

Calamity 521

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 521: Welcoming trouble with open arms

Fujin almost wanted to cry at how much workload he had. Unfortunately, the situation didn't allow him to even complain. He couldn't even ask why because Hiruzen had already given an appropriate reason.

Everyone was looking at Fujin. Until the day before, Fujin didn't have any subordinates, unlike the Clan Leaders. However, he had suddenly received an opportunity to create a force that would exceed every ninja clan in the village which couldn't get a seat in the council and might exceed even some of the ninja clans of the clan leaders sitting in the room. All wanted to see his reaction. To their surprise, his expression displayed some annoyance and unwillingness instead of happiness.

Thoughts moved at light speed in Fujin's brain. He quickly said, "Umm, I don't have any experience in watching over kids. Though I am an orphan myself, I was always busy training and never had the chance to interact much with others. Could you find someone more capable for the kids? They deserve better considering that they had to go through a disaster and then spend time in Root."

Before Hiruzen could reply, Shikaku said, "You are underestimating yourself, Fujin. Don't worry, we have full confidence in your abilities. As Lord Hokage said, there is no one better than you to handle this job. We believe that you will do it splendidly."

A smile could be seen on Shikaku's face as he thought, 'Finally a chance!'

Shikaku still hadn't forgotten how much work Fujin had put him through. Even after Fujin joined the council, he had avoided taking any responsibilities. Finally, he had a chance to take some revenge! Meanwhile, Fujin thought, 'When the hell did Hiruzen say that? Don't put words in his mouth!'

Unfortunately for Fujin, Hiruzen quickly followed up, "I agree with Shikaku. Don't worry. Just do your best. I believe that the kids will benefit from having a role model like you. Besides, I'll be making arrangements so that it isn't too much of a problem for you."

Seeing how much both of them were praising him, Fujin was lost for words.

The only way for Fujin to argue against Hiruzen and Shikaku would be to prove to the council that he was terrible and irresponsible. While Fujin didn't care what others thought of him, that went against the careful persona he had constructed and he doubted whether he could still escape the responsibility.

He could do nothing but curse the two of them. He looked at Hiruzen and Shikaku and thought, 'If I'm going down, I'm taking the two of you with me!'

He muttered, "Alright. If I face any troubles..."

Before Fujin could complete his sentence, Hiruzen cut him off and said, "If you are facing any troubles, or doubts or don't understand what you should do or how you should handle the kids, you can approach Elder Homura and Elder Koharu. Both of them are very experienced in this matter."

Fujin looked at Hiruzen and thought, 'This old fox! Is he taking revenge for me forcing him to act against Danzo? Oh well, bothering those two stuck-up old schemers isn't bad either.'

Fujin didn't particularly care who he was irritating as long as it wasn't he who would be irritated. Seeing that Fujin wasn't saying anything, Homura smiled and assured, "Don't worry Fujin. You can approach us whenever you want. We will help you out."

Though Koharu was still upset about the threat the previous day, she nodded as well. Hiruzen and Shikaku smirked in secret. Neither Homura nor Koharu knew what sort of trouble Hiruzen had diverted towards them.

Considering the situation, Fujin nodded and said, "Alright. I'll trouble the Elders. Thank you for looking out for me."

The remaining clan leaders watched the expression with a puzzled face. None of them understood why Shikaku vouched so strongly for Fujin. As for Hiruzen's words, they assumed that Hiruzen wanted to soothe the ties between Fujin and the Elders since Fujin had just gone against Danzo and threatened Koharu.

Hiruzen said, "With that out of the way, let us discuss the arrangements we will have to make in the village to avoid such incidents."

For the next couple of hours, the Council discussed what precautions they should take and how the ninjas should be distributed throughout the village to prevent such attacks in the future. Special attention was given to ensuring the safety of Clan Compounds as they would be susceptible to attacks like the one that happened on the Root headquarters.

Fujin didn't contribute much to the discussion and instead just watched while thinking, 'First they sent the culprit to find where the culprit was hiding and now they are discussing all their plans in front of the culprit as well... They are so lucky that I don't have any plans to keep attacking. Otherwise, Konoha will be a real mess...'

Fujin suddenly realized something. He thought, 'I never had thought much about this. If one strong person in the village is upset about the state of the village, he or she can do a lot of damage to the village. Had Sakumo taken the taunts personally or had Orochimaru hated the village as much as he does now, both could have caused ridiculous harm to the village while staying in the dark just like how I just did.'

If this can happen in Konoha, there is no reason to assume that it won't happen in Phantom Haven Society... I need to be careful about any differences that might arise inside the organization. Though it isn't a threat for now, it will be a threat once a few ambitious rank S ninjas are raised there.

Thankfully, I apply seals on everyone. That way, at least no one will turn on me. However, I need to ensure that every kid raised there believes in the Phantom Will fanatically. And, I need a way to deal with or accommodate anyone whose beliefs change as they grow older. Oh well, issues for later. I'll let the future me deal with it.'

The meeting ended after all the details were finalized. Hiruzen dismissed everyone other than Fujin. Once they were alone, he said, "Fujin, I'll need a fortnight to make arrangements for the kids and check them to ensure that there won't be any danger in the future."

Fujin understood that Hiruzen was referring to any possible brainwashing done by Danzo. He nodded. It wasn't something that he wanted to deal with and Hiruzen was undoubtedly the best person to counter that. Of course, that meant that those kids would be influenced by Hiruzen, but Fujin didn't mind that as Hiruzen had never displayed any hostility towards him. If anything, it felt like Hiruzen was taking this opportunity to give Fujin a greater power inside Konoha. With these events, his seat on the Council was more or less untouchable. Even if Danzo continued supporting Katsuhiko, it was hopeless.

Hiruzen said, "I also wanted to discuss with you about their living arrangements. Since you'll be the one looking after them, they will need to be close to you."

Fujin was immediately alarmed. He immediately said, "Grandpa, there is no way I can house 134 kids in my house. It isn't that big."

Hiruzen chuckled and said, "That's not what I was implying. I can offer you two choices. One, you can move into the Uchiha clan compound which is on the outskirts of the village."

Fujin replied, "That has a terrible past and probably not the best place to raise kids."

Hiruzen nodded and said, "I agree. But we don't have another large compound lying around. The other option is converting your current land into something similar to a clan compound."

When Fujin was looking for a house, he bought a rather large piece of land since it was cheap due to being on the outskirts of the village. His own house only occupied a small part of it.

Fujin thought for a bit and said, "Though I do have some land, it will only barely fit 134 kids. Not to mention, they will need a bigger house once they grow up. Also, it'll become very crowded."

Fujin had two thoughts while buying the larger piece of land. For one, Fujin didn't want the area around his house to be crowded by other houses. As someone who came from Earth, he knew how quickly a city would expand outwards and even the outskirts would soon become crowded with houses in a few years or decades. The other reason was having the ability to build more houses for others in case he decided to build a faction inside Konoha. Since he had dropped that plan, the place was just lying idle for several years.

Hiruzen nodded and said, "Yes. However, once the kids grow up, they would want to move out and buy their own house anyway. So, that's not a concern. Regardless, I will give you 4 plots of land adjacent to your land having a similar area. The village will also fund the construction of houses and a fence, though seals will be left to you.

As for the kids being a bother, I don't think you should be worried about that. If anything, your concerns must be the exact opposite considering their past."

Fujin thought for a bit and said, "Alright. That is acceptable."

He sighed and added, "Still, Grandpa... I am feeling short of time to train even after leaving Anbu. And now this responsibility..."

Hiruzen chuckled and said, "I have a feeling that this will be good for you. So see it as an opportunity instead of a chore. You might get some surprises."

Fujin thought, 'Yeah, it would have been great if I wanted to fight for the Hokage spot. I'm sure I could raise most of these kids to be Jounins and have their unwavering support. But I don't have much interest in it. So this will just be a chore... Still, this is a good opportunity.'

Fujin immediately asked, "Grandpa, do you know of any seals similar to the ones we use inside storage scrolls that can increase the flow of time instead of slowing it down?"

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Hiruzen was surprised by the question. He thought for a few seconds before answering, "Not that I know of. Why do you want such a seal?"

Fujin answered, "I could inscribe such seals in a room and use it to train at a much faster speed."

Hiruzen's eyes immediately widened as he understood what Fujin was thinking of. He couldn't help but think, 'From where did he get such a crazy idea? If such a seal exists, it will completely break the power balance in the world! A large number of Jounins and even a handful of rank S ninjas could be raised in a few years.'

In fact, this method could be the perfect way to raise the young kids we rescued. No one will be able to point any fingers as their ages won't match up. Unfortunately...'

Hiruzen said, "It's a good idea. Unfortunately, such a seal doesn't exist. Even if it did, you should be very careful of it. You wouldn't want to spend your entire youth in a room."

Though the idea was good, it was more effective for an organization like the Root. It wouldn't be very effective in raising a future Kage as they will lack qualities other than strength.

Fujin sighed and thought, 'I thought as much. Guess trying to reverse that seal is the only way. Of course, it's easier said than done. Fortunately, I don't need it desperately as I still have more than 4 years.'

If I had to forcefully create it, I guess my best bet would be to revive Tobirama and have him work on it. Unfortunately, I don't know Edo Tensei nor can I control him to do something like this...'

He said, "Alright, Grandpa. I'll continue training the same way."

