

## Calamity 511

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 511: Reasons to NOT use Shadow Clones!

While Fujin and Danzo had their little confrontation, Hiruzen met with the clan leaders and informed them of the situation. While they were displeased about their clan compounds being searched, no one opposed Hiruzen. After all, if someone who could silently eliminate 15 Root ninjas hid in their clan compounds or secret bases, then their entire clan could be in danger.

Without any restrictions, Fujin's clones searched the entire village methodically. Needless to say, it was all an act. With his Space Time Sensing Technique, there wasn't much that could hide from him anyway. Not to mention, the culprit was him. How would he find anyone else?

He merely took the opportunity to check out all the secret bases inside Konoha and left the Flying Thunder God mark secretly whenever he could. He had already put thousands of marks inside the village. However, now he could truly claim that he had marked the entire village! Once his range increased, he could appear almost anywhere inside the village. Unless the village was destroyed, Fujin could soon be considered as invincible inside Konoha!

Of course, his search wasn't entirely unrestricted. While the clans didn't stop him like Danzo, their ninjas still followed him when he inspected their clan compounds or secret bases. As such, his clones couldn't brazenly mark every place there.

Regardless, he was long satisfied with what he had done. After all, these were unintended benefits of his move against Danzo. Besides, this search had become common knowledge among the ninjas. Almost every clan ninja became aware of such a search despite not knowing the reason behind the search.

A few civilian ninjas noticed as well. The ones who didn't notice would soon come to know of it from their friends who were a part of ninja clans. Within a few days, the fact that Fujin could sustain dozens of Shadow Clones for hours and his Grandmaster attainment in Fuinjutsu would be known to every ninja in Konoha!

One of those civilian ninjas was Katsuhiko. He was dumbfounded by what he had discovered. He immediately realized, 'So this is why Danzo seemed so annoyed. How did he suddenly get the authority to do something like this? Shit, if he is a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu, then taking his seat will be extremely

difficult. Everyone wants to have a good relationship with a Fuinjutsu Grandmaster. However, how did he become a Grandmaster out of nowhere? I didn't even know that he was a SealMaster, let alone a Grandmaster. What do I do now?'

Needless to say, the spies would learn of this as well. However, seeing how tense Konoha was, they didn't dare to send messages until things calmed down.

The search continued the entire evening, continued throughout the night and only ended around late in the afternoon the next day. Fujin was long done with his part, but he still needed to coordinate with the ninjas specializing in sensing and detection to ensure that there wasn't anyone hiding in the village.

While they couldn't find any culprits for obvious reasons, they did find a few spies who were hiding in the Konoha pretending to be civilians. It ensured that the Torture & Interrogation department in Konoha would have fun for a few days.

In the Hokage Office, there were several people including Fujin. Hiruzen and Shikaku were busy going through all the information gathered in case they noticed something others might have missed. The leaders of the sensing team were making reports as well. As for Fujin, he was just sitting on one side of the room, watching everyone work so hard to find the person sitting in that very room.

He looked at Hiruzen and Shikaku and thought, 'While Danzo might be the most tense one, seeing these two lazy fellows work their ass off is a decent benefit as well. Just look at their tired and exhausted expressions. Even under these circumstances, the two of them don't stop acting.'

Fujin couldn't help but admire the two of them. He thought, 'All this work can easily be done within a few minutes by spamming Shadow Clones. Both have more than enough chakra to do so. As for their intelligence, they are probably the smartest people I have met. There is no way either of them can't think of this.'

Instead, they just don't do it. If they did it even once, others will ask why they don't do it every time. Once they begin doing it every time, everyone will see how much more free time they have. Then, they'll just pile more work on them. In essence, their workload will increase several times and the amount of time they have to work will stay the same. No wonder they are this adamant about not using the Shadow Clone jutsu inside this building.

Now that I think about it, Tsunade probably did the same as well. She could use paperwork as a reason to be annoyed and shoo away anyone who'd come to trouble her needlessly. After all, who would want to mess with her when she is in a bad mood?

I need to learn from them as well. This time, the benefits were very high, so it's fine. Next time, I should avoid using Shadow Clones for such tasks. Though I can handle it, it'll be annoying if it gets requested too many times.'

The work in the office continued for another 3 hours. Fujin's job was just to map the locations hidden with seals. He was long done with it. Hiruzen just made him stay in case he noticed any discrepancy in the information reported by the sensors.

Once all the data was looked through, Shikaku sighed and muttered, "There are no traces at all. We didn't find any new base. The abandoned bases don't have any traces of someone staying there. Even scent isn't present. Whoever it was, they did a thorough job."

Only Fujin, Shikaku, Hiruzen and the Anbu Guards were still in the room. The rest had left. Hiruzen sighed as well and said, "Yeah, there is nothing. The job is too clean."

His expression became serious as he muttered, "The attacker was so thorough that it in itself is suspicious."

Shikaku agreed with Hiruzen's words but didn't voice his opinion. He thought, 'Looks like he is already suspecting someone.'

Needless to say, Hiruzen was suspecting Danzo. However, just like Danzo, he too could see some issues. He thought, 'It is likely that only someone like Danzo can do something like this. An enemy village or even Orochimaru doing any of this will leave some clues. But, with Danzo's expertise, it wouldn't have been an issue for him to plant some evidence to divert my attention elsewhere. Why didn't he do that?'

He couldn't think of a reason. Seeing the two of them in thought, Fujin yawned and said, "I haven't slept for nearly two days. Also, using that many clones is giving me plenty of headaches. I'll take my leave for now. Call me if you two need anything."

Hiruzen nodded and said, "Good work in the past couple of days. You can leave."

Fujin nodded and disappeared from the room. Meanwhile, Shikaku wondered, 'Was he really tired or was he taking clues from us? Such a troublesome youngster...'

Fujin returned to his house after flickering a few times. He activated his Space Time Sensing Technique and surprisingly, there was no one around keeping an eye on his house. He wondered, 'Did Danzo decide to not confront me? Or is he planning to attack in some other way? Oh well, I'll handle it when the time comes.'

While Fujin learnt from the two of them, he was indeed quite sleepy. He hadn't consumed any soldier pills this time. He quickly entered his house, cleaned up and fell asleep. While the village was quite tense, Fujin didn't have a reason to worry.

Unfortunately, his speculation wasn't correct. An hour after he fell asleep, 5 Root ninjas led by Torune began spying on his house. Since none of them used chakra or stared at the house for too long and they stayed quite a long distance away, the seals on his house didn't pick up anything. After all, Torune had tried spying on Fujin earlier. He knew how crazy his house was. All Root ninjas knew that the real spying would only be conducted when Fujin wasn't in his house.

Since he slept quite early, Fujin woke up early as well. It had only been 3 AM when he woke up. He stretched and was about to go freshen up when he activated his Space Time Sensing Technique out of habit. Suddenly, all the laziness disappeared as his eyes became serious.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 512: Explosion!

A hint of craziness appeared in Fujin's eyes and a smile appeared on his face as he thought, 'Hehe, you made your move after all, Danzo. Good. Now, let me see whether you are skillful enough to ensure that the Root survives.'

While the Root ninjas were skillful enough to hide from chakra fields even when someone as skilled as Fujin used it, they had no idea about Fujin's other skill. Even Danzo was completely unaware. He never imagined that the spies he sent would be detected in an instant. If he knew Fujin had such an ability, he wouldn't have bothered sending anyone to spy on him. Even if Fujin didn't retaliate, the spies would only see what Fujin wanted to show them, which could make the Root fall into a trap.

Unfortunately for Danzo, Fujin no longer had intentions to keep playing games. He planned to use this opportunity to completely escalate the situation. On this day, two events would happen that would send shockwaves throughout Konoha that would be remembered for quite some time. One of them would also bring back some unpleasant memories.

Fujin fell back into his bed. Sleep had recovered most of his chakra, but he was still not at full capacity. It was understandable as he had maintained a lot of Shadow Clones. However, in this circumstance, that was a good thing. A Shadow Clone, with 20% of his maximum chakra, appeared next to his bed. Without a word, he disguised himself perfectly and disappeared from the room.

Neither of the 5 Root ninjas around Fujin's house detected the Shadow Clone leaving from under the ground. There were two main reasons for this. Firstly, the Root ninjas didn't dare to openly activate their chakra fields. Secondly, Fujin's methods of hiding chakra were extremely good and his clone left through a place where none of those 5 were present.

Minutes later, Fujin's clone reached the outskirts of the Root Headquarters. He thought, 'Yesterday, I showed up at the front door. However, with a base this huge, I have innumerable ways of entering. Even though this base is very well hidden and protected with seals, Root currently lacks the manpower to defend its main headquarters. Of course, it is also because they don't expect to be attacked in the first place. After all, Konoha will be the one to take the hit first before any attacker reaches the Root Headquarters.'

Danzo had only 26 Root ninjas left after Fujin's stunt 2 nights ago. Out of those, 5 were outside Fujin's house, while another 5 were outside the village training the kids from the Land of Water in a secret location. In addition, 2 were deployed in the Fire Capital, 1 always followed Naruto and 1 was hiding in the Anbu.

As a result, the massive Root headquarters had only 12 Root ninjas along with Danzo. Even among them, 5 of the Root ninjas were in the underground laboratories at the lowest two levels of Root Headquarters, meaning that only 7 were available to keep an eye on their base.

Hence, they couldn't pay attention to every entry into the Root Headquarters. Of course, Danzo had long sealed up such entry points. Fujin's clone was standing in front of one such sealed entry point.

The clone's eyes glowed as he began studying the seals. He nodded as he realized, 'Not bad. Even I will need some time to decode these seals and enter inside without being detected. Not to mention, there are some seals I don't recognize. Unfortunately, I don't have the time to study them slowly. Oh well, even if I did, they would detect me in no time. So, no need to bother with stealth.'

