Fujin never expected that Hiruzen would ask him for his opinion. He expected the Elders, maybe Shikaku and perhaps a few clan leaders to work on this matter. So, he hadn't thought of an answer. His mind quickly began thinking of what to say and who to blame.

Suddenly, his eyes landed on Danzo as he thought, 'Now that I think about it, if Danzo plays this well, he could try and coerce Hiruzen into getting some of his old subordinates back as compensation to stop blaming him and Kakashi. Though it is unlikely that Hiruzen would agree as the accusations are absurd, I'll take this opportunity to add more oil to the fire. Hehehe, I wonder how he would react once he hears my reply.'

A devious plan immediately formed in Fujin's mind. The more he thought about it, the more he loved his interpretation of the situation. Danzo's bad situation was about to get far worse!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 508: The Hidden Meaning

After some time, Shikaku muttered, "Whoever is behind this incident is very brave and efficient. At the very least, a rank S ninja who specializes in Lightning, a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster and a high-level spy are involved.

On the surface, all evidence points towards Kakashi. However, anyone with brains can see that this is a set-up. As such, due to the involvement of high-level application of Lightning, our suspicions fall on Kumogakure. I feel that this is a diversion as well. Whoever is behind this act most likely wants us to blame Kumogakure and for our relationship to sour. I am afraid that the real culprit is someone else."

Fujin looked at Shikaku and thought, 'He can overcomplicate things a lot. Then again, his final conclusion isn't wrong.'

Fujin hadn't thought of blaming Kumogakure. He knew that Kakashi wouldn't be blamed at the end of the day. As for who gets the blame, he didn't particularly care. Regardless, he found the situation amusing.

Hiruzen and the others thought of Shikaku's answer properly. His intelligence was something everyone rated very highly. After a while, Homura said, "A double cover... We hadn't thought of that. It might be the case that the other three villages want us to fight with Kumogakure. Still, that doesn't explain who was behind these attacks."

Hiruzen looked at Fujin and asked, "What is your view, Fujin?"

Fujin answered, "Shikaku's viewpoint is valid and it might indeed be that the culprits want us to fight against Kumo or other major villages. However, I feel that the culprit might not be from an enemy village and this might be an inside job."

Everyone's eyes widened. Especially Danzo's who thought, 'I didn't expect him to support me. Saying that points a finger at Kakashi and Hiruzen. It looks like you made a mistake calling him here, Hiruzen.'

At the same time, Hiruzen got slightly worried. Though Fujin was dependable, he had a tendency to put Hiruzen in difficult positions. Hiruzen prayed that this wasn't that time.

Fortunately for him, Fujin continued, "It is clear that someone is trying to blame Kakashi. However, the only evidence they left to blame him are injuries caused due to Lightning and an injury that looks like it was made by Chidori.

However, even though Chidori is a strong jutsu, it isn't unique by any means. The Raikage can cover his entire body with Lightning. He can replicate the effects of Chidori with little effort. It wouldn't be too far-fetched for someone who specializes in Lightning to come up with a jutsu that is similar to Chidori.

Another crucial point is that every one of you seems to have decided that a spy or a traitor was involved. However, you have overlooked one important aspect."

Everyone in the room, including Shikaku, was confused. At first, it seemed like Fujin was suspecting Hiruzen and Kakashi, but he very quickly said the entirely opposite and said that Kakashi had no blame, something that everyone agreed. Yet, he said that everyone was overlooking an aspect...

Everyone stared at Fujin who paused for a few seconds to let everyone think and confuse themselves more. Fujin continued, "You seem to have forgotten that we already have traitors. Two rather strong and ranked S traitors!

Though Chidori is strong, it won't be an issue for someone like Orochimaru to create something similar. After all, his expertise in Ninjutsu was said to be second only to the Hokage. And that was years ago. Who knows how much stronger he has become since going rogue?

