

Calamity 541

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 541: Fiery Hell

Fujin approached a bandit. The Eight Trigrams Divination Seal appeared on his right palm as he placed the palm on the bandit's abdomen. Immediately, a seal formed on his abdomen.

The bandit, who was still unconscious, winced but didn't wake up. Fujin observed the seal and analyzed, 'That looks about right. Now, let me see how it works.'

Fujin placed his palm on the seal and inserted some chakra in it. In an instant, the scenery around him changed. Fujin looked around. He was standing in what seemed to be an abandoned cave. The entrance of the cave was locked behind a large gate.

Fujin observed, 'Hmm, as I guessed. The Eight Trigrams Divination Seal allows us to access a spiritual space within ourselves. A spiritual space that can be used to seal up massive Tailed Beasts... The Four Symbol Seal can also create such a spiritual space, but it isn't flexible. Only the person and the sealed being can access it and it doesn't create such a space when there is nothing sealed inside.

Anyway, it looks like its appearance differs from person to person. This guy's spiritual space looks like a cave. I wonder what it will look like for others...'

Fujin immediately began testing it out on the other bandits. As he expected, everyone had a different type of spiritual space. Some had plain grasslands, some had buildings, some had mountains, a couple had sea and so on.

Satisfied with his experiments, Fujin thought with a smile, 'I haven't made any mistake while creating it. The Eight Trigrams Divination Seal is perfect. Now, I can finally move on to the next step and the difficult part. That is, to improve this seal further! To create a seal that no one has done before! If I can make it as I envisioned, then I could increase my power exponentially. At the very least, I'll be a step ahead of every rank S ninja. Only the likes of Hashirama and Madara will be stronger than me.

Unfortunately, this will be very difficult and could be risky. Not to mention, I have to ensure absolute secrecy. And, I need something weaker to test the more advanced seal on. Fortunately, I will have a perfect opportunity not too long from now. I just have to prepare the seal by then...'

Fujin's smile faded away as he began planning for the future. His eyes landed on the bandits. His hands moved like a blur weaving a set of hand seals. Chakra began emitting from his body. Instead of turning into the wind, it turned the surroundings extremely hot. In the blink of an eye, the entire camp caught fire!

The houses in the camp, the unconscious bandits and any other object in the camp began burning! The pain caused every bandit to wake up. Their noses were immediately bombarded with the smell of burning flesh. In a fraction of a second, their brains registered the pain they were feeling.

Terrified screams full of pain and fear could be heard for hundreds of meters around the camp. Unfortunately or fortunately, there was no one around to hear it. The only one who could hear was standing in the middle of the fire, completely unaffected by the heat and the screams.

Some bandits managed to get up to their feet and wanted to run away. To their horror, their feet sunk into the ground. They looked down and to their dismay, the ground itself was melting!

Within a couple of minutes, every bandit met a painful and traumatizing death. The fire had thoroughly destroyed their bodies. Their skins and even their bones had melted! In fact, all signs of the camp had been destroyed. The only thing that was left was the burnt ground!

The jutsu Fujin had used was Fire Release: Fiery Hell jutsu. During the First Great Ninja War, a dozen ninjas who were under Hiruzen's command were captured by Kirigakure ninjas and tortured brutally. By the time Hiruzen reached to rescue them, all he found were their tortured and mutilated dead bodies. It was then that Hiruzen had created this jutsu to take revenge for his fallen comrades.

When Fujin asked for Hiruzen's help to learn Earth and Fire jutsus, this was one of the jutsus that he taught to Fujin. As usual, Fujin used an Earth jutsu to bury the burnt soil deep underground and make the ground look as good as new. If someone who didn't know about the existence of the bandit camp arrived there, they wouldn't even suspect that there used to be a bandit camp there. Let alone think that the remains of 32 bandits were buried there.

With the Eight Trigrams Divination Seal tested, Fujin decided, 'I should rest for the night. Though I am stronger, it'll be best to fight Raiga when I am properly rested. After all, that guy is someone who survived or managed to escape from Might Duy...'

While Fujin was dealing with the bandit camp, his clone ensured that the girls reached their village and killed a couple of bandits that they encountered. There were a couple of other bandits as well who weren't in the camp. However, Fujin didn't care about them. The bandits weren't ninjas. There was no reason why a few adults from the village couldn't deal with a couple of ordinary bandits. And, that was if those two still dared to continue their activities after seeing that their entire camp was missing!

The next morning, Fujin continued his journey. In a couple of hours, he arrived at the village where the Kurosuki family had established their base in. As soon as he reached close to the village, he began hearing loud bells, surprising Fujin who wondered, 'Hmm? What's happening in the village?'

He flickered and appeared atop one of the cliffs surrounding the village. His eyes glowed as he observed the situation.

Some distance away from the village, over a dozen people wearing cloaks were walking towards the graveyard. Four of them were carrying a coffin.

"Why?"

"Why?"

"Why did he have to die so young?"

Walking behind the ones carrying the coffin, one guy was mourning sorrowfully. Despite his words, there didn't seem to be any sorrow in his voice or his facial expressions. He continued mourning, "I remember when we met. You were so enthusiastic when I drove away the greedy officials. I remember how happy you were when I threw you into the mines to work for me. I still recall how happy you were to see all your fellow villagers working without any breaks with you! Why did god take away such a kind soul?"

The group finally reached the graveyard and placed the coffin in a hole. Sounds of struggling and muffled screams could be heard from the coffin. However, none of the cloaked people seem to care. They began pouring soil into the grave.

While Raiga was mourning, he suddenly heard a worried voice, "Raiga! I can feel that someone is staring at us. I can't sense where he is at but I have a feeling that he is very strong."

Raiga was surprised. He softly muttered, "Someone even you can't sense, Ranmaru?"

Fujin, who was watching the procession from the top of a cliff, thought, 'Looks like the intel was accurate. The person in the coffin is very much alive. Still, they are burying him... Oh well, it's a good thing that they are already in a graveyard. Will save me some time.'

Fujin continued watching. He obviously wouldn't go out of his way to save someone and get a weakness while fighting one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist. However, he didn't intend to kill the person either as it was just a civilian. He just waited for them to finish burying him because, ironically, that would soon be the safest position in the graveyard.

Raiga's followers continued pouring the soil until the ground was levelled. Raiga was about to say his final condolences when a ragged voice was heard, "A live burial. Hehe, now that's something I haven't seen in a long while."

The sudden words surprised everyone, including Raiga and Ranmaru who didn't detect anyone. They immediately looked in the direction of the voice and saw Fujin standing there wearing a demon mask and a long black cloak. Most of them immediately drew their weapons. One of Raiga's subordinates shouted aggressively, "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

Fujin chuckled and replied, "Just a traveller. I came looking for a village to eat some food. Your little show just attracted me here, hehe."

Raiga's subordinates immediately became angry as they understood that they were being mocked. One of them said, "You want to eat food? Sure, we will arrange it for you. It shall be your last meal before your funeral!"

As he spoke, some of the subordinates began walking towards Fujin. Fujin broke out into laughter and replied, "Hahaha, that sounds fun! You guys seem to be the kind of guys who can arrange for my favorite meal as well."

Raiga's subordinates were surprised by such an answer. The only ones who weren't surprised were Raiga and Ranmaru, who felt that something was odd about the cloaked stranger. Even so, one of his subordinates laughed and asked, "Arrange your favorite meal? Hahaha. Sure we will. What is your favorite meal?"

His laughter and the mocking grins of others froze as an arm poked through his chest, holding his heart in his palm. A whisper was heard through the graveyard.

"Human hearts!"

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Chapter 542: Clash of Lightning!

Fujin pulled his hand back while holding the heart in his palm. The action of someone so casually ripping the heart out of one of their comrades when they outnumbered him stunned everyone. The body of the 'heartless' guy fell to the ground. The sound finally snapped everyone back to reality as they grabbed their weapons and shouted, "You are dead!"

Except for Raiga, everyone rushed towards Fujin. Raiga carefully observed as he wanted his subordinates to test out Fujin.

Ranmaru, who was hiding in Raiga's cloak, focused in the direction of Fujin's voice. His eyes had been glowing red the entire time, however, he still couldn't see anything. He whispered in a worried tone, "Raiga, I can't sense him. I am getting a feeling that something or someone is helping him hide from my ability."

Raiga was surprised. This was the first time Ranmaru's ability had failed. It was even more surprising as for the first time he could see the person who Ranmaru couldn't sense.

While Ranmaru's Kekkei Genkai was quite strong, it wasn't a surprise that he wasn't able to detect Fujin. The reason was very simple. Fujin's cloak was so densely covered in seals, that there were at least a

thousand seals on that cloak, most of which were for stealth and anti-detection. A little kid like Ranmaru didn't stand a chance against such a cloak despite his Kekkei Genkai.

Fujin looked at Raiga and his subordinates and thought, 'Hmm? He wants them to test me? Why even bother? He should have guessed by now that I'm not weak.'

Fujin just sidestepped Raiga's subordinate who swung a sword vertically at him. At that very moment, a chakra-enhanced punch landed on his abdomen. The punch obliterated his abdomen. His innards were blown at the Raiga and his subordinates, who were immediately covered in blood.