The Blade of the Thunder Spirit appeared in his right hand, but the hilt was covered by his long sleeves. The shape of the blade looked nothing like a sword and instead looked like a ball of Lightning. In an instant, nearly 35% of the clone's chakra was transformed into Lightning and transferred into the Lightning ball.

Such a massive chakra spike just outside the Root headquarters was picked up by the seals. A couple of sensors and Danzo also felt it. Danzo thought, 'What the hell?'

He immediately made a hand seal to activate all defensive seals on the Root headquarters. Unfortunately, he wasn't fast enough. Fujin's clone kicked the seal entrance, smashing it apart before the seals could activate.

Immediately, the 5 Root ninjas in the laboratories activated the defenses to ensure that the labs would stay safe. The two who were with Danzo got on alert to protect Danzo. As for the remaining 5, they ran towards where Fujin's clone had barged in from.

Unfortunately for them, those few seconds were all that Fujin's clone needed to supercharge the Lightning ball with almost 99% of his chakra! As soon as three Root ninjas appeared, he waved his right arm in a slashing action, unleashing all the Lightning stored inside the Blade of the Thunder Spirit!

'Lightning Release: Lightning Flood jutsu'

The Root ninjas who had just arrived were shocked. While they came prepared for war, none of them expected to face such a devastating attack even before they could properly see the intruder! What shocked them more was the massive quantity of chakra they were feeling from the incoming attack despite not being a sensor!

Fujin's clone had supercharged the jutsu with almost his entire chakra. That was 20% of Fujin's chakra. However, with the amplification from the Blade of the Thunder Spirit, the attack was equivalent to 200% of Fujin's chakra!

It was important to know that Fujin's chakra reserves were almost at the same level as Hiruzen's. Though Hiruzen's chakra reserves had deteriorated with age, he was still a formidable ninja and his place in the rank S tier was unshaken.

Very few ninjas had chakra reserves exceeding his. As for the ninjas that had chakra twice as much as him, they could be counted on one hand if the Jinchurikis weren't considered. And, even they would never use up all their chakra in a single attack. What the Jounin-level Anbu were facing was an attack at a level rarely seen in the Ninja World!

The three Root ninjas, as well as the two who weren't too far away, were hit by the Lightning within the blink of an eye! They didn't even have a chance to put up a defense and were obliterated within moments!

Though Danzo had failed to activate the seals on the sealed entrance in time, he activated the remaining seals in the headquarters. As a result, the entire base became very resilient. Every wall could endure a couple of rank A jutsus before crumbling.

Unfortunately for Danzo, Lightning specialized in penetrating through obstacles like walls. And, the attack could be considered a peak rank S jutsu in terms of pure destruction! The Lightning immediately began spreading throughout the Root headquarters.

Fujin's jutsu was a variation of the 'Lightning Release: False Darkness jutsu' and was quite similar to it. The only difference was the amount of chakra infused in the jutsu which caused the nature of the jutsu to change. This change could be seen in the Root Headquarters. If a bystander had spectated this scene, it would seem like there was a Lightning flood inside Root Headquarters, spreading in every direction and piercing through every obstacle! It was a scene from a nightmare!

In his office, Danzo's eyes widened in shock and disbelief as he sensed the amount of chakra in the attack and how easily his base was being destroyed. Standing next to him, Yamanaka Fu nervously said, "Lord Danzo..."

Despite being an Elite Jounin, Fu had no confidence in being able to resist the incoming attack. Danzo immediately weaved hand seals while saying, "Move behind me."

'Wind Release: Serial Vacuum Waves jutsu'

Immediately, Fu and the other Root ninja moved behind Danzo. At the very instance when Danzo was done weaving the hand seals, the Lightning broke through his office walls and moved towards him when he exhaled his jutsu. Several Vacuum Waves hit the incoming Lightning flood continuously and kept bombarding the incoming attack for a few seconds.

The Lightning headed towards Danzo was finally stopped. Only some Lightning charges made it through the intense wind and hit the three of them. They weren't strong enough to cause them any damage.

Danzo and the two Root ninjas with him were safe. However, their moods were anything but calm. Even Danzo was extremely tense. He thought, 'Fortunately the Lightning wasn't all concentrated on me. Otherwise, I would have no chance of stopping it without using Wood Release or sacrificing Shisui's eye by using Izanagi. I didn't even have time to remove the seals on my right arm! Which crazy bastard attacked my base? And who is strong enough to unleash such an attack? Even Hiruzen shouldn't be able to do something like this!'

Though Danzo stopped the Lightning flood from hitting him, it still continued spreading in other directions. Within seconds, 3 underground floors were completely in shambles! Thankfully, while the seals weren't strong enough to stop the Lightning flood, it slowly whittled down the power of the Lightning flood, putting an end to the destruction...

Unfortunately, the destruction caused by the Lightning until that moment was too high! The top 3 floors collapsed entirely, forcing Danzo and the two Root ninjas to evacuate in a hurry. If it wasn't for the fact that Fujin's clone didn't target the pillars, the entire base might have collapsed! Thankfully for Danzo, the laboratories on the bottom two floors weren't damaged.

However, the loss was still extremely high! Danzo was extremely angry. Unfortunately, he was unaware that this was just the first step of Fujin's plan. Not a single person in Konoha would even consider the possibility of such a massive attack being merely a distraction! Fujin's next steps would threaten Root's existence in a way Danzo would never have imagined. The only question was whether Fujin would succeed in his goal or whether Danzo would succeed in defending his Root!

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 513: Apprehending the Spies!



While the village was tense, not many people in Konoha were actually aware of what was happening. Only the ninjas having authority were aware of the death of Root ninjas. The others were only following orders and weren't provided any information. Even someone like Guy had no clue of what was actually happening in the village. After all, the Root was supposed to be disbanded. Besides, releasing such news could cause panic to spread in the village.

Of course, not being aware made everyone tense as well. However, since they hadn't found anyone in the long search, the village had relaxed slightly. Most ninjas felt that it was just an exercise in case anything happened. The village was sleeping peacefully. Suddenly, several ninjas sensed a massive chakra spike despite not having any chakra fields activated. At the same time, a tremor was felt in a part of the village!

After all, Root headquarters was created underground. When Fujin's clone destroyed three underground floors in a single attack, it caused a mini earthquake in the nearby area.

Sleeping in his room, Hiruzen's eyes snapped open. He immediately flickered and appeared on top of his roof. Moments later, four Anbu Guards appeared behind him. He looked towards Root headquarters in confusion and wondered, 'What the hell is happening there? Such a massive chakra signature. For a moment I thought that the Nine Tails had broken loose again. Fortunately, the chakra is much smaller. Still, what is happening?'

He immediately began moving towards the Root headquarters. Similar scenes happened all around the village. Every Clan Leader woke up. Unlike Hiruzen, they didn't move themselves and instead sent a couple of Jounin squads to check out what was happening and reinforce Hiruzen. Several civilian ninjas, including Guy, were making their way towards the source of the explosion. Memories of the Nine Tails assault resurfaced in the minds of several people.

And just like everyone, Fujin's eyes snapped open in his bedroom as well. In moments, he was on top of his house. In fact, he was even faster than Hiruzen, but unlike Hiruzen he merely watched towards the Root headquarters. He looked in that direction with an expression that said he was wondering what was happening while spreading his chakra field towards the location.

Needless to say, Fujin wasn't the only one looking towards the Root Headquarters. The 5 Root ninjas looked towards the source of the explosion as well. Their eyes widened as they realized that the Root Headquarters had been hit! And sensing how strong the explosion was, they couldn't help being worried.

All 5 decided that the mission to watch over Fujin could be postponed. In a moment, all 5 began moving towards the Root Headquarters. However, the moment they decided to do so, Fujin could sense their chakra!

A frown appeared on his face as 5 Shadow Clones appeared next to him. All 5 flickered and threw a kunai each, blocking the paths of the 5 Root ninjas. They stopped as Fujin's clones stood in their paths.

Aburame Torune shouted angrily, "Suzuki Fujin, why are you attacking us and blocking our path? The village is under attack!"

Fujin flickered a few meters behind Torune and said, "That's what I want to ask. The village is under threat and the 5 of you are surrounding my house instead of looking for the culprit? What is the meaning of this?"

Torune and the Root ninjas immediately understood why Fujin had blocked them. Torune immediately turned around and said, "It was just a coincidence. This isn't the time to argue about this. We need to reinforce Lord Danzo."

Fujin snorted and asked with a hint of anger, "So it was a coincidence that 5 of you were strategically surrounding my house during the night right when the attack happened? I wonder what your intentions are. Lord Hokage and Elder Danzo speculated that this incident was caused by someone inside the village. Seeing how suspicious you five are, I can only assume that you are working with the culprit!"

Fujin's accusation stunned them. They couldn't even imagine how Fujin reached that conclusion. One of the Root ninjas cursed, "Bastard! Stop your meaningless accusation. Get out of the way! Otherwise, we will assume that you are the one working with the culprit."

Fujin replied, "Oh. You are accusing a Council Member of working with an enemy? Good. Very good! I hope you have proof to back your claim up. Seeing how you were spying on a Council Member, I have no choice but to arrest you five right now. Don't resist or I won't hold back."

Immediately, all 5 Shadow Clones prepared for a battle. A sword appeared in their right hand. The 5 Root ninjas immediately became tense. They had heard about how strong Fujin was. Torune said, "Don't do anything crazy, Fujin. We were just on a mission."

Fujin chuckled and said, "A mission to spy on a Council Member? Good luck explaining that to Lord Hokage and the Council. As for doing anything crazy, it depends on whether you'll be obedient or resist."

