Calamity 81

Chapter 81: Target Located

Team Renjiro entered the Forest of Death. After going in, Mieko asked, "So, where should we go?"

Hoka replied, "We moved around 8 kilometers from where we were instructed. And I noticed that the Nara-Yamanaka-Akimichi squad wasn't approached by any chunin instructor. So they should enter through the gate there. Let's make a move on them."

Fujin replied, "Alright, let's go."

On deciding, the three begin moving quickly towards the route between the spot where they had a meeting and the tower.

While moving, Fujin wondered, 'Nara-Yamanaha-Akimichi... The famous Ino-Shika-Chou combo. This fight should be interesting. I should be wary of the Yamanaka though. Don't want anyone in my head.

They looked to be around 14-15 years old. So they should have been together for 2-3 years, meaning that their teamwork should be good.

Now, how to fight? Other than sparring, in all fights that I have been in, I have fought purely to kill. And killing them would probably not be a good idea. Should I leave the fighting to these 2 and just provide long-range backup?'

He looked at Hoka and said, "Hoka, the Nara are known for their intelligence. Keep activating your Byakugan occasionally to see if there are any traps."

Hoka nodded. Fujin asked them, "Anyways, any thoughts on how to assault them?"

Mieko and Hoka too were thinking about how to approach this fight. Mieko said, "These 3 clans are known for their teamwork. So I can put Genjutsu on one of them, and completely disrupt their teamwork. As long as we can knock one member out, the other 2 will fall easily."

Hoka replied, "Yes, but we shouldn't leave ourselves open to the other 2 while knocking one out." He frowned and continued, "Both the Nara clan and Yamanaka clan jutsus are annoying. Especially to a Taijutsu master."

Fujin and Mieko both nodded. Fujin thought for a bit and said, "The Yamanaka clan are known for being sensors. So we may not have the surprise element. But I think the best way to start will be with a Fire-Wind combo jutsu from a range. It should catch them off guard even if they notice us. And if the attack causes them to split, then it'll be easier for us."

Hoka nodded and said, "Yeah, if they split up, then I can defeat the Akimichi easily."

Mieko said, "I can take on the Yamanaka. He won't get a chance to use his jutsus against me."

Fujin replied, "Alright, I can take on the Nara from a distance."

Hoka asked, "What if they don't split up?"

Mieko said, "Then we will just have to fight while keeping an eye on shadows and the Yamanaka. Should be easy for you. Fujin might have difficulty though."

Fujin replied, "Yeah. I could just stay back and provide you long-range support."

Hoka said, "No point in thinking so much, let's go and fight."

Mieko said, "Yeah, no matter what, we will win easily!"

After saying that, both smirked and looked ahead. Meanwhile, Fujin had a deadpan expression, 'Just because you can't think of a good strategy doesn't mean that you shouldn't think of one.'

While Team Renjiro was moving rapidly, the team they were moving towards was also strategizing. As soon as the exam began, they rushed around 1.5 km from their location. However, instead of taking the

straight route to the tower, they moved diagonally into the forest and hid there. They took a lot of care in not leaving any tracks behind.

After finding a hiding location, they all hide there.

Yamanaka Kaoru said, "Now that we are hidden, what's the plan Minori?"

On hearing this, Nara Minori sighed. He looked up at the clouds wondering, 'Why do I have to take the Chunin exams? That too for the 3rd time! Can't I just stay a genin?'

Yamanaka Kaoru saw his teammate looking up at the clouds and said, "Well, other than sighing, do you have any other plans?"

Akimichi Yutaka said sorrowfully, "Last time we had a day's break in between the 1st and 2nd phase. That's why I didn't pack any lunch. I'm already hungry!"

Yamanaka Kaoru saw both his teammates ignoring him and acting childish. He immediately got annoyed and yelled, "Enough wailing! Focus on the exam! I don't want to fail the 3rd time!"

This attracted the attention of his teammates. Nara Minori sighed, 'If I ignore him any longer, he might take over my body and do shameful acts again.'

He said, "This time, only 8 teams have passed into the 2nd round. So we will likely not see any quick results. All teams are far away from each other. So finding anyone will be tough.

We should wait here and set up traps. When someone finds us, we will surprise and defeat them. As there are only 4 Earth scrolls, they will desperately look for us."

Yamanaka Kaoru replied, "That makes sense. However, what if someone passes the exams with an extra heaven scroll?"

Nara Minori replied, "Then we will just be unlucky."

Yamanaka Kaoru immediately had a deadpan expression. He made a hand seal. Nara Minori immediately spoke, "But if the opposite happens, then it'll give us even more opportunities."

Yamanaka Kaoru said, "Yeah, but that's not something we can control."

Nara Minori replied, "Yeah, but we aren't exactly the strongest squad. Sure our teamwork is good. But if we have to fight 2 squads one after another on neutral ground, we will lose badly.

Not to mention, 2 squads have Hyugas. And both had their Byakugan activated when the scrolls were being distributed. So we should expect at least one of them to find us if they need Earth scrolls."

The duo kept discussing strategy, while Yutaka kept thinking about how to arrange for food. After some time, Yamanaka Kaoru suddenly stopped talking. Seeing his expression, Akimichi Yutaka asked, "What happened?"

Yamanaka Kaoru replied, "I just sensed someone sensing us. Get ready." He sat down and began sensing around him too. Unfortunately, he couldn't sense anyone.

Nara Minori got serious too. He didn't expect to fight someone so quickly. He asked, "Which squad is it?"

Yamanaka Kaoru replied, "I can't sense them."

That made Nara Minori even more alert, "This means that their squad has a better sensor than you." He frowned, "But which squad would have a sensor with a range exceeding 500 meters?"

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Chapter 82: Quick Clash

Around 800 meters from their location, Fujin said, "Found them!"

That surprised Mieko, "Already?"

Fujin replied, "Yeah, but it looks like that Yamanaka is a sensor after all. He noticed it when I sensed them."

Hoka immediately activated his Byakugan, "Yeah, I see them too. Around 800 meters from our location. And yeah, that Yamanaka is trying to sense us too."

Fujin said, "Hmm, but I didn't sense anyone sensing me. It looks like we are out of their range."

Mieko replied, "That's good. It means that we have the initiative in our hands!"

Fujin chuckled and replied, "How exactly do you plan on taking advantage from 800 meters away?"

That made her scowl. She began thinking and soon said, "Let us just wait here while he is trying to sense us. It'll exhaust him. When he stops, we can move in by flickering quickly."

Fujin analyzed and said, "And how can you tell when he stops sensing us?"

She looked at Hoka. Hoka replied, "I can't tell that. I can see that he is sitting with a hand seal made. I can tell you when he stops that, but it won't be a surety that he stops sensing us."

Hoka kept his Byakugan activated, while Kaoru kept trying to sense them for the next three minutes. Nara Minori frowned, 'Something isn't right.'

He looked at Kaoru and asked, "Are they still not in range?" Kaoru shook his head.

Minori then said, "Act like you are tired, and stop maintaining that hand seal and get up. But keep your chakra field active."

Kaoru didn't reply and followed what his teammate said.

Hoka suddenly said, "He stopped and got up."

Fujin replied, "Too soon. It looks like they are baiting us."

However, Mieko got impatient. She said, "It doesn't matter, let's go!" And she flickered.

Both Fujin and Hoka followed her. Fujin said, "Prepare your jutsu." Mieko began supercharging her jutsu. Fujin did as well.

At around 400 meters, Fujin said, "He sensed us!"

Mieko frowned upon hearing that, and then snorted, "It doesn't matter. Let's hit them with a big one!"

Yamanaka Kaoru said, "Found them! 400 meters to our south!"

Nara Minori smirked, "Fell for it. They must have a Hyu..."