Before they could register what was happening, another 4 people were blown apart in the same manner by Fujin. Seeing their comrades getting blown up in such a manner finally made them understand the difference in their strength. One of them shouted, "Everyone, gather here!"

In an instant, all of Raiga's subordinates retreated to the guy who shouted. In a second, they piled up on top of each other, surprising Fujin who thought, 'Hmm, what are they up to? Still, it's a surprise that they aren't terrified yet and are still looking aggressively at me.'

Whenever Fujin fought against ninjas of minor villages, they always lost their confidence after a few of their comrades died and they understood the difference in the power between Fujin. They generally lost their will to fight and would escape in different directions to survive. To his surprise, these ninjas weren't afraid to that degree. He looked at Raiga and wondered, 'Is it because they are backed by a former Swordsmen of the Mist?'

The guy, who had shouted earlier, shouted again, "Ninja Art: Black Tornado."

Raiga's subordinates, who had piled on top of each other, spread their arms apart. Retractable blades appeared in their arms and they began spinning at a very fast speed. Their spinning made them look like a black tornado which quickly moved towards Fujin.

Fujin was surprised by the jutsu and moved back for the first time and wondered, 'It looks like a copy of the Inuzuka technique. The question is, how sharp are those blades...'

Fujin received the answer very quickly as he saw the tornado cutting a boulder in half. His eyes glowed as he observed, 'Hmm, not bad at all. Chakra is flowing through each of those swords. However, their control isn't very good. It looks like Raiga has been training them to an extent at least. Oh well, whatever. This is enough entertainment.'

Senbons appeared in Fujin's hands. Fujin charged them with Lightning and threw them in one smooth action. Despite the ninjas spinning at a high speed and being covered by the tornado and the spinning swords, all 8 senbons pierced through 8 heads in the blink of an eye. Less than a second later, the ones who were still alive had their heads pierced as well!

The tornado stopped and their dead bodies flew in every direction due to the momentum of their bodies. Raiga's expression became very serious. He analyzed, 'Lightning release and such speed! His strength is very high as well. Is he from Kumogakure?'

Two short blades appeared in Raiga's hands. Fujin's eyes immediately fell on them. He chuckled and said, "To just watch your subordinates getting slaughtered... It seems like you really do love funerals. Should I wait for you to complete their funerals or are you impatient enough for your own?"

Raiga asked with a grim expression, "Who are you? You couldn't have just arrived here by chance. What do you want?"

Fujin replied nonchalantly, "I am Akuro. I am looking for some capable subordinates and I heard that a strong ninja was staying here. To be honest, I am disappointed so far. But I suppose I can give you some opportunities to prove yourself. So, are you willing to follow me?"

Fujin's words immediately enraged Raiga. While Fujin had displayed some strength, it was far from the level of making someone like Raiga feel threatened. His words were just an insult. He raised his swords and shouted, "Do you think that just killing those fodder would frighten me, a former member of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist?"

'Lightning Burial: Banquet of Lightning'

Raiga unleashed the lightning flowing through the Kiba blades towards Fujin. It cut through the atmosphere and moved towards Fujin. Fujin looked at the attack and thought, 'Oh well, it was worth a try. Now, which Kekkei Genkai does the kid on his back exactly have? Is it controlling dust?'

The lightning pierced through Fujin's body in the blink of an eye. However, no blood was spilled. Instead, Fujin's image disappeared and Raiga immediately retreated to dodge the incoming senbons. He dodged 5 and the last one barely managed to create a cut on his left cheek. He cursed, 'These senbons are too fast! I have to be careful that they don't hit Ranmaru.'

From the corner of his eye, Raiga noticed Fujin moving rapidly towards him. He pointed one of his blades towards Fujin.

'Lightning Release: Lightning Ball jutsu'

He fired a Lightning ball at Fujin. At the same time, the Blade of the Thunder Spirit appeared in Fujin's hand but stayed hidden under his sleeves. Fujin pointed it at the incoming Lightning ball.

'Lightning Release: Spinning Lightning shot'

Fujin fired lightning that compressed into a cone shape and moved forward while spinning like a drill. It pierced through Raiga's Lightning Ball and reached him in an instant. Raiga fired another Lightning Ball which redirected the Spinning Lightning shot away from him.

Taking advantage of the time Raiga needed to redirect and dodge the attack, Fujin slammed his hands on the ground.

'Lightning Release: Four Pillar Bind'

Four giant rocks were summoned, surrounding Raiga from all sides. Seeing the pillars, Raiga immediately cursed, "Shit! Hang on Ranmaru!"

He immediately unleashed a large amount of Lightning from his Kiba blades. At the same time, the four pillars shot Lightning bolts at Raiga. The Lightning Raiga unleashed stayed around him and he began spinning at a fast speed.

'Ninja Art: Thunder Dragon Tornado'

Raiga's spinning caused a whirling vortex of wind and electricity to form around him. The four lightning bolts hit the vortex and were stopped by it. Fujin was surprised by the development. He analyzed, 'A Wind and Lightning combination jutsu... Not bad at all. Perhaps I could recreate it. Though I won't be able to use it as Fujin.'

Fujin immediately shot a few Lightning-charged senbon at Raiga, but they were deflected due to the lightning spinning in the vortex. The vortex soon took the form of a Dragon. However, Raiga didn't use it to attack. Instead, he stayed within the dragon and poured his chakra into the Kiba blades.

'Lightning Release: Fangs of Lightning'

Raiga launched a Lightning bolt into the sky. It hit the clouds and disappeared. Fujin looked into the sky as his eyes glowed. Soon, surprise appeared on his face. The surprise soon turned into a grin as he muttered to himself, 'It looks like the information was accurate. Hehe, now I want these swords even more!'

As Fujin was staring into the sky, a 'natural' Lightning bolt fell towards Fujin!

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Chapter 543: A Scare

Fujin looked into the sky and saw a Lightning bolt falling towards him. Even though Raiga controlled the Lightning bolt with the Kiba blades, it didn't include any of his chakra. The Lightning Bolt was completely natural and hence far more feral.

However, Fujin didn't move and instead raised his left arm. A loud sound like the chirping of birds was heard as Fujin intercepted the Lightning bolt with Chidori! Raiga watched with widened eyes as he saw Fujin cutting the Lightning strike! He immediately launched the Dragon Thunder Tornado towards Fujin.

Behind his mask, a wide grin appeared on Fujin's face. He thought, 'I always wanted to try this. Hehe, the Lightning Cutter indeed. Now, what else can those swords do?'

Fujin saw the Dragon Thunder Tornado coming towards him. At the same time, his glowing eyes noticed some red dust within the tornado. Fujin's left palm clenched into a fist as he punched the ground in front of him with a lot of strength.

The chakra-enhanced punch completely wrecked the ground, creating a giant crater. At the same time, several rocks were launched out of the ground and hit the Dragon Thunder Tornado, disrupting it completely and stopping it from approaching Fujin any longer. The red dust was also sent in the opposite direction. The impact was so strong that the force of the punch caused even the ground under Raiga's feet to collapse!

He immediately flickered away while thinking, 'Who is this guy? He uses lightning-charged weapons like Kumo ninjas, can cut Lightning like the Copy Ninja and has the same monstrous strength as Konoha's Sannin. Did he come all the way here to just insult me and mess up with my plans?'

Raiga didn't get any time to think about the answers to his questions as more lightning-charged senbons were launched at him. He dodged a few and blocked the rest with his sword.

"Behind us." Raiga's eyes widened as he heard Ranmaru's voice and sensed a massive chakra. He turned around and saw a massive Lightning Wave coming towards him. Fujin had used the amplification of the Blade of the Thunder Spirit to amplify a supercharged False Darkness jutsu to a ridiculous level.

Raiga instinctively used Fang of Lightning jutsu and flickered away. A Lightning bolt fell from the clouds on Fujin. However, Fujin just sidestepped the Lightning strike and controlled the False Darkness jutsu to chase after Raiga.

Raiga continued running away while launching more Lightning Fangs on Fujin, who continued sidestepping the Lightning strikes and focused on hunting Raiga. Raiga immediately realized, 'I can't continue this. I can only dodge a few more times before being hit but he looks like he can dodge me all day. Not to mention, I'll run out of chakra very quickly at this rate.'

Raiga used the Fang of Lightning once again. This time, Fujin was surprised. Instead of being aimed at him, the Lightning was aimed at Raiga himself! Raiga raised his swords and let the Lightning strike hit himself. A fraction of a second later, the amplified False Darkness jutsu hit Raiga, creating an explosion. However, there was no joy on Fujin's face. Instead, he was confused.

Fujin could sense that neither Raiga nor Ranmaru were injured. He wondered, 'What the hell happened? Did he somehow use that Lightning strike to neutralize my attack? But how? That Lightning strike fell a few moments before my jutsu landed.'

As the dust and smoke due to the explosion cleared, Fujin's eyes widened. Fujin, who had been completely assured of his victory and quite relaxed in the fight, suddenly raised his guard to the maximum.