Fujin's words left little room for discussion. He had been overbearing from the start. It was as if he was looking for trouble. However, considering the situation, the Root ninjas didn't find it odd. Anyone else in power would react the same way if they were being spied on. Not too long ago, an entire clan was about to revolt due to this factor.

The Root ninjas exchanged eye glances. Without any command, all 5 attacked at the same time. Four moved to attack the clones while Torune moved backwards to attack Fujin. His hands turned purple as he extended his arm towards Fujin, aiming to touch him.

In response, Fujin raised his right arm and extended two fingers. Wind began flowing around the fingers.

'Wind Release: Blades of Wind jutsu'

Immediately, a few Wind blades formed and moved towards Torune whose eyes widened. He gritted his teeth and moved to dodge the wind blades. Unfortunately, the distance was too small to dodge all of them. However, he still weaved through the wind blades, dodging most of them and only getting hit by the blades that wouldn't critically injure him so that he could continue moving forward.

Several deep cuts opened up on his body. However, he gritted his teeth and continued moving forward while thinking, 'From what Lord Danzo said, I won't be able to defeat him from a distance. His Wind jutsus will have too much of an advantage. The only way to defeat him is by touching him.'

Through great determination, he reached just 1 meter from Fujin and punched him. Fujin casually raised his arm and caught his punch. At the same time, Fujin's left palm slammed into Torune's stomach, causing him to vomit blood. However, Torune was extremely pleased. Fujin could feel that he was smiling even though Torune was wearing a mask.

Fujin's arm began turning purple as Torune said, "This is my speciality. Since you touched me, you will be poisoned. Let us go, otherwise, you'll meet your end here, Suzuki Fujin."

He thought, 'Though he is strong, he is still too green. In a battle, it doesn't matter who is stronger. All that matters is who wins. If he had stuck to his strengths and stayed at a distance, I wouldn't have had an easy time against him. Now, he'll lose due to his arrogance.'

Suddenly, Torune realized something... He couldn't use his chakra! Fujin's left hand had applied the Self-Cursing Seal on him! And, despite being poisoned, there was no fear on Fujin's face.

He heard a voice from behind him say, "The Aburame clan, huh? What a unique method of using bugs. This is the first time I've seen something like this. Unfortunately for you, it is useless against a Shadow Clone."

Torune immediately turned his head and saw Fujin standing a safe distance away. Slightly behind him, the remaining 4 Root ninjas were already dealt with. All had the Self-Cursing Seal and were knocked out cold. He thought, 'I attacked a Shadow Clone? He sent a Shadow Clone to sneak up on me? No wonder he was this fearless. I thought he was just arrogant. That said, is this one a clone or the real body?'

Torune wasn't sure. Fujin said, "Stop resisting. If your bugs attack after you are unconscious, then I'll have no choice but to kill all of them."

Torune said, "I hope you know what you are doing, Suzuki Fujin."

A large number of minute-sized bugs began exiting his body. However, Torune received no response, other than a punch in his gut from the clone he had poisoned. The punch was enhanced with chakra and strong enough to immediately knock him out.

At the same time, a couple of clones flickered next to Torune and activated a barrier, sealing Torune, his bugs and Fujin's clone inside. The clone sealed inside immediately applied a few more seals on Torune before being dispelled due to being attacked by the bugs.

Fujin left his 5 Shadow Clones there to keep an eye on the Root ninjas and flickered towards the Root Headquarters. He thought, 'Step 2 completed. Now, time for step three. Unfortunately, unlike the first two steps, I will have very little control over the outcome. If things go perfectly, then Root will no longer exist! If they don't then the status quo will be maintained. Regardless, it will heavily restrict Danzo while I won't have any loss.'

Though the expression on his face still showed that he was annoyed and angry, internally, he was very indifferent the whole time. Even the emotions he displayed while arguing against Torune were fake. He only had them to make his actions look more convincing.

The Root headquarters were currently in chaos as no one knew who the attacker was and why the Root was attacked. If Danzo knew that the only reason his headquarters was targeted was so that his subordinates spying on Fujin would expose themselves, who knows how he would have reacted.

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 514: Aftermath

Before Fujin and the Root ninjas entered into a fight, Hiruzen along with his Anbu Guards reached the Root Headquarters. Their eyes widened as they noticed the state of the top three underground floors of the base. The walls and floors of the base had almost entirely collapsed! Hiruzen quickly sensed Danzo and flickered towards him.

He appeared behind him and asked, "Danzo, what happened here?"

Danzo was already annoyed. As soon as he left the base, he had Fu sense the attacker. Unfortunately, Fu couldn't sense anyone anymore. It was as if the attacker had disappeared in thin air. Of course, seeing the level of attack, Danzo speculated that the attacker was too good at hiding himself and managed to escape during the destruction.

On hearing Hiruzen's question, Danzo answered, "My headquarters was attacked!"

Hiruzen asked, "By whom? Did you already kill the attacker?"

Danzo said, "No. He disappeared. I can't sense his chakra signature."

Surprise appeared on Hiruzen's face. He couldn't help but say, "You mean, someone attacked the Root Headquarters while you were inside it and left before you could even see what he looked like?"

To say Hiruzen was surprised was an understatement. While some thought of Danzo as weak and a relic of the past, he knew very well how strong Danzo still was. He couldn't help but wonder if Danzo was sleeping when the attack happened. He said, "Tell me everything as it happened."

Danzo informed him about suddenly detecting the chakra signature and the massive Lightning flood that followed seconds later. Hiruzen fell silent. His expression became serious as he learnt how strong the attack was. He didn't suspect Danzo as he had felt the chakra spike as well.

He said, "This level of attack... It can only be done by a Jinchuriki. No other ninja has enough chakra to do something like this and still get away. Unless..."

Danzo completed Hiruzen's words, "Unless they have Sensei's sword."

A frown appeared on his face as he said, "But Sensei's sword is in Ame. Why would Hanzo do something like this? It makes no sense for him to provoke Konoha like this."

Hiruzen added, "Unless he has allied with some other Major Village to create trouble for us. Or if an incredible talent has appeared in Ame and Hanzo has become ambitious once again."

A frown appeared on Danzo's face as he thought of that possibility, 'Just Hanzo alone is a lot of trouble. If he gets a rank S under him, then he'll become even more troublesome to deal with. However, why is he trying to pick on me? Couldn't he just have attacked anyone else to establish prestige? Some things still don't add up.

Or could it be that Kumo sent one of their Jinchurikis and is trying to set us up against Hanzo? However, how can a Jinchuriki infiltrate Konoha completely undetected? That should be impossible.'

Slowly, more ninjas began arriving. Hiruzen passed commands to clear up the debris in the destroyed base. Danzo had already sent one of his subordinates to inform the ninjas in the Labs to seal the place and keep other ninjas away from it.

In fact, Danzo was hoping that the attacker would target his subordinate who was moving alone so that he could see who it was. Unfortunately, no one attacked.

After a few squads had appeared, Fujin appeared as well. He directly met up with Hiruzen and asked with a frown, "Someone attacked the Root headquarters?"

Hiruzen nodded. He noticed the annoyance on Fujin's face and wondered, 'Why does he look so annoyed? Is it related to this attack or something else?'

As for Danzo, he looked at Fujin once and then didn't pay any attention. He thought, 'I already have Torune keeping an eye on him. I guess my speculations were baseless. Of course, it doesn't mean that there isn't anything wrong with him. I need to keep an eye on him while pressuring his seat to see how he reacts.'

Fujin asked, "Are the attackers dead?"

Hiruzen shook his head and said, "No. There was just one and he got away."

Fujin's frown deepened as he asked, "I can understand someone attacking the Auxiliary bases, but how could any random ninja attack Root Headquarters and get away without any repercussions? Is the Root so ill-protected?"

Danzo was offended by that question. He said, "Control your tongue, Fujin. It wasn't a random ninja."

Fujin asked, "So you know who the attacker was?"

Danzo replied, "No, but we have our speculations."

Fujin replied, "That's as good as not knowing anything. Grandpa, I have something to discuss with you. But I guess it can wait until we return to your office."

There weren't any clan leaders nearby. Even the ninjas were dispatched to do the work and wouldn't hear their conversation unless Fujin deliberately made a scene. However, that would go against the personality he had created. What Fujin planned needed clan leaders around. Otherwise, destroying a good portion of the Root Headquarters and subduing 5 Root ninjas wouldn't have the same effect that he wanted.

Danzo frowned on hearing Fujin's tone but he didn't say anything as Fujin was right and there was no point in arguing. However, his eyes widened as Fujin began walking towards the debris. As he walked, Fujin said, "I'll check if anyone's hiding."

Danzo immediately said, "There is no need. We have already checked. The attacker has long fled."

Fujin turned around. He was about to say something when Hiruzen said, "He's right. I have inspected it as well. There is no need to check the base. Just keep an eye in case you notice someone acting weird."

Fujin frowned but didn't argue against Hiruzen. Hiruzen sighed in relief. Danzo was slightly relieved as well. The seals could hide the labs from normal ninjas. Against Fujin, they won't have much of a chance. And, unlike the other Grandmasters in Konoha, Fujin might not back down if a Root ninja tried to stop him from entering the labs.

If Fujin entered the labs, then he would see the most messed up things inside Konoha. Hiruzen didn't know how Fujin would react. If he blew up the matter, every ninja clearing the debris would also come to know of it. It would completely ruin Danzo's public image and raise questions about Hiruzen as well. Neither Hiruzen nor Danzo wanted to see that happen.

The clearing continued. More ninjas kept appearing, but Hiruzen just assigned them other tasks such as scouting the area around the base to check if anyone was hiding. Around half an hour later the debris was all cleared but nothing was found apart from the dead bodies of the five Root ninjas. They were in a terrible state due to having faced nearly the full force of the terrifying attack.

