

Calamity 61

Naruto: The Wind Calamity

Chapter 61: Spar - Hoka Vs Mieko

Mieko and Hoka both cursed him and his annoying Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu. Hoka activated his Byakugan and noticed him appearing 600 meters away.

But he disappeared soon, and this time went out of the Byakugan's range.

Mieko cursed, "Fujin is as cowardly as usual."

Hoka and Mieko looked at each other deciding what decision to take.

Around a kilometer away from the initial location, Fujin kept sensing the location of the other 2. They were still in the same position. He smiled thinking, 'The duration of the fight is 13 hours. I guess Renjiro analyzed that we won't be able to decide the winner in a few fights.

So the winner will depend on who has the most amount of chakra. The best way for me would be to force multiple rounds so that all of us lose an equal amount of chakra. And I'll be able to win easily due to my larger reserves. Especially considering that Byakugan and Sharingan use a decent amount of chakra while being activated.

But knowing these 2, I have no doubt that they'll fight intensely, hehe.'

Back at the starting position, Mieko and Hoka were observing each other. Hoka was analyzing, 'So what do I do? Do I hide too until Fujin comes out? Or do we track Fujin first before fighting? Or should I try to beat her first and then beat Fujin?

No, that'll be tough. Not to mention, Fujin loves to sneak attack. He won't miss the chance to attack when we are fighting.'

On the other hand, Mieko too was having similar doubts. But compared to Hoka, she was a lot more arrogant. She dumped all the questions she had while deciding, 'I'll just defeat Hoka quickly before Fujin can act. In a 1v1 fight, I'll be able to defeat both of them with ease.'

Having made her decision, Mieko activated her Sharingan and rushed toward Hoka. This broke Hoka out of his thoughts, and he prepared to fight.

He cautioned himself, 'I have to avoid looking into her eyes. While I can break her Genjutsu easily, it'll be tough to do so quickly enough.'

Mieko flickered a few meters ahead of Hoka and rapidly made a few hand signs and launched a Fireball jutsu on him.

Hoka quickly moved out of the way, and then ran towards Mieko with the intention of using Gentle Fist to close her chakra points. Mieko quickly flickered out of range and launched shurikens on Hoka.

Knowing that she uses strings on her Shuriken, Hoka too threw his own shuriken, which collided with hers and deflected them.

Mieko used this opportunity to close the distance, and used Fire Release : Four jutsu on Hoka.

Hoka barely managed to dodge, but it razed past his shirt, burning it. A bit of the skin on the side of his abdomen was also burnt.

He bore the pain and closed the distance. This time, Mieko didn't back off and engaged him with her Uchiha Taijutsu style.

Using her Sharingan, she ensured that she never got hit by his Gentle fist.

Instead, she tried to use her Fire Release : Four jutsu on Hoka. However, Hoka noticed it every time and kept dodging it.

All this time, Mieko kept trying to put Hoka under Genjutsu, but it never worked on Hoka. Hoka's Byakugan can determine when Mieko is about to cast a Genjutsu.

So, whenever she prepares her Genjutsu, Hoka avoided looking into her eyes and disrupted his own chakra slightly. This ensured that Mieko never managed to cast a Genjutsu on him.

But this also distracted him, which allowed Mieko to fight him equally in close combat.

After a few minutes, however, Mieko ended up having a lot of close calls, with Hoka almost hitting her several times.

So she flickered backward. Hoka followed her, but she flickered again, starting a tag game. Mieko's control over and skill with Body Flicker jutsu was much higher than Hoka's though. So she regained her advantage.

Not able to keep up with Mieko's flickers, Hoka gave up chasing her and stood his ground, 'Knowing her arrogance, she'll come close to fight me anyways. So I don't need to chase her.'

Seeing that Hoka had stopped chasing her, she came close to him instead while weaving hand signs. However, unlike what Hoka predicted, she stayed at mid-range and uses Fire Dragon jutsu!

Not having anything to counter, he flickered away from the line of Fire Dragon. Finally sick of trying to engage her in close combat, Hoka used Stone Shuriken jutsu.

The jutsu surprised Mieko, but thanks to her Sharingan, she was able to dodge or block all of them.

Unfortunately for her, she overlooked Hoka, who using this time, appeared right in front of her and stabbed 2 fingers toward her.

Seeing that, Mieko freaked out a little, 'Damn, I have to block!' In a hurry, she put her arm in between, and Hoka hit a chakra point on her arm.

As soon as her arm gets hit, she flickered away. Hoka expected her to return, but instead, she just ran away, surprising Hoka, 'Never thought she'll run away.'

He waited there for a few seconds thinking, 'Both my opponents ran away. So shouldn't I be the winner?'

He then sighed, 'Unfortunately, the next step will depend on Fujin. I and Mieko are finally far away from each other, and tired from a battle. Even injured. So the question is who will he attack?'

Around a kilometer from where the fighting was happening, Fujin kept sensing their chakras throughout their clash. When they kept fighting, he really wished that he had some popcorn and a tv to watch the fight.

Unfortunately, he had to stay hidden long away. The fight continued for over 7 minutes, before he sensed Mieko's chakra signature going far away from Hoka.

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Chapter 62: Fujin's Decision

Fujin concluded, 'Oh, so Mieko lost and ran away? Who's the coward now? Anyways, whom to attack?'

Since Mieko ran away, it's safe to assume that she's injured. Most likely Hoka managed to block some of her chakra points. Maybe one or two. Any more, and Hoka wouldn't have given her any chance to run away.'

Hoka too was thinking at the same time, 'Fujin will most probably target Mieko, as she's the one who ran away. I should be ready to hit him after he fights her for some time.'

Mieko sat while resting against a tree after retreating to the opposite end of the training ground. She was very annoyed with herself, 'I put my guard down, that's why I got hit. Otherwise, I could have beaten him as I was suppressing him throughout the fight.'

She looked at her left arm. It was swollen, 'He blocked the chakra point on my left arm. I won't be able to create hand signs. Even moving this arm is very painful.'

She began applying first aid on her left arm. She didn't bother hiding, as she knew that both Fujin and Hoka wouldn't have any issue tracking her.

While applying first-aid, she thought, 'Fujin will most likely attack me soon, I need to be ready.'

Hoka kept his Byakugan activated. He kept an eye on Mieko while waiting for Fujin to make a move. Soon, he noticed something moving at a very rapid speed.

In the next second, he noticed Fujin approaching him, 'So fast! Why is he moving towards me? He's already here.'

Hoka looked straight ahead, Fujin was already standing on a branch. He took his fighting stance.

Unfortunately for him, as soon as he reached there, Fujin released a supercharged (5%) Great Breakthrough jutsu toward Hoka.

Hoka quickly erected a Rock shield to protect himself. He was shocked by the power of the Great Breakthrough jutsu, 'Why is this so strong? Did he learn any rank B jutsus? Damn! Not good!'