Fujin got up to leave but before he could disappear, Hiruzen said, "Oh, I almost forgot to mention. Some of the kids have Kekkei Genkai. One of your tasks will be giving them some attention and guiding them. I want them to become Elite Jounins in the future. And, another task you'll have is ensuring that this stays a secret. Only clan leaders and Anbu can know of it, but you don't need to take the initiative to inform them."

Without waiting for Fujin's reply, Hiruzen disappeared from the room. Fujin cursed, 'This old fox, he keeps giving me more tasks! He even ran away before I could ask for anything in return...

Still, this isn't bad. I wanted to create a Kekkei Genkai with Wind and Lightning or Wind and Fire elements. In fact, that is my next goal after my current training is complete. Unfortunately, I never had any inspiration in this direction. Perhaps watching those kids might be helpful. I guess there is some benefit in watching over those kids...'

Fujin disappeared from the Council Room as well. He returned home and thought, 'Before I get that responsibility, I need to create the Eight Trigrams Divination Seal. I have been putting it off for a long time.'

Konoha became busy very quickly. The clan leaders were busy making arrangements to ensure that their clans didn't fall prey to such attacks. On the other hand, Hiruzen was increasing the security of the entire village and was activating the spies he had placed in other villages. At the same time, he sent a message

to Jiraiya, informing him about the recent events and asking him to dig out information on anyone who could launch such a strong Lightning jutsu.

Meanwhile, Danzo was busy increasing his influence on the Root ninjas he was planning to let go of. He wanted to ensure that he could recruit them back as soon as he got an opportunity and didn't lose them forever like the previous Root ninjas who joined the Anbu.

At noon, the Root ninjas left the labs and met with Hiruzen leaving the Root officially. From this day onwards, Danzo would have only 10 subordinates. Or rather 11, since Hiruzen wasn't aware that one of his Anbu reported to Danzo.

While everyone was busy and tense, Fujin was in his basement, working with a hundred clones to create the Eight Trigrams Divination Seal by placing two Four Symbols Seals on top of each other. Since he knew the basic idea, it wasn't very difficult. He just had to get it right once.

A couple of days later, a couple of Anbu appeared at Fujin's house and informed him about the development plan to develop his land and the nearby plots.

Fujin checked it once and was slightly surprised. He thought, 'Hmm, not bad at all. It looks like Hiruzen wants to keep my house at the center and develop houses on the plots next to mine. The remaining area on my land will be used to construct a training facility for the kids and some space will be left for other community buildings that I might need in the future. He has also left a lot of land for future expansions... I wonder if he plans on diverting more kids here...

Oh well, once it is done, it would almost be like a clan compound. Though it'll be smaller than any clan compound. Not surprising considering that the clan compounds were built when each of the clans was at its peak. After three wars, their numbers have dropped a lot. So comparing with them wouldn't be fair.

Oh well, whatever. Let them work, I'll just set up the seals later on. I doubt anyone would dare mess with me once the seals are up.'

While not many were aware of it, the ones who were didn't need to think much about how many seals Fujin would inscribe in the territory under his control. It was one of the reasons why Hiruzen wanted to

put the 'rescued' kids under him. The chances of anyone spying on them and sending information to enemy villages were almost null. It made him the best option once Root was out of the picture.

The work around Fujin's house continued while he continued training unbothered. He focused more on creating the seal while training his body and working on Flying Thunder God jutsu on the side. The Wind Domain training was stopped for the time being. Around 8 days later, a smile appeared on Fujin's face as he received the memories of one of his clones. He muttered, "Eight Trigrams Divination Seal is learnt!"

Fujin thought, 'Now, I need to make a seal imprint and test this seal out on someone else before trying it myself. Sadly, the village is still tense. I won't be able to leave right now. Oh well, I can just continue training the other 3 techniques...

My Flying Thunder God's teleportation range is increasing rapidly. I can now teleport up to 50 meters away. Unfortunately, I still need to resist the pressure from the Void. Still, that is improving rapidly as well. I guess in around a month, Flying Thunder God jutsu can be considered as mastered.

Then I will only need to keep working on increasing its range. I have a feeling that even that will become easier once I pass a certain threshold. Otherwise, reaching Minato's level might take centuries. Oh well, issue for later. Time to train Wind Domain again. I haven't trained that ever since I left the village to meet Shigeki.'

Fujin left his house and entered the Training ground. As he had expected, he ran into Naruto who was training as well. On seeing Fujin, Naruto excitedly said, "Fujin! Are you finally done with your work?"

Fujin didn't want much distraction while he was working on the seal. So he had asked Naruto to not disturb him unless it was very important. Seeing Fujin finally leave his house, Naruto was a bit excited. Fujin nodded and said, "Done for now. Anyway, what's up with you? And why is your right wrist bandaged?"

Naruto laughed nervously and said, "There were several ninjas moving around the village for the last few days. I decided to prank them. Hehehe, you should have seen them panic. One of them got startled and accidentally hurt me."

A frown appeared on Fujin's face. While he didn't care that much for Naruto, he didn't want to see him getting bullied, especially by grown-up ninjas. The poor guy already had a rather miserable childhood. He asked, "Who did it? And how exactly did he hurt you?"

Seeing Fujin serious, Naruto immediately explained, "No no, it's fine. That person was wearing a mask, so I don't know who he was. He only appeared next to me suddenly and grabbed my hand very tightly. But when he saw me, he quickly apologized and took me to the hospital to heal me. He also paid all the expenses and just told me to not do that again."

A weird expression appeared on Naruto's face as he said, "Actually, he was very polite and apologized several times and ensured that I was fine. I don't think anyone has been that polite with me. But he didn't tell me what his name was."

Fujin was slightly surprised. He thought, 'I see. I guess Naruto just startled them. Since they were tense, they assumed it to be one of the culprits and took action rapidly. Anyway, being able to startle Anbu is good. It looks like Naruto has made some progress recently.'

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Fujin said, "Alright. Next time, don't prank a ninja when he is very busy. It's fine to prank the ones idling around though. Anyway, how many of those masked ninjas were there?"

Naruto said, "There were 8."

Fujin chuckled and said, "Being able to prank 2 squads of Anbu. Hehe, that's good progress."

Naruto asked in a confused tone, "Anbu?"

Fujin replied, "They are the ones wearing the mask. Don't prank them in the future. Their jobs are quite tense and they might not hold back."

As someone whose killing instincts were honed during his time in the Anbu, Fujin was well aware of how cold and quick Anbu could be. Pranking them was generally not a good idea.

Naruto obediently said, "Alright. I won't prank them."

He looked towards Fujin's house with some interest and asked, "What is happening with your house? Are you making it even bigger?"

Fujin chuckled and said, "Lord Hokage wants me to look after some orphan students. They'll be moving over once everything is constructed."

Suddenly, Fujin had an idea. He smiled and said, "Once they do, maybe you could make several friends."

Fujin chuckled internally while thinking, 'Root's training makes a ninja very antisocial and a bit robotic. While Hiruzen's brainwashing should have some influence, I doubt it'll compare to what Naruto can achieve. This guy literally talked Nagato into reviving the ones he killed...

Besides, I can encourage Naruto to teach them how to prank. Hehehe. I'll have an army of minions to unleash on the village. I wonder what an army of talented brats trained by Root and influenced by Naruto will do to the village.'

While Fujin was scheming to unleash a different type of hell on Konoha, Naruto was lost in his own thoughts. Involuntarily, he asked, "I am an orphan too. Can I move here as well?"

Fujin was caught off guard by the question. A look of surprise appeared on his face as he muttered, "You want to move in here?"

Naruto immediately answered, "Yes!"

Fujin thought, 'Now here's something I didn't think of...'

Fujin thought for a bit before concluding, 'There is no harm to it. As long as he gets along with them, it might create a good impact on him. The only issue is that he might pick up some of their jutsus. It might change his fighting style. But, as long as he doesn't learn and spam the Shadow Clone trick, his strength shouldn't differ by much.'

The only issue is the political ramifications it might have. Others might view it as me making a move on Konoha's only Jinchuriki. Sigh, my influence is increasing too rapidly. I don't have the energy to engage in internal politics any more than I already have to. That said, I just gave Danzo a bloody nose. I doubt anyone would want to mess with me so quickly. Oh well, I'll just go with the flow.'

Naruto asked again nervously, "Can I move here?"

Fujin replied with a smile, "I'm not sure how the kids who will move in will be. Why don't you make friends with them first? If you guys get along, I'll request Lord Hokage to allow you to move."

Naruto immediately bloomed into a smile. He jumped and said, "Alright. I'll befriend them, believe it!"

Fujin chuckled. He asked Naruto about the progress he made and the two began discussing it. After some time, Fujin began his training.

A month passed. Since the houses were being constructed, Hiruzen decided to keep the rescued kids in Anbu quarters for the time being. He also used the opportunity to interact with them regularly and instill the Will of Fire in them. Considering their high numbers, this was one of the extremely rare times that Hiruzen used Shadow Clones inside the village to do something that didn't involve combat.

The situation in the village calmed down with time. However, top-level combatants like Fujin, Kakashi and Guy were asked to stay in the village just in case something else happened.

In the 23rd Training Ground, Fujin was standing with his eyes closed. To a normal eye, it might look as if he was just standing there. However, if any sensor observed him, they would notice a tremendous amount of chakra being emitted from his body.