Guy, who had just cleared the debris in the area he was assigned, noticed Fujin standing alone while casually watching everyone. He immediately appeared next to him and said, "Fujin, you have arrived as well."

Fujin nodded and said, "Yeah, the attack is just too big to be ignored."

Guy agreed and said, "Yeah and to think they could target the Root headquarters. Do you have any idea about what is happening in the village? There were too many searches happening throughout the village for a couple of days as well."



Since there was no one else near them, Fujin said, "Yeah. Two nights ago, 15 Root ninjas were killed. We couldn't find the killers. I had thought that they escaped the village. I guess I was wrong. Don't tell it to others."

Guy's eyes widened momentarily. He said softly, "It looks like someone is targeting the Root. To think that the culprits couldn't be caught."

He looked at Fujin and said, "Thank you for letting me know. Usually, Kakashi fills me in on these things, but he has been away on a mission."

Fujin nodded and said, "No worries. Just be careful. I wasn't too concerned about the situation earlier, but the destruction here is insane. If the culprits are trying to eliminate high-level ninjas in the village, then we could be targeted as well. I doubt it would be an easy fight. Even more so if he attacks us when we have to protect others"

Guy could feel the seriousness in Fujin's voice. He said, "I'll be careful. I guess I'll need to ease up on the training for a bit. You be careful too."

Fujin nodded.

While Guy and Fujin were chatting, Danzo and Hiruzen were monitoring the search. Both were concerned as nothing was found. Needless to say, Danzo's mood was beyond terrible. Unfortunately, there wasn't anything he could do to find the attacker. Nor could he take his anger out on someone else. This was a grave threat his Root was facing and yet he was helpless and without any lead that he could pursue immediately.

Since nothing was found, Hiruzen deployed some Anbu ninjas and sent the remaining ninjas back. Fujin, the clan leaders and the elders were called to Hiruzen's office for a quick meeting. Fujin said farewell to Guy and flickered to Hiruzen's office. Once everyone arrived, Hiruzen informed everyone about the events of that night.

Hiruzen's office became silent. Everyone except Fujin, Hiruzen and Danzo had complicated expressions. The clan leaders thought about what would have happened if such an attack had been aimed at their

clan compounds. They realized that their clans would have unimaginable losses! After all, even someone like Danzo wasn't able to do much other than protect himself.

Hiruzen noticed Fujin's expression but didn't find anything odd. With Fujin's strength and abilities, dodging such an attack wouldn't be a difficult task. Even if his house was sneak attacked the same way, there was a good chance that his house would actually survive the hit! While there were places in Konoha with more seals than in Fujin's house, nothing came close in terms of the density of the seals!

Seeing that no one was saying anything, Hiruzen asked, "Does anyone have any ideas on what we should do further?"

Hiruzen was hoping for Shikaku to figure something out. Unfortunately, the situation didn't make any sense to him either. It was just too peculiar. Two big attacks had happened and they didn't even know who was behind it apart from some speculations. And even the speculations were such that Konoha couldn't take action easily. He didn't say anything.

Seeing that no one was saying anything, Fujin said, "I have something that I was wondering about."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 515: Confronting Danzo!

Everyone immediately looked at Fujin. Fujin looked at Danzo and said, "Four Root bases were attacked two days ago. Seeing that nothing else happened, there is little doubt that the culprit is targeting the Root. At such a time why weren't your Root ninjas keeping an eye on the Root headquarters and were instead spying on me?"

Everyone's eyes widened as they heard Fujin's words. They all immediately looked at Danzo. Danzo was stunned as well. He never imagined that the elite ninjas he sent to spy on Fujin would be discovered within hours. Nor did he think that Fujin would confront him in front of everyone during a time when the village was facing a grave threat.

Before Danzo could reply, Fujin added, "Your actions are too peculiar, Elder Danzo. Instead of protecting the Root ninjas, you spread them even thinner. Perhaps if they were in the Root Headquarters, then the attacker might have been spotted before it was too late. You could have kept the Root Headquarters safe. You could even have had a chance to fight and capture him. However, you decided to send them to spy on me."

Everyone was staring at Danzo. Deploying Root ninjas at such a time made little to no sense. Not to mention, Fujin was a Council Member as well. Spying on him meant that others could be spied upon as well. Though Fujin had provided no proof, knowing Danzo, everyone in the room believed that Danzo had indeed done something like that.

Of course, that was no reason for Danzo to accept it. He said, "I didn't send anyone to spy on you. I don't know what you are talking about."

Fujin asked, "Is that so? Could you tell me why 5 of your Root ninjas were hiding their chakra signature and surrounding my house instead of staying in the Root Headquarters?"

Danzo frowned. He said, "Don't accuse me without any proof, Suzuki Fujin. I had dispatched a squad for an important secret mission. It had nothing to do with you."

Fujin continued asking in a neutral tone without a hint of expression on his face, "Oh, I wonder what secret mission you had to do at such a point."

Danzo displayed slight anger and asked, "Do I have to explain myself to you? Besides, my ninjas should have returned by now. Did you do anything to them?"

Seeing that Fujin had discovered them, Danzo wondered why they hadn't returned yet. Not to mention, they should have returned after the explosion. But there was no sign of them.

Fujin replied, "I apprehended them."

The eyes of everyone in the room widened. That included Hiruzen and Shikaku who were familiar with the kind of shit Fujin always pulled off! Shikaku muttered to himself, 'I'm dead! He'll increase my workload once again! He created a mess in the Council!'

The other clan leaders also stared at Fujin. Nearly everyone had suffered at the hands of Root at some point. However, no one had ever taken the initiative to apprehend them. They would raise their concerns with Hiruzen and solve them diplomatically. It was the first case of someone taking down 5 Root ninjas before considering any diplomatic options.

Danzo exploded in rage and shouted aggressively, "You traitor! You dare to attack Konoha ninjas inside the village due to mere suspicions?"

Of course, Danzo was only pretending to be in a rage. While he was indeed angry, he wouldn't lose control over something like this. He just acted so to show that he was furious.

Before Fujin could say anything, Koharu said, "Fujin, even though you are in the Council, it doesn't mean that you can act willfully. If there was an issue, you should raise it in the Council instead of taking action yourself. I hope that those Root ninjas are fine. Otherwise, you will lose your seat on the Council."

The clan leaders were too familiar with how much the Elders supported each other. They had expected such a backlash. Of course, they won't allow that to happen. If someone was taking the initiative to take down Danzo, they would support him from the back. All the clan leaders reached a tacit understanding despite not speaking a word or even exchanging glances. Only Shikaku wasn't worried and was instead looking forward to Fujin's reply which was immediate. He only prayed that Fujin wouldn't increase his workload.

Fujin turned his gaze from Danzo to Koharu and asked, "Elder Koharu, if I were to attack you with the intention to kill you, would you fight back and try to protect yourself, or would you let me kill you and call a Council Meeting from the afterlife?"

Though Fujin's words were extremely provocative, his tone was still extremely neutral. It was as if there was no emotion in them. It was something everyone in the room found very odd. In a situation like this, it was normal to become angry and emotional. Even more so considering that Fujin was still only 15 years old. However, Fujin didn't display any emotion at all. He looked neither angry at being attacked nor scared to face the Elders who stood tall in the village for decades.

The clan leaders in the office were surprised and impressed at the same time. Senju Hiromasa looked at Fujin and thought, 'Such control over his emotions at such a young age. No wonder Renjiro praised him so much and Hiruzen included him in the council.'

Shikaku thought, 'Though I have heard about his fighting skills, this is the first time I have seen him angry. No wonder he is so efficient and deadly during missions. If he can maintain his calm and be calculative in such a situation, then there will be little that could disturb his mental state. Still, he is getting scary. He is the kind of opponent I hate to plan against.'

Similar thoughts ran through the minds of others. Hiruzen's office became eerily silent. It wasn't just due to how composed Fujin was. Fujin had threatened a Village Elder! And, he had stated in such a way that it wasn't a big deal, implying that he didn't think he would have any difficulty in killing her if he wanted to. And secondly, what Fujin's words implied was that the Root ninjas attempted to kill him! That was a big accusation. And knowing Danzo, everyone immediately believed that Fujin was telling the truth!

Koharu understood that as well, but her pride was hurt. She hadn't been threatened by a Konoha ninja in this manner since she became an Elder. She asked icily, "Is that a threat, Suzuki Fujin?"

Fujin replied, "If by merely mentioning it, you get so offended, do you expect me to not resist when ganged upon by 5 Root ninjas? You should be glad that I didn't kill them on the spot and only apprehended them."

He looked towards Danzo and said, "One of the spies he sent was from the Aburame clan with a strange ability to poison someone on touch. Had I not been careful, perhaps I wouldn't be standing here. Elder Danzo, you better give me a good explanation or I won't be letting this go."

Despite the Root being under attack, you decided to dispatch your subordinates to spy on me and attack me with such deadly means once they got a chance. It almost seems like you don't care what is happening to Root and instead are targetting youngsters in the village."

Aburame Shibi's eyes widened on hearing about the ability. He immediately recognized, 'Torune?'

Fujin's accusation made everyone in the room tense. The one who was the most tense was Hiruzen. He knew that Danzo was the one to cause Shisui's death. It was a huge loss to Konoha. If he was attempting to kill Fujin, then it was a big issue for Hiruzen.

He looked at Danzo and asked strictly, "Is it true, Danzo?"

Meanwhile, Danzo was dumbfounded. He wondered, 'What the hell happened with Torune? Their job was to spy on him. Why did he attack Fujin? Fujin even stated his ability, meaning that what he says must be true. But why did he attack?'