The Rock Shield obviously couldn't give complete protection to Hoka. And Flickering away wasn't an option. So he went underground and used Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu and managed to move 125 meters to the south. He used it twice more to completely get out of the range of the deadly jutsu while wondering, 'Why did he attack me?'

Two minutes earlier -

Fujin thought for a few seconds before concluding, 'Normally, attacking Mieko would be the best choice here. Except that there could be an issue. Mieko, though smarter than Hoka when it comes to tactics, is just way too arrogant.'

Hoka, on the other hand, will most likely move to help Mieko and prevent me from defeating her when she's injured. Even if he doesn't, his Byakugan will provide him with all the info, and he'll have the initiative of attacking or being a spectator.

So that means my target should be...'

Having concluded, he quickly used Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu to approach Hoka.

Though Hoka ran underground, Fujin had no trouble sensing him. He followed him with Body Flicker. Hoka too could see that Fujin was following him as he expected, 'As expected, he can track me with ease. I need to get out and engage him in close combat. I don't think he can use that strong jutsu again.'

However, before he could get out of the ground, Fujin landed on top of where Hoka was and punched the ground with his full power chakra-enhanced punch!

Since Hoka sensed Fujin building up chakra, he didn't completely get out of the ground. However, how could he have imagined that Fujin would punch the ground?

The impact created a shockwave that travelled through the ground toward where Hoka was.

While the shockwave was harmless, it caused the entire underground to become a mess. The random movement of the ground hit Hoka many times while he was underground, even injuring him.

He tried using Earth Instantaneous Body jutsu again, but as the underground was a mess, he couldn't perform it. As a last effort, he hardened the walls next to him by using a Rock shield. It provided him with some cover, but he was already injured.

His right elbow and shoulder had taken hits. Many rocks also hit his chest, abdomen, and his back.

Later, even despite the protection of the rock shields, his left ankle got injured, rather badly. Finally, the tremors died down and Hoka managed to get above the ground.

That's exactly where Fujin was, but unfortunately, he didn't have a choice.

As soon as he got out of the ground, a Kunai was placed at the back of his neck. He saw Fujin standing in front of him. He said, "Give up. You've lost."

Hoka unwillingly accepted his loss, "I give up."

As soon as he said that, Fujin's wind clone dispersed himself.

The fight only took 2 attacks. 1 Great Breakthrough jutsu and 1 punch.

Mieko noticed the winds blowing and heard a big noise when Fujin punched the ground. Unfortunately, she was too far away to understand what was happening. She wondered, 'Are Fujin and Hoka fighting? Should I go and check? No, I'm injured, let me wait for a bit. The chakra point will open up soon.'

As soon as Hoka gave up, Fujin flickered away toward Mieko. He noticed that Mieko was now standing in a spot with no trees around, 'Not bad. She knows that hiding is pointless. So she stayed in open ground to not give any chance to sneak attack.

Actually, I can still sneak up on her from behind. But, I'm pretty sure that she has deliberately left this opening. The area around her should be full of traps.

Having figured out her tactic, Fujin began making wind clones. 20 Wind clones appeared around Fujin. Fujin then suppressed his chakra and hid behind a tree.

His wind clones dispersed through the forest, surrounding Mieko from all sides while still hiding.

One clone moved to a path that allowed him to sneak up on her. On route, the clone noticed that there were a lot of strings on the ground. He smirked, having guessed right.

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Chapter 63: Fire Release - Aerial Explosion Jutsu

Fujin's wind clone tried flickering behind her quickly while avoiding all traps, but Mieko realized it and quickly turned around. When she did, Fujin's clone noticed that Mieko was holding 2 strings in her right hand.

Seeing Fujin heading toward her, Mieko smirked, 'I knew it.'

She flickered behind while releasing the strings. As soon as those strings went slack, a couple of dozen Shurikens rained toward Fujin's clone.

At the same time, Mieko activated her Sharingan and observed Fujin. She frowned on noticing that Fujin's chakra amount was very low, 'A Wind clone. This guy never fights head-on!'

Fujin's clone dodged the shurikens with ease and chased after Mieko while forming Wind Explosion jutsu and launching them at her.

He consecutively launched 7 Wind Explosions at her. Mieko dodged each time. But she was getting increasingly worried, 'I need to keep a watch on any sneak attacks. It's very likely that he has more Wind clones hiding nearby.'

Renjiro observed this clash, 'His control over Wind nature is really impressive. Wind clones are the weakest elemental clones. Any capable sensor can easily differentiate between a wind clone and the main body in a moment due to how unstable the clone is.'

However, the weak nature of the Wind clone allows anyone to create a lot of them. And the instability of the Wind clone's chakra makes it immune to Genjutsu. And due to being made of wind, they are usually even more mobile than the user.'

He then looked at Fujin who was hiding and smiled, 'He really is carefree and thinks that he has already won. While he will win, he's in for a surprise if he thinks the win will be this easy. After all, both Hoka and Mieko too have made huge progress in the last 3 months.'

The wind clone finally begins getting low on chakra. Fujin analyzed, 'Hmm... I need to pour more chakra into 2-3 wind clones so that they can last longer. Others I can make with the minimum requirements as I'll need the numbers.'

Since he was about to disperse, the clone poured most of its chakra into another Wind Explosion jutsu. He then flickered towards Mieko. Mieko flickered away, but the clone followed her with another flicker and threw the Wind Explosion jutsu right at her. On doing that, the clone dispersed.

In a hurry, Mieko threw a kunai, that had an Explosion tag attached to it, toward the incoming wind sphere.

The blast created by the explosion tag easily overpowered the jutsu and dispersed it, however, Mieko had to jump back to avoid getting hit by the explosion.

The explosion, alongside the earlier Wind Explosion jutsus, however, activated or destroyed most of the traps that she painfully placed.

Unfortunately for her, as soon as she jumped backward, another 2 Wind clones appeared behind her and launched the Wind Explosion jutsu on her.

Since she was airborne, she couldn't flicker away! In a panic, she threw a shuriken, with a string attached to it, to the tree next to her, and used it to pull herself away. But some winds created by the explosions still hit her, creating many small cuts on her that immediately began bleeding.

The 2 clones immediately pressed on the attack, without giving Mieko any time to think. While she engaged them, another 3 clones appeared and tried to sneak attack her. Though none were successful, they added even more injuries to her.

Fujin still kept observing the fight while hiding, 'Not bad, she's grown much stronger. My wind clones are rather annoying to deal with. But, is this all? The fight is kinda too easy.'

Over at the battlefield, Mieko was bleeding a lot. And she was incredibly annoyed, 'Why can't he fight with some honor? I'll show him!'