Kaoru shouted, "They are coming here very quickly! And have built a hu..."

However, before he could complete it, a massive Fire appeared!

All 3 were dumbfounded! The fire was 25 meters wide and 10 meters high! It spread like a wave, and approached them at a rapid speed!

Minori shouted, "YUTAKA!!"

Akimichi Yutaka didn't need to be commanded. He immediately slammed his hands on the ground, and a dome appeared, covering all three of them. The fire passed over the dome, heating its outer cover. But it didn't damage it. The attack disabled all traps that they had set up in a short time.

Hoka saw them protecting themselves with an Earth dome. He made a hand sign and waited for the flames to pass.

Kaoru sensed his chakra spiking and said, "One of them is preparing another jutsu."

Minori thought rapidly and said, "Yutaka, make a way to exit towards the back of the dome. Be prepared to escape as soon as the fire passes."

Yutaka created an exit towards the back side of the dome. They could see a huge fire and immediately felt the heat. However, Hoka also saw the exit being made.

Soon, the jutsu died down and flames were carried away by the winds. All the trees in the area were burning and the fire was spreading.

As soon as the fire passed through the area, Hoka flickered in front of the dome and slammed his hands on the ground. At the same time, the trio in the dome ran out of it.

However, instead of the stone spears forming inside the dome, they formed right on the path they were running in. They immediately jumped. They managed to avoid lethal injuries, however, they were still slashed by the spears in many places. Especially Yutaka who was slashed at 7 spots and had a bad injury on his foot.

They finally managed to jump away from the stone spears, however, their misery wasn't over yet.

When they were still in mid-air, Mieko launched Phoenix Sage Fire jutsu on them. Fujin too was in a position to use Wind Explosion jutsus on them, but he didn't as that might kill them.

They didn't have any opportunity to dodge or defend and were hit head-on by the jutsu and fell to the ground. They were burnt. Even worse, their clothes caught fire!

Even before they could extinguish the flames, they all felt a kunai placed at the back of their necks. Fujin's wind clones said, "Don't move. Give up your scroll and we will leave."

Understanding the severity of the situation, Minori said, "Give it." Kaoru immediately handed the scroll.

Fujin asked, "Is this scroll real?" Minori replied quickly, "It is." Fujin looked at Hoka and Mieko, and they both nodded. Fujin did too and they all flickered away.

Minori, Kaoru, and Yutaka immediately doused the fire on them and ran away from the area. After moving around 500 meters west, Yutaka slammed his hand on the ground, 'Earth Release: Camp jutsu'

He created an underground cave, where they hid and began treating their wounds.

Yutaka smiled bitterly and said, "We lost to the youngest squad."

Minori sighed, "They were too swift and brutal. We didn't even have a chance to retaliate."

Kaoru was depressed, "This is depressing. We lost to 10 year old kids this time. I don't think I'll ever become a chunin!"

Minori and Yutaka felt bad on seeing him. He was almost in tears. However, they knew that, with their wounds, getting 2 more scrolls would be impossible. They both decided to train seriously for the next 6 months and become chunins.

Yutaka said, "Sorry Kaoru. Next time we will train even more and become chunins."

Kaoru didn't reply.

Elsewhere, Fujin, Hoka, and Mieko gathered together 500 meters north of where the fight happened.

Fujin said, "Well, this was easy."

Mieko grinned and said, "Yes, our surprise attack always works!"

Hoka sighed and said, "I too want to join in on your combo jutsu! It's so devastating!"

Fujin said, "Sadly Earth and Water don't mix up well with Fire-Wind. Anyways, now that we have our scroll, let's rush to the tower. It has only been 15 minutes since the exam started. We may become the fastest squad to clear this round!"

Hearing this, both Mieko and Hoka got excited. They both said, "Let's go!"

The trio ran at a very fast speed towards the tower! Fujin thought, 'There are only 6 more teams. It's unlikely that someone will go to the tower so soon.'

However, he was wrong. Very wrong!

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Chapter 83: Fighting in a Dumb Way

While Fujin's and Minori's teams had clashed, the other teams still hadn't made contact with anyone.

Some teams chose to hide. While some decided to go on a hunt. They would end up trying to track each other for more than half a day before the first clash would happen.

Meanwhile, the 2nd team from Kiri decided to run straight to the tower and prepare a trap there. On route, they had to fight wild beasts thrice, which slowed their speed. They needed around 30 minutes before the tower was in sight.

Fujin, Hoka, and Mieko too came across wild beasts twice. One was a 5 meter tall Chimp, while the 2nd was a 3 meter tall Tiger! However, both were cut with ease by Fujin.

There were other obstructions too along the way. Such as a massive beehive that was poked by Mieko! She did end up burning them away, but not before getting stung in the face a couple of times. Hoka and Fujin laughed at her cost.

As they were moving along, Fujin wondered, 'At this rate, we will break the record by a huge difference! So why did this team not make the record in canon? Was only my addition enough to make such a huge difference?'

Fujin thought for a bit before concluding, 'It's likely that Renjiro became our Jounin Instructor due to my request of being taught Samurai Saber Technique. So whoever became the Jounin instructor of these two most probably didn't train them with the same intensity as Renjiro.

Also, without me, the team wouldn't have the Fire-Wind combo jutsus which gives us a huge advantage to start with. Oh well, doesn't matt...'

Fujin's thoughts were suddenly interrupted by Hoka saying, "There's a team ahead 700 meters from us."

Fujin frowned and asked, "Which one?"

Hoka replied, "Looks like a Kiri squad."

Fujin asked, "Is it that guy who asked that question?"

Hoka shook his head and said, "The other Kiri team."

Mieko said, "Let's fight! The last one was unsatisfying."

Hoka agreed with her, "Yes, I agree."

Fujin said, "Alright. Their other team seemed very interested in killing." He grinned and said, "So we might as well kill this one!"

They moved ahead quickly. Fujin said, "These guys don't seem to have a sensor. They might die just from the surprise attack."

Hoka frowned and quickly said, "Let's not do the surprise attack! I want to fight them!"

Fujin raised his eyebrow and asked, "Why no sneak attack? It's dumb to not do it when we have the opportunity."

Mieko said, "I too want to fight them head-on. So it's 2 against 1."

Hoka smirked and said, "Yes, we fight head-on."

Fujin sighed, 'These kids... No wonder they didn't create any records. Even if I assume that they were as strong as we are now, they probably just fooled around instead of passing quickly.'

Seeing Fujin sigh in defeat, they both smirked.

The Kiri squad was also moving towards the tower. However, at 100 meters from the tower, they were attacked by a huge Anaconda! They quickly dodged and threw shurikens at it, but it had no effect.

So they tossed a few kunais with explosion tags in its huge mouth and ran away. The Anaconda exploded into flesh and blood, littering the nearby area.

They sighed in relief. Unfortunately, another calamity was heading their way! Fujin, Hoka, and Mieko were now within 100 meters of them. They flickered.

Fujin guessed, 'I guess another team will go down quickly. Renjiro's training made us too strong against genins.'

The three Kiri genins had just put their guard down, when Mieko and Hoka suddenly appeared right in front of them and shouted, "Fight me!"

The genins were very startled. And they moved behind in fear as both of them suddenly yelled!

Their misfortune wasn't over though. Fujin had flickered silently behind them, and they were moving towards him with their backs facing him. Fujin sighed internally on seeing that and just slashed his sword in the air.

Though Fujin was quiet, they still sensed someone behind them. They turned behind, only to see that ninja swing his sword from about 10 meters away from them.

Suddenly, one of them yelled loudly, "DUCK!"

Hearing her, both of her teammates ducked immediately.

Sakai Yumi, who yelled, immediately ducked. Her two teammates were slightly slower. Matsushita Satoru lost around half of his hair. While Kido Kohaku had some skin on her scalp cut off by the slash.