In a flash, one of the seals on his bracer lit up and 4 dozen kunai appeared. Each of them was launched into the surroundings and dug into the ground! While the kunai looked normal, it had one speciality that others couldn't notice. Each of the kunai had a special mark, the Flying Thunder God mark!

And the reason why Fujin resorted to it was due to what he was seeing. In front of him were Raiga and Ranmaru covered in Lightning Armor! It looked very similar to the Raikage's Lightning Chakra Mode.

Fujin cursed, 'What the fuck? Since when did Raiga learn the Lightning Chakra Mode? What the hell is he doing in this remote place if he is this strong? Shit, this fight will be a lot more difficult. I can't hold back. I might need to use everything at my disposal!'

Fujin knew fully well how ridiculously strong Raikage's Lightning Chakra Mode was. It provided the ninja with ridiculous speed and defenses along with a strong attacking power. As fast as he was, Fujin wasn't arrogant enough to think that he could keep up with that without resorting to Flying Thunder God.

He didn't think that his Lightning jutsus would be able to pierce through those defenses either. He saw no choice but to stop hiding his Wind jutsus. Fujin had only one jutsu that could guarantee a kill against the cloak of Lightning. That was the Rasenshuriken. However, his clones needed a long time to create it, which would allow Raiga to dispel his clones long before they created the jutsu. Hence, he could only hope that the Vacuum jutsu would work.

Raiga immediately noticed the change in Fujin's attitude and wondered, 'Why did he become so alert all of a sudden?'

He softly asked, "Ranmaru, can you see him now?"

Ranmaru replied, "I still can't see him. I can only sense him when he builds up a high amount of chakra. Also, I can hear his movements now. I will be able to spot him in the mist."

Raiga replied, "Good. I'll test his close combat first."

With the Kiba blades in his hand, Raiga moved towards Fujin at a rapid speed. However, confusion appeared in Fujin's eyes once again as he wondered, 'Why hasn't his speed increased? Or is he just pretending to be slow so that he can catch me off guard? Whatever the case, I need to be ready to teleport at any point.'

Fujin didn't lower his guard and waited for Raiga to attack. Raiga reached Fujin and attacked him with his swords. Knowing that the Blade of the Thunder Spirit won't be able to block the Kiba blades, Fujin retreated a few steps and launched more lightning-charged senbons at an extremely close range.

To Fujin's surprise, Raiga actually blocked the senbons with his blades instead of trusting his armor. He muttered, 'Strange... Very strange... Is this not Lightning Chakra Mode? Or is he pretending?'

Raiga continued moving towards Fujin. Fujin moved towards him as well and launched more senbons simultaneously, forcing Raiga to block again. While he blocked, Fujin landed a kick on Raiga's right side. Needless to say, Fujin had concentrated as much chakra as he could in a short time.

Raiga's Thunder Armor was hit. The force of the kick was so high that it broke through every layer of the Thunder Armor and landed on the right side of Raiga's abdomen. He and Ranmaru were launched horizontally like a cannonball and crashed into the mountain.

Fujin didn't chase after them and just analyzed, 'Weak... That was too weak! That defense probably isn't even 1% of Raikage's defense. The only good thing was that the armor absorbed the impact of my kick and spread it throughout the armor. Otherwise, that kick might have been just enough to cripple him despite having the armor.'

Fujin sighed internally, 'What a bummer. This guy scared me for no reason. I even brought out the Flying Thunder God kunais...'

What Raiga had used was just a jutsu he created with the help of the Kiba blades. The jutsu was called Lightning Release: Lightning Strike Armor. Its main use was enhanced defenses. It didn't provide any increase in speed nor did it have any offensive capabilities other than zapping anyone who touched it. So even though it looked like the Lightning Chakra Mode, it was nowhere near its level.

Of course, it wasn't completely useless. Raiga used the defense provided by the armor without compromising on speed to engage opponents in close combat. Since his armor could resist ordinary attacks, it allowed Raiga to focus completely on his offense, providing him with a huge advantage. Other than ninjas at or close to rank S power level, everyone would struggle against this combination.

Raiga coughed blood as he gathered himself. Ranmaru was hurt as well due to the crash. Fortunately, Raiga had used his own body as the shield to prevent him from getting harmed a lot, something that Fujin found very peculiar. Ranmaru endured the pain to not distract Raiga. He asked, "Raiga, are you alright?"

Raiga coughed a couple of times more and said, "Some of my ribs are damaged, but I should still be able to fight. Track and inform me about his movements."

'Hidden Mist jutsu'

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Chapter 544: Uncharacteristic Obsession

The graveyard and the area around it were soon covered in mist. Fujin didn't bother stopping it as the jutsu was pretty much useless against him. Yet, he was surprised as he wondered, 'Is Raiga confident in being able to detect me in such dense mist? Does that kid have more capabilities other than controlling that red dust?

I still don't understand what that red dust can do. I thought that it might be something similar to Gaara but that doesn't seem to be the case. Also, why does Raiga care so much for him? It is so uncharacteristic for him to be so concerned. I initially assumed that it might be a relationship similar to Zabuza and Haku but that doesn't seem to be the case. Though there is a chance that he might just be acting. Oh well, I'll find out all the answers soon.'

A thick mist cover engulfed the entire area. Fujin changed his location and activated his chakra field and Space Time Sensing Technique. What he sensed surprised him once again! With his chakra field, Fujin

sensed 16 chakra signatures gathered in groups of 2 or 3. However, with his Space Time Sensing Technique, he detected just one disturbance. And, his chakra field couldn't detect any chakra signature at that place. It was the first time Fujin had gotten two completely opposite results from his two sensing techniques!

6 Shadow Clones appeared around Fujin. They flickered to investigate those 16 chakra signatures. Meanwhile, Raiga asked, "Where is he, Ranmaru?"

Ranmaru nervously replied, "I can feel that he is sensing us but he hasn't been able to find us. However, I can't detect him anymore. I can't hear any sound from him."

Ranmaru was confused. He didn't understand what was happening with this opponent. It was the first time he had experienced something like this. On the other hand, Raiga was easily able to understand due to his vast experience. He figured out, 'Ranmaru was able to hear him earlier because he didn't bother reducing the noise of his movements while fighting against me.'

However, in the mist, he is paying special attention to ensure that his movements are as quiet as possible. It's the good old hunting in the mist then. That said, I need to be careful. Something about him feels off. It's as if he is hiding something. I also don't understand why he threw the kunai around when I used Lightning Strike Armor.'

Raiga changed his position as well. Though Ranmaru wasn't much help, he had decades of experience in fighting in the mist. It far exceeded Fujin's total experience. If not for the Space Time Sensing Technique, Fujin would have been at a disadvantage in the mist as long as he didn't use Wind jutsus.

Fujin's clones reached the chakra signatures Fujin had sensed. As expected, there wasn't anyone there. Instead, red dust was present there. His clones analyzed, 'I see, the red dust can cloud my judgment of chakra. It can create fake chakra signatures and can probably hide the real chakra signatures as well. No wonder my chakra field didn't sense their real bodies. Still... This ability means that they think that I can't sense them, hehe.'

Fujin's clones dispelled themselves and sent the memories back to him. A smile appeared on his face as he muttered, 'You didn't think that you'd become the prey in this hunting ground you created, did you Raiga?'

Fujin stealthily moved towards Raiga. Since he still hadn't been attacked in the mist, Fujin was sure that Raiga couldn't sense him. Even so, Fujin knew that he couldn't overdo it. If he built up his chakra, Raiga would feel it easily. Even without it, an experienced ninja like Raiga would have a very high sense of danger. So, Fujin knew that he would have only one chance of ambushing. If he failed, then Raiga would disperse the mist, understanding his disadvantageous position.

Raiga was moving stealthily in the mist to find signs of Fujin. Unknown to him, Fujin appeared just a few meters behind him. Fujin pointed the Blade of the Thunder Spirit at him. In an instant, a Lightning Blade appeared and extended straight ahead for 10 meters!

Raiga was completely unaware of the danger. Even so, he moved his body to his left instinctively. The Lightning Blade pierced through the right side of his abdomen, electrocuting him and burning the organs that it passed through. At the same time, a bloodcurdling scream was heard! It came from Ranmaru whose right leg had been pierced by the Lightning Blade. Raiga could endure the pain, but Ranmaru couldn't.

Raiga became worried for Ranmaru but understood that he couldn't afford to get distracted. He gritted his teeth and launched a Lightning ball behind him in less than a fraction of a second after he was hit. Despite his quick action, it was too slow for Fujin who anticipated and dodged the attack while getting closer to Raiga at the same time. The Lightning Blade transformed into a Lightning Whip as he swung it again at Raiga.

Raiga raised his swords to defend the attack. The Lightning Whip hit the Kiba blades. The Lightning Whip was blocked, but to Raiga's surprise, it somehow forced the Kiba blades to stay in the same spot, making it difficult for him to withdraw the blades. While he would need less than a second to free his swords, Fujin didn't give him the time. He appeared in front of him and kicked his chest.

The chakra-concentrated kick brutally damaged his chest, destroying several ribs and damaging his lungs and even his heart! He spat blood as he flew backwards leaving his blades with the Lightning Whip. Ranmaru, who was in a bag on his back, was also sent flying away from him as well.