She gritted her teeth and endured the pain and made a couple of hand signs. Trying to weave hand signs while having a chakra point half-blocked was incredibly painful. Fujin could see her wincing in pain. And he could sense her chakra building up!

One of the clones used all his chakra, to use a Great Breakthrough jutsu. Since he didn't have enough chakra, it wasn't strong enough. But it still made Mieke lose her balance and be dragged across the ground. The clone got dispersed as well due to running out of chakra.

Seeing her being unable to fight back, another clone appeared and launches a Wind Explosion jutsu at her.

However, before the jutsu could reach her, she managed to get up on her feet and jump above and landed on a branch.

She said, "Fire Release : Aerial Explosion jutsu"

Hearing the word 'Explosion', Fujin's clones got on guard. However, no explosion occurred, 'Hmm, where's the explosion?' Only a breeze passed through the area once.

Realizing that something was off, they immediately begin sensing Mieke. Soon the clones, as well as Fujin, notice that some sort of gas seems to have been released by Mieke. And it was spreading throughout the forest at a very fast speed.

Fujin's clones didn't discover the Gas earlier, as it was both colorless and odourless.

Fujin wondered, 'What jutsu is this?' However, he had no idea. 'Oh well, whatever. I'll get to know soon enough.' And he disappeared underground.

In around 10 seconds, the gas spread in a 60 meter radius around Mieke. All of Fujin's clones were in this area. Not knowing what to expect, the 5-6 clones who have already exposed themselves continue their attack.

Seeing the clones running towards her, Mieke smirked and stated, "Let's see where your main body is hiding now!"

As soon as she said that, she spit out a small fire. That fire ignited the gas, causing it to rapidly expand and generate strong outward winds!

The winds carried the gas up to 100 meters around Mieko and soon the whole area exploded!

The ignition flame destroyed all 18 of Fujin's Wind clones. It set fire to each and every tree in that area! And the fire seemed to be spreading further!

Both Fujin and Hoka were left dumbfounded by the destruction!

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Chapter 64: Winner Mieko?

Fujin was shocked at what he was sensing, 'What the fuck? All my clones were destroyed. Which jutsu is this?'

Hoka too was stunned by the destruction, 'When did Mieko get so strong?'

He quickly calmed himself and analyzed more, 'But, this jutsu shouldn't work on me as my Byakugan will notice the gas being released even if it is colorless. So I can just move out of the range.'

Fujin calmed himself down as well and observed the jutsu further, 'Hmm, the heat generated from the explosion seems to have already dispersed. It's just that there were trees around which got burned. So if I were to take this hit head-on, it won't kill me. Though I'll be badly burnt.

The Wind clones are just too brittle. So they all were dispersed by the jutsu.'

While hiding underground, Fujin analyzed a bit more and sighed, 'I have never seen or heard about this jutsu. It was likely taught to her by the clan. I really shouldn't look down on any jutsu that wasn't used in the series.

This world has way more jutsus, which are extremely lethal if used properly. Especially when I have no idea about these jutsus! Though the destruction caused by this jutsu is impressive, I can easily nullify it with even just a Breakthrough jutsu by blowing the gas away.

But I just didn't have any idea about this jutsu, which resulted in my clones getting wrecked. I wonder if she yelled the name of her jutsu purposefully...

Renjiro nodded and smiled, seeing Mieko counterattack successfully even when being in such a disadvantageous position. 'This performance by her is very good. I did expect her to retaliate but didn't think it'd be this successful.

Fujin found the battle to be too easy, and hence let his guard down and played around instead of focusing entirely on defeating her quickly. This provided Mieko with a window of opportunity to use this move.'

He then looked at the spot where Fujin was hiding underground and a complicated expression appeared on his face, 'He is just way too careful. Though he did drop his guard slightly, he was always extremely safe.

While this is good and will ensure that he stays alive, he's missing out on opportunities to gain crucial experiences. After all, if he never faces a crunch situation while sparring, and if he suddenly faces one during a mission, he'll find it very difficult to stay alive.

Unfortunately, I can't get him to be more proactive during spars. I hope that this doesn't end up causing him any serious loss.'

After using the jutsu, Mieko dropped to her knees. The jutsu took a major portion of her chakra. And she had to use Fireproof jutsu to protect herself from being burned as well. So her chakra level had dropped a lot.

Fujin didn't miss this fact. So he created a shadow clone with roughly 60% of his remaining Chakra. The clone exited the ground and confirmed that the Gas had already dispersed.

The clone then made 5 Wind clones. They dispersed and approached Mieko from all sides. While the Shadow clone went back underground.

The 1st Wind clone reached where Mieko was and looked at her. Her chakra reserves had dropped very low and her whole body was covered in small wounds, many of which were bleeding. She looked back with her Sharingan and observed that it was another wind clone.

Fujin's wind clone said, "Give up. You are too injured to continue."

Mieko snorted and shouted back, "As if I'll give up against someone too scared of showing his own face."

Fujin's clone chuckled, "Even if I just hide from you, you'll end up losing consciousness due to exhaustion and perhaps even blood loss."

Mieko smirked and taunted, "I already destroyed all your clones once. I'll do it again until you are forced to fight me yourself."

Saying that she began making the hand signs again. But 4 more clones appeared around her, and all attacked her, disrupting her jutsu.

Earlier, only Fujin's wind clones saw her hand signs. So he didn't know the hand signs she does for that jutsu. But it didn't matter, as he no longer wanted to give her any more opportunities.

Mieko tried her best to dodge, but was hit by winds caused by multiple winds caused by the Wind Explosion jutsu, and took a Breakthrough jutsu head-on, resulting in her flying back for dozens of meters and falling on the ground. She yelled in pain while being cut and flung away.

The forest was still burning, so Fujin's winds became very hot. Which hurt her even more despite having a high resistance to fire.

She tried getting up, 'Argh, this hurts a lot! But I finally have some distance. I'll use it.'

She was about to use up all her chakra to use another Aerial Explosion jutsu, but her Sharingan noticed a chakra signature underground. 'Is he doing another sneak attack? WAIT! His chakra is very high. Finally, he is attacking with his main body! I just need one chance, and I'll win!'

Her thoughts were cut by Fujin's arm appearing out of the ground. He grabbed her neck, while exiting the ground, and slammed her on the ground while strangling her neck with his right hand and pinning her to the ground.

He looked at her and said, "You've lost, give up."

But Mieko smirked despite being in pain. In his moment of carelessness, Fujin looked straight into her eyes!

'Sharingan Genjutsu'

At the very next moment, the scene changed for Fujin. The Mieko he was grabbing transformed into flames and escaped his grasp. The burning trees around him began moving and walking toward him.

Mieko reformed her body in mid-air while laughing arrogantly, "You looked into my eyes!" She laughed even more before saying, "It's my win Fujin. No one can match an Uchiha in a fair fight!"