Since the distance was too close and because Hoka and Mieko were also in the line of attack, Fujin only sent a simple sword slash without any accompanying sharp winds.

However, Mieko and Hoka didn't know that and immediately flickered in opposite directions! They still remembered the devastation his sword slash had caused!

Fujin was very surprised, 'All three dodged? I expected all 3 to die!' Fujin noticed Sakai Yumi's eyes. They were blue and were glowing. He wondered, 'Is there another Doujutsu?'

As soon as the sword slash passed over her head, Yumi created a hand sign, 'Water Release: Water Bullet jutsu'

Satoru also created a few hand signs, 'Hidden Mist Jutsu.'

While the 3rd one opened a scroll, got a huge bandage, and placed it gently but quickly on her scalp! She was freaked out!

Fujin was surprised at how quickly they counterattacked. He moved to his left, to dodge 3 water bullets continuously, before sending another flying slash. All 3 moved away!

Hoka and Mieko attacked as soon as they dodged the slash.

Mieko launched Phoenix Fire Sage jutsu on them but was countered by Yumi's Water Wall.

Hoka tried to close in to fight, but Kohaku, who recovered surprisingly quickly, threw a kunai with an explosion tag attached to it. Hoka was forced to fall back.

Soon, mist began gathering in the area. This made all 3 Konoha genins frown. The Hidden Mist jutsu was known to obstruct both the Sharingan as well as the Byakugan.

Fujin moved behind and used 'Great Breakthrough Jutsu' after supercharging it for a couple of seconds.

Mieko and Hoka noticed Fujin supercharging his jutsu and retreated behind Fujin.

The Kiri genins had no idea. They were hit by a massive Great Breakthrough jutsu! All the mist was blown away. They were having a hard time holding on to the ground.

Yumi barely made a hand seal, 'Water Wall jutsu'

A water wall began forming, but it kept getting blown apart by the winds. Kohaku and Satoru used the few moments of respite to use defensive jutsus as well.

Satoru created another Water Wall, while Kohaku created a Rock shield.

However, at that time, both Mieko and Hoka also launched their jutsu. Mieko spat a huge Fireball into Fujin's Great Breakthrough jutsu. While Hoka used 'Stone Shuriken jutsu' to attack them from a range.

The fire and winds managed to destroy 2 water walls and heated the rock shield, but it held on. However, due to the wild nature of the winds, the fire spread all over and attacked them by moving around the rock shield.

However, this wasn't strong enough. Yumi used 'Water Shield jutsu' in time to protect them.

Hoka's Stone Shurikens were blocked by the Rock shield.

Seeing the opponents manage to defend surprised all 3 of them. Mieko grinned and said, "They are strong. This is fun!"

Hoka and Fujin had slightly different thoughts. Hoka was sad, 'Why is no one fighting with Taijutsu?' Fujin, on the other hand, wondered, 'We are just 100 meters from the tower. Should I grab these 2 and flicker?'

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Chapter 84: Bitter Resistance

After the Fire and the Winds died down, Hoka and Mieko flickered close to their opponents. The Kiri genins noticed, and got ready.

Fujin thought, 'This could be a long fight. Let's end this.' He instantly created 12 Wind Clones, who jumped into battle, while he stayed back, observing the fight.

As soon as Mieko appeared, Yumi rushed towards her and both began fighting with their kunai.

Kohaku used Stone Shuriken jutsu on Hoka. He dodged and blocked all of them, but was made to retreat once more with another Explosion tag.

Satoru was about to join the battle as well, however, he saw 12 clones coming and his expression became grim. He quickly made a hand seal and created 3 water clones.

He made a few more hand signs, 'Water Shuriken jutsu'

Soon, water shurikens flew towards the clones. However, they all dodged with ease.

3 clones moved towards the water clones. The water clones too moved against them. The Kiri genins were on alert, due to 9 additional clones heading towards them.

Satoru's water clones thought that the wind clones wanted to engage in hand-to-hand combat and were very confident. However, just before they reached them, all 3 clones suddenly used Wind Explosion jutsu. The jutsu was performed very quickly. The water clones couldn't defend themselves and were hit. All 3 were dispelled.

All the Wind clones suddenly flickered and surrounded Kohaku, who was already injured earlier. She was alarmed! So were her two teammates. Yumi tried going to help her but was blocked by Mieko. Satoru did move to aid her and used Water Shuriken jutsu on the clones.

All but one clone immediately launched Wind Explosion jutsu on her. The last clone used 'Breakthrough jutsu' on the incoming Water Shurikens.

Fujin saw from afar and thought, 'One down'. However, he was surprised! Kohaku made a hand sign, and disappeared underground!

Hoka, who was annoyed by Kohaku, immediately made his move. He slammed his hands on the ground, 'Rock Spear jutsu'

Soon, spears began forming underground and targeting Kohaku. However, she dodged them all underground and appeared a few dozen meters away. Her exit spot was close to Yumi.

As soon as she appeared, Fujin's clones launched another round of Wind Explosion jutsu on her.

However, she ignored them and slammed her hands on the ground. Stone Shurikens were immediately launched on Mieko. She moved back to defend herself.

Yumi thought, 'I need to be fast!' She rapidly made a hand seal, and a water wall formed in time to protect Kohaku.

Fujin, who was observing from a distance wondered, 'Are they really just genins?'

The clones were about to attack again, when Yumi shouted, "Retreat!"

Immediately both Satoru and Kohaku retreated along with Yumi. They retreated towards the tower. Mieko and Hoka immediately followed. So did Fujin and his clones.

The Konoha genins were faster and caught up several times. However, the Mist genins always managed to defend. After 4 minutes of chase, the Mist Genins had a lot of cuts on their bodies due to sharp winds, but none were lethal.

The Mist Genins were very worried. Yumi shouted internally, 'Why are these 10 year old brats from Konoha so strong? We have no chance of winning whatsoever! Also, why are they so bloodthirsty? All their attacks are aimed to kill or maim us!

These bloody Konoha hypocrites! They look down on us for being so bloodthirsty but train their own kids to be relentless killers. But, what should we do? We can't escape forever.'

She focused Chakra in her eyes, and looked around her, praying to find some hope. And she did! She noticed 3 chakra signatures heading rapidly towards them, which were about 400 meters to the north. She recognized them and instantly her spirits were lifted. She shouted, "Follow me!"

Both Satoru and Kohaku followed her lead. Fujin frowned, 'The other Kiri team is coming from that direction. If they team up, it'll be very difficult to win. That said, I don't understand one thing. How did that blue-eyed girl sense them? I didn't feel any chakra field. Is it her eyes that were glowing?'

Fujin created a Shadow clone, which followed the Wind clones.

Mieko and Hoka were still relentlessly chasing them. Fujin flickered next to them and shouted, "Wait, there's another Kiri team up ahead."

Mieko and Hoka became alert. But soon Mieko said arrogantly, "Let's keep attacking. We will beat both of them and knock them out." Hoka too supported her, "Yes, this is getting exciting, let's do it."

Fujin once again had a deadpan expression, 'These cocky brats!'

Seeing that Fujin wasn't replying, Mieko and Hoka turned and were about to chase. However, Fujin had enough of their antics.

Before either Hoka or Mieko could flicker, Fujin grabbed their shoulders. They both turned their heads and looked at him. Mieko asked, "What?"

Fujin didn't reply and just grinned, 'Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu'

Before either of them realized what was happening, Fujin dragged them both alongside him with Wind Instantaneous Body jutsu and entered the Tower, which was very close to their location.

Hoka and Mieko were both shocked when Fujin dragged them along with him. They wanted to stop him but couldn't do anything.