On the other hand, anyone with a Sharingan can copy that technique from Kakashi just like Kakashi copied the other jutsus. That means that Itachi could have done so.

Both were a part of the village in the past and should have known a lot of secrets. Unless you changed the locations of the Root bases after they left, they can easily locate and eliminate the 15 Root ninjas without alerting anyone. It will be a child's play for them to do so."

Everyone was surprised. It was true, they hadn't thought of Itachi and Orochimaru. However, there was another minute detail in Fujin's words. The detail that Shikaku, Homura and Koharu missed but Hiruzen and Danzo caught on in an instant. Fujin had said that 'anyone with a Sharingan' could copy Kakashi's technique.

Itachi wasn't the only one with a Sharingan. There was another in that very room itself! Fujin's words were a hidden message to make Hiruzen think that Danzo could have copied Kakashi's technique as well! And, his words did the job that he intended. Though it was extremely unlikely, the idea that this might have been done by Danzo himself took root in Hiruzen's mind. It was the same as how Danzo couldn't eliminate his suspicions about Hiruzen and Kakashi despite how obvious it was that it was a set-up!

Coincidentally, Danzo and Hiruzen looked at each other at the same time. As their eyes met, Hiruzen's expression became grim as he thought, 'Though the chance of this is negligible, don't tell me that you have fallen this low, Danzo! Don't tell me that you did this just so that you will get a bargaining chip over me to get back the control over the Root ninjas I took over after the Uchiha massacre.

If this is your scheme, then you are gravely mistaken to think that I would cave. If I find even little proof of your involvement in this matter, I won't go easy on you this time, Danzo. As for gaining anything from this incident, don't even think about it!'

Having worked together for more than half a century, Danzo immediately understood Hiruzen's thoughts. He knew that blaming Hiruzen and Kakashi wouldn't yield any results. So, he just wanted to apply a lot of pressure on Hiruzen and then give him an opportunity to make things right by getting back his old subordinates. Unfortunately, Fujin's words ruined that idea.

Danzo looked at Fujin. Though nothing could be seen on his face, his eye was full of hatred. He cursed, 'This damned brat! What the hell is Katsuhiko doing? Why hasn't he made a move yet?'

Danzo was very angry and frustrated. While the death of 15 Root ninjas was a grave loss, it provided him with an excellent opportunity as well. However, Fujin turned that opportunity into danger as Hiruzen now suspected Danzo. Given Danzo's track record, it was extremely plausible for Danzo to do something like this.

Unlike Hiruzen and Danzo who were fixated on the hidden message in Fujin's words, the others were thinking about Itachi and Orochimaru.

Homura thought, 'Itachi won't do this. He is too loyal to the village. Even if he isn't anymore, we still have his brother. He won't risk this. But Orochimaru on the other hand... This is something that he may do. It also feels like his style of doing things. But why would he?'

Koharu voiced his thoughts and asked, "Why would Orochimaru or Itachi return to the village and do something like this?"

Fujin shrugged and replied, "How am I supposed to know that? All of you should know them much better than I know. After all, I never interacted with them while you elders saw them rise from an academy student to deadly rank S ninjas."

Fujin's words suddenly made them feel embarrassed. His words were completely true from their point of view. How could he know what they were up to without knowing anything significant about them?

Fujin continued, "Anyway, that's just my thought. I don't see how an enemy village could have inserted a spy at such a high level or forced someone at a high level to betray Konoha without alerting Anbu or other special forces in the village. Considering the situation, Orochimaru and Itachi are the most likely culprits behind this incident. Either they are directly involved in the attack, or they could have traded the information. Of course, I can be wrong as it is just a speculation."

Shikaku, Homura and Koharu nodded. Fujin hadn't provided anything substantial. He just provided another viewpoint that was quite different from theirs and made some sense but it was still just a speculation. The three of them didn't notice Hiruzen and Danzo being in a different state of mind. Fujin could have noticed, but he chose to ignore it. After all, both were smart enough to get his hidden meaning.