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Chapter 65: Waterfall Jutsu!

The burning Ents exhaled flamethrowers on Fujin. But he just ignored the damage. He looked at Mieko and sighed, "You really need to know when to give up."

In the real world, Fujin's wind clones chuckled when they saw Mieko using Genjutsu on his Shadow clone. One of them softly said, "Defend her Sensei."

He used up all his chakra to create a Wind Gale wolf, which pounced on the Shadow clone and dispersed it. His claw continued towards Mieko's abdomen when Renjiro flickered in and dispersed the Wolf.

In the Genjutsu world, as soon as Fujin's shadow clone said that, he disappeared due to being destroyed in the real world.

Not understanding what was happening, she broke her Genjutsu and saw her Sensei standing next to her, with 3 of Fujin's clones still watching her.

Renjiro announced, "Fujin is the winner."

Not understanding, Mieko asked, "What happ...."

Unfortunately, the Sharingan Genjutsu took the last bits of her chakra. She blacked out without completing her question.

Renjiro checked on her while asking loudly, "How long are you going to hide?"

Hearing that, Fujin exited the underground and flickered next to Renjiro with a smile on his face. The Wind clones dismissed themselves.

Renjiro looked at Fujin and said, "Good work. Now pick her up and move towards where Hoka is. I'll douse this fire before it engulfs the entire training ground."

Fujin nodded. He picked Mieko up and flickered to where Hoka was. He put Mieko down next to him.

Hoka had already seen the result of this fight. He sighed on seeing Fujin completely unharmed and wondered, 'What could I have done differently to win this fight?'

Knowing that Renjiro will most likely use a Water jutsu to douse the fire, he kept his focus on sensing Renjiro. He said to Hoka, "Keep an eye on where Sensei is."

Hoka nodded and activated his Byakugan once again.

Renjiro had jumped high up in the air. He was almost 100 meters high in the air. And at that time, he began building up his chakra.

Fujin and Hoka were both shocked by the amount of chakra gathered by Renjiro. Fujin swallowed his saliva, 'What chakra! Elite Jounin indeed! I guess this is the first time I'm seeing him perform a jutsu seriously.'

At 100 meters up in the air, Renjiro made a hand sign. 'Water Release : Waterfall jutsu'

He expelled a huge amount of water from his mouth. The water fell down right under him like a waterfall, and then flooded out in all directions for around 500 meters!

Fujin and Hoka were shocked once again. Hoka asked, "Hey Fujin, how did he gather so much water when there's no water nearby?"

Fujin replied, "No idea. Remind me to bug him later about this."

Hearing that answer, Hoka smirked, "If we could summon so much water, all our opponents would just be washed away."

Fujin nodded while adding, "Not all, but most yeah."

He wondered, 'Isn't this similar to what Tobirama did against Hiruzen? Makes sense that Renjiro's Water jutsus are so strong. Tobirama probably left all the details regarding his own Water Release in Senju libraries.'

The flood doused all fire, releasing a huge amount of steam up into the air. Renjiro checked whether any fire was remaining. On confirming that none was, he flickered towards his Genins.

On seeing Renjiro, Hoka for the first time was very impressed with his sensei. While the training Renjiro provided was very good, seeing such a display will always create a greater impression on 10 year kids.

Renjiro walked towards Mieko and lifted her and put her on his right shoulder.

While Hoka was being awestruck, Renjiro walked behind him and lifted him by grabbing the back of his neck with his left hand.

That snapped Hoka out. He realized how he was picked up and immediately started flailing his hands and legs in the air, completely losing the famous Hyuga composure, "Put me down Sensei! What are you doing?"

Fujin saw the comical scene in front of him. A huge buff Senju guy had a prideful and arrogant Uchiha girl lying unconscious on his right shoulder, and an aloof Hyuga kid flailing desperately in his left hand.

In a mere second, he began laughing uncontrollably, "Hahahahahahahahaha" 'Damn, this brings memories of Guy carrying Kakashi from Suna to Leaf' "Hahahaha"

The laugh annoyed Hoka and he flailed even more before being smacked by Renjiro. "What are you struggling for? I'm taking you both to the hospital."

Hoka replied, "I can walk there Sensei!"

Renjiro asked again, "On one foot? I don't have time to waste an hour walking with you."

Hoka continued complaining, "But Sensei..."

Unfortunately, he was completely ignored by Renjiro. He looked at Fujin and said, "We will take a mission as soon as these 2 are healed up. Don't do heavy training till then. Preferably take a complete break from training."

Fujin nodded, while still laughing at the sight in front of him. Renjiro was about to leave, but he suddenly recalled a certain memory.

He looked at Fujin and said, "The reward of Rank A jutsu is what I'm awarding you, and not the Village or Senju clan. So you can only ask for a jutsu that I know or can easily get."

This suddenly put an end to Fujin's laugh. However, before he could complain, Renjiro had already flickered away! Fujin muttered internally, 'Smart bastard'.

While traveling to the hospital, Renjiro sighed in relief, 'Good thing that I cleared this up. So later on he can't pester me. This brat asked the 3rd for swords worth tens of millions of Ryo. Who knows which jutsu he'd have asked me if I didn't clear this up!'

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Chapter 66: Burnol

Renjiro reached the hospital and put Hoka down. They walked into it, and Renjiro asked a nearby nurse to arrange 2 beds for his students.

Renjiro was a well-known name. So she arranged it immediately. Seeing Hoka struggling to walk, the nurse asked, "Do you want to sit in a wheelchair, so that we can take you to the room?"

Hoka immediately declined, "No, I'll walk myself." The nurse seemed to be at a loss as to what to do, when Renjiro asked, "Should I carry you once again?"

That question sent a chill through Hoka's body. He reluctantly said, "I'll sit in the wheelchair"

On reaching the room, Renjiro laid down Mieko on a bed. Hoka took the bed next to hers. Renjiro asked the nurse, "Check if any Medical ninja is available. Send anyone who knows Mystical Palm jutsu here."

The nurse nodded and replied, "Yes Sir." She left to check who was available.

While waiting for a medical ninja to appear, he looked at Hoka and asked, "Any thoughts on the fight?"

Hoka sighed and replied, "We lost it the moment we decided to fight against each other instead of chasing after Fujin. At the very least, we should have stopped before one of us got injured. That way we could have still been able to fight.

Another issue was the lack of information. Fujin's 2 attacks surprised and overwhelmed me too much. If I had prior knowledge regarding it, I could have fought equally against him."

Renjiro nodded and commented, "It should also be a lesson for you, who are too obsessed with Taijutsu. Both Fujin and Mieko worked on Ninjutsu that can cause large-scale destruction.

If they get an opportunity to use the jutsu when the opponent has their guard down, it becomes an easy win for them. You, on the other hand, will first have to reduce the gap between yourself and your opponent and then hit him to get an advantage.