In an instant, they appeared inside the tower. Both were dumbfounded. Mieko then got very angry and shouted, "Why did you drag us here? It was just getting exciting!"

Fujin replied in an amused tone, "We couldn't defeat those 3. How were you planning to defeat 6?"

Mieko angrily replied, "They were just running away like rats! I just needed one look in their eyes, and they would have died."

Fujin smirked and replied, "Forget looking into their eyes, you didn't even manage to land a single wound on them."

Mieko was about to reply when she realized what Fujin said was true. All her attacks were blocked or dodged. She just snorted and said, "I'll remember this Fujin!" She walked away from him after saying that.

Fujin just shrugged and looked towards Hoka. He bitterly said, "I didn't get to fight anyone."

Fujin shrugged again and sighed, 'Why do I have to put up with these 2 arrogant brats? At least they were in control with Renjiro. Now they just want to fight without using their brains.'

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Chapter 85: Exposing a Kekkei Genkai

Around 100 meters away from the tower, the Mist genins were still being chased by Fujin's clones. They soon noticed that Hoka and Mieko were missing. Yumi wondered, 'Where are they? Are they planning a sneak attack?'

She focused Chakra in her eyes once again and observed. However, she couldn't sense any of them nearby. This made her worry a lot. She tried again and again to sense them, but couldn't see either of them. Unfortunately for her, the tower had all sorts of anti-sensor seals on them. So she couldn't see their chakra signatures inside the tower.

She kept her guard the whole time, till their team met the other Kiri squad. On seeing them, Yumi immediately shouted, "Rentaro. Aid us!"

Rentaro was close friends with Yumi. He nodded and commanded his teammates, "Clear out those clones."

On his commands, all 6 Kiri genins attacked Fujin's wind clones. Fujin's shadow clone sighed, 'My Wind clones are almost out of chakra. Or I'd have been able to gather their information.'

When the Kiri genins began, Yumi shouted, "Be careful. Two of his teammates are probably hidden nearby. I can't sense them." That made them stay on guard.

The Wind clones knew that they didn't have enough chakra. They had already sensed Fujin flicker away with Hoka and Mieko. So this was just supposed to check their skills.

6 Wind clones suddenly stepped back and dispersed, while the remaining 6 clones attacked them head-on.

When the clones and Kiri genins reached each other, Yumi, Satoru, and Kohaku were prepared for the incoming Wind Explosion jutsus. But the other 3 Kiri genins weren't aware.

As soon as the clones were around 10 meters away from them, they instantly launched a couple of Wind Explosion jutsus.

Yumi countered with Water Bullet jutsu.

Satoru created a Water Wall and followed up with Water Shuriken jutsu.

Kohaku used Rock Shield jutsu and followed up with Rock spear jutsu.

Rentaro had grabbed his sword and was moving in for attacking with his sword, but he was surprised at how quickly the jutsu was formed and launched. He dropped his sword and made a hand seal. Just before the jutsu hit him, a water wall appeared in front of him. However, it was a very thin layer, and the winds splashed all the water back at him. The water wall did dull the sharpness of the winds. However, one sharp wind still passed through and cut Rentaro's right forearm. He was infuriated!

Rentaro's teammates also moved close to Fujin's clones and were hit by Wind Explosion jutsus. They both received 4-5 small cuts.

Soon, everyone counterattacked Fujin's clones. The clones didn't have any chakra left. So they just tried dodging and closing in the distance further. By observing each other's locations, all 6 clones got hit at the same time.

And right when they were hit, the remaining 6 clones suddenly appeared and surrounded the Kiri genins and used all their chakra to use Breakthrough jutsu.

Unfortunately, not much chakra was left to make it lethal. The Kiri genins immediately gathered together and built defenses around them to protect themselves.

After performing the jutsu, all the Wind clones dispersed. Only Fujin's shadow clone was left. He looked at the defenses. One side was covered by Rock shields, while the other 3 were covered by Water walls.

Fujin's clone smirked and flickered, 'It's a shame I don't have a devastating Wind jutsu. I'll need to get it soon.' The clone flickered right outside the Water walls and swung his sword with all his strength.

Yumi, who was observing the clone, noticed him flickering towards them. She quickly noticed that Fujin was about to send another sword slash towards them. She shouted, "Everyone jump!" She quickly jumped and suddenly had a thought, 'Huh? Why did I say to jump instead of ducking?'

To avoid the incoming slash, they could either duck under it or jump above. Usually, ducking is the best choice as you would still have mobility. But for some reason, she instinctively chose to jump.

The other 5 Kiri genins followed her advice and jumped as high as they could. While in the air, both Yumi and Rentaro launched Water Bullet jutsu at Fujin's location.

Fujin's sword slash cut the water wall with ease. The accompanying winds around the slash destroyed the water wall. All 6 Kiri ninjas had jumped out of the slash's path. They had jumped high enough that even the winds weren't really lethal. However, the winds still hit them. Yumi and Rentaro's water bullets were stopped by the winds. And the winds caused deep cuts to all of them.

On seeing the damage, Yumi was horrified, 'If we had ducked instead of jumping, we all would have been dead!'

The damage, though not lethal, scared them. What horrified them was the fact that Fujin sent another such slash their way.

Fujin wondered, 'So, will this kill them, or will they survive once again?'

Suddenly, Rentaro's chakra exploded. He made a few hand seals quickly and spat out a huge amount of water. At the same time, one of his teammates made hand signs rapidly. The water released by Rentaro quickly began freezing.

The sword slash initially hit the water and easily split it. But soon, the water began freezing. The sword slash hit the ice. It still went through it, cracking the ice. However, it slowed down. It cut through 80% of the ice before it lost power. The Kiri genins freaked out on seeing that even ice was being cut. They finally sighed in relief and dropped to the ground on seeing the slash being stopped.

The winds accompanying the slash were also blocked. Fujin was shocked, 'Ice Kekkei genkai? Aren't the bloodline clans being hunted in Kiri? Does that mean that these guys came from Mei's faction?'

He quickly analyzed while keeping an eye on them, 'Is Mei trying to get some help from Hiruzen? Also, has she begun the rebellion so soon? No, since she has Kekkei Genkais, it makes sense that she would have already begun the resistance. Though it should be a long war before she wins.

I don't think Hiruzen would help out though. There's no mention of this in the manga. And Konoha is suffering from less manpower. So joining a war will be stupid. Not to mention, Uchiha and the Hokage faction are in a power struggle. So Konoha shouldn't have any resources to spare.'

While he was analyzing, the Kiri genins finally landed back on the ground. Rentaro's face was ugly. He said, "I didn't expect Konoha to have such a strong genin!"

Fujin replied, "I didn't expect Kiri to send an Ice Kekkei Genkai ninja. I wonder if any more of you have Kekkei Genkai." While speaking, he looked at Yumi.

He continued, "Nor did I expect you guys to survive despite being in a crunch so many times. You guys are strong too."

Yumi asked, "Do you want a truce? We won't attack you guys during this 2nd phase as long as you won't attack us. That way, we will all have a good chance to proceed to the next round. Otherwise, we will just injure each other."

Rentaro frowned on hearing it. Fujin was surprised as well, 'Not only do they have excellent survival skills, but she is also smart enough to ask for a truce. I wonder if they have already participated in some war.'

Fujin's analysis was on point. All 6 of them had engaged in multiple clashes with the 4th Mizukage faction. They had real war experience. And a lot of it. Which is why they managed to survive the onslaught. Yumi was someone they were trying to develop into a leader.

Fujin smirked and said, "My teammates wanted to fight even the six of you head-on. So a truce is out of the question." Hearing that, Yumi sighed, 'I am worried that they will ambush us again and again. Also, where are his two teammates?'