The chakra turned into wind and mixed in the surrounding air so naturally, that it wasn't even visible. However, the tremendous amount of chakra meant that even a normal human would sense something was wrong. The few birds that still dared to live in this training ground immediately began flying away.

Within seconds, the winds Fujin released completely encapsulated everything within 50 meters of Fujin. Fujin's eyes opened. In an instant, hundreds of deadly wind blades formed in the air and cut down every tree within that range! The rocks and hills were covered in deep cuts as well.

At the very next second, the winds began flowing circularly around Fujin with him as the center. Within a few seconds, a hurricane formed in the training ground as winds flew circularly at a very high speed.

Fujin raised his right hand as if his palm was controlling the entire hurricane. He flipped his hand and pushed it forward. At that very moment, the tip of the hurricane suddenly moved forward while its base stayed around Fujin. The tip slammed into one of the massive ramparts Fujin had constructed when he was practicing AoE Vacuum jutsus.

The high-speed winds began eroding the rampart, but the rampart wasn't damaged much. Suddenly, sharp wind blades began forming in the hurricane and every single one of them bombarded the rampart. Immediately, hundreds of deep cuts began appearing in the rampart every second. Within half a minute, the hurricane drilled through the rampart, leaving a large hole at its center!

Fujin clenched his right palm before suddenly stretching all his fingers! At that very moment, the hurricane that had drilled through the rampart suddenly transformed into small wind blades and bombarded the land between the four ramparts. Thousands of small cuts appeared on the ground.

A smile appeared on Fujin's face after seeing the destruction. Very few ninjas would be able to defend against such an attack. Of course, it did have the drawback of needing a very high amount of chakra. It used up half of the chakra that he had emitted in the air. But considering the devastation, Fujin felt that it was appropriate.

He moved both his hands forward as if he was grabbing something. Immediately, 8 Ghostly Palms made of wind appeared around him. Under Fujin's control, the Ghost Palms swept away the debris within the Wind Domain and sent them flying in all directions. Soon after, they transformed into small wind blades as well before dissipating into the air.

Fujin tried a few more things until he was satisfied. A grin appeared on his face as he thought, 'Wind Domain is finally good enough to be used against rank S ninjas. However, there are still a couple of flaws I need to look out for and one improvement I still need to make.'

If I go up against someone who can absorb chakra like Kisame or Pain, then I'll just be gifting them my chakra. The only way to avoid it is by turning my chakra completely into Wind blades. But, no matter how efficient I am, some chakra always gets left even in the Wind blades. Otherwise, the Wind Blades just collapse.

Forming an attack purely of wind without any chakra involved is almost impossible. The only way I can think of is to improve my physique to such a level that I can replicate Guy's air punches that he used against Madara with my sword. Something similar to what Swordsmen in One Piece did.

That said, if my Physique reaches such a level, why would I need to depend on Wind Domain? I can just pummel them to death. I guess the only way to properly counter this would be learning Senjutsu. That will make absorbing it a folly. Until then, I will just have to rely on teleporting Samehada or the chakra-absorbing Pain away. Of course, that is if I have to engage in a life-and-death battle with them. Otherwise, I can just run away.

The other flaw is the amount of chakra the Wind Domain needs. I had to pour half my chakra into creating the Wind Domain just now. In a battle, I should limit myself to 10%. I can increase it depending on the battle situation.

As for the improvement, I still haven't been able to create Vacuum cores inside the Wind Domain. Luckily, the current destruction is pretty good already. I can leave this matter for later.'

Fujin stretched his body for a bit before deciding, 'I will pause the Wind Domain training for a long time now. And, I still can't leave the village. I guess it's time to ask Hiruzen's help again. While I didn't need a reason, considering the huge responsibility he has put on my shoulders, he can't refuse, hehe.'

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Chapter 524: Fire and Earth Combat Systems

Without wasting any time, Fujin flickered towards Hokage's building and entered his office. Surprisingly, Hiruzen wasn't in his office and Fujin instead saw Takao arranging some files. Takao greeted Fujin and asked, "It's been a while, Fujin. Are you here to see Lord Hokage?"

Fujin nodded and asked, "Yeah, where is he?"

Takao answered, "He went to the Anbu Headquarters for some work. He..."

Without waiting for him to be done speaking, Fujin nodded and said, "Alright, I'll find him there."

He immediately disappeared without waiting for Takao who continued his sentence "He will be back in a couple of hours..."

Unfortunately, he only spoke to the air. Takao cursed, 'Why do I even bother? He didn't even ask whether he could go or not and directly left!'

Fujin entered the Anbu Headquarters while thinking, 'Is he influencing those kids again? Well, whatever, that doesn't need much chakra.'

Finding Hiruzen wasn't difficult. As Fujin expected, he was drilling the Will of Fire into them. In the past month, most of Danzo's influence on them was already wiped out. Their belief in the Will of Fire even exceeded an average Konoha ninja's belief in it! By the time Hiruzen handed them over to him, Fujin had little doubt that those poor kids would believe in the Will of Fire fanatically!

A few Anbu noticed Fujin but didn't say anything as he regularly entered to meet with Eagle and was a former Anbu Captain. Hiruzen noticed him as well and suddenly had a bad feeling. He thought, 'Why does it feel like he is here to ask something from me again?'

Unknowingly, Hiruzen got a bit tense. He cursed Homura whose idea it was to arrange rewards for the top academy student in each year. It had caused him numerous headaches over the last few years. Thankfully, Hiruzen had stopped it. Unfortunately, it was already too late to do anything about Fujin for whom it had become normal.

Fujin waited for a couple of minutes for Hiruzen to be done with the kids he was talking to and flickered next to him. Hiruzen smiled and asked, "Good to see you, Fujin. Are you here to meet the kids as well?"

Fujin looked towards the kids standing close to Hiruzen and smiled. He answered, "I'll be seeing them for several years, Grandpa. It'll be better for them to enjoy your company right now. Anyway, I need your help."

Hiruzen complained internally, 'He didn't even pretend...'

He asked, "What's the matter?"

Fujin answered, "Well, it isn't anything bad, but it's a bit too complicated to explain here. Also, I don't want to distract you from meeting these kids. Can you send a Shadow Clone with me? Preferably with at least a third of your chakra."

Hiruzen looked at Fujin with a deadpan expression, but there was no change in Fujin's expression. Having already been helped by Hiruzen's clone several times, Fujin didn't even see a reason to say please. And having helped Fujin so many times, Hiruzen couldn't say no either especially if he didn't have a good reason. Helplessly, he created a Shadow Clone and sent it with Fujin.

Fujin and Hiruzen's clone reached the training ground. Surprise appeared on Hiruzen's Clone's face as he noticed the destruction. He thought, 'This doesn't look like the destruction he usually causes. I haven't checked on him for quite some time. Did that Wind technique he was working on improve so much? I should check up on him sometime later to monitor his progress.'

While Hiruzen's clone was observing, Fujin said, "Grandpa, I need your help in developing proper Fire and Earth combat systems."

Hiruzen's clone was a bit surprised. He asked, "You are working on improving Fire and Earth manipulation? What is the issue you are stuck on?"

Fujin answered, "I am not stuck on anything. I was thinking about developing these two natures in case Wind jutsus don't work against an enemy for some reason."

Currently, I have developed both of them to complement my Wind jutsus. Earth helps me in defense and gives me another direction to escape when I can't resist the attack while Fire is useful in making large-scale wind jutsus even more destructive.

However, if I use either of them independently, their power is very lacking. I wanted your help in developing these two natures to a level where I can use them independently in battle. I know that I won't be able to master them as much as my Wind manipulation, at least in the short term. But I would

still like them to be at a much higher level so that I won't be in a terrible situation in case my Wind jutsus don't work."

Hiruzen's clone thought about Fujin's words for a few seconds and felt that was reasonable. He himself believed in training in this manner. When it came to Ninjutsu, he had mastered all 5 elements along with Yin and Yang release, a slew of Secret Techniques that were prized possessions of the proud clans in Konoha and an array of Forbidden jutsus. Fujin wanting to take a similar route was a pleasant surprise to him.

He said, "That's a good decision. While improving one nature is good, you need to have a diverse skill set so that enemies can't make a plan against you like what Iwa did. What ideas do you have for developing Fire and Earth? Tell me the jutsus you decided to learn and I'll tell you if you could do better."

Without any change in his expression, Fujin replied, "I didn't think of anything. I directly came to find you after deciding."

For a moment, Hiruzen's clone was left speechless! He didn't know what to say. Due to his jutsu mastery, everyone called Hiruzen 'The Professor'. However, considering his position, very few approached him to ask for guidance. The few who did would only approach him when they encountered an issue in their training. It was like how Fujin approached Hiruzen several times before this incident to deal with a particular issue.

This was the first time anyone approached Hiruzen to ask for his help without making any efforts themselves! To make it worse, Fujin said as if it was the most natural thing in the world! It was as if he didn't see anything wrong or inappropriate in it.

Hiruzen's clone bitterly wondered, 'What exactly did I do to deserve this in my old age? Not only do I have to look after the village and maintain peace between clans while having to deal with Danzo's mess, but I also have to teach anyone who asks me for help? What if others decide to follow Fujin's example in the future? How many clones will I need to use all the time? When will those ungrateful students of mine return and allow this old man to retire?'