While not bad, it leaves you at a huge disadvantage against ninjas who can fight from range. I understand your obsession with Taijutsu. But if you want to be able to use your Taijutsu effectively, you need to learn other skills as well."

Hoka nodded and reflected on what his Sensei advised him.

Soon, a Medical ninja came. She healed Mieko and Hoka.

Mieko had a lot of small cuts and bruises. However, none were serious. They were all healed easily. But Mieko kept sleeping due to the chakra exhaustion.

Hoka on the other hand had a slightly serious injury to his left ankle. She healed him entirely as well but advised him to rest for 2 days and not put any stress on his left ankle.

After the procedures were done, Renjiro left. He gave a message to Hoka's and Mieko's families informing them about their kids, and to Fujin, that he'll have a 3-day break at least.

A few hours later, Mieko woke up. She was surprised at seeing herself in the hospital, with her mother sitting next to her and Hoka in the adjacent bed.

Their family members bugged them for quite some time before they finally stopped bothering them. When there was no one else in the room, Hoka asked, "Mieko, what was that jutsu you used?"

The question brought back memories of her horrible defeat and turned her mood down once again. She replied, "It's a secret jutsu of our Uchiha clan. Fire Release : Aerial Explosion jutsu.

It releases a lot of gas that is odorless and colorless. So it's very hard to notice. And it is very easy to ignite."

Hoka understood, "Oh, no wonder Fujin got caught off guard."

Mieko smirked and agreed, "Yeah. This jutsu has the drawback of needing a few seconds for the gas to spread to have maximum effectiveness. That's why I yelled the name of the jutsu so that his clones would get on guard and not attack recklessly, giving me the time I needed."

Hoka nodded, "Nice tactic. Too bad that it only hit his clones."

Hearing that, a scowl once again formed on her face. She said, "My plan was to secretly use this jutsu while we three were engaged in close combat. That way you both would have been hit by it and I would have won easily."

She gritted her teeth, "I never imagined that Fujin would fight so shamelessly and never appear in front of me at all! Even when I taunted him, he still kept hiding! Damn, this is so frustrating."

Seeing her reaction Hoka laughed, "Yeah, I agree. Next time, let's not fight each other much until we can engage with Fujin."

Mieko sighed and agreed. It was tough for her to agree to this due to her pride. But unfortunately, there wasn't any other way.

Yakiniku Restaurant -

Unlike his two teammates, Fujin spent the day eating in his favorite restaurants and taking a well-deserved break.

Earlier, when Renjiro tracked him to inform him about his teammates, he saw Fujin at Ichiraku, eating without a care in the world. Seeing him eat so relaxingly after beating up his teammates made Renjiro sweat a bit. But he didn't comment.

The next morning, Fujin wondered, 'Should I go to check on those 2?'

He thought for a bit before concluding, 'Well, they are my teammates. And I was the one who injured them, so I should go and check on them.'

After freshening up and doing some light stretching, he began moving toward the hospital. But suddenly he stopped, 'Wait! When visiting people in hospitals, isn't it tradition to get something for them?'

Yeah, that used to be the tradition in my previous life. Even in the Naruto series, I recall many carrying flowers or fruits while visiting patients. Yeah, let's carry a gift for both.'

He then fell into another dilemma, 'So, what do I get for them? Flowers kinda seem like a waste. Fruits are kinda too cliché. I'm sure their family members have already brought a lot of fruit. Hmm... What should I get?'

And then it suddenly hit him, 'I know! I should get a burnol for both of them. Hahaha'

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Chapter 67: Scary Mom!

He flickered to get a couple of gifts for both his teammates. And then flickered to the hospital and enquired about the room they were in.

He quickly found their room and entered it. Both of them were up.

Hoka's left leg seemed to be plastered. He had a few more bandages on him.

Mieko, on the other hand, was put in enough bandages that one could easily mistake her for a Mummy.

As soon as Fujin entered, they both gave Fujin the stink eye. Seeing their childish reactions, Fujin couldn't help but smile, 'I really should have brought them burnol, haha'

Seeing that neither of them wanted to talk first, he greeted them, "Hey guys. How are you doing?" Both of them snorted and looked away.

Fujin sighed loudly and said, "After I went through all the trouble of getting you something. Oh well, I guess I'll just eat it myself."

That attracted their attention. They saw a pack of cookies and a set of dango in Fujin's outstretched hands.

In under a second, Hoka snatched the cookies, while Mieko snatched the dango.

They both began eating it right away. While they were eating, Fujin tilted his head while looking at Mieko and asked, "Shouldn't you check whether they are real or just clones first?"

That pushed Mieko over the edge. She instantly got up and yelled, "Bastard. The next time I'll beat you up. Wait, no need for next time, I'll beat you up right now."

Stating that, she got off her bed. Fujin created distance between them and asked, "Oh, and are you sure I'm not just a clone?"

She was about to make a move when a middle-aged lady walked into the room hearing the commotion. Her features were similar to Mieko's, just much more mature.

She saw Mieko standing up and narrowed her eyes and asked, "Why are you out of your bed?"

Mieko immediately apologized, "Sorry Mom" and jumped back into her bed. Fujin smiled at her antics, 'Oh, looks like she is terrified of her mother.'

Mieko grabbed her 2nd dango stick and was about to eat it when the dango disappeared from her hand. Mieko turned her head to see her mom standing next to her bed, holding her dango as well as all the remaining dango in her hands.

Her mom looked into her eyes and said strictly, "You are recovering, young lady. Why are you eating Dango instead of the fruits that I brought for you?"

Mieko nervously replied, "Sorry Mom. But I have already healed completely. So it should be fine if I eat a little bit of Dango, right?"

Mieko's mom didn't reply and just stared Mieko into her eyes. The staredown continued for 30 seconds before Mieko backed down and apologized again, "Sorry Mom. I was wrong."

Her mother sighed, and then began giving her a long lecture!

Fujin's eye twitched at this interaction. He was thoroughly amused by this interaction, 'She spoke thrice. All 3 times she started with Sorry Mom. This is funny.'

Hoka had already seen how strict Mieko's mother was on the day before. However, instead of finding the situation amusing and laughing secretly, he first stuffed all the cookies in his mouth and gulped them down rapidly.

Mieko's mom noticed this and stared at him as well. However, he never looked at her and kept looking outside the window.

She continued her lecture and lectured Mieko for 5 minutes straight. During these 5 minutes, Hoka kept awkwardly staring in another direction, while Fujin awkwardly stood next to him.

Mieko meanwhile, looked down at the bed the whole time, while trying not to cry at the injustice she was facing, 'First that irritating guy appeared and teased me. He did make it up by bringing me my favorite dango, but he taunted me once again. And then, my own mother took those dango away! Not to mention, she's also lecturing me in front of my teammates.'