Fujin continued, "Anyways, I'm out of chakra. See you later." And the clone dispelled himself. The Kiri genins were shocked to see that they were fighting a Shadow clone!

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Chapter 86: Record & Reward

Yumi quickly analyzed, "All three of them retreated when Rentaro's squad got in range. And they only sent a clone to check us out. But, how did they get away so quickly? My eyes can look at chakras up to 520 meters!"

Rentaro said, "If they escaped, it means that they were afraid of us."

Yumi shook her head and said, "They have a Hyuga. His range should be greater than mine. I suspect that the guy we were fighting is a sensor too. And all 3 of them are experts at flickering. So they can continuously ambush us for the next 5 days. The worst will be if they ambush us when we are fighting. We will be at a huge disadvantage!"

The expressions of the Kiri genins became grim. It was never a good feeling to be hunted. Especially considering how relentless their opponents were.

Yumi looked at Rentaro and said, "Let's team up. Otherwise, we may be attacked one by one by them."

Rentaro unwillingly agreed, "Alright. But who gets the scroll?" Yumi asked, "Which scroll do you guys have?" He replied, "Earth scroll." Yumi said, "We have a Heaven scroll. If we find a Heaven scroll, you guys take it. If we find an Earth scroll, we will take it. If we don't manage to get any, then you can take our Heaven scroll and advance to the 3rd round." On hearing that, Satoru and Kohaku complained. But Yumi said, "If Rentaro's squad didn't appear, then we may have died to that Leaf squad. So we owe them one." Rentaro's squad agreed to that condition, and they began treating their wounds. Once healed, they moved together until they found the required scrolls. The entire time they were in the Forest of Death, they were highly alert to any ambushes. But they were never attacked by Fujin's team. After all, they had already passed the exam even before Fujin's clones fought against the six of them! Tower -Inside the tower, Fujin, Mieko, and Hoka had opened both scrolls. It summoned Adachi Genki. He was quite happy to see Fujin and Hoka. And was shocked at how quickly the exam was cleared! He said, "Fujin, Hoka, good to see you two again. Mieko as well. I didn't expect you guys would take the chunin exams so soon. But how did you manage to clear the exam so quickly? It hasn't even been an hour." Mieko looked begrudgingly at Fujin and said, "We shouldn't have finished it so quickly!" Fujin shrugged once again and said, "We came across a team that had the scroll we needed and beat them easily. They handed over their scroll quickly and we moved towards the tower. We did fight a Kiri

team afterwards, but they escaped and we entered the tower."

Genki was surprised. He asked, "That much in less than an hour?" All 3 nodded as none of them felt it was difficult.

Genki sighed seeing how none of them thought it was a challenge. He said, "Well, congratulations then. The previous record was 5 hours 30 minutes. It was made by Uchiha Itachi . You guys broke his record by a huge difference."

That surprised Mieko and Hoka. Fujin too acted surprised. Mieko quickly exclaimed, "We beat Itachi's record?? Really?" She was super excited. "And that too by more than 4 and half hours?" Fujin wondered, 'I never saw her talk about Itachi, but she is so excited about beating his record? Is she trying to compete with him? Poor girl.'

Fujin chuckled and teased her, "If you had listened to me, we would have broken it by over 5 hours. But you still insisted on wasting time."

This made her give Fujin the stink eye. She was still annoyed at how he brought her to the tower. She unwillingly admitted, "If I knew that the record was held by Itachi, I would have agreed."

Fujin chuckled and then suddenly sighed, "If we had completed it in half an hour, I don't think anyone would have ever broken our record. Now it's still breakable due to you two."

Hoka and Mieko both looked at Fujin with deadpan expressions. While Genki was shocked, "You guys could have finished it faster?"

Hoka said, "Alright. You win. Now stop gloating!" Mieko snorted and said, "If you want to create a record, then fail this exam and give it again next year."

Now Fujin had a deadpan look. He replied, "You know, the 3rd phase is one on one fights. You better hope that you don't face me in the first round. Or you'll end up being defeated by my clones once again."

Fujin smirked on saying that. And Mieko was very annoyed, "You..." However, before the argument could get any further, Genki interrupted them, "Alright, argue later. You have done an excellent job

creating the record for the 2nd phase of the exam. Now I'll explain to you the meaning of the writing on the wall behind me."

On hearing that, the genins gave a closer look at the wall behind Genki. Fujin remembered, 'Oh yeah. I completely forgot about this.'

Genki then began explaining the same thing Iruka explained to Team 7 after they passed. Fujin, Hoka, and Mieko heard it, but none were much interested in it.

While Genki was explaining, Fujin received the memories of his shadow clone. His mind wandered, 'Oh, Ice Kekkei Genkai? Also the likelihood of them having participated in actual war. The finals should be fun. That said, she proposed a truce. Meaning that, like my clone, she couldn't sense us inside the tower. So until they pass the 2nd round, they will forever be paranoid of a sneak attack, haha.'

As Genki was explaining to the genins, a chunin instructor ran to the room where Inuzuka Tsume was. Tsume looked at him and asked, "Why are you running?" He said, "Tsume-sama, one team already passed the exam!"

Tsume was shocked, "What? So soon?" Even Kuromaru was shocked. The chunin nodded while still stunned, "Yes. They entered the tower after only 47 minutes!"

Tsume was stunned. The record was broken by almost 5 hours! She asked, "Which team was it?" The chunin replied, "It was Senju Renjiro's Genin team."

She thought for a bit and said, "I had heard rumors that Renjiro was training his team very hard. It seems that the rumors are true. I guess the beasts from the forests weren't an issue for them at all. Still, to beat Itachi's record is some feat. They can be proud of it."

She looked at the chunin and said, "Go and give them the instructions for the next 5 days." He nodded and left.

Genki was soon done with his boring explanations. His eye twitched when he noticed that none of the 3 genins were interested. After he was done, he asked, "Do any of you have any questions?"

Mieko asked, "Do we have to wait in the tower for the other teams?"

Genki nodded and replied, "Yes. I think they will send someone to explain the details."

Hoka didn't have any questions. Fujin thought for a bit and had a thought. He suddenly asked, "Sensei, you said we broke the record, right?" Genki nodded, "Yes."

Fujin asked, "So do we get any rewards?"

Sweat immediately appeared on Genki's forehead! He recalled the scene of Fujin asking the 3rd Hokage for swords made of chakra metal. He quickly said, "No, there's no reward for this. It might help you be promoted to chunin though."

Fujin frowned and muttered lightly, "The village is so stingy!" Genki heard it and thought, 'I don't think Lord 3rd will ever ask you to choose a reward again.'

Fujin, however, was thinking, 'At the end of this phase, Hiruzen will visit and give another speech. Should I ask for a reward then?'

While he was thinking, Genki said, "Well, that's all from me. I'll see you later." And he disappeared in smoke.

Fujin kept analyzing, 'If he says no then, it'll be embarrassing for him. To say no to promising youngsters who are working hard for their village, will hit his prestige. Though, he is thick-skinned enough to say no even then.'

As he was thinking, his eyes moved towards Mieko. He thought, 'Right! The elders and Uchiha have bad blood. He might give a reward to show that he is rewarding young Uchiha and is impartial to them. He might even hope that this reduces the bad blood a bit.

That said, if Genki is also present, should I still ask?' He thought and then shook his head, 'It doesn't matter if he's there or not. The dao of shamelessness should live on! Especially considering how freaking shameless they are. If he still says no, I will put on a sad face and act depressed.

After I become a chunin, I'll ask for those wind chakra metal swords that he promised me earlier.'

Mieko and Hoka noticed that Fujin was in deep thought. Hoka asked, "What are you thinking about?"

Fujin replied, "Oh, nothing important. What do we do now?"