Unfortunately for him, no one was interested in hearing about his troubles. He could only be grateful for the fact that Fujin did not spread this news around and didn't tempt others to do the same. Otherwise, his peaceful days would truly be over.

Hiruzen's clone sighed and said, "Fujin, I have already said that in order to develop properly and grow stronger in the future, you need to work on such things yourself. It's fine if you face a problem and want my help, but you should work on it first yourself. Asking for my help should be when you are left with no choice."

Fujin nodded obediently. Unfortunately, his words were anything but obedient as he replied, "I know Grandpa. I have thought this through properly. I have no interest in developing Fire or Earth natures any further. After having spent so many years training Wind Manipulation, I have a feeling that I might be able to advance it far further than anyone else.

And doing that will require a lot of time, perhaps even decades. In the future, I'll be busy with it and I don't think I'll have any time left to develop Fire and Earth natures. So, I decided to skip the long process of developing the combat systems around them and directly ask for your help.

This way, I can train those two natures to a high level in a short time and then focus entirely on Wind nature. I could have thought of which jutsus to learn from the library, but I figured that it'd be best to directly ask you. That way, I won't take any wrong turns."

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Chapter 525: Learning from the Master!

As he spoke, a smile appeared on Fujin's face. His expression and words displayed that he had full confidence and trust in Hiruzen. While Hiruzen's clone thought of a few arguments, seeing Fujin's expression, he understood that no matter how he argued, he would eventually have to agree to train Fujin.

He sighed internally accepting his fate of performing another thankless task!

The reason why Hiruzen's clone relented so easily is that he understood that Fujin had a point. One ninja had limited time and energy. Mastering several elements to the extreme was an impossible task. Hiruzen, despite having trained for over 6 decades, wouldn't claim to be the best in every element.

He specialized more in Fire and Earth Release as compared to the other three elements. Even if a ninja learnt how to use all 5 elements, they would still gravitate towards one or two elements that they would master to the limit.

One good example of this was Kakashi. Kakashi was one of the few ninjas who could use all 5 elements. However, he specialized only in Lightning. In addition, he was very good at Water and Earth as well even though they weren't at the same level as his Lightning. But he only used 2 or 3 jutsus while using the Fire element and barely ever used any Wind jutsus.

In Hiruzen's eyes, Fujin's decision to rely on him to directly increase his Fire and Earth mastery to a high level was a smart decision. The only issue was that Fujin was asking him to put in the hard work! Had he bothered someone else, Hiruzen would have been as supportive as he could be!

Hiruzen's clone asked, "What can you do currently with Fire and Earth?"

Fujin answered, "For fire, my main attacking jutsu is the Searing Migraine jutsu which I use along with the Infinite Breakthrough jutsu to create a combination jutsu. I haven't used any other jutsu for a while even though I know Great Fireball, Fire Release: Five, Fireproof, and Fire Dragon Flame Bullet jutsus as well.

For Earth, my main focus is on defense and evasion. The jutsus I generally use are Earth Wall, Iron Skin, and Earth Instantaneous Body jutsus. In addition, I also know Rampart of Flowing Soil jutsu and can create camps."

Hiruzen's clone thought, 'Hmm, not bad. These jutsus complement Wind Release extremely well. It also gives him a good base to start with.'

He asked, "I know you didn't plan it, but do you have any specific ideas in mind or should I teach you what I think will be appropriate for you?"

Fujin thought for a bit and replied, "I haven't thought of anything particular in Fire. So I'll depend on you. As for Earth, I haven't thought of much either. The only thing that intrigued me was Tsuchikage's ability to fly by controlling or changing weights. If I can learn that, then it'll be very helpful."

The ability to fly at will was something Fujin wanted for a long time. While he could use Assassin's Rush jutsu to stay in the air for some time, it exhausted his chakra at a terrifying speed! If he could fly like Onoki, then very few ninjas would be able to resist his Wind or Fire-Wind combination jutsus.

Hiruzen's clone replied, "That is a very convenient jutsu. Unfortunately, no one except the Tsuchikage knows how to use that jutsu. I can't teach it to you."

Fujin was surprised. He asked in a confused tone, "We weren't able to copy his jutsu?"

The Uchiha clan was famous for copying jutsus with ease. And Konoha used to have hundreds of Sharingan-wielding Uchiha ninjas. In addition, there were a few ninjas who were at the peak of the ninja world in terms of their understanding of Ninjutsu. Tobirama, Hiruzen, and Orochimaru could all be considered as such. And, there were several other talented ninjas in Konoha's history who didn't gain as much fame as them or died prematurely.

So, Fujin expected that jutsu to have long been copied. He just guessed that no one was able to use it despite knowing it. After all, even in Iwa, only the three Tsuchikages were known to be able to use this jutsu.

Hiruzen's clone understood Fujin's thoughts and said, "We wanted to copy it, but we couldn't. The Tsuchikages don't use hand seals while using this jutsu, making it hard for someone with Sharingan to copy it. In addition, they disguise how their chakra flows as well. So all our attempts to copy the jutsu ended in failure."

Fujin sighed and said, "That's a shame. I guess I'll just go with whatever you recommend then, Grandpa."

Hiruzen's clone nodded. He began guiding Fujin, starting with the Fire Element. For the next week, Hiruzen kept sending a clone to guide Fujin.

For the first half of the week, Hiruzen had to send a clone with more than half his chakra as he had to demonstrate the jutsus to Fujin. He reduced it to a quarter for the latter half as Fujin was the one practicing more while he mostly monitored.

Regardless, this was the most time Hiruzen had invested in training a single ninja apart from his three students. Needless to say, the results of investing such time in Fujin were extremely good.

Merely within a week, Fujin's Fire and Earth elements had grown by leaps and bounds! While he still needed some more time to master the jutsus Hiruzen taught him, his Fire and Earth elements would end

up being superior to an ordinary Elite Jounin who specialized in either of those elements once he mastered them!

Of course, improving his skills in these two elements beyond that level would be difficult for Fujin as he was entirely reliant on Hiruzen for reaching this level. However, that wasn't an issue according to Fujin. After all, with his high Chakra reserves, he could just supercharge those jutsus far beyond what an Elite Jounin could do. Not to mention, Fujin was already a rank S ninja and had a very high mastery in Wind manipulation along with several deadly techniques.

Fujin continued his training the same way. The only difference was that he trained Fire and Earth jutsus instead of his Wind Domain. Konoha finally settled down as well. Danzo no longer created any problems for anyone and stayed within the Root headquarters. The clan leaders finally sighed in relief.

As for Katsuhiko, he lost Danzo's support as Danzo didn't see any point in getting him into the Council anymore as he couldn't use the Council to revive the Root. The only possible reason for Danzo to support Katsuhiko any longer was to create trouble for Fujin.

However, Danzo could see that kicking Fujin off the council was pretty much impossible. It was already very difficult as Fujin hadn't fallen for his trap and showed no signs of attempting to steal credit. Now, without Danzo himself being on the council, the difficulty rose several times.

As a result, Katsuhiko was on his own. Of course, he still believed himself to be a better option than Fujin and completed the proposal and reached Fujin's office. He entered the office and saw Yasushi and Haruma, who immediately recalled the bad memories related to him.

However, this time Katsuhiko restrained himself. Fujin's status in the past couple of months had undergone a massive change. While he still desired Fujin's seat, he no longer dared to openly offend him. He handed a few files and said, "This is the proposal. Hand it to Fujin and ask him to contact me as soon as he can."

Yasushi accepted the files and said, "We will get it to him as soon as we can, Katsuhiko-sama."

Katsuhiko nodded and left. Once he had gone a long distance away, Haruma chuckled and said, "He is no longer arrogant while talking to us. Last time he pressured us so much!"

Yasushi chuckled as well and said, "Of course. Fujin is a Grandmaster at Fuinjutsu and is probably a rank S ninja as well. I still recall his clones scouting through the village. Even though Katsuhiko is strong, he will no longer dare to show any hostility towards Fujin."

Haruma nodded and added, "Not to mention, he is already old, while Fujin is still in his teens. He will continue growing stronger. Anyway..."

A grin formed on his face as he asked, "How long do you think Fujin will make Katsuhiko wait this time?"

Yasushi glanced at Haruma. The two immediately broke into laughter. Ever since Fujin sent a Shadow Clone to meet Katsuhiko after making him wait for over a month and a half, it had become something that Yasushi and Haruma joked about frequently. If it wasn't for the fact that they were still a bit fearful of him, the two would have spread the news of their meeting all over the village!

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Chapter 526: Dressing Down!

Despite joking around, the two of them informed Fujin about Katsuhiko handing in the proposal in the evening along with some other reports. Fujin was slightly surprised. Over the last month, he was so engrossed in training that he nearly forgot about Katsuhiko. He said, "I'll look into it when I visit the office this Saturday. If he tries to pressure you two again, let me know."

Yasushi said, "We will."

He and Haruma quickly left. Fujin wondered, 'Why did he take so long to come up with a proposal?'

After thinking for a bit, Fujin concluded, 'I guess he was assigned to several missions during the chaos that followed after my attack on Root, preventing him from working on it. Oh well, whatever. I'll look into it later.'