Despite being at a loss, Danzo immediately answered, "The mission I assigned them had nothing to do with Fujin. I don't know whether they attacked Fujin and what reason they might have to attack him. I will need to talk with them to understand what actually happened."

Since he didn't know what exactly happened, Danzo decided to take a step back. Of course, he wasn't actually giving up anything. Even if Torune and the rest were at fault, there would be no punishment against them or him.

Once again, Fujin asked, "What was the mission you assigned?"

Danzo once again refused to answer Fujin and said, "Don't overstep your limits, Suzuki Fujin. I don't have to answer to you."

Fujin snorted and said, "If that's the case, then it means that those 5 Root ninjas have betrayed the village and have become traitors. The only other possibility is that you are lying and are the one who has fallen."

Immediately, Homura said, "Fujin, stop suspecting Danzo. He has served the village for decades and has been a cornerstone for Konoha in every Great War. His contribution to the village is unquestionable."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 516: Ganging up on Danzo!

Without missing a beat or even looking at Homura, Fujin replied, "Just because you have contributed in the past doesn't give you a right to behave like a rogue ninja inside the village. If every ninja who contributed to previous wars acted this way, Konoha would collapse within a few hours.

Regardless of how much a ninja has contributed, if he begins targeting the Konoha ninjas for any reason, he should be eliminated or at least imprisoned. Don't forget that not too long ago one of the three Legendary Sannins did something similar and went rogue. Today, he is one of the main suspects behind the deaths of 20 Root ninjas and the destruction of Root Headquarters.

Even if Elder Danzo wasn't the one who gave those instructions, this event shows that he is incapable of leading the Root. His subordinates are willfully ignoring his commands and attacking a Council Member.

Not to mention, he has shown that he doesn't care much about the lives of Root ninjas. Instead of protecting the headquarters in time of crisis, he dispatched them away not caring that they might be targetted and leaving the Root headquarters with very low manpower! We cannot afford to keep losing excellent ninjas just because he is no longer capable of leading them properly."

Silence spread in the room once again. Rage was once again visible on Danzo's face. However, this time, it wasn't an act. Fujin had openly called him incompetent in front of everyone! Danzo was extremely tempted to use the eye but controlled himself as Hiruzen was in the room as well and staring at him.

Before he could explode in rage, Shikaku said, "He isn't wrong."

Danzo immediately looked towards Shikaku and said, "Instead of searching for the culprit, you want to blame me? This time Root was targetted. Who would you blame if he targets the Nara clan?"

Shikaku explained, "Dealing with the culprit would have been the best way. Unfortunately, we don't even know who the culprits are or what their motivation is. The only thing we know is that they are targeting the Root for some reason.

If their goal is just to seek revenge on something you or the Root have done, then the attacks should stop once Root ninjas are mixed in with the Anbu. If their enmity is too high and they still try to target Root ninjas, then they won't be able to cover up their traces as well as they have been.

So, it'll be best for the Root to disband entirely. It might be our only method of dealing with the culprit. Not to mention, the incident of spying on and attacking Fujin needs to be investigated properly as well. If even council members get attacked within the village, then no one will feel safe inside the village.

I suggest that we disband the Root entirely for the time being. We will continue looking for the culprit and investigate the attack on Fujin. Depending on our results on those two findings, we can decide whether Root should continue existing secretly or leave it in the past and move forward."

As the Jounin Commander and publicly accepted as the smartest ninja in Konoha, if not the world, Shikaku's words held a lot more sway than Fujin's. Danzo understood that. He immediately replied, "Whether Root continues to exist or not is not up to the Council."

Not too long ago, Danzo was hoping to use the Council to revive his Root. And now, the circumstances had forced him to do the complete opposite. He understood that saying it meant that he could never use the Council to force Hiruzen to revive the Root. However, he could only handle one situation at a time. As long as the Root continued existing, he could always come up with more schemes to increase its strength.

Shibi suddenly said, "I agree with Shikaku's analysis. While the Council can't interfere with Root normally, it's a different case if Root ninjas are targetting a Council Member. Not to mention, we have already lost 20 capable ninjas during peacetime in the last 3 days. It's better to disband the Root than see every Root ninja die because someone is too stubborn to see the situation."

Inoichi added, "I agree as well."

Immediately, every other clan leader agreed with Shikaku. After all, other than the Hyuga clan, all of them had several of their geniuses forcefully taken in by the Root. With Fujin taking the lead in targetting Danzo, they decided to add to the pressure on Danzo.

Several of them voiced their own thoughts about the situation. A few brought out their grievances against the Root mentioning how so many of their clan members had died during the training in the Root and how the families of the Root ninjas never saw them again among other things.

The room became more tense. Especially Danzo and the elders. The Elders might not treat Fujin or one clan leader that seriously. However, it was a different matter altogether if every single clan leader was on the same page! Even Hiruzen won't be able to dismiss them lightly. If he did, then the coup that the Uchihas were planning could look like a child's play.

Though Fujin didn't show any change in his expression and seemed like he was hiding his anger, in truth, he was extremely pleased. He thought, 'Good. This is what I wanted. With all the clan leaders and I, who represent the civilian ninjas even if only in name, opposing Root, these 4 can't act willfully. Now, the rest depends on what Hiruzen wants. If he has been looking to deal Root a blow, then Root will be finished for good. Otherwise, it'll only be restricted.'

When Fujin realized that Danzo might still not leave him alone and continue pressuring him, he came up with a three step plan against Danzo after thinking for nearly a couple of days. As soon as he detected the 5 Root ninjas spying on his house, the conditions for setting the plan in motion were fulfilled.



The first step of the plan was doing something so big that it would attract the entire village's attention, forcing everyone to take the situation with utmost seriousness. Fujin decided to directly target the Root headquarters for this step.

It served several additional purposes. For one, it allowed Fujin to directly inflict more damage on the Root. The Root headquarters was underground and some distance away from where people lived. Fujin didn't need to be concerned about hitting an innocent here. As a bonus, it also showed that Danzo wasn't capable enough of even protecting his own base. And lastly, it would force the Root ninjas that were spying on him to show themselves.

The second step of the plan was arresting the Root ninjas spying on him. In terms of difficulty, it was the easiest to achieve. However, in terms of importance, this step was the most important as it gave Fujin a chance to accuse Danzo. Unlike the clan leaders who had gotten used to occasionally suffering at Danzo's hands and hence couldn't escalate small offenses, Fujin had never suffered a loss in Konoha. So Fujin escalating the situation wouldn't feel odd.

Fujin knew that it wasn't a huge offense. At the very least, it wasn't something that could make Hiruzen take Root away from Danzo. After all, they were only spying on Fujin as Danzo had some suspicions. Hiruzen himself always spied on the entire village with his crystal ball. Hiruzen would just give Danzo a slap on his wrist and let him off.

However, the third step of Fujin's plan came into action here. That was to let the clan leaders sense an opportunity to take out all their grievances against Danzo and Root while using Fujin as a front. Under normal circumstances, they might still be reluctant, but the attack 2 nights ago and Danzo and Root being weak and vulnerable due to Fujin's first step gave them an opportunity that they just couldn't miss!

The fact that Torune decided to attack Fujin instead of surrendering helped him even more. The case had changed from just spying to spying and an attempt to assassinate! As Fujin had expected, every clan leader decided to take advantage of the chance he had provided!

It was a strange plan as every successive step was less intense and destructive than the previous step. The first step was total annihilation, the second step was just retraining a few ninjas and the third step was diplomacy without any fighting involved. It went against the traditional way of slowly escalating the situation. However, it fitted perfectly in this scenario.

Seeing every clan leader speaking against Danzo, Koharu and Homura decided to go silent. Danzo, of course, wouldn't take everything lying down. He argued against everyone, but Fujin didn't even need to open his mouth.

In terms of politics, the clan leaders were far better than him. Even in terms of intelligence, no one was a slouch. If they were, then they wouldn't have been clan leaders. They couldn't do anything earlier as Danzo never gave them an opening.

Now that they had it, they immediately ganged up on Danzo and countered every single point he made while levelling more accusations against the Root.

The situation became intense in no time. With neither side backing off, it immediately became very ugly. Understanding the situation, Hiruzen sighed. He flared his chakra, silencing the room once again and gaining everyone's attention.

He looked at everyone and said, "Don't forget that we are the leaders of Konoha. Please maintain decorum. I had called everyone here to keep everyone informed about the attack on Root headquarters. I didn't think that the meeting would take such a turn. I'll think about what to do and we will have an official council meeting soon. For now, everyone except Danzo is dismissed."

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 517: Hiruzen's Decision!

Seeing how serious Hiruzen was, no one spoke a word. Everyone except Danzo and the Anbu Guards began leaving the office. Hiruzen suddenly realized something and said, "Fujin, take the Anbu Guards with you. Hand over the Root ninjas you captured to them."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright."

The Anbu Guards followed him out. As the group began walking out of the building, Homura said, "Fujin, I can understand that you were angry due to the situation, but refrain from threatening other council members in the future. It won't do you or the council any good."

Homura still remembered how brazenly Fujin had threatened Koharu. While he spoke, his tone wasn't overbearing. He spoke as if he was an elder trying to pass wisdom to the young. Hence, no one tried refuting him on the spot.

Fujin nodded and said, "Sorry about that. I was just making a point. Besides, if I really intended to do something like that, I would have just done it. Why would I speak about it and draw suspicions?"

Once again, Fujin's words caught everyone's attention. The two elders and the clan leaders all stared at Fujin. They were forced to reevaluate him once again. Sweat appeared on Homura and Koharu's faces. Fujin's words implied that they need to be more worried about him when he doesn't speak instead of otherwise.

In a way, that was a far greater threat than what he had said in Hiruzen's office. Another way of looking at his words was that if something actually happened to Koharu, he shouldn't be considered a suspect because he wouldn't do something so stupid. It removed all responsibility from him while increasing the threat to Koharu several times.