The room went silent once again as everyone except Fujin began thinking about the current situation and how to handle it.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 509: An Opportunity to establish Prestige in Konoha

Over five minutes passed without a word being spoken. Finally, Shikaku said, "There is no point in wasting time here. Let's just continue the investigation. If we receive more information, then we could understand the picture better. If we don't then we will have to plant a bait and hope the culprits fall for it. Otherwise, the only option is waiting until they attack again."

Everyone nodded. Hiruzen said, "Alright, this meeting ends here. I'll assign all available Hyuga, Inuzuka, Yamanaka and Aburame ninjas to do a blanket search of the entire village. I'll call the Clan Leaders here and inform them of the situation. Even clan compounds will be investigated. Does anyone have an issue?"

No one had an issue. Hiruzen looked at Fujin and said, "Those ninjas won't be able to detect any new structures hidden with the help of high-level seals. Though I can dispatch other Grandmasters, their numbers aren't high. Can your clones search through the entire village?"

Everyone else in the room was surprised by Hiruzen's question. Apart from Shikaku and Fujin, worry appeared on their faces. That also included the Anbu Guards. However, before anyone could say anything, Fujin nodded and answered, "Sure."

Hiruzen replied, "Good. Map out every location that is hidden with the help of seals inside the village. Also, inspect abandoned bases. Keep your main body nearby. I'll inform you when clan compounds can be inspected as well. If possible, inspect a few kilometers outside the Village Walls as well."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright, I'll begin."

Fujin opened the door and disappeared from the room. Hiruzen looked at Shikaku and instructed, "Shikaku, stay in my office. You'll be analyzing all the new information that comes here."

He looked at his old friends and said, "You three can look over the investigation conducted by the ninjas I will dispatch and ensure that nothing is missed."

They nodded and left the room as well, leaving only Shikaku and Hiruzen in the room. The two of them will have to soon pass a lot of orders.

Fujin appeared on top of the Hokage Building. Though his expression was plain, he was still feeling very weird. He thought, 'When I decided to kill a few Root ninjas to trouble Danzo, I never expected that I would be asked to speculate about the matter and be given the most important task of investigation...

It's like a judge asking a murderer who he thought was the murderer and then ordering the murderer to find the murder weapon and check the places he could be hiding in. The situation is so freaking amusing and yet I can't laugh...'

Fujin could only shake his head in disbelief. Though his plan was good, it wasn't supposed to be this good. Even he couldn't understand how things reached this stage.

In an instant, 48 Shadow Clones appeared around Fujin. All instantly dispersed. While Fujin had done plenty of crazy things in the Ninja World, be it the riot he caused in the Land of Wind, forcing Roshi to transform, slaughtering Iwa Jounins or killing Juzo, this was the first time he would be doing something crazy openly in Konoha and allow everyone to know that it was his action.

Hiruzen had asked Fujin to investigate every single secret base inside Konoha. That included Anbu bases, Root bases, secret bases created by the ninja clans and anything else that existed inside and just outside the village.

It displayed two things. The first was Hiruzen's trust in Fujin. After today, there will be very little that is hidden from Fujin in the village. That is why everyone in Hiruzen's office was surprised and worried. Danzo for one didn't want Fujin to gain so much authority. Unfortunately for him, the situation didn't allow him to speak as it was his Root facing the losses.

Allowing Fujin to do this displayed how much Hiruzen trusted Fujin. Everyone in Konoha will become aware of this trust. While Hiruzen had planned to let Fujin inspect Konoha earlier, he wasn't planning to let him investigate clan compounds.

He changed his mind after Fujin's words helped him realize that Danzo might have been the one behind the entire incident. In a way, it was Fujin's reward. That said, if Hiruzen knew that Fujin was the one behind the incident, who knew what expression he would show!