Fujin put the matter out of his head and continued his training routine. With Danzo no longer in the council, Fujin didn't see Katsuhiko as much of a threat. Besides, the clan leaders owed Fujin a great favor for giving them an opportunity to deal with Danzo. Fujin doubted any of them would go against him due to such a matter. At most, they would reject the proposal. As long as he didn't push it too hard, no one would care much.

Regardless, he didn't intend to let Katsuhiko have an easy time. Katsuhiko would get a taste of bureaucracy that was from a whole different world!

On the next Saturday, Fujin sent a Shadow Clone to check out the proposal while handling other matters as well. Needless to say, he decided to handle Katsuhiko's proposal only after he was done with every other matter that had reached his office over the last couple of weeks.

Katsuhiko, who was waiting patiently at his house, frowned. He thought, 'Today is a Saturday. He didn't show up on the previous Saturday. So Fujin should have gone to the office today. But why hasn't he called me yet? Don't tell me he will make me wait for another month again!'

Anger flashed on Katsuhiko's face due to being repeatedly disrespected. It was soon followed by a helpless expression. With Fujin's recent fame and with Danzo no longer backing him, Katsuhiko was left without any options. In fact, he had begun questioning whether such a proposal would help him take Fujin's spot at all. Unfortunately, he had no option but to wait.

Fujin's clone only reached Katsuhiko's proposal very late in the evening. Yasushi and Haruma exchanged several glances as they understood that Fujin was purposefully doing so.

While reading the proposal, a surprised look appeared on the clone's face. He wondered, 'That's weird... Though the proposal is good, it has a few major flaws. Hmm, I can understand some of these flaws as this would put me against the clan leaders in a very aggressive manner.'

If Danzo is still supporting Katsuhiko, I can understand why he would want to do this. But, if Danzo was the one to make this proposal, there is no way he would leave such a big flaw... This proposal will be thrown out in a heartbeat.'

Fujin's clone continued reading as he said, "Send someone to call Katsuhiko here."

Yasushi immediately dispatched a messenger. Minutes later, Katsuhiko appeared in Fujin's office. He had nearly given up hoping that Fujin would call him that day. When he finally received the message, he hurried, afraid that Fujin might run away and leave him hanging if he delayed.

Of course, he didn't show those emotions on his face and maintained a stoic expression. He asked, "Did you go through the proposal?"

Fujin's clone nodded and replied, "I'm disappointed. I had better expectations from you."

His words surprised everyone in the room. Katsuhiko frowned and asked, "What do you mean?"

Fujin's clone replied, "If I present this proposal to the Council, they will throw it into the dustbin without even giving it a second thought. Why exactly were you so restless earlier if this was all you could come up with?"

Katsuhiko's frown deepened. He didn't expect a dressing down when he hurried to Fujin's office. Despite being busy with the missions, he had worked hard on that proposal. Of course, the most insulting thing was that the one dressing down him was only a 15-year-old boy!

He immediately retorted, "Fujin, don't forget that I am still your senior and not your subordinate. Don't think that you can send a clone to humiliate me."

Fujin's clone snorted and replied, "Humiliate you? What would I get by doing that? The next Council Meeting is in a week's time. If I present such a flawed proposal, then not only will it get thrown out, but it will also be much harder to pass it in the future. Were you genuine when you said that you wanted to help civilian ninjas or were you just looking for an opportunity to create trouble?"

The room became tense. No one expected Fujin to be so harsh. Katsuhiko wondered, 'What the hell? What is he talking about? The proposal was perfect. But why is he so confident that I messed up?'

He controlled himself and asked, "What exactly is the issue?"

Fujin's clone answered, "There are several issues. However, the biggest one is the location of the Guidance hall."

Katsuhiko immediately replied, "The location of the hall is right next to other important buildings in the village, like the Academy, the Hospital and the Hokage Building. That's the perfect location for the hall."

Fujin's clone shook his head and said, "In order to construct the hall where you want, you will need to buy several dozen shops that are already in that area. What are your plans for those shop owners? Will they give up this lucrative position and move just because you want to construct a hall there?"

Even if you force them to move, how much will the village need to spend to buy those properties? The council will just throw out this proposal considering how expensive it will be and how much unrest forcing them off their property would cause."

Katsuhiro immediately said, "Considering the benefits of the Guidance Hall, it's a sacrifice they need to be willing to make for the village."

Fujin's clone immediately refuted him, "The Guidance Hall can be made anywhere in the village. Why would they make the sacrifice just because you want the Guidance hall there?"

Fujin's clone placed the files on his desk and said, "Make changes to the proposal and choose a new place for the hall that won't impact the lives of other people. There are a few more issues in the proposal as well. I'll leave it to you to find out what they are and correct them."

Katsuhiro's expression became very ugly. He clenched his fists but unfortunately, he had very little power in this situation. With Danzo no longer backing him and Fujin's reputation already exceeding his, he could only control his anger. He took back the proposal and left.

Fujin's clone looked at Yasushi and Haruma and said, "Let me know when he brings in an updated proposal."

The clone disappeared in a puff of smoke. Yasushi and Haruma exchanged glances once again. After a few seconds of silence, Haruma said, "That was so cool! I am still feeling goosebumps due to what he did!"

Yasushi nodded and said, "Yeah, this was very exciting. Inoichi-sama was way too polite when compared to Fujin. Hehehe, his face was worth watching!"

Haruma laughed along with Yasushi and said, "That's what he deserves for putting us under so much pressure back then!"

While Haruma and Yasushi enjoyed the interaction, the same couldn't be said of Katsuhiko. He could barely contain his anger at being humiliated in such a manner by someone so junior to him! Unknown to Fujin, the way he dealt with Katsuhiko resulted in him getting a couple of fans!

Katsuhiko returned home and opened his proposal. The more he looked at it, the more he was reminded of Fujin's words. In anger, he punched the desk, breaking it into two and cursed, "Suzuki Fujin! I'll show you! Your seat will be mine soon! I'll create a proposal that the village would be forced to accept and then I'll take that seat on the council!"

Spirited, Katsuhiko spent all night thinking about how he could improve the proposal further. Unfortunately, he was assigned a rank S mission by Hiruzen that would keep him out of the village for a couple of months the very next morning!

Fujin didn't bother thinking about Katsuhiko and continued his training. A few days later, a wide grin could be seen on Fujin's face! He broke out into a burst of laughter. He had finally completed an extremely difficult task! A task that only two other ninjas were known to have achieved in the history of the ninja world!

After some time, Fujin stopped laughing and his expression became serious. At that very moment, he suddenly disappeared and appeared next to a pillar, with his hand on the Flying Thunder God mark on that pillar. He immediately disappeared and flashed next to three other pillars before disappearing again and again before finally stopping.

With joy on his face, Fujin muttered, "I have mastered the fucking Flying Thunder God jutsu! And just in time as well!"

While Fujin was joyful in his basement, another important event was happening in the village. Iruka looked at Naruto and said, "Naruto, perform the Clone jutsu!"

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Chapter 527: Perverted Old Man!

In his basement, Fujin analyzed, 'I can finally move quick enough through the void to not have to resist the pressure from the Void Dimension. However, I still need to improve the number of times I can teleport continuously.

Right now, I can do it only 4 times before needing to stop. However, Minato could probably teleport hundreds of times within a second. It's why he was called the Yellow Flash!

Another aspect I need to work on is teleporting others with me at the same speed. I need to resist the pressure if I take a Shadow Clone with me. Oh well, these aspects will improve as I practice more. It's not something I need to be worried about. For now, I should check on Naruto.

Today is his Graduation exam. The last time I met him, he still wasn't able to perform the Clone jutsu. That said, his Taijutsu has improved a lot thanks to sparring with my clones occasionally. And, he knows 4 Wind jutsus. I wonder if the academy will make an exception for him and let him pass...'

Fujin hoped that wasn't the case. Naruto would steal the Scroll of Seals after he failed. While Fujin seriously doubted that Hiruzen would let him take the real one, Fujin didn't want to give up that small chance in case Naruto really did perform a miracle. Besides, this was also the time that Naruto would be learning about Nine Tails.

Fujin created a Shadow Clone and sent him to keep an eye on Naruto after applying several stealth seals on him.

In the academy, Naruto weaved hand signs and shouted, "Clone jutsu!"

Immediately, two clones appeared next to him. Unfortunately, both were terrible and looked almost dead.

Iruka shook his head and said, "Naruto, you fail!"

Naruto's mood immediately became very depressed. At that moment, Mizuki said, "Iruka-sensei. This is his third time and he did manage to create two clones, even though they were a bit flawed. Besides, his performance in Taijutsu and remaining Ninjutsu was very good. Why don't we let him Graduate?"

Iruka refuted, "He only created two and both are terrible. He has to create three to pass. This is a basic requirement of the academy. I can't pass him."

Just like in the original story, Naruto failed to graduate. A depressed Naruto went back to his seat. He thought, 'Even after training so much and after Fujin helped me so much, I still failed! Fujin will be disappointed in me.'

Naruto was even more depressed than in the original story as this time someone had helped him. Fujin's clone appeared sometime later and noticed him sitting dejected while the other students were undergoing their tests. He thought, 'Looks like he still failed. Oh well, I guess I just need to wait.'

The clone kept hiding and witnessed the events play out. It had been over a decade since he transmigrated to this world. And it had been years since he had read the entire manga even before he transmigrated. So apart from the important events, Fujin had forgotten most of the minute details. Witnessing the events play out made Fujin recall some of those memories that were hidden deep within his brain!