Fujin created two Shadow Clones. One flickered to Ranmaru while the other followed Raiga. Meanwhile, Fujin observed the swords for a second before storing them in a storage scroll. His main objective for fighting Raiga had been achieved. His Akuro identity now had 3 excellent swords! The collection of his swords was actually better than what Fujin used normally!

One of Fujin's clones flickered next to Ranmaru's bag, caught it and flickered a few hundred meters. Fujin still wasn't sure what his Kekkei Genkai was. Knowing the deadly techniques that existed in the Naruto World, he wasn't interested in becoming arrogant and taking any needless risk.

His other clone flickered next to Raiga and slammed his palm on his abdomen. It caused Raiga even more pain. More importantly, the Self Cursing Seal was applied on his abdomen, restricting his movements and access to his chakra. However, instead of being concerned about his situation, Raiga's mind was focused on Ranmaru who was launched away from him. Despite being restricted by the curse seal and in great pain, he still managed to open his mouth and frantically asked, "Ranmaru! Where is Ranmaru?"

This development surprised Fujin once again. He thought, 'His personality doesn't entirely match with Konoha's intel. To think that someone as sick and bloodthirsty as him would be more concerned about a kid's life other than his own. Not to mention, that kid isn't his either.'

Raiga increasingly became more frantic. Had he not been critically injured, he might have broken the curse seal with just his will. Suddenly, he heard Fujin's voice, "Raiga Kurosuki, one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist known for your brutality and bloodthirsty nature. To think that you would be so attached to a child. I have to admit, that isn't something I expected."

Fujin's eyes glowed while he talked. He was inspecting Raiga, wondering whether he was under any influence. However, he didn't find anything strange. Yet, he couldn't help but feel that something was wrong with Raiga. His obsession with the kid seemed very unnatural. He couldn't help but think, 'Don't tell me Orochimaru's fetishes have been spreading throughout Kiri. That would be a rather disturbing sight.'

Raiga couldn't care less about Fujin's confusion and kept shouting, "What did you do with Ranmaru? Bastard! Who even are you? Why did you come here to separate me and Ranmaru?"

'Unnatural... This is too unnatural!' Fujin thought. He said, "Tell me who that kid is, what his abilities are and why you are so concerned about him. If you can convince me, I'll let you meet him."

Raiga immediately said, "He is my family. He is the only one who completes me. Bring him to..."

Raiga's words were stuck in his mouth as his throat was slashed! Fujin muttered, "Since you thought about the answers, I can just find the truth myself."

Fujin placed his palm on Raiga's head and inserted Yin chakra into his brain.

In a remote village in the Land of River, which was only known for its proximity to a Gold Mine, Raiga Kurosuki, one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist, met his end! It was the second one who had fallen by Fujin's blade!

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Chapter 545: An Overpowered Kekkei Genkai

Seeing Raiga's state of mind, Fujin understood that he wouldn't be able to get clear answers for him. Even if he did, he couldn't be sure whether the answers were truthful, lies or Raiga's delusions. The reason why he asked those questions was to make Raiga subconsciously think about them, making Fujin's job of reading his memories easier.

While Fujin was dealing with Raiga, Fujin's clone set the bag on the ground. His eyes glowed as he observed, 'The bag is full of red dust making it difficult for me to sense. Oh well, let me see what ability this kid has and how he made someone as heartless as Raiga be so concerned about him.'

The clone pointed a finger at Ranmaru. A small lightning bolt shot from the tip of his finger and pierced into the bag, zapping Ranmaru. He yelped and immediately lost consciousness. The red dust disappeared as soon as he lost consciousness. Fujin's clone opened the bag and placed the young boy on the ground. He placed his palm on Ranmaru's forehead and inserted Yin chakra into his brain to read his mind as well.

While Fujin was reading Raiga's memories, his Shadow Clone flickered away and reached the graveyard where someone had been buried alive not too long ago. Since not much time had passed, that man was still alive. Fujin's clone created a small tiny hole from the ground to the coffin. He created a hole in the coffin to ensure that air would keep flowing into the coffin. He then stayed in the area to ensure that no one came to disturb Fujin or his clone.

Since Raiga had been thinking about Ranmaru during the time of his death, Fujin managed to read all of Raiga's memories related to Ranmaru and some other matters in around 10 minutes. The more he read the more confused he became. At the same time, a sense of alertness appeared in his eyes.

Fujin analyzed, 'This is weird... Too weird! Someone as heartless as Raiga felt pity for the kid while he was slaughtering an entire village. Even though Ranmaru spoke some words to display sympathy, how can one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist be manipulated this easily? Even Naruto's Talk-no-jutsu might not have such an effect.

What's even weirder is that Raiga's obsession with Ranmaru just kept increasing over time. And it isn't like Zabuza whose affection for Haku grew naturally over time. It's some weird sort of obsession that made Raiga care far more for the kid than even himself. He truly believed that he would be incomplete without Ranmaru.'

A frown appeared on Fujin's face as he muttered, "It's almost like he was under some Genjutsu or perhaps on some drugs. Was it this kid or was it someone else?"

Obito's image appeared in Fujin's mind, but he couldn't think of any reason for Obito to do something like that. Fujin sealed Raiga's body while thinking, 'I'll read the rest of Raiga's memories later. I will be able to learn a lot of Kiri's secrets from him. It might be helpful at some point in the future.

Those two missing Chunin squads from Konoha were also buried by him. I will need to capture some of his subordinates who were present then so that I'll have an excuse to give to Hiruzen on how I found them.

I'll keep Raiga's dead body with me instead of cremating and burying the remains like I usually do. Since no one knows that it was me who killed Raiga, it will be safe to use him for Edo Tensei after I learn that jutsu. Though he won't have the swords, he is still stronger than an average Elite Jounin.'

Fujin flickered next to the clone who was standing in the graveyard and said, "Watch over the other clone from a distance. Check if there are any issues. Inform me once he is done."

The clone nodded and flickered away. Unlike Fujin who only read a part of Raiga's memories, his clone was reading all the memories of Ranmaru. So, he needed far longer. Fujin stayed in the graveyard while planning what to do next.

While Fujin was waiting for his clone to be done, the villagers who were working in the mine and a few of Raiga's subordinates who were overlooking the mine looked towards the graveyard from a long distance away with some fear.

Not too long ago, Lightning had been raining down nonstop around the graveyard. Loud explosions were also heard continuously. They understood that an intense fight was taking place there. However, even after the fight stopped, no one appeared.

After waiting for 15 minutes, a couple of Kurosuki family members went to check the situation. However, they didn't return to inform the rest of the situation. No one dared to walk towards the graveyard again.

Around an hour later, Fujin's clone was finally done. He dispelled himself and Fujin received the memories. His mind immediately got to work. The first question that arose in his mind was, 'Which Kekkei Genkai is this?'

Fujin was both surprised and impressed by Ranmaru's Kekkei Genkai. He thought, 'It is remarkable. If Danzo or Hiruzen knew about this boy, both would have gone to any extent to get him under their command, make him loyal to them and perhaps start a new clan in Konoha.'

The basic ability of his Dojutsu is to see past obstacles and see for long distances, just like the Byakugan. In some aspects, it is actually superior to the Byakugan. The perception and the analytical powers this Dojutsu grants are excellent at comprehending hidden detail. It was this aspect that caught Raiga off guard as Ranmaru could analyze him perfectly and was an important reason for Raiga to take Ranmaru with him instead of killing him.

Just this ability would have been very good, but his Kekkei Genkai has more features. He can create and control small amounts of red dust. This red dust can be used for masking his and even Raiga's chakra signatures. That was what allowed them to hide from my chakra field. In addition, the red dust can also be used to fabricate perfect chakra signatures to confuse sensors and Byakugan users.

In addition, his eyes can also accurately tell whether someone is alive or dead by checking what he thinks is Life Force. What's even more absurd is that he can transfer his own Life Force to others and revive them from a near-death situation. That's the same as the freaking Kinjutsu Chiyo developed after decades of research!

Seriously, what the fuck is up with this absurd Kekkei Genkai? I had initially thought that it might be Ketsuryugan of the Chinoike clan that the Uchiha clan exiled. But it is quite different and probably much more useful.'

Fujin could easily see the advantage of being able to transfer Life Force to heal anyone. If Ranmaru was trained to become an Elite Jounin, then he could assist a rank S ninja and essentially give them a second chance in battle. In a major war, this ability was too precious and incredibly dangerous for any enemy force. And that was just with one Ranmaru. What if there were a dozen like him?

And that was just the basic application. Since it could transfer 'Life Force', the first question that popped into Fujin's brain was whether this ability could be used to increase lifespan!

Fujin thought for a while before concluding, 'Probably not. However, even if there is a small chance, there is no reason to not test it. If I need Life Force in the future for some reason, then it'll be good to have a way to get it.

Even without it, just having someone who can save me from the brink of death is a good thing. Once my Flying Thunder God range can cover thousands of kilometers, I could just teleport next to him and get him to heal me in a few seconds.

Guess I will recruit him after all. That said, I still need to be careful. There are a few things that still don't make sense.