Before anyone could say anything, Fujin said, "Anyway, it's been a long day and a bloody night. I'll take my leave for now. Stay safe. If the attacker is still in the village, then he might target others as well."

Without waiting for anyone's reply, he flickered out of the building. The Anbu Guards followed him to his house.

Koharu cursed under her breath, "This brat..."

Senju Hiromasa chuckled and said, "The boy is still too young. Don't take his words to heart."

Shikaku agreed and said, "I haven't seen him act like this before. I guess Danzo's actions truly infuriated him this time. Not only did he leave Root unguarded, but he also sent someone with such a dangerous ability to spy on him."

Inoichi added, "Still, his ability to control his emotions is truly unbelievable. At 15, I would have exploded in rage if someone had done that against me in the village."

Shikaku nodded and said, "Yeah. No doubts there. He handled this situation very maturely. Anyway, we can't rest easy in this situation. What Fujin and Danzo said is true. If someone can destroy the Root headquarters in one attack, then our clans aren't safe..."

The attack was truly fierce. Thankfully, there were several protocols in place in Konoha to deal with such situations. While Fujin handed over the unconscious Root ninjas to the Anbu Guards, the clan leaders and the elders immediately got into action and began increasing the defense of the village. None of them wanted for such an attack to fall on their families.

Meanwhile, Hiruzen and Danzo stared at each other in Hiruzen's office. The situation was as tense as before even though no words were exchanged. Seeing that Danzo wasn't explaining himself, Hiruzen sighed and asked in a tired voice, "Why did you do that?"

Danzo said, "Hiruzen, I haven't done anything."

Hiruzen sighed again and said, "What's the point in lying to me? Just tell me the truth and your reason. Otherwise, I'm afraid that the Root will be finished for good today."

Hiruzen could sense the intentions of every clan leader. Now that they had received an opportunity, he knew that none of them intended to let go. In truth, he knew that they were looking for such an opportunity for a long time. But with Hiruzen and Danzo at the helm, they never received such an opportunity. Now that Fujin had provided them with one, they wouldn't rest until Root no longer existed or was heavily restricted.

Danzo could see that as well. He said, "The boy is very suspicious. I only sent them to keep an eye on him. I am not sure why they attacked him or even if they attacked him."

Hiruzen raised an eyebrow. He asked, "What do you mean by suspicious?"

Danzo said, "I don't have anything concrete about him but my instincts say that something about him is horribly wrong. He was missing from the village for quite some time. And from the day he returned, the attack on Root ninjas began. Even earlier, the two Root ninjas who left the village around the same time as him disappeared as well."

Leaving these two incidents, there is a lot about him that is suspicious. Why has he inscribed so many seals on his house? It's almost as if he doesn't want anyone entering his house. When you proposed including him in the council, I had a couple of ninjas check on him. However, he shares the same carefulness even while he is training, not allowing anyone to look at him. It shows that he is extremely careful for some reason even when he is inside the village. It is not something that an innocent person would do.

Besides, his power has increased too suddenly. A 15-year-old boy being this strong is suspicious in itself. Not to mention, Fujin becoming a Grandmaster in Fuinjutsu out of nowhere is even more suspicious. His rapid improvement raises a lot of questions about him."

Hiruzen heard Danzo. Unknowingly, a look of disappointment appeared on Hiruzen's face. He couldn't even hide it. He couldn't help but think, 'Have you fallen this low, old friend? Shisui was innocent, but his power was indeed a threat to the village if his nature changed in the future. But Fujin doesn't have any such power. Will you suspect every talented ninja that appears in the village no matter how loyal they are?'

The things that Danzo mentioned to be suspicious weren't suspicious at all for Hiruzen. Fujin didn't stop Hiruzen from spying on him when he trained. Though the seals on Fujin's house could be seen with suspicion, Hiruzen knew that it was just Fujin's nature. If he truly intended to do something, he wouldn't have put so many seals in an obvious manner. As for Fuinjutsu, Hiruzen knew that Fujin had spammed Shadow Clones to be able to learn it quickly. He hadn't become a Grandmaster out of nowhere.

Similarly, his strength had also increased step by step. Thanks to Renjiro's reports, Hiruzen's crystal ball and the fact that Fujin regularly asked Hiruzen's help, Hiruzen could see how natural his progress was. The only differentiating factor was how much Fujin trained without taking a break.

If Hiruzen began suspecting someone just for training hard, then every capable ninja in the village including Hiruzen and Danzo themselves should be suspected as well. As such, all Hiruzen saw was that Danzo was being delusional.

Danzo didn't miss the look of disappointment on Hiruzen's face. He asked, "Why are you looking at me like that, Hiruzen?"

Hiruzen said, "I am disappointed in you, Danzo."

Danzo displayed some anger and asked, "Do you want to say that my instincts are wrong?"

Hiruzen replied, "It doesn't matter what your instincts say. You are way out of line with your behavior. There is nothing suspicious about Fujin. You only showed interest in him once he became very strong."

Hiruzen's expression hardened as he said, "Fujin's and Shikaku's words are true. From today onwards, I can't allow Root to operate inside the village."

Danzo's eyes widened on hearing that. He never expected Hiruzen to say something like that. His expression became grim. He was angry for real. He asked in a grim tone, "What are you implying?"

Hiruzen said, "If I let you continue doing what you are right now, it is inevitable that you'll try to eliminate him the same way you tried killing Shisui. If you hadn't meddled back then, then perhaps the Uchiha clan would still be in the village and things might have taken a turn for the better."

I can't change what has already happened. However, if you display even a bit of intention of harming Fujin or any other ninja in the village..."

Hiruzen's expression became extremely serious as he stared into Danzo's eye. He said, "Then I won't show you the same mercy that I showed Orochimaru!"

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 518: Root's Fate

Danzo's expression became even more grim on hearing Hiruzen's words. He had known Hiruzen for too long and knew that he wasn't bluffing. While Danzo wasn't a weakling and wouldn't be afraid if Fujin or even some other Kages said it, it was different with Hiruzen. He knew that even with Shisui's eye, Hashirama's cells and Izanagi, he wouldn't stand much chance against Hiruzen.

He asked, "You will kill someone who has worked with you for over 6 decades, given everything to the village including my limbs just because that boy accused me of something that I didn't do?"

Danzo knew Hiruzen had a soft spot for him and the other two elders. The four of them truly had been through thick and thin together. Even though Danzo did many things that opposed Hiruzen directly or indirectly, this was the first time Hiruzen had threatened him in this manner.

Hiruzen didn't back off and replied, "I wouldn't have a choice. Fujin isn't Shisui or Itachi. Both of them matured too quickly because of the Uchiha Coup. When you attacked Shisui, both he and Itachi thought about the village and didn't retaliate as the Uchiha clan will get a reason for officially launching a coup. Shisui chose to take his life while Itachi kept his mouth shut. As a result, you didn't face any consequences for your actions.

Even though Fujin is mature for his age as well, he hasn't gone through something similar. If you attack, he won't see any reason to not retaliate and start a huge fight. A fight that will alert everyone. Once it is out in the open, I won't have a choice but to kill you.

Even if you kill Fujin without giving him a chance to retaliate, your actions would show that you'll target every new rank S ninja that appears in Konoha irrespective of how loyal he or she is to the village. As Fujin said, your past contributions mean nothing if your current actions actively harm the village. Konoha will be better off without you if you fall that low."

He took a pause before continuing, "I forgave your previous actions because I hoped that you did what you did believing that it was for the good of the village. However, your actions have long stopped being for the good of the village, Danzo. If you were to continue down this path, then I would forget our friendship and comradery and kill you with my own hands."

Hiruzen's tone was extremely serious. It was the same when he disbanded Root after the Uchiha Massacre. Danzo understood that he wouldn't be able to change Hiruzen's mind. Fortunately, he had a few more cards.

He asked, "What about the Root Laboratory? Will you be bringing it to the open? You know very well what consequences it will have if what happens inside gets leaked to the public."

Hiruzen thought for a few seconds and asked, "Do you still want to continue experimenting?"

As he said, Hiruzen's eyes lingered on Danzo's bandaged arm. Danzo replied, "There is no one else in the village who could handle that."

Hiruzen replied, "Alright. You can keep control over the laboratories. The Root headquarters won't be rebuilt as the laboratories weren't harmed. The top 3 floors will be just cleared out. You only need 5 Root ninjas to work in the labs. I'll let you choose 5 more Root ninjas to act as your guards. These 10 ninjas are all you would have under your control.

Your remaining Root ninjas, including the ones teaching the rescued kids and the ones undercover in Fire Capital, will be inducted into the Anbu. The rescued kids will be taken away from Root as well. I'll make arrangements for them and integrate them into the village.

From now onwards, you don't have the authority to spy on or take action against anyone inside Konoha. Nor do you have any authority to order anyone around. Your subordinates won't keep an eye on Naruto either.

In addition, I'll be taking away your vote in the Council. Your only authority will be within the Root Laboratories where others won't be allowed to disturb you. If you were to break any of these rules, then I'll take away the laboratory as well as the remaining 10 Root ninjas."

Danzo's eyes widened at how thorough Hiruzen was this time. With so few subordinates, he truly didn't have any room to maneuver. He had added plenty of restrictions on Danzo on top of it. And, by taking away the kids, Hiruzen had cut off Root's future. However, the biggest blow was taking away his vote in the Council. Without having an influence in the Council, reviving Root would be a herculean task!

He immediately said, "I am an Elder in the village. Do you want to throw me out of the Council after all I have done?"

Hiruzen replied, "It's the cost you have to pay for keeping the Laboratories and 10 Root ninjas. If you want, you can keep your vote on the Council, but you won't have any more rights than what Homura and Koharu have. Choose what you want."