As he recalled, Naruto was contacted by Mizuki while he was leaving. The clone dispelled himself after seeing Naruto leave with Mizuki.

Fujin received the memories of the clone and wondered, 'That's strange... Why didn't Naruto try to find me after failing? Even while he was leaving, he wasn't moving towards my house... Is he embarrassed to approach me after he failed?'

Fujin felt that to be the case but wasn't entirely sure. While Naruto was easy to read, his childhood was extremely brutal even in this messed-up world. Fujin wouldn't say that he'd be able to understand the psychology of such a person perfectly having never gone through something like that himself.

Fujin stretched his body and thought, 'I should sleep early. If events happen just as in the original story, then Naruto will steal the scroll tonight. I need to get up early and find him so that I can 'borrow' the scroll.'

Fujin went to bed. A few hours later, Naruto snuck into Hiruzen's house and stole the Scroll of Sealing successfully.

Fujin woke up around an hour earlier than usual and activated his Space Time Sensing Technique. As he expected, he sensed someone in the Training Ground opposite his house. He chuckled and thought, 'Guess he has become quite comfortable with this training ground... Oh well, lemme see what trick that old fox is playing this time! If he was indeed beaten by this knucklehead, I might as well keep the scroll with me permanently!'

Fujin freshened up before sneaking into the Training Ground. He observed Naruto from a distance for a few minutes and thought, 'This jutsu is tailor-made for him! He is learning it at a much faster rate than even me! I wonder if Tobirama had an intention of pairing this jutsu up with a Jinchuriki when he created this jutsu. The combination is just too magical!'

It was important to remember that Naruto, despite learning the training trick, never used it after learning the Shadow Clone jutsu. If he did, Fujin saw no reason why Naruto couldn't reach the peak of Ninjutsu! Even Kakashi, a ninja with top-tier talent and a Sharingan, might not be able to keep up with him. In fact, he was quite curious about whether Naruto would abuse this technique in the future or just take it easy like he did in the original story.

Naruto's breathing was heavy due to getting tired. He motivated himself by saying, "One more time! I'll master th..."

"What are you doing, Naruto?"

The sudden voice startled Naruto, who immediately turned around and lost his balance in panic. He fell on his ass as he saw Fujin. A look of surprise could be seen on his face as he asked, "Fujin! Why are you up so early?"

Naruto's expression looked like a thief who had been caught red-handed! He was planning to train there for another half an hour and leave before Fujin woke up. He wanted to continue training in secret until he mastered the Shadow Clone jutsu. Fujin's sudden appearance shocked him.

Fujin stared at him and asked, "Are you tracking my sleep cycle now? What are you doing training at this hour? And..."

Fujin's eyes landed on the scroll as he asked, "What's this scroll?"

Naruto answered slightly nervously, "I couldn't do the Clone jutsu in the Graduation exam and failed. But Mizuki sensei informed me that I could still pass if I learnt a jutsu from this scroll."

Fujin looked at the scroll and muttered, "The Scroll of Sealing? Where exactly did you get it?"

Naruto grinned and said, "I got it from the Hokage's house!"

Fujin raised an eyebrow and asked, "And how exactly did you manage that?"

Naruto continued grinning and said, "I defeated the Hokage with my super powerful secret jutsu! Hehehe."

Fujin chuckled and said, "Oh really? You managed to defeat Lord Hokage?"

Naruto said, "If you don't believe me, then I'll show you too!"

"Sexy jutsu!"

Naruto immediately transformed into a naked girl. A second later, a chop landed on his head and dispelled the jutsu. Naruto grabbed his head and rolled on the ground as he shouted, "Ou...ou...Ouch! That hurt! Why did you do that?"

Fujin tilted his head and said, "You said it was a secret jutsu. I was expecting it to be super powerful. I would have held back if you told me it was this weak. Is transforming into a naked girl all you do?"

Naruto argued loudly, "Hey! That isn't a weak jutsu! I knocked out Iruka Sensei and Grandpa Hokage with it! Besides, it is a hot naked girl!"

Fujin broke out into laughter and said, "You defeated Grandpa Hokage by transforming into an adolescent girl? Hahahaha! I didn't know that the respected Lord Hokage was this perverted. What an unexpected surprise. Anyway, which jutsu are you practicing?"

Naruto replied, "It is the Multi Shadow Clone jutsu."

Fujin said, "Oh, that's a powerful jutsu. Continue your training. I'll check the scroll and see if I can give you some tips to improve faster."

Naruto's face brightened up. He said, "You are the best, Fujin!"

He continued his training. Fujin grabbed the scroll and opened it while thinking, 'Stare all you want you old fox! If this is the real deal, then I'm copying it entirely while you watch from that perverted ball!'

Fujin had already felt Hiruzen's gaze. So he knew the chances of the scroll being legit were low. Regardless, there was no reason why he shouldn't mess with Hiruzen!

Sitting in his room, Hiruzen had a helpless expression as he watched through the crystal ball. He cursed, 'This brat! First, he calls me perverted despite knowing that I did it purposefully. And then he brazenly opens the Scroll of Seals despite knowing that I'm watching? He has grown too brazen! Thankfully the scroll is a fake! Otherwise, I would have had a real headache to deal with.'

Hiruzen was looking forward to Fujin's disappointed reaction. However, there was none. Fujin opened the scroll and thought, 'As I guessed... This scroll isn't the real deal. It only has Multi Shadow Clone jutsu and the Shadow Clone Explosion jutsu.'

That old fox set this whole thing up to make Naruto graduate so that he could be placed under Kakashi along with Sasuke. I wonder if he knew Mizuki's intentions all along. Or did he just eavesdrop on their conversation and decide to do this? Doesn't matter I suppose. I guess I'll be giving Ibiki a gift today. Now that I think about it, I haven't given him any gift since the mission where I clashed with Kitsuchi!

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Chapter 528: Did you really believe that?

Fujin hung around for a couple of hours while monitoring and occasionally guiding Naruto. He didn't need to do much as the scroll was absurdly detailed! Hiruzen had pulled out all the stops to ensure that Naruto would be able to learn it in a day.

When the Sun rose, Fujin thought, 'I should leave. Iruka and Mizuki will soon come looking for him...'

He looked at Naruto and said, "Naruto, you are doing well. Continue training hard and you'll master this jutsu in a few hours. I have some work, I'll see you later. You can use this training ground."

Naruto looked back at Fujin and said, "Thank you, Fujin. I'll master Multi Shadow Clone jutsu, believe it!"

Fujin smiled and disappeared. Suddenly, Naruto recalled and exclaimed, "I almost forgot! He promised to teach me this jutsu after I graduate! Hehe, I need to master this jutsu quickly."

He continued his training. He was already capable of creating imperfect Shadow Clones when Fujin left. In the next couple of hours, he had completely mastered the Multi Shadow Clone jutsu! A kid who couldn't master the rank E Clone jutsu had mastered the forbidden Multi Shadow Clone jutsu within a single night!

Just like in the original story, Iruka found Naruto soon after and was attacked by Mizuki who revealed to Naruto that he was the Demon Fox who assaulted the village 12 years ago before attacking him! Iruka took the blow for him before Naruto escaped. The secret he just learnt shocked Naruto. He involuntarily wanted to escape towards Fujin's house but could only escape in the opposite direction as Mizuki was standing in the way.

As he hid in the forest, he wondered, 'Grandpa Hokage knew this and still hid it from me? What about Fujin? Does he know that I am the Demon Fox? If he doesn't, will he still treat me nicely after he learns the truth?'

Naruto was scared. He was always confused and sad, not understanding why everyone hated him. Now that he learnt the truth, he didn't understand what to do. He stayed hidden while occasionally changing his situation, confused about what he should be doing. Unknown to him, he was watched by the watchful eyes of a certain someone through the crystal ball while another individual kept track of him using a Space-Time Technique.

Fujin, who received some memories from his Shadow Clones, was speechless as he wondered in marvel, 'Wow! From where exactly did Hiruzen find these jokers? Does he have a list of terrible ninjas with low intelligence? Or are they in on the play too? No, he won't involve so many people in such a scheme. There is no doubt...'

Fujin's clones observed the ninjas Hiruzen dispatched to find Naruto. Despite being Chunins, they could barely be considered as one. Most were actually inferior as they hadn't been active for quite some time. Not a single one among those ninjas was a sensor or excelled in tracking.

To Fujin's surprise, not a single one among them ever wondered why Hiruzen sent them to find Naruto and not his Anbu or any Ninja that actually excelled in searching and tracking. The only good thing they did was ensure that they didn't look in the same area.

Fujin thought, 'I didn't think that a Hokage would keep a list of such people as well. I wonder if he kept it just for a moment like this or if he just did it for fun so that he could entertain himself occasionally...'

Knowing Hiruzen's nature, Fujin strongly felt that it was the latter! While they were searching for him, Naruto continued changing his location until he heard someone falling. He quickly looked in that direction while staying hidden and noticed Iruka and Mizuki who soon began talking.

After a few exchanges, Mizuki said, "I can use that scroll to achieve the same kind of limitless power! The Demon Fox within him hungers for the same kind of power. You were right to fear and despise him."

"The demon fox, huh?" Iruka was about to speak when a voice was heard. Immediately, both Mizuki and Iruka looked in the direction of the voice. Both were surprised to see someone sitting on a branch.