For starters, Raiga's obsession with Ranmaru. From Ranmaru's memories, he didn't do anything to make Raiga more obsessed with him. Instead, Raiga's obsession just increased slowly over time. It became so big that it was the main reason for him to leave Kirigakure and become a rogue ninja. He came all the way here to create a new faction where the two of them would be in charge of everything.

So either Raiga developed some mental problems or Ranmaru used some ability subconsciously to influence Raiga and make him more obsessed. Considering Ranmaru's past, I'd say that it is the latter.'

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Chapter 546: Creating a Kekkei Genkai?

Fujin continued analyzing, 'Before he met Raiga, Ranmaru was a crippled orphan who couldn't walk. While it is understandable for everyone to feel pity for him, the amount of help he got from the villagers increased significantly once he awakened the red dust ability. Until he exposed his abilities and scared everyone away, the village was obsessed with ensuring his well-being. The only difference is that they weren't as obsessed as Raiga, but that could be because none of them spent as much time with him as Raiga.

If it is a part of his Kekkei Genkai, then that would mean that he has some means of mentally influencing those who come in contact with him. I have a feeling that this is the feature of that red dust due to that incident, though I could be wrong. Regardless, I will have to be mindful of my feelings when interacting with him.

If it feels like I am getting influenced, then I'll be better off killing him on the spot. If I leave him in the Phantom Haven with this broken ability, I'll lose control of the organization very easily. It's not something I want to see.

Another thing that doesn't make any sense is this Kekkei Genkai itself. There is no record of such a Kekkei Genkai in Konoha's library. It could mean one of three things. The first possibility is that the previous users of this Kekkei Genkai died centuries ago and this Kekkei Genkai has been lying dormant since then.

The second is that all the users of this Kekkei Genkai hide it, sort of like the Jashin Priests who stay hidden from public view. And, the last possibility is that this Kekkei Genkai has been created by that kid! If he managed to create this Kekkei Genkai without any bloodline, then...'

Fujin's breathing became slightly rougher as he realized the implications of it. Fujin had long wanted to create a Kekkei Genkai. Even though he had been busy and couldn't invest much time to actually try it, Fujin did think of it quite frequently and did some small experiments. Unfortunately, he never had any luck.

As a result, Fujin understood very well how difficult it was to create Kekkei Genkai when you didn't have the bloodline. And that was when Fujin tried to recreate an already existing Kekkei Genkai with elements that he had practiced for years. If he were to try creating a Kekkei Genkai that didn't exist in that world, the difficulty level might increase by several hundred times!

Fujin analyzed, 'If that is the case, then this kid is an unprecedented talent! In the current generation, only Naruto and Sasuke would be more talented. He might give me clues on how to actually create a Kekkei Genkai.

Looking at his past, he obviously couldn't create the Kekkei Genkai on purpose. If he did create it, then it was created subconsciously. And the Kekkei Genkai that was created perfectly suits his needs. And somehow, the Kekkei Genkai kept evolving to suit any more of his desires.

The first aspect of the Kekkei Genkai that manifested was the red dust. It actually manifested one day when he had been starving for several days and would have likely died if no one fed him. However, once the red dust manifested, everyone in the village slowly began caring for him.

Due to being born as a cripple, he couldn't go outside to see the outside world. He yearned to see the outside world. And, the second ability that he developed allows him to see through obstacles and for long distances like the Byakugan.

Finally, he discovered his ability to supply Life Force when Raiga was critically injured one day and he saved his life by transferring his Life Force and healing Raiga. This makes me wonder whether this Kekkei Genkai still has any scope to improve... If so, then how far can it go?'

Fujin was tempted to see that. Unfortunately, he couldn't stay with Ranmaru for a long time to test it out. Taking him back to Konoha was out of the question as Hiruzen would take him. Keeping him in Phantom Haven was risky as well due to his ability. That more or less eliminated the two identities that Fujin could use.

As for his third identity, that was the identity that killed Raiga! There was no way in hell Ranmaru would follow Akuro. Fujin thought for some time before coming up with a plan. He muttered, "I guess that's the only choice."

Fujin flickered and appeared next to the unconscious Ranmaru. His last clone had been keeping an eye on Ranmaru the whole time. Several seals appeared on Fujin's palm which were quickly placed on Ranmaru. For the next half an hour, Fujin carefully placed seals on Ranmaru's body.

Once he was done, he checked the seals a couple of times before nodding. He extended two fingers and tapped on Ranmaru's forehead. In an instant, all the seals on his body began glowing and connected

with each other, forming one large pattern. Soon after, every seal on his body disappeared. Just an empty circle was left on his forehead with three lines extending on both sides of the circle.

Fujin thought, 'Perfect. I'll call this seal the Kekkei Genkai Seal! A shame that this seal has to be tailored to an individual which requires a lot of time to observe them properly. Hence, I can't make the seal imprint. Otherwise, this would be a rather useful seal to deal with those pesky Mangekyou and Rinnegan users.

Regardless, from today onwards, he won't be able to use his Kekkei Genkai abilities unless I lift this seal. This should stop whatever it is that makes people obsessed with him. If it doesn't, then killing him would be the only option.

That said, even though he can't remove the seal, another Grandmaster can do so easily. I'll have to add my imprint on the seal to prevent others from doing so. However, that requires his permission...'

A sparkle appeared on Fujin's finger and a small electric shock hit Ranmaru. It wasn't painful, it just forced him awake. As soon as his eyes opened, he saw the person who they were fighting against.

Ranmaru quickly looked around but couldn't see Raiga. Fearing the worst, he asked, "Where is Raiga?"

Fujin replied in a single word, "Dead."

Ranmaru's eyes widened for a moment before going back to normal. Fujin's clone had knocked Ranmaru out a few seconds before Fujin had killed Raiga. So Ranmaru didn't sense his death.

Ranmaru looked at Fujin and said, "I was born as a cripple. Until I met Raiga, my life had no meaning. When we met, I became his eyes and ears while he became my hands and feet. Together, we explored the world.

Raiga and I were finding the meaning of our lives by living for each other. We were convinced that we found the answer. That's why, if Raiga is gone, I have no reason to live. Without him, I have no purpose in this world. No cause to exist.

There is no need for me to be here any longer. You can kill me and set me free."

Ranmaru's choice of words surprised Fujin. He thought, 'Interesting. Even though he is accepting his fate, his choice of words will inevitably invoke a sense of sympathy within most people. Combined with that red dust ability, no wonder Raiga spared him. I wonder how it would have impacted me had I not sealed his abilities.'

Seeing that Fujin wasn't doing anything, Ranmaru said, "Go on, why do you hesitate?"

Fujin chuckled and replied in his heavy voice, "Hehe, you are an interesting kid. I never expected that a child would accept his death so calmly. Perhaps if Raiga was as calm as you, he might have still been alive."

Fujin extended his fingers towards Ranmaru's forehead and said, "Since you are so calm, I'll grant you a painless death."

Ranmaru closed his eyes as Fujin's fingers touched his forehead. However, he didn't feel anything else. It was as if it was an ordinary tap. Fujin just took the opportunity of Ranmaru's willingness to accept death to apply his imprint on the Kekkei Genkai Seal, ensuring that no one could remove his seal any longer!

He chuckled internally while thinking, 'Well look at that. He is actually willing to die. There was no resistance at all. No wonder his words feel so genuine. Tsk, to do so without a scheming mind. He will have a talent comparable to Naruto in talk-no-jutsu. I wonder how strong he will become with proper guidance.'

Ranmaru opened his eyes and asked, "Why did you stop?"

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Chapter 547: Controlling Lightning

Ranmaru asked, "Why did you stop?"

Fujin pulled his hand back and said, "Your words intrigued me. You said that you had found the meaning of your life. What did you find?"

Ranmaru replied, "It's as I said. I completed Raiga and Raiga completed me. That was the meaning of our lives. We are two people who have different bodies but the same mind."

"Hehehe... Hahahaha!" Fujin broke out in a burst of loud laughter. Ranmaru didn't understand the meaning of the laughter but didn't say anything. After half a minute, Fujin finally controlled himself and said, "That's the most delusional thing I have heard in my life."

He looked into Ranmaru's eyes and continued, "I don't know what the two of you have been doing before you reached this village, but here, all you did was enslave the villagers and force them to work for you. In addition, you buried several defenseless villagers alive. Villagers who were no different from cripples in Raiga's eyes."

Is the meaning you found in your life? Hahaha, that's the most bizarre thing I have heard."

Ranmaru replied, "We came here to free people from the tyrannical taxes that were imposed on them."

Fujin laughed again and said, "Oh really? Of all the places, you came to 'rescue' the village that has a gold mine? Do you think that making them work like a slave and burying them alive is helping them? Hahaha. You are one sadistic bastard."

Fujin's words surprised Ranmaru. It was important to remember that Ranmaru was just a child. He stayed in his house all the time since he couldn't walk outside. And once Raiga took him away, he always stayed with Raiga. As a result, his sense of morality wasn't normal in any sense. Hearing Fujin's words, Ranmaru began introspecting.