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Chapter 87: Training Rooms

As Fujin asked that question, a chunin instructor appeared in their room. He said, "Congrats on passing the 2nd exam. You will stay in the tower for the next 5 days until this round is over."

Mieko complained, "5 days? What will we do here for 5 whole days?" Hoka and Fujin too nodded. Making them stay here for 5 whole days was unreasonable.

The chunin replied, "That's the rule. If you leave the tower, you will be disqualified from the exam."

Mieko pointed at the chunin and said loudly, "Hey, that's unreasonable." Hoka nodded and said, "Yes, it is." The chunin dismissed their complaints and said, "There are a lot of facilities in this tower. Including many training rooms. You can access them and train there for the next 5 days."

This calmed the genins down.

Fujin asked, "What about food?" The chunin replied, "It'll be made. Come to the dining room at 8 AM, noon, 4 PM, and 7 PM. The dining room is on the 1st floor."

He then explained some more details, such as their sleeping arrangements, and then left.

The genins looked at each other and said, "Let's check out the training rooms." And they left.

The training rooms were on the 2nd floor. The floor had most of its area closed off by a wall, forming a circular shape in the center of the floor. Fujin realized, 'The other side should be a part of that area where preliminaries happened.

The rooms were on the outer side of the floor, with a meter-wide circular passage to access them. The genins checked out the name plates on all rooms. There were 2 meditation rooms, 2 rooms for dodging, 1 for Taijutsu, 5 for each element, 1 for Shuriken practice, and a few more rooms.

Hoka said, "I'm entering the Taijutsu training room." Mieko said, "I'm going for shuriken practice." Fujin thought for a bit and said, "I'm interested in seeing what the meditation room has to offer."

Fujin entered the meditation room. The room was mostly empty. A couple of bulbs were on in the room. The walls had multiple candles at certain locations. And there were a few Incense sticks placed around the room too. At the center of the room, a mat was placed.

Fujin picked up the instruction manual, which was placed in front of the door, and read. It read -

This is a Meditation training room. Meditating here will be easier and more effective. For the best effect, follow the following instructions.

Light all the candles in the room.

Light one incense stick from each bundle.

Switch off the bulbs

Sit on the mat placed in the center of the room.

Kindly leave everything in the same spot when you leave.

Before you leave, blow out the candles and cut the burning part of the incense sticks.

Fujin lit the candles and the incense sticks. They began producing a very fragrant smell.

He turned off the bulbs, sat on the mat, and began meditating.

After an hour, he woke up from his meditative state and concluded, 'Incredible! Meditating here is almost 5 times more effective than when I meditate at my home or when I did it in the academy.'

He analyzed a bit and concluded, 'Even though this is good, it still doesn't compare to the gains I get from practicing Senju Taijutsu style. That said, I still meditate a bit daily. So though not significant, it'll still provide me with small boosts if I can get something like this at my home... Now, what to do?'

He thought for a bit, before coming up with 2 ways, 'I haven't thought what gift I can ask from Hiruzen. So I could ask him to build such a meditation environment at my home. But, this way isn't a guarantee. I won't get this if he doesn't care about his thick face and says no.

The better way would probably be to just create such an environment back home. This place has many seals inscribed, which likely aid in meditation. So it should be made with the help of Fuinjutsu. I should be able to make one too, the only issue is that I don't recognize most of the seals.'

He thinks for a bit more and decides, 'I'll draw every seal in this room and record their location. After I become Chunin, our team should be disbanded. So I'll finally have time to learn Fuinjutsu. If all these seals are available in the library, then I will be able to create such a room too.'

He immediately drew the entire room on a large drawing paper he had stored in one of his many scrolls. He drew all the seals and recorded the distance between each seal in absolute terms and ratio with respect to the size of the room. He grabbed one of the incense sticks that was lying around and took a bit of wax from one of the candles on the walls.

After storing everything properly, he wondered, 'Since this tower had such a room, is it safe to say that every clan has such training rooms? If true, it would explain why the chakra reserves of clan kids are usually higher than civilian kids and why they are able to master their clan jutsus so quickly. Looks like it isn't all just talent and guidance.

I should check out the other meditation room and see if everything's the same. And I should also check out every training room, and check the feasibility of creating such rooms.'

While he was thinking about recreating all the training rooms, he chuckled, 'Well, that's kinda pointless. There's no way my small house can have such rooms, haha.'

While walking over to the other meditation room, he thought, 'Should I buy a new home? Hmm, do I even have money to buy a new home? Or would it be better if I make a secret base?'

He checked the other room and noticed that everything there was exactly the same. He then began walking over to the Dodging practice training room. 'Having a secret base will be very convenient. Konoha also has a lot of empty spaces to make secret bases. But, in a village full of ninjas, is it possible to hide a secret base?

Hmm, I couldn't sense anything inside this tower from the outside. And, if I recall right, there are seals that can block even the Byakugan. So it might be doable, but still very risky. Should I make one outside the village? No one would check the endless forests after all. But I'll need to be able to sneak out and into the village to actually be able to use it.

Oh well, let me learn the seals first. I can then worry about how to make it work. The Uchiha massacre should be happening soon too. I could try to sneak in and use their training rooms if they exist after the massacre.'

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Chapter 88: Dodging Practice

Fujin entered the Dodging Practice training room. He noticed that there were multiple mechanisms around the room to launch shurikens, kunai, and senbon needles. But all were made out of wood. And none were sharp. Fujin grinned, 'This should be exciting.'

He read the training manual for this room. It confirmed that all weapons were harmless.

Fujin walked to the center of the room. There was a pulling lever with one rod extending out here. To activate the mechanism, first, the lever had to be moved. The degree to which the lever is moved would denote the percentage of mechanisms that would be activated. Once the lever was pulled, a button had

to be stepped on to launch the weapons. The manual stated that this can be done only 100 times before the mechanisms needed to be refilled. Fujin wondered, 'How many storage seals did they inscribe in this room?'

While wondering, he grinned and pulled the lever to the max. And then stepped on the button. Immediately, all weapons ran down on him.

Shurikens rained on him from 7 different locations. He could see 5, while the other 2 locations were behind him. He still heard them being launched and moved to a spot where the shurikens won't hit him. As soon as he moved there, senbon needles rained on him. He managed to dodge most, but 5 still hit him.

One after another, for the next 2 minutes, weapons kept attacking him.

At the end of 2 minutes, it finally stopped. The entire floor was covered with blunt wooden weapons.

Fujin frowned, 'I was hit many times. I lost count at 136! And I had to block 7 with my hands as they would have hit my eyes. Is it even possible to dodge them all? Or rather, at what level can you dodge them all?

Oh well, this time lemme try it while using other weapons to block them.' He picked up a few kunais and senbons and placed them in his pockets. He kept 3 kunais in each hand.

He then created winds, which cleared the floor and pushed all the wooden weapons to the wall. He pulled the lever once again and stepped on the button.

He dodged once again, only this time when he couldn't dodge, he used his weapons to either block at the last moment, or throw it at incoming weapons. He was still hit quite a few times.

He analyzed, 'Not bad. This time, I was hit only 43 times. Still a lot though.'

He then grabbed his swords, 'Alright, this time let's check with my preferred weapons. But without flying slashed. Or this room might collapse.' He chuckled on imagining the scene where his flying slashes wreck the training room.

This time, he was hit 82 times, 'With my swords, I couldn't block at range. So all blocking was last minute. Which is why I got hit more times. That said, had I used flying slashes, I might have never been hit.'

He sheathed his swords and gathered his chakra. Blue chakra could be seen flowing around him. He activated the test once again. The weapons were once again launched at him when wind waves began forming in the room. The winds began spinning around him at a high speed. They deflected all incoming weapons for 2 minutes straight.