It took a few seconds, however, both quickly identified him! Relief appeared on Iruka's face while Mizuki's expression became grim. Unlike the two of them who were at the bottom even among the Chunins, the person sitting on the branch was said to be one of the strongest ninjas in Konoha!

Mizuki was terrified! He never expected someone like Fujin to be here. He quickly said, "What wrong did I say? He is the demon fox! He'll try to take his revenge and kill everyone in Konoha! Just like 12 years ago, he will destroy the village again!"

Mizuki was on complete guard. He thought, 'Though he is strong, he is very young. As long as I lower his guard down, I can kill him.'

Fujin could see Mizuki's thoughts at a glance. For someone like Mizuki who had never faced the strong ninjas, being completely unaware of the vast difference in strength was natural.

Fujin chuckled and said, "If he was the demon fox, you'd be long dead. No, most of the people in this village would have been long dead. He's just a kid with huge dreams and the determination to work hard to achieve those dreams. Sure he might be a little bit clumsy and mischievous, but which kid isn't? You really need to think for a bit before making such lousy accusations. At the very least, he is far more loyal to the village than a scum like you."

Naruto, who was listening to the conversation, immediately became teary. While Fujin had long been guiding Naruto, hearing those words at such a time made him feel far better. Not to mention, even Iruka was also doing everything he could to protect Naruto. He even risked his own life to protect Naruto!

Mizuki was about to curse when Fujin said, "Naruto, come out."

The words surprised everyone including Naruto who couldn't help but wonder how Fujin knew he was there. He still followed his instructions and appeared to Iruka and Mizuki's surprise.

Fujin said, "I know you failed the Graduation Exams and what Mizuki promised you was a lie. So, I'll give you another chance. Mizuki is a Chunin. If you beat him, I'll graduate you and promote you to the Genin rank."

Naruto's eyes immediately lit up. At the same time, Mizuki was offended. Not only did Fujin not fight him, he instead asked someone who couldn't pass the graduation exam to fight him. He shouted, "Do you think that this demon fox brat can defeat me?"

Fujin looked at him and said, "Hmm, to make it interesting, I'll give you an offer too. If you manage to kill Naruto and take the Scroll of the Forbidden Seals with you, then I won't stop you and let you go."

Fujin's words shocked everyone once again, except for a certain old geezer peeping from a long distance away who wondered, 'Since when did I give him the authority to graduate academy students? And, why is he playing with them?'

Iruka shouted, "You can't make Naruto do that!"

However, Fujin ignored him and looked into Naruto's eyes. Naruto became serious and understood that Fujin was putting his faith in him. Naruto made the hand seal and said, "I'll beat him!"

In the next second, a thousand Shadow Clones surrounded that place! A smile appeared on Fujin's face as he thought, 'So he still went with the Shadow Clone jutsu, huh? Tsk, I was expecting him to use those wind jutsus I taught him for so long. Oh well, it doesn't matter.'

Needless to say, Mizuki got his ass beaten terribly. After a brutal beating, he was knocked out cold and lay on the ground. Naruto looked at his body and laughed awkwardly, "Hehe, I went too far!"

Fujin flickered next to him and chuckled, "Don't worry about it. He's going to be far worse soon."

Naruto was surprised and asked, "What do you mean?"

Fujin replied, "The price to pay for trying to betray the village is very costly. No need to think about it. I'll handle it. Anyway, you fought very well. While I believed that you would have won, I didn't anticipate such a one-sided fight."

Naruto giggled on hearing the praise. Iruka was smiling as well. Naruto asked, "Does it mean that I'm a Genin now?"

Fujin raised an eyebrow and asked, "Did you really believe that?"

Naruto was stunned. Fujin continued, "I have no authority in the academy. So, I'm afraid that you'll have to stay in the academy for another year. The good news is that since you have mastered this jutsu, you'll graduate easily next year."

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Chapter 529: Helping an Old Man

Fujin's words completely caught Naruto off guard. Disbelief was visible on his face! He didn't know how to react for a few seconds. As soon as he gathered his thoughts together, he jumped and argued loudly,

"Hey! That's not fair! I have learnt the jutsu and I even beat him! Also, you promised! You can't go back on your word!"

Seeing Naruto panic and complain in such a manner, Fujin couldn't control himself and began laughing out loud. Even Iruka smiled and thought, 'So he was the one guiding Naruto. No wonder he has been training in the Training Ground opposite his house.'

Naruto realized that Fujin had pranked him once again, causing him to pout in annoyance.

Fujin said, "Don't worry kiddo, I was just kidding. I'll be taking Mizuki and the scroll with me. Come visit me during dinner. Iruka, I'll leave Naruto in your care for now."

Naruto nodded and handed him the scroll. Fujin grabbed Mizuki and flickered away. Just like in the original story, Iruka passed his Forehead protector to Naruto and treated him to Ichiraku.

As for Fujin, he first dropped off Mizuki in Ibiki's office. Just when he was about to leave, Mizuki woke up. On seeing Ibiki, he was horrified. While he wasn't aware of the vast gap between him and Fujin's strength, he was very aware of Ibiki's horrible reputation. Fujin chuckled and said, "It looks like he is already loving his new home. I'll leave him in your capable hands, Ibiki-san."

Ibiki chuckled and said, "Don't worry about it. I'll take good care of him."

Just those words were too much of a mental torture for Mizuki. He looked viciously at Fujin and said spitefully, "Don't think that you will be safe for long. It is only a matter of time before that demon fox goes on a rampage once again!"

Fujin looked into his eyes, chuckled and said, "Once again, you should be more concerned about yourself, Mizuki."

Fujin turned around and began leaving. Mizuki felt that Fujin was just mocking him about the torture he would have to experience in Konoha's Torture & Interrogation department. However, to his surprise, he suddenly felt pain in his abdomen.

He held his abdomen while grimacing in pain. Suddenly, the pain increased beyond what he could endure. He collapsed to the ground while yelling. It felt like something was drilling out of his stomach. In addition, he felt like several insects were crawling under his skin.

The pain kept increasing far beyond what he could bear but somehow he didn't pass out. His eyes widened in horror as he saw maggots tearing the skin on his forearms and legs and crawling up his body. Seconds later, maggots drilled out of his abdomen making him scream hysterically!

The maggots that were crawling up his arms reached his face and began eating his face. He could no longer endure and finally lost consciousness!

Several ninjas working in the T&I department looked towards Ibiki's office. One of them muttered, "It looks like the boss went crazy once again."

The ninja next to him said, "Yes. Let's avoid him today. He'll be in a very good mood tomorrow after he has relaxed."

The first ninja nodded and muttered, "He should at least wait till they are put in a cell... I still don't understand why he tortures them in his main office."

In his office, Ibiki had a dark expression. Mizuki had passed out from Fujin's Genjutsu. While he didn't care about it, Mizuki had also vomited and wasn't able to control his bladder.

He cursed, 'These assholes! What do they take my office to be? Half of my bad reputation is due to the Clan Leaders and other powerful ninjas torturing criminals after bringing them to my office. Couldn't they at least wait till I put them in a cell?'

Unfortunately, there was no one Ibiki could complain to. He could only take his frustration out on Mizuki. He summoned a couple of ninjas to clean up the mess and lock up Mizuki.

Fujin didn't particularly care what happened with Mizuki. He reached Hiruzen's office, tossed the scroll towards him and said, "I found this."

Hiruzen grabbed the scroll and looked at Fujin. He thought, 'That's it? What about the fact that you tried to peek into such a secret scroll that is supposed to have Konoha's forbidden jutsus? Should I just ignore the fact that you did it despite knowing that I was looking at you?'

Needless to say, Fujin didn't say a word about it. He couldn't care less about what Hiruzen thought about it. Instead, he reported, "Naruto was misled by Mizuki, who intended to betray the village. I have handed Mizuki to Ibiki. Deal with him as you must.

And Naruto managed to master the Multi Shadow Clone jutsu. He can create a thousand clones. Though he failed Graduation, the batches haven't been assigned yet. I recommend that we graduate him now instead of making him wait another year."

Of course, Fujin was just saying it for the sake of saying it. He knew that Hiruzen would do so even if he didn't say it. As he expected, Hiruzen nodded and said, "That's a good suggestion. I'll graduate Naruto from the academy. Do you have anything else to report?"

Fujin acted like he was thinking for a few seconds before shaking his head and replying, "Not that I can think of."

Hiruzen cursed under his breath, 'This brat!'

He asked, "Did you check the scroll?"

Fujin nodded and said, "Yeah, I was surprised to hear that Naruto used a super powerful secret jutsu to defeat you and take the scroll. I almost speculated that some pervert was pretending to be you and tricking Naruto. So, I just wanted to make sure whether it was real or fake and that Naruto wasn't practicing something harmful to him."

"You looked into it despite knowing that it is the Scroll of the Forbidden Seals?" Hiruzen sounded a bit angry and a bit disappointed in Fujin as he asked that question.

To his surprise, a smile appeared on Fujin's face as he answered, "I checked it because I expected it to be a fake, Grandpa. If an academy student was able to steal the real Scroll of the Forbidden Seals, then it would have been rather disturbing. Considering that you are growing older every passing day, I would

have offered to keep it safe and help take some stress off your shoulders. As a youngster who looks up to you, that's the least I could do."