After lecturing her, she looked at Fujin and said in a straight voice while staring at him, "Fujin-kun, you first beat my little girl, and then you brought her dango to eat?"

Now Fujin became alert, 'Is she going to lecture me as well?' He quickly replied, "Sorry auntie. Sensei said that she was already healed yesterday. So I didn't think it'd be an issue."

Before she could reply, he looked at Hoka and Mieko and said, "I have some work to do with Sensei. I'll see you around later."

Without waiting for anyone's response, he flickered out of the window. Hoka looked enviously at the window, 'At least he could run away. I'm stuck here.' Mieko, on the other hand, was too embarrassed to think about anything.

Mieko's mom was surprised. She said to her, "Your teammate can lie with a straight face without any embarrassment. You were right about him."

Hearing that, Hoka looked toward Mieko's mom and saw her staring at the empty pack that had his cookies. He screamed internally in horror, 'Crap!'

Fujin was walking on the streets while thinking, 'Well, that was awkward. No wonder she acts like a stuck-up bitch all the time. She probably spends all the time back home being embarrassed.'

Anyways, both of them have pretty much healed. So we should start taking missions on the day after tomorrow. So how should I spend these 2 days?'

After thinking for a while, he sighed, 'Other than training, I really haven't gotten any hobby in this world. Perhaps Fuinjutsu, but that too is a part of training.'

After thinking for a bit more, he had an amusing idea, 'Should I recreate some of the famous manga or novels from the past world in here? After all, the literature here is pretty underdeveloped due to constant wars and the lack of a safe environment. So those manga and novels should be a complete hit.'

He analyzed the idea more. But soon he shook his head, 'While I remember their general stories and plot, I don't really remember all the details... It's just been way too long. Not to mention, it'll take a lot of time. Not something I can spare right now.'

Not having anything to do, he explored other restaurants around Konoha and later visited and relaxed in the famous hot spring bath in the village.

A couple of days later, team Renjiro assembled outside the Hokage building.

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Chapter 68: Bandit Exterminators

Team Renjiro entered the Hokage building together and went to the Mission room.

On seeing the chunin in charge of distributing missions, Renjiro said, "Give us all the C rank Bandit elimination missions in the area between Konoha and Tanzaku area."

The chunin nodded and handed 7 missions to Renjiro. Renjiro read the missions while thinking, 'I haven't been taking any missions for the last 7 months. I know the old man wanted to give me a break. But I have had a long enough break. He declined to give me an S rank mission. So, I should at least clear out some basic issues. These bandits would be a good start. Hopefully, some of these C rank missions will get upgraded to B rank. That'll also provide some good training for the kids. All 3 of them are already ready to be promoted to Chunin.'

He stored the mission request forms. Then he looked at his squad and said, "Let's move."

The genins nodded and everyone flickered towards Konoha's entrance gate.

In the next week, 7 bandit camps were completely decimated. In that month, Team Renjiro slaughtered 18 bandit camps in the land of Fire.

The team started taking these missions with excitement. But by now, they were sick of it!

Hoka, Fujin and Mieko waited outside the Hokage building while Renjiro was selecting more missions.

Mieko complained, "Why are there so many bandits in our country? Also, why aren't they stronger?"

Hoka sighed and said, "Yeah. 18 camps and there wasn't a single bandit as strong as us."

Fujin added, "I think our missions are purposefully chosen so that we don't end up fighting anyone strong."

Mieko commented, "That's even more frustrating!"

Fujin sighed and nodded, "Yes. I had heard that many rank C missions go wrong and get upgraded to rank B or even A. I thought that it was a rather common occurrence. But it seems like I was wrong."

Hoka replied, "They don't happen that often. But they often cause serious injury or death. That's why you hear about them very often."

Fujin said, "Oh. That makes sense. I didn't think about it that way."

Mieko interrupted, "You guys are getting off-topic. Think how we can get a better mission! Should I yell at that mission-giving guy again? Last time he gave us a rank C mission. So maybe he might give us a B rank mission."

Fujin looked at her and asked in a bored tone, "Last time I threatened him with you burning a baby. I don't think he'd really mind us burning bandits."

That comment made her face a bit red due to embarrassment.

They were about to talk more when Renjiro walked out of the building. He announced, "Today, we won't be taking a bandit hunting mission."

Hearing that the team was excited. Mieko asked quickly with a lot of expectations, "Can we do a B rank mission sensei?"

Renjiro was amused by her question. Her expectations came crashing down as Renjiro shook his head and replied, "No, we will be escorting a merchant to Degarashi Port in the Land of Tea."

Hearing that, all 3 genins gave Renjiro a deadpan look.

Fujin asked, "What will we be protecting him from, Sensei?"

Renjiro smirked and answered, "Bandits, of course."

He enjoyed the look of betrayal on his students' faces for a few seconds and then said, "This will be a long trip. We will need around 2 weeks to reach there and around 3 days to return back. So pack your stuff, we will be leaving at noon."

The genins dejectedly replied yes and left. While leaving, Mieko asked Fujin, "Fujin, do you think threatening that mission guy with the life of the merchant might work?"

The team hadn't walked far away. Renjiro immediately sweated a bit as he heard it properly. He said slightly loudly so that his students could hear him, "It won't. I'll just take you to do bandit extermination missions for...."

Not wanting to hear their sensei's threat, the genins just flickered away while laughing. Renjiro just sighed at the antics of his students and muttered, "I'm too old for this shit"

Konoha's Main Gate :

At noon, team Renjiro gathered here. As usual, Fujin arrived last. Renjiro, Hoka, and Mieko were standing here, alongside 8 merchants and 2 carriages filled with goods. Each of the 2 carriages had its reins attached to 2 bullocks.

Fujin walked towards Hoka and Mieko who were standing behind Renjiro while he was talking with the most well-dressed Merchant. On seeing Fujin, Renjiro said, "This is Fujin, Toshio-san. The last member of our group."

Fujin looked at the guy and said, "Hello."

The merchant smiled, slightly bowed towards Fujin, and replied, "I am Iha Toshio. A merchant from the Land of Tea. We will be in your care Fujin-kun. Please take care of us."

Fujin nodded while thinking, 'This guy is awfully polite! Did he say this to all 3 of us? On a serious note, however, though he seems very carefree, he is actually very tense.'

He looked at Renjiro and stared at him while wondering, 'Is there more to this mission than he said? Now that I think about it, why did he suddenly take such a long mission? Earlier he seemed rather obsessed with making Land of Fire bandit-free.'

Renjiro saw Fujin staring at him and wondered, 'Has his sensory skills become so acute that he can even sense worry? I knew he could detect lies from chakra fluctuations, but has his sensor skills improved to this degree? Very few outside the Yamanaka clan can detect worry. And most of them are very experienced and veteran ninjas.'