Danzo immediately said, "I am not looking over the labs for myself. It's for the benefit of the village. Hiruzen, if the experiments in the labs get leaked out, then it won't just be my reputation that will be ruined. You won't be able to keep your seat as the Hokage either."



Hiruzen nodded and said, "That's true. Go ahead and leak the information if you want. I'll just give up on the Hokage seat and appoint the Fifth Hokage."

Danzo was surprised by how calmly Hiruzen had responded. He understood that while Hiruzen would lose the Hokage seat, he would also lose everything he had. In the future, it would be impossible for him to have any influence whatsoever in Konoha! While Hiruzen might be alright with not being the Hokage, he wasn't fine with losing what little influence he still had.

Danzo didn't say anything. It went without saying that he didn't want mutual destruction and that he valued the labs and 10 subordinates far more than a mere vote. Seeing him silent, Hiruzen said, "I thought as much. Considering your contributions, you will be invited to important council meetings. However, you will no longer have a vote in any matter."

Seeing that he had no way of negotiating further, Danzo said, "The village will always require the Root. There will come a day when you regret this decision, Hiruzen."

He turned around and began walking out. Before he could open the door, Hiruzen said, "Danzo, the culprit has still not been found. They might still try to attack the Root. Stay on guard. If a Jinchuriki is involved, then the attack might not be restricted to just Lightning. They can supercharge any jutsu with their massive chakra. As for the ninjas who spied on Fujin, I'll question them in some time. We will have a council meeting at 9 today. Come see me before then."

Danzo turned around and looked at Hiruzen once, before leaving his office without speaking a word. On this day, Danzo had lost a lot. And unlike the Uchiha incident, he didn't think that he had committed any fault. Things just spiral out of control somehow. He was in no mood to discuss anything else with Hiruzen.

As he left the office, his expression became very ugly. He thought, 'Such a terrible day. Of course, I'll be prepared for an attack. Those bastards! I hope they attack once again. This time, I'll catch and kill them myself even if I have to sacrifice a few eyes! I haven't even done anything recently to attract such hatred.'

Also, I need to find out what happened with Torune. Why did he attack Fujin and expose his skills? As long as he hadn't used his ability, I could have said that Fujin was making things up. But by mentioning that ability, Fujin made his words sound too convincing.'

As he thought of Fujin, Danzo's mood worsened. He thought, 'The odd feeling I am getting about this boy has gotten even worse. I never expected him to do something like this. He gave the clans an opportunity that they had been looking for decades! Unfortunately, Hiruzen completely trusts him. I can't do anything to him in the near future. Otherwise, Hiruzen might truly carry out his threat.'

With nothing else to do, Danzo left to see what was left of his base. He would be spending a considerable amount of time adding more seals to the Root Laboratories to ensure that they could withstand a destructive jutsu if the Root was attacked once again.

Back in the Hokage's office, Hiruzen let out a sigh. Unlike all the times he acted, he truly was tired. The Root was attacked twice in two days inside Konoha and they still hadn't found any culprit. On the other hand, Danzo was returning back to acting however he wanted. Both incidents gave headaches to Hiruzen.

He thought, 'Danzo, I truly hope you don't do anything outrageous once again. I would hate having to kill you myself. Sigh, age hasn't been kind to me. I can't continue as a Hokage for long in this way. I can no longer take decisions as ruthlessly as I once did.'

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

#### Chapter 519: Hiruzen's Exhaustion

Hiruzen had carried the responsibilities of the Hokage position right from the end of the First Great Ninja War to the end of the Third Great Ninja War. The era during which he led the village was far more turbulent as compared to the relatively peaceful time Konoha currently enjoyed.

Unlike today, when Suna was weak, Kiri was embroiled in a civil war and Onoki had grown old and wary, Hiruzen had to deal with the neverending schemes of the powerful Third Raikage, a young and more active Onoki, the cunning Third Mizukage and a Sunagakure that was much stronger with several rank S ninjas and promising youngsters among their ranks, all of whom eyed the Land of Fire like hungry wolves. In addition, he also had to watch out for the powerful Hanzo who led the Land of Rain.

Though he hadn't been perfect, he had led the village admirably and had ensured that Konoha stayed strong throughout despite being surrounded by enemies on all sides. He had done his duty of passing the Will of Fire to the next generation by passing the hat to Minato. When he had retired, Konoha had 7 rank S ninjas in Hiruzen, Danzo, Minato, the three Sannins and Uchiha Fugaku along with a matured Jinchuriki and a powerful group of veteran Jounins who had survived through two Great Ninja Wars.

Unfortunately, the Nine Tails' assault caused the death of Minato and Kushina and eliminated the majority of the veteran Jounins in Konoha, directly pushing Konoha from being the strongest village to a vulnerable one. Hiruzen didn't want to let the two people who competed with Minato for the Fourth Hokage's seat become the Hokage as Orochimaru grew increasingly dark while Fugaku was suspected to be behind the Nine Tails attack.

As a result, Hiruzen had to take the Hokage seat once again. Unfortunately for him, the conditions were far worse than merely the village being vulnerable due to the losses. The powerful Uchiha clan had to be treated with suspicion due to the Nine Tails Assault. Danzo's dreams of becoming the Hokage reignited with Minato out of the way and Jiraiya and Tsunade showing no interest in the position. He created more and more problems for Hiruzen which he failed to curb in time. And, Orochimaru became increasingly dark to a point where he was considered beyond saving and Hiruzen had to exile him.

Hiruzen's second stint as the Hokage was a mere shadow of what he had achieved during his initial reign. Being as smart and experienced as he was, he could see it clearly. Unfortunately, he hadn't been able to handle the matters as efficiently as he could when he was younger. In his old age, he had been reluctant to be as decisive as he once was.

Even after Minato's death, Hiruzen had done well in keeping Konoha's enemies at bay. Apart from the Hizashi incident, Konoha didn't suffer any significant loss at the hands of enemy villages. Of course, the weak situations of the other villages were a big help. However, when it came to internal politics, Hiruzen had performed miserably during this time.

Every time it felt like the village would stabilize after a lot of effort, the village would be hit by something that would set it back several years. And that 'something' would always be an internal issue in Konoha which he should have handled long before it reached such a level.

It was what exhausted Hiruzen to the point that he became tired of the job. And yet, he had no choice but to continue sitting on the post as no one who was qualified was willing to accept the responsibilities of the Hokage seat.

Hiruzen couldn't continue sitting in his office for a long time. After feeling pity for himself for some time, he got up and began dispatching the Anbu ninjas to cooperate with what Shikaku and the other clan leaders were doing. In addition, he left to see Torune and the other four Root ninjas who were with his Anbu Guards.

The Anbu Guards had woken the five of them up. Fujin's clones had only knocked them unconscious while placing seals on them. It wasn't difficult to heal and wake them up. On seeing Hiruzen, they all became serious. Hiruzen asked some questions which they answered truthfully.

On hearing them, a peculiar expression appeared on Hiruzen's face. He thought, 'That's it? Are they hiding something or is this all that happened?'

Hiruzen thought for a bit and concluded, 'I doubt they will lie to me. Besides, they were indeed spying on Fujin. Considering Fujin's nature, things might have developed in this manner. Regardless, I should call him tomorrow as well in case there are some differences. Hmm, leave it, he and Danzo might break into a fight. I'll just confirm during the council meeting. Still...'

As Hiruzen heard what actually happened, he couldn't help but think how small the incident was. It was merely spying along with a small clash with no casualties and yet the incident had blown up spectacularly in Danzo's face. Hiruzen couldn't help but think, 'No wonder Danzo's expression showed that he was facing injustice. He has pulled stunts a hundred times worse than this on a regular basis for decades and didn't even face so much as a complaint, but this minor incident nearly cost him everything!'

Hiruzen couldn't help but find the situation funny. It was as if a serial killer who had killed his victims for decades and managed to stay safe from police had suddenly been apprehended because of an insignificant petty crime he committed!

Hiruzen left the Root ninjas with his Guards and began monitoring the efforts to look into the incident and investigate the village. Unfortunately, it became clear very soon that it would be another fruitless search. Hiruzen gave up on it once the Sun rose and called Danzo to meet the Root ninjas.

After learning what had actually happened, Danzo exploded in rage once again. He looked at Hiruzen and shouted, "If he hadn't insisted on stopping them, Torune wouldn't even have attacked him. Are you going to punish me because Fujin acted so willfully even when such a big attack had happened in the village?"

Danzo truly was infuriated. He had thought about what happened in Hiruzen's office all the time and kept feeling as if a grave injustice had happened against him. On learning what truly happened between the Root ninjas and Fujin, he couldn't keep his calm anymore.

The only reason why Torune and others were discovered was because Root was attacked! Similarly, the only reason they attacked was because Fujin was too stubborn to let them go. Considering that the Root headquarters was blown up, Danzo couldn't even fault them for wanting to return immediately. Yet, Fujin used this incident to make the situation miserable for him by giving everyone one-sided information. In fact, Torune didn't even intend to kill Fujin and would have neutralized the poison, but Fujin presented the matter as if Torune wanted to assassinate him!

Hiruzen had expected Danzo to explode in this manner. It was why he hadn't called Fujin. Besides, having known Fujin for so long, Hiruzen knew exactly what he would have said. After thinking for a bit, he decided to speak in the same tone.

Hiruzen said, "Well, it is a fact that you sent them to spy on Fujin, a Council Member. Just that alone makes your punishment justified, something that the clan leaders will press on. Even though Fujin ignored the situation, he wasn't wrong in asking them to come with him. He didn't attack first either. Attacking a Council member under these circumstances is nothing short of treason.