Fujin's response left Hiruzen speechless. His anger was obviously fake. He just wanted to put Fujin in a difficult spot and wanted to take the opportunity to reevaluate him. He didn't expect that Fujin would play him instead. He cursed, 'This cheeky brat. Not only did he try to peek into the scroll, he is making it sound like he did a completely noble act! Where is this concern about my old age when he asks me to send Shadow Clones to guide him?'

Unfortunately, there wasn't anything Hiruzen could say. Fujin's reply was just too perfect. He chuckled and said, "These old bones can still hold on for some time. Don't worry."

Fujin smiled and said, "I know, Grandpa. That's why I knew it'd be fake. That said, I can still help you keep the real one safe if you want. If it'll take some pressure off your shoulders, I'd be happy to endure it for you."

Hiruzen looked at Fujin with a deadpan expression. Knowing how many jutsus Fujin asked him for, it didn't take a genius to understand what Fujin wanted to do. He replied, "It's fine. It isn't much pressure considering everything else. If you want, you can hang on to this scroll."

It was Fujin's turn to be speechless. He wondered, 'What the hell am I supposed to do with it?'

He smiled and said, "I think I'll pass."

Hiruzen nodded and said, "You did a good job apprehending the traitor. I'll look into him now."

Fujin nodded and said, "Alright, I'll see you later."

He was about to leave when Hiruzen said, "Wait!"

Fujin stopped and turned around. Hiruzen said, "Did you think about whether you would like to become a sensei?"

Hiruzen had asked Fujin about this matter some time ago but Fujin hadn't given a clear answer. Fujin asked, "Aren't the Jounin sensei already decided?"

Hiruzen answered, "I do have several in mind but nothing has been finalized yet other than Kakashi's squad. Naruto and Uchiha Sasuke will be under his tutelage. As for the others, they haven't been finalized yet. I can appoint you as the Jounin sensei for team 8 which will have Inuzuka Kiba, Hyuga Hinata and Aburame Shino or team 10 which will have Nara Shikamaru, Yamanaka Ino and Akimichi Choji. All 6 of them are children of clan leaders. While their parents didn't say anything, they would like you to guide one of the squads."

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Chapter 530: The 'Truth'

Fujin was slightly surprised. He thought, 'He is willing to give me the squad that was supposed to be given to Asuma? If I can guide one of those squads, my influence in the village will increase considerably. Along with those kidnapped orphans that I'll be looking after and my seat on the council, I could be a major contender for Hokage post the Fourth Great Ninja War.'

Unfortunately, the position of Hokage will be quite meaningless by then. There isn't much I can gain from it. Besides, if I have to look after a group of Genins, then it'll take up a major portion of my time. And, time is something I am extremely short of! It'll eat into my training time and I won't be able to visit Phantom Haven easily until they graduate. It will also interfere with several of my future plans.'

Fujin replied, "I am still very busy with my training, Grandpa. And, I will also have to look after the orphans very soon as the construction is almost complete. While I would have liked to guide promising young kids, I can't accept that responsibility for the time being."

Hiruzen sighed and said, "That is a pity but I understand. Continue focusing on your training."

"I will" Fujin replied with a smile and disappeared from the room. Hiruzen muttered internally, 'Such dedication towards training is very good. If only he had been a few years older...'

Hiruzen's expression became serious as he thought, 'That said, I didn't expect Fujin to be so interested in the Scroll of Seals. Was he interested in a particular jutsu or did he just want to learn dangerous jutsus to expand his jutsu repertoire?'

Hiruzen couldn't be sure. He stopped thinking about it after a while. Though Fujin was brazen, he had just taken advantage of an opportunity and hadn't tried something by himself. Despite the greed he usually displayed, Hiruzen didn't think that Fujin would do something like what Orochimaru did. Of course, if he knew that Fujin was the one responsible for the tense situation the village was in for the last couple of months, who knows what he would have thought?

As Fujin left the office, he thought, 'That was a shame. I was hoping Hiruzen would give me the scroll. Of course, it wouldn't be for safekeeping, but rather to give me an opportunity to learn the jutsus inside. Oh well, I guess he doesn't want me to have access to the darker jutsus like the Edo Tensei. Knowing what happened with Orochimaru, I am not surprised with his decision.'

Fujin was hoping that Hiruzen would provide him with the same opportunity as Naruto. Though Hiruzen hadn't, Fujin wasn't offended. After all, Hiruzen had helped him a lot and even provided him with all the information on the Flying Thunder God jutsu along with several other jutsus.

The matter of refusing to train the kids was also a missed opportunity. Though Fujin realized it, one person had limited energy and time. After weighing his options, he could only give up on it and continue forward on his original path without thinking about it for a second time.

Later that day, Naruto arrived at Fujin's house. Fujin opened the door and said, "Already received the headband? Congrats on passing, Naruto."

Naruto smiled and said, "Thank you, Fujin. It was thanks to you."

Naruto was genuinely grateful. Not only Fujin had taught him Wind jutsus and improved his chakra control, but he had also provided him with an opportunity to graduate after he had failed and even defended him when Mizuki was trash-talking about him.

Fujin chuckled and said, "Don't worry about it. Come on in."

Naruto entered Fujin's house. Fujin said, "I was planning to treat you outside, but I guessed that you have a lot of questions. So, let's eat at home today. I made some fried chicken and prawns."

Naruto's eyes immediately lit up. He had come to love those two dishes during the last year. While ramen was still his favorite, he loved eating those two dishes as well. Of course, the most important point was that Fujin was willing to answer his questions. After all, Iruka wasn't entirely clear on the situation either and didn't want to talk much about it with Naruto.

After arranging the plates, both sat down to eat. Naruto became nervous. He asked, "Is what Mizuki said true?"

Fujin spoke while eating, "In a way, yes. But not entirely. He is too weak to know important details. I suppose even Iruka doesn't know everything."

Naruto was surprised at how dismissive Fujin was about his academy teachers. He recalled Fujin having the same attitude earlier that day. Naruto nervously asked, "So, what is the truth?"

Fujin answered, "Twelve years ago, the Nine Tailed Beast attacked our village. The attack was devastating for our village. We lost many experienced Jounins. Lord Fourth lost his life while defeating him as well. Our village was in a difficult position for several years due to those losses."

Naruto's expression became grim upon hearing that. He wasn't completely aware of how devastating that attack was on Konoha. Fujin continued, "As its name implies, the Nine Tailed Beast is a Tailed Beast."

Naruto asked curiously, "What is a Tailed Beast?"

Fujin replied, "A Tailed Beast is a gigantic beast that contains a massive amount of chakra. We humans can never reach that level of chakra, though there are always a few exceptions. As a result, they are extremely powerful and can be very destructive. In all, there are nine Tailed Beasts in this world, each having a different number of tails. It goes from One Tail to the Nine Tails that attacked our village."

Naruto was surprised. He asked loudly, "There are nine such Tailed Beasts?"

Fujin nodded and continued, "A Tailed Beast can't be killed. If it is killed, it'll just revive a few years later. As a result, Lord Fourth didn't kill the Nine Tailed Beast. He instead sealed it inside you. So, you're not

the Nine Tailed Beast who destroyed the village. Instead, you are the one who is keeping the Nine Tailed Beast sealed."

Naruto was surprised to hear that. Fujin smiled and said, "So, it can be said that you are the one keeping the village safe from the Nine Tailed Beast. I suppose you can be considered a hero for doing so."

A smile appeared on Naruto's face as he heard it. However, it quickly disappeared as he asked, "But if that's the case, why does everyone in the village hate me?"

Fujin replied, "Just like Mizuki, they don't know the entire truth. Even if they are told so, they may still be afraid of the Tailed Beast inside you. It is very dangerous after all. Most people will still be scared of it."

Unlike Lord Fourth, you are still a little kid. What if you aren't able to hold the beast back and it breaks loose? Of course, it isn't a worry as Lord Fourth's seal should be very strong. But it isn't unnatural for them to be afraid. Do you remember those people who smiled back when you looked at them?"

Naruto nodded. Fujin said, "Those are the ones who know that the seal won't break and recognize that you are a hero for keeping the village safe."

Naruto understood what Fujin was saying. However, he could still see the unfairness. After all, he hadn't done anything and yet so many hated him. Naruto asked dejectedly, "Why did Lord Fourth seal him inside me?"

Fujin shrugged and answered, "How can I know? I was only four years old back then. Perhaps you were the only one nearby. Or perhaps Lord Fourth saw something special in you and believed that you would be the best host for the Nine Tailed Beast and do something miraculous when you grew up. It's tough to know the real reason. Perhaps Lord Hokage might have some idea."

On hearing the second guess, Naruto's eyes lit up. Though there was no guarantee for it to be true, Naruto hoped that it was the case. Of course, that was the reason why Fujin said it. Naruto asked, "But how can I convince everyone that I am not the Demon Fox?"

Fujin replied, "Just keep doing what you are doing. Train harder, become stronger and keep striving to become the Hokage. Eventually, everyone will realize the truth."

Naruto nodded with determination on hearing that. Fujin sighed internally and thought, 'It is so tempting to tell him to stop thinking about others. Unfortunately, I have no idea what will happen if I undo Hiruzen's work. Besides, even though Naruto struggled in his life until now, his days will get better very soon. As satisfying as it would be, there's not much point in driving him towards taking revenge on the ones that mistreated him.'