Not wanting Fujin to catch onto anything, Renjiro stated, "The path that we are taking has a number of bandit camps. We have eliminated most of the bandit camps between Konoha and the Lands of River and Rain.

Through this mission, we will exterminate the bandits en route from Konoha to the Land of Tea. So keep your guard up, as there are at least 17 known bandit camps in our way."

The genins nodded on hearing this. Mieko and Hoka sighed internally. While Fujin wondered, 'Is he just worried due to the bandits? Or is it something else? Oh well, we should find out soon. I should stay on guard though.'

Renjiro then did an inventory check, while Toshio checked whether all his goods were packed. In 15 minutes, Team Renjiro left alongside the merchants of Land of Tea.

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Chapter 69: Trade Boom

2 carriages pulled by bullocks, 8 merchants, and 4 ninjas traveled on the road, steadily moving away from Konoha.

They traveled until evening without a break and then set up a camp. No bandits were encountered as all bandits in this area were exterminated by 3 of those 4 ninjas not long ago.

While having dinner, Hoka sighed and said, "They move just way too slowly."

Fujin agreed, "Yeah. We spent the last 4 months training and just hunting on our own. So we pretty much always moved at top speed."

Mieko joined the conversation, "Yeah. At least this one is a bit faster than the previous one though. That last escort mission to the Land of Rivers had 12 carriages! And their wheels broke off so frequently!"

Hoka smirked and said, "Yeah. We remember how frustrated you were."

Fujin added, "Yeah. I suspect the main reason Sensei kept standing next to the carriages at that time was that he was worried you'd burn them yourself. Haha"

Hoka joined in the laughter, while Renjiro ignored their antics. Mieko just snorted and ignored them.

After dinner, Renjiro said, "We will begin moving tomorrow at 4 AM. Tomorrow's traveling speed will be faster than today. Tonight, we will all keep watch turn by turn. Fujin, you are first. Wake Hoka up after 2 hours. After Hoka, it'll be Mieko and last me."

The genins nodded. Renjiro had a word with Toshio. Soon Hoka, Mieko, Renjiro, and the Merchants went to sleep.

Fujin sat on a branch and began meditating. Soon, he could sense all chakra within a 1.2 kilometer radius.

Fujin thought, 'I haven't trained my ability to sense for months. Still, the improvement has been decent just due to the increase in my chakra reserves, chakra control, and regular spars.

I should try and keep this on for 2 whole hours. Should be good training. I wonder if I'll last that long considering that my chakra reserves are full.'

Fujin stayed in that meditating position for the entire 2 hours. During this time, he used all his sensing skills to examine the merchants and their goods but found nothing unusual. He had to keep changing the range of his sensory field between 600 meters and 1.2 kilometers for optimal chakra management, but he managed to last the 2 whole hours without any issues. He still had around 60% of his chakra left. He woke up Hoka and went to sleep.

The group travelled for 4 days in this manner without any issues.

On the 5th day, around 9 am in the morning, the group was surrounded by bandits, who were hiding behind the trees or on them.

All 4 ninjas noticed the bandits but didn't react.

Fujin softly asked, "So who gets them?"

Hoka immediately replied, "I want them. I haven't fought or trained for 4 days straight!"

Mieko however argued, "Neither have I. And as you know, Ladies first!"

Hoka commented, "You are just a little girl. Say that when you become a lady."

That immediately infuriated her. She shouted back, "Why yo..."

However, Renjiro interrupted her, "Quiet down."

Mieko shut up and looked at Hoka angrily.

Renjiro stated, "All three of you will take them on. I won't help you guys, but do remember that you also have to protect the goods."

Fujin asked, "Should we just kill them, or also find and destroy their camp?"

Renjiro answered, "Both of course. But only for this group. Every time a bandit group attacks, you'll take permission from me before attacking their camp."

The three nodded.

Hoka looked at Fujin and asked, "Where to check?"

Fujin replied, "700 meters northwest. And 900 meters east."

Hoka activated his Byakugan and checked, "900 meters east is just a few normal homes. The camp is at 700 meters north-west."

Fujin asked Renjiro, "Sensei, will you be protecting the goods when we attack the camp, or should we defend it then as well?"

Renjiro replied, "After you eliminate the bandits here, all 3 of you can go."

Fujin replied, "Alright, let's begin then."

All 3 moved at a high speed, which made it look like all of them had disappeared. Both, the merchants and the bandits, who were keeping an eye out secretly, were shocked.

In under a minute, all the bandits surrounding the group were dead. A few dead bodies or even heads fell down from trees next to merchants. Surprisingly or unsurprisingly, they didn't freak out as they had seen similar scenes multiple times in the past. Though they were surprised to know that the killers were 3 innocent and sweet 9-10 years old kids.

The genins then flickered towards the bandit camp and eliminated everyone in there as well. They killed 2 more bandits who were at another spot in the forest. Completing the bandit elimination sub-mission in under 5 minutes.

The group continued on its way.

Over the next 8 days, 14 bandit camps were eliminated. The trio wondered whether they'd get a 'Bandit exterminator' nickname back in Konoha. Unknown to them, their team was already known by that name among the chunins who distributed missions.

By now, the swift and brutal 1 month campaign of Team Renjiro around Konoha to exterminate bandits was well spread. Many bandit groups had moved away from Konoha. A few even began leaving the Land of Fire entirely and continued their banditry in the weaker neighboring countries such as the Land of Rivers, Land of Grass, Land of Rain, and Land of Rice.

This time, it was the turn of the bandits on this route to suffer. In under a month, the bandits close by would get the news of the slaughter. Some would visit to check if something did happen. And they would see the gore and would end up either quitting banditry or moving away and making trading easier for Konoha.

Hiruzen would soon pick up on these movements, and launch an even more brutal assault on these bandits. This would not only boost Land of Fire's economy due to increased trading, but also improve Konoha ninja's reputation, and get them more jobs that would require lesser effort to complete. Konoha would also receive more funds from the Daimyo of Land of Fire due to this act.

And it'll prove to be a huge aid for Konoha to recover from the losses of the 3rd Great Ninja war. Especially over the next 3 years when more than a thousand genins will join the reserve force and a few hundred will begin training under a sensei. Of course, the loss of Jounins due to Kyubi's assault won't be overcome for almost a decade.

And even more importantly, while the recovery was in progress, Konoha would end up losing their strongest clan to internal friction!

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Chapter 70: Schemes in the Darkness

Team Renjiro and the Merchants from the Land of Tea were traveling for the 13th day. Toshio said, "We should enter the Land of Tea by evening. We will need another 2 days to reach the port though."

Renjiro nodded and said, "Keep an eye out." The genins obeyed.

The group journeyed until noon when they came across an open field. They decided to take a break for lunch there. The field was about as big as a Football field. And it was surrounded by dense forests on one side, and a hill on the other. Fujin and Hoka checked whether the area was safe, and didn't find anyone.