Fujin grinned, 'Excellent. I guess I can call this Wind Style Rotation. Though its power isn't really strong. It probably wouldn't work if these weapons were made of metals and were heavier. Though, it makes sense. Basically, I just applied the mechanics from rank E Wind jutsus like Wind Retrieval, Projectile Control, and Wind Levitation jutsus.

If I can add the Spinning shield of wind jutsu to this, and then manage to pour more chakra and make it spin faster while staying together and not harming me, then this can become a good defensive jutsu. Though it won't be an absolute defense.

He then looked at the mess around him and thought, 'Well, defending with ninjutsu or weapons is fine. But this training room was made for improving dodging. Let's focus on that for now.'

Fujin only turned the lever halfway before pressing the button. He kept practicing again and again.

He spent the next 4 hours in the dodging room. By the end, all 4 walls had huge stacks of wooden weapons piled. Fujin looked at it and thought, 'Rest in peace the fellow who is supposed to refill these.'

He left the room and went to the dining room to grab a bite, 'It's almost 5 PM. I hope they still give breakfast.'

After breakfast, he went into the Wind Element Training room while wondering, 'Wind element training in a closed room? I wonder how that works?' On entering the room, he saw that the room was rather empty. There was only a meditation mat at the center of the room.

He picked up the manual. It read -

This is the training room for Wind Element. To train, sit on the mat at the center of the room, and meditate. The table on which this manual has been placed has a few boxes. Each box has 9 strips. The strips, from left to right, are made of - Leaf, Alder Wood, Soft Maple Wood, Hard Maple Wood, Aluminium, Copper, Steel, Titanium, and Diamond.

The strips, from left to right, get progressively harder. You can test how strong your wind nature is by trying to cut them.

Fujin grabbed a box from the table and opened it. The strips were all 1 cm in thickness. He picked up the strips one by one and began cutting them with his wind chakra.

The Leaf, Alder wood, Soft and Hard Maple wood strips were cut. On the aluminum strip, Fujin managed to create a 3-millimeter cut from either side. But couldn't go any deeper. Fujin put the aluminum strip as well as the cut strips back in the box and put it in his scroll. He then walked towards the mat, sat on it, and began meditating.

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Chapter 89: Shock

While Fujin was meditating, Tsume walked up to the 2nd floor with her ninja dog while muttering, "Since one team came so early, I expected the others to come in soon too. But this is too boring. Proctoring is boring! Luckily there are a lot of training rooms here."

The training rooms here were made for the instructors who'd be bored waiting for the genins to reach the tower. In a way, these training rooms were their reward or payment.

Tsume went into the same Dodging Practice Training room as Fujin had earlier. On opening, she was shocked! 'Why are the weapons littered all on the ground?' She checked some of the mechanisms and noticed that there were no weapons in them.

She got out of the room and yelled, "TOSHIYUKI! GET HERE!" The shout was loud enough to be heard throughout the tower, except in the training rooms. The chunin named Toshiyuki, who was in charge of maintaining the training rooms, immediately went to her and asked, "What happened, Tsume-sama?"

Her mood got even worse. She yelled at him, "You didn't do your job of cleaning and refilling the training rooms, and you have the courage to ask me what happened?"

He was shocked. But he maintained his composure and replied in a neutral tone, "Tsume-sama, I cleaned and refilled all the training rooms last night." However, his face displayed slight anger at being wrongly accused. Tsume noticed it.

She asked, "Really? Say that after you check this room." She pointed towards the training room.

He entered it and was shocked to see that all 100 attempts were used up. He quickly said, "Ma'am, I refilled the mechanisms here last night. I did it for both the dodging rooms. So someone must have used it all."

Tsume calmed down and asked, "Someone used all 100 attempts? Who all have been training here?" He replied, "How can I know that?"

She snorted and looked at Kuromaru. Kuromaru said, "Let's check." Both she and Kuromaru began smelling the room. Soon Kuromaru said, "Here" and moved towards the wooden weapons and grabbed a kunai, and handed it to Tsume. Tsume smelled it and realized, "This smells like that civilian brat from Renjiro's squad." Kuromaru also confirmed it, "Yes."

She looked at the chunin and asked, "Were those 3 genins told about the training rooms?"

The chunin nodded, "Yes. Takeshi said that they were asking a lot of questions and he told them to spend their time in the training room." She replied, "Oh!"

She looked at Kuromaru again, who was smelling all the weapons. He looked back at her and replied, "Many weapons have scents, but all belong to the same kid. No one else was here." She said, "So that brat was the only one here? And he used all 100 rounds? It's unbelievable!"

She looked at Toshiyuki and asked, "Are you aware of what those brats have been doing in the tower?"

He shook his head and replied, "No one kept an eye on them. But from what I heard from others, two of them came down for lunch and breakfast and returned to training rooms soon after. And one didn't come for lunch and came an hour late for breakfast. He too immediately returned to the 2nd floor."

Tsume was surprised, "Seriously? They are merely 10 year old brats and have trained all day? No wonder they managed to clear the exam so quickly."

She then sighed and complained, "My son, on the other hand, plays all day and never trains. And though my daughter is serious and loves studying, she too would never train so willingly. She too became a genin this year, but her sensei didn't even enroll her team for the Chunin exam."

Toshiyuki kept listening to her while trying to maintain a straight face, 'First, she yells at me wrongly. Then she complains about her kids in front of me! No wonder her husband ran away!'

Tsume looked at him and said, "You can go. I'll train in the other room." He left as quickly as he could. Tsume walked towards the room while thinking about how she could lecture Kiba to train harder.

On entering the training room, Tsume, just like Fujin, turned the lever to 100% and pressed the button. She and Kuromaru both begin dodging. Occasionally, she deflects weapons that were about to hit Kuromaru.

After the 1st attempt, Tsume looked at Kuromaru and said, "I was hit 6 times." Kuromaru replied, "8 times for me." Tsume added, "And I deflect 3 weapons that were about to hit you." Kuromaru said, "We seem to have slacked off."

She patted his head and said, "Last time, we were able to dodge everything perfectly once every 11 attempts. Let's try to improve it this time. And since that brat did all 100 attempts, it'll be embarrassing if we can't do it too."

Kuromaru barked loudly in response and said, "Let's do it!" Both Tsume and Kuromaru trained in that room until they completed all hundred rounds.

Till the 22nd round, they didn't manage to dodge all the weapons. There were instances when either Tsume or Kuromaru dodged all, but not in the same round.

On the 23rd round, they both managed to dodge all weapons for the first time.

In the 100 rounds, they managed to dodge everything perfectly 11 times.

Tsume left the training room feeling proud and told Kuromaru, "Let's increase it to 15 times tomorrow."

It was 10 PM by the time they were done. The chunins in the tower were very surprised when they didn't see Tsume during the dinner. After hearing the story from Toshiyuki, they realized that she too decided to complete 100 rounds.

After entering the dining room, she found that it was empty. She began preparing her dinner and called for a chunin. When he arrived, she asked, "Any update for today?"

He replied, "Nothing of importance. No other teams passed yet. No unusual activities have been reported either in the forest or the tower." Tsume nodded and asked, "What about the ones who passed? What have they been doing?"

The chunin replied, "All 3 came down for dinner. After dinner, Uchiha Mieko and Hyuga Hoka explored the tower for a bit before going into their rooms. Suzuki Fujin was seen heading back to the 2nd floor. We checked a few mins ago, the Wind training room is still occupied."

She was surprised once again. However, soon she just sighed and muttered, "Seems like he is a training maniac. Let him keep training."

Forest of Death -

Not much fighting happened in the forest of death. Among the Kiri genins, Kohaku was very injured, and others too had a lot of cuts. They chose to apply first aid and waited till the wounds closed up and didn't cause any pain. The Nara-Yamanaka-Akimichi team also stayed hidden.