Fujin touched Ranmaru's forehead once again with two fingers and said, "I have changed my mind. I won't kill you. However, I will make you experience how life is for a person without any abilities. From this day onwards, you won't be able to use your Dojutsu. Only when you have helped 100 times the people you and Raiga harmed, you will be able to use your abilities again. Hehe, enjoy your new life! Perhaps you might find the real meaning of your life."

As those words fell on Ranmaru's ears, he fell unconscious. However, even when he was unconscious, he kept hearing those words! It was as if those words were imprinted on his brain!

Fujin picked Ranmaru up and flickered back to the graveyard. He placed his unconscious body there and disappeared once again. Seconds later, the soil covering one of the graves suddenly shifted apart. The coffin lid cracked and crumbled and the restraints tying the person inside the coffin were cut apart by the wind.

The man opened his eyes. His fists and legs were bleeding as he had tried for over an hour to break out of the coffin. He had given up but as soon as he saw the light, he pulled at his restraints with as much force as he could. To his surprise, he managed to break free. He quickly crawled out of the coffin and took heavy breaths.

He looked around fearfully to see if Raiga and his men were still around. To his relief, he didn't see anyone. And, to his horror, he noticed a lot of blood! He got up and nervously checked the bodies that were lying around in the graveyard. His eyes widened as he realized that they were the dead bodies of the Kurosuki family members!

He was stunned for a moment. Soon, he began crying. However, those were tears of joy. He looked at the skies and muttered, "God finally took justice for us!"

He was about to run to his village when he suddenly noticed a small kid. He looked at Ranmaru and wondered, 'Who is this kid? And how did he come here? Whatever, since God showed me mercy, I should look after this child.'

He picked up Ranmaru and began moving towards the village. Unknown to him, a pair of eyes were watching him. Fujin had left a Shadow Clone to keep an eye on Ranmaru. The clone thought, 'Good, exactly as I wanted. If he didn't do that, I would have had to put him under a Genjutsu.'

Meanwhile, the people in the mines were still quite confused. The Kurosuki family members made the people get back to mining as Raiga wouldn't like it if they stopped. Work was happening as usual in the gold mine when suddenly a few heads flew in the air. All the Kurosuki family members were killed!

Well, all but two members. Those two were inside a cave in the mine. They were about to come out when they saw their comrades who were standing at the entrance of the cave suddenly collapse! In fear, both hid inside the cave. They only dared to come out after several hours. After seeing the headless bodies of all their comrades in the Gold Mine, both ran away without any hesitation. Unknown to them, they were followed by another Shadow Clone of Fujin.

In the village, the man who was buried alive returned and informed everyone about what he saw at the graveyard. Around the same time, the workers in the mine also returned and informed the village about how everyone from the Kurosuki family was dead or missing. The village immediately broke into celebration.

Since Ranmaru was found at the place where the dead bodies of the Kurosuki family members were found, he was considered a lucky charm. The villagers took care of him. They were surprised to find that he was a cripple after he woke up. However, they still arranged for his food and had their best doctor take a look at him.

As for the one who had created this entire situation, he was standing atop one of the cliffs a few dozen kilometers away from the village. Fujin was still in his Akuro disguise. He was holding the Kiba blades. He ate a special soldier pill while thinking, 'Time to test these blades. Then I'll go and pick up Ranmaru.'

Fujin raised the Kiba blades and crossed them above his head. He remembered the process from Raiga's memories and controlled his Lightning chakra in the same manner. Immediately, a Lightning ball began forming between his two swords.

He shot the Lightning Ball into the valley and analyzed, 'Hmm, not bad. This sword is relatively easy to use. However, it could be more because I am already used to using the Blade of the Thunder Spirit. Regardless, it shouldn't take much time to learn all of Raiga's jutsus. Mastering them might need some time though.

These blades also have an amplification factor like the Blade of the Thunder Spirit. However, it is only around 3 to 4 times. A shame that I can't stack up the buffs of these two swords and the Blade of the Thunder Spirit. If I could, then blowing up the entire Root headquarters wouldn't have been an issue.

Unfortunately, I need to control my chakra properly while using the amplification feature of either of the blades. Once the amplification occurs, I can't control that chakra like the chakra in my body. I can only use it to create a jutsu and fire it. If I transfer it to another blade, then even though the amplification might occur, I won't be able to use it to create a jutsu.

That said, I wonder if there are any tools in this world that allow a direct amplification of chakra while still allowing me to control it freely... If so, then I might be able to use that to stack up amplifications. Unfortunately, considering that there isn't any record of it, it probably doesn't exist...

Anyway, another restriction of the Kiba blades is that these blades aren't as versatile as the Blade of the Thunder Spirit when it comes to channelling jutsus. Raiga spent a long time trying to figure out the optimal jutsus for the blade. I won't be able to use this blade for other jutsus.

Fortunately, I don't have a need to do so. I just need one jutsu!

Fujin pointed both his Kiba blades towards the sky and flowed his Lightning Chakra into the blade. He fired a Lightning bolt from the blades into the clouds.

He closed his eyes and felt his chakra that dispersed into the cloud. Normally, he wouldn't be able to control that chakra. However, with the Kiba blades, he could sense the changes that chakra caused in the sky very clearly and control it to an extent.

Fujin looked at the skies and thought, 'Incredible! It's as if the main purpose of this sword is to control Lightning. The Lightning chakra I fired is stimulating the formation of Lightning in the cloud. Though it takes some seconds, I'll be able to control when and where the Lightning falls.'

As soon as he felt that it was ready, Fujin pointed his Kiba blades towards one of the other cliffs. A Lightning bolt fell towards the cliff from the sky. However, it missed the mark and struck on its slopes.

Fujin muttered, "I will need to work on perfecting my aim."

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Chapter 548: A Little Play (1)

"Daimyo-sama! The environment finally seems to have calmed down! It might be safe to continue our journey."

A man rushed into a tent and announced loudly. Inside the room was the Daimyo of the Land of Frost. The Daimyo's ears perked up on hearing that. He cursed, "It's about time. Did anyone find out what it was?"

The man shook his head and said, "I am sorry, Daimyo-sama. The Samurais couldn't get close to it as it was very dangerous for them as well. A couple of them almost died. They decided against investigating again."

The Daimyo thought for a bit before saying, "Let it be. Since it has passed, we don't need to worry. We will send some experts here later to investigate this area."

The Daimyo of the Land of Frost was visiting several other Daimyos on a schedule for some political talks. He was en route to meet another Daimyo when suddenly Lightning began falling nonstop from the skies some distance ahead on their path, forcing them to camp there.

Though the Lightning would stop occasionally, it would begin again when they started moving. They dispatched the Samurais to check what was happening, but some Lightning strikes fell very close to the Samurais, scaring them away. Since it was mountainous terrain, they only had one path to move through. As a result, his group was stuck there for two whole days!

Needless to say, all the Lightning that fell in their path was from Fujin who was training. Though he had no idea who it was, he didn't want to be disturbed while he was training. As a result, the entire mountain pass stayed closed for two days!

After training for two days, Fujin was finally satisfied and moved from the area. As he moved back to the village near the Gold Mine, his appearance changed again. His height returned to normal and his appearance changed into that of an old man. He changed his outfit as well. If someone saw him now, they would think that he is a wise and holy old man.

As he moved, he analyzed, 'I can now control the Lightning very well with the Kiba blades. I'm still not as good as Raiga, but it's only a matter of time before I surpass what he could do with these blades.'

For Raiga, the Kiba blades were the core of his strength. However, even for my Akuro identity, it is just one of my many trump cards. There are just three abilities of these swords that I need and will focus on.

The first is using them as normal swords for close combat. With my chakra flow, I don't need to work on this aspect even a bit. The second is controlling the Lightning. Even though the Kiba blades aren't very versatile for using other jutsus, they are amazing at manipulating natural Lightning.

With their help, I can create a jutsu equivalent to or stronger than Sasuke's Kirin. Considering the amplification feature of these blades, I will need only a fraction of the chakra that he needed to use Kirin. Once I create this jutsu, it will undoubtedly become Akuro's most destructive jutsu.

The third application of these blades that I found very interesting was the Lightning Strike Armor. Konoha already tried replicating some aspects of the Lightning Chakra Mode by developing Burst, Lightning Transformation and Electric Skin jutsu. Along with this Armor, I might have some headway in copying the Lightning Chakra Mode.

If I somehow master it, then this identity will have Peak Rank S battle strength without having to use the Flying Thunder God jutsu. That said, replicating the Lightning Chakra Mode is easier said than done... Maybe I should infiltrate Kumogakure someday to steal information on how to master the Lightning Chakra Mode...'

Lost in his thoughts, Fujin reached close to the village. He dispelled his Shadow Clone that was keeping an eye on Ranmaru and immediately stopped moving at such a high speed. Instead, he walked the normal path at a slow speed while processing the clone's memories. Soon, his figure became visible from the village. A couple of villagers noticed him. His appearance immediately caught their attention.

A few approached him and began a conversation. Fujin immediately spun a story about how he was a travelling sage who focused only on healing people. He asked them to bring people who were injured to him to heal.

The villagers were surprised and relieved to hear that. Due to being forced to work in the mines and being beaten up whenever their bodies couldn't keep up, several villagers were injured. Though they were treated by the doctor in the village, the injuries weren't healed yet.