While having lunch, Renjiro noticed something but didn't say anything. His students or the merchants didn't notice any change in his expressions. However, he was observing his students closely.

Fujin, while eating lunch, activated his chakra field out of habit.

When he did, he was shocked! Around 200 people had entered the forest and were around 600-900 meters away from them! They were moving rapidly towards them.

Unlike Renjiro, Fujin's change in expression was easily noticed by Hoka and Mieko. They became alert and looked at him.

Fujin said, "Around 200 bandits have surrounded us and are closing in. 150 in the forest and 50 on the hill."

Mieko scowled, "More bandits?"

Fujin looked at Renjiro and said, "Not just bandits. Around 50 have high chakra. With maybe a dozen Chunin level and 2 Jounin level chakras!"

That shocked Hoka and Mieko. They both looked at Renjiro. Renjiro was impressed with Fujin's alertness. He smiled and said, "Well, here's your B rank mission. Or was supposed to be. This looks more like rank A."

He then got serious and commanded, "Prepare to deal with the bandits and Genin-level attackers. I'll deal with the stronger ones. Don't worry about the goods. Give main priority to your and your teammates' lives. And then to the lives of the merchants."

The team nodded and got up. Seeing them get up, the merchants understood that there was an issue and got alert too. Toshio in particular became very worried. They all immediately got up and hid behind their carriages.

Two days earlier -

2 people stood and observed the open field in the middle of nowhere. Both of them were Jounins. One of them was Wagarashi Tomio, who was from the rival family of the Wasabi Family. The other was Tamanaha Norio, who was a rogue ninja from the Land of Rivers. He had a bounty of 5 million Ryo.

Wagarashi Tomio said, "From the information that our spies sent, 5 escort teams were moving from Konoha toward Degarashi port. One of them will be passing through here. When they do, they are bound to rest here."

Tamanaha Norio asked, "Who is escorting them?"

Wagarashi Tomio replied, "The weakest team. A Genin squad."

Tamanaha Norio was surprised, and then began laughing arrogantly, "Just Genins? They'll be dead in no time."

Wagarashi Tomio was annoyed by his arrogance. He warned him, "Don't underestimate them too much. They are led by Senju Renjiro, an Elite Jounin. The Senju clan has a strong relationship with the Wasabi family. So it's a possibility that they are trying to sneak him in with this team. Also, their genin team has a Byakugan user. So we will have to be very careful."

Tamanaha Norio frowned upon hearing that. He thought for a bit and said, "Elite Jounin will be tough to kill. The only way will be if he desperately defends the Genins. As for Byakugan, I have a way. One of my men has a rat summon. He can use them to keep an eye out from a long distance. Once they have their guard down and rest, we can make a move."

Wagarashi Tomio nodded. This plan was appropriate. They might not be able to kill Renjiro, but killing the merchants shouldn't be an issue.

As his genins were about to engage in battle, Renjiro recalled his meeting with the Hokage before accepting this mission.

Hokage's office - 2 Weeks earlier :

Renjiro entered the Hokage's office and saw the Hokage and another old man.

Hiruzen said, "Renjiro, meet Wasabi Daichi."

Renjiro looked at the old man and asked, "Wasabi? From the Land of Tea?"

The guy nodded and replied, "Yes, from the Land of Tea."

Hiruzen continued, "There's a power struggle in the dark in the Land of Tea. There appears to be a scheme in the works against the Wasabi family, and maybe the Daimyo as well."

Renjiro analyzed the information and asked, "The Wasabi family has had a good relationship with Konoha as well as with the Senju clan for decades. So do you want to help them?"

Hiruzen nodded, "Yes. Unfortunately, we can't as it is just a scheme. If we interfere, we will damage our relationship with the Tea Daimyo."

Renjiro nodded, as he had already reached this conclusion.

Hiruzen continued, "Daichi here has an important position in the Wasabi family as he handles their finances and many important deals. So their opponents want to eliminate him. I want you to escort him along with your team."

This surprised Renjiro. He asked, "This seems to be a rather important mission. Why send genins?"

Hiruzen replied, "Their rival faction has a few hundred ninjas under them. Even if I send an Anbu team, they won't be able to protect him. The only way to protect him will be to send a larger team to protect him, but..."

Renjiro completed his sentence, "But you can't do that as the Tea Daimyo won't like it."

Hiruzen nodded and added, "And if I were to send a huge force with him, the opponent won't attack, and stay hidden. So it won't accomplish much.

So we will follow this tactic. First, we will split up the enemy forces. There are 5 routes from here to the Land of Tea. You'll take Wasabi Daichi with you while going on a rank C mission to escort Merchants. You'll leave through the 5th route, as it's farthest from the sea and will prevent any interference from Kiri.

Soon after, I'll send 3 chunin squads on such escort teams along 3 other routes. Finally, a squad of Anbu will escort a decoy along the central path. They will send the majority of their forces against these decoys as they have the stronger teams assigned to them.

This way, we will split their forces into 5 and have a legitimate reason to kill the ones attacking them. The other 4 teams will be allowed to retreat after killing as many of them as they can or engage in a hit-and-run tactic if they can. You, on the other hand, will need to move to Degarashi port at a fast speed, so that their remaining forces don't regroup and target you guys."

Renjiro and the Hokage then discussed the strategy more and fine-tuned it and took action to implement it.

Back to Present -

The bandits at the front were just around 100 meters from the edge of the open field.

Hoka excitedly said, "Finally a good fight!"

Mieko was also excited.

Fujin, who was thinking, suddenly said, "Don't activate your Sharingan or Byakugan. I think they are trying to disguise themselves as normal bandits, so let's pretend that we didn't notice them. I have a technique I want to try."

Saying that he walked in toward the forest. Hoka and Mieko wanted to argue against him, but bandits had started to rush out of the forest. A few also began descending from the hill and shooting arrows.

Hoka and Mieko noticed it. Hoka quickly made a hand sign, 'Rock Shield jutsu'.

A Rock shield appeared behind the merchants. All the arrows shot at them were blocked by it.

At the same time, around 50 bandits, 15 of them being ninjas, came running from the forest toward them. Since the ninjas were disguising themselves so that they could take the enemy by surprise, they too were moving at the same speed as bandits. More bandits were exiting the forest every second.

Fujin unsheathed one of his swords and held it in his right hand. Chakra immediately began flowing through it and transformed into wind chakra instantly.

He then held the hilt of his sword with both hands, pulled his sword back, and then swung it with full force forming an arc towards the incoming bandits.

As he swung the sword, a sword slash appeared, and began moving at a rapid speed. When close to Fujin, the slash was extremely small, but as it moved it expanded exponentially! Alongside the slash, strong winds appeared which caused some dust to rise.