Besides, the attack took place inside of Konoha. I and several hundred ninjas were heading towards the Root within seconds. In such a situation, cooperating with Fujin should have been your only thought."

Hiruzen's words were a huge blow to Danzo, who became lost for words. He understood that Hiruzen wouldn't be budging no matter how well he argued. At the same time, he also understood that the clan leaders too wouldn't relent even if the matter was so small. He could do nothing but curse Fujin who blew up such an insignificant matter.

Danzo removed the seals on the bodies of Root ninjas and began walking out. The Root ninjas followed him in confusion as they wondered what Danzo meant by being punished.

As they left, Hiruzen said, "Danzo, you have till noon to inform me which ninjas you will be keeping. The rest need to visit me in my office."

Danzo looked at Hiruzen once but left without saying a word. Torune and the rest were confused. After they left the room, Torune asked, "Lord Danzo, what happened in the headquarters last night? Also, what did you mean by getting punished?"

Danzo didn't say anything until they reached the labs under Root. He informed the 5 of them what had happened. Torune and the other 4 were immediately shocked. One of them complained, "That's so unreasonable! We only attacked because he had surrounded us and drawn his swords. Why are you getting punished for it?"

Another one added, "Though this is injustice, we can take the blame and say that we did it independently and without your orders. That way, even though we will have to sacrifice ourselves, the Root will prosper."

Danzo replied, "It's useless. Hiruzen and the others won't relent even if you do something like that. They are only using this opportunity to take the Root out."

Danzo looked at his subordinates and said, "Even if I have to let some of you go, don't forget that you are a part of Root. Konoha will always need us to ensure that the village stays peaceful. In the future, the village will need us once again. At that time, I'll call you all back and we will reform Root once again!"

Danzo's image, which was already heavenly in their hearts, improved even further. Despite facing such injustice, he still wanted to serve the village. Since he only had a few hours, Danzo spent them increasing his influence on his subordinates further. He didn't want to let Hiruzen brainwash them like he did with his previous subordinates. Danzo had little to no chance of recruiting them once again.

Unfortunately, the kids kidnapped from the Land of Water were too far away. As such, Danzo didn't get an opportunity to brainwash them as well.

Sitting in his office, Hiruzen wondered, 'What should I do with those Kiri kids? They could have stayed hidden in the Root and wouldn't have raised any questions. But if I bring them in the open, there is a chance that their identity will be leaked. If that happens, Konoha's reputation will plummet hard.'

He thought for a while when he suddenly had an idea. He thought, 'Yeah, this might be the best way to deal with them.'

A mischievous smile appeared on Hiruzen's face. He looked at his guards and said, "Invite the Council Members for a meeting. Don't invite the civilian members."

## Naruto: The Wind Calamity

### Chapter 520: Sudden Responsibility

Within minutes, Fujin, the Clan Elders, Homura and Koharu arrived in the Council room. Hiruzen was already present there. Seeing that everyone had arrived, he said, "Since everyone is here, I will start the meeting. Today's meeting has two agendas."

In an instant, everyone was surprised. Danzo had still not arrived and yet Hiruzen said that everyone was present. They understood that one of the agendas was related to that.

Fujin wondered, 'A meeting without Danzo? Interesting... Now, the question is whether Hiruzen really did something or is it just an act and he'll let Danzo continue as usual after staying in the dark for some time?'

Hiruzen said, "First, about the attack on the Root Headquarters. Despite searching for several hours, none of us have found anyone remotely suspicious. Considering how strict the security was, I doubt anyone could have escaped from the village the normal way. So, I suspect that the attacker escaped using Reverse Summoning jutsu.

We still haven't ascertained how the culprit entered the village. For the near future, we will be maintaining the highest level of vigilance. The walls will be properly manned and the number of patrol units will be increased. The Anbu can't handle these duties without any help. So, I'll need every clan to contribute 2 Jounins, 7 Special Jounins and 21 Chunins to help in this matter. Let me know if anyone has any objections."

Hiruzen scanned around the room. No one complained. Except for Fujin, everyone had participated in the search. They all knew that it was completely pointless. It was as if the attacker had disappeared in thin air. They had reached the same conclusion as Hiruzen as well.

Since no one opposed it, Hiruzen said, "Good. Of course, we can't give up on finding and apprehending the culprit. The internal searches will continue for a week. In addition, I will be activating our spies in enemy villages. They might be our best way to understand whether any enemy is making preparations to make a big move against us. If someone is, then it'll be safe to assume that these attacks were a distraction to keep us occupied internally while they make their real move."

Everyone nodded. It was the only way they had to keep investigating the matter. If there were no such movements, then it could only be assumed that someone was acting against Danzo or the Root to fulfill a personal vendetta!

Hiruzen continued, "Now, on to Elder Danzo's matter."

Hiruzen took a pause before continuing, "In light of recent events, Danzo's ability to lead Root has come under question. Despite repeated attacks on Root and even an attack on their headquarters, he didn't manage to find who the attacker was. Not to mention, our village lost 20 capable ninjas.

I investigated the matter between Fujin and Root ninjas as well."

He looked at Fujin and said, "Fujin, though the Root ninjas were at fault for attacking you, I hope that you understand that it only happened due to the extraordinary circumstances. Elder Danzo didn't order them to attack you. If not for the fact that the Root headquarters had been blown up, they wouldn't have acted in such a manner. I hope you can forgive them."

Hiruzen's words immediately made Fujin fall into a tough spot. Fujin knew that the matter was too small to force Hiruzen to punish them. However, he had finally caught Danzo in a tight spot taking advantage of the fact that the Clan Leaders had too many grievances towards him. He didn't want to stop applying pressure. If Hiruzen planned on going easy on Danzo, then Fujin wouldn't back down just because he and Hiruzen had a good relationship. However, directly declining Hiruzen in front of everyone wouldn't look good either.

After thinking for a bit, Fujin replied, "As long as everyone is judged fairly, I won't hold a grudge."

Fujin's answer intrigued everyone in the room. Tsume looked at him and thought, 'What a diplomatic answer... He agreed to forgive them but only under the circumstances that Hokage punished them appropriately. If he feels like they aren't punished enough, he can raise this matter once again! It ensures that we can continue supporting him in this matter.'

Even Hiruzen was surprised by Fujin's answer. He thought, 'Looks like this incident really offended him. Though he relented, that's on the condition that I don't betray his trust. Sigh, this boy is getting increasingly difficult to deal with. Had it been Kakashi, he would have directly agreed.'



Fortunately, Hiruzen had decided to take action. Otherwise, he would have to deal with headaches from Fujin as well.

Hiruzen nodded and said, "That's fair. Due to the recent events, I have decided to strip Root of its powers. From now onwards, Root won't have any authority to order or even spy on anyone. Most of the Root ninjas will be inducted into the Anbu.

Only 10 Root ninjas will remain under Danzo's command. They will be responsible for maintaining what's left of the Root headquarters. That will be the only place where Root will hold the highest authority and will be a forbidden place for the remaining ninjas.

In exchange for keeping this authority, Danzo will be giving up his vote in the Council. He will still be invited to the council while discussing important matters but he will no longer be able to cast his vote."

Everyone's eyes widened. Even Fujin didn't imagine that Danzo would have to give up this power. He thought, 'Looks like the bottom floors have the laboratories. That is why Danzo wants to keep it even at the cost of losing his vote.'

Koharu immediately said, "Hiruzen, Danzo has contributed a lot to the village. Stripping his vote wouldn't look good."

Hiruzen replied, "It was his choice. Besides, my decision is final. Fujin, are you satisfied with this?"

The results were already better than what Fujin was hoping for. Though Danzo still had a few subordinates, it was impractical to expect him to lose every subordinate. He nodded and said, "Yes. Thank you for being fair."

The clan leaders were happy as well. While Danzo's interference had stopped after the Uchiha Massacre, he had started getting more active in recent times. With this decision, he won't be able to interfere with their clans in any way. If he did, then they could raise the issue just like Fujin did. Since a precedent had been created, Hiruzen would have no choice but to act again. Hence, none of them pushed Fujin to keep pursuing the matter.

Though Koharu and Homura weren't happy, neither said anything as the two of them were outnumbered and wouldn't be able to change Hiruzen's mind.

Hiruzen continued, "Good. There is another matter. Around a year ago, a certain disaster had happened which was witnessed by some Anbu ninjas who were returning from a mission. They managed to rescue 134 Orphans from the disaster.

Since they weren't from Konoha, I handed them to Danzo so that they could be trained and inducted into the Root once they became qualified. However, with the current developments, I'll be taking over them as well. Instead of joining the Root, they will directly join the Anbu once they become qualified enough.

Unfortunately, my hands are full and I can't keep my attention on them until then. Since they are orphans and hence would fall under civilian ninjas, I have decided that they will be placed under Fujin's care."

Hiruzen's words once again surprised everyone. Apart from Hiruzen, not a single person in the room knew that 134 kids were being trained in secret to join the Root. Of course, no one believed Hiruzen's bullshit story. Just the fact that they had been recruited into the Root by Danzo implied that every one of them was talented.

Fujin immediately connected the dots and thought, 'Around a year ago? Don't tell me these maniacs continued Renjiro's mission and kidnapped more kids from the Land of Water! Hiruzen had no choice but to give them to Root. The real identities of those kids can never be exposed!

No wonder Danzo suddenly became more active around a year ago. Those 134 kids meant that Root now had a future. That is why Danzo suddenly began bothering me. If he didn't have these kids, he would have stayed silent and in the dark like in the original story.

That said... Why does Hiruzen want to put this burden on me? I already have so little time to train. Now I have to watch over kids who were trained by Danzo and might want me dead? Besides, the clan leaders might truly see me as a threat now as I might have to take a share of their resources. Sigh, why can't I catch a break?'