The second aspect that it displayed was Fujin's might. To be able to search through the entire village himself wasn't something an ordinary ninja could do. And, considering what he was investigating, everyone in the village would know that Fujin is a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu from that day onwards!

While Fujin loved keeping his abilities a secret, too many people already knew about his accomplishments in Fuinjutsu. So, there wasn't any loss in making it public. It also allowed him to establish his prestige and deter anyone like Katsuhiko from making a move against him just for his seat on the council.

As his clones moved, Fujin thought, 'This wasn't the conclusion I had planned for dealing with Katsuhiko. Then again, it isn't bad either. Oh well, whatever. I don't care. If he becomes too much of a problem, I can eliminate him as well. However, I need to be more careful.'

Once Danzo meets him, he'll know that the Root ninjas were eliminated shortly after our meeting. If I kill Katsuhiko inside Konoha, then it'll raise suspicions. However, if I do it outside Konoha, I can remove all traces of his body. Since he suddenly went missing, he could be made a scapegoat to put the current situation's blame on. After all, though Lightning isn't his main element, it is still his second strongest one.'

While Fujin was making even more devious plans, an angry and frustrated Danzo reached the Root base. Though nothing could be seen on his face, his mood was terrible. He cursed internally, 'First I lost more than a third of my subordinates. Then, Suzuki Fujin eliminated my opportunity to take back my old subordinates. The situation is terrible no matter how I look at it.'

He looked at the Root ninja next to him and instructed, "Ask Katsuhiko to meet me in my office immediately."

The Root ninja quickly left. Danzo cursed, 'That useless fellow. It has been over a month since I gave him the idea to go against Fujin. However, he still hasn't done anything despite the suggestion I planted in him. When did he become so useless? Now that Hiruzen has given Fujin such a responsibility, removing him from the council would be ten times more difficult!'

Minutes later, Katsuhiko reached the Root base and met Danzo. Before he could say anything, Danzo asked, "Have you put forth the proposal?"

Katsuhiko was annoyed, 'First, he made me come here without any notice and now he demands answers from me? Though I need his help, I am not his subordinate.'

Though Danzo had influenced Katsuhiko's thoughts with Shisui's Mangekyou Sharingan, he only utilized Katsuhiko's arrogance and belief that he was the best person to represent civilian ninjas and put him against Fujin. He didn't use the Mangekyou to make Katsuhiko loyal to him as it would have raised suspicions.

So, Katsuhiko wasn't loyal to Danzo nor was he his subordinate. Danzo was using his wit to keep him in line. Unfortunately, Danzo's situation had become very bad, forcing him to lose patience.

Katsuhiko replied, "I met with Fujin yesterday and put forth the proposal. He has asked me to draft the proposal and he will present it to the council while giving me the credit. I am currently working on it.

The boy is still too green. You don't need to worry too much about him or make complicated schemes. I'll take his seat in the Council in no time."

As he said, Katsuhiko thought, 'I still need his vote for joining the council. I'll endure this attitude for now.'

Unlike Katsuhiko, Danzo's thoughts were the exact opposite. He was stunned to hear what Katsuhiko had said. He thought, 'He gave him credit so easily? No, it isn't right. How can someone Hiruzen chose to join the council so early be so open-minded?

He must have seen through my scheme. As long as he says that this proposal was put forth by Katsuhiko and doesn't try to force it on the council, the clan leaders will be vigilant against Katsuhiko and not Fujin. They will have no reason to vote him out. And, since he isn't stealing any credit, I can't defame him. Such a crafty kid!

The only thing I can do is ruin his reputation among civilian ninjas. That said, will he be affected by public opinion?'

Danzo couldn't be sure. Fujin openly hung around and guided someone like Naruto who was a social pariah and probably the most disliked person in Konoha. It showed that Fujin didn't care much about his reputation. Seeing that Danzo was lost in thought, Katsuhiko asked, "Why did you call me here?"