Hence, they were happy to see a Medical Ninja appear in their village and offer to heal them for free. While some villagers were on guard due to having been tricked by Raiga not long ago, most didn't find it strange for several reasons.

While uncommon, there were several ninjas who travelled in this manner and offered their help to common people without asking anything from them. The stories of such philanthropic acts were well-known among common people. In some rare instances, when the morale of the entire country is low due to some incidents, the hidden villages do philanthropic work as well, though it was very rare in peacetime.

Of course, even though such philanthropic ninjas existed in the world, they were extremely rare. Unlike Fujin's previous world, this world was extremely dangerous. Not everyone could move around freely like Jiraiya or Tsunade. A rogue ninja would eventually be hunted down. And if that philanthropic ninja was still a part of a hidden village, then he or she would never be permitted to do such work for a long time.

That is why, the common people would always be extremely happy and welcoming when someone appeared to do such philanthropic work. Of course, there was another reason why they trusted Fujin so easily. It was because he cast a Genjutsu to lower their alertness and make them more trusting in nature.

Some injured people approached Fujin. He healed their injuries using the Mystical Palm jutsu one by one. Seeing that there was nothing fishy, the remaining injured villagers approached him as well. A few diseased people also approached, but Fujin said that he unfortunately couldn't help them.

When everyone was healed, an old man asked, "Can you heal someone who is paralyzed?"

Fujin pretended to think for a few seconds and replied, "It depends on the type of paralysis, so I can't say for sure. Lead me to the patient and I'll take a look."

The old man nodded. He and some other villagers led him to the house in which Ranmaru was kept. Ranmaru, who was lying in bed, saw Fujin appear. As soon as Fujin saw him, a frown appeared on his face which was noticed by Ranmaru and some other villagers.

One guy asked, "Is there an issue?"

Fujin shook his head and replied, "No. I will take a look."

He approached Ranmaru and pretended to inspect his legs while thinking, 'I have already inspected his paralysis. Though I don't have much medical knowledge of how to treat paralysis, Yoshi and Isamu forcefully taught me some basics when I was learning the Mystical Palm jutsu.'

Ranmaru's paralysis is very easy to heal. All that is needed is to insert chakra into his body and have it flow through his chakra network in his legs to solve his paralysis. Any Medical ninja can do it.

Had I not read their memories, I would have wondered why Raiga didn't ask a Medical Ninja to look at Ranmaru. However, the answer to that question becomes very easy to figure considering that they considered each other to be an extension of themselves. How would Raiga be Ranmaru's hands and feet if Ranmaru can walk by himself?'

Fujin smiled and asked, "What is your name, young one?"

Ranmaru was surprised by the kind smile. In the past couple of days, he had seen too many kind smiles. He had thought that it was just the villagers who were happy to see Raiga gone. Seeing their relief, he understood that the words of Raiga's killer were true. He and Raiga had committed several sins which weighed heavily on him and made him depressed.

Ranmaru replied, "I am Ranmaru."

Fujin said, "Ranmaru, such a good name. From today onwards, you will be able to walk like anyone else."

Fujin's words shocked Ranmaru. Before he could process his thoughts, Fujin pointed his palm towards his legs and a green glow appeared. He said, "It will sting a bit but don't worry, it won't hurt. Clench your fists and grit your teeth."

Fujin inserted his chakra into Ranmaru's legs. Ranmaru immediately clenched his fists and gritted his teeth. The villagers watched with slight nervousness on seeing his expressions.

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Chapter 549: A Little Play (2)

Though Fujin said that it wouldn't hurt much, Ranmaru felt as if several dozen needles were being inserted into his legs every second. If it was any normal boy instead of him, he would have long started crying loudly.

After a few minutes, Ranmaru grew used to the pain. More importantly, he began feeling sensations in his legs. For the first time in his life, he was able to move them slightly.

"Don't try to move your legs right now. Don't worry, you can walk and run as much as you want very soon." Fujin instructed on seeing Ranmaru trying to move his legs. Ranmaru immediately stopped.

After another 10 minutes, Fujin finally stopped. He pulled his hand back and said with a smile on his face, "You can try to move now."

Ranmaru nodded and tried to move his legs. To his surprise, he was able to move his legs. However, he was still quite slow. Fujin said, "It will feel weird at the start. However, you will soon get used to it."

Ranmaru tried to get up. A couple of villagers assisted him and helped him get off the bed. With their help, Ranmaru took the first steps of his life. When he did, his feelings immediately became very complicated. He thought, 'I always believed that Raiga was my hands and feet. However, Raiga is dead and I can walk by myself now. Does this mean that the meaning we discovered was fake?'

The villagers were unaware of his internal struggle and became happy for him. Many began to congratulate him. A few thanked Fujin as well. Fujin waited for a few minutes for the commotion to settle down before saying, "Everyone, I need to talk with Ranmaru about his condition. Could you give us a few minutes alone?"

The villagers nodded and left. Within a minute, only Ranmaru and Fujin were left in the room. Ranmaru thanked Fujin for healing him. Fujin smiled and said, "For someone who walked for the first time in his life, you sure don't seem happy. Mind telling me what it is that is weighing on your mind?"

Since his abilities were sealed, Ranmaru couldn't detect that Fujin was using a Genjutsu on him to make him trust Fujin more easily. In addition, he had just healed Ranmaru's legs. As a result, Ranmaru felt that Fujin could be trusted. However, even then, he shook his head and said, "It's nothing."

Fujin was surprised. He wondered, 'Even in this situation he isn't willing to open up? Looks like staying with Raiga made his mentality quite strong. Oh well...'

Fujin said, "Nothing? I wouldn't call such a complicated seal on your body nothing, kiddo. When I first saw you, that seal shocked me. I never thought that someone would put such a complicated seal on a little child. So, can you tell me what it is? Perhaps I might be able to help you."

Ranmaru was surprised. Ever since Fujin woke him up after killing Raiga, he hadn't been able to use his abilities. As a result, everyone thought that he was an ordinary kid. He didn't imagine that he'd meet a Fuinjutsu expert just a few days after the seal was applied to him.

His expression became dejected as he admitted, "I unknowingly did some horrible things. Things I thought were good for the people but were actually harmful. As a result, someone sealed my abilities and said that my abilities will stay sealed until I do good work."

Fujin acted like he was surprised and said, "That's a surprise. I thought someone had some ill intentions towards you. I don't know what you did, but it's good to see that you have identified your mistakes. Do you want me to break this seal?"

Ranmaru was surprised by the offer. He thought for a couple of minutes before shaking his head. He answered, "No. I can't do anything for the people who suffered due to me. However, I want to do good for the people in the future. I am afraid that my abilities might put me on the wrong path again."

A wide smile appeared on Fujin's face as he said, "Good attitude. You might just be suitable to be a part of my organization. Let me check your seal first."

Ranmaru wondered, 'His organization?'

Fujin placed his palm on Ranmaru's forehead and inserted some chakra into it. For the next couple of minutes, he pretended to check the seal. With every passing second, his smile reduced and a frown appeared on his face.

He muttered, "This seal is a very high-level one. The one who put it on you is probably among the best Fuinjutsu Grandmasters in the world. Unless he lifts the seal himself, it looks like doing good will be the only way to get rid of it."

He looked at Ranmaru and asked, "How are you planning to do good work?"

Ranmaru thought for a bit before answering, "I don't know."

Fujin nodded and said, "As I thought. Would you like to come with me? The organization I created helps civilians who are being attacked by rogue ninjas and bandits. It will give you an opportunity to help the weak. The main reason why I came here is because I heard that this village was being tormented by one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist and his goons. However, it looks like someone already killed them."

Ranmaru was surprised to hear that his benefactor was here to deal with Raiga and the Kurosuki family as well. He thought, 'It seems like we were extremely tyrannical for so many people wanting to deal with us. Should I tell him that I was working with Raiga?'

Fujin continued, "If you come with me, you'll be trained properly for a few years. Once you become strong enough, you'll be able to help out people with your own strength."

Instead of giving his answer, Ranmaru said, "I don't want to hide things from you. Until a few days ago, I was working with Raiga."

Surprise appeared on Fujin's face again. He said, "I see. Can you tell me what circumstances made you work with him and what happened to him?"

Ranmaru explained to Fujin about his background, his Kekkei Genkai, how he met Raiga and how Raiga and the Kurosuki family were killed a couple of days ago. Fujin heard him patiently.

When Ranmaru was done, Fujin sighed and muttered, "Such a complicated life at such a young age. In any case, there is no reason to not give you an opportunity to redeem yourself. My offer still stands."

Ranmaru immediately replied, "I would be honored to be a part of your organization."

Fujin smiled and said, "Good."

Fujin explained to him the details of the organization and applied the Phantom Seal on Ranmaru's back. He informed the villagers that he would be taking Ranmaru as a disciple and taking him on his journey. The villagers were surprised but seeing that Ranmaru had agreed, no one stopped him. They bid their farewells to Ranmaru.

Fujin carried Ranmaru to the Phantom Haven Base. En route, he wore a mask and instructed, "Ranmaru, don't tell anyone that you saw my face. Also, don't tell anyone about your past with Raiga or your sealed abilities."