The Hyuga team found the team from Suna. However, their fight was inconclusive as Suna genins kept attacking from a range. They both ended up retreating.

The team from Ame clashed with the last Konoha team. They lost but managed to retreat. So except for the Nara-Yamanaka-Akimichi team, all others had their scrolls.

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Chapter 90: Elemental Crystals

Wind Training Room:

Fujin meditated for an hour, before waking up. He kept sitting on the mat while being very confused. 'What's this strange feeling that I kept getting the whole time? It's as if my wind affinity is increasing. Or perhaps my wind chakra is becoming more potent. Either way, it should be very good for my wind element. But how?'

He meditated again, and spread his chakra field throughout the room, 'Hmm, nothing here.' His chakra field then expanded into the walls, floor, and ceiling of the room.

And he noticed, 'What's this? It looks like there's a stone with a high amount of wind chakra in it. And it's very dense. It looks like while meditating here, we absorb chakra from it in small amounts. That's why I got that weird feeling.'

Fujin got off the mat and made a hand seal. 'Earth Military Movement jutsu'

He entered the floor. On entering the floor, he could see a lot of seals, and inside the seal was a green crystal. Fujin analyzed, 'Probably not a good idea to test these seals. But the crystal has very dense wind chakra. And it looks like it can help make our Wind element stronger. Is this chakra metal? Or something else like an ore? Well, let's call it the Wind Chakra crystal for now.

The important question is, can I absorb it faster? And, how can I get more of them? Also, I need to check whether all other elemental training rooms have something similar.'

He went above the floor and thought, 'I should have dinner for now. After dinner, I'll check if I can absorb this energy rapidly. I wonder what benefits I'll get from this. Though I should also be careful in case it's harmful to absorb it in excess.'

He left for dinner. He met Hoka and Mieko there. They had a small chat. The chunins in the tower also introduced themselves and had small talks with the genins. After dinner, Fujin returned to the Wind Training room.

He began meditating and tried absorbing as much energy as he could from the Wind Chakra crystal. While meditating, his entire focus was on the Wind Chakra Crystal and its energy.

In the first 6 hours, he didn't have much success. However, sometime after that, he began steadily absorbing energy from the crystal. He lost himself in meditation, completely losing the sense of time! When he opened his eyes, it was already 7 AM!

Fujin analyzed, 'I didn't have much success initially. But I think I managed to use up 1% of the energy of the crystal in this meditation session. I wonder if this absorption rate is fast or slow. And how often does Konoha switch or recharge this crystal?

That aside, unlike what I previously thought, I don't absorb energy from the crystal directly. Rather, it refines my chakra. I have a feeling that I'll have a slightly easier time performing Wind jutsus.'

He frowned, 'Though improvement would likely be very minimal. I'll need to use up more energy from this wind chakra crystal to get a proper idea. I have a feeling that I might need a mountain of such crystals to get a significant boost.

That aside, it feels really good to train here. I ended up meditating all night and skipping my sleep, but I don't feel very tired at all! Though I should take a nap tonight. Meditation, though good, can't entirely replace sleep.'

After analyzing, he got up and left the room. While leaving the floor, he came across Tsume. She was surprised to see Fujin on the 2nd floor. Her eyes twitched and she asked, "Were you training the whole night?"

Fujin laughed awkwardly and rubbed the back of his head, "No. I was meditating in the Wind training room. And I ended up falling asleep there."

Tsume's eyes twitched even more. She sighed and said, "It's good to train hard, but don't forget to rest. Or else, the training can be counterproductive."

Fujin immediately replied, "Yes ma'am" while thinking, 'That's the first time I haven't heard her yell'

He left, got freshened up, had a huge breakfast, and returned to the Wind training room.

After knowing that Fujin returned to the Wind Training room, Tsume realized, 'He is an orphan. He has probably never experienced such rooms. No wonder he is training in that room. I should report this to the 3rd. He'll be happy to know how hard some kids are training.'

He spends the next couple of days in the Wind Training room. Though he went out regularly for food and sleep.

As he meditated more in that room, he managed to use up the energy at a faster rate. By the end of the 3rd day, he had used up 18% energy from the crystal. He analyzed, 'Good, it is getting faster. I have a feeling that it'll be even faster tomorrow. But, it seems like my analysis was right. While this definitely is good, I'll need a mountain of such crystals to actually get significant boosts. I wonder how many crystals Konoha has. And where they are kept. Another point to consider is how much energy from this crystal was already exhausted before I began training here.'

On day 4, as he predicted, his efficiency suddenly increased a lot. In around 12 hours, he ended up using up almost half the energy from the crystal. However, on this day, he noticed 1 crucial point!

Fujin realized, 'My chakra increased? Yeah, I can feel it. Though the increase is very minimal, not even 0.1%, it did go up. Damn, now I really want to find a mountain of such crystals! Where are these found?'

He calmed himself down and decided, 'Lucky, this crystal's efficiency hasn't reduced. I guess this is due to the seals. But I should stop here. I might be able to completely exhaust this crystal before this round ends. But if my speed of using this energy is higher than normal, then I'll get a lot of unneeded energy. I

should check out the other rooms and see if they have similar crystals, and if I can refine my chakra with their energy as well.'

After dinner, he went to the Earth Training room. On entering, he used 'Earth Military Movement jutsu' and went underground to check. 'As I thought. A similar crystal with dense Earth chakra is here. But, the amount of chakra seems low. It has only about 15% of the chakra as compared to what the wind chakra crystal had.'

He thought for a bit and concluded, 'Makes sense I guess. There are barely any ninjas with the Wind element in Konoha. While quite a few have the Earth element. So this room ended up being used a lot more.'

He sat on the mat and spent his entire night meditating in that room. He opened his eyes at 6:30 AM and sighed, 'I thought since I managed to increase the speed of consuming the energy of Wind chakra crystal, I'd be able to do the same for the rest. Unfortunately, that isn't the case. I have to start from the beginning.

Worst of all, my rate of consuming energy from Earth chakra crystal is very low! I think it is just around 5-6% of what it was when I started with Wind chakra crystal. Does this mean that the speed will depend on my affinity towards each element? It went fast for Wind chakra crystal because my affinity is wind. But for Earth chakra crystal, my affinity is very low.'

He analyzed a bit, 'Wait, does this mean that I can analyze my affinity to other elements depending on how quickly I can use up the energy of each crystal? Yeah, that should be the case. I should check out the other 3 rooms.'

After having breakfast, Fujin went to the Fire training room. Here he followed all the procedures as usual. However, when he checked the Fire chakra crystal, he was shocked! 'The Fire chakra crystal has 25% more energy than the Wind chakra crystal. How? Shouldn't Konoha be full of ninjas with Fire affinity? Could it be that the previous Fire chakra crystal got used up and they replaced it with a new one?'

After thinking for a bit, he nodded, 'Yeah, that should be the case.' He began meditating. He got up before lunch and analyzed, 'Oh, my Fire affinity seems to be decent. At least it's much better than Earth. The absorption speed here is at 35% compared to what I could do at the start with Wind chakra crystal.'

After lunch, he went to the Water Training room. He first checked the amount of energy in the water crystal. It was around 30% of what the Wind chakra crystal had. Fujin sat in meditation and meditated till 4 PM.

At 4 PM, he got up and sweated a bit, 'I couldn't refine shit! I didn't manage to use up any energy at all!'

He sighed, 'Does this mean that I have no talent in the Water element at all? A shame. I was hoping to have a good affinity for the water element and to take over Tobirama's jutsus.'

After taking a small break for eating, he went to the Lighting Training room thinking, 'My main affinity is wind. So I don't really have much hope for the Lightning element. Oh well, let's test it out.'