Danzo looked at it and replied, "Just to ask for your progress with the proposal. You can leave."

Katsuhiko was annoyed at being called for such a small matter. He left the Root base without exchanging any pleasantries.

Danzo didn't mind that. He had more important things to think about. He thought, 'Suzuki Fujin... Something about this boy is awfully off... But I can't put my finger on what exactly is off.'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 510: Danzo's Suspicion!

Danzo recalled all his interactions with Fujin, 'When he first got my interest, Hiruzen refused to let me induct him in the Root. That wasn't too odd considering Hiruzen's nature. However, there is no explanation as to why Fujin was so on guard when I met him. Even in the council meeting, he opposed me and even challenged Root to a fight to prove his point.

The two Root ninjas I sent after him mysteriously vanished. And today, his words caused Hiruzen to suspect me of something I haven't done and put me in a terrible position. I have only suffered losses due to this boy.

Not to mention, why is his house covered in so many seals? I felt that it was just a trap to lure me into making a mistake, but the more I find out about this boy, the more I feel that something about him is horribly wrong.

Even this incident... I manipulated Katsuhiko into making a move against him. Yet, he somehow managed to stall Katsuhiko for over 5 weeks. And, the day he met Katsuhiko, 15 of Root ninjas died. It was as if this was a retaliation for me manipulating Katsuhiko into making a move against him.

It's just that there is a lot of information I am missing! Why was he so on guard against me? Why would he eliminate any Root ninjas following him? How could he link Katsuhiko's actions to me? And, how

could he, someone who has no history of using Lightning, kill 15 ninjas with Lightning jutsus and replicate a high-level jutsu like Chidori?'

Danzo had no answer to any of his questions. In fact, he couldn't even make an educated guess as there was no information relevant to those questions. It was why Danzo wasn't sure whether what he thought was true or not.

In fact, even he found his analysis to be completely absurd. There wasn't even a hint of proof that Fujin did any of that. If he were to tell it to someone else, they would look at him like something was wrong with his brain. Yet, he couldn't get rid of the feeling that something about Fujin was odd.

Danzo decided, 'I need to put him under surveillance once again. The only issue is that he is extremely careful. Nothing inside his house can be spied upon. Even in his training ground, he is extremely careful. Even bugs can't enter undetected.

The last time I spied on him, I didn't find anything substantial on him. Unlike others in the village, I can't threaten the ones close to him either. He is an orphan and mostly stays by himself. The few people he could be considered friends with are quite strong or well-connected as well. There is very little I can do against him...'

Danzo was troubled. He had made up his mind to act, however, his options were extremely limited and without much hope. Though they lived in a deadly world of ninjas, even ninjas had weaknesses and Danzo specialized in exploiting those. However, Fujin had none. Danzo couldn't help but mutter, "I now see why you compared him to Sensei. He's almost a perfect ninja. He might be the toughest opponent I faced. Yet, I can't even be sure if he is facing me or whether this is all in my head!"

While Danzo was in a dilemma and wondering what he should do, be it about Fujin or his dead subordinates, he suddenly heard a commotion. He stopped thinking and looked in the direction of one of the entrances to the Root headquarters.

At the entrance of the base, two Root ninjas stood extremely alert, as if they were facing an enemy. One of them asked, "Suzuki Fujin, why are you trying to enter the Root headquarters unauthorized?"

Fujin's clone replied, "Unauthorized? Lord Hokage has ordered me to inspect every base in the village. Even Elder Danzo didn't oppose him. Stop blocking me, or else I'll be forced to apprehend you two before searching the base."

The two Root ninjas grew tense. Unlike others in Konoha, Root ninjas were well aware of how difficult Fujin was to deal with. Suddenly, Danzo's figure appeared behind them and asked, "What is happening here?"

The Root ninjas were relieved to see that Danzo had appeared. Before they could say anything, Fujin's clone said, "It's good to see you, Elder Danzo. These two were stopping me from doing the task Lord Hokage assigned me."