Ranmaru nodded. Fujin reached the Phantom Haven Base, handed Ranmaru to Shigeki and said, "He'll be joining here as a student. Raiga and his subordinates were dealt with by someone. He won't be harming anyone else."

Shigeki was surprised to hear that someone as strong as Raiga was dealt with by someone else so soon after he informed Fujin about him. He nodded and arranged for Ranmaru to be placed with other students.

Following Fujin's advice, Ranmaru tried making friends with the kids. Fujin and Shigeki observed them from some distance away. Shigeki asked, "Is there anything special about him, Shiden?"

The reason why Shigeki asked the question was because this was the first time Fujin recruited someone other than him. Fujin answered, "The circumstances he grew up in were very bad. Though life in our base isn't exactly normal, it'll still be a great improvement for him."

Anyway, he is quite talented. I anticipate that he'll manage to become an Elite Jounin in a couple of decades."

Shigeki was surprised to hear Fujin's evaluation. He remembered how strict Fujin had been while categorizing the ranks. What Shiden didn't know was that Fujin believed that Ranmaru should be able to become a Rank S ninja if he didn't slack off. Though it was unlikely for him to reach that level before the Fourth Great Ninja War, he might reach it a few years after the war.

Even though Fujin didn't have any concrete plans for the organization after the Fourth Great Ninja War, there was no reason to not recruit a possible Rank S ninja who could heal him within moments especially considering how little time he personally invested in Ranmaru.

Seeing Shigeki's expression, Fujin instructed, "Don't treat him differently from other kids for that reason though. Other kids won't like it if someone gets special treatment. Just train him like anyone else."

Shigeki nodded. Fujin gave some more instructions and took his leave. On leaving the Phantom Haven base, he muttered, "Time to complete the mission that Hiruzen assigned me."

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Chapter 550: Magnet Release

Fujin and his clone created Shadow Clones and dispelled them to trade information. On understanding the location of his clone, Fujin quickly made his way across the Land of Rivers and located the two subordinates of Raiga whom he had left alive.

The two had set up a tent in a forest and were hiding there. What they had seen in the gold mine had horrified both of them and they had travelled several hundred kilometers away from the gold mine. They relaxed only after surviving for a couple of days as no one chased after them, or so they thought.

It hadn't been even a day since they had put their guard down slightly when suddenly a strong wind began blowing through the area. To their horror, the winds casually tore through their tent. In the blink of an eye, hundreds of small cuts appeared on their bodies! The wind was so potent that several nerves and tendons in their bodies were cut, forcing them to their knees. They were unable to move their limbs when Fujin's figure appeared in front of them.

The two looked at the Konoha headband he was wearing and immediately became worried as they remembered their past actions. As if reading their minds, Fujin asked, "You two used to work for Raiga, right?"

Both immediately shouted, "No. We never worked for Raiga."

Immediately, more cuts appeared on their bodies. The new cuts were much deeper than the previous cuts, causing them even more pain. Their screams scared away some wild animals around that area. Fujin said, "I can sense whether you are telling the truth or not. If you lie again, I will kill you. Now, tell me whether Raiga attacked two squads from Konoha."

One of the two instinctively answered, "We don't know. We never saw him attack any Konoha ninja."

The guy kneeling next to him watched with horror in his eyes as his friend was beheaded! Fujin turned his gaze towards him and asked, "Do you want to die as well?"

The guy immediately said everything that had happened between Raiga and Konoha ninjas. Fujin asked, "Do you remember where their bodies were buried?"

Not wanting to end up like his friend, he nodded and told Fujin the location. Fujin stored the dead body in a scroll before he grabbed the alive guy's neck from behind and dragged him for hundreds of kilometers across the Land of Rivers until he reached the spot the guy said. He dug out the dead bodies and stored them in a scroll.

The last Kurosuki family member asked, "I have led you to their bodies. Can you let me go now?"

"Sure," Fujin replied before letting him go from this world. He stored his dead body in a scroll as well while thinking, 'Hiruzen will definitely enquire how Raiga died. For him to die right after the mission was assigned to me is suspicious. Not to mention, considering that Raiga could control the Lightning, Hiruzen might suspect him to be behind the destruction of Root headquarters.'

These two will form the perfect alibi for the details I plan on feeding to Hiruzen. He can read their memories and verify a part of my details. That will be enough to stop him from looking any further. That said, it might have been fun to see him trying to find who killed Raiga, hehe. Though going by what happened when I attacked Root, he might assign this mission to me as well.'

With the mission complete, Fujin began moving back to Konoha. Having eaten the soldier pill, Fujin didn't need to rest. He travelled non-stop and reached Konoha by the next evening.

Hiruzen was just about to wrap up his work when Fujin appeared in his office. He was slightly surprised to see Fujin arrive so soon. He thought, 'The ninjas I dispatched to the Land of Rivers didn't see any signs of him. Did he find out why those two squads went missing so quickly?'

Hiruzen didn't have much hope of finding those two squads. He had just given the mission to Fujin because Fujin wanted to spend some time away from the village.

He said with a smile, "Fujin, it's good to see you again so soon. How did the missions go? I received some interesting reports from the Land of Rivers."

Hiruzen still remembered that puppets had destroyed the Yamakawa town. He was curious to know how Fujin got his hands on so many puppets and how he became so masterful at controlling them.

Fujin chuckled and said, "The missions were indeed interesting. I came across a couple of ninjas that I didn't expect to find in the Land of Rivers. That said, the information might be sensitive."

Hiruzen got the clue and glanced at his Anbu Guards. Within seconds, they left the room and activated all the seals. Hiruzen asked, "So, who did you run into?"

Fujin didn't answer his question and instead placed a couple of storage scrolls on Hiruzen's desk and said in a serious tone, "This one has the dead bodies of the 8 Chunins who went missing."

Hiruzen sighed on hearing that. While he had expected them to be dead, getting the confirmation didn't make it pleasant. Losing 8 ninjas in peacetime wasn't something he wanted to see. He asked, "Who was it?"

Fujin answered, "A former member of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist, Raiga Kurosuki. He had established a stronghold in a village that had a gold mine and had more or less enslaved the villagers there.

I suspected that he was the one behind the missing Chunins when I heard that he was in the Land of Rivers. However, when I went to find him, I learnt that he had been defeated by someone and his subordinates were slaughtered three days before I reached the village."

Hiruzen was surprised. He muttered, "To be able to defeat one of the Seven Ninja Swordsmen of the Mist and slaughter all his subordinates... Who was it?"

Fujin shrugged and said, "No idea. I placed a villager under Genjutsu and learnt that a huge fight took place in the graveyard where Raiga and his followers were burying a living man. Since the villagers were far away, they didn't see who it was. They only saw Lightning striking that area repeatedly.

Sometime after the fight stopped, Raiga's subordinates, who were overlooking the operations in the mine, were beheaded in a flash. Whoever that person was, we can say that he is incredibly fast at the very least.

The villagers recovered the dead bodies of all but two of Raiga's subordinates. Raiga's body was missing as well. So I am not sure whether he is dead or whether he escaped. Considering how little information we have, it could have been Raiga himself who went crazy and killed his subordinates. It's difficult to say for sure.

Anyway, I hunted down the two subordinates whose bodies weren't found and interrogated them. Raiga killed those two squads and buried them some distance away from the village. This scroll has the bodies of those two subordinates. Perhaps we can learn more by reading their memories."

Hiruzen thought for a bit before saying, "Did you get the dead bodies of his subordinates who were in the Graveyard? Perhaps we could know what happened from their memories."

Fujin shook his head and said, "That path is closed as well. It had already been 3 days since they were killed. Their memories would have started dissipating. Besides, from what I found out, they had a hole in their heads. So chances of being able to read their memories are more or less zero."

Hiruzen sighed and muttered, "They were very thorough. Nothing we can do, unfortunately. Anyway, what happened in Yamakawa town? When did you become a puppeteer?"

Fujin raised his left eyebrow and asked, "When did I have time to become a puppeteer? I wasn't the one who attacked with puppets. The Yamakawa family was attacked by Sasori of the Red Sand when I was in the town. So even if we hadn't undertaken this mission, the Yamakawa family would have been history."

Hiruzen was surprised. He wondered, 'What was Sasori doing there?'

Fujin continued, "I am not sure why Sasori attacked them. My only guess is that someone gave that mission to Akatsuki. Most of the people in the mansion were killed by Sasori. I only killed their family head and the Suna ninjas hiding under his mansion."

Fujin placed some more scrolls on Hiruzen's desk while saying, "These scrolls have their dead bodies."

Hiruzen looked at his desk. Even though they were stored inside scrolls, there were as many as 33 dead bodies on his desk! While Hiruzen didn't find it odd, if a common person were to know of it, he would wonder if it was the Hokage's office or a morgue!

Hiruzen asked, "Did you fight Sasori?"

Fujin nodded and said, "Yeah. I wanted to test a new jutsu against a rank S opponent."

A frown appeared on his face as he said, "There is something strange about him. One of his puppets could control Iron!"

Hiruzen's eyes immediately widened!