Danzo's expression grew dark as he realized, 'He wants to search the Root headquarters? Have I fallen so much that even a kid wants to disrespect me so much?'

Fujin's clone observed Danzo's reaction carefully. Though not much could be observed, he could clearly see how provoked Danzo was. He chuckled internally and thought, 'Do you have the sole right of creating trouble for others? Let me see how much you can endure, Danzo. Once you make one mistake, I'll let you know how it feels to be on the receiving end for once.'

While Fujin's plan of creating trouble and distraction for Danzo worked excellently, Fujin realized that Danzo might still target him if connected his meeting with Katsuhiko and the death of his subordinates happening the same day with each other. If so, he would trouble Fujin once again. Since that was the case, Fujin decided to provoke him right away.

The last time Fujin provoked Danzo, he didn't receive much of a response from him. If that happened once again, Fujin would be glad as he won't face much trouble. If Danzo acted the opposite, Fujin wouldn't mind that either. It was a good opportunity to have his Akuro identity break loose for real. Though it would increase Danzo's suspicion, it would be pointless as he would already be suspecting Fujin and he would still not have any evidence.

Facing Fujin's clone, Danzo said, "The reason why Hiruzen asked you to investigate is because the number of Grandmasters is low. I have already inspected this base. You don't need to waste your time here."

Fujin's clone asked nonchalantly, "Are you sure you don't want me to take a second look, Elder Danzo?"

Danzo replied, "I am sure."

Fujin's clone said, "Alright. I'll report to Lord Hokage that you have taken the responsibility of inspecting this base."

Fujin's clone disappeared in a cloud of smoke. Immediately Danzo's expression became very ugly. Even his Root subordinates could see how infuriated he was. He cursed internally, 'Such arrogance. I can't remember the last time I felt so insulted.'

Danzo's anger wasn't unjust. Even though some opposed his methods, it was a fact that he was highly respected due to his strength, cunningness and position. Ever since the end of the First Great Ninja War, he couldn't recall any instance of being so humiliated. If there was any such incident that was even more humiliating, then that would be Tobirama appointing Hiruzen as the Third Hokage before his death.

Danzo turned around without speaking to his subordinates. He walked over to Torune and ordered, "Once Suzuki Fujin is done with his search, you will keep an eye on him. Take four Root ninjas with you."

Torune was surprised. He asked, "But Lord Danzo, the killer is still roaming free. Would it be wise to disperse our forces secretly?"

Torune wasn't concerned about his death, but losing 5 more capable ninjas would be a deadly blow for Root.

Danzo shook his head and said, "If an attack happens to you while you are spying on him, he'll sense it and will be forced to help you out. It might be a good way of luring the attacker."

Torune was surprised by the logic. However, on thinking about it, it was completely sound. Fujin couldn't stand by if a fight broke out in the village. Torune asked, "What will we be spying for?"

Danzo answered, "Nothing specific. He seems clean on the surface, but I have suspicions that he is involved in this incident somehow. Keep an eye on him and see if there is something off about him. If my intuition is accurate, then we will save Konoha from a great tragedy in the future."

Torune was surprised by how serious Danzo was. He immediately said, "Alright, I'll start spying on him as soon as he is done scanning the village."

Danzo nodded and left.

On top of the Hokage Building, Fujin received the memories of his clone and a smile appeared on his face. He opened his eyes and looked towards the location of the Root base.

He thought, 'Just like the Anbu Headquarters, the Root Headquarters is big as well. Unlike the four auxiliary bases I targeted the previous night, the main base is huge. There are several underground floors in the base. Seeing what all he is scheming in those underground bases would have been interesting.'

Though I have been in the Anbu, I still never saw that Sakai clan Jounin we captured after becoming Chunins. If she is still alive, then I suspect she is being kept in the Root Headquarters. I wonder what else is hidden there and how much Hiruzen knows...'